BRANCHED-CHAIN CARBON MOLECULES FOUND IN SPACE
Astronomers have discovered a branched carbon molecule in space for the first time, which could bode well for the eventual discovery of more complex molecules such as amino acids, biologically crucial molecules that also contain branched structures.

CHEMISTRY MAY AID EARTHQUAKE PREDICTIONS
A study in Iceland found that groundwater chemistry changed four to six months before two large earthquakes. They suggest that mixing of groundwater prior to earthquakes could be the cause, and that the changes could help predict future earthquakes.

DIAMOND-LIKE NANOTHREADS FORMED FROM BENZENE
Under high pressure, chemists have succeeded in transforming liquid benzene into nanothreads of carbon atoms, bonded in a pattern resembling diamond. The threads could have future applications as strong, lightweight materials for a range of uses.

PEROVSKITE SOLAR CELLS USED TO SPLIT WATER
Perovskite solar cells, using CH$_3$NH$_3$PbI$_3$ as the active material, have been used to produce sufficient voltage to split water. This could in future pave the way for sustainable hydrogen fuel production, though issues with the perovskite cell stability must be overcome.

TURMERIC MAY BOOST BRAIN STEM CELL REGENERATION
Turmerone, a compound found in turmeric, has been shown by researchers to increase neural stem cell proliferation in rats by up to 80%. This makes the compound a promising candidate for treatment of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s.