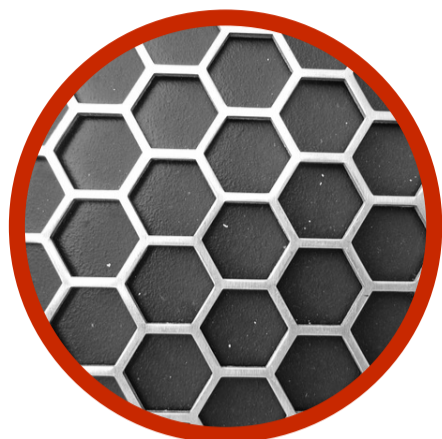


THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

11TH JANUARY - 17TH JANUARY 2015

DEEP-FRIED GRAPHENE HAS ENERGY-RELATED APPLICATIONS

In a similar manner to deep-frying, researchers created 3D balls with graphene sheets radiating from the centre by spraying droplets of a graphene oxide suspension into a solvent & ascorbic acid. The balls could be used to make electrodes for batteries & capacitors.



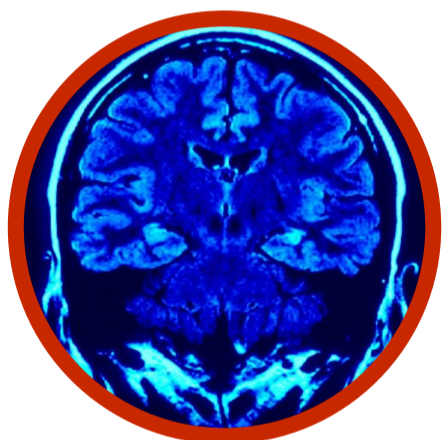
TEMPORARY 'TATTOO' MONITORS DIABETICS' GLUCOSE LEVELS

A team of scientists have developed a flexible device that can be used to monitor glucose levels. Affixed to the skin, it accurately detected glucose levels in seven volunteers in preliminary tests, and could in future eliminate the need for finger pricking.



SWELLING POLYMER ENHANCES CELL & TISSUE IMAGES

A new microscopic technique, dubbed 'expansion microscopy', enhances images of cells & tissues by using the super-absorbant polymer sodium polyacrylate to increase tissue sample size. It allows for more detailed images with conventional microscopes.



VALUABLE METAL EXTRACTION FROM SEWAGE SLUDGE

A study analysing US sewage sludges found that extracted metals could have a value of as much as \$280 per ton of sludge. The researchers found that, for a city of 1 million people, up to \$13 million worth of metals could be extracted each year.



'CHEMISTRY'S TOUGHEST SYNTHESIS' PUT ON HOLD

Maitotoxin, produced by a species of plankton, is the most complex natural product that isn't a protein or polysaccharide. A team trying to synthesis it since 1996 are now only two side-chains and two rings from the completed molecule, but have no more funding.



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