**Using a Coffee Machine for a Chemical Extraction**

Chemists at the University of Tasmania have developed a method for the extraction of shikimic acid, an important precursor to Tamiflu, using an espresso machine. They used ground star anise and a hot ethanol-water mixture to obtain a 5.5% yield of the compound.

**Dead Silver-Treated Bacteria Kill Nearby Bacteria**

Silver is commonly used as an antimicrobial. By introducing bacteria killed with silver to a solution of live bacteria, researchers have shown the dead bacteria were capable of killing the live bacteria by leaching silver, acting as ‘reservoirs for further killing.’

**X-Rays Show How Chocolate ‘Fat Bloom’ Occurs**

White patches appearing on chocolate, known as ‘fat bloom’, is a well known phenomenon. Using X-rays, scientists have now been able to observe it forming. They suggest reduced porosity of chocolate and cooler storage conditions could help prevent the process.

**Molecule Can Store Solar Energy for 100 Years**

Researchers have developed a new molecule capable of absorbing and storing solar energy. A kilogram of the molecules could boil 750ml of water in just 3 minutes; however, there are still issues getting the molecules to release the energy on demand.

**Gold-Plated Onion Cells Create Artificial Muscle**

Researchers found that onion skin cell structure was similar to that of the polymer muscle they were attempting to produce. After pre-treating the skin with sulfuric acid, they deposited gold on the cells. An applied voltage makes them contract & bend like human muscle.