

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

5TH JULY - 11TH JULY 2015

PROTEIN LINKED TO AGE-RELATED MEMORY LOSS

A study in mice suggests a protein whose blood levels increase with age could be to blame for age-related memory loss. Mice engineered to lack the gene for the protein showed fewer memory problems than those of the same age who maintained the protein.



ZEOLITE FILMS HELP TO TRAP BAD FOOD SMELLS

A new film made from zeolites and cellulose could help cage pungent food odours. The film is able to trap sulfur-containing compounds, often responsible for smells in foods such as garlic and onions, and reduce them below the levels at which humans can smell them.



USING NICKEL SALTS TO TURN CHIP FAT INTO BIOFUELS

A new, greener method uses nickel salts to turn waste fats and oils into biofuels, without requiring use of hydrogen or a solvent. The nickel salts deoxygenate the fats and turn them into shorter chain hydrocarbons. However, industrial implementation is still a way off.



NEW CONE SNAIL TOXINS COULD LEAD TO NEW DRUGS

New research has discovered thousands of new peptide toxins in cone snail venom. They include six molecules deemed suitable as drug 'leads', which could help support drug development for a range of diseases.



EPA RESTRICTS HFC USE IN SHOP REFRIGERATORS

The Environmental Protection Agency has ruled on a number of current hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) uses that must be ceased from 2017. HFCs are used as refrigerants and in aerosols, but have high global warming potential. Hydrofluoroolefins are alternatives.



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