

# THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST - 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015

## PROTEIN ENABLES SLOWER MELTING ICE CREAMS

Researchers developed a method of producing a naturally-occurring protein, known as BsAI, which could be added to ice creams and help keep them frozen for longer. The protein works by adhering to and stabilising the fat droplets and air bubbles in ice cream.



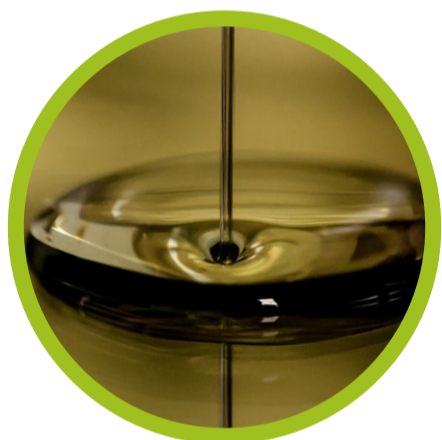
## BLUEBERRY EXTRACT FIGHTS PLAQUE & GUM DISEASE

Laboratory tests showed that polyphenol-rich extracts from wild blueberries inhibited the growth of a bacteria that can cause dental plaque and subsequently gum disease. It could eventually provide an alternative to antibiotics for treatment of gum disease.



## NEW MEMBRANE HELPS SEPARATE OIL FROM WATER

A steel mesh covered with a self-cleaning polymer coating can easily separate oil from an oil and water mixture. It could be of use in oil spill clean-ups, though the method used to link the polymer to the steel may not be economically viable for large-scale production.



## RECYCLING WASTE COFFEE GROUNDS FOR METHANE STORAGE

By treating waste coffee grounds with potassium hydroxide at a temperature of 900°C, researchers formed an activated carbon material that proved an effective and stable storage medium for methane. The methane could subsequently be used as a fuel.



## BRAZILIAN WASP VENOM SELECTIVELY KILLS CANCER CELLS

A study has found how the venom of a Brazilian wasp can kill cancer cells without harming normal cells. A toxin in the venom creates holes in the tumour cells, causing them to leak vital molecules. More studies are now needed to observe the venom's effect in humans.



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