THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

4TH OCTOBER - 10TH OCTOBER 2015

NOBEL PRIZES FOR ANTI-PARASITIC DRUGS & DNA REPAIR

This year's Nobel prize in Medicine went to scientists who worked on the development of anti-parasitic drugs to combat diseases such as river blindness and malaria. The Chemistry prize went to work on DNA repair mechanisms.

"RUNNER'S HIGH" COULD STEM FROM ENDOCANNABINOIDS

'Runner's high', a euphoric feeling some experience after exercise, was previously though to be due to β-endorphins. However, experiments using rats have shown that anandamide and other endocannabinoids may also be involved.

TIME OF DEATH FORMULA FROM pH & CONCENTRATIONS

By monitoring pH & the concentration of a number of biochemicals in blood, scientists hope to develop a more accurate gauge on time of death. They produced a formula based on live blood samples, which they hope to refine using blood from corpses.

CANDLE SOOT COULD HELP POWER ELECTRIC CAR BATTERIES

In smaller lithium batteries, carbon is used as the anode, but its structure makes it less suitable for use in larger batteries required by electric cars. New research ascertained that the carbon nanoparticles found in candle soot could be more effective.

METHOD MAKES CARBON NANOPARTICLES FROM URINE

Researchers have developed a one-step process that allows the creation of carbon 'quantum dots' (nanoparticles) from urine. These water-soluble, inert particles could be used in bio-imaging: for example, as fluorescent probes for the detection of metal ions.

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