CHEMISTS TRACK CHEMICALS GIVEN OFF BY CINEMA-GOERS
Chemists used mass spectrometry to monitor compounds emitted in people's breath and skin while they are at the cinema. It revealed that human emissions varied predictably during a film; isoprene, linked with muscle contractions, was amongst the chemicals detected.

LEAD ISOTOPES HELP TRACK THE ROMAN EMPIRE’S WATER SUPPLY
Measurements of lead isotope compositions in layers of sediment has allowed scientists to track where Roman water pipelines ran, and how the network changed over history. They could also discern how the eruption of Vesuvius disrupted the water supply of Naples.

IDENTIFYING THE MOLECULES THAT MAKE CLOTHES SMELL
Researchers have identified six compounds that make dirty laundry smell; the compounds include butyric acid (rancid, vomit-like) dimethyl disulfide (onion-like), and 2-nonanone (fruity and floral). In combination, these compounds are significant contributors to the odour.

NEW METHOD CREATES HUNDREDS OF ANTIOBOTIC CANDIDATES
Bacterial resistance to antibiotics is a large concern. A team of chemists have developed a strategy that allows them to piece together types of antibiotics called macrolides bit by bit, rather than modifying existing macrolides, and produce hundred of new antibiotic candidates.

SHARK JELLY HAS HIGHEST BIOLOGICAL PROTON CONDUCTIVITY
Sharks produce a strange jelly thought to be linked to their ability to sense electric fields. This jelly has a low electrical conductivity, but its proton conductivity is the highest of any biological material. As yet it still doesn’t explain how it might help in sensing electric fields, however.