

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

22ND MAY 2016 – 28TH MAY 2016

Links to articles & studies for the featured stories are provided at: <http://goo.gl/QFv6UC>



ROSETTA DISCOVERS AMINO ACID & PHOSPHORUS ON COMET

The ESA's Rosetta probe has detected substances thought to be key to the origin of life on comet 67P. The substances detected include the amino acid glycine, a component of proteins, and phosphorus, which is found in DNA and cell membranes.



SPECTROMETRY TEST HELPS TO DETECT PARMESAN IMPOSTERS

A new method uses a combination of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry to determine whether parmesan is adulterated or downright fake. It detects cyclopropane fatty acids, found in silage-fed cows – and parmesan isn't made from the milk of silage-fed cows.



PAPER-BASED SENSOR HELPS TO MONITOR SUN EXPOSURE

A new paper-based sensor to monitor sun exposure takes into account skin tones and SPF of sunscreens. It's made of paper, titanium dioxide, and a dye. When enough UV hits the sensor, the dye changes colour. It's tuned for different skin tones using neutral density filters.



CRAWLING CHEMICAL GLOBULES ACT LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE

A team of Japanese chemists observed life-like behaviour in droplets of didodecyldimethylammonium bromide (DDAB) with oleate and calcium ions. They moved around a glass slide by reacting with iodide ions, consumed smaller globules, and left behind waste.



GLYPHOSATE 'UNLIKELY TO POSE CARCINOGENIC RISK' TO HUMANS

A new World Health Organisation report has concluded that the glyphosate pesticide is unlikely to cause cancer in humans through dietary exposure. The report also noted an absence of carcinogenic activity in rodents at doses relevant to human exposures.

