

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

28TH MAY 2017 – 4TH JUNE 2017

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



SWEAT GLAND MIMIC SHOWS HOW ANTIPERSPIRANTS WORK

Researchers built a microfluidic device that mimics human sweat glands to investigate how antiperspirants stop sweating. They found the aluminium chlorohydrate in antiperspirants aggregates with low levels of proteins in sweat, forming a blocking plug.



MODIFIED VANCOMYCIN BOOSTS POTENCY AGAINST BACTERIA

Vancomycin is an antibiotic of last resort, but increasing bacterial resistance to its effects is a problem. A new modified version of the drug gives it three separate mechanisms of action, making it 10,000 times more potent than vancomycin against resistant bacteria.



ORGANIC ACIDS REPLACING ANTIBIOTICS IN ANIMAL FEED

Antibiotics use as growth-promoting agents in livestock feed was banned in the EU in 2006 due to concerns it contributes to bacterial resistance to antibiotics. New figures show that farmers are turning to short-chain organic acids (e.g. butyric acid) as a replacement.



NOBEL PRIZE WINNER'S MOLECULAR MOTOR TURNS ROTOR

Research led by one of last year's chemistry Nobel Prize winners, Ben Feringa, succeeded in creating a molecular motor which turns an attached rotor. The motor's movement is driven by light-induced isomerisation. It is a further step towards molecular machines.



SPANISH UNIVERSITY UNVEILS GIANT PERIODIC TABLE

The University of Murcia in Spain has unveiled a giant periodic table on the side of their department of chemistry. Sponsored by twelve companies, the table is made up of 118 0.75m² element tiles, and covers a total area of approximately 150m².

