

THIS WEEK IN CHEMISTRY

4TH JUNE 2017 – 10TH JUNE 2017

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



CORAL SKELETONS IDENTIFY PAST UNDERWATER ERUPTIONS

Researchers have found they can investigate previous eruptions of underwater volcanoes by studying noble gas isotope ratios in coral skeletons. The gases, released from magma, are incorporated into coral skeletons, providing a geochemical record.



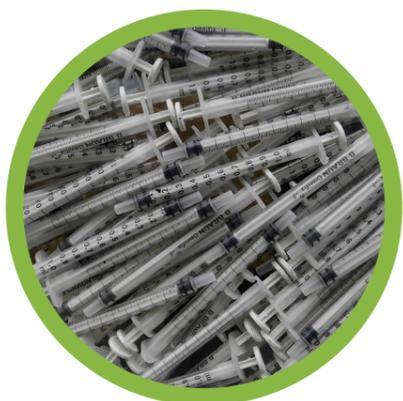
ENZYME EXPLANATION FOR FRENCH CLINICAL TRIAL TRAGEDY

In France in 2016, one patient died and two ended up with long term neurological damage as a result of a clinical trial gone wrong. New work has shown that it was likely due to the drug being tested, BIA 10-2474, also binding several enzymes as well as its target.



NEW PHOTOREACTOR BOOSTS LIGHT-MEDIATED REACTION RATE

A new standardised photoreactor boosts the rate of reactions which require light by up to ten times. It also allows reaction conditions easier to control, including fine control of light intensity and allowing the same amount of light to be used for each reaction.



TEST STRIPS USED TO HELP PREVENT FENTANYL OVERDOSE

Analytical test strips originally used to detect the opioid fentanyl in urine are now being handed out to drug users in parts of the US and Canada so they can check products for fentanyl before injecting. There is hope that it may help prevent overdoses amongst users.



USING A SENSOR ARRAY TO SORT DIFFERENT WHISKIES

Different whiskies are often similar in chemical composition, making it difficult to tell them apart analytically. A new sensor array uses a series of fluorescent solutions – when a drop of whiskey is added to each, the brightness of the glow is modified, giving a unique pattern.

