



Snow control

For the past few decades, the Antarctic ice sheet has been steadily losing mass as a result of climate change. But between 2021 and 2023, something surprising happened: the rate of ice loss slowed dramatically, and East Antarctica actually gained a significant amount of ice mass. An explanation for this countereventive event is offered in this week's issue by [Qizhuxia Diao](#) and colleagues. The researchers find that there is an atmospheric connection between the Antarctic and persistent warming of sea-surface temperatures in the tropical warm pool (an area — [show all](#))

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This Week

Editorial

Editorial 25 Aug 2026	How to manage AI risks while reaping the benefits As the world debates how to regulate artificial intelligence, Europe's lawmakers are doing a lot of the heavy lifting.
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Editorial 26 Aug 2026	South Africa's 'registration law' for scientists could be a template for the world – if the nation gets it right The plan to force some scientists to register with a professional body could protect people and the environment, but the current version lacks clarity.
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World View

World View 21 Aug 2026	Why we must stop talking about artificial general intelligence – and instead build 'pro-worker' AI Rather than racing to replace people, we should build AI tools that amplify human expertise and expand opportunity. Daron Acemoglu
World View 25 Aug 2026	China is changing the shape of global health. The terms are still up for negotiation Health-care partnerships can provide other nations with cheap diagnostics, medicines and more – but global institutions should help to ensure that they also strengthen local capacity and preserve sovereignty. Ruby Wang

Research Highlights

Research Highlight 20 Aug 2026	Astronaut vest cuts radiation exposure in half Tests on uncrewed NASA mission showed garment could spare astronauts the worst effects of solar storms.
Research Highlight 20 Aug 2026	Hidden volcanoes hint at Moon's turbulent past A pair of massive shield volcanoes have been pinpointed by lunar spacecraft.
Research Highlight 19 Aug 2026	Too much mate choice overwhelms frogs Female treefrogs select less carefully when hearing a chorus of males.
Research Highlight 20 Aug 2026	To shield the fetus, link a protein to these drugs Adding albumin to popular antibody-based medicines helps to block their passage through the placenta.

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News in Focus

News

News 19 Aug 2026	Human organoids that mimic brain development grown for years in lab Models of how the brain changes over time could help researchers to understand how diseases affect the organ later in life. Rachel Fieldhouse
News 19 Aug 2026	AI tool lets researchers 'vibe code' in the quantum realm An autonomous AI agent can write and execute quantum computing code, but it sometimes needs a human touch. Davide Castelvecchi
News 14 Aug 2026	Undocumented migration does not raise crime rates, huge study finds Analysis of neighbourhoods in more than 100 US cities finds no evidence that rising numbers of undocumented immigrants are linked with violent crime. Miryam Naddaf
News 13 Aug 2026	Will the mRNA flu shot work better than a regular seasonal one? What the science says Moderna's newly approved vaccine could allow manufacturers to respond more rapidly to changing influenza strains. Dhruv Shenai
News 19 Aug 2026	How do people live beyond 110? Abundance of cancer-killing cells might be key Research on people 110 years and older reveals an immune system that continues to adapt. Katherine Bourzac Collection: Cancer at Nature Portfolio
News 19 Aug 2026	South Africa's scientists must register with official body or risk prison, according to draft law Many researchers are unaware of an upcoming law that will require them to register with a regulatory body, as is the case for engineers and health-care professionals. Sarah Wild
News 17 Aug 2026	First-of-its-kind narcolepsy drug opens door to new therapies for the brain The drug, called Orezyfl, takes aim at the root cause of the sleep disorder rather than at its symptoms. Amanda Heilt

Features

News Feature 25 Aug 2026	AI-detection tools have made huge leaps forward – how good are they? Scientists and publishers are testing a new breed of software that promises impressive accuracy at spotting AI-written text. Miryam Naddaf & Richard Van Noorden
News Feature 26 Aug 2026	The baffling science of SSRIs: how do they really work? The world's most popular antidepressant drugs are under fire. But are they really harder to quit than heroin? Lynne Peeples

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Books & Arts

Book Review

Book Review 24 Aug 2026	Can AI ever be conscious? The question stems from a misconception A book outlines how the fields of artificial intelligence, psychology and philosophy have neglected a key aspect of consciousness: the body. Ababa Birhane
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Opinion

Comment

Comment 24 Aug 2026	Frontier-technology markets are too narrow – here's how to widen them Governments need to keep their procurement processes as open as possible, or they will face risks of technological lock-in down the line. Luiza Corrado & Paul Kattuman
Comment 25 Aug 2026	How tech-enhanced sleep could improve rest but erode privacy Technologies that promise better than-usual sleep could improve people's performance and health but also turn the need for rest into an auditable obligation. Ethical norms and regulations are needed. Brian D. Earp, Sebastian Porsdam Mann & Effy Vayena

Correspondence

Correspondence 25 Aug 2026	The future of peer review requires AI support, not AI bans Xuegang Zhang
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Correspondence 25 Aug 2026	Amend copyright licences to halt AI misuse and reassess human control Katie Seaborn, Daniel L. Gardner & Katta Spiel
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Work

Feature

Career Feature 19 Aug 2026	Twenty-two easy ways to power up your lab meetings Scientists share help and advice on how they got their research discussions flowing. Hannah Docter-Loeb
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Research

News & Views

News & Views 12 Aug 2026	No single rule explains how climate affects carbon storage in tropical forests Ecologists have long wondered why some tropical forests store more carbon than others. A global satellite survey offers an explanation. Maria Uriarte & Marcia Macedo
News & Views 19 Aug 2026	The Antarctic ice sheet has gained mass – but probably not for long Since 2020, snowfall has largely counterbalanced the melting of the Antarctic ice sheet. The atmospheric effect that causes this has been identified – and it's temporary. Jonathan Wille
News & Views 19 Aug 2026	Psychedelics tune the brain to the environment Rather than just scrambling neural activity, the psychedelic substance psilocybin also reorganizes brain dynamics so as to align with a person's context and experiences. Stefan Borgwardt & Mihai Avram
News & Views 18 Aug 2026	Mathematics holds the secret to 'ladder-proof' knitting A topological description of 'knittability' can be used to design yarn patterns that are resistant to unraveling. Vishal P. Patel

Reviews

Review Article 26 Aug 2026	Systems vaccinology and the architecture of human immunity A review of the current state of the field of systems vaccinology discusses the challenges in translating insights into clinical and regulatory practice. Bali Pulendran
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Articles

Article Open Access 12 Aug 2026	Evidence for the first globular cluster stellar stream beyond the Milky Way Deep Hubble Space Telescope imaging of the ultra-diffuse galaxy UGC 9050-Dw1 reveals an extragalactic globular cluster stream, with analysis and modelling probing the rich dark-matter content of the host galaxy. Julie Kiel Holm, Sarah Pearson ... Catherine Fielder
Article Open Access 26 Aug 2026	Tidal tomography reveals a thermal anomaly beneath Mars's crustal dichotomy Analysis of tracking data from Mars orbiters reveals time-variable gravity field behaviour reflecting the structure underlying the Martian crustal dichotomy and indicates the preservation of a 200–400 °C thermal anomaly in the present-day mantle below the southern highlands. Alexander Berne, Nicholas Wagner ... Francis Nimmo
Article Open Access 26 Aug 2026	3D bulk-resolved g-wave alternating order parameter in CrSb Quantum oscillation measurements map the g-wave alternating order parameter in CrSb, establishing it as a prototypical unconventional magnet with momentum-dependent spin splitting. Mengmeng Long, Theodore I. Weinberger ... Alexander G. Eaton
Article 22 Jul 2026	Electronic-resonance enhanced molecule for perovskite solar cells In a self-assembled monolayer molecule with a donor-acceptor-donor structure, the electronic resonance increased the negative charge density at the acceptor-anchoring group, improving the certified efficiencies of rigid and flexible perovskite solar cells. Xiaoxiao Wu, Wenwen Kou ... Yongfang Li
Article 15 Jul 2026	An ATP5s recycling strategy for practical biocatalytic thiophosphorylation A new method for practical scaling up of enzymatic thiophosphorylation is described, making use of a two-kinase system along with recycling of the very expensive ATP5s, providing a pathway for thiophosphate-containing modalities in drug development. Xiangyu Wu, Yu Fu & Hans Renata
Article 05 Aug 2026	In situ particle-to-fibre transformation of hydrogels for 3D printing A three-dimensional printing method transforms hydrogel particles into aligned microfibres during extrusion, creating structural anisotropy to accelerate muscle tissue regeneration. Dexin Zhou, Bohan Dou ... Lilang Ouyang
Article Open Access 12 Aug 2026	Towards an equitable future of global photovoltaic waste recycling Global photovoltaic waste will reach 297–402 million tonnes by 2060, and regionally adapted recycling strategies and international cooperation will be needed to provide equitable and scalable PV waste circularity. Chen Wang, Jian Zuo ... Jiahua Li
Article Open Access 19 Aug 2026	Multiyear tropical warm pool warming drives slowdown in Antarctic mass loss Recent Antarctic ice mass gain was linked to a recurrent atmospheric teleconnection, but this recurs about once per decade in observations and historical simulations so does not yet reflect a global-warming-driven moistening of Antarctica. Yunhe Wang, Qinghua Ding ... Eric J. Steig
Article 12 Aug 2026	Heterogeneous climatic controls on tropical forest biomass An analysis of the relationships between aboveground biomass and various climatic factors in three major regions of tropical forest shows that understanding the complex interactions between climate, topography and soils is crucial to predict how climate change will affect carbon storage capacity. Mathaus Henrique Nunes, Helene C. Muller-Landau ... Ralph Dubayah
Article Open Access 09 Jun 2026	A unicellular relative links aggregative multicellularity to animal origins Aggregative multicellularity was key to the evolution of the multicellular animal genetic toolkit. Ruibao Li, Jeremiah E. Charamis ... Joseph P. Gerdt
Article Open Access 15 Jul 2026	A Bayesian framework for longitudinal FHR and genetic discovery A Bayesian generative framework that integrates longitudinal electronic health records with genetic data to identify latent disease signatures is presented. Sarah M. Urbau, Yi Ding ... Giovanni Parmigiani
Article Open Access 19 Aug 2026	Psychedelics align brain activity with context The psychedelic psilocybin reorganizes brain activity into structured, context-aligned patterns that integrate internal and external processing, providing a neural basis for the felt continuity between self and world, elucidating how the psychedelic state translates into psychological change. Devon Stollker, Leonardo Novelli ... Adeel Razi
Article Open Access 08 Jul 2026	Ancient feeding-related neuropeptides regulate alloparenting in ants Pharmacological screening and behavioural assays in ants identify two specific neuropeptides that have key and opposite effects in regulating brood care, and that link nutritional state to age-dependent changes in parenting behaviour. Alexander Paul, Tomas Jari ... Daniel J. C. Kronauer
Article Open Access 08 Jun 2026	Distributed control circuits across a brain-and-cord connectome A connectome of the brain and ventral nerve cord of an adult female fruit fly is reconstructed and annotated, providing an open resource that reveals neural control of behaviour to be distributed, parallel and embodied. Alexander S. Bates, Jasper S. Phelps ... Wei-Chung Allen Lee
Article 22 Jul 2026	Mapping drivers of life expectancy change in Asia from 1920 to 2023 Using the Global Burden of Disease Study data across Asian countries and territories, life expectancy trends and the effects of cause-specific mortality and risk factors on changes in these trends are analysed. Jiseung Kang, Hyeon-In Kim ... Nicholas Steel
Article Open Access 29 Jul 2026	Mitochondrial metabolism and epigenetic crosstalk drive SASP In senescent cells, mitochondria-derived acetyl-CoA promotes histone acetylation and increases chromatin accessibility at inflammatory gene loci. Inhibition of SLC35A1 attenuates these effects, underscoring the therapeutic potential of targeting mitochondrial metabolism and its epigenetic crosstalk to delay age-related functional decline. Hélène Martini, Jodie Birch ... Jobo F. Passos Collection: The SenNet Collection
Article 22 Jul 2026	Tertiary lymphoid structures harbour stem-like tumour-specific T cells Rituximab-treated carcinoma tumours containing tertiary lymphoid structures (TLSs) are enriched for exhausted CD8 ⁺ T cells, including tumour-specific clonotypes with stem-like progenitor features and reduced terminal exhaustion. Alexander B. Aloyan, Adi Nagler ... Catherine J. Wu
Article Open Access 08 Jun 2026	GPR15-guided CD8⁺ T regulatory cells control intestinal inflammation Intestinal GPR15-guided regulatory CD8 ⁺ T lymphocytes—which are diminished by deleterious GPR15 genetic mutations in severe, early-onset disease or by cell deficiencies in sporadic Crohn's colitis and Crohn's disease—restrain macrophage-driven inflammation and present new potential therapeutic avenues for inflammatory bowel disease. Jing Gai, Zuxia Chen ... Michael J. Lévado
Article Open Access 01 Jul 2026	Dual tumour–myeloid targeting of glioblastoma with GPNMB-CAR-T cells Integrated multi-omic profiling of glioblastoma reveals GPNMB as a shared antigen in tumour cells and the surrounding microenvironment, and GPNMB-targeted chimeric antigen receptor T cells demonstrate therapeutic efficacy in vitro and in animal models. Neil Savage, Shan Grewal ... Sheila K. Singh
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Article 21 May 2026	De novo design of miniproteins targeting GPCRs De novo design combined with a high-throughput receptor–ligand microscopy-based screen, complementary display methods and functional assays, enabled the development of G-protein-coupled receptor-binding miniprotein agonists and antagonists targeting receptors implicated in itch, pain, cancer, metabolic disease and migraine. Edin Muratpahić, David Feldman ... David Baker
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Nature Outlook

Nature Outlook 26 Aug 2026	Nuclear power Few scientific phenomena have been associated with such an eerie blend of menace and promise as nuclear fission.
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