

The Lord is like a strong tower, where the righteous can go and be safe.

Proverbs 18:10

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DIYARYO KABITENYO
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Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13

DOH Calabarzon deploys medical emergency teams after Taal Volcano eruption

The Department of Health (DOH) in Calabarzon has deployed health emergency personnel, provincial health teams, and mental health teams to areas in Batangas, even as it placed all health facilities in the region on full alert following the eruption of Taal Volcano in Batangas last Jan. 12.

This means that all DOH facilities should be ready to provide medical help for people with traumatic injuries, burns, suffocation, skin diseases, eye injuries, conjunctivitis, and respiratory problems.

DOH Calabarzon

Turn to page 2



More than 300 Silang residents avail of free medical services from the provincial government of Cavite's health outreach program conducted at Barangay Lalaan II recently. Health professionals from the Provincial Health Office rendered their services which included medical consultation, dental check-up and tooth extraction with the assistance of barangay health workers and nutrition scholars. Prescribed medicines and vitamins were also provided for free. Barangay Captain Eric L. Sulit together with other barangay officials warmly welcomed and thanked the mission team headed by the OPG-Extension for conducting the health activity in their barangay.

DIYARYO KABITENYO

ISSN 2601-8113

ARNULFO BARCO

Publisher/Editor

GENIE BARCO

Creative Manager

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(CAVITE... from page 1)

is also monitoring possible fatalities after heavy volcanic ashfall in areas close to the volcano.

In a media release last Jan. 13, the DOH Calabarzon said it would also distribute free N95 face masks to residents in high-risk areas.

Batangas has been placed under a state of calamity last Jan. 13.

Calabarzon region comprised of the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, and the highly urbanized city, Lucena.

DOH Calabarzon regional director Eduardo Janaro reminded

affected people with existing health conditions like emphysema, asthma, and bronchitis who have been exposed to ashfall to immediately seek medical help.

Volcanic ashfall is a major health hazard that follows volcanic eruption. It may cause eye, nose, and throat irritation and lead to difficulty in breathing, coughing, bronchitis-like illnesses and minor skin problems.

Janaro further advised the public to:

- stay indoors and keep windows and doors closed.
- wear protective eyewear and face masks when going out

Scientists breach brain barriers to attack tumors

The brain is a sort of fortress, equipped with barriers designed to keep out dangerous pathogens. But protection comes at a cost.

These barriers interfere with the immune system when faced with iller threats such glioblastoma, a deadly brain tumor for which there are few effective treatments.

Yale researchers have found a novel way to circumvent the brain's natural defenses when they're counterproductive by slipping immune system rescuers through the fortress-

es drainage system, they report Jan. 15 in the journal Nature.

People had thought there was very little the immune system could do to combat brain tumors," said senior corresponding author Akiko Iwawaki. "There has been no way for glioblastoma patients to benefit from immunotherapy."

Iwawaki is the Waldemar Von Zedtwitz Professor of Immunobiology and professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental biology and an investigator for the Howard Hughes

Medical Institute.

While the brain itself has no direct way for disposing of cellular waste, tiny vessels lining the interior of the skull collect tissue waste and dispose of it through the body's lymphatic system, which filters toxins and waste from the body. It is this disposal system that researchers exploited in the new study.

These vessels form shortly after birth, spurred in part by the gene known as vascular endothelial growth factor C, or VEGF-C.

Yale's Jean-Louis Thomas, associate pro-

essor of neurology at Yale and senior co-corresponding author of the paper, wondered whether VEGF-C might increase immune response if lymphatic drainage was increased. And lead

author Eric Song, a student working in Iwawaki's lab, wanted to see if VEGF-C could specifically be used to increase the immune system's surveillance of glioblastoma tumors. Together, the team investigated whether introducing VEGF-C through this drainage system would specifically target brain tumors.

is necessary:

- for those in evacuation centers, do not leave and heed orders and instructions from authorities;
- be updated on news through respective news sources like the radio.

The Philippine In-

stitute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) has raised Taal Volcano's status to Alert Level 4. It also warned that a "hazardous" eruption may occur "within hours to days."

As of this posting, ashfall has spread to Calabarzon and even Metro

Manila, prompting local executives to suspend classes and government to suspend work.

As of 12 noon Jan. 13, a total of 5,458 families or 24,508 people are reported to be taking shelter in 73 evacuation centers in Batangas, according to the National

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

The NDRRMC said that aside from N95 masks, the DOH has also provided collapsible jerry cans (for water storage), eye drops, and water disinfectants for victims of the eruption.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Branch 21
Iloilo, Cavite

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK,
Mortgages

CCR-061-2019
CFR-064-2019

DATE: November 23, 2019

In Compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1 Series of 2012 (RR as R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that the Name of Document Owner has filed with this Office, a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME from "MARLENE" to "MARIELE", in the certificate of live birth of **MARLENE ANGLIOYANGELISTA** who was born on **March 28, 1974** at **Margosatub, Cavite** and whose parents are **VECTORIO BALLETTER PANGMEL** and **SOCORRO ANGLIO ANGLIO**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **JANUARY 17, 2020**.

(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Margosatub
400
Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CCR-015-2019

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(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
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DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Naic
400
Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Sec. 3 of R.A. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Document Owner has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from **RELANDO** to **ROMEO** of the birth certificate of **RELANDO VIBRAY SANTIAGO**, born on **MAY 15, 1952** at **NAIC, CAVITE**, child of spouses **BERNARDO TRINIDAD SANTIAGO** and **MAXIMA BINABON VIBRAY**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition, may file his written opposition to this Office not later than **JANUARY 27, 2020**.

(Sgd.) GLORIA P. BAGO
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

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Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **JANUARY 17, 2020**.

(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

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(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Rich rewards: Scientists reveal ADHD medication's effect on the brain

Attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a neurobiological disorder characterized by symptoms of hyperactivity, inattention and impulsivity. People with the condition are often prescribed a stimulant drug called methylphenidate, which treats these symptoms. However, scientists do not fully understand how the drug works.

Now, researchers at the Oklahoma Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) have identified how certain areas of the human brain respond to methylphenidate. The work may help researchers understand the precise mechanism of the drug and ultimately develop more targeted medicines for the condition.

Previous research suggests that people with ADHD have different brain responses when anticipating and receiving rewards, compared to individuals without ADHD. Scientists at OIST have proposed that in those

with ADHD, neurons in the brain release less dopamine — a 'feel-good' neurotransmitter involved in reward-motivated behavior — when a reward is expected, with dopamine neurons firing more when a reward is given.

This means is that children, or even young adults, with ADHD may have difficulty engaging in behavior that doesn't result in an immediate positive outcome. For example, children may struggle to focus on schoolwork, as it may not be rewarding at the time

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
Branch 21
Iloilo, Cavite

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK,
Mortgages

CCR-061-2019
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(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Margosatub
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Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

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(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Naic
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Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

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Any person adversely affected by said petition, may file his written opposition to this Office not later than **JANUARY 27, 2020**.

(Sgd.) GLORIA P. BAGO
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Margosatub
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Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

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CCR-061-2019
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Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **JANUARY 17, 2020**.

(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Naic
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Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

CCR-015-2019

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Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **JANUARY 17, 2020**.

(Sgd.) LEONORA V. LOYOLA
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO - January 17 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRY OFFICE
MUNICIPALITY OF TANZA
Province of Cavite

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

10 January 2020

CE/SA-000-2020
CCE/0000-2020 RA 10172

In compliance with the publication requirement and pursuant to OCRG Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2011 (RR, as R.A. 0172), Notice is hereby served to the public that RICKY C. VELASCO has filed with this Office, a petition for CHANGE OF FIRST NAME from "MA. LUZVINDA" to "LUZVINDA" and CORRECTION OF CLERICAL ERROR in CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH from "October 31, 1988" to "May 01, 1987" in the Certificate of Live Birth of Ma. Luzvinda D. Aviles, who was born on October 12, 1959 at Tanza, Cavite and whose parents were Apolonia Andrea & Remedios Deves.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than **January 27, 2020**.

(Sgd.) **MA. THERESA J. CERA**
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO, Issues 11 & 20, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cavite
Municipality of Tanza
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR

RA Form No. 11.1 (LCRC)

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In Compliance with Section 7 of R.A. 9646, a notice is hereby served to the public that **ELIZABETH RILLO ANIL-DEBOY** has filed in this office a petition for Change Of First Name from "ISABELITA" to "ELIZABETH" in the **Certificate of Live Birth of ISABELITA RILLO ANIL**, who was born on **November 05, 1963** at Tanza, Cavite and whose parents are **ARCANGEL BALUSTISTA ANIL** and **MARINA RAMOS RILLO**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than **21 January 2020**.

(Sgd.) **MARIEEAR LOZANO**
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIARYO KABITENYO, Issues 11 & 20, 2020

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF MANUEL VELAZCO MEDINA

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MANUEL VELAZCO MEDINA**, who died intestate on January 5, 2019 at Marikina City, consisting of the following properties:

1. 1/3 share (33.33 sq.m.) in a lot measuring 166 sq.m. located in Suburb, Silang, Cavite covered by TCT No. T-80582
2. 1/3 share (85.00 sq.m.) in a lot measuring 257 sq.m. located in Suburb, Silang, Cavite covered by TCT No. T-40793
3. 1/3 share (33.33 sq.m.) in a lot measuring 112.0 sq.m. located in Tuguey, City covered by TCT No. T-80191
4. 1/3 share (73 sq.m.) in a lot measuring 219 sq.m. located in Suburb, Silang, Cavite and covered by TCT No. 076-2037007912
5. 1/3 share (800 sq.m.) in a parcel of land measuring 2,500 sq.m. located at the Silang, Cavite covered by TD No. 18 0025 00199
6. 1/2 share (33 sq.m.) in a lot measuring 238 sq.m. located in Suburb, Silang, Cavite, covered by TCT No. T-160701
7. A lot measuring 298 sq.m. located in Suburb, Silang, Cavite, covered by TCT No. T-160736
8. A residential house located in Potancan 1, Silang, Cavite, measuring 289 sq.m. and covered by TD No. 18 0001 00033
9. A one-story structure measuring 13 sq.m. located in Potancan 1, Silang, Cavite covered by TD No. 18 0001 00034
10. ALPM Money Market Fund, Inc. (ALPM Investment Management, Inc.) in the amount of P25,833.52 as of November 4, 2019
11. Toyota Camry more particularly described under COR No. BE8288410 with plate No. AQA4939 amounting at P350,000.00
12. Toyota Fortuner more particularly described under COR No. 24332215 with plate No. 3Y7041 amounting at P750,000.00

has been equitably and extrajudicially settled by and between his heirs and distributees. The following properties in legal status, are follows:

- TCT No. T-80002 (No. 1 share)
- TCT No. T-80001 (No. 2 shares)
- TCT No. T-80003 (No. 3 shares)
- TCT No. 076-2037007912 (No. 4 shares)
- TD No. 18 0001 00034 (No. 5 shares)
- TCT No. T-160701 (No. 2 shares)
- ALPM Money Market Fund (No. 1 share)
- Toyota Camry (No. 1 share)

The **ROLAND V. MEDINA**, waives and renounces his share, rights and participation in the following properties:

- Residential house - TD No. 18 0001 00033 (No. 8 shares)
- 1-story structure - TD No. 18 0001 00034 (No. 9 shares)
- House Potancan (No. 12 shares)

The **XAVIER VELAZCO MEDINA**, waives and renounces his share, rights and participation in TCT No. T-160735 (No. 4 shares).

On December 23, 2019 at Potancan, Cavite before Notary Public, **ANG GILAN M. GARCIA** (Marrying and married as her Detached Signature as Doc. No. 018, Page No. 85, Issue No. L, Series of 2019).

(Sgd.) **ROLAND V. MEDINA**
for himself and as Attorney-in-Fact of **XAVIER VELAZCO MEDINA**

Publication: **DIARYO KABITENYO**
Issues 11, 20 & 27, 2020

Sepsis associated with 1 in 5 deaths globally, double previous estimate

Twice as many study revealed 68.9 million people as previously believed globally are dying of sepsis in 2017 and 13 million worldwide, according to an analysis published January 16, 2020 in *The Lancet* and announced at the Critical Care Research annual meeting in Belfast. Among them are a disproportionately high number of children in poor areas.

led by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh and University of Washington 2017 — occurred in low-income countries.

The large majority of sepsis cases — 67% in 2017 — occurred in low-income countries.

Department of Critical Care Medicine. "I want to contribute to solving this tragedy, so I participate in research on sepsis. However, how can we know if we're making progress if we don't even know the size of the problem? If you look at any top 10 list of deaths globally, sepsis is not listed because it hasn't been counted."

"I've worked in rural Uganda, and sepsis is what we saw every single day. Watching a baby die of a disease that could have been prevented with basic public health measures really sticks with you," said lead author Kristina E. Rudd, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor in the

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 30
City of Zamboanga, Cebu

IN RE: PETITION FOR RENEWAL
OF COMMISSION AS NOTARY
PUBLIC, FOR AND IN THE CITY
OF ZAMBOANGA AND THE
PROVINCE OF CAVITE,

NOT. COM. NO. DC-889-19
MIRIAM S. CLOFINA,
Petitioner

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the petition for renewal of commission of Atty. Miriam S. Clofina will be held on February 4, 2020, at 2:00 in the afternoon. Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the granting of the petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearing.

Let this notice of hearing be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite.

SO ORDERED.

City of Zamboanga, Cebu, January 17, 2020.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO VICTOR L. COLLADO, JR.
Executive Judge

Publications: DIYARYO KABITENYO,
Times January 20-24, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
City Civil Registry Office
Province of Cavite
City of Iloilo

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with section 2 of R.A. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that CONCEPCION A. LACSON (no first name) was the Office applicant for change of first name from **MARISOL CONCEPCION O CONCEPCION** to the birth certificate of **MARIA CONCEPCION ABAD LACSON** who was born on November 21, 1986 at Iloilo, Cavite and whose parents are **ALBERTO T. LACSON** and **PIRLA L. ABAD**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than February 3, 2020.

(Sgd.) VIOLETA P. SANEZ
City Civil Registrar

DIYARYO KABITENYO - January 21 & 27, 2020

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province: Cavite
City/Municipality: Romina

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that JULIETA C. PLANSAY has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **JULIA** to **JULIETA** in the birth certificate of **JULIA ARNEJO CALAZAN** who was born on 14 JULY 1961 to **ROSARIO CASTILLO** and whose parents are **AUGUSTO A. CALAZAN** and **DELIA A. ARNEJO**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than 03 February 2020.

(Sgd.) MARIA ROSARIO C. SORIANO
Municipal Civil Registrar

DIYARYO KABITENYO - January 20 & 27, 2020

Hormone resistance in breast cancer linked to DNA 'rewiring'

Epigenetic changes occur in the DNA of breast cancer cells that have developed a resistance to hormone therapy, an effective treatment for ER+ breast cancer, which accounts for 70% of all diagnoses. Resewing these changes, researchers say, has significant potential to help reduce breast cancer relapse.

A team led by Professor Susan Clark at the Garvan Institute of Med-

ical Research showed that the 3D structure of DNA is 'rewired' in hormone resistant ER+ breast cancers, altering which genes are activated and which genes are silenced in the cells. The researchers published the findings today in the journal *Nature Communications*.

"For the first time, we've revealed crucial 3D DNA interactions that are linked to whether or not a breast cancer

is sensitive to hormone therapy," says senior author Professor Clark, who is Garvan's Genomics and Epigenetics Research Theme Leader. "Understanding this process reveals new insights into how ER+ cancers evade hormone therapy, allowing them to grow uncontrolled."

The sex hormone estrogen can be an inadvertent driver of cancer

leads to a third of all ER+ breast cancer patients on hormone therapy relapsing within 15 years," says the study's first author Dr Joanna Achinger-Kawocka.

"We are interested in epigenetic changes to DNA, the layer of instructions that organises and regulates DNA's activity that underpins the development of hormone resistance in breast cancer. Understanding these fundamental changes may help guide development of future treatments that either prevent resistance from developing, or reverse it once it has occurred."

Using chromosome conformation capture, a cutting-edge technique that provides a snapshot of how DNA is arranged and interacts in three dimensions in the cell, the researchers compared different ER+ breast cancer cells that were either sensitive or resistant to hormone treatment.

"Between breast cancer cells that were still sensitive to hormone treatment and those that had developed resistance, we saw significant changes in 3D interactions of DNA regions that control gene activation. Including at genes that control the estrogen receptor levels in the cells," says Dr Achinger-Kawocka.

"Further, we found that this 3D rewiring occurred at DNA regions that were methylated, which is an epigenetic change that the team has already linked to hormone resistance." The researchers say that the altered DNA methylation at critical regulatory regions may explain how the 3D structure of DNA is rewired as a cancer cell develops hormone resistance, allowing the cancer to better evade treatment.

"Cancer cells are always trying to outsmart therapy and it only takes one cell to evolve a different way to bypass a drug to cause a relapse in cancer," says Professor Clark. "Our study shows us just how much impact a change in the epigenome can have on cancer cell behaviour."

The researchers say the next step is to investigate whether epigenetic changes could be reversed to stop hormone resistance.

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONILLO DOTERAS SOTARENTO who died intestate on May 26, 2019 at Zambanga del Norte Medical Center, Zambanga City, Zambanga Del Norte, consisting of the following:

NATURE	ACCOUNT NUMBER	BALANCE
A PERIODIC	00007-020-01	202,611

All deposited instrument with the Bank of Philippine Islands, DOXA, CAVITE BRANCH.

has been the subject of Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate by and among the heirs, executing this instrument among others, to reduce the Bank of Philippine Islands, TANGA, CAVITE BRANCH, to allow them to withdraw the aforesaid amount.

We, the undersigned, of the said aforesaid estate, hereby expressly and absolutely receive, release and forever discharge the Bank of Philippine Islands, its administrators and assigns under any of its officers or employees, from any and all claims, debts, actions or causes of action which they, their executors or assigns now have or in the future may have against the said Bank in connection with the said deposit, and they hereby further obligate themselves jointly and severally, as witnesses, to sign, to attest and to execute with the said Bank, its administrators and assigns under its officers or employees for any loss or damage which they may sustain arising out of any claim, suit or proceedings initiated by any third person or entity whether private or governmental including, but not limited to, claims by excluded heirs of the estate of the decedent, and witnesses further that MARIA ELSA A. SOTARENTO and GILGUELYN A. SOTARENTO do waive their rights, benefits, and participation over the estate deposited in the said account in favor of SOTARENNA A. SOTARENTO her heirs, assigns and successors-in-interest, on January 17, 2020 in Tunga, Cavite, Philippines before Honary Public Attorney Merilyn S. Pineda-Ara and I, as Notarial Registrar at Doc. No. 208, Page No. 34, Book No. XXXI, Series of 2020.

Thel AAR Bales

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Low doses of radiation used in medical imaging lead to mutations in cell cultures

Common medical imaging procedures use low doses of radiation that are believed to be safe. A new study, however, finds that in human cell cultures, these doses create breaks that allow extra bits of DNA to integrate into chromosomes. Instead

of limiting radiation breaks that let in extraneous segments of DNA. These extraneous fragments of DNA can occur in the nucleus, left over from natural processes, such as genomic DNA repair and viral infections. In the new study, researchers investigated whether low doses of ionizing radiation have damaging side effects by irradiating human and mouse cells grown in the lab. When they examined the cells that had taken up large DNA, they found that low doses of radiation, in the upper range

of common diagnostic procedures, create mutations through inserted DNA even more efficiently than the much larger doses studied previously. While the new results in cell cultures are potentially concerning, the study's authors stress that translating radiation's effects on lab-grown cell cultures to effects in the body is premature. Future experiments using animal models will be necessary to determine the full effects of low-dose radiation, and whether its use in medical imaging has an impact on patient health.

Human fetal lungs harbor a microbiome signature

The lungs and gut of infants at 11 weeks after conception already show a bacterial microbiome signature, which suggests that bacteria may colonize the lungs well before birth. This first-time finding deepens the mystery of how the microbes or microbial products reach these organs before birth and what role they play in normal lung and immune system development.

A team led by University of Alabama at Birmingham researcher Chantelise Vitek, Ed, M.D., found that a human fetal microbiome DNA signature is present in lungs as early as the first trimester. This fetal lung microbiome showed changes in diversity during fetal development, suggesting microbiome maturation with advancing gestational age. Finally, a placental

microbiome was also present in human fetal tissue, and the microbiome signature showed some taxonomic overlap with the corresponding human fetal lung microbiome.

"We speculate that maternal-fetal microbial DNA transfer — and perhaps of other microbial products and whole live or dead bacteria — is a realistic possibility," said Ed, an associate professor in the UAB Pediatrics Division of Neonatology. "This new work is paving the way for understanding the mechanisms of the fetus and help in establishment of a normal host-microbial relationship."

Doreen AJ Allen, Ph.D., investigator in The Saban Research Institute of Children's Hospital Los Angeles and assistant professor of pediatrics at University of Southern California, is a co-author.

Researchers investigate molecule, VISTA, which keeps immune system quiet against cancer

While strong immune responses are needed to help protect the host from infections, the immune system also must curb the magnitude of those responses to limit the damage it can potentially cause. Over the past 8-10 years, a team of researchers at Dartmouth's and Dartmouth Hitchcock's Norris Cotton Cancer Center, led by Ra-

dolph Noelle, PhD, have identified some of the molecules that the immune system uses to temper immunity. While these molecules are usually good, they also limit the magnitude of the immune response to cancer. The team has learned that turning off these "brakes" on immunity allows therapeutic VISTA (V-domain Ig

suppressor of T-cell activation) is one of these tempering molecules that negatively regulates immunity. The team describes how VISTA controls immune T-cell responses in their study, "VISTA, a checkpoint regulator of naïve T-cell quiescence and tolerance in the periphery," newly published in Science.

"We have learned that keeping your immune system quiet is a challenging and very active process," says Noelle. "VISTA mediates immune system function and its loss can result in the development of unwanted immune responses. But VISTA may also be a valuable target in regulating the immune response in cancer and autoimmunity."

VISTA keeps the immune system's T-cell compartment passive and prevents activation of the immune system to self-antigens such as developing cancer cells. "Like other negative checkpoint regulators, blocking VISTA in cancer may enhance the host's ability to make protective tumor specific immune responses," says Noelle.

Currently, there is an antibody specific to VISTA that is going to be used in Phase I clinical trials in cancer to see if it is safe and if it can amplify the immune response to cancer in patients. If so, this antibody may be valuable in the development of drugs and vaccines to provide therapeutic response to cancer and cancer cures.

Neuron found in mice could have implications for effective diet drugs

Ever eaten something, gotten sick and then didn't want to eat that food again because of how it made you feel? That's because a signal from the gut to the brain produced that sickness, creating a taste aversion.

Conventional wisdom renders there's one

circuit in the brain that suppresses eating – it comes from the stomach and makes you feel sick if you activate it too hard. Eating a portioned meal makes your body happy, though, even while stimulating a signal to the brain to stop eating, according to Michigan Diabetes Re-

search Center's director, Martin Myers Jr., M.D., Ph.D.

"Therefore, there must be a circuit that stops normal feeding without the adverse effects, right?" says Myers.

Now, a Cell Metabolism study may have discovered this second

circuit in mice. Myers, Randy Seeley, Ph.D., the director of the Michigan Nutrition Obesity Research Center, and a team of researchers sought to better understand which part of the brain curbs appetite and which neurons play a role in making mice want to eat or not eat.

The gut-brain signal that suppresses appetite is triggered by a type of neuron containing calcium receptors (CALCR), which lives in a structure of the hindbrain called the medulla. Interestingly enough, these neurons didn't need to be active in the brain for gut sick-

ness to cause an aversive response.

"This suggested we might be able to disconnect the brainstem systems that stop feeding from those that cause nausea," says Myers, whose group found they could genetically activate these CALCR neurons to do just that.

Ingestible medical devices can be broken down with light

A variety of medical devices can be inserted into the gastrointestinal tract to treat, diagnose, or monitor GI disorders. Many of these have to be removed by endoscopic surgery once their job is done. However, MIT engineers have now come up with a way to trigger such devices to break down inside the body when they are exposed to light from an ingestible LED.

The new approach is based on a light-sensitive hydrogel that the researchers designed. Incorporating this material into medical devices could avoid many endoscopic procedures and would give doctors a faster and easier way to remove devices when

they are no longer needed or are not functioning properly, the researchers say.

"We are developing a set of systems that can reside in the gastrointestinal tract, and as part of that, we're looking to develop different ways in which we can trigger the disassembly of devices in the GI tract without the requirement for a major procedure," says Giovanni Traverso, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, a gastroenterologist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the senior author of the study.

In a study in pigs, the researchers showed that devices made with this light-sensitive hy-

drogel can be triggered to break down after being exposed to blue or ultraviolet light from a small LED.

Rim Raman, a postdoc at MIT's Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, is the lead author of the paper, which appears today in *Science Advances*. Other authors of the paper are former technical associates Tiffany Hua, Ji-anlin Zhuo, Tina Estabridy, and Vance Soren; technical associates Deirdre Gwynne, Jay Collins, and Siddhartha Tamang; graduate student Simo Purovic; Division of Comparative Medicine veterinarian Allison Hayward; and David H. Koch Institute Professor Robert Langer.

Real risks associated with cannabis exposure during pregnancy

A new study from researchers at Western University and Queen's University definitely shows that regular exposure to THC, the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, during pregnancy has significant impact on placental and fetal development. With more than a year since the legalization of recreational cannabis in Canada, the effects of its use during pregnancy

are only now beginning to be understood. The study, published January 17, 2020 in *Scientific Reports*, uses a rat model and human placental cells to show that maternal exposure to THC during pregnancy has a measurable impact on both the development of the organs of the fetus and the gene expression that is essential to placental function. The researchers

demonstrated in a rat model that regular exposure to a low-dose of THC that mimics daily use of cannabis during pregnancy led to a reduction in birth weight of 8 per cent and decreased brain and liver growth by more than 20 per cent. "This data supports clinical studies that suggest cannabis use during pregnancy it is associated with low birth weight babies.



Q & A on Consumer Rights

Q:

PROBLEMA SA PRODUCT QUALITY AND SAFETY?

A:

WALA DAPAT!
MAY MGA QUALITY AT SAFETY STANDARDS UPANG MASIGURO ANG KALIGTASAN AT KASIYAHAN NG KONSUMER.

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