

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

Proverbs 18:10

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

1 Corinthians 16:13

New LTO Cavite office to provide 'much-improved' service

Motorists in Cavite are expected to enjoy "swift, enhanced, and much-improved" public service through the newly inaugurated district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the city of Imus.

In a Facebook post last May 12, the LTO said the two-story

new office building with an area of 1,135 square meters, has centralized air-conditioning system, accessible emergency exits, uses the Land Transportation Management System (LTMS) for licensing transactions, and features an all-glass façade, is "a first



LTO CAVITE. The facade of the newly-inaugurated district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in Imus, Cavite. The LTO last May 12 said the new office will provide a 'much-improved' service to a greater number of clients. (Photo courtesy of LTO)

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P15-M lost in Carmona garment factory fire



CARMONA. said that the Carmona Fire Station received a call about the incident at 9:26 a.m. The third alarm was declared at 9:33 a.m., prompting firetrucks from Bacor, General Mariano Alvarez, General Trias, Silang, and Bitan, Laguna to help put out the blaze.

A fire razed a garment factory in Golden Mile Business Park in Barangay Maduya here last May 11 with damage estimated at close to P15 million.

Fire out was declared at 11:47 a.m.

According to a witness, the fire started at the second floor of the building, where stocks of textile were being stored.

There were no casualties reported.

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ARNULFO BARCO
Publisher - EditorGENER BARCO
Operations Manager

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Papi

Publishers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

(NEW... from page 1)

Laguna, Batangas, towards modernization, ease of doing business, and transparency.

"The new district office will cater to all LTO-mandated requirements such as application and renewal of driver's license, MV (motor vehicle) registration, and other miscellaneous transactions," the LTO said.

The new office, it said, will also allow the LTO Cavite District to serve more clients through its enhanced operational capacity.

It said these improvements manifest the LTO's move

towards modernization, ease of doing business, and transparency. The building was officially inaugurated last May 12 with Transportation Secretary Arthur Tuagade and LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante.

The LTO Imus district office began operations in 2018 and has served clients for two and a half years before the increasing demand necessitated the construction of a new office building.

Esophageal cancers resurrect ancient retroviruses hidden in our genome

Scientists have discovered that many esophageal cancers turn on an ancient viral DNA that was embedded in our genome hundreds of millions of years ago.

"It was surprising," says Adam Bass, MD, the Herbert and Florence Irving Professor of Medicine at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons and Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, who led the study published May 10 in *Nature Genetics*.

"We weren't specifically searching for the viral elements, but the finding opens up a huge new array of potential cancer targets

that I think will be extremely exciting as ways to enhance immunotherapy."

The idea that bits of ancient retroviruses within the human genome -- known as endogenous retroviral elements, or ERVs -- play a role in cancer is not new. Though ERV sequences have degraded over time and cannot produce viral particles, the viral fossils are sometimes inserted into other genes, which disrupts their normal activities, or act as switches that turn on cancer-causing genes.

More recently, however, research suggests ERVs may also fight cancer if they are transcribed into

strands of RNA.

"When cells activate lots of ERVs, a lot of double-stranded RNA is made and gets into the cell cytoplasm," Bass says. "That creates a state that's like a viral infection and can cause an inflammatory response. In that way, ERVs may make the cancer more susceptible to immunotherapy, and many researchers are working on ways to trick cancer cells into activating ERVs."

In the new study, Bass and his colleagues created esophageal organoids from mouse tissue to follow the development of cancer from normal cells to malignancy.

Using these or-

ganoids, Bass found that a specific cancer-promoting gene in esophageal cancers called SOX2 leads to induction of expression of many ERVs.

As the expression of ERVs and the accumulation of double-stranded RNAs that can result from ERV expression can be toxic to cells, the researchers found that there is a specific enzyme called ADAR1 that quickly degrades these double-stranded RNAs.

ADAR1 has been implicated in esophageal cancer by other researchers, although its role had been unclear. Levels of ADAR1 are known to correlate with poor survival.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **IRENE Y. JAMERA** who died testate on February 2, 2021, consisting of a certain sum of money deposited at the Bank of Philippine Island (BPI), located in 0741 Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City under Savings Account No. 007433-0294-41 has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among her heirs on March 22, 2021 at Bacoor City, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Violet Lucido Noble and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 101, Page No. 27, Book No. 4, Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) All Heirs

Publication: **DIYARYO KABITENYO**
Dates: May 3, 10 & 17, 2021

EXTRA JUDICIAL PARTITION OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **RONALD B. LOBATON** who died testate on April 6, 2021 in Cavite City, Philippines, consisting of Savings Account No. 24281003012 maintained with the Philippine National Bank (PNB), Cavite City Branch has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs with waiver of rights in favor of **BOMER S. LOBATON** and **ROMEYLN S. LOBATON** on April 27, 2021 in the City of Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Aronson B. Cabuco and entered in her Notarial Register as Doc. No. 520, Page No. 105, Book No. LXXV, Series of 2021.

(Sgd.) All Heirs

Publication: **DIYARYO KABITENYO**
Dates: May 3, 10 & 17, 2021

Stimulators could aid spinal cord, heart therapies

Implants that require a steady source of power but don't need wires are an idea whose time has come.

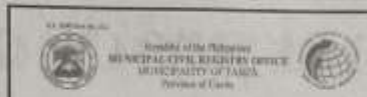
Now, for therapies that require multiple, coordinated stimulation implants, their timing has come as well.

Rice University engineers who developed implants for electrical

stimulation in patients with spinal cord injuries have advanced their technique to power and program multi-site biostimulators from a single transmitter.

A peer-reviewed paper about the advance by electrical and computer engineer

Kaiyuan Yang and his colleagues at Rice's Brown School of En-



Publication Notice
E.A. 10172

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Date: May 07, 2021

CCE-0015-2021

In compliance with the publication requirements and pursuant to CEBU Memorandum Circular No. 2013-1 Guidelines in the Implementation of the Administrative Order No. 1, Series of 2012 (IRR, or R.A. 10172), Notice is hereby served to the public that **C.E.A. DEL ROSARIO** has filed with this Office, a petition for CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN CHILDS SEX, from "MALE" to "FEMALE", in the Certificate of Live Birth of one **CL ARCON DEL ROSARIO**, who was born on December 01, 1998 at Biga, Tanza, Cavite of parents **Dorcas A. Del Rosario & Soledad P. Arcon**.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office not later than **May 24, 2021**.

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

DIYARYO KABITENYO - May 10 & 17, 2021

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF SPOUSES EPIMACO A. VELASCO and YOLANDA YMSON

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SPOUSES EPIMACO A. VELASCO and YOLANDA YMSON** who both died testate on January 27, 2014 and on March 10, 2014 respectively, both residents of Tanza, Cavite until the time of their death consisting of a parcel of land without improvement erected thereon, identified as Lot No. 1098, located in Barangay Samit, Tanza, Cavite, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-44366, of the Registry of Deeds of Cavite, with a total area of FORTY FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE SQUARE METERS (45,855) more or less, has been adjudicated and extrajudicially settled by and among their heirs on December 7, 2020 in Tanza, Cavite, Philippines before Notary Public Atty. Julius B. Arca and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc. No. 485, Page No. 97, Book No. XXXIX, Series of 2020.

(Sgd.) **EILEEN YVONNE VELASCO-SANTOS**
(for herself and as

Attorney-in-fact of her siblings namely: **Eric Y. Velasco, Maria Theresa Yassin Velasco-Bones and Erlissa Yvette Velasco-Fortier**) **MARIA ADUNCION R. FORTIER**
(Attorney-in-fact of Erlissa Yvette Velasco)

Publication: **DIYARYO KABITENYO**
Dates: May 10, 17 & 24, 2021

gineering won the best paper award at the IEEE's Custom Integrated Circuits Conference, held virtually in the last week of April.

The Rice lab's experiments showed an alternating magnetic field generated and controlled by a battery-powered transmitter outside the body, perhaps on a belt or harness, can deliver power and programming to two or more implants to at least 60 millimeters (2.3 inches) away.

The implants can be programmed with

delays measured in microseconds. That could enable them to coordinate the triggering of multiple wireless pacemakers in separate chambers of a patient's heart, Yang said.

"We show it's possible to program the implants to stimulate in a coordinated pattern," he said. "We synchronize every device, like a symphony. That gives us a lot of degrees of freedom for stimulation treatments, whether it's for cardiac pacing or for a spinal cord."

The lab tested its tiny implants, each

about the size and help in the recovery of weight of a vitamin, on the neuro system," Yang said. "There is clinical research going on, but they're all using bench-top equipment. There are no implantable tools that can do this."

The lab's devices, called MagNI (for magnetolectric neural implants) were introduced early last year as possible spinal cord stimulators that didn't require wires to power and program them. That means wire leads don't have to poke through the skin of the patient, a situation that would risk infection.

"There's a study on spinal cord regeneration that shows multi-site stimulation in a certain pattern will

Animal production responsible for vast majority of air quality-related health impacts from U.S. food

Poor air quality animal production is caused by food production in the United States is estimated to result in 16,000 deaths annually, 80 percent of which are related to animal production, according to a new study led by researchers at the University of Minnesota. The research also found there are measures farmers and consumers alike can take to reduce the air quality-related health impacts of the food we eat.

In a paper published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers measured how the production of various foods affects air quality, discovering that

overwhelmingly responsible for agriculture's air quality-related health impacts. The study -- the first food-by-food accounting of the damage to air quality caused by agriculture -- also shows how improving animal and crop management practices, as well as how eating more plant-rich diets, can substantially reduce mortality from food-related air pollution.

"Discussions on the environmental impacts of different foods typically focus on their greenhouse gas emissions, land and water use, and biodiversity impacts, but little is known about how different foods affect air

quality. Our research allows for this important piece of the puzzle to be included in the conversation," said Nina Domingo, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering in the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and College of Science and Engineering.

The authors estimated how much agriculture increased levels of fine particulate matter, or PM2.5, in the air. Chronic exposure to PM2.5 increases the risk of heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Farming activities such as plowing land, fertilizing crops, and storing

and spreading manure all release pollution that increases PM2.5 levels.

Animal-based foods tend to have higher air quality-related human health damages than plant-based foods because of pollution released from the manure of animals themselves and from fertilizer use and tillage of land when growing the crops -- primarily corn, hay and soybeans -- that they eat. Of particular concern is ammonia, which is released in large quantities from nitrogen fertilizers and manure, as it reacts with other pollutants to form PM2.5.

The study shows that, per serving, the average air quality-re-

lated harm of red meat is two times greater than that of eggs, three times greater than those of dairy products, seven times greater than those of poultry, 10 times greater than those of nuts and seeds, and at least 15 times greater than the average of other plant-based foods.

"Air quality-related mortality from the U.S. food system is comparable to that of other sources of air pollution, such as motor vehicles and electricity production. Nevertheless, food-related emissions are lightly regulated and less studied compared to these other sectors," said Jason Hill, profes-

or in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering. "Fortunately, air quality-related mortality of food can be reduced by improving fertilizer and manure management practices, and by shifting to diets that contain greater portions of fruits, vegetables, legumes, whole grains and other plant-based foods."

The paper also finds that many of the things that farmers and consumers can do to reduce pollution from food have many benefits beyond improving air quality, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing water pollution, and preventing species extinctions.

PARP inhibitor shrinks tumors in pancreatic cancer patients with mutations

More than two-thirds of pancreatic cancer patients harboring genetic mutations saw their tumors stop growing or shrink substantially after being switched from intensive chemotherapy to the PARP inhibitor rucaparib as a maintenance therapy, researchers from the Abramson Cancer Center (ACC) at the University of Pennsylvania reported online May 10, 2021 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*. The results from the phase II trial at the ACC support the use of rucaparib for pancreatic cancer patients with BRCA1, BRCA2, and PALB2 variants to help control tumor growth without the aggressive side effects of chemotherapy.

Rucaparib — a targeted therapy in pill form — is currently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a maintenance therapy for patients with recurrent ovarian and fallopian tube cancer and prostate cancer, but not pancreatic cancer.

"This is another step forward for PARP inhibitors and for the treatment of tough-to-treat pancreatic tumors," said Kim Reiss, MD, an assistant professor of Hematology-Oncology in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and the study's lead author. "It's a safe option that not only has the potential to maintain responses, but also shrink pancreatic tumors and, in some cases, achieve complete responses for those carrying these mutations."

Seventy-one-year-old Arnold Simon, who was first diagnosed in 2016 with metastatic pancreatic cancer and later discovered he had the BRCA2 mutation, is one of those patients. An early participant in the trial, Simon has been on rucaparib for more than three years. Since then, every one of his last 16 CT scans has been clear, with no signs of active cancer.

"The biggest benefit of being on the PARP inhibitor is that it is pills only, and the side effects have been minimal," Simon said. "I don't have to go down and sit and have chemo dripped for six hours into me. As far as I'm concerned, for me, there's nothing better than what I'm currently on."

Rucaparib is the

second PARP inhibitor to show a benefit in patients with pancreatic cancer and germline BRCA mutations, and the first to show efficacy in those with germline PALB2 mutations and somatic mutations in BRCA. Lydia Henson, a 56-year-old patient who was diagnosed with metastatic pancreatic cancer in 2014, was treated with chemotherapy for years before discovering she had the PALB2 mutation, which led her to the ACC trial. She has been on the PARP inhibitor for 18 months, with no signs of active cancer.

Of the 42 patients with advanced pancreatic cancer evaluated in the study, 12 had a partial response and three had a complete response.

The disease control rate — which is defined as the total number of patients experiencing a complete response, partial response, or stable disease — was 66.7 percent for a median time of 17.3 months. The median progression-free survival was 13.1 months and the overall survival was 23.5 months.

At the cutoff date of the study, eight patients remained alive and in active follow-up more than two years after starting rucaparib, of which four are progression-free. Of the three patients with complete responses, two remain ongoing today after more than a year, including Henson.

Rucaparib also showed benefit in patients with acinar and squamous cell carcinoma of the pancreas, further expanding the population for which these drugs might be used.

Pancreatic cancer is responsible for more cancer deaths in the United States each year than any cancer type other than lung and colorectal, despite the fact that it only accounts for about three percent of annual new cancer cases. Just 10 percent of patients survive five years with the disease. Between six and eight percent of pancreatic cancer patients have a BRCA or PALB2 mutation.

The study follows preliminary data from an interim analysis of the trial presented in 2019 at the American Association for Cancer Research annual meeting.

Small study shows heart damage after COVID-19 uncommon in college athletes

In a small study, researchers found college athletes who contracted COVID-19 rarely had cardiac complications. Most had mild COVID symptoms that did not require treatment, and in a small percentage of those with abnormal cardiac testing, there was no evidence of heart damage on special imaging tests. All athletes returned to sports without any health concerns, according to new research published May 10, 2021 in the American Heart Association's flagship journal *Circulation*.

In spring 2020, concerns about heart damage, especially inflammation, among athletes with COVID-19 led to recommendations for cardiac screening based on symptom severity before resuming training and competition. The preferred diagnostic test for heart inflammation is an MRI of the heart, or cardiac magnetic resonance imaging. The American College of Cardiology's Sports & Exercise Cardiology Council's standard recommendations, issued in May 2020, do not advise cardiac MRI as an initial screening test based on COVID symptoms alone, so researchers investigated if symptom severity was associated with heart inflammation or poor recovery after COVID-19.

"Our study results support an approach to cardiac screening

guided by patient symptoms and severity of COVID illness in line with current recommendations from sports-cardiology groups before resuming exercise or sports," said senior study author Ranjit R. Philip, M.D., pediatric cardiologist at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and assistant professor in pediatric cardiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis.

From July 9, 2020 to October 21, 2020, researchers at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center reviewed health records to identify 137 college athletes (average age of 20, 68% male) who were referred for cardiac screening to

return to play after required treatment or testing positive for COVID-19. On average, the athletes were evaluated 16 days after testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. Nearly half of the participants were African American students, nearly half were white students, and 7% were Hispanic students. Of the 11 sports represented at three universities, more than a third of the athletes were football players, followed by dance, basketball, baseball, softball, tennis, soccer, cheer, track, volleyball and golf athletes.

Most (82%) of the athletes had COVID-19 symptoms, the symptoms were mild for the majority (68%), and none re-

quired treatment or hospitalization. The most frequent symptoms were the loss of smell/taste (58%), fever (less than 2 days, 42%), headache (41%) and fatigue (40%). Less frequently reported symptoms were shortness of breath (12%) and chest pain/tightness (11%). African American and Hispanic athletes were more often symptomatic compared to white athletes (86% and 100% vs. 75%, respectively). No differences in symptoms or severity were found based on gender or sport.

All of the athletes underwent initial heart imaging tests, including ultrasound of the heart and electrocardiogram to screen for possible heart damage,

and received a blood Troponin is a protein that is released in the blood and found in the muscles of the heart when there is heart damage. Only participants who had abnormal test results received a cardiac MRI.

Researchers found:

Less than 4% (5) of the 137 athletes showed heart abnormalities on initial screening tests.

Further screening via cardiac MRI of the 5 athletes identified found no heart damage or inflammation.

After COVID-19 recovery, all athletes were able to resume their full training and competition regimens without any complications.

New Strep A human challenge model paves the way to test vaccines against the deadly bacteria

Researchers have successfully developed a new Strep A human challenge model, paving the way to test vaccines against the common deadly bacteria that causes sore throats, scarlet fever and skin sores.

The collaborative research effort, led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) and published in *The Lancet Microbe*, found the model, which deliberately infected healthy adult volunteers with the bacteria in a controlled environment, was safe and would now be used to trial Strep A candidate vaccines.

Strep A infections

affect about 750 million people and kill more than 500,000 globally every year -- more than influenza, typhoid or whooping cough. Strep A can also cause severe life-threatening infections like toxic shock syndrome and flesh-eating disease and post-infectious illnesses such as acute rheumatic fever, rheumatic heart disease and kidney disease.

Strep A infections disproportionately affect young children, the elderly, pregnant women and Indigenous Australians. There is currently no vaccine available to prevent Strep A and can only potentially

be treated with antibiotics.

MCRIS Dr. Josh Osowicki said given Strep A only naturally infected humans, researchers were limited in what they could learn in the lab and using animal models.

"Human challenge models can be used to test vaccines, drugs and diagnostic tests, as well as driving all sorts of wonderful scientific collaborations to understand more about how diseases work and how to stop them," he said.

"We have developed the only current Strep A controlled human infection model, ready to be used as a platform to evaluate

new vaccine candidates and therapeutics."

Dr Osowicki said the research team tested a Strep A strain they believed would cause a strep throat and was unlikely to cause acute or chronic health problems.

The study involved 25 volunteers, aged 18-40 years who stayed at Nucleus Network, a phase 1 clinical trials unit based in Melbourne for up to six days with blood tests and saliva and throat swabs collected regularly.

Dr Osowicki said 85 per cent of participants developed a convincing case of strep throat, well up

on the at least 60 per cent anticipated.

"Starting at one-tenth of the dose used in old 1970s studies, we applied our special Strep A strain on the back of each participant's throat," he said. "To our surprise, from the very first participant at the low starting dose, our strain caused strep throat in most participants."

The volunteers developed mild to moderate symptoms including a sore throat, sweats, fever and headache. All quickly recovered and were followed up for six months after they were sent home, according to the study.

Melbourne-

dent Tania O'Meara's daughter Eden was just 11 months old when she almost lost her leg to a flesh-eating bacterial infection caused by Strep A.

"We put our daughter to bed with what seemed like a cold but the next morning she woke up with a fever and was very pale, limp and dehydrated," she said.

"We took her to the hospital but the doctor couldn't get the IV drip in because Eden was so dehydrated and they were forced to drill it into her leg. They also noticed that the skin on her leg looked like it was turning a different colour."

Microneedle patch delivers antibiotics locally in the skin

MRSA skin infections are often treated with intravenous injection of antibiotics, which can cause significant side effects and promote the development of resistant bacterial strains. To solve these problems, researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden are developing a microneedle patch that delivers antibiotics directly into the affected skin area. New results published in *Advanced Materials Technologies* show that the microneedle patch effectively reduces MRSA bacteria in the skin.

MRSA (methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) skin

infections are potentially lethal, especially in patients with compromised immune systems. Vancomycin is one of the main treatments and is given as an intravenous injection. The reason the antibiotic is not given locally is because of its low ability to penetrate the skin. It is not given orally either because of poor absorption through the gut. The problem with systemic administration is that it often results in significant side effects. Moreover, even when relatively high doses are administered, the local concentration of vancomycin in the skin remains low, which may promote the

development of antibiotic resistant strains. Thus, there is a clinical need for local delivery of vancomycin to the skin.

"We have addressed this by using microneedle patches that consist of miniaturised needles made from a polymer that is loaded with the drug," says Jill Ziesmer, PhD student at the Department of Microbiology, Tumour and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet and first author of the study. "Through an innovative microneedle design we could efficiently control the drug amounts delivered into the skin."

This system helps robots better navigate emergency rooms

Computer scientists at the University of California San Diego have developed a more accurate navigation system that will allow robots to better negotiate busy clinical environments in general and emergency departments specifically. The researchers have also developed a dataset of open source videos to help train robotic navigation systems in the future.

The team, led by Professor Laurel Riek and Ph.D. student Angelique Taylor, detail their findings in a paper for the International Conference on Robotics and Automation taking place May 30 to June 5 in Xi'an, China.

The project stemmed from conversations with clinicians over several years. The consensus was that robots would best help physicians, nurses and

staff in the emergency department by delivering supplies and materials. But this means robots have to know how to avoid situations where clinicians are busy tending to a patient in critical or serious condition.

"To perform these tasks, robots must understand the context of complex hospital environments and the people working around them," said Riek,

who holds appointments both in computer science and emergency medicine at UC San Diego.

Taylor and colleagues built the navigation system, the Safety Critical Deep Q-Network (SafeD-QN), around an algo-

rithm that takes into account how many people are clustered together in a space and how quickly and abruptly these people are moving. This is based on observa-

tions of clinician behavior in the emergency department. When a patient's condition worsens, a team immediately gathers around them to render aid. Clinicians' movements are quick, alert and precise. The navigation system directs the robots to move around these clustered groups of people, staying out of the way.

"Our system was designed to deal with the worst case scenarios that can happen in the ED," said Taylor, who is part of Riek's Healthcare Robotics lab at the UC San Diego Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

The team trained the algorithm on videos from YouTube, mostly coming from documentaries and reality shows, such as "Trauma: Life in the ER" and "Boston EMS."