

who intentionally infected Guatemalans with sexually transmitted diseases in the 1940s (see *Nature* **482**, 148–152; 2012). A presidential bioethics commission has already issued a series of reports condemning the experiments, but on 13 June a judge ruled that the government was immune to prosecution in the case. Lawyers said they would appeal. See go.nature.com/1ffh6l for more.

PEOPLE

Mikovits theft case

Chronic-fatigue-syndrome researcher Judy Mikovits is no longer facing criminal charges for stealing lab notebooks, computers and other material from her former employer, the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease in Reno, Nevada. A Nevada district attorney dropped the charges last week, although Mikovits (known for her now-retracted work linking chronic fatigue syndrome to a virus) still faces a civil suit from the institute. See go.nature.com/ukgey for more.

Nobel chemist dies

Organic chemist William Knowles (pictured), who shared the 2001 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, died on 13 June aged 95. Knowles worked for four decades at the agricultural



giant Monsanto in St Louis. He won the Nobel with Ryoji Noyori and Barry Sharpless for his work on chemical syntheses that selectively create one of two mirror-image forms (enantiomers) of a molecule.

BUSINESS

GM soya levy

The biotechnology giant Monsanto is one step closer to losing billions of dollars in revenues from its genetically modified (GM) Roundup Ready soya beans in Brazil. Monsanto, headquartered in St Louis, Missouri, levies a charge on Brazilian farmers who grow soya beans that turn out to be GM. Farmers say it is impossible to avoid growing GM soya because of contamination, and in April they won a challenge in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, where a judge ruled that the company's levy was illegal. The ruling is currently suspended, pending consideration by a higher court. But on 12 June,

the Brazilian Supreme Court of Justice said it should apply nationwide. See go.nature.com/mowmyh for more.

Fossil smuggling

A nearly complete tyrannosaurid fossil that sold for US\$1 million was illegally smuggled out of Mongolia, according to a civil complaint seeking the fossil's return, which was filed on 18 June by the US Department of Justice. Despite a restraining order obtained by the Mongolian government from a Texas court to prevent the sale or transfer of the fossil, Heritage Auctions based in Dallas, Texas, auctioned off the *Tarbosaurus bataar* fossil in New York last month.

RESEARCH

Diesel cancer links

Diesel exhaust is carcinogenic to humans, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) declared on 12 June after a meeting in Lyons, France. Diesel emissions were previously classed as 'probably' carcinogenic; the latest conclusion followed the publication in March of a long-delayed US government study showing how exposure to diesel exhaust increases the risk of lung cancer in miners. The IARC's pronouncement is purely scientific; it will be up to national regulatory agencies

COMING UP

24 JUNE–6 JULY

In St Petersburg, Russia, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's World Heritage Committee meets to discuss the state of conservation sites including Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

whc36-russia2012.ru

26–28 JUNE

In Washington, Seattle, marine scientists plan out an international network to monitor the acidification of the oceans.

go.nature.com/topgt6

to decide how to proceed. See go.nature.com/dddpaz for more.

Space X-rays

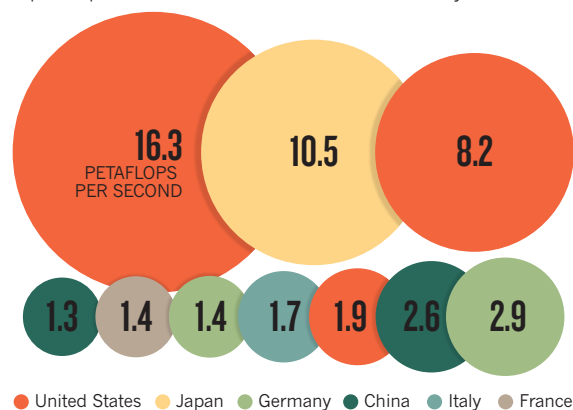
NASA's NuSTAR telescope, which will examine high-energy X-rays produced at the thresholds of black holes (see *Nature* **483**, 255; 2012), was launched into low-Earth orbit on 13 June. The low-cost mission is one of only a few available to X-ray astronomers. See go.nature.com/dcy8k for more.

TREND WATCH

The United States, which two years ago yielded the title of host to the world's top supercomputer — bested first by China and then by Japan — has roared back into the lead in this month's list of the world's top 500 supercomputers, with the Sequoia machine at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. It also claimed third place with a supercomputer at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois. Italy made its top-ten debut with a system at the CINECA computing centre near Bologna.

WORLD'S FASTEST COMPUTERS

The United States reclaims the top spot for first time in two years with a supercomputer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.



CORRECTIONS

The story 'Nobel laureate dies' (*Nature* **486**, 11; 2012) should have said that Andrew Huxley did his award-winning work at the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, not the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. And 'Piezonuclear row' (*Nature* **486**, 162; 2012) gave the wrong name for INRiM: it is the National Institute for Metrological Research.

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