

and e-mail, began as early as February 2013 and was not detected until June 2015.

Canada leans left

The Liberal Party triumphed over the Conservatives in Canada's 19 October general election. Incoming prime minister Justin Trudeau pledged before the election to appoint a chief science officer to make government science "fully available to the public". The previous Conservative government attracted large-scale protests from researchers who accused its leader Stephen Harper of muzzling federal scientists and cutting research budgets. See go.nature.com/27d1td for more.

POLICY

Halt to Arctic oil

The US Department of the Interior on 16 October cancelled a pair of oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic, citing low oil prices and weak industry interest. The decision comes after the oil company Shell suspended its Chukchi Sea Arctic drilling programme in September after finding less oil and gas than expected. The lease sales had been planned for 2016 in the Chukchi Sea and 2017 in the Beaufort Sea (pictured). The department also denied requests from Shell and Norwegian oil company



Statoil to put their existing Arctic leases on hold and resume them at a later date.

Oversight overhaul

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) may scale back its review of research involving human gene therapy. The agency's Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee reviews all research protocols involving gene transfer into humans, but on 16 October, the NIH proposed that such research be reviewed only if requested by local ethics committees. A 2013 report from the US Institute of Medicine argued that the current level of oversight is no longer needed. The public is invited to comment on the proposal until 30 November.

Emissions action

The White House announced a series of executive actions and voluntary industry commitments on 15 October to reduce emissions of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs),

a group of potent greenhouse gases that are commonly used as refrigerants. The US Environmental Protection Agency said that it will pursue new rules governing the use and management of HFCs, and the Department of Defense announced plans to use alternative chemicals at some of its facilities and on ships. Combined with earlier announcements, the commitments aim to reduce global greenhouse-gas emissions by the equivalent of more than 1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2025.

Wellcome boost

The Wellcome Trust, Britain's largest biomedical-research charity, announced plans on 21 October to spend £5 billion (US\$7.7 billion) over the next five years. The organization has disbursed £6 billion over the past 10 years, including £728 million in 2014. Jeremy Farrar, the trust's director, says that Wellcome "will do

COMING UP

23–24 OCTOBER

The University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania hosts a conference on the biology and control of nausea and vomiting. emesis2015.com

25–28 OCTOBER

Is time travel possible? Scientists gather in Turin, Italy, to debate causality and non-locality in physics, in relation to time machines. www.timemachinefactory.eu

25–29 OCTOBER

Molecular and cellular biologists meet in Kyoto, Japan, for a Keystone Symposium on molecular mechanisms and treatment strategies for diabetes. go.nature.com/we3huv

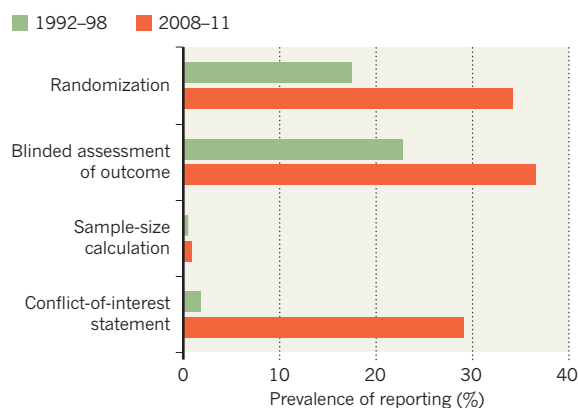
more of what we're already doing", and identified other areas such as combating drug-resistant infections and research that involves mining medical records. The splurge is driven by the performance of Wellcome's £18 billion endowment fund, says Farrar. From 2013 to 2014, its investment assets grew by about 10%, to £18 billion.

TREND WATCH

Drug testing in animals is at substantial risk of bias because of poor study design, suggests an analysis of thousands of papers (M. R. Macleod *et al.* *PLoS Biol.* <http://doi.org/8cf>; 2015). Many publications do not mention bias-avoiding methods. These include randomizing animals' assignment to treatment or control arms; calculating the sample size necessary for a statistically robust result; and 'blinding' researchers as to which animals were assigned which treatment. See go.nature.com/j7ipin for more.

ANIMAL STUDIES POORLY DESIGNED

Studies testing drugs in animals rarely report the use of basic methods to avoid biased conclusions.



CORRECTION

The story 'Telescope start' (*Nature* **526**, 298; 2015) stated that the 23-metre telescope being built in the Canary Islands would form part of the Cherenkov Telescope Array. However, the telescope is a prototype and will not necessarily become part of the array, which has yet to be finally approved or funded.

NATURE.COM
For daily news updates see:
www.nature.com/news