

# Around the world in a month



## UNITED KINGDOM

The government will establish a national artificial intelligence laboratory bringing together industry researchers and specialists to work on the biggest challenges in healthcare, including early cancer detection, new treatments for dementia and personalized care. The \$305 million lab will sit inside NHSX, a new unit set up to work with the National Health Service on healthcare digitization, in partnership with the Accelerated Access Collaborative.



## CHINA

The Ministry of Commerce pushes to attract more high-tech manufacturers with preferential tax policies in the recently expanded Shanghai Free Trade Zone for companies operating in the biopharmaceutical, artificial intelligence and semiconductor sectors. Within five years, companies can expect to pay as little as 15% of their corporate income tax, and the ministry is considering cutting personal income tax to attract foreign talent.



## RWANDA

Rwanda will begin to grow a GM potato resistant to blight. The potato variety, called Victoria, was developed by the International Potato Centre. Rwanda produces 900,000 tons of potatoes annually, coming after only cassava and sweet potato among Rwanda's staple food crops.



## ARGENTINA

The first GM crop developed in a South American country is approved in the US by the USDA. The HB4 soybean, which provides drought and salinity tolerance and glufosinate resistance, was developed at the Littoral National University in Argentina in association with Rosario-based Bioceres and its agbiotech institute INDEAR.



## HONG KONG

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology will establish the territory's first synthetic biology institute thanks to a \$64 million grant from the Li Ka Shing Foundation. The institute envisions developing Hong Kong into a global hub, attracting top scholars in life sciences, physics, computer science, mathematics, chemistry and engineering.

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Published online: 2 October 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-019-0287-8>

## PODCAST

# First Rounders: Pardis Sabeti

Pardis Sabeti is a cofounder of Sherlock Biosciences, the head of the Sabeti lab, and a coauthor of *Outbreak Culture*. Her conversation with *Nature Biotechnology* covers her family fleeing the Iranian revolution, the Sabeti lab's role in the Ebola outbreak of 2014–2016, and the ATV accident that nearly killed her. <https://www.nature.com/nbt/podcast>

Published online: 2 October 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41587-019-0270-4>

