

GARY LEE/PHOTOSHOT  
But a committee vote — which still has to be approved by the whole conference — did approve a need for export permits to protect oceanic whitetip (*Carcharhinus longimanus*), porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) and other species of shark.

## Quake appeal

Six scientists and a government official who were found guilty of manslaughter after the 2009 earthquake in the city of L'Aquila, Italy, have all filed appeals against the verdict in time for a 6 March deadline. Last October, a prosecutor sentenced each of the seven men to six years in prison, arguing that their reassurances led to the wrong messages being given to the public, adding to the death count in the earthquake (see *Nature* **490**, 446; 2012). Their sentences are suspended pending the outcome of the appeal. See [go.nature.com/vny9un](http://go.nature.com/vny9un) for more.

## Antibiotic warning

The British government's leading medical adviser said on 11 March that bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics should be placed alongside pandemic influenza and terrorism on the list of national security threats. Sally Davies, England's chief medical officer (pictured), called for more international



research into new antibiotics and better surveillance of resistant microbes, in a report that charts the increase in drug-resistant bacterial infections. See [go.nature.com/2u9ofh](http://go.nature.com/2u9ofh) for more.

## Cancer strategy

To fight the growing global burden of cancer, countries must boost research and develop national control plans for the condition, says a panel of experts from 15 countries. The report, published on 6 March (H. Varmus and H. S. Kumar *Sci. Transl. Med.* **5**, 175cm2; 2013), calls for a series of efforts including increased funding for cancer-prevention research, harmonization of international clinical-trial practices and global standards for biomedical research. The report's recommendations were the culmination of two meetings, the last in November 2012,

of representatives from organizations that fund or conduct research. See [go.nature.com/pxhoto](http://go.nature.com/pxhoto) for more.

### BUSINESS

## Drug spending

For the first time in more than two decades, the US public's spending on 'traditional' prescription drugs — therapies for common conditions such as raised cholesterol or high blood pressure — declined in 2012, according to a 5 March report by Express Scripts, a company in St Louis, Missouri, that manages pharmacy services. But the 1.5% drop in traditional prescription medications was more than offset by an 18.4% surge in spending for drugs that are used to treat complex diseases such as cancer and rheumatoid arthritis, and that often require special handling. Overall, US drug spending increased by 2.7%.

### PEOPLE

## Pasteur head

Christian Bréchet was on 8 March appointed the next director-general of the Pasteur Institute in Paris. Bréchet, currently vice-president for medical and scientific affairs at the Mérieux Institute in Lyons, was a former head of INSERM, the French national

## COMING UP

### 20 MARCH

The next winner of the US\$3-million Fundamental Physics Prize is announced at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.

[go.nature.com/lr7hht](http://go.nature.com/lr7hht)

### 20–21 MARCH

In New York, researchers discuss the Sustainable Development Goals that will replace the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals in 2015.

[go.nature.com/zwpqgh](http://go.nature.com/zwpqgh)

### 18–22 MARCH

Results from the Mars Curiosity rover and the GRAIL mission to map the Moon's gravity are released at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in The Woodlands, Texas.

[go.nature.com/eab6yw](http://go.nature.com/eab6yw)

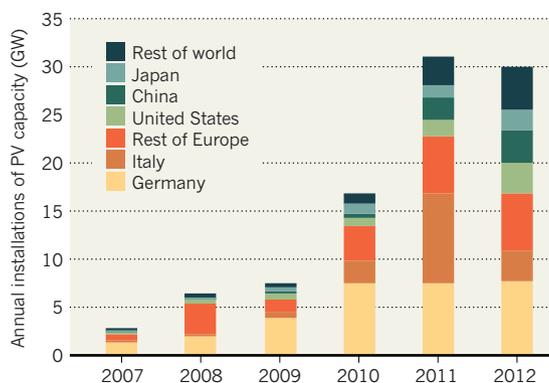
biomedical agency, but resigned in 2007 in relation to a legal case involving a cancer diagnostics firm that he and his wife had founded (see *Nature* **449**, 760–761; 2007). Bréchet succeeds Alice Dautry, who got the Pasteur Institute back on track after her predecessor had been evicted amid bitter staff disputes. Dautry had served the maximum two terms in office; Bréchet begins a four-year term on 1 October.

## TREND WATCH

SOURCE: EPIA  
New connections of solar photovoltaic systems to the electricity grid fell in Europe for the first time last year, to 16.6 gigawatts (GW; see chart). Government withdrawals of solar subsidies helped to drive notable drops in Spain and Italy. But the non-European market expanded much faster, to more than 13 GW, meaning that the global total for 2012 reached 30 GW — not quite as much as in 2011, according to preliminary figures from the European Photovoltaic Industry Association in Brussels.

## SOLAR EXPANSION SLOWS

Cumulative global solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity reached more than 100 gigawatts (GW) last year — but annual installations fell.



## CORRECTION

The item 'Go-ahead for iPS' (*Nature* **494**, 286–287; 2013) gave the wrong location for the review board that approved the iPS-cell study. It was the Institute for Biomedical Research and Innovation in Kobe.

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