

same pattern of (probably limited) human-to-human transmission has been seen with cases exported from the Middle East to Tunisia, France and Britain. Since last September, the World Health Organization has been told of 53 cases, mostly in Saudi Arabia, including 30 deaths. But the numbers of exported infections suggest that some Middle Eastern cases are going undetected.

PEOPLE

Medical prize

Immunobiologist Ruslan Medzhitov has received the first award of a medical research prize from the Else Kröner Fresenius Foundation in Bad Homburg, Germany. The €4-million (US\$5.2-million) award — including €500,000 for personal use — will be given every four years. On 5 June, the foundation chose Medzhitov, of Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, for his work on the links between the innate immune system, which provides fast, non-specific defence against infections, and the adaptive immune system, which provides specialized responses.

Russian leadership

Russia's largest research organization, the Russian Academy of Sciences, elected a new president on 29 May



for the first time since 1991. Vladimir Fortov (pictured), a 67-year-old plasma physicist and former science minister in the Russian government, succeeds mathematician Yuri Osipov as the academy's leader. The agency employs around 45,000 scientists at more than 400 research institutes across Russia. See go.nature.com/9ntyw7 for more.

RESEARCH

H7N9 virus returns

China reported on 29 May its first new case of the H7N9 avian influenza virus in three weeks — a six-year-old boy who fell ill in Beijing on 21 May. Since March, 132 cases have been confirmed in China, including 37 deaths. But the lull in new cases — possibly attributable to closures of live bird markets — might be only temporary. Animal reservoirs and transmission

routes for the virus have yet to be unravelled. Researchers last week reported the emergence of drug resistance in H7N9 to oseltamivir, the mainstay treatment for H7N9 flu (Y. Hu *et al.* *The Lancet* <http://doi.org/mqt>; 2013).

Tag-along moon

A 2.7-kilometre-wide asteroid that zipped past Earth on 31 May has been found to have its own moon. Radar imaging from the Deep Space Network antenna complex in Goldstone, California, revealed a 600-metre-wide satellite orbiting asteroid 1998 QE2, which flew 5.8 million kilometres from Earth at its closest approach — about 15 times the Earth–Moon distance. Astronomers in Goldstone and at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico will continue to track the asteroid system to better assess the masses and densities of the rocks.

Restricted access

Reverberations from ongoing legal challenges have led the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to turn down scores of requests for clinical-trial data. The agency is attempting to broaden public access to the information it receives from companies seeking drug approval. However, pharmaceutical firms AbbVie of North Chicago, Illinois,

COMING UP

12–15 JUNE

Researchers gather in Boston, Massachusetts, to discuss the cutting edge of stem-cell science at the annual meeting of the International Society for Stem Cell Research.

go.nature.com/cc1mh1

and InterMune of Brisbane, California, took the EMA to court earlier this year to prevent the release of some of their data. See go.nature.com/efqspj for more.

Martian minerals

The Mars Express spacecraft has now mapped the distributions of key minerals over almost all of the red planet's surface, the European Space Agency (ESA) announced on 3 June, a decade after the mission's launch. Clusters of hydrated minerals, detected by the spacecraft's OMEGA instrument, reinforce the view that water was present on Mars in its early history. The data suggest potential landing sites for future missions searching for signs of life on the planet, such as ESA's ExoMars mission.

CORRECTION

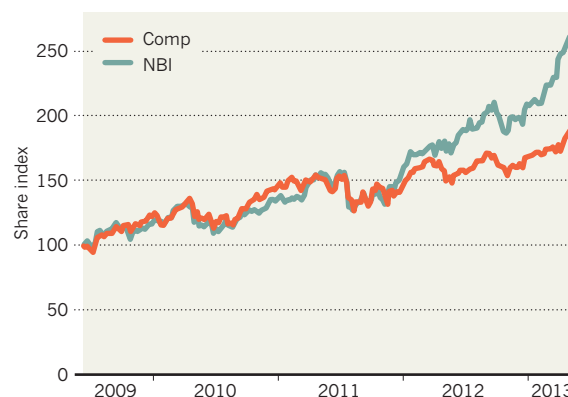
The Seven Days item 'Lawsuit settlement' (*Nature* **496**, 402; 2013) wrongly stated that Philippe Bois had successfully appealed against a finding of research misconduct. In fact, Bois had successfully challenged a judge's denial of his request for a defence hearing. In his court settlement, Bois denied that he committed research misconduct, but agreed not to appeal further the findings that he had done so.

TREND WATCH

Two biotechnology firms went public on US markets in the past week, bringing the year's total to 17 and boosting hopes that public markets are again welcoming the industry. Epizyme in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which focuses on cancer treatments, and Kamada, a pharmaceutical firm in Ness Ziona, Israel, entered the market during a boom. Over the past year, the NASDAQ Biotechnology Index, an amalgam of biotech and pharma stocks, has far outpaced the NASDAQ Composite (see chart).

BIOTECH BOOMING

The NASDAQ Biotechnology Index (NBI) is rising much faster than the NASDAQ Composite (Comp).



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