

move close to Geneva. The programme will shift into the former Swiss headquarters of the pharma giant Merck Serono, now leased to EPFL and Geneva University.

RESEARCH

Dark matter

The world's most sensitive dark-matter experiment announced its first results on 30 October, reporting no sign of the elusive substance. Astronomical observations point to the presence of dark matter in space, but attempts to detect it directly passing through Earth have produced conflicting results. The findings from a 110-day search at the Large Underground Xenon experiment in Lead, South Dakota, did not confirm three earlier experiments that had reported hints of dark-matter particles. See go.nature.com/lhcojd for more.

EVENTS

Hybrid eclipse

A rare hybrid solar eclipse took place on 3 November (pictured in northern Uganda), as the path of totality moved across the North Atlantic Ocean and Africa. The relative positions of Earth, the Moon and the Sun allowed observers in Africa to see a total eclipse. In parts of the Atlantic, where Earth's curvature placed its surface a



little farther from the Moon, observers saw an annular, or 'ring of fire', eclipse, with the Moon only partially blocking the Sun. This type of eclipse has not occurred since 1854 and will not recur until 2172.

Mars launch

India has launched a spacecraft to Mars. The Mars Orbiter Mission (informally called Mangalyaan) lifted off on 5 November, aiming to reach orbit around the red planet in September 2014. The 4.5-billion-rupee (US\$73-million) mission is the country's first interplanetary probe.

BUSINESS

False drug claims

US regulators announced on 4 November that Janssen Pharmaceuticals has pleaded guilty to making false claims about its schizophrenia drug Risperdal (risperidone). Janssen, based in Titusville, New Jersey, has agreed to pay more than US\$1.6 billion.

The US Food and Drug Administration approved Risperdal for schizophrenia and acute mania, but Janssen also marketed the drug for some elderly patients with dementia, despite the increased risk of stroke in older patients taking the drug.

Prenatal testing

A US court has invalidated a patent at the heart of a territory war in the booming industry of non-invasive prenatal testing. On 30 October, a California federal judge issued the ruling on a patent licensed to Sequenom of San Diego. Sequenom had attempted to invoke its patent in order to block other companies from selling their own non-invasive prenatal tests — a move that could have led to an industry monopoly (see *Nature* **486**, 454; 2012). Sequenom says that it will appeal against the ruling.

PEOPLE

Alcohol agency

Neurobiologist George Koob of the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, has been appointed to head the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). In January 2014, he will replace interim director Kenneth Warren, whose five-year stint saw the National Institutes of Health consider, and later scrap, a plan to merge

AWARDS

Maddox Prize

Pharmacologist David Nutt was awarded the John Maddox Prize for Standing up for Science on 4 November. The prize honours people who, in spite of challenges, promote science in the public interest. Based at Imperial College London, Nutt was fired from his post as the United Kingdom's chief drugs adviser in 2009, after criticizing the government's drugs policy. The award is named after a former editor of *Nature*, and it is jointly awarded by *Nature*, the Kohn Foundation in London and the UK campaign group Sense About Science.

CLARIFICATION

The item 'Data dash' (*Nature* **502**, 598; 2013) may have implied that NASA's rapid data transmission was the result of faster laser beams. In fact, the record was set thanks to greater bandwidth.

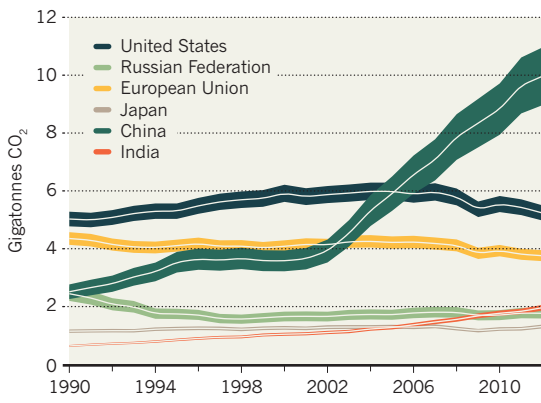
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TREND WATCH

Global carbon dioxide emissions increased by just 1.1% in 2012, compared with an annual average of 2.9% since 2000, according to a report released on 31 October by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. After growing by roughly 10% a year for a decade, Chinese emissions increased by just 3% in 2012, owing to slower economic growth and more low-carbon energy. Emissions from the United States and the European Union fell by 4% and 1.6%, respectively (see chart).

SLOWING GLOBAL EMISSIONS

Recent CO₂ trends may reflect gains in energy efficiency, renewable energies and less-carbon-intensive fossil fuels.



SOURCE: PBL NETHERLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY