

Features of the year

The best of our longer reads as selected by our editors.

19 December 2011

The 24/7 lab and a medical researcher-turned-saboteur are amongst the editors' pick of our longer reads from 2011.

▫ **1. Scientists on trial: At fault?**

In 2009, an earthquake devastated the Italian city of L'Aquila and killed more than 300 people. Now, scientists are on trial for manslaughter.

14 September 2011

▫ **2. Work ethic: The 24/7 lab**

Working weekends. Leaving at midnight. Friday evening meetings. Does science come out the winner?

31 August 2011

▫ **3. Virology: Fighting for a cause**

When Judy Mikovits found links between chronic fatigue syndrome and a virus, the world took notice. Now, she's caught between the patients who believe her work and the researchers who don't.

14 March 2011

▫ **4. Animal research: The Radical**

Researcher by day and activist by night, Joseph Harris was leading an untenable double life that eventually landed him in prison.

23 February 2011

▫ **5. Epidemiology: Study of a lifetime**

In 1946, scientists started tracking thousands of British children born during one cold March week. On their 65th birthday, the study members find themselves more scientifically valuable than ever before.

1 March 2011

▫ **6. Stem cells: The Crusader**

Theresa Deisher once shunned religion for science. Now, with renewed faith, she is fighting human-embryonic-stem-cell research in court.

9 February 2011

▫ **7. Science publishing: The trouble with retractions**

A surge in withdrawn papers is highlighting weaknesses in the system for handling them.

5 October 2011

▫ **8. Ancient DNA: Curse of the Pharaoh's DNA**

Some researchers claim to have analysed DNA from Egyptian mummies. Others say that's impossible. Could new sequencing methods bridge the divide?

27 April 2011

▫ **9. Seth Stein: The Quake Killer**

The US government says that a huge earthquake risk lurks in the heart of the country, where a series of large shocks hit 200 years ago. Seth Stein says that kind of warning is dead wrong.

9 November 2011

▫ **10. Religion: Faith in science**

The Templeton Foundation claims to be a friend of science. So why does it make so many researchers uneasy?

16 February 2011

