



PLANETARY HEALTH WEEKLY

BRINGING YOU CURRENT NEWS ON GLOBAL HEALTH & ECOLOGICAL WELLNESS

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WHEN HURRICANE HARVEY ARRIVED, THEY KEPT THE DIABETES COMMUNITY AFLOAT

On Monday night, August 28, with the flood waters rising in her neighborhood, with the bayous spilling over across the city, and with the full blast of Hurricane Harvey beginning to swamp southeast Texas, Imber received a group text – she’s not even certain who sent it – with a simple message: “We need to do something.” Imber was in charge of creating a database and coordinating the response. She relied on a private Facebook page, of parents with type 1 children, to help spread the word that she was looking for both patients and donors. Once supplies arrived from outside the city and were taken to one of the hubs, Imber arranged for volunteers to serve as runners who would pick up the supplies and deliver them.

[Read More on diaTribe](#)



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Backpage: UniLurio, Mozambique MCH Project

WHERE DO 50 MILLION TONNES A YEAR OF TOXIC E-WASTE GO

Each year, the electronics industry generates up to 41 million tonnes of e-waste, but as the number of consumers rises, and the lifespan of devices shrinks in response to demand for the newest and best, that figure could reach 50 million tonnes this year, according to specialised studies. Of all these tonnes of noxious waste, a staggering 60-90 per cent of e-waste –worth nearly 19 billion dollars– is illegally traded or dumped, often with the involvement of transnational criminal gangs, a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) research had already warned a couple of years ago. [Read More on IPS News](#)





RESEARCH FINDS ALMOST 75% OF ALL CHILDREN ARE SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE EACH YEAR

Nearly three out of four children experience violence each year, according to a global study that warns practices such as corporal punishment are widespread in both rich and poor countries. Around 1.7 billion children experience some form of abuse over the course of a year, according to the report by the global initiative Know Violence in Childhood, which measured the prevalence of inter-personal violence such as fighting at school, bullying or sexual abuse. The biggest cause of such violence was corporal punishment at home, which affected 58% of children in industrialised countries and more than eight in 10 children across eastern and southern Africa, south Asia and western and central Africa.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)

AFRICA TO GET STATE-OF-ART HIV DRUGS FOR \$75 A YEAR

Makers of generic AIDS drugs will start churning out millions of pills for Africa containing a state-of-the-art medicine widely used in rich countries, after securing a multi-million dollar guarantee that caps prices at just \$75 per patient a year. Global health experts hope the deal will help address two looming problems in the HIV epidemic - the rising threat of resistance developing to standard AIDS drugs, and the need for more investment in manufacturing capacity. Bill Gates' charitable foundation will guarantee minimum sales volumes of the new combination pills using dolutegravir, a so-called integrase inhibitor that avoids the drug resistance that often develops with older treatments. [Read More on Reuters](#)



WHO TELLS GOVERNMENTS TO REJECT PHILIP MORRIS-FUNDED SMOKING FOUNDATION

The World Health Organization told governments not to get involved in a foundation funded by tobacco firm Philip Morris International to look at ways of reducing the harm from smoking. The U.N. health body said there was a conflict of interest in a tobacco firm funding such research - drawing a sharp rebuke from the Foundation's head who said his work was independent. Philip Morris International said this month it wanted to help set up a body called the Foundation for a Smoke-Free World and planned to give it about \$80 million a year for 12 years to keep it running.

[Read More on Reuters](#)



‘WE MIGHT NOT RECOVER’: NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON GETS EMOTIONAL AND SOUNDS THE ALARM. ALL THE ALARMS

Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson joined CNN’s Fareed Zakaria to discuss the massive, record-setting hurricanes that have been pummeling Texas, Florida and the Caribbean in recent weeks and he is sounding the alarm. All the climate change alarms, even wondering if we’ve reached the point now where we might not be able to recover.

[Read More on Daily Kos](#)

WE WERE WRONG-WORST EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE CAN BE AVOIDED, SAYS EXPERTS

The worst impacts of climate change can still be avoided, senior scientists have said after revising their previous predictions. The world has warmed more slowly than had been forecast by computer models, which were “on the hot side” and overstated the impact of emissions, a new study has found. Its projections suggest that the world has a slightly better chance than previously claimed of meeting the goal set by the Paris agreement on climate change to limit warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

[Read More on The Times](#)



PLASTIC JUNK BROUGHT INVASIVE SPECIES TO U.S. AFTER JAPAN’S 2011 TSUNAMI

In 2011, a massive earthquake shook Japan and reshaped the seafloor. The tsunami that followed killed roughly 18,000 people. The tsunami swept 5 million tons of debris into the ocean. Much of the junk did not degrade. Fiberglass boats, far-flung buoys and plastic shards swirled through the Pacific. Some of the objects came to rest half a world away, like the 60-foot-long polystyrene and concrete dock that landed in Oregon in the summer of 2012. Carlton and a team of fellow scientists realized the Pacific Northwest faced a flood — not of water but borne by it, of unsinkable junk caked with marine life.

[Read More on World EINNews](#)



HURRICANE MARIA MAY BE A PREVIEW OF CLIMATE-FUELED MIGRATION IN AMERICA

Hurricane Maria's devastation of Puerto Rico may offer a preview for Americans of one of the most jarring potential consequences of global warming: the movement of large numbers of people pushed out of their homes by the effects of climate change. The storm, which destroyed houses, washed away roads and cut off power to the commonwealth's 3.4 million residents, risks accelerating an exodus that's already under way as people flee economic stagnation and rising taxes brought on by a fiscal and debt crisis. In Puerto Rico, a further drop in population would make it harder to reverse its economic decline. The commonwealth declared bankruptcy in May and has stopped making payments on much of its more than \$70 billion in debt. [Read More on Bloomberg](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON POLICY: ANNUAL COST OF BRIBERY EQUALS 2% OF GLOBAL GDP, SAYS IMF CHIEF

The annual cost of bribery, which is just one subset of corruption, is estimated to be between \$1.5 trillion and \$2 trillion — roughly two per cent of global gross domestic product. These costs represent only the tip of the iceberg and the long-term impacts go much deeper, says Christine Lagarde, managing director, International Monetary Fund. Since private actors may help generate corruption through direct means such as bribery, they also can facilitate corruption through indirect means such as money laundering and tax evasion.

[Read More on New Indian Express](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS HEALTH:

JESUITS, FIRST NATIONS PARTICIPATE IN RECONCILIATION CANOE TRIP

After learning about the Jesuit residential schools in Ontario, a priest in training organized a canoe trip with Indigenous, Jesuit and lay participants with the goal of reconciliation.

[Watch the video on CBC News](#)



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"How do you ensure that you have a resilient state and a resilient economy if you know that the risk factors are going to be elevating in this next period of time?"

Stephen O'Malley, the United Nations resident coordinator for Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

[Read More on Pattaya mail](#)

EVENTSTABLE

DATE	CONFERENCE	LOCATION	REGISTER
Oct 11-14	The 48th Union World Conference on Lung Health: Accelerating Toward Elimination	Guadalajara Mexico	http://guadalajara.worldlunghealth.org/about-us/welcome
Oct 19-22	Planet In Focus Environmental Film Festival	Toronto Canada	Http://planetinfocus.org/
Oct 29-31	Canadian Conference for Global Health	Montreal Canada	https://www.ccgh-csih.ca/ccgh2015/index
Nov 13-17	4th Global Forum on Human Resources for Health: Building the HealthWorkforce of the Future	Dublin Ireland	http://hrhforum2017.ie/
Nov 23-24	CATIE (on HIV & Hep C) Forum 2017	Toronto Canada	http://www.catie.ca/en/forum2017#program



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CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLATFORM



The goal of the Canadian International Development Platform is to leverage open data and big data, to enhance policy relevant analysis of international development issues, and to engage Canadians on development issues by grounding discussions in the best available evidence.

The CIDP began as an initiative of The North-South Institute (NSI), Canada's only independent international development think-tank, and is now housed at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, at Carleton University (Ottawa).

The CIDP builds on NSI's nearly four decade track record of research on international development, and over 15 years experience compiling detailed data on Canada's engagement with developing countries.

Canada's engagement with developing countries is multifaceted and complex. Being an important foreign aid donor and key member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, aid forms an important component of what we cover in the CIDP. We bring together a wide range of data and analysis on foreign aid, including highly detailed disaggregated data compiled from multiple sources and visualized for ease of use and rapid analysis. Our guiding conviction in building the platform is that development is *much bigger* than foreign aid. To provide a more comprehensive picture of Canada's engagement with developing countries, we cover a range of other development data including trade, investment and migration and remittance flows.

[Read More on CIDP](#)



“HE WOULD ONLY CALM DOWN IF HE KILLED ONE OF US”: VICTIMS OF SLAVERY ON FARMS IN BRAZIL



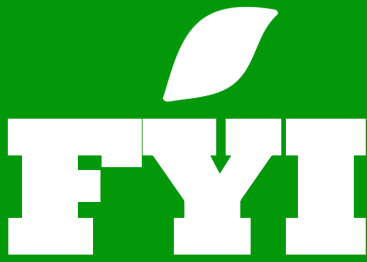
When labour inspectors and heavily armed police officers finally raided Lúcio de Cassio Vieira’s cattle ranch in the Amazonian rainforest of northern Brazil, they found seven men huddled beneath a makeshift shelter. All were exhausted after labouring all day under the scorching sun.

A large wooden sign, staked in the red earth a few yards away, reminded the men of their most basic duty: “Don’t envy me, just work.” Most of Cassio Vieira’s farm workers were illiterate, but they got the idea. Their boss was a man to fear.

Cassio Vieira allegedly ruled his 560-acre ranch with an iron fist. The workers said he was easily angered, and that he cursed and beat his employees, often threatening to kill them with the gun he carried on his belt. Behind his back, the men called him Lúcio Brabo (Angry Lúcio), or, more simply, Lucifer.

The seven workers were identified as victims of modern-day slavery under Brazilian law. Prosecutors hurried to draw up an arrest warrant for Cassio Vieira. On paper, it was an open and shut case. The men hired by Cassio Vieira claim they were made to live in shacks that had no running water, sanitation, beds or electricity. They say they had to survive on shreds of meat stored in plastic buckets mixed with brine, working 12-hour days clearing land in searing heat. The men say they were paid infrequently, at salaries far below Brazil’s minimum wage, and that “debts” supposedly owed to their boss were deducted from their income.

[Read More on The Guardian](#)



NIKE'S NEW FLYLEATHER BRINGS COWSKIN INTO THE 21ST CENTURY



Before NIKE launched, Flyknit in 2012, the company invested years of research into building the machinery and software that designers could use to weave the synthetic yarn into nearly seamless shoe uppers. It paid off. Nike has since sold scores of Flyknit shoes and now makes products like sports bras 251 using the same manufacturing process.

Now, Nike is extending the process to a new material: Flyleather, a sustainable leather material modeled after Flyknit. Flyleather looks and feels like regular leather but comes from an entirely different process. Unlike traditional leather—made from an animal hide that's been cured, soaked, and tanned—Nike's material combines leather scraps and polyester blend fibers. While traditional leather-makers discard parts of the hide that are blemished or too soft and stretchy, Nike takes those pieces and grinds them into a fine dust before combining it with polyester fabric and water. "It's a little like baking a cake," says Tony Bignell, VP of Nike's footwear innovation. This pastelike material, which can be dyed or imprinted with patterns for a textured feel, is then bonded to a light scrim to make Flyleather.

Flyleather was born out of Nike's sustainability arm as a way to reduce the amount of waste and carbon associated with leather, which is the second most harmful material the company uses in its shoes. "We've always struggled to find ways to address the leather environmental impact," says Hannah Jones, chief sustainability officer at Nike. Rather than stitching together the best pieces of hide and throwing away the rest, Nike uses a machine to cut an upper out of a single piece of Flyleather and then reuse whatever's left.

[Read More on Wired](#)

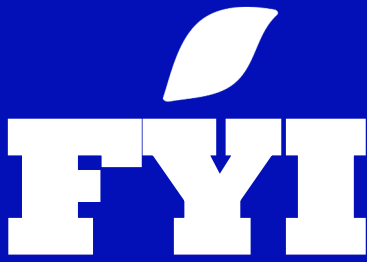


BODY NUMBERS



This is a video that looks at our body and explains it using numbers. There are 37.2 trillion cells with 200 different types of cells. We have 100 billion skin cells and 100 billion neurons in the brain, with 60,000 thoughts in a day and 60 million sensory receptors.

[Watch on Facebook](#)



PENGUIN-MOUNTED VIDEO CAPTURES GASTRONOMIC CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GELATINOUS KIND



Footage from penguin-mounted mini video recorders shows four species of penguin eating jellyfish and other gelatinous animals of the open ocean, a food source penguins were not previously believed to partake of, scientists report this month in the Ecological Society of America's peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*.

Video logs confirmed that penguins targeted gelatinous animals for meals; the birds did not merely ingest them accidentally, while aiming for fish or other prey. Connecting this link in the food web helps ecologists understand the ecological niche of "gelata," a group the authors have defined based on shared gelatinous physique and ocean habitat, though it includes organisms from very different branches of the tree of life.

Gelata may play an underrated role in the carbon cycle, say Jean-Baptiste Thiebot, a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Polar Research in Tokyo, Japan, and 16 colleagues. Thiebot and teammates from 5 countries fitted thumbdrive-sized video data loggers to 106 penguins at seven breeding sites in the southern oceans (ocean waters south of 30 degrees South latitude) ranging in habitat from the polar regions to more temperate waters. Adélie penguins (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), yellow-eyed penguins (*Megadyptes antipodes*), Magellanic penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*), and little penguins (*Eudyptula minor*) starred in the live-action first-penguin hunter videos. Over 350 hours of footage documented nearly 200 penguin attacks on gelata.

[Read More on Science Daily](#)



BUILDING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCOUNTABLE MEDICAL CURRICULUM THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Global environmental change is associated with significant health threats. The medical profession can address this challenge through advocacy, health system adaptation and workforce preparedness. Stewardship of health systems with attention to their environmental impacts can contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to negative health impacts of environmental change. Medical schools have an integral role in training doctors who understand the interdependence of ecosystems and human health. Yet integrating environmental perspectives into busy medical curricula is not a simple task. These ideas can also be applied to many other curricula.

[Read More on Taylor & Francis](#)



Working on the Media Strategy
Alert Community To Prepared Hospital
Maternal Child Health Project
October 12, 2017
Lúrio University, Nampula, Mozambique

This Newsletter is FREE.

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