

York, and the US Food and Drug Administration released reports that found inorganic arsenic in rice products. The presence of the substance is probably the result of the use of arsenic-based pesticides in cotton fields that were later used for rice farming. See [go.nature.com/puezou](http://go.nature.com/puezou) for more.

## PEOPLE

**Development boost**

Chinese President Hu Jintao announced a US\$1.5-million donation to TWAS, the academy of sciences of the developing world, on the opening day of the organization's 23rd general meeting in Tianjin, China, on 18 September. The donation means that China overtakes Brazil as the largest contributor to the organization, which is based in Trieste, Italy. Chemist Bai Chunli, current president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, was also elected as the organization's president.

**AZT-maker dies**

Jerome Horwitz, the chemist who inadvertently created the first antiretroviral drug for AIDS, azidothymidine (AZT), died on 6 September, aged 93. News of his death emerged last week. Horwitz (pictured) created AZT in the 1960s to combat cancer, but he shelved



the drug after it showed little efficacy against the disease. A company that later became part of GlaxoSmithKline patented AZT in the 1980s when it was found to be effective against AIDS. Horwitz received no money for his discovery because he no longer owned the compound, but he did go on to produce treatments for diseases such as cancer at the Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan, until he retired in 2005.

**Fraud inquiry**

Cardiff University is launching an investigation into allegations of scientific misconduct in the laboratory of its dean of medicine, Paul Morgan, a spokeswoman for the UK institution confirmed on 17 September. The allegations — that images have been manipulated in at least six of the laboratory's research papers — appeared on the website [science-fraud.org](http://science-fraud.org)

in July, and the university launched an initial screening panel on 6 August. The panel recommended the formal investigation.

## RESEARCH

**Chimp research cut**

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) is ending its funding for chimpanzee work at the largest centre for such research that it supports. The agency will retire 110 chimpanzees from the New Iberia Research Center, part of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, it said on 21 September. There are still 308 chimpanzees available for invasive experiments at two other NIH-supported centres; the agency says that these animals are sufficient for dwindling research needs. See [go.nature.com/8mkgnf](http://go.nature.com/8mkgnf) for more.

**Cancer ambitions**

A leading US cancer centre said last week that it will spend up to US\$3 billion over the next ten years on a programme to significantly increase the odds of surviving eight cancers. Under the Moon Shots initiative, research teams at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, will focus on cancer of the prostate, lung and ovary, and on a type of breast cancer as well as melanoma, two leukaemias

and a related blood syndrome. See [go.nature.com/lrevbl](http://go.nature.com/lrevbl) for more.

**XMRV ruled out**

The retrovirus XMRV is not linked to chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), a definitive study that cost US\$2.3 million concluded on 18 September. A 2009 paper found signs of XMRV infection in people with CFS (V. C. Lombardi *et al. Science* 326, 585–589; 2009), but was retracted in 2011 because of concerns that the results were caused by contamination. The latest study (H. J. Alter *et al. mBIO* 3, e00266-12; 2012) is co-authored by members of two teams that reported associations between XMRV and related viruses and CFS. See [go.nature.com/vadrb7](http://go.nature.com/vadrb7) for more.

## EVENTS

**Arctic drilling stops**

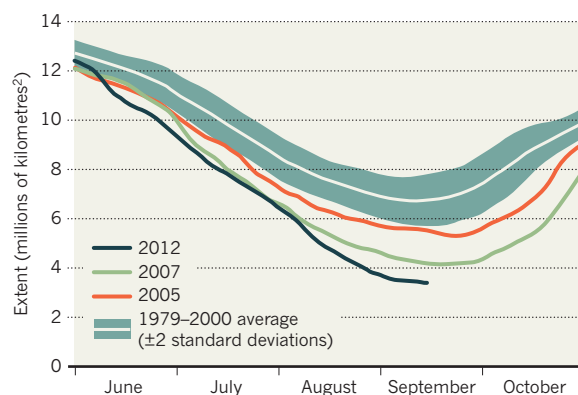
Plans to drill for oil and gas resources off the coast of Alaska have been abandoned following damage to oil containers on the spill-clean-up barge *Arctic Challenger*, oil company Shell announced on 17 September. The setback means that the mission no longer meets the safety requirements for a permit to drill specific wells. Shell will continue to bore exploratory 'top holes' in the Chukchi Sea in preparation for further drilling, which has now been delayed until 2013. See [go.nature.com/zynxtq](http://go.nature.com/zynxtq) for more.

## TREND WATCH

Arctic sea-ice coverage reached the lowest point of this year's summer melt on 16 September, the US National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado, has declared. On that date, around 3.41 million square kilometres of sea in the Arctic were at least 15% covered in ice, under the measurement system used by the data centre. The new low is by far the smallest figure seen in 33 years of satellite measurements — and possibly the lowest late-summer ice extent in more than 5,000 years.

**SHRINKING ARCTIC SEA ICE**

Sea-ice coverage in the Arctic bottomed out this week at the lowest extent ever measured by satellites.

**CORRECTIONS**

The story 'Yellow river turns red' (*Nature* 489, 182; 2012) should have termed the Yangtze the golden river. And the story 'Murder plea' (*Nature* 489, 341; 2012) wrongly located the Madison County circuit court. It should have been in Huntsville, Alabama.

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