

disorder. Autism BrainNet will actively engage in outreach work to explain the importance of brain donation. See go.nature.com/9bxphz for more.

PEOPLE

Meningitis lawsuit

The brother of a 25-year-old researcher who died from meningitis last year after getting infected with *Neisseria meningitidis* at a San Francisco laboratory is suing for at least US\$20 million in damages, news reports said last week. The late Richard Din was infected by the bacterium while working on a vaccine for the disease at the Northern California Institute for Research and Education. His brother, Wei-Hsun Din, is suing the US government, the regents of the University of California and the lab's bosses, according to a civil lawsuit filed on 26 April.

RESEARCH

Virus controversy

Chinese researchers have drawn criticism for a study published online on 2 May, which showed that the H5N1 avian influenza virus engineered with genes from the human pandemic H1N1 virus could spread through the air between guinea pigs (Y. Zhang *et al.* *Science* <http://doi.org/mfv>;



2013). Robert May (pictured), former president of the UK Royal Society in London, called the work “appallingly irresponsible”, citing concerns about laboratory containment and potential human-to-human transmission, according to news reports. The study authors say that the research could help to improve the surveillance of dangerous viruses.

Oil estimates

Underground rock formations in the north-central United States hold more than double the previous estimate of recoverable crude oil, the US Geological Survey said in a report published on 30 April. The Three Forks Formation that underlies parts of North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana was previously thought to hold little oil. New geological data suggest that it holds 3.73 billion barrels

of oil, surpassing the other reserve in the area, the Bakken Formation, where 3.65 billion barrels await recovery.

Coronavirus cases

The novel coronavirus hCoV-EMC, first discovered last year in Saudi Arabia, continues to spread. Saudi Arabia has reported 13 new cases to the World Health Organization since 2 May, including seven deaths. All the cases are linked to a single hospital, suggesting that the virus is spreading from human to human. There have been a total of 30 confirmed cases worldwide, including 18 deaths.

BUSINESS

Hidden emissions

Only 37% of the world's 800 largest companies fully disclose their greenhouse-gas emissions, according to a report released on 1 May by the Environmental Investment Organisation (EIO), a non-profit research group based in Frensham, UK. Italian and Spanish companies were the best disclosers, with more than half providing complete and verified emissions data. The EIO also ranked companies by their environmental impact. “This ought to be a wake-up call for companies,” says Sam Gill, head of the EIO. “Large quantities of emissions are not being accounted for.”

COMING UP

14–17 MAY

In Cancún, Mexico, 14 geophysical societies from North and South America hold a joint Meeting of the Americas, with discussions including megacities and regional climate change.

moa.agu.org

15 MAY

Ministers and scientists from the eight states of the Arctic Council meet in Kiruna, Sweden, to discuss issues including biodiversity and preparedness for marine oil pollution in the Arctic.

go.nature.com/wio3fg

Investment support

The Academy of Medical Sciences in London announced on 2 May that it will advise a venture-capital firm seeking to invest in biotechnology companies. The effort will give the academy, which has more than 1,000 members, a business role typically taken on by individual scientists. The academy will receive an annual retainer from Park Vale Capital, a London-based investment firm, and a share of its performance fees. Park Vale hopes to invest in up to ten companies over the next two years. See go.nature.com/ybi7th for more.

CLARIFICATION

The Trend watch in the 2 May issue (*Nature* **497**, 11; 2013) could be misread to suggest that the Office of Research Integrity is not taking any more cases. We meant to say that the office cannot take on any more cases than usual.

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TREND WATCH

The Royal Society — Britain's national science academy — last week announced 44 new fellows, and the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) 84 new members. The proportion of women among newly elected members — 20% at the Royal Society and 26% at the NAS — has risen since 1994, but only marginally over the past decade. The Royal Society says that its selection mirrors the proportion of women put forward for membership. (The NAS election process is kept confidential.)

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The female share of newly elected members of the US National Academy of Sciences is greater than that of new fellows of Britain's Royal Society.

