

The Top 10 Stories of 2016

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1

[Gravitational waves](#)

The detection of gravitational waves introduced a new era in astronomy. Expect new details about black holes and other cosmic phenomena.

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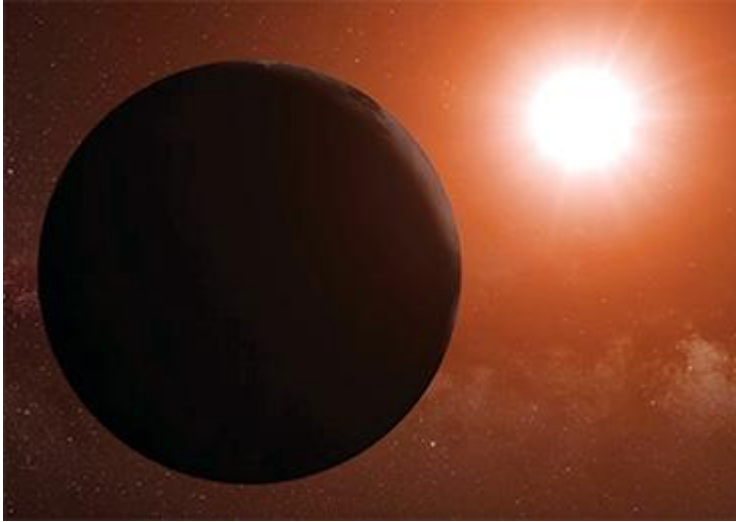


2

[Zika virus](#)

Zika brought devastation to families in Brazil, where cases of microcephaly surged. Fear has also spread across the Americas.

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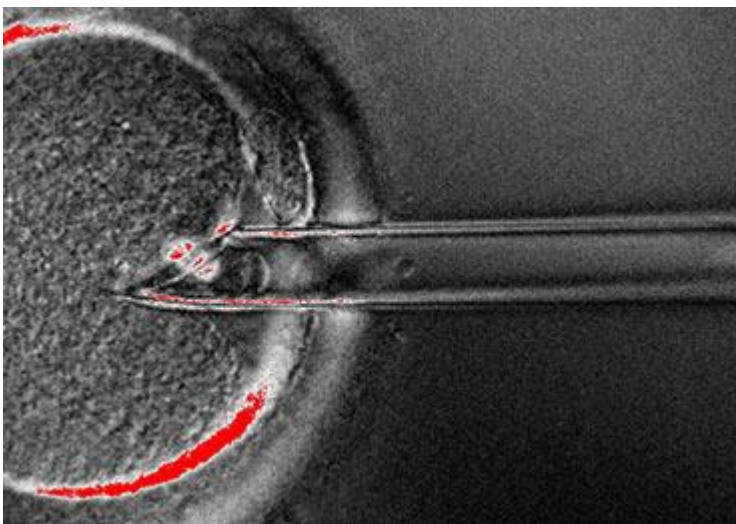


3

[Proxima b](#)

Astronomers discovered a planet around the closest star to the sun, fueling sci-fi dreams of interstellar travel.

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4

[Three-parent baby](#)

A baby boy born this year has DNA from mom and dad, plus donor mitochondria. The technique raises safety and ethical concerns.

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5

[Arctic sea ice loss](#)

Researchers are now studying the complex biological consequences of polar melting and the opening of Arctic passageways.

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6

[Ancient human migration](#)

DNA studies put new twists on the timing of human migrations out of Africa – but genetics alone are not enough to tell the full story.

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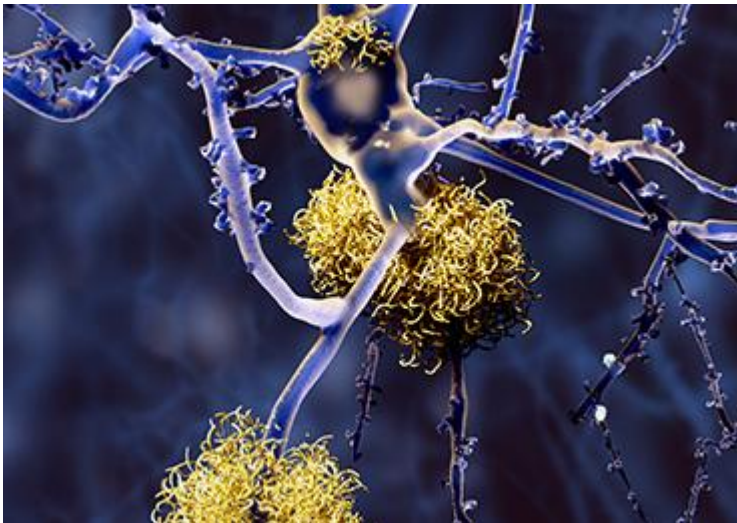


7

Minimal genome

A synthetic cell reported this year jettisons unnecessary genes and embraces human design principles.

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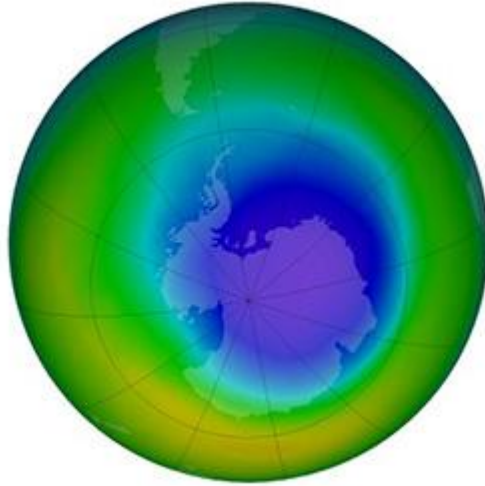


8

Alzheimer's treatment

A drug that swept away amyloid brain plaques in people with Alzheimer's will undergo new tests to see if it also improves cognitive performance.

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9

[Antarctic ozone hole](#)

Research this year confirms that the Antarctic ozone hole is healing – a success attributed to international cooperation and new technologies.

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10

[Artificial intelligence](#)

AlphaGo's triumph over its human opponent in the board game Go provides a glimpse into the future of artificial intelligence.