

“ There was a very, very slight rancid butter smell to it, but other than that, the cake looked and smelled edible. ”

Lizzie Meek of the Antarctic Heritage Trust, on a 106-year-old fruitcake, likely from Robert Falcon Scott's 1910–1913 ill-fated South Pole bid, found in an old building.

## IN BRIEF

Edited by Carolyn Gramling

## India marches for science



Scientists in Chennai, India, took to the streets last week to call for more research funding.

Thousands of scientists and science enthusiasts took to the streets in 40 Indian cities on 9 August, demanding an increase in science funding and decrying the spread of pseudoscience under the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (<http://scim.ag/Indiascimarch>). The protesters are calling on the government to spend 3% of gross domestic product on science and technology and 10% on education—far more than the current 0.9% and 3.6%, respectively. They also call for policies founded on evidence-based science. The March for Science—the first such action by Indian scientists at the national level—reflects a growing feeling among many of the nation's researchers that the government is sidelining science, although Modi's administration has denied this. “Till the government pays attention to scientists' demands, these marches will galvanize into greater actions,” says Soumitro Banerjee, one of the march's organizers and an engineering professor at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research in Kolkata.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### Korean science adviser resigns

SEOUL | A researcher in South Korea who was enmeshed in a stem cell scandal more than a decade ago has resigned from a newly created government position after critics said she was unfit for the post. On 7 August, President Moon Jae-in tapped Park Ky-Young, a professor at Suncheon National University, to run the Science, Technology and Innovation Office at the Ministry of Science and ICT (information and communications technology). Park would have had some say over the country's 20 trillion won (\$18 billion) R&D budget. But critics noted that she had co-written a 2005 paper on human cloning with Hwang Woo-suk. Published in *Science*, it was later shown to be a fraud. Park, who had also resigned in 2006 as an adviser to then-President Roh Moo-hyun over the scandal, apologized at a press conference on 11 August.

### Telescope design spat heats up

BEIJING | A deep division among Chinese astronomers over the design of a proposed 12-meter optical telescope, to be the country's largest such instrument, has gone viral on social media. The dispute centers on whether to adopt a technically ambitious four-mirror design proposed by optical engineers or a conventional three-mirror option favored by astronomers (*Science*, 16 June, p. 1107). In a 4 August letter to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) also posted on the social media site WeChat, astronomer Jiansheng Chen of Peking University in Beijing noted the risk in “leaping” from the largest current Chinese-built scope, the “not very successful” 4-meter Large Sky Area Multi-Object Fiber Spectroscopic Telescope (LAMOST), to 12 meters. LAMOST Chief Engineer Xiangqun Cui and astronomer Dingqiang Su of Nanjing University fired back on WeChat on 8 August, saying Chen had miscalculated and that LAMOST compares well to much larger telescopes. The fundamental disagreement, Chen says, is “whether a large science project should be technically or scientifically oriented”; Cui and Su, however, say the choice is between incorporating new technologies that ensure

a long life for the facility or “replicating a 10-meter telescope built 30 years ago.”

## Protection for arctic ‘Serengeti’

POND INLET, CANADA | Canada’s government has reached an agreement with the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and Nunavut leaders on the final boundaries for a new national marine conservation area in the High Arctic, federal Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna announced 14 August. Encompassing more than 131,000 square kilometers of ocean, the Tallurutiup Imanga/Lancaster Sound conservation area will be the country’s largest protected area on land or sea. The region has been dubbed the “Serengeti of the Arctic” for its abundance of wildlife including narwhals and other whales, seals, polar bears, and seabirds. Inuits in the region have lobbied for protections for three decades; Inuit traditional knowledge was incorporated into the agreement to determine the boundaries and set limits on activity, including a moratorium on future offshore oil and gas exploration and development and protection for Inuit subsistence harvesting rights. In 2016, after the World Wildlife Fund-Canada sued Shell Canada over expired offshore oil and gas exploration permits in Lancaster Sound, the oil giant voluntarily relinquished 30 leases, handing them over to the Nature Conservancy of Canada, which then gave the leases to the government. Shell and the Nature Conservancy both applauded this week’s announcement.

## FINDINGS

### Chagas disease in border dogs

Chagas disease, which causes fever, swelling, and headaches and can lead to

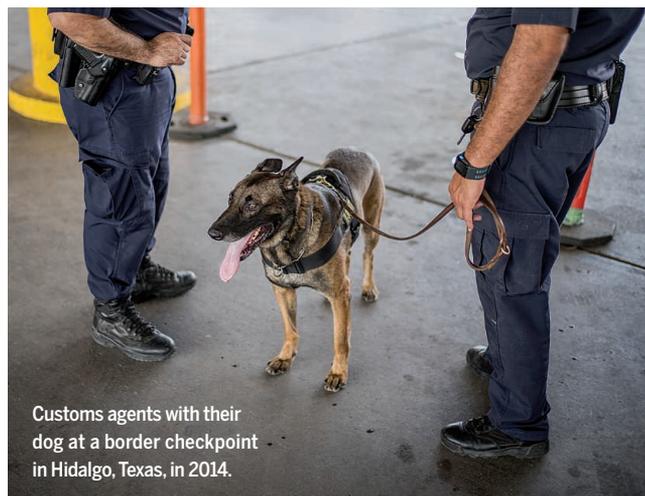
heart failure, is an emerging threat for humans in the southern United States. But it’s also taking a toll on dogs, scientists reported last week in *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*. The researchers took blood samples from 528 dogs, mostly Belgian Malinois and German shepherds, that are assisting the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in detecting narcotics or tracking humans along the Texas-Mexico border. Some 39 of the dogs had antibodies against *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the parasite that causes Chagas disease and is transmitted by bloodsucking insects known as “kissing bugs.” That number increased to 100 when inconclusive tests were judged positive. Although some infected dogs do not exhibit any symptoms, others develop debilitating cardiac disease that may lead to death. No vaccines or treatments to treat dogs infected with *T. cruzi* are approved in the United States.

## NEWSMAKERS

### Science advocate convicted

In a surprising verdict, **Ismail Serageldin**, the founding director of Egypt’s Library of Alexandria and a highly regarded advocate for science, was convicted of financial misdemeanors on 31 July and sentenced to 3.5 years in prison by an Egyptian judge. Serageldin founded the library in 2001 and led its 14 affiliated research institutes and museums until this year. Previously, he worked as an economist at the World Bank and chaired the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research. After the 2011 revolution in Egypt, Serageldin and three colleagues were accused of misusing public funds. The judge dismissed all but three of 118 accusations: not giving some

employees enough work, canceling life insurance policies, and improperly renting cafeterias in the library plaza. Serageldin contests the decision, which goes to an appeals court later this month; on 1 August, he wrote on Facebook that he had “adhered to all local and international laws.” Last week, more than 150 former ministers and officials issued a letter of support. <http://scim.ag/Serageldinconvicted>



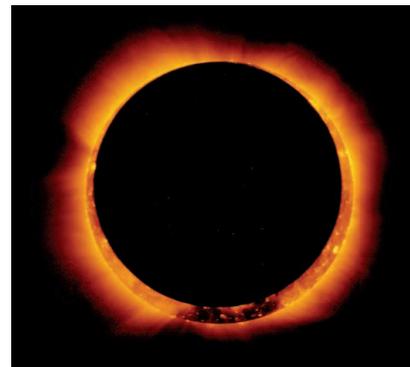
Customs agents with their dog at a border checkpoint in Hidalgo, Texas, in 2014.

PHOTOS: (LEFT TO RIGHT) CHARLES OMMANNEY/CONTRIBUTOR/GETTY IMAGES; NASA

## ECLIPSE 2017

### The Great American Eclipse

A total solar eclipse will sweep across the country on 21 August—and citizen scientists are teaming up with the pros to study it. Such an eclipse—when the moon fully occludes the sun—offers a rare chance to study the sun’s inner corona, where the solar wind, coronal mass ejections, and space weather all originate.



# 2.67

Maximum time, in minutes, that observers along the “path of totality” will see a full eclipse. The totality path crosses 14 states from Oregon to South Carolina.

# 68

Teams from volunteer group Citizen Continental-America Telescopic Eclipse that will capture images of the eclipse along the totality path; they’ll use identical telescopes to get a continuous look at the sun’s corona.

# 2

Research jets, equipped with stabilized telescopes, that NASA will deploy to chase the eclipse across the country and stay within totality—to study not only the sun, but also the surface of Mercury—for a combined 6.67 minutes.

# 57

University and high school teams that will deploy high-altitude balloons equipped with cameras along the totality path.

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# Science

## News at a glance

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