Sound of Science 理聲

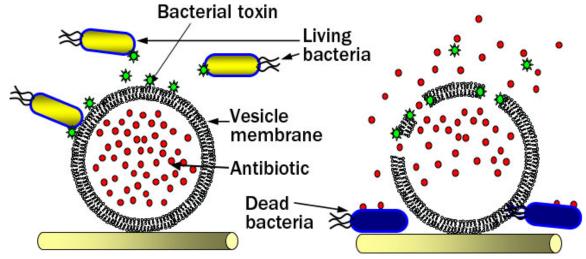
Newsletter of Science Promotion Team March, 2011 二零一一年三月號

Bandages that could bite back

The human body has a natural block to keep out bacteria that would cause infections: skin. But when the skin gets burned, it's not only painful, it's bad for the body. Burned skin cannot keep the bacteria out, so infections are common. That's why doctors who treat burn victims have to look out for the slightest sign of dangerous infection.

Doctors often wrap burns in bandages for protection, but a recent study shows that a new kind of bandage can actually fight infection. Better yet, this new bandage can use the harmful bacteria against themselves — in other words, the infection-causing organisms cause their own deaths.

Toby Jenkins, a scientist at the University of Bath in England, worked on the study. Jenkins and his colleagues developed a material that contains tiny capsules. But these carefully designed packets aren't what they seem: To a bacterium, these capsules look like cells just waiting to be invaded. What the little invaders don't know, however, is that the capsules contain antibiotics, which are chemical compounds that can kill bacteria on contact.



The wound dressings would contain tiny vesicles that, when attacked by a bacterial toxin, would release antibiotics. These antibiotics would then kill the attacking microbes, preventing the wound from becoming infected.

The bacteria attack the cells by releasing toxins, or poisons. But when the bacteria attack the capsules, the capsules fight back — by releasing antibiotics that knock out any nearby bacteria. It's an unusual idea — using bacteria against themselves. Jenkins and the other scientists tested the material on two types of harmful bacteria. One was a type of Staphylococcus bacteria; the other was a type of Pseudomonas bacteria. When researchers placed scraps of the new material in a Petri dish with the bacteria, the bacteria barely grew at all, which is unusual. This observation led the researchers to believe that the bacteria had attacked the fabric, and that the antibiotics had been released — which kept the bacteria from growing.

The scientists want the bandages to work specifically against dangerous bacteria, so they also tested the fabric on a harmless type of *E. coli* bacteria. When the scrap of fabric was placed in a Petri dish with *E. coli*, the bacteria grew quickly — showing that the trap didn't fool the harmless bacteria.

The harmful bacteria probably released toxins that burst the capsules open, while the harmless *E. coli* left the capsules alone.

This early experiment shows that the material can selectively kill dangerous bacteria, but it's too early to start using the material in hospitals.

"This is a nice approach and they've shown in principle that it works," Christopher Batich, a biomedical engineer at the University of Florida in Gainesville, told *Science News*. Batich did not work on the study. While he's excited about the results, he added that the real world is more complicated than this experiment. "You'd have to work with real bacteria and real wounds to see if it makes a difference," he says.

Jenkins and his colleagues are back at work improving the healing fabric. In the not-so-distant future, this kind of antibacterial bandage may move from the laboratory to the hospital bed — and give burn victims a fighting chance against infection.

Lunch Time Video Shows: 12:20 p.m. @ Chem. Lab. (Room 512)

| Lunc | Lunch Time video Shows. 12.20 p.m. & Chem. Lab. (Room 312) | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|------------------------|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Date | Name of Program | Language / Subtitle | Area | | | | | |
| 3/3 | Megafactories – A380 (Part II) | English / Chinasa | Engineering | | | | | |
| (Thu) | 偉大工程巡禮:空中巴士 A380 客機 | English / Chinese | 工程 | | | | | |
| 10/3 | Nature's Great Events - The Great Great | Cantonese / | Dialogy 4 始與 | | | | | |
| (Thu) | Salmon Run (Part I) 自然界大事件 - 大洄游 | Chinese | Biology 生物學 | | | | | |
| 14/3 | Nature's Great Events - The Great Great | Cantonese / | Dialogg 4 址與 | | | | | |
| (Mon) | Salmon Run (Part II) 自然界大事件 - 大洄游 | Chinese | Biology 生物學 | | | | | |
| 17/3 | How Earth Made Us – Fire (Part I) | English / Chinese | Earth Science | | | | | |
| (Thu) | 天造地設 - 火 | & English | 地球科學 | | | | | |
| 21/3 | How Earth Made Us – Fire (Part II) | English / Chinese | Earth Science | | | | | |
| (Mon) | 天造地設 - 火 | & English | 地球科學 | | | | | |
| 24/3 | Prehistoric Disasters - Birth of the Planet | English / Chinese | Earth Science | | | | | |
| (Thu) | (Part I) 史前大浩劫 - 地球的誕生 | & English | 地球科學 | | | | | |
| 28/3 | Prehistoric Disasters - Birth of the Planet | English / Chinese | Earth Science | | | | | |
| (Mon) | (Part II) 史前大浩劫 - 地球的誕生 | & English | 地球科學 | | | | | |
| 31/3 | Noah and the Great Flood (Part I) | Putonghua / | Archeology | | | | | |
| (Thu) | 挪亞方舟 | English | 考古學 | | | | | |
| 4/4 | Noah and the Great Flood (Part II) | Putonghua / | Archeology | | | | | |
| (Mon) | 挪亞方舟 | English | 考古學 | | | | | |

Science Festival of Science Society, HKUSU - "FANTASY"

Booth Exhibition (with Lab Tour)

Date: 23rd - 25th March, 2011

Time: 1315 - 1830 (23^{rd}); 1130 - 1830 (24^{th}); 1130 - 1830 (25^{th}) Venue: Run Run Shaw Podium, the University of Hong Kong

Booths:

- 1) Bacteria Can Be Heroes
- 2) Your Dream Food'
- 3) Fantasy Predictor
- 4) The Kaleidoscope of Mathematics
- 5) Physics of the impossible
- 6) Evolution The Past, Present and Future
- 7) Colorifantasy
- 8) Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) and Human Creativity

Talks

Date: $24^{th} - 25^{th}$ March 2011

Time: 1715 - 1815

Venue: LE8, Library Extension Building, the University of Hong Kong

免費科學活動

專題講座 (粵語講解) 即場免費入座,座位先到先得。

| 講座名稱 | 日期 | 時間 | 地點 | 講員 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|
| 衛星導航系統在民用航 | 3月5日 | | <u> </u> | 王德源先生(電子工程師) |
| 空的應用 | | 下午 2:30 - 3:15 | 科学 思演 | 工怎你尤生(电丁工性即) |
| | (六) | 下午 2.15 4.00 | エハ EXT めランラニ井 同宝 | 基河津州州(最了工和師) |
| 航空交通監察技術的最 | 3月5日 | 下午 3:15 - 4:00 | 科學館演講廳 | 黄河清先生(電子工程師) |
| 新發展 | (六) | T = 2 20 2 2 15 | ~1 ~ A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A | 11.日口4.11.(古四.42克) |
| 想上網,勿想莽 | 3月19日 | 下午 2:30 - 3:15 | 科學館演講廳 | 林景昇先生(高級督察) |
| 1 H +1.1 1.1 H + H 1 | (六) | | | Production II. 11. (and for I by Later tradition) |
| 規劃三面睇 | 3月19日 | 下午 3:15 - 4:00 | 科學館演講廳 | 伍德華先生(高級城市規劃師) |
| | (六) | | | |
| 哥白尼的革命 | 3月27日 | 下午 3:00 - 4:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 彭金滿博士 (香港中文大學物理系 |
| | (日) | | | 講師) |
| 氣候與人 | 3月6日 | 下午3:00 - 4:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 李子祥博士 (香港天文台高級科學 |
| | (目) | | | 主任) |
| 天文、氣象、生活漫談 | 3月12日 | 下午3:00 - 4:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 陳己雄先生 (香港太空館館長) |
| | (六) | | | |
| 天文攝影套餐 - 數碼固 | 3月3日 | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 梁威恆先生 (香港天文學會資深會 |
| 定攝影 | (四) | | | 員) |
| 天文攝影套餐 - 追踪攝 | 3月10日 | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 梁志明先生 (香港天文學會資深會 |
| 影基礎 | (四) | 1 1 7700 0100 | | 員) |
| 天文攝影套餐 - 深空天 | 3月17日 | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 伍智滔先生 (香港天文學會資深會 |
| 體攝影 | (四) | 7 7 7100 0120 | | 員) |
| | ` / | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 劉佳能先生(香港天文學會資深會 |
| 星攝影 | (四) | 1 1 1111 | > (Carrier) (Historia | 員) |
| 天文攝影套餐 - 天文照 | | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 太空館演講廳 | 伍智滔先生 (香港天文學會資深會 |
| 片後期製作技巧 | (四) | 7 7 7100 0120 | | 員) |
| 宇宙極端探索之旅 - 起 | ` / | 下午 7:00 - 8:30 | 大空館演講廳 | 梁逸勤先生及蔣善恆先生(星匯點 |
| 動一不和諧的地球 | (—) | 7 7 7.00 0.50 | | 幹事) |
| 宇宙極端探索之旅 - 出 | ` / | 下午 7:00 - 8:30 | 大空館演講廳 | 梁逸勤先生及黃亮軒先生 (星匯點 |
| 一 我們的太陽系 | () | 7 7.00 0.30 | 八工四共明旭 | 幹事) |
| 宇宙極端探索之旅 - 迷 | | 下午7:00 - 8:30 | 七元的注譯廳 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| 失 一 宇宙終極的天體 | | 7.00 | 八工阳伊珊駝 | 幹事) |
| 宇宙極端探索之旅。完 | | 下午 7:00 - 9:20 | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - | 蔣善恆先生及岑宇軒先生(星匯點 |
| 古田極端探系之脈 · 元 | ラ 万 20 口 | 1 - 1.00 - 6:30 | 八二四伊珊娜 | 幹事) |
| | 2 日 20 日 | 下午 7.00 0.00 | 上 <i>市福石</i> 油 | · · |
| | 3月29日 | 下午 7:00 - 8:00 | | |
| - 彗星 | () | 1.左0.20 11.00 | 天象廳 | 長) |
| 天.地.人 | | 上午 9:30 - 11:00 | | 林超英先生 (香港氣象學會主席) |
| | (六) | | | |

| 人人人人们子电影(大山万山,电场个人于帝)尤其伯勒,即物八庄,庄世儿到几时 | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|---------------|--|--|
| 電影名稱 | 地點 | 日期 | 時間 | | |
| 食物安全: 真相大白 - 餅乾及巧克力 | 科學館演講廳 | 3月6日(日) | 下午3時30分至4時30分 | | |
| 地球升溫一度:暖化真相 | 科學館演講廳 | 3月9日(三) | 下午3時30分至4時30分 | | |
| 食物安全:真相大白 - 牛肉及酒 | 科學館演講廳 | 3月20日(日) | 下午3時30分至4時30分 | | |
| 科學新發現:太陽之死 | 太空館演講廳 | 3月27日(日) | 下午5時至6時 | | |

其他活動

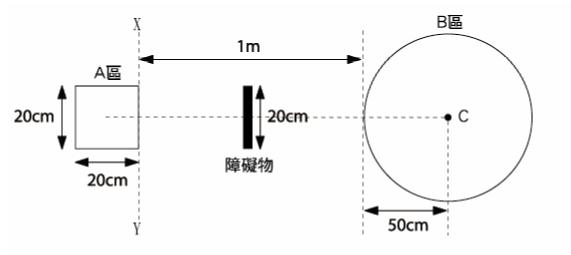
| 活動名稱 | 地點 | 日期 | 時間 |
|--------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| 天文嘉年華 | 太空館何鴻燊天象廳、宇宙劇場及天台 | 3月15日(二) | 晚上7時至9時 |
| 天文快樂時光 | 太空館天台 | 3月9日(三) | 晚上7時30分至9時 |

易發易拾@協和書院

日期:3月4日 時間:全校週會 地點:本校禮堂

比賽規則:

- 1. 器件用料不限,惟不能直接採用坊間商品。
- 2. 投發器底部面積不得超過 20 cm x 20 cm, 高度不得超過 50 cm。
- 3. 投發器及接收器均不可由電源驅動。
- 4. 接收器的長度, 闊度和高度, 不得超過 10 cm x 10 cm x 10 cm。
- 5. 投發器和接收器分別置於發射區(A區)和接收區(B區)內。A區與B區的最短距離為 1米,兩區中間設置高5cm之障礙物(見圖)。在A區內的投發器結構任何部份不得 越過XY垂直平面。
- 6. 投發器須從 A 區不停投發直徑 4 cm, 重 2.7 克的乒乓球至 B 區內的接收器。 每一投發和接收動作完成後,參賽者可改動接收器的位置,惟須保持接收器在 B 區中心 (C 點)的 50 cm 半徑範圍內。
- 7. 限時2分鐘,以成功投發並且接收乒乓球數目最多者為勝。
- 8. 如成功投發並且接收乒乓球數目相同,則以投發器件重量較輕者為優勝。
- 9. 每組可有1-3位成員。
- 10. 科學推廣小組將保留最終決定權。



圖一:投發區和接收區的平面圖(不按比例)

Science Promotion Team 2010-2011:

Chairperson: Yang Chun Pong 楊雋邦 5D

Committee Member: Chung Lai Him 鍾禮謙 5D, Hung Ka Kiu 洪嘉僑 5D, Lee Lok Tin 李樂天 5D, Lo Wai Ki 盧偉祺 5D, Mak Chun Wing 麥駿穎 5D,

Lo Lai Fong 盧麗芳 5E & Yip Tsz Fung 葉子楓 5E

Website: $http://210.3.43.253/\sim lck/science/spt1011/spt1011.htm$