

# RMRC, Bhubaneswar

## (Laxmi Narayan Memorial Library)

### Weekly Current Awareness Service

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"To live in the world without becoming aware of the meaning of the world is like wandering about in a great library without touching the books."

— DAN BROWN

### About Monday Morning

Monday morning is a weekly E- CAS (Electronic Current Awareness Service) of RMRC Library, Bhubaneswar which carries one Biomedical & health science news item and some useful current medical research links so that the scientists can access the articles. This E- Bulletin starts its journey from 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 2016. In this maiden attempt we cordially invite your inputs and suggestions to improve in future.

Dr. Banamber Sahoo, Lib & Inf. Officer  
Satyajit Nayak & Twinkle Rout (Lib. Trainee)

## Racial bias confirmed in heartbeats

White and Asian heart rhythm perceives even unarmed black man as potential threat

PARIS: A single heartbeat can cause a person to make a decision based on racial bias, said an unusual study Wednesday into the crucial organ's influence on snap human judgement. White and Asian study participants whose heart rhythms were monitored were more likely to perceive an unarmed black man as threatening when shown his picture during a heartbeat than between beats, researchers in Britain said.

The finding may be useful in designing ways to tackle the high number of police shootings of unarmed black people in the United States, said the team. "We can use it to think about ways to target this heart-brain communication to reduce the tragedies caused by racial bias," study co-author Sarah Garfinkel of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School said. Scientists already knew that each heartbeat fires a powerful signal to the brain. Between beats, the signals are silent. Also known from previous research is that



racial bias often leads to harmless objects being mistaken for weapons in the hands of black people, including by police who have been known to shoot as a result.

Not known was whether the heart may influence the head when it comes to perceiving threat. It does, says the new study published in Nature Com-

munications. Participants were shown pictures depicting either black or white men holding either a gun or a harmless object such as a wallet or mobile phone. The volunteers were asked to "shoot" the individuals they believed to be armed by pressing a computer key. When the image was flashed during a heartbeat, participants were about 10 percent more likely to perceive the object as a gun when held by a black person, the study found.

"The signals that come from the heart to the brain seem to be strong enough to change our perceptions," said fellow author Manos Tsakiris of the Royal Holloway University of London. "In some cases they dominate our perceptions to the extent that we misperceive things that we see in front of us," he told journalists ahead of the study's publication. The scientists cautioned that the risk of false threat perception may be exacerbated in a tense situation with a faster, stronger heartbeat.

### Cardiac Cycle

The sequence of mechanical events that repeats with every heartbeat. It includes the phase of relaxation diastole and the phase of contraction systole.

## 1. Stressed brain, stressed heart?

In the past decade, more and more individuals experience psychosocial stress on a daily basis. Heavy workloads, job insecurity, or living in poverty are circumstances that can result in chronically increased stress, which in turn can lead to chronic psychological disorders such as depression. For more details click on the below link.

[http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)30044-2.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)30044-2.pdf)

## 2. Is the herbicide glyphosate really safe?

Glyphosate [N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine] is one of the most commonly used and largest selling herbicide worldwide. It is a non-selective (broad-spectrum), systemic and effective herbicide. Glyphosate was first registered by an USbased corporation in 1974. Since its introduction, the use of glyphosate has increased rapidly. Sharp rise in its use was also noticed with the introduction of genetically modified (GM) glyphosatetolerant crops. For more details click on the below link.

<http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/112/01/0011.pdf>

## 3. Heart-hugging device could help keep the beat.

Heart failure affects millions of people worldwide, but treatment options are limited: If patients in advanced stages of the disease can't get transplants, doctors can implant devices that help the heart pump blood. But those devices put patients at risk for infection and clotting, thanks to valves and pumps that come into direct contact with blood. For more details click on the below link.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/01/heart-hugging-device-could-help-keep-beat>

## 4. WHO Weekly epidemiological record.

Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety, 30 November – 1 December 2016. For more details click on the below link.

[http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/253062/1/WER9202.pdf?ua=](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/253062/1/WER9202.pdf?ua=1)

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## **E- CAS (Current Awareness Service)**

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