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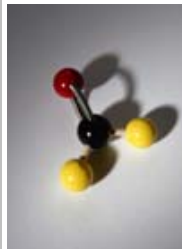
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**TOP NEWS**

The latest news from the Academies

**EPA's Draft Health Assessment for Formaldehyde Needs Improvement**



Apr. 8 -- A U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency draft assessment of the potential health effects associated with formaldehyde exposure needs substantial revision, says a new report from the National Research Council. It finds that EPA supports its conclusions that formaldehyde can cause irritation to the eyes, nose, and throat; lesions in the respiratory tract; genetic mutations; and cancers of the nose, nasal cavity, and upper throat. However, EPA's conclusion that formaldehyde causes other cancers of the respiratory tract, leukemia, or several other noncancer health outcomes is not supported.

- [News Release](#)
- [Full Report](#)

**Report Calls for Enhanced Role of HHS in Improving Nation's Oral Health**



Apr. 8 -- Despite calls for providers and patients to recognize dental health as an integral part of overall health and the shocking 2007 case of a

**SCIENCE IN THE HEADLINES**

Breaking stories in science

**Anomaly at U.S. Particle Accelerator May Be Physics Breakthrough**



Apr. 8 -- Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory physicists [announced](#) the discovery of a "bump" in data that,

if verified, could signify the existence of a new particle or force of nature -- or even be evidence of an unexpected form of the hypothetical Higgs boson particle. The finding stems from one of two experiments conducted at Fermi's Tevatron, which collides beams of protons and antiprotons moving at energies of nearly 1 trillion electron volts. If the other experiment finds the same data bump, the result could be the most significant physics discovery in decades.

**NAS Member Richard Alley to Host TV Series**



Apr. 7 -- Richard Alley, a geologist at Penn State and NAS member, is the host of a new three-part series on PBS about

climate science and sustainable energy solutions. An advance screening of "[EARTH: The Operators' Manual](#)," the first program in the series, was held at the Marian Koshland Science Museum of the NAS in Washington, D.C. It shows

**NEW & NOTABLE**

**Featured Books**



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**Site Highlights**

Join the NAS on April 21 for the next [DASER](#), a monthly discussion forum on art and science projects in the national capital region.

[Online applications](#) are now available for competitive awards for graduate, postdoctoral, and senior research in U.S. government laboratories and affiliated institutions. The submission deadline is May 1, 2011.

A new [fact sheet](#) explains how to make sure your ground beef is safe to eat.

[Provide your input](#) on innovative technologies for future NASA earth and space science missions.

Watch a [new video](#) on learning about science outside formal classroom settings.

Take a look at the Issues in Science and Technology [job board](#), which contains listings of employment opportunities.



Explore the [National Academies' collaborations](#) with scientists, engineers, and medical professionals worldwide.

**This Week in PNAS**

Apr. 5, 2011:



Browse the most recent

boy's death due to an untreated tooth infection, oral health needs a higher profile within the U.S. health care system. A new report by the Institute of Medicine provides a blueprint for how the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services can help make that happen. The report's recommendations are designed to enhance HHS's recently debuted Oral Health Initiative, a cross-agency, national plan for improving oral health.

- [Report Brief](#)
- [Full Report](#)
- [Project Website](#)

**[Life and Physical Sciences Research Could Enable Human Space Missions](#)**



Apr. 5 -- By elevating its life and physical sciences research program, NASA could achieve the biological understanding and technical breakthroughs needed to allow humans to be sent deeper into space, including to Mars, says a new National Research Council report. One of a series of decadal surveys that the Research Council has completed for NASA, the report lays out a research agenda for the next decade that could bring about such breakthroughs.

- [News Release](#)
- [Full Report](#)

**[Secretary of Energy Talks About Clean Energy Innovations](#)**



Apr. 1 -- U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu delivered the National Academy of Sciences' 11th annual

the viewer evidence of climate change in locations around our planet and highlights sustainable energy options that are available today. The companion website for the series offers educational materials, quizzes, and frequently asked questions answered by Alley.

**[Business and Academic Leaders Call for Action on National Deficit](#)**

Mar. 31 -- Today leaders from the business and academic communities issued a [letter](#) to President Obama and congressional leadership calling for bipartisan action to rein in the growing national deficit, as well as for investments in education and research that will support innovation and job creation over the long term. Such steps have been recommended by several reports from the Academies, including [Choosing the Nation's Fiscal Future](#) and [Rising Above the Gathering Storm](#), as well as [an update](#) of the latter report released last year. Among those who signed the letter was Charles Vest, president of the National Academy of Engineering.

**[Japan's Nuclear Crisis](#)**



Mar. 17 -- Failed cooling systems and multiple fires at the Fukushima nuclear power plants following March 11's earthquake and tsunami have led to the release of radioactive material and elevated radiation levels in northeastern Japan. The following National Research Council reports and ongoing project may help inform the current crisis. [Safety and](#)

media selections from this week's edition of [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#).

Sackler Lecture. Chu's talk, "The Energy and Climate Change Challenge: Risks and Opportunities," outlined the major challenges in developing renewable energy and highlighted innovations made by the U.S. and other countries. Chu referenced the space race in the '60s, saying "we are in a race to develop clean energy technologies... this is our Sputnik moment" and called federal support "critical to technology leadership."

- [Sackler Colloquia](#)

[More Top News](#)

[Security of Commercial Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage \(2006\)](#) examines the potential consequences of accidents or terrorist attacks that partially or completely drain spent fuel cooling pools, including the potential for fire and a release of radioactive material. [Health Risks from Exposure to Low Levels of Ionizing Radiation: BEIR VII Phase 2 \(2006\)](#) says that even low doses of ionizing radiation are likely to pose some risk of adverse health effects, and no level should be considered "safe." [Distribution and Administration of Potassium Iodide in the Event of a Nuclear Incident \(2004\)](#) recommends that potassium iodide pills, which can prevent thyroid cancer caused by exposure to radioactive iodine, should be available to everyone age 40 or younger living near a nuclear power plant in the U.S. The BEIR VII report and similar studies rely on data from the [Radiation Effects Research Foundation](#), a joint U.S.-Japan project to monitor the health of atomic-bomb survivors and their offspring.

[More Science in the Headlines](#)