



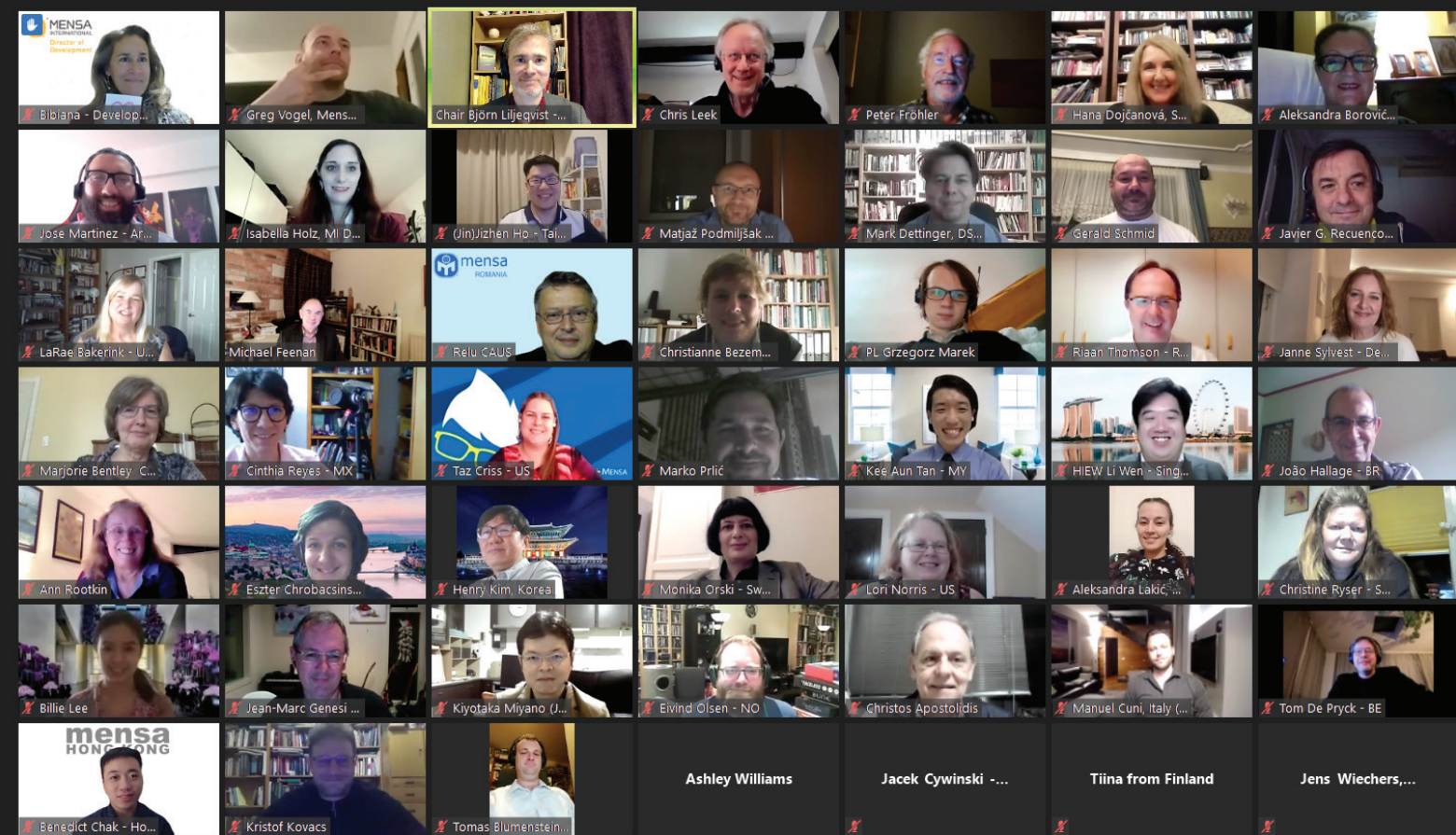
MENSA
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Recording... **LIVE** on Workplace by Facebook



Delegates at the first IBD meeting held via Zoom

The International Board of Directors' Meeting, 2020

Initial Report from our Chairman p3

what's in the MWJ this month...

| two exciting new developments in our Mensa groups are outlined on p2, and on p3 our Chairman reports on the first session of the 2020 IBD meeting held via Zoom on October 10.

| see the results and meet the *Mensa World Journal* International Poet of the Year 2020, on pp4-5. Congratulations to **Lorie Calkins** from the USA! The International Judging Panel's statement is on p7.

| also on p7, meet this month's Member Profile, Danish Mensan Jakob Hundborg.

| ever heard of a 'mensanthropist'? Check out what it means in an article on p6 by Czech Republic member HOnza Koudelka.

| *"We have been on quite an adventure: from the first, humble hominini who split from the chimpanzee, to Australopithecus who created stone tools, to Homo erectus who tamed fire,"* says Chris Macdonald, British member, scientist and author. Read more about this on p8.

| feeling stressed and depressed? P9 brings us the latest research on the correlation between the two...

| Our science guru, John Blinker brings us snippets of the latest science news on p10, while Therese's Teasers are here to challenge us again on p12.

Happy reading!

Kate Nacard, Editor

Read /download the full-colour
MWJ on www.mensa.org

Welcome to our new groups!

Two new exciting developments!



Firstly, I am happy to announce that Mensa Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved Provisional status! Chair Maja Ilic and her helper Sunita Selak as development co-

ordinator, recently submitted their application to the Executive Director, Michael Feenan, for review. The Executive Committee (ExComm) has approved the status and I am confident that Mensa Bosnia and Herzegovina will keep up the excellent work and will soon be a full national Mensa group.

The achievement is the result of the efforts and energy of a very active volunteer group led by Maja.

Very first activities and testing first occurred in 2005, with the help of Mensa Serbia. Later on, the group became self-sufficient and very active from 2015. It achieved ENM status in 2017. Currently it has over 180 members (with a peak before COVID-19 of about 250). Membership is highly diverse, with IT people, quiz lovers, escape room freaks and vivid karaoke enthusiasts.

This achievement again proves that despite the pandemic and all the hardships it presents, national groups can stick together, maintain the community and work on progress.

And secondly, I am delighted to announce that we have a new country at the round table: Mensa Taiwan (Chinese Taipei) has achieved full status and has been transferred to the remit of DSNM, Mark Dettinger.

Michael checked their application materials against the requirements of ASIE 06-21, and following that, ExComm unanimously approved their recognition as Full National Mensa (FNM) - just two months after they became a Provisional National Mensa! We fully expected Mensa Taiwan to reach the FNM milestone sooner rather than later, but maybe not as soon as this! And they have exceeded expectations in other ways too, managing to boost their membership numbers yet again to 535, an increase of 75 since August.

Excellent job! Congratulations to all!

Floreat Mensa!

Bibiana Balanyi, Director of Development

Björn Liljeqvist, Chairman



from the excomm...

Opinions of Mensa

I'm writing this column in between two board sessions. The first session was last Saturday and the next one is tomorrow. You can expect to read more about the exciting conclusion in the next edition of the *Mensa World Journal*. The first part was something special, however. In 2020, the yearly meeting of the International Board of Directors of Mensa is – surprise! – an online event on Zoom. The deliberations were broadcast in real time to members on Workplace and the recording should be available by the time you read this. There was indeed a dedicated crowd of spectators following and commenting on the discussions.

The IBD is quite large: 47 board members from 37 countries. It is Mensa's highest governing body and comprises delegates from each "Full National Mensa". Its responsibilities include interpreting the Constitution of Mensa, and ensuring that all national groups follow the same principles. This year's agenda reflected this in various ways. There was a presentation of next year's budget and business plan, financial statements from the last year etc. The lion's part of the first day of the meeting was a discussion titled "Mensa, Politics and Opinions". The premise was simple. It says in our Constitution that "Mensa shall not express an opinion as being that of Mensa, take any political

action". However, it also says "Intelligence should be used for the benefit of humanity", which is obviously an opinion. It looks as though we're supposed to make a difference – and I'd say we do – but we're also supposed to avoid anything political. What does that mean exactly? Can a global society with people of very different cultures and personal viewpoints agree on a meaning here? Clearly we needed to talk about this.

The matter is not trivial. Almost anything can be seen through a political lens, and if you were to literally never state an opinion whatsoever, would you say anything at all? Now, there are clearly things Mensa should stay away from. Open support for political parties for example. Conversely, there are things Mensa does already without much complaint: support for science; spreading information on giftedness; implying that knowing your IQ is a good thing. Many national Mensa groups give awards to non-members for important work related to intelligence. And what about selling the rights to put the Mensa logo on commercial products like games? Participating in public events alongside other organisations for purposes of visibility and PR? How to respond to journalists whose job it is to extract click-worthy statements from our spokespeople?

Some members indeed request that Mensa support various causes not obviously related to intelligence.

Set aside that this would require changing our constitution – the point is that staying away from "political action" is not always going to be popular. The fact that drawing a line is hard, does not mean it cannot be done. Our discussion illustrated the different angles from which the no-opinion rule is viewed internationally.

Before we finished the first session, a motion was passed: "*Mensa remains committed to being a worldwide organization encompassing peoples of all ethnicities, genders, religions, cultures, political backgrounds and personal viewpoints. In light of that, the IBD again affirms to the membership that any form of prejudicial treatment is an anathema to our organisation.*" A very similar resolution from 1989 was thereby given a language upgrade, refreshing a basic principle of Mensa as a round-table society. A fitting end to the first half; the second session will be just as interesting, I'm sure.

Björn Liljeqvist, Chairman

The MWJ Poetry Competition 2020

I am delighted to report that the inaugural Mensa World Journal International Poetry Competition has been an outstanding success! Congratulations to all members for their fine entries!

Over three hundred entries were received, and these were graded and processed into a shortlist of 30 by the original judging team of Mensan Therese Moodie-Bloom, publishing company executive Cassandra McLeod, lawyer and poet Richard Wakim, Mensan and businessman Peter Tankard, and me, Kate Nacard. Many long hours were spent in processing a shortlist for the International Judging Panel. Thank you to everyone for your not inconsiderable time and effort!

The International Judging Panel who were asked to rank the top six of the shortlist of thirty were unanimous in their selection (read their general comments on p7):

First place: Lorie Calkins (USA), *Walking on a Rainy Night*

Runners-up: Carolyn Cooney (Canada), *The Blue Heron*; Ronald Alan Charles (USA), *Determination*

Honorable Mentions: Mary Ann Parise (USA), *Of Words and Walking in the Woods at Sunset*

Marianne Kendall (UK), *Memory Loss*

The top six poems will be published in the MWJ in the months to come, along with as many entries as space permits!

The International Judging Panel



USA

Bruce Miller is an American Mensan with a deep interest in poetry. He is a member of the National Book Critics Circle, a trade association for editors, critics, agents and publishers. Bruce has a degree in writing and fine arts and is the founder and facilitator of the official USA and International Poetry SIGs. His chapbook *HaikuBones* is in its second printing, and his poetic translations from classic French poems have been featured in the USA Mensa Bulletin and other Mensa newsletters. Bruce enjoys reading and evaluating writers' works and participating in poetic workshop sessions.



UK

Maggie Sawkins holds an MA with distinction in Creative Writing and is a professional member of the National Association of Writers in Education. She won the 2013 Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry for her live literature production, *Zones of Avoidance*. Maggie is the founder of Portsmouth poetry and music club, *Tongues&Grooves*, set up in 2003 with the aim of empowering people to express themselves through poetry and music.

Read more about Maggie on her website:
<https://hookedonwords.me>



GERMANY

Henning ('Stachel') Höllein lives with his wife and children in Mönchengladbach, a city close to Düsseldorf, where he works as an IT forensic specialist at police headquarters. In 2015 he started delving deeply into poetry-reading and writing. Simultaneously, he was a singer-songwriter and soon began to combine composition and poetry. He then started to interpret and review poetry, studying its forms and principles. He has self-published two books of poems and his website www.stachellyrik.de contains the vast majority of his writings (594 poems).

...and the winner is



Lorie Calkins

Lorie first joined Mensa in 1984, then rejoined in 2010 when her children had grown up. She now lives on Whidbey Island in Washington State with her husband, Guy, and their Miniature Schnauzer, Chaos. Lorie took poetry classes in high school and in college, and soon recognised the way poems could build a vivid picture in her head with just a few words. She says, "I've liked poems since the first one I had to memorize in first grade; I love the rhythms and the power of imagery. Then, the rolling rhythms and repetitive sounds seemed to soothe my children when they were crying, and mesmerize them when they were bored." Lorie started writing poems as soon as she could write and rhyme – first grade-ish. Her fiction has been published in the *Sword & Sorceress* anthologies, the *Mensa Bulletin*, and other publications, and she has an Author Page on Amazon. She enjoys carving, woodworking, and reading, but would rather spend time with her grandchildren than doing any of these things!

Walking on a Rainy Night

by Lorie Calkins

*Time for my walk, but it's drizzling endlessly;
Burgundy umbrella gathers drops on its crown.
Chandeliered by rain, the streetlamp unexpectedly
Sprinkles with diamonds my red satin gown.
The sidewalk's a glittering ballroom now suddenly.
Twirling my finery, I hear a sound.*

*Gree-dit the tree frogs sing, tuning the orchestra.
Breeze in the branches and patter of rain
Burgeon the melody, calling the dancers forth.
Graceful in blossoms, the ladies refrain,
Curtsy and flutter their pink and white petals, the
Fruit trees a-tremble in bustle and train.*

*I spin the umbrella in clockwise tradition,
A girl again, twirling full skirts of my gown.
Crinkle-y crinoline petticoats swishing,
The satin gown's hem spatters sequins around.
I smile in delight at the ball's intermission:
A miniature carousel's gems splash the ground.*

*Tipping my parasol I turn coquettishly
To myriad droplets on my eyelids, cheeks, chin.
The gently cool tracing of this misty caress,
A lover's tiny kisses, embracing my skin.
Reluctantly I open my eyes and progress
Pirouetting in darkness, cherished by the rain.*

*Reach my own door and the music ends happily.
Shake out my ball gown as if in a trance.
Waltz in the living room, plop myself dreamily
Down on the sofa, still feeling romanced.
"Have a nice walk?" He looks up from his mystery.
"I've been to the ball," I say. "Danced every dance."*

Mensanthropist: for the benefit of humanity

by HOnza Koudelka

Just as the philanthropist loves, and the misanthropist hates, humankind, I've come up with "mensanthropist" as a new word to represent a Mensan who actively practises utilising intelligence for the benefit of humanity - specifically by doing something beneficial for humanity that people with lower intellect would not be able to do.

Many of you might want to do something like this but you are lacking ideas of what exactly it could be. The aim of my series is to provide you with inspiration by introducing Mensans who have had such ideas and brought them to life. In this first episode I will start with the one I know the best, myself...

I have always tended to find some opportunity to do something useful, something that would positively impact my life and that of my closest relatives. When I was nineteen, I used e-mail to start contacting people who used Macintosh computers, to bring them together and form a kind of club. At that time it was a rarity in the Czech Republic to have a Mac, so finding someone to help you with it was not easy. Just about a year later I decided to found an official non-profit organization.

The legal form suitable for this purpose in 1996 was called civil association, and there were at least three people required to found it, at least one of whom needed to be of legal age. I managed to get two students from that e-mail group, Ondřej Bojar and Jakub Nešetřil, to agree to go for it with me. Gradually,

several other enthusiasts joined us, and in the following years we organized regular meetings, published CDs with freeware and shareware software, and even printed a magazine called *Zrušit* (Cancel), inspired by one of the most common button names in the Mac dialogue boxes.

The number of members grew to seven hundred, and as a side effect we gained some management and organisational skills. Later on, as we got jobs, our free time started to be tight, the release of iPhone and iPad made Apple more popular, and new modern communities appeared. As a result, our club activities dissipated, but the mailing list remained operational for twenty years.

Some years later, as my son grew and started thinking and playing games on iPad, he became interested in Minecraft. He liked that he could play online and communicate with other kids in the virtual world and work on projects together with them. So with him and for him, I created our own Minecraft server. We called it TrainMazeLand, because my son loved trains and I liked building mazes. I wanted to make our server different from all other servers, so that it would keep going for a long time and be useful.

I set very strict rules of behaviour and conditions to be eligible to join our A-team. We required members to be polite, patient, loyal, and team players. We held regular online meetings with exact structure and discussion rules. Most of the kids playing on the server were between eight and thirteen years,

but it took them only a few weeks to learn how to make fair decisions and have good feelings from helping others. The server is still functional as of now, and offers for instance, the largest Minecraft maze with 10,080 rooms which you can find your way through - if you know the value of Pi to sufficient precision.

When building the Minecraft server I came across a need to be able to somehow easily extend its abilities, so I wrote a plug-in that allows for easily programming add-on features using a language similar to BASIC. That was the first programming language I learned when I was eleven, and I still consider it easier to understand than all the modern object-oriented languages. Within only three years, over eight hundred children installed the plug-in on their servers, and many of them are still writing to me saying that my plug-in MadCommands was their first programming experience.

Now I am again looking for some new inspiration and maybe, just like you, I will find it in the following episodes of this series. I am preparing profiles of interesting people and projects I find.

If you know someone who would be a good subject for this series, please let me know by e-mail to mensanthropist@hon-za.com or join the Mensanthropist group at the Mensa Workplace (<https://fb.me/g/1AfuvpCvj/Rd0K3sbE>).

And if you personally want to become a mensanthropist but don't know how to get started, I hope this series will help you to get inspired!

MWJ Poetry Judges' Statement

Walking on a Rainy Night has a universal appeal with its sense-pictures and clever but not cloying rhythm and rhyme scheme. It speaks to the middle-class - yet cultured - spouse, and really to anyone in a well-worn relationship. Dreaming of romance, the poet finds magic in the quotidian interplay of rain, fabric and sodium-vapour street lighting.

Our goal as judges was to consider the poems not just from our own experiences as poets, critics and mentors, but also to consider the cross-cultural tastes and multifarious poetic responses of our highly intelligent fellow Mensa members. The creativity and love for expression we found in the trove of poems we read was remarkable. We felt honoured to do what Mensans like to do best: discuss an interesting subject with no clear parameters to guide us.

Our backgrounds and worldviews could not be much more different, yet it was humbling to us all to be entrusted with these clean and bright, knowing and dark morceaux. Felicitations and laurels to each poet who shared their best efforts with us.

We loved how *The Blue Heron*, is based on close observation, and how teeming with vivid imagery, the narrator succeeds in capturing a moment in the life of the heron with an admirable understated delicacy.

The poem *Determination* discloses new facets and technical mastery. This is a perfect sonnet polished up with a fresh sea breeze and a successful play on words.

Member Profile

by Susan Jensen

Jakob Hundborg could be described as the “museum guard who knew too much.” A native of Elsinore, Denmark (home to Hamlet’s castle), 47-year-old Jakob realized he had an unusually good memory at a young age.

At seven, Jakob declared he wanted to be an omnologist (a person who knows everything). Bent Larsen, the Danish chess grandmaster, became his role model, because Mr. Larsen was said to know something about everything and everything about chess.

Jakob became an excellent chess player but his interest has waned since computer preparation became part of high level chess competitions.

Jakob’s many interests include vexillology (the study of flags) - he has memorized more than 500 flags.

While Jakob has a great memory for random facts and numbers (his record: 43 random facts memorized in one reading), he also has an unusual ability to “connect the dots” and see patterns in culture, film, art, food and science.

He has deeply explored many areas on his own and also through formal education: music, archeology, gastronomy and film. Jakob has also devoted many years to the study of molecular gastronomy, a subdiscipline of food science that investigates the physical and chemical transformations of ingredients that occur in cooking. He also has a degree in Film and Media (he did

his thesis on the TV show *Seinfeld*), and has also studied neuroscience, sociology and communication. He earns a living as a museum guard and spends most of his time following his many intellectual interests.

Jakob’s many interests include the Cambridge Brain Sciences’ ongoing exploration of different types of intelligence: reasoning, language and memory. The CBS website offers many brain tests in these areas that Jakob enjoys. Knowing the brain needs to be used to keep it sharp, Jakob tries to be aware of random sights on his daily bike rides, then tries to recall the order of 100-120 scenes he has observed on each trip. He is working on a book about the loss of human connection in the digital age.

Jakob hopes Danish society will become more supportive of the special needs of gifted children. He joined Mensa two years ago and feels this is his true tribe. Especially in a culture like Denmark’s, Mensa plays a pivotal role in helping gifted youth and adults feel supported and accepted.

SJ



The Anthropocene and the rise of Homo Stultus

by Chris Macdonald

We have been on quite an adventure: from the first, humble hominini who split from the chimpanzee, to Australopithecus who created stone tools, to Homo erectus who tamed fire.

These key developments on the hominin timeline are millions of years apart. However, in just a handful of decades, we have made gigantic technological leaps like never before; we have constructed vast electronic networks for instant global communication, advanced sequencing models that map the human genome, and a giant underground particle accelerator that helps us to better understand the building blocks of the universe. In short, as of late, we have been busy. We could even argue that we have been rather intelligent (even if we do say so ourselves). But have we been wise?

Homo sapiens, what many would call our current form, is a title that one should be proud to be awarded. From Latin, it translates to wise being. However, 'wise' can be a complicated and rather subjective label, often misused in place of 'intelligent'. And the difference between being wise and being intelligent is an important distinction to make. For example, developing a virus from scratch could involve a lot of intelligence but if the scientist were to inject that virus into

themselves to test the strength of a needle, that wouldn't be very wise.

Therefore, we could look at intelligence as a tool, one we can use to solve problems. And we could look at wisdom as what we chose to do with that tool. If we use our abilities with good judgement, then we could be appropriately awarded the title of wise beings.

And so, have we been using our abilities with good judgement? At an individual level, there are certainly many who have done great things, but as a species, we Homo sapiens have shown examples of monumental foolishness. Namely, negativity impacting our home planet. In fact, we have made such a significant impact to our environment that our current geological age, the Anthropocene, is named after us.

Half of the Earth's original forest cover has gone, and every year we Homo 'Sapiens' destroy millions of acres more. We have already annihilated over 80% of wild mammals and every year we continue to render thousands of species extinct. With our current rate of soil degradation, we may only have 60 years left of arable farming. And our current fishing practices may no longer be possible in just 30 years. We have built toxic waterways, plastic islands, and concrete forests. We consume far more than our planet can regenerate. The harmful emissions we create have already killed millions of

people and will harm and kill many millions more if we do not change our ways. In short, we are unsustainable. We are destroying the vital ingredients of life. Despite a wealth of opportunities, we are making poor choices. We are not being wise. Thus, perhaps it might be more suitable if we had the title of Homo stultums (foolish beings), ones who have enormous potential but are not using good judgement.

As a conscious species, ones who can shape our climate, we are posed with some powerful questions: what environment do you want to create? What type of species do you want to be?

The coronavirus has shown us that the vast majority can make some pretty tough changes when required. We can follow the science. We can make wise choices that benefit others. However, the climate and ecological crisis poses a different question: Can we embrace the challenge of change without it being enforced?

On a rock, hurtling through space, it is unbelievably fortunate that we find ourselves in this unique conscious form: apes with giant brains and unimaginable untapped potential. A being who is given this rare and beautiful opportunity to make great choices.

Chris Macdonald is a British Mensan, scientist and author

New clues about the link between stress and depression

Researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden have identified a protein in the brain that is important both for the function of the mood-regulating substance serotonin and for the release of stress hormones, at least in mice. The findings, which are published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*, may have implications for the development of new drugs for depression and anxiety.

After experiencing trauma or severe stress, some people develop an abnormal stress response or chronic stress. This increases the risk of developing other diseases such as depression and anxiety, but it remains unknown what mechanisms are behind it or how the stress response is regulated.

The research group at Karolinska Institutet has previously shown that a protein called p11 plays an important role in the function of serotonin, a neurotransmitter in the brain that regulates mood. Depressed patients and suicide victims have lower levels of the p11 protein in their brain, and laboratory mice with reduced p11 levels show depression- and anxiety-like behaviour. The p11 levels in mice can also be raised by some antidepressants.

The new study shows that p11 affects the initial release of the stress hormone cortisol in mice by modulating the activity of specific neurons in the brain area hypothalamus. Through a completely

different signalling pathway originating in the brainstem, p11 also affects the release of two other stress hormones, adrenaline and noradrenaline. In addition, the tests showed that mice with p11 deficiency react more strongly to stress, with a higher heart rate and more signs of anxiety, compared to mice with normal p11 levels.

“We know that an abnormal stress response can precipitate or worsen a depression and cause anxiety disorder and cardiovascular disease,” says first author Vasco Sousa, researcher at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet. “Therefore, it is important to find out whether the link between p11 deficiency and stress response that we see in mice can also be seen in patients.”

The researchers believe that the findings may have implications for the development of new, more effective drugs. There is a great need for new treatments because current antidepressants are not effective enough in many patients.

“One promising approach involves administration of agents that enhance localised p11 expression, and several experiments are already being conducted in animal models of depression,” says Per Svenningsson,



professor at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet, who led the study. “Another interesting approach which needs further investigation involves developing drugs that block the initiation of the stress hormone response in the brain.”

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/10/201002105749.htm>

Send your news and articles of interest to the Mensa World Journal!

mwjeditor@mensa.org

supplementally...

by john blinke

Durrington Shafts

Archaeology, September/October 2020, p. 20. "Stonehenge's New Neighbor."

The sacred precinct around Stonehenge continues to grow as archaeologists study the area with sophisticated sensing devices. The newest find is a circle of twenty enormous shafts surrounding the Durrington Walls site, which is a couple of miles away from Stonehenge. The pits are 33 feet wide and 16 feet deep. They could have been meant to guide pilgrims to the henge, or to warn others to stay away.

Batten Down the Hatches!

Science News, August 7, 2020. "Predictions for the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Just Got Worse." Atlantic storms get names when their winds reach 63 kph. In early August, we already had nine named storms. We usually don't have that many until October. Experts predict we will have around 25 named storms this season - twice the historical average. Is global warming responsible? Scientists will decide that after the season ends and we have final numbers.

Beetle Bot

Science News, August 19, 2020. "Methanol Fuel Gives This Tiny



Beetle Bot the Freedom to Roam."

A beetle-sized robot could be a great search and rescue tool if you can give it enough power. Batteries at that scale would only last for a few seconds, and tethers are clumsy. So scientists found a way to power a beetle bot with methanol. The bugbot's engine is a wire made of titanium-nickel alloy coated with platinum. When puffs of methanol hit the wire, it catalyzes combustion which heats the wire and makes it contract. Repeating this process lets the bot walk for an hour. This beetle bot can carry more than two times its own weight, but it cannot be steered. The next version should be more capable.

Caribou Academy

Archaeology, September/October 2020, p. 21. "Reindeer Training." Scientist from University of Alberta, working in Siberia, dug up 2,000-year-old mystery things that resembled spiky boomerangs. There

was no clue as to what they might have been used for, until the scientists learned that modern-day herders use very similar objects to train reindeer. When these punishing things are attached to the animals' gear, reindeer learn

that fighting the harness is a bad idea. Previous evidence of reindeer herding went back only to about AD1200.

Electric Chemistry

New Scientist, August 15, 2020. "Can Static Electricity Make Chemistry More Efficient – and Greener?" Many chemical reactions can only be used effectively if catalysts are employed to speed them up. But catalysts are messy and often expensive. They must be separated from the product and reclaimed. But chemical reactions are electrical in nature. So some scientists are trying to use static electrical fields as catalysts. There have been some successes using this approach, but only in a laboratory setting. Researchers have tried using charged plastic sheets to apply electric fields to chemicals, but better methods are needed. If this can be made to work well, it could lead to a green chemical revolution.

Super Bricks

ScienceDaily, August 11, 2020.
"Storing Energy in Red Bricks." (Nature Communications)
What we need to change the world are more great ideas. Here is one: Use cheap red building bricks to store energy. Scientists at Washington University in St. Louis are doing this by turning the bricks into supercapacitors. They coat bricks with a conductive polymer known as PEDOT and it soaks into the porous structure. Then you can charge the bricks with electricity from, say, a bank of solar cells. As a demonstrator, the researchers show one of the bricks powering a green LED. It is important to use common red bricks for this because iron in the red pigment drives the polymerization.

Lava Tubes

ScienceDaily, August 5, 2020. "Lava Tubes on Mars and the Moon are so Wide They Can Host Planetary Bases."
Fresh lava can flow across the landscape in huge ropy tendrils. As it travels, the outer part freezes solid and the interior continues to flow through a self-creating tunnel. After the lava solidifies completely, hollow tubes of rock remain. These are found in many volcanic areas of Earth. We also see them on Mars and on the moon, where they are vastly bigger because of the low gravity. Terrestrial lava tubes are up to 30 metres wide. Those on the moon can be a thousand times bigger!

Everybody likes to speculate about what happened to the dinosaurs. According to geophysicist guest Joanna Morgan on the Science Rules podcast (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/science-rules-with-bill-nye/id1460716677?i=1000487977496>), anything near the impact site was simply obliterated. A bit farther away, it was flash burned by an incandescent plume caused by the impact. Beyond that, tsunamis did a lot of damage. If you were in Siberia, the ground shaking would only feel like a truck passing by. But the dust cloud would blot out the sun in a few hours and continue for up to 15 years. Global fires would go on for years because the dimmed sunlight would weaken vegetation, making it vulnerable to ignition by lightning strikes! **JB**

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THERESE'S TEASERS

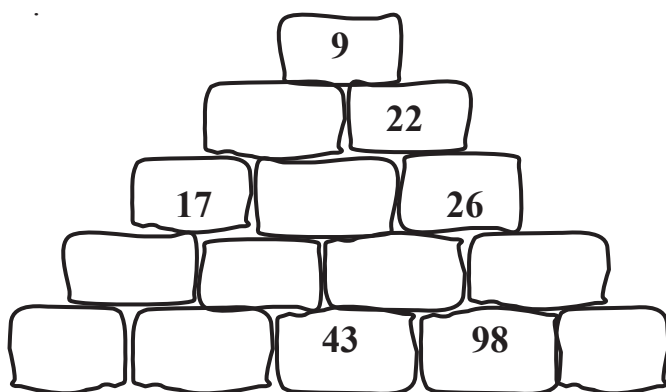
Cryptosum

Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.

				27
				16
				21
				17
27	21	14	19	?

Cairn

The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. There is a two-digit number in each of the bottom stones, using the digits 0-9 once each.



Rebus

Decipher the rebus to find a phrase:



Dire diet

Rob weighs 60 kilos plus a third of his own weight. His brother Ron weighs 70 kilos plus half his own total weight. If both go on a diet and Ron loses 20% of his current total weight, and Rob gains 20 kilos, who is the heavier, and by how much?

Anagram Riddle

Five letters have I, you can change them around

To find words which vary by more than a sound:

- *Notions; those things that come from your head;*
- *Assistants, supporters (though not to be led)*
 - *Apart; to the side; or quietly said*

Now that you've solved me, what words have you found?

Answers

Cryptosum: 20 (9 + 6 + 4 + 1) **Cairn:** 26 50 43 98 17
Rebus: In the middle of Nowhere **Dire diet:** Ron by 2kg. He will be 112 kg to Rob's 110. **Anagram Riddle:** Ideas Aides Aside

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