

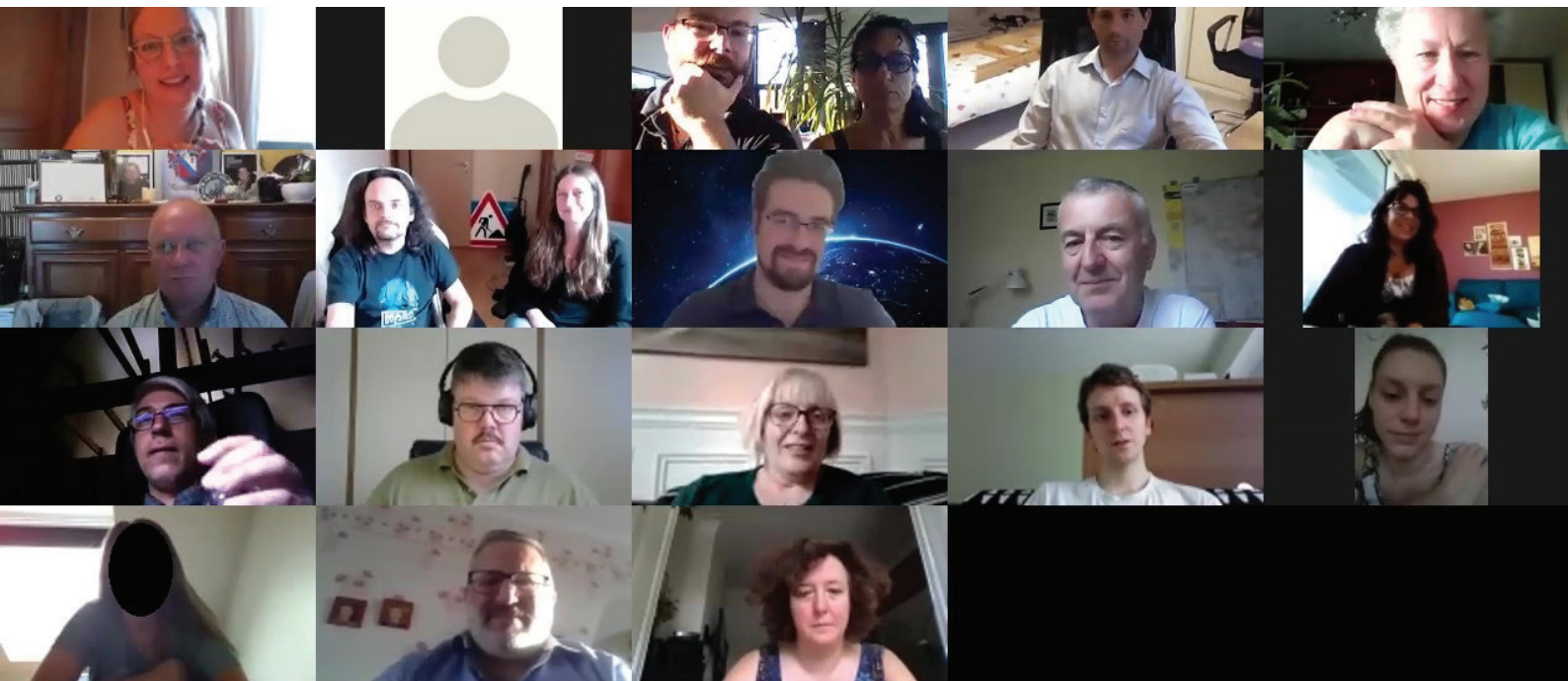


MENSA
INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 2020

ISSUE NO. 091

MENSA WORLD JOURNAL



**what are we doing during the COVID-19
pandemic?**

**we're doing everything we can to stay together in our
Mensa family!**

what's in the MWJ this month...

* *Mensa International's Workplace initiative is thriving; updates on p02!*

* *Kishore Asthana is concerned about what his young granddaughter will have to learn in her lifetime and more importantly, what he hopes she won't 'unlearn'. Have a look at his thoughts on p04.*

* *In an interesting and thought-provoking article, young Australian member, 16-year old Samuel Bevacqua, puts forth his theory of how COVID-19 has exposed the flaws of capitalism (p06).*

* *Our member profile for this month is Italian member, Andrea Docimo. Andrea is a gifted musician, was an outstanding Maths and Physics student and has now turned to journalism specialising in restaurant/food reviews (p07).*

* *On p08, Inham Hassen alerts us to a medical study that may put an end to the age-old debate regarding anaesthetics and consciousness.*

* *It's never too late to lace up some sneakers and work up a sweat for brain health according to a recent study! Find out more on p09.*

* *Scientists now believe that plate tectonics originated a billion years before previously estimated. Our science guru tells us more (p10)*

* *DSNM director, Mark Dettinger, gives us a window into how Mensa is faring under the COVID-19 siege (p3)*

* *And on a lighter note, Therese's Teasers are here for all you cryptic-puzzle-lovers on p12!*

Kate Nacard, Editor

Members | Volunteers | Groups | Chat | Intelligence

-Join the new online community for Mensa International-

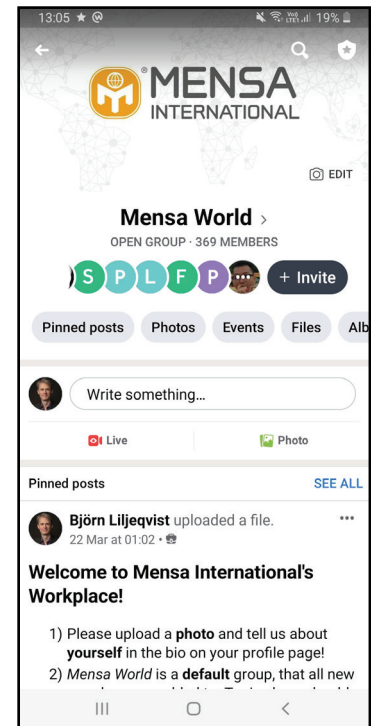
As of June, 430 members have joined and it's growing fast. **Workplace by Facebook** is a service for companies and organisations – a top-notch social network entirely to ourselves, Mensa members only. Find like-minded people from all over the world to engage with. No subject too deep, no joke too high-brow. You'll want to download the (free) mobile Workplace app to stay up to date. Join groups that you like, or start one of your own. Here's a small selection of existing groups: Education & Career, Books, Investments, Movies&Series, Anime, Chess, Equestrians, Languages, Puzzles, Philosophy, Gifted Children, Cats, Photography, Linux, Latinoamérica, Martial arts, and much more. The biggest group, Mensa World, is for everything related to intelligence and Mensa.

To sign up, you need a Mensa.org e-mail address: `firstname.lastname@member.mensa.org`. You get one for free at www.mensa.org/user/vanity-email. If you use that address when you register, you are automatically recognized as a Mensa member.

Cover photo

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mensa Belgium, like many member groups around the world, has been holding Zoom meetings. This screenshot is of a virtual lecture followed by a cocktail party held on June 3.

Alice Fourez, a clinical psychologist



Easy! Join here: <https://mensainternational.workplace.com/>

By the way – did you know Mensa's International Board of Directors has been using Workplace since December? Follow their ongoing public sessions on Workplace and learn more of the governance of the world's largest high IQ society.

Welcome!

The Mensa Workplace Team

and local manager in Liege for Mensa Belgium, gave a lecture based on current scientific knowledge regarding the correlation between high IQ and high potential.

Cocktails were enjoyed after a question-and-answer session.

Thank you, **Thierry Marchand** for the photo!

from the excomm...

Under siege

As the novel coronavirus has swept around the world in the past months, almost no National Mensa has been spared. As I am writing this, Mensa is still feeling the effects of the pandemic, and as much as we would like to focus on other things, there is just no escape from this all-dominating topic.

As one of the first steps, starting in March, many National Mensas suspended their local events and test sessions, either because their government demanded it or because it seemed the right thing to do. Today, events and testing efforts have been resumed in some countries, albeit with limits on the number of participants and appropriate safety measures.

Several Annual Gatherings, notably American Mensa's AG in July and the EMAG in August, had to be cancelled or postponed by a full year, respectively, when it became clear that there was no way of holding these gatherings. Some of the smaller Mensas moved their Annual Gathering to a later date in the year in the hope that the situation will have improved by then.

In the case of Japan, a particular problem arose. Mensa Japan held an election in January. Their constitution demands that any election result must be approved at the following general assembly (GA),

and only if the result is approved there, will power be transferred to the newly elected committee. This GA was originally planned for March, but then had to be cancelled. Without a GA the elected committee could not assume office. Postponing the GA to November, which was suggested by some members, was seen by others as an excessive delay. In the end, Mensa Japan decided to hold a virtual GA in May, using the Zoom webinar system for more than 500 attendees. My thanks go to former chairman Yoshiyuki Takano for successfully managing this GA and to Kiyotaka Miyano, the new chairman, for his patience during the turbulent months leading to the GA.

One open question for Mensa International is whether the 2020 IBD meeting in Montenegro can take place in October as planned or will have to be held as a virtual meeting as well. Fortunately, Montenegro has handled the crisis exceptionally well, so hosting the meeting will probably not be a problem. It is much more questionable whether all delegates will be allowed to travel there. We might have to go for a mix of real-life and virtual gathering.



Another question that worries some National Mensas is how many members will let their memberships lapse, when Mensa cannot offer any major events in the near future. Actually I doubt that many will. Being a member of Mensa is not only about access to events, after all. It is about being part of a community. And this is highly valuable, particularly now, even if we are limited to local events and to our online platforms for a while. This pandemic too shall pass, and we will meet again.

Floreat Mensa!

Mark Dettinger
Director Smaller National Mensas
DSNM-mil@mensa.org

what to learn, and what to not ‘unlearn’

by Kishore Asthana

My granddaughter is six years old now. She will be just 86 years old in March 2100. I say, ‘just’ because, by then, I expect 86 to be what 76 – which I will be soon – is now.

I was six years old in 1951. We used to live in small towns and had none of the things at home that we take for granted today. We had no TV, refrigerator or air conditioners. Air travel was something I had only heard about. Calculators, home computers, mobile phones, wifi, internet etc. had not even been invented then. Most of the modern medical equipment was unheard of. Over the last 69 years, I have seen things become a part of my life that could only be considered as miracles by a six-year-old in 1951. Then there are lasers, quantum physics, advances in neurology and so many other things that I do not quite understand. No one could have taught me about these.

How should we educate my granddaughter, then, so that she can grow and learn to not only adopt new developments that we cannot even foresee at this time, but even contribute to their development?

She must learn the basics of course, for the future will be built on the foundation of the present. Schools are there for this. However, the more I look at my own childhood and learn about learning, the more I think that, while learning is important, preventing ‘unlearning’ is even more important. Let me explain.

Pablo Picasso said, “All children are born artists, the problem is to remain an artist as we grow up.” Our education system emphasizes the learning of STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Yes, these are important but not exclusively so. My granddaughter should know the basics of course and pursue these subjects further if she is interested. However, we must not teach her these in a way that she unlearns the art in her.

I have seen how she dances when playing a music video and am reminded of Gillian Lyle. Gillian used to keep fidgeting in her class, did not pay attention and did not perform well in her studies. Fortunately her mother found a psychiatrist who left Gillian alone with music playing on a radio and showed her mother how she danced. She was enrolled in a dance school and went on to become a dancer, actress and choreographer of shows like *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Perhaps if she had been six years old in 2020, she may not have had the same good fortune. She might even have been diagnosed with ADHD and medicated till she even stopped dancing in her mind.

My granddaughter may not become the next Gillian but we must not let her become a victim of this kind of misdiagnosis. We need to keep her dance alive till she is old enough to decide what career path she wishes to pursue.

Creativity is something that comes naturally to most children. We make them unlearn this through routine classes, unimaginative curriculums, mediocre teachers and pressure for conformity. We have to make sure that my granddaughter’s creativity is encouraged and not unlearned.

Though she revels in her friends, I think that inside her she is more of an introvert than an extrovert. Most educators tend to view this quality negatively. With their emphasis on teamwork and groupthink, they tend to underestimate the power of being an introvert. Introverts have helped change the world. Albert Einstein, who said, “The monotony and solitude of a quiet life stimulates the creative mind” was an introvert. So were Rosa Parks, Tesla, Newton, Darwin, Chopin etc. Amongst those we know so well in the present world, we have introverts like Steven Spielberg. Warren Buffett, Google’s Larry Page, Facebook’s Mark Zuckerberg and many others.

Introverts need not remain confined to their own rooms. They can do quite well in public life too. Abraham Lincoln, Gandhi, Al Gore and Barack Obama are just a few such examples.

Steve Wozniak, who cofounded Apple, said in his book *iWoz*, “I’m going to give you some advice that might be hard to take. That advice is: Work alone. Not on a committee. Not on a team.”

Being an introvert is a powerful

asset indeed. While I would like my granddaughter to learn how to get along with others and be comfortable in group situations, she must not unlearn being an introvert. This is one of her strengths.

As part of Mensa, I deal with intelligent people regularly. Based on my experience, I feel that my granddaughter is an intellectually gifted child. This is good. However, this is not enough. Research has found that in order to be happy and successful – not always the same thing – a well developed emotional quotient (EQ) is often even more important than IQ. Moreover, unlike IQ that tends to remain the same over the years and even starts declining during advanced age, EQ has the potential to be learnt and retained throughout one's life.

Peter Salovey and John Mayer have defined EQ, as “the ability to monitor one's own and other people's emotions, to discriminate between different emotions and label them appropriately, and to use emotional information to guide thinking and behavior”. This includes qualities such as self-awareness, motivation and empathy. This also includes social skills, which, as an introvert, my granddaughter will need to focus on even more than others.

Unfortunately, our schools emphasize IQ and almost totally ignore EQ. I would like my granddaughter to keep her intelligence well honed but also combine it with high emotional intelligence. This can be encouraged through proper parenting and mentoring which, I am glad to see, is being done well at this time. This can further be strengthened when she is older, by other means such as watch-

ing relevant videos, participating in talks etc.

Apart from other positives, high emotional intelligence will be especially useful in the world at this moment. It will enable her to tell who is lying to her and who she can trust. It will also tell her to discriminate between the widespread fake news on social media and the truth. It will tell her how to read body language and, even more importantly, how to use body language more effectively. Apart from this, it will help her decide when to act and how, under different situations. She can also use her EQ to regulate her own emotions and those of others she is interacting with. A valuable asset indeed.

Finally one of the most important things I would not like her to unlearn is her curiosity and desire to learn, which is so very evident just now. Often our rather boring and pedestrian school curriculum can kill these critical qualities. We have to encourage her and ensure that her love of learning new things keeps alive and active throughout her life.

I will not be physically with her in the year 2100. However, wherever I am, I will be watching and hoping that life has treated her well and that she has got out of it as much fulfilment as she could, through maximizing her innate potential. If we take care of the points mentioned above, I hope she will be able to do so.

Kishore Asthana
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Kishore is a former President of Mensa India

Writing for the MWJ

The Mensa World Journal is your magazine and it would be wonderful if you were to share your thoughts with the rest of the Mensa world.

By and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans - for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to me at mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include a hires photo to accompany the article, your National Mensa and your membership number.

Has Mensa helped you in any way during the Covid-19 crisis? If so, we'd love to hear from you! Send your experiences to me at mwjeditor@mensa.org

The Capitalist Crown of Thorns

Young Australian Mensan, 16-year old Samuel Bevacqua, puts forth his theory of how COVID-19 has exposed the flaws of capitalism...

The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic is having a multitude of tragic and devastating health and economic effects. These calamities cannot be celebrated and should not be understated in any way. It is my contention that COVID-19 has brought about a radical reassessment of the capitalist foundations of developed economies such as ours and exposed the weaknesses in those foundations.

First, at its heart, capitalism relies on market-driven assessments of supply and demand to attribute value to work and goods and services. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen Hollywood superstars, sport stars, and multinational company CEOs among those most richly rewarded with wealth and attention because of these market-driven assessments. However, COVID-19 has fundamentally challenged these capitalist attributions of real value. Almost as soon as the pandemic started, these shining lights of capitalist value faded into the background. In their place, as pinnacles of value, emerged doctors, nurses, front-line retail service staff and transporters of essential goods. It has very quickly been demonstrated that without these individuals, both our society and our capitalist economy rapidly crumble.

Similarly, during the pandemic, goods considered highly valuable and essential such as oil and petroleum have become virtually valueless over-

night. Previously invaluable services like international travel have come to a grinding halt. Instead, store shelves have been stripped of staples such as flour, rice and pasta, and personal hygiene products such as toilet paper. There has been no run on demand for designer handbags or Ferraris. Again, this shows how COVID-19 has essentially upended the value capitalism has in the past attributed to goods and services.

The pandemic has also raised direct questions as to whether the wealth built upon capitalist monopolies over previously valued commodities and services exposed as valueless during the pandemic is rational or justified, whilst recognising the growing significance of technological goods and services such as video-conferencing and home-entertainment technologies and platforms.

Extrapolating from these effects, the COVID-19 pandemic also shows that other existential challenges such as transitioning away from a carbon-emission-centred economy to deal with climate change are not necessarily as economically challenging or prohibitively expensive as our previously unfettered capitalist system had adjudged.

Similarly, other underlying values upon which our capitalist market-driven economy is based have been seismically rattled by COVID-19. For example, in our capitalist system, the role of social welfare is limited to

providing support for those affected by rare instances of 'market failure' such as where, due to economic structural change, a person's skills make them fundamentally unemployable. As an example, think of blacksmiths with the rise of the industrial revolution. However, in a COVID-19 setting the role of social financial support has shifted to one based on need rather than market-based assessments of merit due to any market failure. Consequently, support has been extended to a range of circumstances previously not thought feasible within an unfettered capitalist setting.

The quantum of support has also been raised to recognise a social obligation to ensure all those in need are adequately supported rather than simply supplying subsistence levels of financial support to provide an economic incentive for re-entry into the individualist self-supporting market-system as soon as possible.

Perhaps most significantly, however, COVID-19 - for the first time in living memory - has challenged citizens and leaders to recognise two fundamental tenets: (1) that the capitalist economy is here to serve society – not vice versa; and (2) society and economy are not analogous. These patently evident truths had arguably been lost or disregarded in the pursuit of abstract economic targets such as arbitrary economic growth targets or politically driven pursuits

continued. on p11

Member Profile

by Susan Jensen

Andrea Docimo, the 26 year old Local Secretary of the Campania branch of Italian Mensa, likes to turn his passions into occupations.

Andrea, a gifted baritone, auditioned for Sancarlini Oro, the youth choir of San Carlo theatre, in Napoli, and performed with them for six months until his studies interfered. An outstanding Math and Physics student, he gave up the idea of professional singing at age 19 to pursue university studies in Aerospace Engineering. He hopes to resume performing one day, but for now the demands of work as an aerospace engineer and food critic do not leave time for the stage.

Andrea grew up in a home where food was a daily sensual pleasure. He took an interest in cooking at an early age and enjoyed reading about food and trying out new dishes.

Four years ago, Andrea decided to turn his passion for food into a second occupation. He began writing reviews of restaurants, pubs and pizzerias which were published in various Italian food blogs. He also attended many courses on specific products to have a deeper understanding of what he wrote about.

Two years ago, after writing 99 restaurant articles, he became a licensed “pubblicista” journalist and obtained a freelance job writing for the prestigious *Il Mattino* newspaper. Soon, he was writing for other well-known Italian food magazines such as *Gambero Rosso* and *Fermento*

Birra. Together with *Factory*, an international social media agency based in Caserta, Italy, Andrea launched an international online food publication, *TheGoosto.it*. In March this year. This website contains reviews of places to eat and drink, recipes, and articles on food, lifestyle and events.

Andrea first heard about Mensa at the age of 16. He took the Mensa exam three years ago, and dived into Mensa events. At the autumnal Italian Mensa Meeting in Palermo, in 2019, Andrea met his future fiancée, Valentina, who is now his partner in sampling the cuisine of different restaurants. Right now, Andrea’s company (Akka Technologies) has him stationed in France and Andrea is exploring French food.

Andrea has been Loc Sec for the Campania chapter of Mensa Italia since July 2019. Mensa Italia has wonderful national events, and Andrea is trying to expand the diversity and number of local Mensa events because “a healthy tree needs strong roots.”

Andrea practises Muay Thai, a form of martial arts, and is passion-



ate about chess and esotericism. Like so many Mensans, Andrea wants to always be expanding and exploring.

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MWJ01](http://bit.ly/MWJ01)*

How do anaesthetics affect consciousness?

A recent discovery puts a century-old debate to rest

by Inham Hassen

Anaesthesia is a medically induced state of controlled and temporary loss of awareness or sensation. Modern surgery is practically impossible without anaesthesia. The technique of administering some form of sedative to perform procedures, which may otherwise be painful, has been around for at least five thousand years. Archaeologists have discovered evidence of herb cultivations for use as anaesthetics in Ancient Babylonia, Mesopotamia and Egypt, as early as 3000 BC.

Modern anaesthesia is administered via specifically designed drugs, which act on different but interconnected parts of the nervous system to induce a lack of sensation, a temporary loss of consciousness and relaxation of muscles. Although the medication and apparatus have changed over time, the principle of anaesthesia has remained the same for about 175 years. Despite being applied for over a century-and-a-half, exactly how anaesthetics render patients temporarily unconscious and bring them back to normal in time, is a phenomenon that has been unexplained and debated.

Scientists know that the brain interprets pain and sensation through signals that are received from each

part of the body. They are also aware that anaesthetics act on cell membranes. Whether they act directly on the cell membranes to block signals from traversing through cells or whether anaesthetics persuade cells to send different signals, has been a topic of debate. Scientists from Scripps Research Institute claim to have made a breakthrough discovery, which will lay this century-old debate to rest.

“The researchers explain that this is similar to the way billiard balls move away from each other from their tight cluster, during the opening break shot.”

Researchers Richard Lerner, MD, and Scott Hansen, PhD, carried out an experiment using a modern nanoscale microscope known as dSTORM – the same technology that was used for Nobel prize-winning research. The researchers observed that exposing extracted living cells to chloroform caused the lipid clusters called GM1 in the cell membrane to change the way the clusters were organized.

The researchers explain that this is similar to the way billiard balls move away from each other from their tight cluster, during the opening break shot. Dr. Hansen observed that the lipid clusters shifted from a tightly packed pattern (similar to the way billiard balls are laid out initially), to a disrupted pattern, after getting exposed to chloroform. This

process emanated an enzyme called PLD2.

This time around, Dr. Hansen tagged the PLD2 enzyme molecules with a phosphorescent chemical. As lipid clusters moved away from each other after getting exposed to chloroform, just the way billiard balls did after getting hit by the cue ball, the now phosphorescent PLD2 enzyme moved to another lipid cluster called PIP2. When this happened, the PIP2 cluster activated potassium-ion channels known as TREK1. The activation of TREK1 freezes the ability of neurons to fire, which leads to the loss of consciousness in the individual. The researchers went ahead to corroborate their findings on a living creature, which they managed to substantiate using a common fruit-fly.

In a way, this is the solution for one of the grand old medical mysteries. Though this appears highly academic, these findings pave the path to explore solutions to other practical problems. One example could be the finding of a practical solution to sleep disorders.

Source: Pavel, M.A., Petersen, E.N., Wang, H., Lerner, R.A. & Hansen, S.B. (2020). Studies on the mechanism of general anesthesia. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Available from: <https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/05/27/2004259117>.



Improving your memory with exercise...

It's never too late to lace up some sneakers and work up a sweat for brain health, according to a study published in the May 13, 2020, online issue of *Neurology*[®], the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. The study suggests older adults, even couch potatoes, may perform better on certain thinking and memory tests after just six months of aerobic exercise.

"As we all find out eventually, we lose a bit mentally and physically as we age. But even if you start an exercise program later in life, the benefit to your brain may be immense," said study author Marc J. Poulin, Ph.D., D.Phil., from the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. "Sure, aerobic exercise gets blood moving through your body. As our study found, it may also get blood moving to your brain, particularly in areas responsible for verbal fluency and executive functions. Our finding may be important, especially for older adults at risk for Alzheimer's and other dementias and brain disease."

The study involved 206 adults who prior to starting the six-month exercise intervention worked out no more than four days per week at a moderate intensity for 30 minutes or less, or no more than two days per week at a high intensity for 20 minutes or less per day. They had an average age of 66 and no history of heart or memory problems.

Participants were given thinking and memory tests at the start of the study, as well as an ultrasound to measure blood flow in the brain. Physical testing was repeated at three months, and thinking and physical testing repeated at the end of the six months.

Participants were enrolled in a supervised aerobic exercise program held three days a week. As they progressed through the program, they increased their workout from an average of 20 minutes a day to an average of at least 40 minutes. In addition, people were asked to work out on their own once a week.

Researchers found that after six months of exercise, participants improved by 5.7% on tests of executive function, which includes mental flexibility and self-correction. Verbal fluency, which tests how quickly you can retrieve information, increased by 2.4%. "This change in verbal fluency is what you'd expect to see in someone five years younger," Poulin said.

Before and after six months of aerobic activity, the participants' average peak blood flow to the brain was measured using ultrasound. Blood flow rose from an average of 51.3 centimetres per second (cm/sec) to an average of 52.7 cm/sec, a 2.8% increase. The increase in blood flow with exercise was associated with a number of modest but significant improvements in aspects of thinking that usually decline as we age, Poulin said.



"Our study showed that six months' worth of vigorous exercise may pump blood to regions of the brain that specifically improve your verbal skills as well as memory and mental sharpness," said Poulin. "At a time when these results would be expected to be decreasing due to normal aging, to have these types of increases is exciting."

A limitation of the study was that the people doing the exercise were not compared to a similar group of people who were not exercising, so the results may have been due to other factors, although the researchers tried to control for this by testing participants twice over six months before the start of the program. In addition, some of the exercise was unsupervised, so the amount reported may be unreliable.

The study was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, The Brenda Strafford Foundation Chair in Alzheimer Research, and the Alzheimer Society of Canada Research Program.

Neurosciencenews.com

supplementally...

by john blinke

High on Mentos

C&EN, April 13, 2020. "Putting Some Fizz Into a Family Vacation." Contributed by Tom Ott.

You have probably played with Mentos candy and Diet Coke to make geysers of foam. But have you wondered if the foam would behave the same at different altitudes? A teacher at Spring Harbor University decided to find out. He performed the demonstration many times during drives from Death Valley up to elevations on Pikes Peak and elsewhere. He found that altitude does affect the production of foam: higher altitude equals lower air pressure, which equals more foam. He was even able to make a numerical model of the effect.

On the Plates

Yale News, May 26, 2020. "Yale Finds a (Much) Earlier Birth Date For Tectonic Plates." Contributed by Stephen Darnell.

Earth's crust is broken into seven major plates and a bunch of smaller ones. Plate tectonics is the process by which these plates interact to create the continents and other geological features. Scientists have tried to figure out when the process began, but it isn't easy. Yale scientists think they have a clue in Argon gas. It is inert and heavy, so it doesn't escape from Earth the way lighter gases do. Because it forms from the decay of radioactive Potassium 40, the amount of argon



in the air gradually increases as new continental crust rises to contact the atmosphere. Based on that, Yale scientists now think plate tectonics began 4.4 billion years ago — a billion years earlier than previous estimates.

Make-Do

Science News, May 18, 2020.

"Astronauts May be Able to Make Cement Using Their Own Pee."

It still costs \$10,000 per pound just to get things into orbit above the Earth. If we are going to send stuff to the moon, it will cost more than that. Materials have to be shipped to the moon and then landed without benefit of parachutes. We will have to economize any way we can to minimize cost. That could mean using biological products of astronauts to make building materials. Yes, NASA thinks they can

make concrete out of pee! A lab demonstration has been done using simulated urine and simulated moon soil. The resulting pseudo-concrete was made into a miniature wall for evaluation. The 3D-printed building elements can withstand temperature extremes pretty well in the lab.

Future tests will be done in a vacuum chamber, and then at full size to see if the effort is really worthwhile. At some point, they will have to find out if they can use actual urine instead of the urea solution employed in the lab. Nobody is saying whether enough raw material will be available when moon astronauts are ready for it. (Maybe there is a plan for a lunar Bud Lite concession.)

John Blinke

Graphic courtesy of eepybird.com

(from p06)

of budgetary surpluses. COVID-19 has forced this recalibration.

The market-driven view of globalism has also inherently changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, it has simultaneously broken down the 'traditional' operation of the global economy and, concurrently, strengthened the global community. For example, the passage of goods and services to fuel our capitalist societies has ground to a halt, exposing our true economic strengths and weaknesses. Most starkly this has been demonstrated by bringing into sharp focus our dependence on international supplies of medical and personal protective

equipment but has extended to other critical sectors such as the manufacturing sector more broadly. This has reaffirmed the importance of local production and employment which the law of comparative advantage upon which our market-based system of international trade is based, would previously have deemed uneconomical.

Conversely, the global community has been brought together with a common goal of defeating the pandemic. Many of the usual economically-driven hostilities and quarrels have been paused temporarily, signifying a shift away from the nationalistic self-interest underpinning

capitalist economies in particular. The durability of this effect remains to be seen in the emerging scramble to return to economic 'normality'.

While it is unlikely that these challenges to capitalism exposed by COVID-19 spell the death of our free-market driven economies, it seems clear that for the foreseeable future, our capitalist system will be marked by the lessons of COVID-19. Perhaps ironically, and hopefully, it will wear those lessons as a corona of thorns symbolising the need to ensure our economic goals remain in lockstep and always subservient to our fundamental human needs.

Samuel Bevacqua

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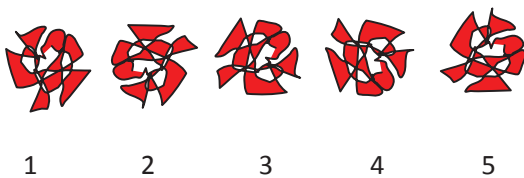
THERESE'S TEASERS

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.

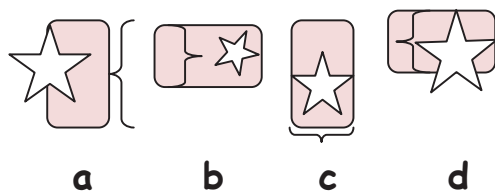
				22
				20
				23
				17
18	18	20	26	?

Odd One Out



1 2 3 4 5

Shape analogy



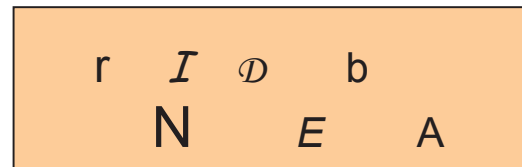
a b c d

Rebus

1. Which legal phrase is represented below?



2. Describing an absent-minded person:



Cryptic Killers

- Two dopes in ...
- Strike cove
- Point owl
- Southern hen
- Massacre Queen?
- Crushed garnets left in, right?
- Half murmur ruins deer, rear first.
- Necklace
- Post Office is on King.
- Bats back, be ready first.
- Fish cad?
- Small parent ends either

Elemental riddle

Selenium, Vanadium, Neon turned back;
They give the age of my brother Jack.
How old is Jack?

Answers

Cryptosum: 15 (5 + 2 + 3 + 5) **Odd One Out:** 3 **Shape Analogy:** d **Rebus:** 1) At this point in time 2) Scatter-brained **Cryptic Killers:** a) Assassin b) Hitman c) Shooter d) Slayer e) Slaughterer f) Strangler g) Murderer h) Choker i) Poisoner j) Stabber k) Garrotter l) Smotherer **Elemental Riddle:** 7. (Se-V-eN)

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