



Concerned Scientists' Weekly News Bulletin [May 25, 2020]

NEWS ITEMS AND ARTICLES

The Hill: [EPA employees allege leadership interference with science in watchdog survey](#)

The report from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that almost 400 respondents in a 2018 survey who were "involved in science" said they had experienced but did not report potential violations of the EPA's scientific integrity policy.

Science: [Will Trump White House tear down journal paywalls? Many anxiously await a decision](#)

The mandate to provide open access to every scholarly article produced with U.S. funding has long been fiercely opposed by some publishers and scientific societies that depend on subscription revenues from journals. But critics of paywalls argue they are expensive and outmoded, and that tearing them down is the best way to advance scientific research.

The Washington Post: [Global emissions plunged an unprecedented 17 percent during the coronavirus pandemic](#)

The wave of lockdowns and shuttered economies caused by the coronavirus pandemic fueled a momentous decline in global greenhouse gas emissions. But scientists don't expect it to last.

Science: [Doubts greet \\$1.2 billion bet by United States on a coronavirus vaccine by October](#)

AstraZeneca has received \$1.2 billion from the Trump Administration as part of "Operation Warp Speed." They say the delivery of 300 million vaccine doses should arrive in October, causing concern among experts about the time needed for clinical trials.

Nature: [Scientists baffled by decision to stop a pioneering coronavirus testing project](#)

Updated FDA guidelines state that at-home sample collection for testing must receive agency authorization. This halts the work of SCAN, the Seattle-based research team that first uncovered coronavirus spreading in the US and made tests available.

The New York Times: ['Expect More': Climate change raises risk of dam failures](#)

Frequency of extreme weather events and increase in precipitation for certain regions threaten many dams across the country. A dam failure on Tuesday caused the evacuation of about 40,000 Michigan residents.

The New York Times: [Virus Crisis Exposes Cascading Weaknesses in U.S. Disaster Response](#)

The pandemic has forced FEMA to launch its first nationwide response effort, facing a shortage of staff, volunteers, and cooperation between states, as well as having to adapt natural disaster response protocols, which often involve the sheltering of large crowds.

API: [Department of Energy shuffles top-level management](#)

The Department of Energy's Office of Science has established the position of principal deputy director, which oversees a set of new offices focused on policy priorities such as crosscutting research, accelerator technology development, diversity and inclusion, and research security.

The Verge: [Twitter won't add 'misleading' label to bad science shared by Trump adviser](#)

The widely shared story was published by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), which presents itself as a non-partisan doctor's association but has opposed mandatory measles vaccination and promoted fringe theories about HIV, smoking, and vaccines.

Living on Earth: [Democrats launch Climate Change Task Force](#)

Former Democratic presidential rivals Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders have jointly chosen progressive and moderate members of a climate task force as part of a party unification effort.

The New York Times: [SpaceX gets go-ahead for NASA astronaut launch next week](#)

NASA has completed the flight readiness review needed to approve SpaceX's launch this upcoming Wednesday, despite the unexpected resignation of the head of the agency's human spaceflight program last week.

Reuters: [Denmark plans to create energy islands in Baltic and North Sea](#)

Denmark plans a more than tripling of its offshore wind capacity by building two energy islands linked to new wind farms in the Baltic and North seas to help to meet climate change targets.

REGIONAL NEWS

WFYI: [Social distancing could put Hoosiers at greater risk for tick-borne illnesses](#)

Karo Omodior, an assistant professor at Indiana University's School of Public Health, and his team have been studying ticks near where people live (and have been spending more time outside) in southern and central Indiana. Nearly 40 percent of the yards and other properties they've sampled had at least one tick and about half of those had established tick populations.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

Bloomberg: [The Pandemic Is Exposing the Limits of Science](#)

The 2008 financial crisis led the public to discover the limits of economics. The Covid-19 pandemic risks having the same effect on scientists and medical doctors.

UN Environment: [Science points to causes of COVID-19](#)

According to the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, "There is a single species that is responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic – us."

The Guardian: [Everyone wants to 'follow the science'. But we can't waste time on blame](#)

Venki Ramakrishnan, the president of the Royal Society, says scientists must not be made scapegoats for policy failures.

The Guardian: [Trump's hydroxychloroquine habit is the triumph of rightwing quackery](#)

Trump represents the nadir of a long tradition of conspiracy theories which have moved from the fringes of the conservative movement into the mainstream of the Republican party.

Politico: [How summer could determine the pandemic's future](#)

With so much confusing data and contradictory political messaging on the reopening before the November elections, there is a road map to follow this summer to know if the fall will be a time of true recovery or deepening despair.

Grist: [Ohio's governor listened to the science on coronavirus. Why not climate change?](#)

While DeWine has been willing to uphold scientific evidence on coronavirus, he has also signed a sweeping rollback of Ohio's clean energy policies, a measure critics called the "worst" anti-renewables law to pass in any state.

AIP: [France Córdova Reflects on Her Tenure as NSF Director](#)

France Córdova about her six years leading the National Science Foundation, including how she handled criticism from lawmakers and the emergence of sexual harassment and research security as top policy concerns.

Science: [Ethics of controlled human infection to address COVID-19](#)

Researchers on developing a comprehensive, state-of-the-art ethical framework for Controlled Human Infection Studies (CHIs) that emphasizes their social value.

TAKE ACTION

Hoosier Action: [Protect Monroe County Residents from COVID-19 Evictions](#)

Demand that the Mayor of Bloomington, the City Council of Bloomington, the Monroe County Commissioners, and the Monroe County Council do everything in their power to prevent evictions as a result of the COVID-19 crisis and to protect those already experiencing homelessness.

Our CSIU news bulletin is intended to provide a brief update on recent news, editorials, as well as action items related to science integrity and science policy. Note that editorial pieces and action items are assembled from a variety of sources and organizations; they do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy priorities of Concerned Scientists @ IU. This week's news bulletin was compiled by ASIU and IU biology major Emma Hand and CSIU member Christoph Irmischer of IU's Department of English. We're looking for volunteers! If you'd like to volunteer—or if you have additional links you'd like to share for future bulletins, send them to Christoph at cirmsche@indiana.edu.

To join our listserv, send an email to csiu-l-suscribe@list.indiana.edu, with the following message in the email body: SUBscribe csiu. To unsubscribe from this list, send an email to csiu-l-unsubscribe@indiana.edu. You can leave the subject line and message blank.