

@ Emergent Futures | New Around the World | What Are We Writing About

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*Extra links that we couldn't fit in this month's newsletter...*



## What's Emerging

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### Does closing roads cut delays?

File this one under "intensely counterintuitive." A recent study has found that closing off certain streets can actually relieve traffic congestion. [Read more...](#)

### Nano-bioelectronics achieved with nanowires, proteins

Researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have created a platform that uses lipid-coated nanowires to build prototype bionanoelectronic devices. The work shows promise for enhancing biosensing and diagnostics tools, neural prosthetics (e.g., cochlear implants), and even future computers. [Read more...](#)

### New barcode system could see the end of ugly stripes

Bokodes, tiny tenth-of-an-inch optical data tags that can hold thousands of times more information than a barcode and be read by the camera on your mobile phone, also offer the advantages of being "readable" from several meters away which means consumers could rapidly get detailed information on a product on a shelf. [Read more...](#)

### The challenge for green energy: how to store excess electricity

For years, the stumbling block for making renewable energy practical and dependable has been how to store electricity for days when the sun isn't shining and the wind isn't blowing. But new technologies suggest this goal may finally be within reach. [Read more...](#)

### Serious fun

"Alternate reality" games mixing puzzles and plot lines, online and off, are becoming more popular with companies and even charities embracing advertising that is fun, not intrusive. [Read more...](#)

### Tastier names trouble for seafood stocks

If the slimehead were still a slimehead, it wouldn't be in this kind of trouble. An arm-long fish with the look of a prehistoric fossil, the slimehead lived in obscurity a quarter-mile deep in the ocean. But then, in the 1970s, seafood dealers came up with a name that no longer tickled the gag reflex. This was the beginning of the "orange roughy." [Read more...](#)

### Lack of vitamin D in children 'shocking'

About 70 percent of U.S. children have low levels of vitamin D, which puts them at higher risk for bone and heart disease, researchers said. [Read more...](#)

### **The home of the future: 8 innovations in store**

For as long as Americans have been paying the mortgage, we've been transfixed by the home of tomorrow. U.S. News asked a handful of experts to sketch out their version of the home of the not-so-distant future. Here's a peek at eight innovations that may be in store. [Read more...](#)

### **New HIV strain discovered in woman from Cameroon**

A new strain of the virus that causes AIDS has been discovered in a woman from the African nation of Cameroon. It differs from the three known strains of human immunodeficiency virus and appears to be closely related to a form of simian virus recently discovered in wild gorillas, researchers report in Monday's edition of the journal Nature Medicine. [Read more...](#)

### **What educators can learn from brain research**

As technology advances, new discoveries based on brain mapping are helping researchers understand how students learn. And those discoveries, in turn, are enriching and informing classroom practices in a growing number of schools. [Read more...](#)

### **Fireproof walls made from ash**

In a sign of true ingenuity, Curtin University of Technology's William Rickard has developed a form of fireproof concrete from a waste by-product of coal fired power stations. [Read more...](#)

### **Rural women battle overwork**

The third national Australian Work and Life Index report has found that the pressures on rural women are increasing, with mothers in rural and regional areas showing some of the worst effects. [Read more...](#)

### **Green Pods for showers and bike parking**

Adding to Australia's bike station innovation comes the Green Pod, a modular facility from Brisbane's Penny Farthings Pushbikes. About the size of a parking space for one car, the Green Pod comes in two configurations: one with a single shower and changing room along with 10 lockers and parking for as many bicycles, and the other with double those facilities. [Read more...](#)

### **Contact high: Lenses that deliver drugs**

Dry-eye sufferers and glaucoma patients may soon be able to trade their messy eye drops for a contact lens that delivers medication gradually over time. [Read more...](#)