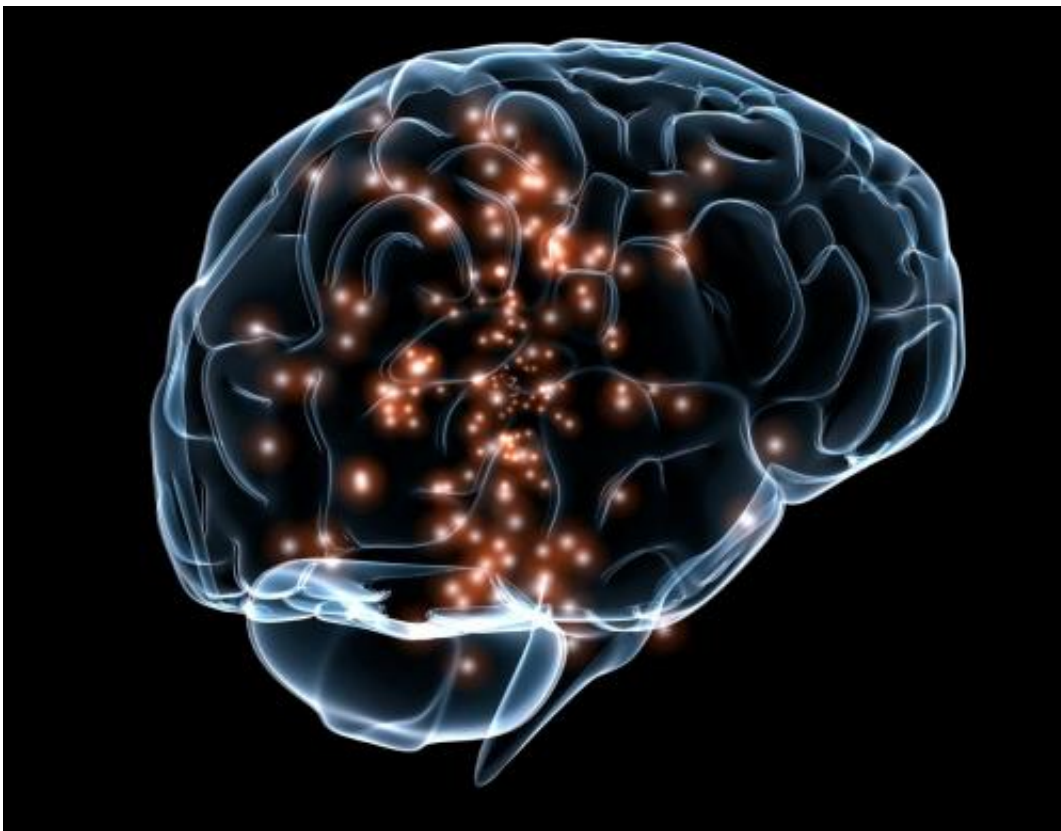


## Best of Last Week – Possible phenomenon beyond Standard Model, Wow! mystery signal solved and alcohol impact on brain

June 12 2017, by Bob Yirka

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Credit: Wikimedia Commons

It was another good week for physics as an international team of researchers offered [new confirmation of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity](#) by using the Hubble Space Telescope to measure shifts in the

apparent position of a star. Also, a team of researchers from several institutions in China demonstrated [solving systems of linear equations with quantum mechanics](#)—offering more evidence that if true quantum computers are ever made, they will likely be able to fulfill expectations. And a team of physicists reviewed [three experiments that hinted at a phenomenon beyond the Standard Model of particle physics](#).

In space news, a team with the Center of Planetary Science announced that [the 'Wow!' mystery signal from space was finally explained](#). Recorded in 1977, the mysterious signal had some suggesting it was evidence of aliens. And Ben Hoscheit, an undergrad at UW-Madison presented the results of his study to the American Astronomical Society that supported the idea that [the Milky Way exists within a cosmological void](#). Also, a team at the University of Zurich announced that they had built [the largest virtual universe ever simulated](#)—cataloguing 25 billion virtual galaxies from 2 trillion virtual particles.

In other news, an international team of collaborators announced that they had developed [a new form of carbon that's hard as a rock, yet elastic, like rubber](#). A team at Queen Mary University of London and Goldsmiths University of London found that they were able to [improve people's creativity through electrical brain stimulation](#) by suppressing a part of brain processing that is normally involved in reasoning. And another international team announced that they had discovered [the oldest Homo sapiens fossils at Jebel Irhoud, Morocco](#).

And finally, if you're under the impression that a glass of wine with dinner every night is healthy, you might want to think again, as a team from the University of Oxford and University College London conducted a study finding that [even moderate drinking is linked to a decline in brain health](#). Long-term consumption of moderate amounts of alcoholic beverages, they claim, resulted in risk for [hippocampal atrophy](#), a form of [brain](#) damage that impacts spatial navigation and memory.

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