Selected Coverage June 2013

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**New York Times** (June 19)

**A Homely Rodent May Hold Cancer-Fighting Clues**
The laboratory of Vera Gorbunova and Andrei Seluanov, a husband-and-wife team of biologists at the University of Rochester, has the feel of a petting zoo. They maintain colonies of several species of rodents – some familiar, like mice and guinea pigs, and some much more exotic, like blind mole rats from Israel and naked mole rats from East Africa. Even the strangest creatures may hold a valuable surprise. And in the latest issue of the journal Nature, Dr. Gorbunova, Dr. Seluanov and their colleagues report a particularly fascinating surprise: Naked mole rats produce a unique compound that appears to block them from getting cancer. (Also Reported in: CBS News, Fox News, BBC News, Newsday, NBC News, redOrbit, ABC News, Huffington Post, Wired, Scientific American, LiveScience.com, Science Magazine, New Scientist, Bloomberg News, Yahoo! News, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, WXXI, others)

**New York Times** (June 21)

**There’s a Fly in My Tweets (opinion)**

By Henry Kautz

For example, my research group at the University of Rochester has analyzed Twitter postings from millions of cell phone users in New York City to develop a system to monitor food-poisoning outbreaks at restaurants. We began by creating algorithms that can identify tweets about a given topic with near-perfect precision, even if the words and phrases used vary widely. The GPS information embedded in tweets sent from cell phones lets us integrate them with a variety of geographic databases. We then feed the information into what we call the nEmesis system, whose development was led by our graduate student Adam Sadilek, now a researcher at Google. It begins by finding tweets that are sent from restaurants, which we can locate on Google Maps with 97 percent accuracy, thanks to GPS coordinates.

Henry Kautz is the chairman of the computer science department at the Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the University of Rochester.

**NBCNews.com** (June 7)

**This ‘invisibility’ cloak could conceal satellites – or hide your kids**

In a paper submitted to the American Journal of Physics, University of Rochester physicist John Howell and his 14-year-old son, J. Benjamin Howell, say such cloaking devices can conceal high-flying satellites. Or Harry Potter. For real. MIT Technology Review’s Physics ArXiv Blog calls the approach “head-slappingly simple.” There are caveats,
however. These methods are basically funhouse-mirror tricks, which rely on precise placement of the apparatus to make objects disappear when seen from a specific vantage point. Howell & Howell admit as much. “Invisibility with mirrors has been done and are YouTube hits,” they say. “The point we wish to emphasize is not the novelty but the ease of scaling to nearly arbitrary size.” (Also Reported in: Mashable, Yahoo! News, Geeky Gadgets)

Reuters (June 11)
J&J’s Stelara effective in psoriatic arthritis trial
Stelara, known chemically as ustekinumab, is already approved to treat psoriasis. The medicine is currently under review for a psoriatic arthritis approval in the United States and Europe. “One of the major unmet needs in psoriatic arthritis is for patients who have an inadequate response to anti-TNF agents or who for whatever reason cannot take anti-TNFs who really don’t have good alternatives,” Dr. Christopher Ritchlin, the study’s lead investigator [and a rheumatologist at the University of Rochester Medical Center], said in a telephone interview. “Those of us who treat large numbers of these patients have been struggling with options,” said Ritchlin, who will present the study results on Wednesday. (Also Reported in: Bloomberg.com)

Yahoo! News (June 1)
Will MOOCs Change Higher Education for the Better?
Professor John Covach teaches a MOOC class about the history of rock music at the University of Rochester. Never heard of a MOOC? It stands for massive open online course. Using innovative technology, MOOCs open up a free learning platform that defies brick and mortar classrooms and the traditional teaching methods such as lectures. Covach, director of the Institute for Popular Music at the university, told TakePart that MOOCs open up higher education to the world. “A lot of people first think that college students would be the most likely students for these courses,” he said. “But if you think about it for a second, you’ll realize that those students already have access to college-level courses. Those who benefit the most are those who are not currently in school, either because they are already in a career or because they perhaps cannot afford school, or maybe just cannot commit the time to regularly-scheduled classes.”

U.S. News & World Report (June 21)
Look Beyond the Sun for Skin Cancer Culprits, Doctors Warn
Think “skin cancer” and blame immediately goes to the sun. Justifiably so – though not totally, skin doctors say. “Hands down, sun exposure is the biggest risk factor for skin cancer,” said Dr. Sherrif Ibrahim, an assistant professor of dermatology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. “And it’s a cumulative risk. The more exposure you’ve gotten, the bigger the risk. The skin doesn’t know if you’re out one time for an hour or 12 times for 5 minutes at a time. Your skin keeps a running meter.” (Also Reported in: WebMD)

National Public Radio (June 26)
Old Safe Reveals Historical Relics For Women’s Suffrage Group
Started in 1888 by suffragettes like Susan B. Anthony, the National Council of Women of the United States still exists today in a small office near the United Nations. Perhaps the loveliest items were six small panels, replicas of huge wall murals of women that were commissioned for the Chicago World’s Fair in 1933. Catherine Cerulli, the director of the Susan B. Anthony Center at the University of Rochester, pointed out that one woman is clearly a Red Cross worker. “They’re historical pictures of women, women caring for others,” she says. “Perhaps these are historical figures.” (Also Reported in: ABC News, Newsday, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Las Vegas Sun, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, and others)

WXXI (June 6)
$1 Million Dollar Donation For The Eastman School of Music
Dean of the Eastman School, Doug Lowry, says the high cost of running a large orchestra has helped lead to the development of smaller ensembles. “There will always be a very robust demand for orchestra music, but I think most people in the business would agree that the
“...business model is, if not flawed, than certainly in need of some correction.”

*Rochester Business Journal (June 26)*

**UR Laser Lab gets bump in funding to $66 million**
The University of Rochester’s Laboratory for Laser Energetics is set to receive $66 million in fiscal 2014, a $7.25 million increase from last year’s funding level, Rep. Louise Slaughter’s office said Wednesday.

*Huffington Post (June 13)*

**Doctors Spill: The ‘Embarrassing’ Women’s Health Questions I Hear Time And Again**
Do I Need To Orgasm In Order To Get Pregnant?
Dr. Wendy Vitek, head of the fertility preservation program at the University of Rochester’s Strong Fertility center, said that a question that comes up a lot is whether an orgasm is necessary in order to become pregnant. For women, the answer is no, she said. But men do have to orgasm and ejaculate in order to get their partner pregnant.

*Science Magazine (June 4)*

**Online Dating Really Can Lead To Love**
Millions of people first met their spouses through online dating. But how have those marriages fared compared with those of people who met in more traditional venues such as bars or parties? Pretty well, according to a new study. A survey of nearly 20,000 Americans reveals that marriages between people who met online are at least as stable and satisfying as those who first met in the real world – possibly more so. Harry Reis, a psychologist at the University of Rochester in New York, is mixed on the findings. “They did control for demographic factors, and that is good,” he says. “But they did not control for personality, mental health status, drug and alcohol use, history of domestic violence, and motivation to form a relationship.” All are known to affect marital outcomes, and people who tend to date online may differ in one or more of these factors, he says. (Also Reported in: Washington Post)

*Los Angeles Times (June 8)*

**Coast 2 Coast pools resources to boost water safety**
Many people are under the impression that a person screams and splashes while going under and losing control, but most drowning accidents are silent, said Dr. Anne Brayer, associate professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. “A study once interviewed parents of children who had drowned, and it was nearly universal that no one had heard anything when the event occurred,” Brayer said.

*WXXI (June 4)*

**U of R President Looks To Build On Success**
University of Rochester President Joel Seligman laid out his vision for the university in the coming months as well as recapping some of its recent accomplishments during an address on Tuesday evening. “Our challenge today is very simple, times have changed, there are new aspects of the external environment, such as real pressure on federal budgets, tremendous concern about tuition.” Seligman says that the university has raised millions of dollars to help ease the cost of tuition for students, and has also kept a lid on costs. Among the external challenges he says the U of R is facing are those involving cuts in federal money, particularly affecting research. (Also Reported in: WHEC-TV)

*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 18)*

**URMC to buy Lakeside Hospital building, other assets**
The University of Rochester Medical Center has struck a deal with Lakeside Health System and First Niagara, the bank holding Lakesides debt, to buy the recently closed Lakeside Hospital building and other Lakeside assets, URMC officials said Tuesday. Specialists URMC plans to send to the Lakeside campus include orthopedic surgeons and urologists. It also plans to run laboratory and radiology services and a pharmacy. (Also Reported in: WROC TV, WHEC-TV, YNN, WHAM 1180 AM, WHAM-TV, Rochester Business Journal, WXXI, MPNow.com)
URMC, Roswell Park announce fellowship program
The University of Rochester Medical Center and Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo plan jointly to mount a two-year cancer surgery fellowship, URMC officials said Thursday. (Also Reported in: YNN, 13WHAM-TV)

NASA Selects Mars Mission Astronaut Hopefuls
The new candidates, as described by NASA, are: Josh A. Cassada, Ph.D., 39, is originally from White Bear Lake, Minn. Cassada is a former naval aviator who holds an undergraduate degree from Albion College, and advanced degrees from the University of Rochester, N.Y. Cassada is a physicist by training and currently is serving as co-founder and Chief Technology Officer for Quantum Opus. (Also Reported in: Christian Science Monitor, Mother Nature Network, Salon, El Paso Times, Denver Post, YNN, 13WHAM-TV, and others)

Lance Reddick, working his way up to ‘White House Down’
It may have been silly, but Reddick has managed to parlay that tomfoolery into a full-blown career with memorable performances in TV shows such as “Oz,” “Fringe,” “Lost” and “The Wire” and his new movie, “White House Down,” due June 28. For a guy who was too shy to even consider performing, he somehow beat the odds. He studied composition at the prestigious Eastman School of Music, the piano his instrument. “Because my parents wanted to give me what they didn’t have, I grew up around a bunch of affluent white kids,” says Reddick.

Eastman Business Park deal could lead to more jobs
The Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council has named the Eastman Business Park its top priority. “The agreement announced today will better enable the park to become what we believe will be one of the nation’s premier centers of technological innovation,” read a statement from the council’s co-chairs, University of Rochester president Joel Seligman and Danny Wegman, CEO of Wegmans Food Markets.

Initial Thoughts
By Jeremy P. Jamieson, Ph.D.
It is safe to say that we have all experienced stress. We typically use the word “stress” to refer to a situation in which we feel pressured, judged, or over-worked. There is a clear negative connotation associated with stress. But what if I told you that not all stress is bad? Would you believe me? Given the strong negative connotation, you might not. However, stress is not always bad, it’s just misunderstood. The goal of this blog is to highlight the many effects of stress – both negative and positive – on behavior, relationships, and decision making by presenting cutting-edge research. This first entry will provide you with some background information and “food for thought.” Subsequent entries will focus on specific topics and research findings.

Jeremy Jamieson, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Rochester. His research seeks to understand how social stress impacts decisions, emotions, and performance. He is particularly interested in using physiological indices of bodily and mental states to delve into the mechanisms underlying the effects of stress on outcomes. Jeremy is also interested in emotion regulation. His research in this area demonstrates that altering appraisals of stress and anxiety can go a long ways towards improving physiological and cognitive outcomes.

Nick Palladino wins Monroe Invitational Championship
Nick Palladino wasn’t fazed one iota by his three-putt at the 18th hole Saturday that, at the time, appeared to cost him a chance to win the 73rd Monroe Invitational Championship. The senior-to-be at the University of Rochester doesn’t let those things bother him, and as he signed a scorecard that totaled only 66 strokes, he sure wasn’t going to lament the extra shot he needed to finish No. 18. “When he walked off the green at 18 at the end of regulation, it wasn’t, ‘Hey, I let it get away,’ it was, ‘Hey, I shot 66’ and he was happy with the
experience and how he played,” said Dan Wesley, the UR golf coach. (Also Reported in: Plain Dealer, Golfweek, 13WHAM-TV, YNN, 8WROC-TV)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 28)
IBM pitches Watson to assist UR health care
Watson, the IBM computer system that triumphed over human competitors on Jeopardy two years ago, is venturing into the health care field. But Watson now wants to help rather than defeat humans. Just how that can be done was explained by IBM officials in an appearance at the University of Rochester Medical Center on Friday. The Big Data, Analytics and Watson Symposium, hosted by UR, discussed Watson in the context of making the best use of the massive amount of information now available for health care. (Also Reported in: YNN, 10WHEC-TV, WXXI)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 16)
Rochester rallied to meet need (guest essay)
By Joel Seligman
Year after year, Rochester is rated one of the top cities in the nation in per capita giving. And this year, especially, Rochesterians have shown just how much they care. Their generous gifts have enabled the United Way Campaign to exceed its $26 million goal by more than $640,000. Given the local economic challenges we face, this was a significant achievement.

Seligman, president of the University of Rochester, is the 2013 Campaign Chair, United Way of Greater Rochester.

CNBC (June 4)
Dodd-Frank? More Like Dud-Frank for Lots of Folks
The Dodd-Frank financial reform bill can’t find much love these days. Three years after being signed into law – and with only about 20 percent of its rules in place – critics and even supporters of the regulation say they find it flawed and convoluted. All this rings hollow for David Primo, a professor of political science and business administration at the University of Rochester. “If Congress really wanted to deal with the problems in the financial system, it would not have a disjointed regulatory process with competing and unclear jurisdictions,” said Primo. “Big banks will be able to maneuver around the complex rules with the aid of very smart lawyers and financial wizards,” Primo said. “But I’m concerned that with all these exceptions being put in place for some of the rules, it will be easier for rogue bankers to create problems at the bigger banks.”

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 30)
Build on success of proven model: Urban-Suburban (guest essay)
Written by Kara Finnigan
Nearlly all of the racial segregation that currently exists occurs among school districts, causing regional inequities in educational opportunity and outcomes. Nationally, eight metropolitan areas have attempted to alleviate these inequities through inter-district choice. Rochester’s Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program (USITP) is the longest standing of these programs, allowing students of color from the city to attend suburban schools. I have worked in partnership with Urban-Suburban for several years to examine access to, implementation of, and outcomes from this program.

Finnigan is associate professor of education policy at the University of Rochester’s Warner Graduate School of Education.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 13)
Rochester General, Excellus to reward doctors for better care
Focus on results is part of a trend that’s changing how doctors are paid. Clement predicted that in five or 10 years, the a la carte, fee-for-service system that reimburses for each procedure performed will be gone. Instead, payments will be bundled and health systems will get a lump sum for taking care of a group of people. Providers will be accountable in that reimbursements will be tied to results.

Since January 2012, the University of Rochester Medical Center has its own arrangement with Excellus for its 108 employed primary care doctors.

MediaPost (June 6)
Analysts: Chrysler Should Bite NHTSA’s Bullet
It is highly unusual for an automaker to diss the U.S. government when it comes to auto recalls, but Chrysler has made big news by doing so. And analysts say it is also making a big mistake.
George Cook, executive professor at the Simon Graduate School of Business at the University of Rochester (and a former Ford marketer), tells Marketing Daily that while Chrysler may have an argument, since “most cars have gas tanks in the rear and any high-velocity rear collision could cause a fire,” Chrysler is rolling the dice big time both with itself and with customers’ lives. “I’d rather take a proactive stance and not put the consumer in the middle.” It could also badly hurt the successful current Grand Cherokee, he notes. “Chrysler Group is back on track, but this could really hurt them.”

Scientific American (June 17)
How to Be a Better Boss
#2 Give employees some control. Psychologists who study management talk about job stress a lot because of all the ways it can affect a company: medical costs, sick days, morale and turnover. Time after time, researchers find that one of the most consistent ways to reduce stress among workers is to offer them a little more autonomy — a sense of control over their own job. Not everyone can set their own hours or cherry-pick duties, but you can offer choice to employees in many other ways, says Edward Deci, a psychology professor at the University of Rochester who has done some of the seminal research on self-determination at work. “If we don’t get rigid as managers or business owners, we can allow for employees to work some things out in terms of what feels good for them,” he says. Allow them to vote on changes as a group, for instance, or ask which of two available shifts they would prefer. The best bosses, Deci says, “make employees feel understood and as if they have some choice in what they do and how they do it.”

Rochester Business Journal (June 6)
URMC’s Flaum Eye Institute receives grant to fund telemedicine program
The University of Rochester Medical Center’s Flaum Eye Institute received a $600,000 grant from the Greater Rochester Health Foundation in support of Rochester Area Tele-I-Care, a pilot telemedicine program. Rajeev Ramchandran M.D., a retinal specialist leading the Tele-I-Care program, said the grant “increases the ability to screen for diabetic retinopathy in our poorest communities,” and “will also identify those patients with vision threatening retinopathy early on to allow for timely vision-saving treatment.”

8WROC-TV (June 14)
Go Green: U of R residence hall earns LEED Gold Certification
When it came to the design and construction of the University of Rochester’s new residence hall, the focus was on sustainability. O’Brien Hall opened up to students in the fall of 2012. Jonathan McCann is the U of R’s Project Manager for Campus Planning, Design and Construction Management. He oversaw the project. “This area was completely transformed by this project,” he said, standing outside the new residence hall. “Essentially you’re standing in what was a parking lot.”

10WHEC-TV (June 3)
More than $4 million raised during Children’s Miracle Network telethon
It was another successful weekend for the Children’s Miracle Network telethon. The telethon wrapped around 11 p.m. Sunday night with a total of $4,030,578 raised. Proceeds are donated each year to Golisano Children’s Hospital. (Also Reported in: 13WHAM-TV, YNN)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (June 13)
Ruling may affect campus diversity
A looming ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court could have far-reaching consequences for efforts to achieve diversity on college campuses. The case concerns a white Texas woman, Abigail Fisher, who contends that she was denied admission to the University of Texas at Austin because race is a factor in the college’s admission policies. The University of Rochester joined nine other selective colleges in filing a brief in support of the University of Texas.