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NBCNews.com (May 23)
People with higher IQs filter out useless info faster, study finds
What distinguishes somebody with high intelligence quotient (IQ) scores, besides the annoying habit of finding a way to inject that fact into almost any conversation? According to a new study from researchers at the University of Rochester, it could be their ability to ignore sensory information, specifically irrelevant information we take in with our eyes. The results, from the lab of neuroscientist Duje Tadin, were a surprise. Tadin and his co-workers were actually trying to explore another question when the results of a small pilot project with 12 people found the correlation between IQ and visual processing efficiency. (Also Reported in: Time Magazine, Daily Mail, Yahoo! News, UPI, BBC Radio, USA Today, Fox News, Science Daily, redOrbit, Daily Kos, and others)

UPI (May 3)
Baboons in U.S. study show human-like abilities with numbers
Ape and human shared traits – opposable thumbs, expressive faces, social systems – are joined by the ability to understand numbers, U.S. researchers say. Scientists at the University of Rochester in New York say a study with a troupe of zoo baboons indicates number abilities are shared by humans and their primate cousins. “The human capacity for complex symbolic math is clearly unique to our species,” brain and cognitive sciences Professor Jessica Cantlon said. “But where did this numeric prowess come from?” (Also Reported in: e! Science News, Nature World News, io9, redOrbit, Science Daily, News-Medical.Net, 13WHAM-TV)

ABC News (May 2)
US suicide rate rose sharply among middle-aged
Another theory notes that white baby boomers have always had higher rates of depression and suicide, and that has held true as they’ve hit middle age. During the 11-year period studied, suicide went from the eighth leading cause of death among middle-aged Americans to the fourth, behind cancer, heart disease and accidents. “Some of us think we’re facing an upsurge as this generation moves into later life,” said Dr. Eric Caine, a suicide researcher at the University of Rochester. (Also Reported in: CBS News, NBCNews.com, Fox News, NPR, Wall Street Journal, Huffington Post, Washington Post, Washington Times, New York

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13WHAM-TV
Rochester Business Journal
Rochester City Newspaper
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
WXXI
YNN
Daily News, New York Post, Newsday, and others)

Daily Mail (May 9)
Autistic children see movement TWICE as quickly as those without condition
Children with autism see simple movement twice as quickly as other children their age, according to a new study. “Abnormalities in how a person sees or hears can have a profound effect on social communication,” says Duje Tadin, one of the lead authors on the study and an assistant professor of brain and cognitive sciences at the University of Rochester. The findings were reported in the Journal of Neuroscience by Tadin, co-lead author Jennifer Foss-Feig, a postdoctoral fellow at the Child Study Center at Yale University, and colleagues at Vanderbilt University. (Also Reported in: News-Medical. Net, Examiner.com, NPR, Innovations Report, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and others)

The Scientist (May 1)
Big-Bird Brain
Between 2009 and 2011, cognitive neuroscientist Jessica Cantlon invited 27 children to come to her lab at the University of Rochester in upstate New York to watch a 20-minute segment of Sesame Street, with clips on math, reading, life, and more. The only catch was that the children, aged 4 to 11 years, had to watch this show inside of the big “space ship” – and they had to hold still. The new approach may also yield more relevant data. In recent years, neuroscientists have been arguing “that we need to bring more naturalistic stimuli into the scanning environment,” says developmental cognitive neuroscientist Daniel Ansari of the University of Western Ontario. The data generated from such studies could more accurately reflect the way our brains work in real life. “As far as I know,” he adds, “this work is the first to apply this approach to children.”

Huffington Post (May 10)
‘Broken Heart Syndrome’: Research Shows It Is Possible To Die Of A Broken Heart
It turns out there is some truth to the cliché saying, “I’m dying of a broken heart.” According to the University of Rochester’s Christine Tompkins, “broken heart syndrome,” or acute heart failure triggered by stress, is a real condition that can happen to healthy people with healthy hearts. Its symptoms include chest pain and life-threatening arrhythmias, but it can be treated and reversed.

NPR (May 30)
What Big Data Means For Big Cities by Adam Frank
If you’re looking for the unexpected in Big Data/Big City projects you need go no further than social media. At my own school, the University of Rochester, computer scientist Henry Kautz and his student are “mining” twitter data to track the spread of disease. Normally, the way a city gathers data about who is sick – say, how many people have the flu during flu season – is to wait for folks to come in to a hospital or to their doctor’s office. So people get sick, they report it, and the numbers eventually get tallied up. But that analysis is pretty backward looking, revealing only how many people have been sick last week or last month.

U.S. News & World Report (May 29)
Career (and Life) Advice From Famous Graduation Speakers
“Failure is an option. Aim high and don’t be afraid to fail. It’s OK to fail, as long as you give it your best, fail fast and move on quickly. Now you ask: How do you do that? How do you fail fast? And efficiently. You think about the problem, and you work on the most critical and essential part of the challenge first – don’t do the easy stuff.”
-Steven Chu, a physicist who was the U.S.
Secretary of Energy from 2009 until April 22, 2013. He delivered the college commencement at his alma mater, the University of Rochester, on May 19.

USA Today (May 22)
Common pelvic surgery fails nearly one in three women
About 225,000 pelvic prolapse surgeries are performed in the USA each year, Nygaard says. The new study is the first time researchers have followed women long term, says Gunhilde Buchsbaum, a professor at the University of Rochester Medical Center, who wasn’t involved the new study. (Also Reported in: Daily News Journal)

Inside Higher Ed (May 17)
Three universities back away from plan to pool courses online
Three top-tier universities have backed away from a partnership with their peers and the company 2U to create a pool of for-credit online courses. But Duke’s departure from the effort wasn’t the first. For several different reasons, both Vanderbilt University and the University of Rochester also quietly abandoned plans to be a part of Semester Online in recent months. Another of the original 10-member group, Wake Forest, remains on the fence.

Science Friday (May 15)
What Lies Beneath
Scientist J. Bianca Jackson is an art sleuth. Using a technology found in airport security body scanners, she searches for lost artwork hidden beneath layers of paint and plaster. Her technique, called terahertz imaging, has enabled Jackson to unveil an old mural behind the white wall of a Latvian cathedral, as well as ritualistic decorations, obscured by clay, from the dwellings of a Neolithic settlement in Turkey. Most recently, she helped curators at the Louvre Museum in Paris investigate the complicated history of a Roman fresco, which had been restored – and likely forged – by a 19th-century Italian art collector. Meanwhile, Jackson continues honing her technique as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Rochester. When she finishes, she hopes to start a consulting firm to help others investigate more mysteries using terahertz imaging.

Washington Post (May 6)
Prizes of $5,000 awarded for translated Hungarian fiction, Romanian poetry
An experimental Hungarian novel and a collection of Romanian poetry have won prizes for best English language translations. The awards were announced Monday by Three Percent, a resource for international literature that is based at the University of Rochester. The project is named for a widely reported statistic that only 3 percent of books published in the U.S. are works in translation. (Also Reported in: Newsday, ABC News, NPR, Huffington Post, San Jose Mercury News)

Calgary Herald (May 13)
Canada not planning H7N9 bird flu vaccine studies; will watch US results
Seasonal flu shots contain 15 micrograms of antigen for each strain they protect against. In the H7 vaccine studies, 12 times that much vaccine (given in two shots) did not raise antibody levels to the degree that is considered protective. “The bottom line is that it didn’t do very much,” flu vaccine expert Dr. John Treanor, chief of infectious diseases at the University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center, said of the previous H7 vaccine trials. “In fact only a handful of people even had a measurable (immune) response.” (Also Reported in: Montreal Gazette)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 17)
UR to dedicate new building
Raymond F. LeChase Hall, a new building that houses the Warner School of Education
at the University of Rochester, has its dedication ceremony on Thursday. (Also Reported in: WXXI, YNN, 10WHEC-TV)

NBCNews.com (May 23)
New, stripped-down flu vaccine might work better, study
Dr. John Treanor, a flu vaccine researcher at the University of Rochester Medical Center, said the approach resembled some newer-generation vaccines that use synthetic technology and that have been shown to work in people. “It certainly is a very technically advanced approach,” said Treanor, who was not involved in the research.

WXXI (May 19)
Douglas Lowry Reappointed Eastman School Dean
Douglas Lowry has been reappointed as Dean of the Eastman School of Music. The announcement came Sunday from University of Rochester President Joel Seligman. Lowry was appointed to a second, five-year term. Seligman called Lowry “an inspiring leader” who recognizes the school’s role in shaping the future of music professions and training. (Also Reported in: Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, YNN)

WXXI (May 2)
UR Engineering Students Show Off Designs To Solve “Real World” Problems
Seniors at the University of Rochester’s Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences have teamed up with local companies to solve real world engineering problems in the fields of medicine, alternative energy, optics and communications. Today is Design Day at the school, where the public was invited to view the completed projects. One of the projects is a portable turbine that provides power via a USB connection. “Clearly, it’s one of those projects that goes across the boundaries of mechanical and electrical engineering”, said Wayne Knox, Associate Dean of Education and New Initiatives. “It’s a very challenging little thing. Imagine if you had your cell phone and you were on the beach and there is a lot of wind. You could charge your cell phone up. It would be a nice thing to have.”

13WHAM-TV (May 16)
One of the most talented young vocalists in the country is getting ready to begin a dual-major program at the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music. 18-year-old Aaron Bigeleisen will graduate from McQuaid and embark on a career that could take him to the great opera houses of the world. “What we’re projecting for Aaron is a career with an unlimited track,” says Robert Swensen, the Eastman School Professor of Voice who has guided Aaron’s development over the past two years. “We expect him to be able to sing anywhere – if he chooses to be a professional opera singer, he will be singing at the great houses of the world.”

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (May 23)
MAG’s sculpture park brings the art outside the walls
Drive by the Memorial Art Gallery on University Avenue in Rochester and you’ll see a giant outdoor living room of sorts. “We have long known the treasures inside the art gallery are encyclopedic and significant. What this park does is take the beauty as well as the significance of the art to the outside and make a public community celebration of art,” said Grant Holcomb, director of the museum. (Also Reported in: 8WROC-TV, 13WHAM-TV, YNN, WXXI)

NBCNews.com (May 12)
Bird flu: US safe from two new viruses – so far
“It may take longer than it takes the virus to spread,” says Dr. John Treanor, a flu vaccine expert at the University of Rochester Medical Center. “The technology that we have today is
such that the bulk of the pandemic disease may have already taken place before a vaccine is in place and can be used,” he added. “The virus can spread very, very quickly. You are in a race against time.”

*Rochester Business Journal* (May 9)
Simon School holds annual conference in NYC
Financial executives and economic experts gathered in New York City on Thursday for a forum on the effects of the economic crisis and increased financial regulation. The forum is being held by the University of Rochester’s Simon School of Business. “The appropriate role of government in society is an issue very much at the fore these days around the globe and spans financial markets, fiscal and monetary policymaking, health care, and education,” Simon School Dean Mark Zupan said. “The Simon School’s major annual conference in New York City is designed to shed light on the matter by bringing together business, policy, academic, and media leaders.”

*Rochester City Newspaper* (May 29)
International Society of Bassists Convention
Don’t be alarmed if you hear a deep vibration emanating from downtown Rochester next week. It’s not an aftershock from the recent Ottawa earthquake; it’s hundreds of bassists meeting at the Eastman School of Music. “When I play certain low notes on my bass in the orchestra, you can feel it in your skeleton,” says Jeff Campbell, Eastman professor and co-host of the International Society of Bassists Convention, which starts June 2. “In pieces like Beethoven’s Third Symphony, the low notes feel so strong. I have a great bass that’s very vibrant and, when I play certain notes, I can feel it move my rib cage and the bones in my legs.” (Also Reported in: *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*)

*Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (May 20)
University of Rochester grads share last hugs, memories
In a morning filled with advice – listen to your mother, find your passion, get a job – the Class of 2013 at the University of Rochester heard even more suggestions on success. “Take some chances,” Nobel laureate physicist and former U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu told more than 1,200 bachelor and master’s candidates assembled Sunday morning on the Eastman Quadrangle at the 163rd commencement ceremony. On a day that UR President Joel Seligman called triumphant and joyful, 22-year-old Kaci Schiavone, of Holley, Orleans County had another emotion. “Terrified,” she said. “I think we all are. But we won’t admit it.” (Also Reported in: YNN, 8WROC-TV)

*Slate* (May 13)
Manimal Rights: How far should science go in making human-animal chimeras?
In just the past few months, scientists at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Rochester have published data on their human-animal neural chimeras. … For the Rochester study, researchers implanted newborn mice with nascent human glial cells, which help support and nourish neurons in the brain. Six months later, the human parts had elbowed out the mouse equivalents, and the animals had enhanced ability to solve a simple maze and learn conditioned cues. These protocols might run afoul of the anti-hybrid laws, and perhaps they should arouse some questions. These chimeric mice may not be human, or even really humanish, but they’re certainly one step further down the path to Algernon. It may not be so long before we’re faced with some hairy bioethics: What rights should we assign to mice with human brains?
Boehner: House Will Produce Its Own Immigration Legislation

Suarez spoke with two leading researchers on the issue, Ron Hira from the University of Rochester and Vivek Wadhwa of Stanford. Hira cautioned that more H-1B visas will mean less job opportunities for America, a perspective advanced by labor unions such as the AFL-CIO. “I think there are some safeguards in the bill, but there’s a really large increase of H-1Bs, and I think the reality is it doesn’t fix the fundamental flaws, which is that H-1B guest workers can be paid below-market wages, so the wage floors are still too low, and that companies can bypass American workers and even displace American workers with guest workers,” he said.

Canada earthquake causes rumbling in Rochester

“It’s an area of persistent seismicity,” said Cindy Ebinger, professor of earth and environmental sciences at the University of Rochester. She said there had been foreshocks over the past week – smaller temblors that foreshadowed Friday’s larger event. “There are earthquakes every day. There are tsunami warnings every day. This is a dynamic planet,” Ebinger added. “This is just a part of that.”

Bad grades: 5 common student loan errors

“Borrowing some reasonable amount to help finance your college education is overall a good thing,” explains Jonathan Burdick, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid at the University of Rochester in New York. “It’s a smart investment because you’re increasing your long-term earning power. Wise borrowing at a reasonable level in order to attend the college where you feel most likely to succeed is better than avoiding all risk.”

The Promise And Limitations Of Telemedicine

Telemedicine is nothing new, but advancements in technology have made it even more widely available. Neurologists can now treat Parkinson’s patients from miles away, therapists can reach service members overseas, and general practitioners can work in rural areas without actually going there at all. …

[Ray] DORSEY [director of the movement disorders division and neurology telemedicine, Johns Hopkins Medicine]: Well, telemedicine allows us to see anyone anywhere. We started doing this approximately six years ago with Tony Joseph at the Presbyterian Nursing Home in Upstate New York, and there they had about 50 residents who resided 150 miles from us, at the University of Rochester. And he asked us would we be willing to see his residents remotely via telemedicine, and we said sure.

College Town holds groundbreaking; Moe’s, Saxbys, Corner Bakery among lessees

College Town, the long-imagined $100 million project connecting University of Rochester with the city’s Mt. Hope neighborhood, came into clearer focus Thursday as developers revealed a slew of businesses that have already signed leases. UR President Joel Seligman gave special praise to Ronald Paprocki, UR’s senior vice president for administration and finance. Calling Paprocki “the quarterback” of the project, Seligman noted: “He was the one who galvanized the plan.”

Fertility Diet? High-Protein, Low-Carb Diet Linked To Higher Pregnancy Rate

But Dr. Kathy Hoeger, Director of the Strong Fertility Center at the University of Rochester, N.Y., said that other factors might
have affected the outcomes among the high-protein, low-carb group. Hoeger did not work on the new study. “We don’t have enough information about other factors,” she told The Huffington Post. “The question about high protein, low carb is still very uncertain with regard to fertility,” Hoeger added, explaining that good scientific research on the links between diet and fertility is scant. Much of what is known has been extrapolated from preliminary animal studies, and the mechanisms that link nutrition and egg quality are not well understood.

**10WHEC-TV (May 9)**

**UR named Center for AIDS Research by National Institutes of Health**

A major step forward for research at the **University of Rochester**. The university has been named a Center for AIDS Research by the National Institutes of Health. (Also Reported in: *WXXI, YNN, Rochester Business Journal*)

**10WHEC-TV (May 1)**

**Former Barenaked Ladies front man to speak at U of R**

On Wednesday, **University of Rochester** students, faculty and community members will have a change to meet Steven Page – the former front man of Barenaked Ladies. It's part of a series of talks at the University of Rochester’s Institute for Popular Music that gives students the opportunity to interact with artists who have had an impact on pop culture.