Weird corn reveals a way to boost yield

A bean-pawed-shaped ear of corn, complete with little "fingers," might seem like a dud. But Professor Dave Jackson saw potential in this strange variety—and traced its weirdness to a molecular pathway that could boost the corn and other staple crops by up to 50%.

Pershing Square Sonten Cancer Research Prize to Chris Vacic

With help from CRISPR gene editing tool, Associate Professor Chris Vacic aims to disrupt cancer cell survival, then apply it to crucial, high-risk high-grade research, the Pershing Square Sonten Cancer Research Alliance has named Vacic one of its prize awardees.

Brains calculate confidence using statistics

Behind every decision we make, from placing a power ball ticket to pulling a 4.0, is a calculation of confidence. We experience this as a feeling, but Professor Alan Fiesler finds that confidence is more concrete: it's based on a card game kind of statistical calculation that our computer won't replicate.

Further reading

* *Poststructuralist of a rapseptor involved in everything from Alzheimer's to alcohol dependence*

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From the Lab Dish blog -

DIY neuroscience opens up a universe of possibilities in Pennsylvania

Upcoming events

June 11 & 13 *Science walking tours*

June 20 Public Lecture Dr. Jeremy Farrar - "Future of Global Health"

July 4 Public Lecture Ashley Teal, PhD: "Stepping on and up to the beat: An astrobiologist's journey from discovery research to clinical use in human health"