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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812ContactIstock_thumb(2).jpgContact lenses provide extended pain relief to laser eye surgery patientsCredit: iStock |

Scientists are reporting development of contact lenses that could provide a continuous supply of anesthetic medication to the eyes of patients who undergo laser eye surgery — an advance that could relieve patients of the burden of repeatedly placing drops of medicine into their eyes every few hours for several days. Their report appears in ACS’ journal Langmuir.Anuj Chauhan and colleagues explain that more than 1 million laser eye correction procedures are performed each year in the U.S. The surgery enables most patients to see clearly without eye glasses or contact lenses. The procedure known as LASIK is the most common type of laser eye surgery, but complications can develop if the patient undergoes trauma or is hit very hard at any time after the procedure. Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) doesn’t have this complication, and that’s why it is preferred for athletes and those in the military. A downside to PRK, however, is a longer period of pain after surgery. To ease their pain, PRK patients place drops of several medications, including anesthetics, into their eyes every few hours, which can interfere with daily life and increase the risk of drug overdose. PRK patients receive a special “bandage contact lens” after surgery to help the outer layer of the eye heal.The researchers tested whether anesthetics loaded onto this type of lens could release the drugs over time automatically. They found that adding vitamin E to the lenses extended the time of release of three commonly used anesthetics from just under two hours to up to an entire day — or a few days in some instances. The vitamin E acts as a barrier, keeping the anesthetics on the eye, right where they are needed. The researchers say that, in the future, these lenses could serve as bandage contact lenses after PRK surgery while also delivering necessary pain medications.The authors acknowledge funding from the [University of Florida](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149555&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.ufl.edu/).

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812Langmuir_thumb.jpg[Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149556&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://web.1.c2.audiovideoweb.com/1c2web3536/011812Langmuir.jpg) for high-resolution image |

ARTICLE #1 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Transport of Topical Anesthetics in Vitamin E Loaded Silicone Hydrogel Contact Lenses”[DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT ARTICLE](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149557&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/la203606z) CONTACT:Anuj Chauhan, Ph.D.Department of Chemical EngineeringUniversity of FloridaGainesville, Fla. 32611Phone: 352-392-2592Fax: 352-392-9513Email: Chauhan@che.ufl.edu[To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gifARTICLE #2 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****First link between potentially toxic PFCs in office air and in office workers’ blood**Environmental Science & Technology

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812OfficeIstock_thumb.jpgFirst link between potentially toxic PFCs in office air and in office workers’ bloodCredit: iStock |

In a first-of-its-kind study, scientists are reporting that the indoor air in offices is an important source of worker exposure to potentially toxic substances released by carpeting, furniture, paint and other items. Their report, which documents a link between levels of these so-called polyfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in office air and in the blood of workers, appears in ACS’ journal Environmental Science & Technology.Michael McClean and colleagues explain that PFCs, used in water-repellent coatings on carpet and furniture, may have adverse effects on human health. The substances are widespread in the environment and in humans around the world. Scientists know that potential sources of exposure include food, water, indoor air, indoor dust and direct contact with PFC-containing objects. But the link between levels in air and blood had not been explored previously, so McClean’s group set out to fill that gap with a study of 31 office workers in Boston.They found concentrations of a PFC called fluorotelomer alcohol (FTOH) in office air that were 3-5 times higher than those reported in previous studies of household air, “suggesting that offices may represent a unique and important exposure environment.” In addition, the study found a strong link between concentrations of FTOH in office air and perfluorooctanoic acid (a metabolite of FTOH) in the blood of office workers. The results also suggested that workers in newly renovated office buildings may receive considerably higher doses of PFCs than workers in older buildings.The authors acknowledge funding from the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149558&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.niehs.nih.gov/).

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812EST_thumb.jpg[Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149559&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://web.1.c2.audiovideoweb.com/1c2web3536/011812EST.jpg) for high-resolution image |

ARTICLE #2 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Polyfluorinated Compounds in Serum Linked to Indoor Air in Office Environments”[DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT ARTICLE](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149560&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/es2038257) CONTACT:Michael D. McClean, Sc.D.Boston University School of Public HealthBoston, Mass. 02118Phone: 617-638-7755Fax: 617-638-4857Email: mmcclean@bu.edu[To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gifARTICLE #3 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE“Miracle tree” substance produces clean drinking water inexpensively and sustainably**Langmuir

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812WaterIstock_thumb.jpg“Miracle tree” substance produces clean drinking water inexpensively and sustainablyCredit: iStock |

A natural substance obtained from seeds of the “miracle tree” could purify and clarify water inexpensively and sustainably in the developing world, where more than 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water, scientists report. Research on the potential of a sustainable water-treatment process requiring only tree seeds and sand appears in ACS’ journal Langmuir.Stephanie B. Velegol and colleagues explain that removing the disease-causing microbes and sediment from drinking water requires technology not always available in rural areas of developing countries. For an alternative approach, Velegol looked to Moringa oleifera, also called the “miracle tree,” a plant grown in equatorial regions for food, traditional medicine and biofuel. Past research showed that a protein in Moringa seeds can clean water, but using the approach was too expensive and complicated. So Velegol’s team sought to develop a simpler and less expensive way to utilize the seeds’ power.To do that, they added an extract of the seed containing the positively charged Moringa protein, which binds to sediment and kills microbes, to negatively charged sand. The resulting “functionalized,” or “f-sand,” proved effective in killing harmful E. coli bacteria and removing sediment from water samples. “The results open the possibility that … f-sand can provide a simple, locally sustainable process for producing storable drinking water,” the researchers say.The authors acknowledge funding from the [National Science Foundation](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149561&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.nsf.gov/), and the [U. S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149562&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.epa.gov/).

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812Langmuir_thumb.jpg[Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149563&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://web.1.c2.audiovideoweb.com/1c2web3536/011812Langmuir.jpg) for high-resolution image |

ARTICLE #3 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Antimicrobial Sand via Adsorption of Cationic Moringa oleifera Protein” [DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT ARTICLE](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149564&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/la2038262) CONTACT:Stephanie B. Velegol, Ph.D.The Pennsylvania State UniversityState College, Pa. 16802Email: sbvelegol@engr.psu.edu[To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gif ARTICLE #4 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: A PressPac Instant Replay\*A “wild card” in your genes**ACS Chemical Biology

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/120711DNA_thumb.jpgA “wild card” in your genesCredit: iStock |

The human genome and the endowments of genes in other animals and plants are like a deck of poker cards containing a “wild card” that in a genetic sense introduces an element of variety and surprise that has a key role in life. That’s what scientists are describing in a review of more than 100 studies on the topic that appears in ACS Chemical Biology.Rahul Kohli and colleagues focus on cytosine, one of the four chemical “bases” that comprise the alphabet that the genetic material DNA uses to spell out everything from hair and eye color to risk of certain diseases. But far from just storing information, cytosine has acquired a number of other functions that give it a claim to being the genome’s wild card. “In poker, the rules of the game can occasionally change,” they note in the article. “Adding a 'wild card' to the mix introduces a new degree of variety and presents opportunities for a skilled player to steal the pot. Given that evolution is governed by the same principles of risk and reward that are common to a poker game, it is perhaps not surprising that a genomic ‘wild card’ has an integral role in biology.”They discuss the many faces of cytosine that make it such a game-changer and the biological processes that help to change its identity. Removing something called an amine group from cytosine, for instance, allows the immune system to recognize and destroy foreign invaders such as viruses. Adding so-called “methyl groups” on cytosines acts as on/off switches for genes. The authors say that these many faces of cytosine allow it to play various roles and give it true “wild card” status.The authors acknowledge funding from the [Rita Allen Foundation](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149565&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.ritaallenfoundation.org/), the [W.W. Smith Charitable Trust](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149566&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.wwsmithcharitabletrust.org/) and the [National Institutes of Health](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149567&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.nih.gov/).

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812ACSChemBio_thumb.jpg[Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149568&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://web.1.c2.audiovideoweb.com/1c2web3536/011812acschembio.jpg) for high-resolution image |

ARTICLE #4 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“The Curious Chemical Biology of Cytosine: Deamination, Methylation, and Oxidation as Modulators of Genomic Potential”[DOWNLOAD FULL TEXT ARTICLE](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149569&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://pubs.acs.org/stoken/presspac/presspac/full/10.1021/cb2002895)CONTACT:Rahul M. Kohli, Ph.D.Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of MedicineUniversity of PennsylvaniaPhiladelphia, Pa. 19104Phone: 215-573-7523Fax: 215-349-5111Email: rkohli@upenn.edu**\* A previous PressPac item that you may have missed**   [To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gifARTICLE #5 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****How drugs get those tongue-twisting generic names**Chemical & Engineering News

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/011812CEN_thumb.jpg[Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149570&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://web.1.c2.audiovideoweb.com/1c2web3536/011812CEN.jpg) for high-resolution image. |

Oseltamivir. Esomeprazole. Trastuzumab. Where do drugs get those odd-sounding generic names? The answers are in the current issue of Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN), the weekly newsmagazine of the American Chemical Society, the world’s largest scientific society, which explains the logic behind the tongue-twisters.C&EN Associate Editor Carmen Drahl explains that until 1961 there was no standard for assigning drugs generic names, which are different from brand names like Tamiflu (oseltamivir), Nexium (esomeprazole) and Herceptin (trastuzumab). That’s when three medical organizations created the U.S. Adopted Names (USAN) Council to assign simplified alternatives to the unwieldy proper names the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry gives to molecules. For instance, under USAN’s guidance, “cis-8-methyl-N-vanillyl-6-nonenamide” becomes “zucapsaicin.” The council recommends generic names to an international agency of the World Health Organization. The tongue-twisting words the USAN Council creates are products of “stems” that describe a drug’s characteristics, which Drahl likens to the Latin and Greek roots of many English words.Drahl writes that these stems describe everything from a drugs’ function to its shape. For instance, the “-prazole” ending of Nexium’s generic name, esomeprazole, reveals that it is a type of antiulcer medication. Similar drugs will have the same stems in their names, allowing those familiar with the stems to crack the code. The USAN Council is careful to avoid words that are difficult to pronounce in foreign languages or that may have other meanings abroad. Sometimes, Drahl notes, a generic name will also include hints about its developer that a drug company has suggested to the council, as in carfilzomib, which recognizes molecular biologist Philip Whitcome and his wife Carla. ARTICLE #5 **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**“Where Drug Names Come From”This story is available at: [http://cenm.ag/generic](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149572&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://cenm.ag/generic)  [To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gif **Journalists’ Resources** **News media registration for ACS’ 243rd National Meeting & Exposition in San Diego**News media [registration](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149573&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=https://www.xpressreg.net/register/acsa032/media/start.asp) is now open for the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) 243rd National Meeting & Exposition in San Diego, March 25-29, 2012. The event will include more than 11,500 reports on new discoveries in medicine and health, food and nutrition, energy, the environment and other fields where chemistry plays a central role. One of the largest scientific conferences of 2012, the meeting will take place at the San Diego Convention Center and area hotels. To view full news release about meeting registration, click [here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149574&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=222&content_id=CNBP_028895&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=077ccb29-4a64-4924-98b7-ed219e050a6d). **Press releases, briefings, and more from ACS’ 242nd National Meeting**[www.eurekalert.org/acsmeet.php](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149575&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.eurekalert.org/acsmeet.php) [http://www.ustream.tv/channel/acslive](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149576&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.ustream.tv/channel/acslive%20) **Inside Science News Service**For thoroughly enjoyable multimedia coverage of the science behind the news — a valuable resource for journalists and news media organizations everywhere. [Click here](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149577&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.insidescience.org/) to visit the Inside Science News website.**Must-reads from C&EN: Personalized Medicine in Court**After hearing arguments in a patent dispute, the U.S. Supreme Court is preparing a decision that could affect the emerging field of personalized medicine, which involves tailoring medical care to the genetic make-up of each individual patient. For the full story, contact Michael Bernstein at m\_bernstein@acs.org.**ACS Pressroom Blog** The ACS Office of Public Affairs' [pressroom blog](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149578&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.acspressblog.com) highlights research from ACS’ 43 peer-reviewed journals and National Meetings. **Bytesize Science Blog** Educators and kids, put on your thinking caps: The American Chemical Society has [a blog for Bytesize Science](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149579&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.bytesizescience.com), a science podcast for kids of all ages.  **ACS Satellite Pressroom: Daily news blasts on Twitter** The satellite press room has become one of the most popular science news sites on Twitter. To get our news blasts and updates, create a free account at [https://twitter.com/signup](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149580&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=https://twitter.com/signup). Then visit [http://twitter.com/ACSpressroom](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149581&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://twitter.com/ACSpressroom) and click the ‘join’ button beneath the press room logo. **C&EN on Twitter**Follow @cenmag <[http://twitter.com/cenmag](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149582&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://twitter.com/cenmag)> for the latest news in chemistry and dispatches from our blog, C&ENtral Science <[http://centralscience.org](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149583&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://centralscience.org)>.**ACS Press Releases** [Press releases](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149584&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_NEWSRELEASES&node_id=222&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=50b5ab93-801d-4d0d-868f-b9507ff9d709) on a variety of chemistry-related topics.[To Top](#top)http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/acs/goldline.gif**ACS Videos**The American Chemical Society encourages news organizations, museums, educational organizations, and other web sites to embed links to these videos.**Spellbound: How Kids Became Scientists**

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| http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/Spellbound3.jpg |

The road to a Nobel Prize began for one scientist in elementary school when his father placed a sign on his bedroom door proclaiming him to be a “doctor.” This is just one of the many experiences that helped launch the careers of scientists from diverse backgrounds who are featured in a new ACS video series called [Spellbound: How Kids Became Scientists](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149585&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=1355&content_id=CNBP_028033&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=e8e6ee76-0abe-4e78-84c4-3717c995c65e). **Prized Science video series**

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Prized Science: How the Science Behind ACS Awards Impacts Your Life video series is new for 2011! In the first episode, see how Ahmed Zewail, Ph.D., developed a technology that's paving the way for new medicines, new fuels and new materials that will give people longer, healthier, happier lives. Zewail is the winner of the 2011 Priestley Medal. The second episode features the work of David Craik, Ph.D., who made advances toward new drugs for treating health problems that affect millions of people around the world, including antibiotic-resistant bacteria and AIDS. Craik is the winner of the ACS 2011 Ralph F. Hirschmann Award in Peptide Chemistry, sponsored by Merck Research Laboratories. More episodes will appear later in the year. The series is available at the [Prized Science](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149586&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=446&content_id=CTD1_018821&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&__uuid=594bce97-0b05-4df7-b759-1a0f9156c5d8) website and on DVD. **First Living, Dancing Periodic Table of the Elements**

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That famous chart displaying the chemical elements that make up everything on Earth — a fixture on the walls of classrooms and labs — literally comes alive in this new video from the American Chemical Society (ACS). [Chemists Can Dance!](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149587&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://bytesizescience.com/index.cfm/2011/3/29/The-Chemistry-Dance) features scores of chemists wearing symbols representing the elements, kicking up their heels to the tune of an original rap song. It's all part of ACS's celebration of the International Year of Chemistry. Check out the fun and share the link.**A Day Without Chemistry** Imagine a day without cars, electric lights, TV, telephones, safe food, and water, medicine, clothing, your house, and thousands of other familiar objects that make up modern society. Do it, and you are imagining a day in a world without chemistry. ACS explores that thought-provoking premise in a new high-definition video released as part of the celebration of the International Year of Chemistry. [A Day Without Chemistry](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149588&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbfW_CMMe48) follows a person who sees more and more everyday necessities and conveniences disappear before his widening eyes.[The Chemistry of Sourdough Bread](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149589&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.bytesizescience.com/index.cfm/2010/9/27/Chemistry-of-Sourdough)[The Chemistry of Fireworks](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149590&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.bytesizescience.com/index.cfm/2010/6/25/Bytesize-Science-Presents-The-Chemistry-of-Fireworks)[The Chemistry of Grilling and Barbecuing](http://www.mmsend88.com/link.cfm?r=800557068&sid=17149592&m=1699125&u=ACS&j=8656596&s=http://www.bytesizescience.com/index.cfm/2010/6/15/Chemistry-of-Barbeque) [To Top](#top)  http://images.magnetmail.net/images/clients/ACS/goldline.gif**ACS Podcasts**

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