BMJ in the News is a weekly digest of BMJ stories, plus any other news about the company that has appeared in the national and a selection of English-speaking international media.

This week’s (14 Nov-20 Dec) highlights include:

**The BMJ**

**Christmas Research: Do heads of government age more quickly?**

**Christmas Research: Parliamentary privilege—mortality in members of the Houses of Parliament compared with the UK general population**

*In presidential politics, to the victors go the spoiled life expectancy* - Reuters 15/12/2015

*Leading a Nation Takes Years Off Life, Study Suggests* - New York Times 14/12/2015

*New study: Heads of state live shorter lifespans* - CNN 14/12/2015

Over 200 articles listed on Google News, including:


**India** - The Times of India, Business Standard, New Kerala, The Indian Express, Asian New International

**ROW**: The Australian (blog), Sydney Morning Herald, Herald Sun, NEWS.com.au, South China Morning Post, The Times of Israel, Arab News (Saudi Arabia), Gulf News (UAE), Straits Times (Singapore), Star Malaysia, The Manila Times, Economy Lead, Science Codex, Medical Daily, Medical Xpress, Medical News Today

**Christmas Research: “Gunslinger’s gait”: a new cause of unilaterally reduced arm swing**

*Putin walks with KGB-trained 'gunslinger's gait': study* - CTV News 14/12/2015

*Vladimir Putin and top Russian officials have adopted same distinctive gait* - Telegraph 15/12/2015

*Putin and other ex-KGB have 'gunslinger's gait,' says study* - Yahoo News 14/12/2015

Also covered by:


Christmas Feature: Zombie infections: epidemiology, treatment, and prevention

*If Zombies Attack, Is The Nation -- Or The World -- Prepared?* - Forbes 13/12/2015
*Zombie Apocalypse Watch: A PSA* - Discovery News 14/12/2015
*Playful study issues a call to arms for the science community — against the zombie apocalypse* - The Washington Post 14/12/2015

Also covered by:
UK - The Daily Mail, The Mirror, Metro

Christmas Feature: Freewheelin’ scientists: citing Bob Dylan in the biomedical literature

*Bob Dylan lyrics inspired medical scientists: Study* - Hindustan Times 15/12/2015
*Don’t criticize what you can’t understand: Bob Dylan pops up throughout medical literature* - the Washington Post 14/12/2015
*Bob Dylan inspires medical scientists* - Sky News Australia 15/12/2015

Also covered by:
UK - The Guardian, The Times, The Daily Mail
ROW - Courier Mail (Australia), The Dominion Post (New Zealand), Yahoo7 News, Times of India, New Kerala, The Hindu, Business Standard, Daijiworld.com, Medical Xpress, Medical Daily, Science Codex, SBS, 9news.com.au

Christmas Research: Use of positive and negative words in scientific PubMed abstracts between 1974 and 2014: retrospective analysis

*‘Novel, amazing, innovative’: positive words on the rise in science papers* - Nature 14/12/2015
*Do science findings feel more novel, robust? They are — at least, in language* - Retraction Watch 15/12/2015
*Spectacular discovery that scientists are prone to hype* - The Times 17/12/2015

Christmas Research: Austin Powers bites back: a cross sectional comparison of US and English national oral health surveys

*British teeth are no worse than US smiles, say researchers* - The Guardian 17/12/2015
*‘US Teeth Worse Than The English’ - Yeah Baby!* - Sky News 17/12/2015
*Groovy, Baby: Study Finds Toothy English Grins Match Yank Smiles* - NBC News 16/12/2015

Also covered by:

**ROW** - The Australian, International Business Times AU, Medical Daily, Tech Insider, Mashable, AFP, Doctors Lounge, Business Insider India, Business Standard, Medical Xpress

**Christmas Research:** Bloodcurdling movies and measures of coagulation: Fear Factor crossover trial

*That Scary Movie Really Is Blood Curdling* - NBC News 16/12/2015
*Horror movies really do curdle the blood - and could be bad for health, warn scientists* - Daily Telegraph (& Daily Telegraph Scotland) 16/12/2015
*Watching horror films can actually curdle your blood* - Business Standard 17/12/2015


**Christmas Research:** Evidence of a Christmas spirit network in the brain: functional MRI study

*Solving the Bah Humbug Syndrome: Scientists Look for 'Christmas Spirit' With MRI* - ABC News 16/12/2015
*Found, parts of the brain that light up the 'Christmas spirit': Five areas become active in those that love the festive season* - Daily Mail 17/12/2015
*Christmas Spirit: Scientists Map Christmas Spirit In Human Brain* - Headlines & Global News 17/12/2015


**Christmas Research:** Plenty of moustaches but not enough women: cross sectional study of medical leaders

*Want to be a top doctor? Grow a moustache (sorry, ladies)* - The Times 17/12/2015
*Men with moustaches outnumber women in top U.S. academic medical jobs* - Reuters 16/12/2015


**Christmas Research:** Debunking the curse of the rainbow jersey: historical cohort study

*'Curse of the Rainbow Jersey' Explained* - Discovery News 14/12/2015
*Does the curse of the rainbow jersey exist?* - Cycling News 17/12/2015

Also covered by Science 2.0, Road.com, Newsy
Feature: NICE told to back off “national policy issues”

Discussed by Prof John Britton (06:40) and Gillian Leng, NICE (07:25) - BBC Radio 4 Today 18/12/2015
Health watchdog Nice denies bowing to pressure on minimum alcohol pricing calls - Daily Mail 18/12/2015
Health watchdogs deny changing guidelines because of pressure from ministers - The Daily Telegraph 19/12/2015

Also mentioned The Guardian’s editorial, and covered by The Sun

Hospital staffing ‘affects death rates’ - BBC News 17/12/2015
Is it Time to Embrace Prepublication Study Results? - Medscape 17/12/2015
Hospital medication errors halved by automated system - The Pharmaceutical Journal 16/12/2015
William Reville: The hidden psychology of Christmas - Irish Times 17/12/2015
Feldman: It's true! Chocolate and coffee are good for you - Indianapolis Star 15/12/2015
Quiet revolution: the move to escape today's noisy world - Stuff.co.nz 16/12/2015
When the heart valve degenerates - Business Times, The (Singapore) 12/12/2015
How to have a quiet Christmas ... - The Daily Telegraph 15/12/2015 (wrongly attributed to The BMJ)
Older people need more respect in the media - Morning Star 14/12/2015
Veterinarian questions use of Listerine on a dog’s coat - Chicago Tribune (USA) 16/12/2015
Nasal spray flu vaccine safe for kids with egg allergies - Reuters 17/12/2015

For too many in HK, the season of giving offers only crumbs - South China Morning Post (China) 18/12/2015

JOURNALS

Tobacco Control

Research: Associations between lifetime tobacco exposure with infertility and age at natural menopause: the Women’s Health Initiative Observational Study

Cigarette smoke might cause infertility, early menopause, study shows - NBC 15/12/15
Study: now passive smoking could lead to infertility and early menopause - India Today 16/12/13
Smoking linked to earlier menopause - BBC News 16/12/15

**BMJ Open**

**Research:** Do antidepressants increase the risk of mania and bipolar disorder in people with depression? A retrospective electronic case register cohort study

[ Certain antidepressants may be linked to bipolar disorder ](https://www.usnews.com/news/health/articles/2015-12-16/oxycontin-and-bipolar-disorder) - US News & World Report 16/12/15

[ Can antidepressants trigger mania? ](https://www.medpagetoday.com/psychiatry/depression/43653) - MedPage Today 15/12/15

[ Certain antidepressants may be linked to bipolar disorder: study ](https://www.philly.com/breakingnews/breaking_news/certain-antidepressants-may-be-linked-to-bipolar-disorder-study-401103460.html) - Philly.com 15/12/15

Also covered by: OnMedica, Nursing in Practice, Medscape, Healio, Medical Research.com, Doctors Lounge, HealthDay, Medical News Today, Monthly Prescribing Reference, Psychiatry Advisor, Psych Central, Medical Xpress, Science 2.0, Science Codex, Mad in America, Newsmax

**Follow on coverage**

Moderate drinking and Alzheimer’s risk:

[ Glass of wine and 'Alz' well ](https://www.newyorkpost.com/2015/11/15/glass-of-wine-and-alz-well/) - New York Post 15/12/15 (print only)

[ Moderate drinking may prolong life of people with Alzheimer’s ](https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/story/1770077/moderate-drinking-may-prolong-life-people-alzheimers) - South China Morning Post 14/12/15

[ Moderate drinking may be tied to fewer deaths in early Alzheimer’s ](https://www.foxnews.com/health/2015/12/14/moderate-drinking-may-be-tied-to-fewer-deaths-in-early-alzheimer.html) - Fox News 14/12/15


**BATTLE OF THE BULGE** Hindustan Times 13/12/15 (print only)

**Archives of Disease in Childhood**

**Research:** Prevention of neural tube defects in the UK: a missed opportunity

[ 2000 babies suffer serious defects because of failure to fortify flour ](https://www.independent.co.uk/health/neural-tube-defects-britain-folic-acid-flour-11618272.html) - The Independent 16/12/15


[ Lack of folic acid caused 2000 babies to suffer serious defects ](https://www.franchetribune.com/2015/12/18/lack-folic-acid-caused-2000-babies-suffer-serious-defects/) - French Tribune 18/12/15


**British Journal of Sports Medicine**
Concussion rates highest for kids in hockey, rugby and football - Global Post 16/12/15

Also in Fox News, Channel News Asia, Yahoo Parenting, Philly Voice.com

Tai Chi may help people with chronic conditions - Gulfshore Life 18/12/15

**Injury Prevention**

Helping victims break the cycle of gun violence - San Francisco Chronicle 14/12/15 (print only)

**Family of Journal Planning and Reproductive Health**

Medroxyprogesterone Use Associated With Repeat Abortions - Medscape 15/12/2015