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## Science

### UPI NewsTrack Health and Science News

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#### Study says pesticides found in everyone

GRANADA, Spain, Jan. 4 (UPI) -- Spanish researchers say 100 percent of people carry at least one type of pesticide in their body.

A study by the University of Granada in collaboration with the Andalusian School of Public Health found that 100 percent of Spaniards analyzed had at least one kind of persistent organic compound in their bodies.

POCs, which are substances internationally classified as potentially harmful, enter the body through food, water or even air, the university said Friday in a release.

The study measured the contamination levels of some POC's in a sample of the adult population from one urban and one rural area.

A total of 387 adults had a sample of their human adipose tissue taken during surgery and answered a questionnaire about their place of residence, lifestyle, eating habits and activities throughout their life.

The study found that 100 percent of subjects analyzed had DDE in their bodies and a very large number had PCB-153, HCB, PCB-180, PCB-138 and HCH.

Higher levels of toxic substances were detected in women compared to men and in older volunteers compared to younger people, the report said.

#### Study: Pneumonia can be treated at home

GENEVA, Switzerland, Jan. 4 (UPI) -- A study in Pakistan found that treating children with severe pneumonia at home is just as effective as treating them in hospitals.

The World Health Organization said the findings could significantly change the way the illness is managed in developing countries.

The research, conducted in Pakistan by researchers from the Boston University School of Public Health, involved 2,037 children with severe pneumonia who were randomly assigned to get either injectable antibiotics in a hospital or antibiotic pills at home. Of the five children who died during the study, four were in the hospitalized group and one was at home.

The WHO said pneumonia is the largest single killer of children under 5 around the world. About 60 percent of pneumonia cases in the developing world are caused by bacteria and can be treated with antibiotics, while most cases of pneumonia in developed countries are viral.

"The potential impact of these results is enormous," said co-author Dr. Shamim Qazi of the WHO. "Being able to treat children with severe pneumonia safely and effectively in their own homes would be of huge benefit to both families and health systems, by reducing the need for admission to hospital."

#### Gene found to repress tumor growth

BALTIMORE, Jan. 4 (UPI) -- U.S. researchers said the genes behind Down syndrome appear to repress tumor growth.

Researchers from Johns Hopkins and Ohio State University found that mice with extra copies of chromosome 21 as is seen in trisomy 21, or Down syndrome, had fewer tumors than regular mice.

"We took a new approach to a 50-year-old debate about whether people with Down syndrome develop cancer less often than other people," Roger H. Reeves, a professor at Johns Hopkins said Friday in a release.

The research, published in the journal Nature, focused on the Ets2 gene.

"These results support studies concluding that people with Down syndrome get fewer cancers of many types. While we've only shown this effect with Ets2 and a particular type of colon tumor in mice, we think that the human Ets2 gene might contribute to resistance toward other types of cancer, based on what happens in Down syndrome," Reeves said.

Ohio State cancer researcher Michael Ostrowski said the study suggested finding ways to increase the expression of genes such as Ets2 might lead to a new strategy for treating or controlling cancer.

#### Seismic waves can trigger aftershocks

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., Jan. 4 (UPI) -- U.S. researchers say seismic waves radiated from earthquakes can spur aftershocks long after the quake has occurred.

Paul Johnson and colleagues at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said in a letter in the journal Nature that wave energy stored in granular materials found along certain fault lines can suddenly be released as an earthquake when hit by relatively small seismic waves far beyond the traditional "aftershock zone" of a main quake, the Energy Department said Thursday in a release.

The researchers found that the release of energy can occur minutes, hours, or even days after the sound waves pass.

Earthquakes release seismic waves that can trigger aftershocks in a zone several to tens of miles away from the radiating main earthquake, known as a "mainshock." Most aftershocks usually occur within hours to days after the mainshock, although new research has shown that seismic activity sometimes increases thousands of miles away after an earthquake, the report said.