

Best features of 2016

A selection of the best and most popular long reads from *Nature* this year.

16 December 2016



Does it take too long to publish research?

Scientists are becoming increasingly frustrated by the time it takes to publish a paper. Something has to change, they say.

Kendall Powell



The spectrum of sex development: Eric Vilain and the intersex controversy

The geneticist built a career studying aspects of sex that make some people uncomfortable. Now things are getting uncomfortable for him.

Sara Reardon



On the hunt for a mystery planet

Scientists are searching for an unseen world at the fringes of the solar system.

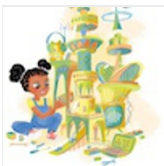
Alexandra Witze



The quiet revolutionary: How the co-discovery of CRISPR explosively changed Emmanuelle Charpentier's life

The microbiologist spent years moving labs and relishing solitude. Then her work on gene-editing thrust her into the scientific spotlight.

Alison Abbott



How to raise a genius: lessons from a 45-year study of super-smart children

A long-running investigation of exceptional children reveals what it takes to produce the scientists who will lead the twenty-first century.

Tom Clynes



The secret history of ancient toilets

By scouring the remains of early loos and sewers, archaeologists are finding clues to what life was like in the Roman world and in other civilizations.

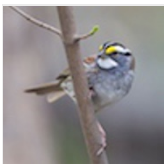
Chelsea Wald



Should you edit your children's genes?

In the fierce debate about CRISPR gene editing, it's time to give patients a voice.

Erika Check Hayden



The sparrow with four sexes

Elaina Tuttle spent her life trying to understand the bizarre chromosome evolution of a common bird — until tragedy struck.

Carrie Arnold



Can a video game company tame toxic behaviour?

Scientists are helping to stop antisocial behaviour in the world's most popular online game. The next stop could be a kinder Internet.

Brendan Maher

24 hours at the X-ray factory

Behind the scenes at Europe's massive synchrotron — where science never sleeps.

Richard Van Noorden



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