

## 21 September, 2020, newsletter

**Theme: A new year and..... A new baby!**

Dear Grey House team and esteemed quaranteamates!

It's now 204 days into our aeonian team-building marathon (OK to google aeonian).

**Happy Jewish New Year!**

If you go to this link, you will see this year's photo exhibition: "**Waiting Out the Pandemic, Macon Farm Style**." : <https://photos.app.goo.gl/T4v3qNRcLZEr8Web9>

Pre-pandemic Rosh Hashana feast September 2019, 30 people:



This week's feast 2020, 2 people, very meaningful nonetheless:



**FIRST THE HAPPY NEWS, now this is ultra-happy:**

**6:40pm on Saturday 19 September. Jasmin admitted to hospital, the baby is coming.**



**10:29pm on Saturday. She's here! She's here! Iona is here!**





**We are holding a team baby-naming contest**, due to the popularity of our earlier goose-naming and chicken-naming contests. Send baby names to Temi this week. Remember, she's a girl. Just kidding!



## More happy news this week:

**The Danish TV series “Borgen” is now available in the USA on Netflix!!!!!!!!!!!!**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borgen\\_\(TV\\_series\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borgen_(TV_series))

Possibly the most addictive television that I have watched. Av and Ros and I once sat through an entire season through one howling winter gale in Oturehua. Its in English.

### **Flights are available, albeit to nowhere**

It's not just airlines that are going quietly mad parked on the ground. It's passengers too. Some of them just love to fly, never mind where. Airlines in Brunei, Taiwan, Japan, and Australia launched scenic flights this week. Qantas says a seven-hour scenic flight from [Sydney to Sydney](#) over the Great Barrier Reef sold out in ten minutes and was “probably the fastest-selling flight in Qantas history”. Ticket prices started at \$780 but business sold out too, at \$3,750 per seat. **Let's go!**

**This Friday we will do a west coast *Origins of You* book-launch party zoom at 8pm**, and we will then do an East-cost book launch party zoom on Oct 17, 2020, at 3pm EDT. If you'd like to take part, e-mail host **Emiko Higashi** <[higashiemiko33@gmail.com](mailto:higashiemiko33@gmail.com)>

**There are copies of *The Origins of You*** for everyone on the team in a stack on the credenza in the foyer of our suite at Grey House.

**I'm back.** We found a lovely bevy of nurse's aides to help with my dad, called Heaven Sent. And Avshalom heroically got wifi installed at Dad's house. You won't even be able to tell, I hope!

Thanks Renate, Scott, Aidan, and Erin, for sending us a delicious meal, it very much arrived at the perfect time and headed off a nervous breakdown!

**Go Blue Devils! Duke University ranks **Number 5** in the Best Colleges in America for 2021** in this year's Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings:

As usual, the tiresome old Ivy League dominates the top 4; Harvard, MIT, Yale, Stanford..... yawn, yawn.

Read in *The Wall Street Journal*: [https://apple.news/AuhJyzesFS\\_2zi4\\_IrcZOag](https://apple.news/AuhJyzesFS_2zi4_IrcZOag)



Fight, Fight Blue Devils  
Fight for Duke and the Blue and White  
March on through  
For the touchdown's there for you  
Go get 'em  
Duke is out to win today  
Carolina goodnight  
So turn on the steam team  
Fight Blue Devils Fight

**For those of you who are not Duke Blue Devils, you will notice that the school song wishes its bitter arch-enemy (and my alma mater), University of North Carolina, a derisive “goodnight.” And they sing this same lyric regardless of what team Duke is playing against in any particular sporting event. Sigh. Whatever.**



## **NEXT, THE UNHAPPY NEWS:**

**Our fearless leader, Richie, continues his radiation therapy. Side effects are grueling. We all send you stamina dear Richie and dear Sandhya! Richie continues to be uplifted by humor, so send him some if you have it!**



**Radiation therapy is a roller coaster! Hang on Richie!**

## More unhappy news; Karen's hometown in the news.....



### Coronavirus: 'Rule-breaking Bolton pub crawl' saw cases rise

A holidaymaker who did not self-isolate and went on a night out spread the virus, a councillor says.

"We had an extreme spike where we went from 12 cases per 100,000 and in less than three weeks we were up at 212 cases." The rise led Bolton to have the [highest rates of Covid-19 in the country](#).

"We had somebody who did not adhere to quarantine, did not stay the 14 days, literally went on a pub crawl drinking all night with a number of mates," Mr Greenhalgh said.

"From that incident which took place over a weekend - (they) visited a number of premises - led to a large number of individual transmissions from that one person which you can imagine then is like holding back the tide because he then became symptomatic two days after they had all gone on this pub crawl. "That is four or five days where all the people he was in contact with have been going about their normal day-to-day business."

Bolton is now subject to [tougher measures](#) than most of England, with hospitality venues only allowed to operate as takeaways and ordered to shut by 22:00.

Read in BBC News: <https://apple.news/AYoe2I8M0ROulpsYndETeCg>

**We knew Karen had that rebellious Bolton spirit!**

**THIS WEEK's Science visualization, sort of:** From Tim Strauman.



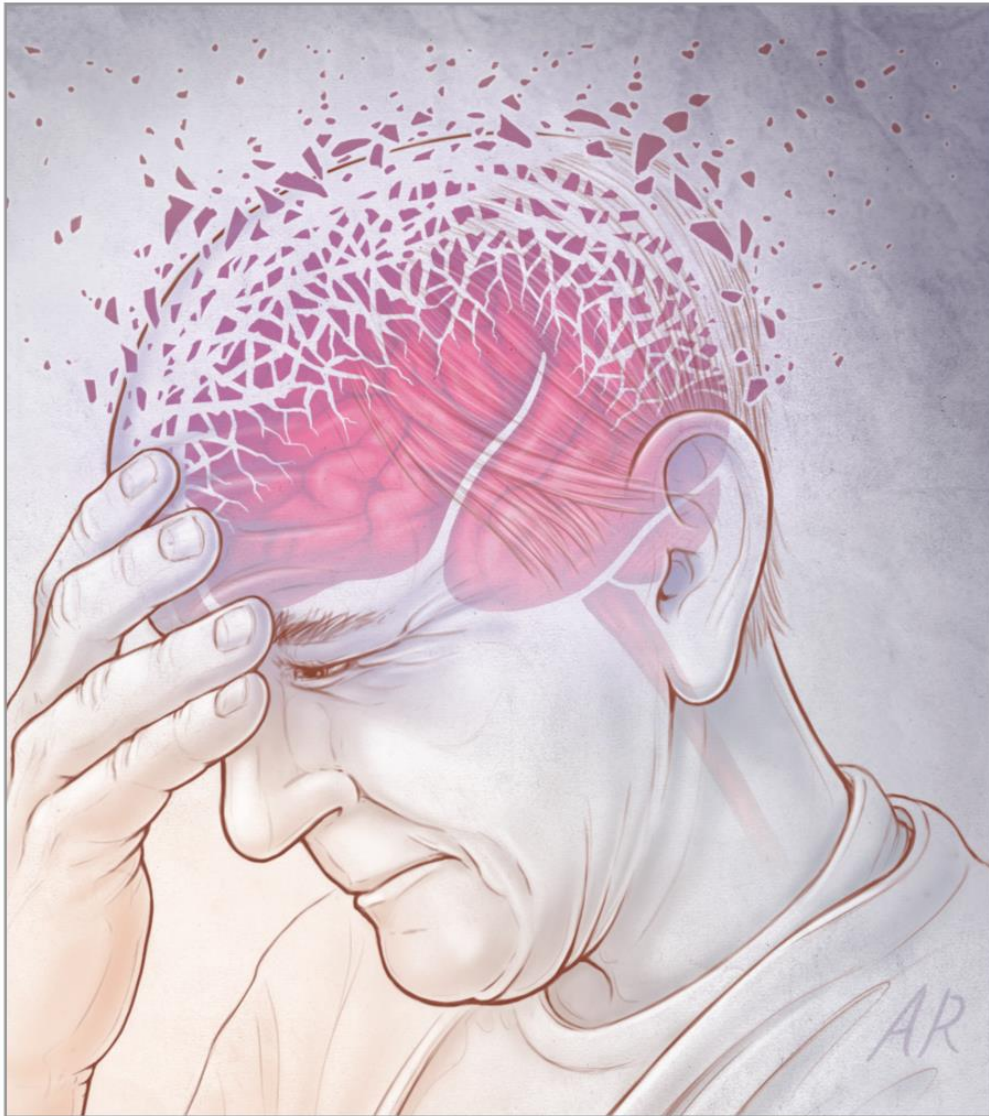
**Avshalom**

**Temi**



## Another useful science visualization:

From the *Lancet* dementia prevention report.



Its World Alzheimer's Day tomorrow **22/09/2020**

## **RESEARCH-PROJECT PROGRESS SINCE 14 Sept:**

**I'm pleased to report that Tim's mixed-methods paper on loneliness is now accepted** for publication in *IJBD*! It will appear in a special issue of the journal, themed around 'Loneliness across the lifespan'. Matthews, T., Fisher, H. L., Bryan, B. T., Danese, A., Moffitt, T. E., Qualter, P., Verity, L., & Arseneault, L. (accepted). This is what loneliness looks like: A mixed-methods study of loneliness in adolescence and young adulthood. *International Journal of Behavioural Development*.

**If you are keen to help write up the new data collected in this year's online survey of E-risk twins, contact Antony or Candice to get a copy of the survey content, and volunteer to help.** Jo and Becky report 70% response rate to the online survey by twins. This is unbelievable. All other surveys in 2019-2020 that I know of have ranged from 17% to 35%. **Virtual hugs to Jo and Becky, our heroes!**  
**Expecting a flurry of concept papers soon, y'all.**

**Aaron's talk was a big success this week.** "Happy to report back that my talk went really well. Apparently we had the largest audience of any of their seminars this year, with folks from 4 countries and 7 states. Lots of interest and great questions in the middle and afterwards so that we ran over time by 20 minutes. **Thanks for the earlier feedback on the practice zoom everyone! -Aaron**

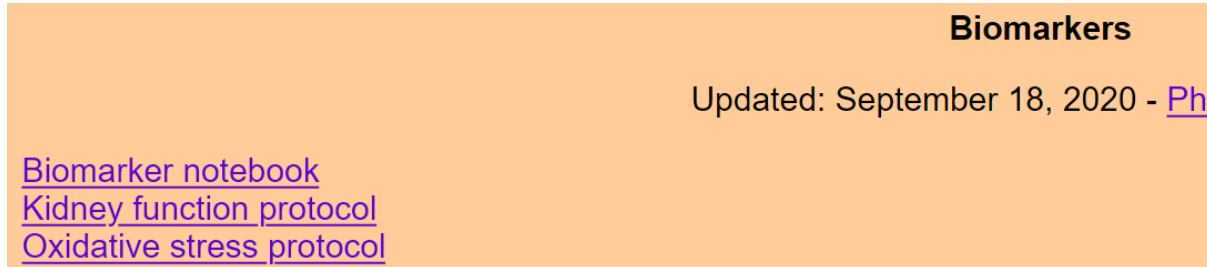
**Jasmin's genetic data from ALSPAC are actually NOT here after all!** ALSPAC suddenly decided they need Jasmin to take the UK's responsible conduct of research and protection of human subjects webinars, before they release the dataset. Only 4 months from approval of concept paper to delivery of data set. Doesn't this make us appreciate Honalee and Antony?!?!?!? **Let's hear another big round of applause for Honalee and Antony!**

**Jasmin says:** This is how it feels trying to get access to the ALSPAC data: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=PFA7Ro2sUEo>

**New Concept Paper: by Aaron, Karen, Ben, and Idan:** Childhood lead exposure and adult telomere length. THANKS TO ALL SIGNING OFF ON THE CP! **And welcome back Idan!!!! Great to work with you again now that you have tenure!**

**New Concept Paper in the offing from Madeline, on cannabis. Welcome back Madeline, once a Grey Houser, you never fully escape. Watch this space.**

**Karen & Ben have created an amazing, clickable biomarker pdf for phase 45.** You can find the link on the biomarker edictionary page of follow this [link to z:drive location](#) for the biomarker "notebook".



**Biomarkers**

Updated: September 18, 2020 - [Phase 45](#)

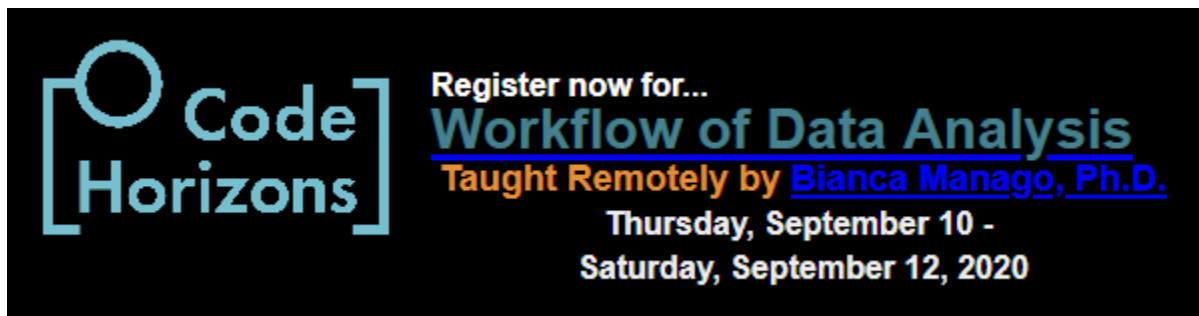
[Biomarker notebook](#)  
[Kidney function protocol](#)  
[Oxidative stress protocol](#)

In it, you'll find everything you need to know about how the biomarker was collected, assayed, machines used, reagents, measurement units, normal range, our sample range, etc. Even methods write-ups for your papers. It is really quite amazing. Have a good week, be well, HonaLee

**Jon Schaefer is writing a K application, due Oct 12. Good luck Jon!**

**Temi and Avshalom and Susan have finished our grant application** due at Duke 25 September and due at NIH 5 October. Whew! Huge thanks to Jon Mill, Eilis Hannon, Karen Sugden, David Corcoran, and Daniel Belsky for your hard work on this. **WHEW!**

**Ben attended a cool skills course this week:**



**Code Horizons**

Register now for...  
**Workflow of Data Analysis**  
Taught Remotely by [Bianca Manago, Ph.D.](#)  
Thursday, September 10 -  
Saturday, September 12, 2020

**If you are working on something you want others to know about, please let me know, and I will add it to this newsletter.**



## Today is ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY at Duke, and the daily university newsletter says:

"In the early 1890s, Trinity College—the predecessor of Duke University—was in dire financial straits. Having barely survived the upheaval of the Civil War, the small Christian college was struggling to attract students and faculty to its rural Randolph County campus. Recognizing the need for principled, high-quality education in the south, Durham industrialist Mr. Washington Duke stepped in to provide a financial lifeline for the college and support its transformational move to the Bull City in 1892."



**Well, that's one version. Actually.....**Trinity College was the missionary training school headed by my uncle 6 generations back, Braxton Craven. It was located on a site here in Randolph county which is now my dad's farm. Prof Craven taught every subject; Bible, Greek, Latin, Geography, and Math. At that time, our Macon Farm was the western frontier of America, everything west of us was heathen savages, plus a few Scots families who had emigrated in the 1700's to disappear into the Appalachian Mountains, hiding from the English, post Battle of Culloden. Duke library's archives contain Uncle Braxton's papers, which show he rented slaves. He bid on two male slaves at auction, but the price went too high, so instead he rented. So, maybe the college did need a financial rescue from the Duke family, those dastardly thieves.

## Resources:

**Duke's COVID-19 testing results** for N of cases on campus and quarantined are updated every Monday and can be found here:

<https://coronavirus.duke.edu/covid-testing/>.

Since Aug. 2, the university has conducted 43,775 test with 67 positive results.

**Don't Forget to check the American presidential race poll being updated daily by the Economist.**

<https://projects.economist.com/us-2020-forecast/president>

## FYI - VOTING INFO

North Carolina Residents.

You can check your NC voter registration status here:

<https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/>

Register online if you have an NC license or DMV-issued ID here:

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voters/Registering-to-Vote>

Info on NC absentee voting, here:

<https://www.ncsbe.gov/Voting-Options/Absentee-Voting>

One stop website for residents of other states:

Register - <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>

Early voting/absentee voting: <https://www.usa.gov/how-to-vote>

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## Upcoming birthdays

	NOVEMBER
	DECEMBER
Leah	4-Dec
Karen	10-Dec
Stephanie	15-Dec
Ben	22-Dec

## 17 September, Frozen Fecal Knives Honored by 2020 Ig Nobel Prizes

Certain scientific advancements—such as the discovery of penicillin or the structure of DNA—are such game-changers that the scientists behind them are honored and immortalized with a Nobel Prize. But since 1991, these scientific misfits have found recognition by the Ig Nobel awards, a product of the [Annals of Improbable Research](#). On Thursday (September 17), this year's cohort of esteemed-ish honorees was announced via webcast. The 30th First Annual (not 31st Annual) Ig Nobel Prize ceremony, held entirely online for the first time due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, celebrated truly jaw-dropping studies in several categories, six of which were presented by [Nobel laureates](#):

**Acoustics:** Awarded to a team of scientists “for inducing a female Chinese alligator to bellow in an airtight chamber filled with [helium-enriched air](#).”

**Economics:** Awarded to a team that studied “the relationship between different countries’ national income inequality and the average amount of [mouth-to-mouth kissing](#).”

**Entomology:** Awarded to an American researcher who collected “evidence that many entomologists (scientists who study insects) [are afraid of spiders](#), which are not insects.”

**Management:** Awarded to five professional hitmen “who managed a contract for a hit job (a murder performed for money) in the following way: After accepting payment to perform the murder, Xi Guang-An then instead subcontracted the task to Mo Tian-Xiang, who then instead subcontracted the task to Yang Kang-Sheng, who then instead subcontracted the task to Yang Guang-Sheng, who then instead subcontracted the task to Ling Xian-Si, with each subsequently enlisted hitman receiving a smaller percentage of the fee, and nobody actually performing a murder.”

**Materials Science:** Awarded to a group of scientists “for showing that knives manufactured from frozen human feces do not work well.”

**Medicine:** Awarded to doctors “for diagnosing a long-unrecognized medical condition: [Misophonia](#), the distress at hearing other people make chewing sounds.”

**Peace:** Awarded to unnamed government officials from India and Pakistan who “surreptitiously [rang] each other’s doorbells in the middle of the night, and then [ran] away before anyone had a chance to answer the door.” Essentially, Ding Dong Ditch with diplomatic immunity.

**Physics:** Awarded to a team that discovered “what happens to the shape of a [living earthworm](#) when one vibrates the earthworm at high frequency.”

**Psychology:** Awarded to a pair of scientists “for devising a method to identify narcissists by [examining their eyebrows](#).”

Winners receive a paper cube (which the recipients printed and folded themselves) and a note for \$10,000,000,000,000. Not US dollars, of course, but a relic from the days of [Zimbabwe’s hyperinflation](#). According to reports, this was the sum required to buy a loaf of bread in 2009.

**Warmest congratulations to all of this year’s honorees!**



**Have a serene week everyone, wherever you are! Temi**



*Hurricane Isaias passes to the North of the Washington Monument, as seen from Prof. David Reiss's apartment in Washington, DC.*

“And the next day the wind would blow, the clouds would disperse, the sun would shine, and the people would go out to their work.” *Talmud (Ta’anit)*