Carphology by A Fo Ben

VERY SMART PHONE
Implantable neurostimulation devices permit the evaluation of ultra-long-term electroencephalogram (EEG) monitoring in community settings. How does this abnormal electrical activity correlate with social behaviour? A total of 35,714 hours of EEG recordings was paired with smartphone touchscreen interactions in eight people with epilepsy. Authors then used an artificial neural network model to identify links between social behaviour and the epileptiform discharges. The personalised model corresponded well (R: 0.2–0.6, median 0.4), which opens the door to using integrated social datasets to map to epilepsy well-being.

WOW, JUST WOW
The National Institutes of Health’s Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies Initiative Cell Census Network was launched 4 years ago. The ambition was to identify and catalogue cell types in human, monkey and mouse brains. The first 17 (!) papers from this consortium were released in Nature on October. Treat yourself to this cornucopia and revel in everything from single-cell datasets to comparative analyses across species. This goldmine will be a critical resource for neuroscientists for generations to come.

NO TIME TO DIARRHOEA
There are a multitude of threats that a double O agent must tackle, but in the COVID-19 era, how might he fare with contagious illnesses? The promiscuous James Bond (across all films, 1969–2021) has had 59 sexual partners, 2.4/film with a remarkably high mortality for his partners (27.1, 95% CI 16.4 to 40.3). Getting your hands dirty is an occupational hazard for a trained governmental assassin, but Bond is seen washing his hands twice. Only twice. Other hazards include unwashed fruit, malaria, dengue and chikungunya. Doctor? No.

COVID-19? NOVID
Will we look back on the last 2 years of medical publishing as the era where everything, everything was COVID-19 related? In this vein, A Fo Ben discovered the curious case of restless anal syndrome (a restless legs variant, who knew?). Single cases of rare disorders can always be of educational value, but sometimes a temporal link to COVID-19 seems at best opportunistic and most likely spurious.

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