

Mensa Srbije



11
novembar
decembar

2025

Floreat
Mensa



Predsedništvo

Boris Projović
Jasna Bulajić Stepanović
Ilija Kujović
Momčilo Stepanović
Nataša Aćimović Knežević
Aleksandra Borović
Ana Pešić Ružić

Glavni i odgovorni urednik
Nemanja M. Angelovski

Tehnički urednik
Daniel David

Novi Sad, 21000
Bulevar Oslobođenja 22

Beograd, 11000
Generala Lešjanina 5

Naslovna fotografija:
Kristina Paukshtite
via pexels.com

MENSA INFO:
Mensa Srbije
Mensa International
Workplace
Facebook stranica
Facebook zatvorena grupa
Linkedin stranica
Linkedin zatvorena grupa
Instagram
Twitter
Youtube
SIGHT facebook grupa

Mensa Srbije nema nijedan ideološki, politički, filozofski ili religijski stav.

Sadržaj članaka u biltenu nije stav Mense kao organizacije, već autora članaka.

Psiholog
Jasna Bulajić Stepanović

Ombudsman
Ivan Nikolić

Odsek za rad sa decom
Marijana Nikolić

Naučni odsek
Marko Simić

Odsek za projekte
Zdravko Živković

Biznis klub
Bojan Kostandinović

Klub mladih
Nemanja M. Angelovski

Izborna komisija
Snežana Živković
Milan Blagojević
Dušanka Kastel
Miloš Đokoć
Nikola Janković

Lokalna Mensa Beograd
Matija Čolaković

Lokalna Mensa Novi Sad
Dejan Hrćan

Lokalna Mensa Kragujevac
Miloš Nikolić

Važni linkovi
Statut Mense Srbije
Statut Mensa International
Uputstvo za uplatu članarine
SIGHT
Popusti
Mensa za decu
Spisak projekata
Mensa prodavnica

Nacionalni SIG koordinator
Milica Mladenović

Foto SIG
Vlada Marinković

SIGra

Daniel David

SIG Putovanja i daleki predeli
Aleksandra Borović

SIG Korak po korak
Mladen Žikić

SIG dobre volje
Nataša Aćimović Knežević

T.O.P SIG – Totalni Obožavaoci Piva
Nenad Novković

Ciklo SIG
Branko Ristić

SIG obožavalaca nagradnih igara
Miloš Milošević

EKOlogičanSIG
Milica Mladenović

SIG za muziku
Rastko Pavlov

Koktel SIG
Matija Čolaković

Omladinski SIG
Nemanja M. Angelovski

SIG hedonista
Aleksandar Marković

Sport SIG
Nađa Radosavljević

SIG EDIT
Vladimir Milivojević

Šah SIG
Dejan Savić

SIG za razvoj pamćenja i učenja
Boris Projović

Tango SIG
Dragana Simić

Psihoterapija SIG
Luka Mošković

Sadržaj

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Prednovogodišnja žurka u Beogradu

Dana 13.12. održano je redovno zasedanje Skupštine Mense Srbije na Fakultetu za poslovne studije i pravo na Novom Beogradu, koje je okupilo članove zainteresovane za rad i budući razvoj udruženja. Na početku su predstavljeni izveštaji



Autor fotografije: Nemanja M. Angelovski

sa IBD-a, kao i sa sastanka IVN-a, uz fokus na preporuke i savete za unapređenje funkcionisanja Mense. Diskusija je potom bila usmerena na planove, prioritete i ključne odluke za narednu godinu. Nakon diskusije, usledila su glasanja o predloženim odlukama i usvajanje predloga.



Autor fotografije: Boris Projović

Iste večeri, nakon Skupštine, u Beogradu je održana prednovogodišnja žurka Mense Srbije u pivnici „Oblak u pantalonama“. Okupljanje je proteklo u uzbudljivoj i veseloj atmosferi, uz muziku, razgovore i dragoceno druženje članova. Žurka je bila prilika da se radni tok dana zameni smehom i slavljenjem sa prijateljima koje možda ne vidamo tako često. Posebnu pažnju privukla je devojka u beloj haljini za stolom do našeg, nalik kostimu ili čak pravoj venčanicu, što je postalo tema večeri. Nismo znali da li je zaista mlada, ili su ljudi samo maskirani. Taj neobičan detalj dodatno je obogatio već živopisnu atmosferu. Druženje je trajalo do kasno u noć, uz mnogo dobre energije. Prednovogodišnja žurka simbolično je zaokružila godinu iza nas i najavila novu, sa još više zajedničkih aktivnosti.



Autor fotografije: Nemanja M. Angelovski



MENSA
INTERNATIONAL

IBD 2025



IBD 2025 održan je od 23. – 26.10. u Dizeldorfu, Nemačka



U fokusu ove godine

- Finansijski okvir
 - Digitalna transformacija i bezbednost podataka
 - Governance i međunarodni standardi (Bylaws, MSCRS, sukobi interesa)
 - Razvoj zajednice, fondovi i međunarodni programi
 - Bezbednost članova i standardi ponašanja
-

Finansijski okvir

2024 – Finansijski rezultat

- Prihod +9% driven rastom komponentnih članarina; snažan pozitivan momentum na prihodnoj strani uz i dalje visoku zavisnost od ovog izvora
- Administrativni troškovi značajno smanjeni (bez visokih CRM troškova kao 2023), FX efekti neutralni
- Ostvaren mali neto profit ~10k GBP, čime je u potpunosti preokrenut prošlogodišnji gubitak

FY 2025 – Procena

- Očekuje se još jedna umereno pozitivna godina; dodatna ulaganja u strategiju, brending i pozicioniranje uz prihode uglavnom u liniji sa budžetom
- Prognoza zasnovana na „as-is“ IT modelu (novo rešenje nije uključeno), uz uključene uštede u troškovima zaposlenih za SEP–DEC 2025
- Neto rezultat procenjen na ~28k GBP, odnosno ~15k GBP iznad inicijalnog budžeta

FY 2026 – Budžet

- Planirana treća uzastopna pozitivna godina sa neto rezultatom oko ~40k GBP
 - Uvedena nova logika planiranja: prvo se zatvaraju svi trendovi, a zatim se odlučuje o alokaciji ~35k GBP dostupnih sredstava
 - U plan nisu uključeni FX efekti (+/-30k istorijski), promene komponenti i output task force timova; bez promene broja zaposlenih, zamena ED od januara
-

Prezentacija DPO-a: analiza "March Data Breach" incidenta i naučene lekcije

IMD (International Membership Database) projekat:

- potreba za većom transparentnošću u izboru vendara i daljim koracima
- naglašena važnost standardizacije podataka i pristupa

Motion 25-42: usvojen predlog za Secure Central API hosted by Mensa International – korak ka sigurnijoj i centralizovanoj digitalnoj infrastrukturi

Predstavljene najbolje prakse iz Mensa Croatia u radu sa članstvom

Governance i međunarodni standardi (Bylaws, MSCRS, sukobi interesa)

- **Consent Agenda (25-17 do 25-26):**

- modernizacija Bylaws
- preciziranje zahteva prema Emerging / Provisional / Full National Mensama (dostavljanje ustava, zapisnika, finansijskih izveštaja, itd.)

- ažuriranje i jačanje MSCRS (Minimum Standard Constitutional Requirements)

- **Motion 25-30: uvedena ograničenja za ISC i CRC** – članovi ne mogu učestvovati u pregledima i odlukama koji se tiču njihove sopstvene nacionalne Mense

- **Motion 25-32: usvojena nova pravila o sukobu interesa (obaveza prijavljivanja, procedura za postupanje)**

Razvoj zajednice, fondovi i međunarodni programi



- **Grantovi:**

- Motion 25-33: grant Dutch Mensa Fonds – podrška projektima i istraživanjima vezanim za inteligenciju i darovitost
- Motion 25-34: grant Nordic Mensa Fund – nastavak podrške regionalnim istraživačkim i razvojnim aktivnostima

- **Naglasak na ulozi fondacija (Mensa Foundation, nacionalni fondovi) u:**

- podršci nadarenima
- istraživačkim projektima i saradnji sa akademskom i širom zajednicom

- **Međunarodni programi i projekti:**

- SIG-ovi, SIGHT, PhotoCup i druge inicijative kao alat za povezivanje članova preko granica
- Nacionalne prezentacije (Brazil, Hrvatska, Makedonija) kao inspiracija za razvoj lokalnih projekata

Bezbednost članova i standardi ponašanja



- **Motion 25-36: formiranje Task Force-a za razvoj međunarodne politike o seksualnom uznemiravanju i potencijalnim incidentima na Mensa događajima**

- zadatak: izrada okvirne politike i preporučenih procedura za sve nacionalne Mense

- **Motion 25-41: ustavna revizija – potvrđuje se pravo Mensa International i nacionalnih Mensi da odbiju, uklone ili ograniče pojedince na osnovu legitimnih, dokazivih, javnobezbednosnih razloga**

- **Diskusija:**

- kako uravnotežiti zaštitu zajednice, pravnu usklađenost i prava pojedinaca
- potreba za jasnim, transparentnim i proporcionalnim procedurama

Za kraj....:

IBD 2026. je u Rumuniji,
2027. u Južnoj Koreji!



Balkanska ekipa je – naravno – dominirala!



Pozdravlja vas i (skrajnuti) ExComm ☺



THANK YOU!

IZVEŠTAJ SA IVN KONFERENCIJE 2025



Motivation of Young Mensa Member Volunteers

UVOD



U organizaciji Nataše Aćimović Knežević, članice Predsedništva Mense Srbije,
Održana je IVN konferencija sa ciljem da se podele iskustva motivisanja volontera.

Fokus je bio na motivisanju mladih članova Mensi.

Na konferenciji su prisustvovali predstavnici Mense Srbije, Crne Gire, BiH, Mađarke, Italije, Francuske, Danske, Švedske, Norveške, Brazila

UVOD

IVN
IVN+



Mensa Italije je imala veliki uspeh u motivisanju mladih volontera:

- Saradnja sa univerzitetima i uključivanje mladih članova Mensa u naučna istraživanja
- Podržavanje događaja popularnim među mladima (Lord of the Rings day, Harry Potter day).
- LUDO game awards u organizaciji Mensa Italije
- Davanje veće odgovornosti mladim volonterima povećava osećaj pripadnosti.
- Mentorstvo novim volonterima
- Imalo je uticaja i to što je predsednik Mensa Italije poznata ličnost.

UVOD

IVN
IVN+



Mensa Brazila je takođe imala veliki uspeh. Oni imaju malo drukčiji pristup:

- Angažuju marketinšku agenciju za promociju mense, SEO i vođenje društvenih mreža.
- Volonteri potpisuju *Volunteer service agreement* sa Mensom Brazila.
- Čekiraju se za volontiranje preko mobilne aplikacije dobijaju bedževe – achievement-e na sajtu i mobilnoj aplikaciji nakon volontiranja na nekom događaju.
- Takođe su uključeni u naučne projekte u saradnji sa univerzitetima.

UVOD

IVN
IVN+



- **Mensa Mađarske** ima program za obuku volontera od nekoliko dana.
- Izbegavaju da javno navode imena volontera, jer uvek nekog izuzmu.
- Stavlja se akcenat da trenutna generacija volontera raznišlja o traženju i obučavanju nove generacije jer je aktuelnim volonterima lakše pada da obavljaju volonterski rad nego da obučavaju nove volontere.
- Nagrade za volontere u okviru putovanja koja dotira Mensa Mađarske.

UVOD

IVN
IVN+



- **Skandinavske Mense** nemaju problem sa volonterima jer je u njihovoj kulturi obavezno da mladi volontiraju.
- Svakako dotiraju putovanja mladima.
- **Mensa Francuske** je izlagala o organizaciji događaja za decu.

Predlog budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu

1	Članarina			3,121,200.00
1.1	Članarina kraj 2025 + 2026 pun iznos 3300 din, 2640 din pripadajući deo za 2026	2,640.00	80	211,200.00
1.2	Članarina 2026 sa popustom	2,400.00	1000	2,400,000.00
1.3	Članarina 2026 pun iznos	3,000.00	170	510,000.00
2	Testiranje			1,555,000.00
2.1	grupno puna cena	2,500.00	450	1,125,000.00
2.2	grupno povlašćena cena	2,000.00	150	300,000.00
2.3	individualno fiksni deo	13,000.00	10	130,000.00
2.4	gratis davaoci krvi i dr.	0.00	80	0.00
3	Donacije			429,000.00
3.1	od članova koji organizuju aktivnosti u NS			99,000.00
3.2	od članova koji organizuju aktivnosti u BG			250,000.00
3.3	donacija NAK			70,000.00
3.4	ostalo			10,000.00
4	Prihodi od projekata			294,000.00
4.1	oko 7% od budžeta projekta Upskill and Reconnect 35822€			294,000.00
5	Trošak putovanja predstavika na IBD – refundacija MILa			55,000.00
6	Prihodi od događaja			80,000.00
6.1	Konferencija o darovitosti			80,000.00
6.2	drugi događaji			0.00
Ukupno prihodi				5,534,200.00

Rezultat poslovne godine	-692,250.00
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Predlog plana rada za 2026. godinu

Aktivnosti:

1. Održavanje prolećnog i jesenjeg zasedanja Skupštine
2. Testiranja: minimum 5 u Beogradu, 2 u Novom Sadu i Nišu, Kragujevcu, Kruševcu, 1 u Jagodini, Šapcu, Požarevcu i Pančevu i u Subotici
3. Dani Mense u najmanje tri lokalne Mense
4. Organizacija Mensa Connect 2026 – Regional Gathering Zlatibor
5. Organizacija IX konferencije o darovitosti i prateće aktivnosti
6. Obeležavanje Dana inteligencije
7. Konkurisanje za fondove Evropske unije sa predlogom projekta E+ programa i sve druge prateće aktivnosti vezano za projekte (obuke, razmene itd.)
8. Podsticanje aktivnosti odseka Mense Srbije
9. Izdavanje MozalQ časopisa na tri meseca
10. Učešće u humanitarnim aktivnostima
11. Organizovanje kreativnih aktivnosti: foto kup, radionice, kampovi
12. Organizacija edukativnih aktivnosti: predavanja, seminari
13. Suorganizacija strukovnih konferencija i naučno-obrazovnih skupova
14. Podrška projektima čiji je cilj unapređenje obrazovanja i intelektualnih sposobnosti učenika i mladih

Pravno-administrativni poslovi:

15. Sprovođenje referenduma za usvajanje odluka Skupštine Mense Srbije
16. Revizija statuta i podstatutarnih akata Mense Srbije

Saradnje:

17. Nastavak i proširenje saradnje sa Mensama u okruženju
18. Saradnja sa Gifted Youth Committee Mense International
19. Saradnja sa IVN Committee Mense International (prenos najbolje prakse, iskustva i ideja iz drugih nacionalnih Mensi širom sveta)
20. Saradnja sa komitetom za strateško planiranje Mense International
21. Nastavak i proširenje saradnje sa medijima u cilju održavanja pozitivnog imidža organizacije u javnosti
22. Nastavak i proširenje saradnje sa obrazovnim i ustanovama kulture
23. Nastavak i proširenje saradnje sa državnim organima i drugim neprofitnim organizacijama
24. Nastavak i proširenje saradnje sa MIL i promocija međunarodnih Mensa okupljanja među članstvom

Razvojni poslovi:

25. Unapređenje rada lokalnih Mensa
26. Dalje unapređenje aktivnosti u radu sa decom
27. Unapređenje rada SIGova
28. Izdavačka delatnost
29. Promocija i motivacija članova za angažman i članstvo
30. Rad na proširenju sistema popusta za članove Mense
31. Priznanja za najaktivnije volontere
32. Završetak izrade e-sistema Mense Srbije
33. Plasiranje i rentiranje softverskih rešenja e-sistema Mense Srbije drugim Mensama

ZAPISNIK

sa sastanka Izborne komisije Mense Srbije (u daljem tekstu: Izborna komisija)
dana 29.12.2025. godine

Sastanak Izborne komisije Mense Srbije realizovan je 28.12.2025. godine elektronskim putem. Na sastanku su prisustvovala četiri člana Izborne komisije, čime je ispunjen kvorum za donošenje odluka.

Na sastanku je realizovano:

Uspešno smo se ulogovali pomoću AnyDesk programa na SurveyMonkey servis za elektronsko glasanje. Glasanje je završeno 21.12.2025. godine u 22.30 sati.

Nakon očitavanja rezultata ustanovljeno je da su kandidati sa najviše glasova za novi saziv Izborne komisije: Milan Blagojević, Dušanka Kastel, Miloš Đokić, Snežana Živković i Nikola Janković.

Ukupno je bilo poslato 1274 poziva za glasanje, a odazvala su se 143 člana, i glasali po sledećem:

1)	Milan Blagojević	75 glasova	(52.45%)
2)	Dušanka Kastel	64 glasa	(44.76%)
3)	Miloš Đokić	57 glasova	(39.86%)
4)	Snežana Živković	56 glasova	(39.16%)
5)	Nikola Janković	54 glasa	(37.76%)
6)	Marijana Nikolić	47 glasova	(32.87%)
7)	Slobodan Popović	45 glasova	(31.47%)
8)	Marjan Aleksić	45 glasova	(31.47%)
9)	Aleksandar Pušica	16 glasova	(11.19%)

Primljen je jedan listić poštanskim putem.

Na sastanku su prisustvovali članovi Izborne komisije:

- Jovan Aleksić – član Izborne komisije,
- Filip Pešić – član Izborne komisije,
- Aleksandar Popović – član Mense Srbije i
- Daniel David – član Mense Srbije.

Zapisnik izradio:

Branka Marković, Spec. struk. inž. tehnol.
Predsednik Izborne komisije Mense Srbije

ZAPISNIK SA REDOVNOG ZASEDANJA SKUPŠTINE MENSE SRBIJE ODRŽANOG 13.12.2025.

Zasedanje Skupštine Mense Srbije održano je 13.12.2025. godine, u Beogradu na Fakultetu za poslovne studije i pravo FPSP, Jurija Gagarina 149a, sa početkom u 11:20h časova. Skupštinu je otvorio i učesnike pozdravio Boris Projović, predsednik Mense Srbije. Sednici je prisustvovalo 41 članova Mense Srbije.

Materijali za sednicu su blagovremeno stavljeni na uvid članovima preko sajta Mense Srbije o čemu su članovi obavešteni u pozivu za sednicu Skupštine. U 11:25h je konstatovan broj prisutnih članova čime je započeto zasedanje. Na predlog predsednika Mense Srbije Borisa Projovića, članovi Skupštine su glasanjem doneli odluku da članovi Radnog predsedništva, pored Borisa Projovića, budu Nataša Aćimović-Knežević, član predsedništva zadužen za finansije i članica Snežana Živković („za” 30); Na predlog Borisa Projovića, članovi su glasanjem doneli odluku da zapisnik vodi Ilija Kujović, („za” 38);

Sednica je započeta svečanim delom, dodelom priznanja i plaketa zaslužnim članovima.

Pohvalnica za najaktivnijeg koordinatora dodeljena je Matiji Čolakoviću, koordinatorskom lokalne Mense Beograda.

Pohvalnica za najaktivnijeg volontera uručena je, Đorđu Petroviću Kizi članu iz Kragujevca.

Pohvalnica za najaktivnijeg člana koordinacionog tima uručena je Danielu Davidu članu koordinacionog tima Beograda.

Za izuzetnu podršku, donacije i saradnju dodeljena je Nemanji Antiću.

Pohvalnica za najkreativnijeg člana dodeljena je Marijani Nikolić koja je sprečena da prisustvuje.

Posthumno je dodeljena zahvalnica i plaketa Aleksandru Petroviću Caletu za dugogodišnji doprinos Mensi. Zahvalnica i plaketa je uručena Dunji Šašić, koordinatorki lokalne Mense Novog Sada.

Zahvalnica je uručena Vladimiru Marinkoviću za izuzetan doprinos Mensi Srbije.



Dnevni red:

1. Izveštaj sa IVN i IBD Mense International 2025
2. Predlog plana rada Mense Srbije za 2026.
3. Predlog budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026.

Dnevni red se usvaja. Za je glasalo 38. Protiv 0 Uzdržano 0

Tok skupštine po tačkama dnevnog reda:

1. Izveštaj sa IVN i IBD Mense International 2025

Prva tačka nije bila predmet glasanja već izveštaja. Predstavница EXCOM-a na poziciji Treasurer Jovana Kostić predstavila je Izveštaj sa IBD-a Mense International za 2025. godinu sa osvrtom na najvažnije aktivnosti. Nataša Aćimović-Knežević, Chair IVN komiteta Mense International predstavila je članovima ciljeve i svrhu IVN-a. godinu. Ilija Kujović, predstavnik Mense Srbije na sastanku u IVN u Dizeldorfu podelio je svoja iskustva i zapažanja, kao i svoje izlaganje na sastanku. Skupština je primila k znanju oba izveštaja.

2. Predlog plana rada Mense Srbije za 2026.

Predlog plana rada pripremilo je Predsedništvo, a obrazložio ga je predsednik Mense Srbije, Boris Projović. Tačke predloga vezane za e-sistem uz prezentaciju radne verzije izgleda sajta obrazložio je Ilija Kujović, član Predsedništva zadužen za e-sisteme. Nakon prezentovanja Plana rada članovi Skupštine su glasali i od prisutnih 39, sa 37 glasova „za“, 1 glas „uzdržan“, nije glasalo: 1 doneli

PREPORUKU članovima Mense Srbije da usvoje Plan rada Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu.

3. Predlog budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026.

Predlog budžeta za 2026-u godinu pripremilo je Predsedništvo, a obrazložila ga je članica Predsedništva zadužena za finansije, Nataša Aćimović-Knežević. Nakon prezentovanja budžeta prisutni članovi Skupštine (prisutno 38 članova u trenutku glasanja) sa 24 glasova „za“, 3 glasa „protiv“, 8 glasova „uzdržan“ i 3 člana nisu glasala, doneli su

PREPORUKU članovima Mense Srbije da usvoje Predlog Budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu.

Pošto su iscrpljene sve tačke Dnevnog reda, zasedanje je zaključeno u 15:20 časova dana 13.12.2025.



ZAPISNIK

sa sednice Izborne komisije Mense Srbije

dana 14.01.2026. godine

Sednica Izborne komisije Mense Srbije održana je dana **14.01.2026. godine**, sa početkom u **20.00 časova**, elektronskim putem, korišćenjem Zoom platforme i snimana je u celosti radi arhiviranja, u skladu sa važećim aktima Mense Srbije.

Sednici je prisustvovalo **pet (5) članova Izborne komisije Mense Srbije**, čime je obezbeđen **kvorum za punovažno odlučivanje**, kao i **dva (2) člana prethodnog saziva Izborne komisije**, bez prava odlučivanja.

Dnevni red:

1. Utvrđivanje rezultata Referenduma članova Mense Srbije o:
 - o usvajanju Plana rada Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu
 - o usvajanju predloga budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu

1) Utvrđivanje rezultata Referenduma

Izborna komisija konstatuje da je pravo učešća u Referendumu imalo **članstvo Mense Srbije koje je na dan 29.12.2025. godine bilo evidentirano kao punopravno članstvo u bazi Mense Srbije**.

Ukupan broj upućenih poziva za glasanje iznosio je **1284**.

Referendum je sproveden **elektronskim putem**, korišćenjem servisa **SurveyMonkey**, u skladu sa važećim aktima Mense Srbije.

Period glasanja bio je sledeći:

- početak glasanja: **29.12.2025. godine u 08.00 časova**
- završetak glasanja: **09.01.2026. godine u 22.00 časa**

Glasovi dostavljeni putem poštanskih pošiljki uzimani su u obzir poslati zaključno sa **09.01.2026. godine**.

Prebrojavanje glasova izvršeno je na sednici Izborne komisije.

Izborna komisija konstatuje da tokom sprovođenja Referenduma i prebrojavanja glasova **nije bilo uočenih nepravilnosti**.

2) Rezultati glasanja

2.1. Plan rada Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu

Izborna komisija konstatuje da je Skupština Mense Srbije na jesenjem zasedanju 2025. godine donela **preporuku članstvu** da se Plan rada Mense Srbije usvoji putem Referenduma (37 glasova „za“, 1 glas „uzdržan“, 1 član nije glasao).

Rezultati glasanja članstva su sledeći:

- **ZA** – 133 glasa (82,61 %)
- **PROTIV** – 7 glasova (4,35 %)
- **UZDRŽAN/A** – 14 glasova (8,70 %)
- **NE ŽELIM DA SE IZJASNIM PO OVOM PITANJU** – 7 glasova (4,35 %)

UKUPNO: 161 važeći glas

Nije bilo glasova dostavljenih poštanskim putem

2.2. Predlog budžeta za 2026. godinu

Izborna komisija konstatuje da je Skupština Mense Srbije na jesenjem zasedanju 2025. godine donela **preporuku članstvu** da se Predlog budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu usvoji putem Referenduma (37 glasova „za“, 1 glas „uzdržan“, 1 član nije glasao).

Rezultati glasanja članstva su sledeći:

- **ZA** – 111 glasova (68,94 %)
- **PROTIV** – 16 glasova (10,56 %)
- **UZDRŽAN/A** – 26 glasova (16,15 %)
- **NE ŽELIM DA SE IZJASNIM PO OVOM PITANJU** – 7 glasova (4,35 %)

UKUPNO: 161 važeći glas

Nije bilo glasova dostavljenih poštanskim putem

Zaključak

Na osnovu utvrđenih rezultata Referenduma, Izborna komisija **konstatuje** da je **Plan rada kao i Predlog budžeta Mense Srbije za 2026. godinu usvojen većinom glasova članstva**, u skladu sa Statutom i važećim aktima Mense Srbije.

Sednica Izborne komisije završena je u **21.30 časova**, dana **14.01.2026. godine**.

Na sednici izborne komisije prisustvovali:

- Jovan Aleksić – član prethodnog saziva IK,
- Filip Pešić – član prethodnog saziva IK,
- Milan Blagojević – član
- Dušanka Kastel – član
- Miloš Đokić – član
- Nikola Janković – član
- Snežana Živković – član.

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(Photo courtesy of Martyn Davies)

Michael Feenan (third from right) and his wife, Marian (left), with International Officers at the IBD meeting in Dubrovnik in 2012.

p5

MENSA INTERNATIONAL

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from the editor...



- this month's issue pays tribute to Michael Feenan, who resigned from the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mensa International in August this year. Michael served under a number of Chairmen during his time as CEO, and on pp3-5, each of these Chairmen expresses their thoughts and gratitude.
- on p6, our Features Editor, Taryn Dryfhout, tells us about the French man who, in 2007, was found to be missing 90% of his brain.
- our Member Profile is on p7, and on p8, the concept of Vedic Mathematics is explored.
- on p9, the question of whether the IIT entrance test measures intelligence is posed.
- our Science guru, John Blinke brings us the latest snippets of scientific news on p10.
- the Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Brain Teasers are on p12.

Happy Reading!

Kate

Songs Trigger Faster, Stronger, Personal Memories

Listening to familiar music can trigger vivid memories, and new research suggests that it isn't just sentimental lyrics or clever rhymes that take us back in time.

Researchers from the University of Waterloo investigated which component of music is most powerful in evoking memories. They compared listener reactions to hearing only spoken lyrics or the produced songs.

They found that complete songs were most effective in taking the listener down memory lane because we connect them to specific times and emotions.

This is the first study to propose a reason for why songs can cue detailed memories of our past. It is part of an ongoing series looking at whether individuals with dementia could use playlists from their youth to aid recall of precious memories from their past.

"We found songs were more effective and often brought back personal memories from the time when the song was popular," said Dr. Myra Fernandes, a professor in the Department of Psychology at Waterloo.

"Music helps us remember by connecting memories to a certain period in our lives."

Using a range of popular songs released between 2017 and 2020, the researchers asked 84 participants to listen to excerpts of pop songs and spoken lyrics. For each clip, they responded as soon as a personal memory came to mind and wrote about it.

The researchers analysed the recall speed, timeframe and the feelings that the participants reported for memories elicited by the songs and lyrics.

The results suggest that songs act as temporal landmarks, or time-stamps, that help guide the brain's search through memory banks.

The study revealed that more positive and upbeat songs were associated with greater likelihood of triggering positive memories.

"Remarkably, song cues also led to stronger feelings of re-living or re-experiencing an event. And this is particularly relevant for older adults who may have difficulty spontaneously recreating past events from their lives," Fernandes said.

Dr. Pelin Tanberg and Dr. Ryan Yeung, who were PhD candidates working in the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab in the Department of Psychology at the time of this work, are co-authors of the paper.

neurosciencenews.com June 30, 2025

MY-NY 2025/26,

from December 28th, 2025, to January 4th, 2026,

Registration is already open: <https://my-sig.org/events/mynyn2526>

From your ExComm, November, 2025

In 2007, Mensa International hired a new Executive Director, Michael Feenan. He served the organisation until his retirement in August 2025. Rather than the usual column from a current ExComm member, we decided to offer this space for the past Chairmen of Mensa International to share their reflections on their time working with Michael.

Willem Bouwens 2009–2013

After many years of service, “our” Michael Feenan is going to retire. Looking back at his service to Mensa since February 2007, what to say? Words can hardly express the appreciation for so many years of service. The dedicated service, the fun we had, the way we coordinated our energy to maximise the contribution to this wonderful international organisation. The things I remember best?

There are many, it is hard to pick a few! As a seasoned diplomat, it was close to impossible to surprise Michael, but one time we, ExComm, did it! In 2012, we decided that we should meet the standards of all respected famous global organisations such as McDonalds, Volkswagen, IBM. One item was still lacking. We introduced the honorary title “employee of the month”, and ExComm awarded that to Michael Feenan. It was handed out at the Gala dinner at the 2012 IBD meeting at Dubrovnik. He was amused, and so

were we, and Michael appreciated the gesture and the certificate hung for many years in his home office. That was the only time I saw him a bit speechless.

Some members asked, what about all the other months Michael was the only person in charge? No other person after that was awarded with the honorary title “employee of the month.”

Being the Chair of Mensa International it is good to have regular face-to-face meetings and to discuss with the Executive Director, Michael, “how things are going” usually some time before or after an IBD meeting or another international meeting, and sometimes a very special place — his garden. I took a night ferry from Rotterdam to Hull and then an hour and a half hour drive to his home. We followed up with a meeting with the then D of Admin, Sylvia Herbert, a light lunch at the local pub, and then I left around 16:00 to take a night ferry back to Rotterdam. A lovely sunny garden is an excellent place to discuss face-to-face how things are going. I will always remember the relaxing atmosphere to discuss business.

I remember, too, the IBD meeting in New Zealand, a country known for its earthquakes. During the IBD meeting, the build-



Michael Feenan

ing started to shake lightly (others say heavily). In my opinion, and of many others, it was a small earthquake; others thought it was a heavy truck passing the building. Michael, being a seasoned diplomat, did not start a discussion; he managed to prevent a debate over it. So, in the eyes of many IBD members, we experienced the first earthquake during an IBD meeting. After the IBD meeting, we flew home with an earthquake experience, which sounds much better than “a heavy truck passing the building”....

A special aspect of his job is to support the MIL chair and ExComm. I could always turn to Michael to bounce off ideas, to ask feed-back on strategy, possible actions, and the best way to run an IBD meeting. Michael was always available, day and sometimes at night. This is not a job description,

this is about Michael's magic to blend in in a multicultural organisation and to find a personal way to contribute to this wonderful international organisation. I also remember the entertaining stories about his previous positions/jobs — never a dull moment in his life!

Many thanks, Michael! Many happy years in retirement! We'll meet again, somewhere, sometime and I am looking forward to it.

Elissa Rudolph 2013–2015

Our first meeting took place at the 2007 Old Time AG in Birmingham, Alabama. I believe it was Michael's and Marian's first US AG. I remember thinking to myself and I may have even said: What an introduction; this is one of our more challenging gatherings. Of course, we know all annual gatherings have their unique issues. I hoped he would return the following year. And he did. As the years tumbled by and I became more involved internationally, I leaned on Michael more and more. Always, he gave measured advice, noted possible problems, and never seemed to favour one side or any of a dozen other sides. I count Michael as one of my favourite people in Mensa and wish him well in whatever the future holds for him. May we cross paths again some day!

Bibiána Balanyi 2015–2019

I truly have no words to express how important Michael has been to Mensa. Although I knew the previous Executive Director as well, Michael's era was something exceptional — one of stability and wisdom. Thanks to his unique combination of skills, he was simply the

ideal person for the role.

Coming from a diplomatic background, he had an extraordinary ability to connect with everyone, defuse tensions, and find balanced compromises. His military experience gave him remarkable discipline and attention to detail. As a trained psychologist, he was an immense help with testing. And as a long-standing member of Mensa, he understood the organisation inside and out. And, not least, he has a brilliant sense of humour — one he often used to ease difficult moments.

He is exceptionally intelligent and wise, even by Mensa standards. He grasps situations instantly and responds with clarity, accuracy, and warmth. He is also, quite simply, a true

“I truly have no words to express how important Michael has been to Mensa.”

gentleman.

Michael has set the bar incredibly high. Finding another 'Michael' will be no easy task — he is far more than just an employee; he is an institution. We placed a tremendous workload on him, yet he never once complained. He was always there when needed. I often joked that we ought to clone him ten times over. His presence was particularly valuable in long-term projects that spanned multiple Executive Committees or IBDs.

Without him, I could never have delivered the new website, guided groups towards integration, built national Mensas, developed the brand, introduced new communication tools, or launched the adaptive

test project.

I worked closely with him in two capacities over more than a decade — as Chair and as Director of Development. I was able to do my job to a high standard because he was always there: calm, knowledgeable, supportive, solution-oriented, and a source of strength. With him behind me, nothing ever felt impossible. I enjoyed every minute of working with him. From the very start, we spoke the same language, and over the years he became a treasured friend.

I admired the way he operated at the IBD table, but what I perhaps loved most were the evenings when we'd gather over dinner and listen to his wonderful stories...

Even though I know we cannot keep relying on him forever — and that he has more than earned his free time — I can't help feeling sad, and a little apprehensive. But I'm genuinely happy for him, knowing he now has the chance to pursue plans he's long postponed. I know he'll write a book — and I'll be first in line among his keen readers. That at least gives me some comfort as we prepare for a Mensa without him in this role.

Björn Liljeqvist 2019–2024

Michael, we served together on ExComm no less than eleven years, and I feel grateful and privileged that I could work with you and learn. Through ups and downs, from top to bottom, we both found a peculiar charm managing the strange ways of Mensa. You served Mensa with dedication and distinction, and always with a thrilling story ready, from your days of adventures.

***Joyce meets Kipling: A Paean to
the Former Executive Director of
Mensa
International***

By Björn Liljeqvist (with a quantum of help from technology.)

*Three quarks for Michael Feenan!
I do not think I've seen an
Outstanding man so just,
Who bore the work he must.*

*More jungle than a table,
In Mensa's sprawling fable,
He did the work of two:
Of both Bagheera and Baloo.*

*For eighteen years he carried
Mensa's burden,
And Feenan bore it finely, bore it
true;
With steady hand, his service
always certain,
With gentle wit, and guidance
steady too.*

*And if we met with Triumph and
Disaster?
A man of genius makes no
mistakes.
He held the helm, and none could
hold it faster;
Knew when to steady, when to pull
the brakes.*

*Dear former staff, who's once again
a member,
This simple joy your past Chair
recommends;
And if you read these lines in late
November,
Receive my wishes, as this poem
ends.*

**Therese Moodie-Bloom
2024–2025**

An unusual symbiotic relationship exists between the Executive Director (an employee) and the members of the IBD and ExComm (Mensans). The members set policy; the Executive Director (ED) implements it. Yet it is the ED who must guide new Committee members, including the Director of Administration into their roles.

The ED is a repository of all Mensa history and tradition, and of all past policies as well as current. New members of the ExComm and of the IBD, who come and go on a regular basis need to rely heavily upon the ED in the day-to-day running of the society. The ED is the continuity factor—the glue which keeps the admin running smoothly.

I have been fortunate to work with two EDs: the inimitable Ed Vincent, and Michael Feenan. Mensa International also employs an Assistant Executive Director, now known as the Director of Operations. Ashley Williams has been a superb addition to the MI Office: innovative, efficient, thoughtful and always looking for procedures to improve or expedite our work. He now provides the continuity factor following Michael's departure.

I wish Michael, and the delightful Marian, the best for the future.

Robin Crawford 2025–Present

I met Michael back when he was first hired and had the privilege of chatting with him here and there over the years. I was always impressed —intimidated, even— by the vast experience and knowledge he seemed to have. When I finally

began to work with him directly a year ago, I learned that my impressions were correct. Over the past year, Michael has been amazingly helpful, pragmatic, and calm in the midst of several challenges — patiently advising, subtly suggesting options I hadn't considered, and stepping in to directly handle problems that seemed overwhelming.

As the ExComm works to shift responsibilities around during this transition, we are all more and more aware that while it might be relatively easy to transfer passwords and files, we will never be able to replace Michael's gentle wisdom that has guided and developed Mensa International into the premier organisation it is today.

**Would you like to
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of the month two months before
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the December issue is October 1.*

*Please do not embed any graphics
into your file, but send them as
separate jpeg/png files.*

The Man With No Brain

by Taryn Dryhout

In 2007, a bizarre story hit the media: a French man was found to be missing 90% of his brain. Since a new book *The Immortal Mind* looks at this case, and other brain anomalies, it seems to be the perfect time to revisit this curious case.

The man was 44-years old, married with two children, and working as a civil servant, when he went to hospital complaining of mild weakness in his left leg. Up until this issue, the man had lived normally. Computed topography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) were taken of the man's brain to rule out any neurological cause for his leg weakness, and the scans revealed a huge fluid-filled chamber called a ventricle, which was taking up most of the brain space in his skull.

Whilst it was initially thought that this man had no brain, Fiona McDonald from Science Alert argued that the man had a specific type of fluid build-up in the brain called hydrocephalus. This meant that the brain was not missing, but rather compressed. The large volume of fluid in his brain meant there was only space for a thin sheet of brain tissue, just a few millimetres thick. In 2016, McDonald came to the conclusion that the thin layer of brain tissue visible in his scans is his whole brain, rather than a small amount of grey matter as originally thought. Miraculously, the retention of his entire brain allowed him to

continue living normally. What is even more peculiar, is that neuropsychological testing revealed the man to have an intelligence quotient (IQ) of 75 which is considered normal. His verbal IQ was 84, and his performance IQ was 70. These numbers do not point to a gifted person, but certainly one with significant cognitive function.

After discussions with the medical team, the man revealed that as an infant, he had a shunt tube inserted into his skull to drain away water build up on the brain, but it was removed when he was 14. Between the ages of 14, and 44, he had no idea that his brain had continued to fill with fluid, until he started experiencing trouble with his leg.

The lateral ventricles are normally tiny chambers that hold cerebrospinal fluid that cushions our brains. This man's ventricles were massively enlarged, and, according to doctors, "not compatible with life".

Axel Cleeremans, a cognitive psychologist at the University Libre in Brussels, learned about the case in 2007, and took particular interest in it. He marvelled at the medical miracle, and the brain's ability to defy everything science knew about it. The case raised major challenges for Cleeremans on theories about consciousness, which he called "the manner in which the biological activity of the brain produces awareness". He went on to give lectures and interviews about the case, stating that the case challenges previous understandings about



consciousness. The case also raised questions about the complex role of different regions of the brain, and how the brain can still function when these regions are barely present.

This phenomenon is called neuroplasticity, and it describes the brain's ability to rewire itself.

While the average brain has specific areas dedicated to certain tasks, the brain is not rigid to these. It has flexibility, and can adapt when parts are damaged or missing, especially in childhood. Clearly, this man's brain was able to delegate specific tasks to other regions in order to survive. This raises deeper questions about the function of the brain:

- Do we really need our whole brain?
- What is the bare minimum for consciousness?
- Are we underestimating the brain's potential?

Surprisingly, this isn't the only case. Similar stories have since emerged of people living with radically reduced brain volumes that are discovered by accident. It is impossible to know how many

(Continued on page 11)

member profile

by Susan Jensen

International Mensa SIGHT coordinator, HenkHenk Broekhuizen, is one of those rare people who are almost too wonderful to be true.

Warm, kind and outgoing. Always assumes the best about others. Talented in many fields: polyglot, good at maths and science, yet also creatively musical. Organised but relaxed. And especially rare in Mensa: his high intellectual IQ is matched by his high emotional IQ.

Born 60 years ago in Ede, Netherlands, HenkHenk was the youngest of five children and the only boy. He led an almost idyllic childhood filled with biking, outdoor activities and lots of exploration of the world around him. At a very young age, he began fixing all kinds of broken things and building radios, leading to a lifelong avocation as a ham radio operator (call sign: PC1G). His love of music led to his becoming a DJ at age 12, something he still does periodically. Henk's parents were entrepreneurs who owned their own restaurant. His parents, adolescents during WW2, had it quite hard during the war years. His Dad, whom Henk feels has a Mensa level IQ, had to go to work at age 13 to help support the family. Despite receiving little education, Henk's father knew his way around law books.

HenkHenk's career was pretty straightforward. From high school he went to engineering school then entered the Navy, where he still works, now as a consultant. His area

of expertise has been radio communications and computer networks.

Living in a small, European country, Henk has travelled quite a bit and loves learning about new cultures and learning new languages (he is working on five new languages in addition to the five he speaks fluently). He especially enjoys forging friendships with people from other cultures.

His ham radio hobby (begun at age 16, when he became the youngest fully licenced ham radio operator in the Netherlands) helps him meet people who live at a distance. HenkHenk joined Mensa in 1994 which became another way for him to connect with interesting people around the globe.

At a Mensa gathering in the Netherlands twenty-one years ago, HenkHenk met fellow Dutch Mensan, Esperanza. They stayed in touch via email and then met again a year later.

Since then they have been together as life partners. HenkHenk is close to his stepchildren, who were 10 and 12 when he came into their lives. Henk's volunteerism with Mensa includes: co-founding the digital magazine for Mensa Netherlands, *Nieuwe Mensa-Berichten* (of which he has been editor-in-chief since 2013), acting



as Mensa International's SIGHT coordinator (2018-2026), and as Local Secretary of the northern section of the Netherlands. He has been the "karaoke master" at various national and international Mensa events.

HenkHenk enjoys hearing from Mensans who are visiting the Netherlands, especially if they are interested in the Mensa SIGHT program. He can be reached at: sight@mensa.org

***Mark your calendars!
December 28 - January 1
Silvensa in Milano, Italy***

<https://2025.silvensa.org>

Vedic Mathematics

When we were in elementary school our only accessory was a slate. Everything we studied was dictated by teacher and we wiped the slate after each class. But there was one subject which did not require a slate. It was mental mathematics. Some kids dreaded that period while others thrived. Questions were from mathematic tables or simple Arithmetic.

There were no calculators or mobiles but our mental agility in learning improved which became useful later in life. The modern world requires a different skill set and the question is whether mental agility has a permanent effect for the brain. This is where the debate about Vedic mathematics and its impact on one's IQ comes in.

Recently this subject, its advantages on brain development and origin has become popular as many courses are offered online. It would be interesting to look at its origin, impact and claims. Is it a real double-edged sword for cognitive enhancement?

The study is derived from Atharva Veda the ancient Indian scriptures and involves mathematical techniques which they named 'SutraS' and sub 'Sutras', which one can translate into techniques to solve complex mathematical problems. The method was revived in 20th century by Bharathi Krishna Tirthaji. This method supposedly helped to enhance memory, con-

centration, number relationship and overall intellectual performance.

Measures of reasoning ability, problem solving, memory and processing speed are usually associated with one's intelligent quotient. To what extent this applies to mastering Vedic Mathematics is an interesting question.

One of the significant contributions of this method is that it helps to reduce the cognitive work load while solving problems. The mental exercise of using this method definitely helps the working memory, which in turn impacts the other studies.

Computer science, physics and economics all need that mental agility. This subject definitely is worth deep research to substantiate the impacts on IQ. One can not just dismiss it as a few techniques to simplify problems.

As with every every subject there would different opinions. If you research deeply, such opinions would surface. From a critical perspective the method is termed 'Tricks' by some. As with every such subject the first point would be to contest claims and origins. Many scholars claim that such 'Sutras' are not mentioned in Vedic texts and could be authored by systems progenitor, Shri Krishna Tirthaji. They also point out such issues like limited application, evidence, and focus more on speed over substance.

Looking beyond words of wis-

dom and barbs or critiques, it is definitely a subject that needs more study and the benefits are worth the effort.

Study of Vedic Mathematics definitely appears to offer convincing and compelling methodology to make mathematics less daunting for many. In the age of AI and smartphones, mental maths has a lot to offer. Its position as a subject of study and examination, as it was during my school days, should perhaps be regained.

To conclude, it is not just a tool with gimmicks to solve problems quickly but a path to enhance one's overall capacity to improve the mental power which definitely will impact performance in many areas. Many would probably know about the trivium and quadrivium of subjects that made up the Degree in Arts.

Originally reading, writing and rhetoric were the subject, but later Arithmetic, Geometry and Astrol-ogy were added. Needless to say mathematical calculations were the basis on which many of these subjects were founded. Vedic Mathematics should be integrated into a broader education involving similar subjects.

I am not a scholar or researcher but always had an interest in Mathematics which led me to read and watch many videos. I hope this will lead to more people's interest in the subject.

Gopalan Kutty

(Gopalan is a member of Mensa India)

Does the IIT Entrance Test Measure Intelligence?

The Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) is the entrance exam for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), India's premier engineering institutions. It is one of the toughest exams in the world. The acceptance rates of the IITs are lower than those of the world's top universities.

In 2024, more than a million students in India took the JEE. Because IITs are so selective, people often believe that only those with very high IQs get in. Parents and students often think that attending an IIT equates to being super-intelligent. These are myths that need to be debunked. The JEE is not an IQ test, and it is not intelligence that the exam seeks to check. So then what does the JEE intend to check?

To succeed in the JEE, one needs to have memorised tons of formulae and practised solving lots and lots of questions. Cracking the JEE is about having a firm grip over the theoretical aspects and mastering the techniques needed to solve questions in minimal time.

So, while an IQ test tests takers on the basis of parameters like logical reasoning and doesn't require much preparation, it needs rigorous preparation to ace the JEE.

While intelligence may improve a student's chances of scoring better in the JEE, it is not intelligence that solely determines success or failure in the JEE. It is fair to say that those who make it to the IITs are not necessarily the smartest among the

lot. Many who have done well in the JEE may not do as well on an IQ test because an IQ test is quite different from the JEE.

Excelling in the JEE requires great amounts of preparation. Students study for two or more years for a single exam. The average preparation time for internationally conducted and widely recognised tests like the GRE or the SAT, on the other hand, is only a few months.

From sending children to coaching centre hubs such as Kota to spending hard-earned savings on coaching class fees, parents are willing to do anything and everything, trying to ensure that their child secures a seat at an IIT.

But even after several years' worth of studies, many smart students aren't able to get into IITs. It is quite discouraging to students and parents who think that not clearing the JEE means that a student is not intelligent enough.

In this context, it's worth noting that the JEE doesn't even particularly check aptitude for engineering studies. The subjects of, say, the computer or electronics branches of engineering are quite different from



the physics, chemistry, and mathematics that the JEE tests students on.

So, a student who does well in the JEE won't necessarily go on to become a good engineer. Besides, the test doesn't aim to check the capacity of students to think innovatively to solve engineering problems either.

So, let's just leave it at the conclusion that securing admission at an IIT is not synonymous with being highly intelligent and that acing the JEE doesn't indicate an aptitude for engineering.

Karina Bohora

(Karina is a member of Mensa India)

supplementally...

by John Blinke

Are they Here Yet?

Some people really want to believe in interstellar aliens and will accept any shred of evidence as proof that “others” are visiting us. But, as many smart people have said, we should expect to see horses, not zebras, when we hear hoofbeats. The new comet buzzing through the solar system was being called “alien tech” by some people, long before astronomers had a good look at it.

There are a lot of comet-like objects out there. Think of our solar system’s Oort cloud, which might be three light years wide. It seems likely that other stars have similar comet clouds, and that they overlap. That seems like a reasonable explanation for 3iATLAS in 2025 as well as Oumuamua in 2017 and 2I/Borisov in 2019.

See: Is It A Comet or Alien Technology?

<https://youtu.be/FsyZVoIuUGU?si=OhkTWvB9bIhIX5Ef>

ATLAS

Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) August 9, 2025. “Interstellar Interloper 3I/ATLAS from Hubble”

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/ap250809.html>

3iATLAS has a tail! The latest, brightest, interstellar visitor displays more details as it gets closer to us, and the venerable Hubble Space Telescope is on the job to record them. The comet appears to be about 5.6 kilometers wide and it is

on a fast hyperbolic path that will take it far from Earth. At nearest approach it will be a little closer than the orbit of Mars, but almost perpendicular to the plane of the solar system. See NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the day (APOD) for some great pictures.

Notes in a Bottle

ScienceDaily, August 23, 2025

“Are We Accidentally Broadcasting Our Location To Alien Civilizations?” (Astrophysical Journal Letters)

When we send telemetry to far flung space probes and Martian rovers, we also send signals to other civilisations (if any are out there).

When we beam instructions to a Mars rover, the signal does not stop at the red planet. Much of it continues into deep space. This announces our presence to the universe at large, and it is a clue about how we can search for technological life in the universe. When we find alien star systems, we can look for patterns of emission that are similar to ours to get an idea of whether they might harbor our kind of life.

Sniffles

ScienceDaily, August 26, 2025

“The Common Cold’s Unexpected Superpower Against COVID”

(Journal of Infectious Diseases)

Maybe you have wondered whether one infectious disease can inhibit another? Scientists say it can, at least for a few weeks. They observed that children who had

recently had a common cold were temporarily less likely to become infected with SARS-CoV-2.

This might be due to the enhanced interferon response a cold causes: while the immune system is in a state of high alert, SARS-CoV-2 has a more difficult time making people sick.

Bad Air

ScienceDaily, July 27, 2025.

“Is The Air You Breathe Silently Fuelling Dementia? A 29-Million-Person Study Says Yes” (The Lancet Planetary Health)

Dementia is expected to affect 152.8 million people globally by 2050. A meta-analysis of 34 scientific papers carried out by researchers at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge, indicates that three pollutants are mostly associated with dementia: PM2.5 particles, Nitrogen dioxide, and soot, with PM2.5 particles being the worst because they can go right through our lungs and into our blood streams. Then

“Dementia is expected to affect 152.8 million people globally by 2050.”

(Continued from p6)

they can invade every organ, including the brain. One kind of dementia is Alzheimer's, for which there is no clear causal mechanism. The other is vascular dementia, in which tiny particles incite inflammation in the brain, or just clog up the blood vessels. Limiting these three pollutants would have a positive effect on global health.

Bird Flu in Cows

Scientific American, August 5, 2025.
H5N1 Bird flu is spreading on dairy farms apparently by every conceivable path. The virus is found in milk, air, and waste water, but

it is not clear which avenue leads most easily to infections. Logically, it could spread via the milking equipment. Researchers were able to infect cows experimentally by injecting their teats. But they could not infect them by intentionally contaminating the milking equipment that contacts the teats. It may be that every possible infectious path contributes somewhat — in milk, in cows breath, on equipment, within wastewater and carried in the air — and perhaps the overall exposure adds up to an efficient transmission mechanism.

people may be walking around with brains that have restructured themselves to survive.

It also brings us to a profound question: what is intelligence? Is it the size, or shape of our brains? It is hard to imagine going through life, work, and family and never realising that you are missing 90% of your brain. While scientists are still not completely clear on how this man's brain survived, this man's situation is a stunning case of the brain's ability to adapt, and continue working despite extreme circumstances.

TD

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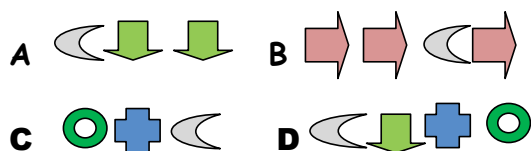
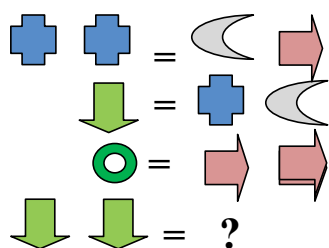
Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum

Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.

				21
				16
				17
				29
21	18	15	29	?

Barter



Rebus

A one-off?

The
PAFLASHAN

Cryptic Holiday Essentials

- Skip left for ID (8)
- Parasitic Alien? Could sound fair. (6)
- Give dues to wag; be useful for expenses. (6,4)
- Cash deck for safekeeping (5,4)
- Fit brief to pack in (8)
- Hullabaloo to accompany you (5-2)
- Aussie State after six will get you in 1 (4)

Anagram riddle

Three letters have I, you can change them around

To spell words which vary by more than a sound:

- Pushes or shoves - or just some male sheep?
- God of war? Planet -short leap;
- Members or guns – decide which to keep!

Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?

Answers

Cryptosum: 21 (5+3+8+7) **Barter:** B **Rebus:** a flash in the pan **Cryptic holiday essentials:** a) Passport b) Ticket c) Credit card d) Money belt e) Suitcase f) Carry-on g) Visa **Anagram Riddle:** Rams Mars Arms

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INTERNATIONAL SIGHT COORDINATORS

p5

Henkhenk



Bill



Andrea



Audrey



MENSA INTERNATIONAL

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from the editor...



- on p2 we learn from recent research that highly sensitive people face greater mental risks
 - this month's ExComm column on p3 comes from our Director of Smaller National Mensas, Sorana Burcusel
 - is stuttering from purely psychological causes? Read about the latest scientific ideas on this issue on p4
 - did you know we have four International SIGHT Coordinators? Have a look at p5
 - on p6, our Features Editor tells us how women make teams more intelligent
 - our profile of American Mensa's Tom Hooker is on p7 and his winning poem in the 2024 Mensa International Poetry Competition is on p11
 - what's in a name (from an etymological point of view) is on p8, while on p9, we learn how Prozac may rewire the brain by loosening rigid neural circuits
 - supplementally is on p10, the Officer Directory is on p11, and Therese's Brain Teasers are on p12

Kate

Highly Sensitive People Face Greater Mental Health Risks

The meta-analysis of 33 studies, the first of its kind, looked at the relationship between sensitivity and common mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.

In the study, sensitivity was defined as a personality trait that reflects people's capacity to perceive and process environmental stimuli such as bright lights, subtle changes in the environment and other peoples' moods.

Often overlooked in mental health studies and clinical practice, which tend to focus on neuroticism and its association with mental health conditions, this research shows that understanding a person's sensitivity level is important and can have therapeutic implications.

For example, people with more sensitive personality traits may be more likely to benefit from treatment plans which involve techniques such as applied relaxation and mindfulness, which can also prevent relapse.

Tom Falkenstein, a psychotherapist and a PhD student at Queen Mary University of London, said: "This is the most extensive systematic review on sensitivity and mental health in adolescents and adults to date, and is the first ever meta-analysis on the topic to estimate the impact of this relationship.

"We found positive and moderate correlations between sensitivity and various mental health problems such as depression, anxiety, post-

traumatic stress disorder, agoraphobia and avoidant personality disorder.

"Our findings suggest that sensitivity should be considered more in clinical practice which could be used to improve diagnosis of conditions."

"In addition, our findings could help improve treatment for these individuals. Around 31% of the general population are considered highly sensitive, and, as our findings show, are more likely to respond better to some psychological interventions than less sensitive individuals. Therefore, sensitivity should be considered when thinking about treatment plans for mental health conditions.

"Our work shows it is crucial that the awareness of sensitivity is improved among mental health care professionals, so clinicians and practitioners can recognise the trait in their patients, and tailor treatment to their sensitivity."

Michael Pluess, Professor in Developmental Psychology at University of Surrey said:

"This is the first meta-analysis providing robust evidence that highly sensitive people are more prone to common mental health problems. However, it is important to remember that highly sensitive people are also more responsive to positive experiences, including psychological treatment.

neurosciencenews.com August 16, 2025

From your ExComm...

from the Director of Smaller National Mensas, Sorana Burcusel

Being in Mensa is like being invited to a dinner party where everyone brought a thesaurus, a chess board, and a well-reasoned argument about why pineapple does or does not belong on pizza. It's a collection of brilliant, quirky minds who love to think, debate, and occasionally overanalyse the microwave instructions on frozen lasagna.

So why, in this beautiful chaos of IQ points and intellectual passion, is democracy so important?

It's because even when everyone in the room thinks they're the smartest... only democracy gives everyone an equal chance to be wrong.

Democracy in Mensa isn't just a fancy word we throw around to feel morally superior at brunch. It's the backbone of how we, as a community of overthinkers and curious minds, make sure no one is running the show like it's a Bond villain's lair.

Want to change the way the organisation works? Propose a by-law amendment. Want new leadership? Vote for it. Want a national pie chart on what's really

better: cake or pie? Okay, maybe that's not in the bylaws — yet — but you get the point.

Mensa thrives when its members engage, not just in mental gymnastics or pun battles on the forums, but in the actual decision-making that shapes what the organisation is and where it's going. It's not just your brain we want — it's your vote.

Just because you scored in the top 2% doesn't mean you have a built-in GPS for organisational governance. In fact, the moment someone says, "I don't need to vote; the smart people will figure it out," a tiny Mensa gnome somewhere spills coffee on a sudoku.

Democracy isn't about always being right. It's about collectively being less wrong over time. Engaging in elections, participating in referendums, or even just reading those thrilling meeting minutes (you know you love them) is how

we stay true to Mensa's ideals: that intelligence should not equal elitism, and that a community only works if people actually show up.

We live in a world where trust in institutions is... let's just say it's not winning popularity contests. But Mensa has something rare: a passionate, weirdly articulate group of people who genuinely care — not just about crossword puzzles or theoretical physics, but about how the organisation evolves.

That evolution only happens when members raise their hands, raise their voices, and occasionally



Continued on p4

raise their eyebrows, at the annual budget.

So vote. Run for office. Propose something. Attend a meeting. Or at least stop treating ballots like junk mail with delusions of grandeur.

Democracy in Mensa is like a potluck: everyone brings a little something to the table. Sure, some of it might be obscure references to 12th-century philosophy or oddly specific jokes about quantum mechanics. But when we all contribute, we get a banquet of ideas that no single mind (no matter how Mensa-certified) could cook up alone.

So grab your ballot like it's the last slice of cake, get involved, and help shape the future of Mensa — one gloriously nerdy, democratic step at a time.

Because let's face it: if we can't trust this group to vote responsibly, we're all in trouble.

Sorana Burcusel

DSNM

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brain pacemaker helps with stuttering

FRANKFURT. While stuttering was believed to have purely psychological causes up until about 30 years ago, scientists today attribute it to a variety of factors capable of contributing to its development. For instance, several genes have been identified that increase the risk of stuttering, and anatomically, the brains of individuals with speech flow disorders show differences in neural connections and brain activity compared to those who speak fluently.

PD Dr. Christian Kell, neurologist and director of the Cooperative Brain Imaging Center at Goethe University Frankfurt, explains: "The left hemisphere of the brain can process signals that occur in rapid succession. However, in people who stutter, the auditory cortex in the left hemisphere interacts less with the motor cortex, which controls the muscles involved in speech. As a result, the brain may delegate these tasks to the right hemisphere, which struggles with the rapid signals characteristic of speech." The outcome: although affected individuals know exactly what they want to say, they get stuck on certain words.

Kell does not consider stuttering to be a disease that necessarily requires therapy, but at the same time, he is convinced that medicine should offer services to those who suffer from their speech flow disorder and seek help.

Following extensive scientific preparation and at the patient's repetitive request, the teams from Frankfurt and Münster implanted a hair-thin wire into the left thalamus

of a man who stutters. The thalamus is a central relay station deep within the brain. Through this wire, the brain region was stimulated with mild electrical currents. Standardised tests were then used to measure how the patient's stuttering changed.

"In the months following the start of stimulation, the frequency of stuttering gradually decreased by 46%, and the stuttering became significantly less severe. When we turned off the deep brain stimulation without the patient knowing the timing, the stuttering worsened again, demonstrating a genuine biological effect dependent on the strength of the brain stimulation," says Kell. Unlike Parkinson's patients, whose tremors typically diminish immediately after starting brain stimulation and return as soon as the stimulation is stopped, the stuttering in this case increased very slowly after the stimulation was turned off – but not to the same extent as before.

The research team is now preparing a study to investigate whether deep brain stimulation can also help other individuals who experience severe stuttering. However, Kell is careful to curb overly high expectations: "Deep brain stimulation is an intensive physical procedure and, like any surgery, carries risks. These must be carefully weighed against the distress experienced by a person who stutters. We also want to explore whether we can achieve similar effects by stimulating the brain externally – without surgery."

Extracted from eurekalert.com Oct 9, 2025

The International Coordinators of **S.I.G.H.T**

International SIGHT Coordinators, plural? Well did you know that from October 2024 we no longer have just two, but now four such coordinators?

Due to the increasing success of the SIGHT program, the workload grew bigger and bigger. And with four of us, this means sharing the load and also guarantees continuity in a better way. And you may have noticed Bill or Audrey giving a presentation during the US-AG or AMG in Japan.

With Andrea looking after the Facebook group for SIGHT and Henkhenk trying to keep the SIGHT map and the info on mensa.org for SIGHT up to date. With each of us covering parts of the total job, we hope to be able to improve SIGHT where possible and make its existence known to those who do not know it yet.

And just to remind you: SIGHT stands for: **S**ervices, **I**nformation, **G**uidance and **H**ospitality for **T**ravellers. And fun fact: did you know Mensa SIGHT was the inspiration to create Couch Surfing?

With nowadays about 100 national SIGHT coordinators in 100 different countries, there is a big chance there is one in your next destination. All national Mensas have appointed a national SIGHT

coordinator. And for those countries without a national Mensa we are always looking for someone to (at least) supply information about the country and/or region. So if you live in a country without a national Mensa and no coordinator is present, either check on the map <https://thesightmap.org> or on <https://member.mensa.org/members/members-area/sight> or just send us an email to sight@mensa.org and we will work it out with you.

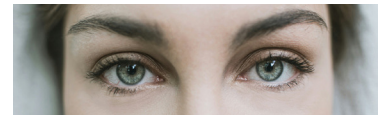
And if you can offer coffee/tea, talks and perhaps share a meal and/or some form of lodging, we would be very happy to add you on the map of SIGHT hosts. SIGHT is a great way to travel; so much better than staying in a hotel. And do not be surprised that long-lasting friendships start with this.

In case you cannot travel yourself, what could be better than to have Mensa members visit you at your home if desired. Even a floor space of 1 by 2 meters (approximately 4 by 7 feet) could be enough for someone!

Henkhenk Broekhuizen
Andrea Schwelm
Audrey Chooi
Bill Zigo

Did you know...?

The Eyes Have it!



Your eyes can let people know whether you are searching the left side of your brain for a logical sequence of facts, or using the imaginative right side to create a story.

When you are thinking with the right side of your brain, your eyes tend to look up towards the right. Similarly, if you are thinking with your left side of the brain, you tend to look upwards towards the left.

Photo by Roozbeh Badizadegan on

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The Female Factor: How Women Make Teams More Intelligent

In recent years, a growing body of research has shown that diversity is not just a buzzword, but rather, a measurable advantage. Among the most consistent findings is that teams with greater gender balance tend to perform better, solve problems more effectively, and make smarter decisions. The inclusion of more women in teams is not simply a matter of fairness or representation; it actively contributes to collective intelligence and innovation.

A piece of research published in the *Harvard Business Review* shows that what makes a team smarter comes down to one simple factor: more women. The study looked at the collective intelligence of groups, and the IQ scores of its members and found little correlation between these two figures with one exception: if a group includes more women, its collective intelligence rises. The study was made up of subjects aged 18 to 60 who took intelligence tests and were then randomly assigned to teams. Each team was asked to complete several tasks including brainstorming, decision making, and visual puzzles.

Each team was also asked to solve one complex problem. Teams were then given intelligence scores based on their performance in these tasks. Interestingly, teams with members that had higher IQs didn't fare much better when it came to collective group scores, but

teams with more women did. The study was replicated twice, and the results were the same. While factors that you would expect to be predictive of group performance did not correlate with collective intelligence, higher numbers of women in the group did. The study showed that group intelligence is not simply the sum of the individual IQs in the group, but rather the more women included, the higher the collective intelligence score.

Previous studies from Carnegie Mellon and Cornell University also back these results: gender diversity improves teams.

One of the key factors for these results is likely around social sensitivity, and how women contribute within groups. In other studies, women score higher in measures of collective intelligence. This is not necessarily because they have a higher IQ, but is linked to their skills and behaviours within a group. According to a study by Johns Hopkins University, women often have a better ability to listen, to collaborate, and have a concern for ensuring that all voices in a group are heard. This more balanced communication brings out the best in a group, and allows it to work more creatively, and collaboratively.

Women also bring different perspectives, shaped by their lived experiences. This helps them problem solve, and develop



innovative outcomes. Studies have also shown that women are less competitive, and try to avoid conflict, providing better team outcomes overall.

The research is clear: across multiple domains, teams with more women demonstrate enhanced collective intelligence, creativity, decision-making, and innovation.

Adding more women to teams is not simply about tokenism, or fulfilling diversity quotas, but rather about recognising the benefits of gender diversity in groups, and harnessing the highest potential. In a world where complex challenges require innovative solutions, the smartest teams are those that are inclusive and diverse. Adding more women is not just the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do.

By valuing gender balance, we unlock the full potential of collective intelligence, ensuring that our teams are equipped to thrive in the future.

Taryn Dryfhout

member profile

by Susan Jensen

Tom Hooker is one of those people whose genius managed to flourish in unlikely soil.

Born 73 years ago in a tiny Mississippi town, Tom's family barely eked out a living on their small farm, surviving on food they grew or hunted and bartering for most essentials. A small cotton crop provided enough cash to pay taxes and buy the few things they couldn't make or grow themselves.

There wasn't a whole lot of cultural stimulation in Thaxton, MS in those days. Tommy's refuge was the library where he would emerge weekly with an armload of books.

Much of his spare time as a young boy was spent collecting castoff glass soda bottles from roadsides and empty trash cans. As he grew older he picked cotton for three cents per pound and hoed weeds from cotton patches for 25 cents an hour. In High School (HS) he became the school janitor. "We were poor, but so was pretty much everyone else in our community. It was a warm, loving community and a warm, loving family so I consider myself quite fortunate."

Tom knew he was smart but didn't realize just how smart he was until he took the PSAT test in High School. He wasn't told his score, but teachers started treating him with greater respect after his score was released to them. Tommy, his sister and both parents were valedictorians of their very small graduating HS classes.

Tom met his wife Elaine in his senior year of HS through her brother, who was his basketball coach. They have been married 53 years and been each other's greatest cheerleaders, friends, lovers, mentors and support system.

They needed to draw upon the strength of their union when their beloved only daughter Carol, who had been accepted to East Carolina School of Medicine, died of cancer at age 21. Many couples facing such tragedy break apart. Tom and Elaine drew together. "Senses of You" Tom's poem about his daughter, won the 2024 Mensa International Poetry Contest (see p11).

After graduating from the Univ. of Mississippi with a business degree, Tom worked for the Social Security branch of the Federal government for over 30 years, working his way up the ladder until he was promoted to manager of the Hendersonville, NC Social Security office, earning the highest intra-agency award available in that position.

Since retiring in 2007, Tom has enjoyed an ever-expanding career as a writer. He laughs that writing government reports for over 30 years made him good at writing fiction. Now he writes entertaining fiction.

Tom's first book was a cathartic experience: the story of his



daughter Carol's life and death. This sparked his interest in writing. He has had thirteen short stories published in various venues, four novels and also writes poetry. He took up poetry to help improve his ability to use metaphors in his fiction writing, but discovered he had a knack for poetry and now has had 11 poems published. Tom has led the Blue Ridge Writers group since 2007. His most recent novel, *Out of the Frying Pan*, takes place in 1928 and evokes the lives of people who worked in Southern cotton mills.

Thirty years ago Tom took the Mensa test and became a member of French Broad Mensa. He has served on his local group's Ex-Comm in various capacities including as Local Secretary.

Tom and his wife Elaine (a retired math teacher and herself super smart) have helped each other stretch and grow, survive unimaginable loss and have lots of fun. He agrees with the Harvard Study (which has tracked thousands of Harvard graduates since 1938) that the most critical component of a happy life is marrying the right person. Tom and Elaine feel blessed to have met that right person at a young age.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Harvey Kipper

Often people refer to a country by a name different than that used by the inhabitants themselves. This may result from linguistic or political factors. It can also stem from lack of familiarity. These names assigned by foreigners may or may not be pleasing to the natives.

A good example of the complimentary approach is that of the names used in Mandarin Chinese for several western nations. China first encountered the United States, Britain, and France in relatively recent times. Their names were previously unknown there. What should they be called in a language so very different from English and French in pronunciation and the formation of words? The Chinese arrived at a neat solution. They chose positive qualities whose sounds in Mandarin approximated the names of these countries, combining them with the suffix *guo* which meant kingdom. Thus America became *Meiguo*, or Beautiful Kingdom; England became *Yingguo*, or Brave Kingdom, and France became *Faguo*, or Lawful Kingdom. The Mandarin name for China itself was determined by its perceived location and importance. That name is *Zhongguo*, or Central Kingdom, reflecting the Chinese belief that their country was at the center of the world.

Not everyone adopted the approach of assigning names based on such positive attributes. Often the names selected were neutral,

reflecting a geographic or cultural aspect. Since the 1500's, European countries used the term *China*, an ancient Sanskrit term referring to China's location east of India, to refer to *Zhongguo*. These countries saw China as a source of wealth to be exploited, not as a superior nation.

In more ancient times, the Romans called their neighbours to the south-east *Graeci*, whence Greeks. The *Graeci* were a minor tribe living in that area. The native inhabitants usually referred to themselves as citizens of a particular polis, or city. Thus they were Athenians, Spartans, Thebans, etc. When they referred to themselves collectively it was almost always as *Hellenes*, either from their reputed forbear *Hellen*, meaning light, or from *Helios*, the sun god.

Either ancestry conferred upon them the distinction of being the people of sunlight. An alternative derivation of *Hellenes* is more down to earth. Perhaps it meant the people of the olive, from the Greek word for olive tree, *elaia*, a less romantic but conceivably fruitful explanation.

The Greeks in turn referred to those living on the coast of the eastern Mediterranean as *Phoenicians*, from the Greek word *phoenix*, meaning reddish-purple.



Harvey Kipper

These easterners had mastered the technique of using the dye from the *murex* shell to color cloth purple. It is doubtful, however, that they referred to themselves by a Greek term. Rather, as did the ancient Greeks, they most likely used the names of their city-states, whether *Tyre*, *Sidon*, or *Byblos*, to express their identity. If they used a collective term, they probably spoke of themselves as *Canaanites*. Interestingly, the word *Canaan* is thought by some to mean purple in ancient Northwest Semitic.

Less often, names were selected to convey a victory over a nation and to humiliate its populace. When the Romans destroyed *Judea* and exiled its inhabitants, they

sought to permanently sever the connection between the Judeans and their land. Besides changing the name of Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina, they renamed the entire country. They chose a name which would add maximum insult to injury, salting the wounds. The name they selected was Palestina, Latin for Philistia, the land of the Philistines, a people locked in mortal combat with the Israelites for many years until finally defeated by them.

Did the Philistines call themselves by that name? If there was a collective name for the Philistines in their native language it is not known. Quite plausibly they simply referred to themselves as residents of their city-states of Ashdod, Ekron, Gaza, etc.

From the perspective of the Israelites, the Philistines were cruel, warlike, and oppressive. The Israelites ultimately vanquished the Philistines and wrote the story of the conflict. Not surprisingly the Philistines were portrayed negatively. That perspective has coloured the very definition of philistine as uncultured. Yet archaeology has demonstrated that the Philistines were a sophisticated, creative, and capable people.

What's in a name? As with the blind man and the elephant, it depends on what you choose to see.

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Harvey Kipper is a Life Member of American Mensa. He has recently had a book *IS THERE AN ELEPHANT IN YOUR BIBLE? Exploring Etymology*, published. It is available on <https://www.amazon.com/THERE-ELEPHANT-YOUR-BIBLE-Exploring-ebook/dp/B0BFFYFLYQ/>

Prozac May Rewire the Brain by Loosening Rigid Neural Circuits

A new study shows that the widely used antidepressant fluoxetine does more than boost serotonin levels: it changes how brain cells manage their energy and rebuild their connections, potentially helping the brain “loosen up” and adapt during depression treatment.



The study was carried out in collaboration between the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Helsinki, and the results were published in *Neuropsychopharmacology*.

Using cell type-specific transcriptome profiling, researchers found that after two weeks of treatment, a special class of brain cells, called parvalbumin interneurons, which help keep brain activity balanced, became less rigid in the prefrontal cortex.

Their mitochondria, the tiny power plants of cells, showed reduced expression of genes linked to energy production, while genes related to plasticity were upregulated. At the same time, the protective perineural nets that normally restrict plasticity weakened. Together, these changes may allow the brain to enter a more plastic, or adaptable, state, though the causal links between them remain to be clarified.

This is important, since depression is linked to overly rigid brain circuits that resist change, and by softening these circuits and altering how their mitochondria function, fluoxetine may create a window of plasticity or flexibility in the brain.

The findings also suggest new biological markers, such as mitochondrial changes or weakened perineural nets, that could one day guide or improve treatment.

“The findings point to a new understanding of how antidepressants may help people recover: not only by lifting mood, but by giving the brain room to rewire its circuits by altering its energy systems,” says the study leader, Senior Researcher Juzoh Umemori from the University of Eastern Finland.

Fluoxetine is widely sold under the brand name Prozac, but is internationally available under many different brand names.

neurosciencenews.com September 25, 2025

supplementally...

by John Blinke

Bad Air

ScienceDaily, July 27, 2025.

“Is The Air You Breathe Silently Fueling Dementia? A 29-Million-Person Study Says Yes” (The Lancet Planetary Health)

Dementia is expected to affect 152.8 million people globally by 2050. A meta-analysis of 34 scientific papers carried out by researchers at the Medical Research Council (MRC) Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge, indicates that three pollutants are mostly associated with dementia: PM2.5 particles, Nitrogen dioxide, and soot, with PM2.5 particles being the worst because they can go right through our lungs and into our blood stream. Then they can invade every organ, including the brain. One kind of dementia is Alzheimer’s, for which there is no clear causal mechanism. The other is vascular dementia, in which tiny particles incite inflammation in the brain, or just clog up the blood vessels. Limiting these three pollutants would have a positive effect on global health.

Bird Flu in Cows

Scientific American, August 5, 2025.

“Bird Flu on Dairy Farms May Be Airborne After All”

H5N1 Bird flu is spreading on dairy farms apparently by every conceivable path. The virus is found in milk, air, and wastewater, but it is not clear which avenue leads most eas-

ily to infections. Logically, it could spread via the milking equipment. Researchers were able to infect cows experimentally by injecting their teats. But they could not infect them by intentionally contaminating the milking equipment that contacts the teats. This leaves researchers puzzled. It may be that every possible infectious path contributes somewhat — in milk, in cows breath, on equipment, within wastewater and carried in the air — and perhaps the overall exposure adds up to an efficient transmission mechanism.

Southern Mammoths

Science Magazine Podcast, August 28, 2025. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/science-magazine-podcast/id120329020?i=1000723922220>

40,000 years ago, there was a lake north of Mexico City that attracted Colombian mammoths (the big ones), camels, horses, giant sloths, and every other kind of animal that hangs out near lakes. When Spaniards arrived in the 16th century, they drained the lake. But hundreds of carcasses of extinct animals remained and are now being excavated by the hundreds to make room for an airport on a military base. This lake was not a “tar pit” like La Brea. It was full of sticky mud that small animals could escape. But the giants remained stuck for scientists to unearth. You could say research-

ers found enough to fill a museum. But actually the military had to build a museum to hold the fossils, and there still is not enough room for them! The excavations are being done by archaeologists because Mexico has plenty of those, and comparatively few paleontologists.

African Fossils

ScienceDaily, August 14, 2025

“Ancient Predators And Giant Amphibians Found In African Fossil Treasure Trove”

Hell Creek is not the only place that has great fossils. According to scientists from University of Washington and the Chicago Field Museum, Tanzania and Zambia have a superlative array of fossil animals from 252 million years ago, right before the mass extinction known as The Great Dying. The quality of the specimens is wonderful and the completeness of the record is superb. It is a detailed story of life in the supercontinent, Pangea, at the end of the Permian age.

Great Lakes Danger

ScienceDaily, August 14, 2025.

“Unprecedented Climate Shocks Are Changing The Great Lakes Forever.”

Computer models of ordinary lakes do not work for Michigan’s Great Lakes. With a fifth of the world’s fresh surface water and a coast line similar to a continental coast, the Great Lakes cannot be compared

with other lakes. But ocean style modeling predicts a difficult future with high and low temperature extremes that will affect the billion dollar fishing industry and other recreations, as well as drinking water quality. Scientists at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability, or SEAS, say big changes are apparent even in the last 30 years. JB	The Senses of You <i>I remember when you walked along the beach, head down, marching to a rhythm only you could hear.</i> <i>I remember when you peeked into the mouth of a civil war cannon, seeing an image visible only to you.</i> <i>I remember when you first tasted salsa, and your reaction to such an unexpected sensation.</i> <i>I remember our butterfly kisses, and your giggle at the feel of my eyelash on your cheek.</i> <i>Now you've gone to experience things that can't be heard or seen or tasted.</i> <i>But we'll meet again.</i> Tom Hooker
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Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum

Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.

				20
				23
				17
				19
14	24	18	23	?

What am I?

I'm a three-word phrase, a world-wide hit.
My first word sounds like a word meaning 'bit'.
Letters in my third are all of eight:
Not bad, then this (if one's testate)!
My second word is a head short of hand;
My whole is felt all over the land.

Cryptic Restaurant

- Sounds like you follow the guys when ordering! (4)
- H₂O grabs one for staff. (6)
- Some might endlessly rile me up when advising on drink selection. (9)
- Initially Carl, Henry and Enid, with beginner Fred, produce delicacies. (4)
- Stressed back for afters. (8)
- Young William shows the damage! (4)

Rebus

Don't draw this!

THE STRA

Kriskingle

Andy, Brett and Col participated in a Kriskingle exchange.

If Andy brought a game then the CD was wrapped in red, but if he brought the book the CD was wrapped in silver. If Col brought the game the book was wrapped in red, but if Brett brought the game the CD was wrapped in green. Based on the above, can you sort out what each of them brought?

Extra Clues: Andy never uses silver wrapping paper or buys games. Brett never buys books. Col always uses green paper.

Anagram Riddle

Six letters have I, you can mix them around
To make words which vary by more than a sound:

- Juicy and tender – but don't give to Pup!
- These may be high, or might hold plants up.
- These should be worn, a rink to go round.

Now that you've solved me, which words have you found?

Answers

Cryptosum: 12 (2 + 4 + 1 + 5) **What Am I?** Peace and Goodwill **Cryptic Restaurant:** a) Menu b) Waiter c) Sommelier d) Chef e) Desserts f) Bill **Rebus:** The short straw **Kriskingle:** Andy brought the book, wrapped in red; Brett brought the CD in silver paper and Col brought the game in green. **Anagram Riddle:** Steaks, stakes, skates.

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