



January 2018



Photo: Michael Peres, CNN.com

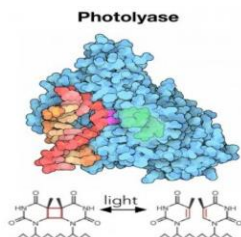


By: Jennifer Woods, *ETCHPS Secretary*

Recent Events: The Passing of the Torch

The ETCHPS Annual *State of the Chapter* business meeting took place on January 31, 2018 to welcome newly elected council members and to highlight some of the chapter's accomplishments of 2017. In addition to the diverse lineup of presentations throughout the year, the members of the Chapter organized the following: the ABHP course, the NRRPT review course and the annual Vendor's meeting. Of note was the fact that ETCHPS membership increased from 131 to 160 members during the last year. Distinguished awards were presented to Jason Davis (the Elda Anderson Award), Kyle Kleinhans (HPS Fellow Award), Ken Eger (Honor Roll) and Joe Eddlemon (ETCHPS Distinguished Service Award). Lastly, the council introduced newly elected officials John Aperans, Paul Jones and Jennifer Woods.

In the News:



Not even the mighty shadow of the beloved groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, can thwart the arrival of warmer weather. One thing that probably escapes the minds of everyone while daydreaming of warm weather play days is the very real threat of ultraviolet radiation exposure to the human body. An enzyme called DNA Photolyase, found in plants, bacteria and some animals, may shed a ray of light on the topic of UV safety. The SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory is using the Linac Coherent Light Source (LCLS) to employ the fastest and brightest laser pulses in the world in order to study DNA repair mechanisms following ultraviolet exposure.

UV light creates a link between atoms in DNA's thymine. Photolyase, triggered by a different wavelength of light, cuts out and repairs the damage. Photolyase may be one of the reasons why plants, which are exposed to a great deal of sunlight many hours per day, are less susceptible to UV damage than humans who lack photolyase. The mapping of this mechanism was made possible because the LCLS's ability to take high resolution shots in sequence that track its chemistry in detail at a time scale of one-billionth of a second. The ultimate goal is to be able to one day mimic similar enzyme synthesis in terms of UV protection.

Citation: SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory. "Zooming in on enzyme that repairs DNA damage from UV rays." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 5 December 2017. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/12/171205092220.htm>. Colored Photolyase illustration by Dave Goodsell/PDB-101

Lagniappe:



Photo: Globalgurus.org

Myra Long, during the *State of the Chapter* address, shared her personal discovery that serving as President became a powerful outlet in overcoming the common discomforts that many experience with regard to public speaking. She expressed her belief that anyone can become more confident through routinely practicing oral presentation to any audience, large or small. This was particularly motivating as the ETCHPS consists of members with such a wide array of knowledge and skill sets and may relate to some of the same reservations about speaking to a gathering of peers. Perhaps there is an idea, essay or observation on the precipice of expression just waiting to inspire. We want to know! We look forward to a productive 2018 and are excited by the opportunity to carry forth the further development of our chapter.