mensa world journal

MARCH 2024 | EDITION | 134



MENSA INTERNATIONAL

TO READ OUR WELCOME LETTER OR ACCESS LINKS TO USEFUL INFORMATION & SERVICES FOR NEW MEMBERS, PLEASE GO TO

https://bit.ly/MI_welcome

from the editor..



Hi All,

- recent research into the brain 'Brain Junctions Unlocked' is on p2, continued on p5
- this month's ExComm column comes from American Mensa's Lori Norris. See her column on p3
- p4 brings you a reminder of the 2024 International Poetry Competition and also tells us of the MY-Camp in England in July this year
- meet the MWJ's new Features' Editor, New Zealand Mensan Taryn Dryfhout on p5, and read her article for this month on p6
- our Member Profile is, as usual, on p7, and on p8 there are reports on two National Magazines from the Mensa News Team
- on p9, we learn about the latest research into antagonistic pleiotropy theory of aging
- Supplementally is on p10, the Officer Directory is on p11 and Therese's Teasers are on p12

Kate

Log in to www.mensa.org to read or download the MWJ in full colour

---

Cover: ATV and Rafting Tour, AMG, Bali, November 2023

Brain Junctions Unlocked

New research from Oregon Health & Science University for the first time reveals the function of a little-understood junction between cells in the brain that could have important treatment implications for conditions ranging from multiple sclerosis to Alzheimer's disease, to a type of brain cancer known as glioma.

The study was published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

Neuroscientists focused on the junction, or synapse, connecting neurons to a non-neuronal cell, known as oligodendrocyte precursor cells, or OPCs. OPCs can differentiate into oligodendrocytes, which produce a sheath around nerves known as myelin. Myelin is the protective sheath covering each nerve cell's axon - the thread-like portion of a cell that transmits electrical signals between cells.

The study found that these synapses play a pivotal role in producing that myelin.

"This is the first investigation of these synapses in live tissue," said senior author Kelly Monk, Ph.D., professor and co-director of the Vollum Institute at OHSU. "This gives an understanding of the basic, fundamental properties of how these cells work in normal development. In the future, we might look at how they function differently in the context of MS patients."

The fact that these synapses exist at all was the subject of a landmark discovery by OHSU researchers at the Vollum that was published in the journal *Nature* in May of 2000. Until that point, synapses in the brain had been known only to carry neurotransmitters between neurons, so the discovery of a synapse between neurons and OPCs came as a revelation.

"After two decades, we still didn't know what these synapses do," Monk said.

Scientists tackled the problem by using single-cell imaging of live tissue in zebrafish, whose transparent bodies enable researchers to see the inner workings of their central nervous system in real time. Using powerful new tools in imaging, pharmacology and gene editing, researchers were able to use neuron-OPC synapses to predict the timing and location of the formation of myelin.

The findings are likely the tip of the iceberg in terms of understanding the importance of these synapses, said lead author Jiaxing Li, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in Monk's lab.

Oligodendrocyte precursor cells comprise about 5% of all cells in the brain - meaning the synapses they form with neurons could be relevant to many disease conditions, including the formation of cancerous tumors.

Li noted that previous studies

Continued on page 5

from your Executive Committee

from American Mensa's Lori Norris



"Each month, one of the ExComm officers writes a column for the Mensa World Journal." - words from the website.

The International ExComm consists of the four internationally-elected officers (Chairman, Director of Administration, Director of Development, and Treasurer), plus the Director of Smaller National Mensas (elected by the IBD, with some exceptions), and the three Chairs or proxies of those National Mensas with membership over 10,000 (British Isles, Germany, and the USA). The eight of us take turns writing and this month is my turn. I understand the need for the elected international officers to report, but I see my contribution just being what I experience as a member of Mensa.

Anyone who has read my columns as Chair of American Mensa in our national magazine, *The Bulletin*, will notice that I am focussed on the value provided by Mensa to our members. (If you are interested in reading *The Bulletin*, you can access it through the AML website by setting up a guest account.) That focus on our members includes engagement, volunteering, and socialising.

I love my Mensa family and friends; I can honestly say that much of my life revolves around Mensa. While the socialising is great, it is important for me to realise that without this organisation I would not have these friends. So, we need to deal with the governance issues facing us as we look into the future.

These issues include both financial and volunteer challenges. Mensa International, American Mensa, and I'm pretty certain that other National Mensas have been debating these issues for years, or even decades. American Mensa recently formed a Governance Task Force and is seriously looking at whether we are structured to be sustainable and relevant into the future. Of course, major changes would require a vote of acceptance by our membership.

For International discussions, please take a look at the IBD minutes for the past couple of years as the IBD has been discussing related topics. And the ExComm continues to address these issues, and that is where I come in, by providing input into the discussions based on my many years of experience on all levels of leadership in American Mensa and sharing some of the thoughts of American Mensa.

Many membership and governance issues are similar whether you are discussing Mensa International, American Mensa (or any National Mensa), and Local Groups for American Mensa Limited (AML). Recruitment of new members, retaining existing members, getting lapsed members to rejoin, encouraging and recognising volunteers are all challenges faced by many of us. Even though I am Chair of the largest National Mensa, I have learned from my fellow ExComm members and gleaned some great ideas from fellow members of the International Board of Directors (IBD).

And I've shared some of our successes and failures with others. While Mensans around the world may be separated by language and culture, we still have a strong bond – we are intelligent and want the best for our organisation and the world overall.

This leads me to the International Elections – yes, 2024 is an election year, both Internationally as well as in AML. Please, exercise your Mensa Constitutional right and vote.

Lori Norris
American Mensa, Ltd
Chair@us.mensa.org

MWJ INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION 2024

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, mwjeditor@mensa.org, by August 1, 2024.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length.
The theme for the competition is "Memories". All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into.

Entries generated by AI will be immediately disqualified.

By submitting an entry (maximum of one entry) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the Mensa World Journal or in any other National Mensa journal at the editor's discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged.

Please include your National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

articles - poetry - member achievements
Send your submissions to the Editor at mwjeditor@mensa.org
Deadline for each issue is the 1st of the month two months before publication. Eg, the deadline for the August issue is June 1.

what's happening around the Mensa world...

Unlock the Magic at MY-Camp 2024: Where Culture, Fun, and Friendship Collide!

Did you know that Mensa events aren't just local meetups and national conventions? Yes! MY-SIG (Mensa Youth) volunteers regularly organise international events, with size ranging from several dozens to several hundreds participants, in places all around Europe, all year round!

If you're looking for a deeper connection and would like to make many new friends from countries all around the world, I have good news for you. MY-Camp 2024, a 10-day long summer event, is approaching! Join over 270 other young (and young at heart) Mensans!

This year we're gathering in the magical land of England in the United Kingdom. Appropriately, the event's theme is "Fantastic Fantasy Fandoms and where to find them". Immerse yourself in a world of magic and mystery, where you will take part in elixir brewing workshops, fantastical treasure hunts, a magnificent costume party (see photo from a previous MY-Camp at right), and maybe even pet a dragon, too!

Boardgame geeks, party people, drink connoisseurs, science nerds, sport enthusiasts, philosophers… At MY-Events, we gather diverse souls hungry for thrilling experiences. Embark on adventures organised by fellow participants and try new experiences; from fire breathing to sumo wrestling, the possibilities are endless! You can also organise activities yourself and find your own tribe!

And, if you like being on stage, bring your talents and interests to light at the Open Mic Night!

If this sounds too good to be true, and yet it is true, you can guess



that the event sells out very quickly. It is not unusual for MY-Events to have up to 200 spots sold within the first few minutes after sign-up opens, so make sure to follow the links below as soon as possible!

Practical info:
Date: 19.07.2024 - 28.07.2024
Location: Inspiring Learning, Kingswood Green Park, Aylesbury, United Kingdom
Accommodation: in rooms of 8-10, 4-6 or 2 beds.
Prices start from 300 EUR and include accommodation, warm dinner, 24/7 access to free food. Extra activities, drinks and snacks can be purchased on site through our MY-System.
Sign-up opening time: March 3 at 20:00 UTC (British time)

Further info and sign-up: https://my-camp.org
Telegram announcements channel: https://t.me/MYCAMP2024
MY-SIG Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/MYSIG/

welcome to our new features' editor!

I'm delighted to introduce the *Mensa World Journal's* new Features' Editor! Taryn, a New Zealand Mensan, tells us a little about herself below. Her article this month is on p6.



Kia ora!

My name is Taryn and I have been a member of Mensa since 2021.

I wear a lot of 'hats' in life. I am a trained and registered secondary teacher, specialising in English, History, and Religious Education, but have been in tertiary teaching for several years now. I am currently completing my PhD through the University of Otago in New Zealand, and am also a published writer. I have written several non-fiction books, website content, and more than 400 feature articles, reviews, and columns, published in newspapers, magazines, and websites.

My most important 'hat' is of course being a wife and mother. My husband and I have been married 20 years this year, and have four busy children.

In my spare time I enjoy crafts such as soap and candle making, gardening, and reading voraciously.

Taryn Dryfhout

(Continued from p2)

have suggested a role for OPCs in a range of neurodegenerative conditions, including demyelinating disorders such as MS, neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and even psychiatric disorders like schizophrenia.

By demonstrating the basic function of the synapse between neurons and OPCs, Li said the study may lead to new methods of regulating OPC function to alter disease progression.

For example, these synapses could be the key to promoting remyelination in conditions such as MS, where myelin has been degraded. In MS, this degradation can slow or block electric signals required for people to see, move their muscles, feel sensations and think.

"There may be a way to intervene so that you can increase the myelin sheath," he said.

Monk said the discovery may be most immediately relevant to cancer.

"In glioma, these synapses are hijacked to drive tumor progression," she said. "It may be possible to modulate the synaptic input involved in tumor formation, while still allowing for normal synaptic signalling."

Even though these precursor cells comprise roughly 5% of all human brain cells, only a fraction go on to form oligodendrocytes.

"It's becoming pretty clear that these OPCs have other functions aside from forming oligodendrocytes," Monk said. "From an evolutionary perspective, it doesn't make sense to have so many of these precursor cells in your brain if they're not doing something."

Their synaptic connection to neurons therefore likely plays a fundamental role in the brain, and is worthy of future exploration, she said.

In addition to Monk and Li, co-authors include Tania Miramontes of OHSU and Tim Czopka, Ph.D., of the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences at the University of Edinburgh in the U.K.

Neurosciencenews.com January 12, 2024

The Flynn Effect: Exploring Rising IQ Scores

What is IQ?

Short for intellectual quotient, IQ represents the level of intelligence that a person possesses. IQ tests are used to measure intelligence, including problem-solving skills, and logical reasoning, producing a numerical score that represents intellectual capability. IQ tests are also used to diagnose learning disabilities such as an intellectual disability.

While standardised IQ testing is a staple for organisations such as Mensa, the validity of these tests has been questioned in the past. The reasons that IQ testing is considered problematic include:

- the idea that IQ testing can overlook other forms of intelligence such as emotional intelligence, and can produce a static view of intelligence
- racial and cultural bias. When IQ tests have biases, they can favour certain groups, and can produce disparities in test scores
- reducing IQ to a numerical score has been considered by some as an oversimplification of a complex human trait
- IQ testing does not take into account real world success.

One factor that raises the question of validity for IQ testing is the Flynn effect.

What is the Flynn effect?

The Flynn effect refers to the increase in intelligence scores over time, and across different populations. The Flynn effect was first identified in 1984 and was named after psychologist James R. Flynn, who discovered it during his research. Flynn's study uncovered a consistent rising trend in IQ scores, showing an average increase in IQ scores between the 1930s and 1970s across different cultures and regions, over a period of forty years. This meant that IQ scores had risen three points per decade.

The increase in IQ scores was noted both in fluid intelligence (problem solving) and crystallised intelligence (acquired through experience and education). This challenges underlying assumptions that intelligence is a static, fixed characteristic. While Flynn's initial research was based on the analysis of IQ test data from several countries, this effect has since been observed globally. The research suggests that since successive generations outperform their predecessors in standardised IQ testing, external factors such as environment and culture can influence intelligence. This has a significant impact on how cognitive development and the complexity of intelligence is understood.

What Causes the Flynn Effect?

Various factors are thought to contribute to the Flynn effect. These include education, nutrition, health, societal changes, and other environmental factors. For instance, growing up with fewer siblings is associated with an increased IQ score. This may be due to parents having more time and attention for fewer children, or may be due to socio-economic factors. Other direct living conditions that impact on the person's wellbeing such as nutrition can also contribute to cognitive abilities. In the wider context, the evolving nature of society, the globalised world, and better access to education could also be forcing people to become better at problem solving, and allow for richer cognitive development.

What is the Impact of the Flynn Effect?

The Flynn effect suggests a hopeful outlook that intelligence is evolving with time, and that humans are becoming more intelligent as they grow and adapt to a rapidly changing world. The variations that Flynn witnessed demonstrate that intelligence is not a fixed, innate state, but rather is influenced by various factors. This opens up new possibilities for psychological research, education, and our understanding of intelligence. It also prompts public health, political policies, and education to consider how enhancements in these areas may impact on intellectual ability.

While IQ tests can be helpful, they are only one piece of the human intelligence puzzle. The Flynn effect illustrates the need for a dynamic, nuanced understanding of the complexity of human intelligence. We must recognise that IQ is one facet of a multi-faceted trait, and no single test can capture the full picture of a person's intelligence.

Taryn Dryfhout

member profile

by Susan Jensen

International Mensa Member Nataliya Novikova has a unique blend of right and left brain capabilities. She spends her days in a responsible, left-brained job as head of the Secretariat of a major Russian TV company.



Born 51 years ago, Nataliya's parents recognised she was artistic and sent her for drawing lessons from ages 5-7. She didn't especially enjoy art class and the teacher gave no positive feedback. When the time came for her to enter formal school at age 7, she decided to quit drawing lessons and take up piano.

She attended a Russian public school that emphasised English through high school and didn't do much art during that time. She was quite active in sports, especially the graceful sports of gymnastics and figure skating but avoided competition as it "killed the beauty."

Though she was an average student, she had an affinity for language and other cultures. Around age 13, she spent a summer vacation reading classic books in their original English such as *Captain Blood* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, looking up every unknown word in an English dictionary.

In 9th grade, a student at the Institute of Asian and African Studies came to discuss the school and its terrific faculty. She attended an open house at the school and became entranced by Japanese culture - its unique concept of beauty and blend of traditional and modern art, culture and beliefs. After high school, she entered the Moscow State University Institute of Asian and African countries, where she majored in Japanology and economics.

At age 22, she went to Japan where she studied Japanese language and culture for one year. There she met her future husband (who is also in Mensa), married at age 25, moved with her husband to the Netherlands and had a daughter at age 27. After getting divorced, Nataliya and her daughter moved back to Moscow where Nataliya landed a good, stable job in a major TV company. She tried to keep her English and Japanese language skills sharp by hiring private tutors and also by working part-time as an English-to-Russian translator.

As her daughter grew up, Nataliya has had more time to explore other interests, including tracking the lives of Russian and foreign authors, studying history and architecture and developing a passion for live theatre.

The pandemic lockdown became a crucible of creativity for Nataliya. She began studying batik in September 2020 and now makes her own beautifully-designed fabrics.

In September 2021 Nataliya attended the international art festival, Artlife Fest, held annually in Moscow, and was blown away by all the different mediums used by the exhibited artists. Since then, she has been taking classes in various art techniques and was herself a participant in Artfest in 2022 and 2023, showcasing her batik work.

Nataliya joined Mensa 6 years ago as a means to meet interesting people. She has particularly enjoyed attending Mensa gatherings in Spain. Nataliya views this second half of life as an opportunity to learn, expand and connect. Rather than dim with age, Nataliya's life force shines ever more brightly with each passing year, sparked by the flame of her insatiable curiosity.

SJ

From the Mensa News Team

Mensa Norway's *MENSANYTT* Magazine

This morning I read the December issue of Mensa Norway's national magazine, *MENSANYTT* (with the help of Google Translate).
https://www.mensa.org/.../84732%20MensaNytt%206-23_web.pdf

The editor opens by talking about the weather, which is less of a mundane topic than one might first think. As the editor, Ivan Andreassen, writes: "it is so easy to associate my own daily form with the state of the natural surroundings: Have I slipped on the ice on the way to work, have I sweated in good weather, have I cycled in a storm, or have I stayed in bed extra long on a chilly morning? The weather is more than just small talk; it is a reflection of our lives."





The Chair, Fredrik Strandabø, wrote about the recent national meeting and budding plans for a summer meeting in Western Norway. There are member profiles and Member Pages (Medlemssider) with quizzes, photos, and articles. One of the main features in this issue is an article about the group's involvement in FIRST® LEGO® League, which inspires children and young people aged 10-16 to become tomorrow's engineers, researchers and problem solvers.

The issue shows off all the winners and runners-up of the MI Photocup Competition, entertains with a holiday-themed trivia quiz and provides a full section covering general information for members about how to access various online groups and services.

This full-sized publication contains a little bit of everything-- something to pique the interest of any member. What a delightful way to experience another national Mensa without having to travel!



Australian Mensa's *TableAus*

Here's another national magazine worth sharing with everyone - Australian Mensa's *TableAus*. I've had the pleasure of seeing this one in hard copy form, but you can read it on the MI website.

The Editor, Peter Gibson, puts together a very professional magazine with 48–72 pages of information about their events past and future, member profiles, grants and charitable work, officer reports, listings of member benefits and merchandise, letters, essays, puzzles, and several pages dedicated to content for young members.

All this from a medium-sized Mensa with ~2700 members spread out over about 7.7 million square km (3 million square miles)!

Well done, Australian Mensa, well done indeed!

www.mensainternational.workplace.com

Genes Associated with Earlier and Higher Reproduction Linked to Accelerated Aging

A new study, utilising data from over 276,000 people in the UK Biobank database, has found evidence supporting the antagonistic pleiotropy theory of aging, proposed by biologist George Williams in 1957. This theory suggests that genetic mutations promoting early reproduction might also accelerate aging.

The researchers discovered a strong negative correlation between reproduction and lifespan, indicating that genes promoting higher reproduction rates are associated with shorter lifespans. While environmental factors also play a significant role, this study provides genome-wide evidence for the evolutionary explanation of senescence, highlighting the trade-off between reproduction and longevity.

In 1957, evolutionary biologist George Williams proposed that genetic mutations that contribute to aging could be favored by natural selection if they are advantageous early in life in promoting earlier reproduction or the production of more offspring. Williams was an assistant professor at Michigan State University at the time.

Williams' idea, now known as the antagonistic pleiotropy theory of aging, remains the prevailing evolutionary explanation of senescence, the process of becoming old or aging. While the theory is supported by individual case studies, it has lacked unambiguous genome-wide evidence.

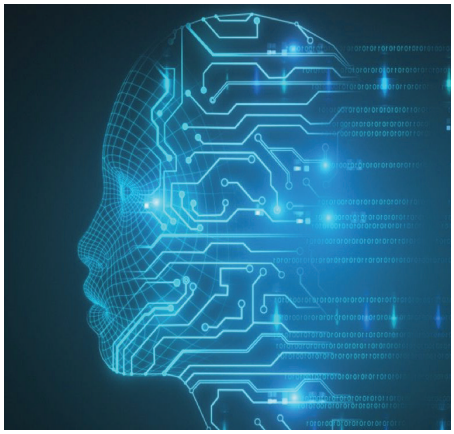
In the new study, evolutionary biologist Jianzhi Zhang and a Chinese colleague tested the Williams hypothesis using genetic, reproductive and death-registry information from the 276,406 participants in the United Kingdom's Biobank database.

They found reproduction and lifespan to be genetically strongly negatively correlated, meaning that genetic mutations that promote reproduction tend to shorten lifespan.

In addition, individuals carrying mutations that predispose them to relatively high reproductive rates have lower probabilities of living to age 76 than those carrying mutations that predispose them to relatively low reproductive rates, according to the study.

However, the authors caution that reproduction and lifespan are affected by both genes and the environment. And compared with environmental factors - including the impacts of contraception and abortion on reproduction and medical advances on lifespan - the genetic factors discussed in the study play a relatively minor role, according to the authors.

"These results provide strong support for the Williams hypothesis that aging arises as a byproduct of natural selection for earlier and more reproduction. Natural selection cares little about how long we live after the completion of reproduction, because our fitness is largely set by the end of reproduction," said Zhang, the Marshall W.



Nirenberg Collegiate Professor in the University of Michigan Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

Fitness is a concept biologists use to describe the degree to which an organism's characteristics increase its number of offspring.

"Interestingly, we found that when you control for the genetically predicted amount and timing of reproduction, having two kids corresponds to the longest lifespan," Zhang said. "Having fewer or more kids both lower the lifespan." That result supports the findings of several previous studies.

Zhang's co-author on the Science Advances paper is Erping Long of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College. Long was a visiting student at the University of Michigan when the study began.

In genetics, the concept of pleiotropy posits that a single mutation can influence multiple traits. The idea that the same mutation can be both beneficial and harmful, depending on the situation, is known

(Continued on page 11)

supplementally... by John Blinke



Salt Solution
ScienceDaily, November 1, 2023. "New Research Links High Salt Consumption To Risk Of Type 2 Diabetes."
Put down that salt shaker. In a Tulane University study of 400,000 people, researchers found that adding salt corresponded directly with the development of Type 2 diabetes. Not that a modern diet needs extra salt! Just try and buy a prepared food that doesn't have any! Study participants were in the UK Biobank and were followed over a median of 11.8 years. 13,000 cases of Type 2 diabetes developed among the study group in that time and the number was highest for people who added the most salt to meals. Researchers aren't completely sure how salt might cause diabetes. They speculate that it might simply cause people to eat bigger meals. Also, sodium can lead to high blood pressure which is rough on our organs.

Fast Chips
Science News, OCTOBER 18, 2023. "Tiny Accelerators Get Electrons Up To Speed Using Lasers." (Nature)
Massive machines like the Large Hadron Collider are big and expensive. Fortunately, experiments with chip-sized, tabletop accelerators look promising. They can accelerate electrons to 40.7 kiloelectron volts in the space of a half millimeter with power from a laser beam. This could become a whole new way to do medical radiation treatments with a particle accelerator entirely contained inside a patient's body. But it might not be the best way to find the next Higgs Boson.

Lumpy
Smithsonian November 3, 2023. "Mysterious Lumps in Earth's Mantle May Be Remains of the Crash That Formed the Moon." (Nature) Contributed by Stephen Darnell.
The solar system 4.5 billion years ago was a wild place with many collisions between protoplanetary bodies. One of those collisions smashed the early Earth, splattering enough material to form a ring that coalesced to make our Moon. Most of the Mars-sized impactor's body blended with the Earth's mantle — or so we had thought. A model created by researchers at Arizona State University says huge chunks of the impactor might be the continent sized objects that are detected snuggled up to earth's core. Other scientists say their models indicate the two bodies would have mixed thoroughly, like frogs in a blender.

Puking Pluto
Smithsonian October 31, 2023. "A Supervolcano on Pluto May Have Spewed Ice Just a Few Million Years Ago." Contributed by Stephen Darnell.
If you want to see a supervolcano, you can go to Yellowstone. Or, you can make a longer trip to Pluto. The funny looking Kiladze crater on Pluto might be the caldera of a giant ice volcano that was active a few million years ago. It spewed water ice everywhere and then collapsed into itself. Even though Kiladze was puking cryogenic ice, it must have had a heat source to drive it and possibly an underground ocean to supply it. The heat could have come from buried radioactive elements.

JB

Image by jcomp on Freepix.com

(Continued from p9)

as antagonistic pleiotropy and was proposed by Williams to underlie the origin of aging in a paper titled "Pleiotropy, natural selection, and the evolution of senescence."

To a biologist, senescence refers specifically to a gradual decline of bodily functions that manifests as a decline in reproductive performance and an increase in the death rate with age.

The U.K.'s Biobank database enabled Zhang and Long to assess the genetic relationship between reproduction and lifespan at the genomic scale.

The researchers examined the frequency of 583 reproduction-associated genetic variants in the database and found that several of the variants associated with higher reproduction have become more common in recent decades, despite their simultaneous associations with shorter lifespan. The increased frequency of the variants is presumably a result of natural selection for higher reproduction.

Human life expectancy, birth rate and reproductive behavior have all changed drastically in the last few decades. Specifically, more than half of humans live in areas of the world where birth rates have declined, along with increased incidences of contraception, abortion and reproductive disorder, according to the new study.

Global human life expectancy at birth, on the other hand, has steadily increased from 46.5 years in 1950 to 72.8 years in 2019.

"These trends are primarily driven by substantial environmental shifts, including changes in lifestyles and technologies, and are opposite to the changes caused by natural selection of the genetic variants identified in this study," Zhang said.

"This contrast indicates that, compared with environmental factors, genetic factors play a minor role in the human phenotypic changes studied here."

neurosciencenews.com Dec. 8, 2023

OFFICER DIRECTORY

Chair: Mr Björn Liljeqvist
chairman-mil@mensa.org

Director of Admin:
Ms Isabella Holz

admin-mil@mensa.org

Director of Development:
Mr Eivind Olsen
development-mil@mensa.org

Treasurer: Mr Jacek Cywinski
treasurer-mil@mensa.org

Dir. Smaller National Mensas:
Mr Tan Kee Aun
dsnm-mil@mensa.org

SIGHT-Coordinators:
Mr Henkhenk Broekhuizen
Ms Andrea Schwelm

sight@mensa.org

International SIG Coordinator:
Ms Nancy McMahan Farrar
sigs@mensa.org

Ombudsman:
Ms Sylvia Lee

ombudsman@mensa.org

Mensa International

Executive Director:
Mr Michael Feenan
mensa@slatebarn.com
Slate Barn, Church Lane,
Caythorpe, Lincolnshire
NG32 3EL, UK

mensainternational@mensa.org
+44(0)1400272 675
www.mensa.org

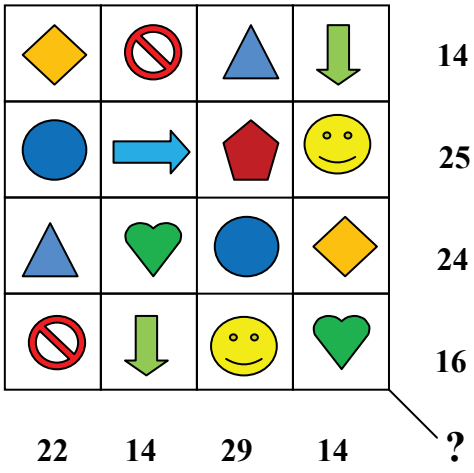
EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Ms Kate Nacard, 36 Macaulay Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048 Australia mwjeditor@mensa.org T: +61 402152858
Sub-editors:
Science: Mr John Blinke Johnb44221@cs.com
Puzzles: Ms Therese Moodie-Bloom tmb@ozemail.com.au
Profiles: Dr Susan Jensen suejensen57@gmail.com
Features: Ms Taryn Dryfhout anotherdesperatehousewife@gmail.com
Proofreader: Ms Christine Pretty

Therese's BRAIN TEASERS

Cryptosum

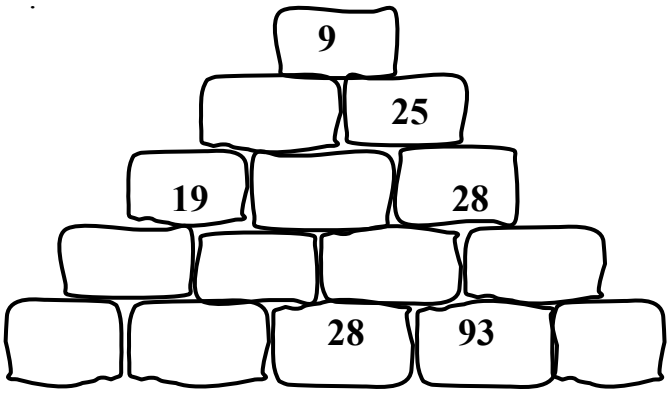
Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line starting from the top left-hand corner.



Cairn

The number on each stone represents the difference between the numbers in the two stones on which it sits. There is a two-digit number in each of the bottom stones, using the digits 0-9 once each.

.



Rebus

Irish greeting?

M 2 U!

Anagram riddle

Five letters have I, you can change them around
To spell words which vary by more than a sound:

- A gas, alas, so noble to start!
- Musical instrument, or vital part?
- A sound now of misery, straight from the heart!

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

Cryptic creatures

Here are eight cryptic clues, each of which will yield a creature.

- One right in blunder
- Malignant prides
- Rooster butt
- No extremities – deprive meanly
- Rocky shore
- Singularly insect part of pants
- It leaves footprints on the face
- Rex to Angler!

How many legs do they have altogether?

Answers

Cryptosum: *20 (2 + 3 + 9 + 6)* ***Cairn:*** *71 40 28 93 56.* ***Rebus:*** *Top 'o the morning to you!* ***Anagram Riddle:*** *Argon, Organ, Groan* ***Cryptic creatures:*** *32 (Giraffe 4, Spider 8, Cockroach 6, Viper 0, Horse 4, Fly or Ant 6, Crow 2, Kingfisher 2).* *© Therese Moodie-Bloom*

The *Mensa World Journal* (MWJ) is produced under the auspices of the Mensa International Board of Directors. Mandatory content as identified by the MWJ editor must be published in every national Mensa magazine. Publication of other content is recommended but optional. Opinions expressed in the MWJ are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of any other individual or any official Mensa body. Submission Guidelines: Language: English only. Text: MS Word (Macintosh), .rtf (Word/Mac), plain text, PageMaker (Macintosh), InDesign (Macintosh) Length: 500 word limit. Send by e-mail, fax, snail mail to the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to include or edit submissions for space and content considerations. All unoriginal submissions must be accompanied by written permission for publication from the original author. Permission is granted for MWJ articles to be reprinted in any Mensa publication provided that the au-