

Weekly Progress Roundup

Egypt certified as malaria-free, lithium reservoir discovered in Arkansas, implant restores sight.

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Egypt certified as malaria-free

Last week, the World Health Organization [certified](#) Egypt as malaria-free, confirming that no known person has contracted malaria from within Egypt's borders during the last three years. This makes Egypt the 44th country to eliminate malaria, a disease that has [plagued humanity for millennia](#). Egypt has a particularly long history with the parasite. Archeological evidence suggests Egyptians have suffered from malaria since at least 3200 BC, and a recent [meta-analysis](#) of Egyptian mummies found that up to 22 percent tested positive for Plasmodium falciparum, the deadliest species of malaria parasite.

Giant lithium reservoir discovered in Arkansas

The United States Geological Survey has [located](#) a massive quantity of lithium in a subterranean Arkansas brine reservoir. The researchers estimate it may contain between five million and nineteen million tons of the metal. For context, the International Energy Agency [projects](#) global lithium demand will reach 500 thousand tons in 2030. While it is not yet clear how much of the lithium can be extracted, the find should help put claims of an inevitable lithium shortage to bed.

Science Corporation restores sight with an eye implant

Science Corporation, a company developing a brain-computer interface akin to Neuralink, [recently announced](#) the results of a clinical trial testing their implant's ability to restore vision to the blind. According to [reporting](#) from *Wired*, the trial participants started with an average visual acuity of 20/450, far below the legal blindness threshold of 20/200, and ended with an average of 20/160. In practical terms, the implant allowed a group of previously blind people to read, recognize faces, play cards, and solve crossword puzzles.

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