



the
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Newsflash

Topics

SimplyNano 2 in use
across four cantons

RE171 no longer
considered safe

RNanoplastics: what
do we know?

Nanotechnology in
the fight against
microorganisms

Higher efficiency in
solar panels with
nanostructures

Dear Sir or Madam

Welcome to our newsflash for the month of June:

- SimplyNano 2: now in use in all schools across four Swiss cantons
- Titanium dioxide: food additive E171 no longer considered safe
- Nanoplastics: an underestimated problem?
- Antibiotic Resistance: fighting at the nanoscale
- Solar power: more efficiency due to nanostructures

Enjoy the read and kind regards,

The Innovation Society, St.Gallen

SimplyNano 2 used in all schools across four Swiss cantons



The shortage of skilled workers in technical professions is increasing throughout Switzerland. The canton of St.Gallen is countering this - among other things with the IT education offensive and its sub-project "SimplyNano 2". Last year, the

secondary schools in St.Gallen and Appenzell were equipped with a total of 600 experimental suitcases. The suitcases are designed to get young people excited about STEM subjects and technology careers with exciting nano-experiments and practical technology applications.

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Titanium dioxide: E171 no longer considered safe when used as a food additive



EFSA has updated its safety assessment of the food additive titanium dioxide (E 171), following a request by the European Commission in March 2020.

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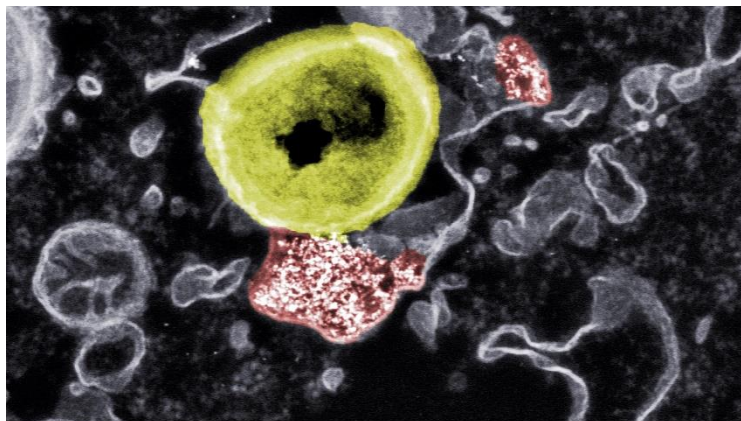
Tiny plastic particles in the environment: Nanoplastics – an underestimated problem?



These images speak to all of us: huge whirlpools of plastic waste in the world's oceans with sometimes devastating consequences for their inhabitants - the legacy of our modern lifestyle. Weathering and degradation processes produce countless tiny particles that can now be detected in virtually all ecosystems. But how dangerous are the smallest of them, so-called nanoplastics, really? In the latest issue of the journal *Nature Nanotechnology*, a team from Empa and ETH Zurich looks at the state of current knowledge (or lack thereof) and shows how these thoroughly important questions should be addressed.

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Fight tiny with tiny



Microorganisms are constantly evolving, as we know all too well today from SARS-CoV-2. Every mutation has the potential to bring new dangers to humans. This also gives rise to antibiotic resistance, a global health problem that concerned us even before the pandemic. Two independent research teams are now using the technology of the tiny to fight dangerous tiny organisms.

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Transparent nanolayers for more solar power



Nanostructured material and a new cell design pave the way for the production of silicon solar cells with more than 26 percent efficiency.

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