

## Points of Interest

### New Prosthetics Use Mind Control

Targeted Muscle Reinnervation is a technology that works by redirecting brain signals from severed nerves to the healthy ones in muscles nearby. The result is a prosthetic that is more intuitive to control than the traditional muscle impulse control. The technology is being developed by Dr. Todd Kuiken in Washington, DC.

Kerry Sheridan *Google News* February 17, 2011

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gjbN1dfIH5gKPjuy\\_Mkjk2OH6WWQ?docId=CNG.68e525354daffd868eac000986513f10.981](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gjbN1dfIH5gKPjuy_Mkjk2OH6WWQ?docId=CNG.68e525354daffd868eac000986513f10.981)

### Dog Owners Stay Fit

Getting a puppy is very likely to encourage you to get more exercise say researchers at Michigan State University. Dog walkers are 34% more likely to get up to 150 minutes of walking done in a week. Stats were gathered from survey of 5,900 Michigan residents.

Matthew J. Reeves et al. *The Journal of Physical Activity and Health* March 2011

<http://journals.humankinetics.com/jpah-current-issue/jpah-volume-8-issue-3-march/the-impact-of-dog-walking-on-leisure-time-physical-activity-results-from-a-population-based-survey-of-michigan-adults>

### Tiny Laboratory Reports from Inside Body

Researchers at MIT are tracking tumours and detecting heart deterioration from a lab that can be injected with a needle. The tiny capsule uses magnetic nano-particles to measure the growth of a tumour or to monitor for silent heart attacks. The next step is building a magnetic wand that doctors can simply wave over the embedded sensor instead of traditional invasive procedures.

Ferris Jabr *New Scientist* March 15, 2011

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn20247-implantable-sensor-tracks-cancer-in-the-body.html>

### Machines Vending Drugs Come to Ontario

Up to 40 prescription drug machines will be installed across the province in the coming months. The ATM-like boxes will feature a monitor and telephone handset for communicating with an actual pharmacist who controls the medication being dispensed. No narcotics will be stored in the machines.

Amy Dempsey *The Toronto Star* March 18, 2011

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/956708--ontario-rolling-out-atm-like-drug-machines>

### Burns Healed Under Spray Gun

Dr. Jorg Gerlach, a professor in the University of Pittsburgh's Department of Surgery, has developed an easy and fast treatment for burns. Stem cells are isolated from a healthy section of a patient's skin and then precisely sprayed on to the wound. After a few days under a special dressing the wound becomes healthy new skin.

McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine  
<http://www.mirm.pitt.edu/news/article.asp?qEmpID=328>

