

Around the world in a month

**SINGAPORE**

The government launches a five-year, \$19-million synthetic biology R&D program that prioritizes three areas: synthetic cannabinoids, rare fatty acids and new strains of microorganisms used to create products for industry. In addition, it will make available grants for synbio researchers who collaborate with Chinese peers, as part of a joint scheme between Singapore's National Research Foundation and the National Natural Science Foundation in China.

**CHINA**

The China State Council gives innovative drugs up to a six-year data exclusivity from the date of marketing authorization, during which generic versions will not enter the market, in a bid to strengthen intellectual property protection. Such drugs will also be entitled to a patent-term extension—from 20 to 25 years—if their manufacturers apply for market approval simultaneously in China and abroad.

**BRAZIL**

Drones release approximately 280,000 sterilized male *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes near the northeastern cities of Juazeiro and Recife. The bioengineered mosquitoes, of the species that spreads diseases such as Zika, dengue and yellow fever, can mate with females without producing viable eggs, thus reducing the mosquito population. Brazil plans to release up to 1 million mosquitoes a week at the peak of the mosquito season.

**AUSTRALIA**

The federal budget pledges \$185 million to boost Australia's competitive advantage by increasing the number of clinical trials within the country, support international collaboration and create an exemption from the \$4-million cap on the R&D Tax Incentive. The government also says it will invest \$500 million in the Genomics Health Futures Mission over ten years to drive a new era in healthcare for Australians.

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