We usually cover the latest current events around the world. However, enough of tech – what about science? Let’s find out what’s been shaking up the scientific community recently.

**Curing Chronic Pain without Medication**

Chronic pain affects more than 1.5 billion people around the world. To counter it, most people turn to painkillers and other prescription drugs and, in most cases, end up abusing the medication. Now, researchers from the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) have used electrical stimulation to alleviate chronic pain effectively.

Using electrical signals blocks pain signals directly at the spinal cord and spurs the release of dopamine, the neurotransmitter that controls the reward and pleasure functions of the brain.

“This is the first study to use a wireless electrical device to alleviate pain by directly stimulating the ventral tegmental area of the brain. While still under laboratory testing, this new method does provide hope that in the future we will be able to alleviate chronic pain without the side effects of medications,” said Yuan Bo Peng, Professor of Psychology at UTA.

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