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# New study helps demystify Covid brain fog

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Marcos bares 9 more appointees

Tuesday by scientists at the US National Institutes of Health suggests that the immune response triggered by coronavirus infections damages the brain's blood vessels and could be responsible for long Covid symptoms.

The paper, published in the journal Brain, was based on brain autopsies from nine people who died suddenly after contracting the virus.

Rather than detecting evidence of Covid in the brain, the team found it was the people's own antibodies that attacked the cells lining the brain's blood vessels.

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FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022 **The Manila Times** [www.manilatimes.net](#)  
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# Marcos scraps PACC

BY CATHERINE S. VALENTE AND KRISTINA MARALIT

**P**RESIDENT Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has abolished the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, citing the need for a "just allocation of resources" amid the Covid-19 and fiscal crises.

Insure Chole (P) called for the reorganization of the Office of the President.

[ScrippsA9](#)

**BBM, stat authority are both right on inflation**

BY RICHARDO D. TIGLAO

**Y**ELLOW opinion writer was delighted that President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. seemed to dispense the Philippine Statistics Authority's report of a 1.1 percent year-on-year inflation when he said he "had to disagree with that number, we are not that high." The writer even mentioned that he would like to see the PIA to change its numbers, or transfer its officials to other parts of the government.

[TiglaA5](#)

**PH among 10 worst countries for workers**

BY RUBEN TORRES

**C**onfederated Labor Union (CTU) in its eighth edition of the Philippine Labor Union Index (PLUI) ranked the Philippines as one of the 10 worst countries for workers.

[TorresA5](#)

**Foreign authorities raise warning on noodle brand**

SEVERAL foreign health authorities have issued warnings against a brand of instant noodles they suspect of being contaminated with the pesticide chlorpyrifos.

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**What's inside**

7 PROVINCES REPORT ABOVE 10% COVID POSITIVITY [NewsA2](#)

HISTORY MISUNDERSTOOD [Van YbiernasA5](#)

BENEFITS OF FIRST TIME JOB SEEKERS [Dear PaoA3](#)

**Color-coded Covid alert levels proposed**

FORNEX presidential adviser for comprehensive law Maria "Tery" Concepcion has proposed a "traffic light approach" in determining Covid-19 alert level systems.

Concepcion discussed the proposal with private sector representatives and a group of medical, data and economic experts in the first of several consultations to shape the country's pandemic policy direction.

"The task of this process is to lay down the parameters of a transition strategy to a better normal, one that encourages economic activity and does not risk the public's health," Concepcion said in a statement.

"The most important thing for our business leaders right now is to not lock down. We cannot lock down anymore as things get into a big issue for all stakeholders. We don't want to slow down the economy," he said.

The announcement came during the first of several consultations that Concepcion said will be presented to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

Concepcion said that among the suggestions at the initial meeting is adopting a traffic light approach in issuing Covid alert levels.

Red will indicate a high level of alert, a medium level and green a low level.

[LoretoA2](#)

**ILLEGAL FIREARMS** Eastern Police District chief Rios, Orlando Vera Jr., reports on Tuesday, July 5, 2022, firearms that were seized from January 2021 to June 2022 through the Rapid Response Team of the Philippine National Police. The program aims to curb the proliferation of enhanced firearms in the hands of threat groups. PHOTO BY ARNOLD DE ALAN

**SURVEY: FILIPINOS BACK RICE TARIFFICATION LAW REPEAL**

A MAJORITY of Filipinos, at 63 percent, support the repeal of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), signed into law by former president Rodrigo Duterte in 2018, the PLSCLIC second quarter survey showed.

High percent of the survey respondents disagree of repealing the law while 29 percent neither agree nor disagree.

The law replaced quantitative restrictions on rice imports with a tariff system, where the import duty goes to the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and collections over the P10 billion fund to the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance (RFFA).

Some groups claim that the RCEF can no longer significantly support rice farmers due to rice importations and the RFFA's limited funds.

[TorresA2](#)

**This Chinese ice cream does not melt even when 'cooked'**

RIBINGA Chinese brand once dubbed the "Miraculous Ice Cream" has come under fire after internet users said some of its products do not melt—even when heated with a blowtorch.

Videos showing Chincinman's ice cream melting solid when lighters were held to them went viral, spreading that it did not fully melt when left in a 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) water bath for an hour or under a very hot flame.

[TorresA9](#)

Find work-life balance in Makati CBD



This discovery could explain why some people have lingering effects from infection, including headache, fatigue, loss of taste and smell, and inability to sleep as well as "brain fog" — and may also help devise new treatments for long Covid.

NIH scientist Avindra Nath, the paper's senior author, said in a statement: "Patients often develop neurological complications with Covid-19, but the underlying pathophysiological process is not well understood."



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"We had previously shown blood vessel damage and inflammation in patients' brains at autopsy, but we didn't understand the cause of the damage. I think in this paper we've gained important insight into the cascade of events."

The study is published in *Cell* on July 7, 2022.

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...and a prior study because they showed evidence of blood vessel damage in their brains based on scans.

Their brains were compared to those from 10 controls, with the team examining neuroinflammation and immune responses using a technique called immunohistochemistry.

The scientists discovered that antibodies produced against Covid-19 mistakenly targeted cells that form the "blood-brain barrier" — a structure designed to keep harmful invaders out of the brain while allowing necessary substances to pass.

Damage to these cells can cause leakage of proteins, bleeding and clots, which elevates the risk of stroke.

The leaks also trigger immune cells called macrophages to rush to the site to repair damage, causing inflammation.

The team found that normal cellular processes in the areas targeted by the attack were severely disrupted, which had implications for things such as their ability to detoxify and to

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The findings offer clues about the biology at play in patients with long-term neurological symptoms, and can inform new treatments — for example, a drug that targets the build-up of antibodies on the blood-brain barrier.

"It is quite possible that this same immune response persists in Long Covid patients, resulting in neuronal injury," said Nath.

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