opportunities for the targeted scientists to conduct research abroad and participate in international conferences, and they would penalize any U.S. resident or foreign financial institution that knowingly facilitates a “significant transaction.” The sanctions are seen as having a chilling effect on scientists in Iran who contemplate working with SPND—or whose research could be applicable to weapons development. Iran says it has no desire to become a nuclear weapons state. But the administration of President Donald Trump harbors doubts and last year withdrew from a landmark nuclear accord with Iran—which remains in compliance with the deal, says the International Atomic Energy Organization in Vienna.

New studies for African-Americans

**BIOLOGY** | A neuroscience research program was announced last week to tackle a gaping hole in medicine: the role of genetic factors in brain disease among African-Americans. Leaders of the effort at the Lieber Institute for Brain Development, a nonprofit housed at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, noted that African-Americans have been profoundly underrepresented in neuroscience research. Data suggest that all neuropsychiatric diagnoses are 20% more frequent in African-American communities than in those of European ancestry. The effort builds on Lieber's rapidly growing brain bank, which now stands at about 3000 brains, of which more than 700 are from African-Americans.

**Specialization tied to retractions**

**PUBLISHING** | Research teams that divide tasks have become common in biomedical science, which promotes efficiency but is also associated with a higher rate of retractions, a study has found. Journal articles by biomedical research teams in which each member took on a different task have a probability of retraction 22 percentage points higher than those by teams in which multiple members collaborated on tasks and could oversee one another's work, according to an analysis in the March issue of *Research Policy*. This effect held true after the study's authors controlled for other characteristics including team size and whether the authors worked in countries, such as China, that offer incentives for publishing. The analysis examined 544 biomedical research articles published since 2004 that described team members' contributions. The authors say efforts to improve research ethics tend to focus on individual accountability but suggest funders could also help reduce retractions by requiring checks and balances within teams.

**Quake-triggering plant closed**

**SEISMOLOGY** | A South Korean technical panel last week found that an experimental geothermal power plant near Pohang triggered a magnitude-5.5 earthquake that struck the city in November 2017. In response to the report, South Korea vowed to dismantle the $38 million plant, which produced its power by injecting high-pressure water deep into the ground, where it was heated by hot granite crust before being pumped back up. The government will also spend $200 million to repair damage to homes and other buildings caused by the quake, the nation's second largest in modern history. The report echoes findings by independent research teams published last year (*Science*, 1 June 2018, p. 1003). The findings are particularly concerning because the plant was the first site to use a new, gentler fracturing technique, called "soft stimulation," meant to ease earthquake risks.

**Western states seal water plan**

**CONSERVATION** | Responding to a prolonged dry spell that has left major reservoirs along the Colorado River at dangerously low levels, seven western U.S. states last week approved a new deal for sharing water from the waterway. The pact requires some states to curb withdrawals if the lakes drop below certain levels. Congress is expected to approve the pact, although the river’s biggest water user, California’s Imperial Irrigation District, didn’t sign on, saying the deal doesn’t do enough to address pollution problems caused by the drying of a salty lake known as the Salton Sea.