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First Up

Brent: What's bigger than Dell's merger with EMC? CVS's plans to acquire health insurer Aetna for \$69B. The two publicly-traded giants in 2016 would have had a higher combined revenue than any company but Walmart, Axios wrote today. I guess we know where Aetna customers will be filling their prescriptions — presuming the deal goes through.

Alright, let's get on with the Beat...

The Big One

A breakdown on the day's biggest Inno story.

Nano Global Partners with Arm to Transform Healthcare

Some projects involve using more breakthrough technologies than others. Case in point, Austin's **Nano Global**. The startup is developing system-on-chip technologies that could be used to identify and analyze molecules in your body to help scientists and doctors stop superbug viruses and a variety of other diseases. They compare it to how cameras and software use facial recognition to identify people in crowds in real time — only on a molecular level.

The chip involves artificial intelligence that identifies patterns in molecular data. It uses blockchain to attribute incoming data and provide security. It's also working on a nano level to build the chip in the first place. Finally, it uses edge computing to process molecular data in real time. Whew. And the result, which likely won't be available until 2020, is the type of tech that seems like it's straight out of a sci-fi movie.

Nano, founded in 2014 by serial entrepreneur **Steve Papermaster**, is now partnering with **Arm**, the U.K.-based processor designing giant, which has offices in Austin. And they've also partnered with **Baylor College of Medicine** and **National University of Singapore** to accelerate research, data collection, analysis and product development.

Making Moves

Inside the people, companies and organizations making moves today.

UT Lands \$4M Grant to Study Underground CO2 Storage

The **University of Texas** Bureau of Economic Geology was awarded a \$4M grant from the **U.S. Department of Energy** to continue studying how carbon dioxide might be stored in geological formations under the ocean floor in the Gulf of Mexico. Imagine that, we could potentially slow climate change by pumping greenhouse gases

underground. Researchers have been working on the idea for about 15 years already. The idea is to take the CO2 from industrial sites and inject it deep below the ocean floor. The new four-year program will involve many other researchers from other schools, as well.

Kony Hires New CFO

Kony, Inc., an Austin-based app creator, appointed **Kathy Crusco** (pictured right) as executive vice president and chief financial officer. She is the former chief operating officer and chief financial officer at **Epicor Software Corp.** in Austin. And she played a key role in Epicor's acquisition from **Apax Partners** to **KKR** for a reported \$3.3B last year and in Epicor's acquisition of docSTAR last year.

UT Astronomers Get First Crack at New Telescope

You've heard of the **Hubble Space Telescope**, which was launched in 1990. Well, as you might expect, we have better tech now. And **NASA** is ready to launch the **James Webb Space Telescope** in 2019. Many believe it will quickly give us a lot of new, exciting insights into what's out there. And University of Texas astronomers will be among the first to work with it, the Houston Chronicle reported. UT's **Steve Finkelstein**'s proposed project is among 13 selected. It will expand on his earlier work using the Hubble telescope to examine old galaxies to see how stars form.

In The Know

The Inno stories you need to read today.

- [Researchers Combat Gender and Racial Bias in Artificial Intelligence](#) (Bloomberg)
 - [Facebook has a team of around 100 employees building products for teens and kids](#) (Recode)
 - [The Winklevoss twins are now Bitcoin billionaires](#) (The Verge)
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In The Community

The events and happenings to know about tonight and this week.

Coming Up

- [**See Our Curated List of the Best Austin Tech Events in December**](#)
- [Holiday Happy Hour with MassChallenge and Capital Factory \(Monday\)](#)
- [Lunch-and-Learn: Legislative wrap-up with Sen. Kirk Watson \(Monday\)](#)
- [The Austin Forum Presents Our Annual 'Tech for Giving and Sharing' \(Tuesday\)](#)
- [ALL the Ladies in Tech Happy Hour: Winter Edition \(Tuesday\)](#)
- [Tigera, Google and IBM Istio & KubeCon Happy Hour \(Tuesday\)](#)
- [Unconscious Biases \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [Campfire Entrepreneur Networking \(Wednesday\)](#)
- [Texas Venture Labs Venture Expo \(Thursday\)](#)
- [Austin Tech Happy Hour \(Thursday\)](#)
- [Capital Factory Winter Job Fair \(Thursday\)](#)
- [DivInc Demo Day \(Friday\)](#)
- [Black Fret Ball \(Saturday\)](#)
- [Face 2 Face with Dave Kirchhoff, CEO of iFLY \(Dec. 12\)](#)
- [Time Machine 2017 \(Dec. 13-14\)](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence Conference 2017 \(Dec. 14\)](#)

Keeping Austin Weird & Wired

The fun stuff

Hook 'em Horns

Well, the headline news was that our hometown **Texas Longhorns** are headed to a bowl game. They'll face Missouri in the Texas Bowl at NRG Stadium in Houston on Dec. 27.

But, really, it's the volleyball team that's lighting the tower. The team won the Big 12 title a couple weeks ago, and they blew away North Carolina State over the weekend and are headed to the Sweet 16. And, as the Statesman noted, this is their 12th consecutive trip to the Sweet 16. Next up, Utah on Friday night.

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Meet The Author

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University of Texas