The winning images from this year's Novartis and The Daily Telegraph Visions of Science Photographic Awards are an extraordinarily diverse and intriguing set of images. Not only is the subject matter of the winning images wide-ranging – including a view of a hatching mosquito, a close-up of salt and pepper, an artist's impression of a migraine attack and care of a premature baby – but once again the images have the ability to intrigue people with their unusual depiction of everyday occurrences and objects.

It is this ability to capture people's interest and attention through creative imagery that lies at the heart of Visions of Science. Organised by Novartis, the competition is run with the specific aim of reminding viewers of the breadth, depth and wonder of science. Often, a caption is vital in finding out the story behind the captivating images.

Taken by entrants with a wide range of backgrounds, including professors, doctors, researchers, scanning electron microscopists, artists, photographers and students, we are given a privileged insight into their private worlds of research, discovery and creativity.

The images have been captured using many different techniques from state-of-the-art scientific and computer imaging, to standard and digital cameras, and it is this diversity of technique that allows us to see a view of science that perhaps we have never seen before.

With entry numbers up by 60 per cent this year to over 2,200, judging was as lively as ever, with fierce debate about some images – whether over the content, quality or impact value! As judge and television presenter, Adam Hart-Davis says, "The variety of subjects and styles was splendid and picking the winners was, as ever, extremely difficult, with judges noisily championing a particular favourite photograph."

The creation of a set of such diverse images comes about in part through the categories that people are invited to enter. The main categories encourage a view of science in various forms including:
Cancer cell movement by Anne Weston – Medicine and Life - winner

Cancer cells can spread through the body in a process known as metastasis. This cancer cell is moving down a pore in a filter. The image was taken at Cancer Research UK.

Kangaroo care of premature baby – People – highly commended

Kangaroo care is a technique used to help premature babies. The baby is held so that it touches the skin on its parent’s chest. This is thought to allow breathing and heart rhythms to be picked up, aiding their regulation in the infant.

Every year, Novartis organises a reception within the House of Commons, giving Members of Parliament a chance to see the images. Details of the reception will follow shortly.

For more information about the touring exhibition and the winning images visit www.visions-of-science.co.uk.