

VISIONS OF SCIENCE PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

Diversity in Science

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



Surface tension by Robert Anderson – Einstein Year Award - winner

The surface tension of water can support even a metal paperclip. By photographing it using a grill in front of the light source, the deformation of the water caused by the clip's weight can be seen.

Eggs by Dr Christian Laforsch – Art – highly commended

Each of these empty pockets once held a Culex mosquito larva. The eggs are laid in rafts on the surface of still water. Culex is the most widespread mosquito in the world, and can transmit several diseases.



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:

Close-up, Action, People, Concepts and Art. Special awards include **Medicine and Life** and **Einstein Year Award**. A very popular new award, **Art meets Science**, was added this year, looking for photographs of artists' work that has been inspired by science – whether a painting, sculpture or installation. The judges were in agreement that the painting of a barn as seen during a migraine attack was a clear winner, produced by artist and migraine sufferer Debbie Ayles.

There were many new winning entrants this year, including Karen Neill, an artist in residence who produced a stunning image of "liquid crystals" from her work on mapping behavioural characteristics of fluid.

Past winners receiving awards again this year include David McCarthy, an electron microscopist (also the 2005 Overall Winner) for his fun image of "salt and pepper", which Adam Hart-Davis described as "delightfully simple – the sort of image that seems obvious when you've seen it, but none of us had."

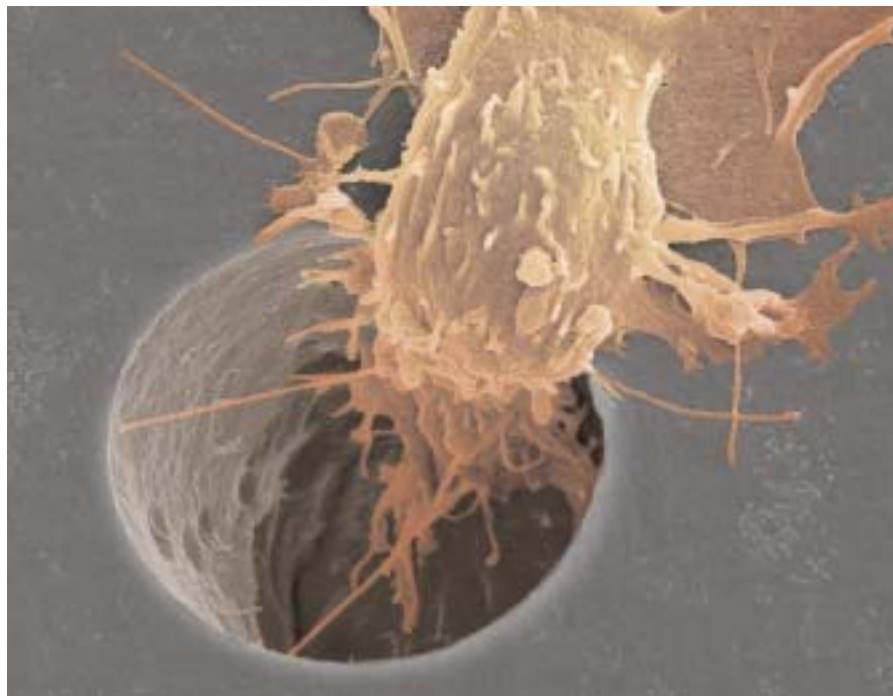
Anne Weston, Scientific Officer at Cancer Research UK, shows us a model of cancer cell migration across a matrix and in this case, through a pore in the filter. As Anne says, "The spread of cancer cells from the primary tumour to form metastasis is vital in the understanding of cancer and this image illustrates a cell in motion."

Amateur photographer Jim Greenfield is retired, and now spends much of his time capturing images of nature close-up, which is especially challenging under water. His "Cleaner prawn" image (on the back cover) really shows us science in action in the natural world.

As Subhanu Saxena, President & CEO of Novartis Pharmaceuticals says, "Visions of Science is one of the only public competitions to encourage links between science and the arts with the specific aim of stimulating public interest in

science. We are delighted with the continuing interest in the awards." Novartis organises Visions of Science as part of its ongoing commitment to science and health education. Every year, sets of the

winning images are produced, which tour science and arts centres around the UK. The main exhibition began its tour at the Science Museum, London on 29 September.



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.