



ATTN: EDITORS
High-resolution images and captions are available.

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San Diegan Wins International Photo Competition **Beautiful Scientific Photographs on Display at the San Diego Natural History Museum**

San Diego; December 12, 2006—On December 10, 2006, the winners of the international Olympus BioScapes™ Photo Competition were announced at a reception at the Horton Grand Hotel in downtown San Diego. Local researcher Thomas Deerinck triumphed over more than 1200 other entries to win first place with his crimson image of the inside of a mouse's eye. All winning images will be on display at the San Diego Natural History Museum from December 14, 2006, through March 5, 2007.

Deerinck's image was captured as part of research into neurofibromatosis, a usually fatal childhood illness that can cause tumors to form on the optic nerve and other locations in the nervous system. The image shows the optic fiber layer responsible for conducting information from the retina to the brain. Deerinck, who takes home Olympus products valued at \$5000 as his prize, works at the National Center for Microscopy and Imaging Research at the University of California, San Diego.

Other fascinating and beautiful images in the BioScapes™ show depict the muscles that make the singing toadfish "sing," cervical cancer cells, a new insect species, a human fingertip, a variety of flowers and plants, and a close-up image showing how a wound in living tissue begins to heal itself. BioScapes™ draws entrants from around the world who have photographed scientific processes using the latest technology—live-cell imaging, fluorescent probes and more. These stunning photographs have been magnified up to 2400x.

BioScapes™ illustrates how photography has become an essential part of scientific investigation. Olympus sponsors the annual competition to honor the finest life-science still images and movies in the world, as captured through light microscopes. The competition recognizes life-science subjects and is open to people using any brand of light microscope. A panel of judges selects the winners each year.

"These pictures combine aesthetic beauty, technical expertise and scientific knowledge to tell stories of great meaning," said George Steares, Group Vice President of Olympus America's Scientific Equipment Group. "The winning photos and movies record scientists' findings, demonstrate the extraordinary capabilities of today's research microscope systems and most important, reveal the always-surprising splendor of the natural world through these moments of discovery."

Founded in 1874 and actively engaged in biodiversity research and education, the San Diego Natural History Museum is open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM; and is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission is all-inclusive (exhibitions and giant-screen films): \$11 for adults; \$9 for seniors; \$7 for military, youth 13–17, students; \$6 for children 3–12. Free for members. The San Diego Natural History Museum is "your nature connection" in beautiful Balboa Park. Phone: 619.232.3821. Website: www.sdnhm.org.

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