Orchids X-ray by Artemi Kyriacou

The delicate structure of these orchid flowers is highlighted by this high quality X-ray.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC AWARDS

Visions of Science

SCIENCE BEYOND WORDS

We learn from words, but we learn from pictures too. This set of winning images from the **Visions of Science Photographic Awards** prompt us to stretch our perception of science and show us that there are some things that words cannot capture.

With skill and creativity, scientists and photographers have given us a privileged visual insight into the world of science and nature.

Visions of Science is organised and run by Novartis, the international healthcare company, as part of its commitment to encouraging public understanding of science in the UK.

Novartis is at the cutting edge of scientific innovations to improve health. Our products are used in hospitals and general practice, in veterinary practice, pharmacies, by opticians and in the home.

Visions of Science is supported by The Daily Telegraph and the Science Photo Library. To find out more visit

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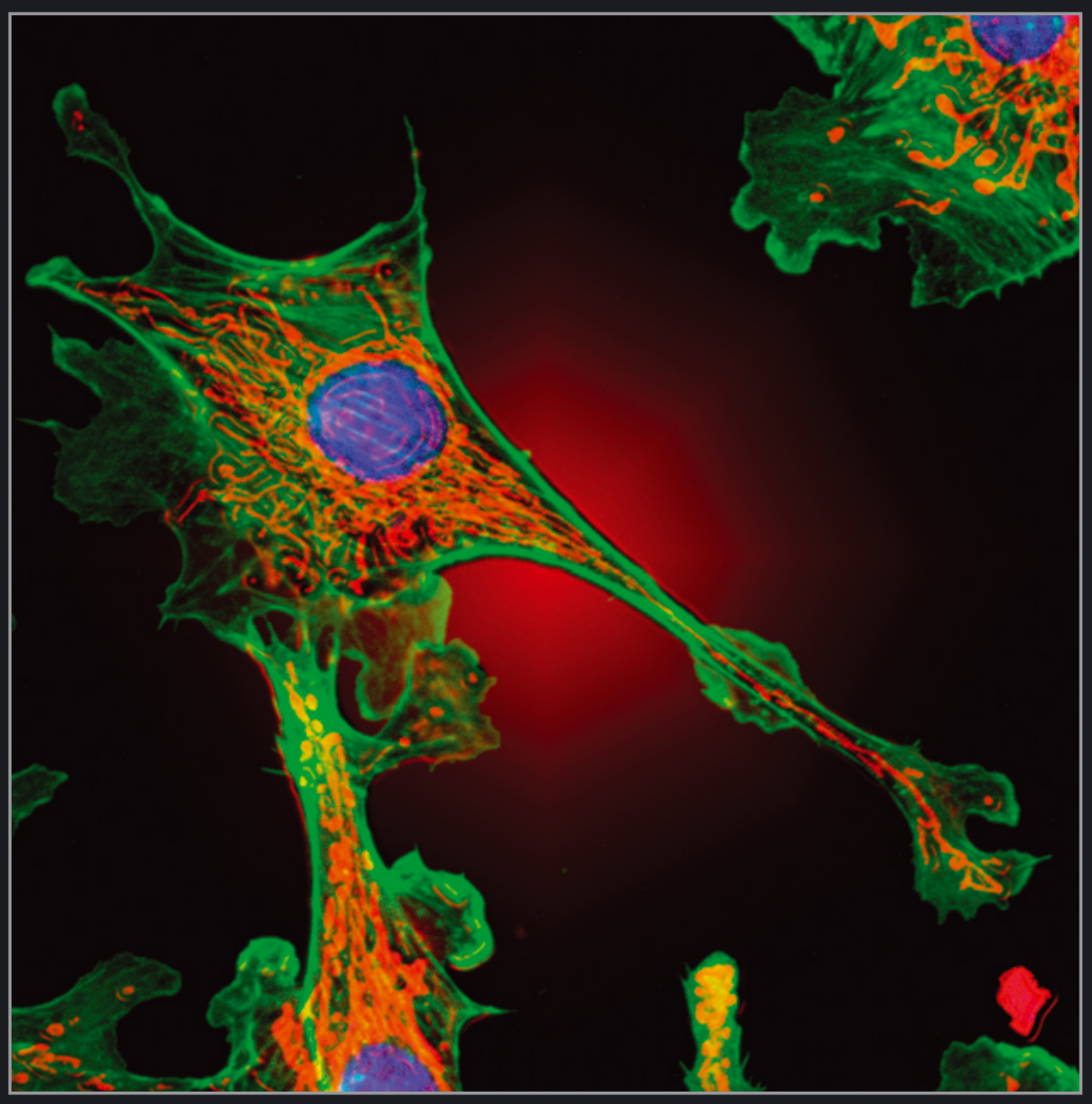

Growth cones by Dr David Becker

This highly magnified image reveals the dynamic life of cells in culture as they extend growth cones to move around, interact with other cells and investigate their environment. Here three main parts of the cells can be seen: their nuclei (blue), the structural protein tubulin (green) and actin (red), a contractile protein that helps the cells to move around.

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Ladybird eating an aphid by Graham Shephard

The voracious appetite of ladybirds for aphids is proving valuable, as organic farmers and gardeners look for alternatives to pesticides.

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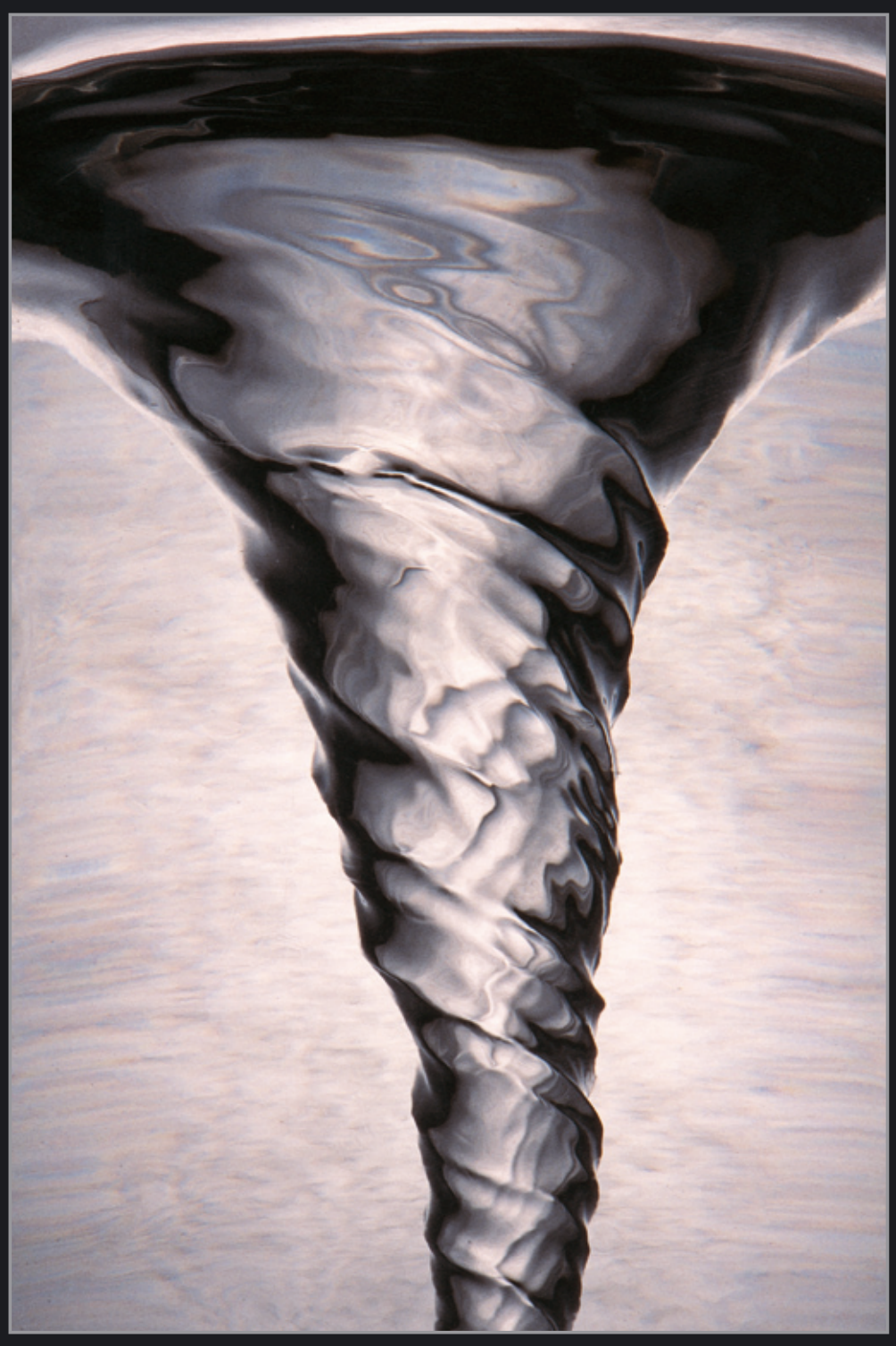

Vortex by Robert D Anderson

This image shows vortex motion in this spinning whirlpool of water. The shape of all vortices is the same, whether they are found in water going down a plug hole, in a bagless vacuum, or at the heart of a destructive tornado.

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Eyelash mites by Stephen Gschmeissner

You may think you're free from parasites but you're not! This image shows the rear ends of tiny mites feeding on the dead skin cells of an eyelash hair follicle.

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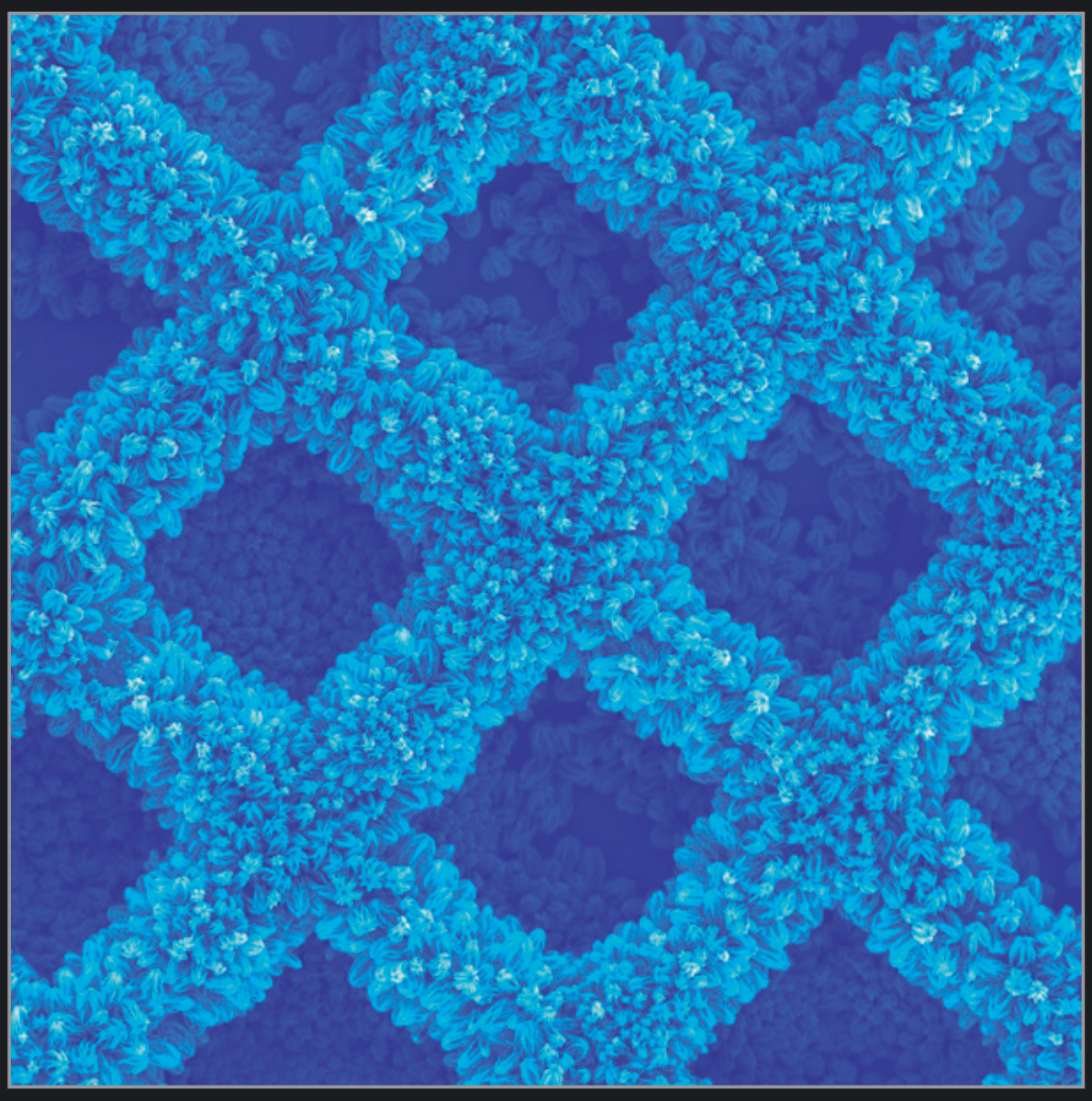

Nanowire flowers by Ghim Wei Ho

These synthesized nanowires, grown on grids, have developed into 3D nanoflowers. Whilst pleasing to look at, the aim of researching synthesised nano-materials is that tiny wires like this could one day be used in the smallest computers and cell-sized machines.

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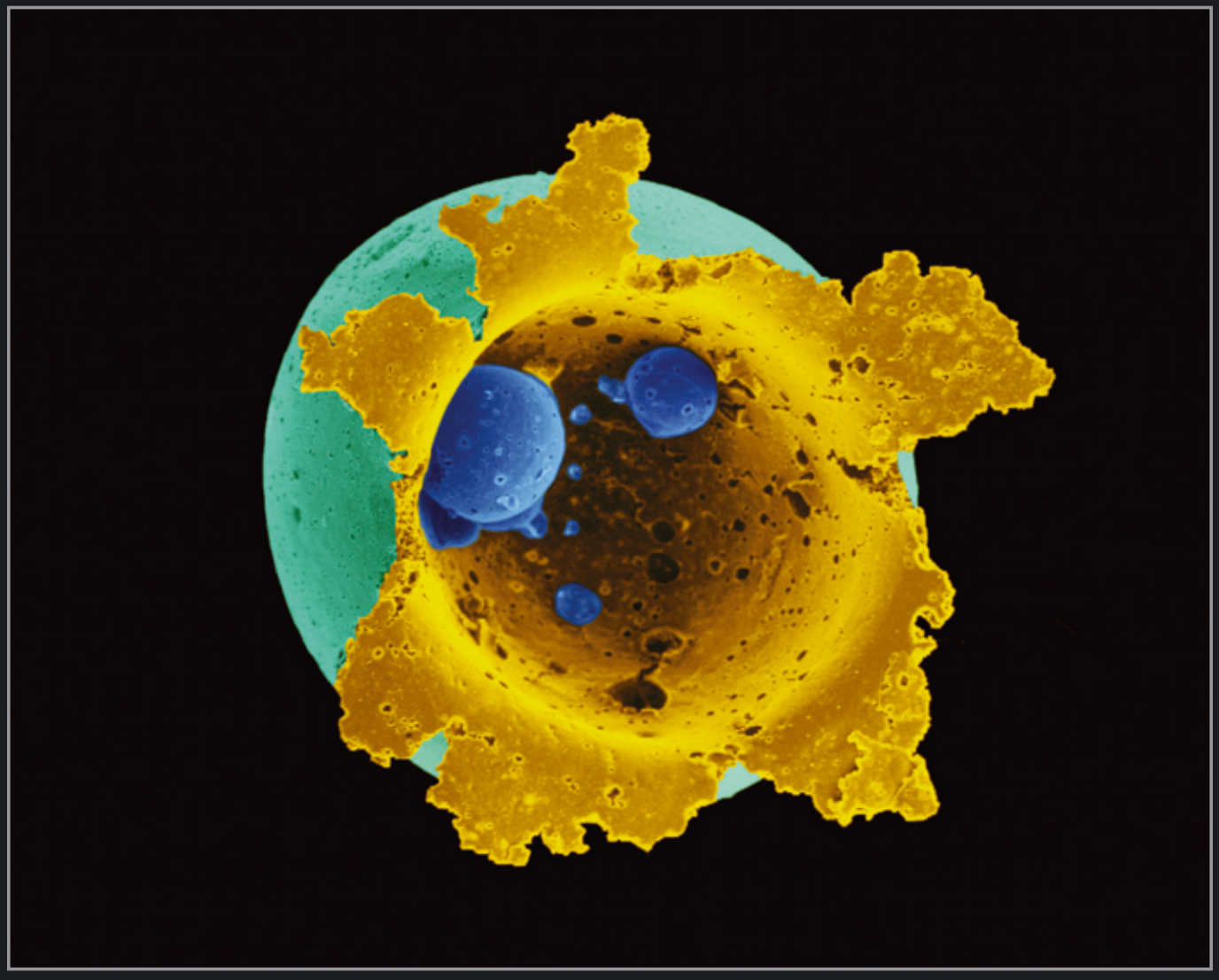

Visualising drug delivery by David McCarthy

A polymer microcapsule acts as a 'carrier' of smaller microcapsules, allowing different drugs to be delivered to different places in the body. Here one capsule has burst, revealing the presence of smaller capsules inside it.

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Flamingo tongue shell eating coral by Jim Greenfield

This brightly coloured and patterned creature is a type of sea snail. Moving slowly along the branches of a soft coral, some sixteen metres below the surface of a tropical sea, it is feeding on the tiny coral polyps that inhabit the branches.

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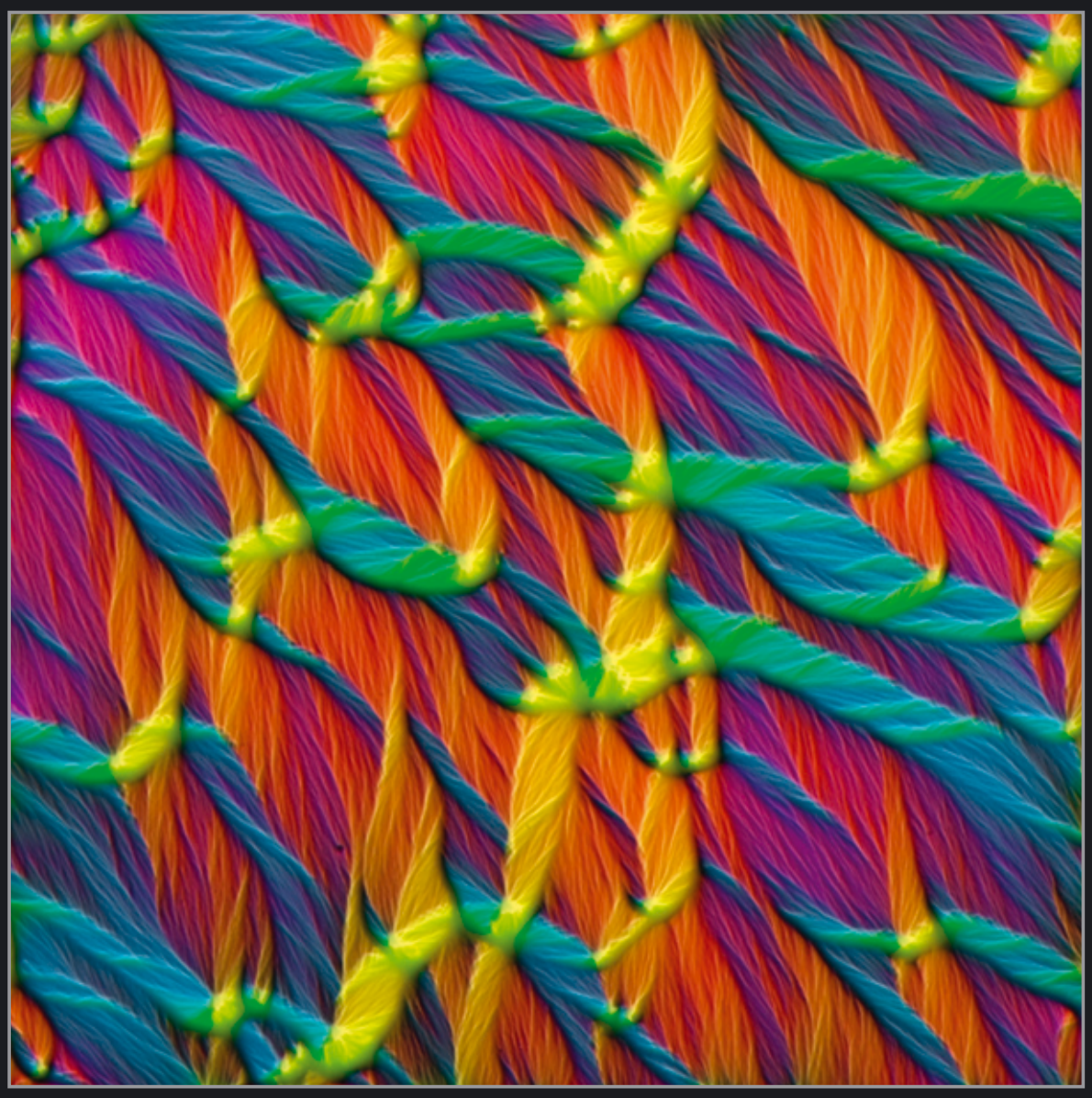

Magnetic field changes by Dr Rafal Dunin-Borkowski

Different colours show different orientations of the magnetic field in a thin metal film. Such thin films are the basis of magnetic storage on computer discs. Studying how the fields change and interact has many applications, including improving the reliability of data storage in the next generation of computers.

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Solarised leaf veins by Amanda D'Arcy

Solarisation of this image highlights the vascular system and unusual colours of the kohl rabi plant – a relative of the cabbage. The leaf veins seen here transport vital nutrients between the leaf and the rest of the plant.

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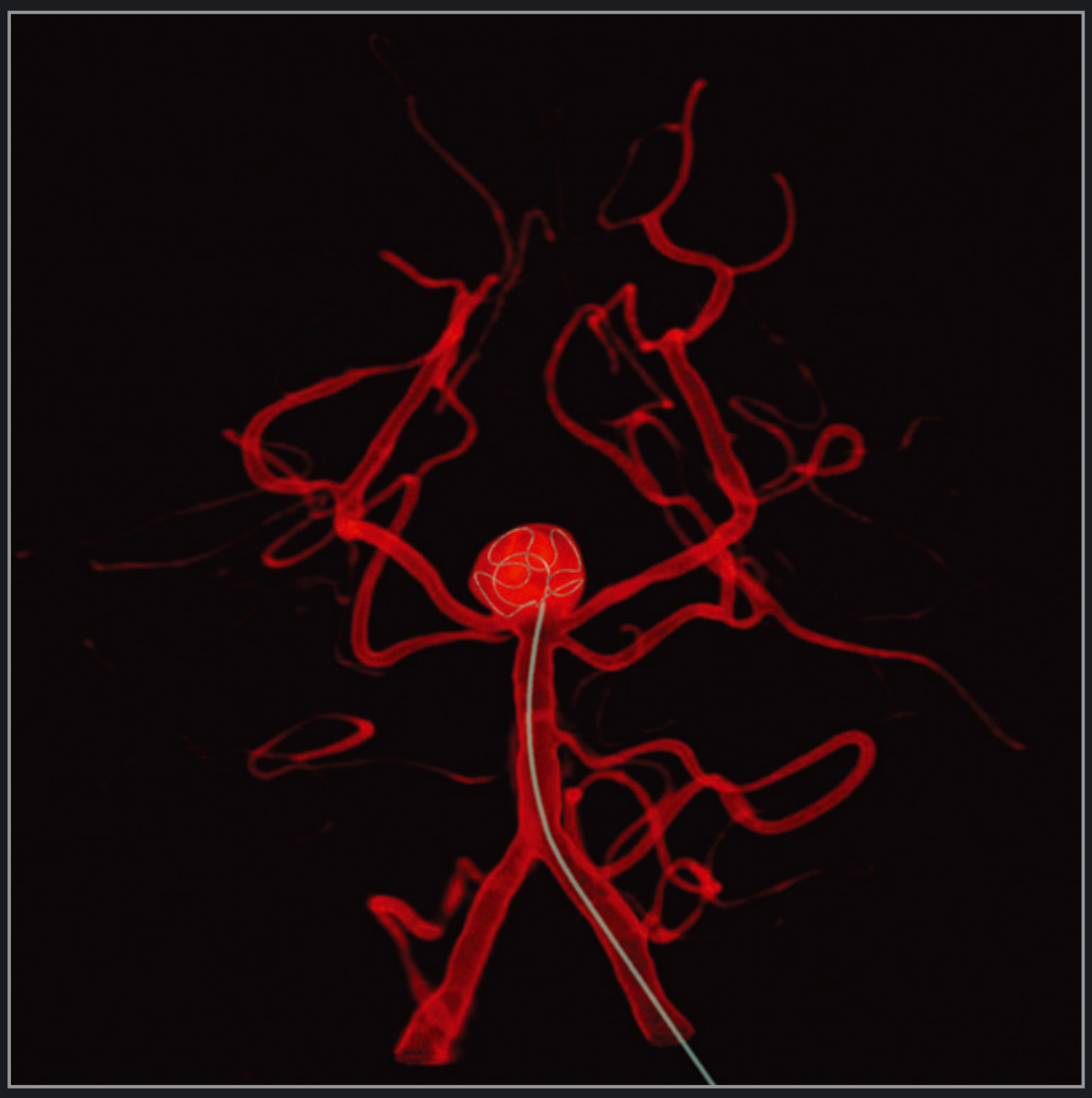

Hanging by a thread by Dr Peter Keston

This image, which was created to help patients understand their condition and treatment, shows a ruptured 'berry' aneurysm at the base of the brain, with a platinum wire inserted to prevent further bleeding.

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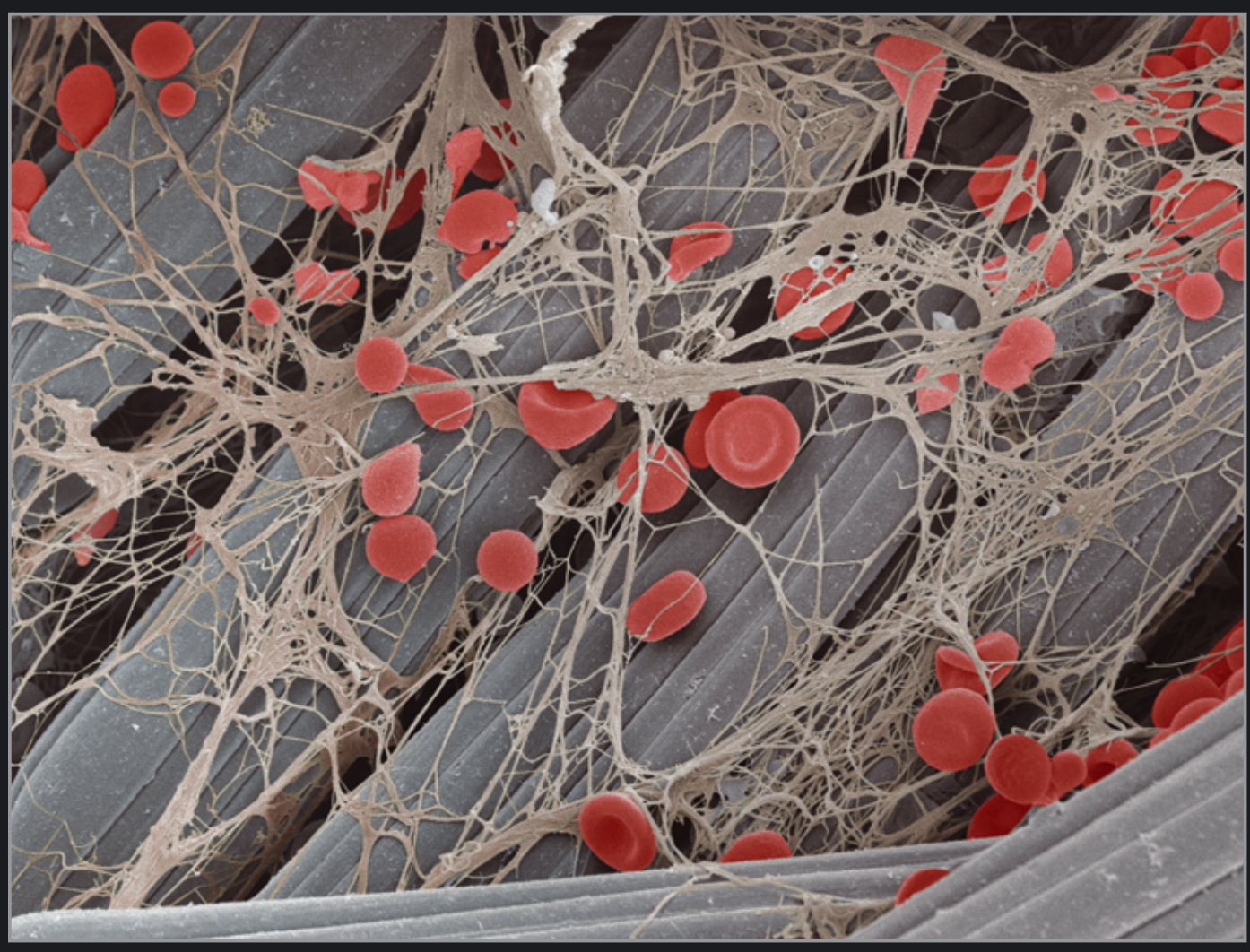

Used sticking plaster by Stephen Gschmeissner

The absorbent side of a plaster just after it was removed from a cut. The large fibres of the plaster itself are dark grey, and they are covered in red blood cells and fibres of fibrin (light grey), the protein found in blood clots.

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