The spectacular orange-colored blossoms on the cover of this week's issue of *Science* are not what they appear to be. Turn to page 530, and you will find that the image is, in fact, a depiction of the network of voids in the cosmic web; each void can be tens of millions of light-years across. The eye-catching rendering is one of the winning entries in the 2011 International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge.

*Science* and the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) have cosponsored this annual challenge for the past 9 years. The aim is to promote cutting-edge efforts to visualize scientific data, principles, and ideas—skills that are critical for communication among scientists and between scientists and the general public, especially students. Rapid technological change is opening new vistas in visualizing data: This year’s winners include a cross-section of an eye in which different cell types are each colored a unique shade, an interactive game in which players try to mimic nature’s amazing capacity for folding proteins, and a video that assembles a cell’s jumble of components into an ordered assortment.

We received 212 entries from 33 countries. (U.S. entries came from 24 states and territories.) A committee of staff members from *Science* and NSF screened the entries and, in a new departure this year, those selected as finalists were posted on NSF’s Web site, and visitors were invited to vote for their top choice in each category. A total of 3200 votes came in; entries that received the most votes were named the “People’s Choice.” Independently, an outside panel of experts in scientific visualization reviewed the finalists and selected the winners. The winning entries are featured on the following pages, in an online slideshow at http://scim.ag/y41Bht, and at www.nsf.gov/news/scivis. Some entries were put together by large teams, not all of whose members could be listed in print; the online presentations provide more details. Tarri Joyner and Zachariah Miller of NSF organized this year’s challenge. Daniel Strain of *Science*’s News staff wrote the text that accompanies the images in this special section.

We encourage you to submit applications for next year’s challenge, details of which will be available on NSF’s Web site, and to join us in celebrating this year’s winners.

**COLIN NORMAN, NEWS EDITOR, SCIENCE**

---

**Judges**

**Donna Cox**  
National Center for Supercomputing Applications, University of Illinois

**Alisa Zapp Machalek**  
National Institute of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

**Keith Powers**  
Powerful Concepts, Palo Alto, CA

**Corinne Sandone**  
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD

**Tierney Thys**  
National Geographic Explorer, Carmel, CA

**Thomas Wagner**  
NASA, Washington, DC
Editor's Summary

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only.

**Article Tools**  Visit the online version of this article to access the personalization and article tools:
http://science.sciencemag.org/content/335/6068/525

**Permissions**  Obtain information about reproducing this article:
http://www.sciencemag.org/about/permissions.dtl