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Artist’s rendering of the airway epithelial cell surface in human lungs. The airway surface is lined by arrays of cylindrical cilia (shown as yellow projections) that are 7 micrometers long and 200 nanometers in diameter. The cilia and airway surface are covered by tethered biomacromolecules (shown as green hairs) that form dense, brushlike structures. These epithelial brushes protect the airways from infectious agents and ensure efficient flow of mucus from healthy lungs. See page 937. For the story behind the cover, go to http://scim.ag/cov6097.

Image: Yan Liang (www.l2xy2.com), Li-Heng Cai, Michael Rubinstein
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How to Line a Thermonuclear Reactor

Scientists hit upon a solution that erodes slowly while using minimal fuel.

http://scim.ag/Melting-Greenland

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To the world’s right to decide.

As the wider world celebrates science’s renewed coolness, our columnist stubbornly questions the world’s right to decide.

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