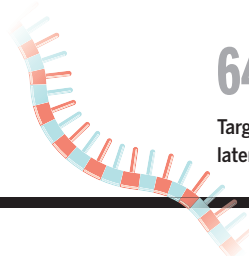


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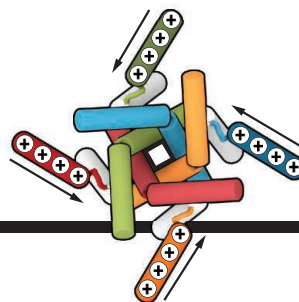
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ON THE COVER



A Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*). These creatures are among the world's largest carnivorous sharks and are distributed throughout Arctic waters. For decades, the longevity of this slow-growing species has remained a mystery. Using well-established radiocarbon dating techniques applied on Greenland shark eye lens tissue, Nielsen *et al.* estimate that these animals are the longest-living vertebrates known to date. See page 702. Photo: © Nick Caloyianis/National Geographic Creative

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