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Scientific American launches science fiction competition, Quantum Shorts

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

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Scientific American is pleased to announce the Quantum Shorts 2013 competition, in partnership with Tor Books, the leading science fiction and fantasy publisher, and the Centre for Quantum Technologies at the National University of Singapore. The Quantum Shorts contest encourages readers to submit a short story that is inspired by quantum theory. Entries can be submitted now through 1 December 2013 at <http://shorts.quantumlah.org>.

Quantum theory states that particles can be in more than one place at the same time, or exhibit a strange, almost telepathic link called entanglement. "Quantum-inspired fiction will no doubt be just as exciting and unusual as quantum theory," says *Scientific American* Editor in Chief Mariette DiChristina. "We are excited to read the inspired stories that are submitted."

A panel of **judges** will select the winners and runner-ups in three different categories: Open International, Student International and Student Singapore. The public will vote and decide the People's choice prize in the Open International category. Winners will receive a trophy, a cash prize and a one-year digital subscription to *ScientificAmerican.com*. The winner of the Open International category will be featured on *ScientificAmerican.com*.

"The more you learn about quantum theory, the more it stretches your imagination. I look forward to seeing how people entering our contest are inspired by their glimpse into the quantum world," says Artur Ekert, Director of the Centre for Quantum Technologies and a judge for the Quantum Shorts contest. Ekert is one of the co-inventors of quantum cryptography, a technique for secure communication that harnesses quantum behavior.

The short story submissions are limited to 1,000 words in length, in English. Entries must be uploaded to the Quantum Shorts website at <http://shorts.quantumlah.org>, which also features a full set of rules and guidelines.

-ENDS-

About the Centre for Quantum Technologies at the National University of Singapore

The Centre for Quantum Technologies brings together quantum physicists and computer scientists to explore the quantum nature of reality and quantum possibilities in technology. Outreach and education are part of its mission.

CQT was established in December 2007 as Singapore's first Research Centre of Excellence with core funding from the Singapore National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Education.

CQT is the organizer of the Quantum Shorts 2013 competition.

About Tor and Tor.com

Tor Books is the most successful science fiction and fantasy publisher in the world. Winner of the *Locus Award* for best SF publisher 20 years in a row, Tor regularly puts books like Robert Jordan's *Knife of Dreams* and Terry Goodkind's *Chainfire* atop national bestseller lists. Tor's Orb imprint offers trade paperback editions of outstanding, award-winning SF and fantasy backlist titles. Additionally, the Tor Kids program includes Starscape, Tor Teen, and one of the largest classics lines in North America. For more information, please visit www.tor-forge.com.

Tor.com, a site for science fiction, fantasy, and all the things that interest SF and fantasy readers, presents original short fiction, new sequential art, extensive art galleries, and commentary on science fiction and related subjects by a wide range of writers from all corners of the science fiction and fantasy field, both professionals working in the genres and fans. Its aim is to provoke, encourage, and enable interesting and rewarding conversations with and between its readers. For more information, please visit www.tor.com.

Tor and Tor.com are media partners of the Quantum Shorts 2013 competition.

About Scientific American

Scientific American is at the heart of NPG's consumer media division, meeting the needs of the general public. Founded in 1845, *Scientific American* is the oldest continuously published magazine in the US and the leading authoritative publication for science in the general media. Together with scientificamerican.com and 14 local language editions around the world it reaches over 5 million consumers and scientists. Other titles include *Scientific American Mind* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* in

Germany. *Scientific American* won a 2011 National Magazine Award for General Excellence. For more information, please visit www.scientificamerican.com.

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