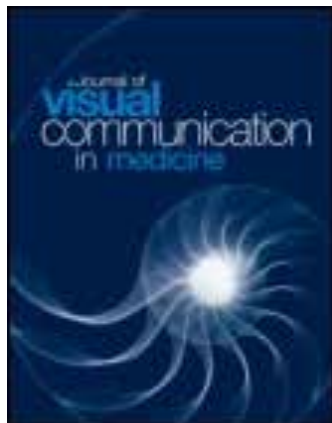


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Publisher: Taylor & Francis

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Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ijau20>

The continuing exploration

Michael Peres^a

^a Professor of Biomedical Photographic Communications, School of Photography, Rochester Institute of Technology, 14623 New York, USA

Published online: 01 Apr 2015.



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To cite this article: Michael Peres (2014) The continuing exploration, Journal of Visual Communication in Medicine, 37:3-4, 116-121

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/17453054.2014.974520>

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The continuing exploration

Michael Peres

Corresponding author, Michael Peres, Professor of Biomedical Photographic Communications,
School of Photography, Rochester Institute of Technology, 14623 New York, USA.
E-mail: mrpph@rit.edu

Michael Peres has become a lead in the field of photomicrography and this article gives an account of his journey as a developing professional.

Keywords: *education, graphic design, medical art and illustration, photography*

During planning for the 2013 IMI meeting, Michael Peres was invited to lead a master class in painting with light. Michael was honored at the invitation and also offered to present a paper entitled, *I Photograph Very Tiny Things*.

Michael began photographing tiny things in 1975 during his undergraduate and pre-medical student studies. He became fascinated by the structure and intrinsic designs of cells and tissues during this time. Michael became captivated by the invisible world and after discovering the special Kodak Photomicrography film, was compelled to make better pictures and to delve deeper into the unseen.

Following his university studies, he was first employed as a medical photographer at West Virginia University in Charleston in 1982, later moving to the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan. In each environment Michael produced clinical and surgical photography, but also continued to make photomicrographs whenever possible. Although the microscopy

was not directly related to his primary role for either organization, he just wanted to stay involved with the subject.

When Michael joined the faculty at Rochester Institute of Technology, as resident expert in photomicrography, he produced countless photographs from a myriad of objects over the following 28 years as can be seen in figures 1–8. The challenges each object posed led to innovation in Michael's imaging methods.

As curiosity for his imagery grew among his colleagues, Michael was approached to exhibit in the faculty's annual exhibition. It soon became apparent that lay viewers saw the art rather than the science behind the imagery and continually asked the question "What is that?" The transformation by the viewer to see line, shape and colour intrigued Michael and this has become a constant factor in his personal photography ever since.

Michael has a constant thirst for discovery. He has made numerous series of photographs, including prepared plants and flowers, snowflakes and, most recently pharmaceuticals. In each case the project is photographed scientifically, but with the art and beauty of the final composition in mind. More importantly, it gives Michael pleasure to create new work and his curiosity has been a powerful driving force for his passion.



Figure 1. Stained oxybenzone crystals, a compound used in sunscreens.



Figure 2. Epiphyseal plate in developing foetal human bone taken using bright-field light microscopy.

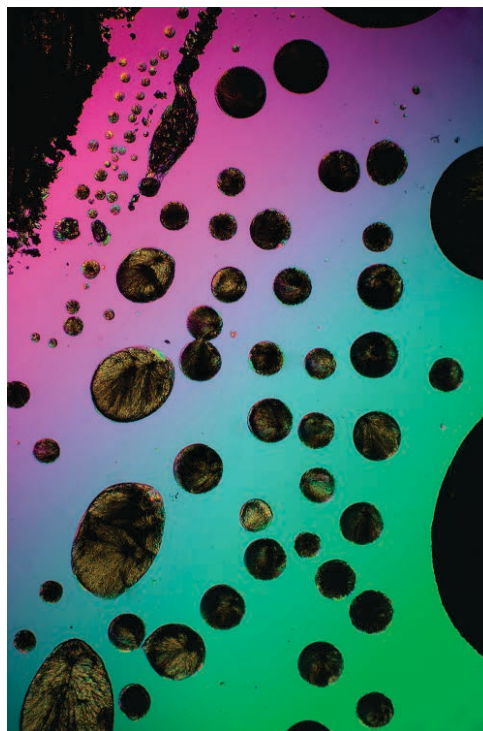


Figure 3. Avobenzone oil viewed under the microscope, an ingredient used in sunscreen.



Figure 4. A snowflake from a winter storm in Rochester, New York, USA. This image was captured through light microscopy using bright-field illumination.

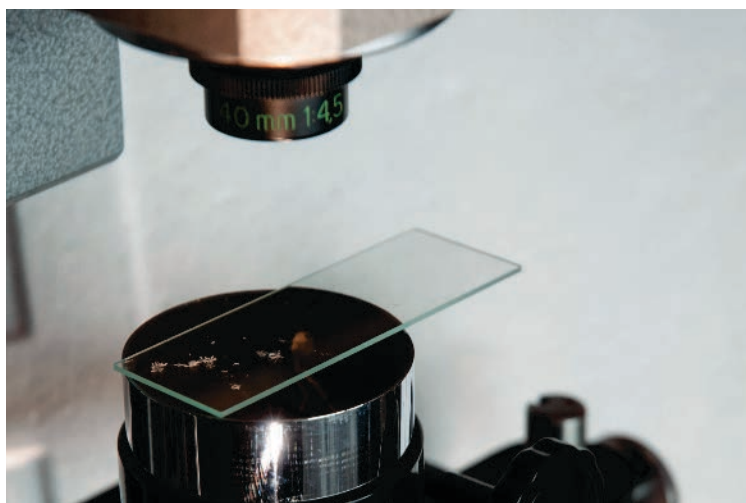


Figure 5. The microscope set-up within the snowflake shack, if you look closely you can see the tiny melting flakes.

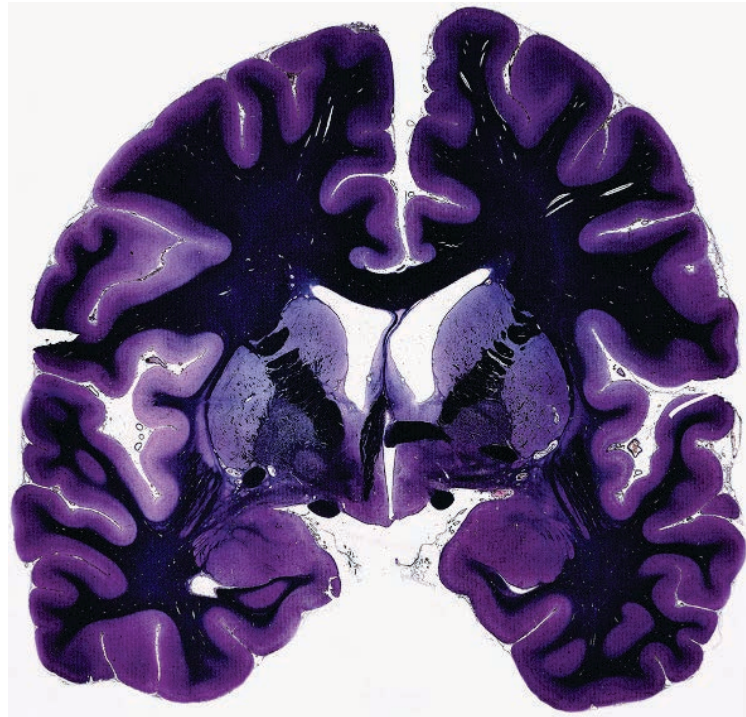


Figure 6. Coronal section through the human midbrain, taken using high resolution wide-field microscopy.

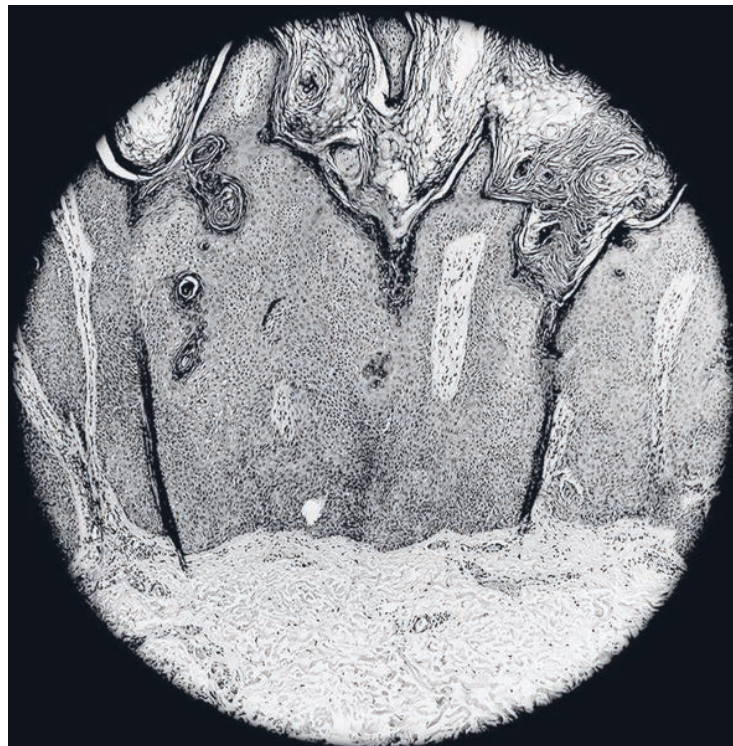


Figure 7. Skin tumour a cross-section.



Figure 8. Light micrograph of a stained head of the tapeworm (Scolex).

