NEW SCIENTIST

CONTENIDO

VOLUME 209 No. 2798, FEBRUARY, 5 2011

CONTENTS

6 Smart knife, smart surgeon.

Faster, safer surgery with tools that analyse tissue in moments.

COVER STORY

The brain's blueprint.

Why we need to map the most complex object in the universe.

40 Cosmic seed.

Let's send life to grow on other planets.

NEWS

4 UPFRONT

Genetics of rare disease identified. Egypt goes office. LHC run extended to 2013.

6 THIS WEEK

Helium gets hydrogen disguise. Sleep sorts memories. How Vikings navigated in fog. We could beat Neanderthals in a marathon. Mars diary: 240 days into simulated mission.

15 IN BRIEF

Babies recognize dominance through size. Nabokov's butterfly taxonomy was correct. Plants anticipate infection.

TECHNOLOGY

Bomb-sniffing mice. Crowdsourcing 2.0. Woodpecker ballistics. 3D maps.

OPINION

3 EDITORIAL

The case for panspermia.

26 The Borlaug paradox.

Reviving an old plan to save nature doesn't impress Fred Pearce.

Kentucky's case.

Religious faith no excuse for ignorance, says Lawrence M. Krauss.

One minute with... Lester Brown

The sustainability guru fears the "food bubble".

28 LETTERS

Solving P vs NP. Best presents.

30 Parallel lines.

Why physicist Brian Greene thinks we might be living in a simulation.

FEATURES

The brain's blueprint.

(see above left)

36 Ghosts of the Arctic.

These little foxes don't migrate or hibernate – they tough it out on barren polar ice for months on end.

40 Cosmic seed.

(see left)

INSTANT EXPERT

Dark matter.

Our eight-page pull-out guide to the universe's most elusive material.

CULTURELAB

44 Data sets for all.

From erogenous zones to sock drawers, Martin Wattenberg and Fernanda Viégas help us find the patterns.

45 Reviews.

Einstein stars in a novel called *The Omega Theory*, fun in the Dan Brown mould. Optimistic futures. Grief about grief.

REGULARS

28 Enigma

56 Feedback

Science goes to the movies.

57 The Last Word

Curdling coffee.

46 Jobs & Careers.