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# Centre for Quantum Technologies launches flash fiction competition

**Released:** 7/17/2013 8:00 AM EDT  
**Source Newsroom:** [National University of Singapore](#)

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Newswise — The Centre for Quantum Technologies at the National University of Singapore is pleased to announce the Quantum Shorts 2013 competition, in partnership with Scientific American and Tor Books, the leading science fiction and fantasy publisher. 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, which includes Mariette DiChristina and internationally renowned Harvard Professor of Physics Lisa Randall, 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, who is another of the judges for the Quantum Shorts contest. Ekert is one of the co-inventors of quantum cryptography, a technique for secure communication that harnesses quantum behavior.

Patrick Nielsen Hayden, senior editor at Tor Books will also act as a judge, and points out the value of having imaginative writers interact with the frontiers of science.

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"Science fiction can't tell us what science will discover," he says. "But it can often tell us how we'll feel about it when that happens."

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.

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