

XVI Certamen de Ensayo Científico

1ER LUGAR, CATEGORÍA MAYOR INGLÉS

XVII Certamen Nacional de Ensayo Científico, 2015

Light Inside

María Celeste Amaya Domínguez, Colegio Científico del Atlántico

Light has helped us in many ways throughout history, from a simple light bulb to a mobile device. Light-based technology is all over us. Take a look around you. What do you see? A TV? A computer or maybe, a led panel as an advertisement? All of them are helpful everyday instruments, however, technology is nowhere near stopping. Light-based technology is not only a resource for life, but it is also starting to become a part of our human bodies contributing to our health and working conditions.

The idea of Earth without light is unconceivable, but what if we think that our bodies without light are incomplete. Neil Harbisson, who suffers from achromatopsia, sees the world in a grey scale. Adam Montandon, Peter Kese, Matias Lizana and Harbisson created an electronic eye which allows him to listen to color. He can listen to a paint and create a paint out of a song. This widget is implanted in his skull; it is part of his body.

Think of all the many ways light-based technology can help us improve our lives. It would be so useful if there was a gadget that allowed people with lupus, like my mom, to perceive UV rays. This will let her know how intense they are and which precautions to take. Radiologists could have an x ray vision. We can adapt our vision to darkness but we can't see as clear as we do during daylight and not as good as an owl. Miners could have a night vision. There could be a "telescopic-vision" for astronomers and "micro-vision" for microbiologists. The gadgets would be part of our human body, they'll be under our skin. These inventions would let them save time and be more efficient.

Many helpful light-based technologies already exist, and many others will. It can be hard to accept "cyborgs" in our society. Is light-based technology transforming us into new creatures? Are we evolving into tecno-homo sapiens sapiens? Why are we so afraid of light? Why do we fear new and why don't we let go traditional? We may be facing a new era in history. Only time will say what will happen, if we will or won't accept light inside of us. But what we know for a fact is that light-based technologies have started to be part of our organisms. Light can be hope, truth and knowledge. Light is life. Or like Plato once said: "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light."

XVI Certamen de Ensayo Científico

"I declare under oath that this essay is original and has not entered any previous contest."