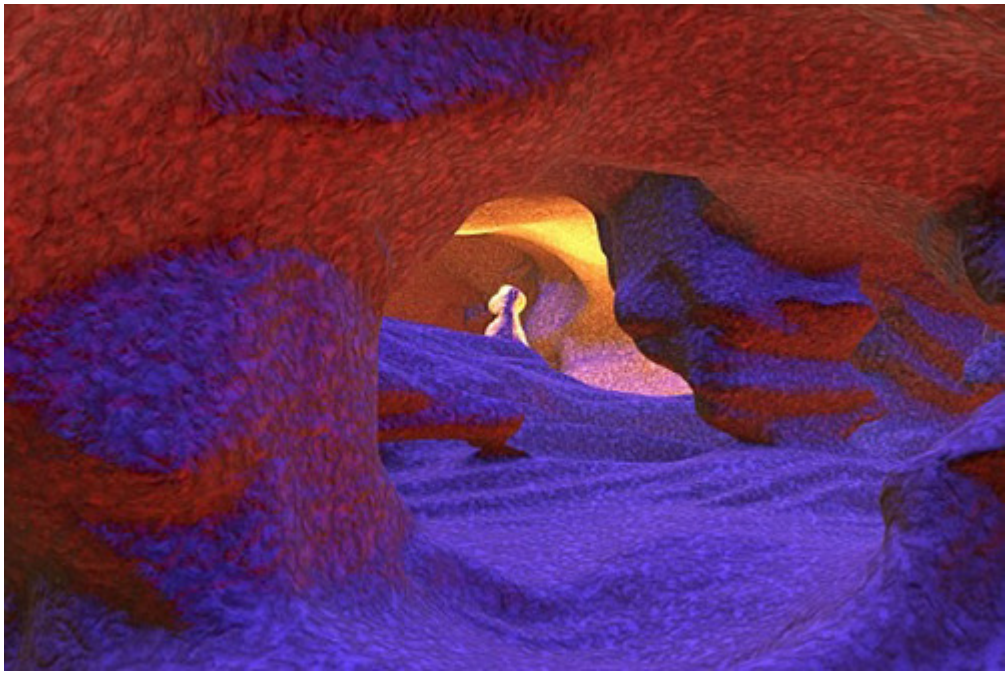
UC San Diego Health Sciences Research News

7 years ago
#Science in Photos
#choroid
#optical coherence tomography
#opthalmology



View high resolution

Tunnel Vision

This three dimensional image, created by Peter Maloca at the University of Basel in Switzerland using optical coherence tomography, depicts the inside of the back of a human eye. These tunnel-like structures (each about as tall as the thickness of a single sheet of copier paper) are blood vessels through which blood flows and provides nutrition to surrounding tissue.

In this case, it's the choroid at the back of the eyeball between the sclera (white of the eye) and the retina. The choroid is the major blood supplier for the retina. Blood cells aren't visible because they are moving too quickly to be captured visually.

Like fingerprints and tongues, the shape and structure of the choroid is unique in each person. Images like this are being used to detect diseases such as glaucoma, diabetes, multiple sclerosis and age-related macular degeneration.

The image was a 2016 Wellcome Image Awards winner.