



Artist's interpretation of a polariton-laser. (See Arash Rahimi-Iman et al., p. 30.)



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This special issue of *Optics & Photonics News* highlights the most exciting peer-reviewed optics research to have emerged over the past 12 months. Our panel of editors reviewed a record 162 summaries from scientists all over the globe. They selected for publication 30 stories that they felt most clearly communicated breakthroughs of interest to the optics community. Many of the summaries have multimedia components that you can access at www.opnmagazine-digital.com/opn/december_2013 or through our main web site, at www.osa-opn.org. Thanks to all who submitted summaries as well as to our panel of guest editors.