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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 more than 160 research 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. Some of the summaries have related multimedia that you can access at www.osa-opn.org/optics-in-2015. Thanks to all who submitted summaries as well as to our panel of guest editors.

A near-thresholdless laser, formed by quantum dots inside a photonic-crystal microcavity resonator. See Optics in 2015 summary by Prieto et al., p. 38. [Image: P.A. Postigo/conceptual design by E. Sahagun]

Optics in 2015