chines That nge Shape

An Off Switch for Cancer

How to Reach "Vegetative" Patients

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IF SUPERSYMMETRY

CRISIS

DOESN'T PAN OUT,

SCIENTISTS NEED A NEW WAY

PHYSICS

TO EXPLAIN THE UNIVERSE





**MAY 2014** 

# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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The Higgs boson was just the beginning. Scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider also desperately want to find evidence of supersymmetry, a theory of matter that posits the existence of a brand-new world of fundamental particles. To the surprise of many, no signs have yet been found. When the LHC starts up early next year, the stakes will be high: find supersymmetry, or face a crisis in physics.



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For decades physicists have been working on a beautiful theory that would lead them to a deeper understanding of the quantum world. But soon they will face a moment of truth, when their theory is either proved or found to be lacking.

By Joseph Lykken and Maria Spiropulu

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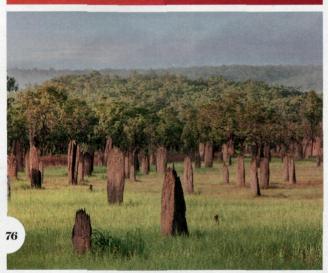
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