

APERTURE

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For me, the *fact* of remote viewing means that the human potential is much vaster than we usually give it credit for, and this fact must be taken into account in any attempt to develop an unbiased picture of the structure of reality.

—Harold E. Puthoff, Ph.D.

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Ap - er - ture (ap'er-cher) n. 1. A hole, cleft, gap, or space through which something, such as light, may pass. 2. A term of art in certain remote-viewing methodologies, signifying the point or portal through which information transitions from the subconscious into conscious awareness.

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THE WARCOLLIER PRIZE

Explorations into Remote Viewing Microscopic Organisms

Lance William Beem and Debra Lynn Katz

Ed. Note: *This is a summary of an original research project conducted by Lance William Beem and Debra Lynne Katz, recipients of the first Warcollier Prize awarded jointly in 2011 by the International Remote Viewing Association (IRVA) and IRIS-Psi & Applications (IRIS-PA) of Paris, France. The summary was written by T.W. Fendley.*

This project focused on investigating real-life applications of remote viewing, such as describing the structure of a virus. It was initiated after the researchers conducted a series of informal studies testing whether viewers could identify the presence of the Tomato Mosaic Virus in plants, utilizing a variety of remote-viewing protocols. A comprehensive literature review found only two other studies that focused on the intuitive exploration of microscopic biological targets. The first, *Occult Chemistry*, was originally published in 1895 by Charles Webster Leadbeater and Annie Besant, in which they described atoms via their clairvoyance. The other was a study conducted by Edwin C. May, Ph.D. and Beverly S. Humphrey, Ph.D. at Stanford Research Institute (SRI), which tasked remote viewers with identifying the presence of the Salmonella bacterium. According to Dr. May, this study has not yet been published.

The goal of this study was to determine whether remote viewers could describe a Bacteriophage (aka Phage or “bacterial virus”) in enough detail to provide useful information to scientists. It was an ideal subject for remote viewers, who might have the ability to observe a Phage in its natural environment within bacteria, without the need to destroy or alter it for observation. Bacteriophage is widely used in many countries outside the United States in place of antibiotics for the treatment of illnesses such as diphtheria, cholera, and scarlet fever.

As part of a free-response, double-blind study, remote viewers infiltrated a Bacteriophage with no idea of what the target was. They only later learned that they had remote viewed a microscopic target, a first for each viewer. This study’s results prompted one scientist new to remote viewing to exclaim, “This is blowing my mind. How is this possible?”

Beem prepared the study’s tasking questions and kept them in a sealed envelope in his home desk, sharing them with Katz only after each phase was completed:

- **First target:** DESCRIBE A BACTERIOPHAGE AND INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE USEFUL IN UNDERSTANDING IT.
- **Second target:** WHAT IS THE PHAGE’S TRIGGER FOR REPLICATION IN A BACTERIA? (*i.e.*, What causes it to make the choice to replicate via the lysogenic cycle or the lytic cycle?)

To decrease the possibility of experimenter telepathic contamination, only Katz had contact with the remote viewers during the recruitment, tasking, and feedback processes. She recruited them during a one-week period from remote-viewing and intuitive-development group lists, forums, social-networking sites, personal e-mail invitations, and by word of mouth. Some viewers were new, with little or no training, while others were at the advanced or professional level and had extensive experience using a variety of methodologies.

First Target

In early February 2012, Katz e-mailed each remote viewer an instruction sheet with a specified deadline; an initial survey form with 27 questions; and the spe-

cific, randomly generated target number assigned to them. This target contained no frontloading.

By mid-March 2012, thirty-nine viewers had e-mailed their completed sessions and surveys to Katz. She and Beem uploaded them into a central database and, assisted by several volunteers, they broke down the sessions into lists of individual descriptors, lists of summaries, and collections of sketches.

Nine of ten viewers completed a retasking assignment that instructed them to expand on information provided in their first session, which had been incomplete. Some viewers had provided sketches but not descriptors, while others had provided descriptors without sketches.

Second Target

After consulting with several remote-viewing experts, a decision was made to provide the remote viewers with frontloading on the second target (*viz.*, the word “microscopic”) for the following reasons:

1. This study was “operational” in nature, in that it sought answers that could be useful to virologists. Some viewers had approached the first session with a strong assumption that they would be describing a location, object, person, or activity, as they had done in the past. This incorrect assumption caused more analytical overlay in some sessions, increasing the difficulty for the virologists reviewing their work.
2. In many operational projects, the viewers’ focus is typically narrowed with some basic frontloading by a client or project manager, particularly after they have done an initial session demonstrating that they are on target. This allows viewers to select certain techniques over others and thereby to better home-in on exactly what data are needed (*e.g.*, “the target is a location” or “the target is an activity”).
3. Researchers wanted to assess whether session scores were higher with or without frontloading, and whether more useful data could be provided.

Again, Katz was the only person in contact with the remote viewers, and they were not provided with

any feedback about the first target.

Analysis

The authors used four methods of analysis to examine the data:

1. Big Data corroboration
2. Merit ratings
3. Quantitative analysis
4. Qualitative independent analysis

1. Big Data corroboration

The “Big Data” method is used when data collection is so large and complex that it becomes difficult to process with other, traditional tools. It is based on the concept of “data mining” of online content, which is used to draw conclusions about current trends and to aid in the prediction of future outcomes.

The authors theorized that the top repeating words would have very close correspondence to the known models of the Phage and could possibly provide insight into the undisclosed tasking question regarding the trigger for Phage replication—which continues to elude experts. They hypothesized that expert raters would initially (and rightfully) reject individual descriptors that did not fit into their current understanding; however, being presented with the top repeating words might encourage these scientists to reconsider data they were marking as “unknown” or even “incorrect”—more than if they simply rated each individual session.

Volunteers broke down each remote viewer’s sessions into a list of descriptors. If a viewer repeated a word, that word was only listed once. All descriptors, sketches, AOLs (analytical overlays), and summaries were extracted and compiled into a master list. An analyst added up all occurrences of matching words and synonyms to determine the highest level of repeating words, and calculated the percentage of times they repeated. Four master lists were generated from this information.

Ideally, multiple scientists would have rated every

list and carefully examined their responses and all others', but this was not feasible.

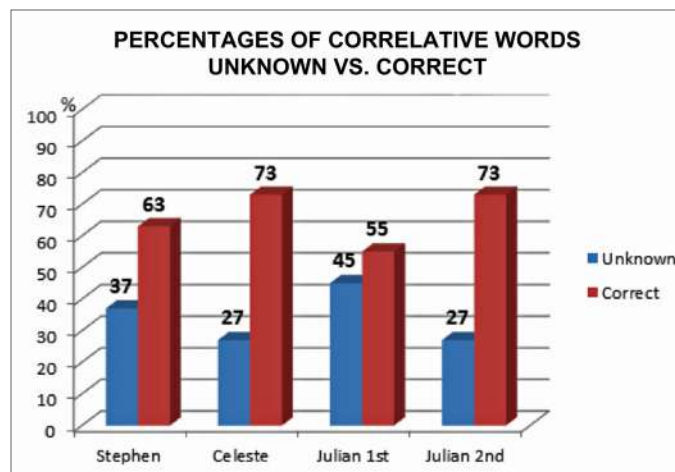
After analyzing more than 3,263 words compiled from the first and second tasking sessions of all viewers (List C), one scientist, Celeste A. Gilbert*, found that 73 percent correlated with what is known about Phages. Another scientist, Stephen Butler**, found a 63 percent correlation.

**Compilation of Correlative Words from
Combined 1st and 2nd Sessions of
All Remote Viewers
A Total Analysis of 3,263 Words
153 Total Perceptions
(Words repeating less than 30% of the
time were not included.)**

**% of
Correlation Highest Repeating Terms**

67%	"Light"... light, lighting, lightened, bright, brightened, luminance, luminescence, shiny, shimmer.
62%	"Motion"... motion, movement, moving, rapid movement, velocity.
56%	"Biological"... biological, biological organic, alive, contain life, intelligence, intelligent, life, lifeform, lifeforms, live, living, organism, conscious, sentient, organic, organic material, organism, organisms.
38%	"Heat"... heat, hot, warm.
	"Energy"... energy, energetic, energies, energy can survive, energy fields, energy transfer, release of energy.
33%	"Water"... water, water-like, watery, ocean air, air space, airy, airborne, air-like, breezy, breeze, fresh air.
31%	Air, air space, airy, airborne, air-like, breezy, breeze, fresh air.

A third scientist, Dr. Julian Charles Roberts***, found that 73 percent of the 153 total perceptions listed for all second "microscopic" sessions were correct (List B). His "first" ratings from the initial target and the frontloaded session are also shown in the following table. The scientists rated the compilation of correlative words, comparing them to what is currently known about a Phage in its environment.



2. Merit ratings

To narrow down the data sent to the scientists, the authors developed a five-point merit scale (0-5). They independently examined all sessions and then compared and discussed the results until arriving at a combined score.

Thirty-nine viewers completed the first session, and thirty-three viewers completed the second session; this included one viewer who only did one session, one who was disqualified, and four who declined after several requests to submit second sessions:

- Of the thirty-three who completed two sessions, all either stayed the same or improved when they did the second session with the frontloading of the word "microscopic."
- Those who received 3 and 4 ratings for the second session had the greatest number of improved scores.

* Celeste A. Gilbert, M.S. (Plant Pathology), B.S. (Plant Science), with additional graduate course work in Plant Pathology and Plant Science.

** Stephen Butler, M.I.M. (Finance & Accounting), B.S. (Physics), teaches basic physical sciences and statistics at international schools in foreign countries.

***Dr. Roberts holds a Ph.D. (Molecular Medicine), M.S. (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology), and M.S. (Biotechnology); did postdoctoral research at Liverpool John Moores University; and has served as a member of the Biochemical Society and Bacteriophage advisory group.

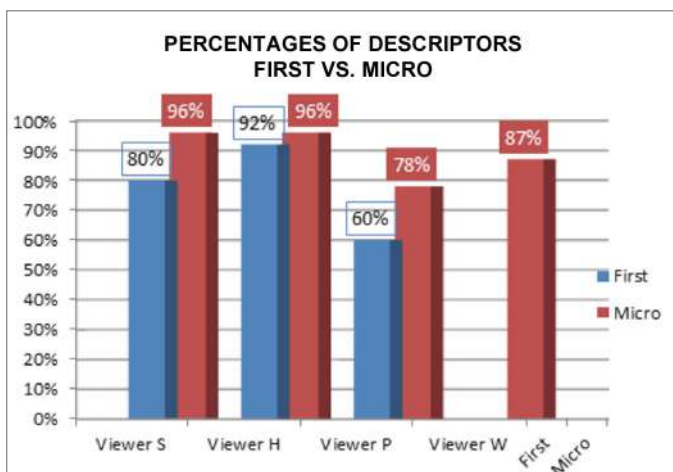
- Three of those who received the lowest scores of 1 did not improve, and four viewers failed to proceed with the second session. Viewers only received a 0 score if they did not turn in their second sessions; every session included at least one descriptor that the authors felt could be considered a “hit.”

Only those who scored 3 or higher based on the following criteria from the Beem-Katz Rating Scale were then rated by the virologists:

- Rating 3 - between 50-75 percent correct.
- Rating 4 - between 75-100 percent correct.

3. Quantitative analysis

Two scientists independently scored descriptors from the top-rated sessions (receiving a score of 4) on the second “microscopic” target. They did not have access to the sketches made by the remote viewers. Their scores were averaged in order to compute the final results.



As can be seen from the above chart, even those viewers who received slightly lower preliminary merit scores for their first sessions (without front-loading) had sessions that contained a high number of descriptors that were scored as correct. This is remarkable, considering that they had never previously viewed anything of a microscopic nature.

4. Qualitative independent analysis

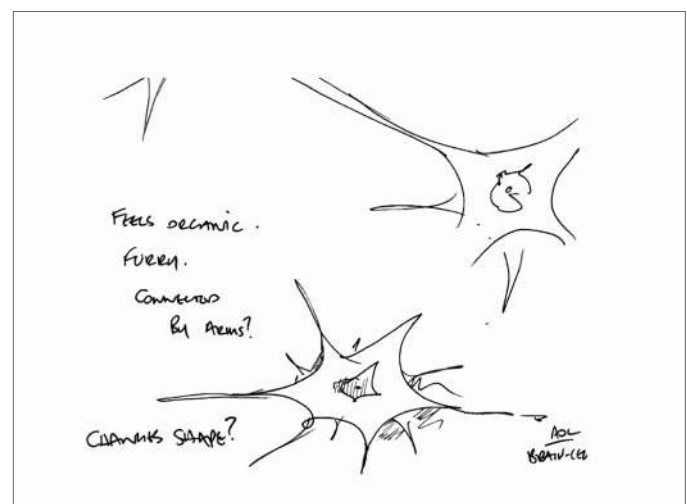
Dr. Roberts also did a thorough assessment of six

sessions with a 4 rating, and six sessions with a 3 rating that included either a comprehensive summary and/or detailed sketches.

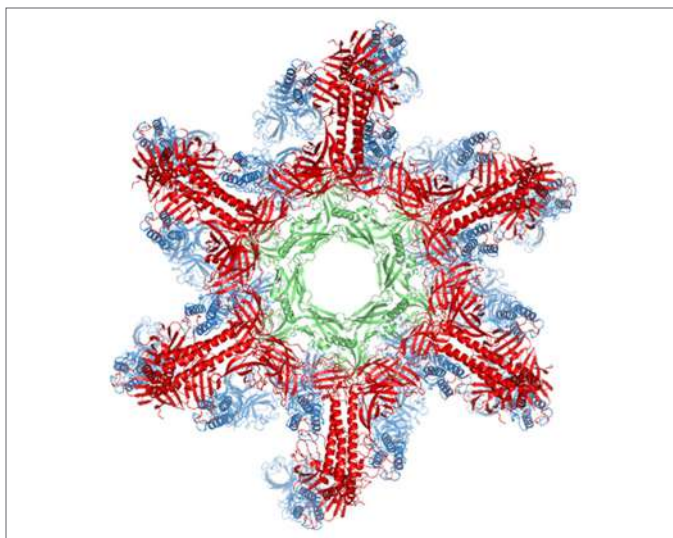
During a telephone interview, Dr. Roberts said that viewer Daz Smith's session contained sketches so identical to the Phage and bacterium, to the interactions between the two, and to artists' rendition of a Phage that, had he *not* known that remote viewing was involved, he would have thought that an expert virologist had created the sketches. He felt that the descriptors following the sketches were coming from the perspective of someone inside the bacterium looking at the Phage and then moving over to the Phage and describing it from over there. He stated, “This is blowing my mind. How is this possible? It's scary!” He further related:

At first appearances, these data appear to show nothing more than some musings. On further inspection, however, I am convinced that they describe Bacteriophage and the uses of Bacteriophage. This is my professional opinion as a scientist and a professional and impartial observer.

Dr. Roberts provided the screenshot below of a sketch from viewer Daz Smith's session, along with the sketch he believes is a compelling match.



Remote viewer's sketch from Daz Smith's second session on page 9. He tasked himself with: “Move up close to the target. Sketch and describe at the optimal position.”



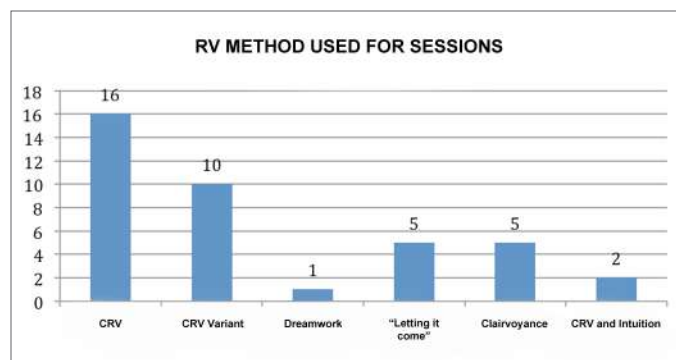
Artist's rendition of a Phage Baseplate. Fig. 1: Electron micrograph of a TP901-1 phage.

Anthropological Viewer Survey Data

Analysis of the remote viewers' 27-question surveys found:

- Every remote viewer who received a score of 4 was trained in Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV).

Those who scored 1s reported spending the least amount of time on their sessions. The 2s were evenly split, with half spending less than 60 minutes and half spending more, although not all viewers reported their time. The six who scored 4s spent at least 30 minutes on their sessions, and two took longer than 60 minutes. One viewer, CRV instructor Lori Williams, took longer than 120 minutes; she provided a detailed, typed summary in addition to her raw data.



Summary

The researchers found that the best-quality sessions strongly correlated with the viewer's level of experience, the number of years viewing, and how many sessions they had completed. When experience was paired with the use of the CRV methodology, the sessions showed a high level of accurate descriptors and descriptive sketches, with close correspondence to known models. Finally, viewers taking at least 30 minutes to complete a session obtained better outcomes.

Conclusion

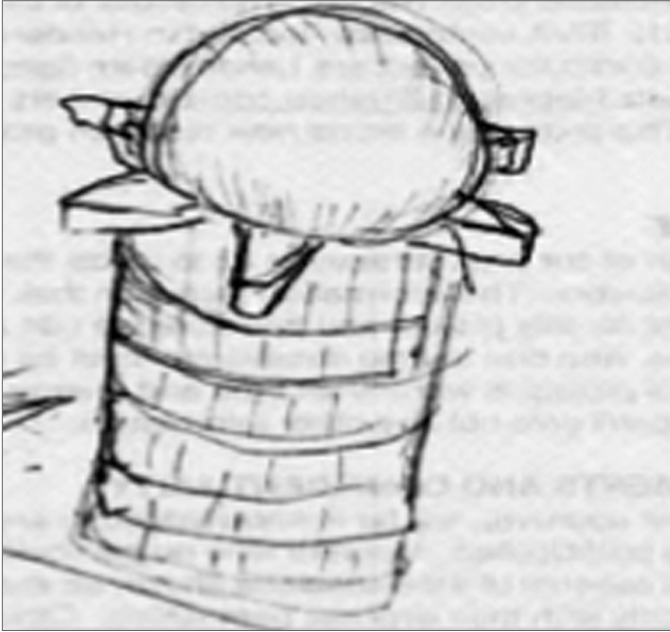
This voyage into the microscopic world clearly showed that remote viewers can describe a target like a Bacteriophage (the first target). Results were as good or better when viewers were frontloaded about the target's microscopic nature (the second target), with 73 percent of the descriptors from their sessions being judged correct by an expert in the field.

To discern how a Phage reproduces in a bacterium, however, will require a greater level of involvement by scientists. Of the sixteen scientists Beem contacted, only five agreed to work on this project or to offer student support.

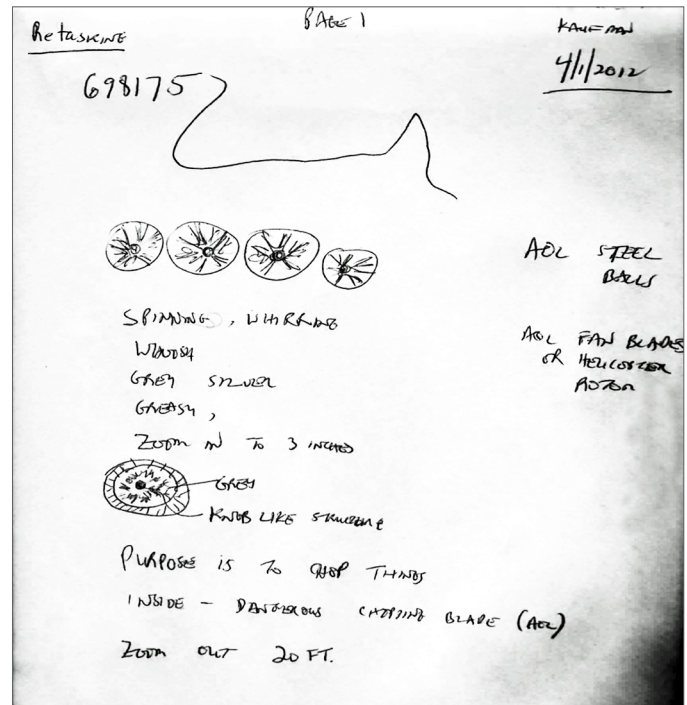
The scientists who did participate rated viewers' sessions as having high correspondence to what is currently known about a Phage, but they did not indicate they learned anything new that would advance their own work or that of the field. This speaks to a paradox (and inherent challenges) of this entire project—using scientists to evaluate remote-viewing sessions while attempting to use those sessions to *teach* the scientists. It also begs the question: Can any study involving extrasensory perception (*aka* "nonlocal perception" or "anomalous cognition") ever move away from the "prove it" detractor to the "use it" factor?

Despite these challenges, the researchers believe that this study demonstrates to future scientists that remote viewing has the potential to be used as a tool to gain information about microscopic organisms that might ultimately aid in the diagnosis and treatment of various diseases. It also offers some insights into the approaches that scientists can use to analyze and evaluate session data, as well as what criteria to look for when selecting remote viewers to work with.

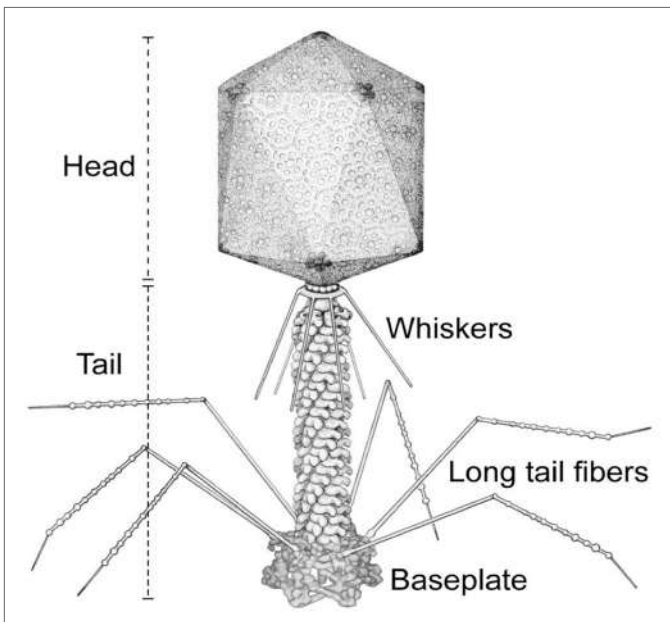
Explorations into Remote Viewing Microscopic Organisms
Selected Sessions' Sketches and Artist's Renditions



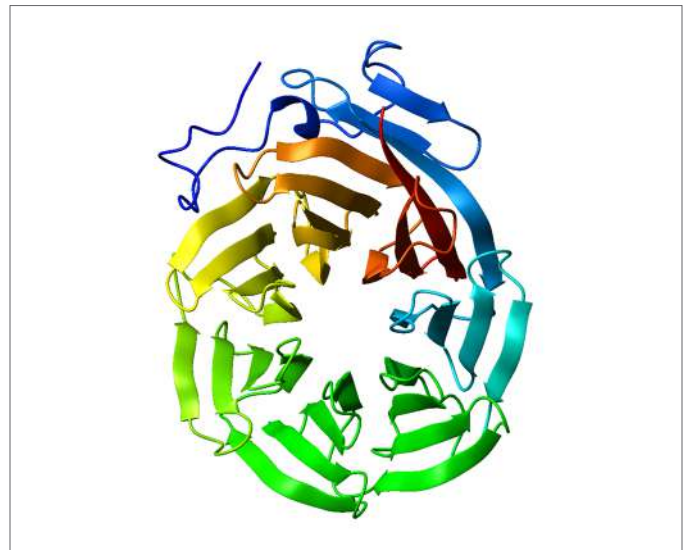
Remote viewer's sketch.



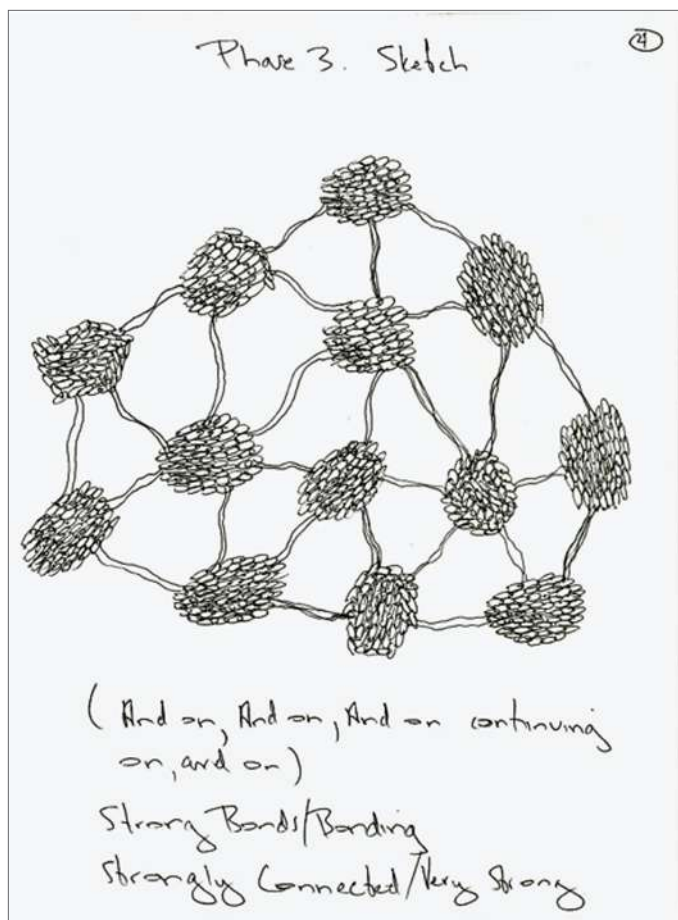
Remote viewer's sketch: AOL: "Fan blades, helicopter rotor, steel balls."



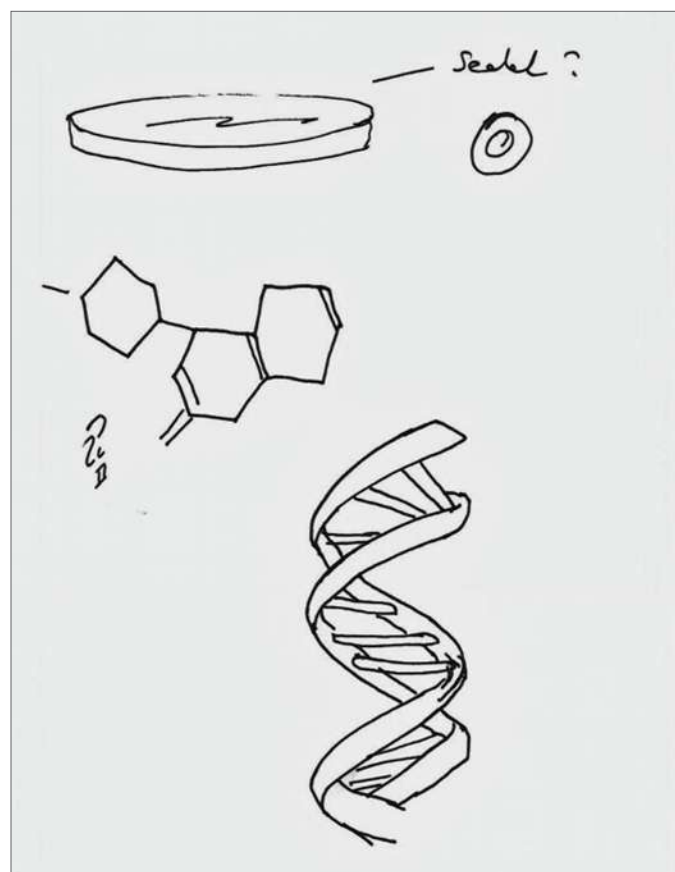
Artist's rendition: Bacteriophage T-4. The body of a phage is made up of two main parts. The first, a hollow head called a "capsid," contains the genetic material. The second consists of a tube, a group of appendages resembling feet, and a device designed to penetrate the membrane of its host—the needle-like tip is at the furthest extremity of the virus.



Artist's rendition: Beta propellor blades of virus-infected bacteria.



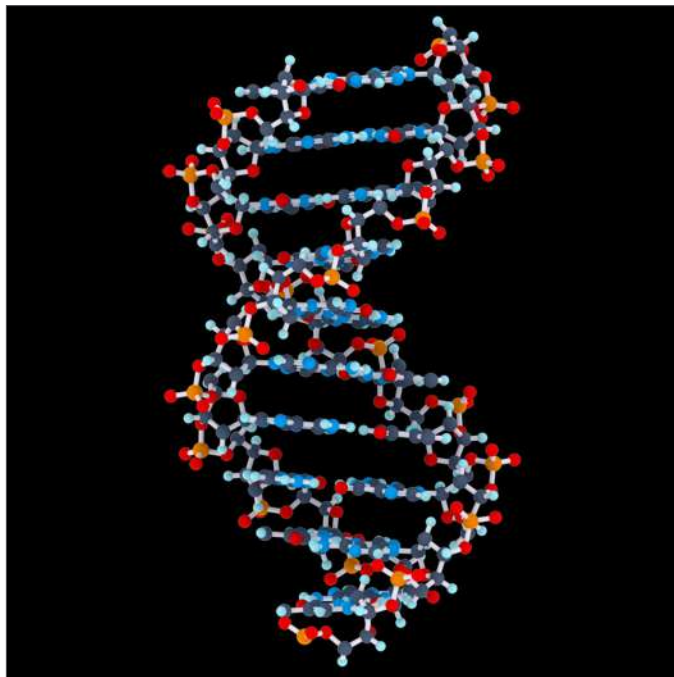
Remote viewer's sketch.



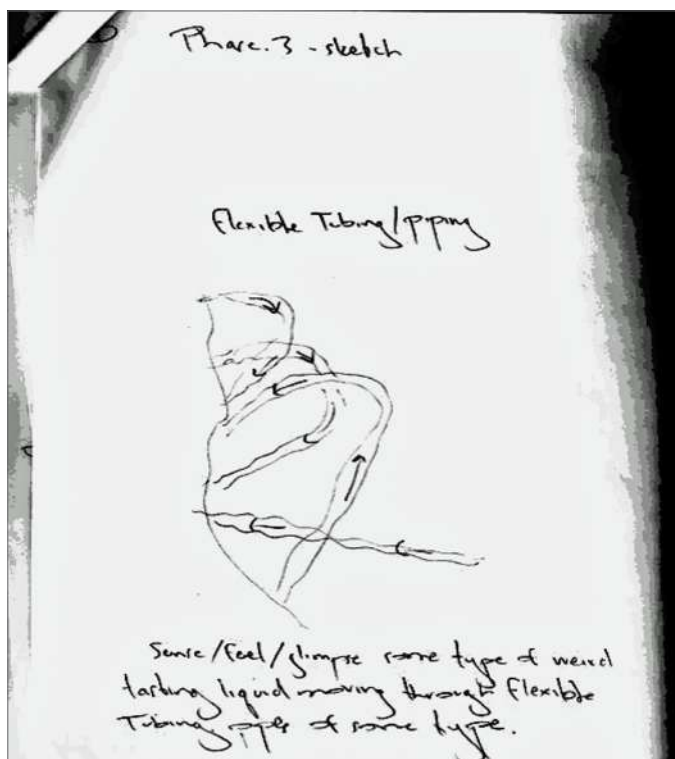
Remote viewer's sketch.



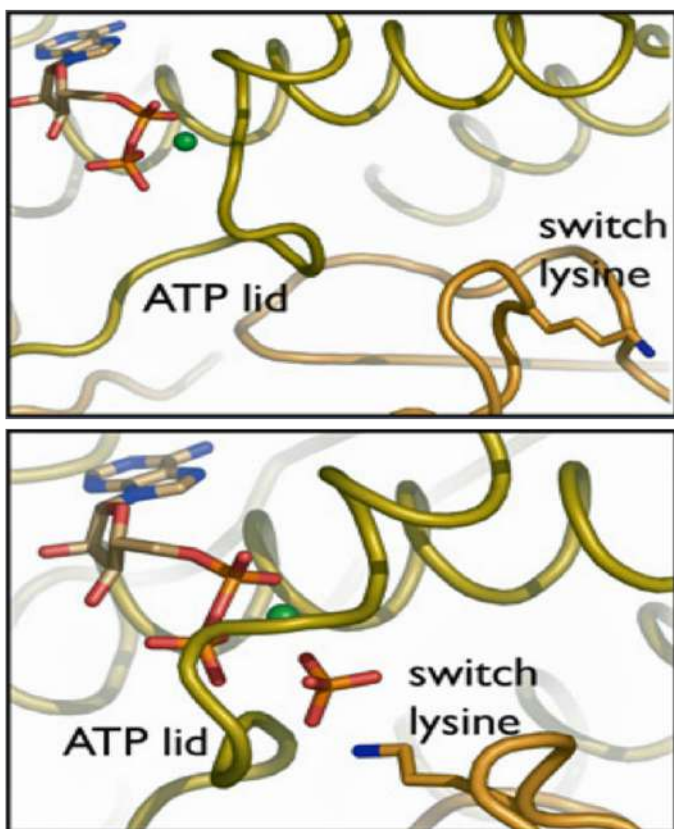
Artist's rendition: The phi X 174 (or Φ X174) bacteriophage was the first DNA-based genome to be sequenced.



Artist's rendition: DNA



Remote viewer's sketch.



Artist's rendition: DNA tubing.

Project Remote Viewers

Michelle Beltran Dan Hoffacker, Daz Smith, Lori Williams, Karen Staley, Tunde Aturase, Mike George, Chris Georges, Paul Hennessy, Debbie Hite, Benet Kobb, Gary Kilpatrick, Jon Nobel, Patsy Posey, Bernard Roth, Berl Koffman, Catherine Bisgono, Rene Fulsome, Thomas Giovannoni, Tyron Michieli, Lori Mitchell, Natasha Remoe, Suzie Wright-Kerr, Michele Schultz, Sonny Stevenson, Fran Theis, David Beatty Josephina Vizcaine, T.W. Fendley, Catherine Zukowski, Kathy Davenport, Kelly Simon.

Lance William Beem, lead researcher and scientist,



has more than 30 years experience, specializing in Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Physiology. He holds an M.S. and B.A. in plant pathology from California Polytechnic State University and the University

of California, Riverside, respectively.

Debra Lynne Katz, M.S.W., B.A.(Psychology), has



research experience in the behavioral sciences and from investigative work as a Federal Probation Officer. An author, she is also the director of The International School of Clairvoyance, and has been a

remote-viewing subject managed by prominent parapsychologists. Her website is www.debrakatz.com.

T.W. Fendley (summary author) is a remote viewer with the Applied Precognition Project and hosts a blog on Associative Remote Viewing (www.arv4fun.com). She is also the author of several fantasy novels and numerous shorter works.

This paper is dedicated to the memory of Mike Van Atta, who acted as the project manager on the preliminary research that served as a foundation for this project.