

IN THIS SECTION: News | Designers | Trends | Beauty

SEARCH

## Descience Brings Research to the Runway

Tonight's show at MIT Media Lab marries fashion and science. *By Cheryl Fenton*

Bostonista | September 29, 2014 10:25 am

[f Recommend](#) 6 [Twitter Tweet](#) 9

| |



LOOK FROM TEAM INVASIVE SPECIES/UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES / COURTESY PHOTO

A swirling DNA strand. An iridescent butterfly wing. The whimsical doughnut-like shape of a red blood cell. Who says science isn't beautiful? Even some ravaging viruses show up as graceful shapes when magnified to 250,000 times their size. But unless you have an electron microscope in your back pocket, Mother Nature's pattern play is a rare treat. That is, until now.

Descience: Research on the Runway fuses two unlikely bedfellows: science and fashion. Forty-four scientists from around the globe teamed up with clothing designers to create garments that express their fields of study and research—these pairs will present their looks on the catwalk tonight (Sept. 29) at the MIT Media Lab.

Although the Descience designs were inspired by less-than-lovely concepts (think: kidney disease,

## MOST POPULAR

1. Map: 10 Apple-Picking Orchards Near Boston »
2. The Anatomy of Zumwalt, The \$7 Billion Destroyer »
3. Boston Medical Center's New Take on Nutrition »
4. Actor Jared Leto Throws Support Behind the 'Copenhagen Wheel' »
5. A New, Unique Yoga Studio Is Opening in Somerville »
6. Behind the Marshmallow Curtain: A Look Inside Lynn's Marshmallow Fluff Factory »
7. There's a Time Capsule Inside the Head of the Lion Taken Down from the Old State House »

invasive plant species, and rare brain disorders), the results are breathtaking. Red blood cells become draped ruby fabric, neuron scans transform into holographic brocade, and corsets represent bone graph scaffolding.

Injecting often intimidating scientific research with fun is the show's mission. "I had been looking for a way to make science tangible and accessible to everyone," says Dr. Yuly Fuentes-Medel, the program's executive director. "Something clicked when I attended my first fashion show and realized that fashion is an expression of identity and a human necessity. Our hope was that collaboration between the worlds of fashion and science would lead to innovative concepts and mutual understanding."

A who's who panel of scientists and designers— a Nobel Prize winner; a big wig from Boston Fashion Week; an MFA curator—will judge the looks tonight. The winner of the people's choice online contest will also be announced. Some of the garments will go on display at MIT's Koch Institute for an ArtWeek event on October 2., before all the designs travel to cities like Santiago, Chile, and Stockholm, Sweden.

The marriage of the two disciplines is mutually beneficial: Chic style gives science a new language, while cutting edge research provides fashion with a fresh source of inspiration. The importance of each outlook is easy to see. Even without a microscope.



LOOK FROM [TEAM PHOTONIC T BONE](#) / COURTESY PHOTO.

## VIDEO



SHARE

powered by waywire.com

**Video:** Watch Ellen Surprise a Regis College Student with 'Cash at Your Dorm'

SPONSOR CONTENT

# NIC+ZOE



Dress For Your Body Shape Quiz



Meet NIC+ZOE



SHARE

CONNECT WITH NIC + ZOE

[www.nicandzoe.com](http://www.nicandzoe.com)

## SUBSCRIBE



Subscribe Now

Give a Gift

Customer Service

Table of Contents

## FEATURED STORIES