

## ANAND VARMA

SCIENCE PHOTOGRAPHER

Anand Varma started on the path toward a career in science and then landed an innocuous-sounding summer job as an assistant to a photographer. That decision led him to National Geographic and assignments with extraordinarily high probabilities of failure. “Each story,” he says, “has felt like an impossible commitment to deliver something no one has ever done before.” Yet through his photos, he identifies three keys to success: incremental learning, shifting perspectives, and novelty.



JEANNE MODDERMAN

### About Anand Varma

Anand Varma grew up exploring the woods near his childhood home in Atlanta, Georgia. As a teenager, he picked up his dad’s old camera on a whim and found that he could use it to feed his curiosity about the natural world—and to share his discoveries with others. He graduated with a degree in integrative biology from UC Berkeley and now uses photography to share the story behind the science on everything from honeybee health to hummingbird biomechanics.

Since receiving an Early Career Grant from National Geographic in 2010, he has photographed numerous stories for *National Geographic* magazine, including the 2014 cover story called “Mindsuckers.” His recognitions include National Geographic Emerging Explorer, Media Innovation Fellow, Photographer of the Year, and World Press Award for best nature story. Varma lives in Berkeley, California.

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