

The winner is Clyde Pinto for his beautiful abstraction where he connects his ongoing work to the Olympic Games. Congratulations, Clyde! A big cheer to all the students for their enthusiastic participation !!

---

### The labyrinthine ridge at the Olympics



The ridge is a laterally long protrusion that forms a fingerprint or maze like pattern (background of the image) on cells of stratified squamous epithelia. My work has attempted to uncover how this protrusion grows laterally long by looking at its cytoskeletal arrangement, and mechanisms by which ridges form their distinctive patterns on cells using zebrafish as a model.

The Olympics are currently underway and the victors are given an olive or laurel wreath. The wreath in the image has been segmented using an imagej script that I developed to quantify ridges. This gives the wreath a branched appearance that signifies the likely branched network of filaments that I have identified in my work (blue marks branch points). The Olympic rings represent 5 regions of the world. The hexagonal cell boundaries are coloured in the colours of the Olympic rings and signify that different regions of the fish have different patterns of ridges (lines or spots within the cells). Underlying the cells is a purple gradient that represents the activity of certain molecules. The higher this activity the longer and more interconnected the ridges. On a more philosophical note the labyrinthine maze describes the scientific endeavor, with its many paths that lead to knowledge, but also many dead ends that the scientist must navigate to make sense of her/his world. Overall this image summarizes a bulk of the work that I have done over my Ph.D.

Art and text by Clyde Pinto