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## MOLECULAR TOGGLE SWITCH

The Rockefeller University

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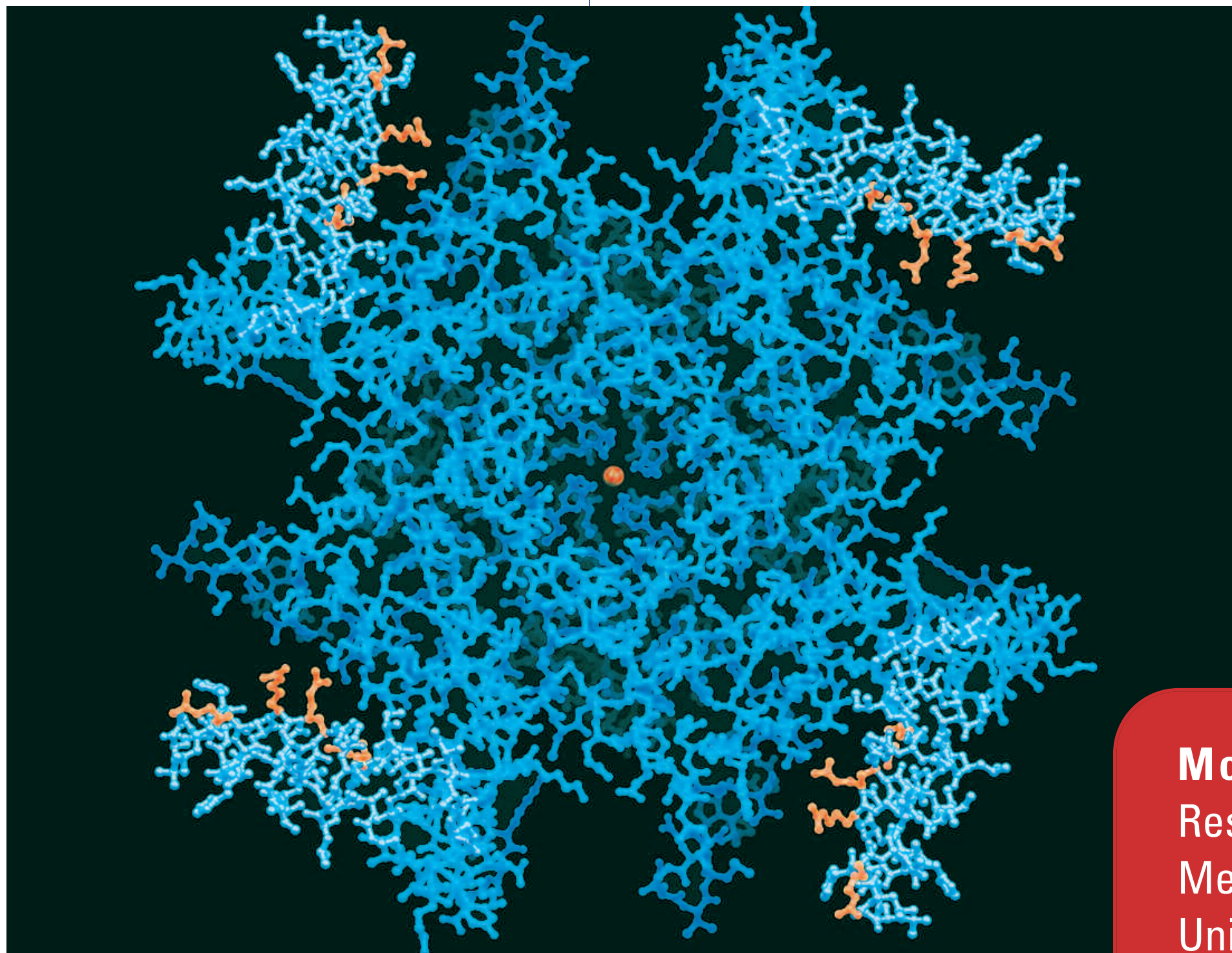
# Making

# discoveries

# that transform

# science

Charge-triggered “paddles” (red) are responsible for opening and closing a passage for the movement of potassium ions.



### Molecular toggle switch

Researchers at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at The Rockefeller University, led by Roderick MacKinnon, M.D., have answered the question of how a tiny device called a voltage-dependent potassium ion channel drives muscle and nerve activity in all living organisms.

The Rockefeller University is a world-renowned center for research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, bioinformatics and physics. Founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1901 as the nation’s first institute for medical research, the university has a unique laboratory-based structure that encourages interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

The university has dedicated its second century to translating the insights gained from genomics and molecular biology advances to improving public health.