

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Method of the Year 2010

Special Feature

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*Nature Methods'* choice of Method of the Year 2010 is optogenetics for its capacity to control cell function with light. A series of articles and a [video](#) describe how optogenetics has revolutionized the way experiments are conducted in neuroscience and showcase the potential the method has for the study of many signaling pathways in cell biology. The special feature also discusses how technological development will be needed to expand the possibilities of optogenetics. Brief Methods to Watch provide a glimpse of future Method of the Year candidates.

### EDITORIAL

#### Special Feature: Method of the Year Method of the Year 2010

[doi:10.1038/nmeth.f.321](#)

With the capacity to control cellular behaviors using light and genetically encoded light-sensitive proteins, optogenetics has opened new doors for experimentation across biological fields.

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [PDF \(53 KB\)](#)

### NEWS FEATURE

#### Special Feature: Method of the Year Light tools

Monya Baker

[doi:10.1038/nmeth.f.322](#)

Optogenetics grows from an idea into a discipline. Monya Baker reports.

[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [PDF \(404 KB\)](#)

### PRIMER

#### Special Feature: Method of the Year Optogenetics: controlling cell function with light

Erika Pastrana

[doi:10.1038/nmeth.f.323](#)

**Nature Methods** ISSN 1548-7091 EISSN 1548-7105

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