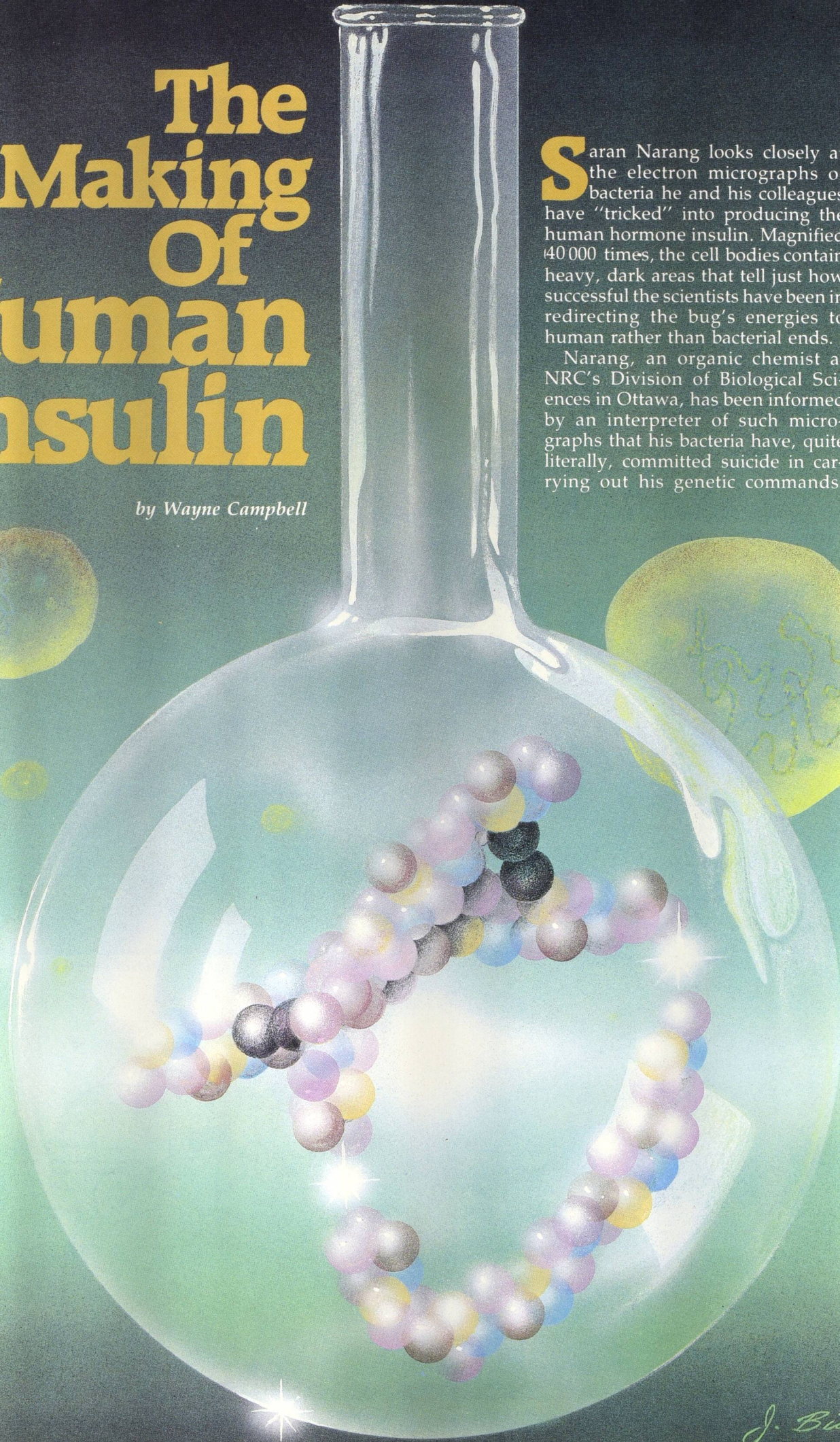


The Making Of Human Insulin

by Wayne Campbell

Saran Narang looks closely at the electron micrographs of bacteria he and his colleagues have "tricked" into producing the human hormone insulin. Magnified 40 000 times, the cell bodies contain heavy, dark areas that tell just how successful the scientists have been in redirecting the bug's energies to human rather than bacterial ends.

Narang, an organic chemist at NRC's Division of Biological Sciences in Ottawa, has been informed by an interpreter of such micrographs that his bacteria have, quite literally, committed suicide in carrying out his genetic commands.



J. Bianchi