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Science Focus

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The science behind
ATTENBOROUGH'S GREEN PLANET

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**WHY
WE DON'T
HAVE TO GET
OLD ANY
MORE**

**THE AMBITIOUS PLAN
TO TREAT OLD AGE LIKE A
DISEASE – AND CURE IT**



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MARS

Mars is dimpled with craters, some as large as 100km in diameter, but this particular site is just 6km wide – about the same as 60 football pitches. The crater was found in the northern hemisphere of Mars and photographed by CaSSIS, a camera system attached to an orbiter currently monitoring Mars's atmosphere.

"This guy was found near Albert Patera, one of Mars's volcanic areas," says Prof Nicolas Thomas, principal investigator for CaSSIS. It was imaged when the Sun was low in the sky, causing the lower crater wall to cast a shadow over itself.

Grooves inside the crater resemble ripples caused by throwing a stone into a pond.

"The impactor itself was almost certainly vaporised during the collision," explains Thomas. "But these grooves arise from a blast wave scattering larger dust particles while the crater was being formed."

NASA/ESA

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