

# New Scientist

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SPECIAL REPORT

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

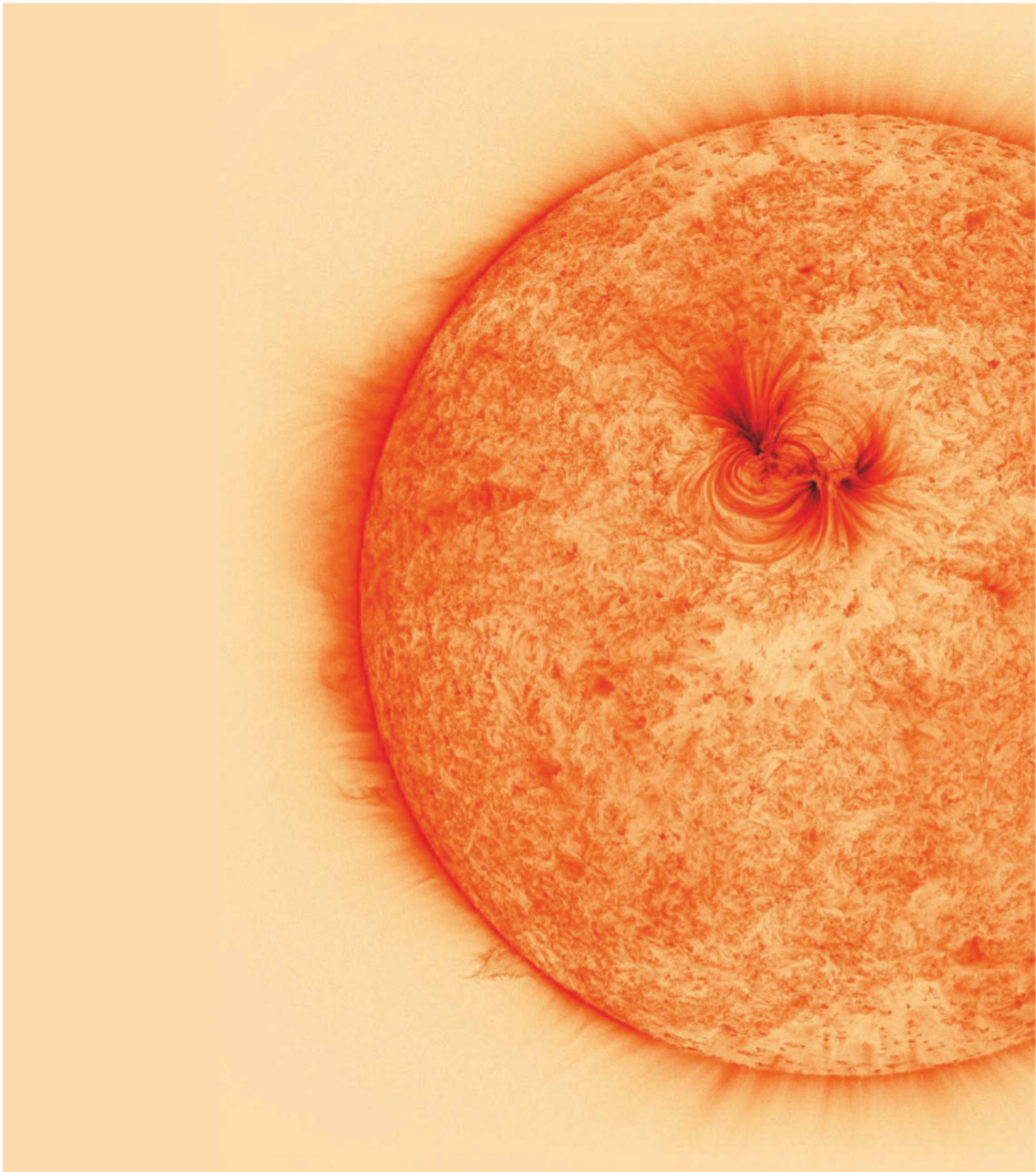


### MORE ON THE PANDEMIC

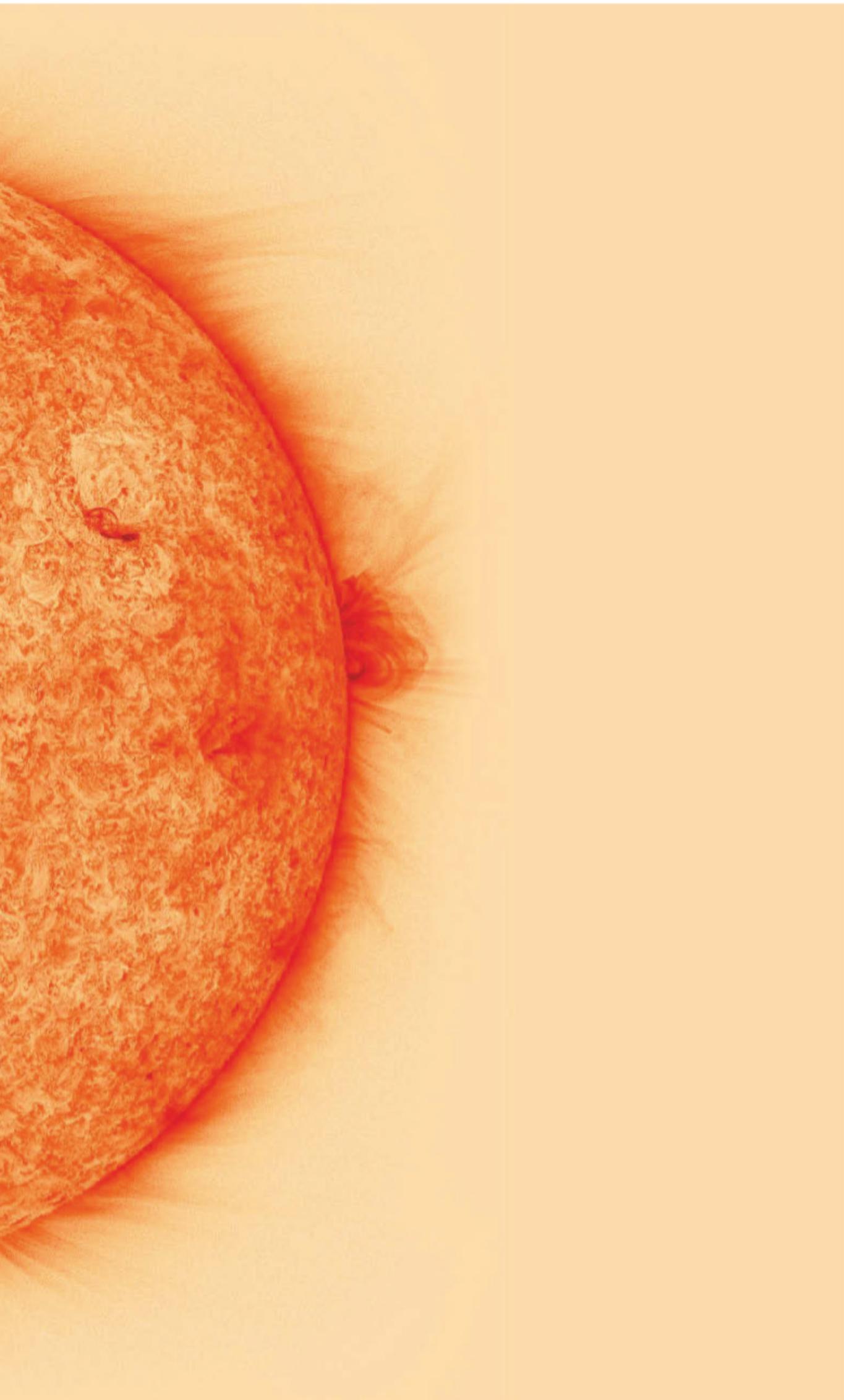
- ◆ *Why are men more likely to die?*
- ◆ *The problem with contact-tracing apps*
- ◆ *Truth about breathing exercises*
- ◆ *End-of-life decision-making*

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NASA MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER/UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE



## Magnetic heat



**Image NASA High Resolution Coronal Imager**

SCORCHING hot and blazing bright, this extraordinary image of the sun's corona reveals previously unseen parts of the atmosphere of our closest star.

This isn't our first glimpse of the sun's surface in recent months. In January, for example, we saw it in unprecedented detail thanks to images taken by the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope in Hawaii, the largest of its kind in the world.

But this latest picture is our closest look yet at the sun's corona, its ultra-hot outer layer. It was captured by an international team, including researchers at the University of Central Lancashire, UK, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, using NASA's High Resolution Coronal Imager. This suborbital telescope can view objects in the sun's atmosphere that are less than 1 per cent of its size.

The newly discovered orange swirls (below) are 500-kilometre-wide magnetic threads that are filled with plasma, electrified gases flowing at 1 million °C. We don't know how these threads form, but the researchers say that now we can visualise them, they could help us learn how our star's magnetic atmosphere causes solar storms and flares, activities that can affect us on Earth. ■

**Gege Li**

