

Meet the scientists using neutrons to understand how dinosaurs healed

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When a bone heals,
blood vessels help repair
the damaged tissue.

Millions of years later,
fossilized traces of those
vessels could offer rare
clues to how dinosaurs
recovered from injury.

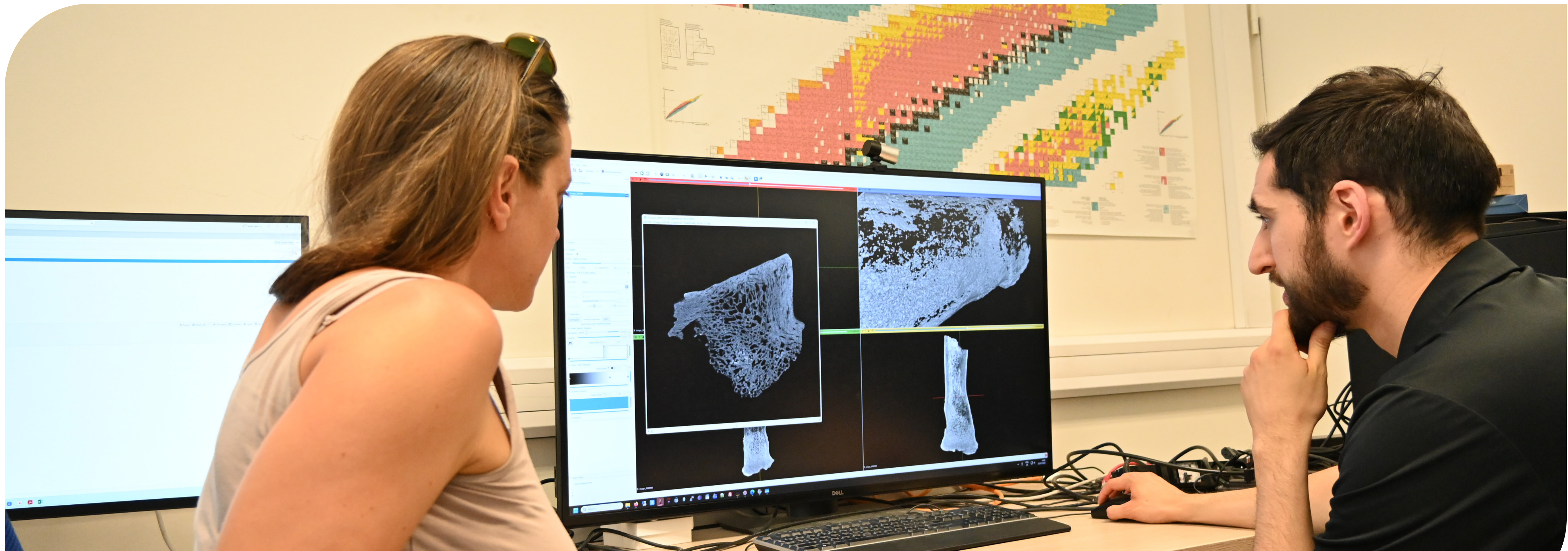




“ In our previous work, we found vessel-like structures preserved inside a fractured *Tyrannosaurus rex* rib bone.

With NeXT, we can now extend this search to more pathological Cretaceous bones and test whether regions of healing or disease are especially likely to preserve traces of soft tissue.”

Jerit Mitchell



Neutron imaging gives paleontology a new way to study dense fossil bones in 3D, helping the team understand whether vascular traces are a rare accident of preservation or a recurring signal in bones that once healed.

Millions of years after injury, dinosaur bones may still reveal not only how ancient animals healed but also how healing has changed through evolution.

