

Meet the scientists who
explore water's role in
elephant ivory strength

Fritz Vollrath

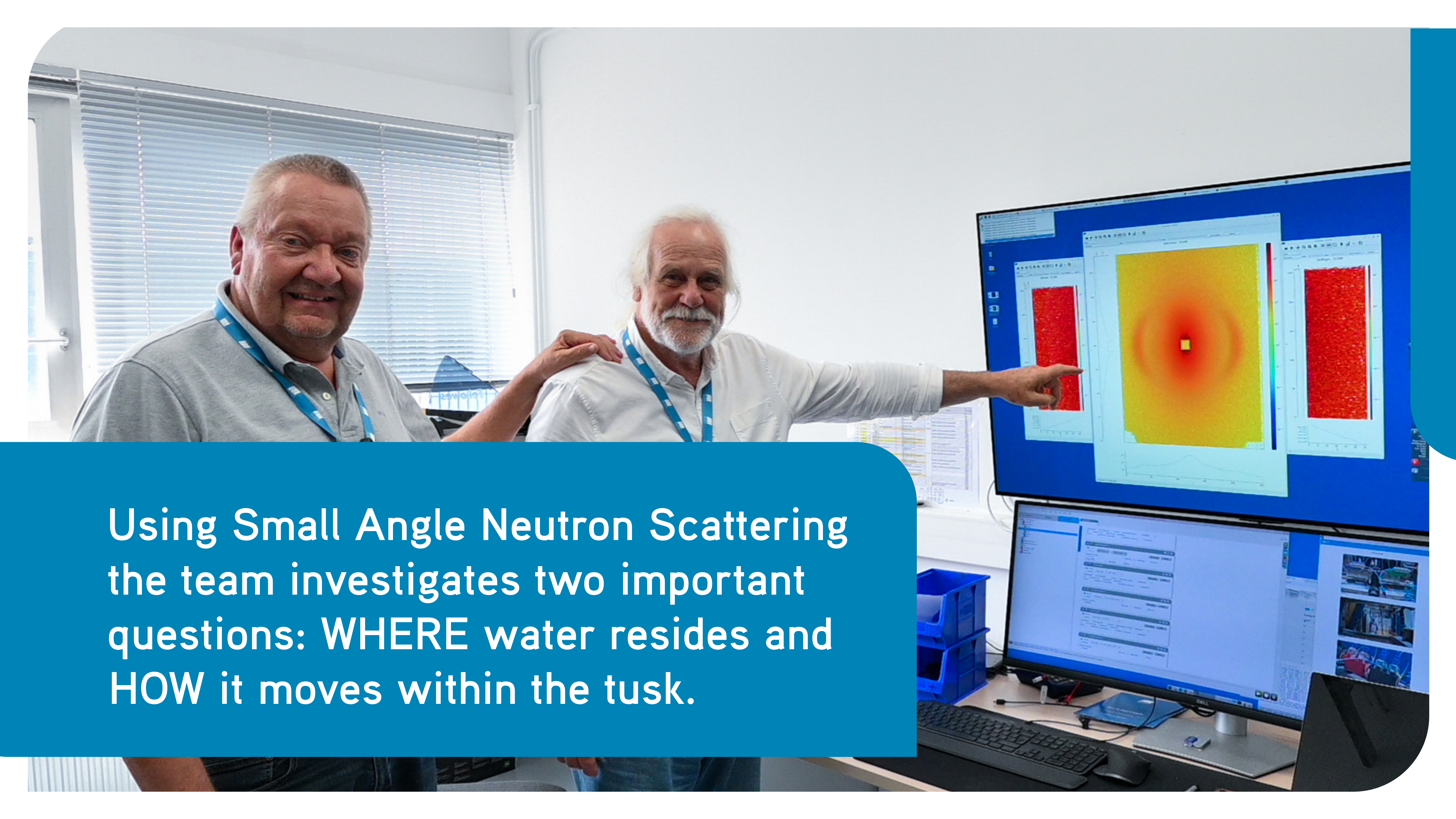
Wim Bras



User cycle #199

WATER is essential
to the **STRENGTH** of
elephant ivory.
Yet its role is still not
fully understood.

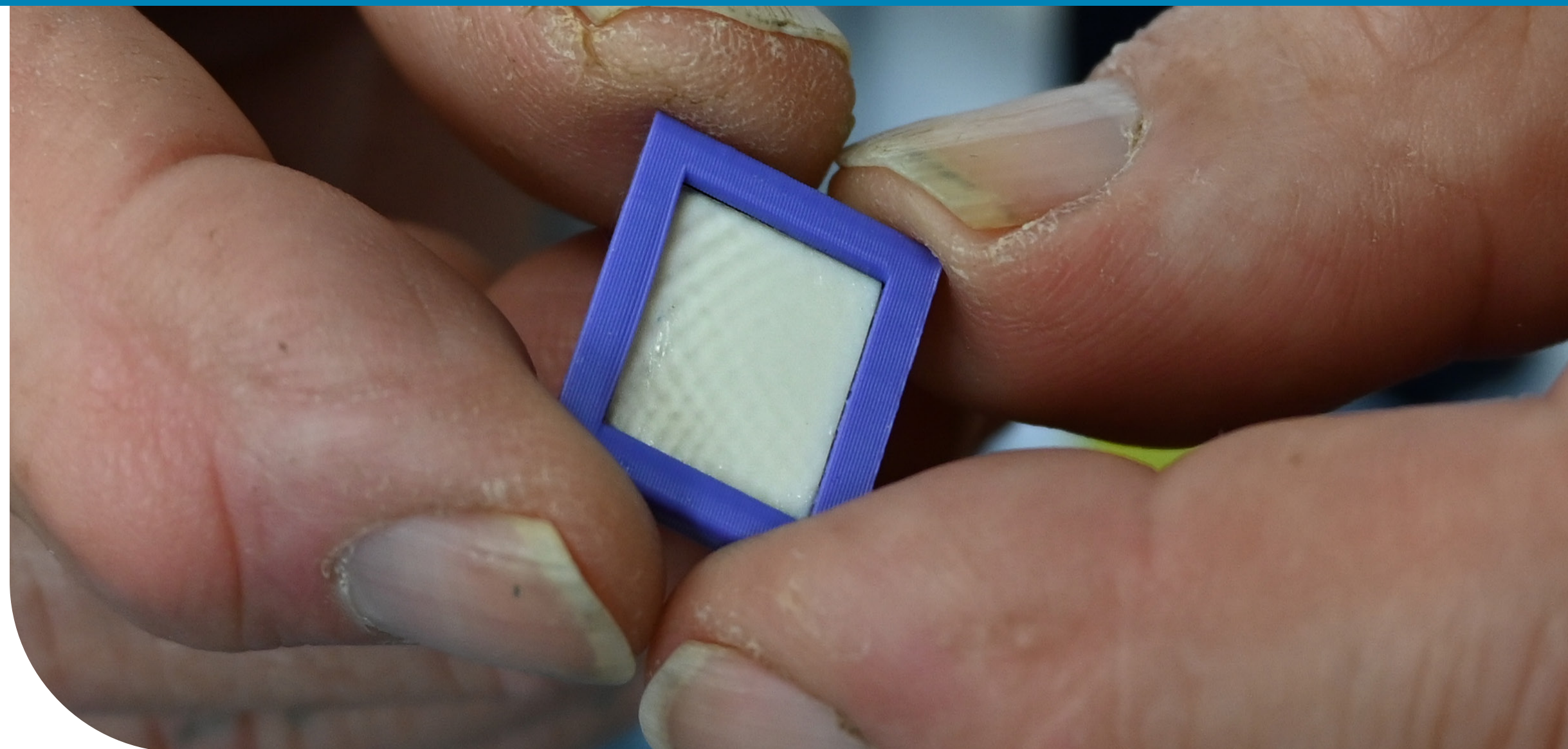


A photograph of two men in a computer lab. The man on the left is older, with grey hair, wearing a grey polo shirt and a blue lanyard. The man on the right is older, with white hair and a beard, wearing a white button-down shirt and a blue lanyard. He is pointing at a large monitor. The monitor displays three windows of scientific data, including a central heatmap with a yellow-to-red gradient and two side-by-side red heatmaps. Below the large monitor is another monitor showing a software interface with various panels and graphs. A keyboard and mouse are on the desk. A window with blinds is in the background.

Using Small Angle Neutron Scattering
the team investigates two important
questions: WHERE water resides and
HOW it moves within the tusk.

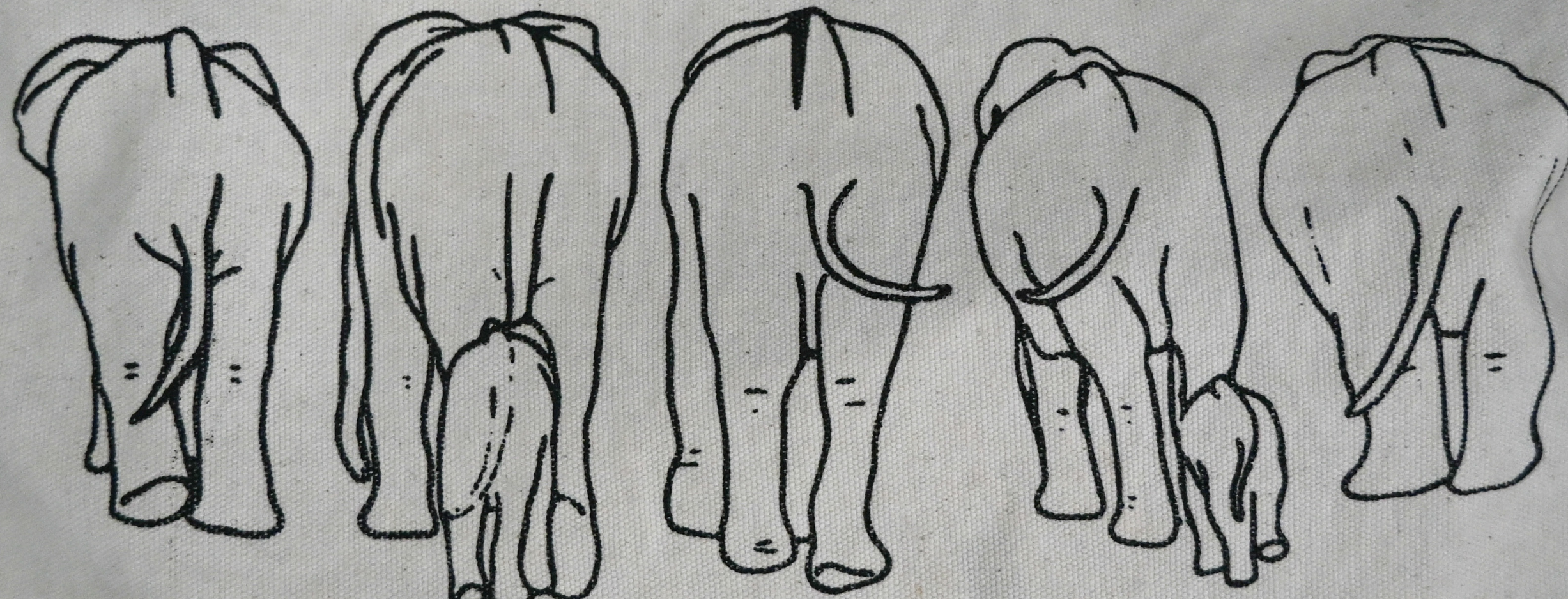
“By understanding the structure of ivory we can design tougher composite biomaterials for medicine, heritage preservation and material science in general”

Fritz Vollrath



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SAVE THE ELEPHANTS
拯救大象



What other
systems could
inspire the next
generation of
biomaterials?

Insights from naturally evolved materials help
us mimic their properties to improve material
design and reduce reliance on natural resources.