

Into the Storm

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Being one of the world's leading lightning experts is perilous business. For UNH's Joseph Dwyer, it meant mistakenly flying a small plane into a violent thunderstorm. "I really thought I was going to die," Dwyer, the Peter T. Paul Chair in Space Sciences within the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space told *Nature* about the 2009 experience. But the terrifying flight had an upside: Inside the thunderstorm, Dwyer and his colleagues encountered a large, unexpected cloud of positrons, the antimatter opposite of electrons. The discovery, described in the *Journal of Plasma Physics* in May, helps explain how lightning gets initiated within a thunderstorm, one of the field's enduring mysteries.

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