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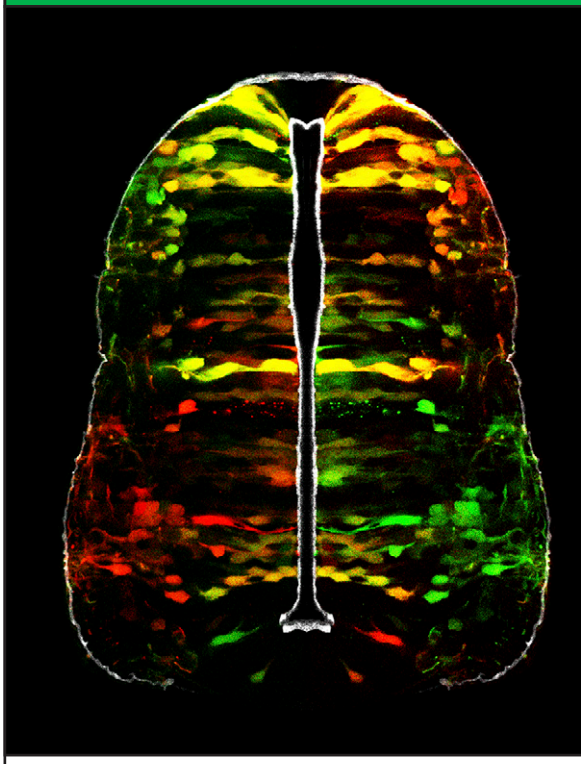
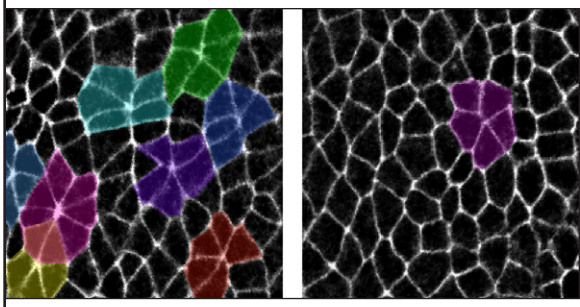
Articles with related stories in the IN THIS ISSUE section have page numbers in RED; articles related to the IN FOCUS feature have page numbers in BLUE.



On the cover

Le Dréau et al. report that the activity levels of the canonical BMP effectors SMAD1 and SMAD5 dictate the mode of stem cell division—self-expanding, self-renewing, or self-consuming—during spinal cord formation. A mirror-reconstruction image of a transverse section through the developing spinal cord of a chick embryo shows the expression patterns of the reporters pSox2:eGFP (green) and pTis21:RFP (red), which are active during progenitor-generating and neuron-generating divisions, respectively. The apical and basal membranes of the neural tube are labeled white.

See page 591.



Simões et al. reveal how Rho GTPase and the actin-binding protein Shroom promote the planar polarized localization of myosin II during the convergent extension of *Drosophila* embryos. In a wild-type embryo undergoing convergent extension (left), germ-band cells expressing the plasma membrane marker Spider (white) rearrange into multicellular rosettes (highlighted in various colors). Rosette formation is reduced when myosin II is mislocalized in embryos lacking Shroom (right).

See page 575.