

**THE JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE**

Volume 198, No. 6, September 15, 2003

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**Cover picture:** 11 d after intravenous transplantation of marrow stem cells into nonirradiated recipients, early intrathymic progenitors (red) remain in the peri-medullary cortex. This corresponds to the region where they first enter the organ after leaving the blood, indicating that the early steps of T lineage commitment occur within a relatively confined tissue space. Cortical and medullary regions can be distinguished by the morphology of cytokeratin-expressing stromal cells (green), and on the density of lymphoid nuclei (blue). Donor cells found in the medulla (red) are DCs that arise coherently with T cells after each wave of new progenitor recruitment. See related article by Porritt et al., pp. 957–962.

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