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**Cover picture:** *Borrelia burgdorferi* (green), the spirochetal agent of Lyme disease, is tightly associated with tick midgut tissue (red) during natural colonization of its arthropod vector (left). When the OspA/B operon, encoding outer surface (lipo)proteins A (OspA) and B (OspB), was inactivated in *B. burgdorferi*, the mutant spirochetes were no longer able to colonize and survive within the tick vector (right). See the related article by Yang et al. (pp. 641–648) and the Commentary by T. Templeton (pp. 603–606).

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