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Reports


The development of most cancers seems to require a series of gene mutations, falling one after another like dominoes until a malignant tumor evolves. A new “domino” has been discovered: the gene that causes familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), a hereditary condition that carries a high risk of colon cancer (see pages 661 and 665). The cover shows adenomatous polyps and the sequence analysis that led to identification of the FAP gene. Researchers are trying to use the FAP gene and other biomarkers to predict the risk of cancer (see special report on molecular epidemiology, page 612). [Illustration by Julie A. Cherry]