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Keeping pace with the ability of bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics is a challenge for the clinician and the researcher. This special issue focuses on antibiotic resistance in bacteria: How does it work, and where does it come from? Bacteria have at their disposal several ways of developing resistance. The cover illustrates a low-permeability outer membrane barrier, an antibiotic-efflux pump, and gene transfer. See the special section beginning on page 359 and a related report on page 418. [Illustration: Katharine Sutliff]