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A frontal view of the fly brain (blue) showing two groups of dopamine-producing neurons pseudocolored green and magenta. The magenta neurons are engineered to express a light-sensitive protein. Optical signals (symbolized by a magenta beam of light) can selectively report and control the activity of these cells. Miesenböck (page 395) reviews the emerging field of optogenetics in a special section on advances in neuroscience methods starting on page 385.

Confocal images: Adam Claridge-Chang;
photomontage: Robert Roorda and Gero Miesenböck

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