End-on view of the atomic model of the bacterial actinlike ParM protein double-helical filament, generated from an electron microscopic reconstruction. A bipolar spindle of antiparallel ParM filaments pushes plasmids to the cell poles, constituting the simplest known apparatus for the segregation of genetic information. The loops on the outside of the 8- to 9-nanometer-thick filaments are involved in spindle formation. See page 1334.

Image: Jan Löwe
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A. P. Tatong et al.
A severe drought in the Horn of Africa delayed the spring arrival in Europe of two migratory species.

REPORTS

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H. J. Pietsch et al.
A computer-intensive search revealed gamma-ray pulsations from an exotic binary star system in data from the Fermi Telescope.

1317  Mapping Local Charge Recombination Heterogeneity by Multidimensional Nanospectroscopic Imaging
W. Bao et al.
A near-field optical probe designed to maximize its own signal enhancement can be used to image nonmetallic samples.

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Z. Han et al.
A photoreduction system combining nanoparticulate light absorbers with a soluble molecular catalyst proves stable for weeks.

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G. K. S. Prakash et al.
Proper choice of base and solvent renders fluoroform a useful reagent to introduce trifluoromethyl groups into a range of compounds.

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Y. Liu et al.
Control over the presence of adsorbed hydrogen enables rapid sequential deposition of metal monolayers from aqueous solution.

1330  Phase Transformations and Metallization of Magnesium Oxide at High Pressure and Temperature
R. S. McWilliams et al.
Mantle minerals conductive at the high pressures and temperatures of planetary interiors could induce a magnetic field.

1334  A Bipolar Spindle of Antiparallel ParM Filaments Drives Bacterial Plasmid Segregation
P. Gayathri et al.
A bipolar spindle, formed by antiparallel actinlike filaments, pushes sister plasmids apart.

1337  Kinetic Responses of β-Catenin Specify the Sites of Wnt Control
A. R. Hernandez et al.
Reducing the rate of phosphorylation of β-catenin leads to an increase in the steady-state level of the unmodified form.

1338  Platelet Factor 4 and Duffy Antigen Required for Platelet Killing of Plasmodium falciparum
B. J. McMorran et al.
Interaction of a platelet protein and a red cell protein enables platelets to attack malarial parasites inside red cells.

1342  Developmental Progression to Infectivity in Trypanosoma brucei Triggered by an RNA-Binding Protein
N. G. Kolev et al.
The developmental stages of the sleeping sickness parasite can now be observed without the tsetse fly.

1347  Sexually Dimorphic BDNF Signaling Directs Sensory Innervation of the Mammary Gland
Y. Liu et al.
Androgen-driven changes in receptor expression disrupt a neuronal signaling pathway and de-innervation.

1350  Mice Lacking a Myc Enhancer That Includes Human SNP rs6983267 Are Resistant to Intestinal Tumors
I. K. Sur et al.
A human genetic variant, identified in genome-wide association studies as increasing cancer risk, alters tumorigenesis in mice.

1353  Acute Inflammation Initiates the Regenerative Response in the Adult Zebrafish Brain
N. Kyritsis et al.
An inflammatory response to traumatic injury promotes neurogenesis and repair in the zebrafish brain.

CONTENTS continued >>
ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

SCIENCEEXPRESS
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Publication Ahead of Print
Gravity Field of the Moon from the Gravity Recovery and Interior Laboratory (GRAIL) Mission
M. T. Zuber et al.
10.1126/science.1231507
The Crust of the Moon as Seen by GRAIL
M. A. Wieczorek et al.
10.1126/science.1231530
Ancient Igneous Intrusions and Early Expansion of the Moon Revealed by GRAIL Gravity Gradiometry
J. C. Andrews-Hanna et al.
10.1126/science.1231753

>> News story p. 1272

Neural Basis of a Pollinator’s Buffet: Olfactory Specialization and Learning in Manduca sexta
J. A. Riffell et al.
10.1126/science.1225483

Suppression of Oxidative Stress by β-Hydroxybutyrate, an Endogenous Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor
T. Shimazu et al.
10.1126/science.1227166

JNK Expression by Macrophages Promotes Obesity-Induced Insulin Resistance and Inflammation
M. S. Han et al.
10.1126/science.1227568

Germline DNA Demethylation Dynamics and Imprint Erasure Through 5-Hydroxymethylcytosine
J. A. Hackett et al.
10.1126/science.1229277

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http://sci.am/Brain_Region

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Intense emotions are easier to read in the body than in the face.
http://sci.am/Intense_Emotions

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The Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment
4 December issue: http://scim.ag/ss120412

RESEARCH ARTICLE: RNF4-Dependent Hybrid SUMO-Ubiquitin Chains Are Signals for RAP80 and Thereby Mediate the Recruitment of BRCA1 to Sites of DNA Damage
C. M. Guzzo et al.
DNA repair proteins find sites of damage marked by hybrid SUMO-ubiquitin chains.

RESEARCH ARTICLE: G Protein–Coupled Receptor–Mediated Activation of p110β by Gβγ Is Required for Cellular Transformation and Invasiveness
H. A. Dbout et al.
Loss of the phosphatase PTPN22 enhances the functions of both effector and regulatory T cells.

PERSPECTIVE: Cdc42 Oscillations in Yeasts
E. O. Benenou and S. C. Martin
Oscillations in the localization of active Cdc42 govern polarized cell growth in yeasts.

PRESENTATION: SCF-Mediated Degradation of p100 (NF-κB2): Mechanisms and Relevance in Multiple Myeloma
L. Busto et al.
Degradation of an inhibitor of noncanonical NF-κB signaling promotes cell survival.

SCIENTIFIC TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE
www.sciencetranslationalmedicine.org
Integrating Medicine and Science
5 December issue: http://scim.ag/stm120512

FOCUS: The Goldilocks Effect
M. Boothby and C. L. Williams

RESEARCH ARTICLE: Overexpression of Methyl-CpG Binding Protein 2 Impairs T₇₉₁ Responses
T. Yang et al.
MECP2 gene duplication causes immune dysregulation by suppressing IFN-γ production from T helper cells.

FOCUS: Creating a Space for Innovative Device Development
M. McMurry-Heath and M. A. Hamburg
The FDA announces a nonprofit partnership to advance regulatory science for medical technology development.

RESEARCH ARTICLE: α-Synuclein–Induced Down-Regulation of Nurr1 Disrupts GDNF Signaling in Nigral Dopamine Neurons
M. Decressac et al.
Nurr1 mediates protection of dopamine neurons by GDNF in response to α-synuclein–mediated toxicity.

RESEARCH ARTICLE: Decreased Tonic Inhibition in Cerebellar Granule Cells Causes Motor Dysfunction in a Mouse Model of Angelman Syndrome
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Science 338 (6112), 1259-1369.