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COVER

Reconstruction of a membrane area in a presynaptic nerve cell of a lamprey. When the interaction between the proline-rich region of dynamin and the Src homology 3 domain of another protein was disrupted and the synapse subsequently activated, invaginations formed

and clathrin (red)-coated pits (diameter ~0.1 micrometer) accumulated because they were unable to pinch off from the membrane. The reconstruction was based on serial ultrathin sections. See page 259. [Image: O. Shupliakov, H. Gad, P. Löw, P. De Camilli, and L. Brodin]

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This Week in Science

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Out of oxygen

The extinction at the end of the Permian (250 million years ago) is the largest in the fossil record. Anoxia in the deep oceans has been suggested as a likely cause, but most of the exposed rocks that provide a record of this time were deposited at shallow depths. Isozaki (p. 235) describes two sections of deep-ocean deposits, one in Japan, the other in British Columbia, which indicate that at least the large paleo-Pacific Ocean was anoxic at depth and thus was stratified for up to 20 million years around the time of the extinction.

Trapping wet melts

Adding water to a silicate melt affects its physical and chemical properties (such as its density and the sequence of minerals that crystallize as the melt cools). It has been difficult to study these properties experimentally in water-rich melts at high pressure (equivalent to hydrous partial melts in Earth's upper mantle). Kawamoto and Holloway (p. 240) were able to trap melts in a multi-anvil apparatus and study a hydrous mantle peridotite to a pressure of 11 gigapascals. Their results provide some of the basic phase equilibria needed to understand the role of water in mantle magma dynamics and the origin of rarer, mafic-rich rocks that are presumed to be derived from great depths in Earth's mantle, in part through the effects of hydration.



Three are crowded

A triple junction is where three tectonic plates meet, and the evolution and changes in triple

Breaking HIV-1 entry into cells

Infection of human cells with the human immunodeficiency virus-type 1 (HIV-1) is facilitated by the chemokine receptors CXCR4 (Fusin) and CCR5. Two reports focus on the blocking of CCR5 function to achieve resistance to the virus that may also prove useful therapeutically. Resistance to macrophage-trophic HIV-1, which makes use of the CCR5 cofactor, can be induced by activating CD4⁺ T cells with immobilized antibodies to CD3 and CD28. Carroll *et al.* (p. 273) show that such activation upregulates CXCR5/Fusin transcription but that transcripts for CCR5 could not be detected. The chemokine RANTES can interact with CCR5 to block infection but not efficiently. Simmons *et al.* (p. 276) show that an aminooxypentane derivative of RANTES is effective in vitro in blocking HIV-1 infection of macrophage and lymphocytes at nanomolar concentrations.

junctions mark key transitions in the geometry of plate tectonics. Ligi *et al.* (p. 243) used a variety of geophysical data to catch such a transition in prog-



ress in the South Atlantic Ocean. In this region, the Antarctic plate is increasing its size at the expense of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Building blocks

In order to understand the origin of life, it is important to identify reactions and conditions that could have allowed the fixing of carbon into larger molecules. In several experiments, Huber and Wächtershäuser (p. 245; see the Perspective by Crabtree, p. 222) show that the presence of iron-nickel sulfides catalyzes carbon-carbon bondforming reactions of carbon monoxide (CO). When these sulfides were doped with selenium, CO reacted with hydrogen sulfide to form acetic acid under conditions typical of low-temperature hydrothermal systems.

Ferroelectric memories

Ferroelectric field effect transistors (FETs) offer the possibility of active devices that retain their memory state even when switched off. Such devices were conceived in the 1950s, but materials issues have limited their practical use. Mathews et al. (p. 238) show that device performance can be improved by using rare-earth manganates, which recently have been shown to have large magnetoresistive effects, as the semiconducting channel component of ferroelectric FETs.

Neurons sans dopamine

Parkinson's disease results from degeneration of dopamine neurons in the midbrain. Zetterström *et al.* (p. 248) show that very early in development, before dopamine expression is apparent, these neurons are dependent on expression of the orphan nuclear receptor Nurr1. The ligand for Nurr1 remains unknown, but it may prove to be significant in the development and maintenance of these critical neurons.



Regulating lipid A

Expression of bacterial virulence genes is regulated to respond to the host environment. In Salmonella typhymurium, the PhoP-PhoQ proteins regulate more than 40 genes, some of which help defend it against antimicrobial host peptides. Guo et al. (p. 250) used mass spectrometry to show that the PhoP-PhoQ proteins also regulate structural modifications to lipid A, a component of lipopolysaccharide (LPS). The modified form altered the cytokine expression that LPS stimulates in cultured host cells.



Bone disposal

Bones are dynamic structures that are continuously being formed and resorbed. Two reports present microscopy studies that reveal how osteoclasts, large multinucleated cells, process degraded bone (see the Perspective by Mostov and Werb, p. 219). Osteoclasts attached to bone form a sealed zone that contains the ruffled border membrane, which secretes acid and digestive enzymes. Nesbitt and Horton (p. 266) and Salo et al. (p. 270) labeled bone proteins and show that products such as degraded collagen are endocytosed into vesicles at the ruffled border membrane and transported across the cell, where they are then released to the extracellular space. Such vesicular traffic may also regulate the resorption process.

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