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Cover picture:

The brothers Oskar (left) and Richard Hertwig, two great figures in the history of cell biology, especially the study of nuclear structure, mitosis and fertilization. The inset is a figure from their 1887 paper on polyspermy in the sea-urchin egg, showing the formation of multipolar spindles. In this issue David Glover reviews more recent approaches to mitosis in *Drosophila* and Manfred Lohka discusses recent advances in mitotic control.

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