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Cover picture MDCK cells cultured on a quartz surface produced by laser holography and reactive ion etching, consisting of a grating of repeat 260 nm (130 nm grooves spaced 130 nm apart, 210 nm deep). Single MDCK cells become highly aligned and elongated in the direction of the grating, whereas cells which are part of colonies are mainly unaffected. See the paper by P. Clark, P. Connolly, A. S. G. Curtis, J. A. T. Dow and C. D. Wilkinson in this issue.