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On the Cover

FtsZ, a bacterial protein homologous to tubulin, forms a constricting ring-shaped structure during cell division at the location where a septum will form and divide the two daughter cells. The images on the cover, obtained with an atomic force microscope (AFM), illustrate the dynamic behavior of FtsZ filaments *in vitro*. The filaments are seen initially (A), after 10 min (B), and after 26 min (C) of being resuspended in a thin film of medium containing 1 mM GTP. Asterisks designate the same ring in B and C. Additional images were captured every 2 min (about the time required to scan the preparation) to create a short movie, which may be viewed at <http://www.jbc.org/content/vol10/issue2005/images/data/M503059200/DC1/FtsZPolymersMV.AVI>.

The AFM creates images not by focusing a beam of radiation like optical and electron microscopes, but by scanning with a fine probe that records the contours of a surface at molecular resolution, as described in the Video Views and Reviews feature on page 306. Contrast indicates the height of an object above the substrate; color is added artificially.

A goal of CBE—Life Sciences Education is to stimulate dialogue; therefore, readers are invited to submit comments on these articles to cbe@ascb.org.