



On the cover: The integration of various sensory inputs within the midbrain is required for robust comprehension of the external environment. In this issue, Triplett et al. (pp. 175–185) investigate how two sets of visual inputs, from the retina and from the visual cortex, are aligned in the midbrain. The authors find that alignment of the two maps depends on neuronal activity rather than axon guidance molecules. The cover shows a color-coded functional map of neuronal responses in the mouse midbrain after visual stimulation. Image by Melinda Owens and Jason Triplett. From: Triplett, J.W., Owens, M.T., Yamada, J., Lemke, G., Cang, J., Stryker, M.P. and Feldheim, D.A. (2009) Retinal input instructs alignment of visual topographic maps. *Cell* 139: 175-185