

SPOTLIGHT

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Cover photograph (Copyright © 2008, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Varicella-zoster virus (VZV) immediate-early protein IE62 is expressed in neurons and satellite cells of infected human dorsal root ganglia (DRG). Thin cryosections (500 nm) of acutely infected DRG were stained for the immediate-early VZV protein IE62 (red), NCAM (green), and cellular DNA (blue; Hoechst 22358). Both neurons (the large cell in the center) and the smaller surrounding satellite cells are infected with VZV. VZV can induce cell-cell fusion between neurons and satellite cells that results in polykaryon formation and might enhance viral spread in VZV-infected DRG. (See related article on p. 3971.)