

SPOTLIGHT

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Cover photograph (Copyright © 2010, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): In the human trigeminal ganglion, the neurons show a crescent-like organization. Di-I-labeled neurons (red) are largely confined to the entry zone of the traced maxillary nerve, and only a small number of labeled neurons are found in the adjacent division (untraced neurons are shown in black) due to traversing fiber bundles. Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) LAT (represented by yellow dots) is present in the neurons of the maxillary and mandibular divisions (middle and bottom) but scarce or absent in the ophthalmic division (top). Thus, the observed distribution of HSV-1 LAT mirrors the clinically observed frequencies of herpes labialis and the herpetic eye disease in humans: while the former is very frequent, the latter is a rare condition. (See related article in April 2009, vol. 83, no. 8, p. 3696.)