

Trends in Parasitology

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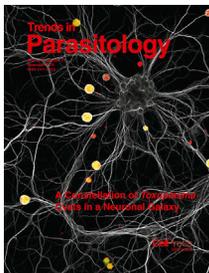
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Parasite of the Month

944 *Toxoplasma gondii*

Sebastian Lourido



On The Cover: After usually asymptomatic infection of *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites, the parasites cross the blood–brain barrier and develop into bradyzoite-containing brain cysts that are resistant to host immune defense and current chemotherapies. This latent infection potentially causes behavioral alterations and mental disorders in humans, and can be reactivated in immunocompromised individuals, leading to life-threatening damage of the central nervous system. In this issue of *Trends in Parasitology*, Lourido highlights the unique features of *T. gondii* in the Parasite of the Month, while Poncet *et al.* and Tsitsiklis *et al.* review the current knowledge of the parasite interplay with host dendritic cells and CD8⁺ T cells, respectively. The cover image, created by M. Belloy and A. Lebourg, shows a mouse hippocampal neuronal culture three days post infection with tachyzoites (red), where cysts containing bradyzoites (red + green) are visualized as yellow structures scattered within the neuronal dendritic network (white).

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