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*Cover photograph* (Copyright © 2013, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Skyscrapers in the city of microbes. Acting like molecular steel and concrete, a composite of cellulose and amyloid curli fibers produced by starving *Escherichia coli* cells in the top layer of macrocolony biofilms leads to the formation of thin, cohesive, and elastic colonies. Due to lateral tension generated by increasing cellular crowding during colony growth, these tissue-like colonies can buckle up into very long and high ridges. The image shows a representative cross-section through a ridge of an *E. coli* macrocolony grown with thioflavine S, a fluorescent dye that stains cellulose and curli fibers in the outer colony layer. (See related article on page 5540.)