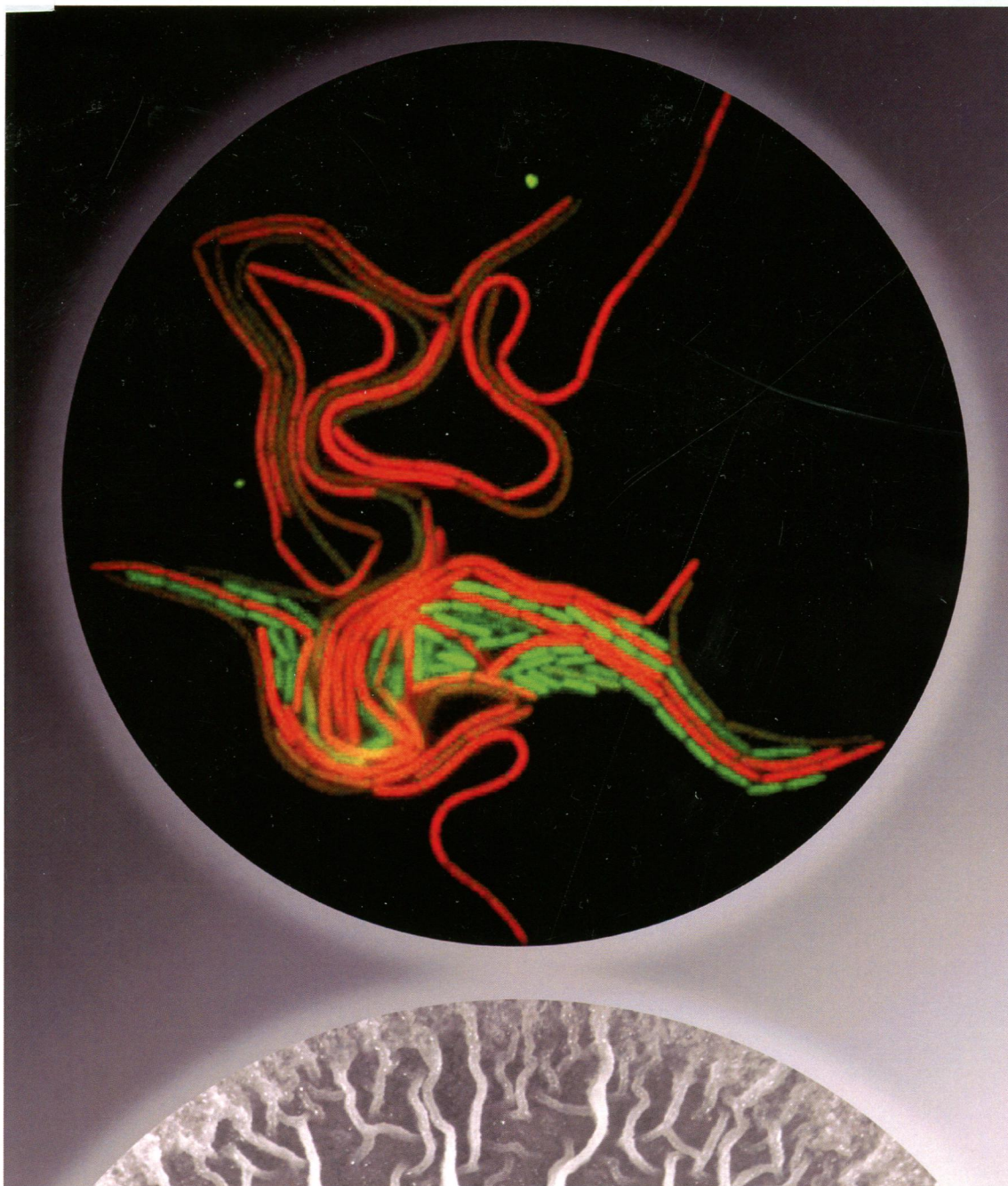


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*Cover photograph* (Copyright © 2014 Stanley-Wall and Vivomotion. All Rights Reserved.): *Bacillus subtilis* is a Gram-positive bacterium that forms biofilms that manifest as rugose colonies. Underpinning the formation of the complex community is the differentiation of subpopulations of cells into specialized cell types. The micrograph shows matrix-positive cells in chains (false-colored red; *PtapA-mKate 2*) and single autolysin-positive cells (false-colored green; *PlytF-gfp*) within a microcolony that originated from a single cell (image compiled by Vivomotion, Dundee, United Kingdom). In this issue, Marlow et al. further explore the differentiation of cells within the biofilm by examining how the regulator DegU affects gene expression at the single-cell level. (See related article on page 16.)