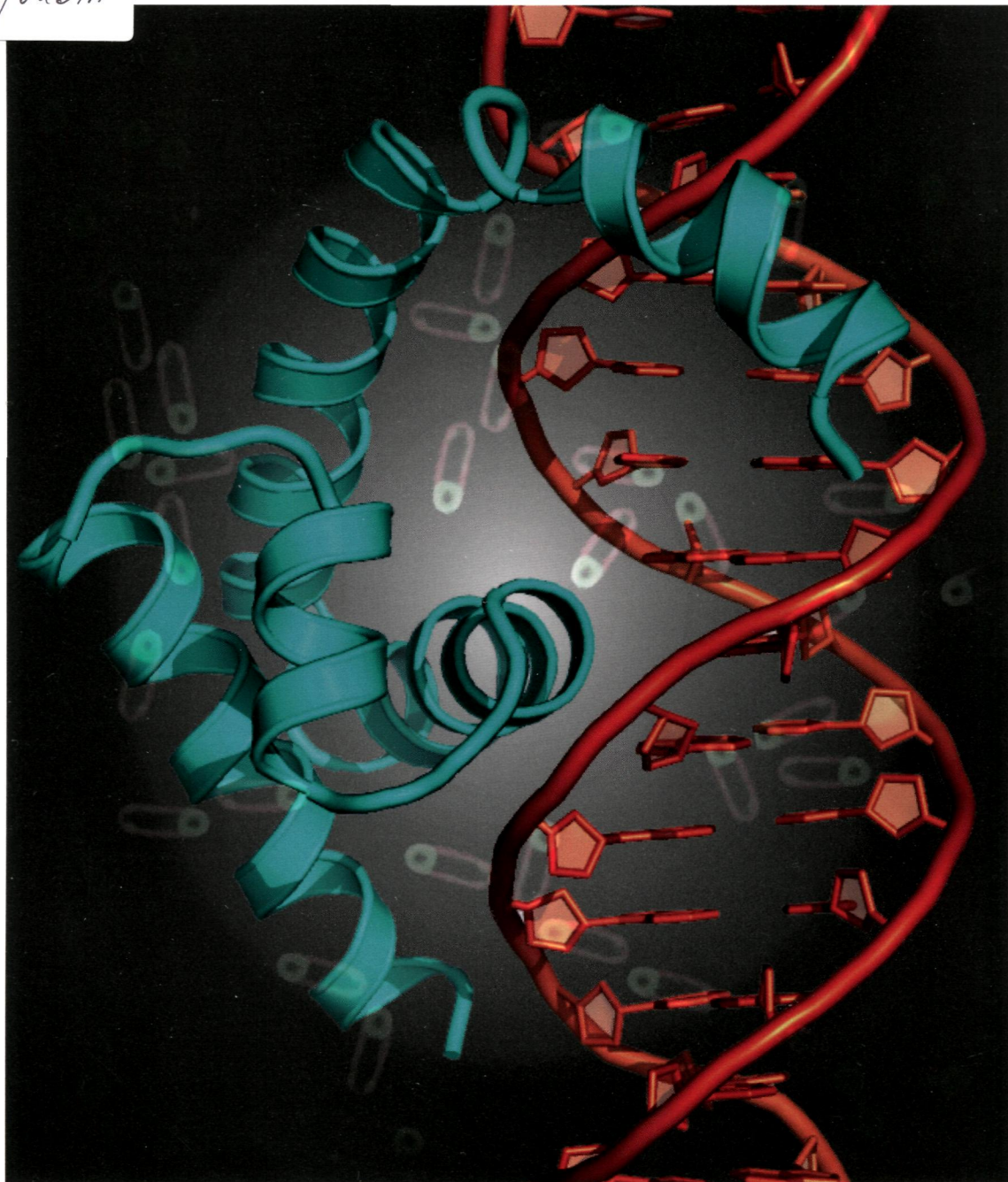


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Cover photograph (Copyright © 2014, American Society for Microbiology. All Rights Reserved.): Atomic model of the SpoIID-DNA complex. Dispersed in the background are sporulating *Bacillus subtilis* cells. SpoIID plays a key role in sporulation by regulating transcription of more than 100 genes in the mother cell. The atomic model is built based on nuclear magnetic resonance and mutagenesis data and reveals a novel mode of DNA binding, with the recognition helix of the helix-turn-helix motif interacting with the major groove of DNA and the C-terminal extension interacting with the adjacent minor groove of DNA. (See related article on page 2131.)