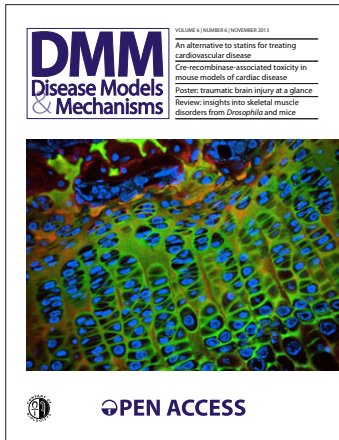


FRONT RUNNERS



Cover: Immunofluorescent confocal microscopy of a 3-week-old mouse tibial growth plate and adjoining secondary centre of ossification. The section is stained to show the distribution of two important cartilage structural proteins: matrilin-3 (green) and type XII collagen (orange). The highly ordered chondrocyte 'columns' are clearly visible (nuclei stained blue with DAPI) with a matrilin-3-rich pericellular matrix appearing as a green halo around each cell. Type XII collagen is localised to the inter-territorial matrix between individual chondrocyte columns and at the border of the secondary centre of ossification. As professional secretory cells, chondrocytes are highly susceptible to ER stress due to the misfolding of mutant proteins in genetic skeletal diseases. See article by Gualeni et al. on page 1414.

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