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**ABSTRACTED/INDEXED IN** Chemical Abstracts and the CAS databases; EBSCO - Academic Search; Scopus.

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ISSN 1868-5021· e-ISSN 1868-503X· CODEN BCIOB8

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**TYPESETTING** Compuscript Ltd., Shannon, Ireland

**PRINTING** Franz X. Stückle Druck und Verlag e.K., Ettenheim  
Printed in Germany

#### **COVER ILLUSTRATION**

Neurokinin-2 receptor (NK2r) labeling in the human colon. The labeling appears as small brilliant green granules. Upper panel: In the absence of the agonist (rest conditions), the receptor is localized on the plasma membrane of the majority of the smooth muscle cells: the NK2r labeling describes the cell profile. Bottom panel: In the presence of the agonist, [ $\beta$ -Ala8]-NKA(4-10), the complex agonist plus receptor internalizes to produce muscle contractility and mediate most of the spasmogenic effects caused by tachykinins in the gastrointestinal tract. The NK2r labeling is deeply located within the cytoplasm. In some cells the nucleus is completely masked. Confocal microscope. Reconstruction of ten sections, 1  $\mu$ m thick each (for methodology see Cipriani et al., *Neurogastroenterol Motil* 2011; 23: 96–102).

For more information see the article by Vannucchi and Evangelista on pp. 221–231 in this issue.



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