Retinitis pigmentosa is characterized by an initial loss of rod photoreceptors followed by a progressive loss of cones, although the known mutations causing retinitis pigmentosa are all in rod-specific genes. Punzo et al. now report that rod-specific mutations in the insulin/mTOR pathway may contribute to cone death as a result of photoreceptor starvation. The cover depicts phosphorylated mTOR in dorsal cone receptors (cell bodies in magenta, outer segments in green and mTOR in red). (pp 5 and 44)
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