**Cover:** Chromatin spread of a mouse embryonic ovarian germ cell during pachytene stage. The SMC5/6 complex component SMC6 (red) is observed along chromosome axes (SYCP3, blue) and pericentromeric heterochromatin and is essential for formation of segregation-competent bivalent chromosomes during meiosis I in mouse oocytes. Transient SMC6 foci observed during pachynema do not overlap with MLH1 foci (crossover event, green). See Research article by Hwang et al. on p. 1648.

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