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Cover Picture: Neuritogenesis depends on the dynamic reorganization of the actin cytoskeleton that is initiated by nucleation-promoting factors such as cortactin. In hippocampal primary neurons obtained from murine embryos, cortactin (green) is located at growth cones 3h- (upper left panel) or 24 h-post-plating (lower left and right panels). Neurons are also labelled to stain filamentous actin (F-actin; red), microtubule associated protein 2 (MAP2; blue) and DAPI (nuclei; pink). WIP (WASP Interacting Protein) is a widely-expressed actin-binding protein that modifies cortactin activity. Franco et al. 2012 paper in this issue describes WIP expression in embryonic and adult murine neuronal cells and its function in neurite sprouting and dendritic branching in vitro and in vivo. See Franco et al. 2011. WIP is a negative regulator of neuronal maturation and synaptic activity. Cereb Cortex 22(5): 1191-1202.

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