Laurie Dempsey is Senior Editor at *Nature Immunology*. Laurie obtained her B.S. degree in Microbiology at the University of Michigan and her Ph.D. in Microbiology at New York University, where she studied extrachromosomal DNA replication and recombination with Dave Dubnau. Following post-doctoral stints with Nick Cozzarelli (University of California-Berkeley) and Saleem Khan (University of Pittsburgh), Laurie switched to the study of immunoglobulin gene recombination with Nancy Maizels at Yale University. Laurie, with her molecular biology skills, was invited to join the transplantation biology group led by Jeff Platt, then at Duke University and subsequently with group at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Laurie joined the editorial ranks of *Nature Immunology* in 2001.