



Cover image:
The presence of lipids usually hinders the structure determination of membrane proteins. A novel and attractive solution is to solubilize these proteins in water through strategic mutations that preserve their native fold. As described in the article on pages 617–626 of this issue (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2011.11.021>), Cui et al. used this approach to solve the high-resolution NMR structure of a designed water-soluble transmembrane domain of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. Image courtesy of Tommy Tillman and Zongfu Chen, with artistic rendering suggested by Rena Xu.

Publication information: *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (Biomembranes)* (ISSN 0005-2736). For 2012, Volume 1818 (12 issues) is scheduled for publication. Subscription prices are available upon request from the Publisher, from the Regional Sales Office nearest you, or from this journal's website (<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/bbamem>). Further information is available on this journal and other Elsevier products through Elsevier's website (<http://www.elsevier.com>). Subscriptions are accepted on a prepaid basis only and are entered on a calendar year basis. Issues are sent by standard mail (surface within Europe, air delivery outside Europe). Priority rates are available upon request. Claims for missing issues should be made within six months of the date of dispatch.

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Printed by Polestar Wheatons Ltd., Exeter, United Kingdom

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