## **ACTIN TAILS**

Some intracellular bacteria use the host cell's actin supplies to build their own transport system. The foodborne pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes* infects immune cells called macrophages by being taken up into a vacuole **①** before entering the cytoplasm where it lives and replicates **②**. There, it uses a protein called ActA to recruit the host cell's actin polymerization machinery to construct a tail of actin filaments behind it **③**. This process gives the bacterium a means to propel itself around and lets it push on the host cell membrane, forming protrusions into neighboring cells **④**. Those neighbors take up these protrusions as vacuoles, from which *Listeria* escapes to access the cytoplasm and begin the cycle again **⑤**.

