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POSTER ABSTRACT

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**Immunological Memory:
An Affinity for the Bone Marrow**

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Following viral infection antigen-specific memory T cells persist and undergo homeostatic proliferation for the life of the organism. In this study we have examined the contributions that various tissue microenvironments make toward the homeostatic maintenance of antigen-specific memory CD8 T cells. We report that bone marrow comprises a major pool of the most actively dividing memory CD8 T cells in immune mice. Analysis of absolute numbers demonstrates that the largest fraction of dividing memory cells are found in the bone marrow. These data suggest that the bone marrow microenvironment may deliver unique physiological cues that drive CD8 memory T cell proliferation, or may be enriched for factors that support memory T cell turnover.