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Illuminating host defence against mycobacterial infection: interactions with autophagy and LC3-associated phagocytosis

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Salomé de las Nieves Muñoz Sánchez

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About the cover: Confocal microscopy-based artwork digitally enhanced using AI-assisted tools (OpenArt AI, 2025), symbolising the vastness and beauty of the microscopic world. The image depicts the tail fin area of an infected zebrafish larva, showing *Mycobacterium marinum* and infected macrophages pseudo-coloured in orange, and the LC3 autophagy protein in blue.

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To the part of me that struggled, for its courage and resilience.

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