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Cover. Expression of the cardiac-specific gene atrial natriuretic factor (ANF) in a wild-type and a GATA4 null mouse embryo at embryonic day 8.5. (Center panel) Lateral and dorsal view of a wild-type (left) and mutant (right) embryo, respectively. Transverse sections through the heart-forming regions of a wild-type (top) and a mutant embryo (bottom) show that the cardiac primordia fail to fuse at the midline to form a central heart tube in the absence of GATA4. (For details, see Molkentin et al., p. 1062; also see Kuo et al., p. 1049.)