

# BSDB Newsletter

**British Society for Developmental Biology**

[www.bsdb.org](http://www.bsdb.org)

Summer 2008  
Vol. 29, No. 1



**Autumn  
Meeting in  
Seville**

**Anne McLaren  
Fund**

***Also in this issue:***

- Meetings reports: Gardner Symposium
- What is the CABD?

# Joint Meeting of the British & Spanish Developmental Biology Societies

24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Seville, SPAIN

## Topics Include:

Stem cells, systems biology, functional genomics, evo-devo, cell proliferation and apoptosis, cell migration, communication and polarity, architecture of the nervous system and model systems for human pathologies.

Early registration and abstract submission: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

Information and registration: <http://www.development2008seville.es>

**Organizers:** James Castelli-Gair Hombria, Acaimo González-Reyes, Alicia Hidalgo and Robert Kelsh

Michalis Averof (IMBB, Crete, Greece)

Michael Bate (University of Cambridge, UK)

Thomas Becker (SARS Centre, Norway)

Damian Brunner (EMBL, Germany)

Elaine Dzierzak (Erasmus Medical Center, Rotterdam, Holland)

Andrew Fleming (University of Sheffield, UK)

Marcos González-Gaitán (Geneva University, Switzerland)

Cayetano González (IRB, Barcelona, Spain)

Carl Philipp Heisenberg (Max-Planck Institute Dresden, Germany)

Christine Holt (University of Cambridge, UK)

Ben Lehner (CRG, Barcelona, Spain)

Thierry Lepage (Marine Station Villefranche-sur-Mer, France)

Sarah A. Teichmann (LMB, Cambridge, UK)

Emili Saló (University of Barcelona, Spain)

Oscar Marín (Instituto de Neurociencias, Alicante, Spain)

Enrique Martín-Blanco (IBMB, Barcelona, Spain)

Ginés Morata (CBM-SO, Madrid, Spain)

W. James Nelson (University of Stanford, California, USA)

Ángela Nieto (Instituto de Neurociencias, Alicante, Spain)

Alberto Pascual Bravo (Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Sevilla, Spain)

Nicolas Tapon (CRUK, London, UK)

Jussi Taipale (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz (Gurdon Institute, Cambridge, UK)

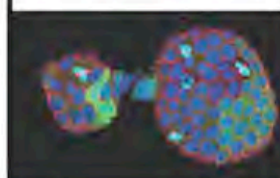
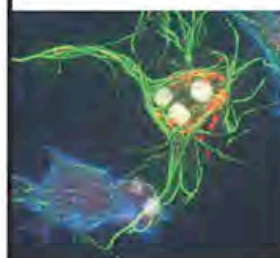
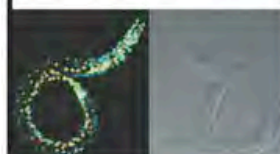


**SEBD**



**BSDB**

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY



## Editorial

Another 6 months has flown by, and another newsletter has finally emerged. Ultimately this is down to all those who generously take the time to write contributions. A month before the copy deadline there always seems to be little content for the issue and I start to panic, but then the articles somehow get written and arrive despite the busy lives of the writers. Some articles are even offered without prompting, like the Gardner Meeting report in this issue. Others are cheerfully produced in response to my tentative invitation. A case in point, in this issue is another article in the 'occasional' series on 'Developmental Biology Institutes From Around The World'(!). This time it's the young institute in Seville, Spain. The timing is, of course, not coincidental, given that there is a Joint BSDB/SEDB meeting in Seville. Look for more such articles in the future, but

perhaps there is also interest in articles on Institutes and Departments in the UK? Let me know what you think.

Please remember that this is your newsletter: if there's something you'd like to see here, then please let me know. If there are items in here that you could do without, then I'd also like to know that!

*Andrew Jarman, Editor*

*andrew.jarman@ed.ac.uk*

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### **Help us spread the word**

*Please print out a copy of this newsletter and leave it in a strategic place, such as your coffee room or staff room.*

## Contents

Editorial.....	1
Chairman's letter .....	2
News .....	3
Treasurer's report .....	4,5
For graduate students .....	6–8
Anne MacLaren Fund .....	9,10
Waddington Medal .....	11,12
Institute Profile: CABD .....	13,14
Meetings .....	15–18
Meeting report .....	19,20
Book review .....	21
Books to review .....	22
BSDB Committee .....	23

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### **Cover image**

*3-D rendering of mouse hand ectoderm and muscles in embryonic mouse forelimb (Optical Projection Tomography). See <http://www.nimr.mrc.ac.uk/devbiol/logan/> for movies. Images courtesy of Malcom Logan.*

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## From the Chairman



After a few years of wandering, this year's spring meeting was back in Warwick and reverted to being joint with the BSCB. This is a winning formula and the meeting was a great success. The science was outstanding, the bars stayed open late, and the accommodation was high quality. I reiterate my thanks to the organisers of these meetings every year, but it remains genuine and heartfelt. The BSDB scientific organisers this year were James Briscoe and Mike Taylor; the overall meeting organisation is, as it has been for the last five years, the responsibility of Nancy Papalopulu; and the money is supervised by Guy Tear. Please take any opportunity you have to thank them and maybe buy them a drink – they deserve it.

Spring Meetings mean prizes. This year's Waddington Medal, the most distinguished UK award in developmental biology, was awarded to Professor Pat Simpson of Cambridge. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read about her achievements and her prize lecture. We also award the annual Beddington Medal, for the best developmental Biology PhD thesis of the preceding year. Now well established, selection of the winner gets harder each year, and this year saw intense competition. Congratulations, therefore, to Paul Tesar, who did his PhD jointly between Richard Gardner's lab in Oxford and Ron Mackay's lab at NIH in the US. The topic of his thesis was the production of stem cells and the quality of his work, as well as his lecture, was extremely high. As always, remember to nominate your students (or get yourself nominated by your supervisor) for next year's medal.

Each year we see a turnover of BSDB committee members and this year we lose three important figures. Corinne Houart developed a particular interest in school education and, with David Wilkinson, developed this as a new theme for BSDB outreach. I am pleased to report that although she has retired (and David retired last year), she has kindly agreed to remain involved with this area and we will not be losing touch with her. Robert Kelsh has been the secretary of the BSDB during my whole term of chairmanship, and has been the lynchpin of the society.

Quite a lot of what he has done is unglamorous and very hard work but absolutely critical. For example, he has (with Guy Tear) completely updated and developed the database we rely on. When he started we had an alarmingly small proportion of members with up-to-date addresses and – even more importantly – up-to-date subscription payments. On his departure, we know who our members are, and what they pay. Our long-term finances are considerably improved by this huge effort and I thank him very much for this, and for the other ways he has looked after the society.

The last person we say goodbye to this year is Nancy Papalopulu. Simply put, the BSDB's main practical function is the organisation of Spring and Autumn meetings; these meetings are very successful, both scientifically and administratively; and the person who deserves most of the credit for this over the last five years is Nancy. Not many people appreciate the degree of detail needed, or the scope of things that can go wrong as meetings move from vague suggestions to the reality of hundreds of people turning up in expectation of a good time. I do, and on behalf of all members I want to say a huge thank you to Nancy; on a more personal note, it has been a real pleasure to work with her.

These high level retirements have meant a significant reshuffle. Mike Taylor of Cardiff University becomes Secretary, James Briscoe of NIMR becomes Meetings Secretary, and we have three new ordinary committee members, Kim Dale from Dundee, Malcolm Logan from NIMR, and Chris Thompson from Manchester. Welcome to all and thanks for getting involved.

Let me finish by reminding you that Seville in the autumn is lovely and that the science there will be excellent when we hold a joint meeting there with the Spanish Developmental Biology Society this September. I have a feeling that this will be a popular one. The website is now open for registrations and I suggest booking early. See you there!

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*“As always, remember to nominate your students (or get yourself nominated by your supervisor) for next year's [Beddington] medal”*





## Farewell from the Secretary

*From Robert Kelsh:*

As those regulars attending the AGM will know, my time as BSDB Secretary is now coming to a close. Thank you all for your forms and subscriptions - it has been a pleasure to serve (although I'm also ready for a change ;) ) and exciting to see the large influx of new members each year. Thank you especially to all who have kept us informed of changes in your contact details - this is the only way to ensure that you remain informed about

Society events and news. As you know, you can use the website to easily inform us of the changes (see sidebar), or just e-mail the Secretary, which brings me to....

### *Welcome to the Secretary*

In the next month Secretarial responsibility will be transferred into the capable hands of Mike Taylor at the University of Cardiff. Please contact him for any queries relating to membership (TaylorMV@cf.ac.uk). And do keep him informed of your changes in address or status!

### ***Do your contact details need updating?***

*As always, it's a hard job keeping the database of the Society membership up to date. If you change your address, please remember to send us the details. You can use a new online feedback form to give us this information.*

<http://www.bms.ed.ac.uk/services/webpace/bsdb/BSDBfeedbackform3.htm>

## The new Committee Members and Officers in full

We say goodbye to **Nancy Papalopulu**, **Corinne Houart**, **Robert Kelsh**.

**Mike Taylor** is the new Secretary, and **James Briscoe** is the new Meetings Officer.

New Committee Members elected at the last AGM:

**Kim Dale** from Dundee, who works on the regulation and

function of Nodal signalling in axial mesoderm formation in the developing chick embryo.

**Malcolm Logan** from NIMR, who works on development of vertebrate limbs.

**Chris Thompson** from Manchester, who works on cell fate choice and pattern formation in *Dictyostelium*

### ***Have your say***

*If you have news, letters, or comments you would like aired to the developmental biology community, please write to the Editor (andrew.jarman@ed.ac.uk)*

## Prize winners at the BSDB Spring Meeting

the Beddington Medal for best PhD student was presented to **Paul Tesar** of NIH/NINDS and Cambridge (Ron Mackay and Richard Gardner labs), who gave an excellent presentation on his thesis work on stem cells.

It was a close run thing for the best 'short talk selected from abstracts', but the judges finally chose **Emma Rawlins** (Duke

University) for her presentation "Epithelial progenitor cells in lung development and repair".

The BSDB poster prize winners were:

1st: **James Minchin** from Simon Hughes's lab at KCL

Joint 2nd: **Hong Xu**, Clare Baker's lab in Cambridge

Joint 2nd: **Valentina Sasselli**, Vassilis Pachnis's lab at NIMR



## Financial report

*"[For the Spring Meeting] we provided funding to all eligible applicants spending £24,028 on 74 awards"*

I am pleased to report that the Society continues to be in good financial health. The 2008 Spring meeting prompted a large number of applications for travel awards and we provided funding to all eligible applicants spending £24,028 on 74 awards. The generous support of the Company of Biologists also allows us to support members to travel to meetings or courses overseas. We receive a considerable demand for these awards

and I am pleased to report that the CoB has increased the amount they make available to us for these awards from £25,000 to £27,500. The BSDb adds to this pot and I hope to be able to make an award to each applicant whose application is fully eligible (please do check before you make an application that you are paying the correct subscription).

***Are you paying your fair share?***

*We still have a 'hard core' of members*

*who are paying less than they should.*

*Please check your standing order today and update if necessary!*

## Subscription information

Full members	<b>£35</b> per annum
Student members	<b>£15</b> per annum

Student members that joined the Society prior to 2004 are reminded that they should upgrade their subscription to the full member rate of £35.



## Easier payment option for overseas members

It is possible to pay your subscription by PayPal. This facility is primarily aimed at our overseas members. The process is fairly painless and full instructions can be found on our webpage.

<http://www.bms.ed.ac.uk/services/webpace/bsdb/BSDBpaypal.htm>

### **Louie Hamilton Fund**

*There is a small amount of money available from the Louie Hamilton Fund to provide travel support for handicapped members. Applicants should contact the*

## Seed funding for small meetings

Members may approach the Treasurer for seed funding to help with organising developmental biology events (e.g. one-day meetings) that involve other institutions and at which students and post-docs are encouraged to attend and present work. The BSDb currently supports the meetings of several local developmental biology groups with small (~£250) annual contributions. Any further requests for this type of funding should be made in a letter to the Treasurer.



## Travel grants

### BSDB Spring and Autumn meetings

These are the only UK meetings for which there is BSDB support, grants cover cost of registration (but not conference dinners) and basic travel if funds permit. Generally we are receiving more applications than we can fund in full and preference is given to student members who present posters. BSDB members based abroad are eligible for a contribution (max. £400) to attend our meetings. All applications for travel grants to attend BSDB meetings must be in the hands of the Treasurer by the published deadline.

**The deadline for Autumn Meeting 2008 is 14 June 2008**

### Overseas meetings

There is considerable demand for funds to travel to meetings overseas. Applications are collected each month and a decision on awards made at the end of the month, with funds awarded according to the remaining budget. To allow us to fund as many applicants as possible we are currently limiting awards to a maximum of £400. The total amount needed is taken into account when deciding the amount of the award; however, those artificially inflating their request will be penalised. Preference is given to members presenting work at the meetings.

I process the applications as rapidly as I can but it can be 6–8 weeks after

you submit an application before you are notified of your award. Please note that I do not make funds available to attend meetings that have already taken place when I come to consider the applications. Please bear this in mind and submit your application at least two months before the start date of the meeting.

### Practical courses

The BSDB will also provide funds up to a maximum of £500 for members to attend courses or to visit laboratories overseas. These applications are considered alongside those for overseas meetings.

### Applying for a travel grant

Members should complete a Travel Grant Application form and send it to the Treasurer. Forms can be downloaded from the BSDB website: [www.bsdb.org](http://www.bsdb.org).

Applications for overseas meetings are advised to be submitted 3–4 months in advance so that the BSDB contribution can be used as a lever to prise the rest of the money from other sources. Grants will NOT be awarded in arrears.

**Please note:** Nobody will be awarded more than one travel grant per year for an overseas trip. No more than two people from one department or one person from a group will be awarded a grant to a particular meeting.

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***Deadline for Autumn Meeting: 14 June 2008***

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***Warning!***  
*Only members paying the correct subscription to the Society will be eligible for a Travel Grant*



## The Graduate Students' Section

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### **Get in touch and get involved!**

*I'm happy to consider anything for the newsletter: articles, short tips, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous let me know but in all cases could you please give me your name, the name of your institution and your year of study.*

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### **BSDBBook**

*Currently 43 members! Need advice? Want to keep in touch with the students you met at BSDB socials? Want to find out if any other BSDB grads are going to a conference? Want to share your BSDB Meeting photos? Visit the 'BSDB graduate student group' at Facebook.com!!*

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### **Questions? Complaints?**

*Is there anything you would like the student rep to raise for you at committee meetings? Anything you would like to discuss? Don't hesitate to email me (I'll pass it on). I look forward to hearing from you soon.  
gp3@sanger.ac.uk*

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Welcome to the graduate pages of the spring newsletter. Another excellent Spring Meeting has been and gone and I had fun meeting a lot of the graduate members at the student social and around the meeting. I was surprised to find out, however, that such a large proportion of the society is made up by students – nearly half of all BSDB members are current graduate students. I probably shouldn't have been, after all BSDB offers lots of benefits to the student community; generous travel grants and subsidised meeting costs are two examples. Representation of graduates on the committee is also an important part of the society's work to encourage the next generation of developmental biologists – in this respect I hope I'm living up to the high standards set by my predecessor. Thanks to Katie

Fisher, graduate representative of BSCB, for her invaluable contribution to organising events at the Spring Meeting.

In this issue there is a report on one such event at this year's meeting: a lunchtime workshop about careers. The workshop was very successful, with lots of questions and excellent advice and opinion from the panellists – Huw Williams, Mike Lee, Alison Schuldt and Margaret Buckingham. Thanks again to all who participated.

Next year we have the opportunity to put on similarly excellent student events at ISDB 2009 in Edinburgh as hosts for an international group of graduates. I would very much like your ideas and input: what would you like to see provided? Post your comments on our Facebook Group or e-mail me: gp3@sanger.ac.uk.

## Report on Careers Lunchtime Workshop at Spring Meeting

At lunch on the third day of the Spring Meeting 2008, approximately 100 student delegates gathered in a lecture theatre to quiz a panel of scientists about careers. The panel consisted of two young scientists, Huw Williams (HW) and Mike Lee (ML), one senior editor, Alison Schuldt (AS), and one professor, Margaret Buckingham (MB). They expertly fielded questions on topics ranging from the first steps as a post-doc to the relative merits of academic and industrial careers, to advice on families. Here we present a short report that summarises the issues touched upon during the workshop.

### **Life after the PhD**

Unsurprisingly, a number of questions were asked about those first steps after handing in the thesis and passing a viva. In particular, the audience were interested to know if there is much difference between day-to-day PhD work and postdoctoral work, and if students are expected to know everything by virtue of becoming a postdoc. From the perspective of a first academic postdoc, HW advised that while the day-to-day running of a postdoc project is no different from that of a PhD, the subject likely will be, which will entail a certain

degree of 'starting again'. However, one will likely be able to draw upon the experiences of doctoral research to help cover ground quickly and make less mistakes. ML made the point that day-to-day work in industry has a different focus; it is more process driven, the subject is not necessarily defined by the researcher and can change quickly.

The audience also asked the panel for their perspective on how important it is for future employment to publish one's PhD research. The panel were unanimous in the opinion that publications never hurt! For instance, MB pointed out that a publication record is key in applying for post-doctoral fellowships and AS mentioned that a strong publication record would help in applications for editorial positions at research journals. For science writing jobs, publishing research articles are a great way to demonstrate writing skills; writing for newsletters and preparing Review articles can also be useful. In industry the focus is much more on teamwork and communication, noted ML. These are skills you can build by attending courses such as the GRADschool programme. A lack of publications need not be an



unsurmountable problem – HW advised that it is important to put effort into ‘selling yourself’ to a prospective PI through personal communication and a willingness to present your work.

Scientific publishing is a sector that is of considerable interest to many as a related but alternative career to postdoctoral research. Our audience members sought advice from AS: will there be a need for more training? This depends on the type of job, and the amount of science writing involved. Students wishing to boost their chances of employment could think about courses in science communication or seek out places in internship programmes. At Nature Publishing Group, training courses are run in-house for writing and grammar. When working on a research title, learning which manuscripts are suitable and which reviewers are appropriate was something that AS felt could only be learnt by experience. When asked if she missed the lab, AS was clear that her interest in science is satisfied by reading and writing about it and that for her the benefits of a career in publishing are very important.

## Industry

For many students, industrial science is an unknown. There are many widely held beliefs about the advantages and disadvantages of careers in biotechnology or pharmaceutical sectors, but few of these come firsthand. ML fielded many questions about life in industry: What attracted ML to industry? Do specific PhD research areas make a candidate more or less employable in industry? How easy is it to switch between academia and industry? Experience of the industrial sector during a sandwich year got ML interested in working in industry after completing a PhD, mostly because of the highly collaborative atmosphere with emphasis on cross-functional work. ML warned that potential difficulties are that research can be directed and projects can be stopped with immediate effect. In terms of ease of switching to industry, ML suggested that any good researcher would be given serious consideration and that academic experience may even be advantageous. Specific research subjects are not necessarily of value; one must highlight the skills that one has developed. MB

warned that moving the other way, from industry to academia, can be a lot more difficult, but is still possible.

Perhaps the question that was of most interest to the audience was about pay: is it really better in industry? This sparked a wide-ranging debate about remuneration, benefits and security in academia, industry and publishing. The panel felt quite strongly that salaries should not be the sole factor that students base their career decisions on, but that there is also a need for greater clarity. To the probable disappointment of many, the panel agreed that pay in the industrial sector is initially only £2,000-£3,000 more per annum than in academia, an amount that can be negated by pension contributions. There is enhanced earning potential in the long-term, especially in business aspects of the industrial sector. To access those areas, ML advised that approximately 5 years of bench experience would be a likely minimum. In terms of job security, ML felt that there had been considerable contraction in the pharmaceutical industry in recent years. However, turnover in his particular workplace runs at 4%, quite low for the sector. In academia, HW offered the guideline of a first postdoc position with a salary of around £25,000 gross per annum (g. p. a.), although there is considerable variation (and little reliable data!) with geography, funding agencies and negotiation - publications are useful in this respect. A theoretical maximum for earnings as a postdoc is at around £35,000 g. p. a., although MB stressed that earnings increase in group leader/principal investigator positions and that salaries across the sector are significantly improving over recent years. Benefits can also be considerably variable – Marie Curie fellowships and Wellcome Trust funded positions were mentioned as examples of employment with excellent social benefits. As the majority of positions in academia are fixed term contracts, there is high turnover, but also a healthy demand for postdocs. Both MB and HW pointed out that permanent positions are available, but that they take determination and motivation to achieve and are not immediately available to recently qualified post-doctoral researchers. In contrast, employment is relatively secure in publishing, but there is considerable

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## The Panel

### Huw Williams (HW)

*Huw studied at UCL; PhD with Jim Smith; currently a PDF (post-doctoral fellow) at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.*

### Mike Lee (ML)

*Mike studied at Imperial, with a sandwich year placement at Glaxo; PhD with Jordan Raff; currently a team leader at the AstraZeneca R&D facility in Loughborough.*

### Alison Schuldt (AS)

*Alison studied at Imperial; PhD with Andrea Brand; currently a senior editor of Nature Cell Biology.*

### Margaret Buckingham (MB)

*Margaret received a PhD from Oxford; took a postdoctoral position at the Pasteur Institute in Paris; currently a professor in the Department of Developmental Biology at the same.*

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*“Perhaps the question that was of most interest to the audience was about pay: is it really better in industry?”*



**Student events**

*BSDB/SEDB Joint Meeting, 24/09/08-27/09/08, Seville*

*Going to Seville? Find out who else is going through Facebook*

*ISDB 2009, 06/09/09-10/09/09, Edinburgh*

*Details to follow – make your suggestions for student events through Facebook (see BSDBook)*

competition for jobs. Editorial salaries range from that of a postdoc to that of a young PI, depending on age and experience, according to AS. There can also be better earning potential if you pursue the business aspects of the job, as a publisher.

**Looking Ahead**

So what about life in the long term? When do you need to focus in on an area of research? HW suggested that by the end of the first postdoc you probably have a rough idea of the type of research you'd like to pursue (or definitely not want to), but that nobody needs to be fixed down. In support, MB encouraged the audience to think about overall direction – as long as there is a directing reason for moving fields then it is easier to explain and defend. Are academics doomed to become managers? The amount of management and lab work you might do as a lab head is in your hands, according to MB. If you want a large number of people pursuing lots of different projects, expect not to spend much (or any) time at the bench.

And finally, what about children? How easy is

it to have a career in science and a family? Publishing is relatively family-friendly according to AS, who has one child and another on the way. Travel requirements for conferences can be a challenge to manage, but it is often possible to work from home for part of the week and the law demands employers provide support for mothers returning to work. This is also true in industry, stated ML, where companies need to provide flexible days and hours. At AstraZeneca in general there are key hours that employees must be present (10-12 and 14-16), but other hours can be moved around. In academia, organisation, energy and a supportive partner are the key ingredients advised MB, who has three children. Her personal choice was to have children at an older age, as a more established researcher.

The workshop was drawn to a close with just enough time left to finish off dessert and for delegates to talk to our excellent panel informally. We thank all of our participants for their questions and interest, and our panel members for their involvement, honesty and enthusiasm.



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## MECHANISMS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Official Journal of the International Society of Developmental Biologists

- ✓ High visibility – available at over 4,800 institutions
- ✓ Fast, fair review – first decision in under 4 weeks
- ✓ No page charges, free color online, free pdf reprint
- ✓ Impact factor - 3.836
- ✓ All research articles are freely accessible 12 months after publication

*Mechanisms of Development* is an international journal whose purpose is to communicate contemporary studies in developmental biology with special emphasis on the characterization of molecular mechanisms underlying development processes in either vertebrates or invertebrates. Areas of particular interest include embryogenesis, pattern formation, cell determination and differentiation, specification of tissue type, targeted disruptions of developmental control genes, the roles of transcription factor in development, regulatory hierarchies of gene expression, cell-cell communication and signal transduction in development, as well as post-transcriptional controls of developmental processes such as regulated splicing and protein modification.

[www.elsevier.com/locate/modo](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/modo)



## The Anne McLaren Fund

Dear Society member

Anne McLaren, who died in a car accident last year, was an active member of this Society throughout her life and a former Chair. We, as fellow past and present chairs invite you to commemorate in perpetuity Anne's extraordinary contributions, not just to Developmental and Reproductive Biology, but also in the wider sphere of public education and discussion about, and application ethico-legally of, science. Anne's family and colleagues have received many expressions of a desire to commemorate Anne's values and aspirations. A charitable fund has therefore been established, administered by Christ's College, Cambridge, of which Anne was a Fellow Commoner, with Managers from the College, Anne's family, the Gurdon Institute where she worked most recently and King's College Cambridge where she was also a Fellow.

The purpose of the fund is to promote knowledge, study and research in mammalian (including human) reproductive, developmental and stem cell biology (including developmental genetics and epigenetics), and in reproductive medicine, especially by those whose work also engages with social and ethical aspects of these fields. Promotion may take the form of various activities including promoting interdisciplinary

networking opportunities, arranging lectures, or offering bursaries, travel funds, meeting organisation costs or research support at (and especially between) undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral worker levels.

In making awards, the Fund Managers will be mindful of Anne McLaren's commitment to the support of junior women scientists, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, developing countries, or who fail to realise early potential through circumstances beyond their control, and those whose career has been interrupted by parenting.

**We very much hope that you will be willing to contribute to this Fund, and are grateful for the many contributions already received, both small and large.**

You may contribute on-line at <http://www.justgiving.com/annemclaren> or by post using the attached form. UK tax-payers giving by either route may add further to the Fund by completing a gift aid declaration.

With thanks

*Matthew Freeman (2004-2009)*

*Phil Ingham (1999-2004)*

*Jim Smith (1994-1999)*

*Michael Akam (1989-1994)*

*Martin Johnson (1984-1989)*

*Chris Graham (1979-1984)*

*"We very much hope that you will be willing to contribute to this Fund, and are grateful for the many contributions already received, both small and large"*



## **Anne McLaren Fund**

### **Christ's College Gift Aid Declaration**

*Please complete all sections*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Forenames: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please treat all donations I have made to Christ's College Cambridge since 6 April 2005, and all donations I make on or after the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

If you do NOT wish to be listed publicly as a donor, please tick here \_\_\_\_\_

(Please note that the amount given will NOT be recorded)

*Note: You must be a UK tax-payer, paying an amount of income tax or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax we reclaim on your donation(s) (currently 28p for every £1 you give).*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to: The Development Office, Christ's College, Cambridge CB2 3BU, UK*





## Waddington Prize: Pat Simpson

As chairman of the BSDB, my favourite job is awarding the Waddington Medal, the society's — in fact the country's — major award for distinction in developmental biology. As most of our members will know, the winner is not announced until the lecture itself, adding to the excitement of the occasion.

This year it was a great pleasure to award the 2008 Waddington Medal to Pat Simpson, Professor of Comparative Embryology and Wellcome Trust Principal Fellow at the Department of Zoology at Cambridge University. Pat's work, initially on patterning mechanisms in *Drosophila* and more recently on other dipterans, has had a major impact over a very broad domain of developmental biology, and has influenced the science of many people who may well not be aware of their debt to her.

Pat was born in Poona (now Pune) in India, but returned to Britain as a toddler and grew up in Essex, near where her father worked as a physical chemist in industry. After doing her degree at Southampton, she moved to France for her PhD and ended up staying there for a significant part of her career. As a student she spent influential time visiting the group of Howard Schneiderman at University of California at Irvine, where she was introduced to the use of mitotic clones to study cell growth and patterning in imaginal discs. After a postdoc with Madeleine Gans in Gif, she

moved to Strasbourg, where she established her own group. She moved to Cambridge in 2000, where she has been ever since.

Her contributions are many but, to date, the one that will resonate with most people is her genetic analysis of Notch and specifically, the elegant work that led to the conclusion — radical at the time — that Notch was a receptor. Prior to that the structure of the Notch protein had people assuming it was an adhesion protein. Even more profoundly, Pat's work led to a breakthrough model in which Notch signalling participates in a positive feedback loop that amplifies small differences between neighbouring cells. This leads, by the process called lateral inhibition — now well established in textbooks — to the selection of one cell from a field of equipotent precursors. It is a key developmental principal and, with the discovery that Notch is a receptor, underlies many of the developmental and medical functions of the Notch pathway.

More recently, Pat has extended her interest in patterning mechanisms to the evolution of pattern. Specifically, she now studies bristle formation in a wide variety of insects, in order to understand how morphological differences between species have evolved.

Pat was elected a member of EMBO and awarded the CNRS Silver Medal in 1993 and then in 2000 was made a Fellow of the Royal Society.

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**Matthew Freeman**  
Chair, BSDB

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*"Her contributions are many but, to date, the one that will resonate with most people is her genetic analysis of Notch"*

*“Beyond the lab, Pat has some surprising skills. In the past, a championship trampoliner and serious caver, she is now an accomplished builder”*

She has achieved all this with a quiet and modest style, and without any hint of self-promotion — her science has spoken for itself.

Despite these impressive achievements, her high academic distinction was not always obvious. She is probably one of the few Cambridge professors and FRSs to have failed her 11+ exam. This was the peculiarly harsh system that used to exist in Britain where children aged 11 were sorted into the high fliers, to be given good schooling, and the rest (about 90%) to be put into 'secondary modern' schools, where they were not encouraged to achieve academically. At Pat's school, where she was more interested in sports than science, it was suggested that, as one of the brightest children, with an aptitude for French, her ambition might be to become a bilingual secretary.

Beyond the lab, Pat has some surprising skills. In the past, a championship trampoliner and serious caver, she is now an accomplished builder. With her own hands she converted a huge steel barge into a houseboat where she lived for many years in Strasbourg. Intriguingly, she is also a fox-whisperer, as well as a gardener.

Nothing comes for free, and the Waddington Medal winner is expected to give a lecture at a plenary session of the annual Spring Meeting. This is made more daunting by the request to include a combination of science and autobiography. Furthermore, the presence of the BSCB contingent of the meeting significantly extends the scope of the audience. In her lecture, entitled 'A Passion for Bristles', Pat rose to these challenges and excelled at all levels.



## CABD: Developmental Biology in Spain

Six years ago a group of Spanish developmental biologists working in different labs around the world received an e-mail inviting them to embark on one of the most exciting initiatives a young scientist can dream of: the establishment of a new Centre for Developmental Biology entirely organised as these scientist think fit. The centre to be located in Seville at the University Pablo de Olavide, would be managed by these young scientists in close collaboration with established University professors. The initiative was backed by a scientific committee composed of leading members of the well-known Spanish Developmental Biology School (among them Antonio García-Bellido, Ginés Morata, Juan Modolell and Jaume Baguñà). These prestigious scientists would act as a scientific advisory board overseeing the feasibility of the project and their guarantors of its success to the Spanish funding agencies. The core funding of the centre is provided by the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), the University Pablo de Olavide and the Andalusian Regional Government (Junta de Andalucía) with help of European Regional Development Funds.



This experimental initiative led in 2003 to the creation of the first Developmental Biology Institute in Spain, the **CABD (Centro Andaluz de Biología del Desarrollo)**, which after five years we can call a success in terms of the research output and the steady flow of funds.

Although the prestige of Spanish developmental biology groups stems mainly from work on *Drosophila* developmental genetics, the CABD has broadened its spectrum by attracting thriving groups working on other vertebrate and invertebrate model systems. As a result the CABD now houses *Drosophila*, *Caenorhabditis*, Mouse, *Xenopus*, *Medaka* and Zebrafish covering diverse research topics on fundamental questions ranging from gene regulation, cell migration, signalling, morphogenesis, apoptosis, ageing, and stem cell biology. The CABD also houses groups studying control of cell cycle, cell polarity and cytokinesis in yeast, fungus morphogenesis, regulation of gene expression in bacteria and oxidative stress that complement the whole organism approach reinforcing the centre with biochemical, genomics and proteomic approaches.

In a relative short time a competitive publication record in leading journals of the field has been achieved. CABD researchers working in *Drosophila* have published data from Hox-induced organogenesis to signalling and cell polarity, regulation of cell shape by Integrin-ECM interactions or the modulation of germ line stem cells. Research in *C. elegans* ranges from nuclear envelope dynamics in early embryos to ageing. The existence of vertebrate and invertebrate models have led to uncovering the conserved mechanisms regulating kidney development in frog and its functional homologous structure in *Drosophila*, the Malpighian tubules. Work on vertebrate models has led to data on the regulation of *Iroquois* genes and on the function of

**Maria José Sánchez and James Castelli-Gair Hombria**

Group Leaders at CABD, CSIC-Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain

*“Although the prestige of Spanish developmental biology groups stems mainly from work on *Drosophila* developmental genetics, the CABD has broadened its spectrum by attracting thriving groups working on other vertebrate and invertebrate model systems.”*

*"From its beginnings, the CABD group leaders made an effort to become an international centre, choosing English as the working language."*



*"And what better occasion to visit the CABD than presenting your work at the Joint meeting of the British (BSDB) and Spanish (SEBD) Societies of Developmental Biology (<http://www.development2008seville.es>) to be held in Seville this September?"*

the *Meis* genes in Zebrafish eye development; the reactivation of hemangioblastic precursors in induced kidney-injury and the role of Nrf2 and caloric restriction in cancer and ageing in mice. Important data were also published on the role of Cdc14p phosphatase in cell cycle and morphogenesis in *Candida albicans*, on the identification of a novel protein that links the septum initiation network cascade with cytokinesis in fission yeast, on the characterisation of a gene responsible of conferring sherry-wine yeast their floating abilities or about in vivo gene regulation in Salmonella by a salicylate-dependent control circuit.

From its beginnings, the CABD group leaders made an effort to become an international centre, choosing English as the working language. This has resulted in the recruitment of foreign group leaders, PhD students and postdocs creating an international atmosphere with researchers from almost all western European countries. Through its group leaders, the CABD has got strong links with the USA, Germany, Portugal and the UK -particularly with Cambridge. The CABD houses at the moment twelve groups, but with 25% of laboratory space available we are still expanding. The CABD has a policy of supporting new group leaders through their "strategic" funds. Group leaders can be hired either through direct permanent positions offered by the University or the Research Council or, more often, through the five-year Ramón y Cajal Career Development scheme. Trends in Spanish science policy aim at offering indefinite contracts to successful Ramón y Cajal Fellows that have not been tenured at the end of the five-year period, giving a long-term prospect of job stability at the CABD.

The evolution of the CABD through its own members' collective effort is also reflected by its improving public image and facilities. From its initial "homemade", but operative, webpage [www.upo.es/CABD](http://www.upo.es/CABD) to its stylish modern looking version soon to be online

[www.cabd.es](http://www.cabd.es). CABD's characteristic *C. elegans* embryo-looking blue logo was designed by the artist Nacho Casares, brother of one of our group leaders. The team effort has also resulted in the building of one of the best fish facilities in Europe and a high-standards mouse and *Xenopus* facilities.

In the past six years, members of the CABD have been involved in the organisation of several international meetings. Only this year we are co-organising in Seville the 2008 European Worm meeting (<http://www.upo.es/ewm2008/>) and the Joint meeting of the British (BSDB) and Spanish (SEBD) Societies of Developmental Biology (<http://www.development2008seville.es>). From 2008 the CABD also organises yearly an international two week PhD Developmental Biology Course styled on the Woodshole hands-on approach (<http://www.upo.es/CABD/ICDBFG.html>).

The philosophy of the CABD, where all group leaders have a say in the design of the institute, has created a friendly atmosphere of enthusiastic participation. The CABD group leaders team up, as the success of the centre and of its individual researchers are intertwined. If you are a young group leader, postdoc or PhD student interested in the cellular, genetic or molecular aspects regulating development, you should seriously consider working at the CABD in the beautiful city of Seville.

And what better occasion to visit the CABD than presenting your work at the Joint meeting of the British (BSDB) and Spanish (SEBD) Societies of Developmental Biology (<http://www.development2008seville.es>) to be held in Seville this September?



## 20 Years Since Patched..... Life After Hedgehog

A Symposium to mark the inauguration of the  
**MRC Centre for  
Developmental and Biomedical Genetics**  
at the University of Sheffield

*September 11-13 2008*

**Keynote Lecturer:**

**Norbert Perrimon (Harvard Med School)**

### **Guest Speakers:**

Isabel Guerrero (Madrid)  
Alicia Hidalgo (Birmingham)  
Jean Maurice Dura (Montpellier)  
Uwe Strähle (Karlsruhe)  
Patrick Blader (Toulouse)  
Tom Schilling (Irvine)  
Jean Paul Concordet (Paris)  
Peter Currie (Sydney)  
Antonio Jacinto (Lisbon)  
Kate Lewis (Cambridge)  
Gerrit Begemann (Konstanz)  
Sudipto Roy (Singapore)  
Bruno Glise (Toulouse)  
Leanne Jones (La Jolla)

Vincent Cunliffe (Sheffield)  
Freek van Eeden (Sheffield)  
Tim Chico (Sheffield)  
Marysia Placzek (Sheffield)  
Steve Renshaw (Sheffield)  
Alex Whitworth (Sheffield)  
David Strutt (Sheffield)

### **Registration details at:**

<http://cdbg.shef.ac.uk/>  
deadline 4th July 2008

**Free registration available  
for a limited number of  
PhD students**

sponsored by

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*innovation through passion™*

**MRC**

Medical  
Research  
Council

## BSDB/SEBD Autumn Meeting 2008

**Seville, Spain, 24–27 September 2008**

### **Latest meetings news**

*Check the BSDB website for latest meetings updates and to submit details of meetings to be advertised to members.*  
<http://www.bsdb.org>

Joint meeting with Spanish Society for Developmental Biology (SEBD).

Organisers:

James Castelli-Gair, Acaimo Gonzales-Reyes, Alicia Hidalgo, Robert Kelsh.

Speakers include: Michael Averof (IMBB, Greece); Thomas Becker (SARS Centre, Norway); Damian Brunner (EMBL, Germany); Eleine Dzierzak (Univ. Erasmus, Holland); Andrew Fleming (Sheffield, UK); Marcos González Gaitán (Geneva, Switzerland); Cayetano González (Barcelona, Spain); Carl Philipp Heisenberg (Dresden, Germany); Christine Holt (Cambridge, UK); Ben

Lehner (Barcelona, Spain); Thierry Lepage (Nice, France); Sarah A. Teichmann (Cambridge, UK); Emili Saló (Barcelona, Spain); Oscar Marín (Alicante, Spain); Enrique Martín-Blanco (Barcelona, Spain); Gines Morata (Madrid, Spain); W. James Nelson (Stanford, USA); Angela Nieto (Alicante, Spain); Alberto Pascual Bravo (Seville, Spain); Nicolas Tapon (London, UK); Jussi Taipale (Helsinki, Finland); Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz (Cambridge, UK)

Further details:

<http://www.upo.es/CABD/BSDBandSEBD.html>

### **Ideas for a meeting?**

*A major task of the BSDB Committee is to host high quality scientific meetings. We welcome suggestions for future topics for meetings or for a half-day themed session at the Spring Symposium. Contact James Briscoe*

## Future BSDB meetings

### Spring/Autumn 2009

Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, Scotland, 6–10 September 2009

The Spring and Autumn meetings will be subsumed in the ISDB 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Developmental Biologists. See article later in this newsletter.



**Announcing a New Journal**

**DMM** Disease Models & Mechanisms

The use of model organisms to advance human health

[www.biologists.com/dmm](http://www.biologists.com/dmm)



## Other meetings of interest

### Symposium, MRC Centre for Developmental and Biomedical Genetics

20 years since Patched...Life after Hedgehog

11-13 September 2008  
University of Sheffield UK

A symposium to mark the inauguration of the MRC Centre for Developmental and Biomedical Genetics at the University of Sheffield. Registration deadline 4 July 2008.

<http://cdbg.shef.ac.uk/>

### American Society for Developmental Biology 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

26-30 July 2008  
Philadelphia, PA, USA

<http://www.sdbonline.org/img/webpage.htm>

### 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Cell Biology ICCB 2008

7-10 October 2008  
Coex, Seoul, Korea

<http://www.iccb2008.org>

### European Life Sciences Organisation Annual Meeting

30 August-2 September 2008  
Nice, France

<http://www.elseo.org/>

### BSCB Autumn Meeting: Epithelial Morphogenesis and Diseases

15-17 September 2008  
University of Greenwich, London

<http://www.bscb.org/>

### Animal Evo-Devo Symposium Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution Annual Meeting

5-8 June 2008  
Barcelona, Spain

<http://www.smbe2008.com/>

### mTor Signalling, Nutrients and Disease

15 - 16 September 2008  
Medical Sciences Teaching Centre,  
University of Oxford, UK

This meeting will cover the following topics:

- Insulin/TOR signalling and translational control
- Amino acid regulation of mTOR
- Drugging the mTOR signalling pathway

[http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings/programme.cfm?Meeting\\_No=SA086](http://www.biochemistry.org/meetings/programme.cfm?Meeting_No=SA086)

### 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Limb Development and Regeneration

13-16 August 2008  
San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain

Organisers: Juan Hurlé; Marian Ros, Juan José Sanz, Miguel Torres

<http://www.icldr.es>

### American Society for Matrix Biology

7-10 December 2008  
San Diego, California, USA  
Program Chair: Bill Parks, University of Washington, Co-Chairs: Jaime Fitzgerald, Karen Lyons, Joanne Murphy-Ullrich, Ambra Pozzi, Ralph Sanderson, Marian Young, and Peter Yurchenco.

<http://www.asmb.net>

### Latest meetings news

Check the BSDB website for latest meetings updates and to submit details of meetings to be advertised to members.  
<http://www.bsdb.org>

## International Society for Developmental Biology Congress 2009

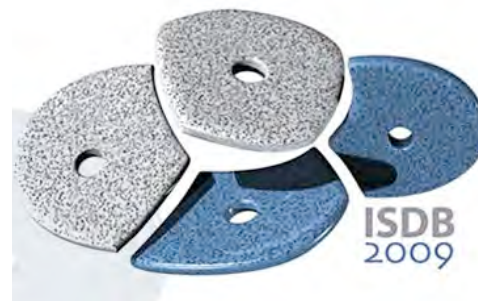
For details and updates, visit:  
<http://www.in-conference.org.uk/ISDB2009/>  
 Or contact:  
[isdb@in-conference.org.uk](mailto:isdb@in-conference.org.uk)

**Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh**  
**6–10 September 2009**

Even though it may still seem a long way off, planning for this showcase meeting is well advanced. The spotlight of the developmental biology world will be on Britain and it is very important for BSDB and for British developmental biology that this meeting is a big success. Up to 1500 participants are anticipated, and we envisage that every UK developmental biologist will want to attend.

Programme includes:

- Stem Cells and Medicine
- Stem Cells and Pluripotency Regeneration
- Non-coding RNA in Development
- Mechanisms of Morphogenesis
- Morphogenesis and Birth Defects
- Organogenesis
- Growth Control and Tumours
- Advances in Imaging Technologies
- Cilia in Development and Disease
- Asymmetry in Cells
- Asymmetry in Organisms
- Darwin and Development 2009
- Early Neural Development
- Behaviour and Neural Circuits
- Cell Migration
- Signalling in Development
- Modelling and Networks
- Chromatin and Epigenetics
- Late Breaking News



## American Society for Cell Biology 48th Annual Meeting

13–17 December 2008  
 Moscone Center, San Francisco, USA

Abstract Deadline (to be considered for minisymposia presentations): August 7, 2008.  
 Abstract Deadline (to be considered for poster presentations only): September 3, 2008  
 Late Abstract Deadline (to be considered for poster presentations only): October 16, 2008  
<http://ascb.org/meetings/> for more information.





## Sir Richard Gardner Symposium

7 April 2008

Department of Zoology, Oxford

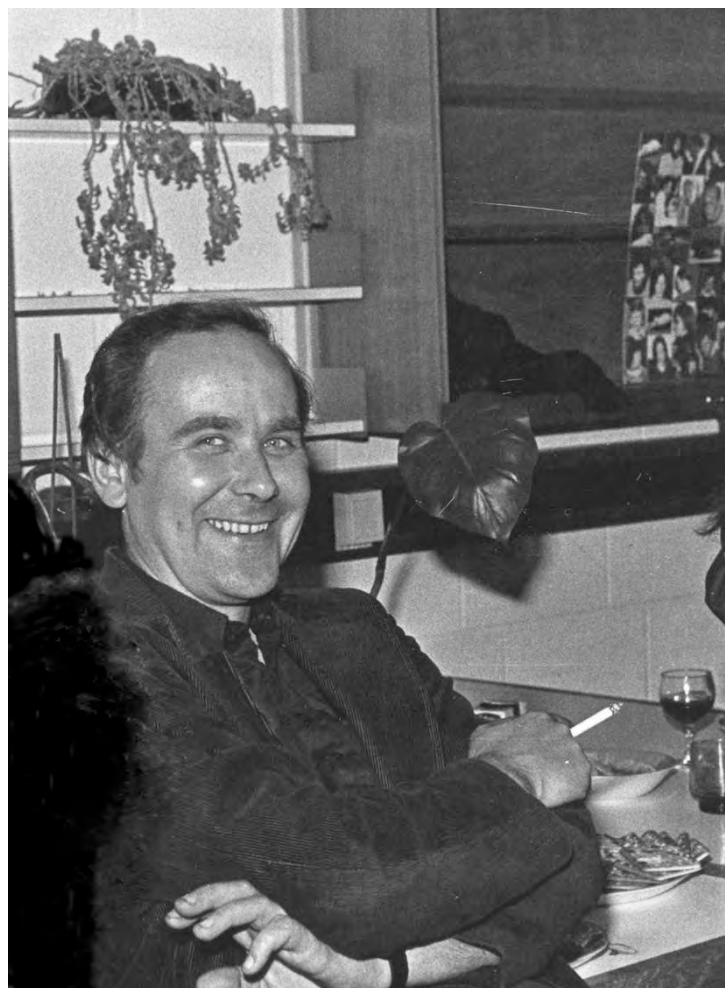
Sir Richard Gardner remains one of the pioneers of stem cell embryology. On the occasion of his departure from the University of Oxford for a research post in York, a day-long symposium was held at the Oxford Department of Zoology as a tribute to Sir Richard and his contributions to the field. The celebration — organised by Elizabeth Robertson (Dunn School of Pathology, Oxford), Janet Rossant (Sick Kids, Toronto), and Chris Graham (Zoology, Oxford) — involved talks from eminent scientists now working on four separate continents. The quality of speakers (nearly all in his immediate group or the Unit he directed) emphasised Sir Richard's astounding legacy.

The morning session, hosted by Robin Lovell-Badge (NIMR), featured Jonathan Slack (Stem Cells, Minneapolis); Ron McKay (National Institute of Health); Patrick Tam (Sydney, Australia); Peter Holland (Department of Zoology, Oxford); and Phil Ingham (Biopolis, Singapore). Jonathan Slack presented data from a transgenic *Xenopus* model that implicated a Wnt-driven FGF signalling pathway in neural and muscle tissue development during tail regeneration. This was achieved via engraftment of transgenic donor tissue onto another embryo at the neurala stage, which allowed for labelling of various tail tissues with impressive specificity. Ron McKay discussed the development of dopamine neurons, and suggested that the malleability of these cells at the embryonic stem cell stage (they can be coaxed to exhibit pluripotency) may lead to potential treatments for Parkinson's, not unlike the use of islet transplants as a treatment for diabetics. Patrick Tam described the allocation of the endoderm lineage during embryogenesis using fate-mapping studies in murine models. Peter Holland surveyed the classification and evolution of homeobox genes amongst several gene families and across species,

particularly in *Amphioxus*. He concluded his talk with a presentation of an online Homeobox Database that has been compiled as a means to improve consistency with respect to homeobox gene classification. Phil Ingham concluded the morning with his presentation of the Prdm1 transcriptional factor (under *u-boot* gene control) and its role in removing Sox-6-mediated repression in skeletal muscle fibre development.

**Paul D'Alessandro**

*Paediatric Surgical  
Research Laboratory,  
Nuffield Department  
of Surgery, University  
of Oxford*



*"Although it would take much longer than a day to honour such a well-respected scientist, the symposium proved a wonderful homecoming for esteemed colleagues and a very interesting conference for those of us lucky enough to be in their company"*

The afternoon session, for which Magda Zernicka-Goetz (Gurdon Institute, Cambridge) served as Chair, included lectures by Andy Copp (UCL), Karen Downs (Madison, Wisconsin), and Ginny Papaioannou (Columbia, NY). Andy Copp presented fascinating data regarding the clinical implications of cranial and spinal neural tube defects, and suggested a possible use for inositol as a prophylactic in folate-insensitive women with high-risk pregnancies. Karen Downs highlighted the emerging complexity of the murine allantois. Findings from her laboratory have begun to reveal hitherto unknown mechanisms by which the allantois elongates to the chorion to create the chorio-allantoic placenta, and establishes umbilical vasculature with the foetal and vitelline blood vessels to create an efficient circulatory continuum throughout the conceptus. The lecture generated a noticeable amount of interest and discussion. Ginny Papaioannou also presented data from a murine model, from a study that used notch signalling and changes in cilia morphology as a means to elucidate the events which establish the body axis, under the control of Tbx6, a T-

box transcription factor gene.

The day's final talks were given by its organisers, Liz Robertson, Janet Rossant, and Chris Graham. Liz Robertson described the FLRT3 gene, upregulated during nerve injury, and its roles in gastrulation, and cellular adhesion and intercalation. She is currently interested in the pathways through which these are achieved. Janet Rossant outlined trophectoderm development, and paid particular attention to decisions regarding primitive endoderm development, as elucidated in embryonic stem cell chimera experiments. Chris Graham concluded the lecture series with kind words of thanks for the speakers and sponsors (Cancer Research UK, Company of Biologists, and March of Dimes), and an invitation to the reception at the Dunn School of Pathology. A dinner followed later that evening. Although it would take much longer than a day to honour such a well-respected scientist, the symposium proved a wonderful homecoming for esteemed colleagues and a very interesting conference for those of us lucky enough to be in their company.

## From Cell to Embryo

*A meeting in memory of Nigel Holder*

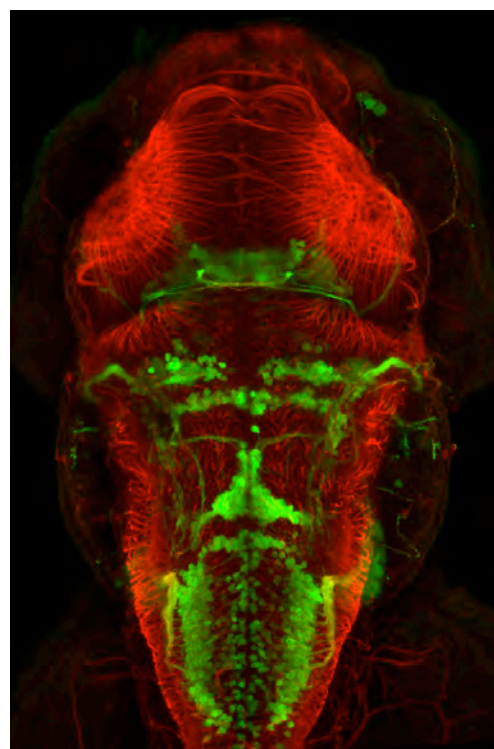
**Friday 4 July 2008**

B5, Franklin Wilkins Building, Waterloo Campus  
King's College London

Jeremy Brockes  
Jon Clarke  
Janet Heasman  
Chuck Kimmel  
Julian Lewis  
Andrew Lumsden  
Malcolm Maden  
Cecilia Moens  
Kate Nobes  
Roger Patient  
Jim Smith  
Steve Wilson  
Chris Wylie

Sponsored by Kings College London and  
The Company of Biologists

To register, please e-mail  
corinne.houart@kcl.ac.uk



## Molecular Biology of the Cell, Fifth Edition

Bruce Alberts, Alexander Johnson, Peter Walter, Julian Lewis, Martin Raff, Keith Roberts

Garland Science

ISBN: 978-0815341055 £58.99 (paperback)

## Molecular Biology of the Cell, Fifth Edition: The Problems Book

John Wilson and Tim Hunt

Garland Science

ISBN 978-0815341109 £21.99 (paperback)

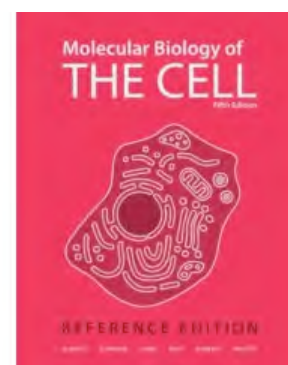
This is the fifth edition of the classic cell biology textbook, appearing some twenty-five years after the publication of the first edition in 1983, and six years since the fourth edition. So what's new? Perhaps the first surprise about this edition is that it's actually slightly slimmer than its predecessor (1267 pages as against 1463 pages for the fourth edition). How was this achieved, given the dramatic pace of advances in cell biology? Controversially, the last five chapters are not in the book itself but have been included on the accompanying DVD-ROM. If you want them in hard copy, you'll need the 'reference edition' (£110). While this is an effective way of preventing the book from becoming unmanageably large, I'm sure that I won't be the only BSDB member to be a bit disappointed to find that Chapter 22 'Development of Multicellular Organisms' is among those relegated to the DVD.

The book has been extensively revised and updated throughout and includes material on many new topics. Reflecting biology's entry to the postgenomic era and the rapidly increasing availability of complete genome sequences, sections covering comparative genomics have been expanded. These include descriptions of the value of multispecies sequence comparisons, and techniques like phylogenetic footprinting. microRNAs are included for the first time. Chapter 23 (on the DVD) includes greatly expanded coverage of stem cell biology. There are excellent descriptions and specific examples of how we can use our improved

understanding of the cell biology of cancer to develop new therapies (Chapter 20). Throughout the book, emphasis is placed not just on 'what we know' but also on 'how we know it' and 'what remains to be discovered' – important for engaging and enthusing students.

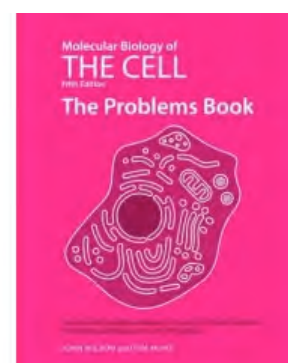
Other innovations in the new edition include the inclusion of end of chapter problems for the first time. The answers to these problems are contained in the accompanying 'Problems Book' along with a further 2000 problems. This is an extremely useful resource for students keen to consolidate their learning and get practice in applying their knowledge to solving biological problems and perhaps also for lecturers seeking inspiration for exam questions. In addition to Chapters 21-25, the DVD contains all of the artwork from the book and an interactive media player with a large number of useful animations showing cell biology processes and techniques.

A quarter of a century after the first edition revolutionised cell biology textbooks, the new edition is as fresh, comprehensive and above all, as readable as ever. In keeping with the tradition established in earlier editions, the back cover art features the authors in the style of the Beatles' 'Revolver' album cover. Like its predecessors, this is a superb textbook for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students. Many practicing scientists will want to keep a copy handy as an invaluable and highly accessible reference book.



**John Mason**

*Centre for Integrative Physiology, University of Edinburgh*



*"I'm sure that I won't be the only BSDB member to be a bit disappointed to find that Chapter 22 'Development of Multicellular Organisms' is among those relegated to the DVD."*



## Reviewing a book for the BSDB

Suggestions for future book reviews are always welcome. If you know a book you think should be reviewed, please contact the Editor. Reviewers receive a free copy of the book for their trouble.

Here are some possibilities:

### From Allen Lane

Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body  
Neil Shubin

### Germline Stem Cells

Hou  
978-1-603-27213-1

### Exocytosis and Endocytosis

Ivanov  
978-1-588-29865-2

### From CUP

RNA Interference Technology: From Basic Science to Drug Development (Hardback)  
Edited by Krishnarao Appasani  
Cutting-edge overview of RNA interference (RNAi) technology, covering both fundamental science and applications.  
<http://www.cambridge.org/0521836778>

Plant Embryogenesis  
Suarez and Bozhkov  
978-1-588-29931-4

Hedgehog Signaling Protocols  
Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol 397  
J.I. Horabin  
978-1-58829-692-4

### From Humana Press

*Drosophila*: Methods and Protocols  
Dahmann  
978-1-588-29817-1

Epidermal Growth Factor  
Patel & Bertics,  
1-588-29421-8

### BSDB Discount from CSHL Press

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press is offering a 15% discount on titles for BSDB members. In order to take advantage of this, visit their special offers page (<http://www.scionpublishing.com/special/index.php>).

#### Recent titles from CSHL Press:

The Writing Life of James D. Watson.  
Professor, Promotor, Provocateur  
Errol Friedberg  
087969 7008

Gastrulation. From Cells to Embryos  
Claudio Stern  
087969 7075

Fly Pushing. The Theory and Practice of  
*Drosophila* Genetics, Second Edition  
Ralph Greenspan  
087969 7113

#### The Condensed Protocols *From Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*

This manual is a single-volume adaptation of the three-volume third edition of *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*.

Won for All: How the *Drosophila* Genome Was Sequenced  
Michael Ashburner

The Strongest Boy in the World: How Genetic Information is Reshaping Our Lives  
Philip R. Reilly



The main function of the BSDB Committee is to organise our meetings, from deciding on appropriate topics to arranging organisers and venues. If you have any ideas on topics for a good meeting, or on a good venue, don't hesitate to convey them to James Briscoe (or another committee member). The officers of the Society will be happy to answer any questions relating to their specific subjects.

## Officers

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More mutation and gene names from a parallel universe

*Sox<sup>Distal</sup>*

Mouse with fur covered feet. Caused by  
holes in this gene.

*Sox<sup>Patched</sup>*

Revertant of above

*gormless*

A mouse mutation: the individual lacks  
all trace of gorm

*PaxO*

Chick appetite mutant: continually eats  
until stuffed.

*Please send any others that you  
discover to the Editor*



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