

**BRITISH SOCIETY FOR  
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY**  
SUMMER 1996 - No. 33

# **The Molecular Basis of Positional Information**

Sponsored by the BSDB, the Company of Biologists  
and the Wellcome Trust

*Speakers include :-*

Kathryn Anderson  
Mariann Bienz  
Sean Carroll  
Steve Cohen  
Jonathan Cooke  
Denis Duboule  
Brigid Hogan  
Nigel Holder  
Herbert Jäckle  
Tom Jessell  
Cynthia Kenyon

Robb Krumlauf  
Peter Lawrence  
Mike Levine  
Julian Lewis  
Hans Meinhardt  
Doug Melton  
Elliot Meyerowitz  
Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard  
Jonathan Slack  
Jim Smith  
Cliff Tabin  
Lewis Wolpert



**University of Bath**  
**11 - 13 September 1996**

Booking forms may be obtained from :-

Mrs Elaine Wellingham, Conference Secretariat, Field End House, Bude Close, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 UK



# BSDB Newsletter

## No. 33 Summer 1996

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### AUTUMN SYMPOSIUM 1996

## THE MOLECULAR BASIS OF POSITIONAL INFORMATION

University of Bath

This meeting, organised by **Jim Smith** and **Cheryll Tickle** with **Jonathan Slack** as local organiser, will take place at the University of Bath from **Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th September**.

A **Registration Form** can be found in the 'detachable' **Centre Section** of the Newsletter. The full scientific programme appears on page 3.

### Topics for Future Society Meetings

Information about the 1997 meetings is given on page 4.

One of the major tasks of the BSDB Committee is to select topics for future meetings and then to ensure that these meetings are well organised and successful. It is obviously crucial that meetings are supported by the members of the Society, and we always welcome suggestions for future topics. If you have an original idea

for a major Spring Symposium, a smaller two day Autumn meeting, or for a one day workshop, please get in touch with the **Meetings Secretary, Ian Jackson** (see pg 8).



## From the Treasurer

### TRAVEL GRANTS

The BSDB awards three types of grants to its members, with preference given to graduate students and postdocs.

#### **BSDB Spring and Autumn meetings**

These are the only UK meetings for which there is BSDB support, and grants cover basic travel and conference expenses (but not conference dinners). We are currently able to fund demand but, if numbers increase, preference will be given to members who present posters (but see comment on foreign meetings).

#### **Practical courses**

Support of up to £300 is available for these courses and, at the moment, all applicants are funded. If more than about 8 members a year apply, however, a selection procedure will be introduced.

#### **Foreign meetings**

This is the category for which there is greatest demand and we cannot fund everyone. Rather than give members grants that are too small to be useful, current policy is as follows:

- \* About £350 will be available every month and awards will be made at the end of the month.

- \* No more than two people from one Department or one person from a group will be awarded a grant to go to a particular meeting, and preference will be given to members presenting work. If the Treasurer has no obvious grounds for assigning a grant to an excess of applicants from a group, the lab head will be asked to decide who will receive the money.

To apply for a travel grant, members should write to the **Treasurer** giving details of the proposed visit and the breakdown of the amount of money requested. They should enclose with the application a letter of support from their supervisor or laboratory head and, if appropriate, the abstract of the poster or talk they intend to present.

### *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 **Treasurer**.

### MEMBERSHIP

Last year, all members who were not paying the full subscription (£20 for normal and £7.50 for student membership) were contacted and asked to upgrade their standing orders. Members paying less than £10 who did not send in a new standing order were struck off the list, while those paying £10 were to be given one last chance- **this is it**.

A letter will soon be sent to all such members asking them to uprate their standing orders to the full subscription. If these are not received by 1st September, they too will be struck off (or 'culled' to use a current term).

The Graduate membership rules have been slightly amended: students will be eligible for the reduced rate either until they are awarded their PhD or for a maximum of 4 years.

**Jonathan Bard, Treasurer.**

**BSDB Autumn Meeting:**  
**University of Bath, 11-13th September 1996**

**'THE MOLECULAR BASIS OF  
POSITIONAL INFORMATION'**

Organisers: Jim Smith and Cheryll Tickle

**Wednesday 11th Sept**

**Specification and interpretation of positional information.**

Chair: Cheryll Tickle

2.00 - 2.30

2.35 - 3.05

3.10 - 3.40

3.45 - 4.15

*Tea*

Chair: Paul Brickell

4.15 - 4.45

4.50 - 5.20

5.25 - 5.55

Peter Lawrence (Cambridge)

Brigid Hogan (Nashville)

Elliot Meyerowitz (Cal Tech)

Hans Meinhardt (Tubingen)

Herbert Jäcke (Gottingen)

Mike Levine (San Diego)

----

**Thursday 11th Sept**

**Body axis formation**

Chair: Rosa Beddington

9.00 - 9.30

9.35 - 10.05

10.10 - 10.40

10.45 - 11.15

*Coffee*

Chair: Phil Ingham

11.15 - 11.45

11.50 - 12.20

12.25 - 12.55

1.00 - 2.00

*Lunch*

Jonathan Cooke (London)

Doug Melton (Harvard)

Cynthia Kenyon (San Francisco)

Mariann Bienz (Cambridge)

Jim Smith (London)

Kathryn Anderson (Berkeley)

**Notochord and Neural patterning**

Chair: Anne Warner

2.00 - 2.30

2.35 - 3.05

3.10 - 3.40

3.45 - 4.15

*Tea*

Chair: Malcolm Maden

4.15 - 4.45

4.50 - 5.20

5.25 - 5.55

Robb Krumlauf (London)

Tom Jessell (Columbia)

Julian Lewis (Oxford)

Nigel Holder (London)

Janni Nüsslein-Volhard (Tubingen)

Jonathan Slack (Bath)

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**Friday 13th Sept**

**Limb development**

Chair: Vernon French

9.30 - 10.00

10.05 - 10.35

10.40 - 11.10

11.15 - 11.45

*Coffee*

Steve Cohen (Heidelberg)

Sean Carroll (Madison)

Denis Duboule (Geneva)

**Handedness and finale**

Chair: Nigel Brown

11:45 - 12:15

12:20 - 12:50

Cliff Tabin (Harvard)

Lewis Wolpert (London) *Looking backwards into the future*



## FUTURE BSDB MEETINGS

**Spring 1997, University of Warwick.**

### **'Genetic Control of Vertebrate Development'**

This meeting will be organised by **Kathryn Anderson, Rosa Beddington, Nigel Holder, and Phil Ingham**. It will be held jointly with the Genetical Society at the **University of Warwick** from **19th-21st March 1997**, inclusive.

The meeting will focus on advances in the dissection of the molecular mechanisms underlying inductive interactions in the vertebrate embryo, but will also include relevant work on invertebrates.

#### **SPEAKERS will include:**

K. Anderson	D. Duboule	E. Meyerowitz
S-L. Ang	N. Hastie	A. Munnich
R. Beddington	P. Ingham	M. Pankratz
M. Bientz	C. Kimmel	L. Solnica-Kretz
E. Coen	R. Krumlauf	D. St. Johnston
M. Fishman	A. McMahon	

Further information, including a full programme and registration details, will appear in the next Newsletter.

**Autumn 1997, University of Cambridge.**

### **'Genomic Imprinting and its role in mammalian development and human diseases'**

This meeting will be organised in Cambridge by **Anne Ferguson-Smith, Wolf Reik and Azim Surani**.

Genomic imprinting confers functional differences on parental genomes in mammals and it results in parent-of-origin-dependent expression of certain, imprinted genes. Understanding of imprinting has advanced greatly since it was previously considered by BSDB (in 1990). This meeting will focus on current work on the developmental role of imprinted genes, on the mechanism of imprinting and the consequences of its failure, and on the evolutionary significance of genomic imprinting.

Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

## OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL MEETINGS

### **SYMPOSIUM ON SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY**

This meeting, organised by **David Price** and **Richard Ribchester**, will be held at the **University of Edinburgh** on **3rd July 1996**.

The Symposium will be concerned with the search for common mechanisms for regulating the structure and function of nerve connections during development and after nerve injury. The main focus will be on functions of activity, neurotrophic factors and cell adhesion molecules in synaptic plasticity.

Speakers will include:

*Visual cortical plasticity*  
D.Price (Edinburgh)  
L.Maffei (Pisa, Italy)  
C.Shatz (Berkeley, USA)  
D.Willshaw (Edinburgh)

*Neuromuscular plasticity*  
R.Ribchester (Edinburgh)  
J.Lichtman (St.Louis, USA)  
W.Thompson (Austin, USA)  
M-M.Poo (San Diego, USA)  
F.Walsh (London)

**Further programme details, contact:**

**Dr R.Ribchester or Dr D.Price,  
Dept of Physiology, University Medical School,  
Teviot Place,  
Edinburgh EH8 9AG.**

Fax: (44) 0131 650 6527; e-mail: R.R.Ribchester@ed.ac.uk or D.J.Price@ed.ac.uk

<p align="center"><b>Fifth International Congress of VERTEBRATE MORPHOLOGY</b></p>
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The Fifth Congress of the International Society for Vertebrate Morphologists will be held at the **University of Bristol** on **12-17th July 1997**. All those interested in vertebrate morphology and related areas are invited to attend. The call for papers and details of booking arrangements and costs will be published in September 1996, and the closing date for submission of papers will be in December.

**For further information, contact:**

**Professor J.M.V.Rayner,  
School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol,  
Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1UG, UK  
Fax: 44 117 925 7374; e-mail: ICVM97@bristol.ac.uk  
www: <http://www.bio.bris.ac.uk/icvm.html>**

<p align="center"><b>ISDB/ SDB International Congress of Developmental Biology</b></p>
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**July 5-10, 1997. Snowbird, Utah, USA**

**Proposed program**

**Plenary Sessions**

Molecular homologies & phylogeny; Signalling pathways in development; Pattern formation; Target finding and neuronal patterning; Establishing asymmetries.

**Concurrent Symposia**

Segregation of determinants; Lineage analysis and cell fate; Limb development; Eye development; Genetic regulation of organogenesis; Floral development; Cell type specification; Patterning the developing nervous system; Oogenetic information; Germline development; The organizer revisited; Transcriptional regulation in development; Signalling pathways in development; Heterochrony in development and evolution; Translational control.

Concurrent symposia will include invited speakers as well as speakers chosen from the abstracts. Plus there will be poster sessions for all participants to present their data. Evening workshops will be organized on special scientific topics, techniques, education, minority affairs, funding opportunities, international interactions, science in developing countries.

**For more information, contact:**

**Ida Chow, Executive Officer, Society for Developmental Biology USA,  
FAX 301-530-7049,**

or watch for updates on the SDB home page, <http://sdb.bio.purdue.edu>



# DISCOUNTED JOURNALS & BOOKS

## JOURNALS

Remember the discounted journal personal subscription rates for **BSDB** Members!

**Development** at **£130** (instead of £140) - see the Centre Section of the Newsletter.

**BioEssays** at **£60** (instead of £70).

**Developmental Biology** at **\$230** (instead of \$403)

**Trends in Genetics** at **£62** (instead of £78)

-for details, see previous Newsletter

We have agreed reduced subscriptions for **Current Biology** and **Current Opinion in Genetics & Development**. Members will be contacted directly by Current Biology Ltd.

### Development, Genes and Evolution.

This is the continuation 'under new management' of **Roux's Archives of Developmental Biology** (R.I.P.)

"The journal reports on experimental work at the systemic, cellular and molecular levels in the field of animal and plant systems, covering aspects of the following topics: Developmental diversity and evolution; Genes and pattern formation in invertebrates, vertebrates and plants; Axial patterning, embryonic induction and fate maps; Neural development and cell lineages: Morphogenetic movements and the cell surface."

The personal subscription rate is quoted at DM 140 - we will try for a society member's reduction (but don't hold your breath - it is still published by Springer).

## BOOKS

### DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTS

There are copies of recent **Development Supplements** (from our BSDB Symposium Meetings) now available at half-price !!!!!

<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Price</u>
1991	<i>Nerve Cell Development</i>	£17
1992	<i>Gastrulation</i>	£27
1993	<i>Signals, Polarity and Adhesion</i>	£30
1994	<i>Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms</i>	£25

Potential purchasers should write to:

Dr. Richard Skaer,  
Company of Biologists Ltd, Bidder Building, Cambridge Commercial Park,  
140 Cowley Road, Cambridge CB2 4DL.

**EMBRYOS: A Color Atlas of Development, J.B.L.Bard (Ed).**

Essential for your coffee table and now much reduced in price - see 'flier'

## CALLING GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Those of you who were at the AGM at the Spring meeting in York will already know that the vacancy for Graduate Rep on the BSDB Committee was filled by us (**M.Louise Smith** from Michael Akam's lab in Cambridge; **Marcus Hicks** from Dr Bevan's lab in Manchester). Our job is to communicate Graduate Student Views (good or bad) to the BSDB Committee. So please do not hesitate to contact us with any complaints or comments by e-mail, phone, fax or snail mail\*. Look us up on the addresses page at the back. Looking forward to your moans!!

Louise Smith & Marcus Hicks

(\* Some of us - maybe only one of me - prefer 'human' to 'snail' mail and deeply appreciate its non-e characteristics - Ed.)

# CENTRE SECTION

This "Centre Section" can be removed without damaging the rest of the Newsletter. It contains a form for subscribing to Development (below), a membership application and banker's order form, a subscription amendment form and the Registration form for the Autumn Meeting at Bath University.

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## Development

**Members of the BSDB are entitled to a reduction in the subscription price to 'Development'. The general 1996 personal subscription is £140 but, for BSDB members, it is (only) £130.**

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To: **Development**  
The Company of Biologists Ltd,  
Bidder Building,  
140 Cowley Road,  
Cambridge, CB4 4DL UK.

Please enter my subscription to **Development** for 1996. I undertake not to pass my subscription copies on to a library. I enclose a cheque for **£130** made payable to "The Company of Biologists Ltd".

Signature: .....

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

**Other CoB Journals, including BioEssays (£60), the Journal of Cell Science (£99) and the Journal of Experimental Biology (£99), are also available at reduced rates. To subscribe, write to the above address with your cheque and a signed undertaking that you will not pass your individual copy on to a library.**



# BSDB Autumn Meeting : University of Bath, September 11-13 1996.

## "The Molecular Basis of Positional Information"

Surname..... First name.....  
Title..... Male/Female.....  
Institution.....  
Address.....  
.....  
.....  
Telephone..... Fax..... email.....  
Special requirements (e.g.vegetarian).....

Accommodation will be in University Halls with a choice of standard or ensuite rooms. The meeting is designed to allow participants to travel on Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon, but please consult the conference secretariat if you wish to stay for additional nights. The Conference dinner will be held in the University SCR and is limited to the first 150. There will be **no** poster session.

Registration fees are: **BSDB full member £45; BSDB student member £30; Non-member £65.**

The registration fee covers the conference organisation costs, hire of university facilities, the Reception, the programme, tea and coffee. Membership and graduate student status will be checked on the Society's membership database.

**There is a penalty of £20 for late registration, so be sure to return this form well before the deadline of 17th July.**

	Wed 11th	Thurs 12th	Fri 13th	Total
Bed/breakfast standard £19				
Bed/breakfast ensuite £25				
lunch £6.80				
dinner £7.60		*		
Conference dinner £25		*		
Registration £30/£45/£65 +£20 after 17.7.96				
Grand total				

\*choose either normal or conference dinner.

Payment should be by sterling cheque, or Eurocheque, or bank draft drawn on UK bank. Credit cards are not accepted. Cheques should be made payable to **University of Bath.**

**Please return this form with payment before 17.7.96 to: Mrs E.S.Wellingham, Conference Secretariat, Field End House, Bude Close, Nailsea, Bristol BS19 2FQ. Tel and fax 01275 853311.**

Data protection: The personal information on this form will be processed by the secretariat for the purposes of administering the conference. If you do not wish to be included in the list of participants, please tick here.....



# APPLICATION FOR BSDB MEMBERSHIP

Full name: ..... Title ... Degrees .....

Professional address: .....

.....

.....

.....

Research interests: .....

.....

I wish to apply for Ordinary (£20)/Student (£7.50) membership of the Society (delete as applicable)  
Applications must be endorsed by two Society members who should sign below:

..... Name: .....

..... Name: .....

Please return this form, together with the completed Banker's Order (below) to the Society Secretary:  
**Prof. J.M.W.Slack, Developmental Biology Programme,**  
**School of Biology & Biochemistry, South Building,**  
**University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY.**

For Society Use

Acknowledged: ..... Mailing list: .....

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To: The Manager,

..... Bank

.....

.....

Please pay to the **British Society for Developmental Biology,**  
**Account no: 80867675**  
**Barclays Bank plc, P.O. Box No. 4BP,**  
**Liberty House, 212 Regent Street,**  
**LONDON W1A 4BP.**

the sum of £ ( ..... pounds) on October 1st 1996 and on the same day each year  
succeeding unless this instruction is altered in writing by me. This instruction replaces any previous  
instruction of payment to the British Society of Developmental Biology, which should be cancelled.

Signature: ..... Account No: .....

Name\*: ..... Date : .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

\* as shown on cheque book.



## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Membership subscriptions were increased several years ago to the current rates of **£20** for full members and **£7.50** for graduate students. A few members are still paying at old rates - those paying only £10 will be deleted from the mailing list unless the banker's order is uprated NOW. Please check your bankers order to ensure that you are up-to-date. If you have not yet upgraded it, please fill in the form below and send it to **your own bank**, (not to the Treasurer or the Secretary of the Society).

Please note that the graduate student rate of £7.50 is applicable **for a maximum of 4 years**, after which you must pay the full rate, regardless of your status.

Jonathan Bard, BSDB Treasurer.

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To: The Manager,

..... Bank

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.....

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Please pay to the **British Society for Developmental Biology,**  
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**Barclays Bank plc,**  
**P.O. Box No. 4BP,**  
**Liberty House, 212 Regent Street,**  
**LONDON W1A 4BP.**

the sum of £ ( ..... pounds) on October 1st 1996 and on the same day each year succeeding unless this instruction is altered in writing by me. This instruction replaces any previous instruction of payment to the British Society of Developmental Biology, which should be cancelled.

Signature: ..... Account No: .....

Name\*: ..... Date : .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

\* as shown on cheque book.



## BOOK REVIEW

### EXPERIMENTS IN PLANT TISSUE CULTURE

3rd Edition

J. Dodds & L. W. Roberts

Cambridge University Press

Hardback ISBN 0 521 47313 6. £35.00

Paperback ISBN 0 521 47892 8. £13.95

Since "Experiments in Plant Tissue Culture" has been on our laboratory shelf, it has been well-thumbed. The text deals in a clear and concise manner with all problems which might be encountered by the student and researcher attempting tissue culture of higher plants. The authors are not content merely to give recipes: each chapter also includes a fascinating resume of the concepts and history behind the techniques, which is most important to young researchers entering the field.

I was disappointed with the absence of a chapter about tissue culture of primitive plants, such as *Chlamydomonas*, ferns and mosses, or one concerning the particular problems of woody plant tissue culture. I recognise that the use of a restricted number of experimental species enables comparison between work conducted in different laboratories, but nevertheless I feel that Botanical research would be poorer if reduced to considerations only of *Arabidopsis* or *Nicotiana*.

In summary, a worthy text and an excellent addition to any plant science laboratory.

*John Love,  
Institute of Cell & Molecular Biology,  
University of Edinburgh.*

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(Arms will be twisted and the next edition of the Newsletter will be a bumper one for Book Reviews - Ed.)



# BSDB COMMITTEE members

## and other useful addresses

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 a committee member. The officers of the society have specific functions. Jim Smith (Chairman) keeps order; Jonathan Slack (Secretary) deals with the membership list; Jonathan Bard (Treasurer) handles the subscriptions and awards travel grants; Ian Jackson (Meetings Secretary) does most of the work in arranging meetings and deciding on venues; Vernon French (Publications Secretary) assembles this Newsletter and helps edit the Symposium volume. These Officials will be happy to answer any questions relating to their subjects.

### Officers

#### **Chairman**

Jim Smith (1994-1999)

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Guy's Tower, UMDS Guy's Campus,  
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Tel: 001 612 625 9429  
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**BSDB on WWW**

We now have a web entry which will  
give key information about the Society.  
It can be found at:

<http://www.ana.ed.ac.uk/BSDB>



# NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME: .....

Note that from ...../...../ 199.....  
my address will be:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

(my previous address was:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....)

SIGNATURE: .....

Return completed form to:

Prof. J.M.W.Slack,  
Developmental Biology Programme,  
School of Biology & Biochemistry,  
South Building,  
University of Bath,  
Bath BA2 7AY.