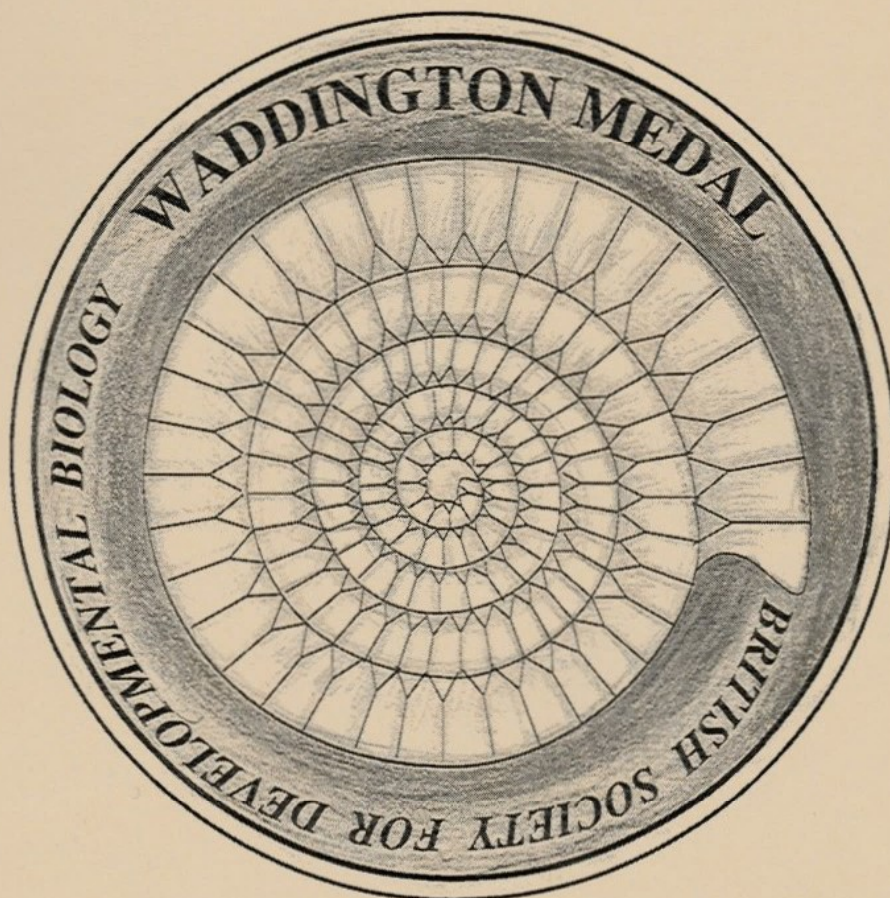


**BRITISH SOCIETY FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY**
WINTER 1997 - No. 36

SPRING MEETING 1998
31 MARCH - 3 APRIL - UNIVERSITY OF LANCASTER

***DEVELOPMENTAL
PATHWAYS***



BSDB Newsletter

No. 36 Winter 1997

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BSDB SPRING MEETING, 1998

DEVELOPMENTAL PATHWAYS

University of Lancaster

The **Registration Form** can be found in the 'detachable' **Centre Section** of the Newsletter.

The **Programme** of the meeting appears on **pages 4-6**.

---Note: Registration & Abstract Deadline is JAN. 30TH---

The 'Headless Tadpole' affair

Members may have noticed a brief flurry of media interest during October centring on the Society's secretary, Jonathan Slack, and on the University of Bath. Perhaps a few words of explanation are necessary. There was, in fact, no new discovery, and there was no press conference or announcement from Bath. Rather, the whole business was based on Jonathan Slack's brief appearance on a BBC *Horizon* programme about mammalian cloning. He was there as a developmental biology pundit to speculate about the potential implications of cloning technology. Before the programme was broadcast, however, an article about it was written by Steve Connor, the science correspondent of the Sunday Times. Somewhere in the editing and production of the paper, the article lost all mention of 'Dolly' and ended up on the front page with a sensational headline about headless frogs 'opening the way for a human organ factory'. This hyperbolic headline was based on Slack's work on anteroposterior specification in vertebrate embryos, which demonstrates that it is possible, by over-expressing certain genes, to suppress the formation of particular body parts. If you suppress enough, you have an organ culture rather than an embryo.

Following this article there was a deluge of media interest, and endless demands for interviews. Only a few interviews were actually given, to responsible national UK or North American networks, and the rest were fended off with a hastily written press release. After the first day the main networks lost interest but there was a trickle of requests from science magazines of various sorts. Jonathan attempted to use the opportunity to present the AP patterning work in a simple way to a wide audience. When questioned about organ transplantation, he repeated his comments on the *Horizon* programme and suggested that combining our knowledge of developmental biology and of molecular cloning may make this possible in the long term. But because of the sensitivity of such work it would have to be regulated by a statutory body, and it would, in his view, be unacceptable if the organ cultures either looked in any way human, or if their production involved maternal surrogacy. In particular, the need for an *in vitro* mammalian embryo culture system puts such technology many years into the future.

What are the lessons of this event? Firstly, never get entangled with the media without some training. Slack had received media

training while at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and therefore had some idea of what to expect. Short media training courses are quite widely available in universities and research organisations, and they are well worth attending (Jim Smith can provide more information). Secondly, if you generate a big story, or have one imposed upon you, prepare a press release which says clearly what you want to say. This will save a lot of time and misunderstanding.

Finally, there is the difficult question of whether or not publicity is beneficial, a question which is inextricably linked to the tone of the press coverage. Direct feedback to Jonathan on the story has been generally positive, although there have been some rude letters, all with a religious theme. An article in *Science* asks 'Did the *Sunday Times* blow the story out of proportion?'. As developmental biologists we might say 'yes', but Tom Wilkie, erstwhile *Independent* science correspondent and now working at the Wellcome Trust disagrees, saying 'in highlighting the research, the press is responding to a sensitivity that its readers already have... The responsibility of newspaper editors is not to the producers [of knowledge] but to the consumers'. Whether we like it or not, the media are immensely powerful and influential, and their influence can extend further than even they might imagine. As BSDB members may know, a

referendum is soon to be held in Switzerland on whether genetic engineering applied to animals should be used in medical research. The Swiss press quickly picked up on the *Sunday Times* article and published their own pieces along the lines of 'this time they've [the scientists] gone too far!' Such articles can sway public opinion enormously, and could effectively end biomedical research in Switzerland. An instinctive reaction is to presume that all publicity must be bad. But it is not possible or proper to conduct scientific research in secrecy. We conclude that when the media do become involved we have a responsibility not only to ourselves and to the public, but also to our colleagues in other countries, to communicate our results in a measured and non-sensational manner.

In this instance, Jonathan found that even specialist science journalists have no idea that there has been such enormous progress in understanding the molecular basis of development in the last 15 years, nor is it generally known how much conservation of mechanism there is between different animals. It is not even realised that embryologists have been making funny looking embryos for the last 100 years, so you should be prepared for questions on the morality of your activities even if previous generations have done similar things before you!

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:

* 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.

Also: The Treasurer now has a small additional fund to support other activities eg. travel within the UK, or the USA, in order to visit laboratories. Please email the Treasurer with any appropriate request.

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.

Application 3-4 months in advance is advised so that the BSDB contribution (£250 max) can be used as a lever to prise the rest of the money from other sources.

Please note: no-one will be awarded more than one travel grant per year.

Small Meetings

Members may approach the **Treasurer** for seed funding to help with organising developmental biology events (eg one-day meetings) that involve other institutions and at

which students and postdocs are encouraged to attend and present work.

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**.

Goodbye - some ex-members who had not upgraded their subscription to £20 have been humanely culled. Suspect Ph D students (student-rate members who are pre-1993 or who are suspiciously called "Dr" - oops!) have been contacted and will be culled if they do not upgrade.

Jonathan Bard, Treasurer

Meeting Report:

**The 13th International Congress of Developmental Biology,
The 56th SDB Annual Meeting,
July 5-10, 1997, Snowbird, Utah, USA**

Snowbird, Utah... a haven for holiday-makers on skis at this time of year, but back in hot July, almost 1000 developmental biologists arrived, clutching slides and posters ready for one of the largest developmental biology conferences ever held. Majestic snow-capped peaks, bathed in brilliant sunshine beckoned, but instead we were to spend our time indoors. It was a hard sacrifice, but the benefits were many as we heard talks from some of the most prominent developmental biologists around.

The meeting began with talks from the trio of Nobel Laureates Eric Wieschaus, Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard and Ed Lewis, before moving on to symposia as diverse as 'Lineage Analysis and Cell Fate', 'Flower Development' and 'Signalling Pathways in Development', to name but a few. Mornings started early, with a single symposium taking us through to lunch. As at all big meetings, some of the talks had to overlap otherwise we would have been there another week; hence in the late afternoon, three superb simultaneous programmes took place. But which to attend? For instance, should one hear Wolfgang Driever talk about the genetics of zebrafish neural plate patterning, Anne McLaren on germ cells in mice, or Jurgen Knoblich on asymmetric cell division in the fly?

In addition to about 100 oral presentations, there were approximately 700 posters on display in an outdoor marquee. For many of us, this was a valuable part of the meeting, as unlike many of the seminars, which often focused on published data, the posters often contained new, unpublished results. Sadly, pressures of time and space meant that posters could not stay up very long, and the extreme afternoon heat had us all wilting after an hour or two. For the really dedicated, one could also attend breakfast discussions, evening workshops and yet more talks, such as from prize-winners Nicole le Douarin (Ross G. Harrison prize) and Elizabeth Hay (Conklin Award). Alternatively, a cable car ride up the mountain provided a fitting distraction.

Full marks to Janet Rossant and her team of organisers for putting on such a stimulating and informative meeting, in such a great location. Many thanks to the SDB and the BSDB for my trip! I hope that the SDB prize winner enjoys their trip to England to the BSDB/BSCB Spring Meeting in Lancaster next year, as much as I enjoyed mine. I think Utah has better mountains though....

Catherine Haddon,

Vertebrate Development Laboratory, Imperial
Cancer Research Fund, London

Developmental Pathways

Tuesday 31 March

Arrival and registration

Wednesday 1 April

9.00 **Plenary Lecture**

Richard Axel (New York) **The molecular biology of smell**

10.00

10.30 *Tea/coffee*

11.00 Henry Kronenberg (Boston) **Parathyroid hormone related protein and bone development**

11.30 Hans Clevers (Amsterdam) **β -catenin/TCF signalling in development and cancer**

12.00 ***Young Investigator Presentations***

12.30 Bruce Bowerman (Oregon) **Wnt signalling in *C. elegans***

13.00 *Lunch*

14.00 Patrick Lemaire (Marseille) **Regionalisation of the amphibian organiser**

14.30 Andy McMahon (Cambridge, Mass.) **Signalling pathways in vertebrate limb morphogenesis**

15.00 Clive Dickson (London) **A role for fibroblast growth factor signalling in pregnancy dependent mammary gland development**

15.30 *Tea/coffee*

16.00 Pat Doherty (London) **Collaboration between cell adhesion molecules and growth factor receptors in neuronal plasticity**

16.30 Masatoshi Takeichi (Kyoto) **The role of cadherins in CNS wiring**

17.00 ***Young Investigator Presentations***

18.00-19.30 *Poster session*

Thursday 2 April

9.00 **Yamanouchi Lecture**

Paul Nurse (London) **Polarity mutants in *S. pombe***

10.00 Cathie Martin (Norwich) **The control of epidermal cell shape during petal development in flowers and the relationship to other types of epidermal specialisation in plants**

10.30 George Coupland (Norwich) **The transition from vegetative growth to flowering in *Arabidopsis***

11.00 *Tea/coffee*

11.30 Caren Chang (Maryland) **The ethylene hormone-response pathway in *Arabidopsis***

12.00 Jeff Wrana (Toronto) **TGF β signalling and MAD-related proteins**

12.30 Irma Thesleff (Helsinki) **Signalling pathways in the regulation of tooth morphogenesis**

13.00 *AGM and lunch*

14.00 Vicky Rosen (Cambridge, Mass.) **Functional analysis of BMP receptors**

14.30 Ali Hemati Brinvalou (New York) **The molecular basis of vertebrate neural induction**

15.00 ***Young Investigator Presentations***

15.30 Norbert Perrimon (Boston) **Signalling pathways that regulate the cytoskeleton in *Drosophila***

16.00 *Tea/coffee*

16.30 David Ish Horowitz (London) **Regulation of segmentation in flies and vertebrates**

17.00 Andrew Tomlinson (New York) **Long range signalling and planar polarity in the *Drosophila* eye**

17.30 ***Presentation of the BSDB Waddington medal***

19.00 *Conference Dinner, Jazz and Disco*

Friday 3 April

9.30 Tony Hunter (La Jolla) **Signalling by receptor protein-tyrosine kinases and phosphatases**

10.00 Vasillis Pachnis (London) **The GDNF/Ret signal transduction pathway during mammalian embryogenesis**

10.30 David Wilkinson (London) **Role and regulation of Eph receptors and ephrins**

11.00 *Tea/coffee*

11.30 Tony Pawson (Toronto) **Modular protein interactions in tyrosine kinase signalling**

12.00 Jeff Williams (London) **The regulation of cellular differentiation in *Dictyostelium* by a STAT protein**

12.30 *Lunch and end of meeting*

BSDB Workshop - "Skin"

Wednesday 1 April 1998

1. Adhesion and Cytoskeleton in Skin Development

- 10.00 Elaine Fuchs (Chicago) Smith & Nephew Lecture **Functions of the epidermal cytoskeleton**
10.30 Fiona Watt (London) **Role of β -1 integrins in regulating keratinocyte growth and differentiation**

11.00 *Tea/Coffee*

2. Development of Skin Appendages

- 11.30 Cheng-Ming Chuong (Southern California) **Early molecular events in feather morphogenesis**
12.00 Colin Jahoda (Durham) **Adult skin appendage cell interactions - beyond the bare necessities**

12.30 *Lunch*

3. Regulation of Skin Development

- 14.00 Danielle Dhouailly (Grenoble) **Early molecular regulation of skin development**
14.30 Thomas Sargent (Bethesda) **Function of the homeobox gene *Dlx3* in epidermal differentiation**
15.00 Carolyn Byrne (Manchester) **Patterned terminal differentiation and barrier formation in the late gestation foetus**

15.30 *Tea/Coffee*

- 16.00 Martyn Chidgey (Manchester) **Desmocollins in skin development**

4. Skin Diseases and Development

- 16.30 Robin Eady (London) **Lessons in epidermal biology from human knockouts**
17.00 Mark Ferguson (Manchester) **Scar free healing in the embryo and the control of scarring in the adult**

BSDB Evening Workshop - "GSK-3"

Wednesday 1 April 1998

- 19.30 Adrian Harwood (London) **GSK-3 regulation in *Dictyostelium***
20.00 Dario Alessi (Dundee) **The insulin signalling pathway regulating GSK-3 activity**
20.30 Jim Woodgett (Toronto) **A thousand and one ways to inactivate GSK-3**
21.00 Trevor Dale (Sutton) **Wingless regulation of GSK-3**
21.30 Phillip Gorden-Weeks/Patricia Salinas (London) **Wnt signalling in cerebellar neurons and the regulation of MAP1B phosphorylation by GSK-3 β**

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, and the Registration and Abstract forms for the Autumn Meeting at Cambridge University.

Development

Members of the BSDB are entitled to a reduction in the subscription price to 'Development'. The general 1998 personal subscription is £185 but, for BSDB members, it is (only) **£167**, £150 for New Subscribers.

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

Please enter my subscription to **Development** for 1998. I undertake not to pass my subscription copies on to a library. I enclose a cheque for **£167** made payable to "The Company of Biologists Ltd".

Signature:

Name:

Address:
.....
.....

Other CoB Journals - the Journal of Cell Science (£113) and the Journal of Experimental Biology (£131) - 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.

NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME:

Note that from/...../ 1998.

my address will be:

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

Tel; Fax; e-mail:.....

(my previous address was:

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

SIGNATURE:

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

BSDB/BSCB Joint Spring Meeting, Lancaster University
31 March-3 April 1998

INFORMATION SHEET

Venue

The meeting will be held on the Lancaster University campus at Bailrigg, about 3 miles south of Lancaster city centre. The plenary lectures will take place in the Great Hall and the main BSDB/BSCB symposia and the workshop sessions will be held in the Faraday lecture theatre complex. Tea and coffee will be served adjacent to the posters in the Nuffield Theatre and Minor Hall.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be in single rooms on the University campus. The registration form gives rates for dinner, bed and breakfast in either standard or en suite rooms. A small number of en suite twin rooms are available, charged at twice the single room rate. If you wish to book a twin room, contact the Lancaster University Conference Centre on the number shown on the registration form.

Programme

The provisional scientific programme for the main BSDB symposium is attached. The BSCB symposium, entitled "Intracellular Localisation" will run in parallel. There will also be a parallel session on Skin and an evening workshop on GSK-3. The scientific programme will begin at 9.00 promptly on Wednesday 1 April. Participants who plan to stay at Lancaster should arrive and register on the Tuesday evening. Others should aim to arrive by no later than 8.15 on the Wednesday morning in order to complete registration formalities before the scientific programme begins.

Registration Details

Pre-registration is essential and must be completed by **30 January 1998** to avoid a late registration penalty of **£20**. All registrants must complete the official form (attached), and must remit in full to cover all accommodation and meeting costs when submitting their form. Registrants will receive an acknowledgement and receipt, including details of how to arrive in Lancaster.

Meeting Charges

Members of the BSDB or BSCB can purchase an extremely attractive all-inclusive package including accommodation, meals and registration for the entire meeting. For those who do not wish to attend the whole meeting, or who do not require the full accommodation and meals facilities offered, registration is payable which covers the costs of tea, coffee, abstract and programme booklet and social programme, plus the cost of conference organisation and hire of University facilities. Registrants choosing this option can purchase additional accommodation and meals as required but please note that all such requests must be made at the time of pre-registration, and cannot be arranged in Lancaster at the last moment. Registrants who are not members of either society can either apply to join well in advance of the 30 January deadline, in order to take advantage of the Member Package, or else must pay the Non-member registration fee plus accommodation and meals as required. Note that there are discounted rates available for students. Details of how to pay are given at the foot of the registration form.

Social Programme

There will be private bar facilities with a late extension on the Wednesday and Thursday nights. A conference dinner will be held on the Thursday night followed by live jazz and a disco. The conference dinner is included in the Member Package, but others wishing to attend the conference dinner must

indicate and pay for this when submitting their registration form. Those not attending the conference dinner may nevertheless come to the jazz and disco evening.

Accompanying Persons

Accompanying persons must complete a separate registration form. All accommodation and meal costs must be paid at the time of pre-registration, although they are exempt from the registration fee. They may attend the social programme except for the conference dinner, unless purchased separately, but may not attend the scientific sessions, and will not receive an abstract/programme booklet.

Creche Facilities

Participants with children may be interested in using the University's Pre-School Centre on campus. The Centre caters for children aged between 3 months and 5 years old. Further details can be obtained by contacting the Centre directly: Tel: 01524 594464, e-mail: m.kemp@lancaster.ac.uk or consult the Centre's web pages on <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/pre-school/>.

Car Parking

Participants travelling by car will be issued with parking permits on arrival. Please indicate on the registration form whether you require a parking permit.

Posters and Abstracts

All participants are encouraged to present a poster at the meeting. The poster session is intended to be of general interest, i.e. it will provide an opportunity for members of both societies to present work on any topic in cell and developmental biology, not just on the subjects of the main symposia. Poster presentations from students who are members of the BSDB or BSCB, and who have not been awarded a higher degree at the time of registration for the meeting, will be eligible for special poster awards. To present a poster, please note the details on the accompanying page, and send your abstract **electronically** to arrive no later than **30 January 1998**. Abstracts can be accepted only by e-mail or on diskette. If you have indicated on your form that you are a student society member, you will automatically be considered for a poster award if you submit an abstract and present a poster. However, if you do not submit an abstract by the deadline we cannot guarantee that there will be space for you to display a poster!

Travel Grants

The BSDB gives grants to cover basic travel and conference expenses. 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 their 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.

Web Site

Up to date information and copies of the registration form can be obtained from the conference Web Site on <http://bssv01.lancs.ac.uk/ads/bsdb/welcome.htm>.

REMEMBER!!!

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE: 30 January 1998

Late Registration Penalty: £20

POSTER ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 30 January 1998

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

Abstracts should be sent **ELECTRONICALLY**, preferably by e-mail (as attachments or else in a text-only message) to

a.shirras@lancaster.ac.uk

or, failing that, on diskette to

Alan Shirras
Division of Biological Sciences
Lancaster University
Lancaster
LA1 4YQ
UK

Please identify your abstract in the following way: If sent as an e-mail message, please write Lancaster - followed by your surname (add initials if it is a common name) as the subject field of the message. If sent on diskette or as an attached file, please name the file as Lancaster - (your surname), or a suitable abbreviation thereof if required by your word processor. If you are a graduate student, or junior postdoc, and wish to be considered for a short talk in addition to your poster presentation, please indicate this by adding the word "talk" to the subject line of your e-mail message, or by writing "talk" clearly on the diskette. We can deal with most PC or Mac word-processing packages but if there is a problem in transmission or decrypting we'll get back to you.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is **30 January 1998**. Please do not enclose your diskette or a hard copy of the abstract with your registration form, which must be sent to a separate address.

Abstracts should be not more than **300 words**, to fit inside a rectangle **16 cm** across by **8 cm** deep. Figures and diagrams must be capable of being printed on a black and white laser printer, and must fit within the allowed space.

The abstracts will be made available to all participants in booklet form at the meeting. The text will not be retyped, so authors are responsible for the quality of presentation of the abstract. Any errors will appear in the reproduced text. Please draw our attention to any special characters or symbols, as these sometimes differ when transmitted or converted electronically.

Indicate, in the first line, the title and authors in capital letters. The name of the author who is responsible for the poster should appear first. Then indicate the laboratory where the research was done, the city, postcode and country.

The poster should start with the poster number (which will already be placed on your poster board) and title followed by the names and addresses of the authors. Remember, in a crowded room, it is difficult to read small text and results are best presented graphically or pictorially with the minimum of words.

REGISTRATION**PLEASE PHOTOCOPY****BSDB/BSCB SPRING MEETING: LANCASTER UNIVERSITY****31 March - 3 April 1998**

Name Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms

Address

Telephone Fax e-mail

Accommodation will be in Lancaster University residences with a choice of standard or en-suite room. The conference dinner is limited to the first 350. The registration fee includes the programme/abstracts booklet, tea/coffee, attendance at the scientific sessions and the social programme. Students have a reduced registration, **provided evidence of status is supplied with this form.**

Please circle details

Membership Status	Registration Fee
Society member	£50
Student member	£15
Non-member	£75
Student non-member	£30

	TUE 31	WED 1	THURS 2	FRI 3	TOTALS
Lunch (£7.25/day)					£
Dinner, B&B Standard (£29.35)					£
Dinner, B&B En-suite (£37.85)					£
Conference Dinner supplement* (£20)			*		£
Registration					£
Late Booking Fee† (£20)					£
Member Package Standard (£160)					£
Member Package En suite (£185)					£
				TOTAL	£

*Note: Those not choosing a member package must pay a £20 supplement if they wish to attend the conference dinner.

† The late booking fee will apply to forms received after **30 January 1998**.

Special dietary requirements Car parking permit required 

Cheques should be made payable to "Lancaster University". Bank drafts must be IN STERLING, drawn on a UK bank and made payable to "Lancaster University". Credit cards are not accepted. No refunds will be given for cancellations made after 10th March.

Return this form to **The Conference Centre, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YT, UK.** Queries Tel: 01524 592444

APPLICATION FOR BSDB MEMBERSHIP

Full name: Title ... Degrees

Professional address:

.....

.....

.....

Tel; Fax, e-mail:

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:

***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.

To: The Manager,

..... Bank

.....

.....

Please pay to the **British Society for Developmental Biology,
Account no: 80867675 (sort code 20-71-74)
Barclays Bank plc, P.O. Box No. 4BP,
Liberty House, 212 Regent Street,
LONDON W1A 4BP.**

the sum of £ (..... pounds) on October 1st 1998 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

NOMINATIONS FOR BSDB COMMITTEE

The AGM of the Society will be held during the Lancaster Symposium. One item will be the election of new committee members to replace those retiring in 1998.

If you wish to nominate someone for the committee, please fill in this form, including the candidate's consent, and return to the secretary, **not later than 6 weeks before the date of the AGM.**

Name:

Proposer:

Seconder:

I agree to serve if elected:

(Signature of candidate)

The posts of SECRETARY and MEETINGS SECRETARY fall vacant in 1998. If you wish to nominate someone specifically for one of these posts, please indicate.

Return completed form to: Prof. J.M.W.Slack
School of Biology & Biochemistry,
South Building,
University of Bath,
Bath BA2 7AY.

FUTURE BSDB MEETINGS

AUTUMN 1998, University of Sussex.

'The development of sense organs'

This meeting will be organised by **Julian Lewis, Karen Steel and Guy Richardson** and will be held at the University of Sussex, from Wednesday **16th September** to Friday **18th September 1998**. The programme will include talks on development of sense organs both of vertebrates and of invertebrates, including eyes, ears, noses, bristles and skin. The emphasis will be on the peripheral organs rather than the central connections.

We hope to include the following **invited speakers**:-

W.Gehring (Basel)
W.Harris (Cambridge)
S.Wilson (London)
M.Freeman (Cambridge)
F.Guillemot (Strasbourg)
C.Bargman (San Francisco)
K.Steel (Nottingham)
G.Richardson (Sussex)

C.Haddon (London)
D.Fekete (Purdue)
T.Whitfield (Sheffield)
A.Ghysen (Montpellier)
A.Jarman (Edinburgh)
M.Fitzgerald (London)
G.Lewin (Berlin)

Full programme and registration details will appear in the next BSDB Newsletter and on the BSDB web site. The deadline for abstracts and registration will be July 9th 1998. Participants are encouraged to register early, since numbers are limited to 150. Further details and abstract submission forms will be available in the Spring from:

Ms Amrit Khalsa (BSDB Conference),
6th Floor, ICRF, PO Box 123,
Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX.

Spring 1999.

'Cell Polarity in Development'

This meeting will be organised in **Nottingham** by **Daniel St.Johnston**, on **12th-16th April**. Further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

Topics for Future Society Meetings

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**.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL MEETINGS

EMBRYOS, GENES AND BIRTH DEFECTS

INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH, LONDON

5TH - 7TH MAY 1998

Course Organisers: Prof Peter Thorogood
Prof Robin Winter

Up to 2% of live-born babies have a major malformation, of either genetic or teratogenic origin. In recent years there has been a tremendous increase in our knowledge of the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal embryonic development. This course will provide an update on this expanding research area, integrating laboratory-based and clinical approaches, and addressing the scientific foundations of many topical areas in the study of birth defects. This course has CME accreditation and is designed for basic scientists, paediatricians, obstetricians, clinical geneticists, reproductive toxicologists and other professionals with an interest in congenital malformations.

Themes to be covered include:

- Mapping syndromes to genes
- Use of dysmorphology databases
- Molecular genetic approaches
- Transgenic technology
- Teratology as an analytical tool
- Analysis of birth defects of selected organ systems

Speakers will include:

Steve Brown * David Burt * Nigel Brown * Andrew Copp * Mike Dixon * Dian Donnai * Patrizia Ferretti * Ieuan Hughes * Robin Lovell-Badge * Willie Reardon * Peter Scambler * Peter Thorogood * Cheryll Tickle * Veronica Van Heyningen * Robin Winter * Adrian Woolf

Course fee: £175.00 inclusive of lunches, tea, coffee and reception. (a reduced fee is possible for postgraduate students)

Further details can be obtained from Continuing Education Office, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH (Tel: 0171-242-9789)

DISCOUNTED JOURNALS

Discounted **BSDB Member** personal subscription rates for 1998 journals!

***Development (24 issues)** at £167 (instead of £185) and only £150 for new subscribers!
- see the Centre Section of the Newsletter.

***Developmental Biology (24 issues)** at \$229 - please direct all orders and payments regarding member subscriptions to:

Stephanie Smith; Academic Press, Circulation Dept; 525 B Street Suite 1900;
San Diego, CA 92101-4495. USA.

***Trends in Genetics** - standard personal subscription: 194 Dutch guilders

***Trends in Cell Biology** - standard personal subscription: 242 Dutch guilders

- no information yet on BSDB member subscriptions to Trends journals

***Mechanisms of Development** - member subscription: **218 Dutch guilders** (instead of 280)

***Current Biology** - **£96.00** (instead of (£120) and

***Current Opinion in Genetics & Development** - **£100.00** (instead of £125)

***Development, Genes and Evolution**

I despair - Springer seem reluctant to quote a personal rate, let alone a member's reduction!

***BioEssays** is now published by **Wiley**. The personal rate will be \$120 within North America and \$180 outside North America. There is reduced rate, for BSDB members of **\$99** worldwide.

However, Wiley say that all orders must be accompanied by current proof of membership in the BSDB (!), must be prepaid and all checks must be drawn on a United States bank. Send orders, checks and proof of membership to: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. PO Box 7247-8491, Philadelphia, PA 19170-8491. If paying by credit card, ordering information and proof of membership may be faxed to 212-850-6021, or phoned to 212-850-6645.

We have told them that there is no BSDB Identity Card and we are assuming that a signed assertion of current BSDB membership will suffice.

CALLING GRADUATE STUDENTS!

Remember, the Graduate Reps on the BSDB Committee are **M.Louise Smith** and **Marcus Hicks**. Their job is to communicate Graduate Student Views (good or bad) to the BSDB Committee, so please do not hesitate to contact them - see the addresses page at the back.

The Waddington Medal

The BSDB has decided to award a medal to honour the memory of the grandfather of British developmental biology, Conrad Hall Waddington, and to give us all the opportunity to acknowledge the work of one of our own. It has to be said that the idea of awarding such a medal came from the Society of Developmental Biology in the USA who have, for the past few years, awarded the Conklin medal, and used the occasion for the recipient to give a short talk and for everyone to have a celebratory party.

Our medal has been designed by Rosa Beddington and the BSDB committee think that she has produced something to please any recipient. Rosa's design is on the cover of this edition of the Newsletter and she has explained the symbolism underpinning it as follows:

The ammonite was the fossil on which Waddington first worked as a paleontologist; he was impressed by how the relationship between the inside and outside of an organism shows its life history and became convinced that the evolution of organisms implies the evolution of developing systems. The "snake eating its tail" on the other side of the medal comes from a drawing in a Waddington school essay of 1923 and it suggested to him the idea of "feedback

control". The Greek phrase means "the one, the all" or "one entity incorporates into itself all other entities of the universe" and was seen by Waddington as some sort of "emblem" for his research. The *Drosophila* wing, the chick egg and the chromosomes all represent developmental systems that Wad worked on during a long and wonderful scientific career that spanned the period from about 1930-1970 and produced some 200 research papers and many books.

While we hope, indeed expect, that the annual celebration surrounding the award of the Waddington medal at the Spring Meeting will be as enjoyable as that associated with the Conklin medal, there will be a significant difference between the two. Thus far, the Conklin medal has been awarded to the great and the good of the USA, but with an emphasis on the retired (John Trinkaus, John Saunders and Betty Hay were the last three recipients). The BSDB committee intends, as a working rule, to award our medal to leading developmental biologists, not necessarily British, who are still in the research laboratory (and still "at it").

Jonathan Bard

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

August 1996 - July 1997

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

1995/6

-

£14,483
£12,137
£4,369
£2,552
£36,924
£34,000
£104,582
£104,582
£691
£103,891

Assets

Current Asset Investments

Baillie Gifford Managed Fund^{1,2}

Other Current Assets

National Savings
Barclays deposit a/c (30.6.97)
Barclays current a/c
Barclays: Louis Hamilton a/c
Abbey National savings a/c
Abbey National 2 year bond³

Total Current Other Assets

Gross Assets

Current liabilities (uncashed cheques) £2,880

NET ASSETS

1996/7

£53,817

£15,269

£12,605

£16,436

£2,585

£18,209

-

£65,104

£118,921

£116,041

EXPENDITURE & INCOME

Expenditure

Grant (Travel & Courses) £11,900
EDBO £722
Newsletter £2810
Small meetings £950
Cambridge meeting £4000
Bath meeting £9158
Warwick Meeting £12114
Committee & administration £1723
Membership reimbursement £200
Bank charges £96
Examining accounts £50
Last year's uncashed cheques £691
Total £44,414

Net incoming resources £10,522

Other recognised gains & losses

Unrealised gain on BG fund £3,817
Net movement in funds £14,339
Fund balance B/Fwd 1.8.96 £104,582
Fund balance C/Fwd 31.7.97 £118,921

Income

Membership (standing order) £13910
Membership (cheques) £1063
Capitation fee (CoB) £10,762
Bath meeting (grants) £7350
CoB grant for Warwick £12600
Kent meeting refund £400
Sale of computer £100
Sale of addresses £2230
Gift (for student travel) £600
Interest & appreciation
Barclays current a/c £352
Barclays deposit a/c £467
Louie Hamilton Fund £33
National savings £785
Abbey Nat. savings £1221
Abbey Nat. bond £3063
Total £5,921
Total income £54,936

Jonathan Bard
Honorary Treasurer

Notes

These accounts were prepared under the historic cost convention, in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and Recommended Practice of Accounting by Charities. The major change to the accounts is that a 2 year Abbey National Bond matured and it with some BSDB capital has been invested in the Baillie Gifford Managed Fund.

1. Baillie Gifford Managed Fund is stated at valuation at 30.6.97. The costs of the investment was £50K (two £25K tranches); the income is reinvested in the fund.
2. This account includes £25,500, the surplus on BSDB practical courses; that is used to provide grants for members to go on courses, and £1460 was spent in 1996/7 for this purpose.
3. This is the only restricted account and no call was made on it in the financial year 1996/7.

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. These Officials will be happy to answer any questions relating to their subjects.

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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>