1991 (#17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

EDBC-91: European Developmental Biology Congress

The European Developmental Biology Congress, EDBC-91, is to be held in Jerusalem, Israel, from August 11-16, 1991. The Chairperson of the Organising Committee, H. Eyal-Giladi, has provided the following information about the meeting. In addition, a flyer accompanies this Newsletter which you can use to obtain further details.

Location
The Ramada Renaissance Hotel (five star) is the Headquarters of EDBC-91. Other hotels of various categories are within walking distance.

Dates
August 11 - 16, 1991.

Language
The official language of the Congress is English.

Climate
Summer weather in Jerusalem is sunny and pleasant during the day and cooler at night. Temperatures range from 18 - 29 °C.

Program for accompanying persons
A diversified program of social events will be offered to all registered accompanying persons, who will also have the opportunity to attend all social events of the Congress. In addition, a special program is planned to coincide with the Scientific Sessions.

Travel and Accommodation
KENES TOURS, P.O. Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel. Tel: (03) 654571; Telex: 341171 KENS IL; Fax: 972 3 655674.
KENES TOURS is the official travel agent for the Congress and will provide all necessary services to participants. KENES TOURS, through its appointed agents and representatives abroad, is offering package services including flights, hotel accommodation (specially reduced room rates are available through Kenes Tours, otherwise individual room rates will apply), transportation and tours. The selection of tours includes:
- Jerusalem and nearby Bethlehem
- The Galilee region
- The Dead Sea
- The Mediterranean Coast
- The Red Sea and Eilat
- Tours to Egypt are available both before and after the Congress.

Official Carrier
EL AL Israel Airlines is the Official Carrier for EDBC-91. For addition information contact Kenes Tours.

Secretariat
The secretariat will be pleased to provide any information required. Please address all correspondence to:
EDBC-91
European Developmental Biology Congress
P.O. Box 50006, Tel Aviv 61500, Israel.

SPRING 1991

It is probable that the Spring 1991 Symposium meeting will be held in Leeds, with David Hames as local organizer. The topic has not yet been decided on, and suggestions are welcome. They should be sent to the Secretary, Peter Thorogood.

Spring 1991, Leeds

The 1991 Symposium Meeting will be held in Leeds, and the local organizer will be David Hames. The topic of the Meeting has not yet been decided, and Members are encouraged to send suggestions to Nigel Holder (Meetings Secretary) or Jim Smith (Publications Secretary). As a reminder, the Symposium Meetings over the last five years have concerned 'Segmentation', 'The Mammalian Y Chromosome', 'Determinative Mechanisms', 'Early Amphibian Development' and 'Programmes for Development'. This year's meeting is on 'The Molecular Basis of Positional Signalling' and next year's is on 'Imprinting'.

Spring 1991, Leeds: Neural Development

The Spring Symposium meeting for 1991 will, as usual, be a joint meeting with the BSCB. What is unusual is that the topics chosen by the two societies are rather similar. The BSDB will be concentrating on developmental neurobiology, while the BSCB concentrates more on cellular neurobiology. To ensure that all members of both Societies find something of interest at the meeting there will also be sessions on a wide range of non-neural topics.

The local organizer for this meeting will be David Hames, and full details of the meeting will be published in the Winter 1990 Newsletter.

Spring 1991, Leeds: Cellular and Developmental Neurobiology

The 1991 Spring Symposium meeting will be a joint meeting with the British Society for Cell Biology. The meeting is being held in Leeds from Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 April. The main topic of the BSDB is developmental neurobiology, while the BSCB is concentrating on cellular neurobiology. The programme (which is not yet final) is arranged so that morning sessions are held jointly with the BSCB and afternoon sessions are separate. Joint session speakers include **J. Campos-Ortega, G. Schoenwolf, C. Kimmel, S. Fraser, G. Banker, A Matus, S. Smith, F. Bonhoeffer, M. Poo, R. Lindsay, S. Thanos** and **D. Purves.** The parallel sessions are on *Cell Lineage* (**A. Lumsden, A. Tomlinson, M. Bronner-Fraser, P. Patterson** and **J. Price**) and *Neuronal Membranes* (**J. Cohen, D Edgar, P. Doherty, H. Betz** and **S. Kater**); *Axon Guidance* (**R. Keynes, J. Taylor, D. O'Leary, F. Rathjen,** and **M. Palczek**) and *Neuronal cytoskeleton* (**P. Gordon-Weeks, M. Fishman, D. Cleveland, R. Vallee** and **R. Vale**); and *Neuronal specification* (**R. Krumlauf, D. Wilkinson, C. Kintner, M. Maden** and **C. Doe**) and *Growth factors and survival* (**A. Davies, R. Oppenheim, B. Richardson, K. Unsicker** and **M. Sendtler**). As well as these talks there will also be sessions on transcription factors and on imaginal discs.

Full details of the meeting will be published in the Winter 1990 Newsletter.

Spring 1990, Leeds: Cellular and Developmental Neurobiology

The 1991 Spring Symposium meeting will be a joint meeting with the British Society for Cell Biology and the Brain Research Association. The meeting is being held in Leeds from Tuesday 9 to Thursday 11 April, and the topic is **Cellular and Developmental Neurobiology.** The programme is arranged so that mornings consist of a single session while the afternoons are divided into parallel sessions, one with a more cellular, and the other with a more developmental, leaning.

In addition, there will be seven alternative sessions, on **Genetic Disease: From Mutation to Phenotype, Control of Exocytosis, Biology of Leukocyte Recognition, Intracellular Movement, Transciption factors, Enhancer traps in the analysis of *Drosophila* evelopment,** and a workshop on **PCR techniques.**

The programme for the meeting, together with information for delegates, are on the following pages. A booking form for the meeting, and an abstract form, is in the 'Centre Section' of the Newsletter.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS
BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY (BSDB)
BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CELL BIOLOGY (BSCB)
BRAIN RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (BRA)
Joint Annual Conference
8-11 April 1991

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Main Symposium:
Developmental Nerve Cell Biology

Organized by: Nigel Holder, Dennis Bray, Andrew Lumsden, Roger Keynes and Hugh Perry

TUESDAY 9 APRIL 1991

Main Symposium Lectures	**Speakers**
• Early Decisions in Insect Neurogenesis	J Campos-Ortega
• Vertebrate Neurulation	G Schoenwolf
• Lineage and Early Neural Development in Zebrafish	C Kimmel
• Cell Lineage in the Vertebrate CNS	S Fraser

Parallel Sessions

• Cell Lineage (Organiser: A Lumsden)	M Bronner-Fraser, P Patterson, J Price
• Neuronal Membranes (Organiser: J Cohen)	D Edgar, P Doherty, H Betz, K Zinn

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 1991

Main Symposium Lectures

• Neuronal Polarity	G Banker
• Neuronal Cytoskeleton	A Matus
• Growth Cone Locomotion	S Heidemann
• Growth Cone Guidance	F Bonhoeffer

Parallel Sessions

• Axon Guidance (Organiser: R Keynes)`	J Taylor, D O'Leary, M Placzek
• Neuronal Cytoskeleton (Organiser: P Gordon-Weeks)	D Cleveland, S Strittmatter, K Kosik

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1991

Main Symposium Lectures

• Synaptogenesis	M Poo
• Neuromuscular Specificity	J Sanes
• Axon Regeneration	S Thanos
• Terminal Plasticity	D Purves

Parallel Sessions

• Molecular Control of Neuronal Fate (Organiser: R Krumlauf)	D Wilkinson, C Kintner, M Maden, C Doe
• Growth Factors and Neurotrophic Factors (Organiser: A Davies)	R Oppenheim, B Richardson, K Unsicker, M Sendter

Alternative Symposia:
BRITISH SOCIETY FOR CELL BIOLOGY

TUESDAY 9 APRIL 1991

• Genetic Disease: From Mutation to Phenotype	(Organizer: P Goodfellow)
• Control of Exocytosis	(Organizer: R Burgoyne)

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 1991

• The Biology of Leukocyte Recognition	(Organizers: M Humphries: J Lackie)

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1991

• Intracellular Movement	(Organizer: H Dickinson)

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

TUESDAY 9 APRIL 1991

• Enhancer Traps in the Analysis of Drosophila Development	(Organizers: R Whittle)

WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 1991

• Transcription Factors	(Organizers: J Williams and R Patient)

THURSDAY 11 APRIL 1991

• Workshop on Polymerase Chain Reaction Techniques	(Organizer: M McPherson)

MEETING REPORT

BSDB/BSCB/BRA Joint Symposium Leeds, April 1991

It is now more than a couple of years since my brain drained across the English Channel to work in my chosen field of developmental neurobiology, long enough in fact, to begin to miss that type of scientific meeting which is so cosy and British in character. And so it came about that I found myself in my native North of England, in not too miserable-weather, attending the annual Spring Symposium of the Societies, conveniently entitled "Developmental Nerve Cell Biology".

The meeting more or less fulfilled my expectations of a fairly relaxed atmosphere, with good reporting of good science from a proven group of British scientists, with the help of many reliable friends from across the Atlantic, mainland Europe and indeed the rest of the world. Plenary lectures and main sessions were, in general, excellent. The first plenary, given by the wonderfully individual Chuck Kimmel on the control of neural devlopment in Zebra fish was indeed a treat, getting the meeting off to a very good start. The second, given by Peter Goodfellow on sex determination, took me completely by surprise, both in terms of its attention capturing scientific content and its fringe theatre style of delivery, which was probably the most controversial part of the whole meeting. As I was asked to give an account of my personal impressions of the meeting, I will take the liberty of telling you that I do not belong to that camp which wished the table had collapsed or that which took offence at "the only thing that happens (when something goes wrong with sex determination) is that you turn into a woman" line. Rob Krumlauf, who spoke about homeobox genes and patterning of the vertebrate head and nervous system, was no match for the previous two in terms of comedy, but those looking for good, interesting and important science were not disappointed.

The developmental nerve cell biology main sessions which ran during the mornings, in parallel with sessions on non-neurobiological themes (genetic disease, transcription factors, the biology of leukocyte recognition, intracellular movement and PCR workshop) covered a number of interesting themes from early developmental events, through neuronal morphogenesis, growth cone movements and axon guidance to synaptogenesis, neuronal survival and regeneration. I particularly enjoyed the talks by Steve Heidemann, Muming Poo and Friedrich Bonhoeffer, for their novel approach to important questions (how do growth cones move, how are they guided and what happens during synaptogenesis). Most of the talks during these sessions I found really useful and felt that the speakers were well chosen.

Neurobiologists were spoilt for choice during the afternoon parallel sessions and painful decisions had to be made about which talks to miss out. It is of course a happy situation to have to complain that there were too many interesting speakers rather than too few. I heard later that my major errors were in missing Nick Cowen in the neuronal cytoskeleton session and Kai Zinn in "interaction at the neuronal cell membrane".

The local organisation was efficient, helpful and friendly. The university accomodation was good value and although some people were housed some distance away from the conference centre, the buses provided to ferry participants to and from the talks and social events made this no problem at all.

I have a major complaint about the attitude towards poster presentations. It was stated in the pre-meeting blurb that posters were

encouraged and so I duly submitted an abstract and took along a poster, having guessed the size and keeping my fingers crossed that I would be allotted a presentation space as I received no acknowledgement of receipt of my abstract or details about size and times of poster sessions. Actually, there were no real poster sessions, that is no allotted times (other than lunch and coffee breaks) during which presenters were required to stand by their posters in order that they might answer questions and speak to those interested in their work. Consequently, many people who took along posters, other than those who won the poster prizes, felt that their efforts had been a waste of time (me included). If it was felt that posters should not take up time during the day, then perhaps combining a poster session with an evening's social activity such as the beer tatsing would have been a solution. In this complaints section, I should add that an author index at the back of the abstract book would have been a great help.

In conclusion, I found the meeting as a whole stimulating abd enjoyable. There was a good selection of high quality speakers, a lively audience, and, I'm sure, lots of exchange of ideas. Well worth while!

Joanne Taylor
ETH Zurich
Switzerland.

Editor's comment:
The committee have noted the criticisms about the poor organisation of the poster session. We apologise to all those who contributed a poster and assure prospective contributors to future Symposia that every effort will be taken to ensure that this does not occur again.

DEVELOPMENT

TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

The journal is pleased to announce a new travelling fellowship program that is in keeping with the Company of Biologists' commitment to support research scientists.

In 1991 **DEVELOPMENT** is offering

FIVE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

OF UP TO $1500 EACH

Graduate and postdoctoral students are invited to apply to the Editors in 1991 for funds to assist travel, and expenses involved in visits to other laboratories.

Applications, which should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, an account of the work to be done, and a full breakdown of the costs involved, should include a letter of recommendation from the head of the laboratory in which the applicant is presently working and from the head of the laboratory in which the work will be done.

Applications should be sent to C.C. Wylie

The Editors in awarding the Fellowships will be guided by the excellence of the candidates, and the importance, and innovative quality of the work to be done.

Autumn1991, Lancaster: Genetic and developmental consequences of insertional mutagenesis

The Autumn 1991 meeting is a joint meeting with the Genetical Society. It will be held in Lancaster on the 18th and 19th September. The organisers are Mary Bownes and David Finnegan

AUTUMN 1991, Lancaster: Genetic and Developmental Consequences of Insertional Mutagenesis

The Autumn 1991 meeting is a joint meeting with the Genetical Society. The meeting is being held in Lancaster on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th September and the topic is Genetic and Developmental Consequences of Insertional Mutagenesis. The programme for the meeting is below. The booking form, together with information for delegates can be found in the 'Centre Section' of the Newsletter.

Tuesday 17 September

14.00-18.00 Arrival at Lancaster and registration
18.00-19.00 Wine Reception
19.00 Dinner

Wedneday 18 September

Use of transposable elements to study development in plants

Chairman; C. Martin (John Innes Institute, Norwich)

09.00 - 09.40 Enrico Coen (John Innes Institute, Norwich)
Transposons as tools for studying development in *Antirrhinum*

09.40 - 10.20 Caroline Dean (Cambridge Laboratory, JI Centre, Norwich)

Establishment of an efficient heterologous transposon system in *Arabidopsis thaliana* based on the maize transposable elements*Ac* and *Df*.

10.20-11.20 Coffee and Trade Exhibition

11.20 - 12.00 Kenneth Feldman (University of Arizona, Tucson)
Use of T-DNA insertion mutants in *Arabidopsis* to study plant development

12.00 - 12.40 Jonathan Jones (Sainsbury Laboratory, JI Centre, Norwich)
Properties and uses of the maize transposon *Activator* (*Ac*) in tobacco and tomato

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

Use of P-elements to study *Drosophila* development

Chairman: David Finnegan (University of Edinburgh)

14.00 -14.40 Cahir O'Kane (University of Warwick, Coventry)
RAMBO - temperature-inducible cell ablation in *Drosophila*

14.40 - 15.20 Mark Krasnow (Stanford University Medical Centre, Palo Alto)
Whole animal cell sorting to study *Drosophila* development

15.20 - 16.00 Tea and Trade Exhibition

16.00 - 16.40 Kevin O'Hare (Imperial College, London)
Suppressors of transposable element induced mutations as a way of identifying proteins involved in gene expression

16.40 - 17.20 Kim Kaiser (University of Glasgow)
Site-selected transposon mutagenesis: a reverse genetics approach for *Drosophila melanogaster*

18.30 Dinner

Thursday 19th September

Use of insertional mutagenesis to study mammalian development

Chairman: Mary Bownes (University of Edinburgh)

09.00 - 09.40 Rosa Beddington (Centre for Genome Research, Edinburgh)
Transgenic reporter genes to study early mammalian development

09.40 - 10.20 David Melton (Edinburgh)
The use of gene targeting to study mammalian gene expression and human disease

10.20 - 11.20 Coffee and Trade Exhibition

11.20 - 12.00 Frank Grosveld (NIMR, Mill Hill)
The regulation of the globin domain

12.00 -12.40 John Mullins (Centre for Genome Research, Edinburgh)
Transgenic approaches to the study of the cardiovascular system

12.45 Lunch and end of meeting

MEETING REPORT

Genetic and Developmental Consequences of Insertional Mutagenesis:
BSDB-Genetical Society Joint Meeting, Lancaster University , September 1991

I have had my arm twisted to write this report the day before the Newsletter copy deadline and nearly two months after the meeting so I apologise for any inaccuracies due to my *dunce*-like memory (see later)

Despite the eminence of the invited speakers and the opportunity to see the uses to which transposable elements are being employed in plants, flies and mammals, the meeting was poorly attended. However, this did give the more junior participants, such as myself, a chance to speak informally to several of the speakers during dinner and even more informally in the bar later. The talks were of a very high standard and accessible to an audience coming from such a wide range of backgrounds.

As a fly biologist, I was surprised to learn of the power and flexibility of transposable elements in plants. Ken Feldman and Caroline Dean seem to be proving that *Arabidopsis* can be the fly of the plant world and although not approaching saturation, large numbers of T-DNA (Feldman) and selectable Activator induced Dissociation insertions (Dean) have been recovered, which affect a range of developmental processes. Jonathan Jones spoke of a similar Ac/Dc system in tobacco and tomato and even of a form of enhancer trapping a la flies. Enrico Coen described the conservative and temperature inducible transposition of some *Antirrhinum* transposons which he has been using to analyse the autonomy of mutations and as tools for cell lineage studies.

The session on *Drosophila* development was very varied with the bias firmly on techniques developed in flies but with applications to other systems. RAMBO - a temperature inducible cell ablation technique was described by my boss Cahir (Sylvester) O'Kane. WACSing - a method of sorting transposon-marked cell types to study cell-cell interactions - was presented by Mark Krasnow. Kim Kaiser showed the results of his site selected transposon mutagenesis to recover *dunce* like flies that forget that males can't mate with males. Kevin O'Hare demonstrated the power of *Drosophila* genetics by his analysis of suppressors and enhancers of mutations caused by the insertion of several different transposable elements that may identify loci involved in gene expression.

Unfortunately, due to a prior commitment to speak at a meeting organised by the SERC, I was unable to attend the session on mammalian development. However, by all accounts the quality of the meeting was maintained with Rosa Beddington and David Melton reporting on advances with mouse embryonic stem cells and John Mullins genetic dissection of hypertension using transgenic rats. Tension was indeed rising amongst the organisers as Frank Grosveld arrived only just in time to describe his model for the regulation of the globin genes.

The organisation of the meeting was excellent and thanks are due to Alan Shirras for keeping it all running smoothly. However, as he's a Scot and has obviously enjoyed the benefits at past BSDB meetings, I'm surprised that he didn't insist on a late bar to keep the scientific discussions running longer!

Ian Roberts,
Dept. of Biological Sciences,
University of Wawick