

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON (September 2nd-8th.)

This will be the EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY CONGRESS, jointly organized by EDBO and BSDB. Chairman of the local committee is Peter Thorogood, but comments

SEPTEMBER 2nd - 8th. 1984 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

European developmental biology congress.

1984 - European Developmental Biology Congress - University of
Southampton - 2nd - 8th September

A first circular for this meeting is enclosed with this newsletter and gives details of the scientific programme: it also includes a tear-off reply strip which should be used to register on the mailing list for further information.

Programme planning is already at an advanced stage. There will be four parallel sessions running over a five day period and the topics to be covered are:

Developmental genetics of
 invertebrates and mammals
 Feto-oncogenes
 Early mammalian development
 Pattern formation
 Cell contact in development
 Matrix interactions
 Cell asymmetries
 Growth factors
 Theoretical models
 Introduction of foreign genes
 into organisms

Gene Commitment
 Developmental tumours
 Plant development
 Developmental immunology
 Developmental neurobiology
 Cell movements in development
 Cellular basis of morphogenesis
 Reproductive immunology
 Specific genes and introduced
 genes
 Human development
 Specific genes in development

Confirmed session organisers and co-organisers are:-

Morata (Madrid)
 Whittle (Sussex)
 De Robertis (Basle)
 Laskey (Cambridge)
 Simmons (Heidelberg)
 Hooper (Edinburgh)
 Wolpert (London)
 Iscove (Basle)
 Walbert (Stanford)
 Dunn (London)
 Sander (Freiburg)
 Middleton (Leeds)
 Wareing (Aberystwyth)
 Gaze (London)
 Le Douarin (Paris)
 Gardner (Oxford)
 Maclean (Southampton)

Buckingham (Paris)
 Bard (Edinburgh)
 Webb (Rehovet)
 Garrod (Southampton)
 Babinet (Paris)
 Stern (Oxford)
 Thiery (Paris)
 Weiss (London)
 Ceredig (Lausanne)
 Wylie (London)
 Jenkinson (Birmingham)
 Heath (Oxford)
 Gierer (Tubingen)
 Edwards (Cambridge)
 Cooke (London)
 Johnson (Cambridge)

Perhaps the underlying theme running throughout was an attempt to define those mechanisms which specify the patterning of the various tissues of the head, not simply the differentiation of the various constituent cell types. Emerging from this was also discussion of just how changes in those mechanisms might underly evolutionary/phylogenetic change in organization of the head, and also generate the various human craniofacial abnormalities encountered by the clinician or surgeon. Several directions for future research emerged. Firstly, the question of lineage composition of the neural crest was raised on a number of occasions and is clearly going to be the focus of attention in several labs. Secondly, the old nineteenth century anatomists question of whether or not the head is a segmented structure now seems likely to be resolved by parallel developments in two different fields; somitomes (nascent somites) have been identified in early head mesoderm before becoming obscured by subsequent developmental events, and also cDNA probes to homeobox-containing genes may be used to map their expression in the developing head by in situ hybridization techniques. And thirdly, we learnt of the achievements and potential of applying recombinant DNA technology as a diagnostic technique in screening for various familial craniofacial disorders, illustrated by the chromosomal mapping and imminent isolation of the gene involved in familial cleft palate.

We were blessed with active lively registrants who guaranteed good discussions, sunny and dry autumn weather and a pleasant campus setting adjacent to a beautiful old city. The meeting was organized under the auspices of the British Society for Developmental Biology and its success ensured by generous support from BSDB, the Royal Society, The Nuffield Foundation and the British Council. The proceedings of the meeting will be published by the Company of Biologists as a supplementary volume of Development in the Spring of 1988.

Peter Thorogood and Cheryl Tickle.

The abstracts of this conference were published in JEEM:

- British Society of Developmental Biology (BSDDB) (1984). European Developmental Biology Congress (abstracts). *J Embryol Exp Morphol* **Suppl. 1**, 1-271 --
<http://dev.biologists.org/content/82/Supplement>

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ABSTRACTS

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