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A Series of Topical Volumes in Developmental Biology

18

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W. Hennig, L. Nover, and U. Scheer



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Early Embryonic Development of Animals

W. Hennig (Ed.)

Early Embryonic Development of Animals

With 38 Figures and 9 Tables

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Introduction

There has been extremely rapid progress in developmental biology over the past 10 years. Thus, few conceptual publications are available which may serve as an introduction to a particular field and give a sufficiently broad range of insight without remaining too superficial. Such fundamental reviews, however, are needed, not only for advanced university teaching but also for graduate and postgraduate students entering a new field of interest.

This situation has induced me to prepare this volume of the Results and Problems in Cell Differentiation Series which might fulfill some of these requirements. Obviously, it is impossible to cover the wide range of topics in a volume of this kind. This requires not only a selection focusing on certain representative topics, but also presenting a variety of approaches and the different facets of developmental processes studied in different organisms. The most extensively studied organisms are *Drosophila*, *Caenorhabditis* and the mouse. Therefore these are the systems chosen for this volume. In addition, the zebrafish is being introduced in the field of developmental biology research so quickly that I considered it important to include an evaluation of its advantages and possibilities.

I believe that the different contributions cover their topics extremely well. I have used the reviews for teaching and found them very suitable for this purpose. Certainly, I myself have learned a great deal from this lecture and I enjoyed reading the different articles. Hopefully also other readers will share this opinion and will be encouraged to further extend their knowledge not only in a particular system but in the entire extent of the field.

It is with much gratitude that I thank the authors. Two of the articles were completed very early and had to be revised to keep them updated because of the retraction of other contributions. I feel very much indebted to these authors for their patience and understanding and I am grateful to the other for doing their best to submit their manuscripts quickly.

Nijmegen, Juni 1992

Wolfgang Hennig

Contents

1 The Molecular Genetic Basis of Positional Information in Insect Segments

(With 11 Figures)

JOAN E. HOOPER AND MATTHEW P. SCOTT

1	Introduction	1
2	The Experimental Basis for Positional Information and Its Local Character	2
2.1	Ablation and Grafting Experiments Reveal the Importance of Local Cell-Cell Interactions	2
2.2	Mechanisms of Regulative Responses	6
2.3	Models of Positional Information	7
3	<i>Drosophila</i> Development and Segmentation Genes	10
3.1	How a Syncytium Becomes a Metameric Embryo	10
3.2	Parasegments and Segments	15
3.3	The Developmental Origins of Adult Structures	16
4	Segment Polarity Genes, the Genetically Defined Components of the Intrasegmental Patterning System	17
4.1	The Phenotypes of Mutations in Segment Polarity Genes	17
4.2	Cell Fates Are Transformed by Segment Polarity Gene Mutations	22
4.3	Segment Polarity Genes Mediate Cell Communication	22
4.4	Segment Polarity Genes Specify Morphology	23
4.5	Segment Polarity Genes Functions in Internal Tissues	24
4.6	Maternal and Zygotic Requirements for Segment Polarity Genes	24
4.7	How Many Segment Polarity Genes Are There?	25
5	Segment Polarity Genes Maintain the Integrity of the Parasegment Border	25
5.1	Initiation of the Segment Pattern	26
5.2	Regulation of the Domain of <i>en/hh</i> Expression	27
5.2.1	<i>nkd</i> and <i>sgg</i> Repress <i>en</i> Expression away from the Parasegment Border	27
5.2.2	A <i>Wg</i> Signal Promotes <i>en</i> and <i>hh</i> Expression Near the Parasegment Border	27
5.2.3	Transcriptional Regulation by the EN Protein	29
5.3	Regulation of the Domain of <i>wg</i> Expression	30
5.3.1	<i>ptc</i> and <i>cos-2</i> Repress <i>wg</i> Expression Away from the Parasegment Border	32

5.3.2	An E/H Signal Promotes <i>wg</i> Expression Near the Parasegment Border	32
5.3.3	The <i>wg</i> Signal Is Required as an Autocrine Factor for <i>wg</i> Expression	34
5.4	The Gooseberry Paradox	35
5.5	A Missing Link; Polarized Responses to Bidirectional Signals	35
6	Segment Polarity Genes and Morphogenesis	36
6.1	A Late Functions of <i>wg</i> Specifies Naked Cuticle	37
6.2	Specification of Neuroblasts and Sensory Structures	37
6.3	Specification of Imaginal Discs	37
7	Segment Polarity Genes, Positional Information, and Future Prospects	38
	References	39

2 Embryonic Development in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (With 7 Figures)

PAUL E. MAINS

1	Introduction	49
2	The System	49
2.1	Life Cycle and Genetics	50
2.2	Molecular Techniques	51
2.3	A Description of Early Embryogenesis	51
3	Mechanisms of Cell Determination	56
3.1	Cell Autonomous Differentiation	57
3.1.1	Autonomous Expression of Tissue-Specific Differentiation Markers	58
3.1.2	Autonomous Execution of the Lineage Pattern	59
3.1.3	Nuclear Localization of Determinants	61
3.2	The P Granule, a Possible Cytoplasmic Determinant	62
3.3	Localized Determinants Alone Cannot Explain <i>C. elegans</i> Differentiation	64
3.4	Nonautonomy and Cell-Cell Signaling	65
3.5	Long-Range Patterning in the <i>C. elegans</i> Embryo	69
4	Control of the Orientation of the Early Cleavages	70
4.1	Anterior-Posterior Asymmetries	70
4.2	Orientation of Cell Division	71
5	Genetic Analysis	73
5.1	Maternal Control of Early Embryogenesis	74
5.2	Specific Mutations	77
5.3	Where Are the Gene Affecting Early Development	80
	References	84

**3 Analysis of Early Development
in the Zebrafish Embryo (With 3 Figures)**

ERIC S. WEINBERG

1	Introduction: Some Advantages of the System	91
2	Early Embryogenesis	93
2.1	Cleavage	93
2.2	The Blastula Stage	96
2.3	Epiboly	97
2.4	Involution: The Onset of Gastrulation	97
2.5	Convergent Extension	98
2.6	Somitogenesis and Segmentation	99
3	Cell Lineage and Embryonic Fate	100
3.1	Genetic Mosaic Analysis of the Pigmented Retina	100
3.2	Lineage Analysis by Injection of Tracer Dyes	103
3.3	Cell Transplantation Experiments	110
4	Gene Manipulations	111
4.1	Obtaining Haploid Embryos and Fry: An Advantage for Mutant Screens	111
4.2	Production of Clonal Strains Using "Late Pressure" and Heat Shock	113
4.3	"Early Pressure" Treatment and Mapping Genes	114
4.4	Mutagenesis	116
4.4.1	Gamma Ray Mutagenesis	116
4.4.2	Chemical Mutagenesis	119
4.4.3	Ultraviolet Light Mutagenesis	119
4.4	Chimeric Individuals	120
5	Developmental Mutants	121
5.1	Spadetail (<i>spt-1</i>)	121
5.2	Cyclops (<i>cyc-1</i>)	123
5.3	Neural Degeneration (<i>ned</i>) Mutants	123
5.4	Motility Mutants	124
5.5	No Notochord/no tail	125
6	Gene Expression	126
6.1	<i>Hox</i> Genes	126
6.2	<i>Engrailed</i> Genes	128
6.3	<i>Pax</i> Genes	130
6.4	<i>wnt-1</i>	131
6.5	<i>Brachyury (T gene)</i>	132
7	Transgenic Fish	133
7.1	The Zebrafish Is Only One of Many Fish Species Subject to Transgenic Studies	133
7.2	Methods of Introducing DNA into Zebrafish	134
7.3	Integration and Expression of the Transgenes During Development	135
7.4	Transmission of Transgenes Through the Germ Line	136
7.5	Transient Expression of Injected DNA	138

8	Summary and Future Prospects	139
	References	141

4 Early Mouse Development (With 9 Figures)

ACHIM GOSSLER

1	Introduction	151
2	Early Mouse Development	152
2.1	Gametes and Fertilization	152
2.1.1	Structure of Gametes	153
2.1.1.1	Sperm	153
2.1.1.2	Oocytes	154
2.1.2	Ovulation and Fertilization	154
2.2	Preimplantation Development	156
2.2.1	Early Cleavage Development	156
2.2.2	Separation of Embryonic and Extraembryonic Lineages	158
2.2.2.1	Compaction and Polarization	158
2.2.2.2	Formation of the Blastocyst	160
2.2.3	Gene Activity During Cleavage Development	161
2.2.4	Implantation	162
2.3	Postimplantation Development	162
2.3.1	Trophectoderm and Its Derivatives	165
2.3.2	Primitive Endoderm and Its Derivatives	166
2.3.3	Embryonic Ectoderm	167
2.3.4	Gastrulation and Development of the Germ Layers	168
2.3.5	Neural Tube and Neural Crest	172
2.3.6	Development of the Germ Line	173
2.3.7	The Midgestation Embryo	174
3	Mouse Development Genetics	174
3.1	General Data Concerning the Mouse Genome	175
3.2	Chromosomal Variants	175
3.3	The Genetic Map of the Mouse	177
3.3.1	Recombinant Inbred Strains	177
3.3.2	Interspecies Backcrosses	179
3.3.3	Syntenry Relationship Between Mouse and Man	179
3.4	Mutational Analysis	181
3.5	Introduction of New Genetic Material into the Mouse Genome	182
3.5.1	DNA Microinjection	184
3.5.2	Retroviral Infection	185
3.5.3	Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells	186
3.5.3.1	Targeted Mutagenesis	186
3.5.3.2	Enhancer and Gene Traps in ES Cells	187
3.6	Conserved Genes - Conserved Functions?	188

4 Resumé and Outlook 190

References 191

5 Genomic Imprinting in Mammals (With 8 Figures)

WOLF REIK

1 Introduction 203

2 What is Imprinting? 203

3 Both Parental Genomes Are Needed for Normal Development 204

4 Testing the Chromosomes for Imprinting 207

5 Imprinted Genes 212

6 Potency and Phenotype of Androgenetic and Parthenogenetic Cells 214

7 Why Imprinting? 217

8 Imprinting of Transgenes and the Molecular Nature
of Epigenetic Inheritance 219

9 Outlook 224

References 226

Subject Index 231