

## Developed tastes

Donald D. Brown

**Development.** Editor-in-chief Chris Wylie. *The Company of Biologists*. 12/yr + supplements. UK £355, North America \$780, elsewhere £405 (institutional); UK £90, North America \$145 (personal).

**Genes & Development.** Editors G. Bulfield and M. Mathews. *Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory*. 12/yr. \$220 (institutional); \$90 (personal).

THE state of any field is reflected in the quantity and quality of the publications that serve it. The recent appearance of two excellent new journals emphasizing developmental biology is further confirmation of its growth and maturity.

Developmental biology is not a scientific discipline, but a set of questions that has been asked since the beginning of this century and is now yielding to the methods of biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, immunology and molecular biology. So journals dealing with embryos no longer appeal just to a few specialists, but to researchers in many areas of modern biology.

Those who want to keep up with advances in developmental biology must not only be versed in its contributory disciplines, but also in the life cycles and special

advantages of a multitude of organisms (plants and animals). The reason for this is that there is no 'phage for development', that is, no single organism in which we can answer all of the questions we wish to ask. There are so many important biological systems that are limited to certain organisms or that have been well studied in a particular organism and are the subject of a wealth of descriptive data accumulated over the years. The new methods permit a fresh attack on previously intractable problems in the organisms of choice.

Considering these ground rules, there is plenty of room for two new journals in this broad and expanding field. *Development* is the continuation of *Journal of Experimental Embryology and Morphology* (or JEEM as it was called). Experimental embryology was the dominant subculture of the field in the first half of the century. It was as near as the field came to being a discipline in the sense that experimental embryology spawned its own set of techniques and methods, and emphasized its own special organisms — chickens, frogs and sea urchins. Experimental embryology is alive and well today but is dependent upon the helping hand of the new biological methods derived from other disciplines. The journal has broadened its scope and the editors welcome papers on all organisms and on subjects ranging from the morphological to the molecular aspects of development. The quality of the contributions since the journal changed its title in 1987 has been very high, and the papers have been of general interest.

*Genes & Development* is the first journal to be published and administered by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. It, too, is broadly based in subject matter but as its title suggests it emphasizes contributions in molecular genetics that elucidate the structure and control of genes in development. We have come to expect high quality and timeliness from Cold Spring Harbor's many symposium volumes, and the journal maintains that standard.

Both journals publish reviews, meeting reports, book reviews and commentaries along with the usual research articles (to date, the reviews in *Development* have been especially distinguished). Both pay considerable attention to the quality of their pictures, and both put a stress on rapid publication, which these days seems essential if a journal is to compete for the best manuscripts. Neither *Development* nor *Genes & Development* can be said to fill a void; I can count ten other journals with overlapping subject matter, but there is no lack of high-quality papers to fill them. In less than two years, these two newcomers have become essential reading for modern research biologists. □

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## Among other titles submitted

*Advanced Robotics* (VSP); *American Journal of Noninvasive Cardiology* (Karger); *Aphasiology* (Taylor & Francis); *Applied Cognitive Psychology* (Wiley); *Argumentation: An International Journal of Reasoning* (Kluwer); *Arid Soil Research and Rehabilitation* (Taylor & Francis); *Blood Reviews* (Churchill Livingstone); *Cardiovascular Drugs and Therapy* (Kluwer); *Clinical Vision Sciences* (Pergamon); *Comments on Agricultural and Food Chemistry* (Gordon & Breach); *Computational Mechanics* (Springer); *Computer Speech & Language* (Academic); *Distributed Computing* (Springer); *Environmental Software* (Computational Mechanics Publications); *Epilepsy Research* (Elsevier); *European Journal of Personality* (Wiley); *Fetal Therapy* (Karger); *Food Hydrocolloids* (IRL); *Future Computing Systems* (Maruzen/Oxford University Press); *Hematologic Pathology* (Marcel Dekker); *Hematology Reviews and Communications* (Harwood); *Hydrological Processes* (Wiley); *International Journal of Computer Vision* (Kluwer); *The International Journal of Supercomputer Applications* (MIT Press); *Irrigation and Drainage Systems* (Kluwer); *Journal of Adhesion Science and Technology* (VSP); *Journal of Clinical Laboratory Analysis* (Alan R. Liss); *Journal of Clinical Research and Drug Development* (Elsevier); *Journal of Electromagnetic Waves and Applications* (VSP); *Journal of Fluids and Structures* (Academic); *Journal of Psychopharmacology* (Oxford University Press); *Journal of Psychophysiology* (Oxford University Press); *The Journal of Supercomputing* (Kluwer); *Journal of Voice* (Raven); *Lanthanide and Actinide Research* (Kluwer); *Lasers in the Life Sciences* (Harwood); *Mathematical Engineering in Industry* (VSP); *Mechanical Systems and Signal Processing* (Academic); *Medical and Veterinary Entomology* (Blackwell Scientific); *Metabolic Brain Disease* (Plenum); *Molecular and Cellular Probes* (Academic); *Natural Product Updates* (Royal Society of Chemistry); *Nuclear Geophysics* (Pergamon); *The Pain Clinic* (VSP); *Pediatric Reviews and Communications* (Harwood); *Probability in the Engineering and Informational Sciences* (Cambridge University Press); *Professional School Psychology* (Lawrence Erlbaum); *Psychology & Health* (Harwood); *Regulated Rivers: Research & Management* (Wiley); *Science in Context* (Cambridge University Press); *Serodiagnosis and Immunotherapy* (Academic); *Soviet Agricultural Biology Part 1 Plant Biology, Part 2 Animal Biology* (Allerton); *Surgical Research Communications* (Harwood); *Water Quality International* (IAWPRC); *Water Resources Management* (Kluwer).

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