

Contents

Foreword	x
Preface	xiii
Acknowledgments	xvi
Introduction	xvii

1 Life as a Single Cell: Creating a New Animal	1
Making Bodies from Cells	3
The Rise of Sexual Reproduction	5
The Beginnings of a Life: Egg and Sperm	7
<i>The Odd Case of Jumping Genes</i>	12
Fertilization	16
Cleavage and the Cell Cycle	20
The Machines of Cell Division	25
Summary	29
 2 The Rise of Structure: Early Growth and Differentiation	 30
Cleavage and Implantation of the Embryo	30
Gastrulation: Layers and Migrations	33
Organizers: The Experiments of Spemann and Mangold	37
<i>How Signals Work</i>	40
Molecular Signals in Gastrulation	42
From the Organizer to the Notochord	44
Summary	46
 3 The Origins of the Major Organs	 48
From the Notochord to the Nervous System	48
Secondary Neurulation and the Early Brain	53

The Development of Unique Features of the Human Brain	56
Hox Genes: A Universal Scaffold for the Head-to-Tail Axis	59
From Left to Right: Symmetries and Asymmetries	65
The Heart	66
<i>Developmental Molecules and Heart Disease</i>	72
Building Blood Vessels	74
Blood Vessels in Cancer and Other Diseases	77
The Digestive System	80
Liver, Pancreas, and Gallbladder	82
Lungs	86
Bones	88
Skeletal Muscle	90
Skin	93
Limbs	96
Cell Death: A Sculptor of Development	103
Eyes	106
Summary	111
4 Cell Differentiation and Disease	113
Stem Cells and Potential Therapies	113
<i>Illuminating the Cell</i>	120
Stem Cells and Cancer	122
Blood Cells	126
Neurons and Glia	132
Summary	137
5 Evolution and Development	138
Ernst Haeckel and Recapitulation Theory	139
Genomes and Homologs	145
Hox Genes and Genome Evolution	148
<i>An Evolutionary Tool Kit</i>	150
Gene Homologies and the Origins of Organs	153

<i>The Flip Side of Evolution</i>	156
Xenotransplantation and the Creation of Artificial Species	159
Summary and Some Final Thoughts	163
Chronology	165
Glossary	178
Further Resources	188
Index	197