

PREFACE

The collection of articles included in this volume summarize the proceedings of a conference on *Developmental Biology*, held in Squaw Valley, California in March 1975 with approximately 200 participants. This meeting was one of the 1975 Winter Symposia on selected topics in molecular and cellular biology, sponsored by ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and organized through the Molecular Biology Institute of the University of California, Los Angeles.

It brought together basic scientists working in two interdependent areas of developmental biology. One of these, regulation of gene activity, has dominated research in developmental biology for many years, and some of the recent striking advances are documented in this volume. The second area, cellular position determination, which has progressed under the guidance of a handful of investigators for the past few decades, has recently become the object of much more intensive research activity. For this reason, a conference bringing together workers in these areas seemed highly appropriate at this time, and the facilitation of dialogue between scientists in gene regulation and cellular position determination was one of two major objectives of this meeting. The second objective was the establishment of communication between workers in basic developmental biology and those doing research in inherited human developmental disease. Dr. William Nyhan organized this third topical area represented in these proceedings.

We express our gratitude to the session chairmen and principal speakers, whose efforts were a major determinant of the success of this conference. In addition to invited papers from most of the principal speakers, also included in this volume are a number of short submitted articles describing poster session presentations. The limited length of this volume precluded the inclusion of all the submitted articles. We are grateful to all those who participated in the poster sessions which provided some of the most stimulating and provocative data presented at the meeting.

We express our appreciation to ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc., for the support of these symposia generally, and to the National Foundation/March of Dimes specifically. The generosity of the National Foundation enabled the organizers to enrich this conference by inviting participants from outside the North American continent. While it is impossible to list the names of all those who have contributed to the organization of the meeting and the preparation of this volume, we express special thanks to Drs. Samuel Ajl and Daniel Bergsma of the National Foundation, Dr. Gerald Camiener of the Life Sciences Group of ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and finally Mss. Frances Stusser and Carol Winter of the ICN-UCLA Symposia staff.

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