

Director's Note

Susan Duhon has been promoted to the position of Assistant Director of the I.U. Axolotl Colony! She had been managing the day-to-day activities of the colony in a most satisfactory fashion, and in the future will become more involved in establishing policy. Sandra Borland, who has been a half-time animal technician in the colony for nearly two years, will in June become full-time Curator of the Axolotl Colony.

One of the goals of the colony is to provide more services in the area of molecular biology. In addition to our regular services associated with supplying live material, we plan to collect, develop, and distribute cDNA libraries, molecular probes, and technical procedures to the scientific community. As an

amphibian model system the urodele offers several advantages over other laboratory amphibia. The versatility of the axolotl will be greatly enhanced, we believe, by the development of various molecular biology features. Both Susan and I, as well as our colleagues Anton Neff, Anthony Mescher, and David Stocum, are eagerly involved in organizing this new effort. Soon we will begin to solicit contributions of libraries and probes, which we will store and distribute.

In the meantime, despite the disarray occasionally associated with the physical renovation of our Axolotl Colony quarters, we continue to expand our shipment services, as Sandra Borland (in this issue) indicates.

George M. Malacinski
Director, I.U. Axolotl Colony