

## Director's Note

It is a pleasure to commend Susan Duhon and Sandra Borland for their excellent supervision and maintenance of the Axolotl Colony. This past year has been a splendid one. We moved into completely renovated quarters and have been able therefore to better organize and streamline our activities. Not surprisingly, our shipments of live material have increased substantially. Both Susan and Sandra enjoy hearing from our users, so do not hesitate to communicate with them.

As mentioned in the last *Axolotl Newsletter* (Spring, 1991), we have been planning to develop several aspects of the molecular biology of the axolotl as a service to colony users. Our effort is now well under way: First, Dr. Hui Bin Sun has joined our staff and is in the process of preparing molecular markers for axolotl embryos; Second, we have begun plans for a workshop (see page 4), which will highlight the development of the axolotl as a model system for molecular biology studies; Third, we are now prepared to serve as an information/storage center for axolotl genes, markers, and probes (e.g., antibodies). Please contact Dr. Sun if you would like to share your axolotl molecular biology biologicals. We expect to make rapid progress in this area. Please begin to think of ways in which we might be of assistance and discuss them with us at the workshop or communicate them to us sooner than that. Our goal is to provide researchers with a "jump start" in axolotl molecular biology.

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

## IU Axolotl Colony Update

Sandra J. Borland  
and  
Susan T. Duhon

### IU Axolotl Colony

The Axolotl Colony moved into permanent, newly renovated quarters this past January. We have somewhat more space now, conditions are generally excellent, and we hope and expect that we will be able to meet the needs of the axolotl research community better than ever before. In spite of all the moving we did (three times in two years) and the crowded conditions we endured, we were able to supply in the season preceeding the current one (1990-1991) more embryos for research and teaching than we ever had in the past (about 46,000). This season, we have doubled that number, and the season is not over yet!

### Molecular Specialist

The Axolotl Colony, the Malacinski lab in the Biology Department, and the Neff and Mescher labs in the Medical Sciences Program here at Indiana University, are sponsoring a postdoctoral research associate expressly to assist in the development of the molecular biology of the axolotl. His name is Hui Bin "Herbert" Sun, and he arrived in May of this year. Herbert earned his Ph.D. at Norman Bethune University of Medical Sciences, Changchun, China and subsequently studied molecular oncology and developmental biology at Osaka University, Osaka, Japan and in the Institute for Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Guest Laboratory of the Max Planck Gesellschaft of the Shanghai Institute of Cell Biology, Academia Sinica, Shanghai, China. Herbert will aid us in developing the molecular biology of the axolotl by developing probes and constructing libraries useful in embryological and other studies of the axolotl. He may be contacted through the Axolotl Colony.

### Shipping Policies

Many thanks to those researchers and teachers who have provided Federal Express account numbers. This year's volume of shipments would not have been possible if we had not been able to ship via Federal Express. We have also been receiving empty boxes and ice