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A Note from the Axolotl Colony

Susan Duhon IUAxolotl Colony

The Axolotl Colony will soon be entering the final year of our 5-year grant from the National Science Foundation. We are currently preparing our renewal proposal, and we will soon be asking for letters in support of that proposal from those readers who have received material from us over the past five years. Meanwhile, we want to thank all of you for the tremendous support you have given the Colony, whether by contributing to the Axolotl Newsletter, attending the Urodele Workshop, or participating in Uronet (the Urodeles mailing list and Newsgroup). The past five years have been very productive in the Colony and it has been a very rewarding time for me. I look forward to more years of service to the scientific community.

Editor's Note

This issue has been long in coming, but, as you can see, it is packed solid with nearly ninety pages of material, from immunology to cardiac development to poetry. I hope the wait was worth it!

Director's Note

A Thank You Note!

The past year and a half has been a splendid one at the I.U. Axolotl Colony. We have been busy with several projects which involve interacting **directly** with friends of the colony. These activities have included:

- 1. Organizing the International Workshop on Axolotl Molecular Biology (please see meeting report on p.3). **Thanks** are extended to all who attended the meeting and/or co-authored an abstract.
- 2. Establishing Uronet. Often it is very busy, and appears to be very useful to a large number of researchers. **Thanks** are expressed to all the users.
- 3. Preparing a special issue of the International Journal of Developmental Biology. A "thank you" is offered to those who have offered advice and also to those who have volunteered to contribute a manuscript.
- 4. Compiling the present issue of the newsletter. As you can see, its gigantic. Susan Duhon has worked diligently to assemble, edit, and produce it. On behalf of our readers, we both express **thanks** to the contributors.
- 5. Shipping large quantities of experimental material. Sandra Borland enjoys filling requests. After all, that is what we are here for. **Thanks** are hereby given to those who request material.

Thus, it's been a banner year for us. We hope our friends feel good about having participated in those activities. The coming year promises to be a busy one, since we will be submitting a renewal grant application to the NSF. We will no doubt be contacting many of you for help. In the meantime, however, please keep communicating with us. We enjoy casting ourselves in the role of "Axolotl Communication Central."

George M. Malacinski