



International Workshop on the Molecular Biology of Axolotls and other Urodeles

Meeting Report

The International Workshop on the Molecular Biology of Axolotls and other Urodeles took place October 13-16 in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Eighty scientists and students participated in the inquiry sessions, and 35 posters were presented. About sixty people came to Bloomington on Saturday, October 16 to participate in the five practicum sessions that were offered and to tour the IU Axolotl Colony.

The Workshop drew scientists from ten nations and from diverse disciplines, including developmental biology, neuroscience, evolutionary biology, and immunology. The objectives of the meeting were to review recent progress in urodele biology and to generate a coherent intellectual framework for future studies. The Workshop was also designed to promote communication and collaboration among researchers.

The novel format of the Workshop, a series of inquiry sessions led by designated discussion leaders or "provocateurs" was enormously successful as a means of achieving these goals, and feedback from participants has been very positive and encouraging.

More tangibly, a list of available molecular libraries, probes, and antibodies was generated at the meeting and distributed to all participants. In addition, we are initiating an electronic network mailing list/newsgroup to facilitate future communication among

urodele biologists. Each participant also received a *Handbook of Methods*, which included the protocols for the practicum session topics.

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The Program and Abstracts and the Methods Handbook can be obtained from the Axolotl Colony for \$5.00 each.