

## Note From the Director

The Colony continues its supply functions, which of course represent our main activity. In addition, however, in order to expand the usefulness of the axolotl as a model system, we are attempting to make transgenic animals. We are trying several methods, with no notable successes to date. Included in our endeavors are procedures which are similar to those which have been successful with *Xenopus*. For example, we have been able to swell sperm, but unable to drive cleavage with those injected sperm. We are also injecting a LTR-GFP construct (viral long-terminal repeat sequences flanking the green fluorescent protein marker) in an attempt to produce "tran-

sient" transgenic animals. In addition, we soon will begin injecting a foreign-gene construct directly into the artificially inseminated eggs, near the animal pole (where the zygote pronucleus resides).

Dr. Roy Tassava of Ohio State University is collaborating with us and kindly providing gene constructs for injection. We expect to expand that collaboration in the future, and we are optimistic that one or another method will eventually work. In the meantime, we are always anxious to entertain suggestions for alternative strategies. We are also willing to inject potential marker-gene/viral constructs or other genetically engineered samples readers might like to provide.

George Malacinski  
December 16, 1998

### Frontiers of the Biology of Amphibia

An international symposium entitled "The Frontiers of the Biology of Amphibia" will be held March 22 - March 24, 1999, in Hiroshima, Japan. The purpose of the symposium is to encourage international cooperation among amphibian biologists.

The program will include oral presentations by the invited speakers and poster presentations, for which all who wish may submit an abstract. The official language of the symposium is English. An optional tour of the Laboratory for Amphibian Biology at Hiroshima University is also planned. The deadline for submitting an abstract is November 30, 1998. The registration deadline is January 31, 1999.

#### Invited speakers as of 18 August 1998

Enrique Amaya—Transgenesis  
Jeremy Brockes—Regeneration  
Sylvia Evans—Embryonic morphogenesis  
David Hillis—Molecular phylogeny and evolution  
Kristen Kroll—Transgenesis  
Michael Schmid—Cytogenetics  
Yun-Bo Shi—Metamorphosis  
Hubert Vaudry—Cellular and molecular neuroendocrinology  
Cris Wright—Embryonic morphogenesis  
Mitsugu Maeno—Mesoderm induction  
Masafumi Matsui—Phylogenetic systematics  
Noriyuki Sakata—Molecular mechanism of cell-cycle regulation  
Masanori Taira—Embryogenesis  
Kazuhito Takeshima—Embryogenesis and metamorphosis  
Naoto Ueno—Embryonic morphogenesis  
Masakane Yamashita—Molecular mechanism of oocyte maturation

#### For more information contact

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