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44th annual meeting organizing committee

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Plenary Lectures

May 20 (Fri) 9:00-11:30 Room A

Plenary Lectures
Chairpersons: Tesuya Tabata (Univ. of Tokyo), Shigenobu Nakagawa (RIKEN)

PL-01: Hedgehog Signaling in Development and Disease
09:00-10:15 Matthew Scott (Stanford University School of Medicine)

PL-02: The development of the mouse and zebrafish retinas
10:15-11:30 William Harris (University of Cambridge)

Symposia

DATE: May 19 (Thu) 9:00~11:30 Room A

Symposium1: Neural Development: from circuits to behavior

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44th Annual Meeting of JSDB

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[PL-01]

Hedgehog Signaling in Development and Disease

*Matthew Scott
(Stanford University School of Medicine)

The development of numerous tissues and organs depends on Hedgehog (Hh) protein signals that influence gene expression in target cells. Defective Hh signaling leads to birth defects and cancer. We are investigating Hh signal transduction and gene regulatory mechanisms in the context of cultured fibroblasts and cerebellum development. The Hh signal transduction mechanism is a complex of the Hh protein, a transmembrane receptor, and a G-protein coupled receptor. Reception of the Hh signal has many unique features. For example, the Hh protein is secreted from primary cilia as a Hh signal transduction organelle. Primary cilia, which are microtubule-based structures, are found on most cells, have been implicated in sensory signaling, and are required for normal development. We find that the Hh signal is received by the G-protein coupled receptor Smo in the cilium, where it prevents accumulation of the protein Patched (Ptc). Inhibition of Hh to Ptc causes departure of both from the cilium, allowing the Hh signal to control target gene expression. Using tagged proteins, and mutants that affect signaling, we are exploring the mechanisms of protein trafficking and target gene activation. We are characterizing direct Hh target genes in responsive cerebellum granule neuron precursors and in the medulloblastoma tumors that arise from the precursors when Ptc function is reduced.

Signaling in development

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