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Formation of organisms from a totipotential cell (the zygote), or the formation of body part from precursor cells, involves processes such as:

Cell proliferation Cell determination Cell differentiation Cell shape changes Cell migration

All take place over time.

How these processes are temporally and spatially regulated/coordinated?

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Neurogenesis in Drosophila

Cell cycle and neural cell determination in Drosophila



Life cycle Neurogenesis Mutual and lateral inhibition Asymmetric cell division Origin of neural precursor cell diversity Spatial clues Temporal clues Time in development Temporal patterning

Technical goals : Molecular and genetic tools commonly used in *Drosophila*

Life cycle



Life cycle



Two phases of neurogenesis





Hairy Krüppel Giant

Neurogenesis

Neuroblast formation

Neurons are generated from ventrolateral part of embryo (neuroectoderm)



- Cellularisation -> blastoderm
- Ventral furrow marks start of gastrulation
- Mesoderm invagination
- Ventral midline future site of neurogenesis



Neuroblast selection is an active process

Neuroblasts inhibit neighboring cells to become a neuroblast

• The ablation of a delaminating neuroblast induces the redetermination of a neighbouring ectodermal cell to becomes a neuroblast

• Neuroblast inhibits neighbouring cells from becoming neuroblasts

Neuroblast selection is an active process

Proneural Genes

- Achaete-Scute complex of genes (AS-C)
 - Achaete (ac), scute (sc), lethal of scute (lsc), asense (as)

Neurogenic Genes

- Notch-Delta pathway
 - Notch (N), Delta (DI), Enhancer of split genes (E(spl)), Hairless (H), Suppressor of Hairless (Su(H)), brainiac (brn), mastermind (mam), neuralized (neu), kuzbanian (kuz), big brain (bib)...

Neuroblast formation

Neuroblast selection is an active process

Proneural Genes

- Achaete-Scute complex of genes (AS-C)
 - Achaete (ac), scute (sc), lethal of scute (lsc), asense (as)

Equivalent cells

Cells expressing proneural genes become competent to acquire a neuroblast fate

Proneural cluster Neuroblast

Neuroblast formation

Example of an emergent property since it is not possible to know which cell will be neurogenic and which will be epithelial

Fortini ME Developmental Cell (2009)

How does lateral inhibition take place?

Cells present similar levels of Notch activity (Mutual inhibition)

How does lateral inhibition take place?

Due to a stochastic (random) events one cell expresses more Delta ligand than the other.

The net signal is unidirectional.

The activation of Notch receptor results in decreased Delta expression in cell that receive the signal.

How does lateral inhibition take place?

When Notch or Delta are absent, the ectoderm cells become neurogenic. The cell that becomes the neuroblast inhibits the surrounding cells from this fate and become epithelial cells instead (lateral inhibition).

How does lateral inhibition take place?

Neurogenic selection through lateral inhibition

Lateral inhibition during neurogenesis in Drosophila

Central Nervous System

achaete-scute complex genes and the Notch pathway are required for neuroblasts formation

- Only one of proneural cells becomes a neuroblast in a normal conditions
- Flies mutant for proneural genes
 (achaete/scute) don't form neuroblasts
- Flies mutant for Notch or Delta form ectopic neuroblasts

Genetic control of neuroblasts formation

1) Specific genes expression pattern the neuroectoderm and pre-define territories with neural competence (pre-pattern genes)

2) In this territories, the expression of so-called proneural genes specified proneural fate in all cells in these clusters (proneural clusters). These genes belong to the Achaete-Scute complex (AS-C) and encode conserved basic-helix-loop-helix transcription factors

3) Single neuroblasts are specified within proneural clusters via the activation of so-called neurogenic genes –the Notch pathway (mutual followed by lateral inhibition)

Neuroblasts undergo a self-renewing asymmetric division

(Simons & Clevers 2011)

Neuroblast cell lineage

Three modes of NB cell division. The largest cells are NBs. Abbreviations: GMC, ganglion mother cell; INP, intermediate neural progenitor; n, neurons [all sibling neurons are either Notch_{ON} (n*) or Notch_{OFF} (n)].

Neuroblast cell lineage

Homem et al (2015)

Development of the mouse neocortex.

NE neuroepithelial cells. RG radial glia cells. IPC Intermediate progenitor cell. oRG outer rafial glia.

Neuroblast cell lineage

Neuroblasts undergo a self-renewing asymmetric division

Neuroblasts divide asymmetrically

Asymmetric cell division

Requirements

- (1) Cell polarity
- (2) Localisation of cell determinants
- (3) Mitotic spindle orientation

The apical complex

Apical complex controls basal localisation of factors during neuroblast division

Numb

Numb

Pros

Knoblich (1995)

Binary cell decisions and asymmetric cell divisions

Binary cell decisions and asymmetric cell divisions

Baker NE, Brown NL. All in the family: proneural bHLH genes and neuronal diversity. (2018) Development;145.
Neuroblast asymmetric cell division



SOP asymmetric cell division

Asymmetry is induced via the planar cell polarity (PCP) pathway Posterior and anterior complexes control fat determinants segregation and spindle orientation



The Peripheral Nervous System



FIG. 1. Drosophila melanogaster. Above, side view, slightly oblique, of a female. Below, left, dorsal view of the thorax showing pattern of bristles and hairs. Below, right, a bristle in its socket.



Selection of the SOP/pI cell

Wing discs eversion during metamorphosis



Selection of the SOP/pl cell

Prepattern genes



Selection of the SOP/pI cell Proneural genes

Expression d'achaete dans le notum (8 hrs APF)





Sato et al., (1999) Development 126; 1457-1466



Pre-pattern

Formation d'un groupe proneural gènes proneuraux

Sélection d'une SOP gènes neurogéniques

Spécification de la SOP gènes d'identité cellullaire

Division de la SOP et différenciation de l'organe sensoriel génes d'identité cellulaire





The bristle lineage



neu-Gal4; UAS-H2B::YFP

Drosophila mechanosensory organs



The bristle lineage (a model system to study cell diversification)

Drosophila mechanosensory organs



Binary cell fate decisions: The Notch pathway

Asymmetric cell divisions





Origin of neuron diversity



Origin of neuron diversity



Spatial clues

Temporal clues



hairy krüppel giant



even-skipped fushi tarazu

Genes patterning following anteroposterior axis







Mizutani et al. (2006)

Genes patterning following medio-lateral axis

eS1 **S1 S2** B С A 2-5 2-2 2-2 2-2 2-5 3-2 2-5 2-3 3-2 4-2 5-3 5-6 5-3 5-6 5-6 7-4 . 7-4 **S**3 **S5 S4** F Ε 2-1 GP 2-5 2-3 • 2-4 1-2 GP 3-3-1 4-2 ac 5953 en wg svp ftz ming 1912

Neuroblasts in the embryonic ventral nerve cord

Origin of neuron diversity



Spatial clues

Temporal clues

Temporal patterning in neurogenesis

A key challenge during neural development is to coordinate the birth and specification of diverse neuronal and glial cell types.

Gradients of the *Drosophila* Chinmo BTB-Zinc Finger Protein Govern Neuronal Temporal Identity

Sijun Zhu,^{1,2,5} Suewei Lin,³ Chih-Fei Kao,³ Takeshi Awasaki,³ Ann-Shyn Chiang,⁴ and Tzumin Lee^{1,3,*}

Cell 127, 409-422, October 20, 2006

Origin of neuroblast diversity

Temporal control of neuroblast identity



Temporal gradient of the Chinmo protein governs neuronal temporal identity

Origin of neuroblast diversity

Temporal control of neuroblast identity

Wu..Sokol (2012)



Temporal gradient of the Chinmo protein governs neuronal temporal identity

Cell, Vol. 106, 511-521, August 24, 2001, Copyright @2001 by Cell Press

Drosophila Neuroblasts Sequentially Express Transcription Factors which Specify the Temporal Identity of Their Neuronal Progeny

Takako Isshiki, Bret Pearson, Scott Holbrook, and Chris Q. Doe¹

Origin of neuroblast diversity

Temporal control of neuroblast identity



Multiple temporal identity transcription factors specify distict neuronal fates within a single early competence window

Origin of neuroblast diversity

Temporal control of neuroblast identity



Transtions between TFS is controlled by feedforward and feedback repression cross-regulations

Adult Neurogenesis

Temporal patterning of Drosphila medulla neuroblasts





Li ... Desplan (2013)

Origin of neuroblast diversity

Temporal control of neuroblast identity



These TFs do not specify a certain neuron type, but control the birth-order-depedent neuronal identity

Adult Neurogenesis



Distinct neural progeny are born from early versus late type II neuroblast lineages neuroblast and Intermedial Neural Progenitors temporal patterning act together to generate neural diversity

TF sequences on the two temporal axes act combinatorially to generate larger neural diversity

Glia relay differentiation cues to coordinate neuronal development in *Drosophila*

Vilaiwan M. Fernandes,*† Zhenqing Chen,†‡ Anthony M. Rossi, Jaqueline Zipfel,§ Claude Desplan

, Science 357, 886-891 (2017) 1 September 2017







Progression of the morphogenetic furrow across the developing eye field of Drosophila








Signals from photoreceptors axons control lamina precursor cells cell divisions, column assembly and differentiation However, precursors differentiate only after column assembly is completed.



EGFR in wrapping glia, but not in lamina precursor cells, is required for lamina cells differentiation into neurons.



The connection between from photoreceptors to wrapping glia to lamina precursors induced a delay in the MAPK signalling that results in the assembly of lamina cells in columns followed by they differentiation



Activation of MPAK signalling in lamina precursor cells directly by photoreceptor axons disorganises column assembly.

The connection between from photoreceptors to wrapping glia to lamina precursors induced a delay in the MAPK signalling that results in the assembly of lamina cells in columns followed by they differentiation

> Elife. 2022 Mar 7;11:e75746. doi: 10.7554/eLife.75746.

A neural progenitor mitotic wave is required for asynchronous axon outgrowth and morphology

Jérôme Lacoste ¹, Hédi Soula ², Angélique Burg ¹, Agnès Audibert ¹, Pénélope Darnat ¹, Michel Gho ^{# 1}, Sophie Louvet-Vallée ^{# 1} The Sensory Organ Precursor cells (SOP cells) producing the mechanosensory organs in *Drosophila* are among the few cases of normal G2-arrested somatic cells.



What is the dynamics of the resumption of the G2-arrest in these cells?









Morphometry of axonal projections in the thoracic ganglion



Morphometry of axonal projections in the thoracic ganglion





When mitotic wave was specifically abolished, sensory organ axon terminals branched more than in control flies.



The cleaning reflex

The cleaning reflex

Control



The cleaning reflex

When mitotic wave was abolished





The mitotic wave observed in precursor cells is related to progressive arrival of axon terminals into the central ganglion, and that this is required for a correct axon branching and appropriate behavior

In development, time is not only a dimension but also a parameter