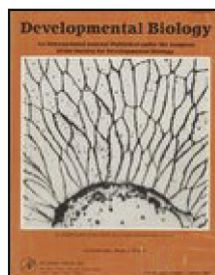


Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

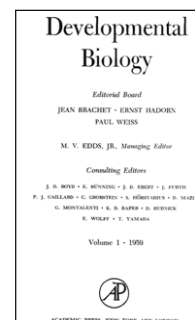
Developmental Biology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/developmentalbiology

April 1959



Academic Press launches Developmental Biology's first issue. The journal publishes 6 issues a year, with articles written in French and English. Editors-in-Chief: Jean Brachet, Ernst Hadorn and Paul Weiss



1966

M.V. Edds Jr. becomes Editor-in-Chief
Developmental Biology becomes affiliated with the Society for Developmental Biology



1967

Developmental Biology begins publishing 12 issues per year

1971

Elizabeth Hay becomes Editor-in-Chief

1975

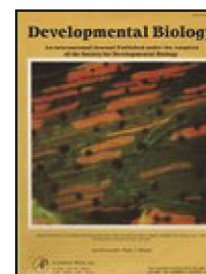
Igor B. Dawid becomes Editor-in-Chief

1981

Anthony P. Mahowald becomes Editor-in-Chief

1985

Peter J. Bryant becomes Editor-in-Chief



1989

Society for Developmental Biology turns 50

1996

Eric Olsen becomes Editor-in-Chief
Developmental Biology goes online on IDEAL

1997

Developmental Biology begins publishing 24 issues a year

2002

Developmental Biology moves to ScienceDirect; it receives 50,000 downloads that year (Table I)

2006

Robb Krumlauf becomes Editor-in-Chief
DB receives more than a million full text article downloads a year

2008

International Society for Developmental Biology turns 40

January 2009



Developmental Biology celebrates its 50th Anniversary. DB has published 13,449 articles and receives more than 1.5 million full text article downloads per year.



Developmental Biology at 50: The Elements of its Success



Marianne E. Bronner-Fraser (44)
 Michael Solursh (43)
 David R. McClay (42)
 William F. Loomis (40)

Our reviewers

Our reviewers generously lend their time and expertise to ensuring that *Developmental Biology* maintains its reputation for fair peer review and high-quality, relevant science. Proof of their good judgement is born out by DB's growth in downloads and long history of publishing ground-breaking work across many sub-disciplines.

There have, of course, been many seminal papers published in *Developmental Biology* over the years. Below are those that have received more than 500 citations since their publication.

Stulston, J.E., Schierenberg, E., White, J.G., Thomson, J.N. The embryonic cell lineage of the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* (1983) *Developmental Biology*, 100 (1), pp. 64–119.

The above article was cited more than 1000 times

Stulston, J.E., Horvitz, H.R. Post embryonic cell lineages of the nematode. *Caenorhabditis elegans* (1977) *Developmental Biology*, 56 (1), pp. 110–156.

Bitgood, M.J., McMahon, A.P. Hedgehog and Bmp genes are coexpressed at many diverse sites of cell-cell interaction in the mouse embryo (1995) *Developmental Biology*, 172 (1), pp. 126–138.

Reynolds, B.A., Weiss, S. Clonal and population analyses demonstrate that an EGF-responsive mammalian embryonic CNS precursor is a stem cell (1996) *Developmental Biology*, 175 (1), pp. 1–13.

While it is impossible for us to list here the reviewers who have served DB over the last 50 years, we acknowledge our debt to them would like to thank them for their vital contribution to the journal and to the scientific peer review process as a whole. Every January issue of *Developmental Biology*, including this one, contains the names of the previous year's reviewers.

Our board

The scientific leadership of the journal has changed over the years, but the expertise of the DB board has always reflected the breadth and development of the field. Since its launch in 1959, the journal's scope and standards were guided by a group of scientists (we now have 17 Editors) who advise the Editor-in-Chief and are supported by an Editorial Board. This rather democratic structure has proved successful in maintaining the breadth of the journal and providing consistent standards for acceptance across sub disciplines. The board meets yearly to discuss the scope, standards and procedures in order to ensure that the journal is best positioned to serve the entire field.

We are pleased to be able to quantify the results of their efforts to create a journal that was both broad and strong. In the summer of 2008, Stefan Materna and Sagar Damle of Eric Davidson's laboratory conducted a survey of *Developmental Biology's* coverage of the field over the previous 2.5 years. They assessed nine areas: Adult structures, cell morphogenesis, conceptual work/models, disease, embryogenesis, evolution, evolution, gametogenesis, gene regulation, and model organisms.

Their work showed that *Developmental Biology* published a significant percentage of the field's research output in **all** these areas, with particular strengths in embryogenesis, gametogenesis, cell morphogenesis, and gene regulation.

The breadth of coverage, in terms of sub disciplines, model organisms, and methodological approaches shows how the journal

Our readers

Our readers are the journal's lifeblood. After its launch, *Developmental Biology* quickly became a journal that was well-read in the community. However the explosion in readership came when it went online. It was one of the first electronic journals (on Academic Press's IDEAL platform), and is now available at over 5,000 institutions around the world. In 2008 *Developmental Biology* received over 1.5 million downloads (Table 1). Even at its highest print circulation, *Developmental Biology* could never have reached a fraction of these readers. Where it was once a rather U.S.-centric journal in terms of readers and authors, it has now become extremely international. The number of articles the journal publishes has remained stable over the last 5 years (an average of about 550/year) but the number of readers and the number of articles they read has grown strongly year on year. Every published article receives thousands of downloads a year.

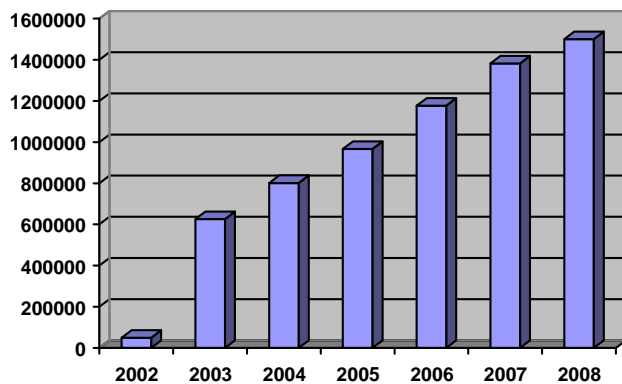


Table 1 Full-text article downloads of *Developmental Biology* articles from ScienceDirect 2002–2008

Our contributors

We are fortunate to have many loyal authors who have contributed enormously to the success of the journal over the years. On behalf of the journal, I would like to thank all of our authors, particularly those who have returned to publish multiple articles in *Developmental Biology*. Those who have published the most articles in *DB* in the last 50 years are noted below.

Eric H. Davidson (73)
 Richard M Schultz (56)
 Eric N. Olsen (45)

has evolved along with the field to encompass and support the entire discipline.

On behalf of the journal team here at Elsevier, I would like to thank our current and past Editors for their passion and dedication to *Developmental Biology*. To acknowledge the Editors and Board Members who have graciously given their time and expertise to serve *DB* over the years, every 2009 issue will highlight historic *Developmental Biology* mastheads.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Editors-in-Chief who have served *Developmental Biology*. There have been only ten in the last 50 years, a testament to their dedication. Under their leadership we have been able to offer the community a journal that is consistent in its standards and yet dynamically evolving with the field. My colleagues and I have worked with current Editor-in-Chief Robb Krumlauf for many years and have great regard for his diplomacy, fairness and vision for the journal. It's a pleasure working with him.

1959–1966 Jean Brachet, Ernst Hadorn and Paul Weiss

1966–1970 M.V. Edds Jr.

1971–1875 Elizabeth Hay

1975–1980 Igor B. Dawid

1981–1984 Anthony P. Mahowald

1985–1995 Peter J. Bryant

1996–2005 Eric Olsen

2006–present Robb Krumlauf

The Society for Developmental Biology

Developmental Biology has been affiliated with the Society for Developmental Biology for 43 years. The affiliation was affected by

M.V. Edds Jr. in 1966 when the journal reached its 8th anniversary (the SDB had existed for 27 years already) to formalize their already close relationship.

This union explicitly recognizes that the society and the journal have common goals. The new symbiosis should strengthen both components and make them more effective and more permanent.

M.V. Edds Jr. (1996) *Developmental Biology*, 14 (1), preface

His vision was a success. Most U.S. authors in the journal are also SDB members. Members of the society regularly serve on the journal's board, and the Editors have often served on the SDB board of directors. The current President of the SDB is long-time *Developmental Biology* Editor Marianne Bronner-Fraser. *Developmental Biology* sponsors the SDB's annual meeting, 7 SDB regional meetings, and more than a dozen non-SDB meetings every year. The relationship is mutually supportive, but also independent. *Developmental Biology* exists autonomously; and Editors are free to develop the journal to serve international readers and authors beyond the membership of the SDB. Similarly, the SDB pursues programs and meetings that fall outside the scope of the journal. As M.V. Edds Jr. hoped, the relationship has indeed made both groups more effective and permanent.

In the same 1966 preface, Edds commented on the journal's success after 8 years; after 50 years of publication, I can only echo the same:

Through the soundness of the policies originally evolved by its senior editors, through the patient encouragement of its publisher, through the good services of its successive consulting editors, and through the support of its authors and readers alike, Developmental Biology has ripened into a mature and influential journal.

Noelle Gracy, Ph.D.
Publisher, Elsevier