

Special Issue

Animal Models of Inherited and Acquired Birth Defects

Message from the Guest Editor

Birth defects are disorders that exist at or before birth, regardless of cause. Although ~4000 different kinds of birth defects, of varying severities, have been described, most have unknown etiologies. Generally, congenital birth defects are thought to be caused by a combination of insults, including genetic susceptibilities, metabolic anomalies, toxic environment and maternal lifestyle influences. Both inherited and acquired defects are present at birth, but recent progress is beginning to uncover the underlying in utero genetic causes of numerous inherited birth defects. A great deal of this rapid advancement is due to the myriad of transgenic animal systems being used to model both structural and functional birth defects regularly observed in the clinic. This Special Issue of the Journal of Developmental Biology will provide an overview of the current standing of this large multidisciplinary research field. Contributions can be reviews, as well as research papers, covering individual and comparative transgenic models of inherited and acquired congenital birth defect pathogenesis.

Keywords:

- Embryonic and fetal anomalies
- Structural and functional phenotypes
- *In utero* and neonatal lethality
- Transgenic animal models
- Inherited and acquired birth defects

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 October 2018)



Journal of Developmental Biology

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 2.5
CiteScore 4.5
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/11167

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

The *Journal of Developmental Biology* (JDB) publishes original research papers and timely reviews. Our primary aim is to provide a platform for the publication of studies on the development of multicellular organisms efficiently and professionally; papers undergo a fast, yet thorough, peer-review process. JDB is an open access journal and accepted contributions are published immediately online, providing unlimited access to the scientific community and general public. We look forward to receiving your contribution to our journal and to working with fellow researchers.

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