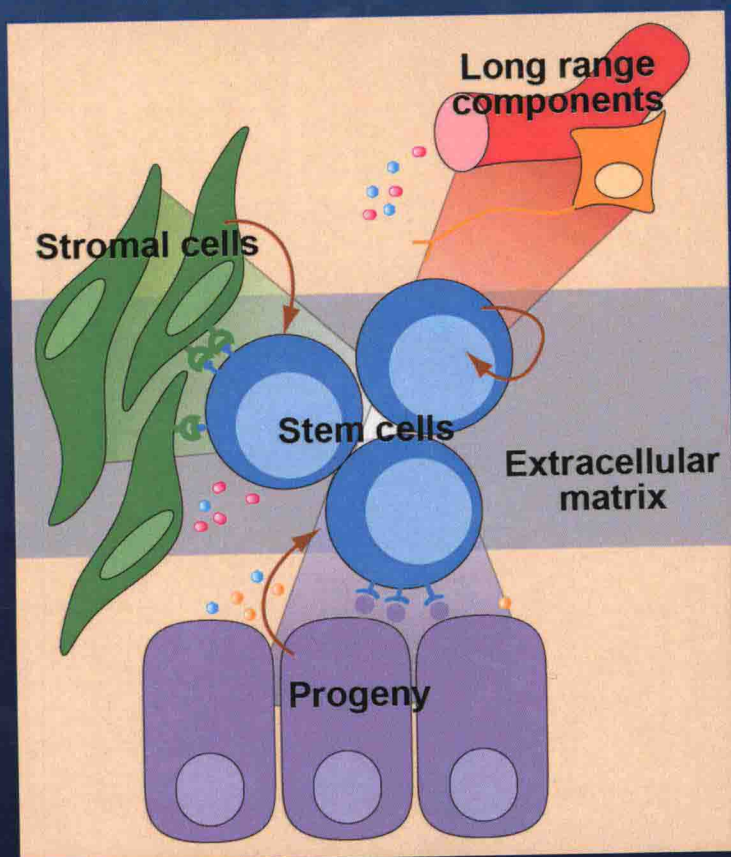
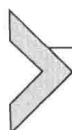


Stem Cells in Development and Disease



Edited by
Michael Rendl





VOLUME ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN

CURRENT TOPICS IN DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

Stem Cells in Development and
Disease

Edited by

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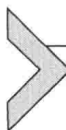
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Disease

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"A meeting-ground for critical review and discussion of developmental processes"

A.A. Moscona and Alberto Monroy (Volume 1, 1966)

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PREFACE

Stem cell research is one of the most fascinating and exciting research areas considering the therapeutical potential of stem cells. Manipulation of endogenous stem cells or the application of exogenous stem cells has the great promise to rejuvenate diseased and aged tissues in regenerative therapies. To fulfill this promise, we first need to identify tissue stem cells, define their physiological lineage relationship to differentiated cells, and characterize their functional control by intrinsic regulators and extrinsic factors from the microenvironment. In the past three decades, tremendous progress has been made: from the successful culture of embryonic stem cells and the early discovery of hematopoietic stem cells and stem cells in rapidly renewing skin and intestinal tissues to the more recent identification of neural, mammary, muscle, lung, and germ stem cells as well as hepatic and kidney progenitors. Recent studies have also shed light on the molecular make-up of stem cells and the complexly controlled balance between stem cell self-renewal and differentiation by endogenous transcriptional regulators, microRNAs and their overall epigenetic state, as well as by signaling and cellular communication from and to the microenvironment.

These insights have led to the establishment of stable stem cell cultures and culminated in recent efforts to engineer three-dimensional intestinal, skin, and other tissues. They further guide attempts at differentiation of embryonic and induced pluripotent stem cells and at direct reprogramming of differentiated somatic cells. Finally, our greatly improved understanding of stem cell control and function directly overlaps with studies of cancer biology and aging, as recently discovered cancer stem cells share many regulatory mechanisms with normal tissue stem cells that go awry in cancers and that also become dysregulated in aging tissues.

In this volume of *Current Topics in Developmental Biology on Stem Cells in Development and Disease*, 14 contributions from leading stem cell researchers provide a comprehensive overview about our current knowledge of physiological stem cell functions in 11 different mammalian organ systems and of the mechanisms that contribute to aging and cancer. In Chapter 1, Posfai et al. review embryonic and other pluripotent stem cells in the pre- and postimplantation embryo. They comprehensively discuss the latest insights on the sequential lineage specifications in the early developing embryo. Furthermore, they dissect the similarities and differences of *in vivo* pluripotency

development with their stem cell population counterparts propagated *in vitro*. All these developmental aspects are then placed in the context of the major signaling pathways known to play critical roles in the regulation of pluripotency.

Chapters 2–4 are focused on the discussion of well-characterized stem cell systems in the rapidly renewing tissues of the bone marrow, intestine, and skin. In Chapter 2, Goodell and colleagues summarize the main results of many important recent studies on hematopoietic stem cell regulation with a focus on epigenetic control. They thoroughly discuss the latest insights on general principles of epigenetic regulation and the specific epigenetic mechanisms that impact embryonic hematopoietic development and that control the balance between hematopoietic stem cell maintenance and lineage commitment. This review further highlights epigenetic controls in the context of aging and hematopoietic malignancies. In Chapter 3, Tan and Barker review intestinal stem cells and discuss the controversial relationships and hierarchy of different stem cell populations that have been identified within the crypts. They summarize the main competing theories and conflicting results of many important recent studies and offer an integrative discussion of a unifying theory. In Chapter 4, Tadeu and Horsley review the latest insights on epithelial skin stem cells of the epidermis, hair follicles, and sweat glands. They detail the intrinsic and extrinsic controls of adult skin stem cell niches and discuss their relevance for epithelial skin cancer progression and pathology.

In subsequent chapters, other well-established and more recently discovered stem cells and progenitors of several organ systems are discussed. In Chapter 5, Fu et al. review the lineage relationship of different stem and progenitor cell populations of the mammary gland. With an insightful discussion, they provide reconciliatory explanations to new competing theories regarding lineage relationships within the epithelial mammary gland. It continues with a thorough overview of the molecular control of mammary stem and progenitor cell regulation by steroid hormones and other molecular players and finally ties together the latest insights regarding implications for breast cancer. In Chapter 6, several established and novel features of satellite stem cells are reviewed by Chang and Rudnicki in a comprehensive discussion of many recent insights, including: the emerging concept of satellite stem and progenitor cell heterogeneity, novel findings regarding the embryonic origin of muscle stem cells, and the requirement of Pax7 in satellite cells. Finally, this chapter discusses age- and disease-related decline of muscle stem cell function and provides an outlook on potential stem cell

transplantation therapies. In Chapter 7, Rolando and Taylor summarize the latest insights on the developmental origin of adult hippocampal neuronal stem cells with a focus on controlling signaling pathways and transcription factors. Then, they dissect the heterogeneous nature and function of adult neurogenic stem cells and niches and, in this context, the role of important signaling pathways. Finally, this chapter discusses recent insights into the role of adult hippocampal neuronal stem cells in epilepsy, aging, and depression. In Chapter 8, Leeman et al. review recently discovered lung stem and progenitor cells. They summarize the identification of several different lung epithelial stem cells, the role of lung stromal and endothelial cells, and their relevance for lung cancers. Discussed are further recent advances toward cell-based therapies by applying bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and directed differentiation of induced pluripotent stem cells. In Chapter 9, Yang and Oatley review spermatogonial stem cells in physiological and pathological conditions. They first discuss the origin of spermatogonial stem cells, then the molecular mechanisms regulating their maintenance, and the latest insights into germ cell tumor formation. In Chapter 10, Shin and Kaestner describe recently discovered hepatic progenitor cells. They discuss competing and controversial theories regarding the cellular origin and precise identity of these stem cell-like cells. In Chapter 11, Kopan et al. review the role of nephrogenic progenitors in kidney morphogenesis and dissect extrinsic regulatory influences by stromal signals, in addition to intrinsic transcriptional controls. They then discuss the impact of these latest insights on renal hypoplasia and the general control of cessation of nephrogenesis.

In Chapter 12, Rezza et al. provide a niche-centric view on the general intrinsic regulation of stem cells and their extrinsic control by the microenvironment. A dissection of the cellular organization of adult stem cell niches is followed by an extensive discussion of established and novel molecular regulators in adult stem cell niches. It closes with a brief discussion of stem cell niche dysfunction in aging and cancer. The final Chapters 13 and 14 establish in greater detail the stem cell and niche-related processes and molecular mechanisms that are dysregulated in cancers and during aging, respectively. Atlasi et al. in Chapter 13 first provide a general discussion of the historical perspective, the definitions, and the emerging concept of cancer stem cells. In addition, they analyze the control of cancer stem cells by signaling pathways with a focus on Wnt/ β -catenin signaling, and discuss the similarities of germ cell tumors with embryonic pluripotent stem cells. Finally, Jung and Brack review in Chapter 14 the dynamic changes in stem

cells during aging that are only recently beginning to be uncovered. They discuss the molecular players in cellular aging and the extrinsic regulation mediating aged cellular and tissue homeostasis. They finally provide important examples of aging mechanisms in major well-known stem cell systems.

This volume of *Stem Cells in Development and Disease* is a collection of 14 timely and comprehensive reviews on the current knowledge and recent insights of stem cell functions in several different organ systems. New biotechnological breakthroughs in the past decade have brought tremendous advances that have greatly increased our understanding of stem cell functions, which ultimately brings us closer to the prospect of applying stem cell therapies to human disease. It is my hope that reading the diverse chapters in this volume will provide the different stem cell fields with new ideas and fresh perspectives.

MICHAEL RENDL

CONTENTS

<i>Contributors</i>	xi
<i>Preface</i>	xv
1. Mechanisms of Pluripotency <i>In Vivo</i> and <i>In Vitro</i>	1
Eszter Posfai, Oliver H. Tam, and Janet Rossant	
1. Introduction	2
2. Phases of Lineage Restriction	4
3. First Lineage Specification—ICM Versus TE Cell Fate	5
4. Second Lineage Specification—EPI Versus PE Cell Fate	10
5. Maintenance of Early Cell Lineages—Relevance to Pluripotent Stem Cells	15
6. Growth Factor Signaling Requirements in EPI-Derived Stem Cells: <i>In Vivo</i> Similarities and Differences	17
7. Concluding Remarks	25
Acknowledgments	28
References	28
2. Hematopoietic Stem Cell Development: An Epigenetic Journey	39
Sean M. Cullen, Allison Mayle, Lara Rossi, and Margaret A. Goodell	
1. Introduction	40
2. Principles of Epigenetic Regulation	42
3. Epigenetic Regulation of Hematopoiesis	50
4. Role of Epigenetic Regulators in Hematopoietic Malignancies	62
5. Conclusions	67
Acknowledgments	68
References	68
3. Intestinal Stem Cells and Their Defining Niche	77
David Wei-Min Tan and Nick Barker	
1. The Mammalian Small Intestine	78
2. Intestinal Stem Cells	79
3. Characterizing Stem Cell Behavior During Homeostasis and Disease	89
4. Reconciling the Opposing ISC Models	90
5. The Stem Cell Niche	92
6. Studying ISCs <i>Ex Vivo</i>	99
7. Conclusion	100

Acknowledgments	101
References	101
4. Epithelial Stem Cells in Adult Skin	109
Ana Mafalda Baptista Tadeu and Valerie Horsley	
1. Introduction	109
2. Stem Cells in the Interfollicular Epidermis	111
3. Stem Cells in the Pilosebaceous Unit	114
4. Stem Cells in the Sweat Gland	116
5. Components of Adult Stem Cell Niches in the Skin	117
6. Stem Cells in Epithelial Skin Cancers	121
7. Concluding Remarks	124
Acknowledgments	124
References	125
5. The Mammary Stem Cell Hierarchy	133
Naiyang Fu, Geoffrey J. Lindeman, and Jane E. Visvader	
1. Introduction	134
2. Identification of Adult Mouse MaSCs	135
3. The Isolation of Distinct Mammary Luminal Progenitor Cells	140
4. <i>In Vivo</i> Lineage Tracing in the Mammary Gland	141
5. Evidence for the Existence of Fetal MaSCs	144
6. Elucidation of a Functionally Analogous Epithelial Hierarchy in Human Breast	145
7. Control of MaSCs by Steroid Hormones	146
8. Molecular Regulators of the Mammary Epithelial Hierarchy	147
9. Implications of the Differentiation Hierarchy for Breast Cancer	153
10. Concluding Remarks	155
Acknowledgments	155
References	155
6. Satellite Cells: The Architects of Skeletal Muscle	161
Natasha C. Chang and Michael A. Rudnicki	
1. Introduction	161
2. Embryonic Origin of Satellite Cells	165
3. Adult Satellite Cells: A Heterogeneous Population of Stem Cells and Committed Progenitors	168
4. Age and Disease-Related Decline in Satellite Cell Function	172
5. Satellite Cell Transplantation Therapy	173

6. Concluding Remarks	176
Acknowledgments	177
References	177
7. Neural Stem Cell of the Hippocampus: Development, Physiology Regulation, and Dysfunction in Disease	183
Chiara Rolando and Verdon Taylor	
1. Introduction	184
2. Origin of Adult Hippocampal Neural Stem Cells: Embryonic Development of the DG	185
3. Adult Hippocampal Neurogenesis: Heterogeneous Neurogenic NSCs and Niche	193
4. Adult DG NSC in Epilepsy, Aging, and Depression	196
5. Conclusions	200
Acknowledgments	201
References	201
8. Lung Stem and Progenitor Cells in Tissue Homeostasis and Disease	207
Kristen T. Leeman, Christine M. Fillmore, and Carla F. Kim	
1. Introduction	208
2. Endogenous Lung Stem and Progenitor Cells	211
3. The Others: Lung Mesenchymal Stromal Cells and Lung Endothelial Progenitor Cells	215
4. Directing Differentiation: Embryonic Stem Cells and Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells	216
5. MSCs: Potential Role of Cell-Based Therapy in Lung Disease	218
6. Stem Cells in Lung Cancer	220
7. Future Directions	224
Acknowledgments	226
References	226
9. Spermatogonial Stem Cell Functions in Physiological and Pathological Conditions	235
Qi-En Yang and Jon M. Oatley	
1. Introduction	236
2. Spermatogenesis and SSC Biology	237
3. Origin of SSC Pool	241
4. Molecular Mechanisms Regulating Maintenance of the SSC Pool	245

5. TGCT Formation	254
6. Concluding Remarks	259
References	260
10. The Origin, Biology, and Therapeutic Potential of Facultative Adult Hepatic Progenitor Cells	269
Soonah Shin and Klaus H. Kaestner	
1. Introduction	270
2. Conditions That Activate HPC Proliferation	271
3. Origins and Markers for HPCs	273
4. The Contribution of HPCs to Liver Regeneration	281
5. Signaling Pathways and Niches That Regulate the Behavior of HPCs	282
6. Cell Therapy	285
7. Concluding Remarks	287
Acknowledgments	287
References	287
11. Nephron Progenitor Cells: Shifting the Balance of Self-Renewal and Differentiation	293
Raphael Kopan, Shuang Chen, and Melissa Little	
1. Introduction	294
2. Setting the Scene: The Developing Urinary System of the Mammal	296
3. The Nephrogenic Niche	297
4. A Subdivision Within the Nephron Progenitor Population: Evidence for More Than One State	298
5. Roles Played by the CM	305
6. Balancing Self-Renewal and Differentiation: Signals from the Stroma	314
7. Influences from Other Cellular Compartments	317
8. Transcriptional Regulation of the CM	317
9. Renal Hypoplasia: Time to Reassess What We Know	318
10. Cessation of Nephrogenesis	320
11. Conclusion	322
Acknowledgments	322
References	322
12. Adult Stem Cell Niches: Cellular and Molecular Components	333
Amélie Rezza, Rachel Sennett, and Michael Rendl	
1. Introduction	334
2. Cellular Organization of Adult SC Niches	335

3. Molecular Regulators of Adult SC Niches	348
4. SC Niche Dysfunction in Aging and Cancer	356
5. Concluding Remarks	358
Acknowledgments	359
References	359
13. Cancer Stem Cells, Pluripotency, and Cellular Heterogeneity: A WNTer Perspective	373
Yaser Atlasi, Leendert Looijenga, and Riccardo Fodde	
1. Cancer Stem Cells: An Overview	374
2. Control of (Cancer) Stemness by Signaling Pathways: The Embryonic/Germ Cell Connection	383
3. Conclusions and Future Perspective	393
Acknowledgments	396
References	396
14. Cellular Mechanisms of Somatic Stem Cell Aging	405
Yunjoon Jung and Andrew S. Brack	
1. Introduction	406
2. Molecular Players of Cellular Aging	409
3. Extrinsic Regulation of Aged Cellular and Tissue Homeostasis	415
4. Aging in Tissue-Specific Stem Cells	416
5. Discussion and Concluding Comments	427
Acknowledgments	429
References	429
Index	439