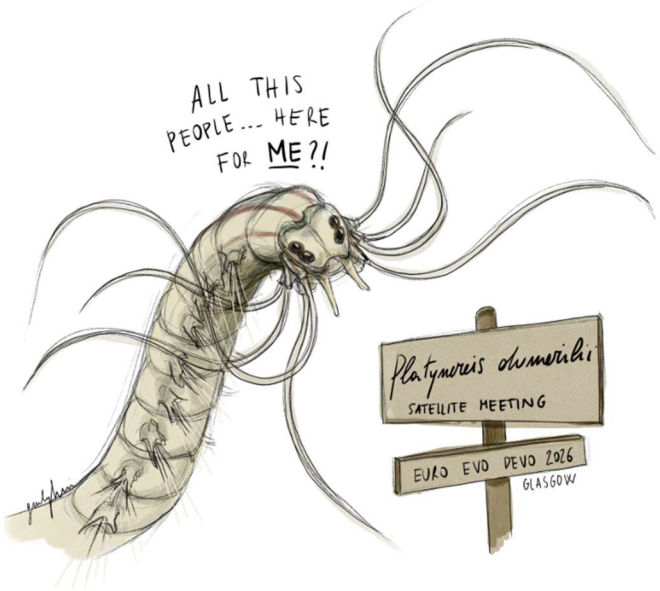
Platynereis Satellite Meeting

EED 2026 Glasgow

Room: East Quad Lecture Theatre (226)



Monday, June 8th 2026

9:00
Welcome
Guillaume Balavoine (9:00-9:10)

Session 1: Analysis of the *Platynereis* genome
Chair: David Hug

9:15 – 9:30 **Kristin Tessmar-Raible**
The chromosome-scale genomes of Platynereis dumerilii: insights from lab inbred and wild Naples individuals

9:35 – 9:50 **Thomas D. Lewin**
Cryptic whole-genome duplications in spiralians

9:55 – 10:10 **Cyril Cros**
Improving annelid genome resources

10:15 – 10:30 **Stephan Schneider**
Transcriptomic resources to investigate the Platynereis life cycle

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break, Kelvin Gallery

11:00- 11:10 **Samuel Tambunan**
Unravelling ancient thyroid hormone signalling roles during larval and metamorphosis stages of the marine annelid Platynereis dumerilii

Session 2: Advances in building *Platynereis* resources and insight from other annelids
Chair: Kristin Tessmar-Raible

11:15 – 11:30 **Detlev Arendt**
The multimodal PlatyBrowser: a whole-body cell type atlas mapped onto an electron microscopy volume

11:35 – 11:50 **Estefania Paredes** (pre-recorded talk)
Cryopreservation of Platynereis dumerilii larvae.

11:55 – 12:10 **Mette Handberg-Thorsager**
Multiscale imaging of Platynereis dumerilii using Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

12:15 – 12:30 **Irene Del Olmo**
Temporal single-cell dynamics of head regeneration in the annelid Pristina leidyi

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch break, Kelvin Gallery

13:30 – 13:40 **Patricia Alvarez-Campos**
New worms, new questions: life cycle and developmental characterization of emerging annelid models

13:45 – 15:00 Discussion session on resource distribution and further development (covering experiences with different genomes, strains, bioinformatic resources)

Session 3: Annelid development, organogenesis, and regeneration
Chair: Guillaume Balavoine

15:00 – 15:15 **Duygu Özpolat**
Uncoupling regeneration: Gut cell reprogramming via morphallactic tissue remodeling can progress even when epimorphic blastema-based regeneration fails

15:20 – 15:35 **Ranny Passos Ribeiro** (online)
Regeneration extends lifespan in Platynereis dumerilii

15:35 – 16:00 Coffee break, Kelvin Gallery

16:00 – 16:15 **Eve Gazave**
Parapodial regeneration in the annelid Platynereis

16:20 – 16:35 **Chema Martin-Duran**
Vertebrate-like Hox gene regulation in annelid worms

16:40 – 16:50 **Julianna Escudero**
Investigating germ cell source and sex differentiation

16:55 – 17:05 **Alicia Boyd**
Getting the green light: metamorphosis increases regenerative potential in the annelid, Capitella teleta

17:10 – 17:20 **Angelica Miglioli**
Heads or tails? Tracing trunk heterochrony in annelid larva

17:20 – 18:00 – informal discussion

Tuesday, June 9th 2026

Session 4: *Platynereis* nervous system and sensory biology
Chair: Audrey Mat

9:00 – 9:15 **Hisao Tsukamoto**
Spectral and signaling properties of ciliary opsins in Platynereis dumerilii and other annelids.

9:20 – 9:35 **Luis Bezares-Calderón** (online)
The flow sensory system in Platynereis larvae

9:40 – 9:50 **Maria Belyaeva**
A comparative study of the larval nervous system of two polychaete species of genus Platynereis with different larval types

9:55 – 10:05 **Steffanie Mutiara**
Defining multiciliated cell types in Platynereis larvae: Dispersed vs. Aligned ciliary arrays

Session 5: *Platynereis* and other polychaetes: ecology and behavior
Chair: Tobias Gerber

10:10 – 10:25 **Jordi Solana**
Studying regeneration by single-cell transcriptomics (in planarians)

10:30 – 10:55 Coffee break, Hunter Halls

10:55 – 11:10 **Federico Scaramuzza**
Decoding the Molecular Integration of Solar and Lunar Rhythms in Biological Clock Plasticity

11:15 – 11:30 **Audrey Mat**
Biological clock(s) in deep-sea mussels

11:35 – 11:50 **Eva Wolf**
Molecular mechanistic insights into the light responses of a marine Cryptochrome

11:55 – 12:05 **Giulia Ghisleni**
The first life cycle-wide characterization of the Platynereis dumerilii microbiome

12:10 – 12:20 **Alvin Han**
Microbiome variation and symbioses in the Platynereis species complex across Europe

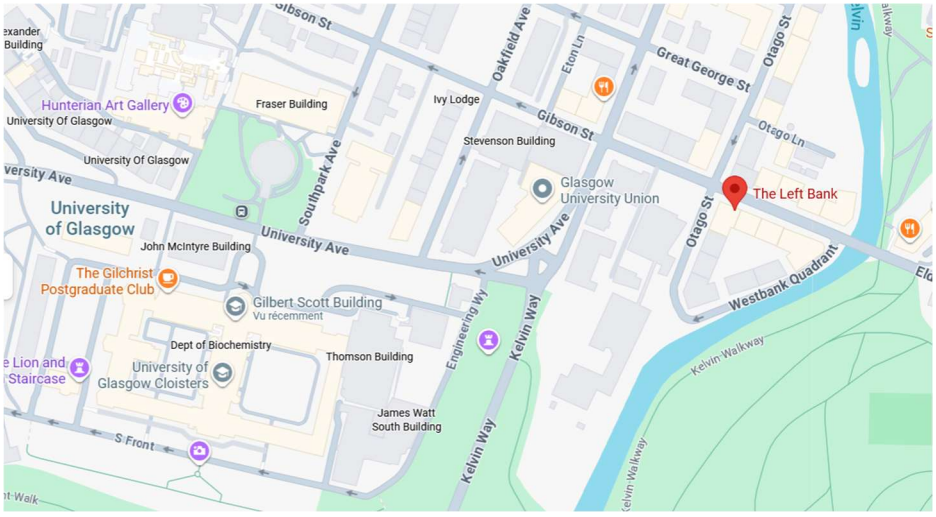
12:25 – 12:35 **Jimena Montagne**
The evolution of the polar lobe in Spiralia

12:35 – End of satellite meeting

12:35 Lunch, Hunter Halls

For late night discussions and drinks on <u>Monday night</u>:

The Left Bank, Gibson Street, from around 9.00 pm



Abstracts

The chromosome-scale genomes of Platynereis dumerilii: insights from lab inbred and wild Naples individuals

Kristin Tessmar-Raible, Audrey M. Mat, Federico Scaramuzza, Miles P.Bremridge, Paul O.Wulf, Lukas Orel, Christophe Klopp, Florian Raible

University of Vienna-Austria, Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research- Germany, University of Oldenburg- Germany
Dept. Neuroscience and Developmental Biology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Vienna BioCenter PhD Program, Doctoral School of the University of Vienna, Medical University of Vienna; Vienna, Austria
Université Fédérale de Toulouse, Sigenae, Bioinfomics, INRAE, France
Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany
Carl-von-Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, Germany

We sequenced the genomes of an individual from a highly inbred laboratory strain of Platynereis dumerilii (Vienna-PIN) and from a newly isolated wild-type population (NAPLES). We assembled them to chromosome scale, representing four pseudohaplotypes. Comparison between NAPLES pseudohyplotypes revealed a polymorphism rate exceeding 4%, while this rate is reduced to ~0.9% in the Vienna-PIN strain. However, 16% of the Vienna-PIN genomes are maintained as highly polymorphic regions (HPRs). I will cover our on-going analyses with those genomes.

Cryptic whole-genome duplications in spiralians

Tom Lewin, Dearbhaile Casey, Yi-Jyun Luo, Alex de Mendoza, Anthony Redmond, & Peter W. H. Holland

Academia Sinica, Taiwan
Queen Mary University of London, UK

Whole-genome duplications (WGDs) are potential evolutionary facilitators of biological complexity and diversification. Ancient WGDs are well characterized in plant and vertebrate evolution but appear to be much rarer in invertebrates. It is unclear, however, whether this reflects genuine scarcity or the inadequacy of current detection methods. For example, extensive gene loss after WGD could remove signals of elevated gene duplication, and lead to WGDs being missed. In this talk, I consider methods for WGD detection in the era of chromosome-level genomes, particularly focussing on intra- and inter-genomic synteny. I then describe a new 'cryptic' WGD that we have found in bryozoans, a spiralian phylum closely related to annelids, which was followed by massive gene loss and up to 95% of genes returning to single copy. Finally, I discuss the potential to resolve WGDs across invertebrates and bring the talk back around to annelids, where earthworms are proposed to have had at least one WGD.

Improving annelid genome resources

Cyril Cros

EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

I explain what we have done for the Platynereis subspecies, and how we could graft onto projects like Darwin Tree of Life to visualize the genome data they have produced.

Transcriptomic resources to investigate the Platynereis life cycle

Stephan Q. Schneider

Academia Sinica, Taiwan

Over the last decade we have generated various bulk RNA-seq and sn RNA-seq resources targeting oogenesis, early development, transition between different larval stages including metamorphosis and sexual maturation in Platynereis. I will give an update about these resources, and highlight some of the insights and opportunities.

Unravelling ancient thyroid hormone signalling roles during larval and metamorphosis stages of the marine annelid Platynereis dumerilii

Samuel Tambunan, Stephan Q. Schneider

Institute of Cellular and Organismic Biology, Academia Sinica, Taipei.
Molecular and Biological Agricultural Sciences Program, Taiwan International Graduate Program, Academia Sinica, Taipei.
Institute of Biotechnology, National Chung Hsing University, Taichung.

Comprehensive genomic analyses revealed that P. dumerilii possesses most candidate genes required for TH synthesis, transport, metabolism, and signal transduction. We performed bulk RNA-seq, WMiSH, TH and inhibitor treatments, and well as MS/MS to gain insights into the utilization of TH signalling throughout the life cycle.

The multimodal PlatyBrowser: a whole-body cell type atlas mapped onto an electron microscopy volume

Detlev Arendt, Samuel Haury Parra, Cyril C D R Cros, Adam Phillip Oel, Elena Buglakova, Leslie Pan, Luca Santangeli, Tobias Gerber, Nikolaos Papalopoulos, Hernando Martinez Vergara, David Puga, Vanessa Disela, Lara Niederhaus, Paola Yanina Bertucci, Asli Bilgesu Kilic, Idoia Quintana Urzainqui, Julieta Acevedo, Jacob Musser, Anna Kreshuk

Developmental Biology Unit, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Cell Biology and Biophysics Unit, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, Yale University, New Haven, USA

With the multimodal PlatyBrowser we provide a unique resource that combines transcriptomes and ultrastructure at cellular resolution. Leveraging this resource, we gain new insights into the evolution of nervous system centralisation.

Cryopreservation of Platynereis dumerilii larvae.

Estefania Paredes, Netsanet Berhane Getachew, Luis Alberto Bezares-Calderón, Sara Campos, Andrij Belokurov, Kristin Tessmar-Raible.

Universidade de Vigo
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK
Sorbonne Université, Paris, France
University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Alfred Wegener Institute
University Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany

We report the first cryopreservation protocol for P. dumerilii larvae, which combined with a careful post-thawing culturing regime, allowed us to obtain animals that survived to adulthood and successfully reproduced.

Multiscale imaging of Platynereis dumerilii using Light Sheet Fluorescence Microscopy

Mette Handberg-Thorsager, Beke Lohmann, Jan Huisken

Huisken Lab, MultiScale Biology, Georg-August-University Göttingen

In this talk, I will show how we use our home-built Flamingo light sheet microscope to follow Platynereis dumerilii development, including the emergence of the nervous system, and how we image whole adult worms for anatomical analysis. I will also present our image-processing workflow for handling large 3D datasets and extracting quantitative measurements. Finally, I will briefly discuss how we deploy the portable Flamingo system at marine stations to image marine invertebrate larvae together with collaborators on-site.

Temporal single-cell dynamics of head regeneration in the annelid Pristina leidyi

We use time-resolved single-cell transcriptomics to characterize the cellular diversity and gene expression dynamics of anterior regeneration in Pristina leidyi, from wound healing to early blastema patterning and differentiation. By tracing differentiation trajectories, we identify a diverse array of stem-like populations and
transient progenitors that drive tissue restoration through conserved molecular programs.

Irene del Olmo, Helena García-Castro, David Salamanca-Díaz, Virginia Vanni, Alberto Pérez Posada, Jordi Solana, Aida Verdes, Patricia Álvarez-Campos

Universidad Autónoma de Madrid,
University of Exeter, Exeter, UK
National Museum of Natural Sciences, Madrid

Uncoupling regeneration: Gut cell reprogramming via morphallactic tissue remodeling can progress even when epimorphic blastema-based regeneration fails

B. Duygu Özpolat, Jasmine Sun

Washington University in St. Louis

Using the highly regenerative segmented worm Pristina leidyi, we investigated how organisms use morphallaxis to remodel tissue and restore correct body proportions after injury or during asexual fission. By tracking cell-specific molecular markers, we discovered that anterior intestine cells dedifferentiate and reprogram into stomach cells in just three days without losing gut integrity. Ultimately, by blocking cell division and blastema formation, our study proved that this morphallactic tissue remodeling can be uncoupled from epimorphic regeneration.

Regeneration extends lifespan in Platynereis dumerilii

Rannyele P. Ribeiro, Kaitlyn Hong, Alina Krawczynski, Faith Stemmler, Julianna Escudero, Lucy Pham, B. Duygu Özpolat

Washington University in St. Louis

Regeneration restores lost body parts after injury, yet its organism-wide consequences remain poorly understood, particularly whether regeneration can influence systemic physiology. In this study, we explore the systemic effects of regeneration focusing on brain–germline interactions and aging in P. dumerilii.

Parapodial regeneration in the annelid *Platynereis*

Eve Gazave, Zoé Velasquillo Ramirez

Institut Jacques Monod / CNRS, Paris, France

In this recent study, we combined classical morphological and developmental approaches, with state-of-the-art single-cell RNA sequencing and analysis, to conduct a comprehensive comparison of locomotory appendage and posterior part regeneration. Our work, revealing morphological, molecular and cellular parallels between these two efficient regenerations within a single species, sets the foundation for addressing the fundamental question of regeneration success in animals.

Vertebrate-like Hox gene regulation in annelid worms

Chema Martin, Billie E Davies, Francisco M Martin-Zamora, Juan M Vaquerizas, Paul J Hurd

Queen Mary University of London, UK
Imperial College, LMS, London, UK

How the exquisite, coordinated expression of Hox genes originated remains unknown because we lack an understanding of the molecular mechanisms and genomic regulatory principles controlling gene expression in most animals. Here, we use high-resolution Micro-C datasets spanning the life cycle of two segmented worms (Annelida) to demonstrate that the formation of a Topologically Associating Domain (TAD) correlates with distinct timings of Hox gene activation.

Investigating germ cell source and sex differentiation in juvenile P. dumerilii

Julianna Escudero, Rannyele P. Ribeiro, Ina Jaegy, Bria Metzger, B. Duygu Özpolat

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, USA

This project investigates whether gonial clusters in juvenile Platynereis dumerilii originate from an anterior germline stem cell pool. In addition, using gonial cluster transplantations, this study tests whether germ cell sex differentiation is governed by intrinsic or systemic signals such as hormones.

Getting the green light: metamorphosis increases regenerative potential in the annelid, Capitella teleta

Alicia Boyd, Elaine Seaver

University of Florida Whitney lab, USA

C. teleta larvae do not replace lost structures, but juveniles and adults regenerate posteriorly following metamorphosis. To determine whether metamorphosis enables juveniles to regrow structures lost as larvae, we amputated larvae, induced metamorphosis, and observed them for 3, 7 or 14 days. New segment growth, remodeling of the digestive system, and successful regeneration post re-amputation were observed, suggesting that metamorphosis acts as a switch to enable regeneration of structures.

Heads or tails? Tracing trunk heterochrony in annelid larva

Angelica Miglioli, Jimena Montagne, Allan M. Carrillo-Baltodano, Lily Winkler, Tom Frankish, José M. Martín-Durán

Queen Mary University of London, UK

Heterochronies in trunk formation have been proposed to underpin the diversification of bilaterian life cycles. Here, we use comparative single-nucleus transcriptomics in two annelid species with distinct life cycles to uncover the cellular and regulatory programmes underlying these developmental shifts.

Spectral and signaling properties of ciliary opsins in Platynereis dumerilii and other annelids.

Hisao Tsukamoto

Kobe University, Kobe, Japan

Opsin is light-sensitive G protein-coupled receptor involved in photoreception in animals. I will discuss spectral and signaling characteristics of invertebrate ciliary opsins, in particular from Platynereis and other annelids.

The flow sensory system in *Platynereis* larvae

Luis Alberto Bezares Calderon, Rebecca Poon, Markus Holzner, Kirsty Wan, Gáspár Jékely

LBDV/CNRS, Villefranche-sur-Mer, France
University of Exeter, UK
BOKU, Vienna, AUSTRIA
University of Heidelberg, Germany

I will describe a sensory-motor system sensitive to flow in the Platynereis larvae. It is a compact circuit composed of NOMPC+ cells with an asymmetric neuronal morphology polarized to the direction of flow that innervate a group of motoneurons controlling steering. I will discuss these and other properties and experiments in process to investigate the role of this system in posture control and navigation in flow-changing environments.

A comparative study of the larval nervous system of two polychaete species of genus Platynereis with different larval types

Maria Belyaeva, Elizabeth Williams

University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

Annelids are well-suited for studying sensory system adaptation, especially the genus Platynereis, one species of which, P. dumerilii, is a well-studied experimental model. While P. dumerilii has a free-swimming planktonic larva, the larva of its closely related sister-species, P. massiliensis, is brooded in its mother's tube on the seafloor. Using bioinformatics and immunohistochemistry, we are comparing the neuropeptide repertoires of these two species, finding strong conservation of both sequence and spatial expression patterns.

Defining multiciliated cell types in Platynereis larvae: Dispersed vs. Aligned ciliary arrays

Steffanie Mutiara, Jae Ann Buenaluz, Stephan Q. Schneider

Institute of Cellular and Organismic Biology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
Adamson University, Manila, Philippines

We reconstructed 80 multiciliated cells and comprehensively mapped 18,107 basal bodies and 14,069 cilia, revealing two distinct MCC architectures with either dispersed or highly aligned ciliary arrays. By integrating single-nucleus RNA sequencing with spatial gene expression analysis, we identified subtype-specific regulatory programs underlying these architectures, demonstrating how diversification of a conserved cell type drives the evolution of distinct larval tissue organization.

Decoding the Molecular Integration of Solar and Lunar Rhythms in Biological Clock Plasticity

Federico Scaramuzza, Audrey Mat, Gabriele Andreatta, Birgit Poehn, Martin Zurl, Hanspeter Herzel, Kristin Tessmar-Raible

Department of Neuroscience and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna
University of Padova, Padova, Italy
Institute for Theoretical Biology, Berlin, Germany

Department of Neuroscience and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna.
Alfred Wegener Institute Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, Bremerhaven, Germany.
Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM), School of Mathematics and Science, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany.

Using the bristle worm Platynereis dumerilii as a model, this work investigates how molecular networks integrate circadian and circalunar signals to adjust behavioural timing across different lunar phases. By combining transcriptomic analysis with mathematical modeling and functional genetic assays, we propose a key molecular integrator driving clock plasticity, providing a new framework for understanding how organisms synchronise to multiple environmental timescales.

Biological clock(s) in deep-sea mussels

Audrey Mat, Federico Scaramuzza, Christophe Klopp, Marjolaine Matabos, Kristin Tessmar-Raible

Department of Neuroscience and Developmental Biology, Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna.
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Institute for Chemistry and Biology of the Marine Environment (ICBM), School of Mathematics and Science, Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg, Oldenburg, Germany.

Over 90% of ocean volume lies below 200 m2, where pressures are high and temperatures cold. Yet molecular, cellular, and heterologous assays reveal a functional circadian clock in Bathymodiolus azoricus despite constant darkness and dominant 12.4 tidal variations of the environment.

Molecular mechanistic insights into the light responses of a marine Cryptochrome

Eva Wolf, Hong Ha Vu, Shruthi Krishnan

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Institute of Molecular Physiology, Mainz, Germany

Using a combination of protein biochemistry, structural biology and spectroscopy, we characterized molecular mechanisms underlying the photoreaction, structural dynamics and downstream interactions of a light-sensitive Cryptochrome (L-Cry) that is involved in the synchronization of the reproduction of P.dumerilii with the lunar cycle. Our results show how the analyses of recombinantly expressed and purified wildtype and mutant P.dumerilii proteins enables a deeper molecular mechanistic understanding of biologically relevant processes in this emerging marine model system.

Microbiome variation and symbioses in the Platynereis species complex across Europe

Alvin Han, Leslie Pan, Rike Schwanke, Victoria Witte, Elizabeth Hambleton, Giulia Ghisleni, Detlev Arendt

Developmental Biology Unit, European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Heidelberg, Germany
Division of Microbial Ecology, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria
Biotechnology and Bioscience Department, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy

We performed 16S rRNA metabarcoding on individuals collected across the European coastline to profile the natural microbiome of the Platynereis cryptic species complex and the genetic and environmental factors shaping it. We found that host genetics distinguish the microbiomes of individuals collected from the same exact site and also shape the variation of microbiomes between sites. Additionally, we observed the association of several known marine symbiotic bacteria genera with Platynereis that are absent from laboratory cultures. Finally, we successfully isolated one of these symbionts, a novel species of Endozoicomonas, and propose it as the basis of a tractable host-microbe symbiosis model in P. dumerilii.

The first life cycle-wide characterization of the Platynereis dumerilii microbiome

Giulia Ghisleni, Alvin Han , Tatiana Gorojankina, Ivan Zubcic, Maurizio Casiraghi, Detlev Arendt, Guillaume Balavoine, Antonia Bruno

Platynereis dumerilii emerges as a promising model for studying host-microbiome interactions in evolutionary developmental biology. Using longitudinal 16S rRNA profiling across the entire life cycle and major culture subenvironments, we identified a persistent host-associated microbiome alongside strong habitat-specific microbial communities, with marked developmental shifts and major restructuring following changes in culture conditions. Comparative analyses across laboratory cultures further reveal that microbiome assembly is strongly shaped by culture environment, establishing P. dumerilii as a tractable holobiont model for evo-devo research.

The evolution of the polar lobe in Spiralia

Jimena Montagne, Jingcheng Wei, Chema Martín-Durán

Queen Mary University of London, UK.

Spiral cleavage is unique among animals in presenting three distinct cell division patterns in early cleavage: equal, unequal and unequal with polar lobe. We are investigating a range of molluscan and annelid species, exploring the cytoskeleton organization during early cleavage.

Participants

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