

and encourages the submission of papers describing technologies that combine chemical and other processes with phytoremediation.

The role of the microorganisms involved is well treated and geochemistry has not been neglected, trends that I hope will continue. Ways of enhancing metal availability to improve its uptake by plants are also discussed. The journal has achieved a sensible balance between original research articles, invited reviews, special commentaries and technical notes. The fact that much activity is currently US-based may explain the strong preponderance of US scientists in the impressive editorial board, although leading scientists from other countries are also represented.

This journal is the first of its kind devoted to phytoremediation. Its appearance is timely considering the importance of the subject and the rapidly growing literature at present scattered across journals devoted to diverse disciplines. It should allow improved communication between scientists and lead to the further collaborations necessary to extend our knowledge in this field. The journal deserves to succeed and will undoubtedly be of value to many life and Earth scientists.

♦ <http://www.crcpress.com:80/us/jour/jourinfo/15126514.asp?mcsid=>

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Green and red lights at the cell

Traffic: The International Journal of Intracellular Transport

editors Frances M. Brodsky, Mark C. P. Marsh & Sandra L. Schmid
Munksgaard. 12/yr. \$380 (institutional), \$120 (individual)

Reinhard Jahn

Since the classic work of George Palade and colleagues in the sixties, the field of cell membrane traffic has undergone an almost exponential growth. Milestones include the introduction of yeast genetics for identifying genes involved in individual trafficking steps and the development of cell-free assays for investigating membrane transport. More recently, the dramatic progress in live-cell microscopy and the inroads of structural biology have transformed our understanding of trafficking proteins.

Traffic is the first journal devoted entirely to the coverage of membrane traffic. Launched at the start of this year by a group of renowned scientists including Frances

Brodsky, Mark Marsh, Sandy Schmid and the late Thomas Kreis, the goal is to create "a central journal to gather together publications that are of most interest to those working on intracellular trafficking".

Published monthly, about half of the journal space is devoted to short and well-illustrated reviews centred around a common theme. Other features include a "toolbox" section covering technical developments (recently including galleries of crystal structures of trafficking proteins, and a collection of John Heuser's stunning three-dimensional electron micrographs), meeting reports, and commentaries by senior scientists about current issues of general interest. The remainder contains research papers.

Where does *Traffic* stand after the first seven issues? Obviously, it is very difficult to start a new journal in a highly competitive field. So far, *Traffic* publishes only three to five research papers a month, too few to have a serious impact. In a world driven by 'impact factor' mania, students and postdocs are not easily persuaded to submit high-quality papers to a new journal with a still uncertain acceptance and will turn instead to established cell biology journals. However, it is refreshing to see senior scientists serving the community as enthusiastic editors in a journal market increasingly dominated by professional editors with limited research experience and by revenue-oriented business managers.

Despite its (still) small size, *Traffic* has succeeded in attracting many leading scientists, as can be seen by a glance at the editorial board and, more importantly, by the list of contributors.

The journal's appeal is heightened by an attractive layout and excellently reproduced drawings and images, mostly in colour. *Traffic* still has a long way to go before it becomes a 'must read' for the trafficking community, but it has made a strong start and is well on its way. All it needs now is its growing accep-

tance as an attractive forum for the publication of excellent research articles. ■

♦ <http://journals.munksgaard.dk/traffic.nsf/at/forside-1304>

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The nidus and the crucible

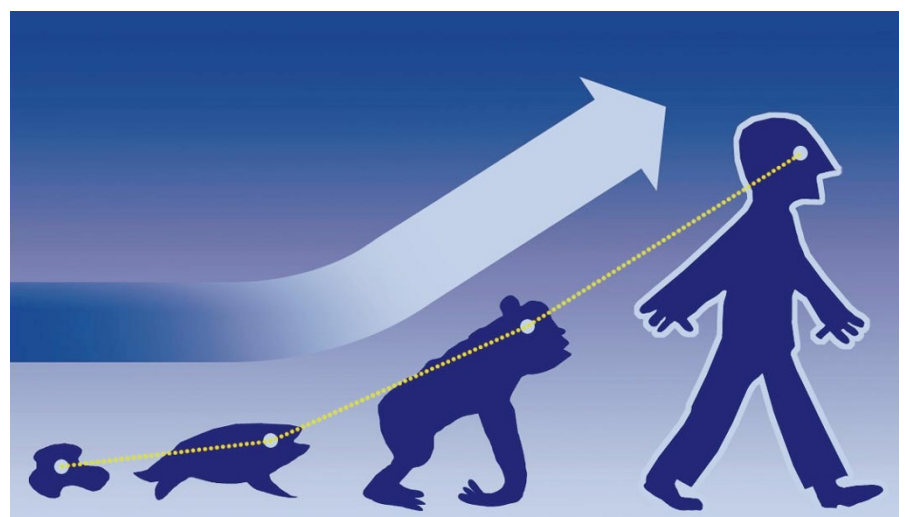
Evolution & Development

editor-in-chief Rudolf A. Raff
Blackwell Science. 6/yr. Print only:
institutional: \$195 (US), \$215 (elsewhere);
individual: \$80 (US), \$100 (elsewhere).
Combined print/online: institutional:
\$214.50 (US), \$234.50 (elsewhere);
individual: \$88 (US), \$108 (elsewhere)

Moya Meredith Smith

This journal emerges from the melting pot of our knowledge of how genes act during development to produce such a diversity of characteristics. It is an exciting new arrival on the scene. At the cutting edge of integrated biological science, it offers us a merging of two disciplines separated by a century of dispute. Will it bring the 'reciprocal illumination' long advocated by the classic theory that an understanding of development will illuminate that of evolution, and vice versa?

There is increasing interaction between the separate disciplines of palaeontology, population biology, developmental biology and molecular biology. And the journal aims to show how evolution and development are intimately related despite being fundamentally different processes. However, these separate disciplines have distinct and opposite concepts. One emphasizes diversity and the elimination of genetic options by natural



book reviews

selection to produce a distinct animal group. The other finds universally similar processes with similar genes acting to produce an individual animal.

Is it, as the journal's first editorial said, "the birth of a discipline"? Perhaps these two partners are too disparate to provide a unified science. But this attempt to create an intellectual home for the "new synthesis" will make fascinating reading. All the key players are there in the first five issues of the journal. The format is a couple of forum papers and a review, with the rest being mostly original research papers.

Examples of issues raised range from the ancient origins of axial patterning genes through to patterns and rates of vertebral evolution in amphibians and the evolution of the embryonic dorso-ventral axis. Although there is a diverse mix of contributions, spread evenly between the four disciplines, the consistent character is a view based on evolutionary perspectives.

The constraints on the future of this journal will be those of treading a tightrope in the arena of development that will produce an integrated science of biological form. The risk is descent into gene function at the molecular level. The gain would be to achieve the birth of a new platform from which to explain why fossils, with their unimaginable diversity of form, are not just isolated examples of failed experiments in the crucible of life. ■

♦ <http://www.blackwellscience.com/journals/evolution/index.html>

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Crossing the resistance divide

Drug Resistance Updates

editor-in-chief Nafsika Georgopapadakou
Churchill Livingstone. 6/yr. \$225, £180
(institutional), \$115, £85 (individual)

Eric J. Arts

Although resistance is a common and growing concern in the treatment of infectious disease and cancer, *Drug Resistance Updates* is one of the first journals to address chemotherapeutic resistance as a main theme and to review a wide variety of resistance-related issues.

The bimonthly issues cover a range of topics and pose related questions. For example, what is the mode of resistance to the antimalarial drug chloroquine and should we take this resistance mechanism into account when prescribing newer drugs such



as mefloquine for malaria prophylaxis or treatment? Is the induction of efflux pumps in azole-treated yeast cells analogous to the overexpression of outer membrane proteins acting as efflux pumps in Gram-negative bacteria or that of the MDR-1 P-glycoprotein in human tumour cells?

Similarities between these mechanisms are often difficult to identify because research on drug resistance has been segregated into various reputable but specialized journals focusing on cancer chemotherapy, microbes or viruses. The editors of *Drug Resistance Updates* have had the good sense to bring together perspectives and reviews on drug resistance in bacteria, cancer, fungi, protozoa and viruses and to provide a simple format for comparing drug-resistance mechanisms between organisms.

The reviews are concise and informative and have recently included descriptive diagrams summarizing complex drug-resistance mechanisms. A good mix of established experts and ambitious newcomers as authors provides a fresh perspective on both old and new drug-resistance topics such as bacterial resistance to β -lactam drugs (for example, penicillin G) and recent evidence for the resistance of influenza virus to neuraminidase inhibitors (such as zanamivir).

Unlike several other review journals,

the areas of microbial and cancer drug resistance are so extensive that there has been little repetition in this journal over its three years of publication. These reasons alone should ensure its survival in a competitive market for high quality and timely reviews.

Although the journal does not solicit comments on previous reviews, it does invite commentaries or perspectives on such topics as managing, characterizing and improving the detection of drug resistance. Even so, more articles comparing drug-resistance mechanisms employed by different organisms would add much to this journal's impact. Such comparisons are invaluable for designing new inhibitors, characterizing resistance mechanisms and developing methods to prolong drug use by reversing resistance. In addition to its content and format, the reasonable subscription price justified my purchase of two subscriptions and the use of this journal as a text in our graduate-level course 'Mechanisms of drug resistance'. ■

♦ <http://www.harcourt-international.com/journals/drug>

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Also submitted

The following journals were also submitted, but were not reviewed.

- Molecular Cell Biology Research Communications (Academic)
- Physiological Genomics (American Physiological Society)
- Neoplasia (Nature Publishing Group)
- Antioxidants & Redox Signaling (Mary Ann Liebert)
- Marine Biotechnology (Springer)
- Journal of Alzheimer's Disease (IOS Press)
- Journal of Molecular Microbiology & Biotechnology (Horizon)
- Systems Engineering (Wiley)
- Cellular Microbiology (Blackwell)
- Cloning (Mary Ann Liebert)