

12-27-2000

From Egg to Embryo

The Rockefeller University

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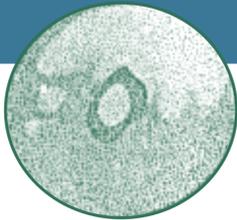
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41st

ANNUAL ALFRED E. MIRSKY
CHRISTMAS LECTURES ON
SCIENCE



From Egg to Embryo



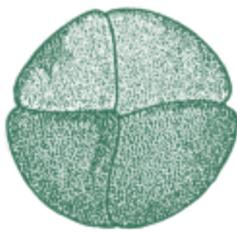
PROFESSOR ALI H. BRIVANLOU

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2000

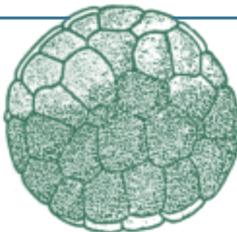
Lectures will be held in Caspary Auditorium.

The Rockefeller University

1230 York Avenue (at 66th Street), New York, NY 10021



10:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

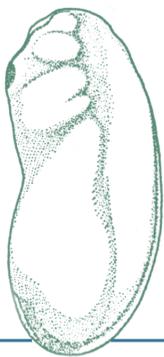


Principles of Embryonic Development

During sexual reproduction, the embryo receives half of its genetic instructions from the mother and a complementary half from the father. These instructions, in the form of DNA, contain all of the information required to direct the development of an entire complex organism from a single pluripotent progenitor—a cell with the ability to become any kind of cell. To complete the cycle, early in development the embryo sets aside a special set of “germ cells,” which will generate the sex cells of the next generation. Not only is the DNA in these cells responsible for the differences between us all, but it also is where evolution occurs over thousands of generations.



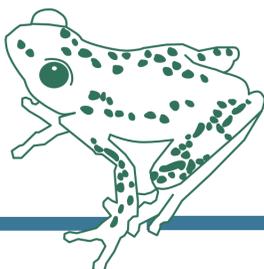
Lunch will be served between the lectures.



1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Development: Natural Cloning

During development, the single initial cell generates clones of itself as it divides. Thus each cell in an organism is genetically identical, though copying errors occur. The dramatic differences among cells reflect the effects of the environment in which they matured rather than differences in their nature. Development can therefore be considered a matter of controlling the environment in which an individual cell lives. It is a continuous process that proceeds throughout all stages of adulthood and, on the evolutionary time scale, continues long after an individual dies.



For more information: www.rockefeller.edu/mirskylectures/