Why this meeting? Why now?

The medaka community has grown steadily in Europe, USA and Japan, and a number of young groups have recently selected this teleost as a model system. Despite these advances, there is a clear perception among medaka researchers that the model is at an important crossroad. The emergence during the last years of significant methodological breakthroughs including advanced deep-sequencing technologies, epigenomics, quantitative imaging and genome-editing technologies, impel the community to think deeply on long-term collective strategies. Medaka groups constitute a still disperse community and hence an effort to increase the level of international collaborations is necessary. In an attempt to increase the international visibility of the model and to foster internal collaborations, the “1st Strategic Meeting for Medaka Research” was organized in Japan in 2011. This successful meeting was attended by a hundred participants, mostly PIs, and definitely contributed to strength bounds among medaka scientists. However, to orient individual efforts towards common and updated strategies, it is now time to organize an open workshop (i.e. including group leaders, postdoctorals and advanced PhD students) for the first time in Europe. Medaka researchers perceive this urgent need and, not surprisingly, most of the colleagues contacted (∼80%) have already confirmed their attendance.
**Dates and Venue:** April 10-12th 2014. Seville, Spain.

Venue: Spanish Research Council (CSIC) museum “Casa de la Ciencia”. Seville, Spain.  

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**Choice of venue**

Seville is the capital city of Andalusia in the south of Spain. It is well connected by train (2 h 30' from Madrid), and plane (45’ from Madrid and regular direct flights to international destinations in Europe such as London, Milan or Paris). Seville airport is only at 15-20 min car/shuttle distance to the venue. The beauty and cultural offer of Seville, particularly rich in April, will be an obvious attractive aspect for the meeting. In this sense, the venue is strategically located near to the Guadalquivir River and the historic city centre with many hotels within 5-15 min walking distance.

The workshop will be hosted in the conference room of a museum, “Casa de la ciencia”, which belongs to the Spanish Research Council (CSIC). The conference hall within the museum is fully equipped (e.g. including projector, projection screen, speaker and microphone and free wireless internet access) and allows seating more than 100 people. In addition a 120-m2 auxiliary room will be available for poster sessions and coffee breaks.

A number of big hotels in the area (historical city centre) are located within 5-15 min walking distance from the venue (starts are indicated): Alfonso Xiii (5), Pasarela (4), Melia Sevilla (4), NH Viapol (4), Hotel Sevilla Centre (4), El Rey Moro (3), Puerta Catedral (3), Monte Carmelo (3), Alcazar (3). In addition many (more than 20) affordable Hostels are within walking distance to the venue. A shuttle service will be arranged for the keynote speakers at the main Hotels.
Organizing committee

Felix Loosli, (ITG, KIT)

Juan R. Martinez-Morales (CABD, CSIC/UPO)

Kiyoshi Naruse (National Institute for Basic Biology (NIBB))

Manfred Schartl (University of Würzburg)

Joachim Wittbrodt (University of Heidelberg)
Topics/Outline programme

Major objectives:
During the past decade the Japanese fish medaka (Oryzias latipes) has been established as a vertebrate genetic model. The generation of mutants, the release of its genome sequence and the increasing number of available resources (e.g. natural, mutant, transgenic and inbred strains) deposited in stock centres, such as the National BioResource Project (NBRP), have contributed to spread medaka to a broad scientific community. Medaka is currently used in a number of fields including genetics and genomics, cell and developmental biology, reproduction, stem cells biology, evolutionary studies, disease models, and toxicology. The main goal of this workshop is not only to share recent scientific results and technological advances, but also to identify key collective challenges for the medaka research in the near future (e.g. the annotation of the medaka genome at Ensembl or the generation of a Genetic Reference Panel consisting in 200 isogenic lines). We think that this symposium will be of broad interest and high strategically value for all the groups already working in medaka. In addition, we are convinced that it will be attractive for scientist working in comparative genomics in other vertebrates. In particular for those working in “teleost cousin systems”, such as stickleback and zebrafish. The medaka community is well represented in Spain, and hence Seville seems a suitable place to organize the “2nd Strategic Meeting for Medaka Research”.

Programme:

Day I (April 10th)
14.00-20.00: Registration open.
16.00-16.15: Welcome and opening (J. Wittbrodt and M. Schartl)

Plenary session I: Genetics, Genomics and Evolution. (EMBO session)
(Chair: Manfred Schartl)
16.15-17.00: Invited keynote speaker (35'+10’ questions)
John Postlethwait (University of Oregon). Confirmed speaker.
17.00-17.15: Coffee break (Posters set up).
17.15-18.30: Oral presentations (3x 20'+5' questions).
18.30-19.30: Short talks by selected participants (3x 15'+5' questions)
19.30-21.00: Reception Cocktail and Poster Session.

Day II (April 11th)

Plenary session II: Imaging, and Organogenesis. (SEBD session)
(Chair: Juan R Martinez-Morales)
Paola Bovolenta (CBMSO, Madrid). Confirmed speaker.
9.00-9.45: SEBD invited speaker (35'+10’ questions)
9.45-11.30: Oral presentations (4x 20'+5' questions)
11.30-12.00: Posters and Coffee
12.00-13.00: Short talks by selected participants (3x 15'+5' questions)
13.00-14.15: Lunch Break
Plenary session III: New technologies and emerging topics. (NBRP session)
(Chair: Kiyoshi Naruse)
15.30-16.15: NBRP invited speaker (35'+15 questions)
Hiroyuki Takeda (University of Tokyo). Confirmed speaker.
16.15-18.00: Oral presentations (4x 20'+5' questions)
18.00-18.30: Posters and Coffee
18.30-19.30: Short talks by selected participants (3x 15'+5' questions)
Day III (April 12th)
Plenary session IV: Stem Cells and Disease. (GfE session)
(Chair: Jochen Wittbrodt)
9.00-10.15: Oral presentations (3x 20'+5' questions)
10.15-11.00: Short talks by selected participants (2x 15'+5' questions)
11.00-11.30: Posters and Coffee
11.30-12.45: Oral presentations (3x 20'+5' questions)
12.45-14.15: Lunch Break
14.15-15.00: Poster Session.
15.00-16.00: Open Community meeting. Strategic discussion.
(Conducted by Jochen Wittbrodt)
16.00-16.45: Invited keynote speaker (35'+10 questions)
16.45-17.00: Closing remarks. (J. Wittbrodt and M. Schartl)
17.00-19.00: Visit to Seville (Reales Alcázares).

The meeting program has been designed to promote the interactions between participants. Almost a third of them will participate with oral presentation and the rest of them with posters. Posters will be placed throughout the meeting in a large room in front the lecture hall. Several breaks and poster sessions have been scheduled to foster the interactions between young and senior scientist. Meals will be arranged for all participants together. Importantly, a community meeting with an open discussion has been scheduled the last day. Finally a reception cocktail and a guided visit to Seville are planned as social events.
Potential Speakers List:

Speakers/Proposed speakers

Keynote Speakers:
- John Postlethwait, University of Oregon, jpostle@oregon.uoregon.edu, confirmed, male, established investigator.
- Ewan Birney, EMBL-EBI, Hinxton, birney@ebi.ac.uk, unconfirmed, male, established investigator.

Proposed Speakers:
- Paola Bovolenta, CBMSO (CSIC), Madrid, pbovolenta@cbm.uam.es, confirmed, female, established investigator.
- Mathias Carl, Heidelberg University, Matthias.Carl@medma.uni-heidelberg.de, confirmed, male, young investigator.
- Lazaro Centanin, Heidelberg University, lazaro.centanin@cos.uni-heidelberg.de, confirmed, male, young investigator.
- Ivan Conte, IGB (CRN), Naples, ivan.conte@igb.cnr.it, confirmed, male, young investigator.
- Ian Dunham, EMBL-EBI, Hinxton, idunham@ebi.ac.uk, unconfirmed, male, established investigator.
- Misato Fujita, Toyo University, fujita036@toyo.jp, confirmed, female, young investigator.
- Makoto Furutani-Seiki, University of Bath, mfs22@bath.ac.uk, unconfirmed, male, established investigator.
- José Luis Gómez-Skarmeta, CABD (CSIC/UPO), Seville, jlgomska@upo.es, confirmed, male, established investigator.
- Yunhan Hong, National University of Singapore, dbshyh@nus.edu.sg, unconfirmed, male, established investigator.
- Jean-Stepahne Joly, CNRS, Gif Sur Ivette, joly@iaf.cnrs-gif.fr, unconfirmed, male, established investigator.
- Seth Kullman, North Carolina State University, swkullma@ncsu.edu, confirmed, male, established investigator.
- Felix Loosli, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, KIT, felix.loosli@kit.edu, confirmed, male, young investigator.
- Minori Shinya, NIG, Shizuoka, mshinya@nig.ac.jp, confirmed, female, young investigator.
- Hiroyuki Takeda, University of Tokyo, htakeda@biol.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp, confirmed, male, established investigator.
- Kristin Tessmar-Raible, University of Vienna, kristin.tessmar@mfpl.ac.at, confirmed, female, young investigator.
- Obara Tomoko, University of Oklahoma, Tomoko-Obara@ouhsc.edu, confirmed, female, established investigator.
- Finn-Arne Weltzien, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Finn-Arne.Weltzien@nvh.no, confirmed, male, established investigator.
- Trude M Haug, University of Oslo, t.m.haug@ibv.uio.no, confirmed, female, established investigator.

Participants, either presenting posters or talks, will be selected on the bases of submitted abstracts and CVs, which will be requested upon registration. We will give preference to young researchers (PhD students and Postdocs), among whom a total of 11 short (15 min) presentations (33% of the total number of talks: 32) will be selected. In order to encourage the participation of young scientist a few (5) fee waivers will be available. To keep a balanced number of young and female PIs is particularly important in the growing medaka community, in which both are still underrepresented. Therefore, the selection committee will balance the list of participants to ensure that both junior PIs and female colleagues are well represented in the workshop. In fact, we have done a particular effort in this sense in the list of proposed speakers included below (i.e. female speakers ≈30%; junior PIs ≈30%)