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Development and Differentiation of the Nervous System

Preface

Recently there have been great advances in understanding how the diverse cell types of the vertebrate nervous system are generated, how they migrate to their correct destinations and how the precise neural connections are formed. Many key molecules have been identified that determine the fate of cell lineage, the destination of neuronal migration, and the pathway for neurite elongation. The 21st Seiriken Conference on Development and Differentiation of the Nervous System was held to exchange information and discuss the latest findings in this hot research area. Near one hundred scientists from all over the world gathered at the Institute for Physiological Sciences in Okazaki, Japan, from February 6th to 9th, 1996, and all the participants were excited to hear many unpublished results that will be the major achievements in this developing field. All of the abstract

s were shown and selected topics at the conference were issued as original papers in this special issue of *Developmental Neuroscience*.

Since its foundation in 1975, our Institute has been organizing the Seiriken Conference every year, covering various aspects of physiological sciences and related fields. It is a great pleasure for me to thank participants from all parts of the world and all members of the technical and administrative departments of the Institute.

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