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Editorial

Celebrating 100 years of Developmental Biology at the Hubrecht Institute



This special issue of *Developmental Biology* is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Hubrecht Institute for Developmental Biology and Stem Cell Research. From 18 to 21 May 2016, the Hubrecht Institute organized festivities to commemorate the Centennial. The celebrations were started by His Majesty King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands with the unveiling of a piece of art in front of the Hubrecht Institute (Fig. 1). The next day, a symposium was organized entitled “Hubrecht 100, Developmental Biology from embryo to stem cell”. A string of speakers was invited, all of whom have had strong ties with the Hubrecht Institute over the years, ranging from long-standing collaborations (Sir John Gurdon, Joseph Schlessinger, Roel Nusse, René Medema) to having been employed by the Hubrecht (Christine Mummery, Nick Barker, René Ketting), or still being employed by the Hubrecht (Hans Clevers, Jacqueline Deschamps). A meeting report by Catherine Rabouille and Jacqueline Deschamps with an overview of all the talks is included in this issue. A party for the current employees was organized on May 20th, 2016. On the last day of the festivities, a reunion attracted over 200 former employees, some of which worked at the Hubrecht more than 50 years ago! Former director Siegfried de Laat talked about the long history of the Hubrecht Institute in his introductory speech, which formed the basis for the historic overview entitled “Hubrecht Institute Centennial – From embryos to stem cells” by Jeroen den Hertog and Siegfried W. de Laat, which is included in this special issue. Finally, on May 21st an Open Day was organized for the general public on the Hubrecht premises. The Open Day was a great success with more than 1250 interested people who were informed about the current research at the Hubrecht Institute. Next to the historical overview and meeting review, this special issue contains contributions from current research groups on topics ranging from Wnt signaling to protein-tyrosine phosphatases and Hox genes, to anabolic pathways and genome maintenance, and to imaging of hematopoietic stem cells and cancer cells, reflecting the diversity of topics that are



Fig. 1. Start of the festivities to commemorate the Hubrecht Institute Centennial anniversary. From left to right: Jeroen den Hertog (Deputy Director Research, Hubrecht Institute), José van Dijk (President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), His Majesty King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands, Alexander van Oudenaarden (Director, Hubrecht Institute), Mariëtte Oosterwegel (Business Director, Hubrecht Institute).

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currently being studied at the Hubrecht Institute. The Hubrecht Institute is very much alive, despite its age of 100 years. With a new building, excellent research infrastructure, an increased research budget, and its workforce consisting of young, ambitious, creative researchers – its most important asset – the Hubrecht Institute is ready for the future with new research directions and many discoveries to come.

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