

ASHBi SEMINAR

Boundary curvature drives polar order in mouse epiblast morphogenesis

Lecturer: **Pamela Guruciaga**

Postdoctoral fellow



Date Tuesday, 1 August 2023

Time 15:00 – 16:00 [JST]

Venue Seminar Room
1F, Faculty of Medicine Bldg. B

*Register via the right QR code



Abstract

Many morphogenetic processes depend on the geometry of tissue-ECM or tissue-tissue boundaries, which often undergo dynamic shape changes themselves. We address this complex interaction in the context of polar ordering during epithelial development. Motivated by observations of an interplay between apico-basal polarity and boundary geometry in mouse embryo morphogenesis, we develop a theory for epithelial ordering based on the Landau-de Gennes approach to surface-induced alignment in liquid crystals. We introduce a vector order parameter to represent the polarity, and model its interaction with the boundaries by a weak anchoring energy. We calculate the corresponding alignment fields for different values of the parameters and boundary curvature, and identify two transitions where topological defects appear out of a uniform field, or change their structure in a non-trivial way. These defects represent regions where the apical sides of the cells meet; we therefore hypothesize that changes in defect position and structure are relevant to lumen formation in the biological system. Preliminary observations indeed indicate that lumen initialization sites in the mouse epiblast change with curvature as predicted. Furthermore, we determine the preferred tissue shape in terms of the parameters, study their lowest-energy field configurations, and compare our theoretical predictions with imaging data of the morphogenetic process for wild-type and genetically perturbed mouse embryos in which the surrounding structures have been altered. Our work highlights the role of extra-embryonic tissue in embryogenesis, while identifying interesting physical phenomena such as boundary-dependent transitions in the structure of topological defects.

Organizer : Graduate School of Medicine

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