

Lecture - Neural Crest Development

From Embryology

Embryology - 9 Sep 2015    Translate [\[Expand\]](#)

Introduction

The neural crest are bilaterally paired strips of cells arising in the ectoderm at the margins of the neural tube. These cells migrate to many different locations and differentiate into many cell types within the embryo. This means that many different systems (neural, skin, teeth, head, face, heart, endocrine, gastrointestinal tract) will also have a contribution from the neural crest cells.

In the body region, neural crest cells also contribute the peripheral nervous system (both neurons and glia) consisting of sensory ganglia (dorsal root ganglia), sympathetic and parasympathetic ganglia and neural plexuses within specific tissues/organs.

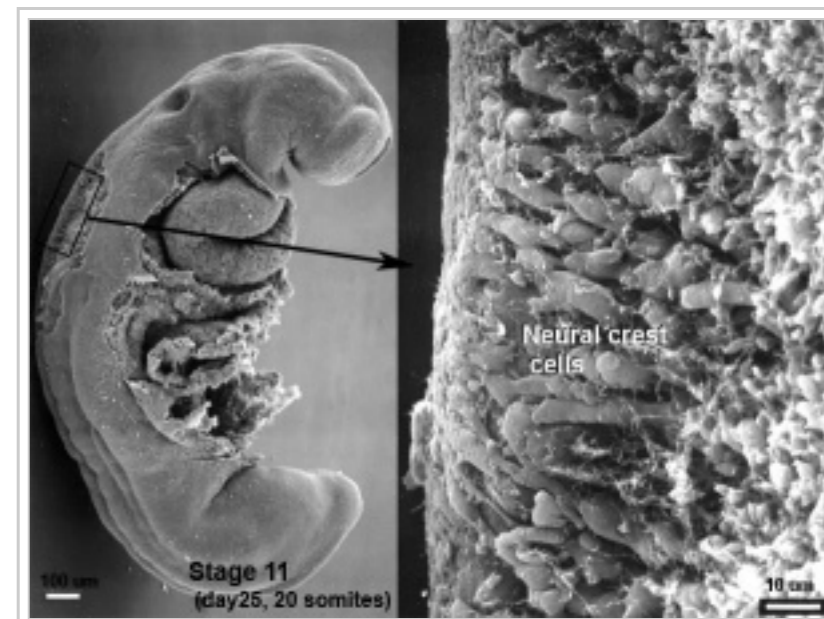
In the head region, neural crest cells migrate into the pharyngeal arches (as shown in movie below) forming **ectomesenchyme** contributing tissues which in the body region are typically derived from mesoderm (cartilage, bone, and connective tissue). General neural development is also covered in Neural Notes. The term "neural crest" was first used in Marshall, A. Morphology of Vertebrate Olfactory Organ. Quarterly Journal of Microscopic Science (1879) Vol. 19: 300–340.

Lecture Objectives

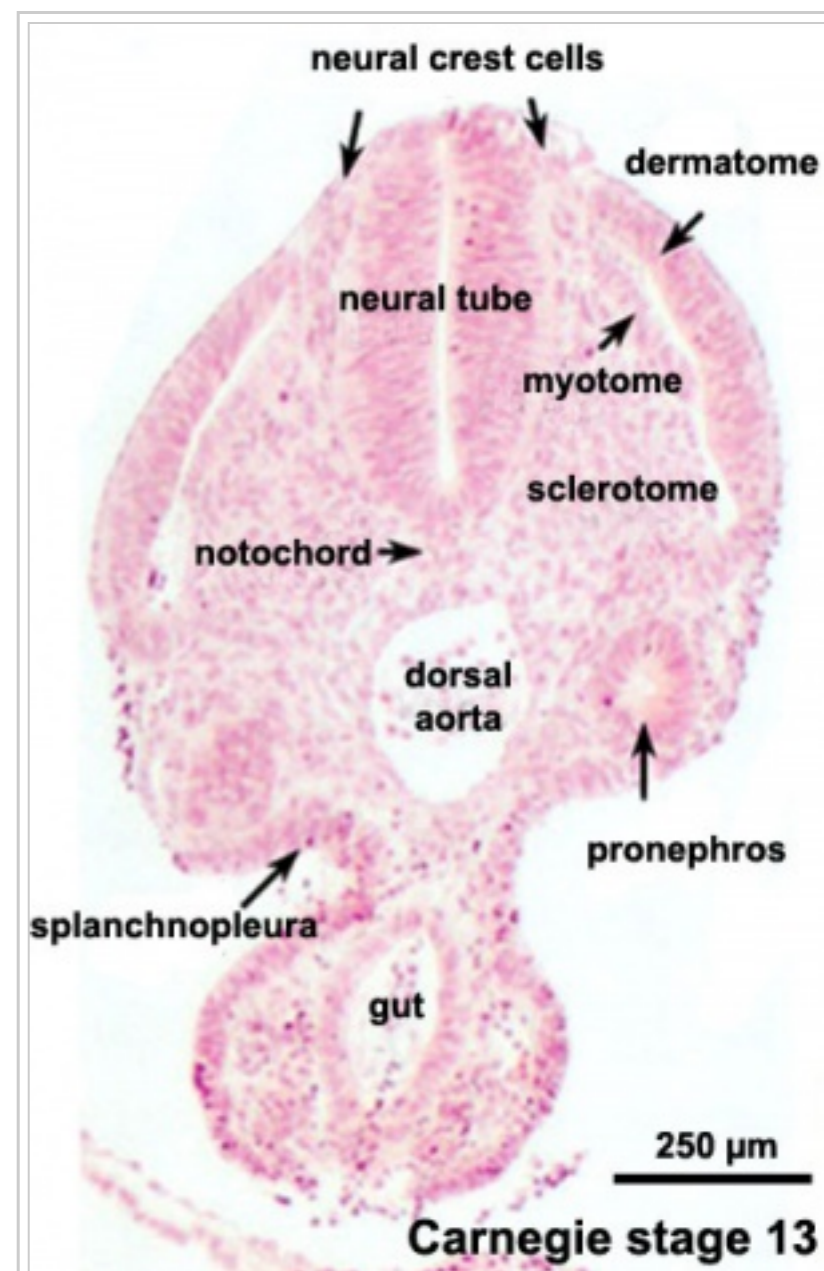
- Understand the structures derived from ectoderm.
- Identify the initial location of neural crest cells and pathways of neural crest migration throughout the embryo.
- To know the major tissues to which neural crest cells contribute.
- To know how abnormalities associated with neural crest cell.

Lecture Resources




[Movies\[Expand\]](#)



Human embryo neural crest cells (Week 4, stage 11)



Human Embryo (Carnegie stage 13) caudal trunk^[1]

 <p>Hill, M.A. (2015). <i>UNSW Embryology</i> (15th ed.) Retrieved September 9, 2015, from https://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au</p>	<p>Neural Crest Links: Introduction Lecture - Early Neural Lecture - Neural Crest Development Schwann Adrenal Gland Melanocyte Peripheral Nervous System Enteric Nervous System Cornea Nicole Le Douarin Neural Crest Movies Abnormalities Category:Neural Crest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture Archive: 2014 (https://embryology.med.unsw.edu.au/embryology/index.php?title=Lecture_-_Neural_Crest_Development&oldid=143785) 2014 PDF
 <p>Moore, K.L., Persaud, T.V.N. & Torchia, M.G. (2011). <i>The developing human: clinically oriented embryology</i> (9th ed.). Philadelphia: Saunders.</p>	<p>The following chapter links only work with a UNSW connection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nervous System (http://www.unsw.ebib.com.wwwproxy0.library.unsw.edu.au/patron/Read.aspx?p=1430154&pg=411) Pharyngeal Apparatus, Face, and Neck (http://www.unsw.ebib.com.wwwproxy0.library.unsw.edu.au/patron/Read.aspx?p=1430154&pg=181)
 <p>Schoenwolf, G.C., Bleyl, S.B., Brauer, P.R. & Francis-West, P.H. (2009). <i>Larsen's human embryology</i> (4th ed.). New York; Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.</p>	<p>The following chapter links only work with a UNSW Library subscription (http://er.library.unsw.edu.au/er/cgi-bin/eraccess.cgi?url=http://www.unsw.ebib.com.wwwproxy0.library.unsw.edu.au/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=2074524)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10 - Development of the Peripheral Nervous System Chapter 16 - Development of the Pharyngeal Apparatus and Face
<p>Additional Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Review - <p>James A Weston, Jean Paul Thiery Pentimento: Neural crest and the origin of mesectoderm. Dev. Biol.: 2015; PubMed 25598524</p> <p>Dev Biol Open Access (http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0012160615000056)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental Biology. 6th edition. The Neural Crest (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK10065) Nelms BL, Labosky PA. Transcriptional Control of Neural Crest Development. San Rafael (CA): Morgan & Claypool Life Sciences; 2010. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK53145/ Teng L, Labosky PA. Neural Crest Stem Cells. In: Madame Curie Bioscience Database [Internet]. Austin (TX): Landes Bioscience; 2000-. Available from: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK6409/ 	

ECHO360 Recording[Expand]

Neural Crest Migration in the Head

Chicken embryo sequence shows the migration of DiI-labeled neural crest cells towards the branchial arches as the embryo. White rings indicate migration of individual cells. Each image represents 10 confocal sections separated by 10 microns.

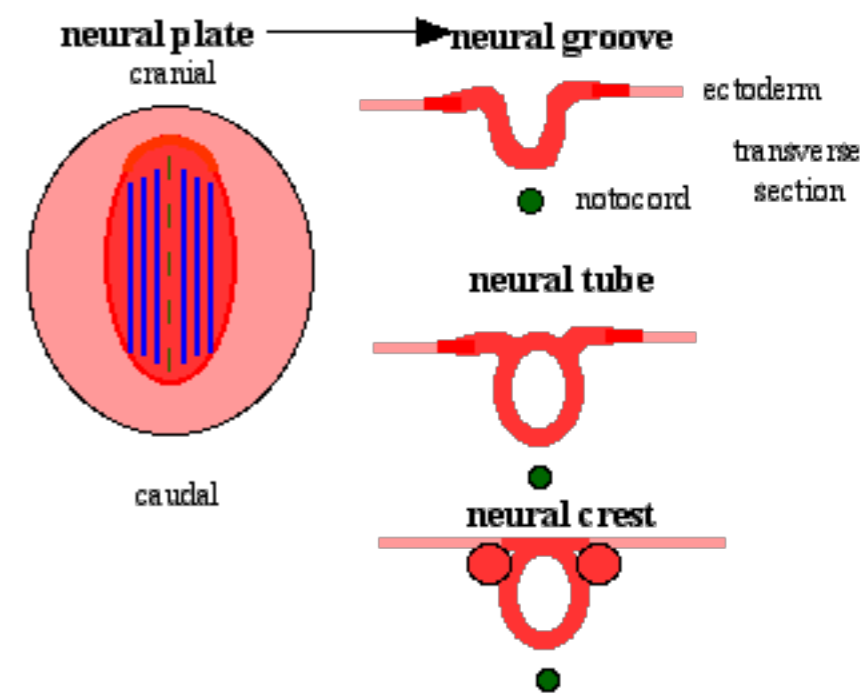
Related Movies: Migration 01 | Migration 02 | Migration 03 | Migration 04 | Migration 05 | Migration 06 | Migration 07



Click Here to play on mobile device

Early Development and Neural Derivatives

- bilaminar embryo- hypoblast
- trilaminar embryo - ectoderm layer
 - neural plate - neural groove - neural tube and neural crest
- cranial expansion of neural tube - central nervous system
- caudal remainder of neural tube - spinal cord



Neural Crest - contributes both neural and non-neural cells

- dorsal root ganglia
- parasympathetic / sympathetic ganglia.

Neural Crest Origin

- lateral region of neural plate
- dorsal neural fold->tube

Two main embryo regions

- **Head** (CNS level) - differentiate slightly earlier, mesencephalic region of neural folds.
- **Body** (spinal cord level) - lateral edges of fused neural tube.

Neural Crest Generation

- cranial region - Begins when still neural fold
- spinal cord - from day 22 until day 26
 - after closure of caudal neuropore
 - rostro-caudal gradient of differentiation

Studies using the chicken model demonstrated that they are not a segregated population. Interactions between the neural plate and epidermis can generate neural crest cells, since juxtaposition of these tissues at early stages results in the formation of neural crest cells at the interface.

At cranial levels, neuroepithelial cells can regulate to generate neural crest cells when the endogenous neural folds are removed, probably via interaction of the remaining neural tube with the epidermis.

Progenitor cells in the neural folds are multipotent, having the ability to form multiple ectodermal derivatives, including epidermal, neural crest, and neural tube cells the neural crest is an induced population that arises by interactions between the neural plate and the epidermis.

The competence of the neural plate to respond to inductive interactions changes as a function of embryonic age.

(Text from: Bronner-Fraser M PNAS 1996 Sep 3;93(18):9352-7)

Neural Crest Derivatives

Neural Crest Origin	
System	Cell Type
	Neurons - sensory ganglia, sympathetic and parasympathetic ganglia, enteric nervous system, and plexuses
Peripheral Nervous System (PNS)	Neuroglial cells Schwann cells
Endocrine	Adrenal medulla Calcitonin-secreting cells Carotid body type I cells
Integumentary	Epidermal pigment cells
Facial cartilage and bone	Facial and anterior ventral skull cartilage and bones Corneal endothelium and stroma Tooth papillae
Connective tissue	Dermis?, smooth muscle, and adipose tissue of skin of head and neck Connective tissue of salivary, lachrymal, thymus, thyroid, and pituitary glands Connective tissue and smooth muscle in arteries of aortic arch origin

Links: Neural Crest Development | Category:Neural Crest | Neural Crest collapsible table

Neural Crest - Head

See also Lecture - Head Development

Mesencephalon and caudal Proencephalon

- parasympathetic ganglia CN III

- connective tissue around eye and nerve
- head mesenchyme
- neural connective tissue (meninges)

Mesencephalon and Rhombencephalon

- pharyngeal arches
 - look at practical notes on neck and head.
- cartilage rudiments (nose, face, middle ear)
- face and facial skeleton
- dermis, smooth muscle and fat
- odontoblasts of developing teeth

Rhombencephalon

- C cells of thyroid
- cranial nerve ganglia
- neurons and glia
- parasympathetic of VII, IX, X
- sensory ganglia of V, VII, VIII, IX, X

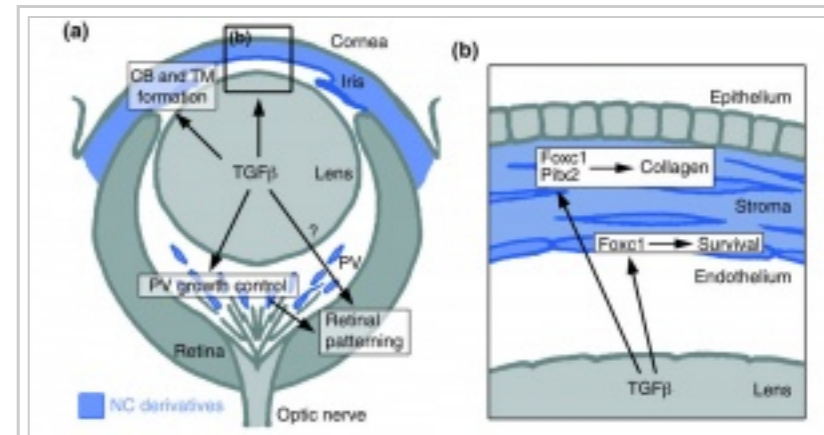
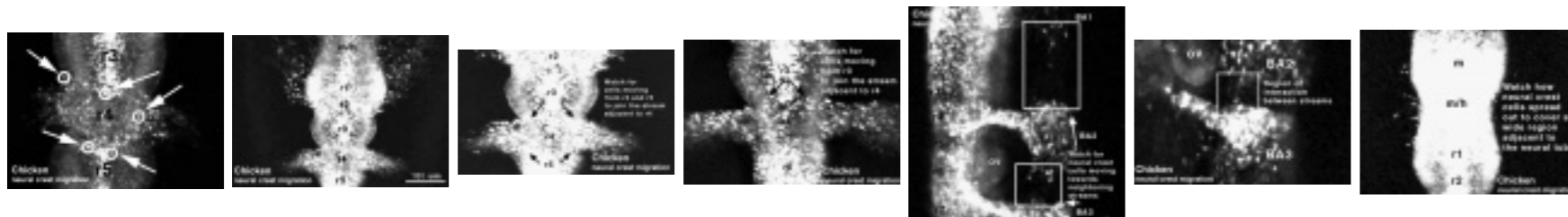
Neural Crest - Peripheral Nervous System

- peripheral nervous system
- dorsal root ganglia (sensory N)
- parasympathetic ganglia
- sympathetic ganglia
- motoneurons in both ganglia
- all associated glia

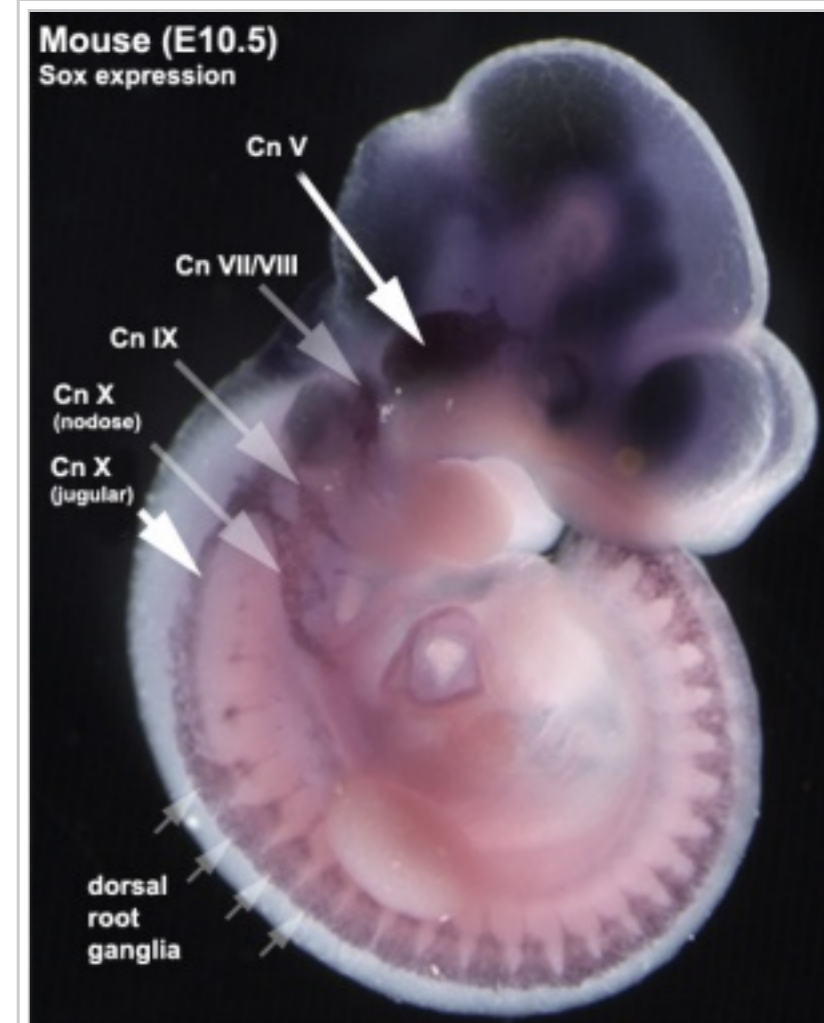
Neural Crest Migration

Head

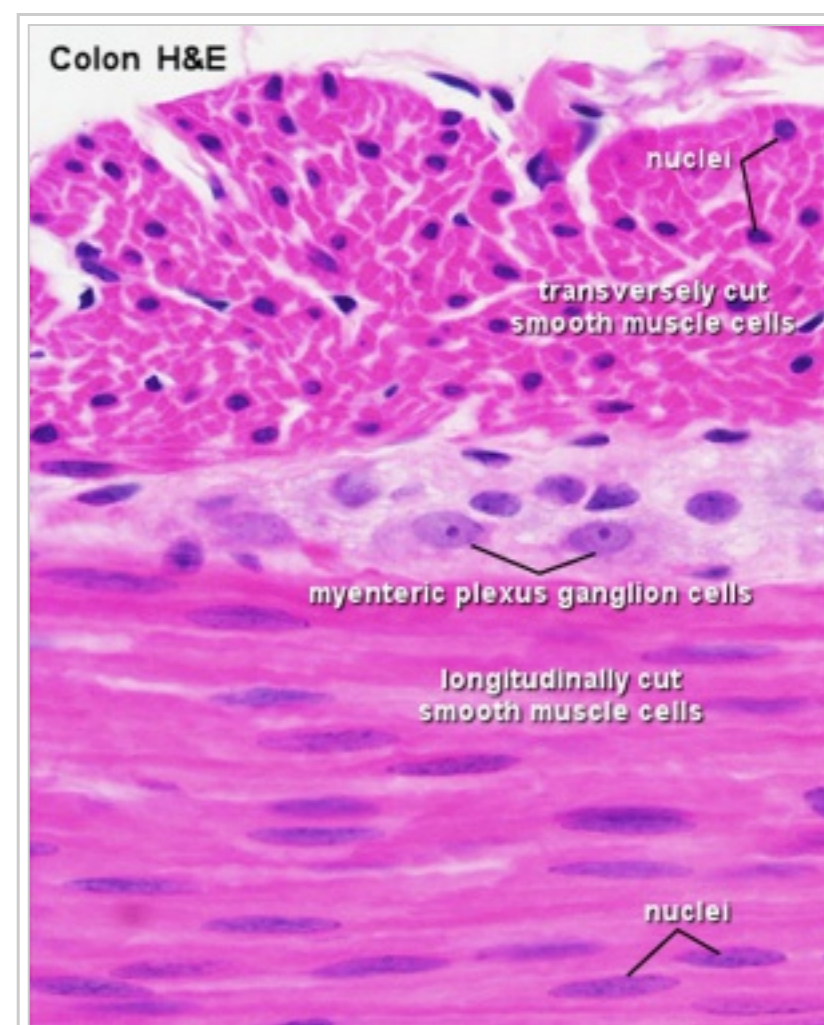
Neural crest migration in the head in chicken (chicken neural crest movies overview)



Eye Development

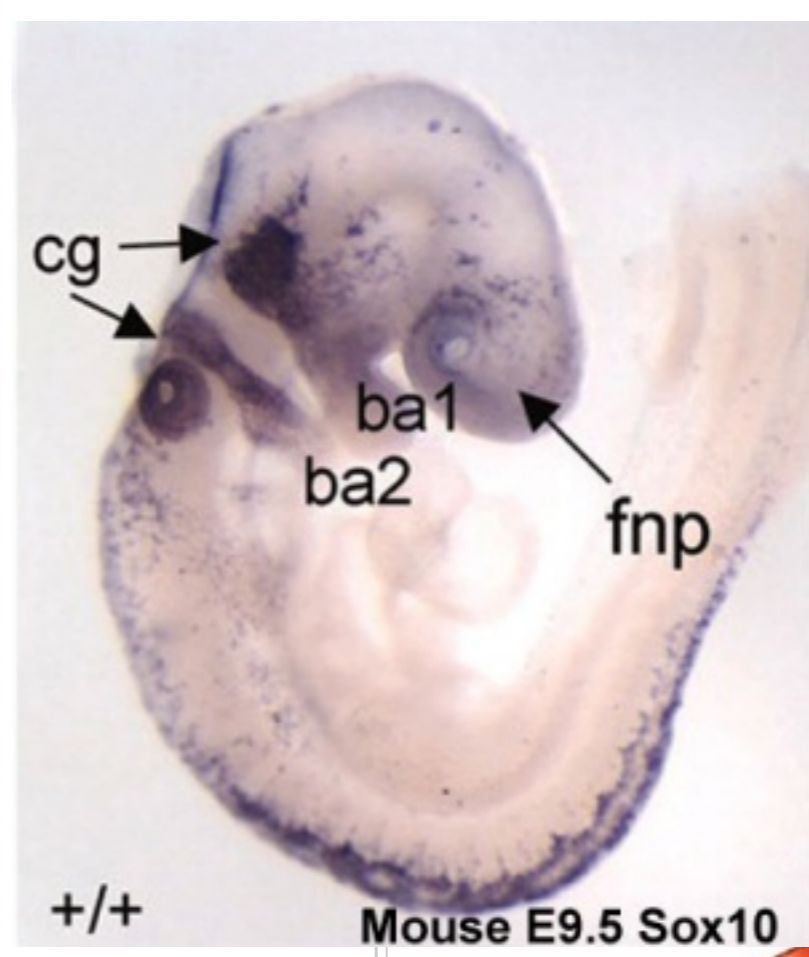
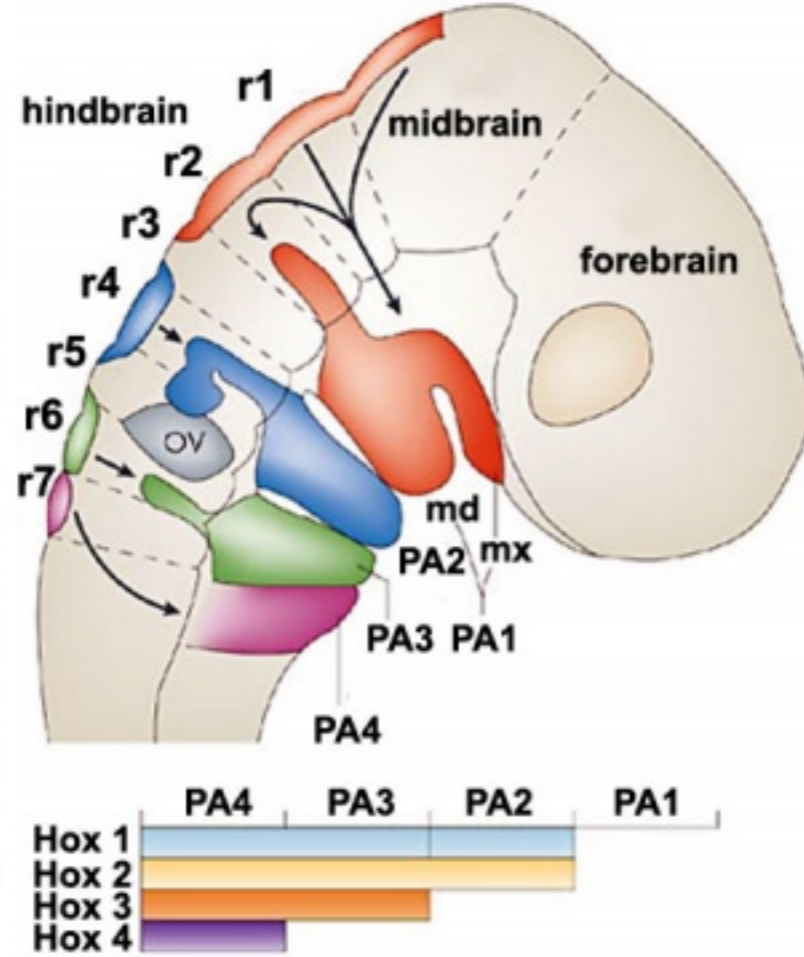
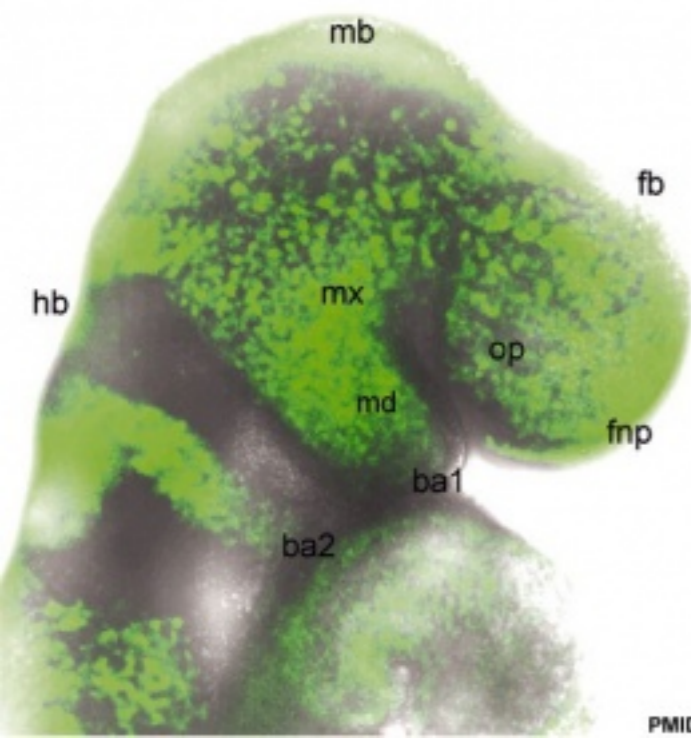


Mouse E10.5- neural crest cell distribution (black)



Enteric nervous system

Mouse E9.0 neural crest (GFP)



Trunk

Cardiac Outflow Tract

Embryo – Week 5: Migration of the Cardiac Neural Crest

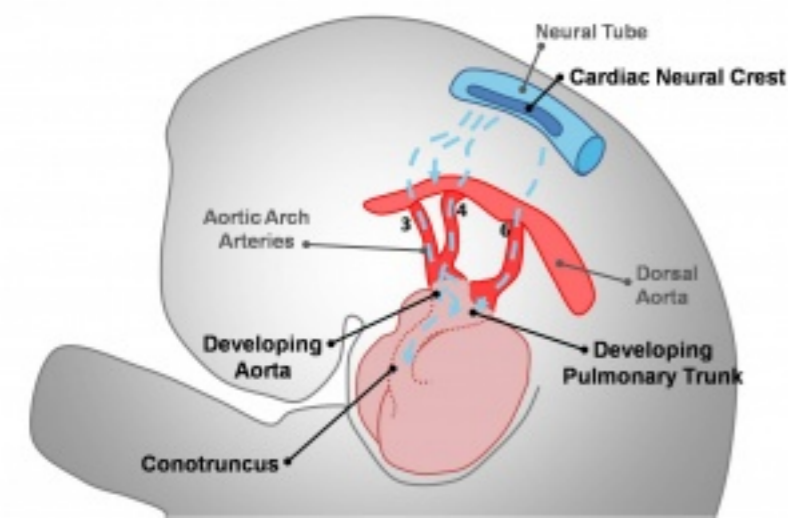
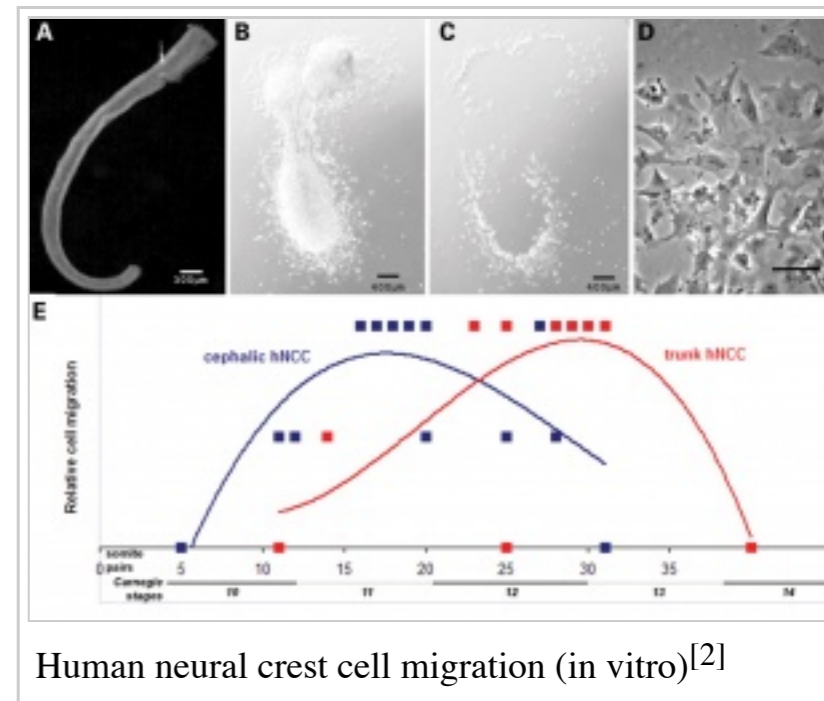
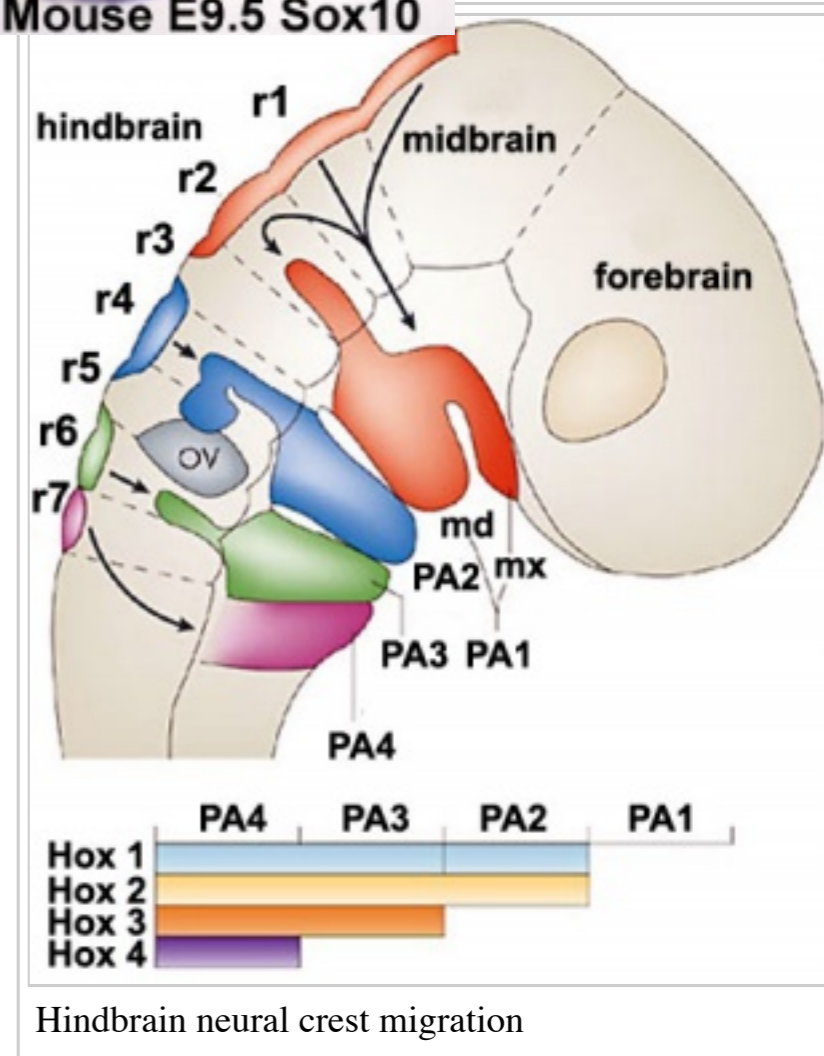


Figure 13.2. Neural crest cell migration in the trunk of the chick embryo (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3118>)

- Neural crest at the level of the body have two general migration pathways, defined by the position of the somite
 - medial pathway - between the neural tube and the somite
 - lateral pathway - between the somite and the body wall
- Neural crest cells (NCC) in mice guidance show migrate 3 specific pathways.
 - SEMA3A and its receptor neuropilin 1 (NRP1) - act as repulsive guidance cues
 - migration pathway did not affect specification - differs from the concept of migration pathway specifying the neural crest cell differentiation pathway

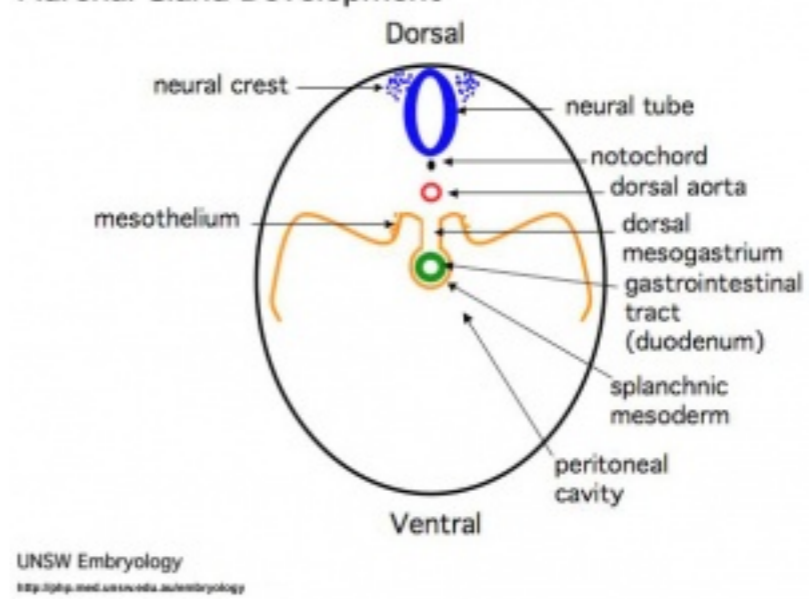
Neural crest at the level of the head have a different migration pathway. Figure 13.7. Cranial neural crest cell migration in the mammalian head (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3134>)

Sympathetic Ganglia and Adrenal Medulla



Human neural crest cell migration (in vitro)^[2]

Adrenal Gland Development



Enteric nervous system

Figure 1. Diagram of an E10 embryo showing the origins of neural crest cells that colonize the developing gastrointestinal tract (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=eurekah&part=A63004&rendertype=figure&id=A63009>)

Historic Migration Experiments

Key early experiments in understanding the pattern of neural crest migration were carried out by LeDouarin in the 1980's (see Development of the peripheral Nervous system from the neural crest, Ann Rev Cell Biol 4 p375) Quail-Chick Chimeras (<http://www.sdbonline.org/archive/dbcinema/ledouarin/ledouarin.html>) | Figure 1.11. Neural crest cell migration Chimera experiment (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.63>)

These transplantation studies in chicken/quail chimeras utilised the different nucleoli appearance of cells to differentiate different species. Thus transplanted and subsequent histological processing allowed identification of the migration path and final destination of transplanted neural crest cells.

Similar later experiments have now been carried out using the neural crest cells molecularly tagged with (LacZ).

Abnormalities

Neuroblastoma

Neuroblastoma is the most common childhood cancer diagnosed before the age of 1 year, and accounts for 10 to 15% of all cancer deaths in children.

OMIM - Neuroblastoma (<http://omim.org/entry/256700>)

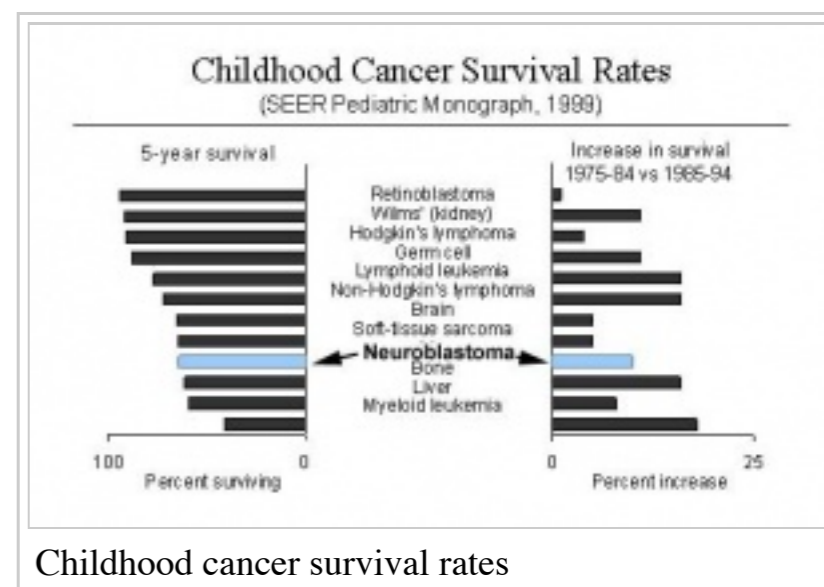
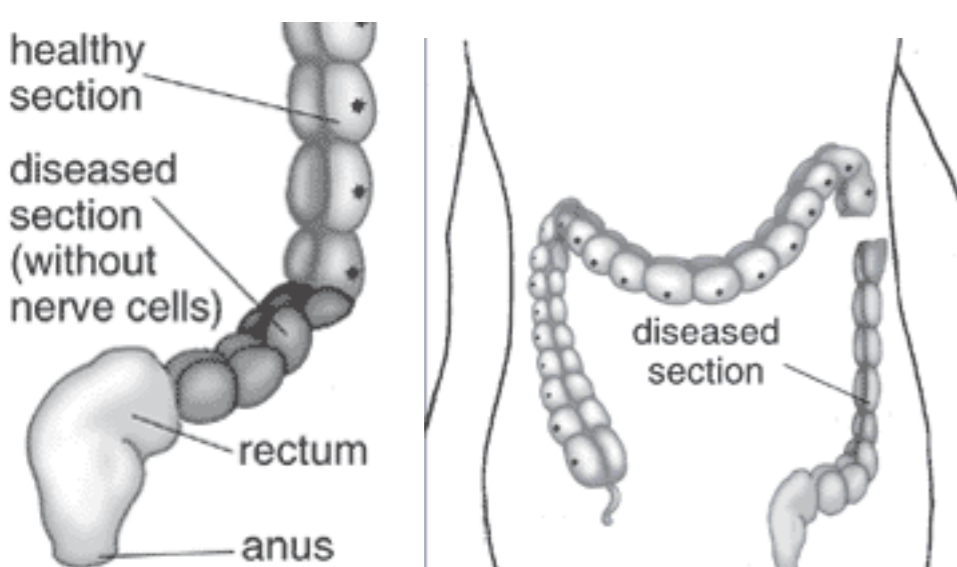
DiGeorge Syndrome (DGS)

- DiGeorge syndrome is the most frequent microdeletion syndrome in humans caused by a hemizygous deletion (1.5 to 3.0-Mb) of chromosome 22q11.2.
- Velo-cardio-facial syndrome, Hypoplasia of thymus and parathyroids, third and fourth pharyngeal pouch syndrome.
- Abnormalities: cardiovascular, thymic and parathyroid, craniofacial anomalies, renal anomalies, hypocalcemia and immunodeficiency.



Neuroblastoma

Intestinal Aganglionosis



Childhood cancer survival rates

- Intestinal Aganglionosis, Hirschsprung's Disease or Megacolon
- lack of enteric nervous system (neural ganglia) in the intestinal tract responsible for gastric motility (peristalsis).
- severity is dependent upon the amount of the GIT that lacks intrinsic ganglia, due to developmental lack of neural crest migration into those segments.
- first indication in newborns is an absence of the first bowel movement, other symptoms include throwing up and intestinal infections.
- Clinically this is detected by one or more tests (barium enema and x ray, manometry or biopsy) and can currently only be treated by surgery. A temporary ostomy (Colostomy or Ileostomy) with a stoma is carried out prior to a more permanent pull-through surgery.



Digeorge
chromosome 22

Melanoma



- In Australia each year 8,800 people are diagnosed with melanoma, and almost 1000 people die (Data, Cancer Council Australia).
- Two different findings on the reprogramming of melanoma cells, which have a neural crest origin, when transplanted between species into embryos.

Melanoma staging (<http://www.melanoma.com/staging.html>)

Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (NF1)

- Neurofibromatosis Type 1 (von Recklinghausen) occurs in 1 in 3,000 to 4,000 people with characteristic skin blemishes forming in early childhood.
- Multiple *café-au-lait* spots (flat skin patches darker than the surrounding area) appear in early childhood which increase in both size and number with age.
- tumors can develop along nerves in the skin, brain, and other parts of the body. In the iris of the eye, Lisch nodules (benign growths) also appear

(French, *café-au-lait* = coffee with milk)

Atlas of Genetics and Cytogenetics in Oncology- Neurofibroma (<http://atlasgeneticsoncology.org/Tumors/NeurofibromaID5098.html>)

Tetralogy of Fallot

Cardiac abnormality possibly stemming from abnormal neural crest migration. Named after Etienne-Louis Arthur Fallot (1888) who described it as "*la maladie bleue*". (More? Cardiovascular System Development | Cardiac Tutorial | Lecture - Heart | Cardiovascular System - Abnormalities)

Treacher Collins syndrome

(TCS) A genetic developmental abnormality results from autosomal dominant mutations of the gene TCOF1 encoding the protein Treacle, identified in 2006 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8563749>). The syndrome is characterized by hypoplasia of the facial bones, cleft palate, and middle and external ear defects. These defects may relate to the effects on neural crest migration. (More? Neural Crest Development | OMIM - TCOF1 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim/606847>) | PMID: 8563749 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/8563749>))

References

1. ↑ Sophie Thomas, Marie Thomas, Patrick Wincker, Candice Babarit, Puting Xu, Marcy C Speer, Arnold Munnich, Stanislas Lyonnet, Michel Vekemans, Heather C Etchevers **Human neural crest cells display molecular and phenotypic hallmarks of stem cells**. Hum. Mol. Genet.: 2008, 17(21);3411-25 PubMed 18689800 | Hum Mol Genet. (<http://hmg.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/17/21/3411>)
2. ↑ Sophie Thomas, Marie Thomas, Patrick Wincker, Candice Babarit, Puting Xu, Marcy C Speer, Arnold Munnich, Stanislas Lyonnet, Michel Vekemans, Heather C Etchevers **Human neural crest cells display molecular and phenotypic hallmarks of stem cells**. Hum. Mol. Genet.: 2008, 17(21);3411-25 PubMed 18689800 | Hum Mol Genet. (<http://hmg.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/17/21/3411>)

Textbooks

- **The Developing Human: Clinically Oriented Embryology** (8th Edition) by Keith L. Moore and T.V.N Persaud - Moore & Persaud Chapter Chapter 10 The Pharyngeal Apparatus pp201 - 240.
- **Larsen's Human Embryology** by GC. Schoenwolf, SB. Bleyl, PR. Brauer and PH. Francis-West - Chapter 12 Development of the Head, the Neck, the Eyes, and the Ears pp349 - 418.

Online Textbooks

- **Developmental Biology** by Gilbert, Scott F. Sunderland (MA): Sinauer Associates, Inc.; c2000 The Cranial Neural Crest (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.section.3109#3133>) | Figure 13.1. Regions of the neural crest (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3111>) | Figure 13.7. Cranial neural crest cell migration in the mammalian head (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3134>) | Figure 13.2. Neural crest cell migration in the trunk of the chick embryo (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3118>) | Figure 13.10. Separation of the truncus arteriosus into the pulmonary artery and aorta (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3138>) | Figure 22.23. Chick embryo rhombomere neural crest cells and their musculoskeletal packets (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.5460>) | Figure 13.4. Segmental restriction of neural crest cells and motor neurons by the ephrin proteins of the sclerotome (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3127>) | Figure 1.3. Pharyngeal arches (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.43>) | Table 13.2. Some derivatives of the pharyngeal arches (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.table.3135>)

Neural Crest Experiments: Figure 1.11. Neural crest cell migration Chimera experiment (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.63>) | Figure 13.5. Pluripotency of trunk neural crest cells (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=dbio.figgrp.3130>)

- **Molecular Biology of the Cell** Alberts, Bruce; Johnson, Alexander; Lewis, Julian; Raff, Martin; Roberts, Keith; Walter, Peter New York and London:

Garland Science; c2002 Figure 21-80. The main pathways of neural crest cell migration (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=mboc4.figgrp.3946>) Figure 21-91. Diagram of a 2-day chick embryo, showing the origins of the nervous system (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=mboc4.figgrp.3968>) | Figure 19-23. An example of a more complex mechanism by which cells assemble to form a tissue (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?highlight=neural_crest&rid=mboc4.figgrp.3511)

- **Neuroscience** Purves, Dale; Augustine, George J.; Fitzpatrick, David; Katz, Lawrence C.; LaMantia, Anthony-Samuel; McNamara, James O.; Williams, S. Mark. Sunderland (MA): Sinauer Associates, Inc.; c2001 Figure 22.1. Neurulation in the mammalian embryo (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=neurosci.figgrp.1449>) | Figure 22.12. Cell signaling during the migration of neural crest cells (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=neurosci.figgrp.1503>)
- **Madame Curie Bioscience Database** Chapters taken from the Madame Curie Bioscience Database (formerly, Eureka Bioscience Database) Cranial Neural Crest and Development of the Head Skeleton (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=eureka&part=A53006>) | Neural Crest Cells and the Community of Plan for Craniofacial Development: Historical Debates and Current Perspectives (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=eureka&part=ch2957>) | Figure 1. Diagram of an E10 embryo showing the origins of neural crest cells that colonize the developing gastrointestinal tract (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=eureka&part=A63004&rendertype=figure&id=A63009>)
- **Basic Neurochemistry: Molecular, Cellular, and Medical Aspects** Siegel, George J.; Agranoff, Bernard W.; Albers, R. Wayne; Fisher, Stephen K.; Uhler, Michael D., editors Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins; c1999 Figure 27-10. Neurotrophic model of neural crest cell lineage (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?&rid=bnchm.figgrp.1881>) | Figure 27-11. Growth factor control of neural crest lineage decisions (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?highlight=neural_crest&rid=bnchm.figgrp.1883) | Figure 27-15. The Schwann cell lineage (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/bv.fcgi?highlight=neural_crest&rid=bnchm.figgrp.1893)

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- **Pubmed** neural crest (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/gquery?itool=toolbar&cmd=search&term=neural_crest)

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- University of Michigan Tosney Lab (<http://www.biology.lsa.umich.edu/research/labs/ktosney/file/Res/ResNc.html>)
- Stowers Institute Kulesa Lab (<http://www.stowers-institute.org/labs/KulesaLab.asp>) | Trainor Lab (<http://www.stowers-institute.org/labs/TrainorLab.asp>)
- University College London Mayor Lab (<http://www.anat.ucl.ac.uk/research/mayor/index.html>)
- University of Iowa Cornell Lab (<http://www.anatomy.uiowa.edu/pages/directory/faculty/cornell.asp>)
- Washington University in St. Louis, School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics Heuckeroth Lab (http://peds.wustl.edu/research/labs/Heuckeroth_Robert_O/)

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