



BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
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Dear Viktor,

Thank you very much for sending me one of the last pristine copies of your lab manual. I have alerted all of my students that they are now out of print and to buy any copies they might find in used book stores. They are treasures.

Kevin very much enjoyed his visit with you. The slide collection is now safe at Bryn Mawr and I will start to organize it soon so that we can find the N6F material you've told me about. Kevin was especially pleased that you gave him Florence Wloog's copy of the Hamburger-Hamilton staging series paper. He has wanted one for a long time.

This is my favorite time of year now that classes are over. I've been on the microscope for at least several hours each day for the past two weeks. Hurray! Mike Ferns, a post-doc, from Alan Lamb's lab has been grafting quail wing buds to chick hosts in both normal and DV rotated orientations. We want to know whether respond to a DV rotation and correct their trajectory (they do) and where along the pathway they do this. So far, all of Mike's rotations have been proximal to the plexus and the axons appear to shift gradually as they approach the plexus region. But we don't yet have a good picture of the relationship between rotated tissue and axon trajectory.

Another interesting observation we've made in Mike's wings is that some of the axons projecting distally also have branches in other nerve trunks. ^(also true in normal chicks, no operations) Mike injects HRP into a peripheral nerve (distal to triceps) and we see ^{a few} solidly labeled axons in more proximal nerve branches. I don't think it is possible that HRP leakage could explain the solidly labeled axons. What these observations suggest is that there is a lot more branching and exploring by single axons than what we currently suspect. But I need to do more experiments to verify this.

~~A~~ A new undergraduate student is starting in the lab to do a small project on the median motor column. I want to know where it is at different stages and whether there is cell death in the mme, too. And Kevin is still counting motoneurons and getting ready to make more muscleless limbs. All this lab activity really pleases me.

Paul was given a named chair (Eleanor Bliss Professor of Biology) - announced at graduation. I'm pleased he's finally getting some much deserved recognition.

We have had a wonderfully long, cool spring. The countryside is just beautiful. The azaleas and rhododendrons are in bloom. Have you had a slow spring, too? I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits and I'll keep you up to date on our findings. Take care.

Love,
Peggy