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Cover: Zebrafish embryo (*Danio rerio*) injected with Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) showing advanced pigmentation at 48 h post fertilization. In their article, [Ugwuagbo et al.](#) show that PGE2 promotes early embryonic development, vascular maturation and angiogenesis in zebrafish. Image credit: Sujit Maiti. Image licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license](#).

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The advertisement features a black background with a network of glowing orange and red lines, resembling neural connections. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'preLights' consisting of a stylized 'p' made of overlapping colored segments (blue, green, orange, red). To the right of the logo, the text 'preLights' is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller white font, it says 'Preprint highlights, selected by the biological community'. A thin yellow horizontal line separates this text from the main message. The main message, in a large white font, reads 'A preprint highlighting service supported by The Company of Biologists'. At the bottom, the website address 'prelights.biologists.com' is written in a yellow font.

Cover article - Serum-based inhibition of pitviper venom by eastern indigo snakes (*Drymarchon couperi*)



Image credit Scott Goetz: an eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*).

Scott Goetz and colleagues confirm [eastern indigo snakes possess a physiological resistance to pitviper venom](#) and speculate that venom resistance in snakes may be a product of antagonistic interactions and phylogenetically conserved traits.

Featured article – [Antimicrobial potential of actinomycetes isolated from the unexplored hot Merzouga desert and their taxonomic diversity](#)



Merzouga sand dunes are among Morocco's extreme environments. This unexplored ecosystem represents a habitat for the isolation of a high diversity of actinomycetes with antimicrobial potential and biotechnological applications.

Lahcen Ouchari et al. share their [screenings of 163 *Actinobacteria* isolates](#).

First person interviews



Have you seen our [interviews](#) with the early-career first authors of our papers? Recently, we caught up with first authors [Leon Green](#), [Barbara Torsello](#), [Mei-Fang Lin](#), [Kyle Wegner](#), [Maika Deffieu](#), [Ana Cecilia Aliaga Fandino](#), [Sarah Haßdenteufel](#) and [Annalisa Pinsino and Andi Alijagic](#).

[Journal meeting – Blood Disorders: Models, Mechanisms and Therapies](#)

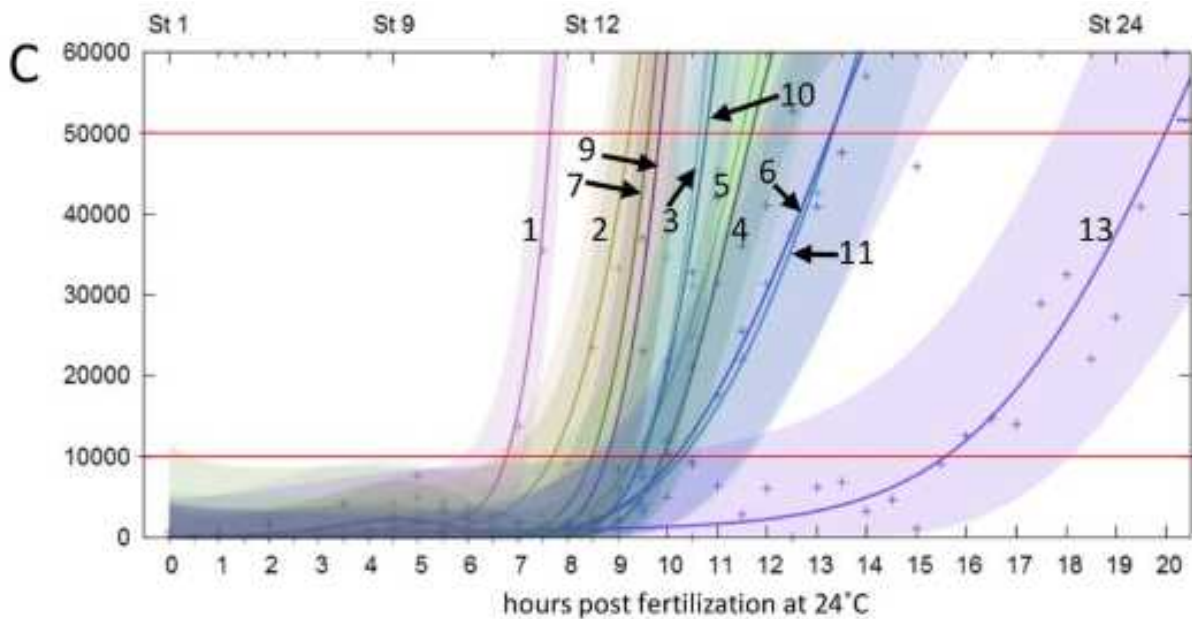
Disease Models & Mechanisms Meeting

Blood Disorders: Models, Mechanisms and Therapies
29 September – 1 October 2019
Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, Boston, USA

Don't miss the discounted early-bird registration for our [upcoming meeting](#) on blood disorders and their treatment, organised by DMM Editor-in-Chief **Monica Justice**, **Nancy Speck**, **Paresh Vyas** and **Leonard Zon**. The meeting will bring together diverse front-line researchers, stimulating discussions across basic research and clinical disciplines, and fostering collaborative links among researchers. Early bird deadline: **19 April 2019**.

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Biology Open has strong credentials and publishing with us is easy and fast. BiO aims to provide rapid publication for scientifically sound observations and valid conclusions in developmental, cell, experimental and translational biology. [Submit your paper here](#); you'll be in good company.



Recent developmental biology highlights in BiO – **Mariko Kondo** and team [conduct PCR analysis](#) for *de novo* transcription of *hox* genes and suggest that temporal collinearity is not held for all *hox* genes during early development of *Xenopus tropicalis*.

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If your submission to one of our other journals, *Development*, *Journal of Cell Science*, *Journal of Experimental Biology* or *Disease Models & Mechanisms*, is unsuccessful, did you know you can transfer your paper and any reviews directly to [Biology Open](#)? The majority of papers transferred with reviews are accepted for publication. Find out how [here](#).

preLights - Crowdfunded whole-genome sequencing of the celebrity cat Lil BUB identifies causal mutations for her osteopetrosis and polydactyly



The celebrity cat **Lil BUB** had its [genome sequenced](#) to be precisely diagnosed with the two rare mutations

responsible for her unique phenotype. **Jesus Victorino** highlights a preprint about the work from **Daniel Ibrahim** and team with the help of **Gabriel Aughey**.

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