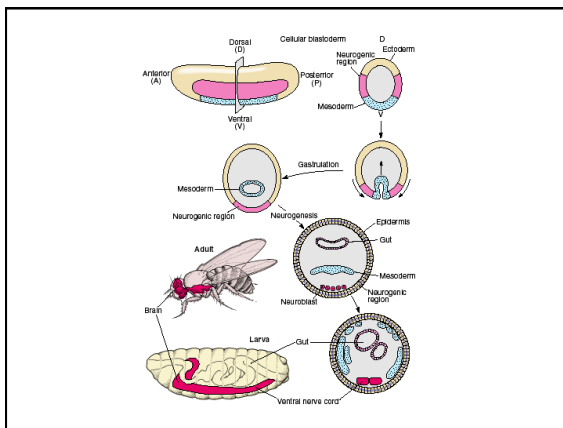
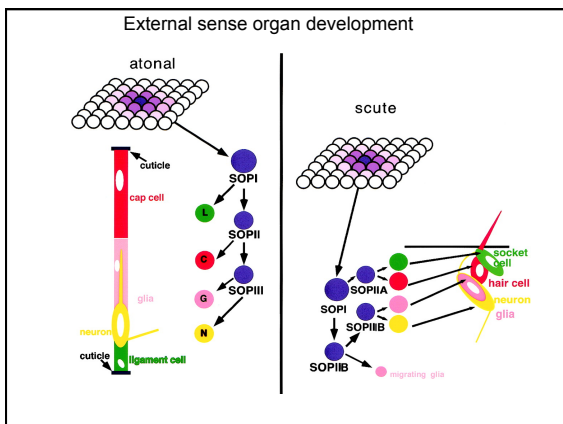


Fly neurogenesis

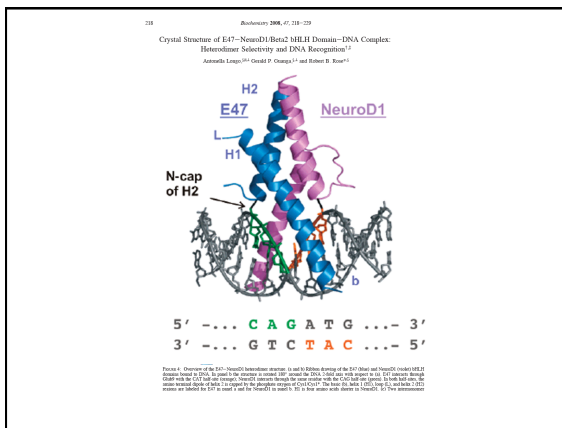
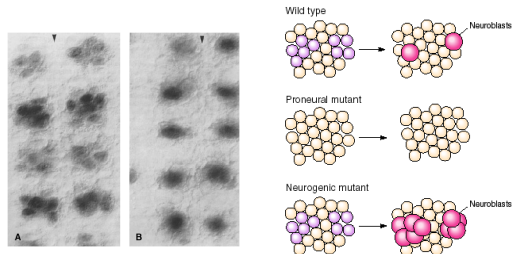
- Neurogenic region of embryo
- External sensory organs-chaete
- Internal sensory organs-chordotonal
- Specialized imaginal discs-eg. eye





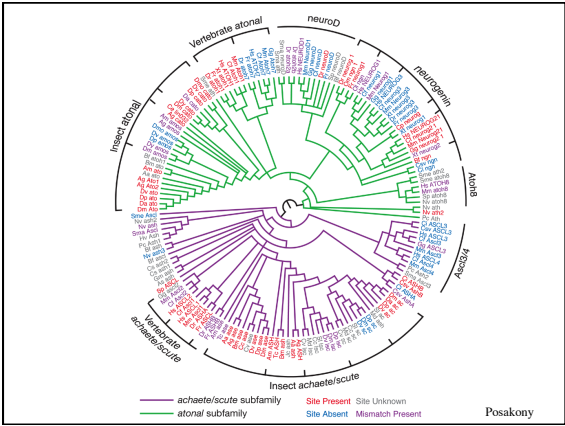
Mutations in Drosophila led to molecular analysis of neurogenesis

Proneural mutants have no neuroblasts



bHLH genes

1. Present in all animals, plants, and yeast, but absent in prokaryotes
2. The bHLH domain is about 60 amino acids long, with a basic DNA binding domain, and a dimerization domain comprised of two alpha-helices separated by a variable loop region.
3. Form several families, Groups A–D, that are involved in cell cycle regulation (c-myc) and tissue specific transcriptional regulation (MyoD1).
4. Group A: tissue specific regulators like proneural genes or myogenic determination genes, bind E-boxes (CANNTG) as heterodimers with other E-proteins (E12 or daughterless)
5. Group B: cell cycle regulators, like Myc and Max, as well as the hairy/Hes proteins, bind to N-boxes (CANNCG)
6. Group C: contain an additional domain, the PAS domain and are called bHLH-PAS proteins; these include Period and the dioxin receptor and bind to NCGTG
7. Group D: these lack a basic domain and act as antagonists to bHLH activity (Id/Evc)



Vertebrate Proneural Genes

- Many different family members.
- Expressed in both progenitors and differentiated neurons.
- Necessary and sufficient for neuronal diversity?

Jackie Lee and Dave Turner showed that overexpression of NeuroD in frog embryos led to expansion of the nervous system

