

A Rich Lineage //

Many *C. elegans* researchers trace their professional pedigrees to Cambridge, England, where, in 1964, Sydney Brenner at the Medical Research Council embarked on work with the worm. For example, Guy Caldwell, a professor of biological sciences at the University of Alabama, proudly calls himself a "grandson" of Brenner's because he performed his postdoctoral work in the lab of Martin Chalfie, who studied directly under Brenner. Another "grandson," David Hall, went on to become professor of neuroscience at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City and the editor of *WormAtlas*. They and others were part of a collegial community whose members, before the Internet, relied on phone conversations and the *Worm Breeder's Gazette* to keep up with research in the field.

In 1977 the first meeting devoted to *C. elegans* was attended by 70 scientists; at a similar conclave in 2006, several thousand researchers gathered, part of a following that may now number more than 15,000. Most have no connection to Brenner's original circle, and some early members of the "family" characterize today's network as less personal and more competitive. "People," Hall says, "are less willing to talk about their research openly, afraid someone else will jump on it."

Sydney
Brenner

Bob
Edgar

Ichi
Maruyama

Andrew
Fire

William
Sharrock

Dick
Russell

John
White

Laurent
Ségalat

Donald L.
Riddle

David
Miller

David
Hirsh

Martin
Chalfie

Hiroaki
Kagawa

Cynthia
Kenyon

Anthony
Otsuka

Robert K.
Herman

Ralf
Schnabel

Jonathan
Hodgkin

Peter
Candido

Shahid
Siddiqui

Johji
Miwa

Edward M.
Hedgecock

Barbara
Meyer

Samuel
Ward

Robert
Waterston

John
Sulston

Robert
Horvitz

Thomas
Blumenthal

Padmanabhan
Babu

Henry
Epstein

Phil
Anderson

David
Baillie