Review of: "Is gastrulation the most important time in your life?"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

I think it is great that Dr. Linde is shaking up preconceived fundamental notions in this article.

However, at the same time, I think Dr. Linde might be trying to cover too much ground and needs to expand the focus within a narrower range. For example, gastrulation is well defined in echinoderms and lower organisms but very "broadly" (poorly) defined going up from there. So, perhaps expand focus just on vertebrates? There is enough to talk about here, as gastrulation in vertebrates is more complicated and has multiple variations.

On the question of mesoderm being produced only at one time: In lower vertebrates, mesoderm is derived from ectoderm as in protostomes but in deuterostomes mesoderm comes from endoderm. I like Dr. Linde's inclusion of NMPs but think this part should also include all known mesoderm-producing cell types. For example, a discussion of neural crest cells vs ectomesenchyme might be helpful. There are several cases of higher vertebrates that produce mesenchyme from endoderm in which it is not called endomesenchyme.

I'm not sure zipping is pertinent to this discussion, any more so than "posterior neuropore closure", for example. Perhaps clarity could be added to this manuscript by including a figure or table: timeline of events, with comparisons and contrasts "classic" gastrulation in vertebrates in particular.