

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

Jose Abreu¹

¹ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article written by Marta Linde-Medina is a very pertinent commentary on the role occupied by gastrulation nowadays. The author gives a brief and sufficient explanation on the history of gastrulation and focuses on questioning the importance of gastrulation for establishing the vertebrate *bauplan*. The author could emphasize a little more what the vertebrate phyla is the object of interest when questioning which structures have gastrula intermediates within their pathways of differentiation and which one there is no intermediate. I believe this dichotomy could be better explored as well. The author writes about germ-layer intermediates, but it is not clear what that means exactly. What would be the germ-layer intermediate of the notochord for example? Or the germ-layer intermediate of the neural plate? I believe that exploring this interesting term would automatically give the article an evolutionary perspective. By reading Linde-Medina review I caught myself speculating about how these NMPs cells fit in the evolution of metazoans in a general manner. Especially regarding A-P body axis establishment and Wnt posterior signaling center. I would like to acknowledge this article is very much opportune regarding timing of publishment and has the potential of promoting the recently published ideas of Hashimoto group that are cited by the author, and could be a matter of a more profound discussion. Both Hashimoto's ideas and Linde-Medina's comment shed light on vertebrates gastrulation in a manner that uncover aspects related to morphogenesis that can be detached from the canonical way of seeing gastrulation throughout metazoa evolution. And that is for sure important for understanding the phenomenon of gastrulation in all animals.