

The plasticity of *Drosophila melanogaster* hemocytes

Gabor Csordas

In the *Drosophila* larva, certain immune challenges, such as tumors or wasp parasitization, induce the massive differentiation of encapsulating blood cells, the lamellocytes. By utilizing an array of molecular markers and *in vivo* reporters, we found that these cells develop from macrophage-type hemocytes (the plasmatocytes), which were previously considered terminally differentiated effectors. Our current focus is to elucidate key factors, which are responsible for this transition.