

Swiss Institute of
Bioinformatics

Creation and unification of development and life stage ontologies for animals

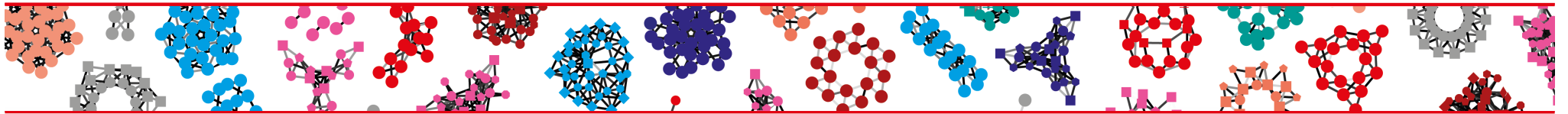
Anne Niknejad, Christopher J. Mungall, David Osumi-Sutherland,
Marc Robinson-Rechavi, Frederic B. Bastian



Unil
UNIL | Université de Lausanne
Département d'écologie
et évolution

Bgee

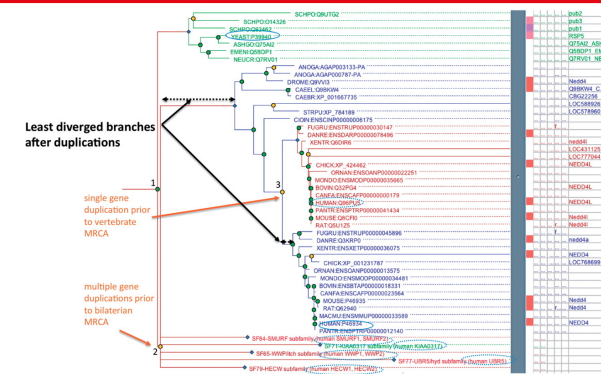
 @fred_bstn
@bgeedb
<https://bgee.org>



The necessity for multi-species comparative approaches

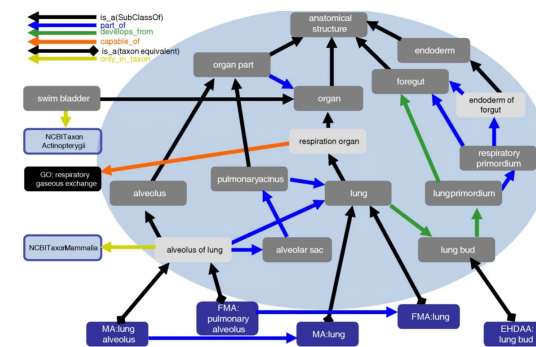
Multi-species data integration

- PANTHER: GO annotations using phylogenetic trees



Mi H., et al., *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2010

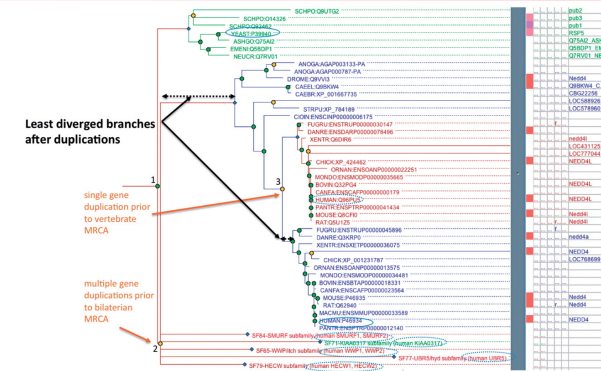
- UBERON: comparative anatomy



Mungall C.J., et al., *Genome Biol*, 2012

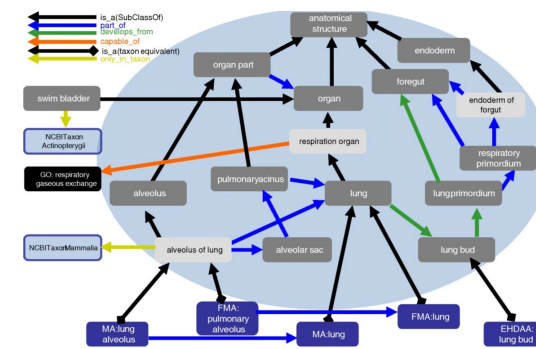
Multi-species data integration

- PANTHER: GO annotations using phylogenetic trees



Mi H., et al., *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2010

- UBERON: comparative anatomy



Mungall C.J., et al., *Genome Biol*, 2012

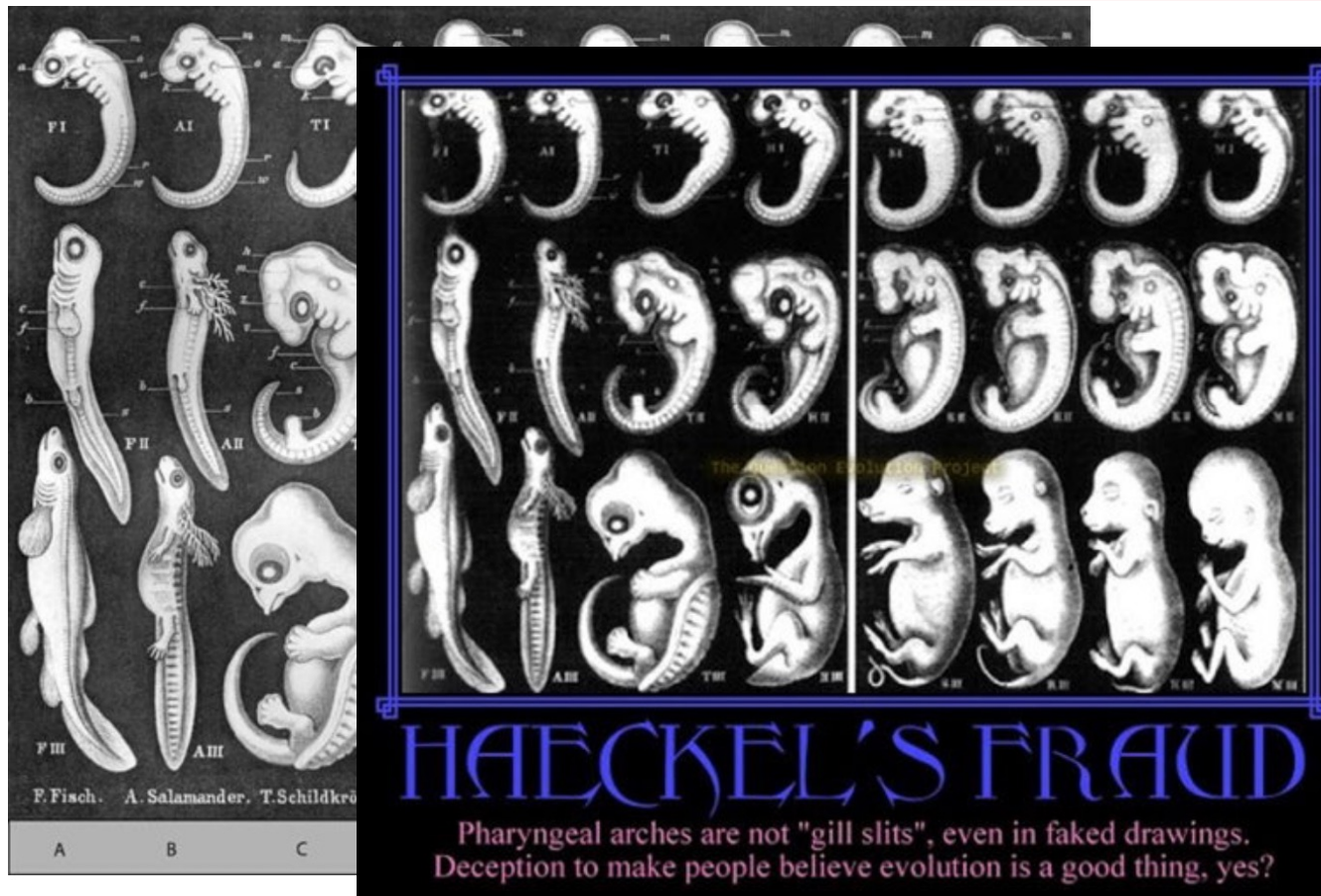
- Need for comparative developmental and life staging

Comparing developmental stages



Haeckel, *Natürliche Schöpfungsgeschichte*, 1868

Comparing developmental stages



Haeckel, *Natürliche Schöpfungsgeschichte*, 1868

Why is this proven **FAKE** still in biology text books?

An embryonic liar

Fundamental research on embryos has been exposed as false, affecting evolutionary studies, says Nigel Hawkes

"What he (Haeckel) did was to take a human embryo and copy it, pretending that the salamander and the pig and all the others looked the same at the same stage of development. They don't. **They are fakes**" Dr Michael Richardson, St George's Hospital Medical School, London. *The Times* (London, UK) 11 Aug 1997, p14

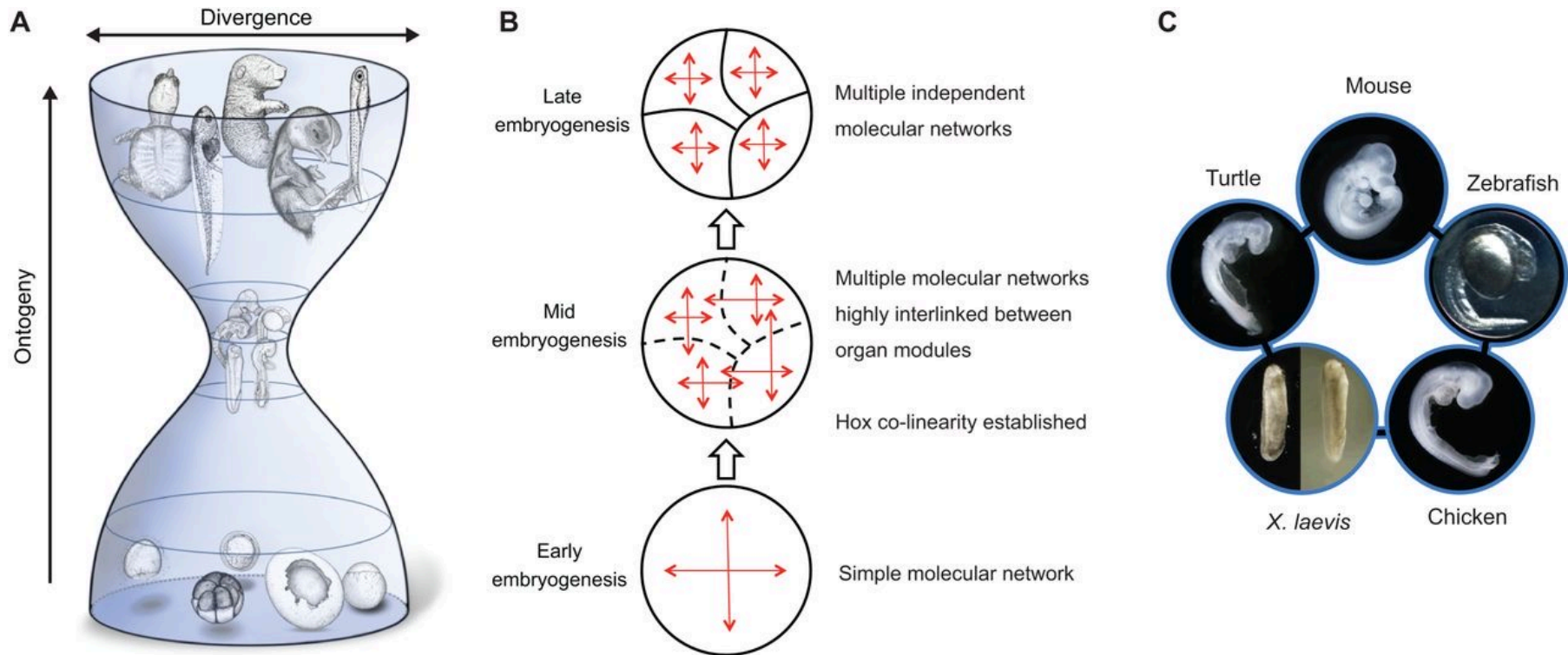
Check the Science text books for yourself.. it is still in the books listed below..

- Mike Boyle & Kathryn Senior's *Human biology* (3rd edition 2008)
- Donald Prothero's 2007 book - *Evolution: What the Fossils Say and Why it Matters*, page 110
- Ernst Mayr's book - *What Evolution is*, 2001, page 28
- Futuyma's *Evolutionary Biology* (3rd edition 1998 pg. 653)

For images from these books (and many more) visit our website listed at the back of this leaflet.....

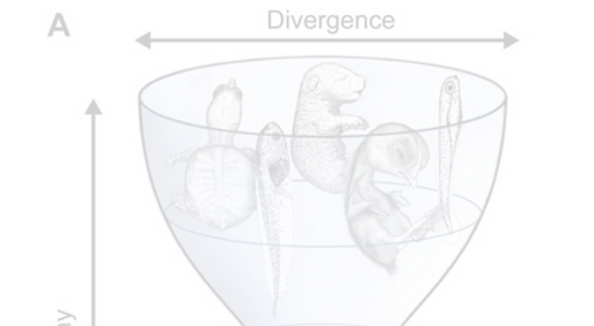
Watts et al., *Theory in Biosciences*, 2019

Comparing developmental stages



Irie N., et al., *Development*, 2014, adapted from Wang et al. 2013

Comparing developmental stages



BMC Biology

Inter-embryo gene expression variability recapitulates the hourglass pattern of evo-devo

Jialin Liu , Michael Frochoux, Vincent Gardeux, Bart Deplancke & Marc Robinson-Rechavi 

BMC Biology **18**, Article number: 129 (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

PLOS GENETICS

The Hourglass and the Early Conservation Models—Co-Existing Patterns of Developmental Constraints in Vertebrates

Barbara Piasecka, Paweł Lichocki, Sébastien Moretti, Sven Bergmann , Marc Robinson-Rechavi 

Published: April 25, 2013 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1003476>



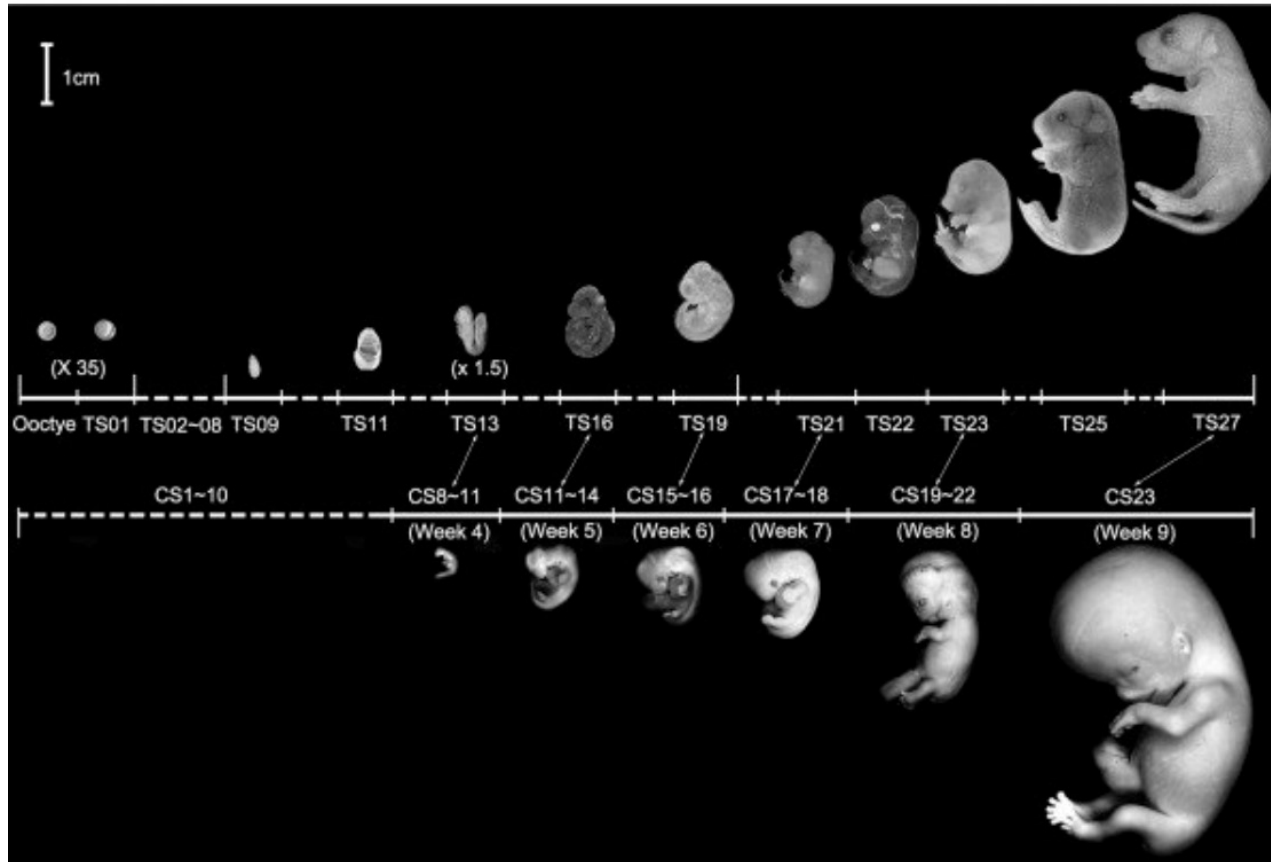
GENOME RESEARCH

The hourglass model of evolutionary conservation during embryogenesis extends to developmental enhancers with signatures of positive selection

Jialin Liu^{1,2,4}, Rebecca R. Viales³, Pierre Khoueiry^{3,5}, James P. Reddington³, Charles Girardot³, Eileen E.M. Furlong³ and Marc Robinson-Rechavi^{1,2}

Irie N., et al., *Development*, 2014, adapted from Wang et al. 2013

Comparing developmental stages



- Mouse Theiler stages based on somite number and characteristics

- Carnegie stages standardized 23 stages based on development of structures

Comparing life stages



Aging

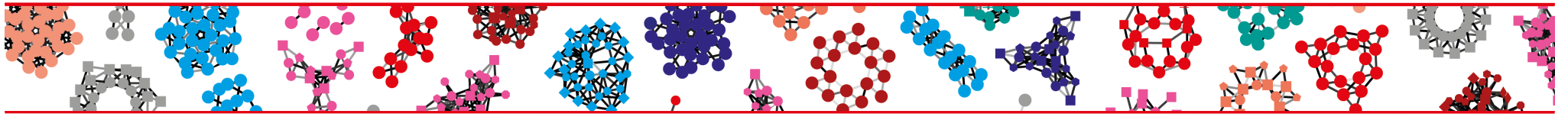


Human photo sources: wikipedia users WiLPrZ and Trocaire

Developmental stages capture phenotypic features

Ages during post-embryo are not based on phenotypic features

Development is heterochronous



Multi-species core development and life stage ontology

Uberon core ontology

UBERON:0000104 life cycle

UBERON:0000068 embryo stage

UBERON:0000092 post-embryonic stage

UBERON:0000068 embryo stage

UBERON:0000106 zygote stage

UBERON:0000107 cleavage stage

UBERON:0000108 blastula stage

UBERON:0000109 gastrula stage

UBERON:0000110 neurula stage

UBERON:0000111 organogenesis stage

UBERON:0004707 pharyngula stage

UBERON:0007220 late embryonic stage

UBERON:0000092 post-embryonic stage

UBERON:0000069 larval stage

...

UBERON:0000070 pupal stage

UBERON:0000066 fully formed stage

UBERON:0000112 sexually immature stage

UBERON:0018685 nursing stage

UBERON:0007221 neonate stage

UBERON:0035946 start of neonate stage

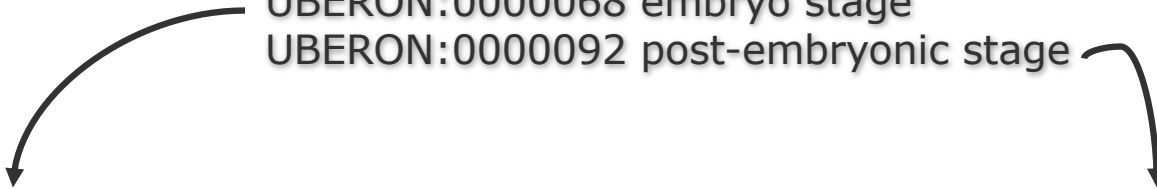
UBERON:0034920 infant stage

UBERON:0034919 juvenile stage

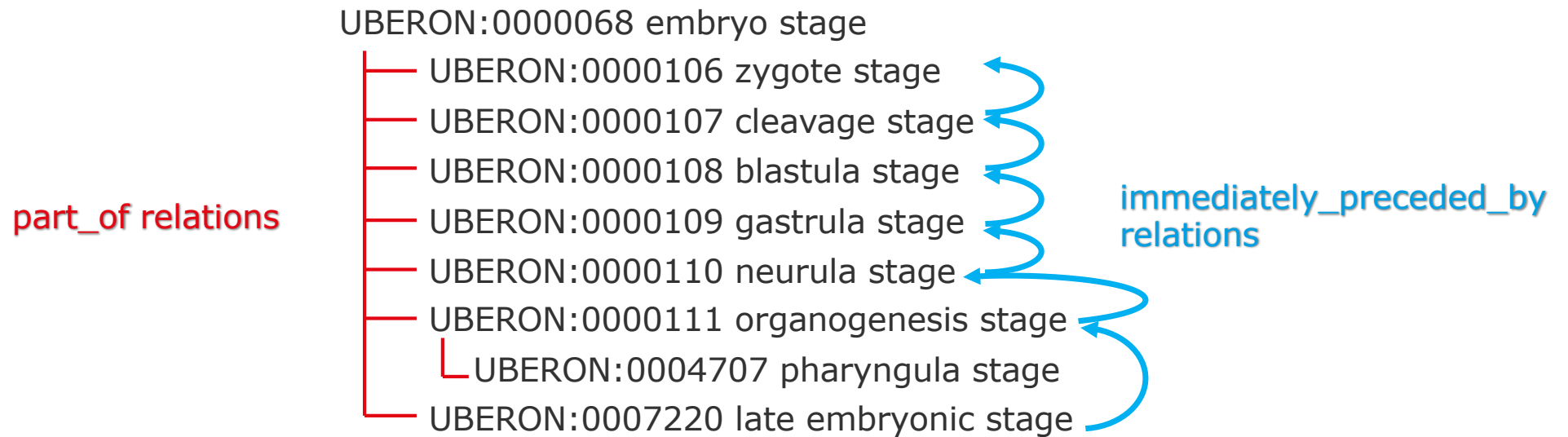
UBERON:0000113 post-juvenile

UBERON:0018241 prime adult stage

UBERON:0007222 late adult stage



Uberon core ontology



Uberon core ontology

UBERON:0000092 post-embryonic stage

UBERON:0000069 larval stage

...

UBERON:0000070 pupal stage  only_in_taxon Holometabola

UBERON:0000066 fully formed stage

UBERON:0000112 sexually immature stage

UBERON:0018685 nursing stage  only_in_taxon Mammalia

UBERON:0007221 neonate stage

UBERON:0035946 start of neonate stage

UBERON:0034920 infant stage  only_in_taxon Mammalia

UBERON:0034919 juvenile stage

UBERON:0000113 post-juvenile

UBERON:0018241 prime adult stage

UBERON:0007222 late adult stage

Uberon core ontology

UBERON:0000092 post-embryonic stage

UBERON:0000069 larval stage

...

UBERON:0000070 pupal stage

UBERON:0000066 fully formed stage

UBERON:0000112 sexually immature stage

UBERON:0018685 nursing stage → A mammalian developmental stage that covers the period from birth until weaning.

UBERON:0007221 neonate stage

UBERON:0035946 start of neonate stage

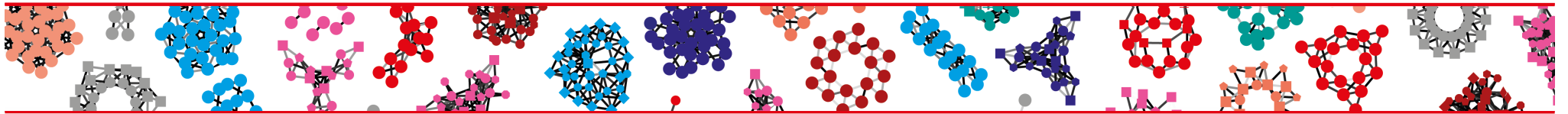
UBERON:0034920 infant stage → ends at weaning

UBERON:0034919 juvenile stage → The stage of being no more dependent of the nest and/or from caregivers for subsistence while having not reach sexual maturity.

UBERON:0000113 post-juvenile

UBERON:0018241 prime adult stage

UBERON:0007222 late adult stage



Species-specific ontologies

Human ontology: source ontology

HsapDv:0000264 sexually immature stage
HsapDv:0000260 nursing stage
HsapDv:0000262 newborn stage
HsapDv:0000261 infant stage
HsapDv:0000273 1-month-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000184 11-month-old stage
HsapDv:0000265 child stage
HsapDv:0000246 1-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000185 12-month-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000196 23-month-old stage
HsapDv:0000270 2-4 year-old child stage
HsapDv:0000096 2-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000097 3-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000098 4-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000271 juvenile stage
HsapDv:0000099 5-year-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000108 14-year-old stage

Human ontology: source ontology

[Term]

id: HsapDv:0000261

name: infant stage

namespace: human_developmental_stage

def: "Immature stage that refers to an infant who is over 28 days and is under 12 months old." [Bgee:curator "Bgee"]

comment: We consider that this pediatric stage refers to an infant who is over 28 days and under 12 months old, to follow HPO (Human Phenotype Ontology) which considers infant as between 28 days to one year of life, based on the ethymology of the word (infant), meaning not speaking, see HP:0003593 (Infantile onset) and see Peter Robinson's comment [[HPO:probinson] at <https://github.com/obophenotype/human-phenotype-ontology/issues/5119#issuecomment-578882539>.

synonym: "infantile stage" EXACT []

synonym: "under-1-year-old stage" EXACT []

xref: HP:0003593

xref: UBERON:0034920

is_a: HsapDv:0000000 ! life cycle stage

relationship: part_of HsapDv:0000260 ! nursing stage

relationship: immediately_preceded_by HsapDv:0000262 ! newborn stage

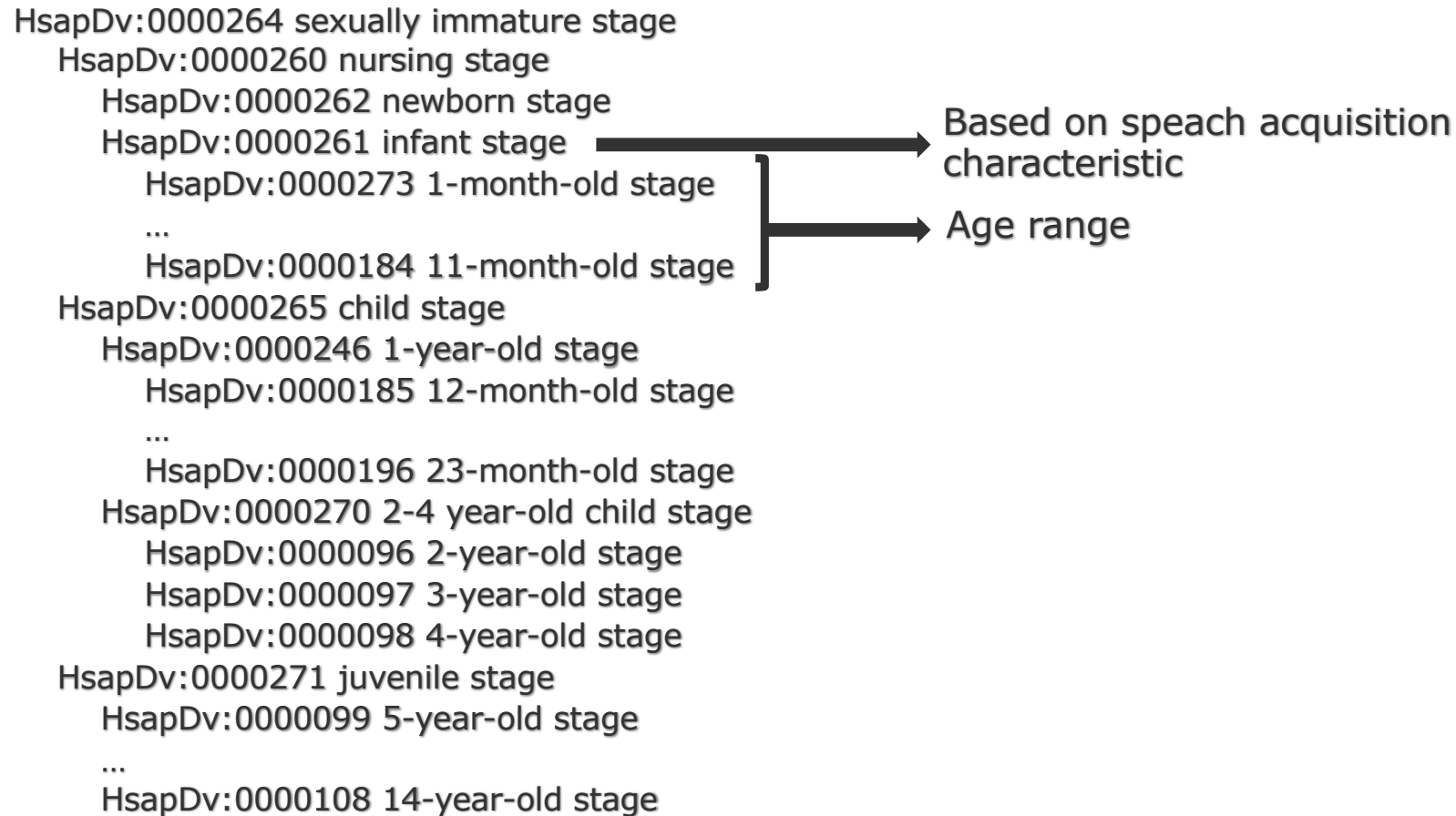
property_value: start_y pb "0.077" xsd:float

property_value: end_y pb "1.0" xsd:float

property_value: start_m pb "0.92" xsd:float

property_value: end_m pb "12.0" xsd:float

Human ontology: source ontology



Human ontology: source ontology

[Term]

id: HsapDv:0000260

name: nursing stage

...

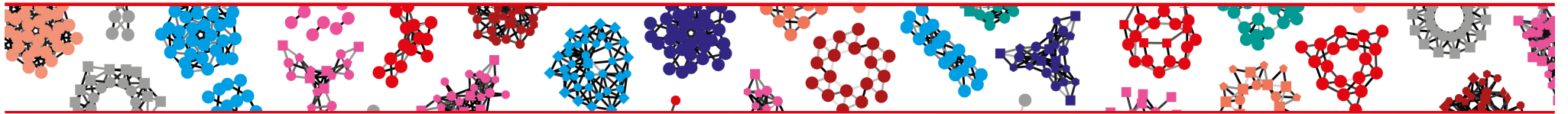
comment: The definition of an age for human weaning is difficult to define due to individual and cultural variations. The natural age of weaning in humans could be 2.5 years, with maximum 7.0 years (see https://www.health-e-learning.com/articles/A_Natural_Age_of_Weaning.pdf), but we decide to stop this period at 1 year-old, before usually language acquisition.

Human ontology: source ontology

HsapDv:0000226 prime adult stage
HsapDv:0000266 young adult stage
HsapDv:0000268 15-19 year-old
HsapDv:0000109 15-year-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000113 19-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000237 third decade stage
HsapDv:0000114 20-year-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000123 29-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000238 fourth decade stage
HsapDv:0000124 30-year-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000133 39-year-old stage

HsapDv:0000267 middle aged stage
HsapDv:0000239 fifth decade stage
HsapDv:0000134 40-year-old tage
...
HsapDv:0000143 49-year-old stage
HsapDv:0000240 sixth decade stage
HsapDv:0000144 50-year-old stage
...
HsapDv:0000153 59-year-old stage





Alignment with Uberon

Human ontology: bridge file

[Term]

id: HsapDv:0000045

property_value: IAO:0000589 "prenatal stage (human)" xsd:string

intersection_of: UBERON:0000068

intersection_of: part_of NCBITaxon:9606

[Term]

id: HsapDv:0000262

property_value: IAO:0000589 "newborn stage (human)" xsd:string

intersection_of: UBERON:0007221

intersection_of: part_of NCBITaxon:9606

[Term]

id: HsapDv:0000192

property_value: IAO:0000589 "19-month-old stage (human)" xsd:string

relationship: only_in_taxon NCBITaxon:9606 ! human

...

Human ontology: merge with Uberon

UBERON:0000104 life cycle

UBERON:0000068 embryo stage

UBERON:0000106 zygote stage

UBERON:0000107 cleavage stage

HsapDv:0000205 morula stage (human)

UBERON:0000108 blastula stage

HsapDv:0000007 Carnegie stage 03 (human)

HsapDv:0000008 Carnegie stage 04 (human)

HsapDv:0000009 Carnegie stage 05 (human)

HsapDv:0000031 Carnegie stage 05a (human)

HsapDv:0000032 Carnegie stage 05b (human)

HsapDv:0000033 Carnegie stage 05c (human)

UBERON:0000109 gastrula stage

HsapDv:0000011 Carnegie stage 06 (human)

HsapDv:0000034 Carnegie stage 06a (human)

HsapDv:0000035 Carnegie stage 06b (human)

UBERON:0000110 neurula stage

HsapDv:0000013 Carnegie stage 07 (human)

HsapDv:0000014 Carnegie stage 08 (human)

UBERON:0000111 organogenesis stage

HsapDv:0000016 Carnegie stage 09 (human)

HsapDv:0000017 Carnegie stage 10 (human)

HsapDv:0000018 Carnegie stage 11 (human)

HsapDv:0000019 Carnegie stage 12 (human)

HsapDv:0000020 Carnegie stage 13 (human)

HsapDv:0000021 Carnegie stage 14 (human)

HsapDv:0000022 Carnegie stage 15 (human)

HsapDv:0000023 Carnegie stage 16 (human)

HsapDv:0000024 Carnegie stage 17 (human)

HsapDv:0000025 Carnegie stage 18 (human)

HsapDv:0000026 Carnegie stage 19 (human)

HsapDv:0000027 Carnegie stage 20 (human)

HsapDv:0000028 Carnegie stage 21 (human)

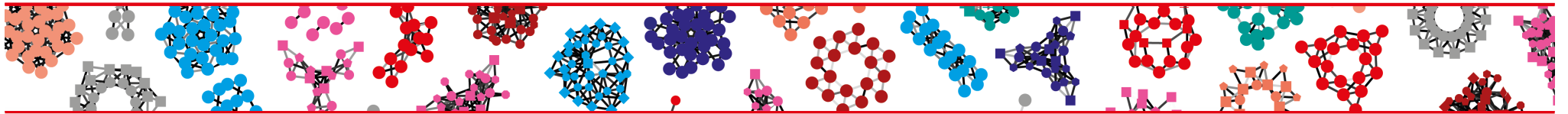
HsapDv:0000029 Carnegie stage 22 (human)

HsapDv:0000030 Carnegie stage 23 (human)





Integration of 21 species

| Ontology name | Species | Number of classes | Number of classes linked to Uberon |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| AcarDv | Anolis carolinensis | 20 | 20 |
| BtauDv | Bos taurus | 78 | 8 |
| CfamDv | Canis lupus familiaris | 24 | 24 |
| CporDv | Cavia porcellus | 24 | 24 |
| DpseDv | Drosophila pseudoobscura | 21 | 18 |
| DsimDv | Drosophila simulans | 21 | 18 |
| EcabDv | Equus caballus | 24 | 24 |
| FcatDv | Felis catus | 24 | 24 |
| GgalDv | Gallus gallus | 90 | 16 |
| GgorDv | Gorilla gorilla | 47 | 24 |
| HsapDv | Homo sapiens | 238 | 20 |
| MdomDv | Monodelphis domestica | 59 | 24 |
| MmulDv | Macaca mulatta | 66 | 24 |
| MmusDv | Mus musculus | 134 | 20 |
| OanaDv | Ornithorhynchus anatinus | 24 | 24 |
| OariDv | Ovis aries | 33 | 20 |
| OcunDv | Oryctolagus cuniculus | 24 | 24 |
| PpanDv | Pan paniscus | 56 | 24 |
| PtroDv | Pan troglodytes | 67 | 24 |
| RnorDv | Rattus norvegicus | 60 | 20 |
| SscrDv | Sus scrofa | 94 | 22 |



Application examples

Annotation in Human Cell Atlas

 HUMAN CELL ATLAS DATA PORTAL 

[Explore](#) [Guides](#) [Metadata](#) [Pipelines](#) [Analysis Tools](#) [Contribute](#) [APIs](#) [Updates](#)

Explore Data: DCP 2.0 Data View

| Genus Species | Projects | Organism Age Range | Biological Sex | Donor Disease | Projects | Development Stage | Projects |
|--|----------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------|---|----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homo sapiens | 242 | Age unit <input type="radio"/> week <input type="radio"/> month <input checked="" type="radio"/> year | <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> normal | 179 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1-month-old human stage | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mus musculus | 33 | Min age <input type="text" value="e.g. 1"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> male | <input type="checkbox"/> abscess | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-month-old human stage | 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unspecified | 4 | Max age <input type="text" value="e.g. 2"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> mixed | <input type="checkbox"/> acoustic neuroma | 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10th week post-fertilization human stage | 7 |
| | | <input type="button" value="Apply"/> <input type="button" value="Clear"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> acquired aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 11th week post-fertilization human stage | 5 |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> acute kidney failure | 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12th week post-fertilization | 10 |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> acute kidney tubular necrosis | 2 | | |

analysis_protocol

Expression data in Bgee: PAX6 example













Gene : PAX6 - ENSG00000007372 - *Homo sapiens* (human)

Functionⁱ

Transcription factor with important functions in the development of the eye, nose, central nervous system and pancreas. Required for the differentiation of pancreatic islet alpha cells (By similarity).

| Anatomical entity | Dev. stage | Expression score | FDR | Sources |
|--|---|------------------|-----------------|--|
| UBERON:0001812 palpebral conjunctiva | HsapDv:0000246 1-year-old stage (human) | 99.55 | 0.002 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> FL |
| UBERON:0001812 palpebral conjunctiva | HsapDv:0000270 2-4 year-old child stage (human) | 99.55 | 0.002 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> FL |
| UBERON:0001812 palpebral conjunctiva | UBERON:0034919 juvenile stage | 99.53 | 0.002 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> FL |
| UBERON:0003053 ventricular zone | HsapDv:0000198 fourth LMP month stage (human) | 99.33 | $\leq 1.00e-14$ | <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> FL |
| CL:0000169 type B pancreatic cell | UBERON:0000113 post-juvenile | 99.28 | 0.002 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> FL |

Expression data in Bgee: PAX6 expression in Euteleostomi

| Anatomical entities | Conservation score ▼ ¹ | Max expression score ▼ ³ | Genes with presence of expression | Genes with absence of expression ▲ ² | Genes with no data |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| cornea  | 1.00 | 99.72 | 3 genes | 0 gene | 48 genes |
| retinal neural layer  | 1.00 | 99.47 | 3 genes | 0 gene | 48 genes |
| ventricular zone  | 1.00 | 99.28 | 2 genes | 0 gene | 49 genes |
| germ cell  | 1.00 | 98.61 | 4 genes | 0 gene | 47 genes |
| metencephalon  | 1.00 | 98.54 | 24 genes | 0 gene | 27 genes |
| hindbrain  | 1.00 | 98.54 | 26 genes | 0 gene | 25 genes |
| cerebellum  | 1.00 | 98.54 | 24 genes | 0 gene | 27 genes |
| lens of camera-type eye  | 1.00 | 98.11 | 5 genes | 0 gene | 46 genes |
| optic cup  | 1.00 | 97.95 | 3 genes | 0 gene | 48 genes |
| optic fissure  | 1.00 | 97.95 | 1 gene | 0 gene | 50 genes |



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Bgee

<https://bgee.org/>



<https://github.com/obophenotype/developmental-stage-ontologies>



<http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/uberon/composite-metazoan.owl>



www.sib.swiss