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spermatogenesis; Germ plasm formation and germ cell determination in *Drosophila*; Final general discussion; Summing-up; Index of contributors; Subject index

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**Sommario/riassunto**

Connects classical cellular descriptive studies with more recent work on the molecular and genetic aspects regarding germline development. Prominent scientists discuss research on a range of organisms including insects, worms, birds, fish, amphibia, mammals and green algae. Specification of germ cells, their migration to the gonads and subsequent interactions with the soma and evolutionary factors of their segregation are among the topics covered.

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