

Preface

We have had an interest in subtelomeric regions for many years, first in yeast, then in parasites and pathogens and finally in all organisms with linear chromosomes. Over the years we have met many other people with an interest in subtelomeres in their favourite organism but it has taken a lot of time to bring such people together. After a few false starts at getting together at one conference or another, this book first was discussed at the 24th International Conference on Yeast Genetics and Molecular Biology 2009 in Manchester with Sabine Schwarz, a Life Sciences Editor from Springer. A few months later, discussions started in earnest about how a book on Subtelomeres would be structured and what would be in it. Then things slowed down due to other commitments, however we succeeded in obtaining funding from the Royal Society to hold a 2-day special interest meeting on Subtelomeres at their new conference centre near Milton Keynes, the Kavli Royal Society Centre at Chicheley Hall in January of 2011. This meeting with 16 attendees of diverse backgrounds, brought together people working on subtelomeres in many different organisms and from different perspectives. Many of those in attendance are contributors to the book, which really got its start after this meeting. Although we never did come to a definition of ‘Subtelomere’ that fit all cases, we did come to a better appreciation of the global nature of the issues, problems and genuine exciting nature of the regions near the ends of chromosomes. Like all academics, time is always in short supply and it has taken quite a long time to finally put the book together. Like the dynamic changing subtelomeres, players involved have also undergone dynamic change. Many people have moved institutions, some people have retired since the start, many originally keen contributors had to drop out due to their own commitments and even the editor has changed as we now have Anette Lindqvist at Springer handling the book. Like the technical challenges faced by the genomic analysis of subtelomeres, it must be frustrating to all involved and we can only thank everyone, especially the editors, for their patience. As the subtelomeric regions are ever changing, such a collection of articles on subtelomeres will evolve over time and we’re sure there will be new additions and advances in future efforts.

Subtelomeres

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