Gentile, J.M., Lohman, P.H.M., Sankaranarayan, K. (ed.): **The Field of Mutation Research: Where have we been and where are we going?** (Mutation Research. Volume 400. Special Celebratory Issue). - Elsevier, Amsterdam - Lausanne - New York - Oxford - Shannon - Tokyo 1998. 582 pp. NLG 150.00 for non subscribers of the journal. ISSN 0027-5107.

One can ask what trends in science we can expect in post-modern society? Intentionaly or nonintennationaly title of the first article: Functional genomics in the post-genome era (Woychick *et al.*) defines paralell expression of post-genome era for molecular biology with an emphasis on the studies of gene expression patterns and phenotypes in model organisms as an important part of analysis of the role of genes. And this is the bottomline of the whole issue which can be traced in all articles. According to the topic this issue is divided into six chapters: (1) the integration of mutagenesis research and genomics; (2) a better clarification and understanding of genomic instability and spontaneous mutations; (3) DNA repair; (4) chemical mutagenesis and chromosomal effect; (5) a study of tumor induction and suppression, and cancer and (6) risk assessment for individuals and populations. As usually in the field of mutagenesis also this issue is targeted mainly for biomedical community. Research in plants is represented only by an article of Vonarx *et al.*, DNA repair in higher plants which provides a concise overview of nuclear DNA repair mechanisms in higher plants, particularly those processes concerned with the repair of UV induced lesions and includes surveys of UV-sensitive mutants and genes implicated in DNA repair. Main topics covered are *a*) primary responses to external sources of DNA damage: pigments, flavonoids, local necrosis and dessication, and *b*) secondary responses to external sources of DNA damage: DNA repair-photoreactivation, base and nucleotide excision repair, transcription-coupled repair, translesion synthesis, post-replication repair, recombinational repair, mismatch correction. Important part of the article is a list of currently available radiation-sensitive *Arabidopsis* mutants, both UV and γ. So far plant research on mutagenesis and DNA repair lagged behind other organisms mainly because there were no mutants available. Due to "genome" era and mapping projects we do not have any more excuse for this and we have bravely step to post-genome era as well. And this issue can be a good source of ideas where to go.

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