

## **Ontogeny of diet selection and the control of ingestion**

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Selecting four papers to adequately represent a major area of research is a task presenting monumental difficulties. Surely no collection of such size could do true justice to both the diversity and creativity of research on the development of feeding behaviour

The present group of papers is, therefore as it must be, a compromise between the needs to both review a long and varied history of research in the ontogeny of feeding and to look to the future of the field. Two of the papers that follow review traditional areas of research in the ontogeny of feeding, the other two papers are by students of ingestive behavior whose own research, though not directly addressing developmental issues, provides approaches and concepts that I think will be central in future studies of the development of feeding behavior.

Ted Hall has provided both a comprehensive overview of the ontogeny of ingestive control systems in juvenile rats and a discussion of the implications of this work for developmental studies in general. Gary Beauchamp and Beverly Cowart describe recent advances in our understanding of the role of feeding experience in the development of human hedonic and ingestive responses to flavorants and foods.

Gary Schwartz and Harvey Grill compare the taste-elicited behaviors of adult and juvenile rats, pointing to a number of lacunae in existing data, and suggesting techniques and dimensions of comparison that would increase the usefulness of future developmental studies of ingestion. Harvey Weingarten discusses the importance of external stimuli in triggering the onset of ingestive behavior, presenting evidence of mechanisms that must play a fundamental, though as yet poorly explored, role in the ontogeny of feeding.

Taken together, the various contributions to this symposium provide reviews of past and present research and point to areas of promise for the future. My thanks to each of the contributors for their enthusiastic support of a demanding project.

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