



FIGURE 9.26. (A) The sensory hair structures (known as bristles) in *Drosophila* are made up of four cells: the socket, shaft, neuron, and sheath cells. (B) These cells are all derived from a single precursor cell called pI through a particular division pattern. In *numB* mutants (upper half of C), the cell differentiation program is altered so that all the progeny become socket cells. When *numB* is overexpressed (lower half of C), all the progeny become neurons. (D) Analysis of *numB* protein distribution reveals that *numB* is localized to one side of the pI cell. (E,F) As the cell begins to divide, the asymmetry in *numB* protein distribution results in all the *numB* protein going to the pIIb daughter (the dotted line in E and F helps to outline the edge of the pIIa cell) and *numB* protein is also asymmetrically distributed in subsequent divisions as well. The normal pattern of *numB* distribution is reflected by the coloring of the cells in B (*numB*-containing cells are red; those without *numB* protein are blue). This asymmetric distribution can be used to explain the phenotypes seen in *numB* mutants and when *numB* is misexpressed. When *numB* is absent, all the progeny behave like the cells that would normally lack *numB* protein (pIIa and then the socket cell). When *numB* is misexpressed, all the progeny behave like the cells that have the *numB* protein (pIIb and then the neuron).

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