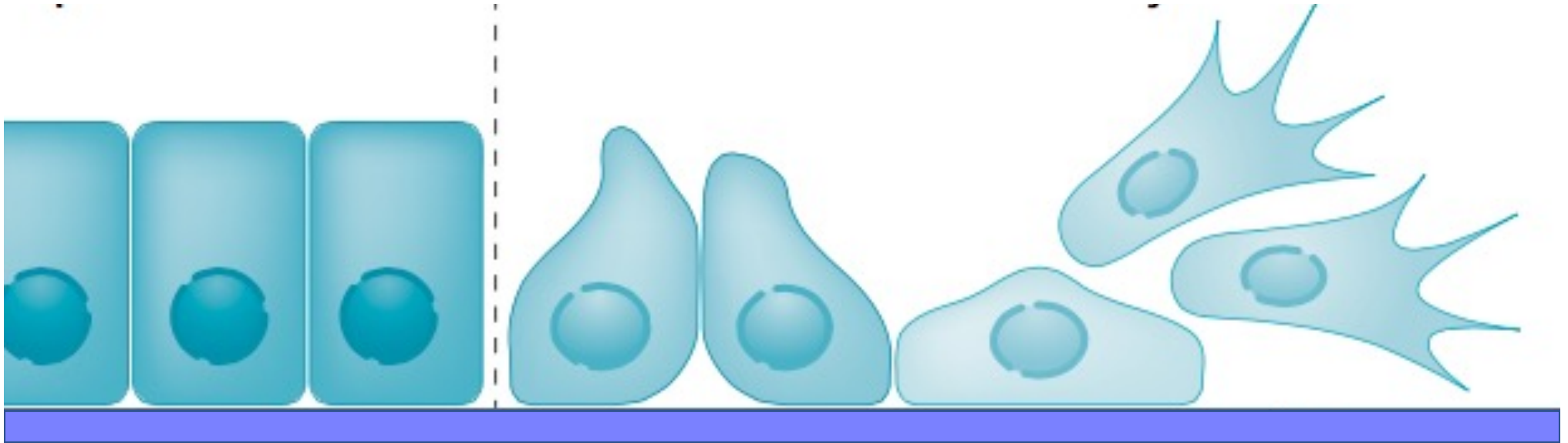


# Migration, polarity, EMT, metastasis



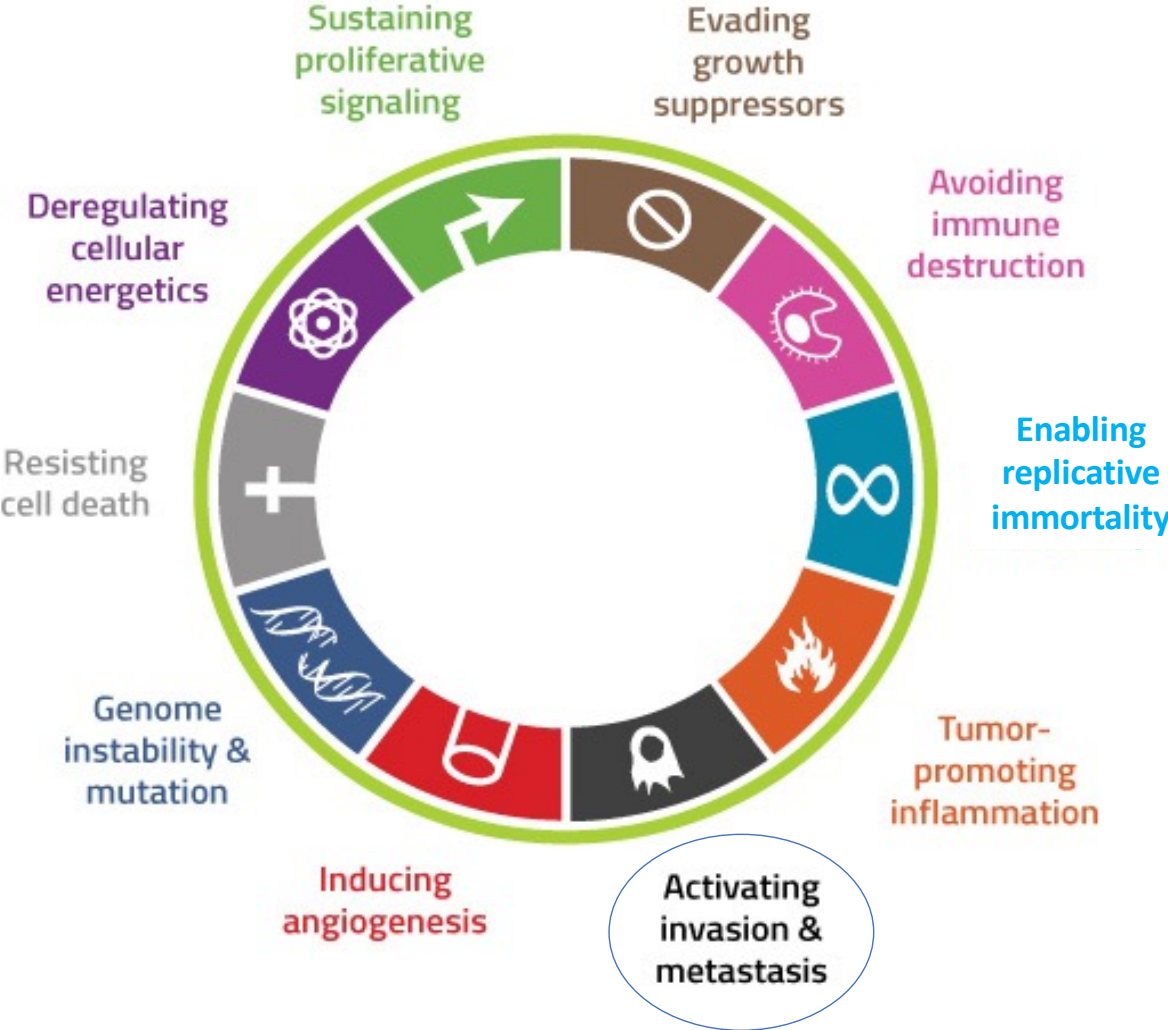
M1 International, Cancer Cell Biology, TU n°05

université  
PARIS-SACLAY  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
Health and  
Drug Sciences

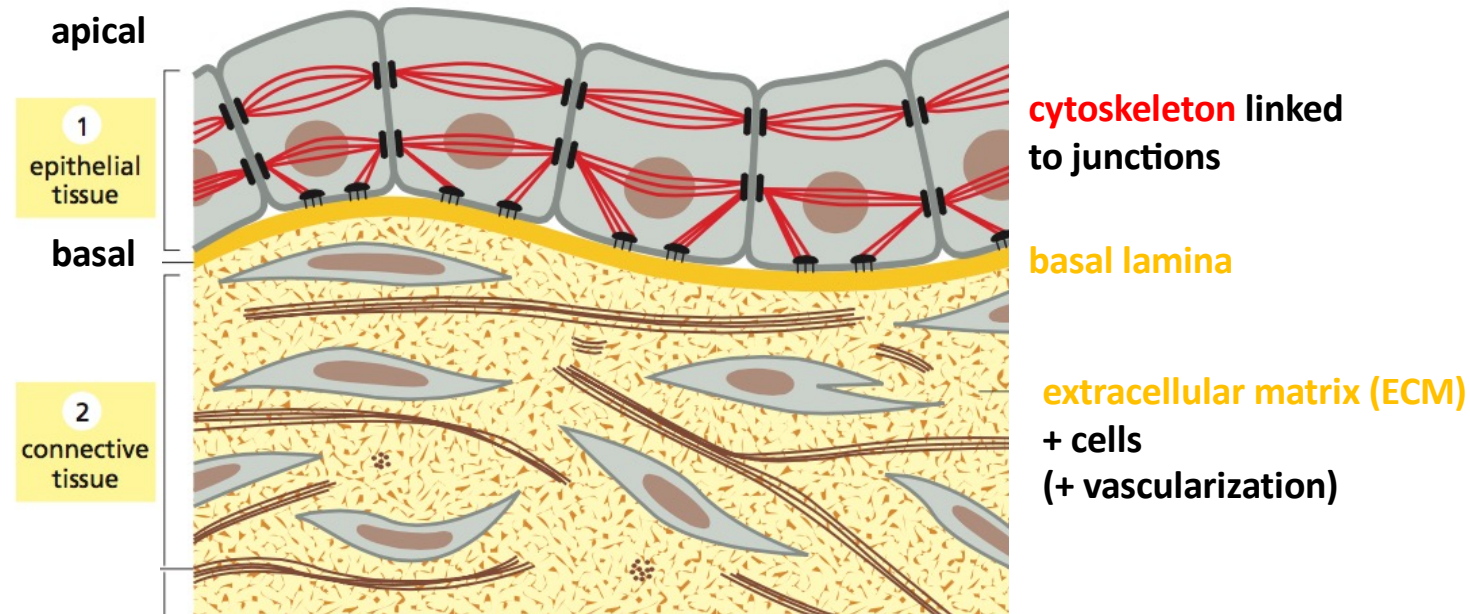


université  
PARIS-SACLAY  
FACULTÉ DE  
PHARMACIE

# Hallmarks of cancer

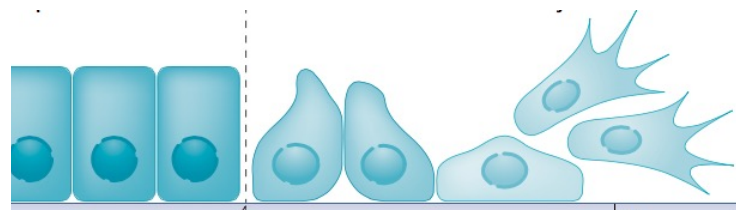


# Epithelial cells hold together and to the extra cellular matrix



**EMT :**  
Epithelial-mesenchymal transition

**MET :**  
Mesenchymal-epithelial transition



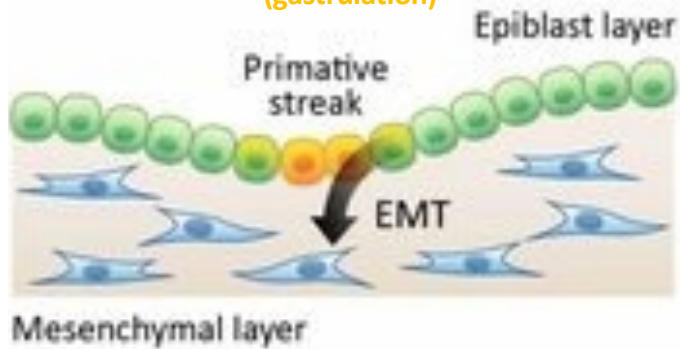
EMT & MET = Normal during development, but abnormally reactivated during metastasis

- EMT**
- Junctions altered
  - Polarity switch
  - Epithelial fate lost (mesenchymal)
  - ECM modified
  - migration/invasion

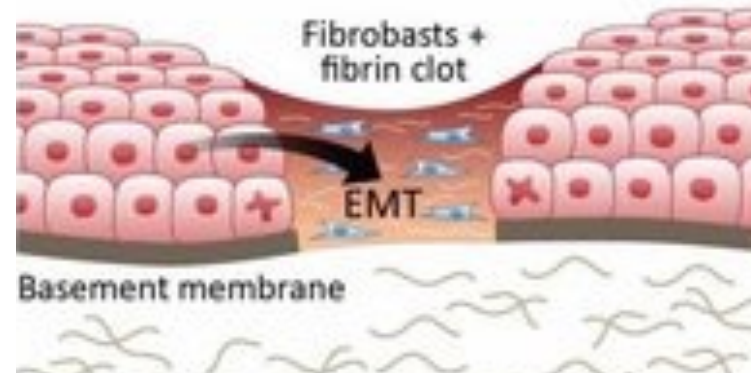
Figure 19-1 & 20-16, *Molecular Biology of the Cell 6<sup>th</sup>*  
Yamada & Sixt, *Mol Cell Biol*, 2019

# EMT / MET in physiopathology

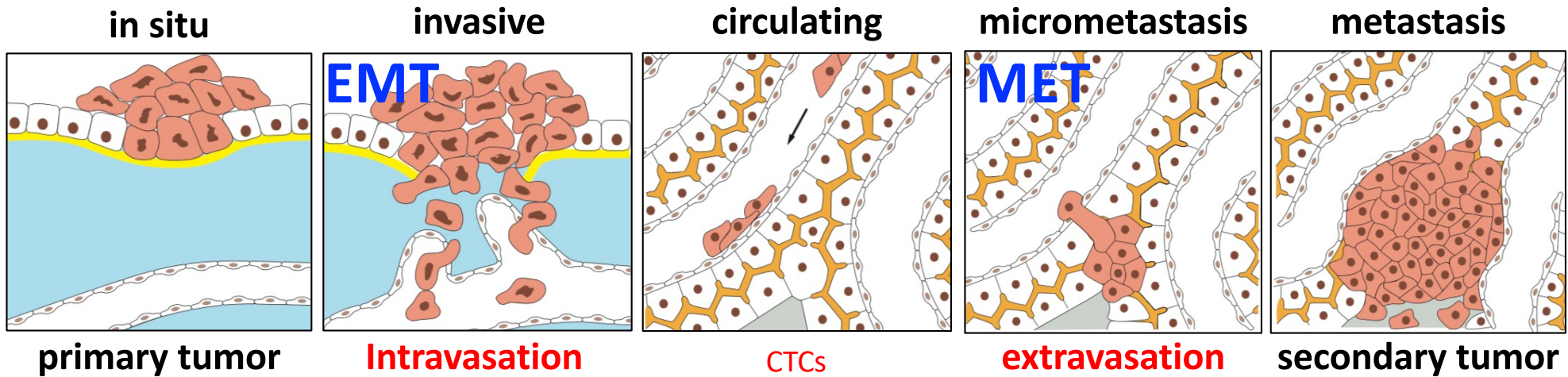
## Embryonic development (gastrulation)



## Wound healing

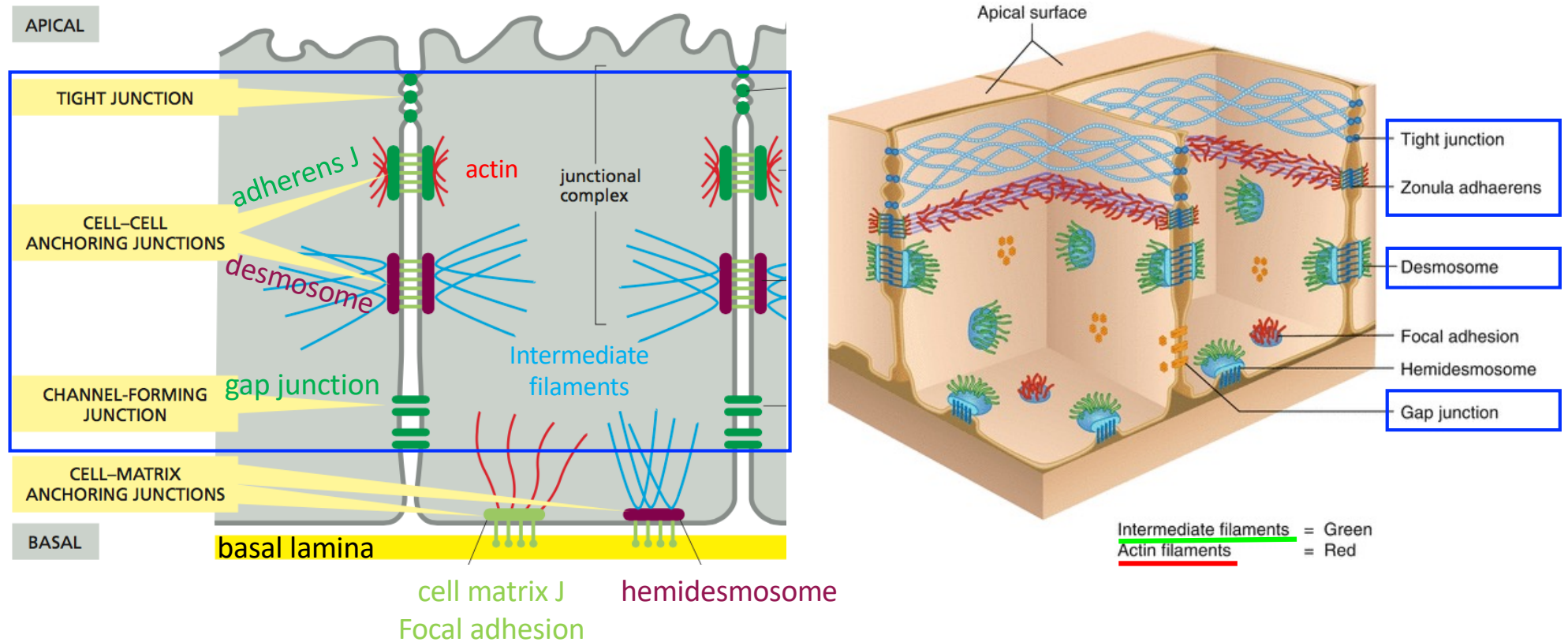


## Cancer metastasis



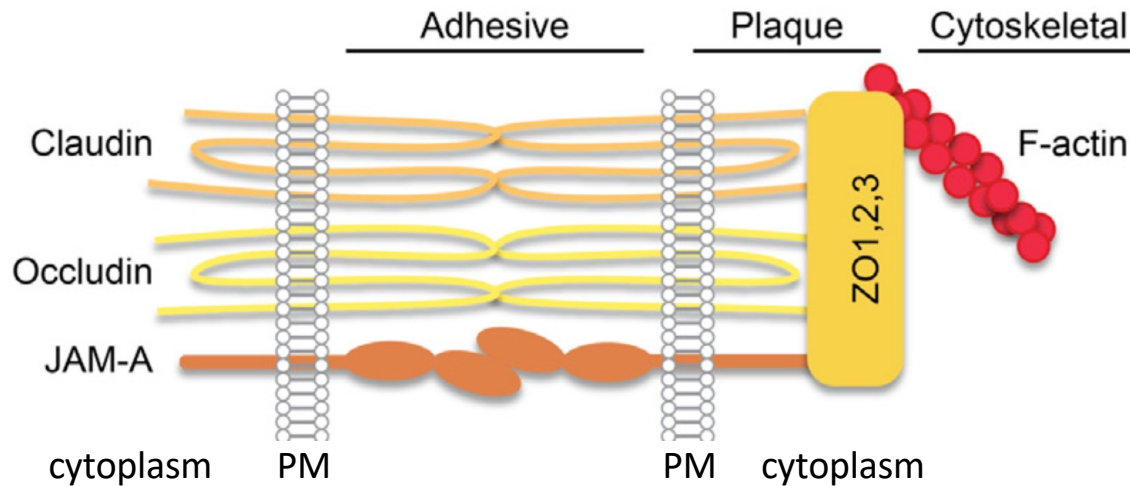
DTCs

# 6 types of junctions in epithelial cells : 4 are cell-cell junctions

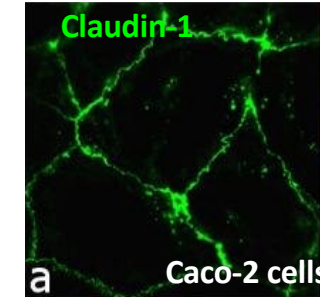


Adapted from figure 19-2, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6th

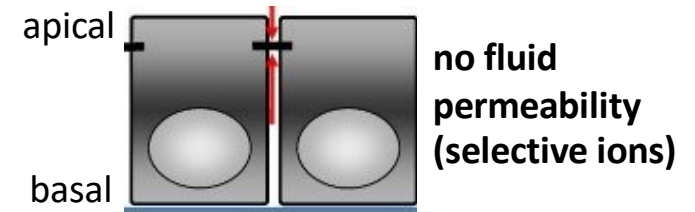
# 1. Tight junctions : claudins / occludins / JAMs



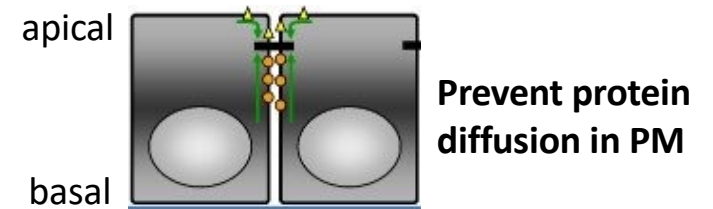
immunofluorescence



**Barrier for extracellular matrix**



**Fence in plasma membrane**



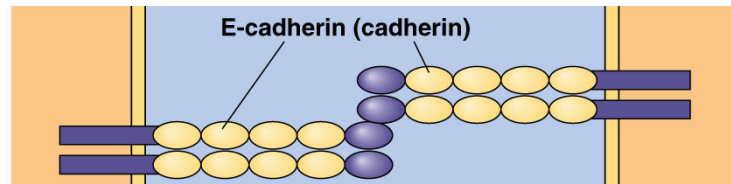
JAM : Junctional Adhesion Molecule (immunoglobulin super family)

ZO : Zonula Occludens proteins

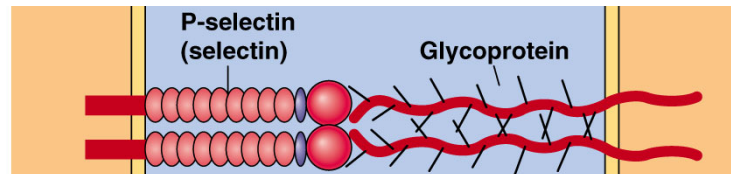
PM : plasma membrane

**transmembrane homophilic adhesion proteins  
+ cytoplasmic scaffold proteins**

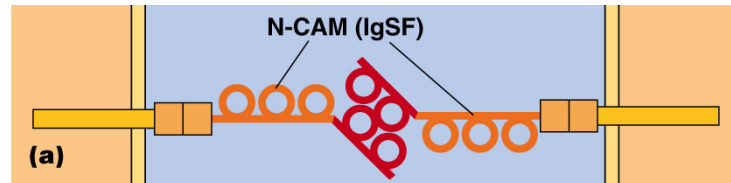
## 2. & 3. Cell-cell anchoring junctions : cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)



**Cadherins** / tissue integrity (homophilic, **Ca<sup>2+</sup> dpt**)  
Adherens junctions  
(**non classical cadherins** in desmosomes)

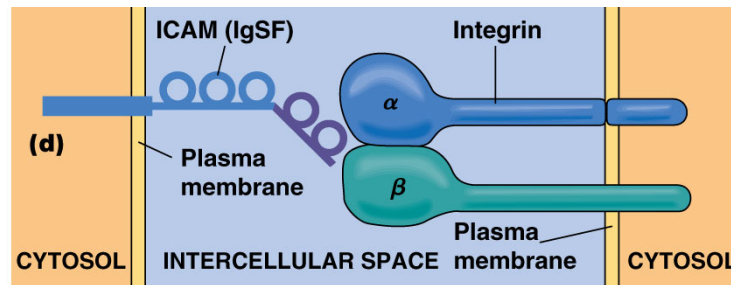


**Selectins** / transient binding to glycoproteins (**Ca<sup>2+</sup> dpt**)  
Transient junctions (heterophilic)



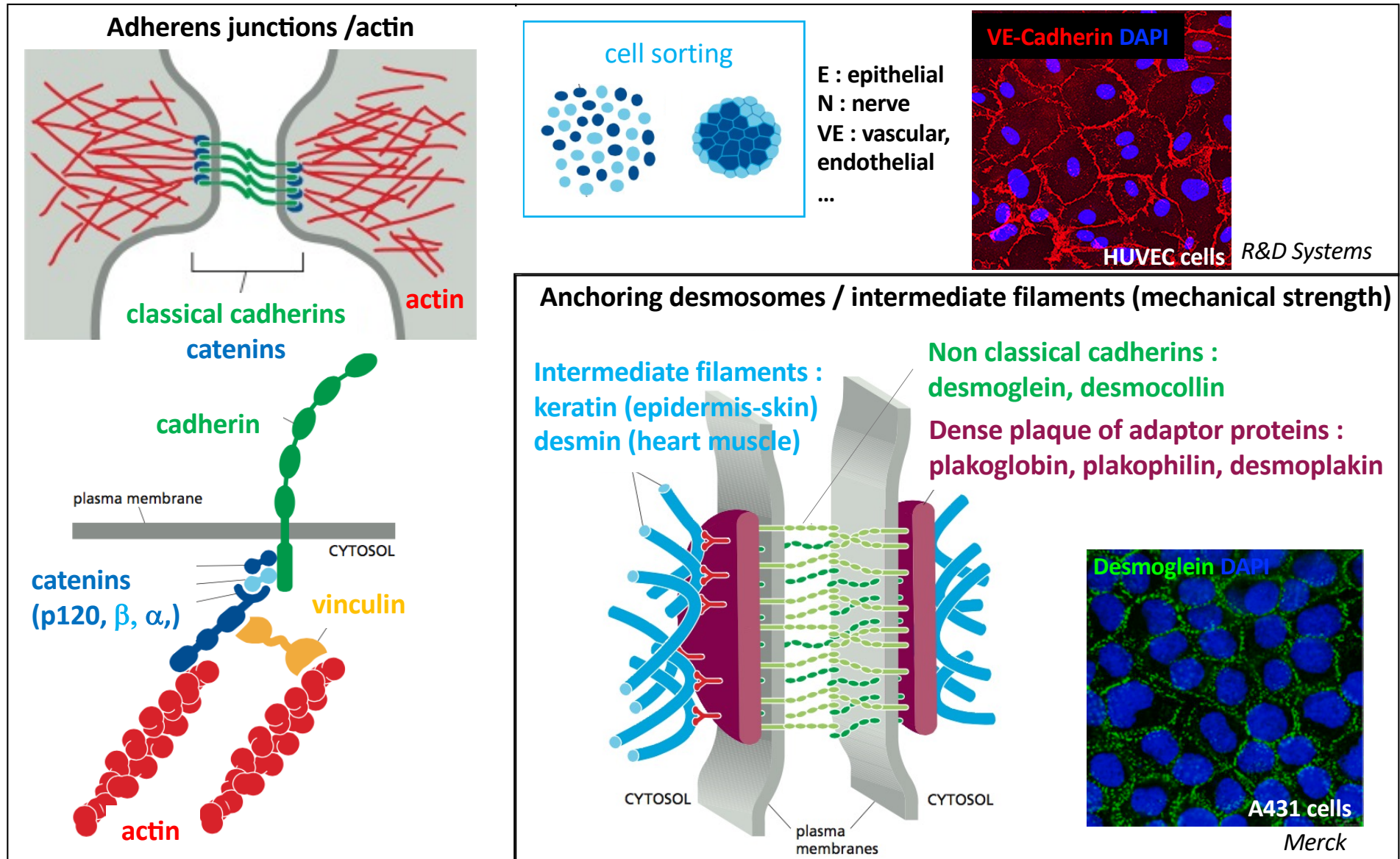
**IgCAMs** : immunoglobulin super family (fine tuning adhesion)

- **NCAM** neural (homophilic)
- **EpCAM** epithelial (homophilic)
- **ICAMs** intercellular, **VCAMs** vascular (heterophilic integrin)



(cell / matrix junctions: Integrin / ECM binding (**Ca<sup>2+</sup> dpt**))

# 2. Adherens junctions and Desmosomes : cadherins

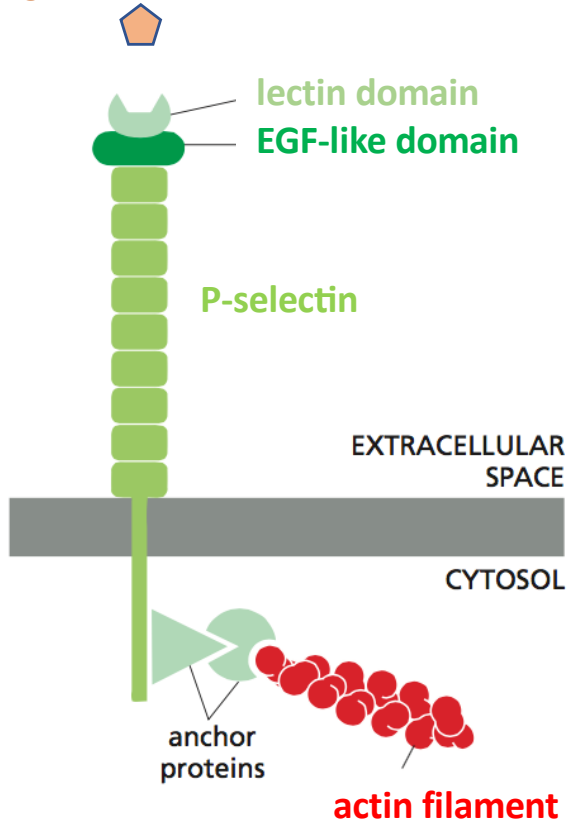




# 3. Transient cell-cell adhesion : selectins

(not epithelial-epithelial contact)

Ligands = Glycoproteins, glycolipids  
(oligosaccharide at cell surface)



**P-selectin** : activated platelets, endothelial cells

**L-selectin** : leukocytes (white blood cells)

**E-selectin** : activated endothelial cells

Tumor cells (or white blood cells) in blood vessels  
rolling in the bloodstream

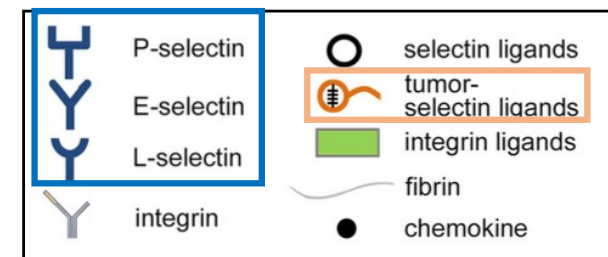
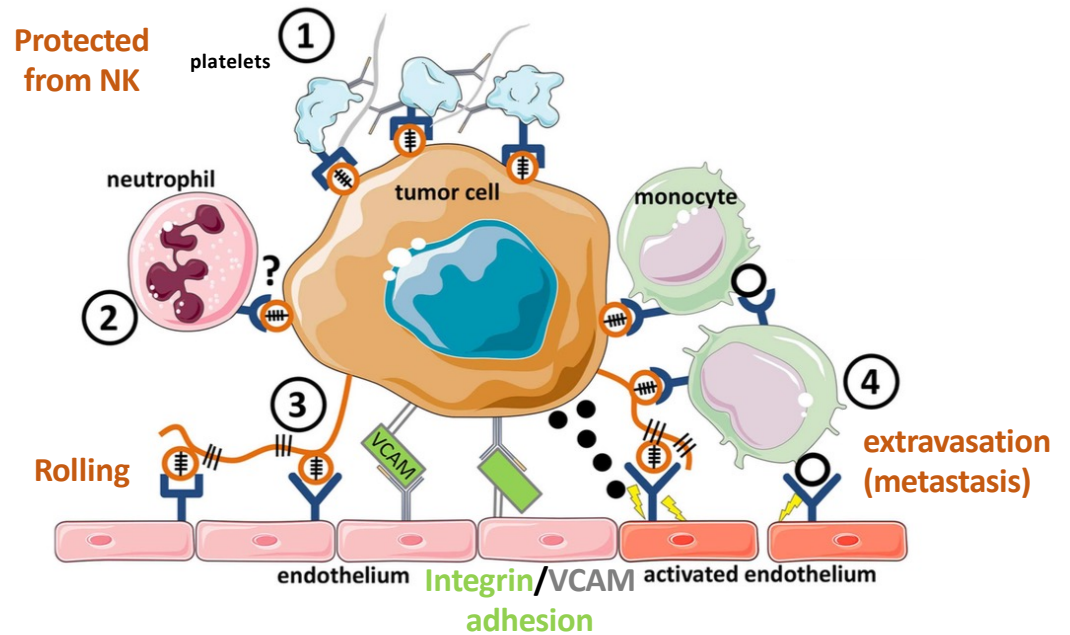
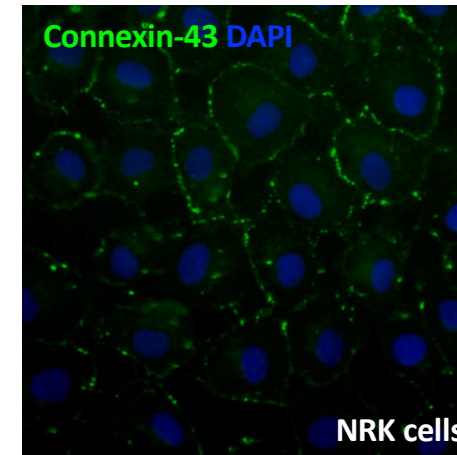
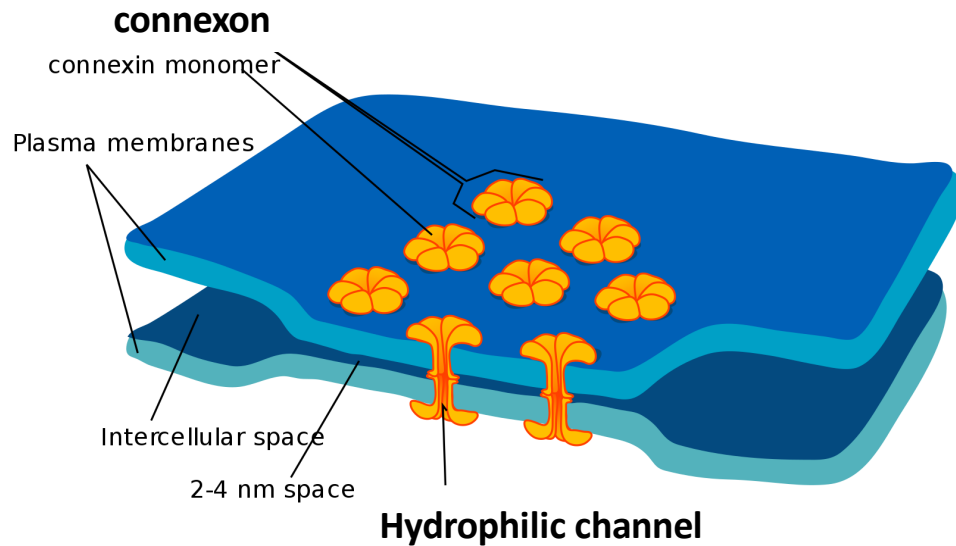
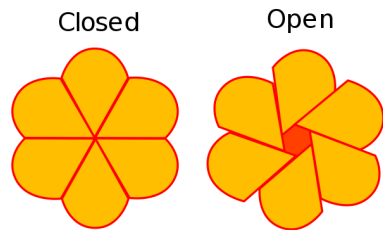


Figure 19-28, *Molecular Biology of the Cell 6<sup>th</sup>*  
Laubli & Borsig, *Front Imm*, 2019

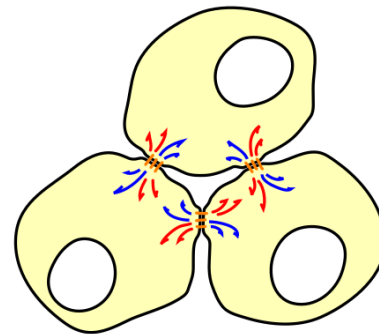
# 4. Channels / gap junctions : connexins



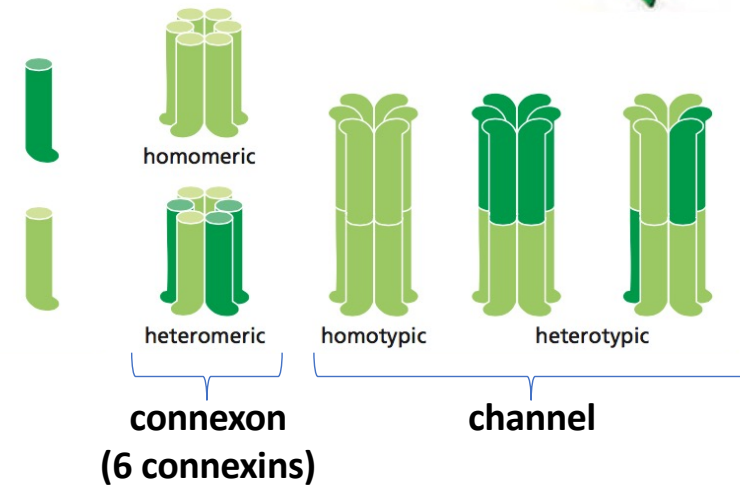
R&D Systems



Dpt of Ca<sup>2+</sup>, pH, Volt...



Pore size of 1.4 nm, exchange inorganic ions and small water-soluble molecules (1 kDa)  
**Chemical and electrical coupling**



# Cell-cell junctions and diseases

## **Tight junctions : claudin**

**Leaky barrier : enteric disorder, asthma, neurodegeneration ...**

*Sawada, Path. International, 2012, Greene et al., Fluids & Barriers of the CNS, 2019*

## **Anchoring junctions : adherens junction - classical cadherins**

**Macular dystrophy (eye disease)**

*El-Amraoui & Petit, Pro. Mol. Biol. Trans. Sci., 2013*

## **Anchoring junctions : desmosome - non classical cadherins**

- **Arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy** if plakophilin, desmoplakin, desmoglein or desmocolin mutations.

*Akdis et al., Cardiovasc Med, 2017, Stevens et al., J. Card. Dev & Disease, 2020*

- **Pemphigus = blistering skin disease** if desmoglein autoantibodies

*Schmidt et al., The Lancet, 2019*

## **Gap junctions : connexin**

- **Atrial fibrillation** (heart arrhythmia))

- **Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease** (PNS)

*Hernández-Guerra et al., J. Hepato., 2019*

## **Virus/bacteria infections**

*Dong et al., Thoracic cancer, 2020*

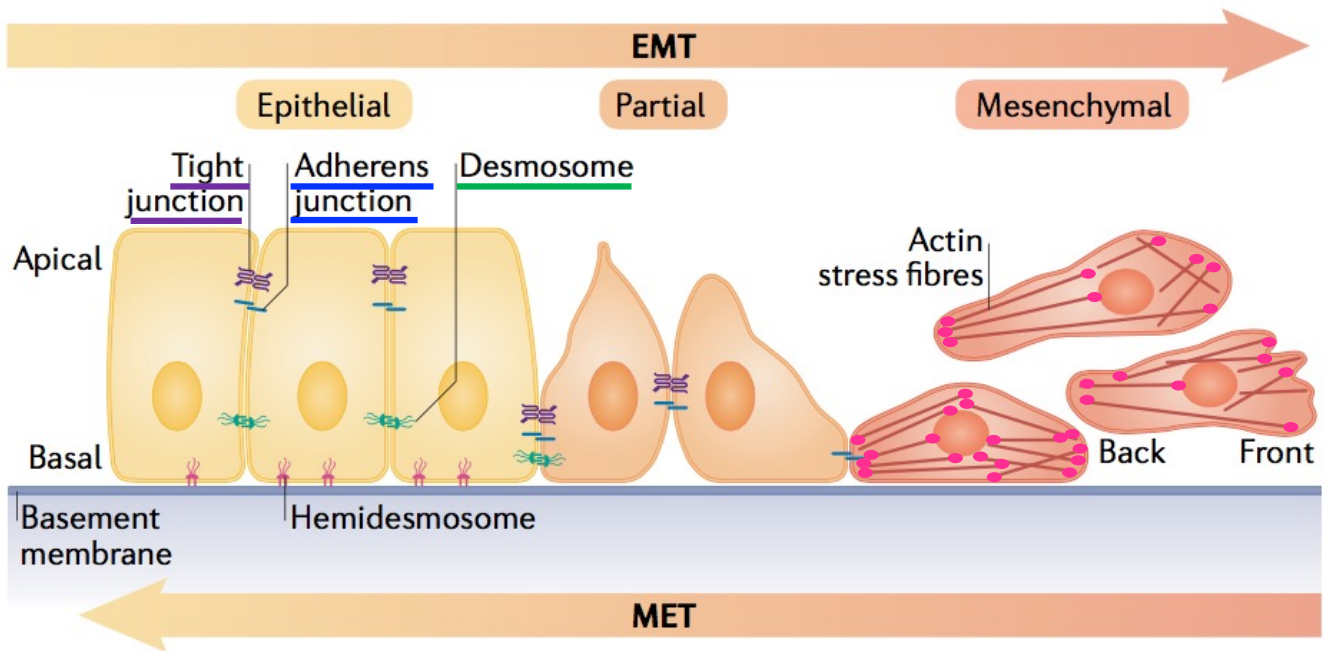
## **Transient cell-cell adhesion : selectin**

**Inflammation disease** (innate immune response)

*Impellizzeri & Cuzzocrea, Expert Opin. Ther. Targets, 2014*

# EMT = epithelial–mesenchymal transition

## MET = mesenchymal-epithelial transition



### Cell junction remodeling

- Claudin / tight junction
- E-cadherins / adherens junction
- Desmocollin, plakophilin / desmosome
- Connexins / gap junction
- Tumor suppressors but also prometastatics (collective migration, gap junctions with endothelium)

- E-cadherin
- Epithelial cell adhesion molecule
- Occludins
- Claudins
- $\alpha6\beta4$  integrins
- Cytokeratins
- Crumbs
- PATJ
- LGL

- N-cadherin
- Vimentin
- Fibronectin
- $\beta1$  and  $\beta3$  integrins
- MMPs

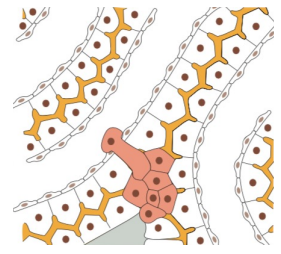
Repression of epithelial state

- ZEB family
- SNAIL and/or SLUG
- TWIST1

Induction of mesenchymal state

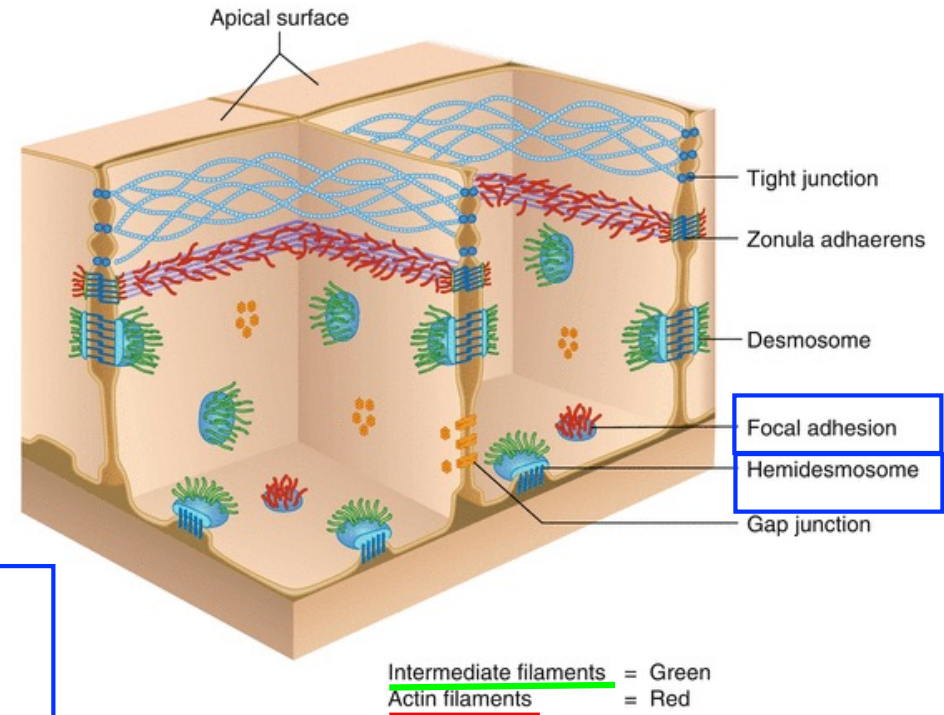
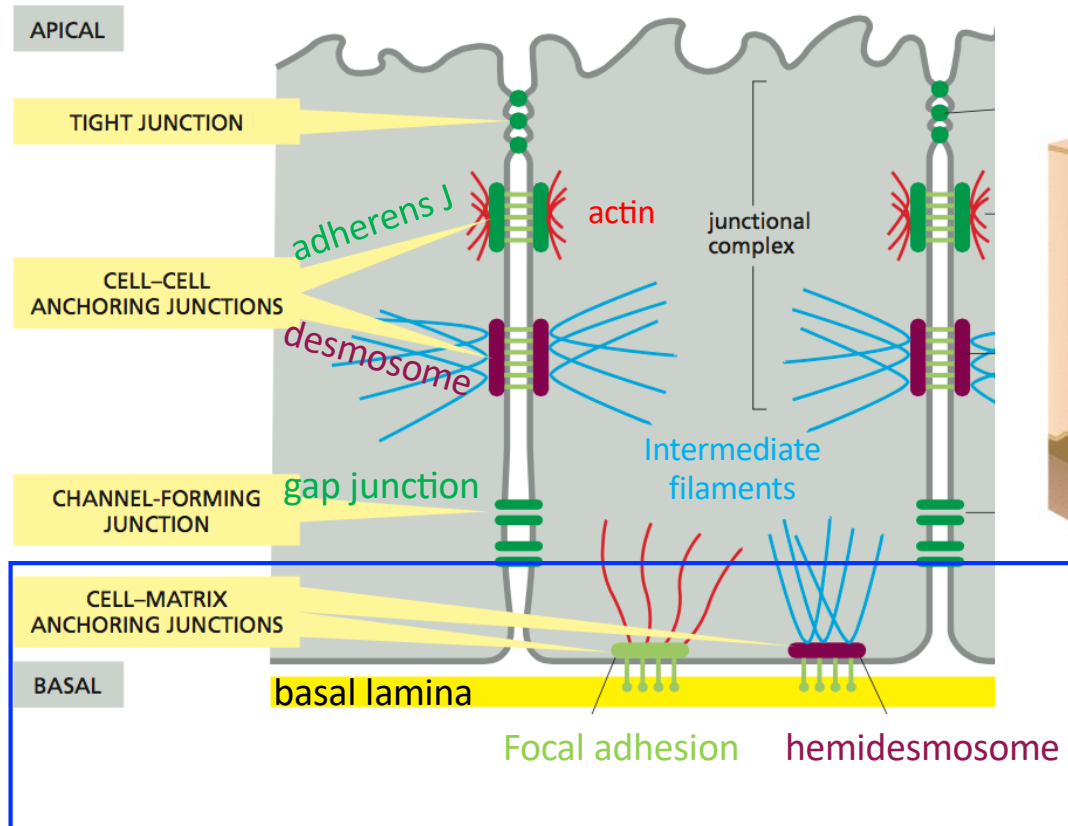
TGF- $\beta$

Selectins, VCAM/integrin :  
extravasation MET (metastasis)



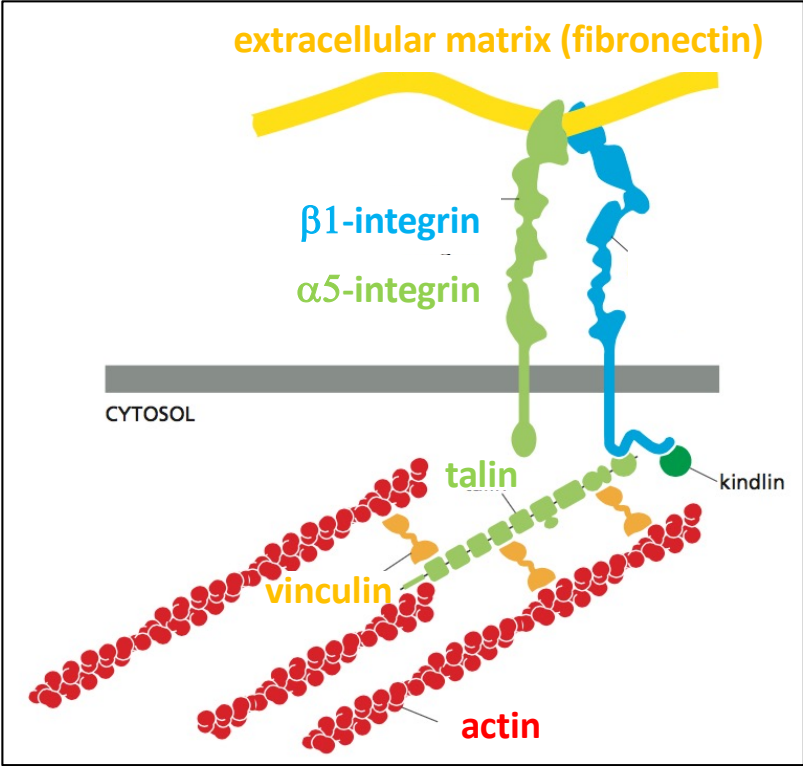
# 6 types of junctions in epithelial cells :

## 2 are cell-matrix anchoring junctions

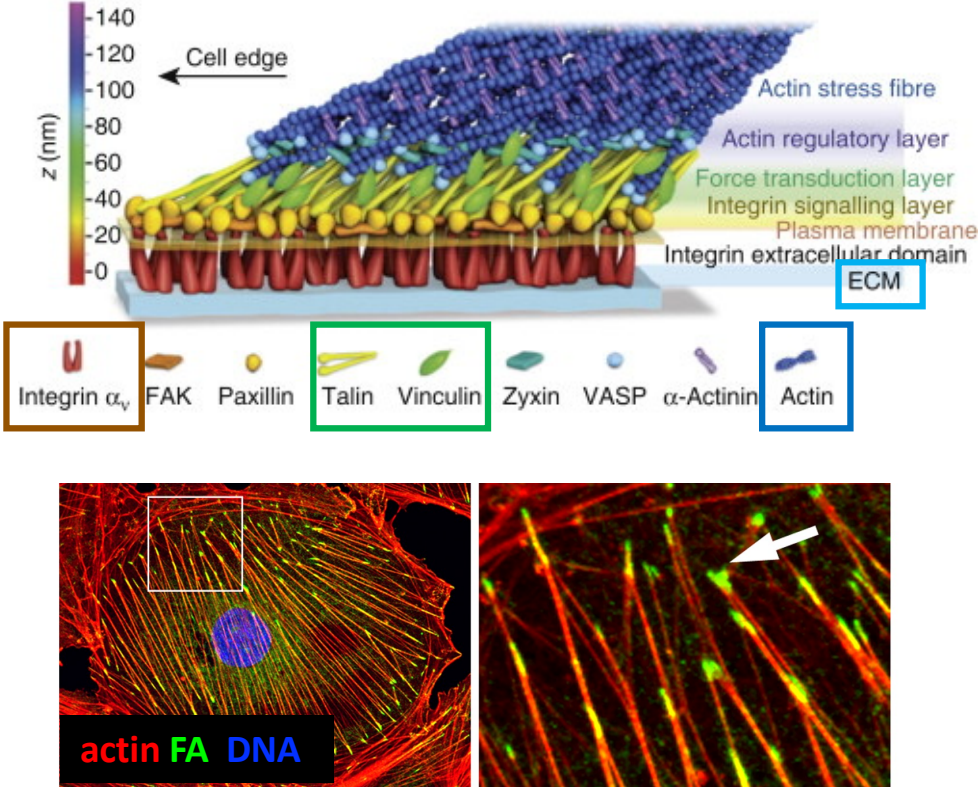


# 1. Cell-matrix anchoring junctions : integrins in focal adhesions (FAs)

## Integrins : matrix receptors



## focal adhesion



FA turnover important for cell migration

Figure 19-55, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6th Schwartz, Curr Biol, 2011 ; Jeruschke et al., PLOS ONE, 2015

# 2. Cell-matrix anchoring junctions : integrins in hemidesmosomes

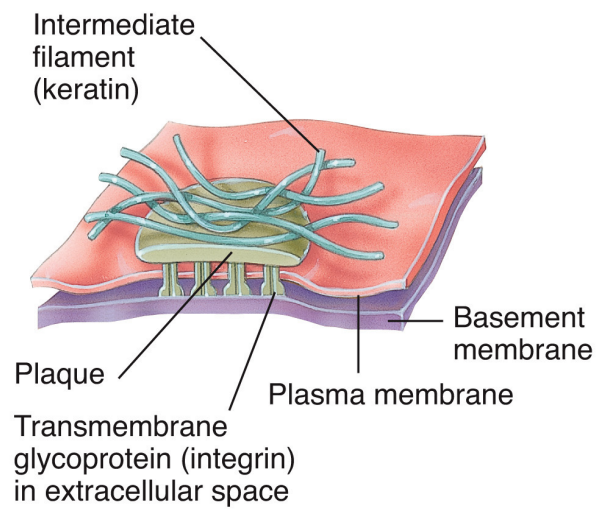
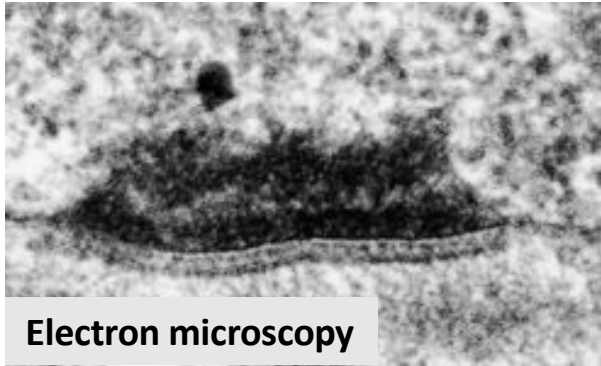
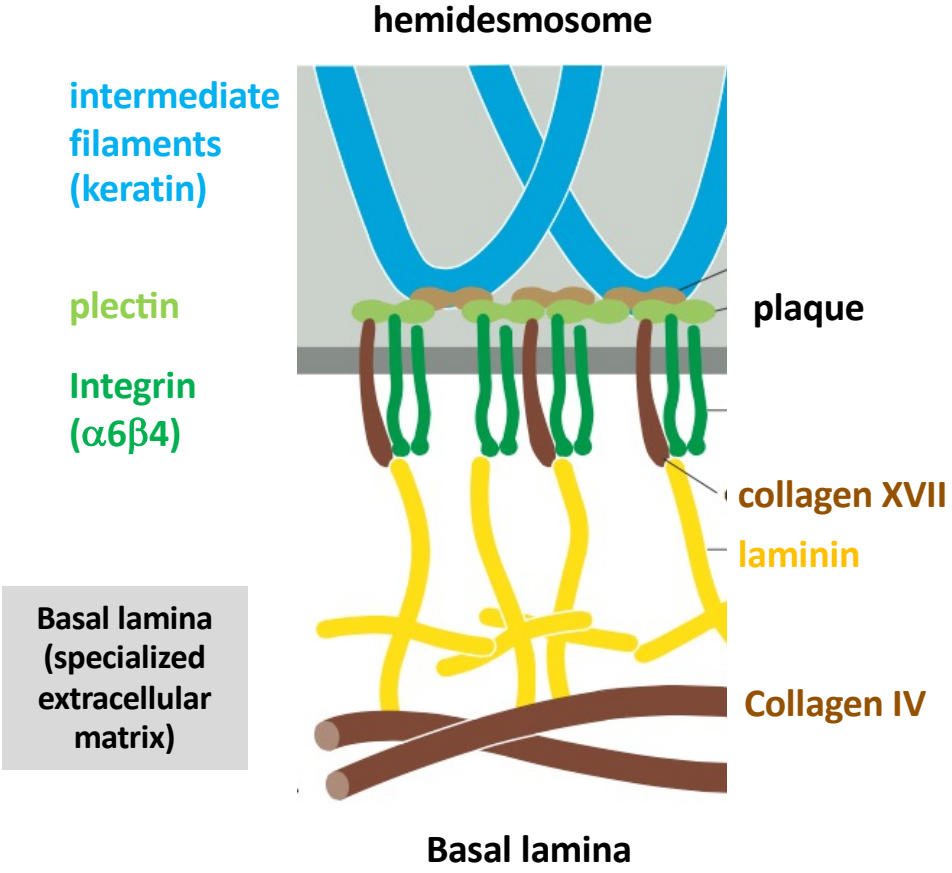
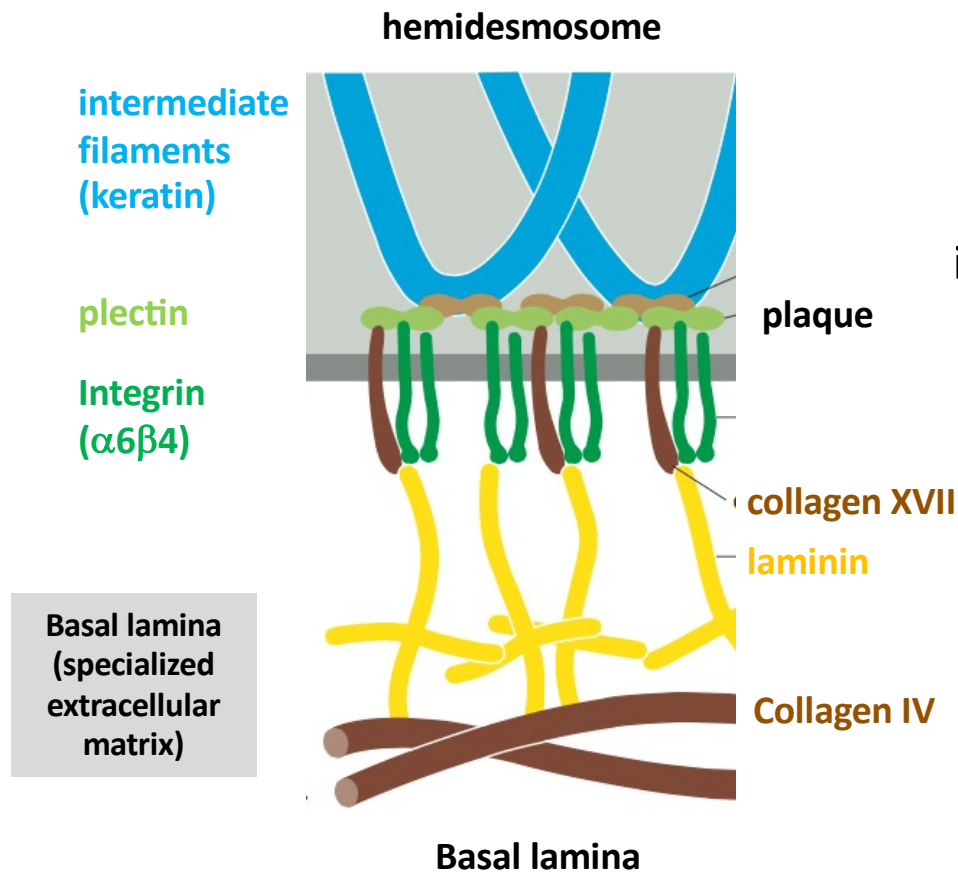
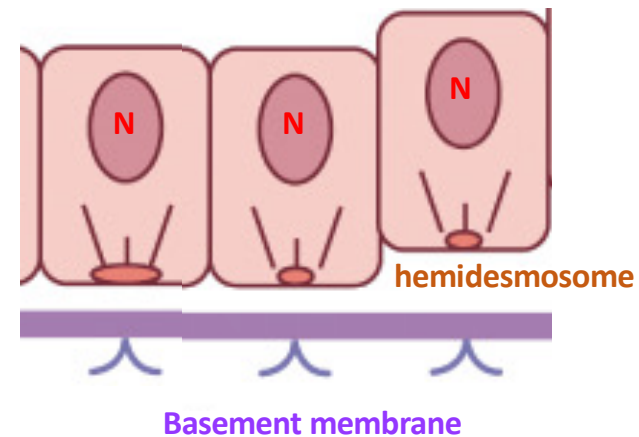


Figure 19-56, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6th  
 H. Jastrow ; Quizlet

# Cell-matrix junctions and diseases



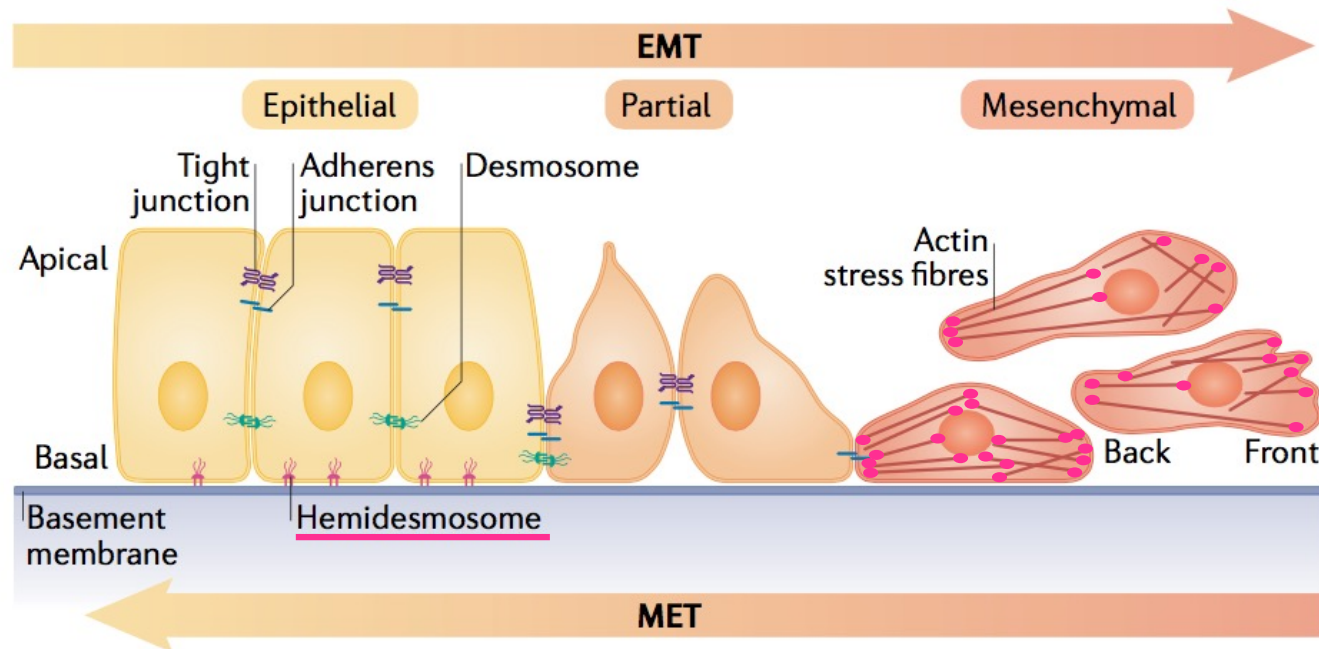
Skin blistering disorders :  
junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB)  
mutations in  
integrin  $\alpha6\beta4$ , collagen XVII, laminin or plectin





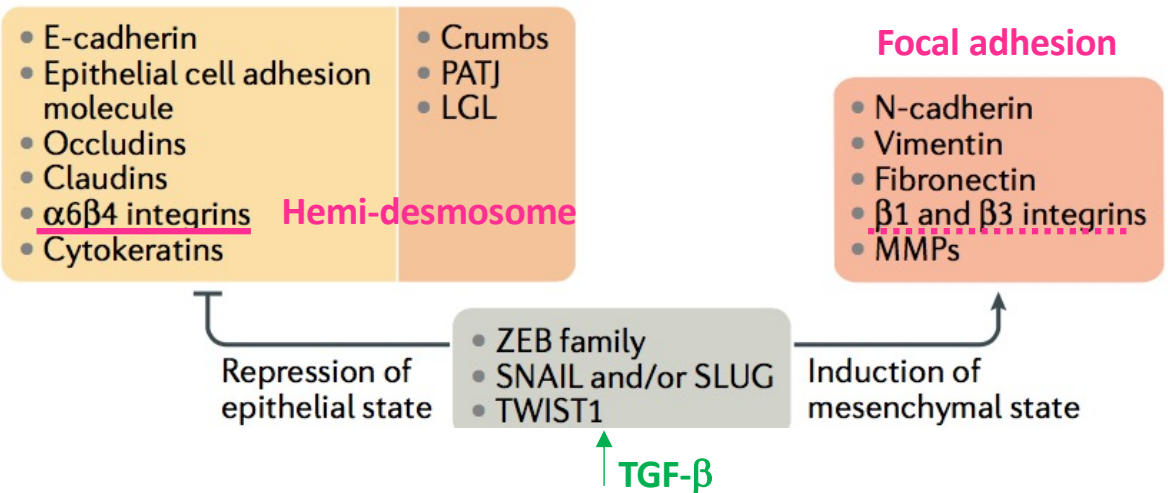
# EMT = epithelial–mesenchymal transition

## MET = mesenchymal-epithelial transition



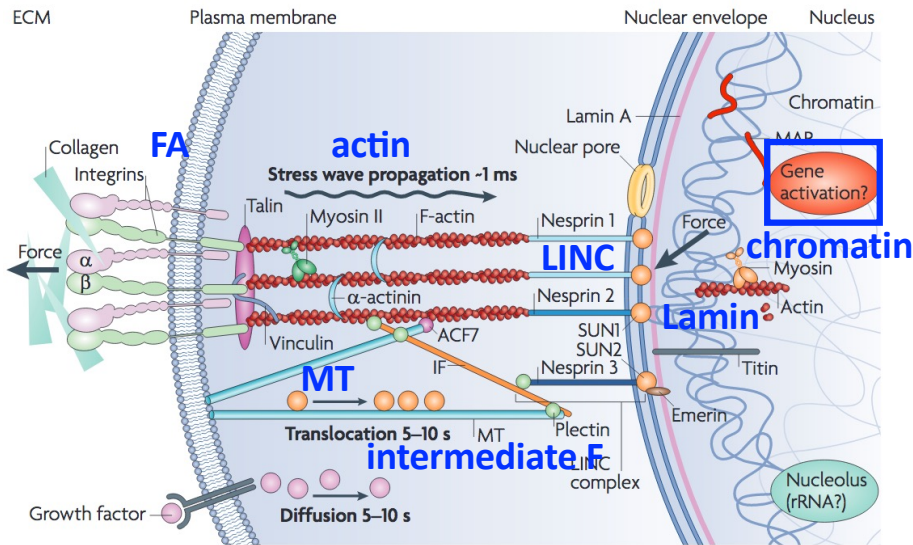
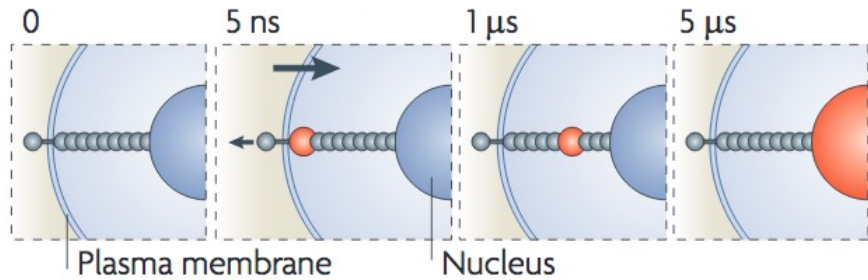
**Cell-matrix  
junction  
remodeling**

**Hemi-desmosome**  
Tumor suppressor ...  
**Focal adhesion**  
Pro-tumoral ...

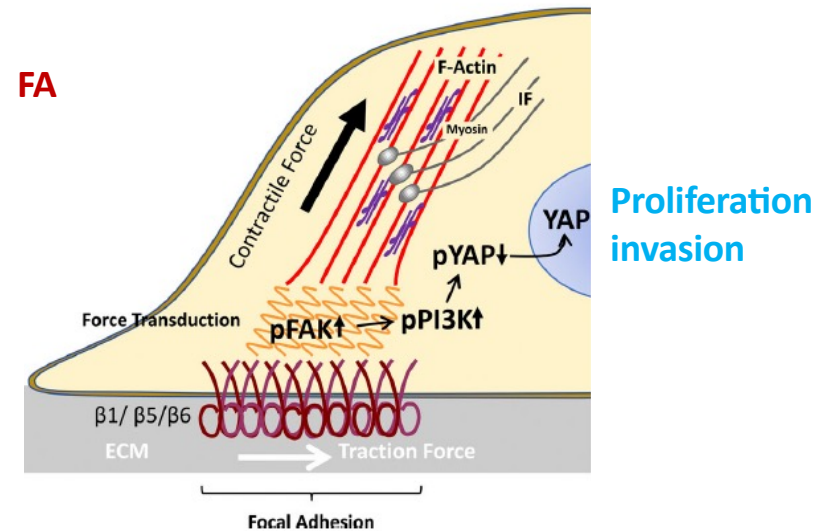
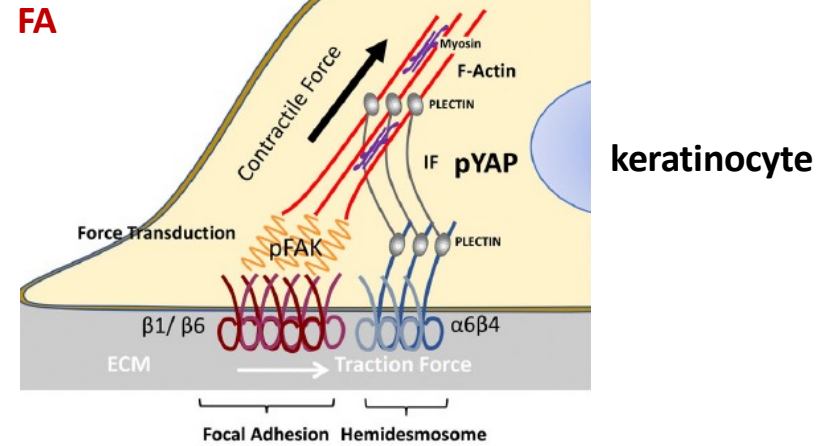


# FA and hemidesmosome : mechanotransduction

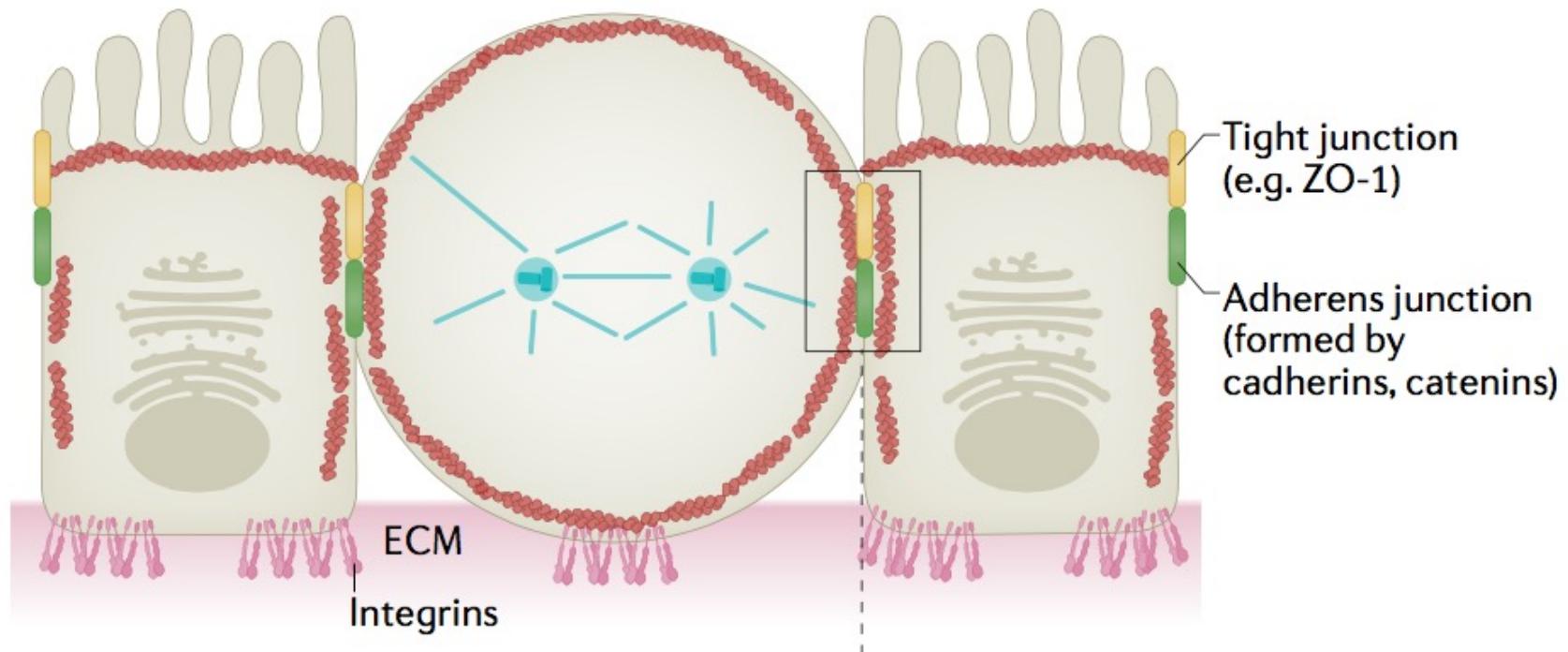
## FA : mechanical force propagation to the nucleus



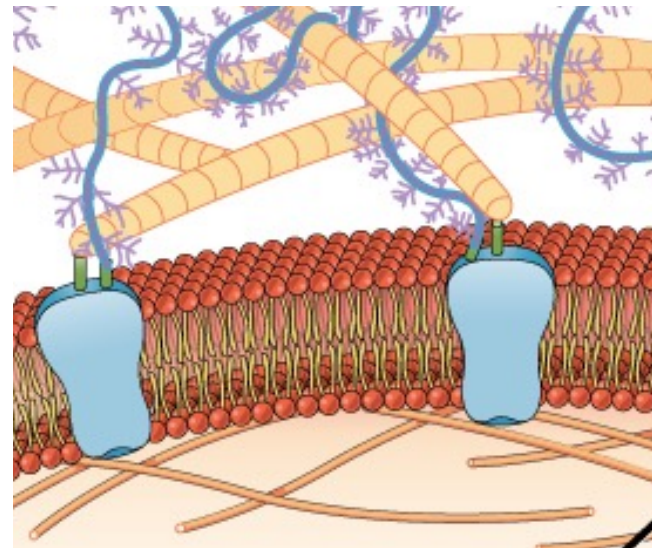
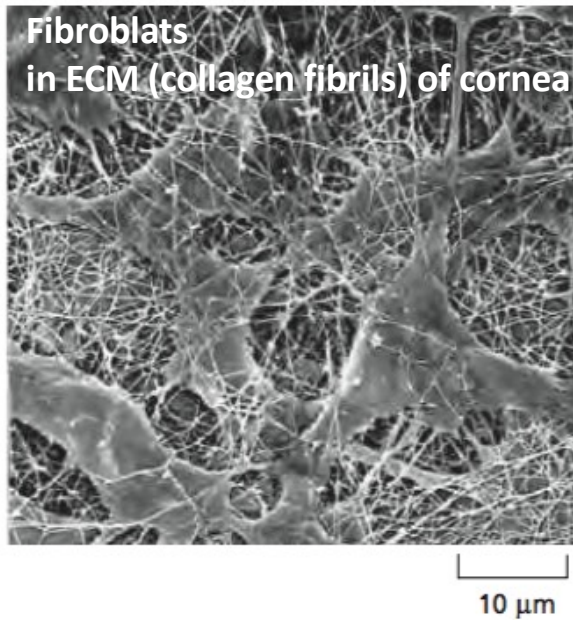
## Hemidesmosome



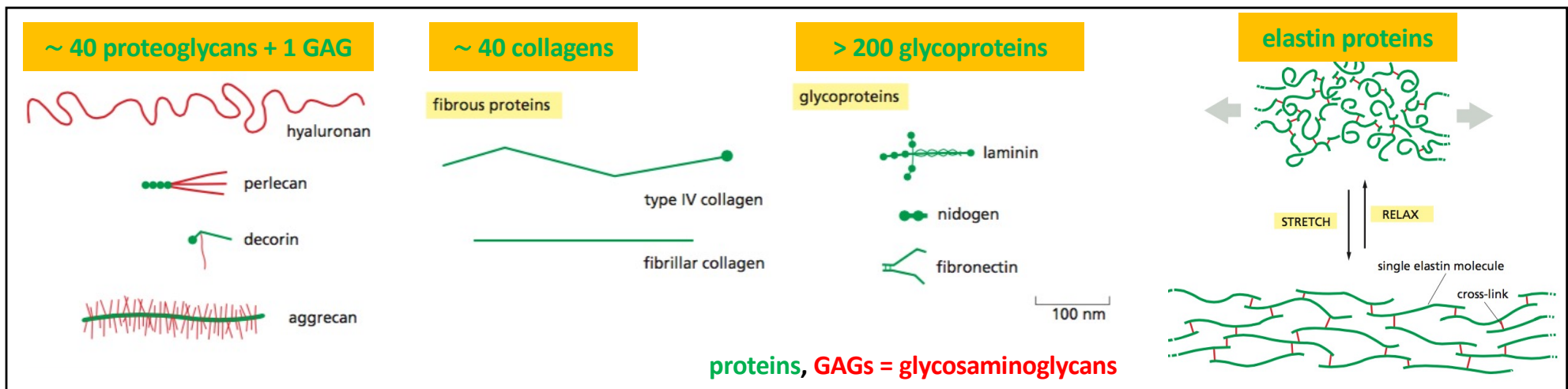
# Junctions and mitosis



# The extracellular matrix (ECM)

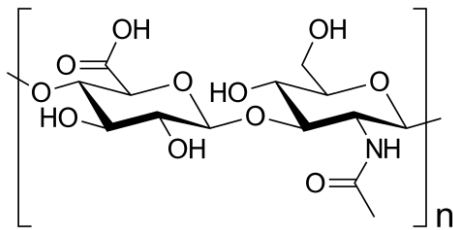


- Proteoglycan**
- collagen fibrils** almost 300 ECM proteins
- fibronectin** bone/teeth : calcified  
cornea : transparent  
tendon : rope-like
- integrin** secreted from sparse  
fibroblast cells or related  
(osteoblasts)
- cytoskeleton**



# 1. Glycosaminoglycans (GAGs), proteoglycans

**GAG = disaccharide repeats**  
negatively charged, stiff and bulky :  
attract Na<sup>+</sup> and H<sub>2</sub>O creating a  
turgor against compressive forces



Ex : hyaluronan  
(-4GlcUAβ1-3GlcNAcβ1-)<sub>n</sub>

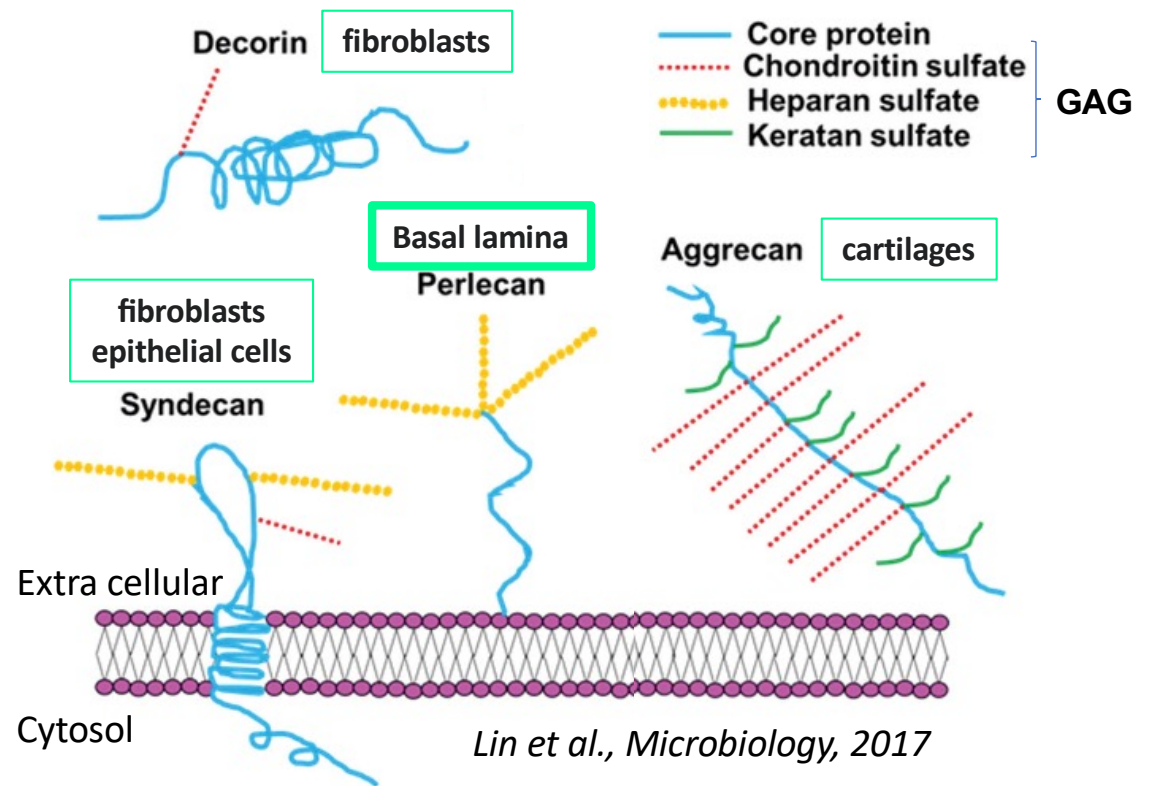
Migration, wound healing



MCF7 cell + GFP-Has3  
Red blood cells

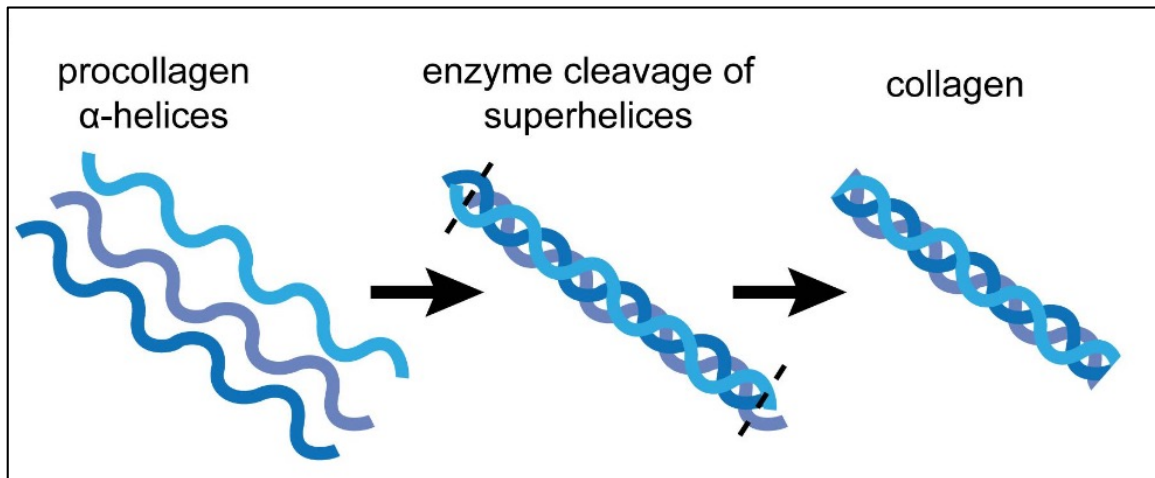
Kultti et al., JBC, 2006

proteoglycans

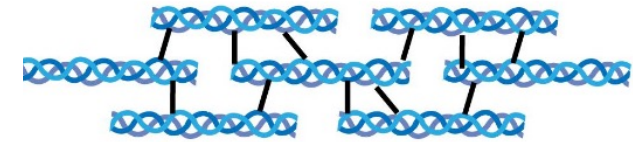


- Resist compressive forces
- Diffusion of nutrients, metabolites, hormones (blood / tissues)

# 2. Collagens

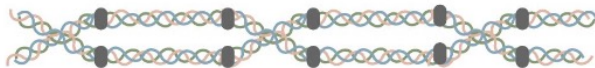


fibrillar collagen (i.e. type I, III, V)

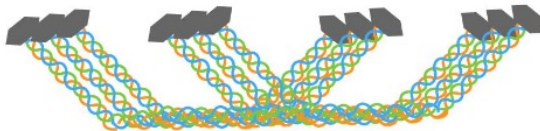


- hydrophobic, non elastic
- type I : skin, bone ...
- resist tensile forces
- organized by cell tension

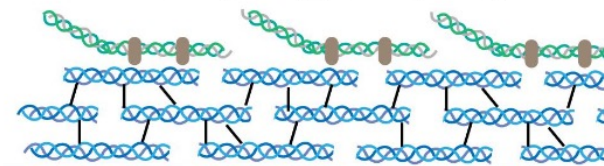
beaded (i.e. type VI)



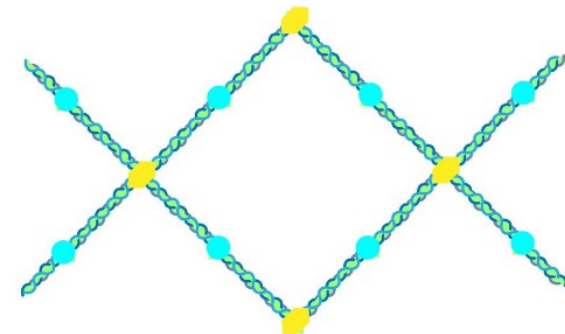
anchoring (i.e. VII)



FACIT (i.e. type XII, XIV)

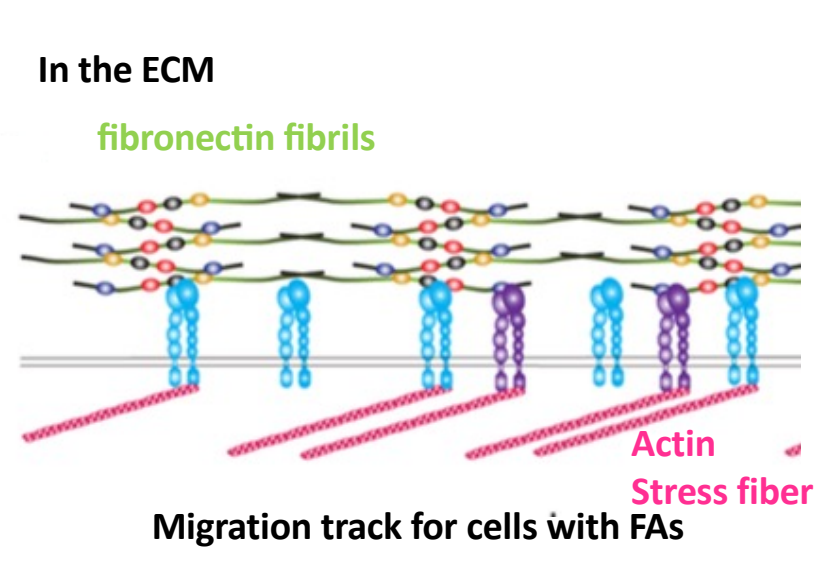
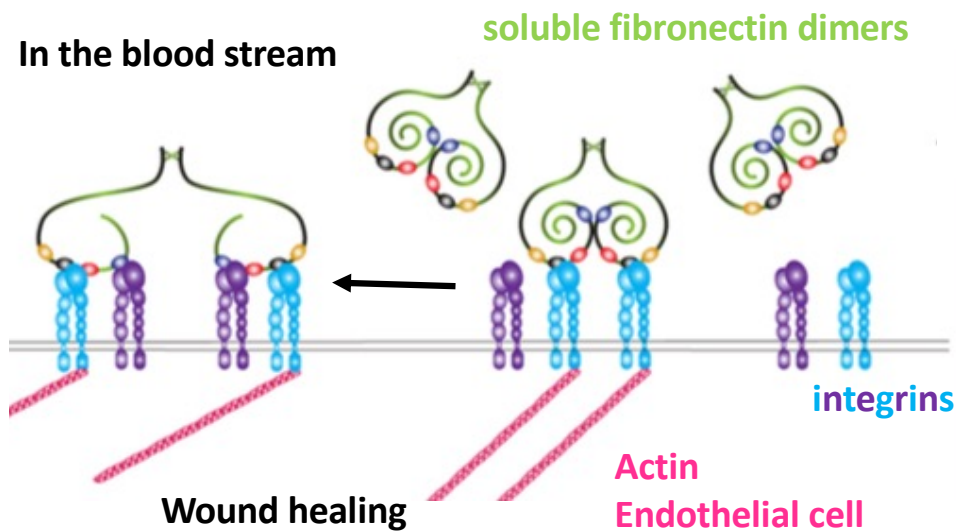
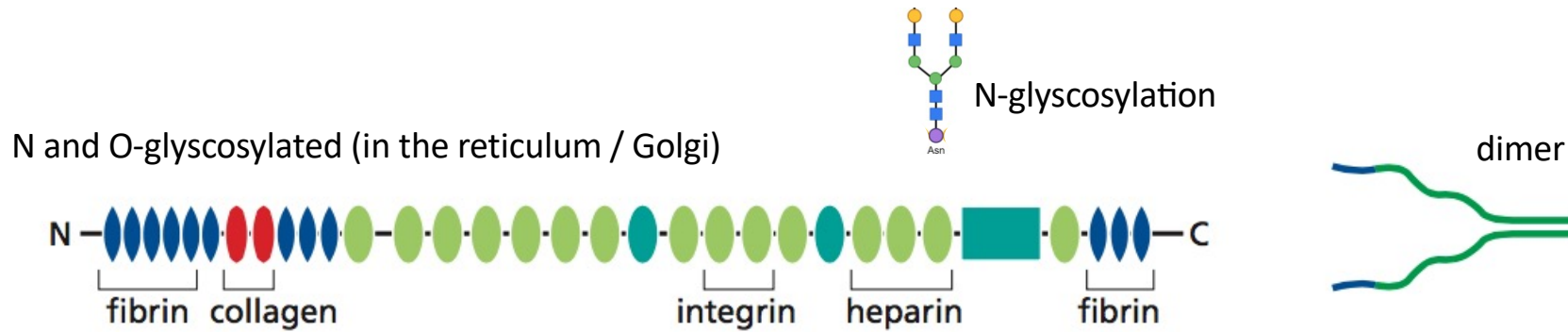


netforming collagen (i.e. type IV)

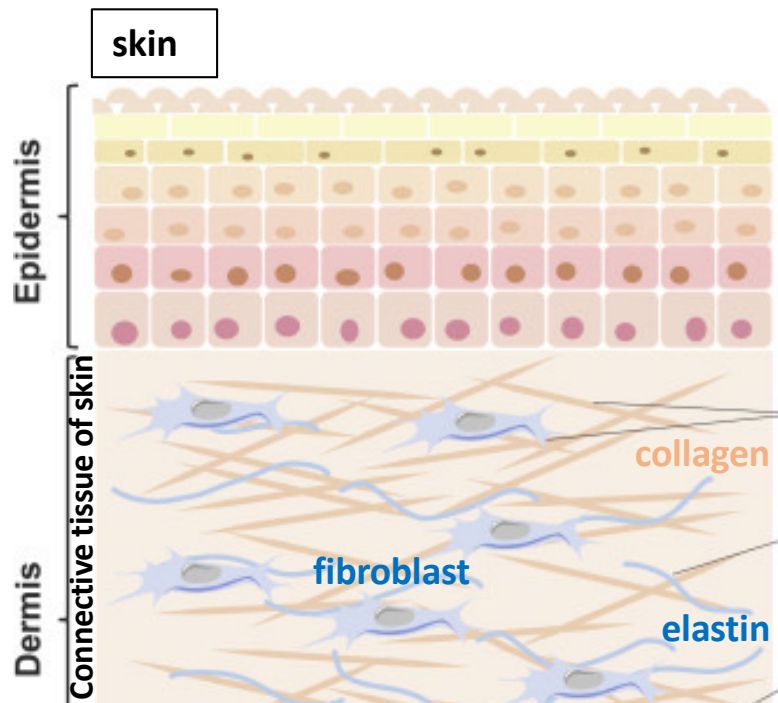


**Basal lamina**  
(specialized extracellular matrix)

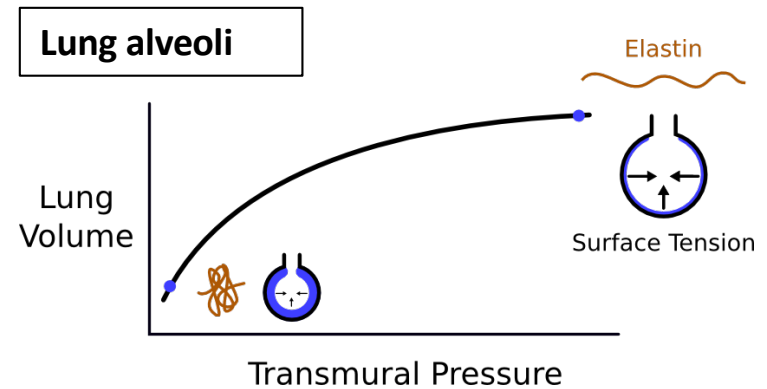
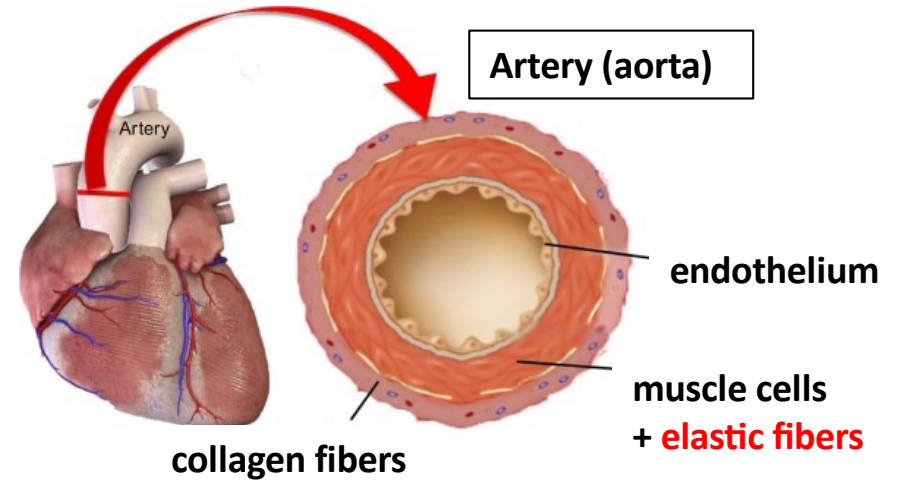
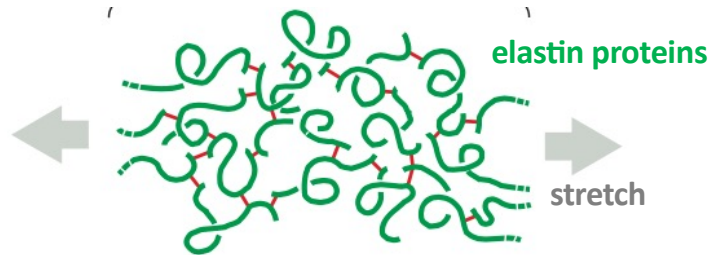
# 3. Glycoproteins : fibronectin



# 4. Elastin



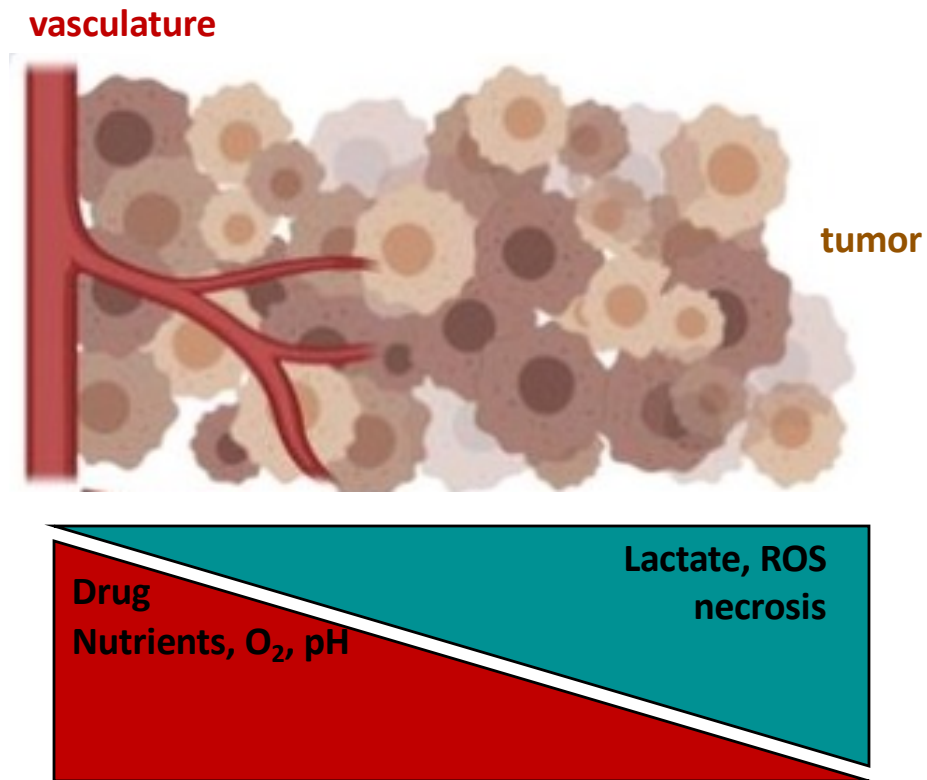
- hydrophobic, elastic (stretch and relax)
- resilience of the matrix after stretch



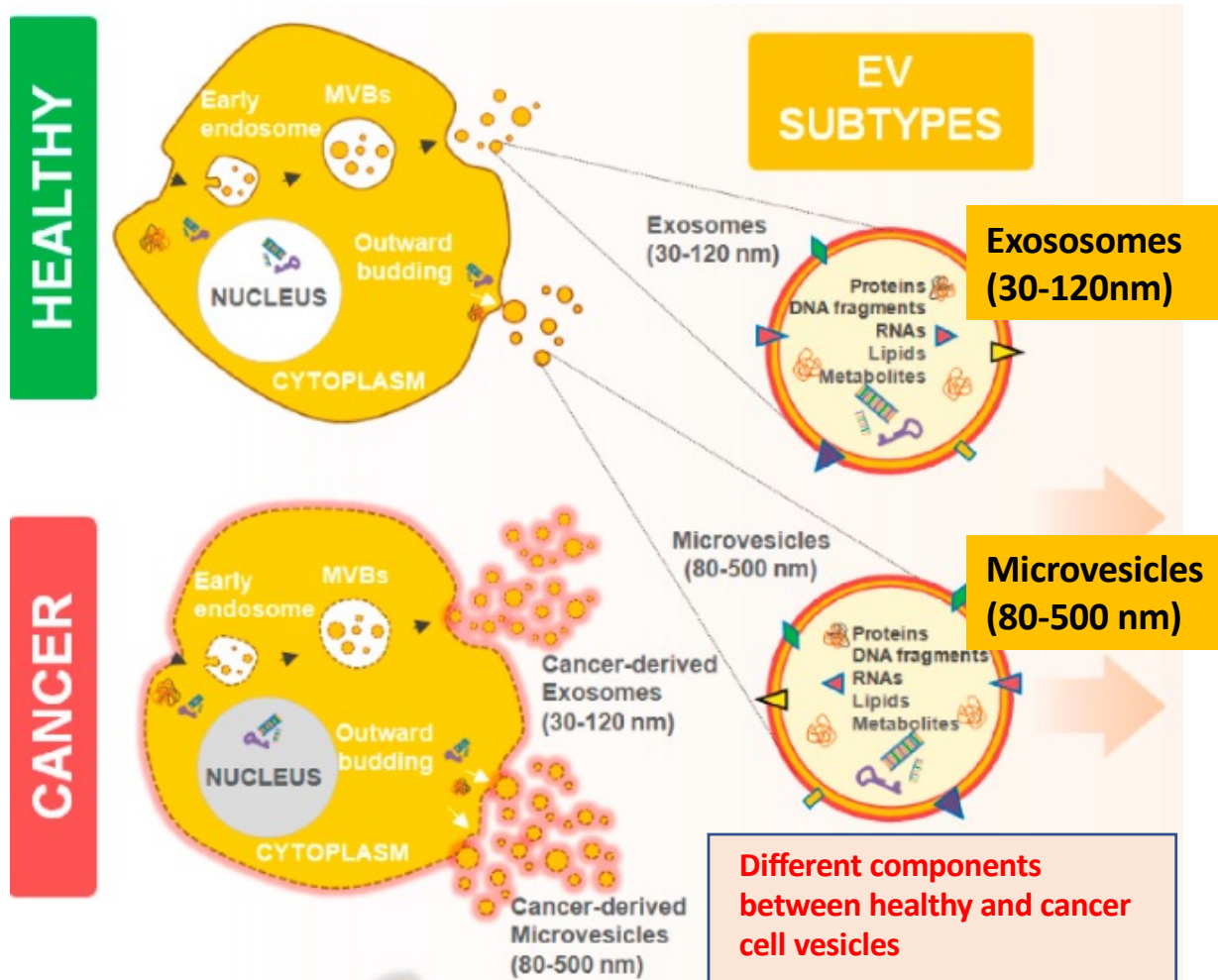
Freitas-Rodriguez et al., BBA, 2017  
 Figure 32, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6th  
 Taki et al., [Comput. & Visualiz. for Intravascular Imaging & Comp.-Assisted Stenting](#), 2017  
 Pathway medicine



# ECM contains nutrients, GFs, cytokines, hormones



# ECM contains nutrients, GFs, cytokines, hormones but also extracellular vesicles (EVs)

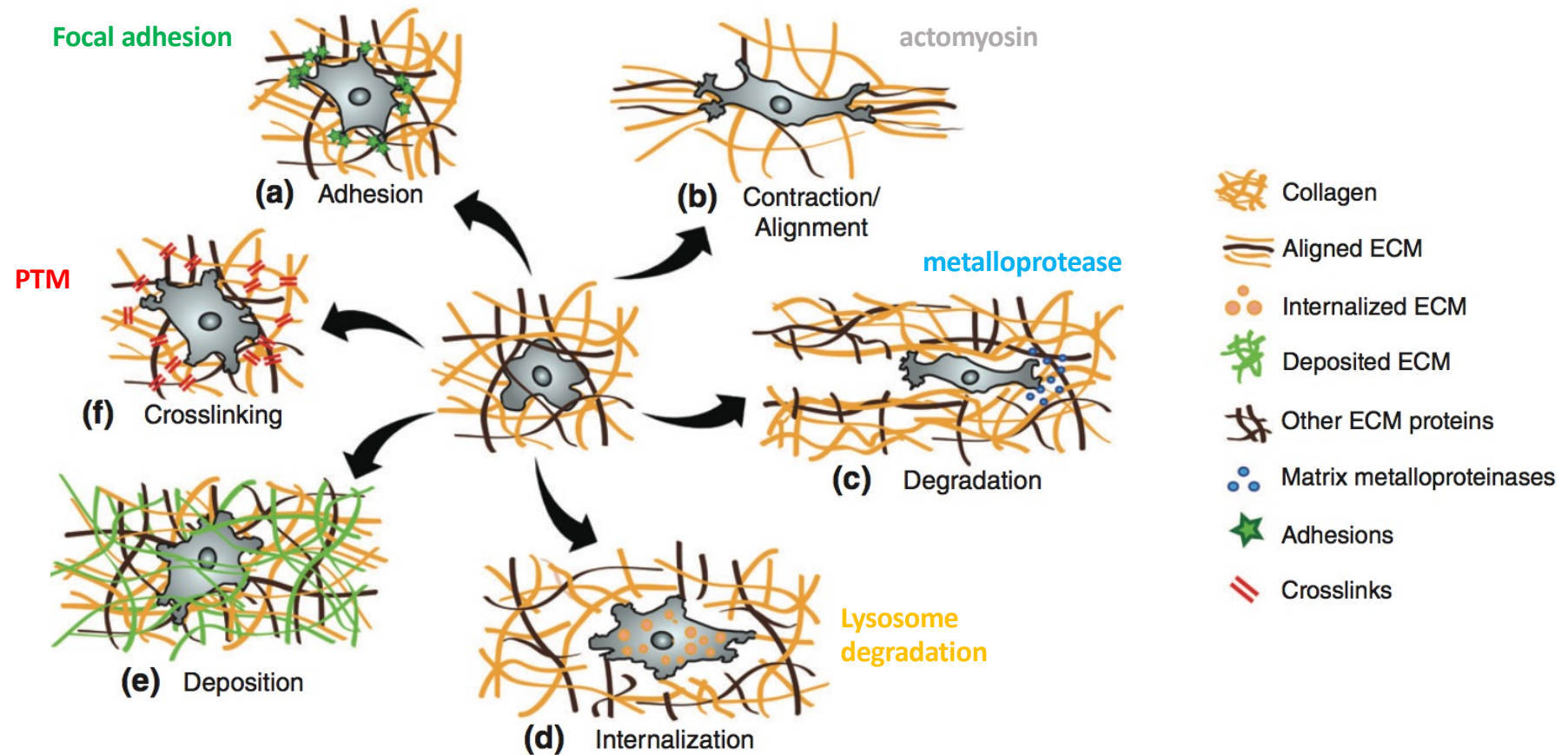


- Can act on neighboring or far away cells.

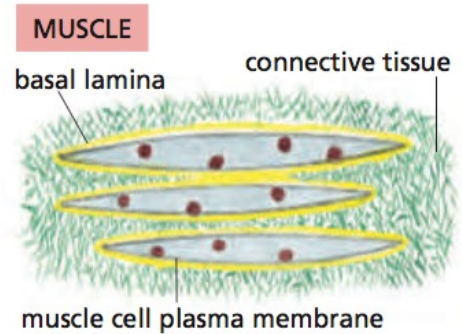
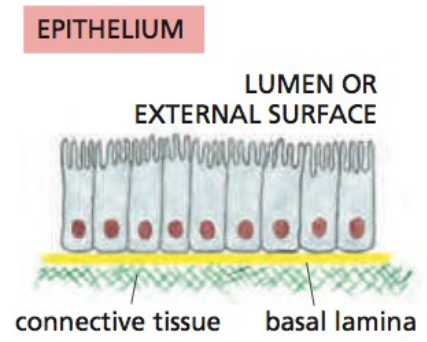
- Role in tumor initiation, progression, metastasis and chemotherapy failure.

- Found in blood, urine, saliva (can help diagnosis/prognosis).

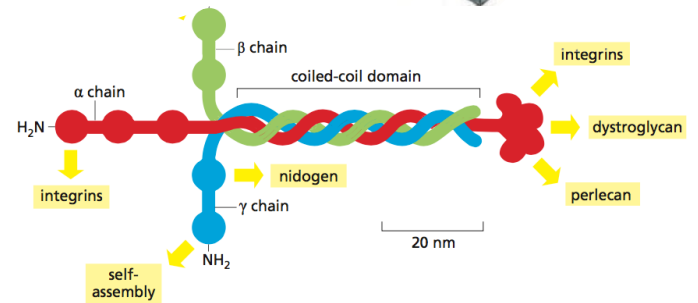
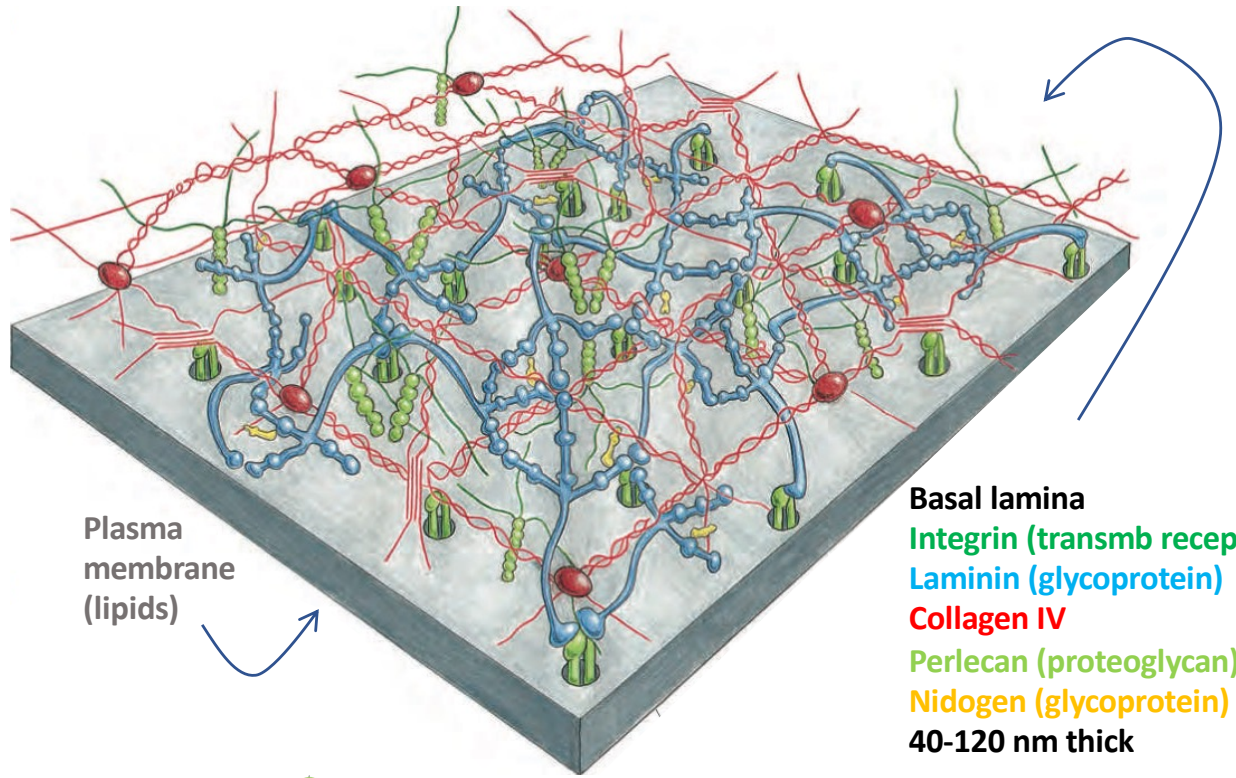
# Extracellular matrix remodeling by cells : stiffness



# A thin specialized matrix sheet : the basal lamina (or basement membrane)



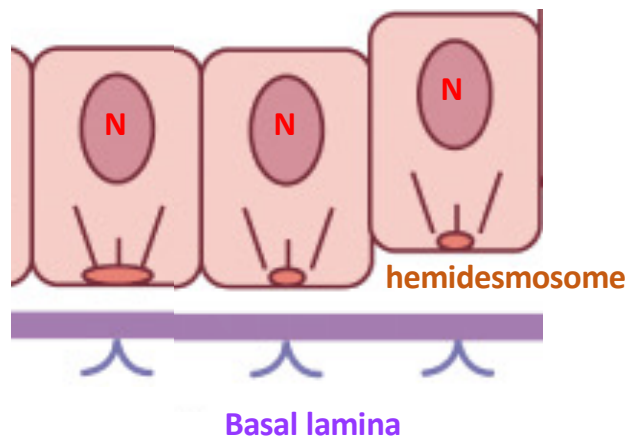
- Mechanic connection
- Filter, cell barrier
- Tissue regeneration
- Polarity, survival, proliferation, differentiation, migration



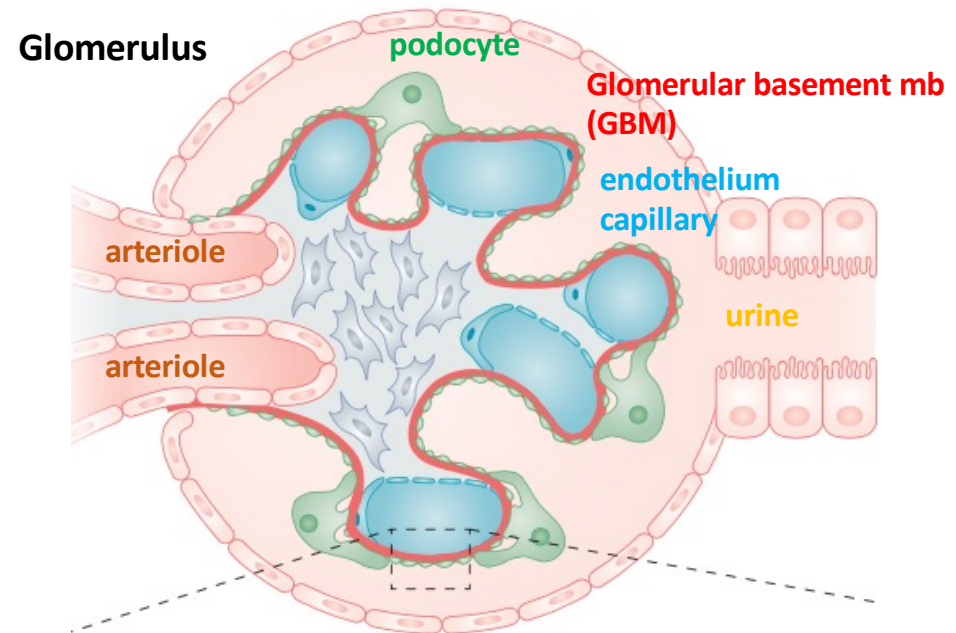
Laminin  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$

# Basal lamina and diseases

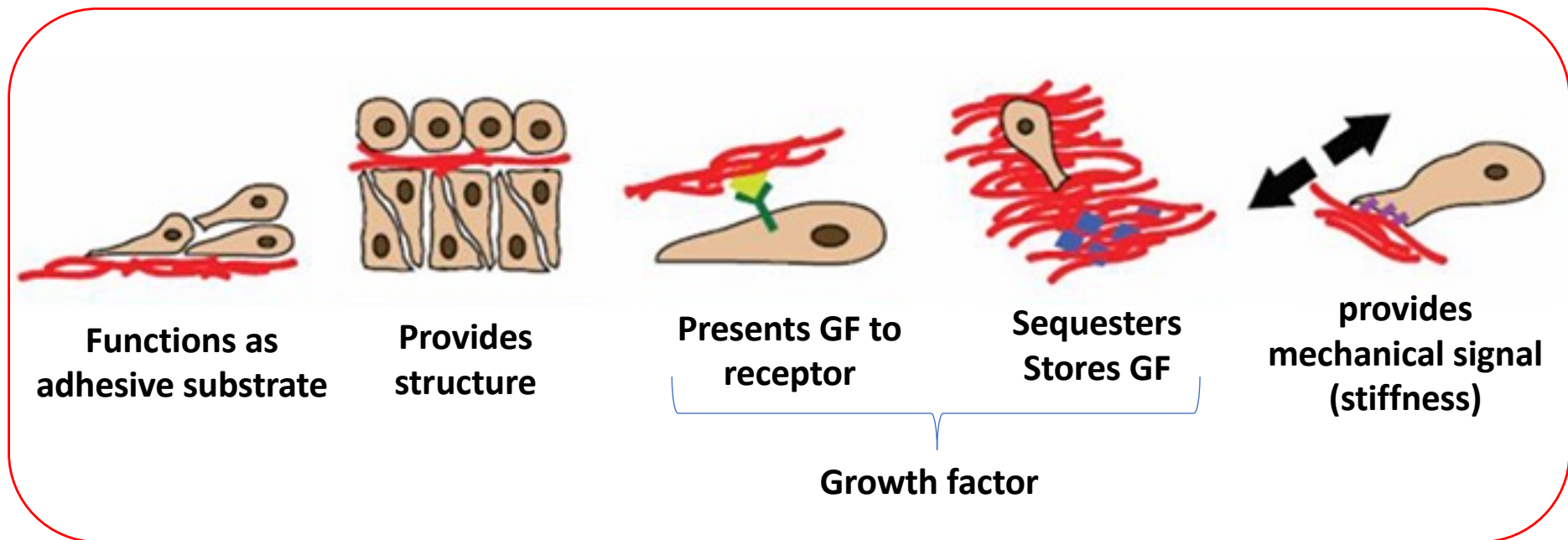
**Junctional epidermolysis bullosa (JEB)**  
(Laminin)



**Kidney disorders**  
(Collagen IV, laminin :  
basal lamina thickening or disruption)



# Functions of the extracellular matrix (ECM)



## Misregulation in cancer

# Invasive tumor : ECM remodeling for migration

## 1. Regulation of Healthy Tissue Homeostasis



Fibroblasts  
(connective  
tissues)

Collagen  
LOX crosslinker ●  
Matrix metalloproteinases  
(MMPs) ●

## 2. ECM Remodeling During Tumor Progression

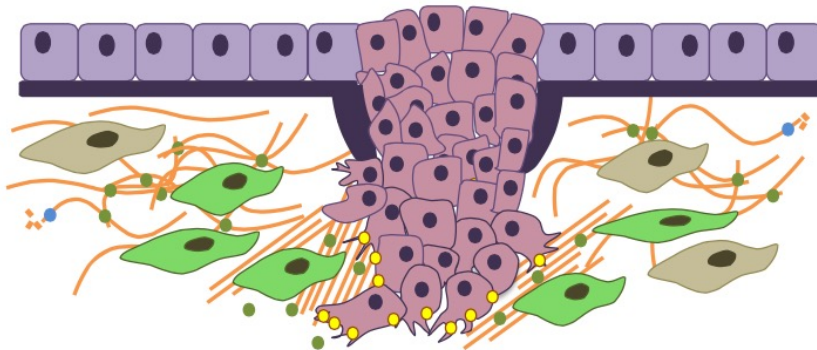


CAFs :  
cancer  
associated  
fibroblasts

Aligned collagen  
Tumor LOX ○  
(Elastin fragmentation = stiff ECM)

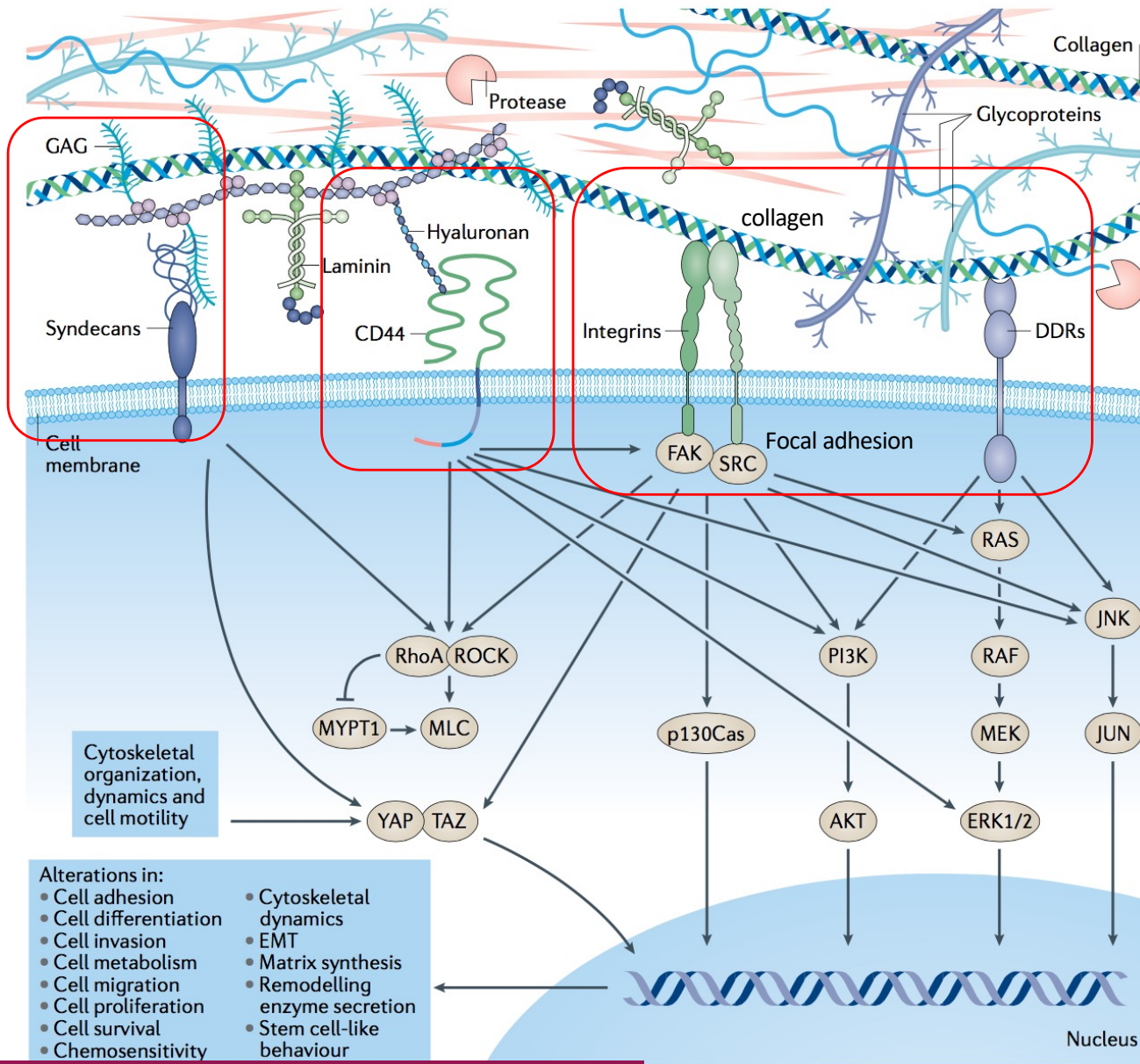
- ECM alteration**
- Disruption of basement membrane
  - ↑ Tissue stiffness
  - ↑ Fibrillar collagens
  - ↑ Remodeling enzymes

## 3. Collagen Alignment Guides Cell Motility



**Desmoplasia**  
growth of fibrous  
connective tissue  
(fibrosis)  
around the tumor

# ECM : cell signaling in cancer



Receptor / signaling / transcription  
 Cell proliferation : Pi3K, Ras, MAPK  
 Cell survival  
 Cell adhesion / migration : FA, actin  
 Cell invasion  
 Cell differentiation

## Matricryptins

- Generated by ECM proteolysis  
 - Chemokines, cytokines-like

. Anti-tumoral :  
 collagen XVIII : endostatin

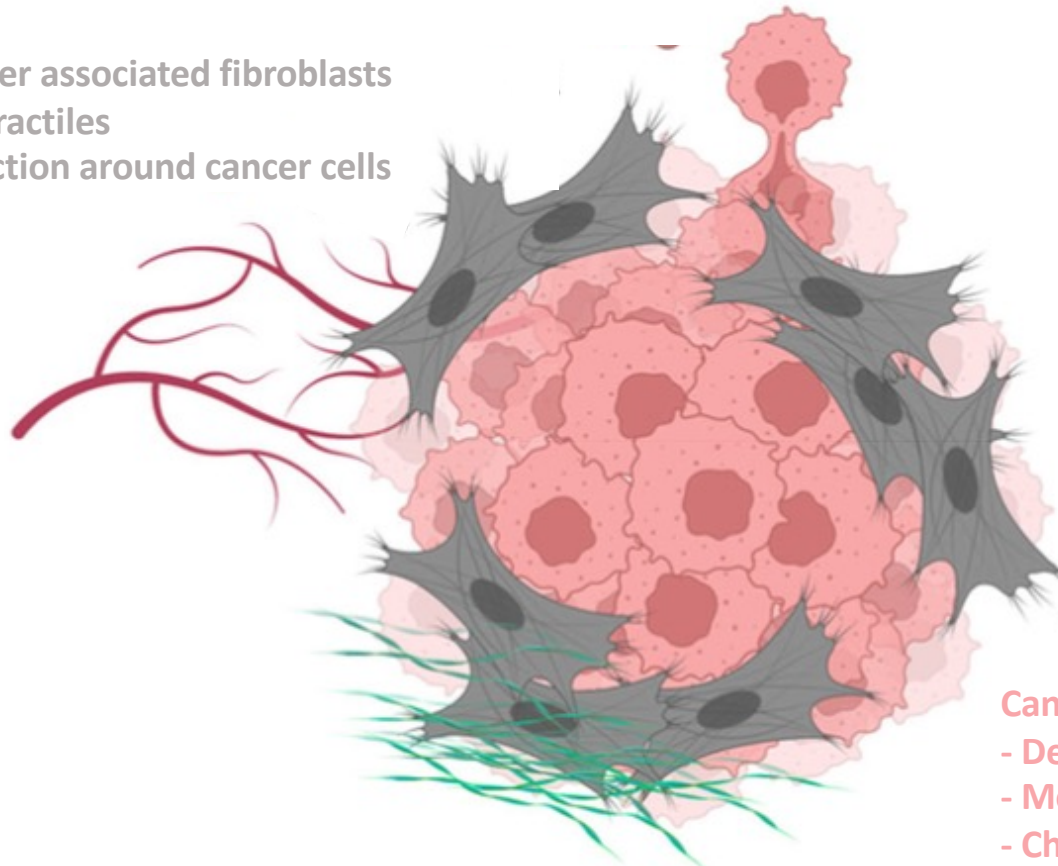
. Pro-tumoral :  
 Laminin 111 fragments

- Alterations in:
- Cell adhesion
  - Cell differentiation
  - Cell invasion
  - Cell metabolism
  - Cell migration
  - Cell proliferation
  - Cell survival
  - Chemosensitivity
  - Cytoskeletal dynamics
  - EMT
  - Matrix synthesis
  - Remodelling
  - Enzyme secretion
  - Stem cell-like behaviour



# A capsule of cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs) that enwraps primary cancer cells

CAFs : cancer associated fibroblasts  
Highly contractiles  
Rigid protection around cancer cells

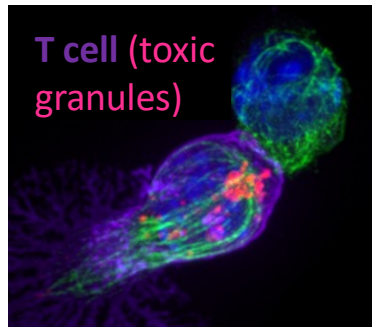
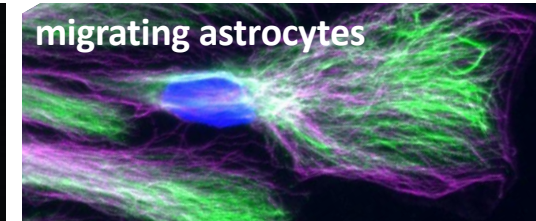
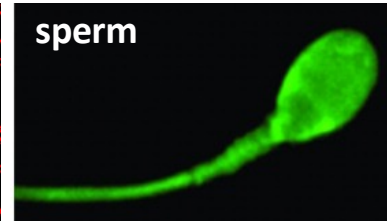
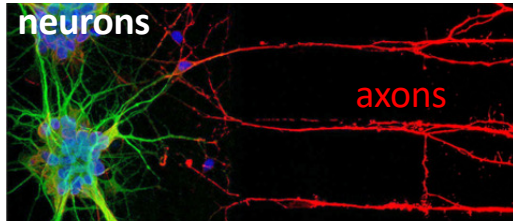
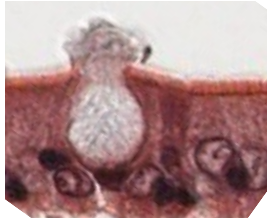


Cancer cells  
- Decreased internal cell tension  
- Modified YAP-mediated transcription  
- Chemotherapy resistance

Proliferation, stemness, immunosuppression, angiogenesis, metastasis

# Cell polarity

Intestinal epithelium

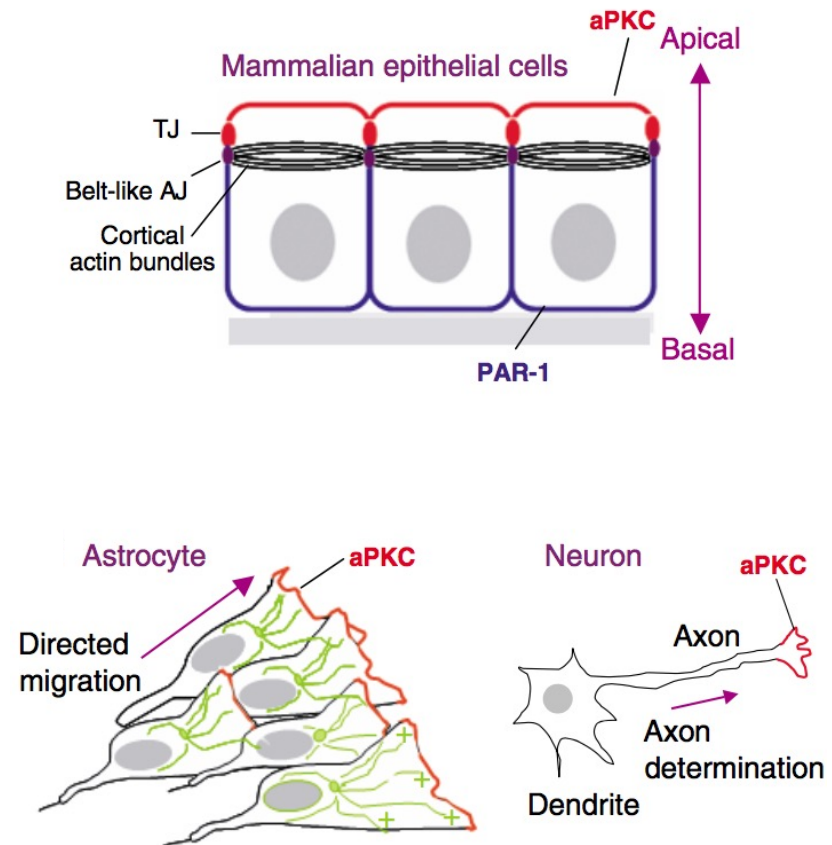
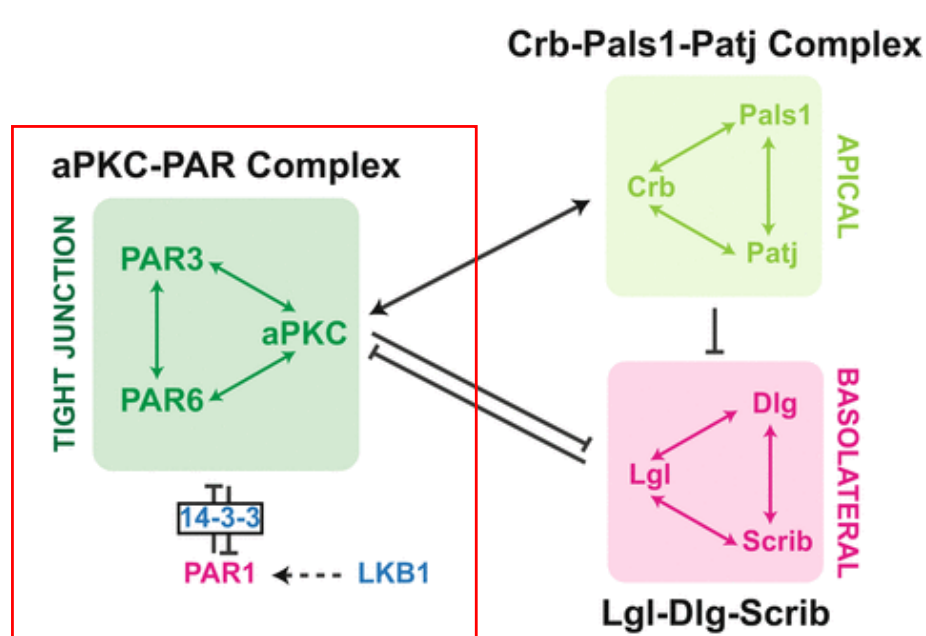


- asymmetric cellular shape
- asymmetric distribution of molecules / organelles
- asymmetric functions

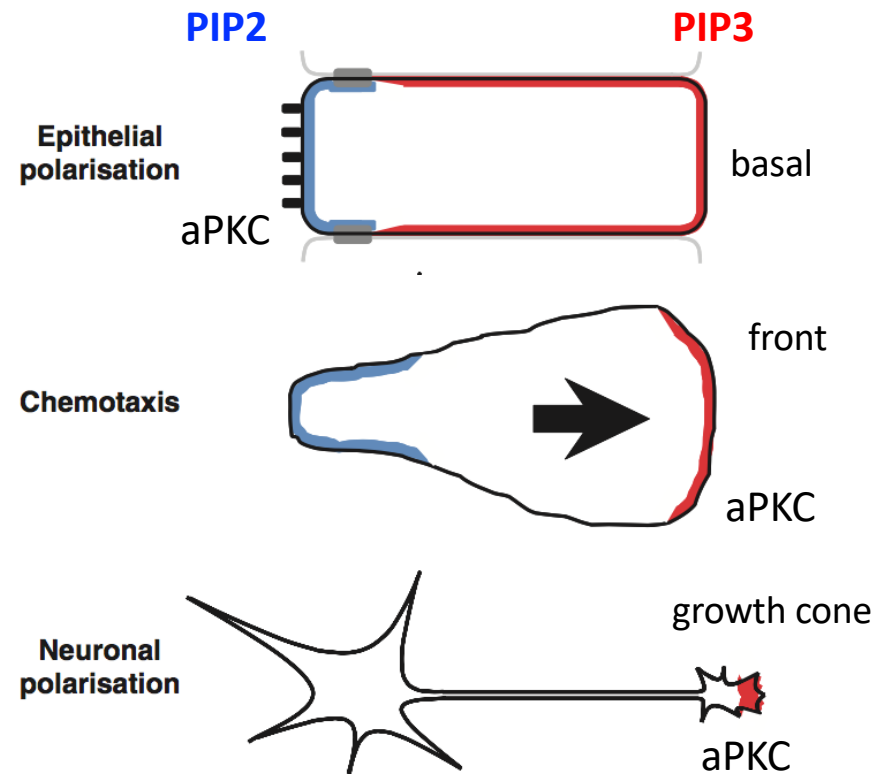
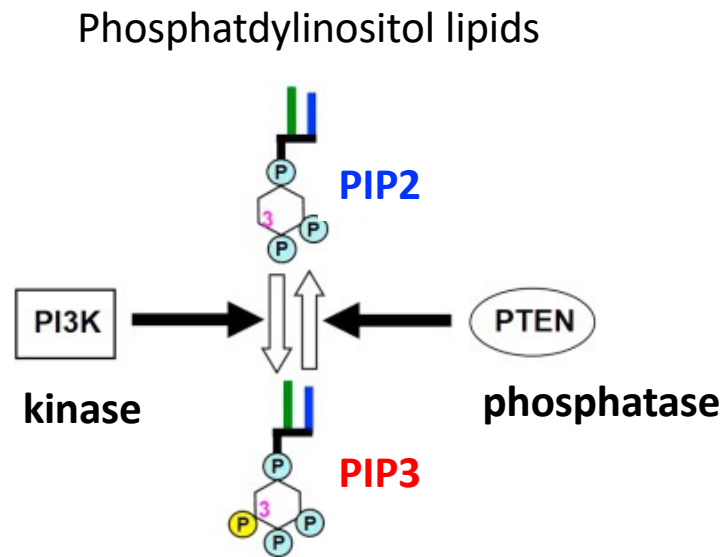
Need :

- to break symmetry and then to maintain asymmetry
- establish subcellular domains
- cytoskeleton

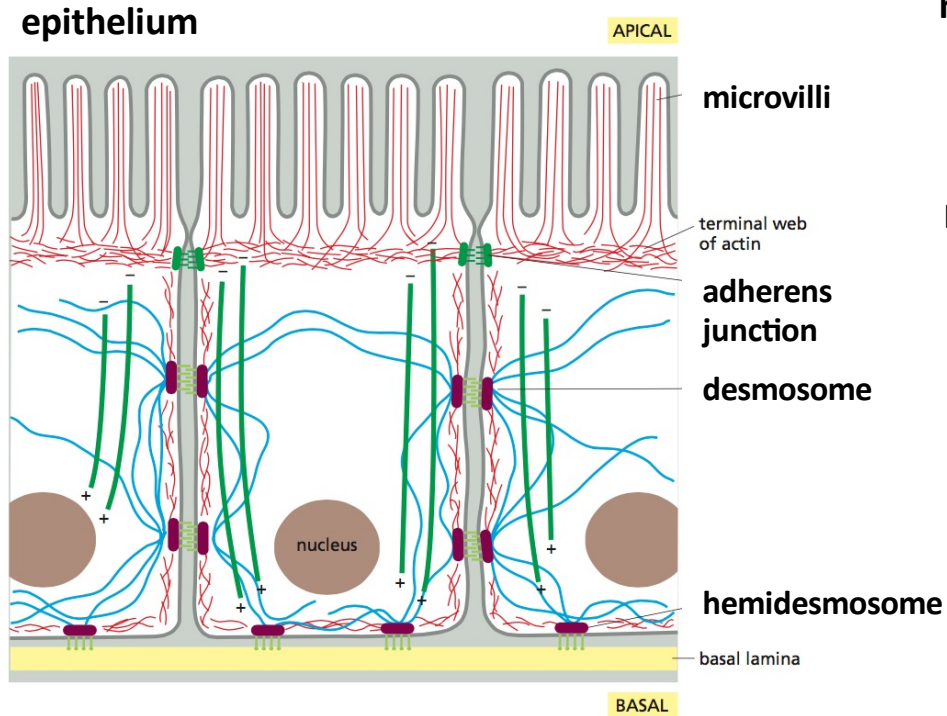
# Three polarity complexes : initiation and maintenance



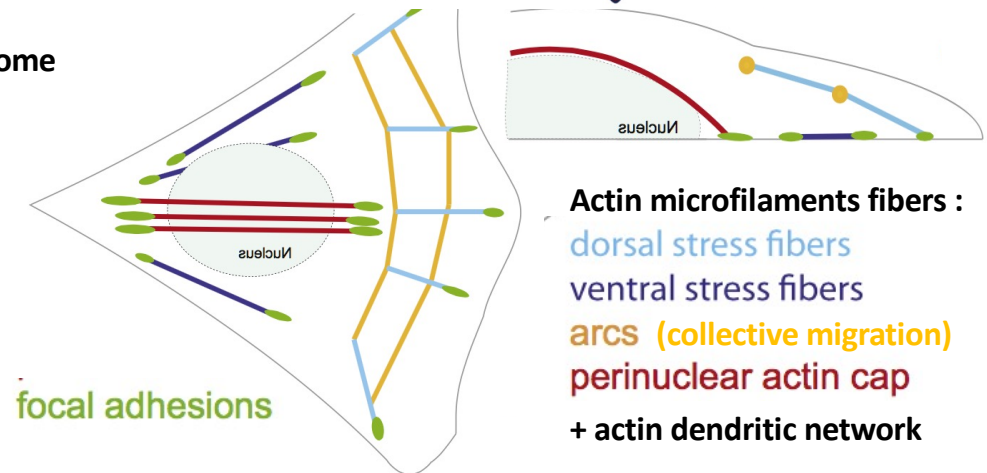
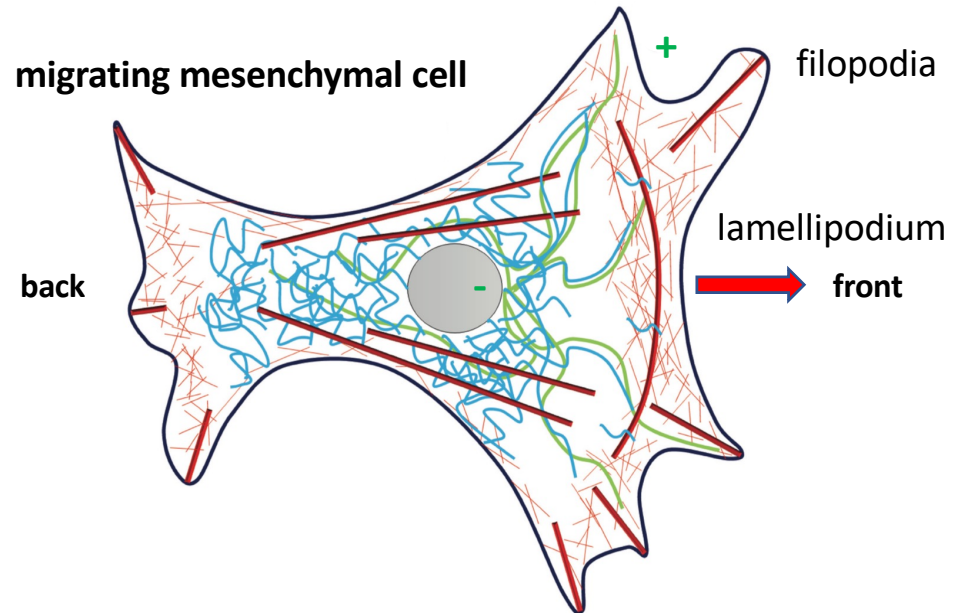
# Two phospholipids : initiation and maintenance



# Cytoskeleton and polarity



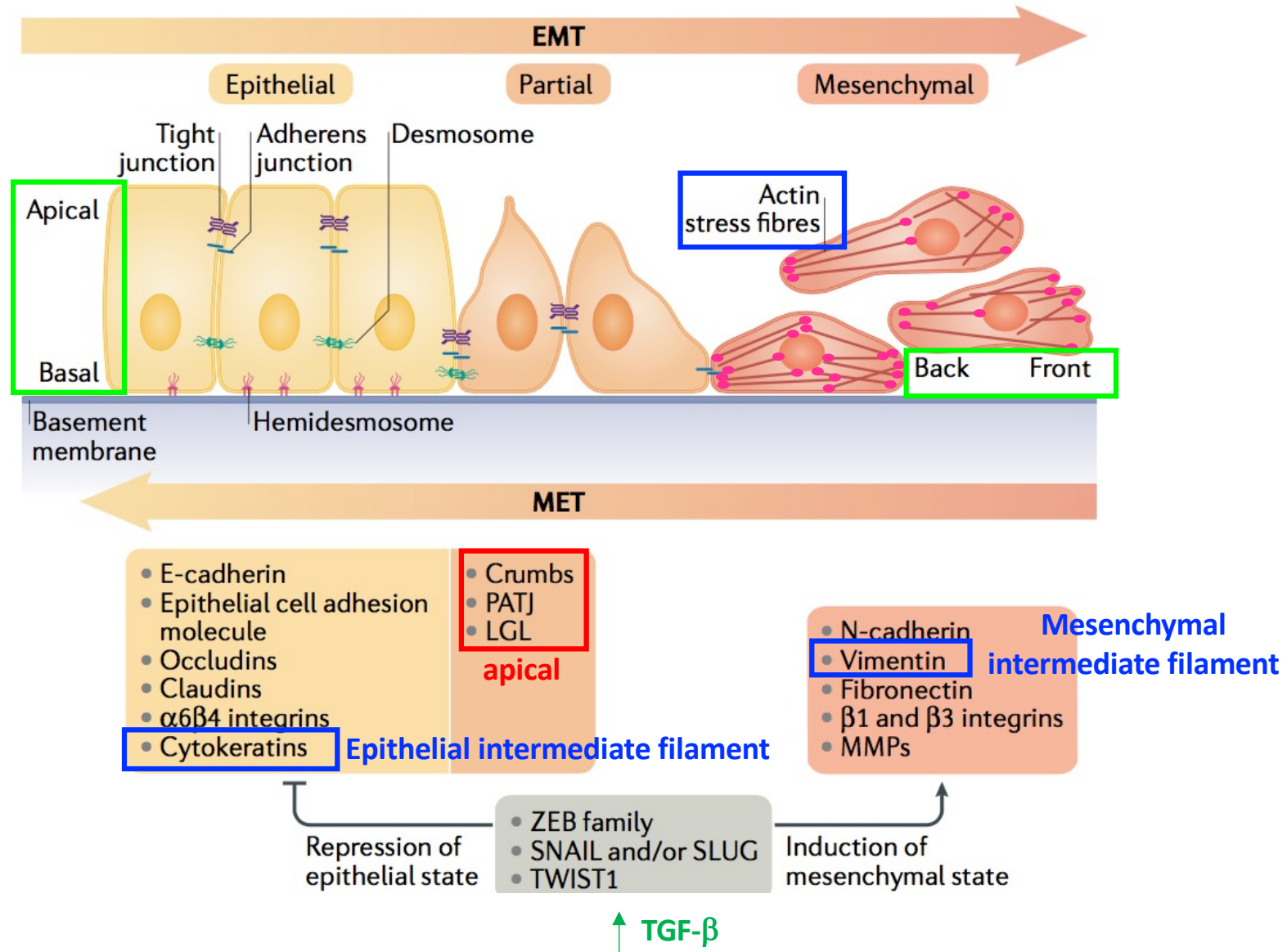
Actin microfilament / septin  
 Microtubules Intermediate filaments



Adapted from figure 16-4, *Molecular Biology of the Cell 6<sup>th</sup>*  
 Battaglia et al., *F1000 Res.*, 2018  
 Burridge & Guilluy, *Exp Cell Res*, 2015

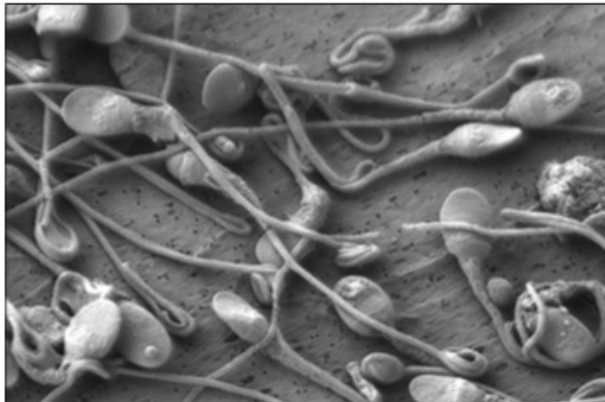
# EMT = epithelial–mesenchymal transition

## MET = mesenchymal-epithelial transition



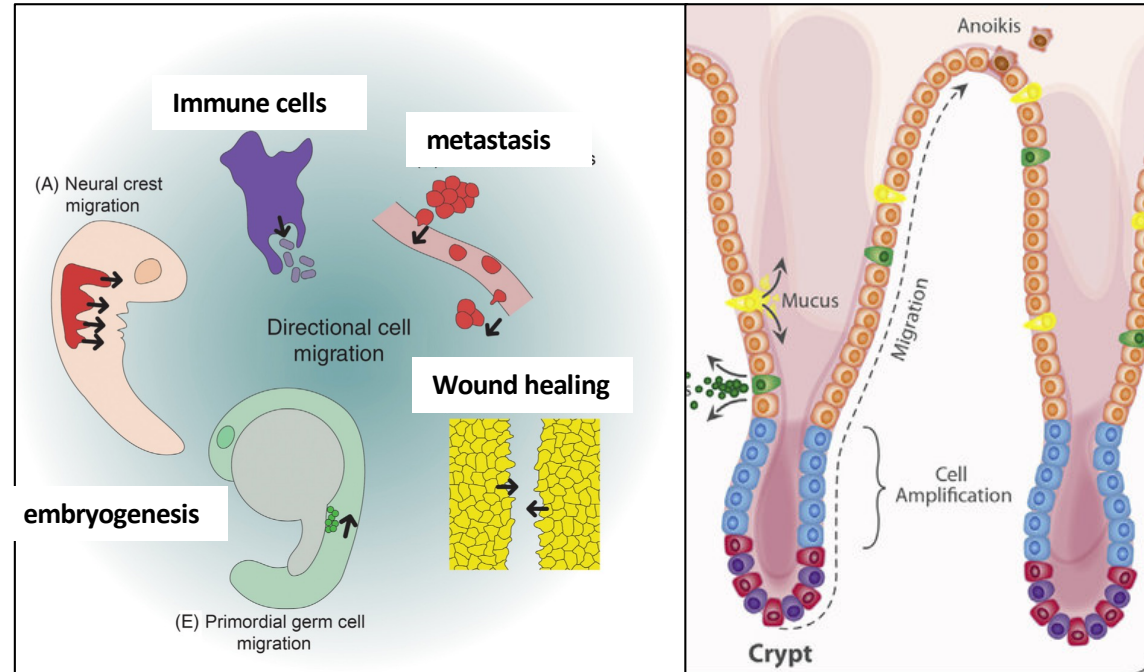
# Cellular migration in human

sperm : swimming  
not migration ...



Nussdorfer et al., *Bosnian J Basic Med Sci*, 2019

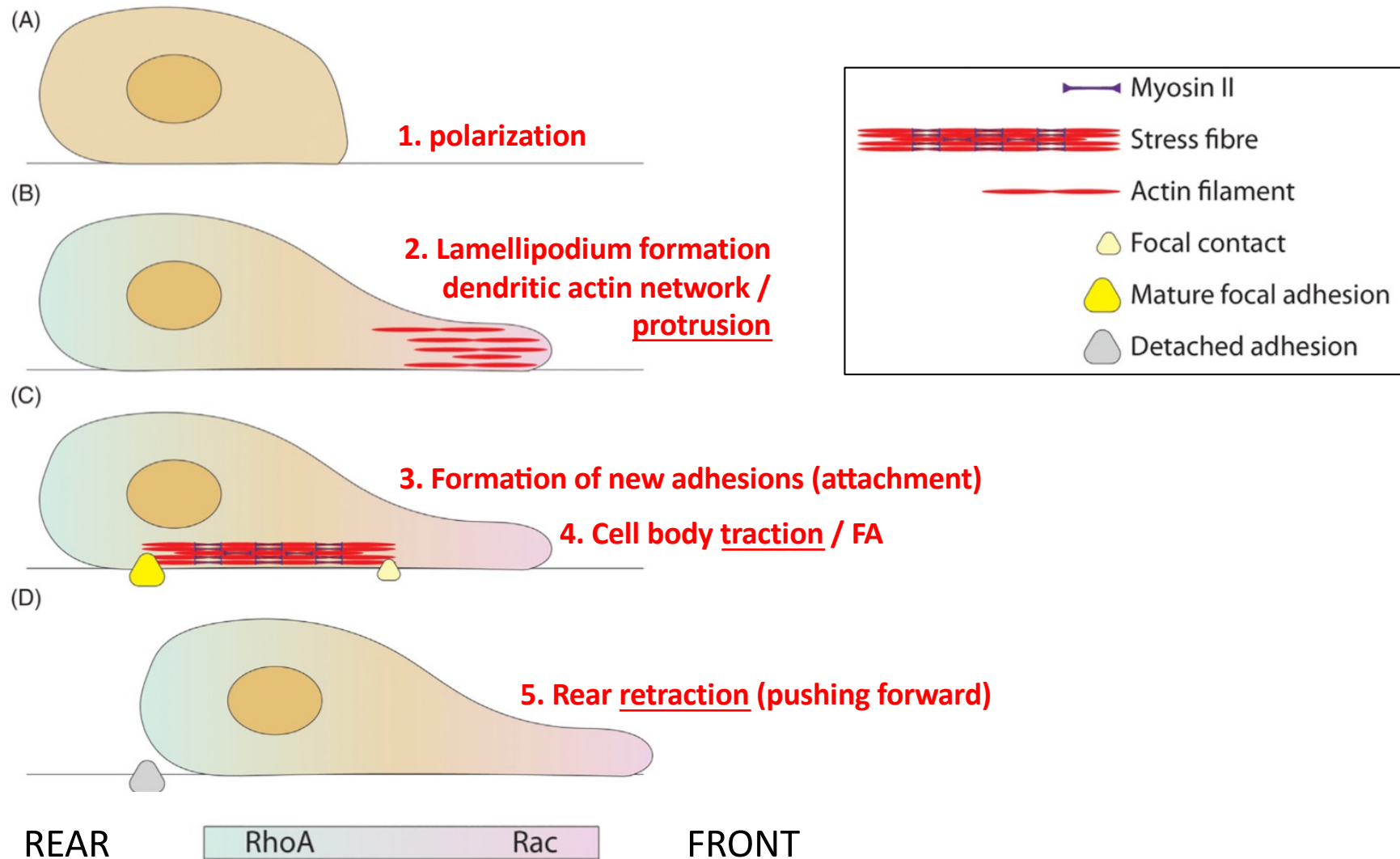
crawling cells : in embryos or adults



Shellard & Mayor, *Trends Cell Biol*, 2020

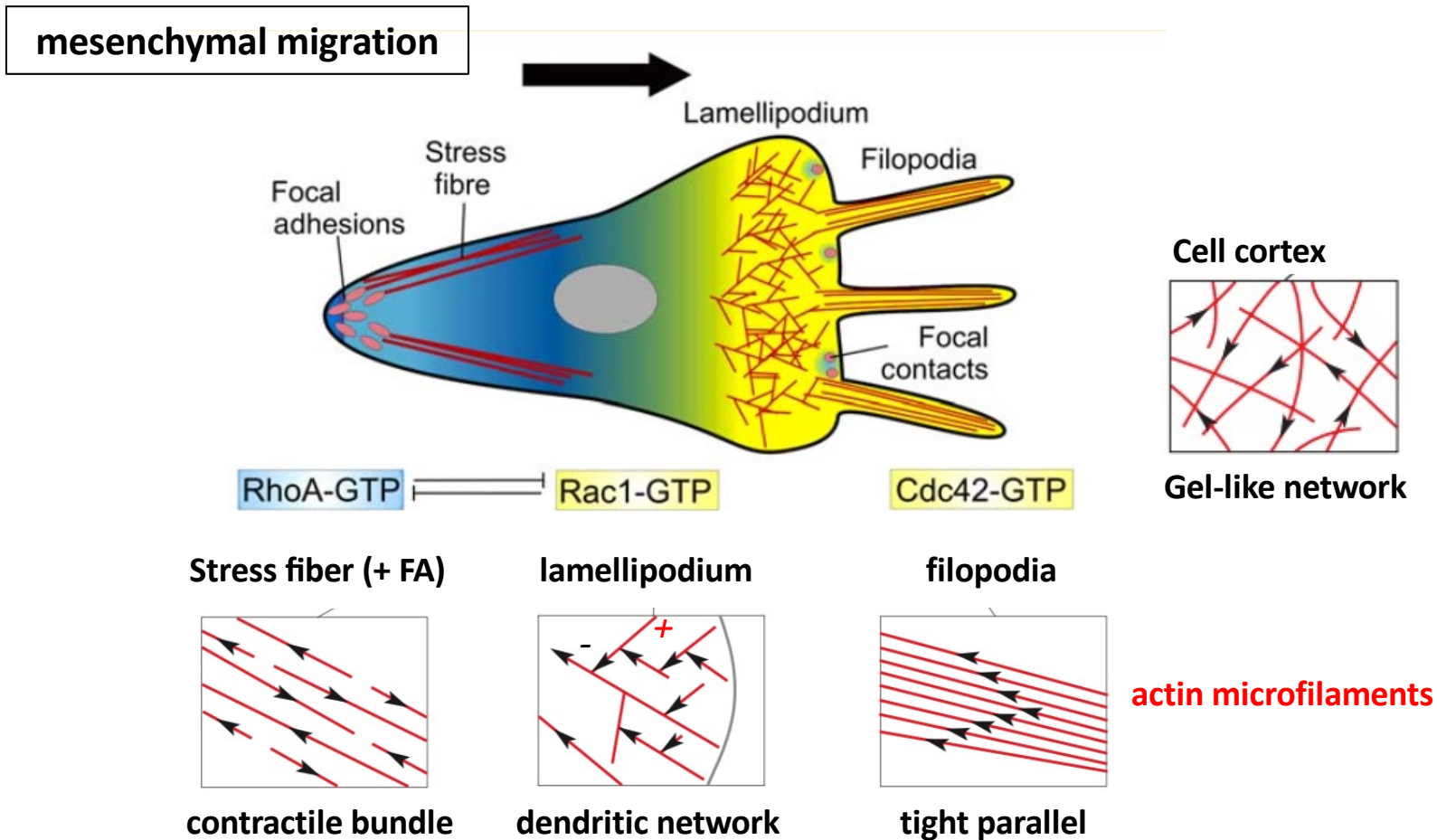
N. Bradbury

# Five steps for mesenchymal cellular migration in 2D



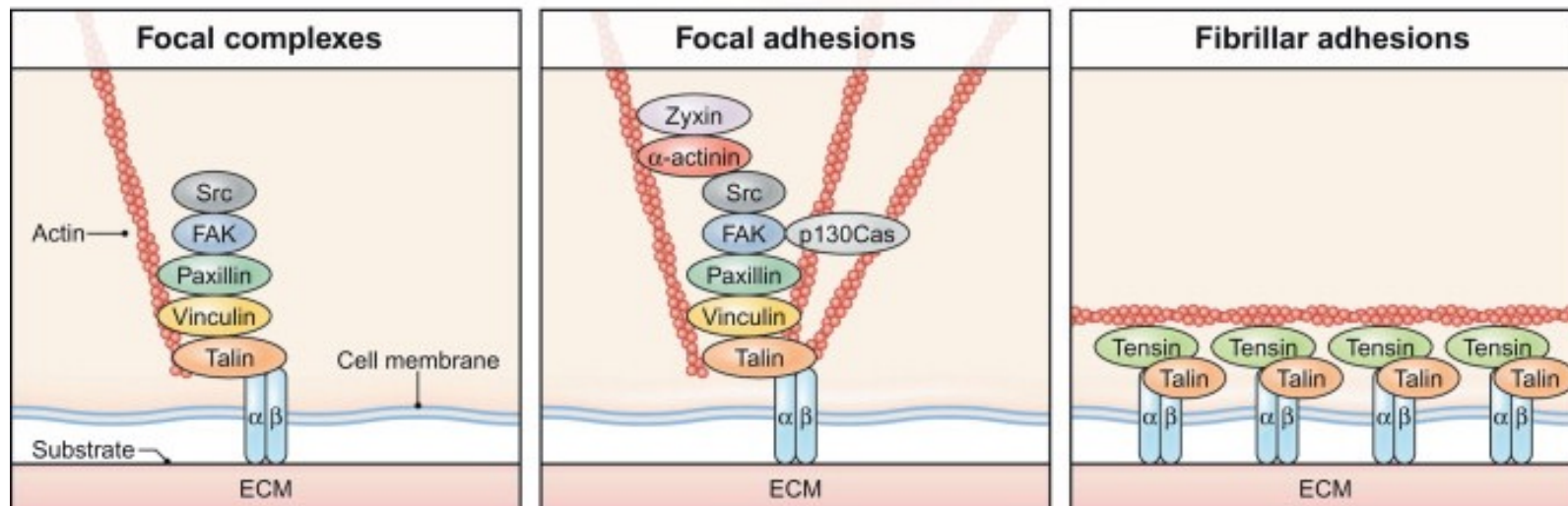
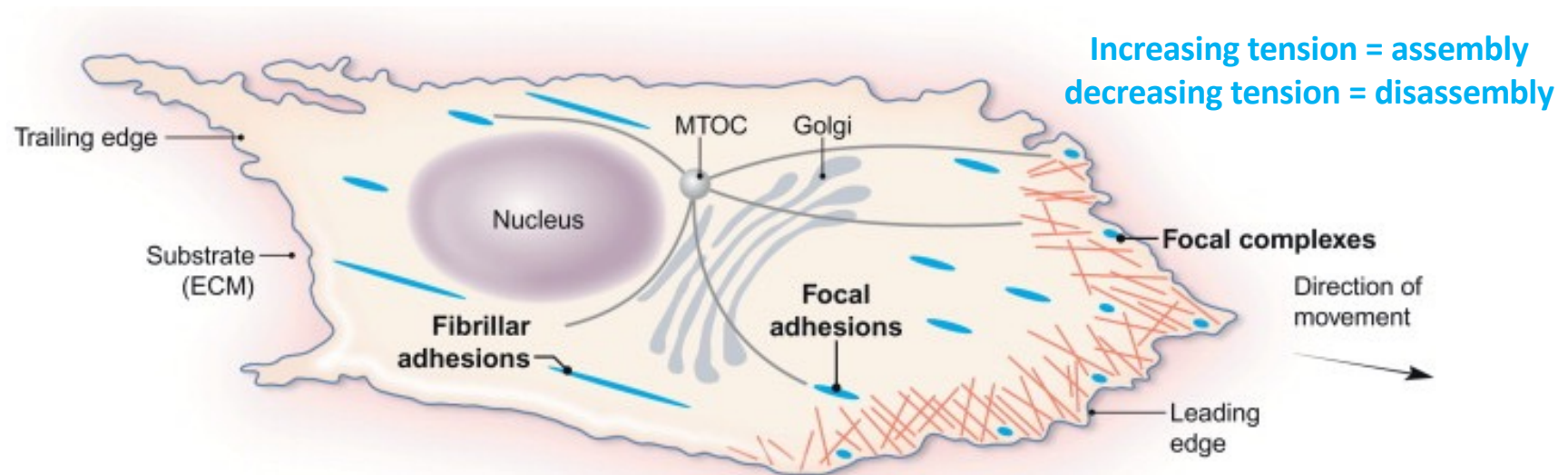


# Rho, Rac, Cdc42 GTPases and actin cytoskeleton

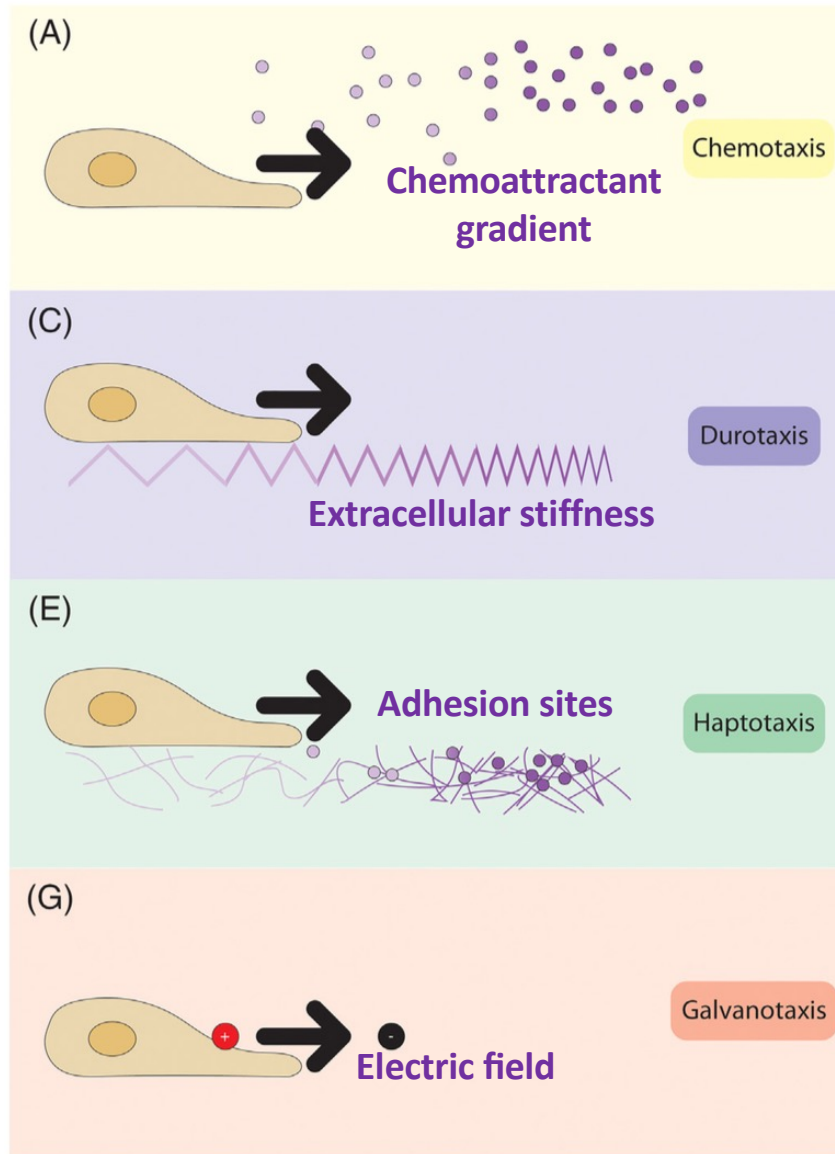


Mayor & Carmona-Fontaine, Trends Cell Biol, 2010  
Figure 16-21, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6th

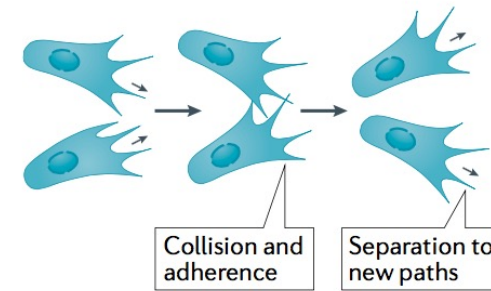
# Focal adhesions maturation and disassembly



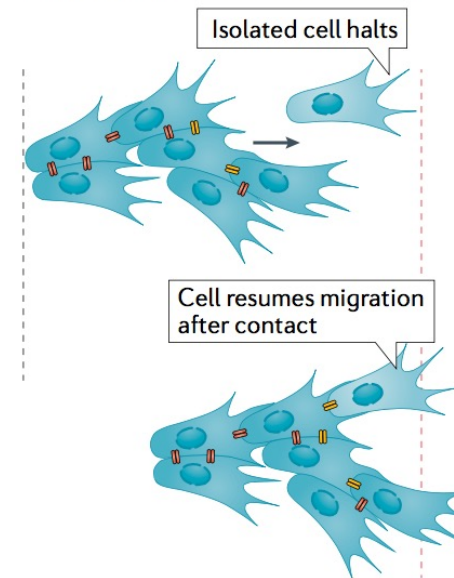
# Determinants of migration direction



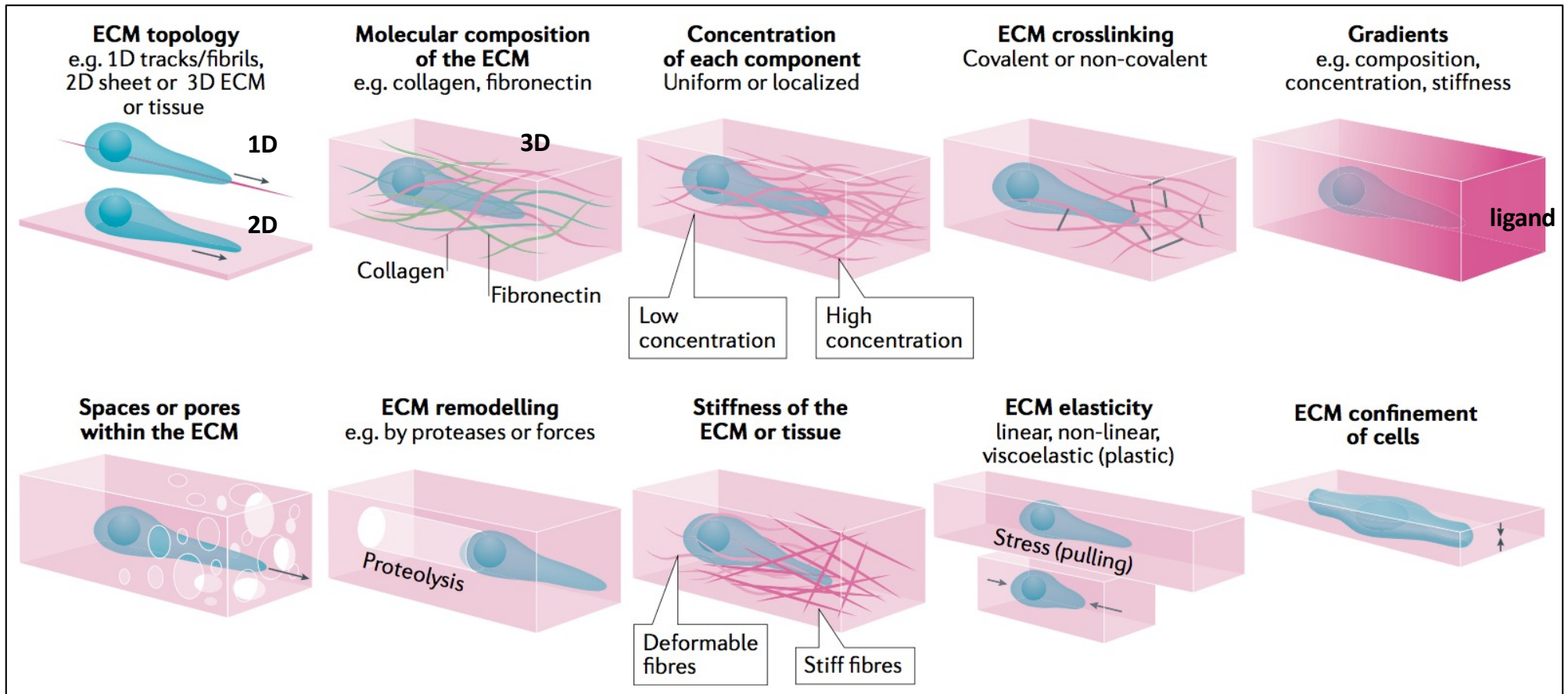
## Contact inhibition of migration



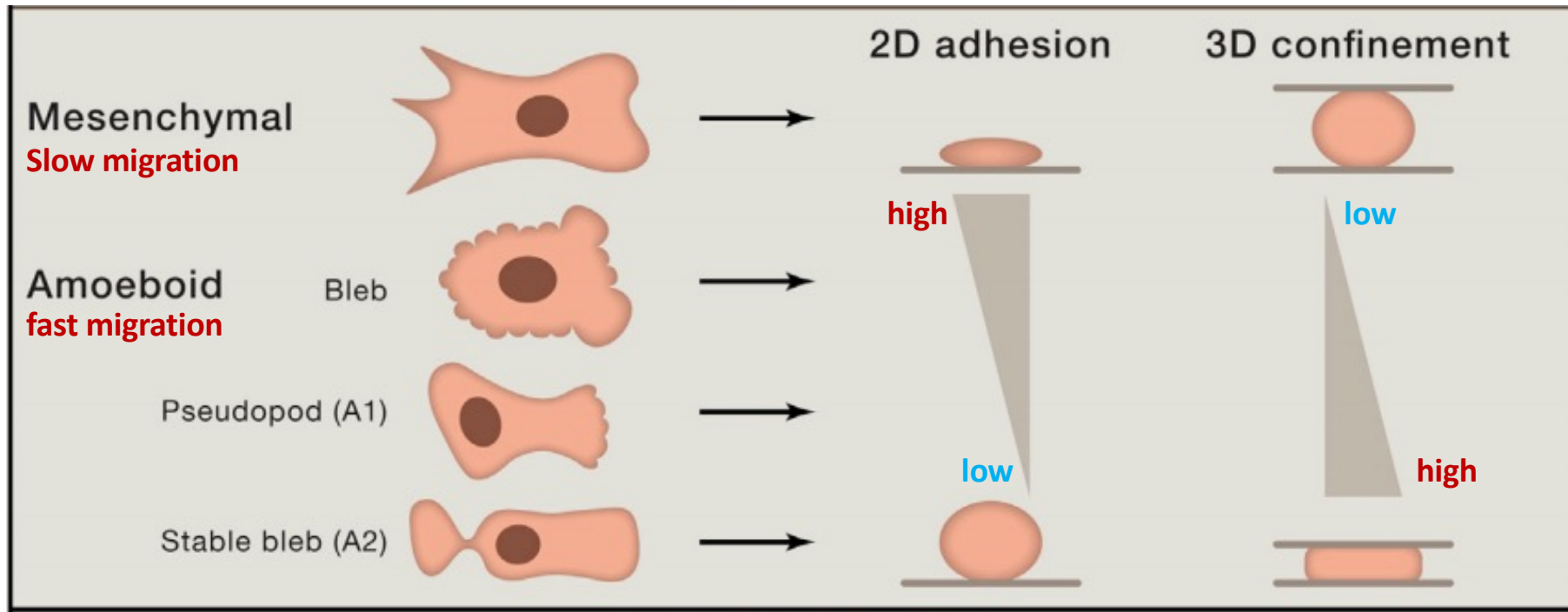
## Contact stimulation of migration



# ECM feature modulating migration in 3D



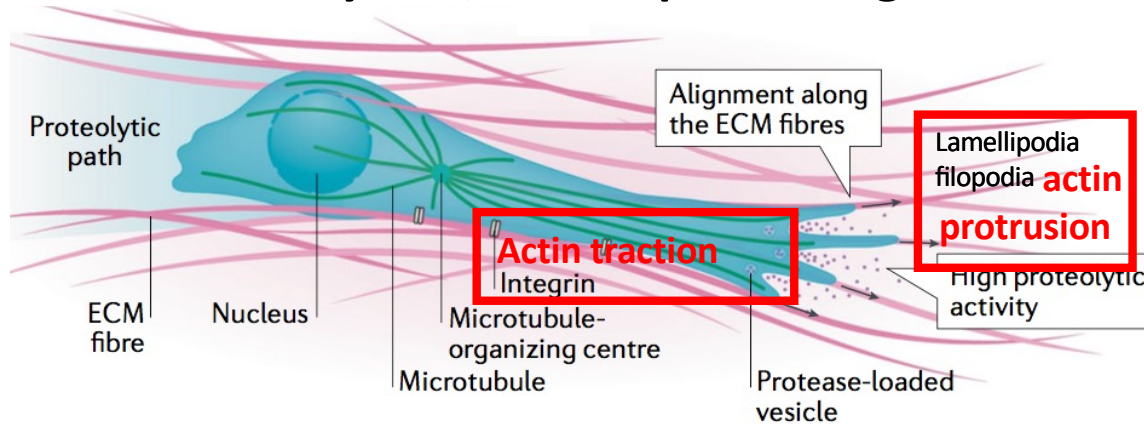
# Modes of migration adopted by cells in 2D/3D



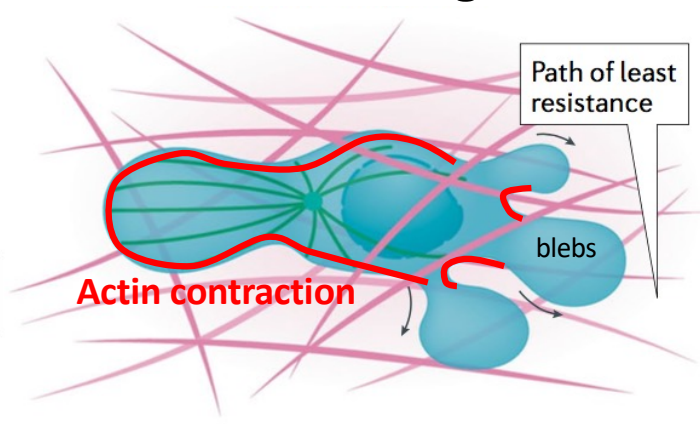
Influenced by strength of :  
- Adhesion to the substrate  
- Physical confinement  
- Contractility

# Modes of migration adopted by cells in 3D

## Mesenchymal / lamellipodial migration



## Amoeboid migration



### Traction

Cell break the wall

### Propulsion

Cell go through holes in the wall



Strong adhesion ECM

Front : Rac1 branched actin protrusion

ECM proteolysis

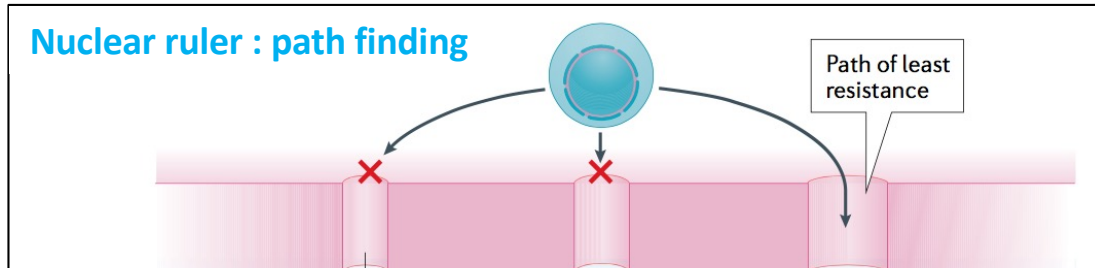
Nucleus in the back / MTs in the front

Low adhesion ECM

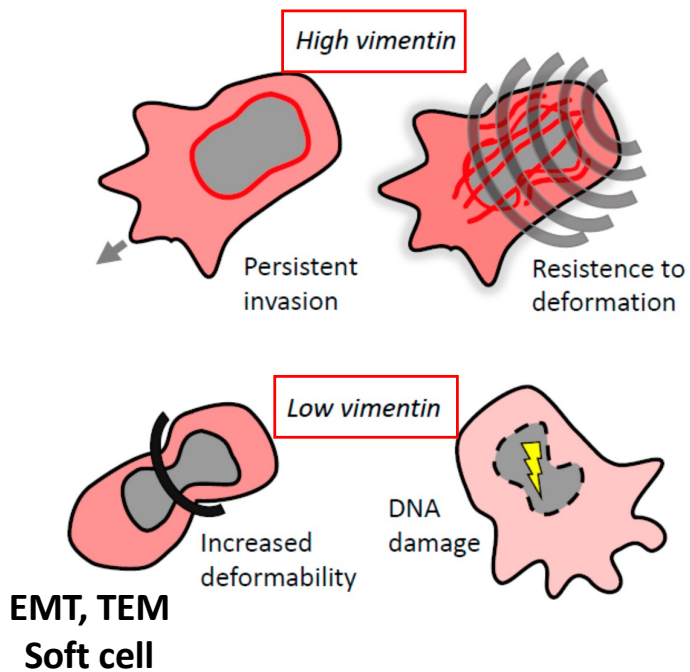
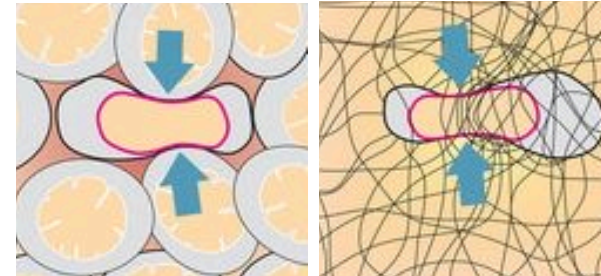
Back : RhoA Myosin contraction

Nucleus in the front / MTs in the back

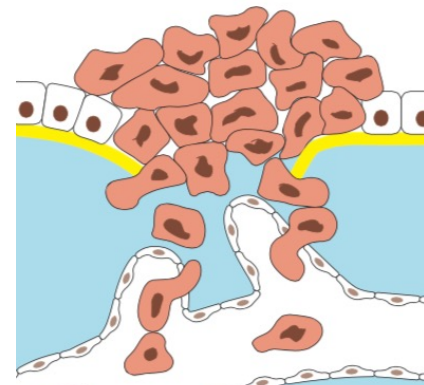
# Nucleus and cell migration



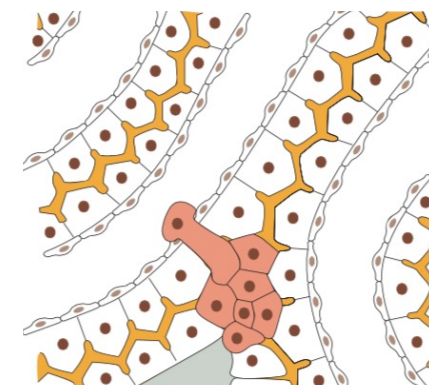
**Nucleus = stress sensor**



**intravasation (EMT)**



**extravasation (MET)**



**CTCs (circulating tumor cells in the blood stream) : round and stiff cells**

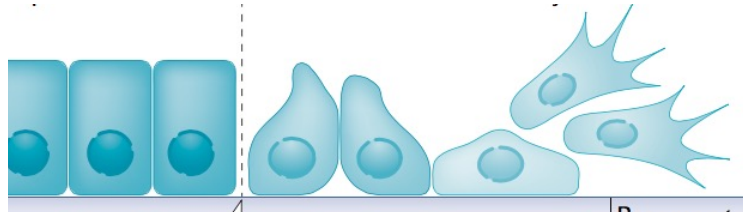
*Venturini et al., Science, 2020*

*Yamada & Sixt, Mol Cell Biol, 2019*

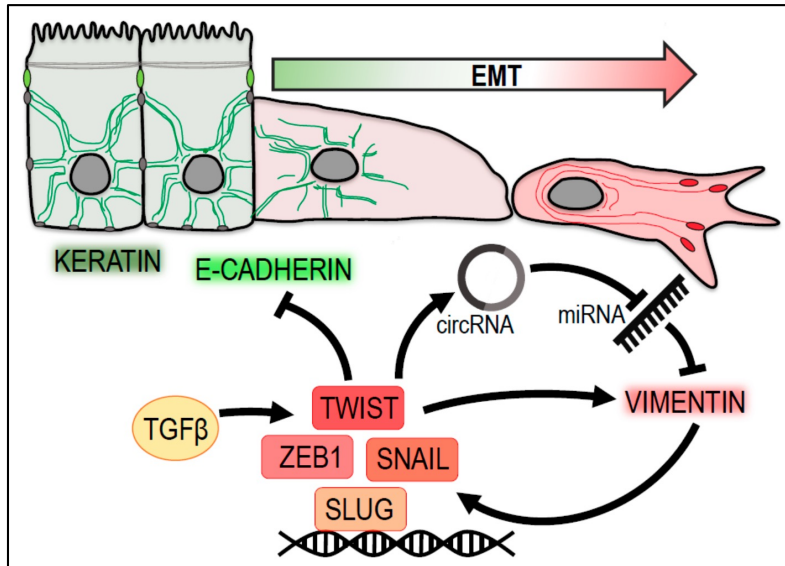
*Strouhalova et al., Cancers, 2020*

*20-16, Molecular Biology of the Cell 6<sup>th</sup>*

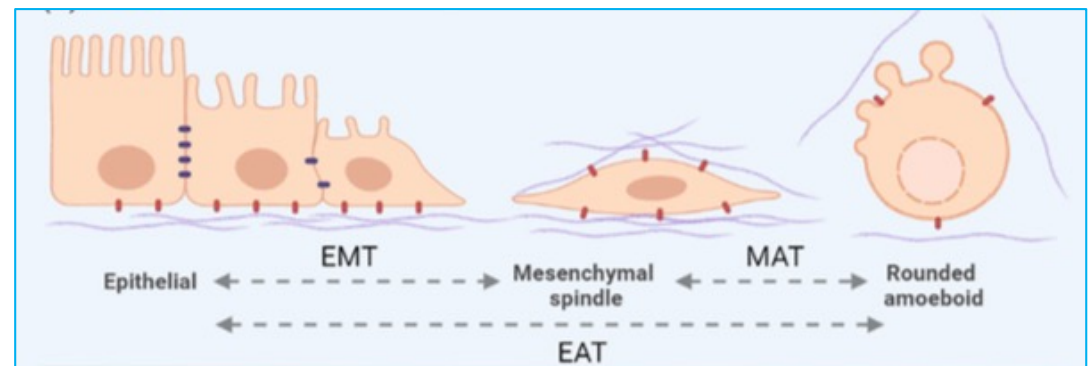
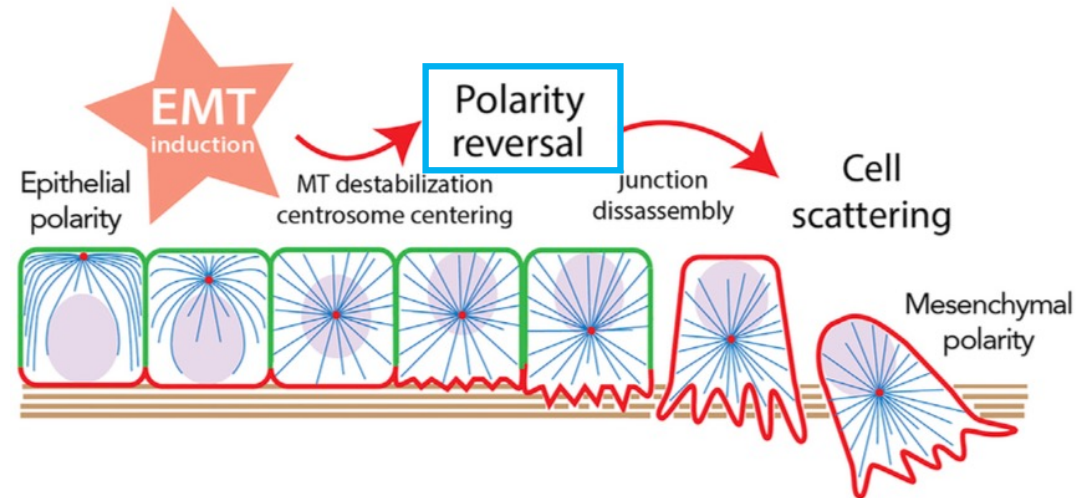
# EMT = epithelial–mesenchymal transition



EMT & MET =  
abnormally reactivated during metastasis



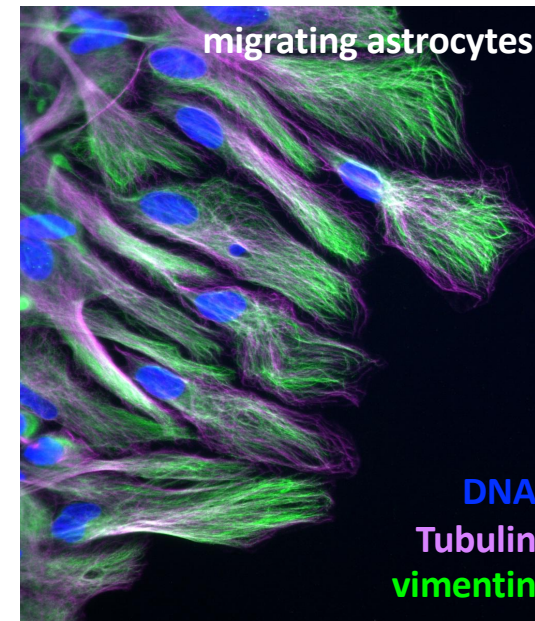
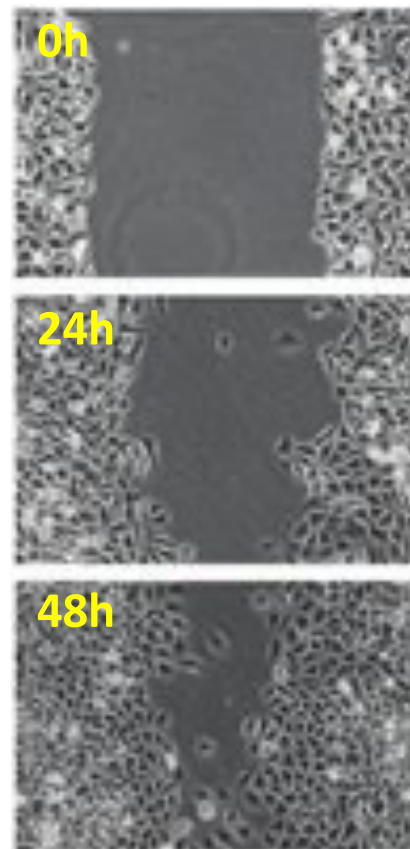
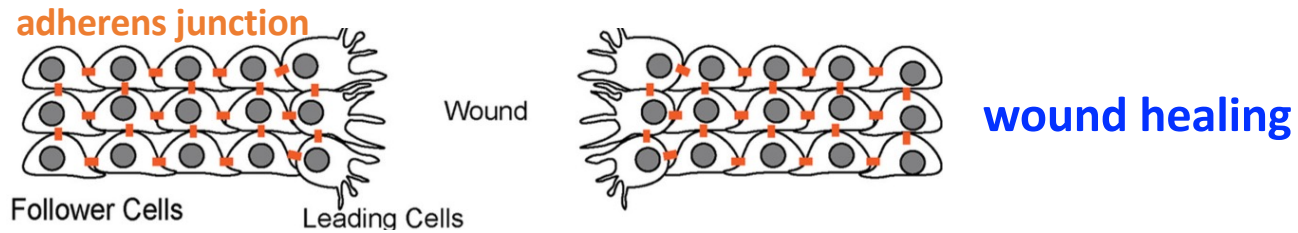
intermediate filaments : **keratin** / **vimentin** switch  
 Cadherin : **E-Cad** / **N-Cad** switch  
 Hemidesmosome / **focal adhesion**



Yamada & Sixt, *Mol Cell Biol*, 2019 ; Strouhalova et al., *Cancers*, 2020  
 Burute et al., *Dev Cell*, 2017 ; Graziani et al., *Trends in Cell Biology*, 2022



# Partial EMT : collective cell migration



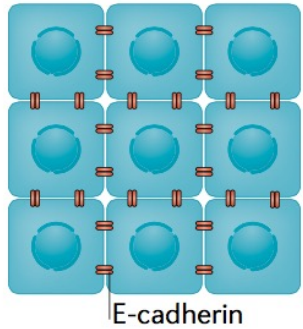
*Olson & Nechiporuk, Front Cell Dev Biol, 2018*

*Wu et al., Int J Oncology, 2019*

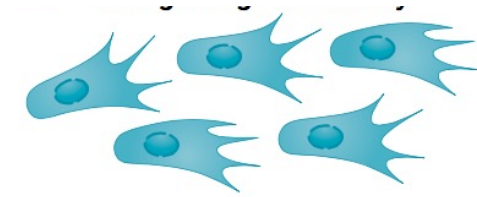
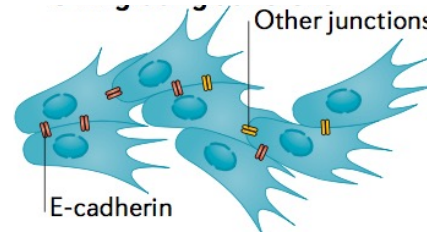
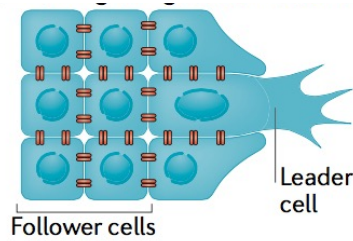
*Pasteur*

# EMT in cancer : individual or collective migration

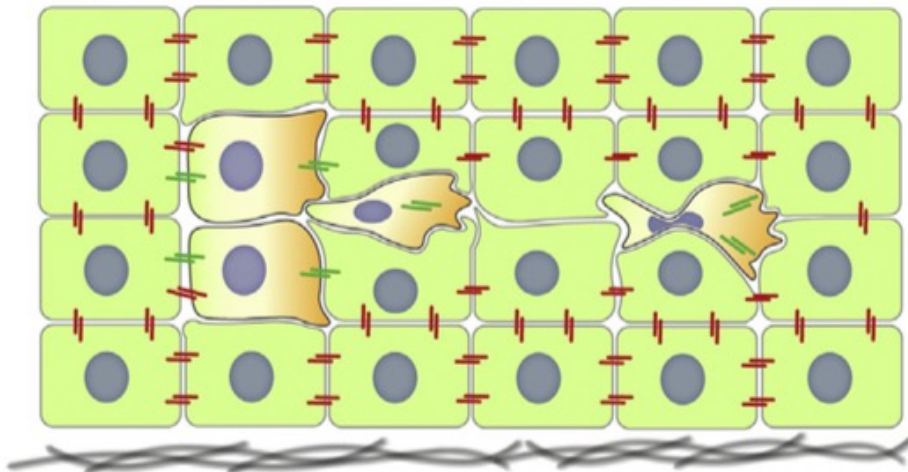
epithelium



EMT effectiveness (mesenchymal property)

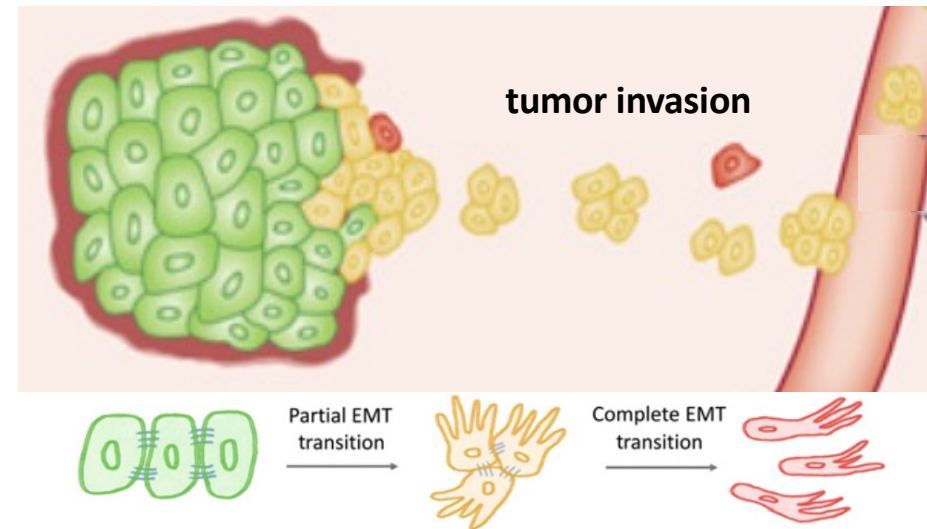


Complete EMT : confinement of the single migrating cell in the epithelium



E-Cad / N-Cad switch

Partial EMT : collective cell migration

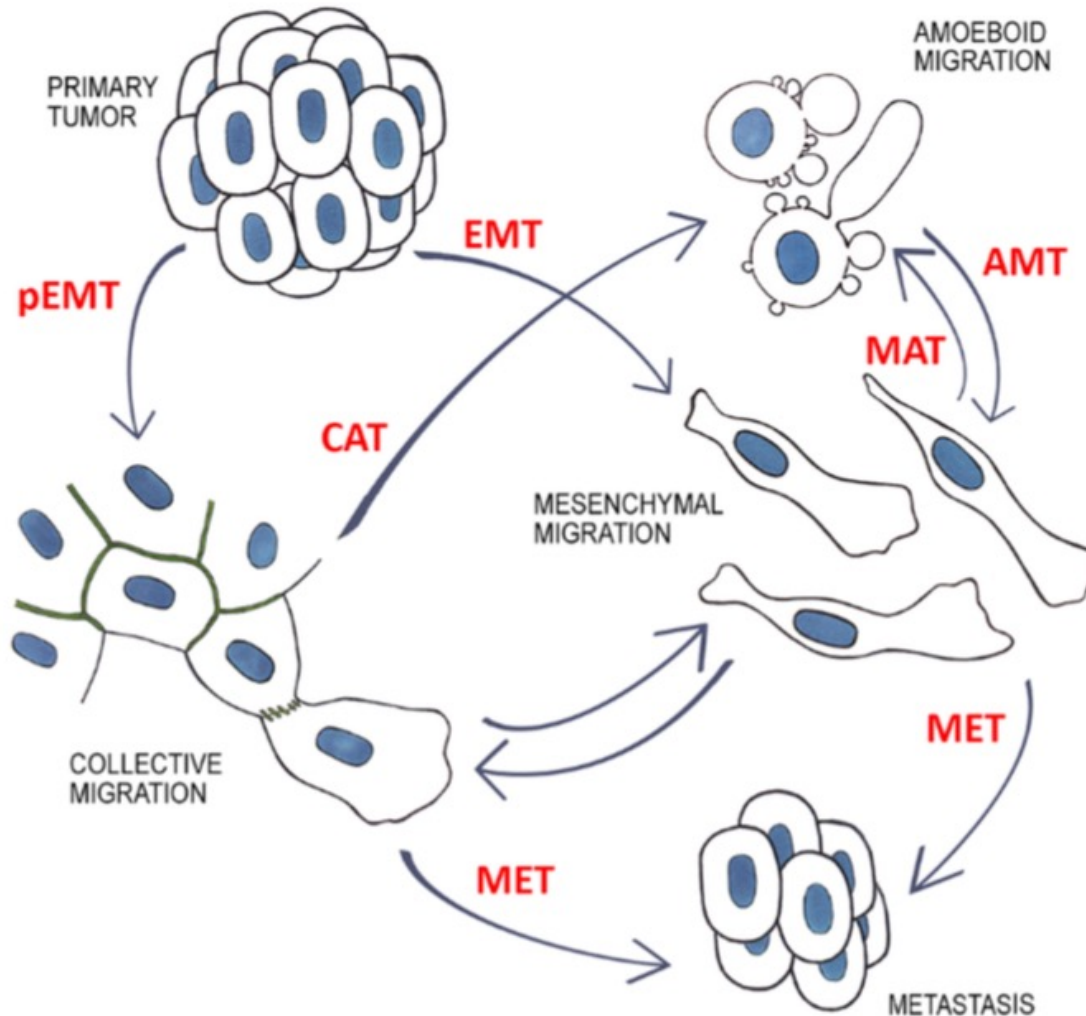


Yamada & Sixt, Mol Cell Biol, 2019

Barriga & Mayor, Sem Cell Dev Biol, 2018

Bocci et al., Cancer Research, 2019

# Plasticity of cancer cell migration



**Migrastatics :**  
anti-invasion / anti-metastatic  
drugs ?

# Therapeutic strategies related to metastasis ?



cells

## Preventing EMT (TEM) ?

- . How
- . When ? (early/late events of dissemination)

## Targeting circulating tumor cells ?

Probably not in the blood stream for a long time ...

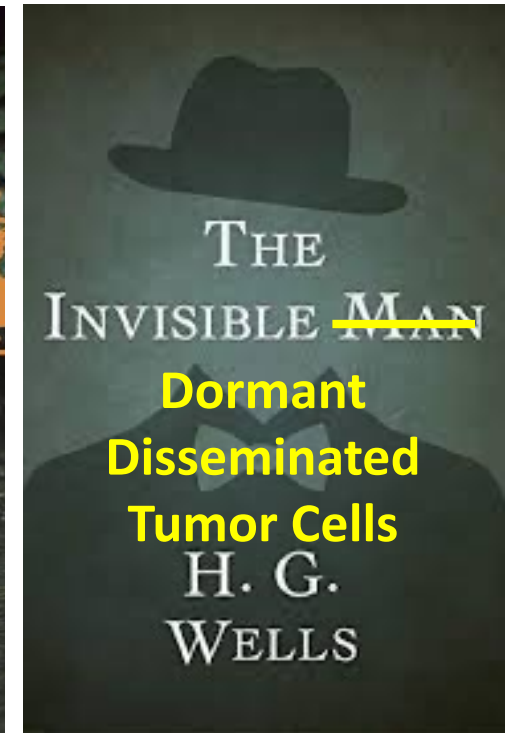
## Best chance : targeting DTCs / their niches ?

## Modulating quiescence - senescence ?

See cell cycle slides

Migrating cells

DTC : dormant, resistant and killers if they wake-up



# Ways to reduce your cancer risk



**Do not smoke** or use any form of tobacco



Avoid too much sun, use **sun protection**

Make your home **smoke-free**



**Reduce** indoor and outdoor **air pollution**



Enjoy a **healthy diet**



Be **physically active**



**Breastfeeding** reduces the mother's cancer risk



**Limit alcohol intake**



**Vaccinate** your children against Hepatitis B and HPV



Take part in organized **cancer screening programmes**