

# Intestinal stem cells and cancer stem cells

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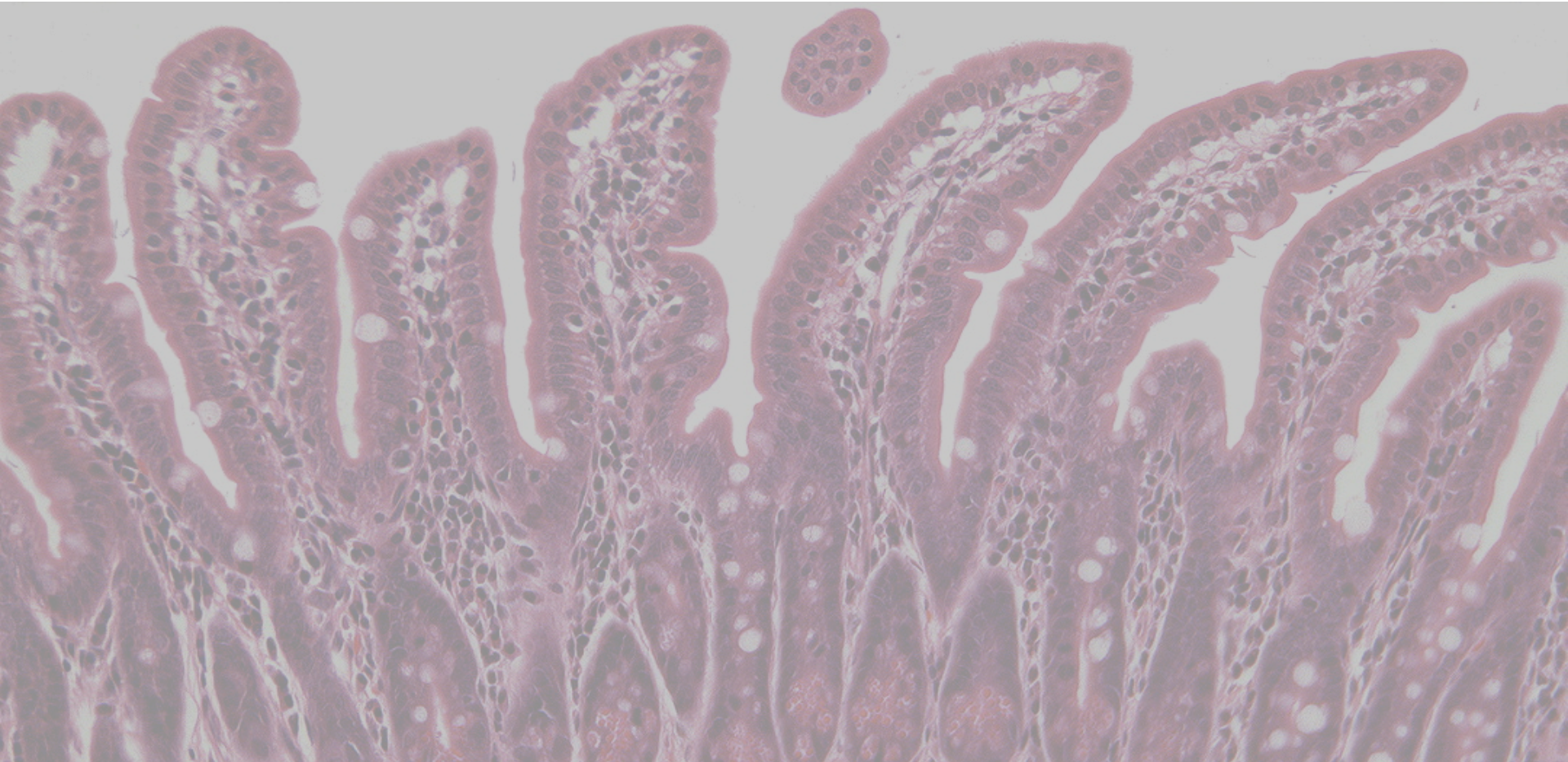
<https://www.meduniwien.ac.at/hp/pathobiochemie-und-genetik/studium-lehre/vorlesungen/>



# Overview

- Adult stem cells
  - Intestinal stem cells
- Cancer stem cells
- Drug development

# Intestinal stem cells



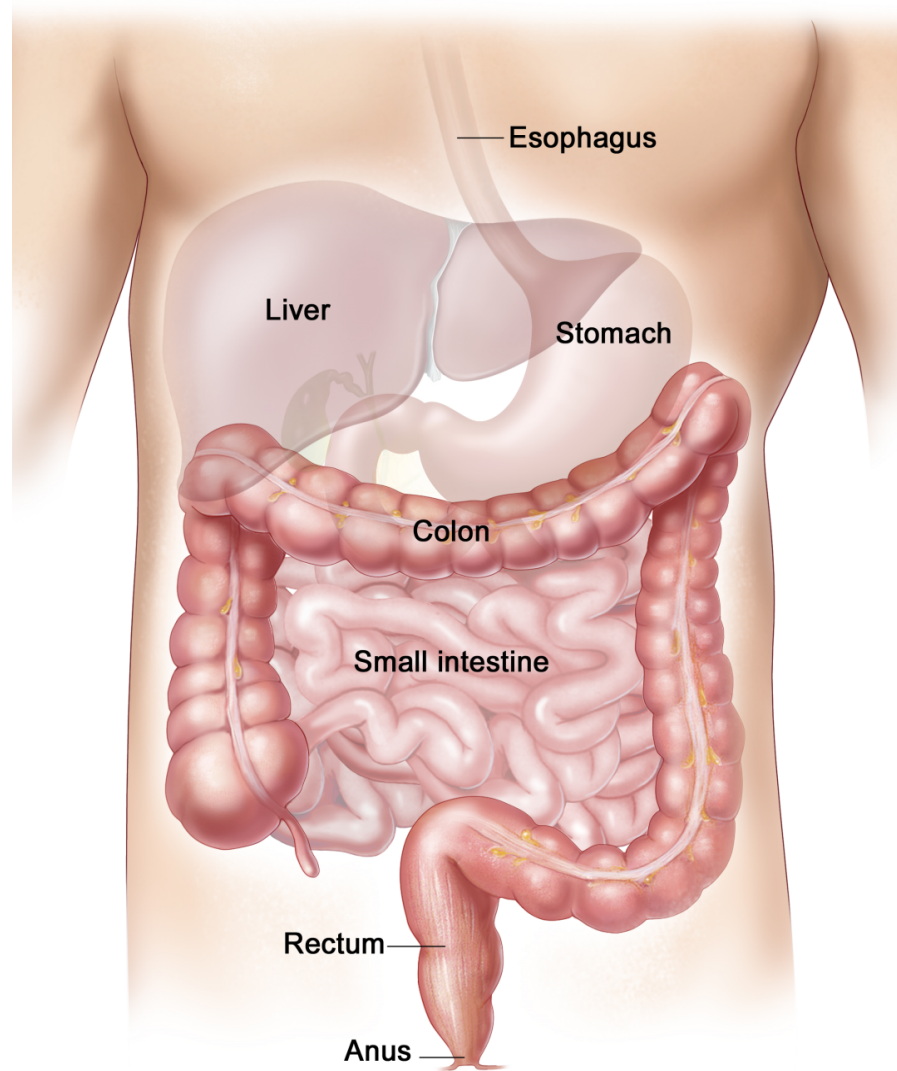
# stem cell definition

- **ability to undergo self-renewal**
  - proliferating for long time periods without differentiation (life time of the organism)
    - difficult to prove *in vivo*
- **production of specialized cell types, fully differentiated**
  - defined, specialized function
    - characteristic morphology, contact to other cells + ECM, surface markers, behavior
  - via intermediate cells called **precursors** or **progenitor cells**
- **adult SC are rare**
- **reside in the tissue, which they give rise to**

## adult stem cells: function, tasks

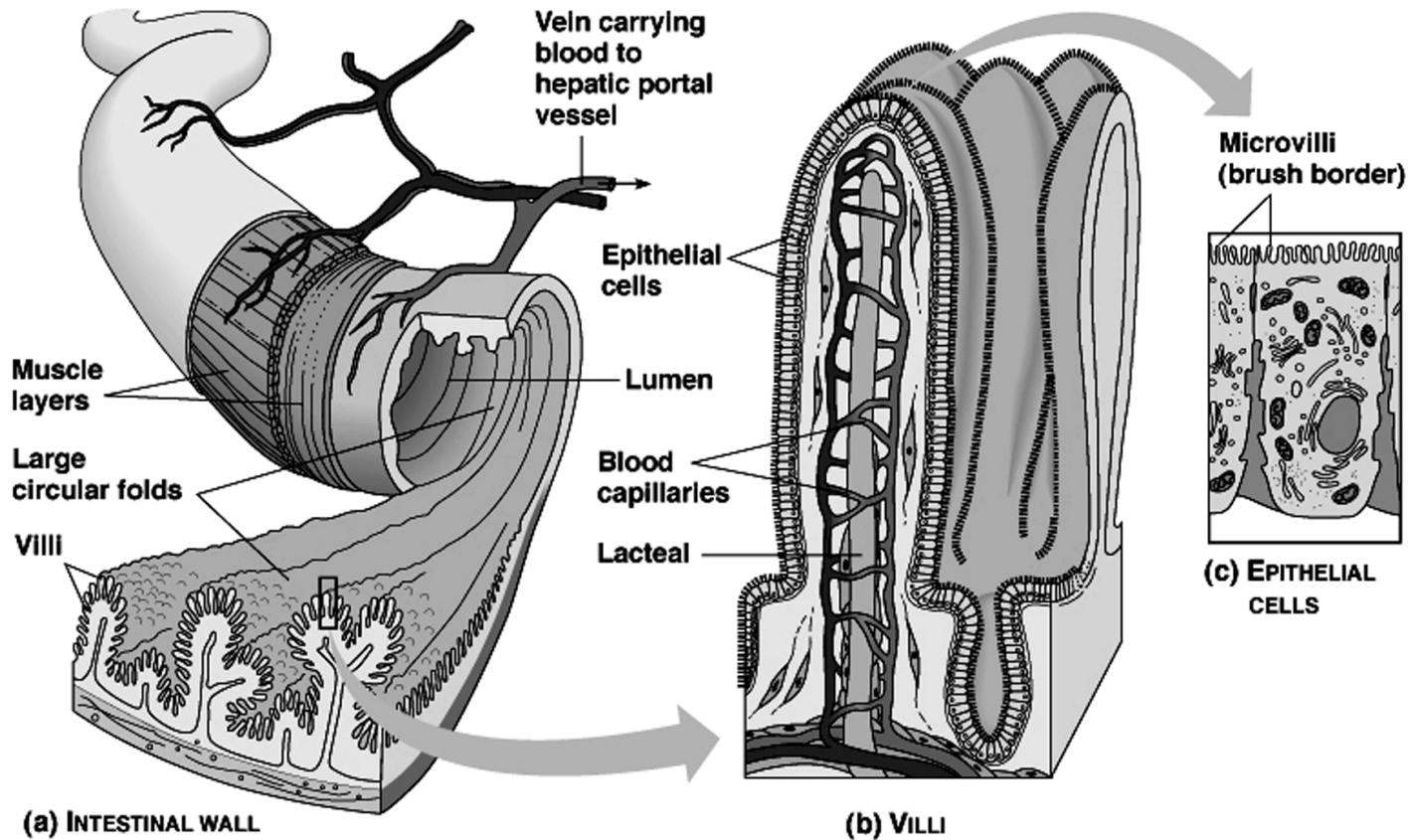
- **ensure tissue homeostasis**
  - maintenance of steady state function of cells, compartments, tissues, organs (tissue maintenance, growth)
- **replacement of injured or diseased cells,**
  - repair

# The gastrointestinal tract



National I

# Increase in surface

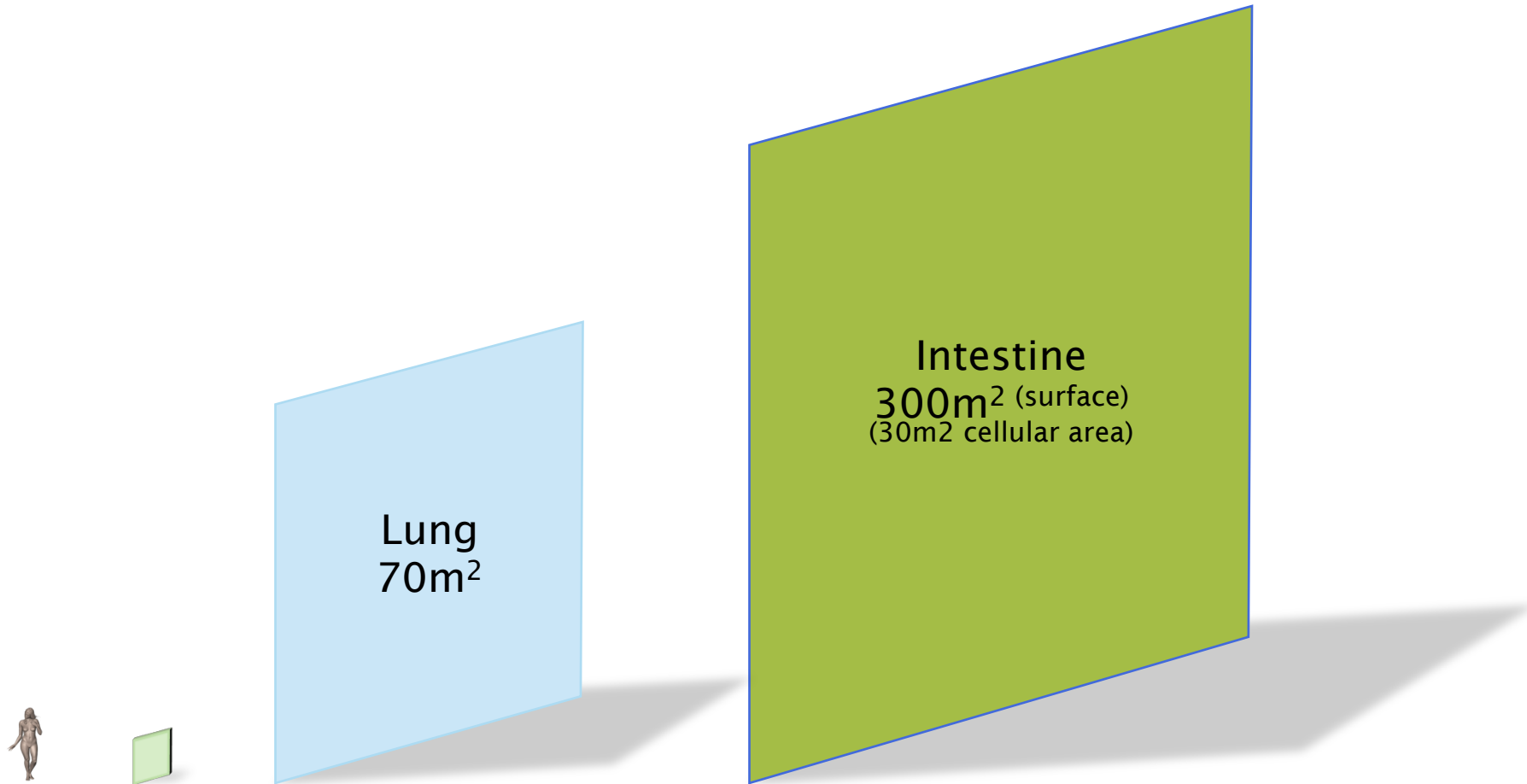


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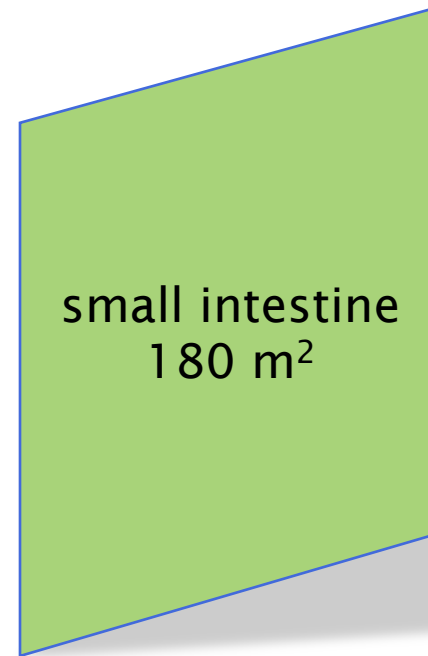
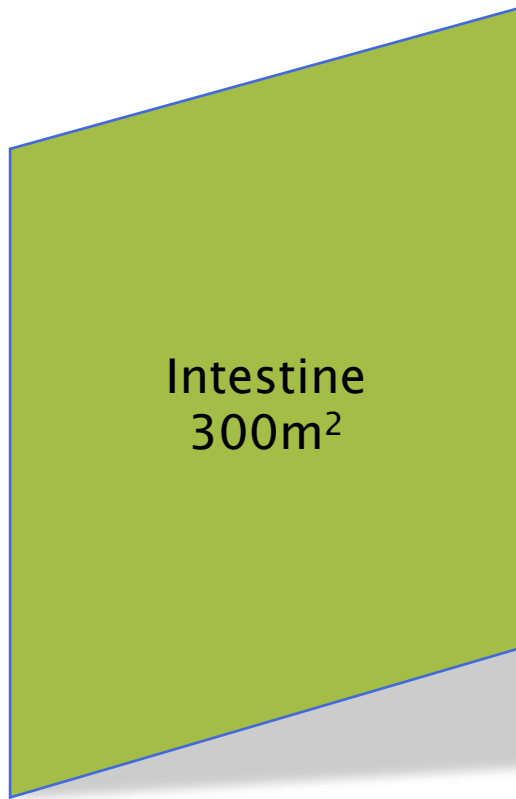
Surface increase:

- Folds (*Kerckring-folds, Plicae circulares*) 3x
- Villi 7-14x
- Mikrovilli 15-40x

# Intestinal surface

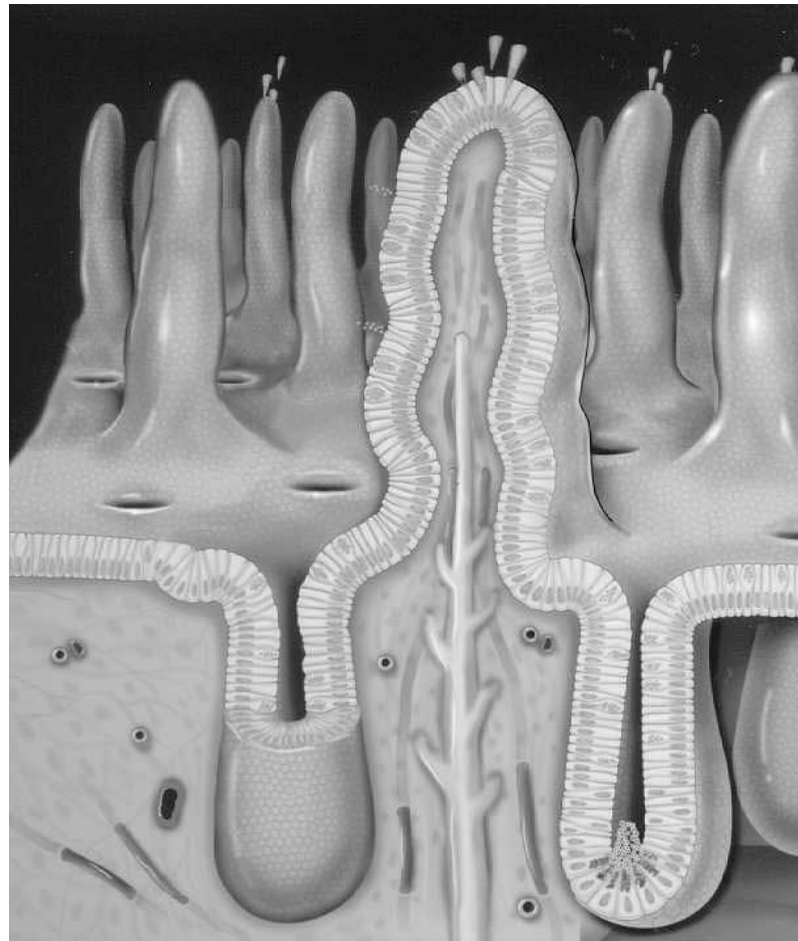


# Small intestine

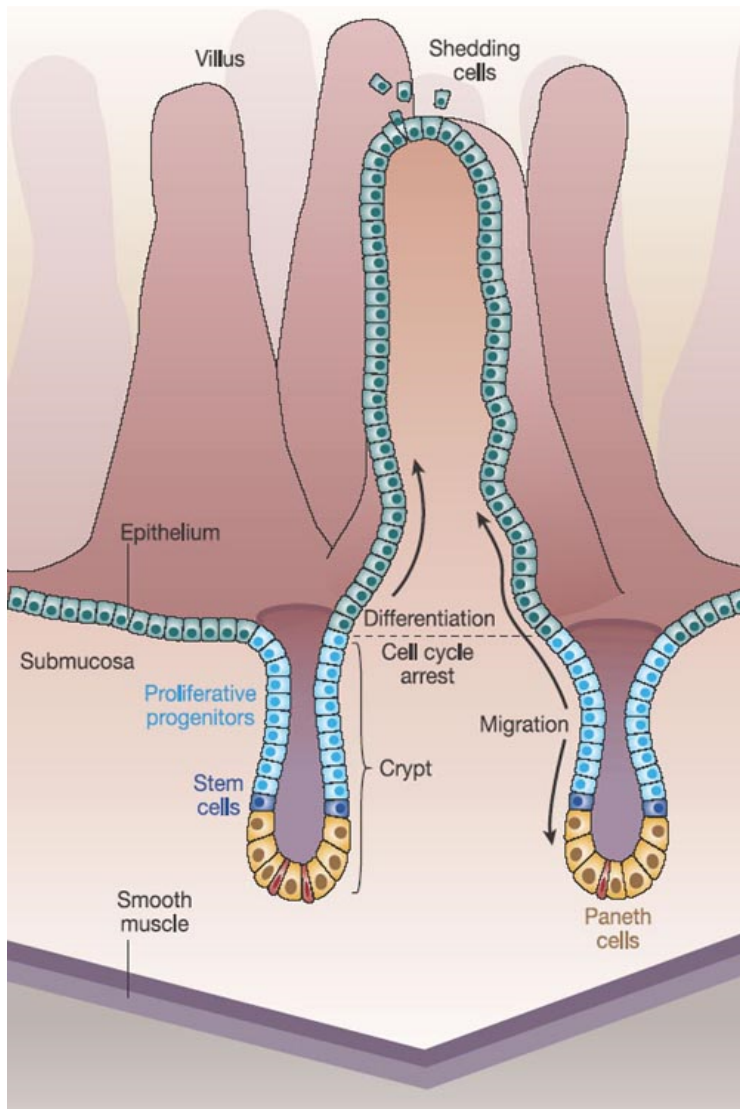




stem cells at the crypt bottom were long predicted



# Small intestine morphology

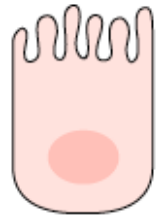


Villi

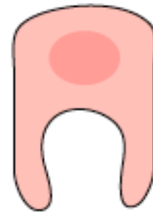
Crypts



# Differentiated cell types of SI



Enterocyte



M cell



Tuft cell



Goblet cell

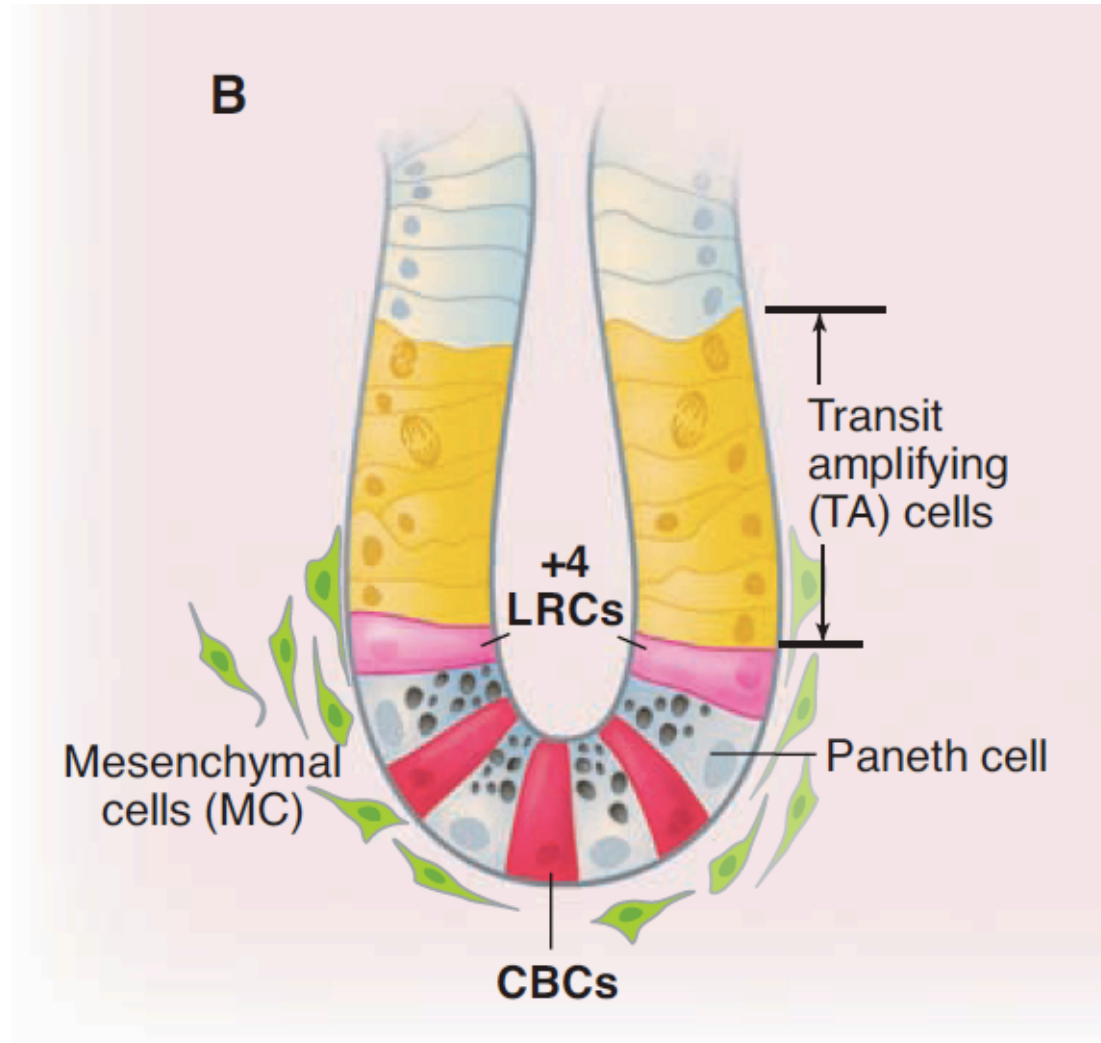


Paneth cell



Enteroendocrine cell

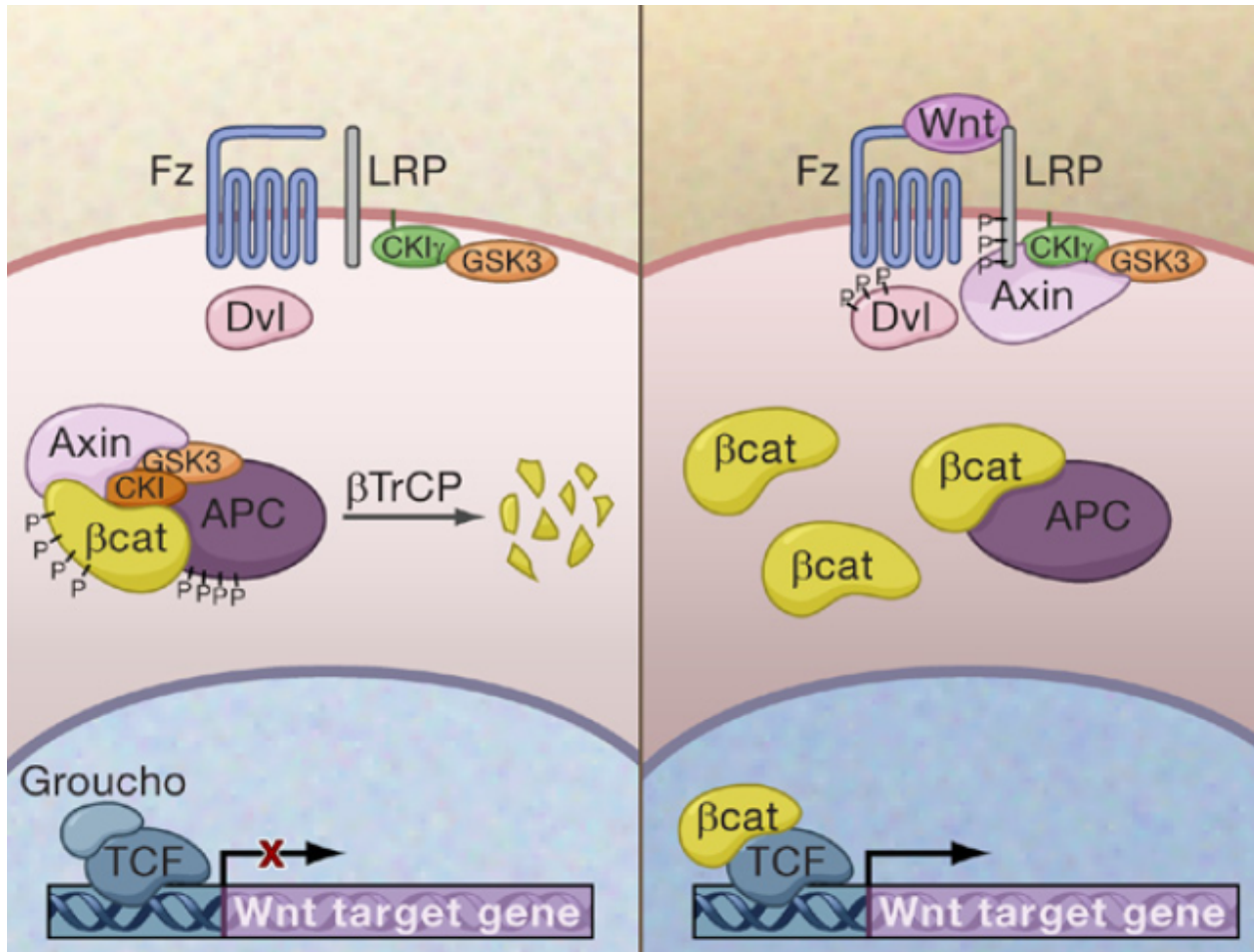
# SCs in the intestine



# canonical Wnt signaling

Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin Pathway OFF

Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin Pathway ON



# Wnt signaling is essential in the intestine

→ Proliferation of epithelial cells in intestine is Wnt -dependent

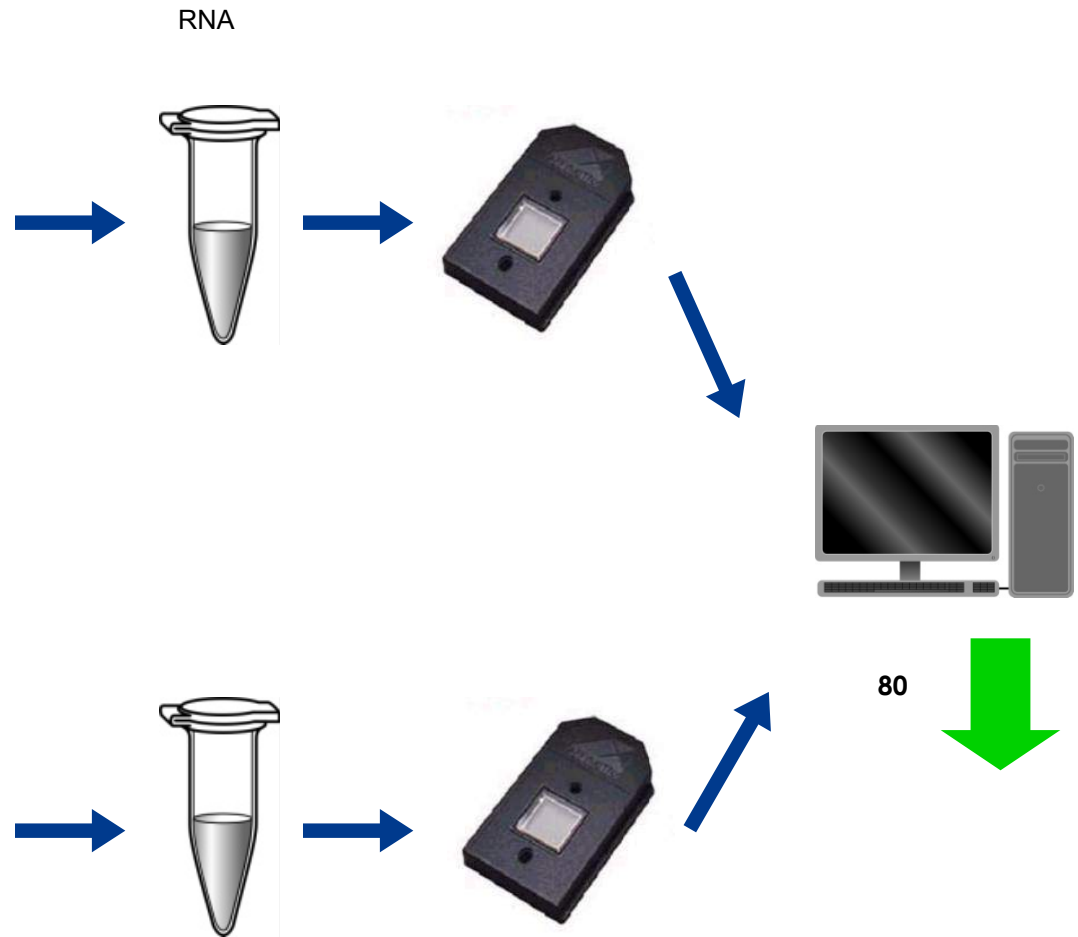
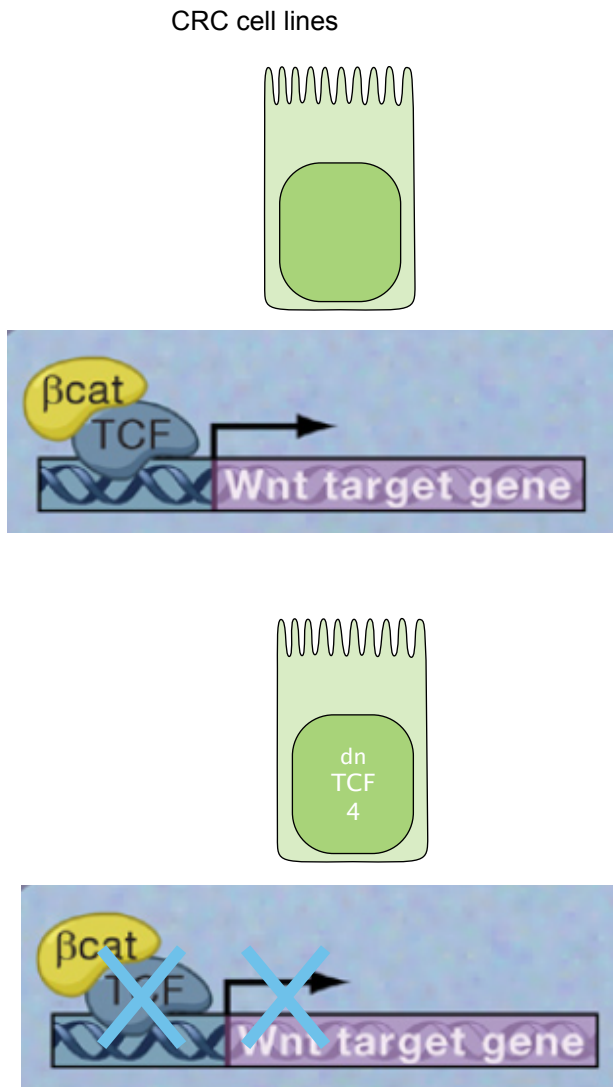
## - Evidence from mouse models:

- TCF4 <sup>-/-</sup> mice → no proliferative crypts
- conditional beta Catenin KO, DKK1 transgene →  
→ proliferative crypts disappear in adult mouse

## - Evidence from human intestinal cancers and cell lines:

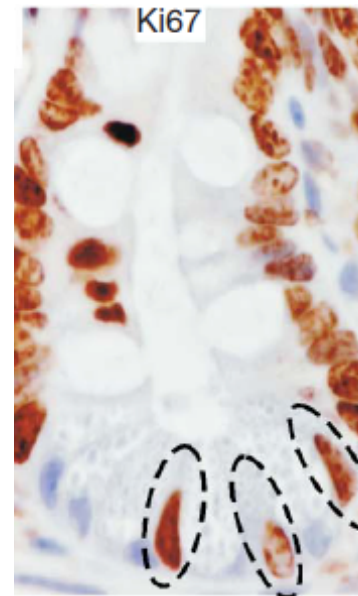
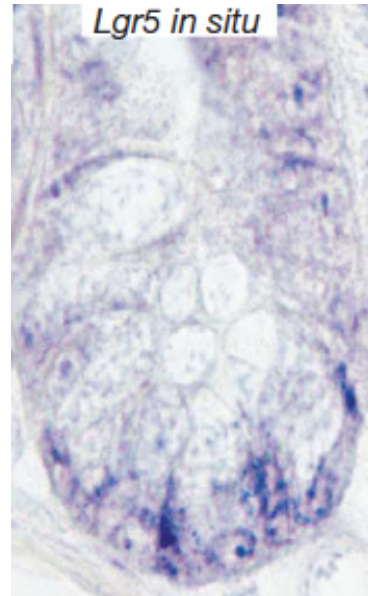
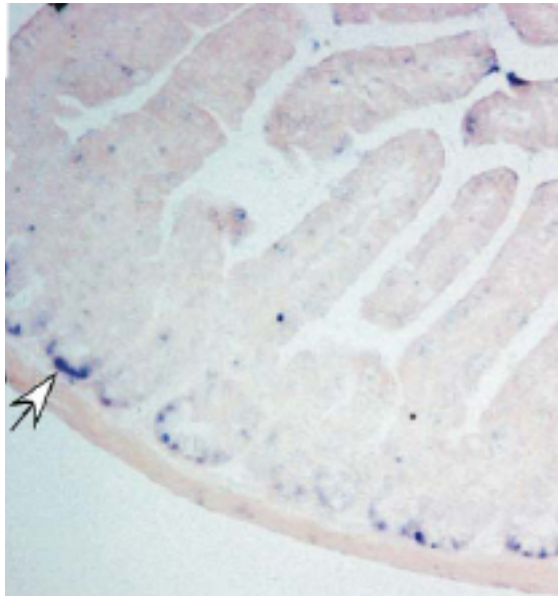
- wnt pathway always ON, loss of APC, beta-Catenin often overexpressed, mutated and nuclear

# Wnt target Genes



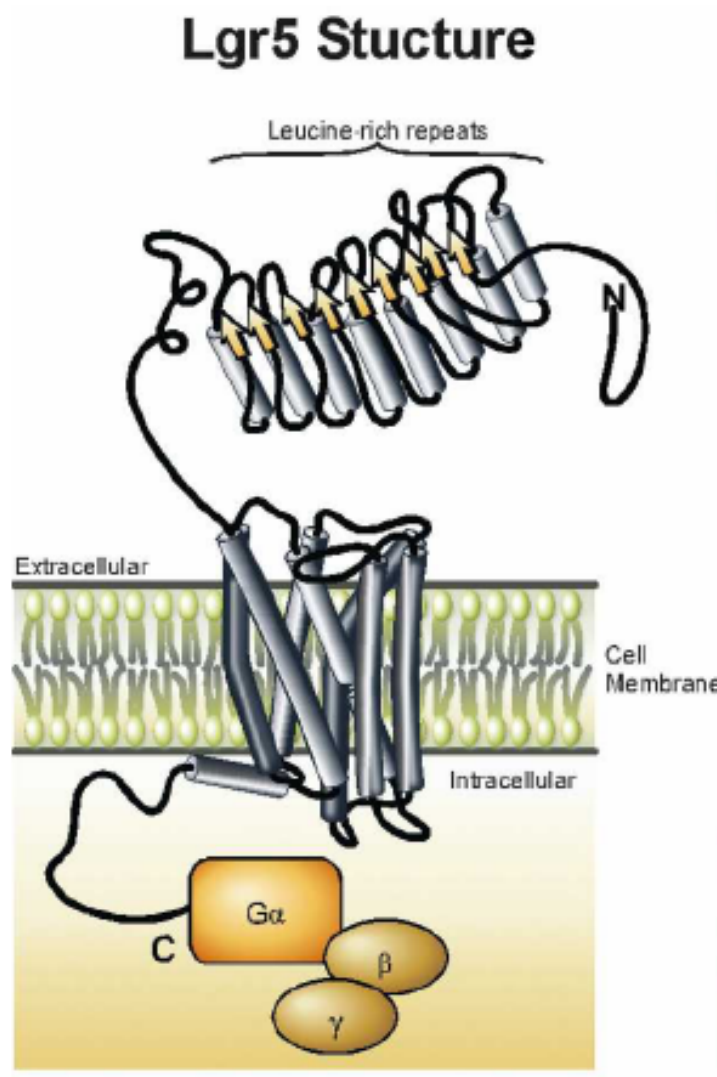
# LGR5 = GPCR49

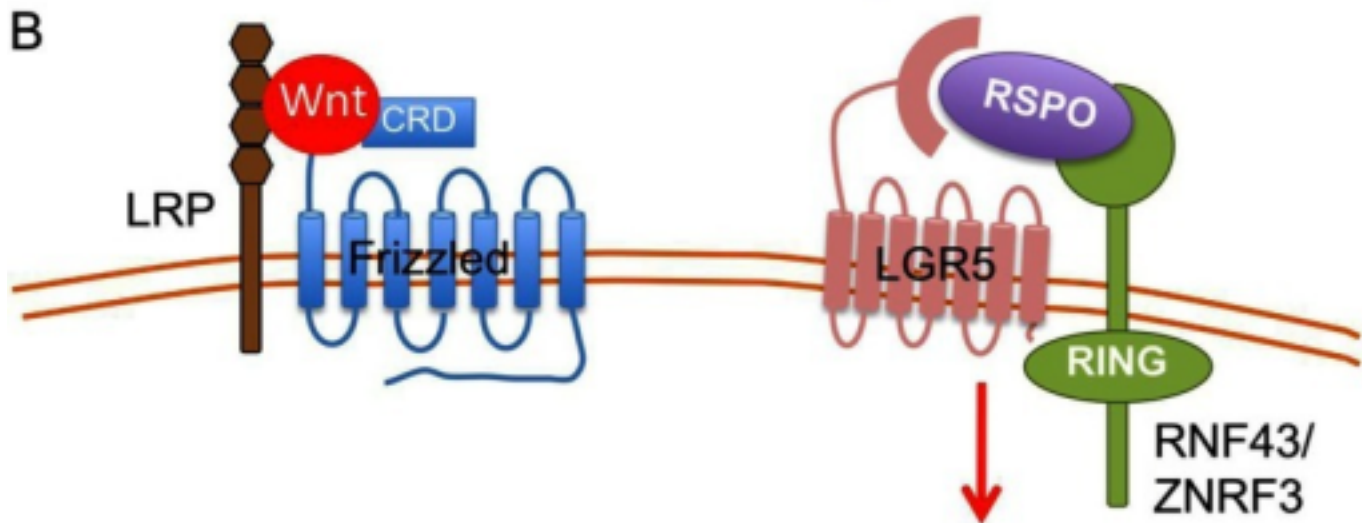
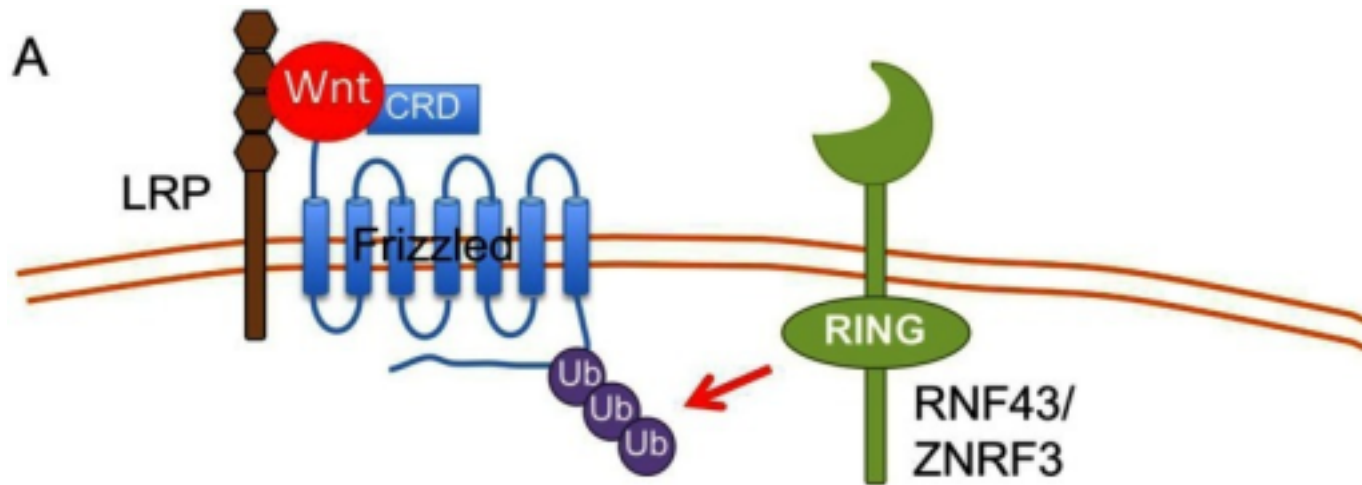
LGR5 ISH





# LGR5 = GPCR49

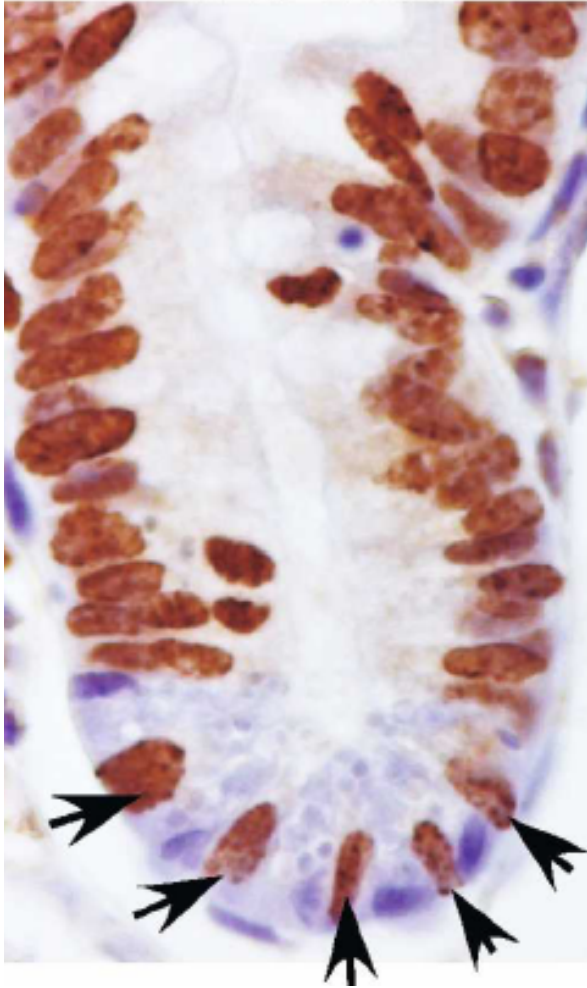




Membrane clearance

# LGR5+ cells cycle

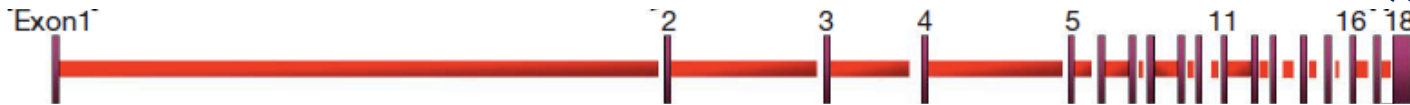
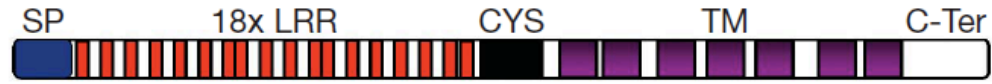
**BrdU-Labelled  
CBC Cells**



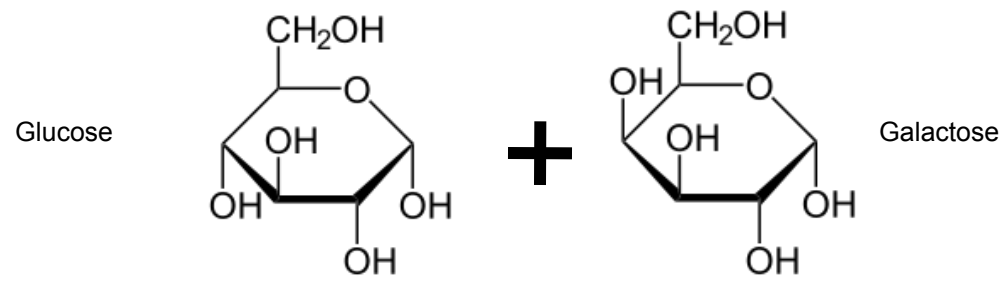
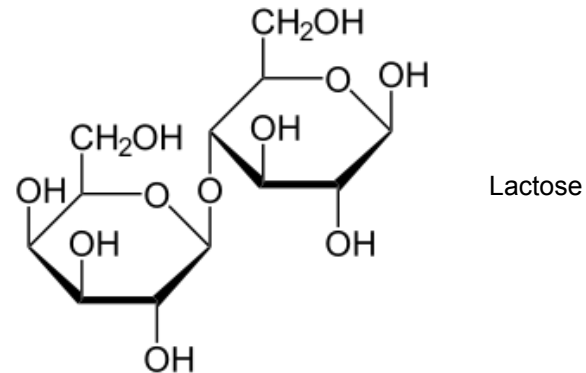
CBC cells = crypt base columnar cells

BrdU Labelling for 24 hrs

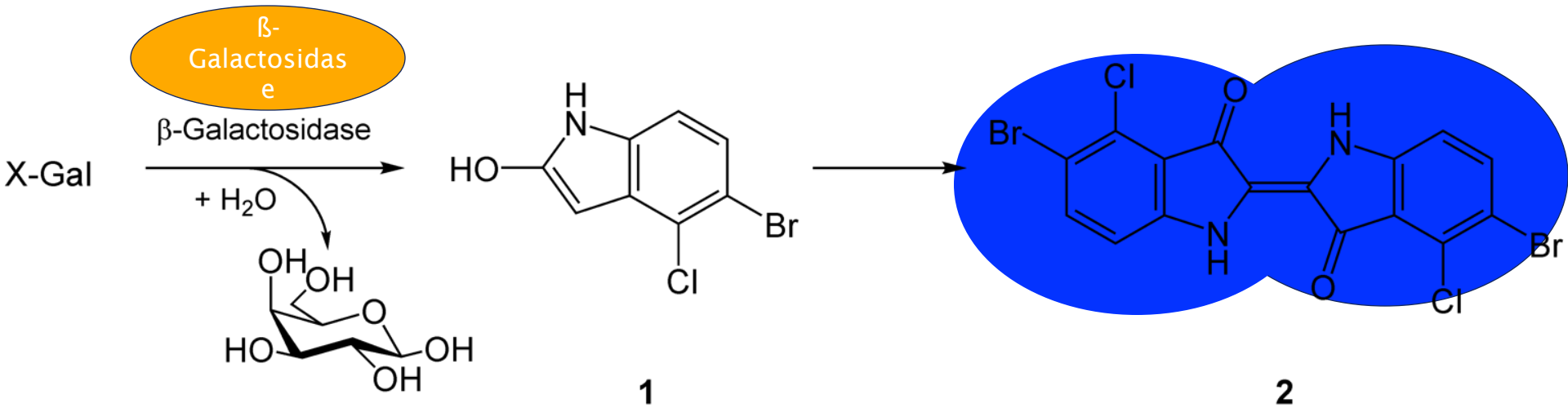
# LacZ knock in allele



# LGR5 = GPCR49

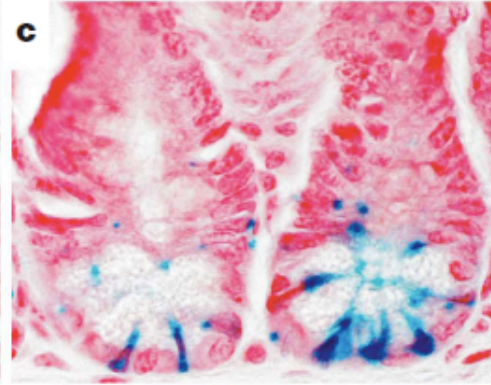
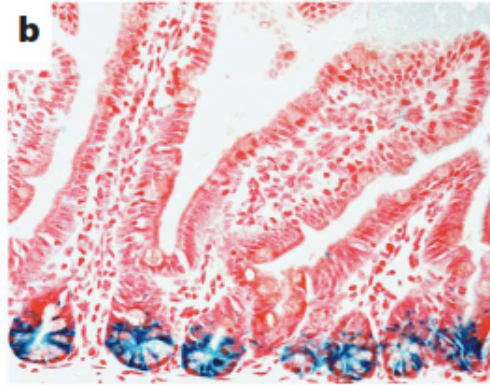


# X-Gal

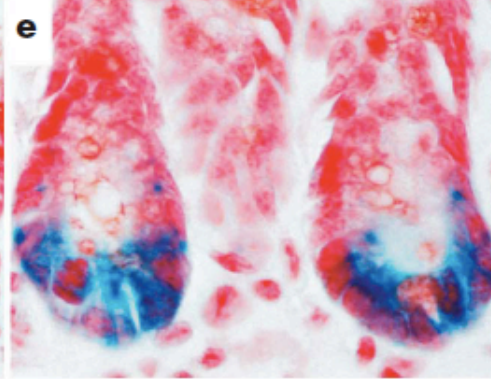
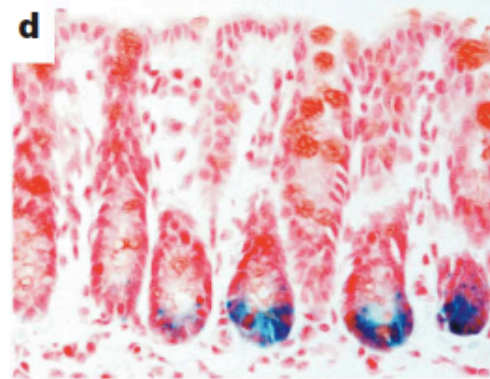


# Cell tracking

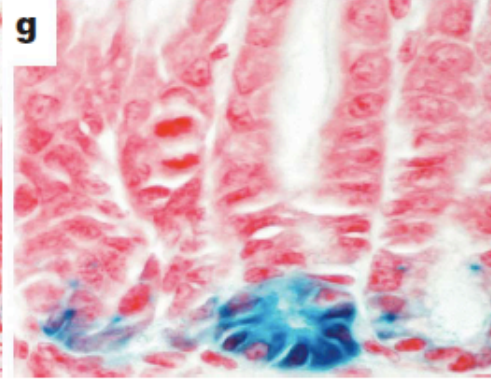
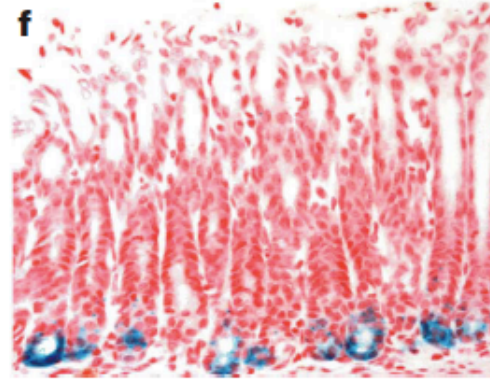
Dünndarm



Colon



Magen



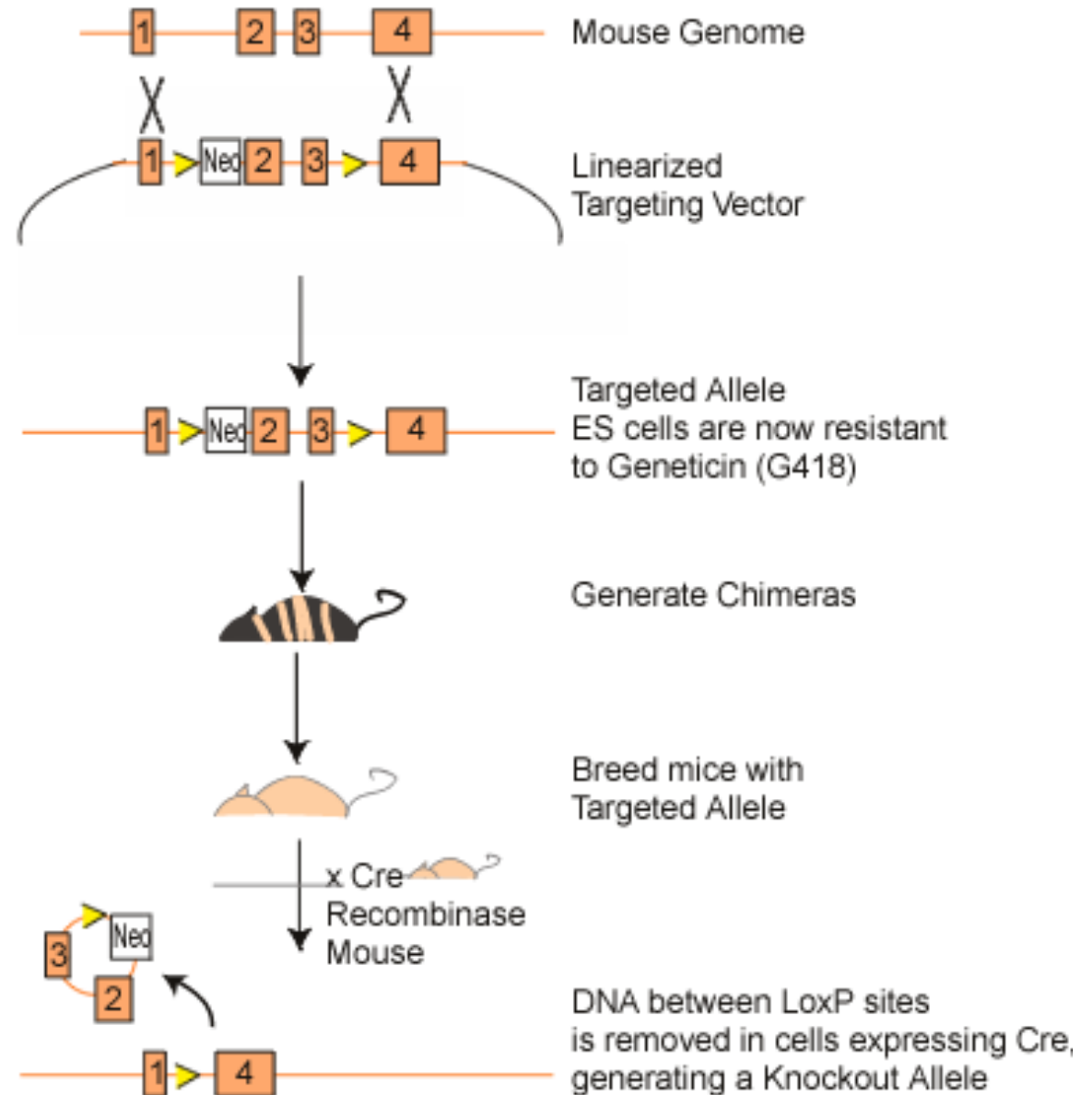
# Conditional Knockout

Cre recombinase

(Cre= causes recombination)

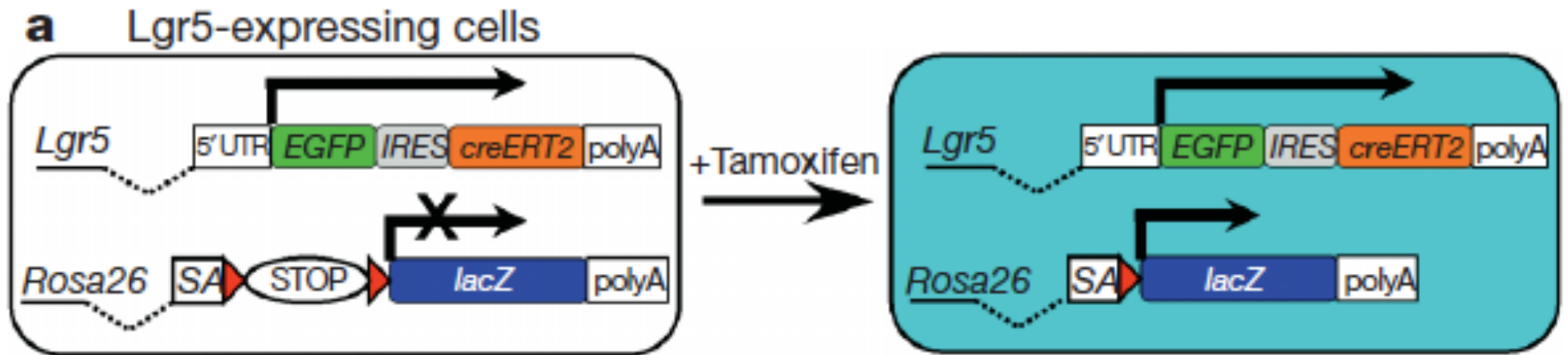
Aus Bakteriophagen P1

Erkennt spezifische Sequenzmotife (loxP sites)  
und  
Excisiert dazwischenliegende  
Sequenzen





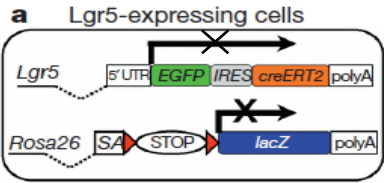
# Cell tracking/fate mapping



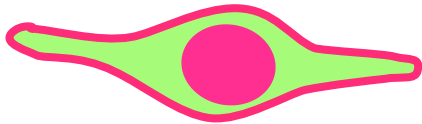
Rosa26 promoter is active in almost every cell

# Expectet results

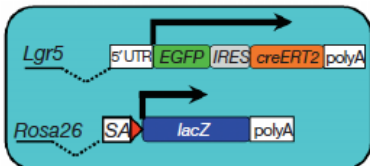
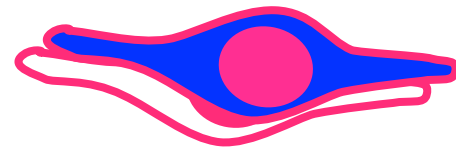
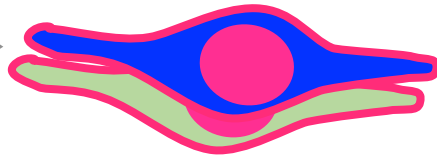
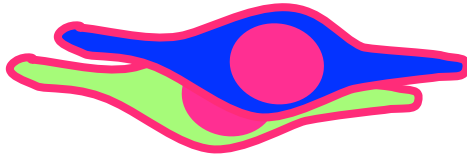
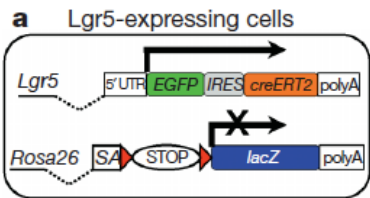
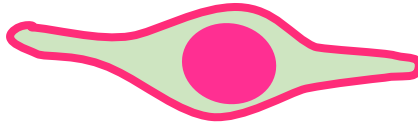
LGR5 not expressed



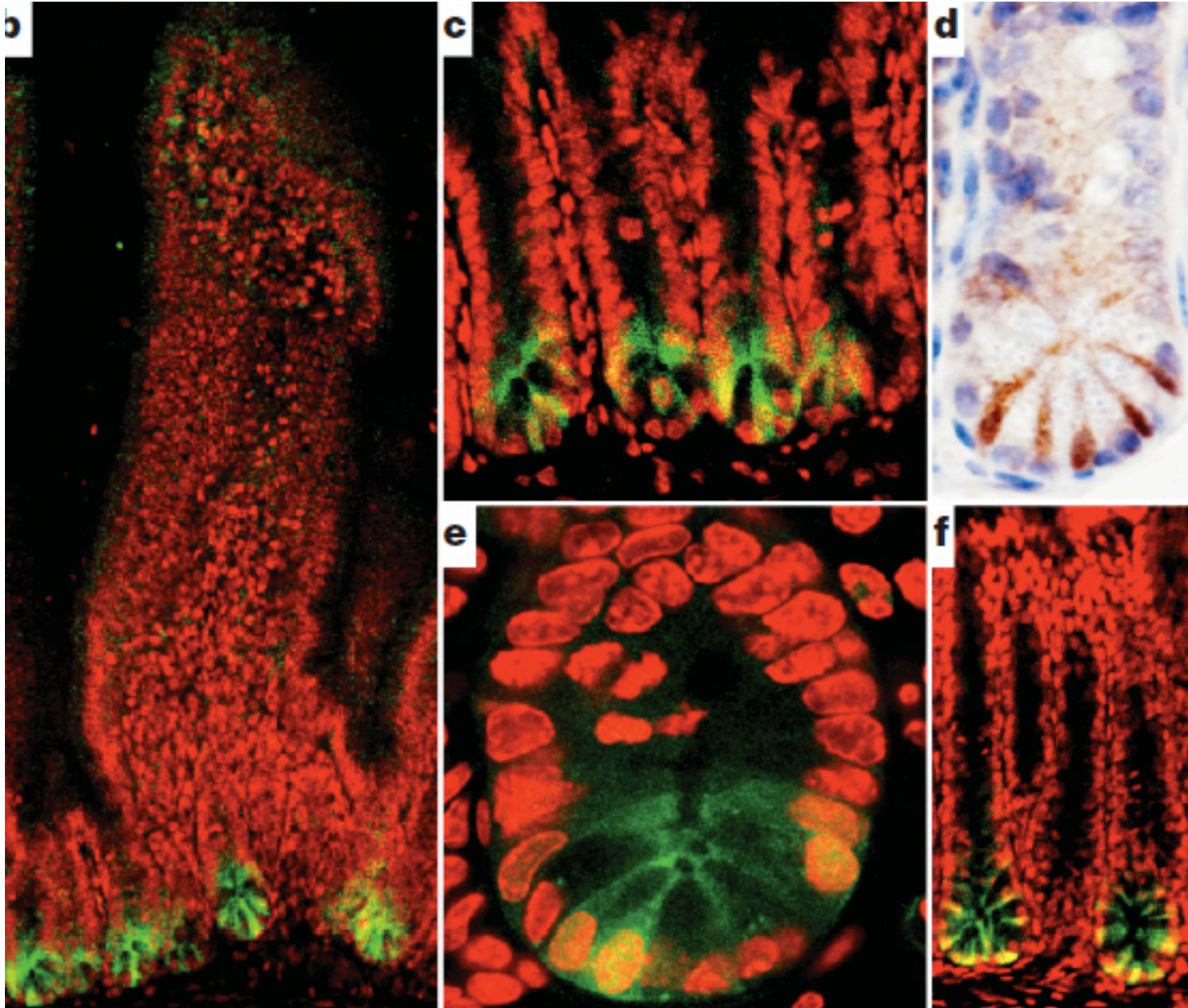
LGR5 expressed



LGR5 not expressed

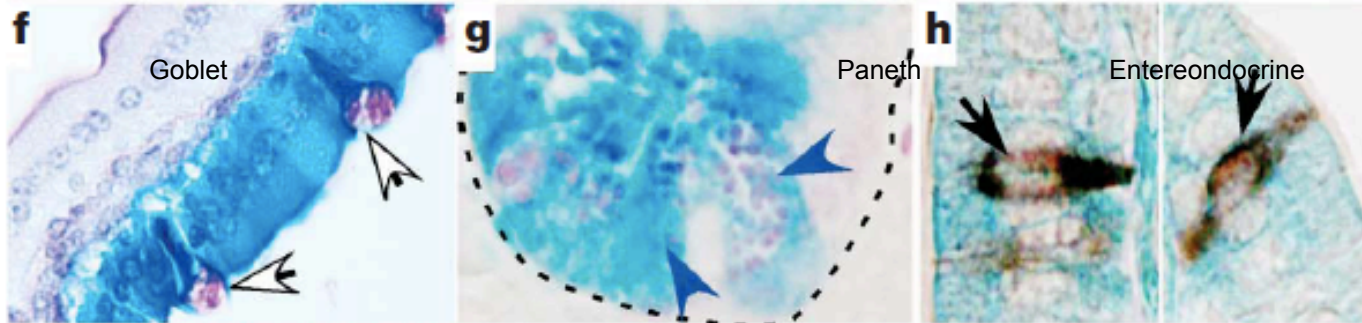
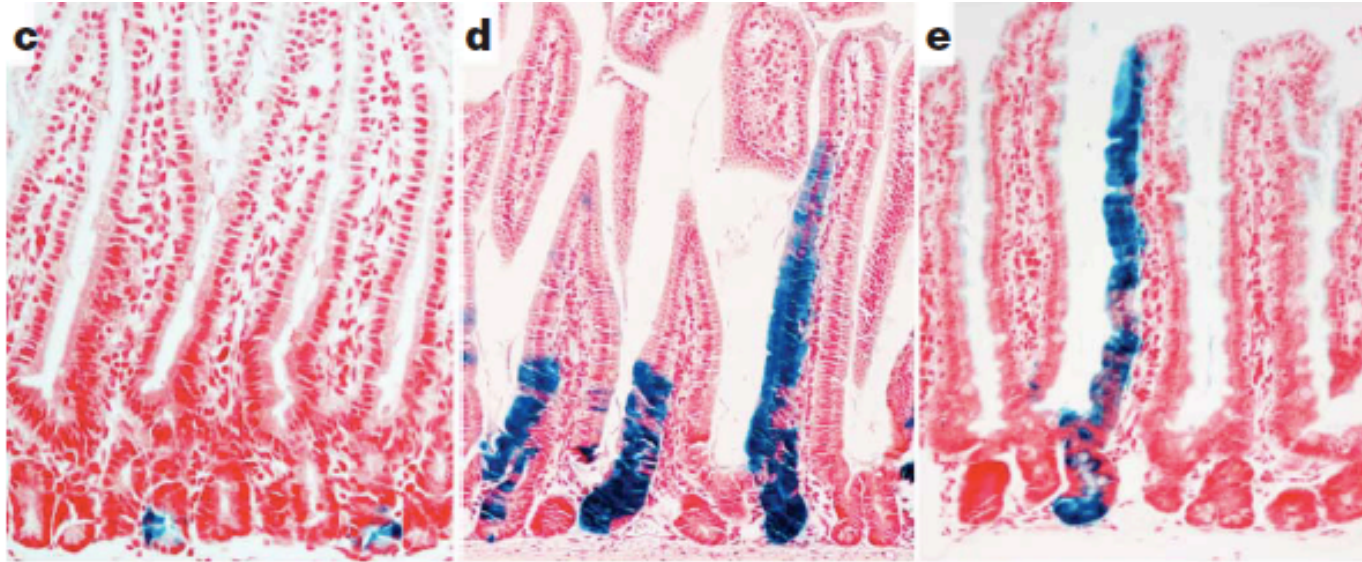


# GFP (LGR5 actively expressed)

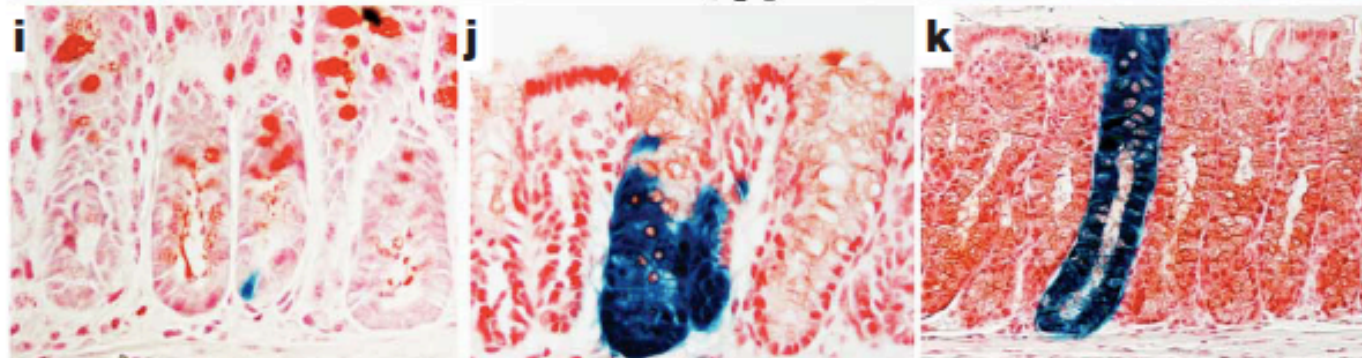


# Fate Mapping

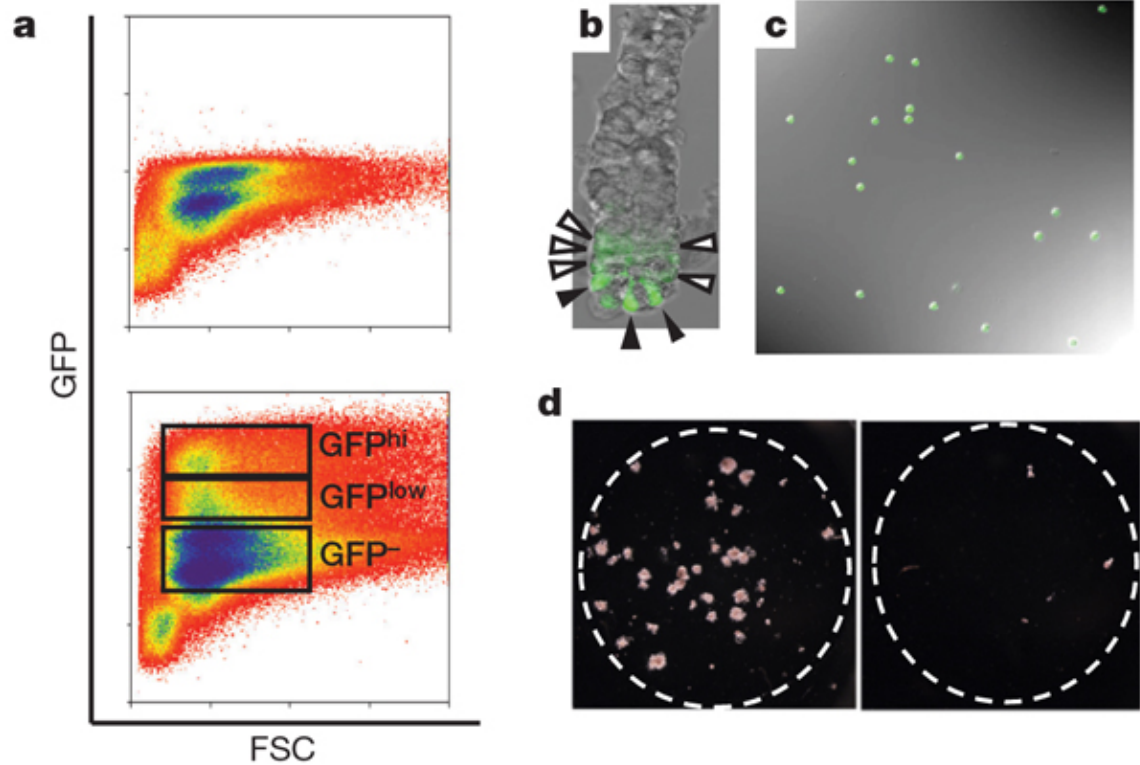
Dünndarm



Colon



# Isolation of LGR5<sup>+</sup> stem cells (GFP<sup>+</sup>)



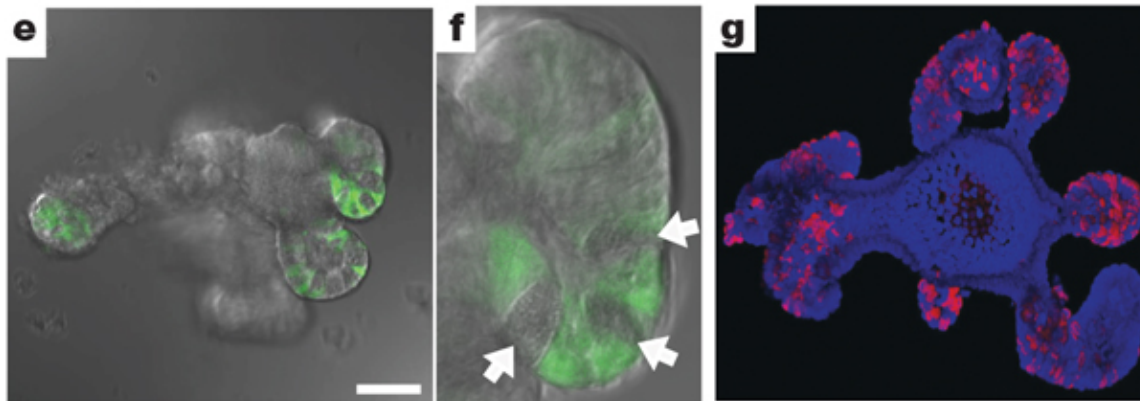
Kulturmedium:

Matrigel

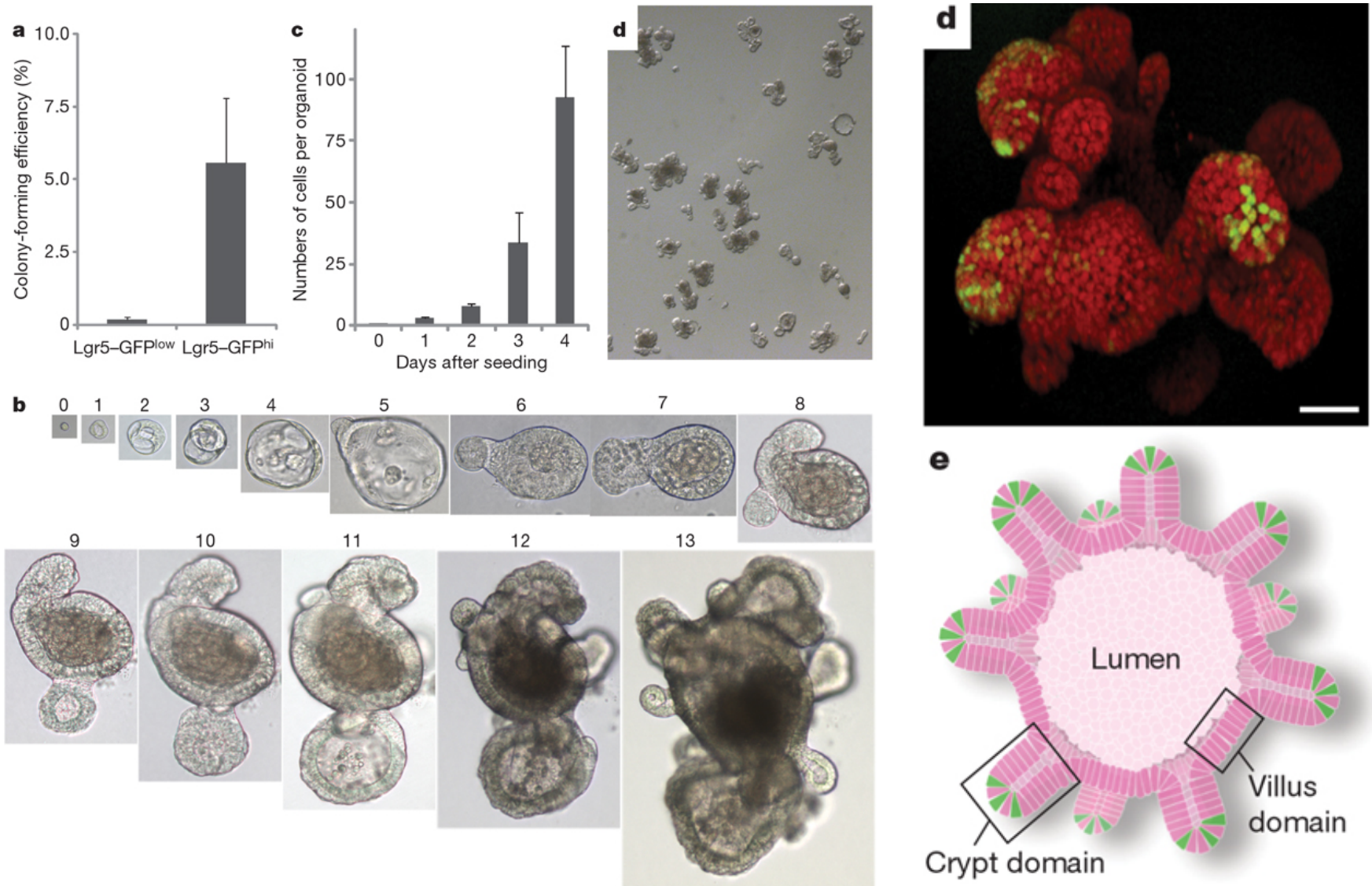
EGF

R-spondin 1 (Wnt Agonist)

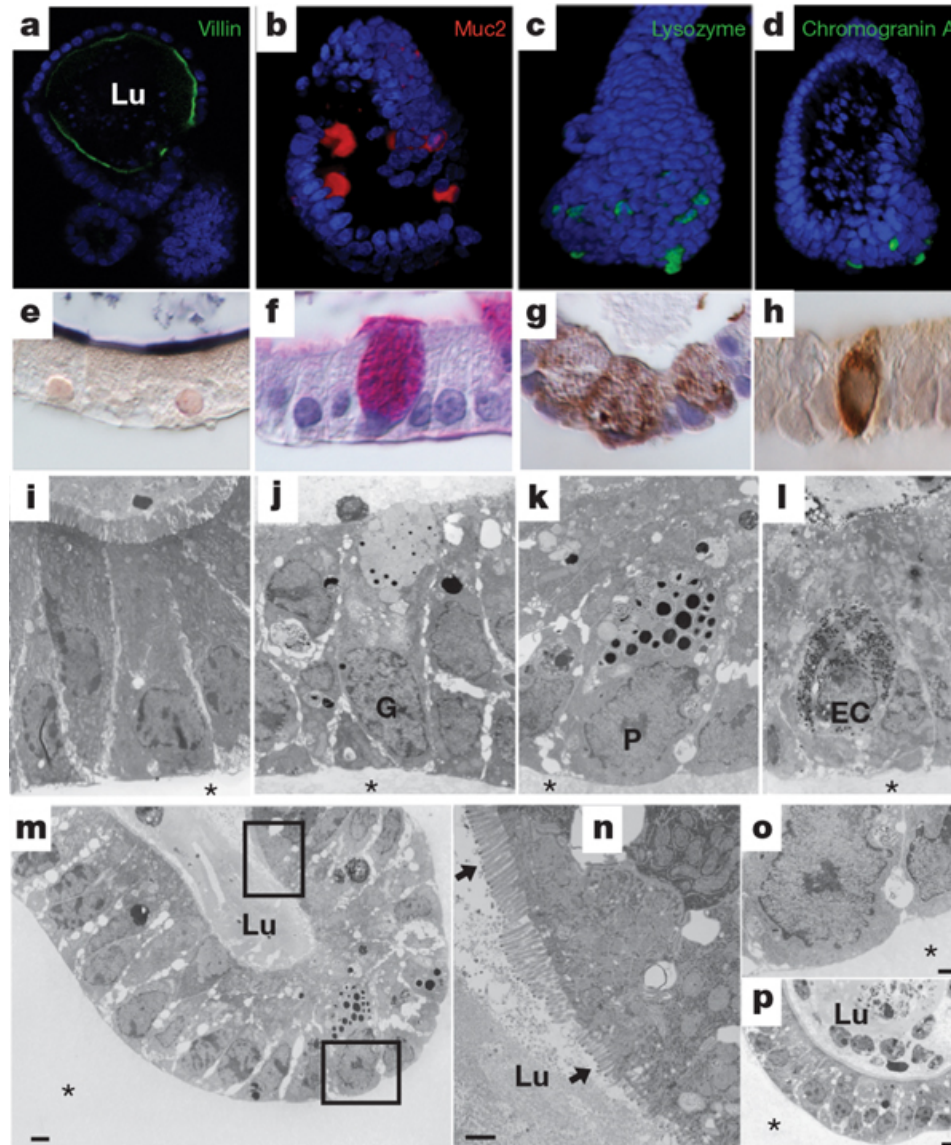
Noggin (TGFbeta Antagonist)



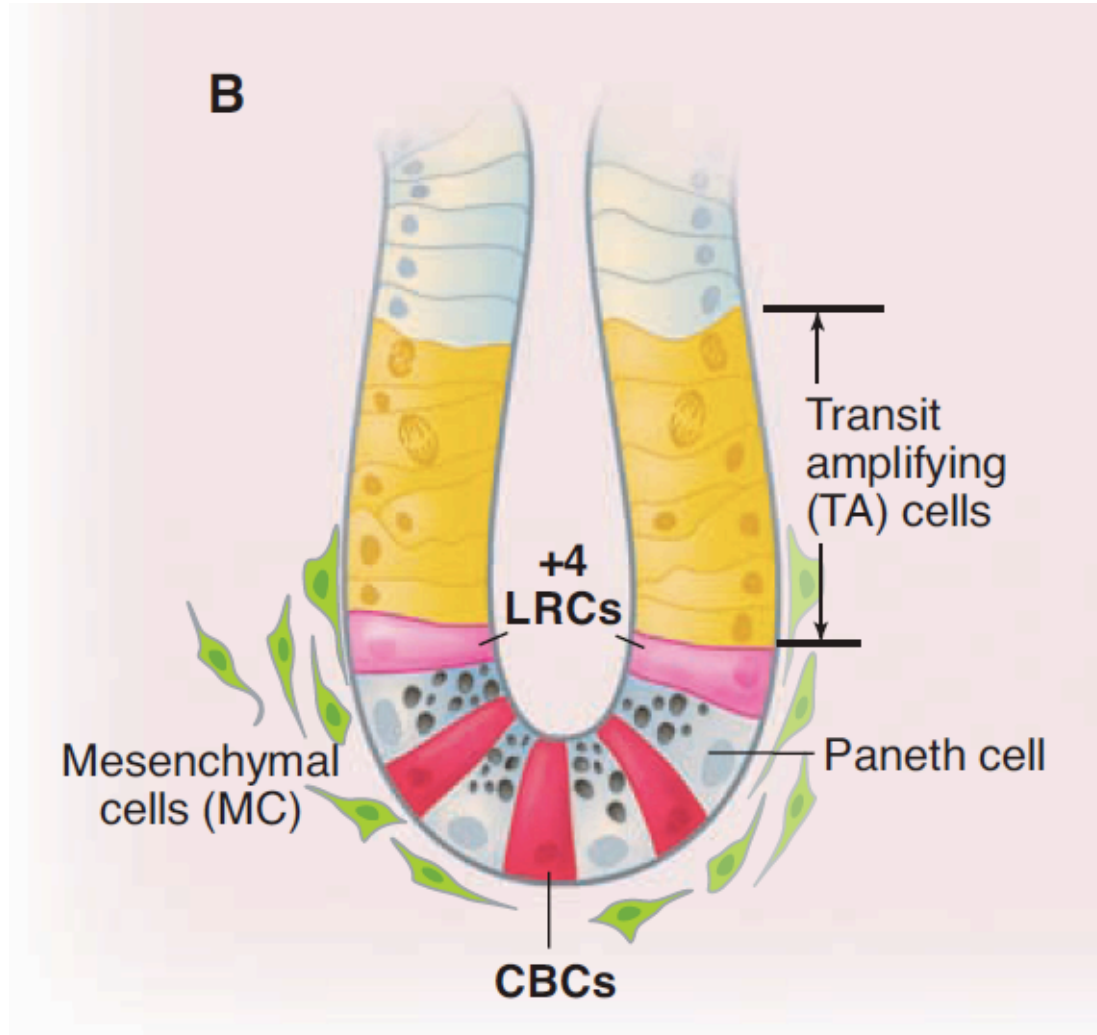
# Colony-forming efficiency



# Composition of single stem cell-derived organoids



# SCs in the intestine





# LGR5<sup>+</sup> stem cell depletion

a

Lgr5<sup>DTR/+</sup>

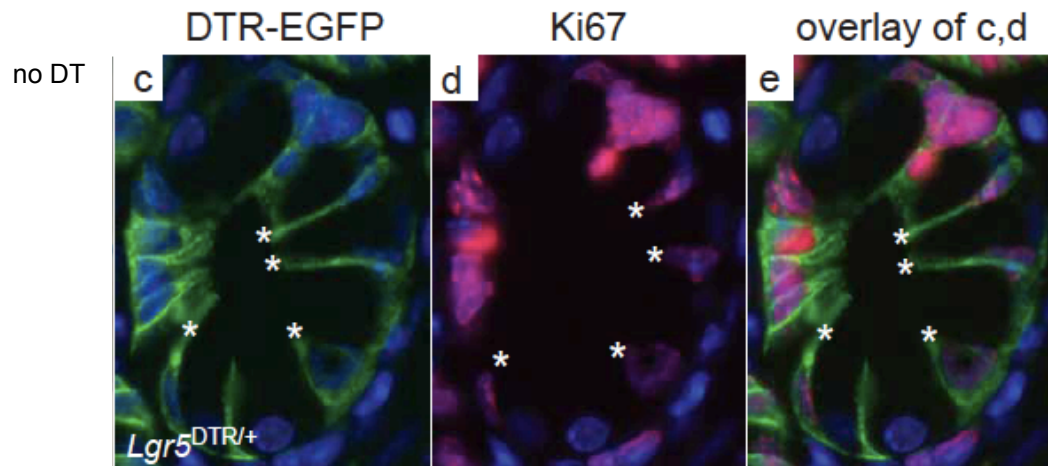
*Lgr5*<sup>DTR</sup>



-> fusion gene of diphtheria toxin receptor (DTR) and enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP)

Lgr5 expression -> green fluorescence

application of diphtheria toxin (DT) -> cells die, no fluorescence



# Intestine remains intact

## effects of depleted Lgr5?

Lgr5<sup>DTR/+</sup> mice

after DT administration no Lgr5 positive cells

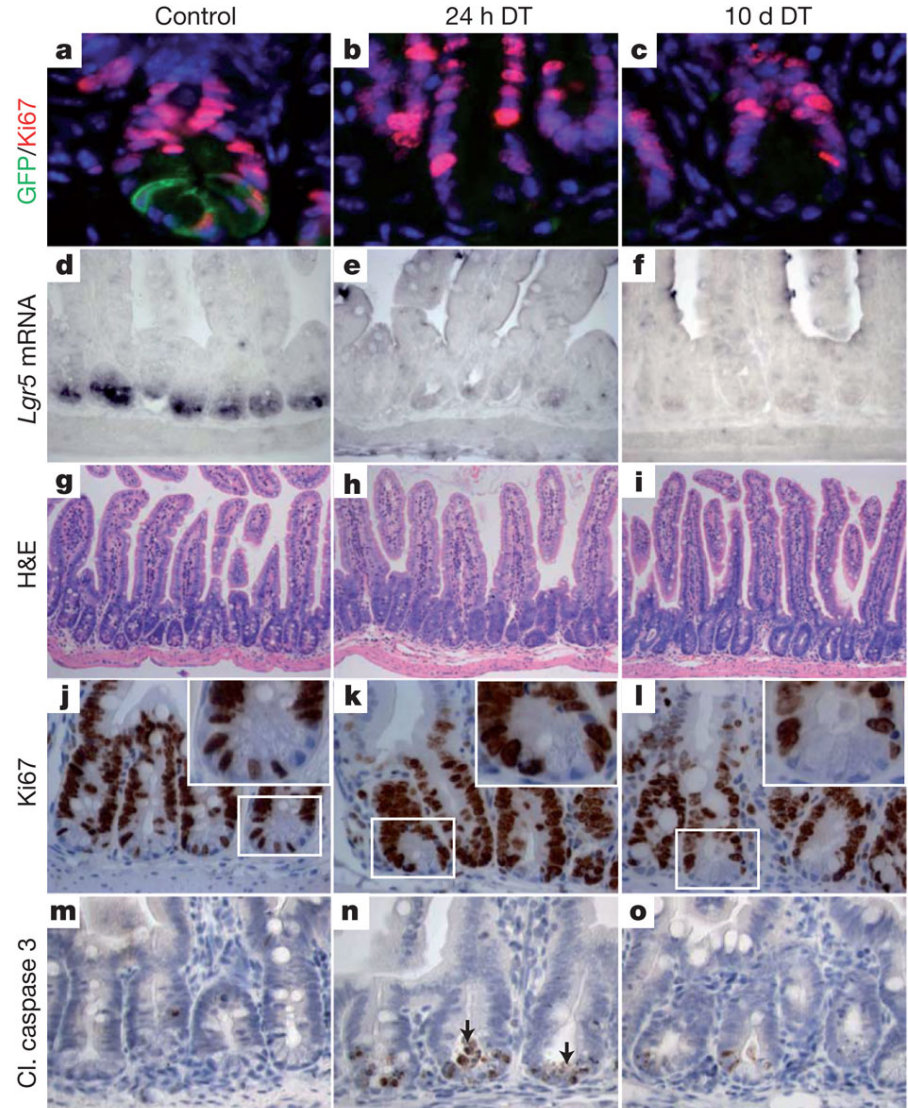
no Lgr5 mRNA present

architecture of epithelium intact

CBCs depleted

apoptosis induction after 24h  
after 10 d decrease but still visible

crypt architecture compareable to controls



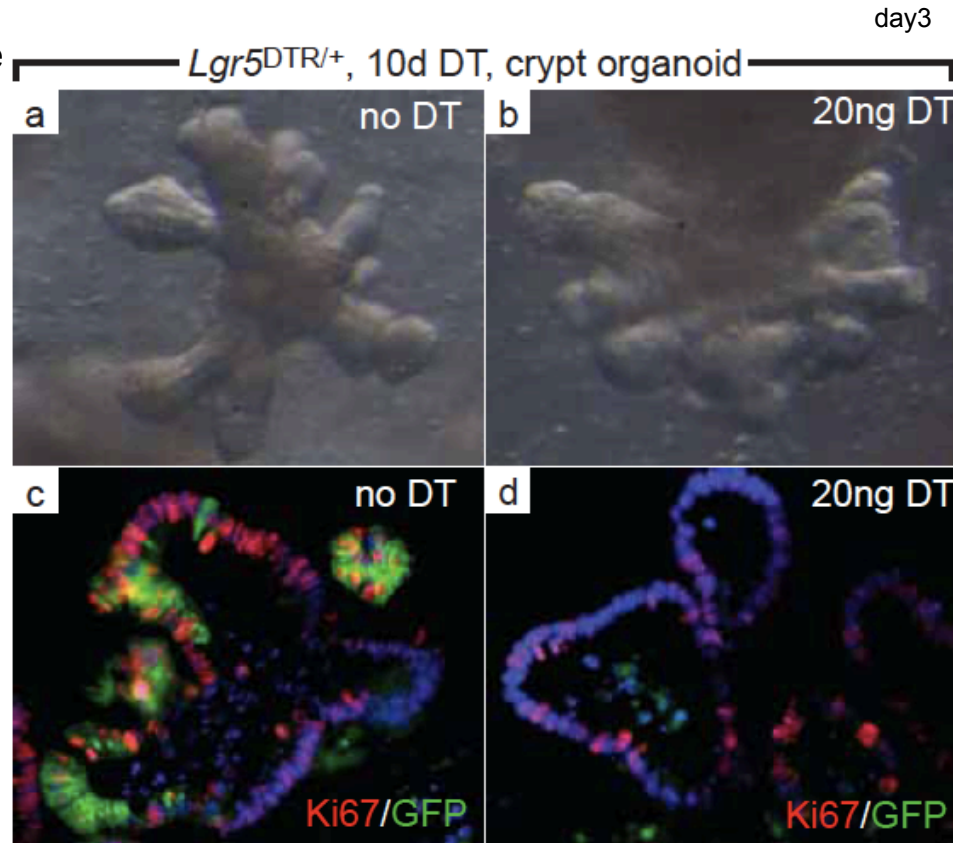
# Intestine remains intact

## long term effect of CBC ablation?

$Lgr5^{DTR/+}$  mice -> *in-vitro* organoid culture

mice treated for 10 days with DT  
-> crypts isolated

-> recovery a and c  
-> prolonged treatment b and d



no difference to controls  
Lgr5 depleted crypts passaged for up to 2 months

OCTOBER 2011 | VOL 478 | NATURE

A reserve stem cell population in small intestine renders *Lgr5*-positive cells dispensable

Hua Tian<sup>1</sup>, Brian Blehs<sup>2</sup>, Soren Warming<sup>1</sup>, Kevin G. Leong<sup>2</sup>, Linda Rangell<sup>1</sup>, Ophir D. Klein<sup>2</sup> & Frederic J. de Sauvage<sup>1</sup>

# Novel twist

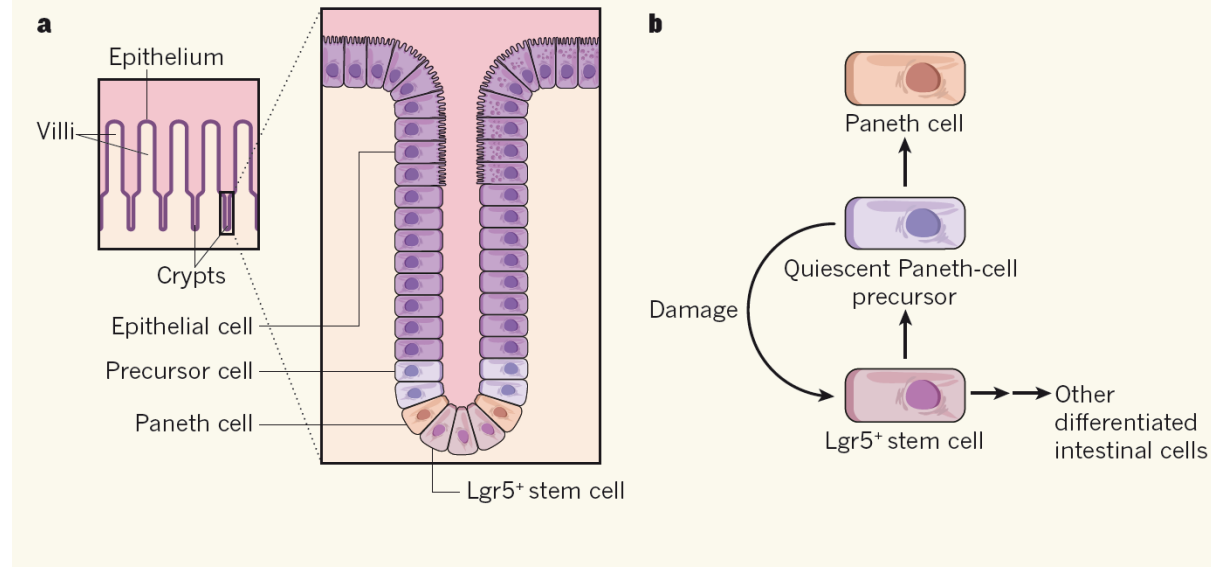
## Intestinal label-retaining cells are secretory precursors expressing Lgr5

Simon J. A. Buczacki<sup>1</sup>, Heather Ireland Zecchini<sup>1</sup>, Anna M. Nicholson<sup>1</sup>, Roslin Russell<sup>1</sup>, Louis Vermeulen<sup>1</sup>, Richard Kemp<sup>1</sup> & Douglas J. Winton<sup>1</sup>

STEM CELLS

### A unifying theory for the crypt

A long-standing ambiguity has been whether quiescent cells located in intestinal crypt structures are stem cells. The answer seems to be yes and no, depending on how one defines the term stem cell. [SEE ARTICLE P.65](#)

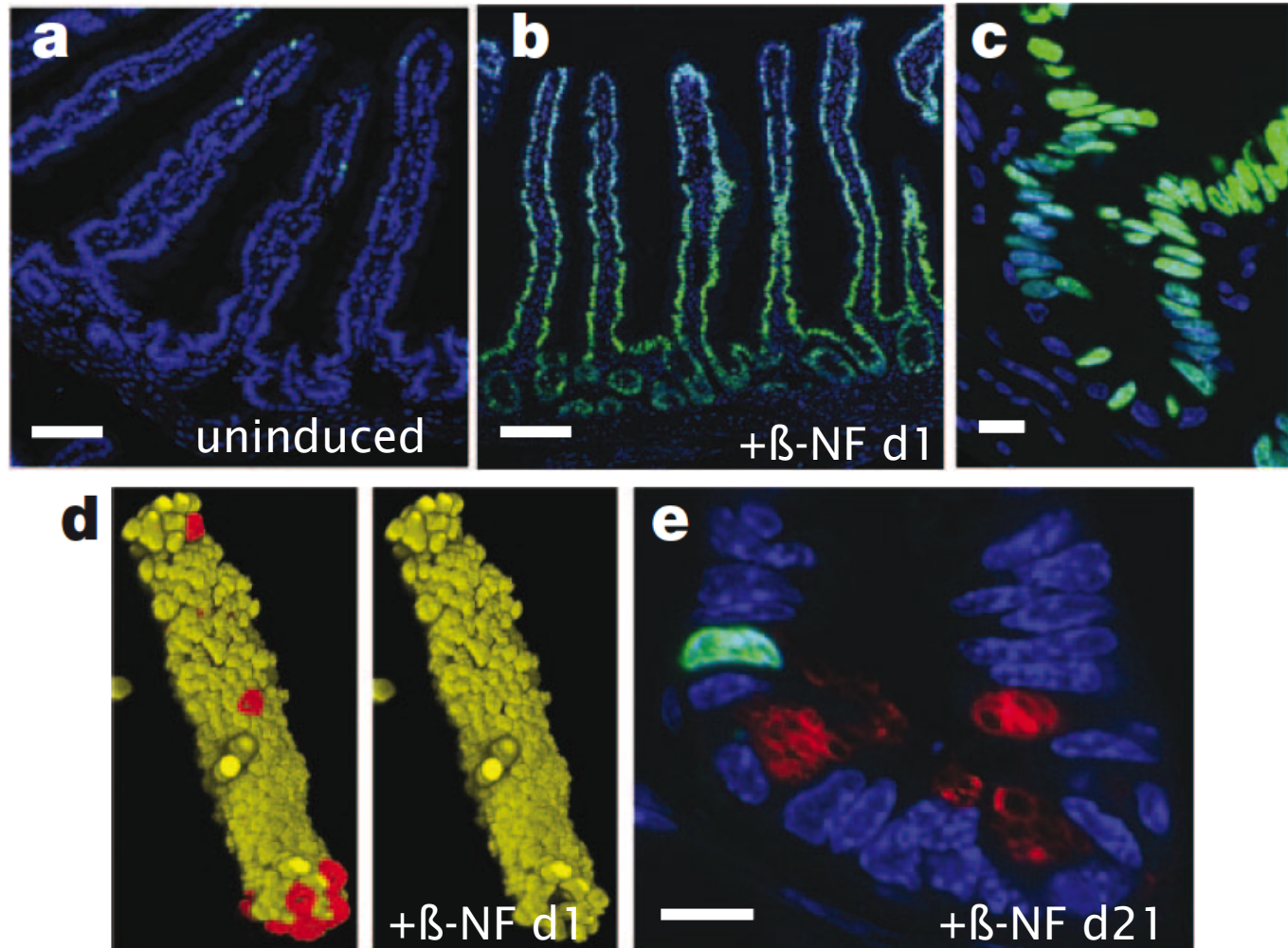


**Figure 1 | Complexities of intestinal stem cells.** **a**, The intestinal epithelium follows the distinct contours of villus–crypt units in the intestine. **b**, Normally, Lgr5-expressing stem cells ( $Lgr5^+$ ) lead to the production of precursor cells that further differentiate into the various types of crypt epithelial cell. Buczacki *et al.*<sup>1</sup> report that precursors of one type of differentiated intestinal cell, Paneth cells, can persist for several weeks in a quiescent state before maturing into Paneth cells. Intriguingly, these quiescent precursors can revert back into  $Lgr5^+$  stem cells following crypt damage.

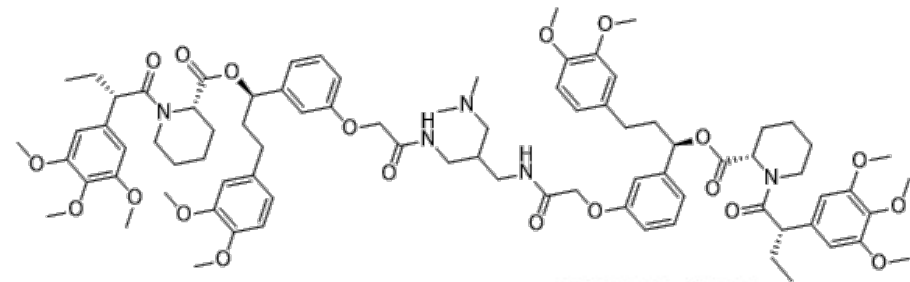
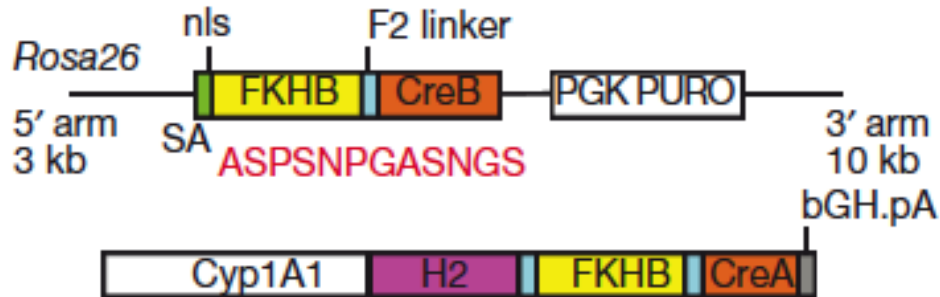
7 MARCH 2013 | VOL 495 | NATURE | 65

# genetically labeling of LRC

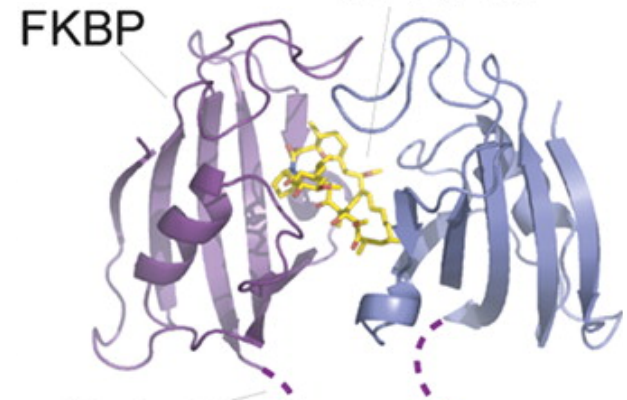
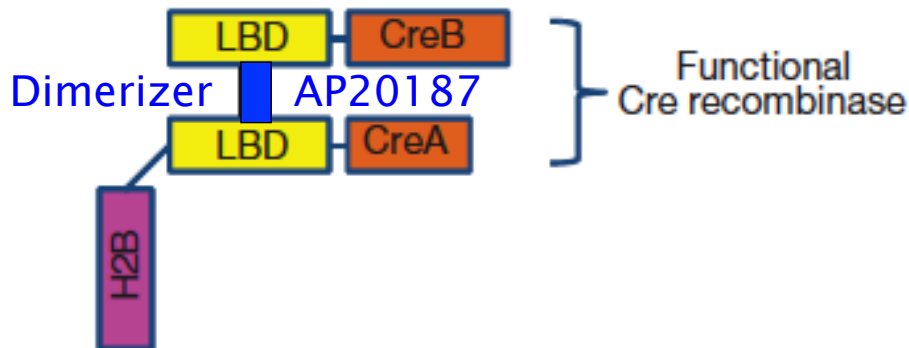
Cyp1a1 promoter driven expression of YFP-H2A fusion protein  
Cyp1a1 promoter expression on  $\beta$ NF (naphtoflavon) induction in all cells of the crypt-villus axis with the exception of the mature Paneth cells



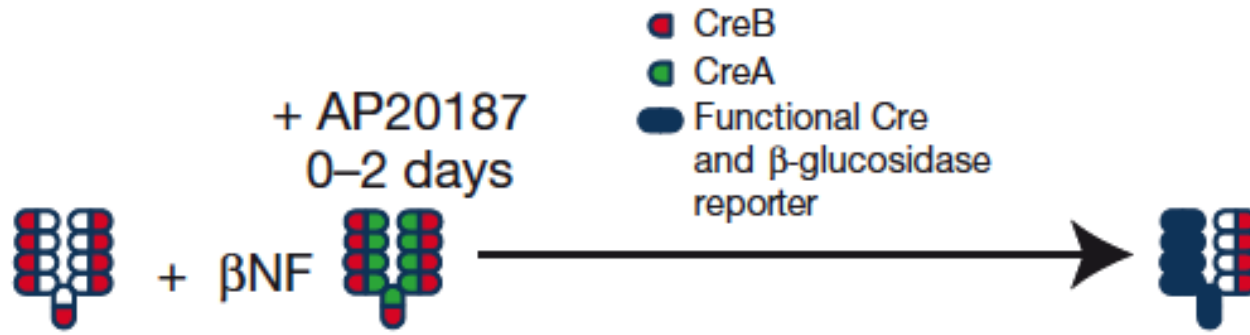
# novel Cre (parts A and B dimerizable)



AP20187



# How are LRC genetically identified?

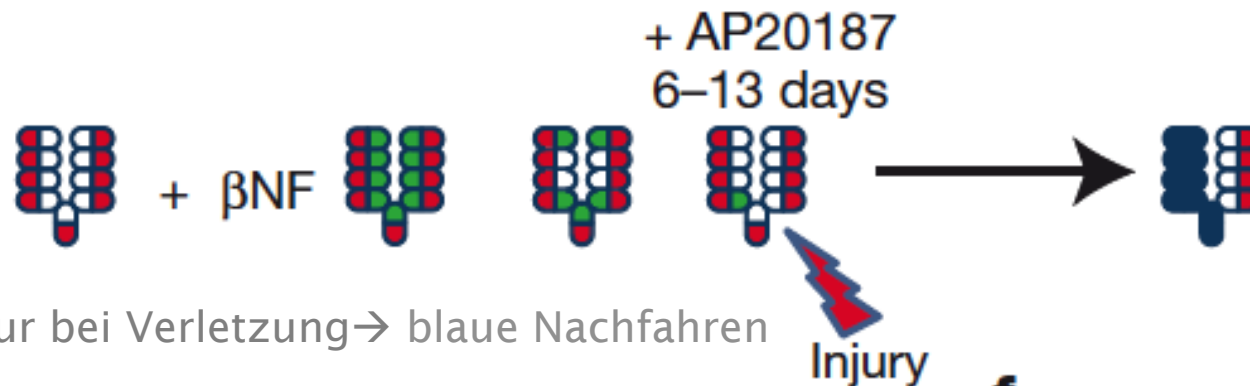


→ Kontrolle: alle Zellen gelabeled: fate mapping → blaue Nachfahren



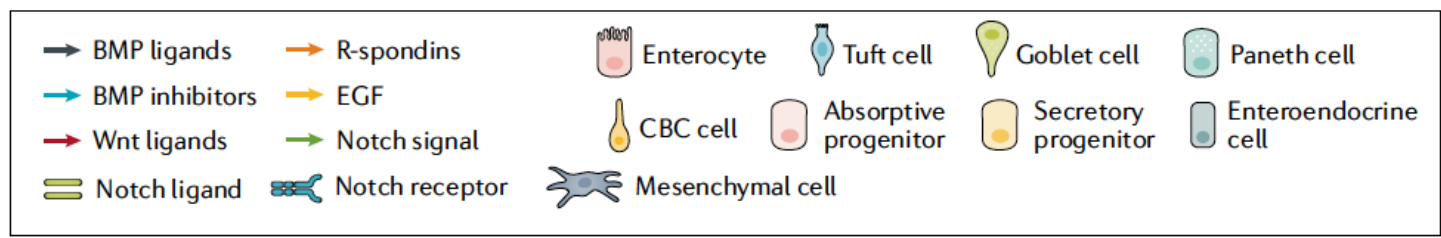
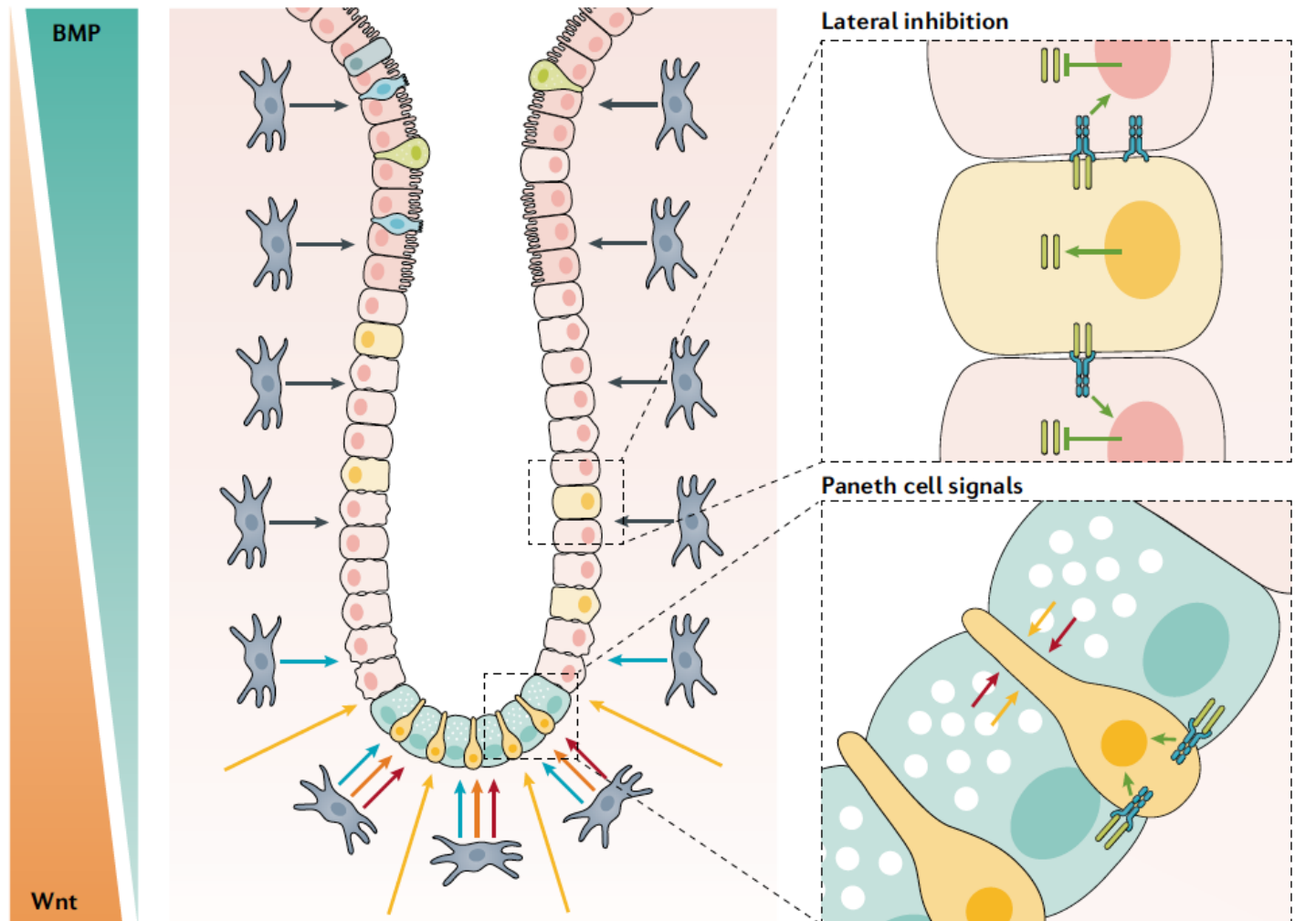
No clone formation

→ unter Homöostase Bedingungen → keine blaue Nachfahren



→ nur bei Verletzung → blaue Nachfahren

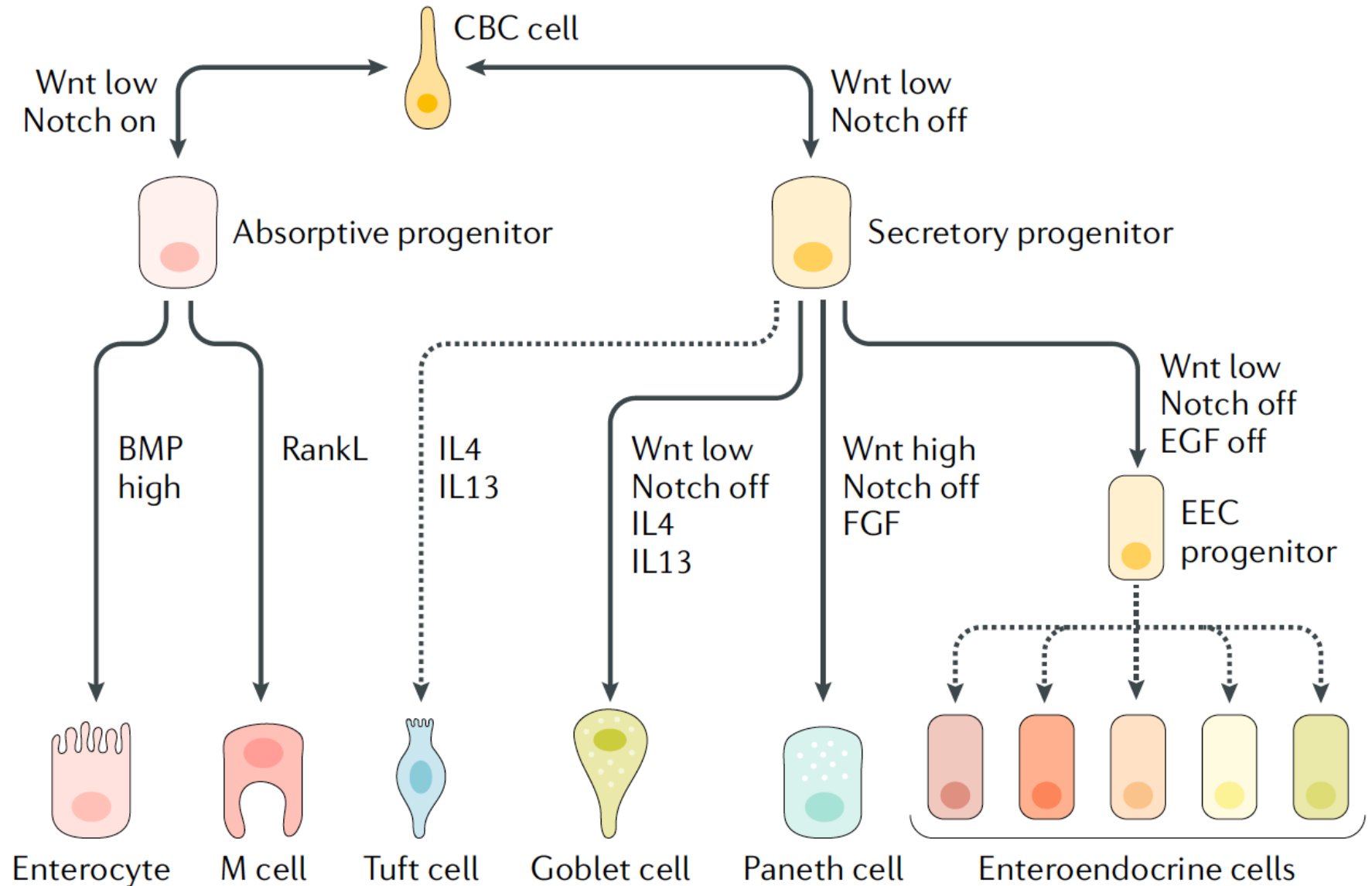
# Current Model



Gehart and Clevers, 2019 Nat Rev Gastroenterology & Hepatology

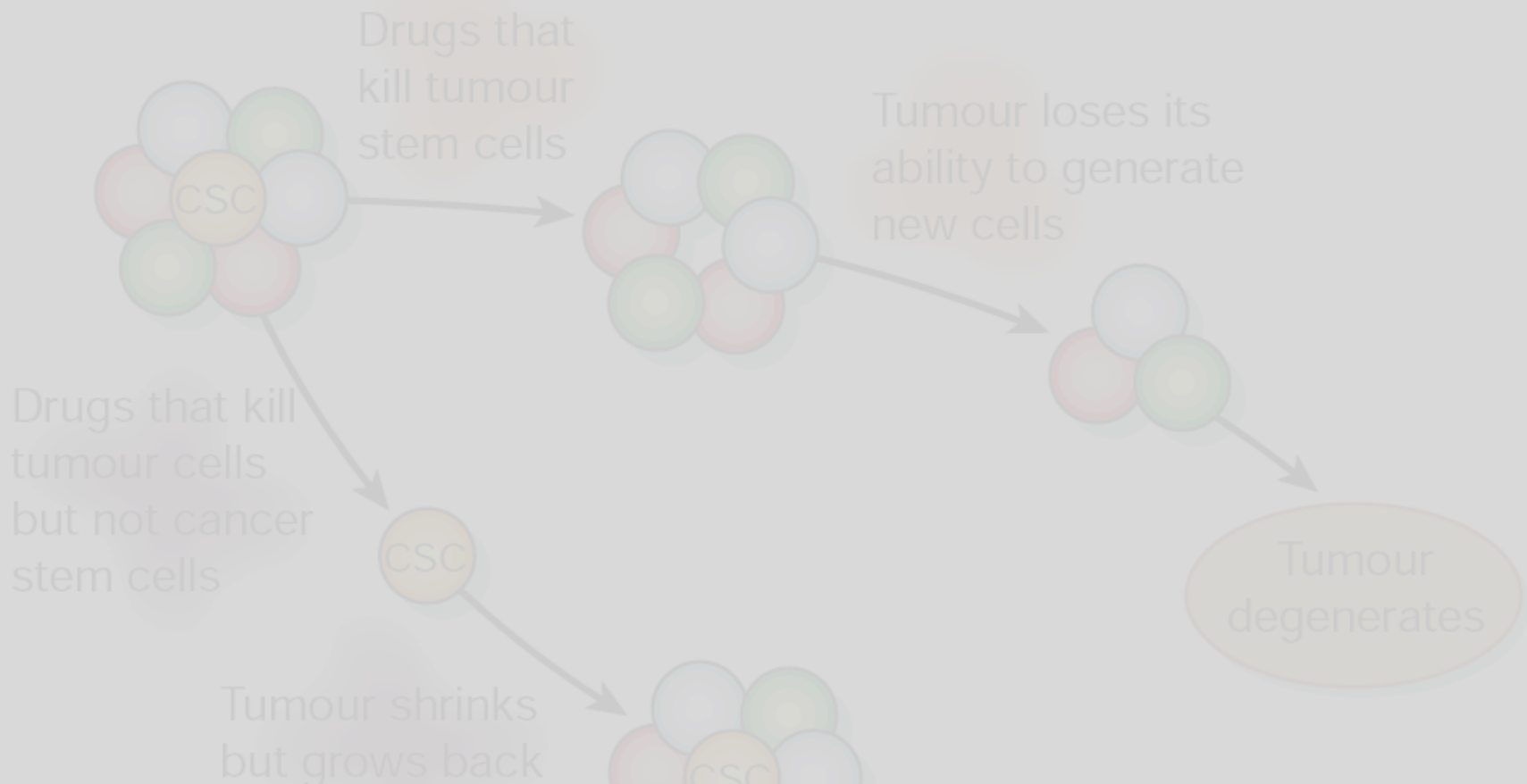


# Generation of differentiated cells



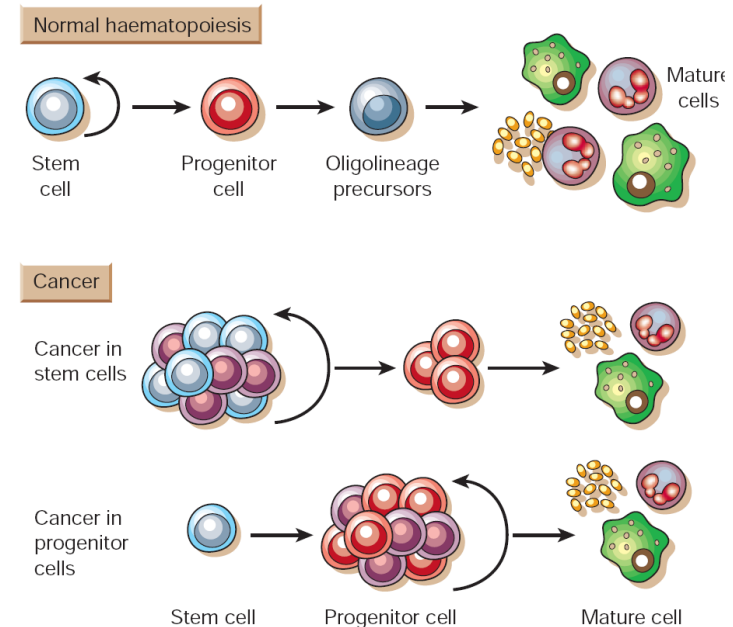
Gehart and Clevers, 2019 Nat Rev Gastroenterology & Hepatology

# Cancer stem cells

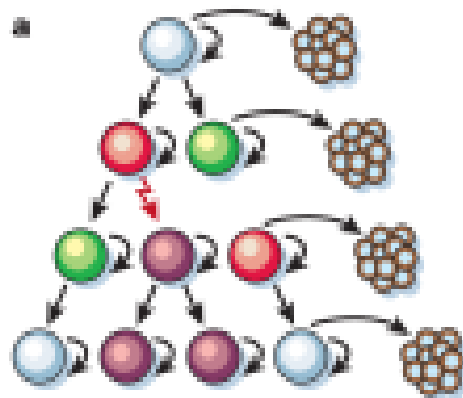


# Cancer stem cells

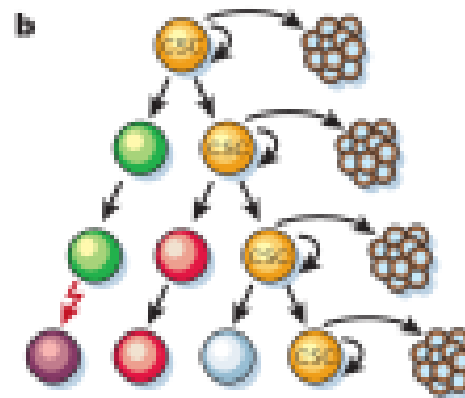
- tumors are heterogenous, why?
  - ongoing mutagenesis can only partially explain this
- some tumors seem to arise from small populations of “cancer stem cells”
  - AML
    - AML stem cells (proliferative)
    - and remaining AML cells with reduced proliferative potential
  - also shown for breast cancer, glioblastoma, colon carcinoma
- cancer stem cells arise from mutations hitting normal stem cells



# Cancer stem cells

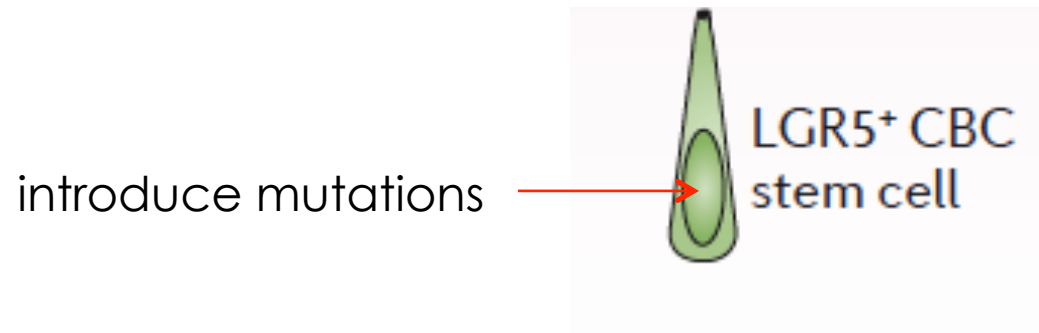


Tumour cells are heterogeneous, but most cells can proliferate extensively and form new tumours

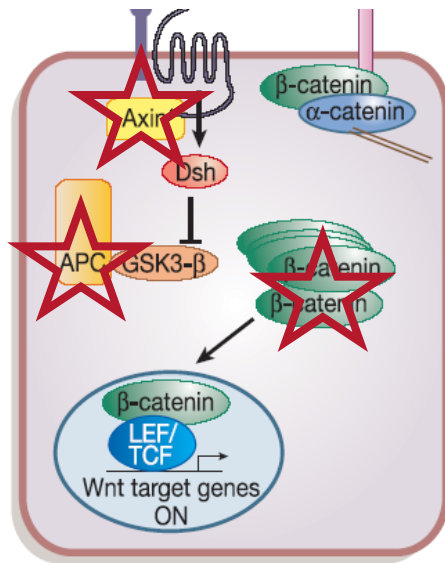


Tumour cells are heterogeneous and only the cancer stem cell subset (CSC; yellow) has the ability to proliferate extensively and form new tumours

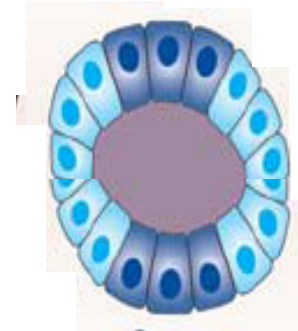
# Can we establish cancer from ISCs?



# Wnt signalling

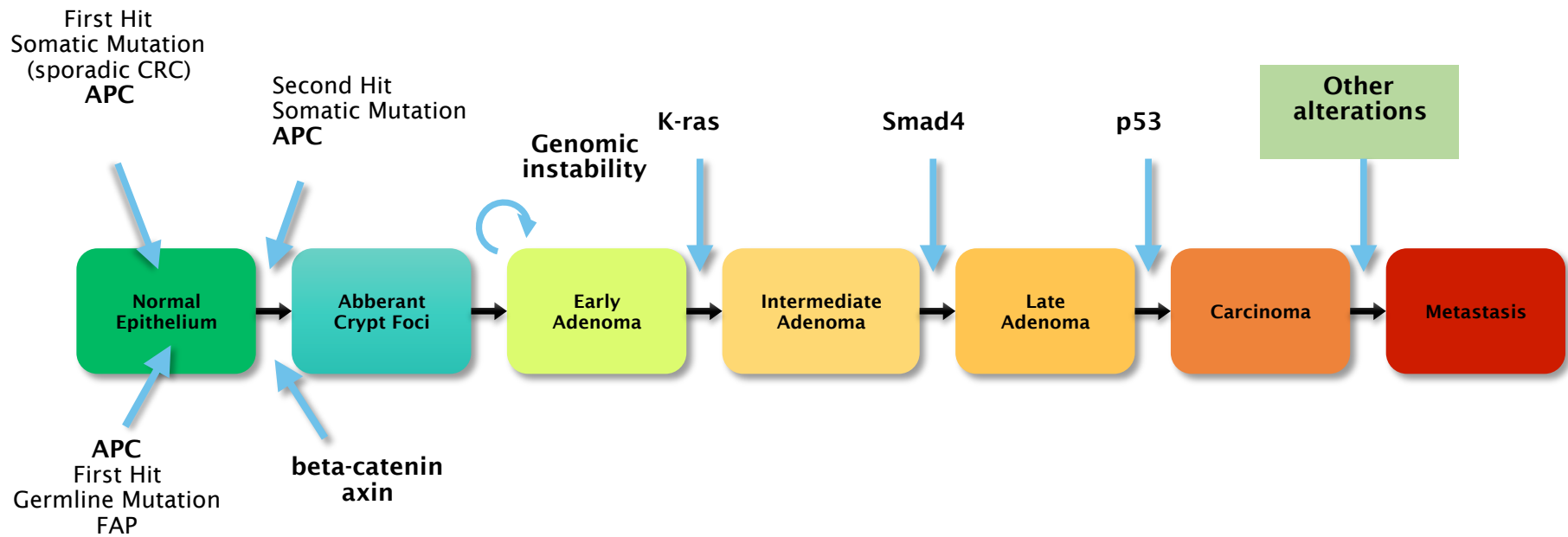


wnt ON



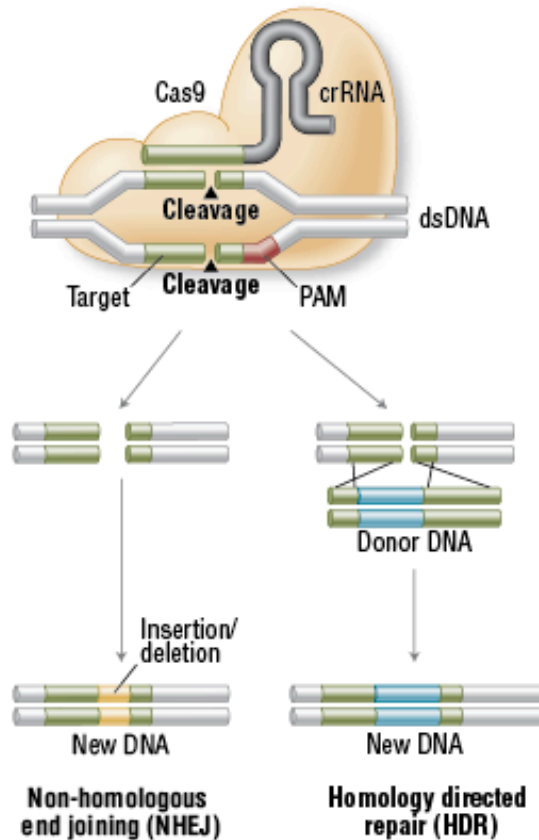
adenoma

# Colorectal Cancer

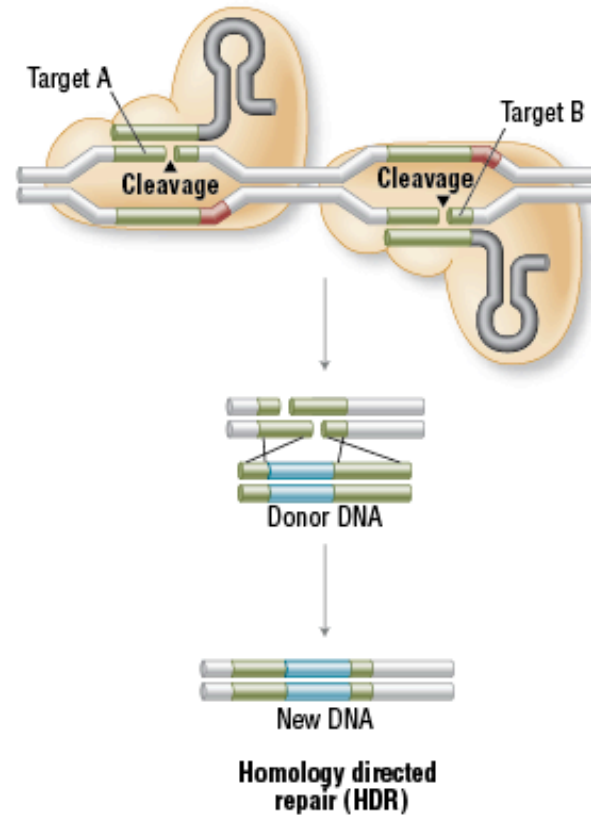


# CRISPR/CAS9 Genome editing

A. Genome Engineering With Cas9 Nuclease



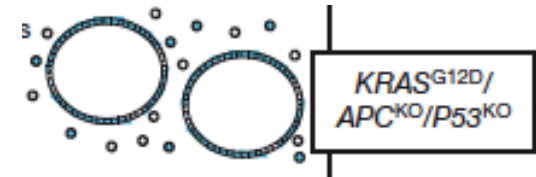
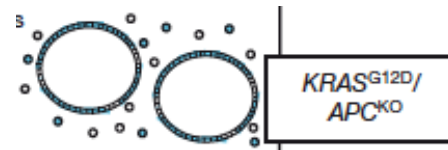
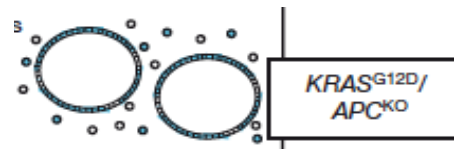
B. Genome Engineering By Double Nicking With Paired Cas9 Nickases





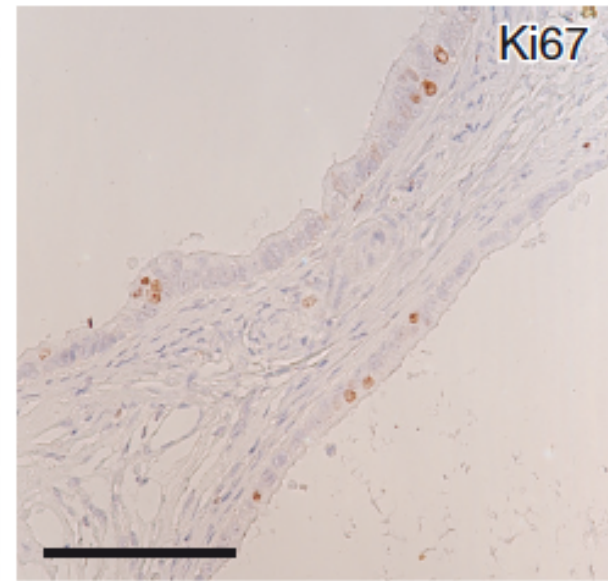
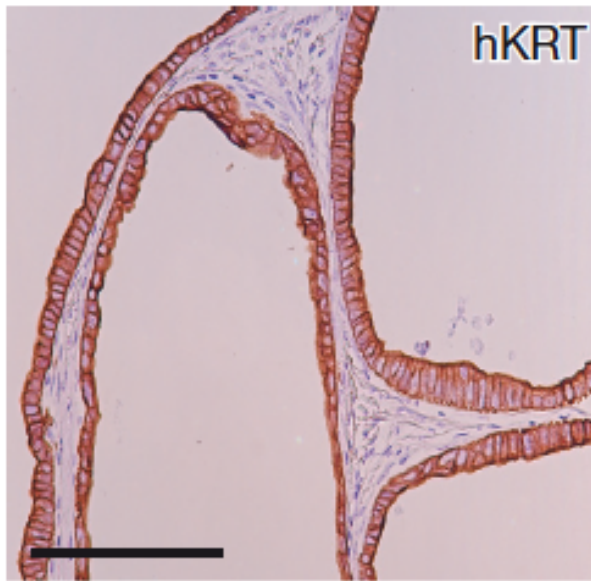
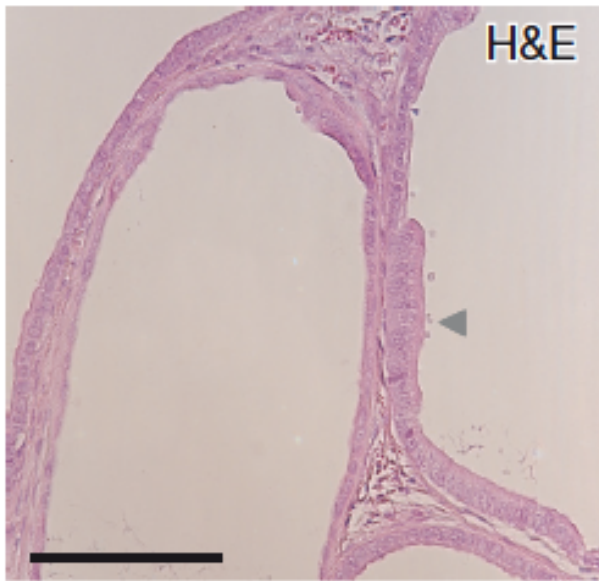
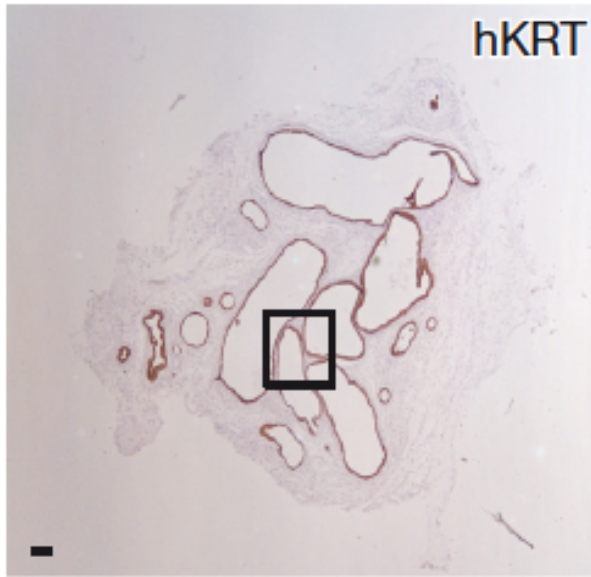
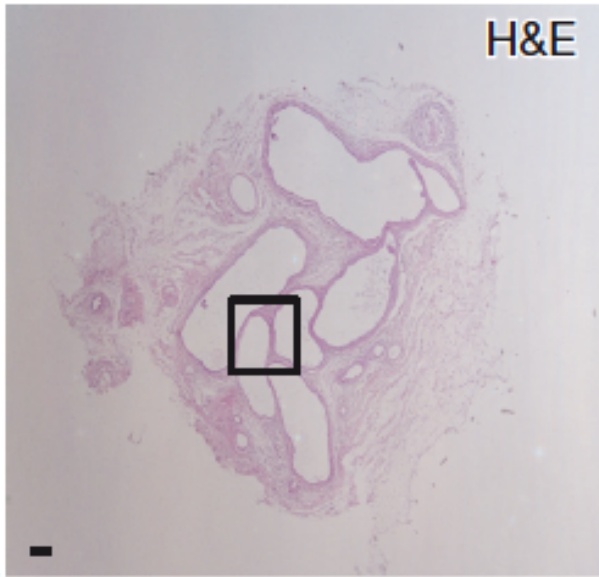
# Cancer from CBCs

Human Intestinal Stem cells (CBCs)

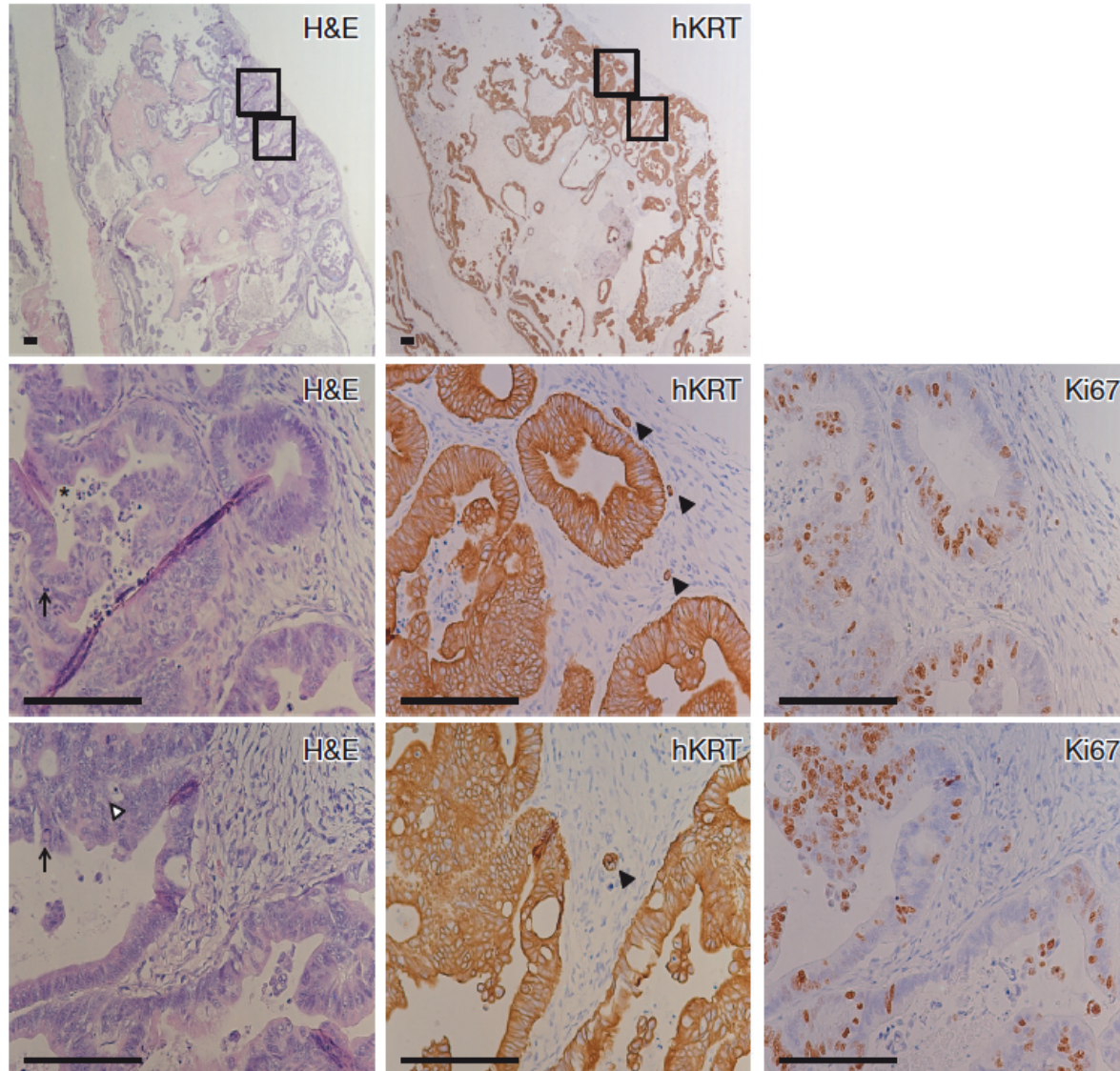


# KRAS<sup>G12D</sup> APC<sup>KO</sup> p53<sup>KO</sup>

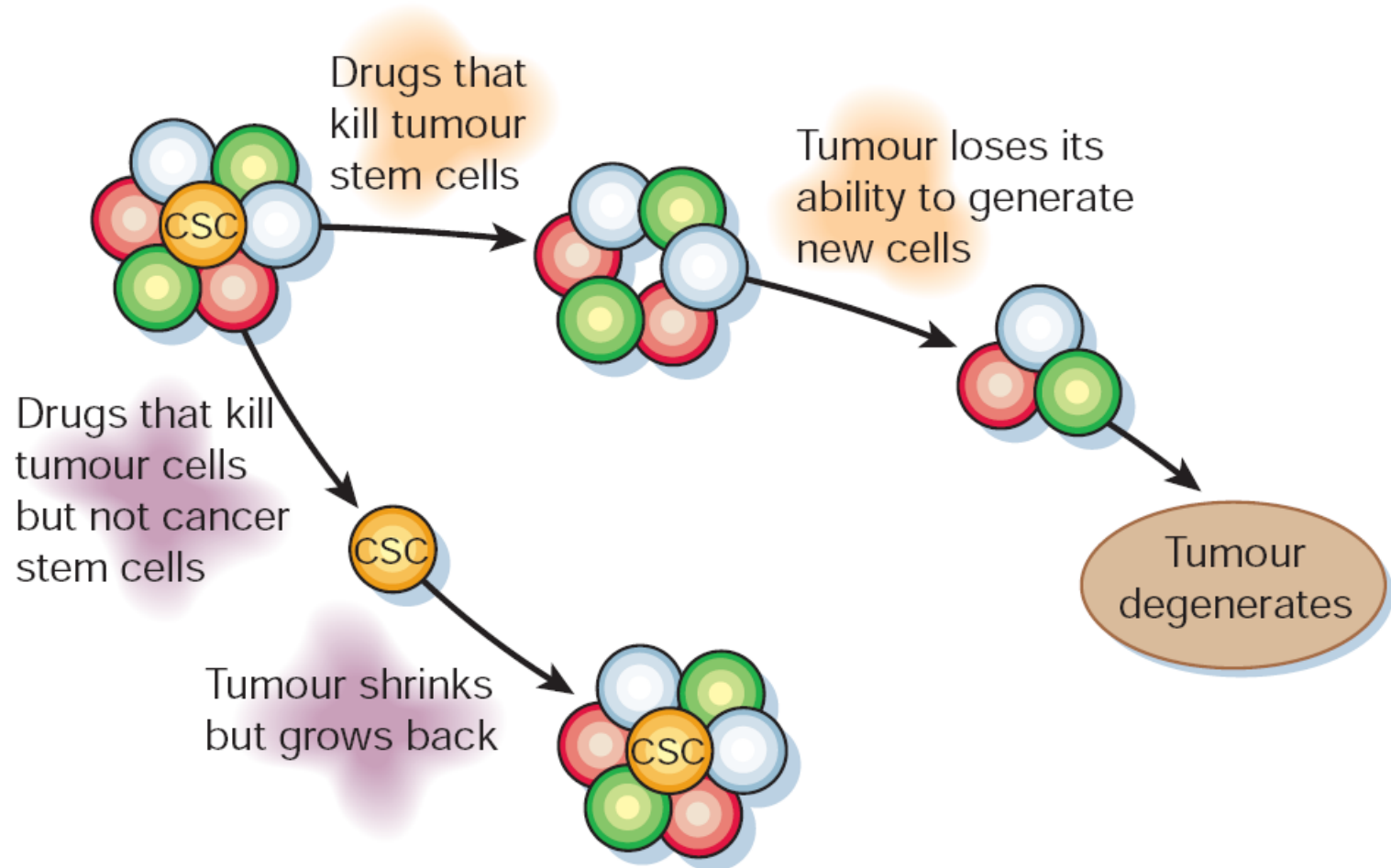
Triple



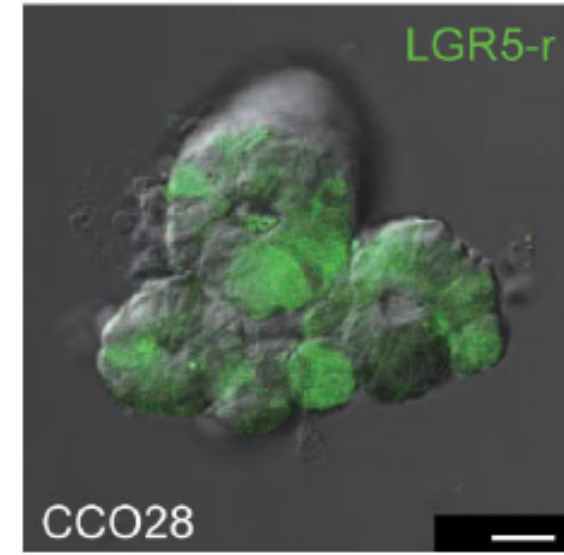
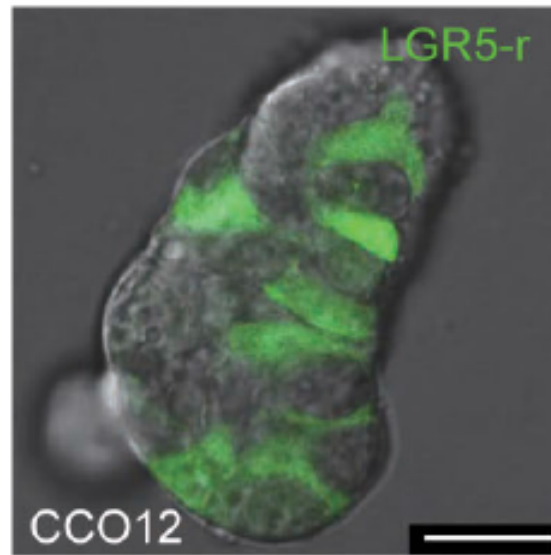
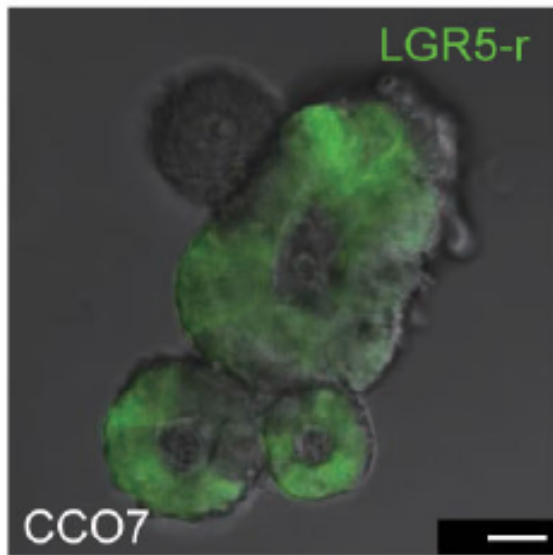
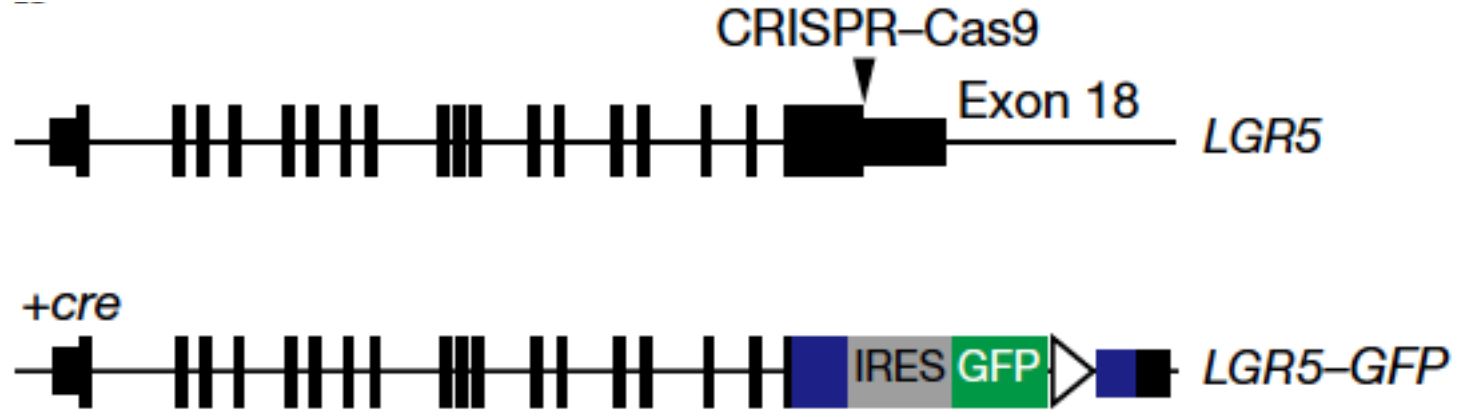
# KRAS<sup>G12D</sup> APC<sup>KO</sup> p53<sup>KO</sup> SMAD4<sup>KO</sup>



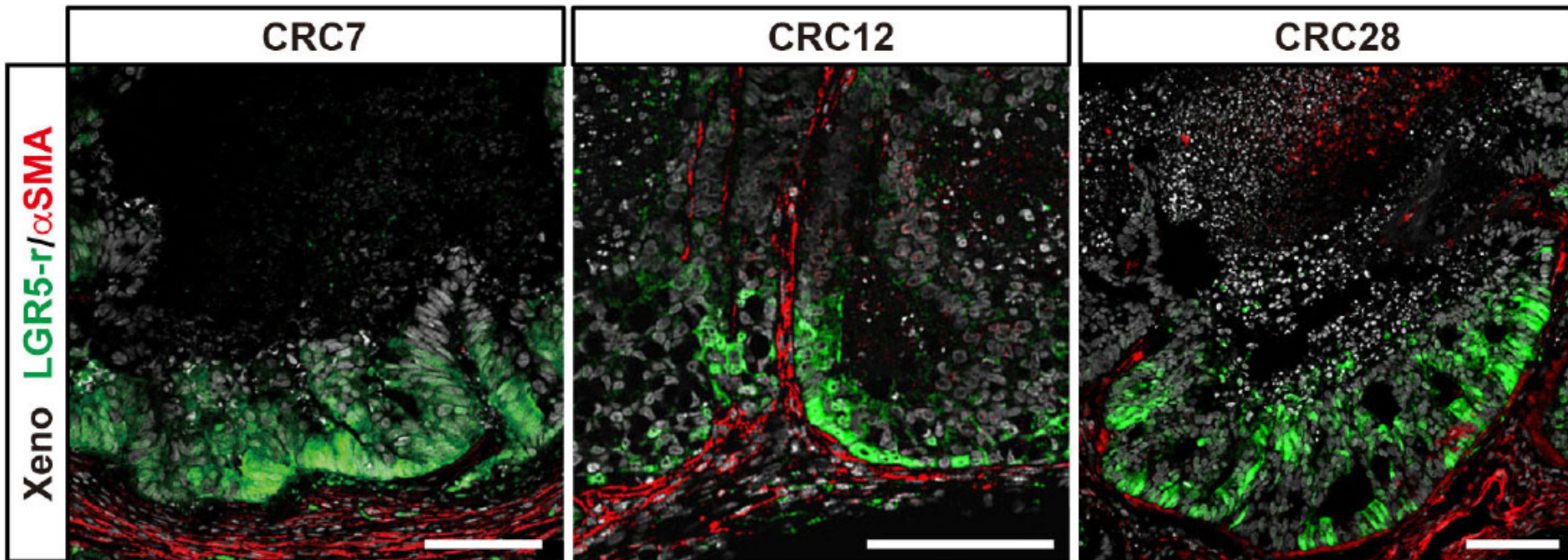
# Different tumor targeting strategies



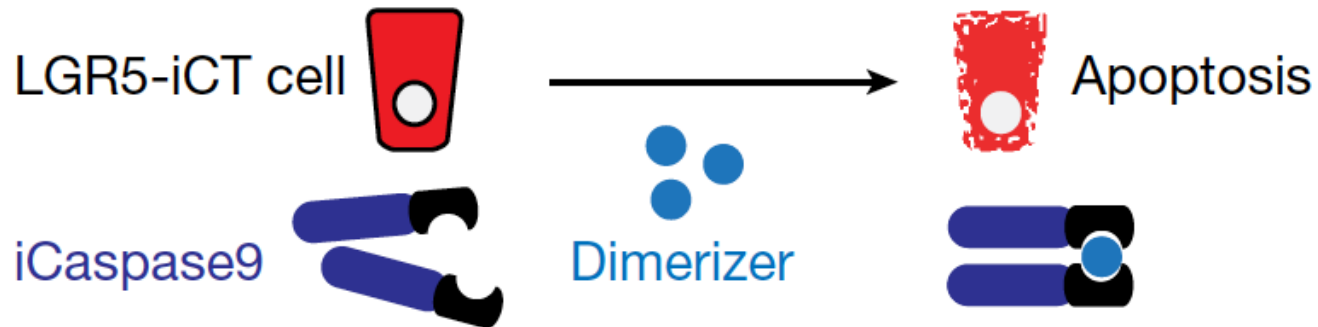
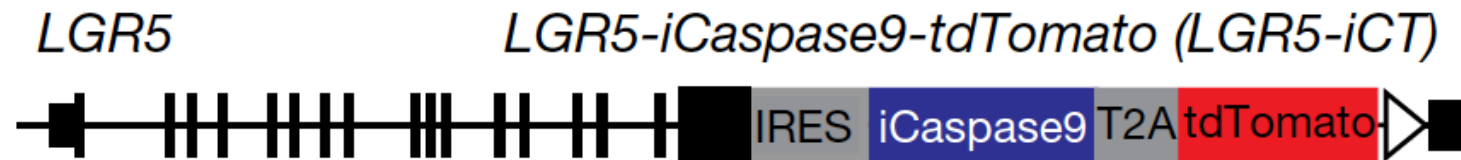
# Labeling of CSC in human organoids



# ODX: CSC remain in mouse xenograft model



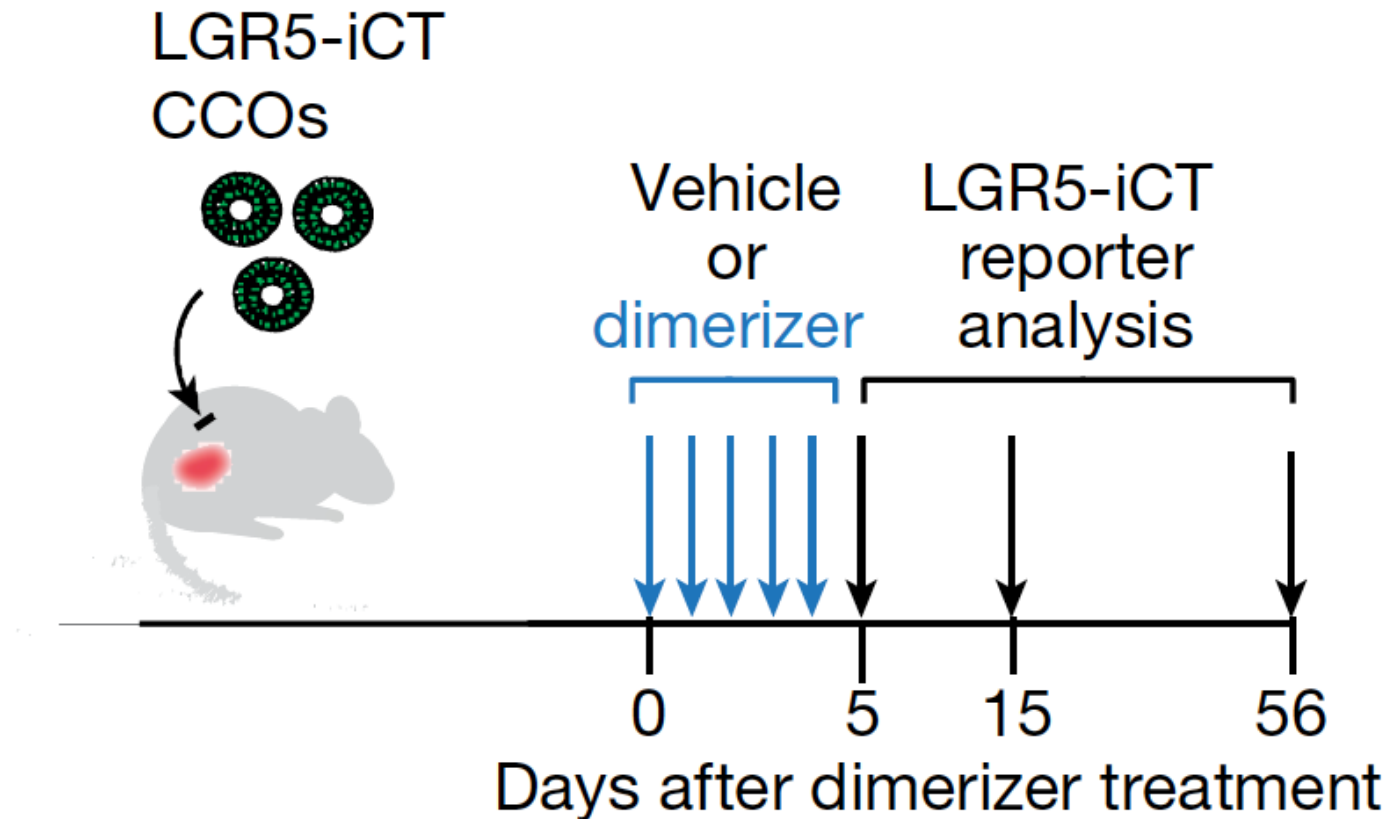
# human CRC Organoids



11 MAY 2017 | VOL 545 | NATURE  
Visualization and targeting of LGR5<sup>+</sup>  
human colon cancer stem cells

Mariko Shimokawa<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuki Ohta<sup>1\*</sup>, Shingo Nishikori<sup>1,2</sup>, Mami Matano<sup>1</sup>, Ai Takano<sup>1</sup>, Masayuki Fujii<sup>1</sup>, Shoichi Date<sup>1,2</sup>, Shinya Sugimoto<sup>1</sup>, Takanori Kanai<sup>1</sup> & Toshiko Sato<sup>1</sup>

# human CRC Organoids



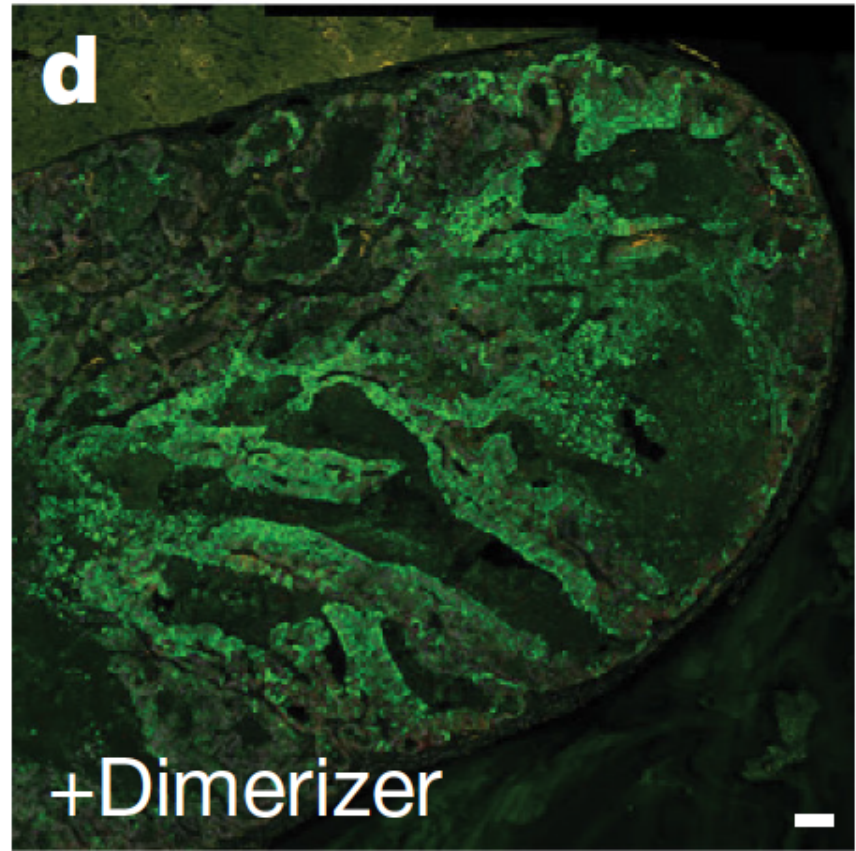
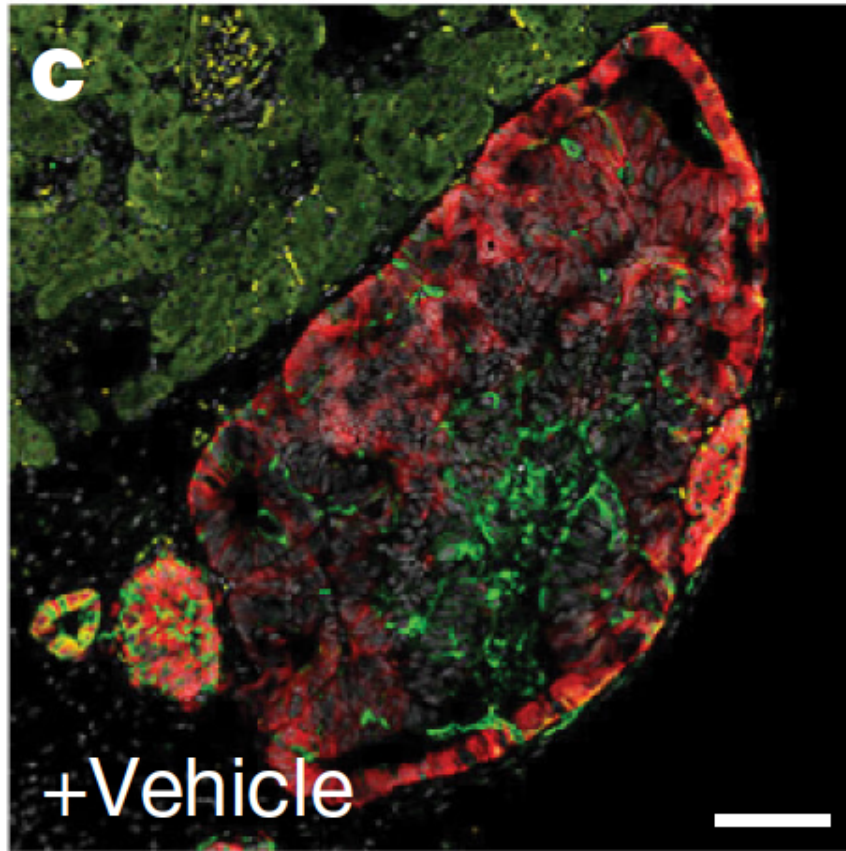
11 MAY 2017 | VOL 545 | NATURE  
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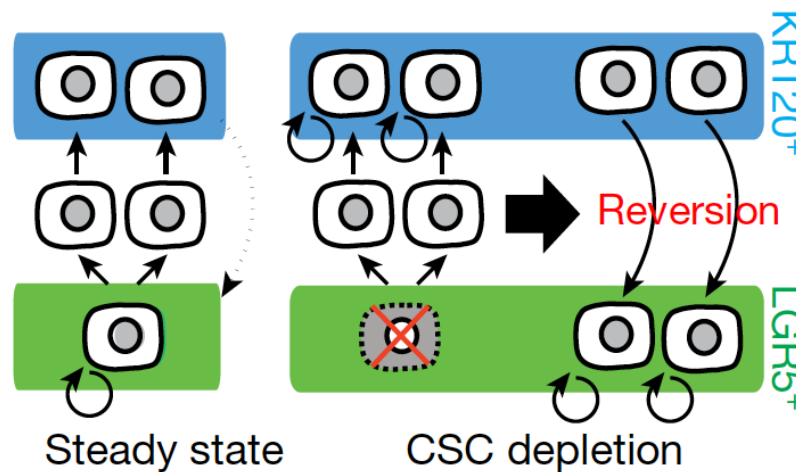
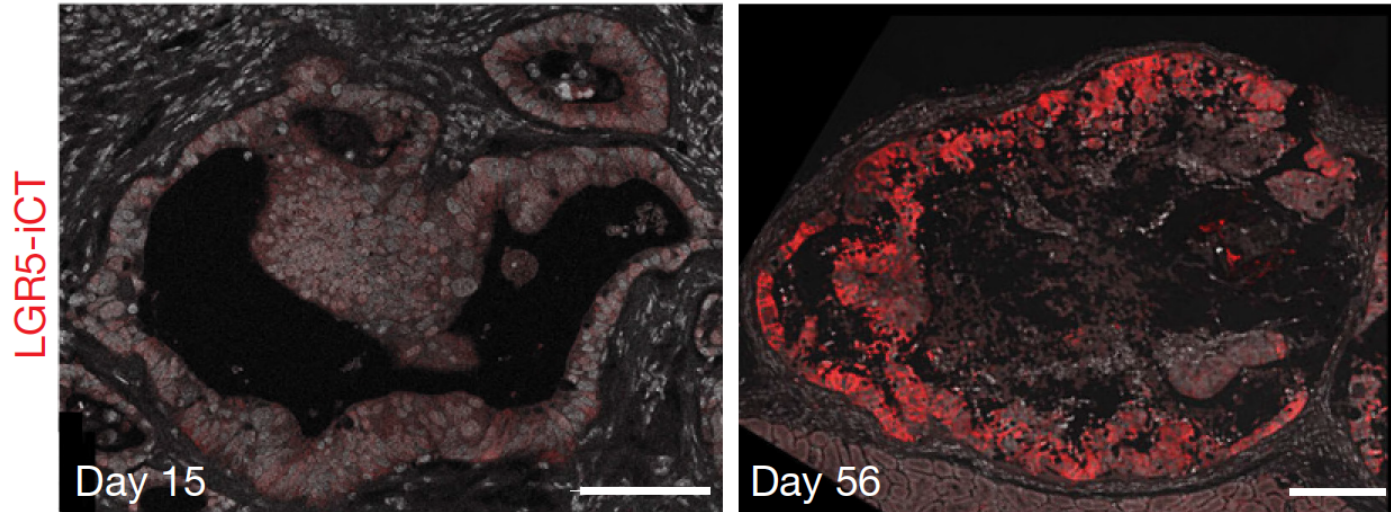
# Organoids in Xenografts (ODX)

Day 5 KRT20/LGR5-iCT



11 MAY 2017 | VOL 545 | NATURE  
Visualization and targeting of LGR5<sup>+</sup>  
human colon cancer stem cells  
Marko Shimokawa<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuki Ohta<sup>1,6</sup>, Shingo Nishikori<sup>2,3</sup>, Mami Matano<sup>1</sup>, Ai Takano<sup>1</sup>, Masayuki Fujii<sup>1</sup>, Shoichi Date<sup>2,3</sup>,  
Shinya Sugimoto<sup>4</sup>, Takao Kanai<sup>5</sup> & Toshiko Sasai<sup>1</sup>

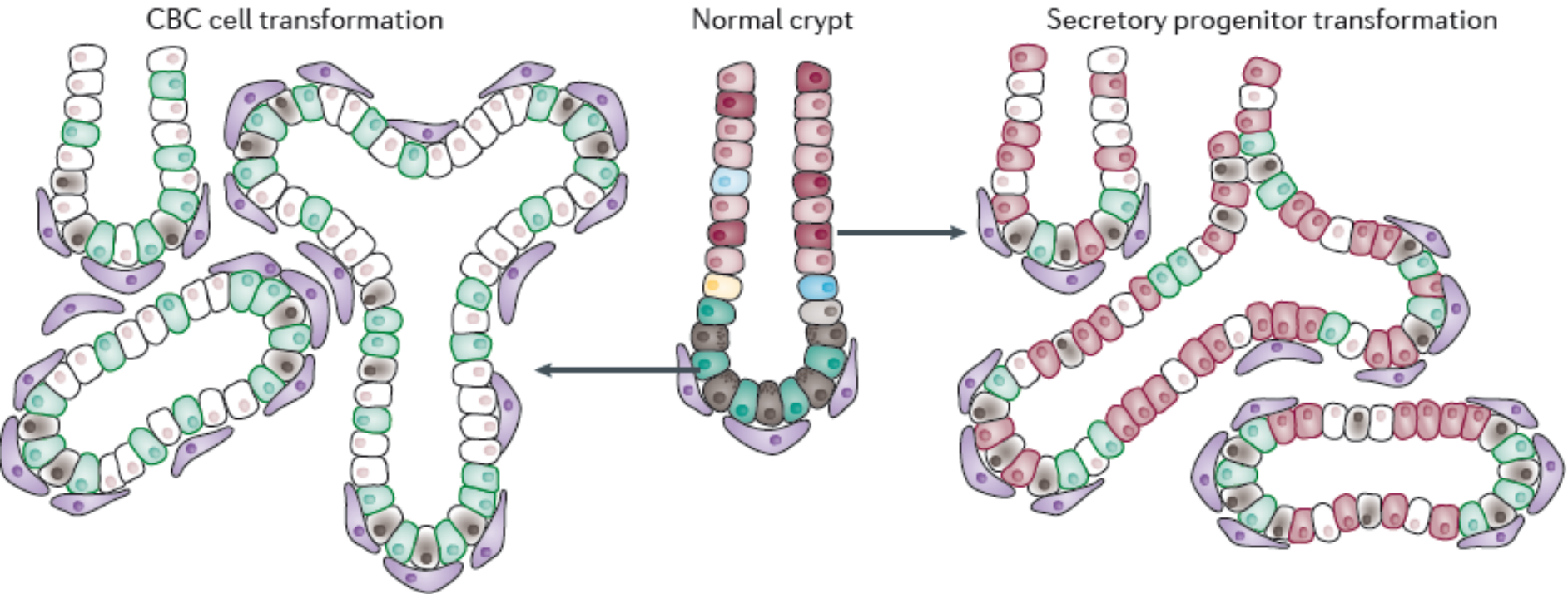
# Organoids in Xenografts (ODX)



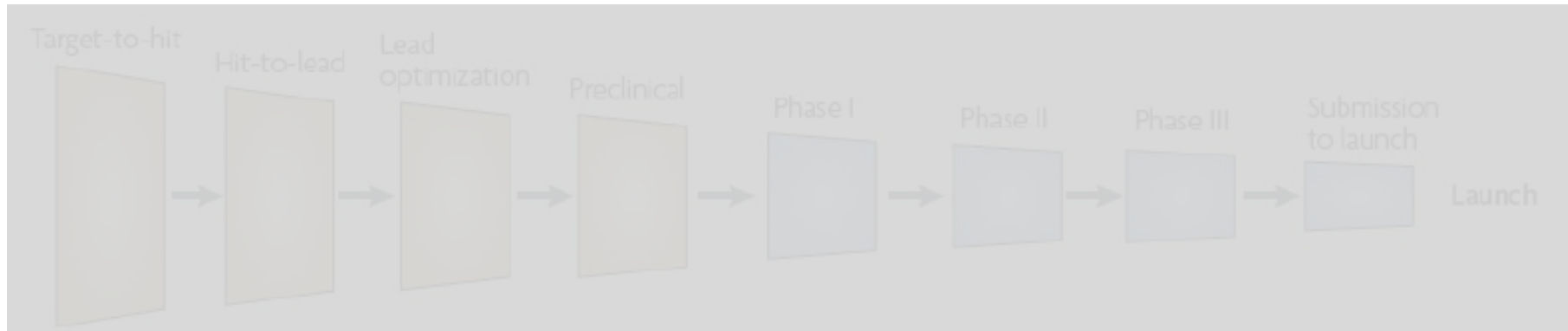
11 MAY 2017 | VOL 545 | NATURE  
 Visualization and targeting of LGR5<sup>+</sup>  
 human colon cancer stem cells

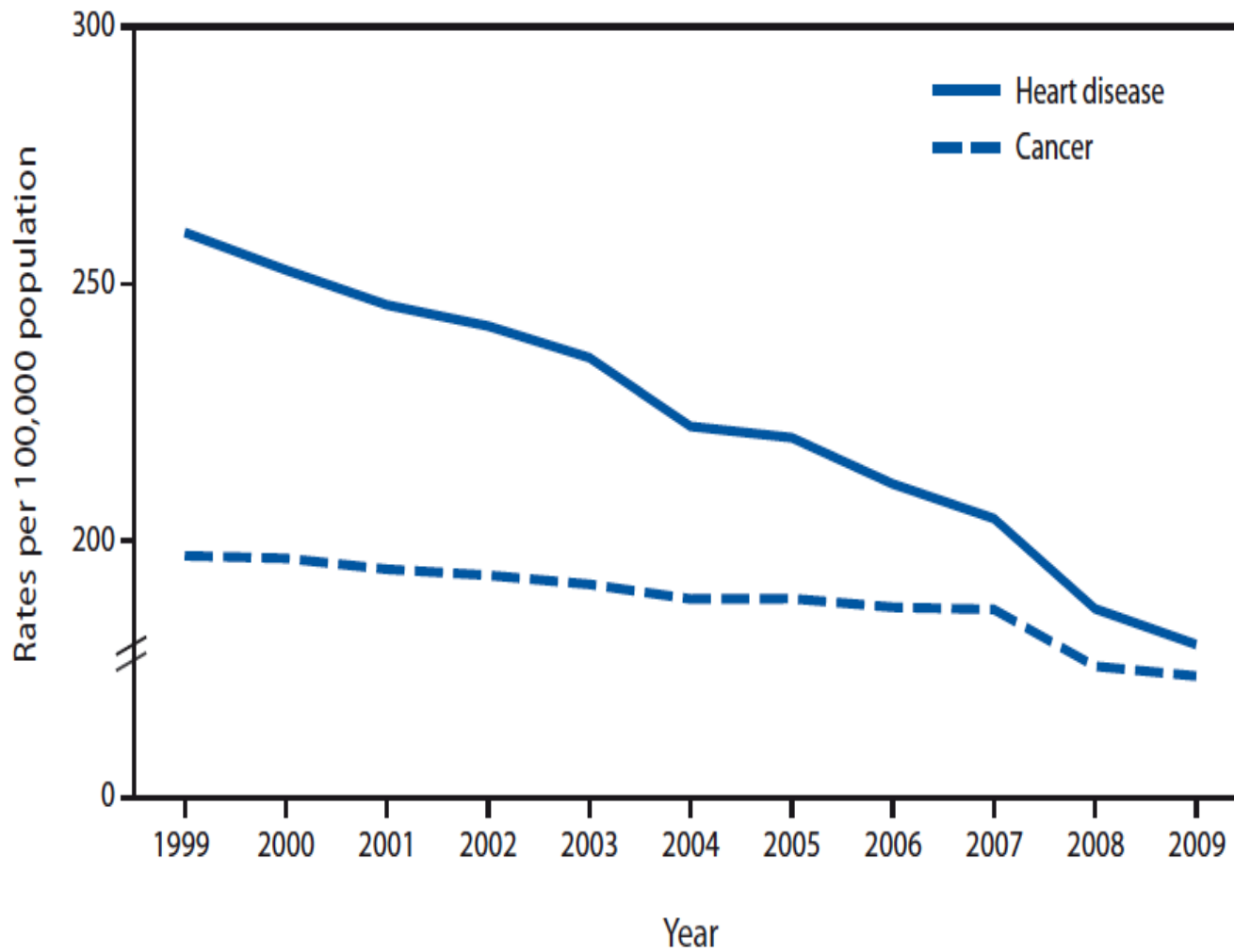
Mariko Shimokawa<sup>1\*</sup>, Yuki Ohta<sup>1\*</sup>, Shingo Nishikori<sup>1,2</sup>, Mami Matano<sup>1</sup>, Ai Takano<sup>1</sup>, Masayuki Fujii<sup>1</sup>, Shoichi Date<sup>1,2</sup>, Shinya Sugimoto<sup>1</sup>, Takao Kanai<sup>1</sup> & Yoshino Sato<sup>1</sup>

# Cancer Stem Cells (CSCs)



# Drug development

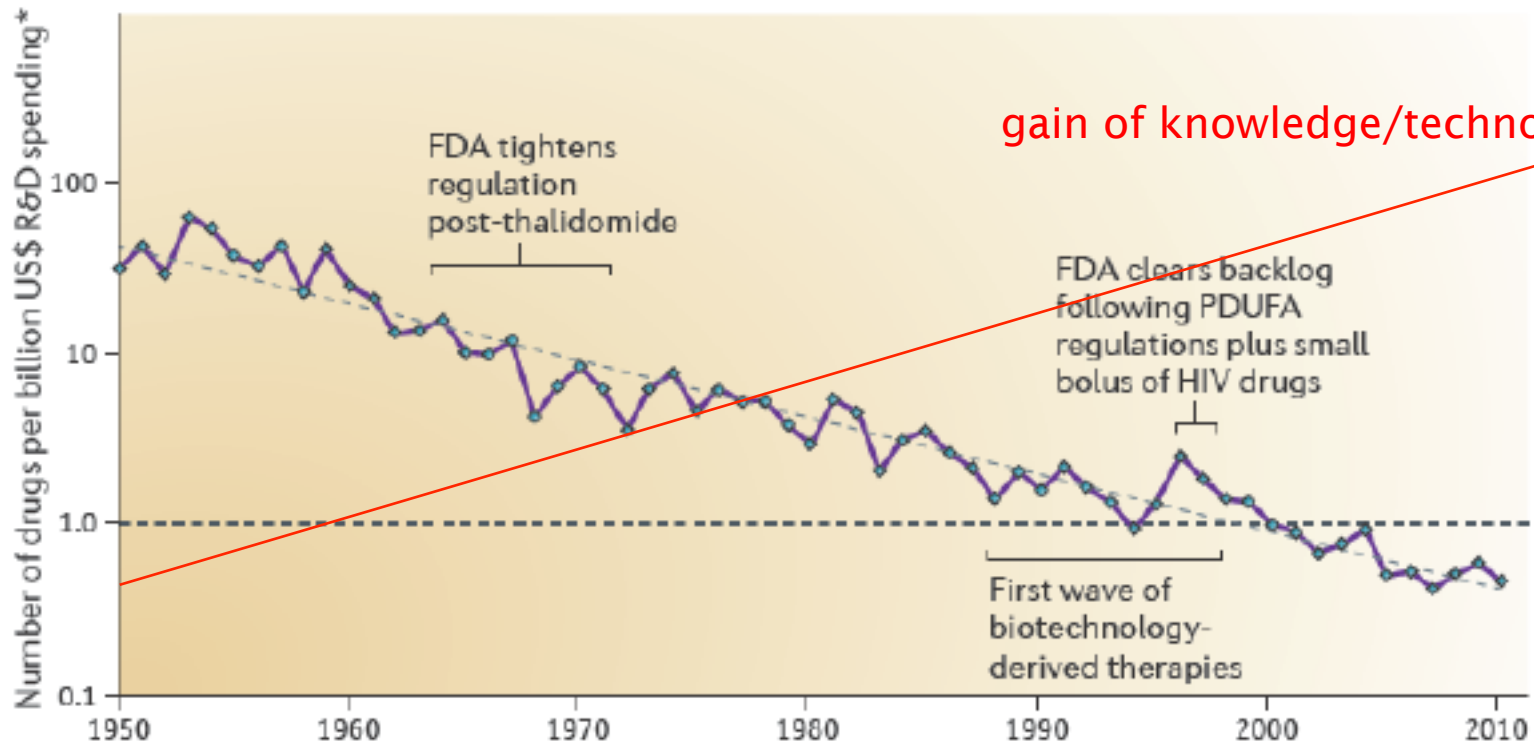




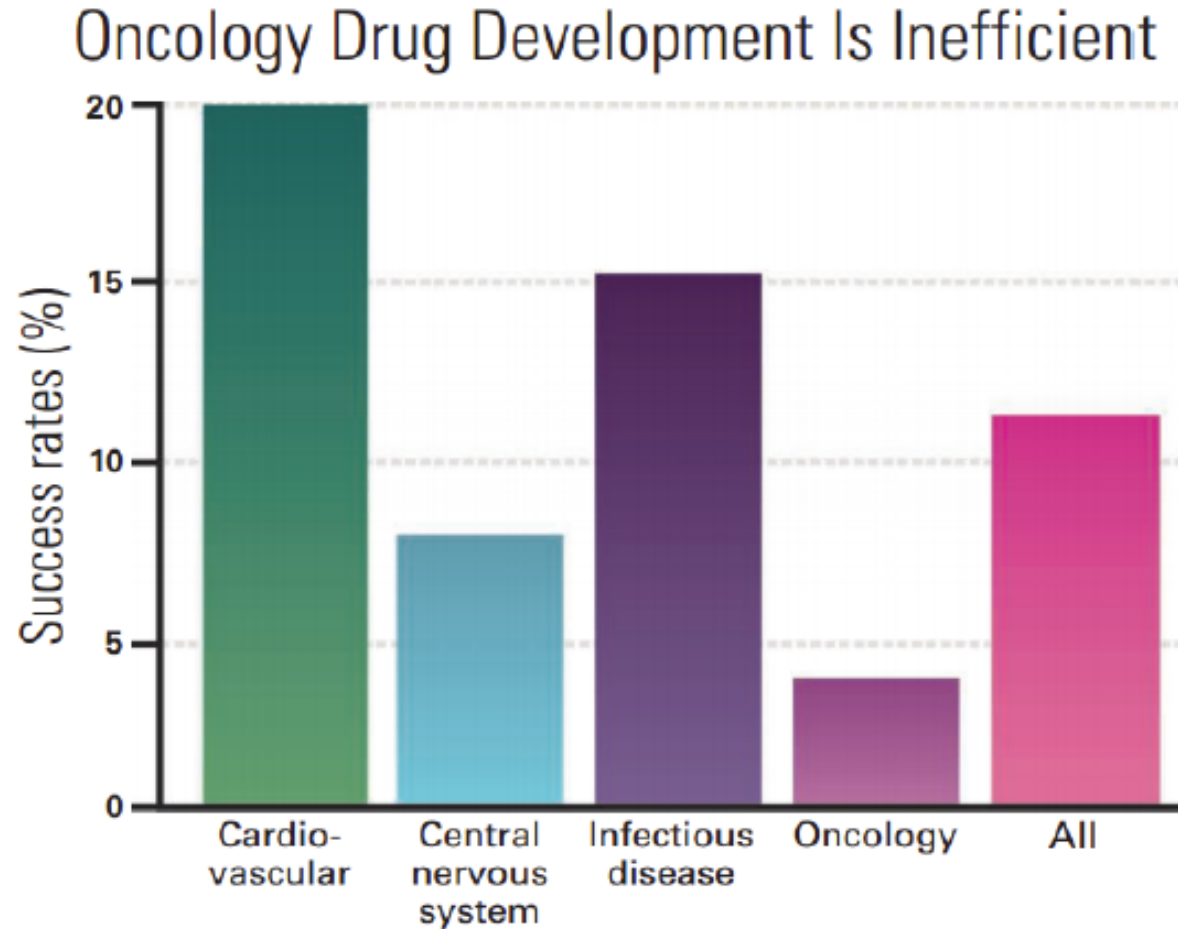
\* Data for 2008 and 2009 are preliminary.

# gain of knowledge/technology $\neq$ drug development

a Overall trend in R&D efficiency (inflation-adjusted)



# 96% fail rate in clinical trials

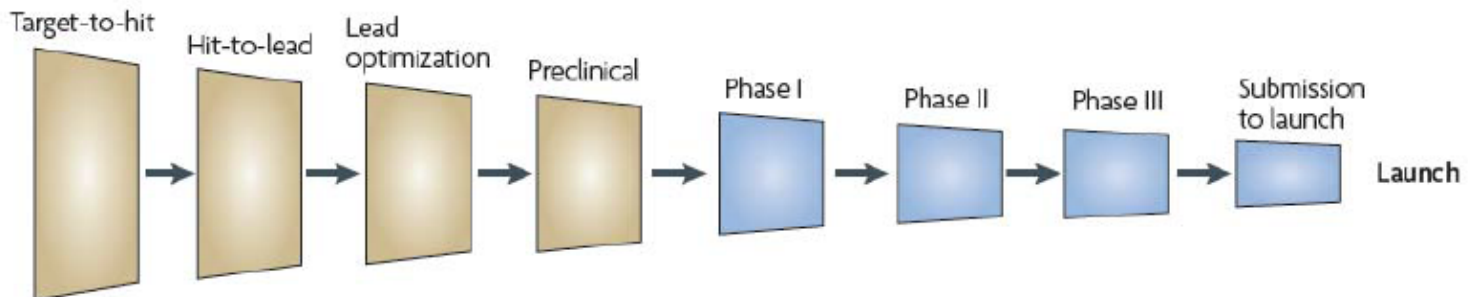


**Hit or miss.** Cancer drug candidates have an abysmally low success rate.

Positive  
« GO » data  
predicts only  
5% will  
succeed

## chemistry

## Clinical failure



Cost per launch (capitalized)

\$94

\$166

\$414

\$150

\$273

\$319

\$314

\$48

\$1,778

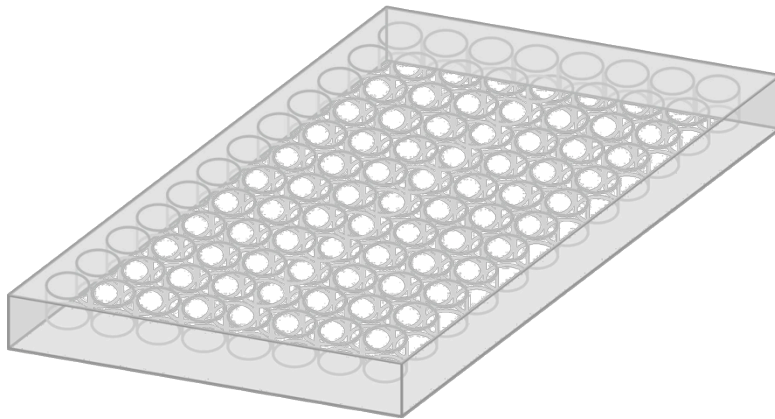
**30% of cost**

**60% of cost**

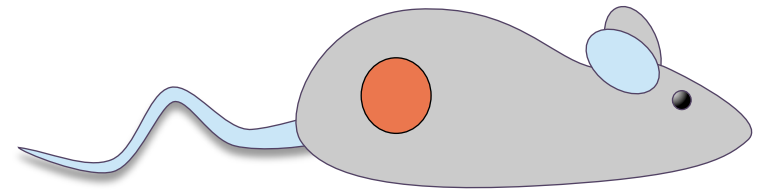


# Reasons for failure

drugs optimized to work...



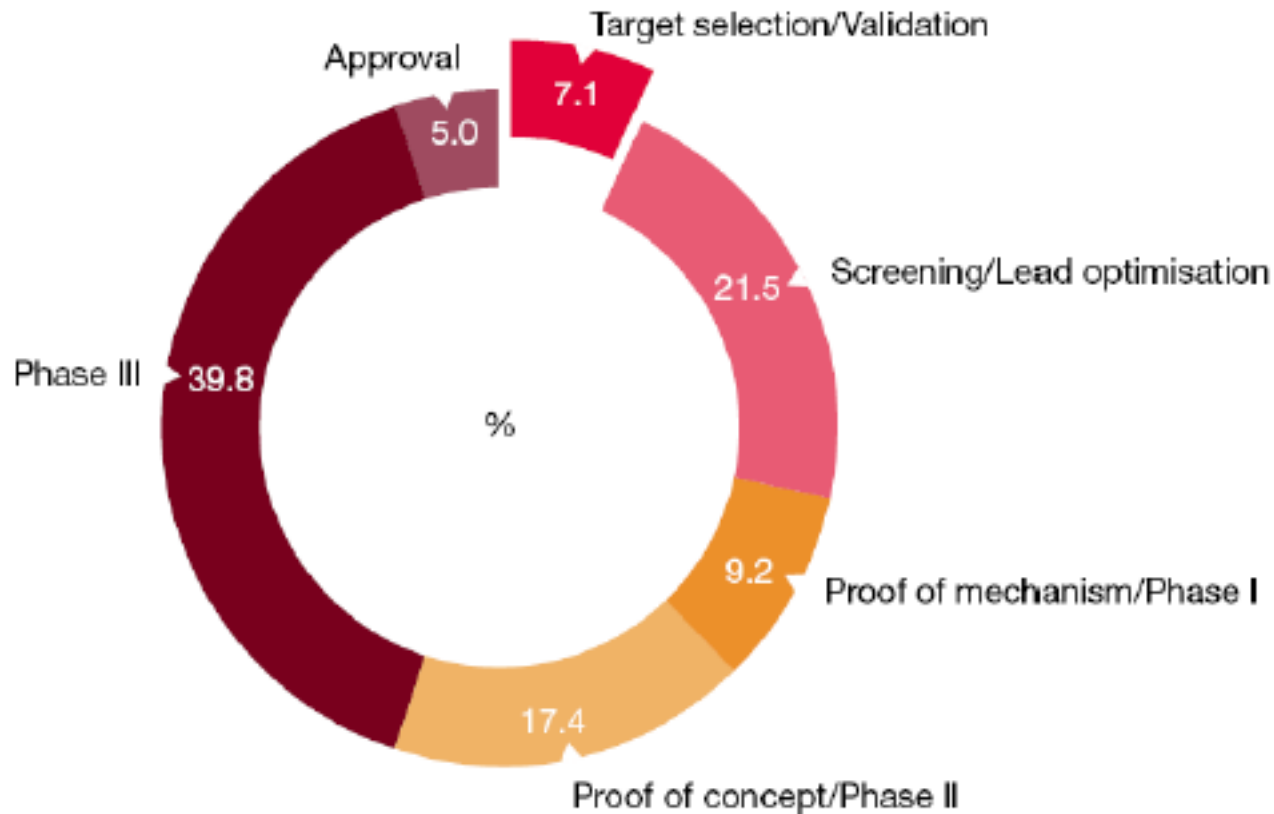
... in 2D tumor cell line cultures on plastic plates



... in subcutaneous mouse xenograft models

# only 7% invested on preclinical testing

Most pharma companies spend a very small percentage of their budgets on target selection and validation



# way out: better preclinical models

## in vitro

- organoids, organotypic 3D cell culture
- heterotypic interaction with stroma

## in vivo

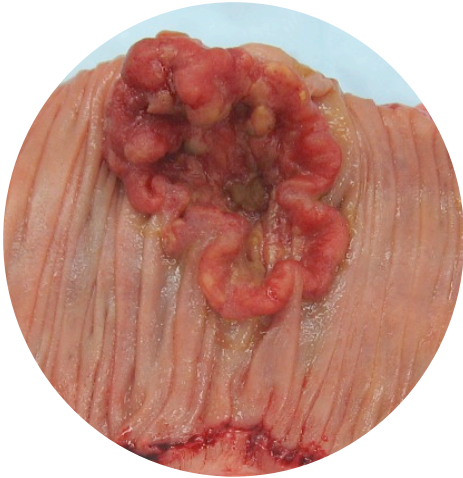
- better mouse models:
  - GEMMs
  - Xenograft models: orthotopic implantation
  - humanized mice: HSC from Human, reconstitute the entire mouse immune system with human cells

## ex vivo

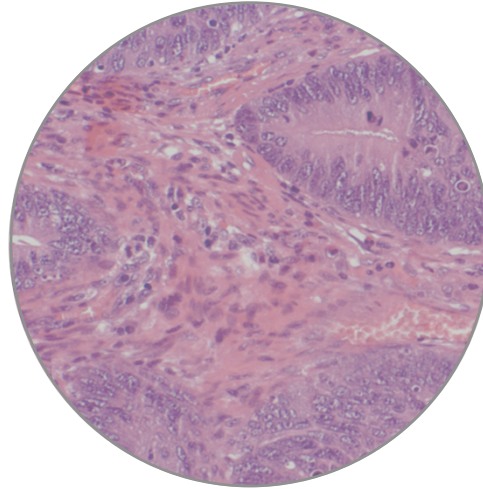
personalized medicine: tissue slices



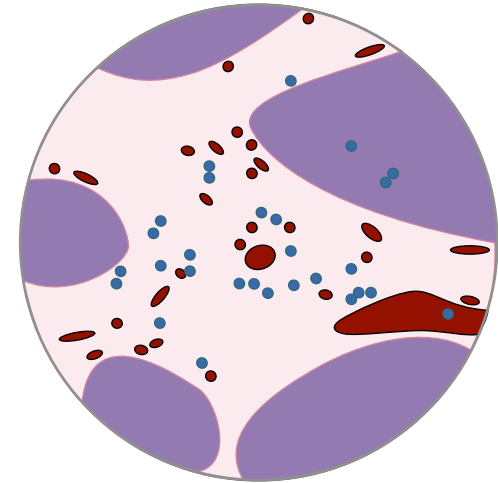
# Solid tumors



3D



heterogenous

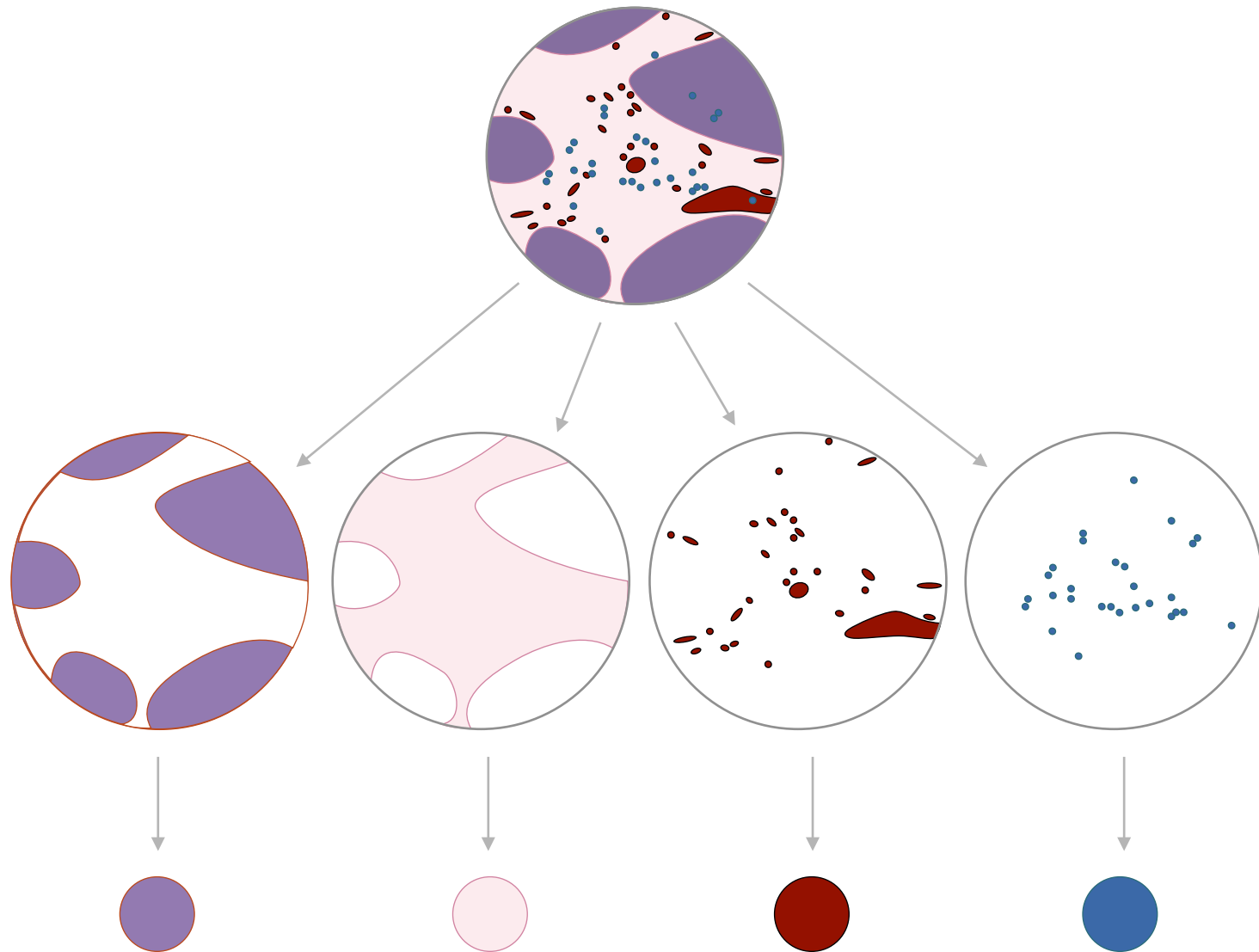


- tumor cells
- fibroblasts + ECM
- ECs
- immune cells

→ 3D structure

→ human organ specific microenvironment

# Deconstruction



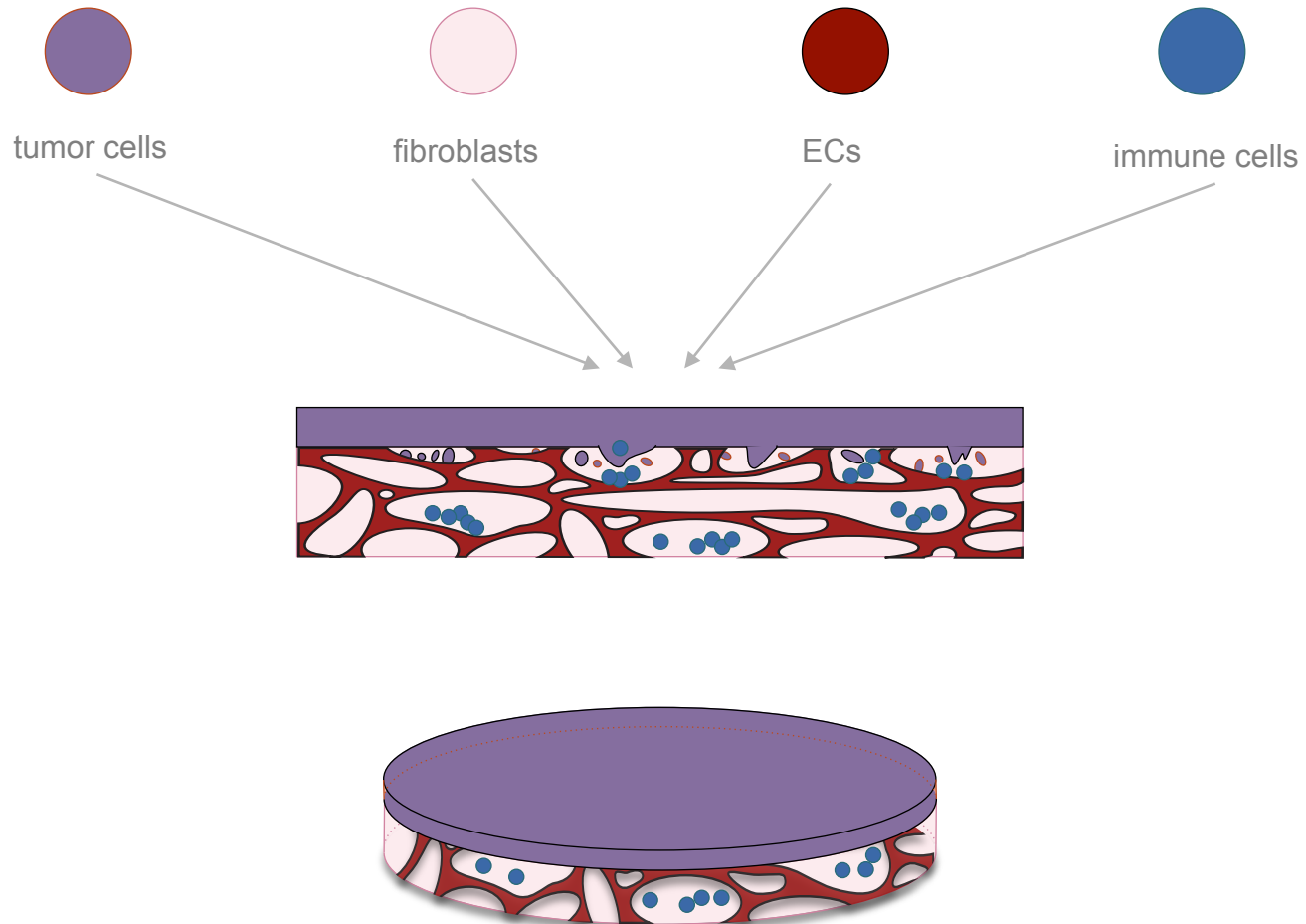
tumor cells

fibroblasts

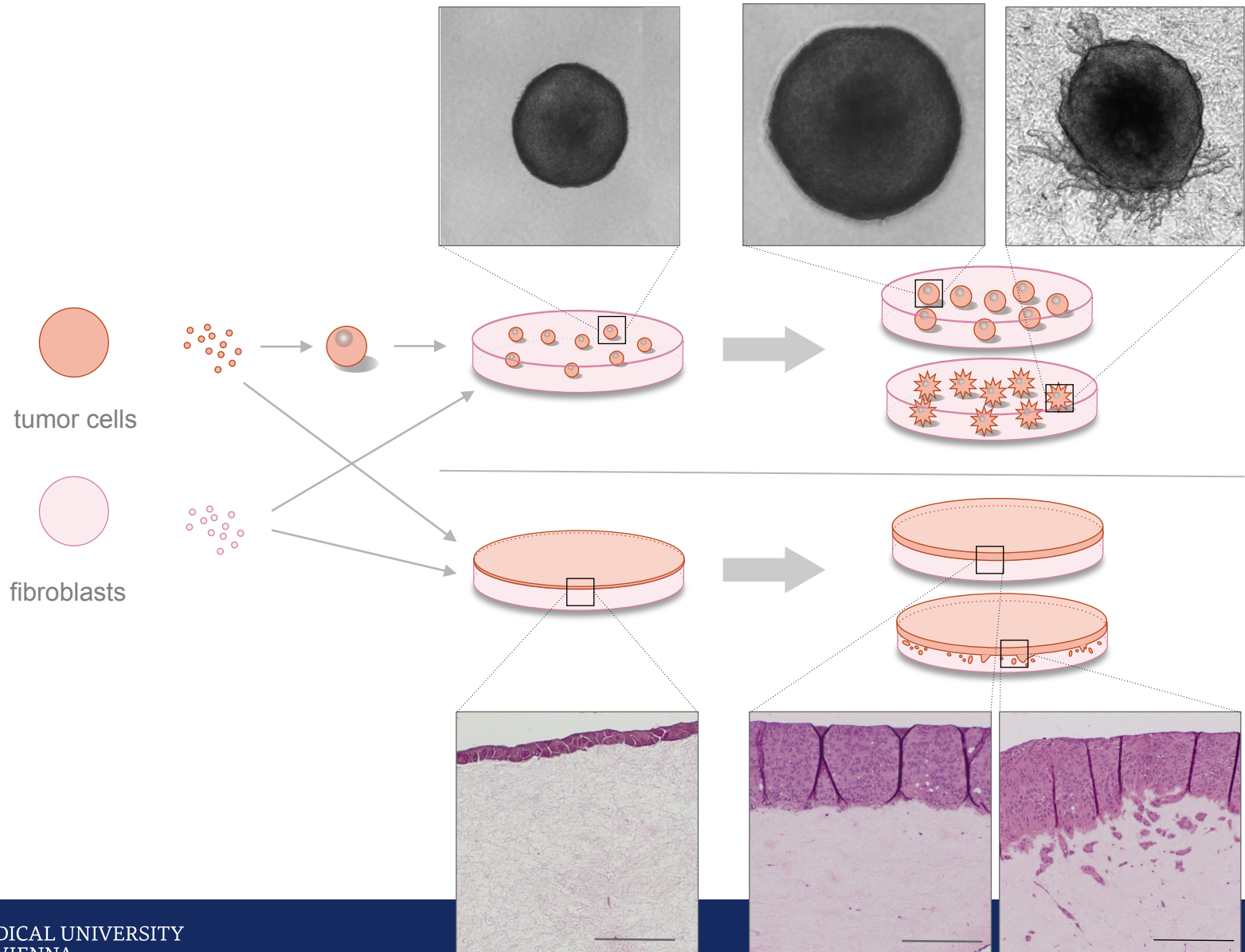
ECs

immune cells

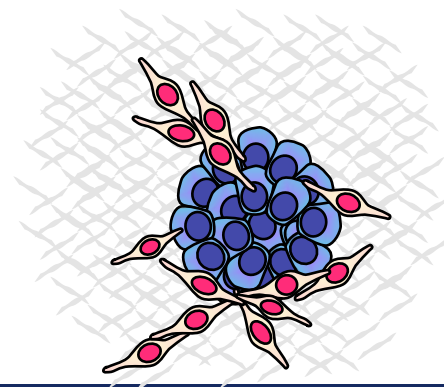
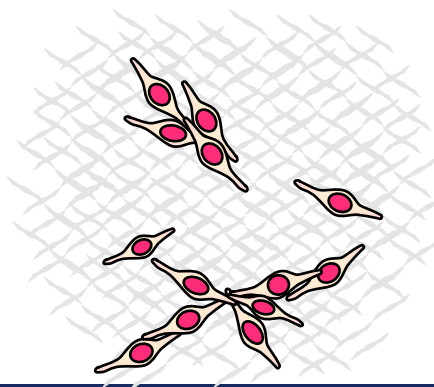
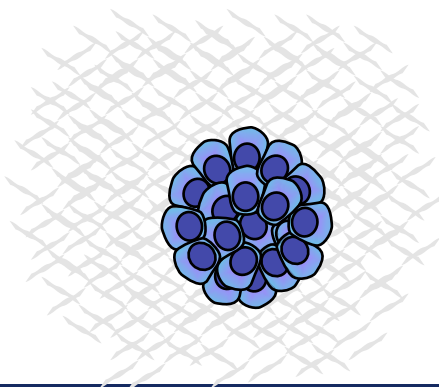
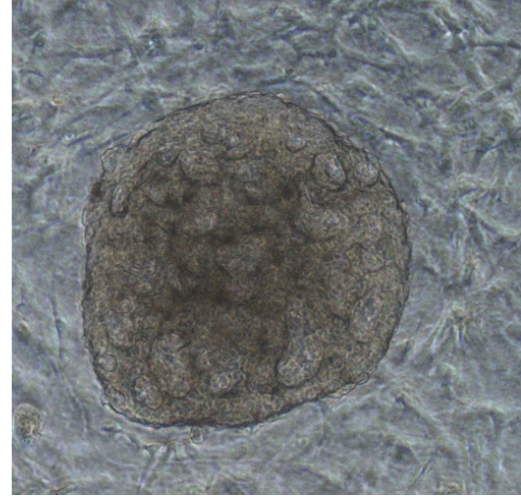
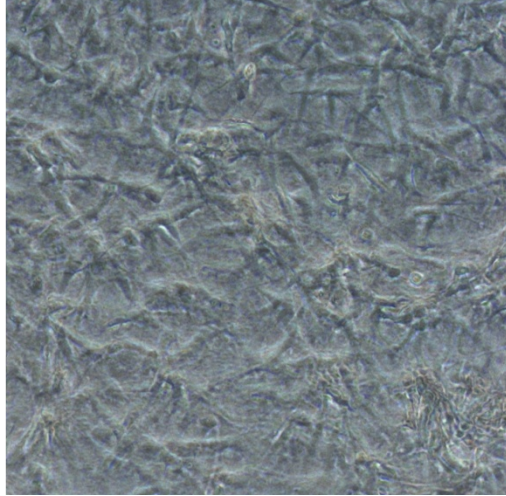
# Reconstruction



# Reconstruction of cancer heterogeneity *in vitro* in 3D

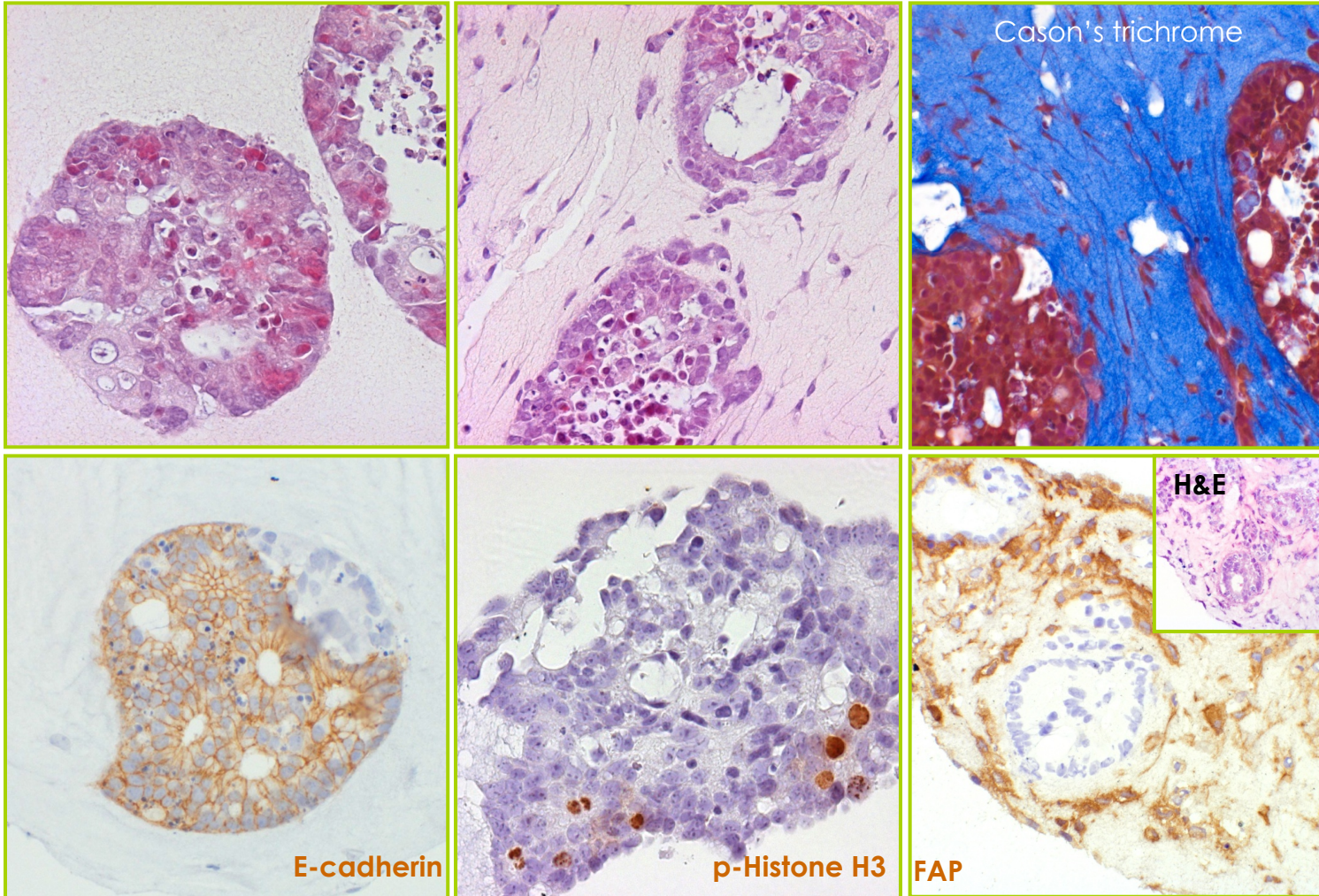


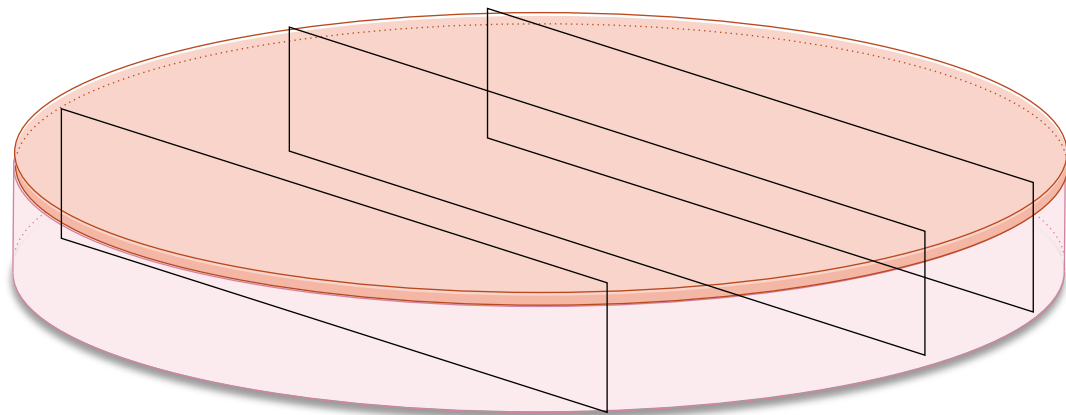
# Modular system

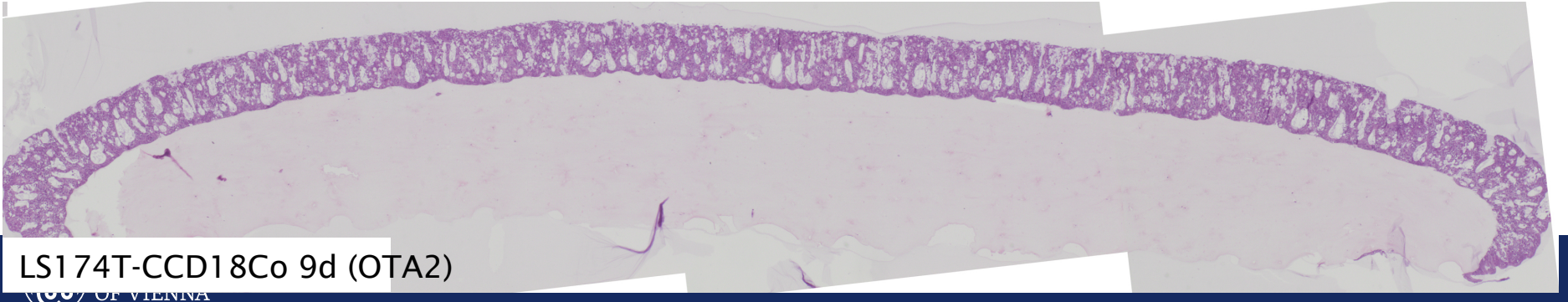
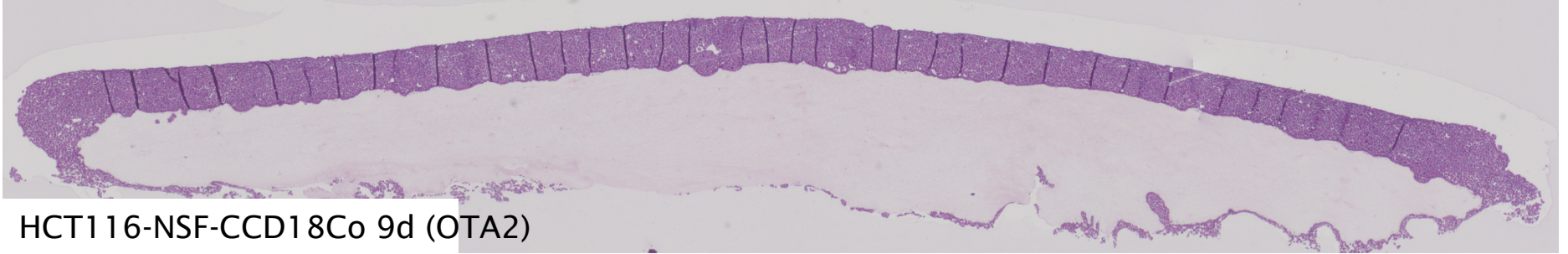
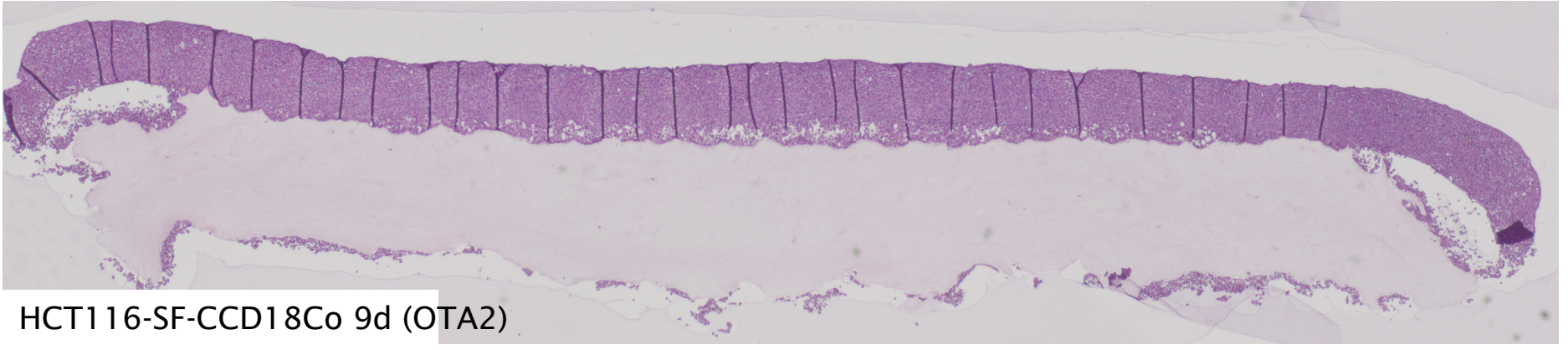
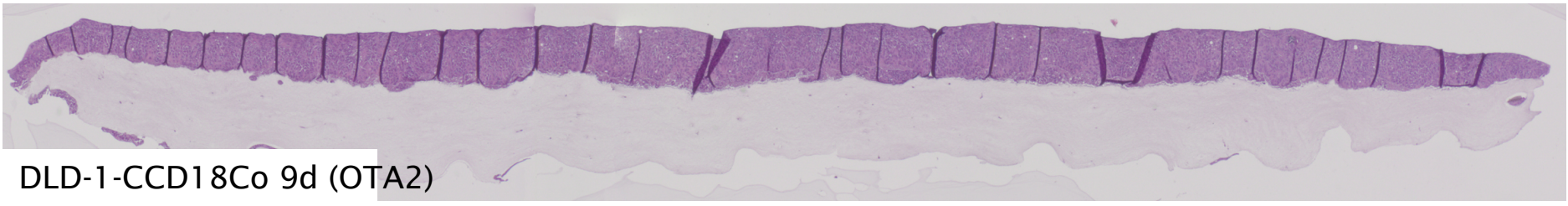


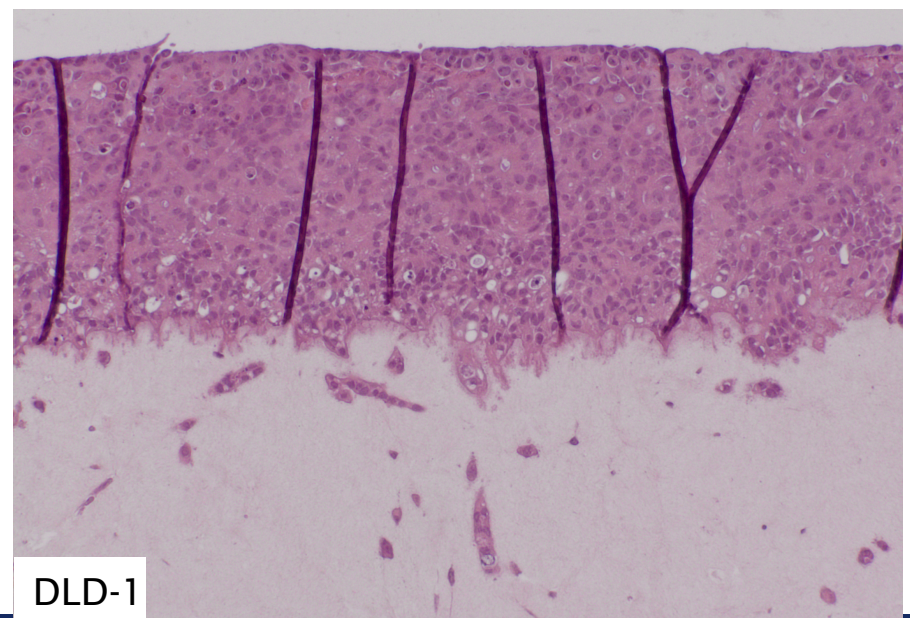
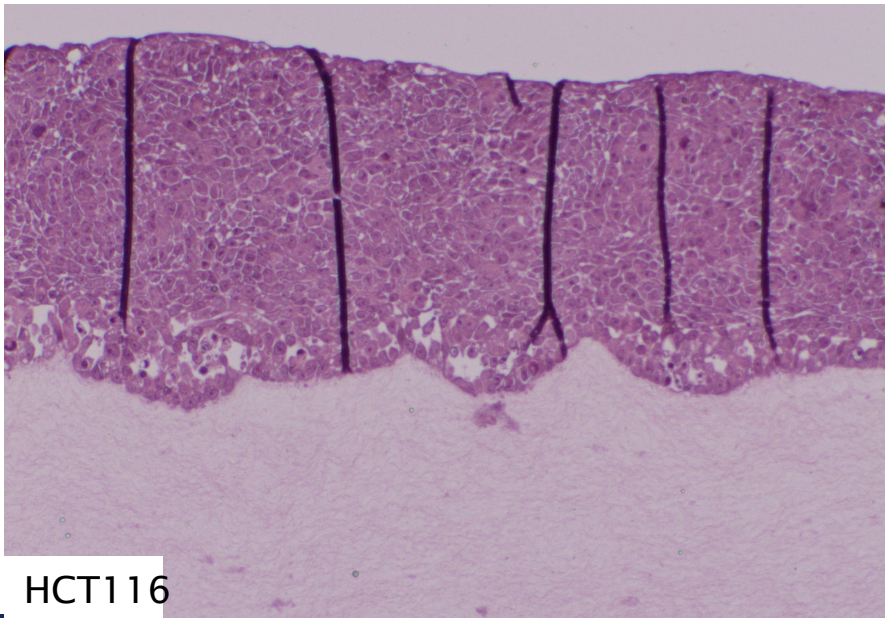
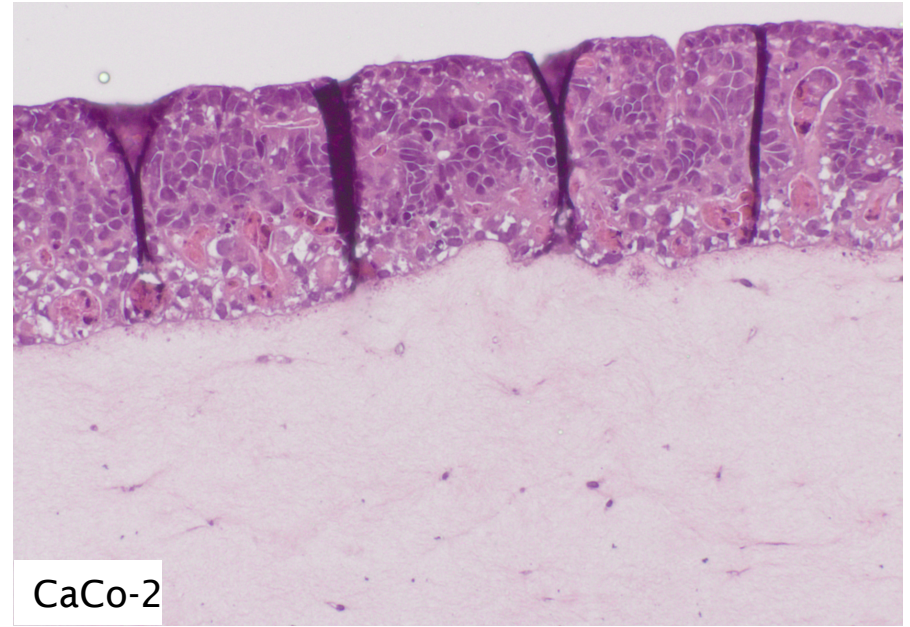
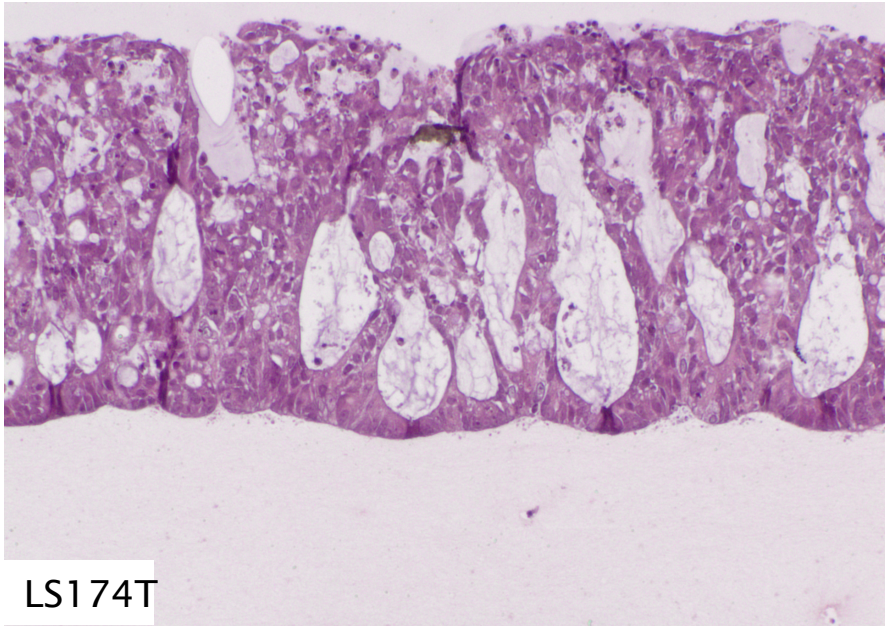


looks like in vivo



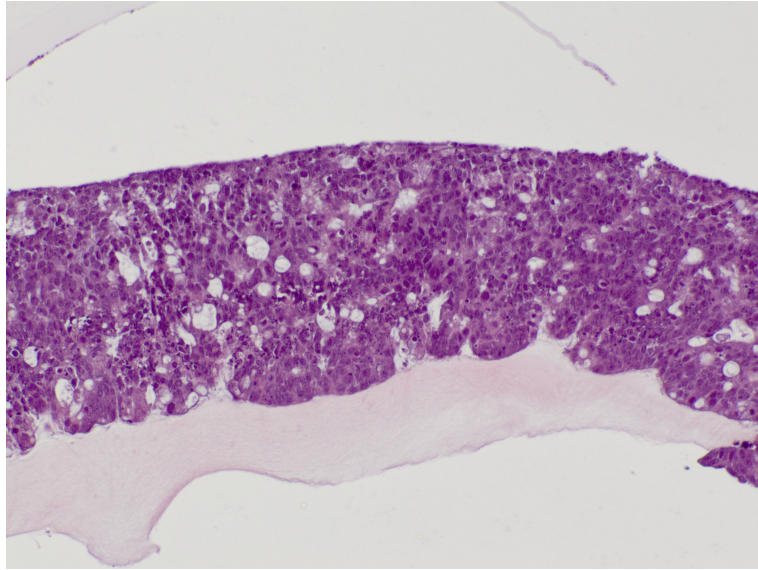




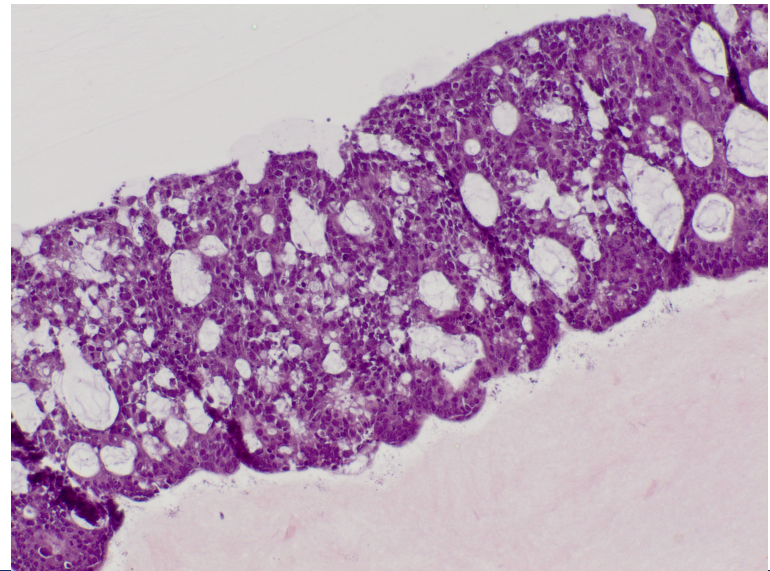
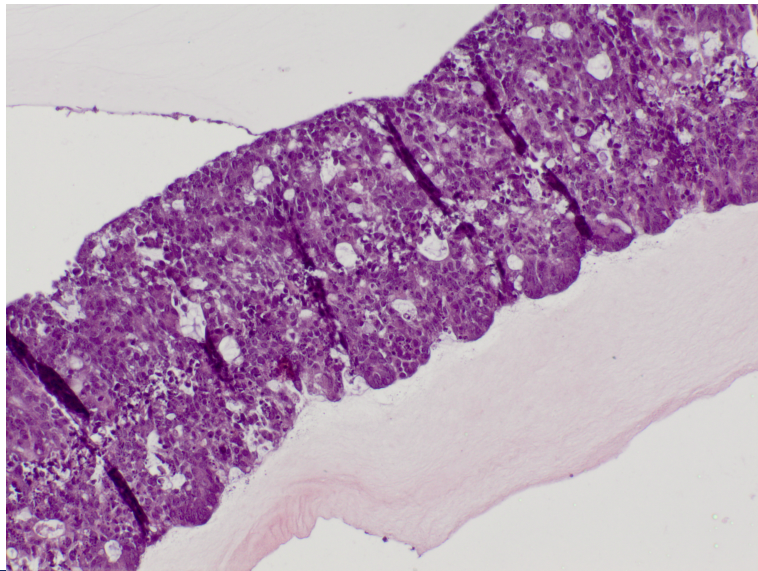
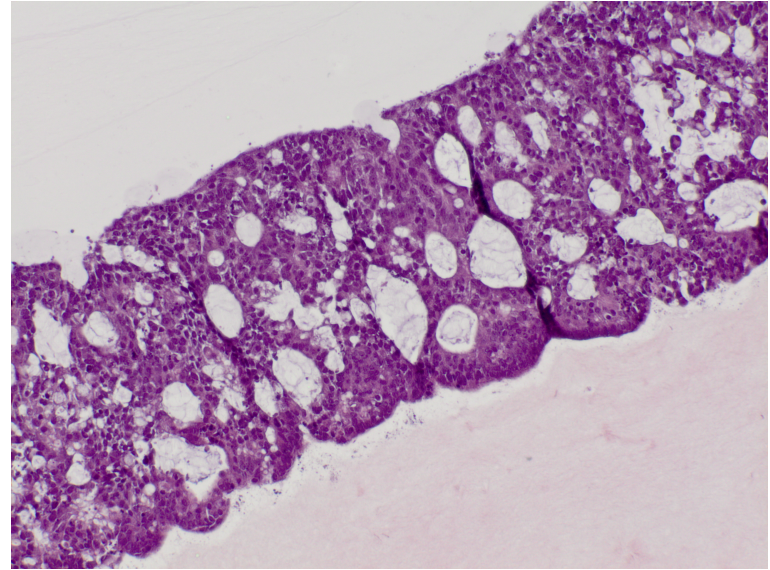


# LS174T cells (7d in OTA)

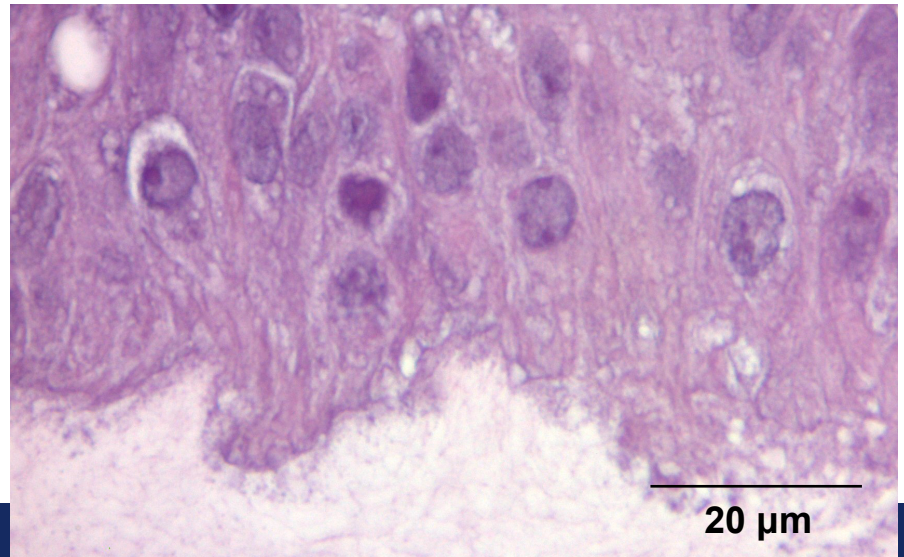
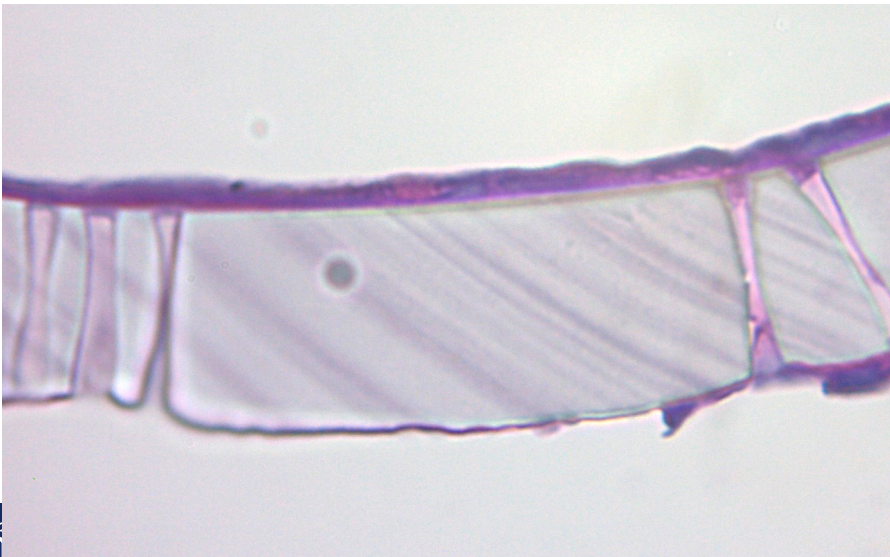
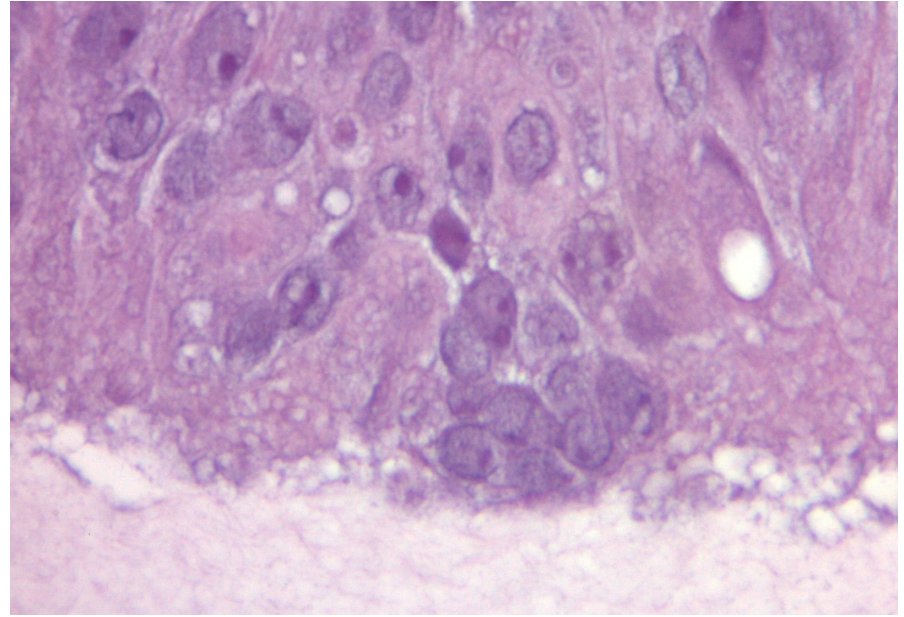
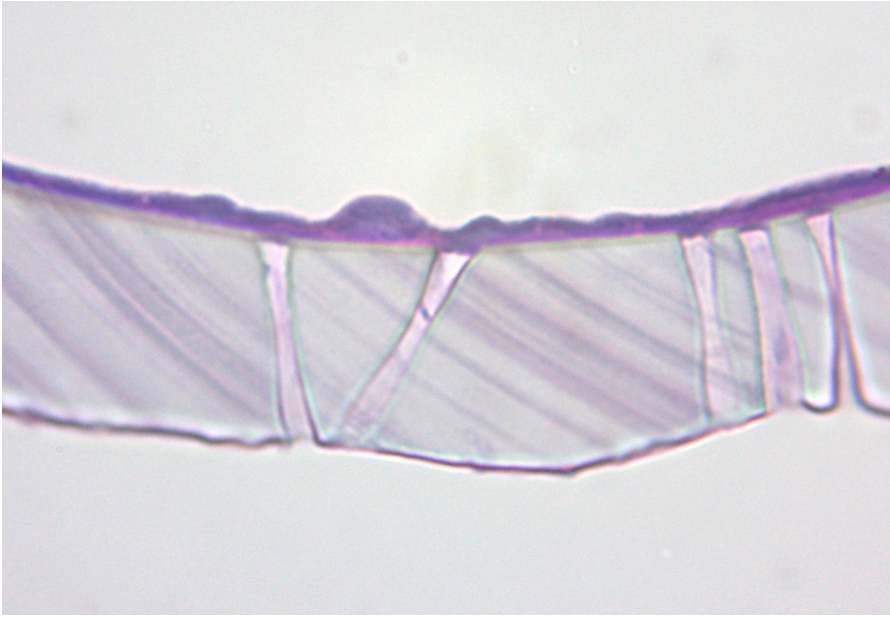
- fibros



+ fibros

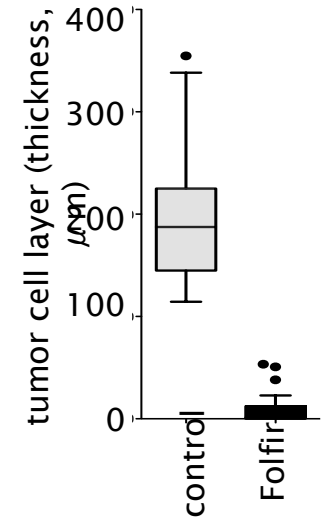
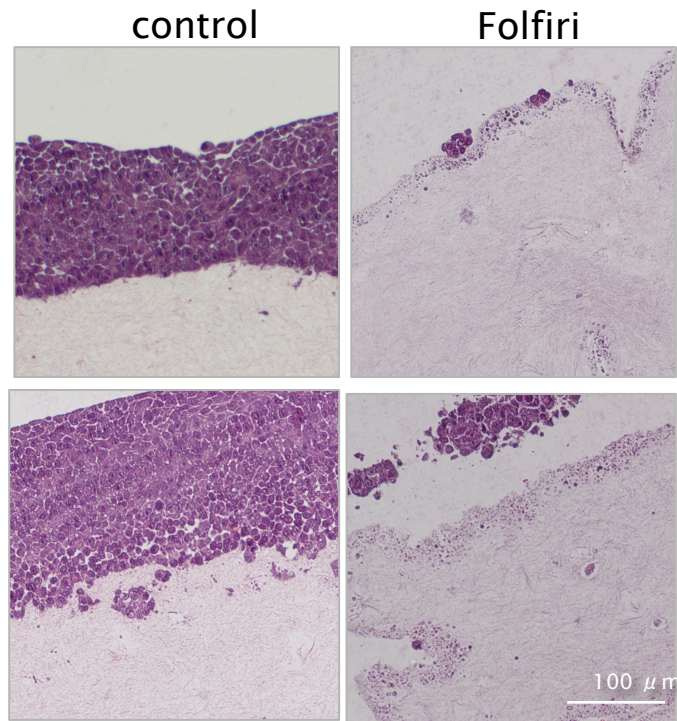
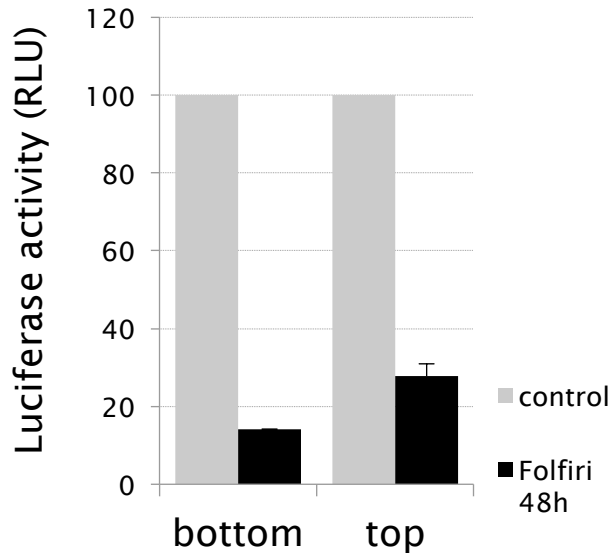
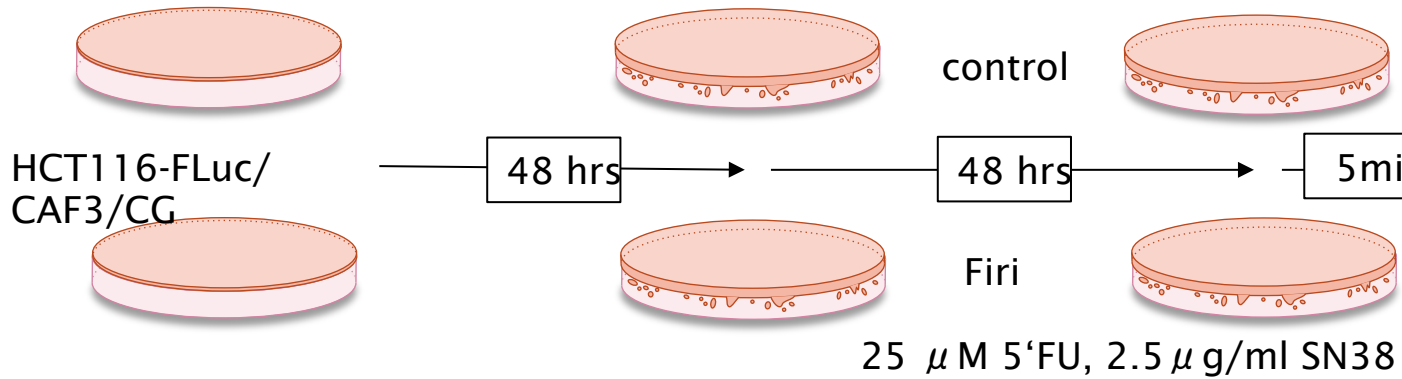


# 2D versus 3D

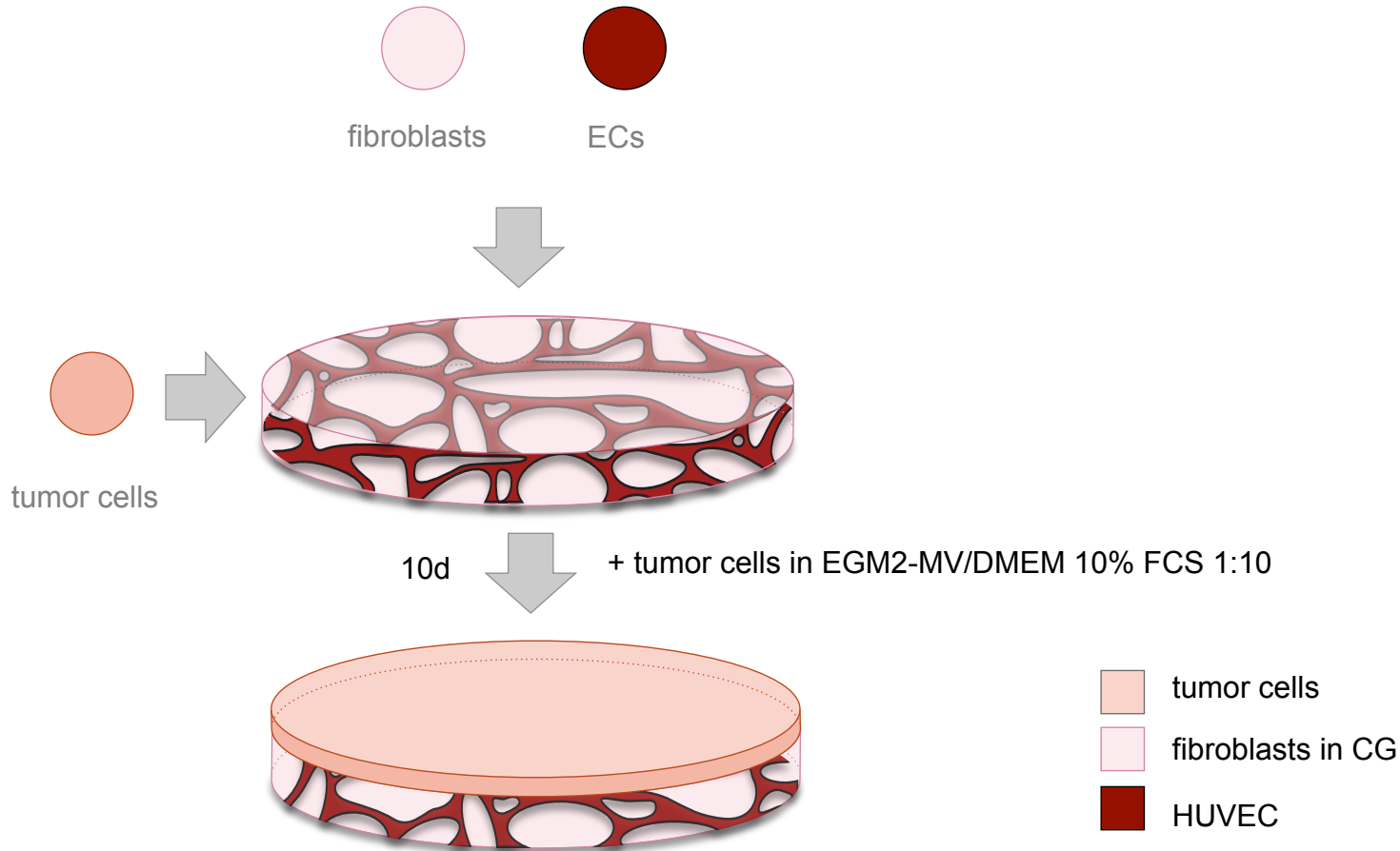


20 μm

# OTAs can be drug treated



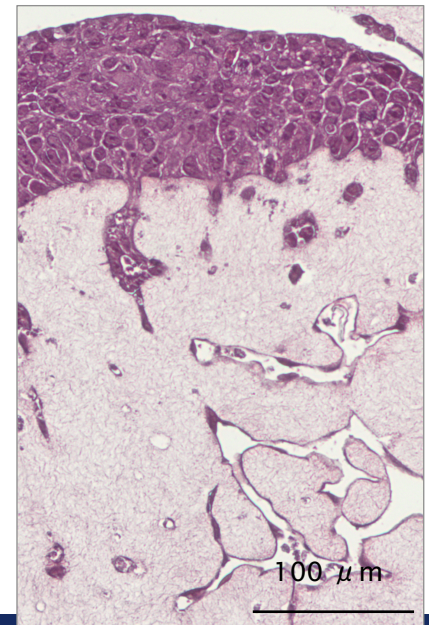
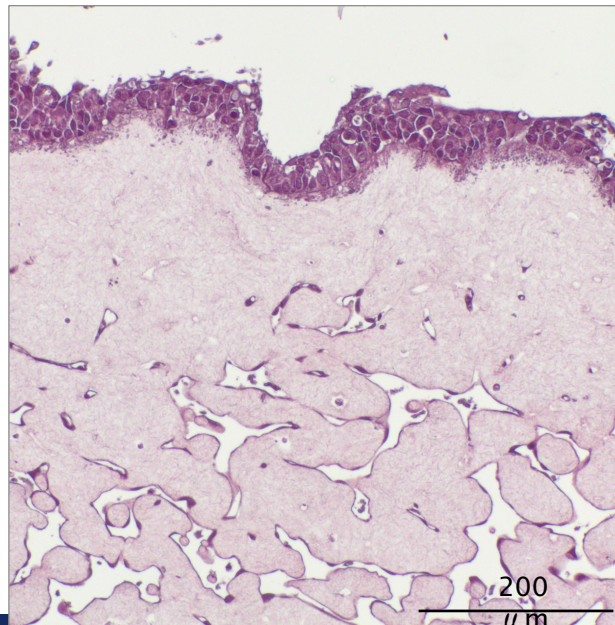
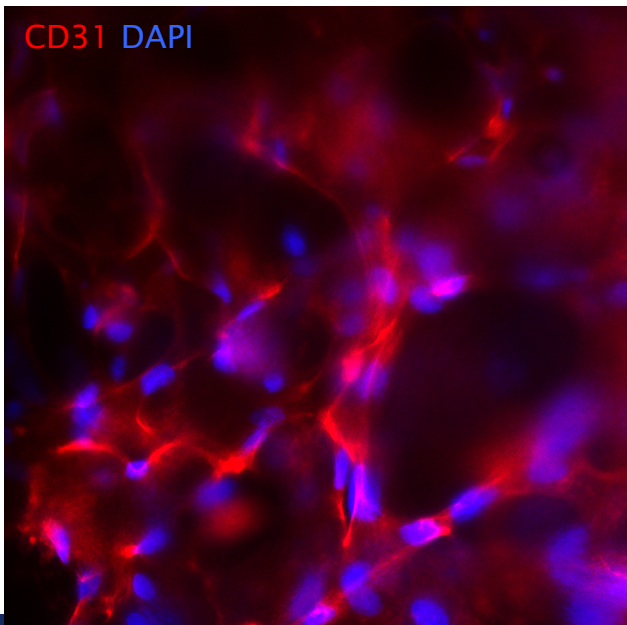
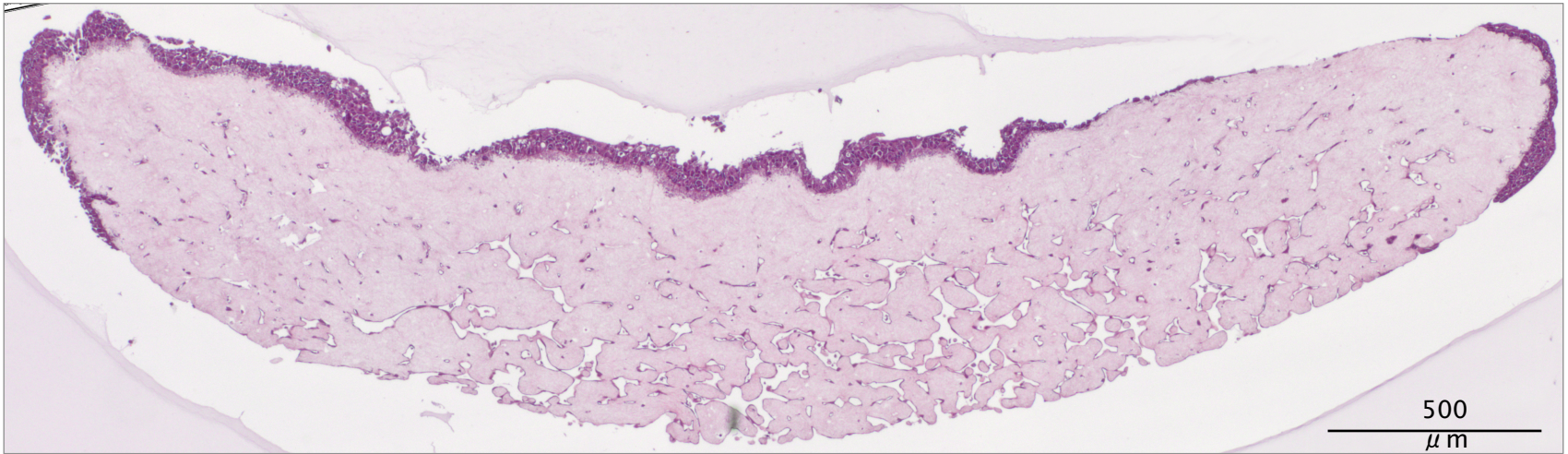
# Reconstruction of colon carcinomas in vitro



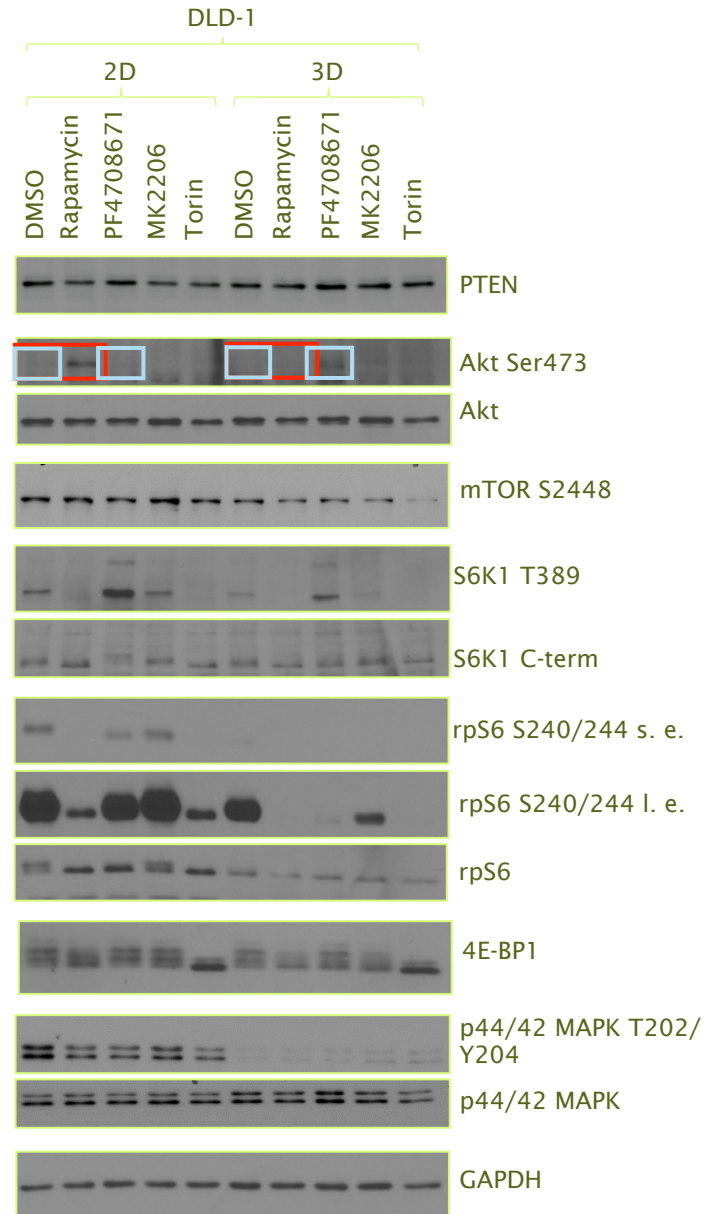
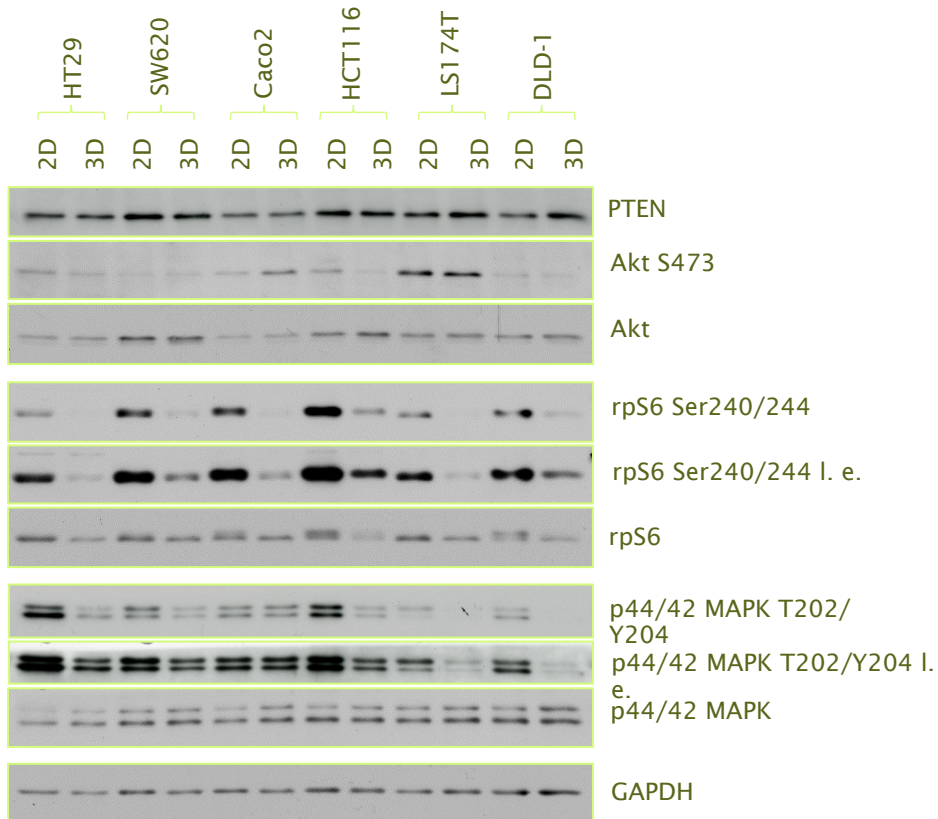
OTA+blood  
vessels.pptx



# H & E



# molecular analysis



# references

- Stem Cells: Scientific Progress and Future Research Directions. Department of Health and Human Services. June 2001. <http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/scireport.htm>
- Wnt signalling in stem cells and cancer. *Nature* (2005)
- Context, tissue plasticity, and cancer: Are tumor stem cells also regulated by the microenvironment. *Cancer Cell* (2005)

## Intestinal label-retaining cells are secretory precursors expressing Lgr5

7 MARCH 2013 | VOL 495 | NATURE | 65

Simon J. A. Buczakki<sup>1</sup>, Heather Ireland Zecchini<sup>1</sup>, Anna M. Nicholson<sup>1</sup>, Roslin Russell<sup>1</sup>, Louis Vermeulen<sup>1</sup>, Richard Kemp<sup>1</sup> & Douglas J. Winton<sup>1</sup>

## A unifying theory for the crypt

7 MARCH 2013 | VOL 495 | NATURE | 53

## The Pan-ErbB Negative Regulator Lrig1 Is an Intestinal Stem Cell Marker that Functions as a Tumor Suppressor

146 *Cell* 149, 146–158, March 30, 2012

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## A reserve stem cell population in small intestine renders Lgr5-positive cells dispensable

13 OCTOBER 2011 | VOL 478 | NATURE | 255

Hua Tian<sup>1</sup>, Brian Biehs<sup>2</sup>, Soren Warming<sup>1</sup>, Kevin G. Leong<sup>3</sup>, Linda Rangell<sup>4</sup>, Ophir D. Klein<sup>2</sup> & Frederic J. de Sauvage<sup>1</sup>



# references

## Paneth cells constitute the niche for Lgr5 stem cells in intestinal crypts

Toshiro Sato<sup>1</sup>, Johan H. van Es<sup>1</sup>, Hugo J. Snippert<sup>1</sup>, Daniel E. Stange<sup>1</sup>, Robert G. Vries<sup>1</sup>, Maaike van den Born<sup>1</sup>, Nick Barker<sup>1</sup>, Noah F. Shroyer<sup>2</sup>, Marc van de Wetering<sup>1</sup> & Hans Clevers<sup>1</sup>

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## Single Lgr5 stem cells build crypt-villus structures *in vitro* without a mesenchymal niche

Toshiro Sato<sup>1</sup>, Robert G. Vries<sup>1</sup>, Hugo J. Snippert<sup>1</sup>, Marc van de Wetering<sup>1</sup>, Nick Barker<sup>1</sup>, Daniel E. Stange<sup>1</sup>, Johan H. van Es<sup>1</sup>, Arie Abo<sup>2</sup>, Pekka Kujala<sup>3</sup>, Peter J. Peters<sup>3</sup> & Hans Clevers<sup>1</sup>

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## Identification of stem cells in small intestine and colon by marker gene *Lgr5*

Nick Barker<sup>1</sup>, Johan H. van Es<sup>1</sup>, Jeroen Kuipers<sup>1</sup>, Pekka Kujala<sup>2</sup>, Maaike van den Born<sup>1</sup>, Miranda Cozijnsen<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Haegebarth<sup>1</sup>, Jeroen Korving<sup>1</sup>, Harry Begthel<sup>1</sup>, Peter J. Peters<sup>2</sup> & Hans Clevers<sup>1</sup>

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## Understanding epithelial homeostasis in the intestine

An old battlefield of ideas, recent breakthroughs and remaining controversies

Jan R. De Mey<sup>1,3,\*</sup> and Jean-Noël Freund<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Cell

## The Intestinal Crypt, A Prototype Stem Cell Compartment

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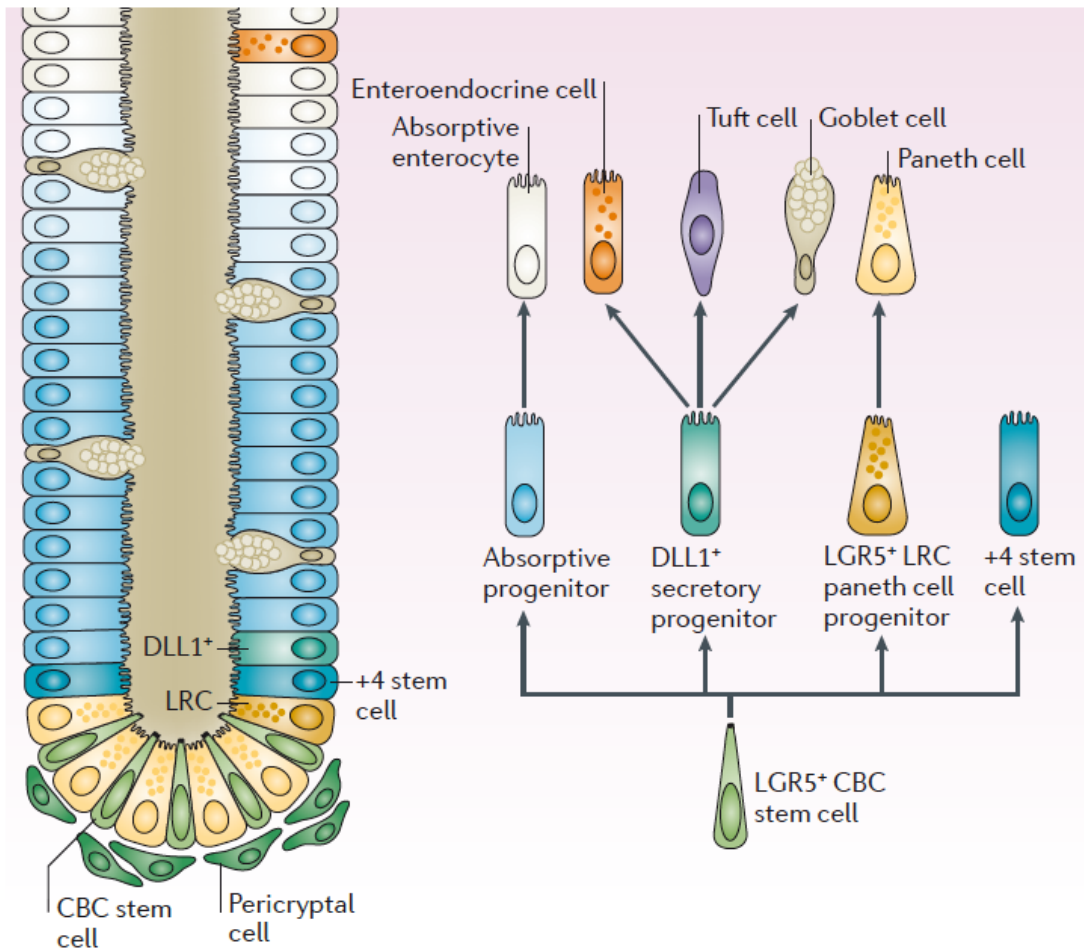
\*Correspondence: h.clevers@hubrecht.eu

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2013.07.004>

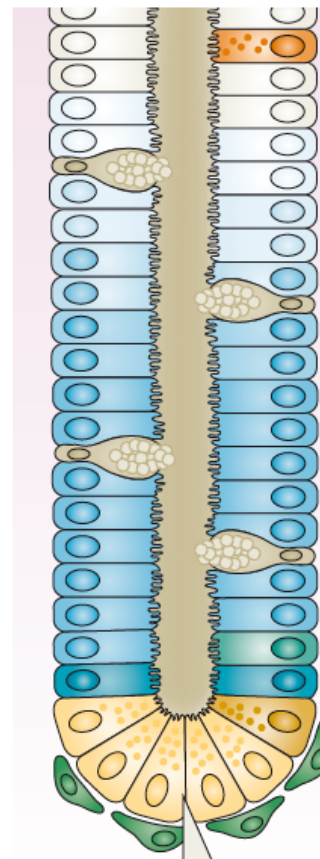


# Current Model

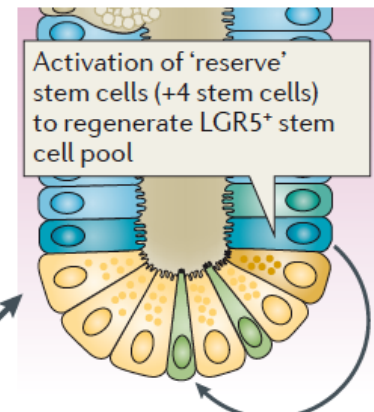
## a Homeostasis



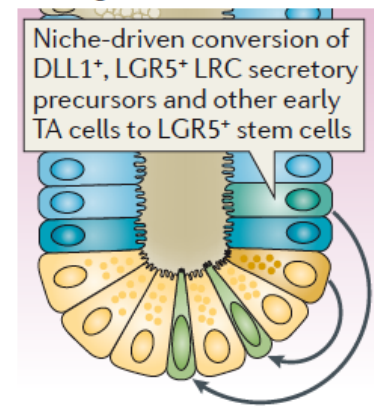
## b Injury



## c Regeneration



## d Regeneration



- Loss of LGR5+ CBC stem cells
- Survival of LGR5+ LRCs and +4 stem cells
- Survival of TA cells (including DLL1+ progenitors)
- Maintenance of niche

Barker, Nature 2014