

Japan–Lithuania Joint Life Sciences Symposium

Role of the Activin Protein for Organs Formation in Vertebrate's Development

Makoto Asashima

Academic Adviser of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science(JSPS)
Specially Research Professor, Teikyo University
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Fellow Emeritus, Advanced Industrial and Science and Technology(AIST)

25 September 2018
at Research Council of Lithuania

1. How many organs and tissues can form *in vitro* from *Xenopus*/mice multipotent cells using **activin** and/or RA ?

Xenopus; animal cap

mice: ES cells

2. New regulation factor of **activin** signalling by MAN1

3. Approaches of human stem cells

1. How many organs and tissues can form
in vitro from *Xenopus*/mice multipotent
cells(animal cap/EScells) using
activin and/or RA ?

Xenopus; animal cap
mice; ES cells

Frog
Newt

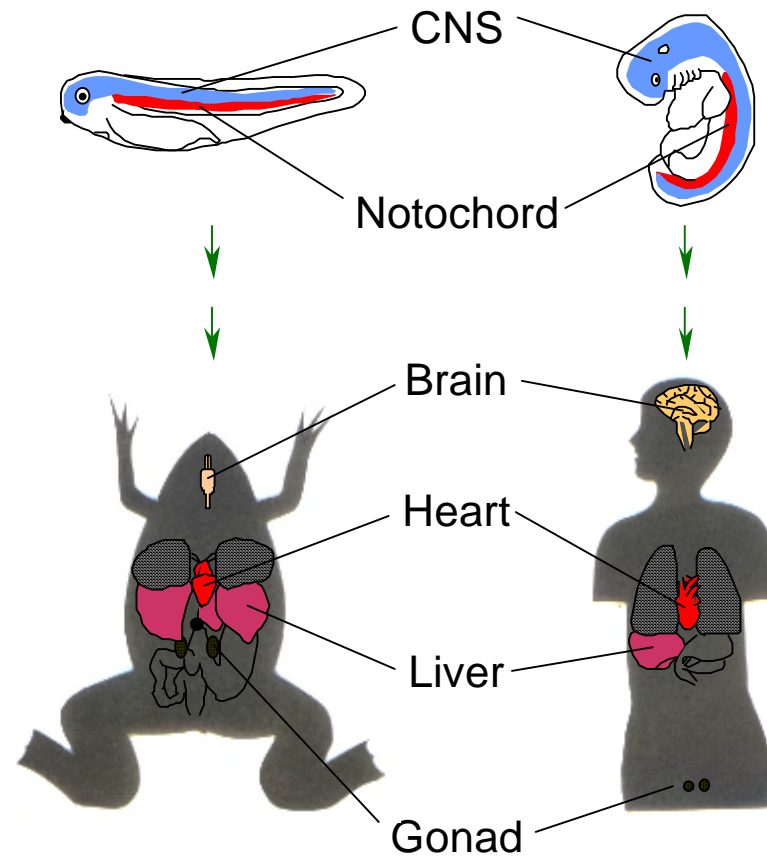


Fertilized
egg

Human
Mouse



Common system of embryogenesis



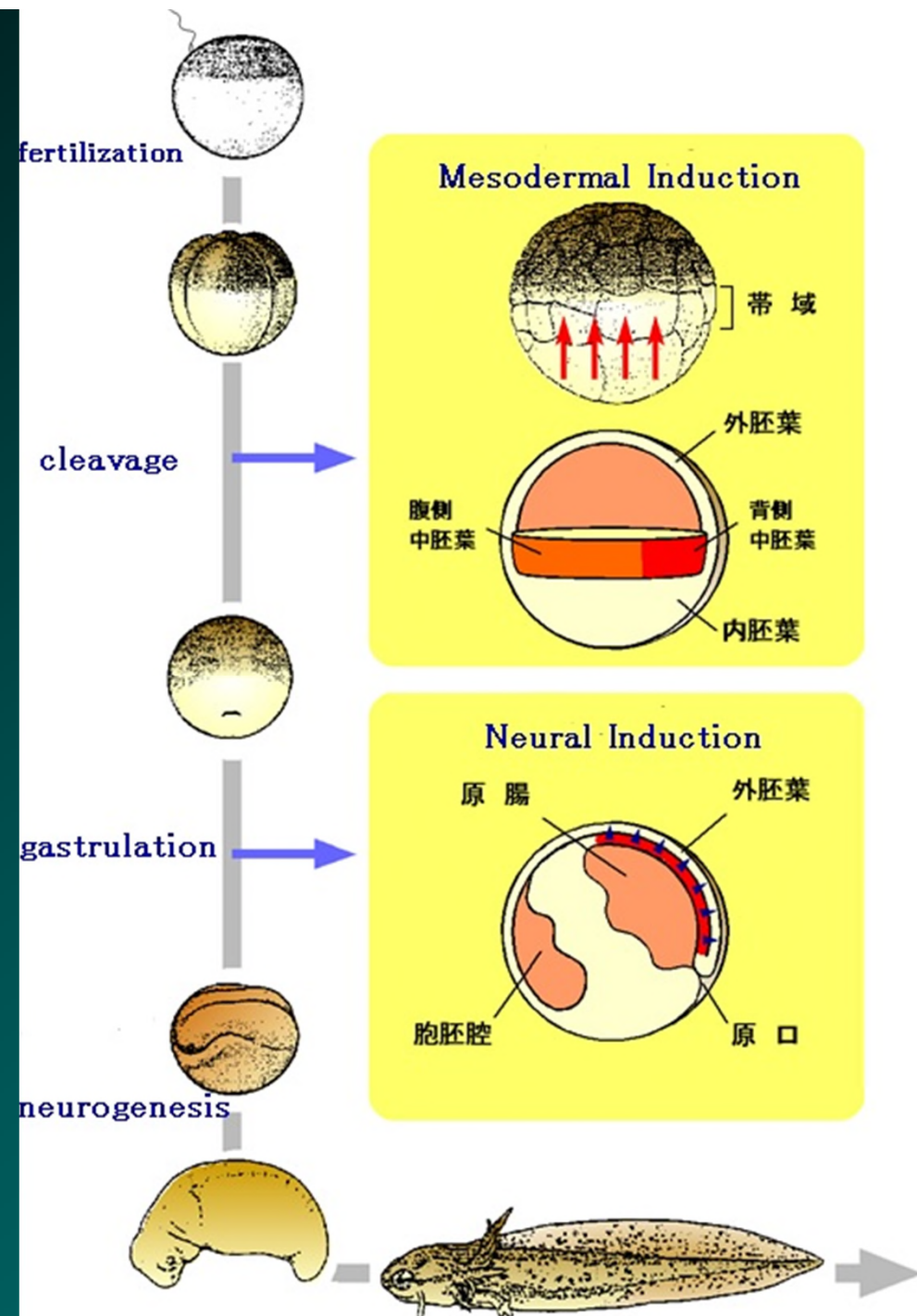
Common system of organogenesis

Early Development :

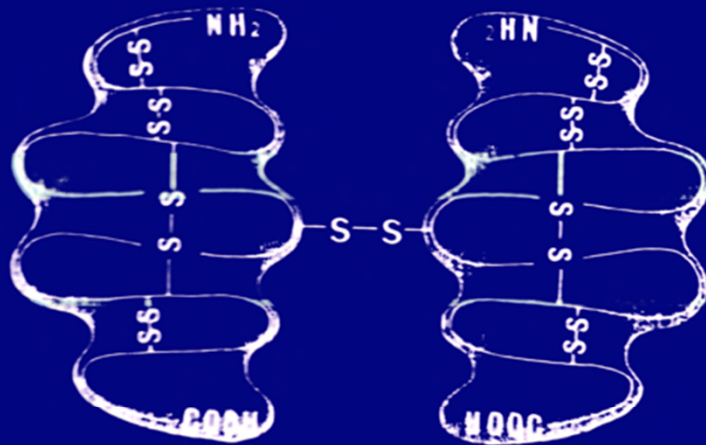
Embryonic Induction in Amphibian Embryo was discovered by Spemann and Mangold at 1924.

Mesodermal and Neural Inductions are essential for body plan formation

Many scientists have started to identify the inducing factors



Schematic structure of activin A



Molecular weight : 25,000 (12,500 X 2)

homodimer

Amino acids : 232 (116 X 2)

SH = 18

Activin is one of the proteins belong to TGF-beta family.

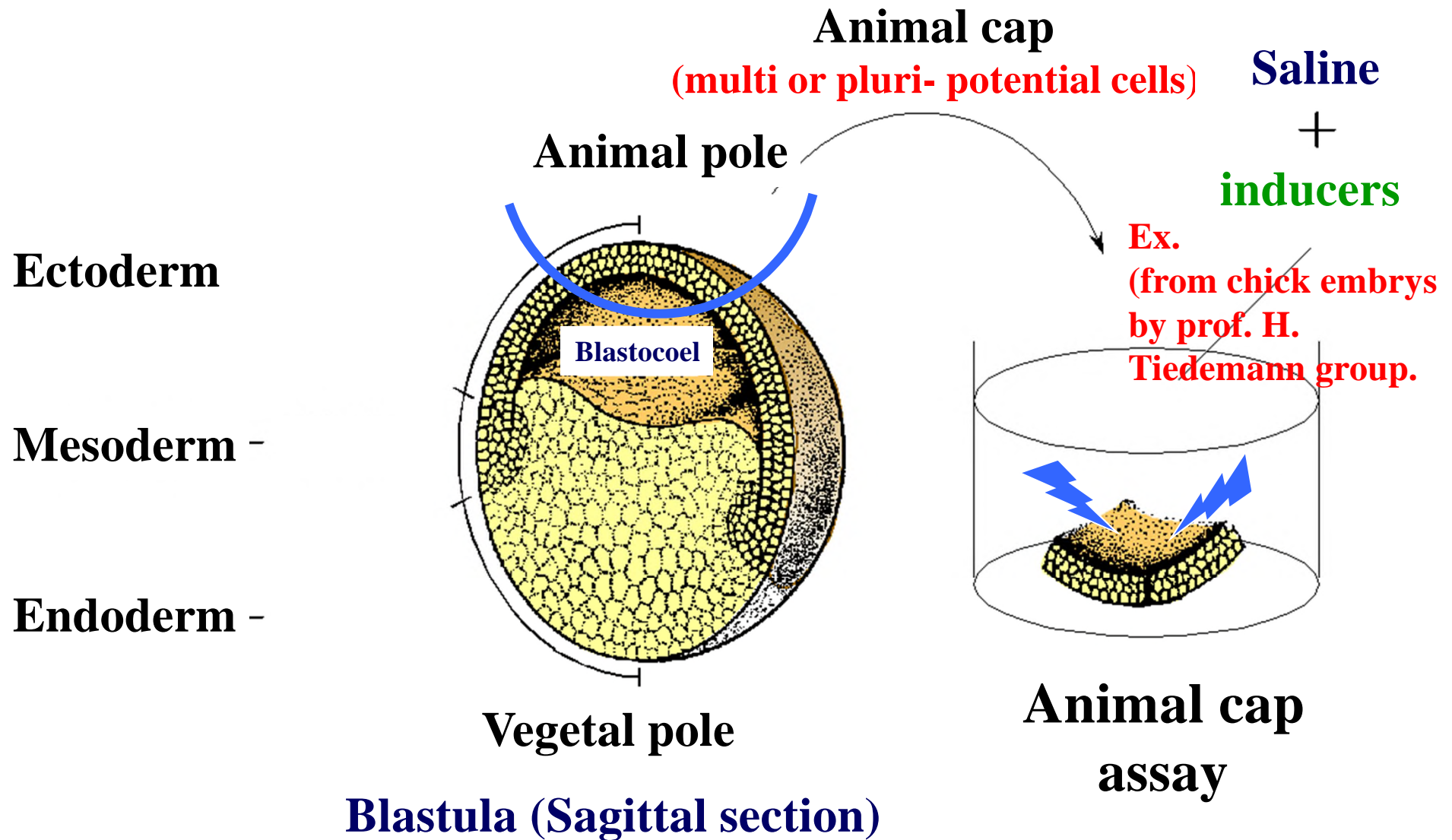
It takes 65 years to find out activin as a mesodermal inducing factor by M. Asashima at 1989.

During the 50 years, after the finding of organizer by Spemann and Mangold in 1924, “embryonic induction” has been the main theme in the field of developmental biology.

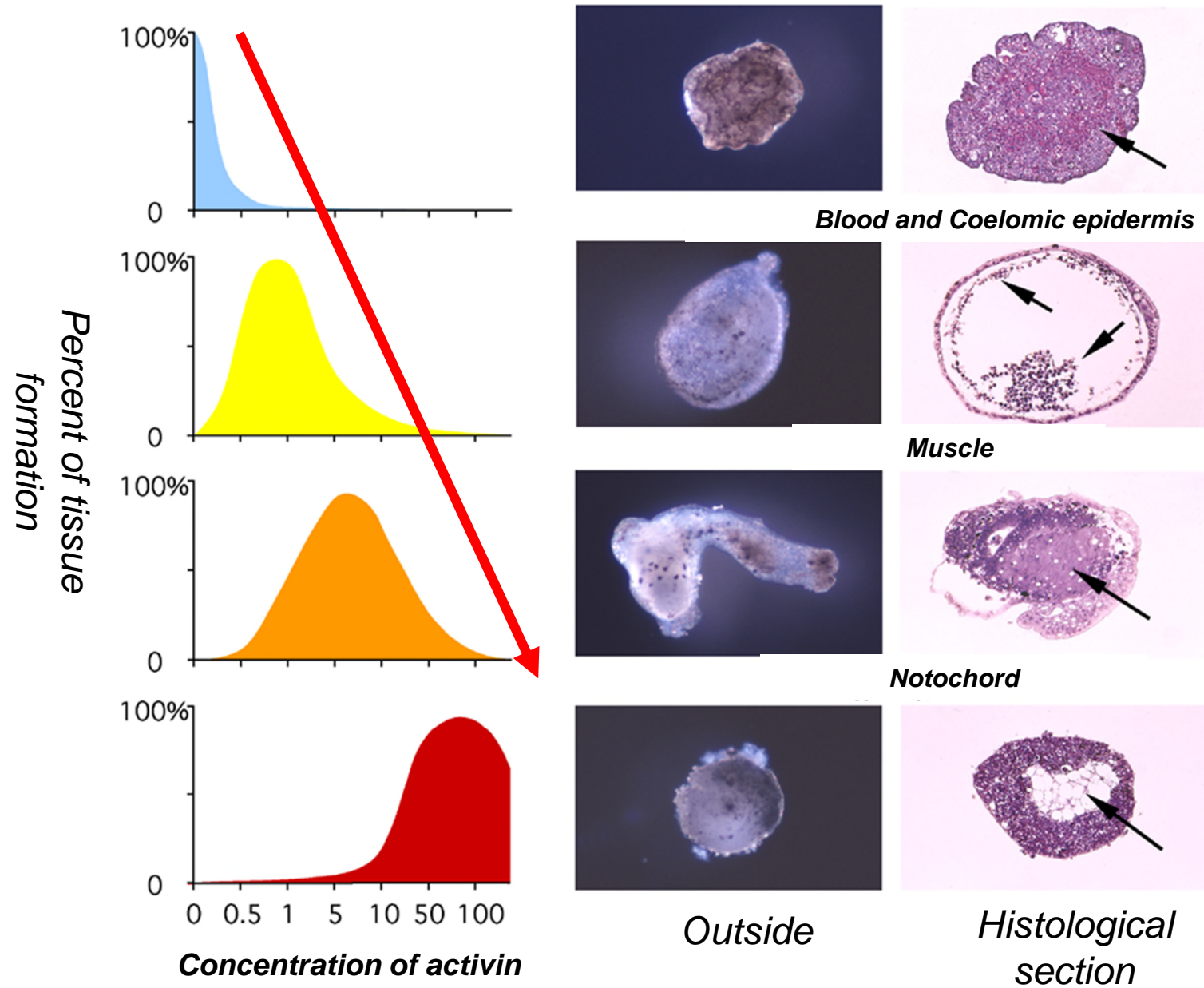
But nobody had succeeded to identify the inducing factor as a real substance.

From this new finding, new stream of the developmental biology has started.

Animal Cap Assay



Dose dependent inducing activity by activin treatment on animal cap



Muscle differentiation in early development

Elongation and myogenesis of animal cap treated with activin

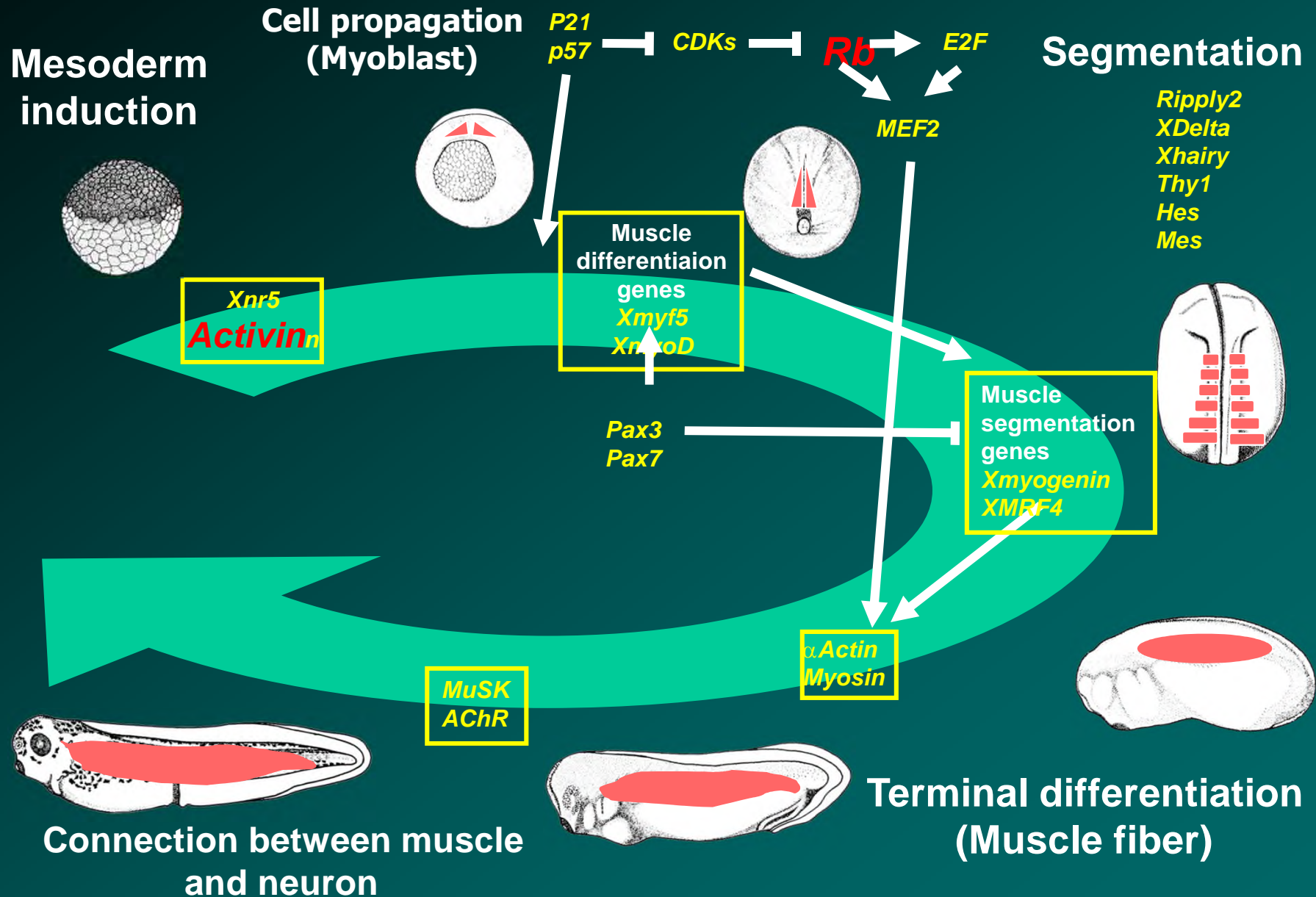


After treatment of activinA, the explant starts for muscle formation.

5 ng/ml of Activin

Sequential Gene Expression of Muscle Formation

Master genes and onco genes are expressed following the development



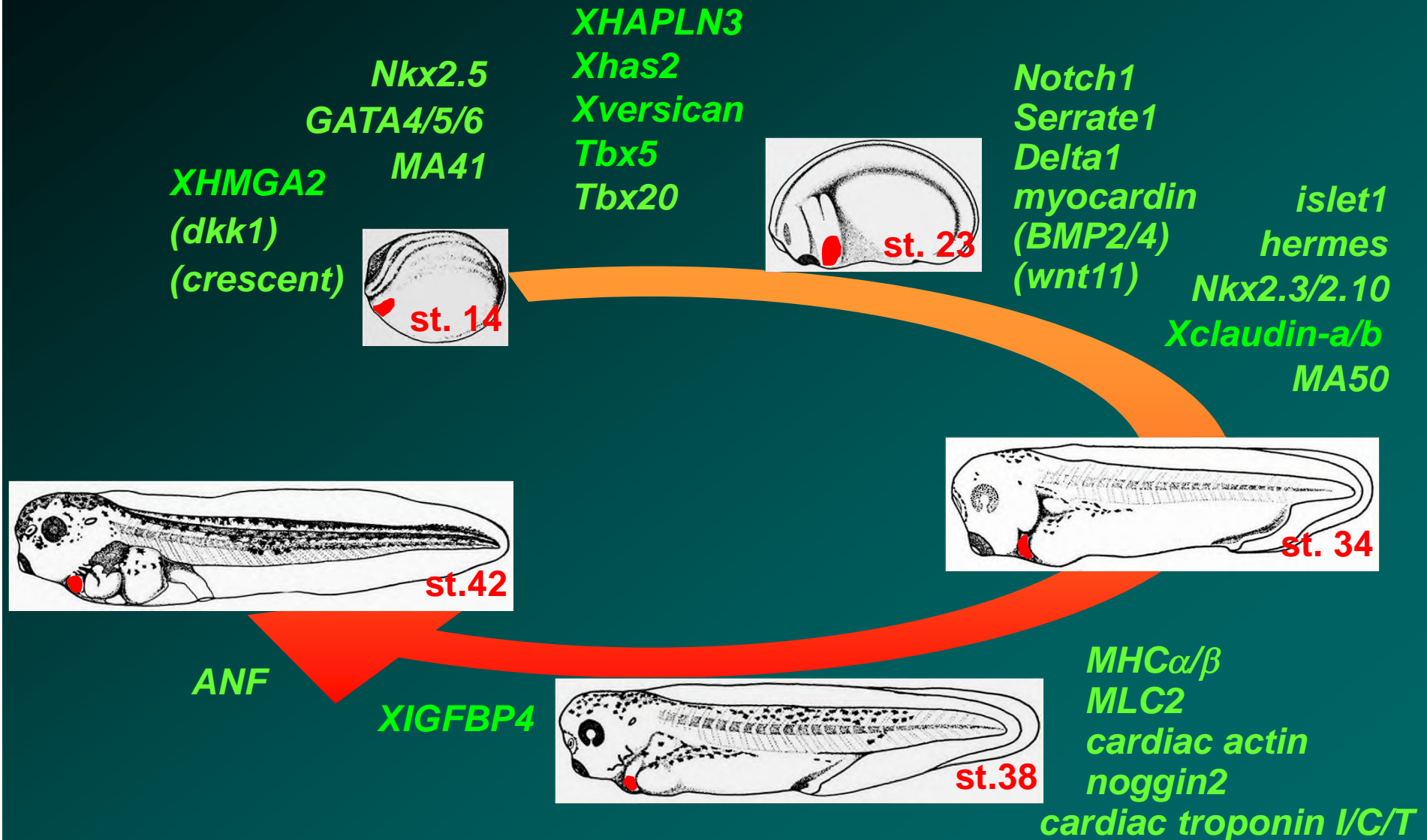
Activin-induced beating heart from animal cap

Treated with activin 100 ng/ml



7 days cultivation

Xenopus heart formation roadmap



Nkx2.5
Myocardin
Mesp1/2
GATA4
HMGA2

Nkx2.5
dHand
Tbx5
CoupTFII
Mef2c
HPLAN3
Has2
versican

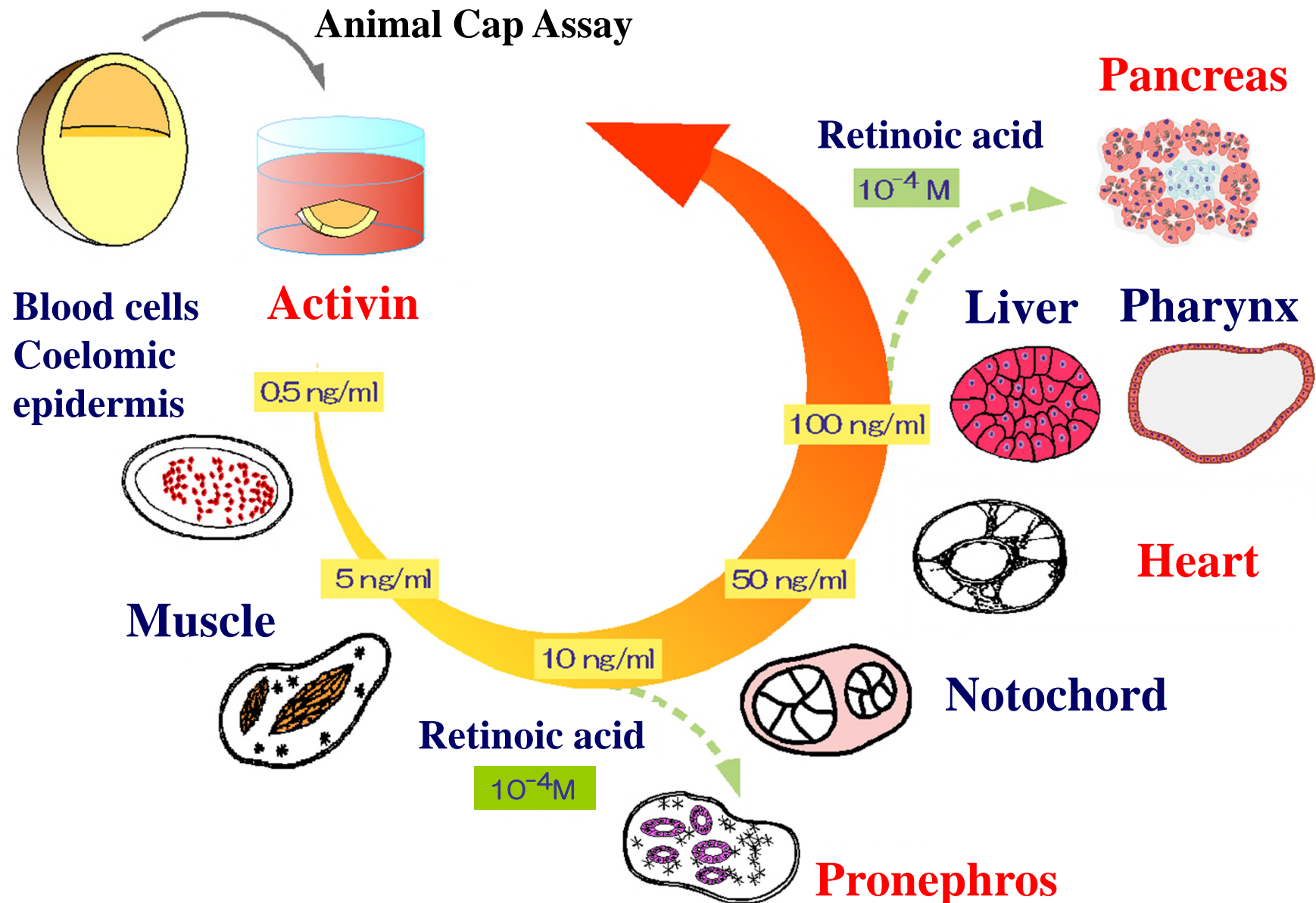
Nkx2.5
Irx4
Tbx5
dHand
pitx2
Claudin

15. 5日胚

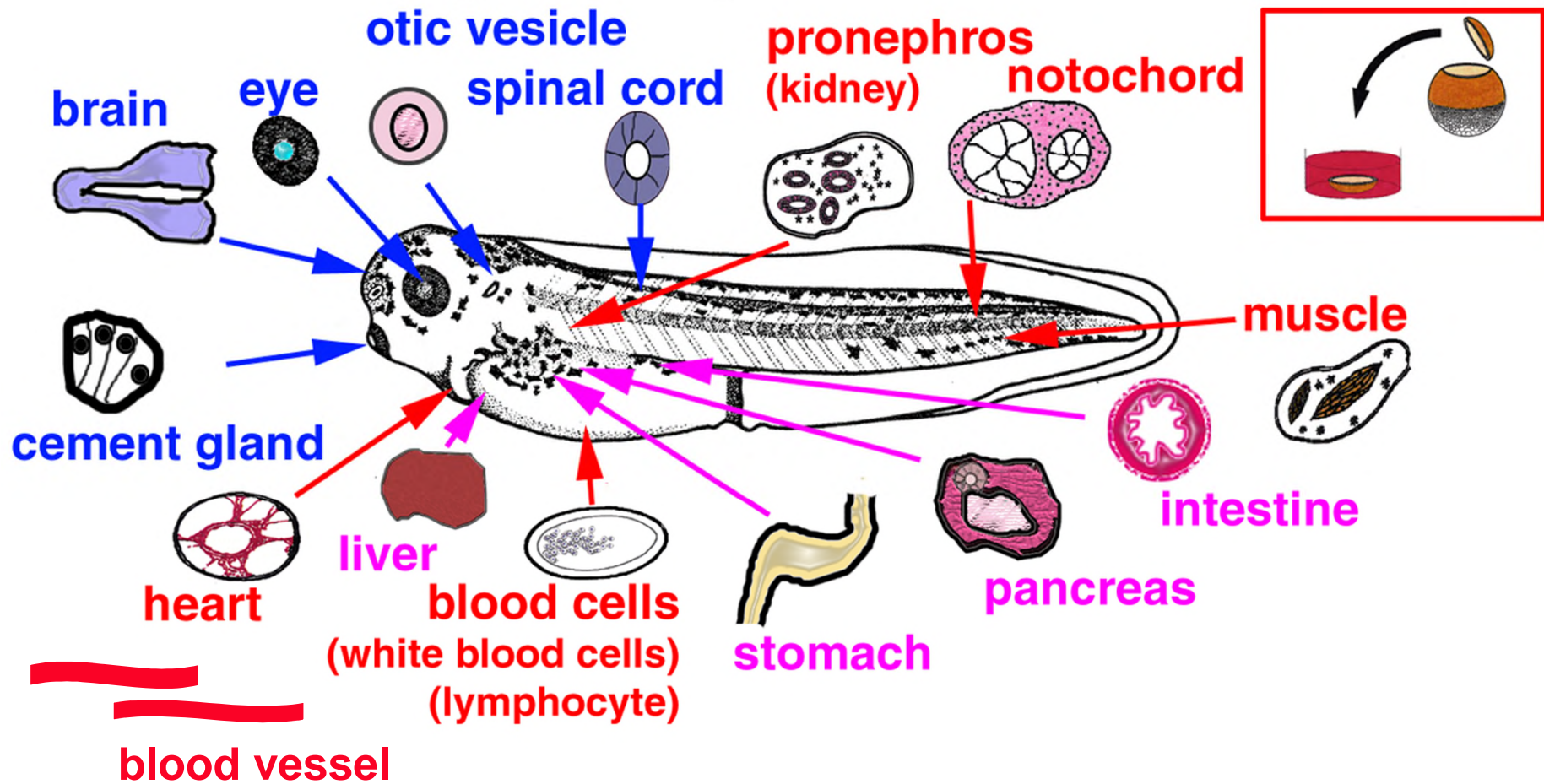
11. 5日胚

Almost same
 genes are
 used between
 mouse and
 frog.

Activin induces various tissues and organs from animal caps

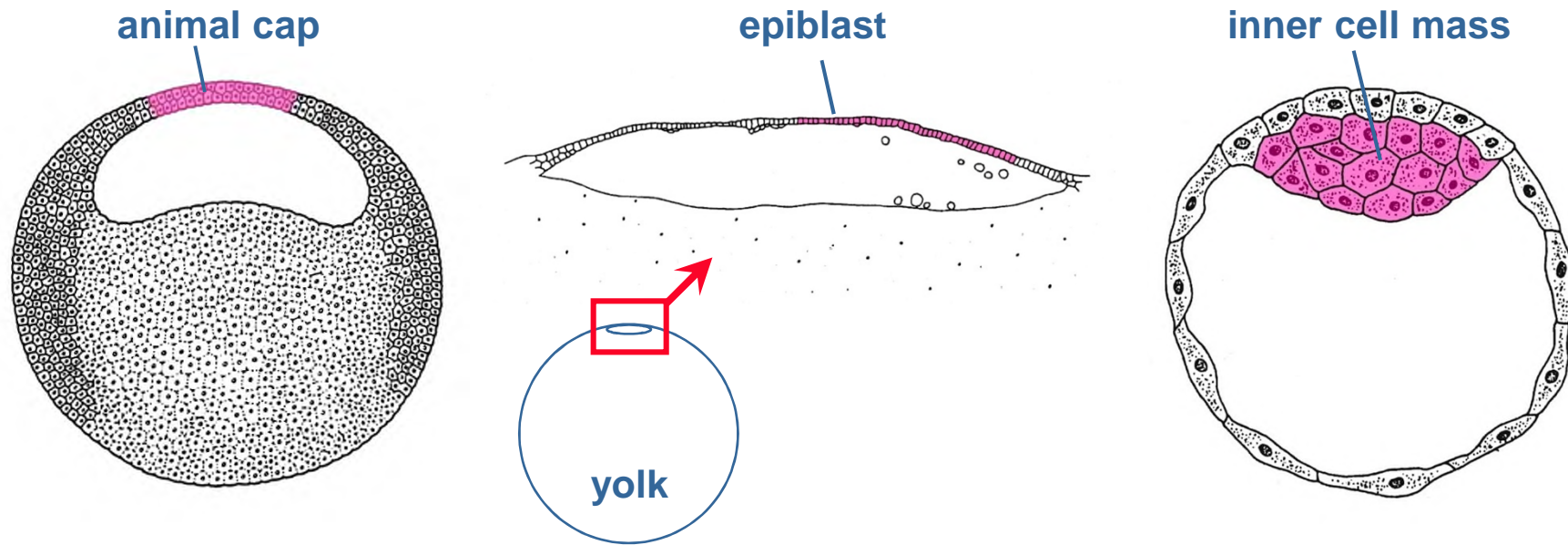


Control of organogenesis *in vitro* using *Xenopus* animal cap



Total over 20 organs and tissues (in Asashima Lab.)

Multi-potential cells at the blastula stage in vertebrates embryos



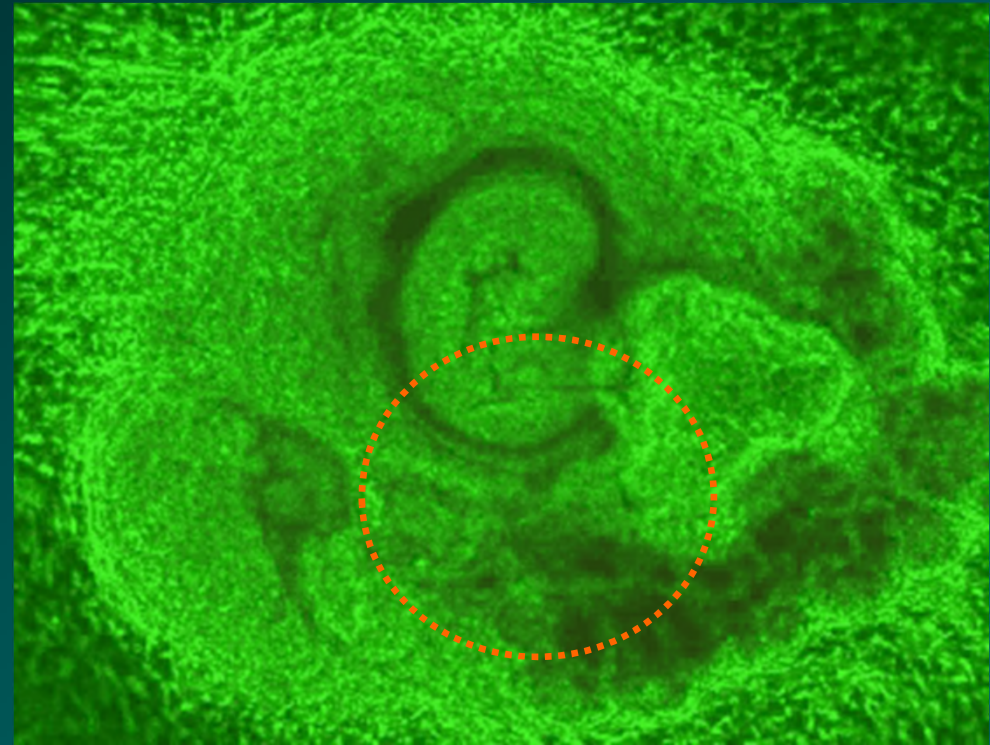
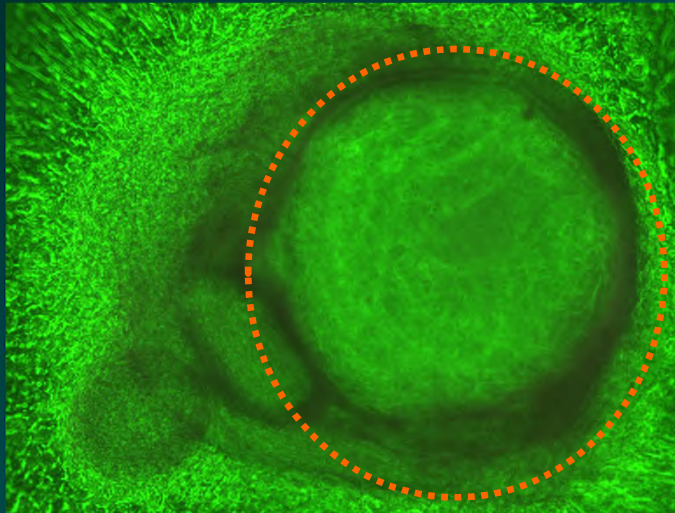
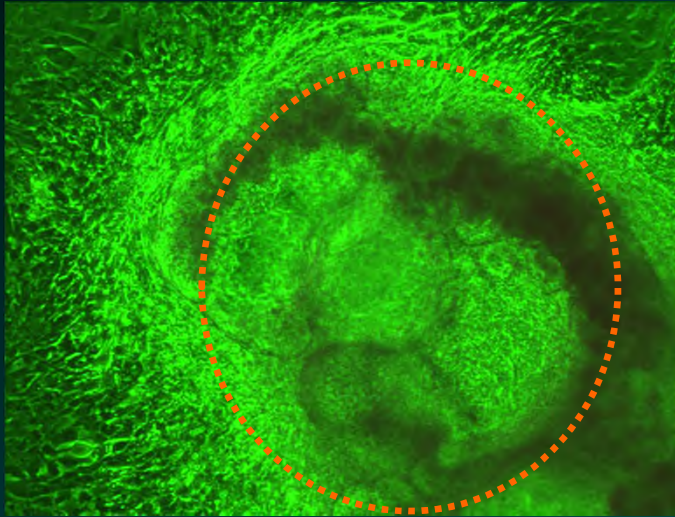
Xenopus
(amphibia)

chicken
(aves)

Mouse
Human
(mammal)

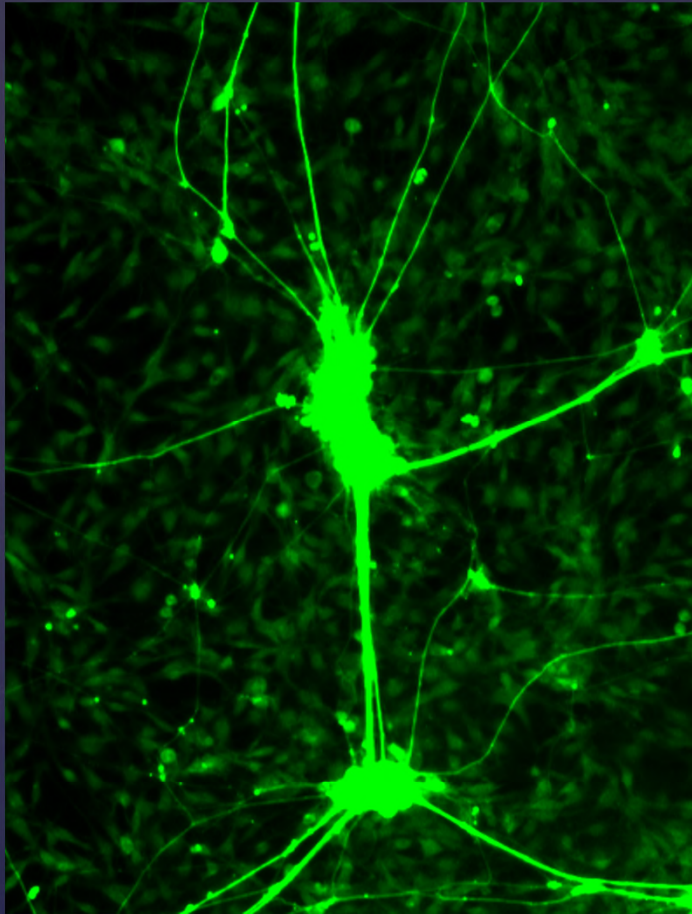
Organogenesis from Mouse ES cells

ES cells differentiation into gut-like and pancreas structures by the treatment with Activin and RAR agonist

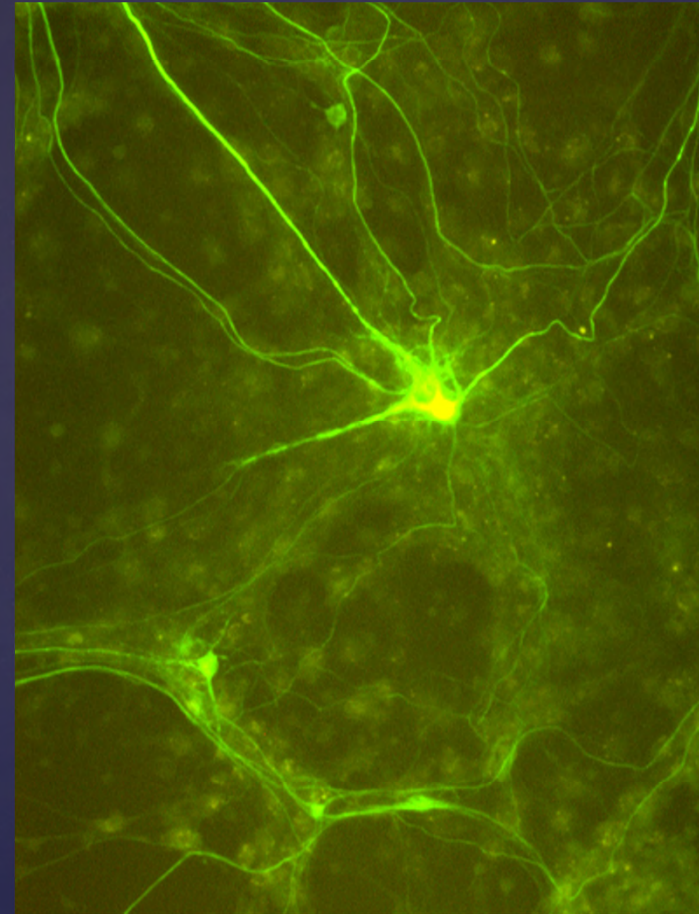


Activin and RA are one of the key factors to induce the pancreas

Neural cells formation from mouse ES cells



Anti-L-NF antibody (FITC)

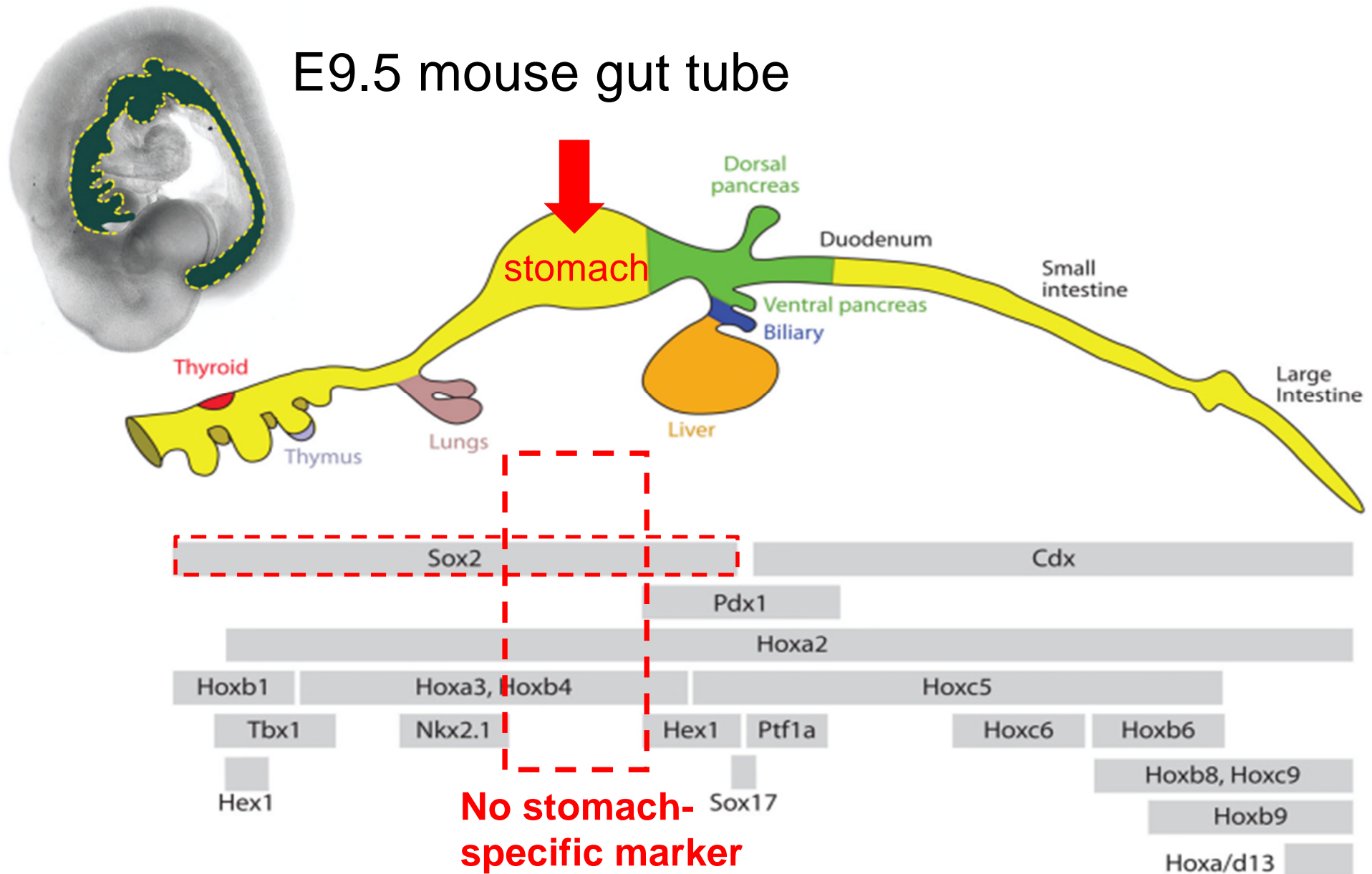


Anti-H-NF antibody (FITC)

Several kinds of neural cells are induced by changing of conditions

Differentiation of stomach tissue from ES cells

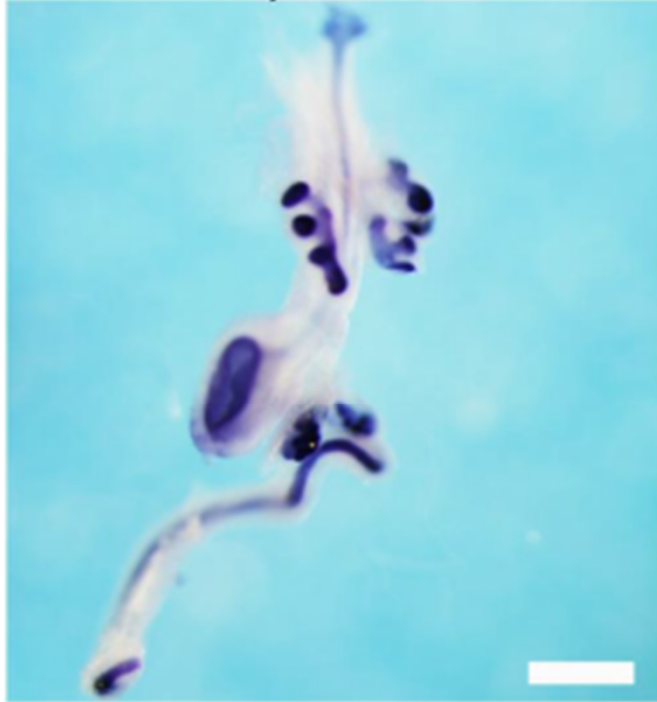
E9.5 mouse gut tube



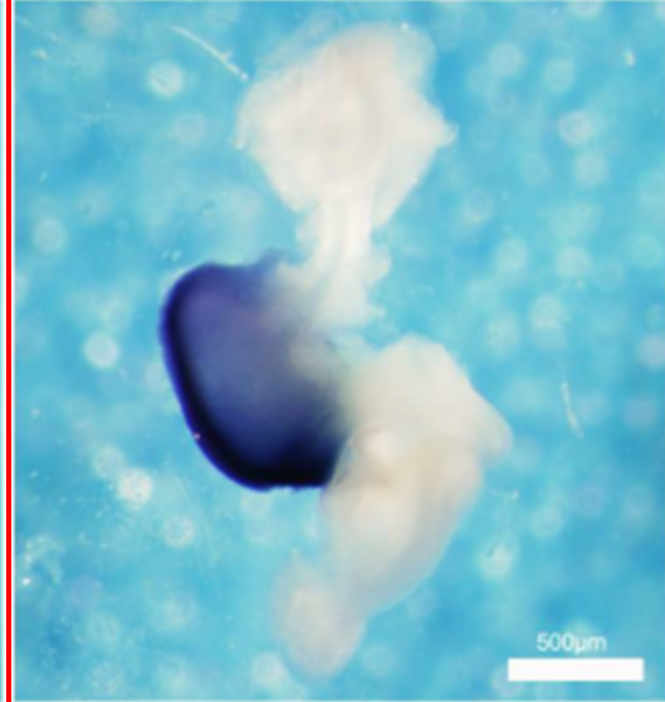
Zorn, AM and Wells, JM. *Annu Rev Cell Dev Biol.* (2009)

E11.5

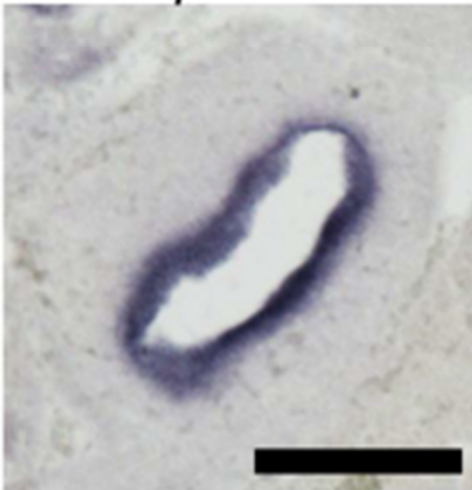
a *EpCAM*



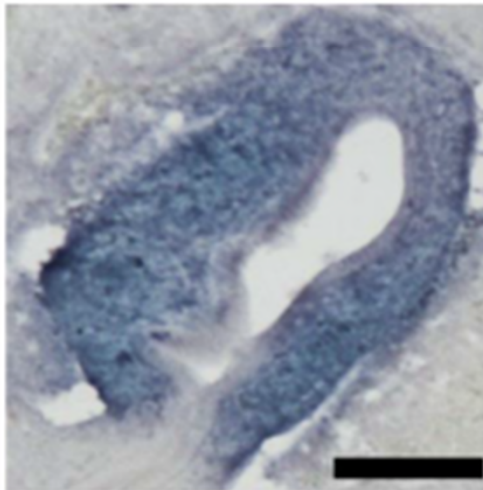
b *Barx1*



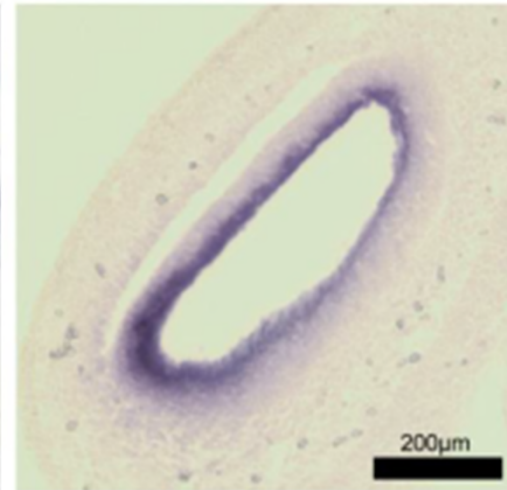
c *EpCAM*



d *Barx1*

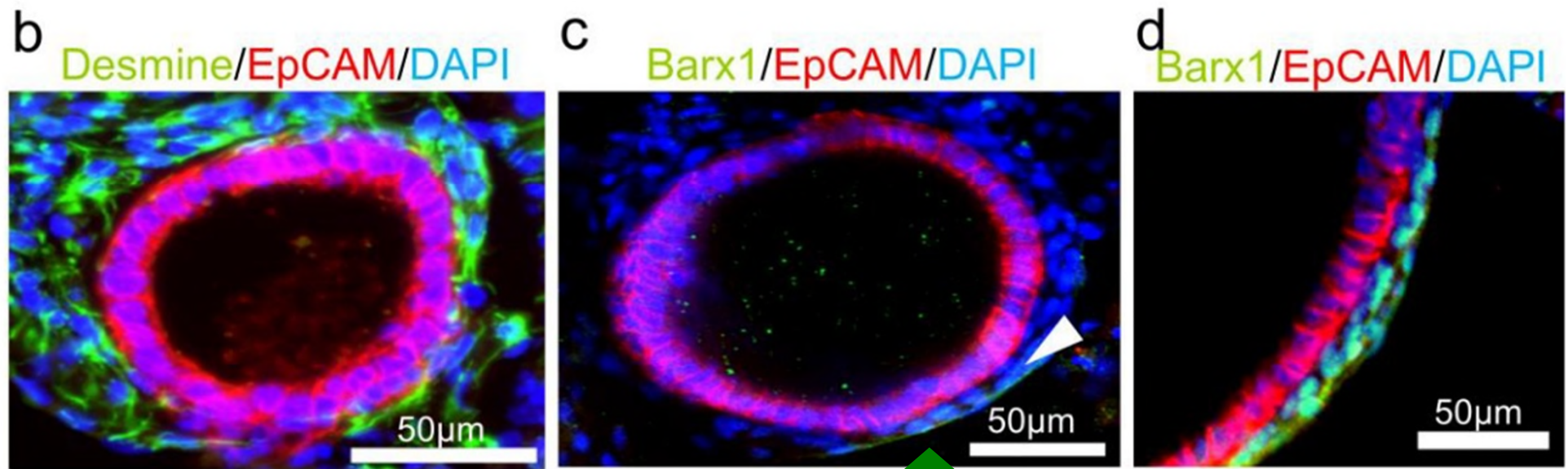
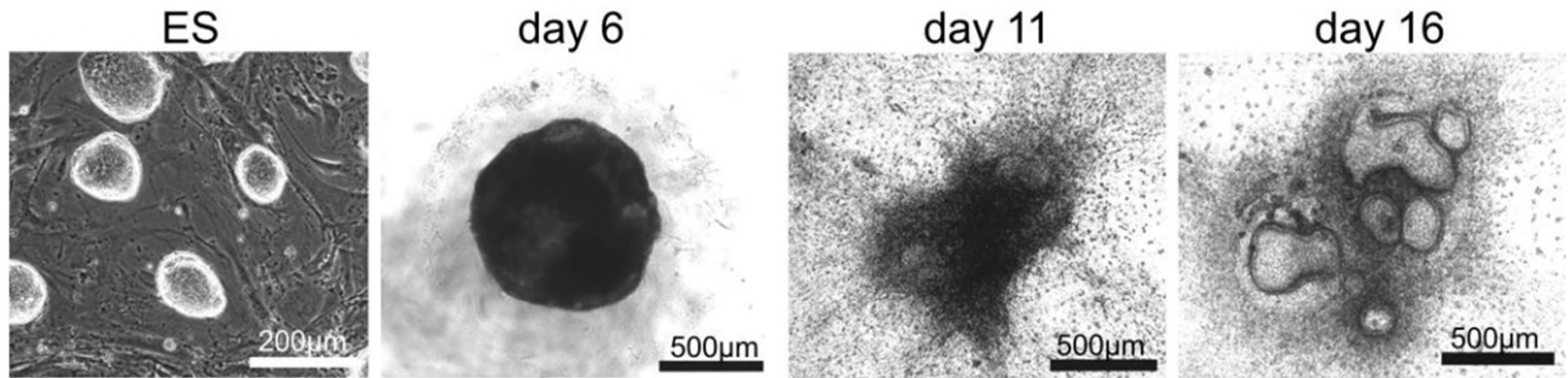


e *Sox2*



Noguchi et al., Nature Cell Biology (2015)

Generation of gastrointestinal from mouse ES cells

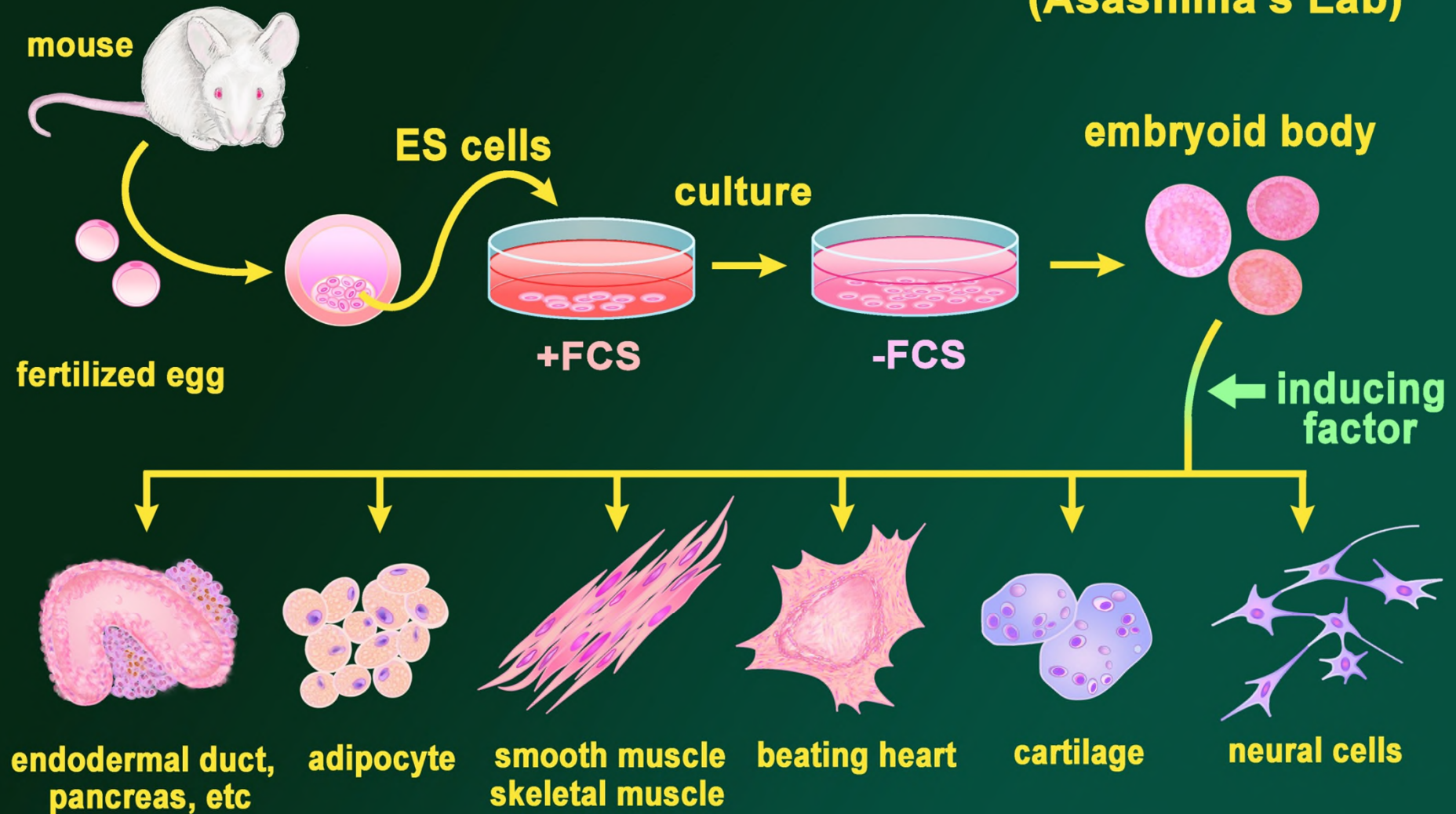


Very limited area was differentiated into stomach lineage

Noguchi et al., Nature Cell Biology (2015)

In vitro induced organs from mice ES cells

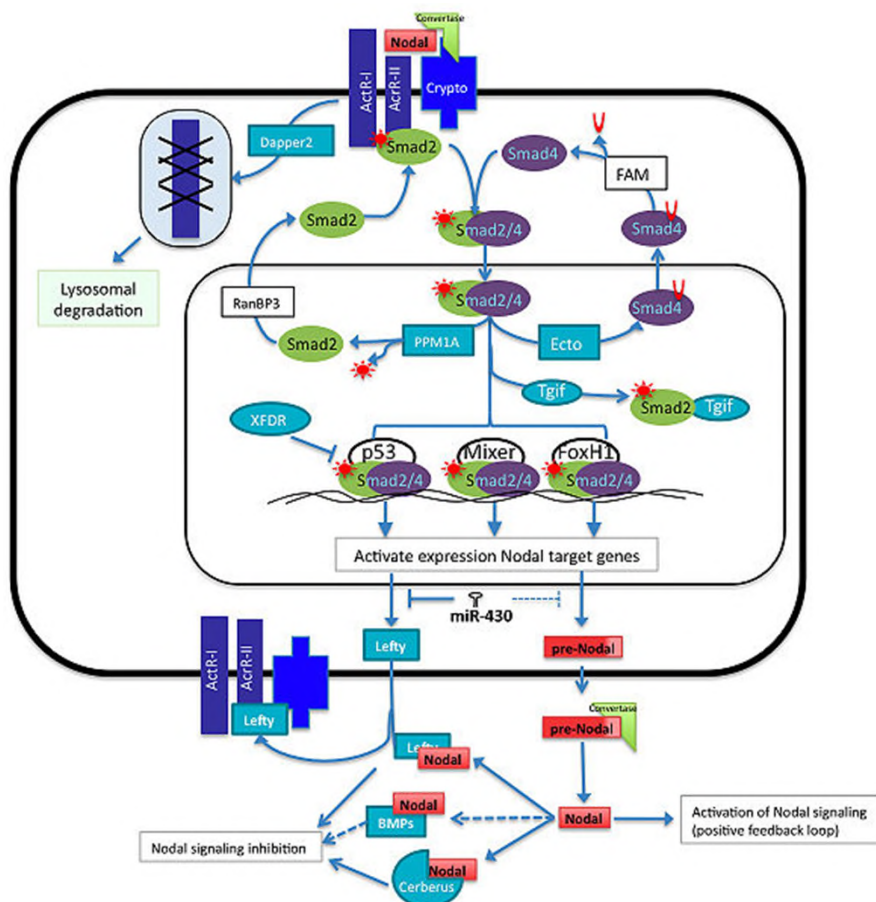
(Asashima's Lab)



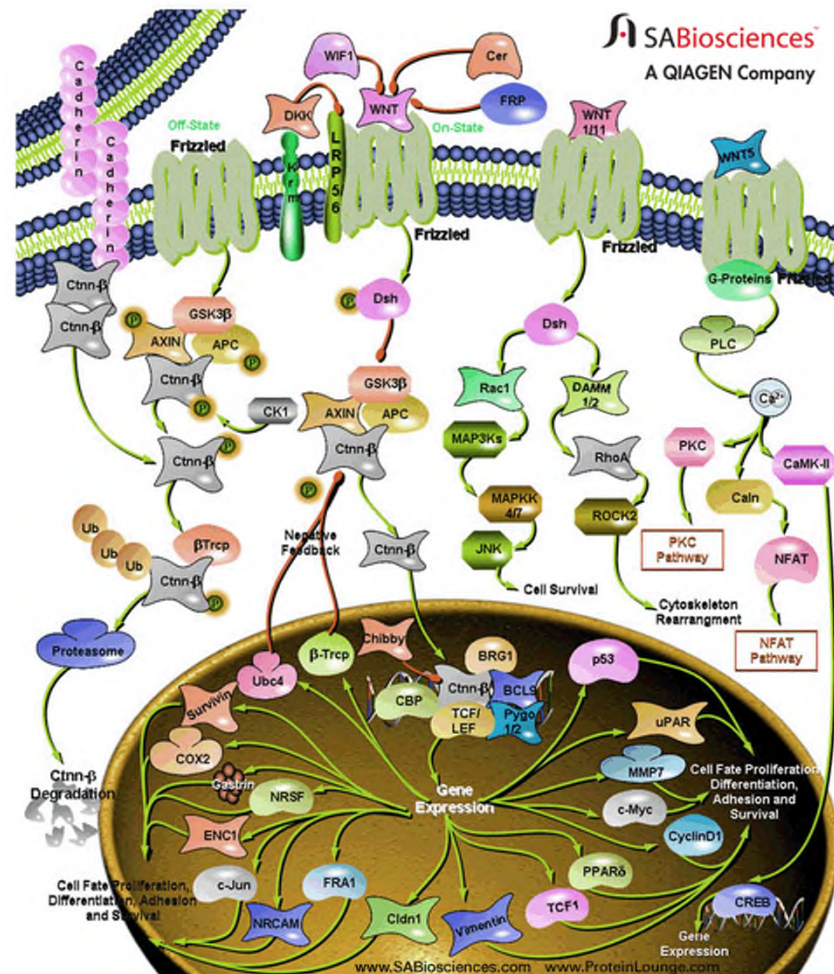
2. New regulation factor of **activin** signalling by MAN1

Networks of signal transduction between Activin / Nodal and Wnt signalings

Nodal/Activin signaling



Wnt signaling

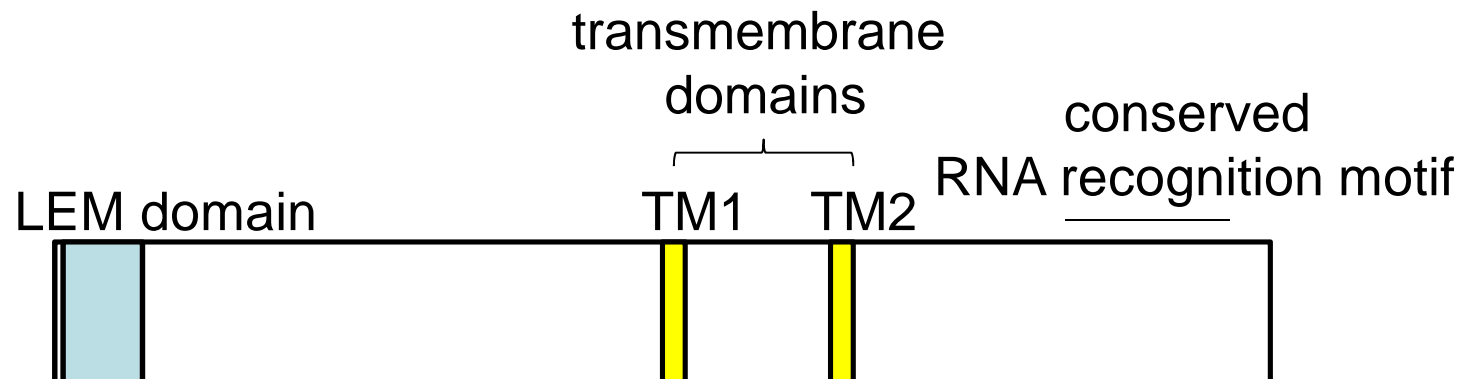


New regulation factor of Activin

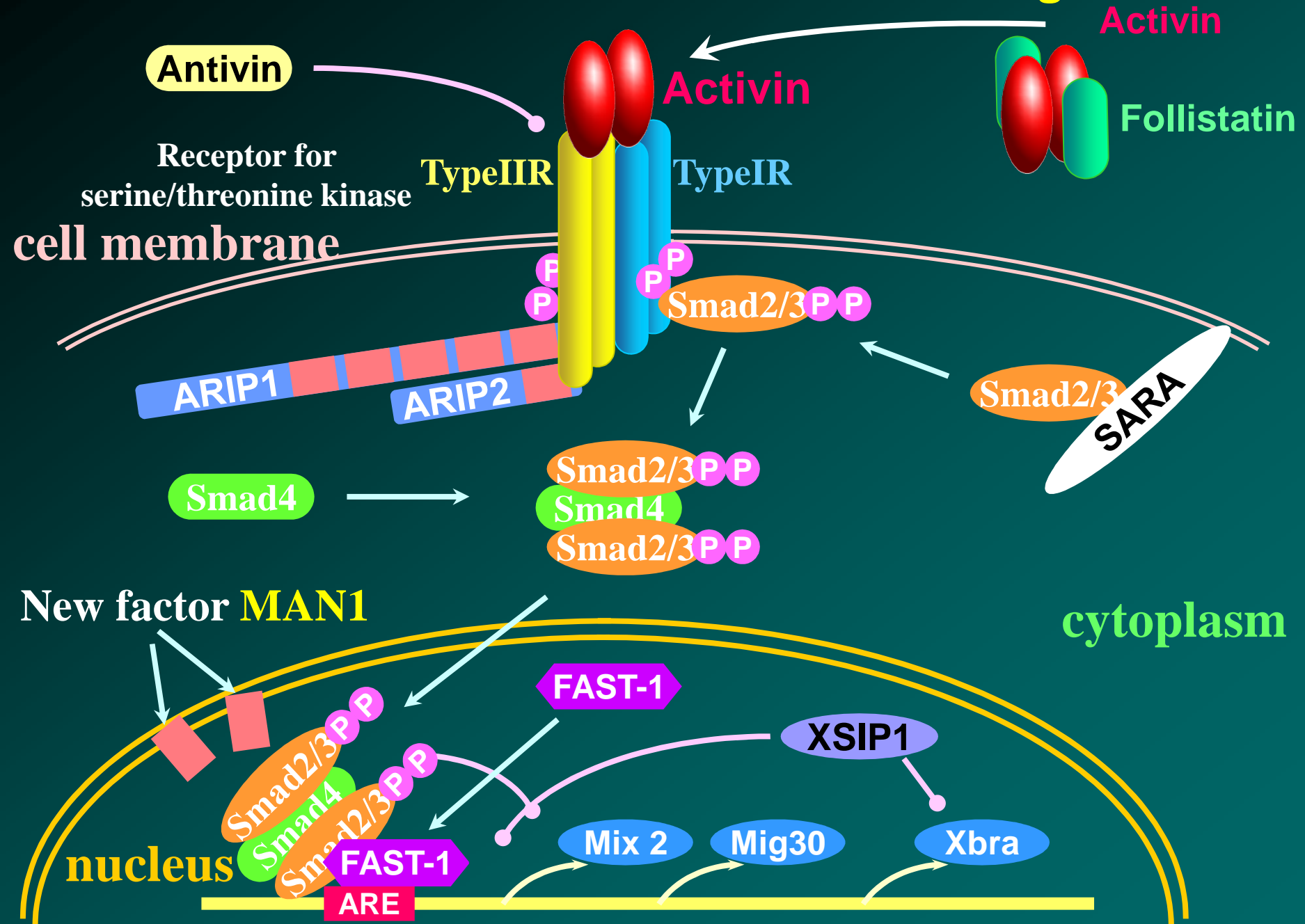
- **MAN1 (MAN antigens; Lemd3, LEM domain containing 3)**
 - ...inner nuclear membrane protein**
 - ...one of antigens recognized by autoantibodies from a patients with a collagen vascular disease**

Lin et al., J. Biol. Chem. (2000).

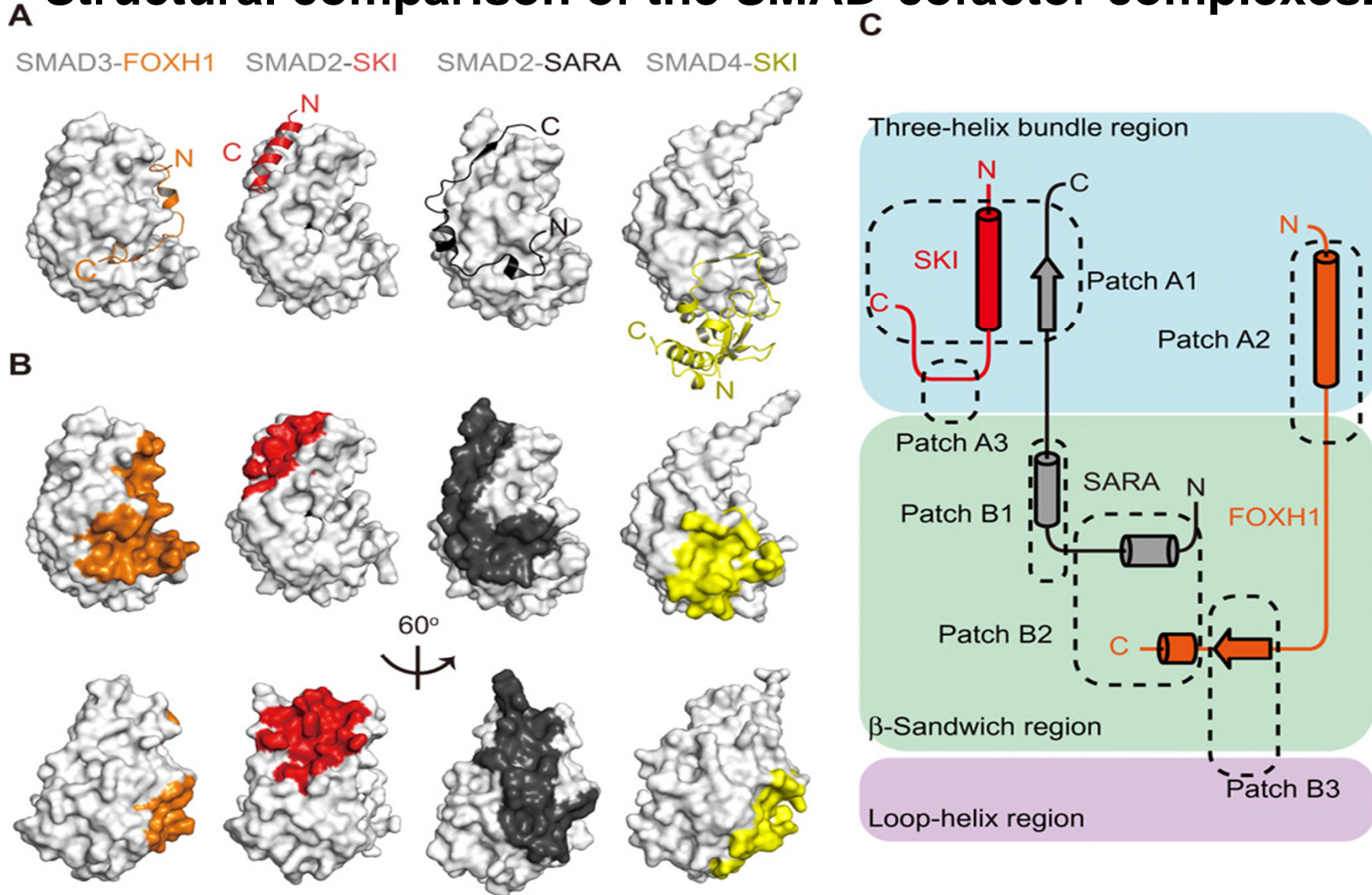
Paulin-Vevasseur et al Chromosoma (1996)



Model for transduction of Activin/Nodal signal



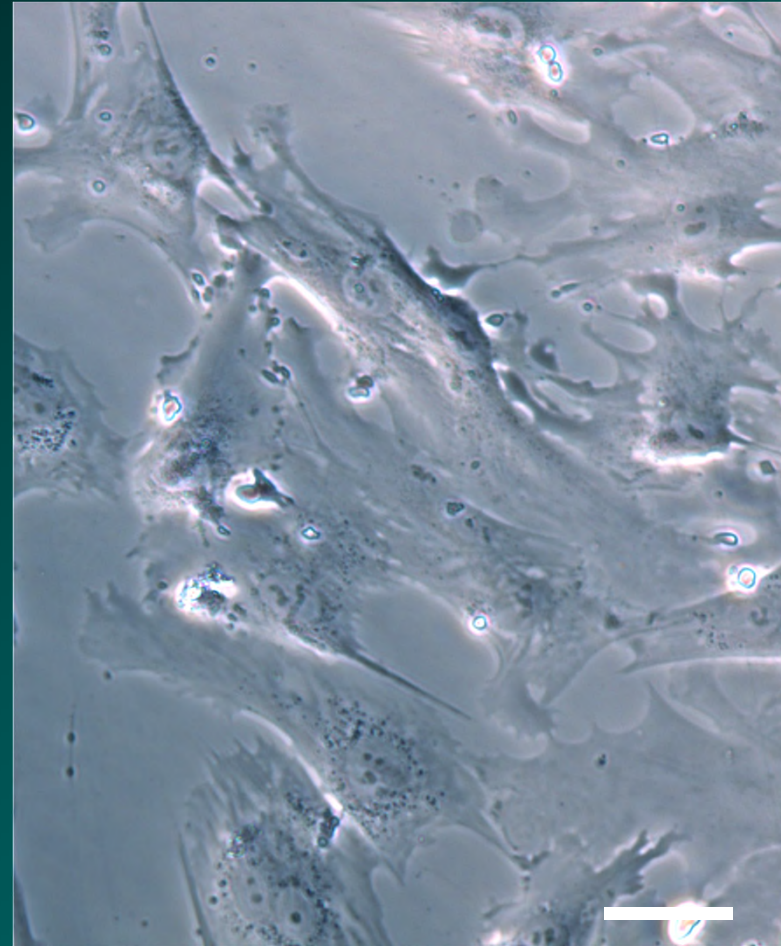
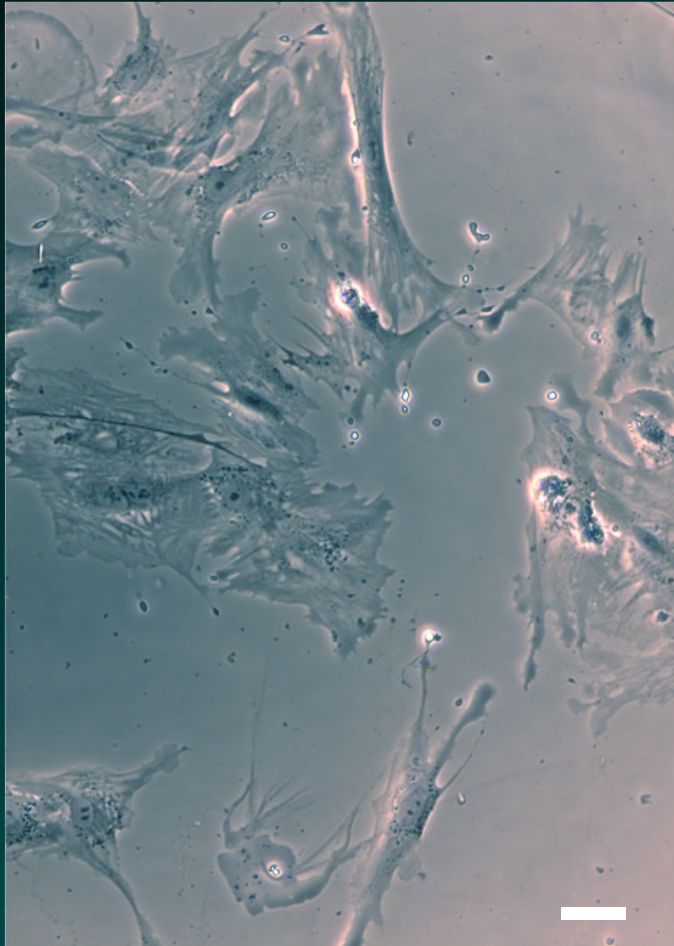
Structural comparison of the SMAD-cofactor complexes.



Ken-ichi Miyazono et al., Sci. Signal. 2018;11:eaao7227

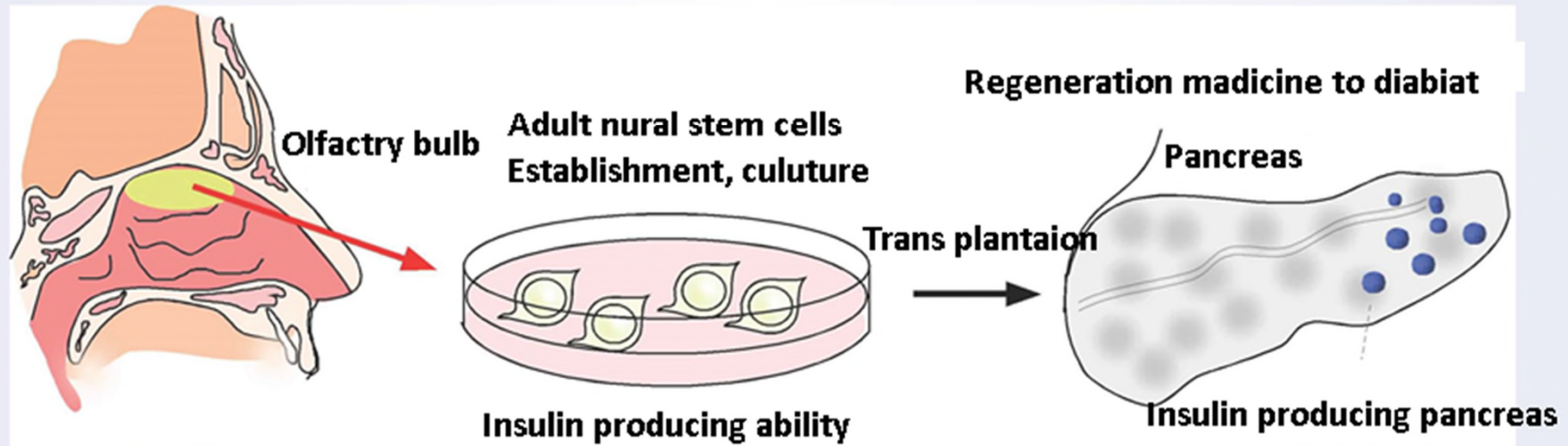
3. Approaches of human stem cells

Human adult stem cells



Our bodies have a lot of adult stem cells in many tissues and organs such as bone marrow, adipose tissue, brain, MSC etc.

Establishment of neural stem cells from olfactory bulb



Extract neural stem cells from olfactory bulb in living state

Expand neural stem cell in dish and activate the insulin production ability

Transplantation adult neural progenitor cells into pancreas islet area by using own cells (rejection free)

These stem cells can differentiate into various kind neural cells.

Kuwabara et al., Nat. neurosci. (2009), Wakabayashi et al (2016) JBC

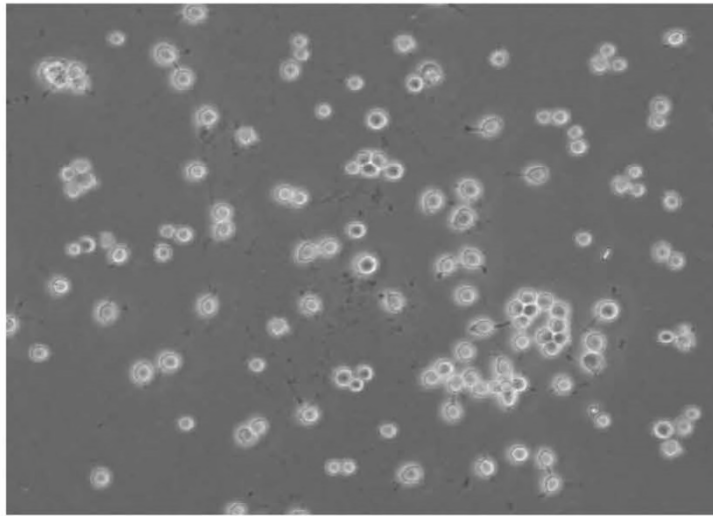
Olfactory bulb and hippocampal neural stem cells

Stem cells

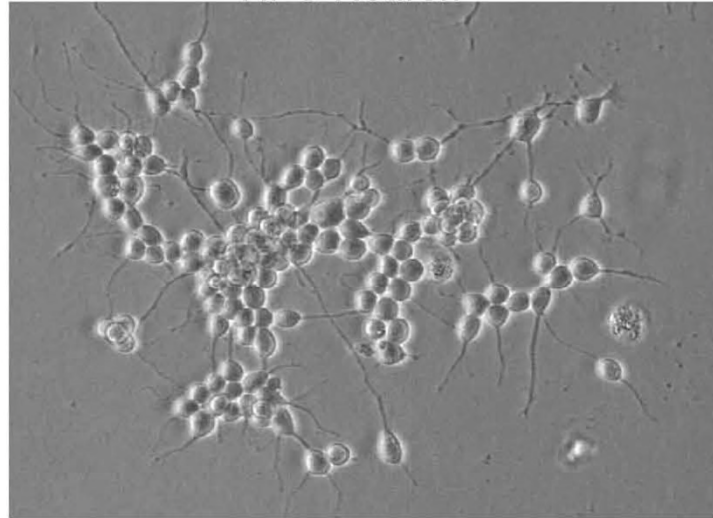


Induction
of neural
differentiation

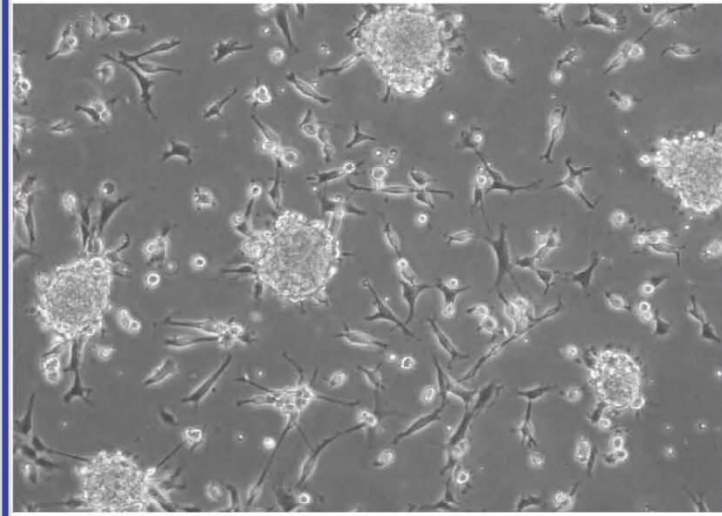
Hippocampal neural stem cells



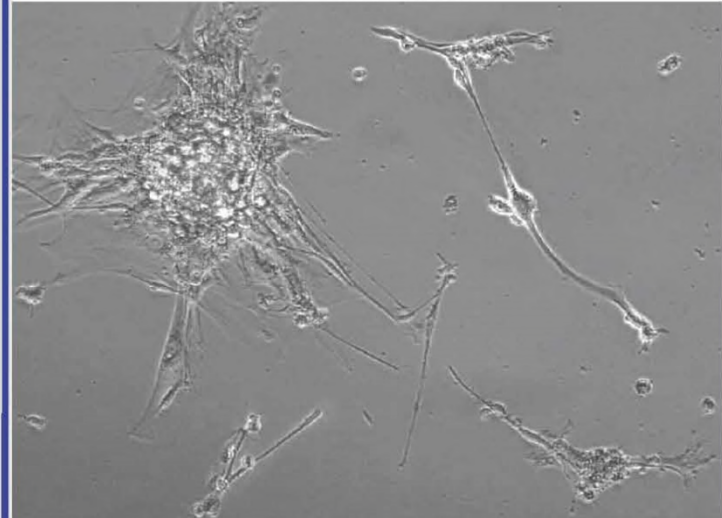
HPC Neuron



Olfactory bulb neural stem cells

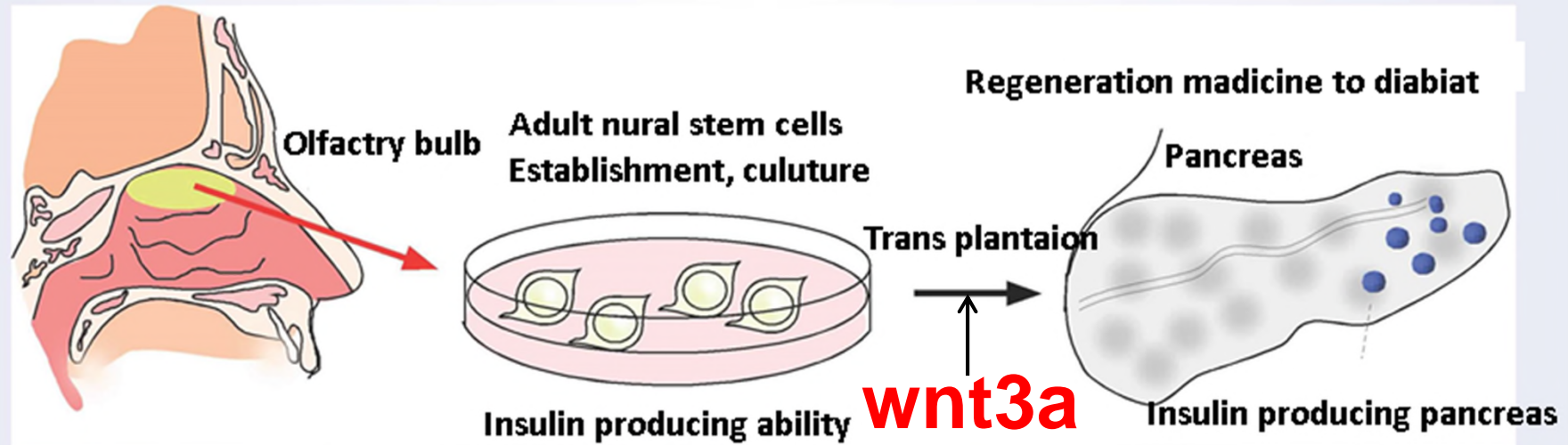


OB Neuron



These stem cells can differentiate into several kind of neural cells.

Establishment of neural stem cells from olfactory bulb



Extract neural stem cells from olfactory bulb in living state

Expand neural stem cell in dish and activate the insulin production ability

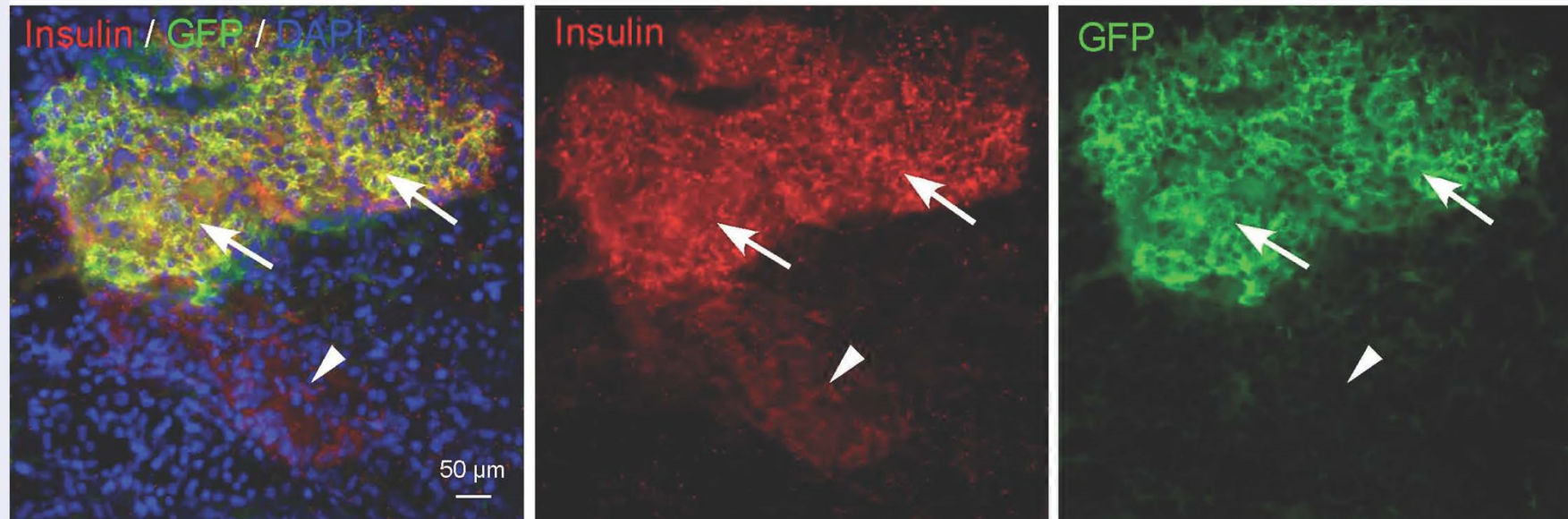
Transplantation adult neural progenitor cells into pancreas islet area by using own cells (rejection free)

These stem cells can produce insulin adding neural extract or Wnt 3a.

Kuwabara et al.,(2009)Nat.neurosci, Wakabayashi et al(2016)JBC

Transplanted OB-derived NSCs can produce insulin in vivo system

5 months later (GFP:transplanted NSCs) 。 GFP(-) original cells has no production insulin.
GFP(+) transplanted OB-derived NSCs actively produce insulin.



Control of transplantation

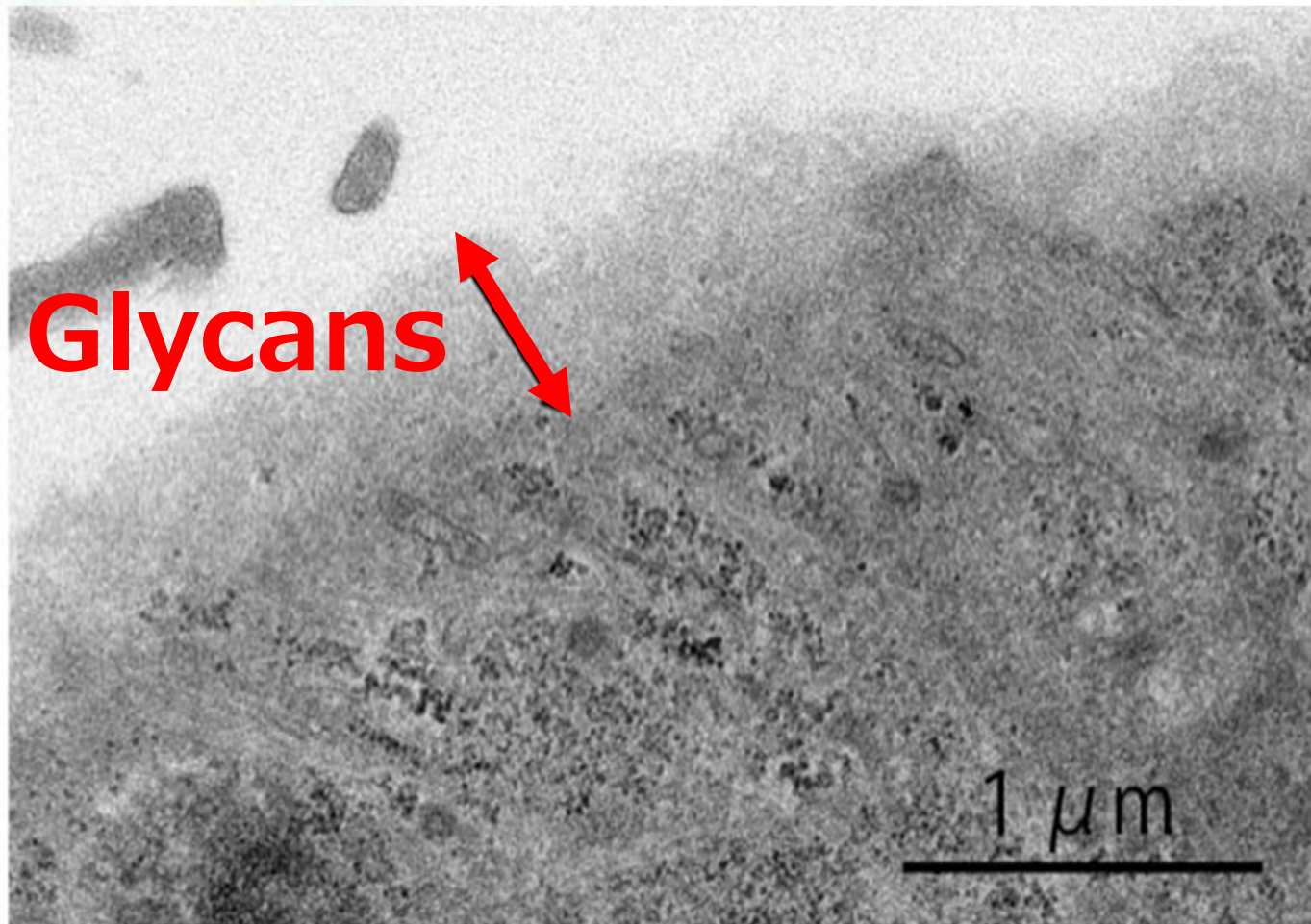
Insulin produced cells

GFP labelling explants

Kuwabara T. et al., Nature NeuroSci.(2009),Wakabayashi et al. JBC(2016)

hES/iPSCs are covered with glycans

Electromicroscopic photograph of iPSCs



Collaboration with Dr. Yoshihiro Akimoto

Development of new probes

by glycan analysis of human ES/iPS cells

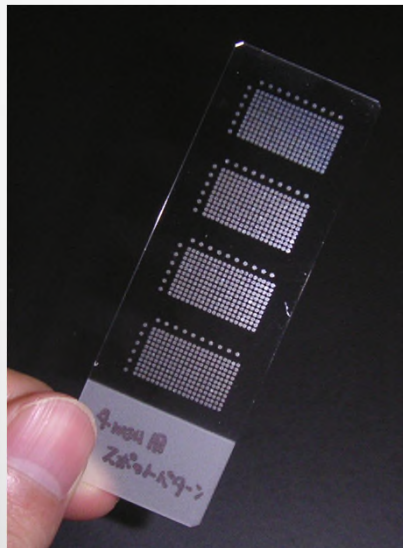
Extract crude membrane proteins from
ES/iPS cells



Label with fluorescent dye



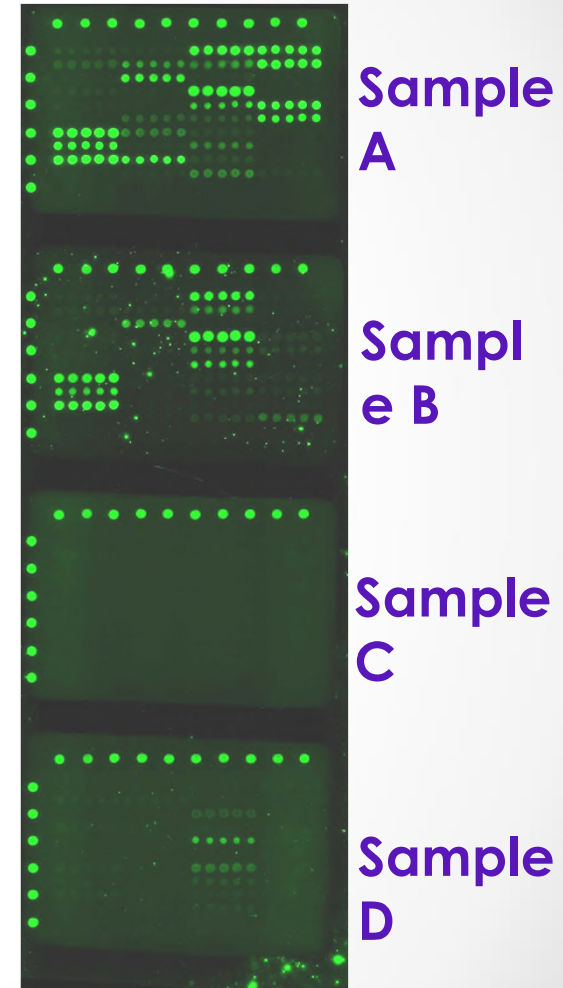
Apply onto "lectin microarray"



lectin microarray

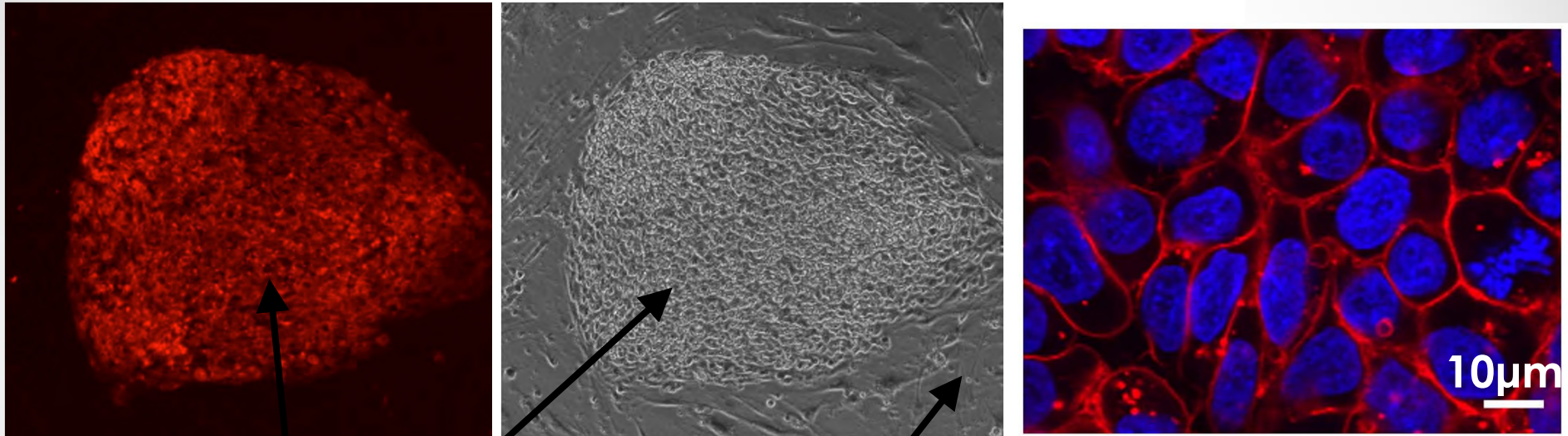
Lectins are proteins, which
have various affinities to
specific glycan structures.

96 kinds of lectin protein
probes are spotted on a
slideglass.



rBC2LCN lectin binds to cell membrane of ES/iPS cells

Cy3 fluorescent dye-conjugated rBC2LCN



ES cell colony
(201B7)

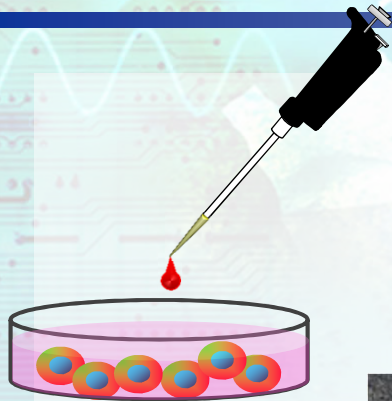
feeder cells
(MEF)

(Onuma et al., BBRC,
2013)

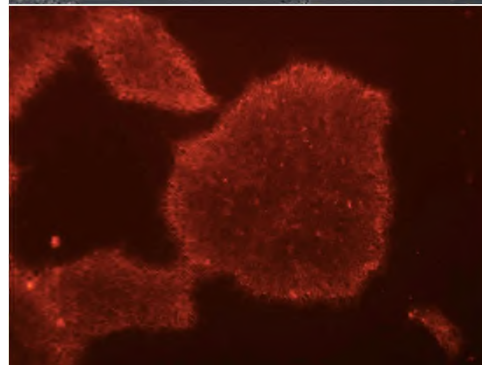
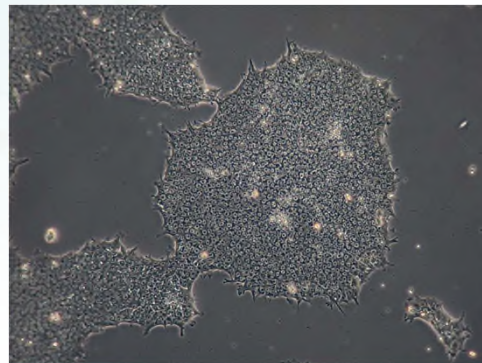
rBC2LCN lectin binds to cell membrane of
human pluripotent stem cells.

Live staining of ES/iPSCs by rBC2LCN

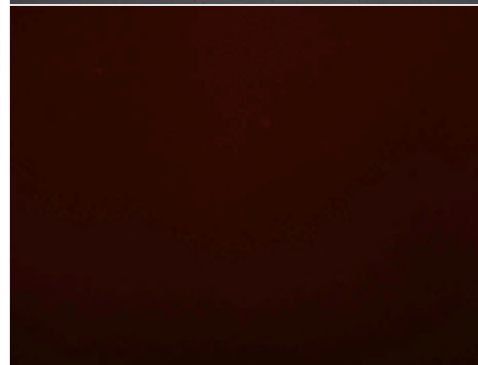
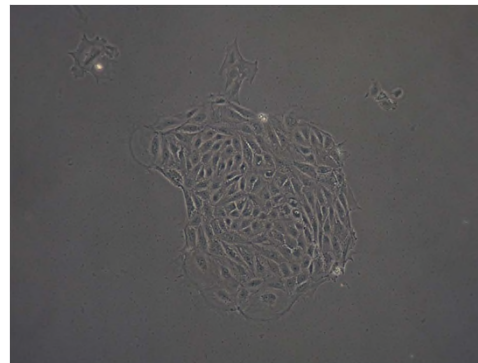
Add fluorescence-labeled rBC2LCN
lectin into cell culture media



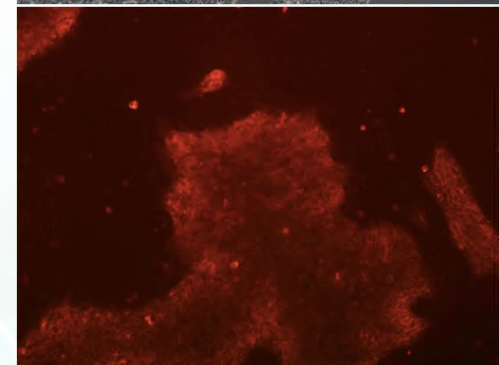
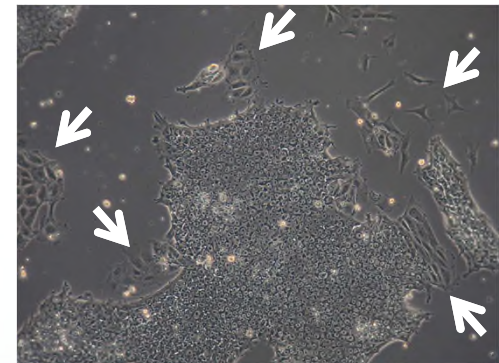
ES/iPSCs



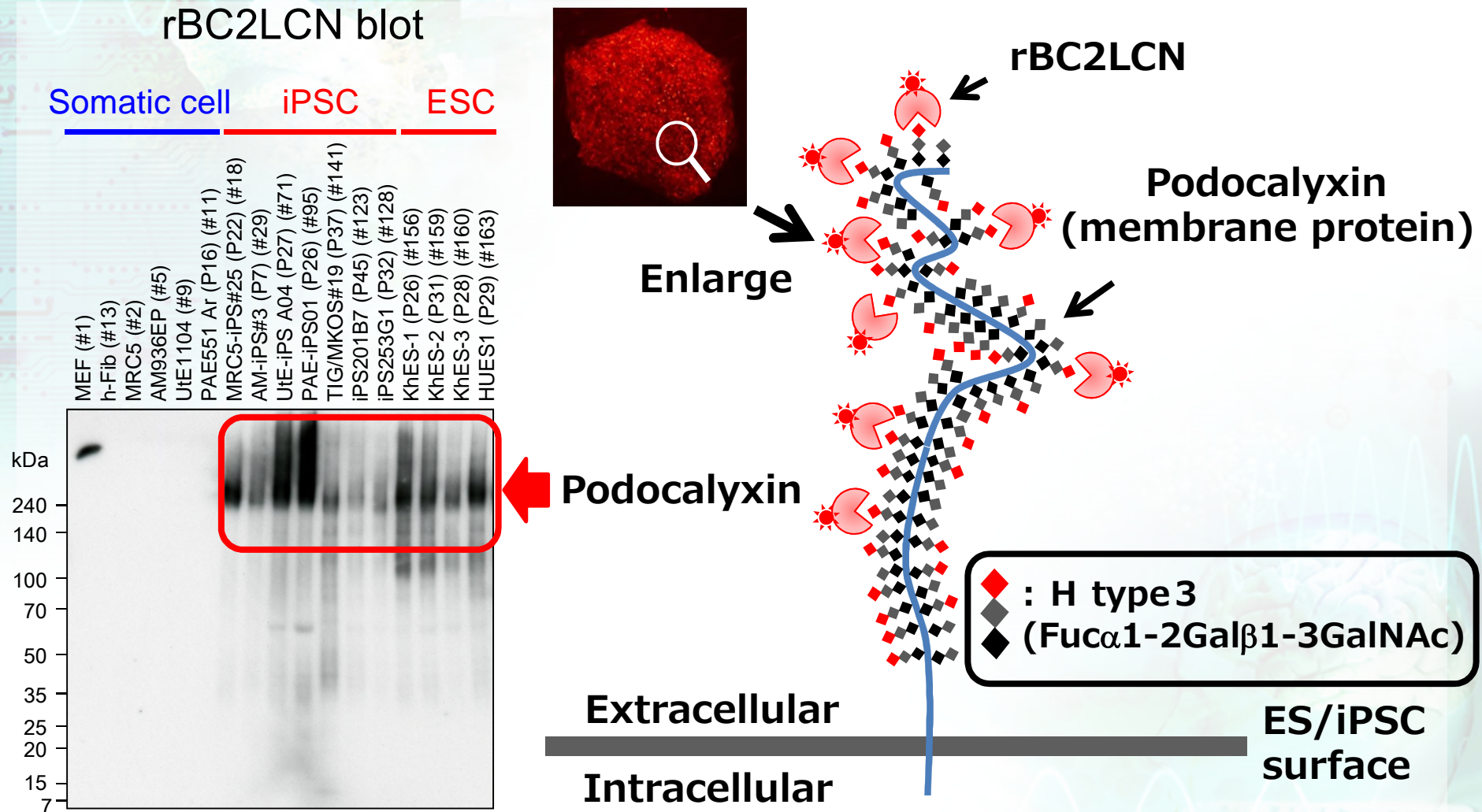
Cells deviated
from ES/iPSCs



Mixed population



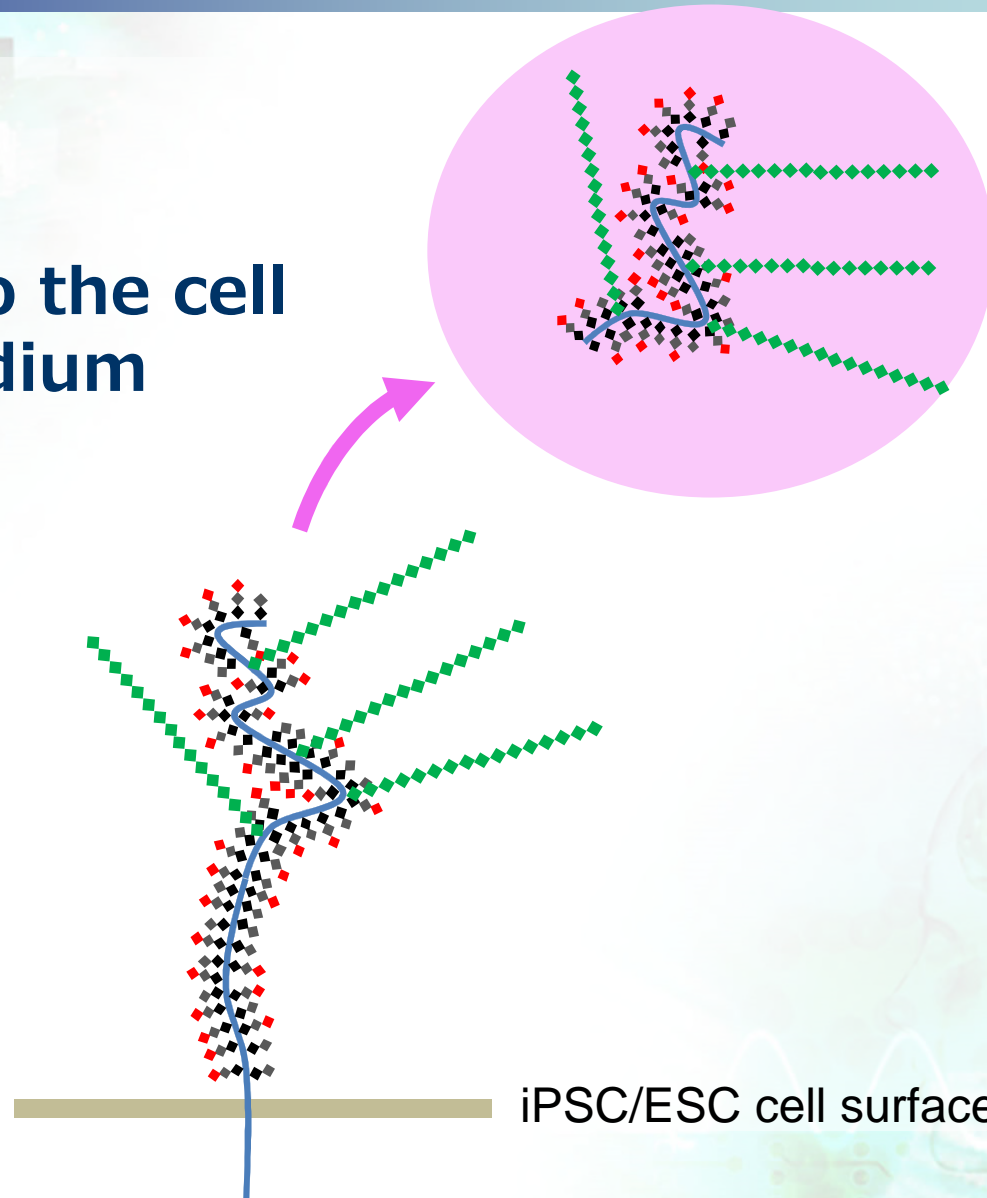
H type3-podocalyxin is a ligand of rBC2LCN



H type3-podocalyxin is secreted into the cell culture medium from ES/iPSCs

Secrete into the cell culture medium

H type3-positive podocalyxin



iPSC/ESC cell surface

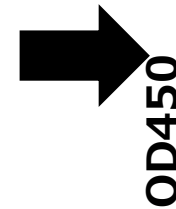
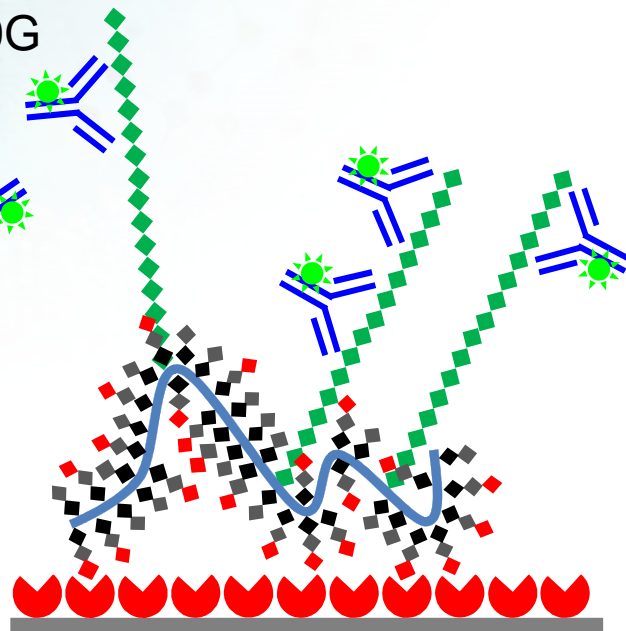
Development of non-destructive method to detect undifferentiated cells including cancer using cell culture media

Sandwich assay to detect H type3-positive podocalyxin

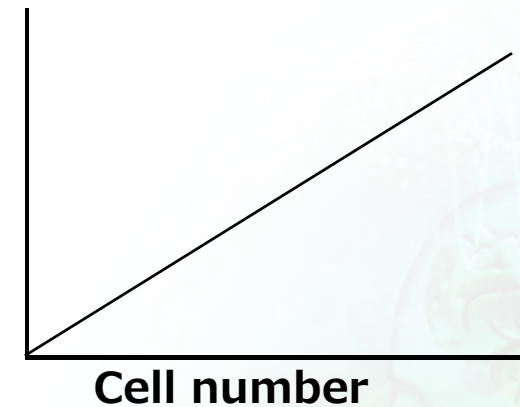
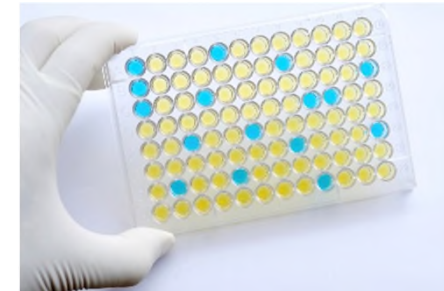
Peroxidase-labeled R10G antibody

H type3-podocalyxin

rBC2LCN



Measurement of the number of iPSCs/ESCs



Tateno et al. Sci Rep 2014

Shimomura O. et al. Mol Cancer Ther., 2018

Acknowledgements

Co-workers of Asashima's Lab.

The University of Tokyo
Grad. school of Arts and Science

Ariizumi T.

Goto T

. Fukui, A

Moriya N

Michiue T.

Hayashi Y.

Kajiyama H.

Tanokura M.

Miyazono K.

Teikyo University
Kobayashi-Satou Y.

AIST
(National Institute of
Advanced Industrial
Science and Technology

Kuwabara T.

Kurisaki A.

Noguchi T.A.

Hirabayashi J.

Tateno H.

Ito Y.

Shimomura O.

Oda T

Onuma Y.

**Thank you very much for your
kind attention**