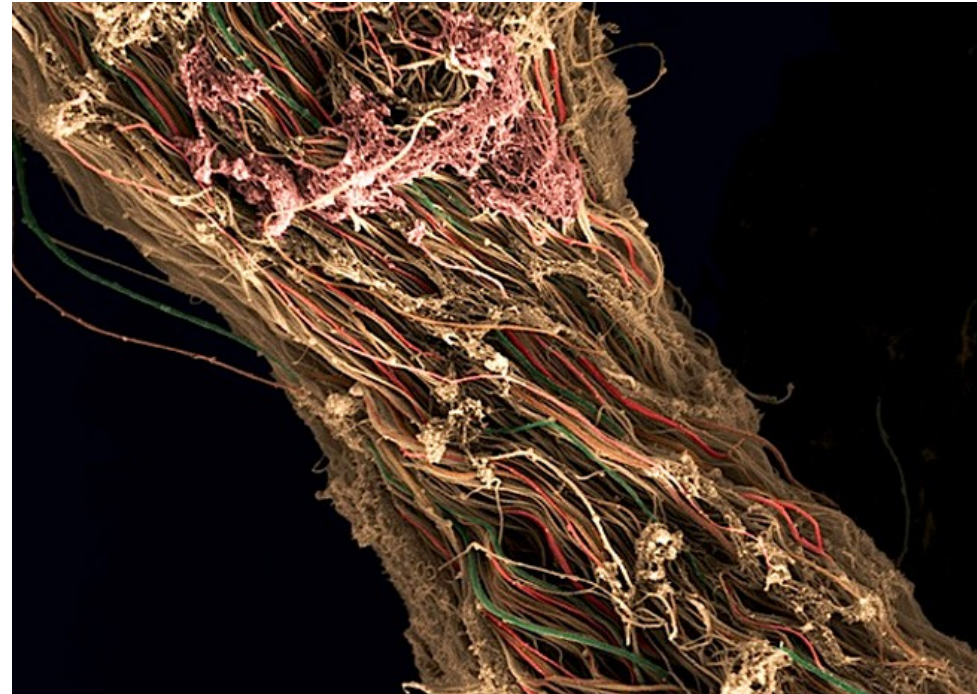
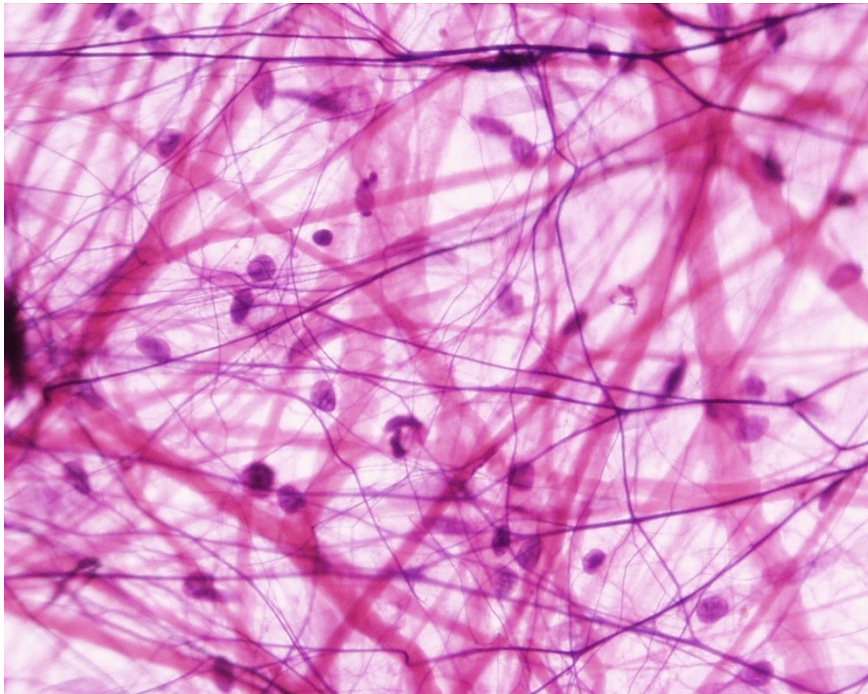
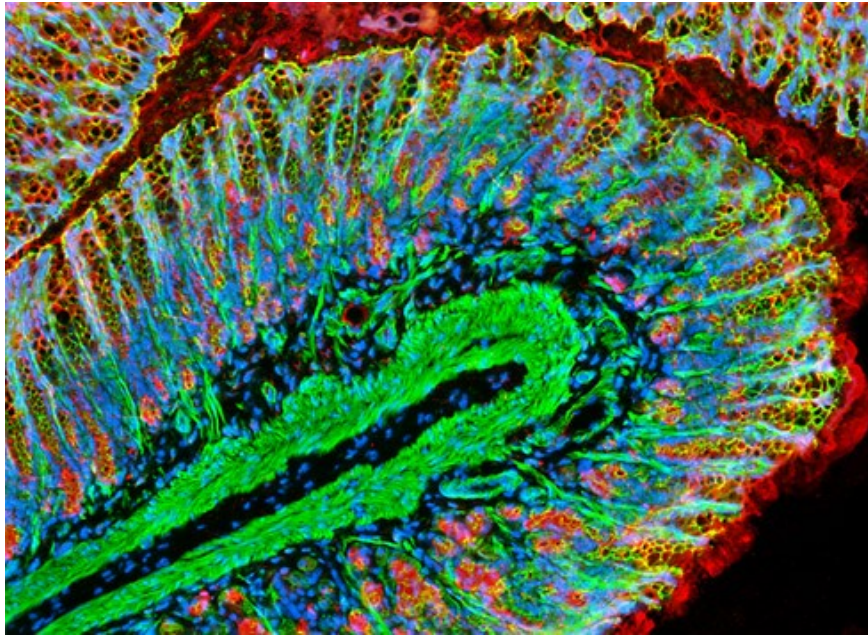


# CONNECTIVE TISSUE

Petr Vaňhara, PhD

Department of Histology and Embryology,  
Faculty of Medicine MU

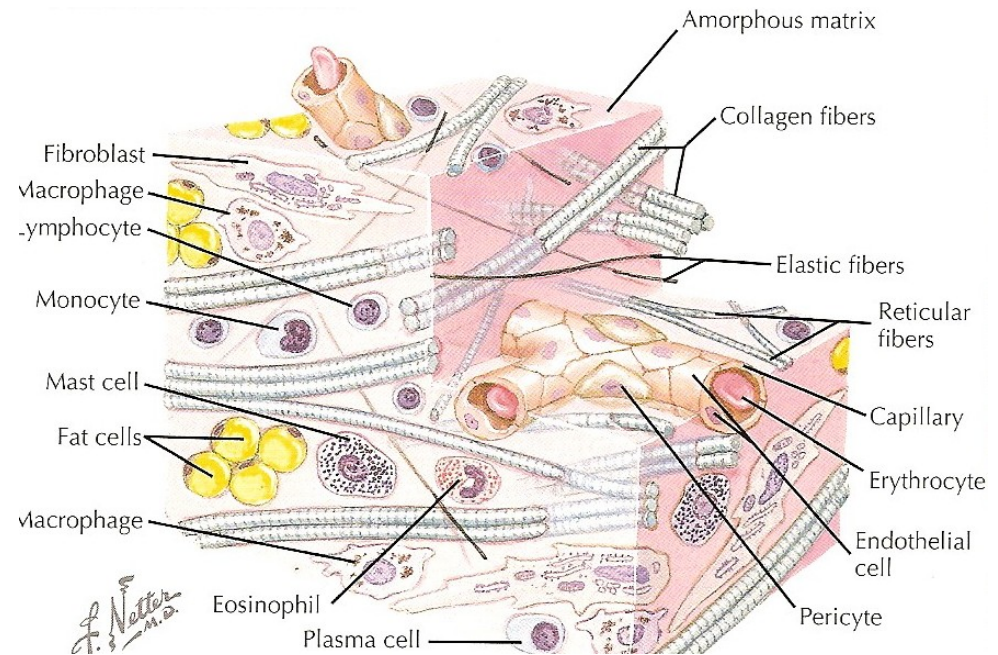
[pvanhara@med.muni.cz](mailto:pvanhara@med.muni.cz)





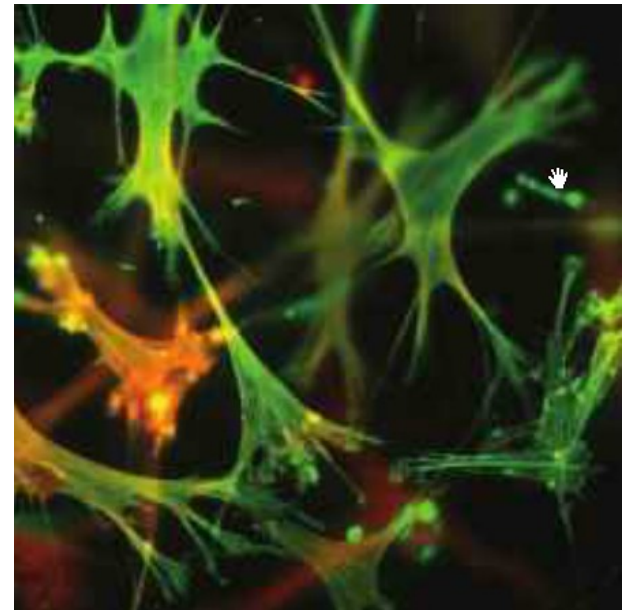
## Mechanical and biological properties

→ surrounds other tissues, allows compartmentalization, provides support, defines physico-chemical environment, brings immunological support, provides storage of energy, ...



## Cells and extracellular matrix (ECM)

- **Cells**
  - **Connective tissue** – permanent and transient cell populations (e.g. fibroblasts/myofibroblasts, immune cells, adipocytes, adult stem cells)
  - **Cartilage** – chondroblasts/chondrocytes
  - **Bone** – osteoblasts/osteocytes/osteoclasts
- **Matrix** – fibrous and amorphous
  - **Fibrous component**
    - collagen
    - reticular
    - elastic
  - **Amorphous component** (amorphous ground substance)  
Complex matrix consisting of
    - glycosaminoglycans
    - glycoproteins
    - proteoglycans



composition dependent on tissue type (connective × ligament × cartilage × bone)

# CLASSIFICATION OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE

- **Embryonic CT**

- Mesenchyme
- Jelly-like CT (Wharton jelly, dental pulp, stroma of iris)

- **Adult CT**

- Areolar (loose, interstitial) CT
- Dense collagen irregular CT

- Dense collagen regular CT
- Fat (adipose tissue)
- Cartilage
- Bone

- Blood and hematopoietic tissue
- Lymphatic tissue

} CT

} Specialized CT

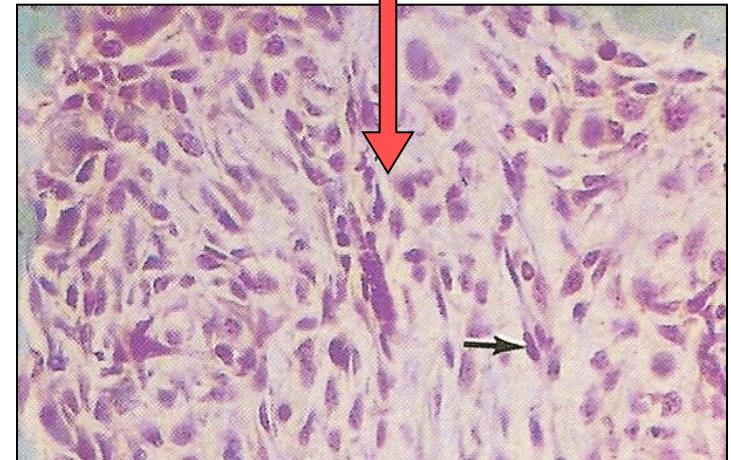
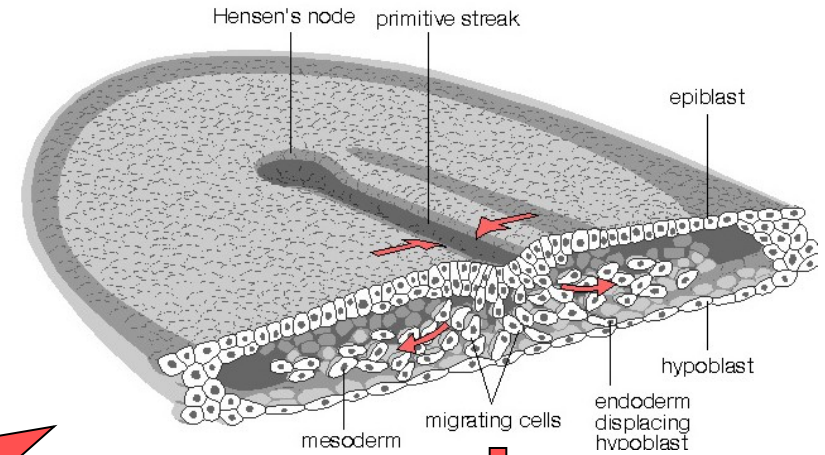
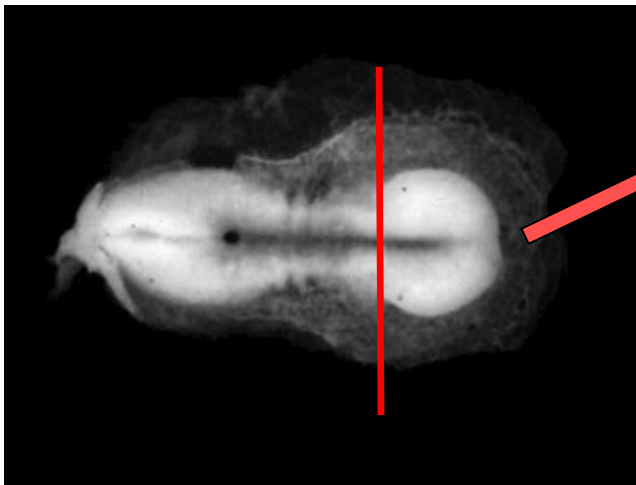
} Trophic CT (body liquids)



# EMBRYONIC ORIGIN OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE

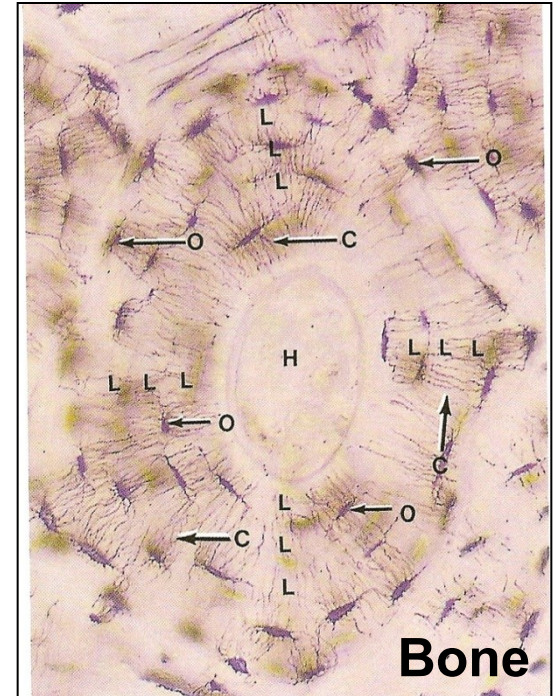
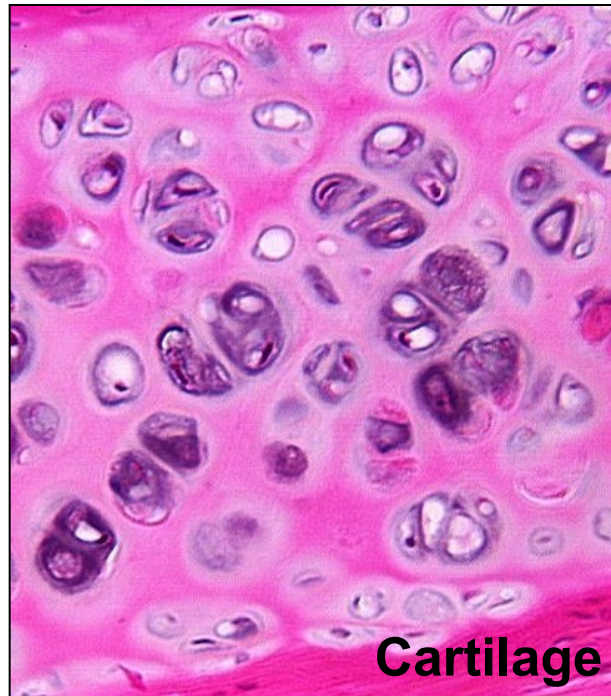
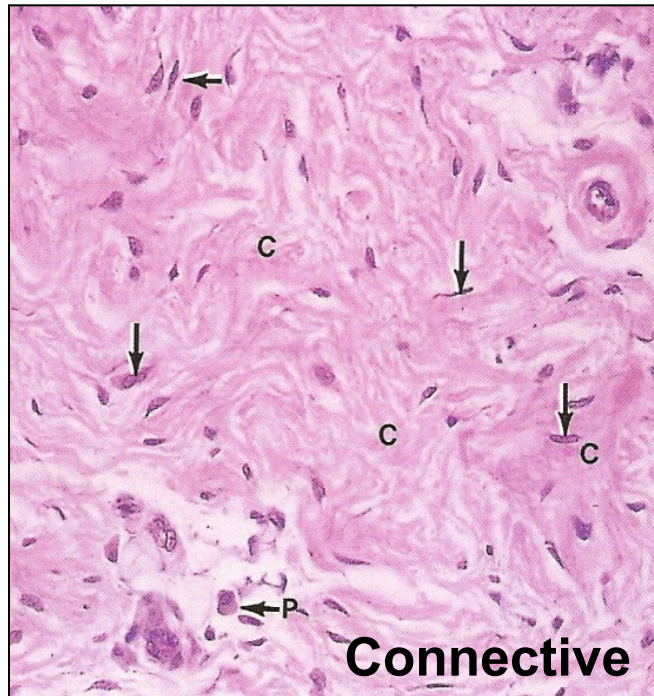
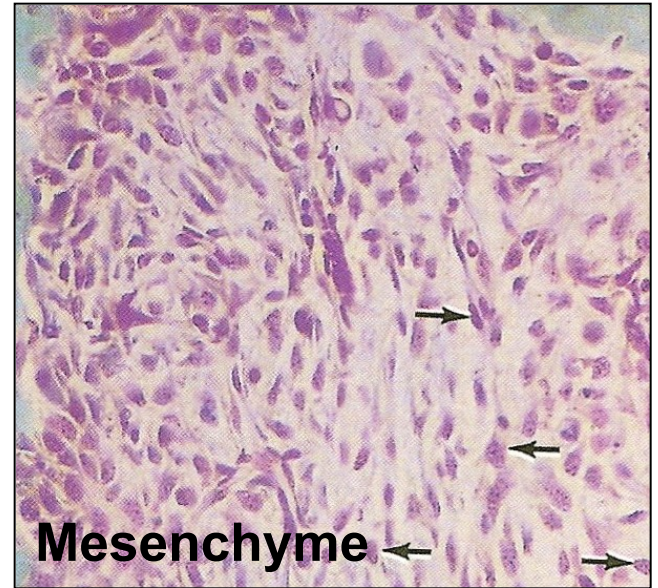
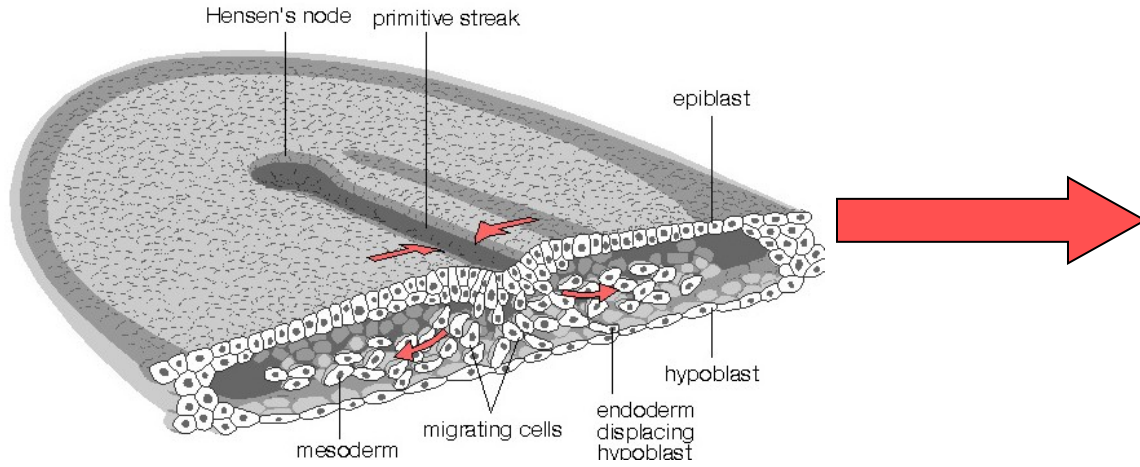
- Mesenchyme = loose tissue between germ layers
- Complex network of star- or spindle-shaped cells
- Jelly-like amorphous ground substance

DAY 12 of embryonic development





# DERIVATIVES OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE





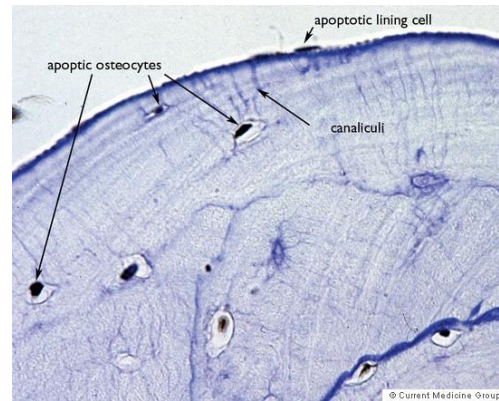
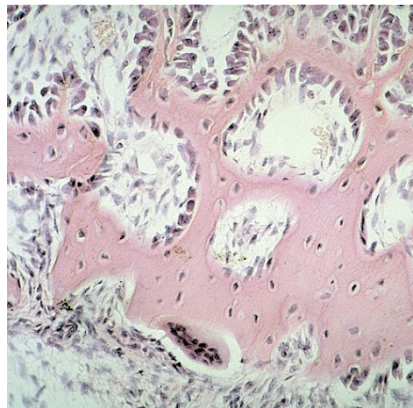
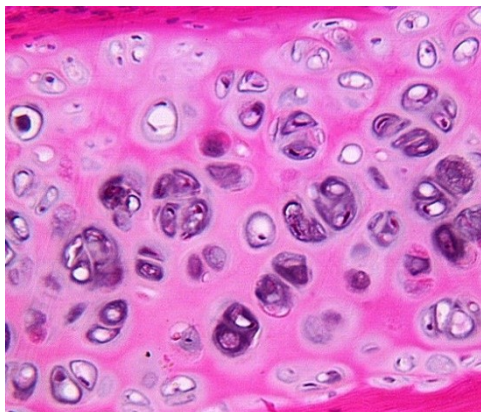
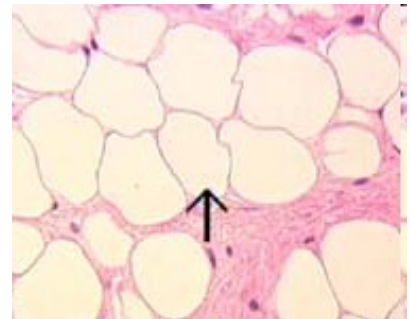
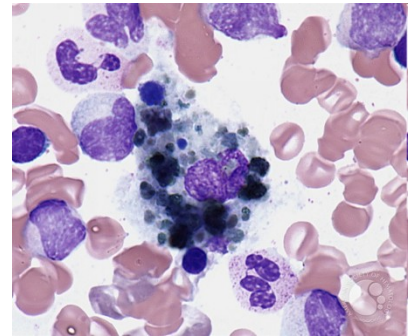
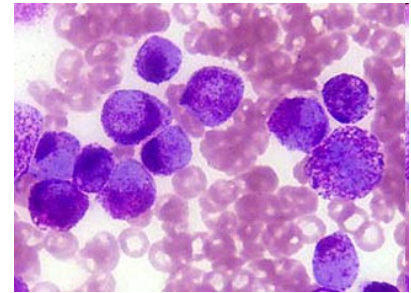
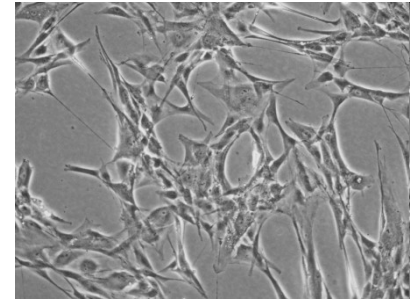
# LOOSE COLLAGEN CONNECTIVE TISSUE

## Cells

- Fibroblasts/fibrocytes/myofibroblasts
- Heparinocytes
- Macrophages of CT = histiocytes
- Plasma cells
- Lymphocytes
- Adipocytes
- Adult stem cells

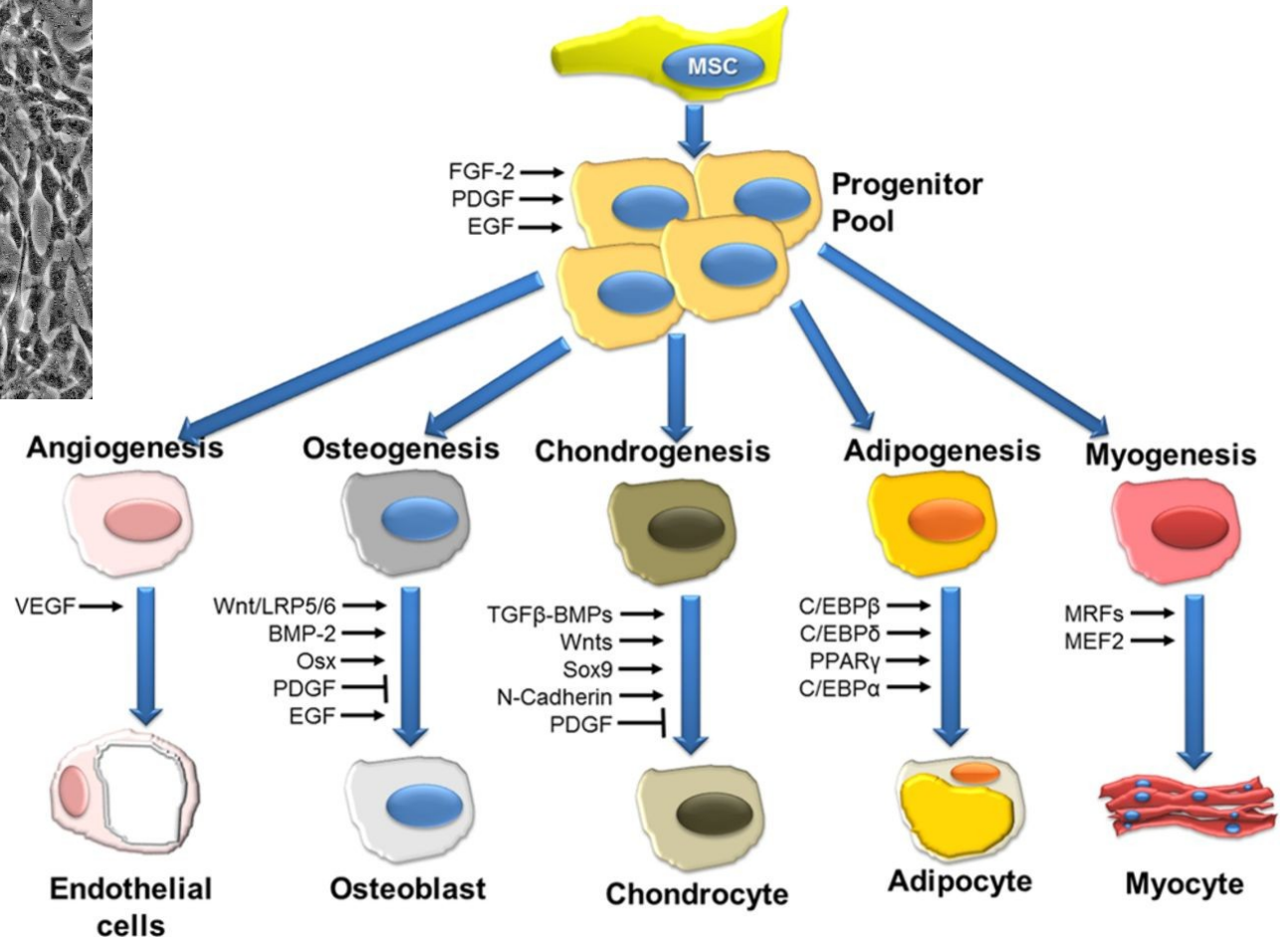
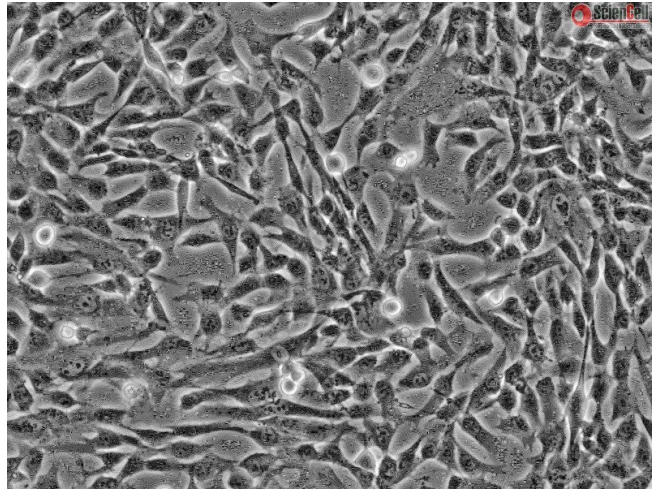
## Extracellular matrix

- Fibrous compound
- Amorphous ground substance



# CELLS OF LOOSE COLLAGEN CONNECTIVE TISSUE

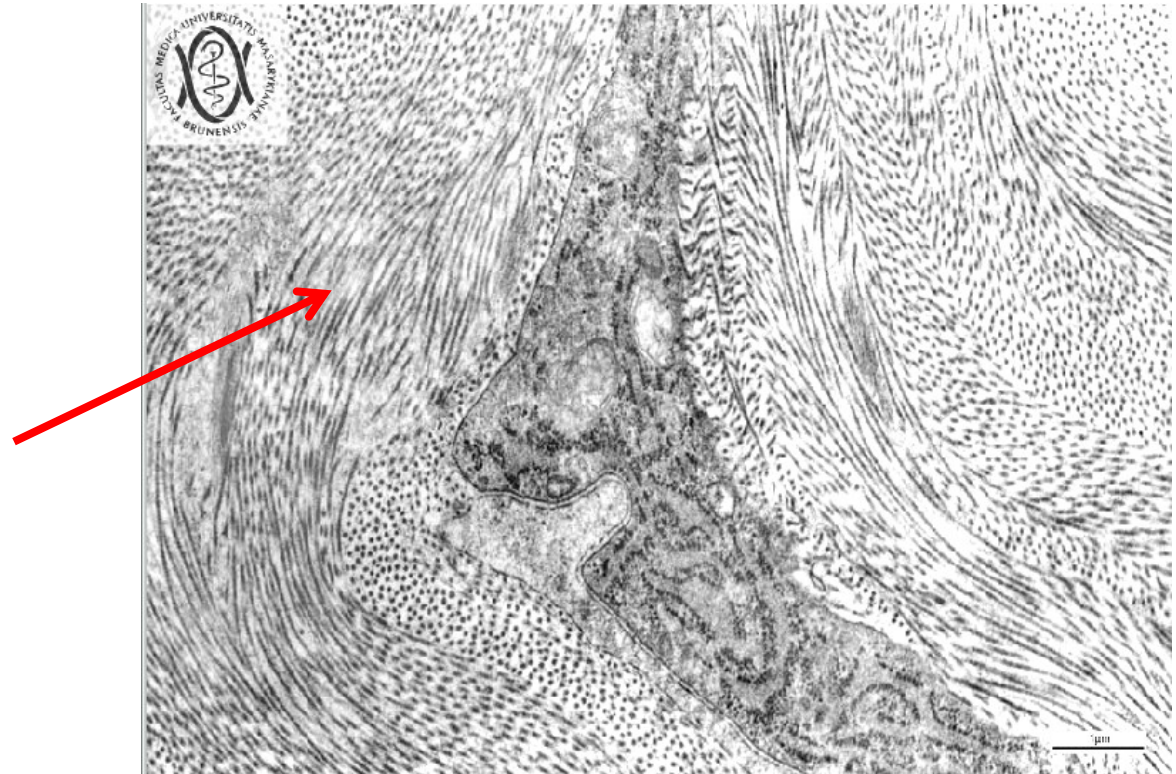
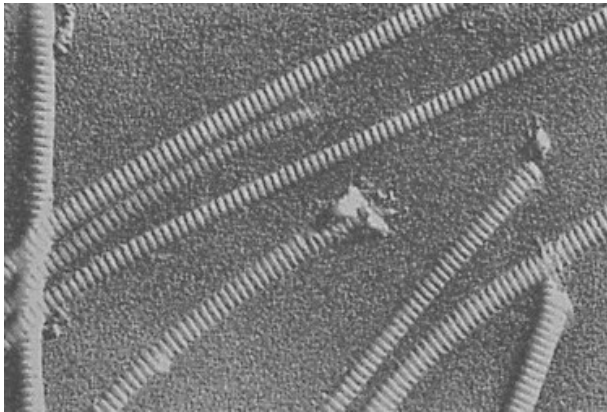
## Mesenchymal (adult) stem cells



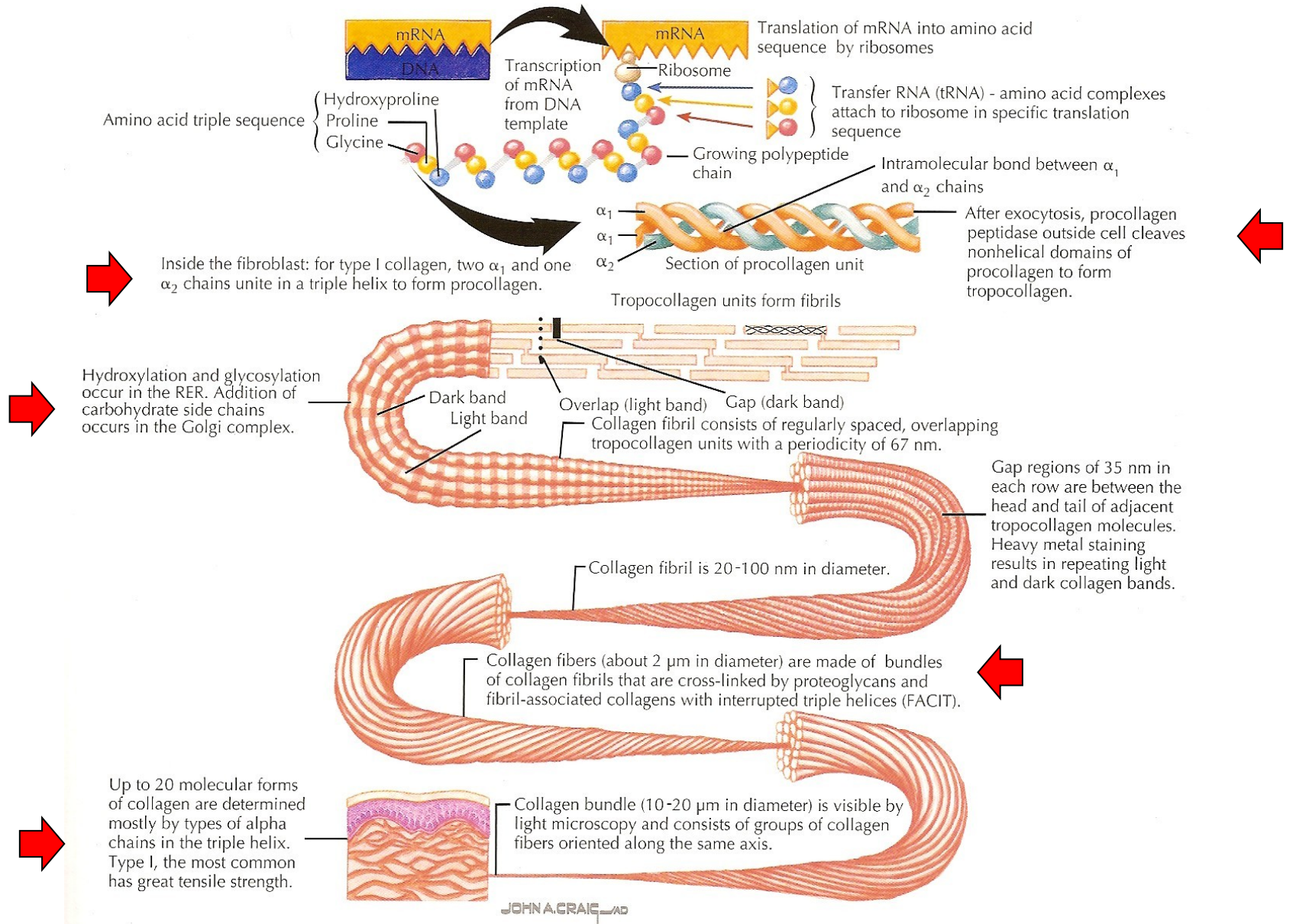


## Collagen fibers

- family of fibrous proteins encoded by >35 genes (2013)
- polymer – subunit = tropocollagen; triple helix
- different structural and mechanical properties (strength, elasticity, pliability...)
- most abundant protein in human body ( 30% dry weight)



# COLLAGEN





# COLLAGEN

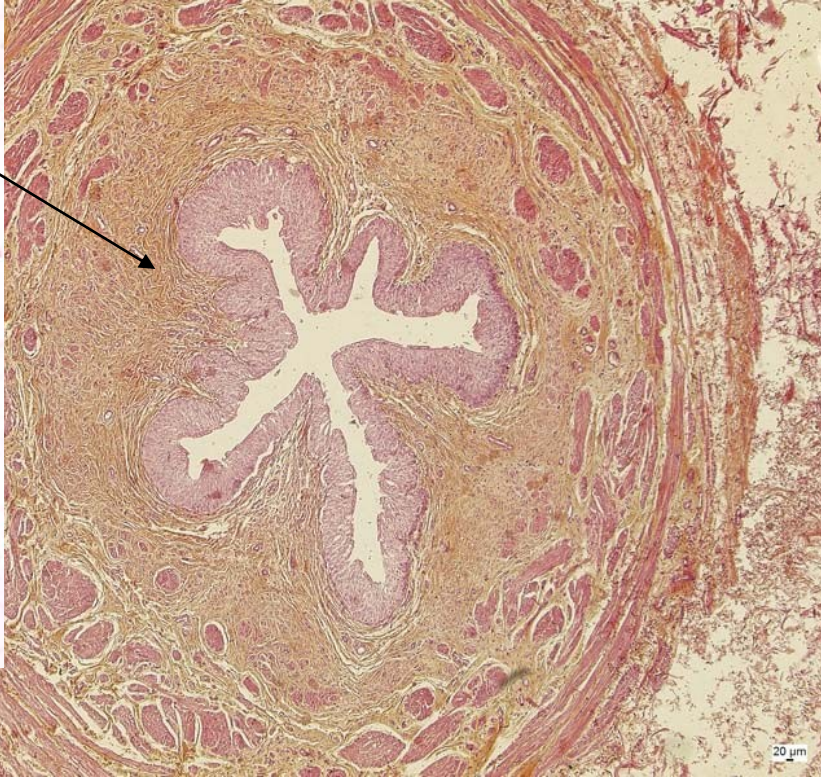
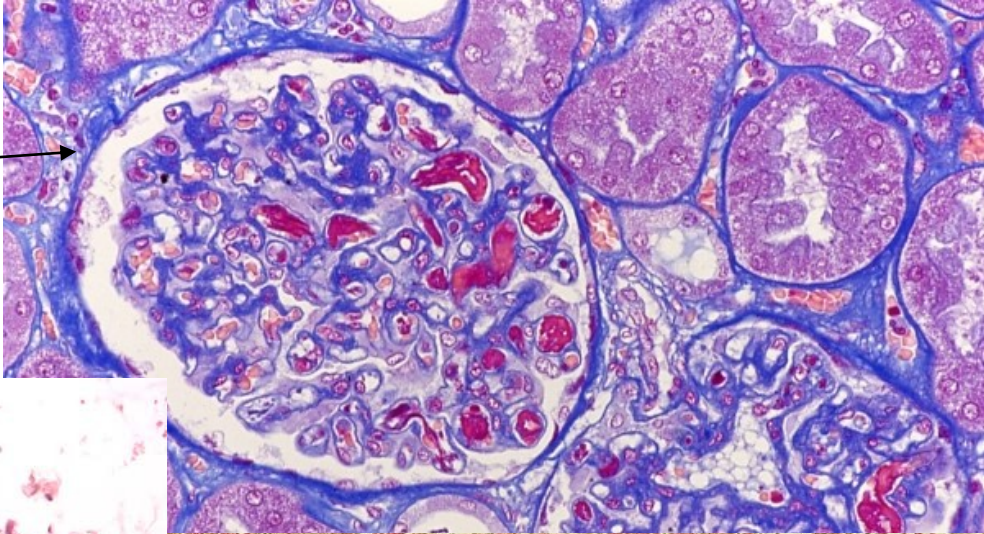
Type	Localization	Structure	Main function
I	Bone, tendons, meniscus, dentin, dermis, capsules of organs, loose CT 90% of type I	Fibrils (75nm) – fibers (1-20 $\mu$ m)	Resilience in pull
II	Hyaline and elastic cartilage	Fibrils (20nm)	Resilience in pressure
III	Skin, veins, smooth muscles, uterus, liver, spleen, kidney, lung	Like I, high content of proteoglycans and glycoproteins, reticular network	Shape formation
IV	Basal lamina of epithelium and endothelium, basal membranes	No fibrils or fibers	Mechanical support
V	Lamina of muscle cells and adipocytes, fetal membranes	Like IV	
VI	Interstitial tissue, chondrocytes – adhesion		Connecting dermis and epidermis
VII	Basal membrane of epithelium		
VIII	Some endothelia (Cornea)		
IX, X	Growth plate, hypertrophic and mineralized cartilage		Growth of bones, mineralization

# COLLAGEN IN LIGHT MICROSCOPE

HE

HES

AZAN



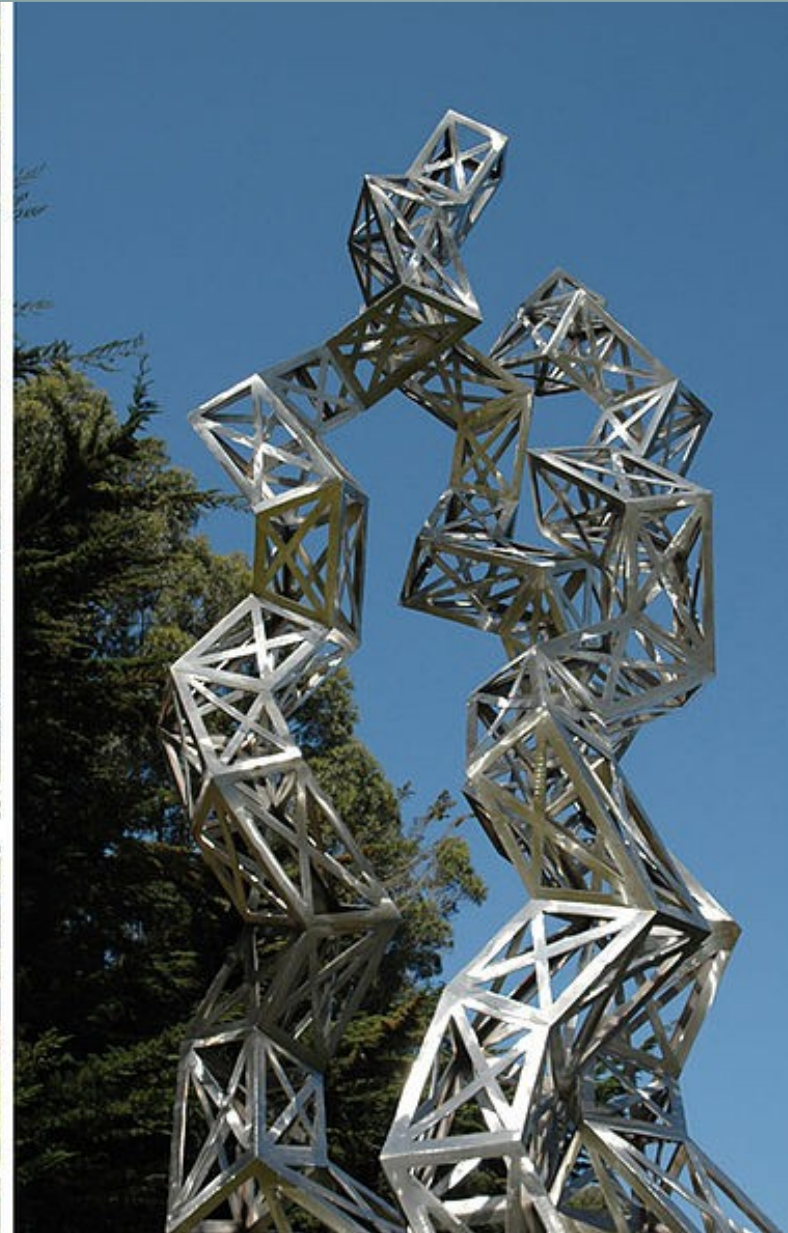


# COLLAGEN IN ART

## **Julian Voss-Andreae "Unraveling Collagen"**

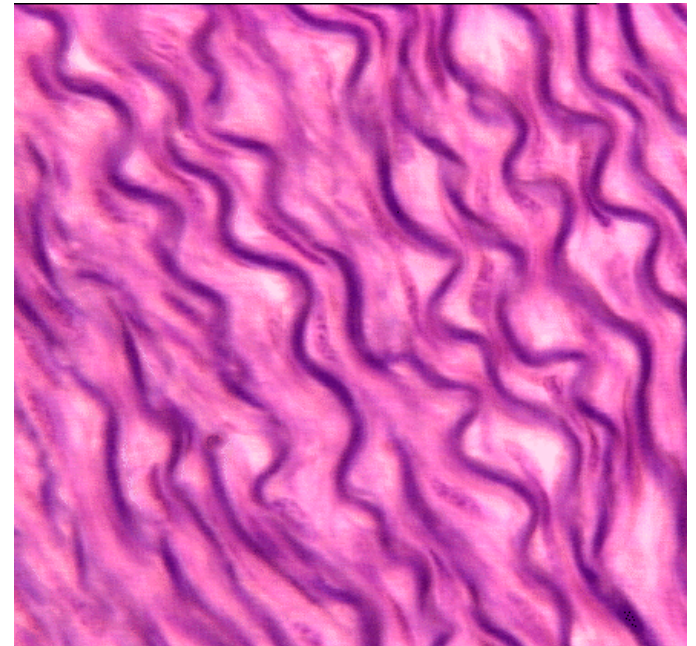
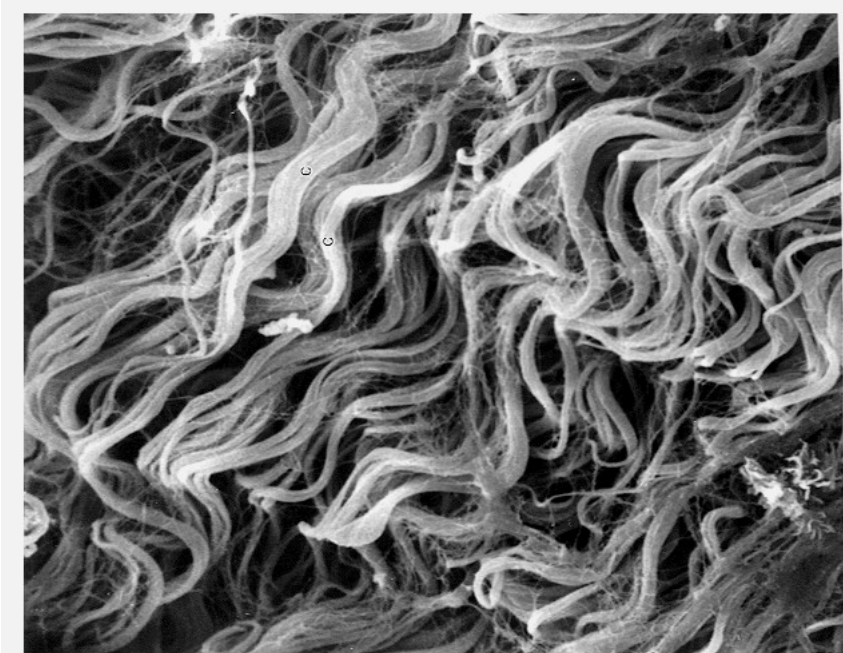
**2005**

Orange Memorial Park  
Sculpture Garden, City of  
South San Francisco, CA



# ELASTIC FIBERS

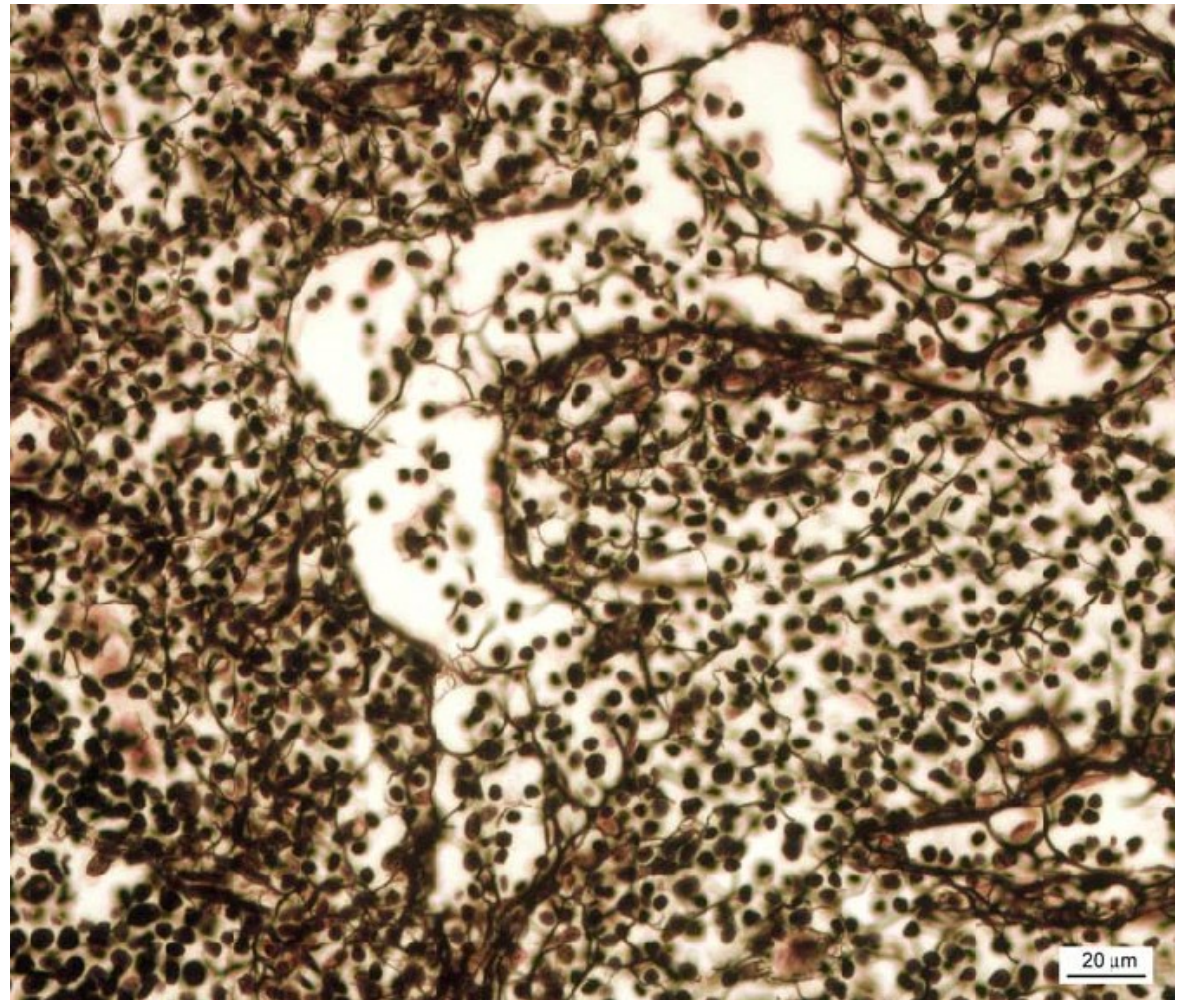
- less abundant than collagen
- polymer – tropoelastin
- minimal tensile resistance, loss of elasticity if overstretched
- reduction of hysteresis = allow return back to original state after mechanic change





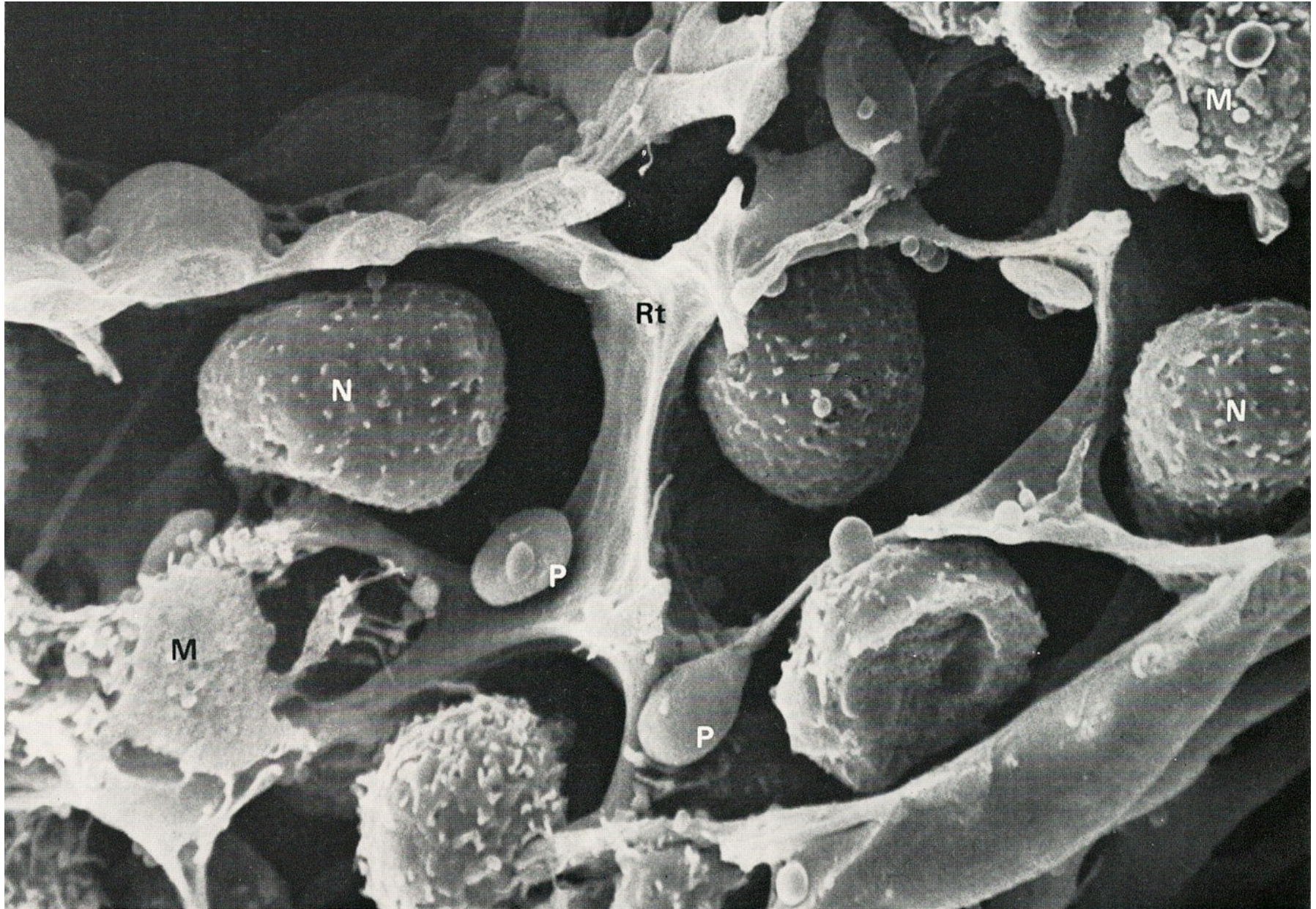
# RETICULAR FIBERS

- collagen 3D meshwork
- bone marrow, spleen, lymphatic nodules
- microenvironment for e.g. hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors





# RETICULAR CONNECTIVE TISSUE

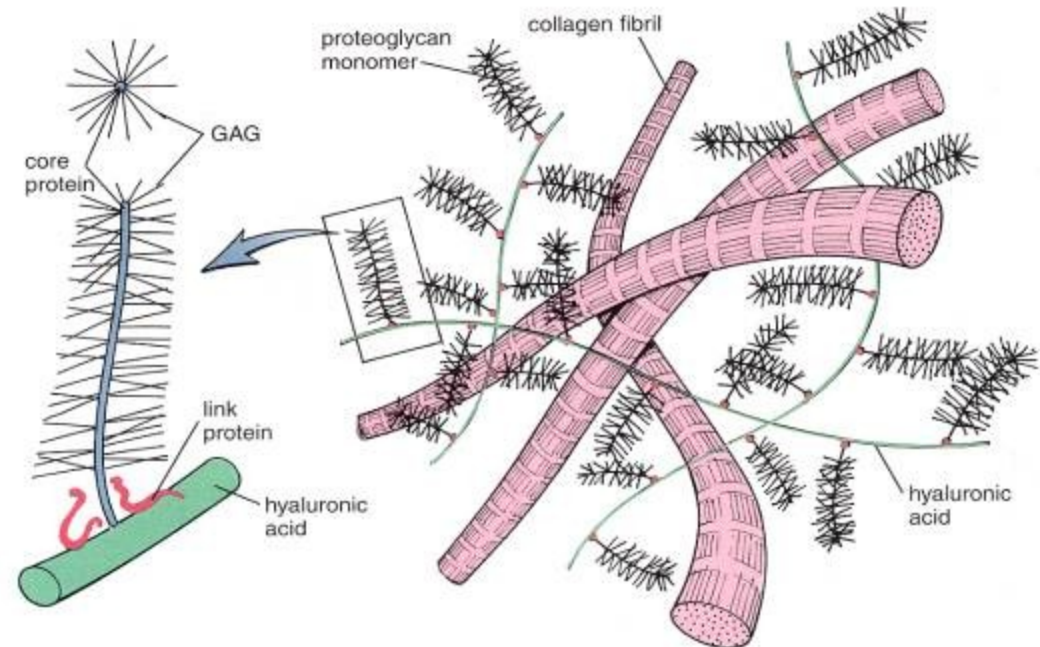
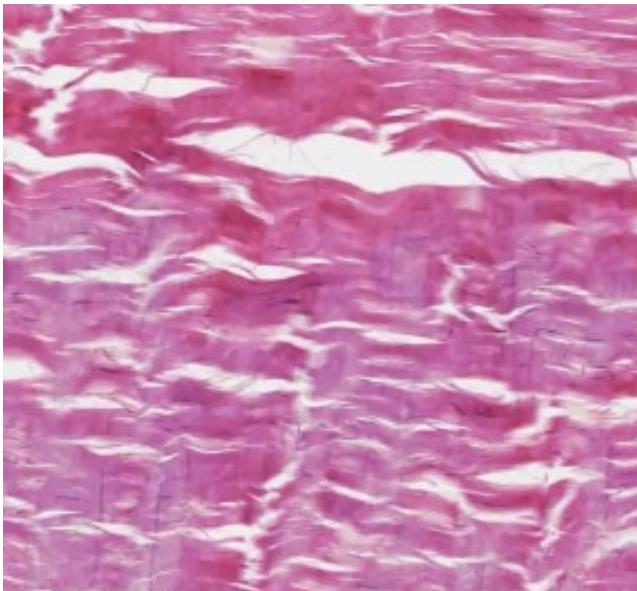




# EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX – GROUND SUBSTANCE

Amorphous extracellular matrix

Colorless, transparent, homogenous substance consisting of glycosaminglycans, proteoglycans and structural glycoproteins

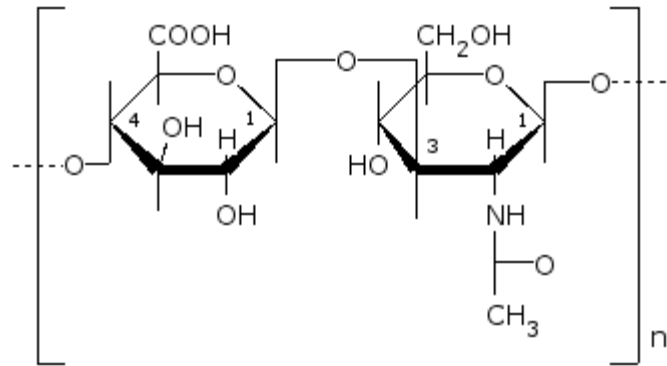


# GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS

linear polysaccharides composed of two disaccharide subunits  
– **uronic acid and hexosamine**

polysaccharides rich in hexosamines = acid mukopolysaccharides

glucuronic or iduronic acid



glucosamin or galactosamin



# GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS

They bind to protein structures (except for hyaluronic acid)

**Glyc**

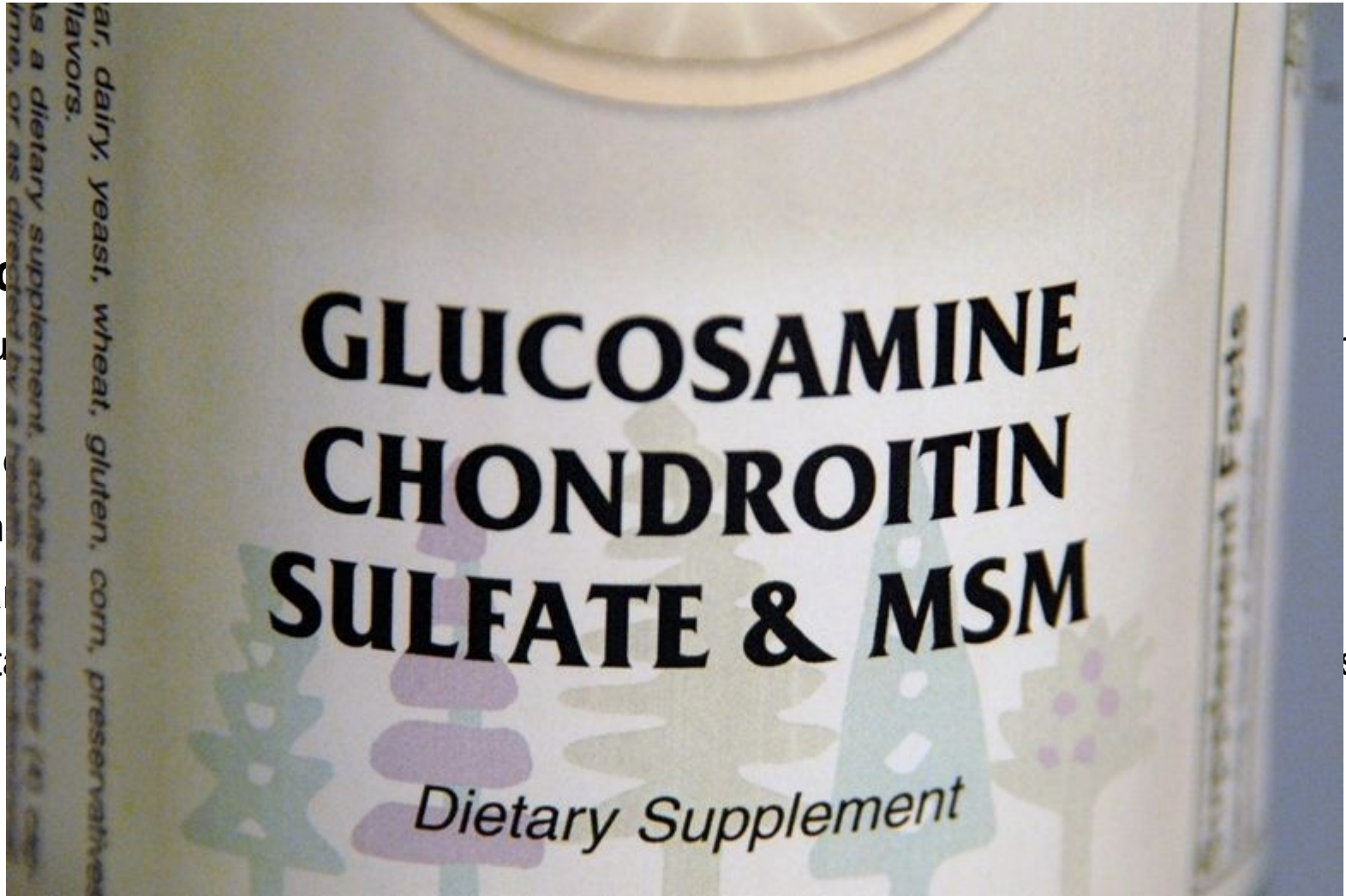
Hyalu

Chon

Derm

Hepa

Kerat

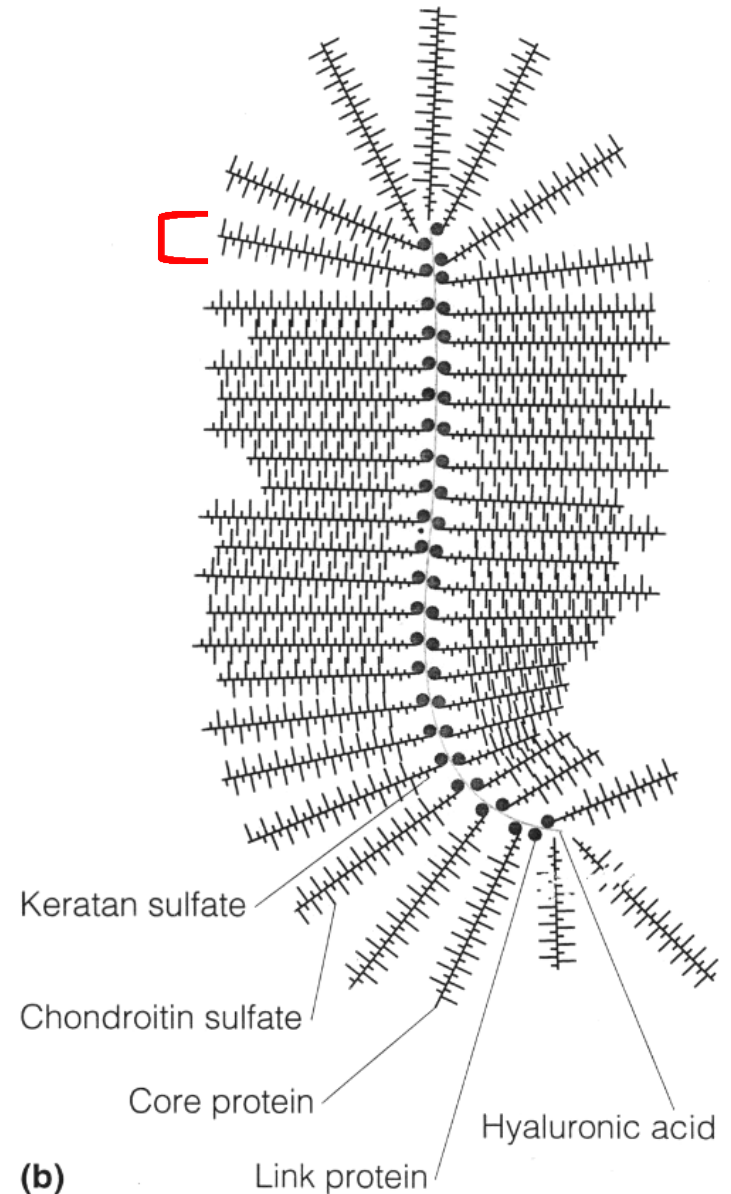


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s

# PROTEOGLYCANS

- protein + dominant linear saccharide component
- proteoglycan aggregates
- water-binding, volume dependent of hydration
- aggrecan (cartilage)
- syndecan
- fibroglycan

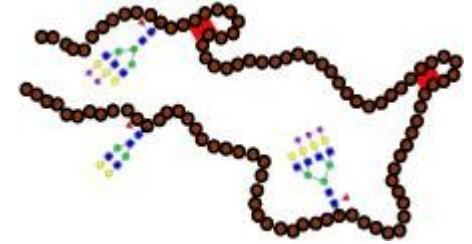


**(b)**

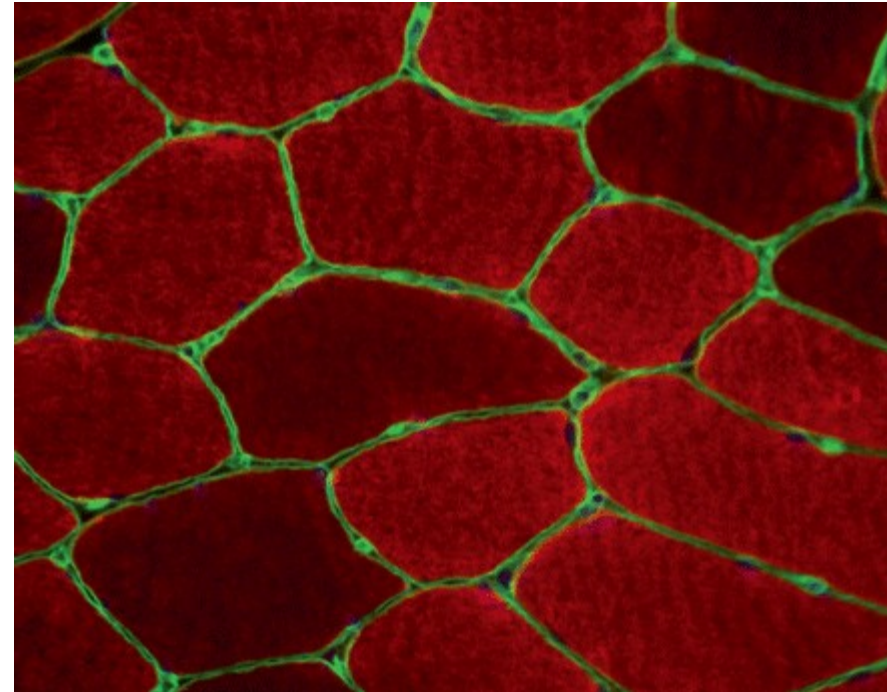


# STRUCTURAL GLYCOPROTEINS

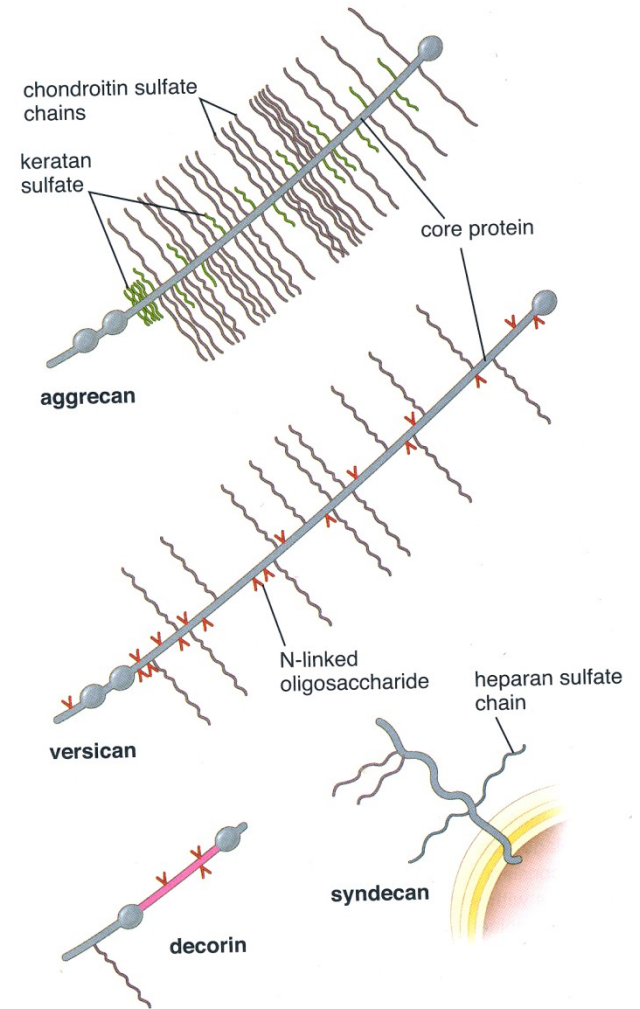
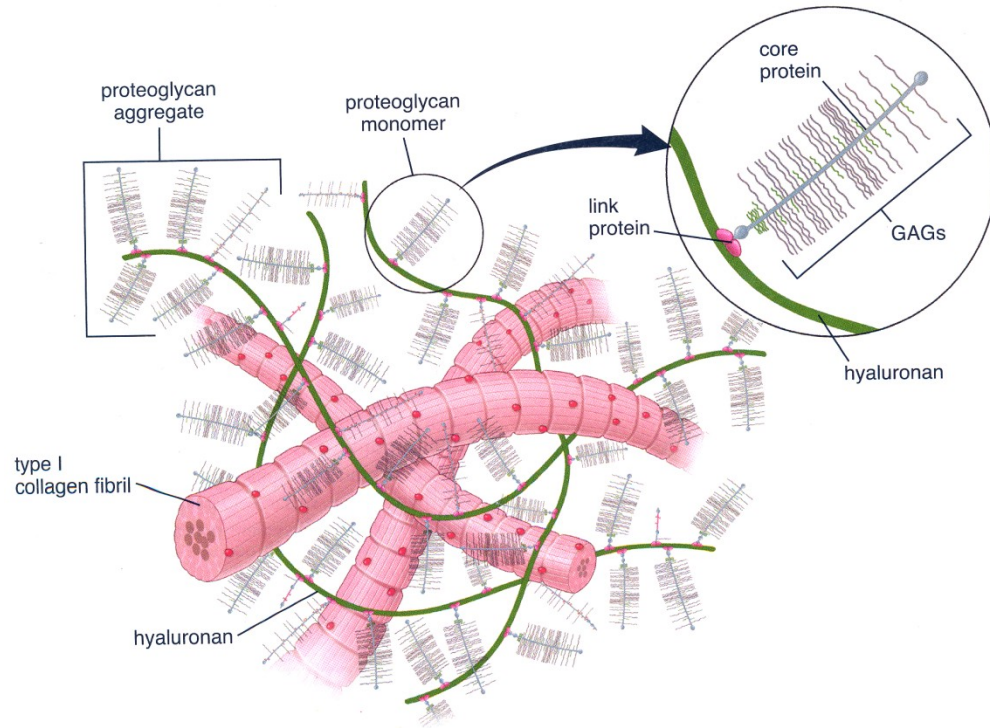
- dominant protein + branched saccharide component
- interaction between cells and ECM



- **fibronectin** – connects collagen fibers and glykosaminoglycans, cell adhesion and migration
- **laminin** – basal lamina – epithelial integrity
- **chondronectin** – cartilage – adhesion of chondrocytes to collagen



# COMPOSITION OF ECM



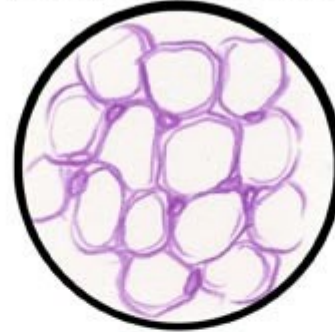


# CLASSIFICATION OF SPECIALIZED CONNECTIVE TISSUE

**Dense  
Connective Tissue**



**Adipose Tissue  
(Connective Tissue)**



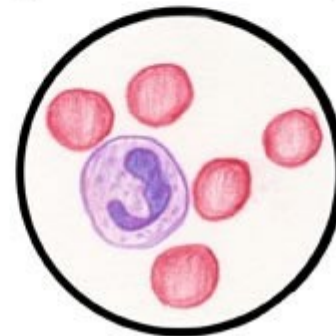
**Areolar Tissue  
(Connective Tissue)**



**Compact Bone  
(Connective Tissue)**



**Blood  
(Connective Tissue)**



# ADIPOSE TISSUE

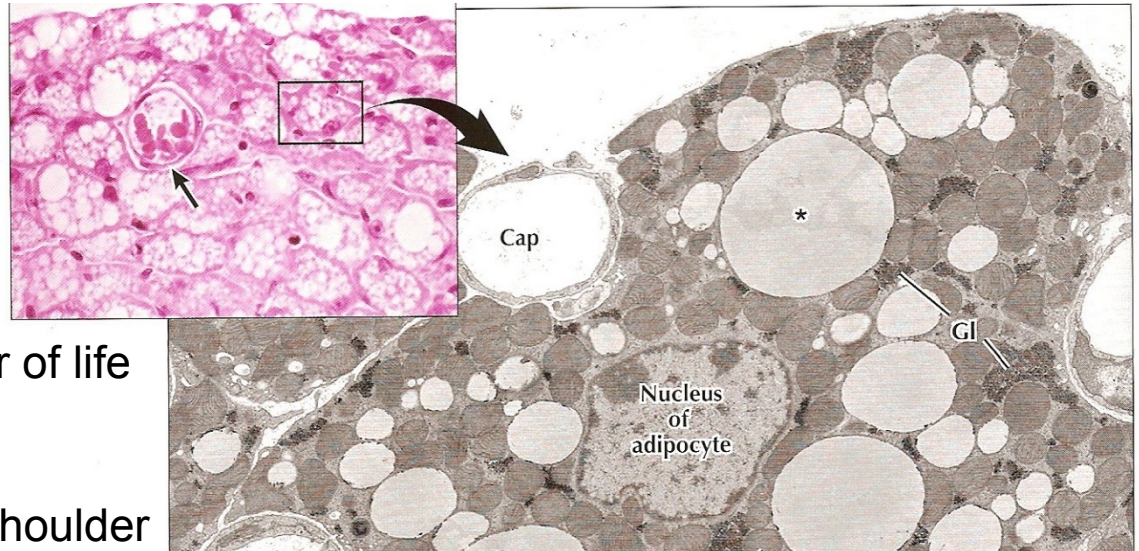
- Adipocytes, fibroblasts, reticular, collagen and elastic fibers, capillaries
- White and brown adipose tissue





# BROWN ADIPOSE TISSUE

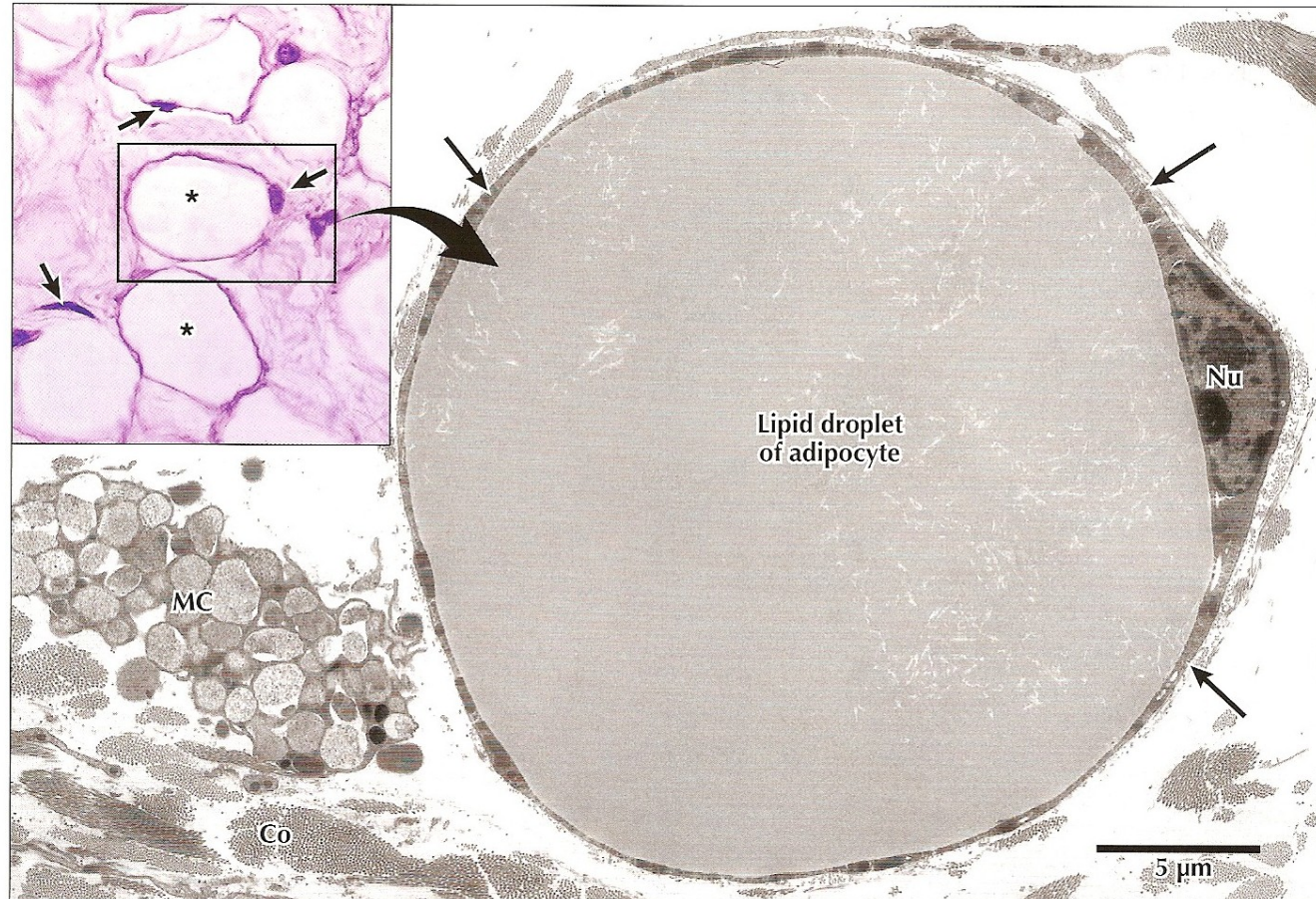
- fetus and children up to 1<sup>st</sup> year of life
- fast source of energy
- typical localization – between shoulder blades, axilla, mediastinum, around kidneys, pancreas, small intestine
- small cells with numerous fat droplets





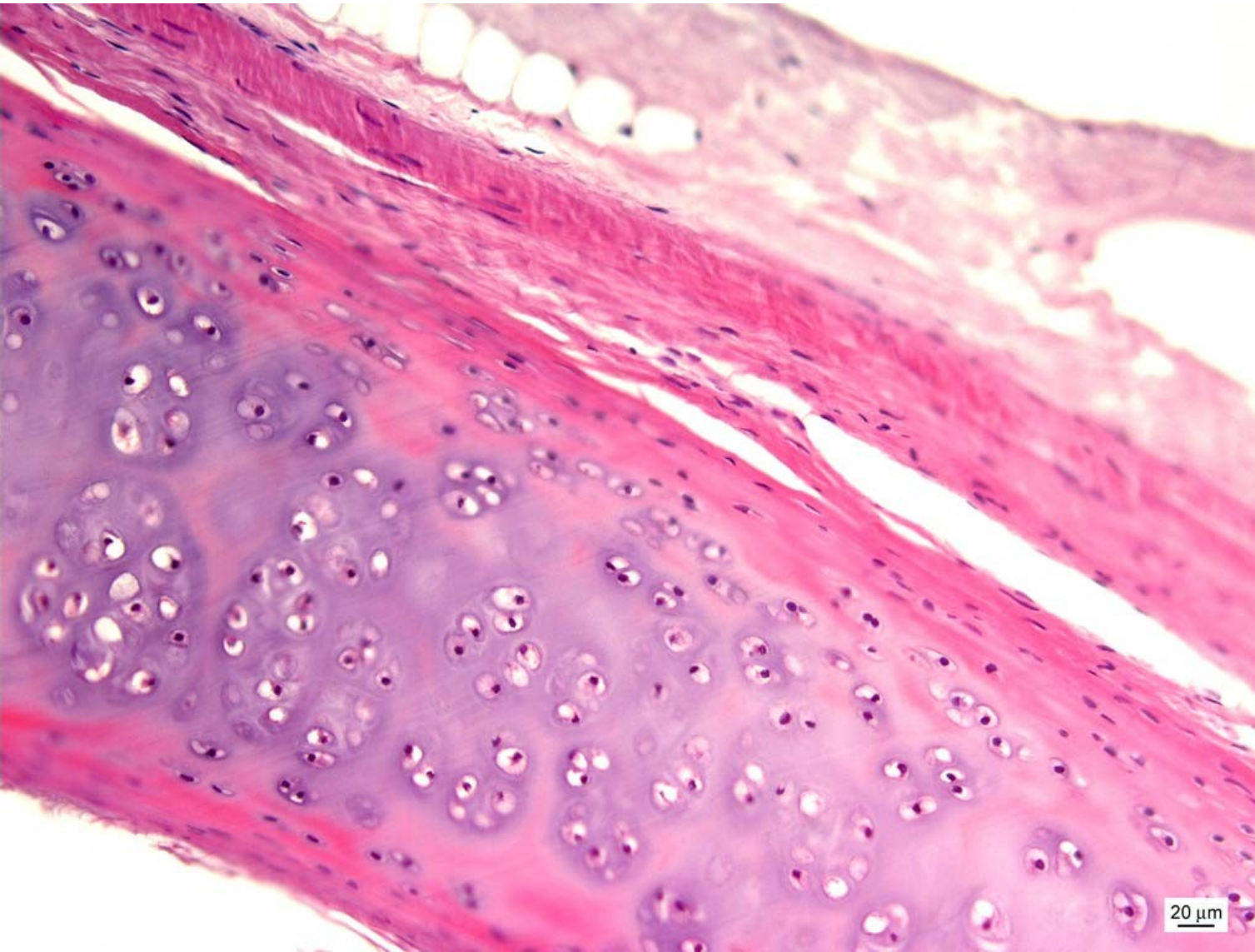
# WHITE ADIPOSE TISSUE

- adipocytes are actively formed until 2<sup>nd</sup> year of life
- no innervations, but rich vascularisation
- adipocytes with only one lipid droplet
- leptin (adipokinins)





# ■ CARTILAGE



# CARTILAGE

## General features:

- **specialized connective tissue** with continuous ECM
- flexible, mechanically resistant
- avascular, non-innervated
- support of soft tissues - trachea, larynx
- skeletal support - costal cartilages
- diarthrosis - joints
- bone growth

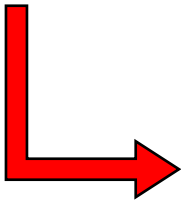
1. **cells**
2. **fibrils**
3. **amorphous ground substance**





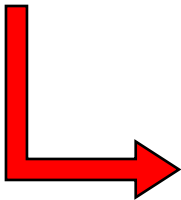
# CARTILAGE – COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

- Perichondrium – connective tissue around cartilage (except joints)



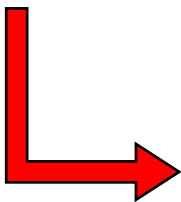
Nutrition  
Growth

- Extracellular matrix – water, proteoglycans and collagen fibrils

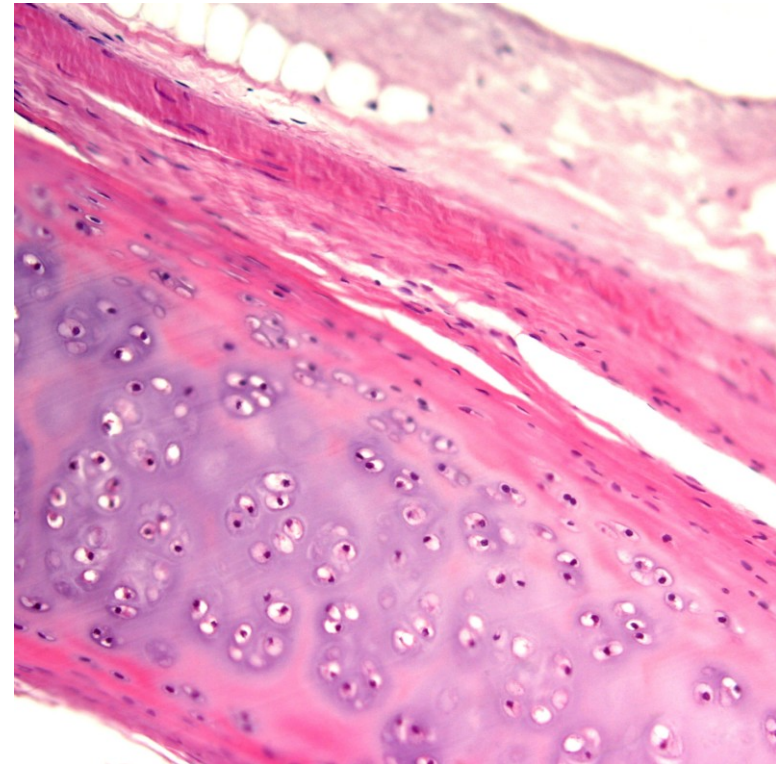


Solid consistence  
Pressure elasticity

- Cells of cartilage - chondroblasts, chondrocytes



Growth  
ECM production



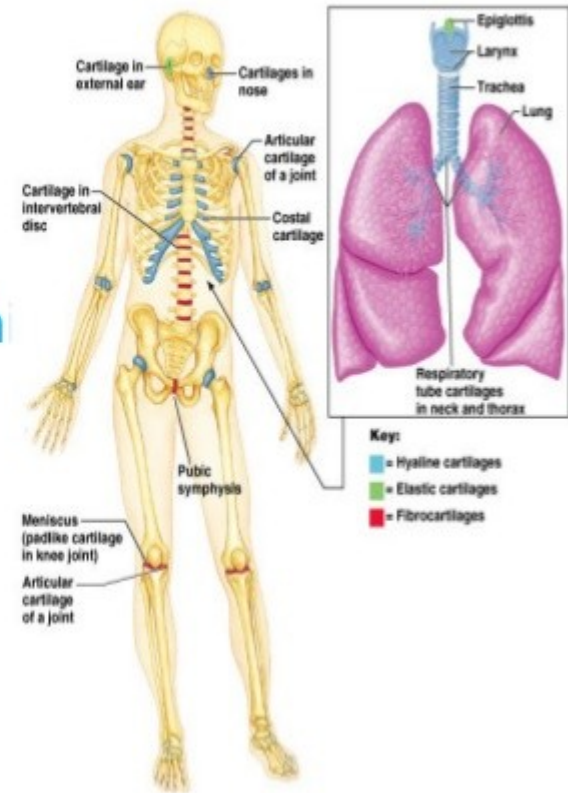
Hyaline

Elastic

Fibrous

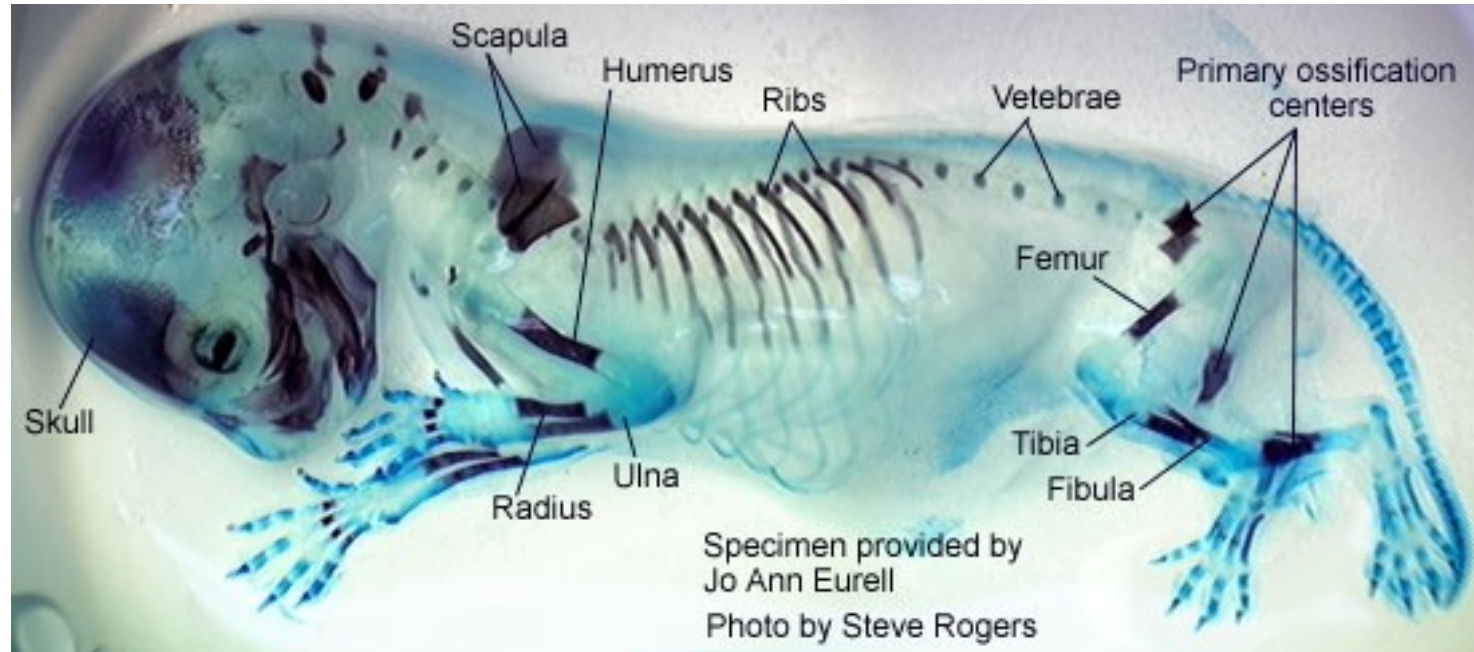
## cartilage in adults

- Nose
  - Joint surfaces
  - Costal
  - Larynx - voice box
  - rings of trachea & bronch
- 
- External ear
  - Epiglottis
  - Eustachian tube
- 
- IVDs
  - Pubic symphysis
  - meniscus in knee joint





## Hyaline



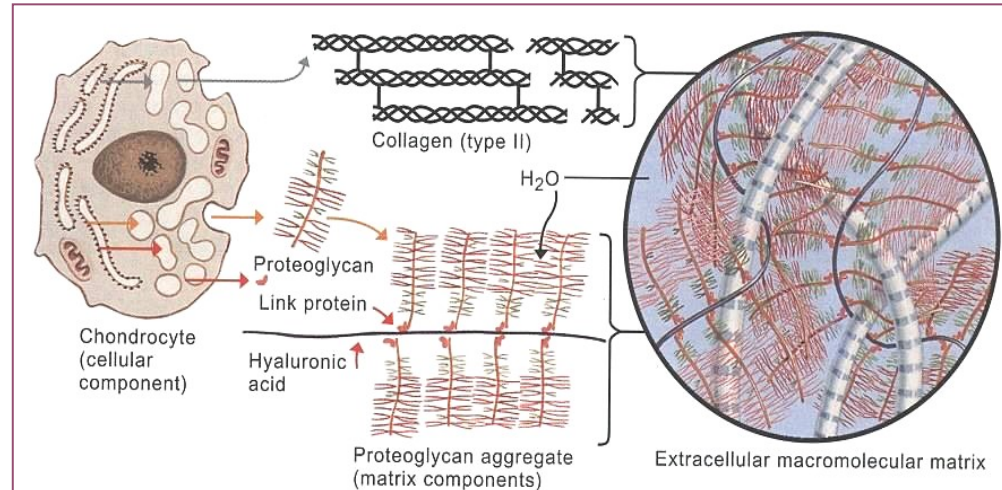
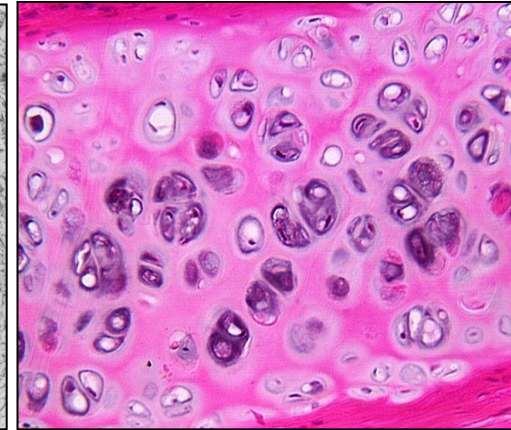
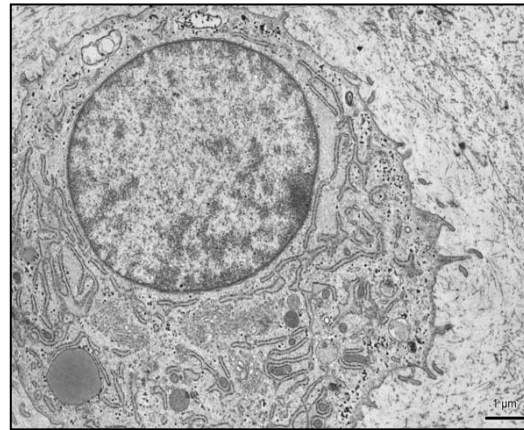
Alcian Blue&Alizarin Red

- most abundant
- temporary embryonal/fetal skeleton
- epiphyseal growth plate
- articulation (joints) respiratory passages

# CELLS OF CARTILAGE

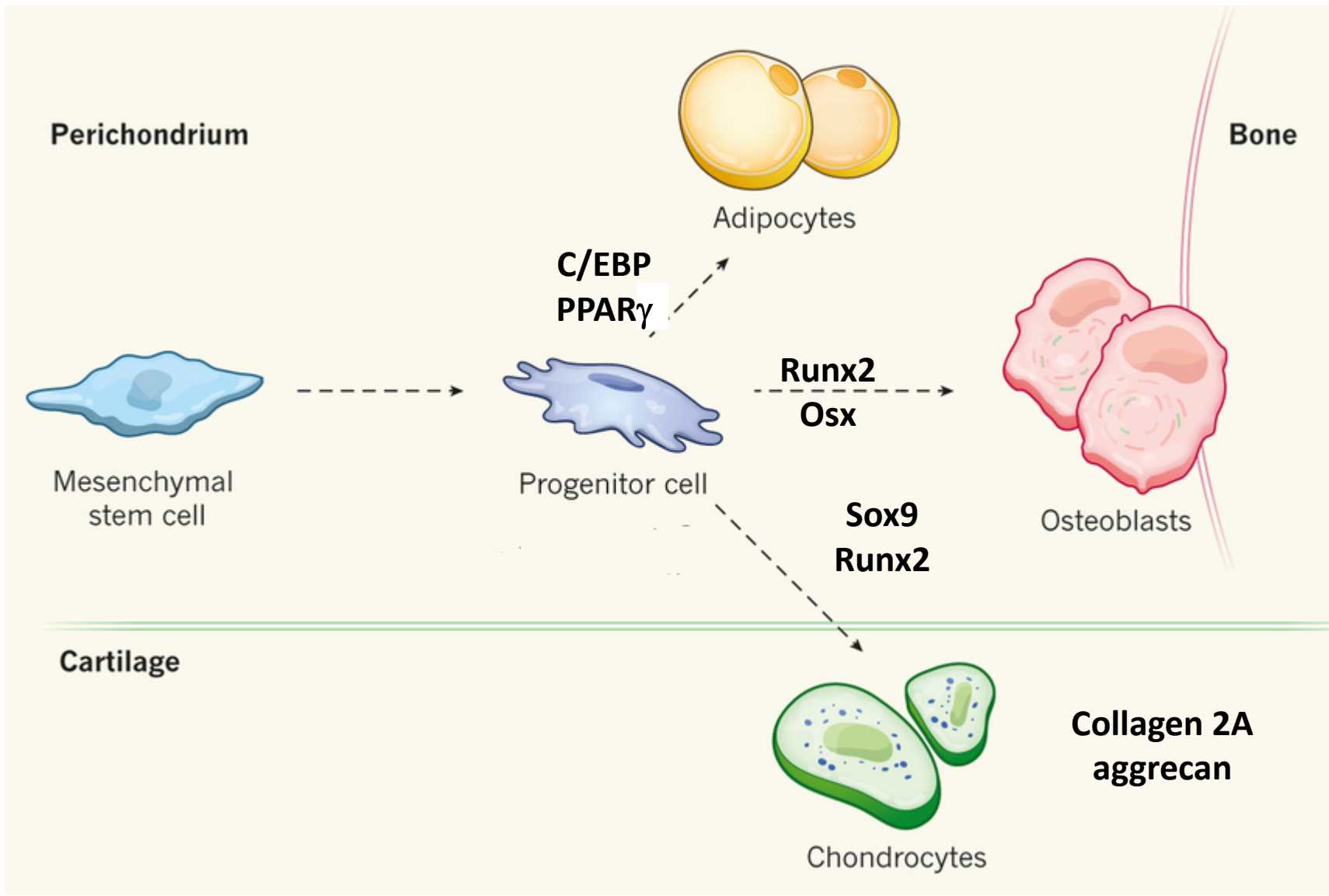
## ▪ Chondroblasts and chondrocytes

- mesenchymal origin
- typical ultrastructure of proteosynthetically active cells
- production of extracellular matrix
- interstitial proliferation
- isogenetic groups, lacunae

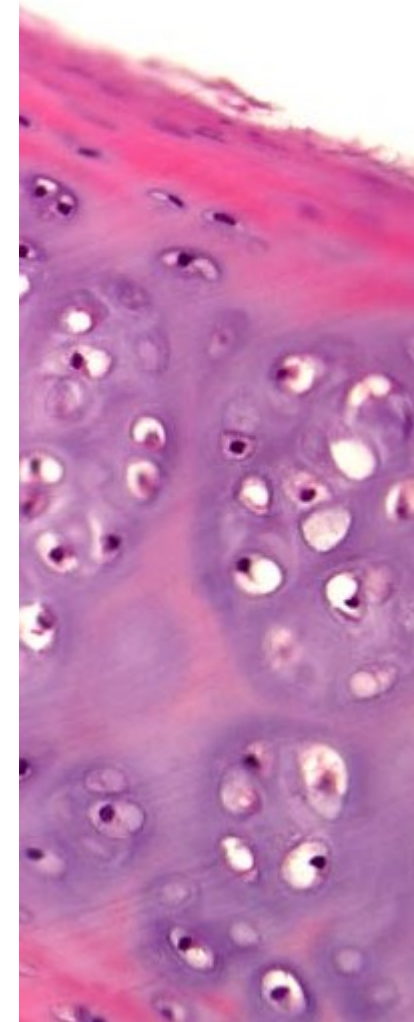
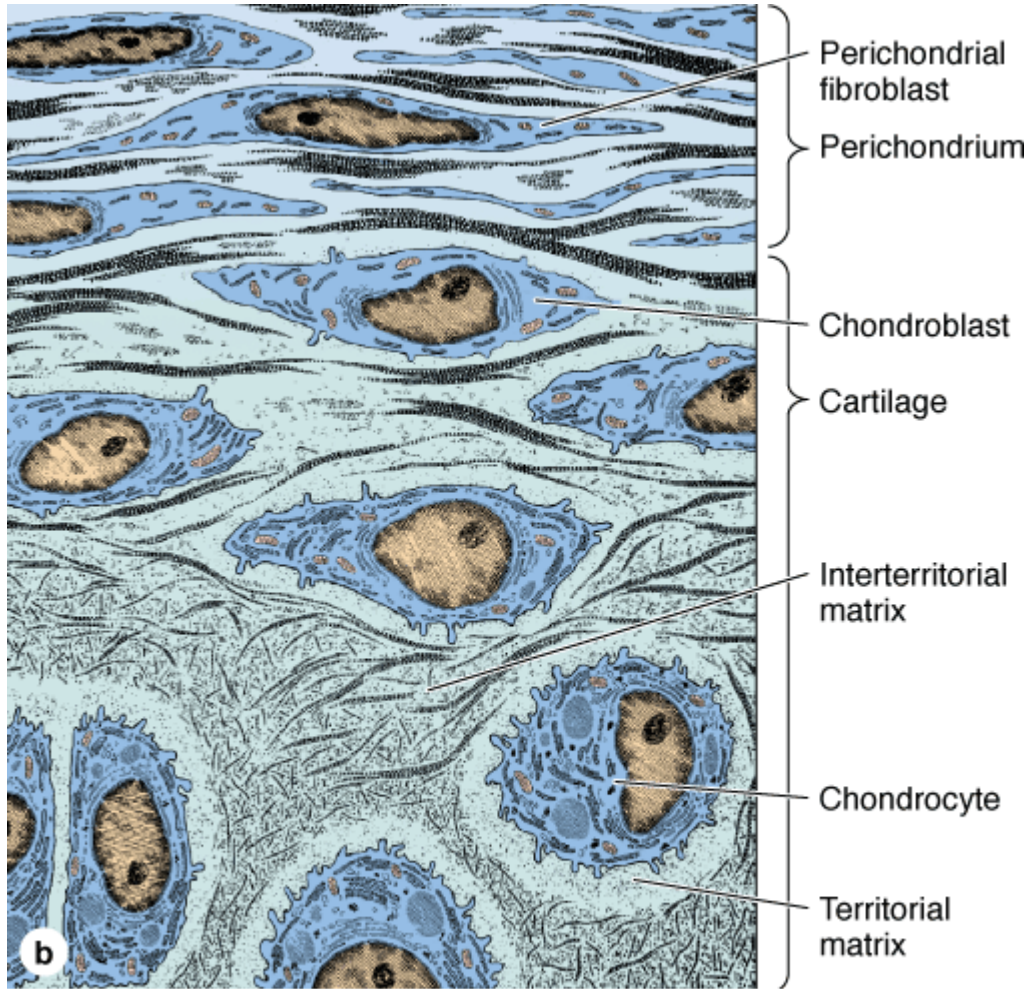




# DIFFERENTIATION OF CHONDROBLASTS



# DIFFERENTIATION OF CHONDROBLASTS

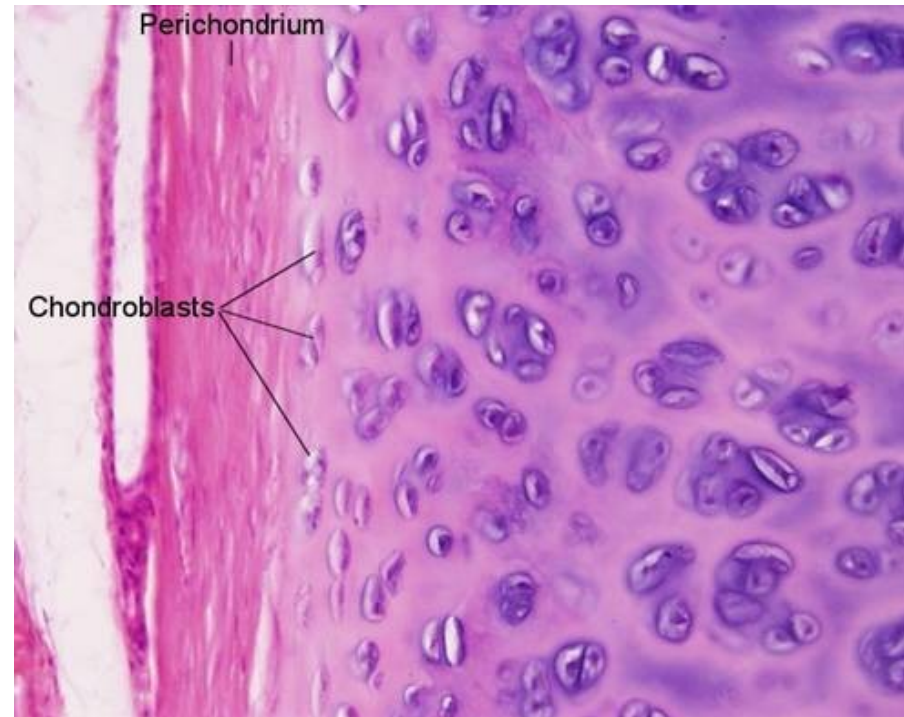


Source: Mescher AL: *Junqueira's Basic Histology: Text and Atlas, 12th Edition*: <http://www.accessmedicine.com>  
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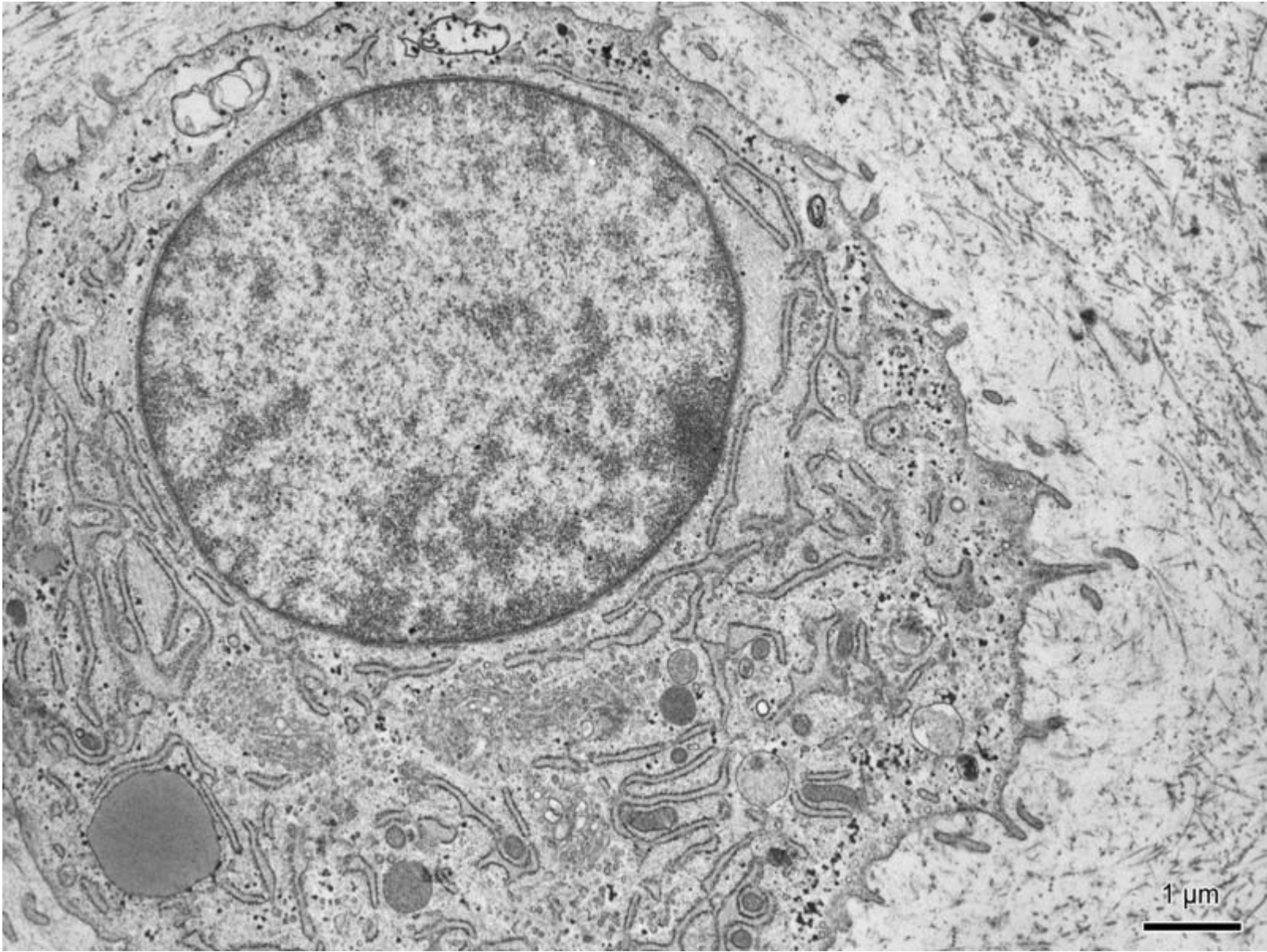


# ULTRASTRUCTURE OF CHONDROBLASTS

- oval → round cells
- rich in organelles, especially rER and GA
- glycogen granules (anaerobic metabolism)
- occasionally lipid droplets

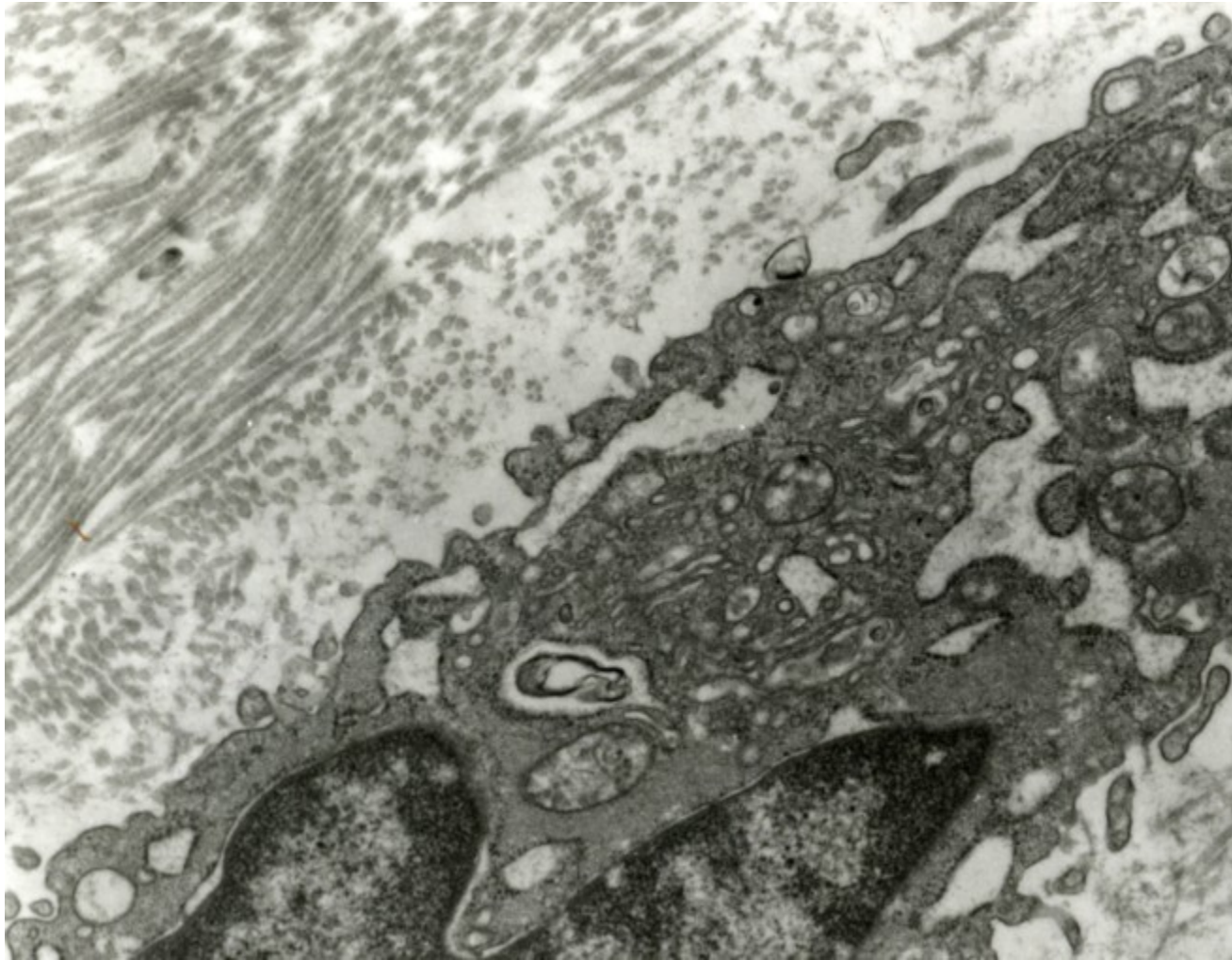


# ULTRASTRUCTURE OF CHONDROBLASTS





# ULTRASTRUCTURE OF CHONDROBLASTS



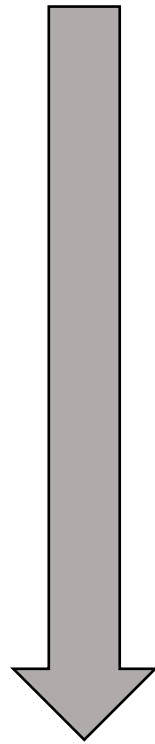
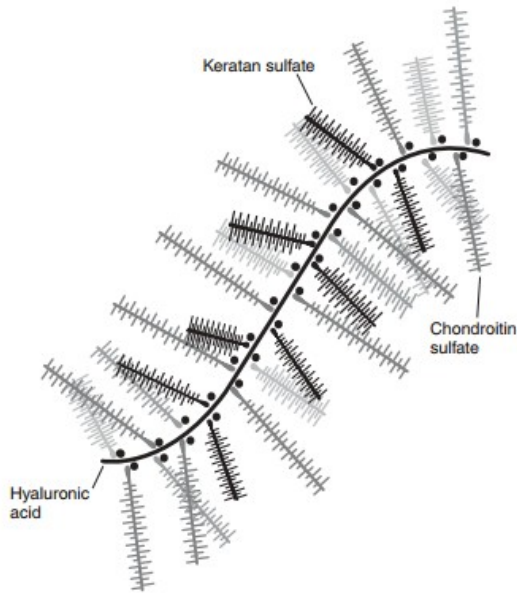
## ■ Extracellular matrix

glycosaminoglycans

proteoglycans

fibers

water



**biomechanical properties**



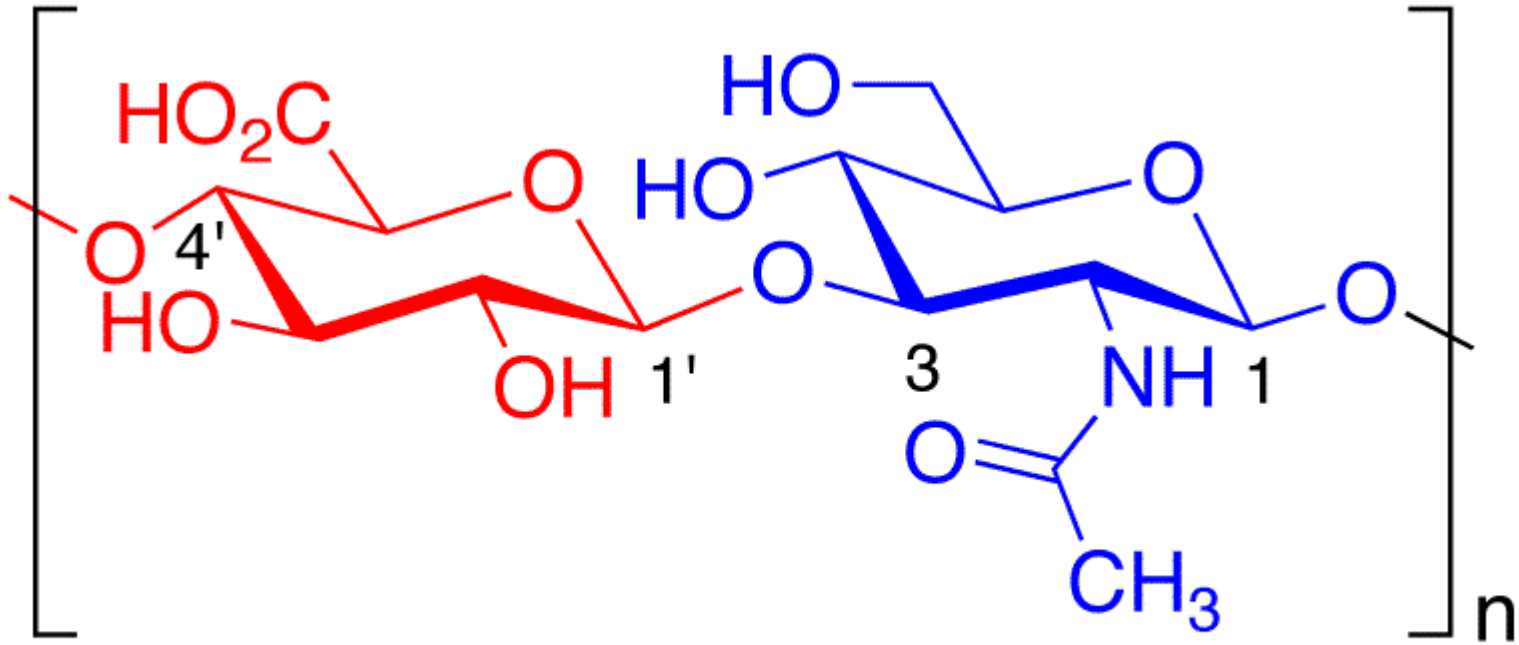
# GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS IN CARTILAGE

linear unbranched polysaccharides containing a repeating disaccharide unit:

1. *N*-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) or *N*-acetylglucosamine (GlcNAc)
2. uronic acid (glucuronate (GlcA)) or iduronate.



hyaluronic acid



*Glucuronic Acid N-Acetyl-D-glucosamine*

# GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS IN CARTILAGE

## Glycosaminoglycan

## Localization

Hyaluronic acid

Umbilical cord, synovial fluid, fluid of corpus vitreum, cartilage

Chondroitinsulphate

Cartilage, bone, cornea, skin, notochord, aorta

Dermatansulphate

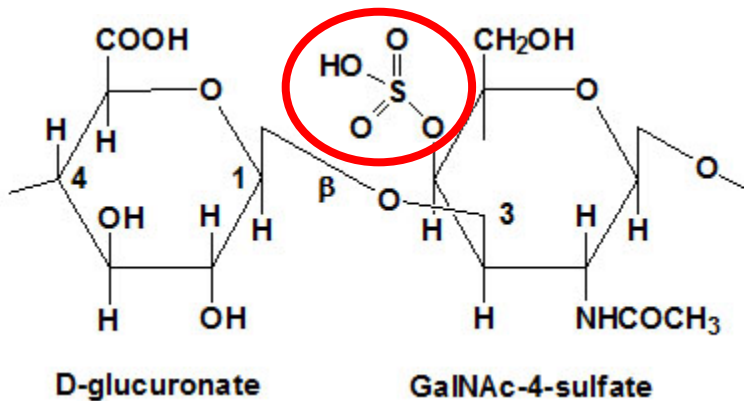
Skin, ligaments, adventitia of aorta

Heparansulphate

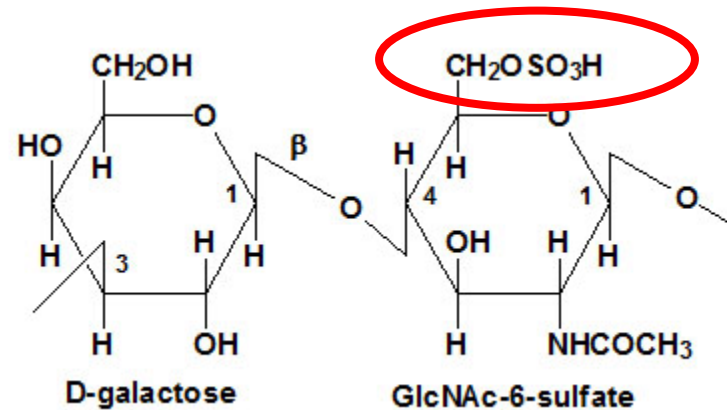
Aorta, lungs, liver, basal membranes

Keratansulphate

Iris, cartilage, nucleus pulposus, anulus fibrosus



Chondroitinsulphate



Keratansulphate



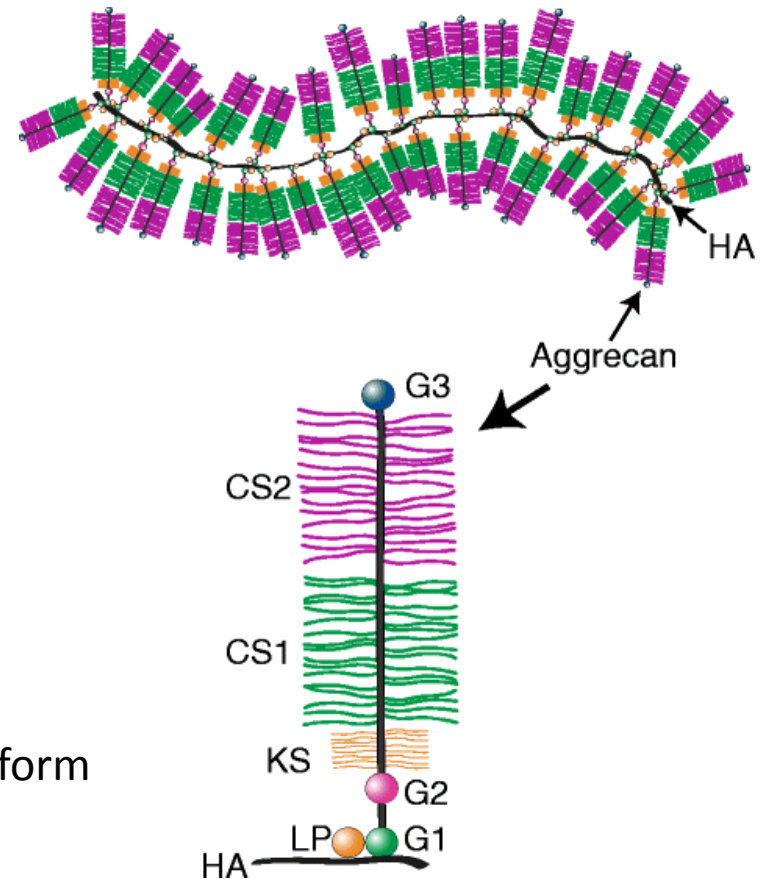
# PROTEOGLYCANS AND FIBERS

- **proteoglycans**

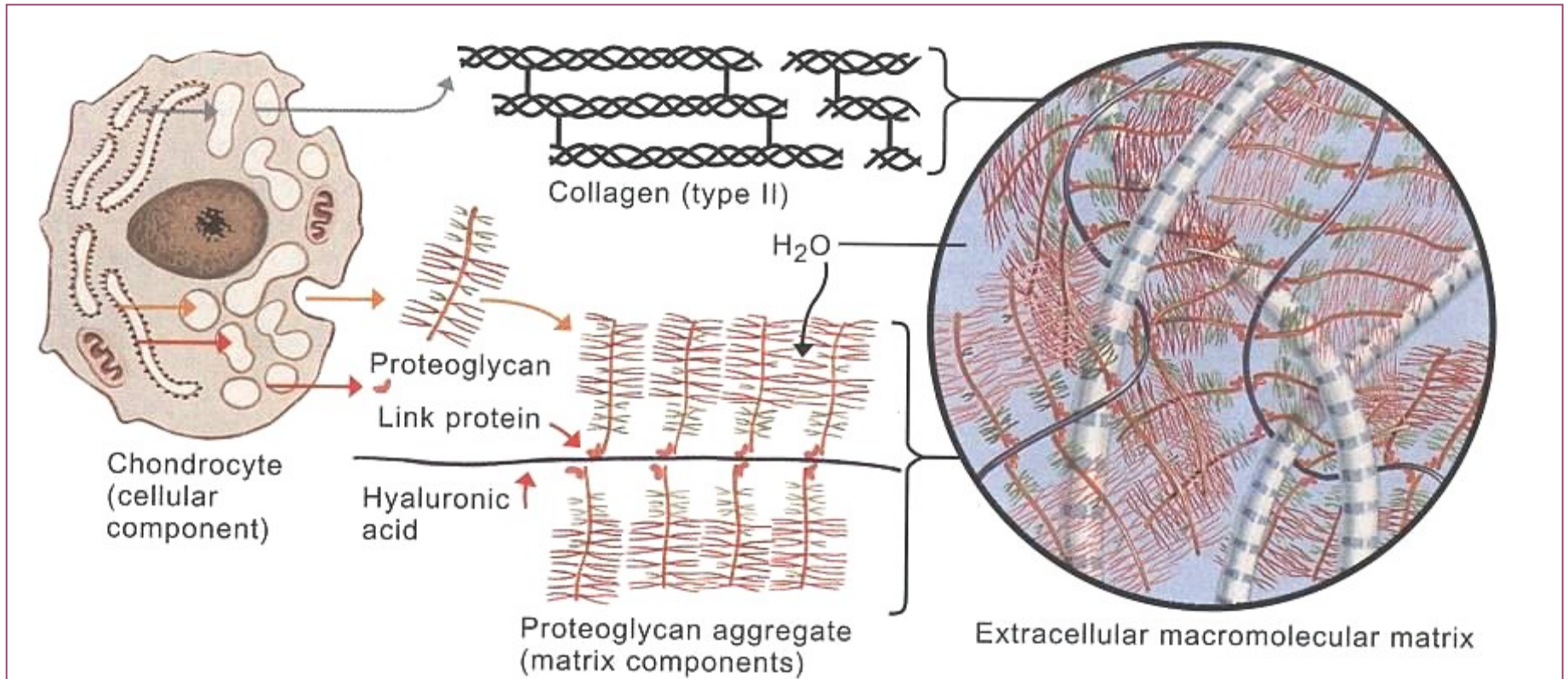
- protein + dominant linear saccharide component
- proteoglycan aggregates
- water-binding – 80%, volume dependent of hydration
  - **aggrecan (cartilage)**
  - syndekan
  - fibroglykan

- **collagen fibrils**

- col II + col IX/XI
- thin fibrils (15-20 nm → no striation) that do not form fibers like col I
- interconnected with perichondrium
- elastic fibers



# TISSUE ARCHITECTURE OF CARTILAGE ECM



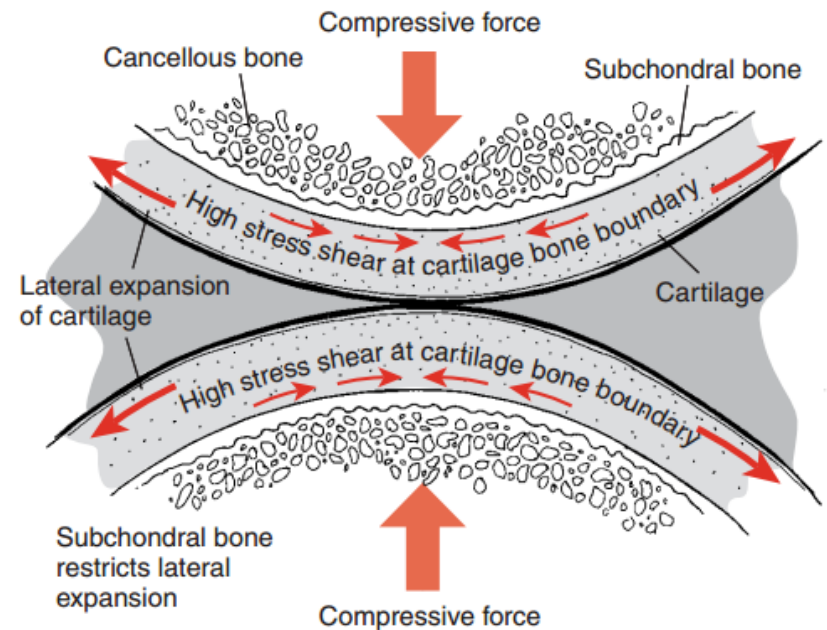
transduction of biochemical and biomechanical signals



# TISSUE ARCHITECTURE OF CARTILAGE ECM

- **pressure elasticity**

- proteoglycans – polyanionic ( $\text{COO}^-$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{\text{II}-}$ )
- expansion prevented by collagen fibrils
- repulsion forces



- **biphasic model of cartilage** conditioned by ECM composition

- proteoglycans, collagen, cells, and lipids constitute the solid phase of the mixture
- interstitial fluid that is free to move through the matrix fluid phase)
- under impact loads, fluid flows through the framework, until the cartilage start to behave as a single-phase, incompressible, elastic solid - the fluid does not flow
- after load release, fluid returns
- nutritive aspect

# TISSUE ARCHITECTURE OF CARTILAGE ECM

- **synovial cartilage**

I. tangential (superficial) zone

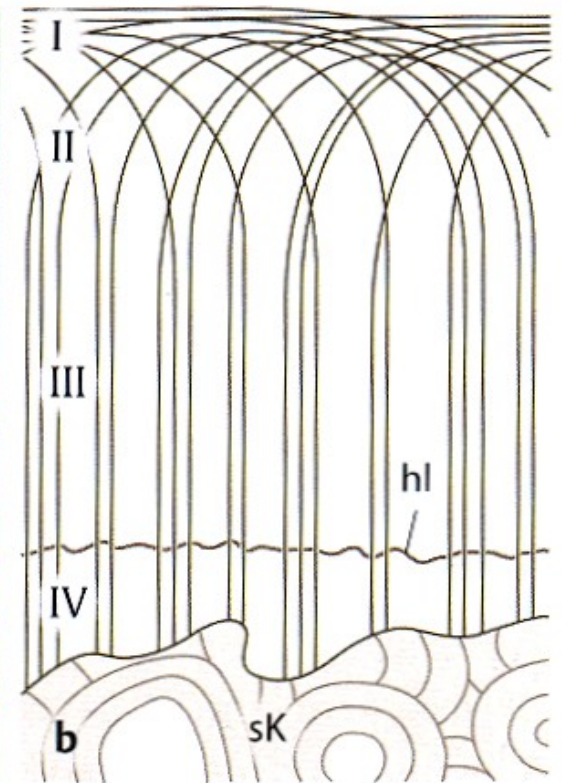
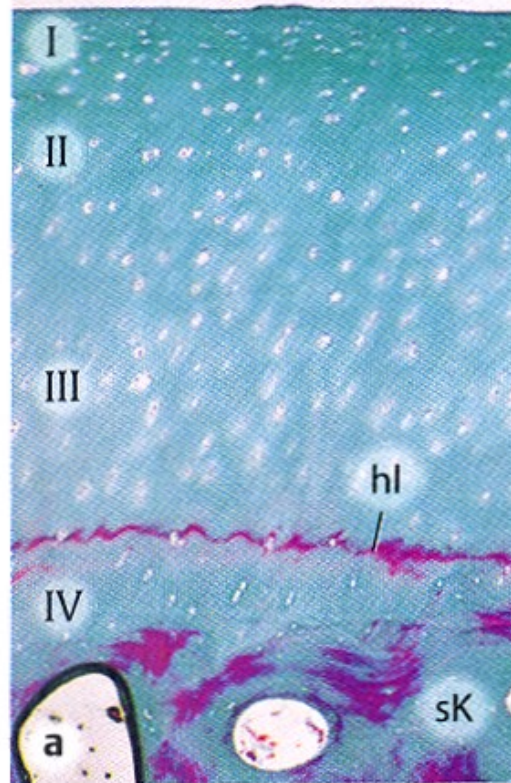
II. transitional zone

III. radial (deep) zone

tide mark

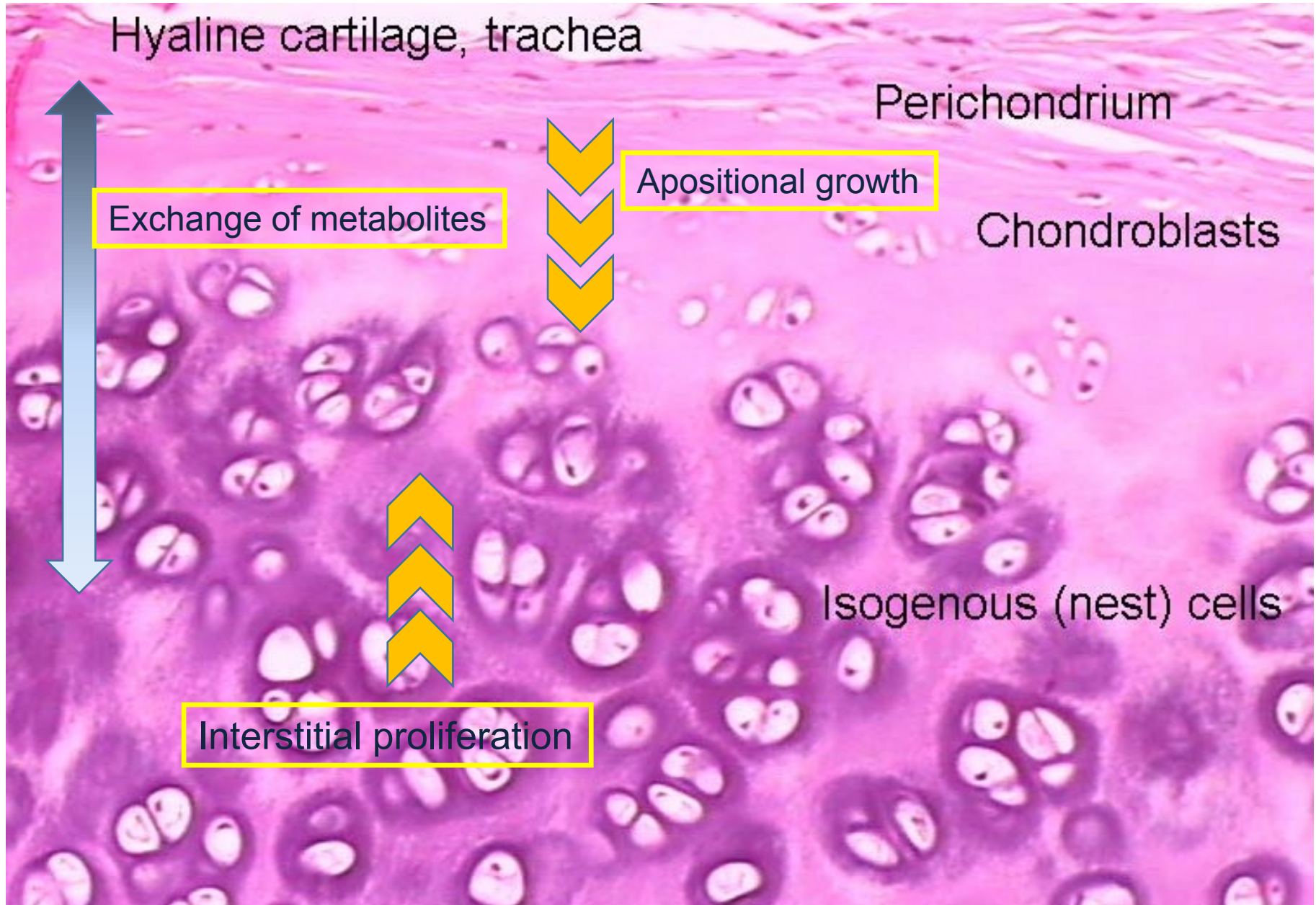
I. mineralized cartilage zone

subchondral bone



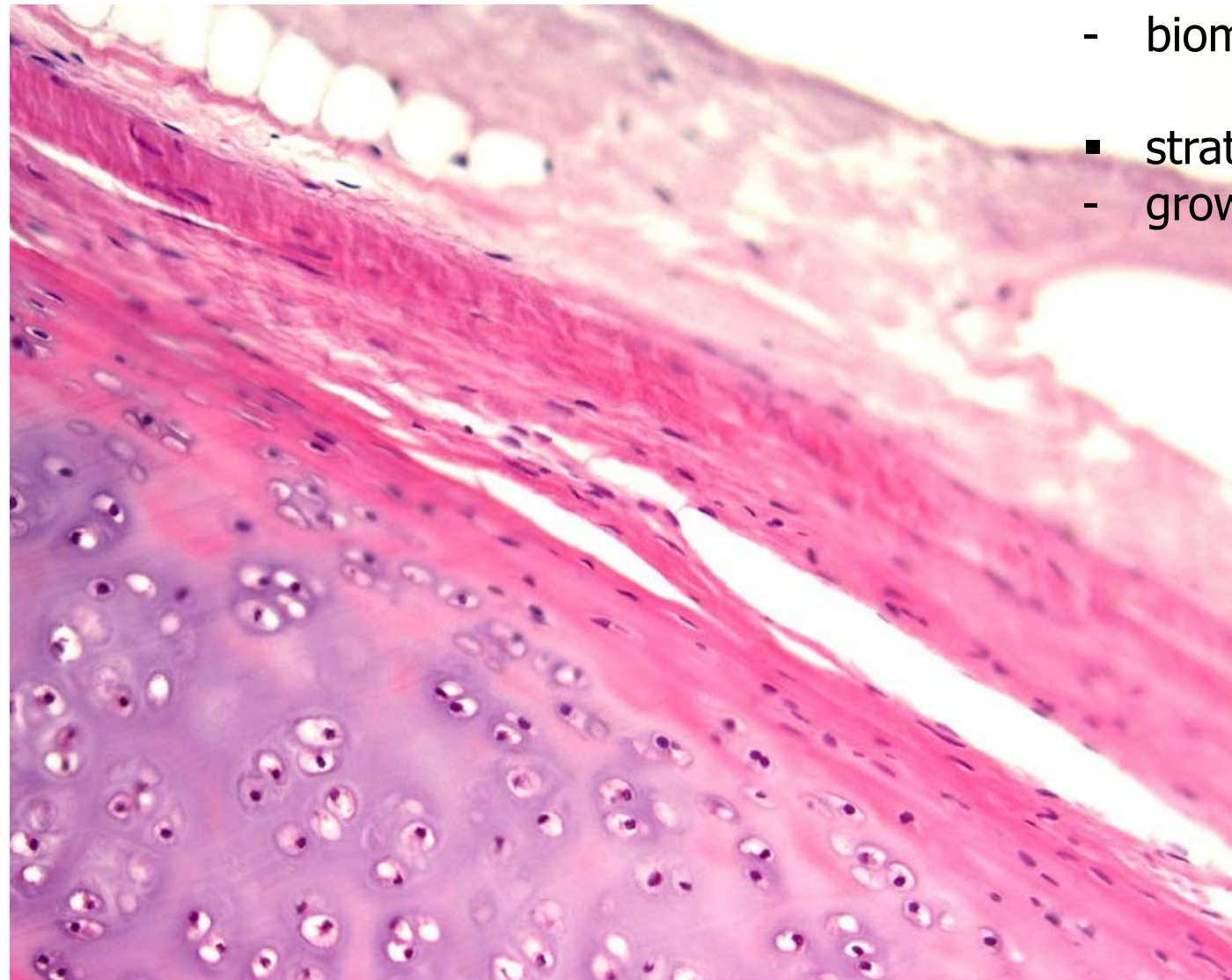


# NUTRITION AND GROWTH



# PERICHONDRIUM

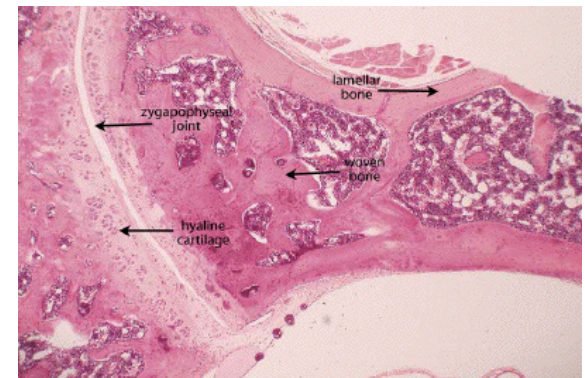
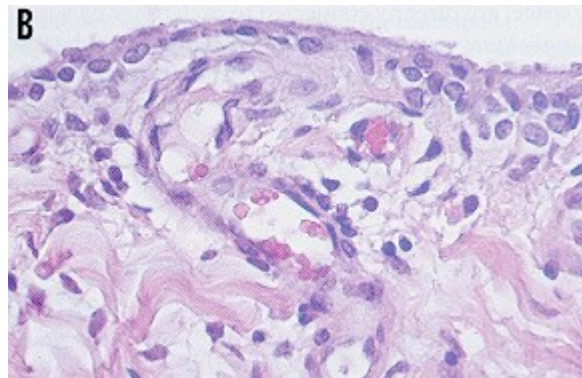
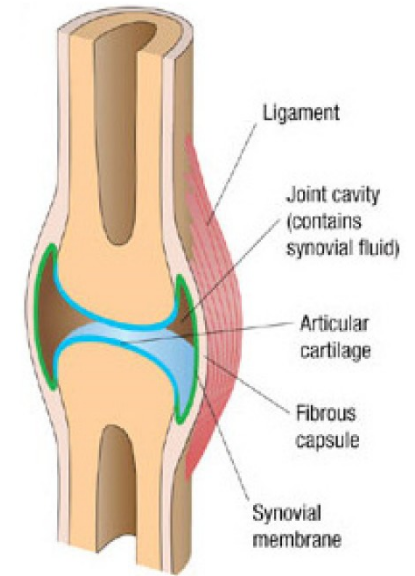
- stratum fibrosum
  - biomechanics
- stratum chondrogenicum
  - growth





# SYNOVIUM

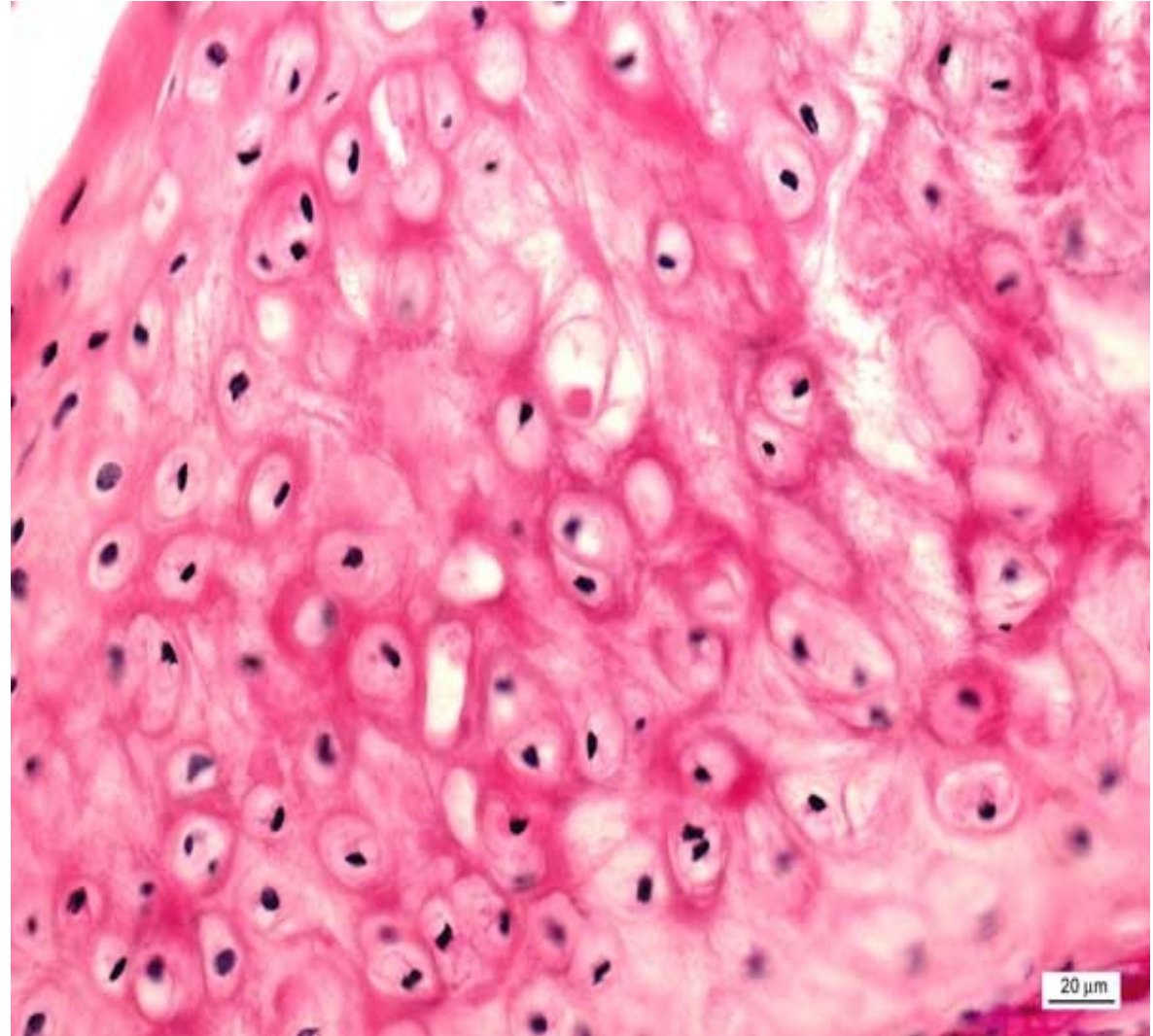
- *membrana fibrosa*
  - dense collagen c.t.
- *membrana synovialis*
  - intima, subintima
    - folds extending to the joint cavity
    - numerous blood and lymphatic vessels, nerves
    - discontinuous cell layers (synovialocytes)
    - basal membrane and intercellular junctions absent - **not an epithelium**: mesenchymal (c.t.) origin
    - synovial fluid rich in hyaluronans
    - *bursae synoviales, vaginae tendineum*





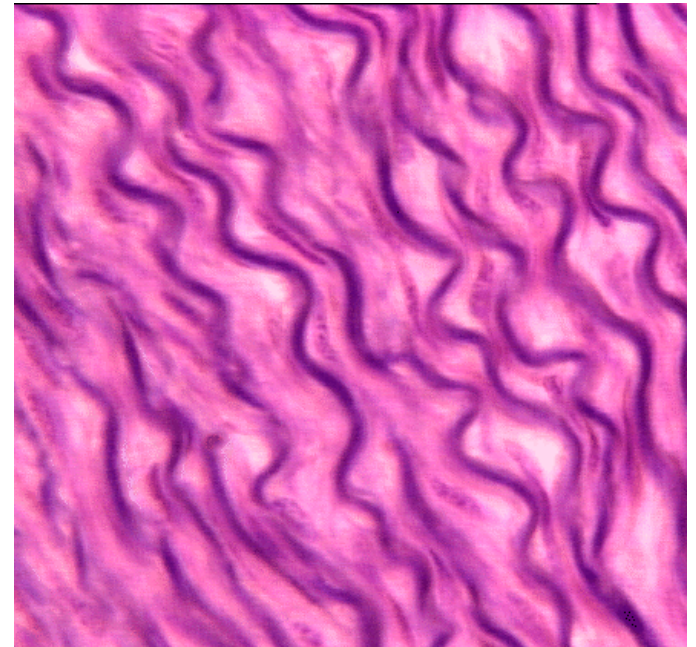
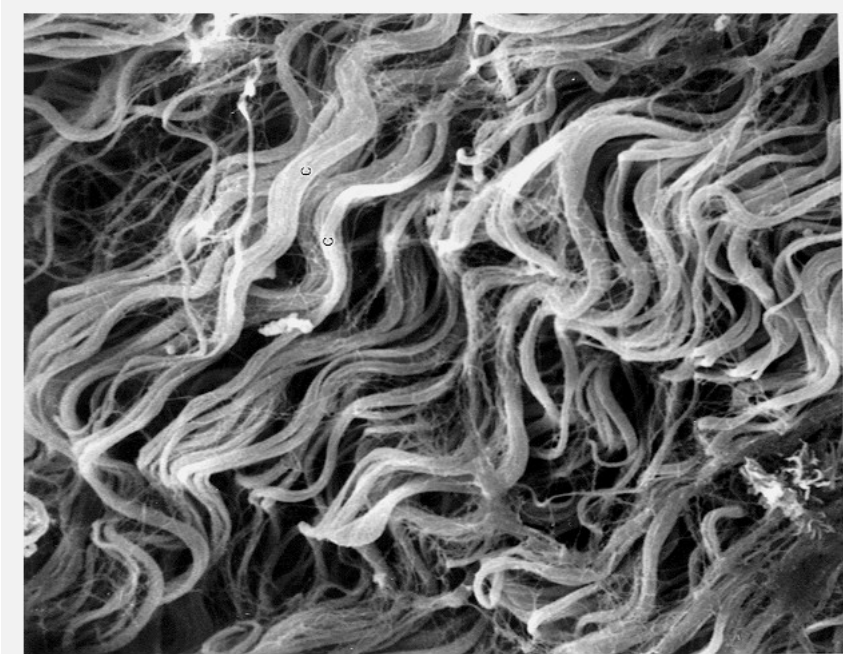
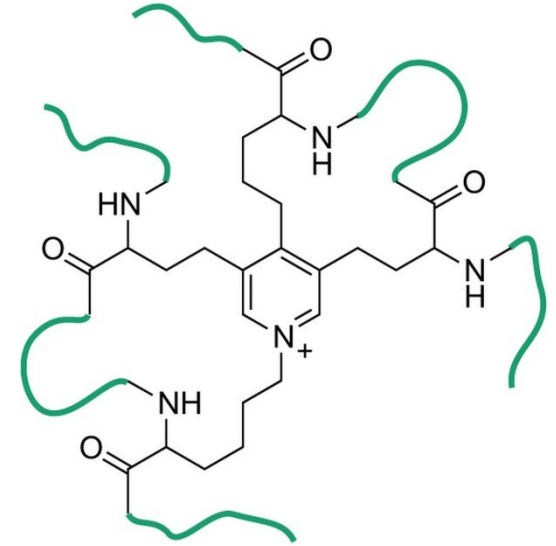
# ELASTIC CARTILAGE

- acidophilic elastic fibers dispersed in matrix
- no isogenetic groups
- auricula, meatus, larynx, epiglottis



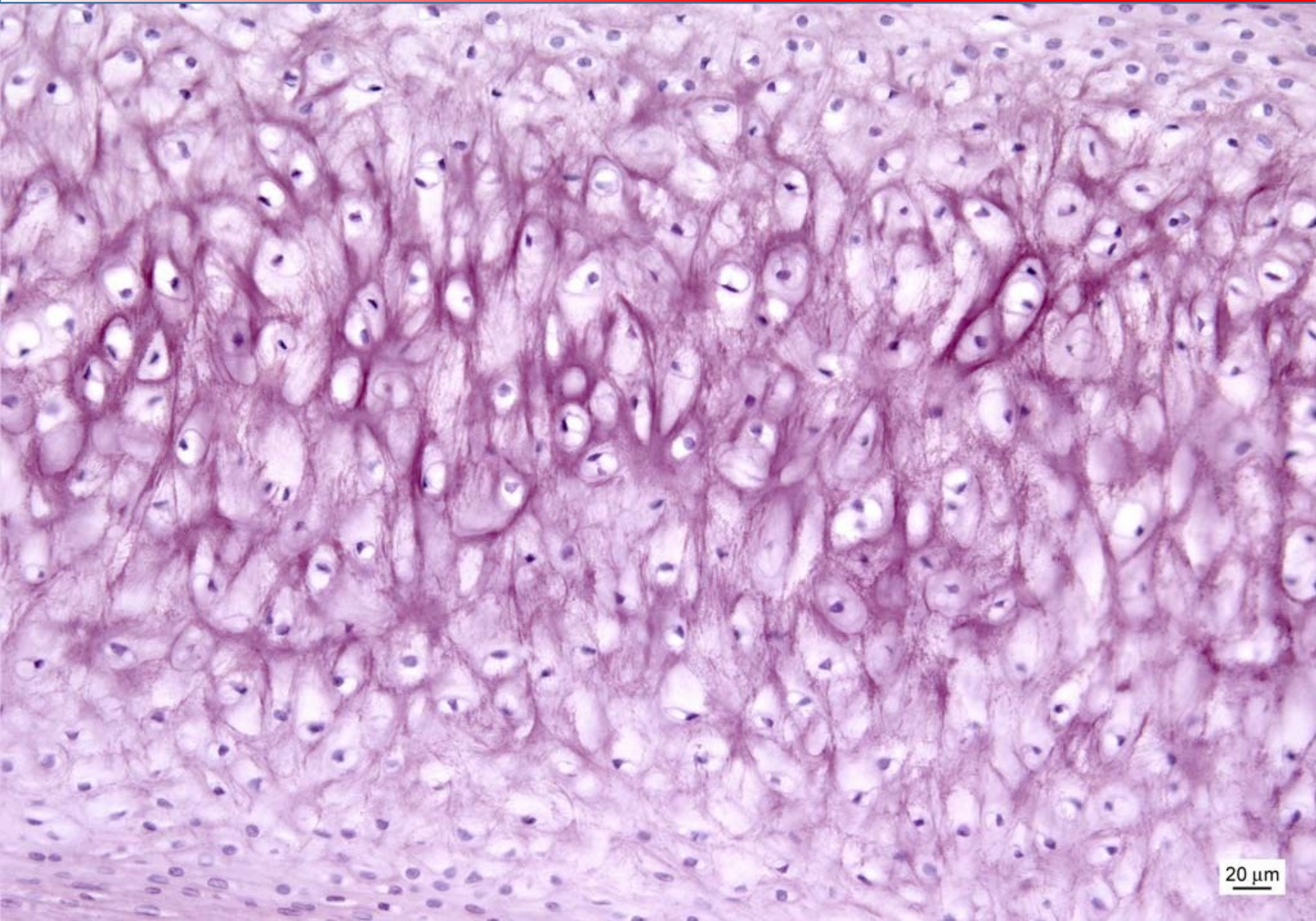
# ELASTIC FIBERS

- less abundant than collagen
- polymer – tropoelastin
- minimal tensile resistance, loss of elasticity if overstretched
- reduction of hysteresis = allow return back to original state after mechanic change





# ELASTIC CARTILAGE

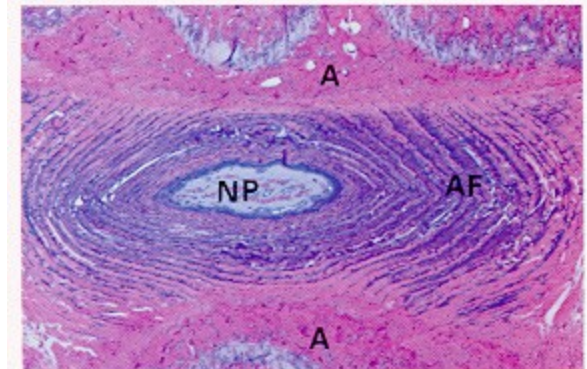
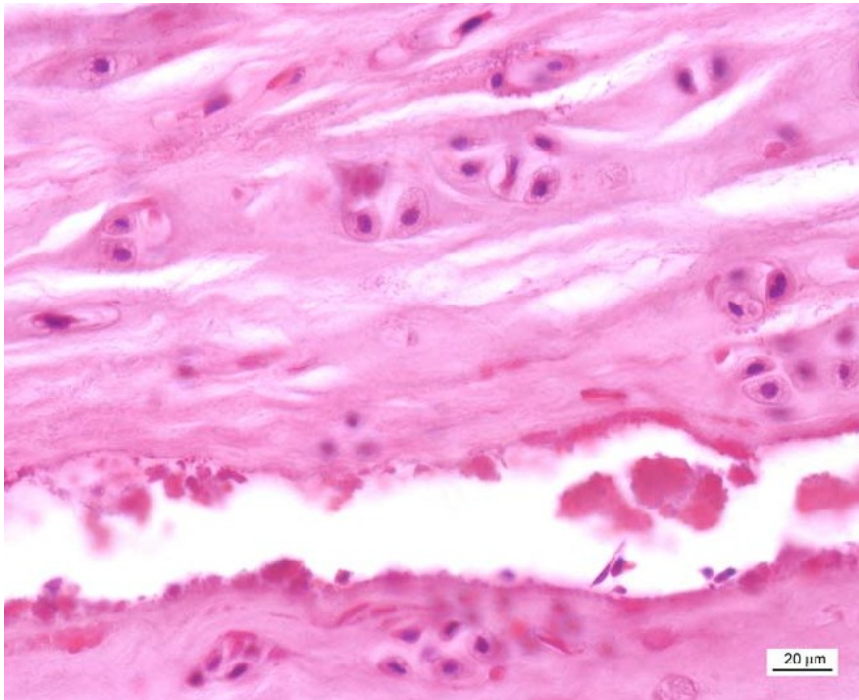
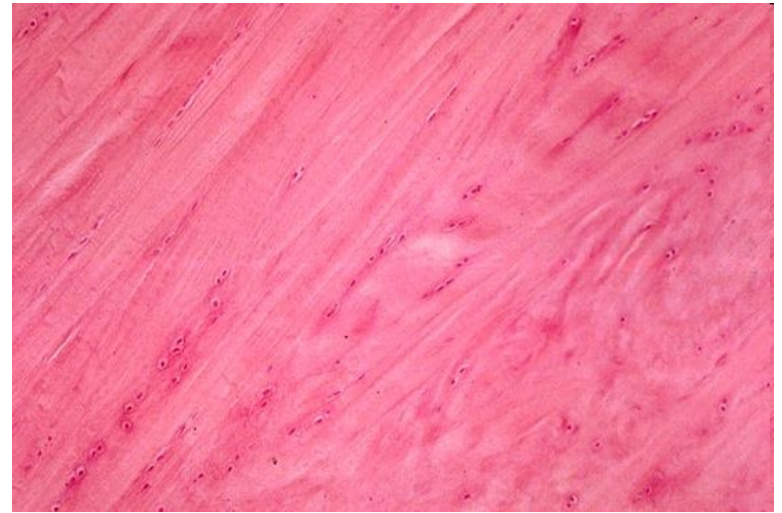


20  $\mu$ m

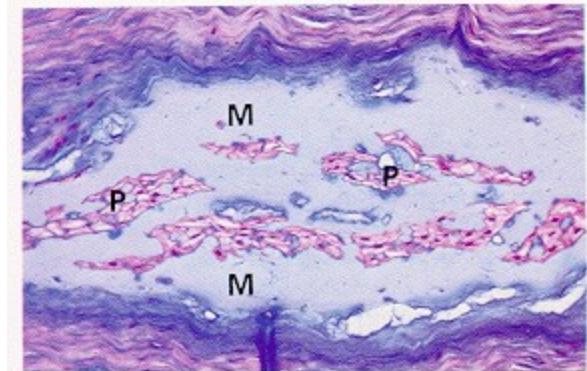


# FIBROCARILAGE

- fibrous compound dominant – collagen I and II  
– mechanical durability
- minimum of amorphous matrix-fibers visible
- intervertebral discs, symphysis pubis, articular discs, meniscus



(a)

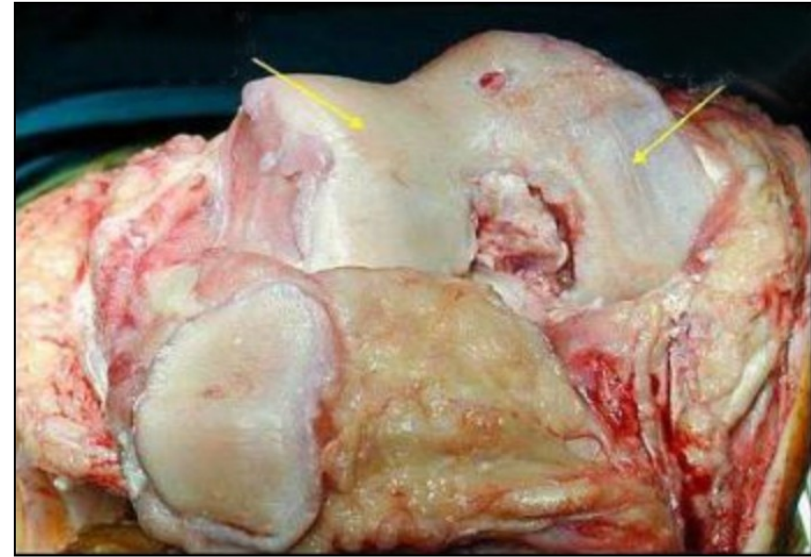


(b)



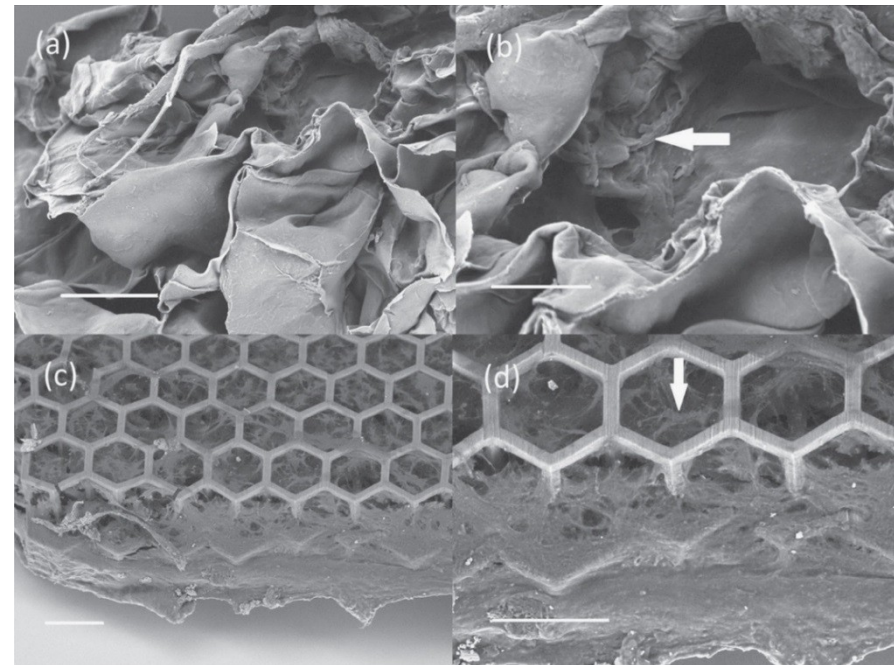
# CLINICAL CORRELATION

- Cartilage – no innervation, no vascularization – no spontaneous regeneration
- No migration of chondrocytes to site of damage
- Initiation of other degenerative events leading to cartilage erosion (arthritis)



## Therapy:

- joint mobility
- restoration of biochemical and biophysical parameters of cartilage
- prevention of further damage
- removal of damaged tissue, autologous transplantation, MSCs on biocompatible scaffolds







■ BONE

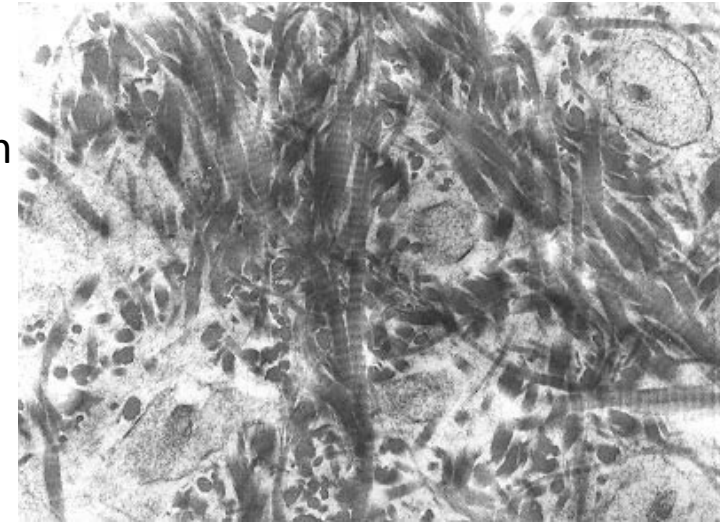
20  $\mu$ m



# HISTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF BONE TISSUE

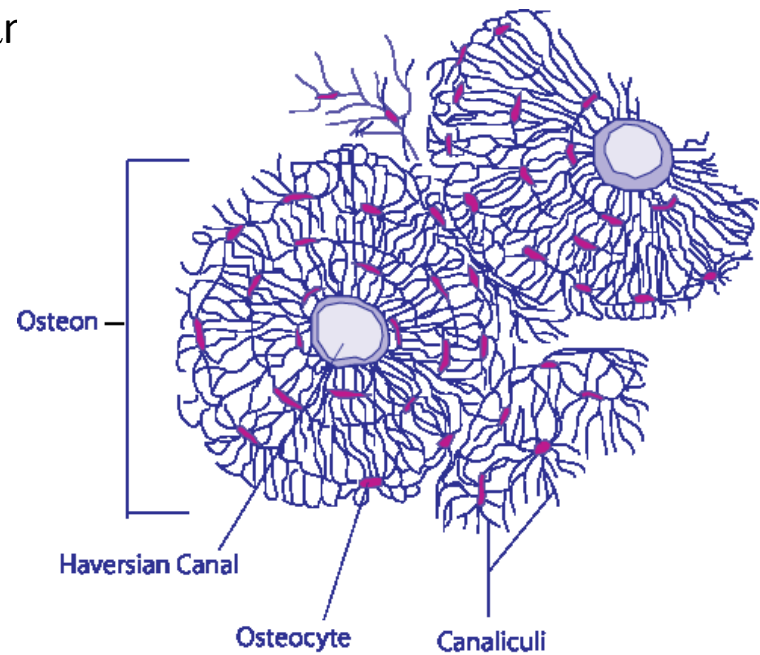
- **Primary (woven, fibrous)**

- Temporary, growth and regeneration of bones, collagen fibrils woven
- Replaced by secondary bone
- Remains only in some parts of body - sutures of skull, *tuberositas ossium*, tooth cement



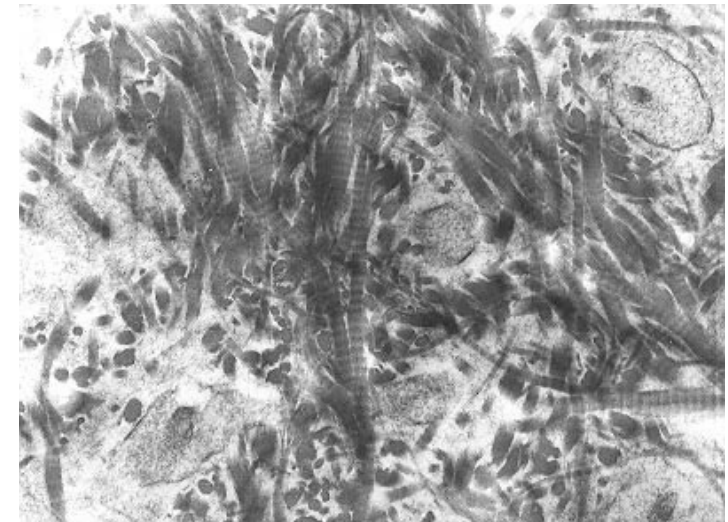
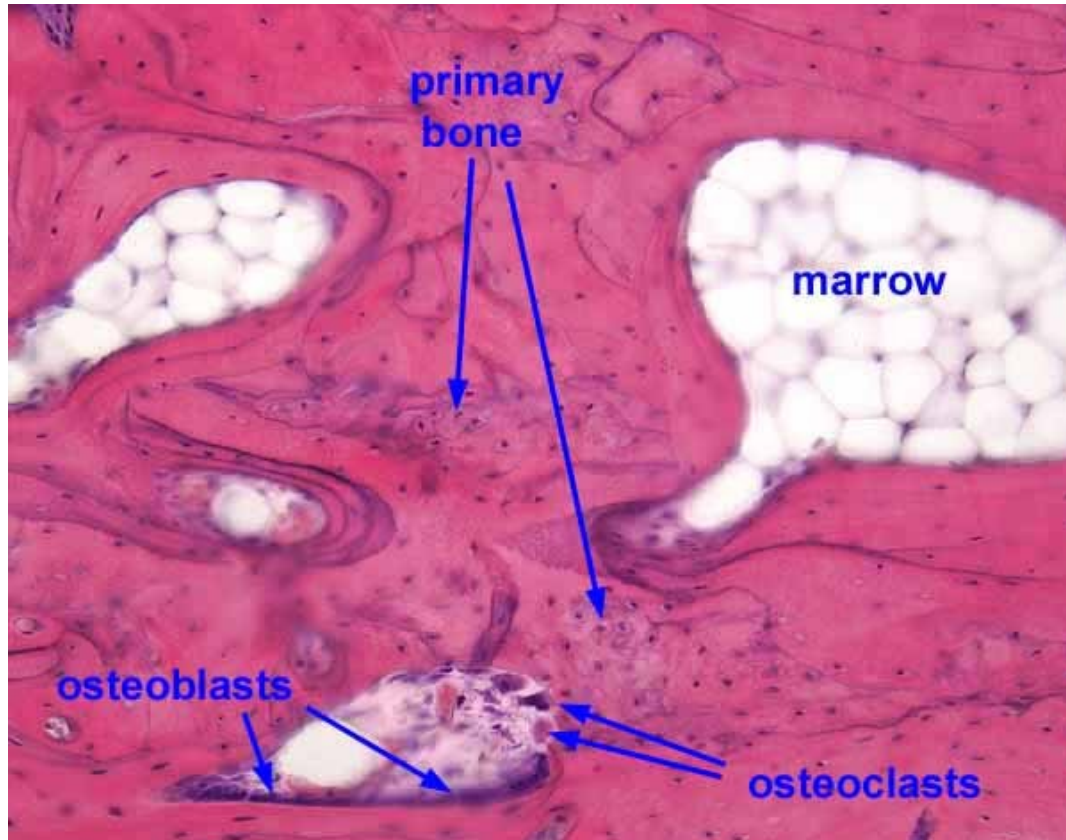
- **Secondary (lamellar)**

- Lamellae – collagen fibers in concentric layers (3-7 $\mu$ m around a canal with capillaries = Haversian system (osteon)



# PRIMARY (WOVEN) BONE

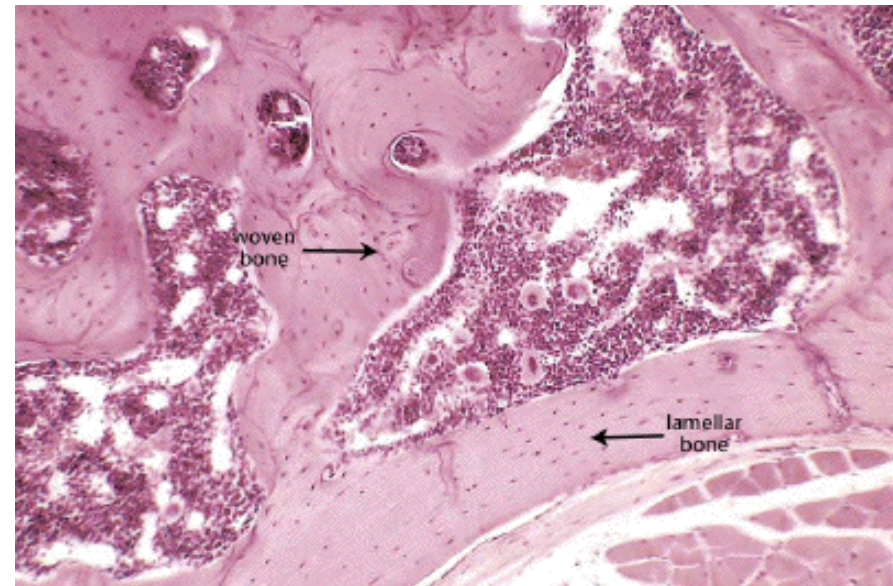
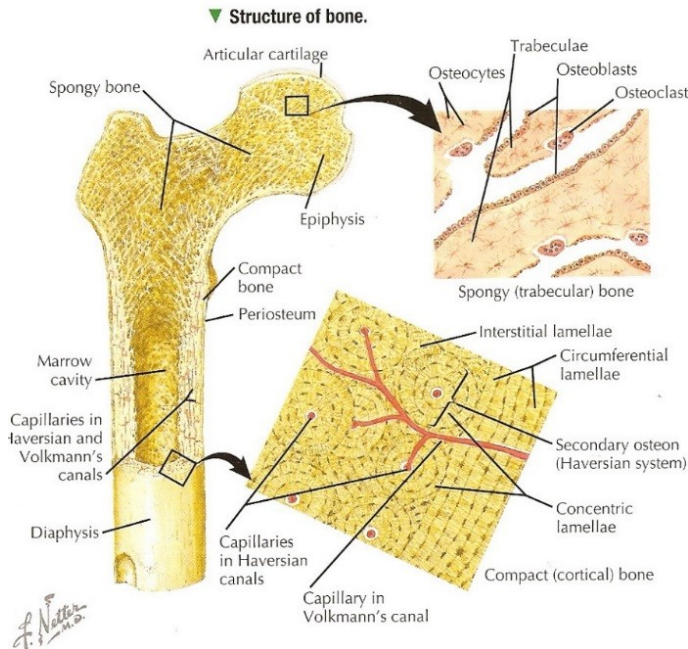
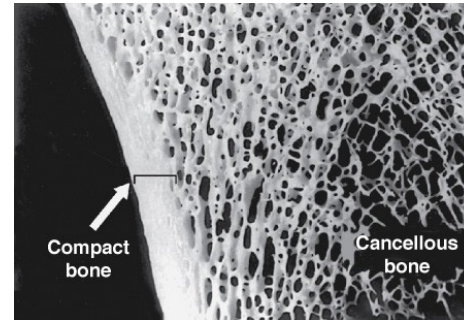
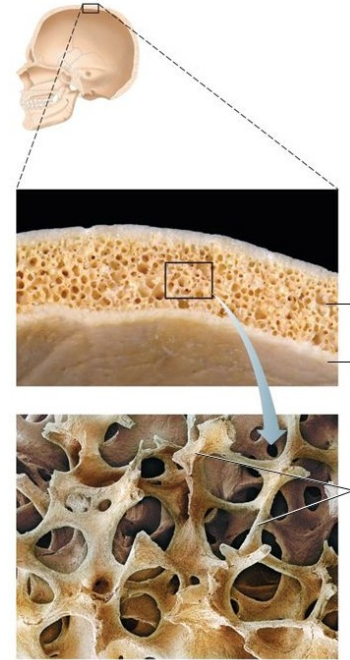
- Temporary, growth and regeneration of bones, collagen fibrils woven
- Replaced by secondary bone
- Remains only in some parts of body - sutures of skull, *tuberositas ossium*, tooth cement





# SECONDARY (LAMELLAR) BONE

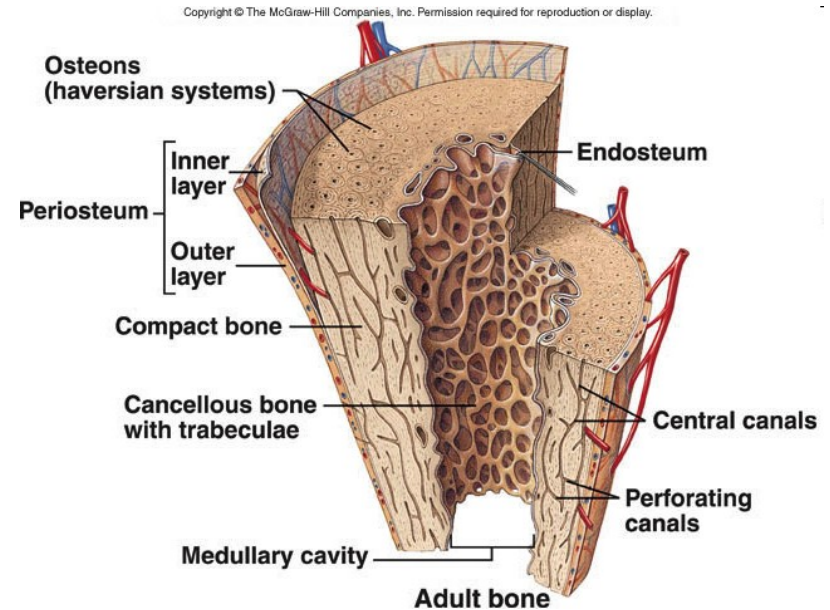
- Lamellae – collagen fibers in concentric layers (3-7 $\mu$ m) around a canal with capillaries = Haversian system (osteon)
- **Spongy (trabecular)**
  - Trabeculae, similar to compact
  - Epiphyses of long bones, short bones, middle layer of flat bones of the skull (*diploe*)
- **Compact**
  - Outer and inner coat lamellae typical Haversian systems
  - Volkmann's canals
  - Interstitial canals



# BONE SURFACES

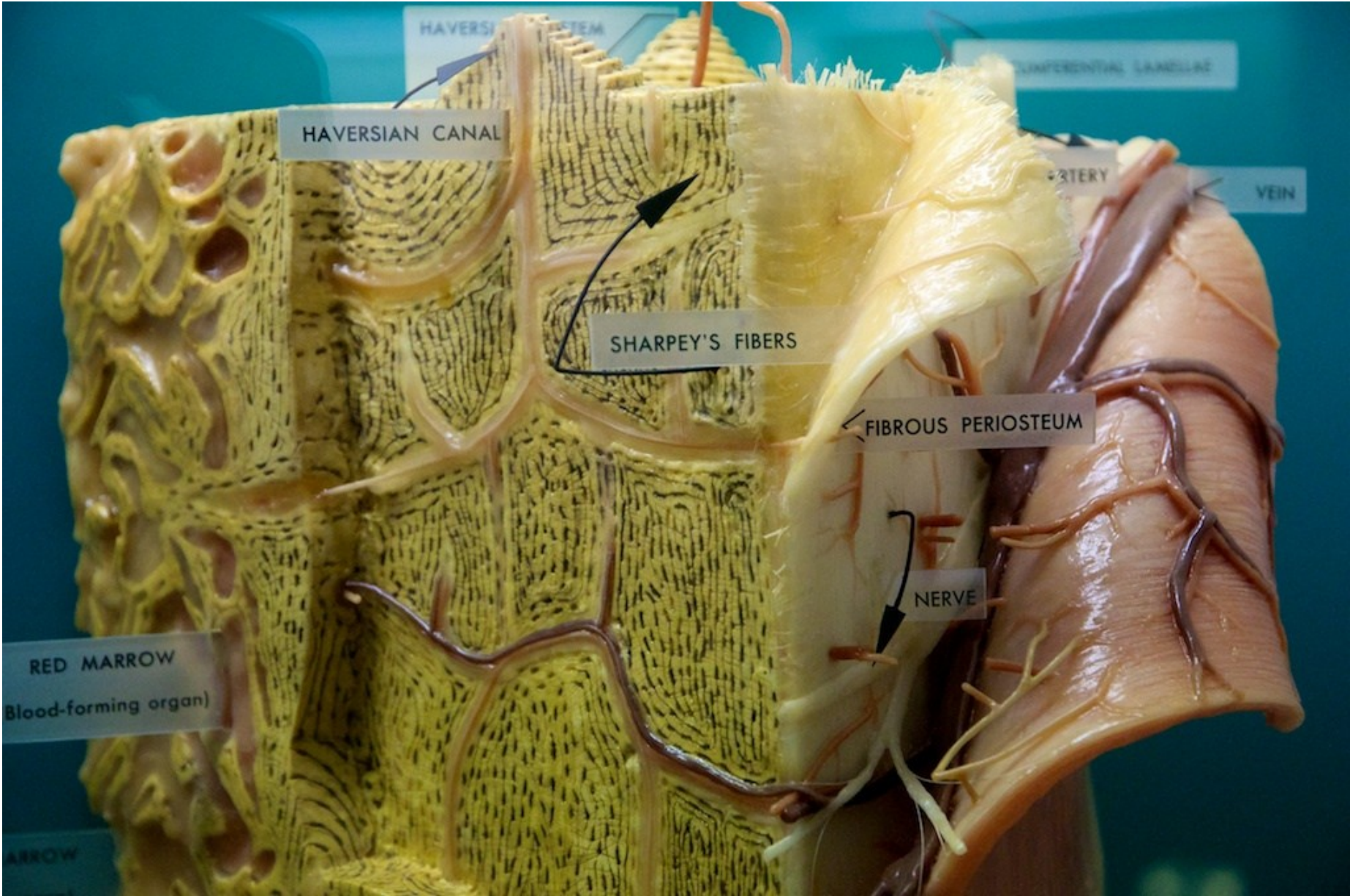
- **Outer surface**

- Synovial joint – hyaline cartilage
- **Periosteum (periost)** – membrane – dense CT, inner layer (osteoblasts) and outer layer (fibrous CT)
- Inactive bone - fibrous CT in periost dominant
- Collagen fibers – parallel to the bone surface
- Sharpey's fibers fix periost to the bone



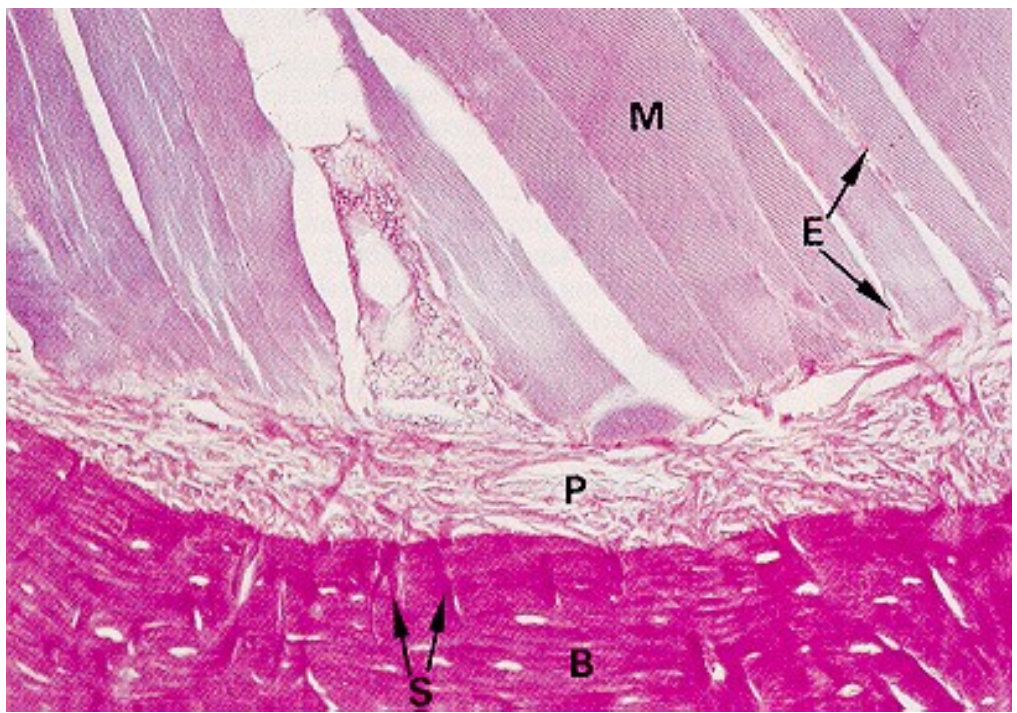


# BONE SURFACES



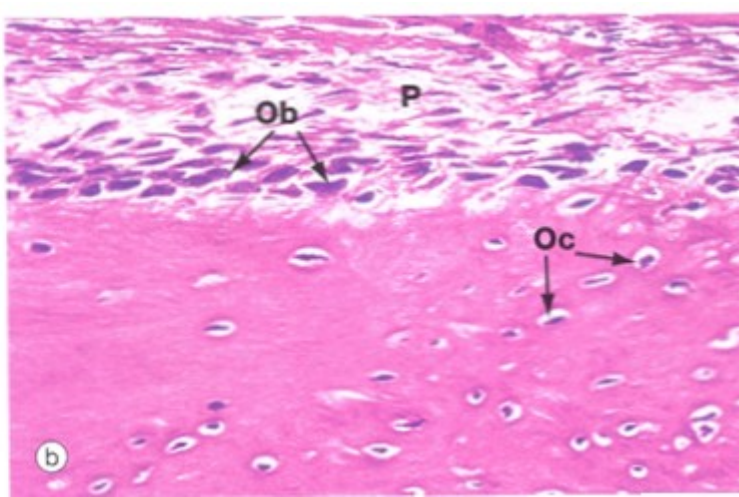
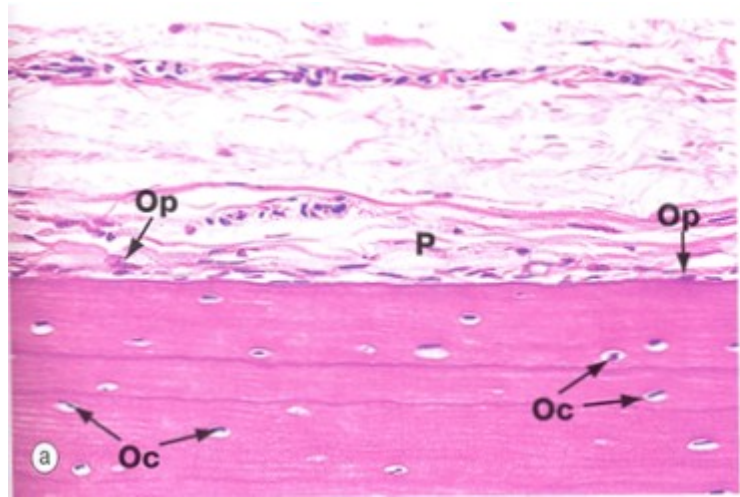


# BONE SURFACES



Inactive

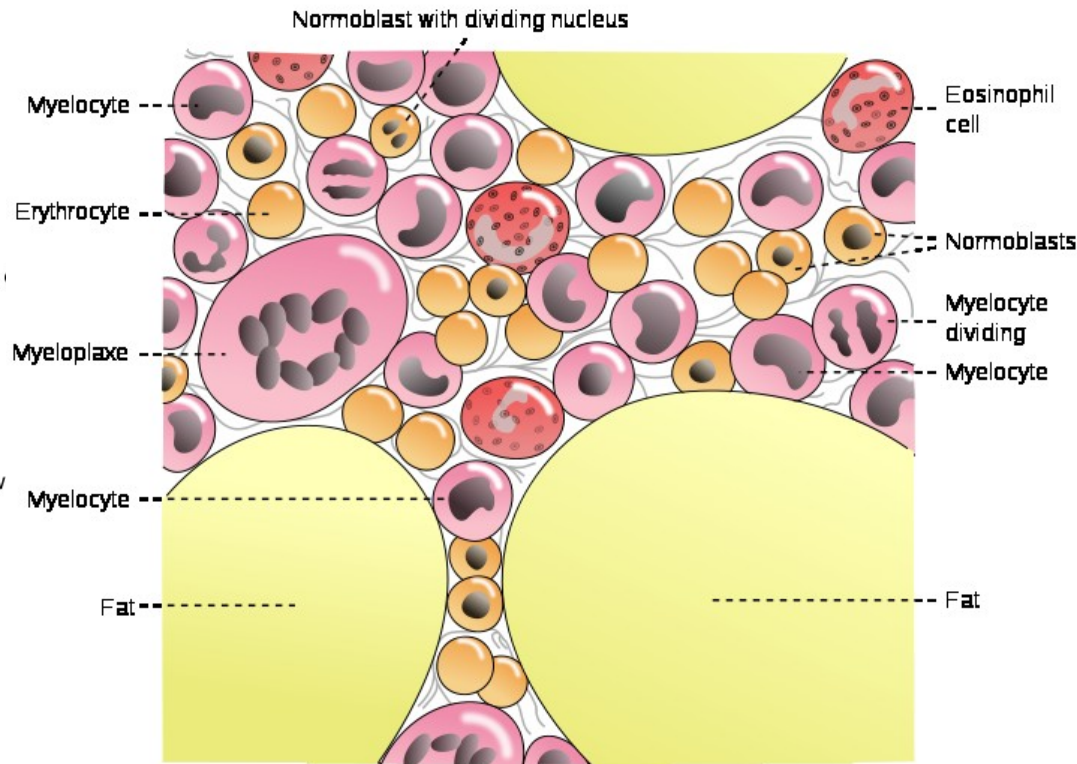
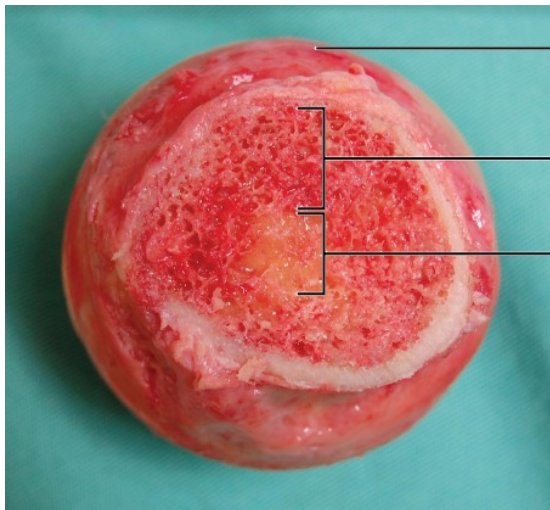
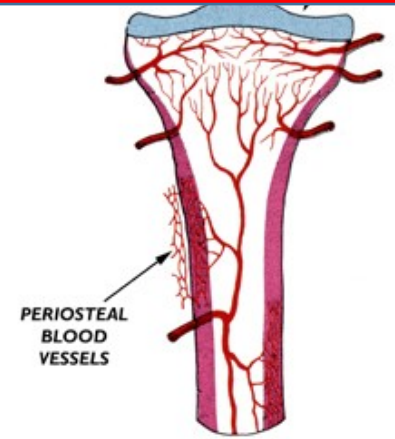
Active





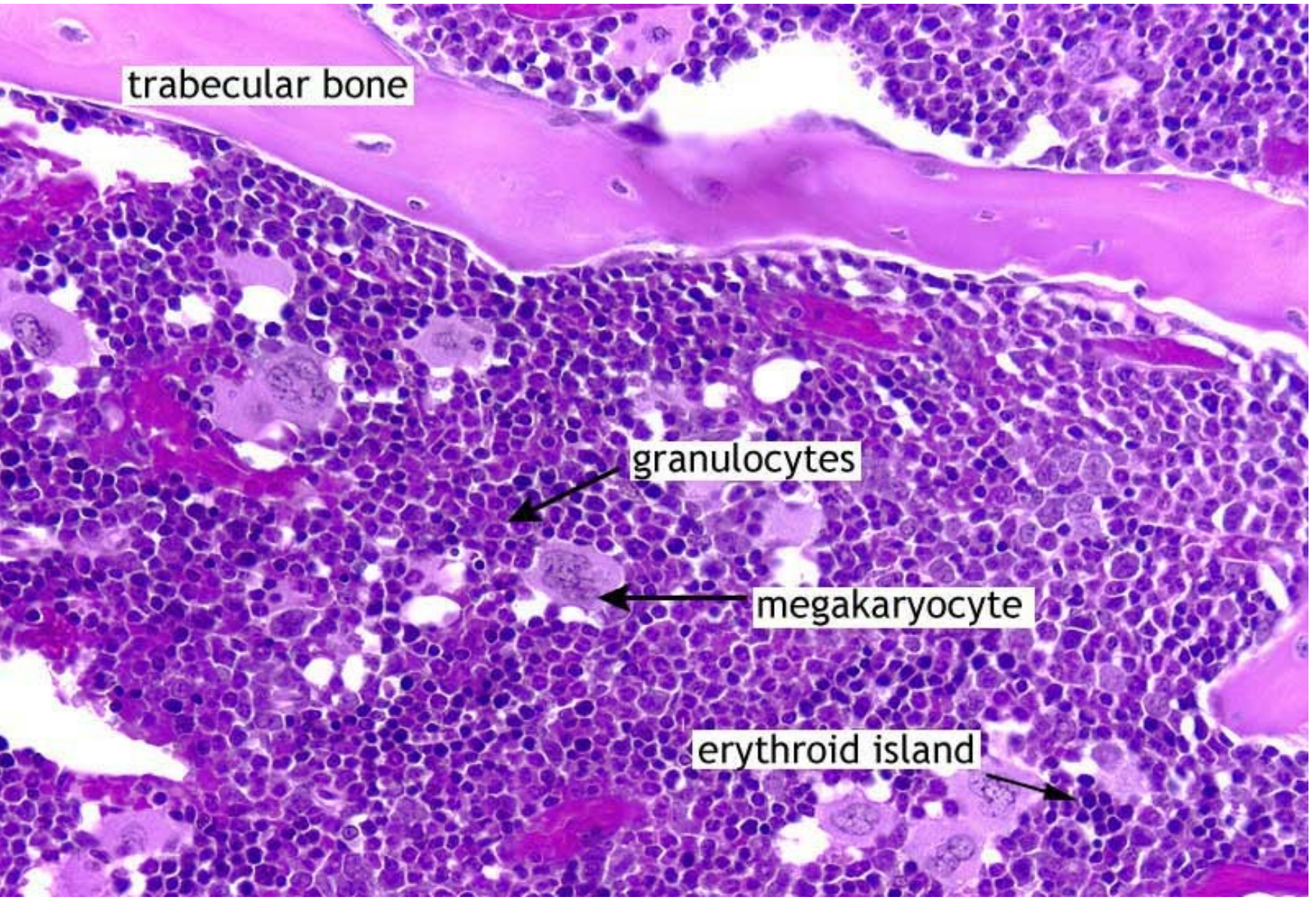
# BONE SURFACES

- **Inner surface** – lining of cavities
  - medullar cavity
  - endosteum (endost) – single cell lining – bone remodeling
  - red bone marrow – hematopoiesis
  - yellow and gray bone marrow – adipocytes or CT
  - rich vascularization
  - hematopoietic niche





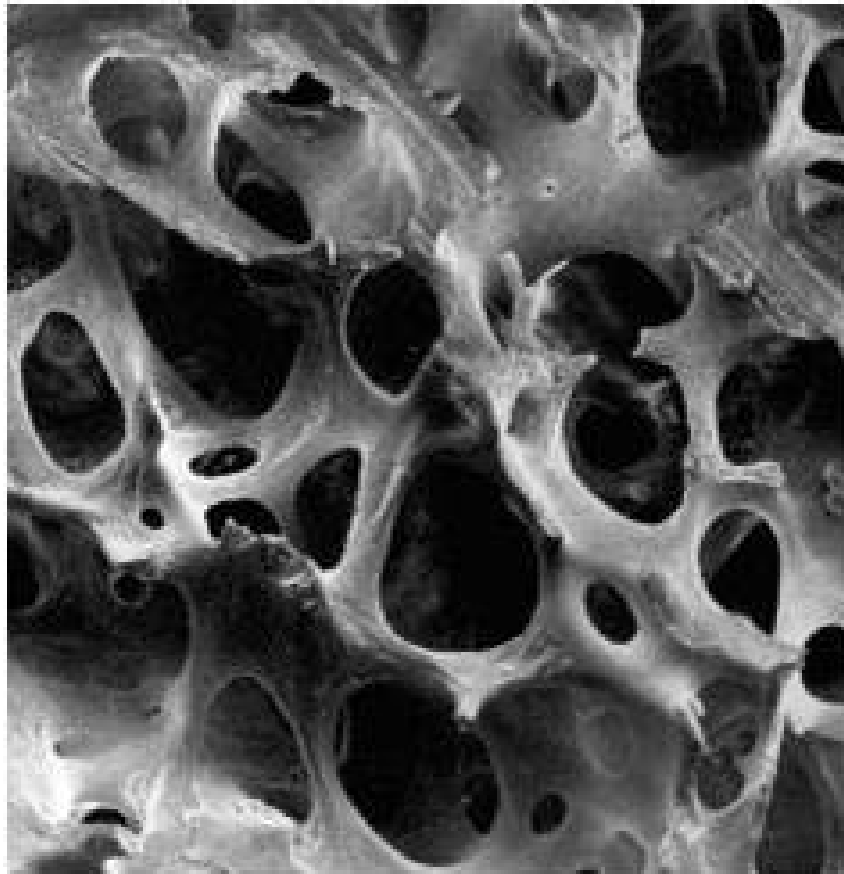
# ENDOSTEAL SURFACE OF COMPACT BONE



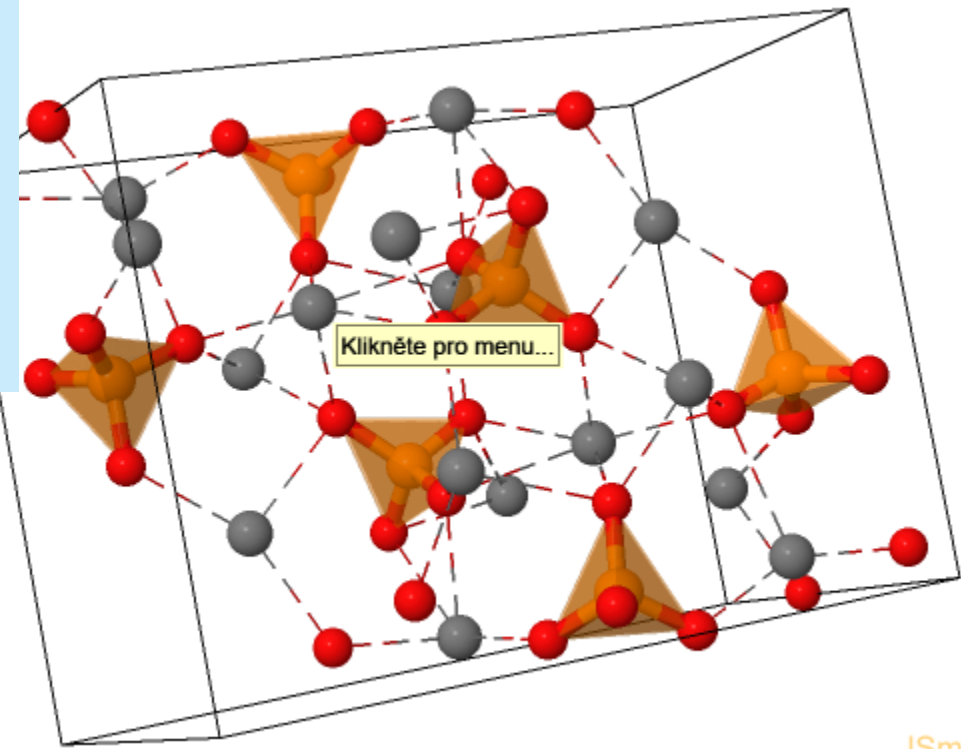
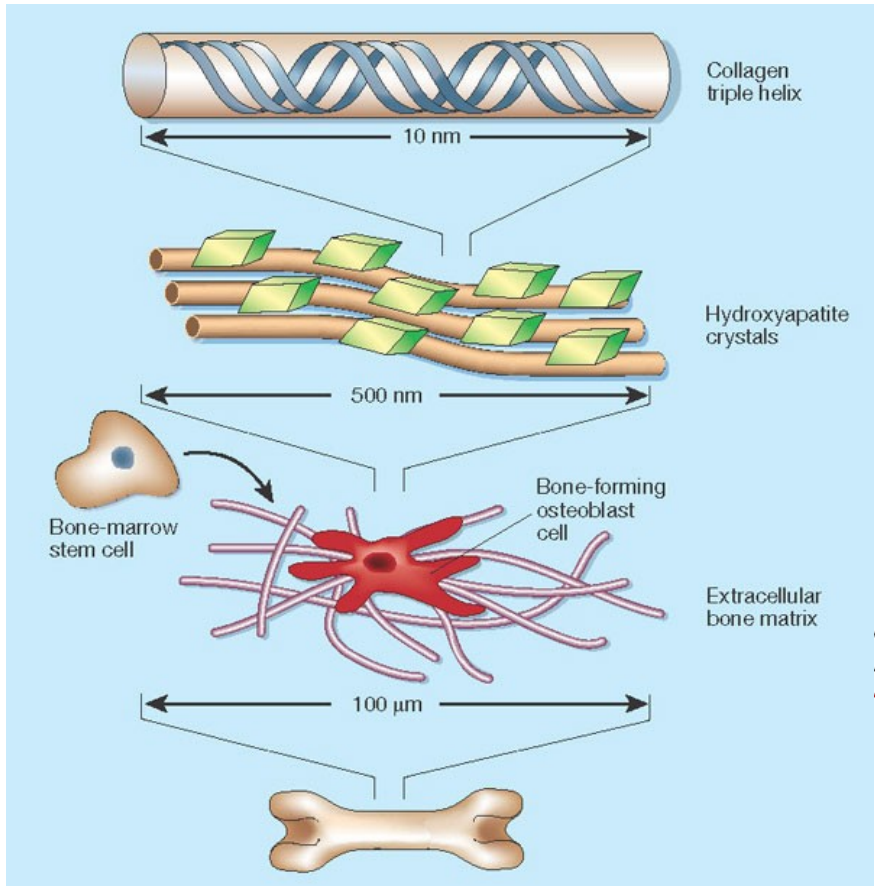


# BONE MATRIX

- 60% mineral compound, 24% organic compound 12% H<sub>2</sub>O, 4% fat
- crystals – calcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite



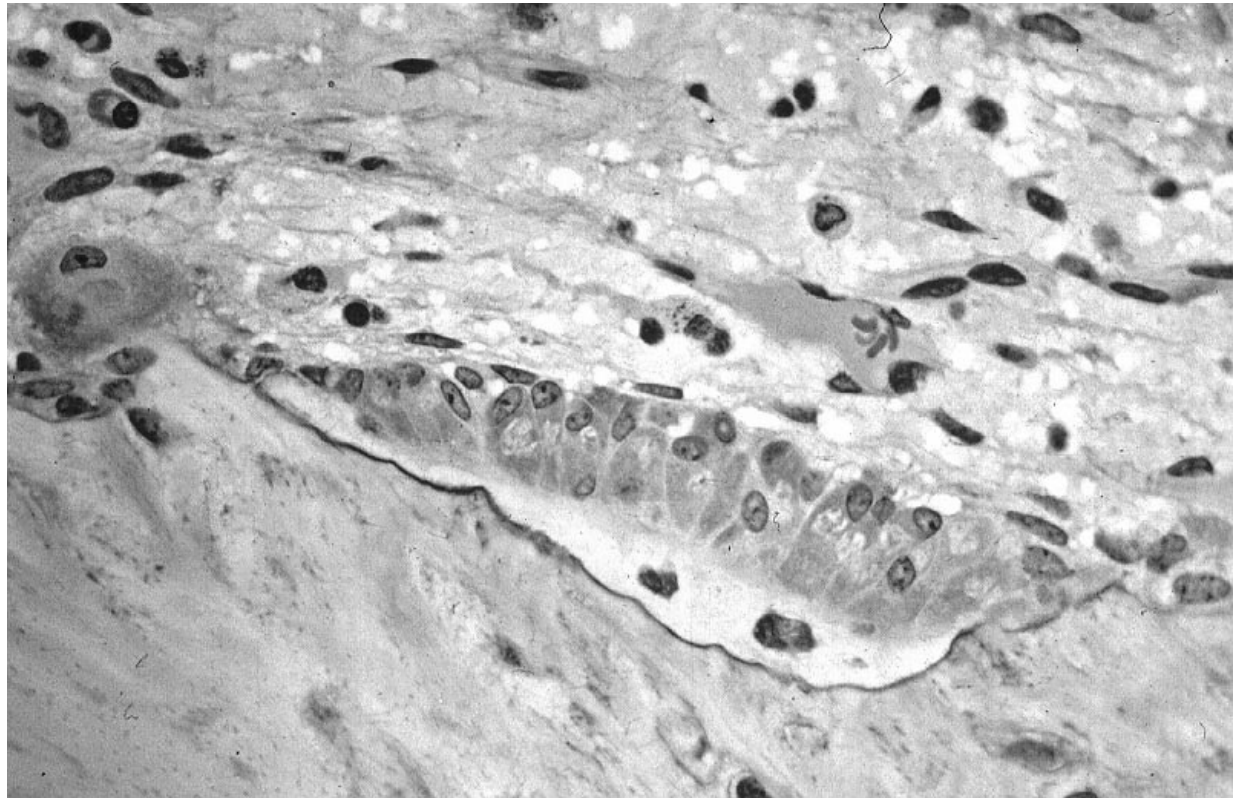
# BONE MATRIX



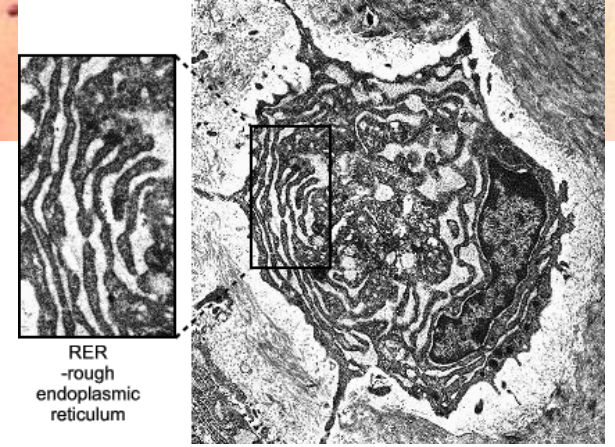
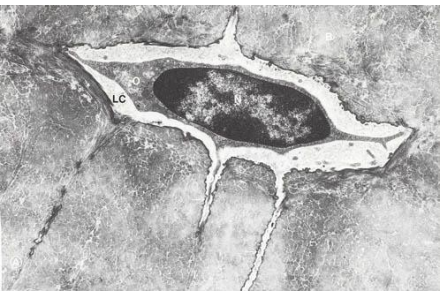
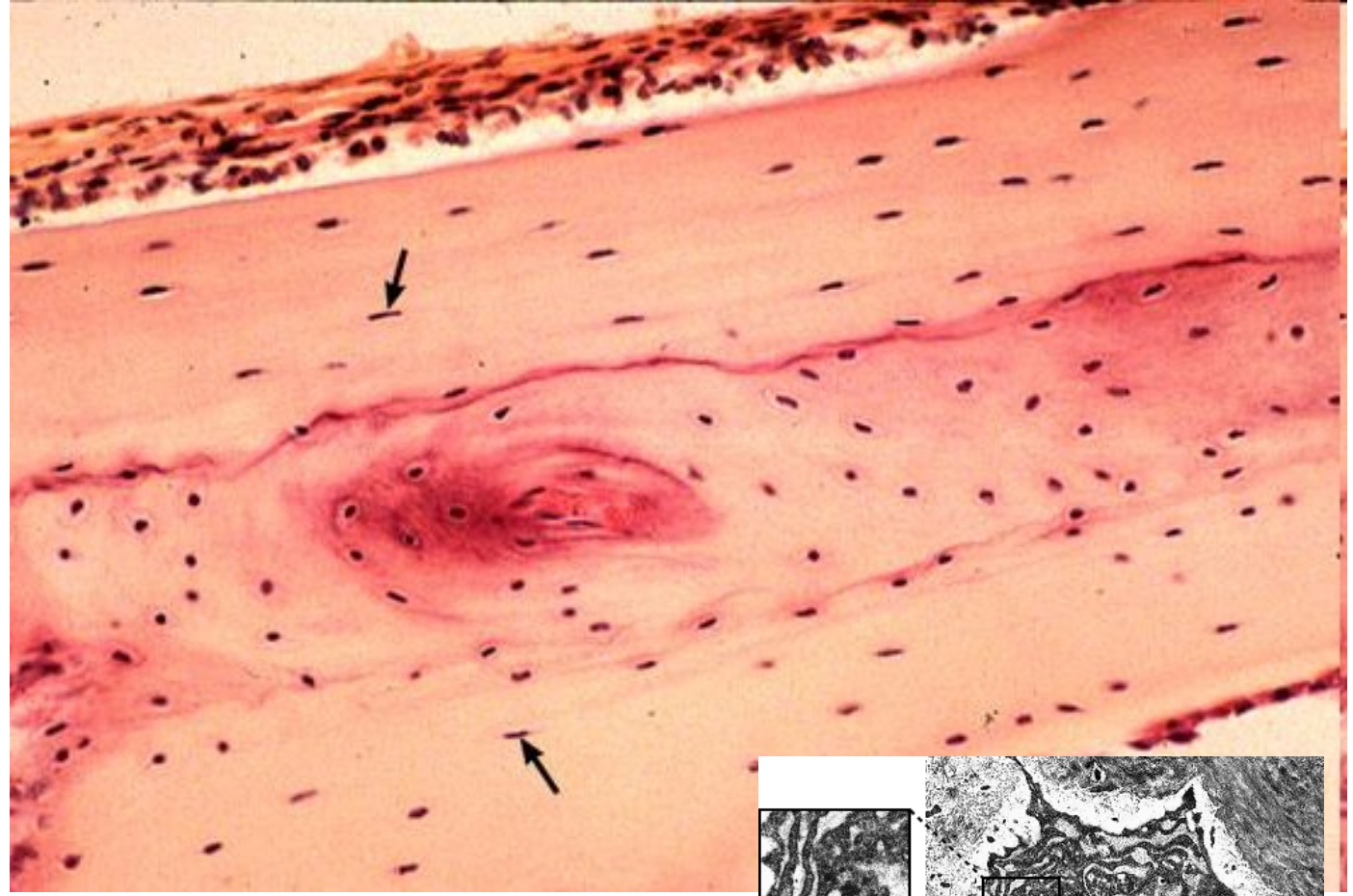
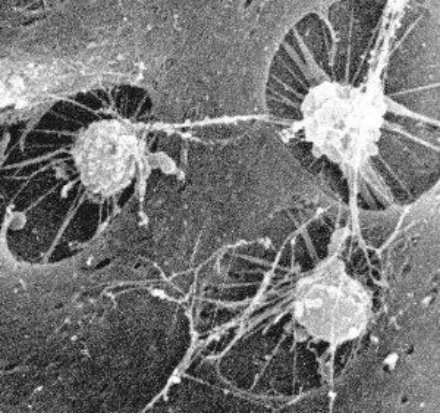


# CELLS OF BONE – OSTEOBLASTS

- lining bone surface
- produce ECM – collagen (I) and noncollagenous proteoglycans, glycoproteins
- basophilic cytoplasm, rER, well developed Golgi Apparatus
- euchromatin nucleus
  
- **osteocytes** embedded in matrix
- *canaliculi ossium*



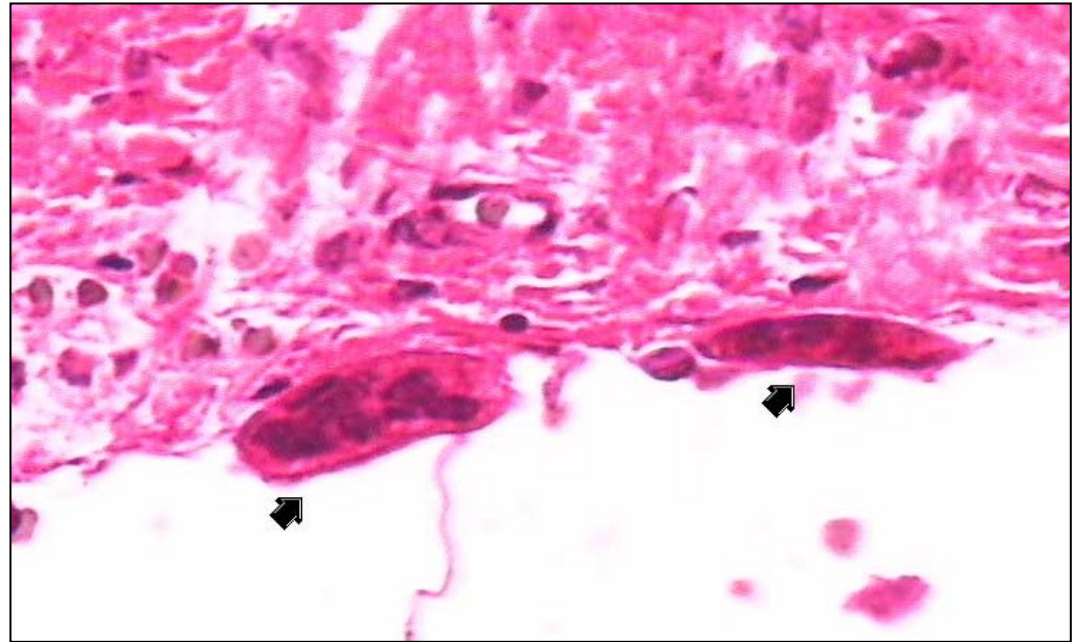
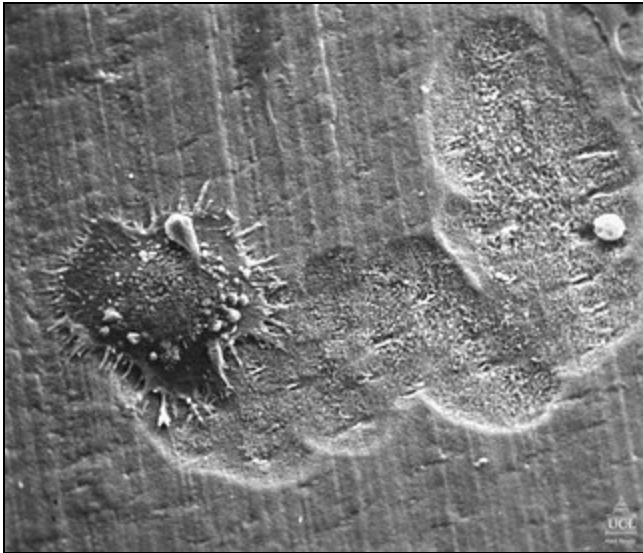
# CELLS OF BONE – OSTEOCYTES





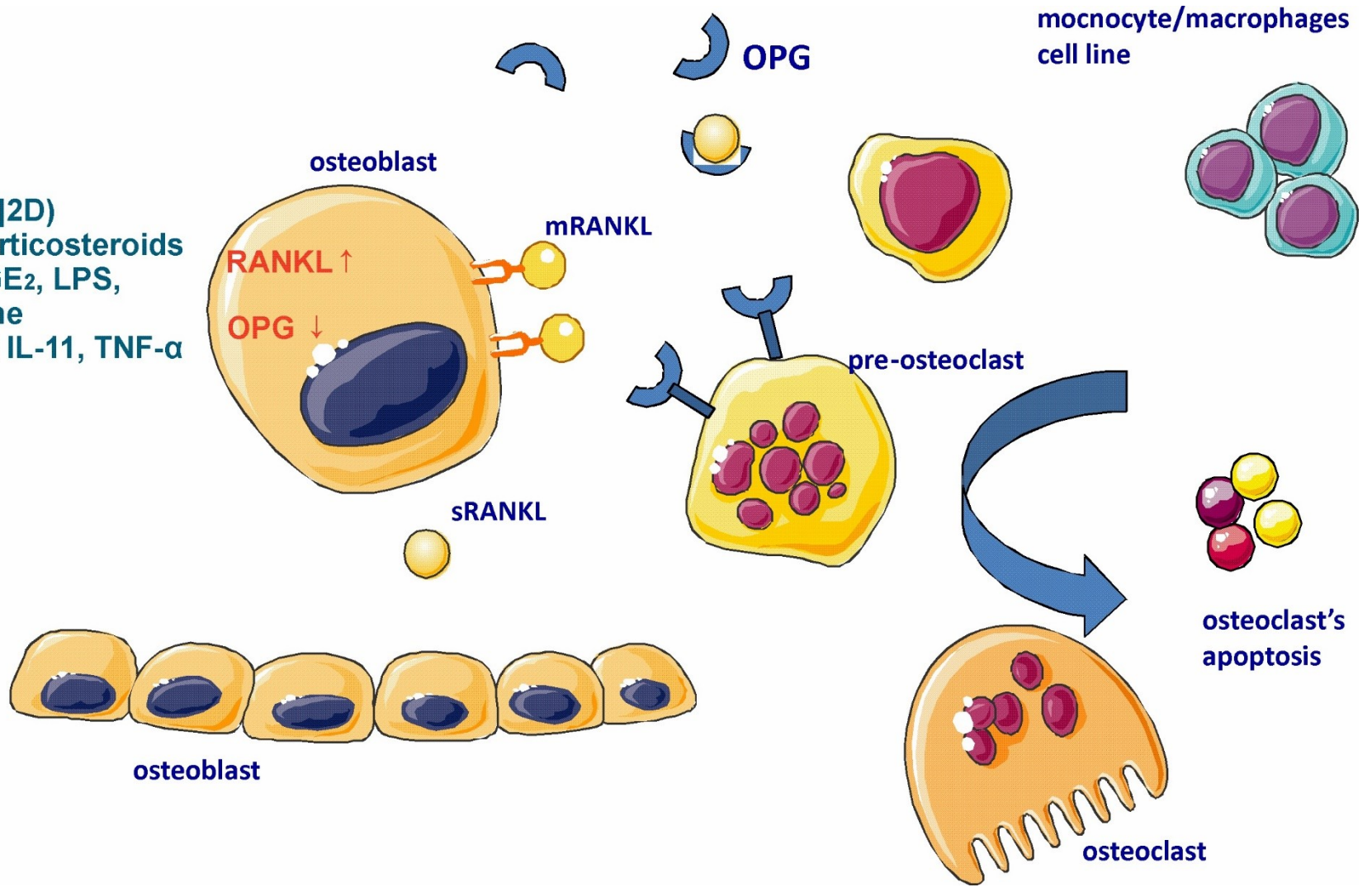
# CELLS OF BONE – OSTEOCLASTS

- multinuclear, formed by fusion of mononuclear macrophages
- bone matrix resorption



# CELLS OF BONE – OSTEOCLASTS

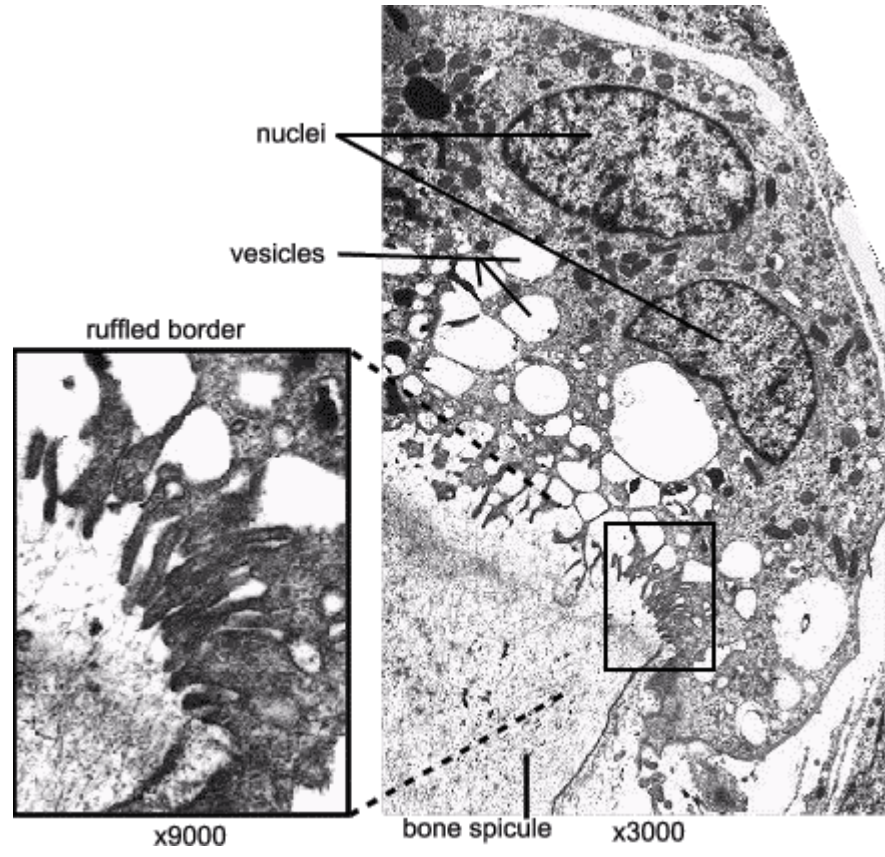
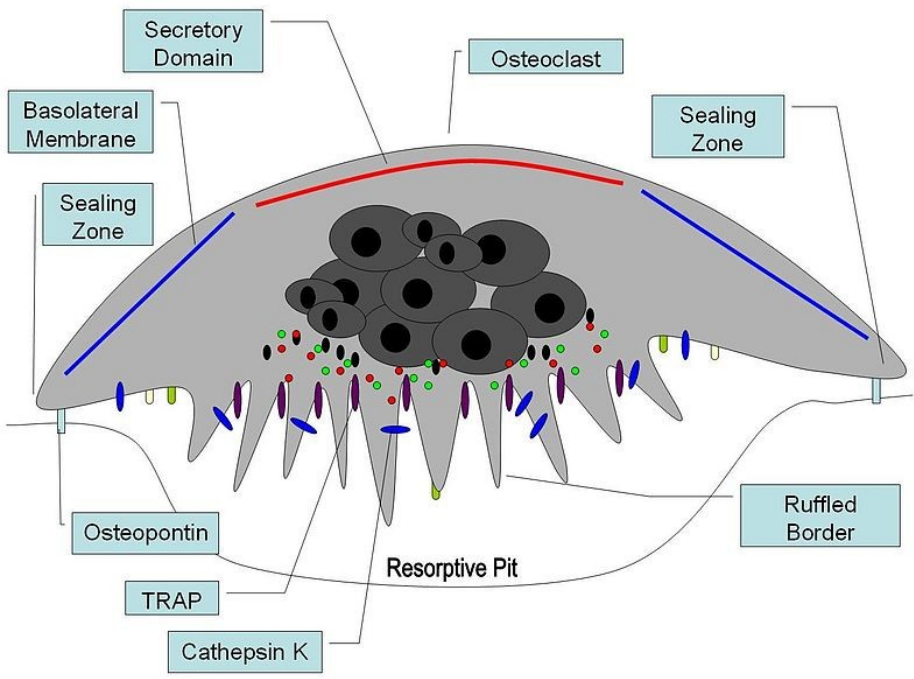
1,25[OH]2D)  
glucocorticosteroids  
PTH, PGE<sub>2</sub>, LPS,  
histamine  
IL-1 and IL-11, TNF- $\alpha$





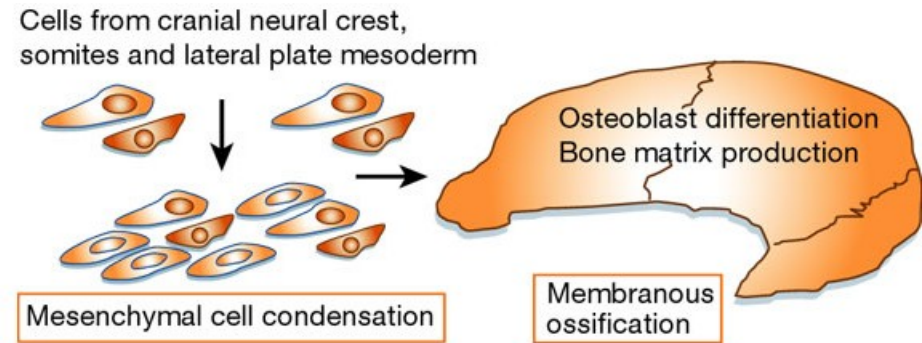
# CELLS OF BONE – OSTEOCLASTS

- complex architecture
- enzymes degrading organic matrix
- HCl

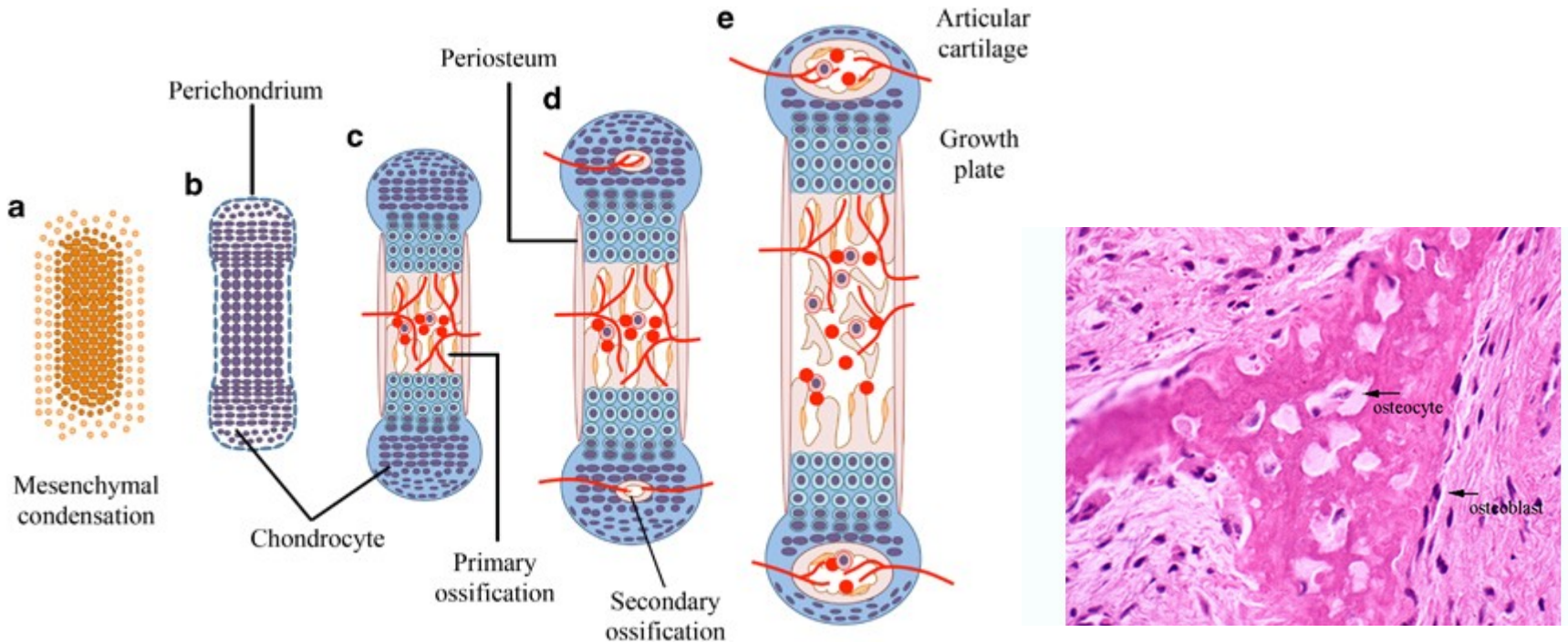


# BONE OSSIFICATION

- Intramembraneous

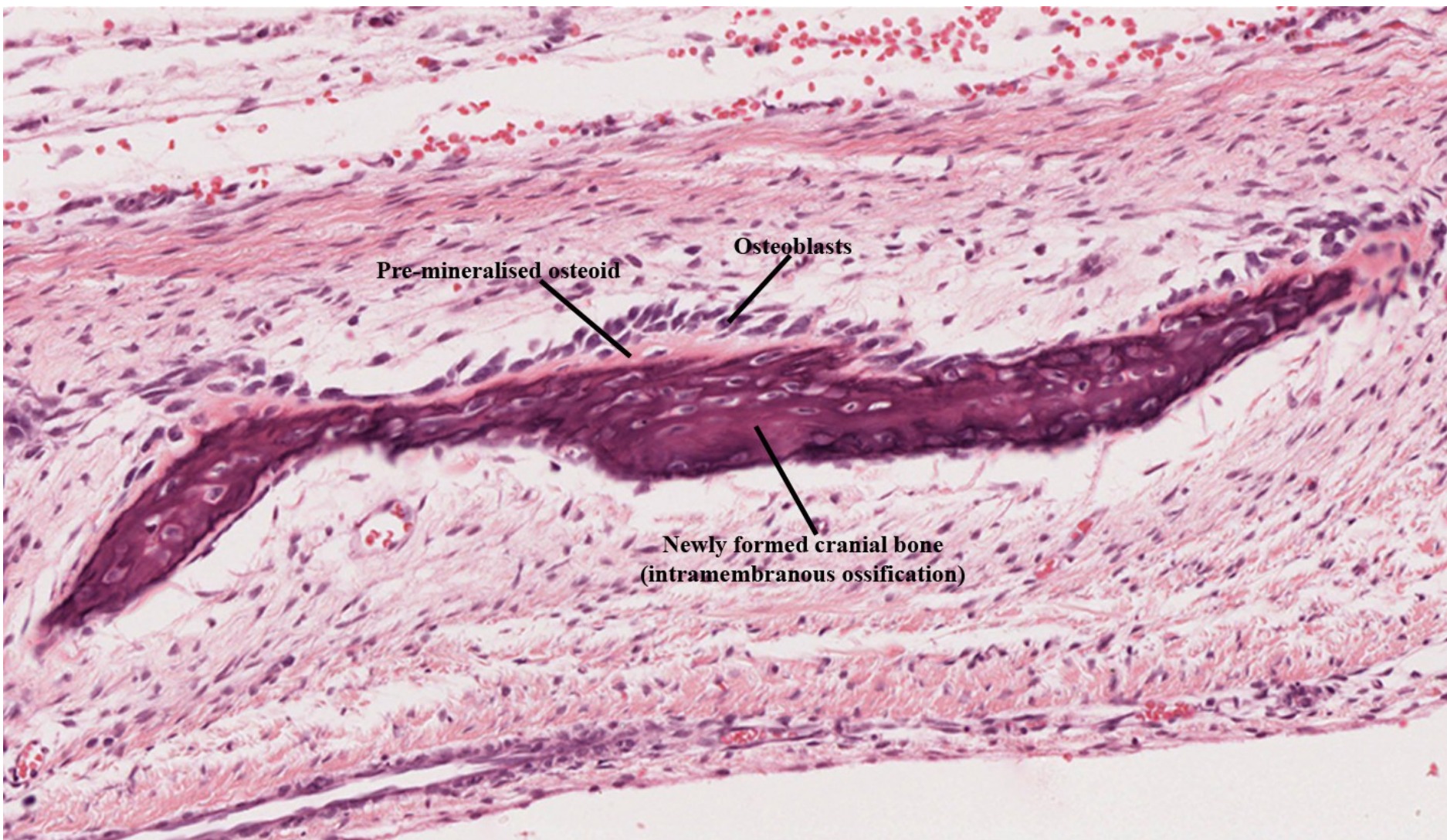


- Endochondral



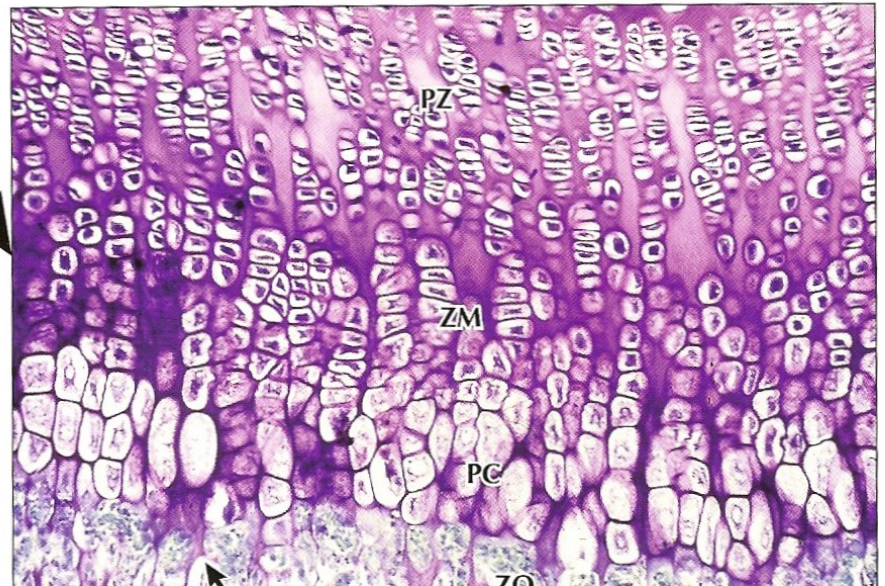
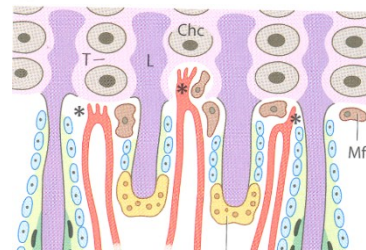
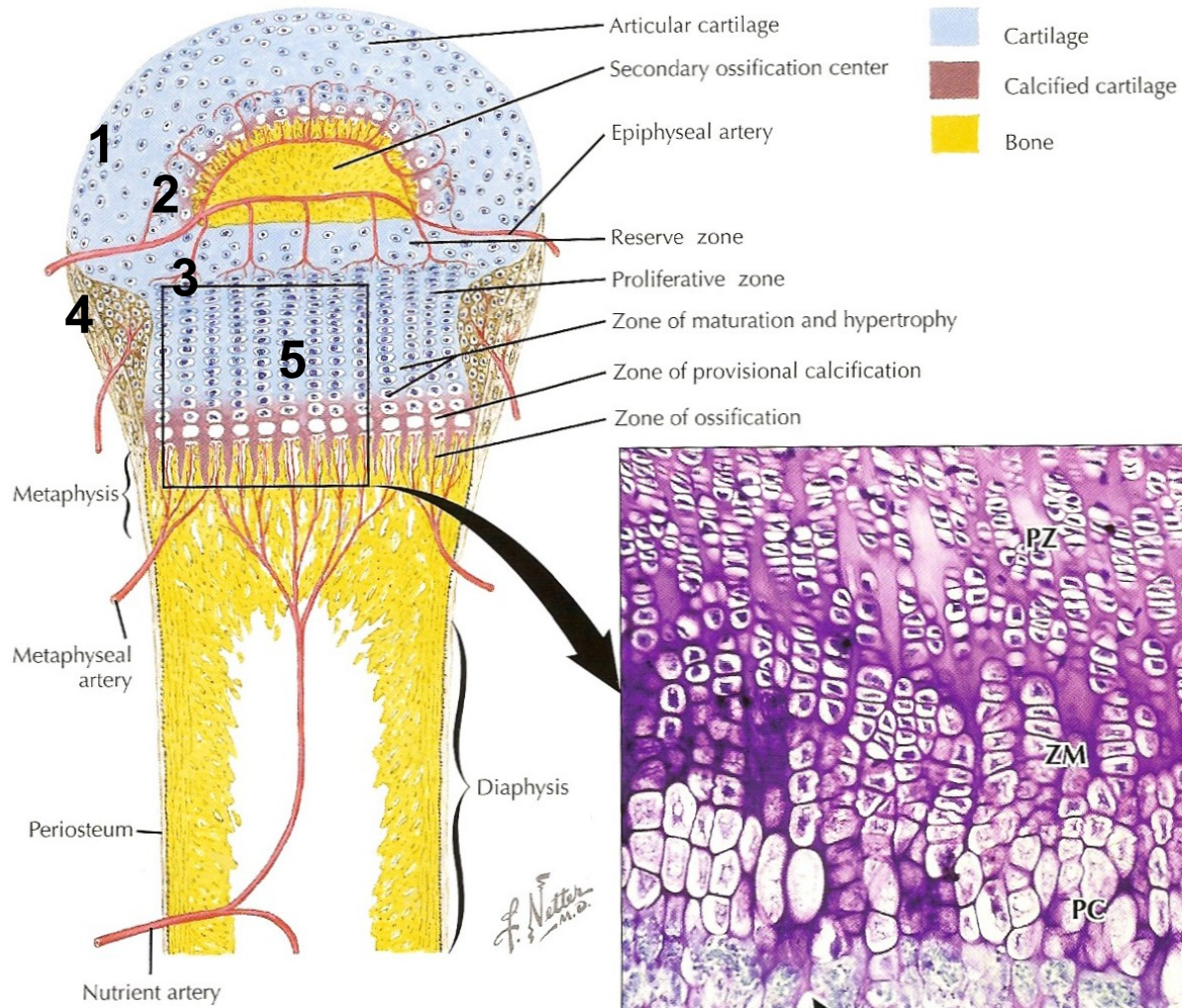


# INTRAMEMBRANEOUS OSSIFICATION





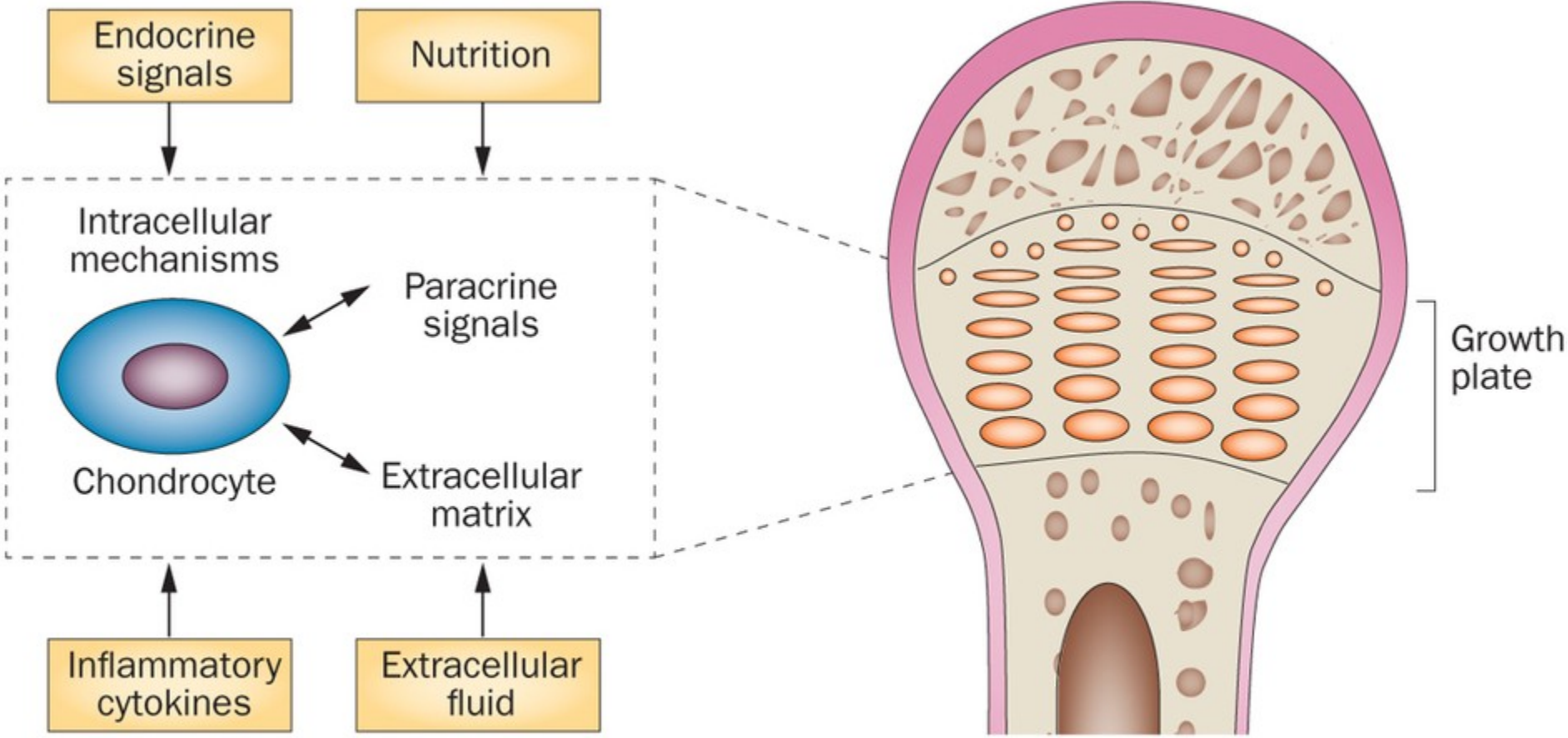
# ENDOCHONDRAL OSSIFICATION



*F. Netter M.D.*



# ENDOCHONDRAL OSSIFICATION



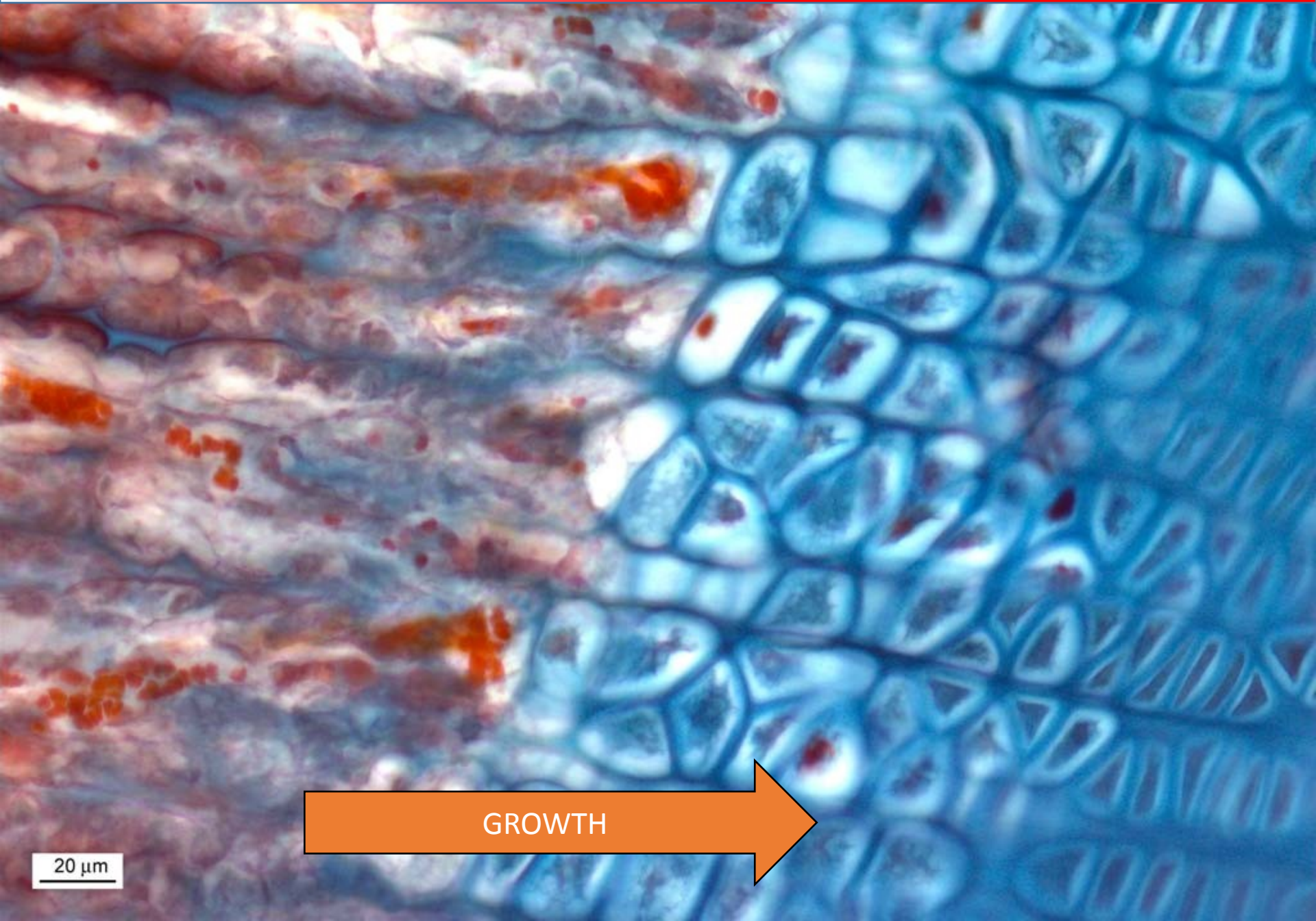








# GROWTH PLATE

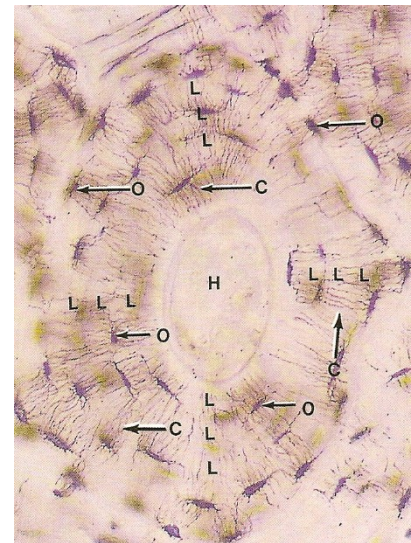
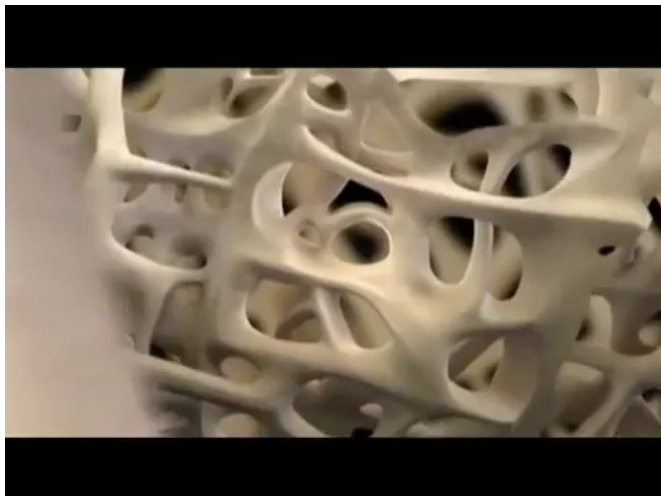
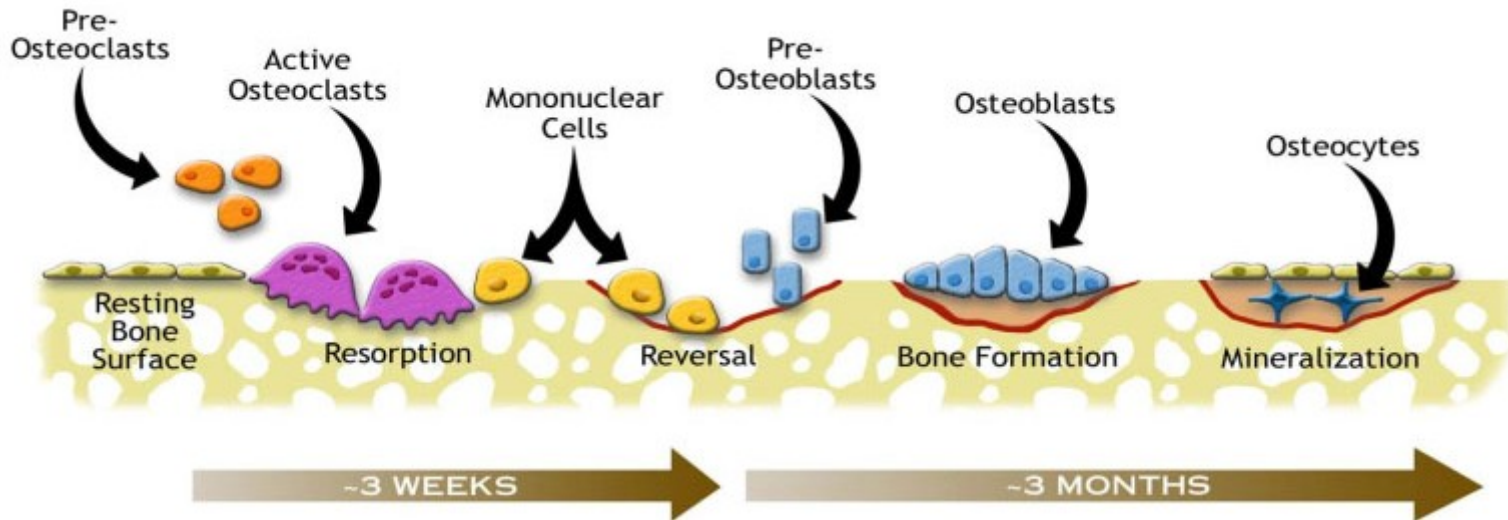


GROWTH

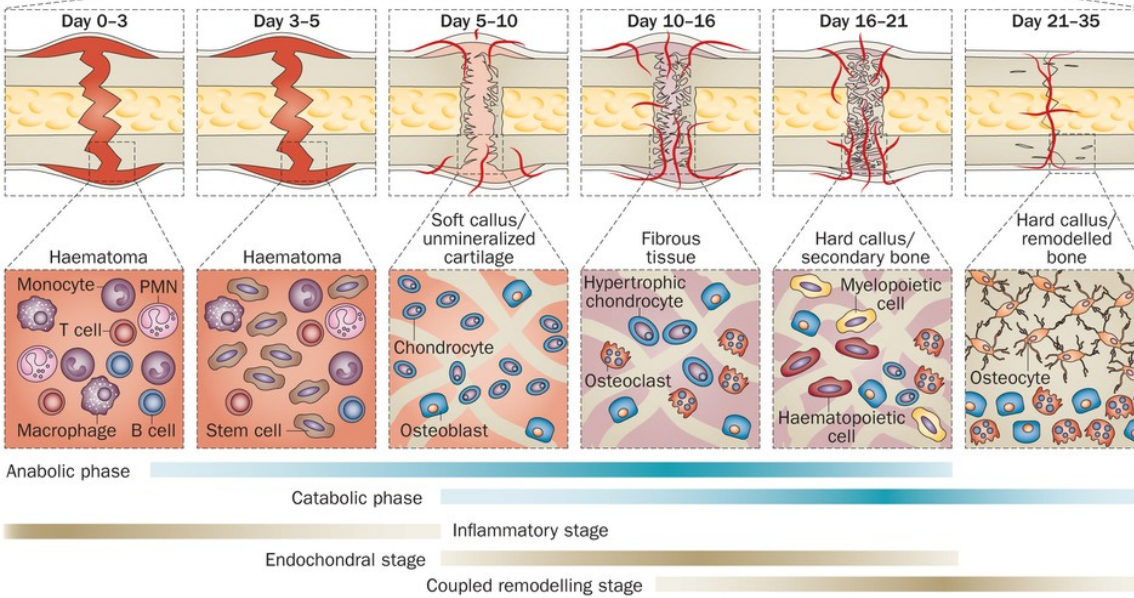
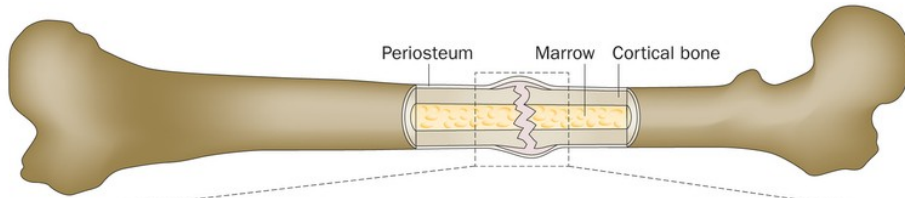
20  $\mu$ m



# BONE REMODELLING



# CLINICAL CORRELATIONS – FRACTURE HEALING



## Reactive phase

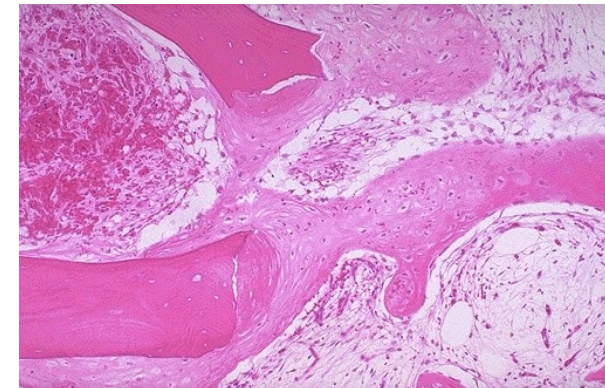
- fracture and inflammatory phase
- granulation tissue formation

## Reparative phase

- cartilage *callus* formation
- lamellar bone deposition

## Remodeling phase

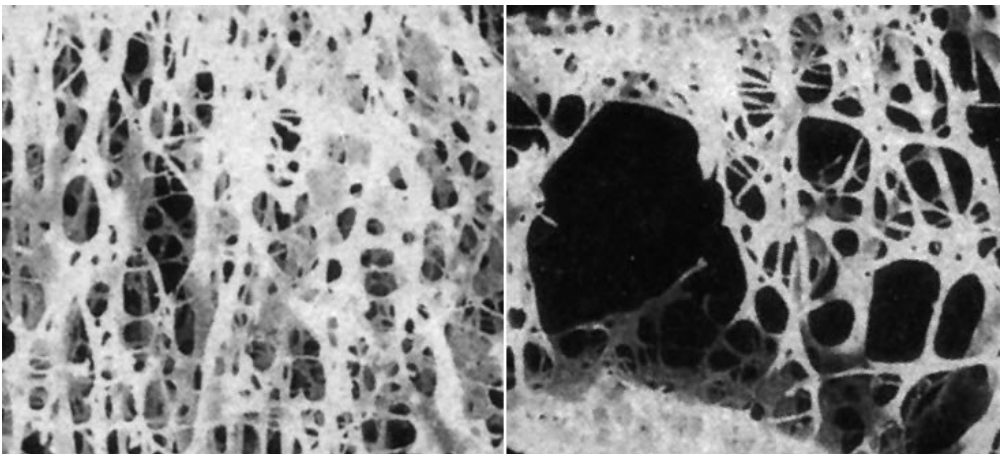
- remodeling to original bone shape





# CLINICAL CORRELATIONS – DISBALANCE OF BONE HOMEOSTASIS

- OSTEOPOROSIS**



- REVMATOID ARTHRITIS**



- OSTEOPETROSIS**



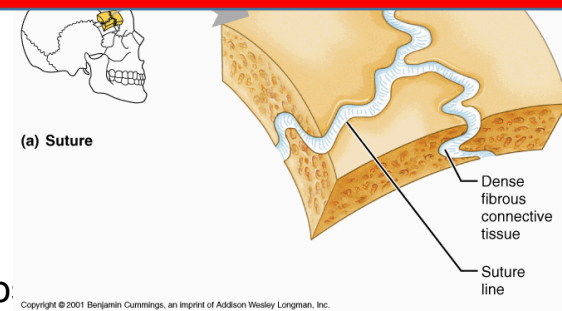
- PAGET DISEASE**



# JOINTS

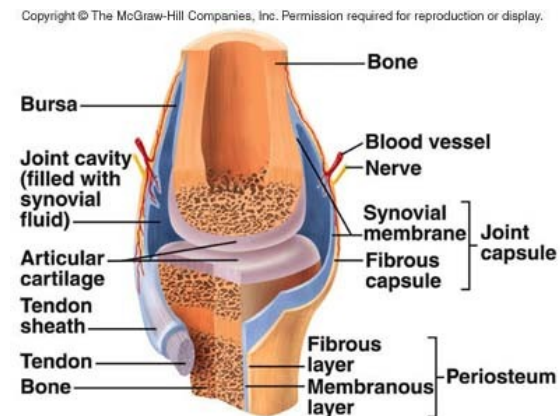
## Synarthrosis

- joint by intercalated tissue (cartilage, bone or c.t.)
  - **Synostoses** – joint by bone tissue – os coxae, os sacrum
  - **Synchondrosis** – joint by hyaline cartilage – development of synostosis
  - **Symphysis** – joint by fibrocartilage – os pubis, intervertebral discs
  - **Syndesmosis** – dense collagen regular c.t. – sutures of skull, gomphosis



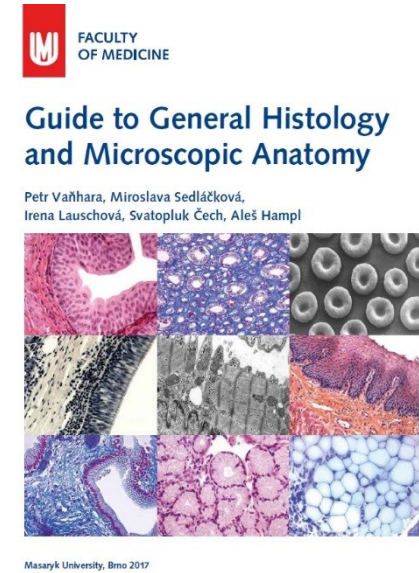
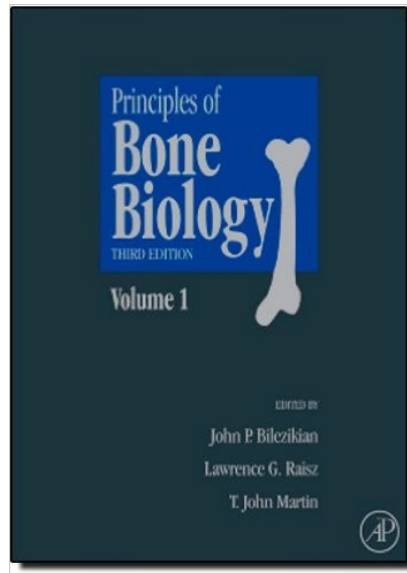
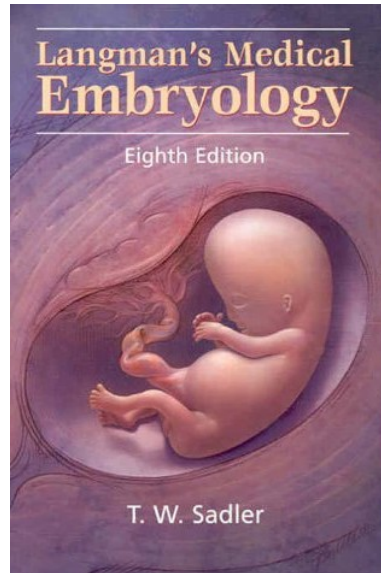
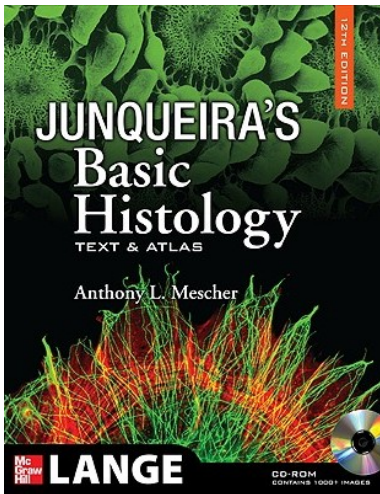
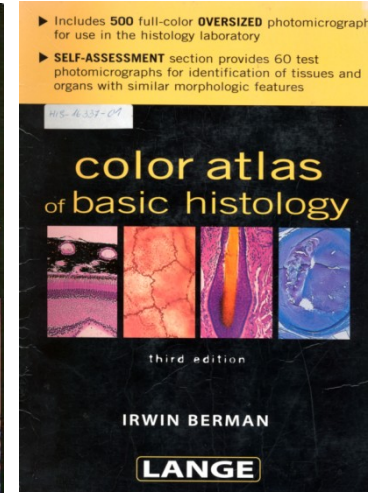
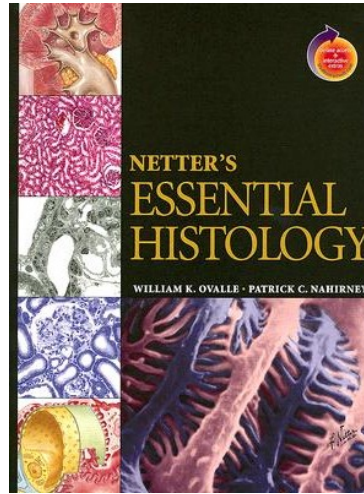
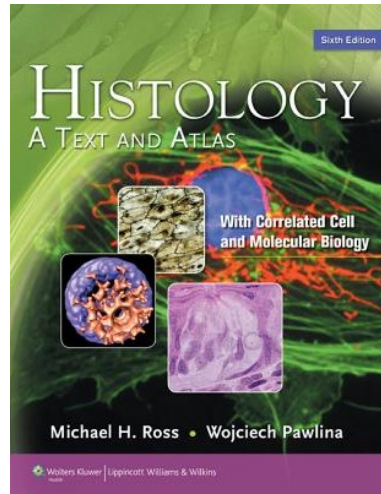
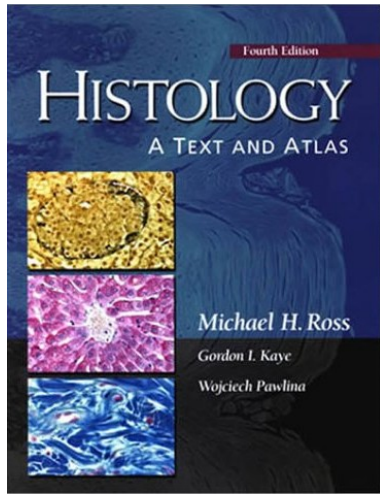
## Diarthrosis

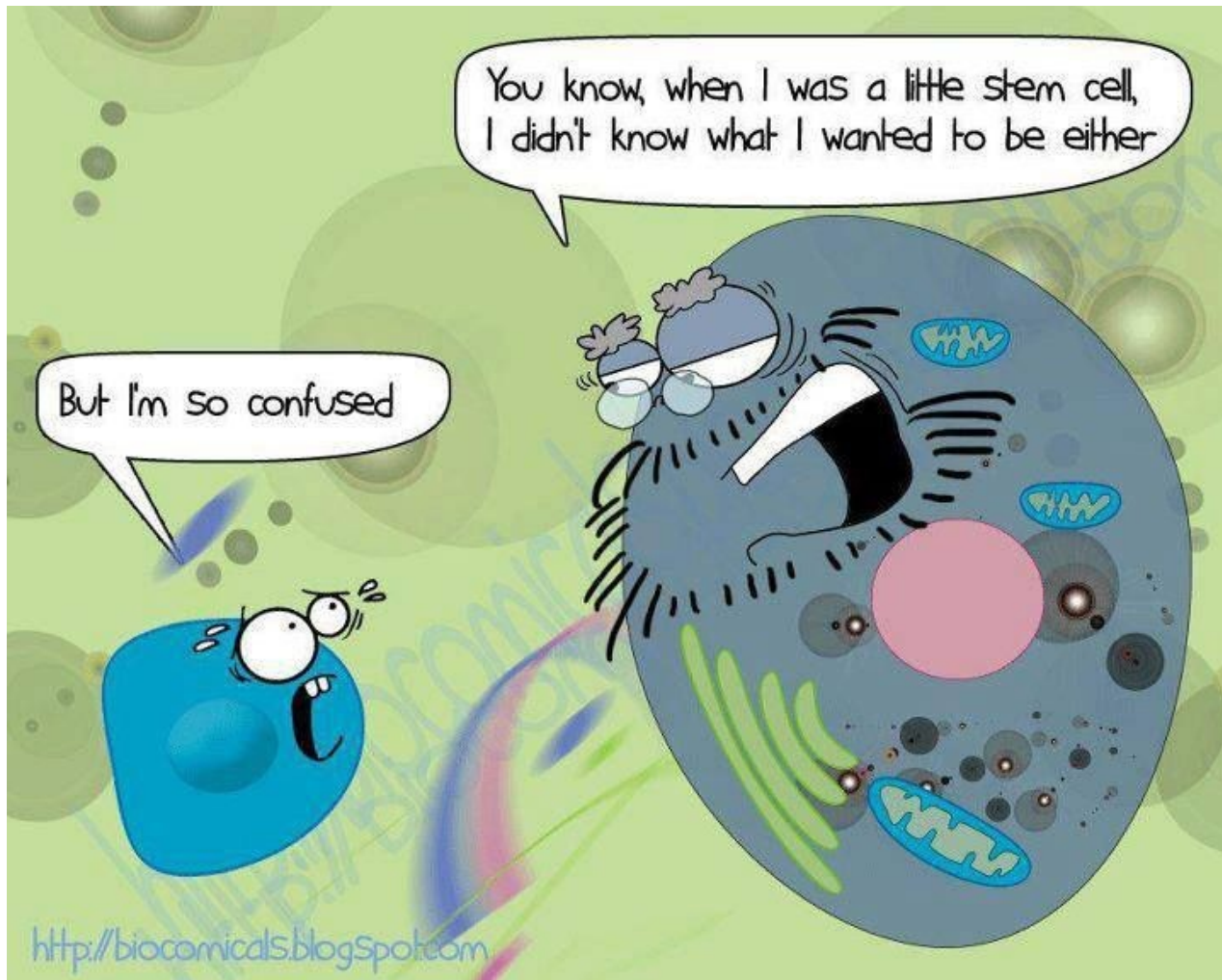
- synovial joint
  - hyaline cartilage without perichondrium
  - cartilage calcification in site of attachment to the bone
  - joint capsule
    - *Stratum fibrosum*
    - *Stratum synoviale*
  - meniscus – fibrocartilage, avascular, without innervation
  - tendons – dense collagen regular c.t., elastic fibers
  - bursae – like joint capsule





# FURTHER STUDY





Thank you for attention