

# Migration and invasiveness in cancer, cell movement, Epithelial-mesenchymal transition

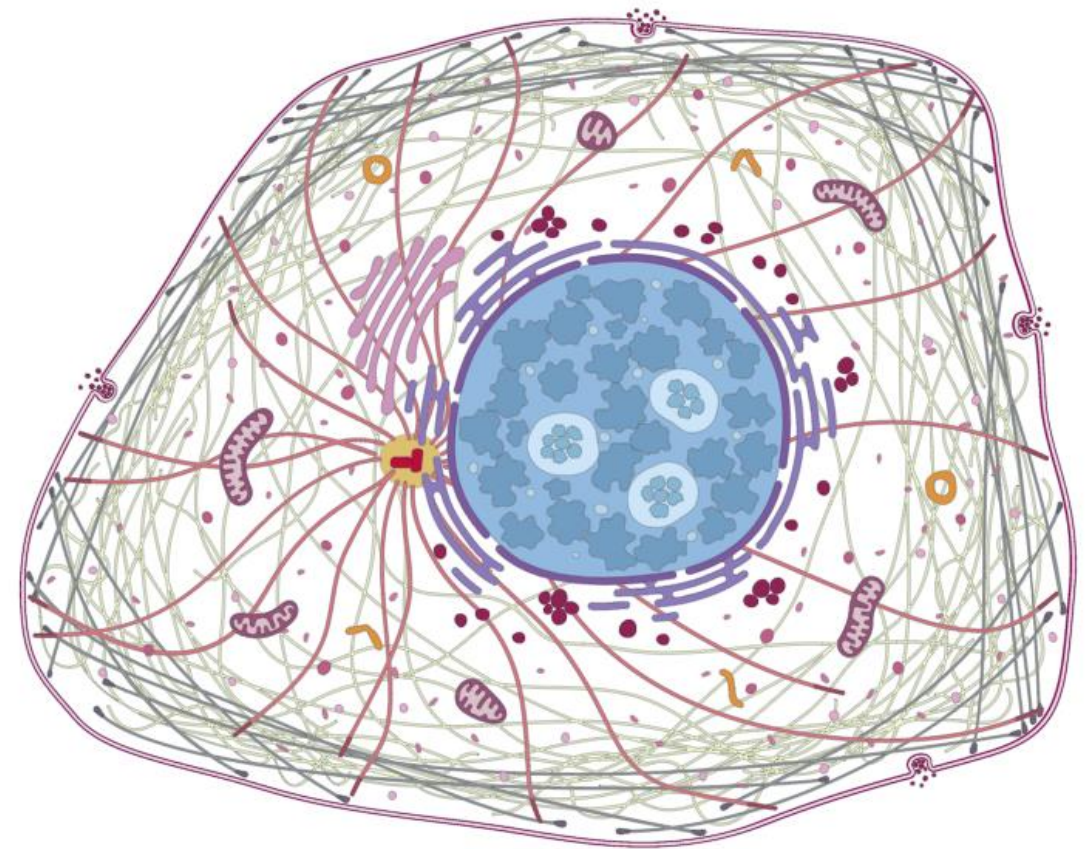
Jaromír Gumulec

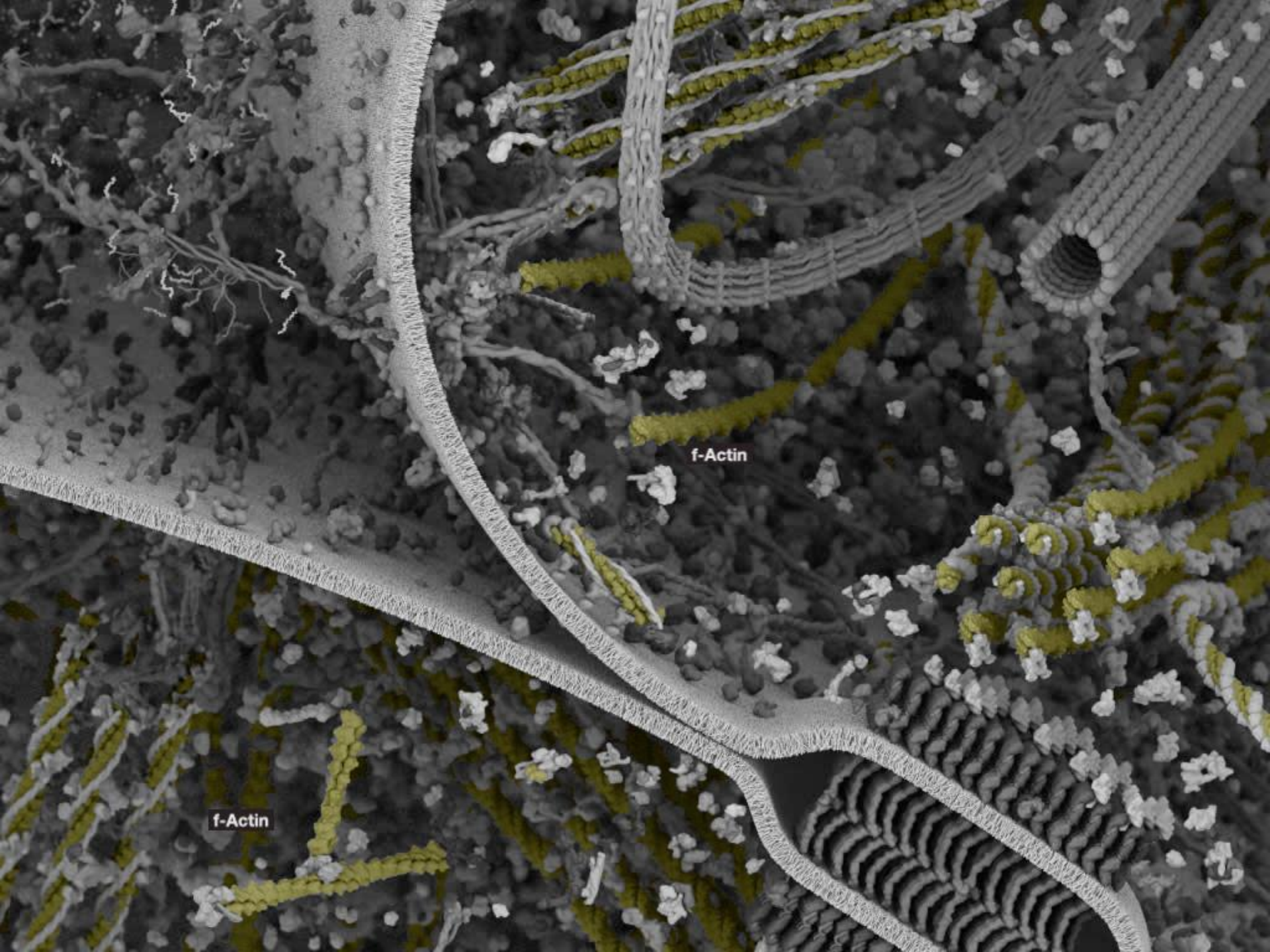
[j.gumulec@med.muni.cz](mailto:j.gumulec@med.muni.cz)

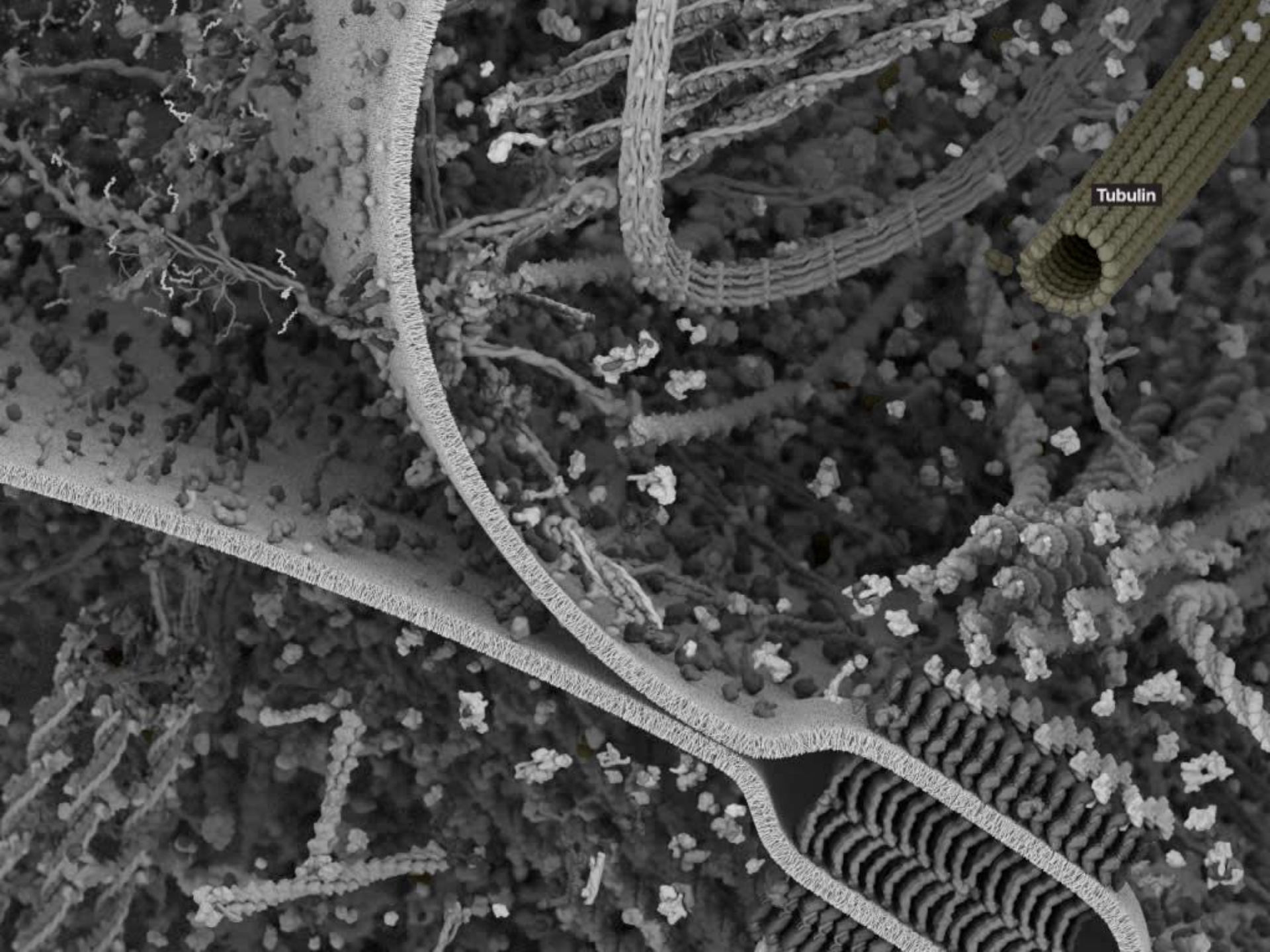
 @jarogumulec

# Cytoskeleton

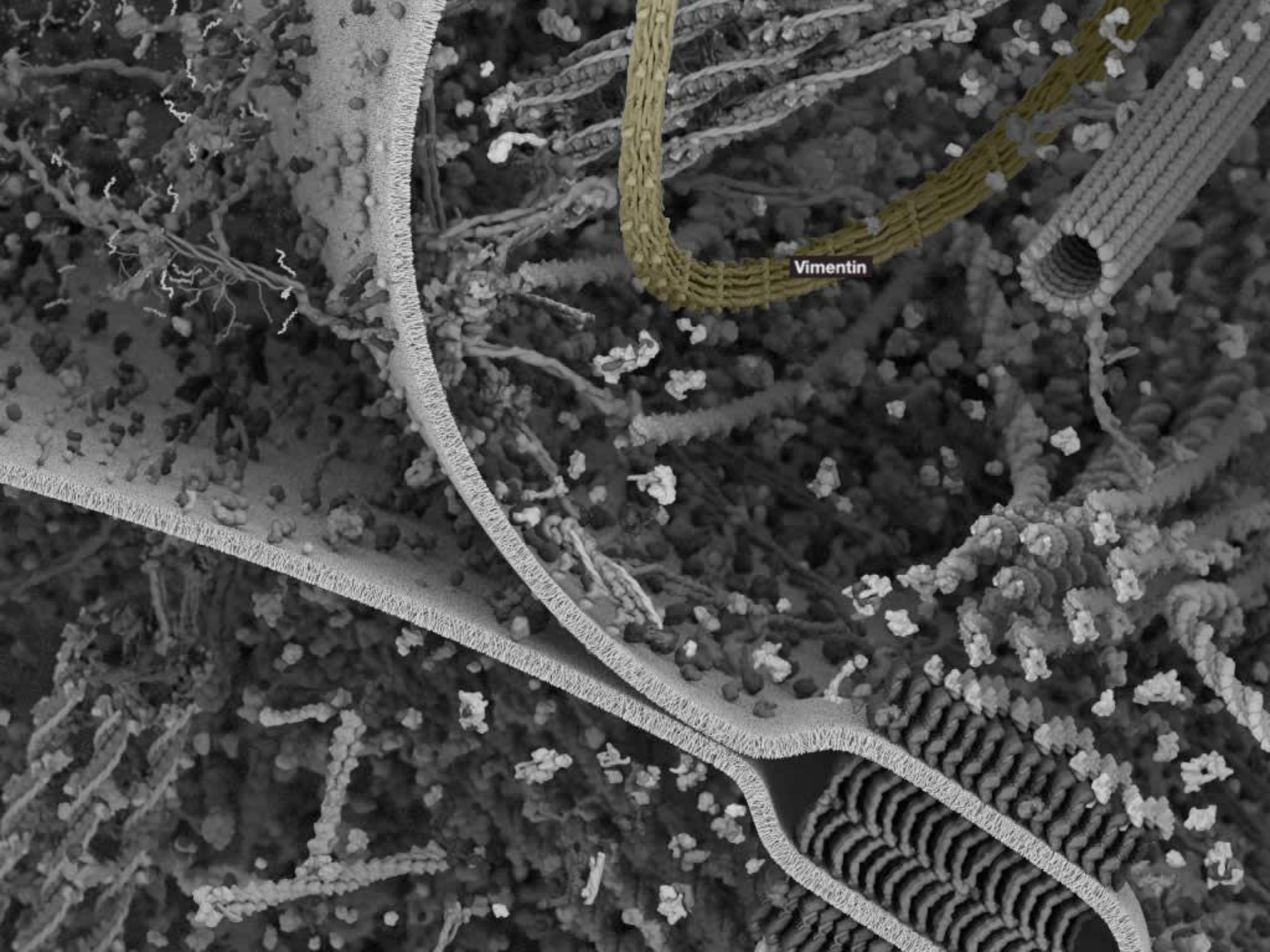
- protein fibers that are involved in
  - cell shape and cell mechanic properties (no cell wall in animal cell)
  - providing mechanical strength
  - cell movement
  - chromosome separation
  - intracellular transport of organelles
  - enable cell communication
- cytoskeletal fibers + motor proteins
  - dynamic instability,
  - self-assembly





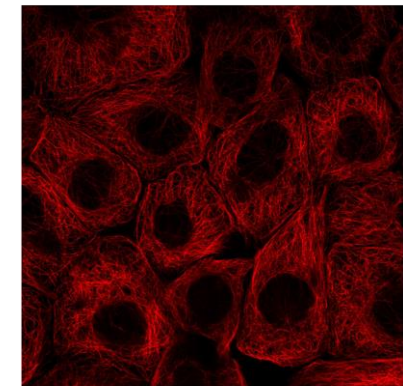
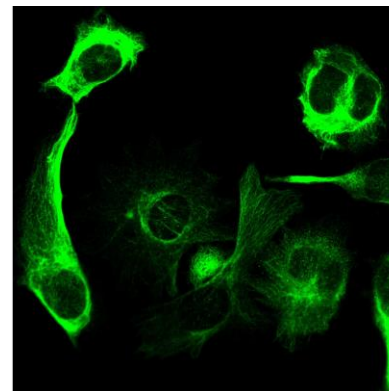
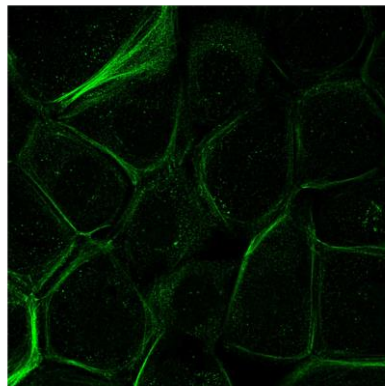


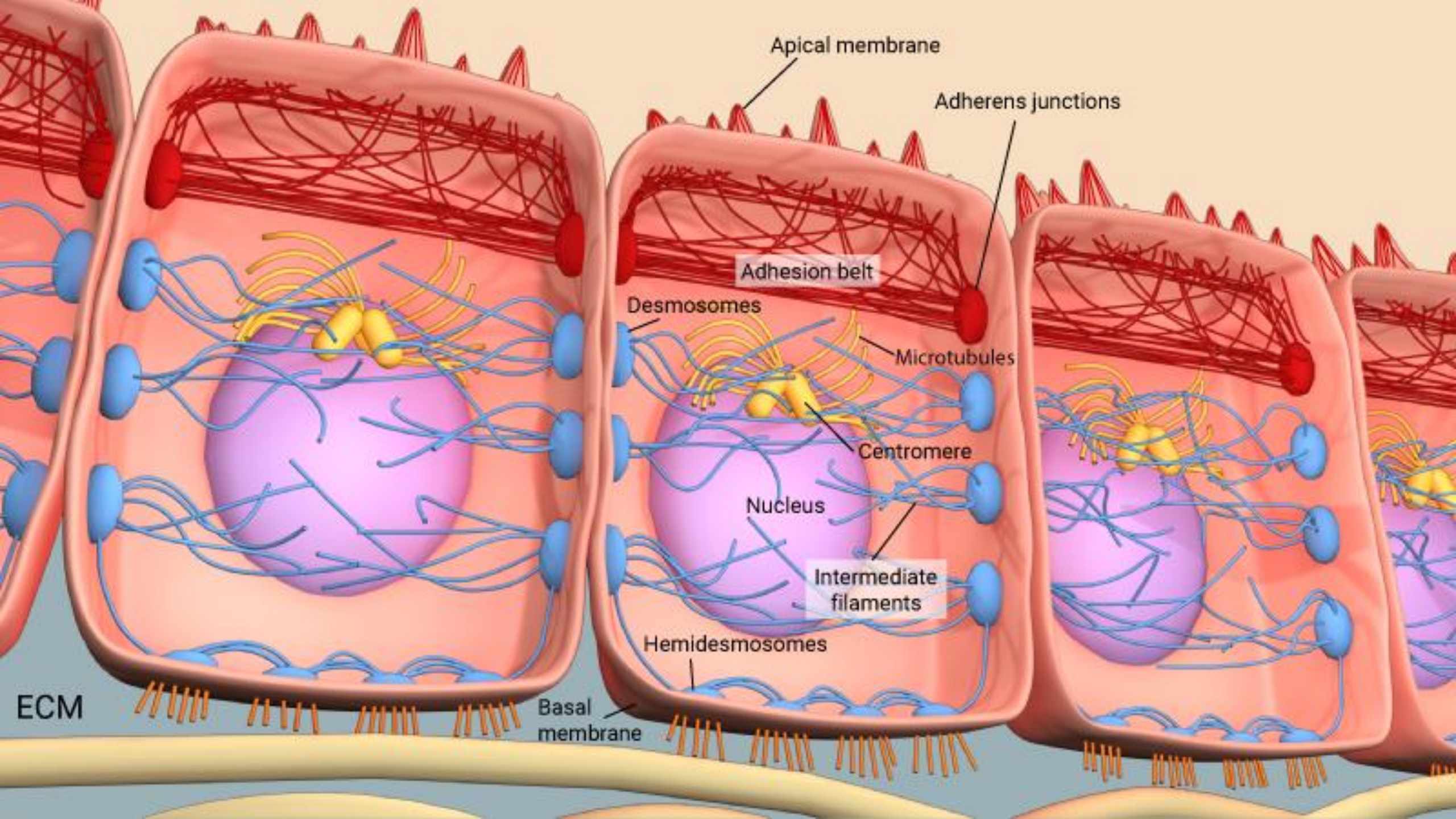
Tubulin



# Cytoskeleton in eukaryotic cells

	Microfilaments	Intermediary filaments	Microtubules
build of	G-actin/F-actin	various	$\alpha$ -tubulin/ $\beta$ -tubulin
diameter	7 nm	10-12 nm	25 nm
molecular motors	myosins	none	kinesin / dynein
polymeration fuel	ATP	none	GTP
function	structure stabilisation, muscle contraction, cytokinesis, cell movement	mechanical stability, cell-specific	intracel. transport, mitotic spindle

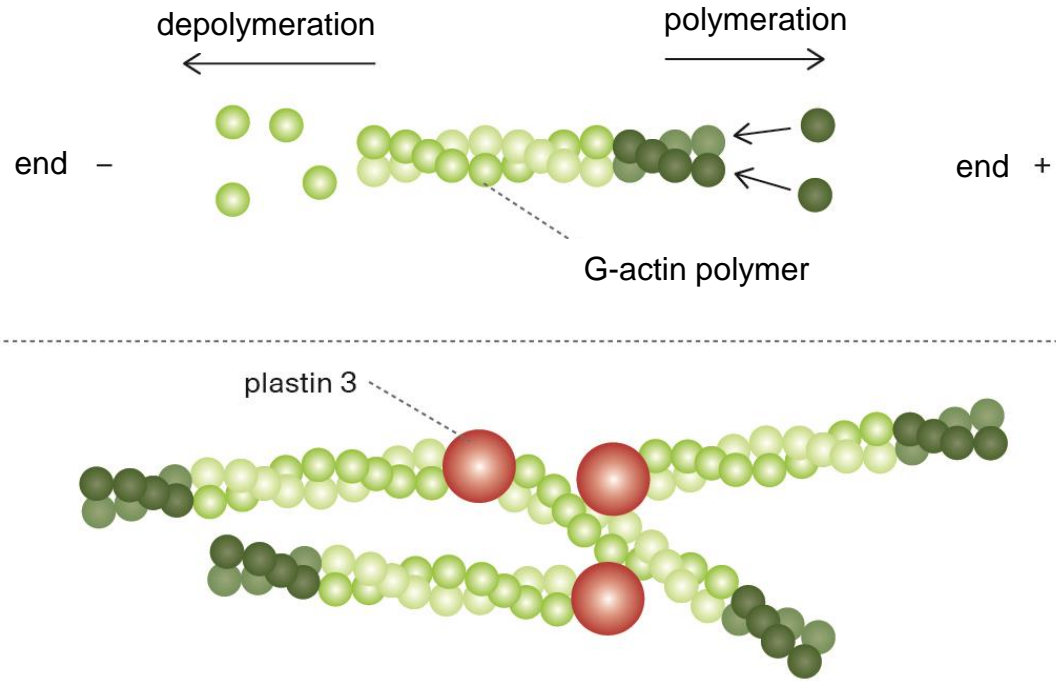




## Actin filament formation

-  G-aktin-ADP
-  G-aktin-ATP

## F-Actin networking



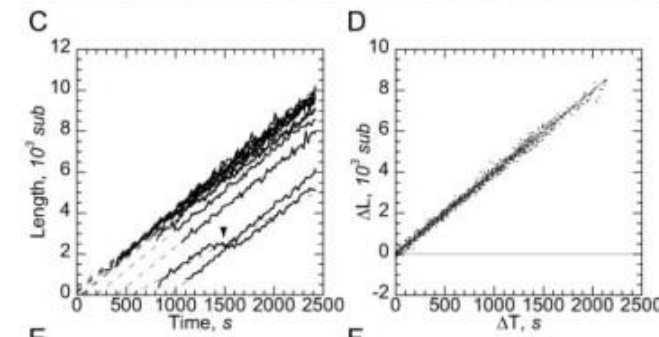
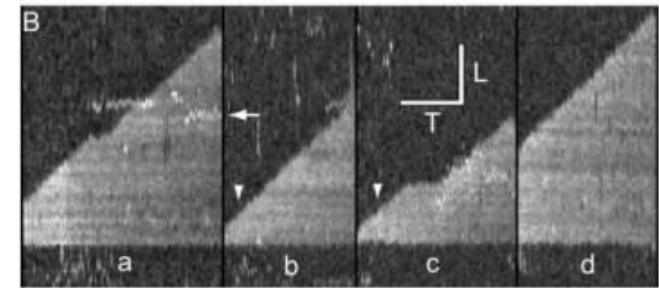
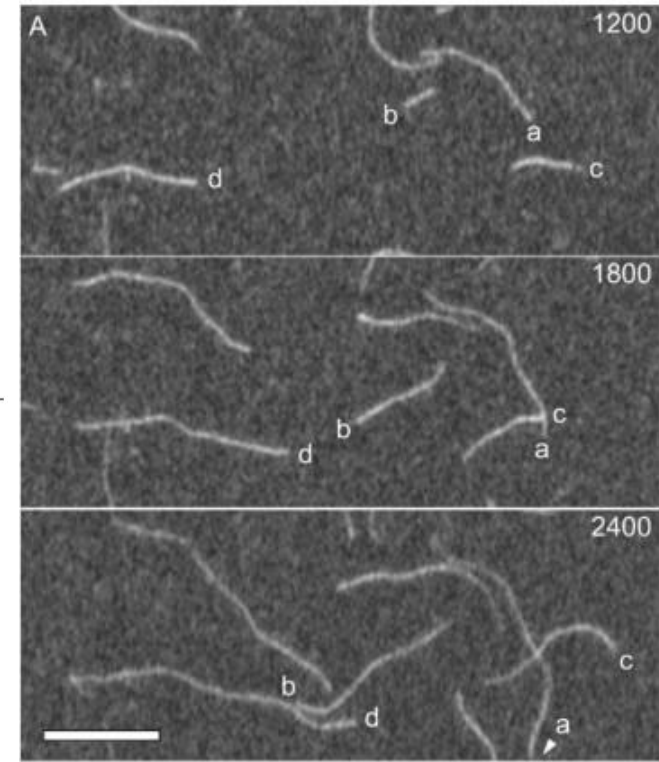
Formation and depolymeration of actin filaments.  
Like microtubules, actin filaments are dynamically instable

2018 Raudenská <https://www.lekarskeknihy.cz/produkt/109803-vybrane-kapitoly-z-bunecne-fyziologie/>

## Imaging the time course of the polymerization of ATP-actin.

Length scale bar ( $L$ ) is  $10\ \mu\text{m}$  and timescale bar ( $T$ ) is 1000 s.  
(C) Lengths of 13 filaments as a function of time

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S006349505732057>



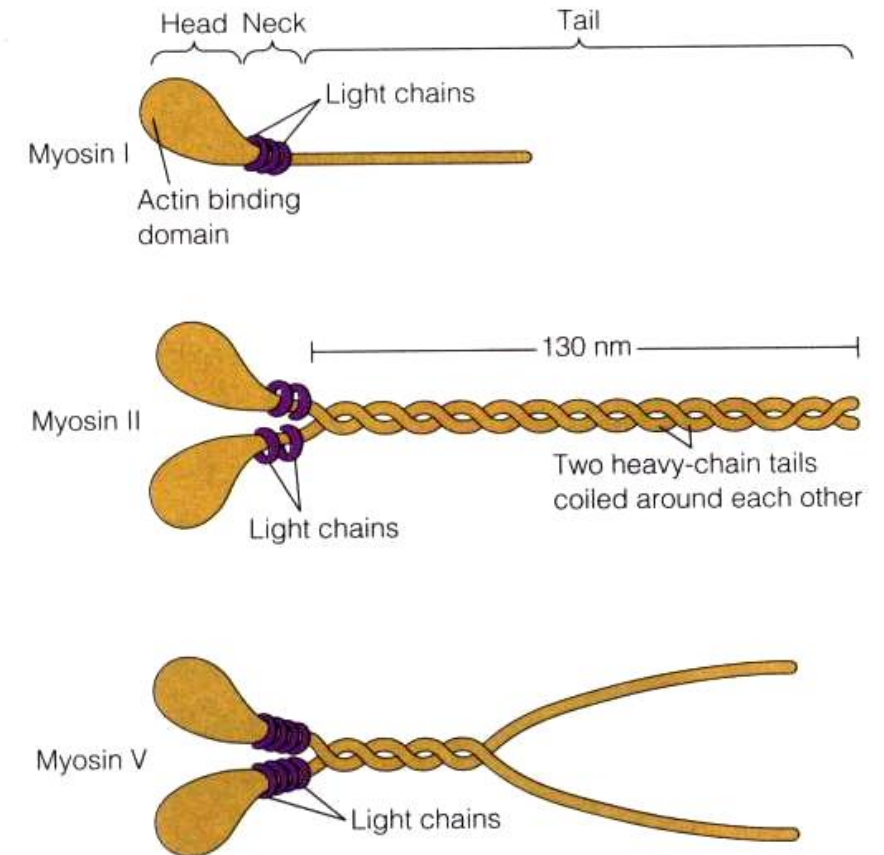


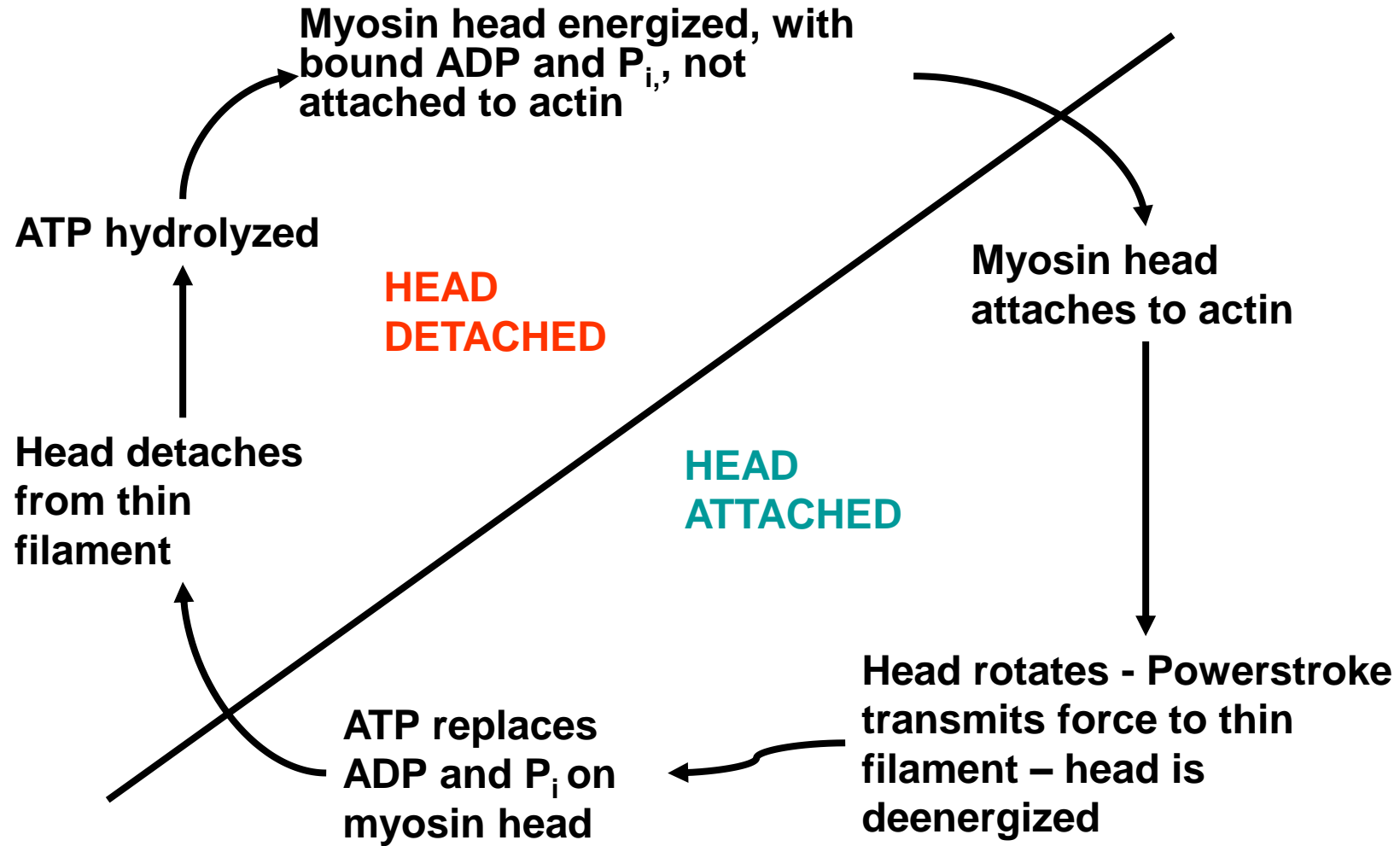
# Actin cytoskeleton

- higher order structures – connecting proteins (eg plastin 3)
- polarized, grow on + end (by ATP hydrolysis)
- associated with other protein complexes
- specialized functions in various parts of cells

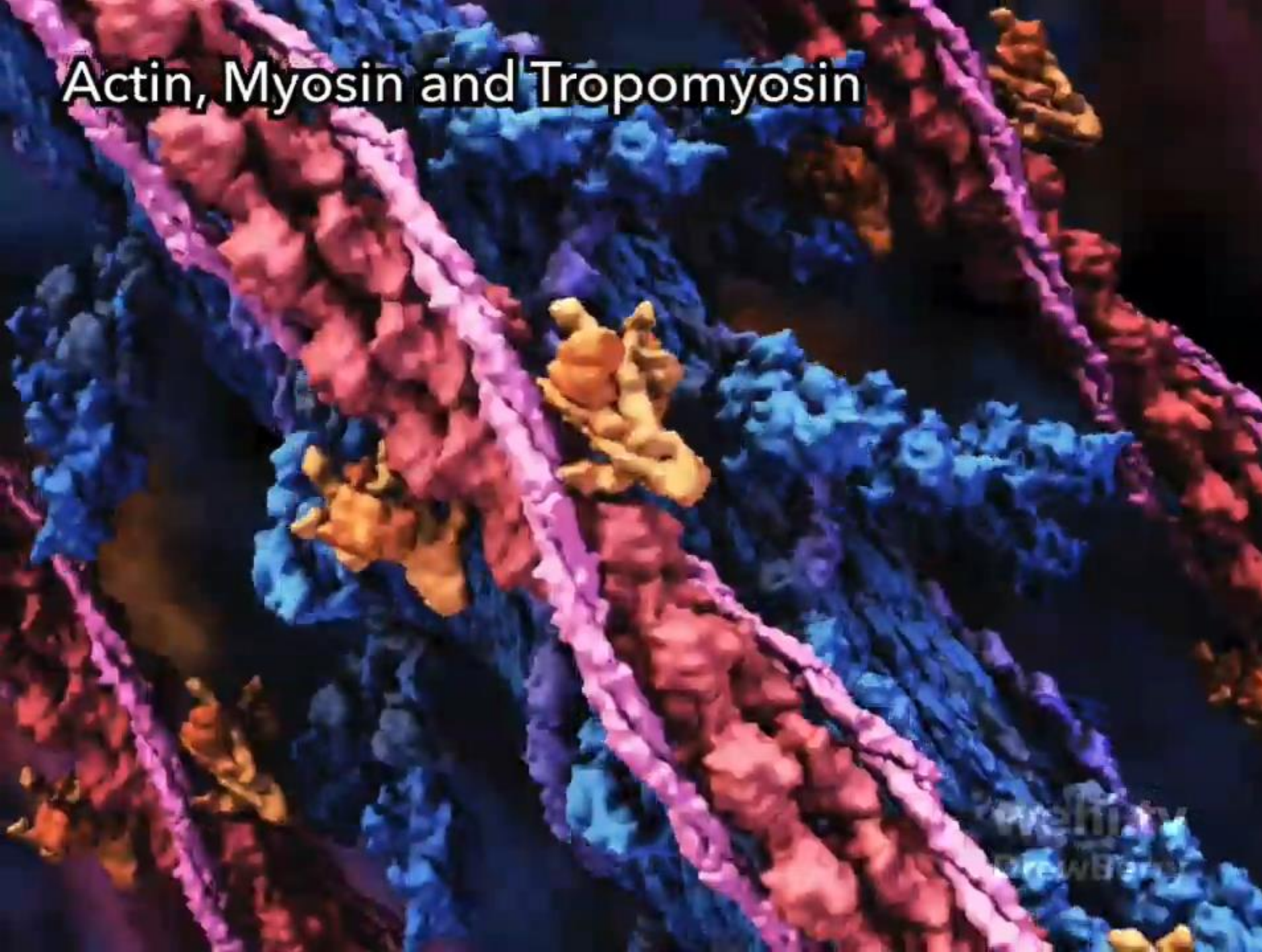
# Myosin motor protein families

- The head is both actin-binding and ATP binding; the purple light chain has a regulatory role.
- Myosin II is muscle myosin.
- 18 different myosin families have been identified (I –XVIII)





# Actin, Myosin and Tropomyosin



Muscle contraction  
molecular mechanism.

Actin

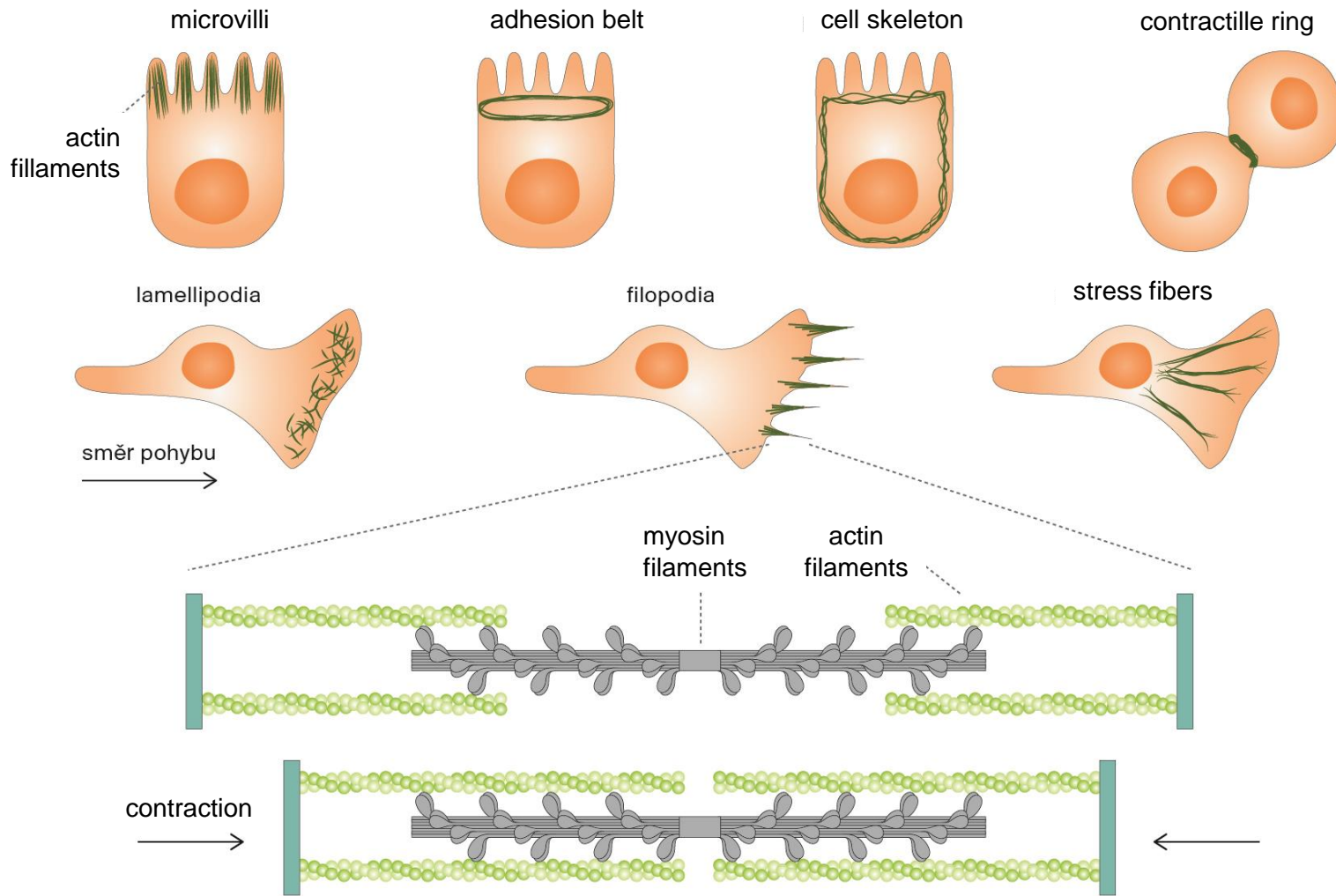
Myosin

Tropomyosin

Troponin

Calcium ions

<https://twitter.com/drewberryIV/status/1264431344689414146>



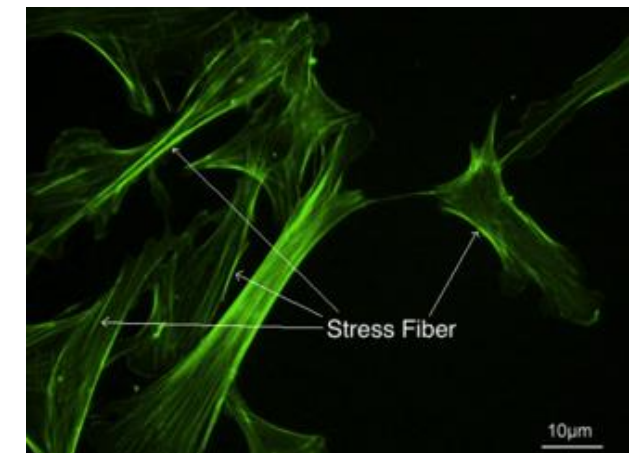
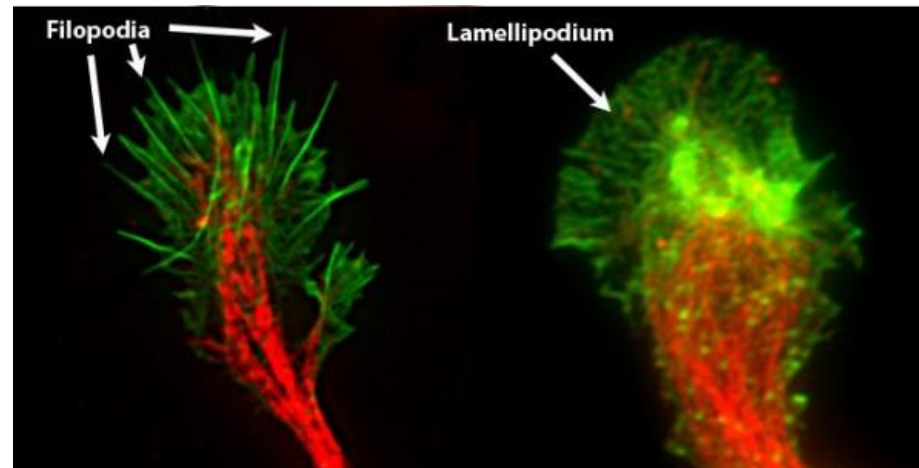
Actin filaments location in cells.

actin shown green

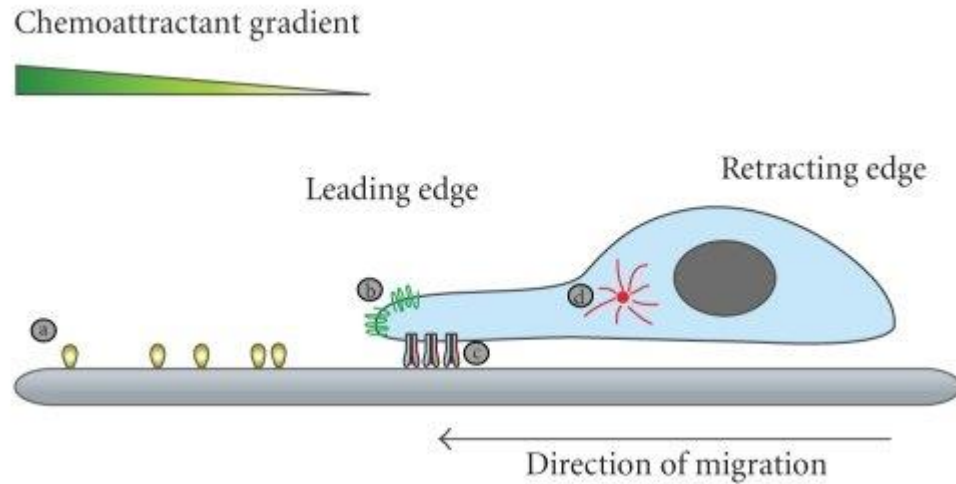
muscle contraction: motor molecule of myosin interacts with actin, resulting in contraction. by hydrolysis of ATP and resulting morphology changes

2018 Raudenská <https://www.lekarskeknihy.cz/produkt/109803-vybrane-kapitoly-z-bunecne-fyziologie/>

	<b>Filopodia</b>	<b>Lamellipodia</b>	<b>Stress fibers</b>
morphology	thin protrusions at leading edge	veil-like cytoplasm extension	actin bundles in cells
regulation		↓ RhoA + ROCK	↑ RhoA + ROCK
function	environment probing modulation of adhesion	migration in 2D and 3D	cellular contractility, force for adhesion, migration



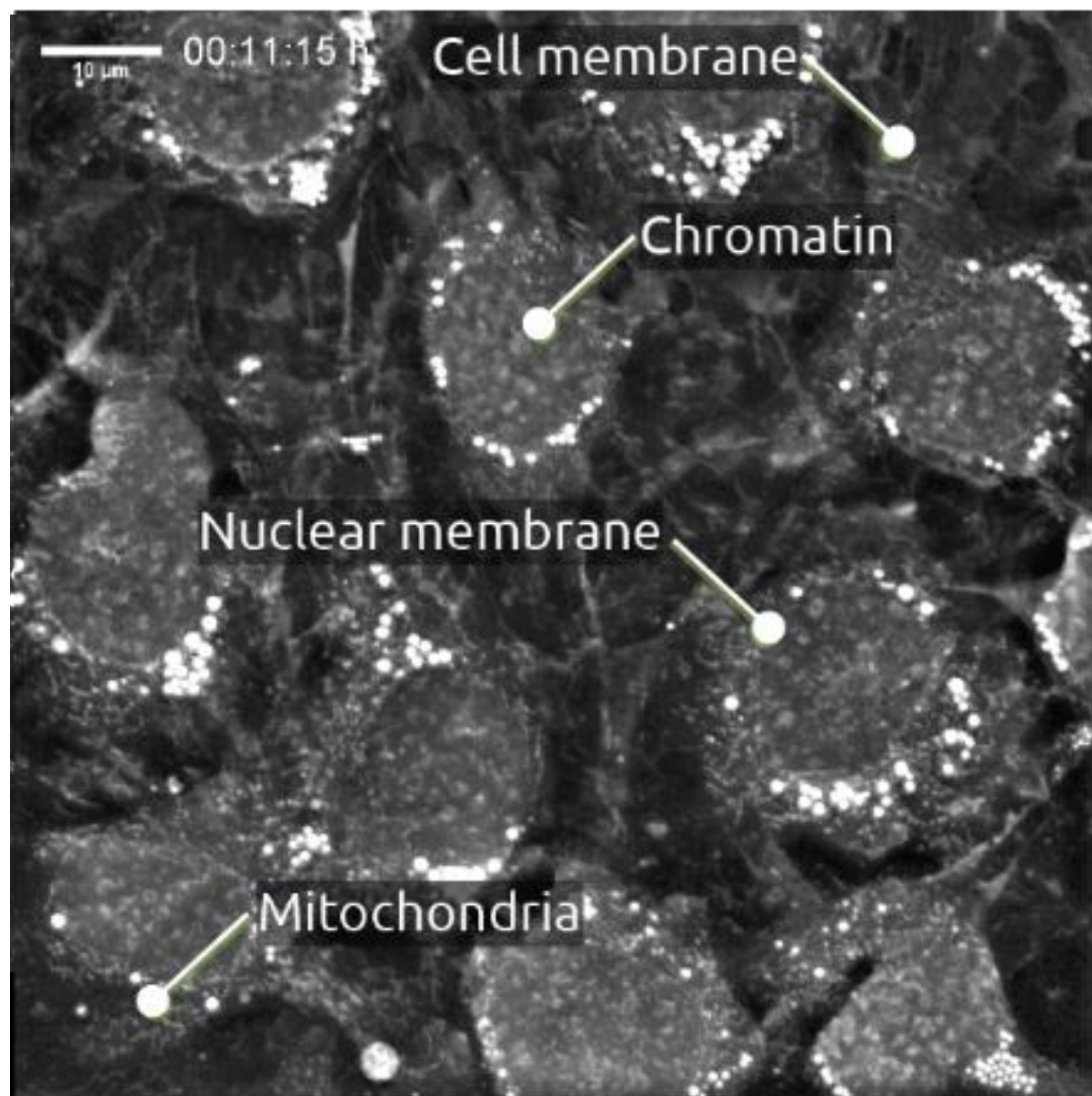
# Leading edge in migrating cell



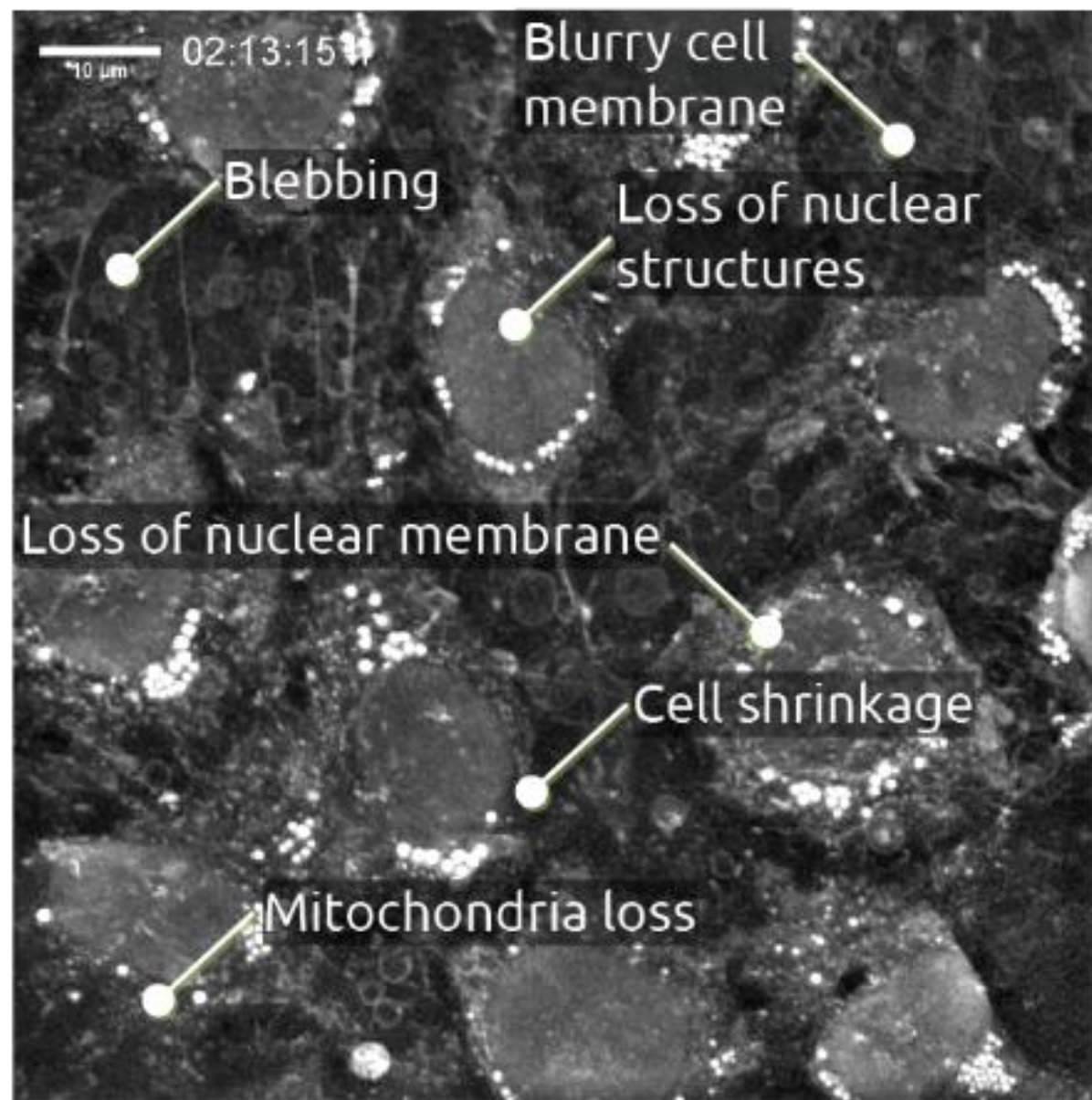
- Formation of polarised cells:
  - change its morphology + intracellular organization.
- and integrins forming focal adhesions, localise to the leading edge.

Ngalim 2010 10.1155/2010/363106

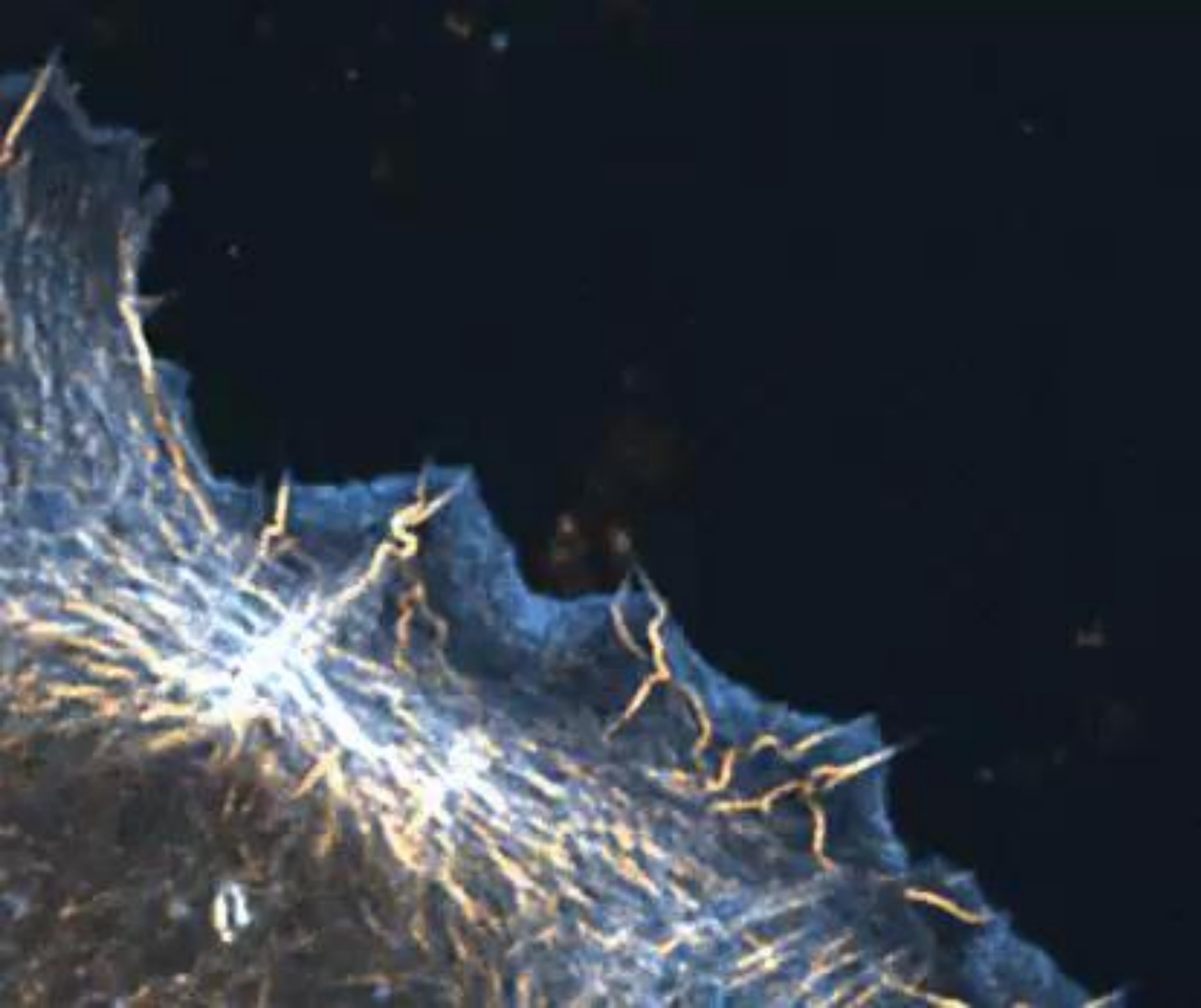
## BEFORE FIXATION (0.2% PFA)



## AFTER FIXATION (0.2% PFA)







## Cytoskeleton is a highly dynamic structure

Am I the only one who likes to watch the **#LeadingEdge** all day long? The orange bundles make **#RetrogradeFlow** easy to follow.

**#Actin** assembly

@VUCellImaging

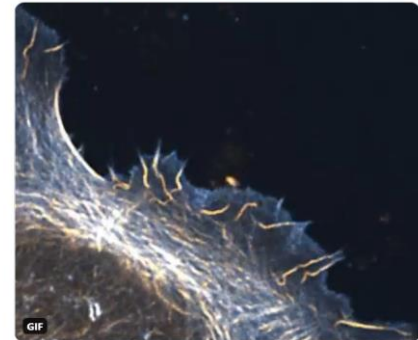
@VUBasicSciences

**#VandyCytoskeleton**

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1251982170421428224>

 **Matt Tyska** @TyskaLabActual · 19. 4.  
Am I the only one who likes to watch the **#LeadingEdge** all day long? The orange bundles make **#RetrogradeFlow** easy to follow. **#Actin** assembly =

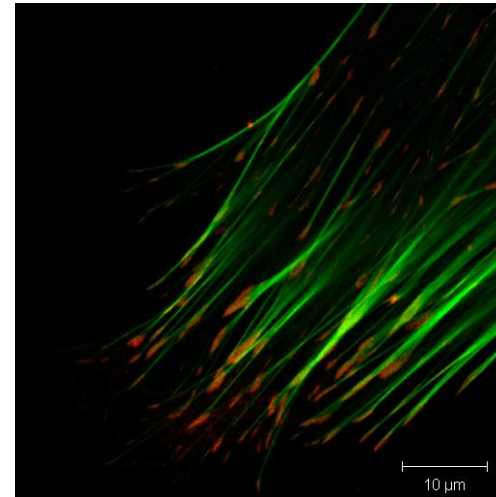
@VUCellImaging @VUBasicSciences **#VandyCytoskeleton**



3 43 292

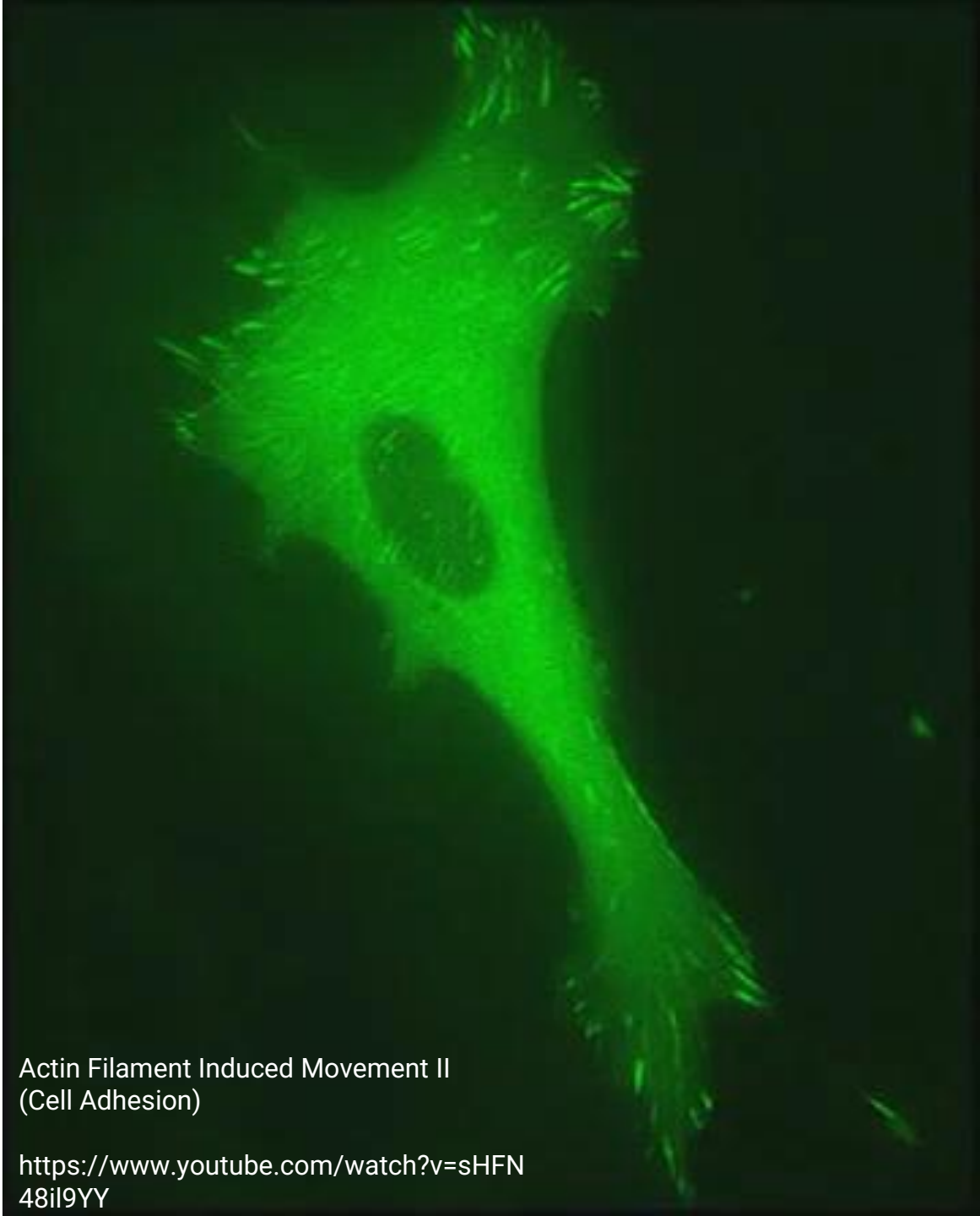
## F-actin associated structures

	<b>Adherens junctions</b>	<b>focal adhesions</b>
associated protein	cadherins ( $\alpha$ - / $\beta$ -catenin) + others	integrins + 200 others
function	cell-cell adhesion	cell-ECM adhesion, mechanotransduction, migration



# Focal adhesions

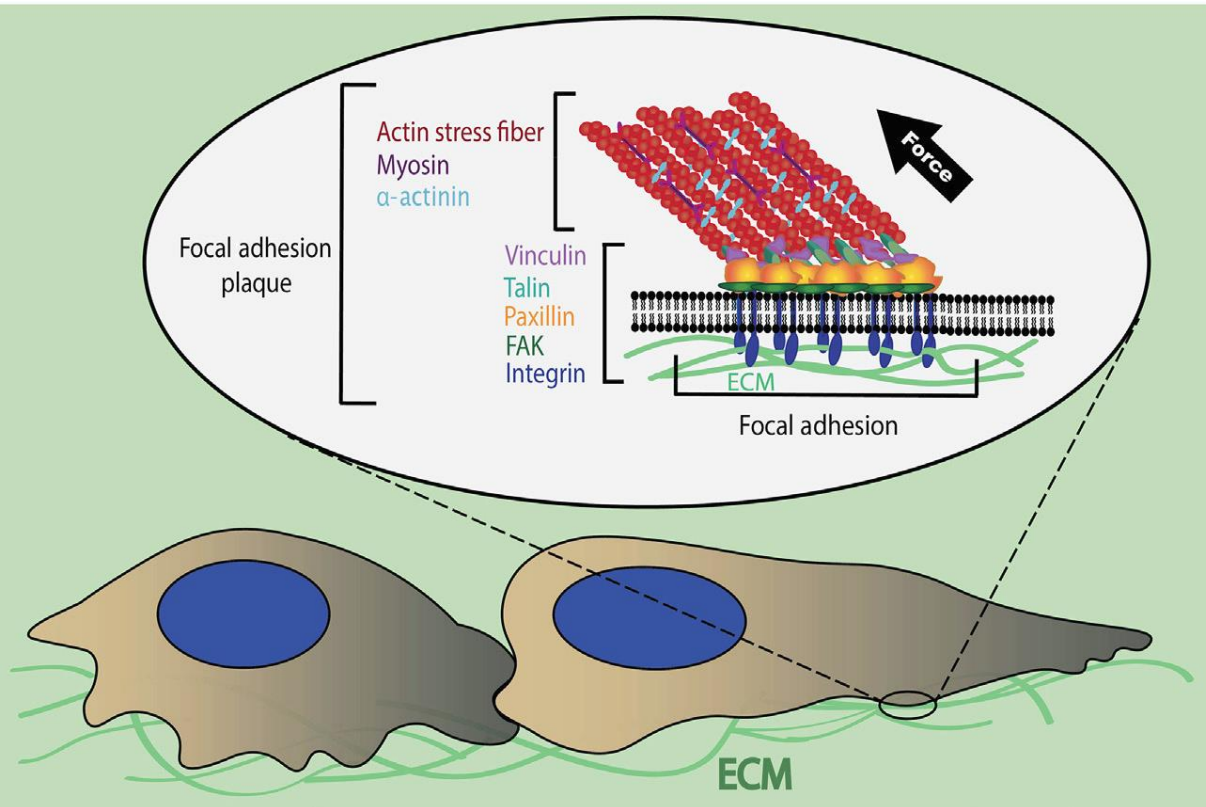
- connection between a cell's cytoskeleton and ECM.
- sub-cellular structures that mediate the regulatory effects of a cell in response to **ECM adhesion**
- in a state of **constant flux**: proteins associate and disassociate with it continually as signals are transmitted to other parts of the cell, relating to anything from cell motility to cell cycle
- **contact with ECM via integrins**: integrins bind to extra-cellular proteins via short amino acid sequences
- white blood cells migrate along the connective endothelium

A fluorescence microscopy image showing a cell with green actin filaments. The cell is elongated and has a central nucleus. The actin filaments are concentrated in the cell body and extend into long, thin filaments at the ends, likely representing focal adhesions or stress fibers. The background is dark, highlighting the green fluorescence of the actin.

Actin Filament Induced Movement II  
(Cell Adhesion)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHFN48il9YY>

# Four layers of Focal adhesions



## – integrin extracellular layer,

- responsible for binding to the ECM.
- extracellular domain “**outside-in**” signaling: integrin-ECM binding changes in intracellular signaling.
- cytoplasmic domain “**outside-in**” signalling: intracellular signaling affect extracellular integrin binding.

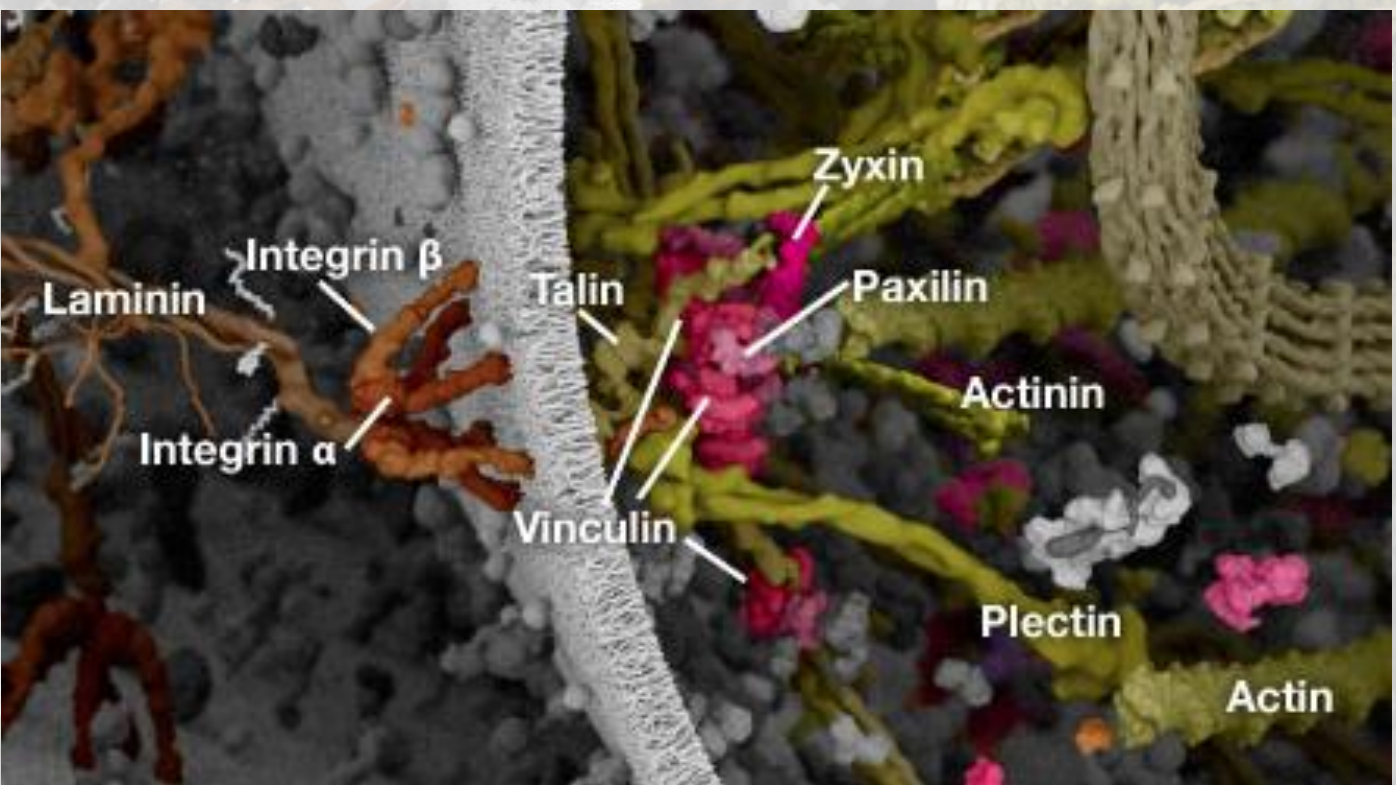
## – integrin signaling layer

## – force transduction layer

FA stabilization and mechanosensitive signaling via focal adhesion kinase (FAK), paxillin, talin, vinculin.

## – actin regulatory layer: the regulation of actin assembly,

disassembly, and actomyosin contractility



**integrin extracellular layer,**

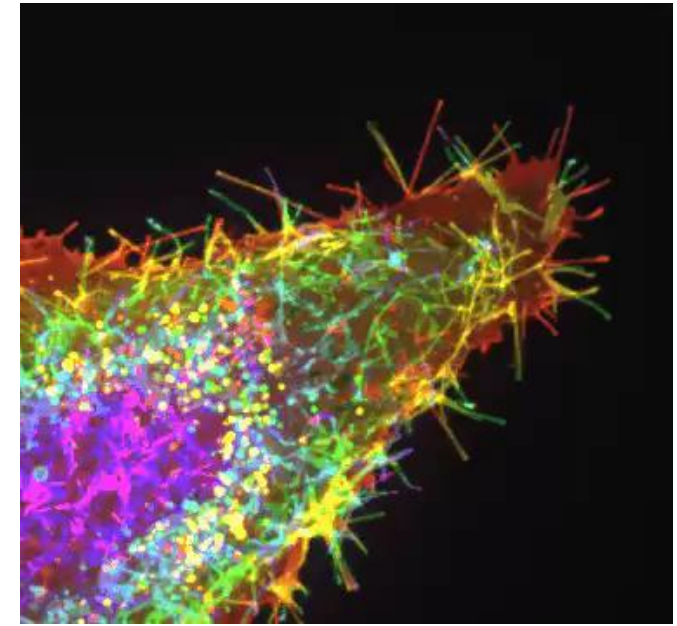
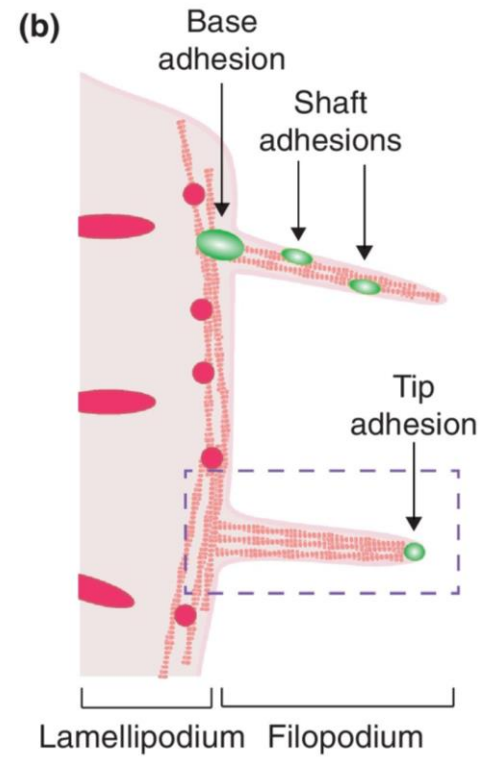
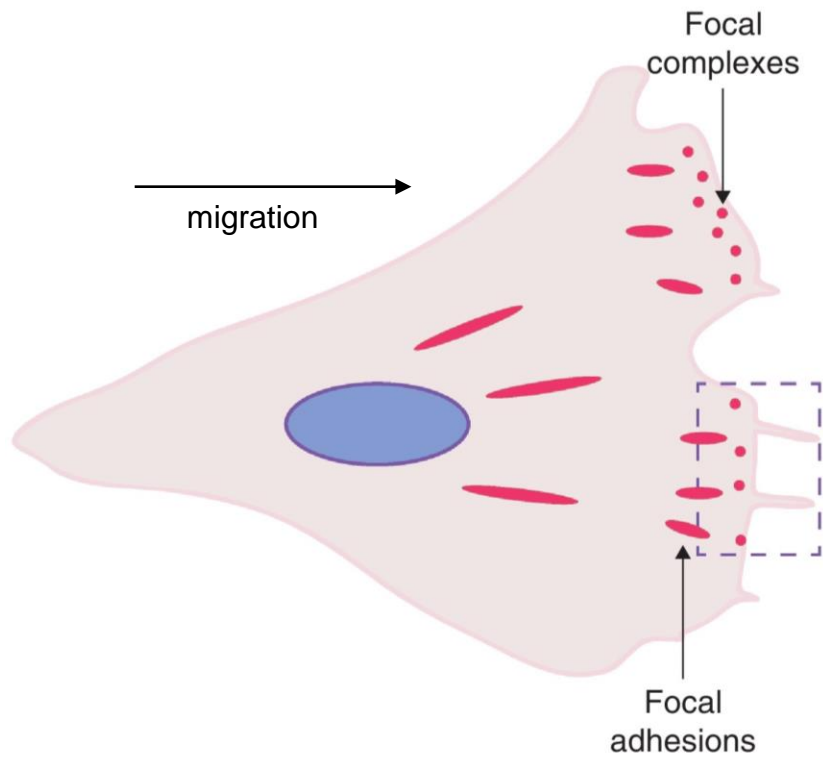
- responsible for binding to the ECM.
- extracellular domain “**outside-in**” signaling: integrin-ECM binding changes in intracellular signaling.
- cytoplasmic domain “**outside-in**” signalling: intracellular signaling affect extracell integrin binding.

**integrin signaling layer  
force transduction layer**

FA stabilization and mechanosensitive signaling via focal [adhesion kinase \(FAK\)](#), [paxillin](#), [talin](#), [vinculin](#).

**actin regulatory layer:** the regulation of actin assembly, disassembly, and actomyosin contractility





### Filopodia during cell migration as "mechanical antennae"

- probing ECM stiffness
- Filopodia function as signaling platforms:
  - probing ECM topography
  - probing ECM stiffness
  - at the leading edge regulates Arp2/3-mediated actin remodeling and polymerization to drive lamellipodia membrane protrusions and forward cellular movement.

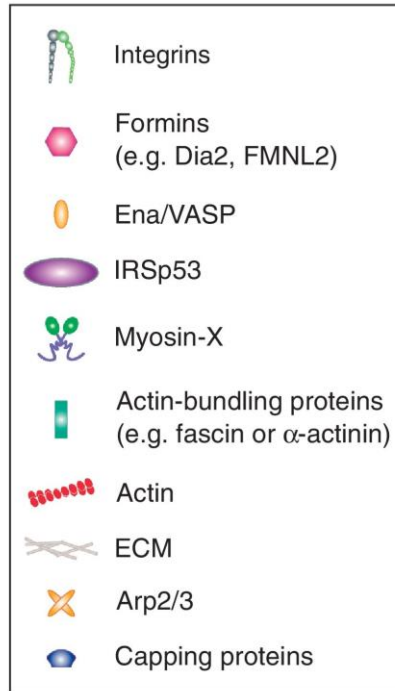
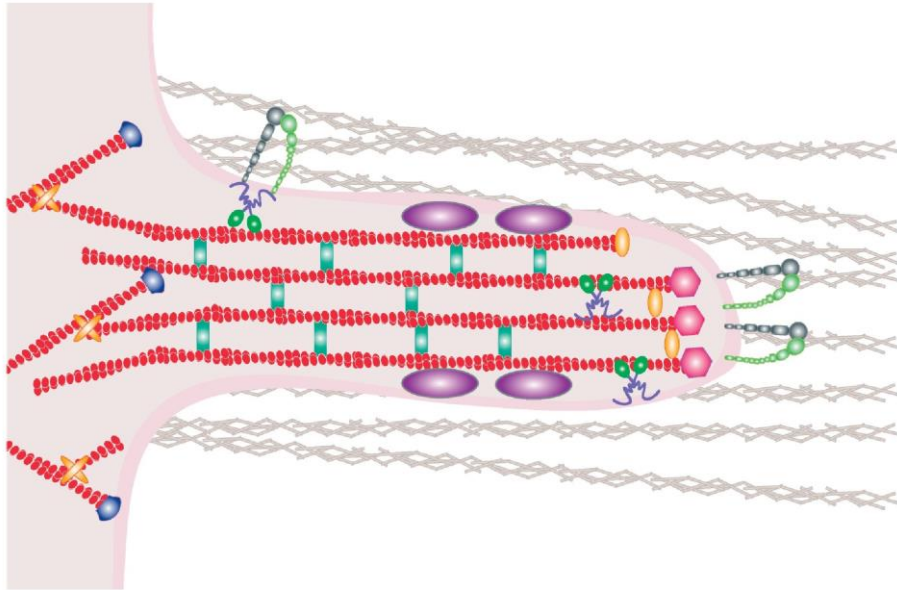
Filopodia probe the ECM by assembling specialized adhesion complexes at specific sub-filopodial locations

### Filopodia

A spinning disk is a device that enables high signal:noise fluorescence microscopy by eliminating out of focus light.

<https://twitter.com/TyskaLabActual/status/1277592591882768385>

# Filopodia



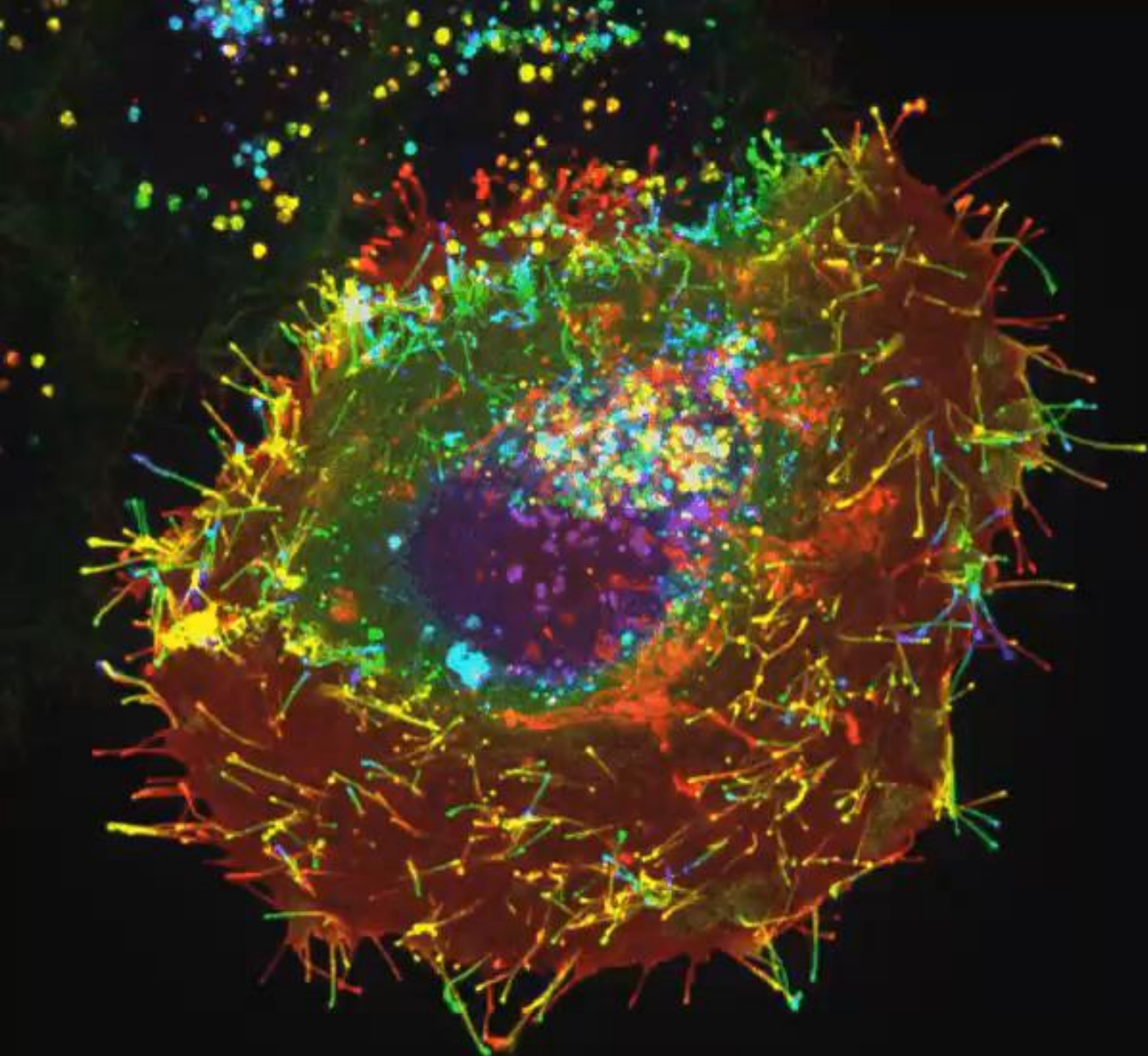
## Filopodia during cell migration

**actin polymeration = strenght generated for fillopodia and lamellipodia growth**

fillopodia formation preceeds lamellipodia formation

formation facilitated by

- insulin-receptor substrate p53 (IRSp53) and others: **deform and/or tubulate the plasma membrane**, and
- by motor activity of **myosin-X** - actin fiber convergence at the cell periphery.



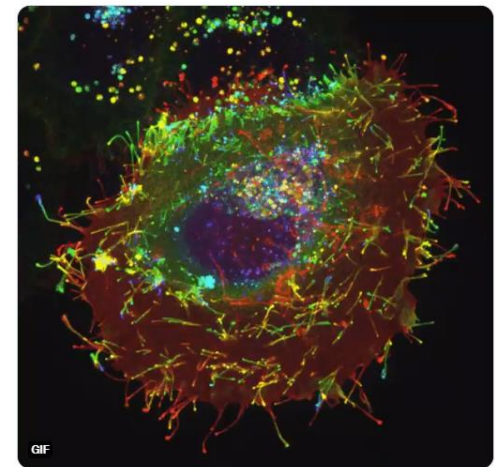
## Filopodia

GFP-stained transmembrane protein, colors code for depth, spinning disk microscopy

<https://twitter.com/TyskaLabActual/status/1428127612497317892>

 Matt Tyska  
@TyskaLabActual

From the spinning disk...whoa 😲  
#VandyCytoskeleton @VUCellImaging  
@VanderbiltCDB  
[Přeložit Tweet](#)



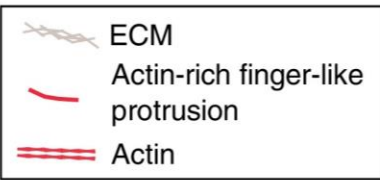
12:52 dop. · 19. 8. 2021 · Twitter Web App

115 Retweetů 12 Tweety s citací 648 Lajků



MUNI  
MED





- Actin machinery**
- Linear parallel F-actin
- Polymerization activators**
- Cortactin, N-WASP, WIP
- Filament crosslinkers**
- $\alpha$ -actinin, fascin
- Actin nucleators**
- Arp2/3, formins
- Actin binders**
- Cofilin, coronin, myosin-X

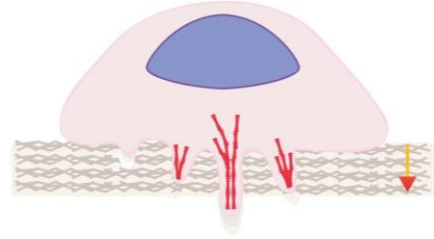
- Proteases**
- ADAMs, MMP2, MMP9, MT1-MMP, UPAR

- Microtubule-associated proteins**
- Kinesins and myosins

- GTPases**
- AMAP1, Arf6, Cdc42, dynamin, Rho

- Lipids**
- PIP2, PIP3

**Invadopodia**

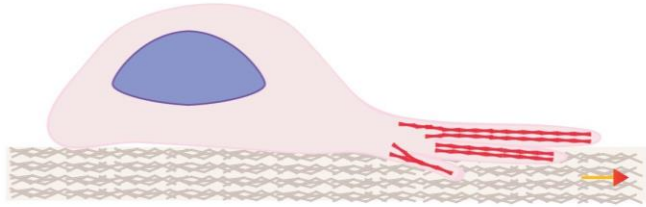


- Adhesion molecules**
- Integrins, talin, ILK, IQGAP, vinculin, zyxin

- Kinases**
- ABL, ERK, FAK, LIMK, PAK, PKC, PYK2, SRC

- Actin machinery**
- Linear parallel F-actin
- Polymerization activators**
- Cortactin, ENA/WASP
- Filament crosslinkers**
- $\alpha$ -actinin, fascin, filamin, villin
- Actin nucleators**
- Arp2/3, formins
- Actin binders**
- Myosin-X, capping proteins

**Filopodia**



- GTPases**
- Cdc42, Rac, Rho

- Lipids**
- PIP3

- Others**
- IRSp53, EPS8

- Adhesion molecules**
- Integrins, cadherins

- Kinases**
- SRC, FAK, CAMKII

**Filopodia, invadopodia and filopodia-like structures.**

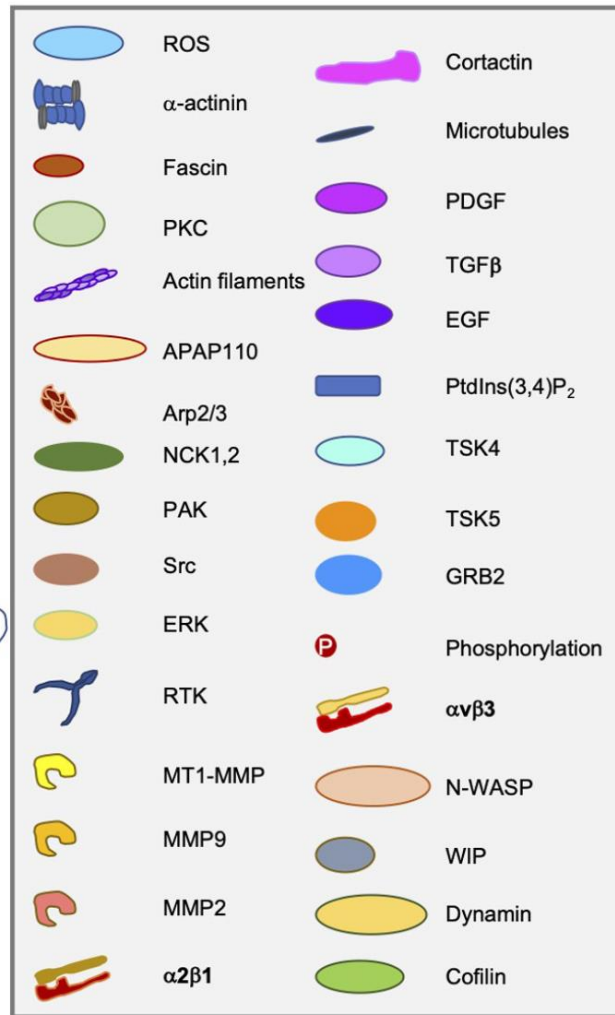
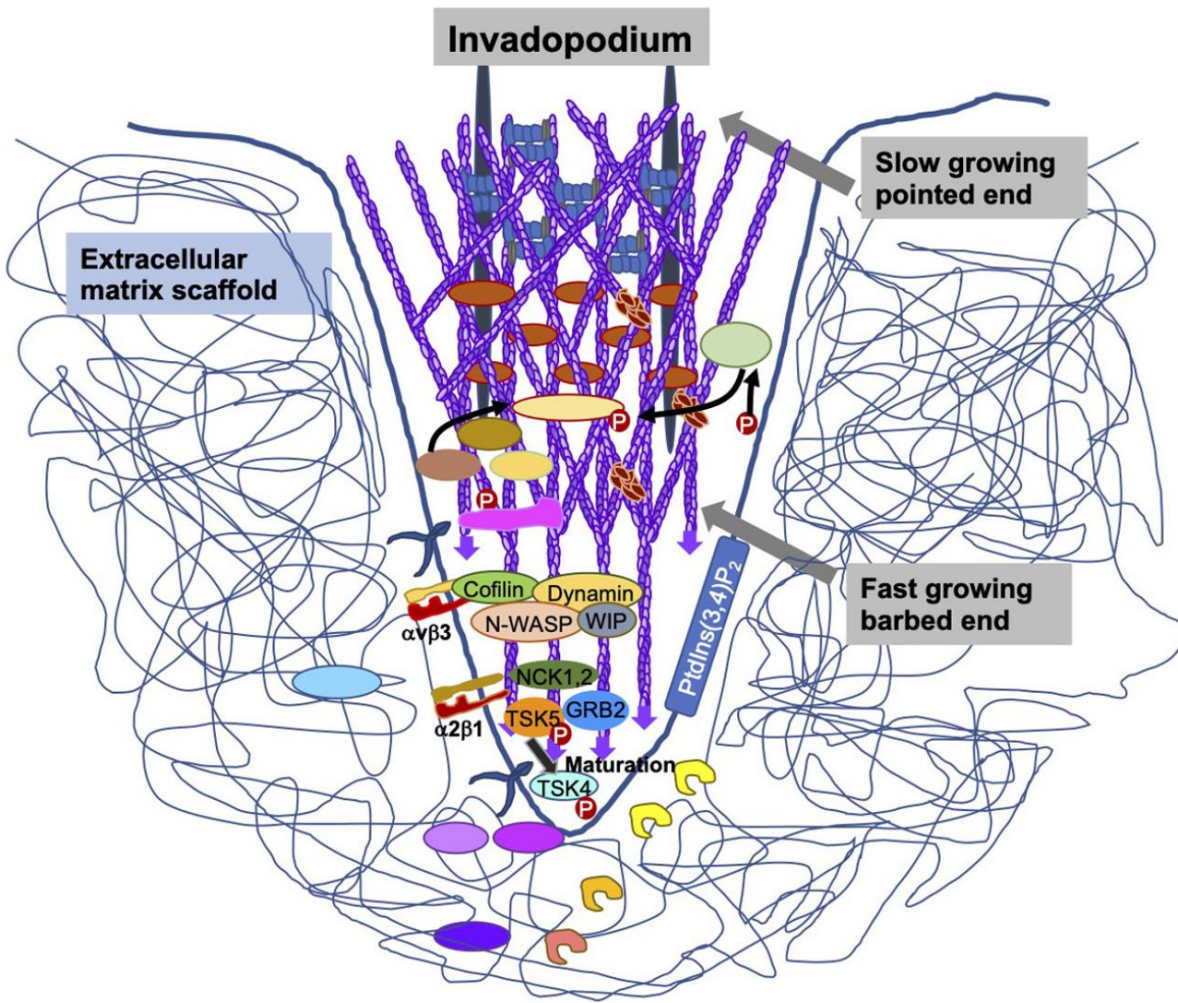
In 2D, cells form well-defined finger-like, actin-rich structures including filopodia and invadopodia.

**Filopodia**

transient and extend out from the advancing lamellipodium associated with myosin-X and fascin,

**Invadopodia**

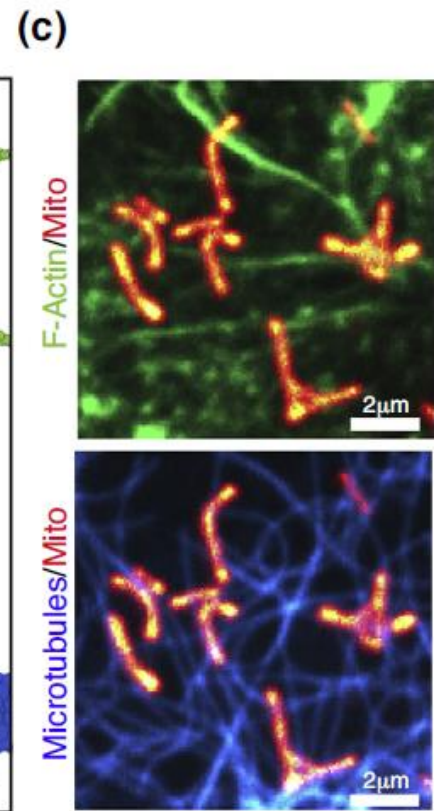
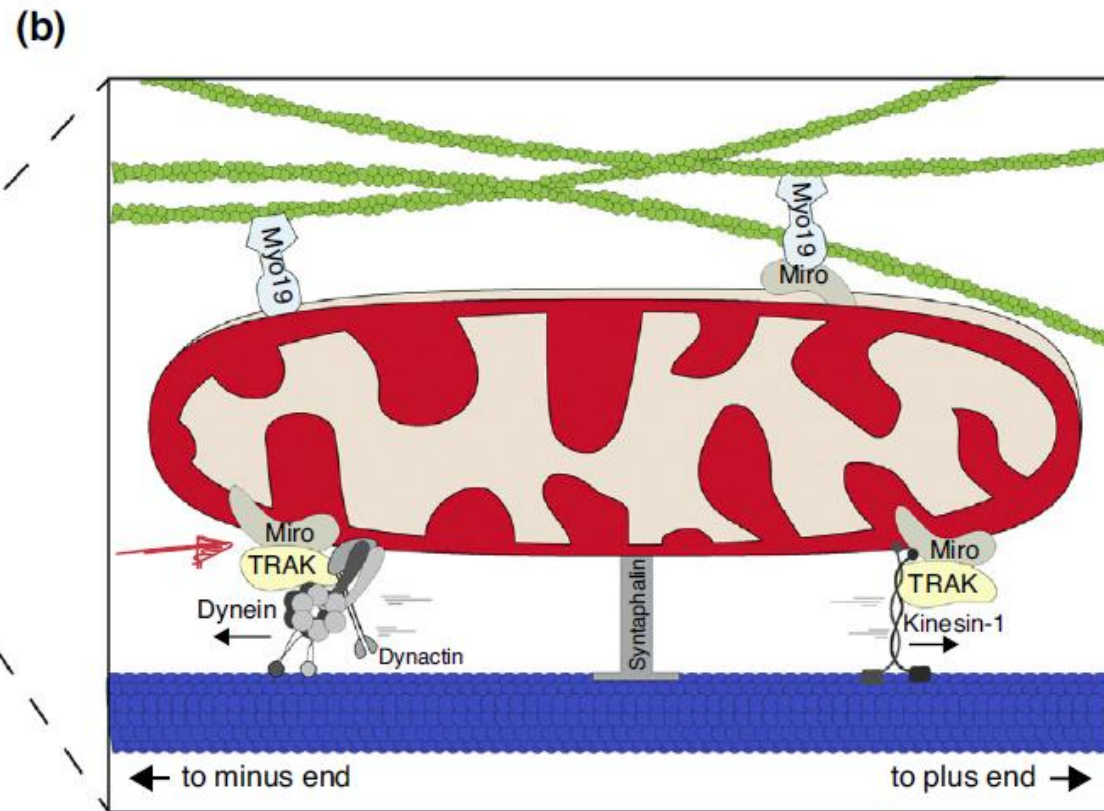
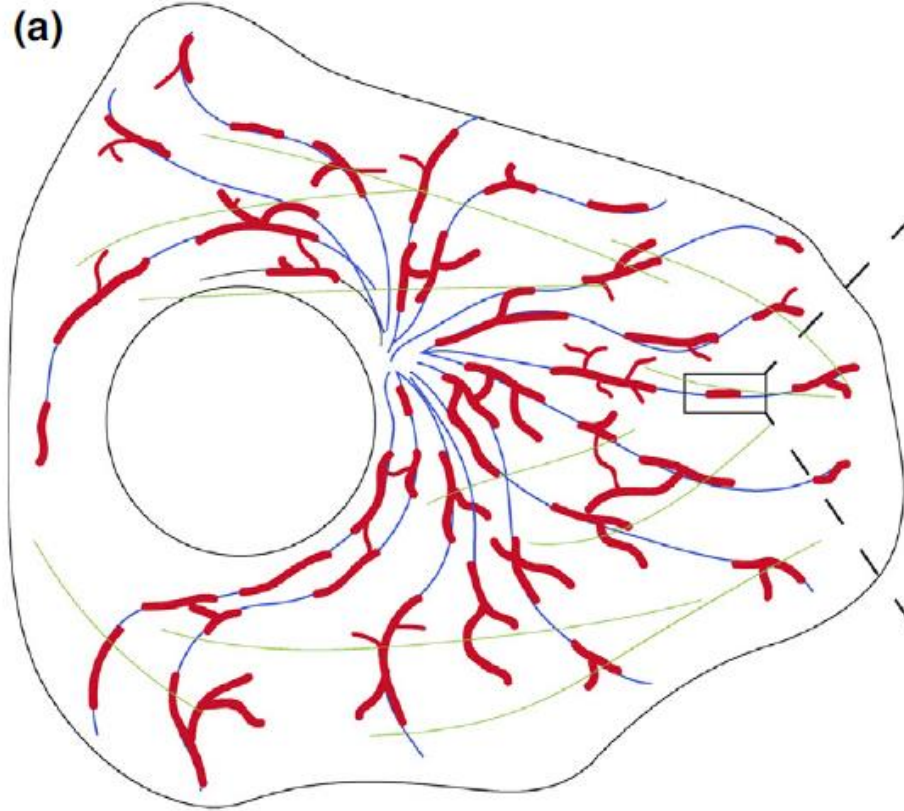
actin-rich, more stable, localize **beneath** the cell body possess **substrate degradation** properties. assoc: cortactin and the ECM-degrading protease MT1-MMP spaces used for consequent **migration**



Structure, components and secreted enzymes of an invadopodium

Mierke, 2020, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fcell.2020.583226>

# Tubulin, actin and mitochondria anchoring



MIRO NESTER PRO AKTN - PROTO - TRAK  
- 112019

Current Opinion in Physiology

Schematic of mitochondria (red), microtubules (blue), and f-actin (green) distribution in an undifferentiated cell. (b) Mitochondria associate with microtubules (blue, bottom) and with actin (green, top) via motor/adaptor complexes. Dynein/dynactin associate with mitochondria via TRAK and Miro to drive retrograde mitochondrial motility. In contrast, Kinesin-1 coordinates anterograde motility toward the cell periphery. Myo19 can associate with the mitochondria outer membrane either directly or through Miro. Syntaphilin anchors mitochondria to microtubules.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cophys.2018.03.003>

# Extracellular matrix, 2D vs 3D

- in 2D use actin polymerisation to extend leading edge
- in 3D this is just one of the movement strategies.
- migration modes (in 3D) dependent on physical properties of ECM
- ECM properties distinguished by **leading edge** cells
- single cell can switch between leading edge structures

3D

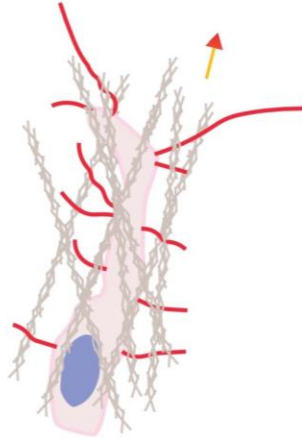
### Invadopodia



**Sarcoma cells invading through dermis-based matrix**

Structures observed by electron microscopy

### Filopodia



**Endothelial cells in zebrafish embryo**

Bmp induced-filopodia:  
Arhgef9b, Cdc42 and FMNL3

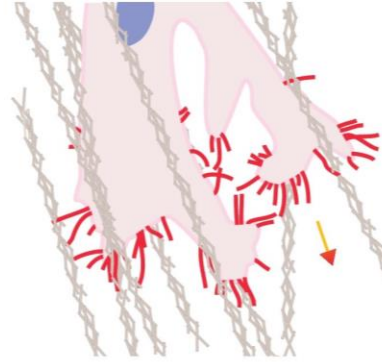
**Primordial germ cells in zebrafish embryo**

Cxcl12a induced-filopodia:  
IRSp53, intracellular pH, Rac1

**Epithelial cell sheets during wound healing/dorsal closure**

Rac1, Par3, PIP3

### Actin spikes

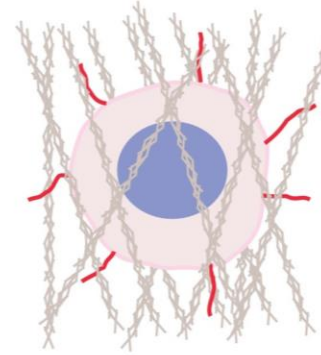


**Ovarian carcinoma cells migrating on fibronectin-rich fibrillar matrices**

Key molecules:

Integrins, RhoA, RCP, IQGAP, RacGAP1

### Filopodium-like protrusions



**Breast carcinoma cells extravasated in the lung**

Key molecules:

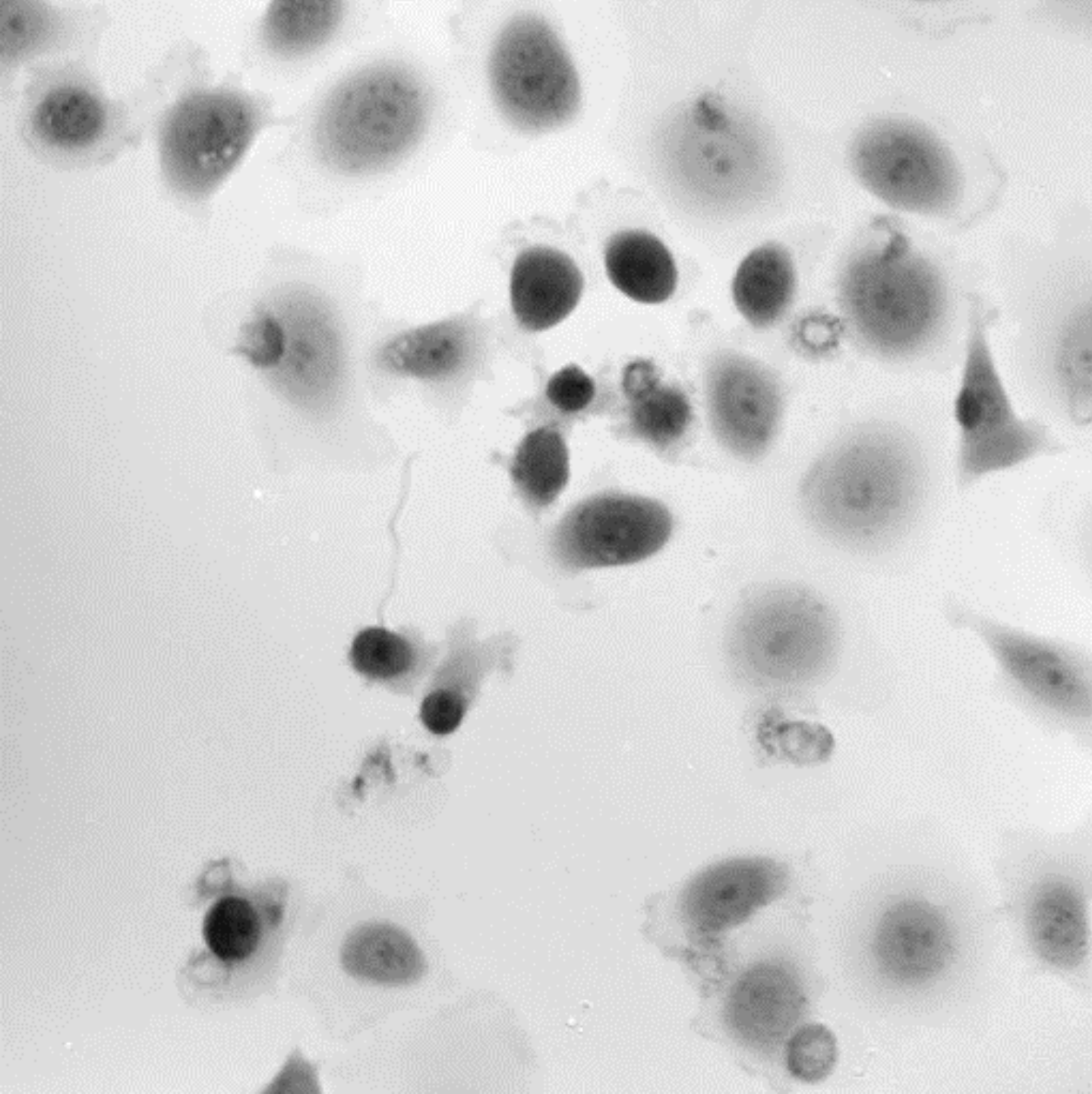
Integrins, myosin-X, Cdc42, Rif, mDia2, ILK,  $\beta$ -parvin

## Filopodia, invadopodia and filopodium-like structures.

In 3D and *in vivo*, cells form **filopodium-like protrusions**, (lack of clear classification criteria)

filopodia, invadopodia, filopodium-like protrusions and actin spikes.

molecular machinery associated is poorly understood



metastatic prostate cancer cell line PC3

# Migration

- Single cell migration

- ameoid
- mesenchymal
- lobopodial
- pseudopodial

- Collective migration

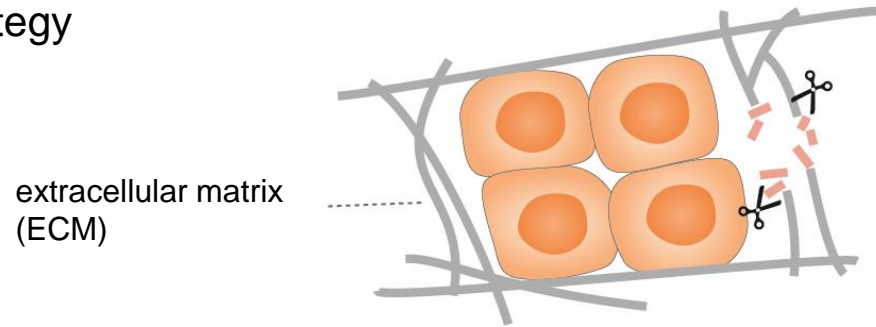
- Cell migration in which **groups of cells migrate while in physical contact and in the same net direction**. This is in contrast to single cell migration in which cells move individually and are not in physical contact with other

# Types of movements

– mesenchymal x pseudopodial migration?



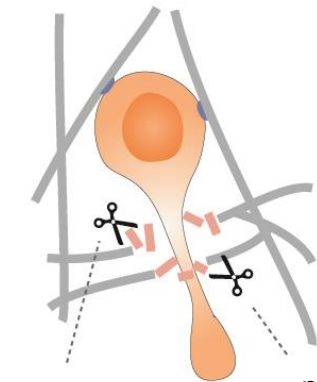
## collective strategy



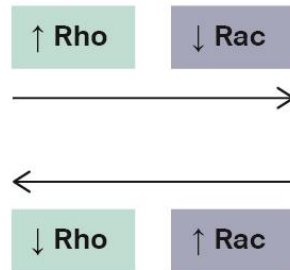
## individual strategy

### mesenchymal

↓ cell-cell adhesion



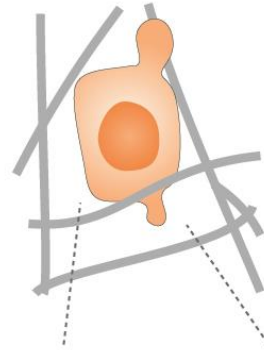
movement through ECM due cleavage of ECM by matrix metalloproteases



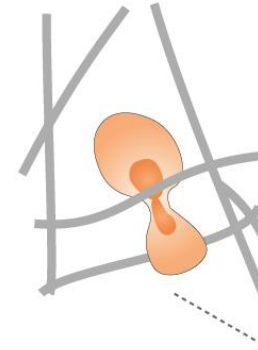
### ameboid

↓ cell-cell adhesion

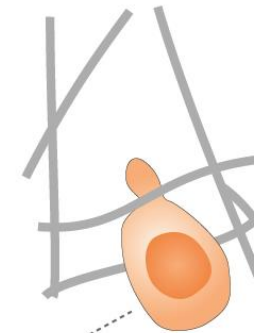
↓ cell-extracellular matrix adhesion



loss of cell polarity



membrane blebbing



push through spaces in ECM

## Main types of migration in cancer cells

cancer cells employ variety of invasiveness modes

migration strategies can be switched

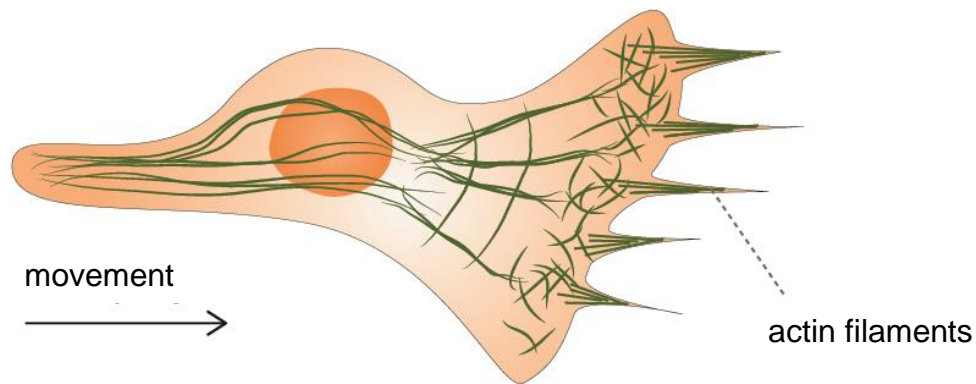
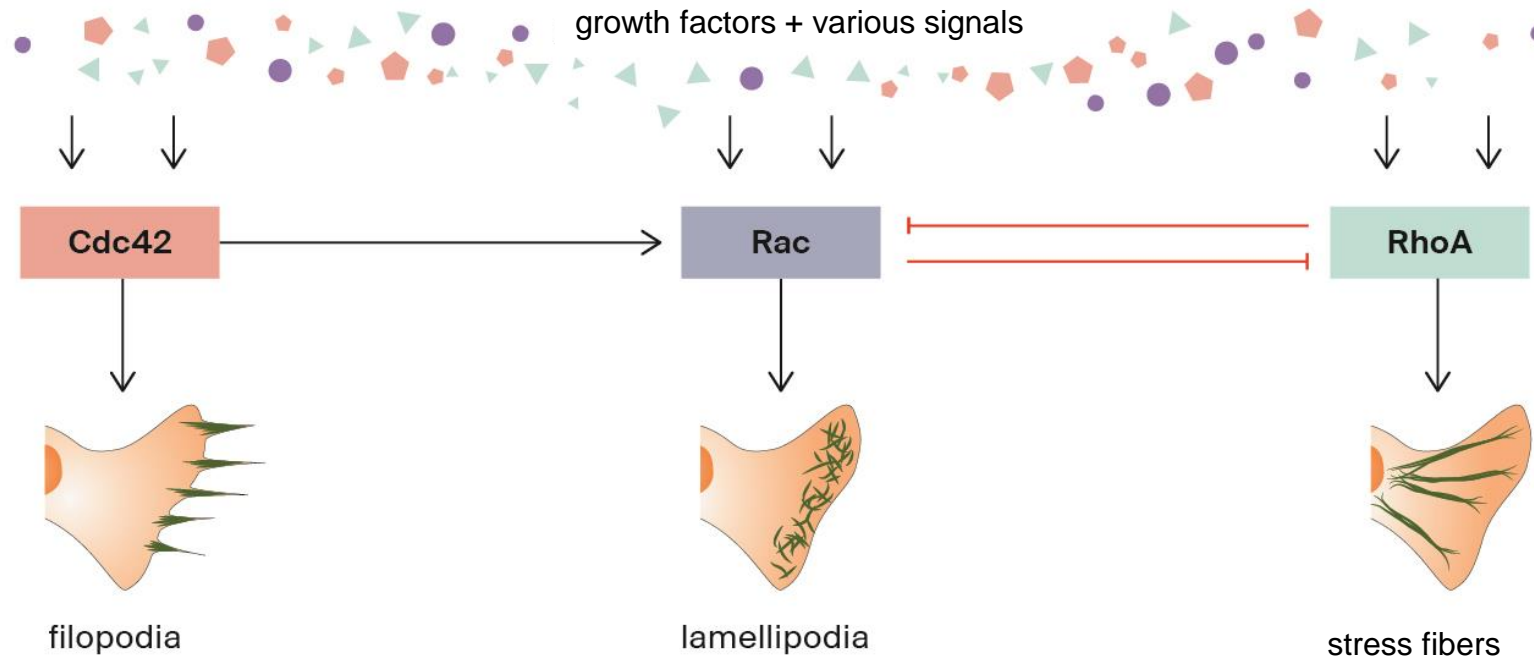
## Key switches: Rho, Rac molecules

*Rac1 = Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate*

*RhoA = Transforming protein RhoA*

2018 Raudenská

<https://www.lekarskeknihy.cz/produkt/109803-vybrane-kapitoly-z-bunecne-fyziologie/>

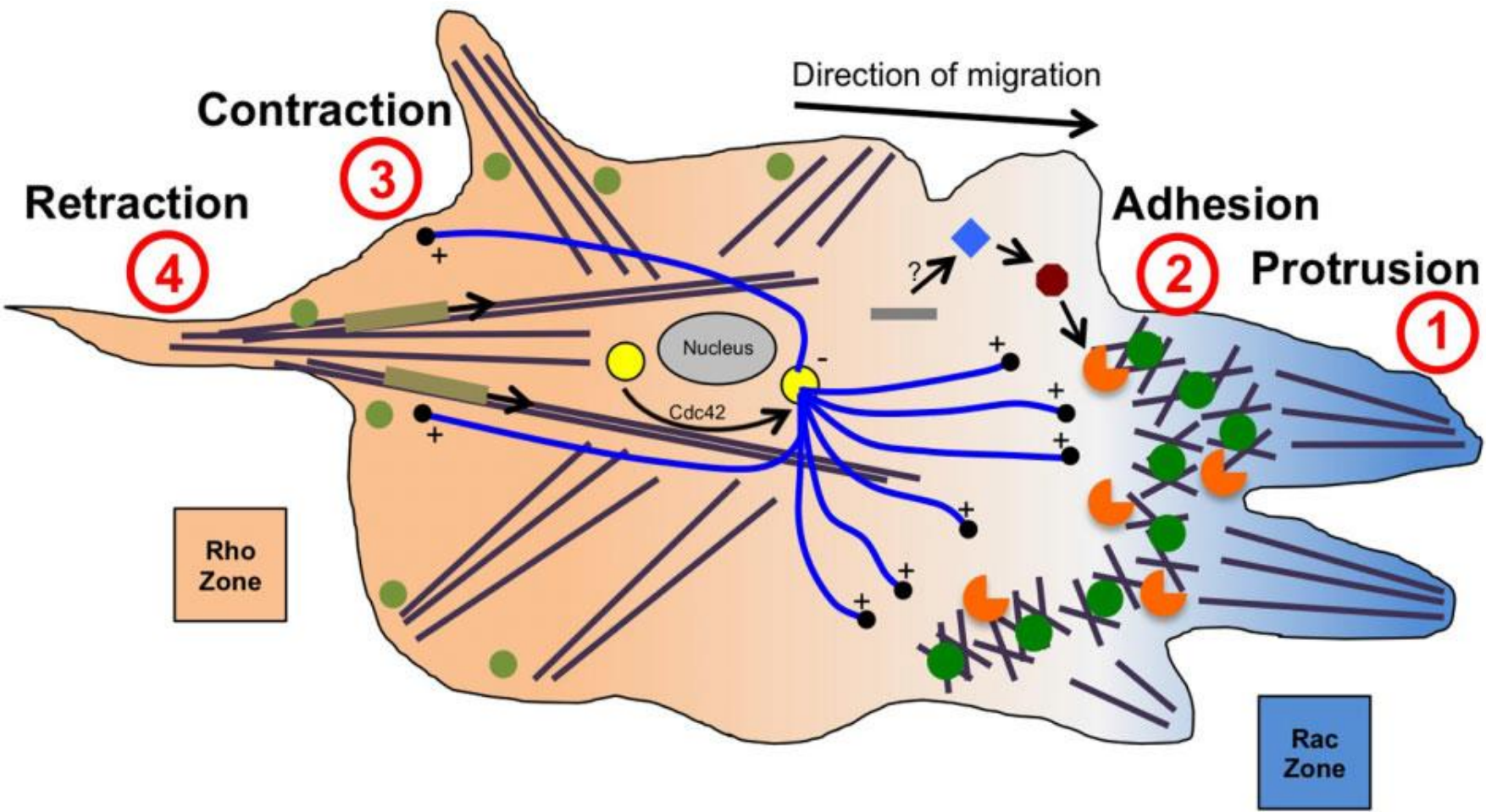


**Location of movement structures in the mesenchymal type of movement.**

Formation of structures enabling cell movement is significantly regulated by the activity of **small GTPase** from the Rho family

- Rac1 = Ras-related C3 botulinum toxin substrate 1,
- Cdc42 = Cell division control protein 42 homolog
- RhoA = Transforming protein RhoA

2018 Raudenská  
<https://www.lekarskeknihy.cz/produkt/109803-vybrane-kapitoly-z-bunecne-fyziologie/>



**4 steps of migration:**  
**protrusion, adhesion,**  
**contraction, retraction.**

**F-actin**

- short, branched F-actin at the leading edge
- long, unbranched F-actin stress fibres at the rear

**Microtubules** with ends emanating from the **MTOC**

**Strong** and **weak** focal adhesions

The gradients of active **Rho** and **Rac**

	Strong focal adhesions		Stathmin		Microtubules
	Weak focal adhesions		ROCK		Long unbranched F-actin
	MTOC		LIMK		Short branched F-actin
	Myosin II		Cofilin/ADF		End-binding protein 1

# Cytoskeleton is a highly dynamic structure

visualization of **static (artificially stabilised)** and **dynamic** actin filaments by co-imaging SiR-actin (green) and LifeAct (magenta).

<https://twitter.com/joachimgoedhart/status/1402234543646679042>



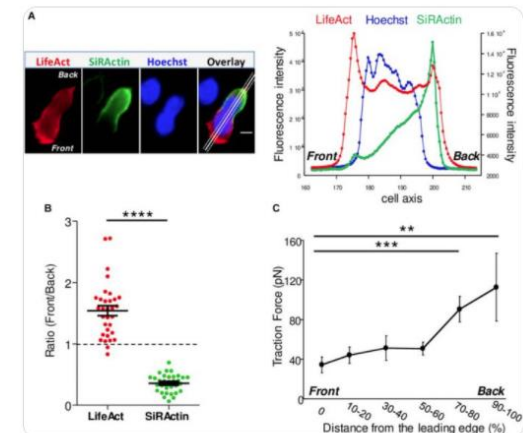
Joachim Goedhart  
@joachimgoedhart

Here's a cool trick that I hadn't seen before: visualization of static and dynamic actin filaments by co-imaging SiR-actin (green) and LifeAct (red).

Thoughts?

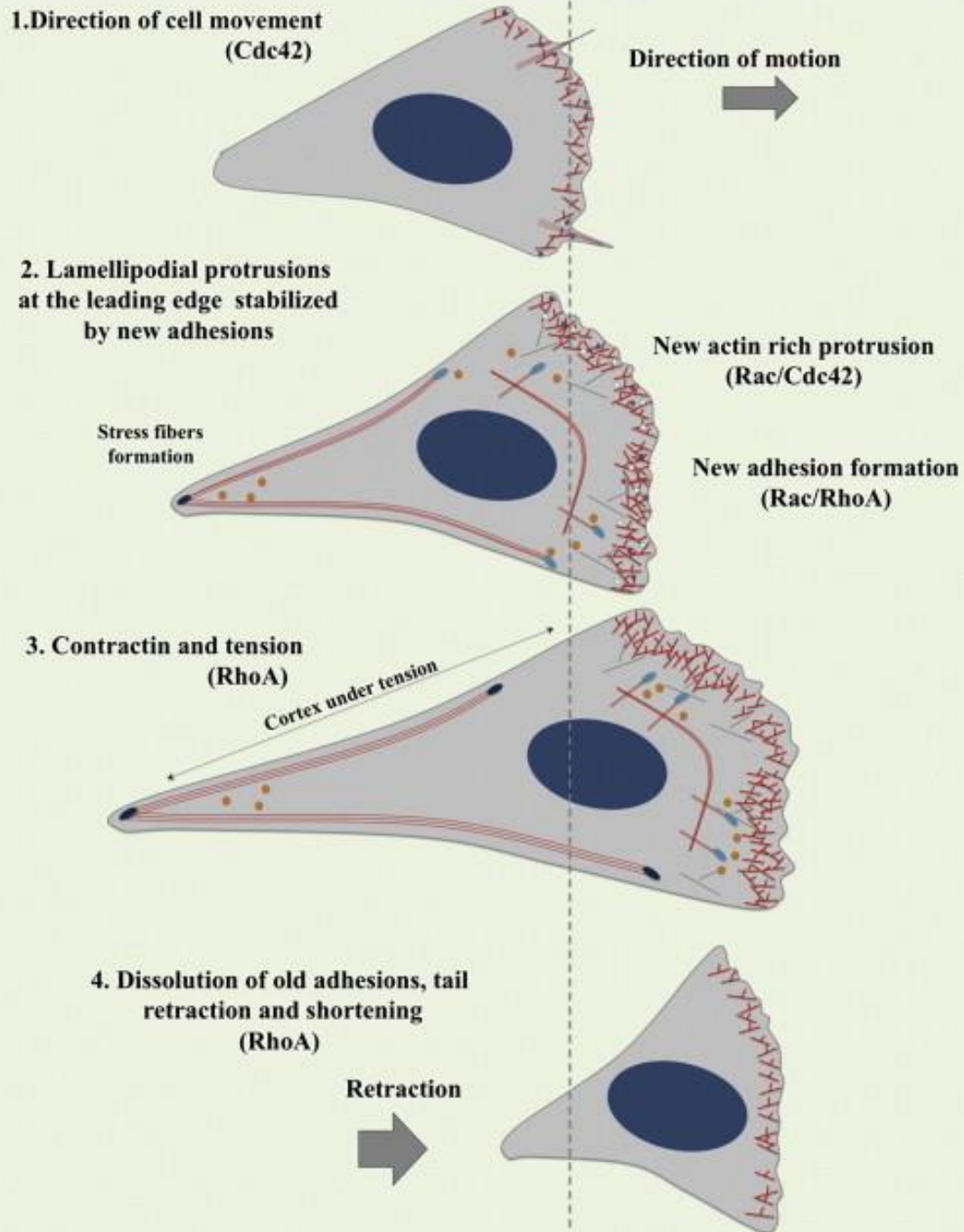
Figure from this paper: [frontiersin.org/articles/10.33...](https://frontiersin.org/articles/10.33...)

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2:02 odp. · 8. 6. 2021 · Twitter Web App

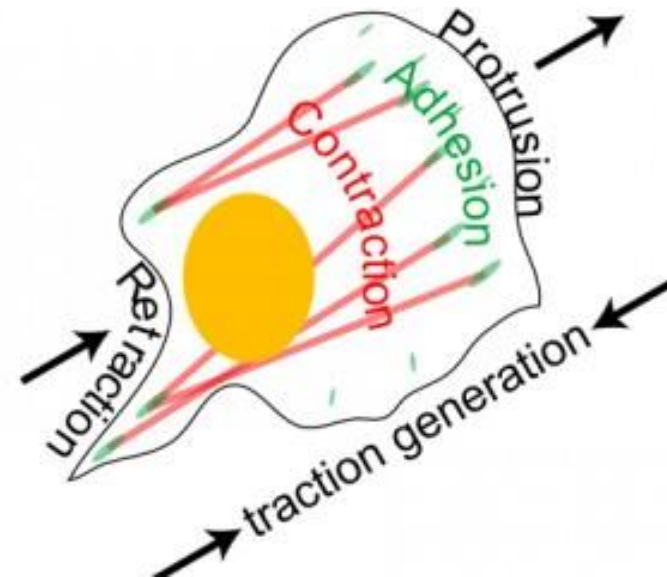
10 Retweetů · 1 Citovat Tweet · 47 Lajků

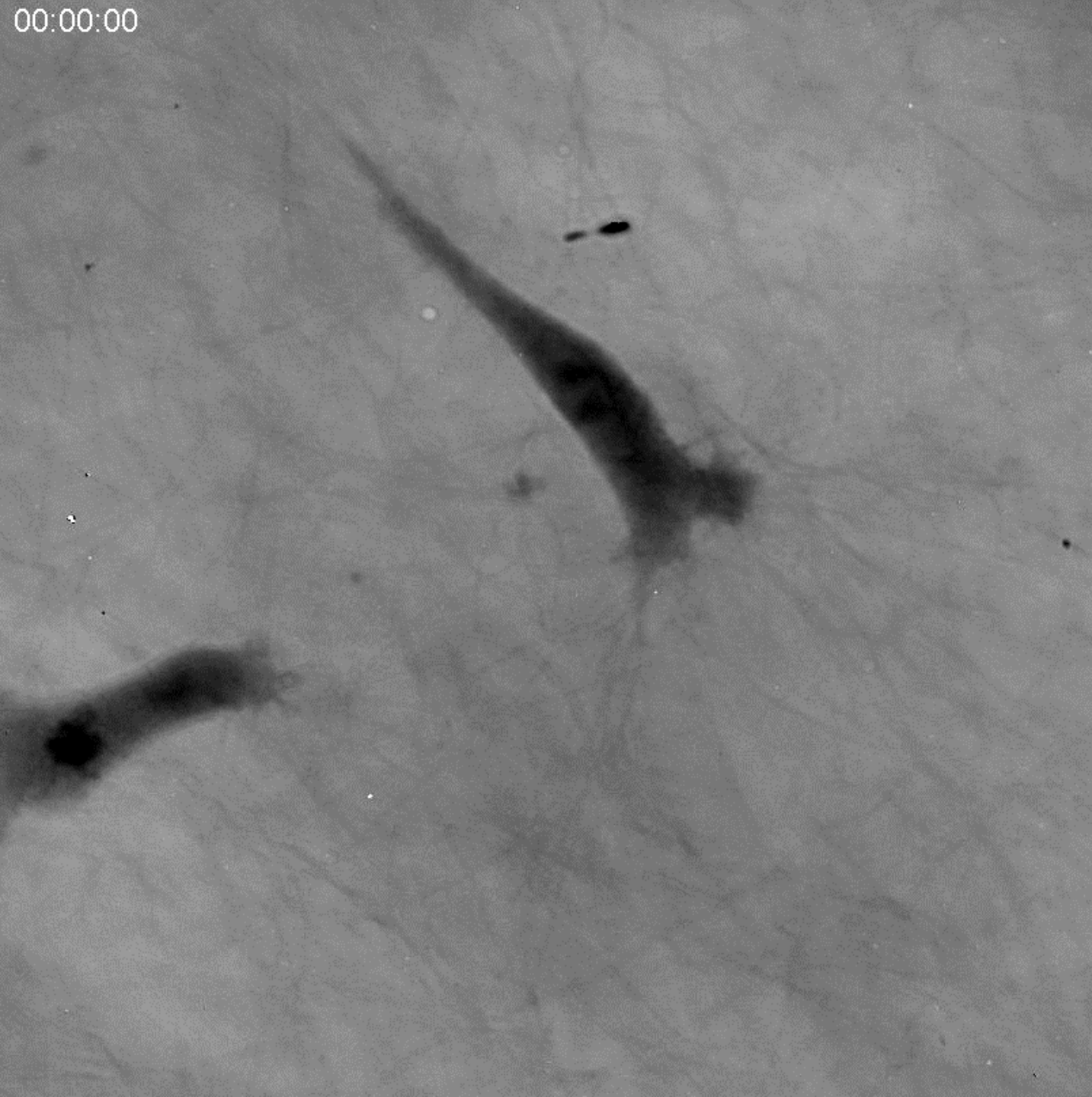


## Rho GTPases in the cell motility cycle.

1. A migratory cell enters the cell motility cycle in response to a chemoattractant signal.
2. **Cdc42** determines the **direction** of motion.
3. **Rac** induces the formation of actin-rich **lamellopodial** protrusion at the leading edge.
4. New protrusion is stabilized by the formation of new adhesions to the underlying substratum, a process controlled mainly by Rac and RhoA .
5. **Rho** acts at the rear end leading to the formation of **stress fibers** and actin–myosin contractility providing **tension** for the cell to retract its tail and move forward.

2013 Hanna <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cellsig.2013.04.009>





A migration of mesenchymal cell within collagen matrix. Cells were embedded within bovine collagen gel (1mg/ml) and observed using CCHM.

Tolde 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-30408-7>

### **Mesenchymal characteristics**

- elongated morphology
- pseudopodial protrusions
- adhesion to substrate

generates coordinated action of MMPs and actomyosin machinery „paving the way“

### **Pseudopodial migration**

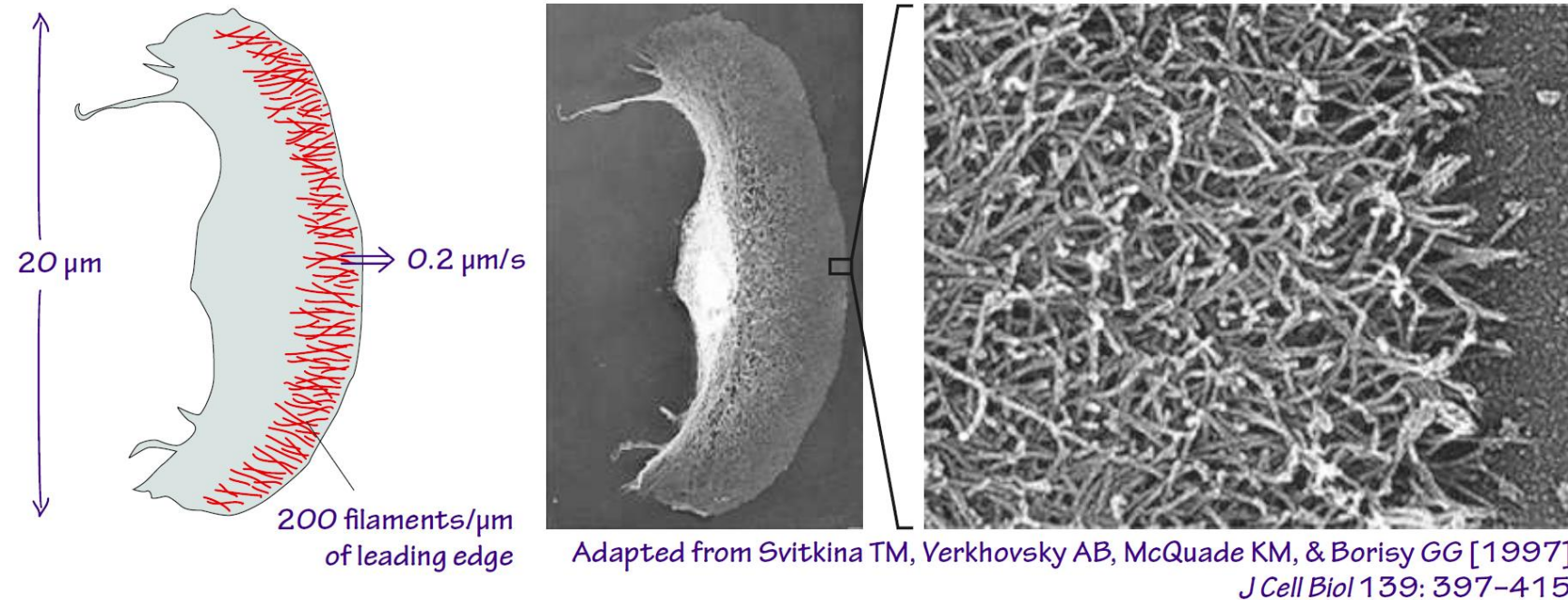
- **filopodial, lamellipodial** or other migration relying on protrusions driven by **actin polymerisation**

follower cells are MMP-independent

Paul 2017 <https://www.nature.com/articles/nrc.2016.123>

Paul 2017

## How much ATP is required for actin-driven motility?

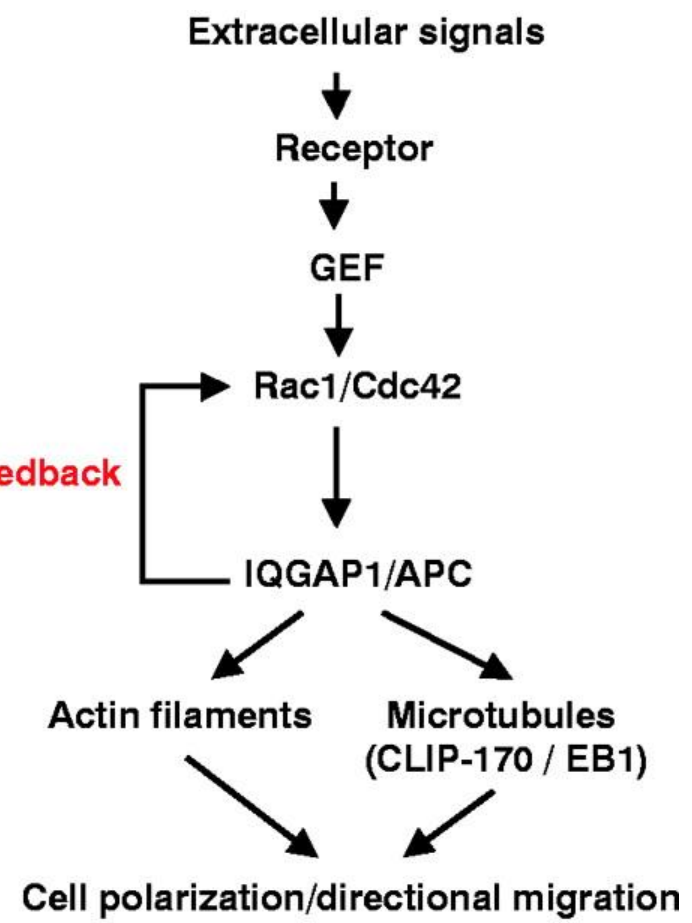
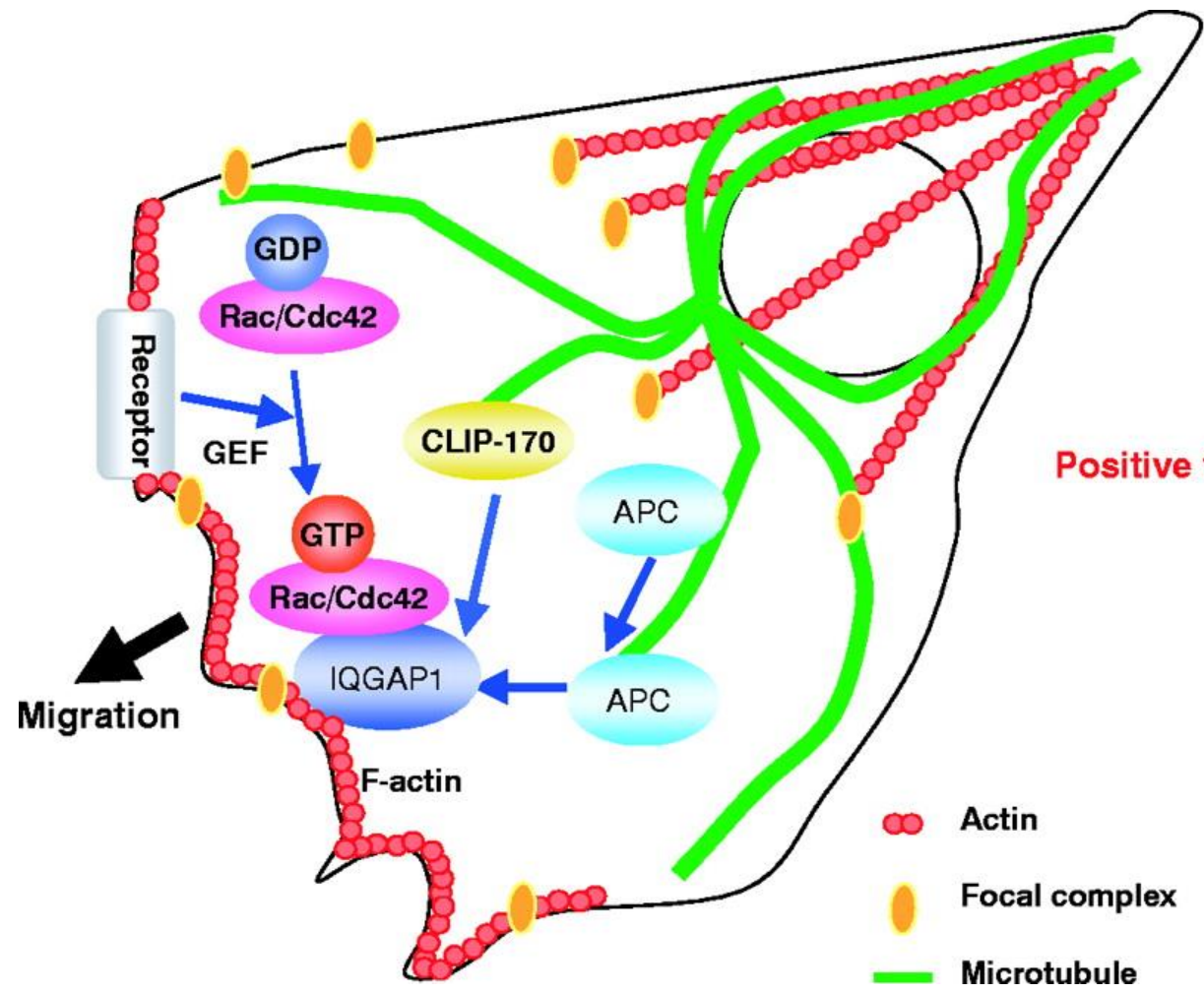


- actin filaments in moving goldfish epithelial keratocytes polymerize at the same rate that the cell moves—about 0.2  $\mu\text{m/s}$
- each filament must grow by about 100 monomers/s to support motility, which costs  $\approx 100$  ATP per polymerizing filament per second
- Lamellipodium is about 20  $\mu\text{m}$  long and contains roughly 200 actin filaments per micron
- this value turns out to be a **very minor ATP requirement** (cells produce  $10^9$  ATP/second)

$$\text{actin polymerization rate} = 0.2 \mu\text{m/s} \times \frac{1000 \text{ nm}}{1 \mu\text{m}} \times \frac{2 \text{ monomers}}{5 \text{ nm}} \approx \frac{100 \text{ monomers}}{\text{s} \times \text{filament}}$$

$$\text{ATP requirement} = 20 \mu\text{m} \times \frac{200 \text{ filaments}}{1 \mu\text{m}} \times \frac{100 \text{ monomers}}{\text{s} \times \text{filament}} \times \frac{1 \text{ ATP}}{\text{monomer}} \approx 4 \times 10^5 \text{ ATP/s}$$

Milo et al., *Cell biology by Numbers*, 2016, p.202





00:00:00



Translocation of an **amoeboid cell** through a narrow pore. An amoeboid cell embedded in rat-tail collagen (1 mg/ml) was observed using CCHM. This video demonstrates the dynamic cell body deformation during invasion through a narrow pore

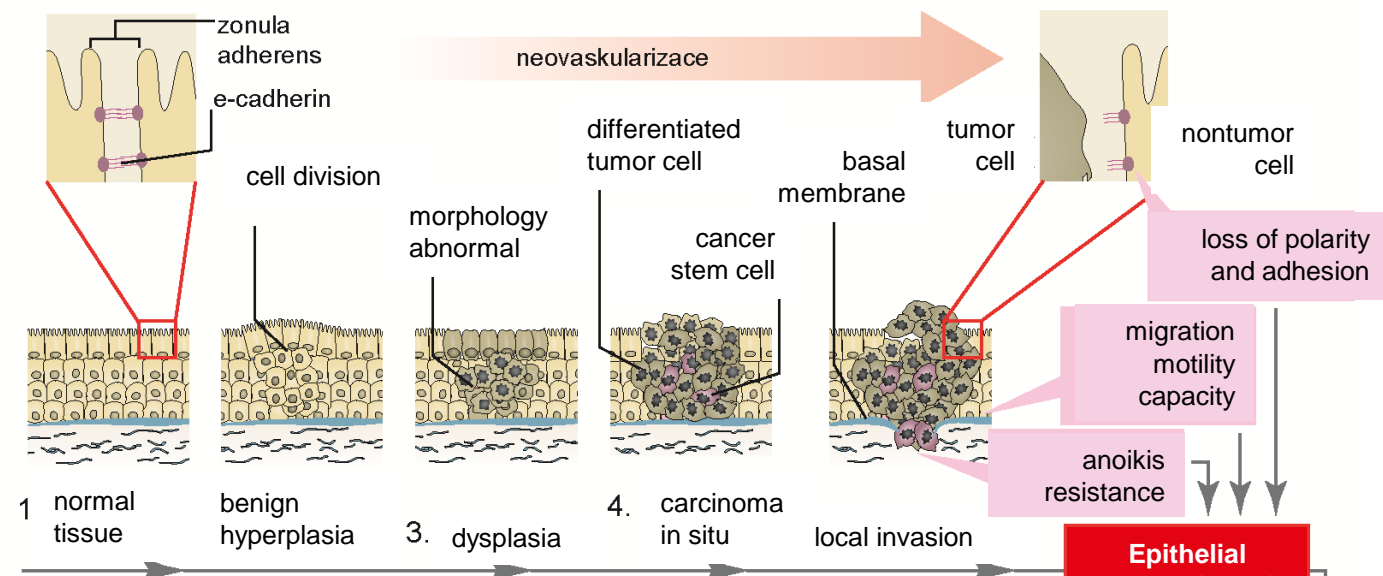
Tolde 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-30408-7>

**MUNI**  
**MED**

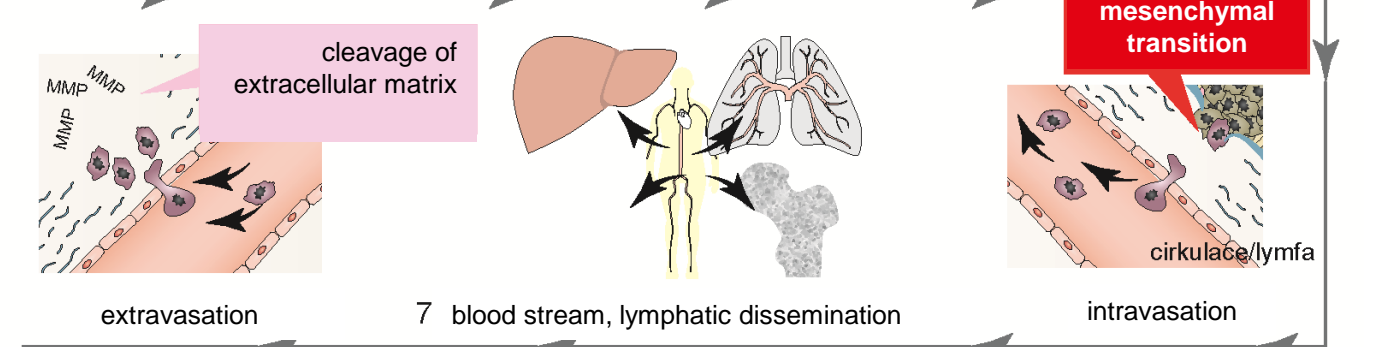
# Disorders associated with impaired cytoskeleton

- Tumor diseases
  - Metastasis is responsible for the greatest number of cancer deaths

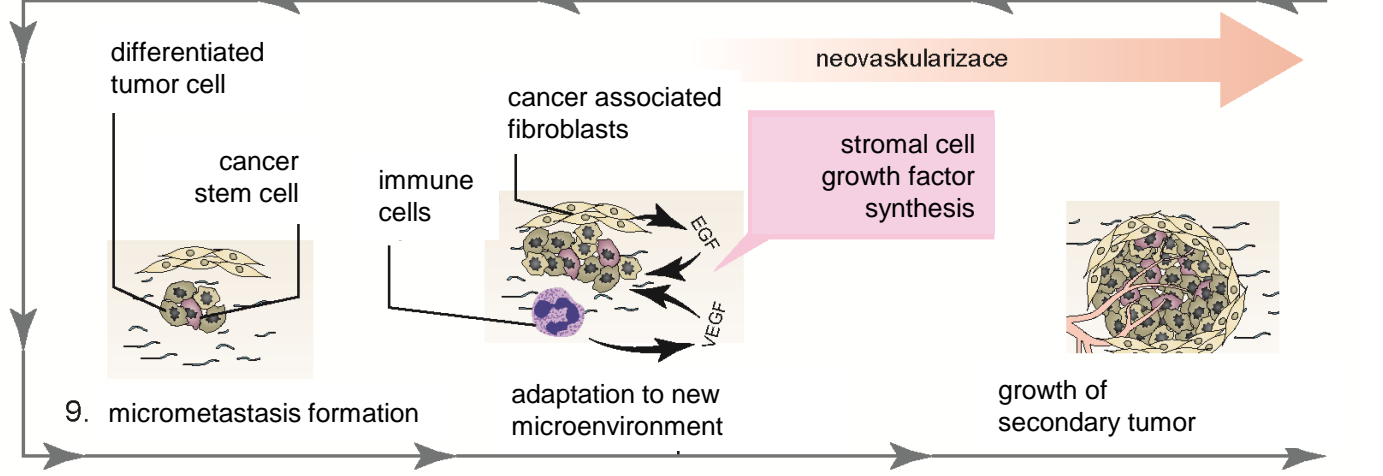
primary tumor



dissemination

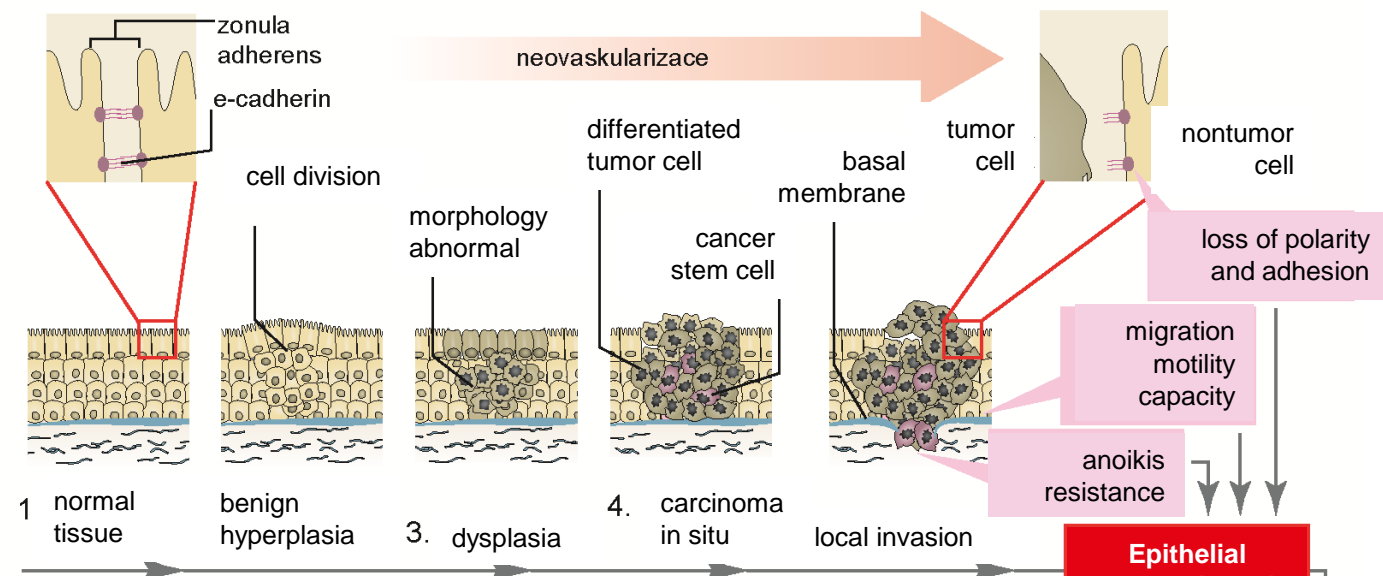


secondary tumor

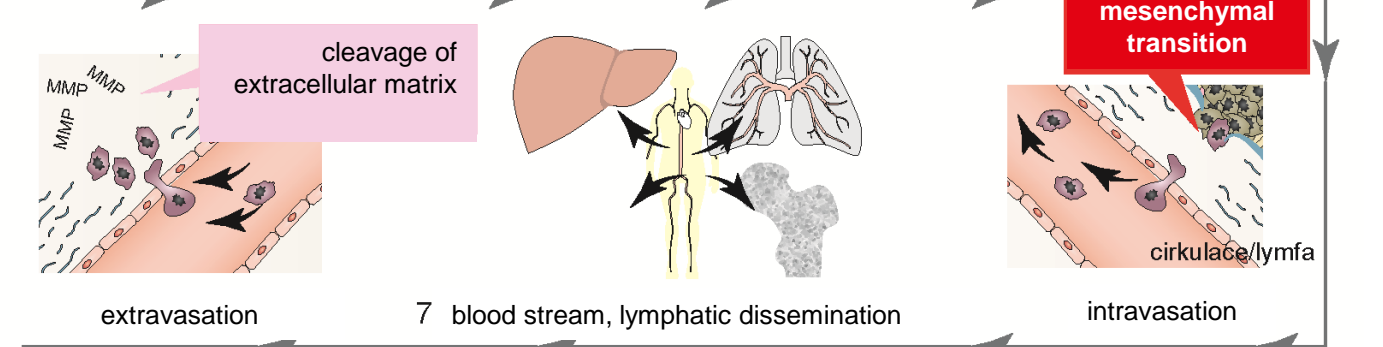


- Metastatic disease, or the movement of cancer cells from one site to another, is a **complex process requiring dramatic remodelling of the cell cytoskeleton.**
- For cancer cells to metastasize, they must successfully complete all of the steps of the **metastatic cascade.**

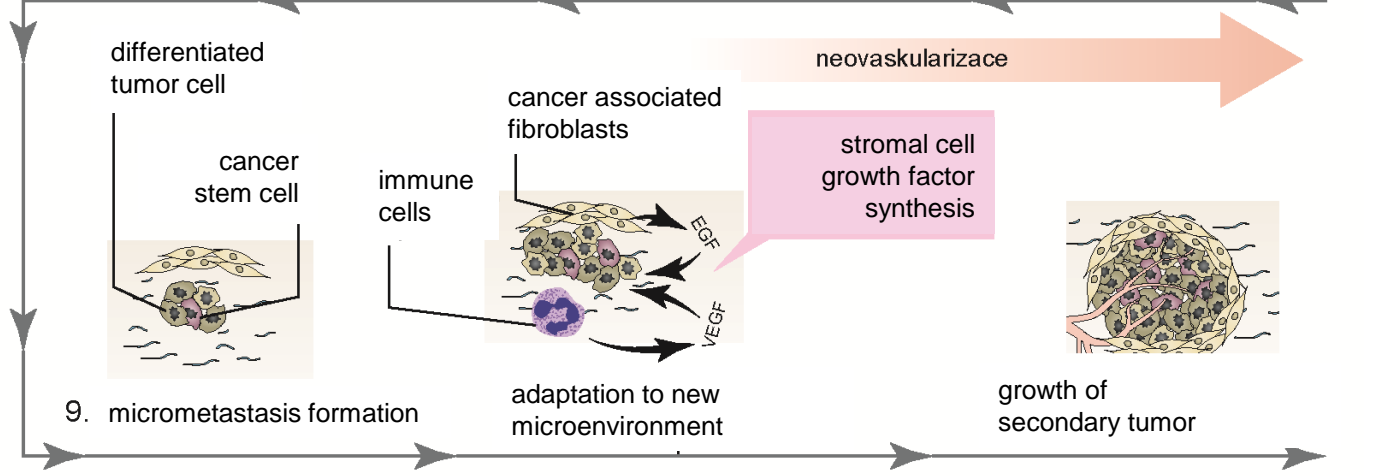
primary tumor



dissemination



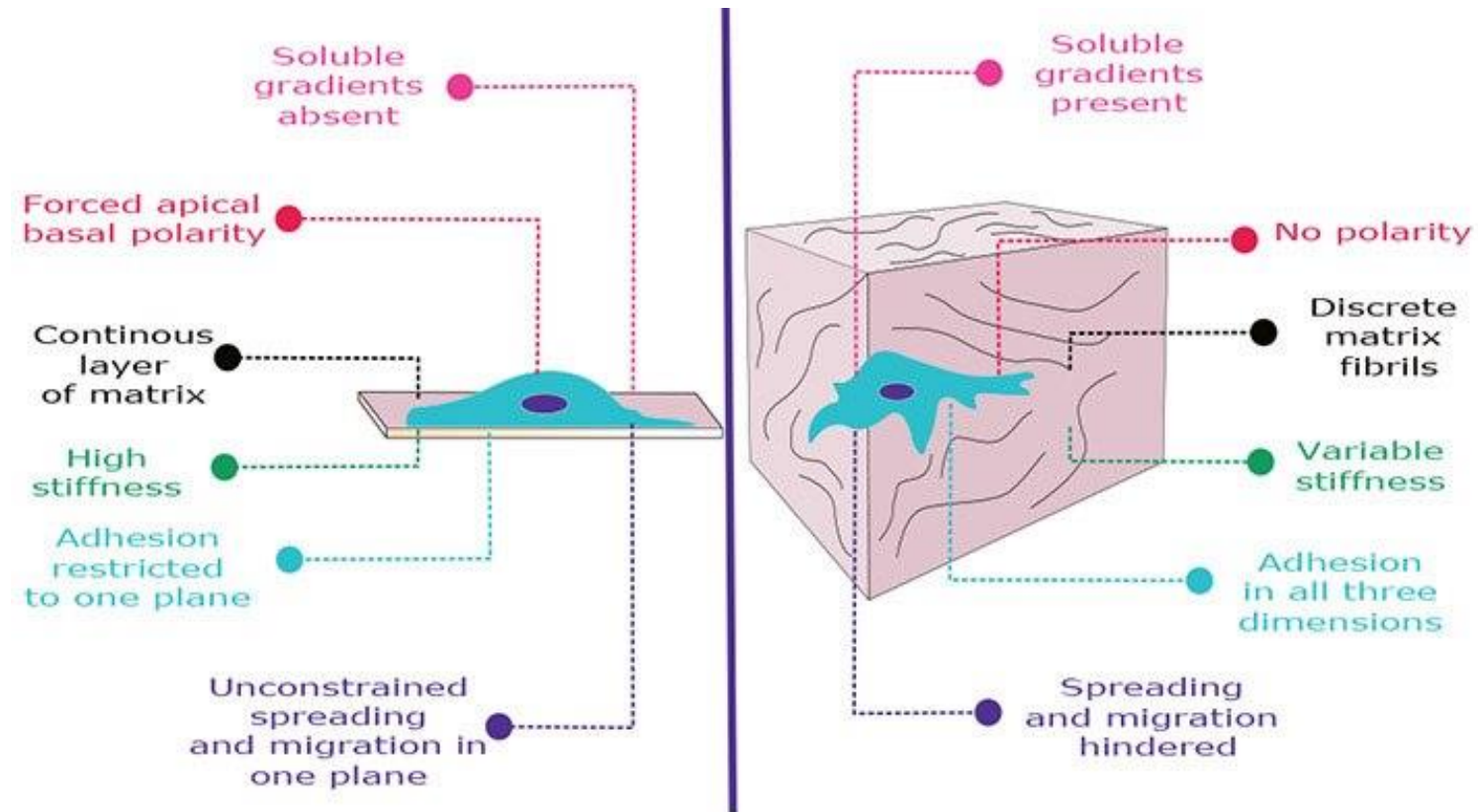
secondary tumor



- Cancer cells in the **primary tumour** **acquire the ability to detach** from the primary tumour and migrate through the surrounding ECM and stroma.
- Degradation of the vascular basement membrane and travel across the endothelium, termed **intravasation**.
- Tumour cells transport through the vasculature, arrest in a capillary bed and cross the vasculature (termed **extravasation**).
- Disseminated cells **grow and interact** with the extracellular environment to form metastatic tumours.

# 2D vs 3D

- Migration in unconfined 2D surfaces X in confined spaces
- migration in confining microenvironments not predicted by 2D assays



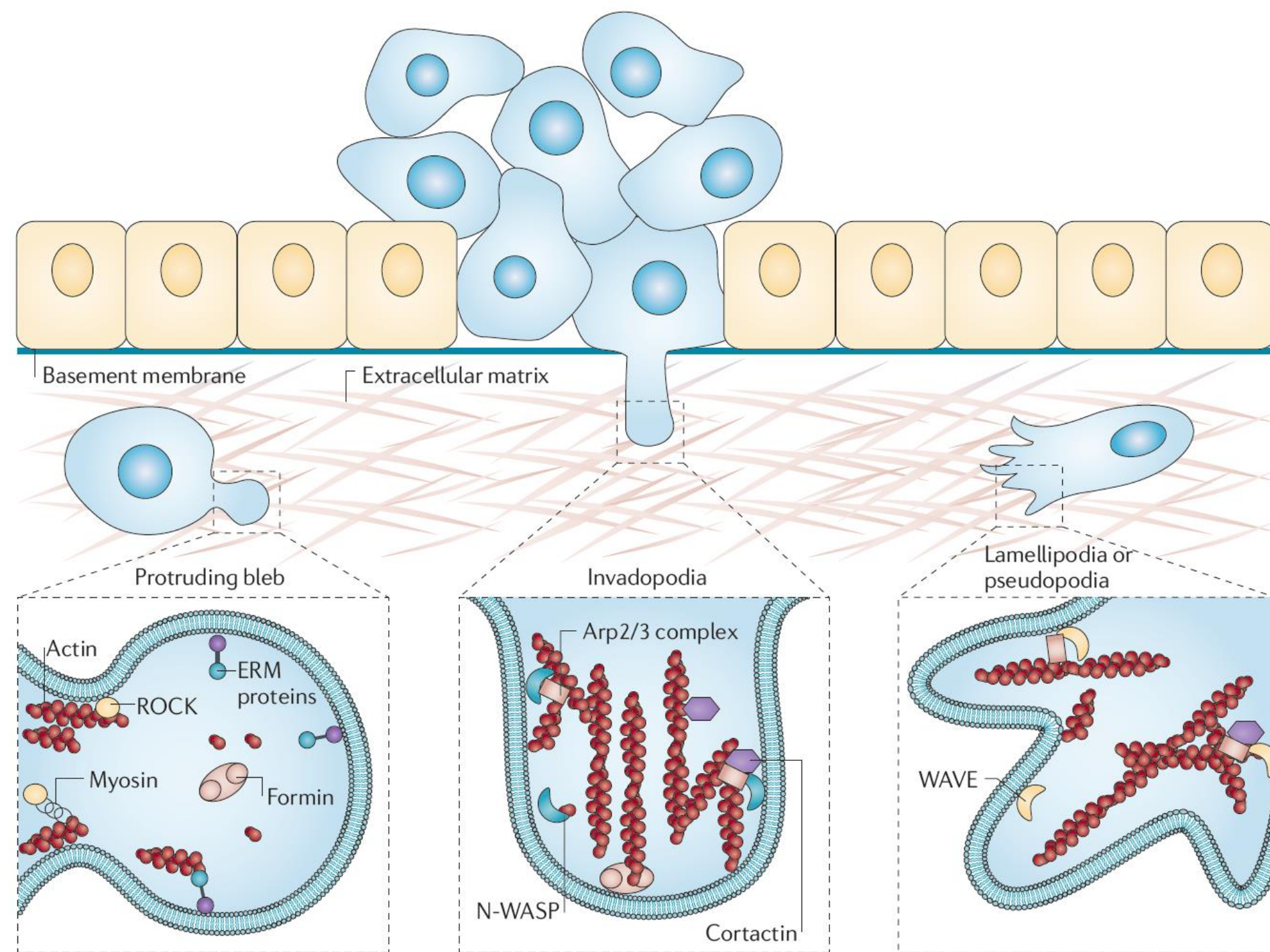
# Migration and invasion of cells

- Metastasis regulated by biochemical and mechanical cues of **microenvironment**
- Decreased cell adhesion → enhanced invasive capacity
- Migration subject to fluctuations due alteration of
  - cytoskeleton,
  - matrix mechanics,
  - organelle mechanics

## Typical protrusive structures in invasive cancer cells

- Cancer formation of structures:
- **plasma membrane blebs, invadopodia or pseudopodia**
- **actin-dependent**
- Nonapoptotic blebs are highly dynamic protrusions in which the plasma membrane bulks out owing to increased hydrostatic pressure on regions of **weak** cortical actin.

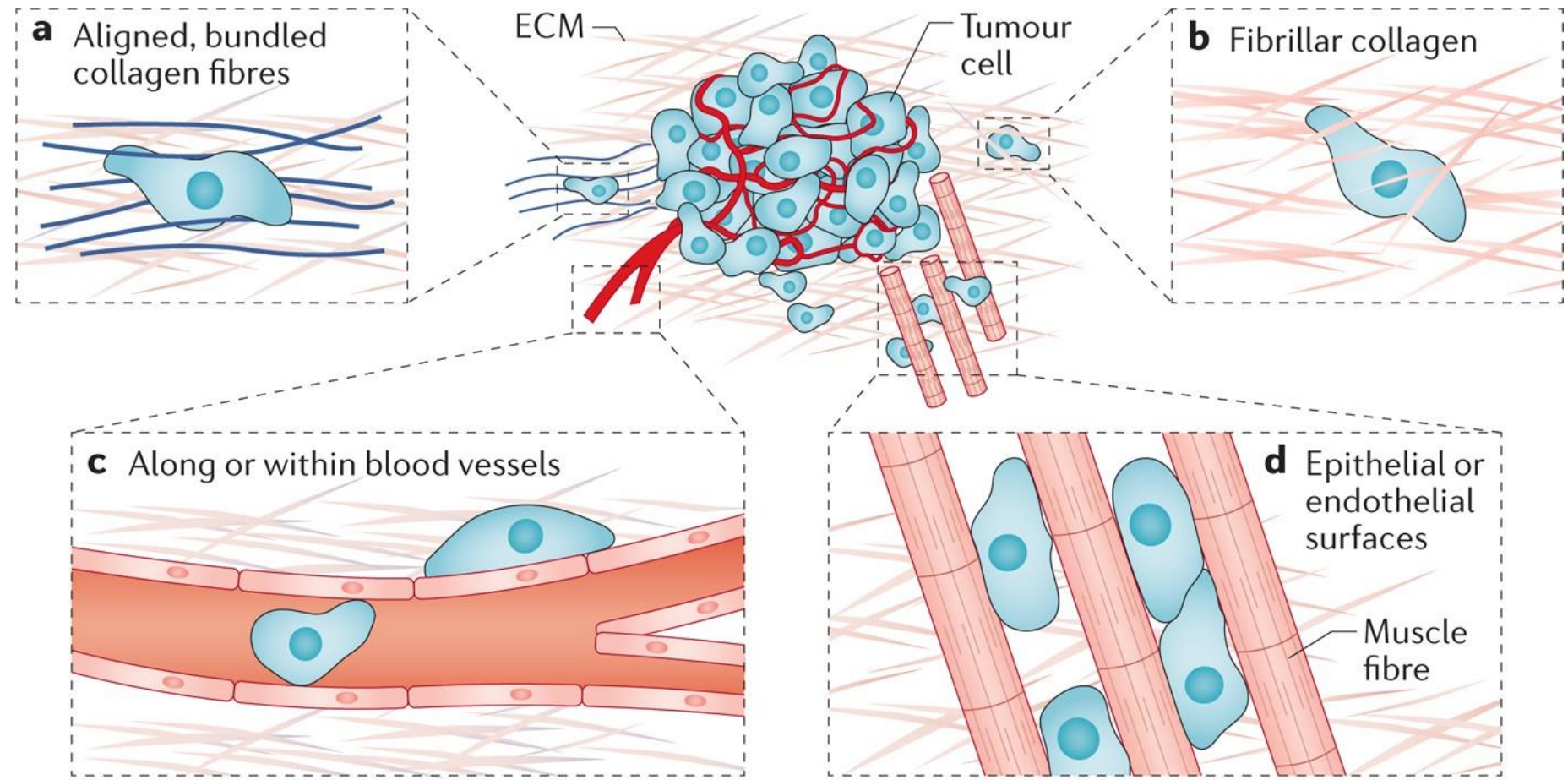
– :10.1038/nrc3003



# Migration through confining tracks

- endogeneous: features of tissues
- made by tumors/tumour associated cells
  
- types of migration
- 2dx3d





**Cancer cell migration occur in pre-defined paths.**

**ECM alignment provides migration cues**

collagen alignment and bundling at tumour periphery provide cues for directed migration.

unbundled ECM (fibrillar collagen), which present pore-like migration spaces

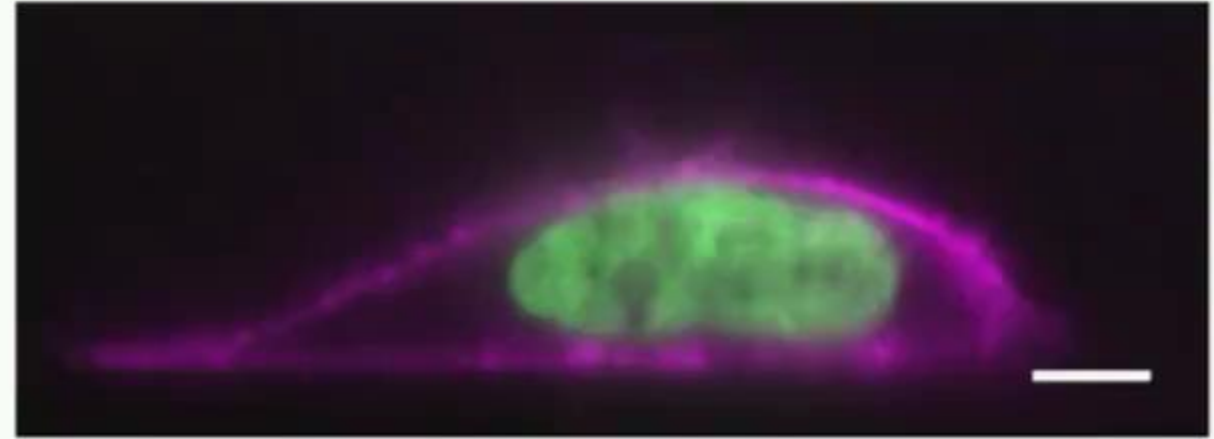
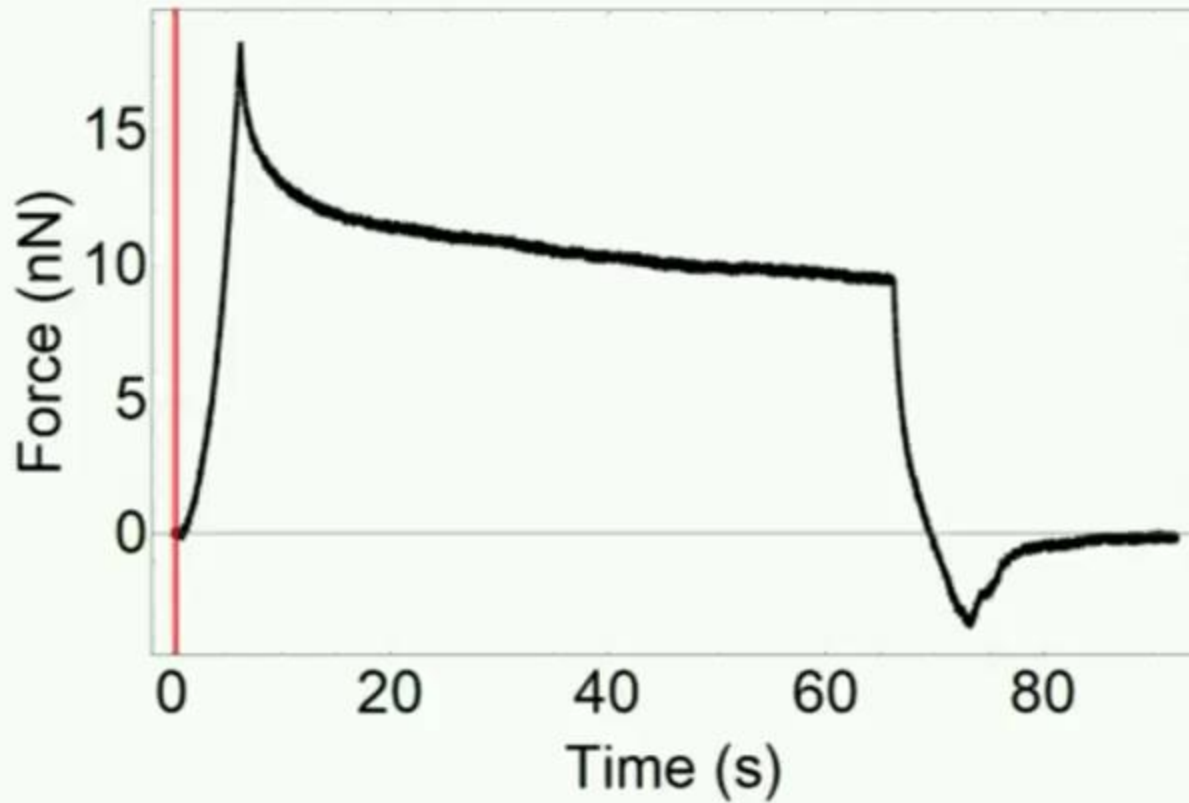
Microtracks intravascularly and perivascularly

between epithelial or endothelial surfaces (eg between muscle and nerve fibres).

Paul 2017, <https://www.nature.com/articles/nrc.2016.123>

# Physical limits for migration

- Nuclear size and stiffness control confined migration
- as confinement increases, deformation and squeezing is challenging
  - knockdown of lamin A, (component of the nuclear lamina) decreases nuclear stiffness and enhances the transmigration
  - progerin (a mutant form of lamin A) increases nuclear stiffness and suppresses confined cell migration



### **Nucleus stiffness. lamin A/C as limitin factor in migration**

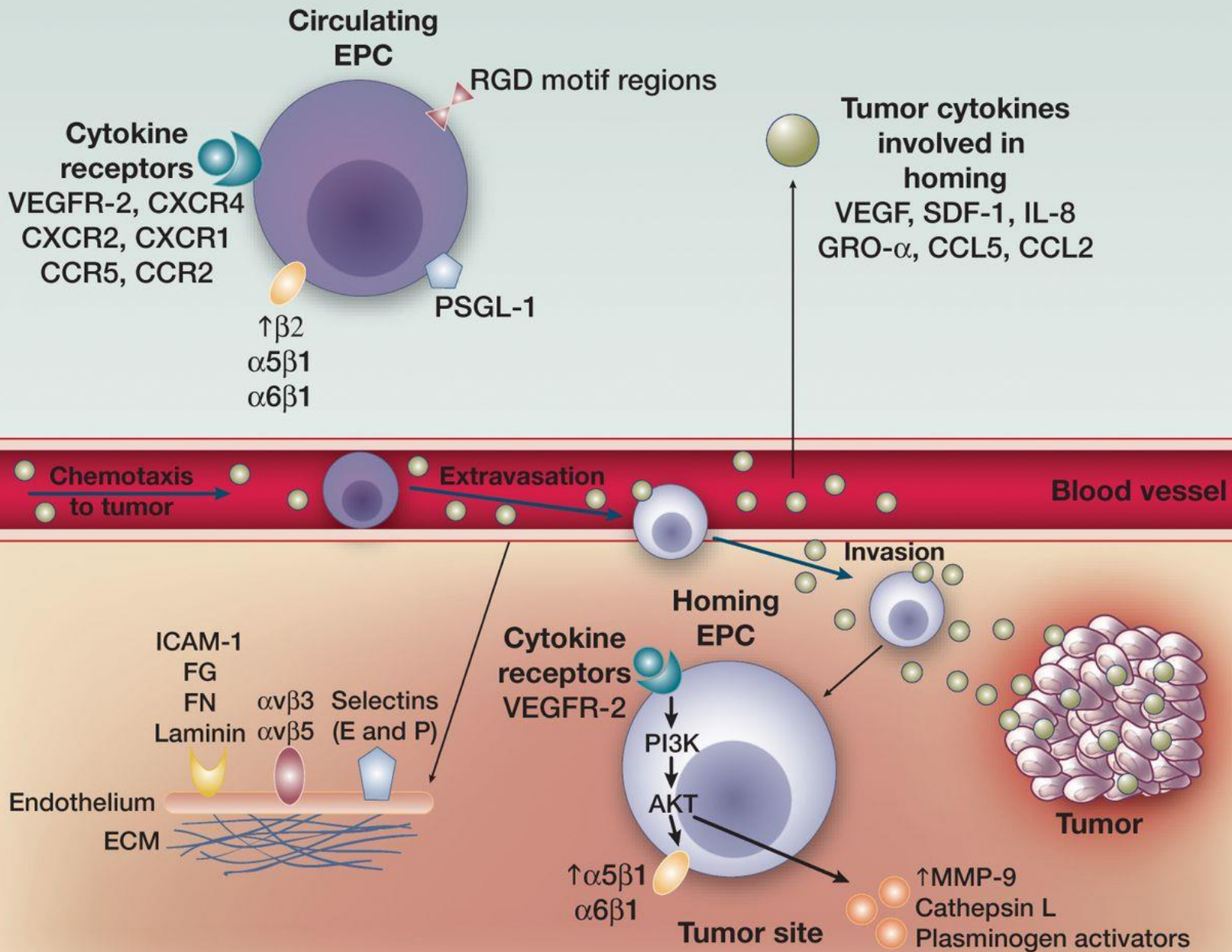
We use combined AFM and side-view SPIM to study how forces correlate with nuclear shape change under compression in live cells. [https://twitter.com/C\\_M\\_Hobson/status/1227278696798539777](https://twitter.com/C_M_Hobson/status/1227278696798539777)

[Hobson 2020 https://doi.org/10.1091/mbc.E20-01-0073](https://doi.org/10.1091/mbc.E20-01-0073)

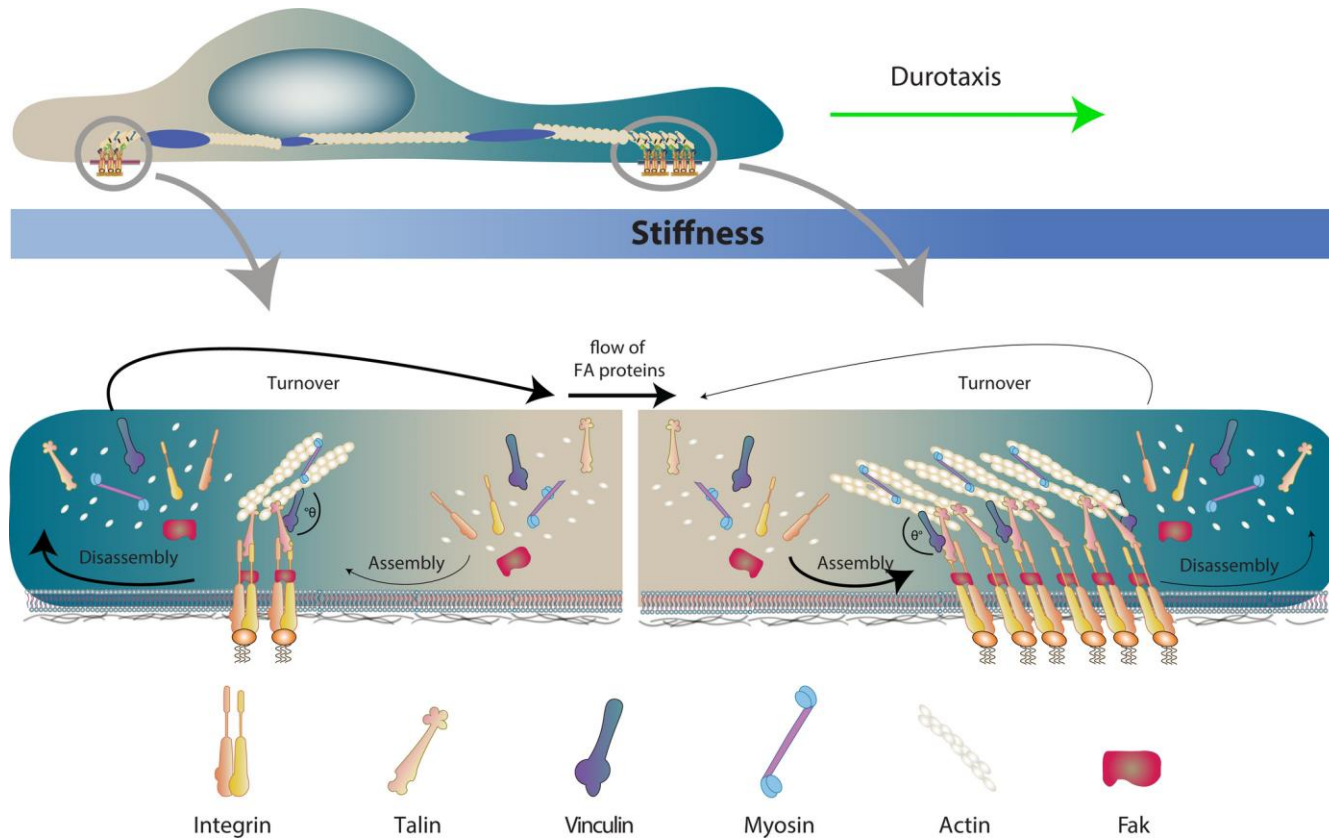
# Homing of Endothelial Progenitor Cells to tumor

Cells migrate to tumor in a **chemotaxis response** to tumor-secreted cytokines (VEGF, IL-8, CCL5, and others) which interact with their respective receptors

de la Puente 2013 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-13-0462



# Durotaxis: mechanosensing and transduction in action

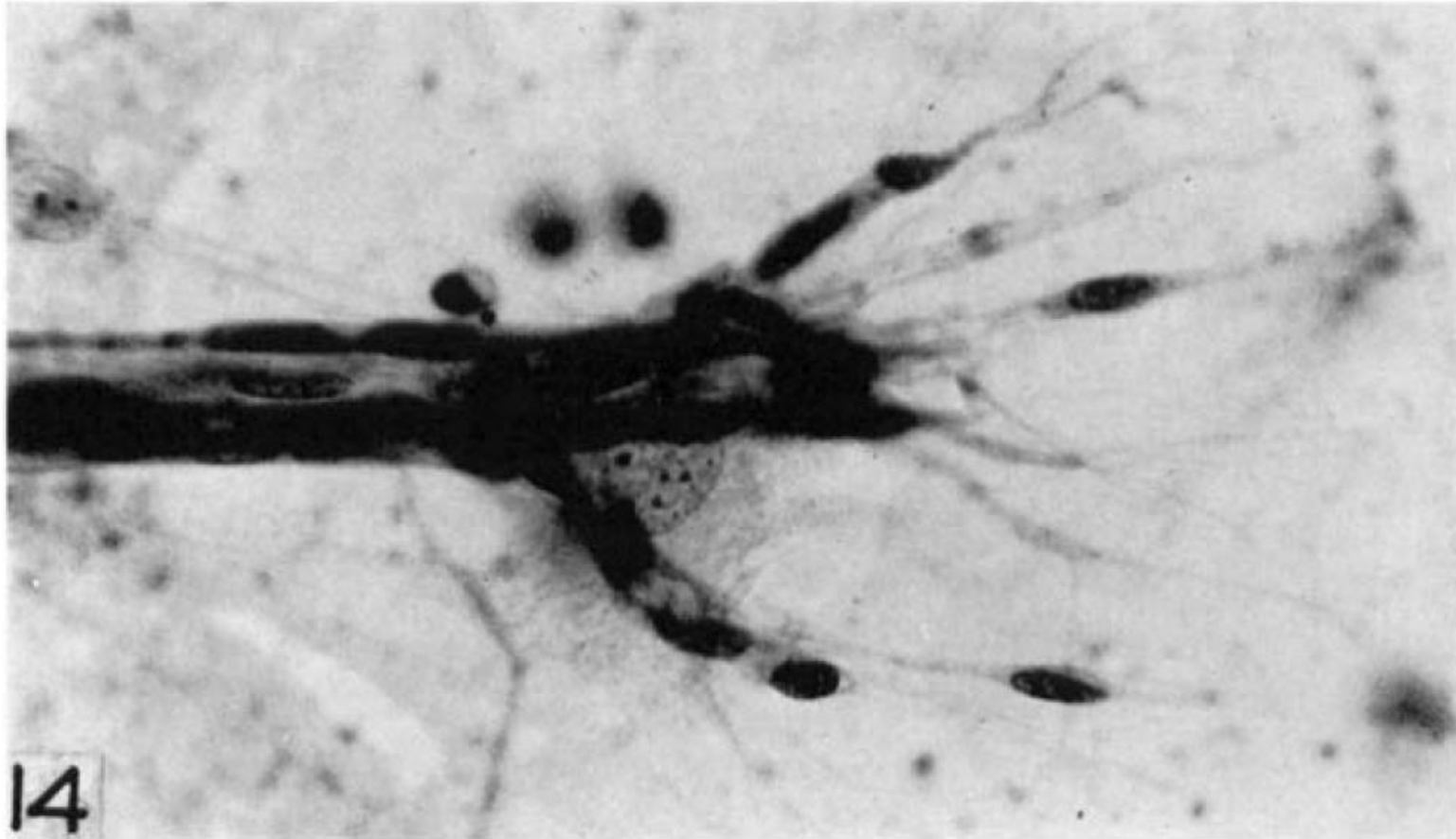


**directed cell motility in response to gradients in substrate rigidity**

- Filopodia - affinity for stiffer ECM
  - ECM stiffness favor migration and attract movement to stiffer parts of ECM)
  - explain migration to vasculature: **tumor-associated vessels stiffer than nontumor**

**Gradient cause asymmetry in cells**

- front: higher rigidity → ↑ FA assembly → larger FA
- rear: the softer substrate → FA disassembly.
- net flow of FA proteins to the leading edge → mature FAs in front promote **protrusion extension and establish the direction of migration** to the stiffer regions of the substrate.

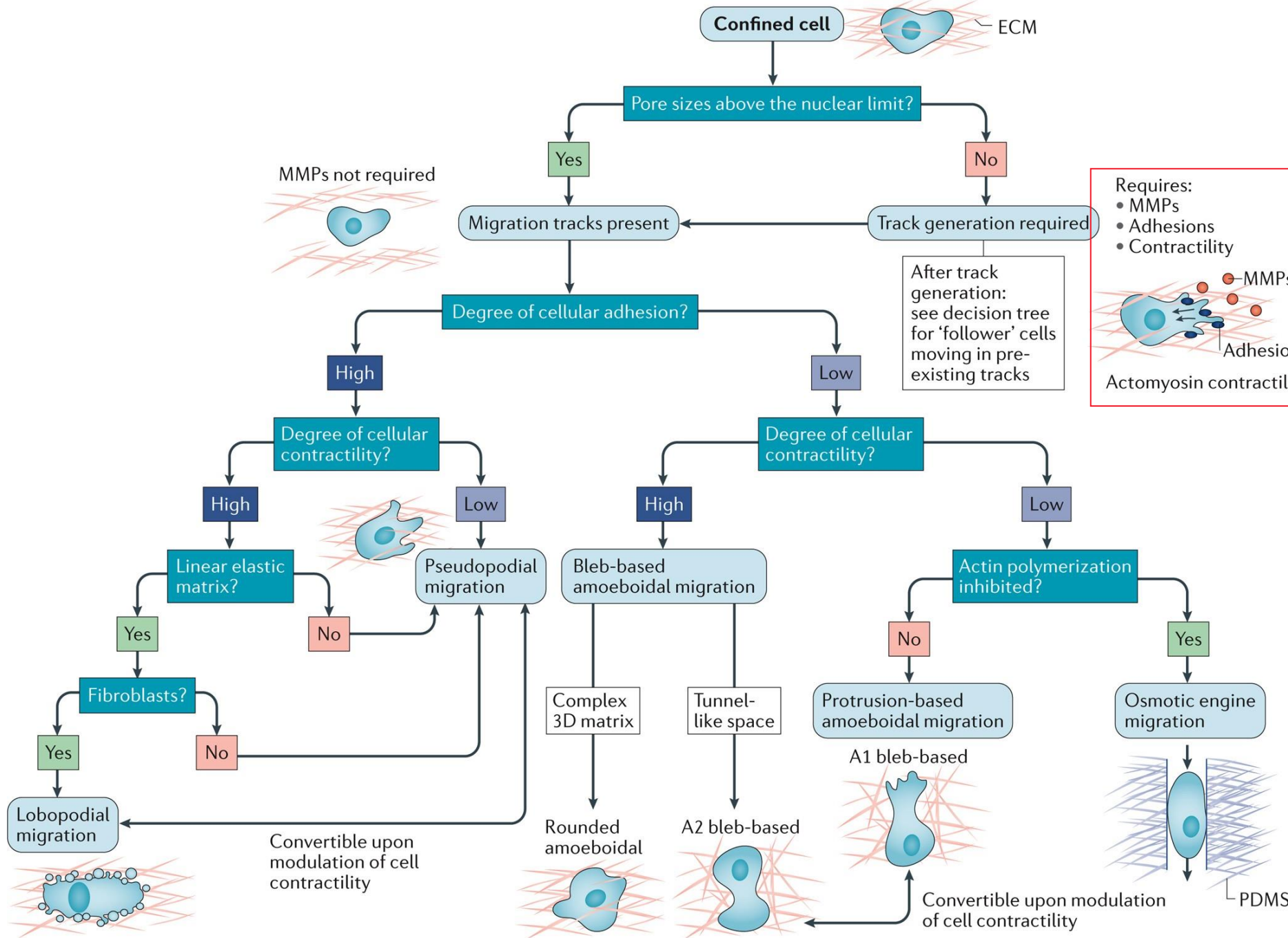


## Contact guidance

- orientation of cells and stress fibers influenced by geometrical patterns of stroma
- directed cell migration/orientation based on microenvironment alignment

1945 Weiss <https://doi.org/10.1002/jez.1401000305>

**Fig. 14** Passage of cells from glass fiber to plasma clot. Explant: rat nerve, 14 days pre-degenerated. Medium (clot): as in figure 9. Period of cultivation: 3 days.  $\times 530$ . Note numerous filopodial extensions of terminal cells into plasma clot; in a few instances, the main nucleated parts of the cell bodies have followed.



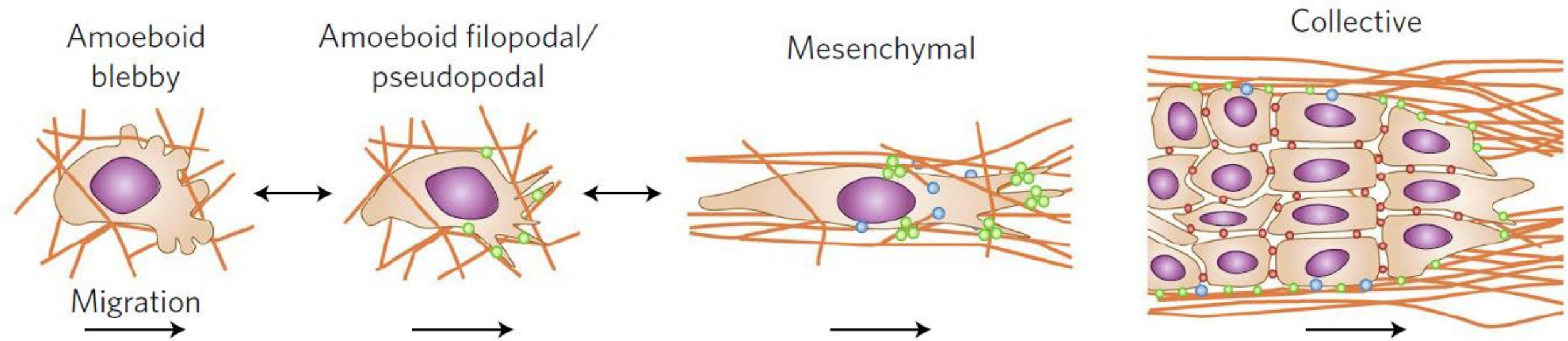
### intrinsic and extrinsic cues influence the migration

migrate proteolytically through the secretion of matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), which create microtracks for migration. **Follower cells** moving through these tracks and cells moving through microenvironments with pre-existing migration tracks use diverse migration mechanisms that depend on the levels of adhesion and cell contractility, and are thus dependent on both the cell and the microenvironment.

- **when cell adhesions** to the substrate are present, tumour cells migrate **using a pseudopodial-based mechanism that is dependent on protrusions.**
- when high contractility - fibroblasts move using a **lobopodial migration** mode.
- **low cellular adhesion** migrate using a bleb-based mode of **amoeboidal migration** dependent on high cortical contractility.
- contractility is inhibited, tumour cells may use a protrusion-based amoeboidal migration mode (A1 bleb-based migration) dependent on actin at the leading edge.
- absence of actin polymerization, cell movement is achievable through **front-to-rear flow of water through the cell** (which is termed osmotic engine migration).

Paul 2017 <https://www.nature.com/articles/nrc.2016.123>



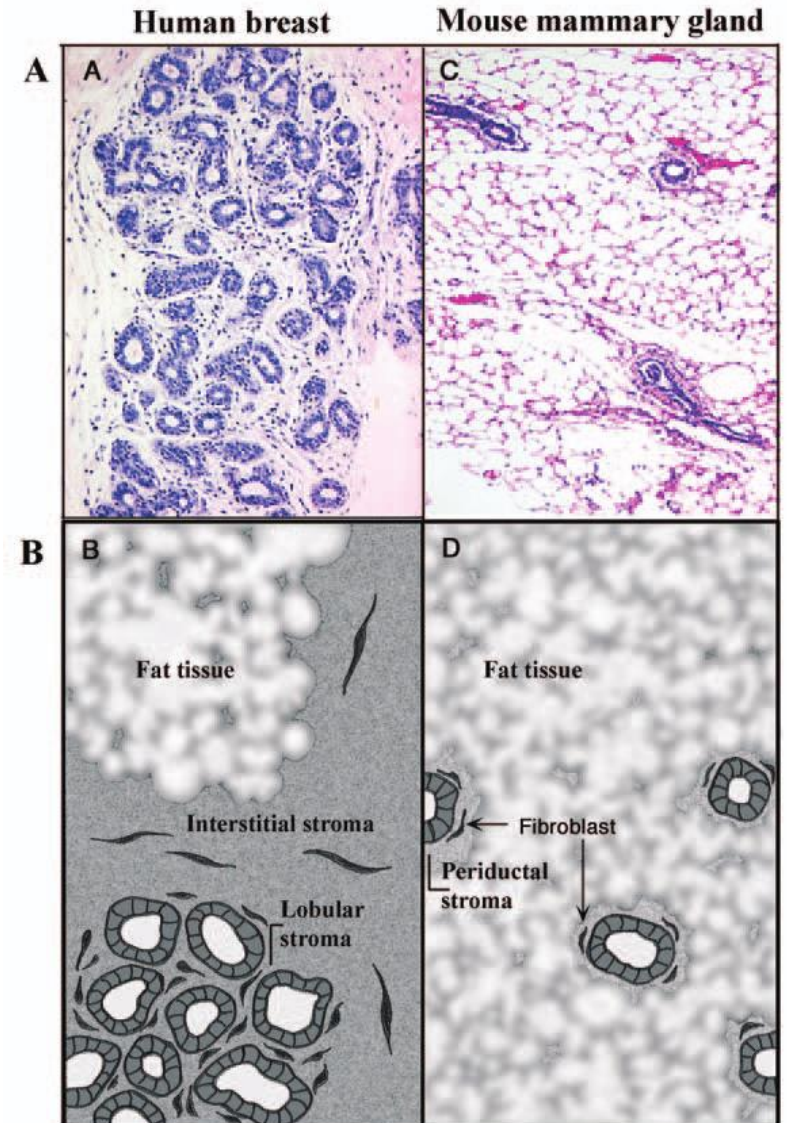


Cell migration modes in 3D environments, including single-cell and collective migration.

- F-actin
- Molecular and mechanical bonds to ECM
- Matrix degradation
- Cell-cell adhesion



- ability of cancer cells to invade via
  - MMP-independent **amoeboidal mode versus**
  - **an MMP-dependent** mesenchymal mode
  - may not solely be attributed to **cell-intrinsic properties**
  - but also to the **3D architecture of the local microenvironment.**
- mouse mammary gland: significantly less fibrous tissue than the corresponding human



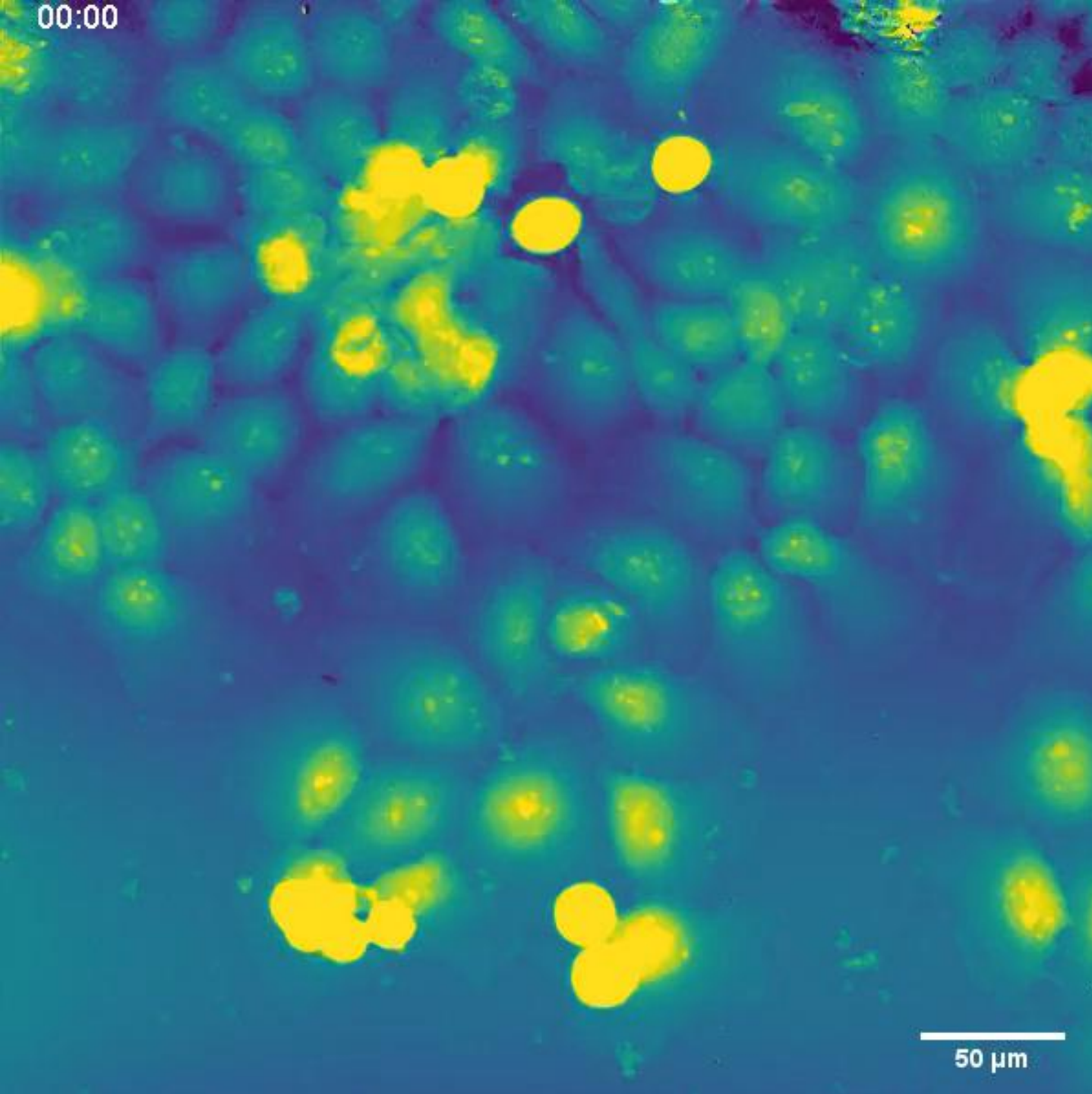
Comparison of human and mouse mammary glands. (A) Hematoxylin & eosin (H&E) stained section of human breast tissue showing a terminal ductal lobular unit comprised of ducts and acini embedded in a fibrous connective tissue stroma. (B) Schematic representation of a human terminal ductal lobular unit, emphasizing the intimate association of epithelial structures with interstitial fibrous connective tissue stroma and the more distant adipose tissue. (C) H&E stained section of the mouse mammary gland, showing ducts imbedded in a stroma composed of adipose tissue. (D) Schematic representation of the mouse mammary gland, displaying ducts in intimate contact with fibroblasts and adipocyte

Parmar et al 2004  
[10.1677/erc.1.00659](https://doi.org/10.1677/erc.1.00659)

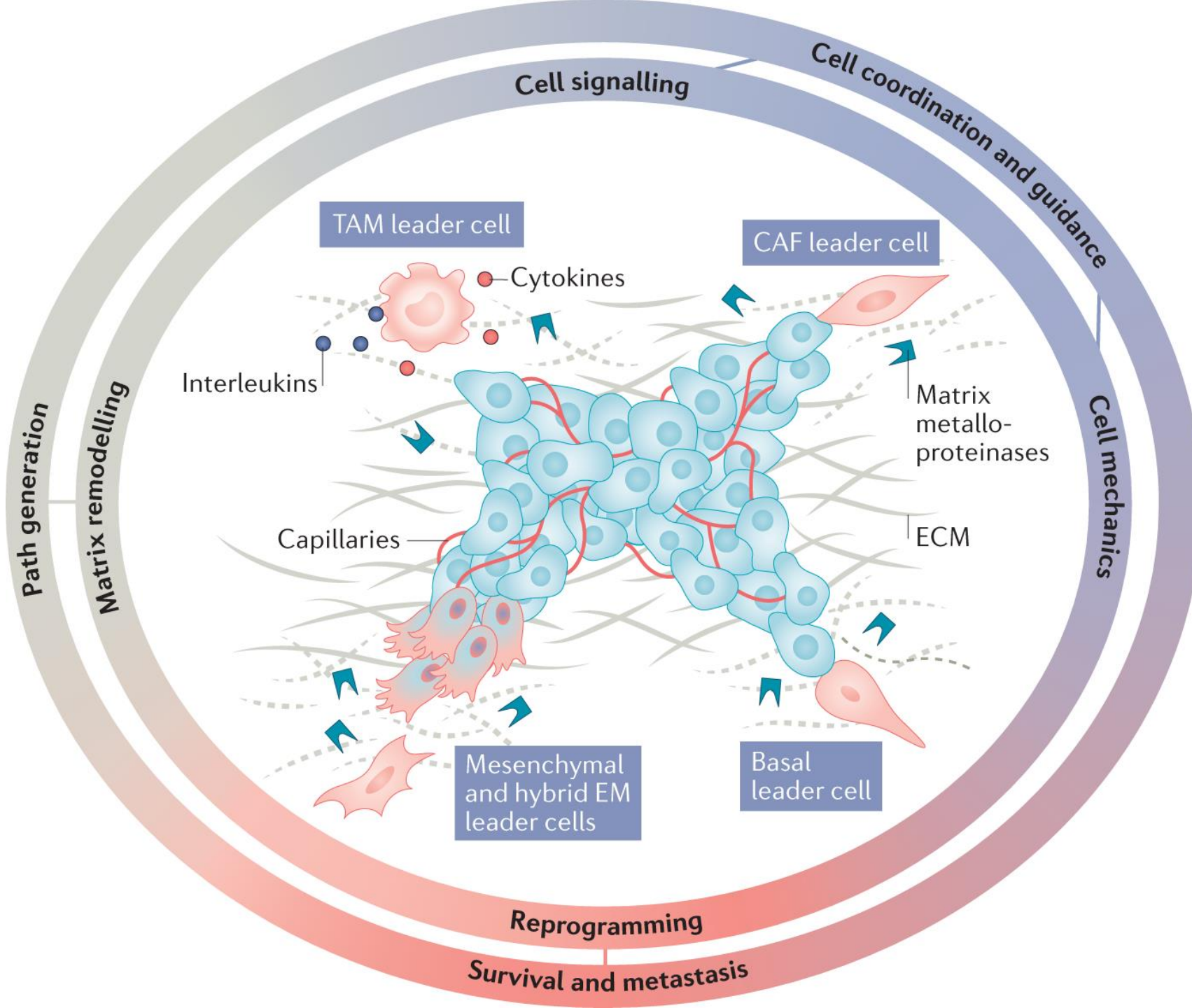
# Collective migration

- movements of group of cells and the emergence of collective behavior from cell-environment interactions and cell-cell communication.
- essential process for **embryonic development, wound healing and cancer spreading**

00:00



FaDu head and neck cancer cells, collective migration and division, QPI, 10X

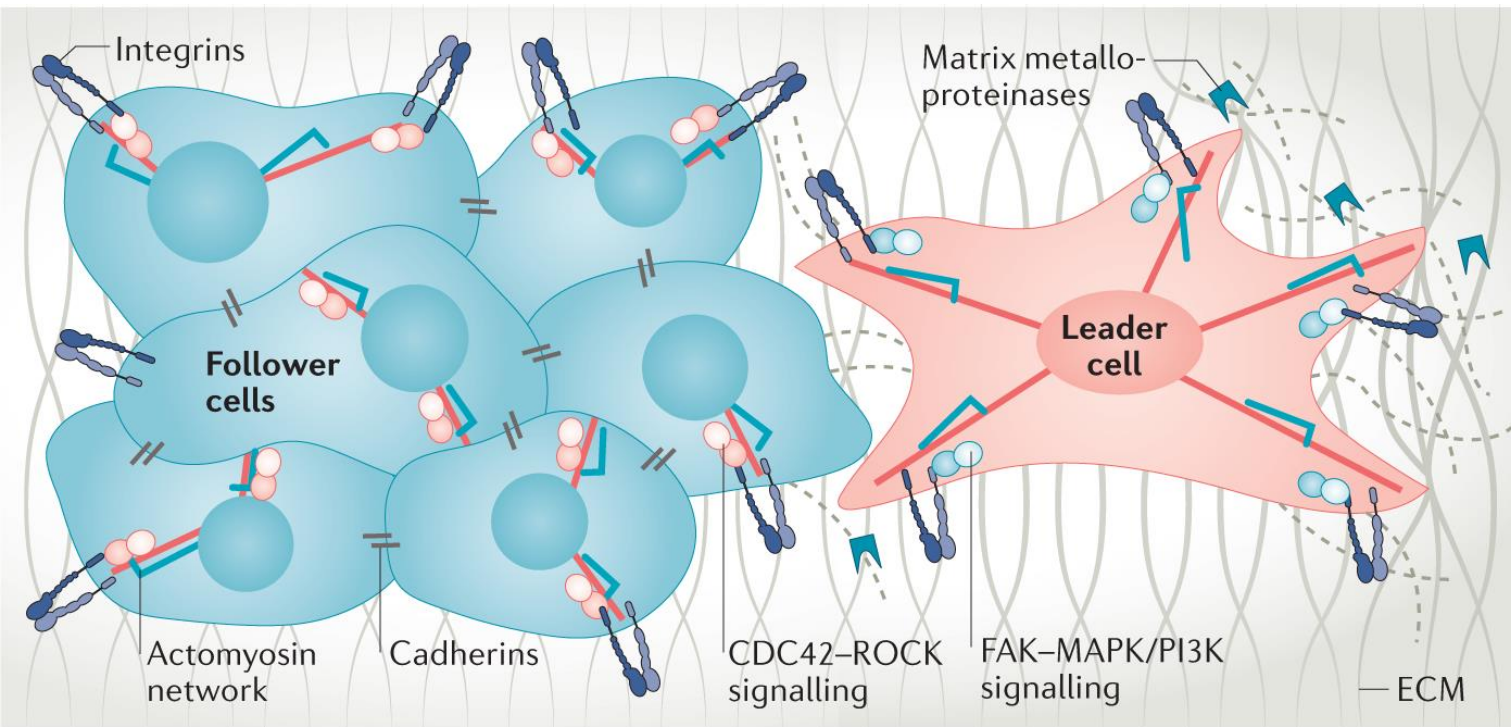


**Mesenchymal** and hybrid epithelial–mesenchymal (EM), basal, cancer-associated fibroblast (CAF) and tumour-associated macrophage (TAM) represent **four major categories of leader cell** that drive collective cancer invasion. Multiple leader cell types may arise in a tumour, though not necessarily all together. Key functions of leader cells include **generating a migration path, coordinating** with nearby cells to enable collective movement and enhancing the survival and metastatic capabilities of the tumour. Leader cells perform these functions using several **molecular programmes** such as

- matrix remodelling,
- cell mechanics and cell signalling,
- cell reprogramming.

ECM, extracellular matrix.

Mercedes 2021 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41568-021-00376-8>



**Leader cells** communicate with other cells and their environments mechanically. This illustration highlights the key components of the cell mechanics cascade for cell-cell and cell-environment coordination. Leader and follower cells modulate RHO signalling according to their cell type and matrix density; this can in turn activate other pathways such as mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK), phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) and transforming growth factor- $\beta$  (TGF $\beta$ ) pathways in leader cells.

Mercedes 2021 <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41568-021-00376-8>

no EMT  
needed



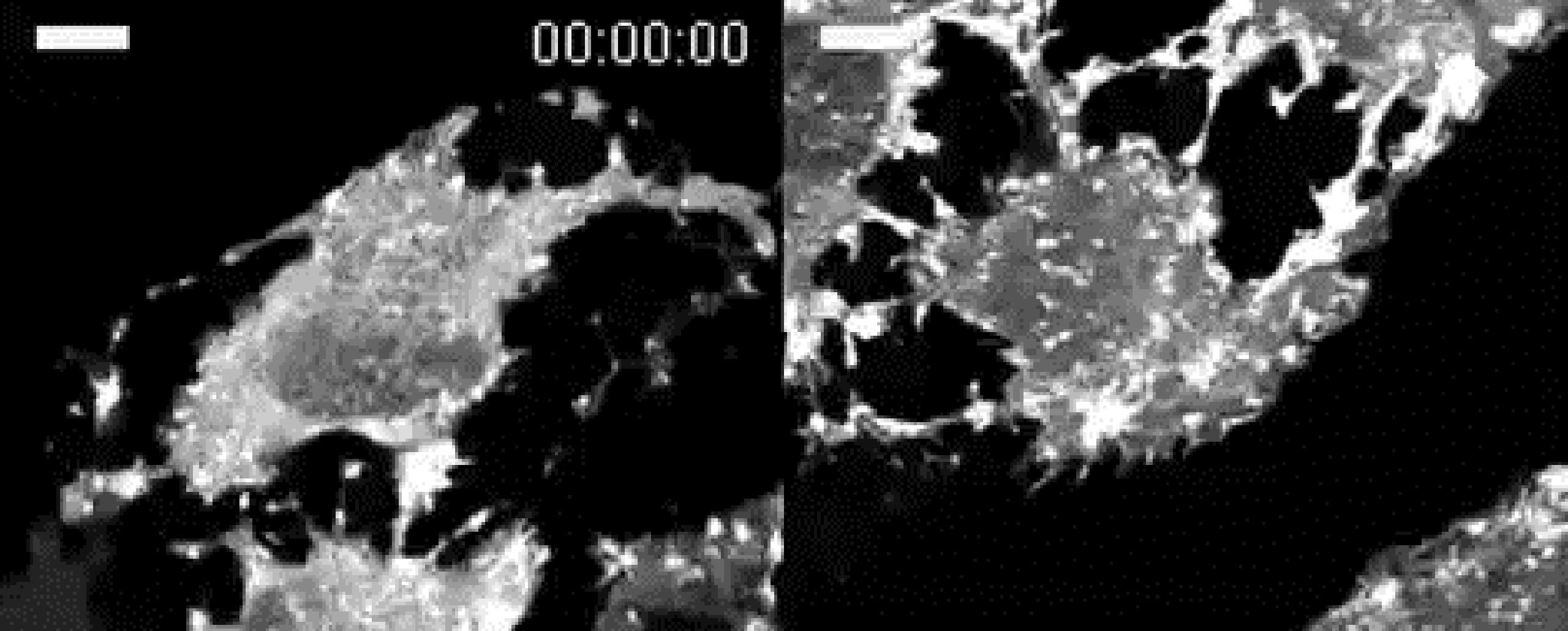
# Cytoskeleton therapeutic target

- Actin targetable by mycotoxins:
  - block polymeration: cytochalasins
  - block depolymeration: phalloidin



Death cap (*Amanita phalloides*)

amantadin + phalloidin  
phallotoxins are highly toxic to liver cells, they have since been found to add little to the death cap's toxicity, as they are not absorbed through the gut



### **Stress fiber recovery after Cytochalasin D washout is enhanced by activated FHOD1**

U2OS cells expressing mCherry-Actin together with EGFP-FHOD1 constructs (not shown) were subjected to Cytochalasin D washout to stimulate stress fiber formation. Left: FHOD1 WT; right: FHOD1 V228E. Images were acquired by time-lapse confocal microscopy



*That's all Folks!*