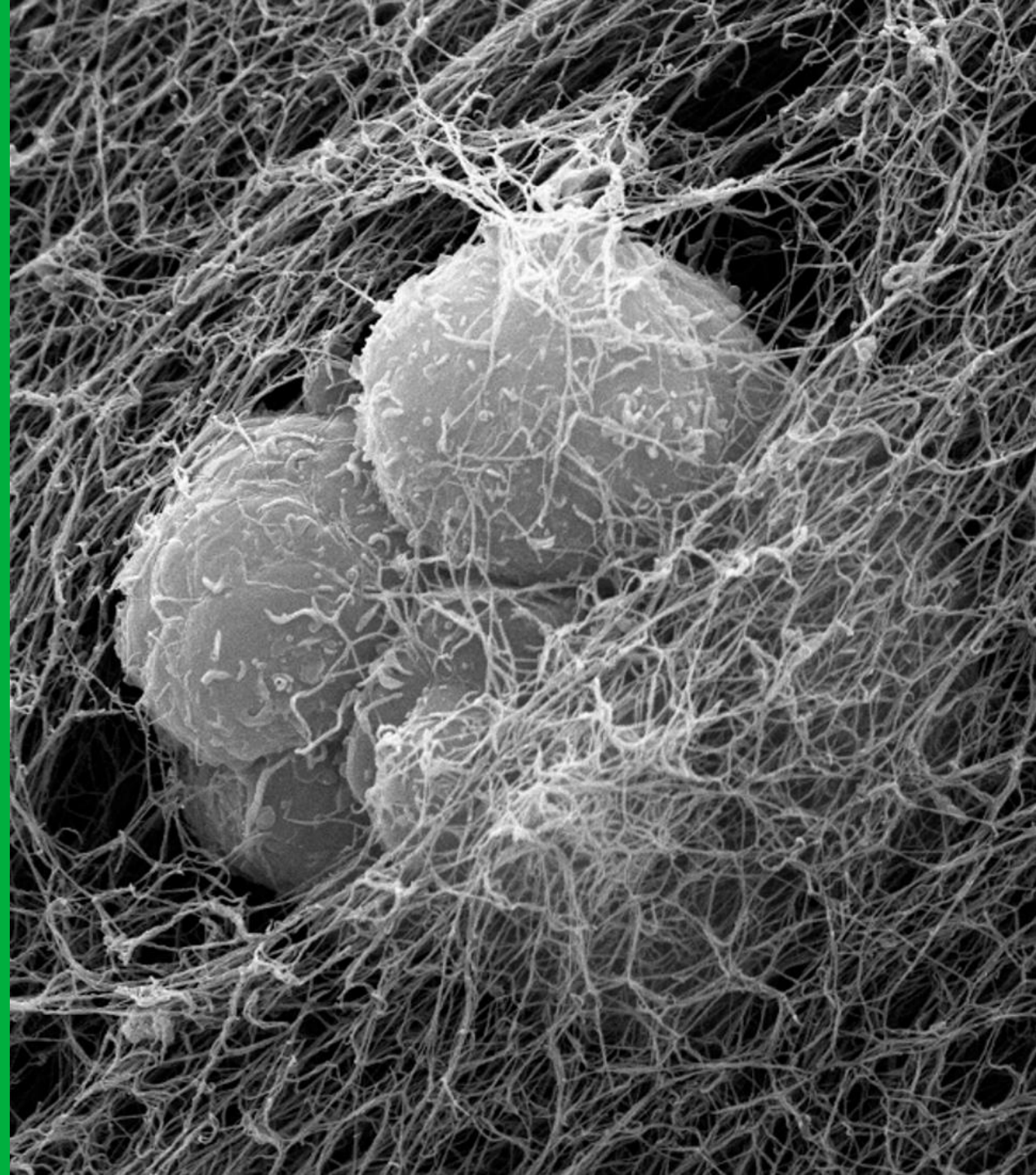


MUNI  
SCI

# Extracellular matrix and cell-cell interactions

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Department of Experimental Biology



# Outline

- Supportive extracellular structures
- Cell wall in prokaryotes
- Cell wall in plants and fungi
- Extracellular matrix (ECM) in animals
- Cell-ECM interactions
- Cell-cell interactions



# Supportive extracellular structures

- **Cell wall** (Bacteria, Archea, plants, fungi)
- **Glycocalyx** (animals)

## Multicellular eukaryotic organisms

- Interactions among cells:  
tissues = **cells + extracellular matrix (ECM)**
- **Interconnection of cells – direct contact or via ECM**
  - Cell growth, migration, proliferation, differentiation

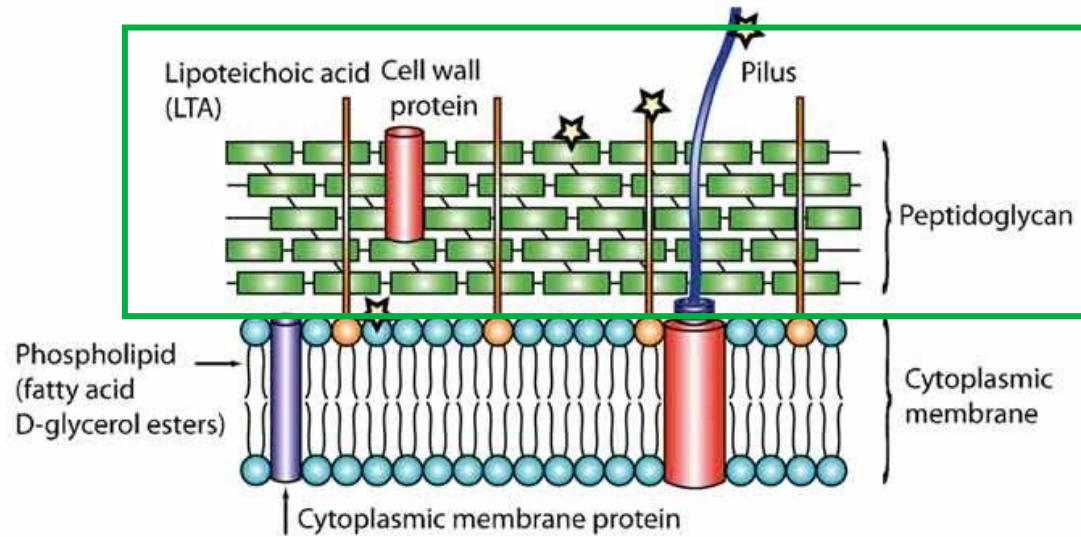


# Cell wall in prokaryotes

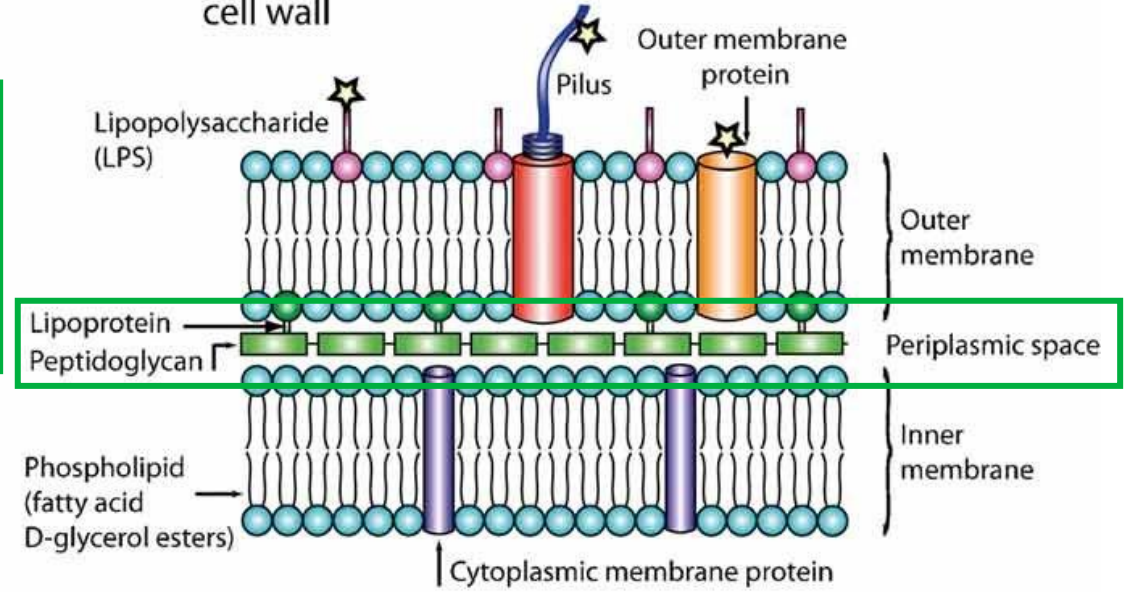




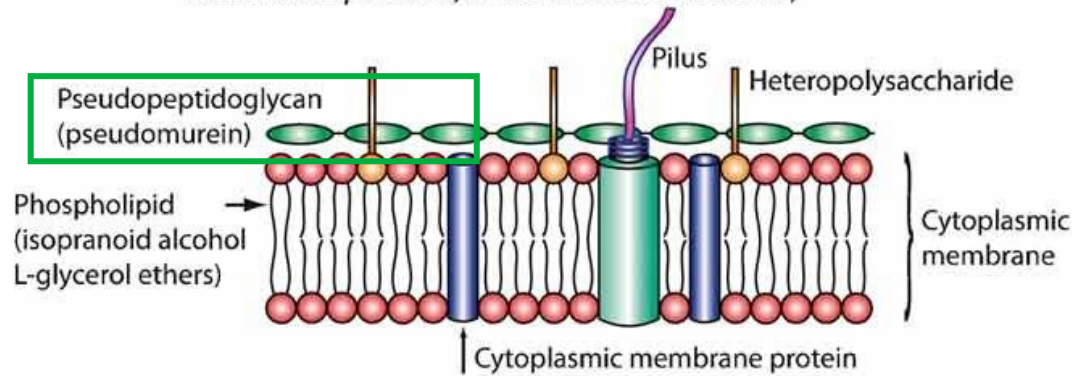
### Gram-positive bacterial cell wall



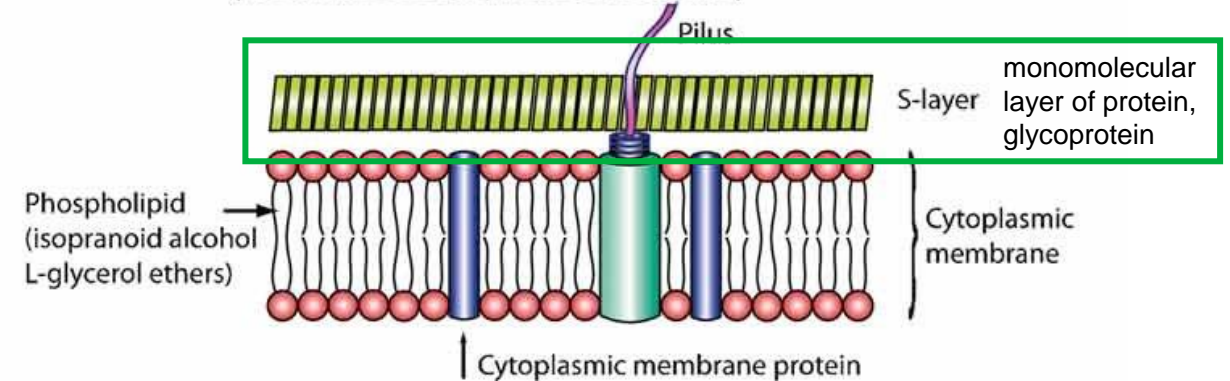
### Gram-negative bacterial cell wall



### Archaeal cell wall (*Methanobacterium*, *Methanosphaera*, *Methanobrevibacter*)



### Archaeal cell wall (*Methanococcus*, *Halobacterium*)

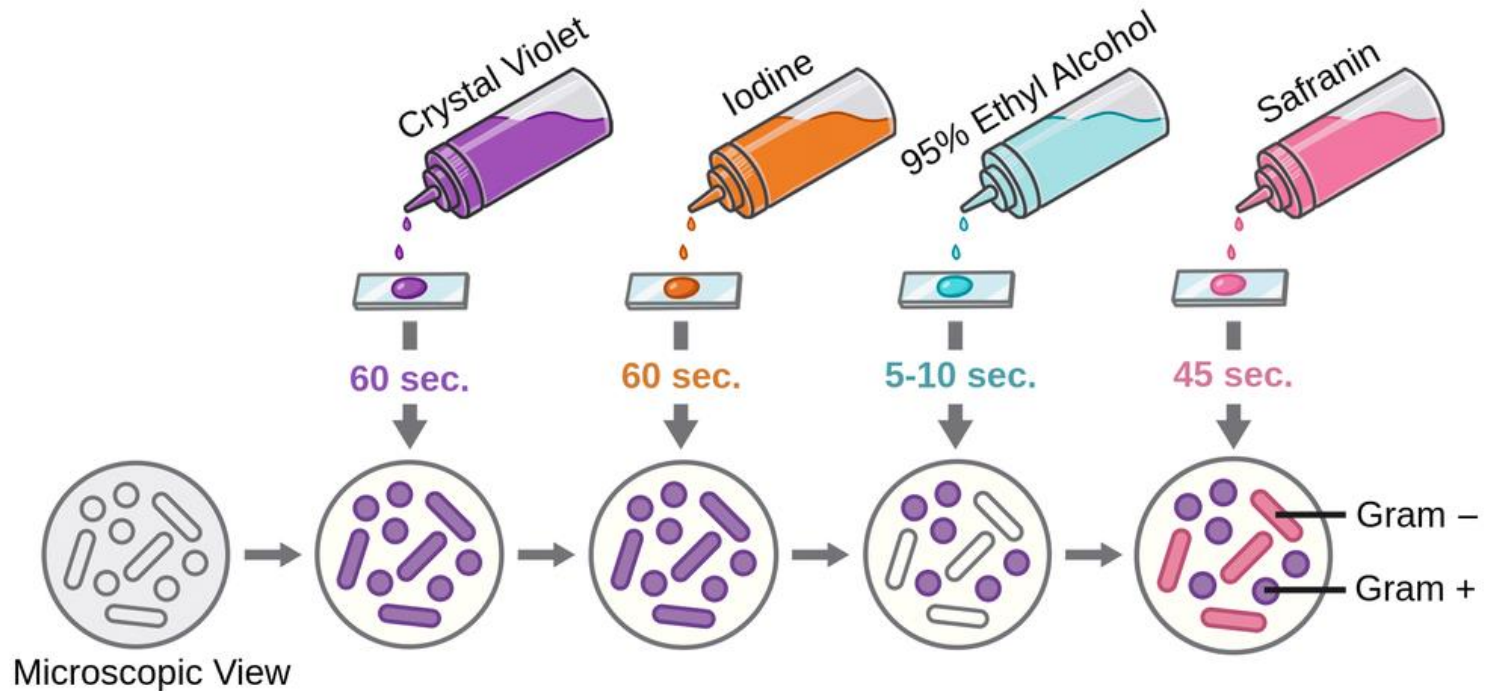


# Gram staining

Hans Christian Gram



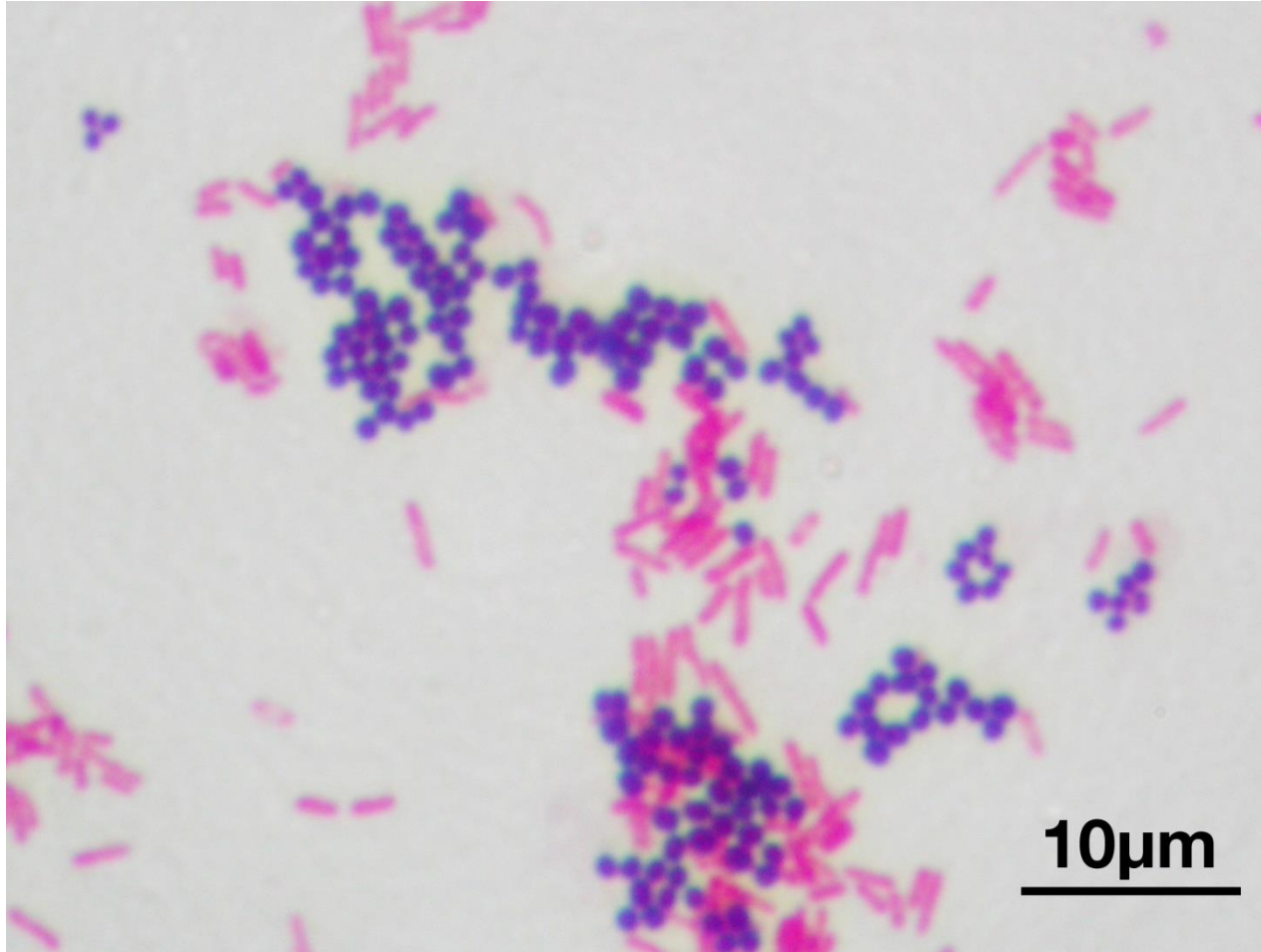
– **G+:** thick peptidoglycan walls retain crystal violet



- Iodine (potassium iodine) forms complexes with crystal violet
- Ethanol (acetone) dehydrates peptidoglycan layer
- Crystal violet trapped and insoluble in water
- Safranin counterstain all bacteria
- G+ purple; G- pink/red



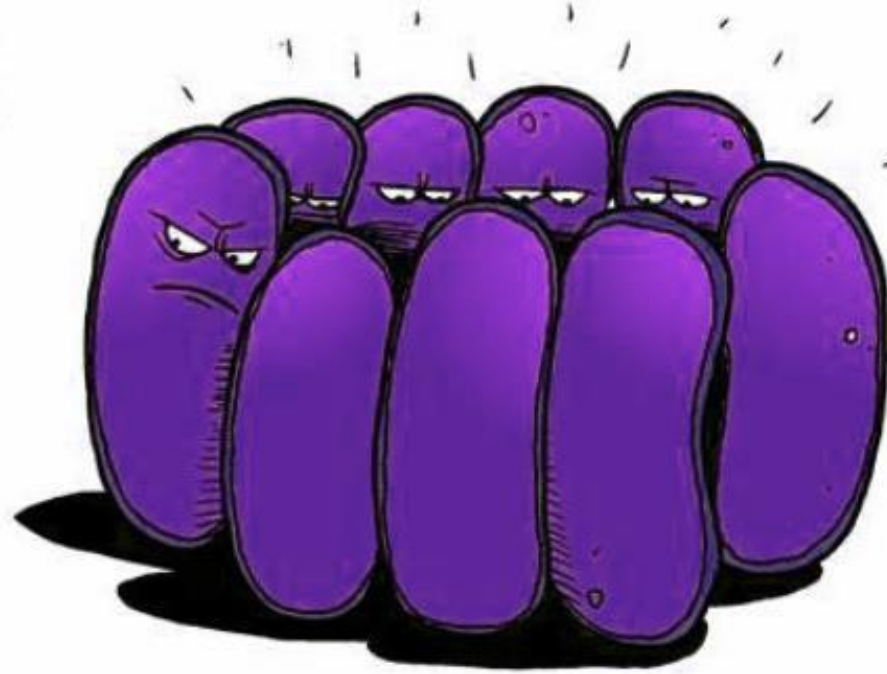
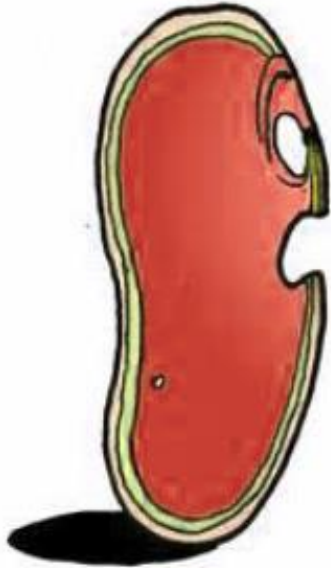
# Gram staining result



- Purple:  
**G+ *Staphylococcus aureus***
  
- Pink:  
**G- *Escherichia coli***



IS IT BECAUSE I'M  
GRAM NEGATIVE?





# Cell wall in plants and fungi



# Cell wall in plants

## – Primary cell wall

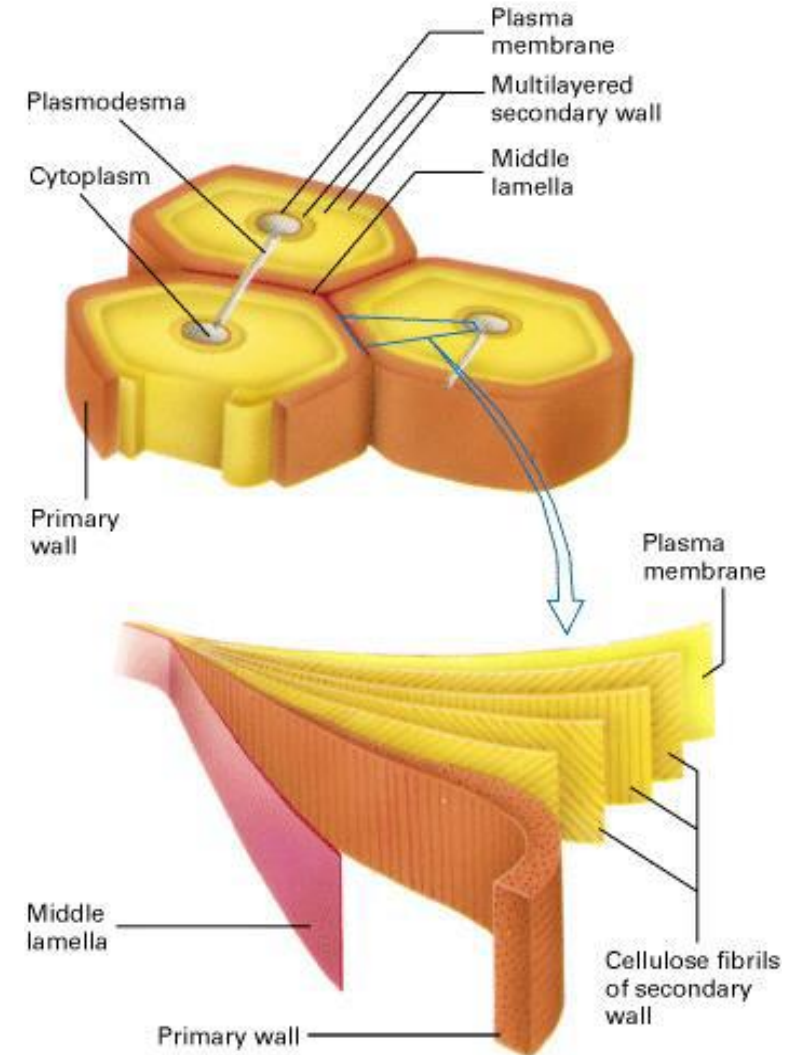
- Thin, flexible, extensible
- **Cellulose, hemicelluloses, pectin**

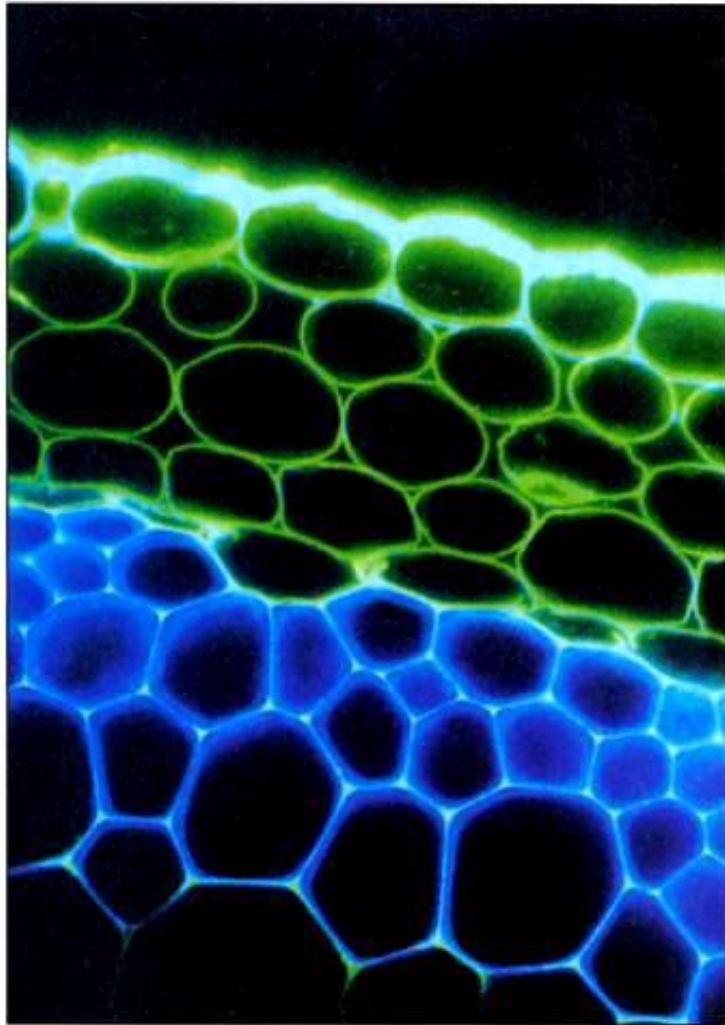
## – Secondary cell wall

- Additional layers underneath the primary cell wall (always produced by the cell itself)
- Thick layer, strengthens and/or waterproofs
- Additional components: **lignin (xylem), suberin (cork)**

## – Middle lamella

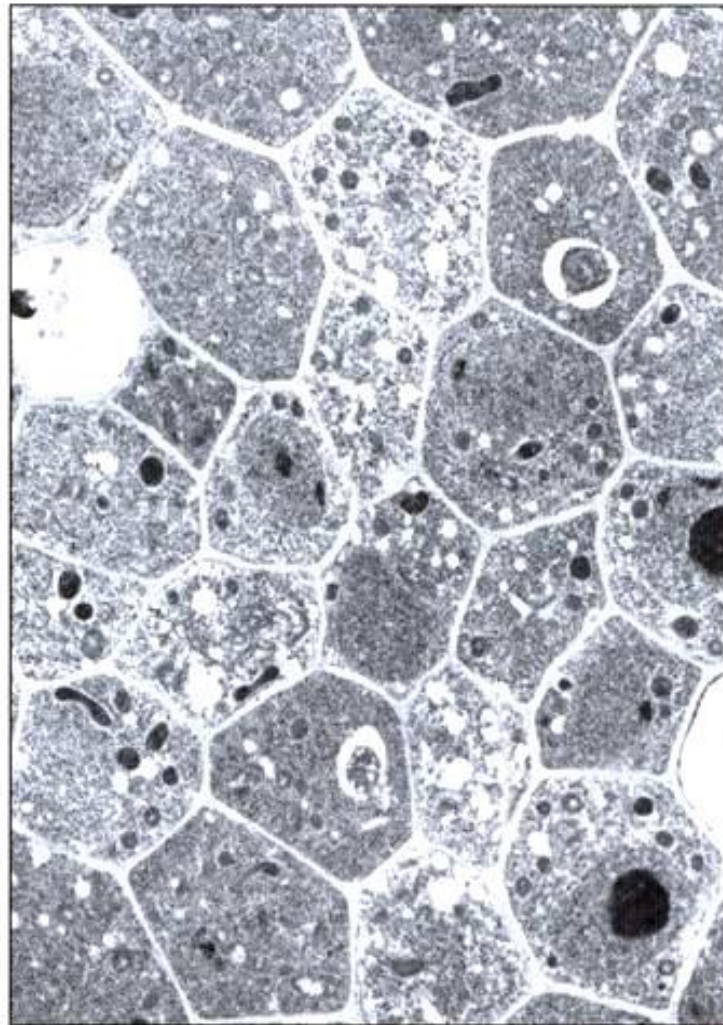
- Between cell walls of neighboring cells
- Calcium and magnesium pectates





(A)

20  $\mu\text{m}$



(B)

2  $\mu\text{m}$

– *Arabidopsis thaliana*  
stem cross section

Cellulose, pectin

# Plasmodesmata

## – Plasmodesma

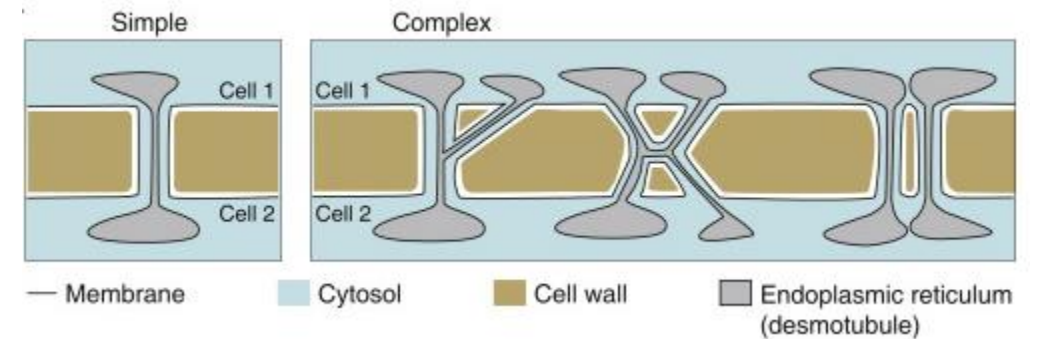
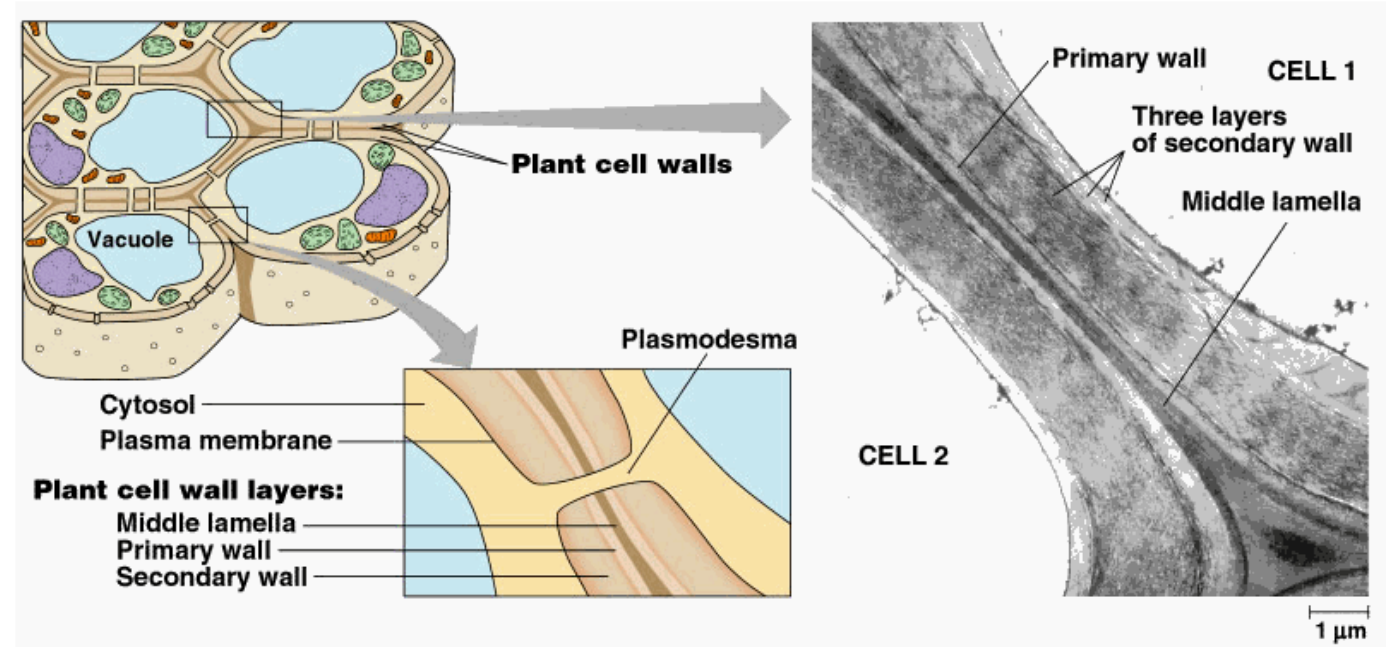
- A channel interconnecting cytosol of two cells; **cell-cell communication**

## – Primary

- Forms during cell division, around ER trapped between the dividing cells = **desmotubule**

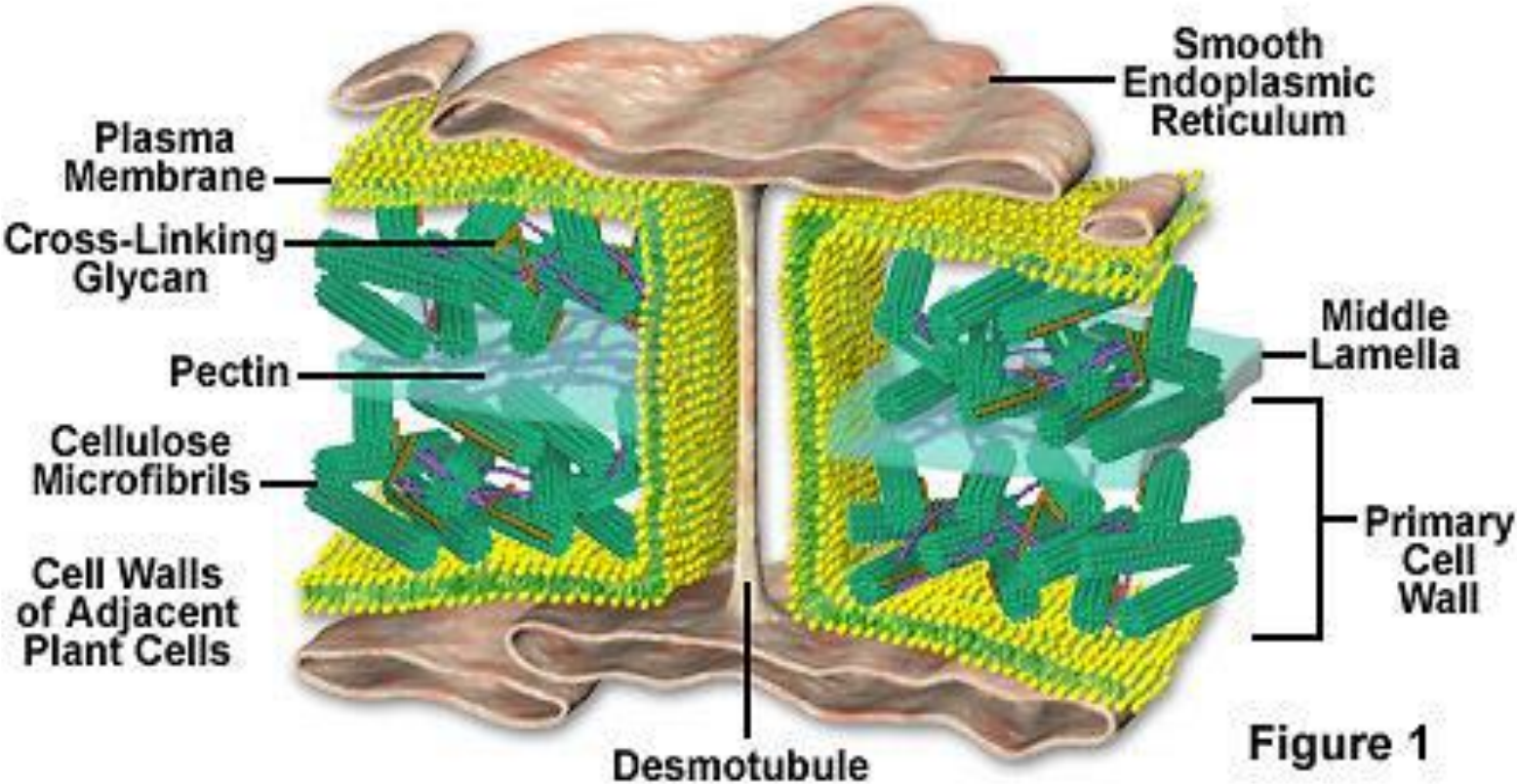
## – Secondary

- Between non-dividing cells, unknown mechanism



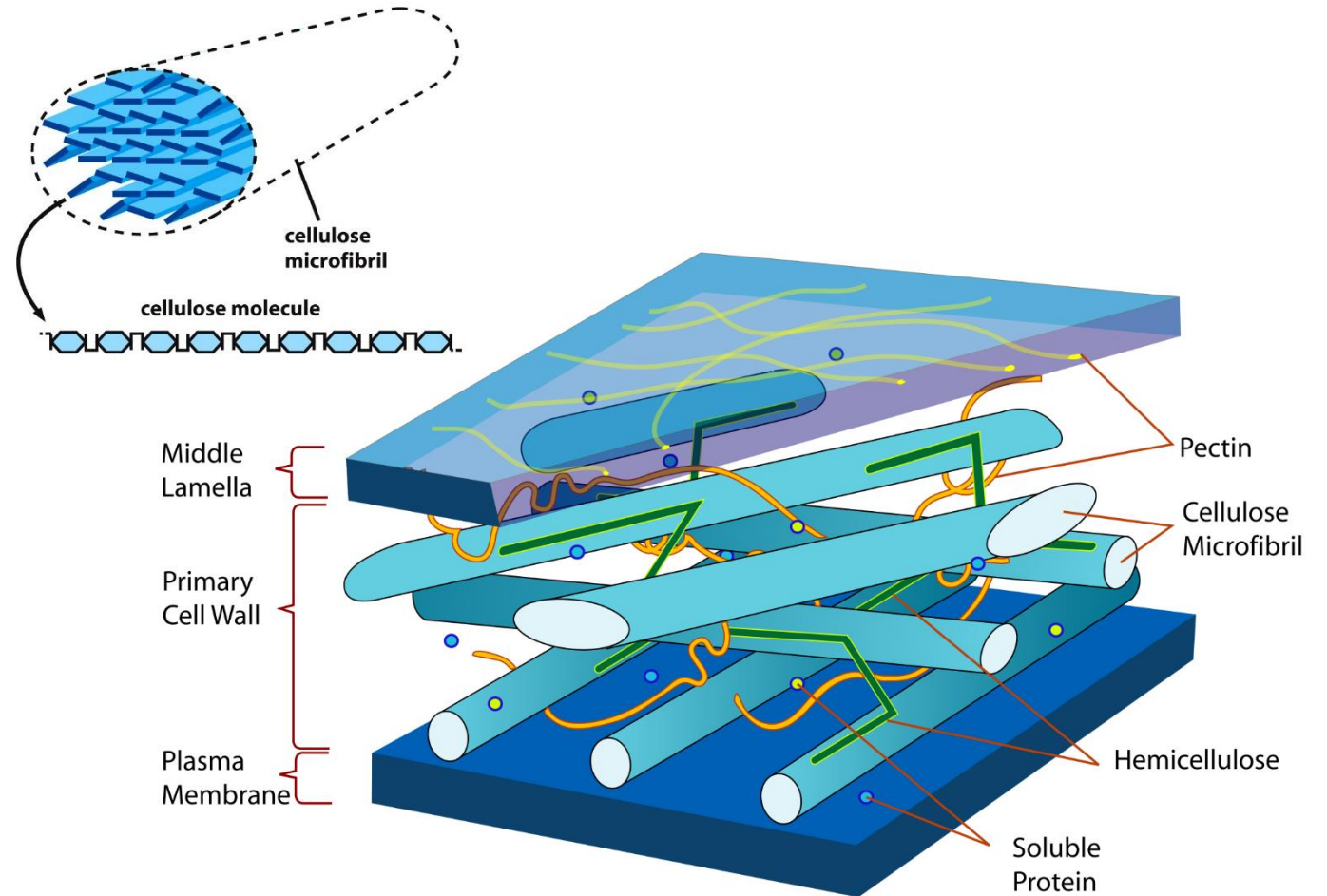


# Plasmodesmata Intercellular Junction



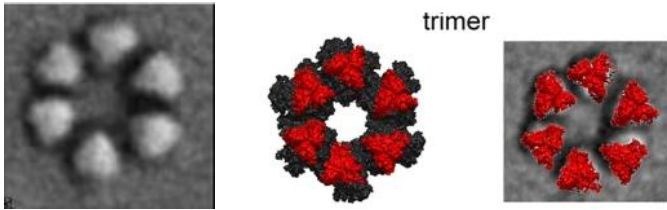
# Cell wall composition and synthesis

- Cellulose microfibrils cross-linked with other polysaccharides, hemicellulose and pectin
- Specific components: lignin (xylem ~ wood), cutin (epidermis), suberin (cork), silica crystals (in grasses)

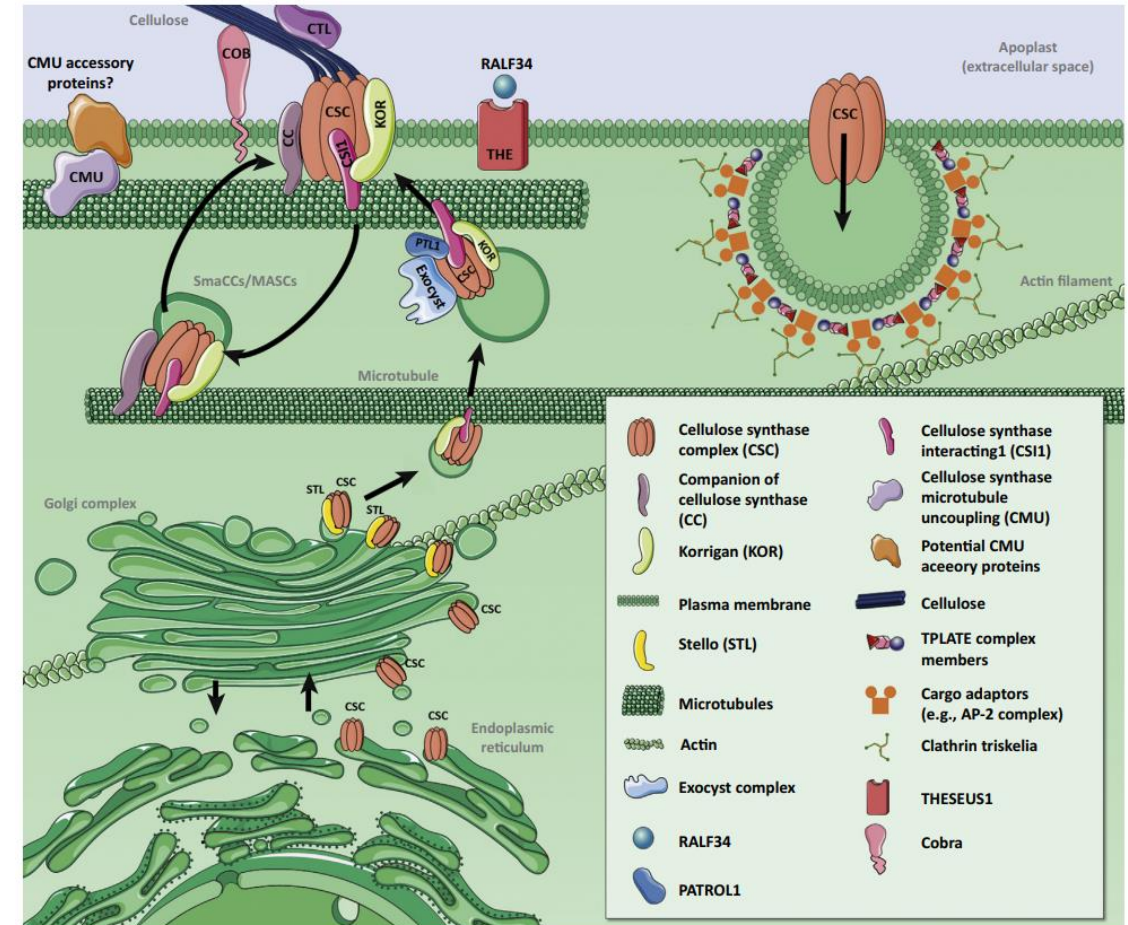


# Cell wall composition and synthesis

- Cellulose synthesis: proteins embedded in the plasma membrane
- Cellulose synthase (CESA)
- Oligomers form complexes – rosettes



- Transport of saccharide monomers across the plasma membrane
- Microfibril orientation – microtubules

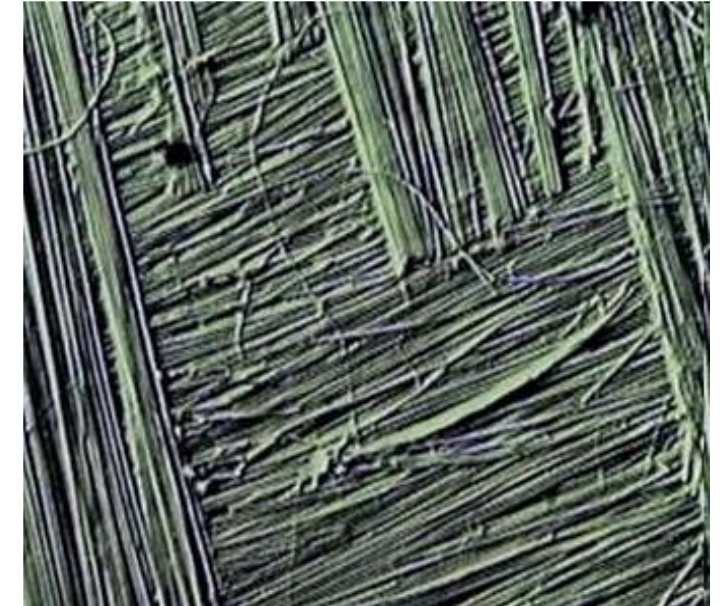
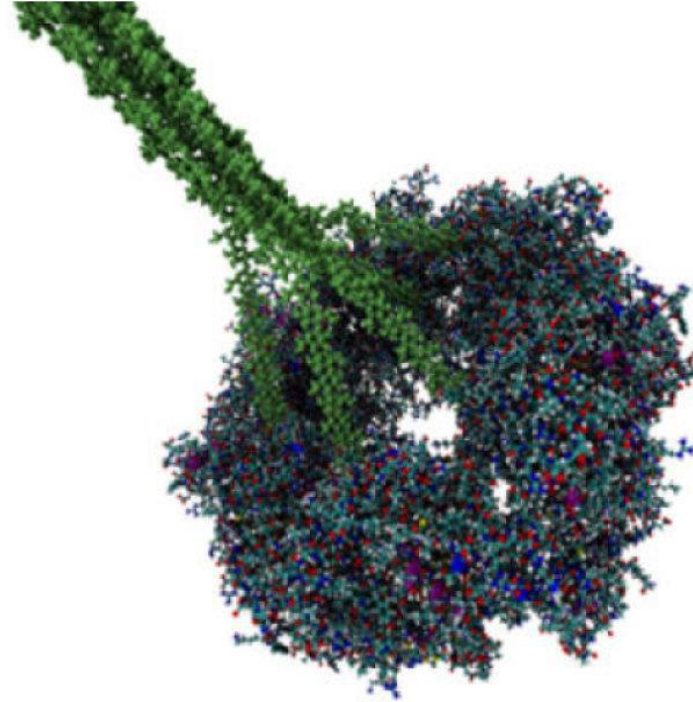
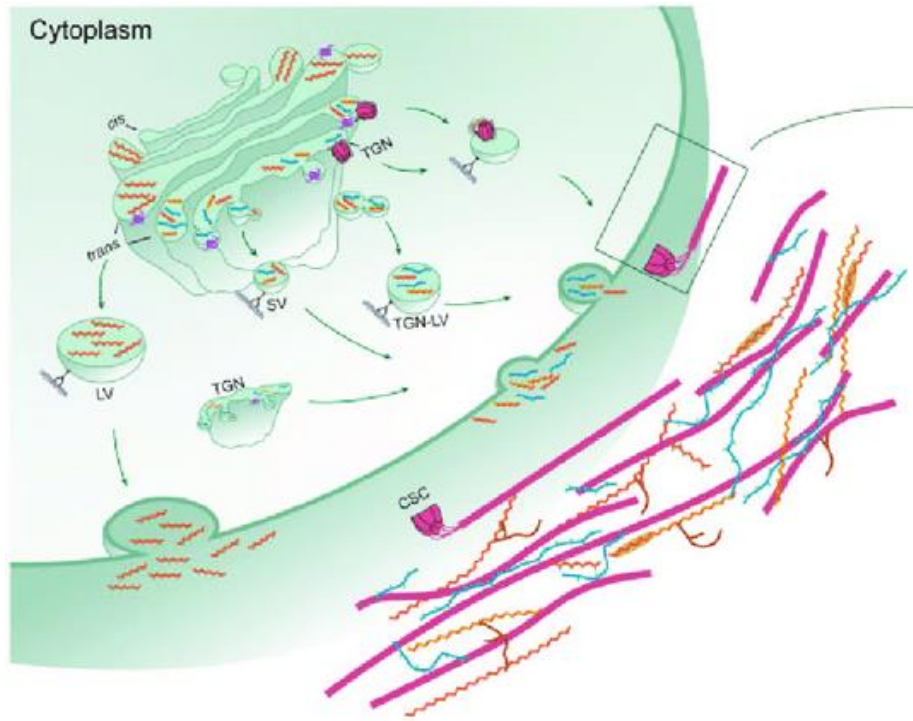


Trends in Plant Science

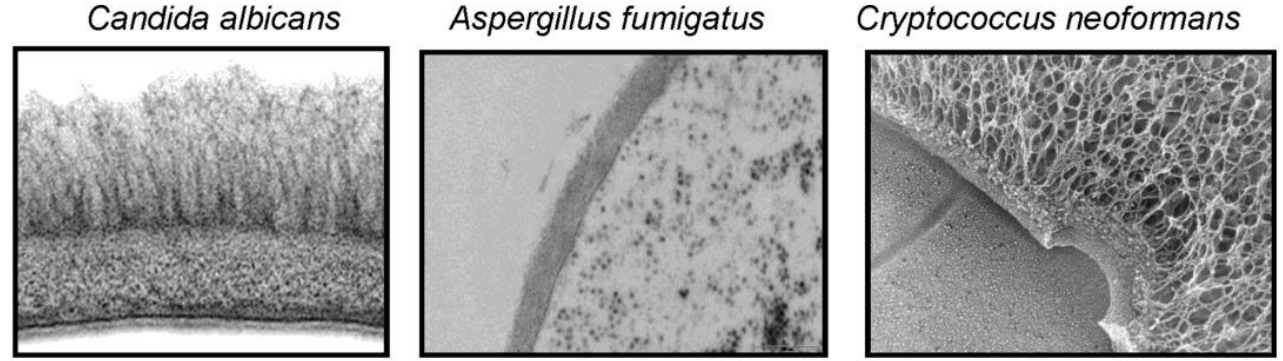
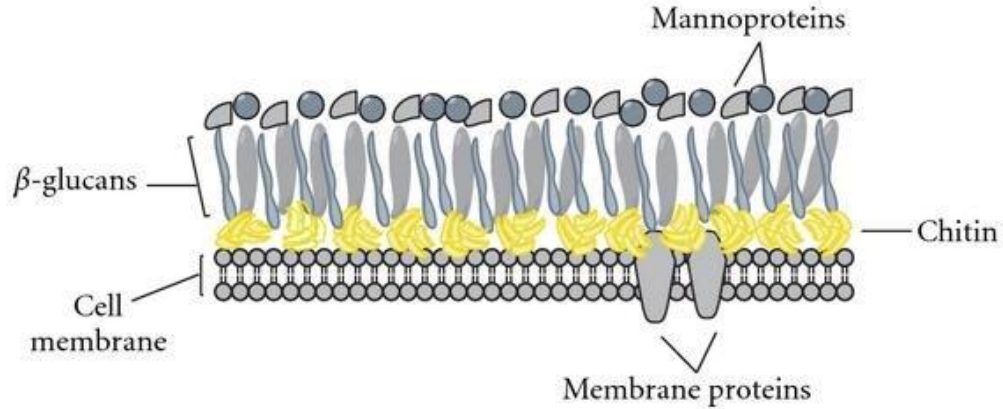




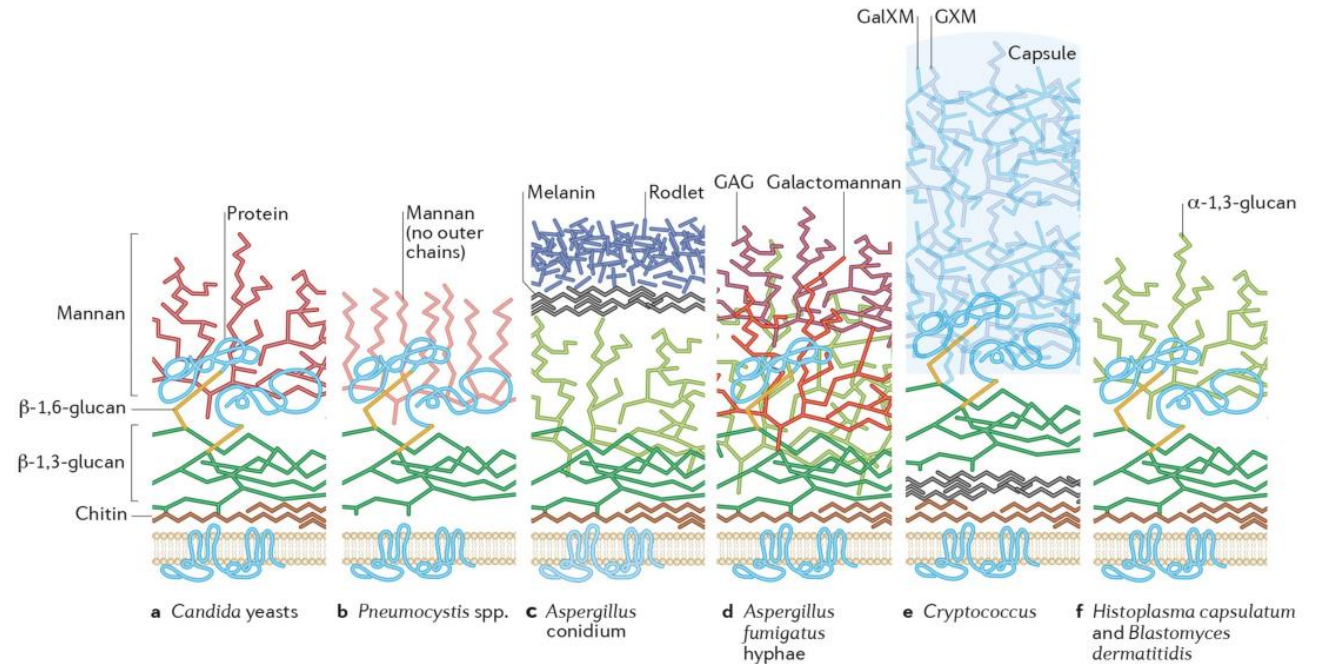




# Fungal cell wall



- **Chitin, chitosan**
- **Glucans** (mostly  $\beta$ -glucans)
  - Differ between species
- **Mannoproteins**
- **Melanin**



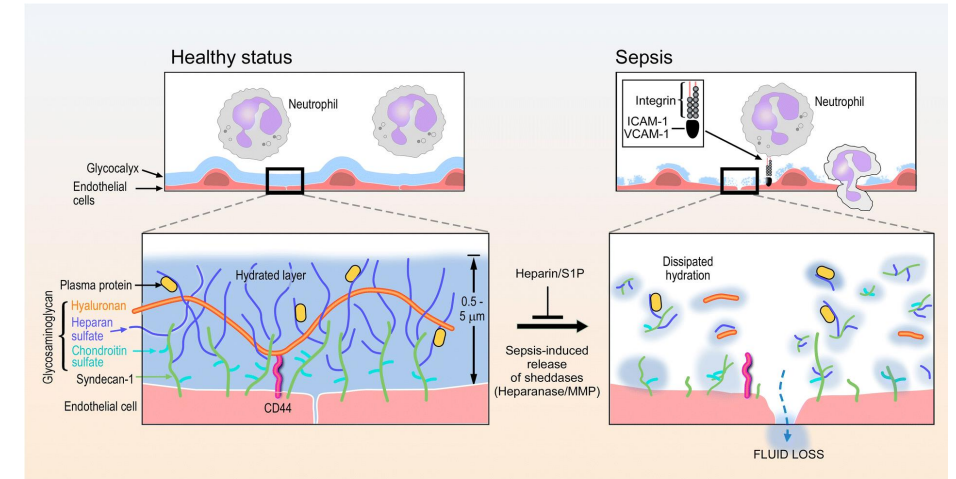
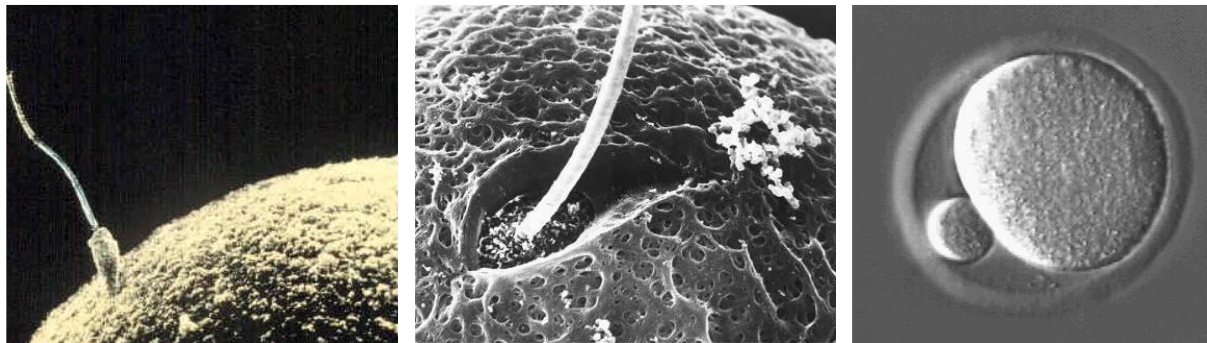
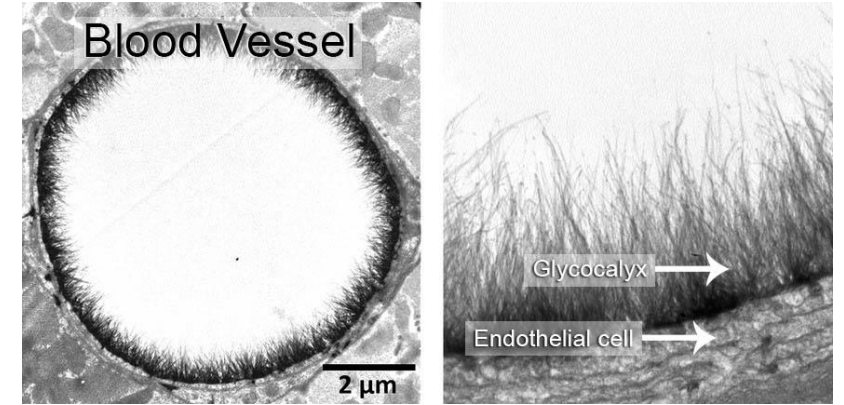
# Extracellular matrix in animals





# Glycocalyx

- Pericellular matrix (vs. extracellular matrix!)
- **Dense glycoprotein and glycolipid cover**
- Plasma membrane components
- **Physical barrier, involved in regulation of cell-cell interactions**
- e.g., zona pellucida in oocytes, endothelial cells



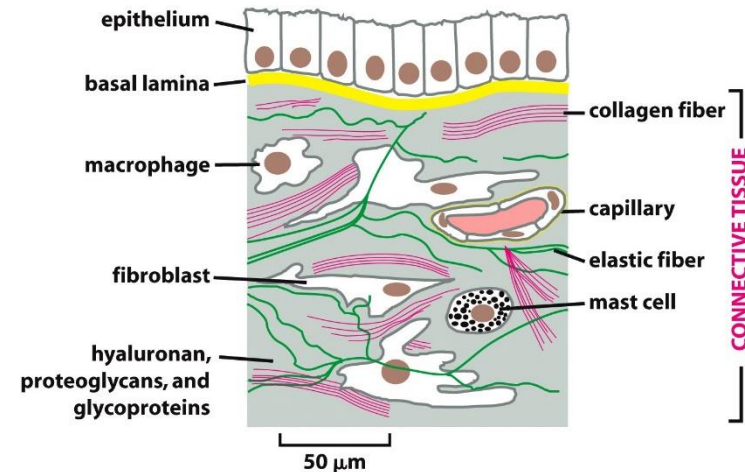


# Extracellular matrix (ECM)

- Organization and composition based on the tissue type
- **Connective tissue** (bone, tendon, cartilage, vitreous body):  
predominance of ECM (mechanical strength and support)
- **Muscle and epithelial tissue:**  
minimal ECM – basal lamina (mechanical support provided by cytoskeleton)

## Roles of ECM:

1. Mechanical support
2. Tissue-specific functions and cell adhesion signaling
3. Regulation of developmental processes



# ECM composition

- Components produced by cells and secreted by exocytosis:
  1. **Collagen fibers** (provide tensile strength; **collagens**)
  2. **Elastic fibers** (provide elasticity; **elastin** and **fibrillin**)
  3. **Space filling components** (prevents compression; **glycosaminoglycans: hyaluronan** and **proteoglycans**)
  4. **Adhesive molecules** (glycoproteins)

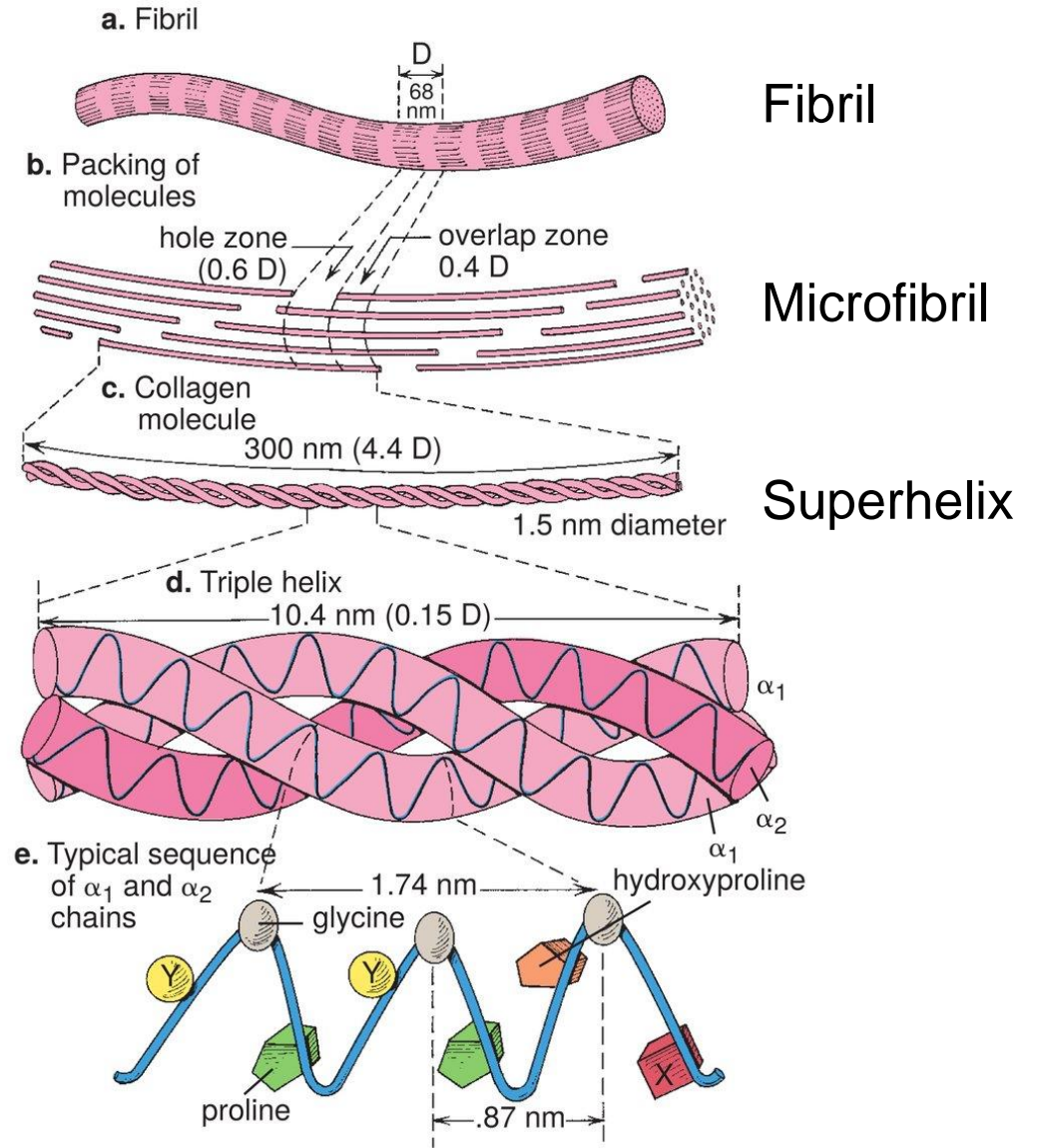
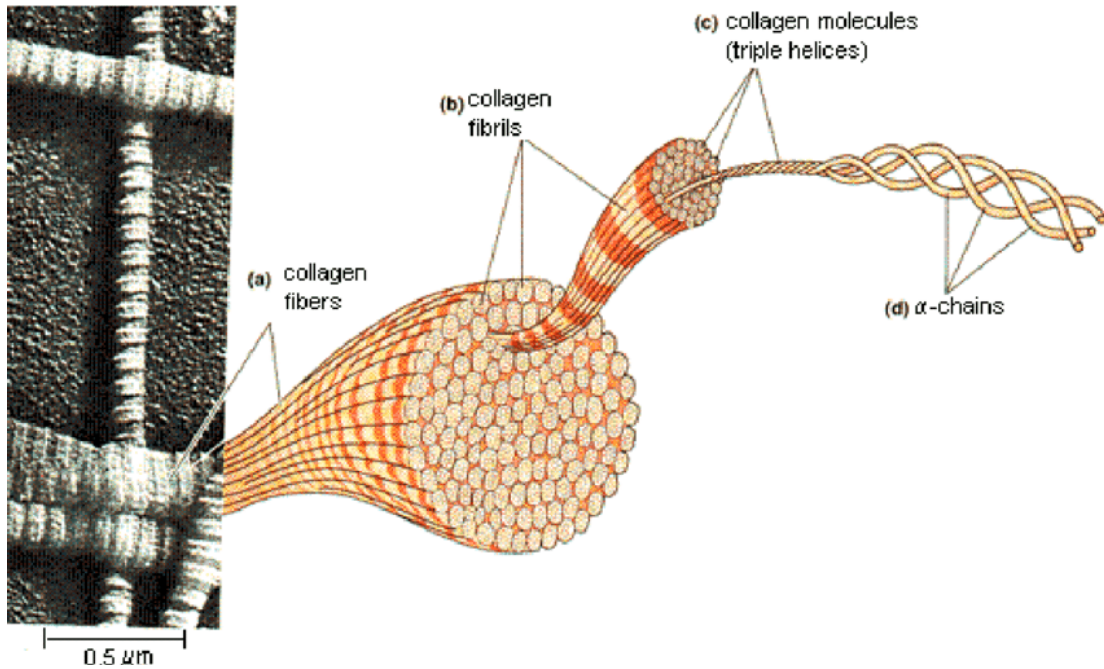
## Different types of ECM in different tissues



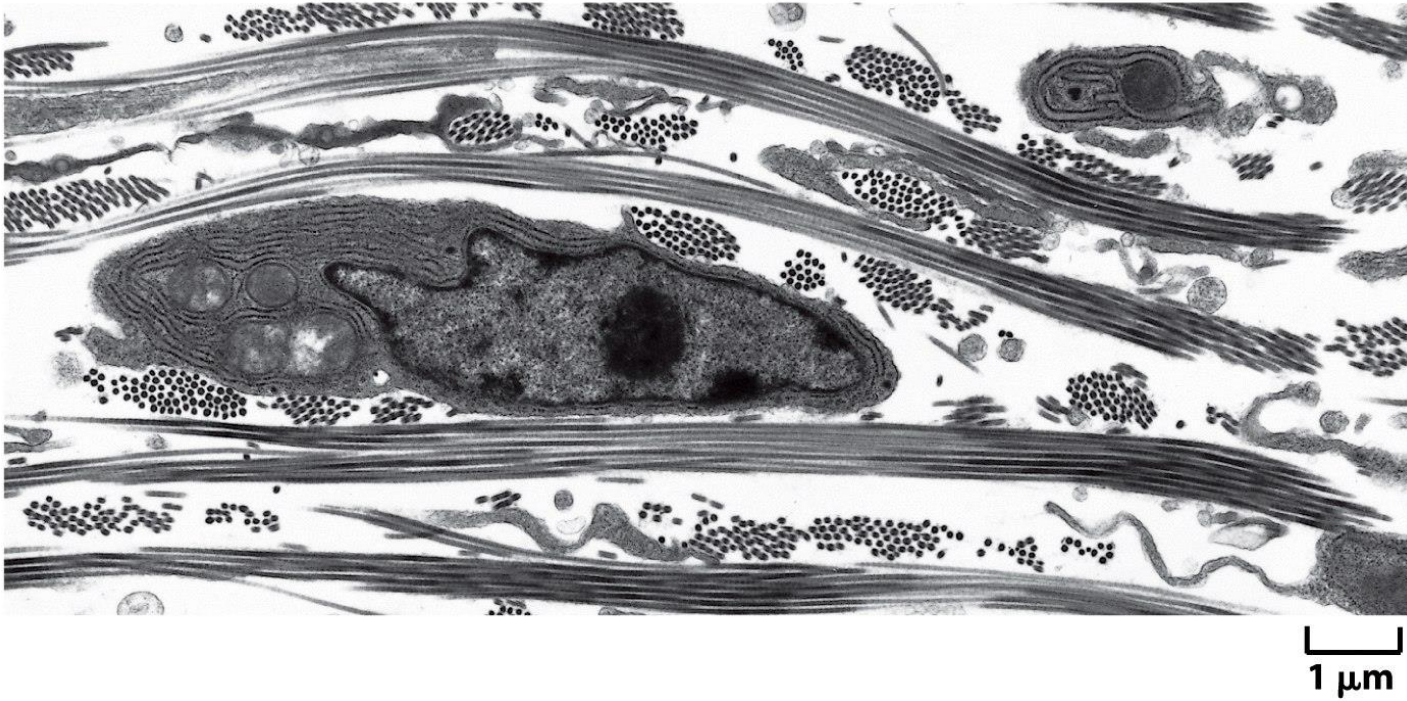
# Collagen fibers

- **Collagens** – in mammals ~40 genes, 25% of the total protein mass
- Triple-stranded helical structure of three collagen  $\alpha$  chains
- Rich in proline and glycine: **superhelix** → **collagen microfibril** → **collagen fibril** (10-300 nm in diameter) → **collagen fiber**
- **Organization of fibrils – tissue- and function-dependent:**
  - **Skin** – plywood-like arrangement: different layers laid at nearly right angles; withstand tension stress in multiple directions
  - **Tendons** – fibrils organized in parallel; withstand tension in the major axis
- Synthesis by **fibroblasts** and **epithelial cells**

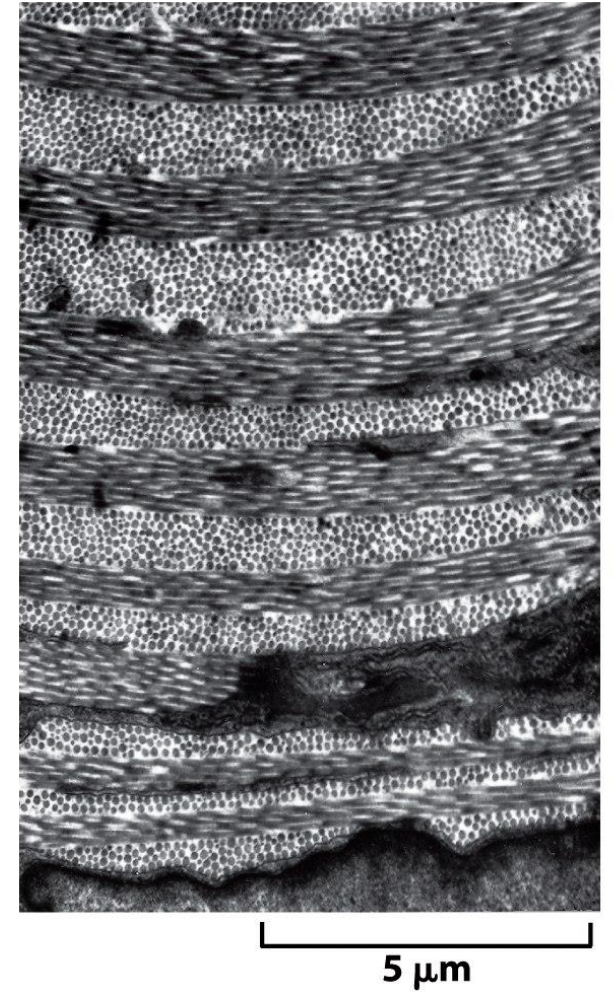








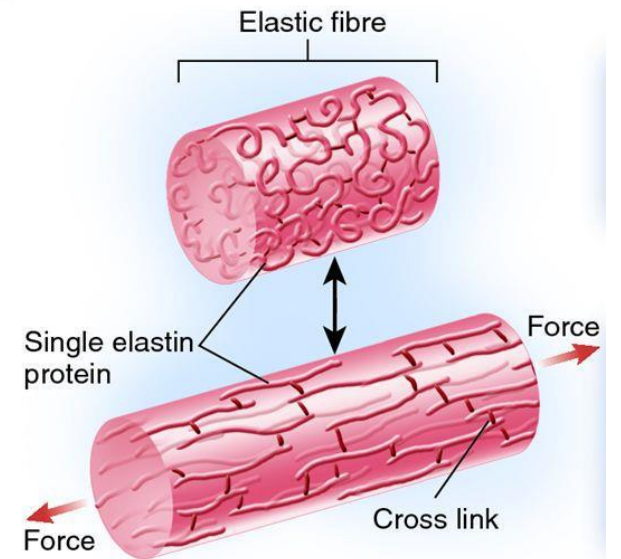
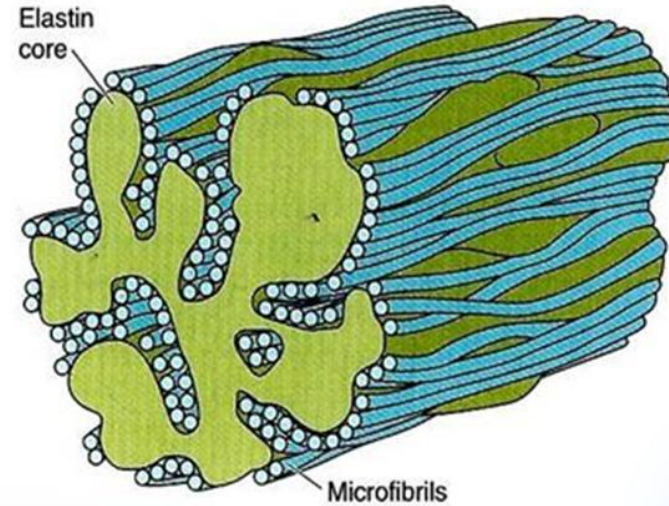
Collagen fibrils produced by a fibroblast



Collagen fibrils in the skin

# Elastic fibers

- **Elastin and fibrillin**
- Synthesis limited to embryonal and juvenile fibroblasts
- Skin, blood vessels, lungs
- Network of elastin molecules (core) and glycoprotein microfibrils (sheath; fibrillin)
- Elastin network recoils after stretch: elasticity



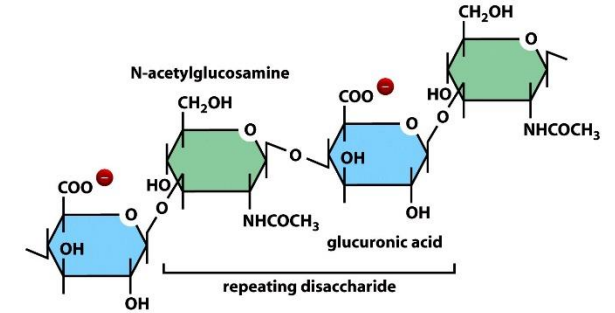




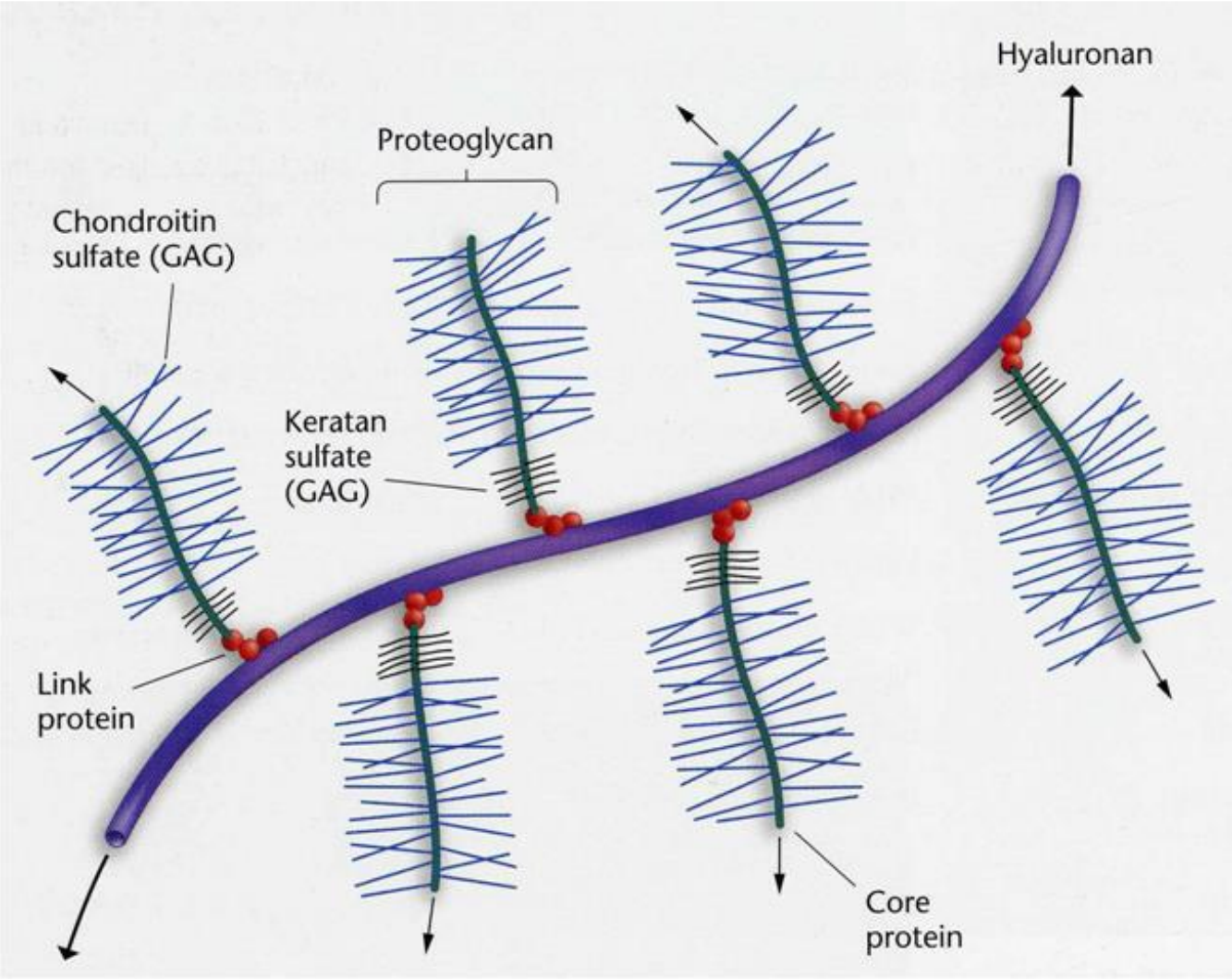
Tropocollagen (pre-collagen) / elastin

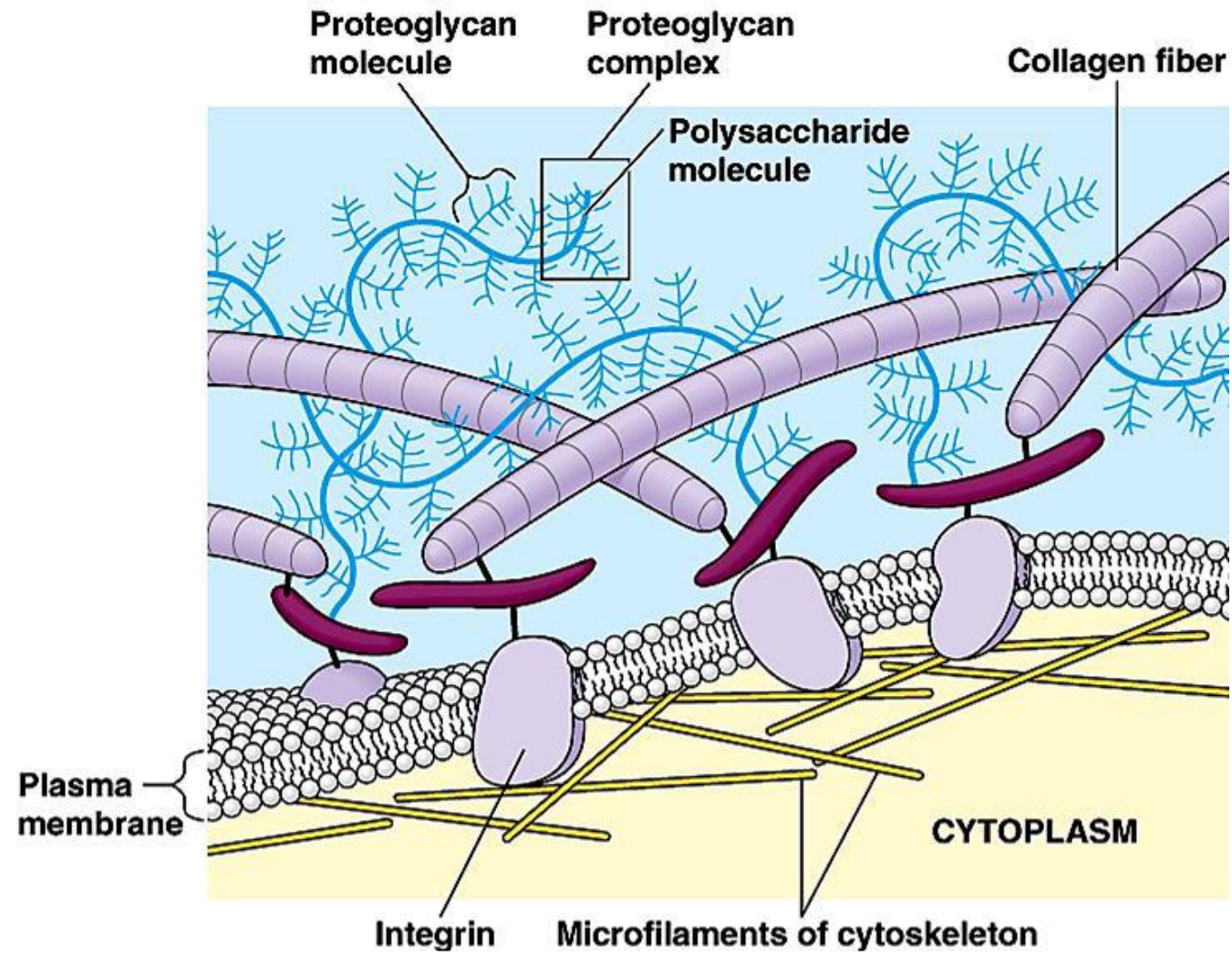
# Space filling components

- Glycosaminoglycans (GAG)
- **Hyaluronan**: glucuronic acid & *N*-acetylglucosamine; up to 50 K disaccharide units in one molecule
- **Proteoglycans**: core protein and covalently bound GAG chains
- **Highly polar = attract water – form viscous hydrogels**
  - Attain large volumes – lubricants or shock absorbers
- **Hyaluronan surface receptors** (e.g., CD44): activation promote cell proliferation, migration, and invasion









# Adhesive glycoproteins

- Mediate interactions in the ECM, important for cell-ECM interactions

## 4 major types:

- **Laminins:** basal lamina glycoprotein

- **Fibronectins:** binds to integrin, cell-ECM attachment

- **Tenascins:** antiadhesive effects, often overexpressed in tumor stroma (metastasis), connective tissue, brain, bone, smooth muscles

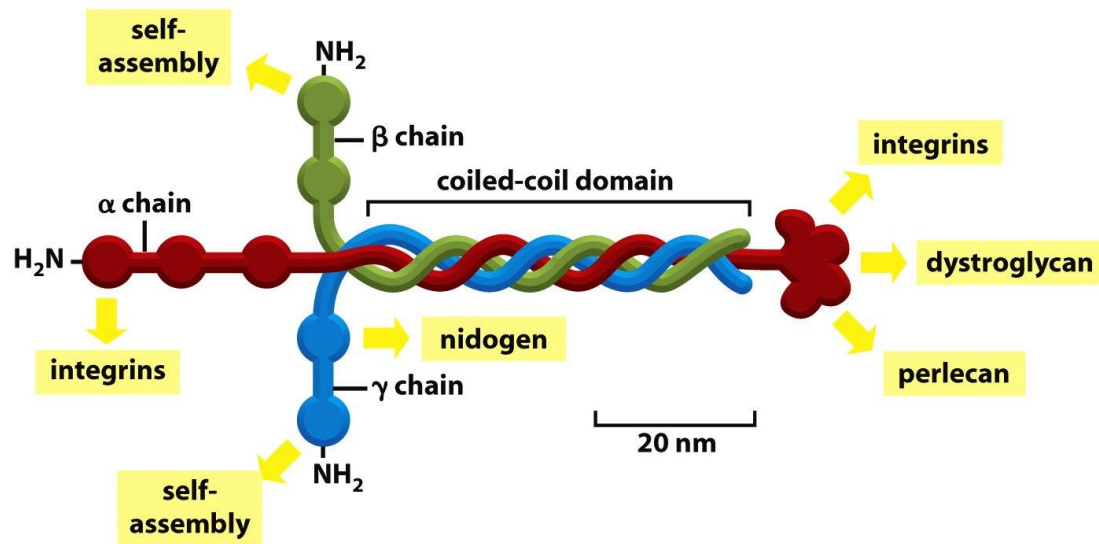
- **Fibrinogen:** thrombocyte aggregation (coagulation factor)



# Adhesive glycoproteins interact with other ECM components

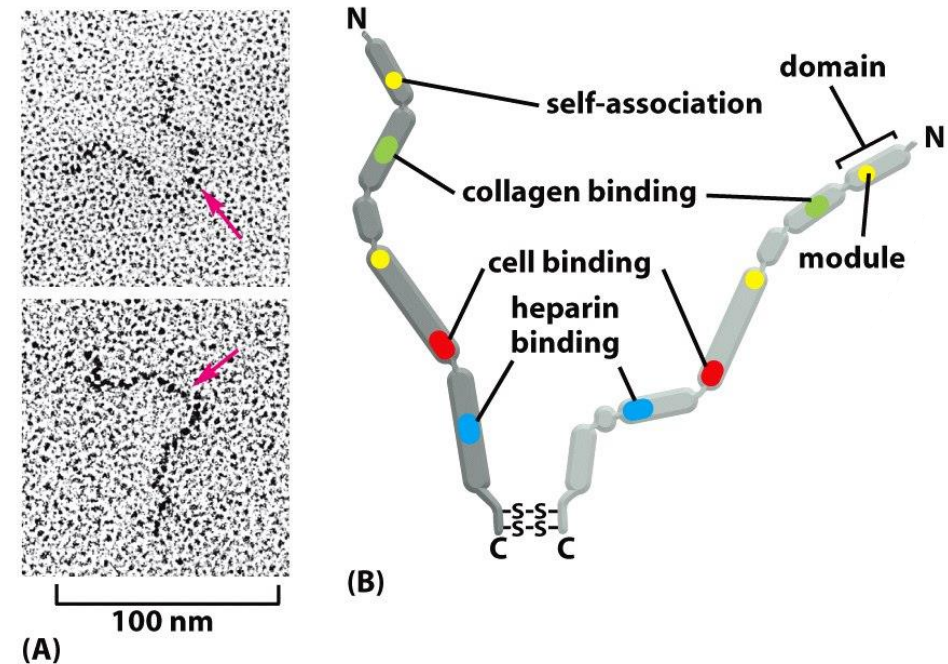
## Laminin

- Three polypeptide chains
- Crosslinked by disulfide bonds to cross-like structure



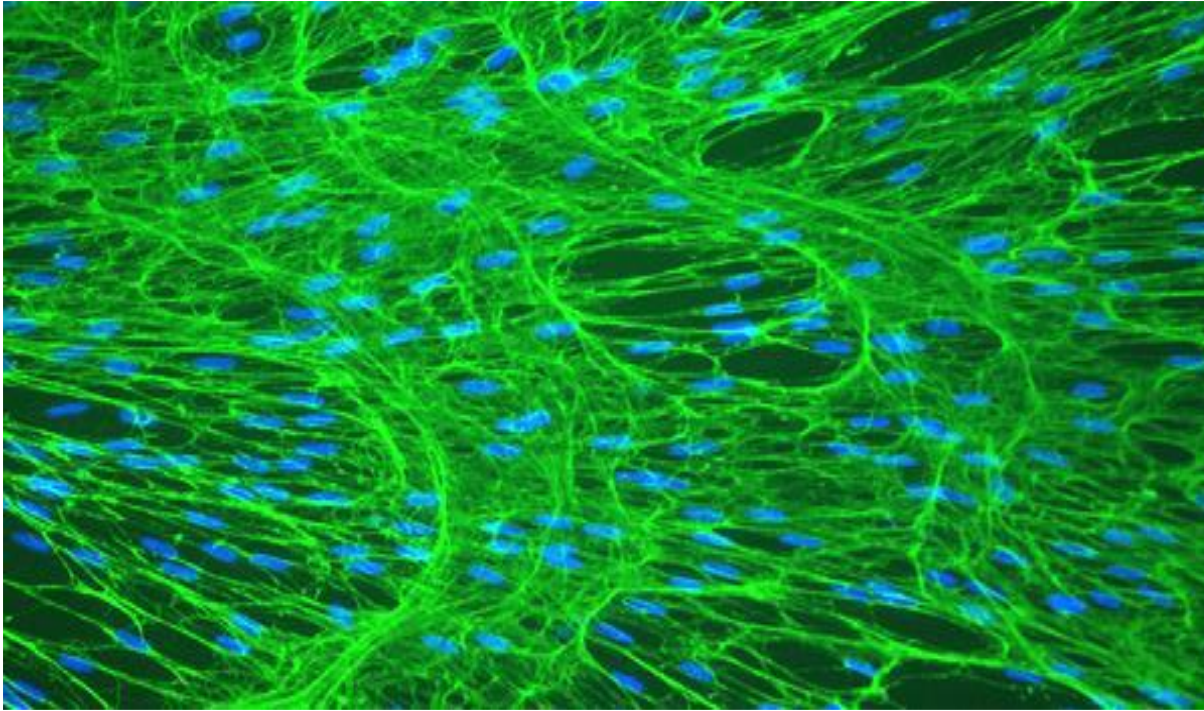
## Fibronectin

- Dimeric structure, disulfide bonds
- Cell binding: through integrins



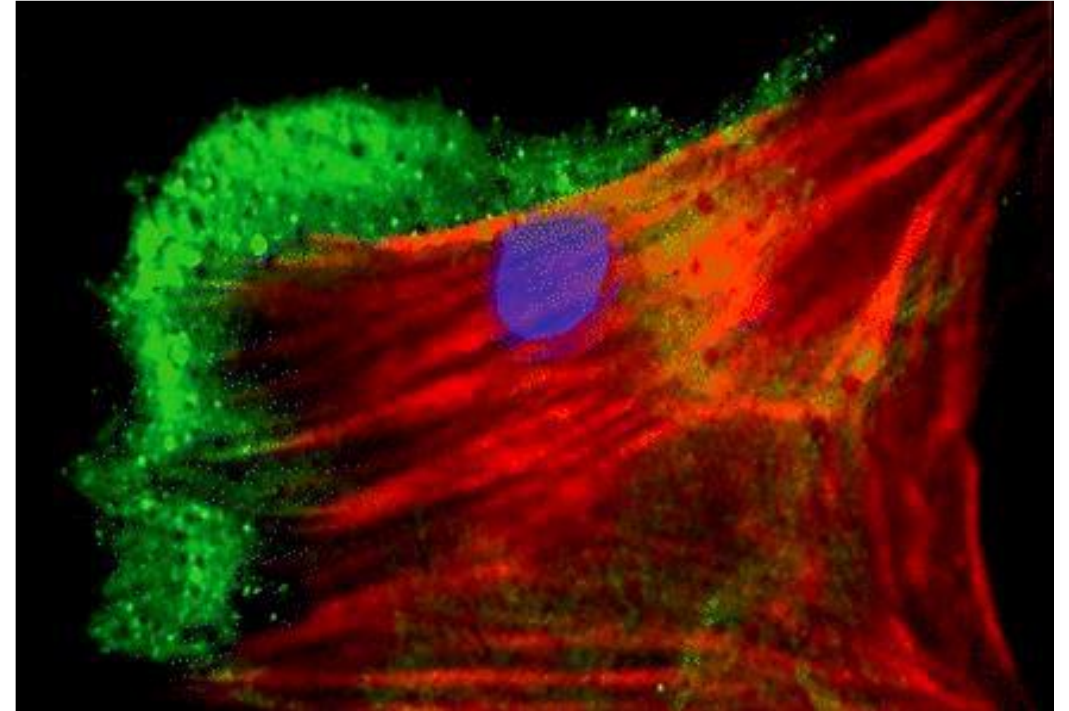


## Human lung fibroblasts



Nuclei / fibronectin-GFP (ECM)

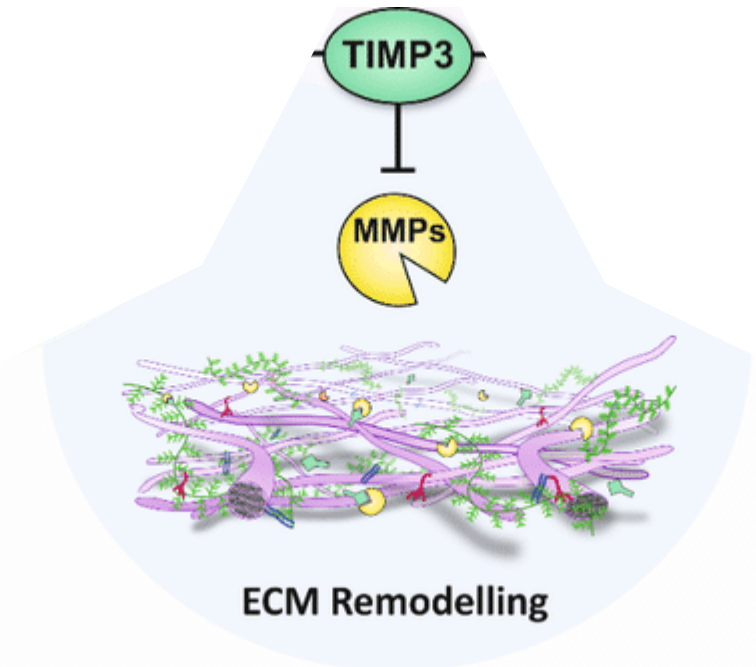
## Rat pulmonary artery smooth muscle cell



Nuclei / tenascin (ECM) / F-actin

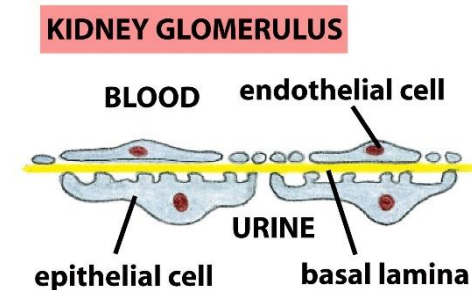
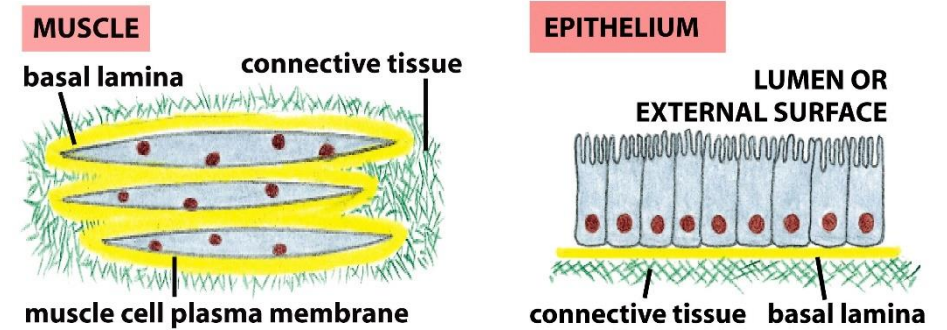
# ECM remodeling

- Mechanisms of degradation and re-organization
- Important during development, wound healing, inflammation etc.
- Exploited by cancer cells (metastasis)
- **Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinase (TIMPs)**



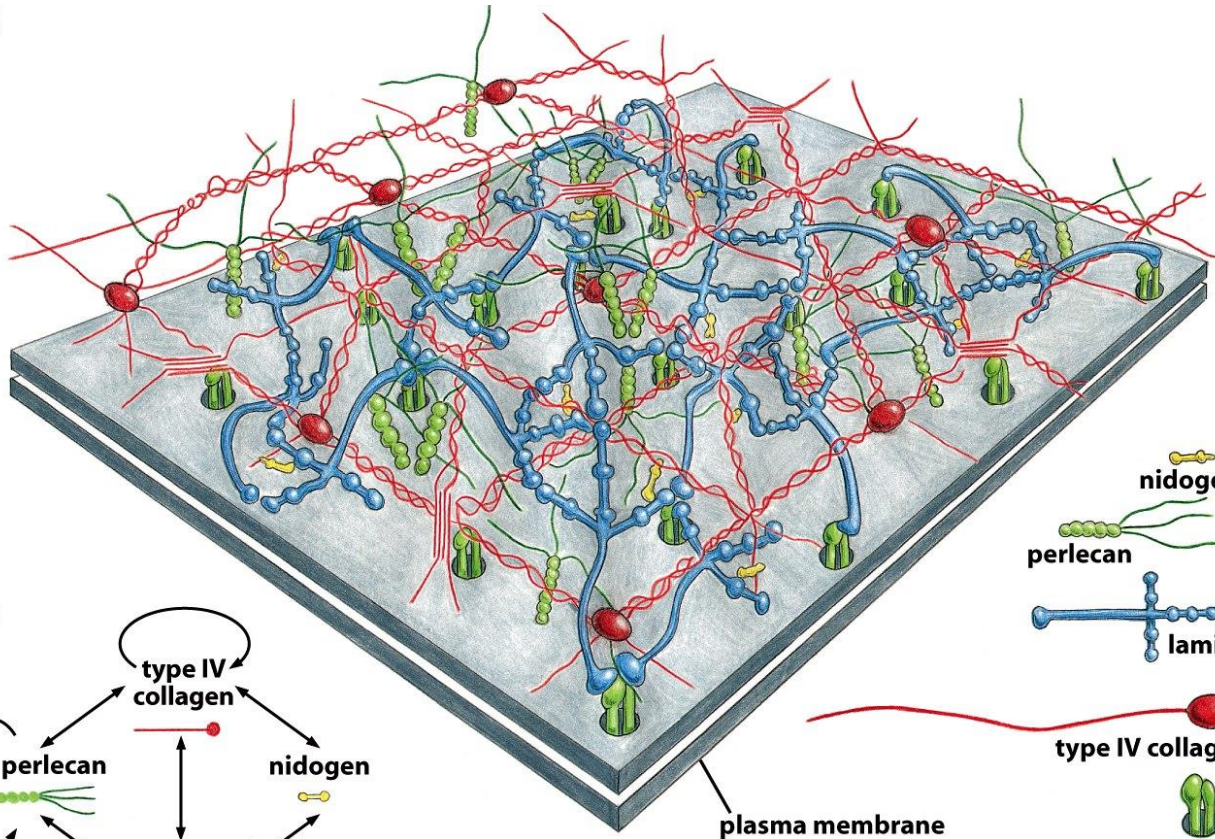
# Basal lamina – basement membrane

- Underlies epithelial cells, surrounds muscle, fat and Schwann cells
- Cell polarity, mechanical connection with connective tissue, filter (kidney)
- Relatively thin ECM layer: 50-200 nm
- **Collagen type IV, laminins, nidogens** (linker proteins; formerly entactin), **perlecan**

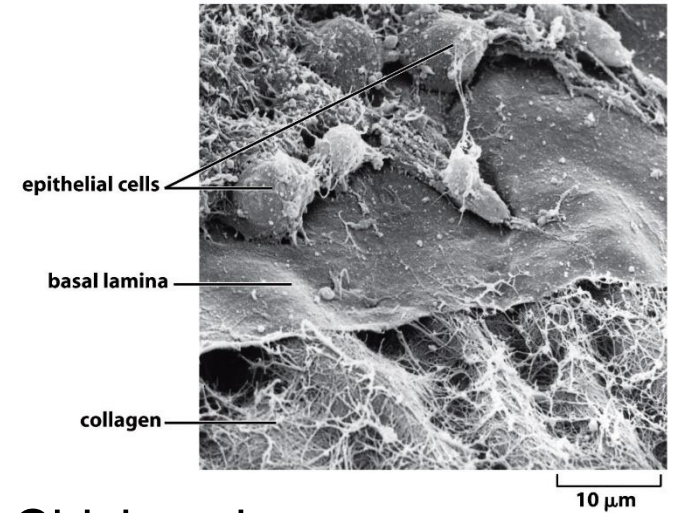
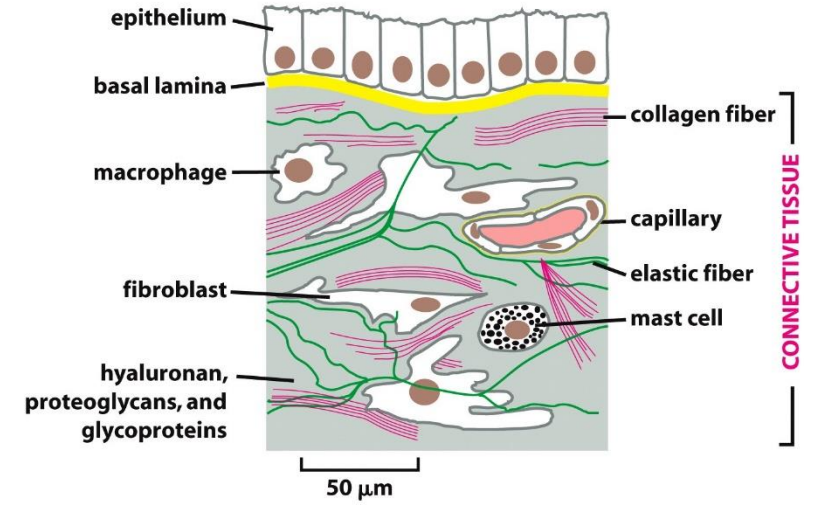
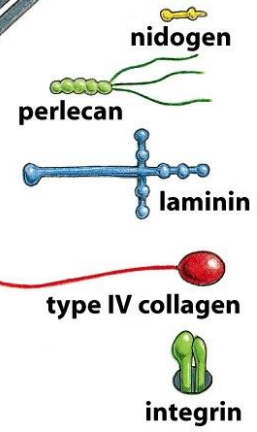
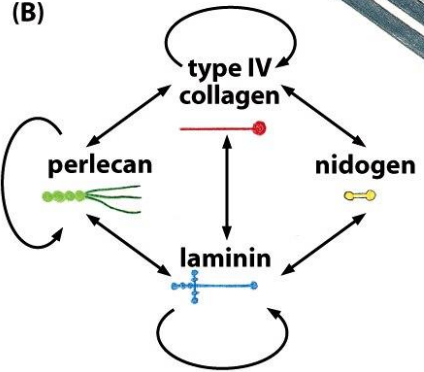




(A)



(B)



Chick embryo cornea





# Cell interactions



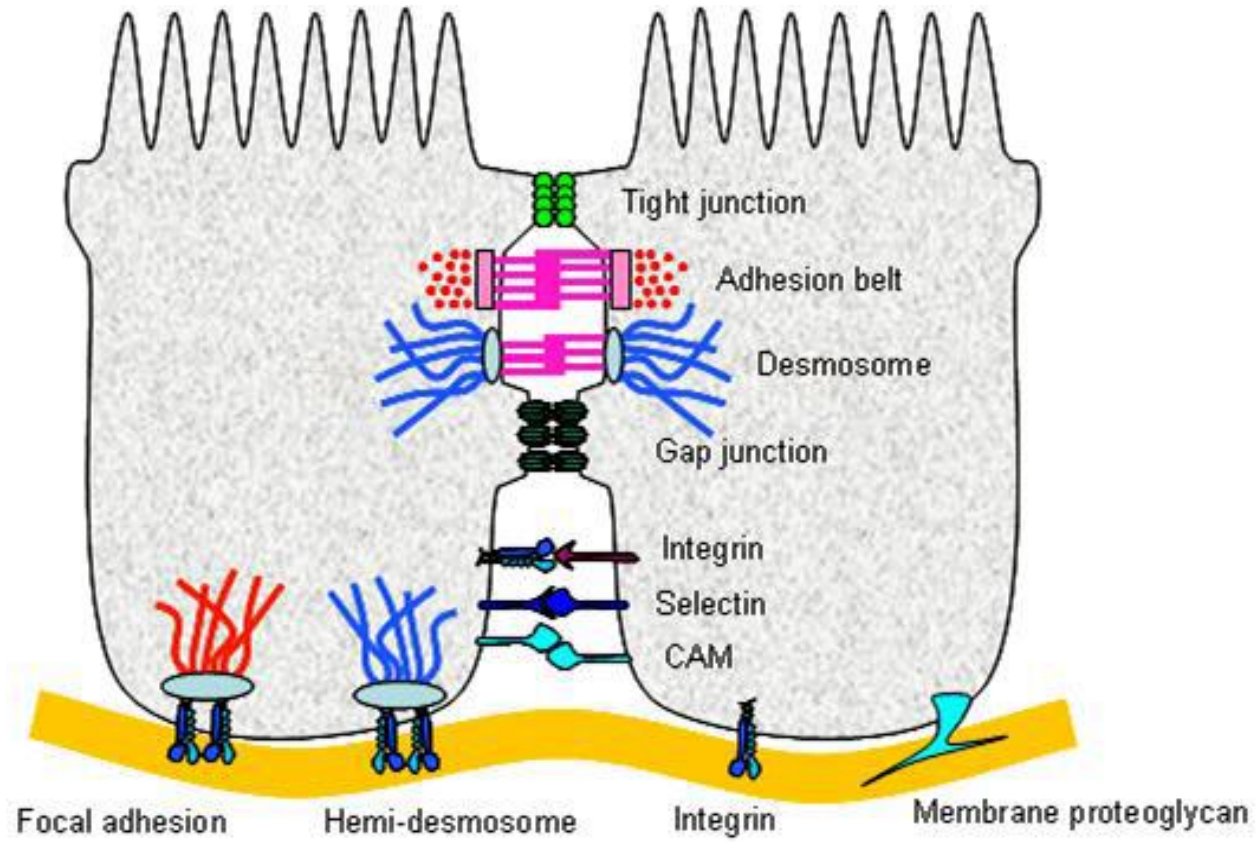
# Cell interactions

- Expression of specific receptors: **cell adhesion molecules (CAM)**
  - **CAM interactions:** cell-cell interactions & cell-ECM interactions
  - **Intracellularly linked with cytoskeleton** (stability and signaling)
  - Regulation by translocation (membrane vs. vesicles; secretory vs. endocytic pathway)

## 4 major CAM classes:

- **Integrins (cell-ECM)**
- **Cadherins (cell-cell)**
- **Selectins**
- **Immunoglobulin-like CAMs (ICAMs)**





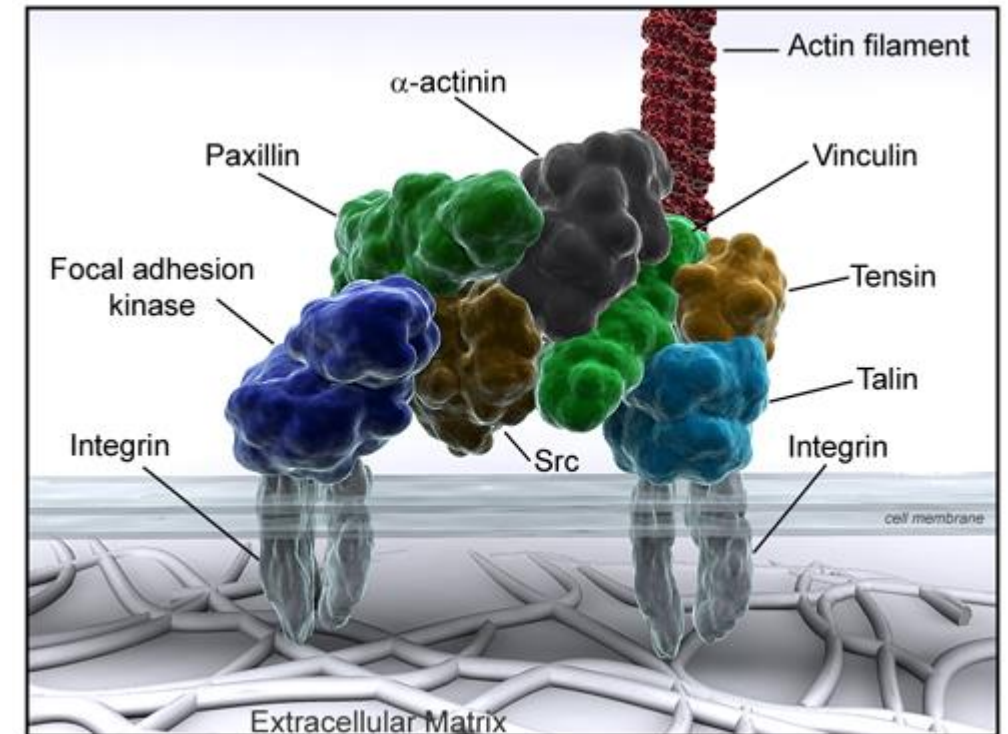
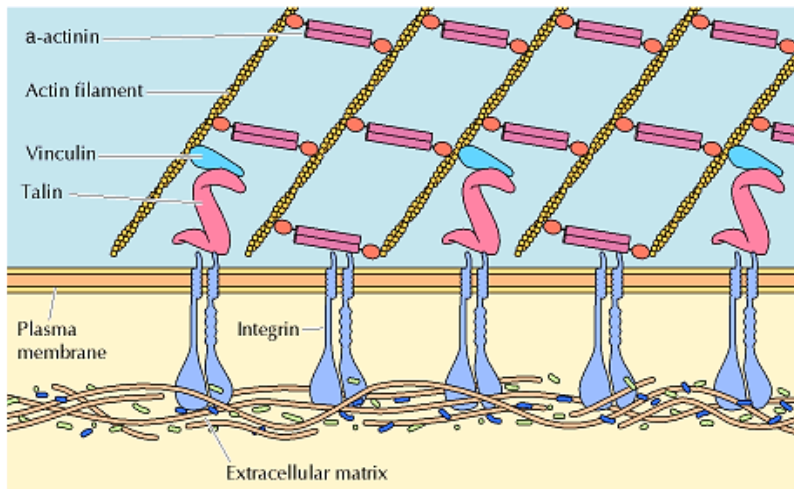
# Cell-ECM interactions

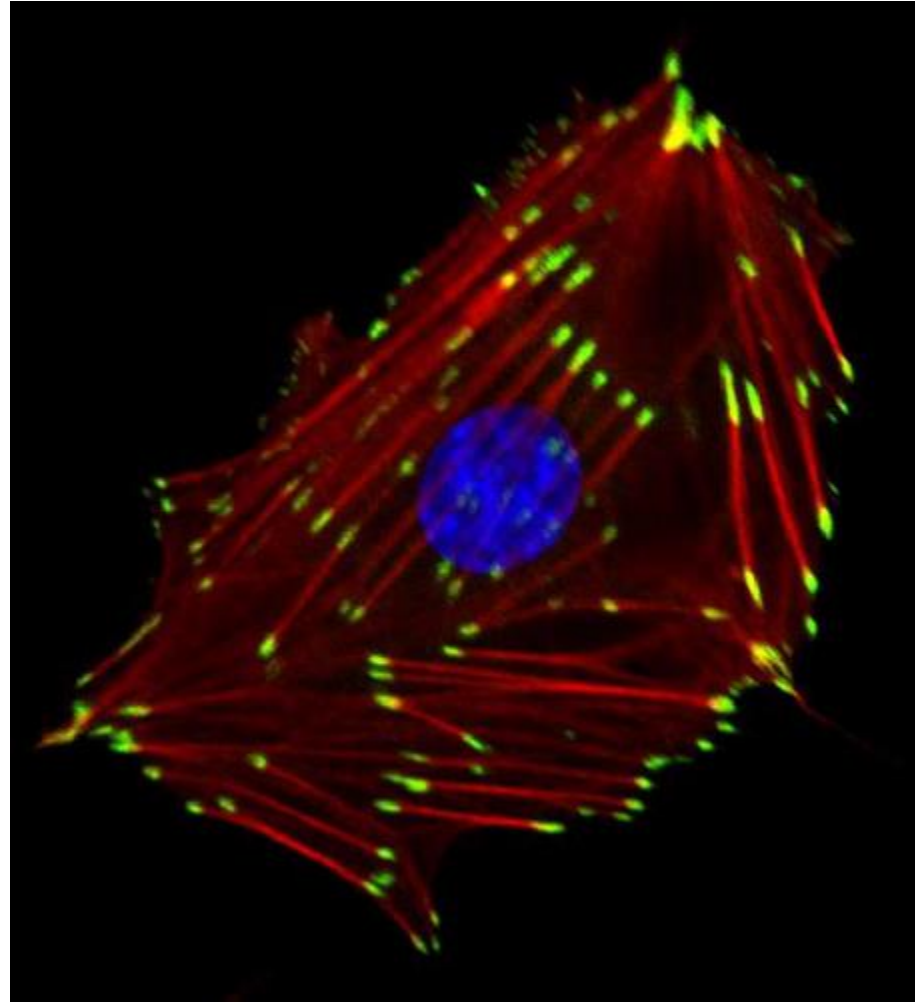




# Focal adhesions

- Connecting **actin filaments to ECM** through **integrins**
- Important for **cell signaling (FAK/Src)**: cell survival, migration, proliferation...

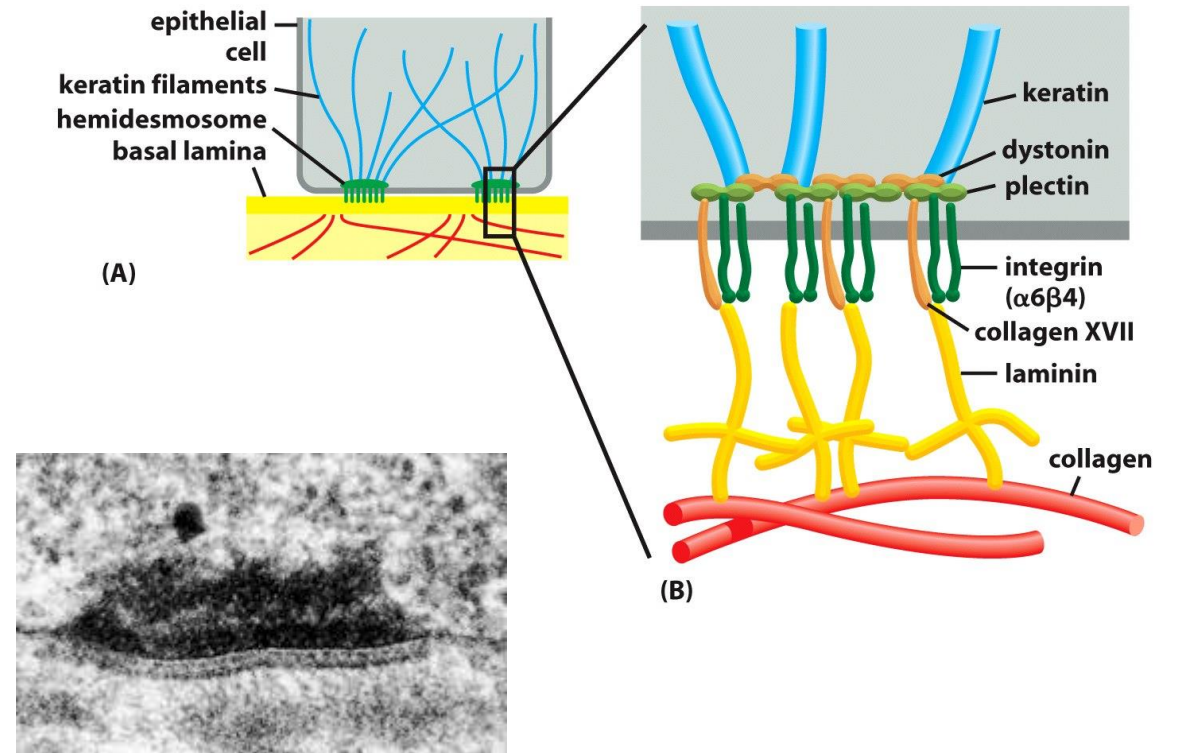
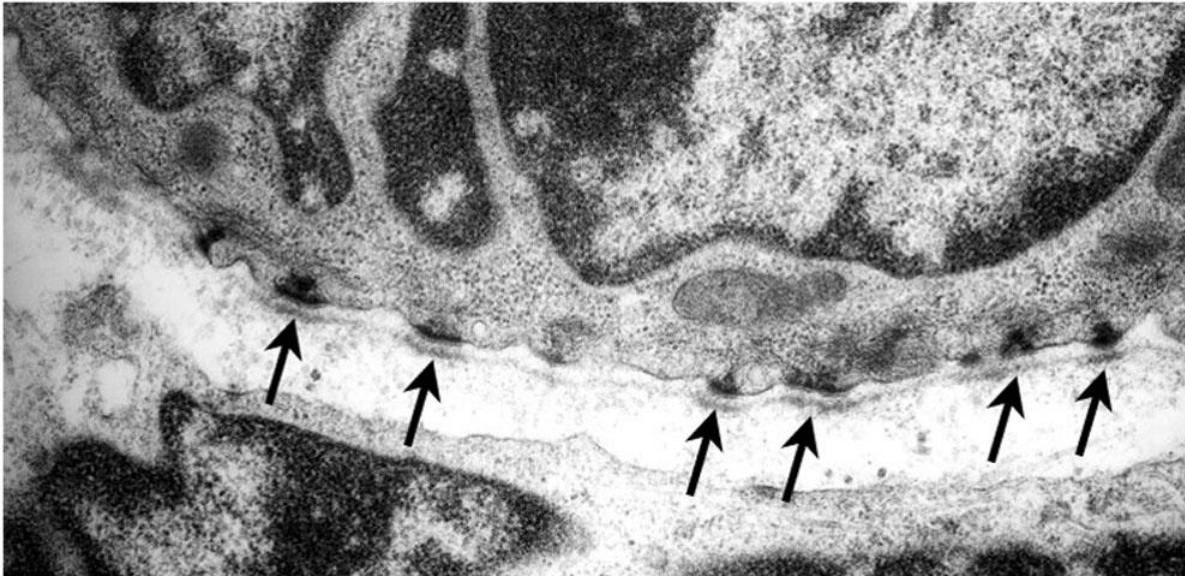




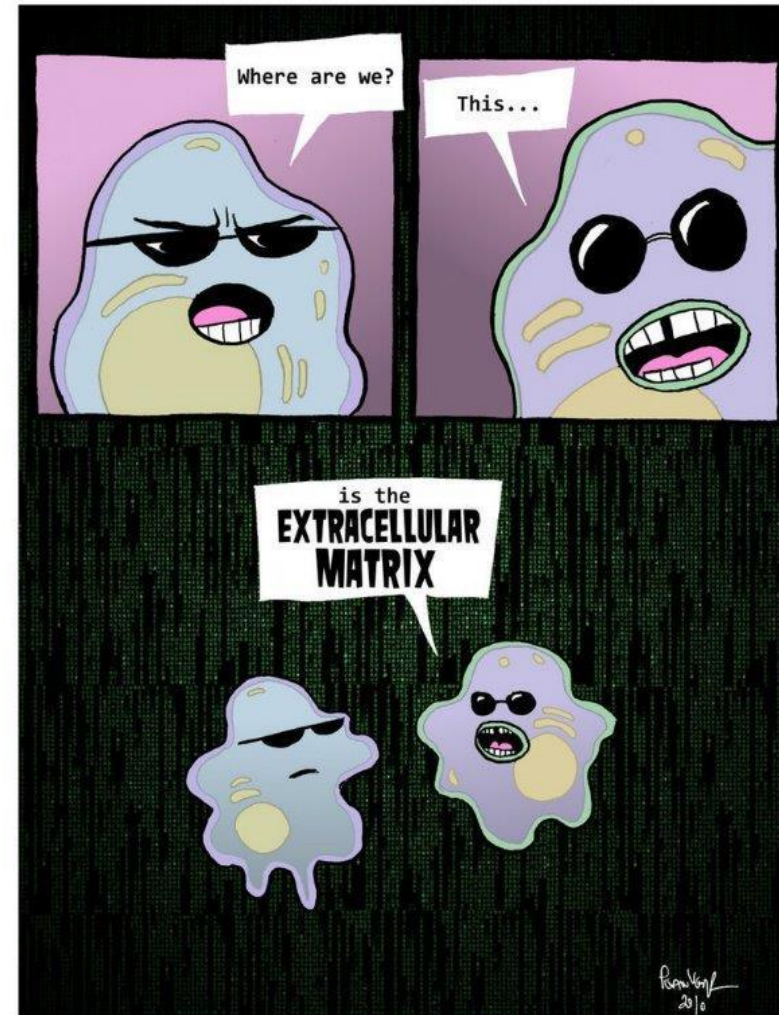
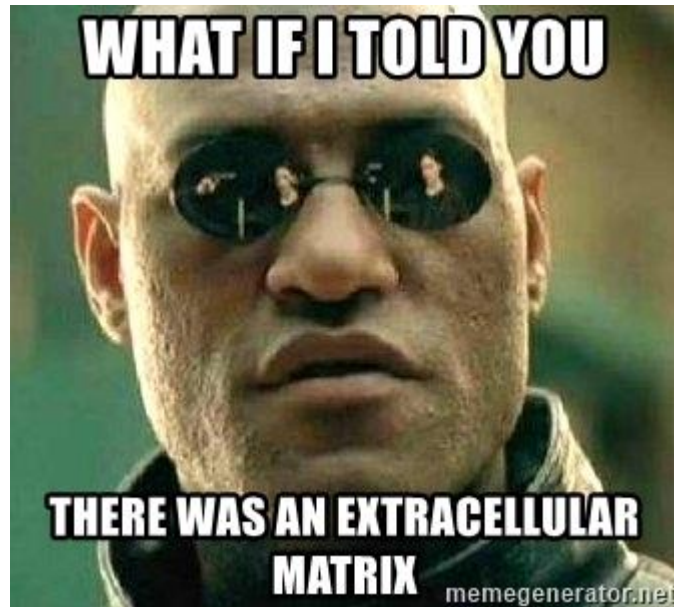
Vinculin (focal adhesions) / F-actin / nuclei

# Hemidesmosomes

- Connecting **intermediary filaments** to **ECM** through **integrins**
- **Anchor epithelial cells to basal lamina**









# Cell-cell interactions



# Types of cell-cell interactions

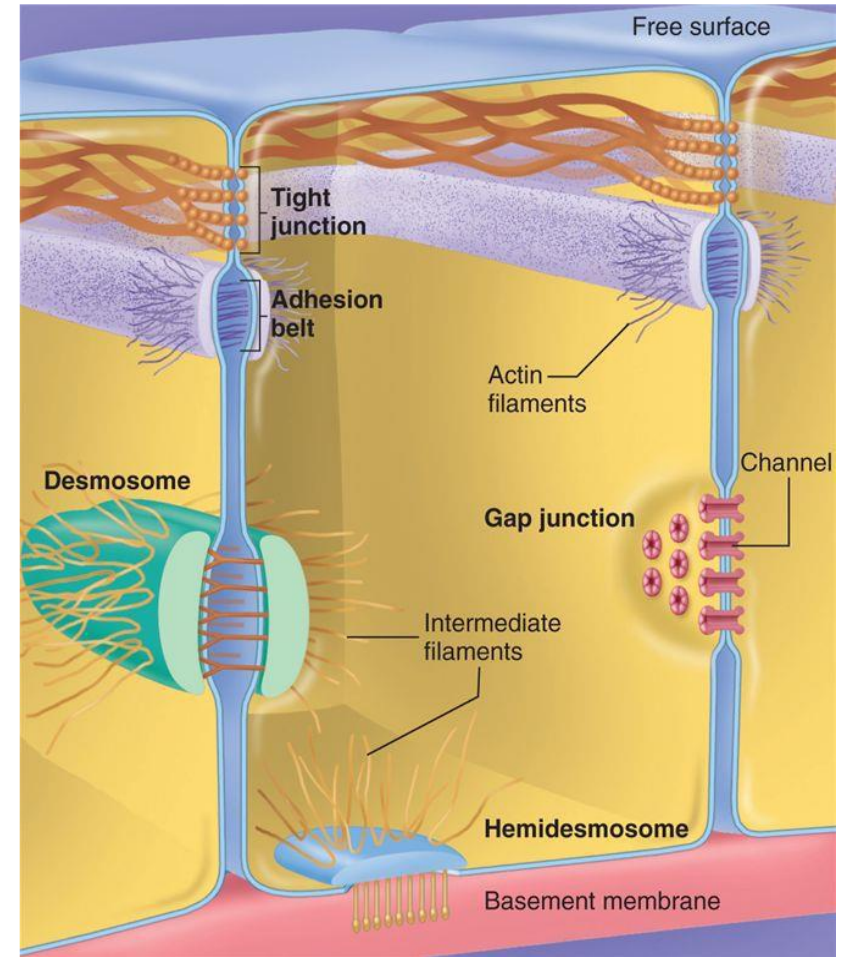
## Cell adhesions

- Adherens junctions (adhesion belt)
- Desmosomes

## Tight junctions

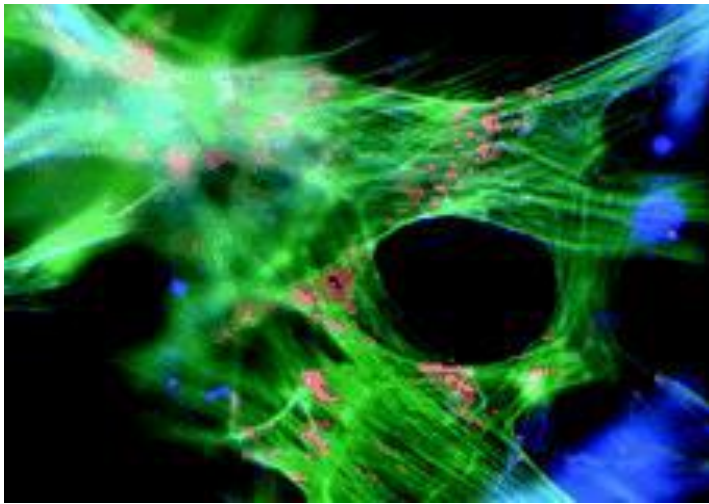
## Channel-forming junctions

- Gap junctions
- Plasmodesmata (plants)

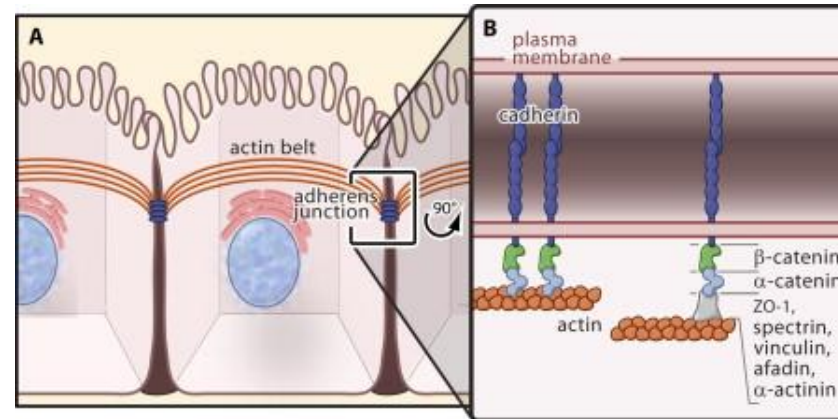
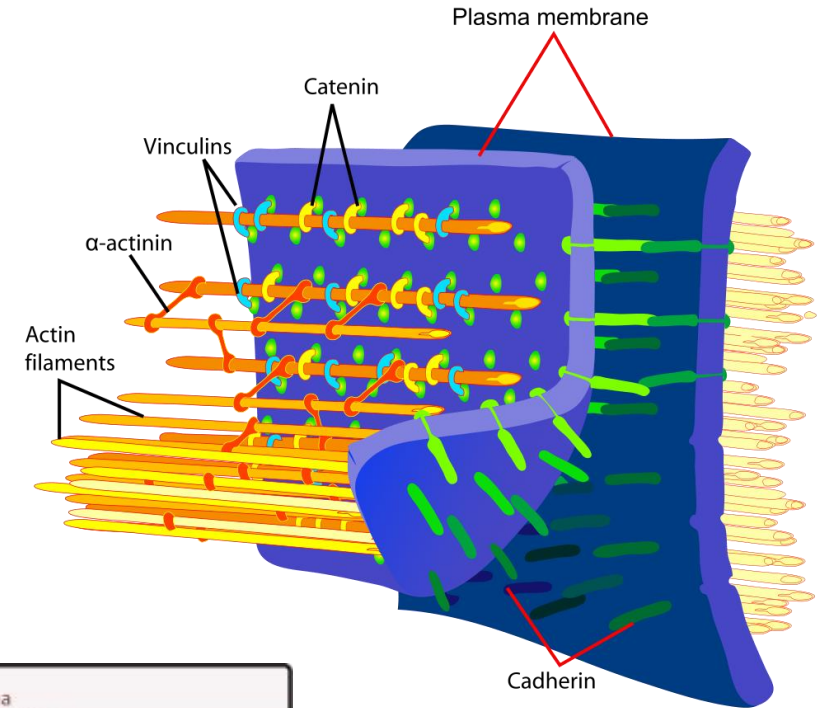


# Adherens junctions

- Connect **actin filaments** in neighboring cells via **cadherins**

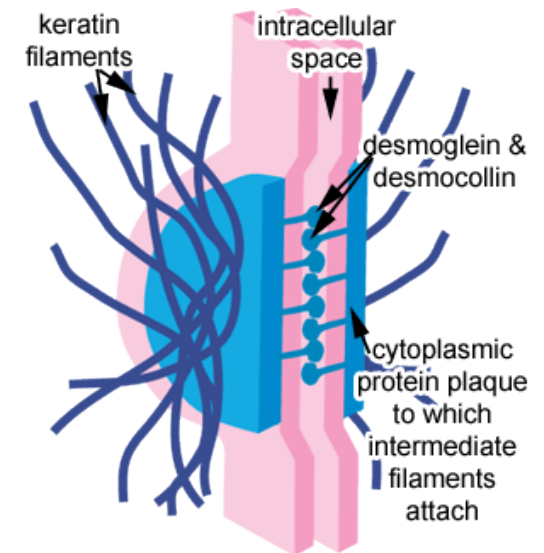
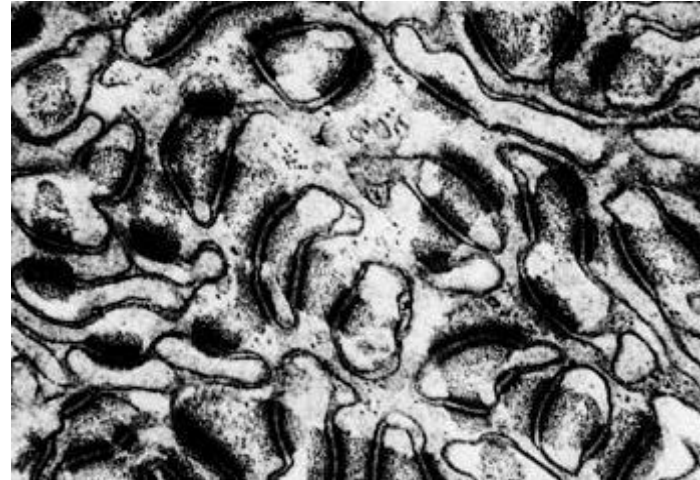
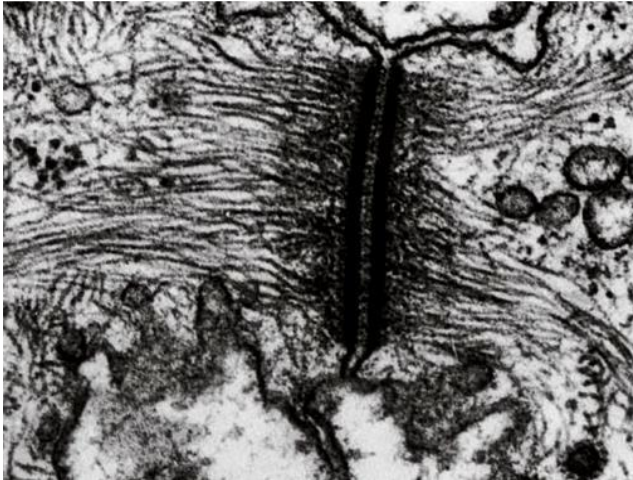


F-actin /  $\beta$ -catenin



# Desmosomes

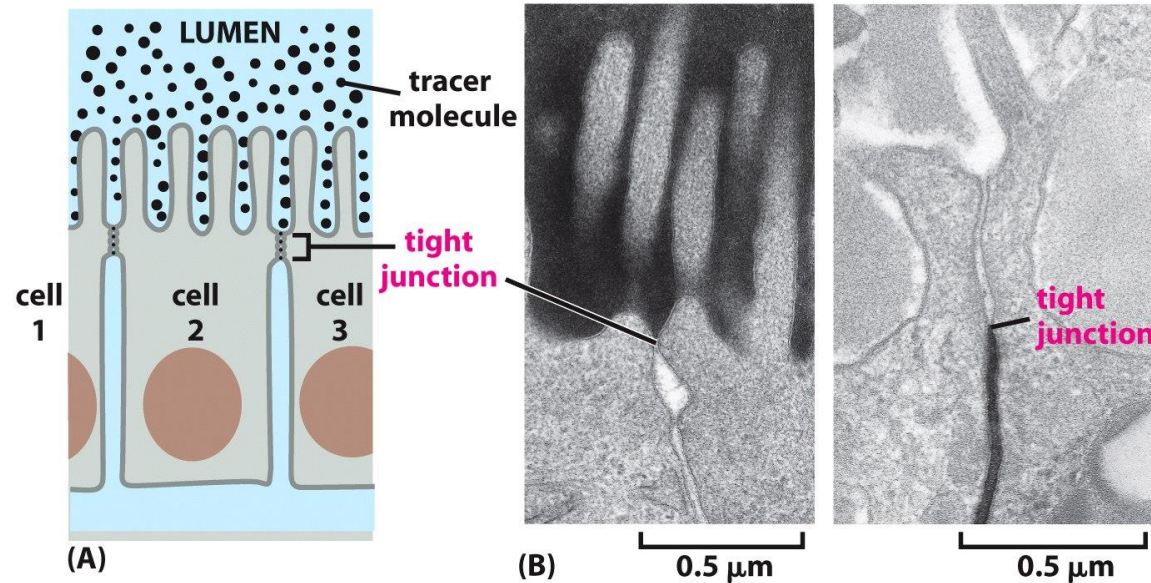
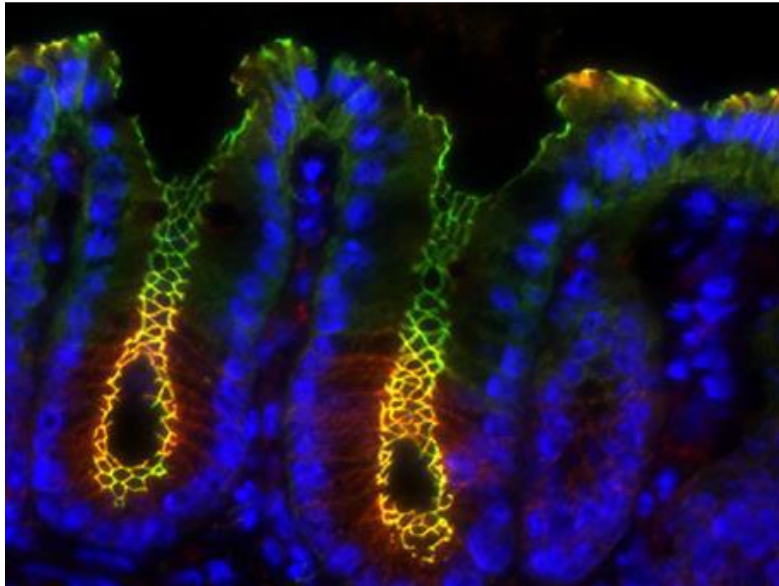
- Connect **intermediary filaments** in neighboring cells via desmosomal **cadherins**
- **Dense cytoplasmic plaque** within cells

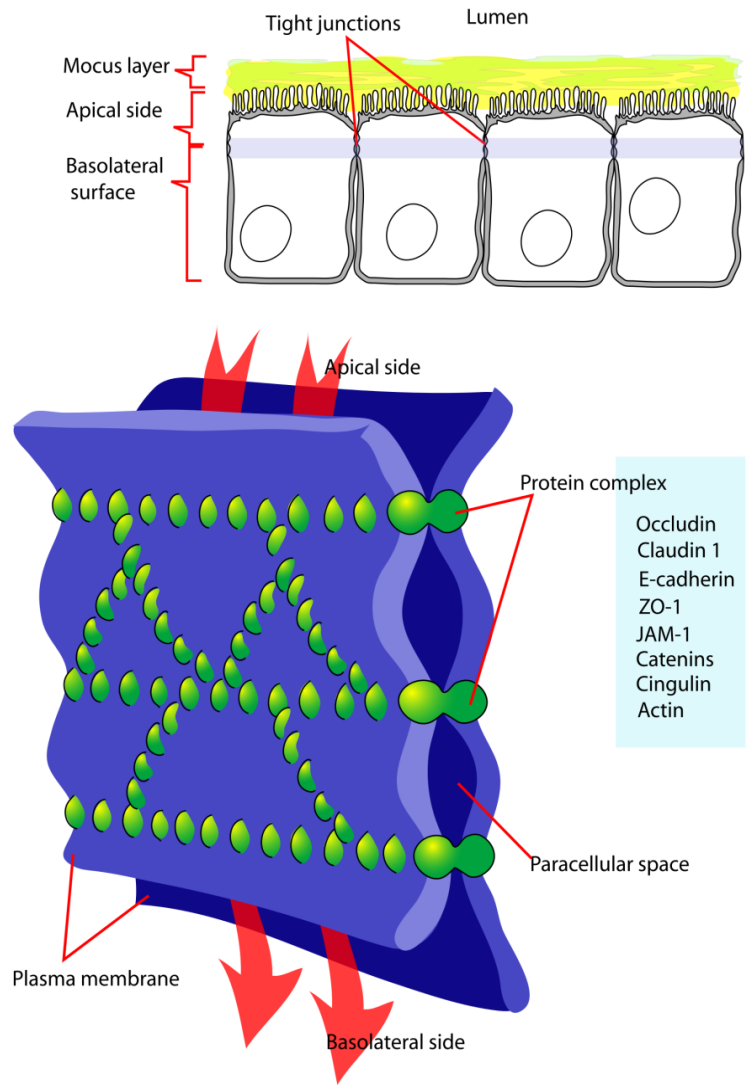




# Tight junctions

- Seal gaps between epithelial cells close to apical membrane
- Impermeable (selectively permeable) barrier
- Claudin, occludin, JAMs (junction adhesion molecules)

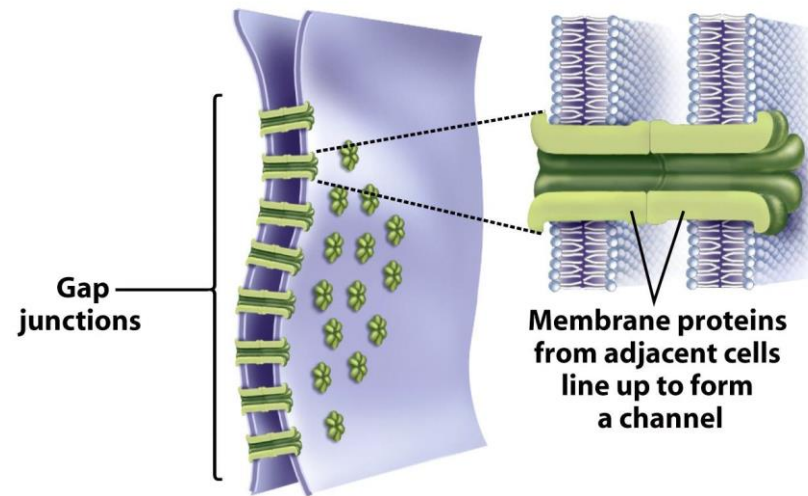
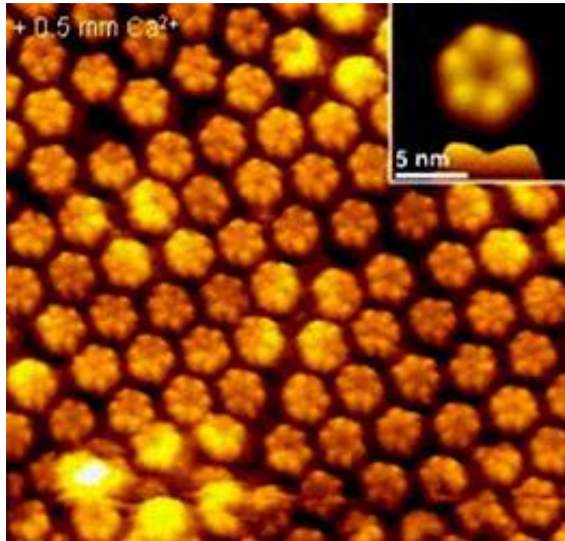


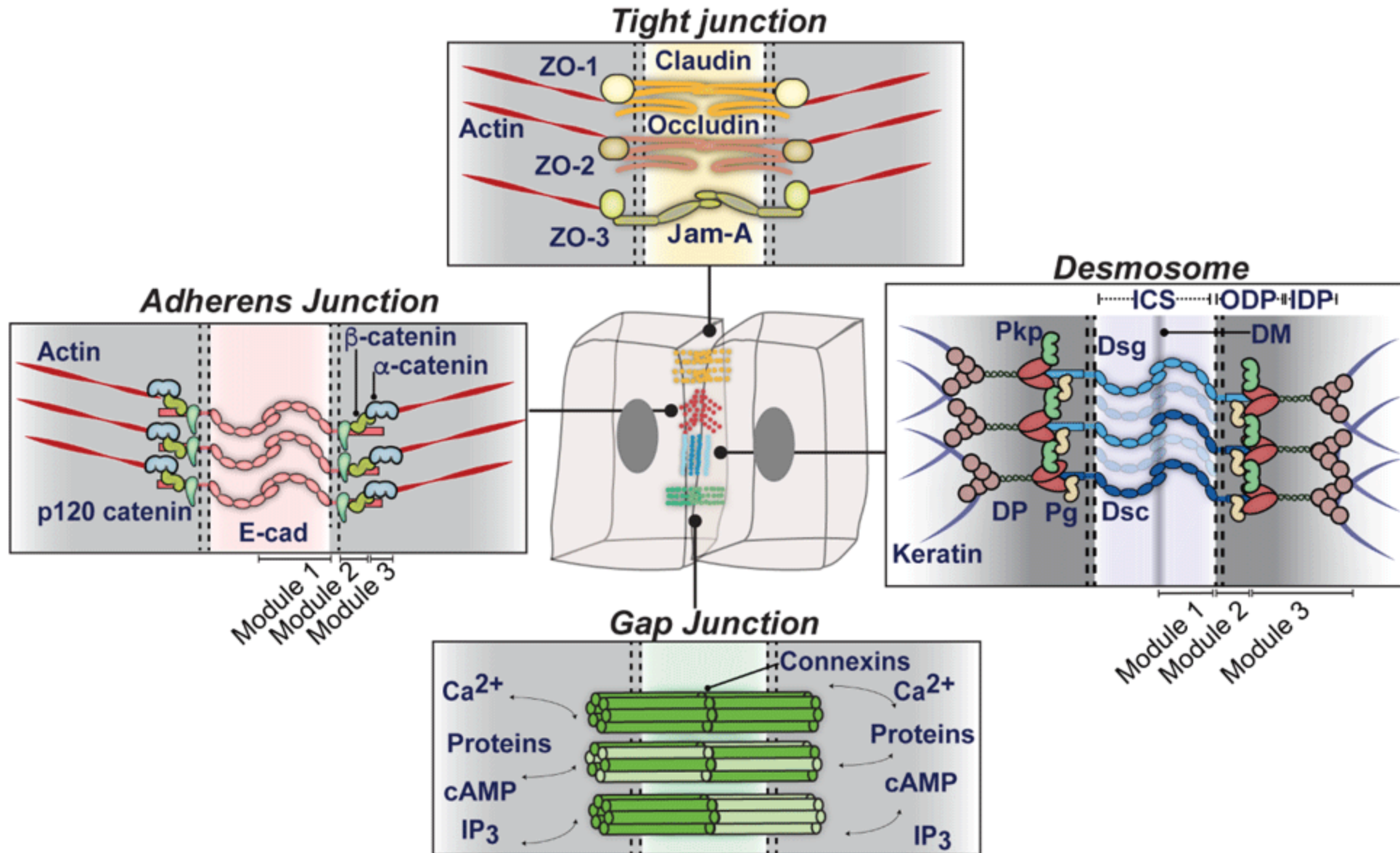


# Gap junctions

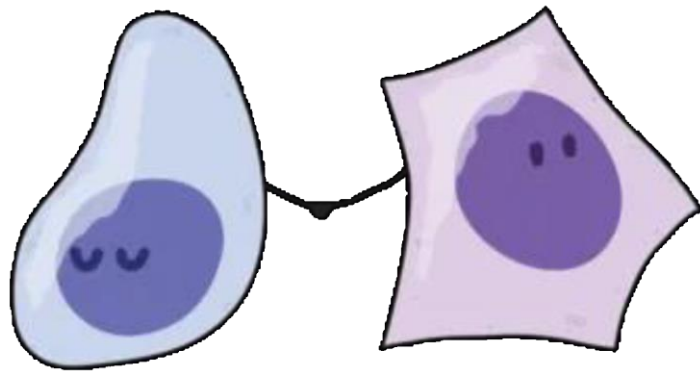
(parallel: plasmodesmata in plant cells)

- **Directly link cytoplasms** of adjacent cells; **animal cells**
- Diffusion of water, ions, small molecules: cell-cell communication
- Hexamer of **connexin** proteins = **connexons** (1.5 nm wide channels)



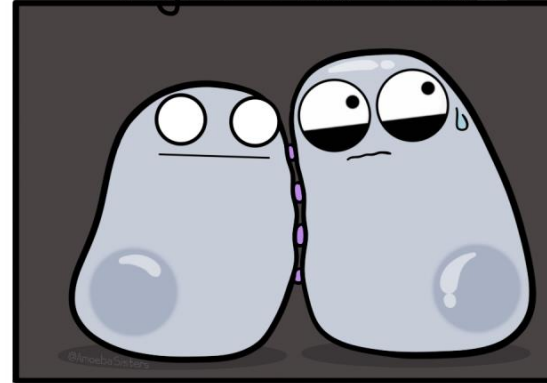






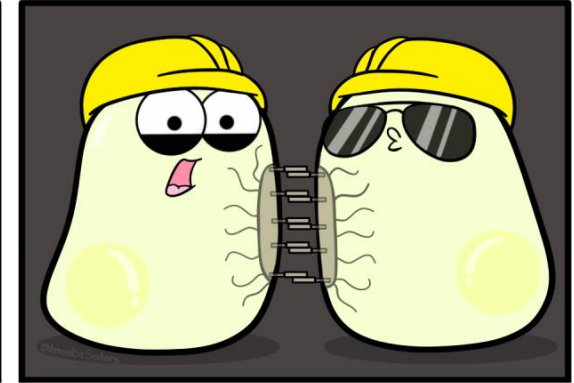
# CELL JUNCTIONS @AMOEBASISTERS

## Tight Junctions



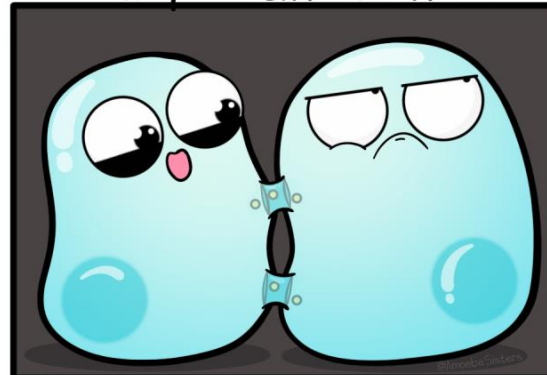
Got leaks? Not with this belt-like junction!

## Desmosomes



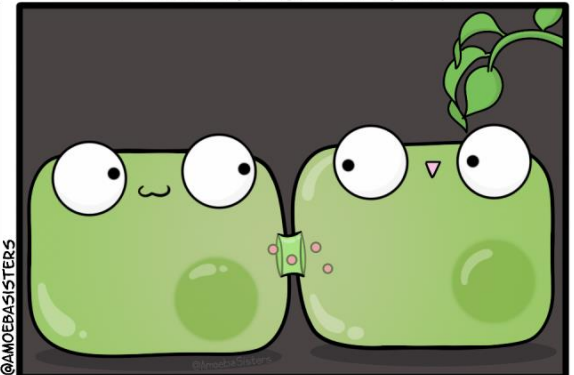
Bonds cells together for super mechanical strength!

## Gap Junctions



Sharing is caring! Of ions and molecules that is. [generally in animal cells]

## Plasmodesmata



Similar to gap junction [but generally for plant and algae cells]