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Cell pathology

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Bi1700en Cell Biology / 10 – Cell pathology (11 May 2022)



Outline

– Cellular responses to stress conditions

- Physical stress (temperature, radiation)
- Chemical stress (xenobiotics)
- Biological stress (intracellular parasites)

– Cell death

- Necrosis
- Necroptosis
- Apoptosis
- Autophagic cell death
- Ferroptosis



Cellular responses to stress conditions



Stress factors

Non-specific stress factors

- Significant **increase of temperature, heavy metals, aldehydes** → denaturation of proteins

Specific (targeted) stress conditions

- **Radiation of a specific wavelength** → absorption by target molecules or specific response at the cellular level
- **Specific inhibitors/activators** (antibiotics, toxins etc.) → target specific process in the cell



Cellular stress response

- **Programmed adaptive processes of the cell**
- Aimed to **protect** against the damaging consequences of the stress factors and **restore homeostasis**
- Various stress-signaling pathways → **changes in the gene expression** → upregulation of **stress (heat shock) proteins** and other genes required to restore the balance
- **Prolonged activation of stress-signaling** induces expression of proteins involved in activation of **cell death**



Physical stress



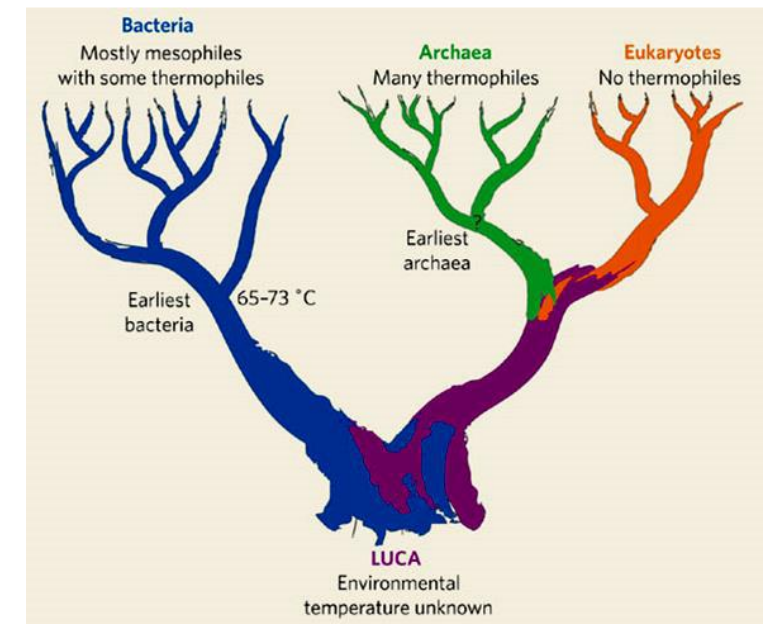
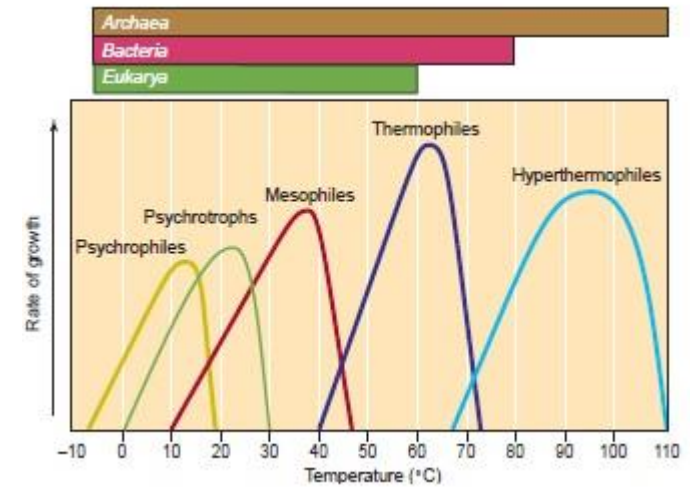
Heat stress

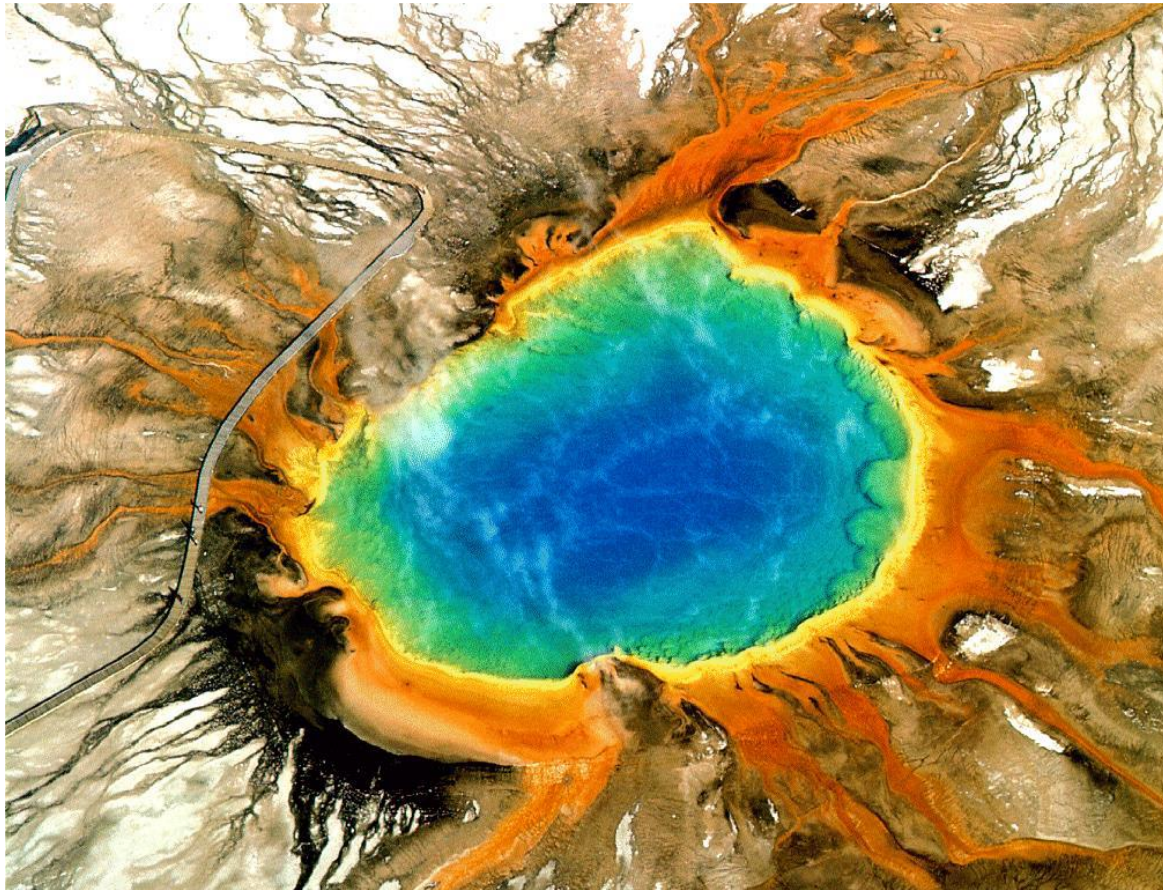
- Irreversible damage of cells under **heat shock** – 40-50°C
- Changes in the **tertiary structure of proteins** → defects in their function
 - Disrupted coordination of metabolic pathways (optimal temperature for enzymes)
 - Disorganization of biomembranes
 - Disrupted cytoskeleton (F-actin stabilization and depolymerization of microtubules)
- **Heat shock proteins**
 - Upregulated in response to various stressors (not only increased temperature)
 - Evolutionarily conserved **molecular chaperones**
 - **Refolding of misfolded proteins:** restore correct conformation or target proteins for degradation (cochaperones with ubiquitin ligase activity)



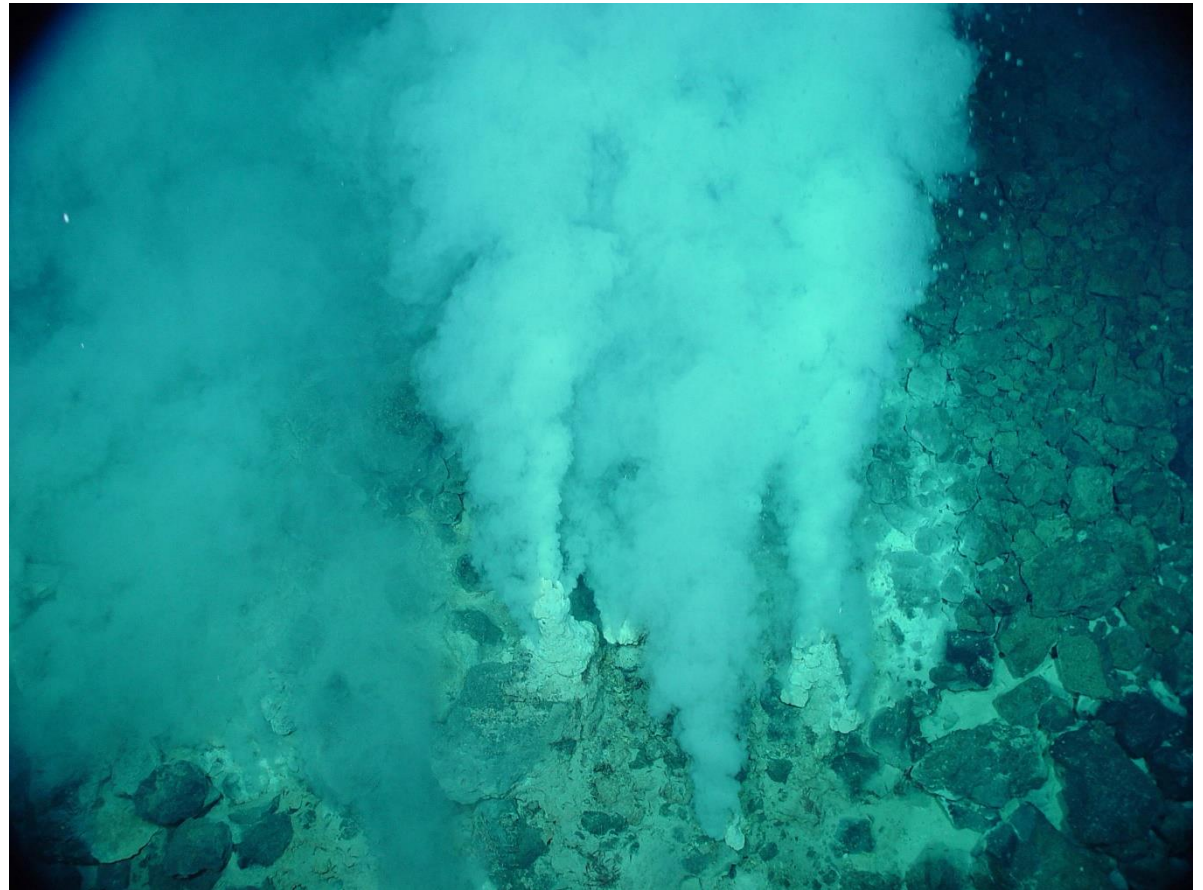
Hyperthermophilic bacteria

- Tolerate extremely high temperatures
- Optimal temperature ~90°C
- **Common in domain Archea**
- Thermostable enzymes (proteins)
 - Isolation of commercially useful enzymes (e.g., polymerases): fast reactions, hot start reactions etc.





Hot springs (e.g., Grand Prismatic Spring)

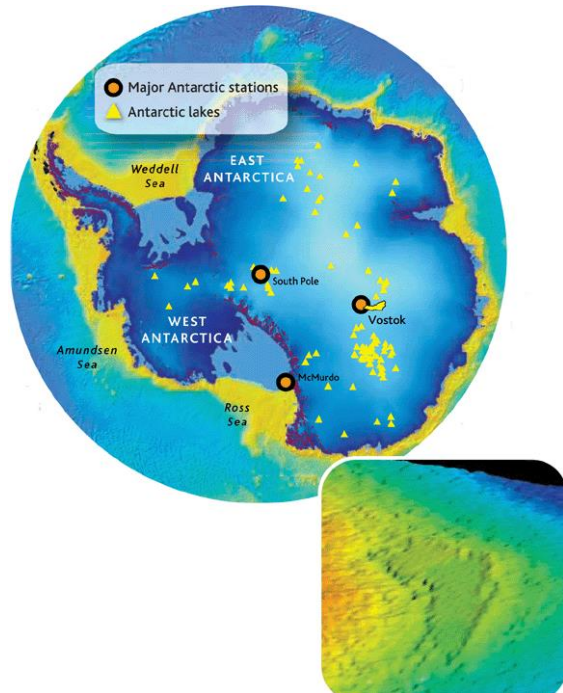
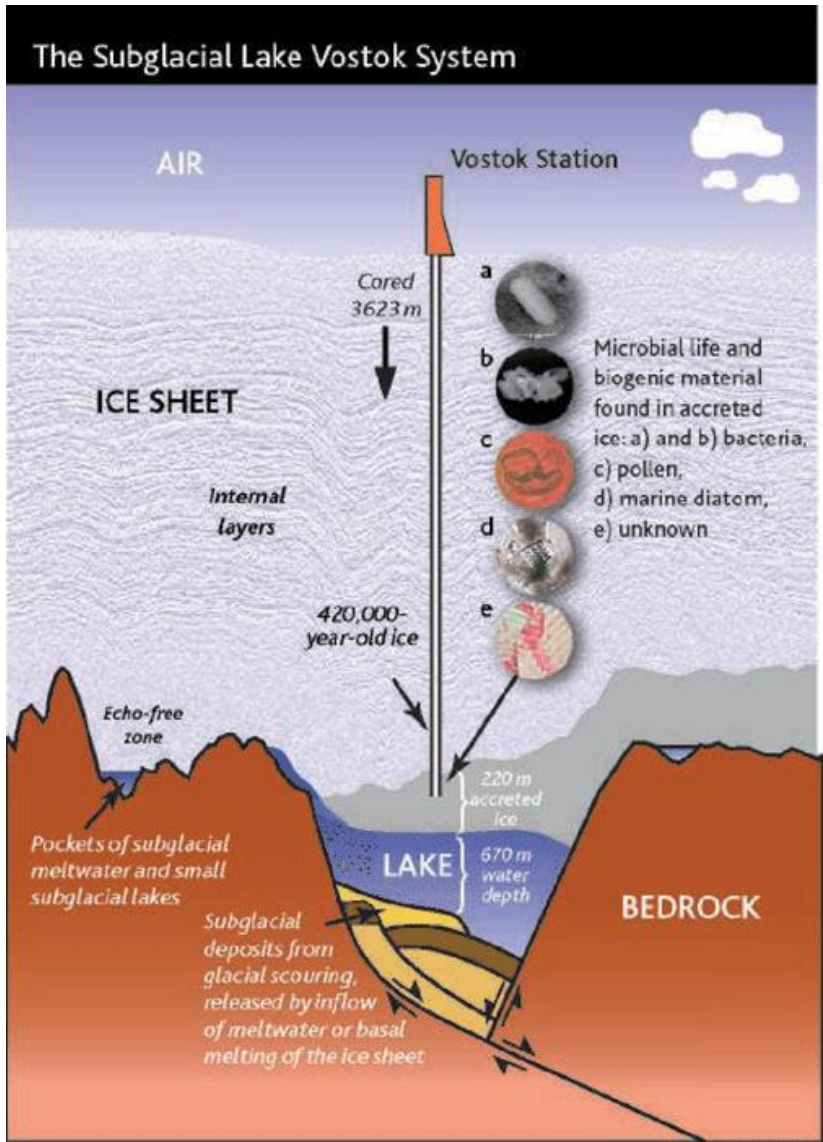


Deep-sea hydrothermal vents

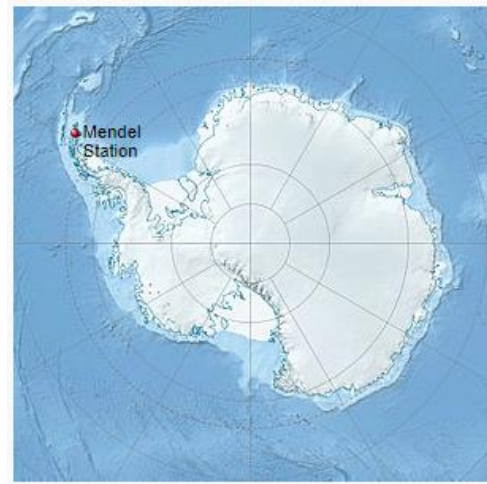
Cold stress

- Irreversible damage in temperatures around 0°C
- Mechanical damage of biomembranes/organelles caused by ice crystals, desiccation of the cell, vitrification (glass-like form; prevents biologically relevant movement of molecules)
 - Animal cells are highly prone to this type of stress
- Mechanisms of cell resistance
 - **Reduced water content:** seeds, spores
 - Different **composition of lipids in membranes** (lower melting point), specific **antifreezing proteins** (prevent ice nucleation and growth), **cold-active enzymes:** psychrophilic bacteria, algae, fungi, insects





Pseudomonas gregormendelii



Electromagnetic radiation: Visible light

- **Weakly absorbed by the cytoplasm**
- Generally effective only when strong intensities / laser beams applied
- Presence of pigments increases the effects

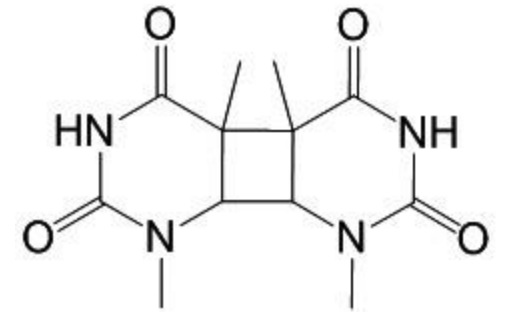
Photosensitizers

- **Molecules increasing sensitivity of cells to light**
- Absorb light → activation of photosensitizer → **oxidative stress**
- Eosin, fluorescein, acridine, chlorophyll, porfyrins...



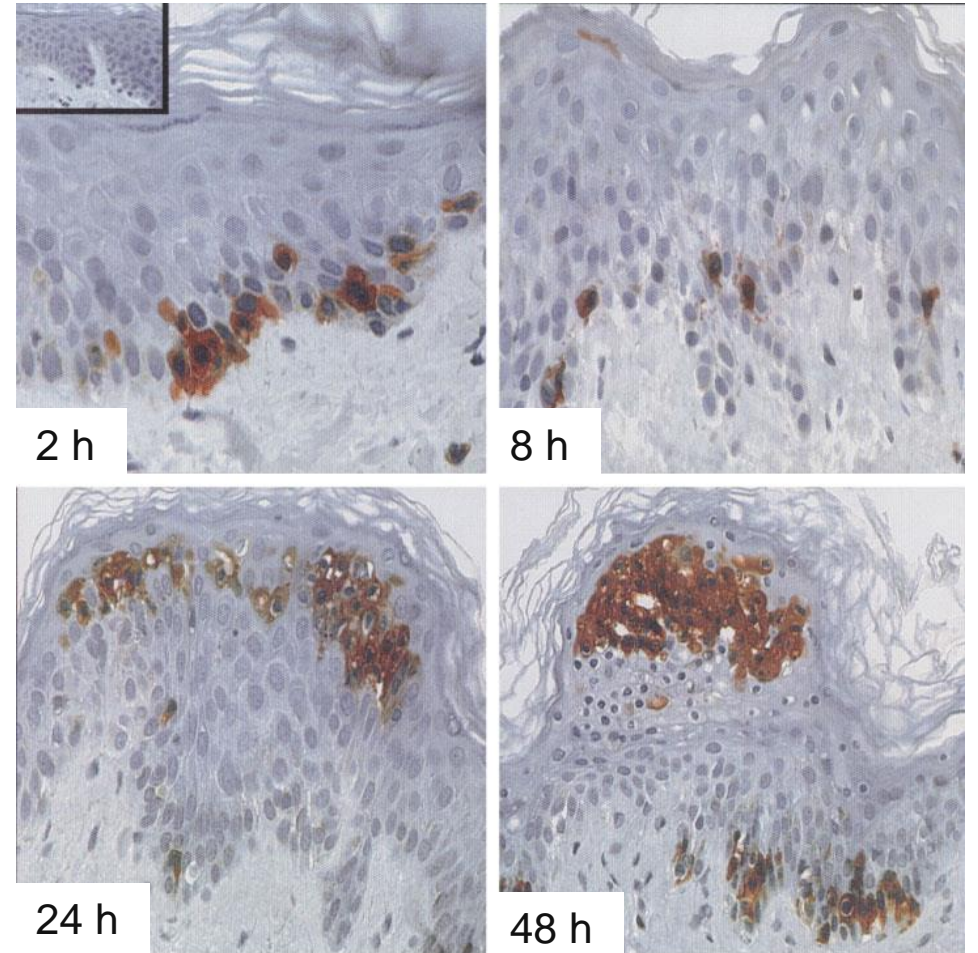
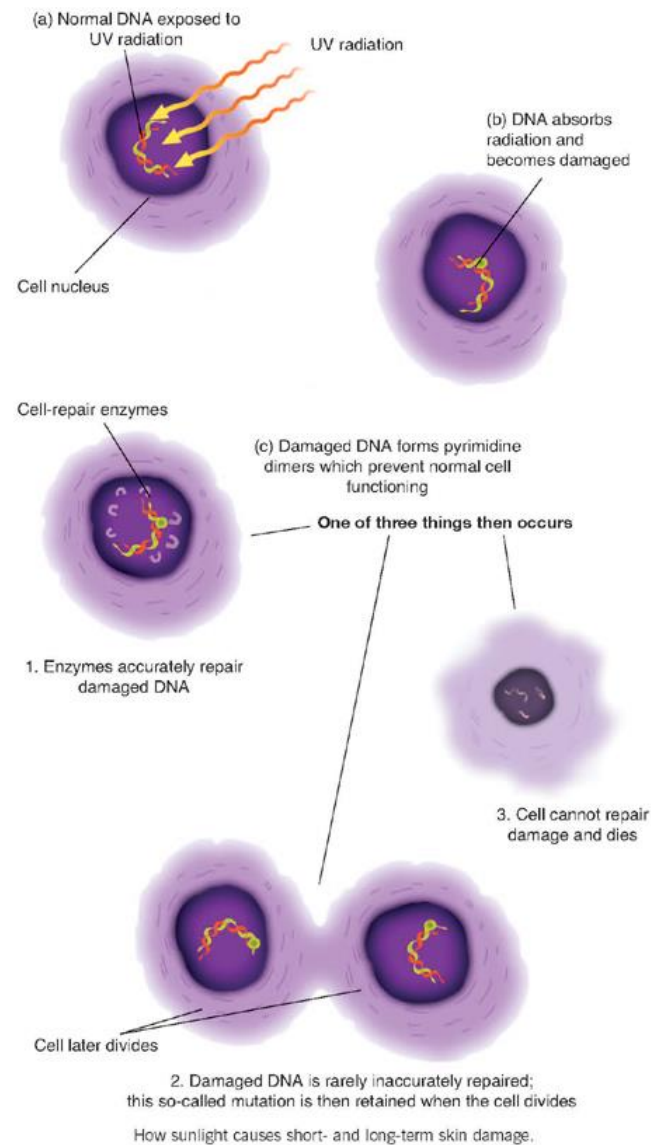
Electromagnetic radiation: Ultraviolet light

- **Effects correlate with the energy (shorter wavelength):**
UVC (200-280 nm) > UVB (280-315 nm) > UVA (315-400 nm)
- **Direct effect:** UVC induces **cyclobutan pyrimidine dimers** and other pyrimidine dimer photoproducts
- **Indirect effects:** production of **reactive oxygen species (ROS)** → oxidative damage (DNA, proteins, lipids) of cell structures



Short-term and long-term effects

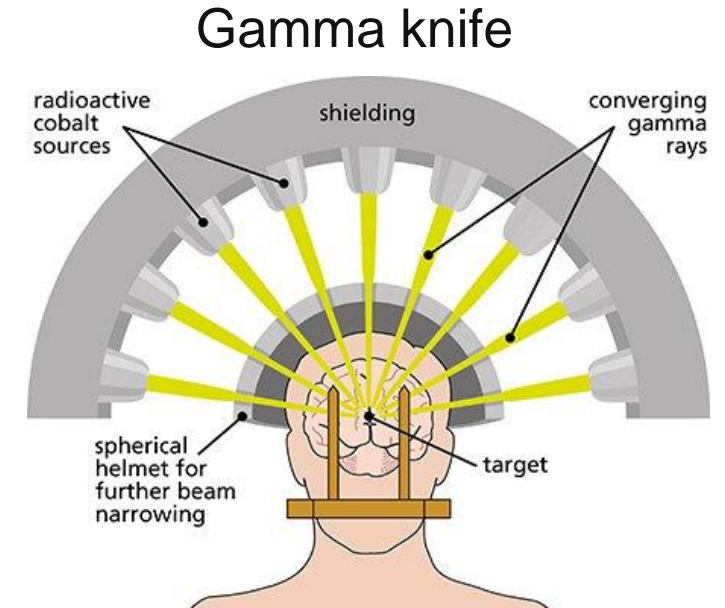
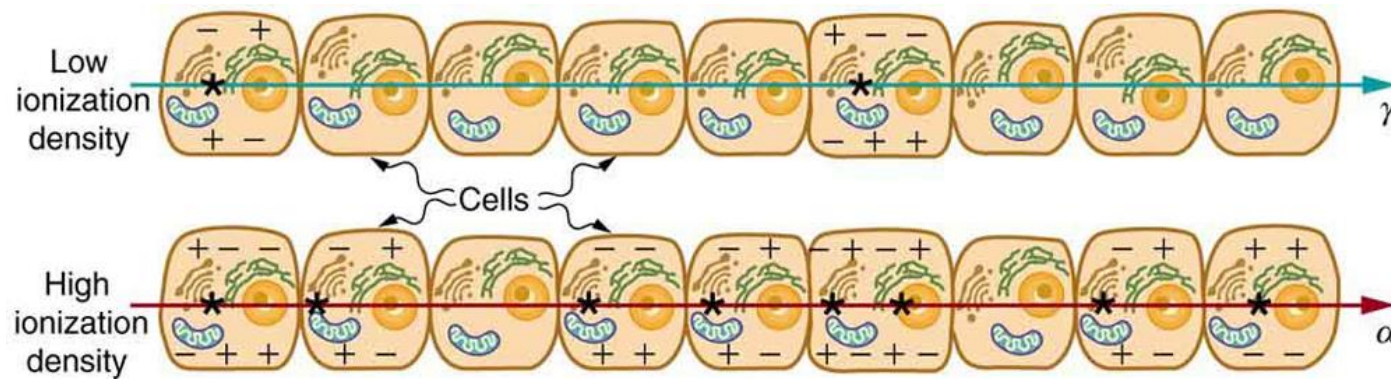
- Induction of apoptosis → photoaging
- Mutations → e.g., skin cancer



Apoptotic cells (cleaved caspase 3) in UV-irradiated (100 mJ/cm²) epidermis

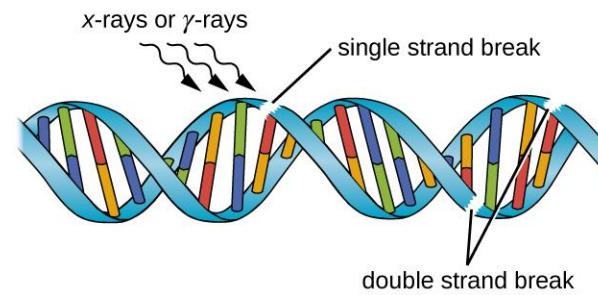
Electromagnetic radiation: Ionizing radiation

- **Gamma rays, X-rays**, (high energy UV light)
- Higher frequency ($\gamma > \text{X-rays}$) = lower ionization density
→ less damage

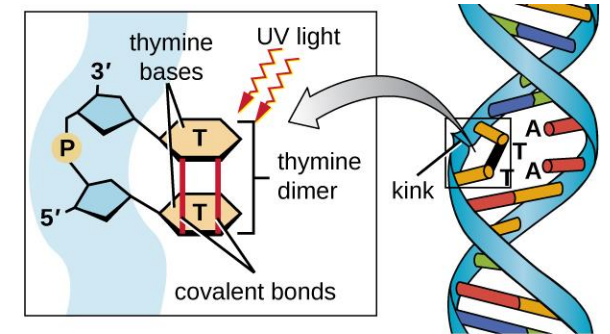


Electromagnetic radiation: Ionizing radiation

- **Direct effects: DNA breaks**
- **Indirect effects: ROS production**



(a) Ionizing radiation



(b) Non-ionizing radiation

Radiosensitivity

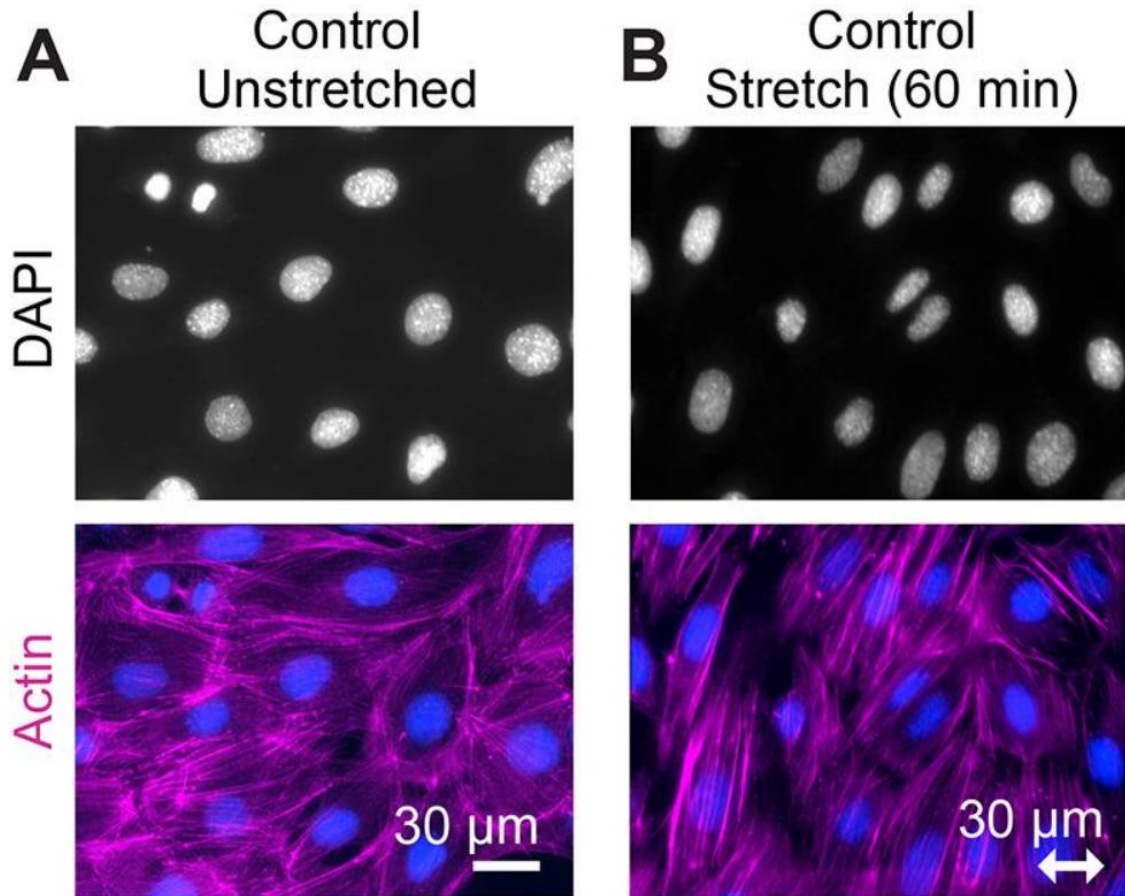
- Cells of higher organisms
- Cells (species) with high DNA content, gametes
- Rapidly proliferating cells (bone marrow, lymph nodes, germ cells, epithelial cells, embryonal cells...)

Mechanical stress

- Cells with the cell wall are highly resistant
- **Intermediary filaments in animal cells** crucial for protection from mechanical stress (tissue integrity)
- Mechanical forces (tension, compression...) may cause critical damage of membranes
- **Actin filaments** reorganization
 - Transmission of the mechanical stress – signaling
 - Compensate local mechanical stress (micromanipulation studies)
 - Recovery of membrane after perforation (e.g., after microinjection)



Actin remodeling after mechanical stress induced by stretching the cell culture surface



Intracytoplasmic sperm injection



Chemical stress (xenobiotics)



Xenobiotics

- Chemical substances not naturally occurring in the cell (organism)
- **Often toxic** – accumulation, interaction with target molecules
- Specific and non-specific effects

Classification of xenobiotics

- Chemical composition (heavy metals, acids, alkaloids...)
- Origin (chemical toxins, biological toxins)
- Mechanism of action (DNA damage, cytoskeleton defects, inhibition of protein synthesis, inhibition of respiratory chain...)



Specific inhibitors: Synthesis of biopolymers

- Crosslinking of DNA: **mitomycin C**
- Nucleotide synthesis inhibitors: **azaserine, C-mercaptopurine**
- Blockage of RNA polymerase movement: **actinomycin D**
- Binding to RNA polymerase: **α -amanitin, ethionin, lomofungin**
- Peptidyl transferase inhibition: **cycloheximide**
- Blocking AA-tRNA binding: **tetracycline**
- Blocking mRNA translocation: **chloramphenicol**
- Polypeptide release from ribosome: **puromycin**
- Release of ribosomes from ER: **aflatoxins**



Specific inhibitors: Membrane function

- Changes in phospholipids → formation of micelles: **phospholipases**
- Interactions with cholesterol → membrane break down: **saponins (digitonin), nystatin, amphotericin**
- Increasing ion permeability: **valinomycin, gramicidin A**
- Blocking sodium-potassium ion pump (Na^+/K^+ ATPase): **ouabain**



Specific inhibitors: Energetic metabolism

- Uncoupling oxidative phosphorylation from ATP synthesis in mitochondria (allowing protons to bypass ATP synthase): **benzimidazoles, 2,4-dinitrophenol**
- Blocking electron transport chain complexes: **cyanides, metformin/phenformin**
- Inhibition of dehydrogenases: **urethane, disulfiram, barbiturates**



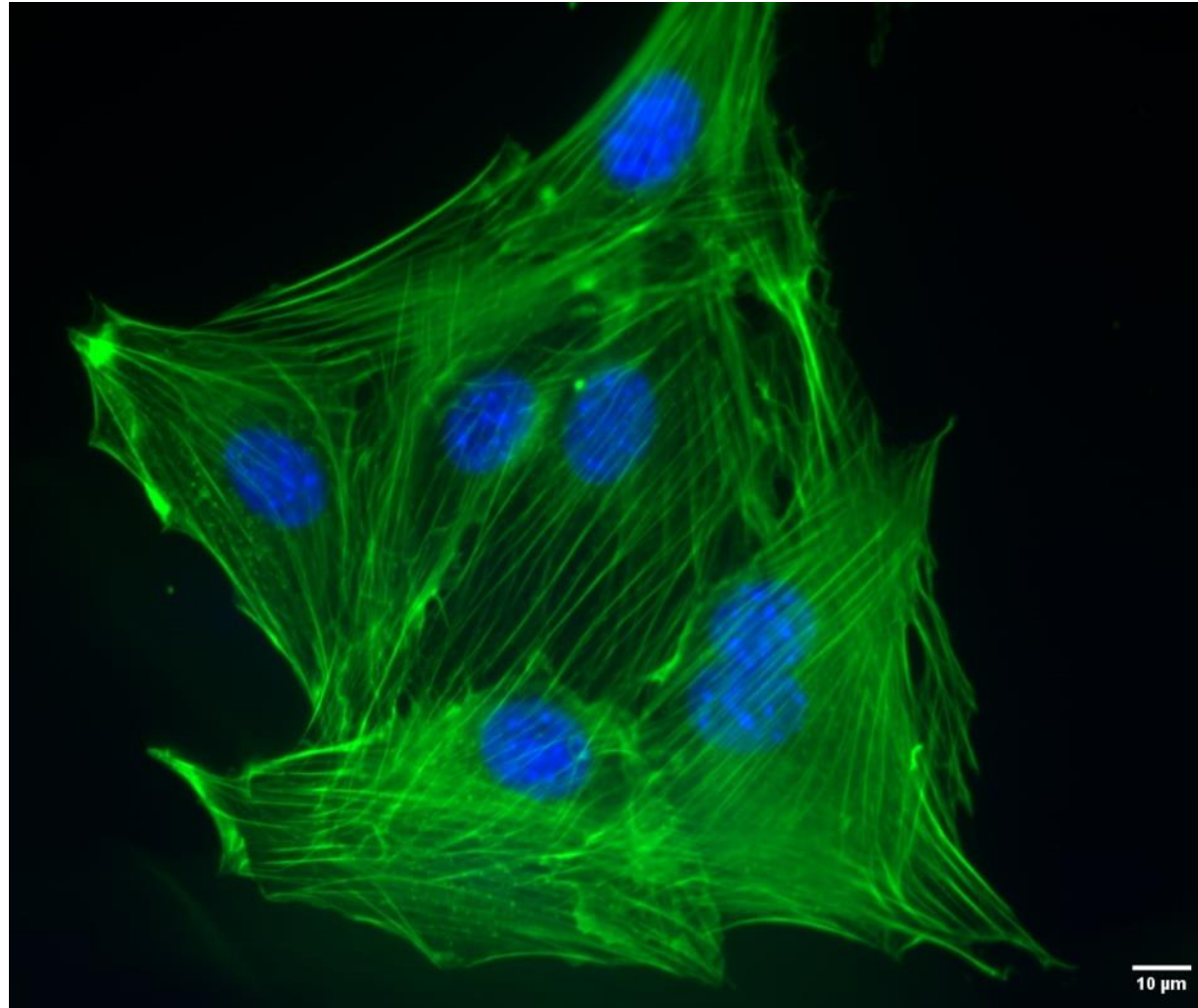
Specific inhibitors: Cytoskeleton dynamics

- Microtubule polymerization inhibition: **colchicine, vinca alkaloids (vincristine, vinblastine)**
- Microtubule depolymerization inhibition: **taxanes, paclitaxel**
- Inhibition of actin filament polymerization: **cytochalasins, latrunculins**
- Inhibition of actin filament depolymerization: **phalloidin, jasplakinolide**



Phalloidin

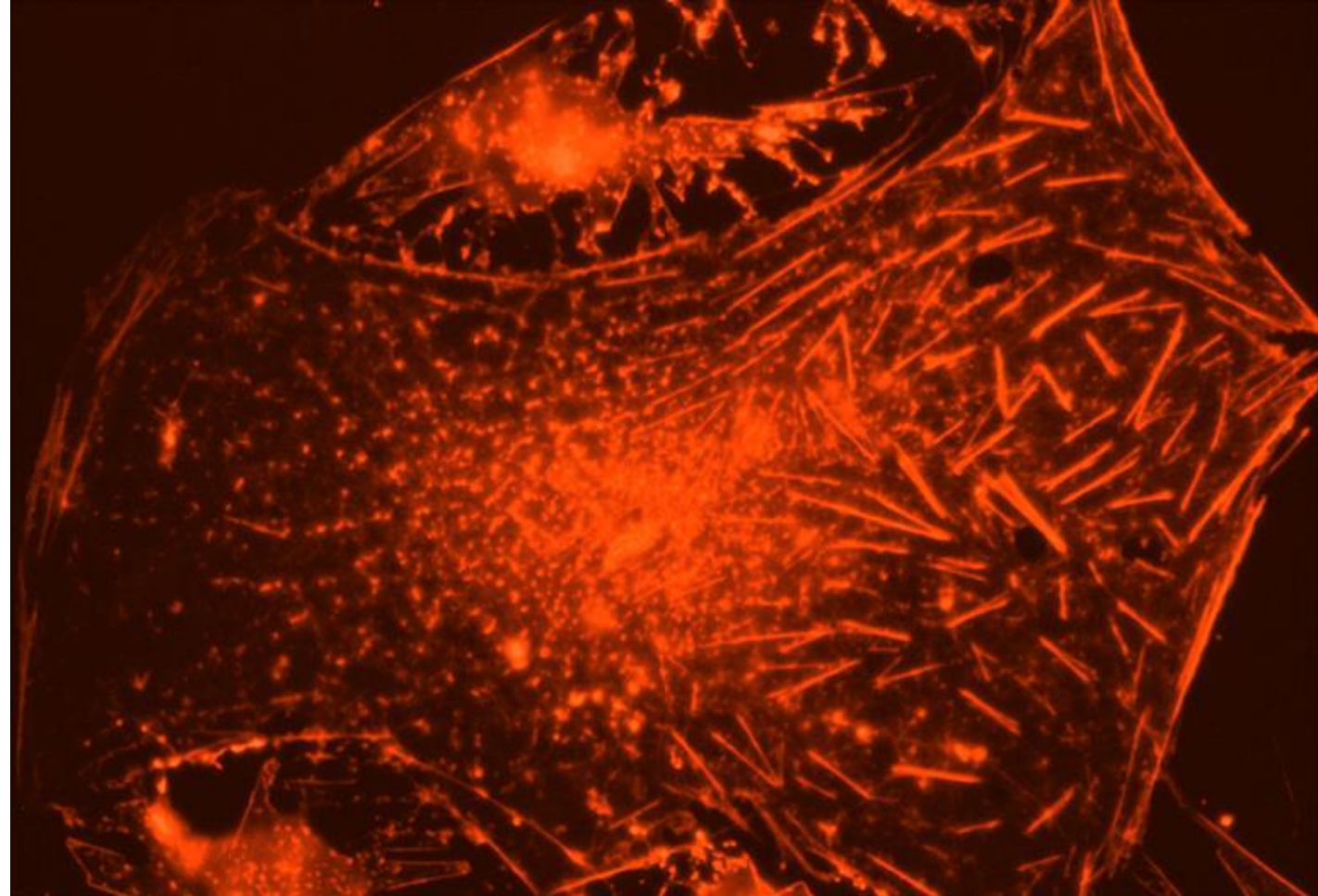
- Mouse fibroblasts



F-actin (Phalloidin), DNA

Cytochalasin B

- Human skin fibroblasts



F-actin

Biological stress factors



Intracellular parasitism

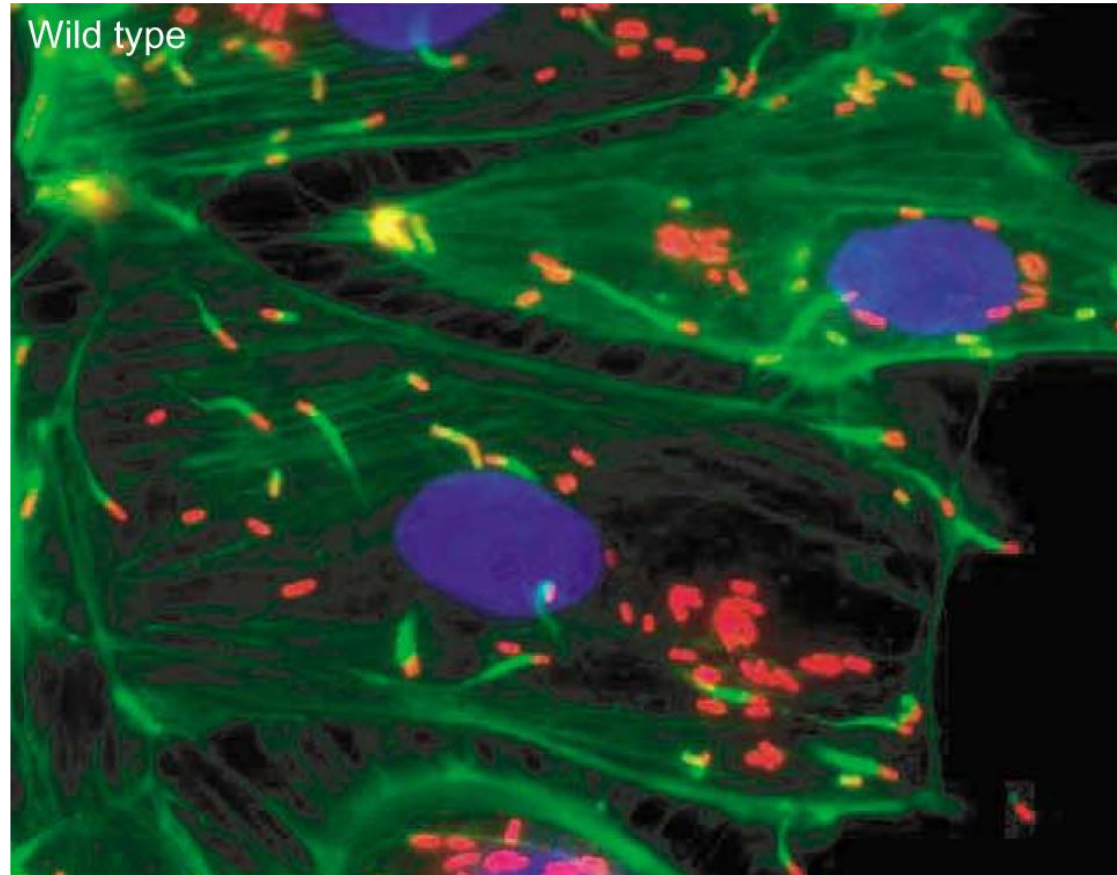
- Viruses (cell lysis or integration into the genome)
- *Mycoplasma* – lack cell wall
- *Rickettsia*, *Chlamydia*, *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Plasmodium malariae*, *Toxoplasma gondii*

Changes of the infected cells

- Metabolism (exploit protein synthesis apparatus; affect growth rate)
- Cell morphology (cytoskeleton, plasma membrane)
- Behavior of the infected cell, whole organism
- **Modulation of apoptosis** (pro- & anti-apoptotic effects, stress signaling)

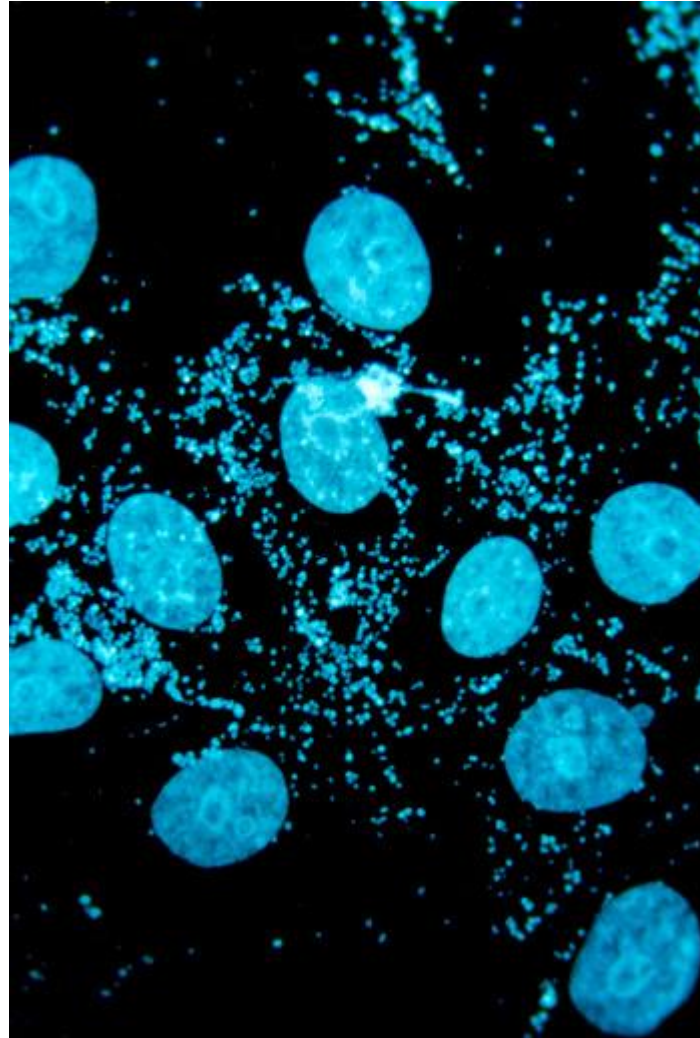


– *Listeria monocytogenes*



F-actin, *Listeria*, DNA

– *Mycoplasma hyorhinis*



DNA (nuclei and mycoplasma DNA)

Cell death



Types of cell death

- **Necrosis** = catastrophic cell death caused by non-specific stress factors and/or extreme damage
- **Necroptosis** = programmed form of necrosis; regulated by specific factors
- **Apoptosis** = programmed cell death
- **Autophagic cell death**
- **Ferroptosis** = iron-dependent programmed cell death



Cell death: Necrosis



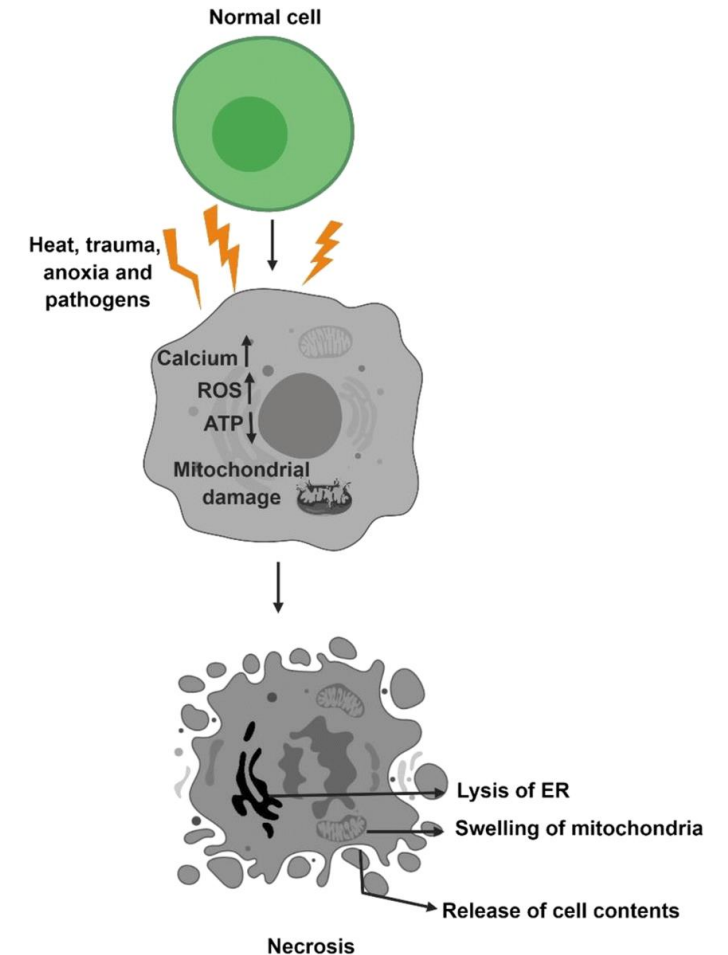
Induction of necrosis

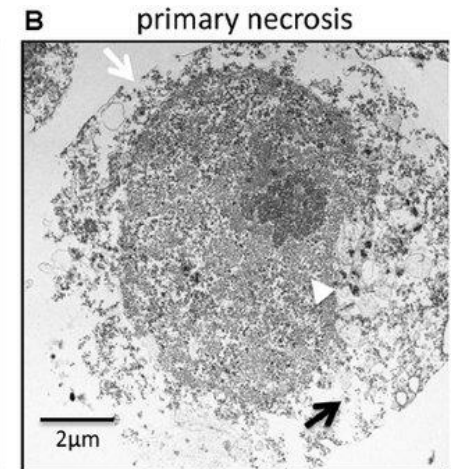
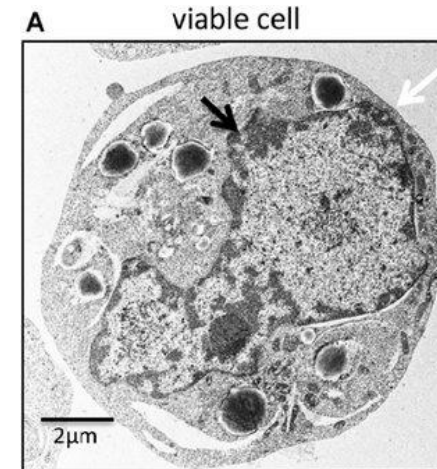
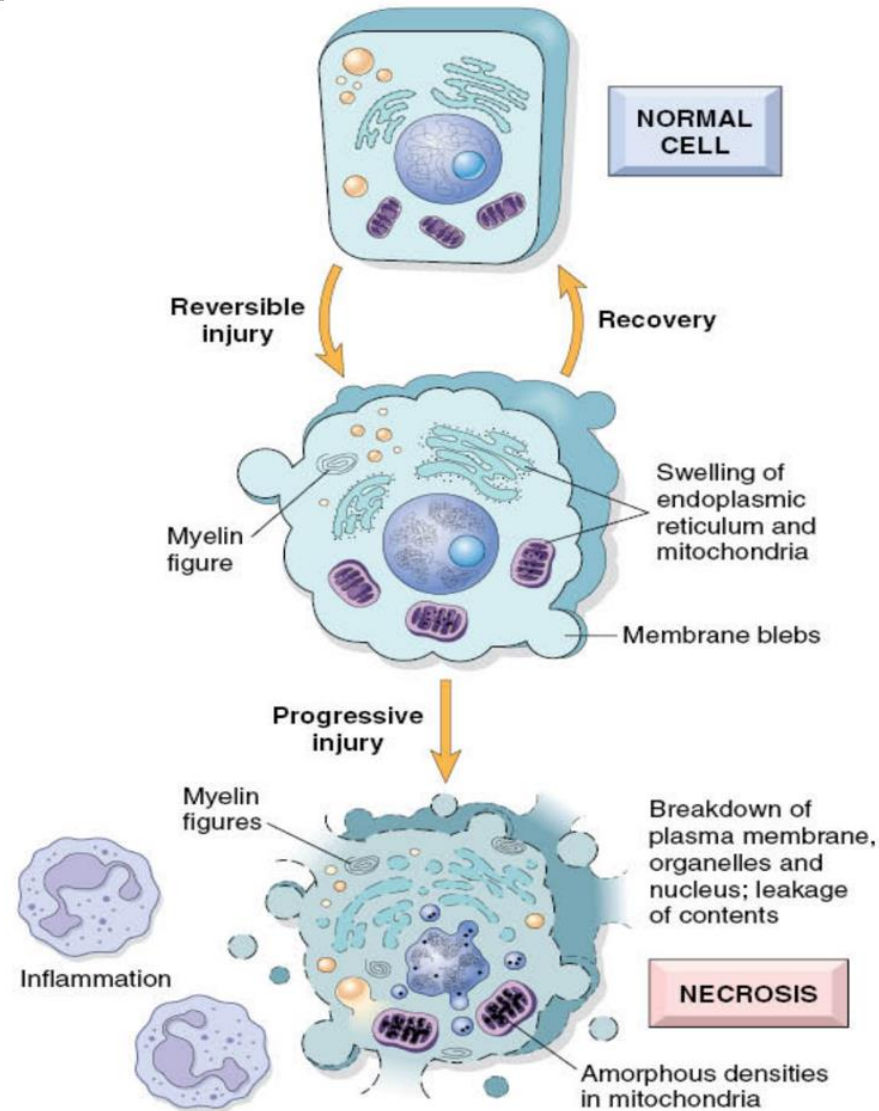
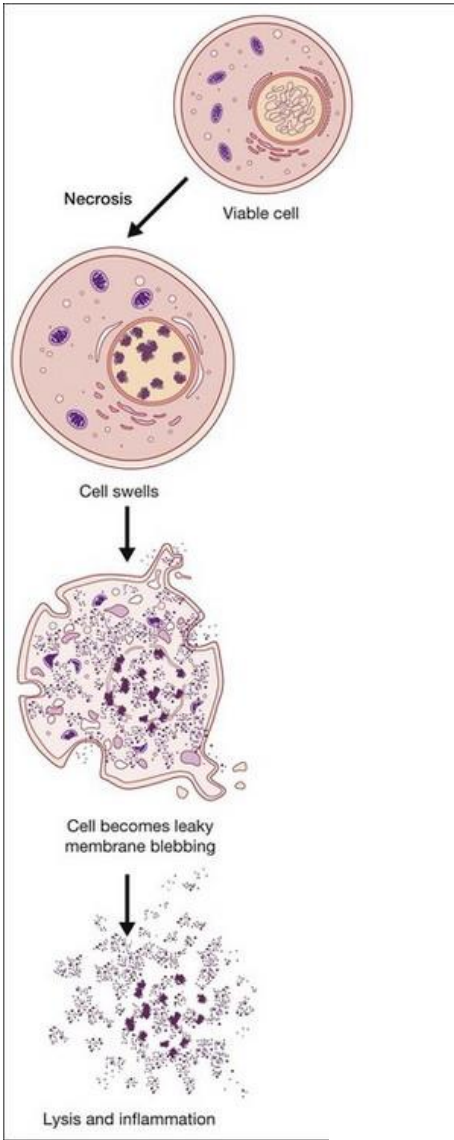
- **Rapid and extensive damage** – mechanisms of programmed cell death cannot be activated
- **Effects of extreme non-specific stress factors**
 - Changes in concentration of ions, in pH...
 - Depletion of energy sources
 - Extremely high or low temperatures
 - Mechanical trauma – damaging cells / tissues



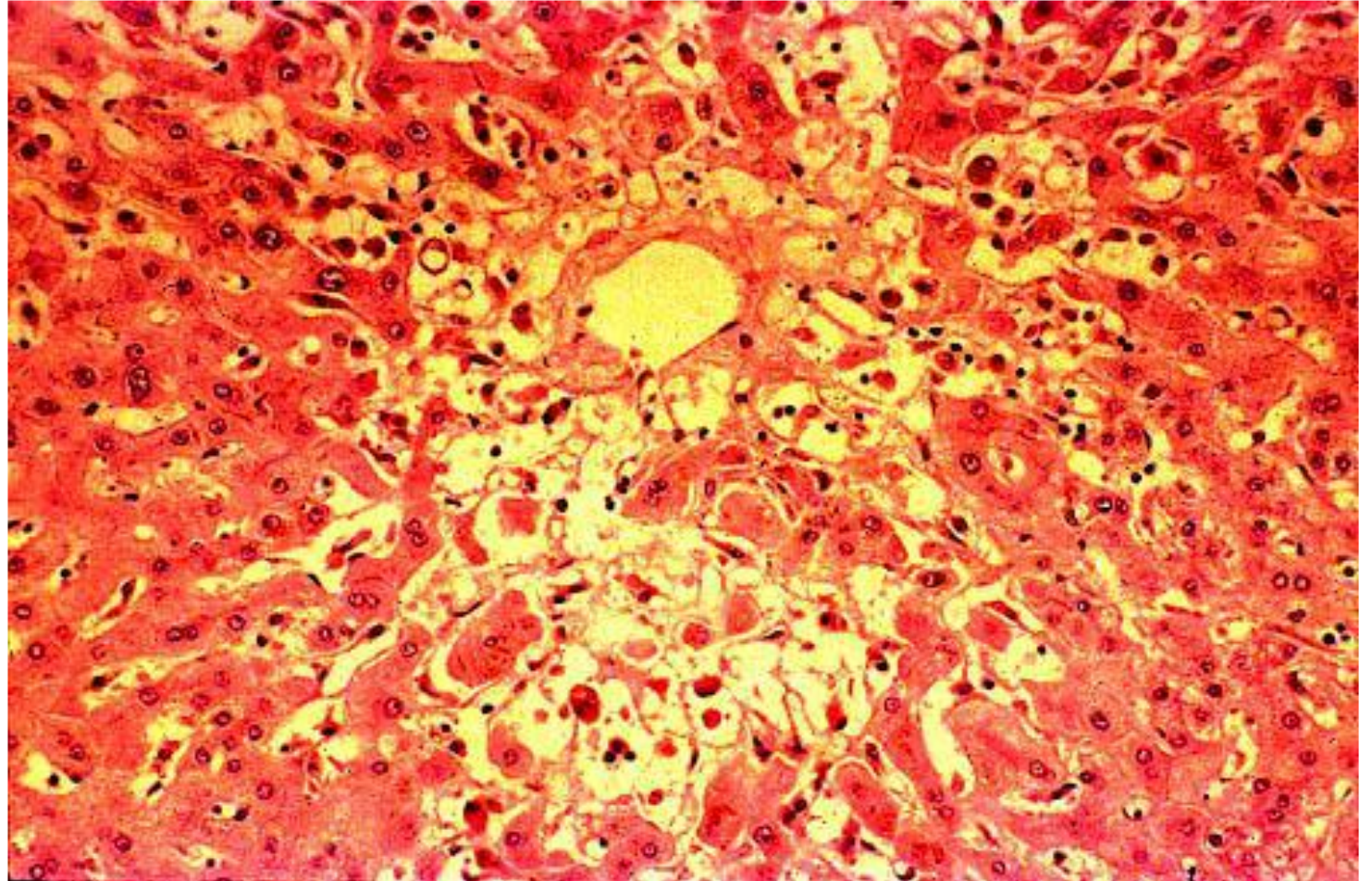
Progression and hallmarks of necrosis

- Overloading of mitochondria with Ca^{2+}
- Loss of mitochondrial membrane potential: \downarrow ATP
- Generation of ROS – mitochondrial damage
- **Swelling and rupture of mitochondria**
- **Swelling of the cell and lysis**
- **Release of cell contents \rightarrow inflammation**
- At the tissue level: formation of a necrotic lesion
 \rightarrow invasion of macrophages \rightarrow inflammation





- Necrotic lesion
in animal tissue

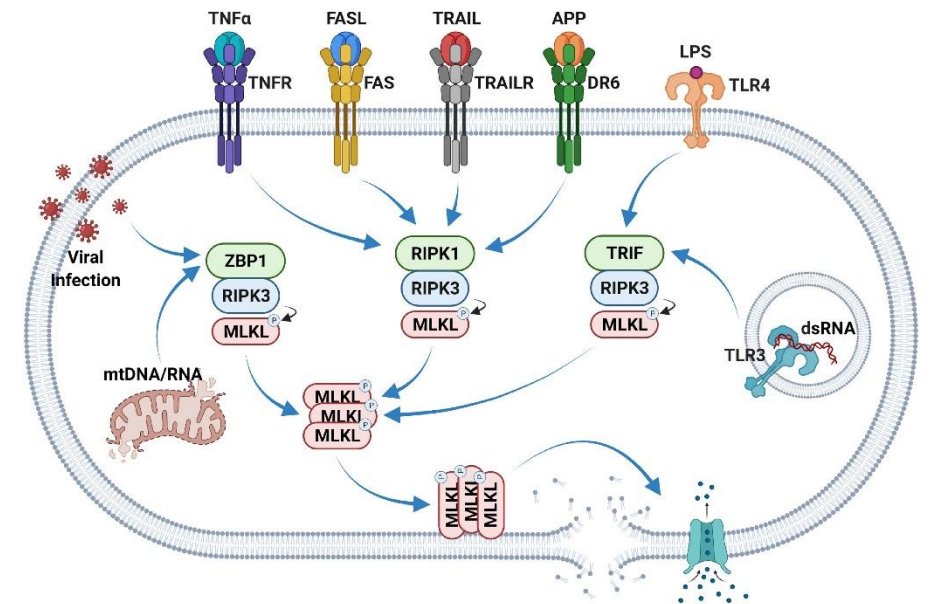


Cell death: Necroptosis



Necroptosis

- Regulated cell death with **features of apoptosis and necrosis**
- Triggered by similar stimuli as extrinsic apoptotic pathway
- **Specific proteins (RIPK3, MLKL etc.) shift extrinsic apoptosis to necrosis mode of cell death**
- **Endpoint: same as necrosis**
- **Immunogenic: favored in defense against certain pathogens**



Trends In Cancer

Cell death: Apoptosis



APOPTOSIS: A BASIC BIOLOGICAL PHENOMENON WITH WIDE-RANGING IMPLICATIONS IN TISSUE KINETICS

J. F. R. KERR*, A. H. WYLLIE AND A. R. CURRIE†

From the Department of Pathology, University of Aberdeen

Received for publication April 1972

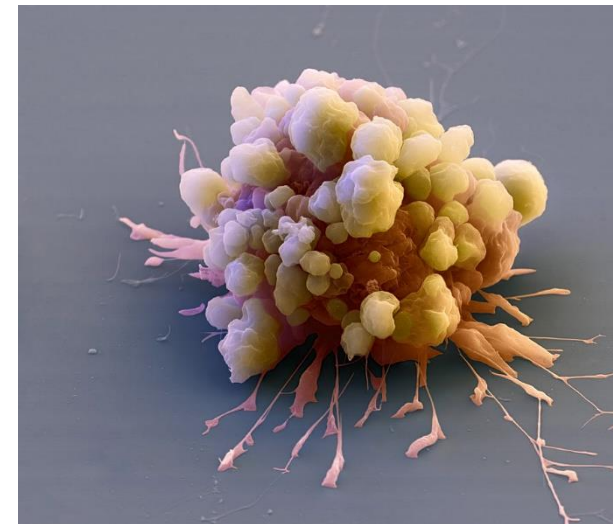
Summary.—The term apoptosis is proposed for a hitherto little recognized mechanism of controlled cell deletion, which appears to play a complementary but opposite role to mitosis in the regulation of animal cell populations. Its morphological features suggest that it is an active, inherently programmed phenomenon, and it has been shown that it can be initiated or inhibited by a variety of environmental stimuli, both physiological and pathological.

The structural changes take place in two discrete stages. The first comprises nuclear and cytoplasmic condensation and breaking up of the cell into a number of membrane-bound, ultrastructurally well-preserved fragments. In the second stage these apoptotic bodies are shed from epithelial-lined surfaces or are taken up by other cells, where they undergo a series of changes resembling *in vitro* autolysis within phagosomes, and are rapidly degraded by lysosomal enzymes derived from the ingesting cells.

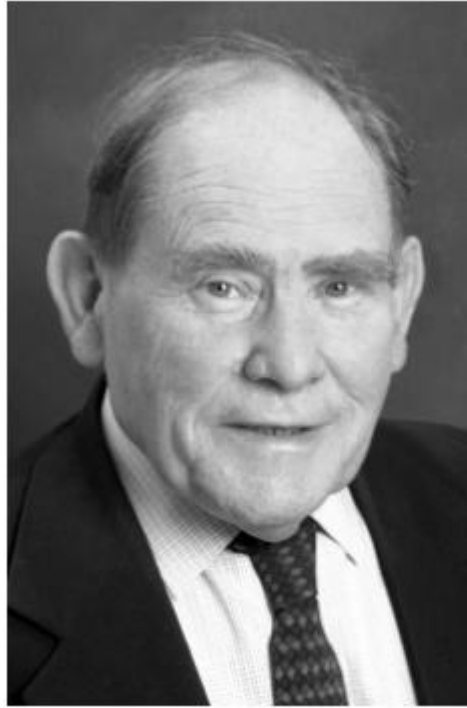
Apoptosis seems to be involved in cell turnover in many healthy adult tissues and is responsible for focal elimination of cells during normal embryonic development. It occurs spontaneously in untreated malignant neoplasms, and participates in at least some types of therapeutically induced tumour regression. It is implicated in both physiological involution and atrophy of various tissues and organs. It can also be triggered by noxious agents, both in the embryo and adult animal.

Apoptosis

- 1972: Kerr, Wyllie and Currie coined the term **ἀπόπτωσης**: dropping/falling off



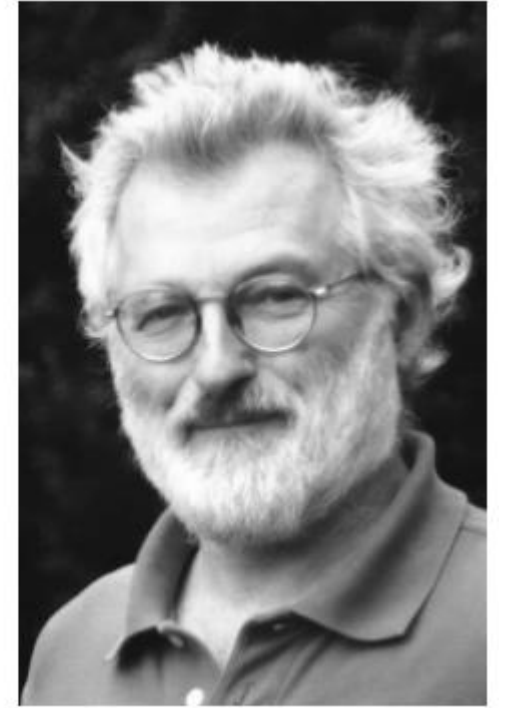
2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine



Sydney Brenner



H. Robert Horvitz

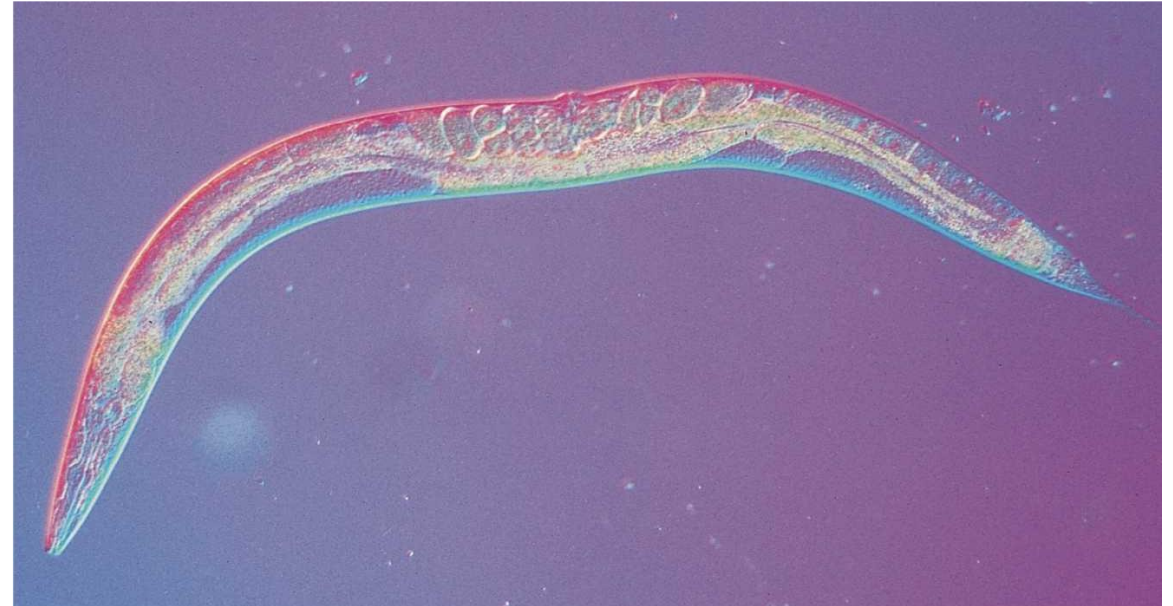


John E. Sulston

– for their discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death

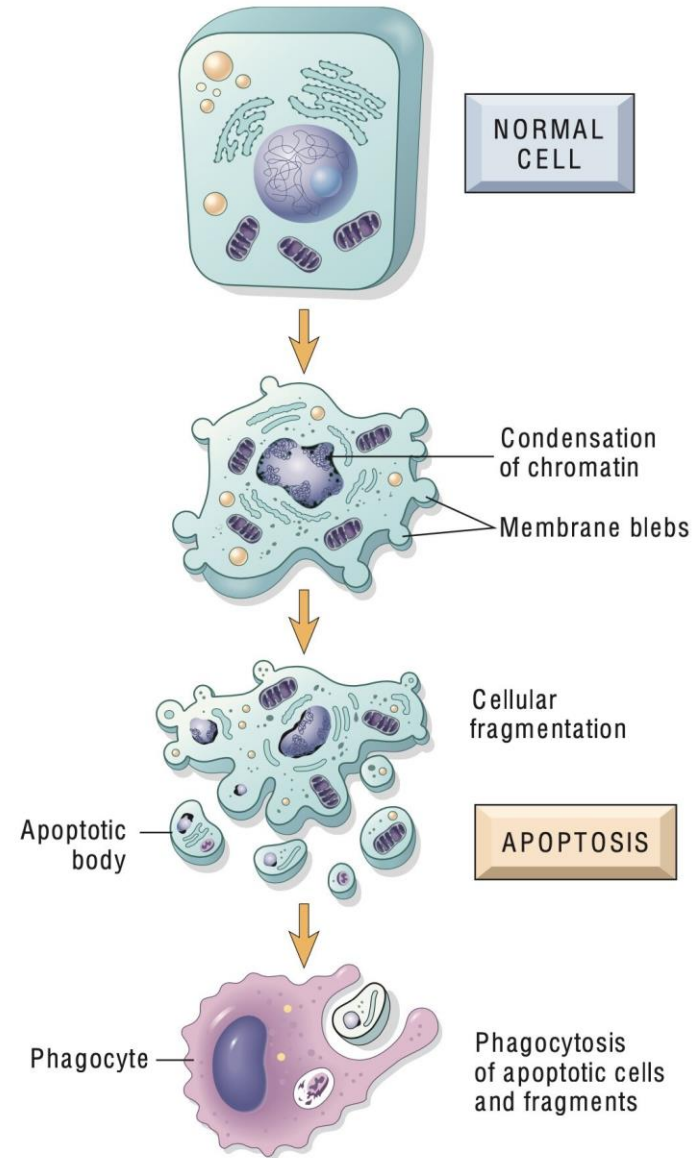
Caenorhabditis elegans

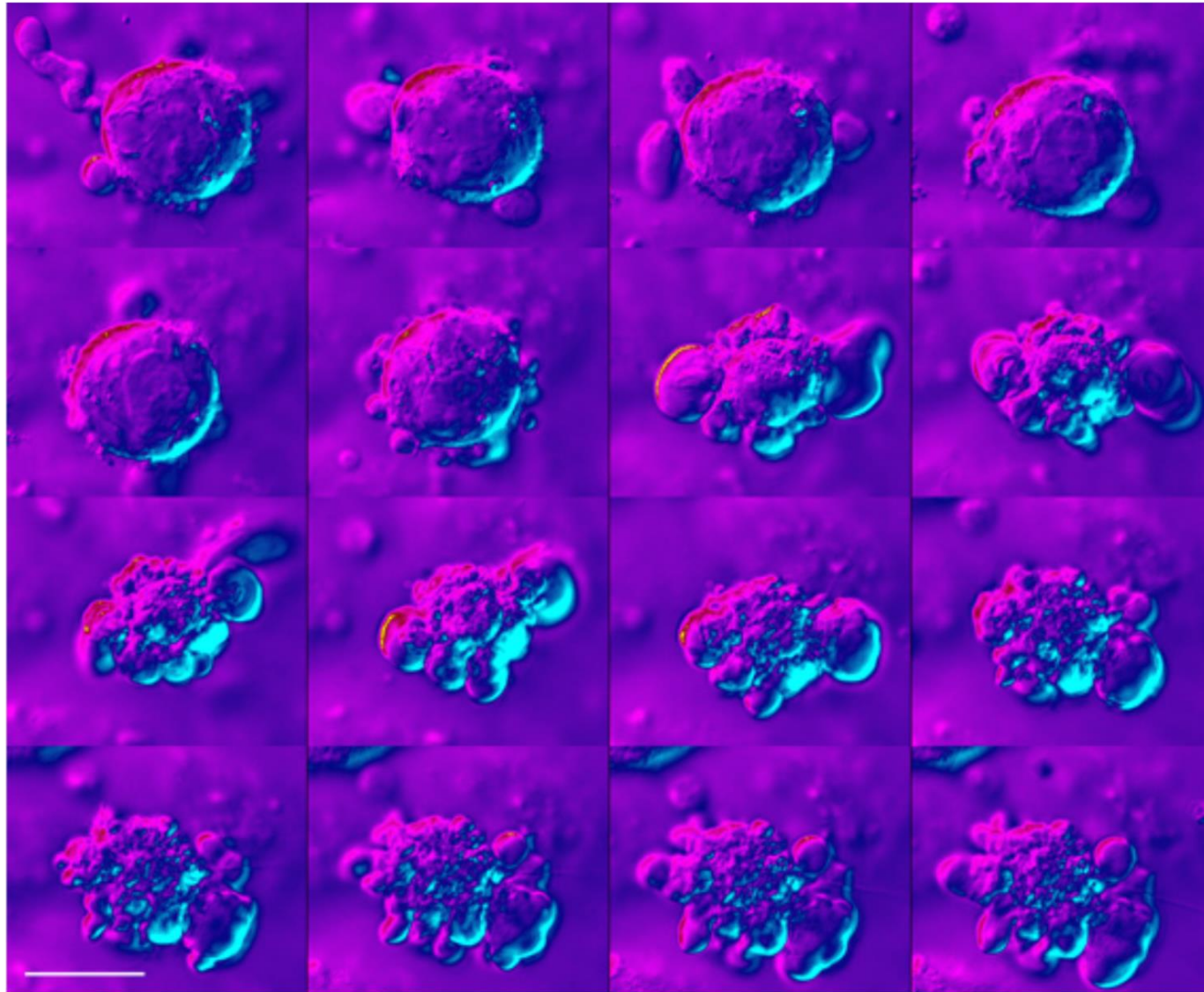
- Hermaphrodite adult: 959 somatic cells
- 131 cells eliminated by apoptosis during development: predictability, easy to observe
- **Genes involved in regulation of apoptosis – 14 Ced genes:**
 - Ced-3, Ced-4 – induction of apoptosis
 - Ced-9 – anti-apoptotic role

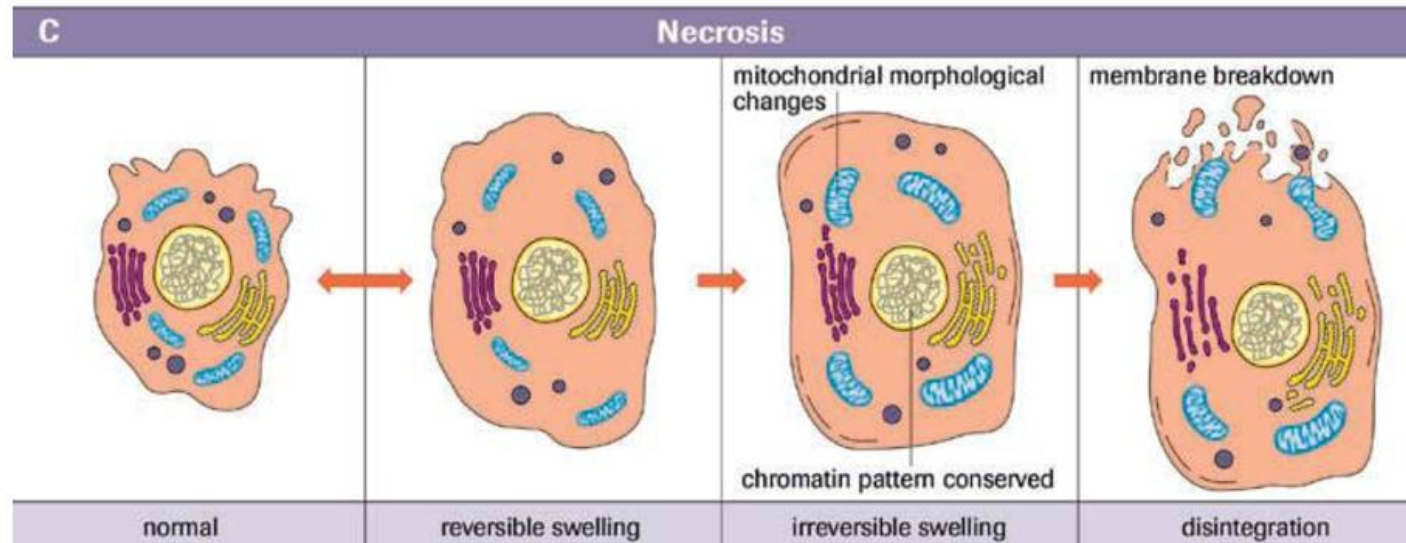
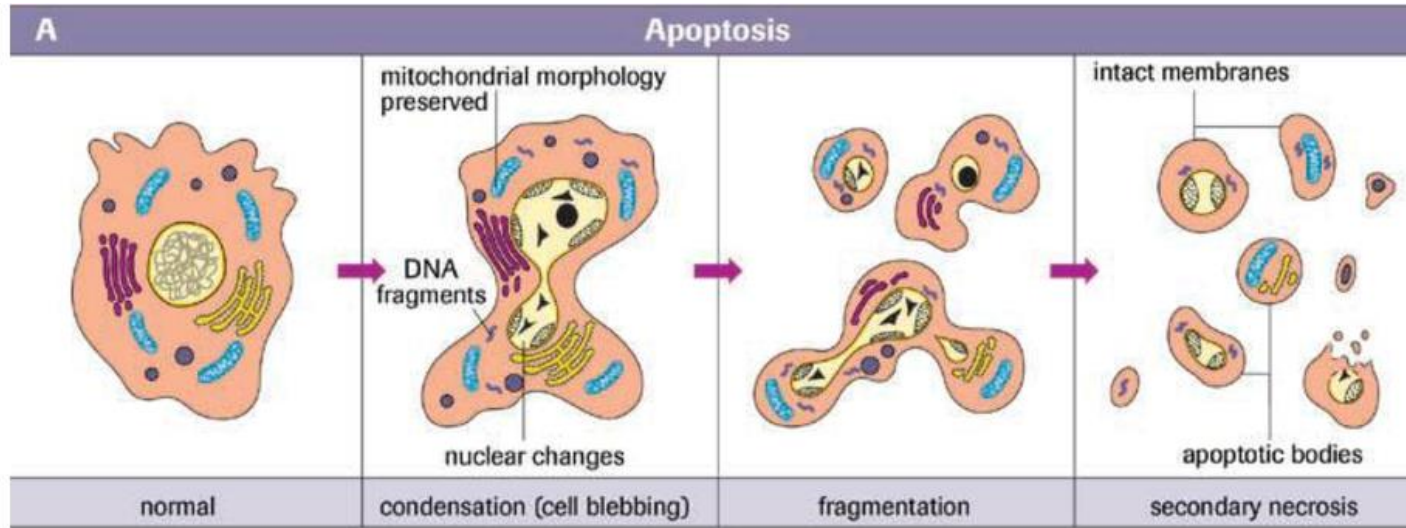


Hallmarks of apoptosis

- Chromatin condensation
- Nuclear fragmentation
- Plasma membrane integrity retained
- Cellular fragmentation into apoptotic bodies







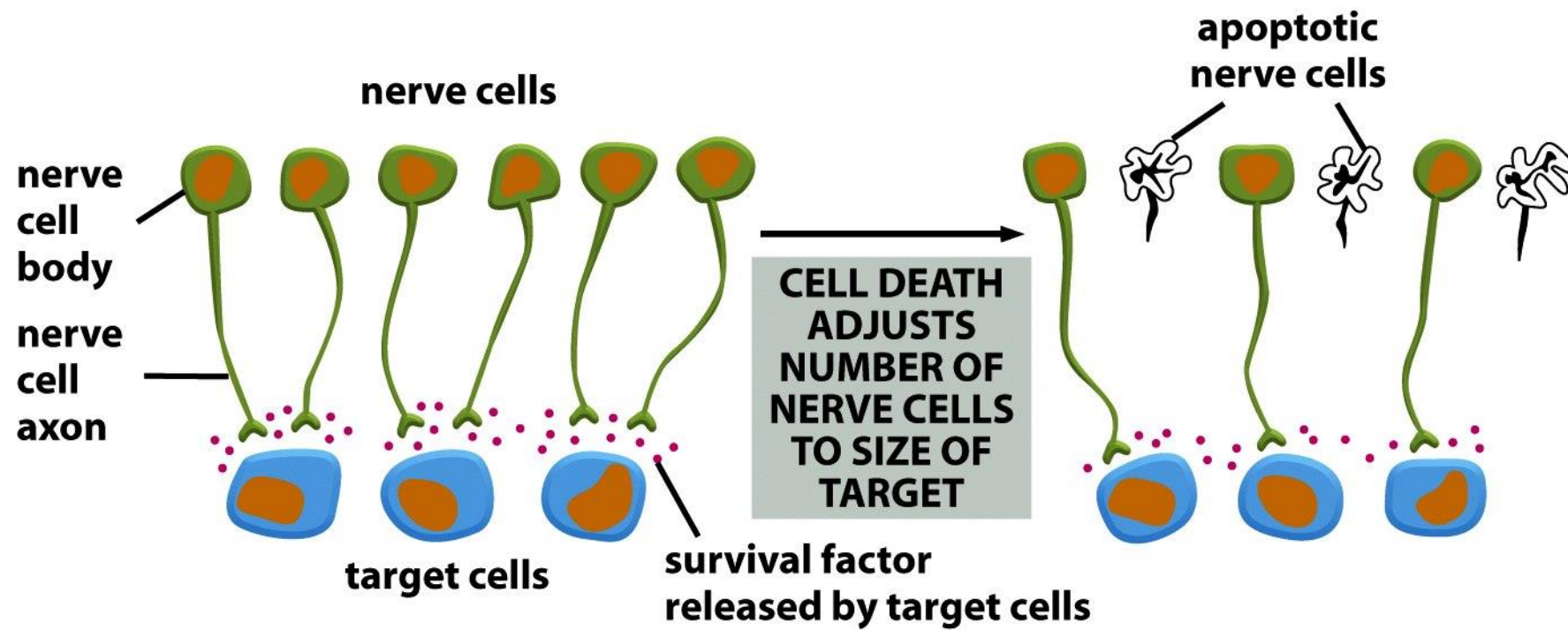
The role of apoptosis

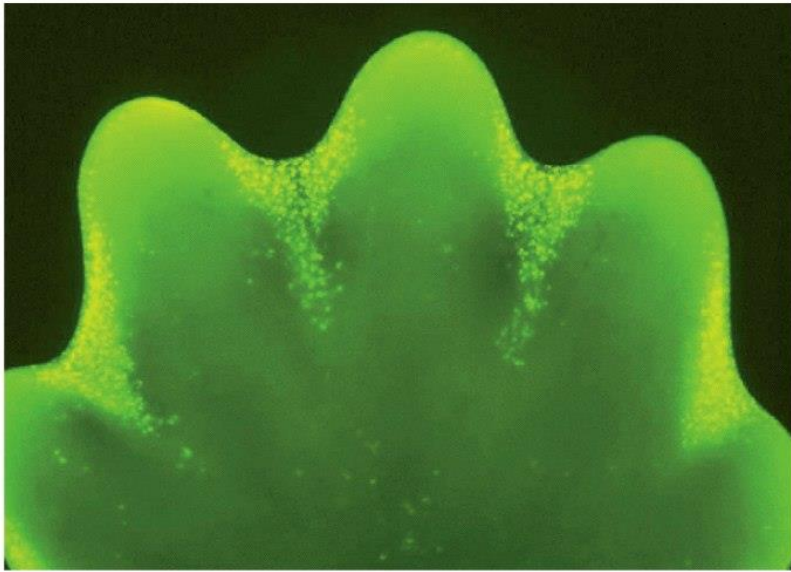
- Regulated elimination of unwanted cells

1. Indispensable for proper development of multicellular organisms

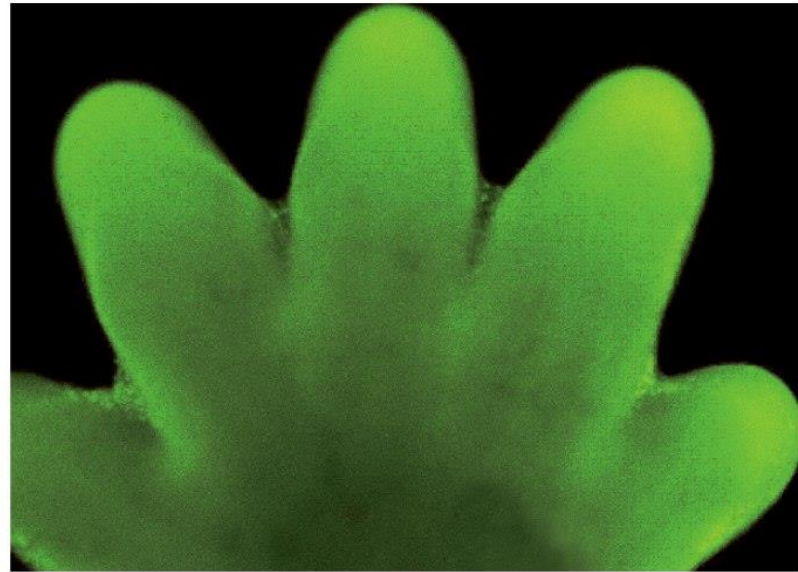
- Elimination of tissues between digits during embryogenesis: sculpting hands/paws
- Resorption of the tail during tadpole metamorphosis into a frog
- Adjusting the number of developing nerve cells to the number of target cells







(A)



(B)

1 mm



(A)



(B)

1 mm

Syndactyly: defects in apoptosis



The role of apoptosis

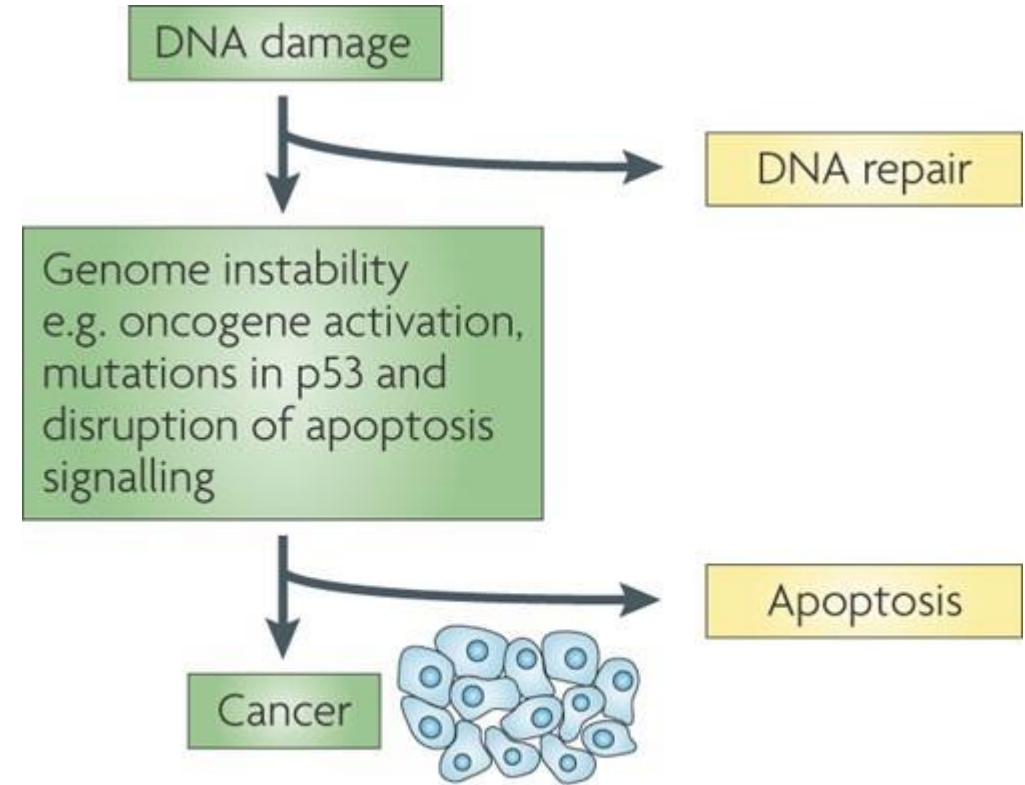
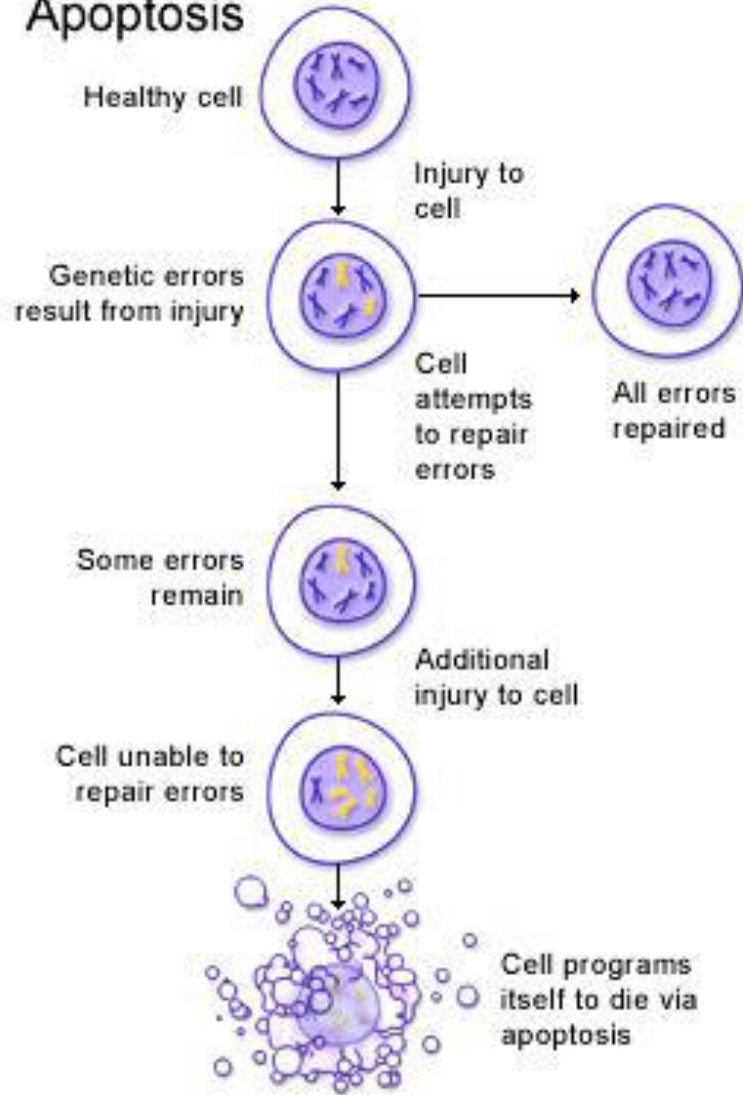
- Regulated elimination of unwanted cells

2. Quality-control mechanism for eliminating abnormal, misplaced, defective cells dangerous for the organism integrity

- Cells infected with viruses (parasitic bacteria can inhibit apoptosis)
- Effector cells of the immune system after the immune response
- Cells with damaged DNA (checkpoint kinases → p53 downstream targets: DNA repair or induction of apoptosis) vs. cellular senescence
- Precancerous cells and transformed cells



Apoptosis

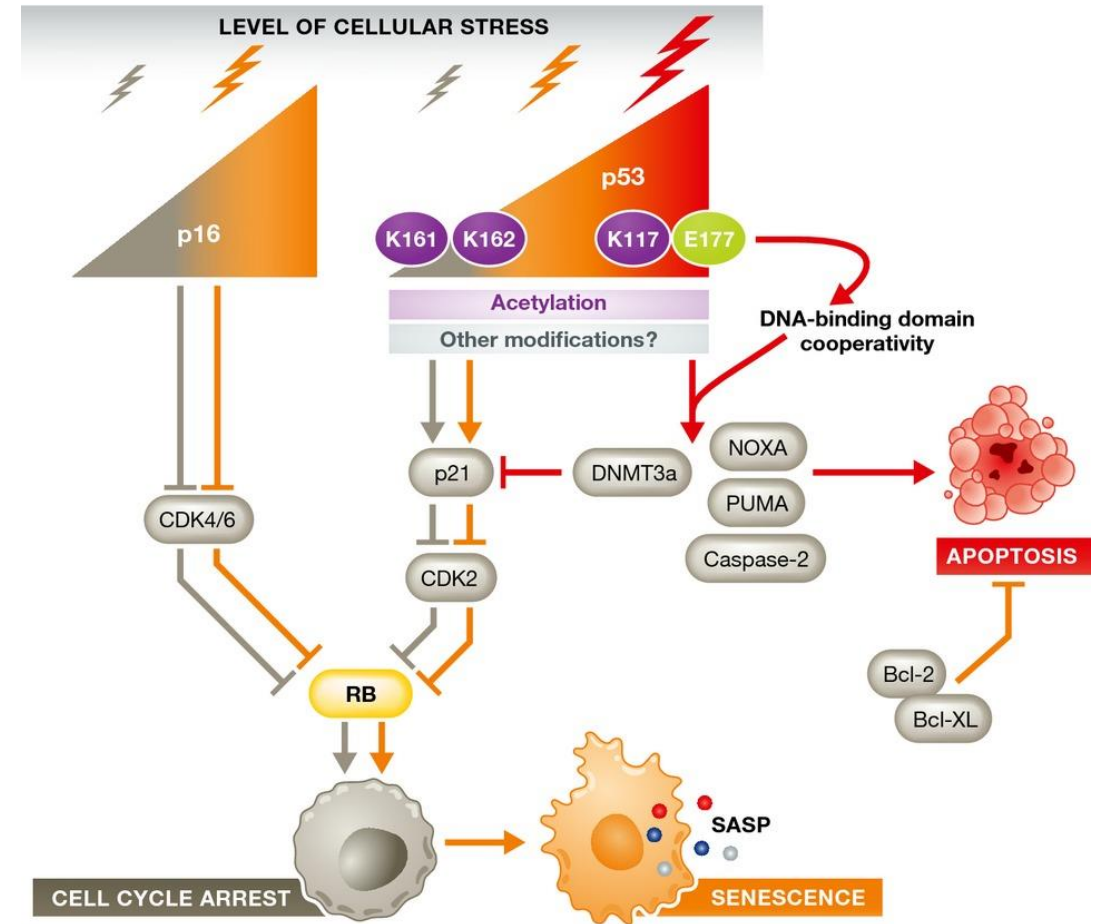


Nature Reviews | Cancer



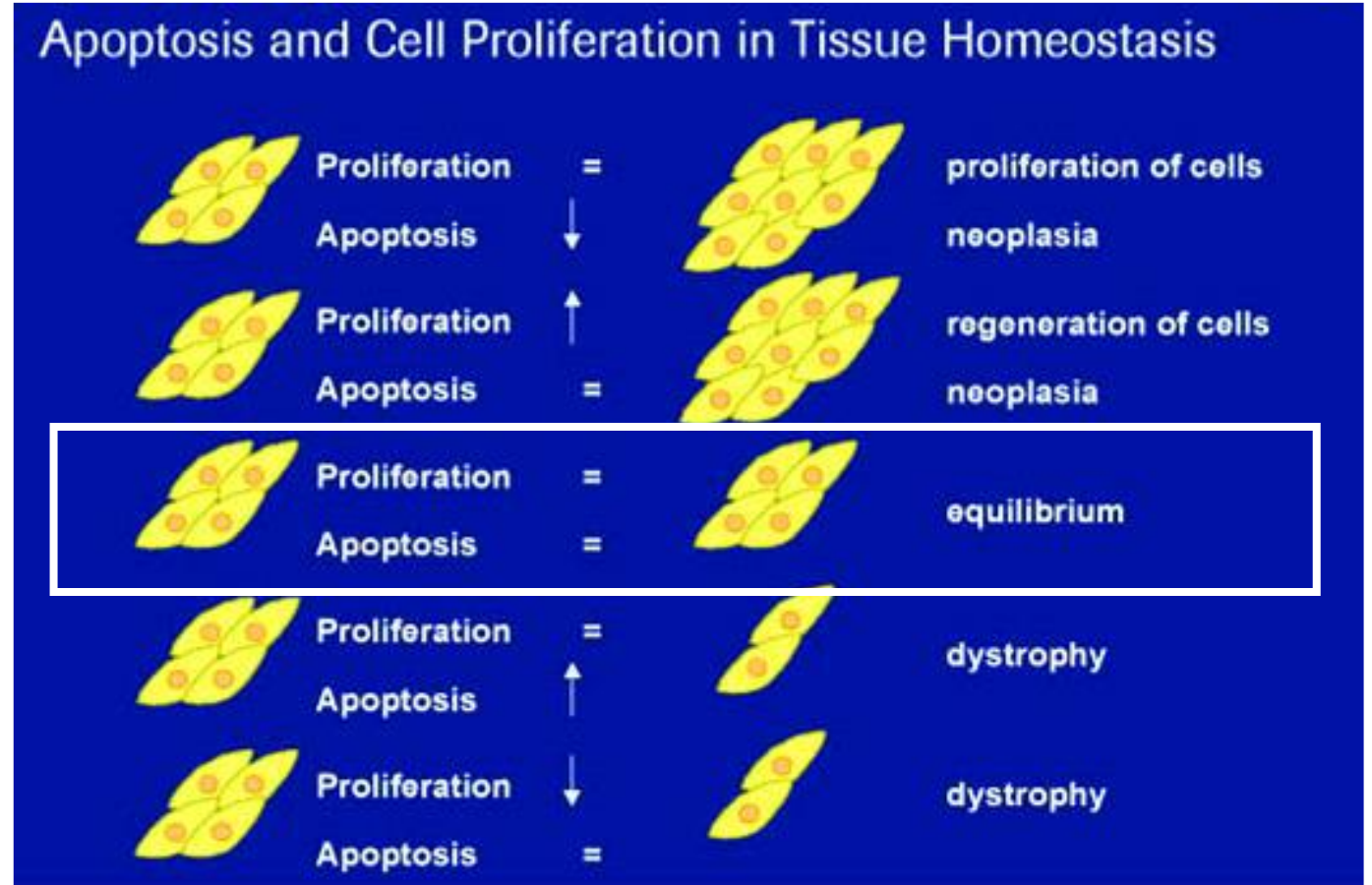
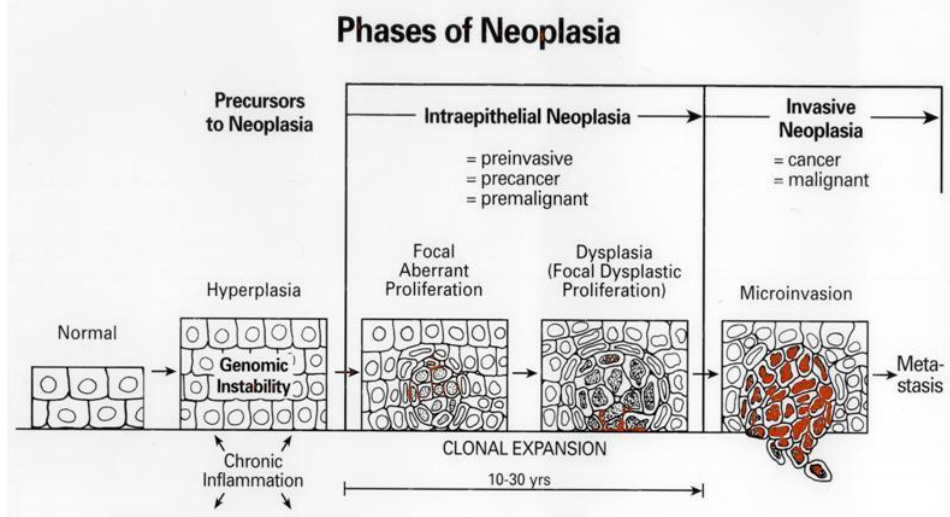
The level of cellular stress matters

- Nature and severity of the stress dictates whether a cell becomes senescent or undergoes apoptosis
- Senescent cells
 - Prolonged and generally irreversible cell cycle arrest – induced by less severe damage
 - Active prosurvival pathways = enhanced resistance to apoptosis



Tissue homeostasis – apoptosis vs. proliferation

- Failure of apoptosis → development of neoplasms (benign → malignant)



Induction of apoptosis

Withdrawal of antiapoptotic (survival) stimuli

- Growth factors – various cell types including neurons
- Interleukin 2 (IL-2), IL-3 – lymphocytes, hematopoietic stem cells

Receiving apoptotic stimuli

– Internal signals

- Prolonged or severe stress: upregulation of ROS-damaged molecules, DNA damage, ER stress, viral infection, amino acid starvation, glucose deprivation...

– External signals

- **Death ligands** binding to **death receptors**



Phases of apoptosis

Initiation phase = induction of apoptosis

- **Intrinsic pathway:** mitochondrial outer membrane permeabilization & release of cytochrome c
- **Extrinsic pathway:** activation of death receptors
- Activation of **initiator caspases**

Execution phase

- Activation of **executioner caspases**
- Cell shrinkage, plasma membrane blebbing
- Changes in the plasma membrane composition
- Chromatin condensation, degradation and fragmentation
- Proteolytic cleavage of intracellular proteins
- Fragmentation into apoptotic bodies (followed by phagocytosis)



Caspases – proteolytic cleavage

– Cysteine-aspartic proteases: cleave proteins at the carboxy group of aspartic acid residue

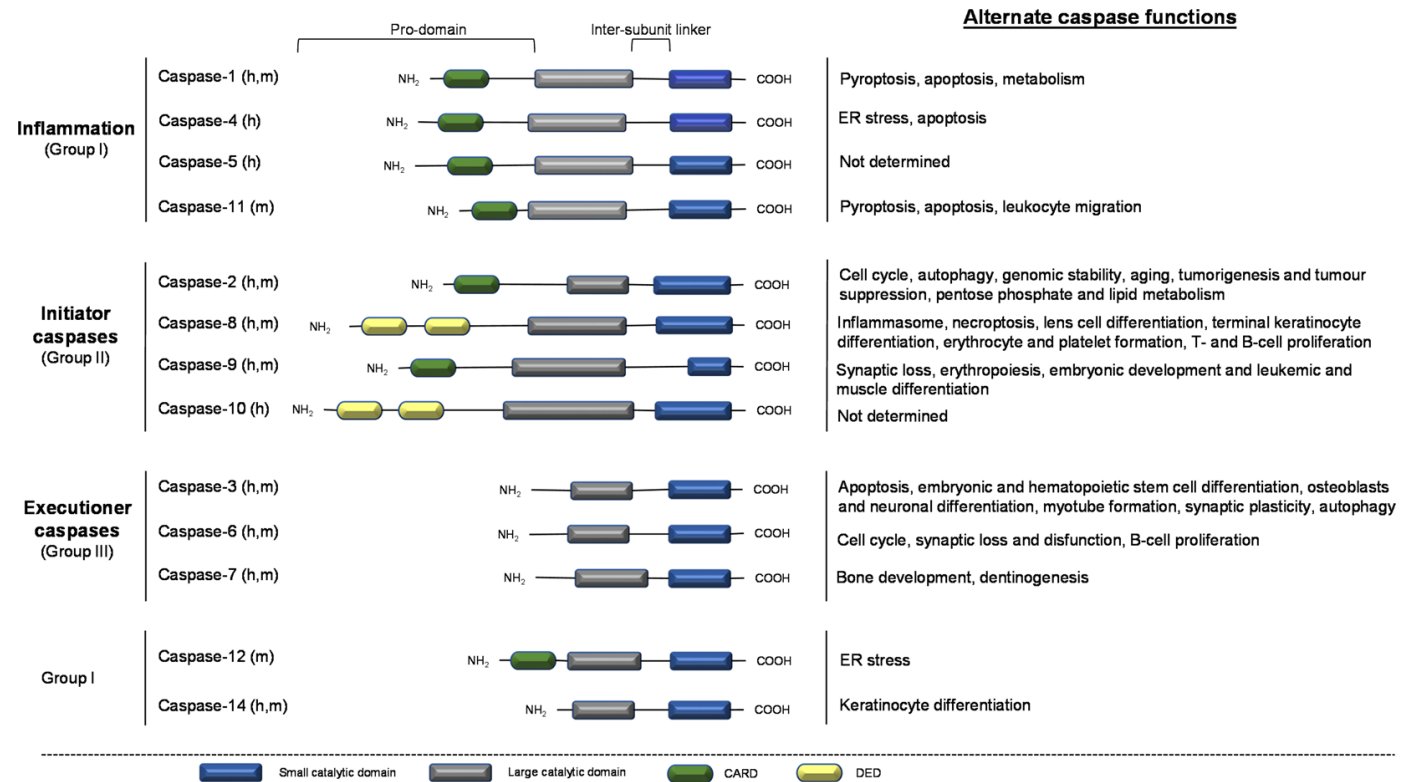
– 13 human caspases:

– Initiator (2, 8, 9, 10)

– Executioner (3, 6, 7)

– Synthesized as inactive zymogens (**pro-caspases**)

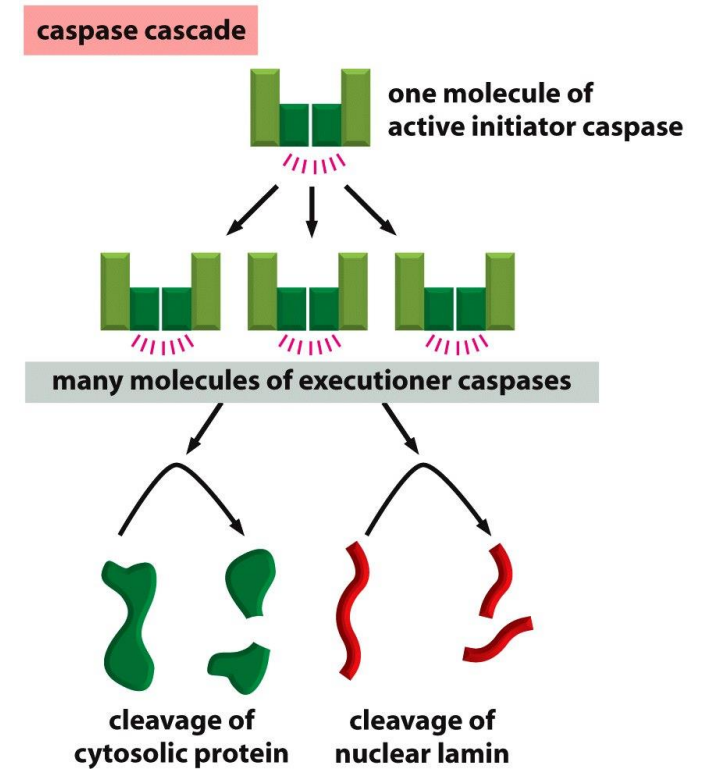
– Activated by cleavage



Proteolytic cleavage

Caspases

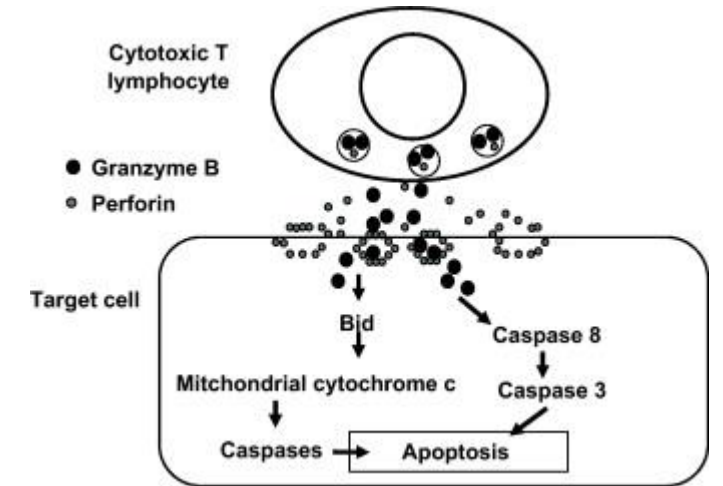
- Cleavage activated by apoptotic stimuli (intrinsic or extrinsic)
- **Initiator pro-caspases dimerization** after binding to specific protein complexes → **autocatalytic cleavage of the pro-domain** → **active caspases**
- **Executioner pro-caspases** cleaved by **initiator caspases = caspase cascade**



Proteolytic cleavage

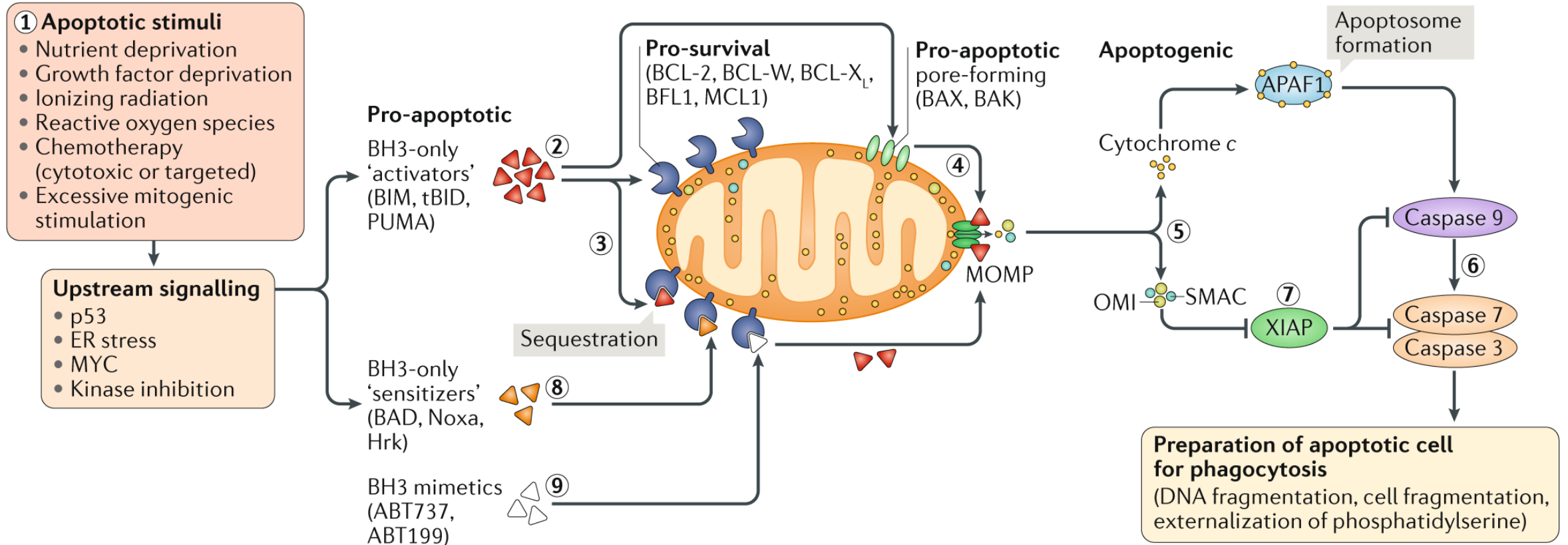
Caspases might be activated by other proteases:

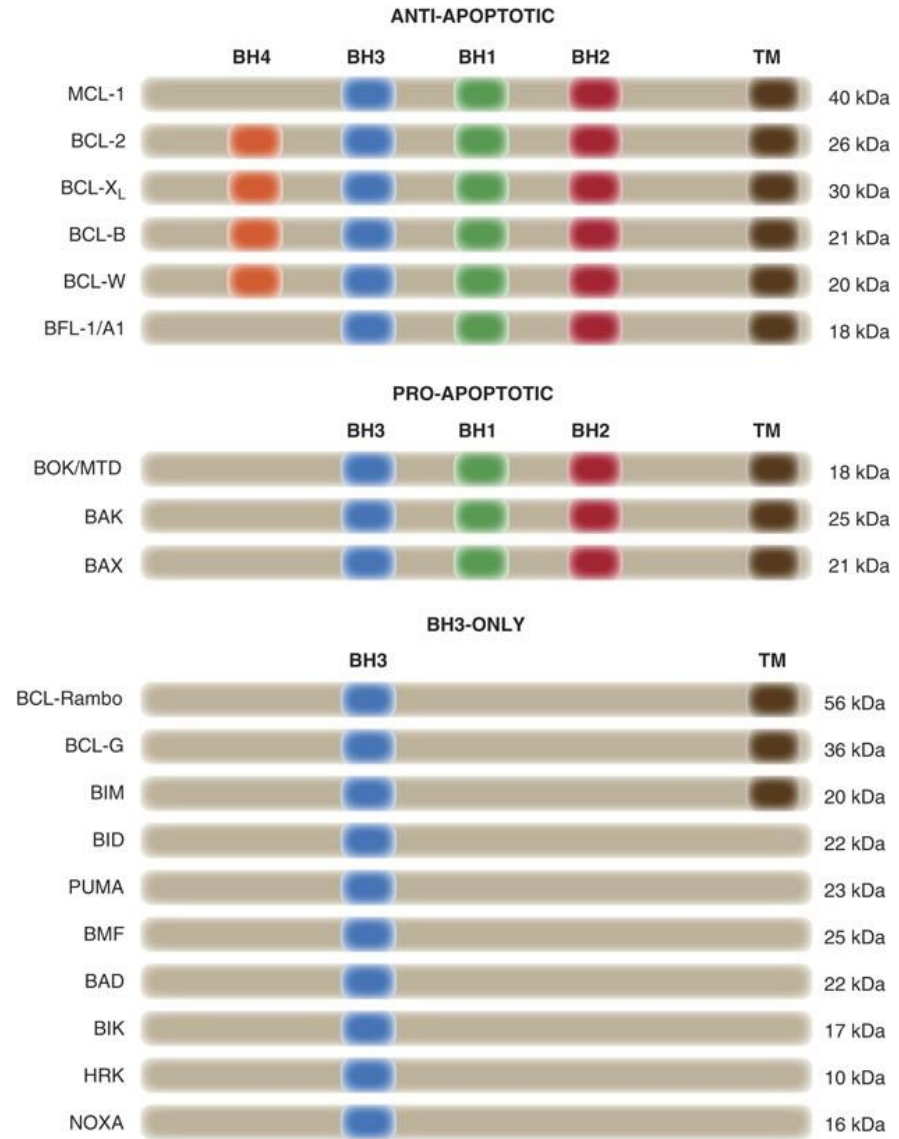
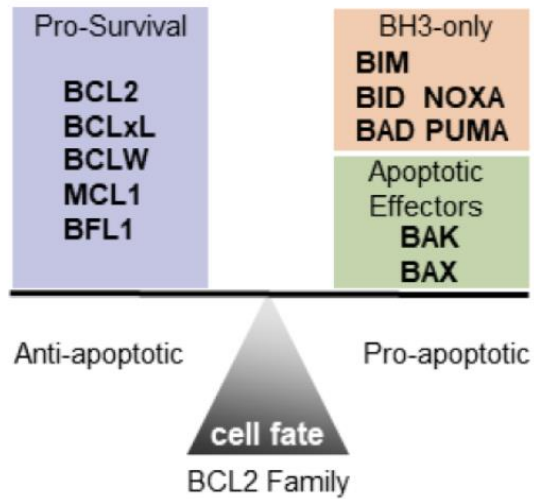
- **Granzyme B** – produced by cytotoxic T cells and NK cells
- **Cathepsins** – released from ER; direct (cleavage) and indirect activation of caspases; positive feedback loop
- **Calpains** – activated by Ca^{2+} (e.g., ER stress)
- All these proteases also target (activate) other proapoptotic proteins & facilitate proteolytic cleavage



Intrinsic (mitochondrial) apoptotic pathway

– Balance of anti-apoptotic and pro-apoptotic BCL-2 proteins





Intrinsic (mitochondrial) apoptotic pathway

- **Healthy cells:** anti-apoptotic **BCL-2** proteins sequester pro-apoptotic **BH3** only proteins
- **Apoptotic stimuli:** upregulation of pro-apoptotic **BCL-2 BH3** only proteins → inhibition of anti-apoptotic BCL-2 proteins → pro-apoptotic BAX & BAK oligomerization = **formation of pores in the mitochondrial outer membrane**
- **Release of cytochrome c from mitochondria** into the cytosol
- **Formation of apoptosome**



Apoptosome

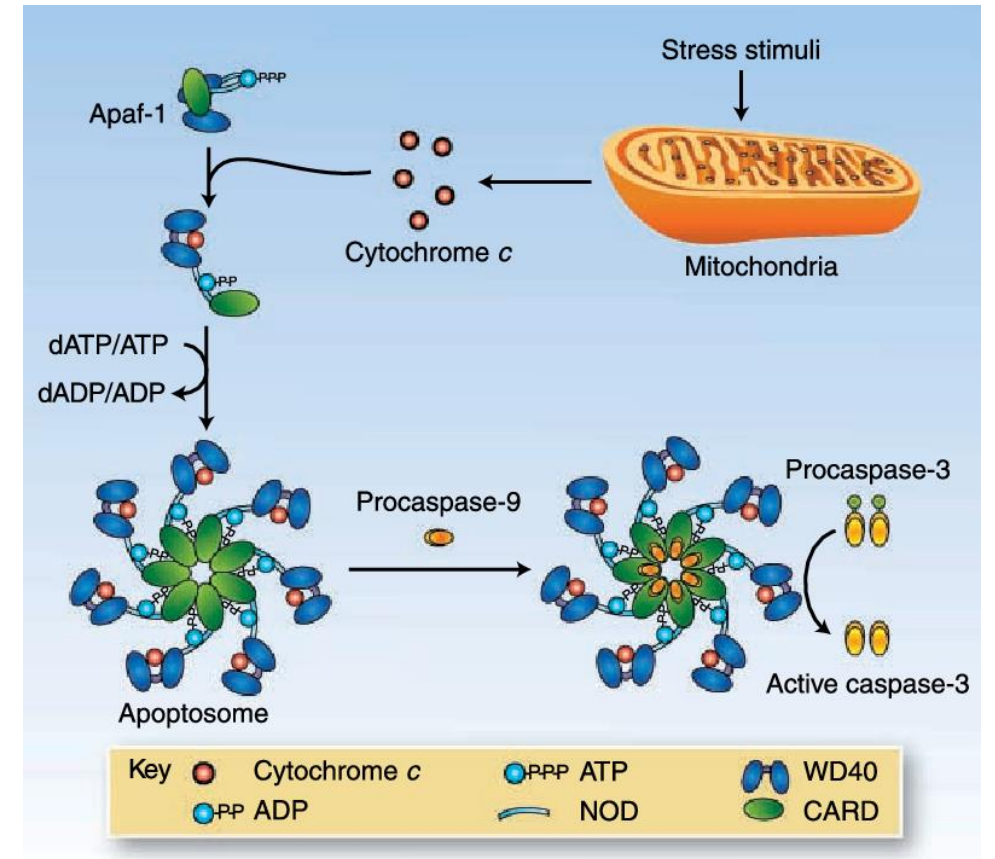
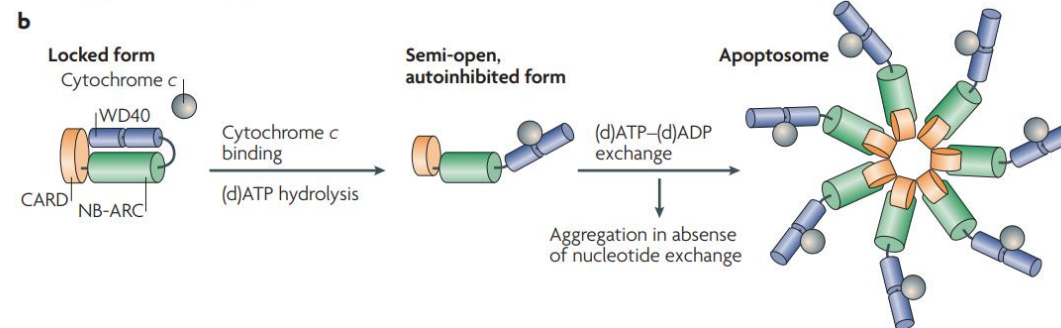
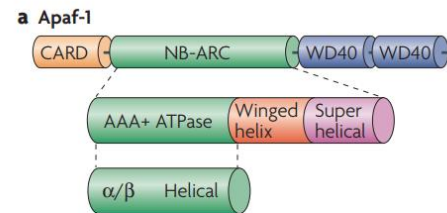
– Cytosolic Apaf-1 + (d)ATP

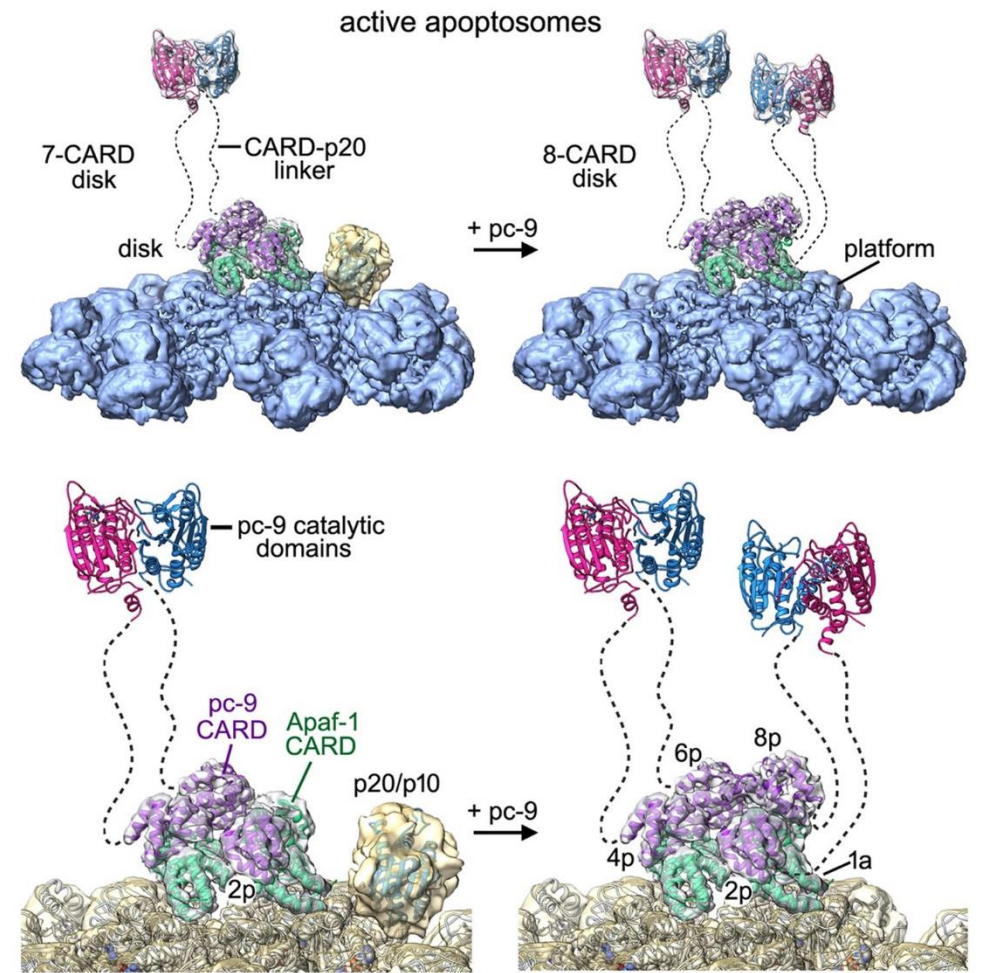
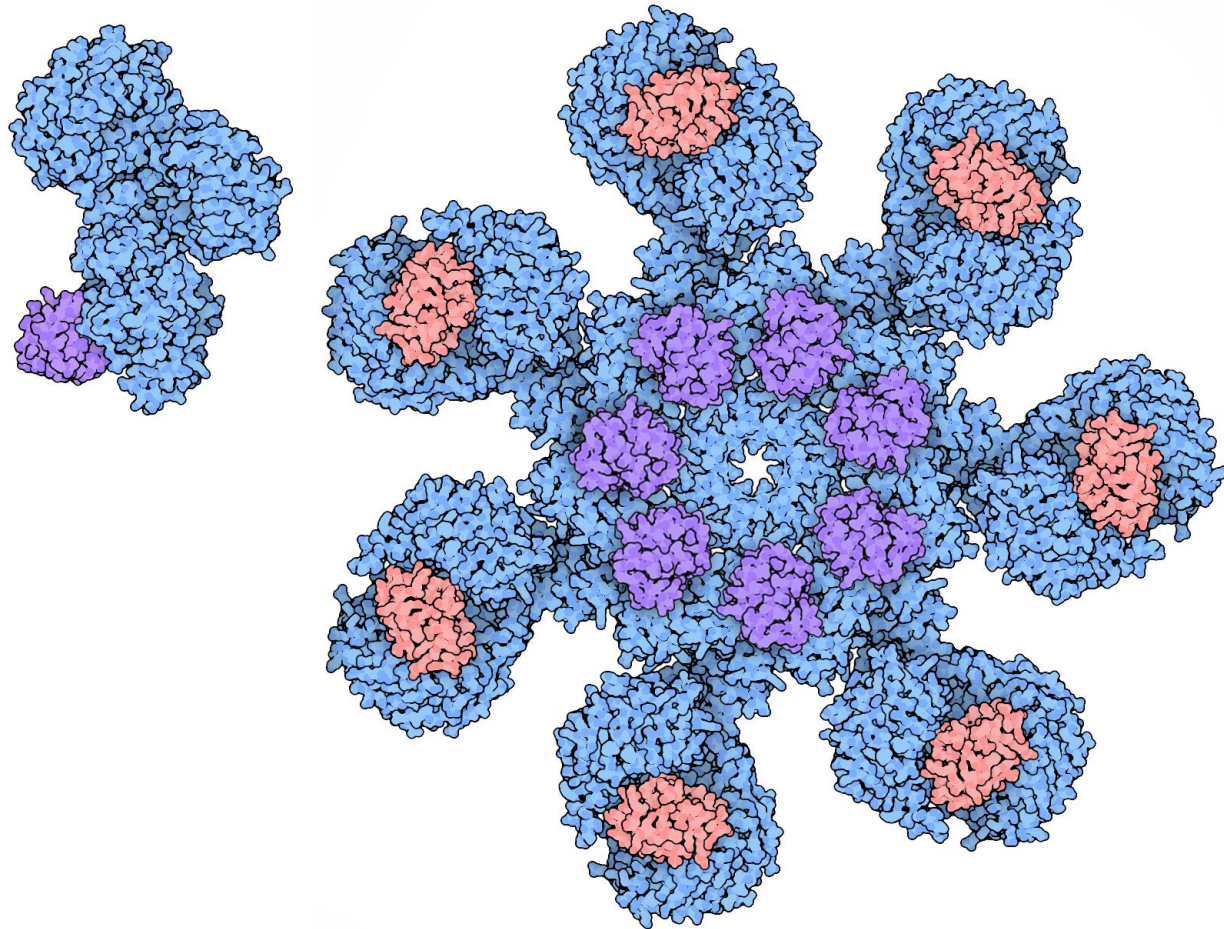
– Cytochrome c

Active apoptosome:

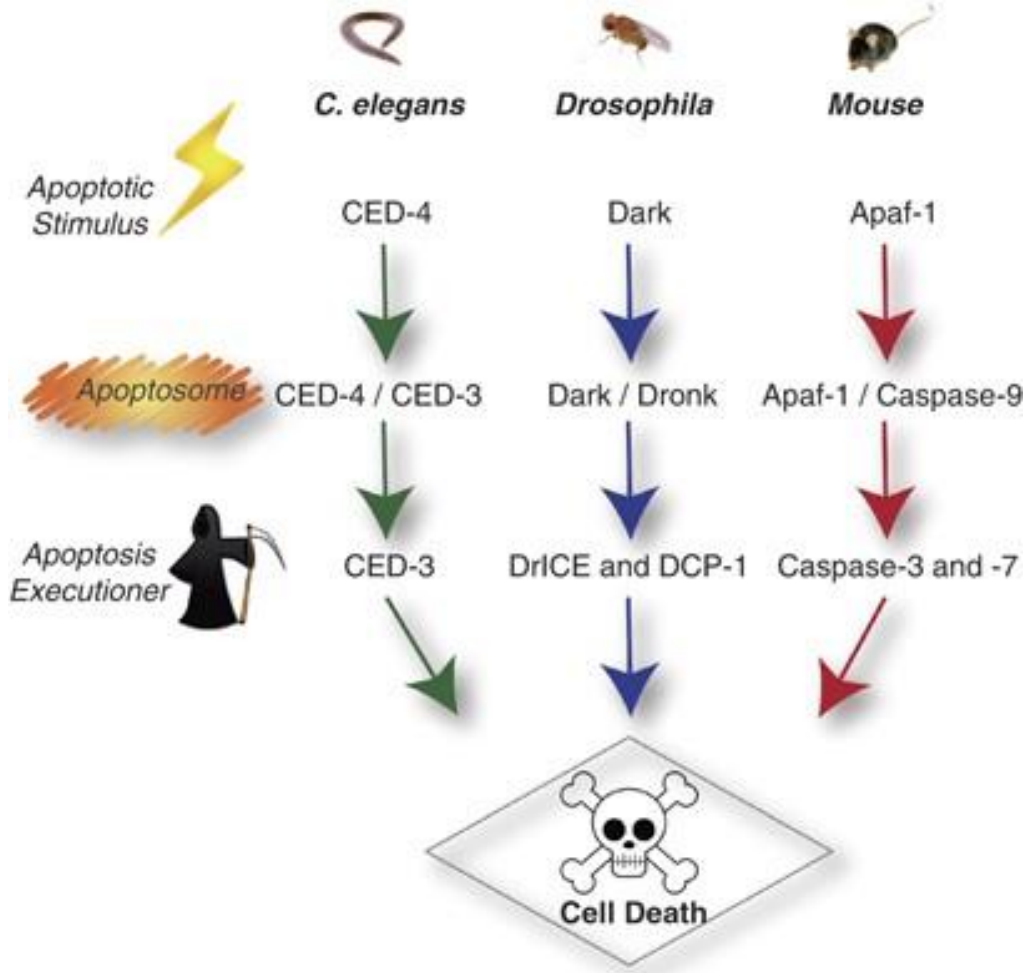
– Apaf-1 CARD domain binds pro-caspase 9

– Cleavage into active initiation caspase 9: activates executioner caspases



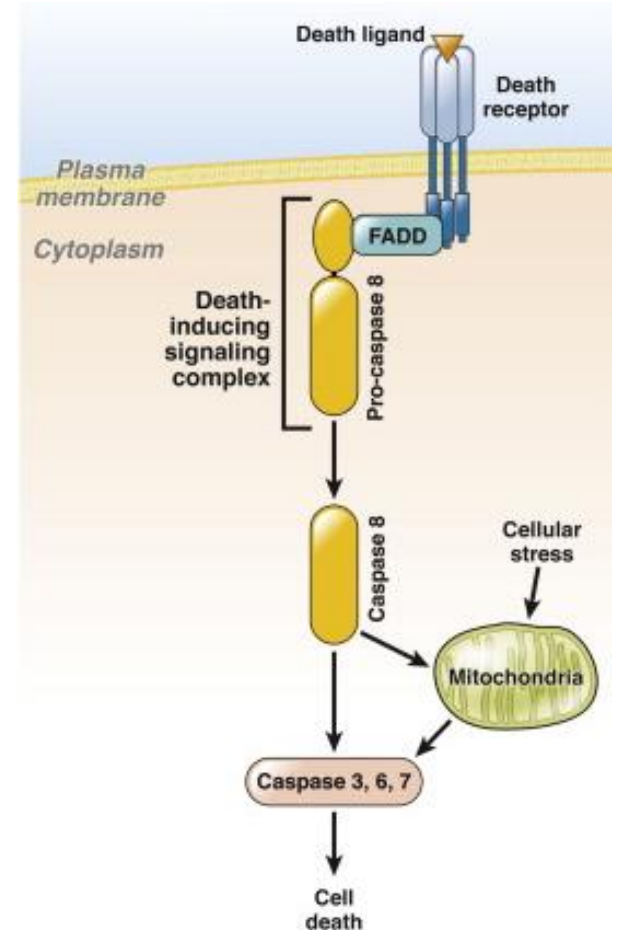


Intrinsic apoptotic pathway is evolutionary conserved



Extrinsic apoptotic pathway

- **Death ligands** activate specific **death receptors** at the plasma membrane:
 - Fas ligand (FasL) – Fas receptor (CD95)
 - Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) α – TNF receptor
 - TRAIL – death receptor (DR) 4 and DR5
 - Tweak – DR3
-
- **Activation of caspase 8 (2, 10): proteolytic cascade \rightarrow executioner caspases**



Extrinsic vs. intrinsic

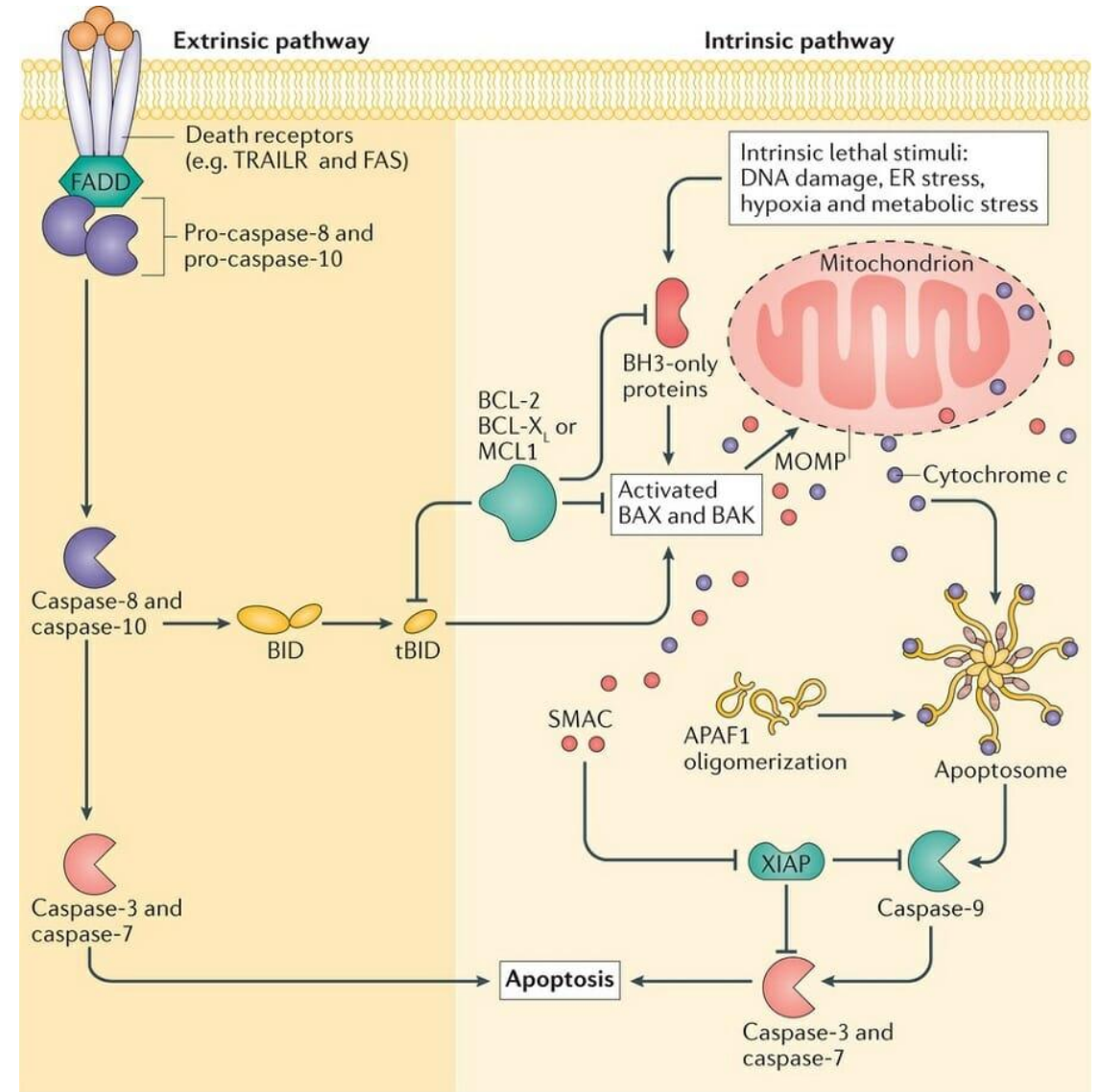
Extrinsic

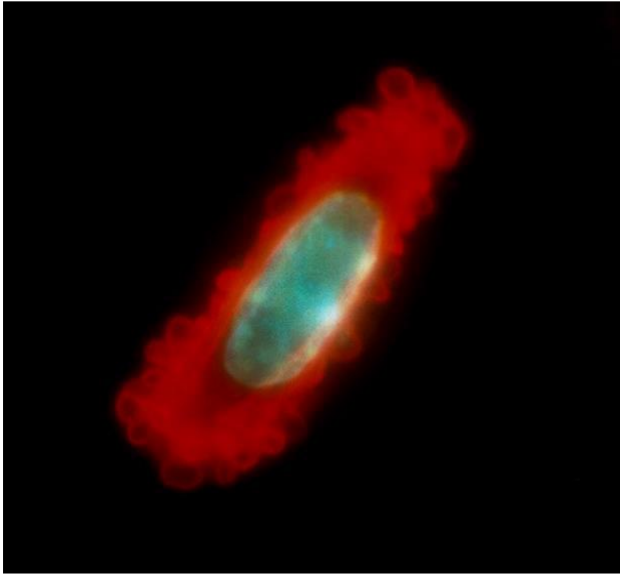
- Death receptors
- Caspase 8 (and 2,10)

Intrinsic

- MOMP and cytochrome c release
- Caspase 9

Executioner caspases shared



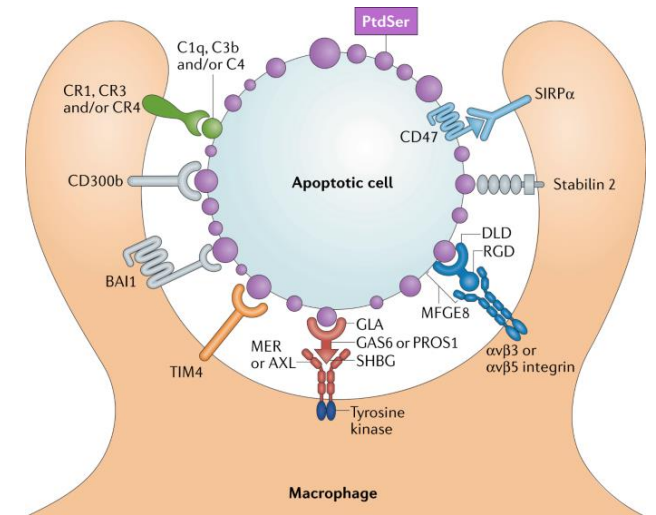
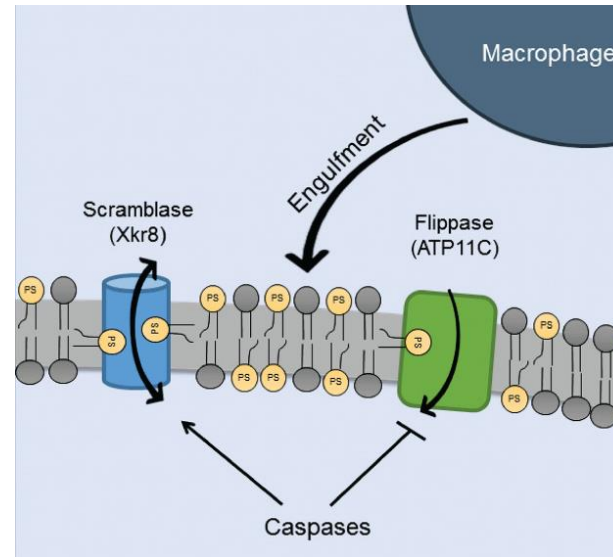


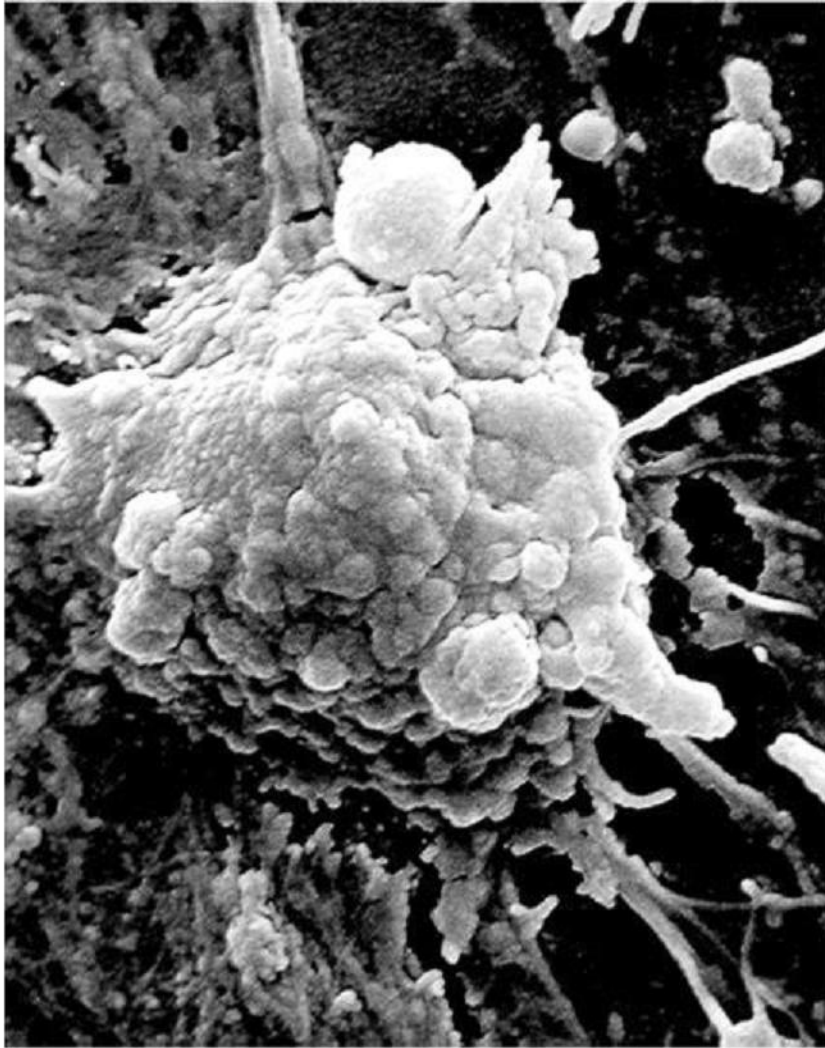
Plasma membrane blebbing

– Defects and degradation of cortical cytoskeleton

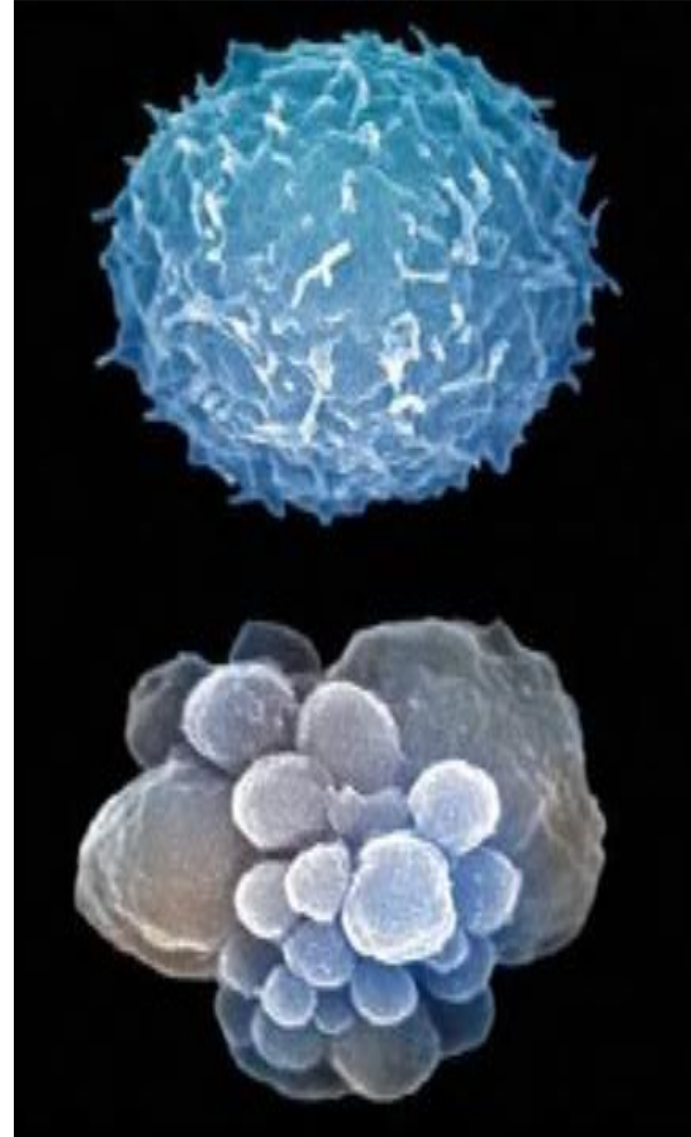
Changes in the plasma membrane

– Externalization of phosphatidylserine: signal for phagocytosis



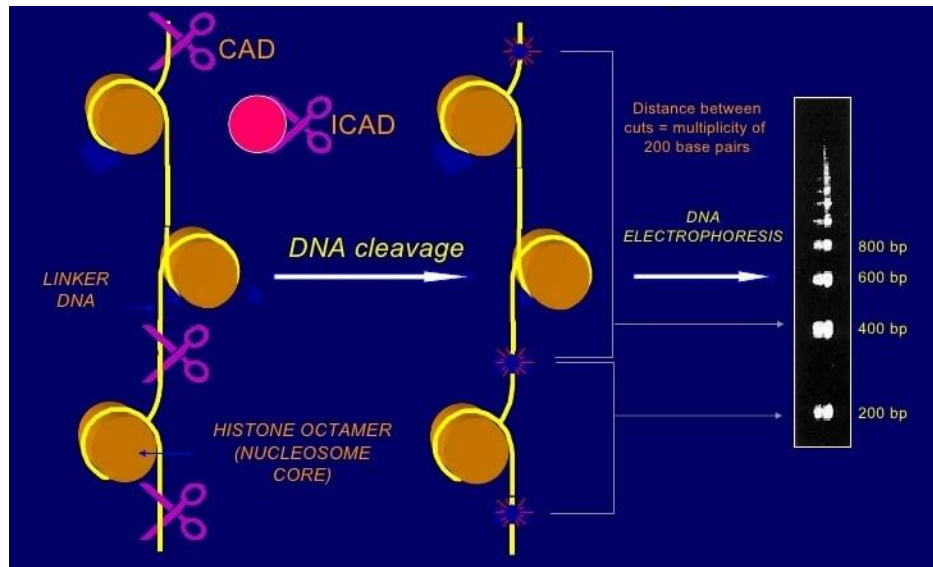


Motoneuron disease: an apoptotic neuron seen by scanning electron microscopy



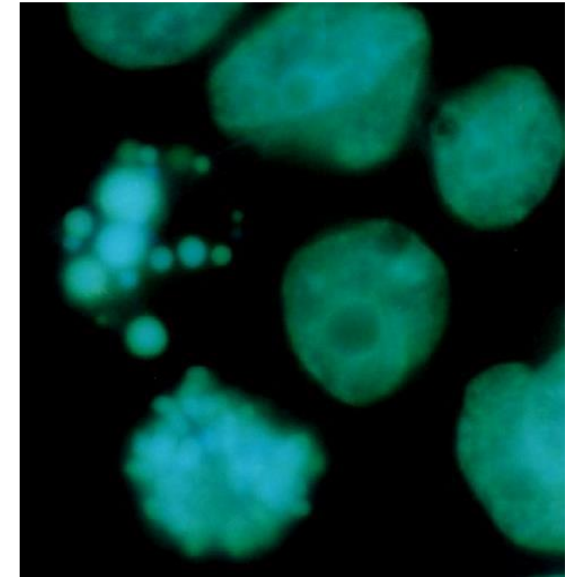
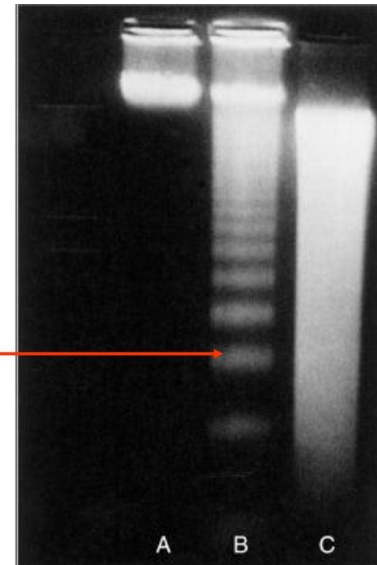
Nuclear collapse

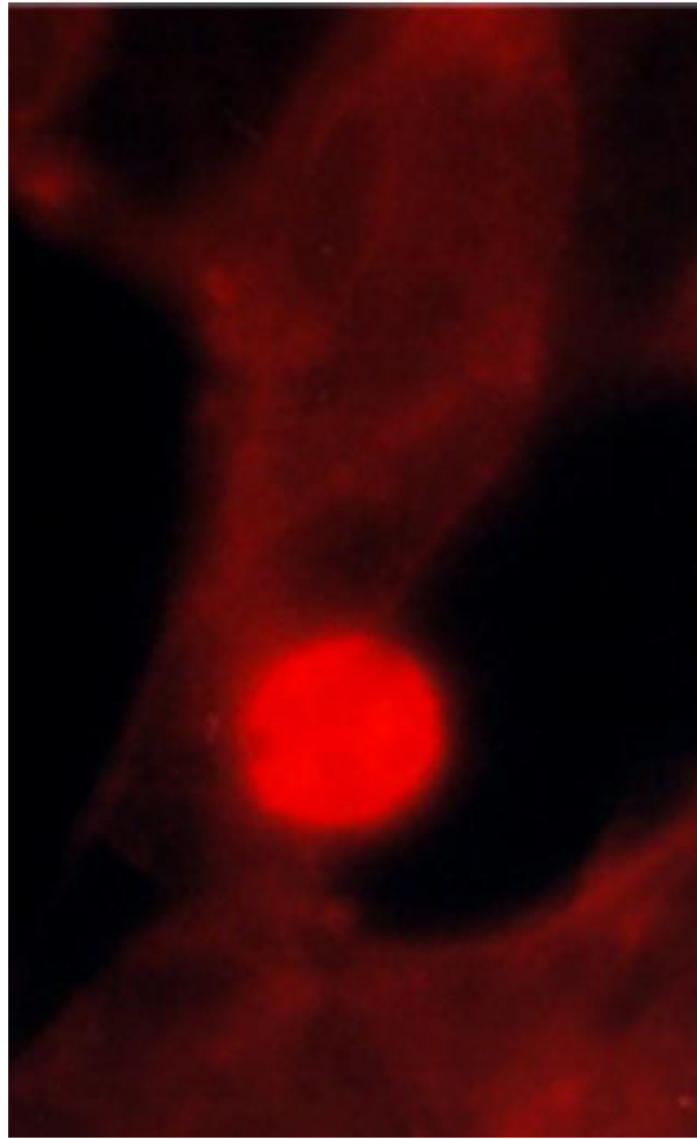
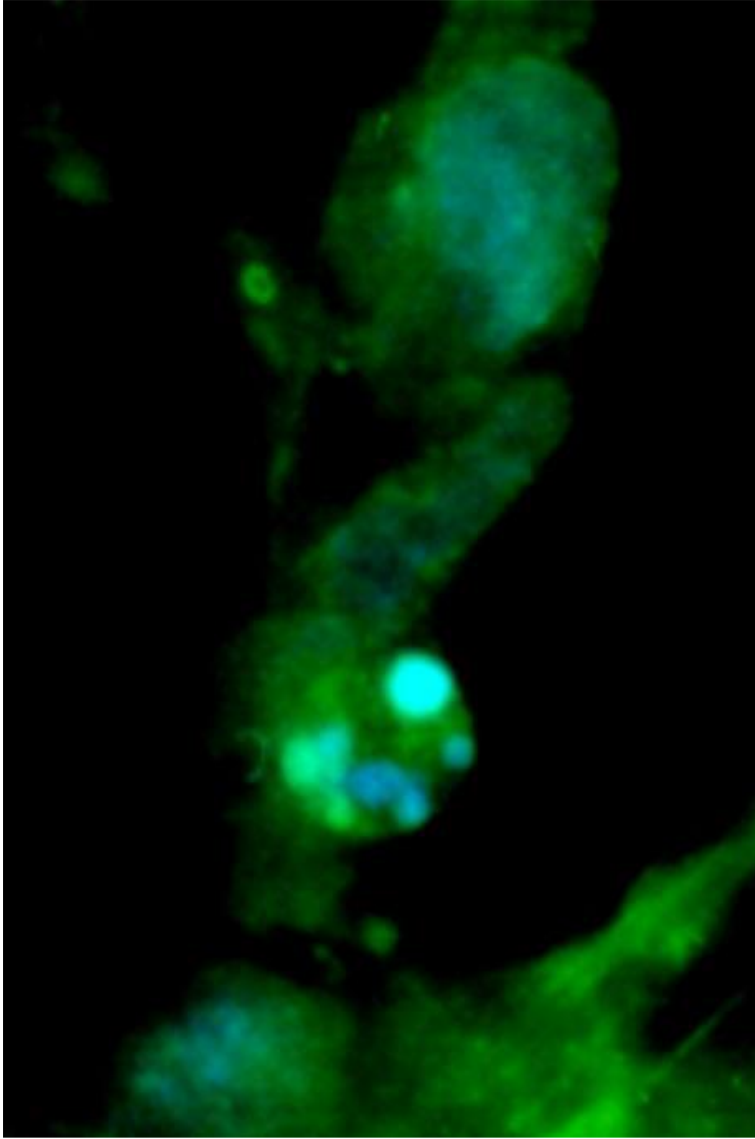
- Chromatin condensation and degradation of nuclear lamina
- Internucleosomal cleavage of DNA: DNA ladder
- Nuclear fragmentation



Lane A: Control
Lane B: Apoptosis
Lane C: Necrosis

Ladder pattern
of DNA

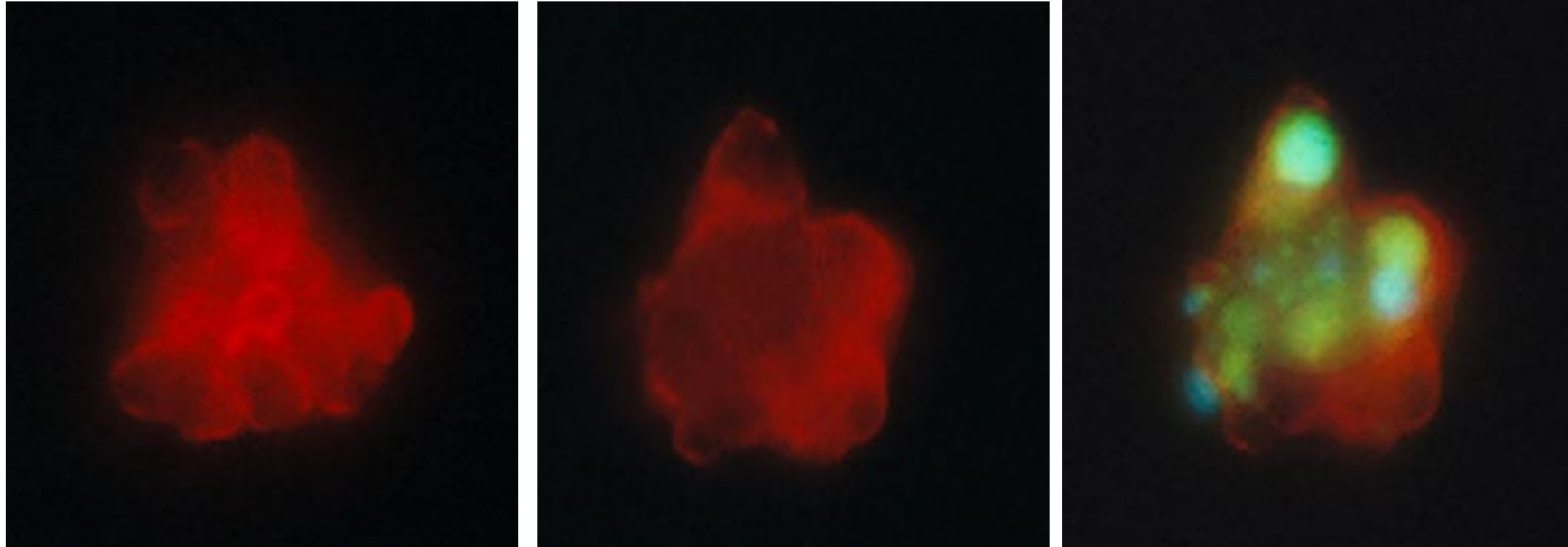




α -tubulin, DNA, cleaved caspase 3



Cell fragmentation into apoptotic bodies



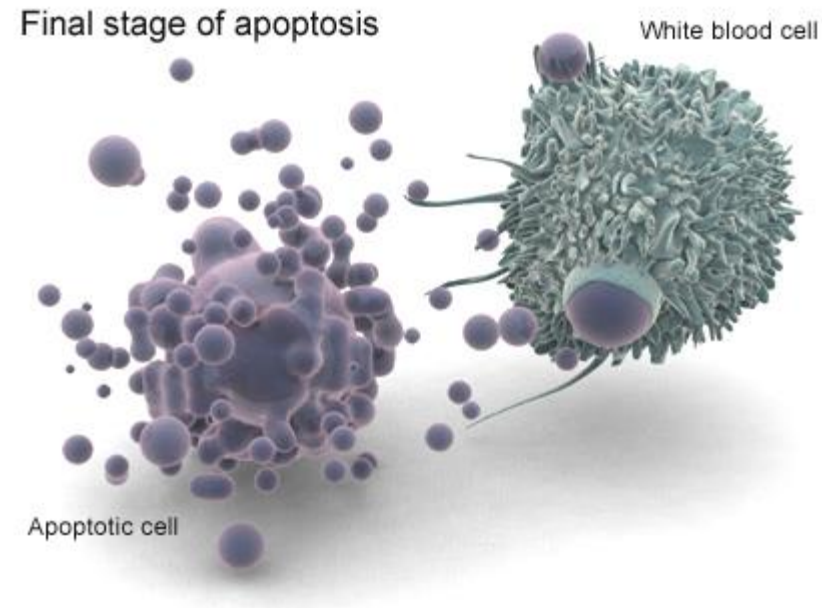
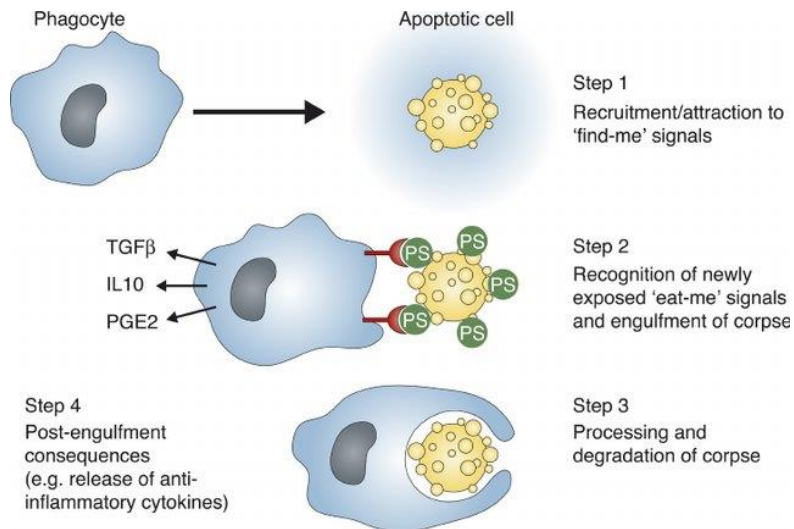
F-actin, DNA

– **Actin/non-muscle myosin II** contraction – blebbing and apoptotic bodies formation

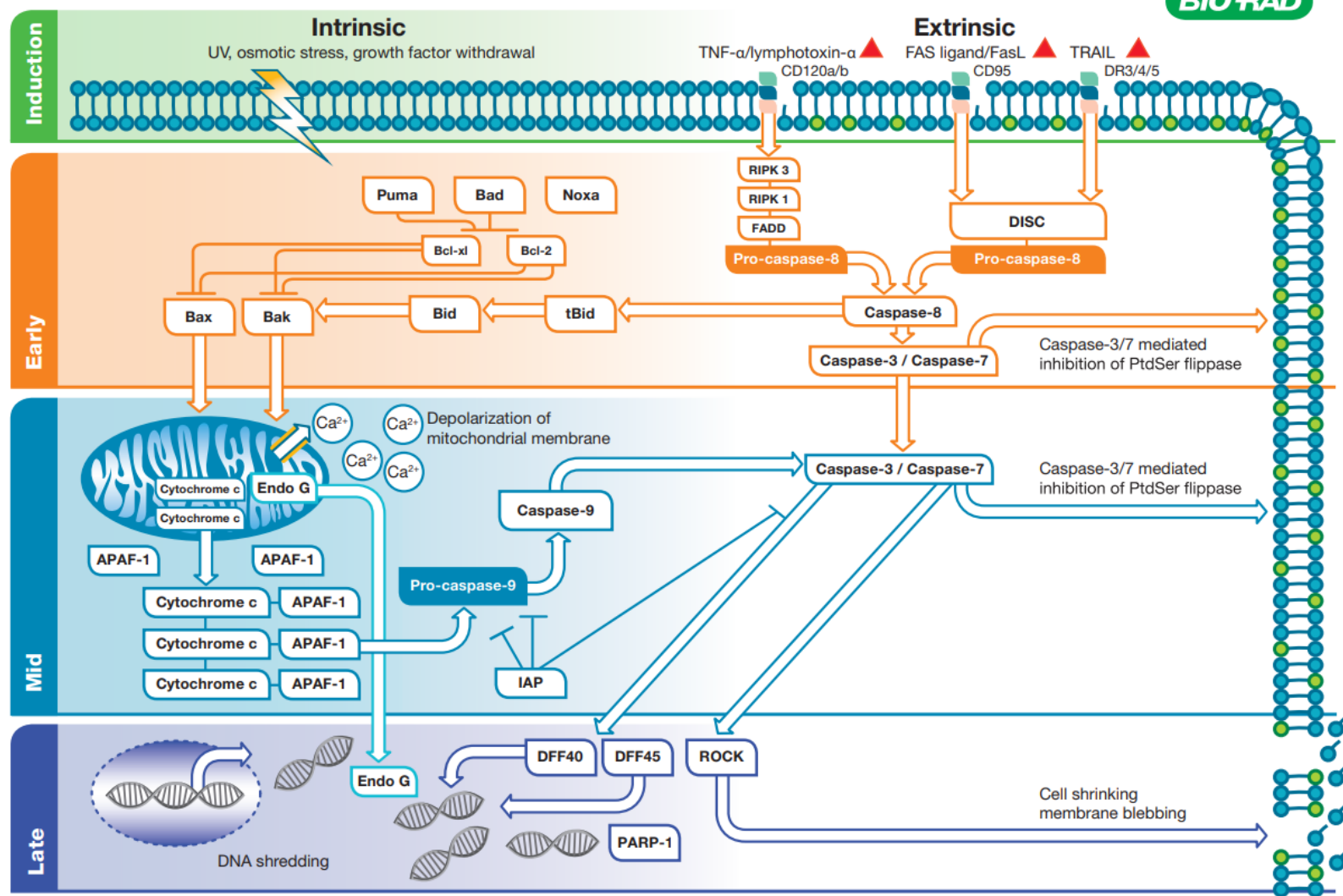
- Plasma membrane integrity remains intact
- Apoptotic bodies comprise nuclear fragments, organelles, cytoplasm

Phagocytosis of apoptotic bodies

- Engulfment of apoptotic cells/apoptotic bodies by neighboring phagocytes (macrophages and dendritic cells)
- Phagocytes secrete anti-inflammatory cytokines



Apoptosis



Cell death: Autophagic cell death

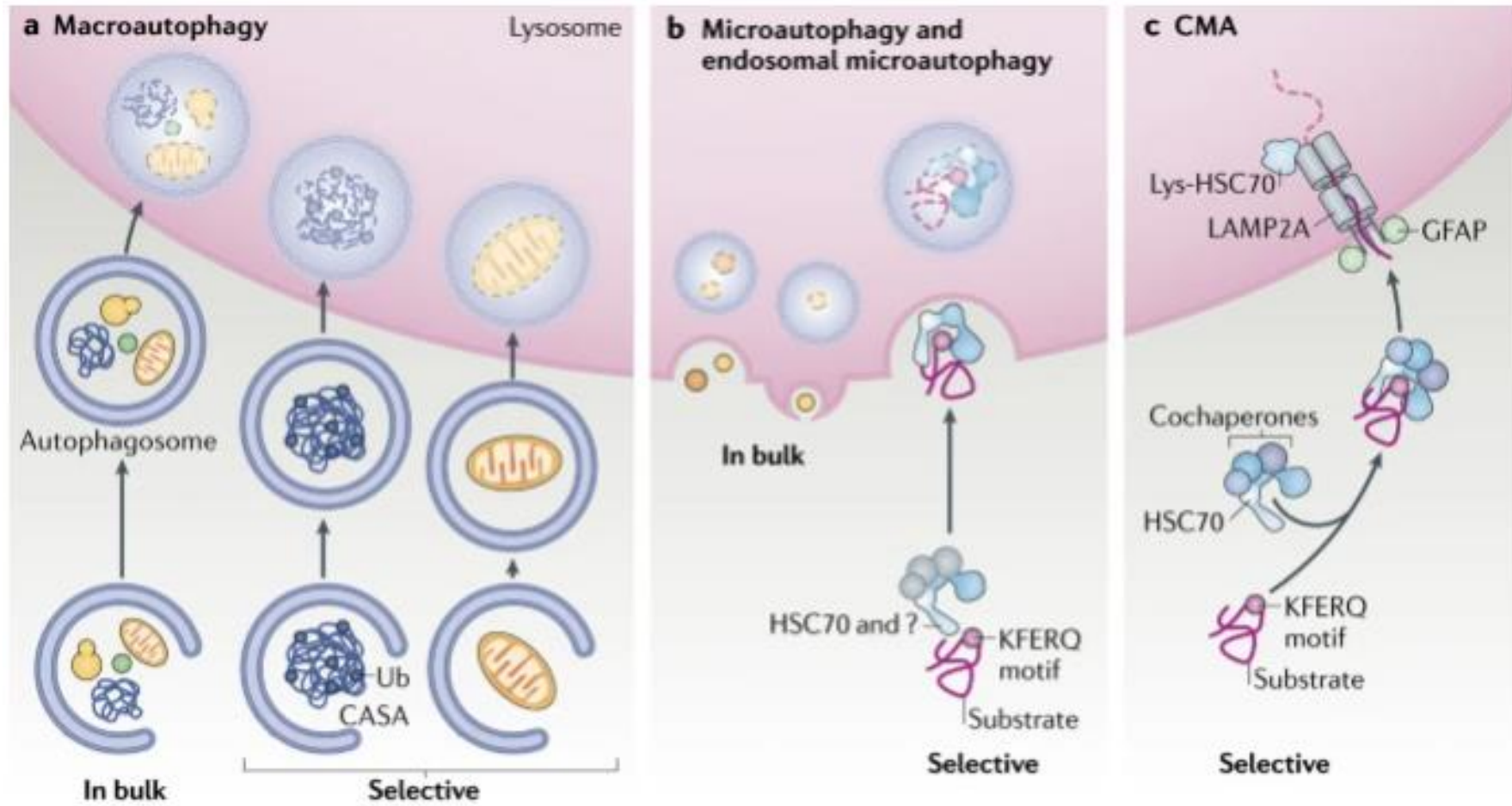


Autophagy

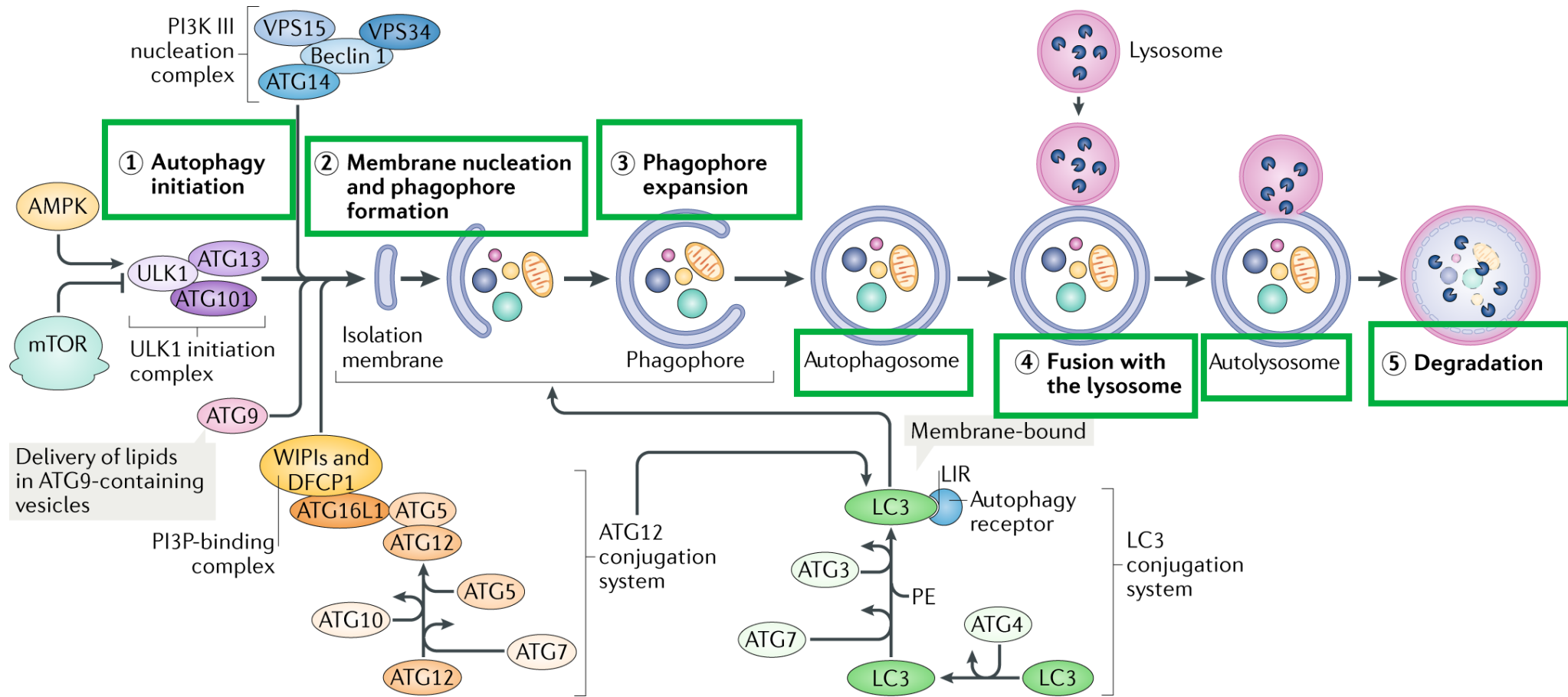
- Regulated process of targeting and delivery of cellular components and organelles into lysosomes for degradation (and recycling)

- **Macroautophagy**
 - best described, autophagosome formation; selective/non-selective
- **Microautophagy**
 - direct invagination of lysosomes; selective/non-selective
- **Chaperone-mediated autophagy**
 - selective



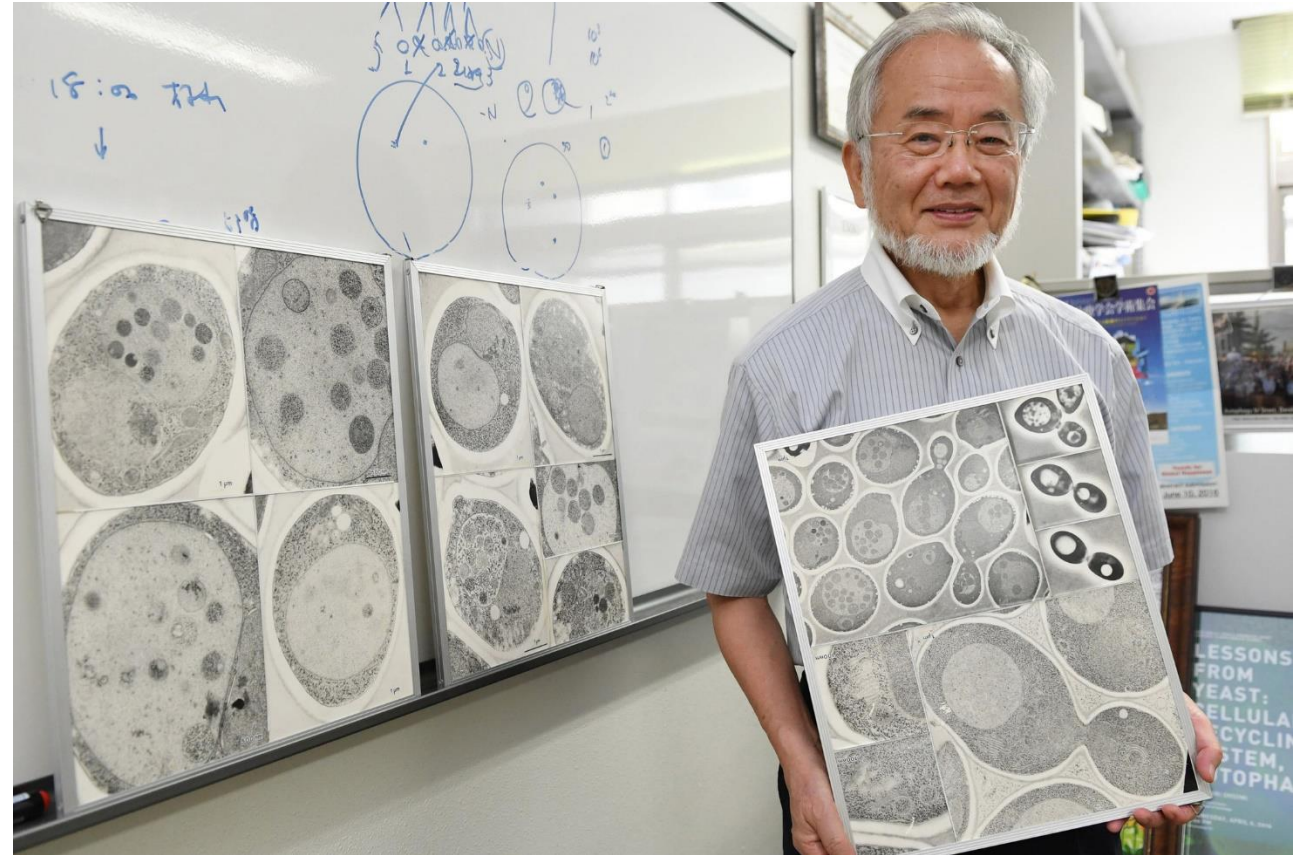


Macroautophagy process



2016 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Yoshinori Ohsumi



– for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy

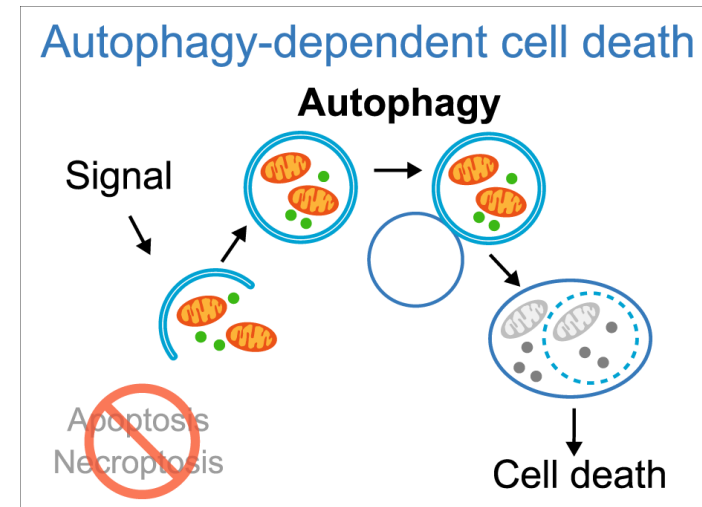
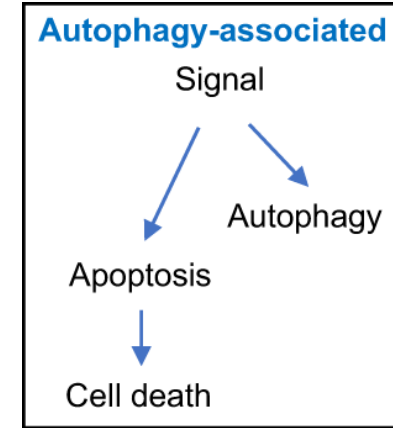
Autophagic cell death

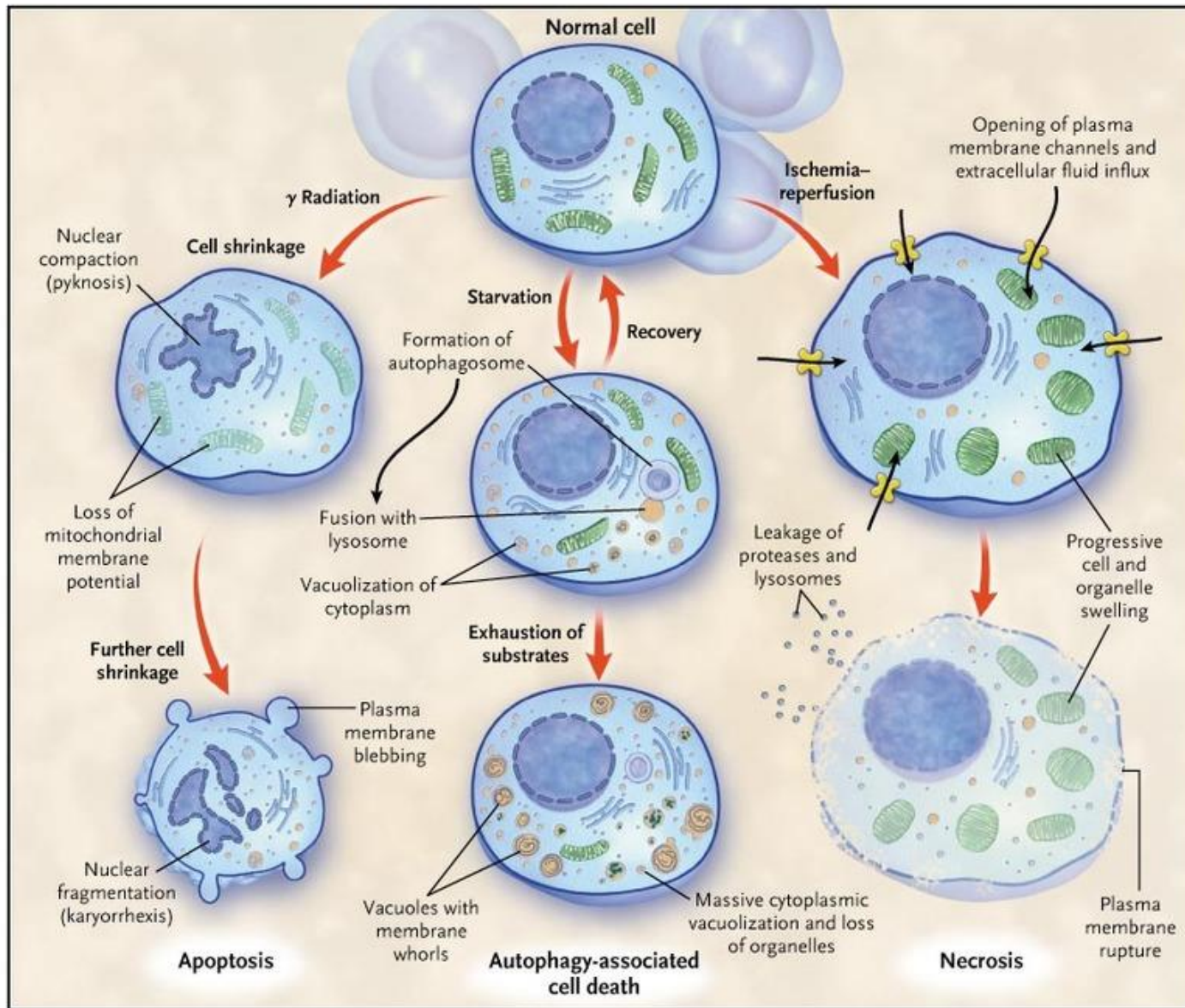
– Autophagy-associated cell death

- Excessive autophagy that accompanies apoptosis

– Autophagy-dependent cell death

- Inhibition of autophagy prevents cell death, apoptosis or necrosis not involved
- Context dependent: e.g., midgut of *Drosophila* larvae; hippocampal neural stem cells after insulin withdrawal...





Cell death: Ferroptosis



Ferroptosis

- **Iron-dependent programmed cell death**
- Characterized by large amount of iron accumulation and **iron-catalyzed lipid peroxidation** during the cell death process
- Dysregulation of iron metabolism, glutathione (GSH, antioxidant) depletion...
- Excessive ROS production → rupture of mitochondrial outer membrane



