

iPSCs and cell reprogramming

Julie Martone

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This lesson...

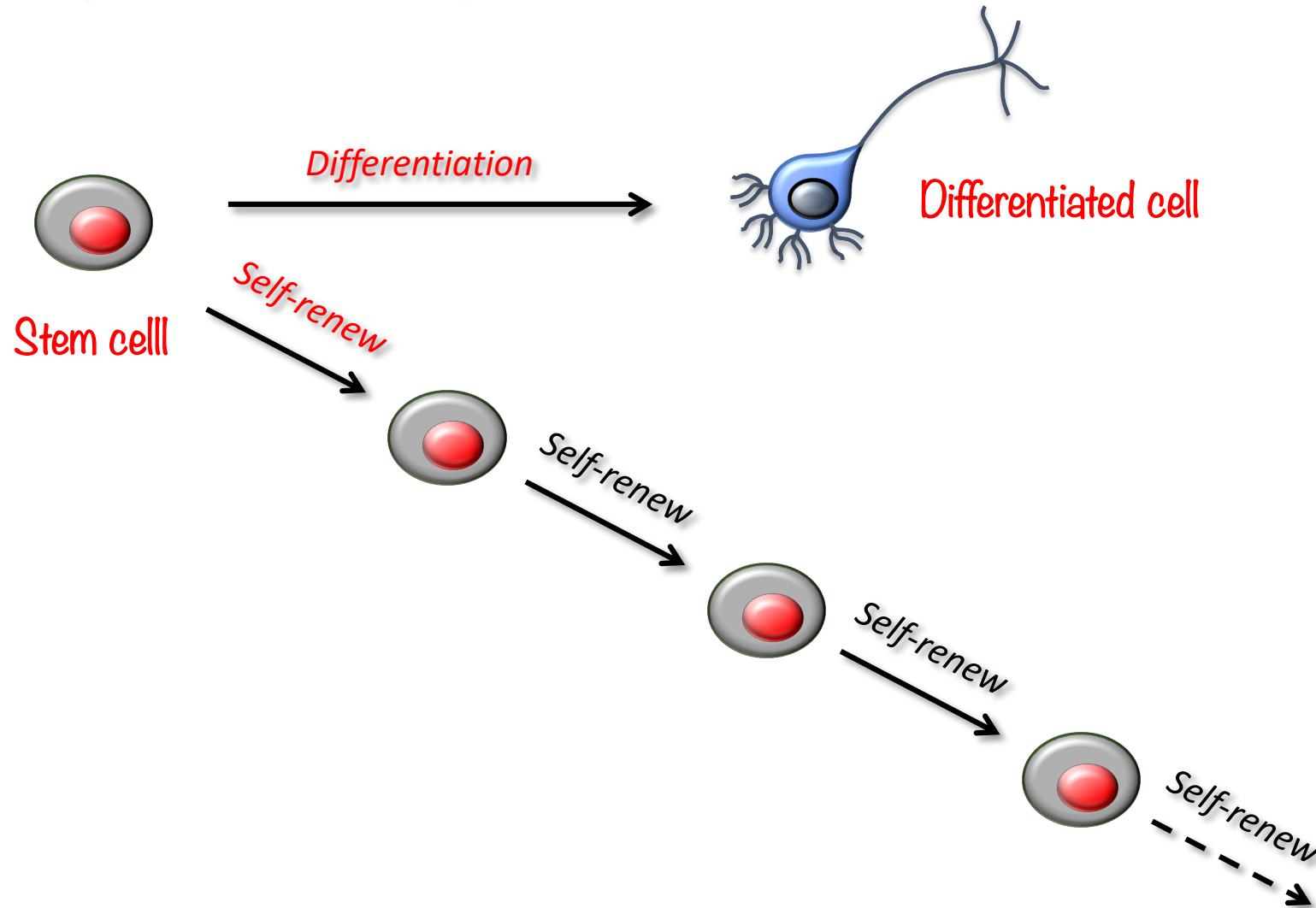
1. What are stem cells

2. A bit of history: which are the **key experiments** that allowed to arrive at the concept of reprogramming

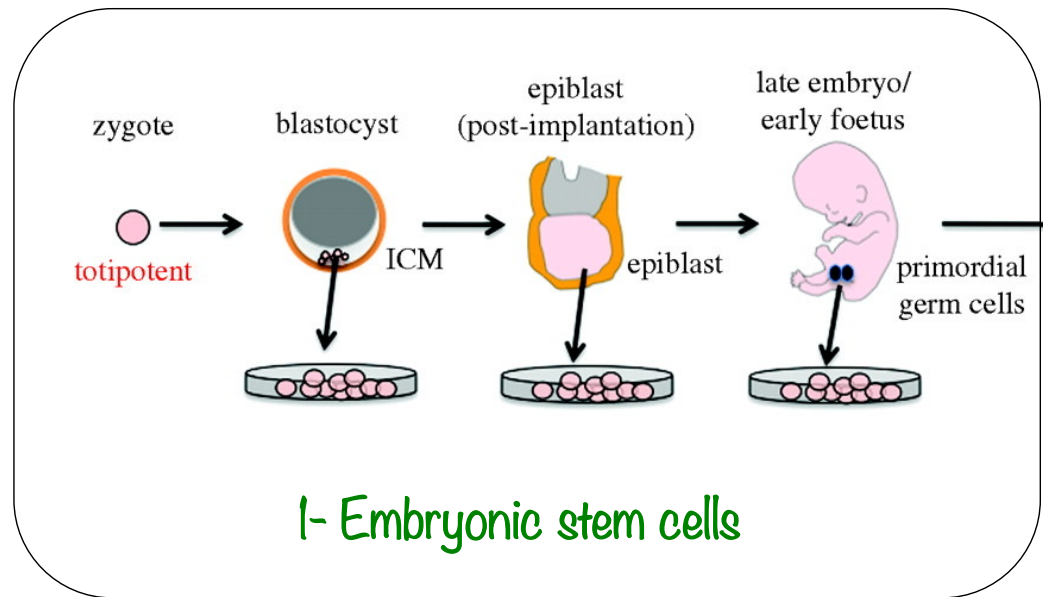
3. Generating pluripotent stem cells from somatic cells through **epigenetic reprogramming**

WHAT ARE STEM CELLS?

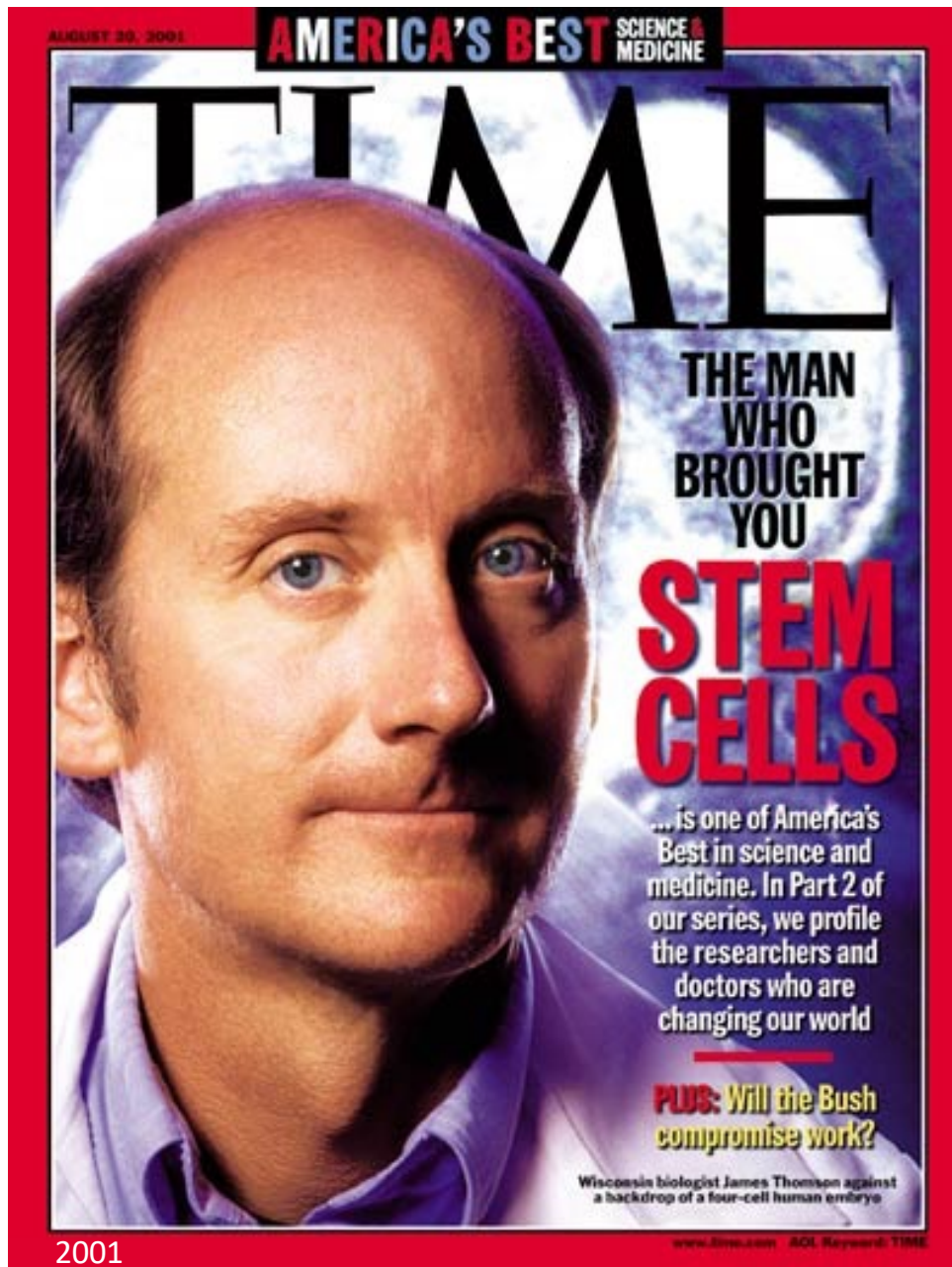
Stem Cells are defined as cells with extensive **self-renewal** capacity and the ability to generate daughter cells that undergo further **differentiation**



Origin of stem cells



STEM CELLS RESEARCH

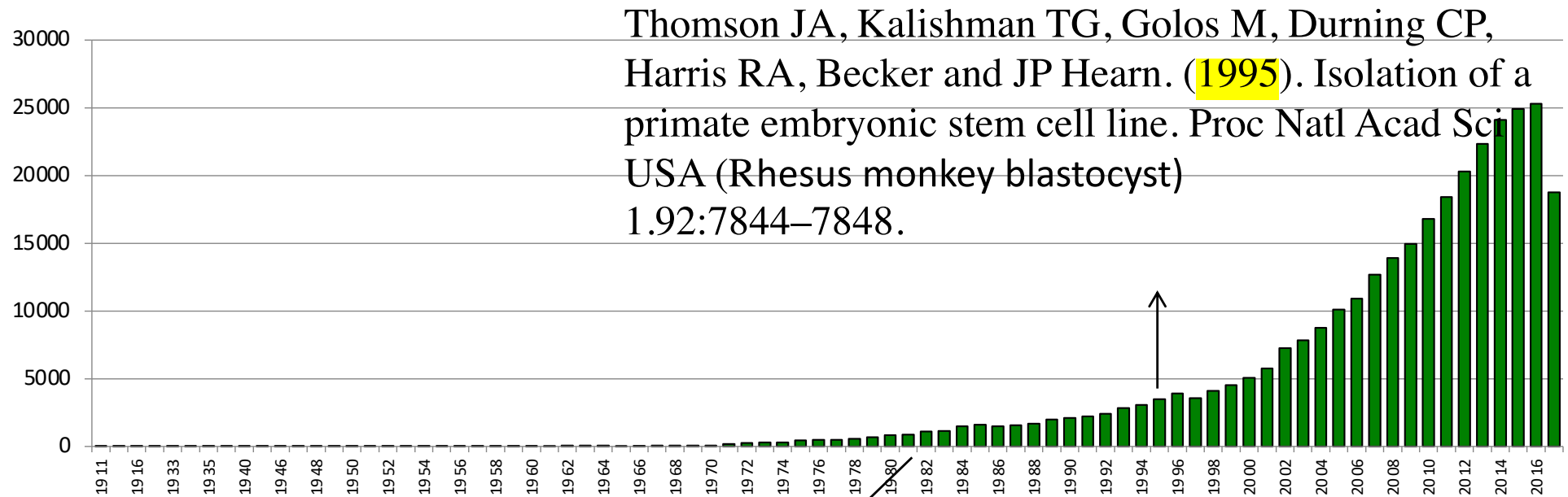


2001



James Thomson

STEM CELLS RESEARCH



Thomson JA, Kalishman TG, Golos M, Durning CP, Harris RA, Becker and JP Hearn. (1995). Isolation of a primate embryonic stem cell line. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA (Rhesus monkey blastocyst) 1.92:7844–7848.

Establishment in culture of pluripotential cells from mouse embryos (1981), [Nature](#). Evans & Kaufman

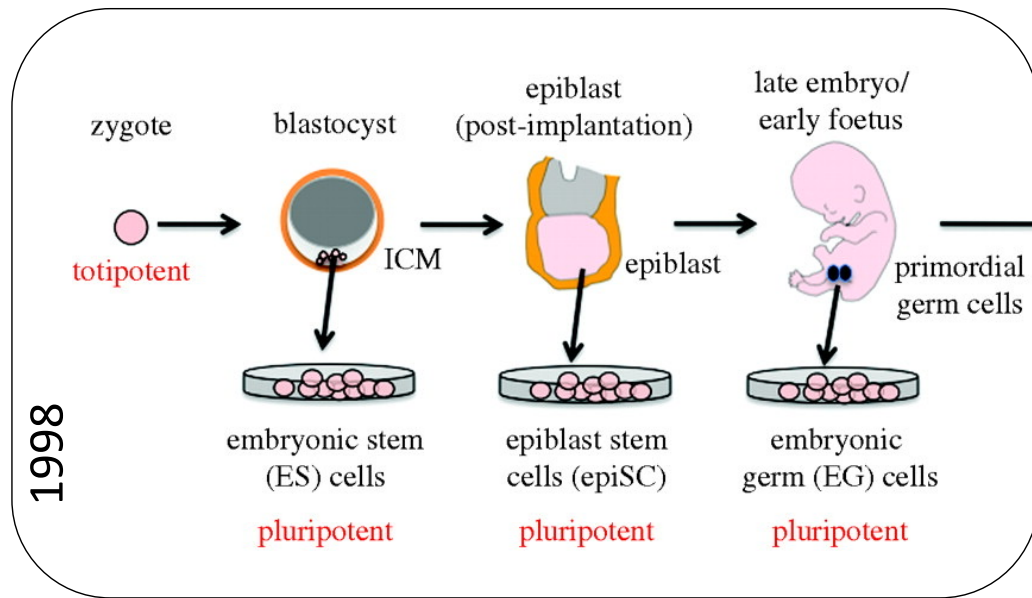
Embryonic Stem Cell Lines Derived from Human Blastocysts

James A. Thomson,* Joseph Itskovitz-Eldor, Sander S. Shapiro, Michelle A. Waknitz, Jennifer J. Swiergiel, Vivienne S. Marshall, Jeffrey M. Jones

SCIENCE VOL 282 6 NOVEMBER 1998

REPORTS

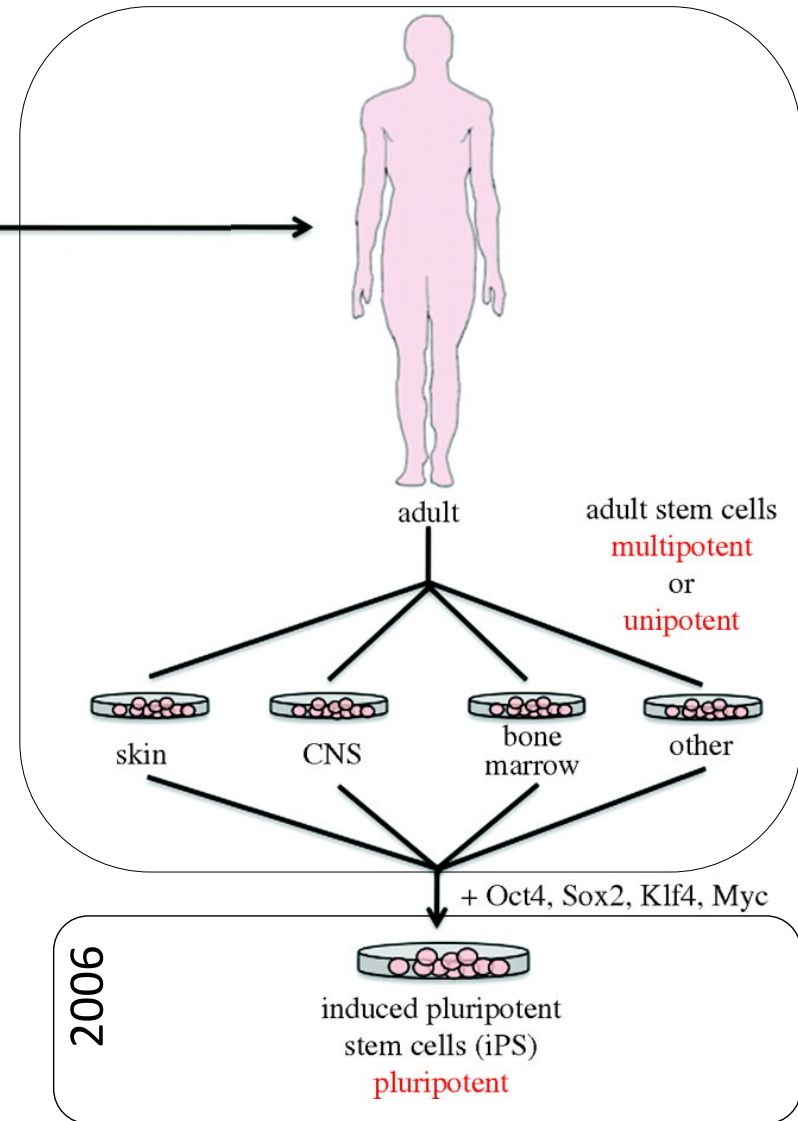
Origin of stem cells



hEmbryonic stem cells

Cell **potency** is a cell's ability to differentiate into other cell types. The more cell types a cell can differentiate into, the greater its potency.

Adult stem cells



Induced pluripotent stem cell

DEFINITIONS

Stem cell – Stem cells are distinguished from other cell types by two important characteristics:

- 1) They are unspecialized cells capable of **continually renewing** themselves through cell division and
- 2) they have the potential to **develop into many different cell types** of the body.

Given their regenerative potential, stem cells offer new opportunities for treating diseases.

Embryonic stem cell – An unspecialized cell type derived from early-stage embryos. Embryonic stem cells can renew themselves and they are pluripotent, meaning they have the potential to develop into any cell type of the body.

Adult stem cell – An unspecialized cell found among specialized cells in a tissue or organ. Adult stem cells can renew themselves and they are multipotent, meaning they have the potential to develop into a limited number of cells in the body (some or all of the specialized cell types of the tissue or organ from which they were derived).

Induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) – An unspecialized, embryonic stem cell-like cell that has been derived from an adult cell through epigenetic reprogramming. (Epigenetics relates to cellular changes caused by external or environmental factors that switch genes on and off and affect how cells read genes instead of being caused by changes in the DNA sequence.) Thus, just like embryonic stem cells, iPSCs can also **renew themselves** and they are also **pluripotent**.

Embryonic and adult stem cells

Embryonic

In vivo, they exist as a very transient population of cells inside the blastocyst. Their self-renew is limited to a short period of time

In vitro, we can keep them undifferentiated indefinitely (self-renew)

Their developmental potential is:
pluripotency

Adult

In vivo, they reside in niches inside adult organs. Their self-renew capacity is virtually unlimited

Rare

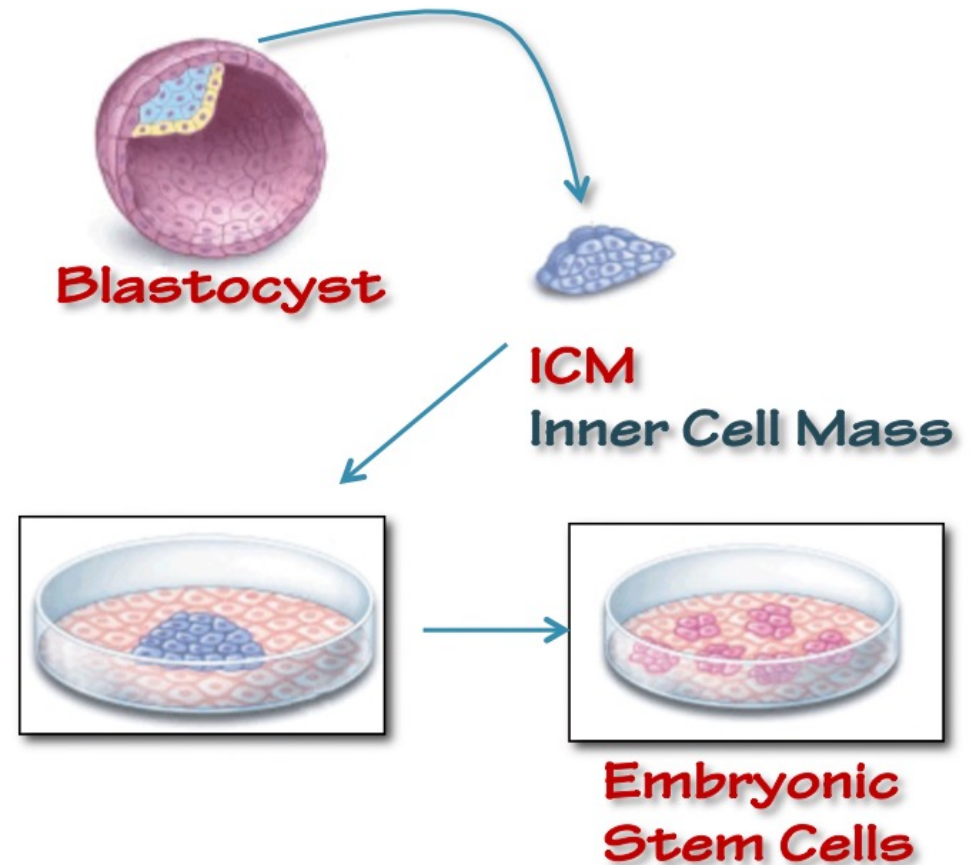
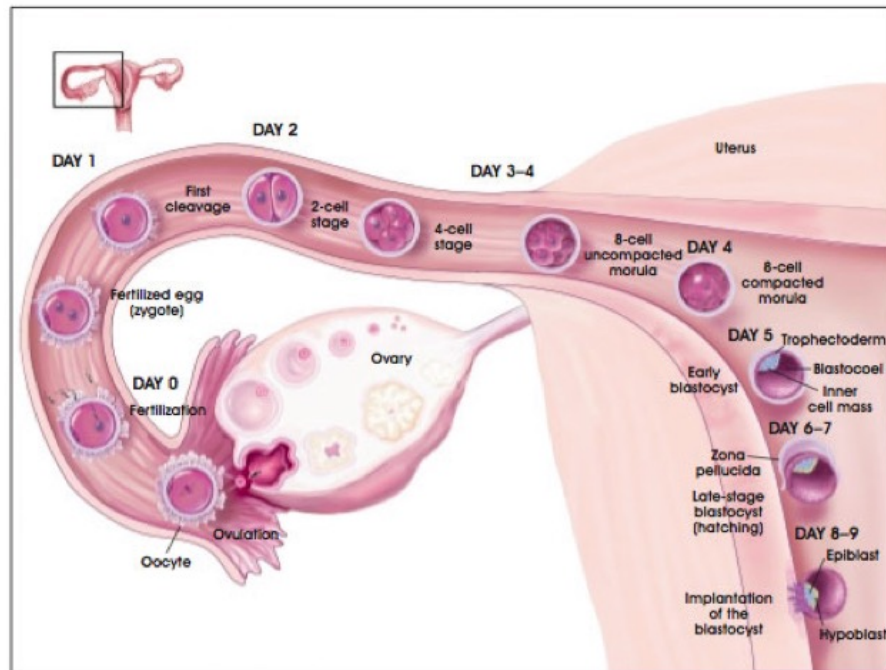
In vitro, not all adult stem cell types can be maintained

Their developmental potential is:
multipotency or
unipotency

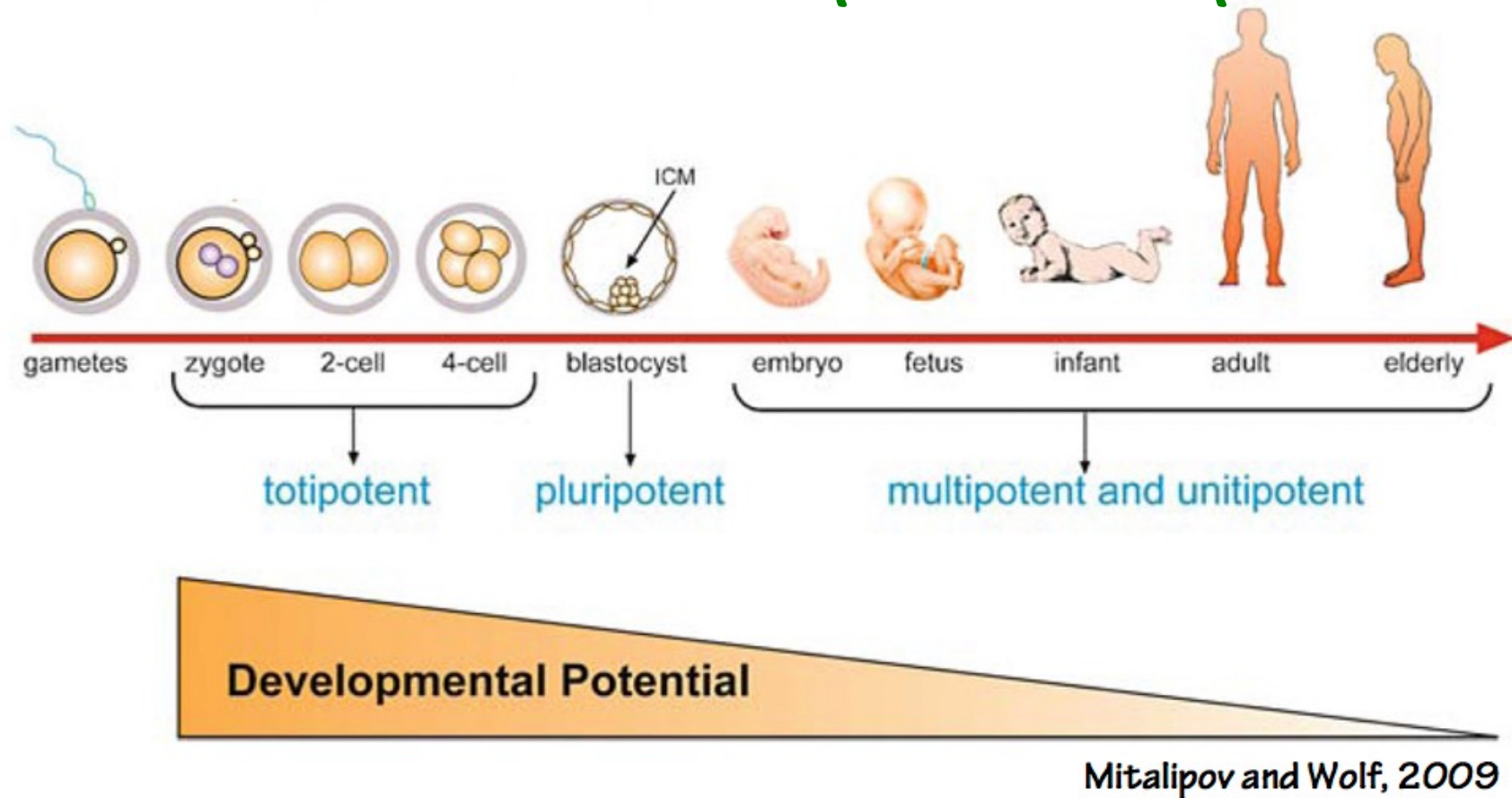
EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS

Embryonic Stem Cells derive from the early embryo at the stage of blastocyst.

In vivo, they are a transient population of cells. In vitro, they can self-renew indefinitely.



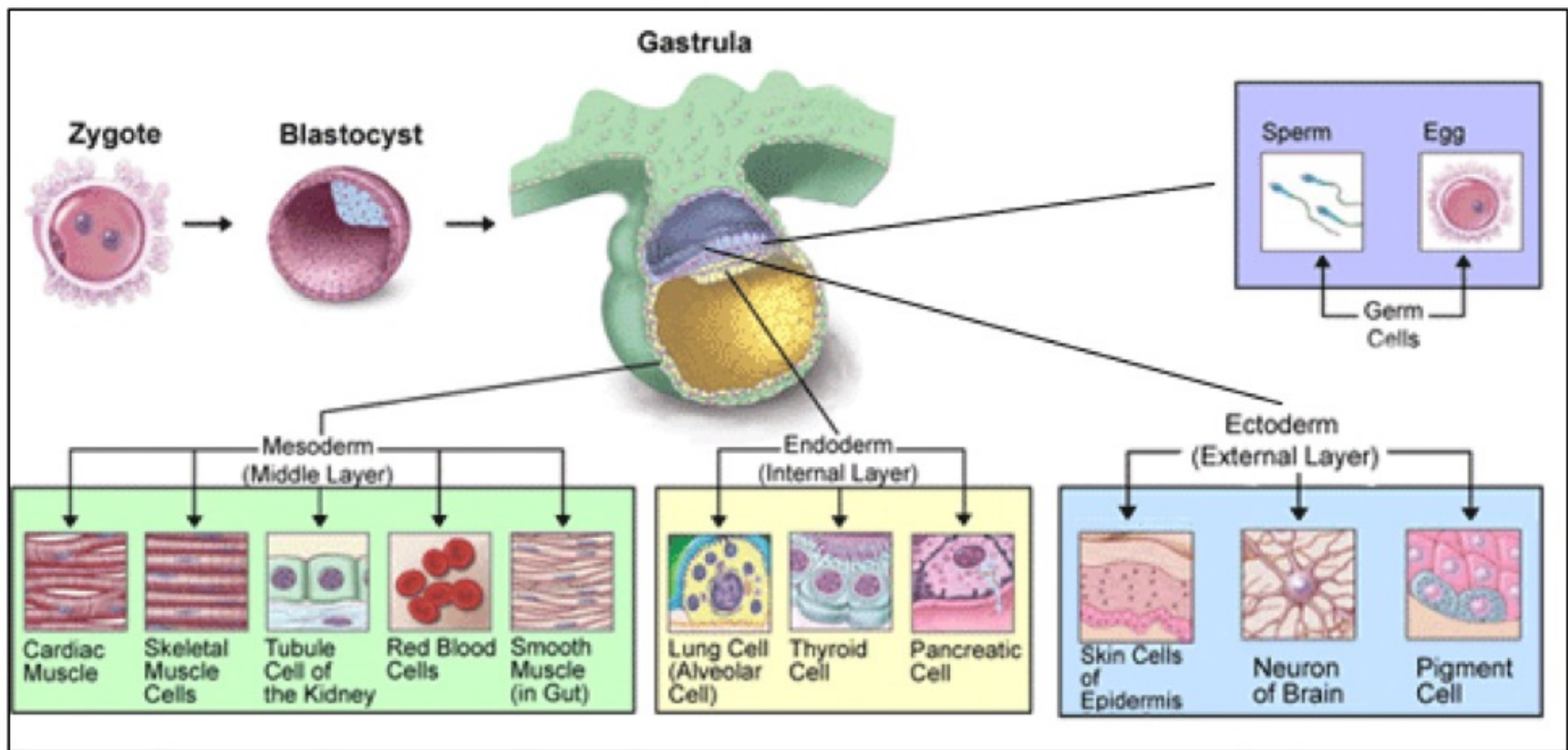
Decrease of developmental potential



Potency: number of possible fates open to a cell
(decrease with age)

Pluripotency

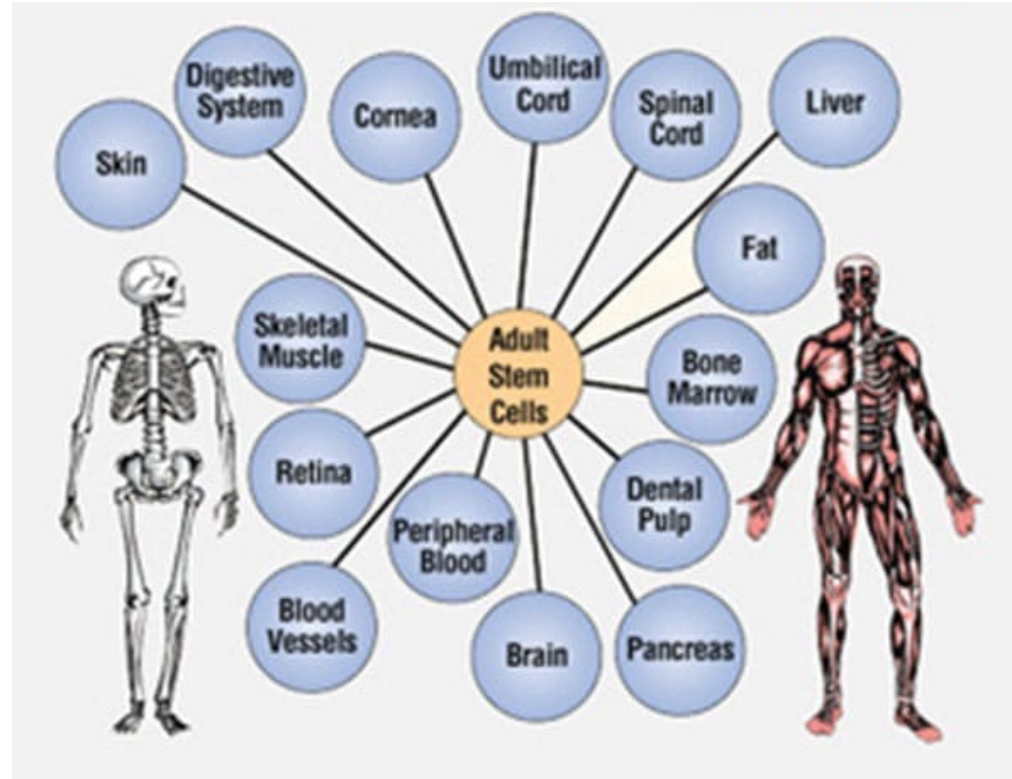
Pluripotency: the ability of a cell to differentiate into any of the three germ layers: endoderm, mesoderm or ectoderm.
Pluripotent stem cells can give rise to any fetal or adult cell type



ADULT STEM CELLS FUNCTIONS

- Regenerate damaged tissue
- Natural tissue turnover

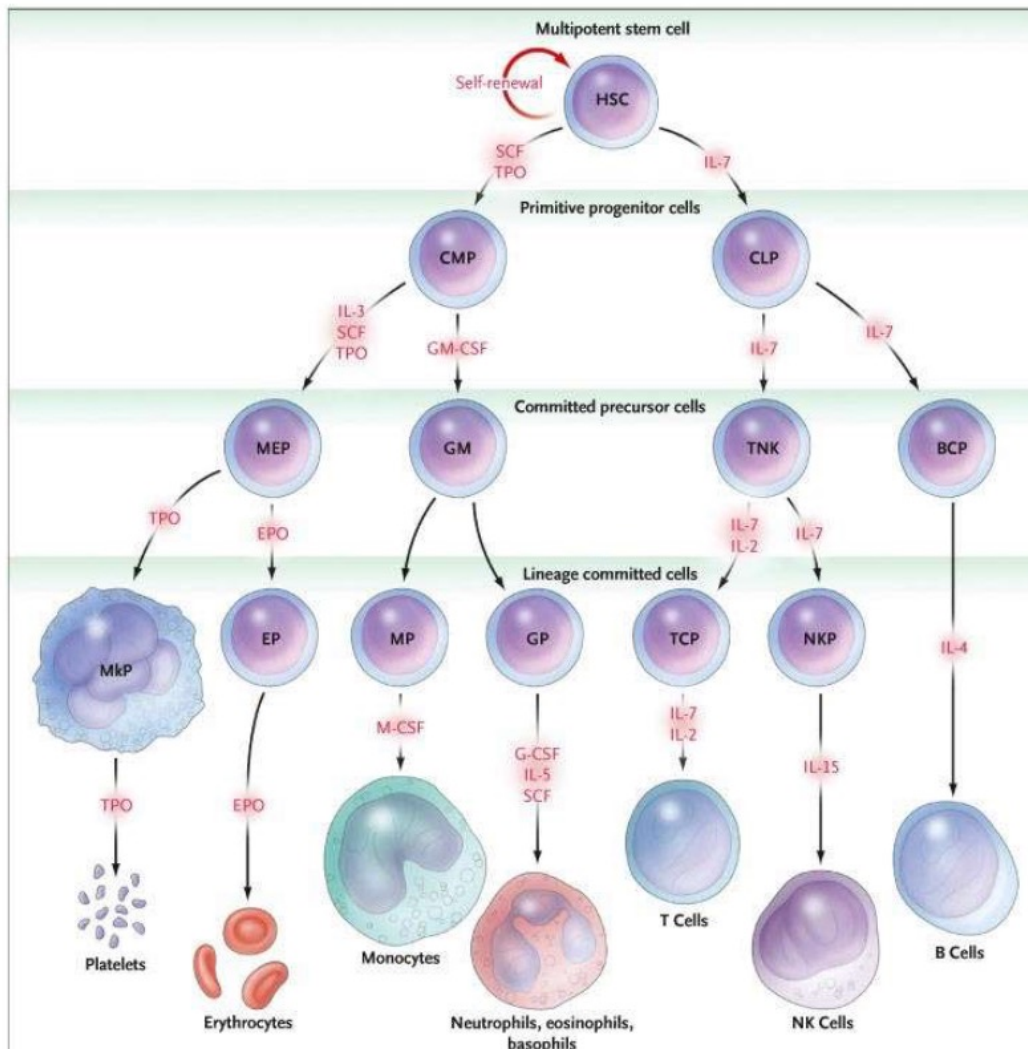
Where are adult stem cells found?



Adult stem cells have been identified in many organs and tissues, including brain, bone marrow, peripheral blood, blood vessels, skeletal muscle, skin, teeth, heart, liver, ovarian epithelium, and testis. They are thought to reside in a specific area of each tissue (called a “stem cell niche”).

Multipotent stem cells: All blood cells types come from hematopoietic stem cells

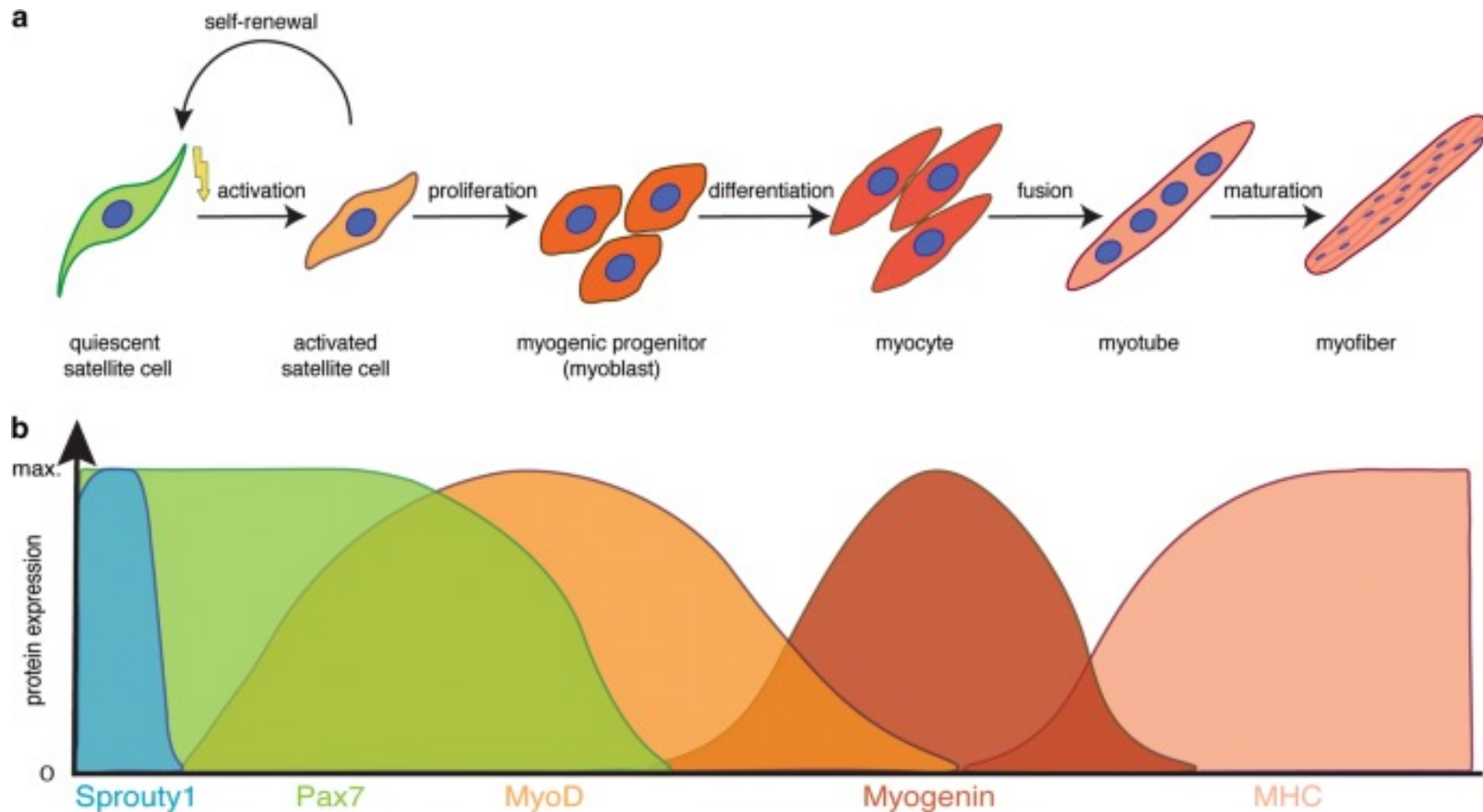
Hematopoiesis is the hierarchical differentiation process that leads to the formation of all blood cells starting from multipotent hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs).



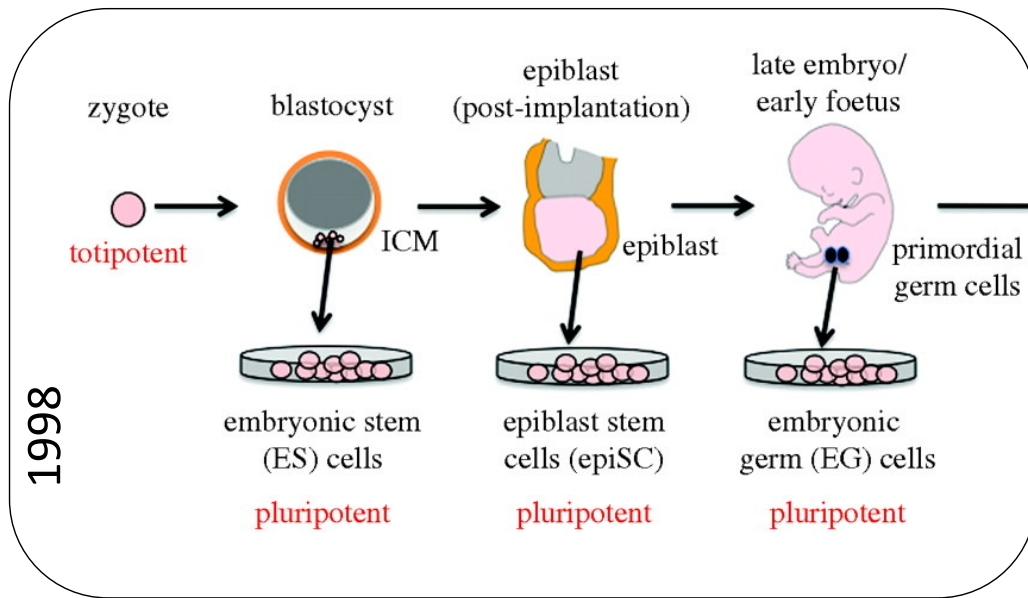
HSCs are the top level of the hierarchy, since they maintain the ability to self-renew and give rise to lineage progenitors all life long.

Lineage progenitors are no more able to self-renew, and they pass through increasingly committed intermediates in order to give rise to all the mature blood components.

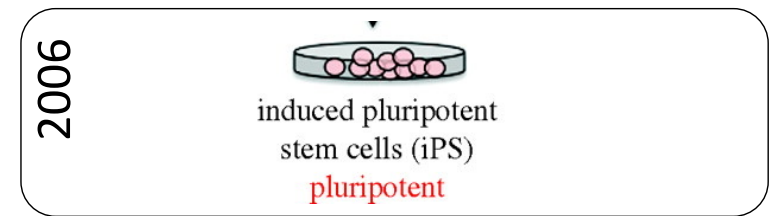
Unipotent stem cells: satellite cells mediate the long-life maintenance of muscle tissue



Pluripotency (the capability to become any somatic cell type) is characteristic of Embryonic stem cells (ESC) and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs)



Embryonic stem cells



Induced pluripotent stem cell

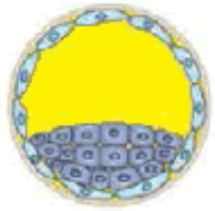
Summary of pluripotency testing methods

Pluripotency Assay	Purpose	Length of Assay	Nature of Assay	Strength/Definitiveness of Assay
Colony morphology	Verify ESC colony-like morphology of clustered, border-defined colonies.	10 minutes	<i>in vitro</i>	Low
Immunohistochemistry	Stain for standard pluripotency markers such as Oct4, Tra-1-60, Sox2, Tra-1-81, Nanog and SSEA.	1–4 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium
Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify expression levels of selected pluripotency genes; limited by gene number.	4–6 hours (from RNA extraction to RT-PCR)	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSCs to tissues of all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> ; should be coupled with relative quantification expression of gene-expression from the three germ-layers, which can be done by RT-PCR. Genes include: Nanog, Oct4, Sox2, and Klf4 (pluripotency markers); Ncam and NeuroD (ectodermal markers); Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).	2–3 weeks	<i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i>	Medium-High
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.	1–2 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .	1–2 months	<i>in vivo</i>	High

From: [Teratoma formation: A tool for monitoring pluripotency in stem cell research](#)

Teratoma formation

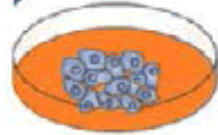
Blastocyst



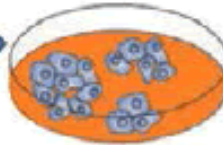
Inner cell mass



Expansion



ESC



Injection to SCID mice



Teratoma formation



Teratoma assays are considered the **gold standard** for demonstrating differentiation potential of pluripotent ESC/iPSC

A variety of **animal strains** can be used. Immunodeficient strains (i.e., Nu/Nu nude, BC nude, or SCID for mice; Rowett nude or Athymic for rats), however, form teratomas at a higher incidence. There is a significant chance of cell rejection in non-immunocompromised models.

2012 Nobel Prize

In 2012 Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded to Sir John Gurdon and Shinya Yamanaka for their groundbreaking contributions to the field of **cell reprogramming**.

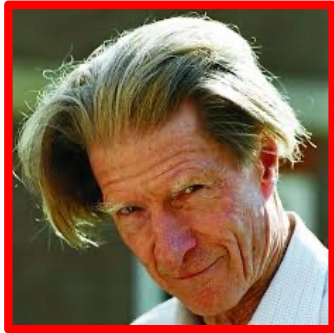


Sir John Gurdon

Shinya Yamanaka

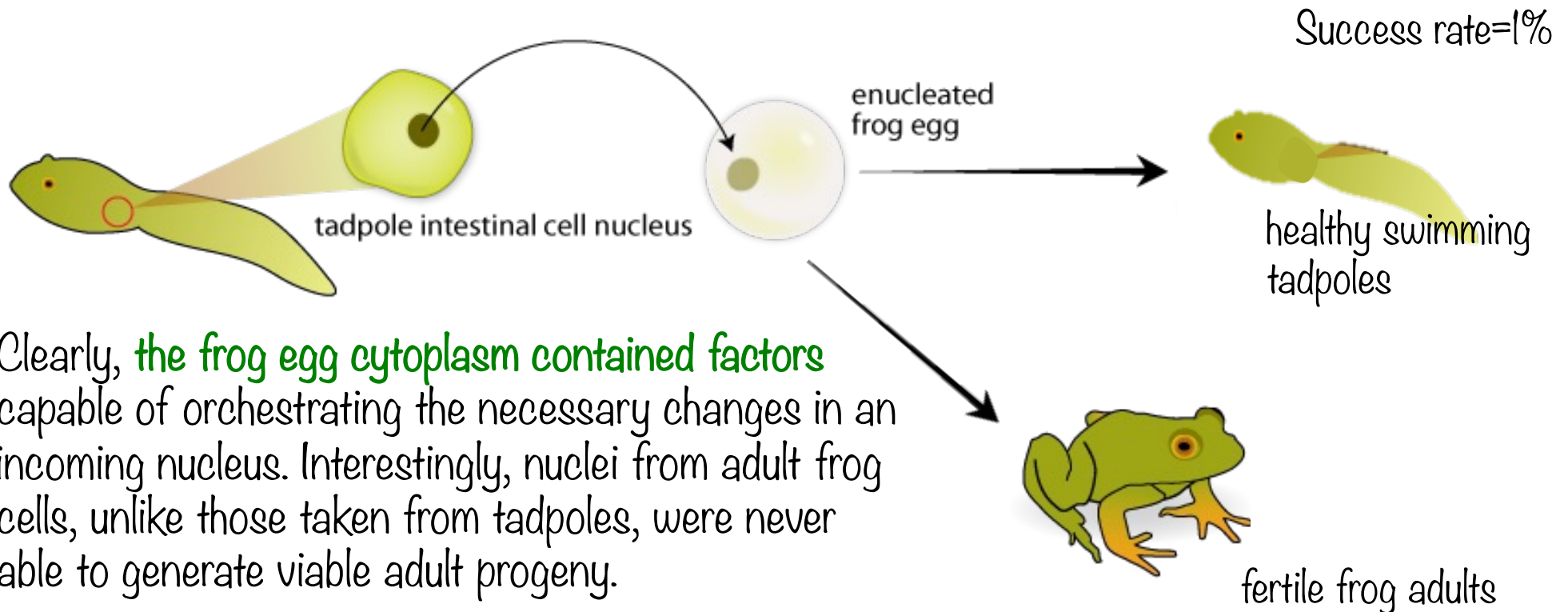
1962

Somatic cell nuclear transfer



Sir John Gurdon

In 1962, in a series of experiments inspired by Briggs and King, Gurdon demonstrated that the nucleus of a frog somatic cell could be reprogrammed to behave like the nucleus of a fertilized frog egg. By inserting the nuclei of intestinal epithelial cells into enucleated eggs, Gurdon was able to create healthy swimming tadpoles. These experiments were the first successful instances of **somatic cell nuclear transfer** (SCNT) using genetically normal cells.



Clearly, **the frog egg cytoplasm contained factors** capable of orchestrating the necessary changes in an incoming nucleus. Interestingly, nuclei from adult frog cells, unlike those taken from tadpoles, were never able to generate viable adult progeny.

1997

DOLLY



Keith Campbell



National Museum of Scotland
Edimburg (wikipedia)

NATURE | VOL 385 | 27 FEBRUARY 1997

Viable offspring derived from fetal and adult mammalian cells

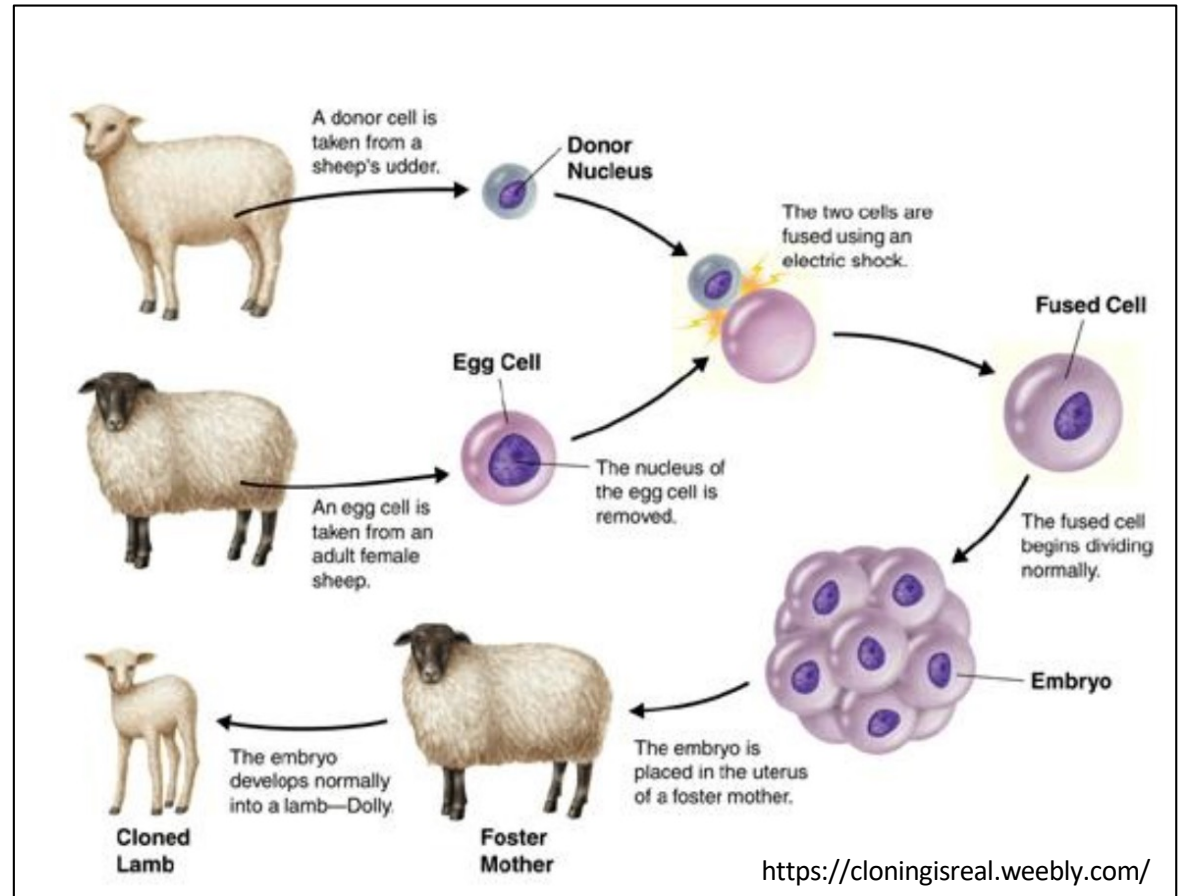
I. Wilmut, A. E. Schnieke*, J. McWhir, A. J. Kind* & K. H. S. Campbell

Roslin Institute (Edinburgh), Roslin, Midlothian EH25 9PS, UK

letters to nature



Figure 2 Lamb number 6LL3 derived from the mammary gland of a Finn Dorset ewe with the Scottish Blackface ewe which was the recipient.



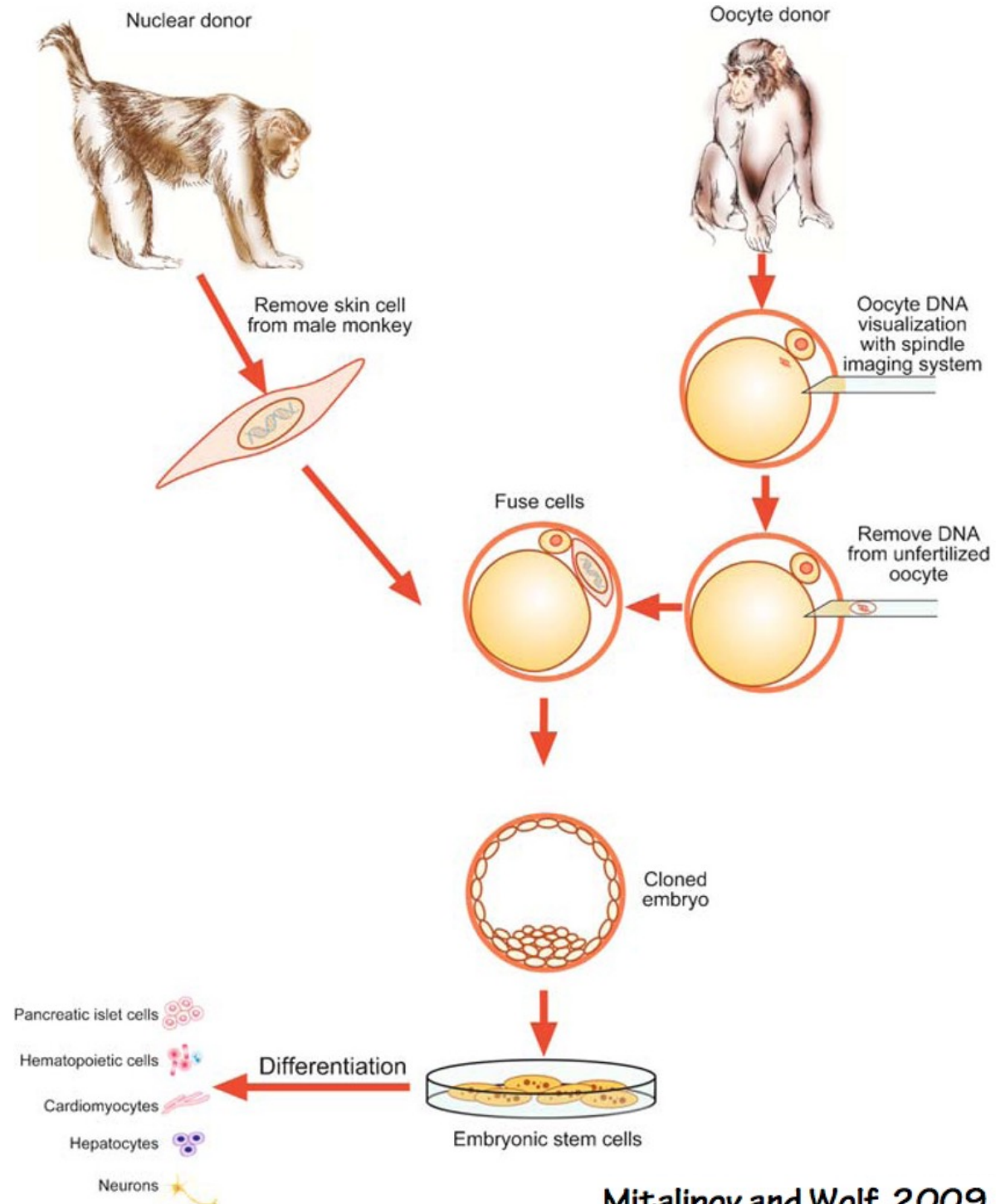
The birth of Dolly the Sheep proved that **mammalian clones** could be made from adult cell nuclei

2007

Reprogramming of adult primate somatic cells into pluripotent embryonic stem cells via SCNT.

(Byrne et al., Nature 2007)

proof-of-concept for therapeutic cloning in primates



Mitalipov and Wolf, 2009

1987

Transcription Factor-Induced Transdifferentiation

Cell, Vol. 51, 987-1000, December 24, 1987, Copyright © 1987 by Cell Press

Expression of a Single Transfected cDNA Converts Fibroblasts to Myoblasts

Robert L. Davis,*† Harold Weintraub,*
and Andrew B. Lassar*



1987

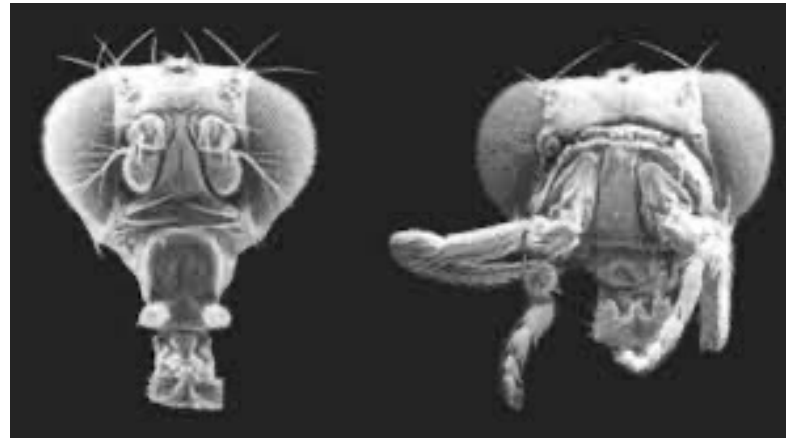


Published: 26 February 1987

Redesigning the body plan of *Drosophila* by ectopic expression of the homoeotic gene *Antennapedia*

Stephan Schneuwly, Roman Klemenz & Walter J. Gehring

Nature 325, 816–818(1987) | [Cite this article](#)



Transcription Factor-Induced Transdifferentiation

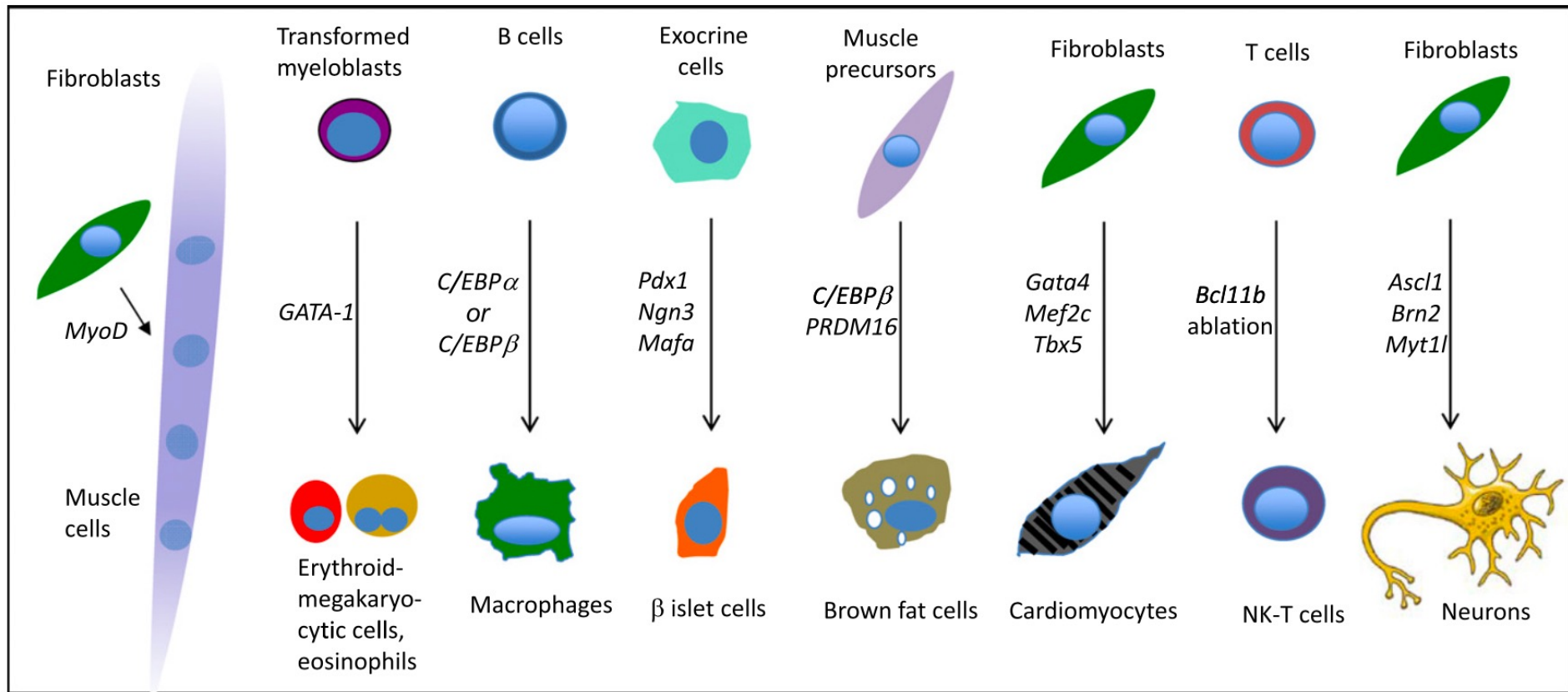


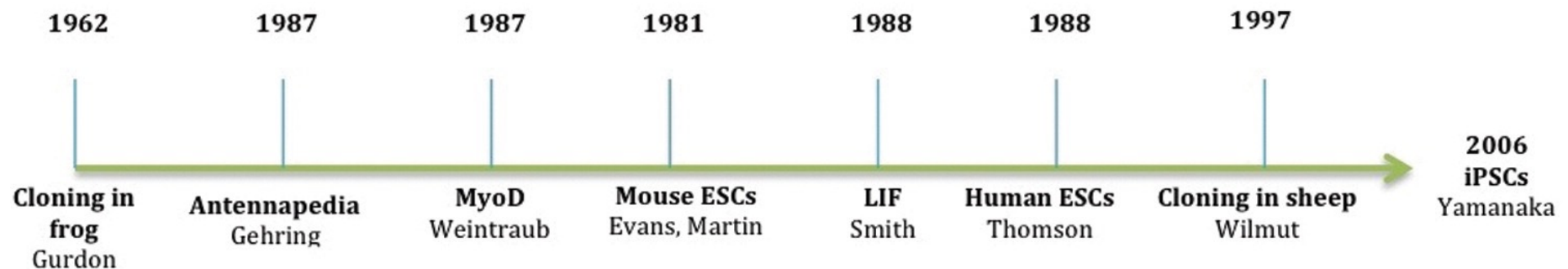
Figure 3. Examples of Transcription Factor-Induced Transdifferentiation

The examples shown are discussed throughout the text. Models (left to right) based on work from Davis et al. (1987), Kulesa et al. (1995), Xie et al. (2004), Zhou et al. (2008), Kajimura et al. (2009), Ieda et al. (2010), Li et al. (2010a) and (2010b), and Vierbuchen et al. (2010).

On the way to reprogramming...

Armed with knowledge of:

- ES cell biology (Thomson)
- the history of frog and mammalian SCNT (John Gurdon and Keith Campbell)
- the demonstration in 1987 by Davis et al. that the enforced expression of a single added transcription factor (TF) gene could change fibroblasts into muscle-like cells



Yamanaka set out to reprogram an intact differentiated somatic cell back to the pluripotent state.

Epigenetic landscape

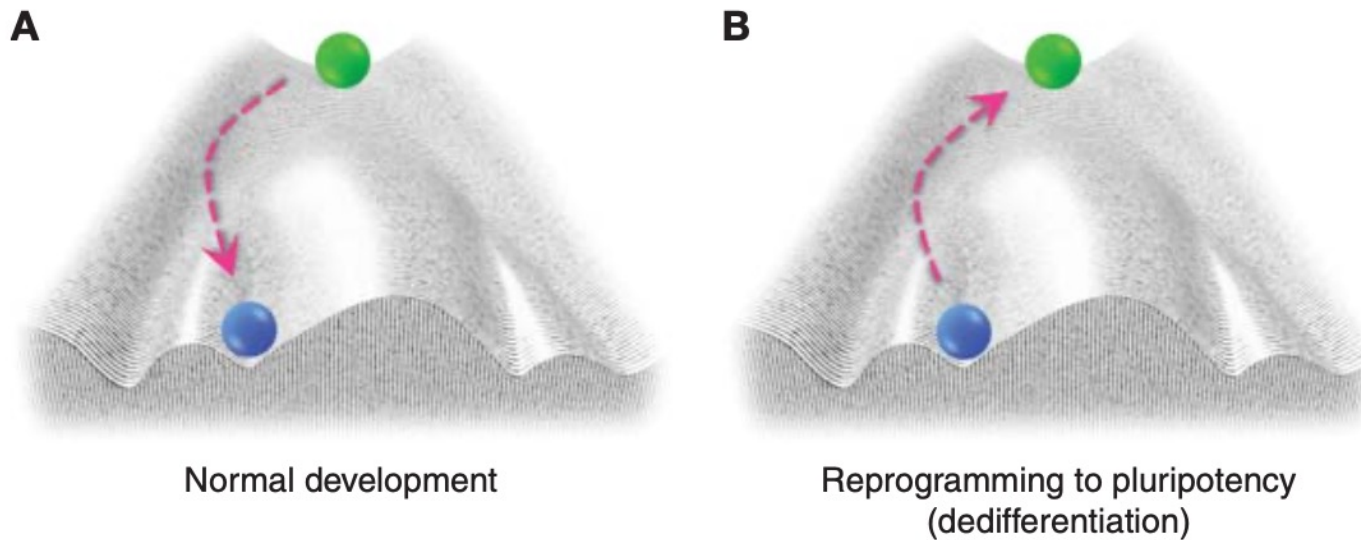
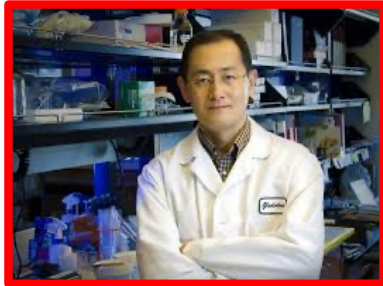


Figure 1. Cellular reprogramming depicted as a trajectory in Waddington's epigenetic landscape. (A) A cell's normal developmental trajectory can be traced starting from a pluripotent cell (green ball) at the top of the hill to its final differentiated state (blue ball), illustrating how epigenetics contributes to cell fate determination during development. (B) A terminally differentiated cell (blue ball) can be reprogrammed back to pluripotency when exposed to a cocktail of transcription factors.

Induction of pluripotent stem cells



In 2006, Yamanaka made a further conceptual leap. With four defined transcription factors he induced intact mouse somatic cells to revert to a pluripotent state **without an egg or embryo as intermediary**.



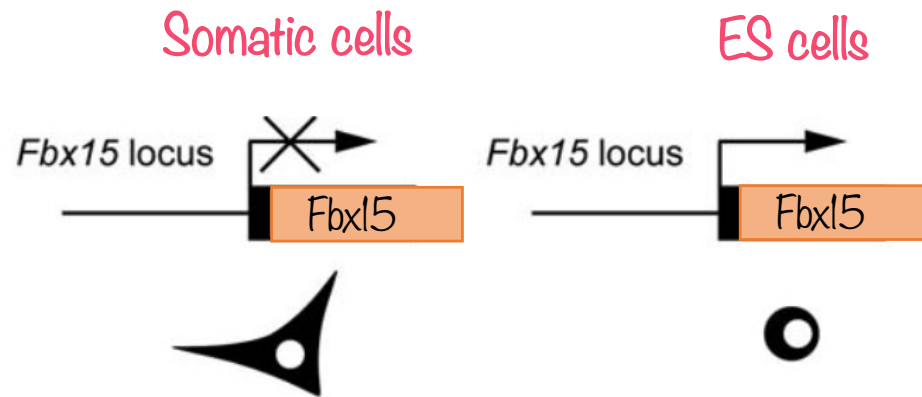
2006



Induction of Pluripotent Stem Cells from Mouse Embryonic and Adult Fibroblast Cultures by Defined Factors

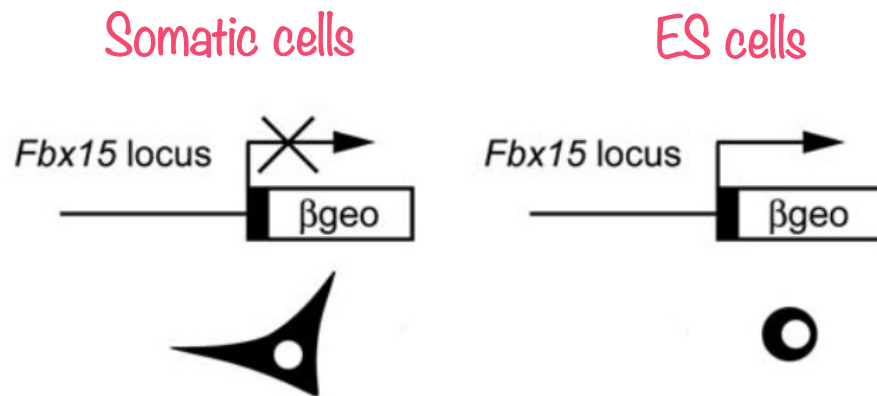
Kazutoshi Takahashi¹ and Shinya Yamanaka^{1,2,*}

Strategy to test candidate factors



Fbx15

- Is specifically expressed in mouse Embryonic Stem Cells (mESCs)
- is dispensable for the maintenance of pluripotency and mouse development

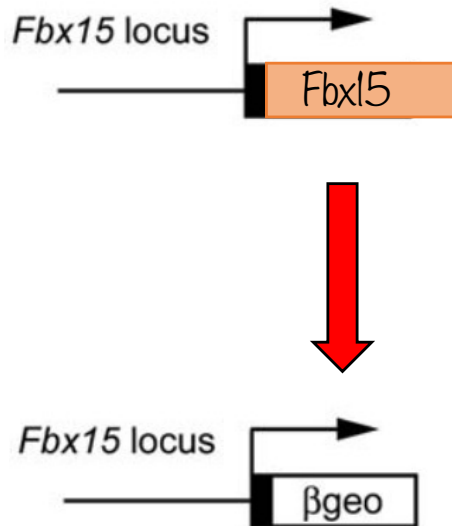


β geo

- is a fusion of the b-galactosidase and neomycin resistance genes

Strategy to test candidate factors

Gene targeting in mESCs



The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2007

CRISPR

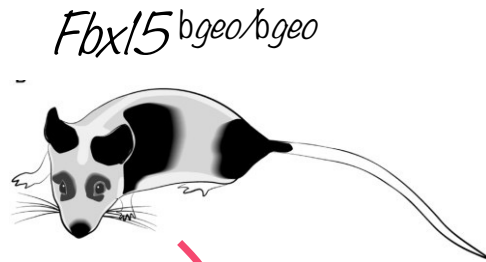


Charpentier, e Doudna.

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2007 was awarded jointly to Oliver Smithies, Sir Martin J. Evans and Oliver Smithies "for their discoveries of principles for introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells."

Strategy to test candidate factors

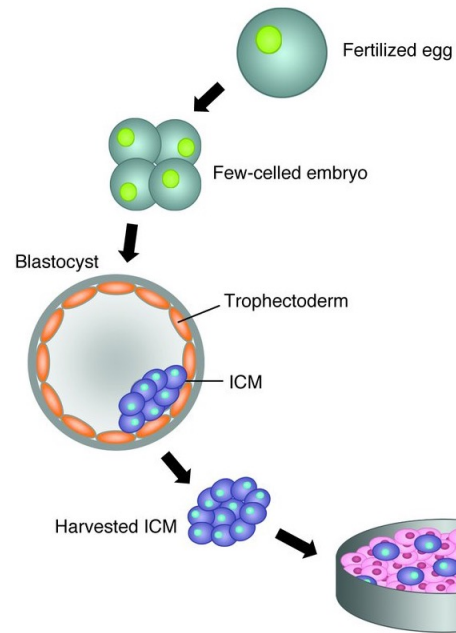
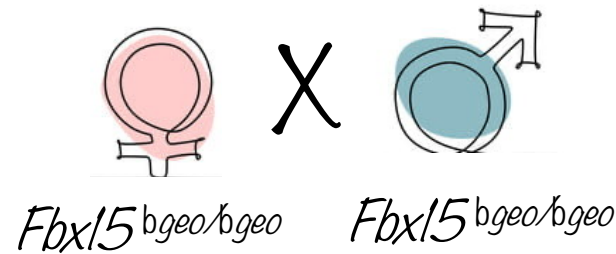
Somatic cells



Somatic cells derived from $Fbx15^{bgeo/bgeo}$ mice were sensitive to neomycin (G418)



ES cells



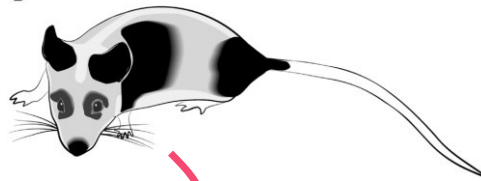
mESCs from $Fbx15^{bgeo/bgeo}$ mice

ES cells homozygous for the $bgeo$ knockin construct ($Fbx15^{bgeo/bgeo}$) were resistant to neomycin (G418)



Strategy to test candidate factors

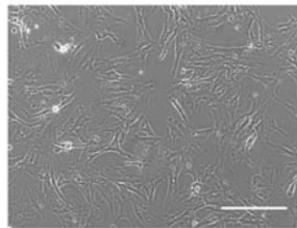
Mouse $Fbx15^{geo/geo}$



Mouse embryo
 $Fbx15^{geo/geo}$



Mouse Embryonic
Fibroblasts (MEFs)
from $Fbx15^{geo/geo}$
mice



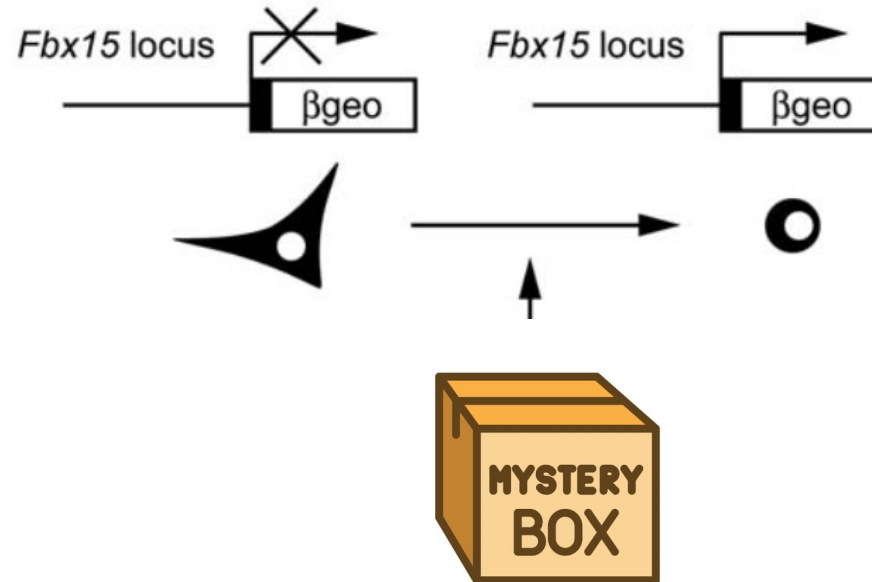
Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts
(MEFs) from $Fbx15^{geo/geo}$
mice were sensitive to
neomycin (G418)



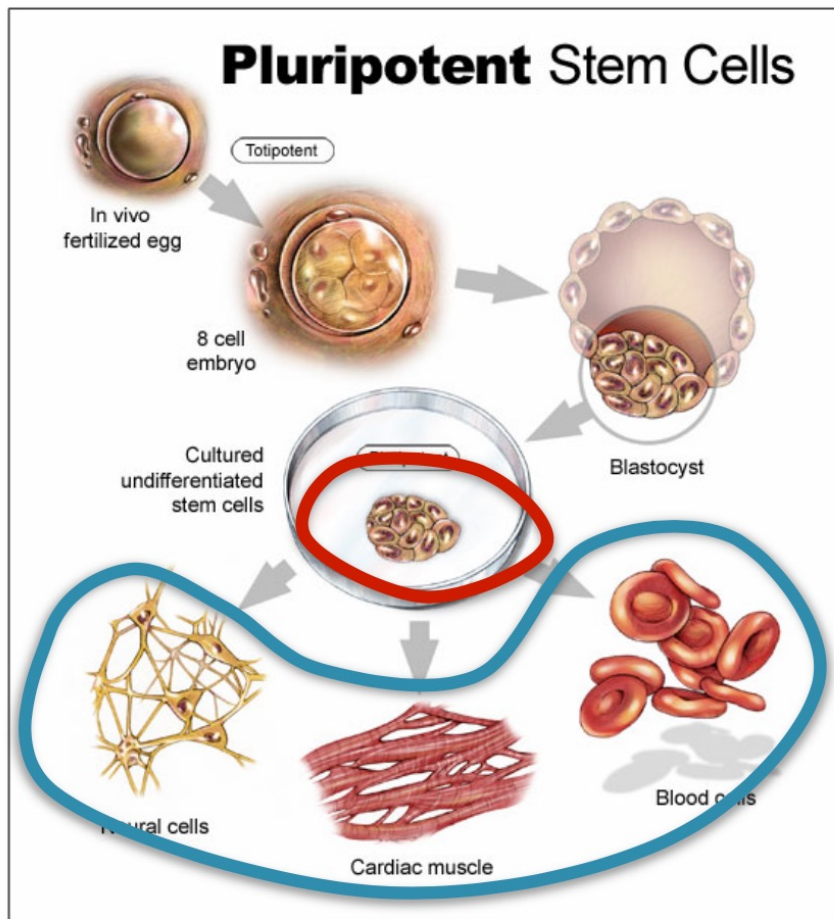
Strategy to test candidate factors

Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts

ES cells



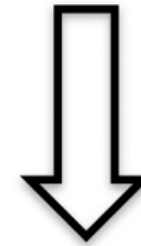
Chasing the reprogramming factors: Yamanaka's strategy



Genes expressed in ESC

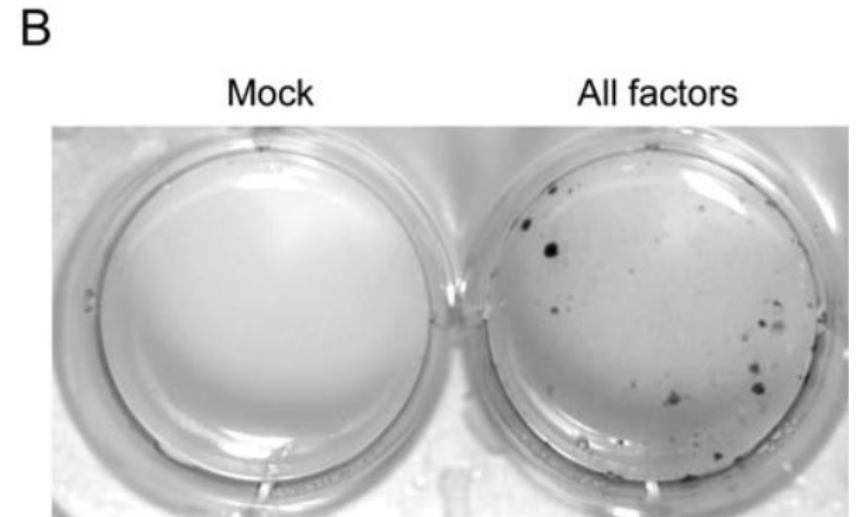
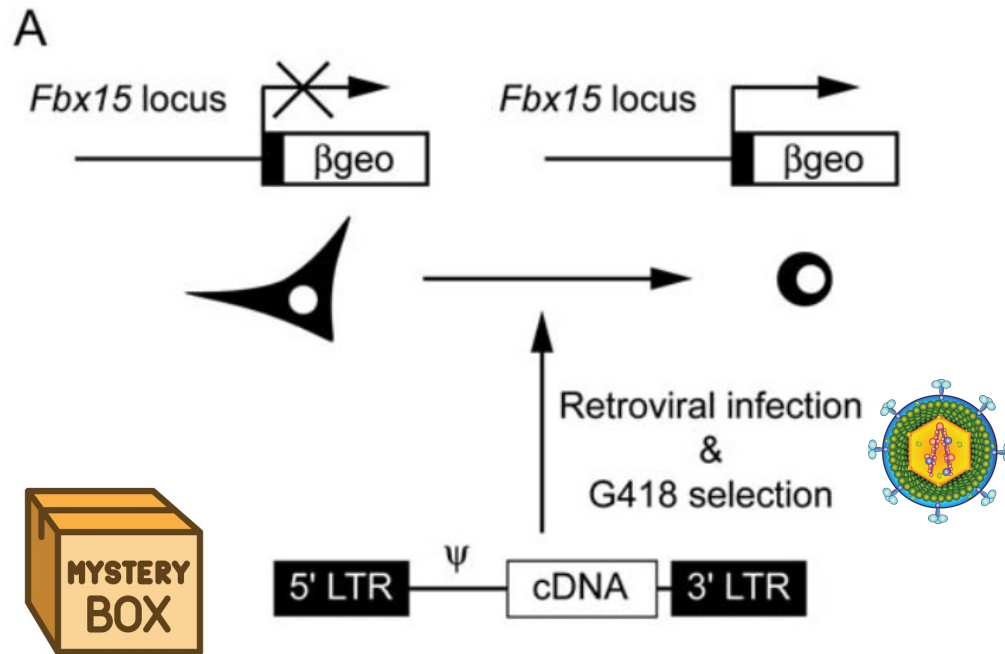
Vs.

**Genes expressed in
somatic cells**



**Candidate
Reprogramming Factors**

Strategy to test candidate factors



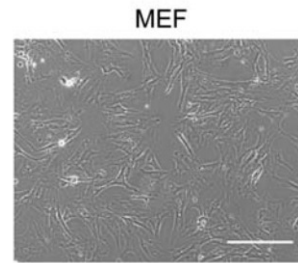
Neomycin -resistant colonies were observed 16 days after transduction with a combination of 24 factors. Cells were stained with crystal violet.

Screening the 24 candidates

Each of the 24 candidate genes into mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs)

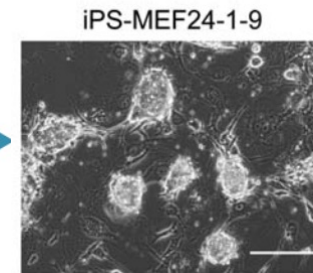
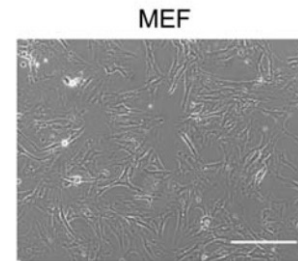
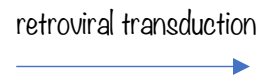


Mouse embryonic fibroblasts (MEFs) from *Fbx15^{bgeo/bgeo}*



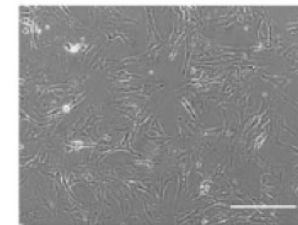
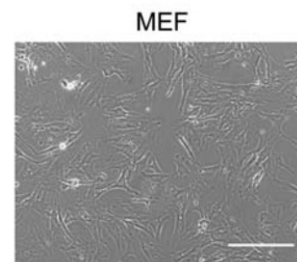
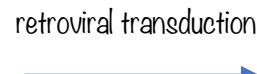
No drug-resistant colonies

All 24 candidate factors at the same time

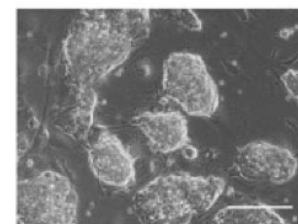


ES-like cells

24 candidate factors: withdrawal of individual factors from the pool



The Factor is essential



The Factor is not essential

Screening the 24 candidates

10 factors whose individual withdrawal from the bulk transduction pool resulted in no colony formation 10 days after transduction were identified



Combination of these 10 genes alone produced more ES cell-like colonies than transduction of all 24 genes did



Withdrawal of individual factors from the 10-factor pool transduced into MEFs

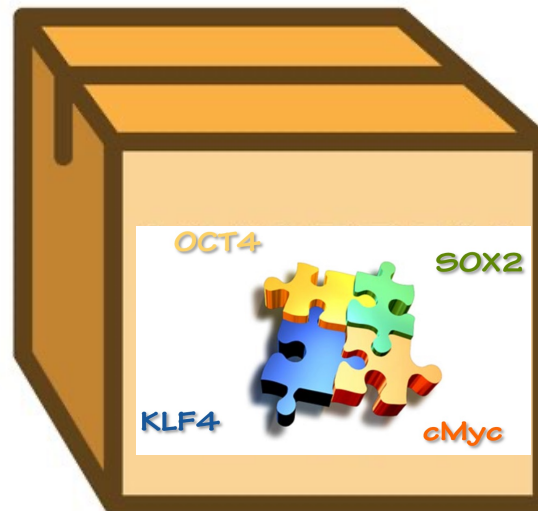
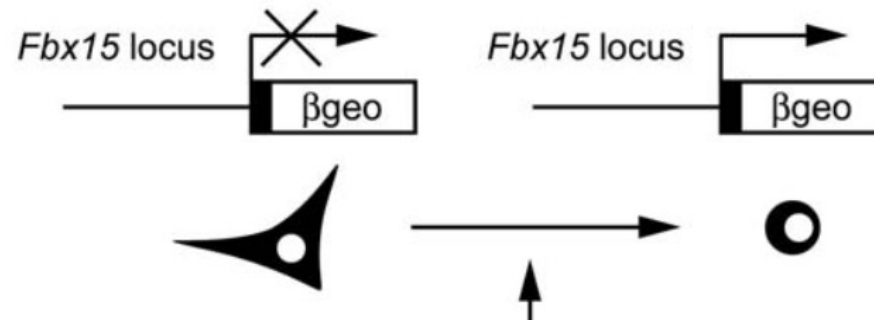
The removal of 4 factors **Oct3/4**, **Klf4**, **Sox2** and **c-Myc** significantly affected colony numbers. (Removal of the remaining factors did not significantly affect colony numbers).

Oct3/4, Klf4, Sox2, and c-Myc play important roles in the generation of iPS cells from MEFs.



Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts

ES cells

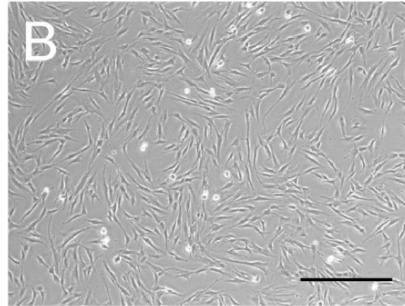


Pluripotency testing methods

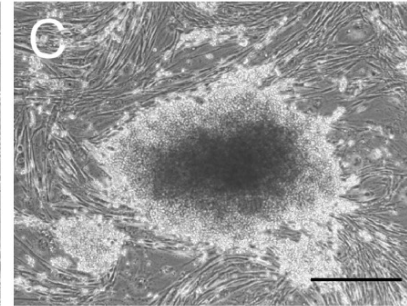
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Immunohistochemistry	Stain for standard pluripotency markers such as Oct4, Tra-1-60, Sox2, Tra-1-81, Nanog and SSEA.	1–4 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium
Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify expression levels of selected pluripotency genes; limited by gene number.	4–6 hours (from RNA extraction to RT-PCR)	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSCs to tissues of all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> ; should be coupled with relative quantification expression of gene-expression from the three germ-layers, which can be done by RT-PCR. Genes include: Nanog, Oct4, Sox2, and Klf4 (pluripotency markers); Ncam and NeuroD (ectodermal markers); Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).	2–3 weeks	<i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i>	Medium-High
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.	1–2 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .	1–2 months	<i>in vivo</i>	High

Pluripot

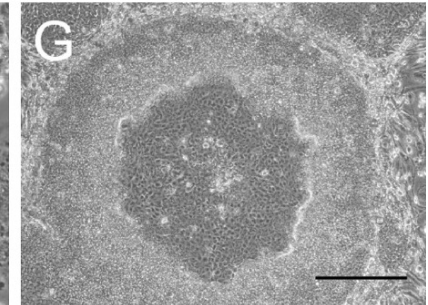
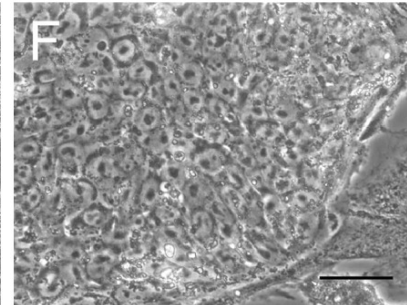
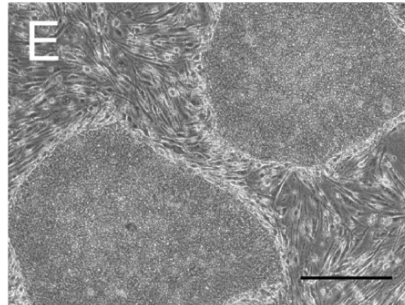
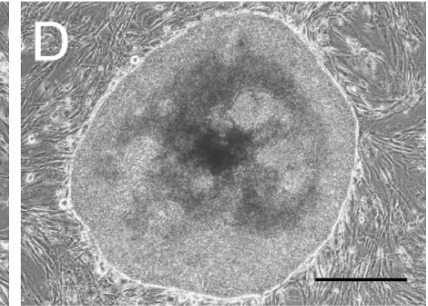
human dermal fibroblasts



non-ES cell-like colony



hES cell-like colony



Pluripotency Assay	
Colony morphology	Yolk colony morphology
Immunohistochemistry	Stain for standard pluripotency markers: Oct4, Tra-1-60, SSEA.
Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify pluripotency genes.
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation of all 3 germ layers coupled with relative gene-expression analysis which can be done by qPCR (ectodermal markers: Ncam and Pcdh10; mesodermal markers: Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5; and endodermal markers: Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin).
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .



PS cell line at passage number 6


iPS cells with high magnification

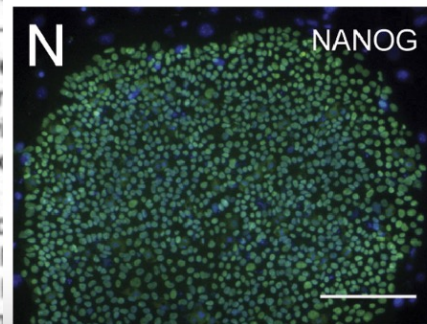
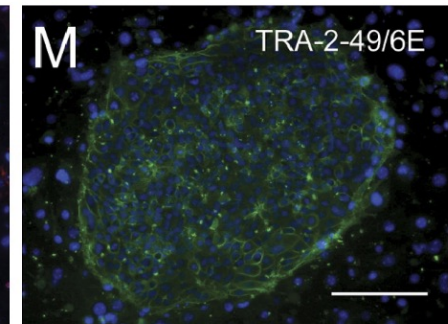
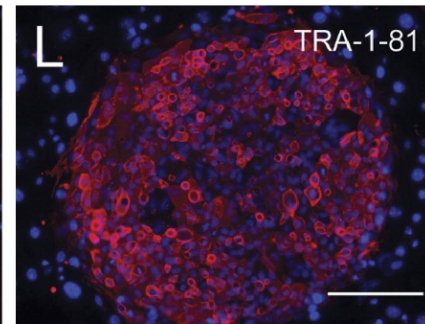
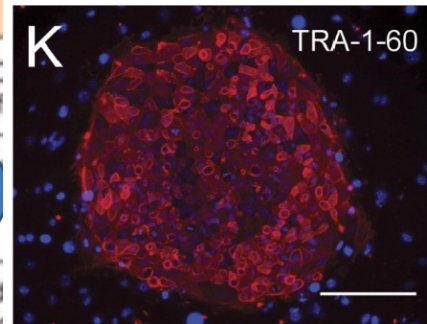
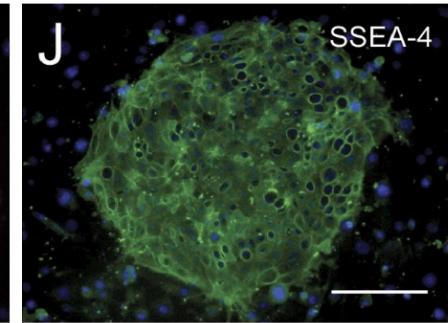
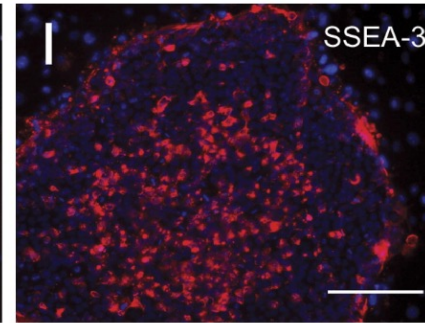
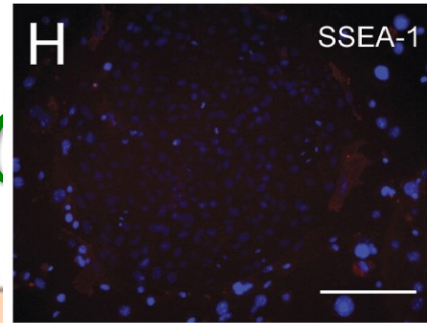
Spontaneously differentiated cells in the center part of human iPS cell colonies

Pluripotency testing methods

Pluripotency Assay	Purpose	Length of Assay	Nature of Assay	Strength/Definitiveness of Assay
Colony morphology	Verify ESC colony-like morphology of clustered, border-defined colonies.	10 minutes	<i>in vitro</i>	Low
Immunohistochemistry	Stain for standard pluripotency markers such as Oct4, Tra-1-60, Sox2, Tra-1-81, Nanog and SSEA.	1–4 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium
Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify expression levels of selected pluripotency genes; limited by gene number.	4–6 hours (from RNA extraction to RT-PCR)	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSCs to tissues of all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> ; should be coupled with relative quantification expression of gene-expression from the three germ-layers, which can be done by RT-PCR. Genes include: Nanog, Oct4, Sox2, and Klf4 (pluripotency markers); Ncam and NeuroD (ectodermal markers); Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).	2–3 weeks	<i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i>	Medium-High
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.	1–2 days	<i>in vitro</i>	Medium-High
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .	1–2 months	<i>in vivo</i>	High

Pluripot

Pluripotency Assay				
Colony morphology	Verify ESC border def			
Immunochemistry				
Real-time PCR	Detect and pluripotenc			
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differ of all 3 ger coupled wi of gene-ex which can Nanog, Oc markers); l markers); l (mesoderr. Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).			
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.		1-2 days	<i>in vitro</i> Medium-High
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .		1-2 months	<i>in vivo</i> High



Immunocytochemistry for SSEA-1 (H), SSEA-3 (I), SSEA-4 (J), TRA-1-60 (K), TRA-1-81 (L), TRA-2-49/6E (M), and Nanog (N). Nuclei were stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue).

Pluripotency testing methods

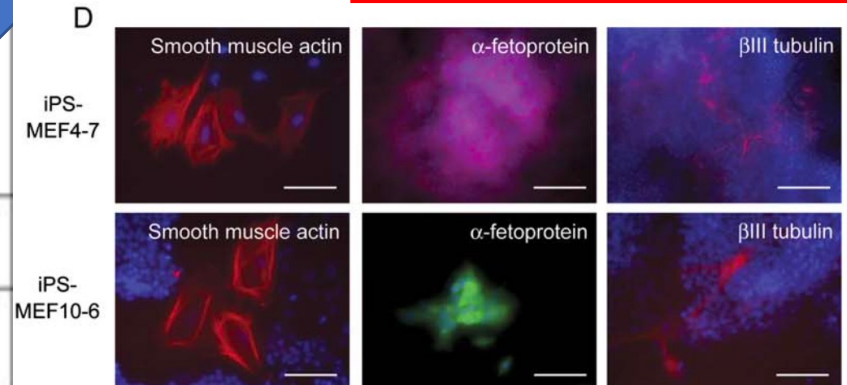
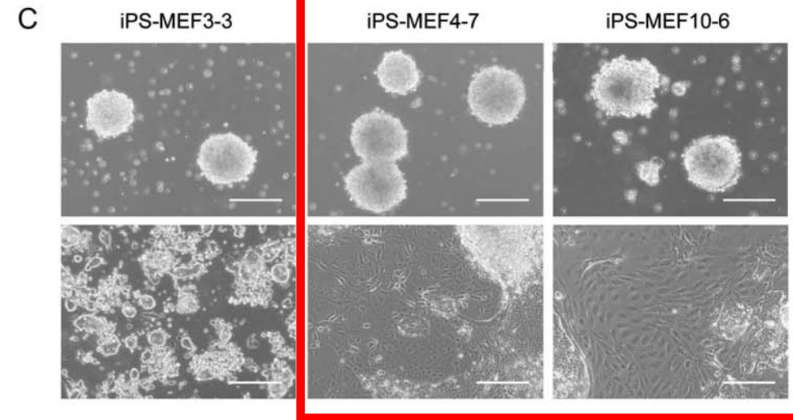
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Real-time PCR				
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSC issues of all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> should be coupled with relative quantification expression of gene-expression from the three germ-layers, which can be done by RT-PCR. Genes include: Nanog, Oct4, Sox2, and Klf4 (pluripotency markers); Ncam and NeuroD (ectodermal markers); Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2-5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Alcamin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).			
Microarray				
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .			

Examine whether ES cell marker genes were expressed in iPS cells. Used primers would amplify transcripts of the endogenous gene but not transcripts of the transgene.

Compared the global gene-expression profiles of ES cells and iPS cells using DNA microarrays

Pluripotency testing methods

Pluripotency Assay	Purpose	Length of Assay	Nature of Assay	Strength/Definitiveness of Assay
Colony morphology	Verify ESC colony-like morphology of clustered, border-defined colonies.	10 minutes	<i>in vitro</i>	Low
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Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify expression levels of selected pluripotency genes; limited by gene number.			
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSCs to tissues of all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> ; should be capable of generating all three germ layers (ectoderm: neural markers; mesoderm: Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers)).			
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.			
Teratoma formation	Test differentiation capability into all 3 germ layers <i>in vivo</i> .			



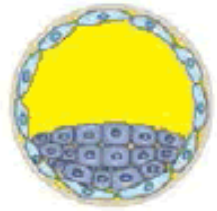
mesoderm
marker

endoderm
marker

ectoderm
marker

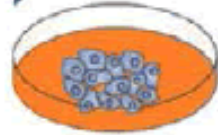
Teratoma formation

Blastocyst

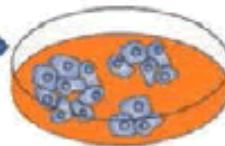


Inner cell mass

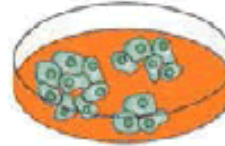
Expansion



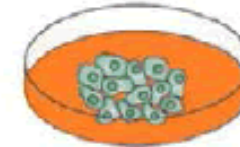
ESC



iPSC



Reprogramming



Yamanaka factors



Somatic Cells



Injection to SCID mice



Teratoma formation



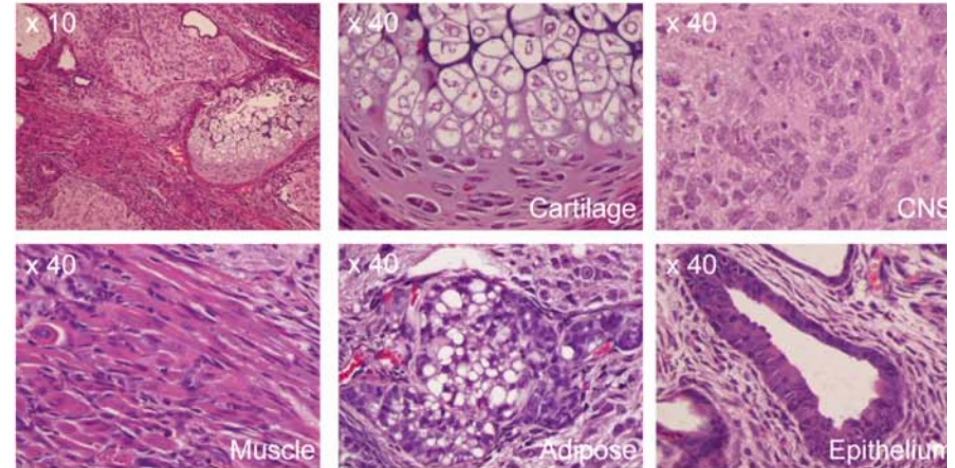
Teratoma assays are considered the **gold standard** for demonstrating differentiation potential of pluripotent ESC/iPSC

A variety of **animal strains** can be used. Immunodeficient strains (i.e., Nu/Nu nude, BC nude, or SCID for mice; Rowett nude or Athymic for rats), however, form teratomas at a higher incidence. There is a significant chance of cell rejection in non-immunocompromised models.

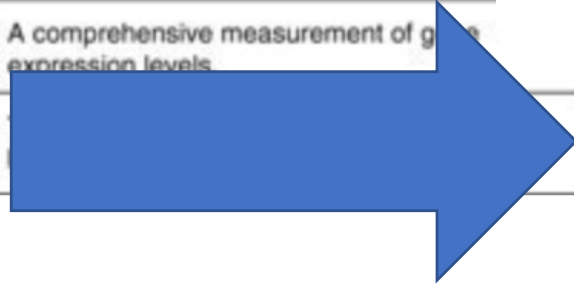
Pluripotency testing methods

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Real-time PCR	Detect and quantify expression levels of selected pluripotency genes; limited by gene number.			
Embryoid body formation and analysis	Test differentiation capability of PSCs to form all 3 germ layers <i>in vitro</i> or <i>in vivo</i> ; shown coupled with relative quantification expression of gene-expression from the three germ layers which can be done by RT-PCR. Genes include: Nanog, Oct4, Sox2, and Klf4 (pluripotency markers); Ncam and NeuroD (ectodermal markers); Runx2, HNF4a, and Nkx2.5 (mesodermal markers); and Sox17, Albumin, Glut2, and Insulin (endodermal markers).			
Microarray	A comprehensive measurement of gene expression levels.			
Teratoma formation				

A



1–2 days *in vitro* Medium-high

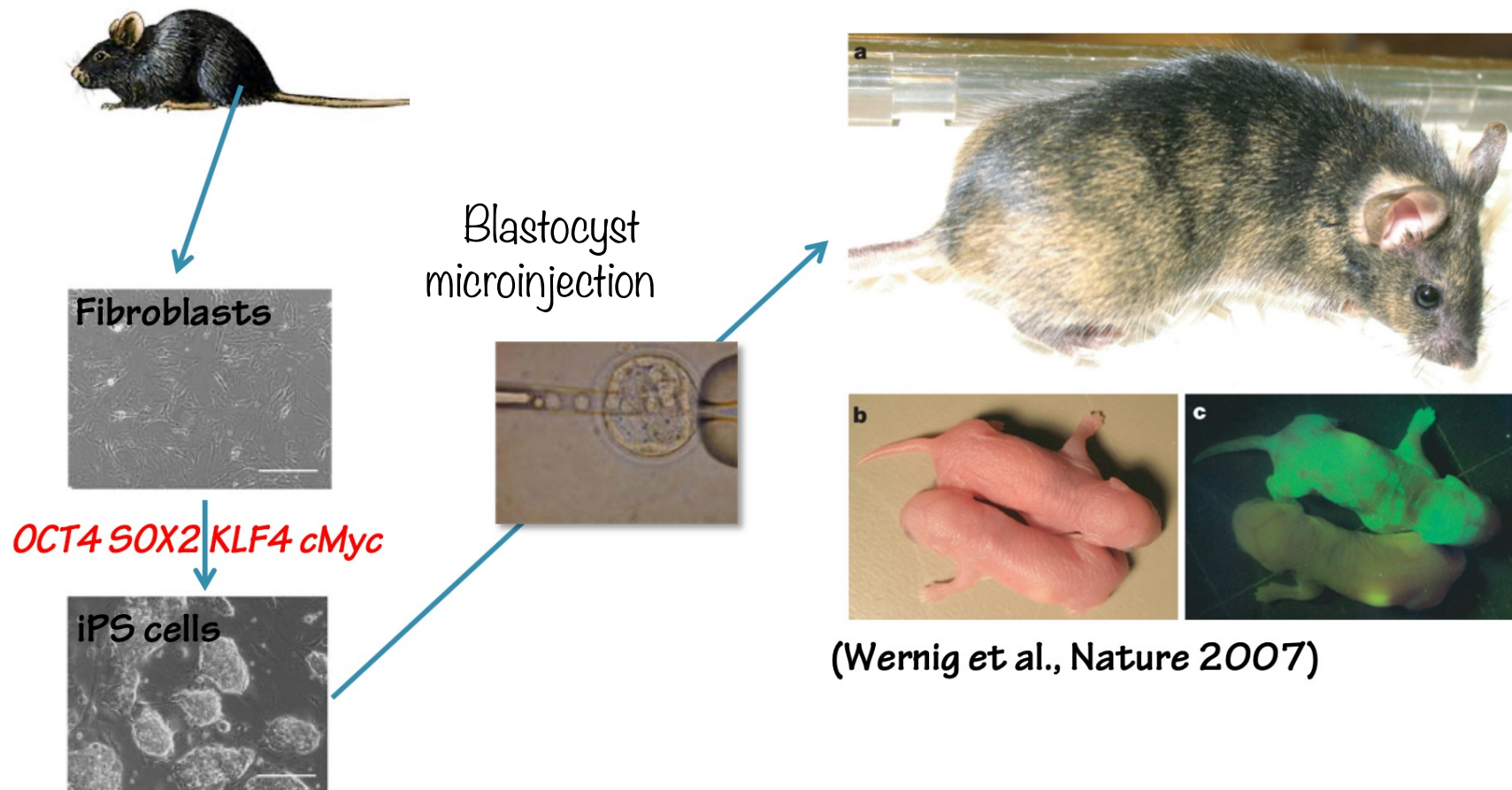


examined the pluripotency of iPSC cells by teratoma formation

Pluripotency testing methods: chimeric mouse

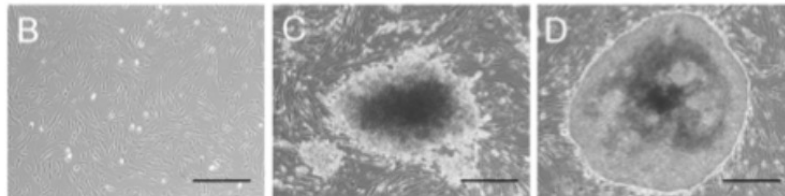
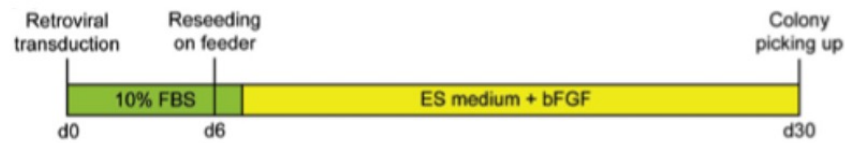
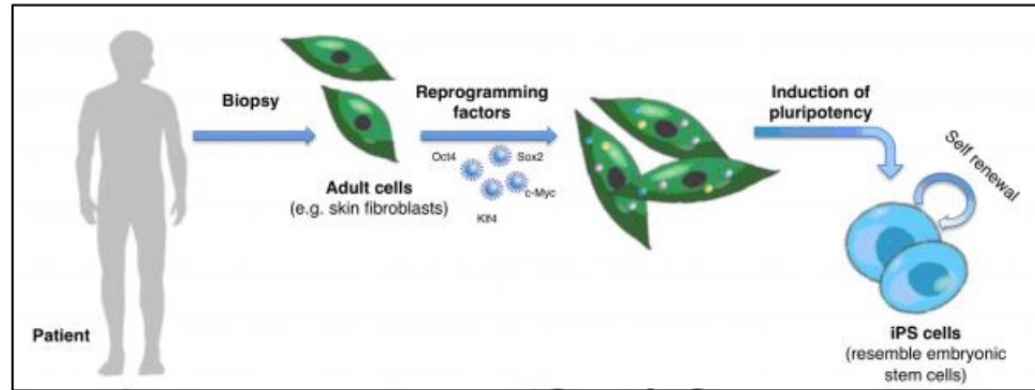
2006=Inability to obtain live chimeric mice after blastocyst microinjection of iPS cells

Mouse iPS cells can generate chimeric mice: their developmental potential is equivalent to the potential of Embryonic Stem cells.



iPS cells can be derived from human cells

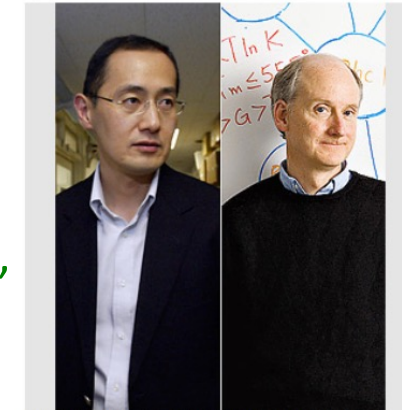
(Takahashi et al., Cell 2007; Yu et al., Science 2007)



Formation of teratomas (most stringent pluripotency test for human cells)

Shinya Yamanaka & James Thomson

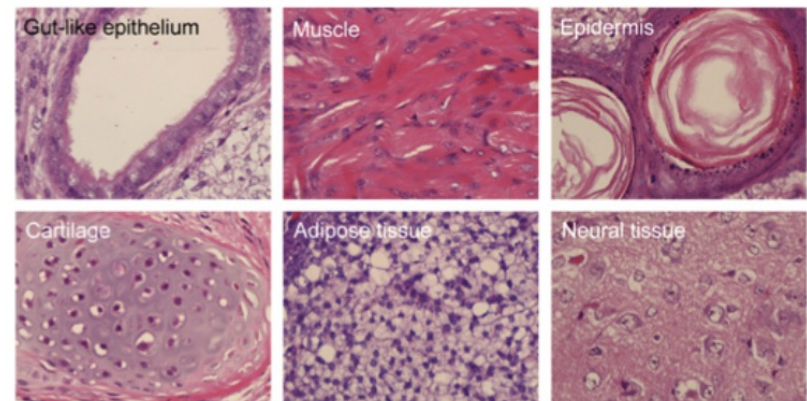
By IAN WILMUT Thursday, Apr. 30, 2009



MASAFUMI YAMAMOTO / THE NEW YORK TIMES; KEVIN J. MIYAZAKI / REDUX

Oct3/4,
Sox2,
Klf4,
and c-
Myc

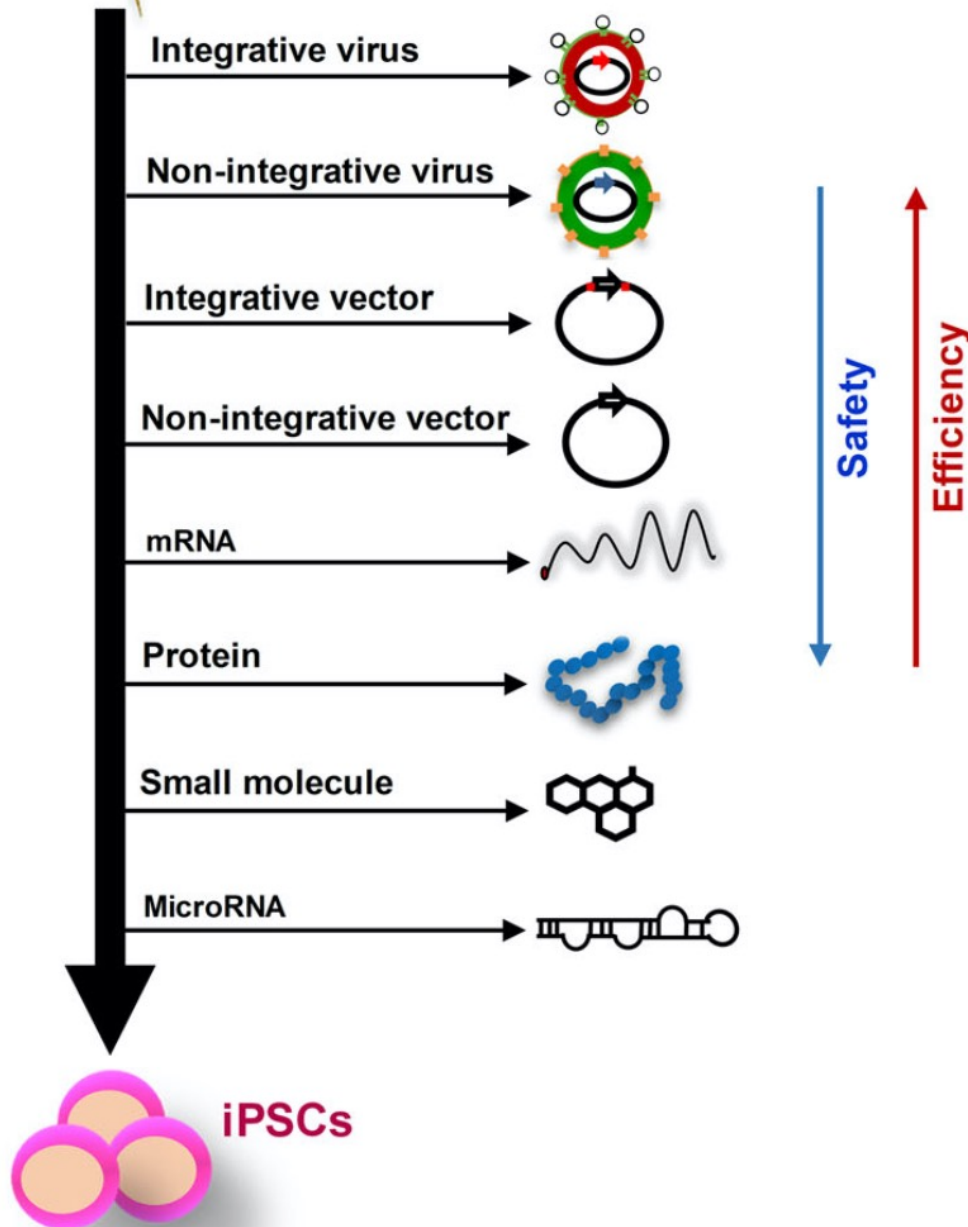
Oct4,
Sox2,
NANOG,
and
LIN28





Parental cells

Generation of iPSCs.



Various methods and approaches are used to convert somatic cells into iPSCs. **Integrative** methods such as integrative viruses and vectors provide the highest reprogramming efficiency but the lowest safety. In contrast, **non-integrative** approaches such as the use of small molecules and microRNAs tend to have a less reprogramming efficiency. Notably, episomal vectors, which do not integrate with the host cell's genome, appear to provide both a high efficiency of iPSC generation and sufficient degree of safety. Although all the illustrated approaches could potentially be used to produce iPSCs for applications such as basic research, drug screening, and disease modeling, genomic integration should be avoided for generation of clinical-grade iPSCs.

COMMERCIAL KITS...



MERCK

Various methods utilizing **viruses, DNA, RNA, miRNA and protein** have been developed to generate integration-free induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). Disadvantages to existing methods include: (1) low reprogramming efficiency (i.e. DNA and protein), (2) a lengthy requirement for negative selection and subcloning steps to remove persistent traces of the virus (i.e. Sendai virus)¹ and (3) for daily transfections of four individual in vitro generated mRNAs over a 14 day period (i.e. mRNA based)

Millipore's **Simplicon RNA** Reprogramming Kit is a safe and efficient method to generate integration free, virus-free human iPS cell using a single transfection step. The technology is based upon a positive strand, single-stranded RNA species derived from non-infectious (non-packaging), self-replicating Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) virus³. The Simplicon RNA replicon is a synthetic in vitro transcribed RNA expressing all four reprogramming factors (**OKS-iG; Oct4, Klf4, Sox2 and Glis1**) in a **polycistronic transcript that is able to self-replicate for a limited number of cell divisions.**

Episomal vectors are a well-described system for producing transgene-free, virus-free iPSCs, providing a source of iPSCs for all stages of your pluripotent stem cell research. Other reprogramming methods, such as lentivirus, contain transgenes that can integrate into the host genome, potentially disrupting the genome or causing unpredictable results.

As oriP/EBNA1 vectors, these **episomal vectors** contain **5 reprogramming factors (Oct4, Sox2, Lin28, Klf4, and L-Myc)** and replicate extra-chromosomally only once per cell cycle. At this replication rate, the episomes are lost at a rate of approximately 5% per cell generation. This system shows enhanced iPSC generation through p53 suppression, and the inclusion of L-Myc has been shown to be more potent and specific than c-Myc during human iPSC generation



Retrovirus cocktail: Human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) can be derived from somatic cells through a reprogramming process driven by ectopic expression of a defined set of reprogramming factors: **Oct4, Sox2, Klf4 and c-Myc.**



A REPROCELL BRAND

Third Generation **RNA** Kit for Cellular Reprogramming of **Fibroblasts, Blood, and Urine (Oct4, Sox2, Klf4, cMyc, Nanog, Lin28** reprogramming factors)

Generation of iPSCs.

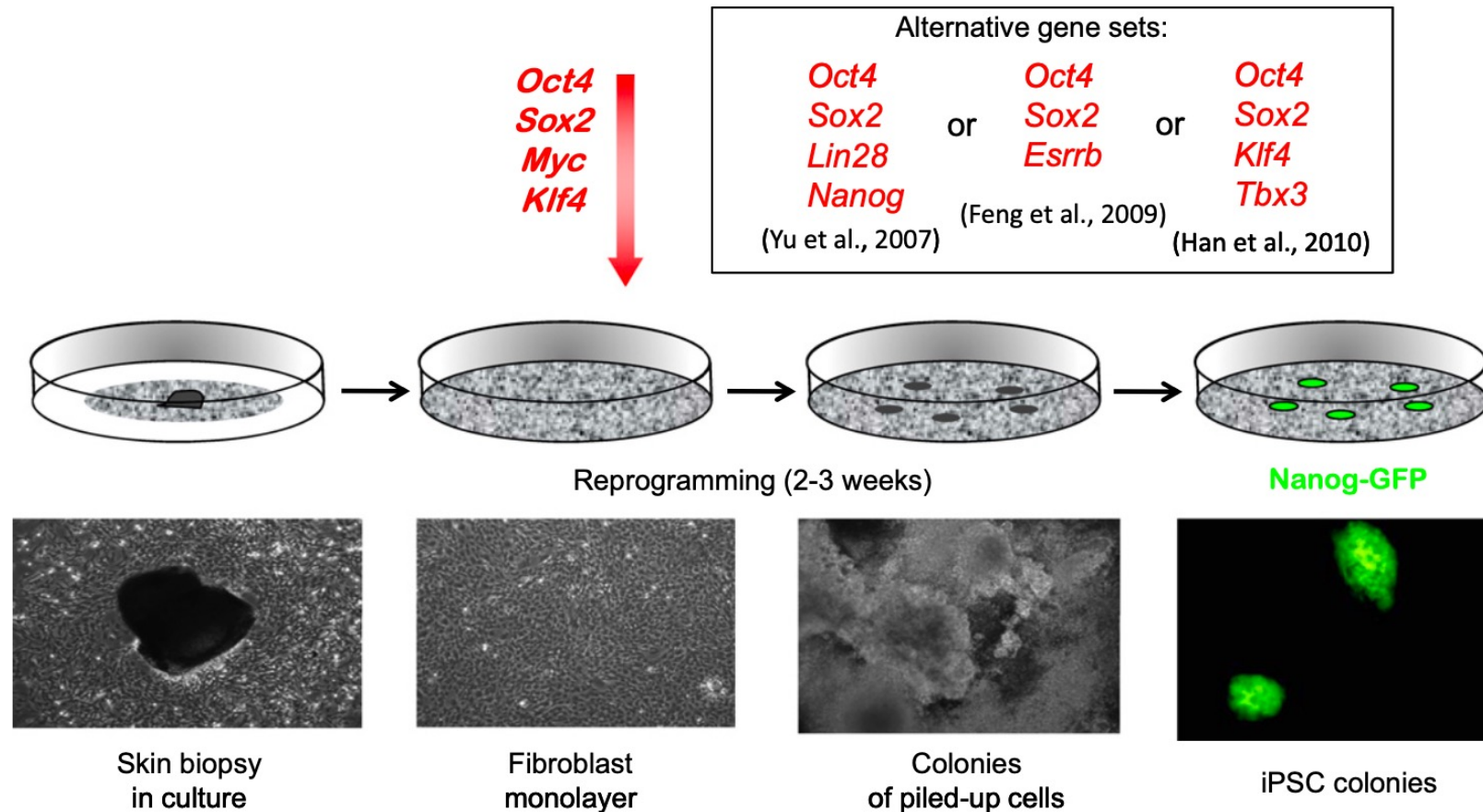
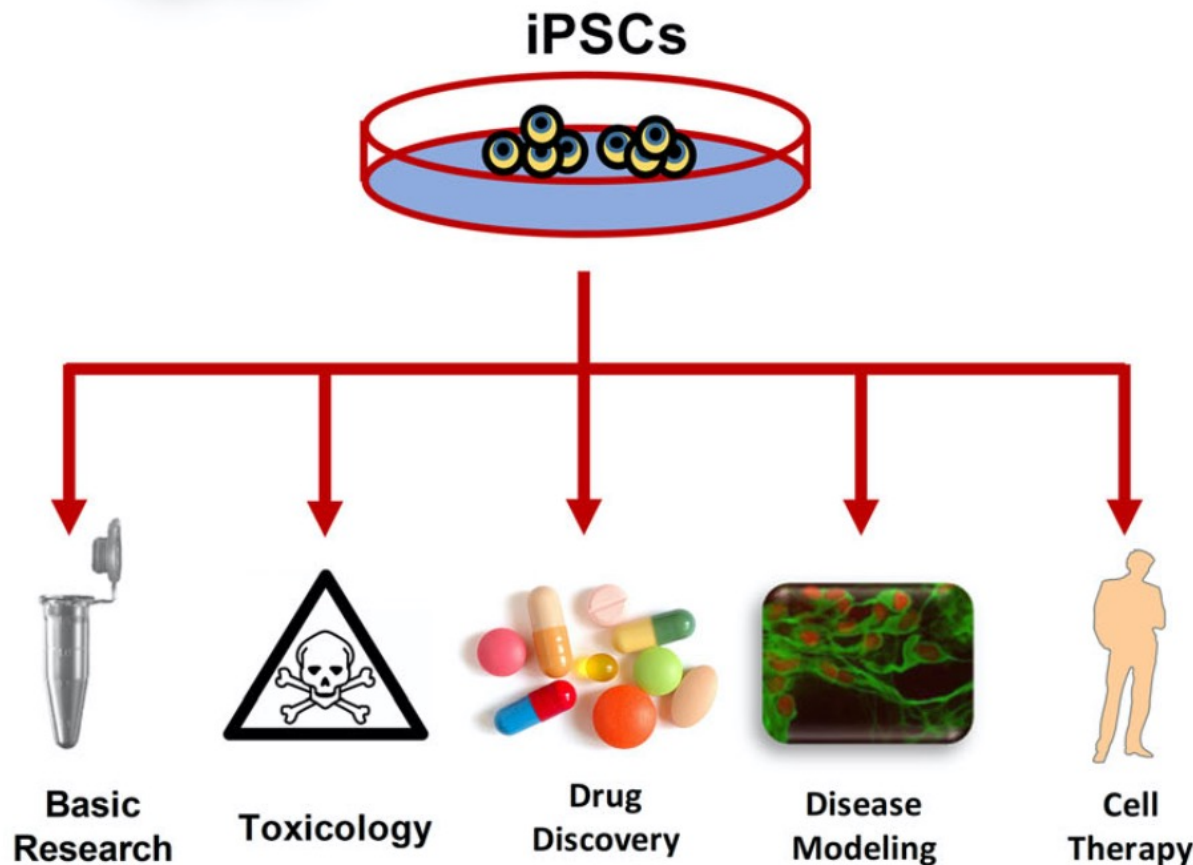


Figure 4. Reprogramming to Pluripotency

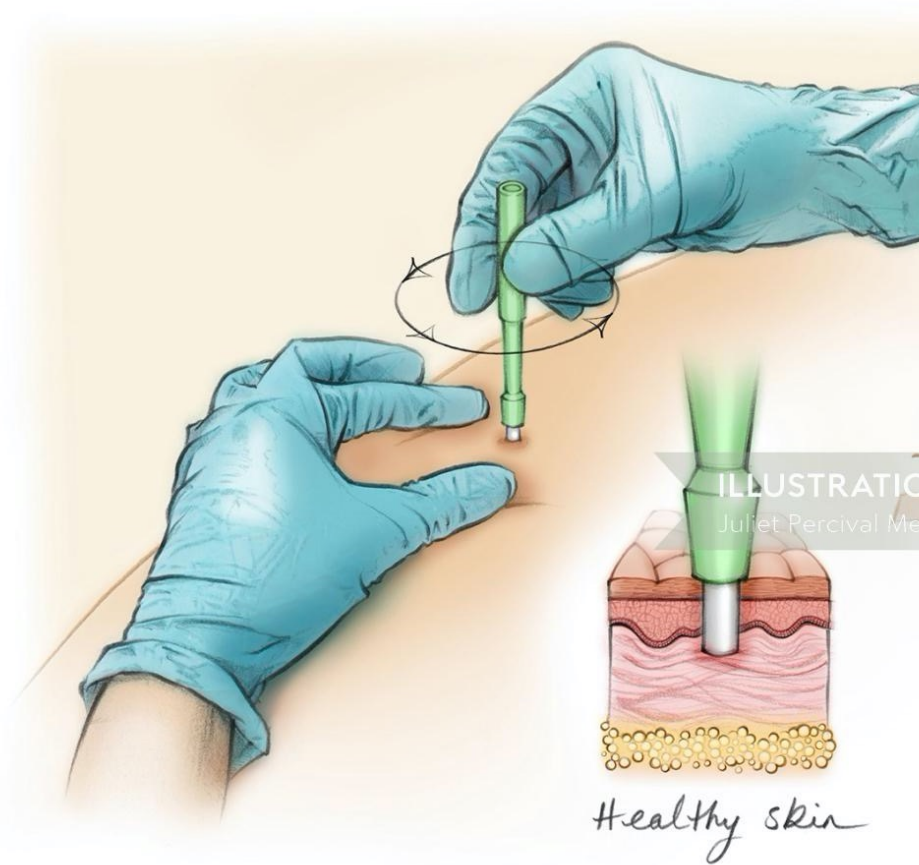
The figure outlines the methodology developed by Takahashi and Yamanaka for mice and humans (Takahashi et al., 2007; Takahashi and Yamanaka, 2006) as modified by Maherali et al. (2008). The micrographs (courtesy of Matthias Stadtfeld and Konrad Hochedlinger) illustrate the changes in morphology of skin-derived fibroblasts infected with retroviruses carrying *Oct4*, *Sox2*, *Klf4*, and *Myc*, with a *Nanog*-driven GFP reporter for iPSC formation. The process is very inefficient, typically occurring in less than 1% of the cells. A selection of alternative combinations of transcription factors capable of generating human and mouse iPSCs are indicated in the box (Feng et al., 2009; Han et al., 2010; Yu et al., 2007, 2009).

Applications of iPSCs.

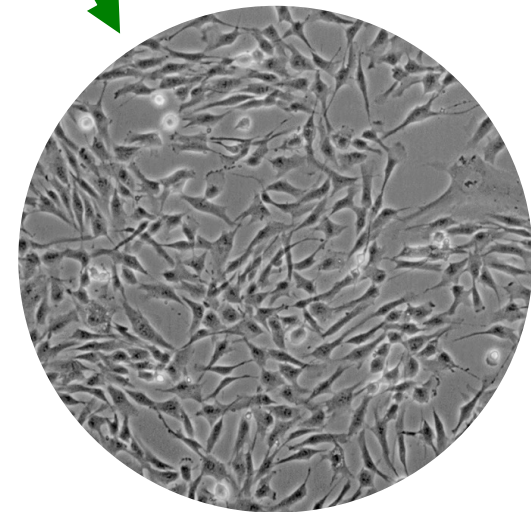
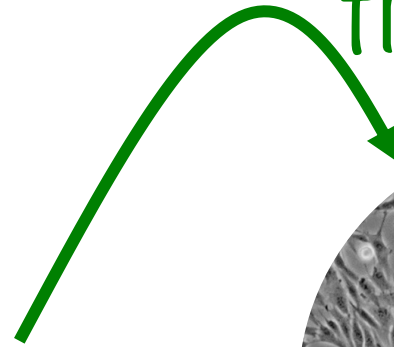


Because of **immortality** and immense **differentiation potential**, **iPSCs** have all the potential **biomedical applications** of **ESCs**. They can be used to model pluripotency and multi-lineage differentiation in vitro, screen and discover new drugs, and establish disease models in a dish. iPSCs also hold a great potential to be used for replacing diseased or lost tissues, which needs specific considerations to provide safe, clinical-grade cells for transplantation into patients

Punch Biopsy



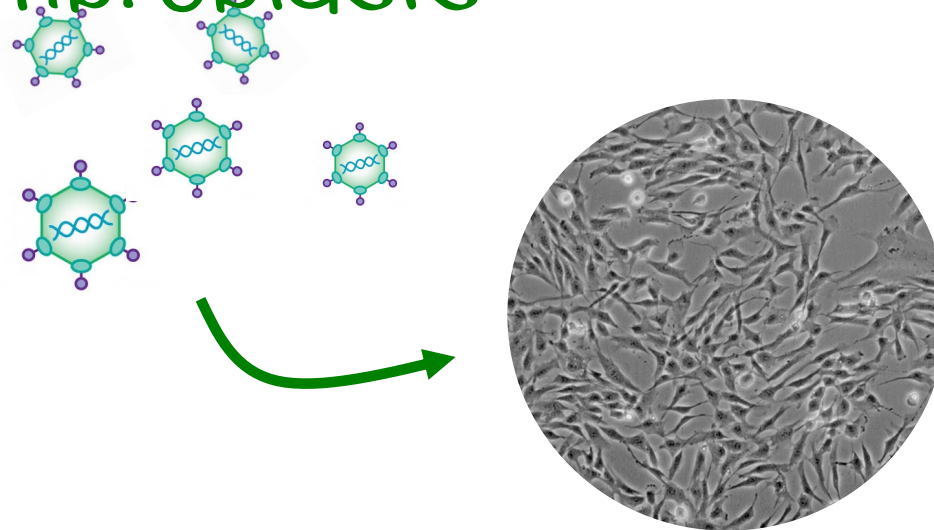
Primary
dermal
fibroblasts



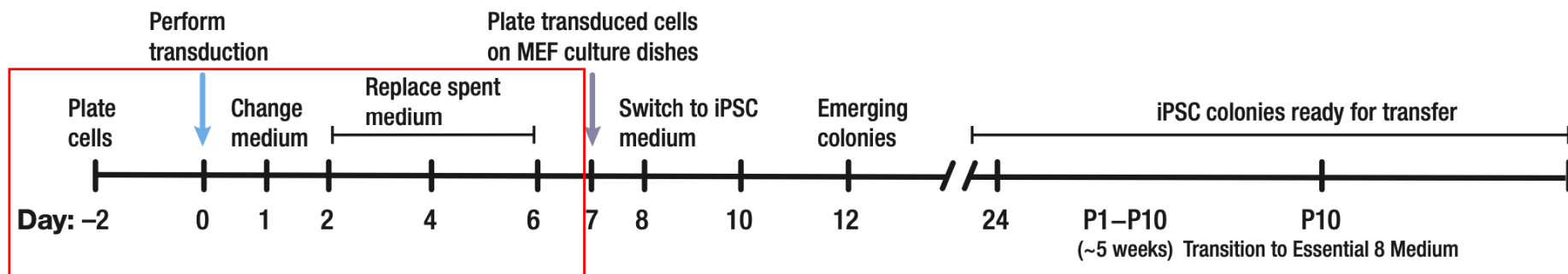
Viral transduction of primary dermal fibroblasts

Day 1-7

Dermal fibroblasts are transduced with single lentiviral vector constitutively expressing the four human reprogramming factors, **OCT4**, **KLF4**, **SOX2** and **cMYC** (hSTEMCCA) (Somers et al., 2010).

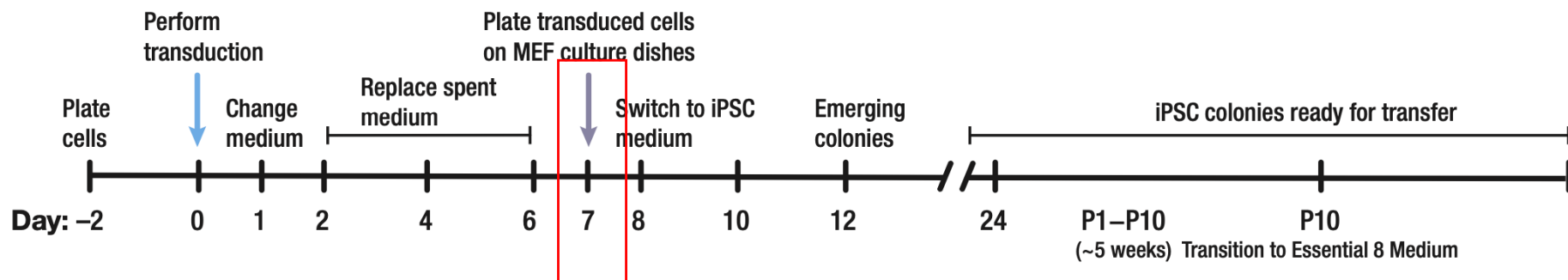
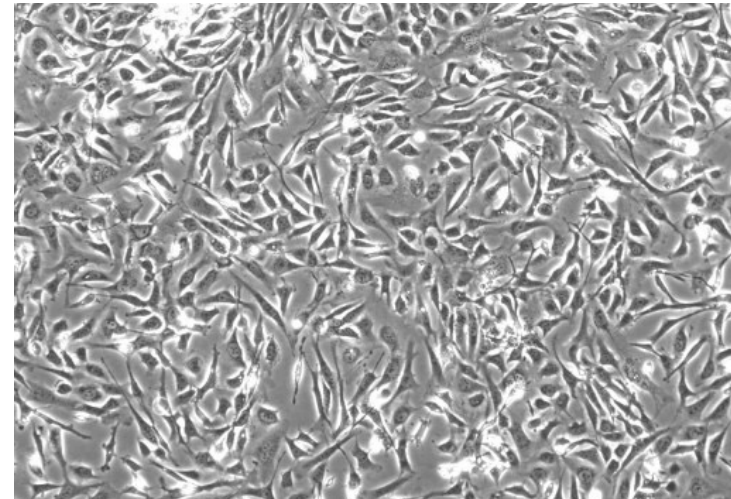


After reprogramming, single iPSC-like colonies with uniform flat morphology and defined borders were selected for expansion as individual clones.



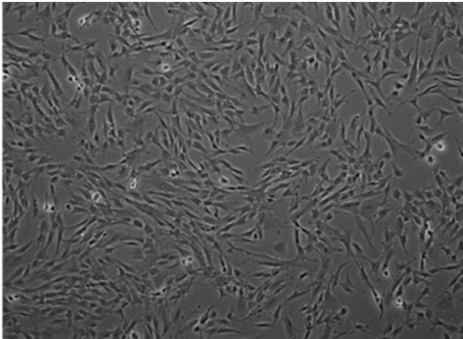
Mouse (ICR) Inactivated Embryonic Fibroblasts

Inactivated Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts (MEFs) are used as feeder layers for culturing iPSCs in their undifferentiated state. MEFs are mitotically inactivated (by γ -irradiation or mitomycin C treatment). The growth-arrested feeder layer supports the iPSC culture by providing nutrients, growth factors, and matrix components, and it enables iPSCs to survive and proliferate more readily in culture.

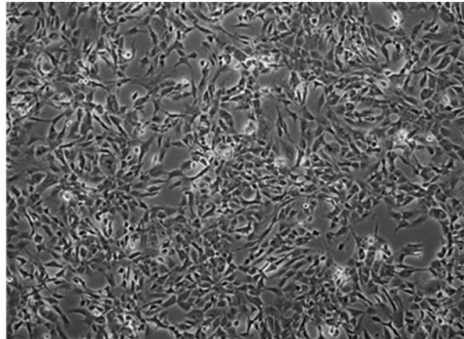


Let's take a close-up look...

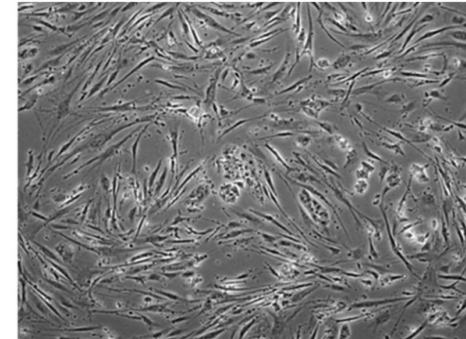
Fibroblasts before transduction (5X)



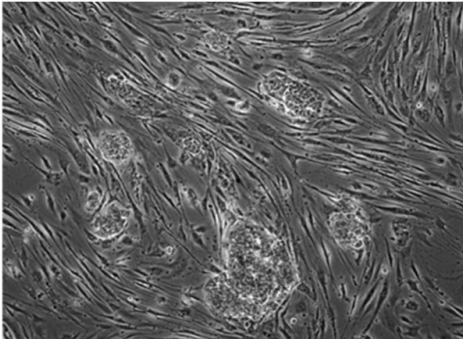
2 days posttransduction



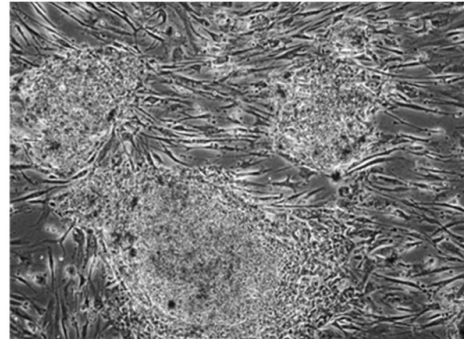
10 days posttransduction



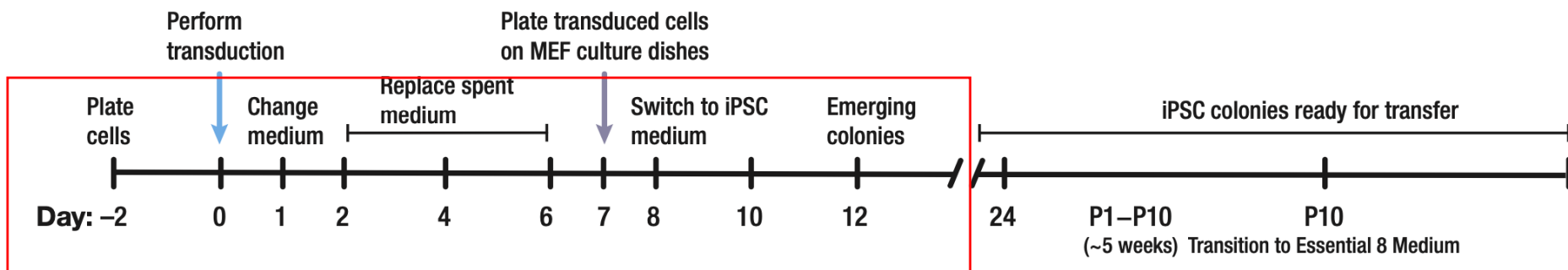
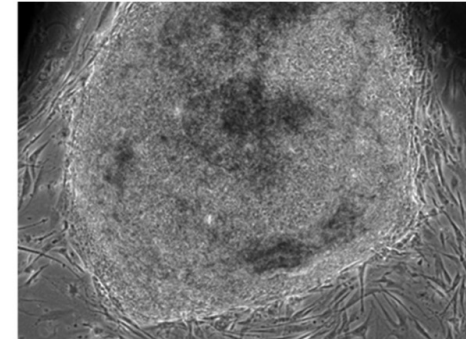
14 days posttransduction (5X)



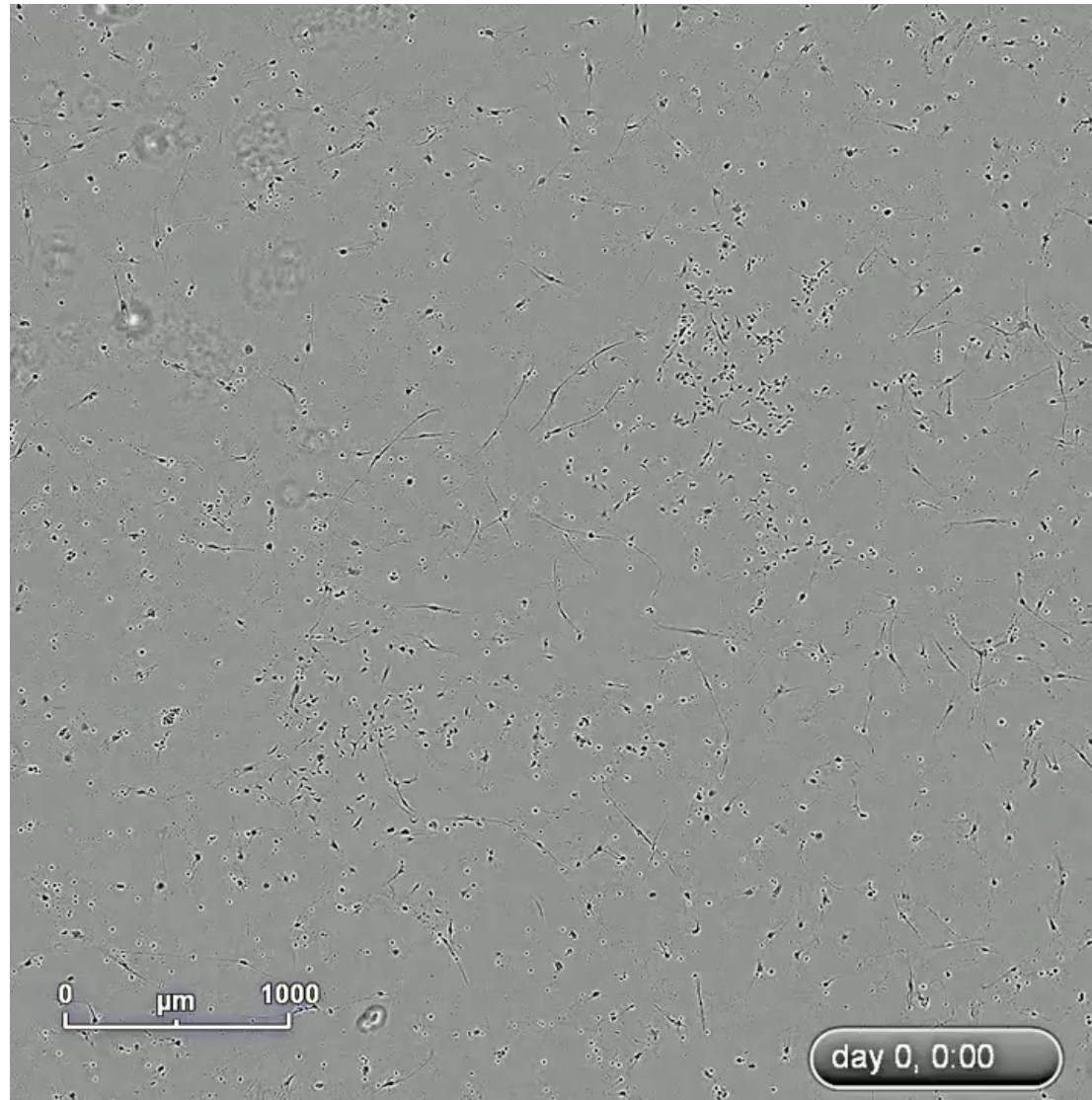
18 days posttransduction



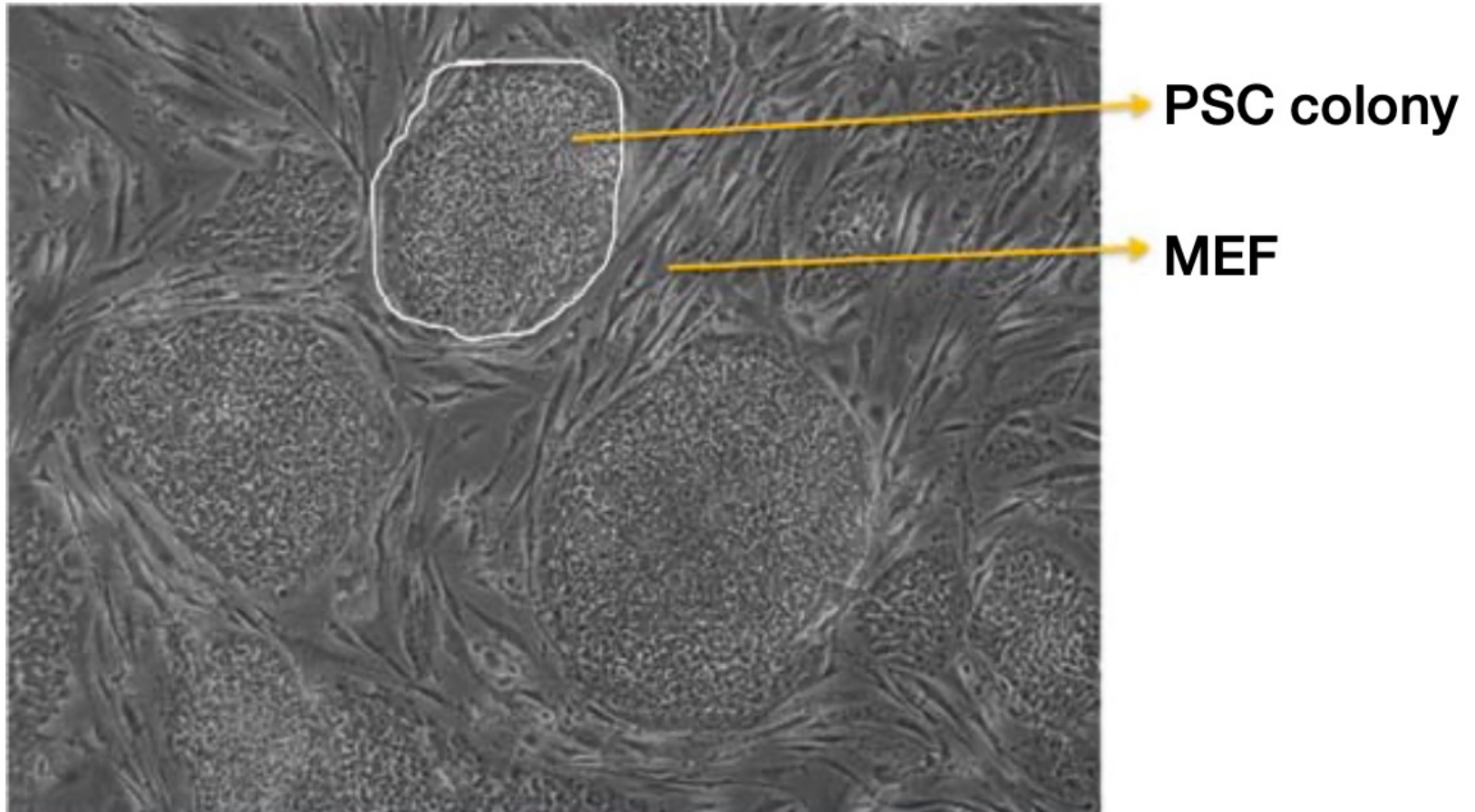
21 days posttransduction



Human fibroblast reprogramming



iPSCs cultured on mitotically inactivated MEF feeder layer

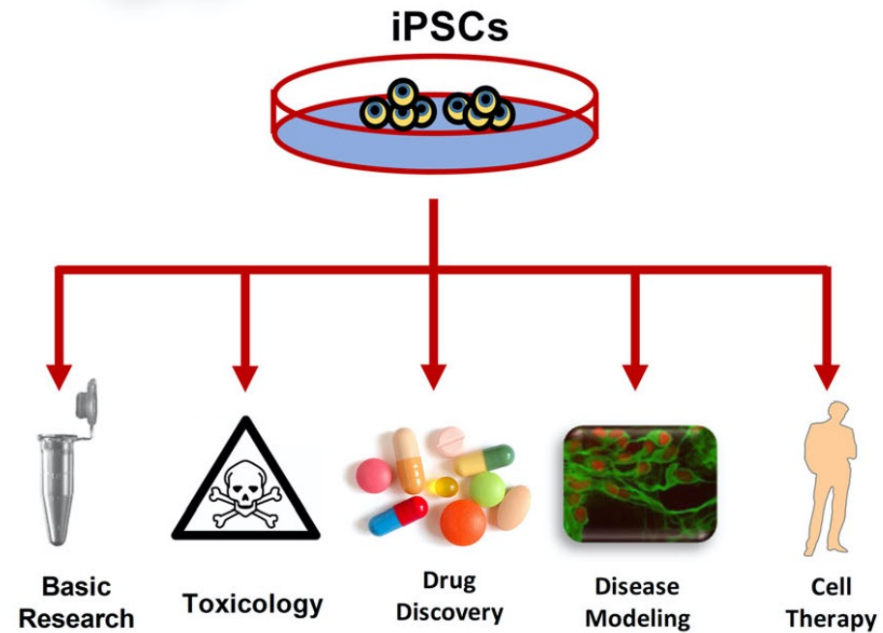


Applications of iPSCs: news from our lab

Basic research

Disease modelling

Drugs discovery



Informative talk given by Yamanaka:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD1sZU1yk-Y>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AD1sZU1yk-Y&t=14s>

