

Mechanobiology and infectious diseases

How bacterial virulence factors and toxins hijack the eucaryotic system in the aethernal host-pathogen fight

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Outline

Part 0: introduction

Part I

Virulence factors hijacking host mechanics

- Adhesion
 - *Y.pseudotuberculosis*
 - UPEC
- FA dynamics
 - *H.pylori*
 - *S.flexneri*
 - EPEC
- RhoGTPases
 - Overview
 - CNF

Part II

Mechanical forces at host-pathogen interface

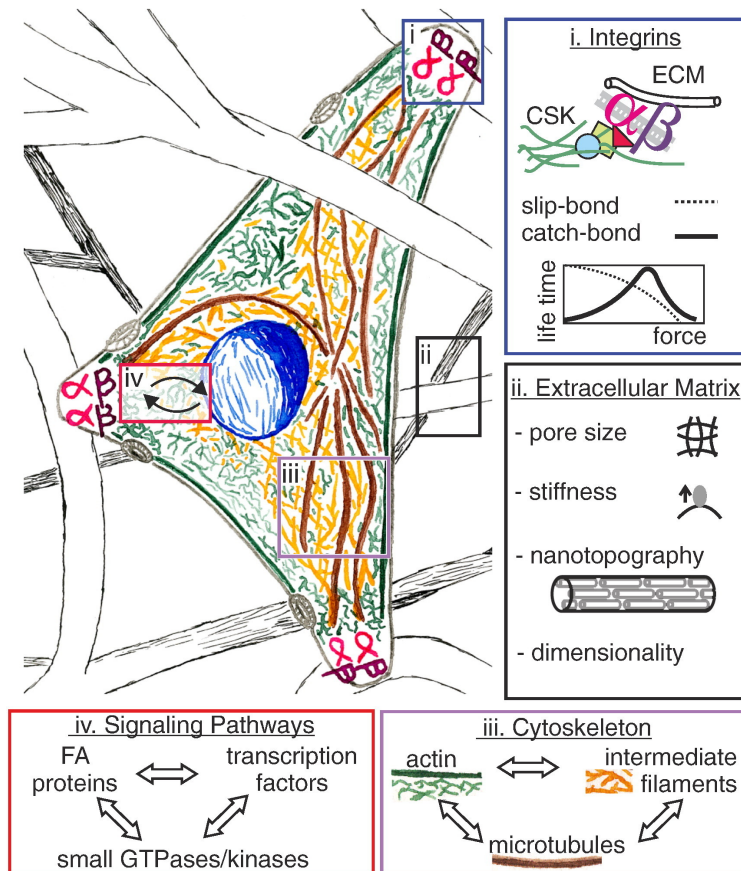
- Catch bond vs Slip bond
 - FimH
- How mechanics influences bacterial virulence
 - EHEC
 - *P.aeruginosa*

Part III

My work

Part 0:
Introduction to mechanobiology

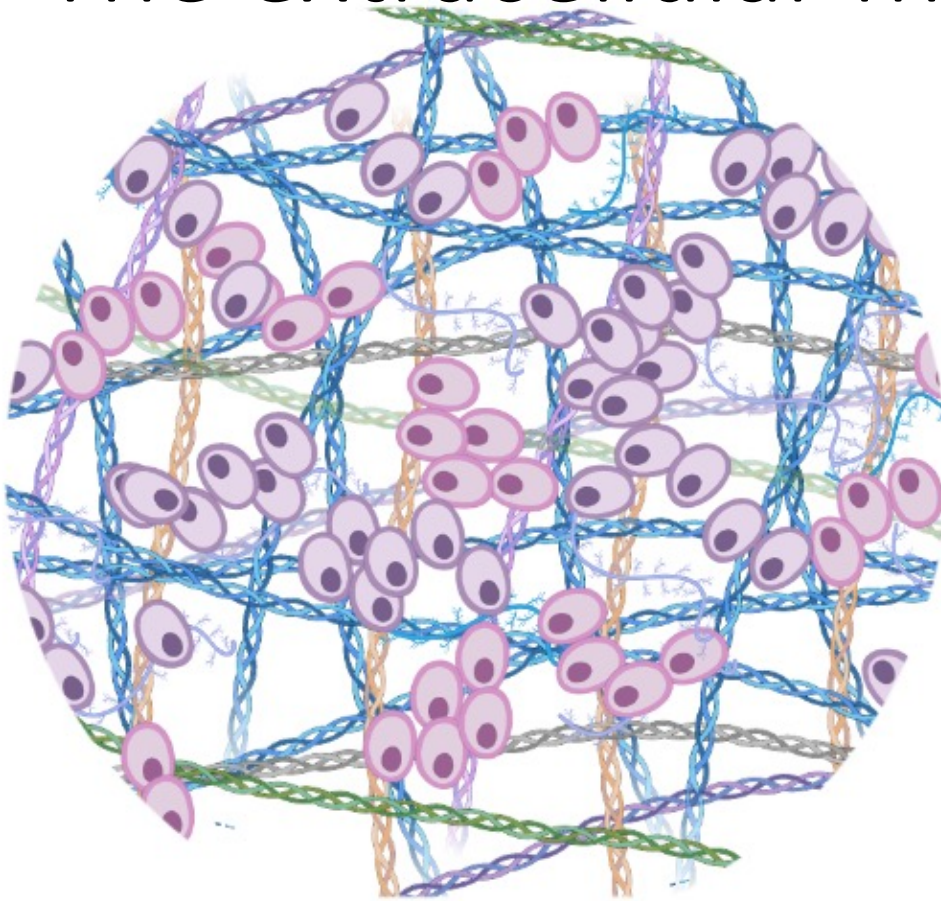
What mechanobiology is?



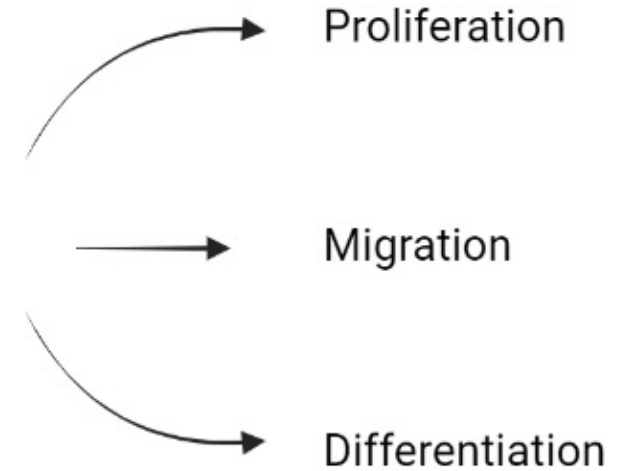
- Multidisciplinary field
- How cells can sense and respond to the physical environment
- Development, stem cells, physiology, disease

Infection and Host-Pathogen interaction

The extracellular matrix



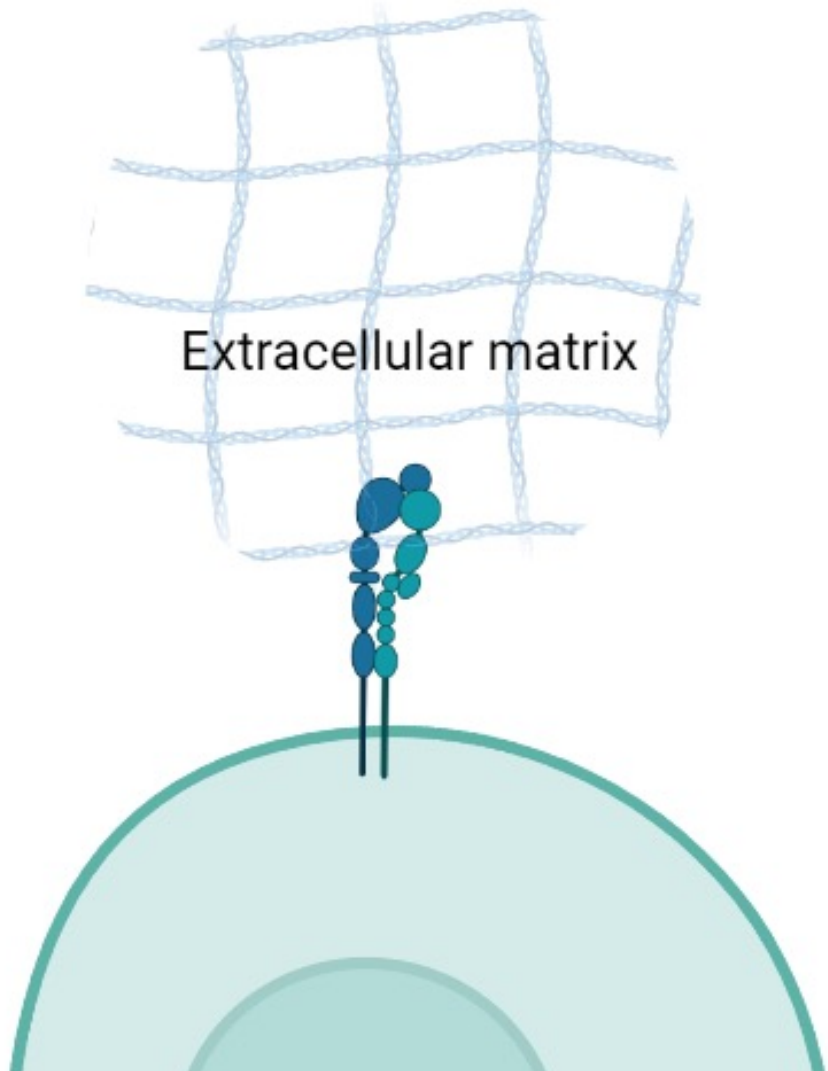
Extracellular matrix



A complex mixture of macromolecules

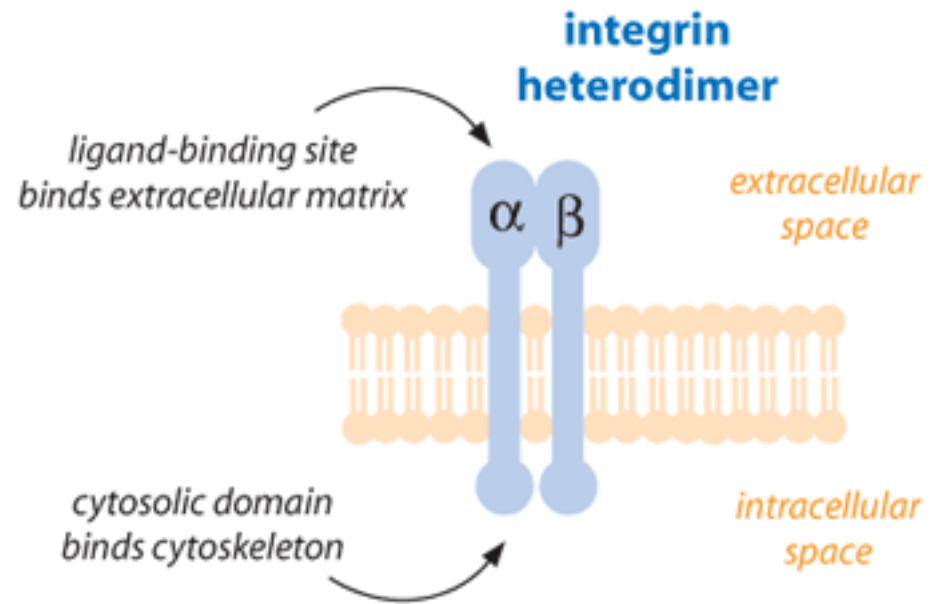
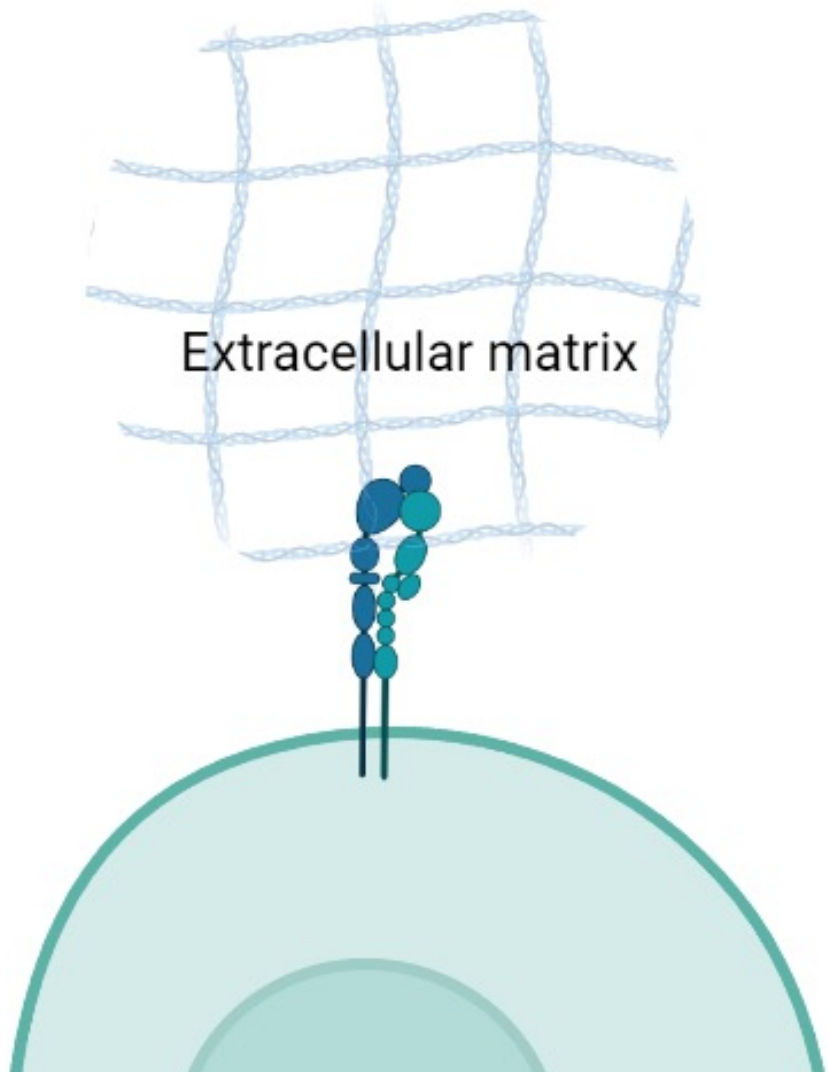
Sustains chemically and physically the cells

How?

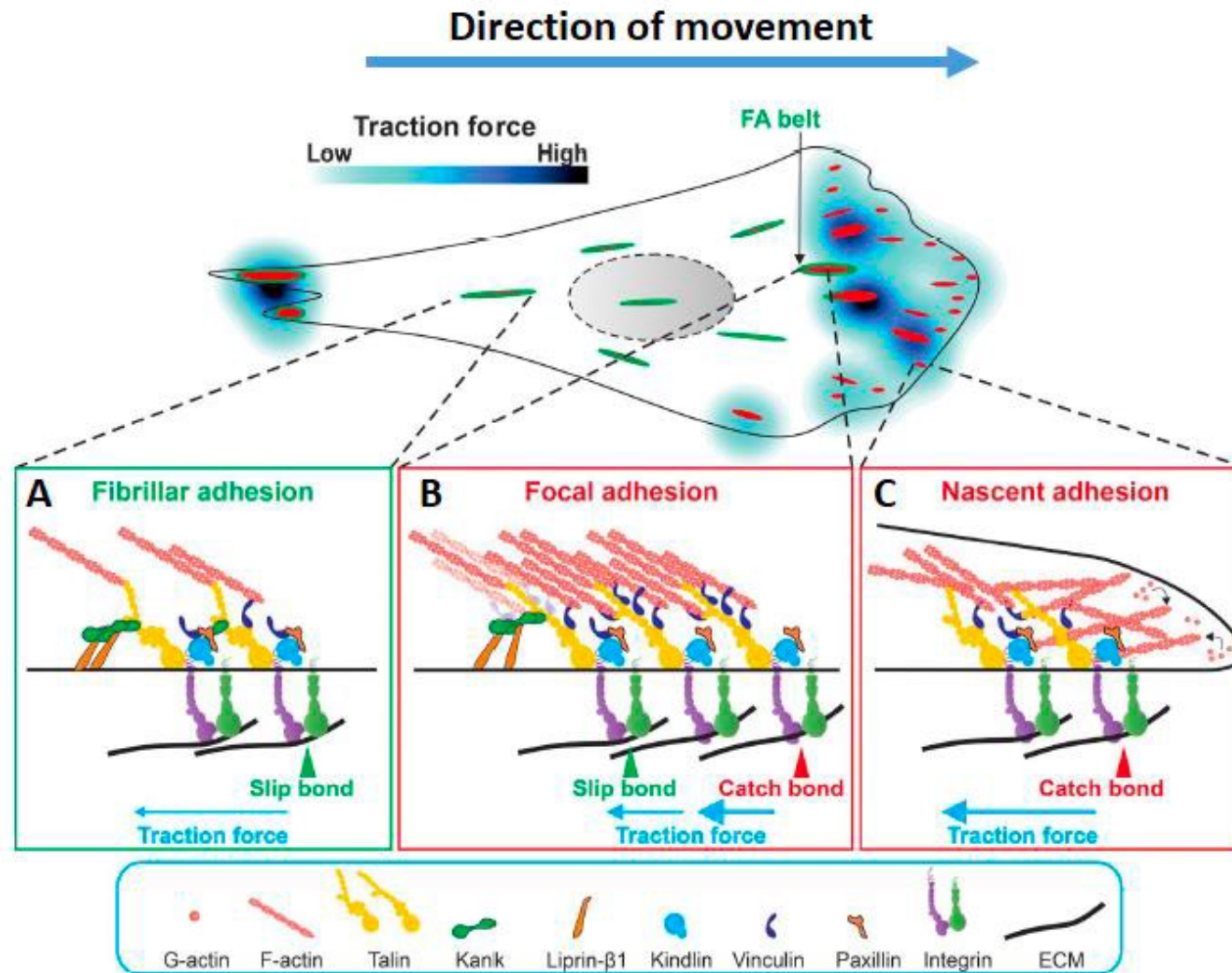


- Adhesion by surface proteins represents the first direct way for the cell to establish an interaction with the extracellular environment, in which mechanical stresses are constantly everywhere.
- Maintains tissue integrity
- fundamental for cell life, regulating every step from differentiation to senescence
- Mechanical forces are transduced (or mechanotransduced) from the environment to the cell and back by complex signaling systems studied in the field of mechanobiology.

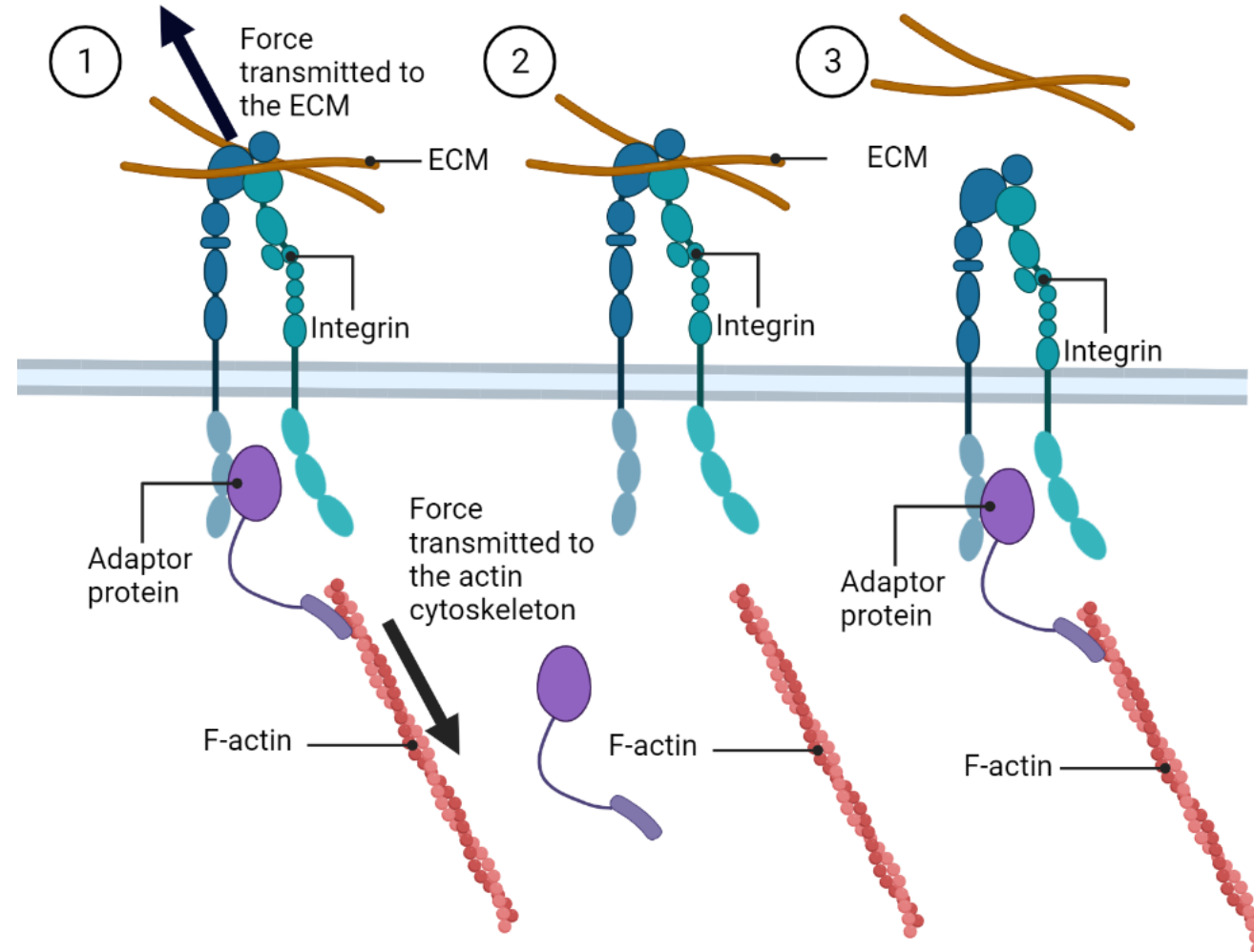
How?



Adhesive structures in the eucaryotic cell

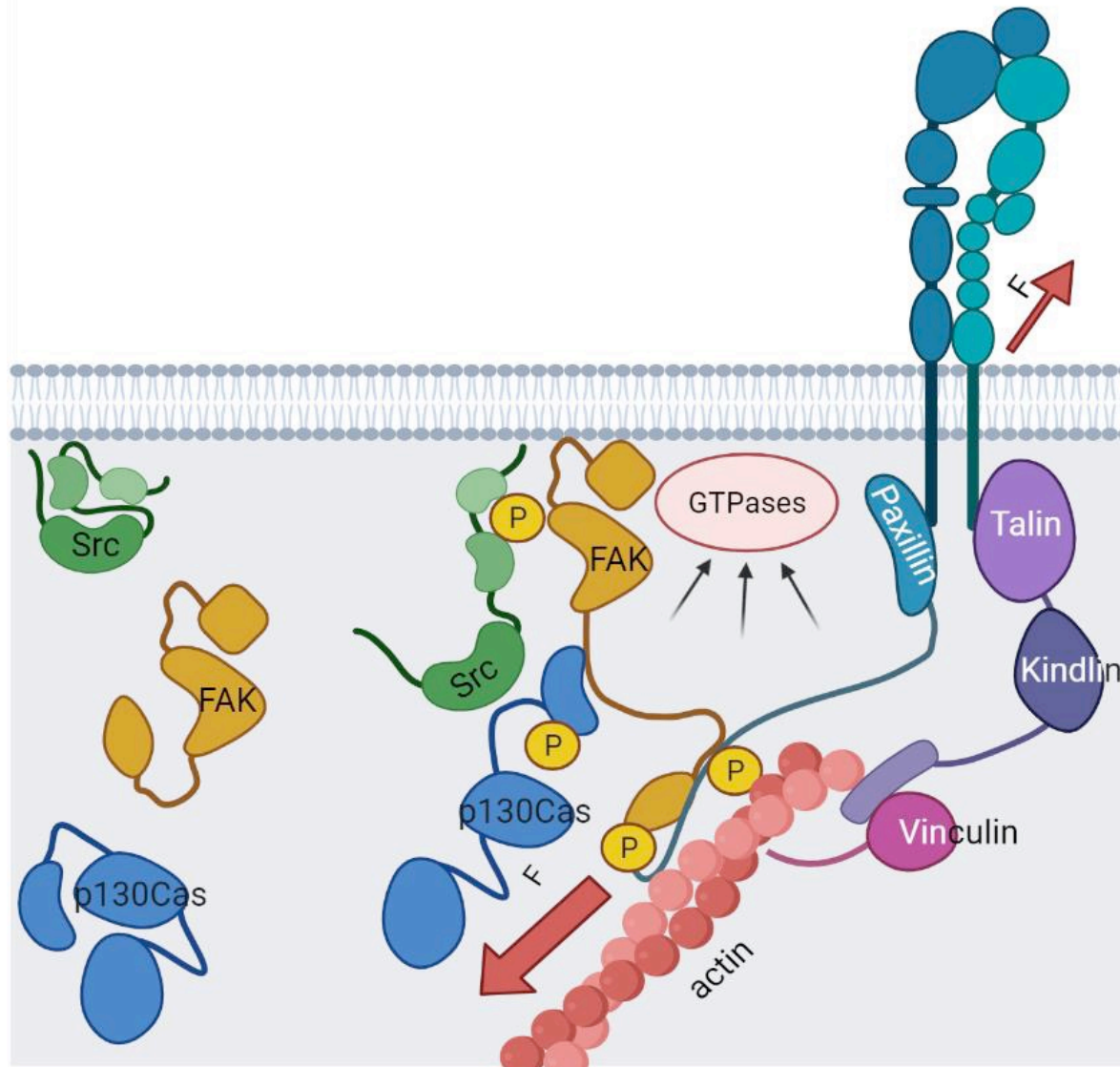


How does it work: the molecular clutch



The result of mechanotransduction is the activation of small GTPases which ultimately adapt the cytoskeleton and the cell behaviour to the environment

Focal adhesion proteins



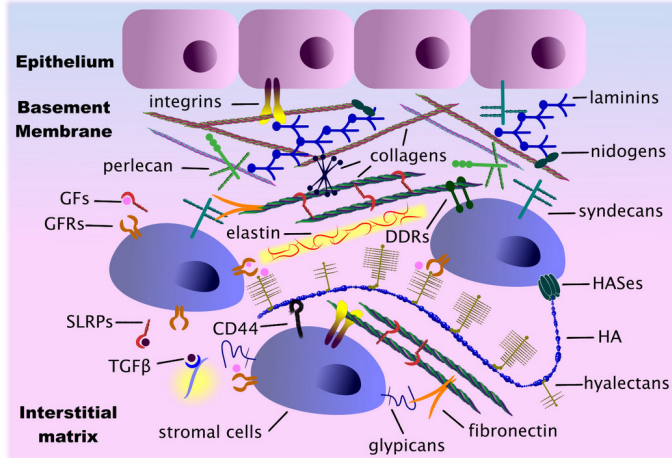
Selection of proteins localized at the adhesion site relevant for this study

Name	interactions	Function	Mechanosensor?
Talin	Integrin cytosolic domain Actin	Start the FA complex, links integrin to the cytoskeleton	Yes, unfolding domains upon force load
Vinculin	With Talin and F-actin	Strengthen the FA connection with the cytoskeleton, force build-up	Yes
Paxillin	With FAK, integrin, vinculin	FAK substrate	Suggested, no formal evidence
FAK	With talin, paxillin, Src, p130Cas	Autophosphorylates at tyrosine 397, create a complex with Src, phosphorylates GEFs for Rac1 and RhoA, integrin activation	Suggested, still to be demonstrated
Src	With FAK, p130Cas	Src-FAK complex binds and activates p130Cas	na
P130Cas	With FAK		Yes
Arp2/3	With vinculin, with Rac1	Actin branching Rac1 dependent, recruitment by vinculin at FAs	na
Rac1	Arp2/3, GEFs and GAPs	Nucleation of NAs, FA turnover, actin branching	na
RhoA	ROCK, GEFs and GAPs	Maturation of FAs, indirect phosphorylation of myosin II and actomyosin contraction, stress fiber formation	na

Table 1 List of proteins localized at the adhesion site relevant for this study, with relative function.

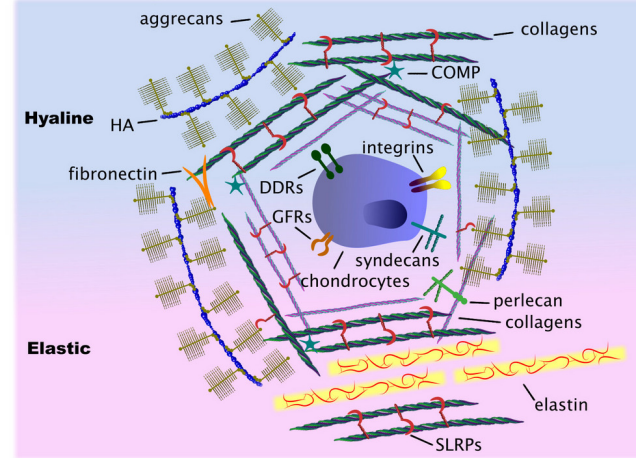
ECM composition goes with ECM roles

A Connective Tissue



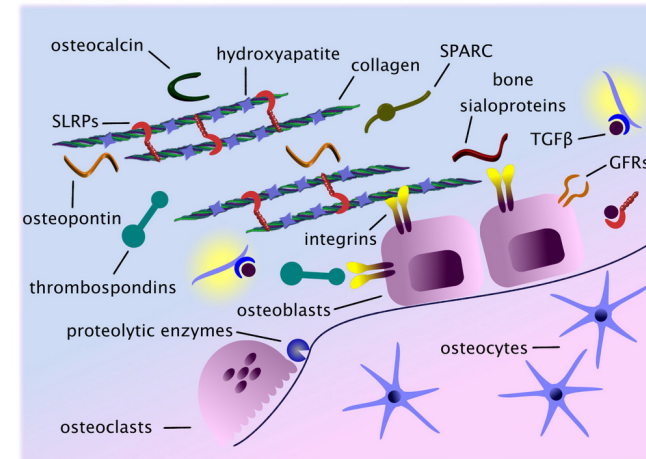
Connection, support, nourishment

B Cartilage



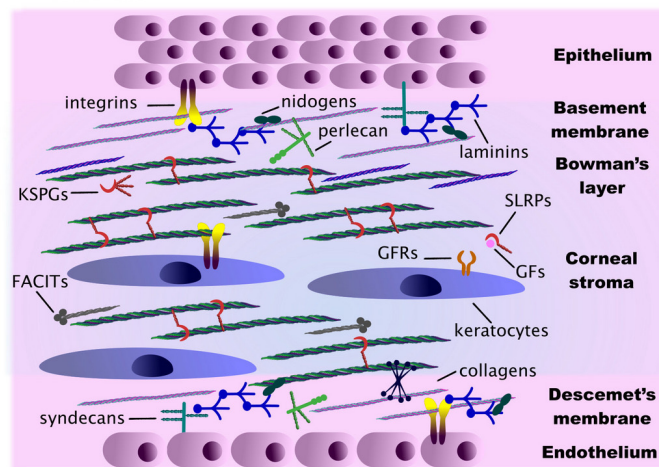
Mechanical support, viscoelasticity, lubrication

C Bone



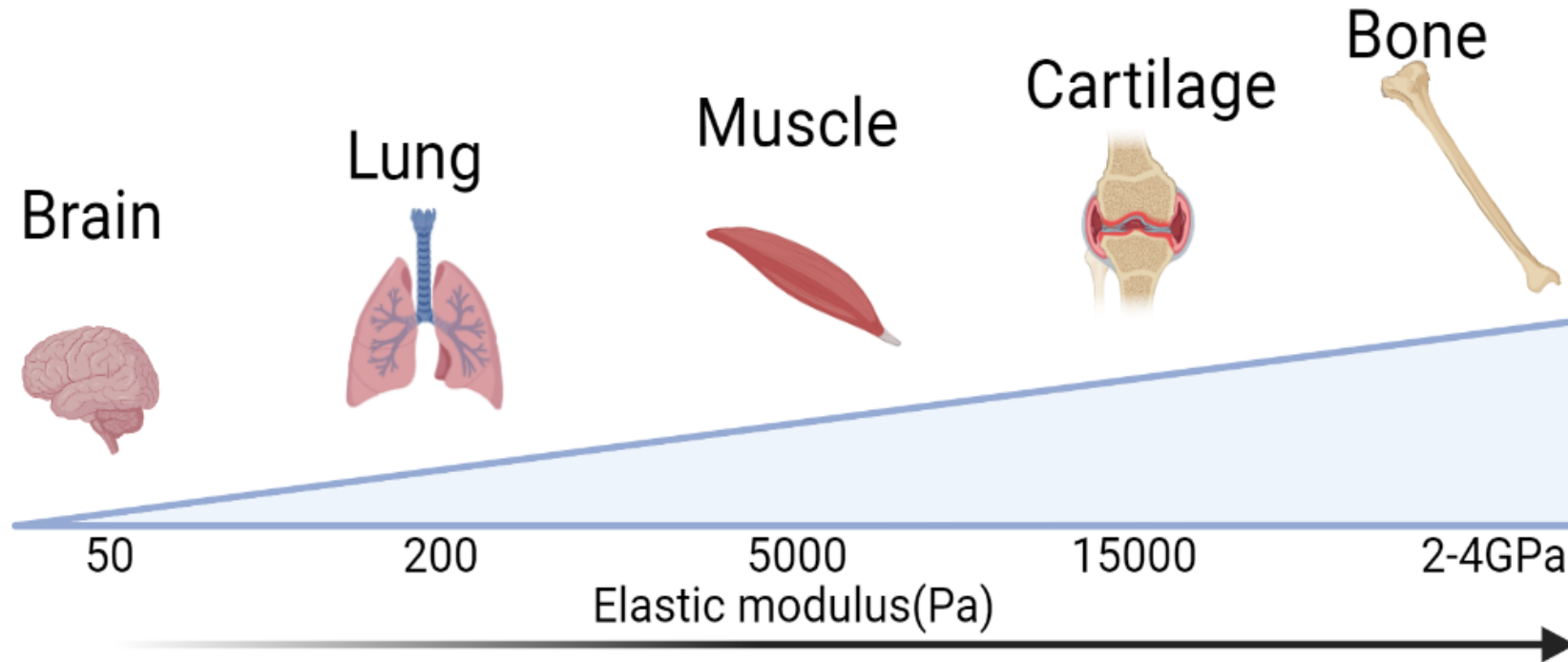
Durable, strong, stiff structure with low elasticity for shock absorption

D Cornea



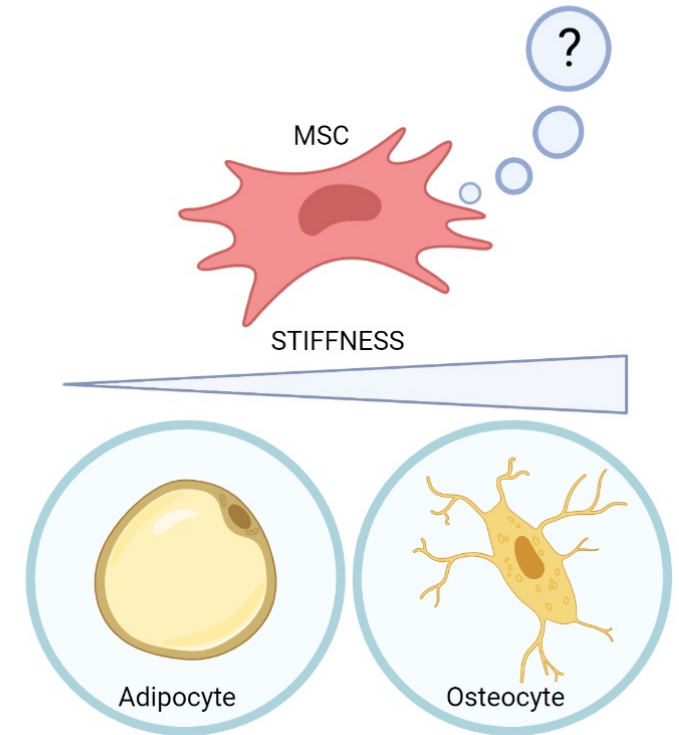
Transparency, refraction

ECM stiffness



Stiffness = Force load/deformation occurring

Stiffness = cross-sectional area * **Elastic modulus**/length of the sample



Engler *et al.* 2006

.ECM stiffness

Stiffness of the organ is related to the tissue function.

Static environment > low stiffness
high mechanical loads > high elastic modulus.

Organ stiffness can vary for different reasons.

- physiological situation



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- within an organ in function of the region



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Organ stiffness can vary for different reasons.

- physiological situation
- within an organ in function of the region
- Time



.ECM stiffness

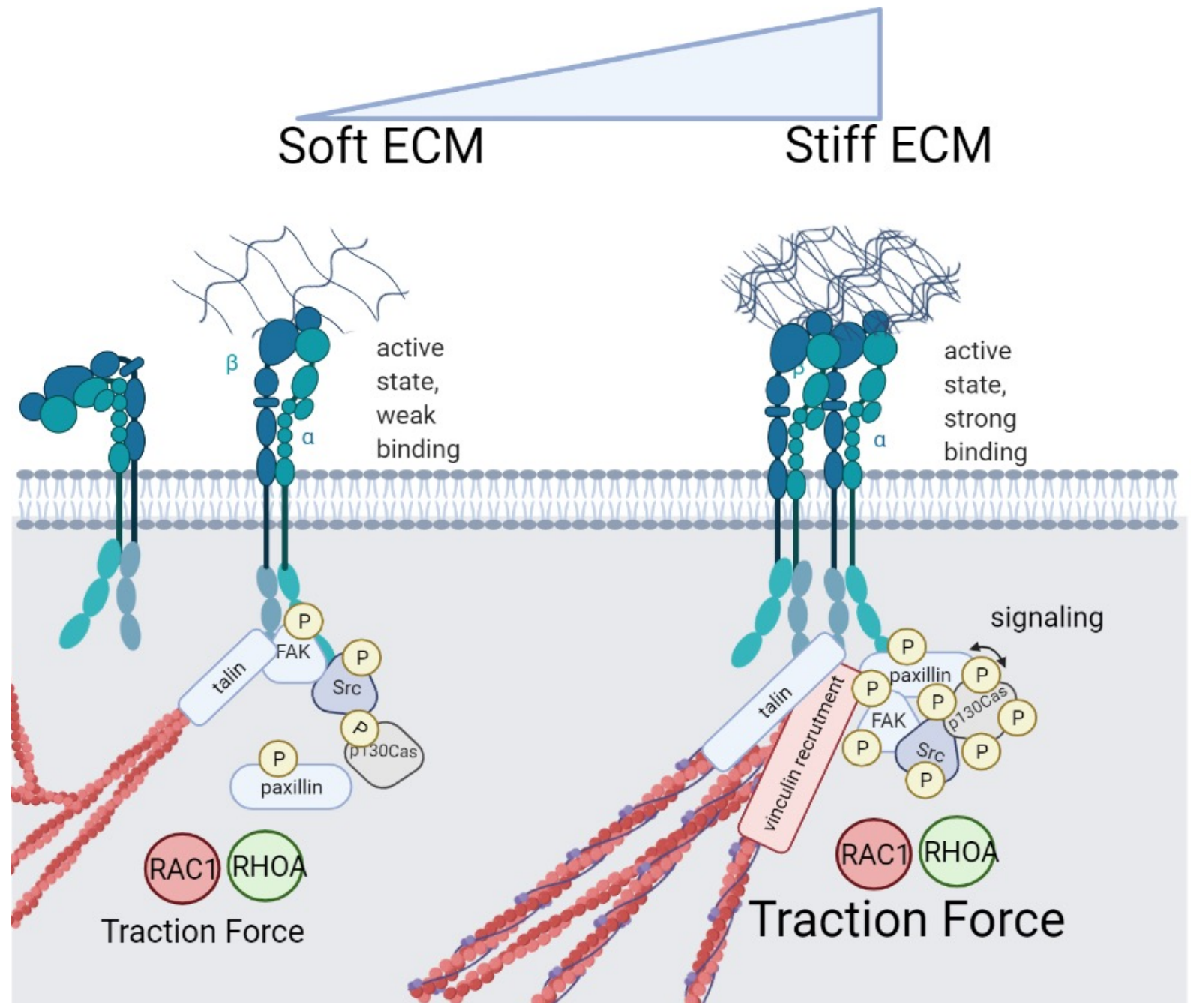
Stiffness of the organ is related to the tissue function.

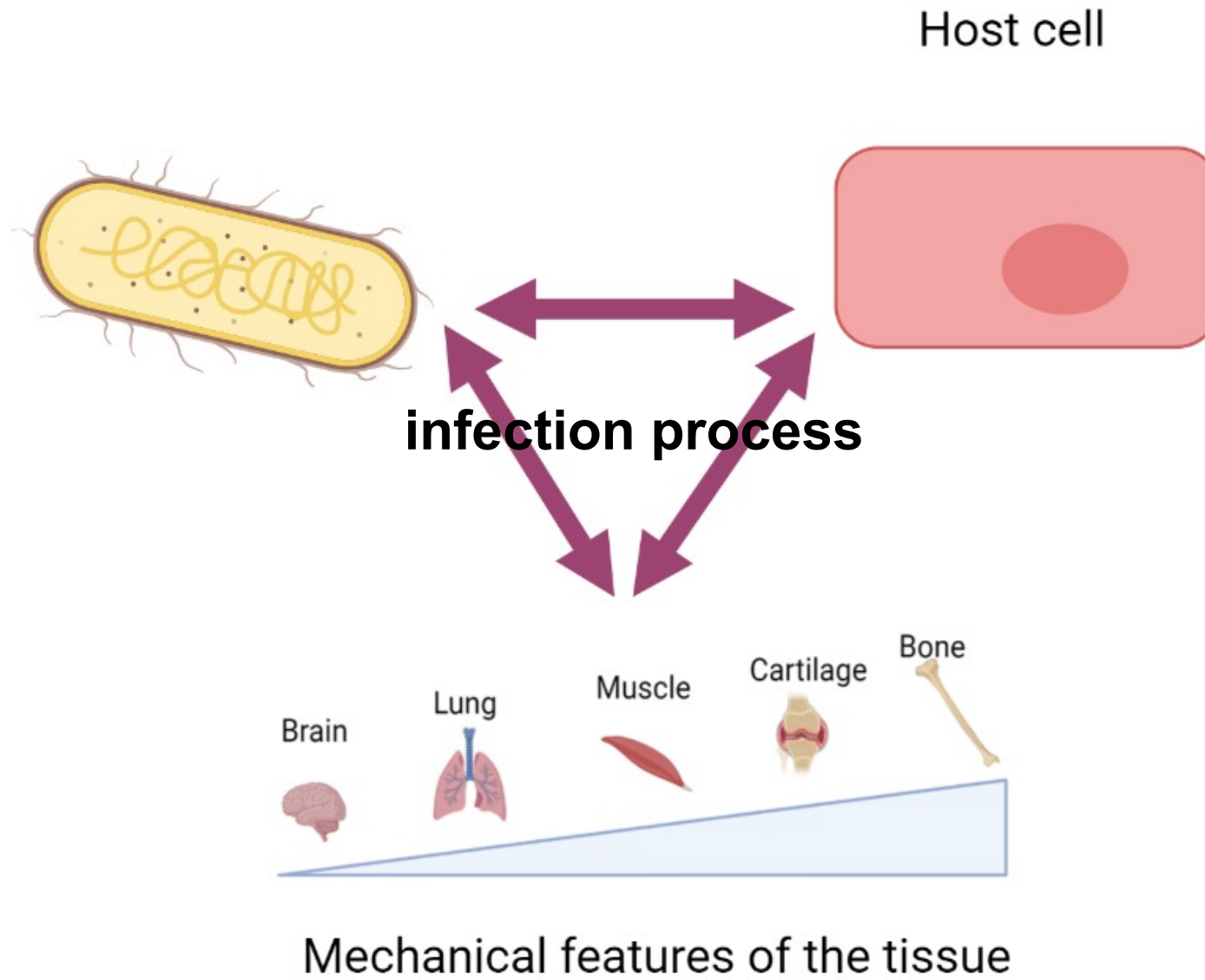
Static environment > low stiffness
high mechanical loads > high elastic modulus.

Organ stiffness can vary for different reasons.

- physiological situation
- within an organ in function of the region
- Time
- Pathology | conditions such as fibrosis and tumorigenesis







Part i: virulence factors
hijacking the host mechanics

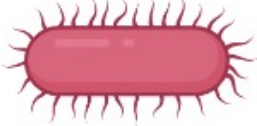
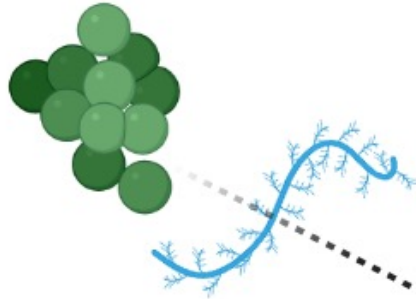
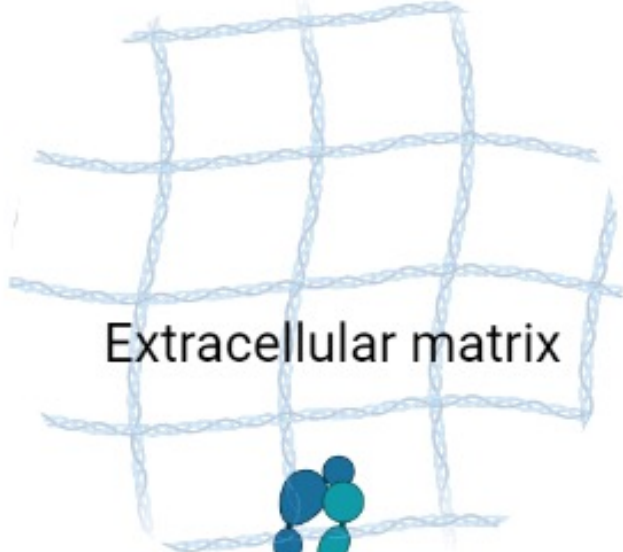
Integrins are hijacked by pathogens

Yersinia pseudotuberculosis
UPEC

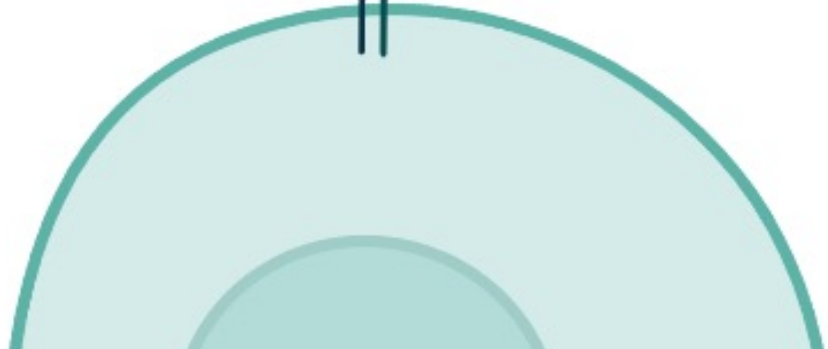
CyaA *Bordetella pertussis*

Staphylococcus aureus
Streptococcus group A

Adenovirus
Reovirus



Integrins



Integrins as receptors for bacteria

Pathogen	Surface protein	Integrin Involved	Reference
<i>Yersinia pseudotuberculosis</i> and <i>enterocolitica</i>	Invasin	$\alpha3\beta1$ $\alpha4\beta1$ $\alpha5\beta1$ $\alpha6\beta1$	Isberg <i>et al.</i> 2000 ; Isberg and Leong, 1990
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	PilY1	$\alphaV\beta5$	Johnson <i>et al.</i> 2011
<i>Shigella flexneri</i>	IpaB IpaC IpaD	$\alpha5\beta1$	Watarai <i>et al.</i> 1996
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>N. meningitidis</i>	Opa ₃₀	Indirect, $\alphaV\beta3$ $\alphaV\beta5$	Dehio <i>et al.</i> 1998;
<i>Streptococcus</i> group A	F1	Indirect, $\alpha5\beta1$ $\alphaV\beta3$	Ozeri <i>et al.</i> 2001
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	FnBpA FnBpB	Indirect, $\beta1$ integrins	Fowler <i>et al.</i> 2000
Uropathogenic <i>E.coli</i>	FimH	$\beta1$ and $\alpha3$ integrins	Eto <i>et al.</i> 2007
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	CagL	$\alpha5\beta1$ $\alpha6\beta1$	Kwok <i>et al.</i> 2007 Buß <i>et al.</i> 2019

Integrins are receptors for exotoxins

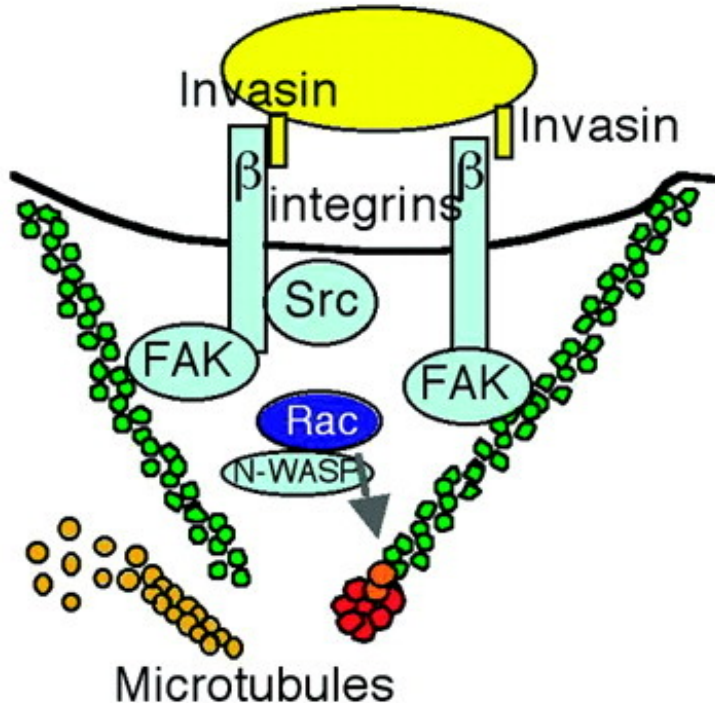
Toxin	Integrin involved	Reference
Adenylate cyclase toxin from <i>Bordetella</i>	$\alphaM\beta2$ integrin (CD11b/CD18, Mac-1, or CR3)	Bumba <i>et al.</i> 2010
RTX toxins (leukotoxin and α -hemolysin)	LFA-1 $\beta2$ integrin (CD11a/CD18)	Lally <i>et al.</i> 1997
Anthrax toxin	$\alpha4\beta1$ and $\alpha5\beta1$ via PA (carrier protein)	Martchenko <i>et al.</i> 2010
FHA toxin of <i>Bordetella</i>	$\alphaM\beta2$ integrin (CD11b/CD18, Mac-1, or CR3)	Reisman <i>et al.</i> 1990
Vacuolating toxin from <i>H. pylori</i>	CD18 (LFA-1 or Mac-1)	Sewald <i>et al.</i> 2008

Table 2. Integrins are receptors for bacteria and exotoxins. A non-exhaustive list of bacterial species and toxin types interacting with integrin receptors at the host cell surface.

Yersinia pseudotuberculosis

Yersinia

Invasin-mediated entry



Most extensively studied mechanism of invasion

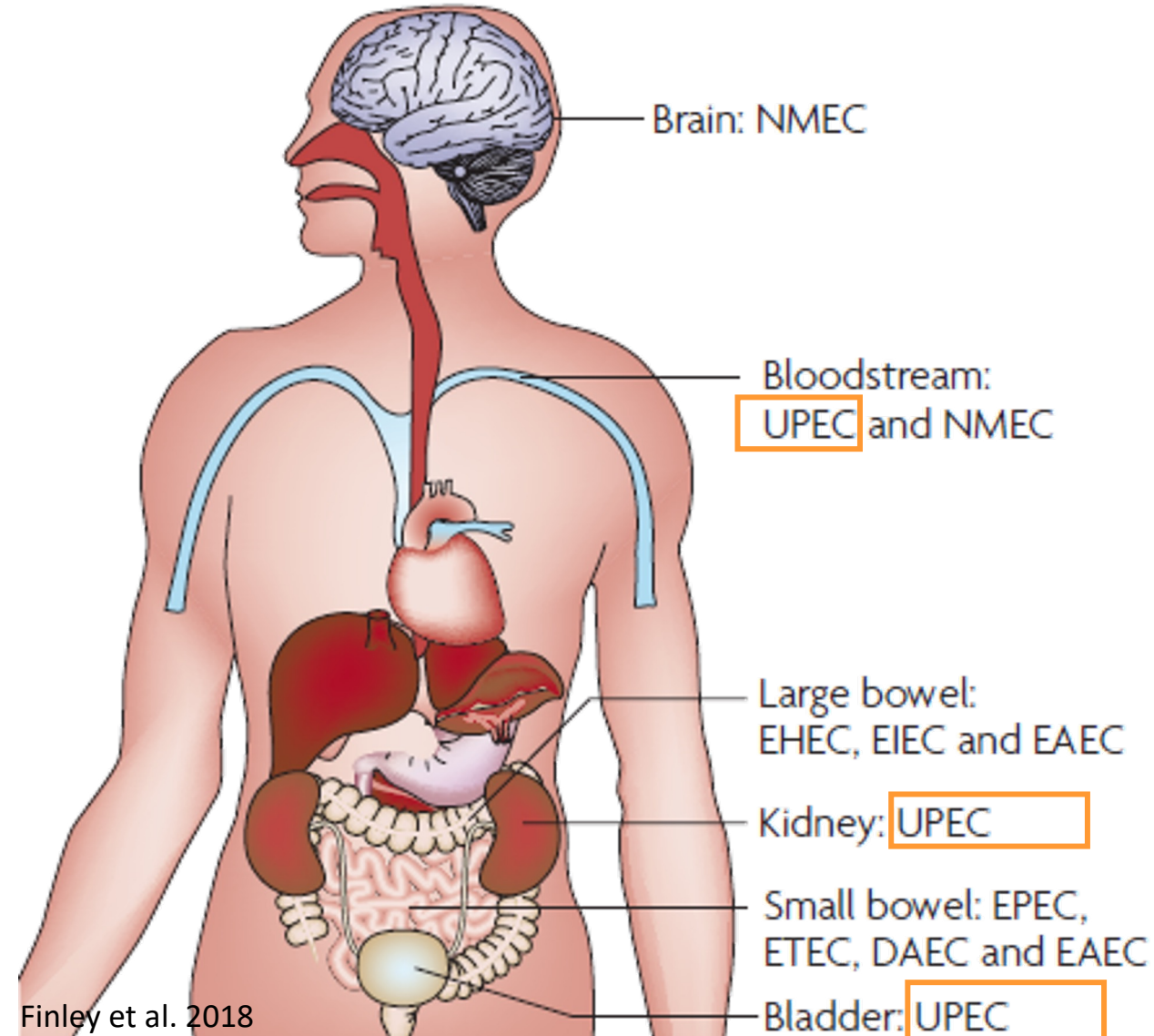
Isberg and Leon 1990: receptor on a **non-phagocytic cell** allows for bacterial invasion

Invasin: 103kDa outer membrane protein binds to multiple integrin heterodimers $\alpha 3\beta 1$, $\alpha 4\beta 1$, $\alpha 5\beta 1$ and $\alpha 6\beta 1$

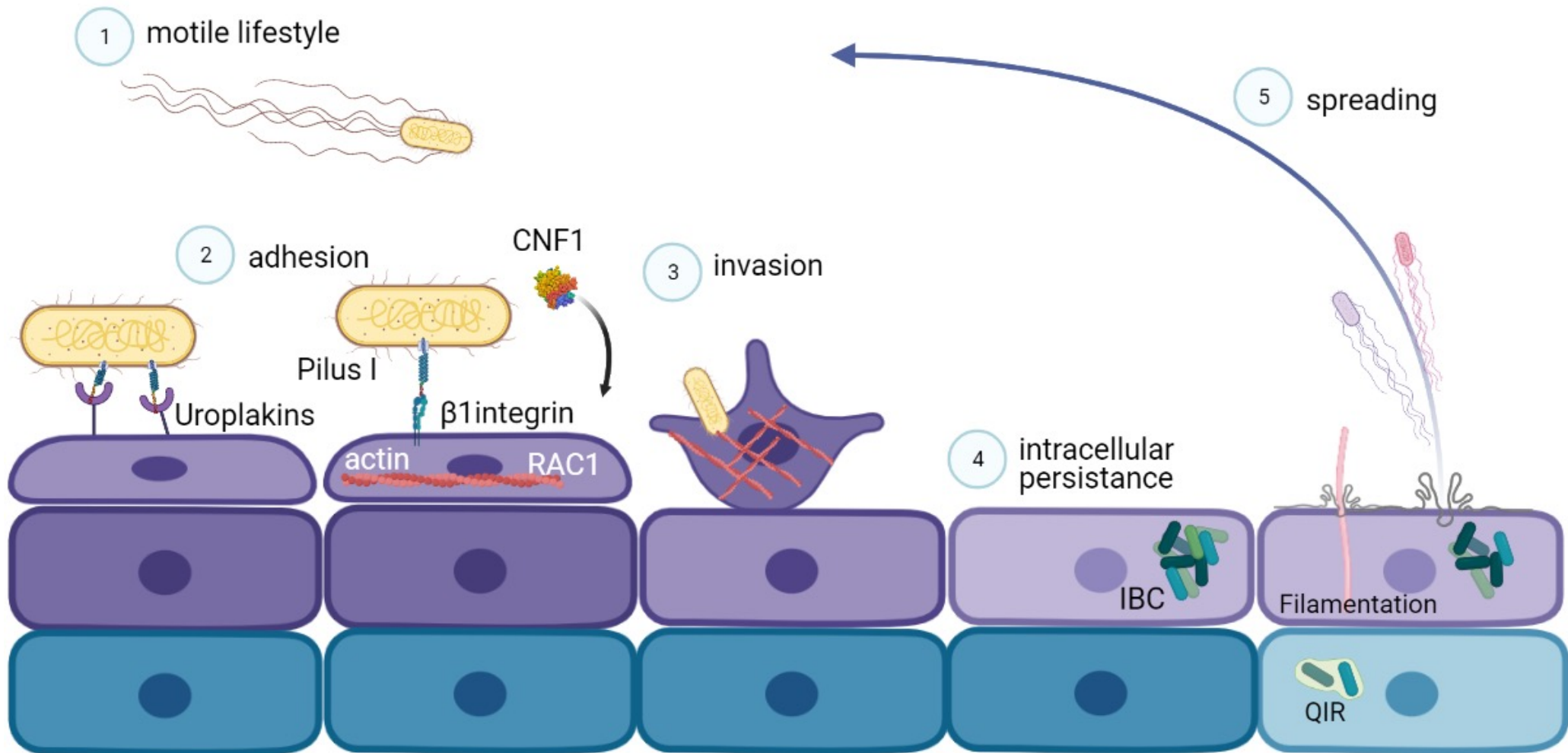
Use of **blocking antibodies** against $\alpha 5\beta 1$

Uropathogenic *E. coli*

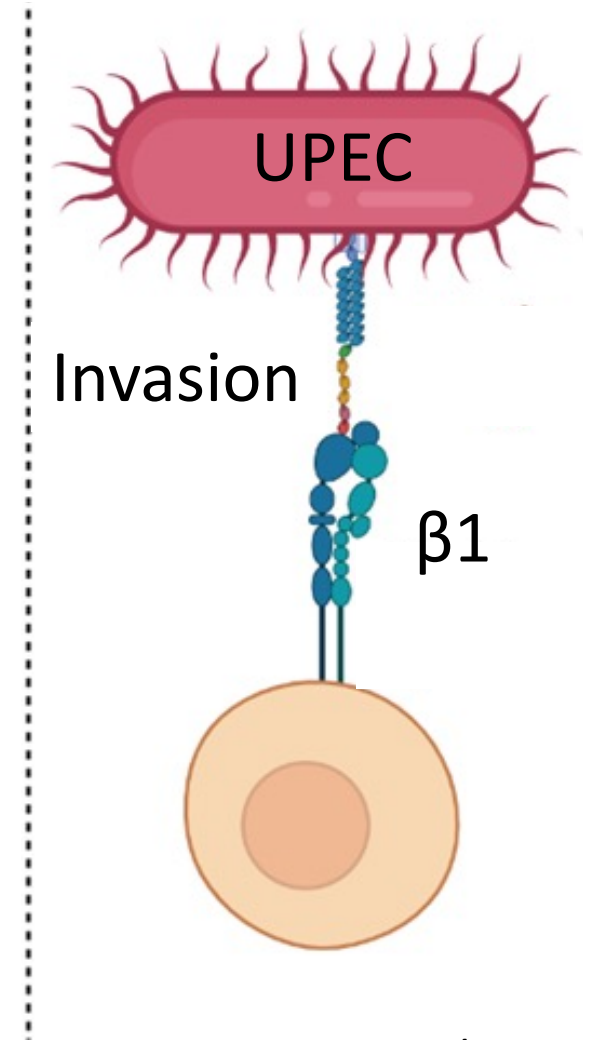
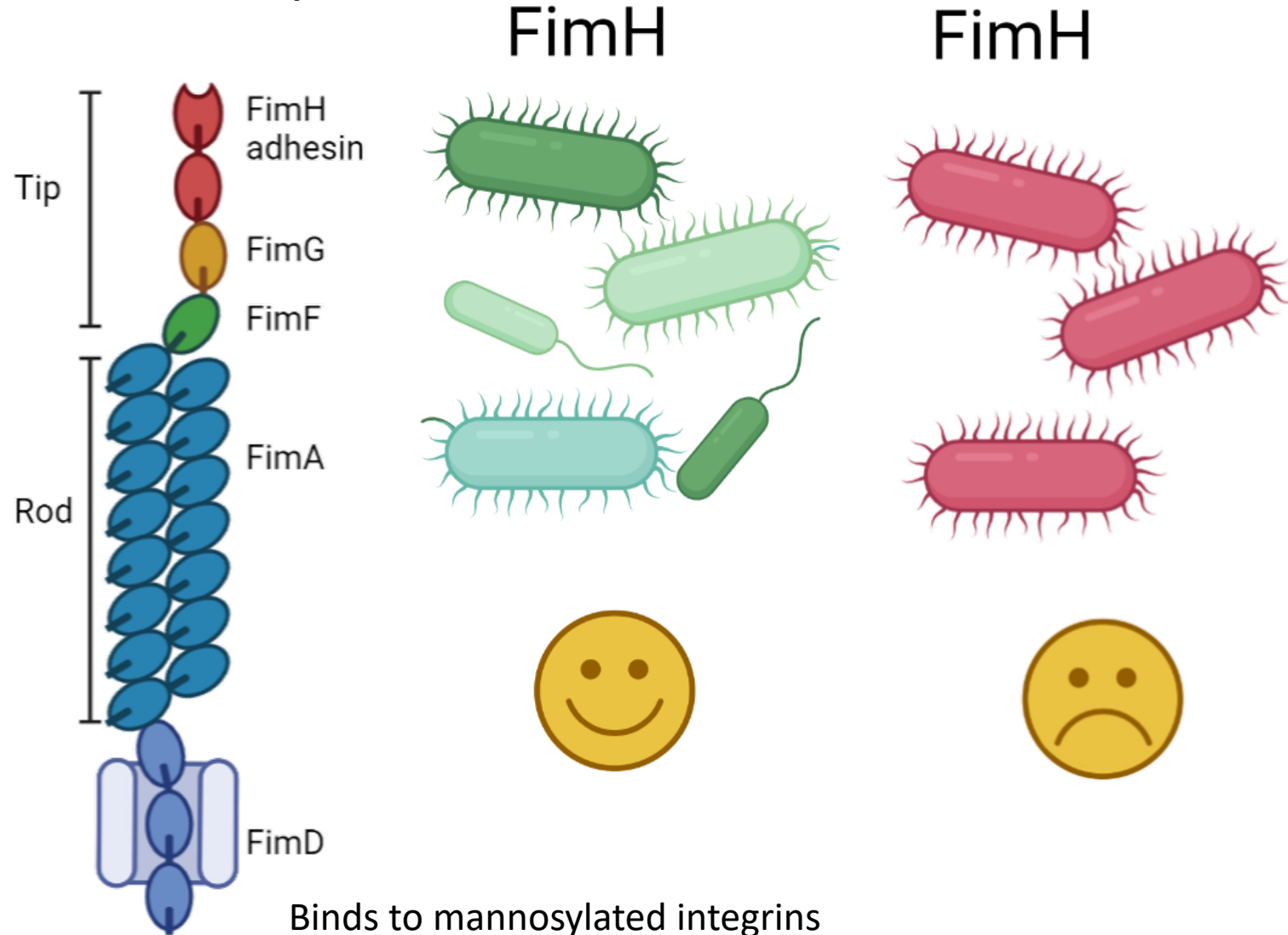
- Extraintestinal *E. coli* (ExPEC)
- Phylogenetic groups B2/D
- 80% of urinary tract infections in healthy patients
- Now MDR, global burden



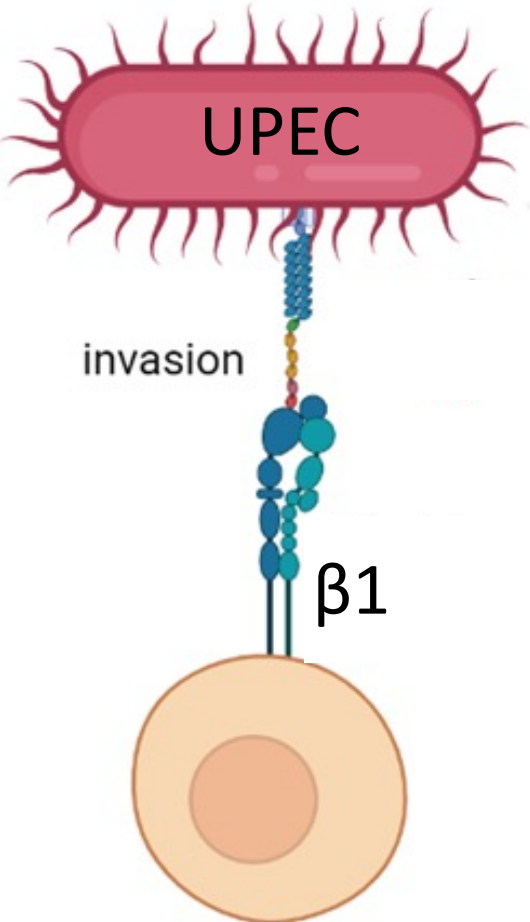
Uropathogenic *E. coli*



Uropathogenic E.coli



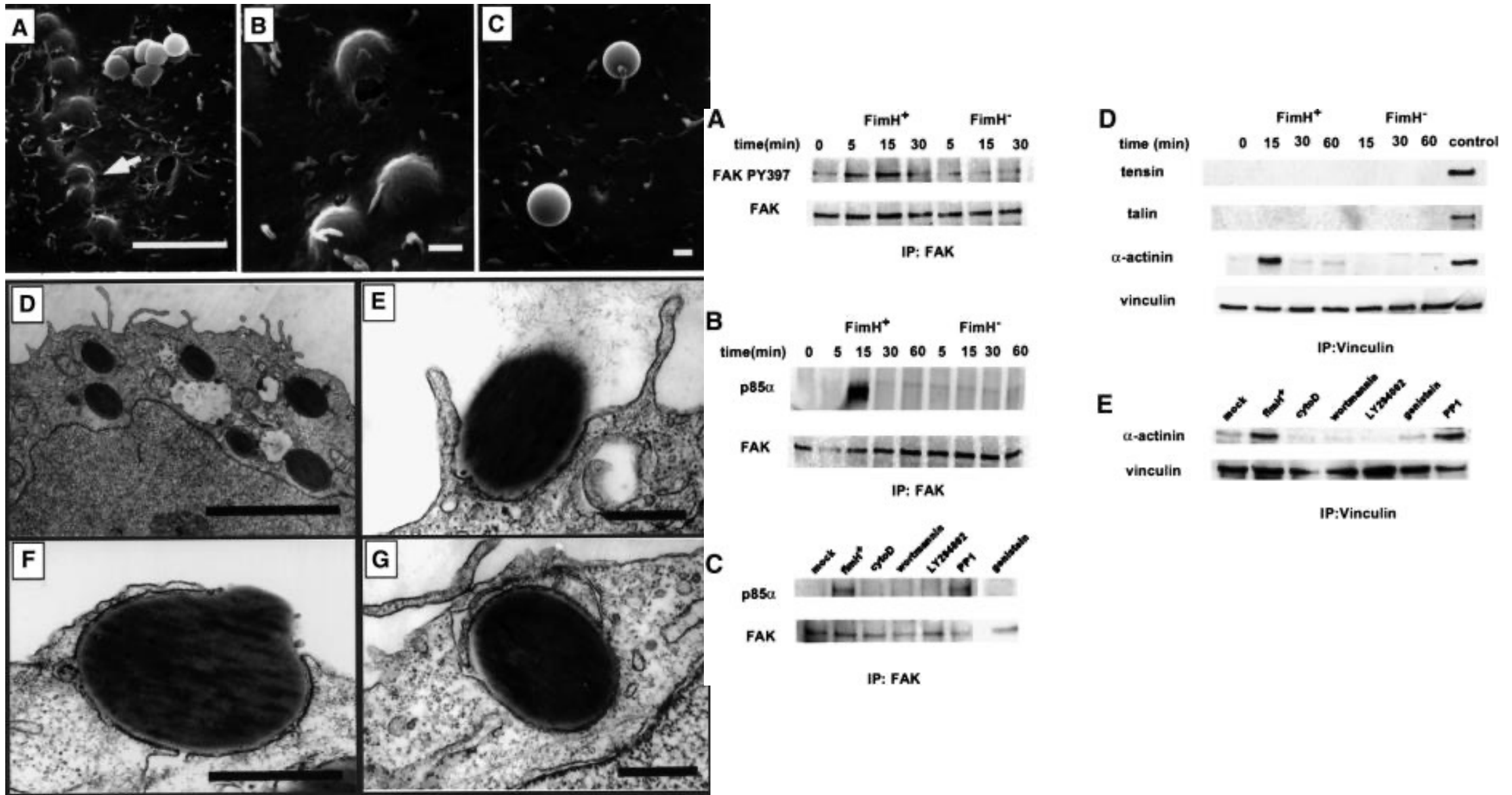
Uropathogenic E.coli



FimH was known as a surface adherence factor

First FimH role in bacterial invasion into mammalian cells (Martinez et al. 2000) making *de facto* UPEC an intracellular *E. coli* pathotype, validating the phenotypic observation in animal infection models made in '90s (McTaggart et al. 1990).

Binds to mannosylated integrins



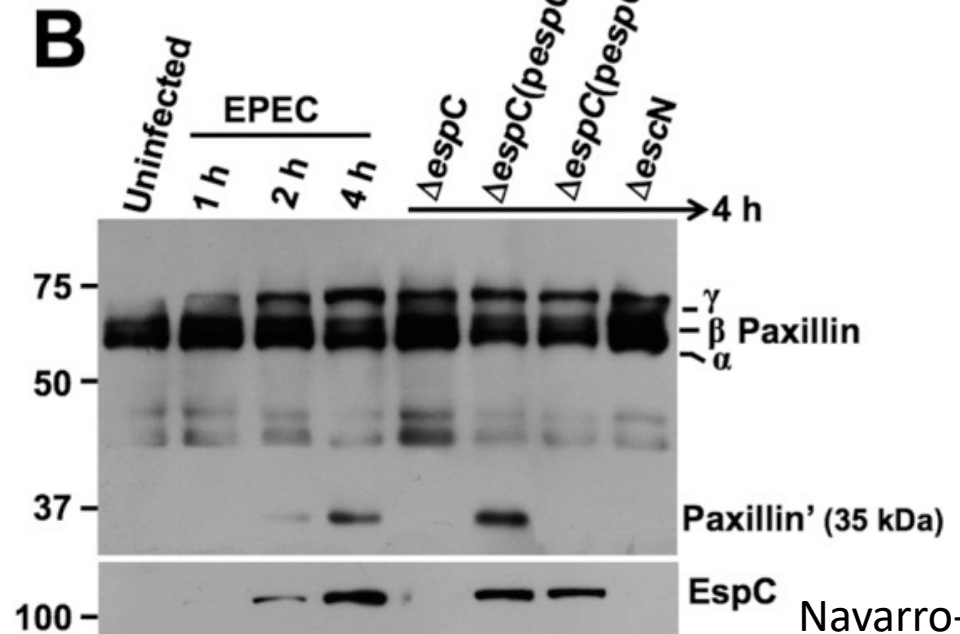
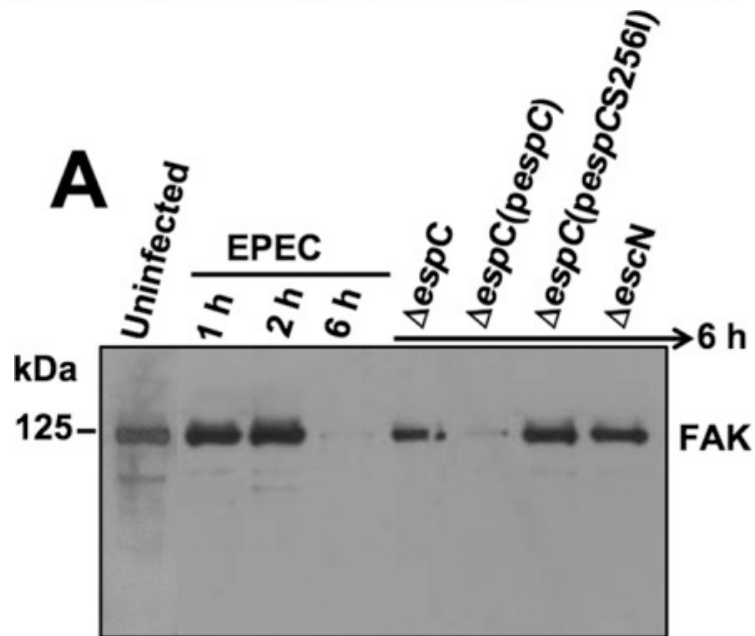
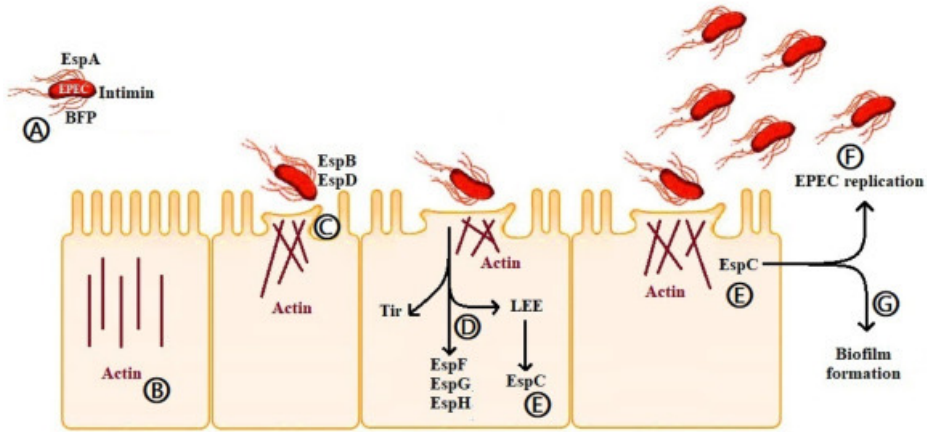
Internalization of FimCH coated beads by 5367 cells. Martinez et al. 2000

Hijacking FA dynamics

- Although adhesion corresponds to the first interaction between the host and the pathogen, it is not sufficient to establish a process of infection. (ex FimH)
- Bacteria have evolved an entire arsenal of virulence factors able to hijack cell responses, starting from adhesion.
- Focal adhesion signaling pathways are manipulated by bacteria in multiple ways (Murphy et al. 2021):
 - proteolytic cleavage of FA proteins
 - phosphorylation of FA proteins
 - molecular mimicry of motifs commonly found in FA proteins

Enteropathogenic *E. coli* EspC

proteolytic cleavage of FA proteins



***Helicobacter pylori* CagA**

Cellular Microbiology (2007) 9(5), 1148–1161

doi:10.1111/j.1462-5822.2006.00856.x
First published online 9 January 2007

The *Helicobacter pylori* CagA protein disrupts matrix adhesion of gastric epithelial cells by dephosphorylation of vinculin

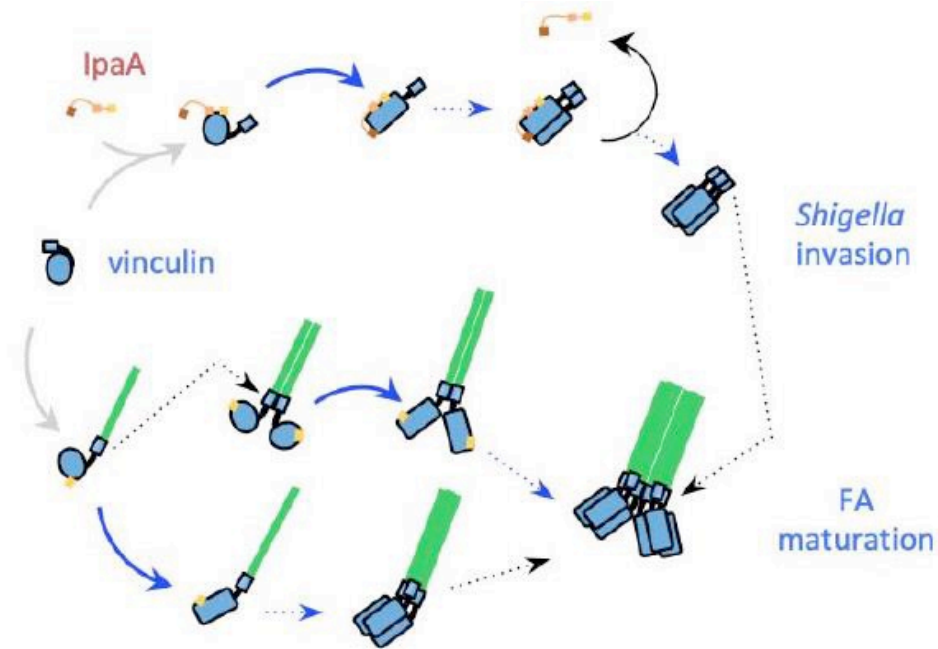
CagA is phosphorylated by Src on a tyrosine residue

P-CagA inactivates Src and dephosphorylates Vinculin

Tyrosine dephosphorylation of vinculin results in severe cellular deficiencies in cell-matrix adhesion, cell spreading and wound repair.

Shigella flexneri IpaA

molecular mimicry



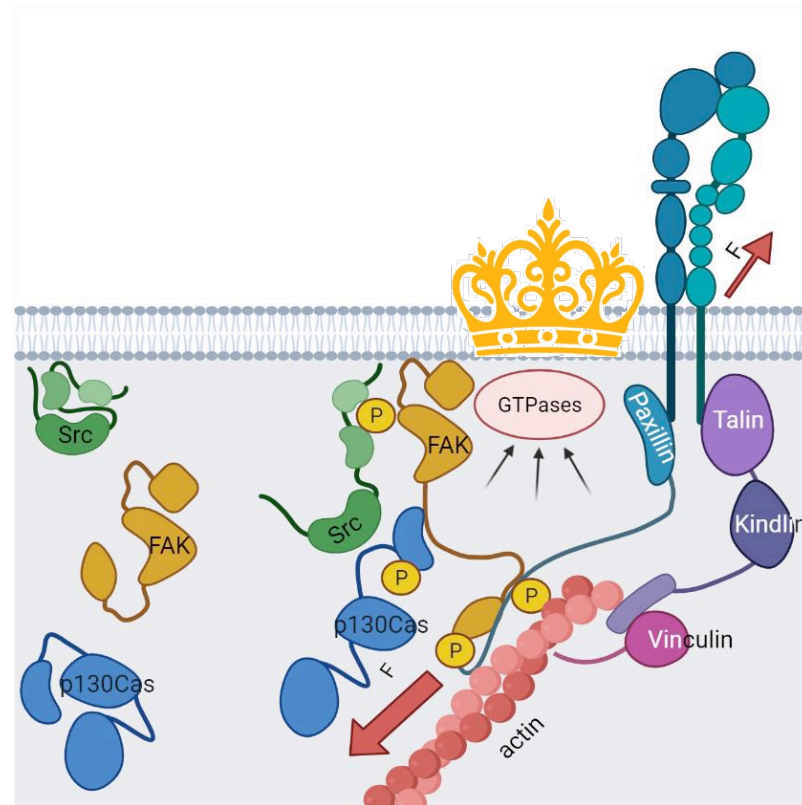
Type III secretion system effector

shares with talin the Vinculin binding sites (VBSs) domain. This domain is responsible for the strengthening of the cytoskeletal association via vinculin recruitment at the adhesion site.

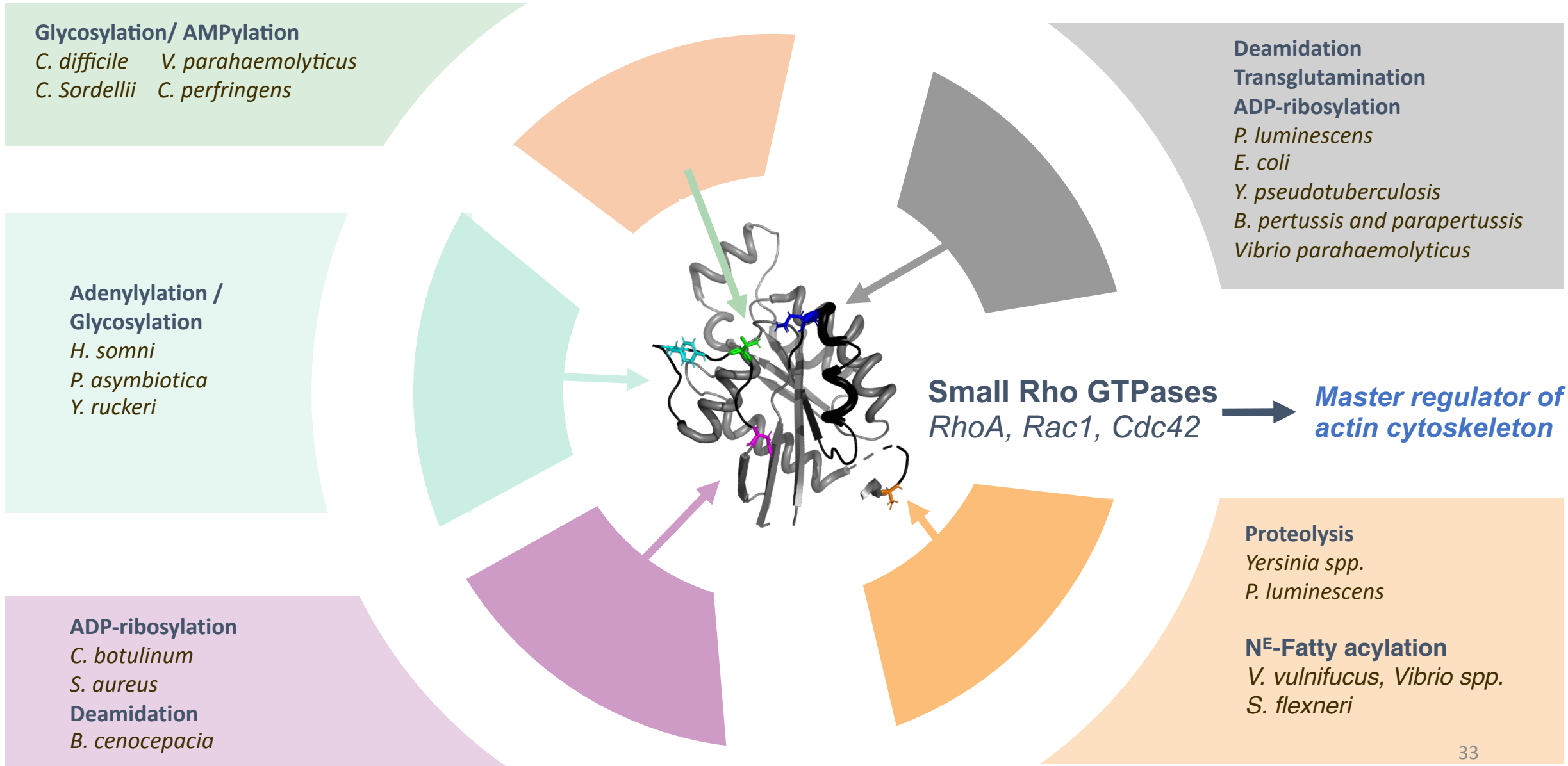
During infection, IpaA induces vinculin supra-activation and oligomerization without any upstream mechanotransduction events (clockwise events in the figure).

As a result, the bacterium is able to **mimic the process of FA maturation** (counterclockwise events in the figure) to **strengthen cell adhesion**. In green: actin fibers.

Hijacking FA downstream key effectors: the RhoGTP-ases



RhoGTPase, a common target of bacterial species

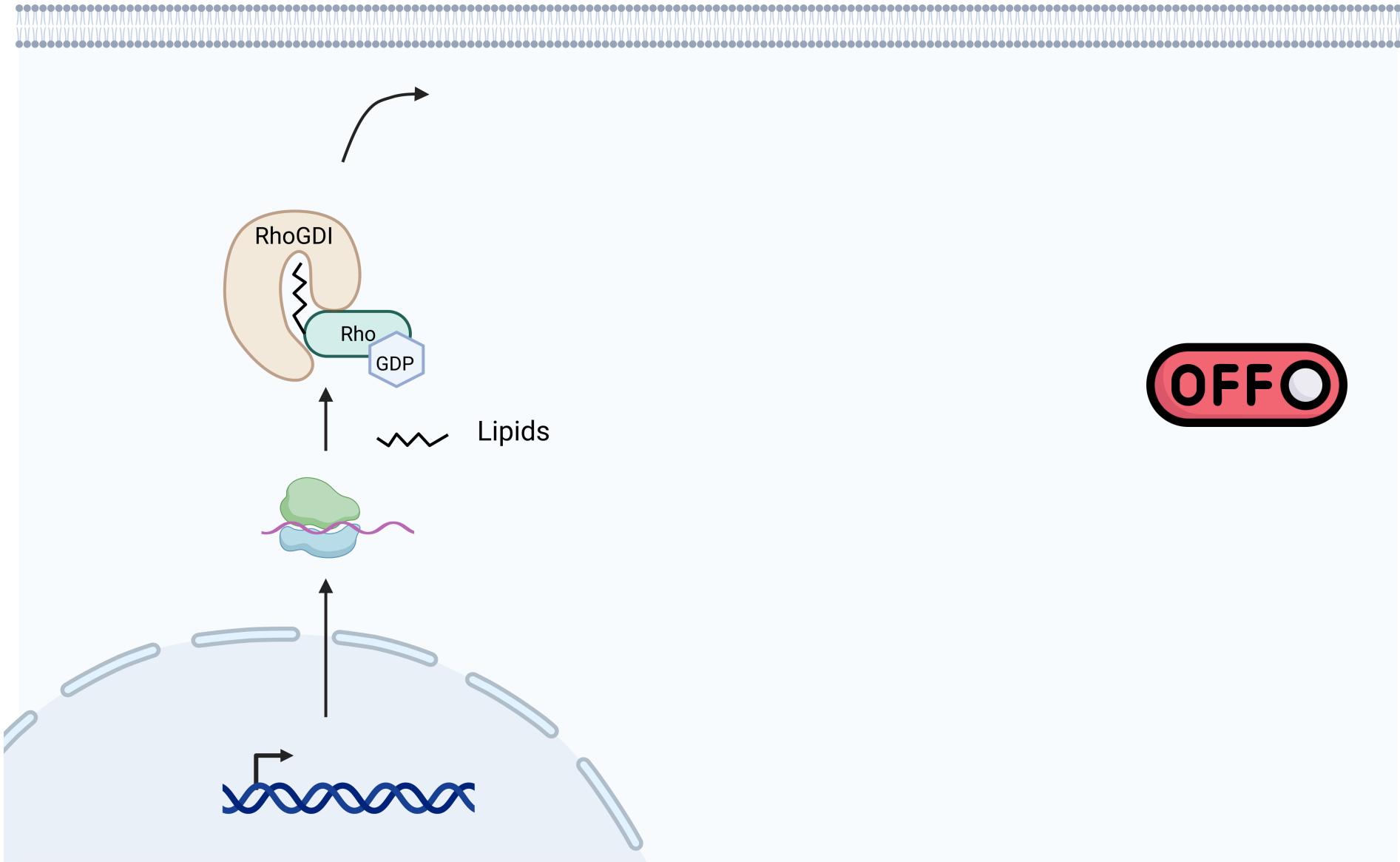


RhoGTPases, important molecular switches for cells

ON

OFF

Spatio-temporal regulation

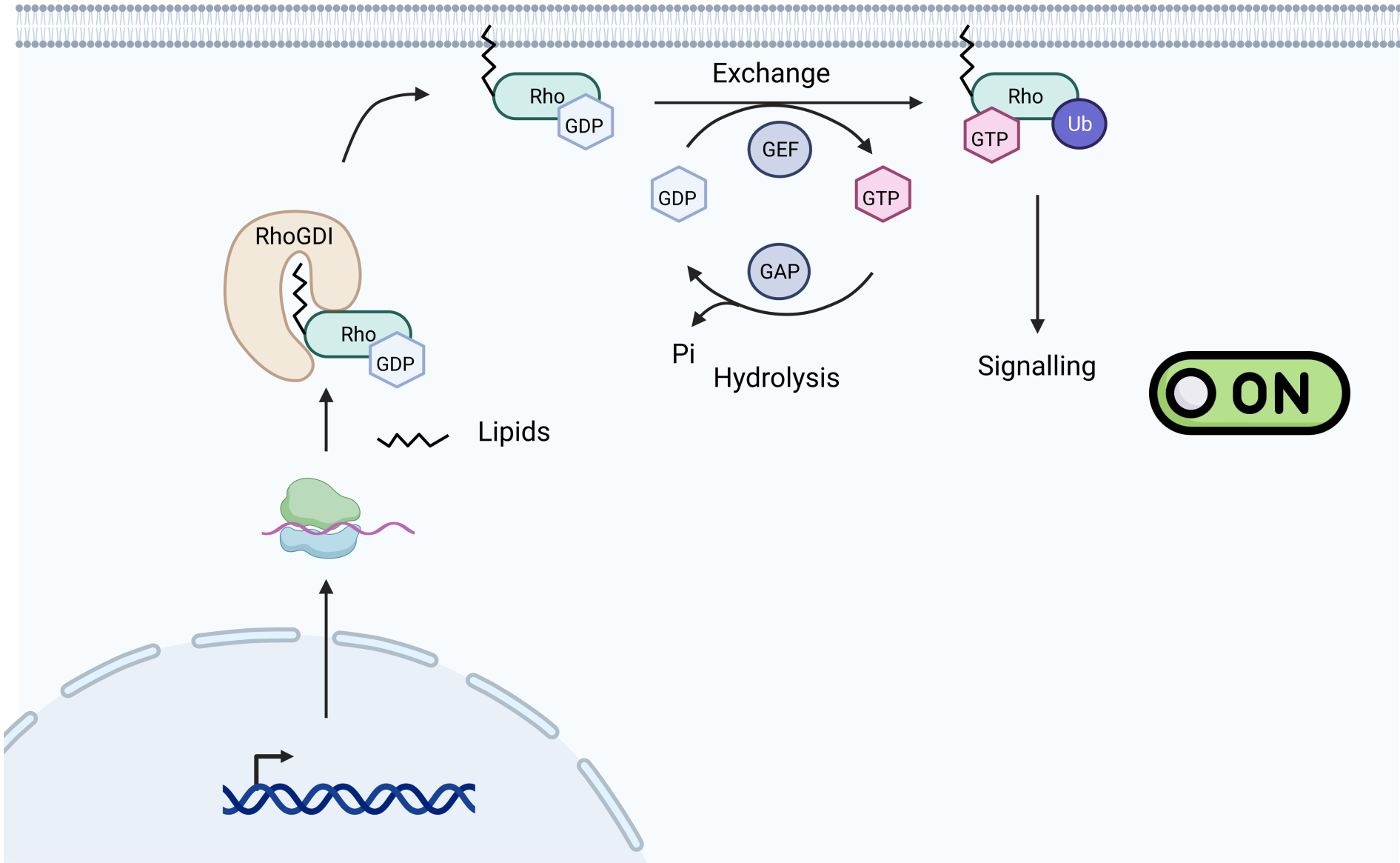


OFF

RhoGTPases, important molecular switches for cells



Spatio-temporal regulation

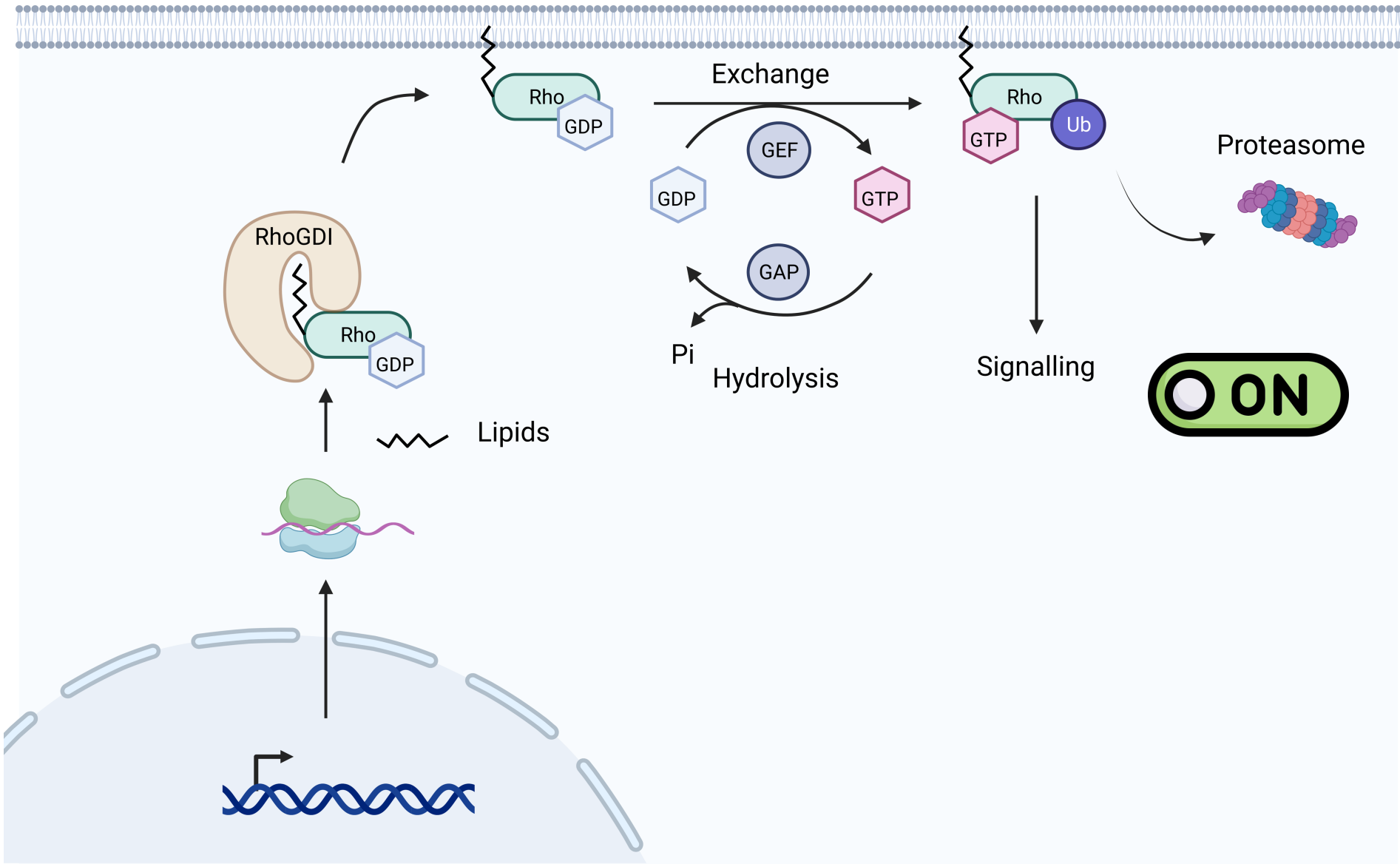


Adapted from Hodge, Ridley 2016 by Paillares E.

RhoGTPases, important molecular switches for cells

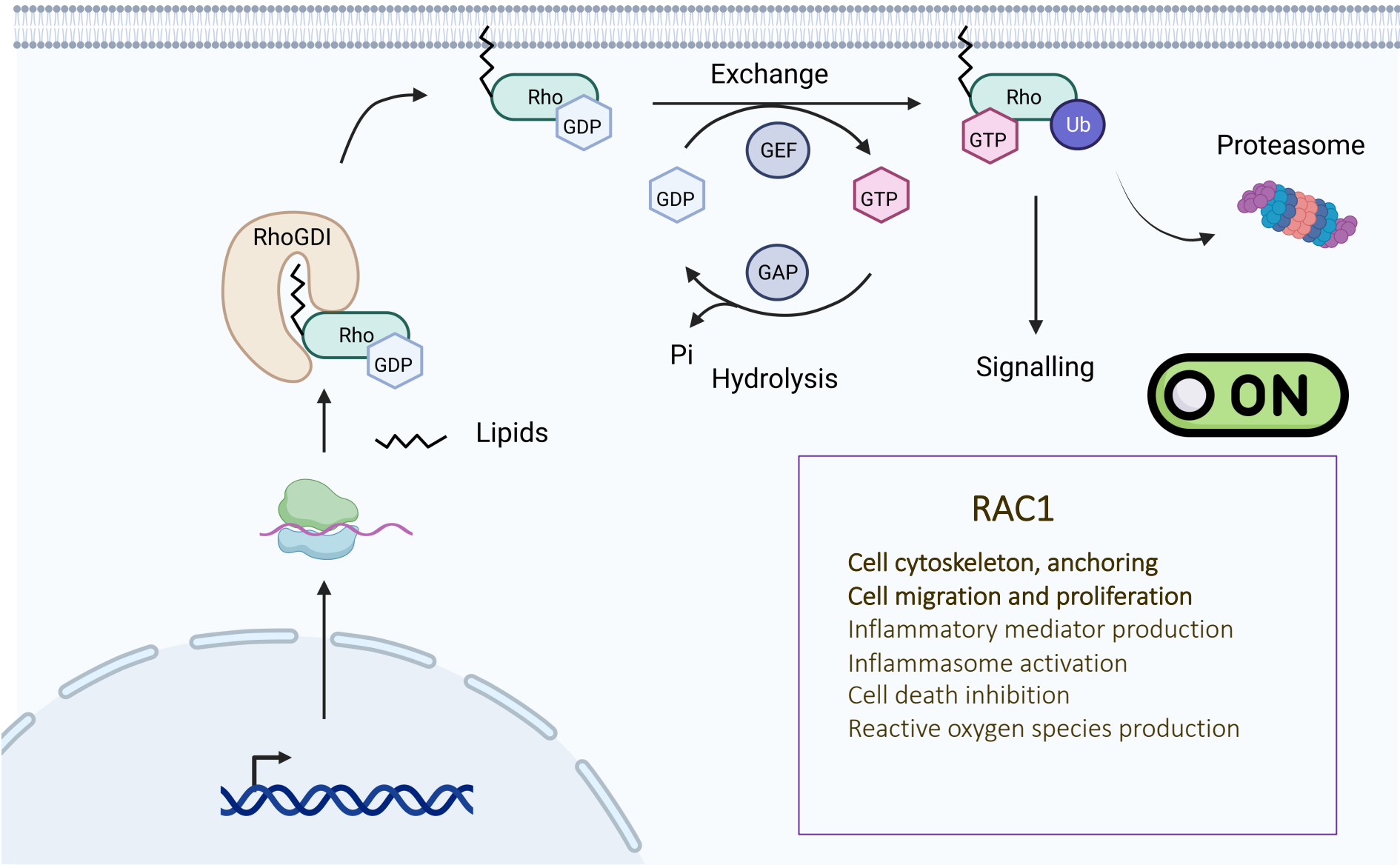


Spatio-temporal regulation



Adapted from Hodge, Ridley 2016 by Paillares E.

RhoGTPases, important molecular switches for cells

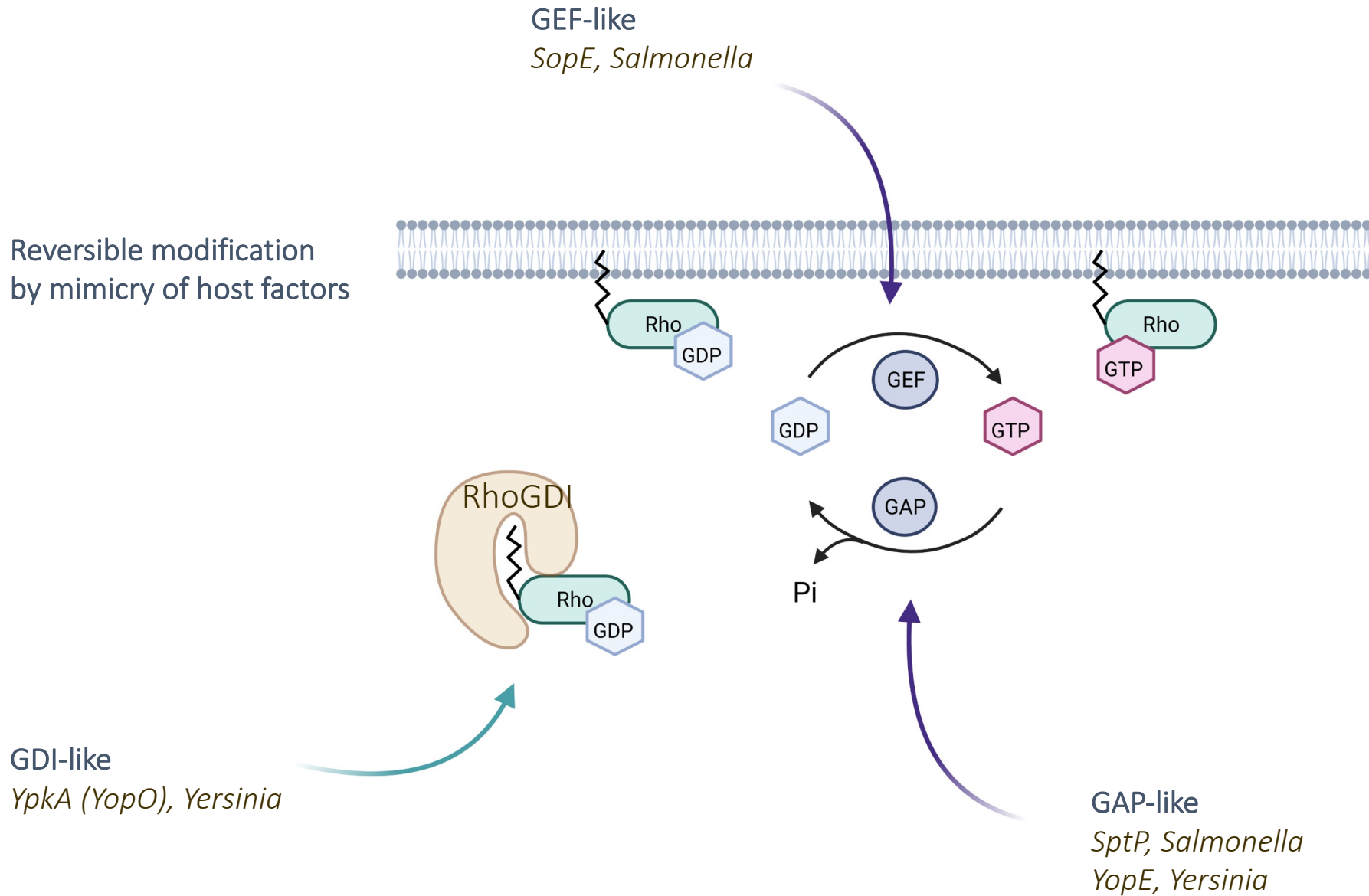


Spatio-temporal regulation

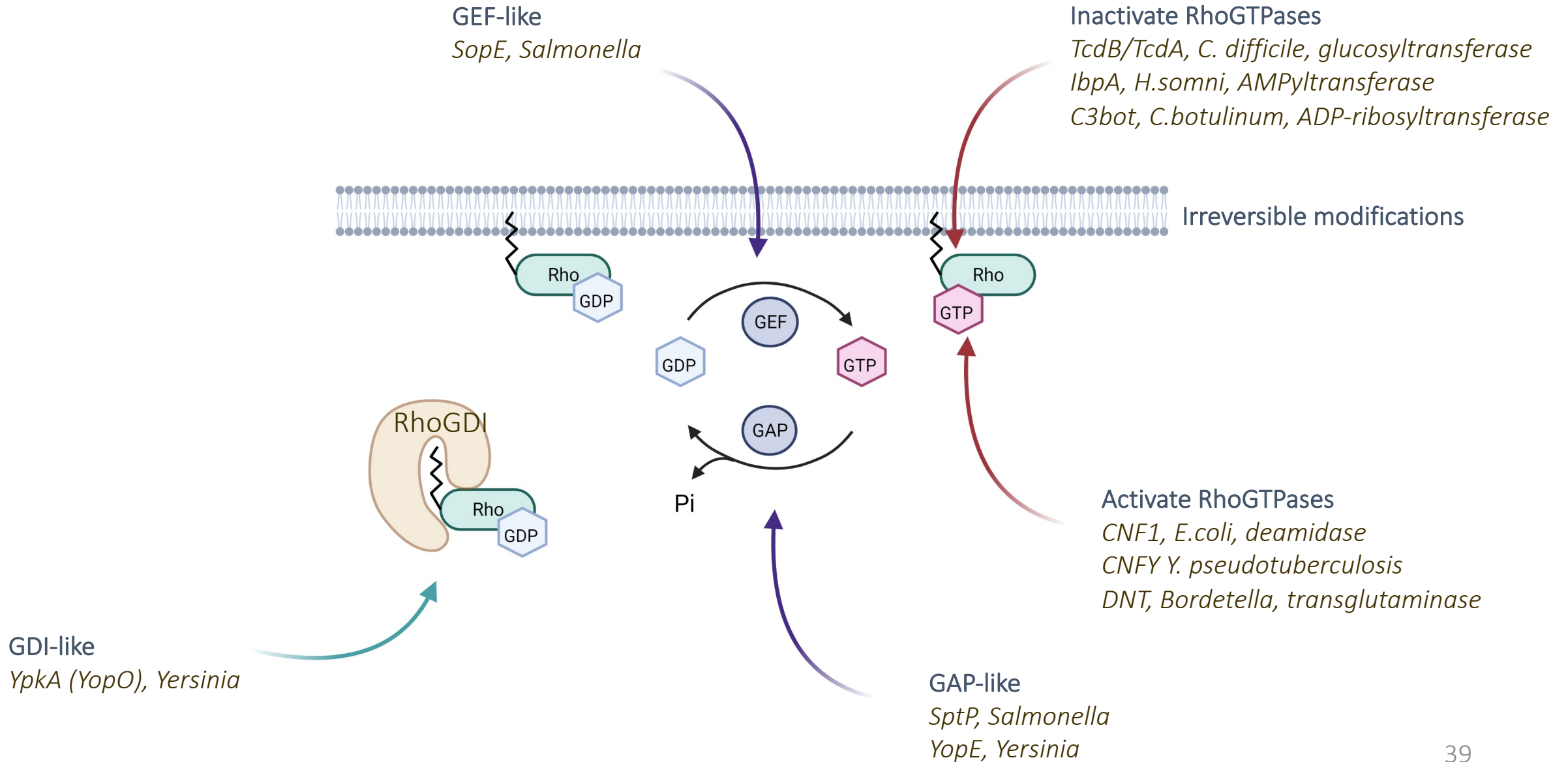
RAC1

- Cell cytoskeleton, anchoring
- Cell migration and proliferation
- Inflammatory mediator production
- Inflammasome activation
- Cell death inhibition
- Reactive oxygen species production

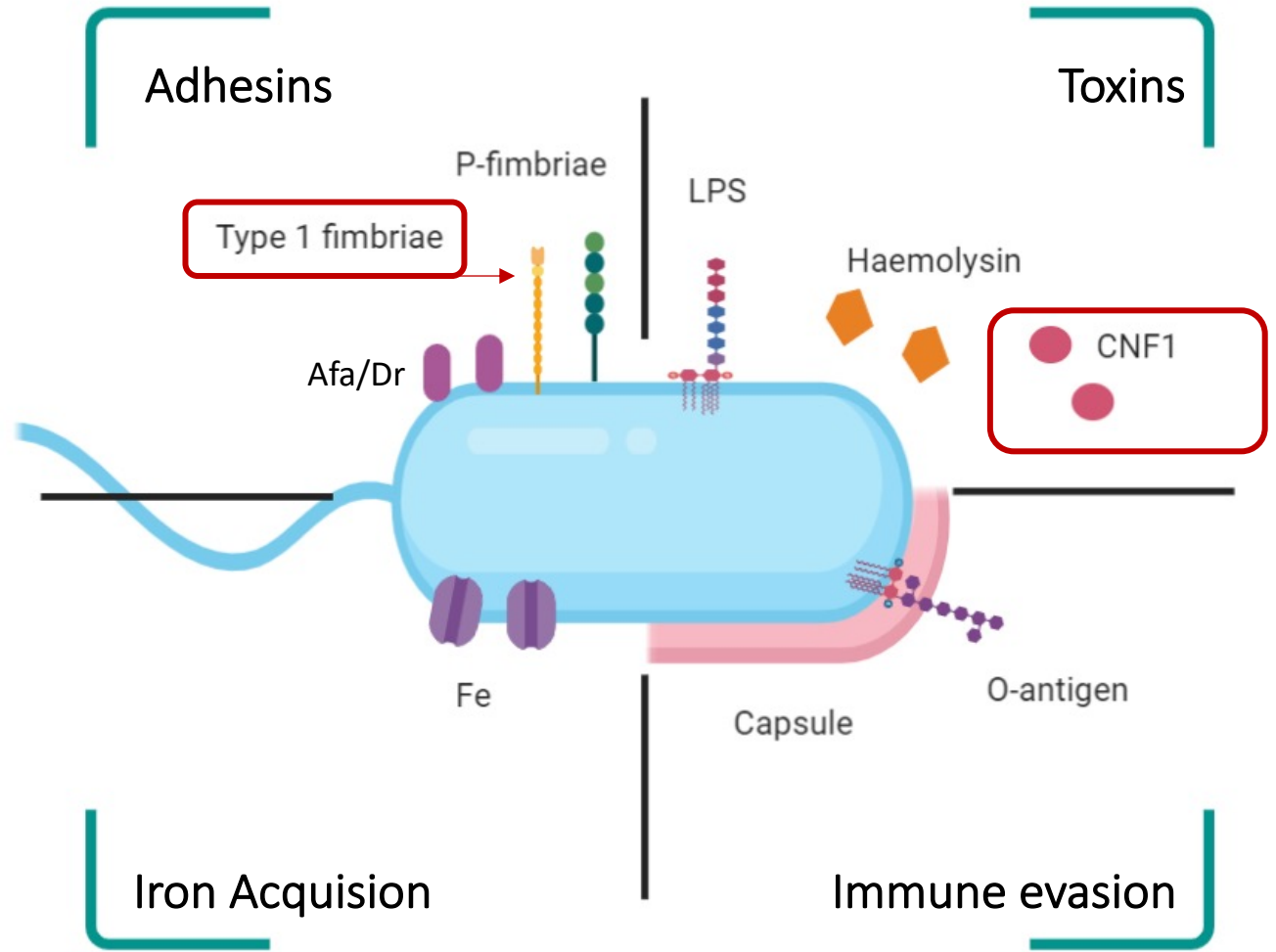
Toxins target actin cytoskeleton regulators : small GTPases



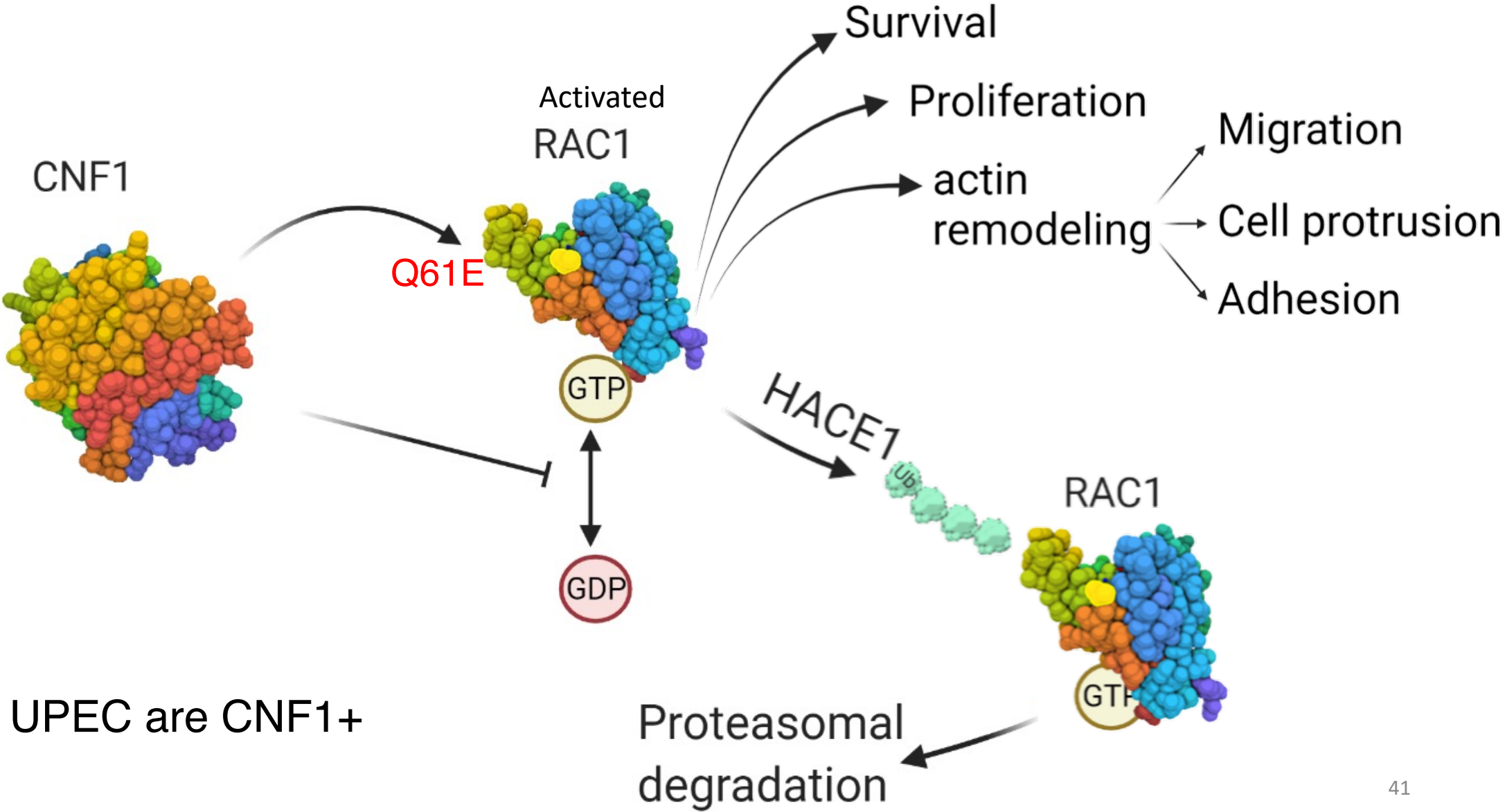
Toxins target actin cytoskeleton regulators : small GTPases



UPEC virulence factors



CNF1 toxin



30% of UPEC are CNF1+

