

## **FOCAL POINT**

# **BIOCHEMISTRY OF STEM CELLS**

**Fakultät für Chemie und Biochemie**

**Fakultät für Biologie und Biotechnologie**

**Fakultät für Medizin**

**Ruhr-Universität Bochum**

## Focal Point: Biochemistry of Stem Cells

Stem cell research is central to our understanding how human life develops as well as leads us to the discovery of novel drugs using stem-cell based disease models and cellular therapies in regenerative medicine.

Cellular reprogramming of somatic cells to induced, pluripotent stem (iPS) cells as well as direct cell transdifferentiations using combinations of transcription factors are the latest developments in these directions.

We predict that in the near future a strong demand of educated biochemists with backgrounds in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine will find their places in basic research, medical research institutions, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry.

This demands in turn an advanced interdisciplinary educational approach starting in the field of chemistry of small molecules, bioinformatics of nucleic acids and protein networks, biochemistry of transcription factors, genetics and epigenetics, systems biology as well as nanotechnology and material sciences combined with molecular developmental and stem cell biology training.

## Focal Point: Biochemistry of Stem Cells

### Members

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<u>PD. Dr. Holm Zähres</u>	holm.zaehres@rub.de	( Speaker / Chair )

## Focal Point: Biochemistry of Stem Cells

### Lectures / Seminars

#### Wintersemester

203010	Stem Cell Physiology I	Brand-Saberi
203021	Pathology of Degenerative Diseases	Lecture series
203011	Stem Cell Lecture Series I	Lecture series
203020	Advances in Stem Cell Research	Lectures series

#### Sommersemester

203000	Stem Cell Physiology II	Faissner, Wiese
203002	Molecular Genetic Methods	Zähres
203100	Molecular Tracing	Theiss, Bühler
203003	Tissue Engineering	Lecture series
203001	Stem Cell Lecture Series II	Lecture series

## Focal Point: Biochemistry of Stem Cells : Practicals

Adamietz / Bühler: Tumor stem cells

Brand-Saberi / Balakrishnan-Renuka: Myogenic stem cell biology

Brand-Saberi: In situ hybridization

Heumann / Neumann: Protein purification and transduction

Heumann / Pape: Adult hippocampal neurogenesis in transgenic mice

Jakobsen: Regenerative medicine in plastic surgery

Köller / Sengstock: Mesenchymal stem cells for regenerative medicine

Napirei: Isolation and culturing of embryonic stem cells

Petrasch-Parwez: Immunohistochemistry of neural stem cells in the SVZ

Wiese: Culture and differentiation of neural precursor cells

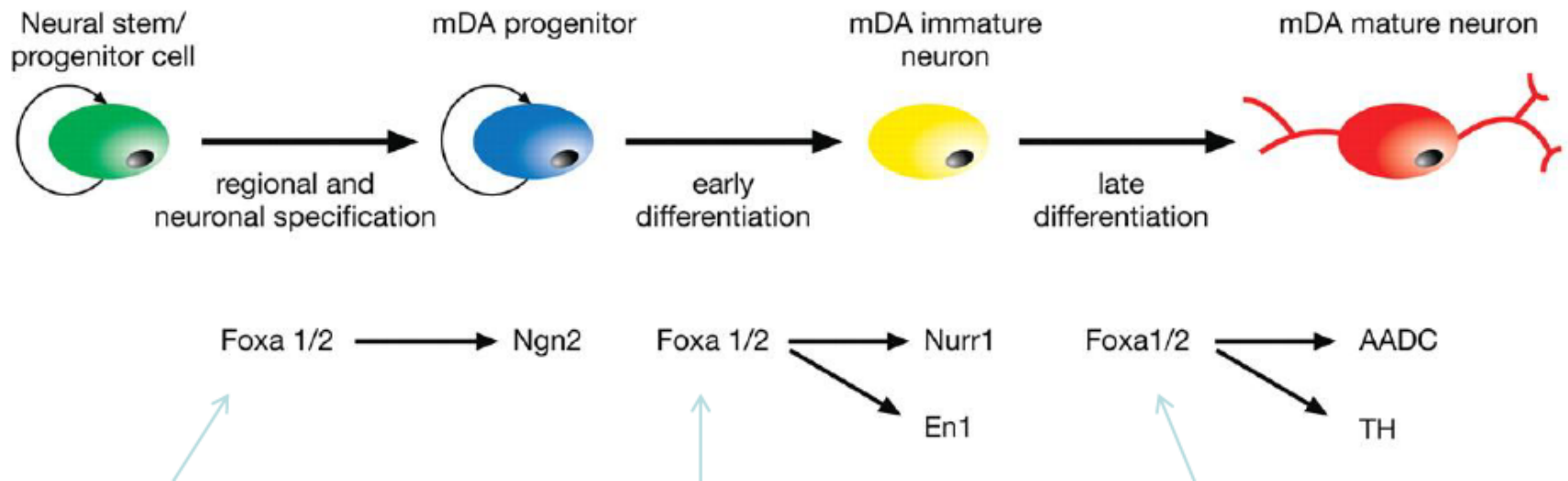
Zähres: Molecular cloning

Zähres: Genome editing

Zähres: Reprogramming to induced, pluripotent stem (iPS) cells

# Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry

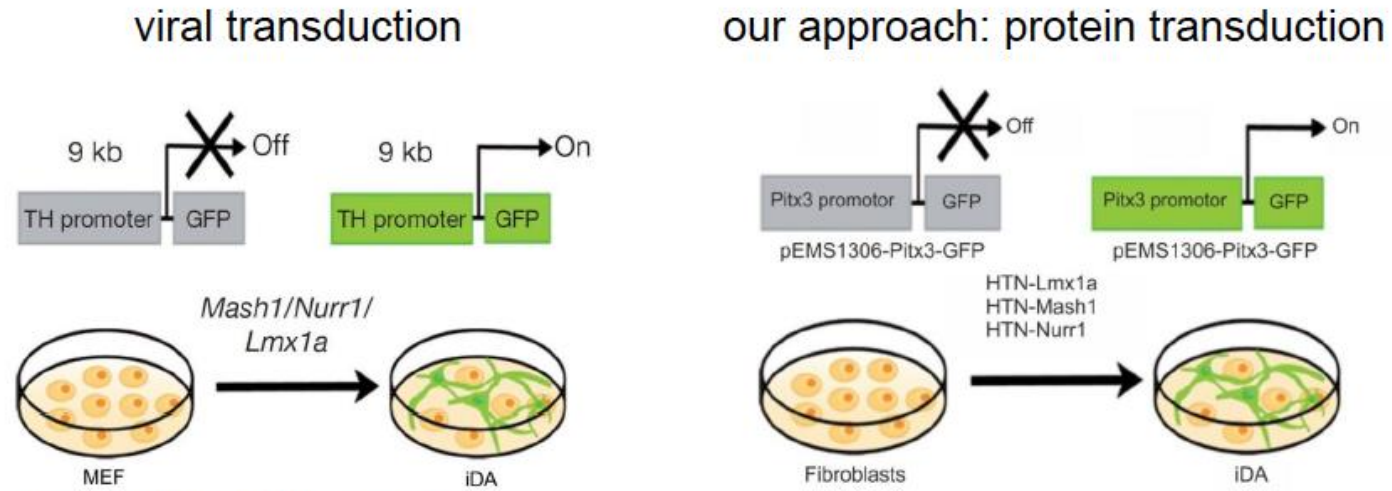
Prof. Dr. Rolf Heumann



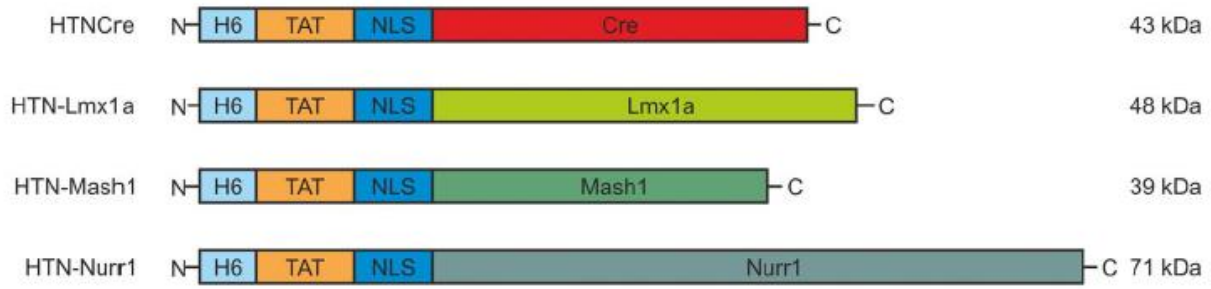
# Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Prof. Dr. Rolf Heumann / Dr. Sebastian Neumann

## Reprogramming of stem cells to induced dopaminergic neurons (iDA) by protein transduction

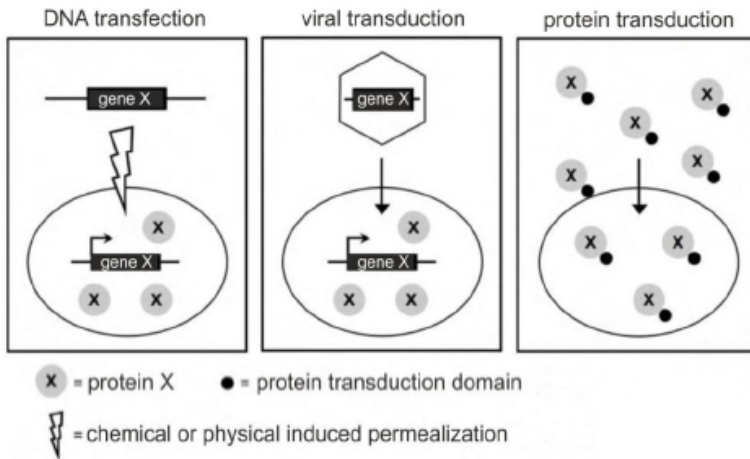


adopted from Caiazzo *et al.*, Nature 476, 224–227, 2011



# Faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry

## Prof. Dr. Rolf Heumann / Dr. Sebastian Neumann



Name	Sequence / Structure
TAT	YGRKKRRQRRR
Antp (Penetratin)	RQIKIWFQNRRMKWKK
Transportan	GWTLNSAGYLLGKINKALAALAKKIL
K-FGF	AAVLLPVLLAAP
Oligoarginine	R <sub>n</sub> (n = 4-12)

Edenhofer, *Curr Pharm Des.* 14, 3628-3636, 2008

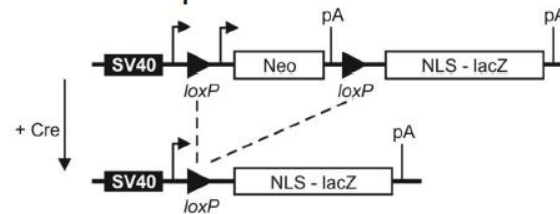
adopted from Peitz 2007

Cell permeable Cre recombinase:

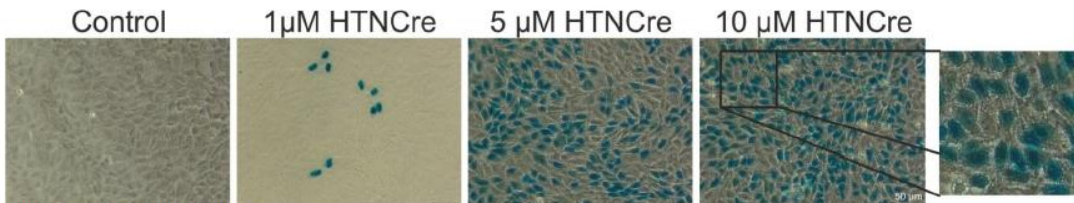


adopted from Peitz *et al.*, *PNAS* 99(7), 4489-4494, 2002

Cre reporter cell line: CV1-5B



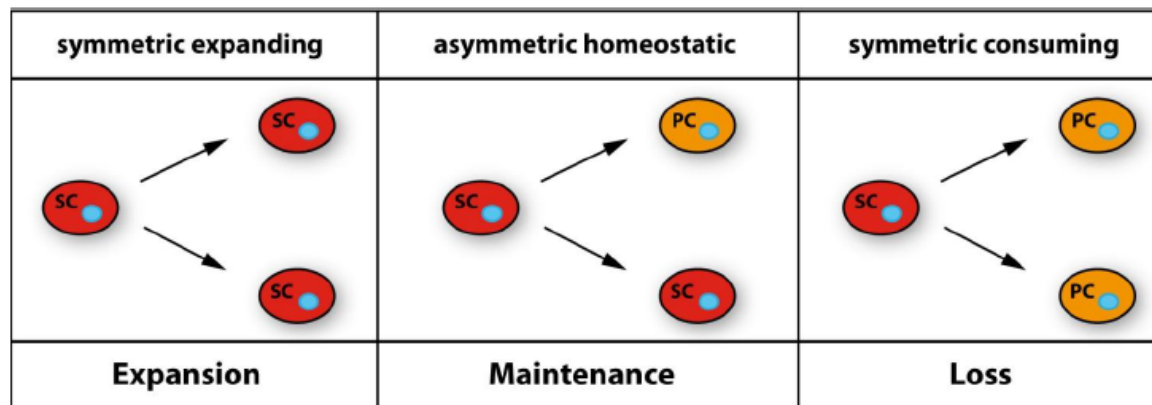
adopted from Kellendonk *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Research* 24(8), 1404-1411, 1996





## NEURAL STEM CELLS, GLIAL PROGENITORS AND THEIR NICHES

MODES OF STEM CELL DIVISION



When do neural stem cells divide ?

What controls the cell fate of the daughter cells ?

How is neurogenesis regulated as opposed to gliogenesis ?

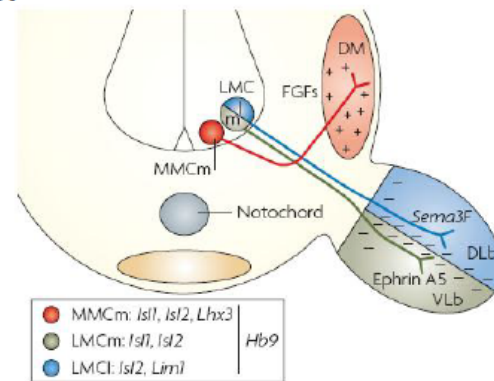
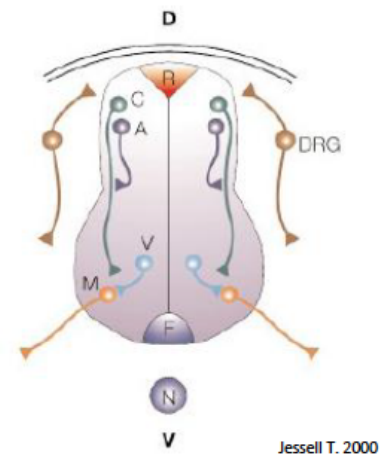
What is the role of the immediate environment – the neural stem cell niche -

In these cellular processes ?

How do neural stem cells integrate environmental information ?

### The Extracellular matrix influences differentiation and neurite growth of embryonic motoneurons

- cells migrate laterally from the ventricular zone and turn along the dorso-ventral axis
- commissural (C) and association (A) neurons differentiate in the dorsal part
- dorsal root ganglion (DRG) neurons differentiate from neural crest progenitors
- motor neurons (M) and ventral interneurons (V) develop in the ventral half
- Motor axons emigrate from spinal cord to innervate their muscle target
- On their way to their targets they traverse a dense jungle of many different cells, expressing a variety of different molecular guidance cues

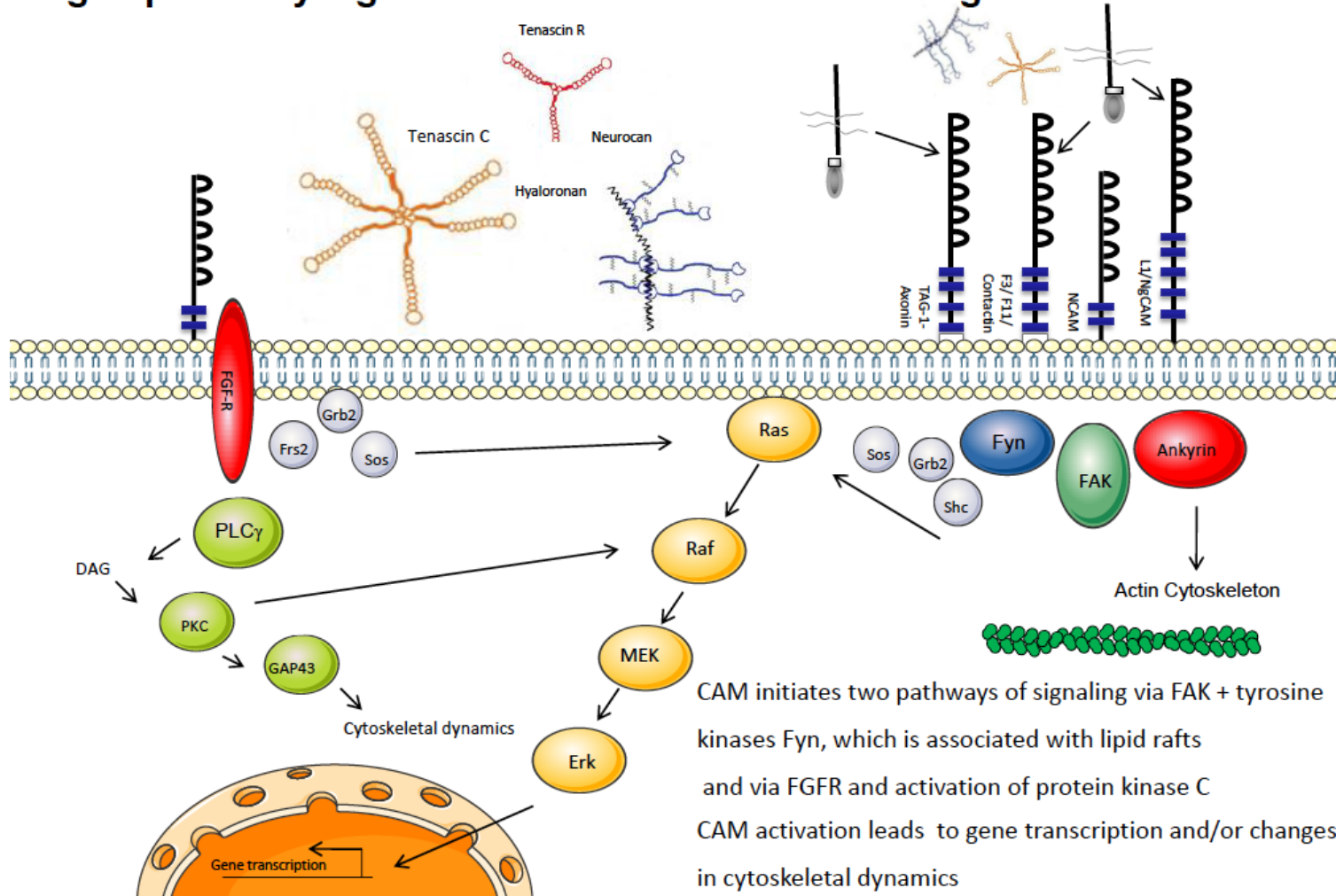


(Polleux F. 2007)

#### Questions:

- What are the ECM guidance cues that help motoneurons to differentiate from stem cells?
- What are the intracellular signaling events?

Ig superfamily signal transduction mediated through ECM molecules



CAM initiates two pathways of signaling via FAK + tyrosine kinases Fyn, which is associated with lipid rafts and via FGFR and activation of protein kinase C. CAM activation leads to gene transcription and/or changes in cytoskeletal dynamics.

## Mesenchymal stem cells for regenerative medicine

Harvest and cultivation of mesenchymal stem cells

Differentiation of MSC

Interaction of MSC with biomaterials

Autologous plasma clot carrier matrices  
for bone fracture healing and  
neuroregeneration

Interaction of MSC with nanoparticles



## Mesenchymal stem cells for regenerative medicine

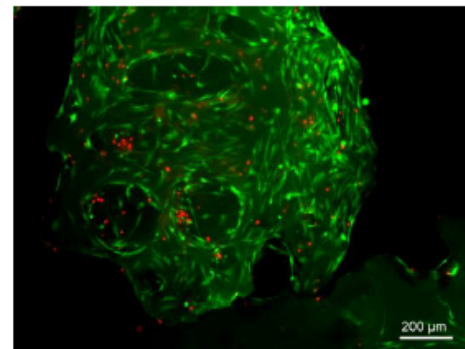
Clinical success of stem cell research is related to clinically important answers

How to make stem cells morph into the cell type needed  
(is that really needed ??)

How to ensure the survival of stem cells ?

How to home stem cells to sites  
of injury ?

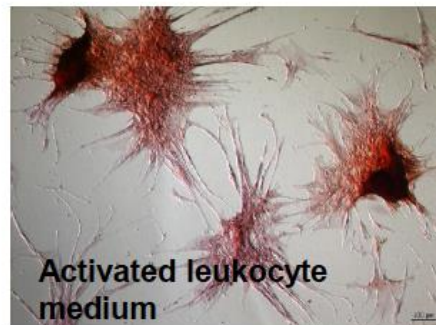
What is the optimal application  
method under clinical conditions ?



MSC cultured on a porous calcium phosphate particle for fracture healing (calcein-AM / PI- stain)

## Mesenchymal stem cells for regenerative medicine

**Example:** Osteogenic differentiation of MSC induced by supernatants of activated leukocytes  
(Alizarin red staining)

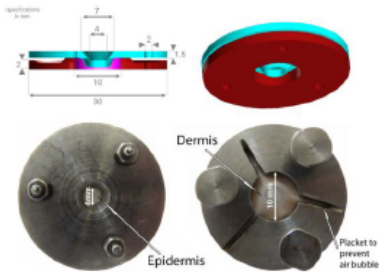


*In vivo* Models:

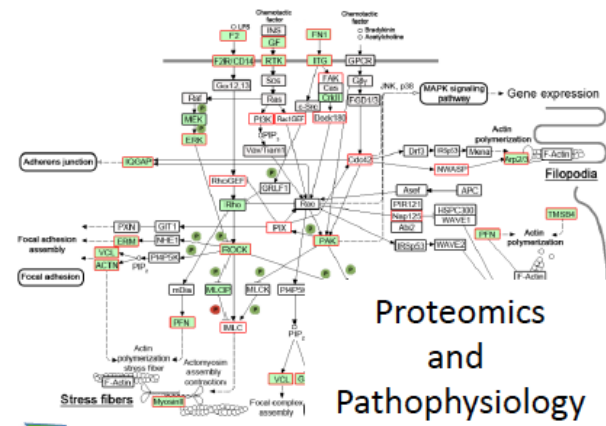
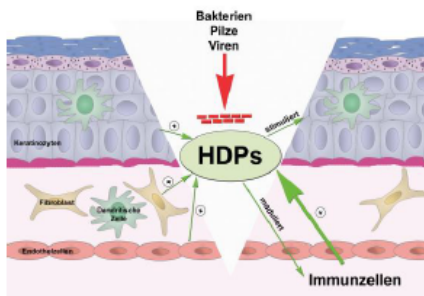
- Rat
- Mouse
- Pig



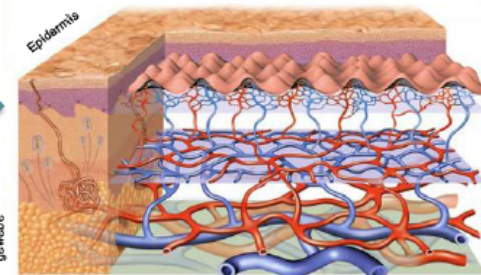
Human full skin model



Host Defense Peptides

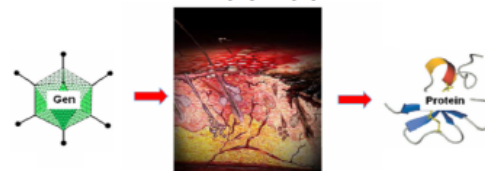


Proteomics and Pathophysiology



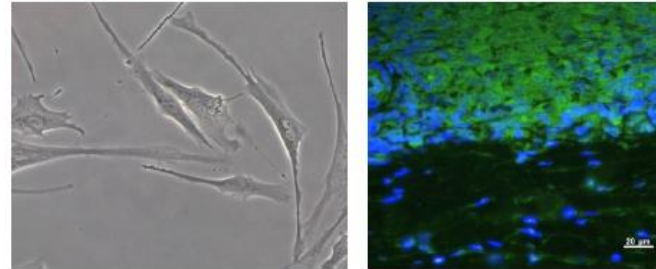
Cell seeded scaffolds  
Artificial skin

Gene therapy approach



*In vivo* Models:

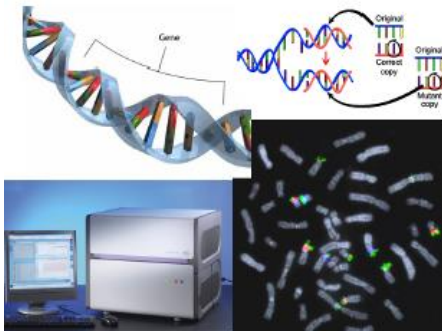
- athymic mice
- syngenic (BFS-1) mice



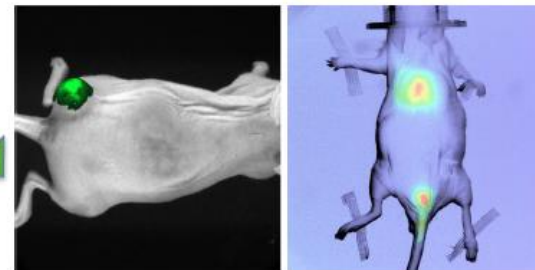
*In vitro* and *ex vivo* tissue analysis



Oncolytic peptides as an alternative for sarcoma treatment



Gene expression profiles,  
Mutation analysis, chromosome profiling



Primary sarcoma

Metastasis

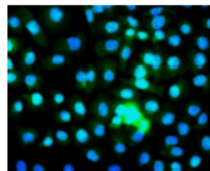


**Ionophores as selective inhibitors of tumor stem cells and first approaches to clarify the underlying mechanisms.**

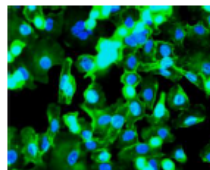
Na<sup>+</sup>K<sup>+</sup>ATPase activity might be the crucial factor.

Dr. H. Bühler, Institut für Molekulare Onkologie, Strahlenbiologie und Experimentelle Strahlentherapie (IMOSSES), Klinikum Marienhospital

The stem cell hypothesis in cancer:  
**„Tumors and recurrences originate from tumor stem cells“**  
We need specific therapeutic agents!



CD24  
negative



CD44  
positive

breast cancer  
stem-like cells



a= wild type; b= epithelial)

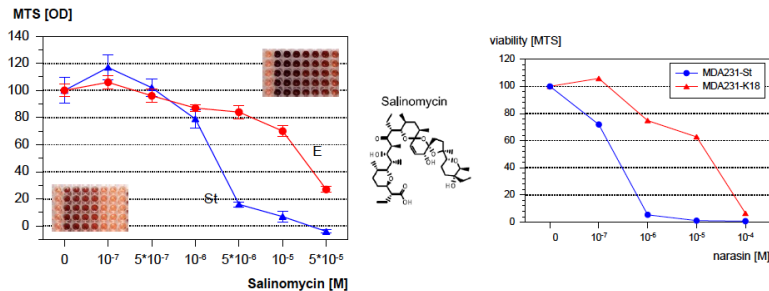
Test system for selective inhibitors:

two subclones from a breast cancer cell line:

- isolated stem cells
- epithelial clone via the transfection of keratin 18



The viability of cancer stem cells is strongly reduced by salinomycin or narasin, whereas the epithelial clone is only marginally affected.

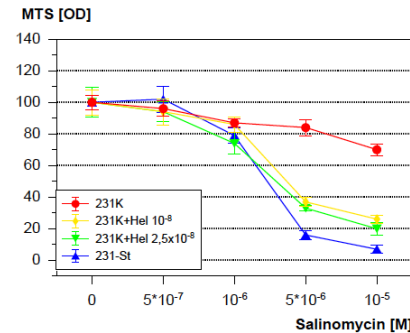


- both are **ionophors** for monovalent cations, e.g. Na<sup>+</sup> und K<sup>+</sup>
- intracellular K<sup>+</sup> ist essential for the cell
- a Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-gradient has to be maintained against the interstitial fluid
- the main player is the enzyme **Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase**

**Hypothesis:**

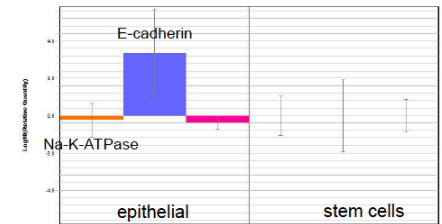
Tumor stem cells are more sensitive to salinomycin, due to a less active Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase compared to somatic cells.

Adding hellebrin to the epithelial cells brings both graphs in line.

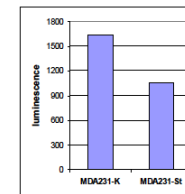


Hellebrin is a potent inhibitor of the Na<sup>+</sup>-K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase

But qRT-PCR of Na<sup>+</sup>K<sup>+</sup>ATPase expression revealed no significant difference between stem cells and the epithelial clone.

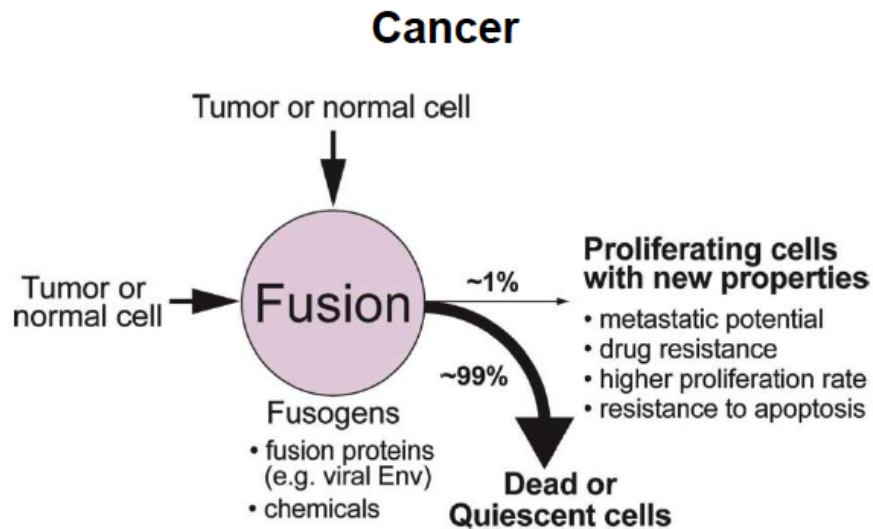


However, a significantly lower concentration of ATP was observed in the stem cells.



The Na<sup>+</sup>K<sup>+</sup>ATPase membrane transport is very energy consuming:  
3 ATP are needed for every pair of cations.



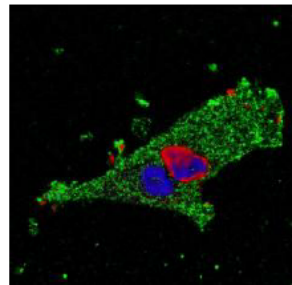
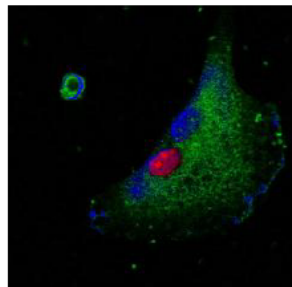


Duelli & Lazebnik *Cancer Cell* 2003; **3**:445-448

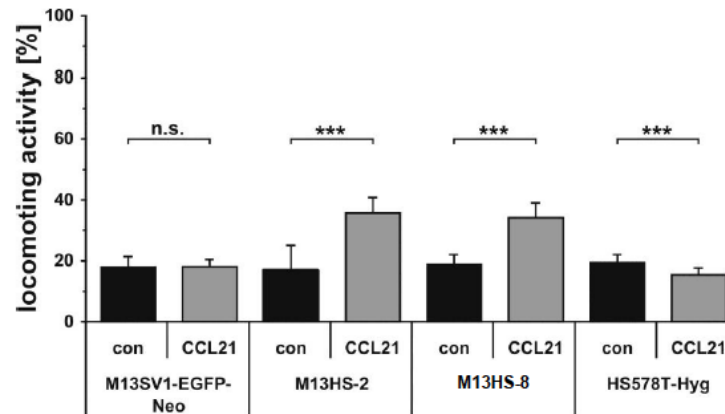
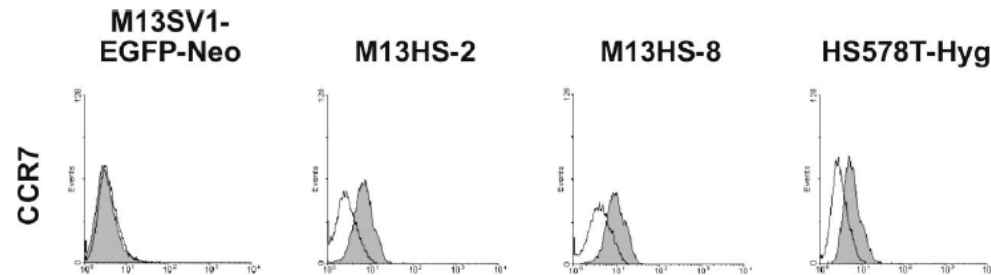
Fusion of tumor cells with normal cells, e.g., adult stem cells, can give rise to hybrid cells exhibiting novel properties, such as:

- an enhanced metastatic potential (due to an altered migratory activity)
- an increased drug resistance
- a higher proliferation rate
- an increased resistance to apoptosis

**Breast stem/ breast cancer hybrids are sensitive to the lymph node metastasis directing chemokine CCL21**

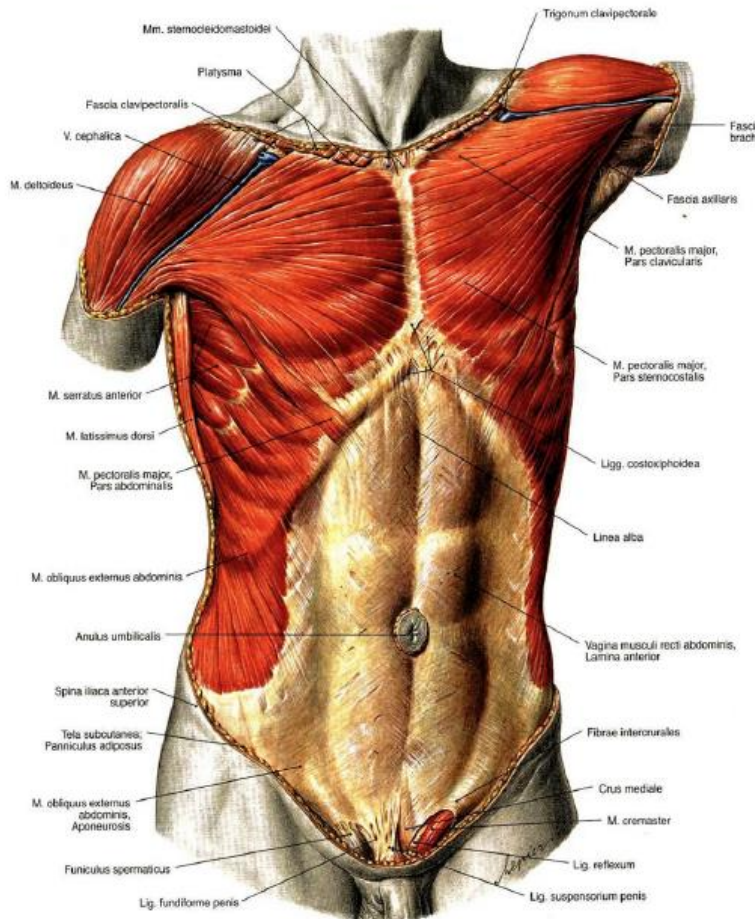


Green: EGFP (breast epithelial cell)  
 Red: BrdU (tumor cell)  
 Blue: Syto60 (nuclear stain)



# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

Prof. Dr. Beate Brand - Saberi



How do complex tissues form from a few cells?

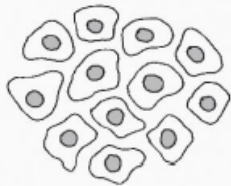


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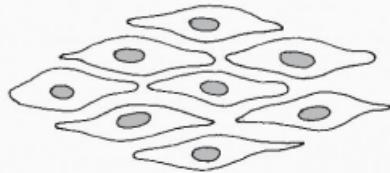
Prof. Dr. Beate Brand - Saberi

## SKELETAL MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT

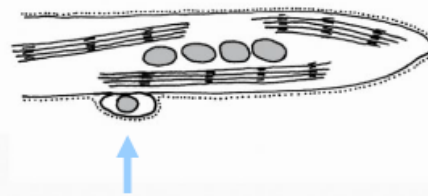
**Mesodermal  
stem cells**



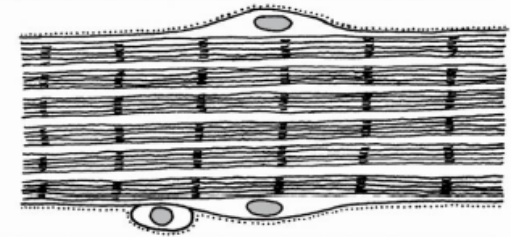
**Myoblasts**



**Myotubes,  
Satellite cells**



**Muscle fibers**



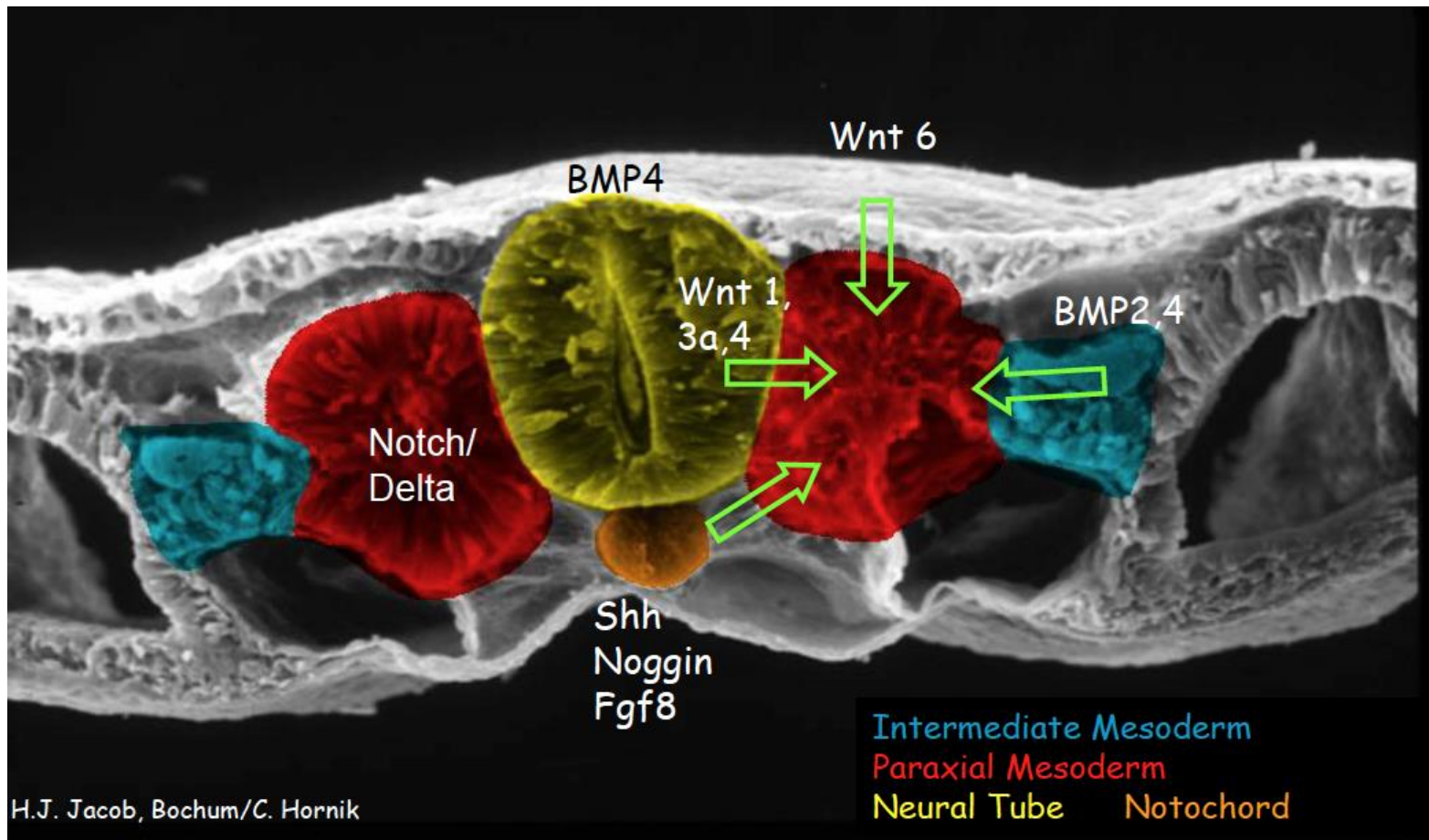
**Pax3  
Pax7  
Myf5  
CXCR4**

**Myf5  
MyoD  
Mef2**

**Mrf4  
Myogenin  
Pax7 (in satellite cells)  
Muscle-specific proteins**

**Myosin heavy chain  
Desmin**

## SKELETAL MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT



# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

Prof. Dr. Beate Brand - Saberi

## SKELETAL MUSCLE DEVELOPMENT

CXCR4/SDF-1 axis is involved in the migration of muscle precursor cells into the limb bud

### SDF-1:

- Stromal-cell derived factor 1
- Alpha-chemokine

### CXCR4:

- G protein-coupled receptor
- SDF-1 is its sole ligand

### *CXCR4* and *Gab1* cooperate to control the development of migrating muscle progenitor cells

Elena Vasyutina,<sup>1</sup> Jürg Stebler,<sup>2</sup> Beate Brand-Saberi,<sup>3</sup> Stefan Schulz,<sup>4</sup> Erez Raz,<sup>2</sup> and Carmen Birchmeier<sup>1,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Max-Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine, 13125 Berlin, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, 37077 Göttingen, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Institute of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Freiburg, 79104 Freiburg, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Otto-von-Guericke University, 39120 Magdeburg, Germany.

GENES & DEVELOPMENT 19:2187-2198 © 2005

DEVELOPMENTAL DYNAMICS 239:1622-1631, 2010

RESEARCH ARTICLE

### A Novel Role of CXCR4 and SDF-1 During Migration of Cloacal Muscle Precursors

Rizwan Rehimi,<sup>1,2</sup> Nargis Khalida,<sup>1,2</sup> Faisal Yusuf,<sup>1,3</sup> Gabriela Morosan-Puopolo,<sup>1,2</sup> and Beate Brand-Saberi<sup>1,3\*</sup>

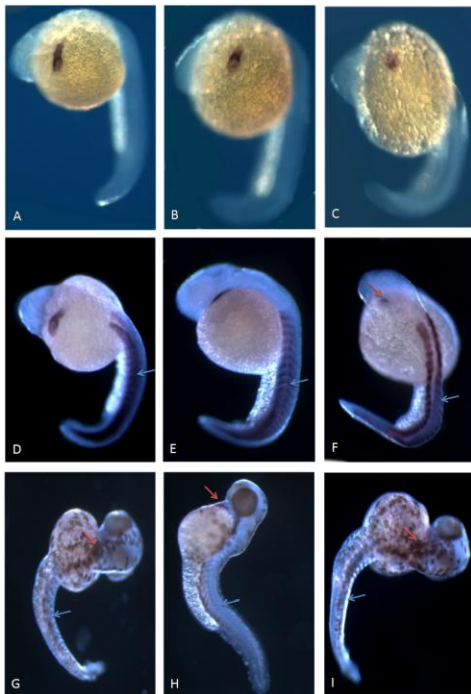
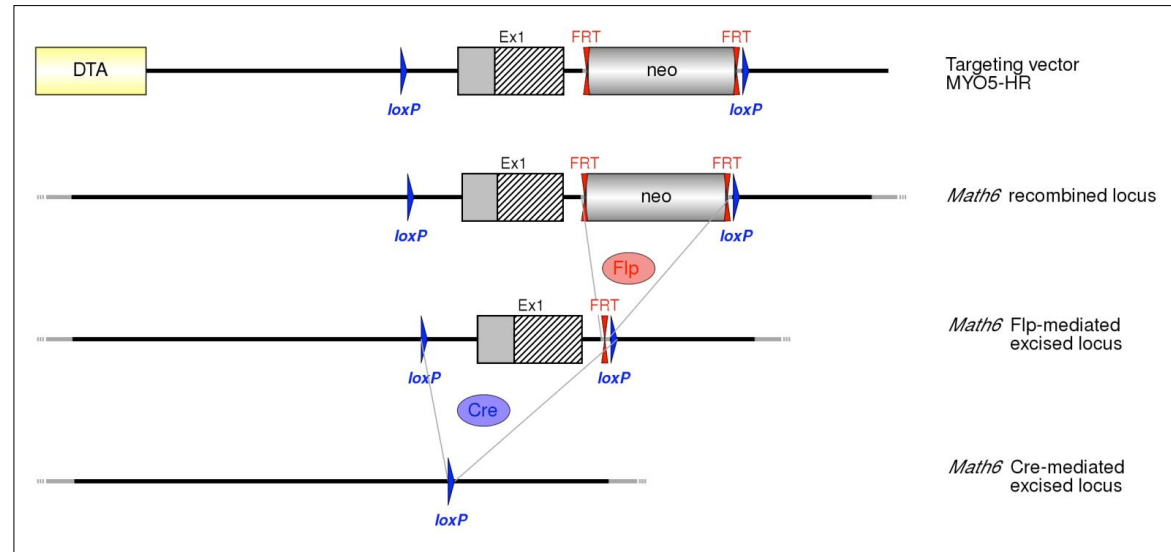
The cloaca acts as a common chamber into which gastrointestinal and urogenital tracts converge in lower vertebrates. The distal end of the cloaca is guarded by a ring of cloacal muscles or sphincters, the equivalent of perineal muscles in mammals. It has recently been shown that the development of the cloacal musculature depends on hindlimb muscle formation. The signaling molecules responsible for the outward migration of hindlimb myogenic precursors are not known. Based on the expression studies for *CXCR4* and *SDF-1*, we hypothesized a role of this signaling pair during cloacal muscle precursor migration. The aim of our study was to investigate the role of SDF-1/CXCR4 during cloacal muscle precursor migration in the chicken embryos. We show that *SDF-1* is expressed in the cloacal region, and by experimentally manipulating the SDF-1/CXCR4 signaling, we can show that SDF-1 guides the migration of CXCR4-expressing cloacal muscle precursors. *Developmental Dynamics* 239:1622-1631, 2010. © 2010 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

**Key words:** chicken embryo; SDF-1; CXCR4; cell migration; cloacal muscle

Accepted 2 March 2010



## TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR ATOH8 IN MYOGENESIS

Scheme of Cre- or Flp-excision at the recombined *Math6* locus

**Morphanten- und  
Mutanten-Analyse  
beim Zebrafisch**  
Bockholt/Brand-Saberi

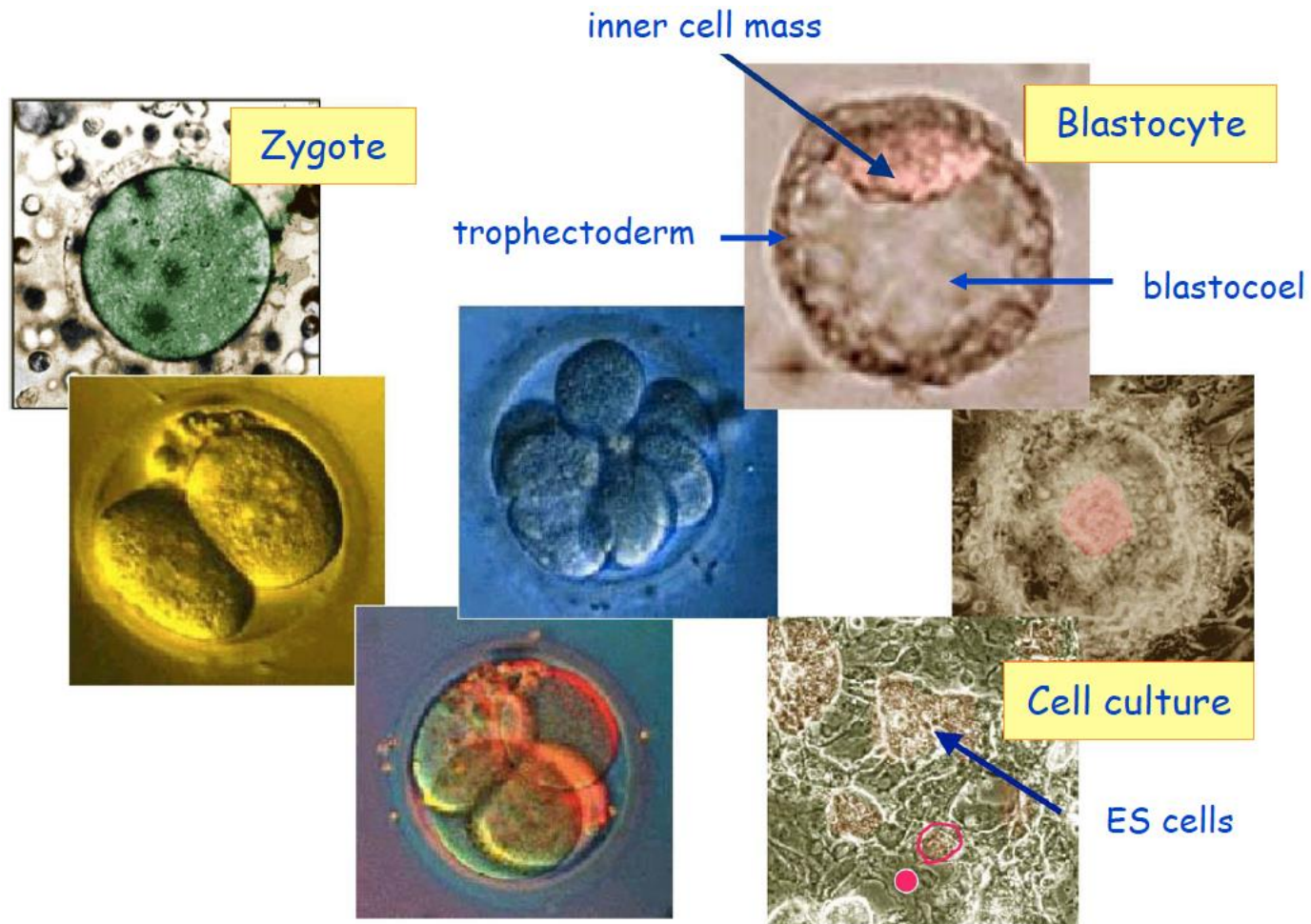
**Generierung einer murinen ATOH8 (MATH6) Mutante**

In Kollaboration mit Firma Genoway unterstützt durch  
MYORES NoE FP6

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Dr. Markus Napirei

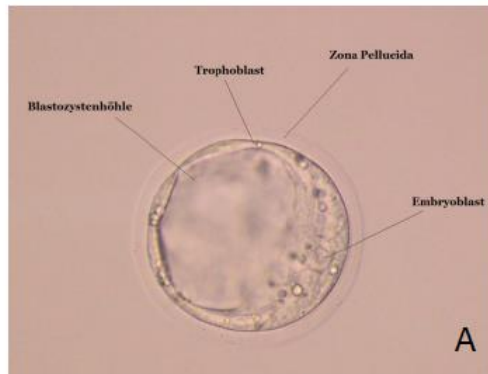
## ISOLATION AND CULTURING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS



# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

Dr. Markus Napirei

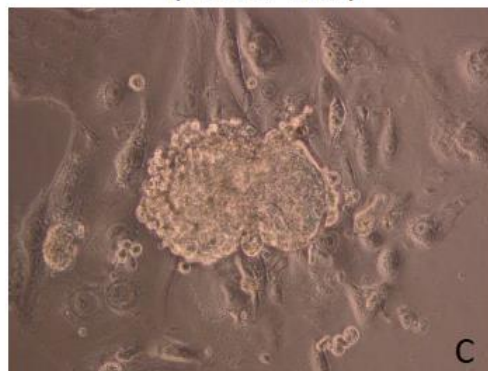
## ISOLATION AND CULTURING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS



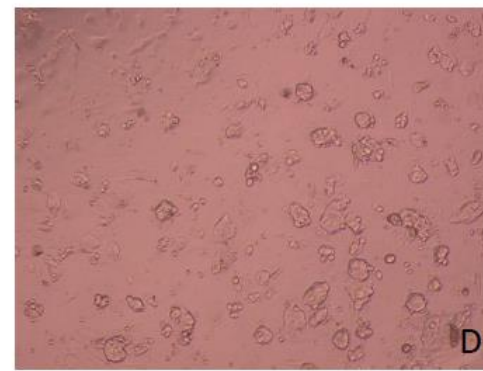
Isolation and cultivation of blastocytes on mitotically arrested murine embryonic fibroblasts (feeder cells)



Hatching of blastocyst from the zona pellucida and subsequent fast upgrowth of the inner cell mass



Inner cell mass ready for trypsin treatment and transfer into the 24 well plate

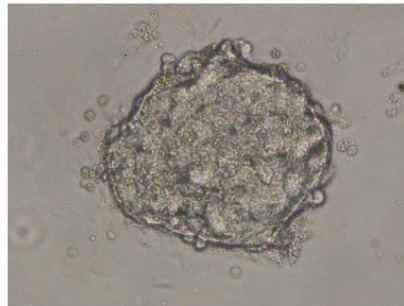
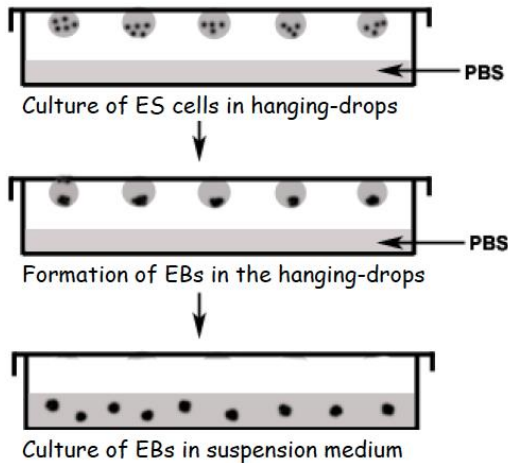


Establishment of ES cell lines by picking out and culturing the colonies separately

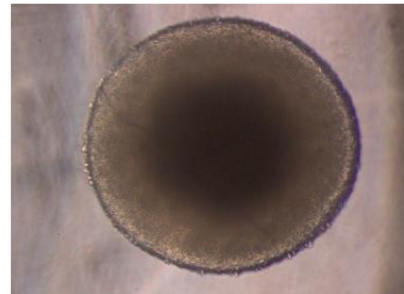
# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

Dr. Markus Napirei

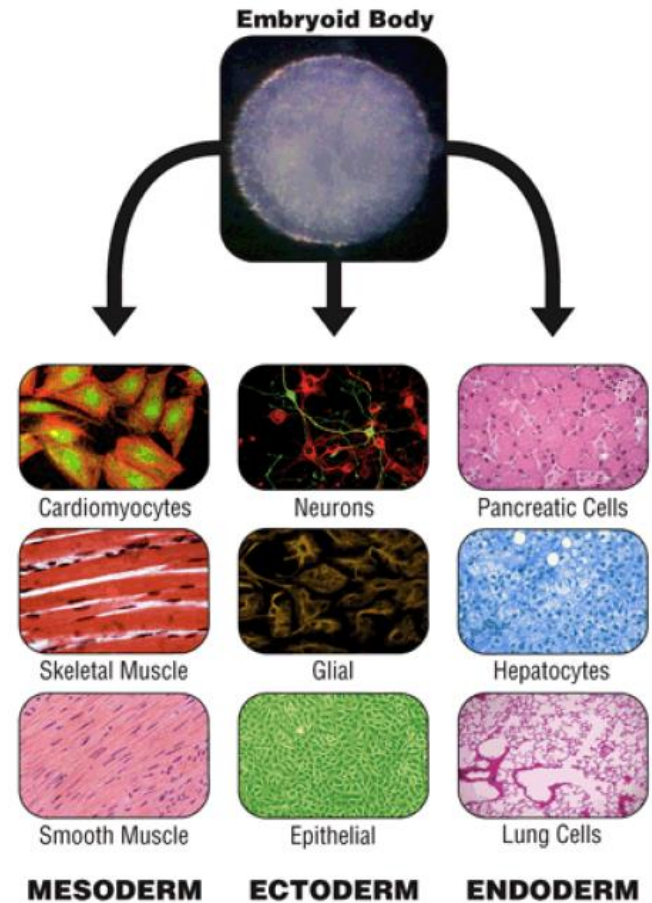
## ISOLATION AND CULTURING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS



2 days old EB formed in the hanging-drop culture



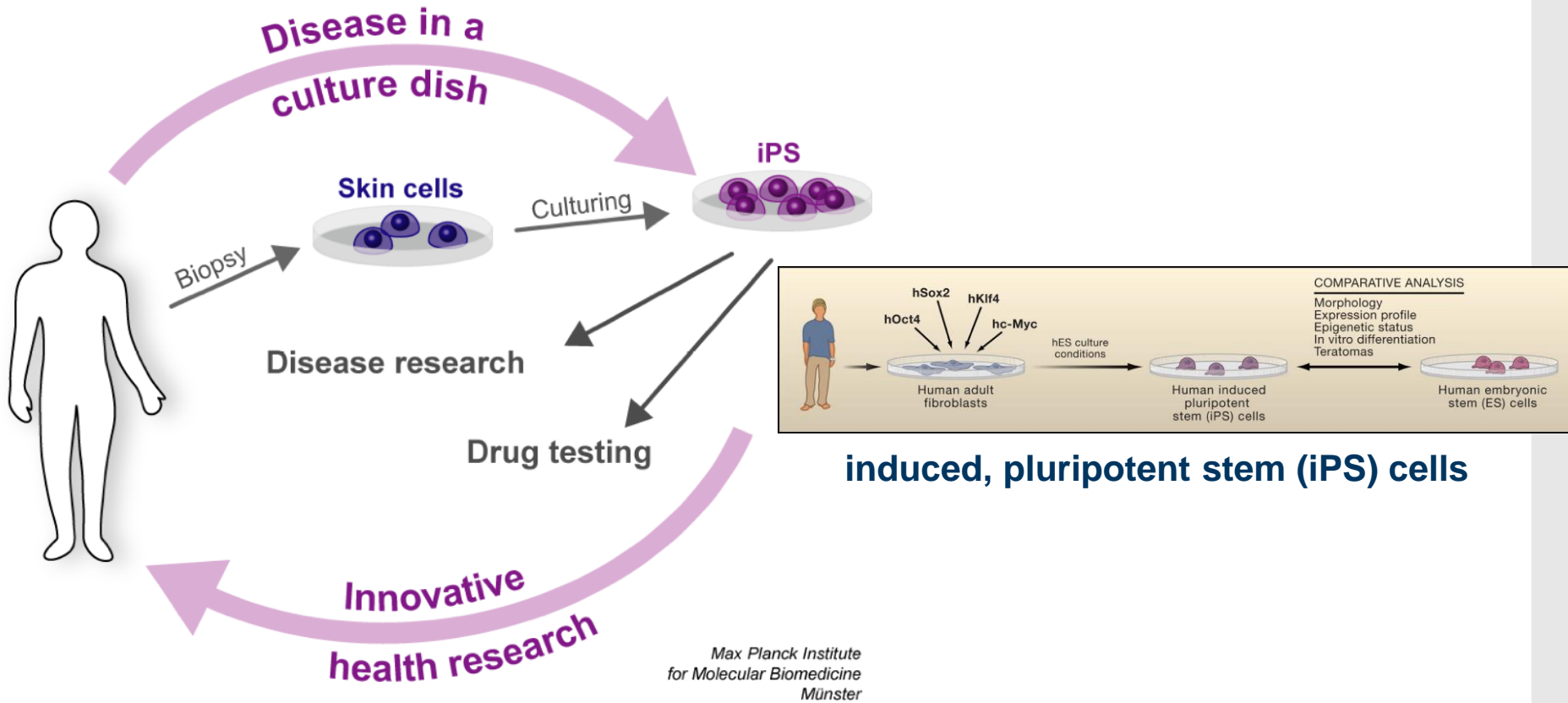
4 days old EB in the static suspension culture



# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

PD Dr. Holm Zähres

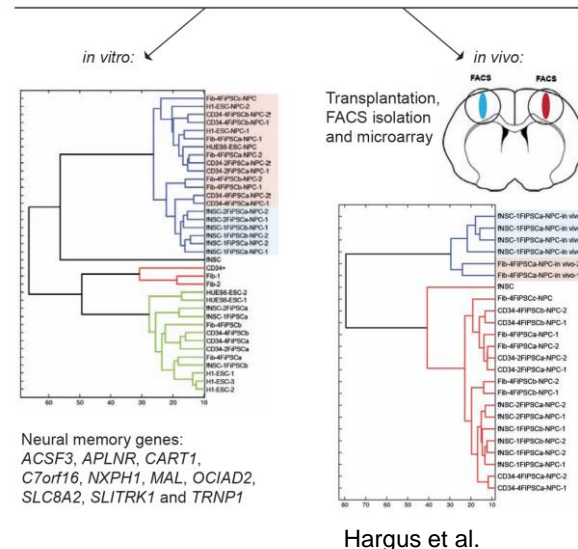
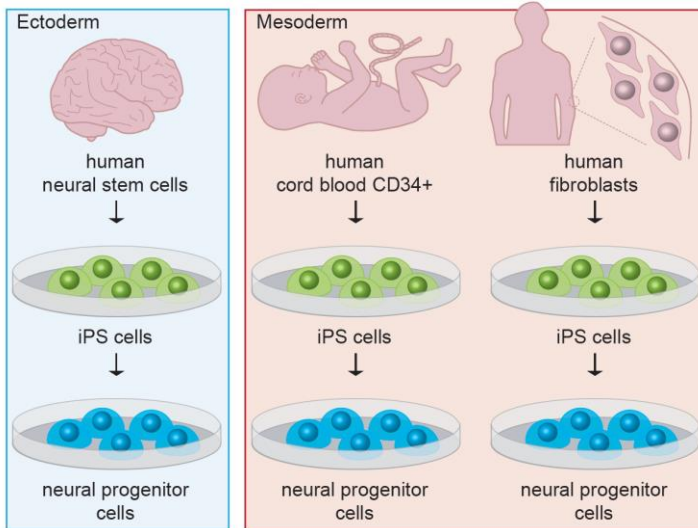
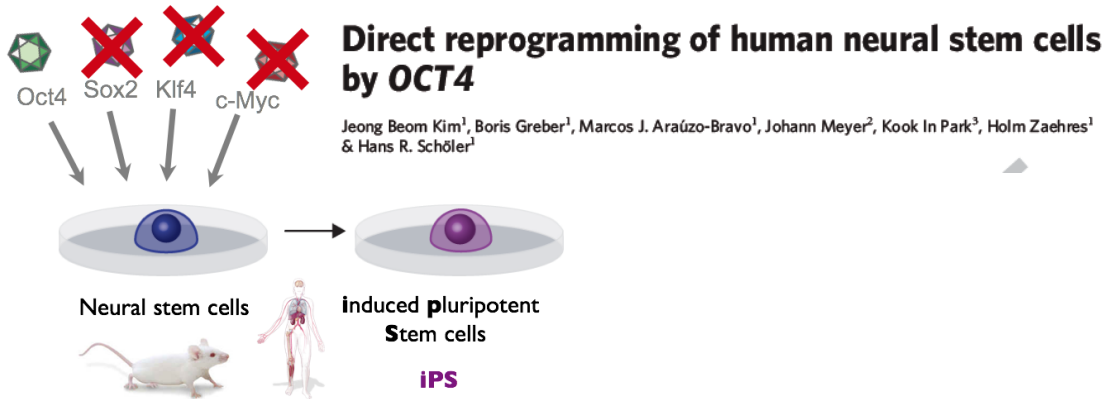
## DISEASE MODELING WITH HUMAN iPSC



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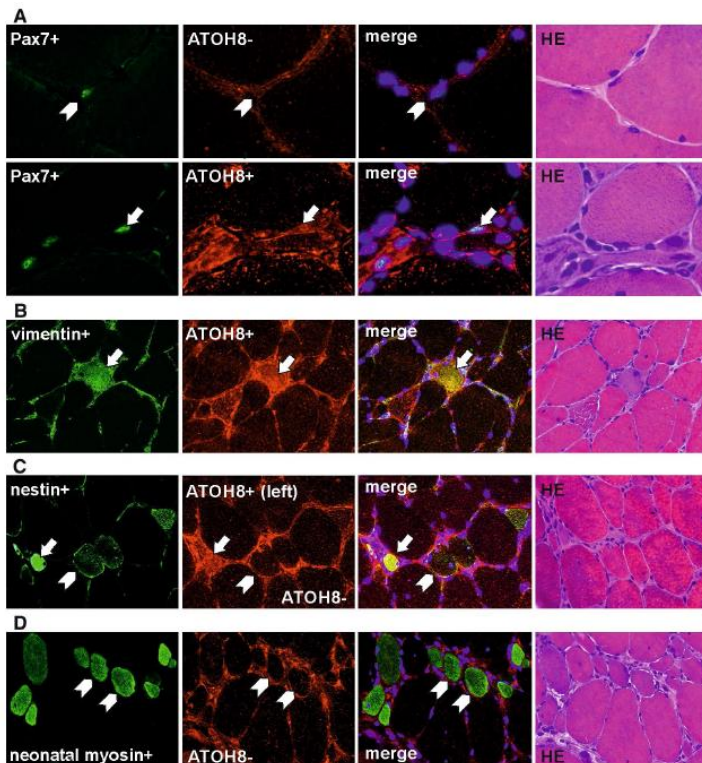
## NEURO DISEASE MODELING WITH HUMAN iPSC



## MUSCLE DISEASE MODELING WITH HUMAN iPSC

Claudia Weise · Fangping Dai · Felicitas Pröls  
 Uwe-Peter Ketelsen · Ulrike Dohrmann  
 Mathias Kirsch · Beate Brand-Saberi

***Myogenin (Myf4)* upregulation in trans-differentiating fibroblasts from a congenital myopathy with arrest of myogenesis and defects of myotube formation**



**ATOH8: a novel marker in human muscle fiber regeneration**

Anne-K. Güttsches · Ajeesh Balakrishnan-Renuka ·  
 Rudolf André Kley · Martin Tegenthoff ·  
 Beate Brand-Saberi · Matthias Vorgerd

**UK RUB** UNIVERSITÄTSKLINIKUM DER  
 RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

**MUSKELZENTRUM RUHRGEBIET**

# Faculty of Medicine, Anatomy and Molecular Embryology

## METHODS

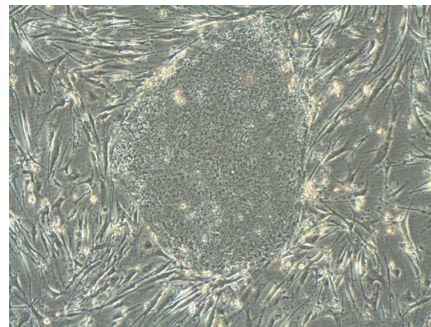
### Klassische Embryologie

Transmissions-  
elektronenmikroskopie  
Rasterelektronen-  
mikroskopie



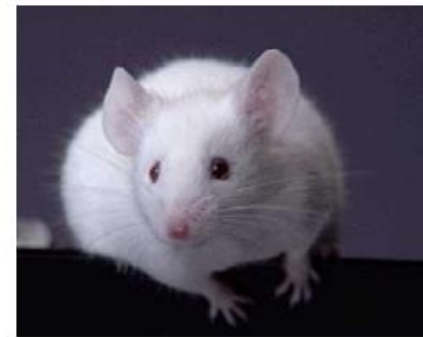
Foto: Esther Stöckli, Zürich

Molekularbiologie  
Konfokalmikroskopie



### Entwicklungsbiologie am Tiermodell

Hühnerembryo  
Zebrafisch  
Maus



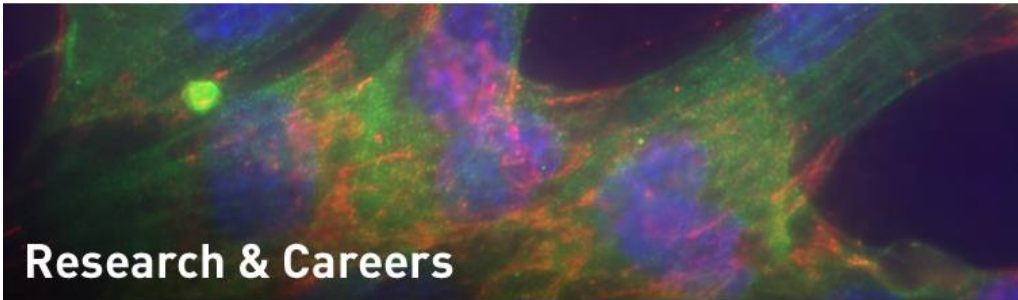
Entwicklungsbiologie  
an humanen, pluripotenten  
Stammzellen



# Stem Cell Network NRW



funded by  
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# German Stem Cell Network



NETWORK FOR BASIC AND APPLIED  
STEM CELL RESEARCH IN GERMANY

THE GSCN GSCN MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL CONFERENCE WORKING GROUPS FOR THE PUBLIC EVENTS RESOURCES



## Upcoming events



→ 4th Annual GSCN Conference  
12 - 14 September 2016  
Hannover, Germany

## GSCN Humhub

GSCN members discuss new

## GSCN NEWS

### 4th Annual GSCN Conference

→ Conference Website



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### For the Public

### A Closer Look at Stem Cells

Learn about stem cell research and its potential to impact human health.

[www.closerlookatstemcells.org](http://www.closerlookatstemcells.org)

### What's New?

#### Nominations for the ISSCR Board of Directors now being accepted

18 August, 2016

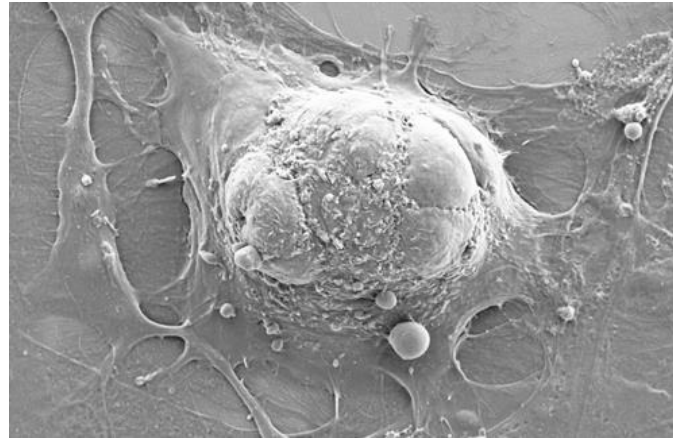
Nominations will be accepted through midnight (CDT) 15 September 2016.

[Read more](#)

#### The ISSCR Congratulates George Q. Daley on Being Named Dean of Harvard Medical School

10 August, 2016

The ISSCR congratulates George Q. Daley, MD PhD, on his selection as the next dean of Harvard Medical School (HMS). Daley is a long-time member of the ISSCR leadership, having served in several capacities, including as president (2007-08) and chair of the inaugural guidelines task force (2005-06). He is currently a member of the ISSCR Board of Directors.



## **FOCAL POINT**

# **BIOCHEMISTRY OF STEM CELLS**

**Fakultät für Chemie und Biochemie**

**Fakultät für Biologie und Biotechnologie**

**Fakultät für Medizin**

**Ruhr-Universität Bochum**