

Aims/Focus of the Course

- Principles and Approaches of Modern Cell Biology
- Molecules \longleftrightarrow Cells \longleftrightarrow Tissues \longleftrightarrow Organisms
- How do we know what we think we know?
- If we don't know, how do we find out?
- What are the appropriate techniques/approaches?
- What are their strengths/limitations?

Experimental focus

Cell Biology in Context

- genomics → sequence → proteome
 - what do the proteins do?
 - how do they know where to go?
- development
- immunology
- neurobiology
- pathophysiology (cancer, cardiovascular disease etc.)
a two-way street

All these have cells as their focus

How do cells work?

How do they communicate?

How does one study them?

Cellular organization & polarity are key

So are cell adhesion/migration

21stC Confluence of Techniques in Cell Biology

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Biochemistry | } | Applied to cell structure & function |
| Molecular Biology | | |
| Genetics | | |
| Classical cell biology | - | microscopy / EM – both ↑↑. |
| | - | cell fractionation |
| | - | real time imaging |
| | - | FRET, GFP, optical tweezers |
| Genomics / Evolution | - | in order to interpret the proteome
need insight into how proteins function in cells |
| Structural biology | - | gives deeper insight into
protein anatomy |
| Proteomics | - | mass spectroscopy, 2D gels etc. |
| Reverse genetics
mutagenesis | - | overexpression / |
| | - | antisense, RNAi |
| | - | knockouts/knockins etc. |

Course Organization

- Lectures
- Readings/Discussions
- Minicourse structure
- Relevant background
 - Biochemistry
 - Genetics
 - Molecular Biology

Questions of scale and methods of detection

Molecules

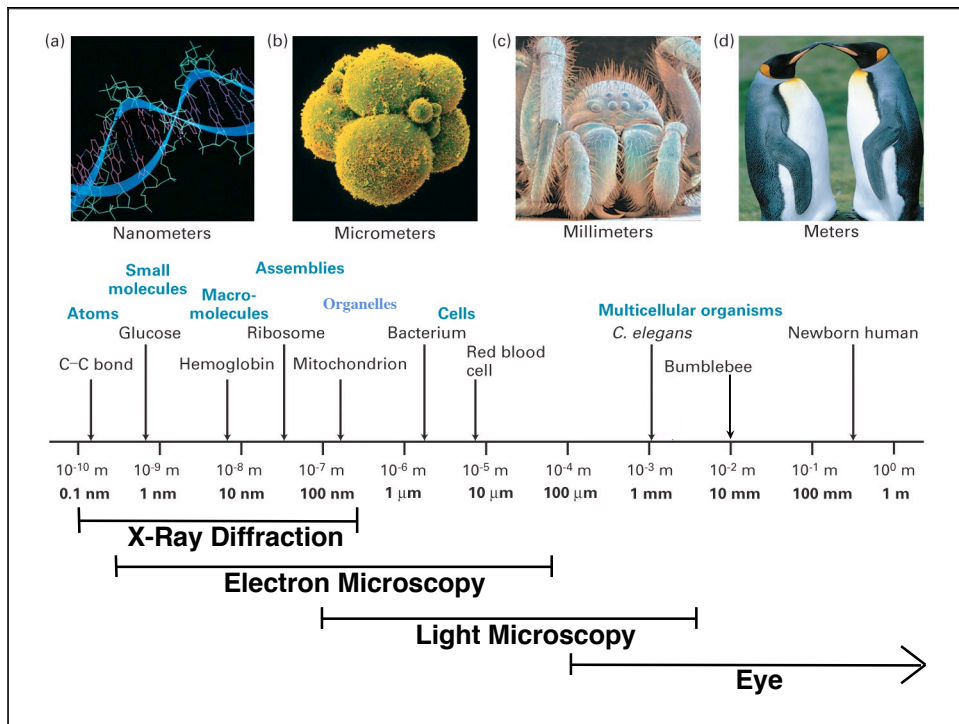
Molecular assemblies

Organelles

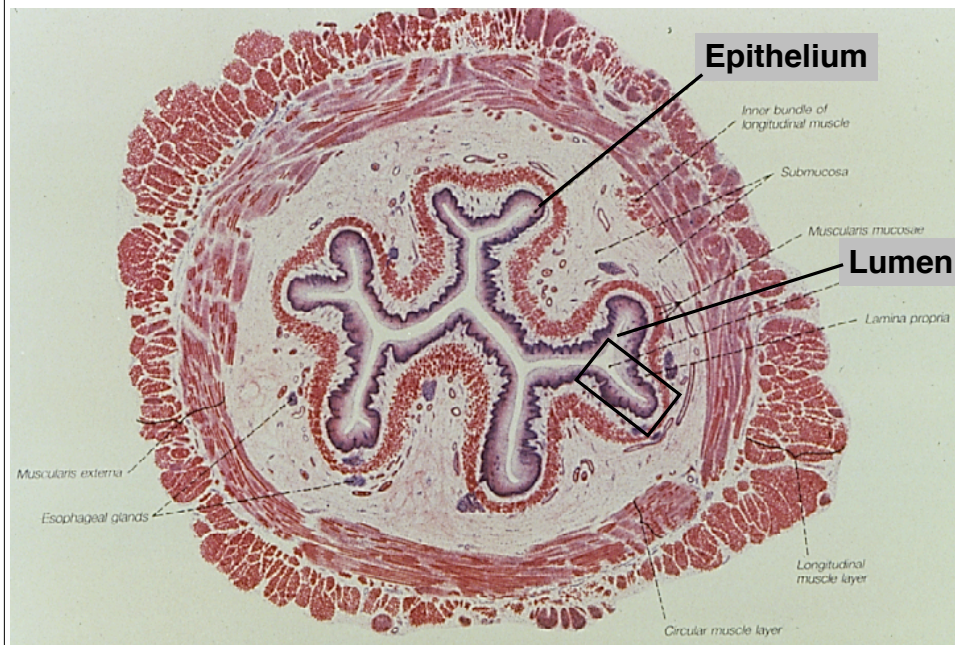
Cells

Tissues

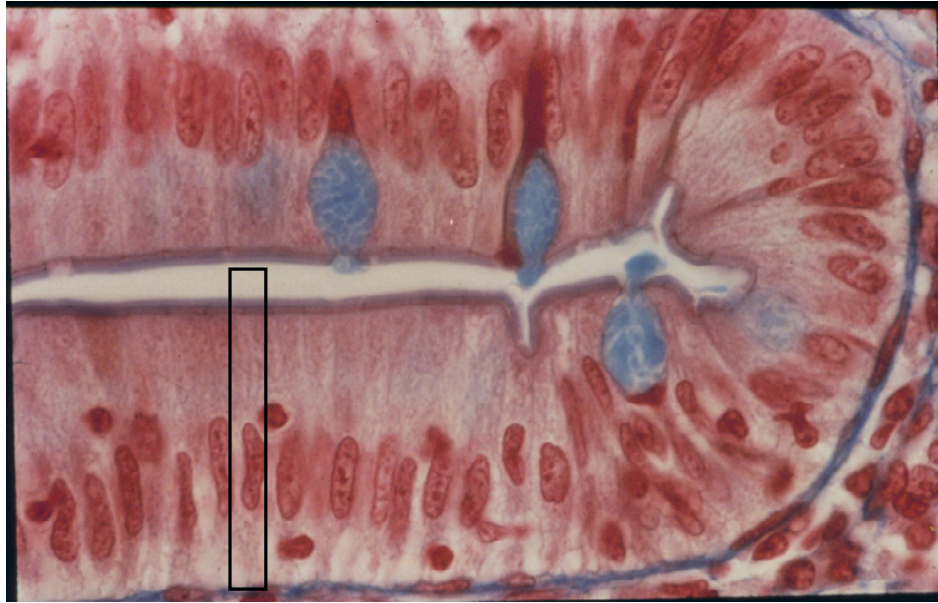
Organisms



Histochemical stain of small intestinal cross section - light microscopy



Higher power light microscopic view of intestinal epithelium

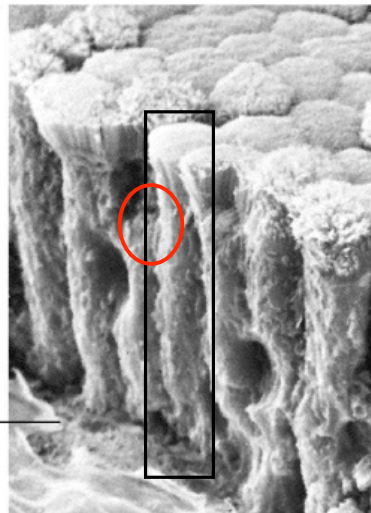


Low power EM of Intestinal Epithelium

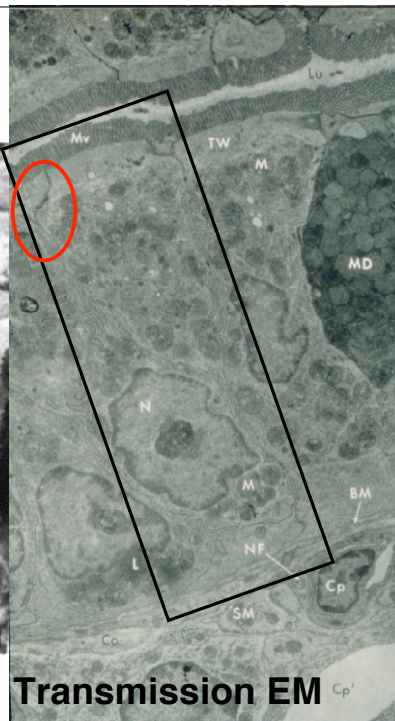
(a)

Absorptive
epithelial
cells

Basal
lamina



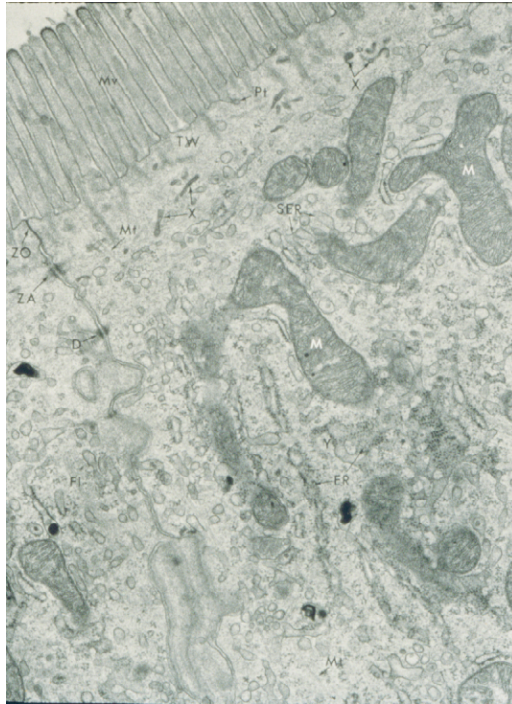
Scanning EM



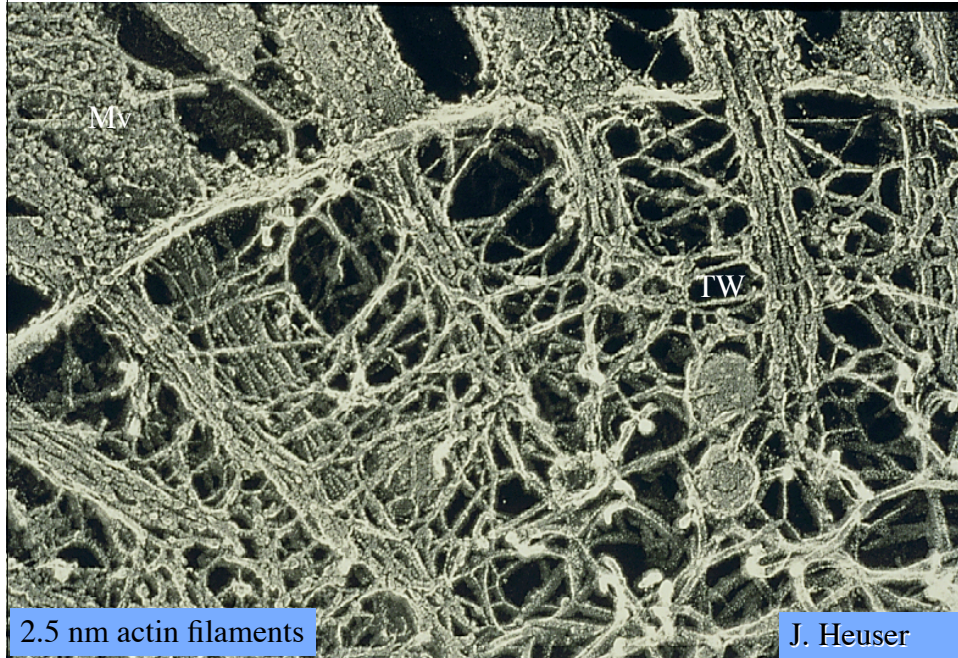
Transmission EM

Higher power EM of
Intestinal Epithelium

Mv=microvilli, expand
surface area,
transporters
TW=terminal web
D=desmosome
ZA=zona adherens
ZO=zona occludens



Fast freeze, deep etch, metal coated image of microvilli and TM,

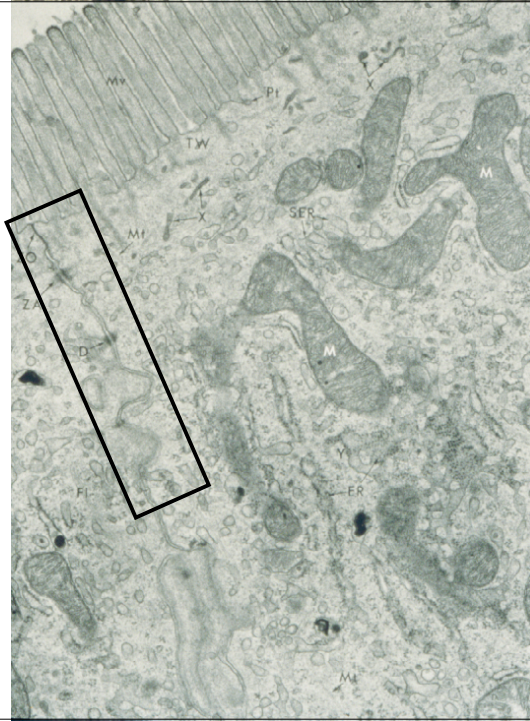


2.5 nm actin filaments

J. Heuser

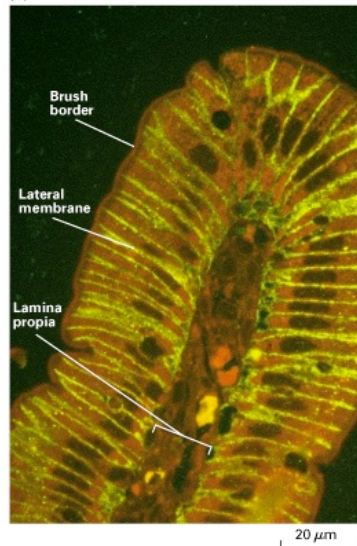
Higher power EM of Intestinal Epithelium

Mv=microvilli, expand
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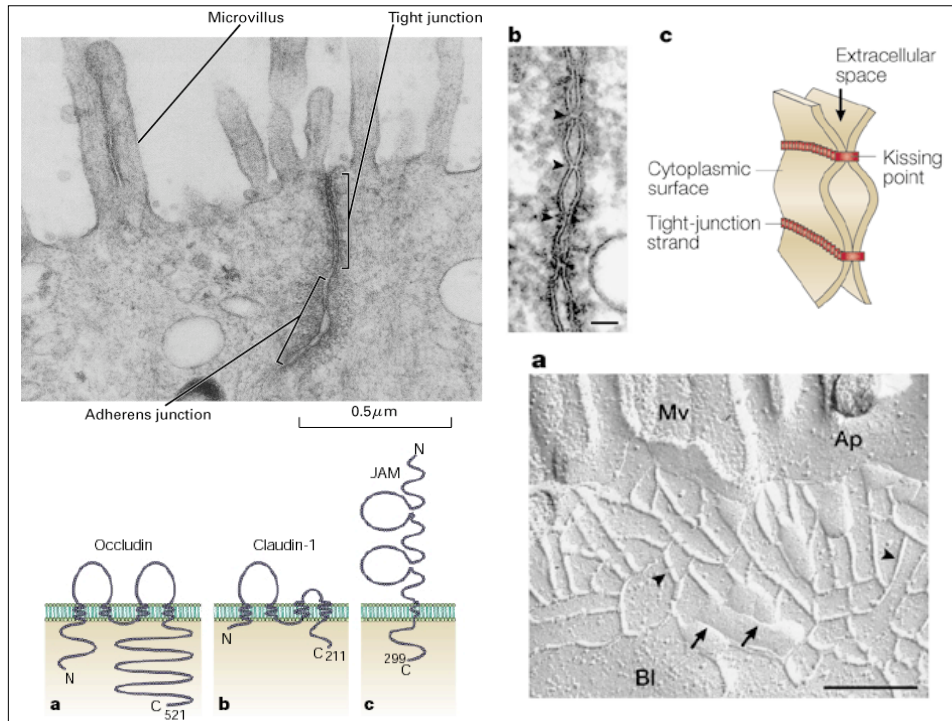
Intercellular adhesion

(c)



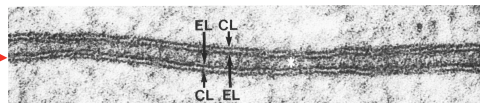
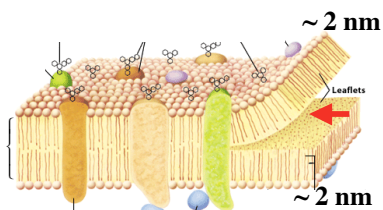
**Staining for cadherins that
mediate cell-cell adhesion**





TEM - osmium tetroxide stain

Freeze Fracture →



This micrograph ($\times 400,000$) illustrates portions of the plasma membranes of two closely opposed cells. Membranes have a tri-laminar structure in transmission electron micrographs. Each membrane consists of two parallel electron-dense lines separated by a lighter central zone. The electron-dense lines represent the phospholipid leaflets and are termed the exoplasmic (EL) and cytoplasmic (CL) leaflets of the plasma membrane. The exoplasmic (extracellular) leaflets contact the extracellular space (E) and the cytoplasmic leaflets contact the cytosol. The thickness of the plasma membrane is about 10 nm.

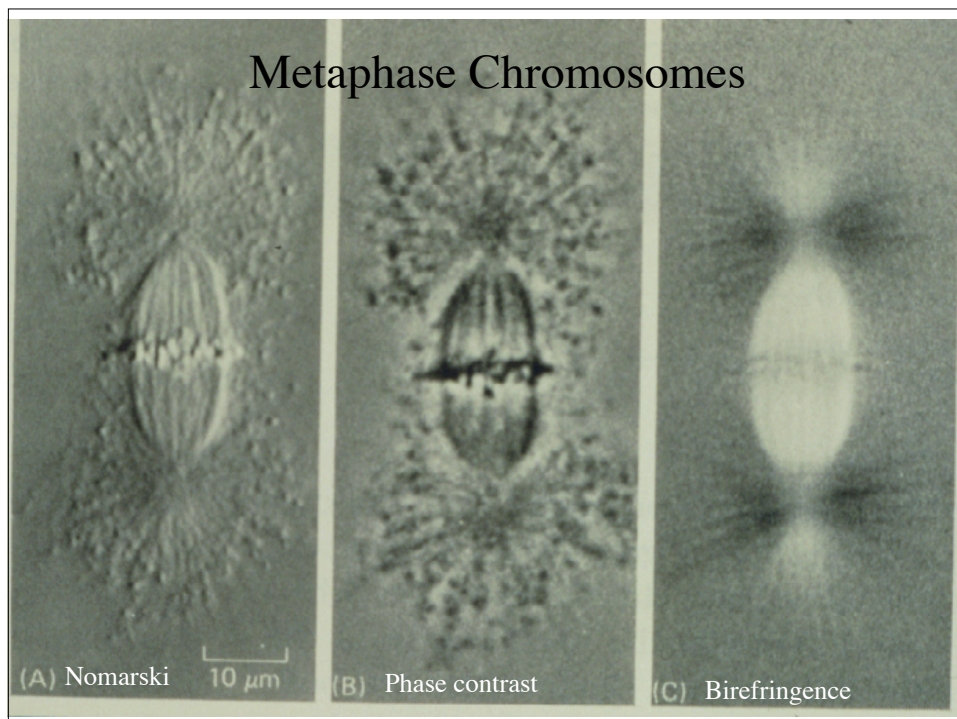
TEM - metal shadowing

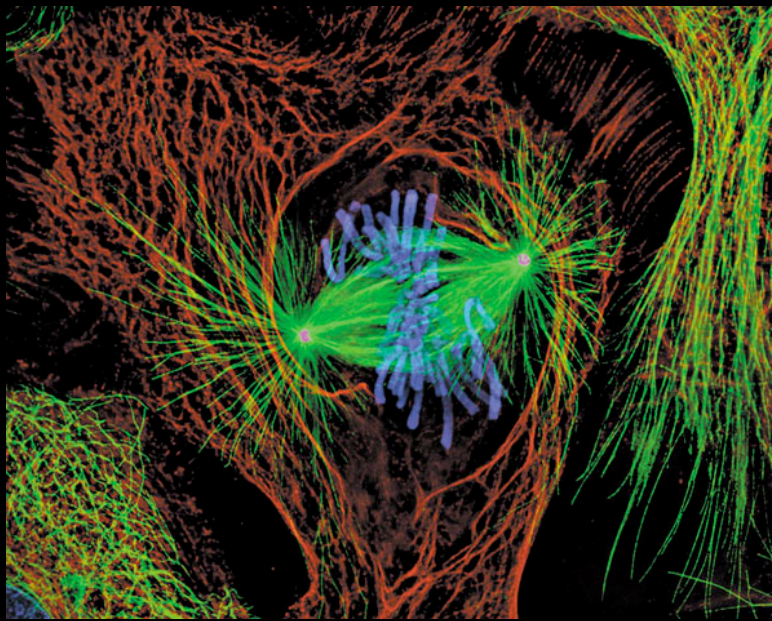


IMPs - intramembranous particles - integral membrane proteins

Different Sorts of Light Microscopy

- **Phase contrast**
- **Nomarski**
- **Birefringence**
- **Immunofluorescence**
 - **fluorescently tagged antibodies**
 - **other tags allow EM visualization**





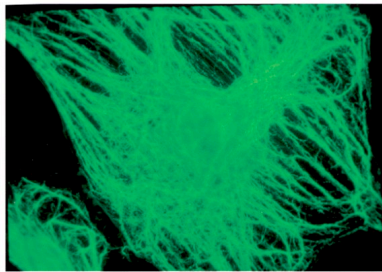
This image of a newt lung cell shows the metaphase cell stained for centrosomes (magenta), microtubules (green), chromosomes (blue) and intermediate filaments (red).

Resolving power: smallest detail resolved in imaging an ideal specimen, $\sim 0.1 \text{ nm}$ for EM, $\sim 200 \text{ nm}$ ($0.2 \mu\text{m}$) for LM

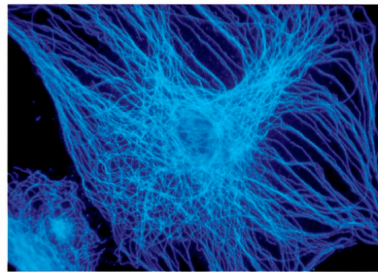
Minimal resolvable separation of incoherently illuminated points: $d_{\min} = 0.61\lambda / n \sin(\alpha)$: λ = wavelength, n = refractive index (reason you use oil), α = aperture angle of lens

Actual Resolution: detail actually revealed in the image of a given specimen, requires contrast, not just resolution \rightarrow stains to highlight or contrast portions of specimen of interest

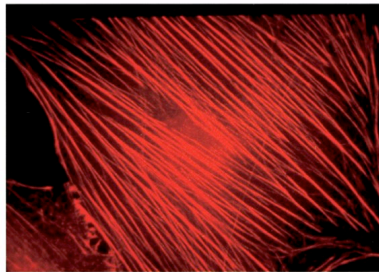
Stains: metals, fluorophores, reaction products (peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase), particle labels (ferritin, gold), shadowing, negative stain, autoradiography, antibodies (immunofluorescence, immunoEM).



Intermediate filaments

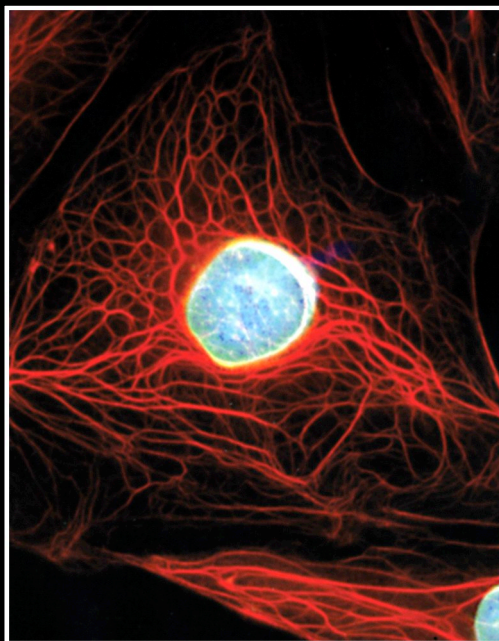


Microtubules

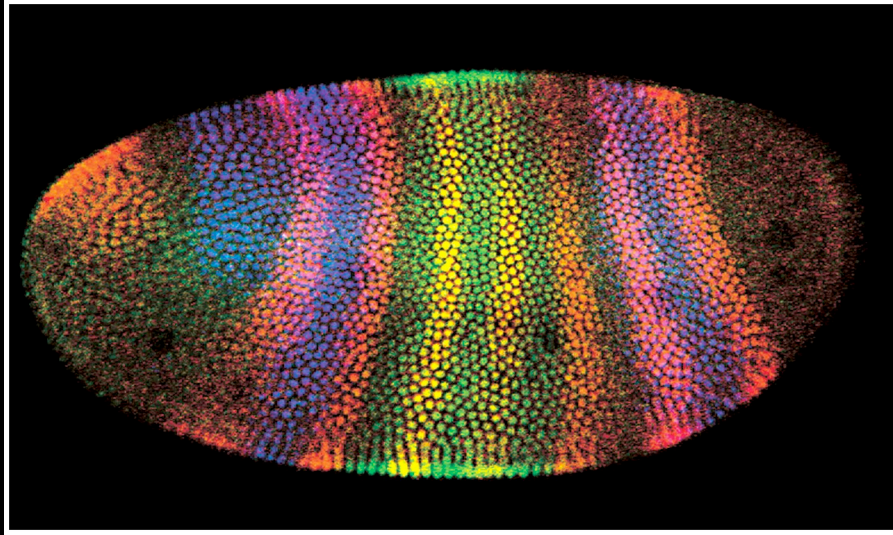


Microfilaments

Intermediate filaments: Keratin (red) and nuclear lamin (blue)



Fly Embryo: 3 nuclear antigens stained red, green, or blue



How many proteins are there in a cell?

How many proteins are there in a cell?

of genes in genome? 25-30,000

Let's assume 10,000 expressed in a given cell

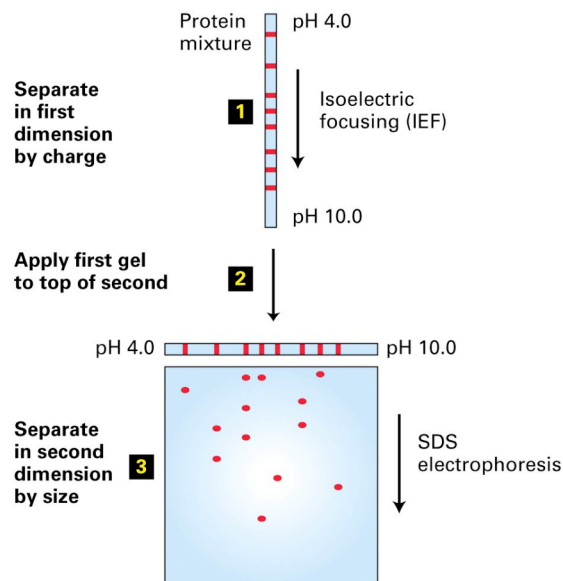
Amount of protein/cell? ~0.8 ng

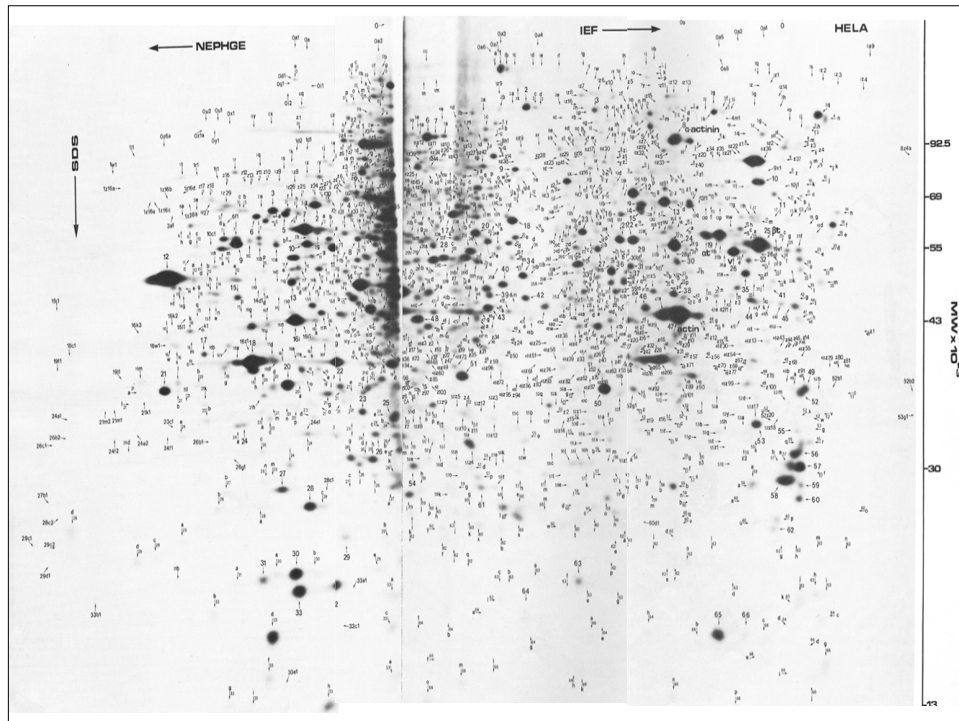
That converts to 10^{10} molecules of 50kDa per cell

If all were equally abundant - 10^6 ($10^{10}/10^4$) of each per cell

Of course, they vary widely in size and abundance

2D Gel Analysis





Abundant proteins are easy to purify -

**Actin is 10% of many cells - 10x purification -> purity
BUT - most proteins are not as abundant**

**A major cell surface receptor - $\sim 10^6$ molecules per cell
or 10^{-4} of total cellular protein**

So need 10^4 x purification

Assume 10% yield

**So 1g of cell protein (10^9 cells = 100 x 100mm dishes)
will yield $1\text{g} \times 10^{-4} \times 0.1 = 10\mu\text{g}$**

$1\text{pmol} = 50\text{ng}$ of a 50kDa protein

But what if it were 100-1000 x less abundant?

**A minor cell surface receptor ~100-1000 copies per cell -
need 10^7 - 10^8 fold purification.**

Animal tissue often a better source than cells

Alternative approaches:-

affinity purification

mass spectrometry

clone the gene first

expression or functional cloning

genomics

then express the protein

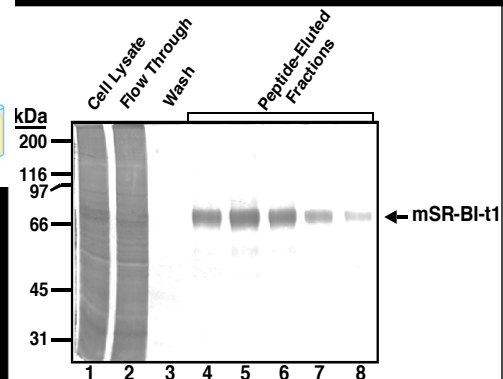
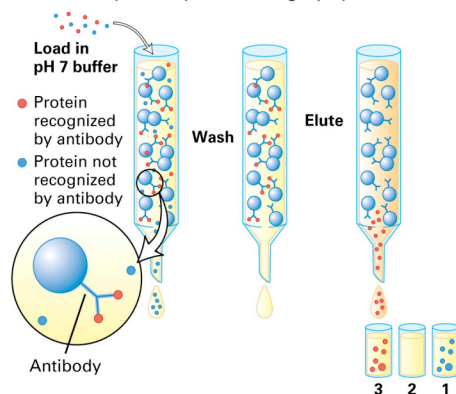
bacteria, yeast

animal cells

animals (transgenesis)

Purification of Membrane Proteins: immunoaffinity chromatography

Antibody-affinity chromatography



Analyses of protein function

Biochemistry - purification and assay

Expression - transformation, transgenesis

Inhibition - genetics (forward and reverse)

- drugs, antibodies,
- “dominant negatives”
- RNAi, antisense
- knockouts, mutants

Membranes

Play key roles in cell function

compartmentalization

transport

intercellular signalling

cell adhesion

**Membrane proteins have special properties both
because of the membrane environment and
in line with their different functions**

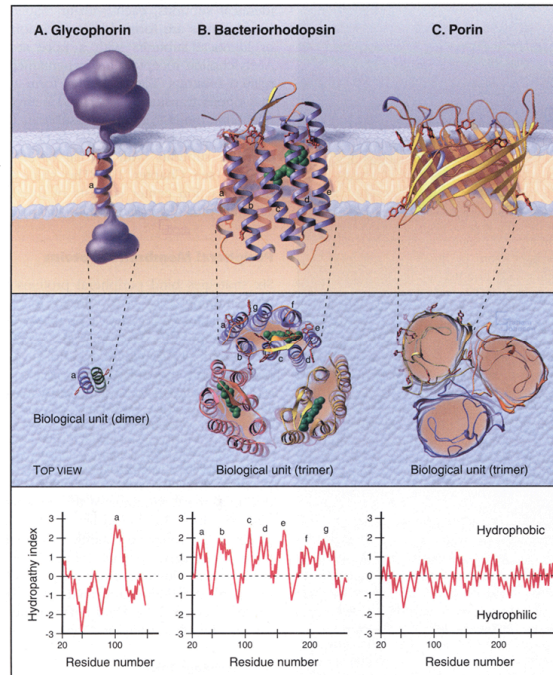
**Representative
Integral
Membrane
Proteins**

side
view

**WEEK
of Sep 18**

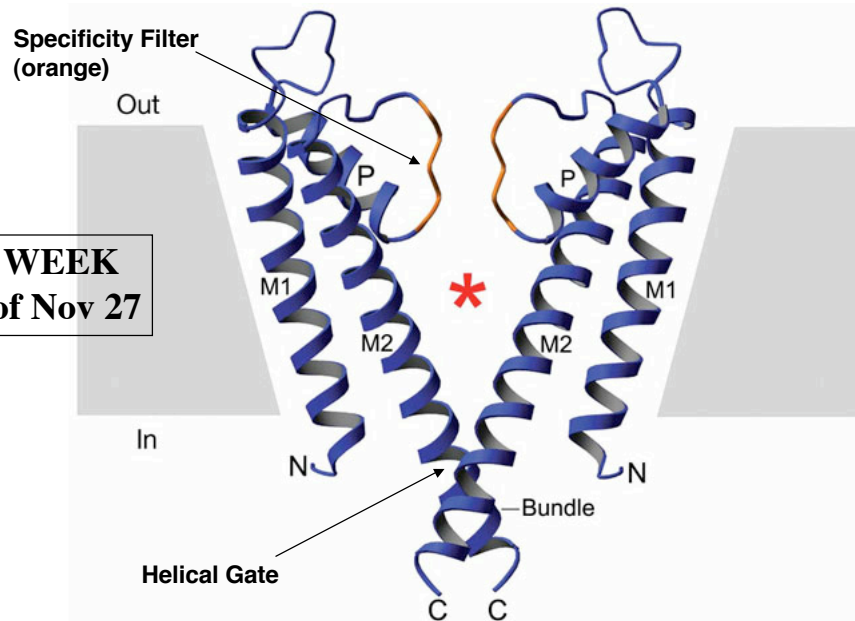
plan
view

**hydrophobicity
plot/index**



Two subunits of the KcsA K⁺ channel

**WEEK
of Nov 27**

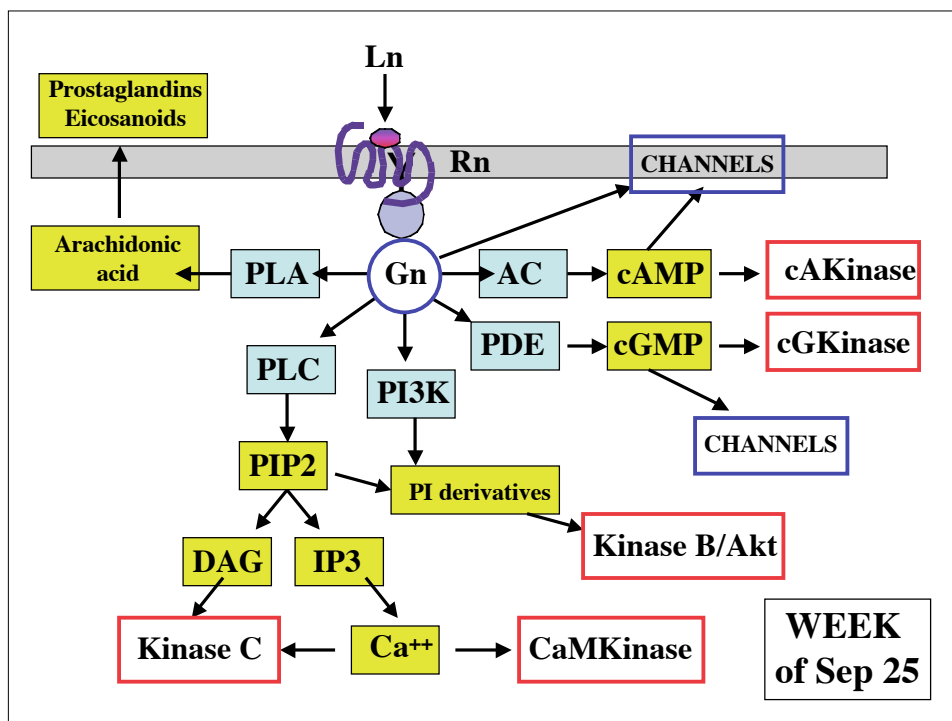


http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v417/n6888/full/417523a_fs.html&filetype=&_UserReference=C0A804ED4654D463FE606837EB983D756FD8

Growth Hormone & its Receptor (extracellular domains)

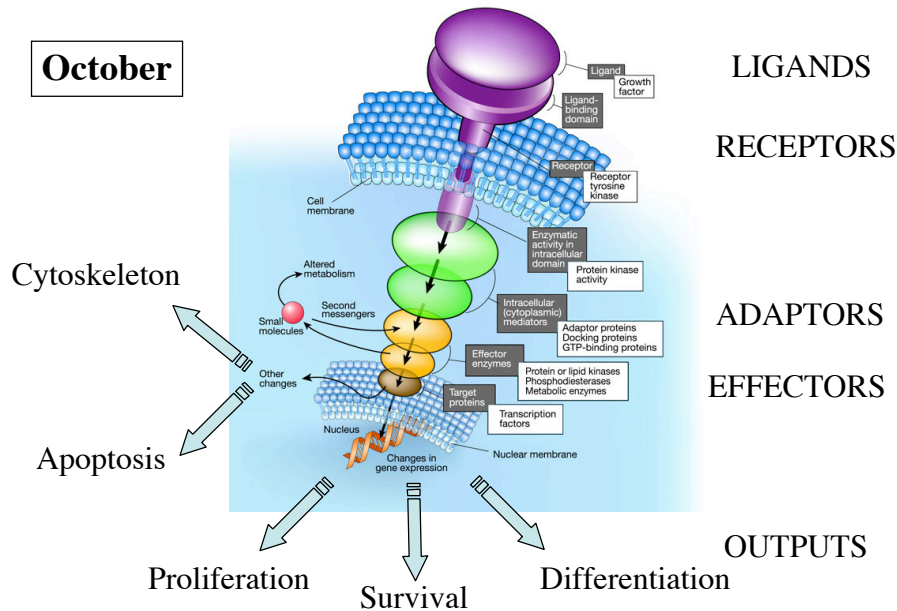


Next
WEEK



Generic Signal Transduction Pathways

October



Membrane Trafficking and the Secretory Pathway:

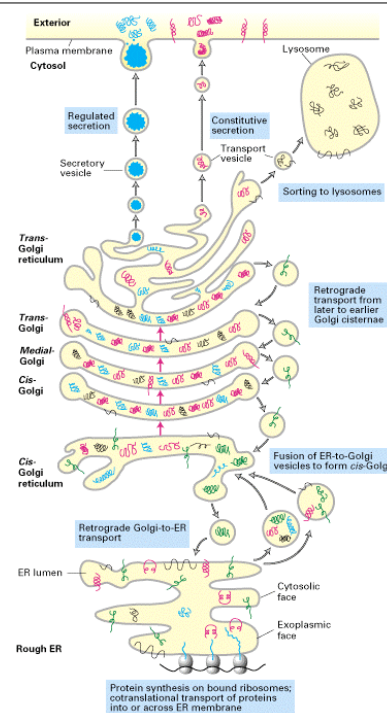
ER->Golgi->out

Sorting to different membrane-bounded organelles

How is this all orchestrated?

How do we know?

WEEK
of Dec 4



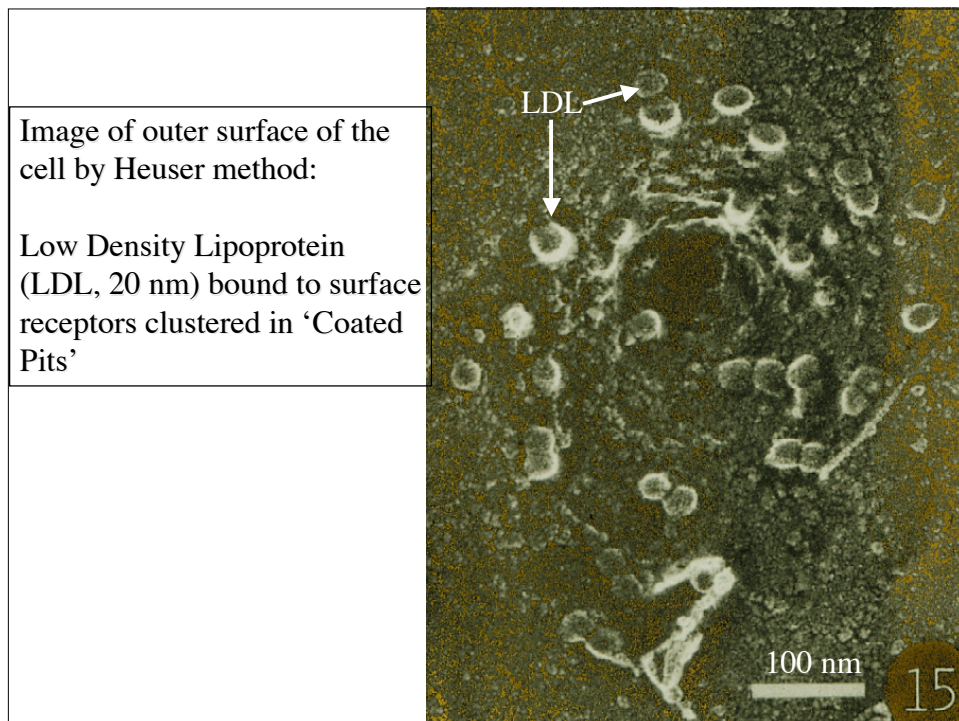
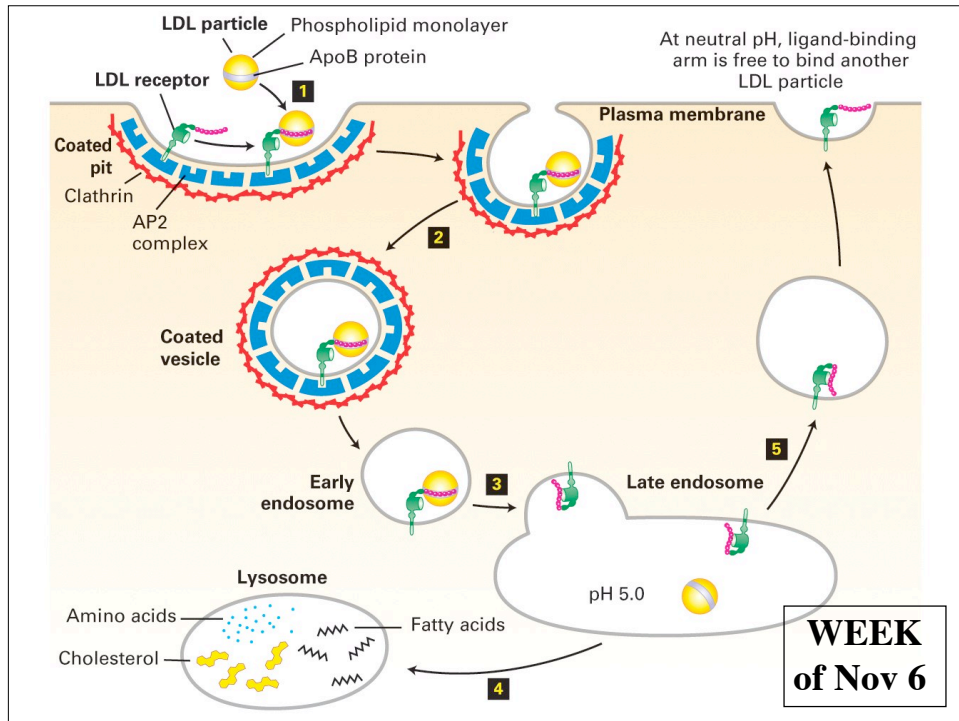
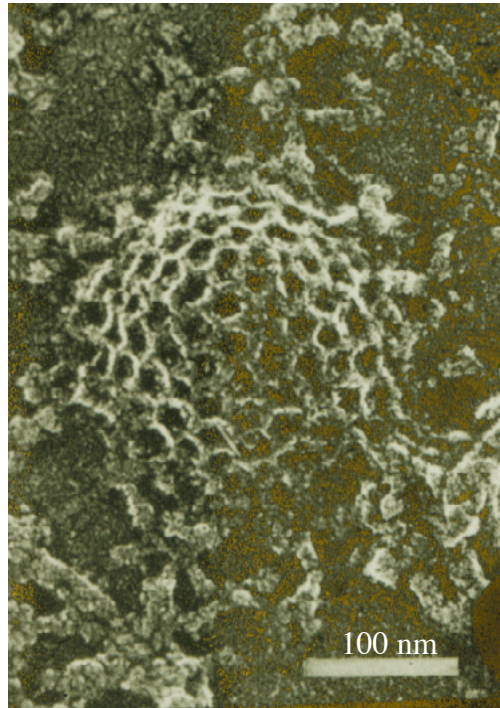
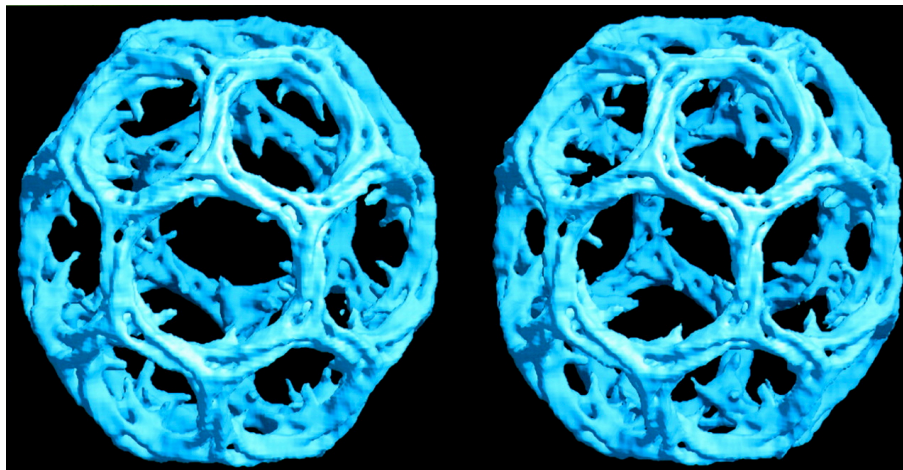


Image of inner surface of the
cell by Heuser method:

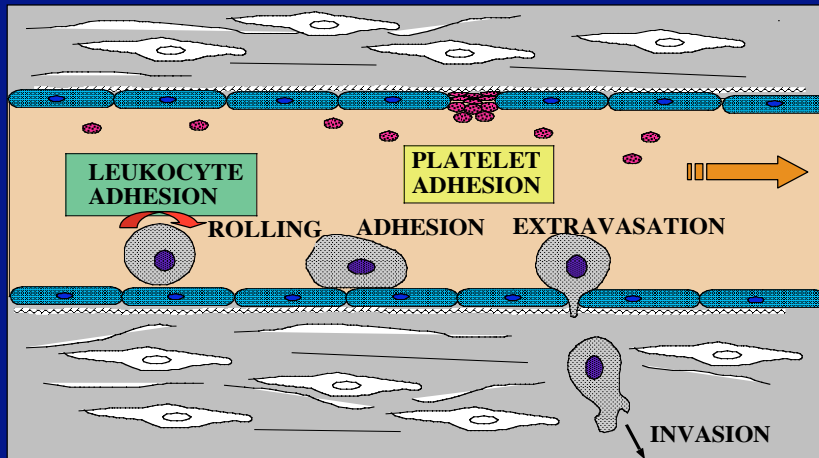
Clathrin Coated Pit



**Reconstructed Image of clathrin shell from EM
21 A resolution**

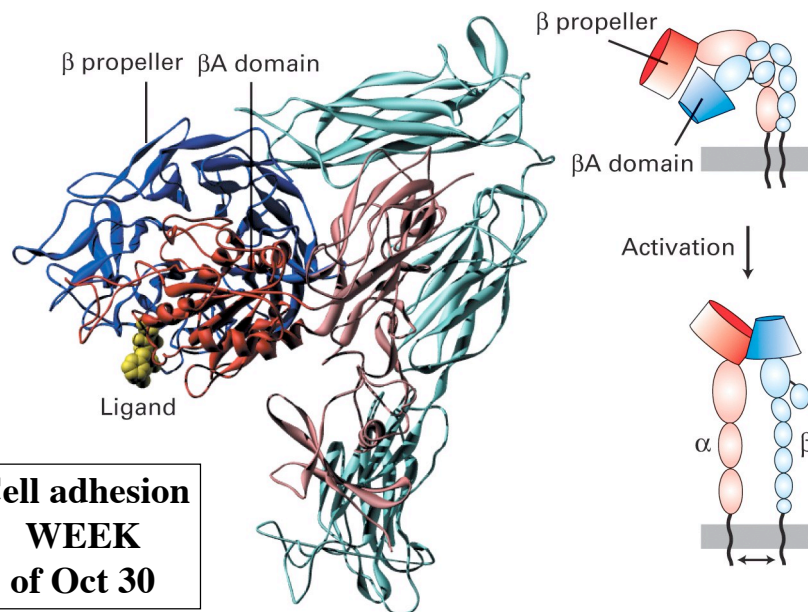


Blood cells circulate around the body and stop at appropriate places



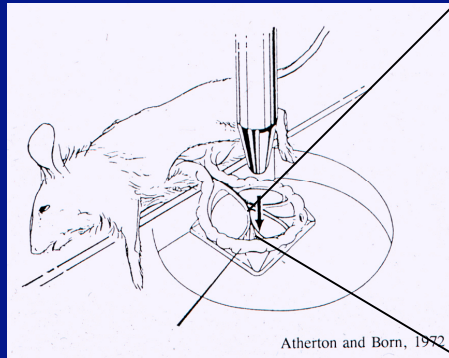
HOW DO THEY KNOW WHERE TO GO?

Integrin extracellular heterodimer



Cell adhesion
WEEK
of Oct 30

Intravital Microscopy of Leukocytes in Inflamed Venules



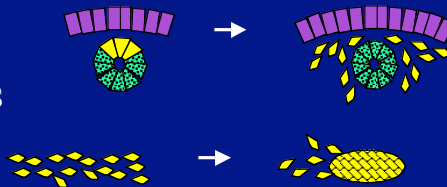
**What molecules mediate this adhesion and
how is it controlled?**

Some cells move about the body

SEPARATION of
GROUPS of CELLS



MIGRATIONS of
INDIVIDUAL CELLS



PROJECTION of
NERVE PROCESSES

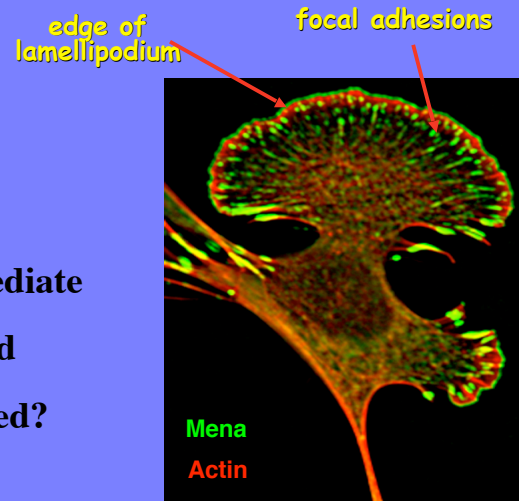


**HOW DO THEY ATTACH and DETACH
and HOW DO THEY MOVE?**

Lamellipodial Protrusion

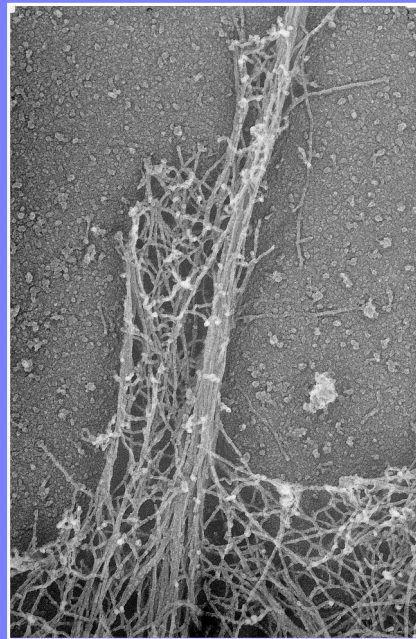
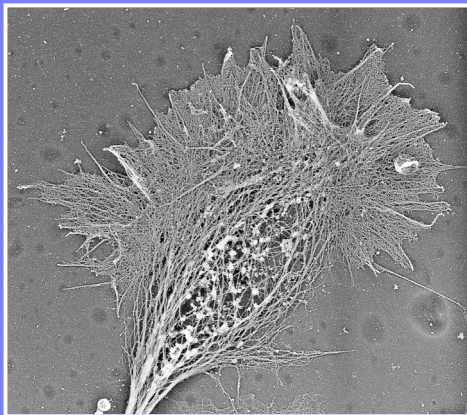
**Cell motility
WEEK
of Nov 20**

**What molecules mediate
cell motility and
how is it controlled?**



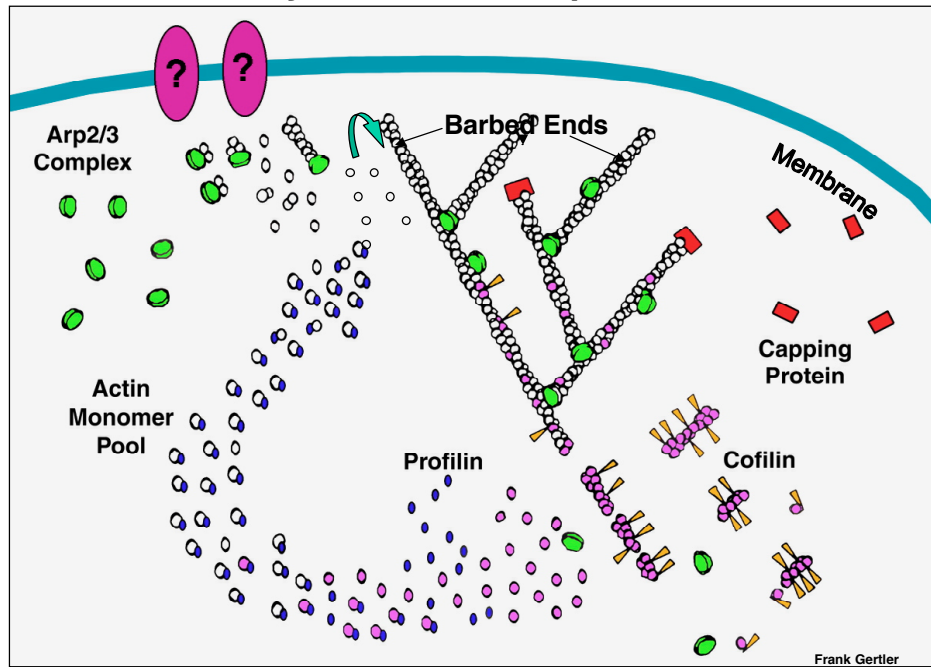
Frank Gertler

Hippocampal Growth Cone



Geraldine Strasser

Actin Assembly Drives Lamellipodial Protrusion



Neurons

Cell migration to reach appropriate places

Axonal projections to appropriate targets

Synaptic communication

Organization of pre- and postsynaptic membranes