

Epithelial tissue

Petr Vaňhara, PhD

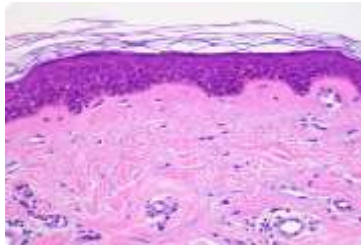
Dept. Histology & Embryology,
Faculty of Medicine MU

pvanhara@med.muni.cz

CONTEMPORARY TISSUE CLASSIFICATION

Based on morphology and function:

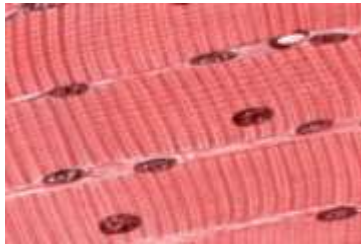
Epithelium



Continual, avascular layers of cells with different function, oriented to open space, with specific junctions and minimum of ECM and intercellular space.

Derivates of all three germ layers

Muscle

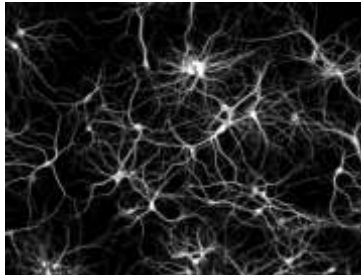


Myofibrils → contraction

Mesoderm – skeletal muscle, myocard, mesenchyme
– smooth muscles

Rarely ectoderm (eg. m. sphincter a m. dilatator pupillae)

Nerve

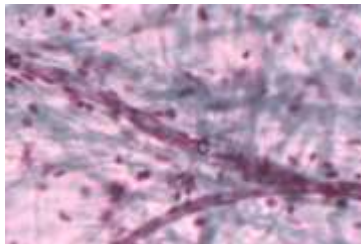


Neurons and neuroglia

Reception and transmission of electric signals

Ectoderm, rarely mesoderm (microglia)

Connective



Dominant extracellular matrix

Connective tissue, cartilage, bone...

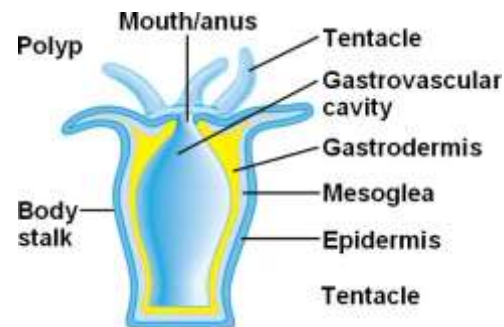
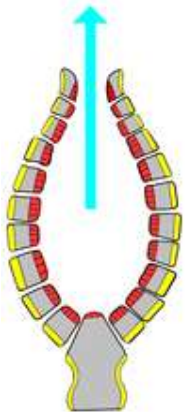
Mesenchyme

General characteristics

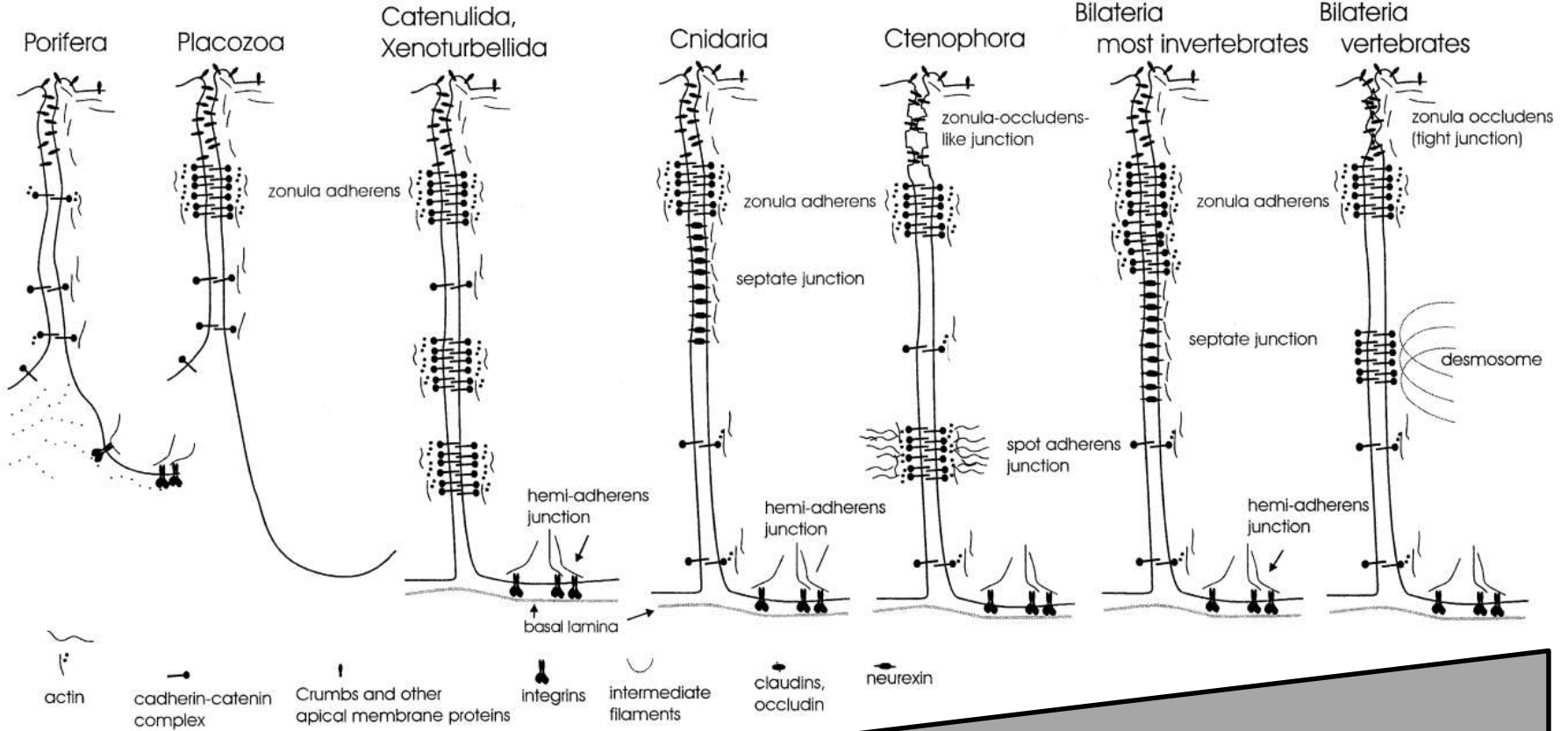
General characteristics – lessons from primitive metazoans

What can sea sponges and hydras teach us?

- Very early event and very novel innovation in Metazoa evolution
- From simple colonies of cells to highly specialized tissue structures
- Boundaries and interfaces
- Dividing of the body into separated compartments → separating individual milieu
- Lining of cavities or interfaces of open space
- Attachment and adhesion
- Basal membrane

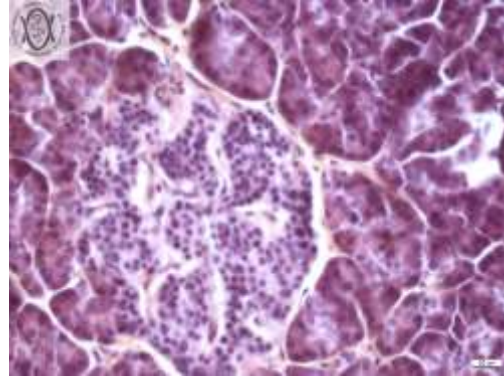
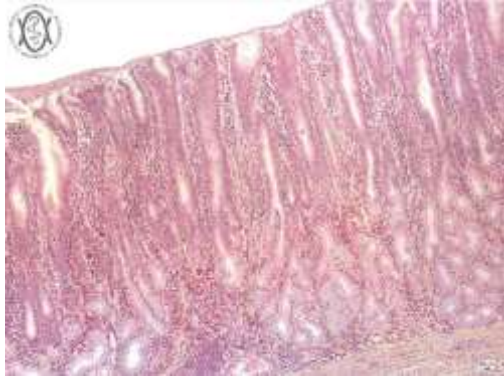
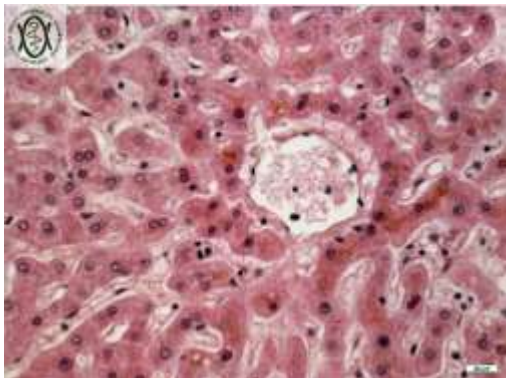
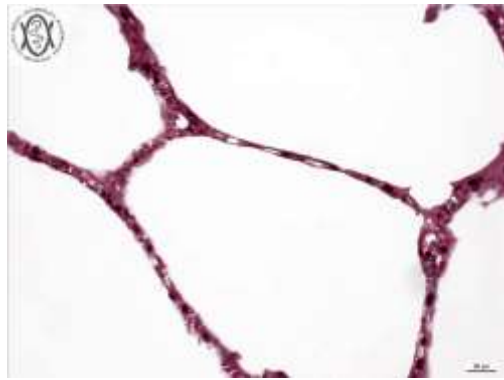
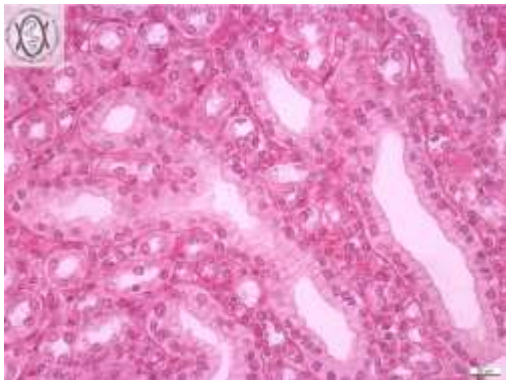
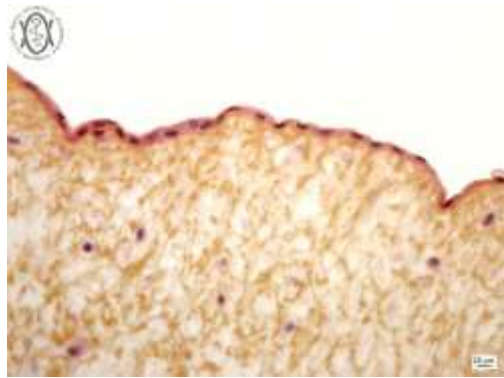
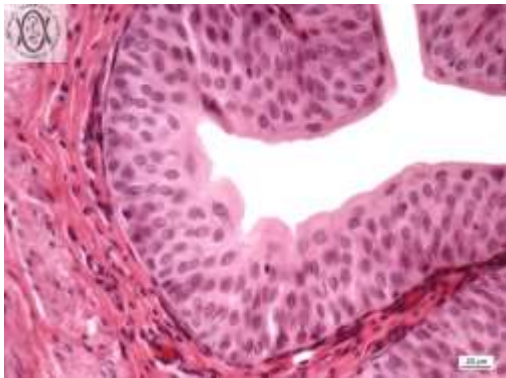


Evolution of epithelia



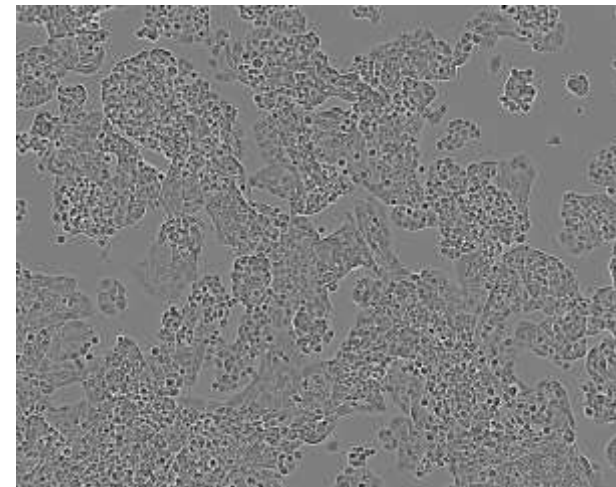
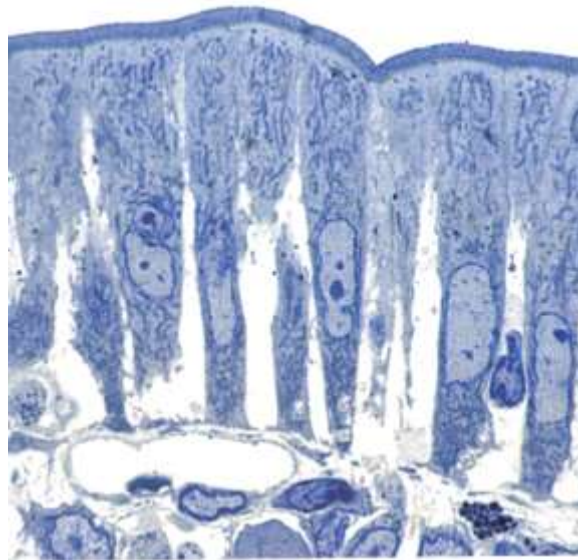
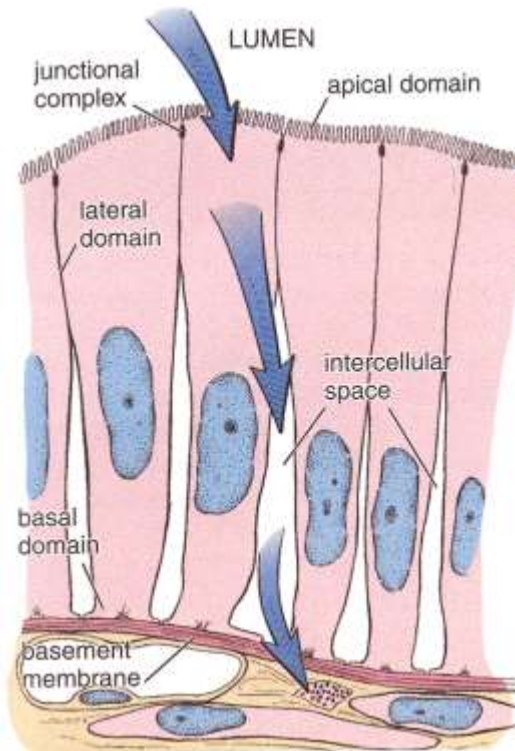
Complexity of cell-cell junctions

EPITHELIAL VARIABILITY IN HUMANS

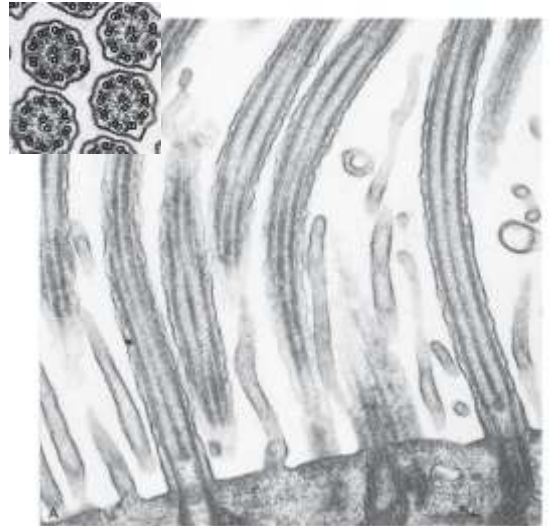
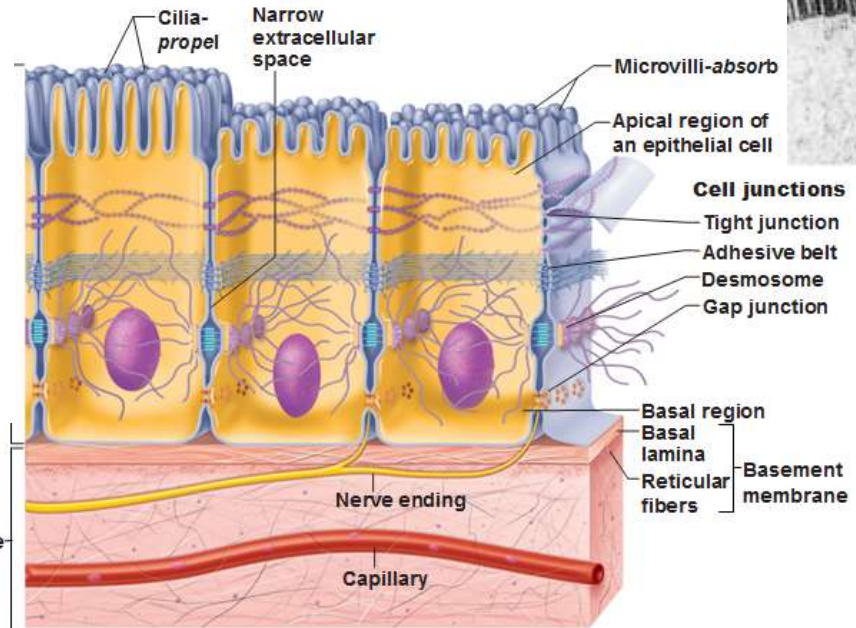
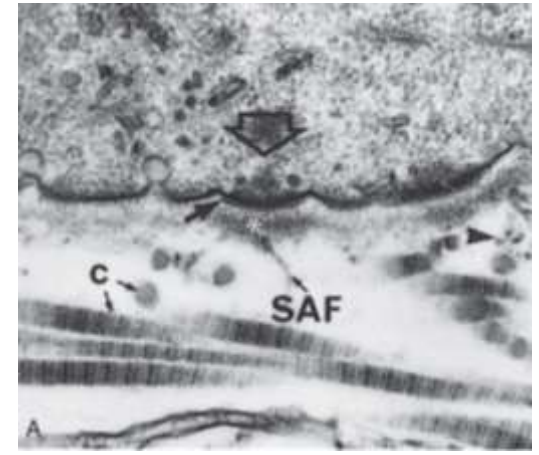
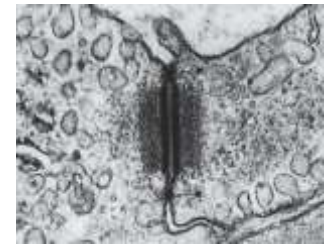
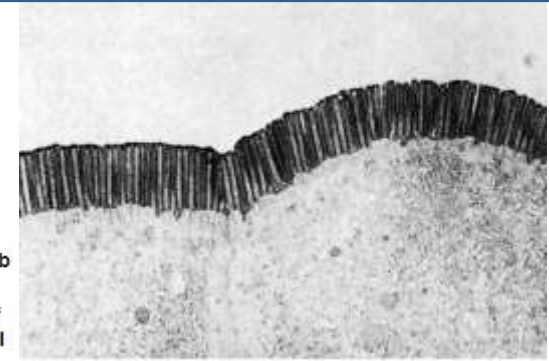


GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

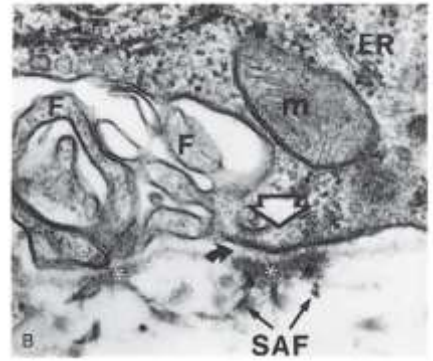
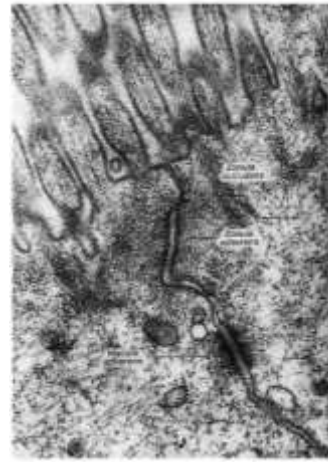
- **Avascular** (without blood supply) – nutrition by diffusion from a highly vascular and innervated area of loose connective tissue (*lamina propria*) just below the basement membrane
- **Highly cellular** – cohesive sheet or groups of cells with no or little extracellular matrix
- Typical **morphology** and **cell connections**



HALLMARKS OF A TYPICAL EPITHELIAL CELL

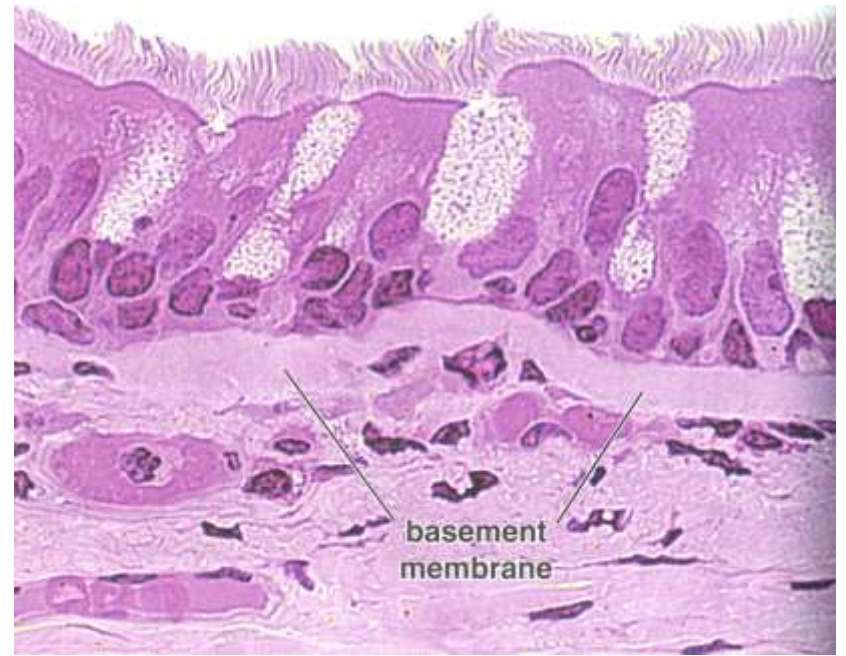
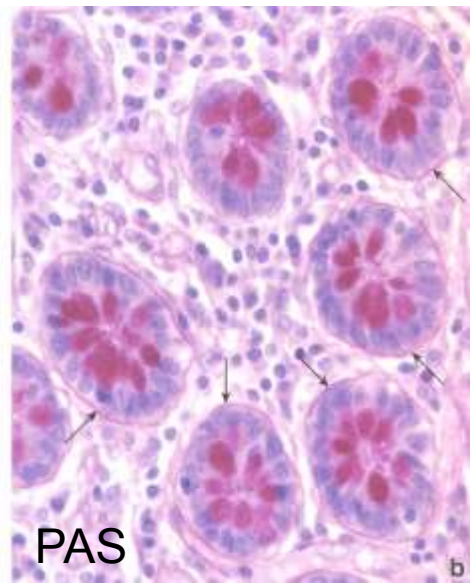
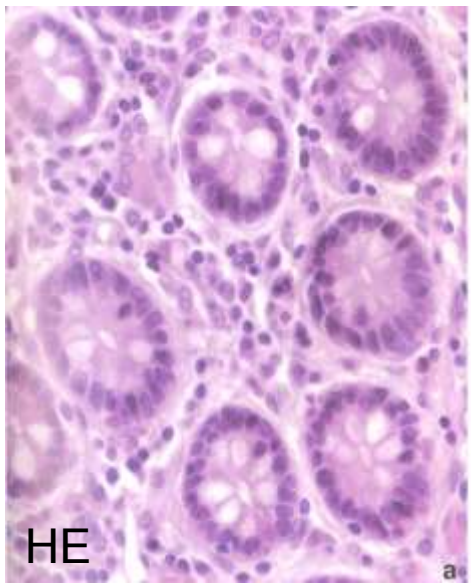
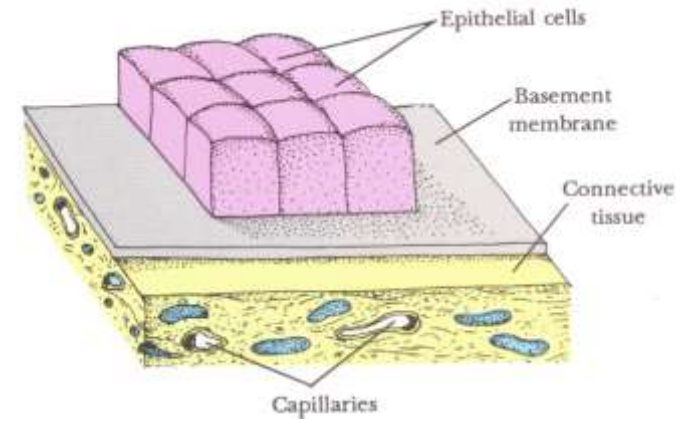


From Lesson 15, Lesson 17, Papers AA, Text Atlas of Histology, Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1995.



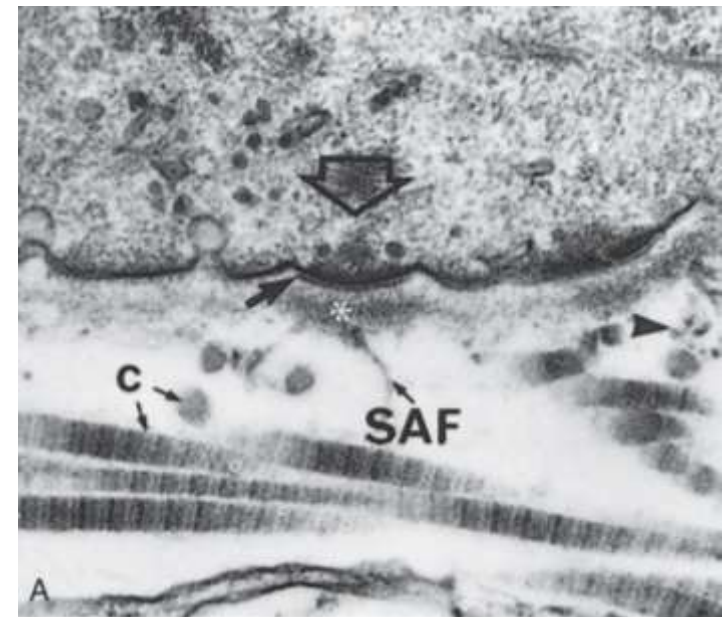
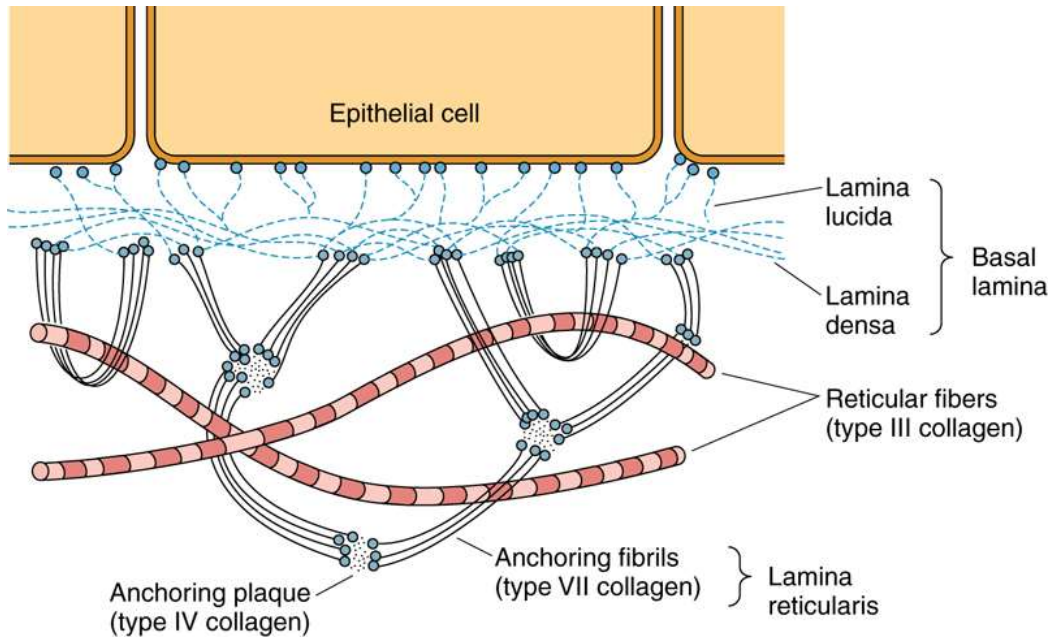
BASEMENT MEMBRANE

- Attachment of epithelium to underlying tissues
- Selective filter barrier between epithelial and connective tissue
- Communication, differentiation

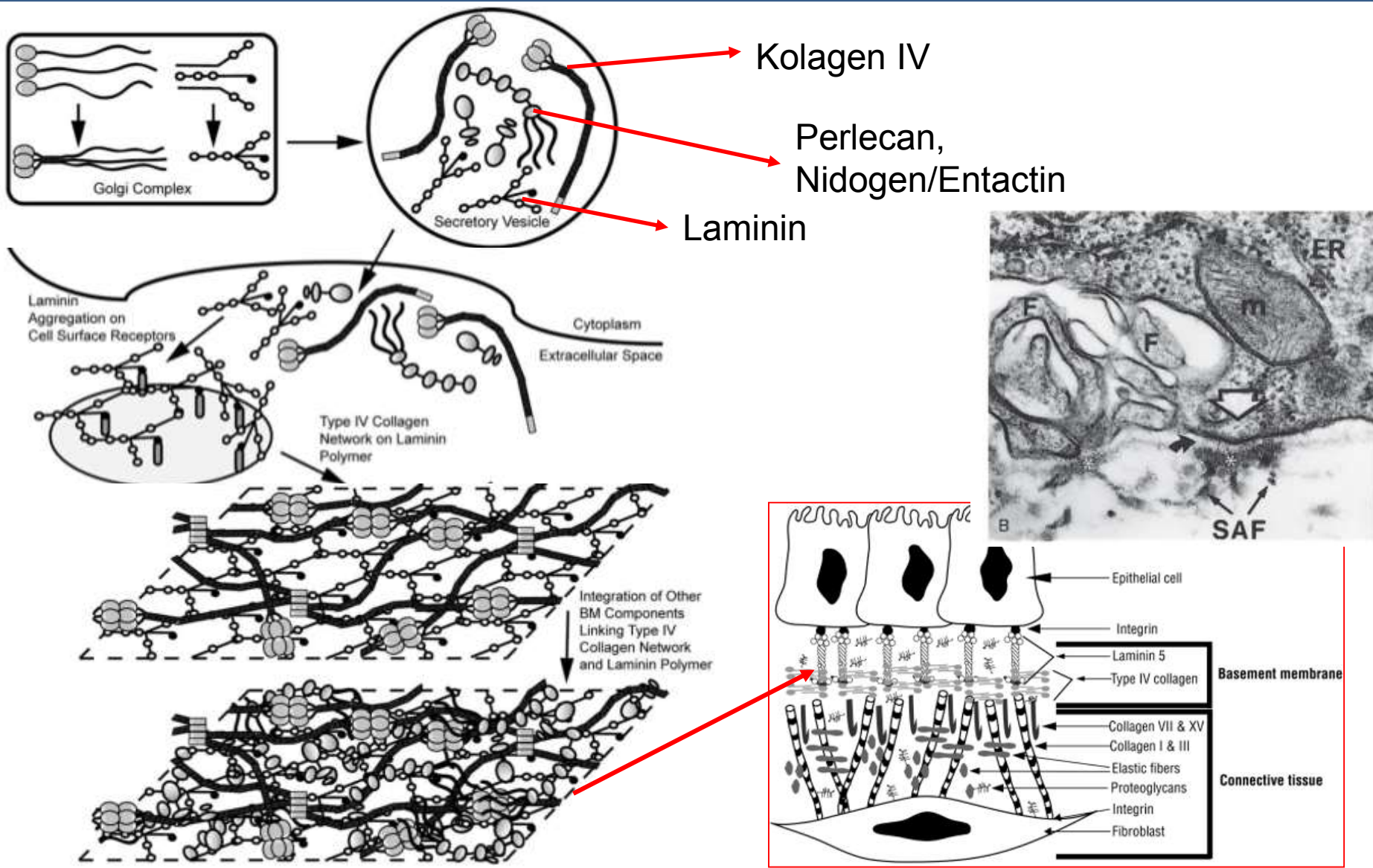


BASAL LAMINA vs. BASEMENT MEMBRANE

- 50-100nm
- Glycosaminoglycans – heparansulfate
- Laminin, collagen III, IV, VI,
- Nidogen/entactin
- Perlecan
- Proteoglycans

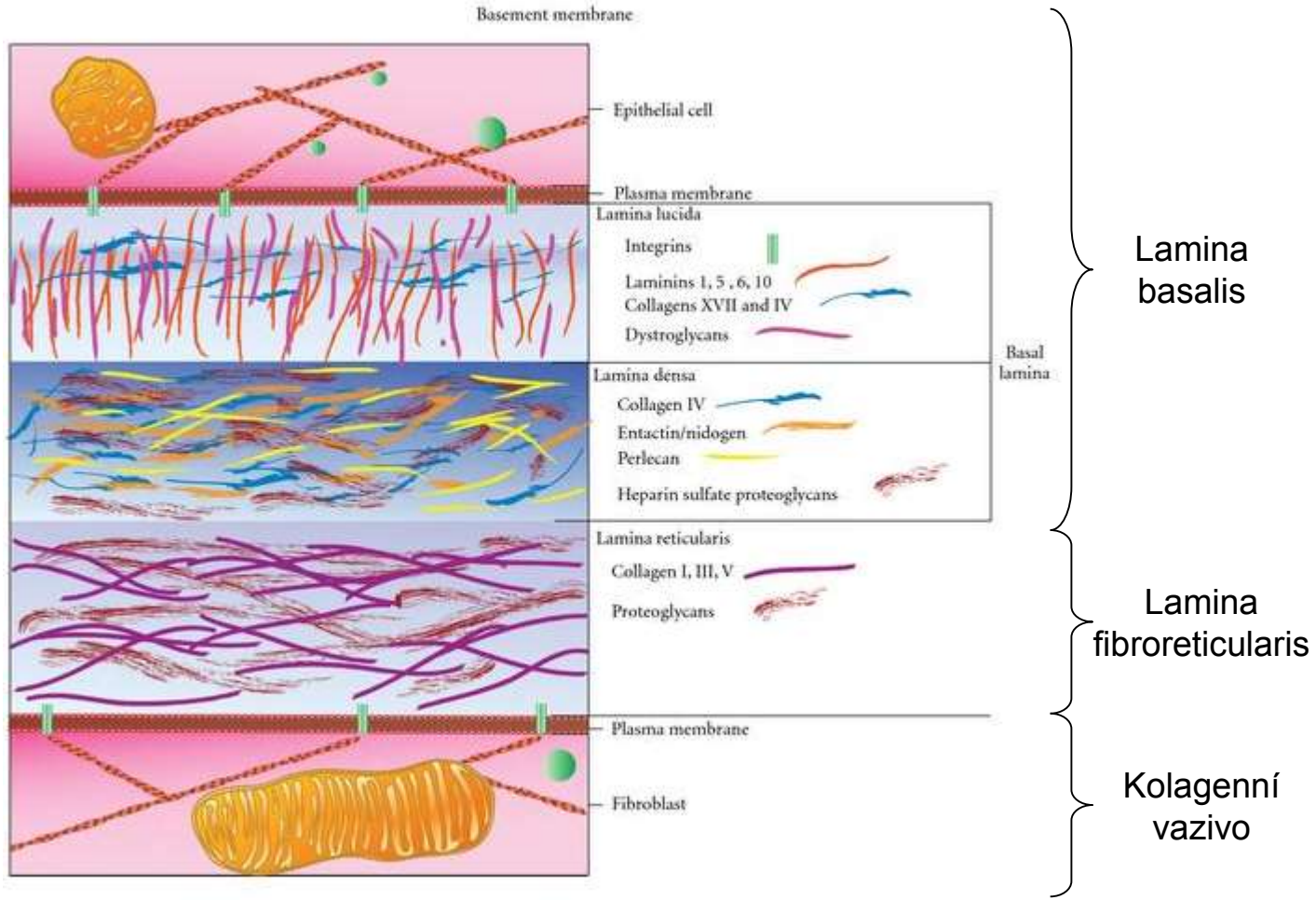
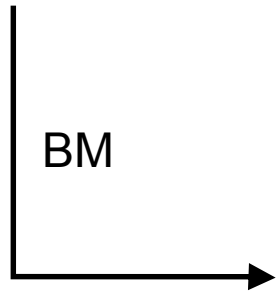
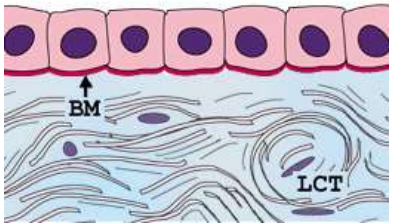


BASEMENT MEMBRANE

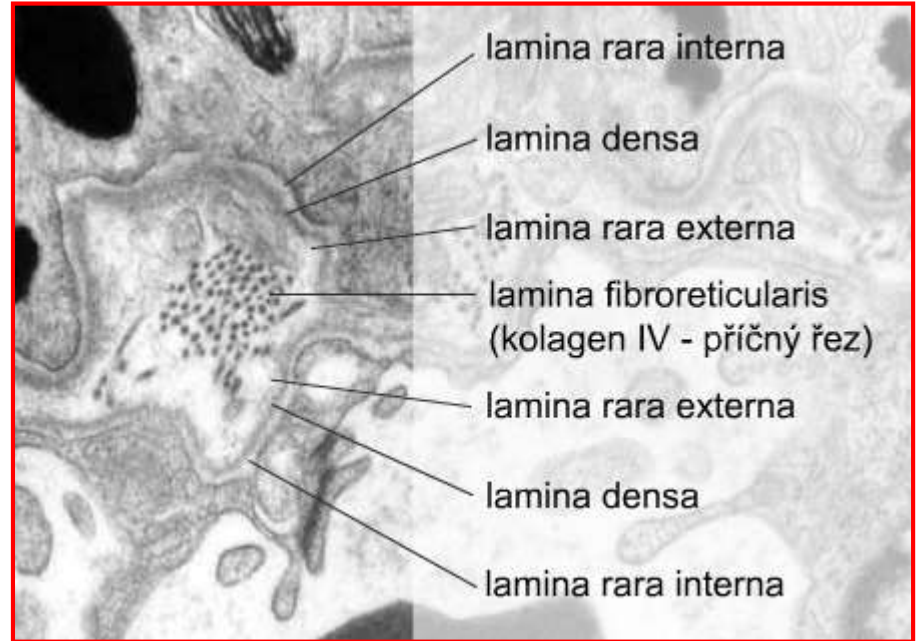
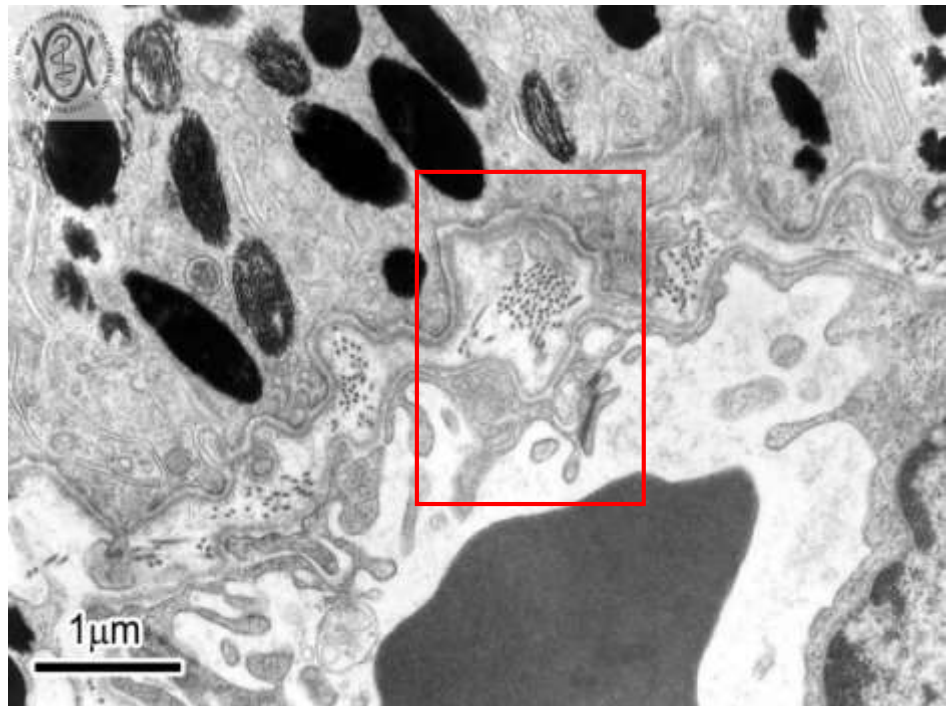


Dunsmore SE, Chambers RC, Laurent GJ. 2003. Matrix Proteins. Figure 2.1.2. In: Respiratory Medicine, 3rd ed. London. Saunders, p. 83; Dunsmore SE, Laurent GJ. 2007. Lung Connective Tissue. Figure 40.1. In: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease: A Practical Guide to Management, 1st ed. Oxford. Wiley-Blackwell, p. 467.

ARCHITECTURE OF BASEMENT MEMBRANE



MODIFICATION OF BASEMENT MEMBRANE



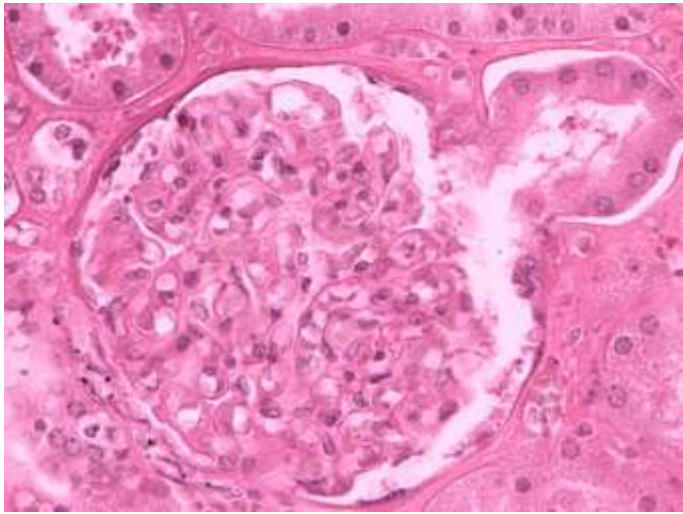
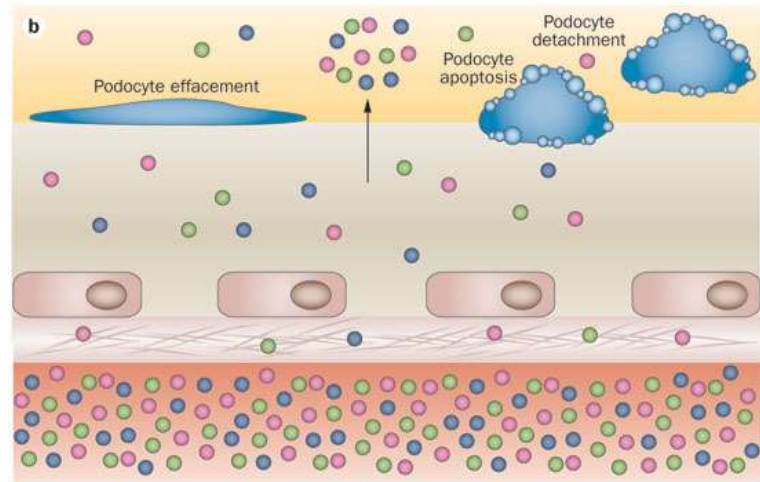
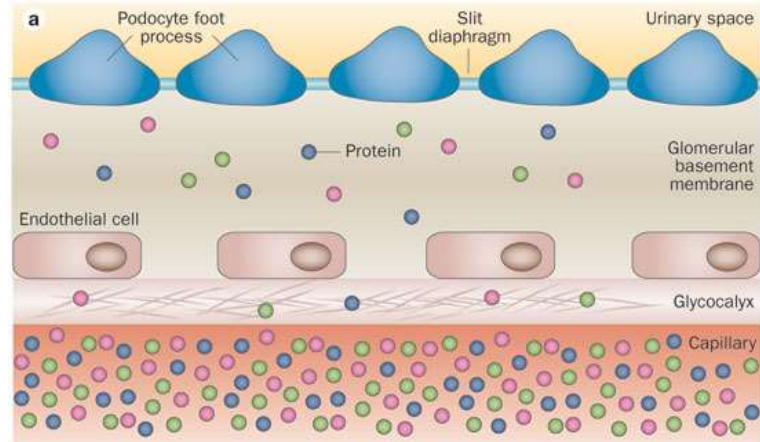
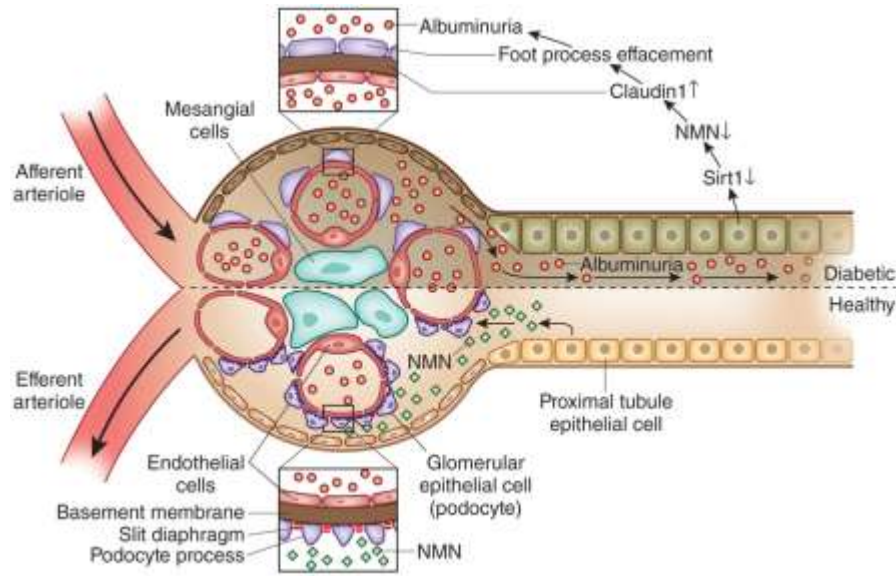
- **Two basic layers**

- lamina basalis
 - lamina densa,
 - lamina rara ext. et int.
- lamina fibroreticularis

- **Tissue specific modifications**

- Descemet membrane (cornea)
- Glomerular BM (Bowman's capsule)
- Part of Bruch's membran of retina
- ...

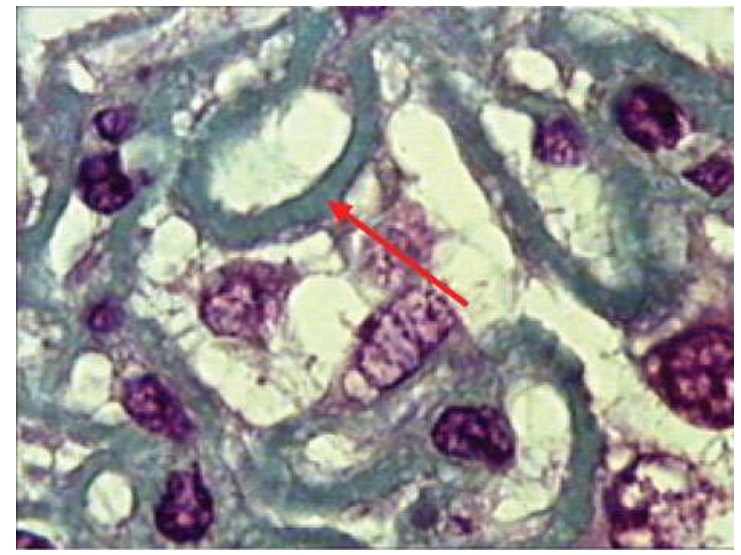
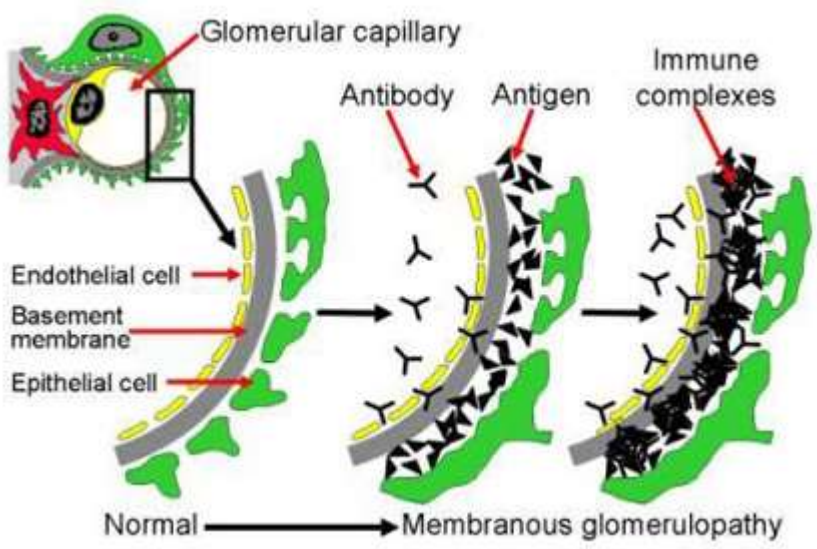
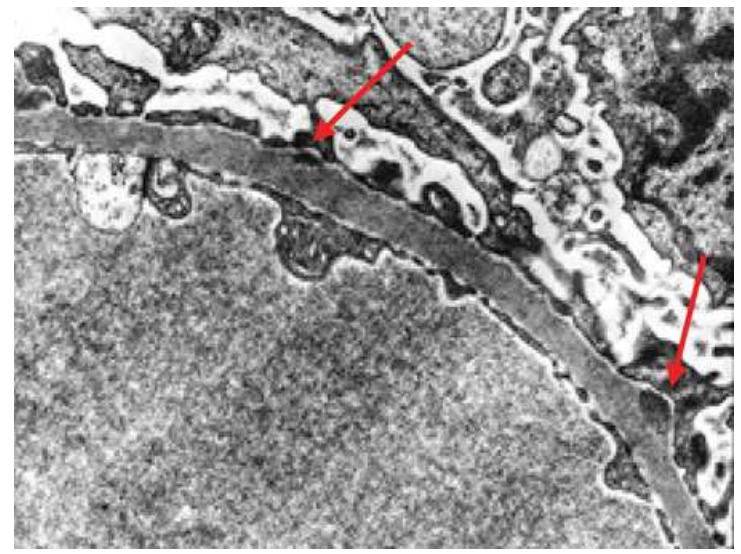
BASEMENT MEMBRANE IN CORPUSCULUM RENIS



BASEMENT MEMBRANE IN CORPUSCULUM RENIS

- **Clinical correlations – Membranous glomerulonephritis**

- circulating Abs bind to BM of capillary wall
- complement (C5b-C9) attacks glomerular endothelial cells
- filtration barrier compromised
- proteinuria, edema, hematuria, renal failure



EMBRYONIC ORIGIN OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

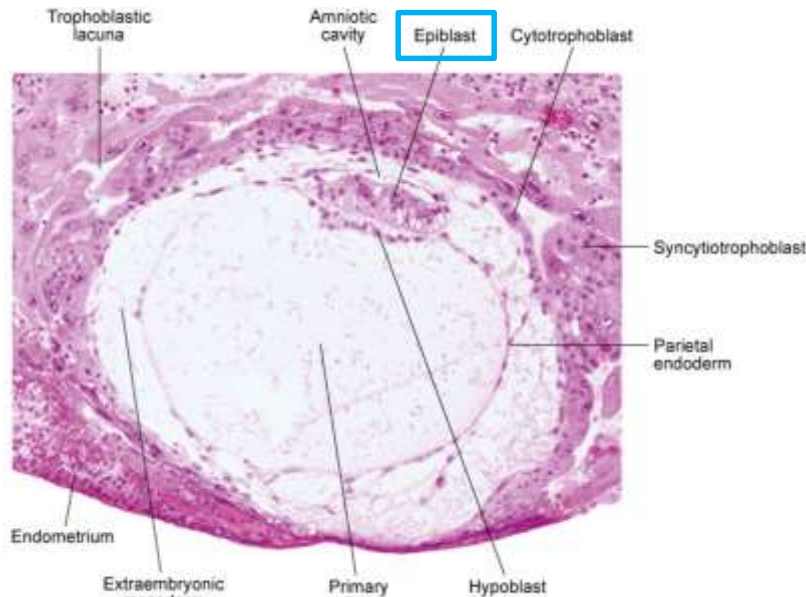


Fig. 5-3. Digital photomicrograph of a 12-day human embryo (Carnegie No. 7700) taken just as implantation within the endometrium is completed.

Courtesy of Dr. Ray Gosser

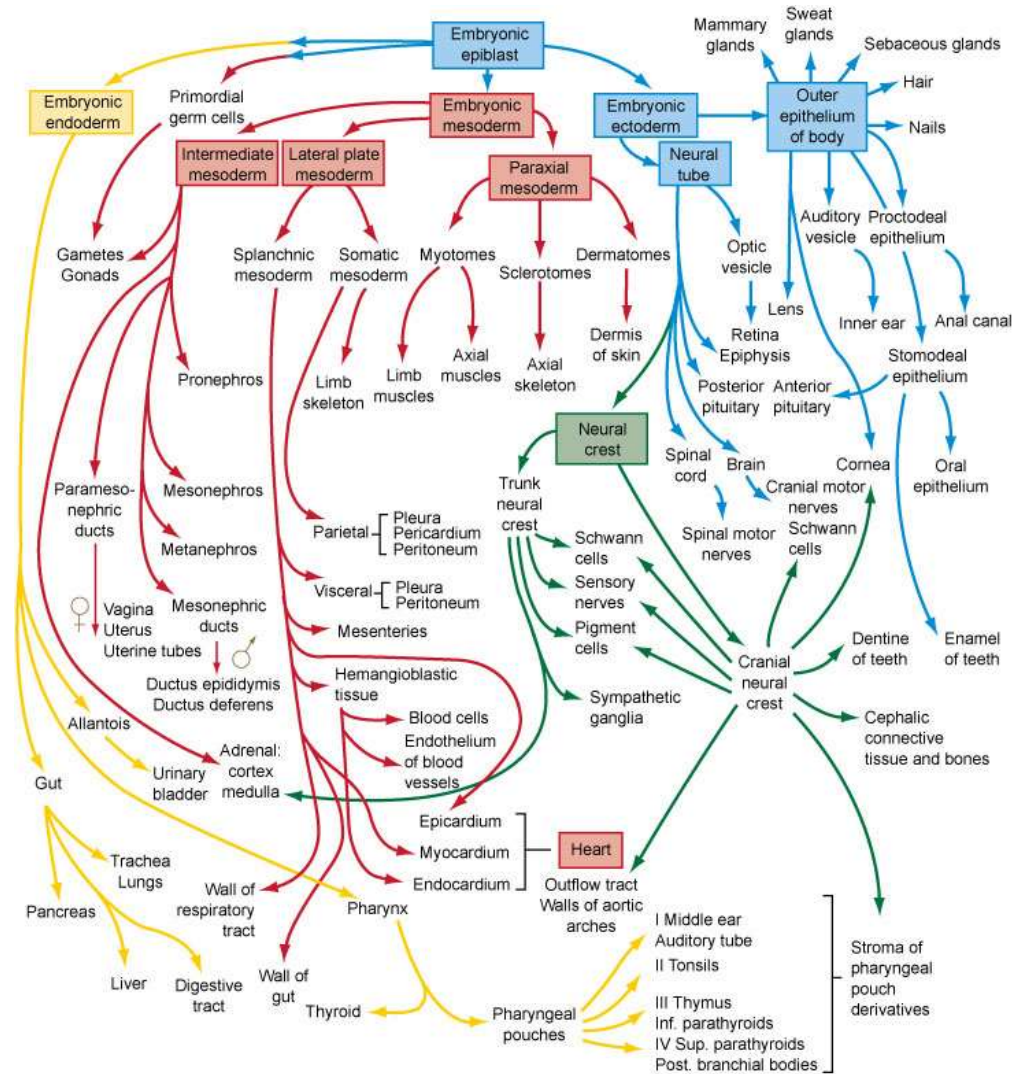


Fig. 6-27. Flow chart showing the formation of the organs and tissues of the embryo from the fundamental germ layers. The arrows are color-coded according to the germ layer of origin of the structure (see Fig. 4-1 for color code).

EMBRYONIC ORIGIN OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

- derived from all three germ layers

| Germ layer | Epithelial derivatives |
|------------|--|
| Ectoderm | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Epidermis (stratified squamous keratinized epithelium)2. Sweat glands and ducts (simple and stratified cuboidal epithelium)3. Oral cavity, vagina, anal canal (stratified squamous non-keratinized epithelium) |
| Mesoderm | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Endothelium of blood vessels (simple squamous epithelium)2. Mesothelium of body cavities (simple squamous epithelium)3. Urinary and reproductive passages (transitional, pseudostratified and stratified columnar epithelium, simple cuboidal and columnar epithelium) |
| Endoderm | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Esophagus (stratified squamous non-keratinized epithelium)2. GIT (simple columnar epithelium)3. Výstelka žlučníku (simple columnar epithelium)4. Solid glands (liver, pancreas)5. Respiratory passages (ciliated pseudostratified columnar epithelium, ciliated simple columnar epithelium, cuboidal, squamous) |

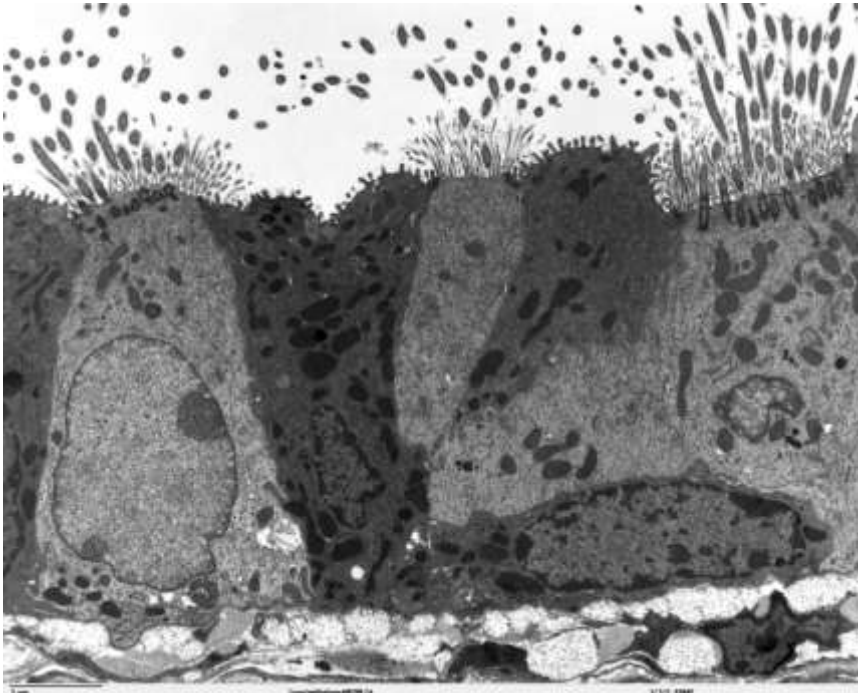
CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

According to

- 1) morphology
- 2) function

- Covering (sheet) epithelium
- Trabecular epithelium
- Reticular epithelium

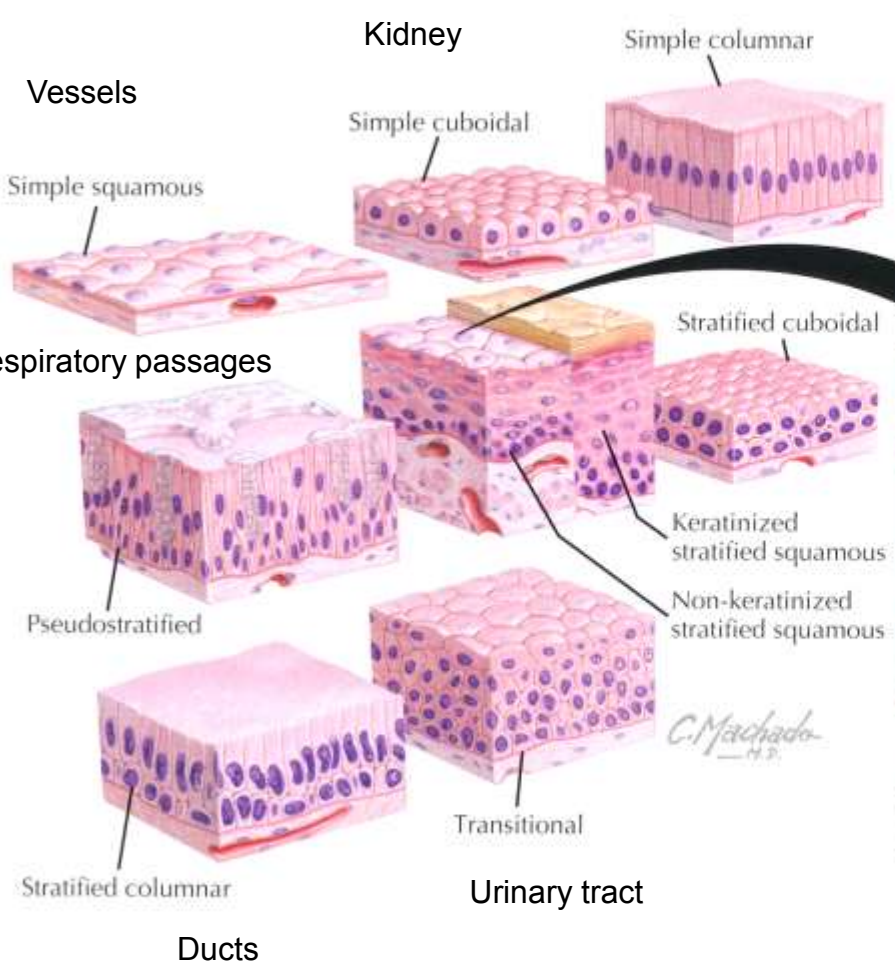
- Covering
- Glandular
- Resorptive
- Sensory
- Respiratory
- Alveolar
- Germinal
- ...



Morphology

1) Covering (sheet) epithelia

Classification of epithelia.



Skin
Oesophagus



▲ **Schematic of nonkeratinized stratified squamous epithelium as seen with the light microscope.** The epithelium acts as a protective barrier and is typical of wet surfaces—linings of the oral cavity, esophagus, anal canal, part of the urethra, and vagina. It also covers the cornea.

CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

■ Simple squamous epithelium

- Single layer of flat cells with central flat nuclei
- Capillaries
- Lung alveolus
- Glomerulus in renal corpuscle

Selective permeability

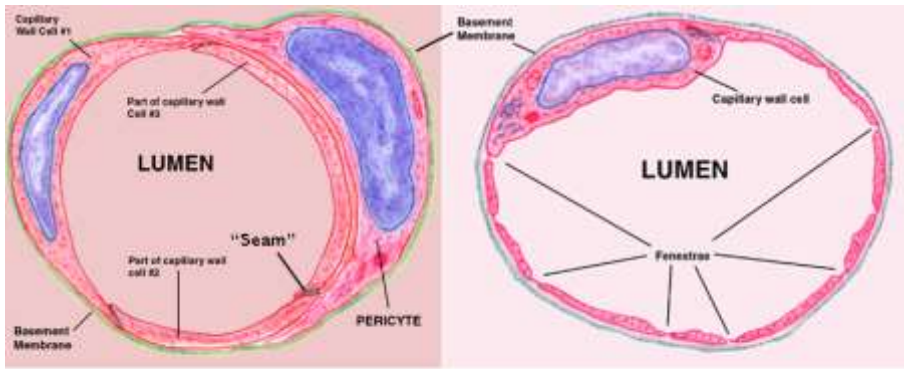
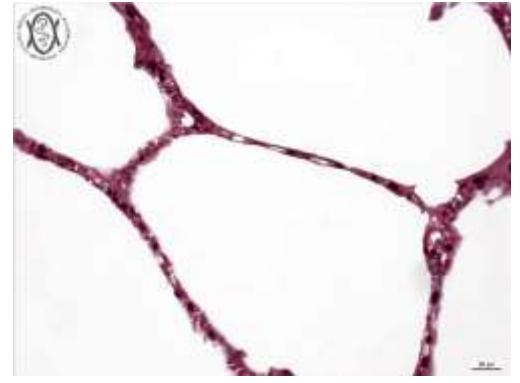


Endothelium.

heart, blood, and lymphatic vessels.

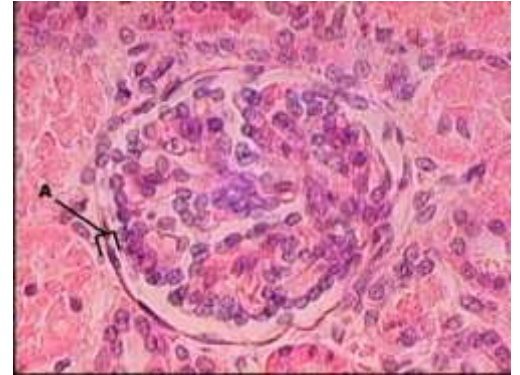
Mesothelium.

serous membranes - body cavities

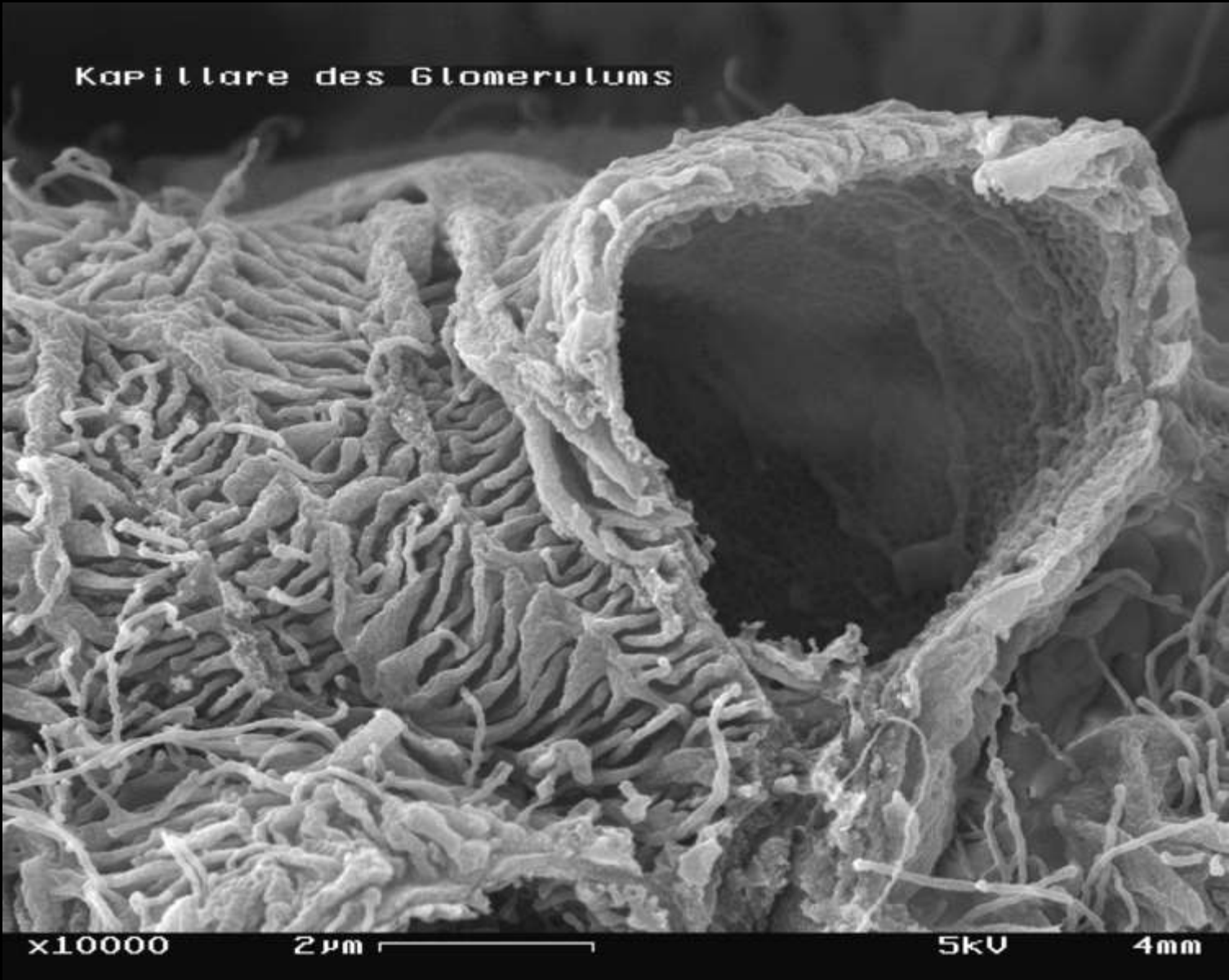


Closed or Continuous Capillary

Fenestrated Capillary



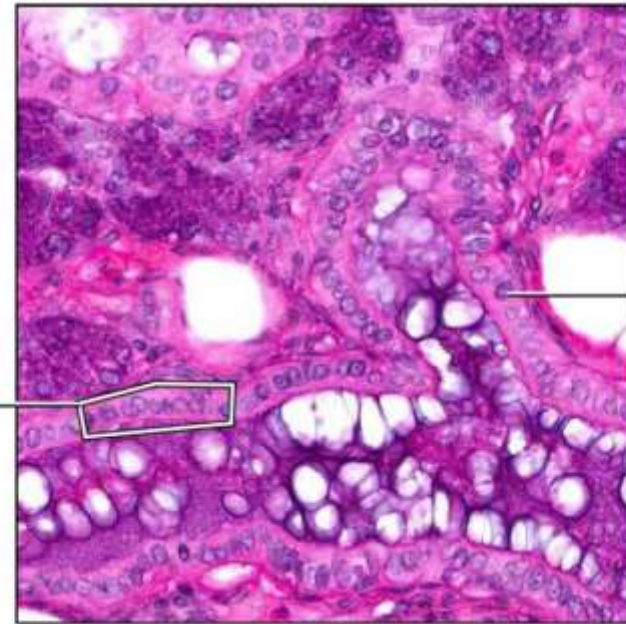
CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

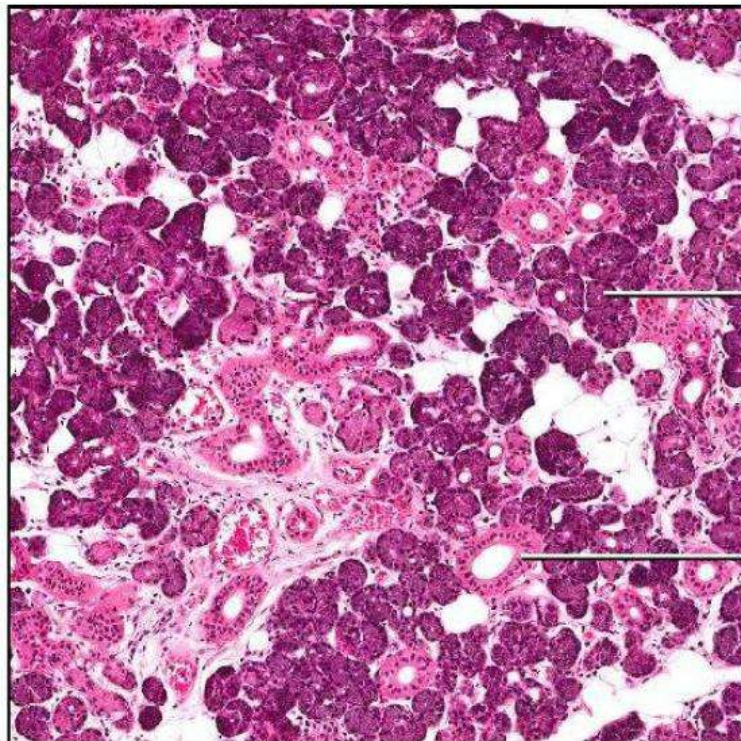
■ Simple cuboidal epithelium

- Single layer of cubic cells with large, spherical central nuclei
- Secretion or resorption



Simple cuboidal epithelium

Nucleus of cuboidal epithelium cell



Serous acini

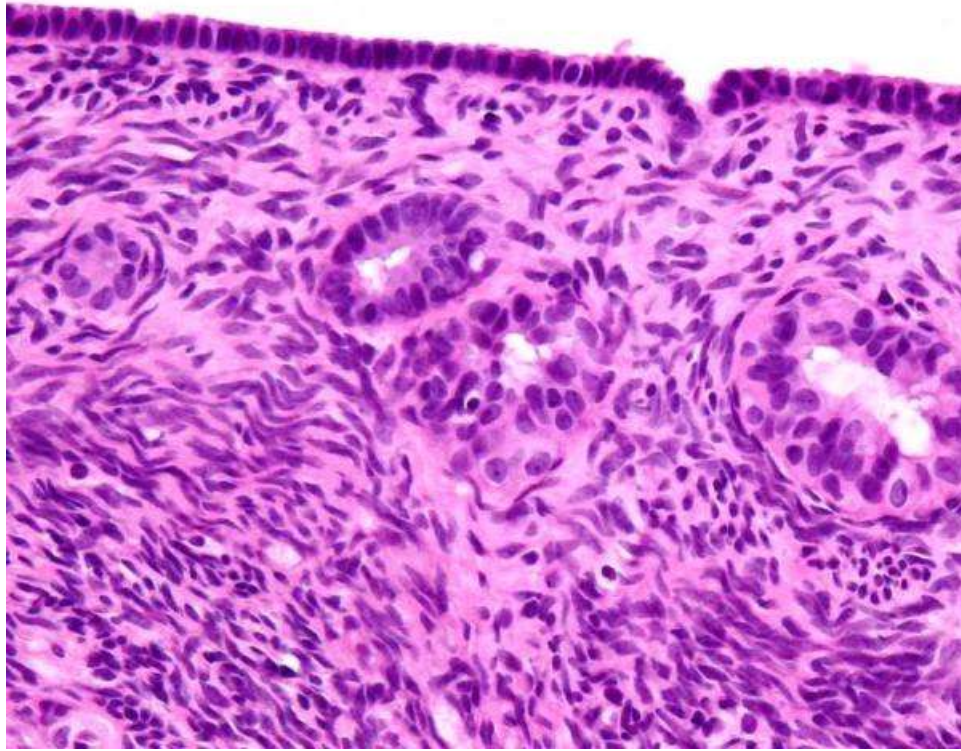
Simple cuboidal epithelium of intralobular duct

Examples:

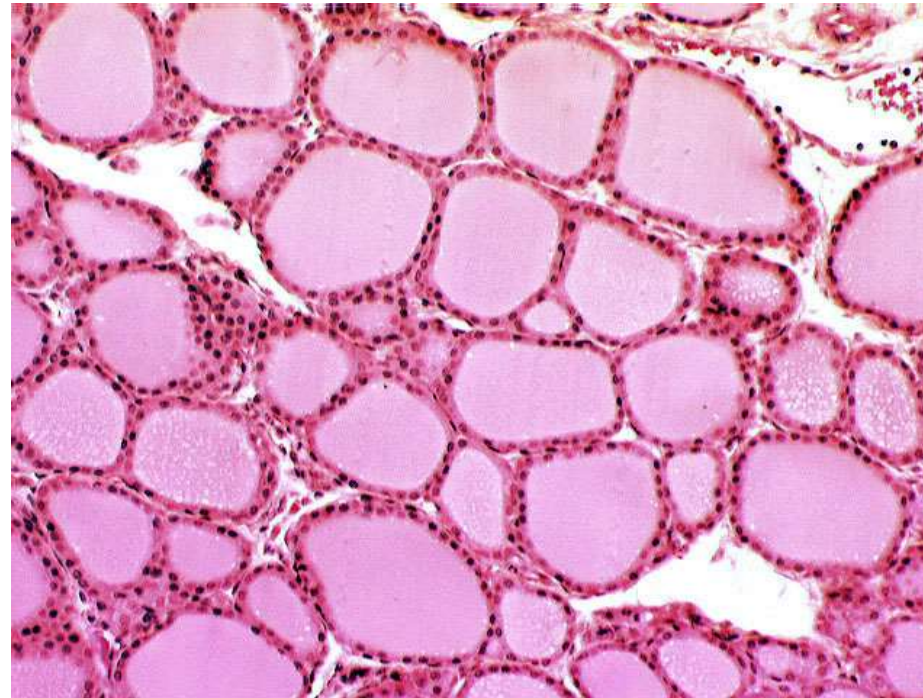
- Ovarian surface epithelium
- Renal tubules
- Thyroid
- Secretion acini

CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

Ovarian surface epithelium



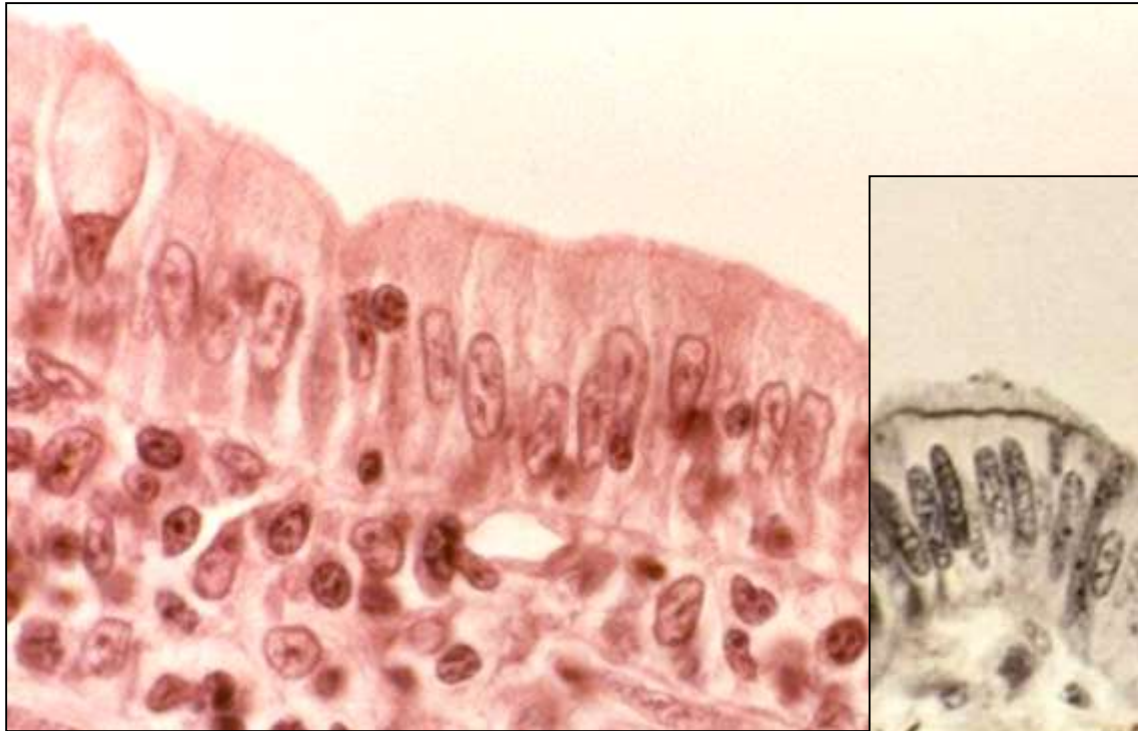
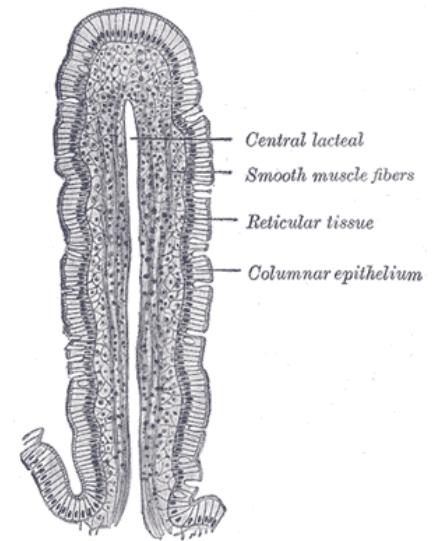
Thyroid follicles



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

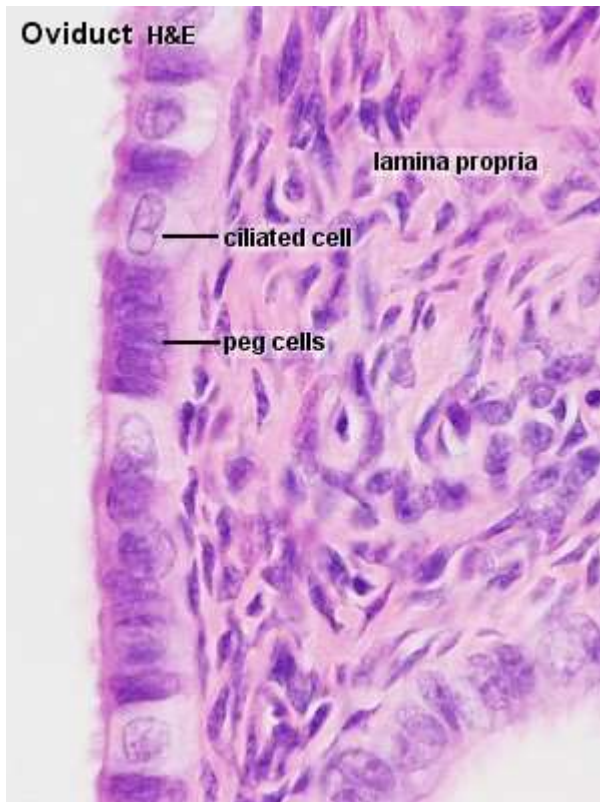
■ Simple columnar epithelium

- Single layer of columnar cells with large, oval, basally located nucleus
- GIT
 - stomach
 - small and large intestine
 - gall bladder



■ Simple columnar epithelium with kinocilia

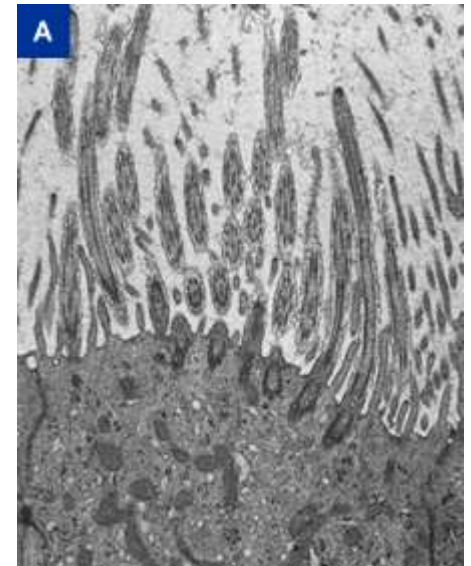
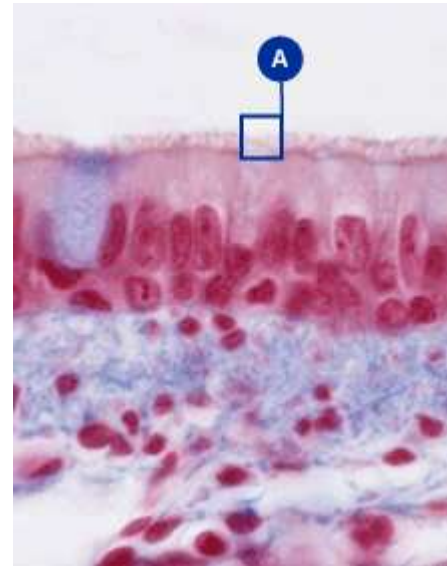
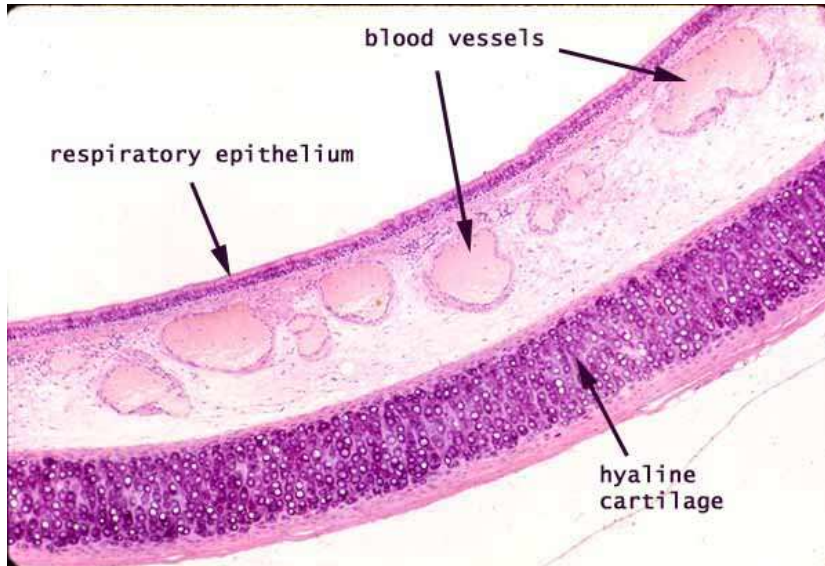
- Uterine tube
- flow of the oocyte towards the uterus



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

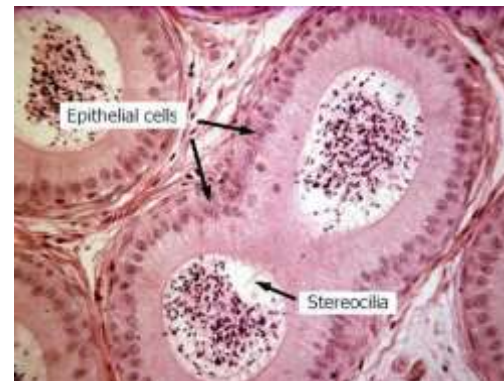
■ Pseudostratified columnar epithelium with kinocilia

- Upper respiratory passages
- Removal of mucus produced by epithelial glands



■ Pseudostratified columnar epithelium with stereocilia

- Epididymis
- Vas deferens



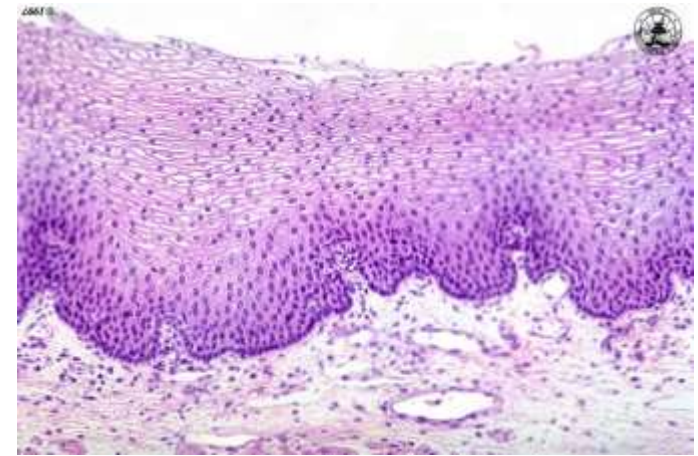
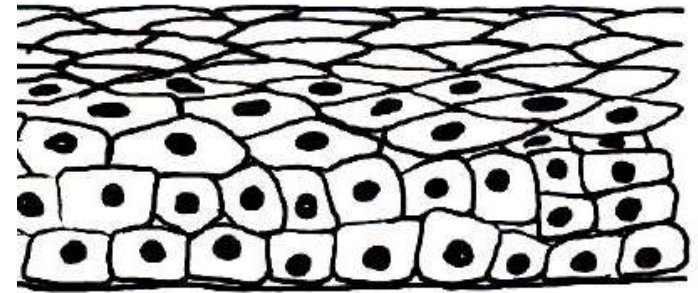
▪ Stratified squamous epithelium

- Multiple layers of cubic cells with central nuclei, flattening towards the surface
- First layer in contact with BM, last layer – flat
- Constant abrasion
- Mechanical resilience
- Protection from drying
- Rapid renewal

Keratinized vs. non-keratinized

Examples:

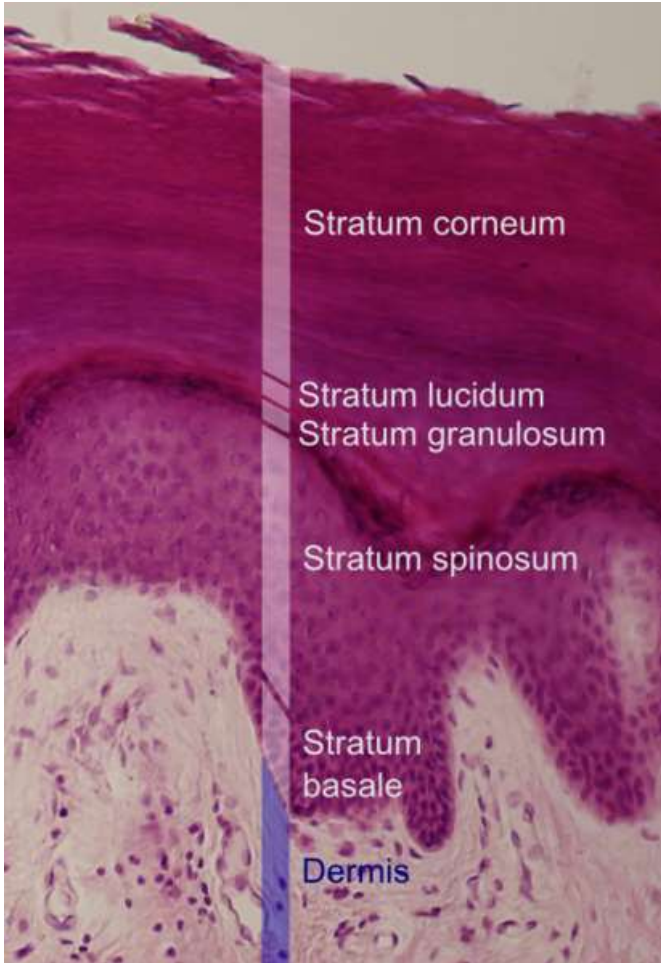
- Cornea
- Oral cavity and lips
- Esophagus
- Anal canal
- Vagina



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

Stratified squamous epithelium

Keratinized



Skin (epidermis)

Nail

Keratins

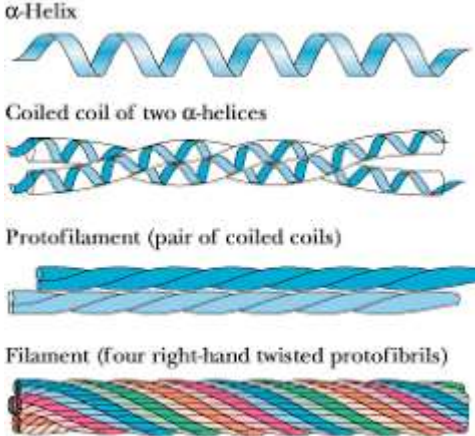
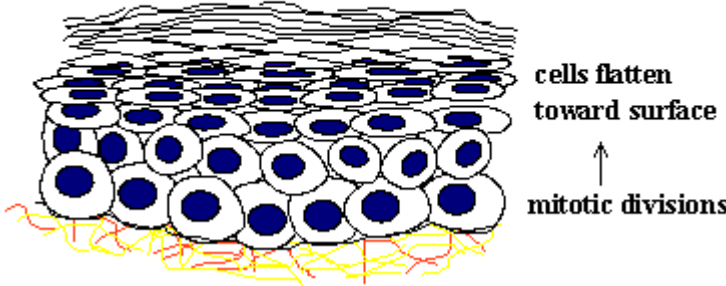
Fibrous proteins, ~ 40 types

Very stable, multimeric

Disorders of keratin expression
– variety of clinical symptoms

e.g. Epidermolysis bullosa simplex

keratinized stratified squamous
dead, keratinized cells at surface

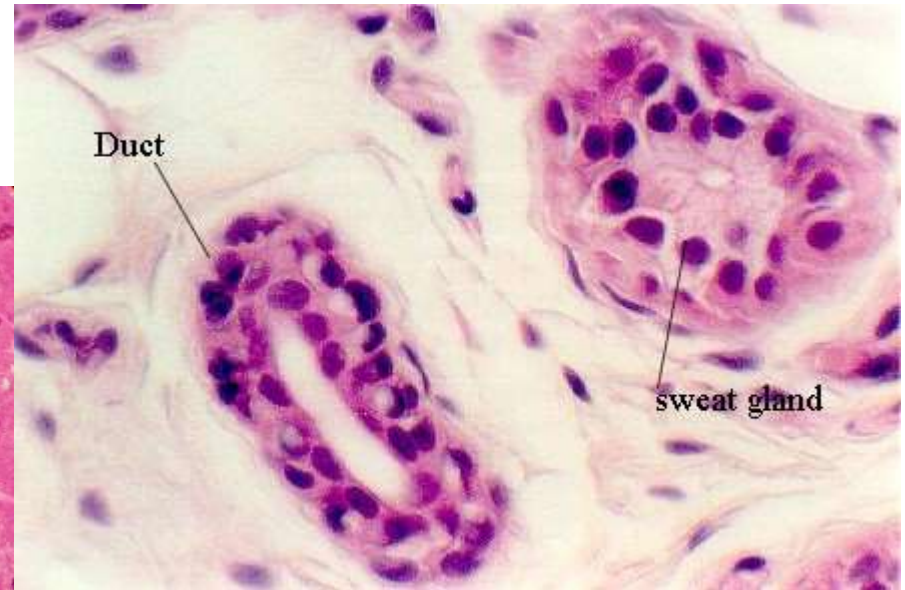
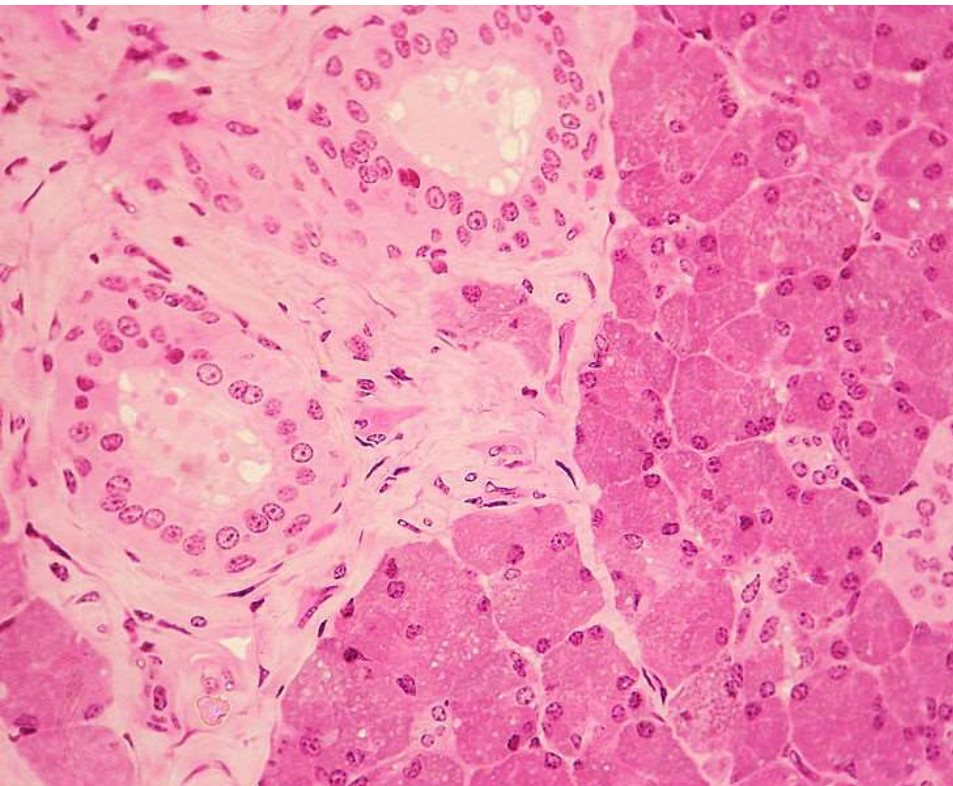


CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

■ Stratified cuboidal epithelium

Large ducts of :

- sweat glands
- mammary glands
- salivary glands

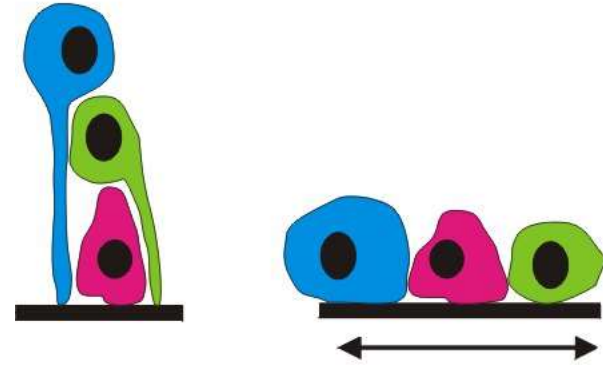


CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

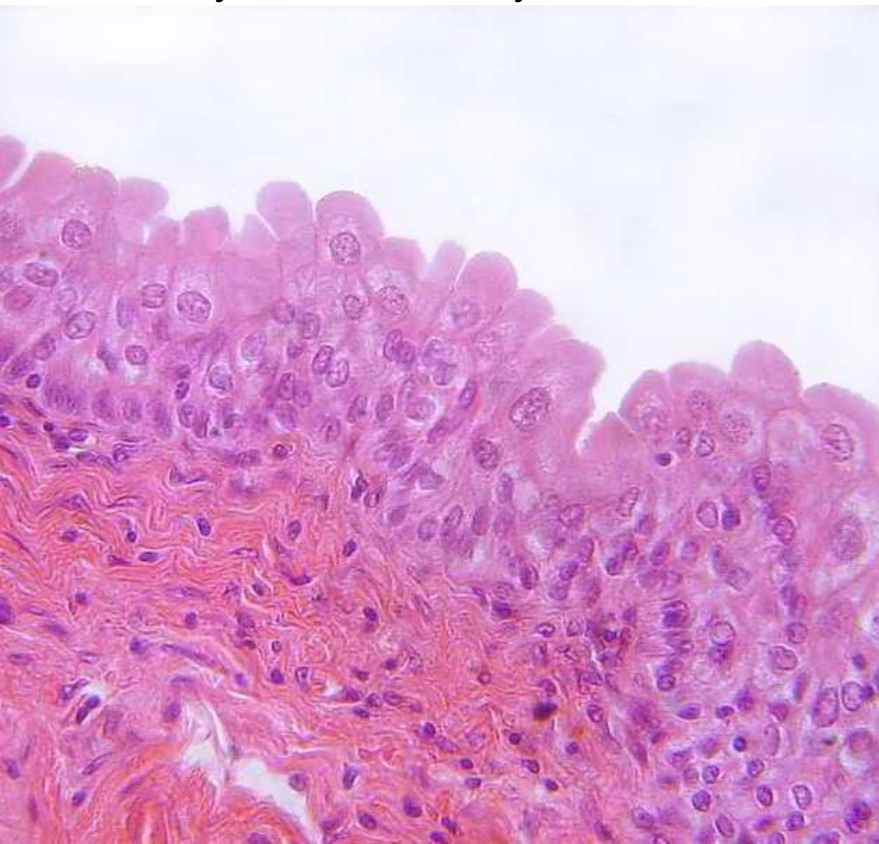
■ Transitional epithelium (urothelium)

- Fluctuation of volume
 - organization of epithelial layers
 - membrane reserve
- Protection against hyperosmotic urine

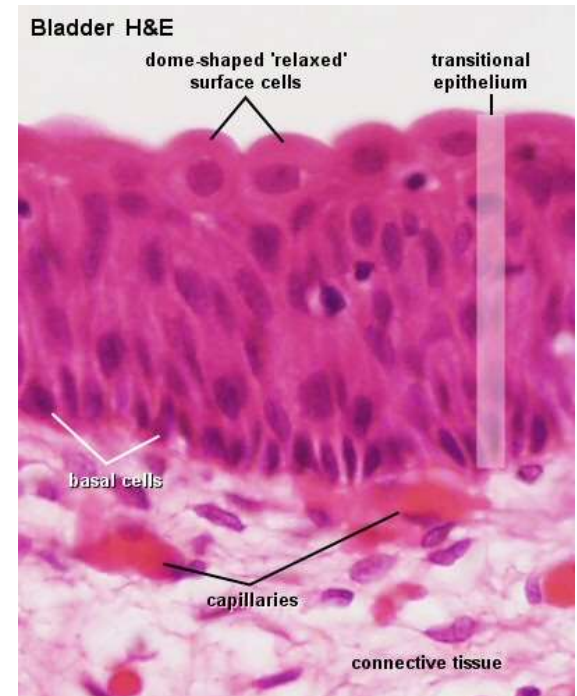
- Urinary bladder, kidneys, ureters



Empty: rather cuboidal with a domed apex
Relaxed: flat, stretched



Basal cells
Intermediate layer
Surface cells



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

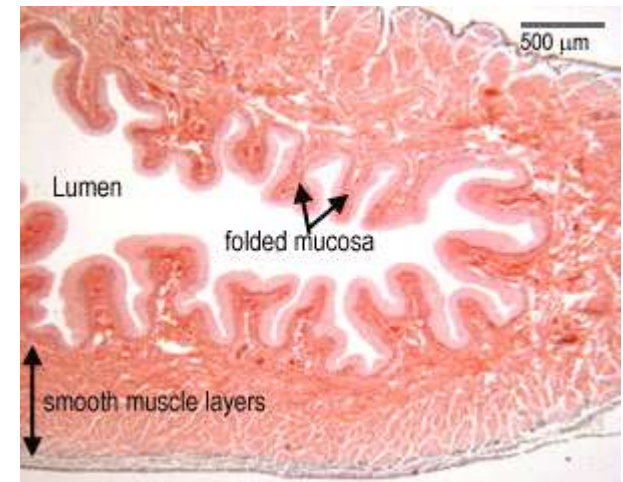
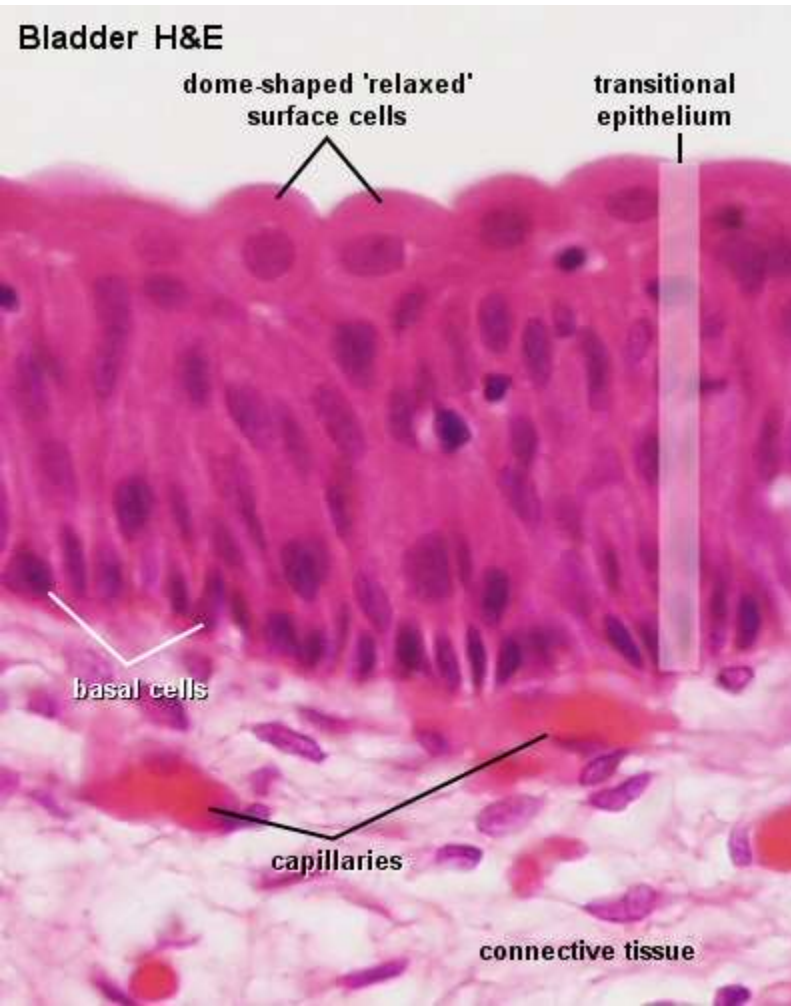
■ Transitional epithelium (urothelium)

glycosaminoglycan layer (GAG) on the surface

- osmotic barrier
- antimicrobial properties

Barrier architecture:

- GAG-layer
- surface cells (tight junctions), uroplakin proteins in the apical cell membrane
- capillary plexus in the submucosa

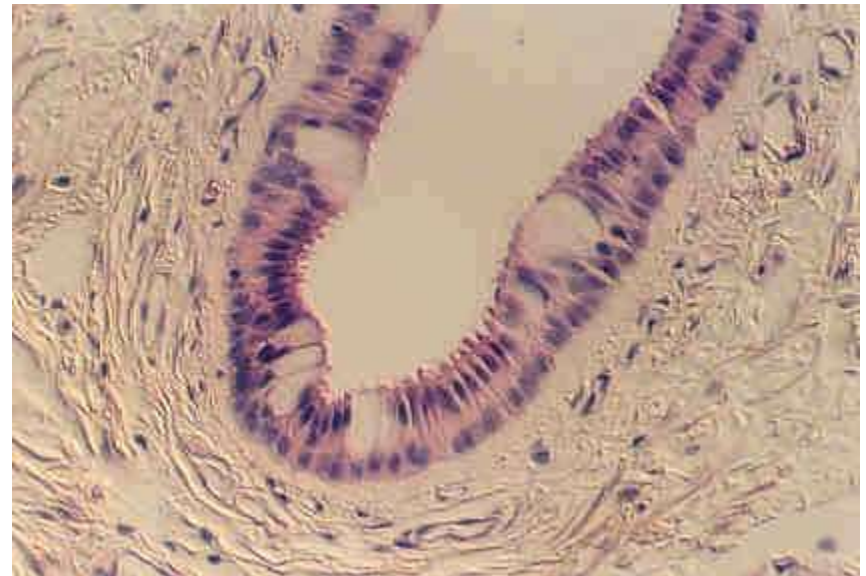


CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

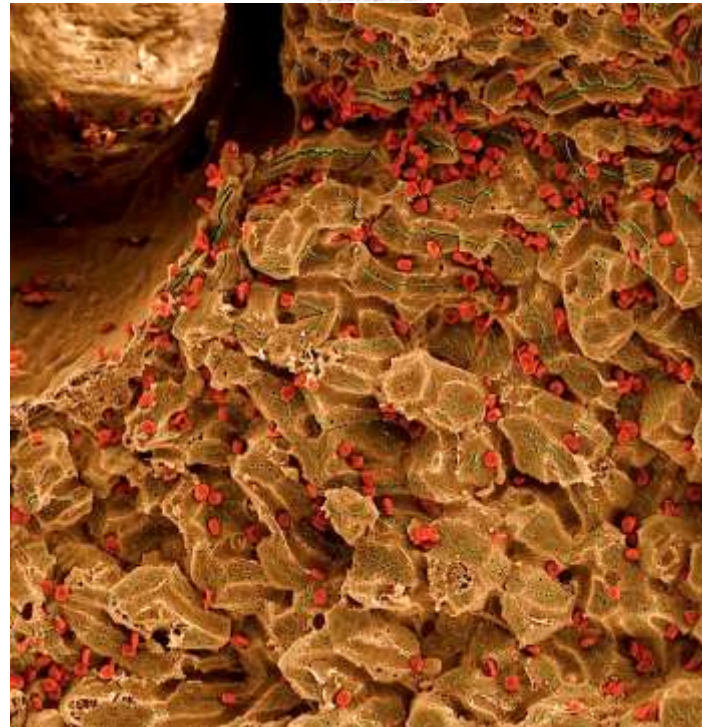
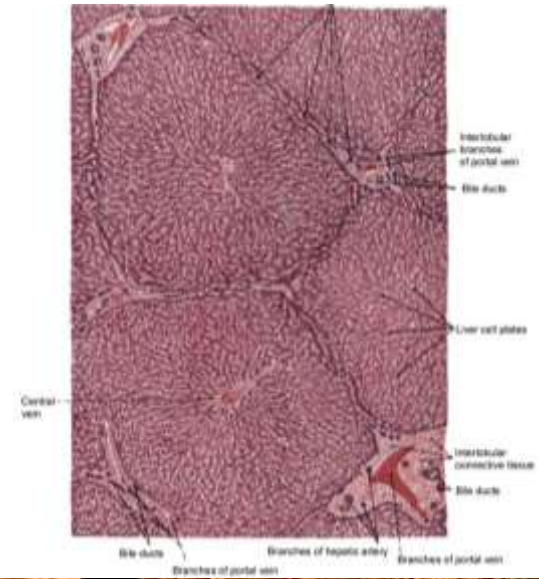
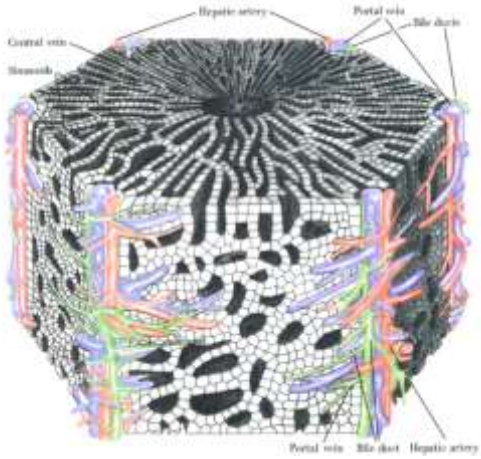
■ Stratified columnar epithelia

- several layers of columnar cells
- secretion / protection

- ocular conjunctiva
- pharynx, anus – transitions
- uterus, male urethra, vas deferens
- intralobular ducts of salivary glands



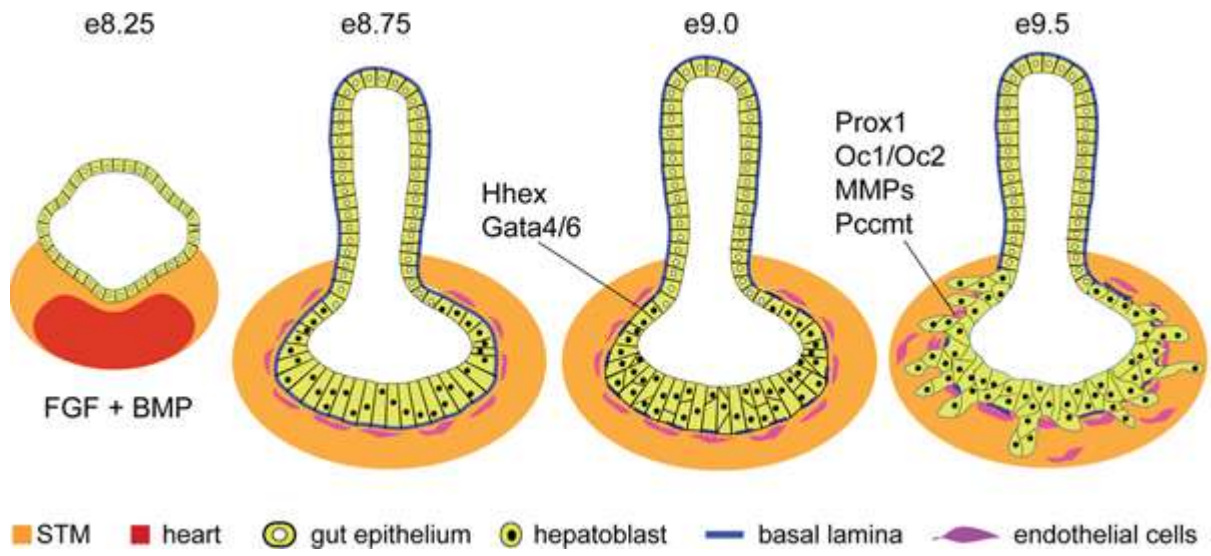
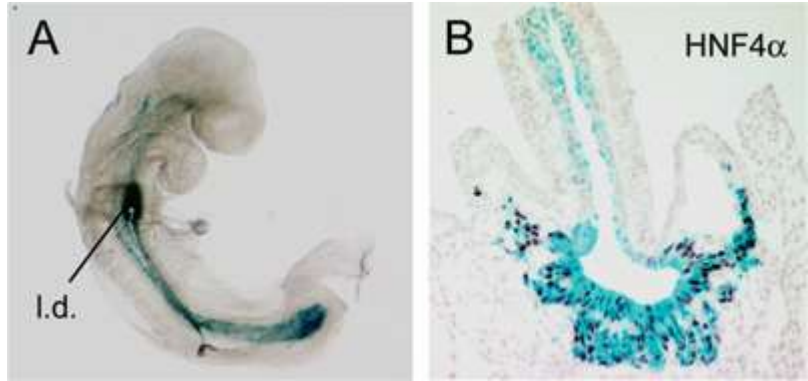
2) Trabecular epithelium



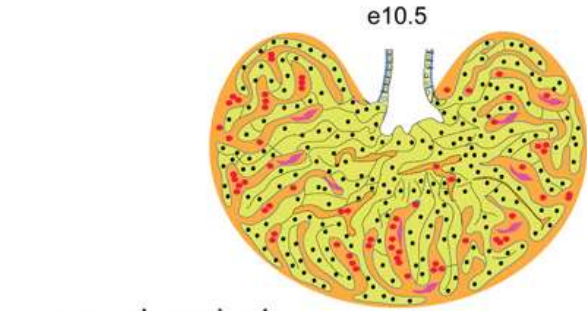
CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

Trabecular epithelium

- Cords of hepatocytes



hepatoblasts:
 BMPR, FGFR, c-Met, TGFR,
 Pi3K, Sek1/JNK, Elf5, Arf6, Raf1
 Smad2/3, β -catenin, c-jun, Tbx3, NF κ B
 Foxm1b, Xbp1, Mtf-1



mesenchyme signals:
 BMP, FGF, HGF, Wnt, TGF β , RA
 Gata4, WT1, N-myc, Hlx, Lhx2

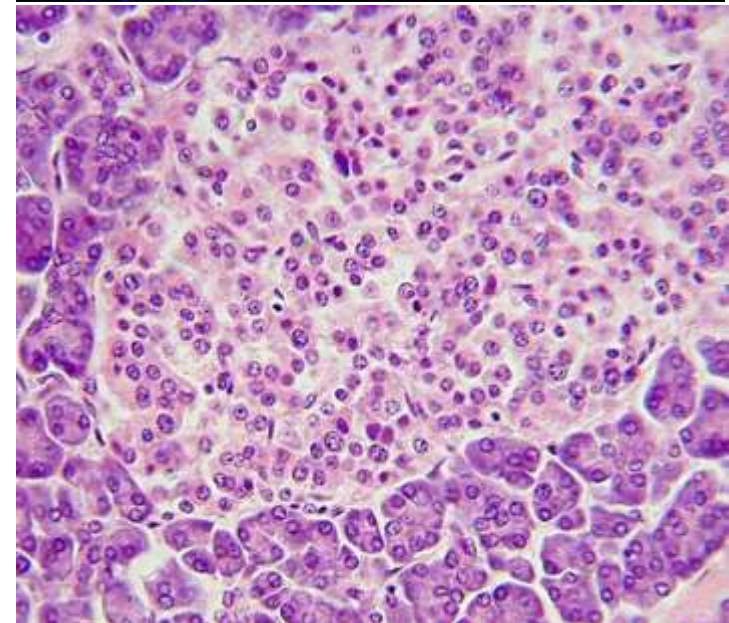
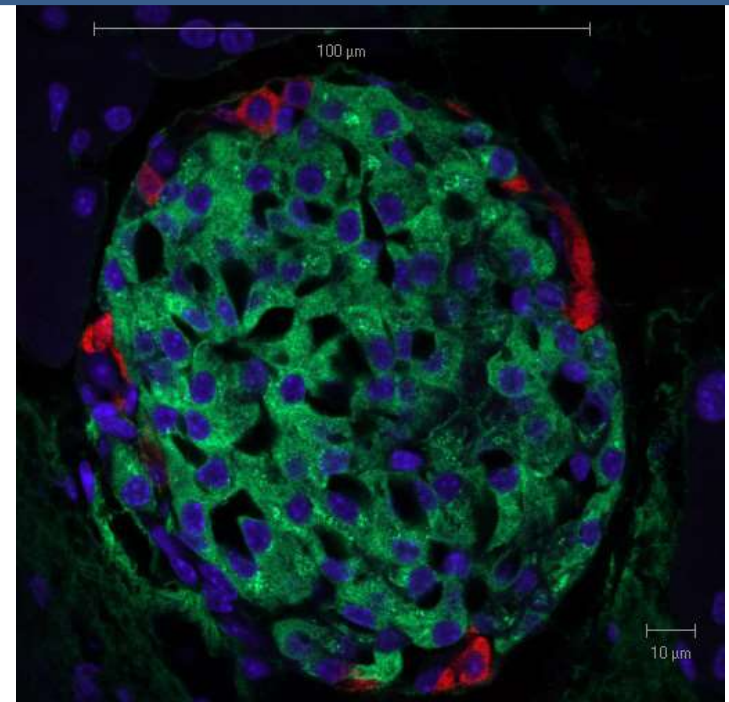
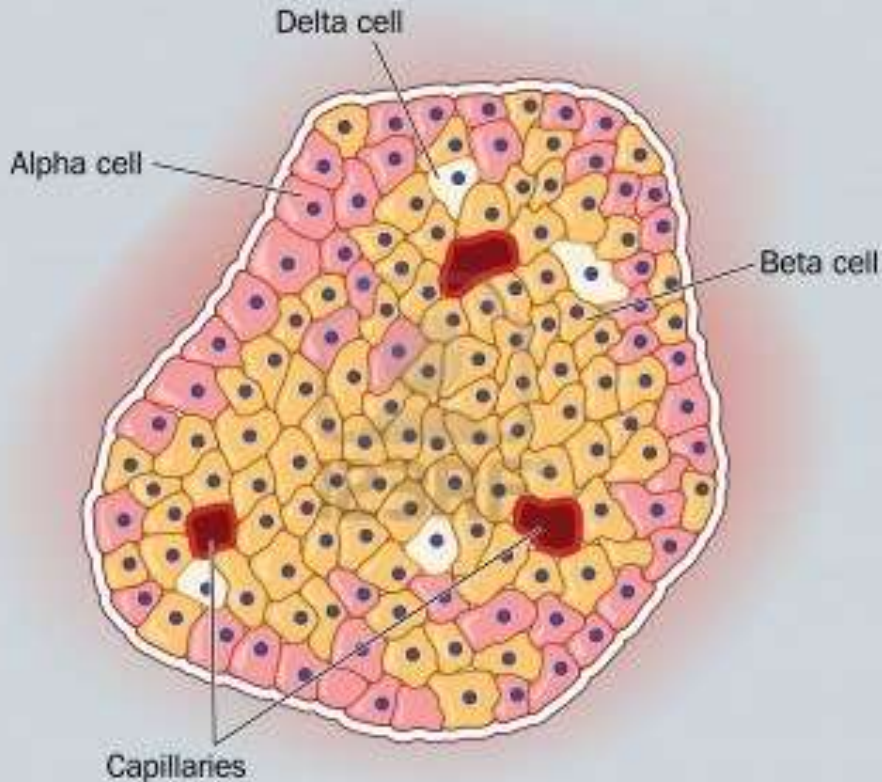
Legend for e10.5 diagram:
 orange square: STM
 yellow circle: hepatoblast
 red circle: blood cells
 purple shape: endothelial cells

CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

- Endocrine glands

Islets of Langerhans

Cords of endocrine active cells

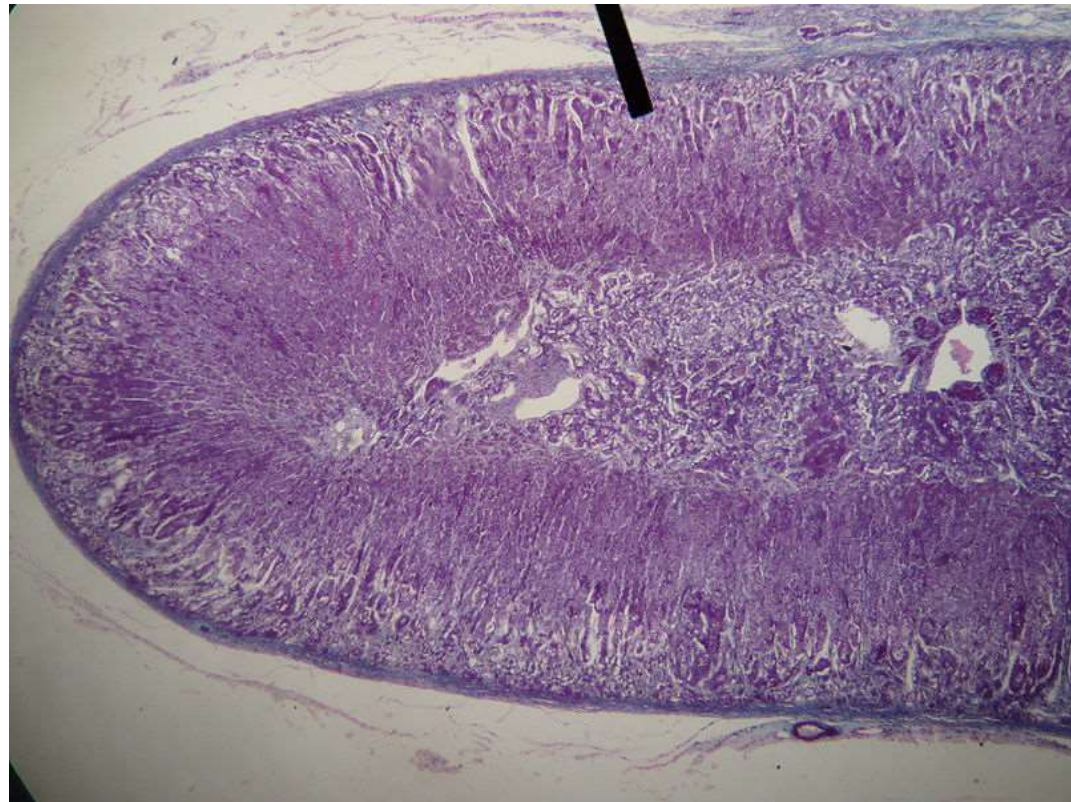
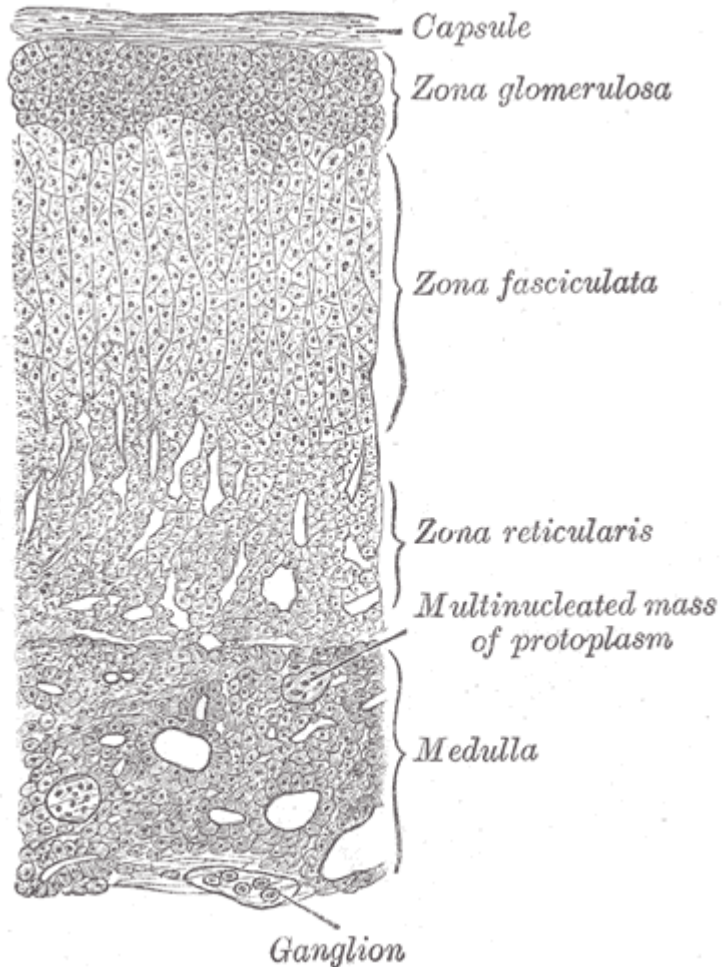


CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

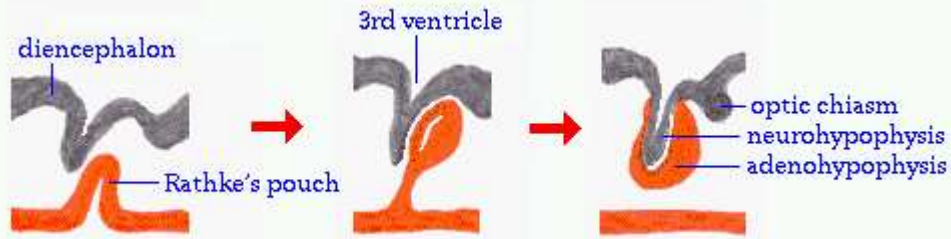
▪ Endocrine glands

Adrenal cortex

Cortex of adrenal gland – epithelial cells in cords secreting corticoid

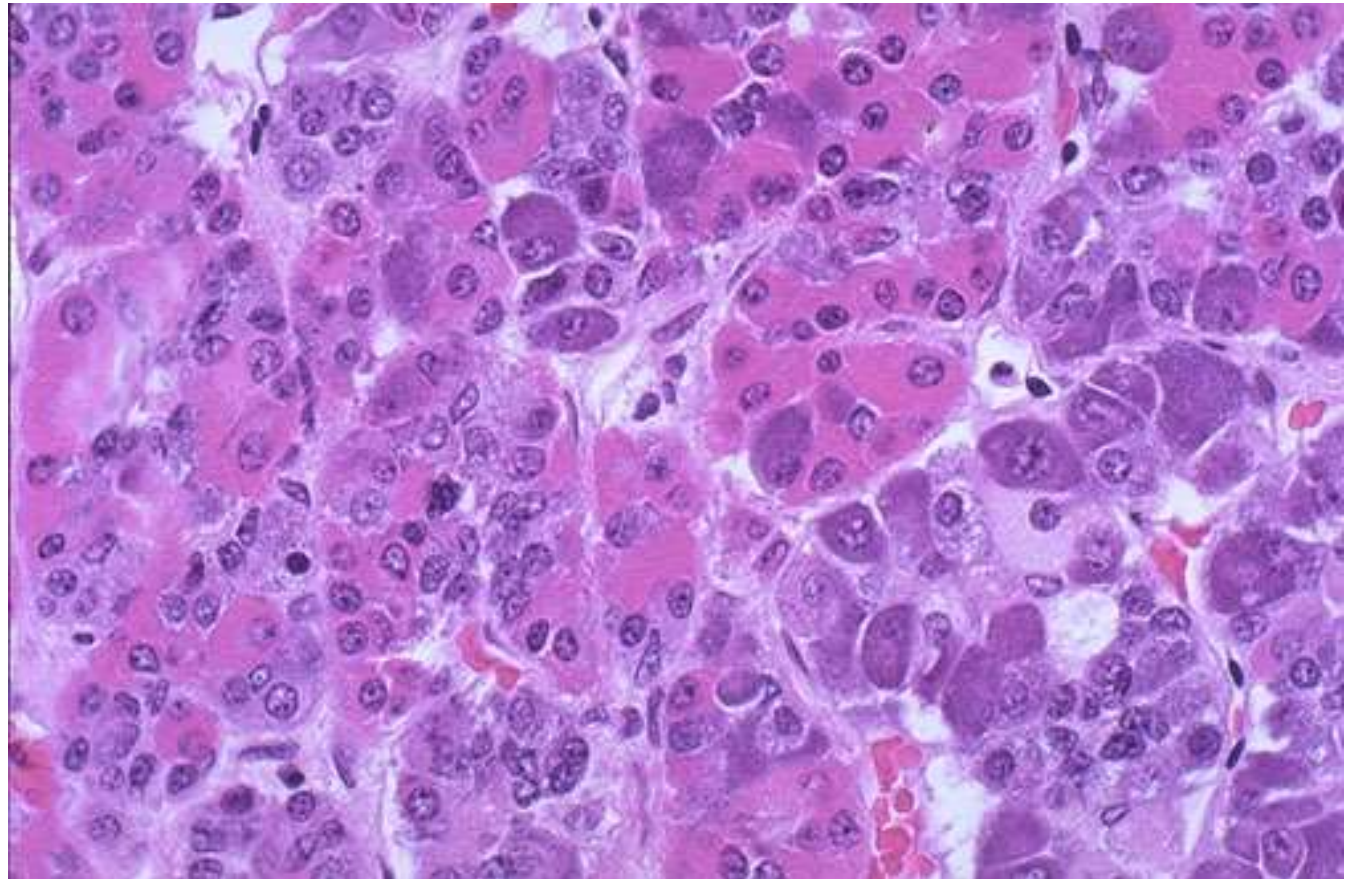


CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE



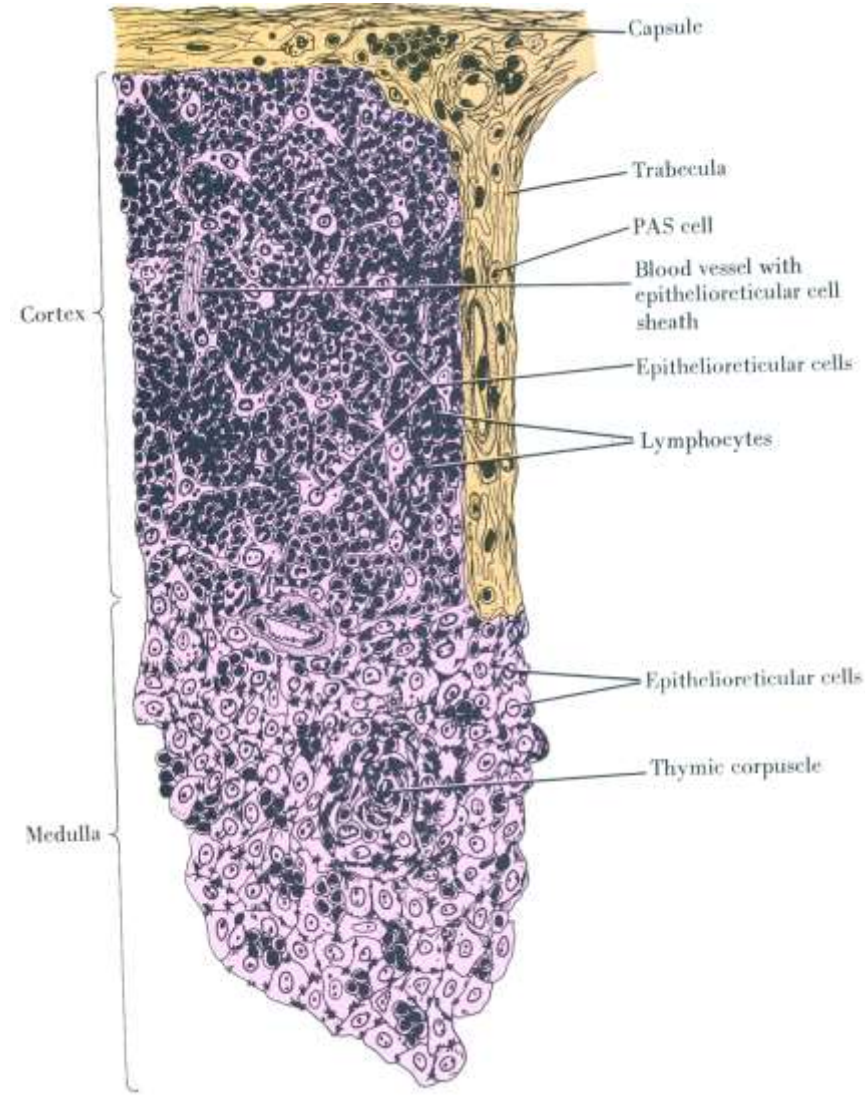
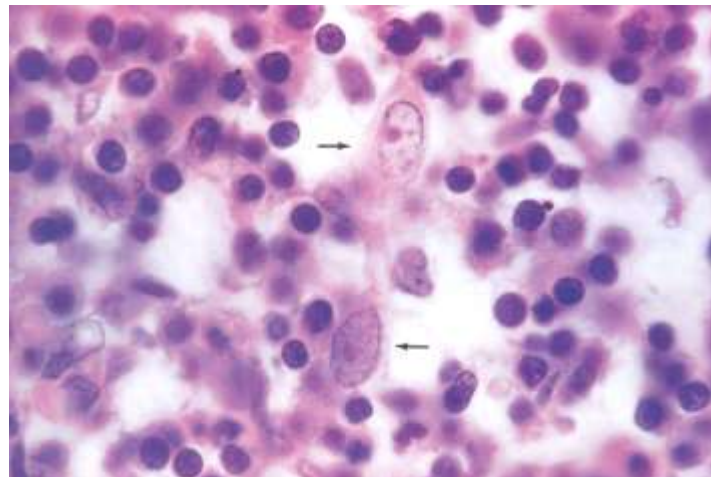
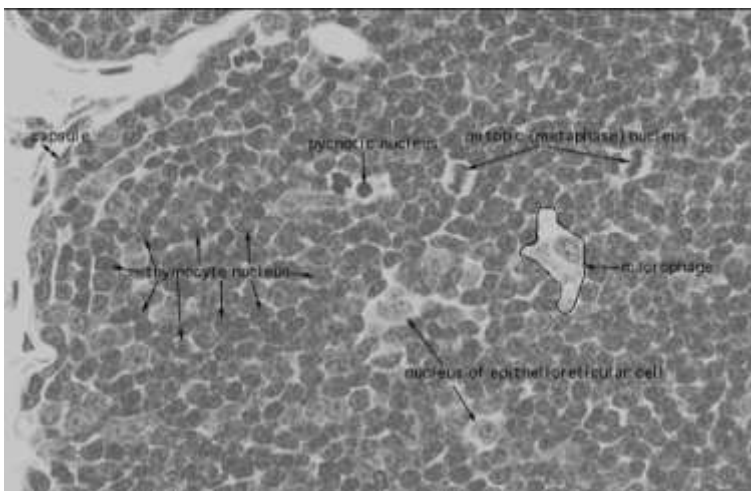
- Endocrine glands

Adenohypophysis – anterior pituitary



Reticular epithelium

Thymus

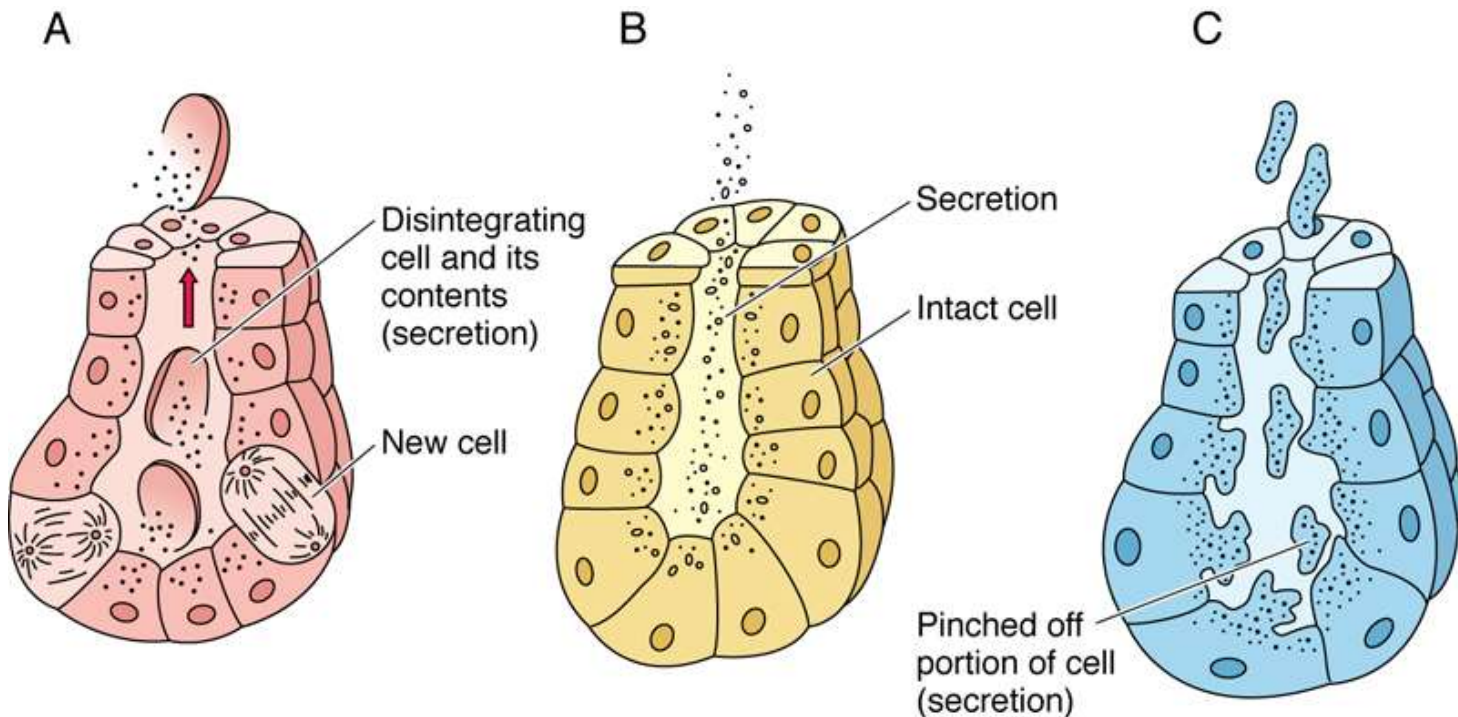


Function

CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

■ Glandular epithelium

- Secret ↔ excret
- Process of secretion:

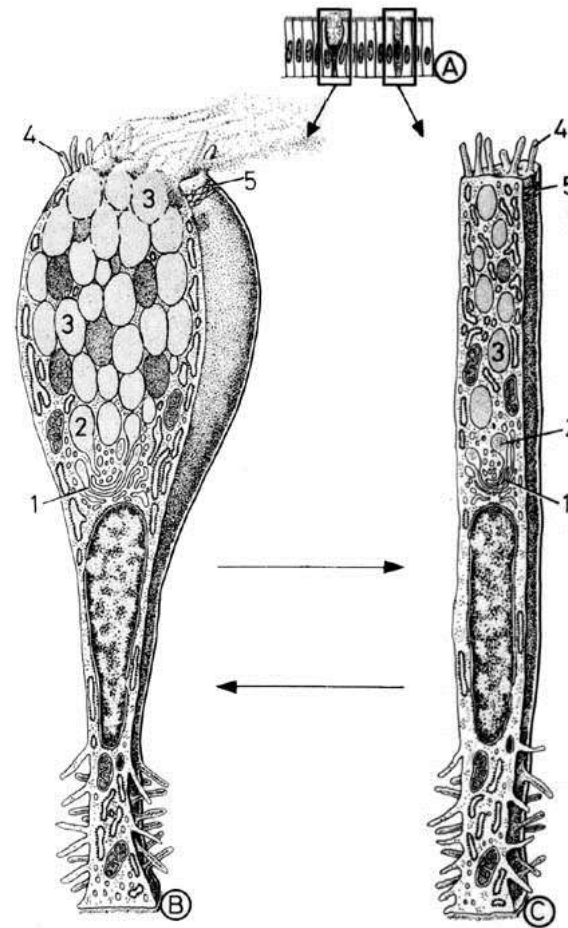
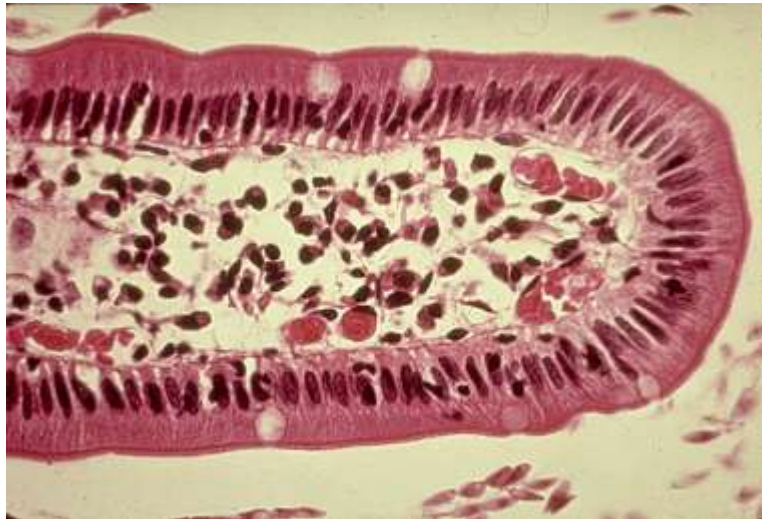


Holocrine × Merocrine × Apocrine

GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

■ Single cell glands

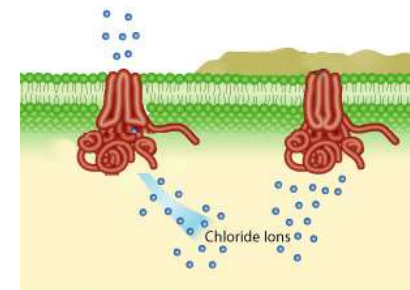
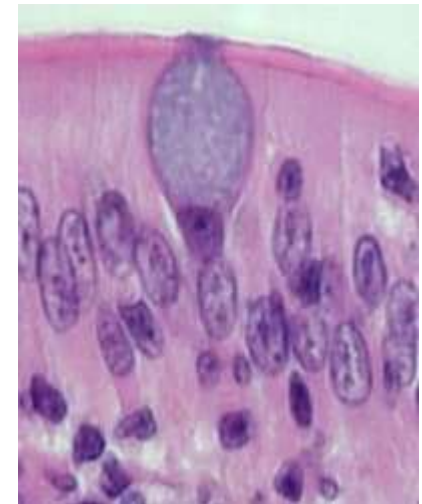
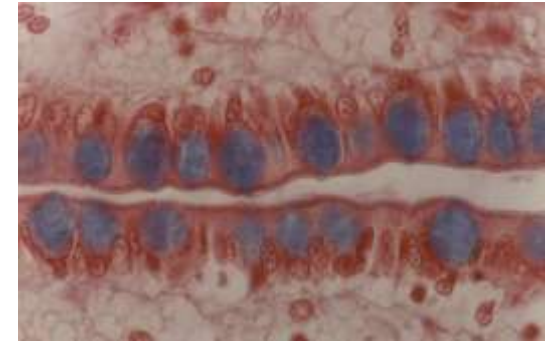
- Goblet
- Enteroendocrine



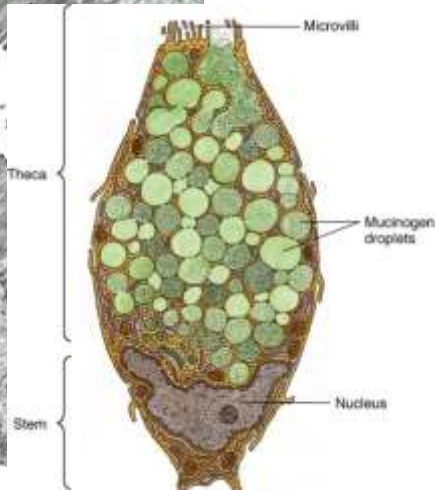
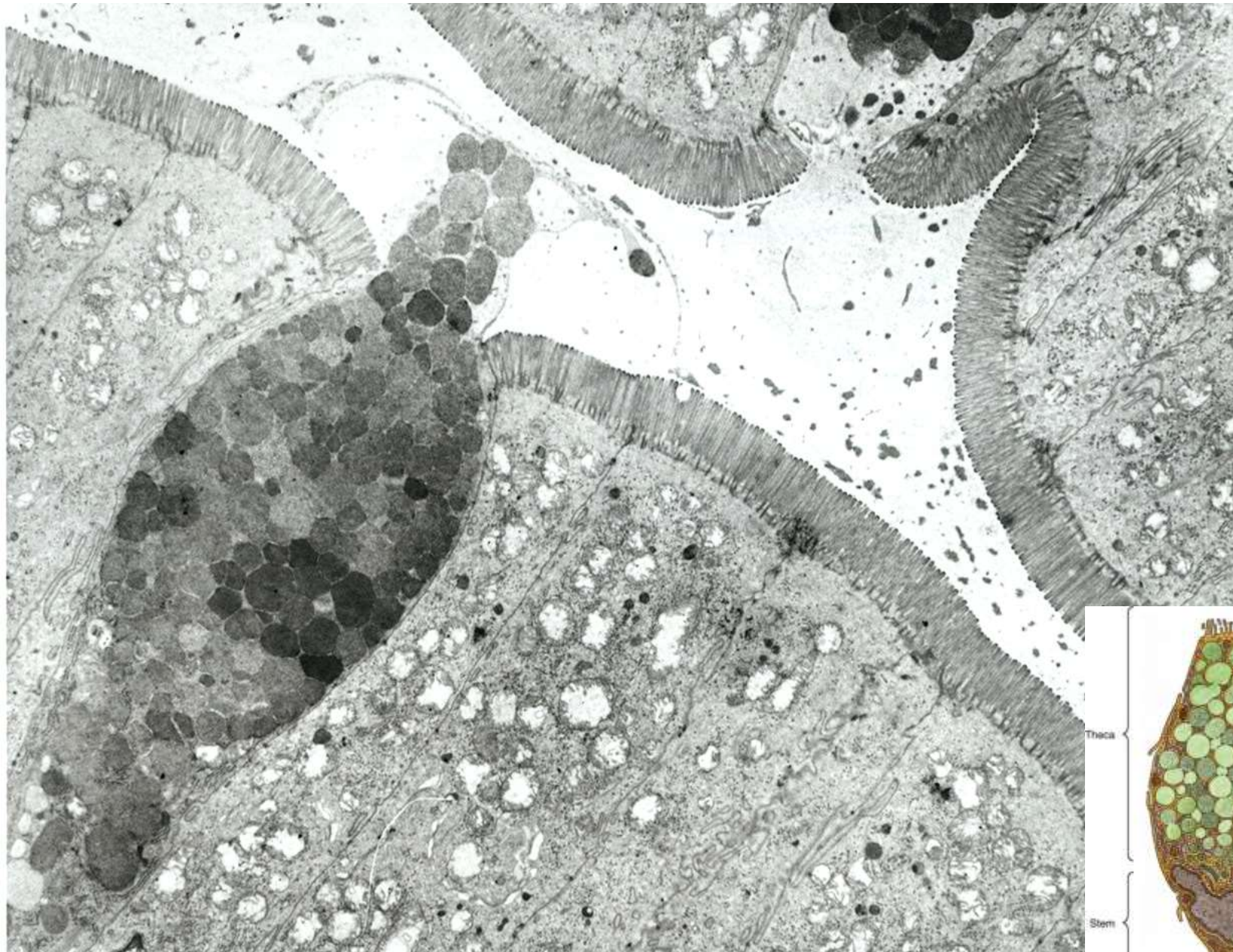
GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

■ Goblet cells

- Mainly respiratory and intestinal tract
- Produce mucus = viscous fluid composed of electrolytes and highly glycosylated glycoproteins (mucins)
- Protection against mechanic shear or chemical damage
- Trapping and elimination of particular matter
- Secretion by secretory granules constitutive or stimulated
- After secretion mucus expands extremely – more than 500-fold in 20ms
- Dramatic changes in hydration and ionic charge
- Chronic bronchitis or cystic fibrosis – hyperplasia or metaplasia of goblet cells



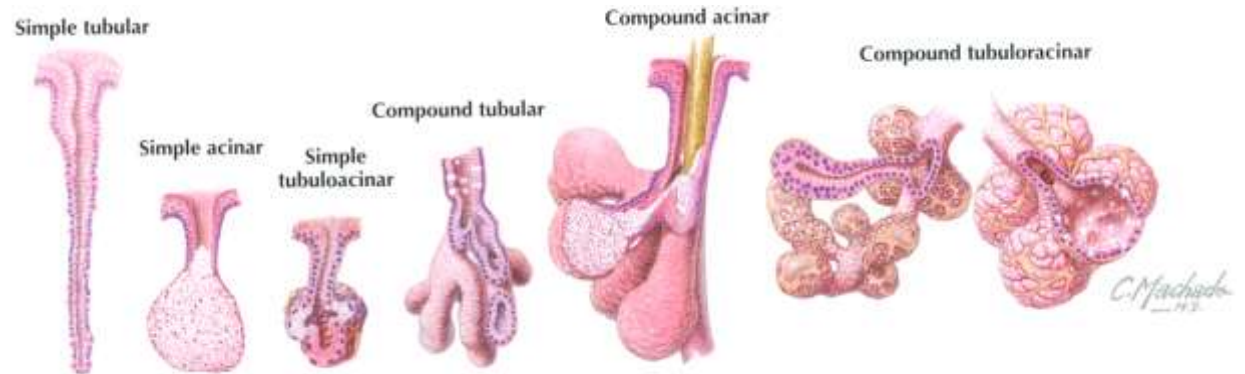
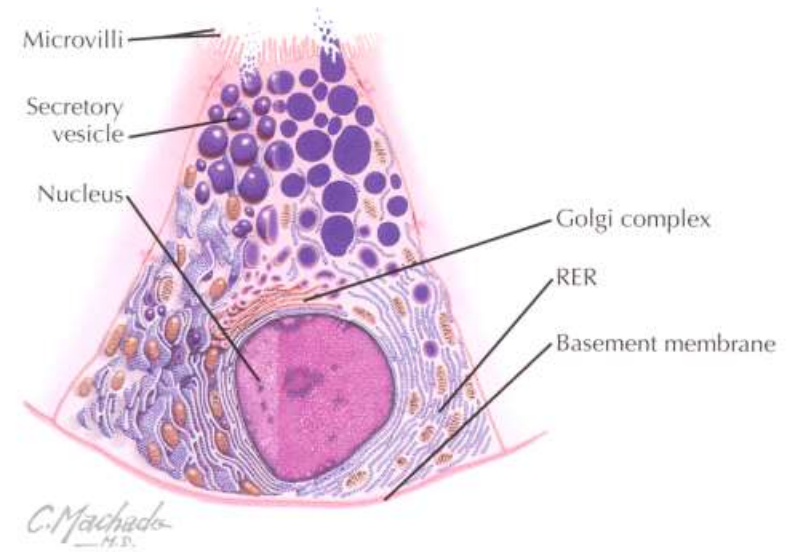
GOBLET CELL



GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

■ Multicellular glands

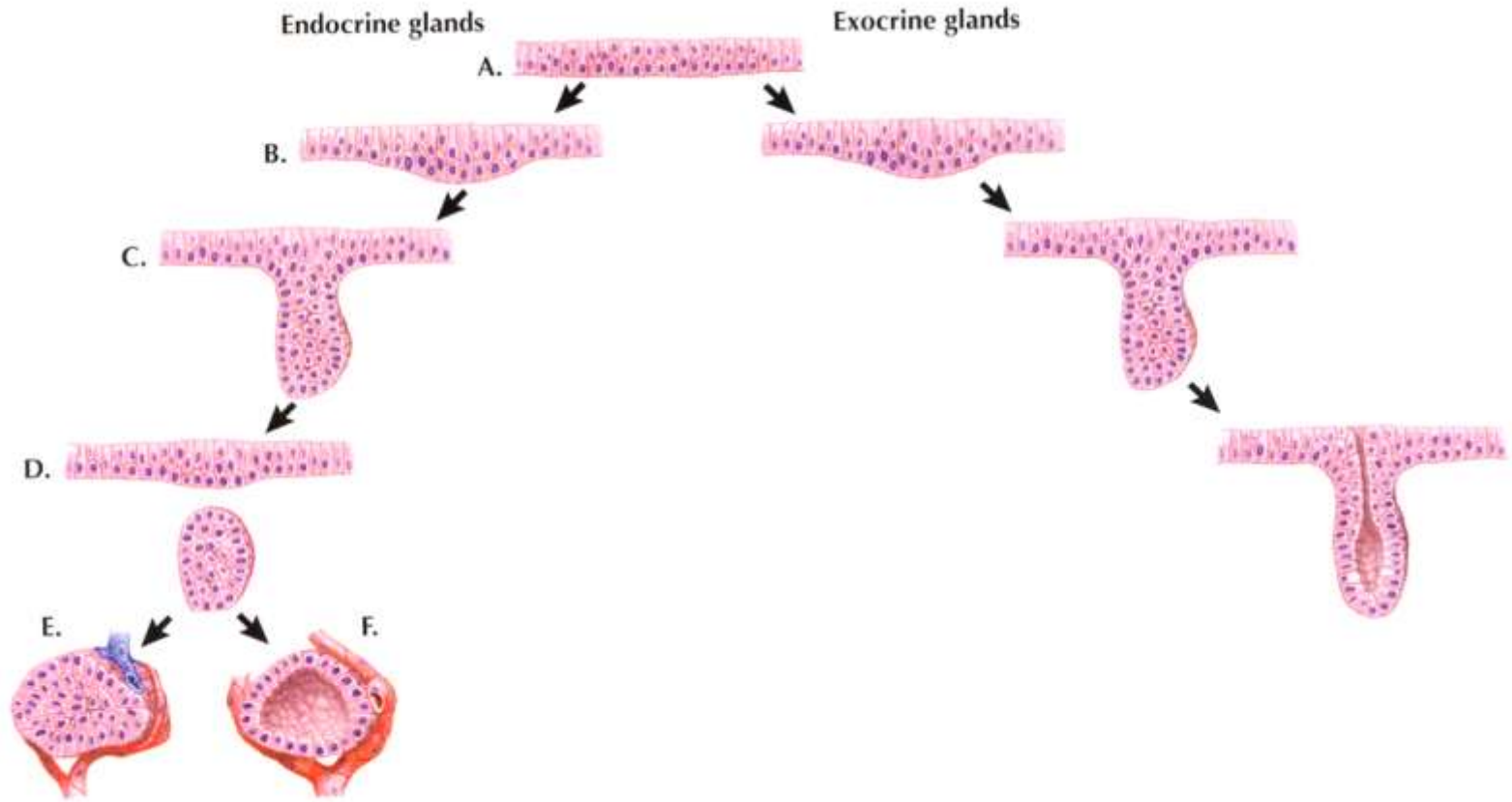
- Shape of secretion part
 - Alveolar (acinar)
 - Tubular
 - Tubuloalveolar (tubuloacinar)
- Branching
 - Simple
 - Branched
 - Compound
- Secretion
 - Mucous
 - Serous
 - Compound



GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

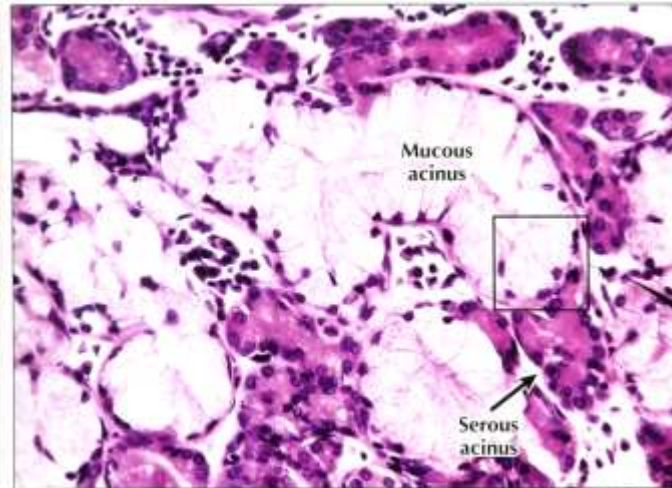
■ Multicellular glands

– Endocrine vs. exocrine



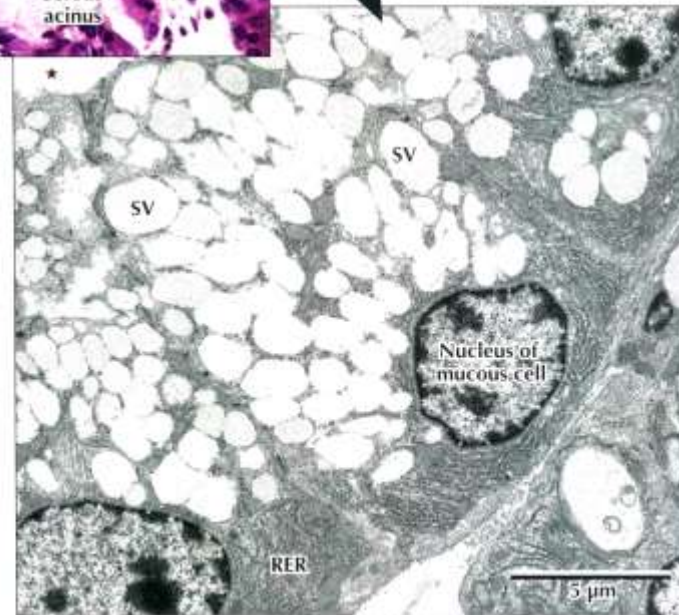
GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

■ Mucous glands



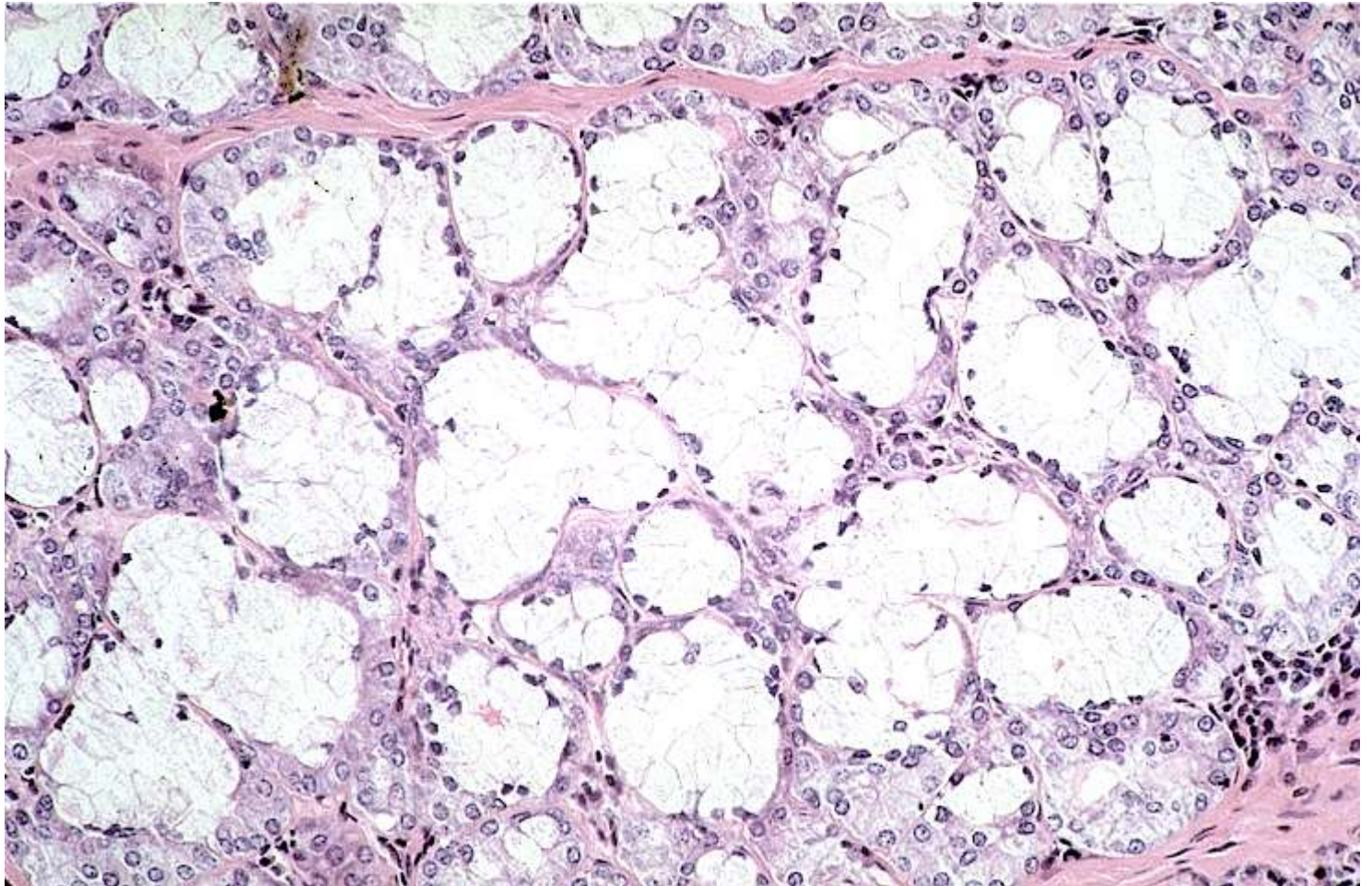
◀ **LM of part of a mixed seromucous gland in the trachea.** Several mucous acini with pale-stained mucous cells are seen. The basal nuclei are flat, and cells appear washed out because mucous droplets dissolved during specimen preparation. Darker stained serous cells in adjacent acini have more rounded basal nuclei. Serous cells are smaller than mucous cells. The square outlines the area of interest seen in the EM below. 295 \times . H&E.

▶ **EM of part of a mucous acinus in a mixed salivary gland.** Parts of three mucous cells line the acinus lumen (*). Euchromatic basal nuclei have prominent nucleoli. Basal cytoplasm contains many profiles of rough endoplasmic reticulum (RER). Many large, electron-lucent secretory vesicles (SV) dominating the remaining cytoplasm are discharged by exocytosis into the acinus lumen. 5400 \times .



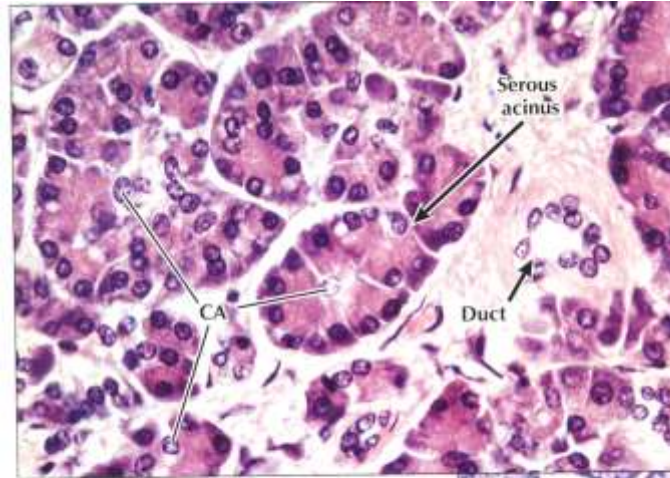
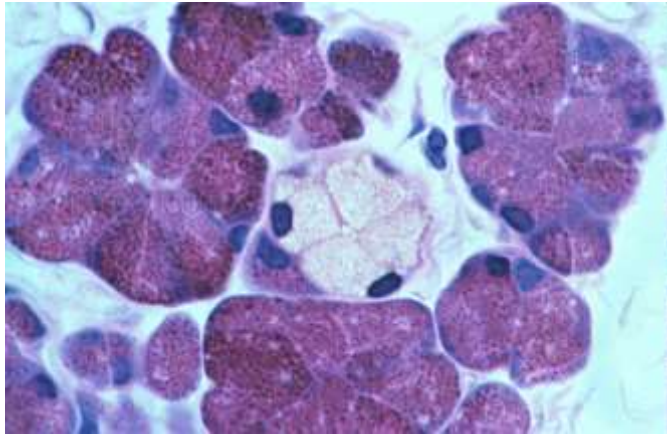
GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

- Mucous glands

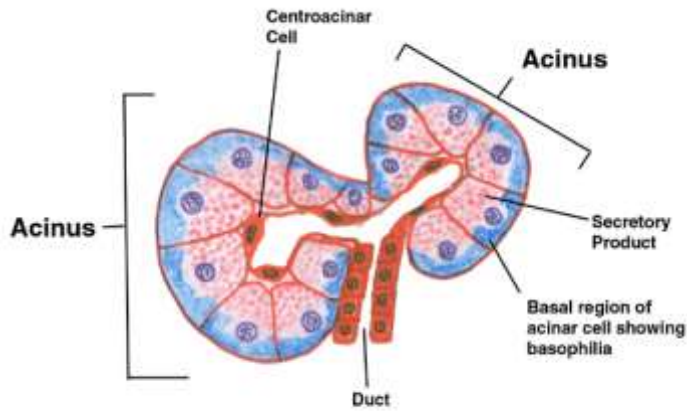


GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

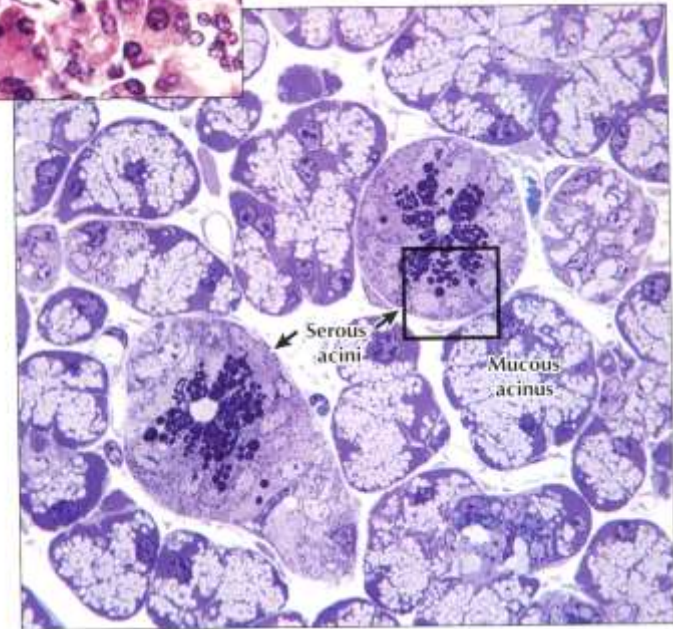
■ Serous glands



◀ **LM of part of the exocrine pancreas.** The exocrine part of the gland consists of closely packed spherical or pear-shaped serous acini. Several columnar to pyramidal acinar cells, with round basal nuclei, face a small central lumen in each **serous acinus**. Basal cytoplasm is basophilic; apical cytoplasm is more eosinophilic. Small clear centroacinar cells (**CA**) in acini centers help distinguish this purely serous gland from others, such as the parotid salivary gland. A small **duct**, in the connective tissue stroma, conveys secretions from acini to larger pancreatic ducts. 385x. H&E.



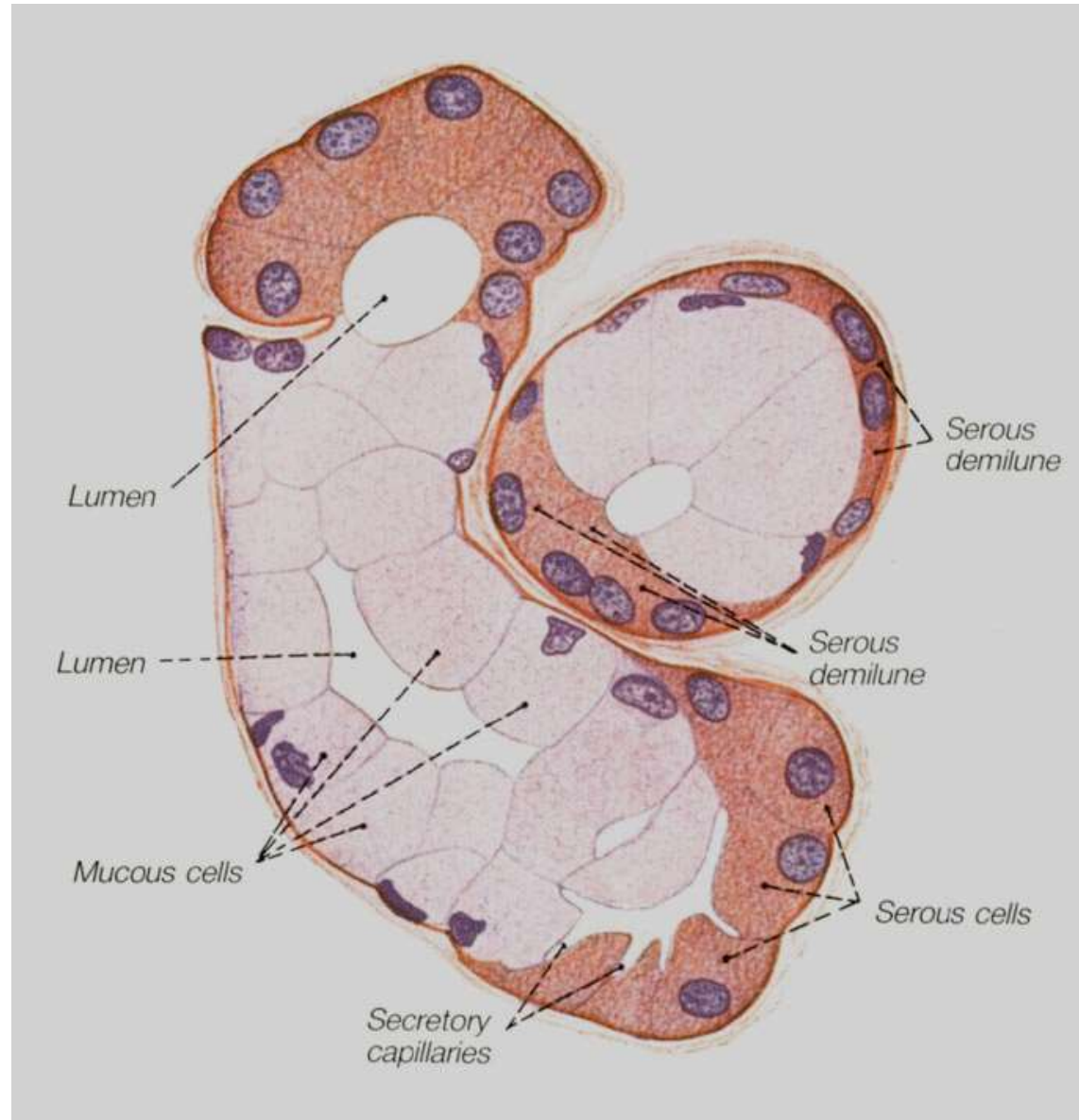
▶ **LM of part of a mixed salivary gland.** Several pale **mucous acini** surround two round **serous acini**. Serous cells have conspicuous, dark-stained secretory vesicles; mucous cells look vacuolated and washed out. EM in 2.15 shows the area in the square in detail. 600x. Toluidine Blue, plastic section.



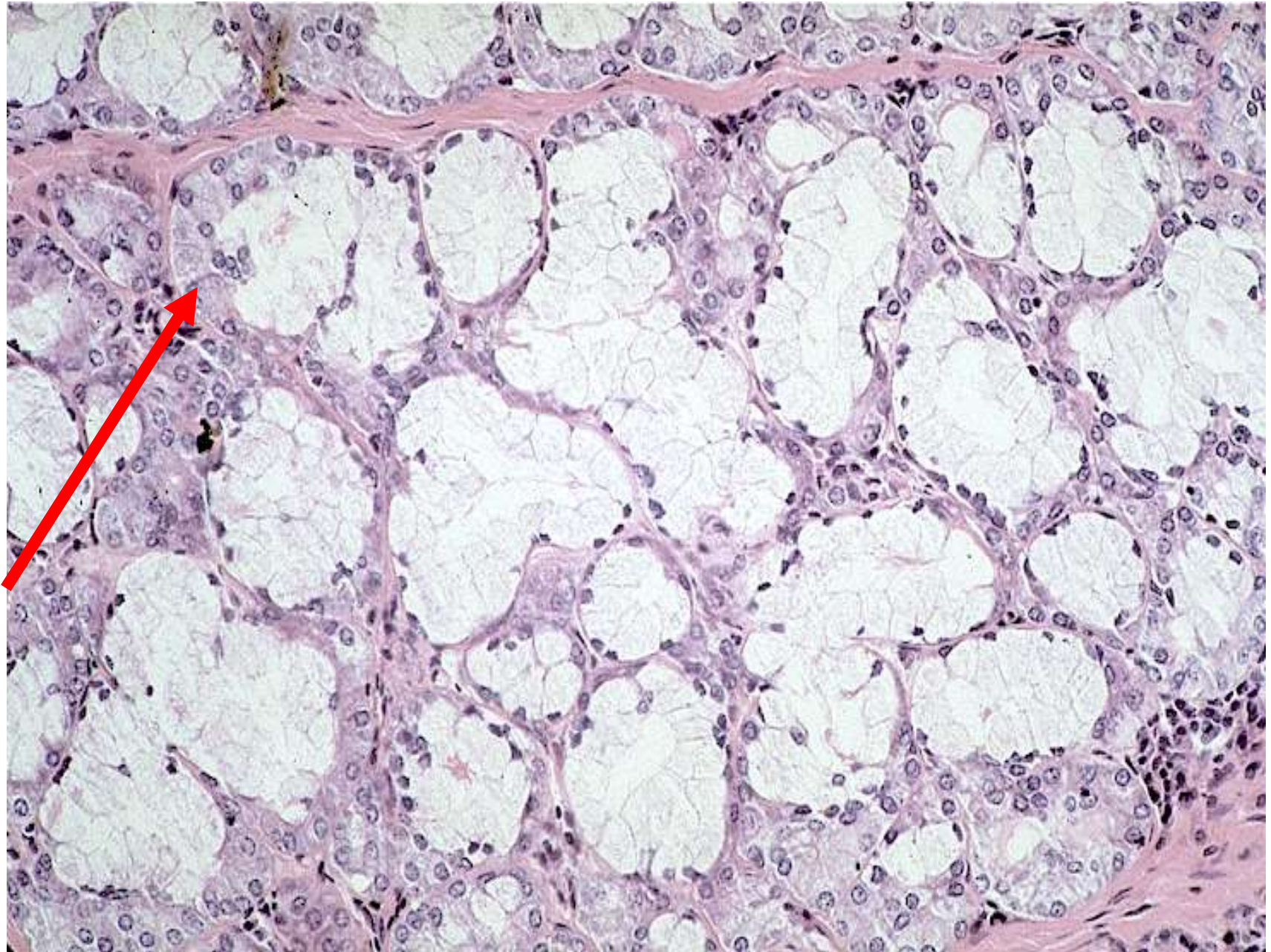
GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

■ Compound glands

- both serous and mucous

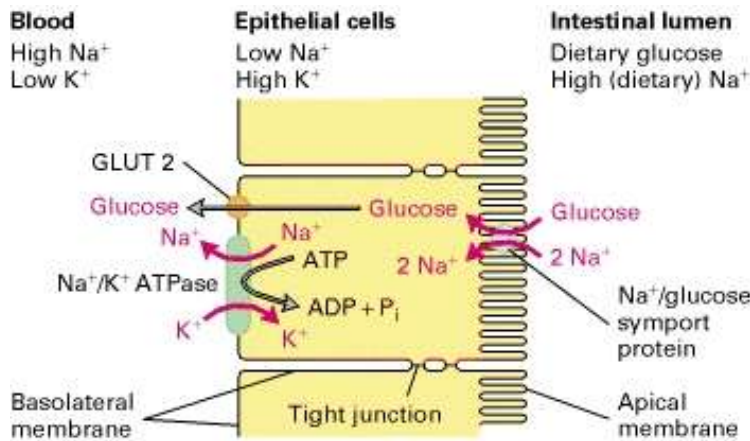


GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

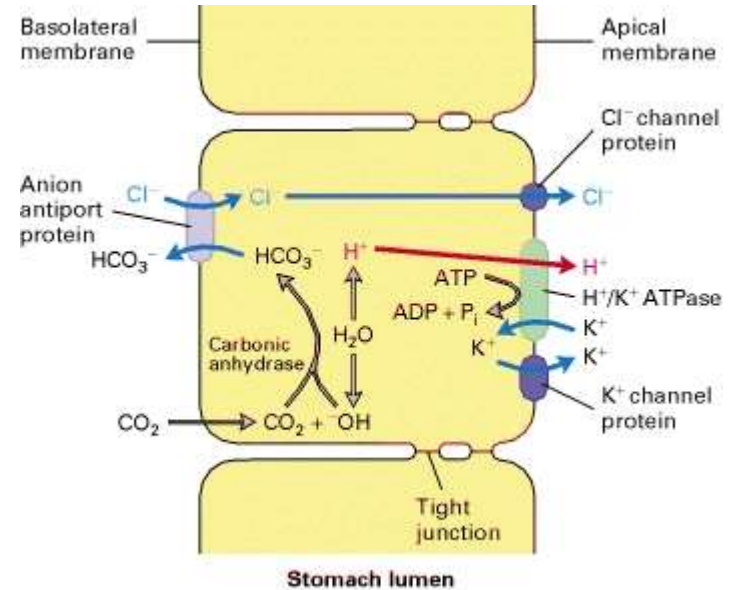


GLANDULAR EPITHELIUM

- Transport and resorption



Glucose transport



HCl secretion in stomach

CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

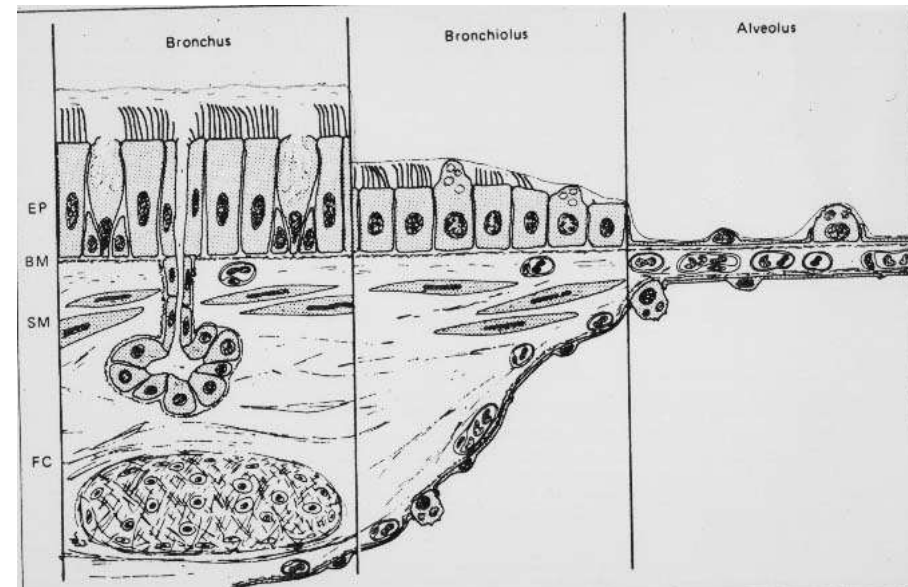
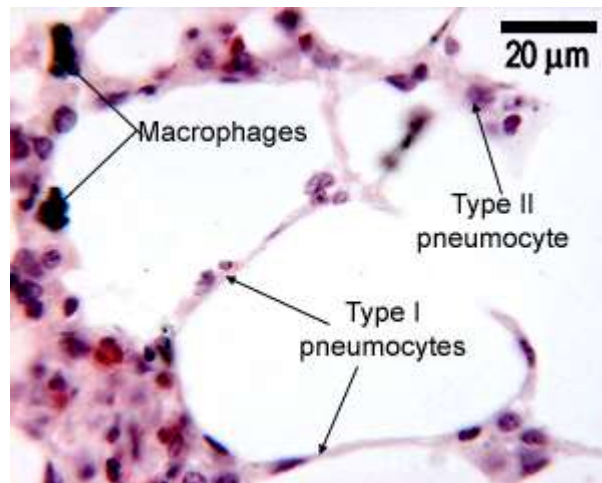
■ Respiratory epithelium

Respiratory passages

- Moistens, protect against injury and pathogen
- Remove particles by „mucociliary escalator“
- Pseudostratified columnar epithelium with cilia
- Basal cells- epithelium renewal

Alveolar epithelium

- Gas exchange
- Respiratory bronchiols, alveolar passages and alveoli
- Type I and II pneumocytes



CLASSIFICATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

■ Sensory epithelium

- Supportive and sensory cells

Primary sensory cells – directly convert stimuli to membrane potential

Receptory region, body, axonal process

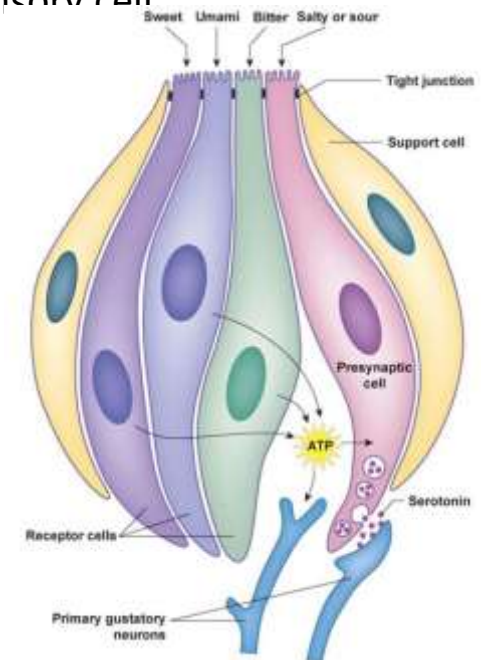
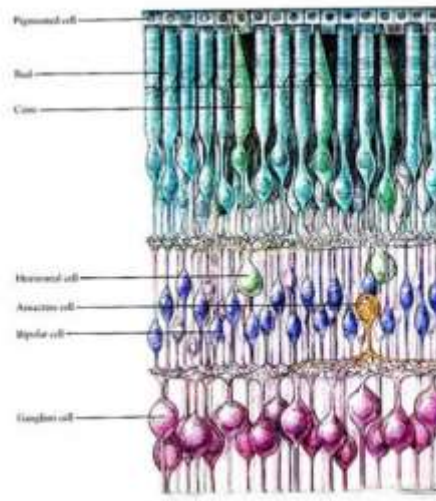
Nasal epithelium (*regio olfactoria nasi*), rods and cones

Secondary sensory cells

Receptory region and body

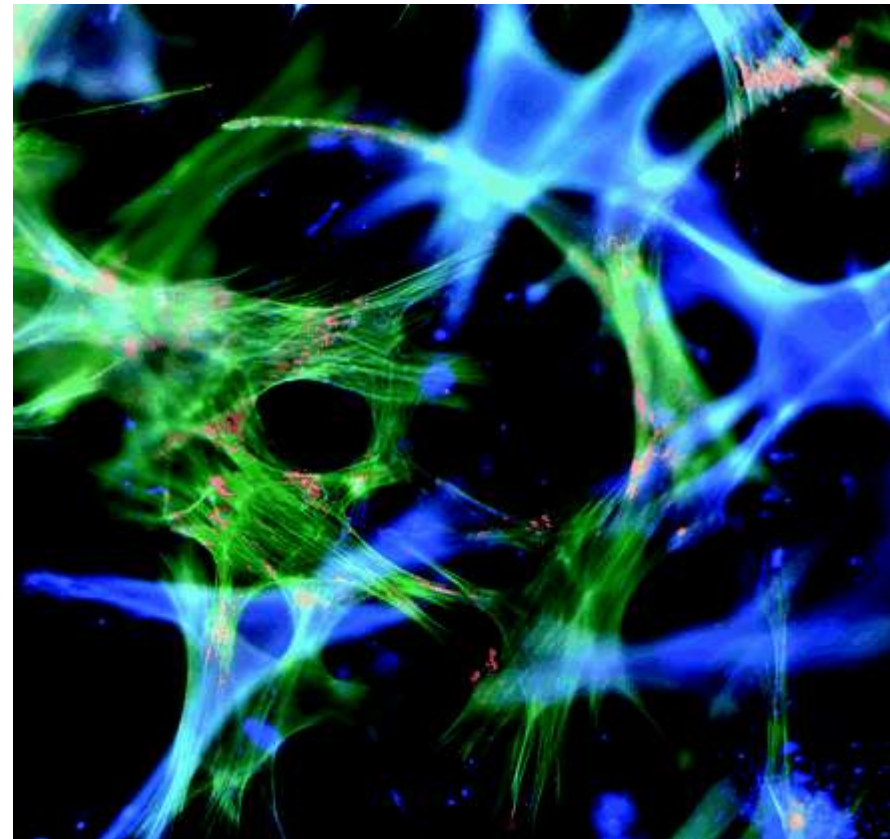
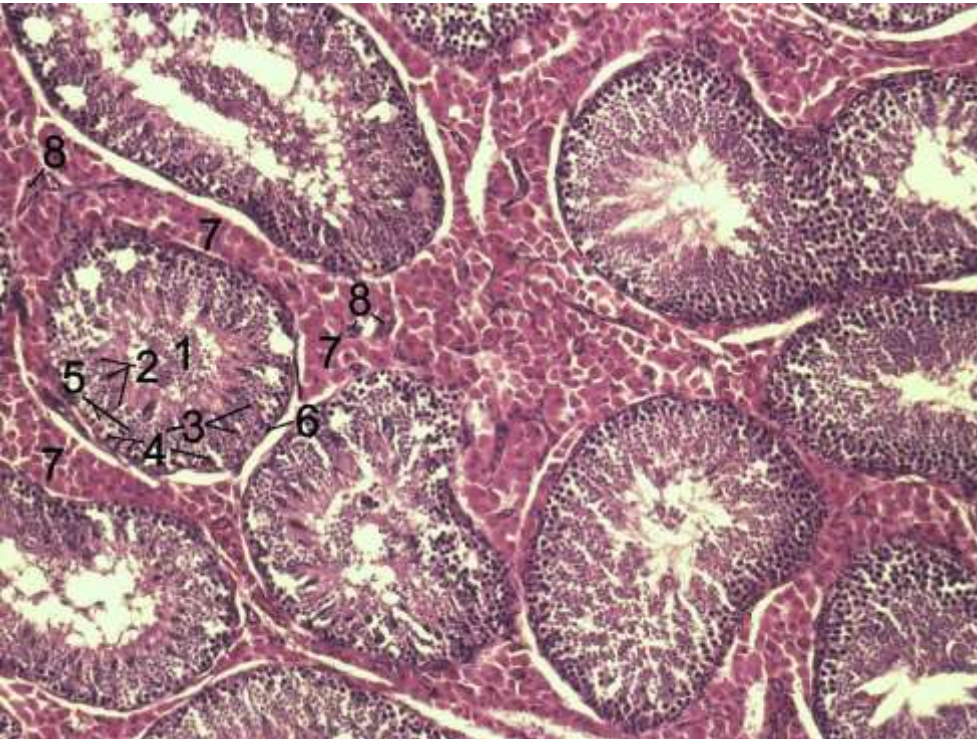
Signal is transmitted by adjacent neurons terminating on secondary sensory cell

Taste buds, vestibulocochlear apparatus



■ Myoepithelium

- Star-like or spindle cells
- Connected by nexus and desmosomes
- Actin microfilaments, myosin and tropomyosin
- Contraction
- Sweat and salivary glands – enhancing secretion



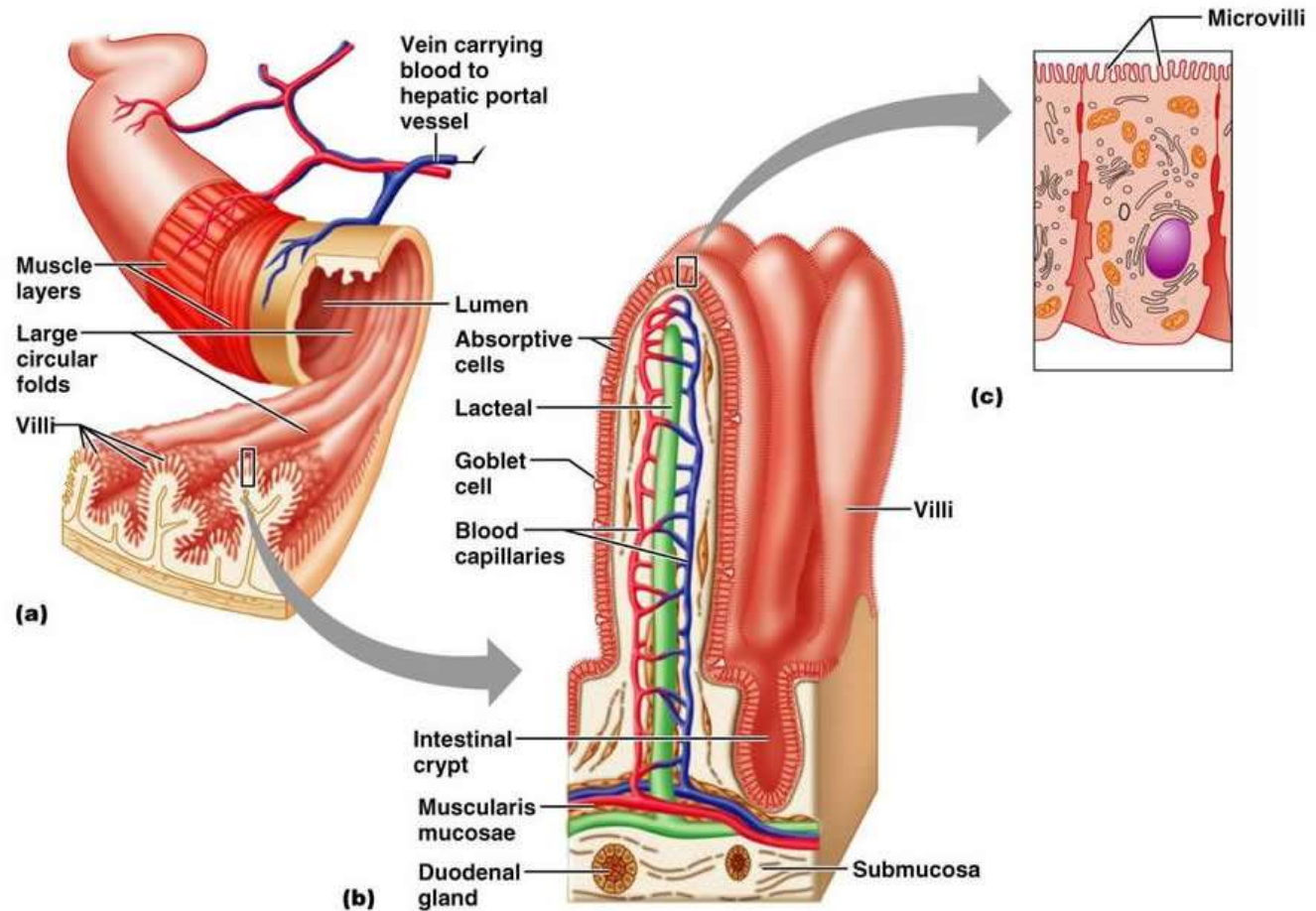
REGENERATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

Different regenerative potential (epidermis × sensory epithelium of inner ear)

Multi- a oligopotent stem cells

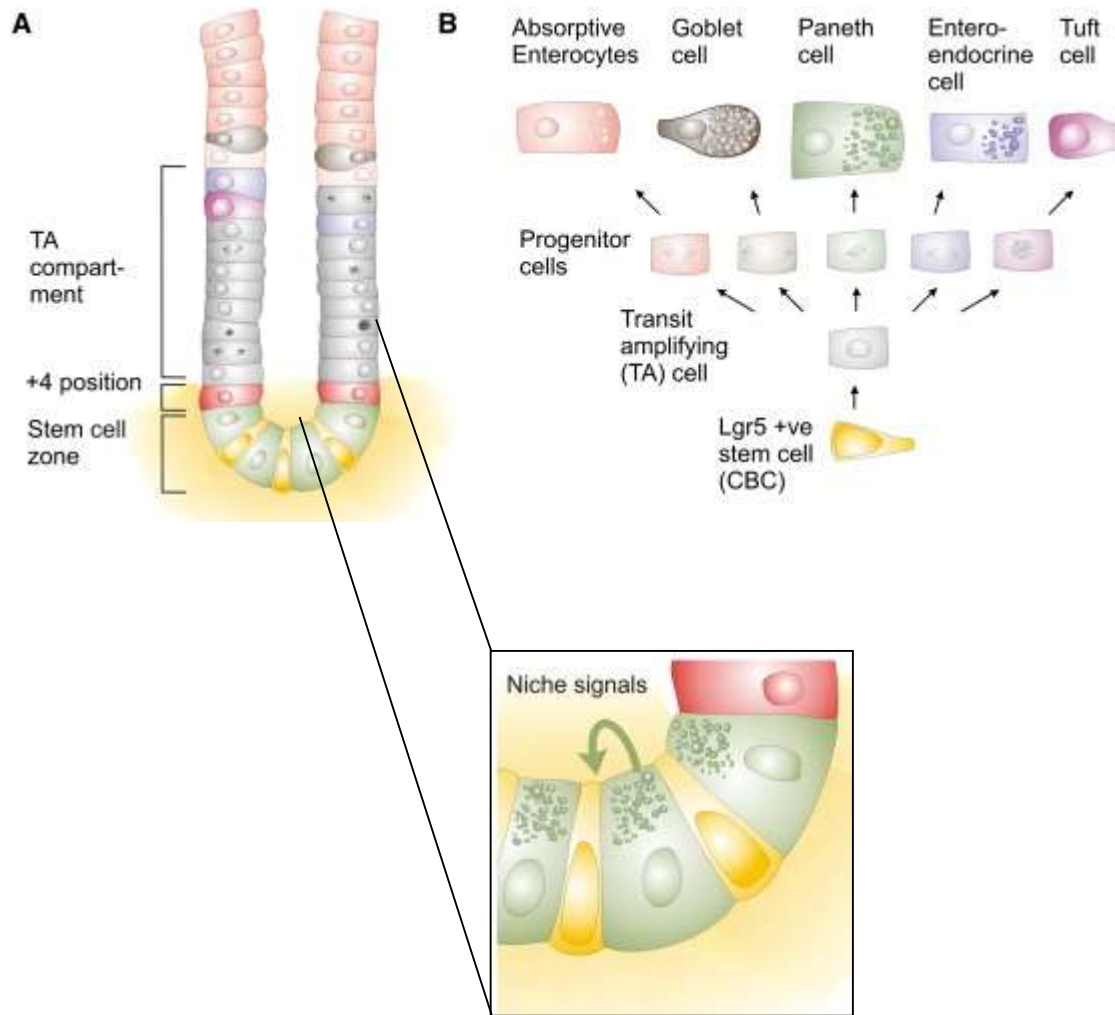
Microenvironment – *stem cell niche*

Example: Regeneration of intestine epithelium



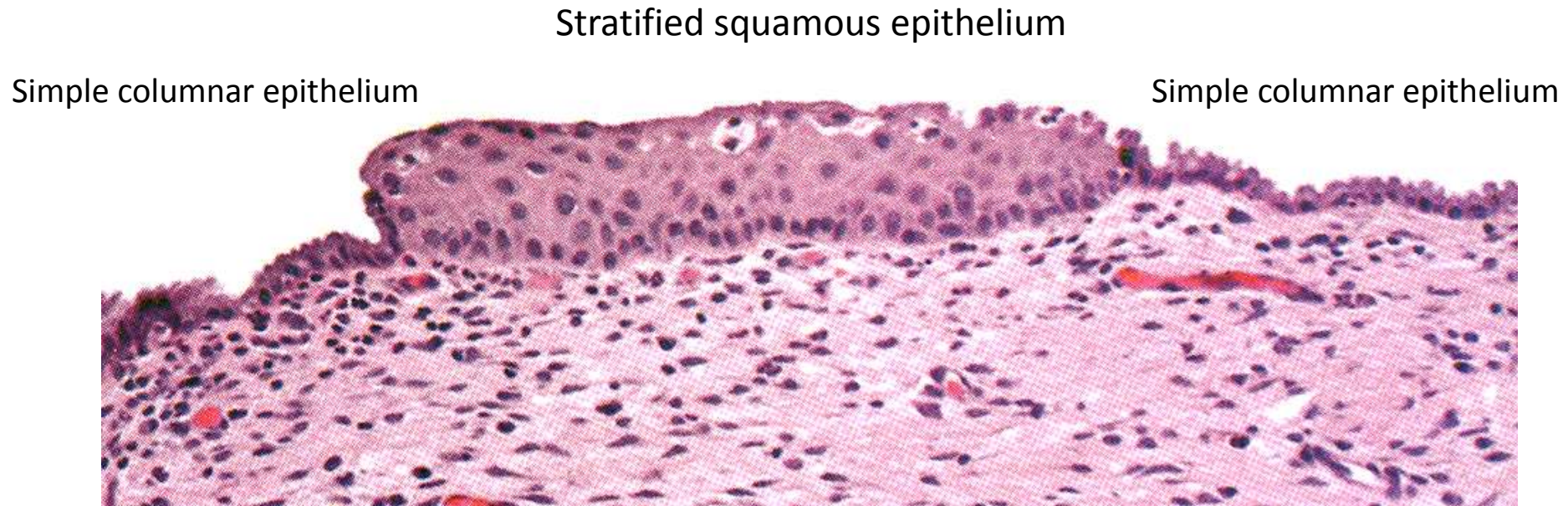
REGENERATION OF EPITHELIAL TISSUE

Example: Regeneration of intestine epithelium



PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

Metaplasia

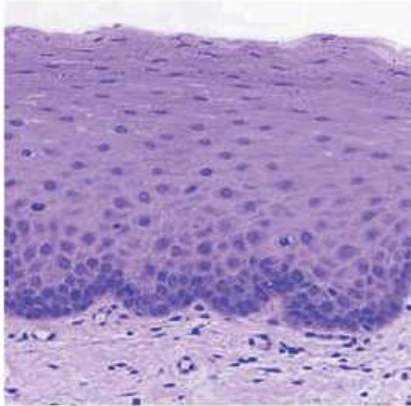


Squamous metaplasia of cervix uteri
Respiratory passages

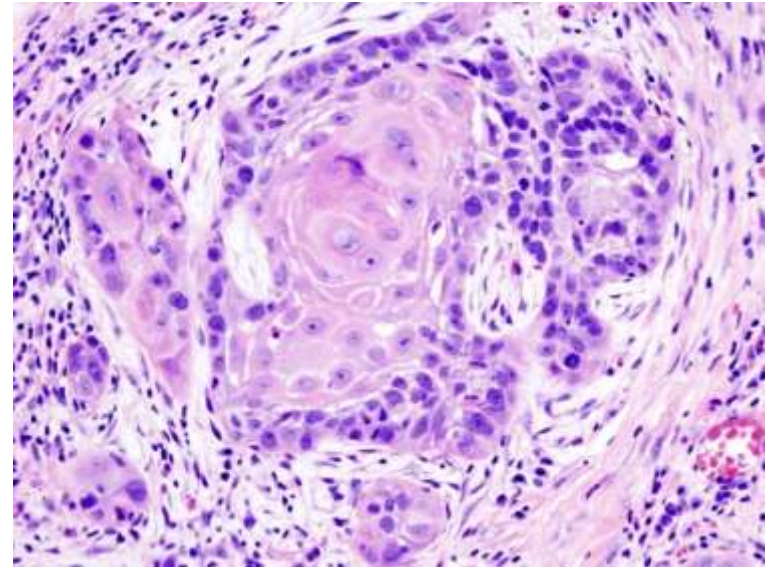
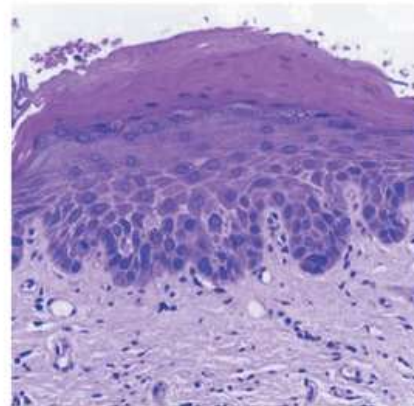
Metaplasia

Development of precancerous lesions

c Normal oral mucosa

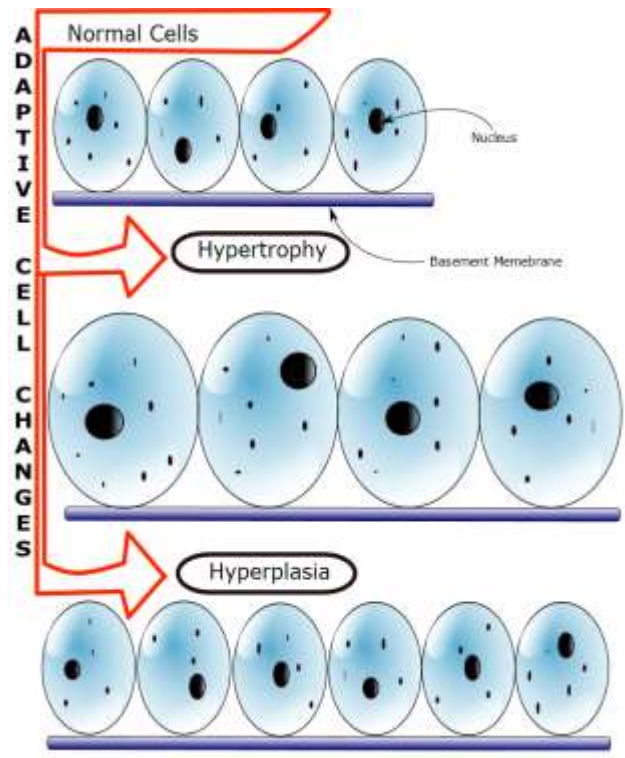


d Moderate dysplasia

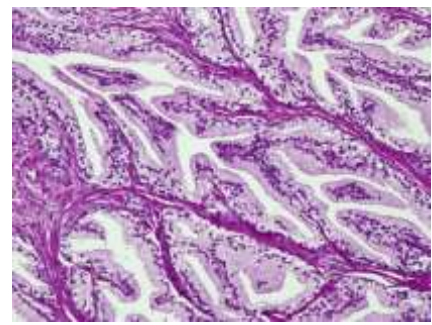


PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

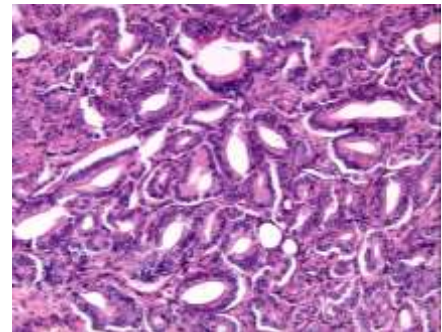
Hyperplasia



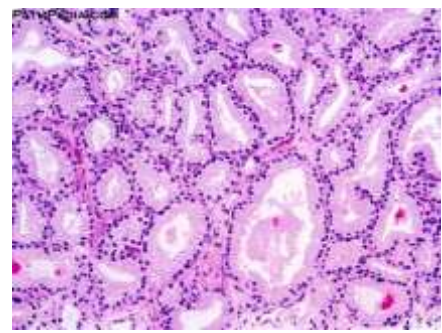
Normal prostate



Hyperplasia of prostate glandular epithelium

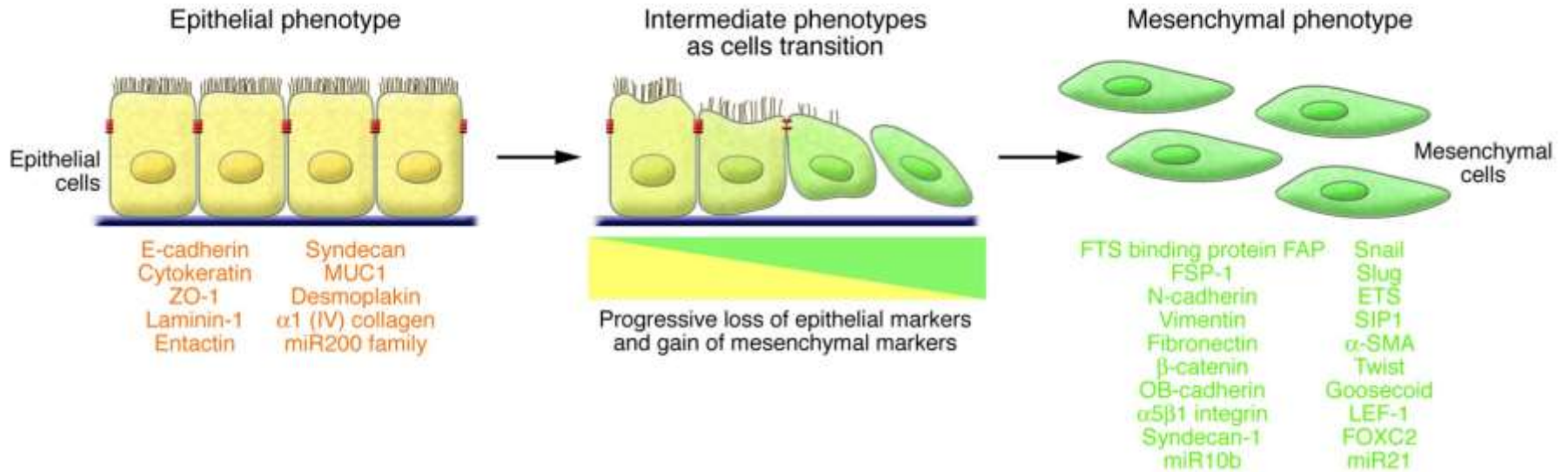


Prostate adenocarcinoma



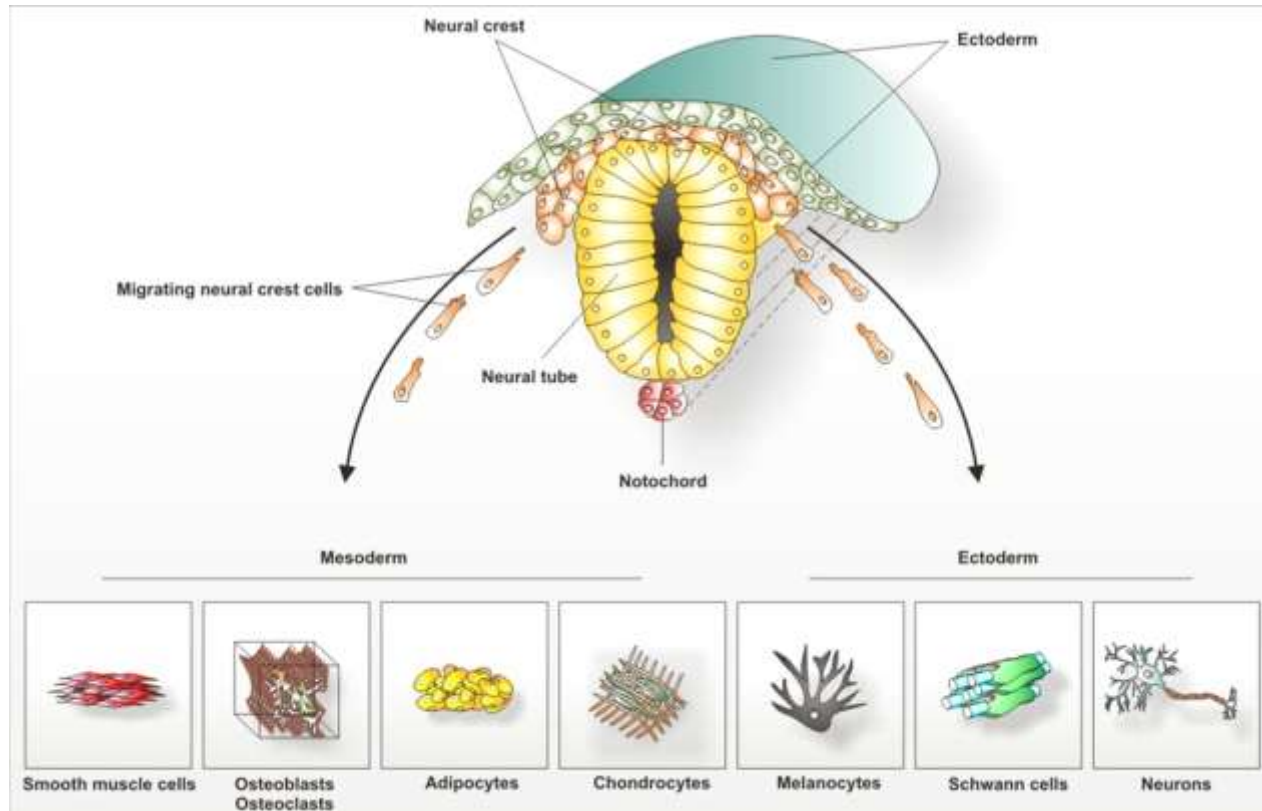
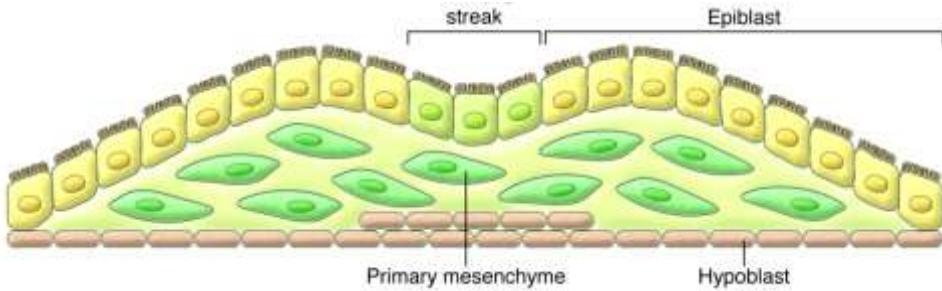
PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

Epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT)

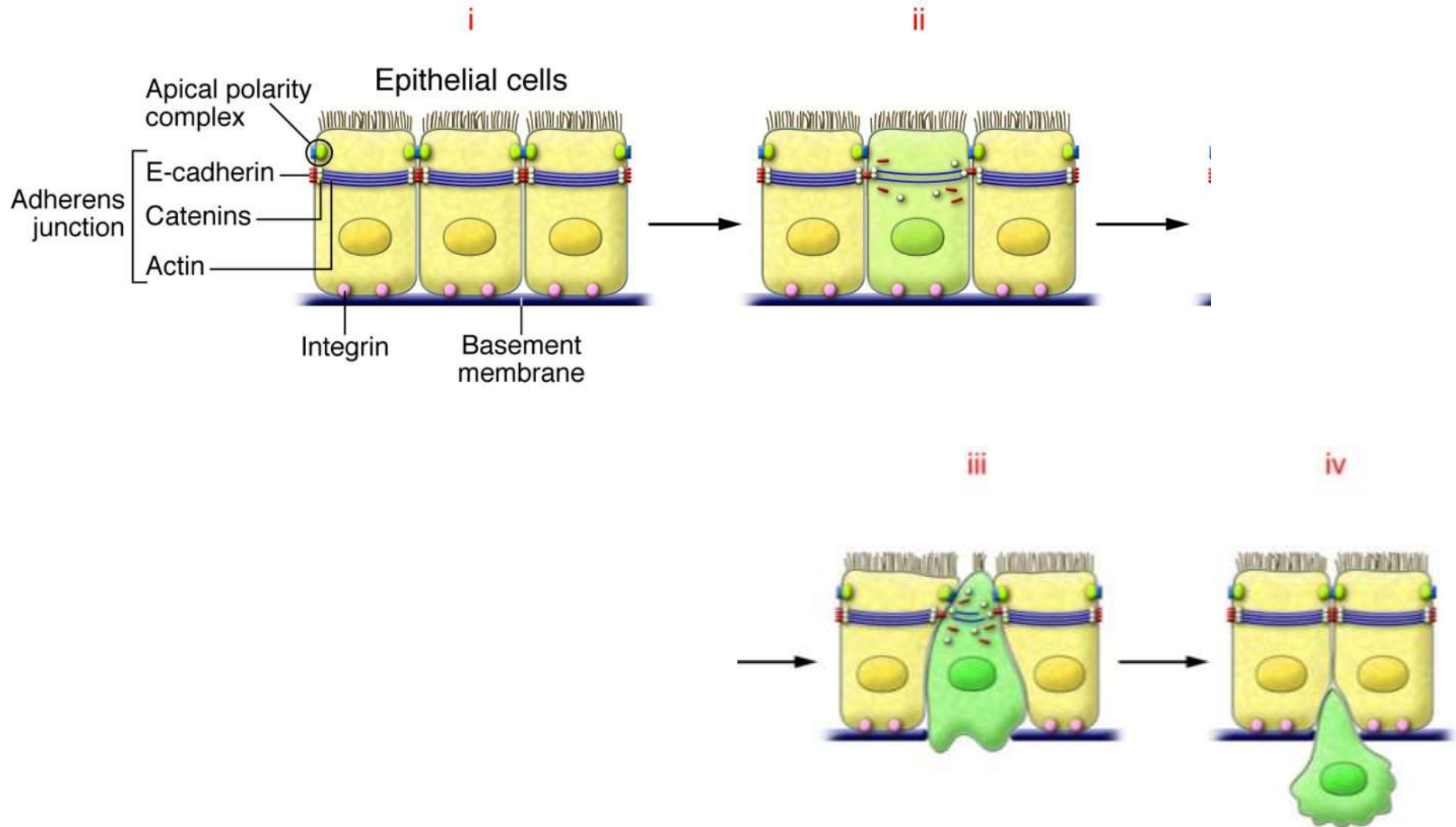


PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

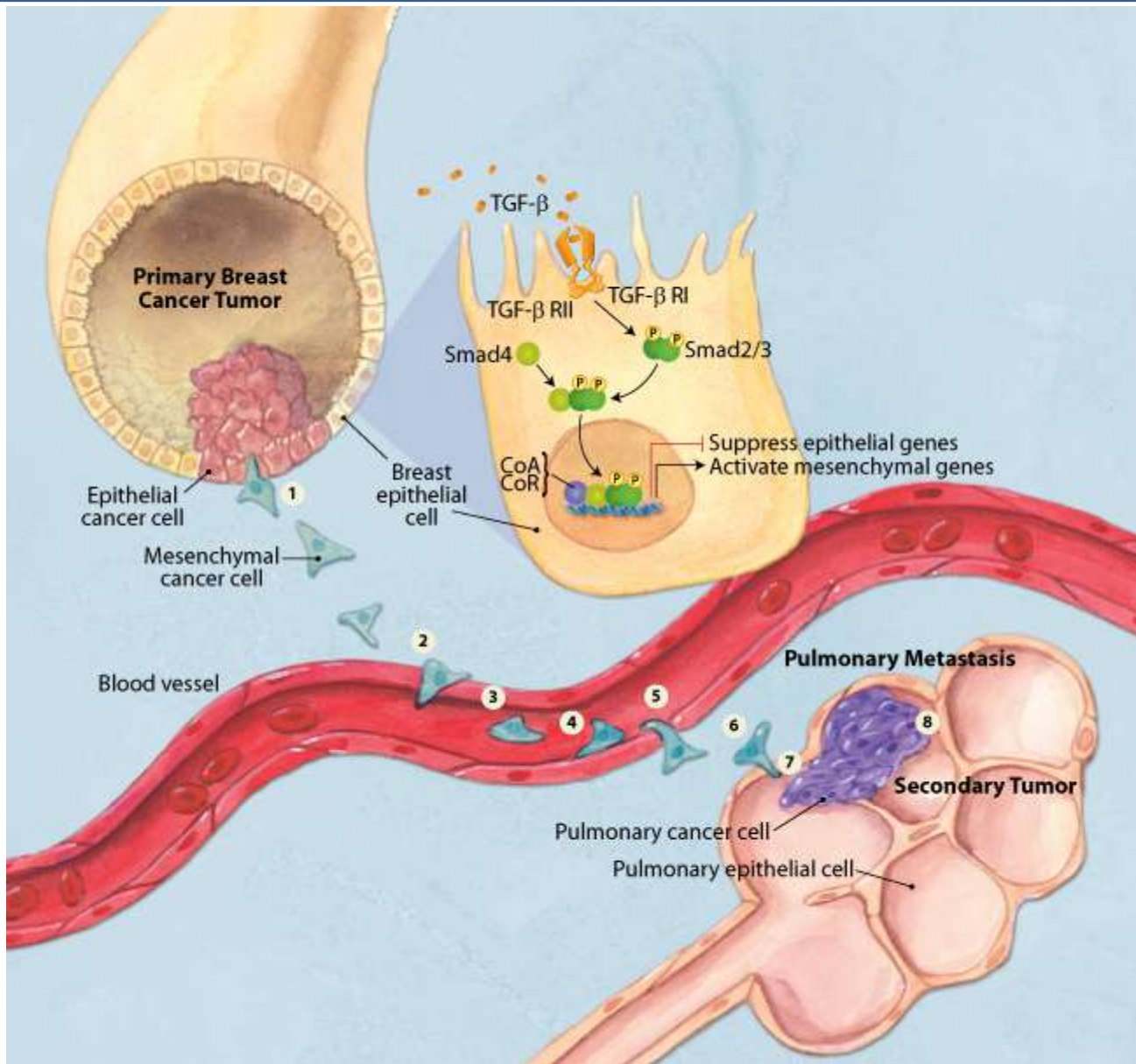
■ EMT in embryonic development



EMT in tumor dissemination

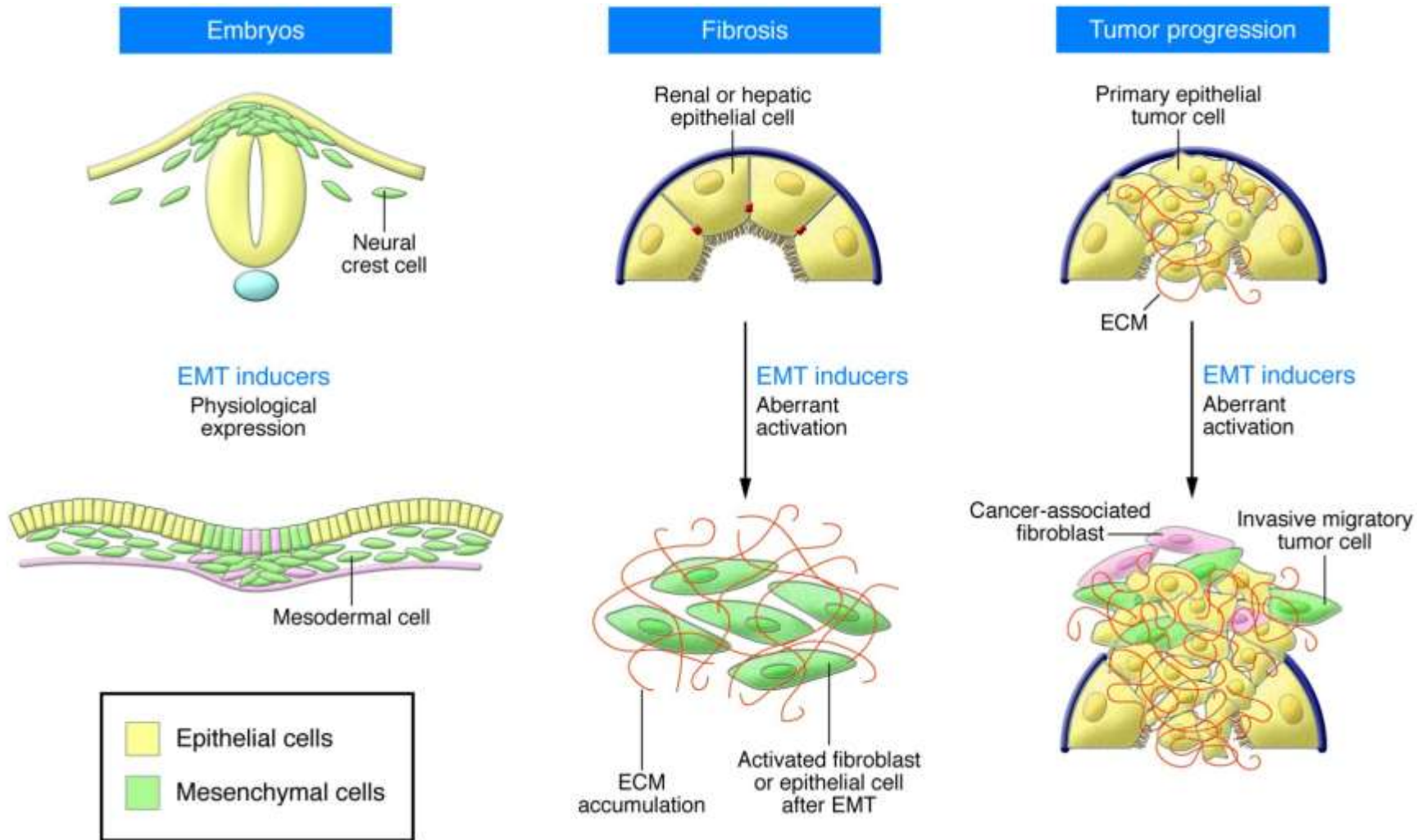


PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

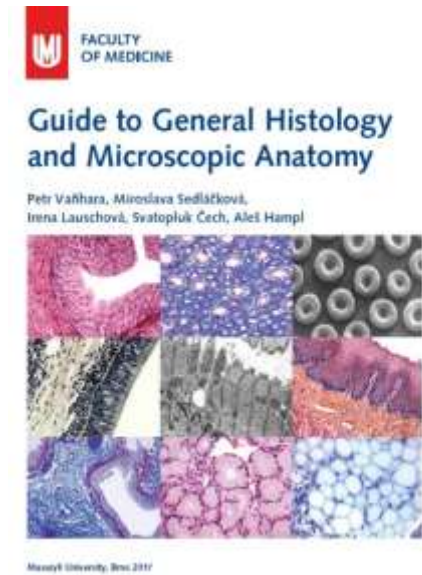
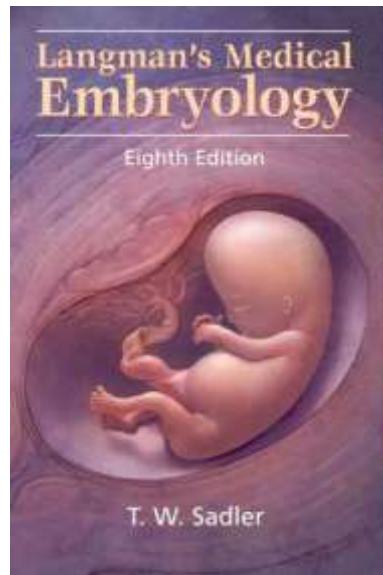
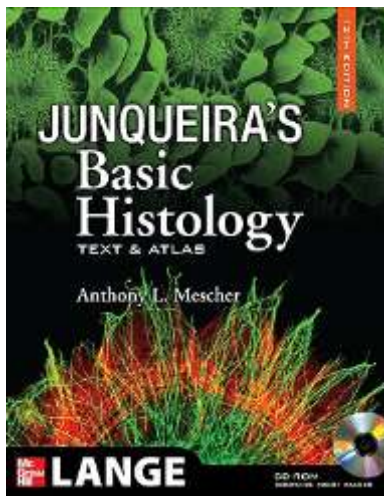
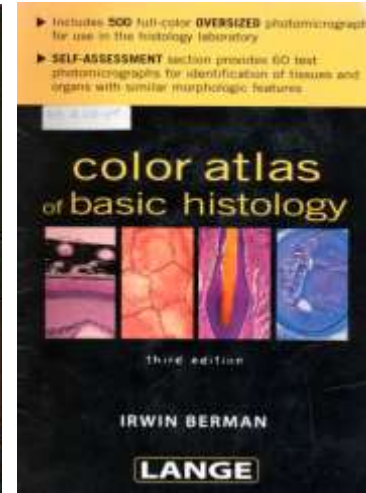
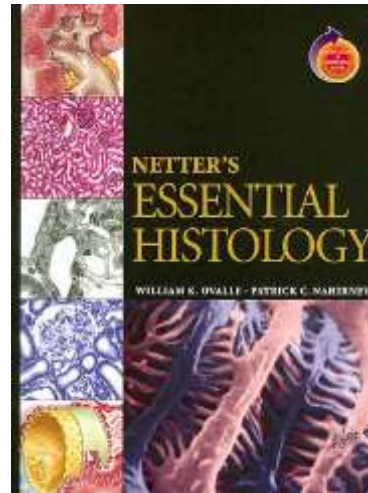
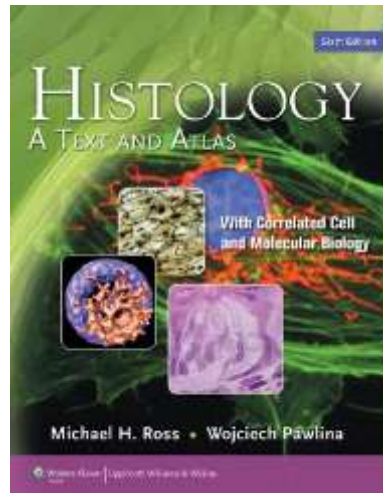
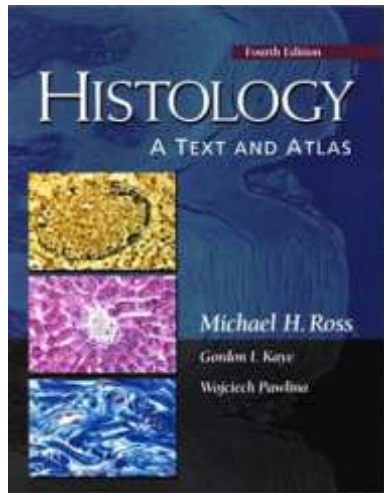


PLASTICITY OF EPITHELIAL TISSUES

EMT



FURTHER STUDY



Thank you for attention

pvanhara@med.muni.cz

<http://www.med.muni.cz/histology/petr-vanhara/>

<http://www.med.muni.cz/histology/education/>

