### Central Dogma

AIDS virus

Replication

Transcription

Proteins

Translation

#### Life

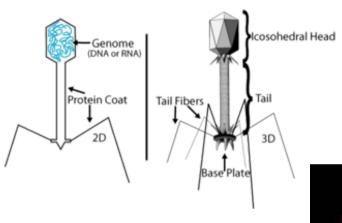
Replication: reproduction

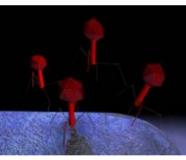
Function: catalytic functions

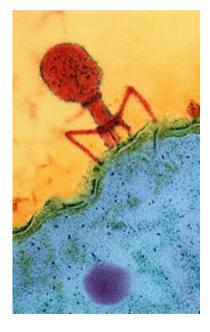
RNA world:

Virus is not alive

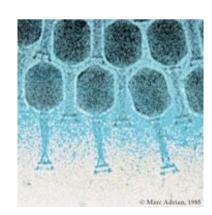
# Virus



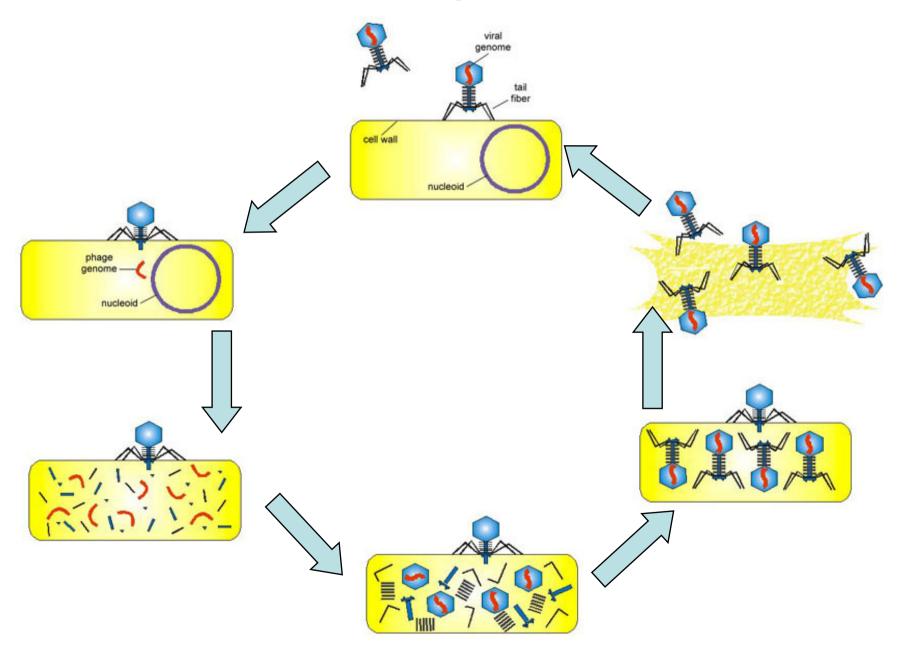








# Virus Reproduction



Eukaryotic cells are about 1000 times larger than bacteria cells and also have membrane enclosed nucleus containing their DNA, and several other internal structures known as organelles.

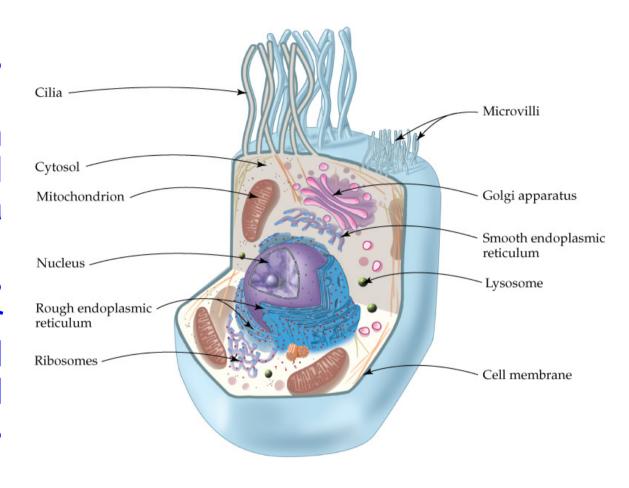
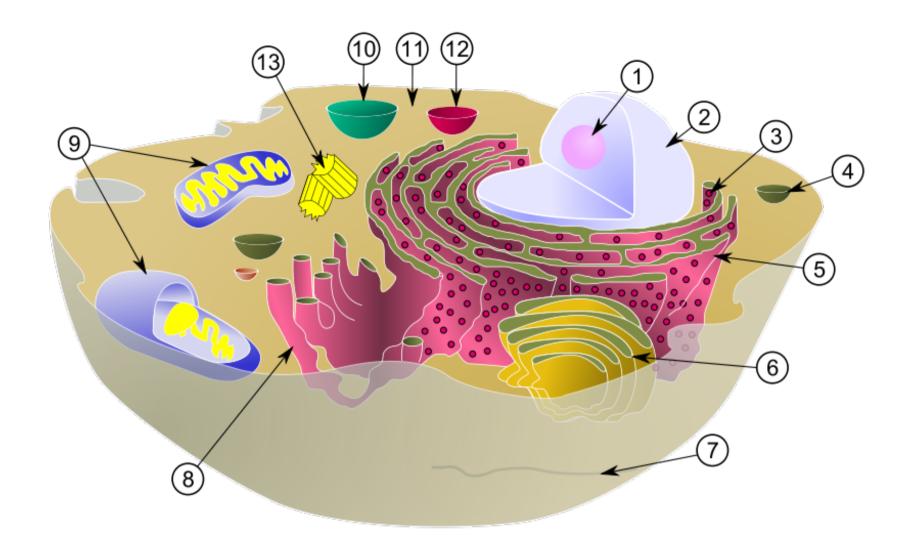
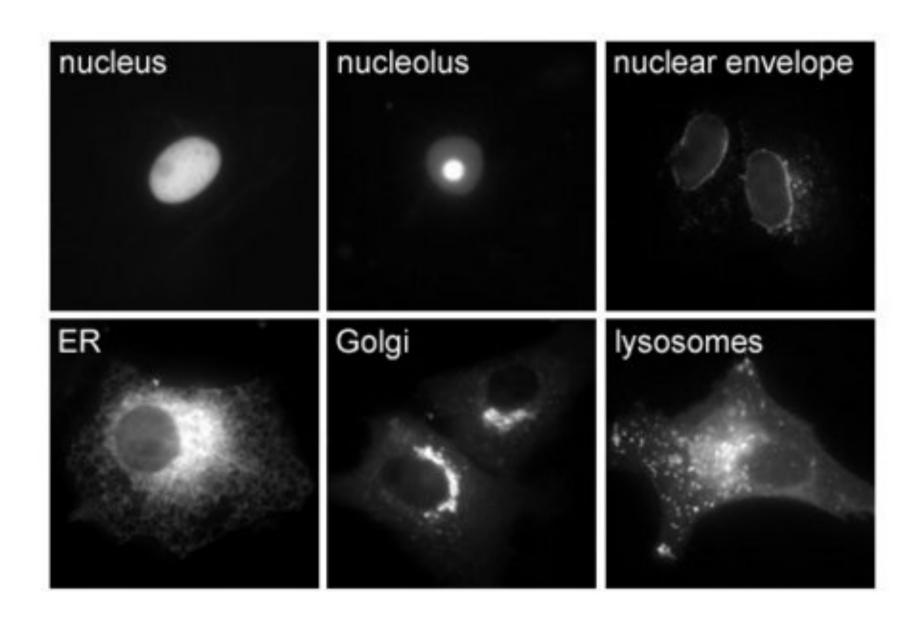
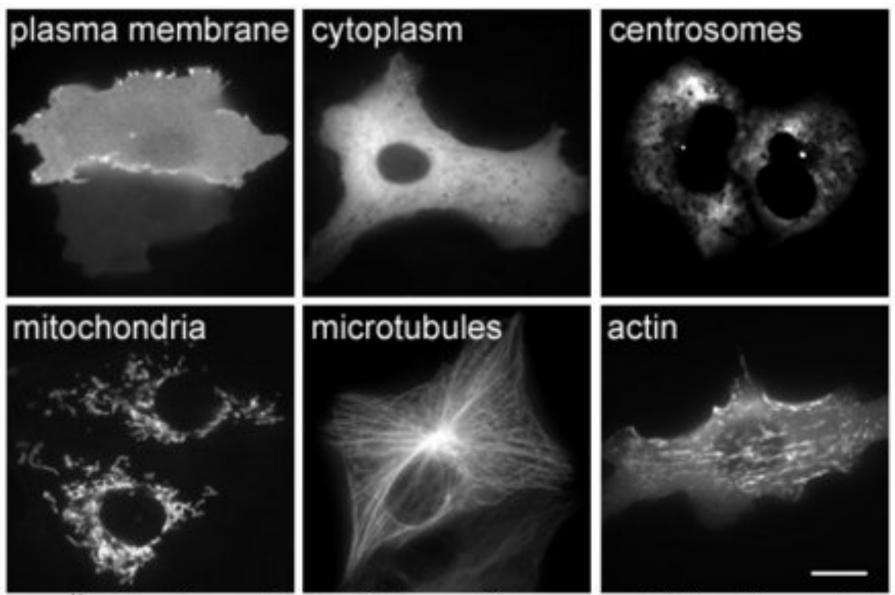


Fig 21.3 A generalized eukaryotic cell.



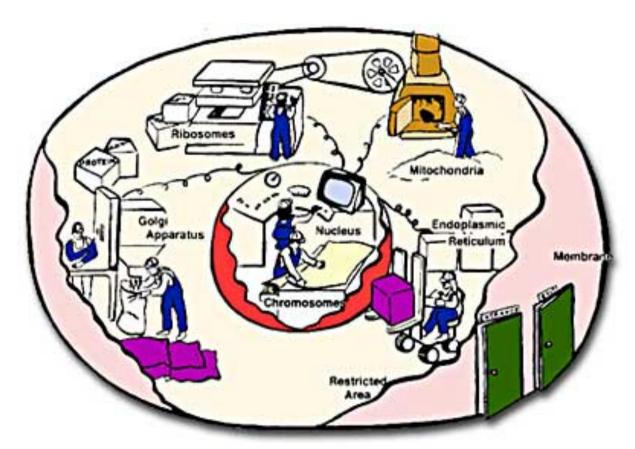
•Schematic showing the <u>cytoplasm</u>, with its components (or <u>organelles</u>), of a typical animal cell. <u>Organelles</u>: (1) <u>nucleolus</u> (2) <u>nucleus</u> (3) <u>ribosome</u> (4) vesicle (5) rough <u>endoplasmic reticulum</u> (6) <u>Golgi apparatus</u> (7) <u>cytoskeleton</u> (8) smooth <u>endoplasmic reticulum</u> (9) <u>mitochondria</u> (10) <u>vacuole</u> (11) <u>cytosol</u> (12) <u>lysosome</u> (13) <u>centriole</u>.





with friendly permission of Jeremy Simpson and Rainer Pepperkok

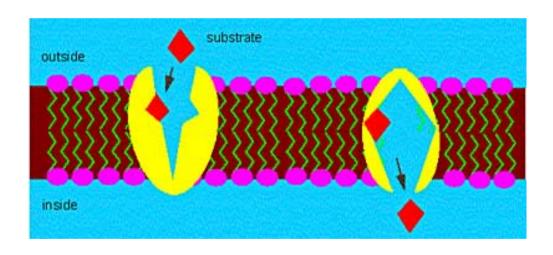
# **A Busy Factory**



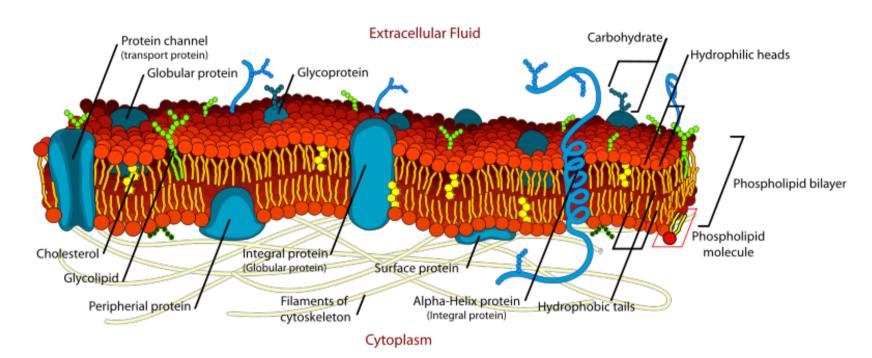
A cell can be thought of as a "factory," with different departments each performing specialized tasks.

#### The Plasma Membrane





#### Cell Membrane



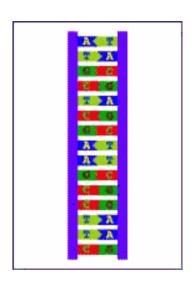
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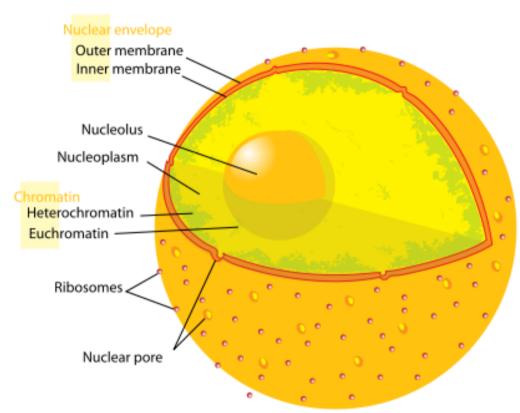
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#### The Nucleus



The cell factory contains a large inventory of blueprints dating all the way to its founding. Some of these blueprints are out of date, and some are for parts and products that are no longer made. Part of your job would entail sorting through everything, finding the correct blueprints, copying them, and sending the copies out to the assembly line at the correct time.

#### Nucleus

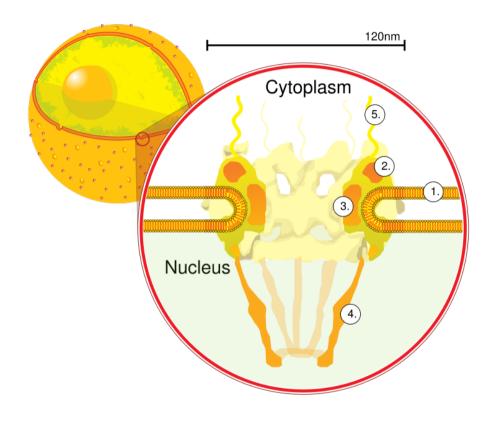


•In cell biology, the **nucleus** is a membrane-enclosed organelle found in most eukaryotic cells. It contains most of the cell's genetic material, organized as multiple long linear DNA molecules in complex with a large variety of proteins such as <a href="histones">histones</a> to form chromosomes. The genes within these chromosomes make up the cell's nuclear genome. The function of the nucleus is to maintain the integrity of these genes and to control the activities of the cell by regulating gene expression.

In cell biology, the **nucleolus** (plural *nucleoli*) is a "suborganelle" of the cell nucleus, which itself is an organelle. A main function of the nucleolus is the production and assembly of ribosome components

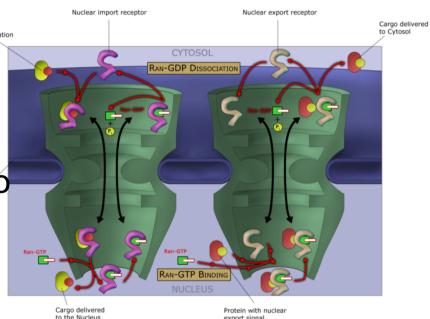
## Nuclear pores

Nuclear pores, which provide aqueous channels through the envelope, are composed of multiple proteins, collectively referred to as nucleoporins. The pores are 100 nm in total diameter; however, the gap through which molecules freely diffuse is only about 9 nm wide, due to the presence of regulatory systems within the center of the pore. This size allows the free passage of small water-soluble molecules while preventing larger molecules, such as nucleic acids and proteins, from inappropriately entering or exiting the nucleus. These large molecules must be actively transported into the nucleus instead. The nucleus of a typical mammalian cell will have about 3000 to 4000 pores throughout its envelope



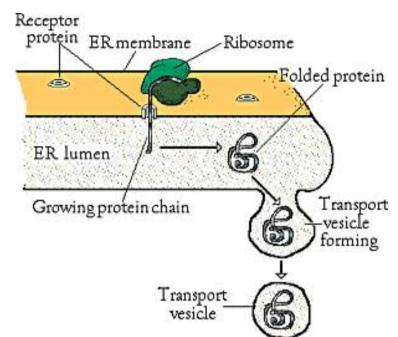
# Nuclear localizing sequence (NLS)

 A nuclear localizing sequence (NLS) is an amino acid sequence which acts like a 'tag' on the exposed surface of a protein. This sequence is used to confine the protein to the cell nucleus through the Nuclear Pore Complex and to direct a newly synthesized protein into the nucleus via its recognition by cytosolic nuclear transport receptors. Typically, this signal consists of a few short sequences of positively charged lysines or arginines. Typically the NLS will have a sequence (NH2)-Pro-Pro-Lys-Lys-Arg-Lys-Val-(COOH).



#### The Ribosomes and the ER



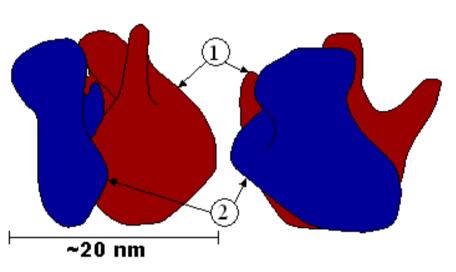


Ribosomes, the workers that build proteins, are manufactured by the nucleolus. They consist of two separate subunits: a large, lower subunit and a small, upper subunit. Ribosomes attach to the rough ER. Now let's take a look at how final processing occurs

The cell has its own assembly line and workers. Within the cytoplasm is a series of large, flattened membranes that fold back and forth on each other and have a very large surface area. This collection of membranes is called the **ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM**, or **ER**.

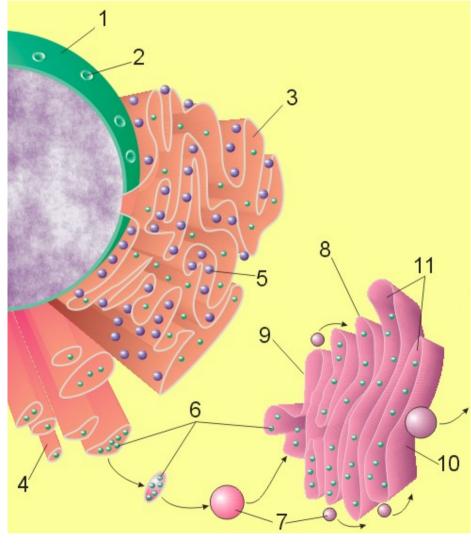
#### Ribosome

A ribosome is a small, dense organelle in cells that assembles proteins. Ribosomes are about 20nm in diameter and are composed of 65% ribosomal RNA and 35% ribosomal proteins (known as a Ribonucleoprotein or RNP). It translates messenger RNÁ (mRNA) to build a polypeptide chain (e.g., a protein) using amino acids delivered by Transfer RNA (tRNA). It can be thought of as a giant enzyme that builds a protein from a set of genetic instructions. Ribosomes can float freely in the cytoplasm (the internal fluid of the cell) or bound to the endoplasmic reticulum, or to the nuclear envelope.



Endoplasmic Reticulum

The **endoplasmic reticulum** or **ER** is an organelle found in all eukaryotic cells that is an interconnected network of tubules, vesicles and cisternae that is responsible for several specialized functions: Protein translation, folding, and transport of proteins to be used in the cell membrane (e.g., transmembrane receptors and other integral membrane proteins), or to be secreted (exocytosed) from the cell (e.g., digestive enzymes); sequestration of calcium; and production and storage of glycogen, steroids, and other macromolecules.[1] The endoplasmic reticulum is part of the endomembrane system. The basic structure and composition of the ER membrane is similar to the plasma membrane.



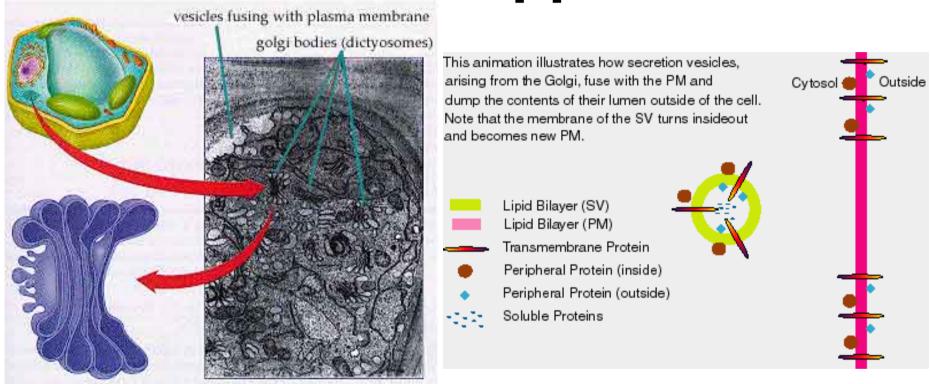
## Rough endoplasmic reticulum

 The surface of the rough endoplasmic reticulum is studded with protein-manufacturing ribosomes giving it a "rough" appearance. But it should be noted that these ribosomes are not resident of the endoplasmic reticulum incessantly. The ribosomes only bind to the ER once it begins to synthesize a protein destined for sorting. The membrane of the rough endoplasmic reticulum is continuous with the outer layer of the nuclear envelope. Although there is no continuous membrane between the rough ER and the Golgi apparatus, membrane bound vesicles shuttle proteins between these two compartments. The rough endoplasmic reticulum works in concert with the Golgi complex to target new proteins to their proper destinations

#### Smooth endoplasmic reticulum

 The smooth endoplasmic reticulum has functions in several metabolic processes, including synthesis of lipids, metabolism of carbohydrates and calcium concentration, and attachment of receptors on cell membrane proteins. It is connected to the nuclear envelope. Smooth endoplasmic reticulum is found in a variety of cell types (both animal and plant) and it serves different functions in each. It consists of tubules and vesicles that branch forming a network. In some cells there are dilated areas like the sacs of rough endoplasmic reticulum. The network of smooth endoplasmic reticulum allows increased surface area for the action or storage of key enzymes and the products of these enzymes. The smooth endoplasmic reticulum is known for its storage of calcium ions in muscle cells.

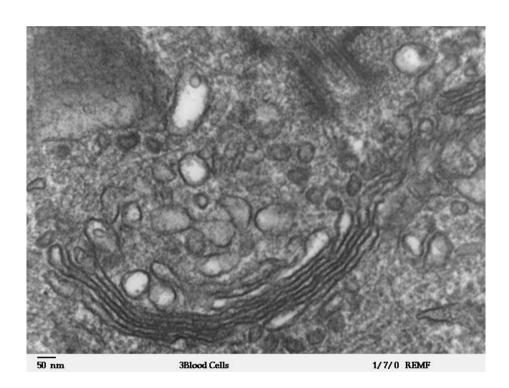
# The Golgi Apparatus



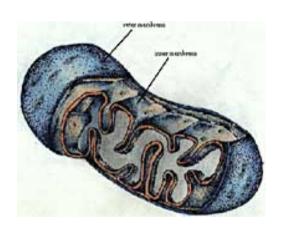
The Golgi apparatus is analogous to the finishing and packing room in a factory. Once the ribosome finishes manufacturing a protein in the rough ER, the protein needs to be prepared for use or export. Special enzymes will trim off any extra amino acids, and then the unfinished protein moves through channels in the smooth ER.

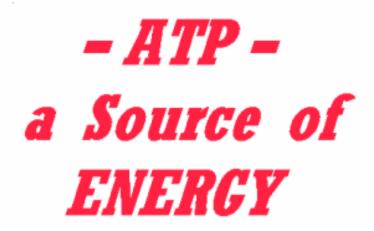
# Golgi apparatus

The **Golgi apparatus** (also called the Golgi body, Golgi complex, or dictyosome) is an organelle found in typical eukaryotic cells. It was identified in 1898 by the Italian physician Camillo Golgi and was named after him. The primary function of the Golgi apparatus is to process and package macromolecules synthesised by the cell, primarily proteins and lipids. The Golgi apparatus forms a part of the endomembrane system present in eukaryotic cells.



#### **Mitochondria**



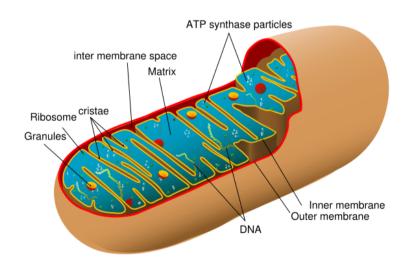


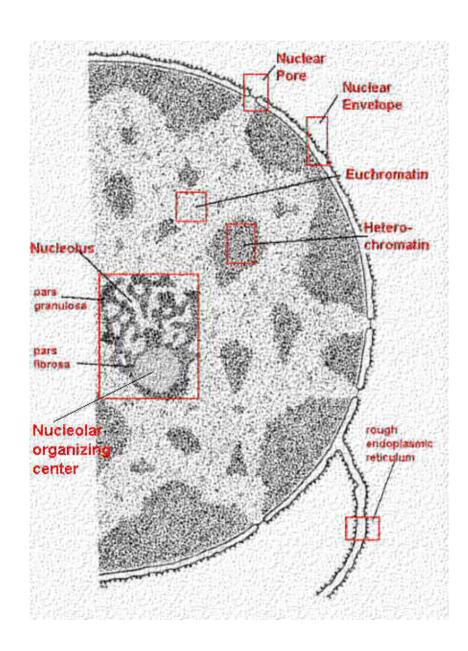
Like our factory's power plant, mitochondria and chloroplasts transform one form of energy to another. Remember that nearly all the energy used by living things on Earth comes from the Sun. This section discusses how energy is made available for cell processes.

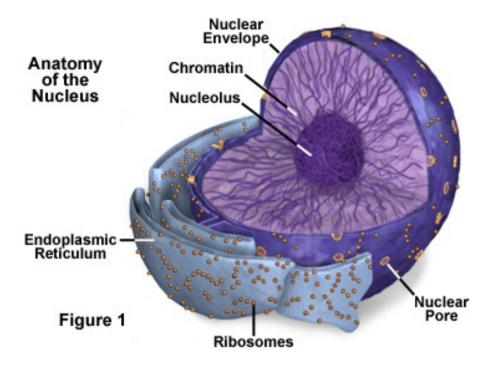
#### Mitochondrion

In cell biology, a mitochondrion is a membrane-enclosed organelle, found in most eukaryotic cells. Mitochondria are sometimes described as "cellular power plants," because they convert NADH and NADPH into energy in the form of ATP via the process of oxidative phosphorylation. A typical eukaryotic cell contains about 2,000 mitochondria, which occupy roughly one fifth of its total volume. Mitochondria contain DNA that is independent of the DNA located in the cell nucleus. According to the endosymbiotic theory, mitochondria are descended from free-living prokaryotes.









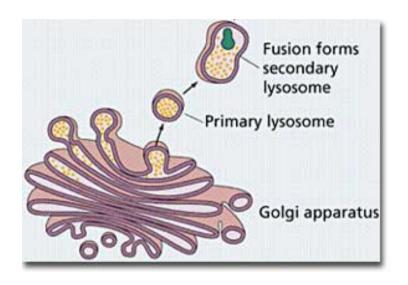
The main roles of the nucleolus are to synthesize rRNA and assemble ribosomes

The main function of the cell nucleus is to control gene expression and mediate the replication of DNA during the cell cycle

## Lysosomes

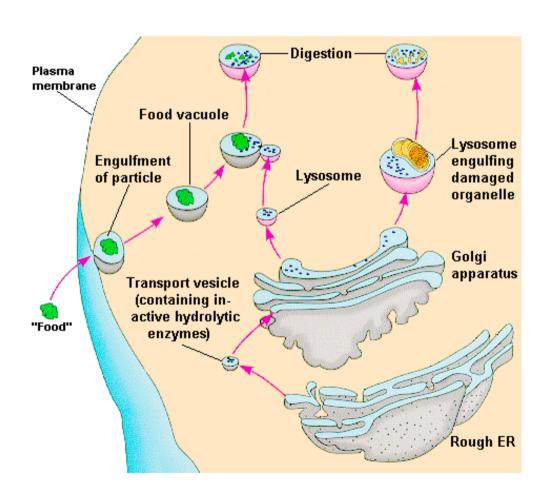
 Lysosomes are organelles that contain digestive enzymes (acid hydrolases). They digest excess or worn out organelles, food particles, and engulfed viruses or bacteria. The membrane surrounding a lysosome prevents the digestive enzymes inside from destroying the cell. Lysosomes fuse with vacuoles and dispense their enzymes into the vacuoles, digesting their contents. They are built in the Golgi apparatus. The name *lysosome* derives from the Greek words *lysis*, which means dissolution or destruction, and soma, which means body. They are frequently nicknamed "suicidebags" or "suicide-sacs" by cell biologists due to their role in autolysis.

# Lysosomes



Lysosomes are responsible for the breakdown and absorption of materials taken in by the cell. Often, a cell engulfs a foreign substance through **ENDOCYTOSIS**, another form of active transport. During endocytosis, the cell membrane puckers up, forms a pouch around materials outside the cell, and pinches off to become a vesicle. If the contents need to be destroyed, lysosomes combine with the vesicle and release their enzymes.

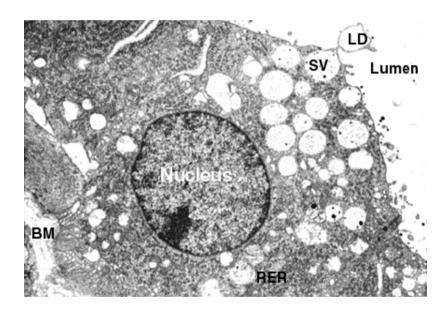
# Lysosome

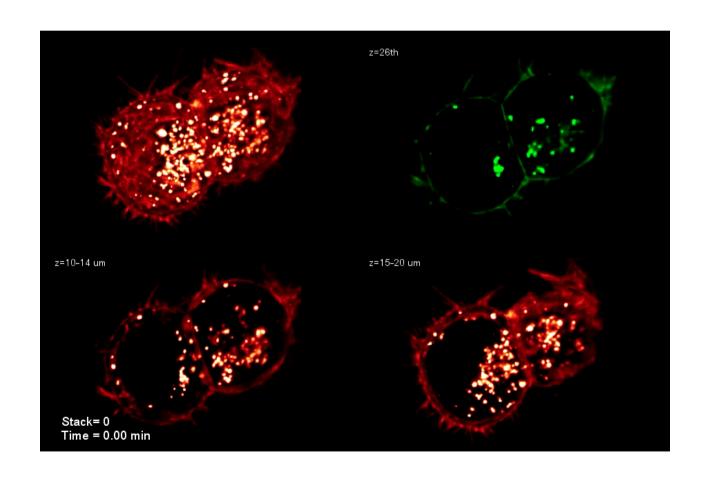


#### Vesicle

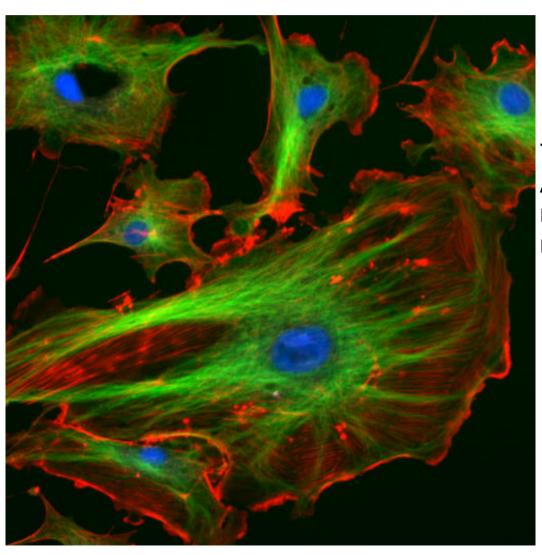
In cell biology, a **vesicle** is a relatively small and enclosed compartment, separated from the <u>cytosol</u> by at least one lipid bilayer. If there is only one lipid bilayer, they are called *unilamellar* vesicles; otherwise they are called *multilamellar*. Vesicles store, transport, or digest cellular products and waste.

This biomembrane enclosing the vesicle is similar to that of the plasma membrane. Because it is separated from the cytosol, the intravesicular environment can be made to be different from the cytosolic environment. Vesicles are a basic tool of the cell for organizing metabolism, transport, enzyme storage, as well as being chemical reaction chambers. Many vesicles are made in the Golgi apparatus, but also in the endoplasmic reticulum, or are made from parts of the plasma membrane.





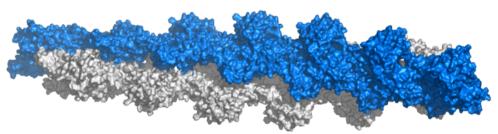
# Cytoskeleton



The eukaryotic cytoskeleton.
Actin filaments are shown in red,
microtubules in green, and the
nuclei are in blue.

#### Actin

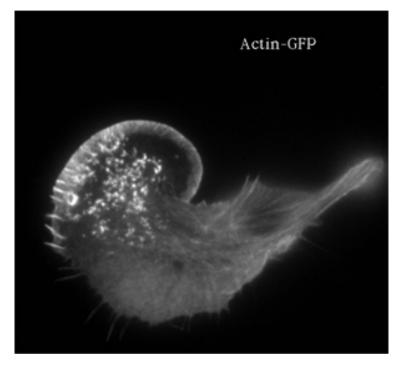


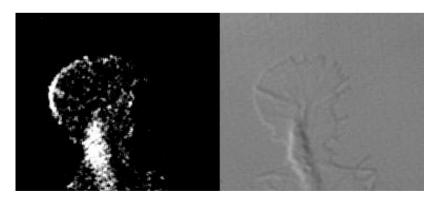


**Actin** is a globular structural, 42 kDa, protein that polymerizes in a helical fashion to form actin filaments (or microfilaments). These form the cytoskeleton, a threedimensional network inside the eukaryotic cell. Actin filaments provide mechanical support for the cell, determine its shape, and enable movement of the cell through lamellipodia, filopodia, or pseudopodia. Actin filaments, along with myosin, have an essential role in muscular contraction. In the cytosol, actin is predominantly bound to ATP, but can also bind to ADP. An ATP-actin complex polymerizes faster and dissociates slower than an ADP-actin complex.

## Lamellipodia

- The lamellipodium is a cytoskeletal actin projection on the mobile edge of the cell. It contains a two-dimensional actin mesh; the whole structure pulls the cell across a substrate. Within the lamellipodia are ribs of actin called microspikes, which, when they spread beyond the lamellipodium frontier, are called <u>filopodia</u> (Small, et all, 2002). The lamellipodium is born of actin nucleation in the plasma membrane of the cell (Alberts, et al, 2002) and is the primary area of actin incorporation or microfilament formation of the cell. Lamellipodia range from 1µm to 5µm in breadth and are approximately 0.2µm thick.Lamellipodia are found primarily in very mobile cells, crawling at a speeds of 10-20µm/minute over epithelial surfaces..
- The tip of the lamellipodium is the site where exocytosis occurs in migrating mammalian cells as part of their <u>clathrin</u>-mediated endocytic cycle.

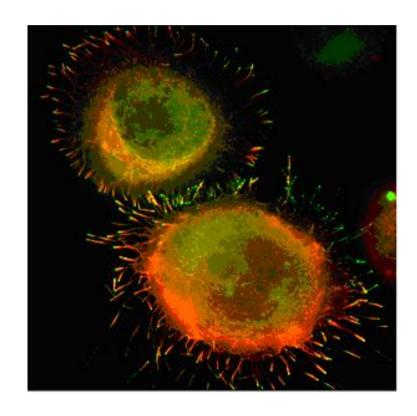




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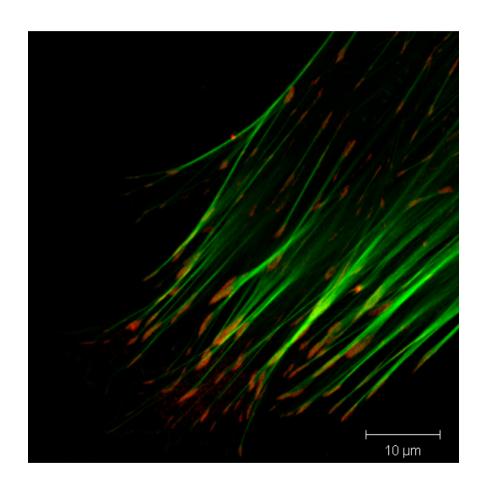
# Filopodia

The **filopodia** are slender cytoplasmic projections, similar to lamellipodia, which extend from the leading edge of migrating cells. They contain actin filaments cross-linked into bundles by actin-binding proteins, e.g. fimbrin. Filopodia form focal adhesions with the substratum, linking it to the cell surface. A cell migrates along a surface by extending filopodia at the leading edge. The filopodia attach to the substratum further down the migratory pathway, then contraction of stress fibres retracts the rear of the cell to move the cell forwards.



#### Focal adhesion

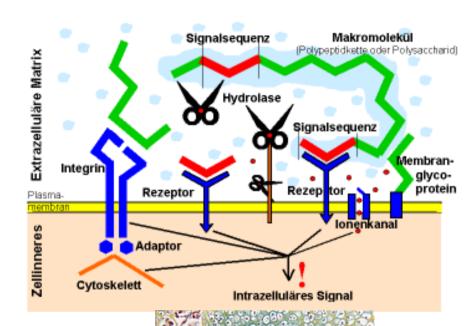
In cell biology, 'Focal
 Adhesions' are specific types
 of large macromolecular
 assemblies through which both
 mechanical force and
 regulatory signals are
 transmitted. More precisely,
 FAs can be considered as sub cellular macromolecules that
 mediate the regulatory effects
 (e.g. cell anchorage) of
 extracellular matrix (ECM)
 adhesion on cell behavior.



#### Extra Cellular Matrix

The ECM's main components are various glycoproteins, proteoglycans and hyaluronic acid. In most animals, the most abundant glycoproteins in the ECM are collagens.

elastin, fibronectins, laminins, and nidogens, and minerals such as hydroxylapatite, or fluids such as blood plasma or serum with secreted free flowing antigens.

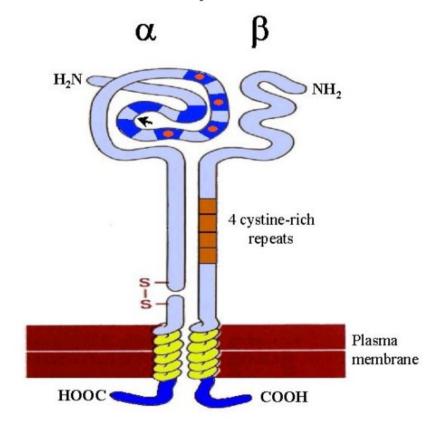


# Integrin

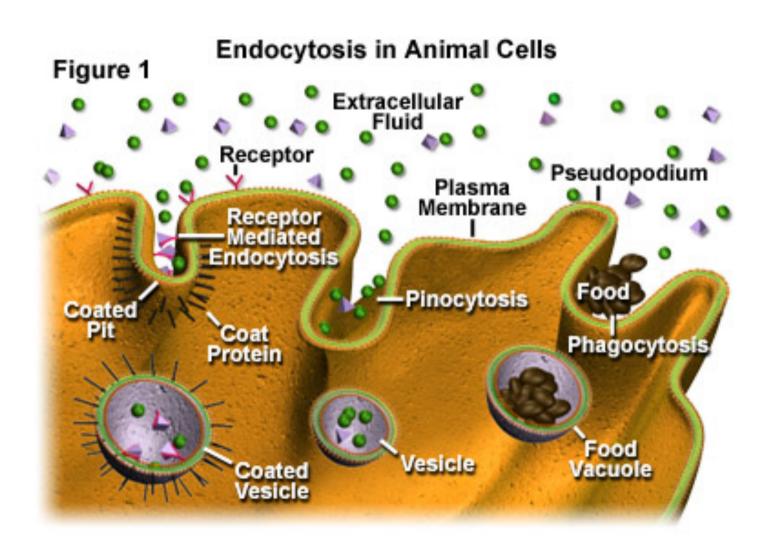
An integrin, or integrin receptor, is an integral membrane protein in the plasma membrane of cells. It plays a role in the attachment of a cell to the extracellular matrix (ECM) and to other cells, and in signal transduction from the ECM to the cell. There are many types of integrin, and many cells have multiple types on their surface. Integrins are of vital importance to all metazoans, from humans to sponges.

#### Schematic drawing of a typical integrin dimer

Arrow shows the region where an I domain is inserted in some  $\alpha$  subunits. Not all  $\alpha$  subunits are posttranslationally cleaved. Internal disulphide bonds within subunits are not shown. Dark blue regions in the head segment of the  $\alpha$  subunit represent homologous repeats. Those with the EF-hand consensus sequence are marked with red circles to denote binding sites for divalent metal ion.



# Endocytosis



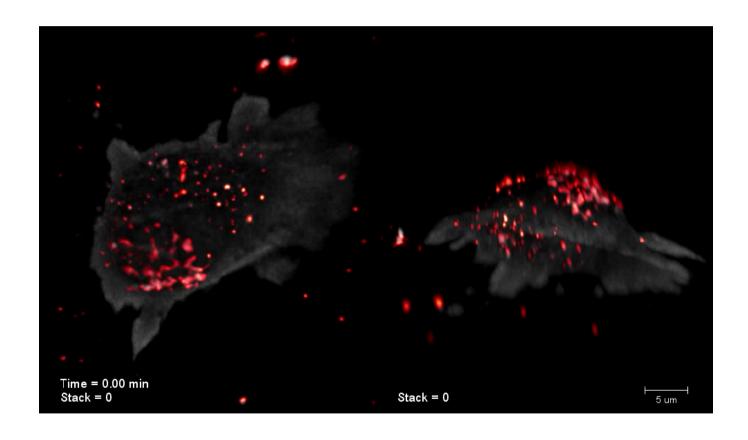
# Endocytosis

- Phagocytosis is the process by which cells ingest large objects, such as cells which have undergone apoptosis, bacteria, or viruses. The membrane folds around the object, and the object is sealed off into a large <u>vacuole</u> known as a <u>phagosome</u>.
- Pinocytosis is a synonym for endocytosis. This
  process is concerned with the uptake of solutes and
  single molecules such as proteins.
- Receptor-mediated endocytosis is a more specific active event where the cytoplasm membrane folds inward to form coated pits. These inward budding vesicles bud to form cytoplasmic vesicles.

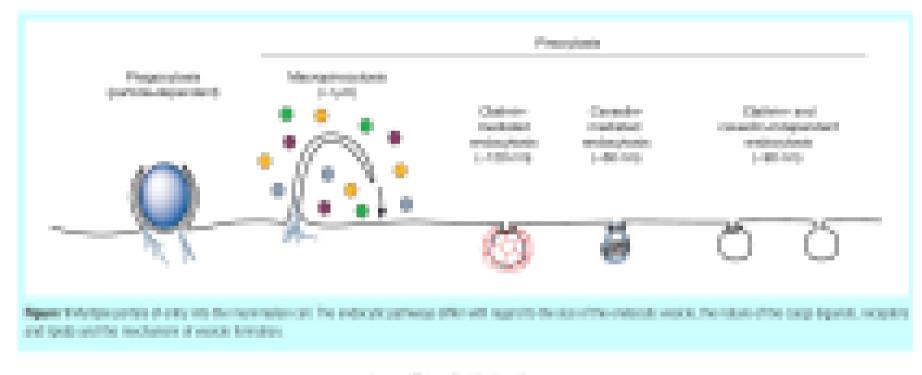
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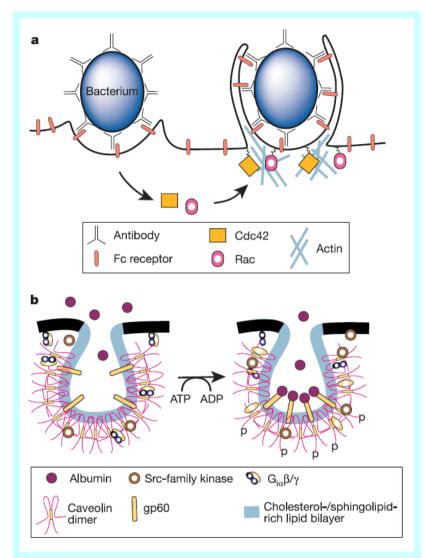
## Endocytosis pathways

- Macropinocytosis is the invagination of the cell membrane to form a
  pocket which then pinches off into the cell to form a vesicle filled
  with extracellular fluid (and molecules within it). The filling of the
  pocket occurs in a non-specific manner. The vesicle then travels into
  the cytosol and fuses with other vesicles such as endosomes and
  lysosomes.
- Clathrin-mediated endocytosis is the specific uptake of large extracellular molecules such as proteins, membrane localized receptors and ion-channels. These receptors are associated with the cytosolic protein clathrin which initiates the formation of a vesicle by forming a crystalline coat on the inner surface of the cell's membrane.
- Caveolae consist of the protein caveolin-1 with a bilayer enriched in cholesterol and glycosphingolipids. Caveolae are flask shaped pits in the membrane that resemble the shape of a cave (hence the name caveolae). Uptake of extracellular molecules are also believed to be specifically mediated via receptors in caveolae.

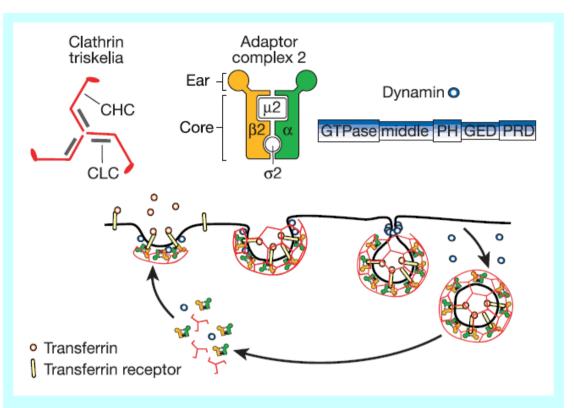


#### Endocytic pathway in mammalian cells





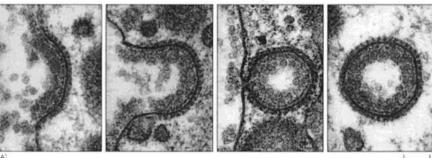
**Figure 2** Cargo-stimulated signalling pathways induce uptake by phagocytosis and caveolae. **a**, Fc receptors on the surface of macrophages are activated by immunoglobulin- $\gamma$  molecules bound to a bacterium. A signalling cascade that involves Rac, Cdc42 and downstream kinases triggers actin rearrangements, protrusion of the membrane around the bacterium, and its engulfment into a phagosome. **b**, Albumin binds to and presumably clusters its receptor, gp60, in caveolae to activate  $G_{icx}$  and Src kinases, triggering caveolae endocytosis.



**Figure 3** Core components of the machinery driving clathrin-mediated endocytosis. Clathrin triskelions, composed of three clathrin heavy chains (CHC) and three tightly associated light chains (CLC), assemble into a polygonal lattice, which helps to deform the overlying plasma membrane into a coated pit. Heterotetrameric AP2 complexes are targeted to the plasma membrane by the  $\alpha$ -adaptin subunits, where they mediate clathrin assembly through the  $\beta 2$ -subunit, and interact directly with sorting motifs on cargo molecules through their  $\mu 2$  subunits. Dynamin is a multidomain GTPase that is recruited to the necks of coated pits, where it can assemble into a spiral or 'collar' to mediate or monitor membrane fission and the release of CCVs (see text for details). A subsequent uncoating reaction recycles the coat constituents for reuse.

#### Clathrin-mediated endocytosis (actin patch) Saccharomyces cerevisiae cell Vesicle: Mammalian cell Actin cable Phagocytosis Nucleus Clathrin-mediated endocytosis Endosome Actin Caveolae-mediated endocytosis Macropinocytosis Caveolin-1 Lamellipodia/filopodia

#### Formation of Clathrin-Coated Vesicles



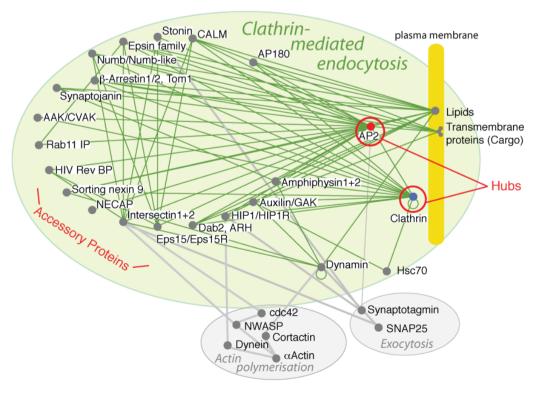
• 2500 every minute

· CCV uncoat within seconds

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# Clathrin-mediated endocytosis

# receptors Clathrin-coated pit dynamin and amphiphysin Clathrin-coated vesicle AP2 accessory proteins Clathrin triskelions Intracellular Uncoated vesicle

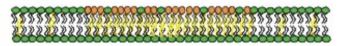




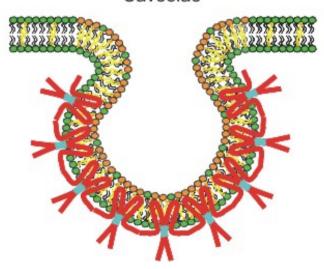


В

Lipid Rafts



#### Caveolae





Caveolin



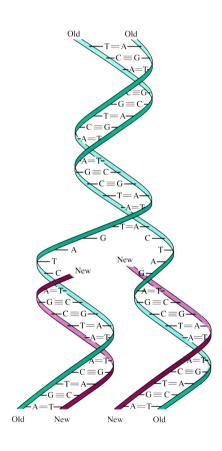
Phospholipid



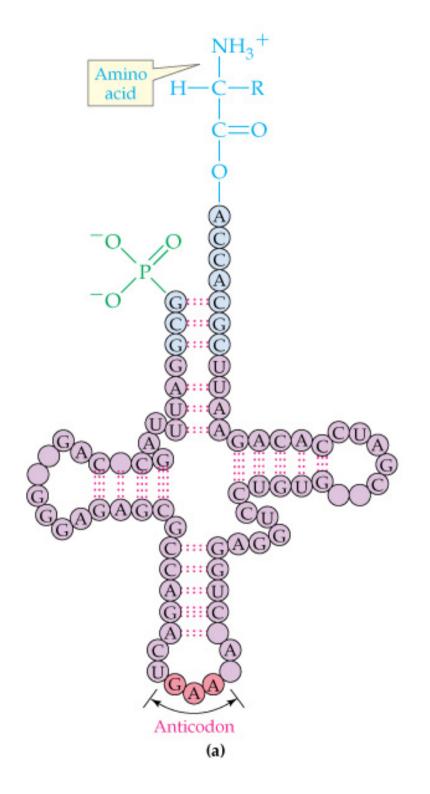
Sphingolipid

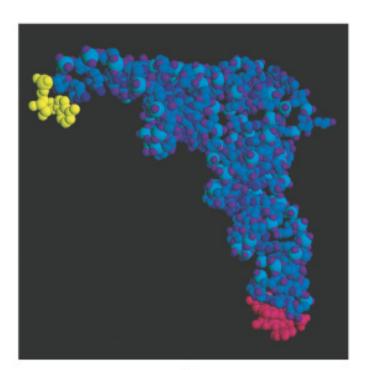
Cholesterol

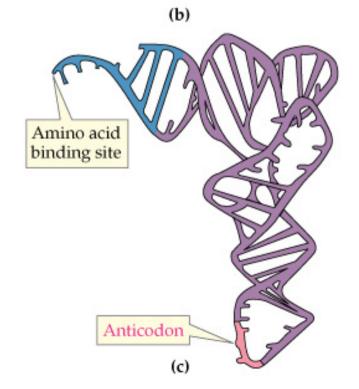
# Self-Assembly Process in Nature











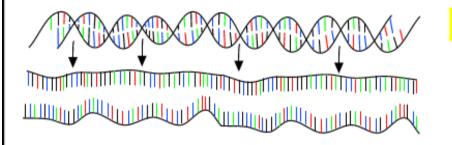
#### Second letter

		U	С	Α	G	
FIRST letter	U	UUU Phe UUA Leu UUG	UCU UCC UCA UCG	UAU Tyr UAC Stop UAG Stop	UGU Cys UGA Stop UGG Trp	U C A G
	С	CUC CUA CUG	CCU CCA CCG	CAU His CAA CAG Gin	CGU CGC CGA CGG	U C A G
	Α	AUU AUC AUA IIIe AUG Met	ACU ACC ACA ACG	AAU AAC AAA AAG Lys	AGU Ser AGA AGG Arg	U C A G
	G	GUU GUC GUA GUG	GCU GCC GCA GCG	GAU Asp GAA GAG Glu	GGU GGC GGA GGG	U C A G

Third letter

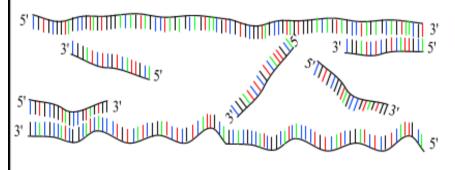
#### PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction

30 - 40 cycles of 3 steps:



Step 1 : denaturation

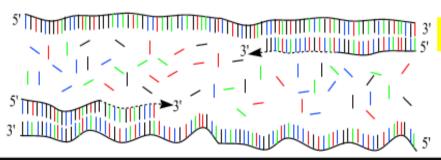
1 minut 94 °C



Step 2 : annealing

45 seconds 54 °C

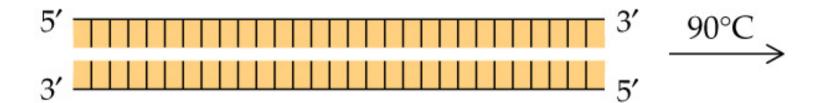
forward and reverse primers !!!

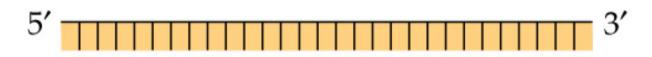


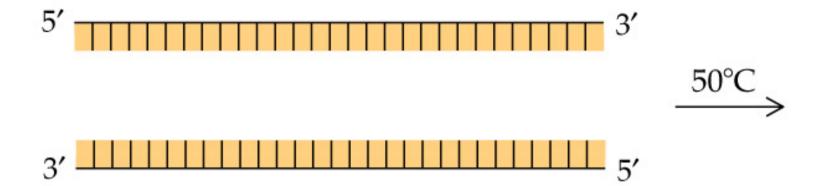
Step 3: extension

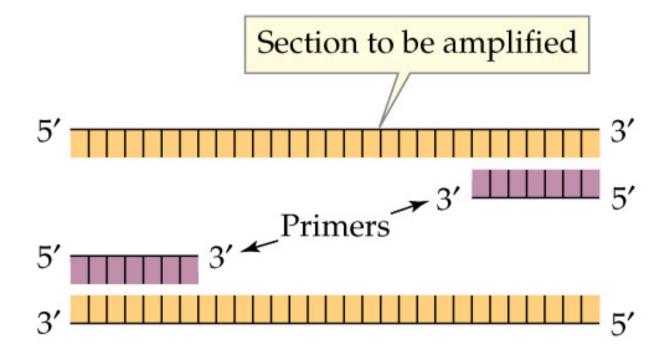
2 minutes 72 °C only dNTP's

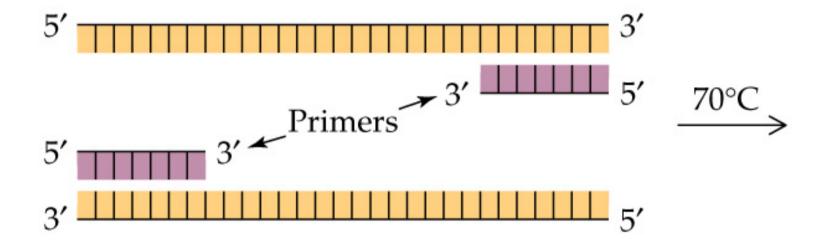
(Andy Vierstraete 1999)

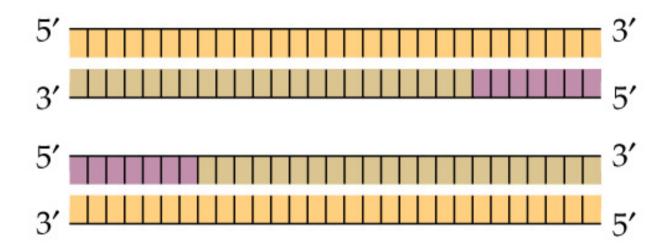


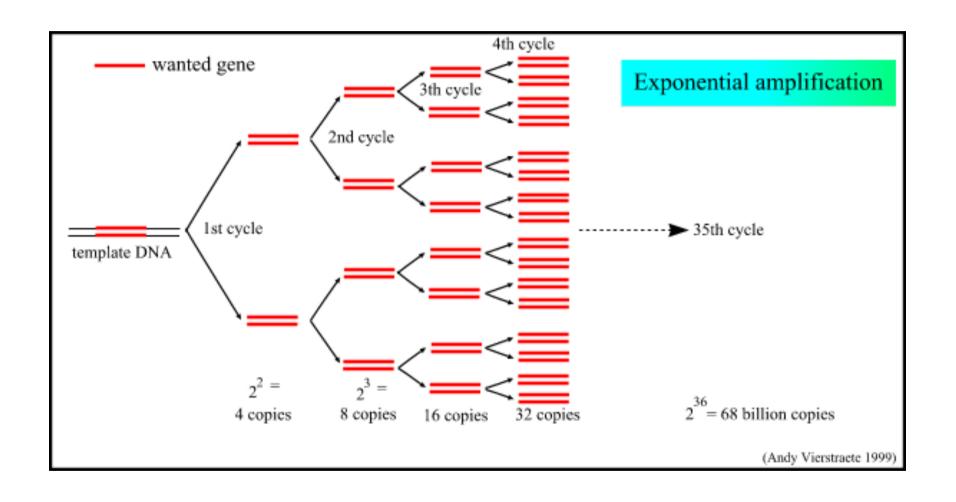






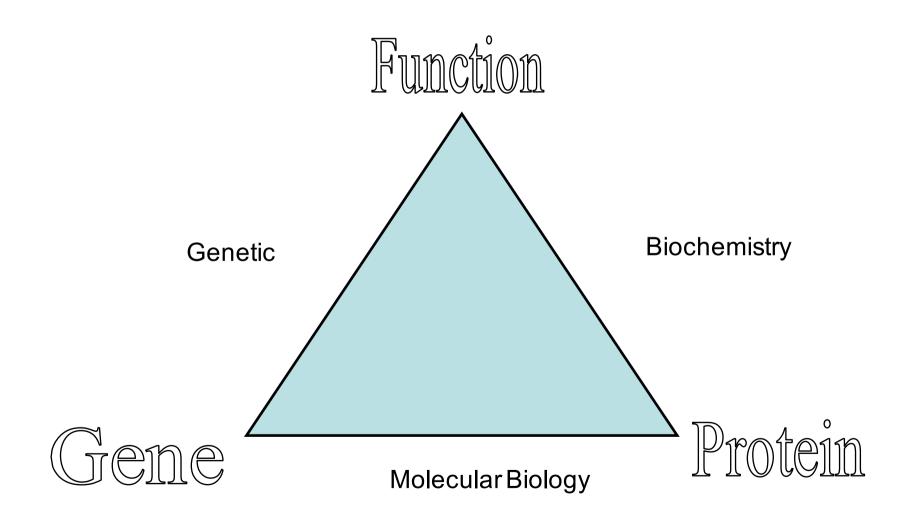


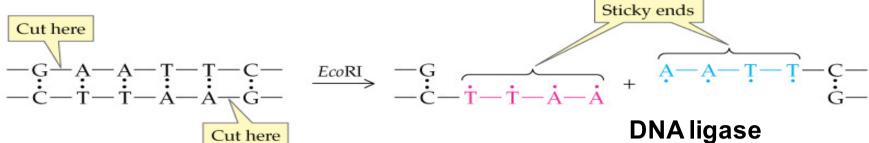




# A SNP **DNA** sample 1 DNA sample 2

#### Recombinant DNA





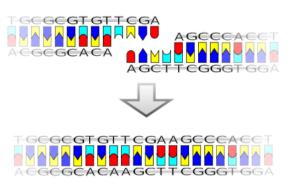
#### Restriction Enzyme

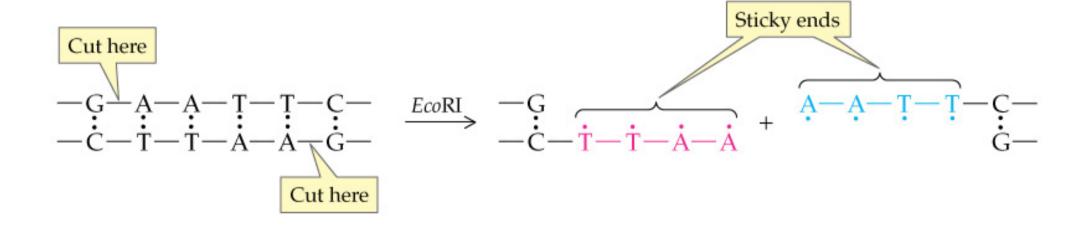
Alul and Haelli produce blunt ends

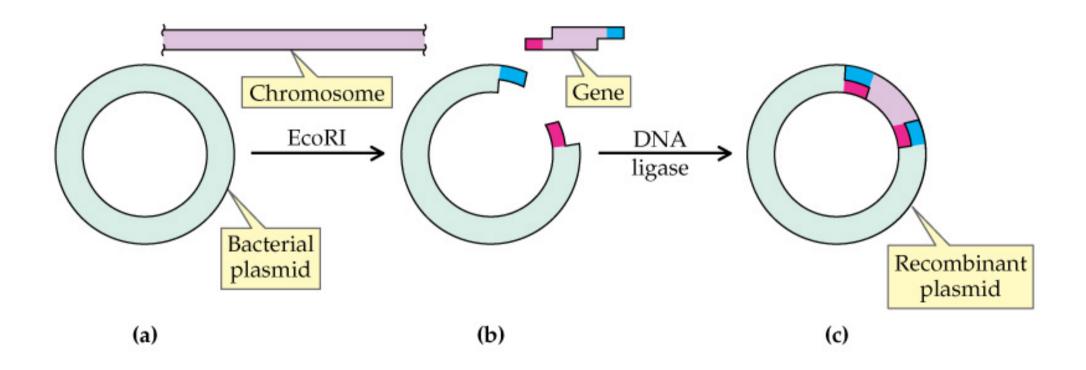
BamHI HindIII and EcoRI produce "sticky" ends

#### **DNA** ligase



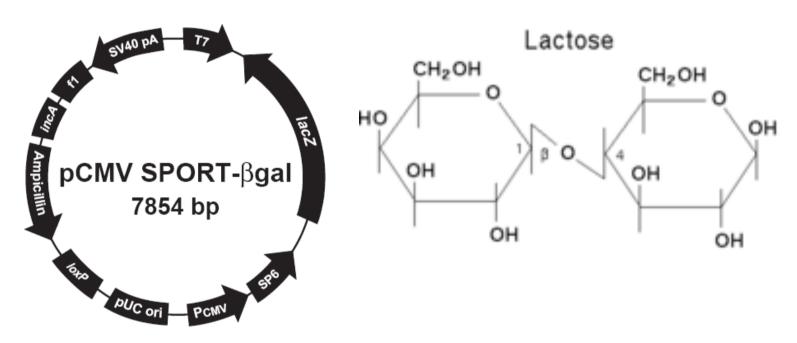






## β-Galactosidase

The enzyme that splits lactose into glucose and galactose. Coded by a gene (lacZ) in the lac operon of Escherichia coli.



PUC is a family of plasmids that have an ampicillin resistance gene and more importantly a *lacZ* gene. A functional lacZ gene will produce the protein  $\beta$  - galactosidase. Bacterial colonies in which  $\beta$  - galactosidase is produced, will form blue colonies in the presence of the substrate 5 - bromo - 4 - chloro - 3 - indolyl - b - D - galactoside or as it is more commonly referred to, X-gal.

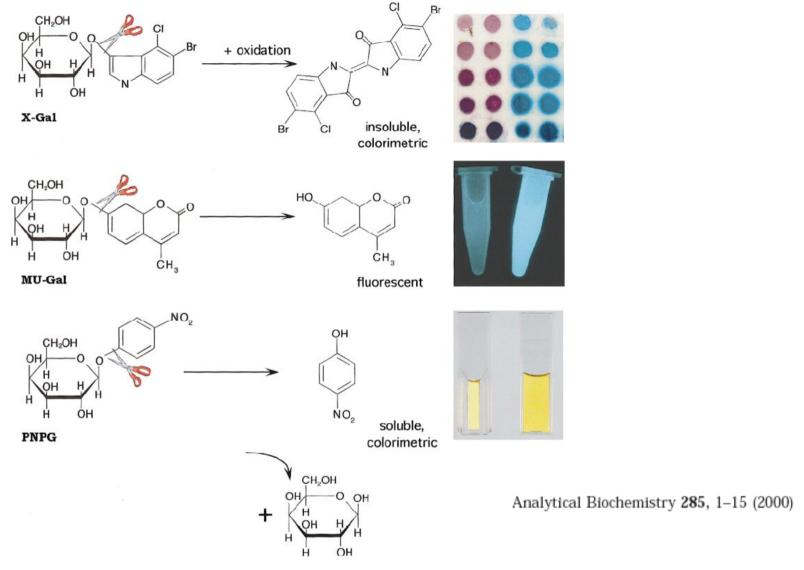
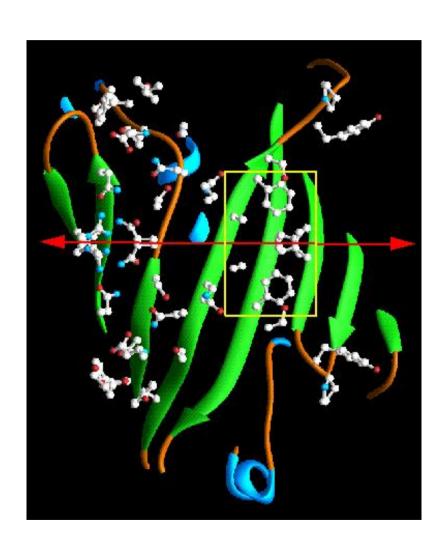
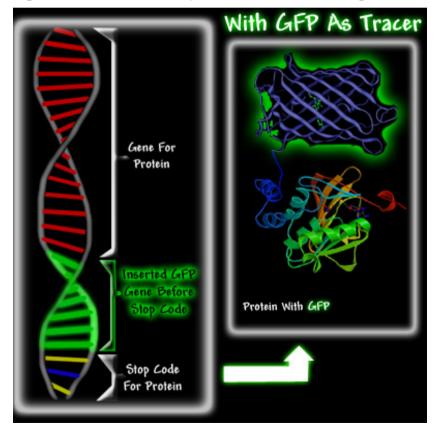


FIG. 1. Emphasis function of papers and include the functional residence of pathodological residence of pathodological residence of pathodological residence of pathodological residence of residence of

#### Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP)



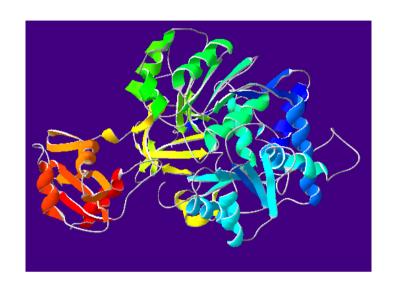
The green fluorescent protein (GFP) is a protein from the jellyfish <u>Aequorea victoria</u> that fluoresces green when exposed to blue light.

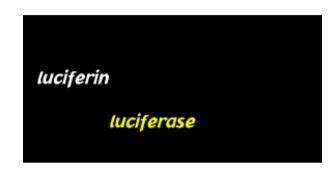


# **GFP Rats**



#### Luciferase

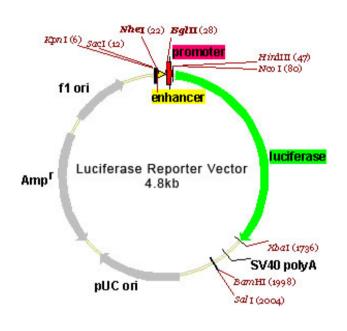


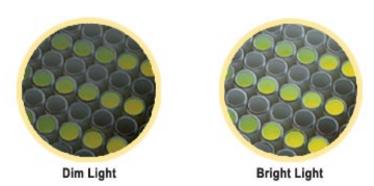


Luciferase is a generic name for enzymes commonly used in nature for bioluminescence. The name itself is derived from Lucifer, which means light-bearer. The most famous one is firefly luciferase from the firefly Photinus pyralis. In luminescent reactions, light is produced by the oxidation of a luciferin (a pigment), sometimes involving Adenosine triphosphate (ATP). The rates of this reaction between luciferin and oxygen are extremely slow until they are catalyzed by luciferase, often mediated by the presence of calcium ions (an analog of muscle contraction). The reaction takes place in two steps:

luciferin + <u>ATP</u> → luciferyl adenylate + <u>PPi</u> luciferyl adenylate + <u>O2</u> → oxyluciferin + <u>AMP</u> + light

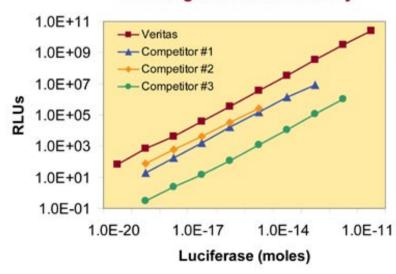
#### Luciferase







#### **Promega Luciferase Assay**



# **DNA** Origami

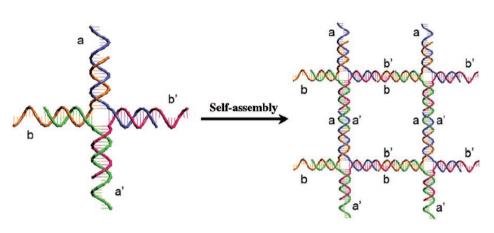
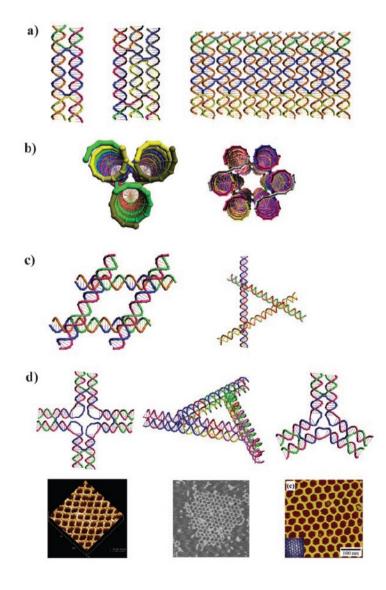


Figure 1. Key concept of DNA tile based self-assembly: combining branched DNA junction with sticky-end associations (e.g. a-a' and b-b' pairings) to self-assemble 2D lattices (adapted from ref. [1]). The DNA model was rendered using the Strata program (www.strata.com).



# Synthesis from DNA of a molecule with the connectivity of a cube

Junghuei Chen & Nadrian C. Seeman

11

NATURE · VOL 350 · 18 APRIL 1991 Purify L Purify R Hybridize Hybridize Reconstitute Ligate A and B

#### Folding DNA to create nanoscale shapes and patterns

NATURE|Vol 440|16 March 2006

Paul W. K. Rothemund<sup>1</sup>

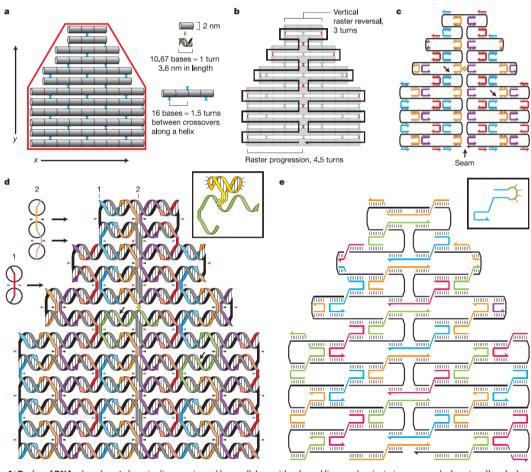
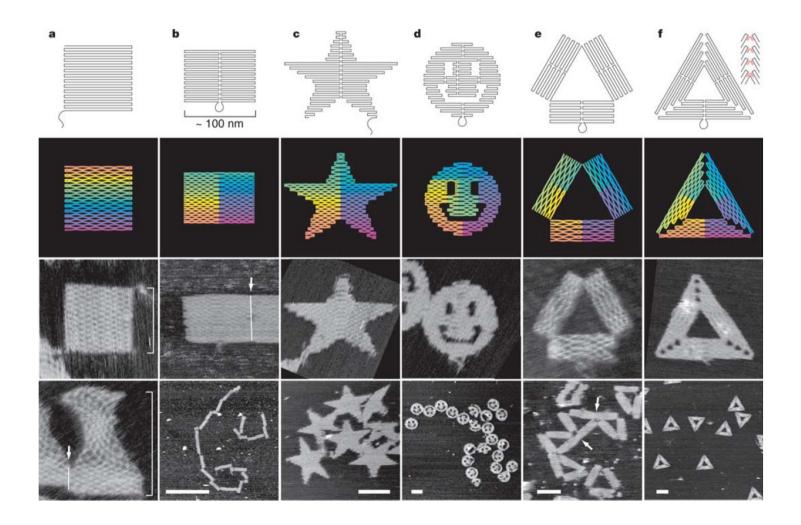
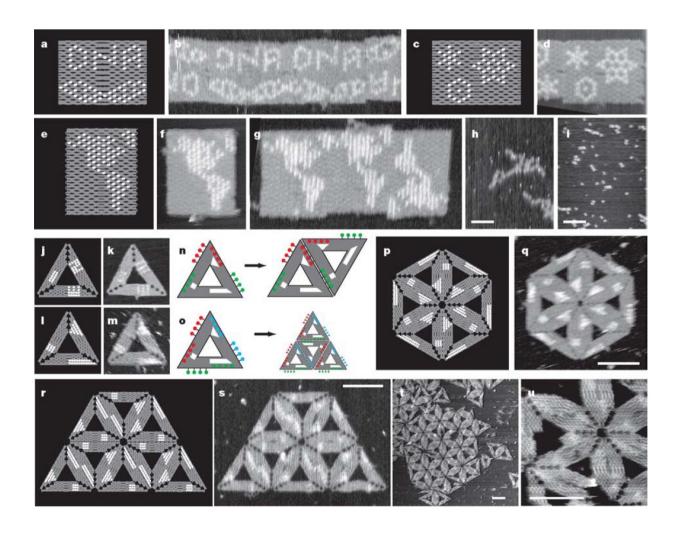


Figure 1 | Design of DNA origami. a, A shape (red) approximated by parallel double helices joined by periodic crossovers (blue). **b**, A scaffold (black) runs through every helix and forms more crossovers (red). c, As first designed, most staples bind two helices and are 16-mers. d, Similar to c with strands drawn as helices. Red triangles point to scaffold crossovers, black triangles to periodic crossovers with minor grooves on the top face of the shape, blue triangles to periodic crossovers with minor grooves on bottom. Crosssections of crossovers (1, 2, viewed from left) indicate backbone positions

with coloured lines, and major/minor grooves by large/small angles between them. Arrows in **c** point to nicks sealed to create green strands in **d**. Yellow diamonds in **c** and **d** indicate a position at which staples may be cut and resealed to bridge the seam. e, A finished design after merges and rearrangements along the seam. Most staples are 32-mers spanning three helices. Insets show a dumbbell hairpin (d) and a 4-T loop (e), modifications used in Fig. 3.

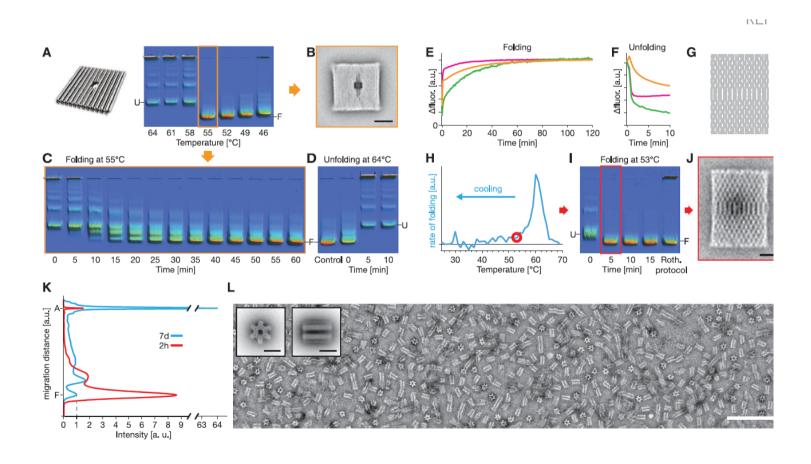




#### Rapid Folding of DNA into Nanoscale Shapes at Constant Temperature

Jean-Philippe J. Sobczak *et al.* Science **338**, 1458 (2012);

DOI: 10.1126/science.1229919



#### DNA Origami as a Carrier for Circumvention of Drug Resistance

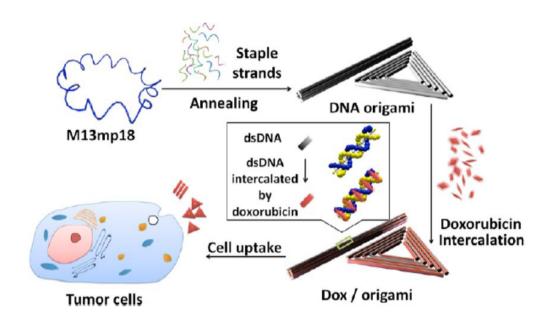
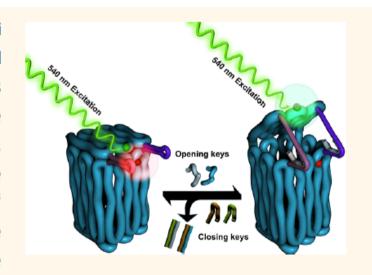


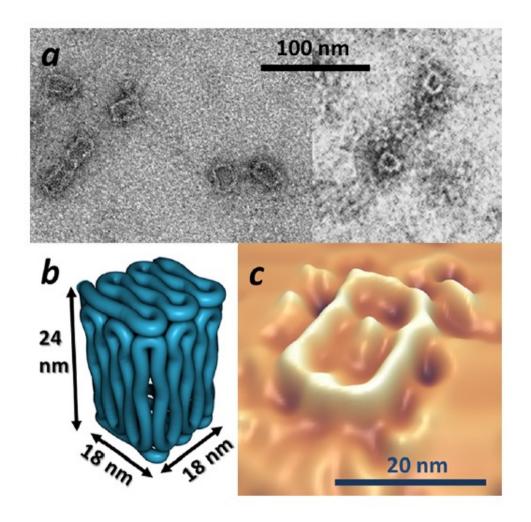
Figure 1. DNA origami and doxorubicin origami delivery system assembly. The long single-strand M13mp18 genomic DNA scaffold strand (blue) is folded into the triangle and tube structures through the hybridization of rationally designed staple strands. Watson—Crick base pairs in the double helices serve as docking sites for doxorubicin intercalation. After incubation with doxorubicin, the drug-loaded DNA nanostructure delivery vessels were administered to MCF 7 cells, and the effects were investigated.

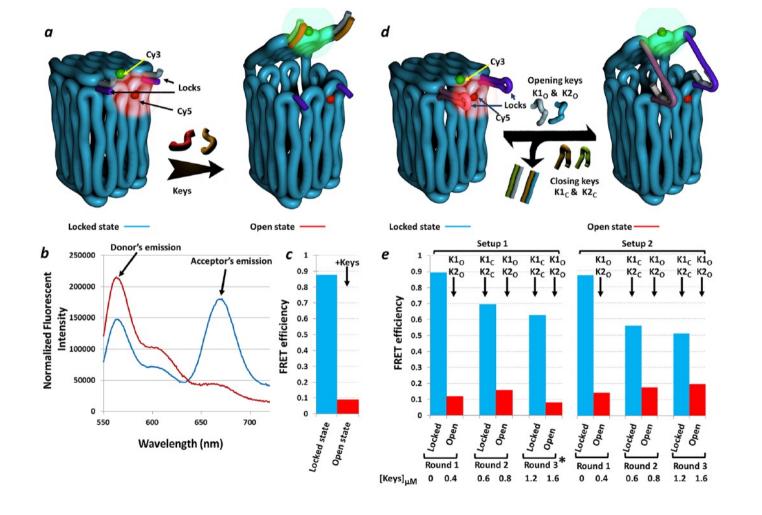
#### Construction of a 4 Zeptoliters Switchable 3D DNA Box Origami

**ABSTRACT** The DNA origami technique is a recently developed self-assembly method that allows construction of 3D objects at the nanoscale for various applications. In the current study we report the production of a  $18 \times 18 \times 24 \text{ nm}^3$  hollow DNA box origami structure with a switchable lid. The structure



was efficiently produced and characterized by atomic force microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, and Förster resonance energy transfer spectroscopy. The DNA box has a unique reclosing mechanism, which enables it to repeatedly open and close in response to a unique set of DNA keys. This DNA device can potentially be used for a broad range of applications such as controlling the function of single molecules, controlled drug delivery, and molecular computing.





## Gene Delivery

- Transfection- the delivery of foreign molecules such as DNA and RNA into eukaryotic cells
- Naked DNA is not suitable for in-vivo transport of genetic materials-> degradation by serum nucleases
- Ideal gene delivery system
  - Biocompatible
  - Non-immunogenic
  - Stable in blood stream
  - Protect DNA during transport
  - Small enough to extravagate
  - Cell and tissue specific

# Gene Therapy

- Gene therapy is a technique for correcting defective genes responsible for disease development. Researchers may use one of several approaches for correcting faulty genes:
  - A normal gene may be inserted into a nonspecific location within the genome to replace a nonfunctional gene. This approach is most common.
  - An abnormal gene could be swapped for a normal gene through homologous recombination.
  - The abnormal gene could be repaired through selective reverse mutation, which returns the gene to its normal function.
  - The regulation (the degree to which a gene is turned on or off) of a particular gene could be altered.

# How Gene Therapy Works?

- In most gene therapy studies, a "normal" gene is inserted into the genome to replace an "abnormal," disease-causing gene. A carrier molecule called a vector must be used to deliver the therapeutic gene to the patient's target cells. Currently, the most common vector is a virus that has been genetically altered to carry normal human DNA. Viruses have evolved a way of encapsulating and delivering their genes to human cells in a pathogenic manner. Scientists have tried to take advantage of this capability and manipulate the virus genome to remove disease-causing genes and insert therapeutic genes.
- Target cells such as the patient's liver or lung cells are infected with the viral vector. The vector then unloads its genetic material containing the therapeutic human gene into the target cell. The generation of a functional protein product from the therapeutic gene restores the target cell to a normal state.

## Gene Delivery

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