

**Cds in Scienze e Tecnologie Biologiche**

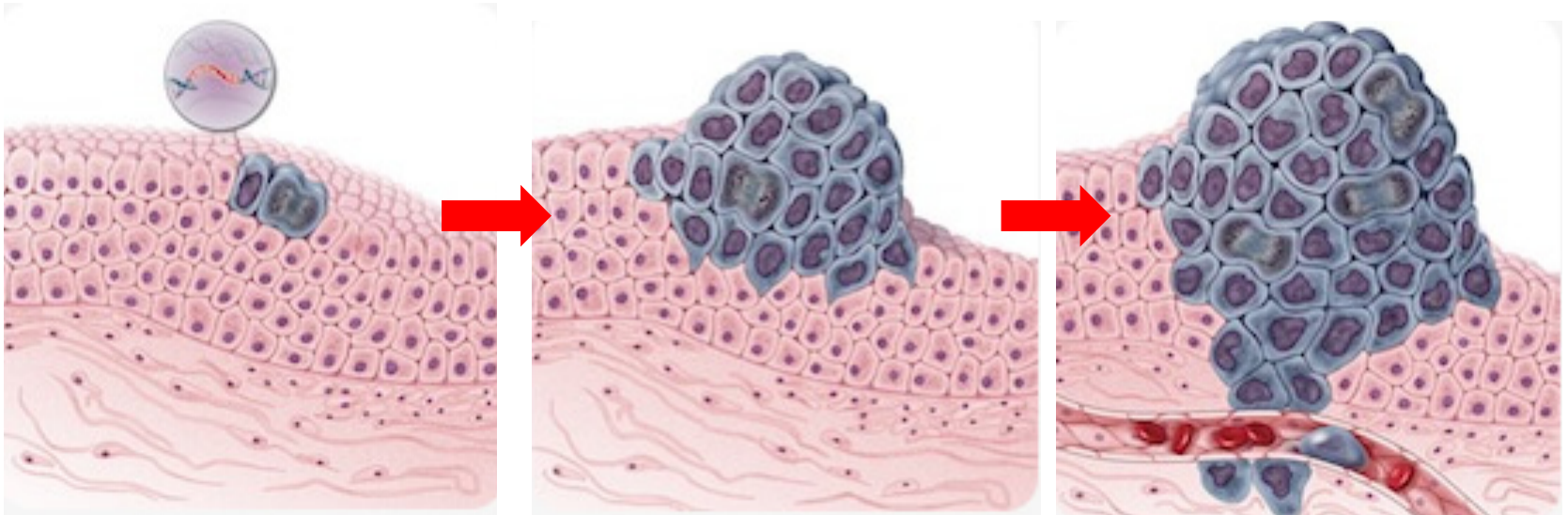
**AA 2019-2020**

**Corso di Laboratorio di Biologia Cellulare**

**Lezione 6**

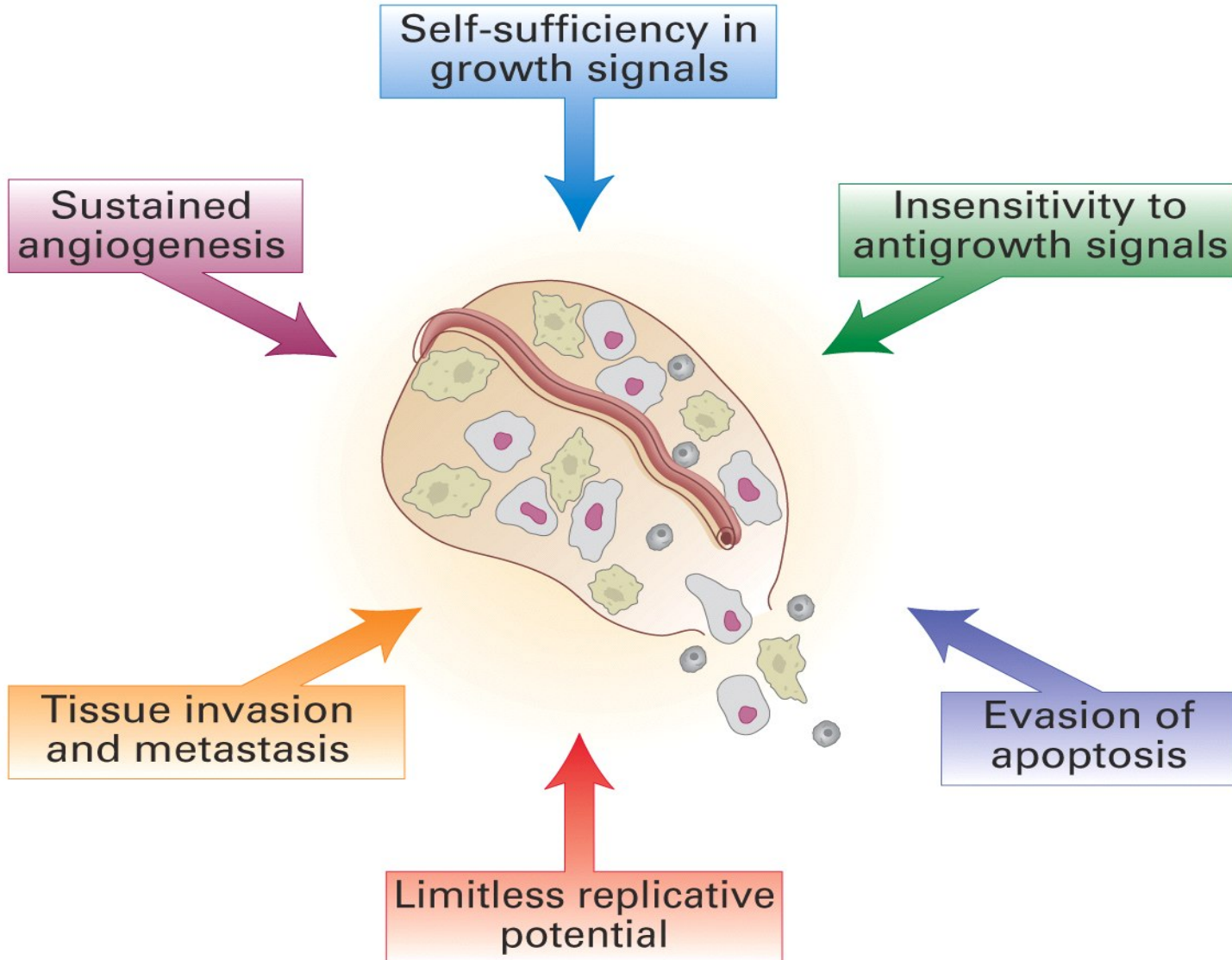
**LO STUDIO DELLA TRASFORMAZIONE  
NEOPLASTICA**

# IL CANCRO



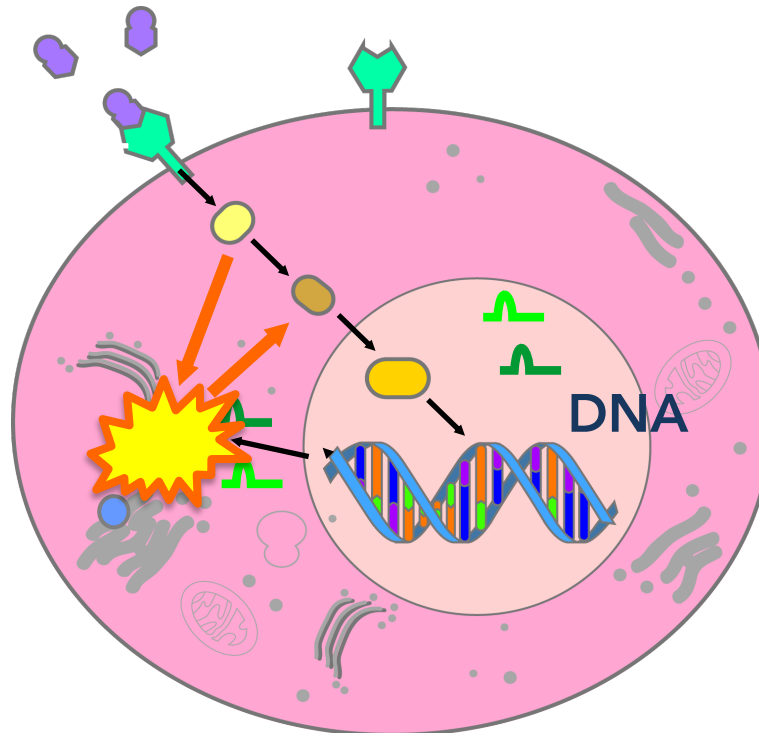
**Il cancro è una patologia nella quale le cellule crescono e proliferano senza controllo, invadono e colonizzano i tessuti normali.**

# Alterazioni dei comportamenti cellulari nel cancro

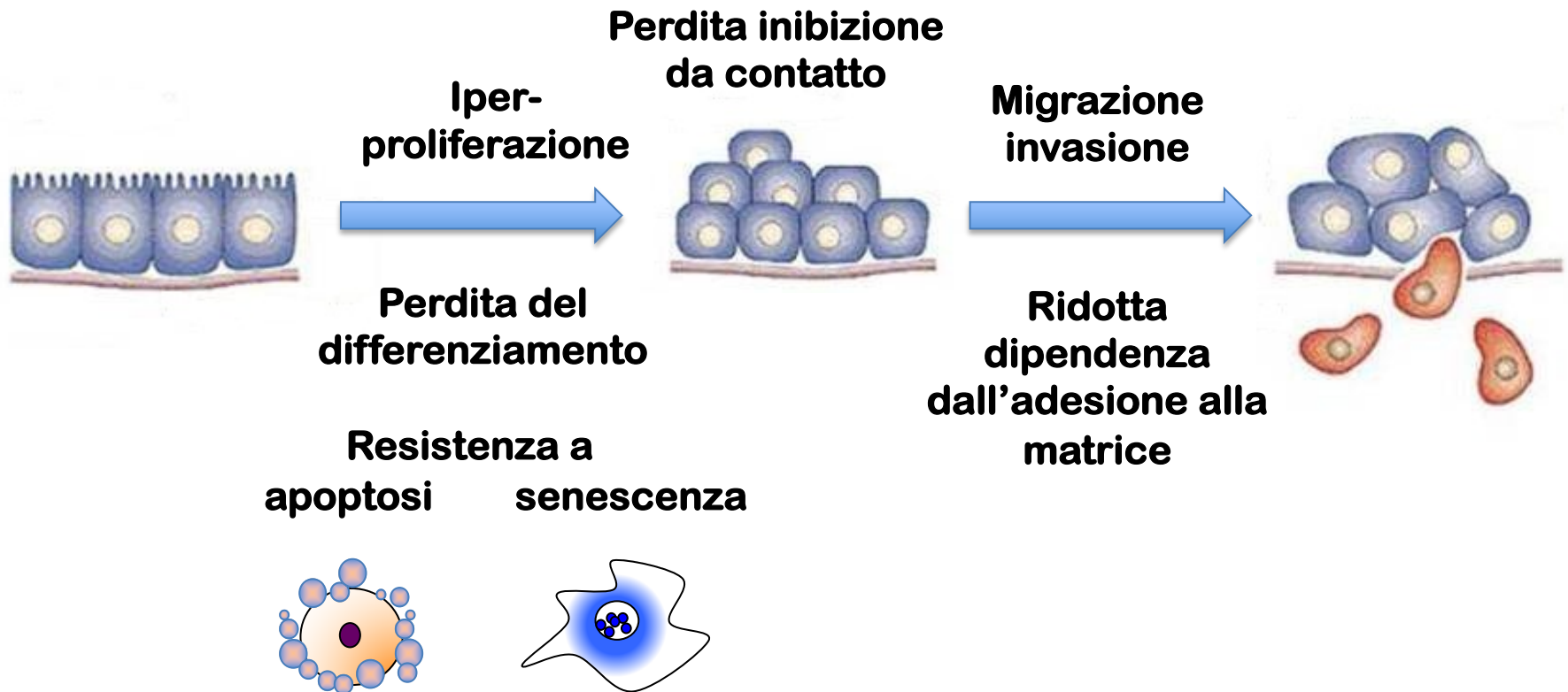


# Le cause della trasformazione neoplastica

Alterazioni genetiche ed epigenetiche causano alterazioni nelle vie di segnalazione e nei checkpoint che regolano comportamenti cellulari fondamentali

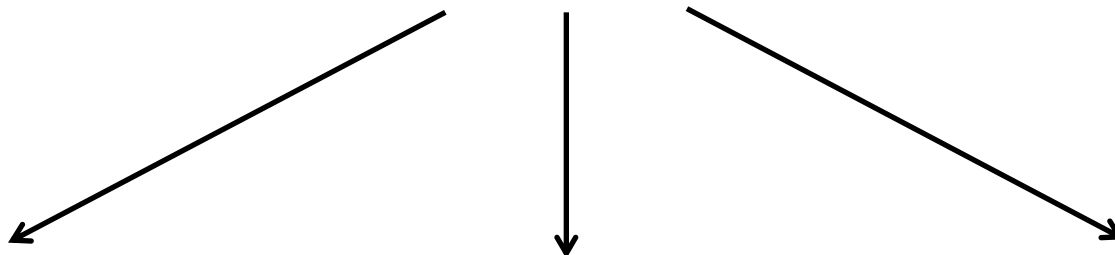


# Caratteristiche delle cellule tumorali



# LA RICERCA SUL CANCRO

Identificare  
geni, proteine e processi  
responsabili  
dell'insorgenza e  
dell'aggressività tumorale



**Diagnosi**



**Risposta  
alle terapie già in uso**



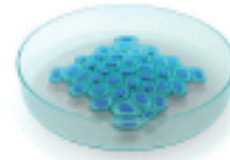
**Nuove  
terapie mirate**

# SISTEMI MODELLO PER LA RICERCA SUL CANCRO

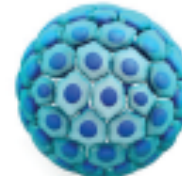
Biochemical tools

Complexity of culture

Model system  
in life sciences



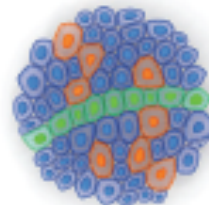
Monolayer cell culture



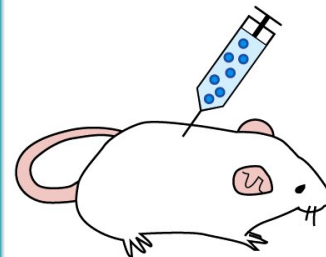
Spheroid



Organoid



Tissue explant



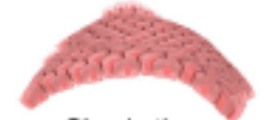
Organization of  
the body



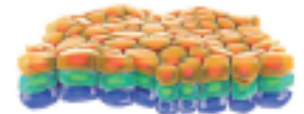
Subcellular



Cells



Simple tissue



Layered tissue



Organ & System



Body

## Saggi di trasformazione in vitro

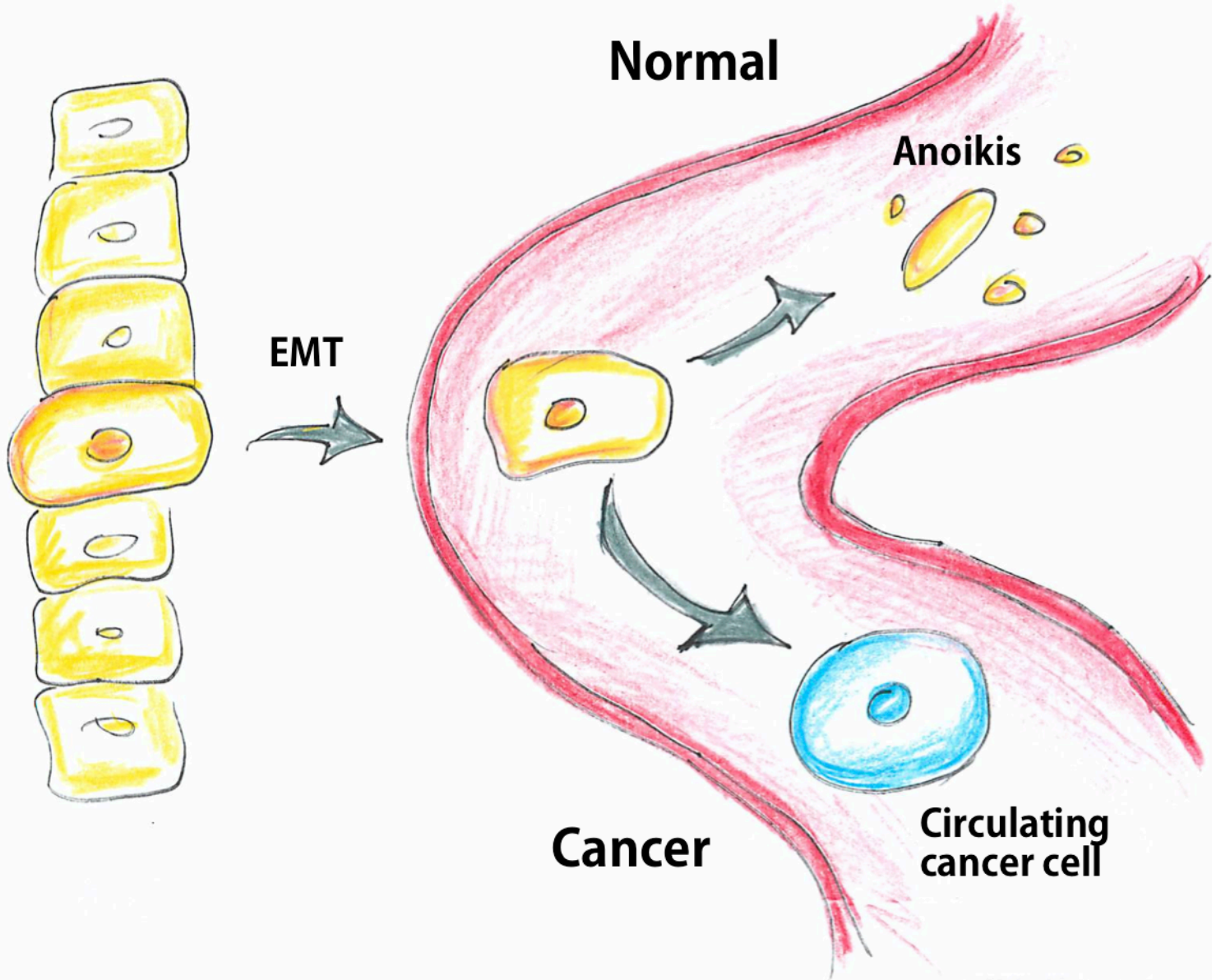
- ✓ Saggi di **proliferazione**
- ✓ Saggi di crescita indipendente dal **substrato** (soft agar)
- ✓ Saggi di **motilità** cellulare (wound healing) e saggi di **migrazione** (transwelling)
- ✓ Saggi di **invasione**
- ✓ Saggi di **angiogenesi**
- ✓ Saggi di **chemioresistenza** (formazione di colonie, citotossicità, apoptosi)



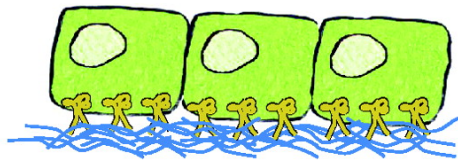
**Saggio di crescita indipendente dal substrato  
= SAGGIO DEL SOFT AGAR**

**Indica tumorigenicità/metastaticità**

**ANOIKIS = morte cellulare indotta dalla perdita di adesione**



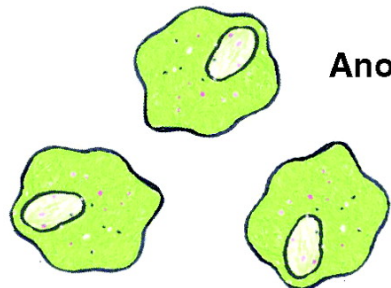
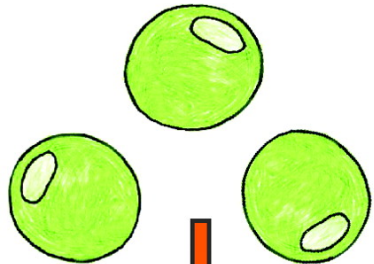
# ANOIKIS



cellule NORMALI dipendono dalla formazione di contatti con la **MATRICE EXTRACELLULARE** per **SOPRAVVIVERE**.

**In vitro: necessitano di un substrato** per la crescita: se seminate in un terreno semisolido vanno incontro a morte

Loss of integrin attachment



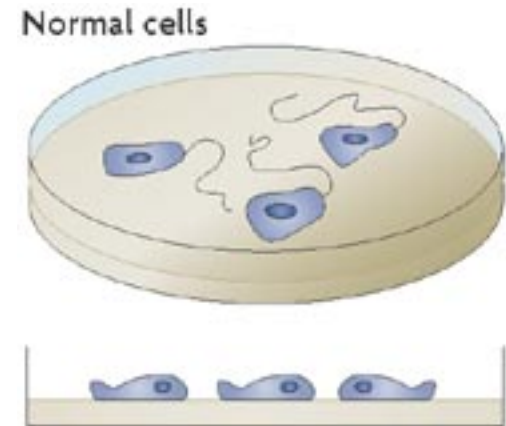
Anoikis



cellule trasformate acquisiscono la capacità di **proliferare indipendentemente dall'adesione ad un substrato**

## Saggio di crescita indipendente dal substrato (SOFT AGAR)

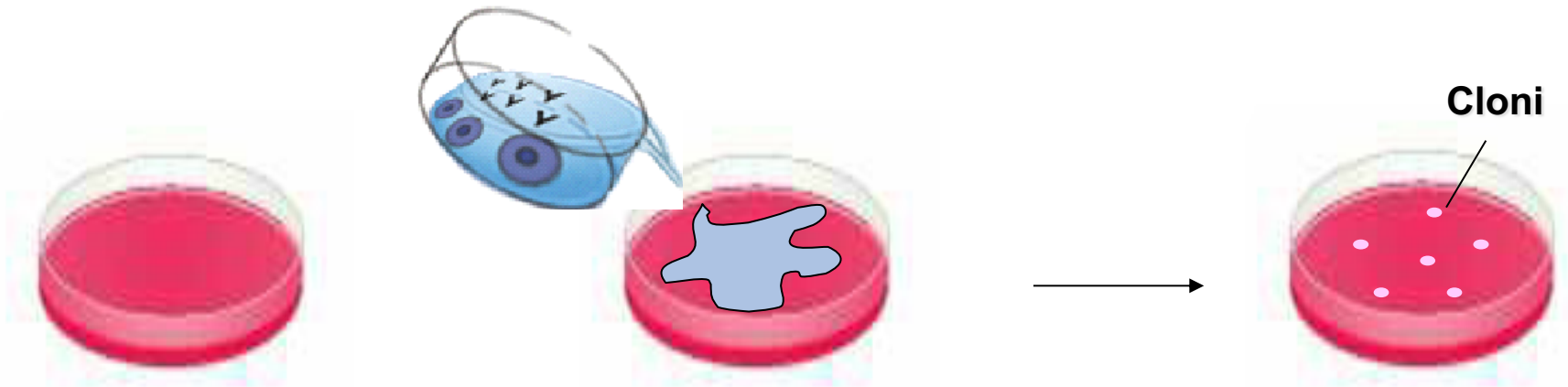
Cellule che crescono in adesione ad un recipiente di plastica secernono componenti della matrice extracellulare alla quale aderiscono mediante le integrine



Nel saggio del SOFT AGAR:

- Le cellule vengono seminate in un **mezzo SEMISOLIDO**, costituito da terreno di crescita contenente **agarosio** allo 0.25-0.5%.
- In questo modo esse **non** riescono a formare contatti con il substrato
- solo le cellule neoplastiche sopravvivono, avendo perso tale dipendenza

- per effettuare il saggio, le cellule vengono seminate in un **mezzo SEMISOLIDO**, costituito da terreno di crescita con agarosio allo 0.5%.
- Le cellule vengono staccate dal recipiente di coltura con tripsina e diluite nella soluzione di terreno/agarosio 0.5%.
- Vengono poi seminate in una capsula Petri
- Le cellule vengono lasciate nell'incubatore e la crescita di colonie viene osservata dopo 1 o più settimane

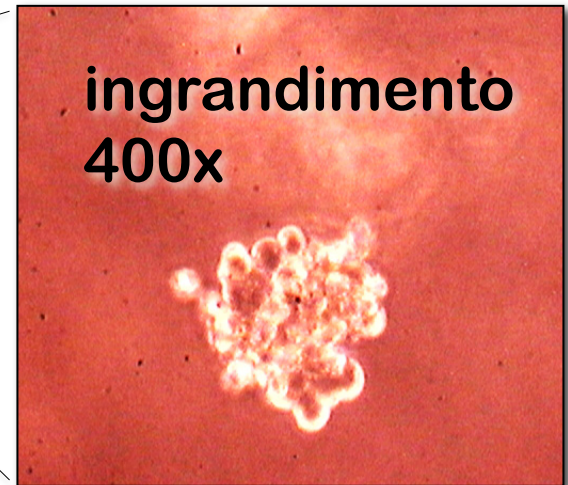
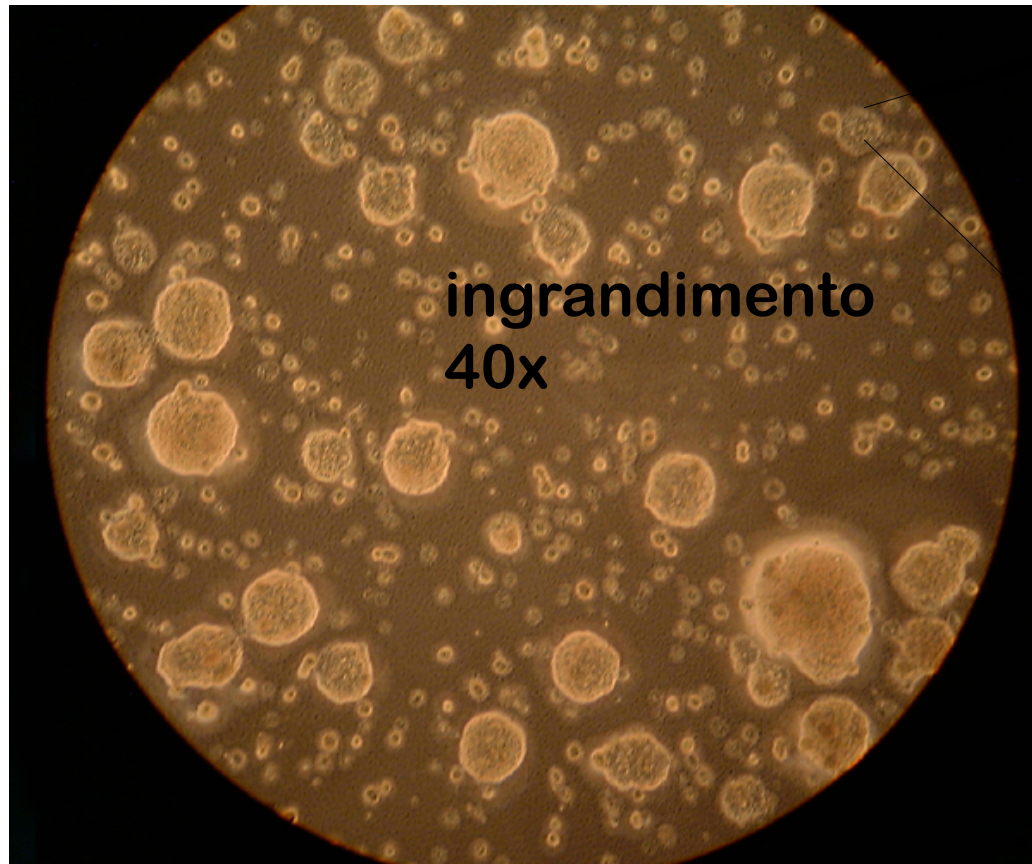
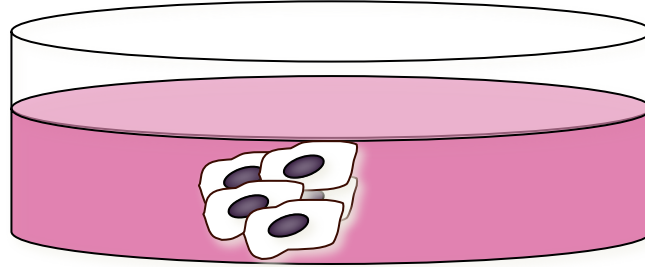


1° strato: terreno  
con agarosio 1%

2° strato: cellule in  
terreno con agarosio 0.5%

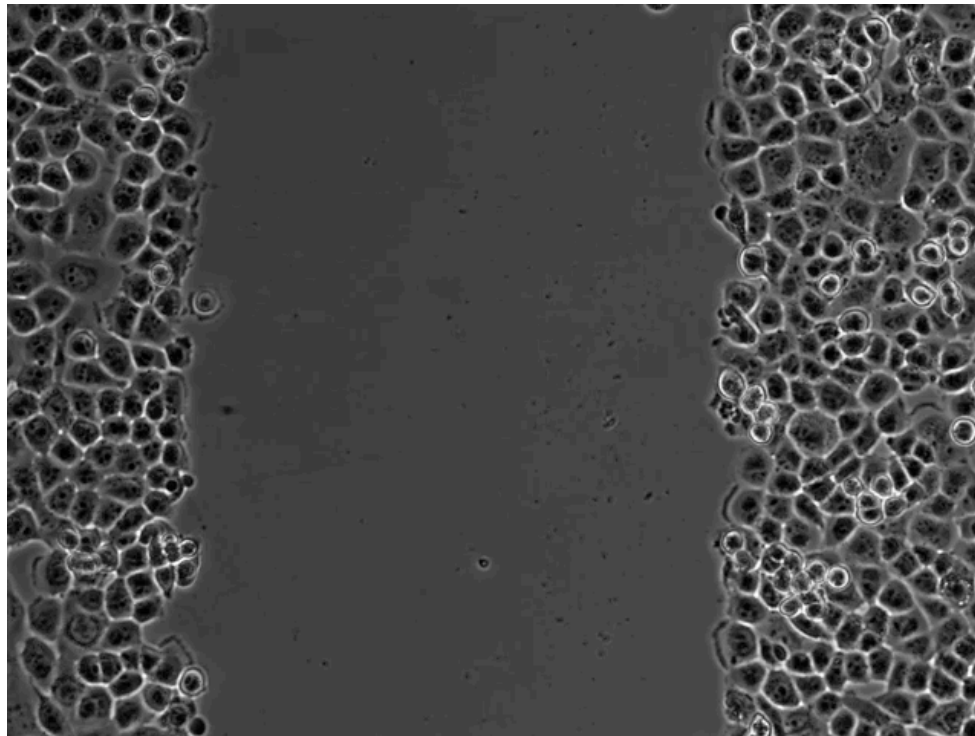
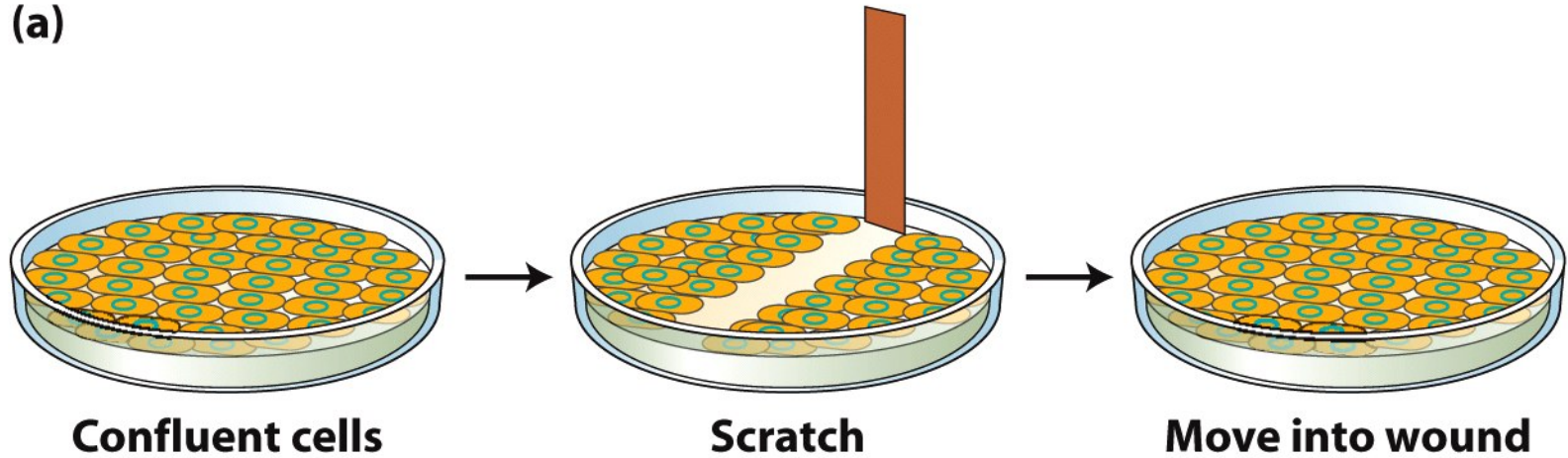
...dopo 7 gg

## Saggio di crescita indipendente dal substrato

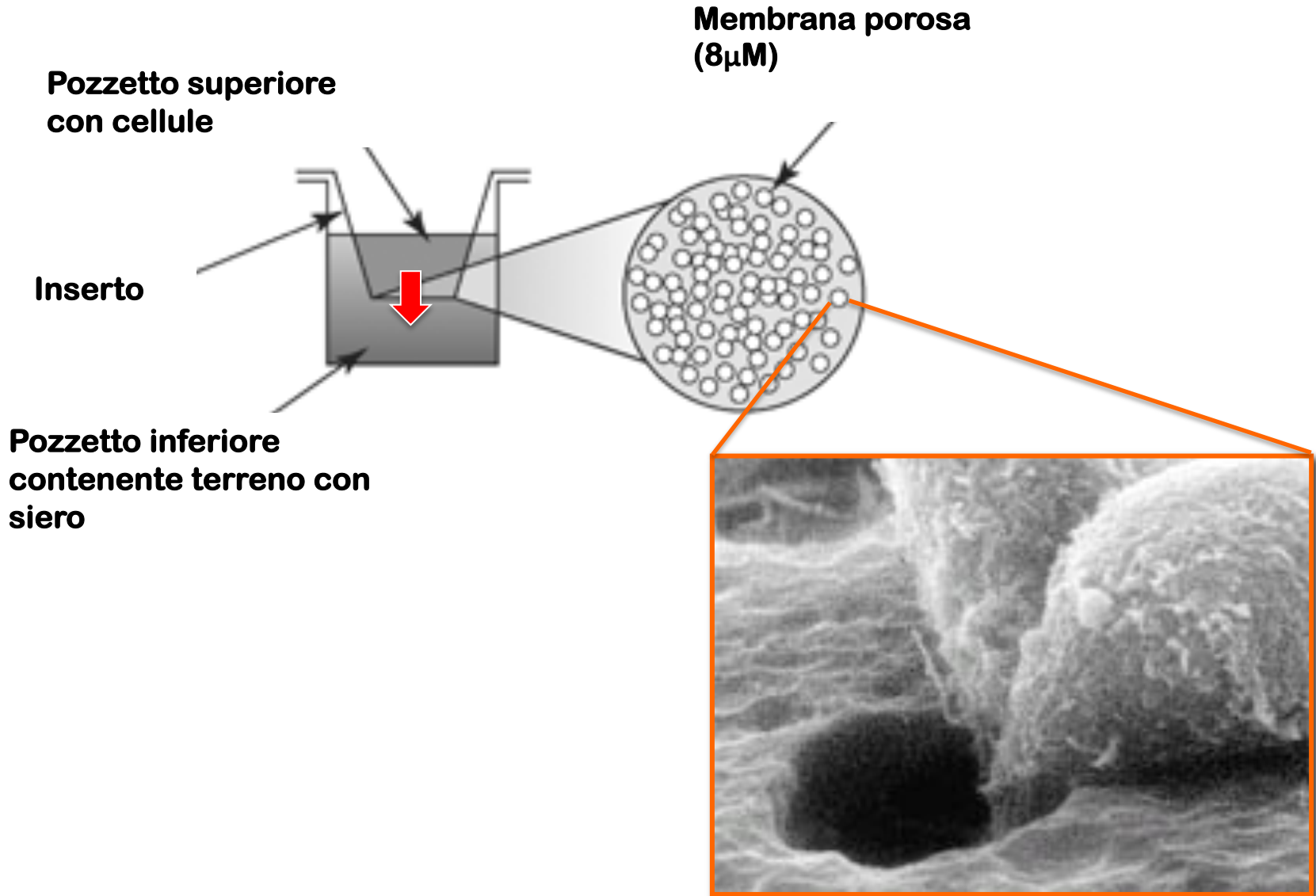


# Saggi di motilità cellulare: wound-healing

(a)

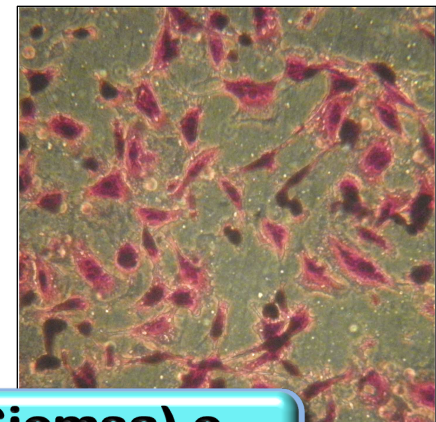
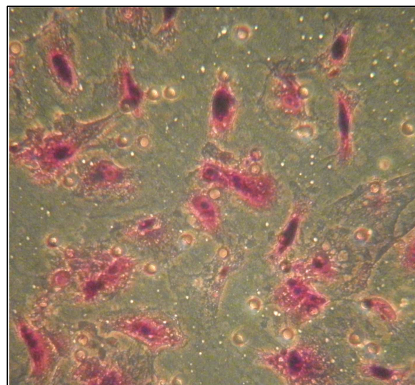
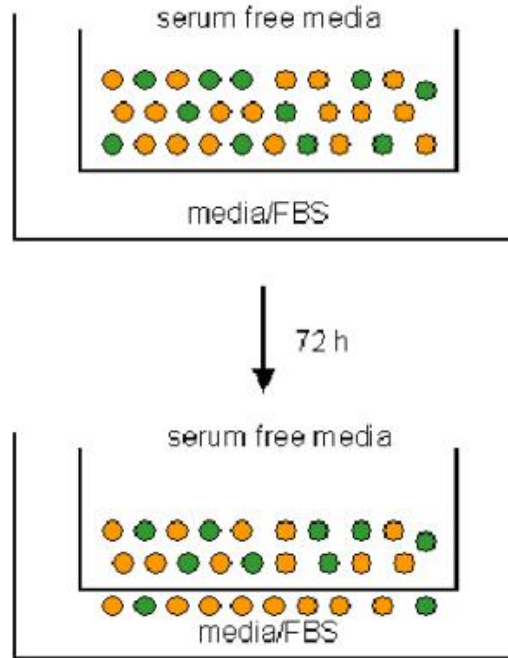


# Saggi di migrazione con camera di Boyden (transwelling)



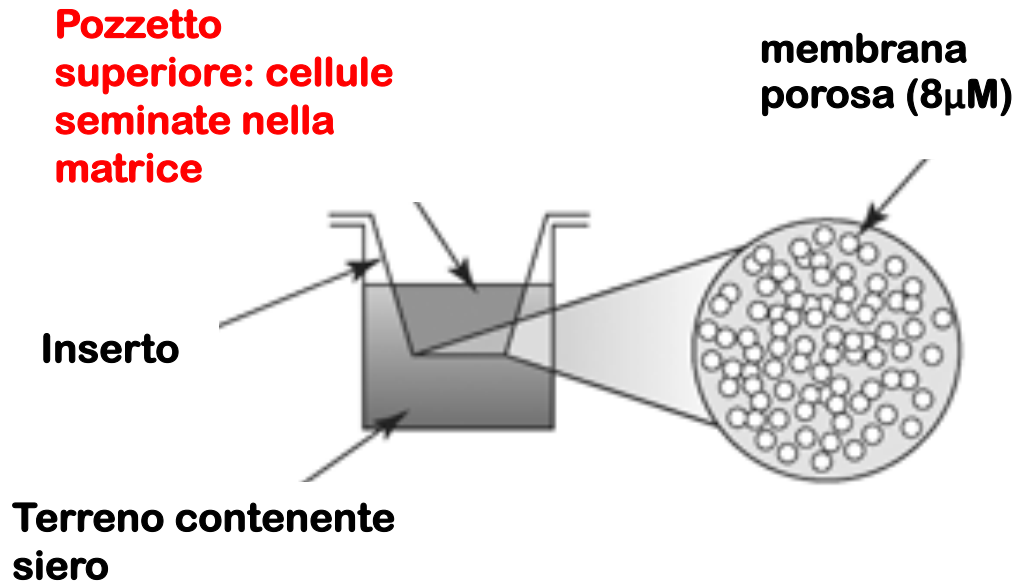


# Saggi di migrazione con camera di Boyden



**Le cellule migrate vengono colorate (Giemsa) e contate al microscopio ottico**

## Saggi di invasione

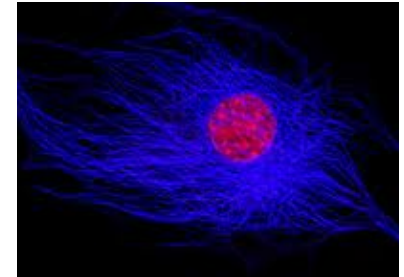


Si misura la capacità delle cellule di migrare attraverso un gel di collagene o Matrigel (che simula la **matrice extracellulare**) polimerizzato su un filtro poroso

## Saggi di angiogenesi in vitro

Si utilizzano comunemente **cellule endoteliali** umane derivate da cordone ombelicale

**Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells: HUVEC**

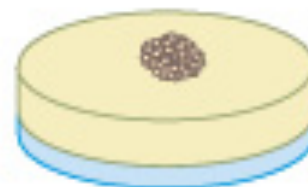
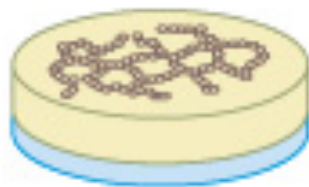
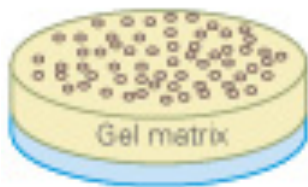


Si misura l'effetto di un terreno condizionato

Da cellula tumorali nell'indurre la formazione di vasi, oltre che proliferazione e migrazione, oppure permeabilizzazione

### *Tube Formation Assay*

### *Sprouting Spheroid*

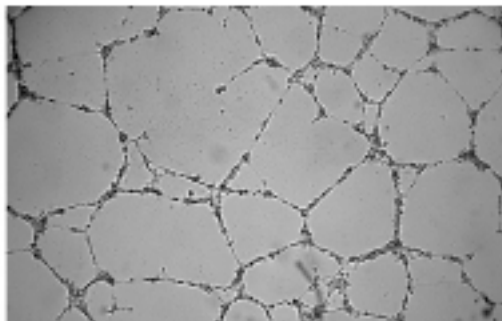


*Homogeneous cell seeding*

*Tube formation*

*Cell spheroid*

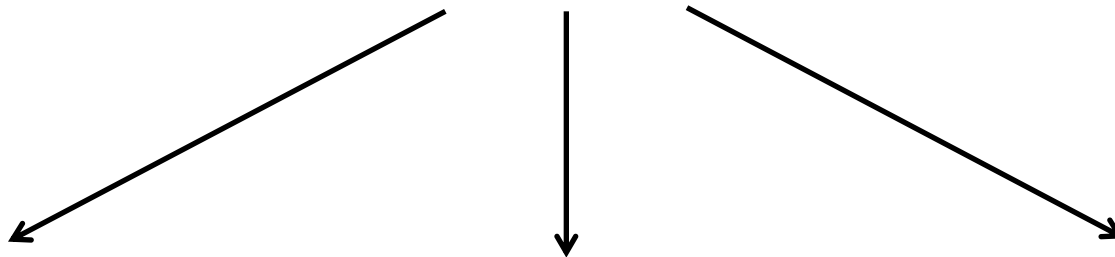
*Sprouting*



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKwGlicsVJU>

# LA RICERCA SUL CANCRO

Identificare  
geni, proteine e processi  
responsabili  
dell'insorgenza e  
dell'aggressività tumorale



**Diagnosi**



**Risposta  
alle terapie già in uso**



**Nuove  
terapie mirate**

# LA MEDICINA DI PRECISIONE

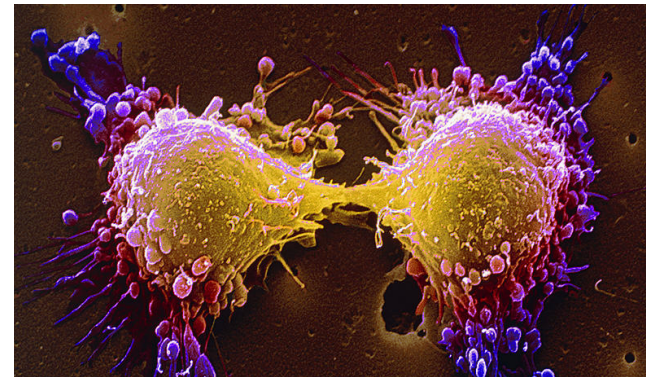
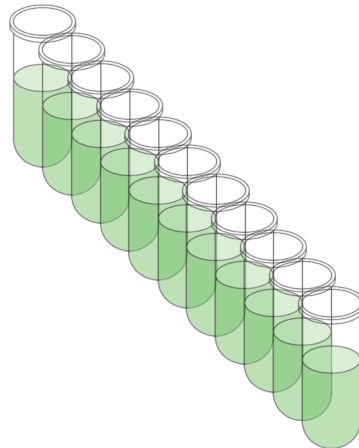
Molecola o  
processo bersaglio



Selezione o disegno  
di farmaci  
a bersaglio molecolare

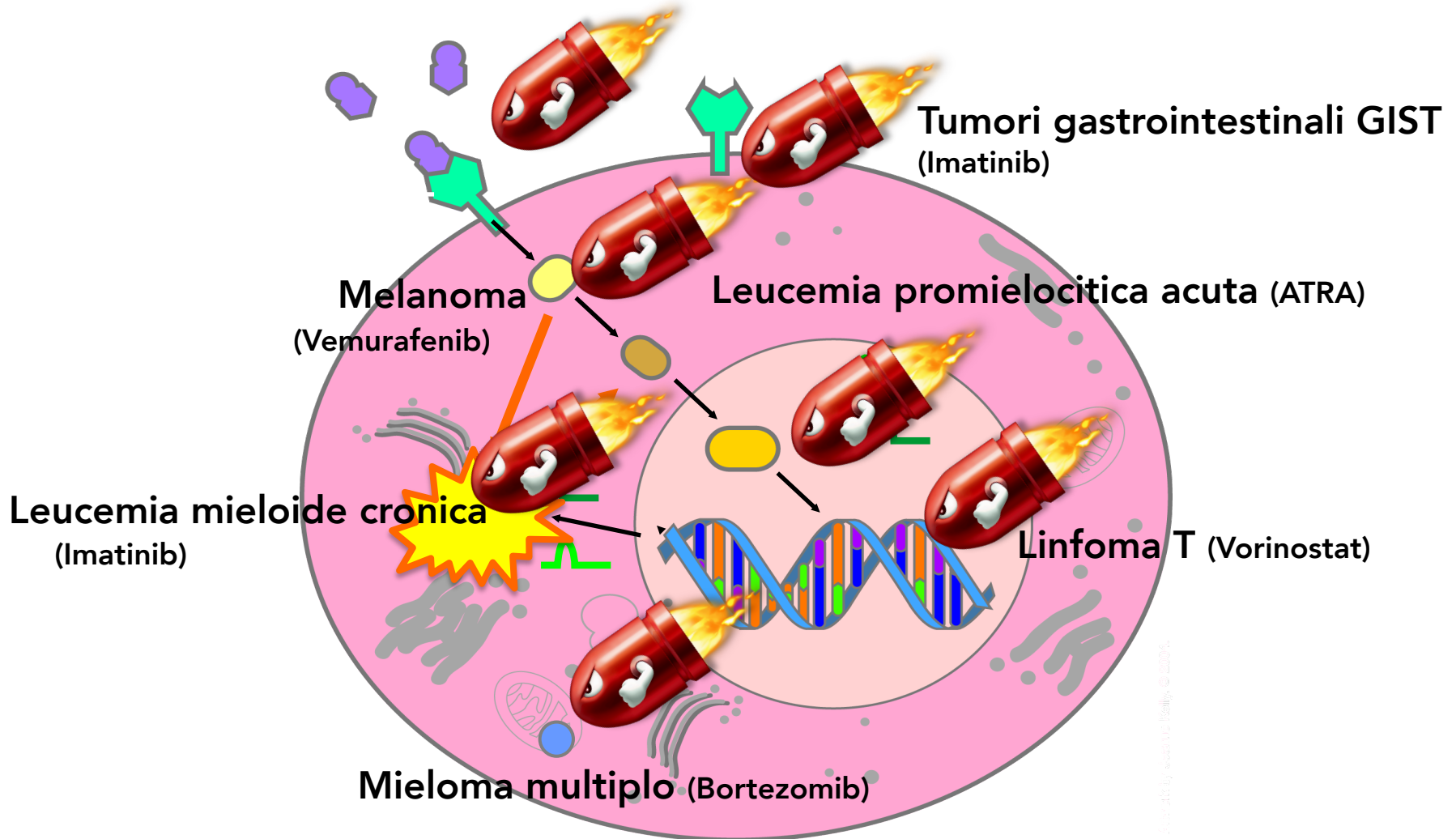


Effetti su specifici  
processi biologici  
alterati



# FARMACI DI PRECISIONE nelle terapie antitumorali

Tumore al seno HER2+ (Trastuzumab); ER+ (tamoxifen)



# Screening FUNZIONALI per nuovi farmaci

**Modello cellulare tumorale**

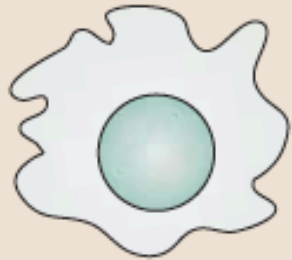
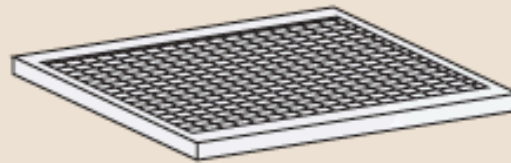
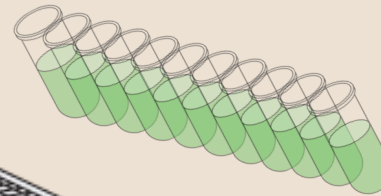


Plate cells onto clear bottom 384-well plate



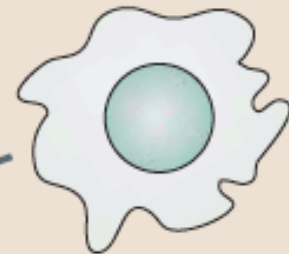
**Libreria di farmaci**



Transfer compounds onto cells



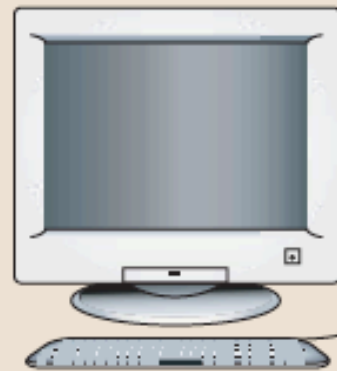
Compound treatment



**Cambiamento fenotipico**  
Es. riduzione della migrazione



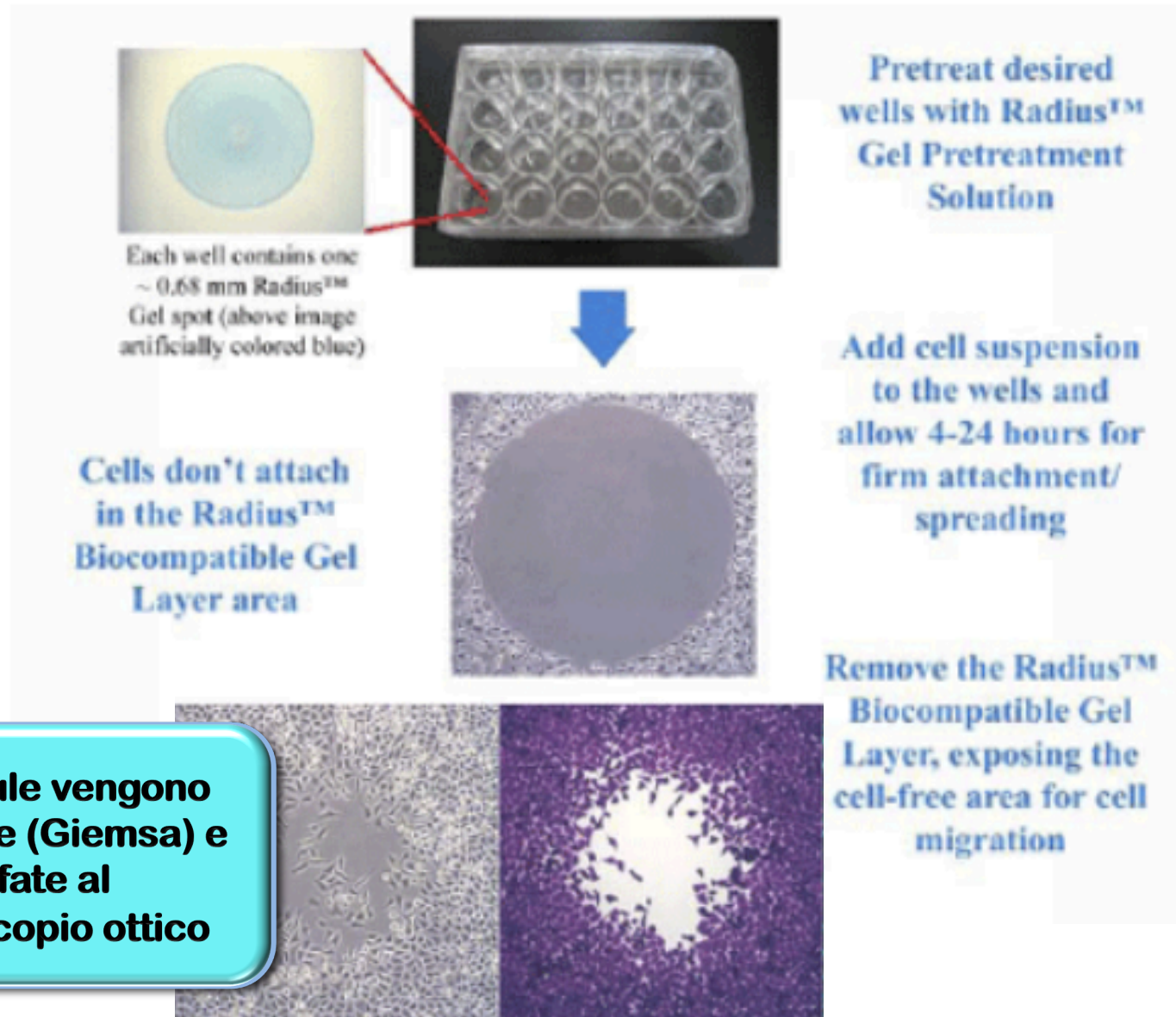
or hits



**Analisi del fenotipo mediante opportuno saggio**

**Identificazione del farmaco**

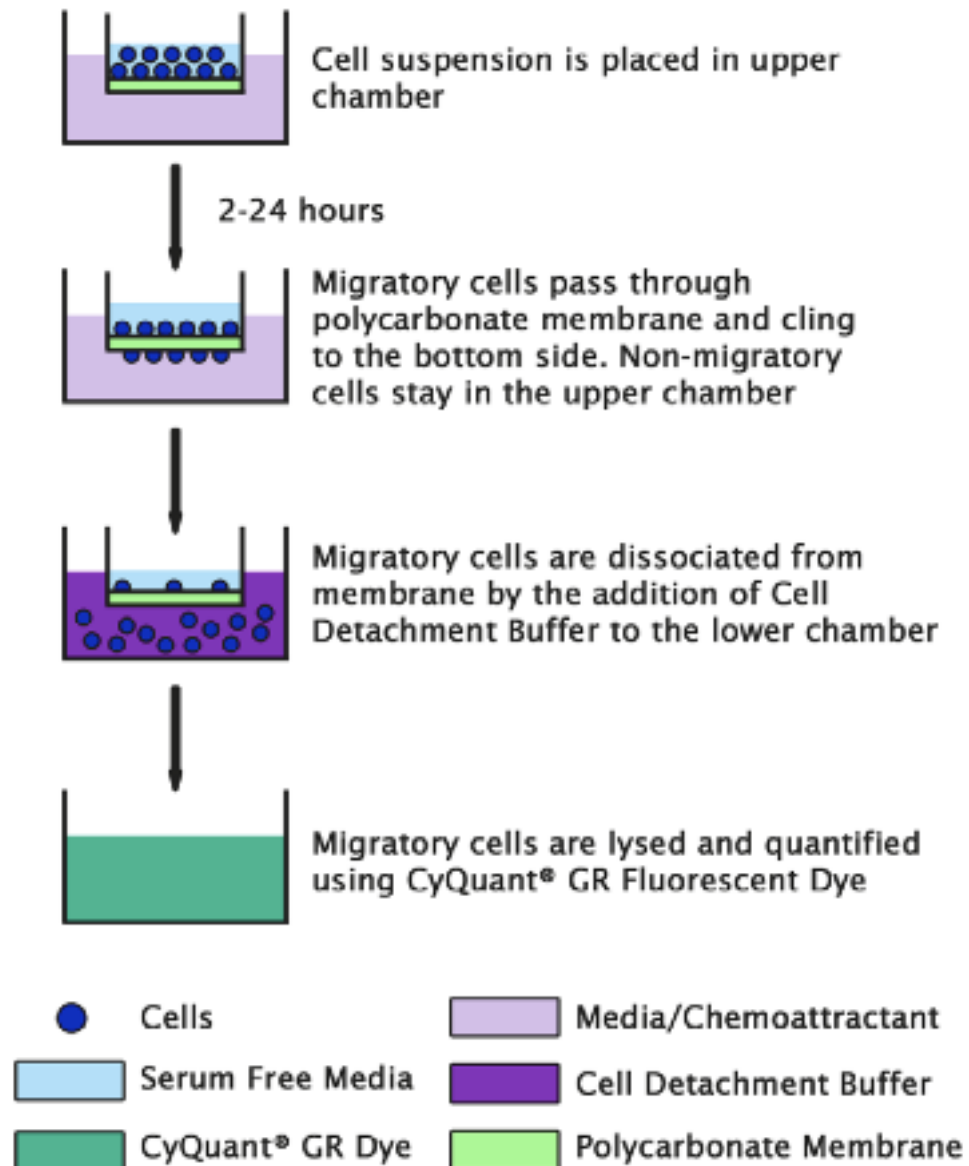
# Saggi di migrazione in piastra multipozzetto con lettura automatizzata al microscopio ottico/plate reader



Le cellule vengono colorate (Giemsa) e fotografate al microscopio ottico

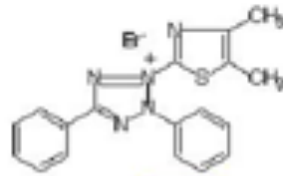


# Saggi di transwelling (Boyden) in piastra multipozzetto con lettura fluorimetrica



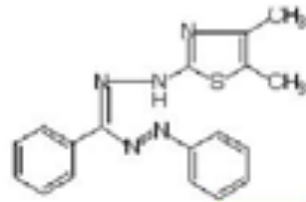
# Saggi di vitalità cellulare (MTT assay)

MTT: (3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide



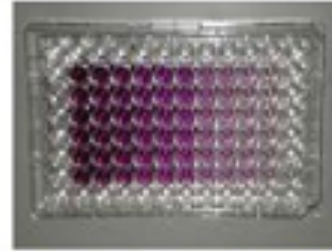
MTT yellow

Live cells → Mitochondrial reductase present



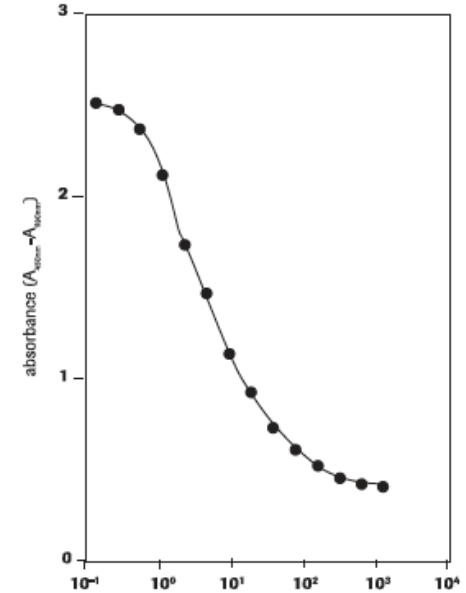
MTT formazan violet

Absorbance read at 690 nm and subtract background at 570 nm.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MTT\\_Plate.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MTT_Plate.jpg)

MTT test at different concentrations



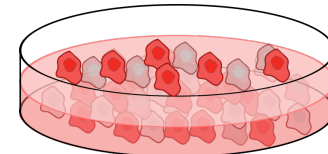
Farmaco X

# Il riposizionamento dei farmaci

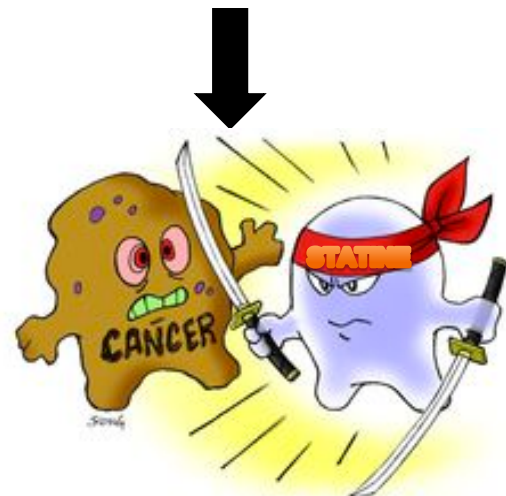
Farmaci approvati da EMA/FDA e commercializzati per **qualsiasi** malattia



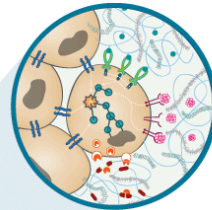
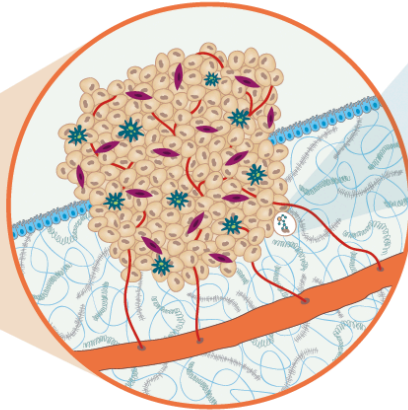
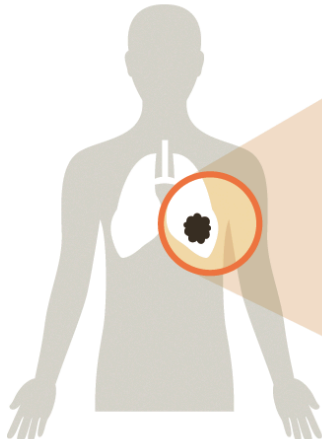
Testare in vitro l'efficacia antitumorale dei farmaci



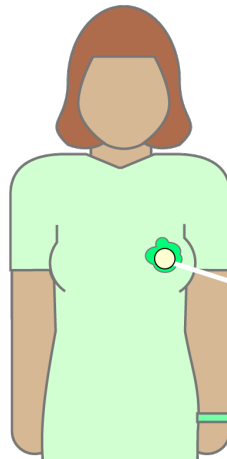
Es. Identificazione delle **statine** (anticolesterolemici) come potenziali farmaci antitumorali



Paziente con tumore alla mammella



Trial clinico per l'efficacia delle statine in pazienti con tumore al seno in combinazione con le terapie standard



# Screening per il riposizionamento di farmaci

**Modello tumorale**

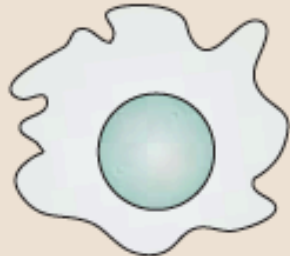
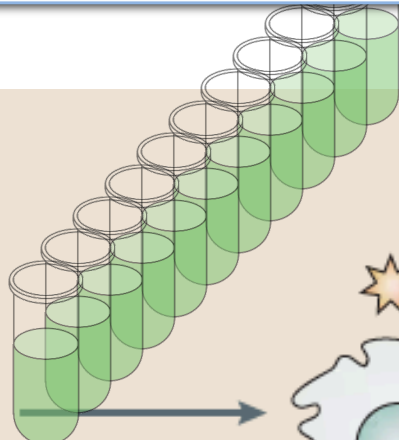
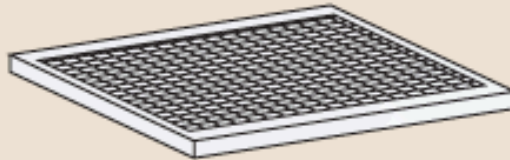


Plate cells onto  
clear bottom  
384-well plate

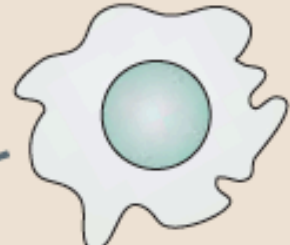
**“Librerie” di farmaci**



Transfer  
compounds  
onto cells



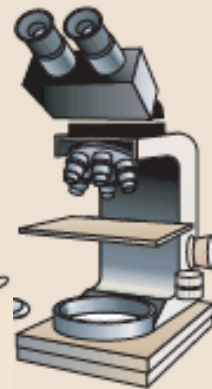
Compound  
treatment



**Readout:  
inattivazione  
di oncogeni**

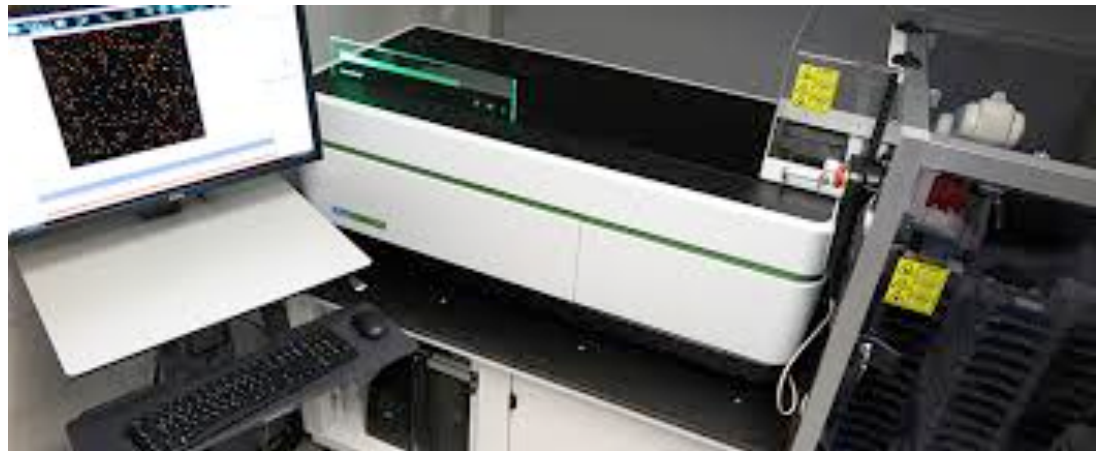
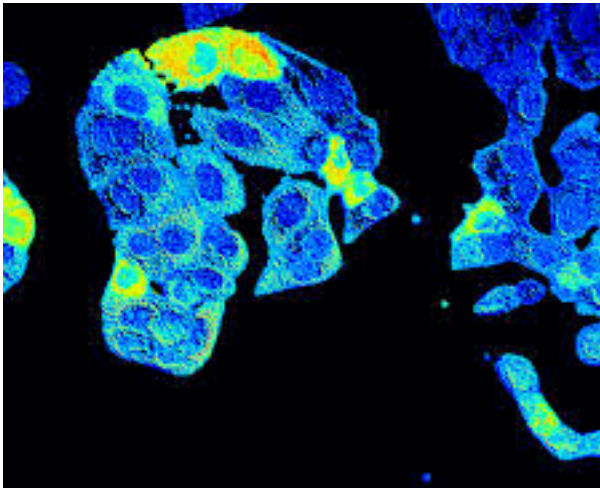
Compound  
and target  
identification

**Validazione:  
effetto sulla  
vitalità cellulare**



for hits

## High content screening systems



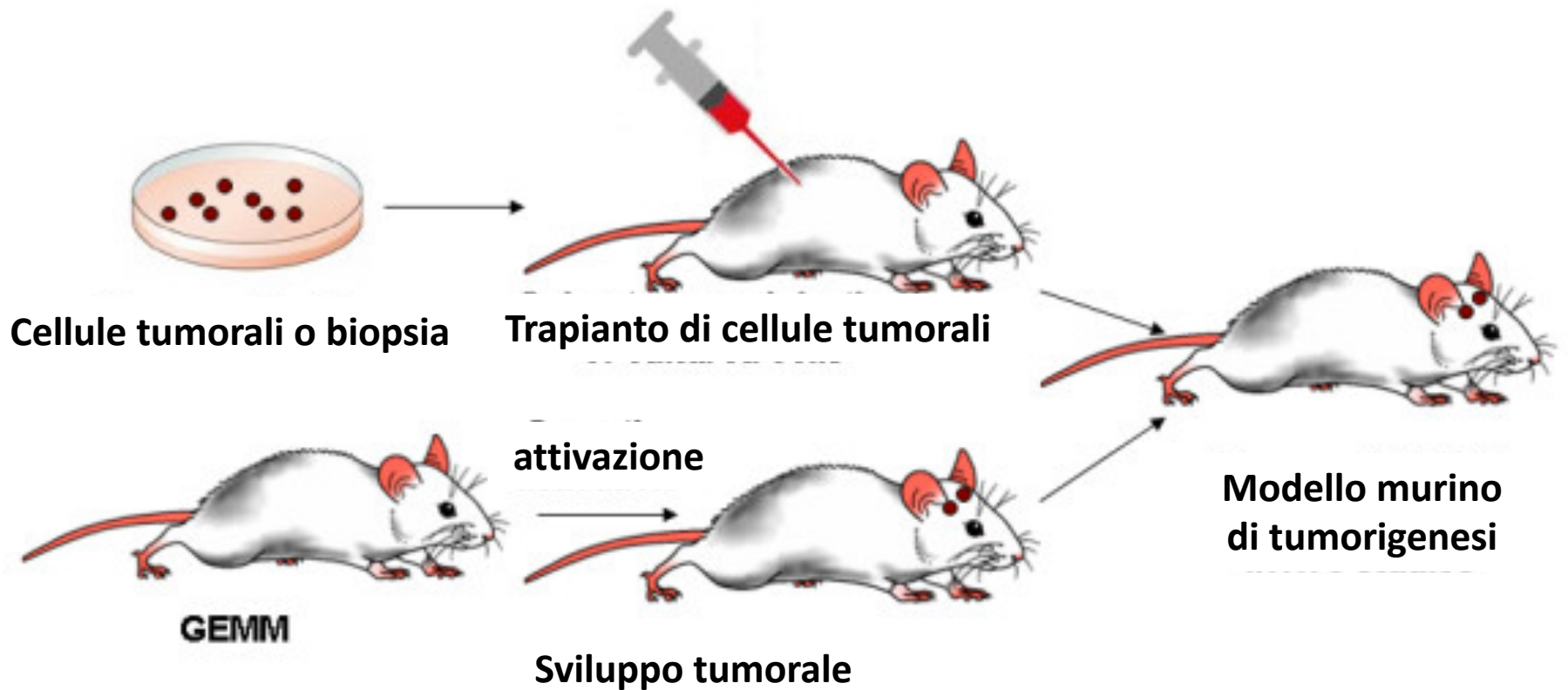
**Next generation confocal high content screening system, designed to reliably discriminate phenotypes of complex cellular models, such as primary cells and 3D microtissue, integrated with automated microplate loader and liquid handling robot station for automated transfection of cells in 96- and 384-well microplates and assay preparation**

## Saggi di tumorigenicità in vivo

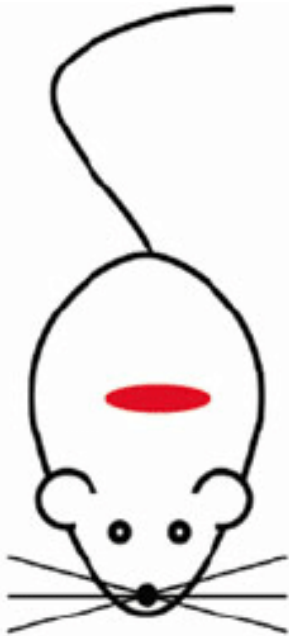
### Scopi:

- i. **Comprendere il contributo di un gene/processo/condizione alla progressione tumorale nel contesto di un organismo complesso**
- ii. **Verificare l'efficacia di una terapia in vivo in diversi stadi dell'evoluzione tumorale (bersaglio- farmaco)**
- iii. **Sperimentazione preclinica di farmaci:**
  - **tossicità,**
  - **formulazione-somministrazione,**
  - **immunogenicità,**
  - **farmacocinetica (assorbimento, biodistribuzione, metabolismo),**
  - **farmacodinamica (curve dose-risposta farmacologica),**
  - **scaling interspecie.**

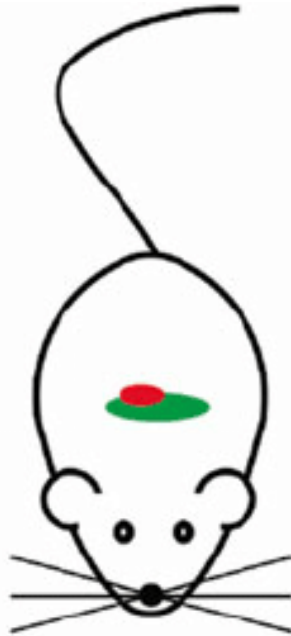
# Saggi di tumorigenicità in vivo



# Modelli murini di tumorigenesi



Genetic Engineered  
Mouse (GEM)



Orthotopic



Subcutaneous

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Trapianto di cellule/biopsie tumorali

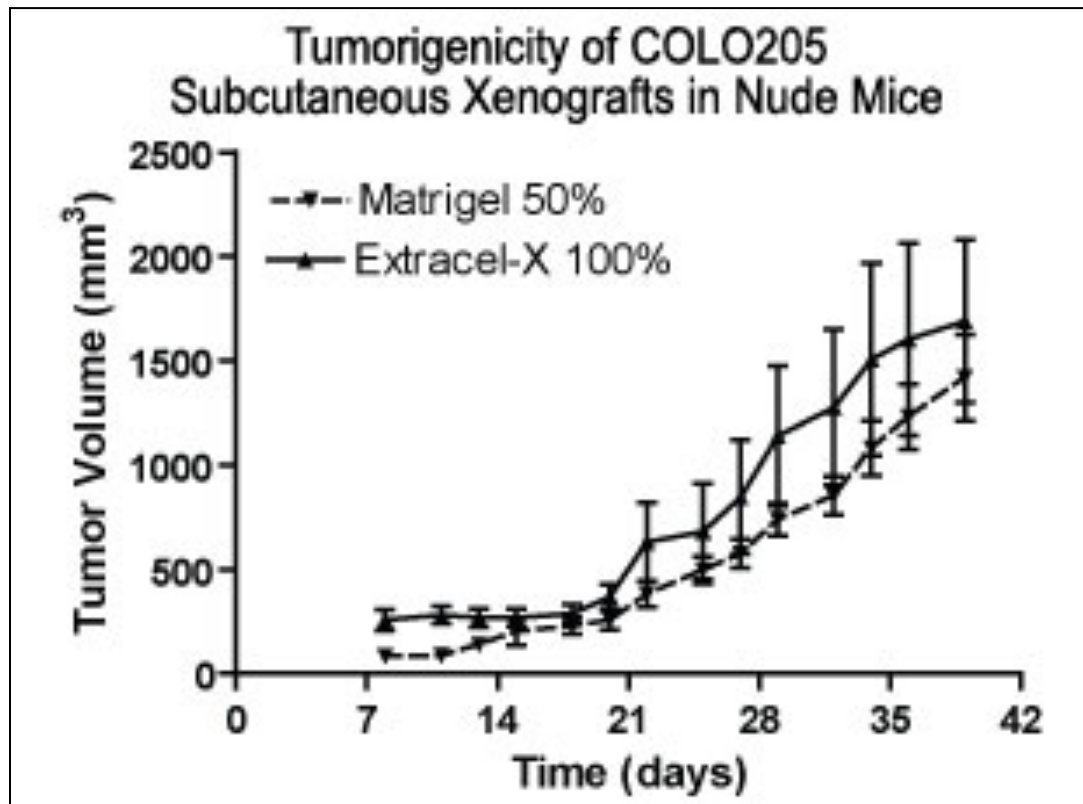


Disseminazione  
metastatica  
Iniezione iv



## Saggi di tumorigenicità in vivo

- Saggi di tumorigenicità
- Saggi di disseminazione e colonizzazione metastatica
- Studi molecolari e farmacologici



## Regolamentazione della sperimentazione animale

- 1) È effettuata **solo quando** rappresenta il modello più appropriato per **confermare** ipotesi formulate in base a sperimentazioni in vitro/ex vivo.
- 2) Lo stesso modello potrà essere utilizzato successivamente per testare **terapie** basate sui risultati ottenuti.

## Legislazione EU

Declaration:

I have obtained the **clearance from the Ministry of Health** to carry out the described animal experimentation.

All experiments with mice will be conducted in accordance with **laws and regulations that control experiments and procedures in Italy**, following the Directive 2010/63/EU actualized by the Italian EU member state starting from the Italian DL 26/2014.

The experiments described in the proposal will be performed following the **guidelines** described in: Wolfensohn S, Lloyd M: 'Handbook of Laboratory Animal Management and Welfare, 4th Edition' (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013)

## Il principio delle 3R

### Replacement:

ove possibile, la sperimentazione animale va **sostituita** con la sperimentazione in vitro (colture cellulari), ex-vivo (es. organoidi) o al limite in vivo su altra specie con SN meno complesso.

### Reduction:

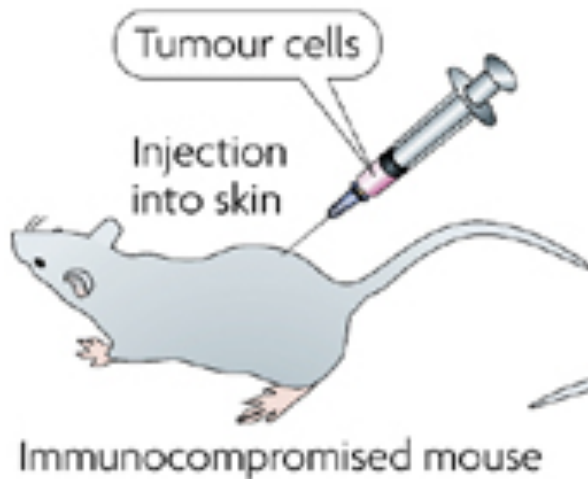
mediante un uso accurato della statistica, si mira a **ridurre** il numero di **soggetti** utilizzati in un determinato protocollo sperimentale in modo da ottenere dati significativi evitando ripetizioni non necessarie.

### Refinement:

gli animali vanno manipolati da personale esperto sotto controllo veterinario e devono essere attuate tutte le procedure che possono migliorare il **benessere animale** e ridurre la sofferenza (anestesia, analgesia, eutanasia).

## Xenotrapianti di cellule tumorali (xenografts, PDX)

Trapianto sottocutaneo



Trapianto ortotopico



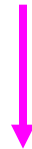
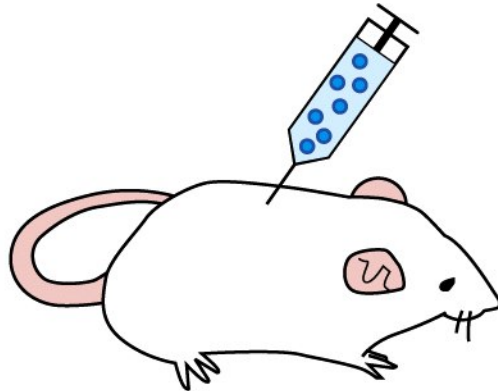
Iniezione iv



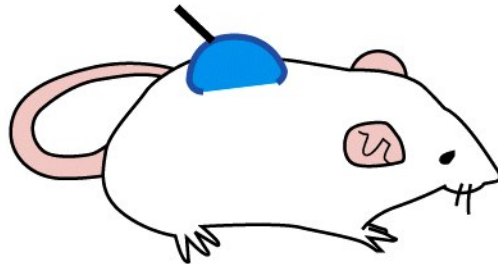
Nature Reviews | [Cancer](#)

Possono essere trapiantati sia cellule che frammenti di tessuto, tumori sperimentali o da pazienti (PDX: patient-derived xenografts).

## Xenotrapianti di cellule tumorali (xenografts, PDX)



Formazione di un tumore



Modelli per il trapianto:

- animali immunodeficienti
- animali singenici

## Ceppi murini immunodeficienti

I ceppi murini immunodeficienti appartengono a 4 categorie principali:

- “Nude” mice
- “Scid” mice
- “Rag-deficient” mice
- “Higher-order, multigenic” immunodeficient mice



## Nude mice: *topi atimici* = T-cell deficient

“nude” mice are homozygous for the *Foxn1<sup>nu</sup>*, or “nude,” mutation. *Foxn1* encodes a transcription factor required for both hair follicle and thymic development. In its absence, mice are both hairless and **athymic**.

Because the thymus fails to form, there is no place for CD4+ and CD8+ T cells to differentiate and mature, making nude homozygotes **T cell-deficient**.





## SCID e RAG-deficient mice: mancano della maturazione dei linfociti B e T

“**Scid**” mice are homozygous for the Prkdcscid mutation. The gene Prkdc encodes the catalytic subunit of **DNA-dependent protein kinase** that is required for DNA repair and for sealing the double-stranded DNA breaks that occur during somatic recombination of **T cell receptor (TCR) and immunoglobulin (Ig) genes**. In the absence of Prkdc protein, TCR and Ig genes **cannot rearrange**, resulting in mice that are **both T and B cell deficient**.

“**Rag-deficient**” mice are mice that fail to express functional Rag1 or Rag2 proteins. Like the Prkdc gene, both Rag1 and Rag2 are required for somatic recombination of TCR and Ig genes, and the absence of either gene results in **T and B cell deficiency**.

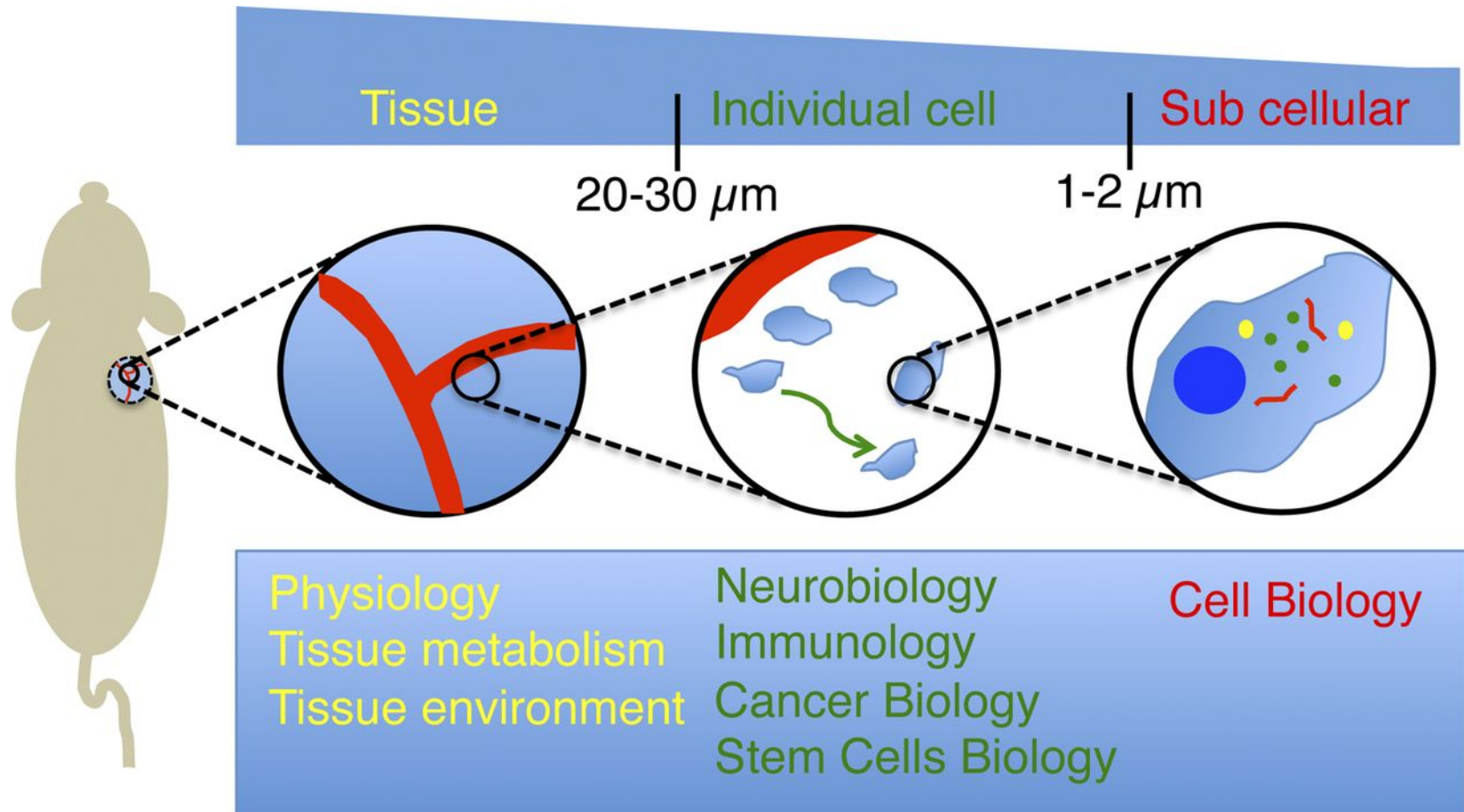
Finally, “higher-order, multigenic” immunodeficient mice are constructed from either Prkdcscid or Rag-deficient mice, and carry **additional** immunodeficiency-enhancing mutations. These mice are **B, T and NK cell deficient**. Additionally, they are hemolytic **complement-deficient** and carry alleles that adversely affect **macrophage and dendritic cell** functions.

**analisi NON INVASIVA  
dello sviluppo e progressione tumorale**

**Imaging in vivo mediante microscopia a fluorescenza intravitale**

**Imaging in vivo di bioluminescenza (BMI) mediante reporter**

# Imaging in vivo mediante microscopia a fluorescenza intravitale



Roberto Weigert et al. J Cell Biol 2013;201:969-979

## **Spatial resolution and current applications of intravital microscopy.**

IVM provides the opportunity to image several biological processes in live animals at **different levels of resolution**.

Low-magnification **objectives (5–10 × ) enable visualizing tissues** and their components under physiological conditions and **measuring their response** under pathological conditions. Particularly, **the dynamics of the vasculature** have been one of topic most extensively studied by IVM.

Objectives with **higher magnification (20–30 × )** have enabled imaging the **behavior of individual cells over long periods of time**. This has led to major breakthroughs in fields such as neurobiology, immunology, cancer biology, and stem cell research.

Finally, the recent developments of strategies to minimize the motion artifacts caused by the heartbeat and respiration combined with high power **lenses (60–100 × )** have opened the door to image subcellular structures and to study cell biology in live animals.