

**La transizione epitelio-mesenchimale**

# La cascata invasione-metastasi

## DISSEMINAZIONE

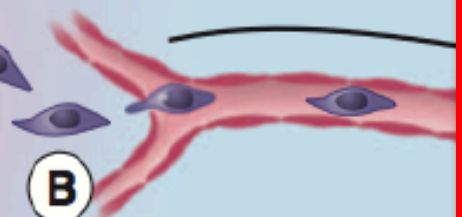
Physical translocation  
from primary tumor to distant organ

**A** Acquisition  
of invasive  
phenotype



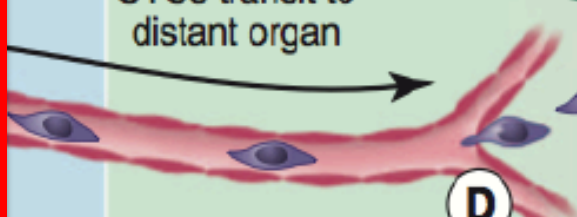
**B**

Local invasion  
cells invade into surrounding  
stroma, then intravasate to enter  
hematogenous circulation



**C**

CTCs transit to  
distant organ



**D**

CTCs extravasate  
and invade into the  
parenchyma of  
foreign tissue



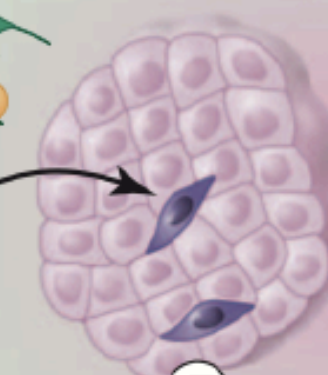
**E**


Survival at  
secondary site





**F**


Adaptation and  
proliferation to  
form metastases




 Differentiated  
cancer cell

 Transitioning  
cancer cell

 Disseminated  
cancer cell

 Stromal cell

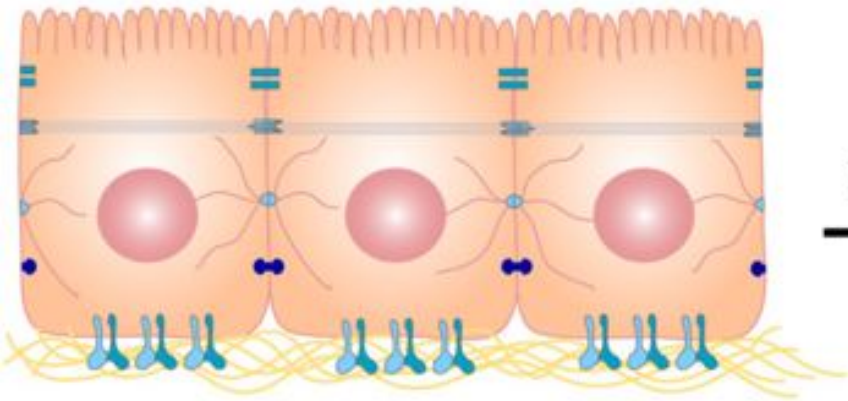
 Inflammatory cell

**EMT**

**MET**

# La TRANSIZIONE EPITELIO-MESENCHIMALE

Epithelial cells



**Proteome**

E-cadherin  
Occludins  
Cytokeratins

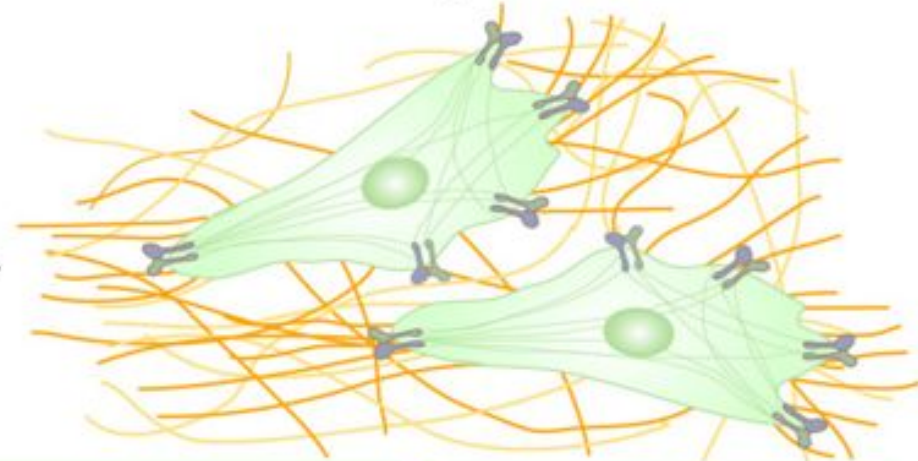
**Phenotypic Markers**

Cuboidal shape  
Presence of cell junctions  
Apicobasal polarity

EMT



Mesenchymal cells



**Proteome**

N-cadherin  
Vimentin  
 $\alpha$ SMA

FSP-1  
Fibronectin  
Collagen I

**Phenotypic Markers**

Spindle-like shape  
Increased contractility  
Increased matrix deposition

# Ruoli fisiologici e patologici della EMT

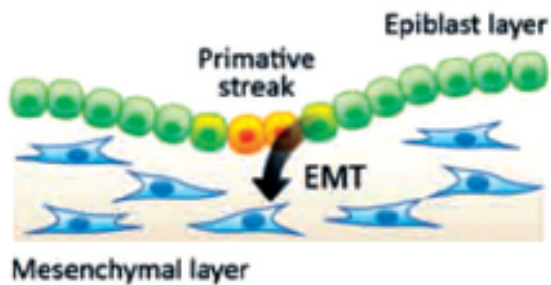
Embriogenesi

Riparazione delle ferite  
(*Wound healing*)

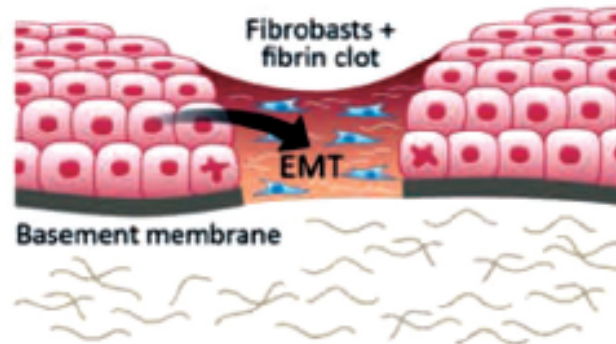
Cancro

Fibrosi

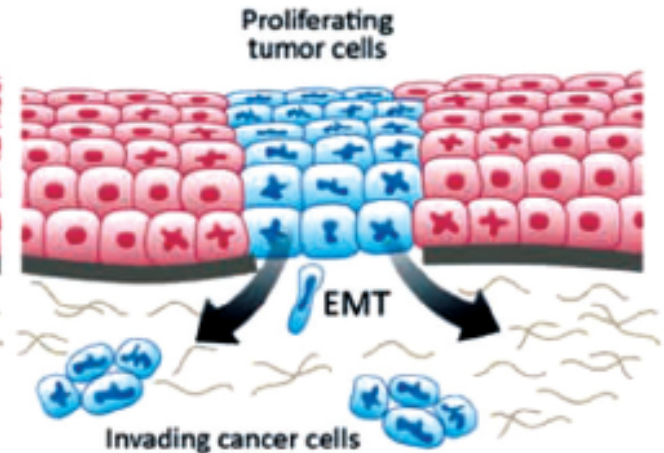
Type 1: Development



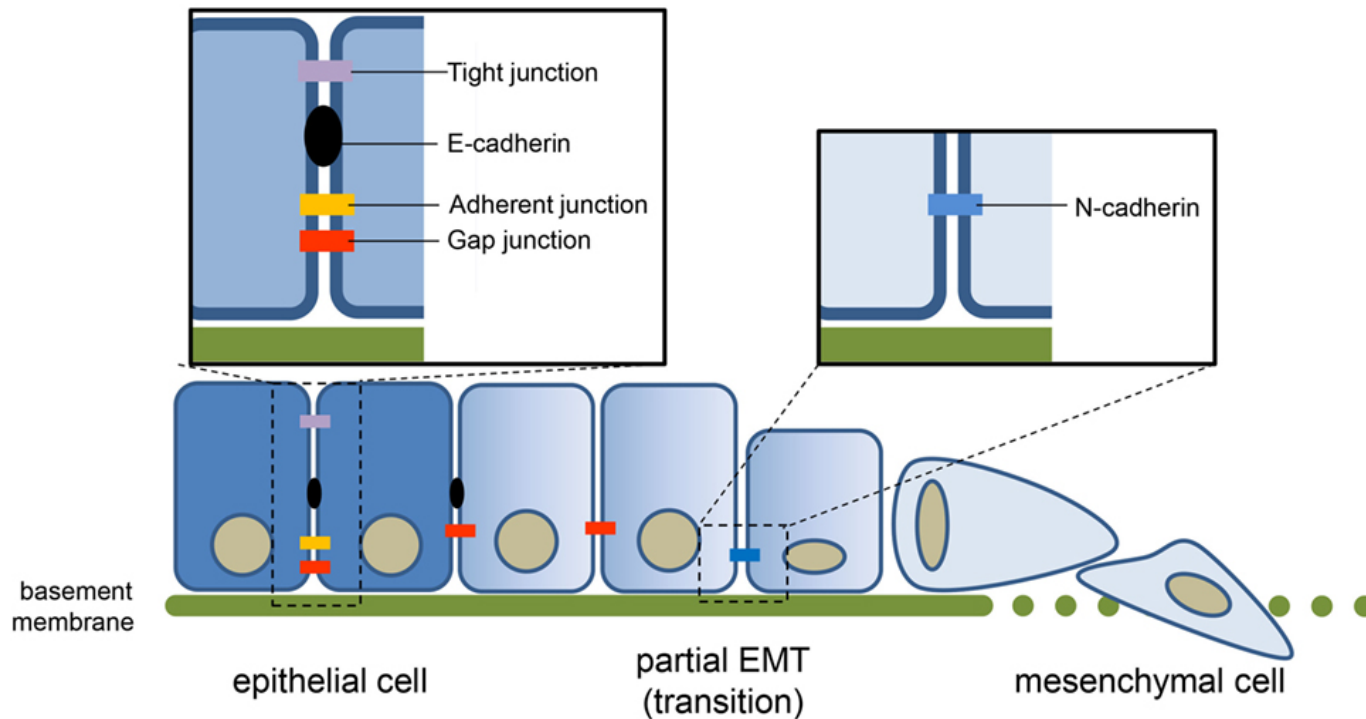
Type 2: Wound Healing



Type 3: Cancer Invasion







**EMT inducers**



epithelial to mesenchymal transition

**Phenotype**

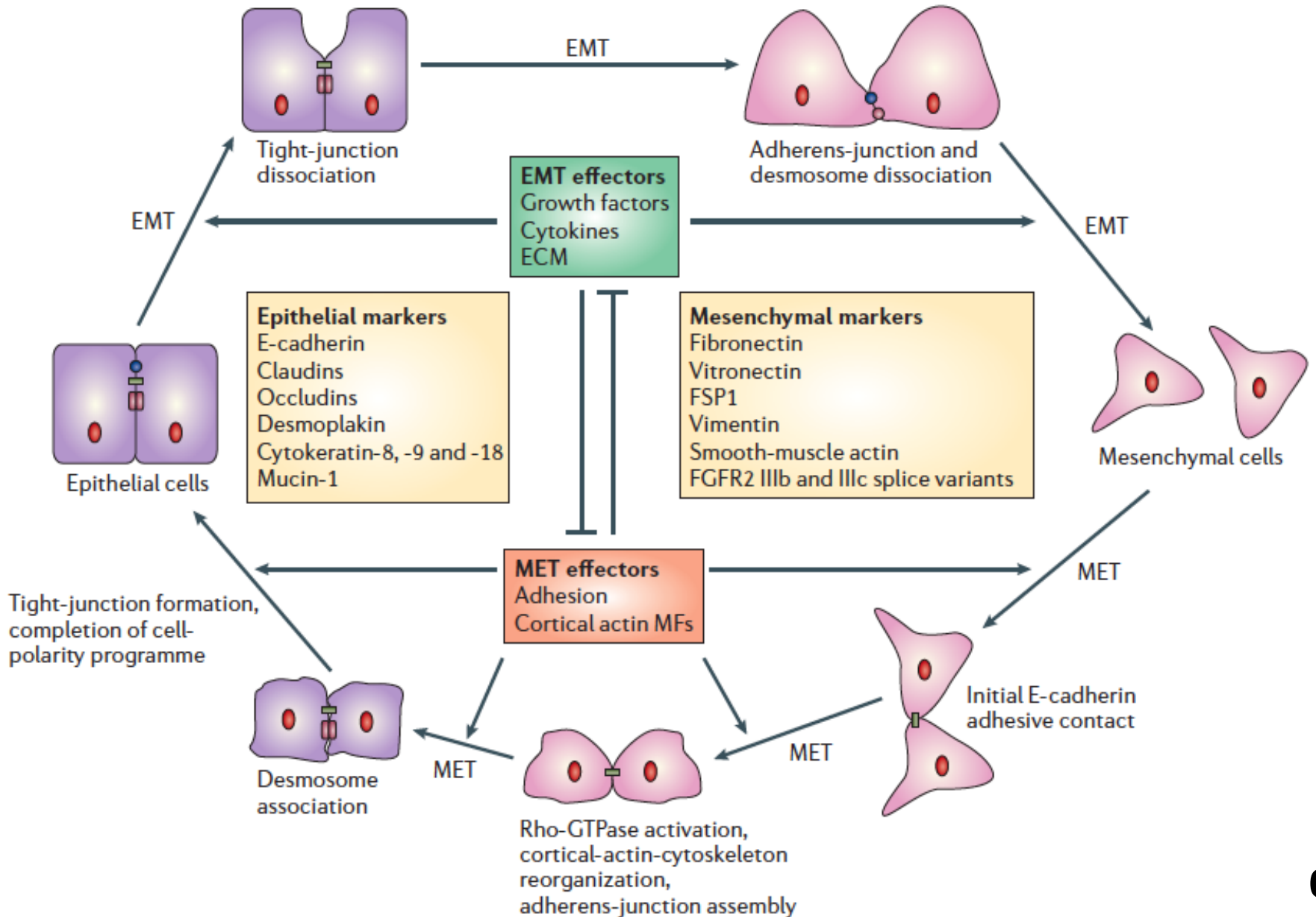
Loss of differentiation  
 Junctions dissociation  
 Loss of apical-basal polarity

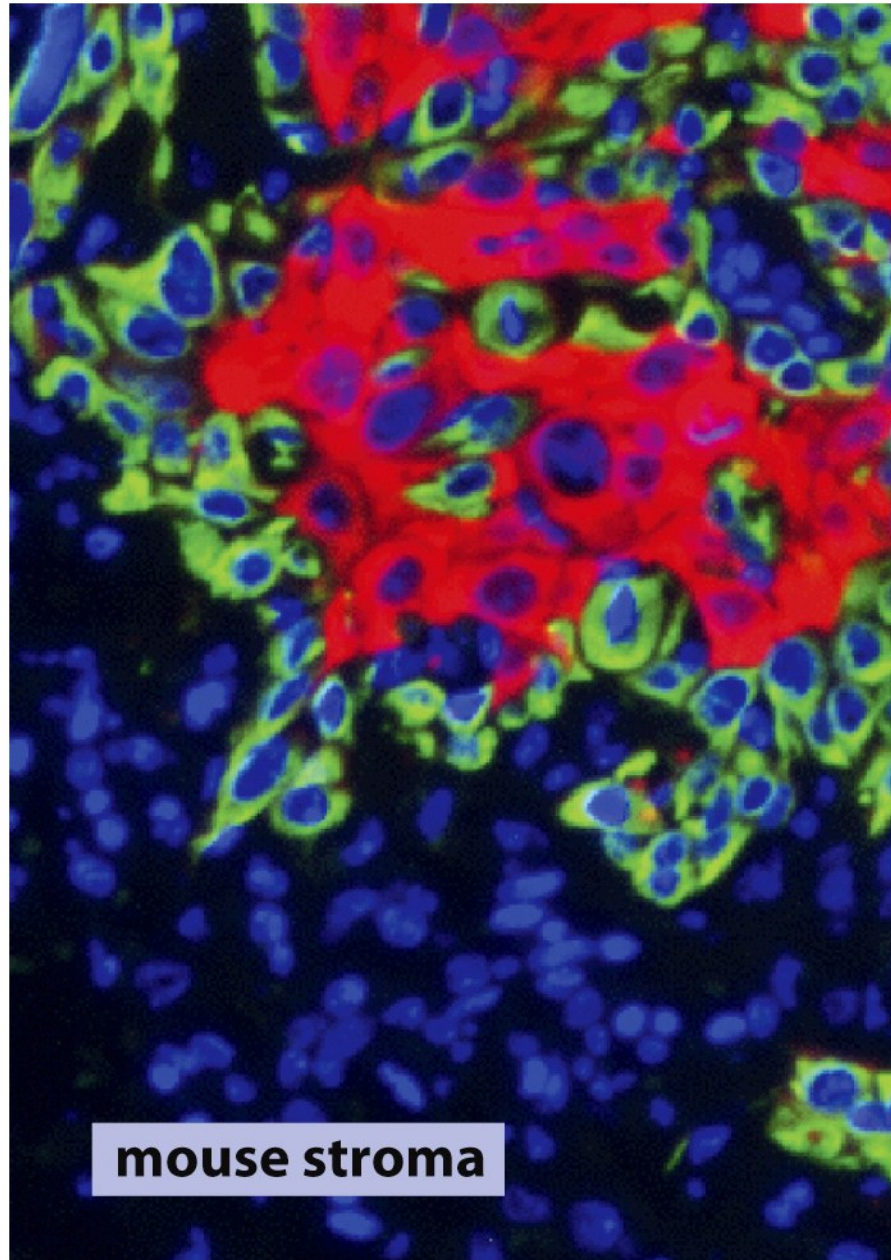
Loss of epithelial markers  
 (e.g. E-cadherin, claudins, cytokeratin)  
 Increase of transcription factors  
 (e.g. Snail, Slug, ZEB, Twist)

Cytoskeleton reorganization  
 Migration  
 Secretion of MMPs  
 Basement membrane degradation  
 Invasion

Acquisition of mesenchymal markers  
 (N-cadherin, vimentin,  $\alpha$ -SMA)  
 Increase of transcription factors  
 (e.g. Slug)

# SWITCH FENOTIPICO EMT/MET





**(human)  
cytokeratin**

**(human)  
vimentin**

**mouse stroma**

## Lo SWITCH delle caderine facilita l'invasione

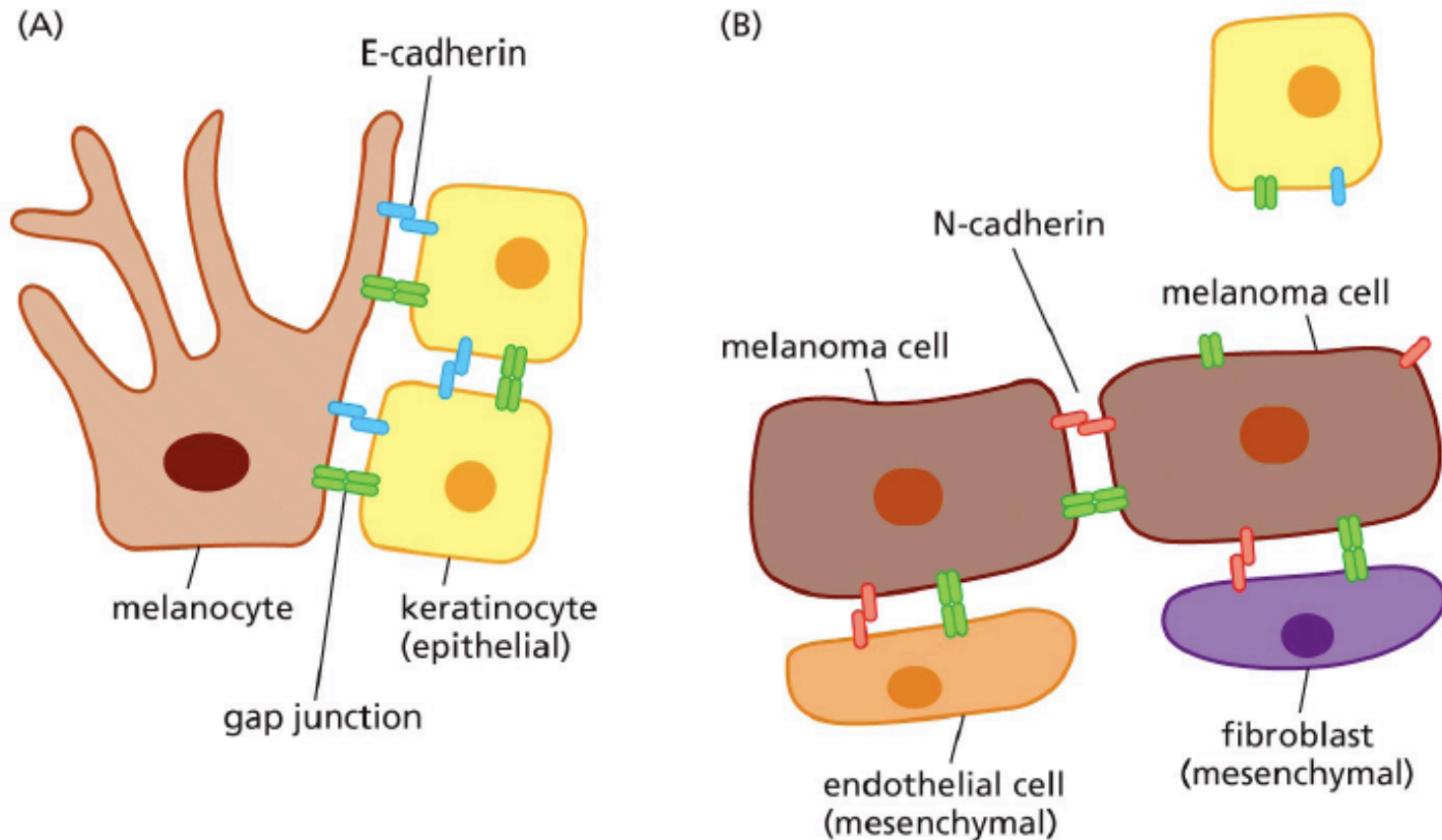
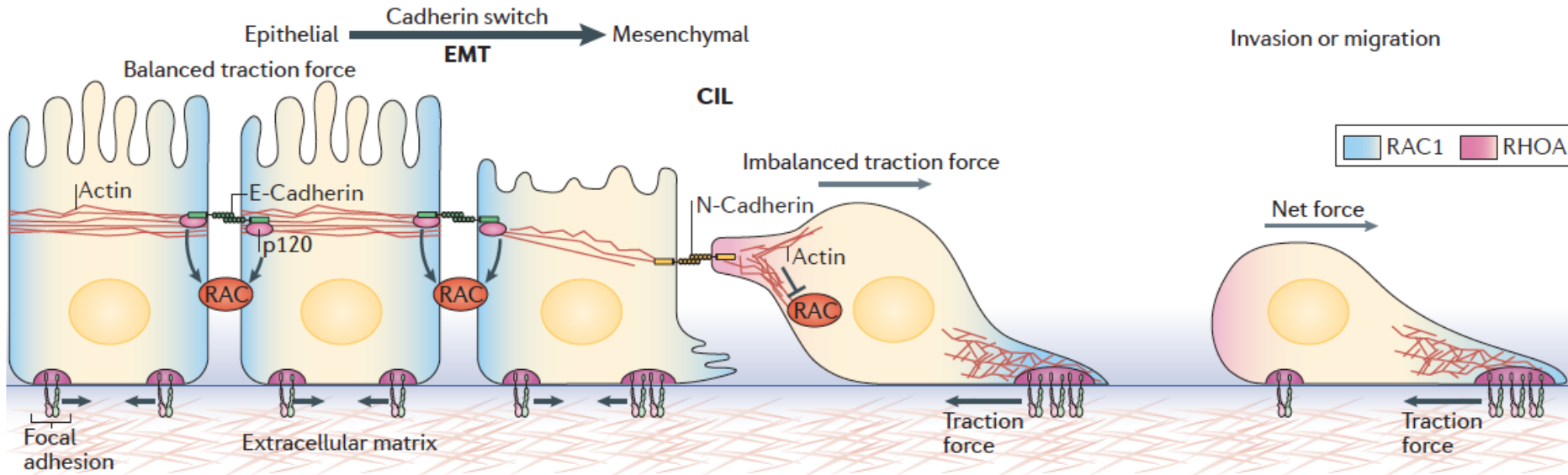


Figure 14.16 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

When melanocytes become transformed in melanoma cells they shift from **E-Cadherin** to **N- Cadherin** thus extricating from keratinocytes and making more interactions via N-cadherin to stromal cells facilitating cell migration and invasion.

## Lo switch delle caderine facilita la perdita di polarità e rimuove l'inibizione della migrazione

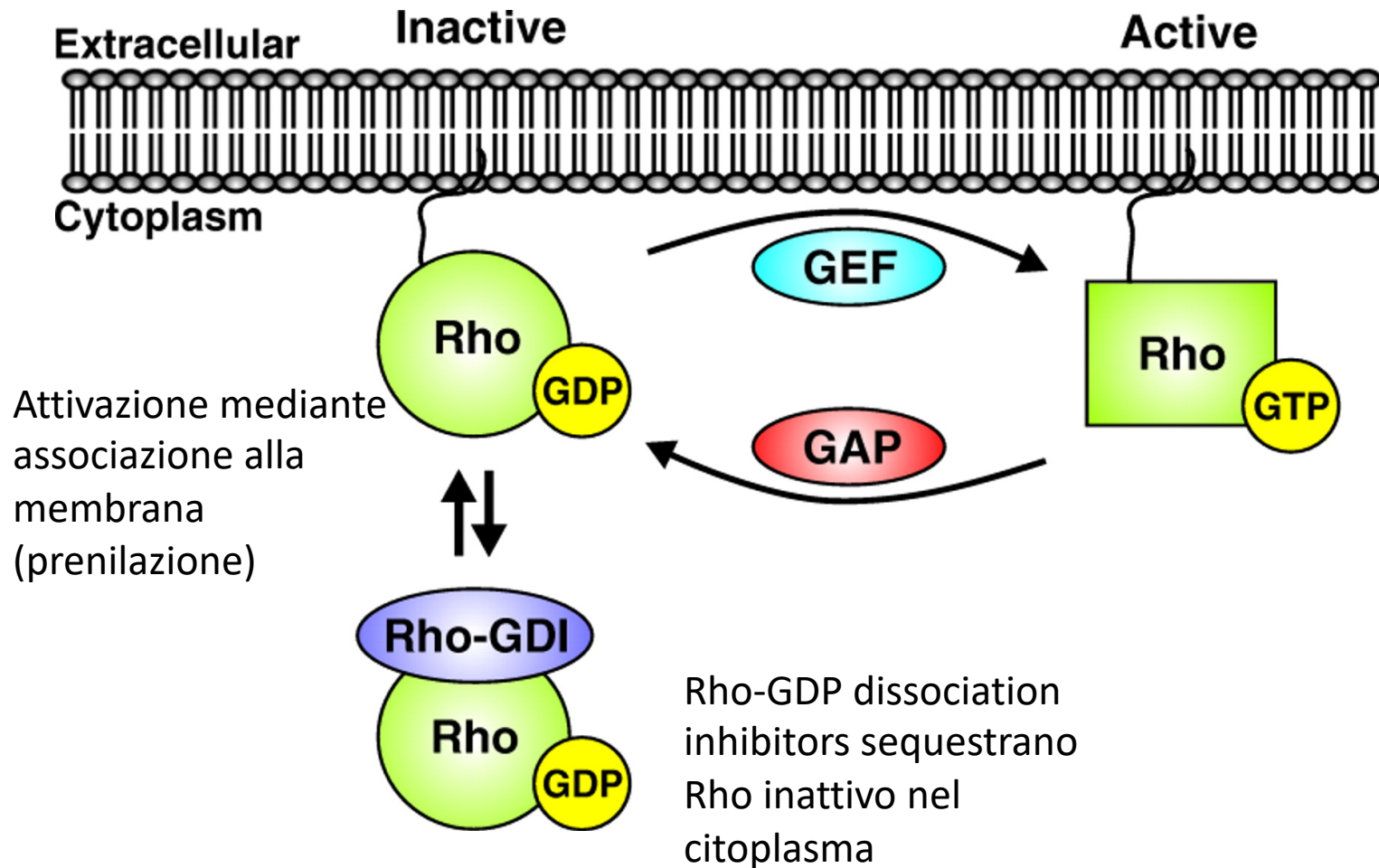


**E-Cadherin** suppresses EMT by signalling to other adhesion components, such as p120 catenin, which polarizes the small GTPase **RAC1** towards cell-cell junctions.

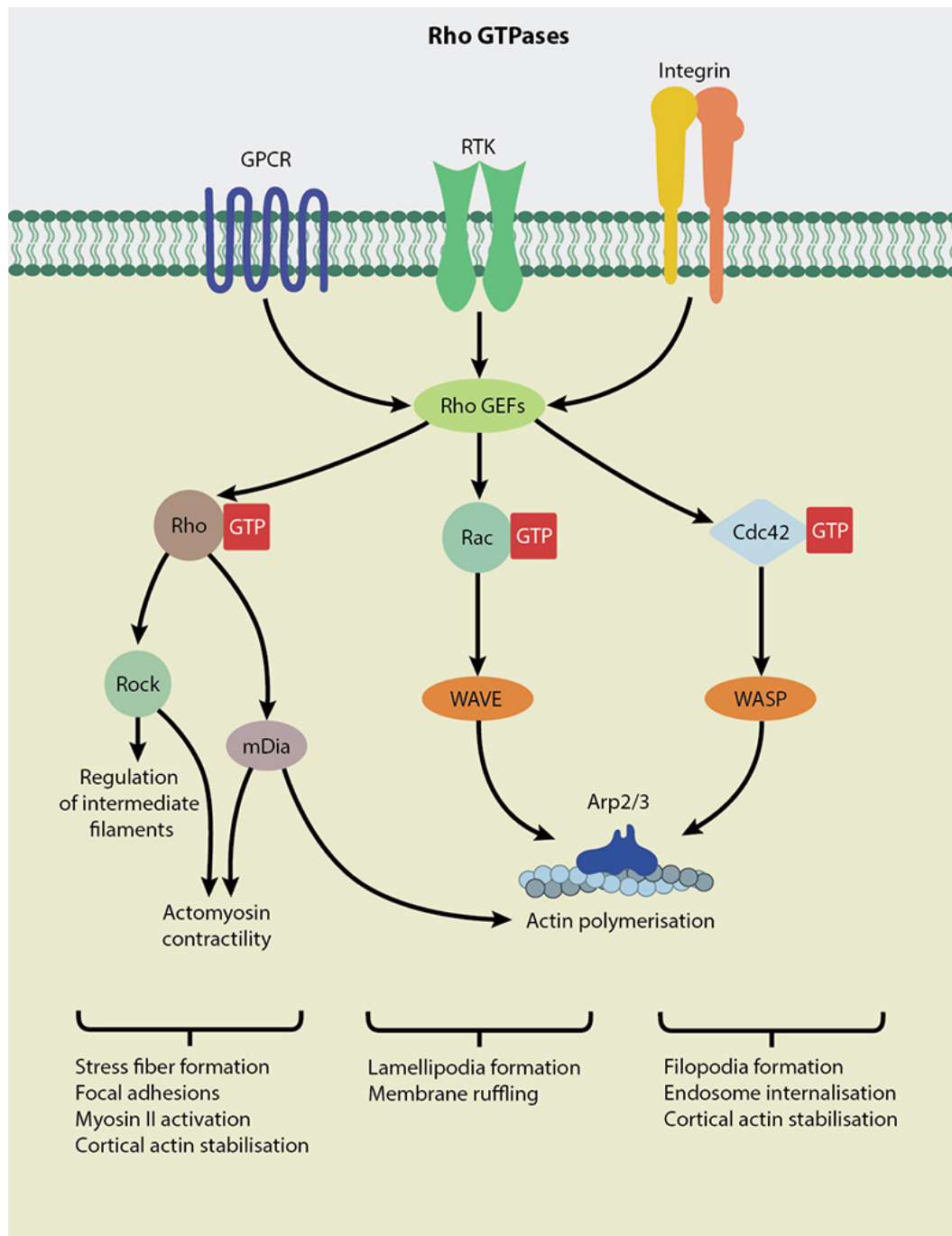
**N-cadherin** expression promotes polarization of **RAC1** activity towards the leading edge of cells to generate asymmetric traction stress.



# IL CICLO DI ATTIVAZIONE DELLE GTPasi della famiglia di RHO



Stephan Huveneers, and Erik H. J. Danen J Cell Sci  
2009;122:1059-1069



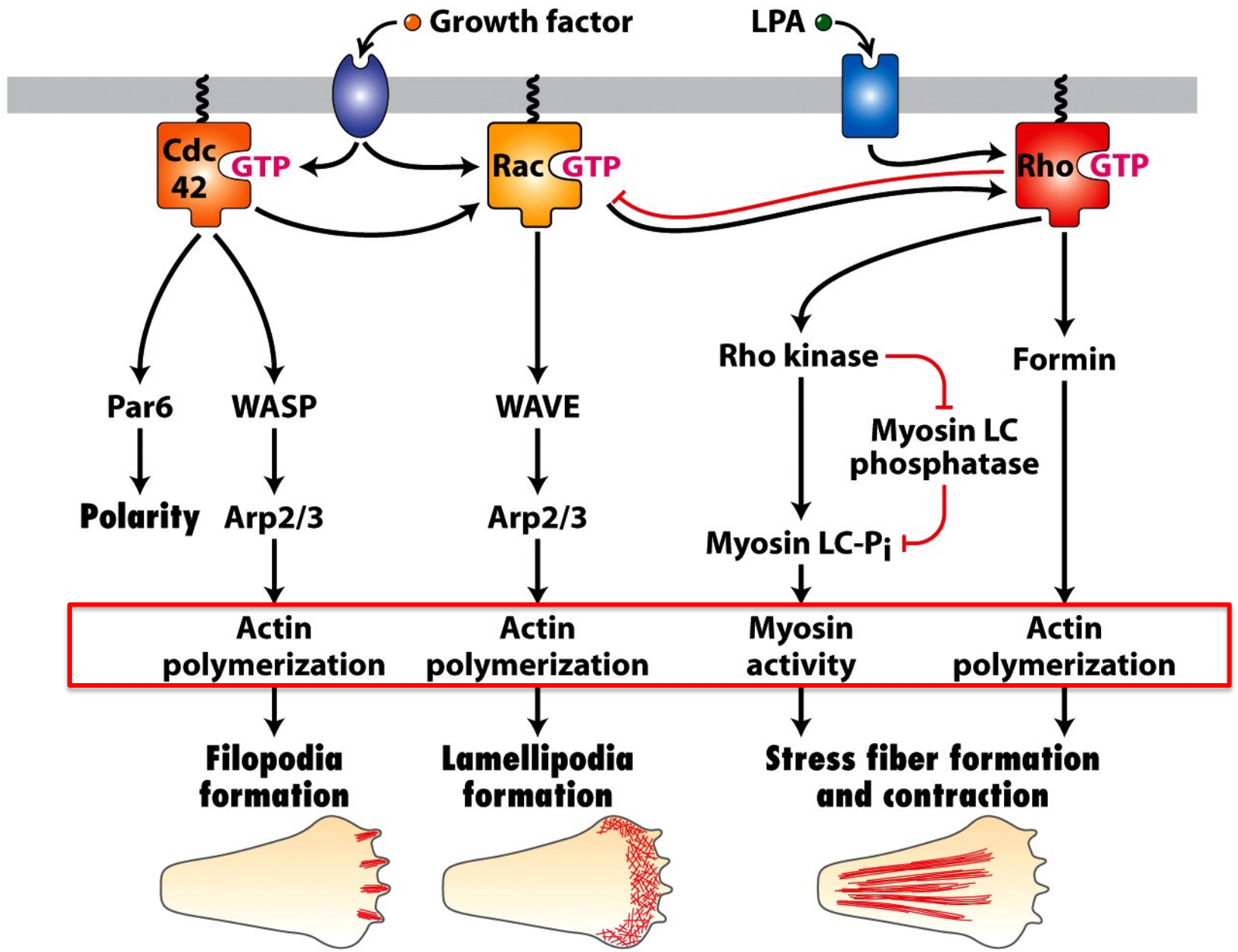
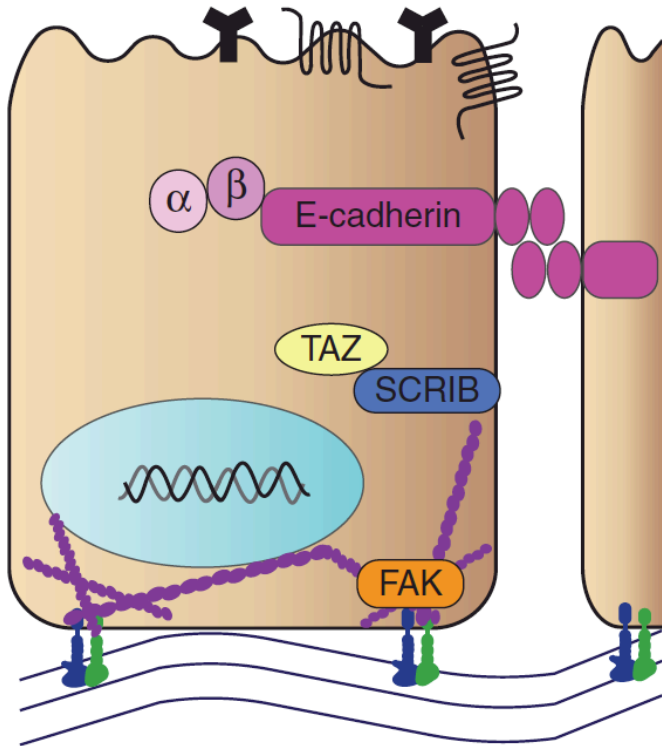


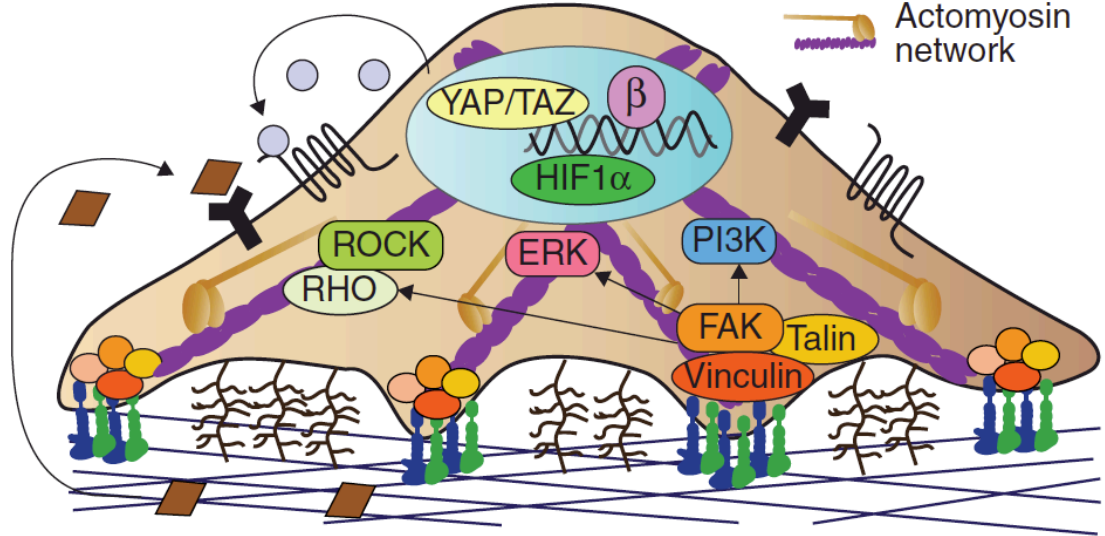
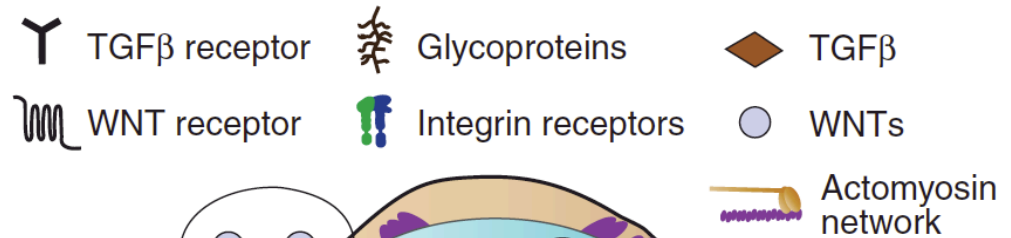
Figure 17-42  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
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invadopodia

# Il signalling delle integrine attiva Rho

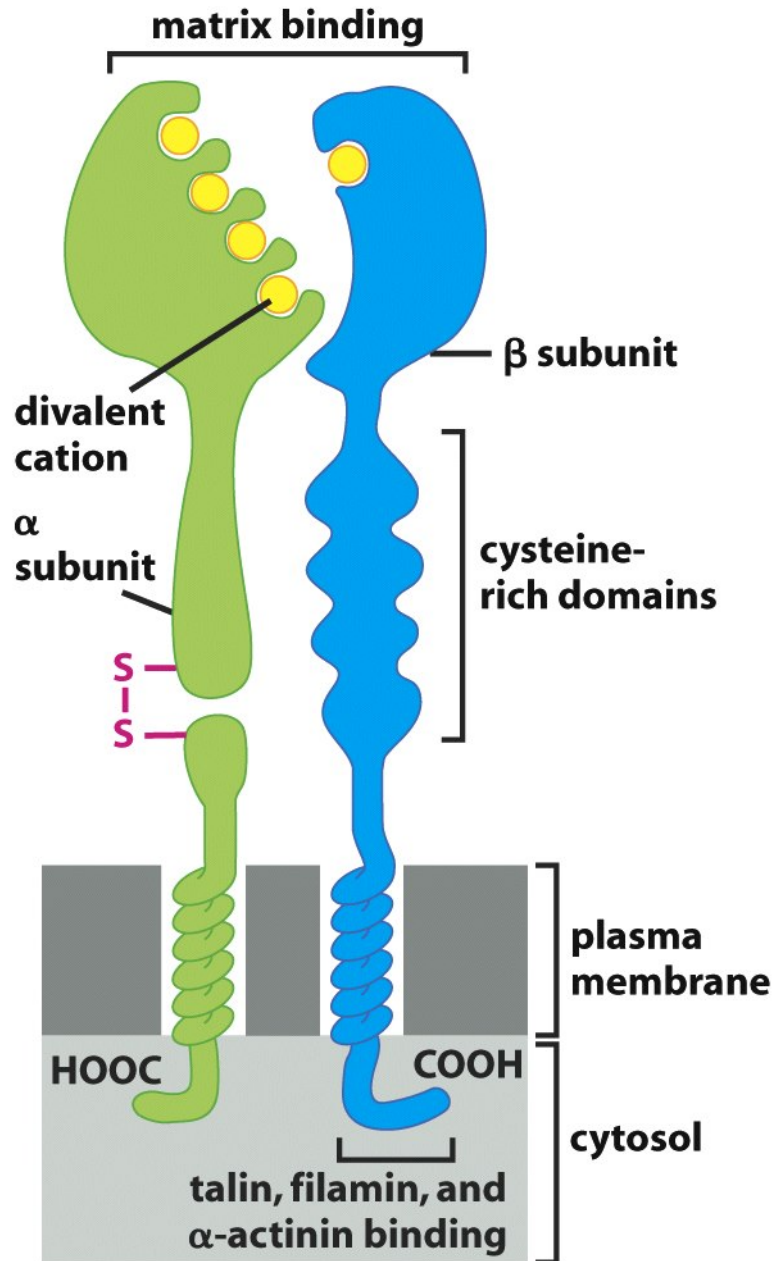


Low tension



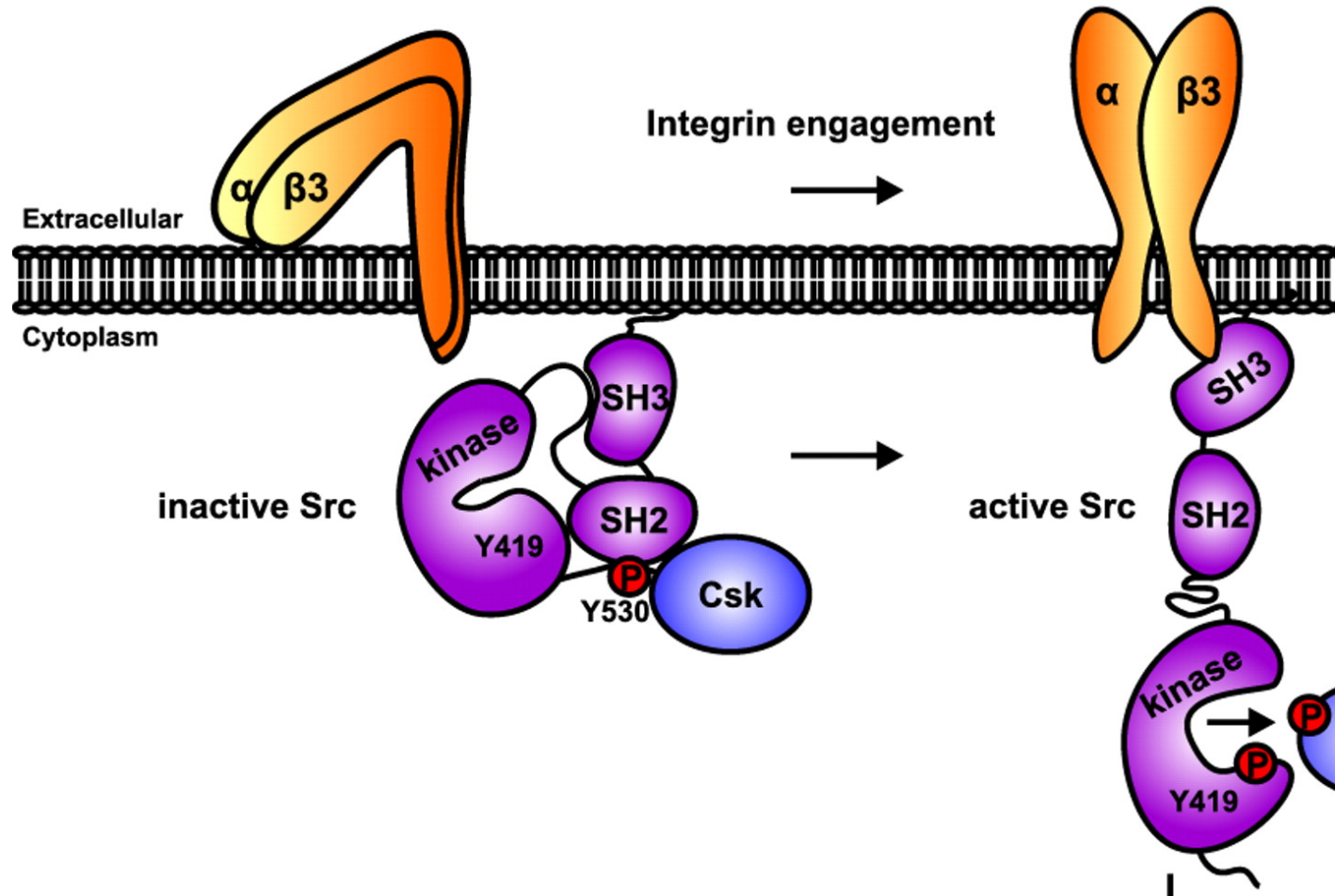
High tension

# Le integrine mediano le interazioni cellula-ECM

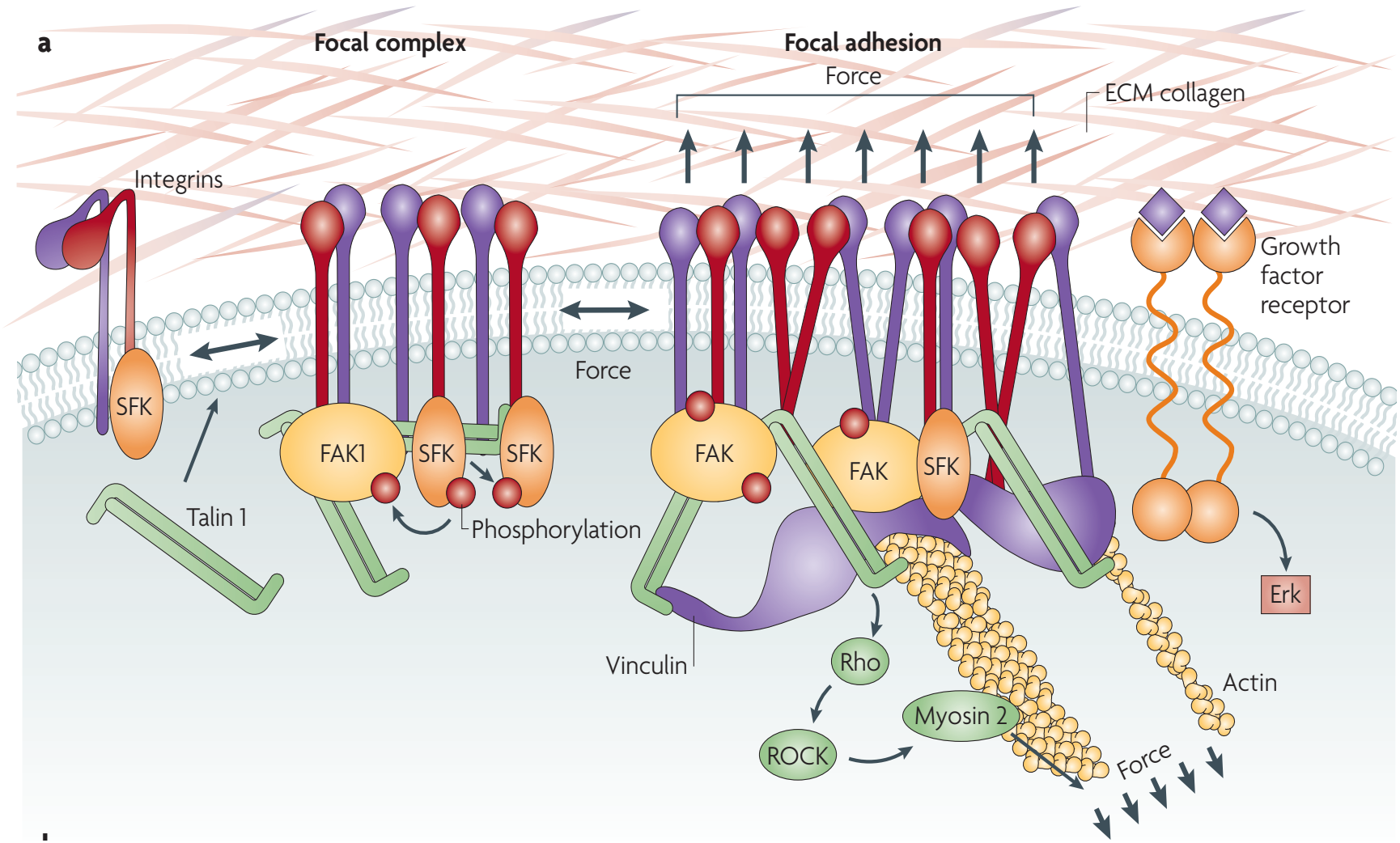




## Il Attivazione della chinasi Src



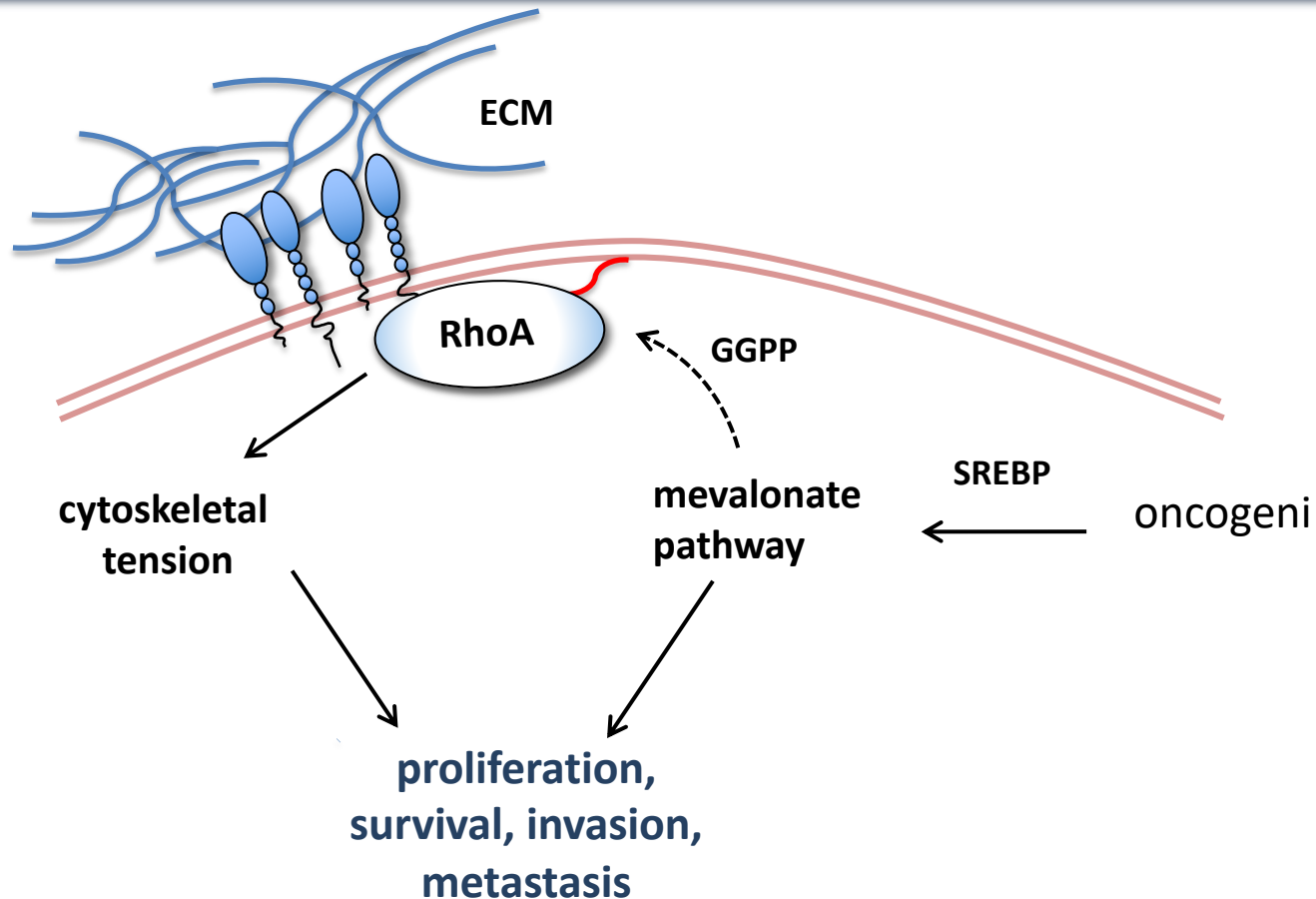
# Adesioni focali: attivazione del signaling delle integrine.



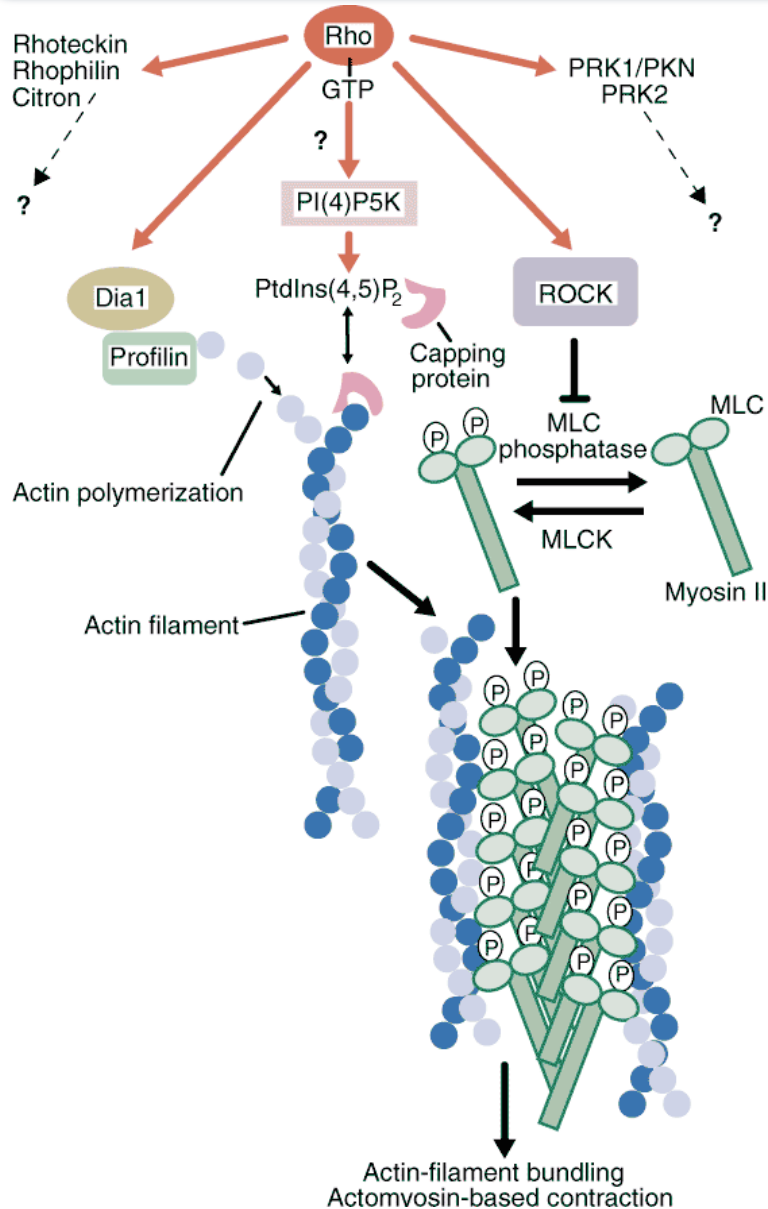
Impatto su: sopravvivenza, proliferazione e progressione tumorale

**La via del mevalonato potenzia le attività tumorigeniche di RhoA favorendo la sua localizzazione alle adesioni focali via**

**GGPP**



# Le GTPasi Rho e la dinamica del citoscheletro actomiosinico



La GTPasi Rho induce  
polimerizzazione della F actina e  
contrattilità actomiosinica

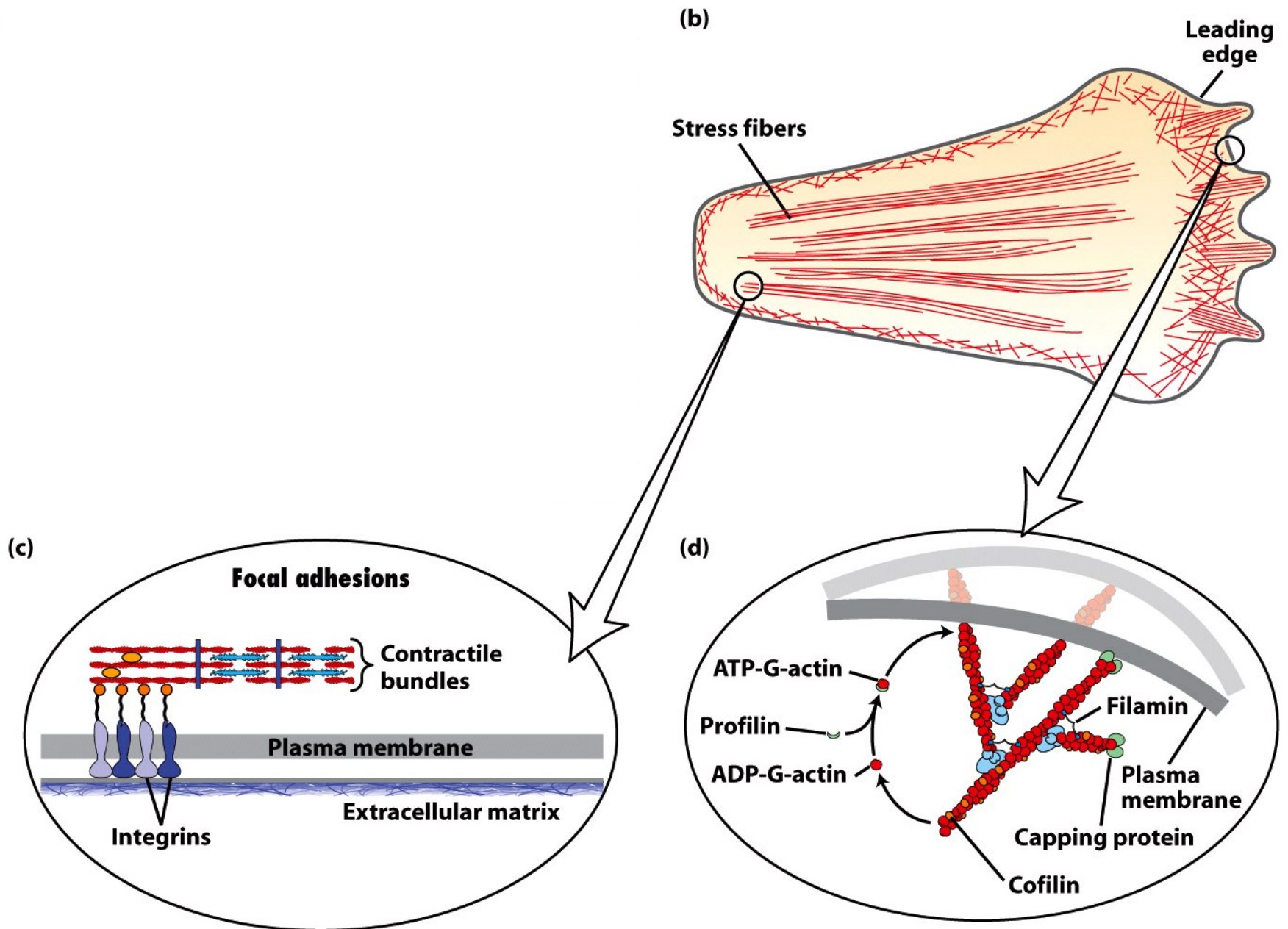
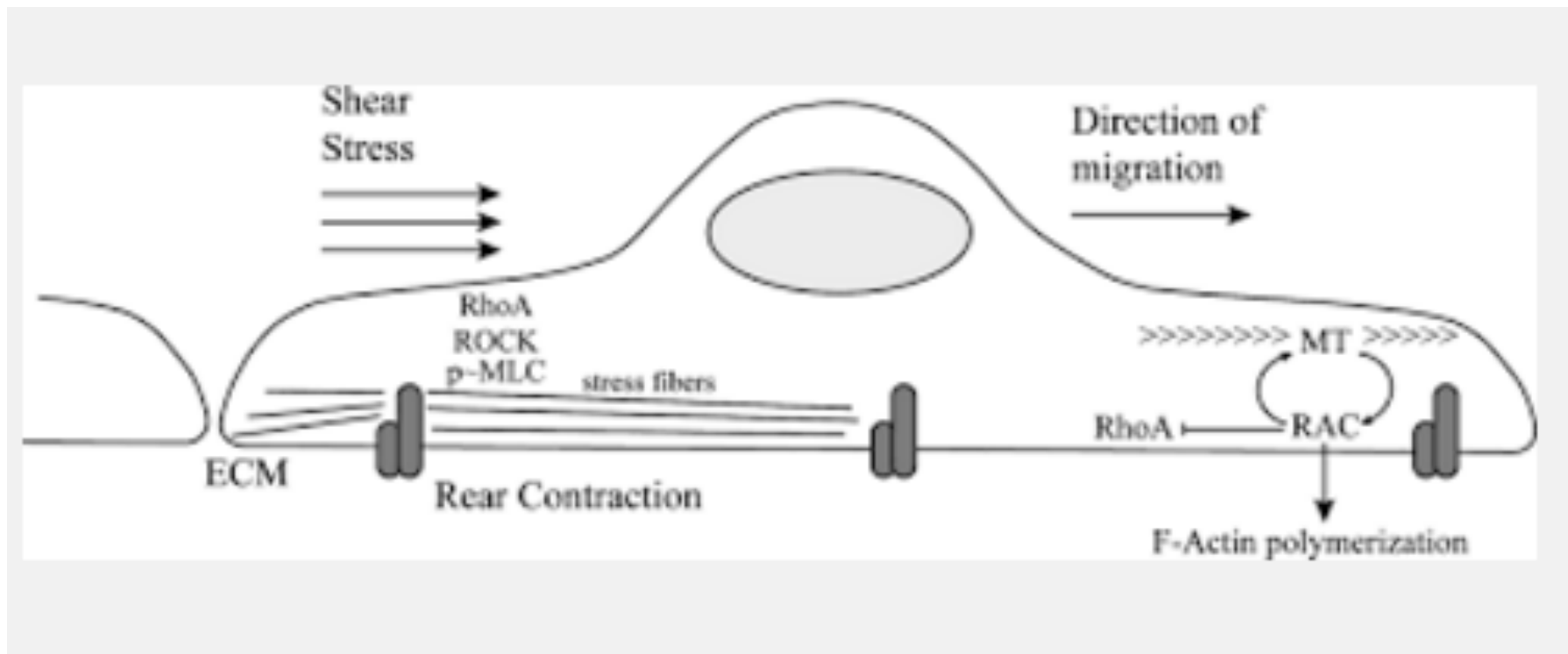


Figure 17-39  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
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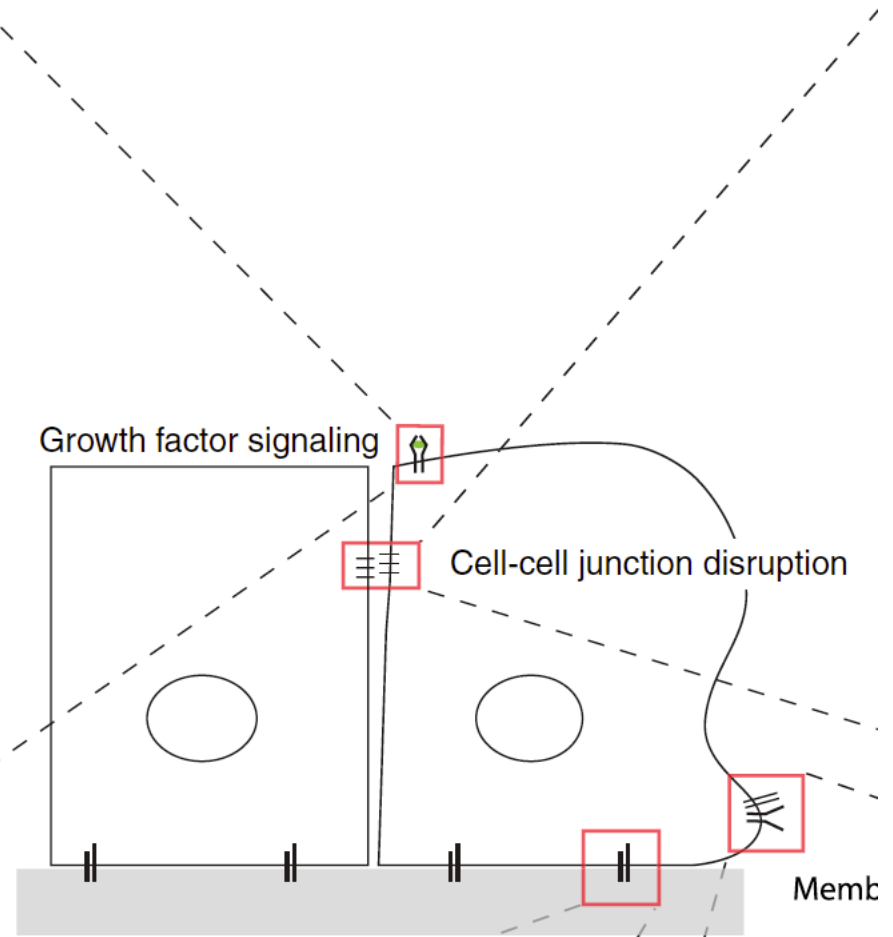
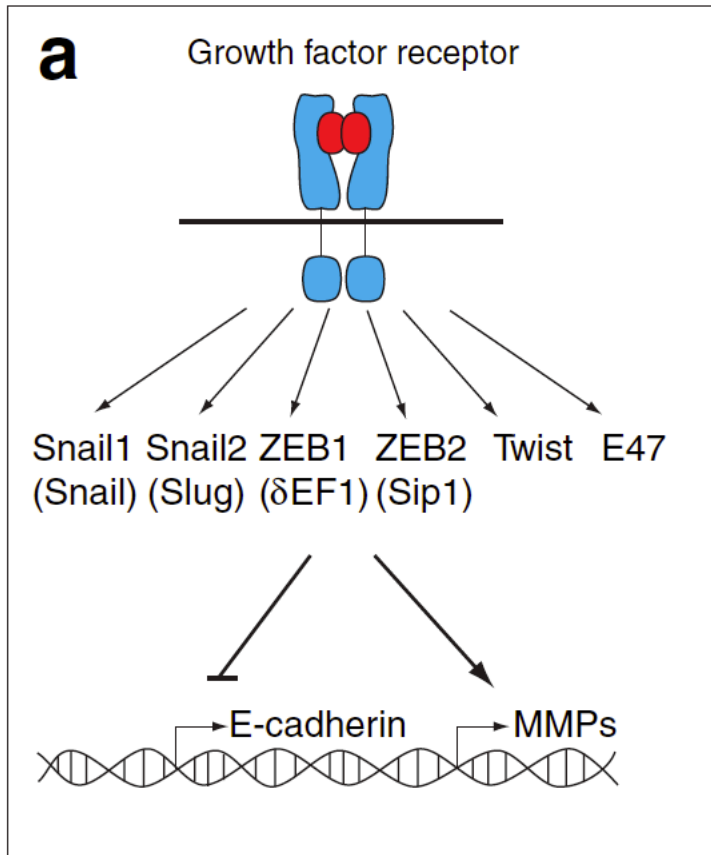




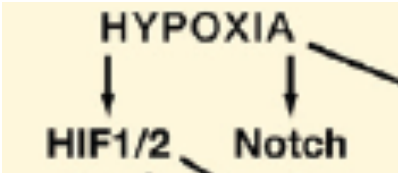
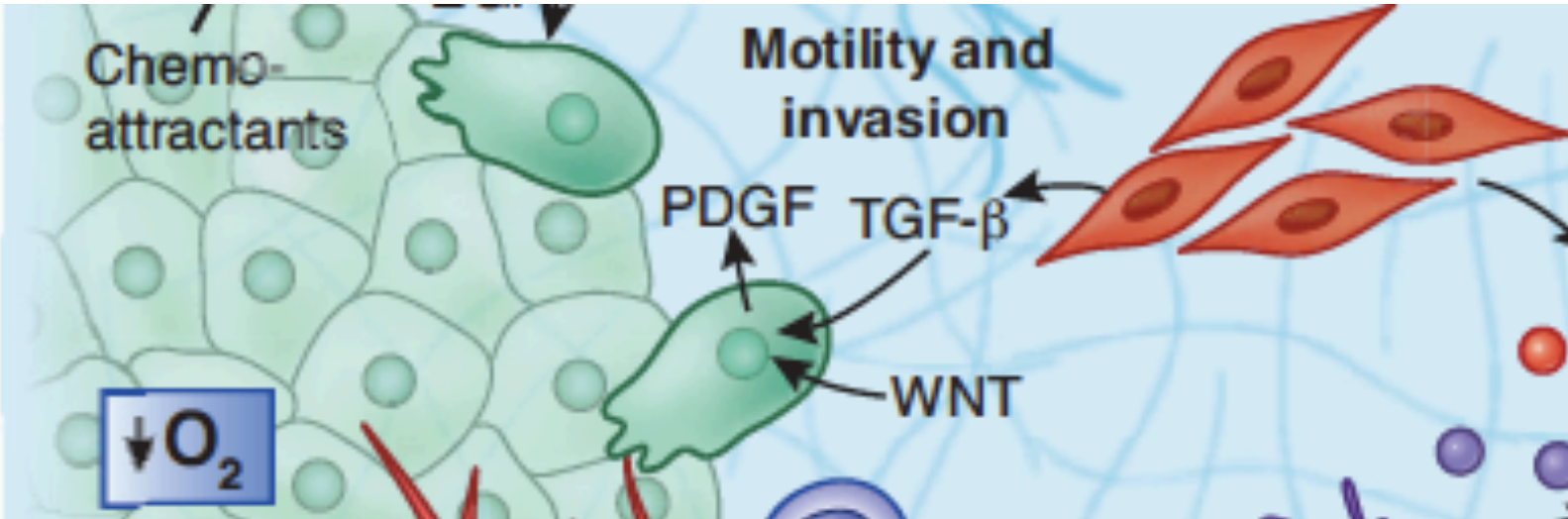
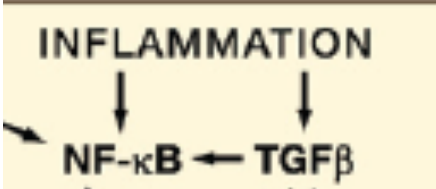
Le GTPasi Rho, Rac e cdc42 e controllano la organizzazione dell'actina e delle adesioni focali.

La migrazione dipende da **attivazione localizzata di qs proteine in piccoli, limitati domini di membrana.**

# Gli effettori del programma genico della EMT: TWIST SNAIL e ZEB:



# ORIGINE DEI SEGNALI DI EMT

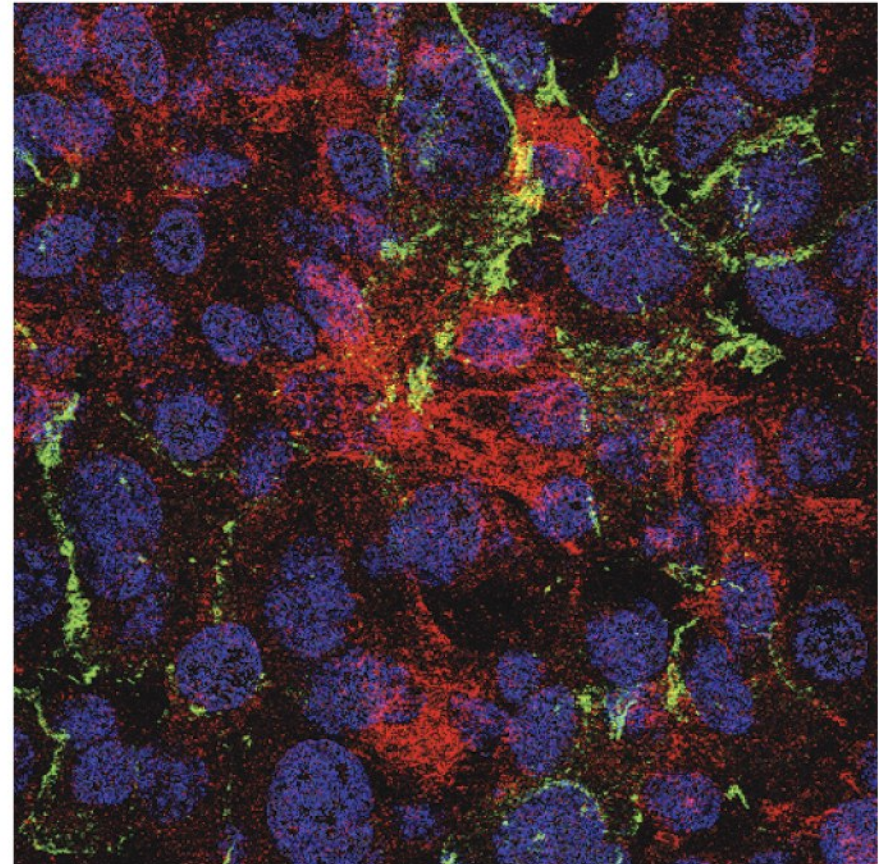
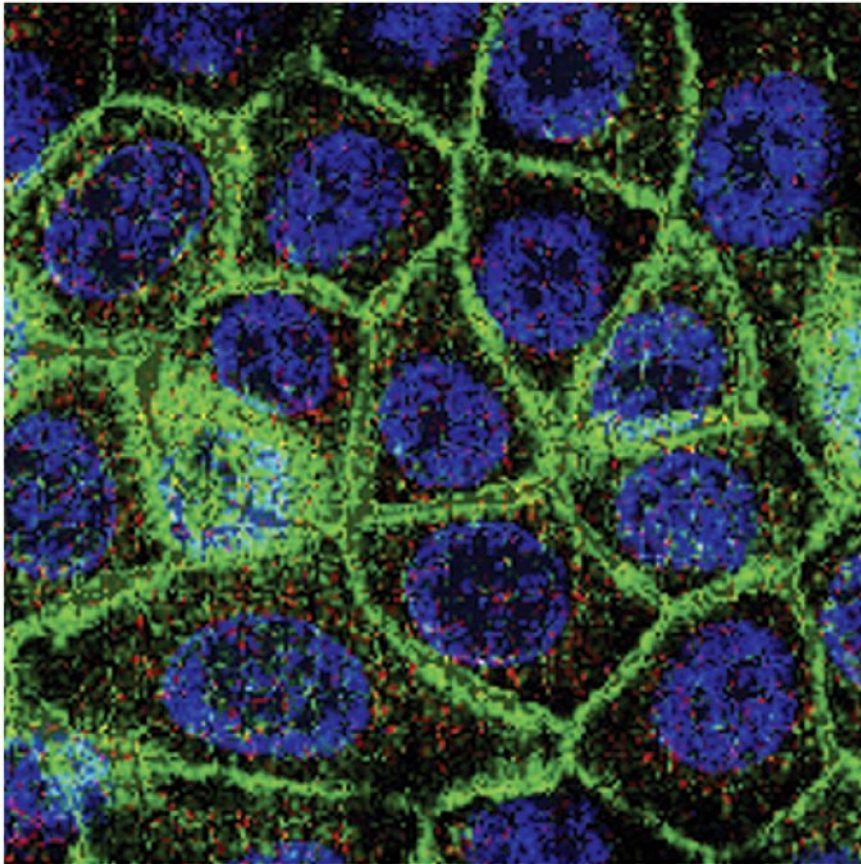


Stroma(CAFs)  
TFGβ e WNT

**E-cadherin**

**nuclei**

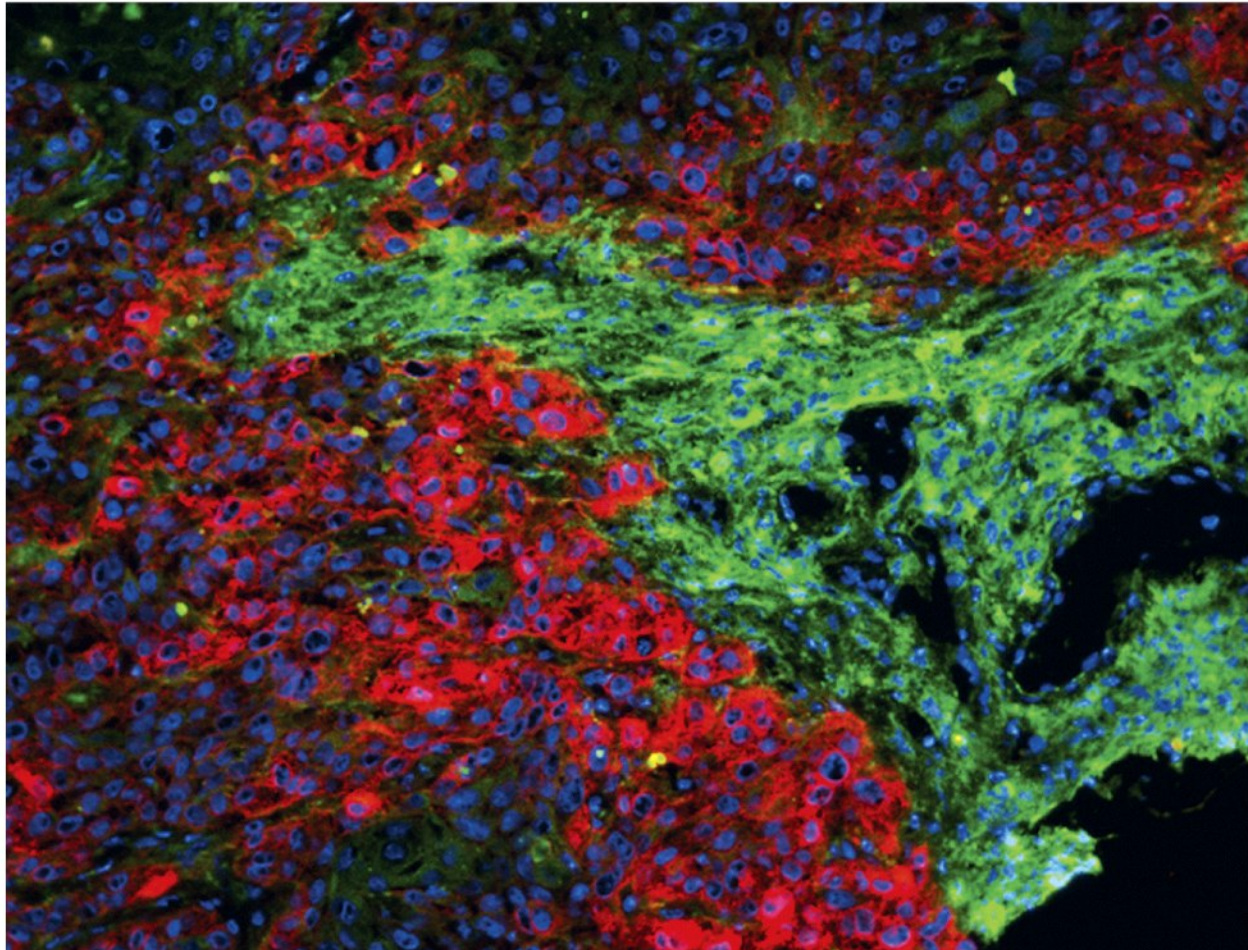
**vimentin**



**TGF- $\beta$  for 7 days**  $\longrightarrow$



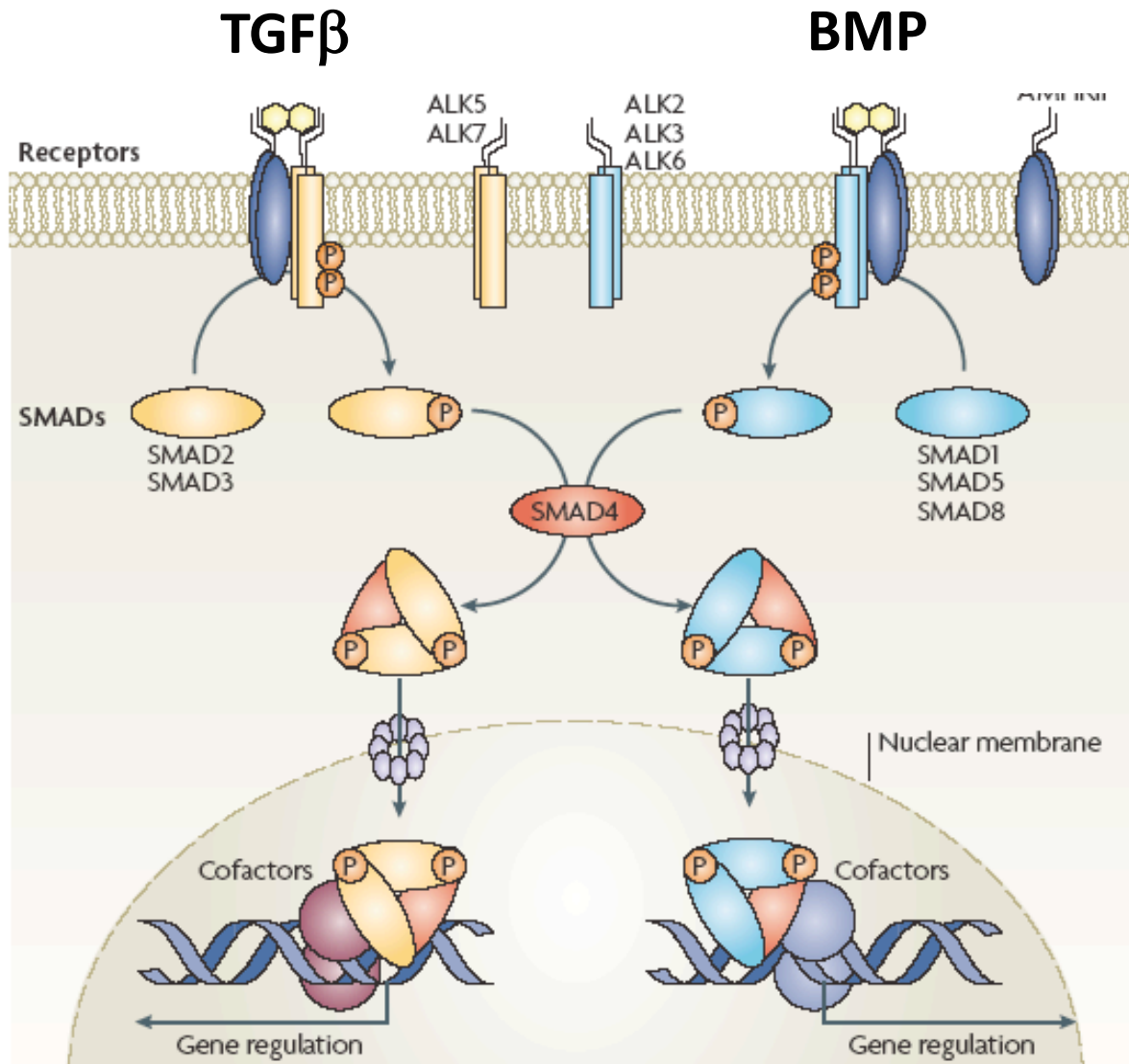
**TGF- $\beta$  (stromal cells)**



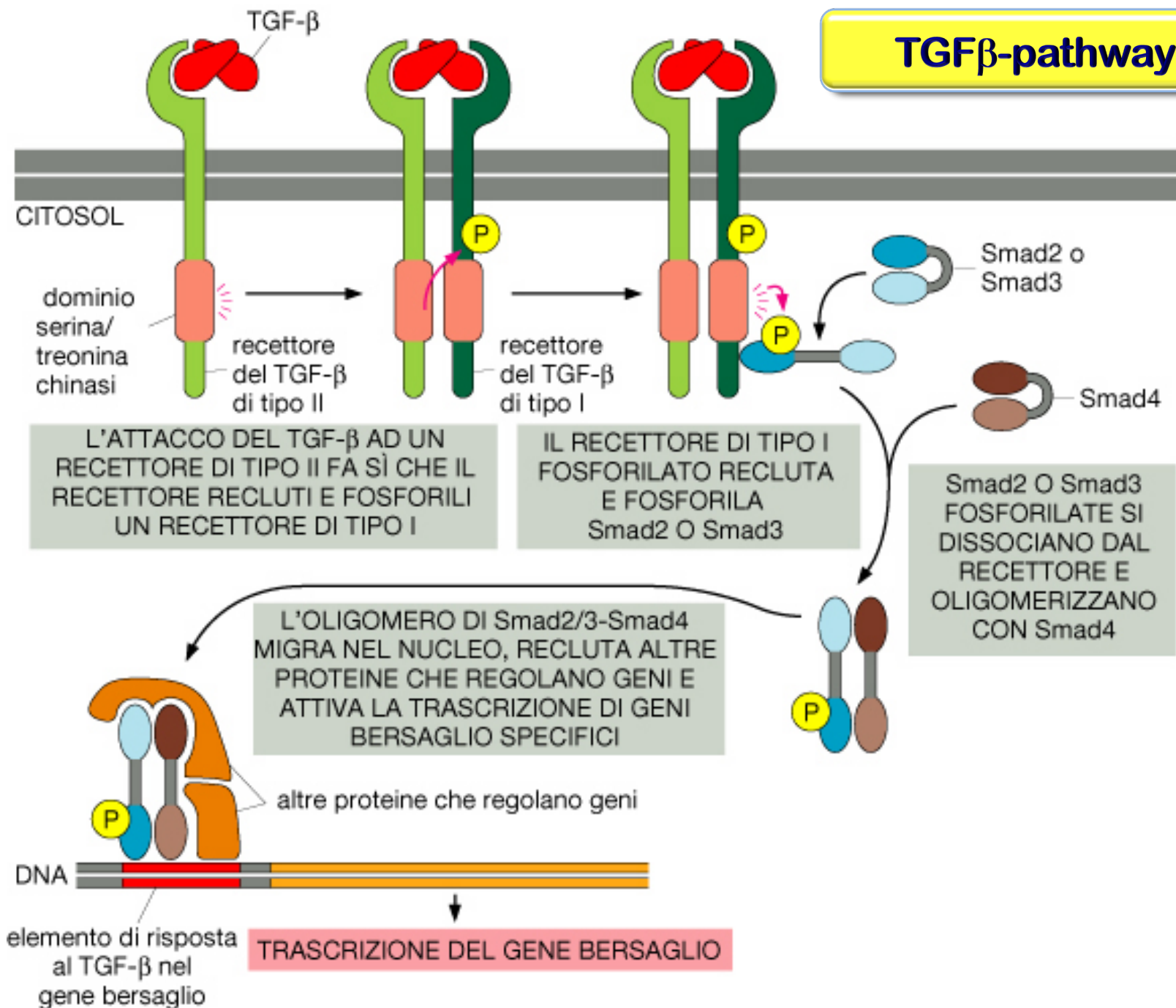
**$\alpha_v\beta_6$  integrin (epithelial cells)**



# La pathway di TGF $\beta$

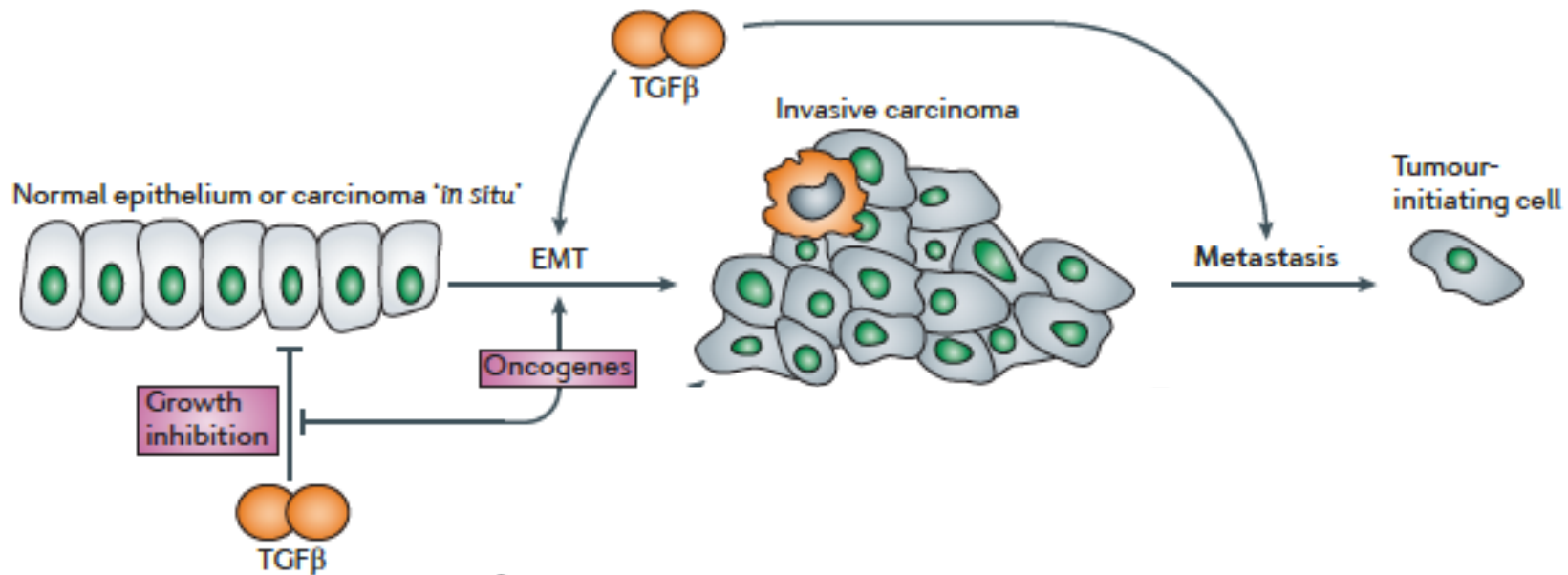


# TGF $\beta$ -pathway

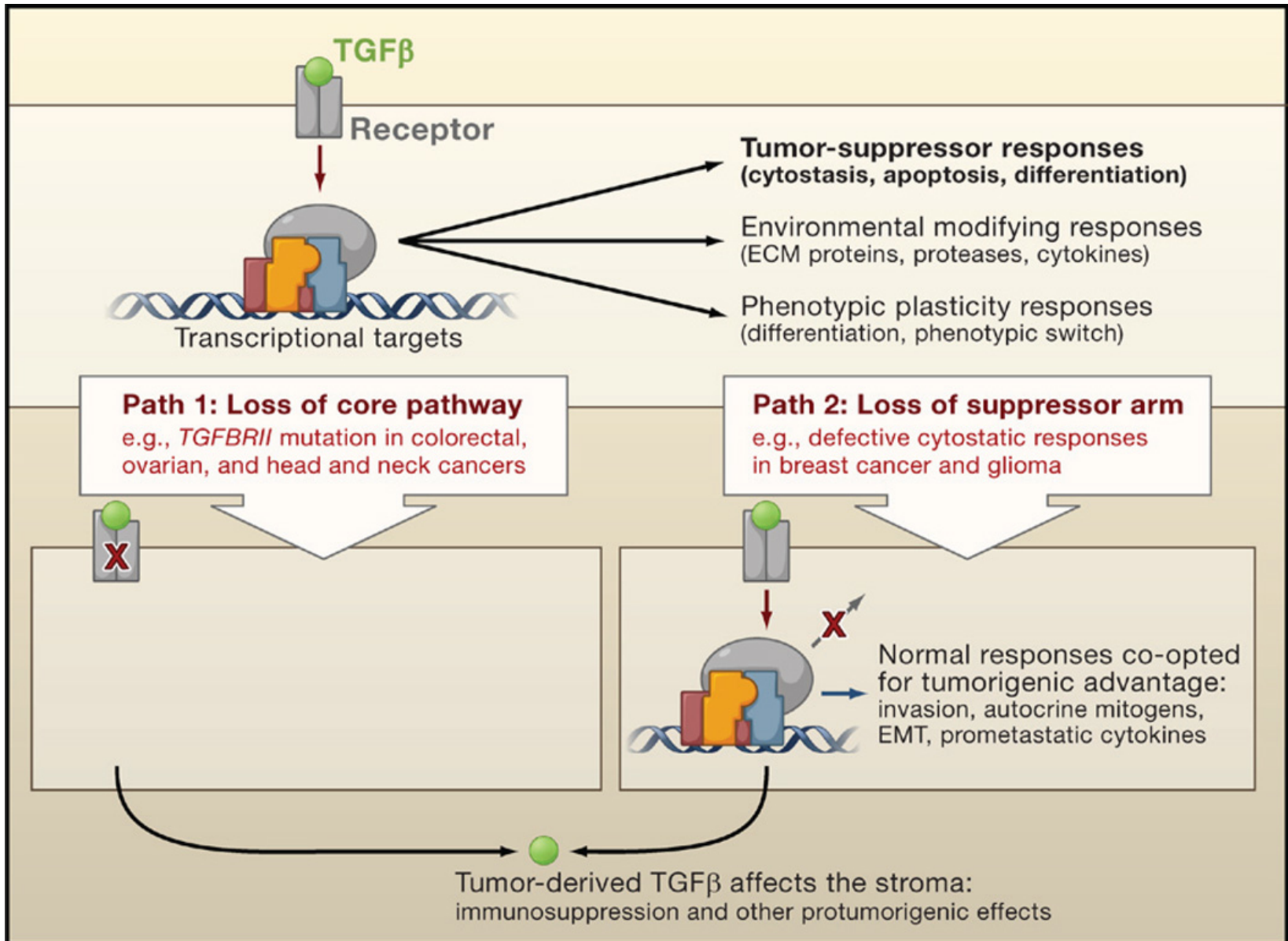


# Il doppio ruolo della pathway di TGF $\beta$ nel cancro

Tumour-suppressing TGF $\beta$  activity  $\longrightarrow$   $\longrightarrow$   $\longrightarrow$  Tumour-progressing TGF $\beta$  activity

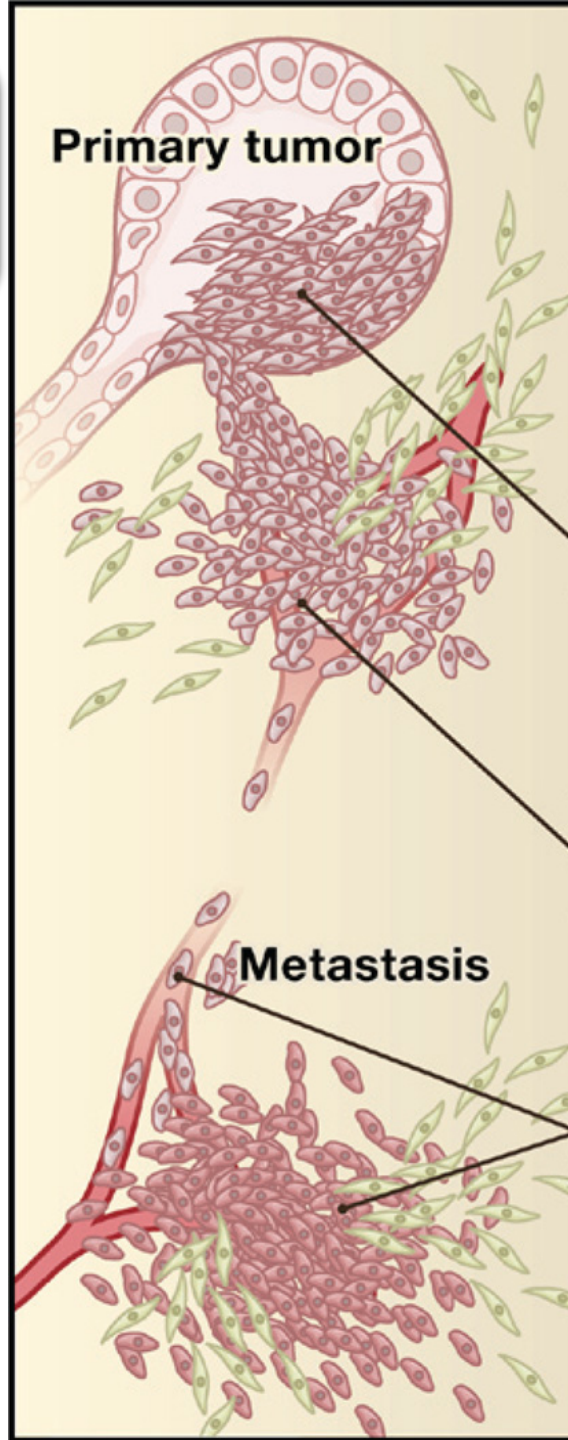


# Alterazioni della pathway di TGF $\beta$ nel cancro





## Il doppio ruolo della pathway di TGF $\beta$ nel cancro



## Roles of TGF $\beta$ in cancer

### Premalignant state

Tumor-suppressive effects: cytostasis, differentiation, apoptosis

Suppression of tumorigenic inflammation

Suppression of stroma-derived mitogens

### Malignant progression (Loss of tumor suppression)

Evasion of immune surveillance

Autocrine mitogen production

Motility

### Invasiveness and dissemination

Epithelial-mesenchymal transition

Myofibroblast mobilization

Cancer cell priming for metastasis

### Metastatic colonization

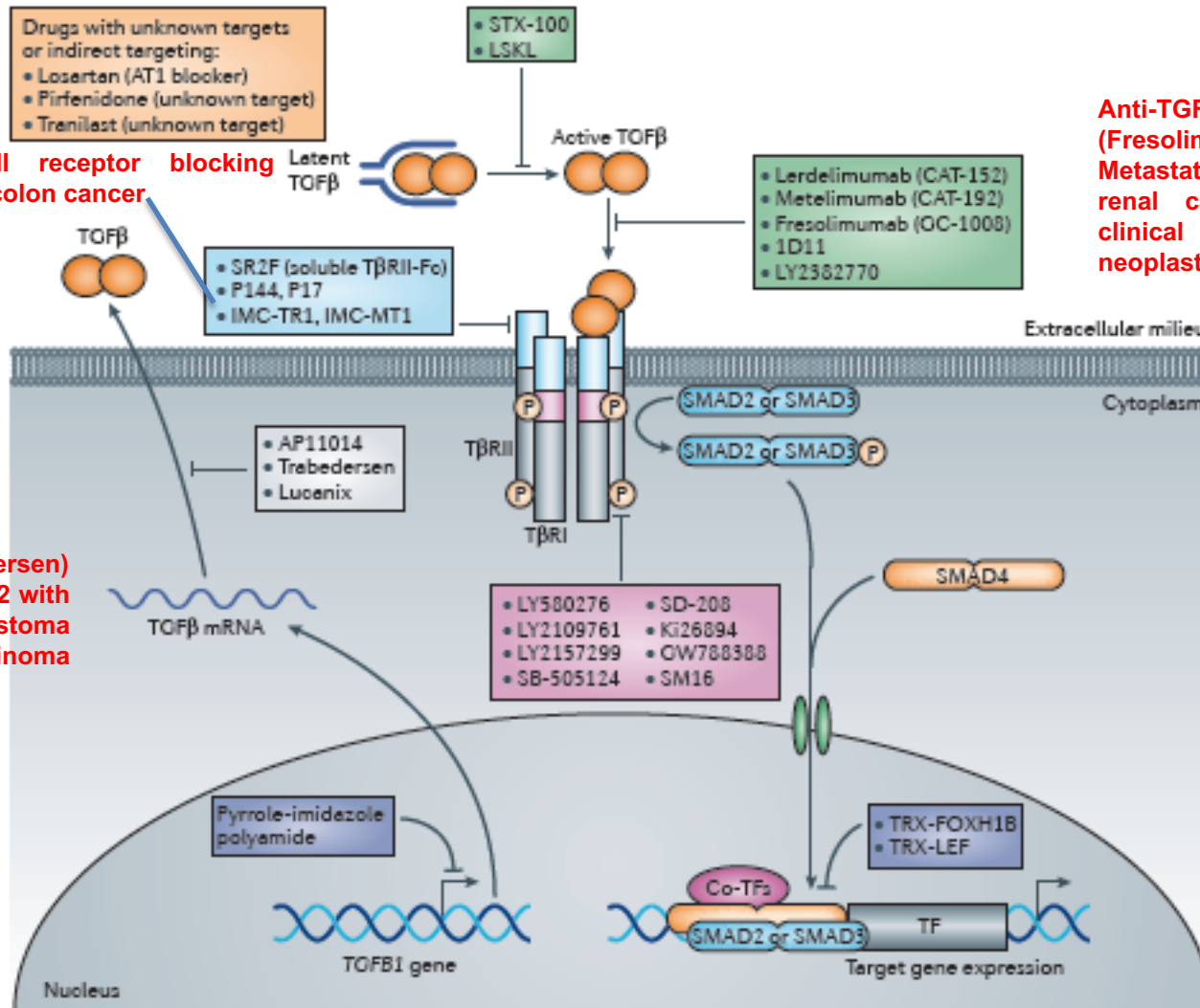
Extravasation

Osteoclast mobilization

Microenvironmental-modifying factors: cytokines, proteases



# Strategie farmacologiche per inibire la TGF- $\beta$ pathway nel cancro e nelle malattie fibrotiche

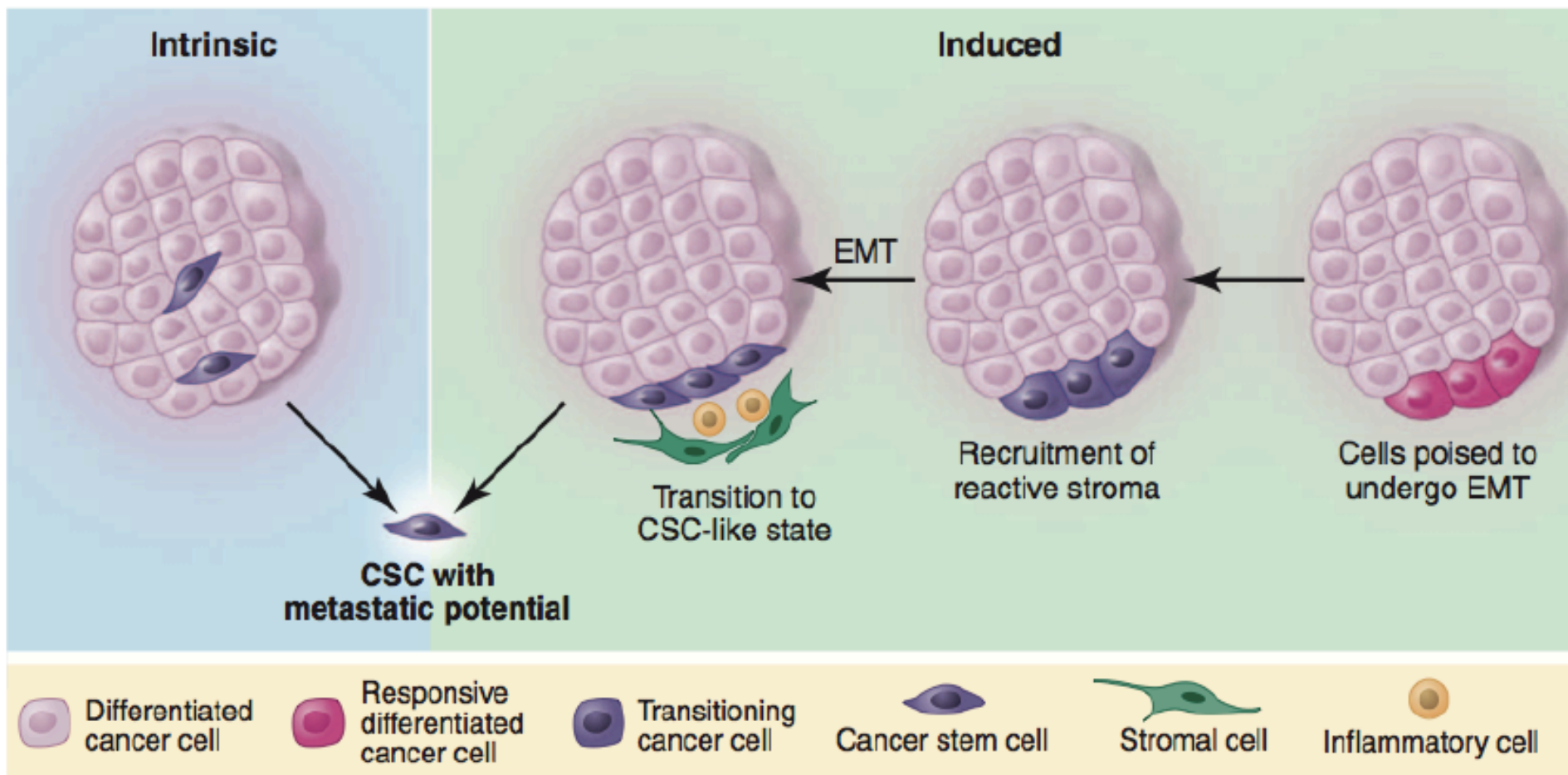


e.g. (IMC-TR-1) TGF $\beta$ II receptor blocking antibody for breast and colon cancer

Anti-TGF $\beta$ 1 antibody e.g. (Fresolimumab) Metastatic melanoma and renal carcinoma (phase I clinical trial) and non-neoplastic applications

e.g. (AP1209 = Trabedersen) Targeting excess TGF $\beta$ 2 with ASO-RNAi in glioblastoma and pancreatic carcinoma (phase III clinical trial)

**Il programma di EMT conferisce caratteristiche STAMINALI  
generando TUMOR INITIATING CELLS (CSCs)  
essenziali per la metastasi e chemioresistenti**

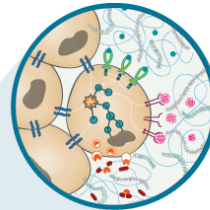
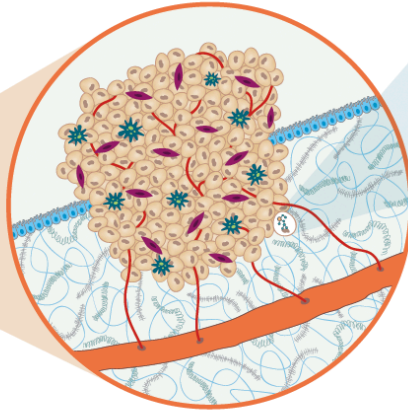
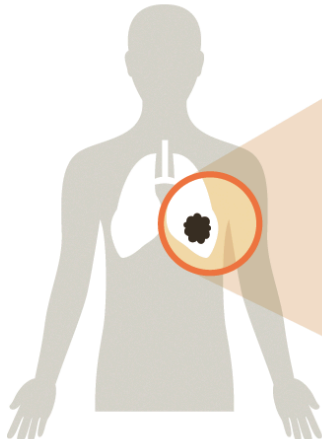


# Il riposizionamento dei farmaci

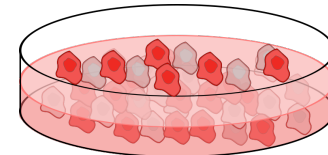
Farmaci approvati da EMA/FDA e commercializzati per **qualsiasi** malattia



Paziente con tumore alla mammella

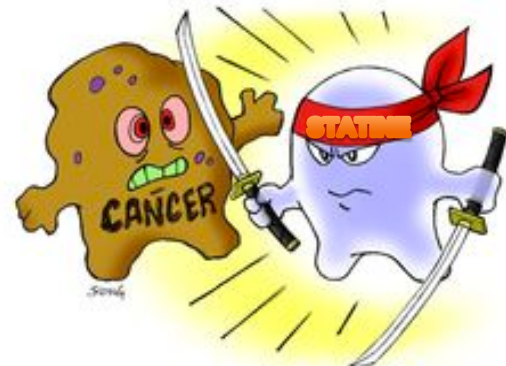
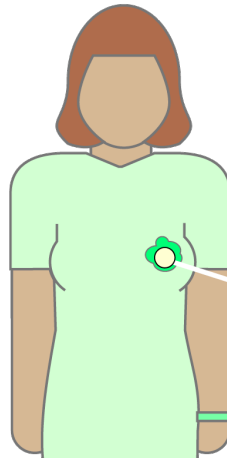


Testare in vitro l'efficacia antitumorale dei farmaci



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

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**

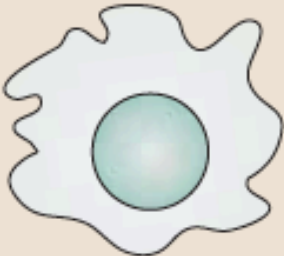
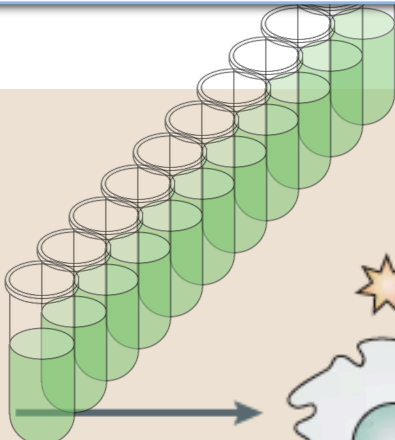
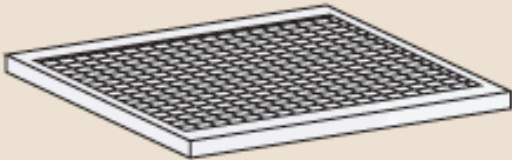


Plate cells onto  
clear bottom  
384-well plate

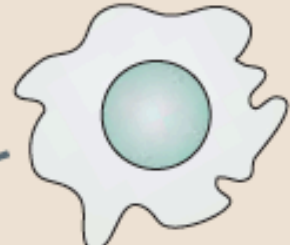
**“Librerie” di farmaci**



Transfer  
compounds  
onto cells



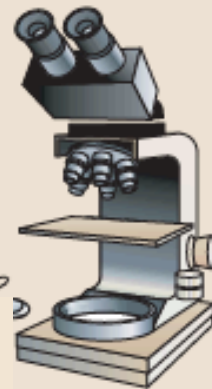
Compound  
treatment



**Readout:  
inattivazione  
di oncogeni**

Compound  
and target  
identification

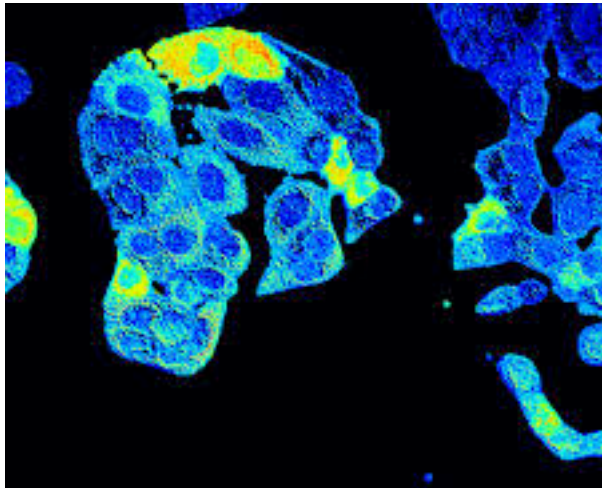
**Validazione:  
effetto sulla  
vitalità cellulare**



for hits



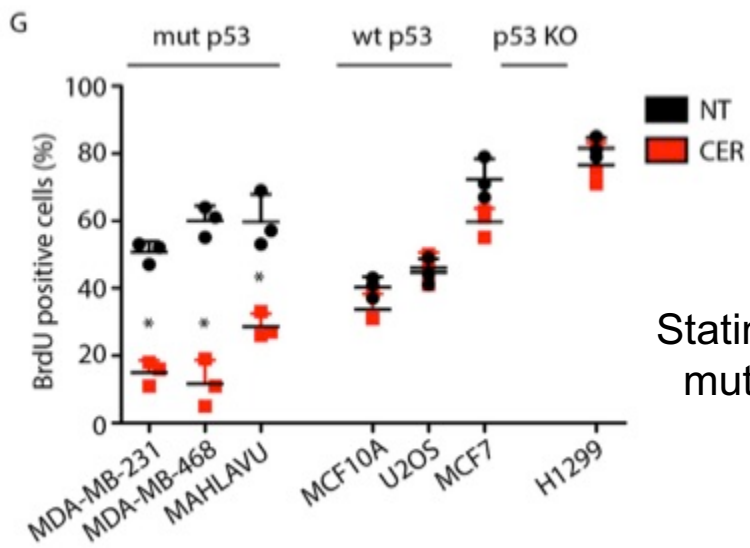
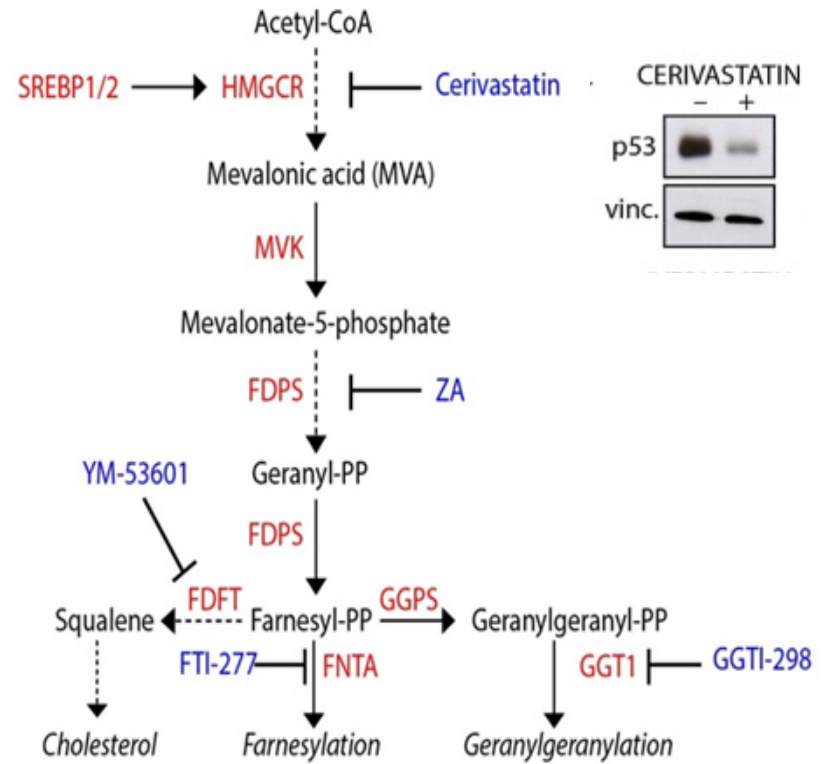
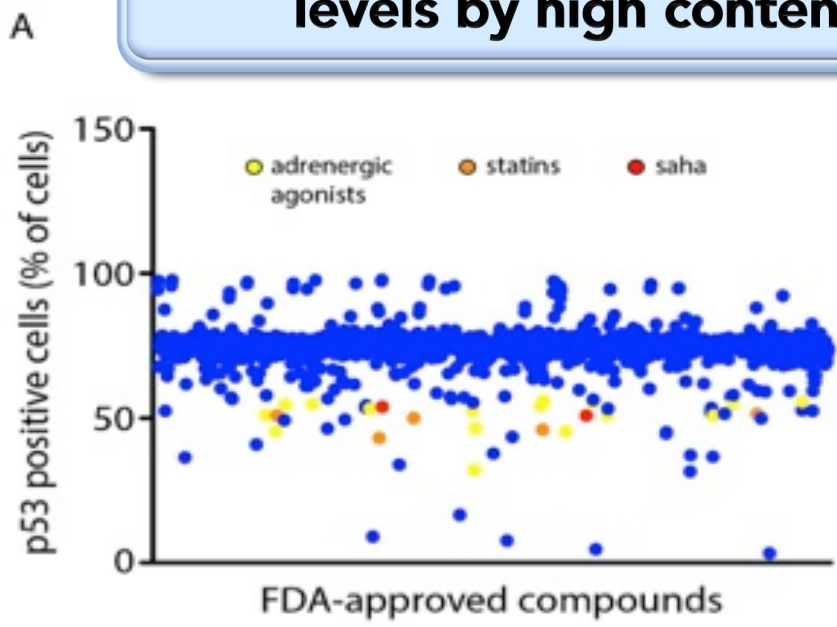
## High content screening systems



**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**

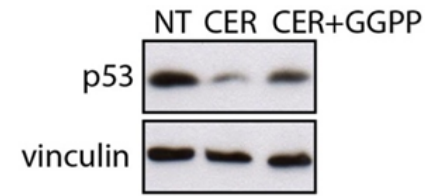
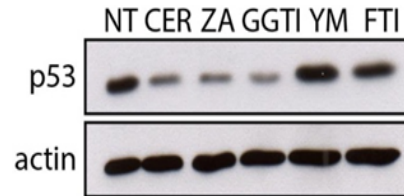
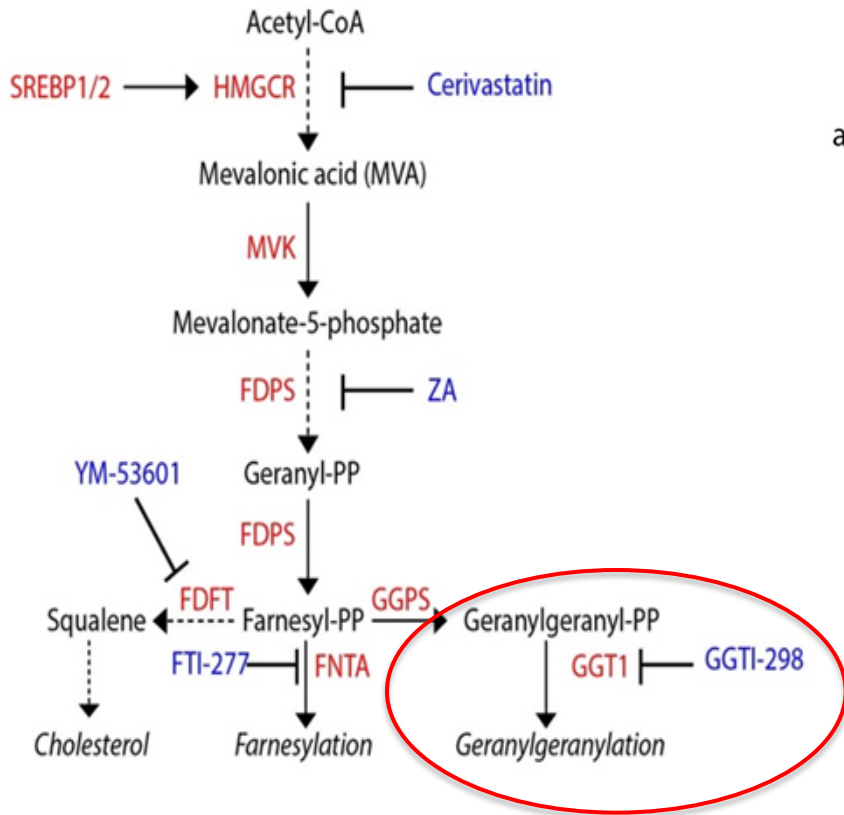


# Identification of molecules affecting mutant p53 protein levels by high content high-throughput screening



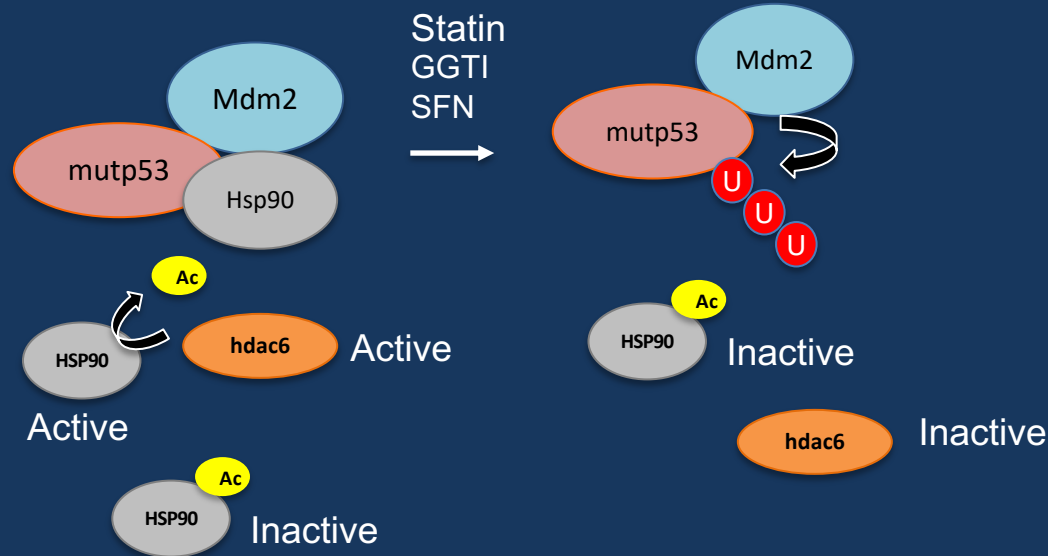
Statins inhibit proliferation of mut p53 expressing cells

# Geranyl-geranylation is required for mutp53 stabilization



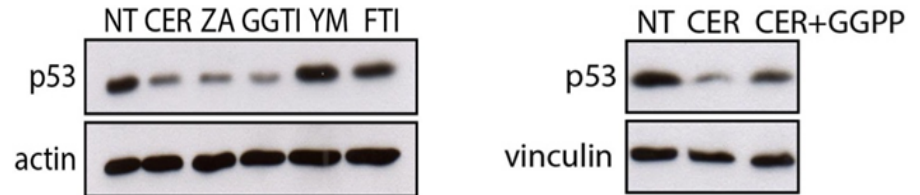
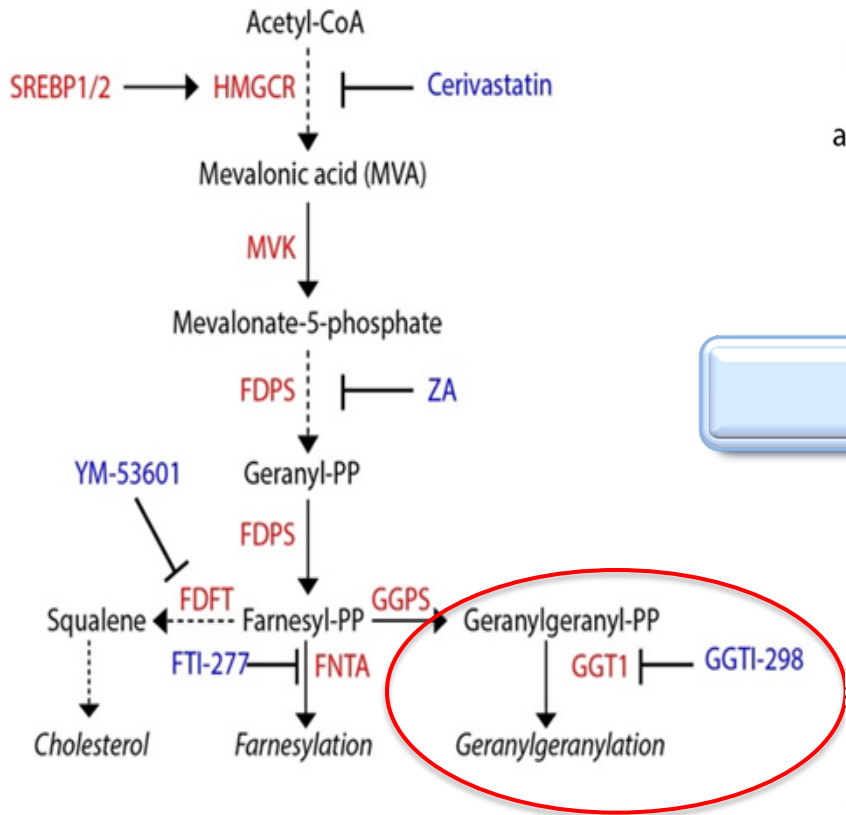
# Key findings

- ✓ Statins and other MVA pathway inhibitors are potent mutant p53 inhibitors.
- ✓ Statins cause mutant p53 degradation through MDM2 by inactivating Hsp90 and HDAC6

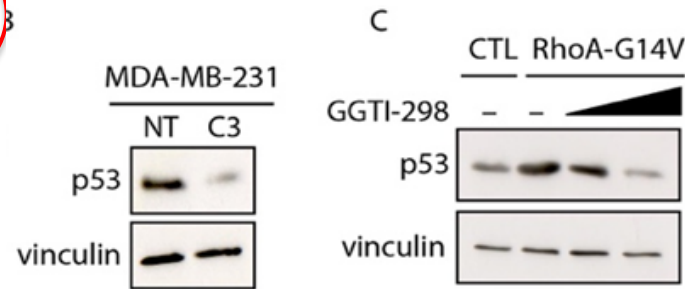


- ✓ The MVA pathway sustains mutant p53 accumulation in cancer cells.
- ✓ Loss of Geranyl-Geranyl-Phyrophosphate induces mutant p53 degradation.

# Geranyl-geranylation is required for mutp53 stabilization



## And the substrate is... RhoA



# L'attivazione di RhoA induce la stabilizzazione di mp53

