

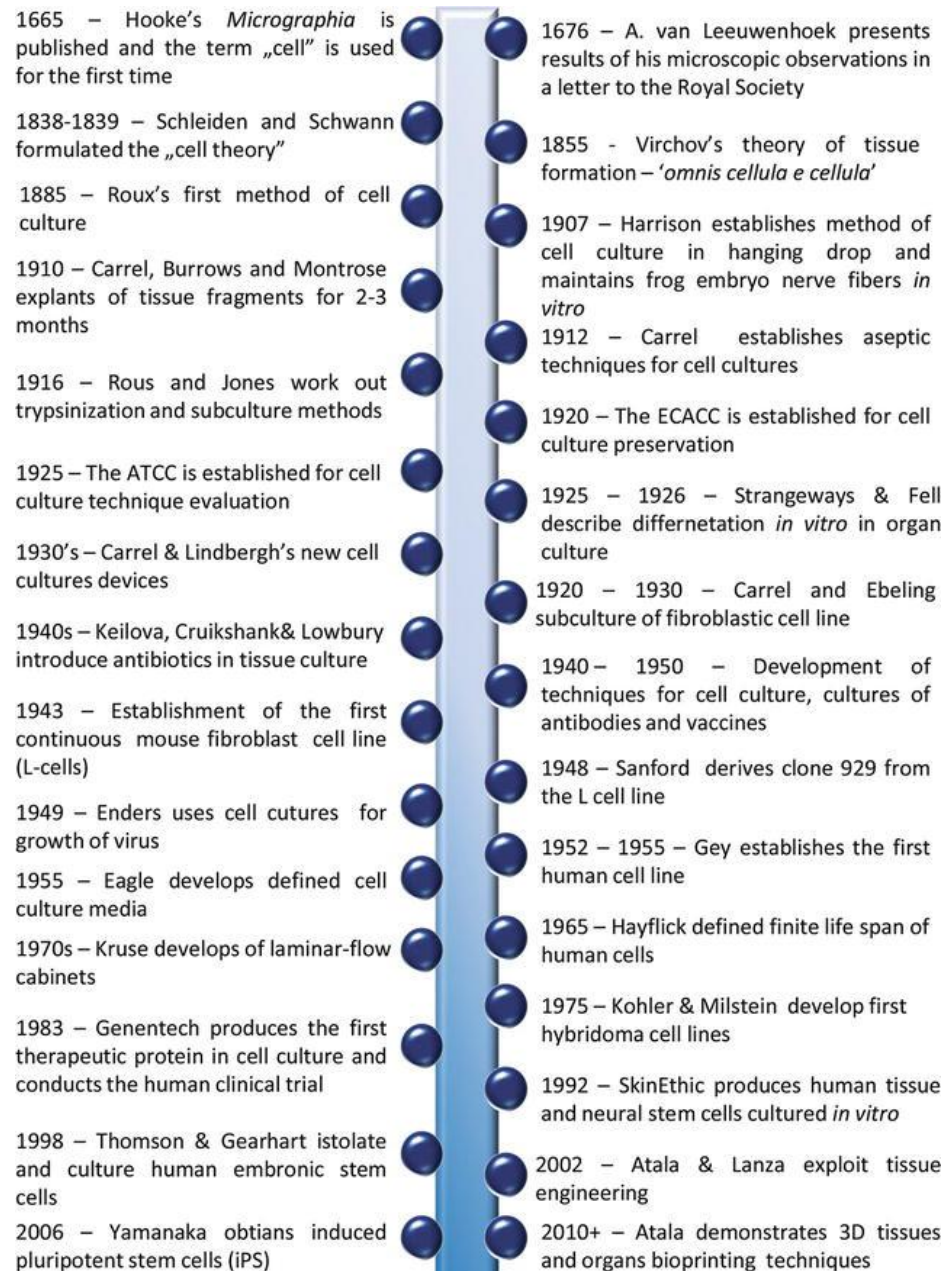
Introduction

In vitro cell cultures:

- cells **isolated from their environment**
- enabled to live **within a defined system**

- **fundamental tool** for biochemical, microbiological, pharmacological studies ...

- **useful in the production** of growth factors, monoclonal antibodies, vaccines, recombinant proteins in general ...

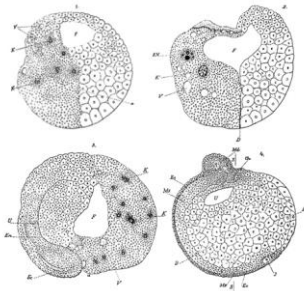


Cell culture is the process by which prokaryotic, eukaryotic or plant cells are grown under controlled conditions.

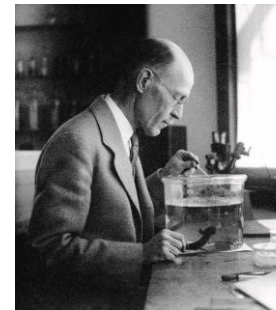
But **in practice** it refers to the culturing of cells derived from **animal cells**.



Roux in **1885** for the first time maintained embryonic chick cells in a cell culture



Cell culture was first successfully undertaken by Ross Harrison in **1907**



EXPERIMENTS IN TRANSPLANTING LIMBS AND THEIR BEARING UPON THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF NERVES'

BY
ROSS GRANVILLE HARRISON
WITH FOURTEEN FIGURES

Several years ago Braus described a series of ingenious experiments in transplanting limbs of amphibian (Bombinator) larvae. The experiments were made mainly for the purpose of inquiring into questions relative to the development of peripheral nerves and their author has interpreted his results in accordance with Hensen's theory. Briefly stated this theory is that the nerve centers and their peripheral end-organs are connected from the basins

1940s: The use of the antibiotics penicillin and streptomycin in culture medium decreased the problem of contamination in cell culture.

Introduction

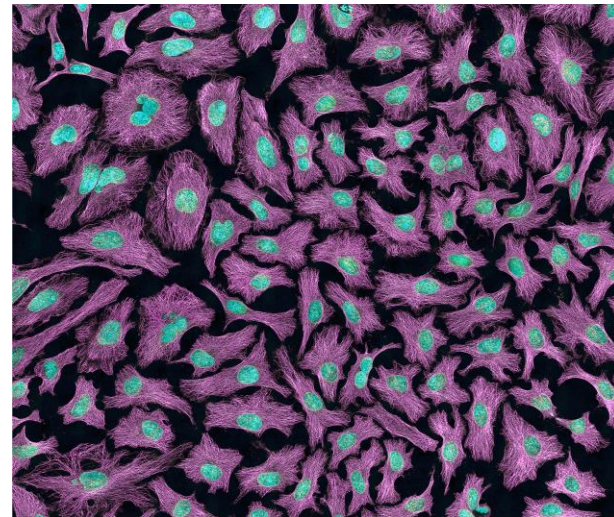


- **1951** Gey established a **continuous cell line** from a human cervical carcinoma

The patients was **Henrietta Lacks**.



Cell line is known as **HeLa** cells





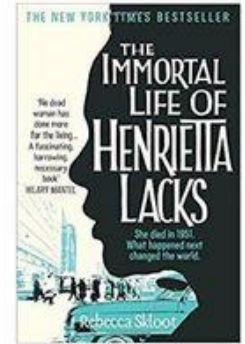
born
Loretta Pleasant in 1920



George Otto Gey

The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks

- 1951 Tissue were taken without her knowledge
- 1952 HeLa cells were used to develop **polio vaccine**
- 1955 Isolation of a single cell for **cloning**
- 1960 HeLa **went to space** before any astronaut
- 1984 HeLa was used to prove that **HPV infection causes cancer**
- 1986 Mechanism of **HIV infection** were studied
- 1989 **Telomerase** were described in HeLa
- 1993 Tuberculosis was studied
- 2013 Whole genome data of HeLa were published





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hela cell



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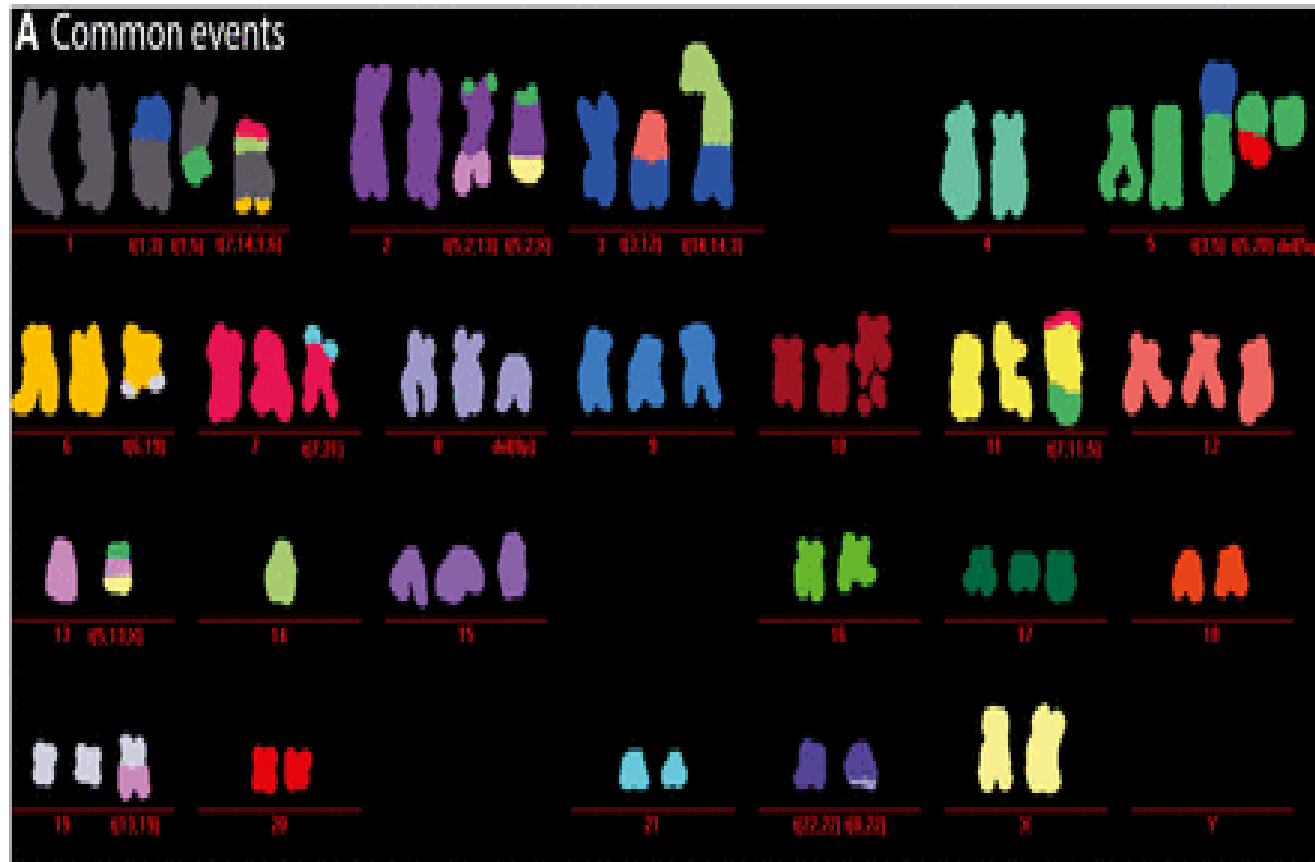
<< < Page 1 of 12,927 > >>



The Genomic and Transcriptomic Landscape of a HeLa Cell Line

Jonathan J. M. Landry,^{*1} Paul Theodor Pyl,^{*1} Tobias Rausch,^{*} Thomas Zichner,^{*} Manu M. Tekkedil,^{*} Adrian M. Stütz,^{*} Anna Jauch,[†] Raeka S. Aiyar,^{*} Gregoire Pau,^{*2} Nicolas Delhomme,^{*3} Julien Gagneur,^{*4} Jan O. Korbel,^{*} Wolfgang Huber,^{*5} and Lars M. Steinmetz^{*5}

^{*}European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Genome Biology Unit, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany, and [†]University Hospital Heidelberg, Institute of Human Genetics, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany



- **1955: Eagle** studied **the nutrient requirements** of selected cells in culture and established the first widely used chemically defined medium.



- **1964: Littlefield** introduced the **HAT medium** for cell selection.

- **1965: Ham** introduced the first **serum-free medium** which was able to support the growth of some cells.



Major development's in cell culture technology

- **First**

the use of **antibiotics** which inhibits the growth of contaminants.

- **Second**

the **use of trypsin** to remove adherent cells to subculture further from the culture vessel

- **Third**

the use of **chemically defined culture medium.**

Cell culture

- *Bacteria*
- *Yeast (lower eukaryotic)*
- *Plant cell Cultures*

- **Primary cultures of animal cells**

- **Cell lines**

- **In Suspension**

- **Adherents**

CELL CULTURE LABORATORY



Cell cultures **last longer** and allow a **variety of studies** that are not possible with tissues.

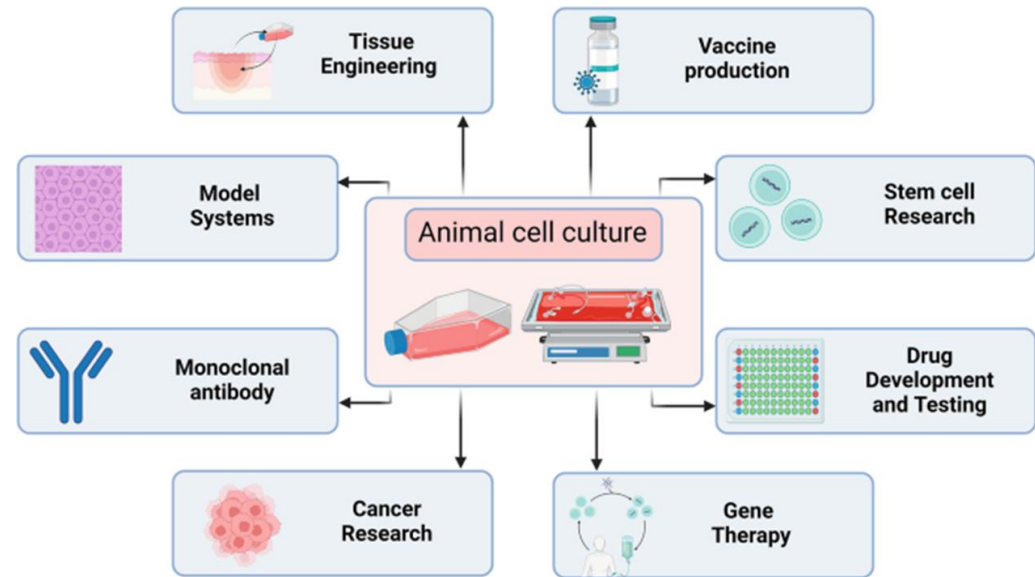
-the study of **cellular differentiation** (cell cycle)

- pathological studies;

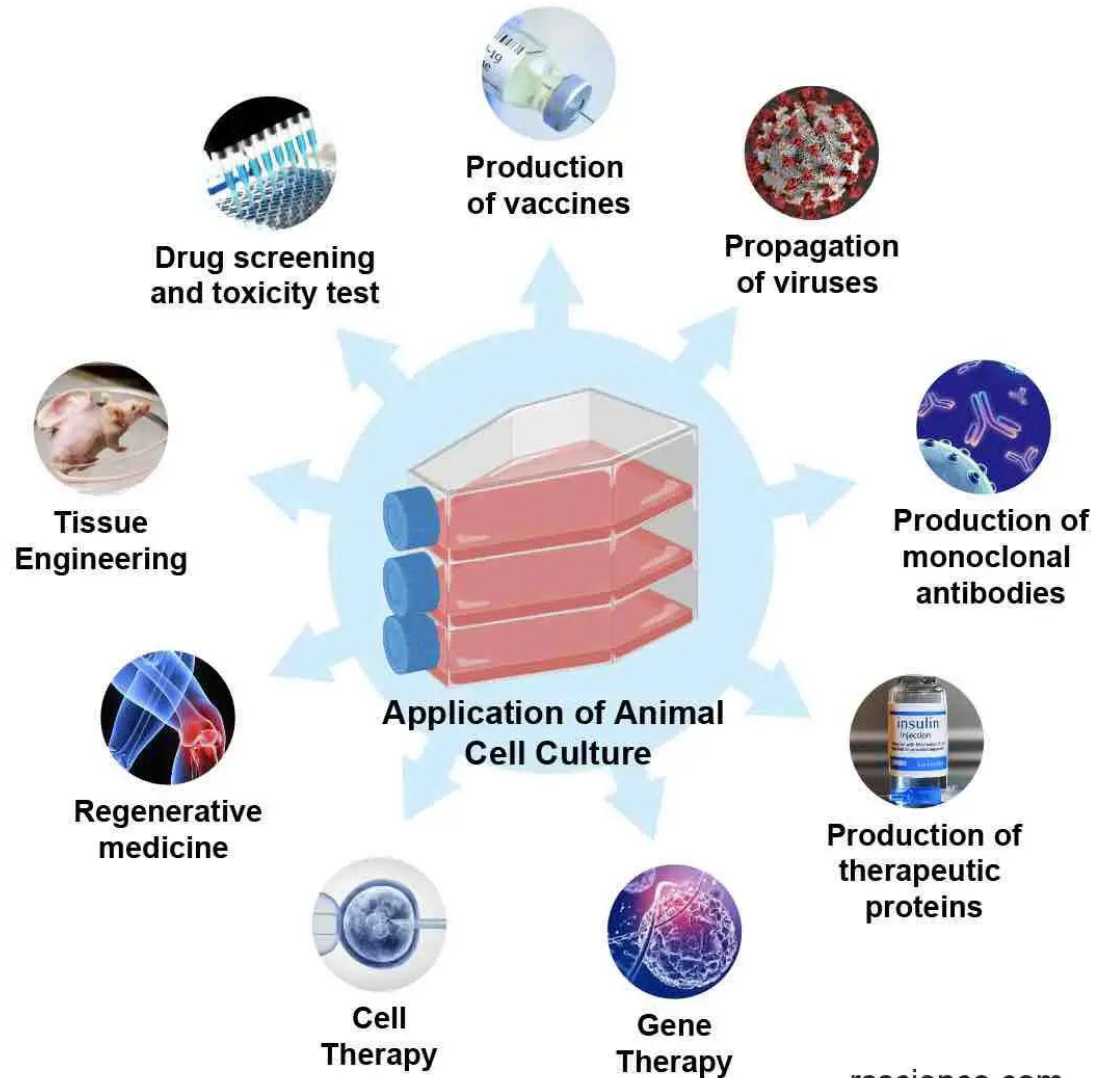
- experimental models in biochemistry, pharmacology, physiology;

- genetic manipulation;

- biotechnological applications



Application of Animal cell culture



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Advantages in cell cultures

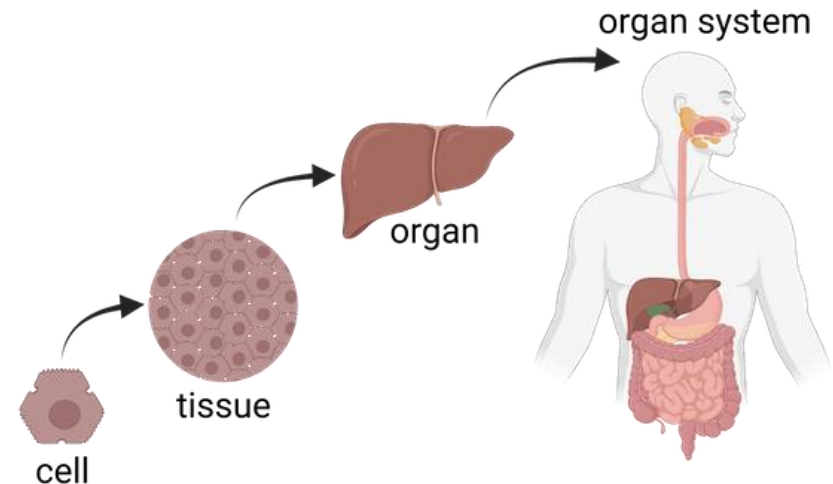
- **Commercial availability** of media, factors, etc.
 - **Documentation** on insulation/preservation
 - Control of **environmental variables** (T, PH...)
-

- Wide availability of **cell types**
-

- Simplicity in **replicating experiments**
- Possibility of **sizing experiments** with biotechnological purposes
- Reduction in the **number of animals killed**

Disadvantages in cell cultures

- **Cost** of materials required (eg, serum, growth factors...)
- Very specialized and **laborious methods**
- **Simplified systems** compared to an integrated body
- Difficulty in correlating ***in vitro*** concentrations with those ***in vivo***



Tipi di colture cellulari

- **Colture in monostrato/ in sospensione:** le cellule tendono ad aderire alla superficie del recipiente di coltura; moltiplicandosi formano un monostrato, in quanto risentono dell'inibizione da contatto. Cellule trasformate possono formare pluristrati.
- **Colture a breve/lungo termine:** nel primo caso il numero di cicli cui vanno incontro le cellule è ridotto; in colture a lungo termine le cellule si dividono molte volte, o addirittura illimitatamente (**linee cellulari stabilizzate**)
- **Colture clonali:** le cellule vengono diluite prima della “semina” in modo da avere ogni cellula separata, che prolifera formando una singola colonia (**clone**).

Monolayer / suspension cultures:

Cells tend to adhere to the surface of the culture vessel; as they multiply, they form a monolayer, as they are sensitive to contact inhibition. Transformed cells can form multilayers.

Short-term / long-term cultures:

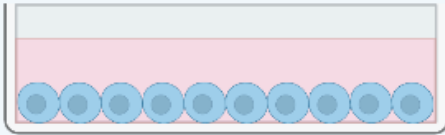
In the first case, the number of cycles the cells undergo is limited; in long-term cultures, cells divide many times, or even indefinitely (established cell lines).

Culturing of cells

- Cells are cultured as **anchorage dependent** or **independent**

Cell Culture Classification by Adhesion

Adherent



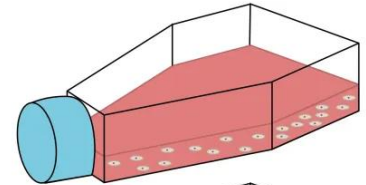
- Cells are attached to solid surface
- Grown as monolayers

Suspension

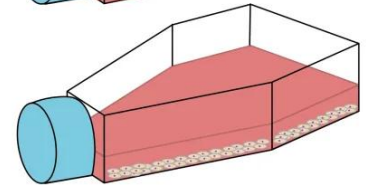


- Cells are free-floating in liquid medium

Suspension
Cell Culture



Adherent
Cell Culture



- Cell lines derived from **normal tissues** are considered as **anchorage-dependent** grows only on a suitable substrate e.g. tissue cells
- **Suspension cells** are **anchorage-independent** e.g. blood cells
- **Transformed cell lines** either grows as monolayer or as suspension

Cells that are part of **solid tissues** grow in vitro **adhering** to the surface of the culture plates.



Confluent cells in monolayer L929 mouse fibroblast cells.

The cells of **haematopoietic origin**, which normally grow in fluid medium, grow in suspension and multiply in vitro **without adhering**.

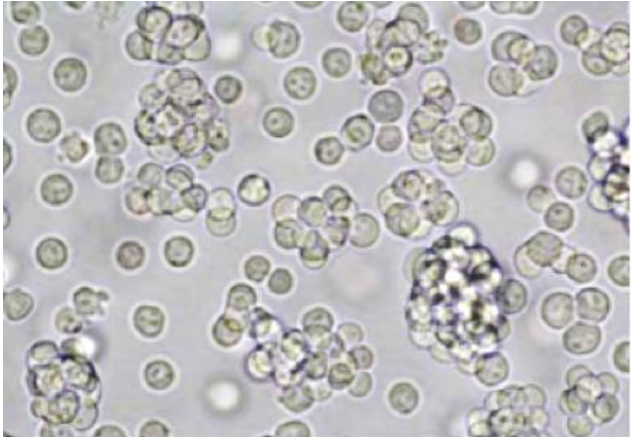
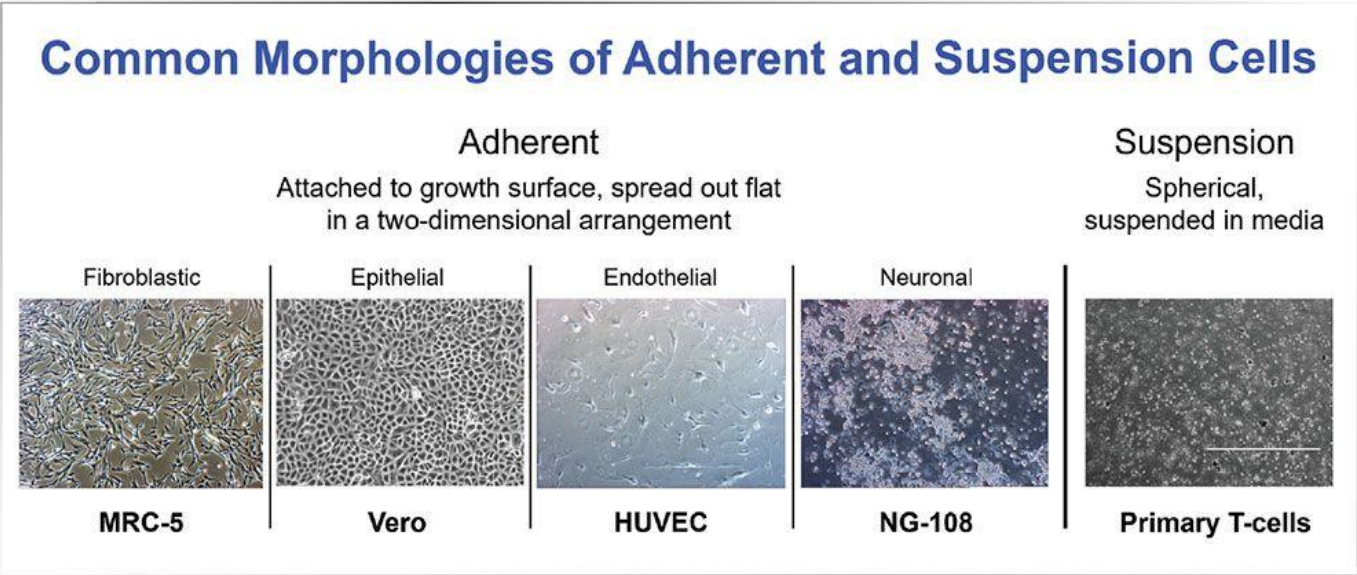


Figure 1. Visual showing the characteristic cell morphologies of adherent and suspension cells.



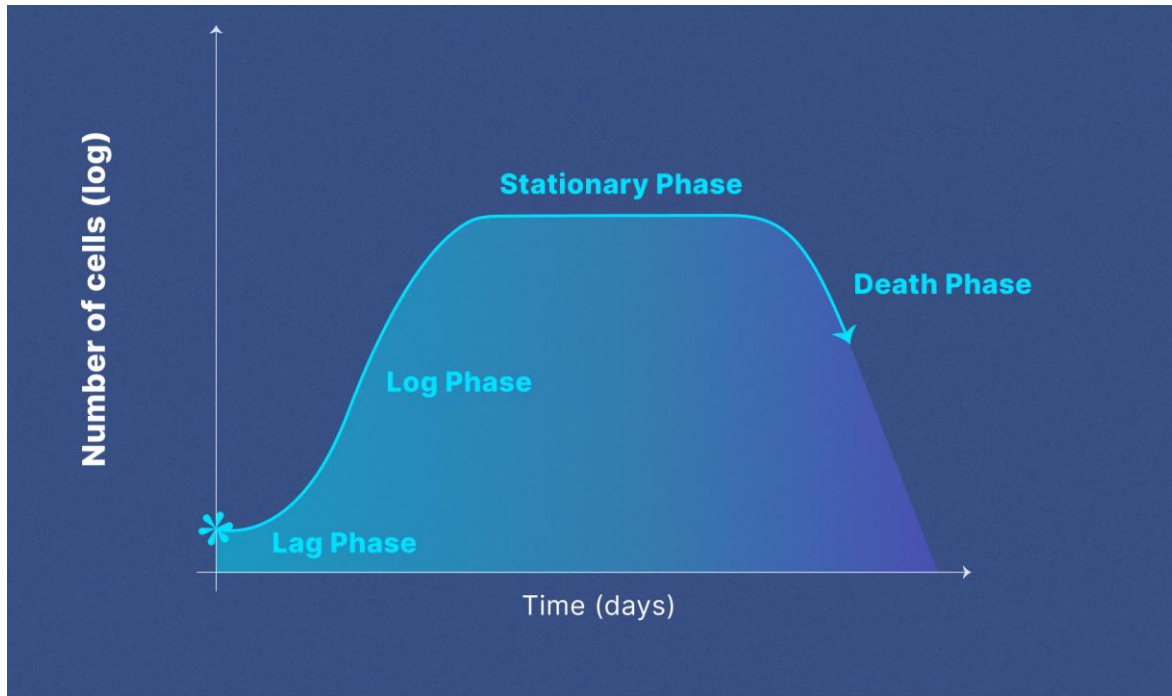
Monolayer / suspension cultures:

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In the first case, the number of cycles the cells undergo is limited; in long-term cultures, cells divide many times, or even indefinitely (established cell lines).

Cell culture growth generally occurs in **four phases**



Lag phase occurs when cells are acclimatizing to culture conditions and are not dividing.

Log phase occurs when cells are actively dividing. This is **the best phase for cell experimentation and data collection**.

Cells should be sub-cultured when they reach late log phase.

When cells approach overcrowding, cell growth slows. This is known as **stationary phase** or plateau phase.

When the natural process of cell death predominates, a cell population is considered to be in **death phase**

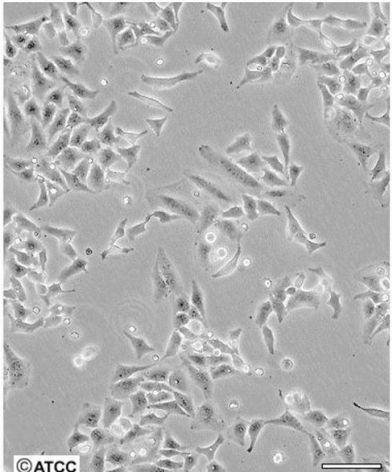
It is important to note that the amount of time spent in each phase **differs between individual cell lines and cultures**

Anchorage dependent cells

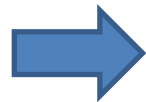
At **confluence**, **growth stops**, and cells must be detached and transferred to new plates.

This action is called **subculturing** or **passaging the cells**.

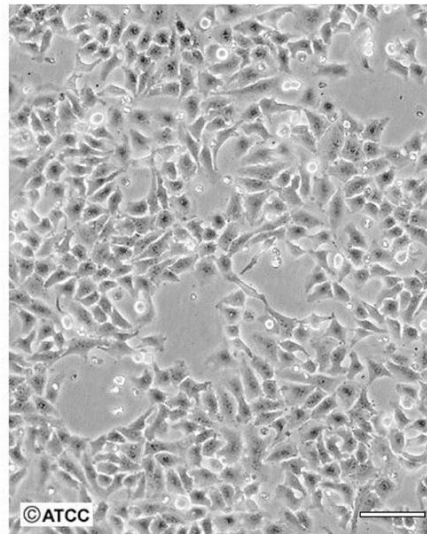
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Designation: **HeLa**



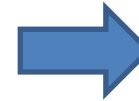
Low Density
Scale Bar = 100µm
Density of the cult



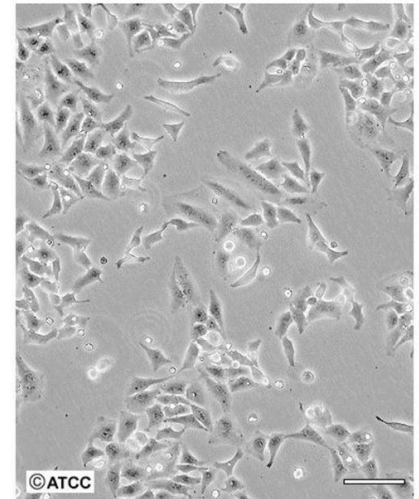
Growth



High Density
Scale Bar = 100µm
Density influences the cell shape



ATCC Number: **CCL-2**
Designation: **HeLa**



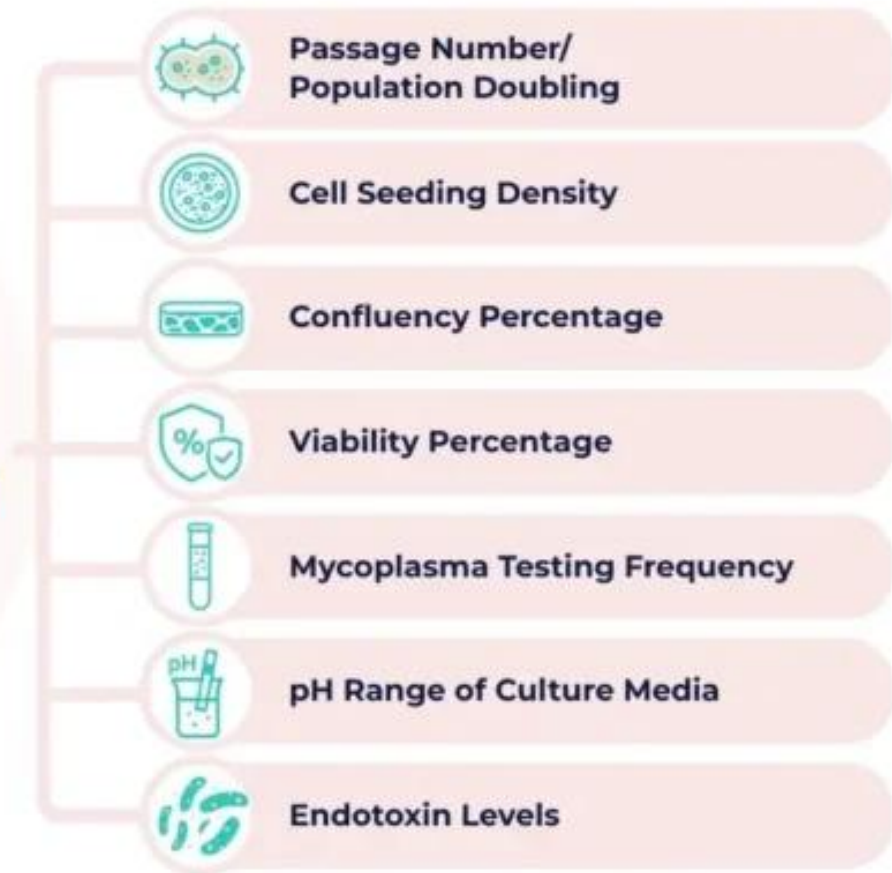
Low Density
Scale Bar = 100µm
Density of the cult

Plate cells at correct seeding density

Collect and dilute

7 Critical Numbers in Cell Culture Every Researcher Should Know

7 Critical Numbers in Cell Culture Every Researcher Should Know



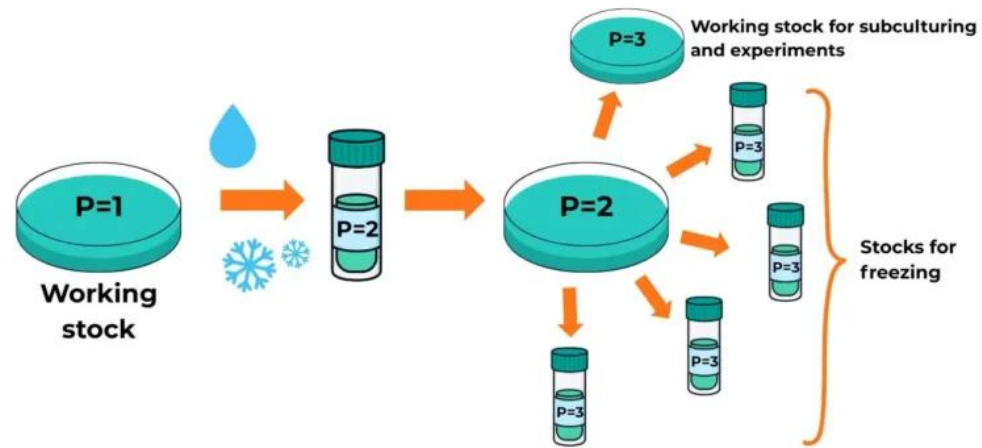
Cell Passaging

Cell passaging or splitting is a **technique** that enables an individual to **keep cells alive and growing** under cultured conditions for extended periods of time

What does '**passage number**' mean?

The **passage number** of a cell culture is a record of

- **the number of times the culture has been subcultured**, i.e. harvested and reseeded into multiple 'daughter' cell culture flasks.

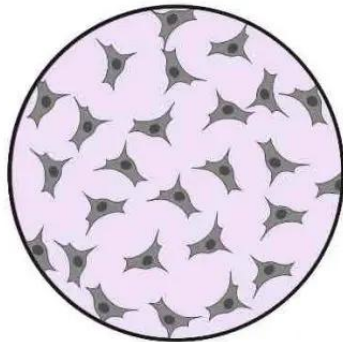


Although passage number is often treated as a routine metric, **it plays a critical role in determining cell quality, performance, and experimental reproducibility**. Over time, cells accumulate molecular and epigenetic changes during in vitro culture. These changes can lead to significant shifts in behaviour, such as altered gene expression, slower proliferation, reduced viability, or unwanted differentiation — even when cell morphology remains unchanged.

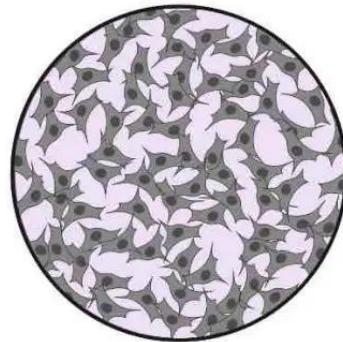
Cellular Confluence

Cellular confluence generally refers to the **percentage of the culture vessel inhabited by attached cells**.

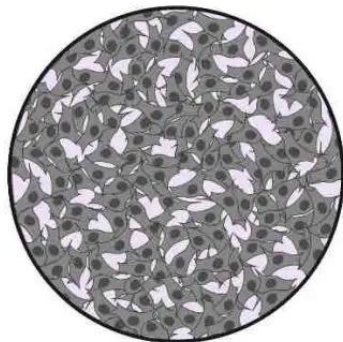
For example, **100% cellular confluence** means the surface area is completely covered by cells, whereas **50% confluence** means roughly half of the surface is covered.



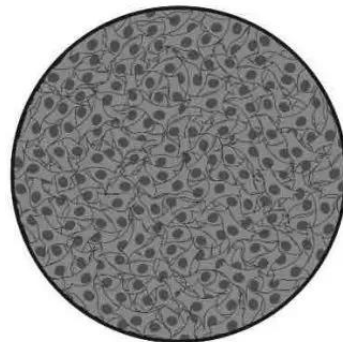
20%



50%

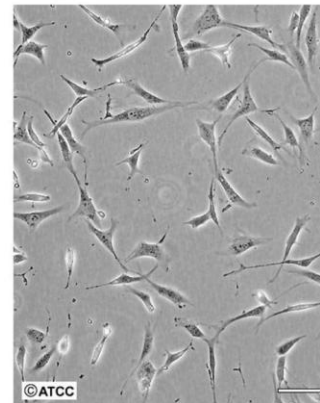


80%



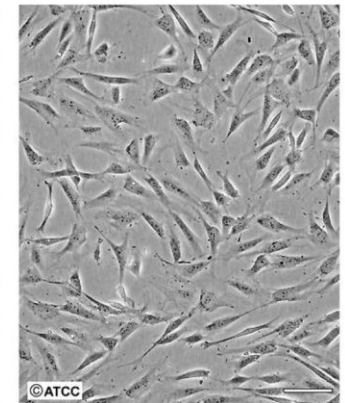
100%

ATCC Number: **CRL-1658**
Designation: **NIH/3T3**



Low Density

Scale Bar = 100µm

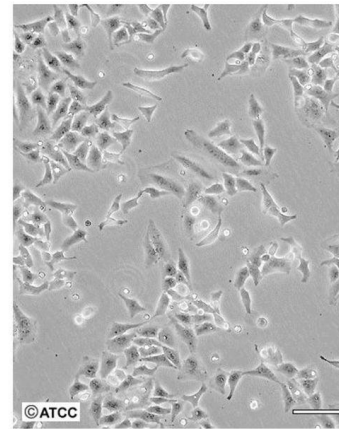


High Density

Scale Bar = 100µm

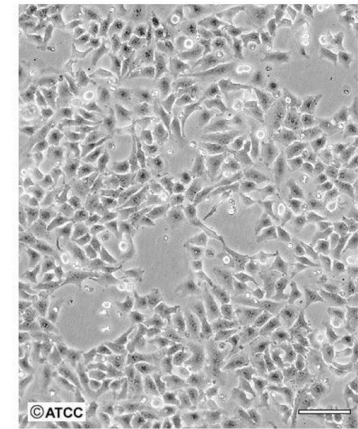
Density of the culture influences the cell shape

ATCC Number: **CCL-2**
Designation: **HeLa**



Low Density

Scale Bar = 100µm



High Density

Scale Bar = 100µm

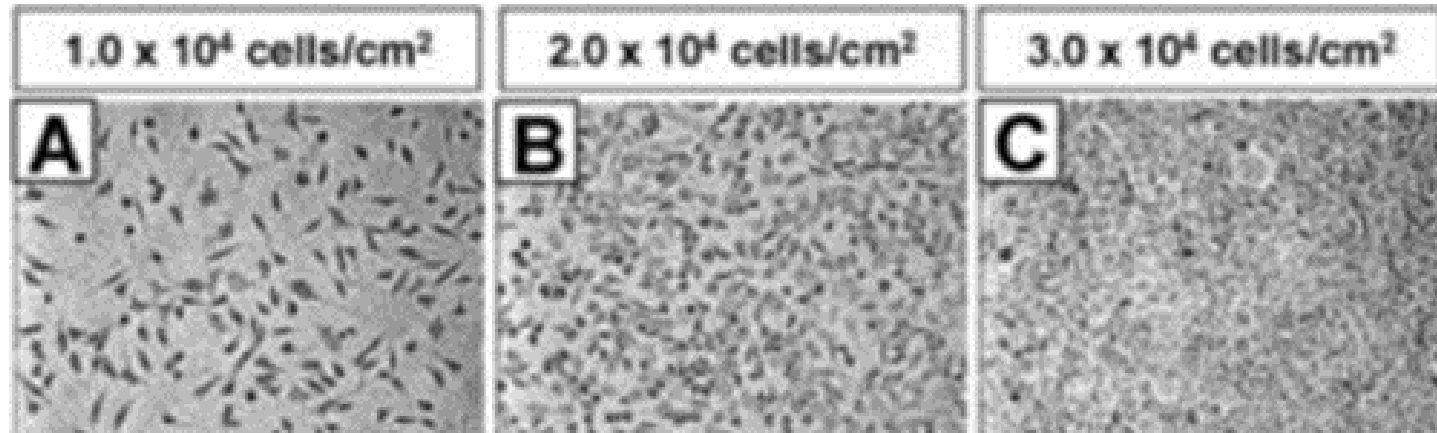
Density of the culture influences the cell shape

Cell Seeding Density

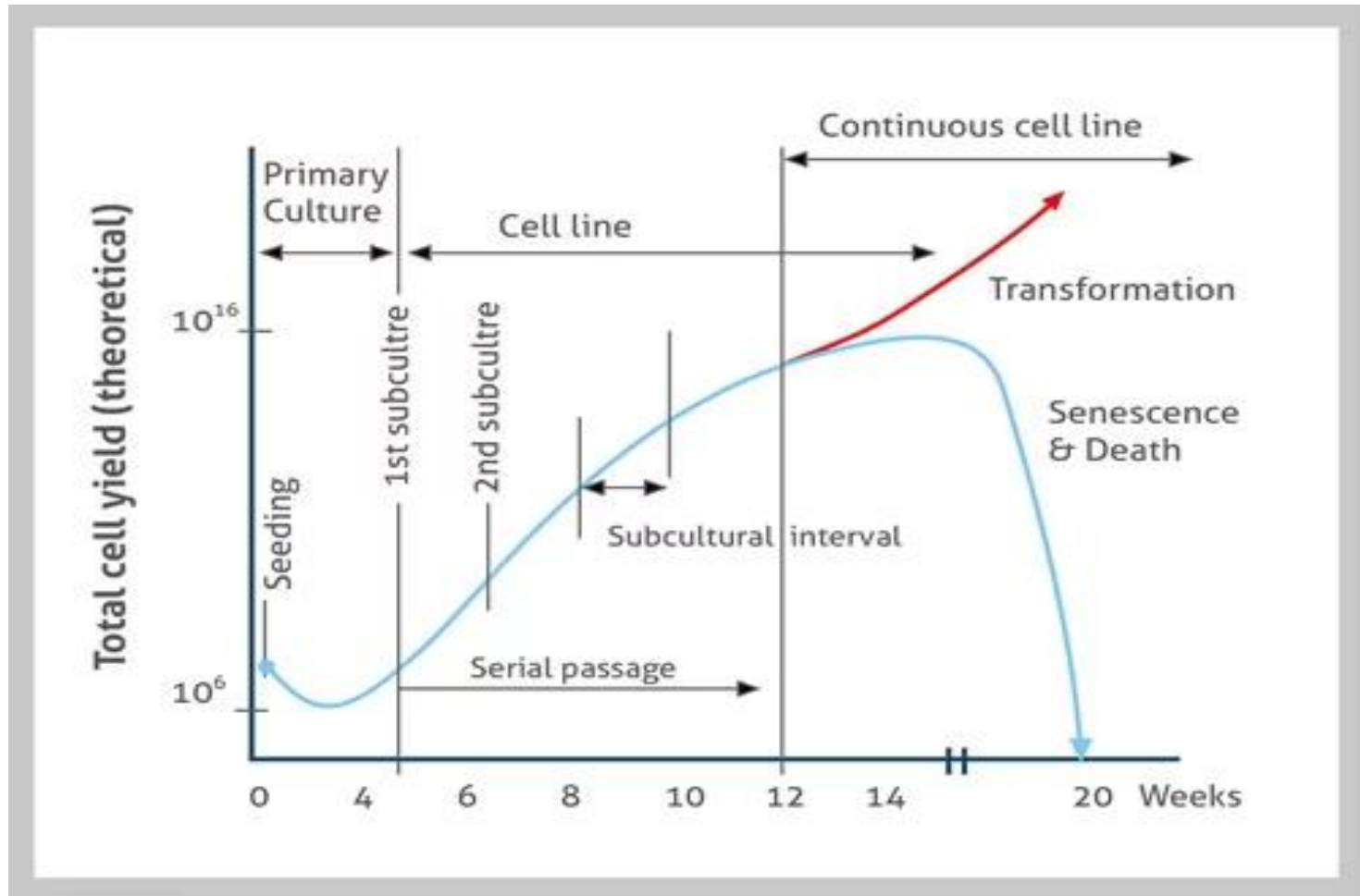
- the number of cells plated per unit area (for adherent cells) or per unit volume (for suspension cells)
- is a **fundamental parameter** in cell culture. It directly influences growth rate, morphology, gene expression, and the outcome of downstream assays.

Incorrect seeding can lead to:

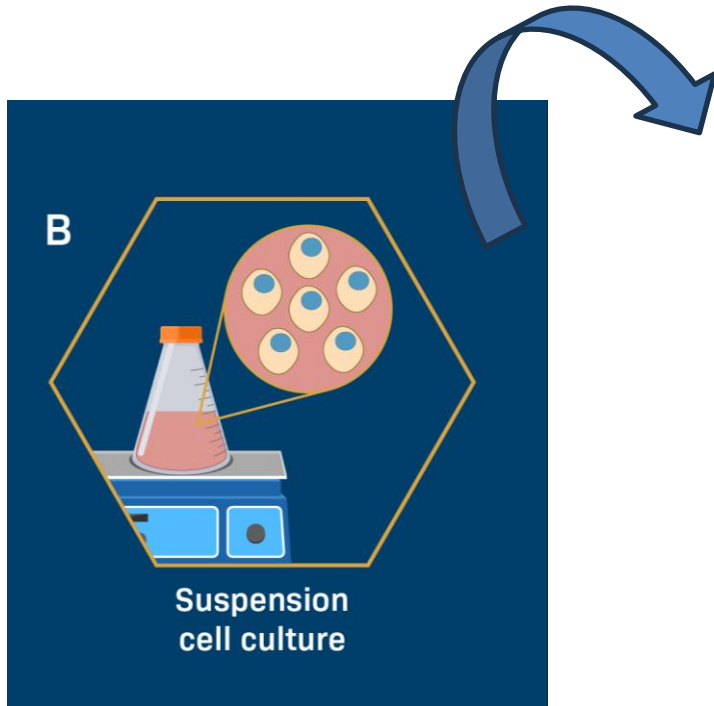
- **Over-confluency**, causing contact inhibition, altered signalling, or early senescence
- **Low density**, which can stress cells, delay growth, or alter behaviour
- **Experimental variability**, especially in assays dependent on cell–cell interactions, secreted factors, or differentiation cues



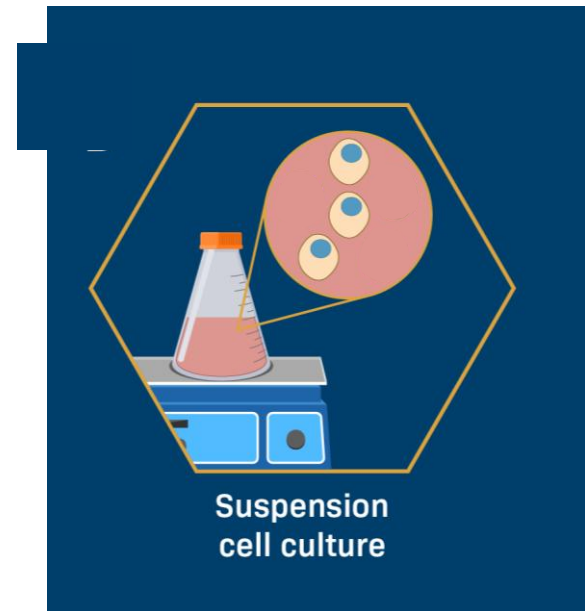
Evolution of a cell culture



Passing Suspension cells



Aseptically remove **1/3rd** of medium



- Easier to passage as **no need to detach them**
- As the suspension cells **reach to confluency**

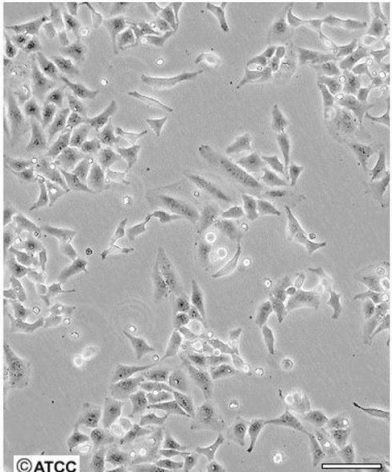
Replaced with the same amount of pre-warmed medium

Anchorage dependent cells

At **confluence**, **growth stops**, and cells must be detached and transferred to new plates.

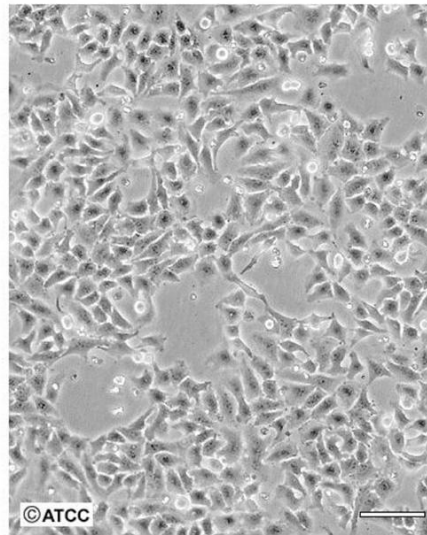
This action is called **subculturing** or **passaging the cells**.

ATCC Number: **CCL-2**
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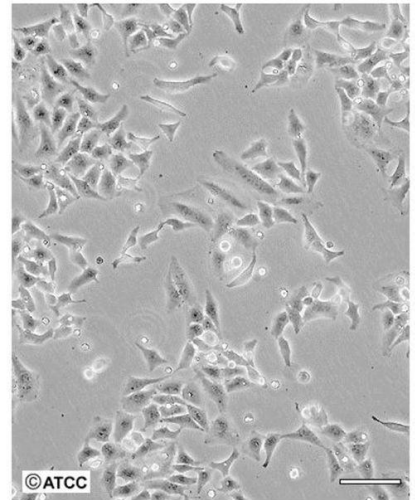
Low Density
Density of the cult

Growth



High Density
Density influences the cell shape

ATCC Number: **CCL-2**
Designation: **HeLa**



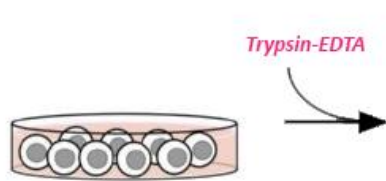
Low Density
Density of the cult

Plate cells at correct seeding density

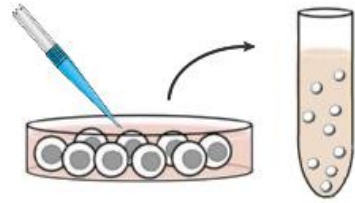
Collect and dilute

Adherent cells

Remove culture supernatant and add pre-warmed Trypsin-EDTA to cell monolayer



Add equal volume of complete medium to neutralize trypsin and collect cells into a centrifuge tube



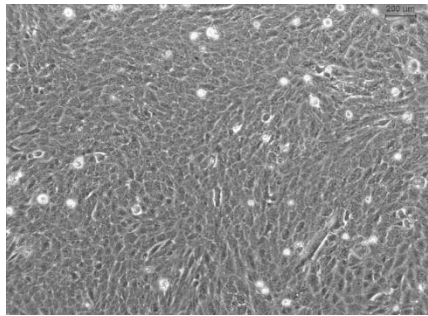
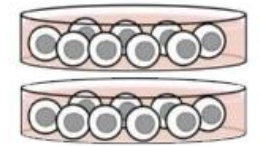
Centrifuge at 200 x g for 3 mins to pellet the cells



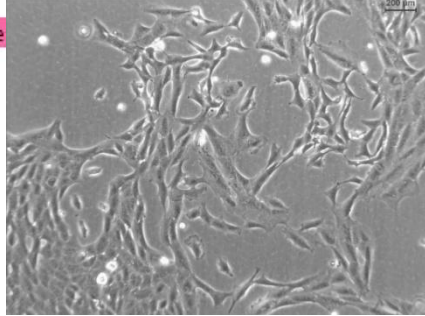
Remove supernatant



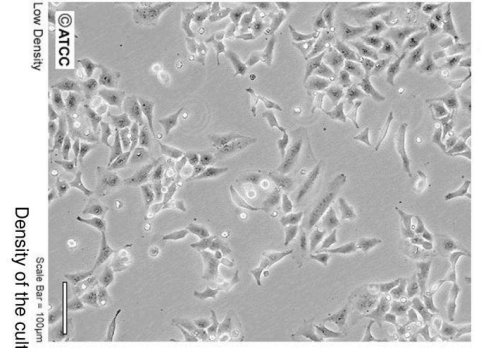
Plate cells once resuspended with culture medium into culture vessels



100% confluence

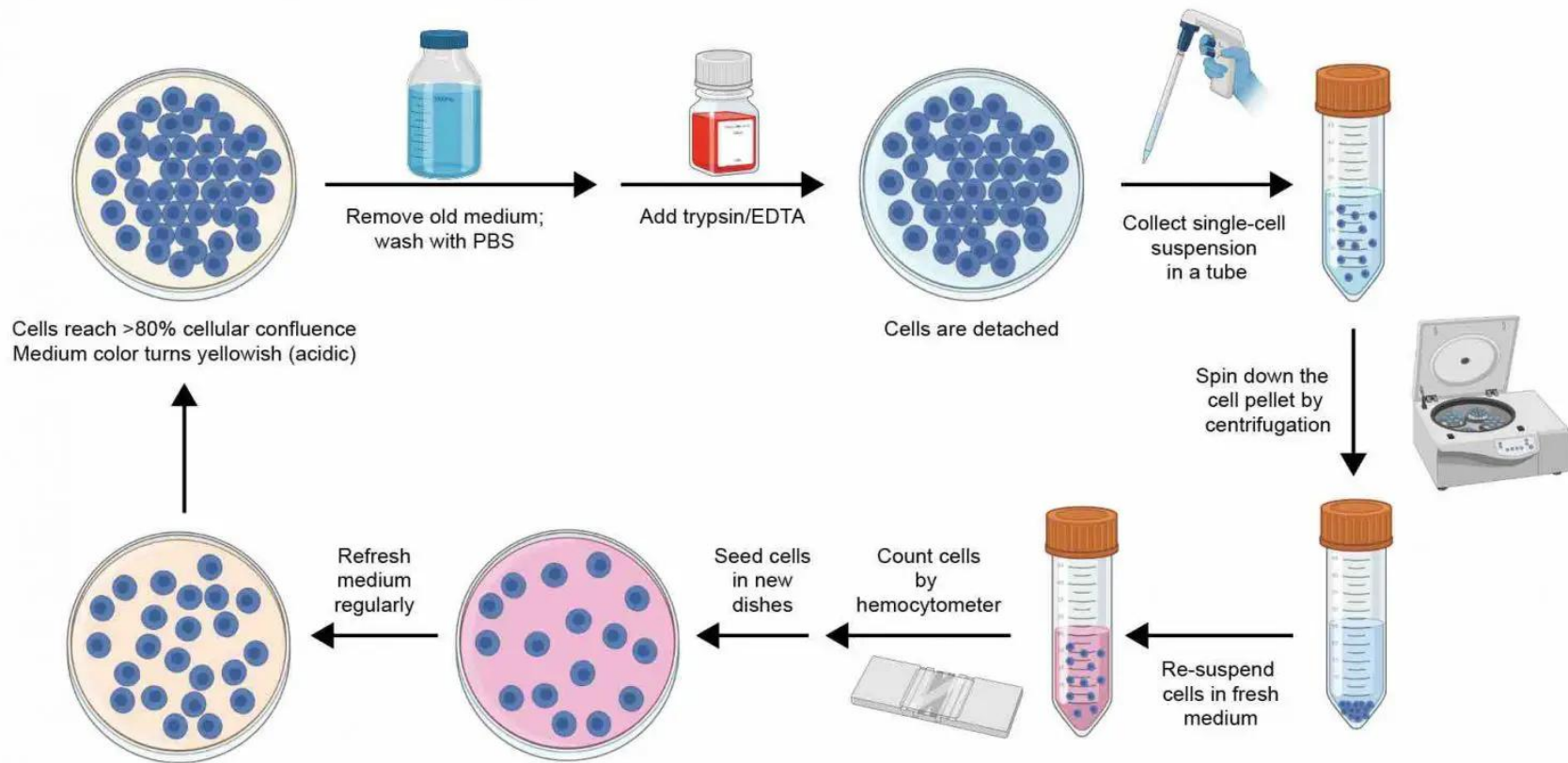


60% confluence



ATCC Number: CCL-2
Designation: HeLa

Cell Sub-Culture Workflow



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A) For the transfer, the **use of EDTA** (chel Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} , indispensable for adhesion) and / or **trypsin** (degrades the proteins of the matrix) are used.

B) After detachment, the action of EDTA and trypsin is neutralized by the addition of a **new culture medium containing excess divalent cations** and trypsin inhibitors.

C) The cells are collected by centrifugation, resuspended, **counted** and **diluted** in new plates.

Primary cultures

Primary cultures are defined as

- cultures **obtained from cells coming directly from tissue; embryos, adult** cells in suspension or from tumors.

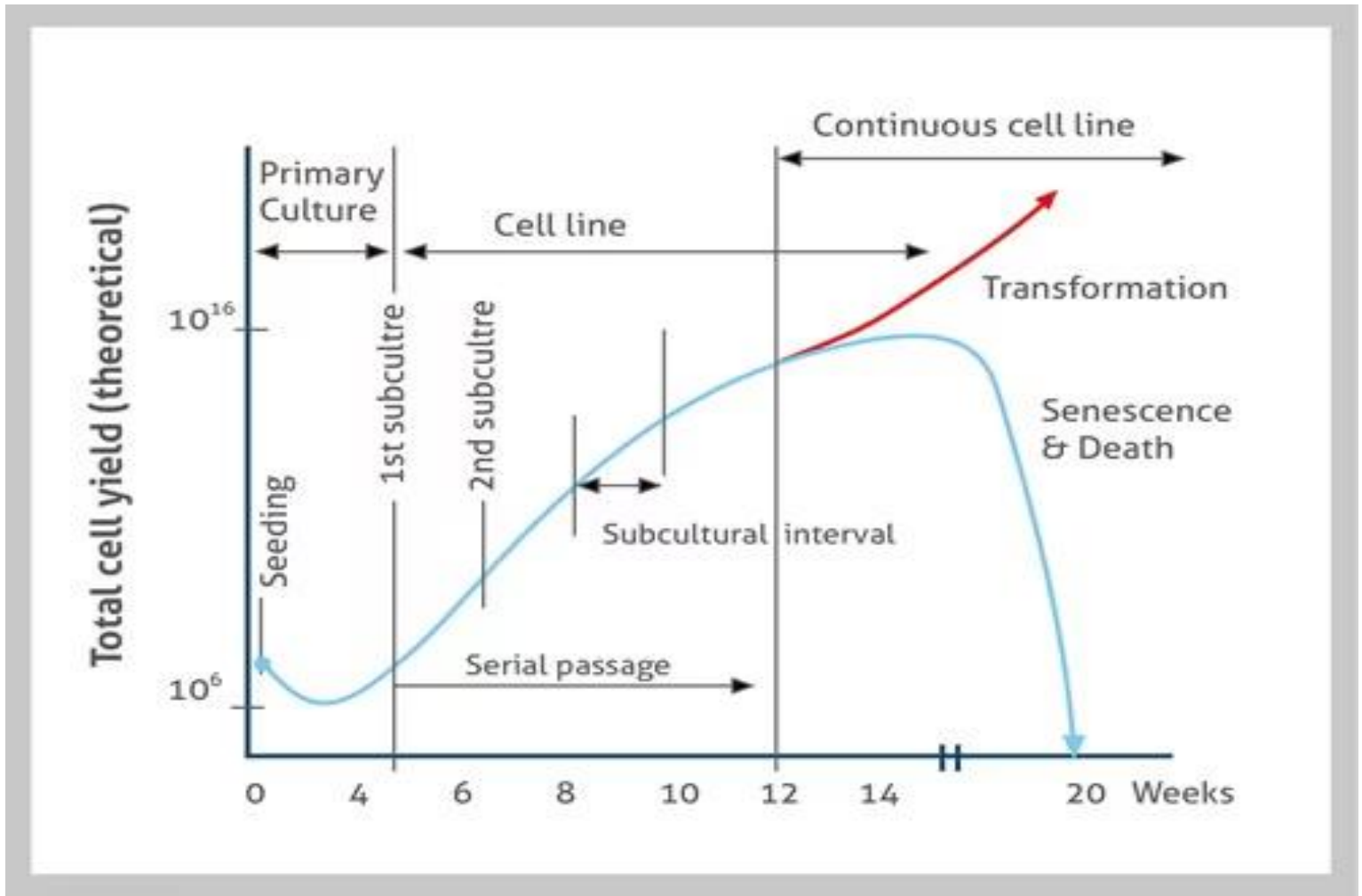
They generally contain a **relatively heterogeneous mixture of cells** in different physiological states.

There are cells that can grow in suspension or attached to an artificial matrix such as plastic but also to collagen.

Secondary cultures

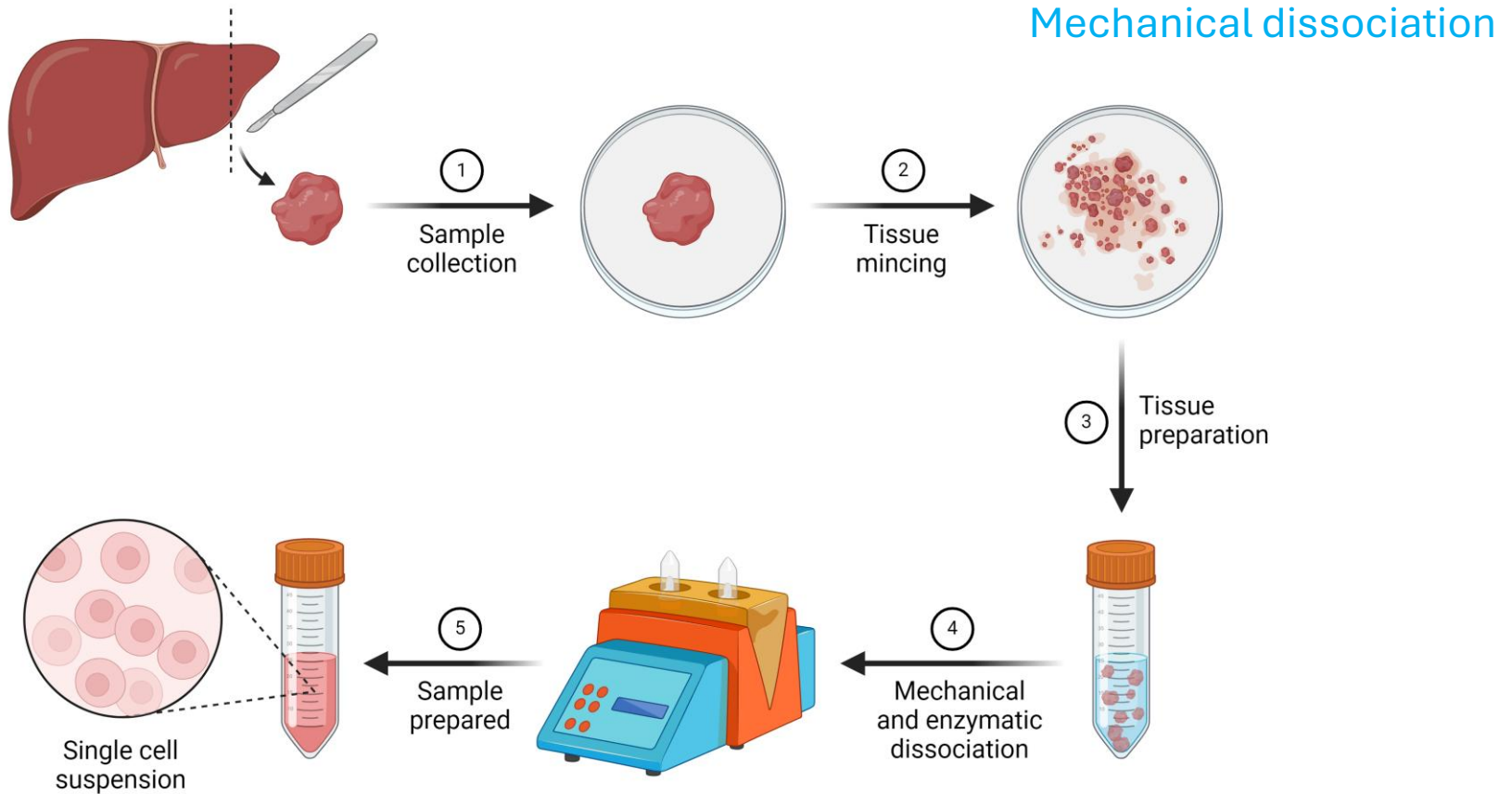
are subcultures of primary cultures that become necessary when the cells reach confluence or completely cover the matrix to which they are attached.

Evolution of a cell culture



Primary cultures

Cells from a sample (organ, biopsy, embryos).



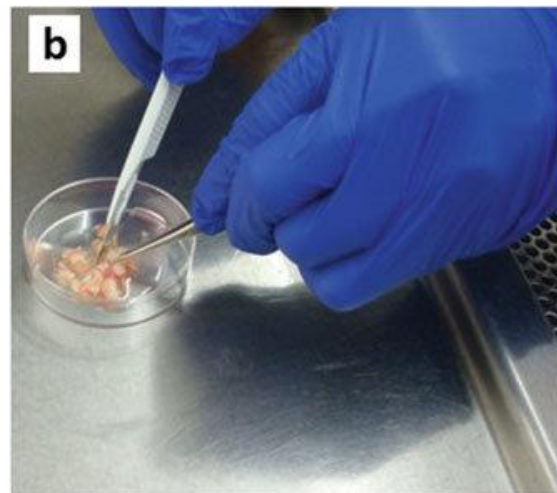
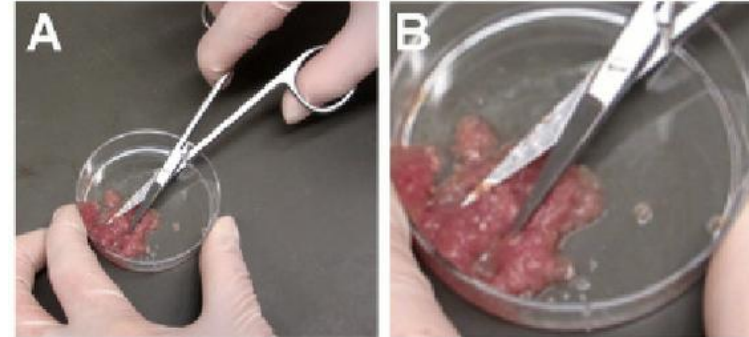
Mechanical dissociation

Enzymatic dissociation

Control of cell viability
and plating

Mechanical dissociation

- repeated mincing with scissors or sharp blades,
- scraping the tissue surface,
- homogenization,
- vortexing, repeated aspiration through pipettes or sequentially smaller needles (e.g., 16-, 20-, and 23-gauge),
- application of abnormal osmolarity stress,



Cell strainers

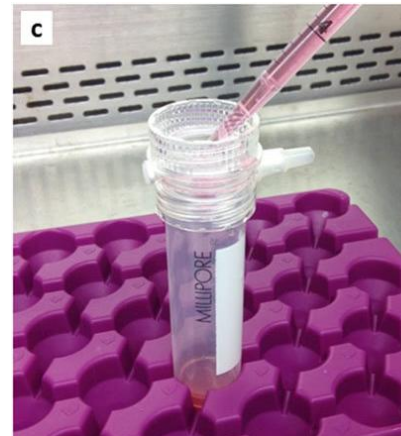
are sterile, easy to use devices for rapidly isolating primary cells to consistently obtain **a uniform single-cell suspension from tissues**. Fits 50 ml Falcon® conical tubes.



- filtration through a nylon or steel mesh (**50–100 µm opening**),

This process **generates single cell suspensions quickly** with a minimal number of steps.

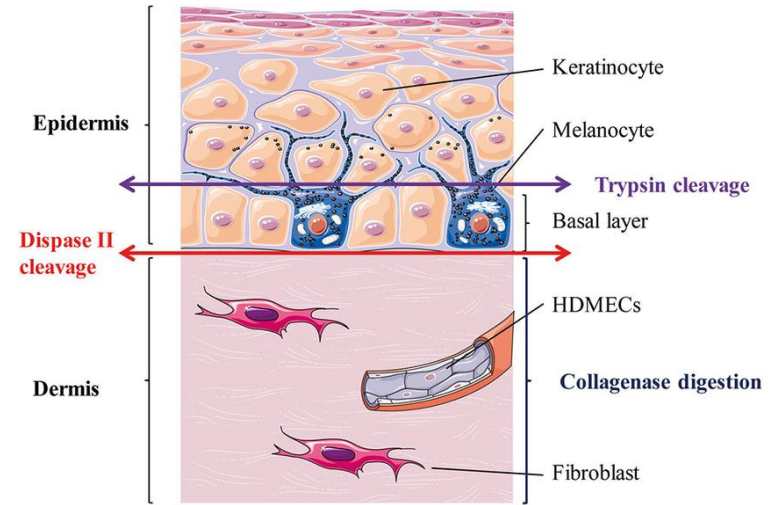
However, dissociation of tumor tissue using mechanical methods is not often a suitable technique, for obtaining tumor cells for culture because the technique results in **a high percentage of dead cells** that secrete degrading enzymes



Enzymatic dissociation

Enzymatic dissociation is a commonly used practice to digest minced tissue into a single cell suspensions due to proper digestion of tissue and preservation of cell viability and integrity.

Numerous studies have shown that **certain enzymes are more effective than others** for dissociation of specific tissues.



- **Trypsin**

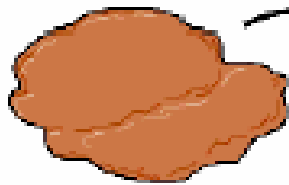


- **papain,**
- **elastase,**
- **hyaluronidase,**
- **collagenase,**
- **pronase,**
- **deoxyribonuclease.**

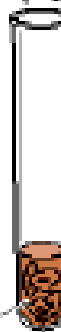


Crescita di cellule animali in coltura

Tessuto



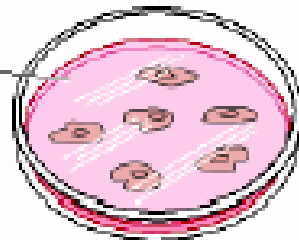
Un frammento di tessuto viene disperso in una sospensione di singole cellule.



Sospensione cellulare

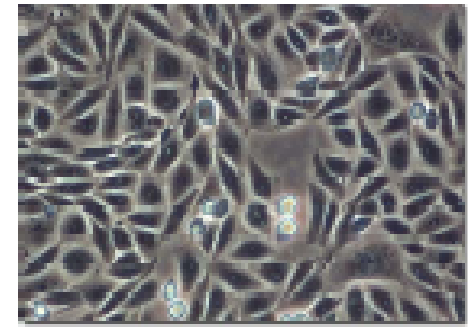
Le cellule sono piastrate in una piastra di coltura in un mezzo nutriente

Mezzo liquido



Coltura primaria

Le cellule di questa coltura primaria si attaccano alla piastra e crescono fino a coprirne la superficie.



Cellule di ovaio di criceto

Primary culture

The cells are derived directly from **the original tissue** and retain many functional features that are also found in vivo.

During growth, **selection occurs** based on the degree of proliferation:

- expansion of proliferating cells,
- those that survive but cannot duplicate remain stationary,
- while other cell types are not resistant.

This means that **the proportions of the different cell types change over time** until an equilibrium is reached that is significantly different from the initial situation.

When the proliferation has depleted the culture medium, a subculture must be established in a new container with fresh medium

Types of cell cultured *in vitro*

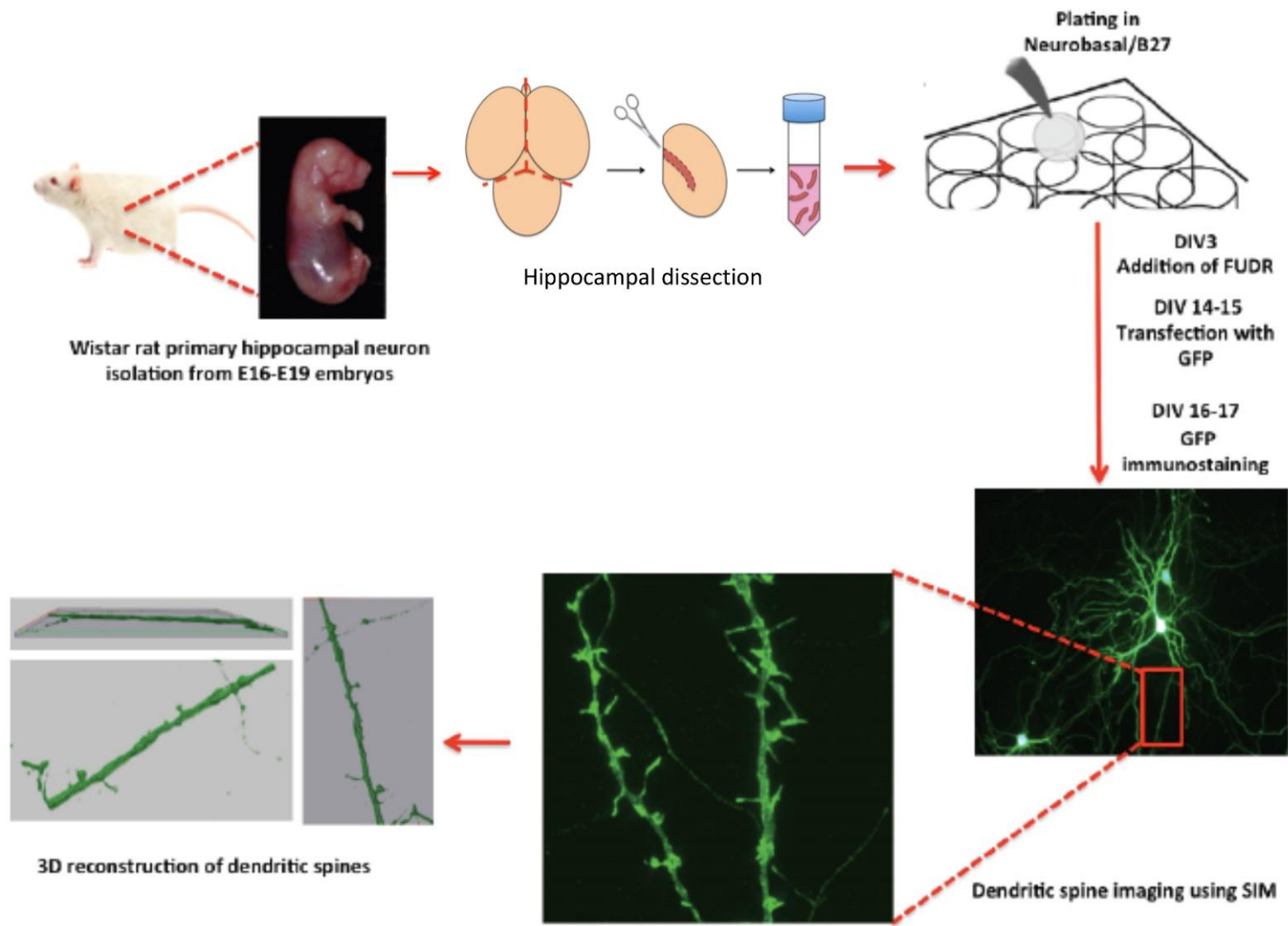
Primary cultures

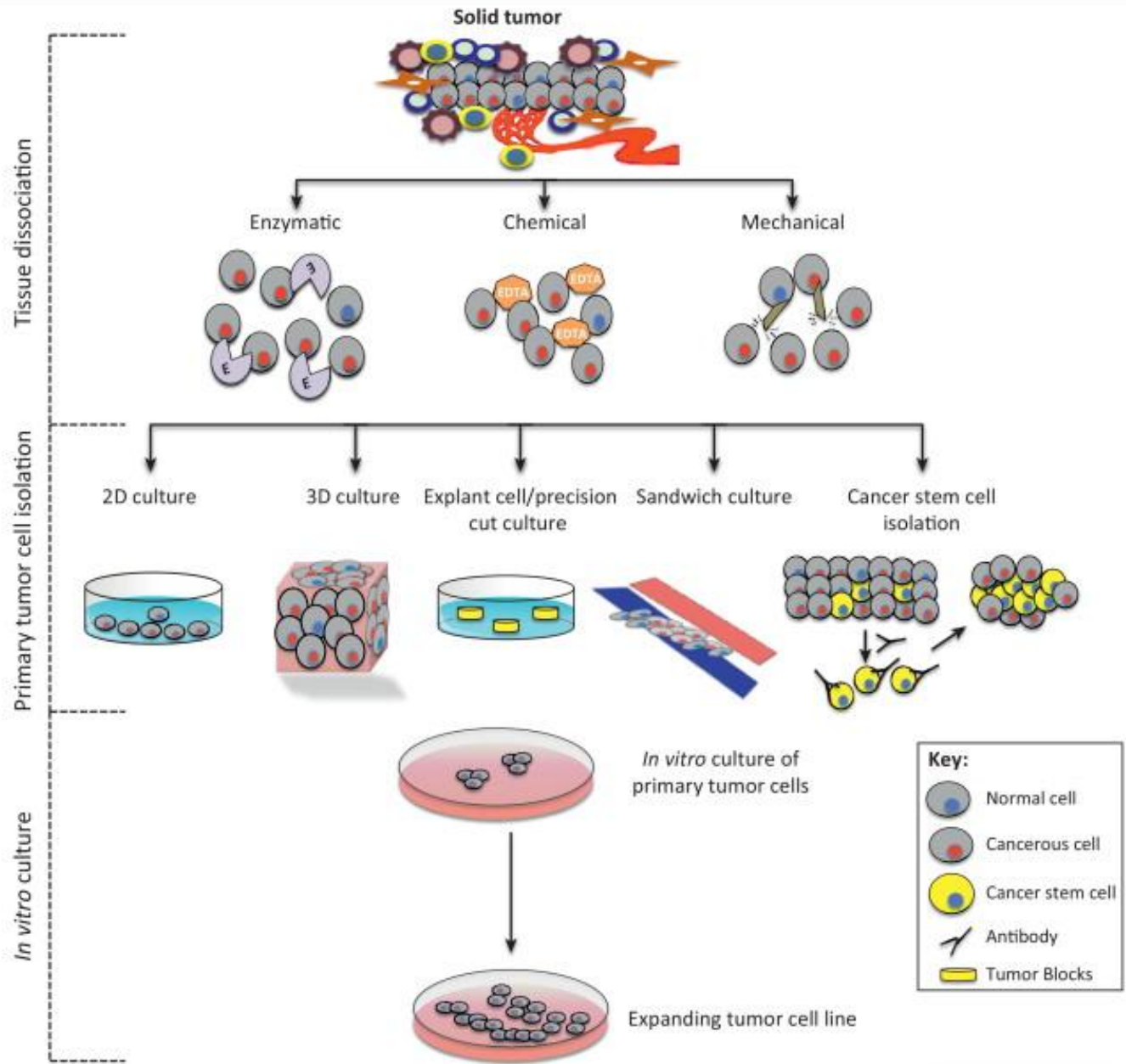
- Derived directly from animal tissue
- embryo or adult?/ Normal or neoplastic?
- Cultured either as tissue explants or single cells
- Initially heterogeneous – become overpopulated with fibroblasts
- **Finite life span *in vitro***
- Retain **differentiated phenotype**
- Mainly anchorage dependant
- Exhibit contact inhibition

Secondary cultures

Derived from a primary cell culture

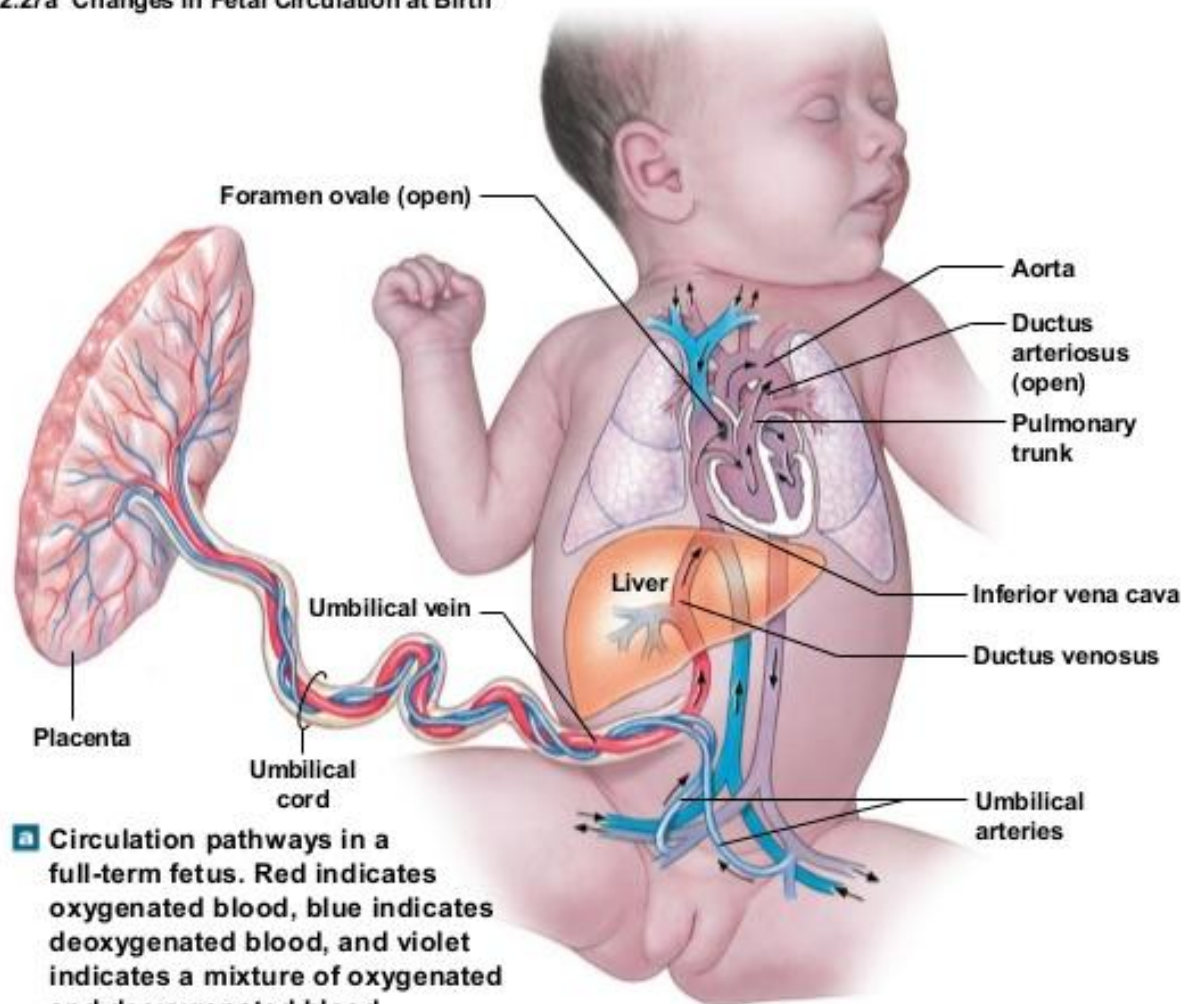
- Isolated by selection or cloning
- Becoming a more homogeneous cell population
- **Finite life span *in vitro***
- Retain **differentiated phenotype**
- Mainly anchorage dependant
- Exhibit contact inhibition



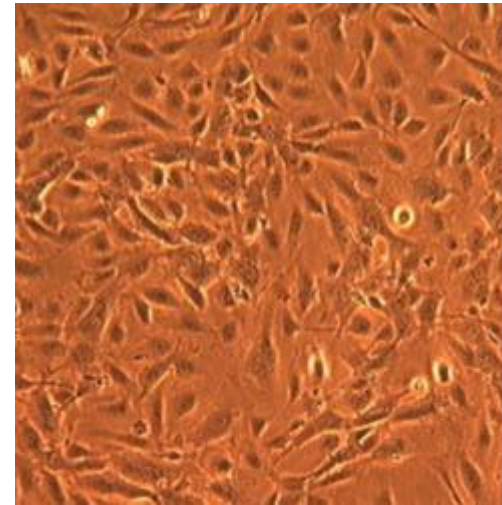
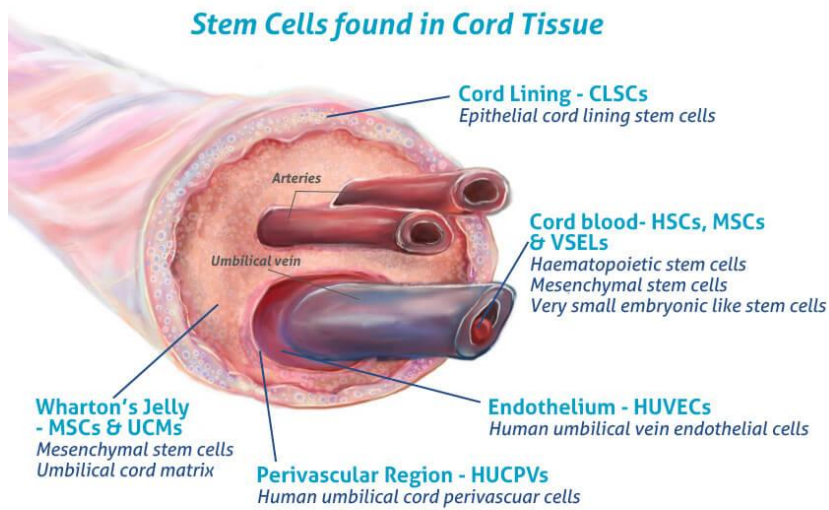


HUVEC - Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

Figure 22.27a Changes in Fetal Circulation at Birth



HUVEC Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cell



**Video isolamento
cellule x2**

isolation from umbilical cord was first described in 1973.

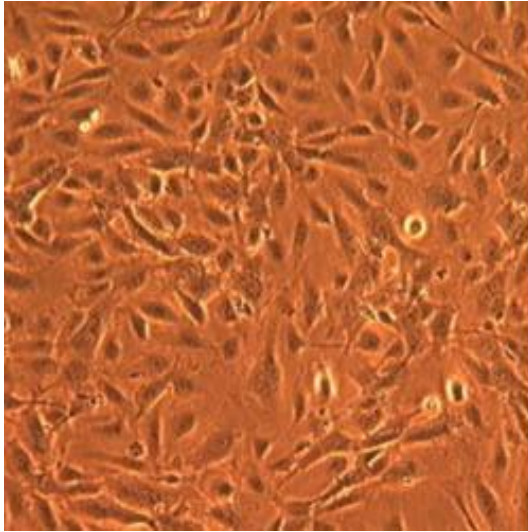
To date, this model is still widely used because of the **high HUVEC isolation success rate**, and because HUVEC are **an excellent model to study a broad array of diseases**, including cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.

<https://www.stemcell.com/how-to-prepare-a-single-cell-suspension-from-mouse-spleen.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gePfThd2Hro>

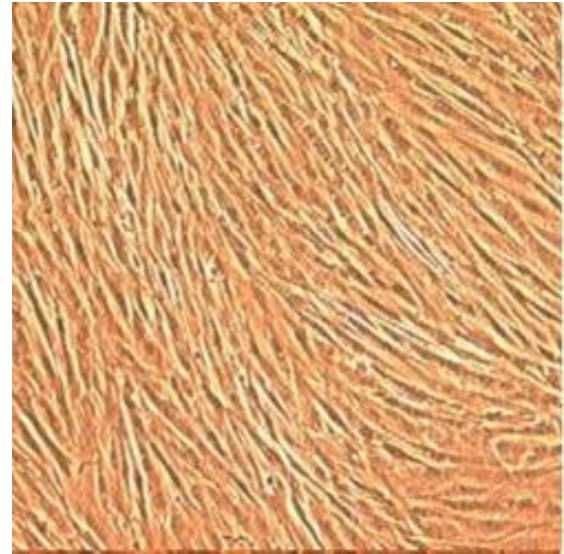
HUVEC

Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cells

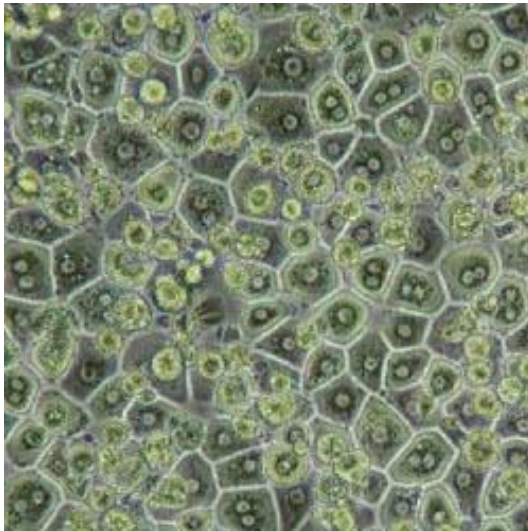


NHLF

Normal Human Lung Fibroblasts



Human **Hepatocytes**



Normal Human Epidermal **Keratinocytes**

