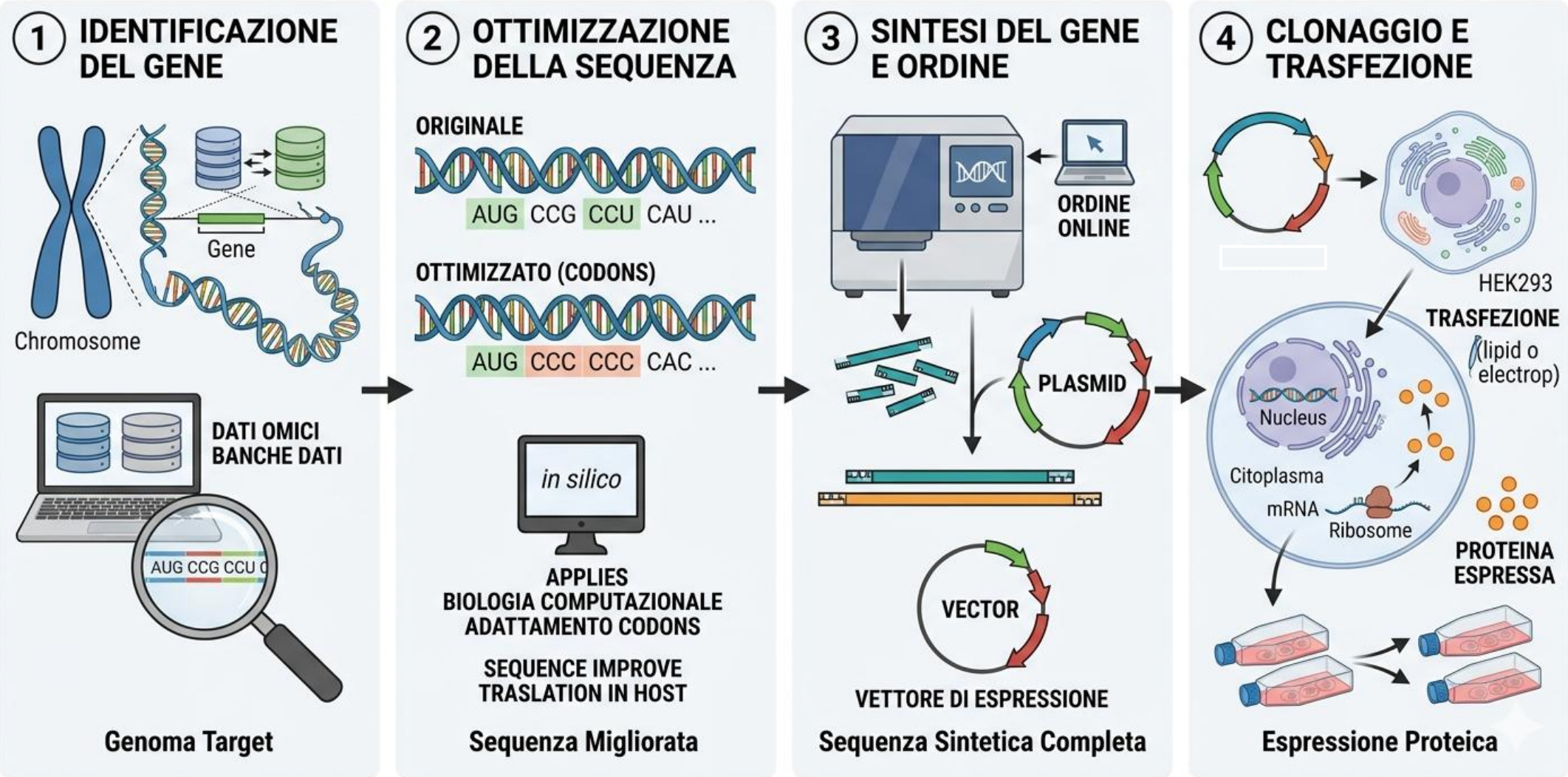


# MODERN GENE CLONING FOR EUKARYOTIC EXPRESSION



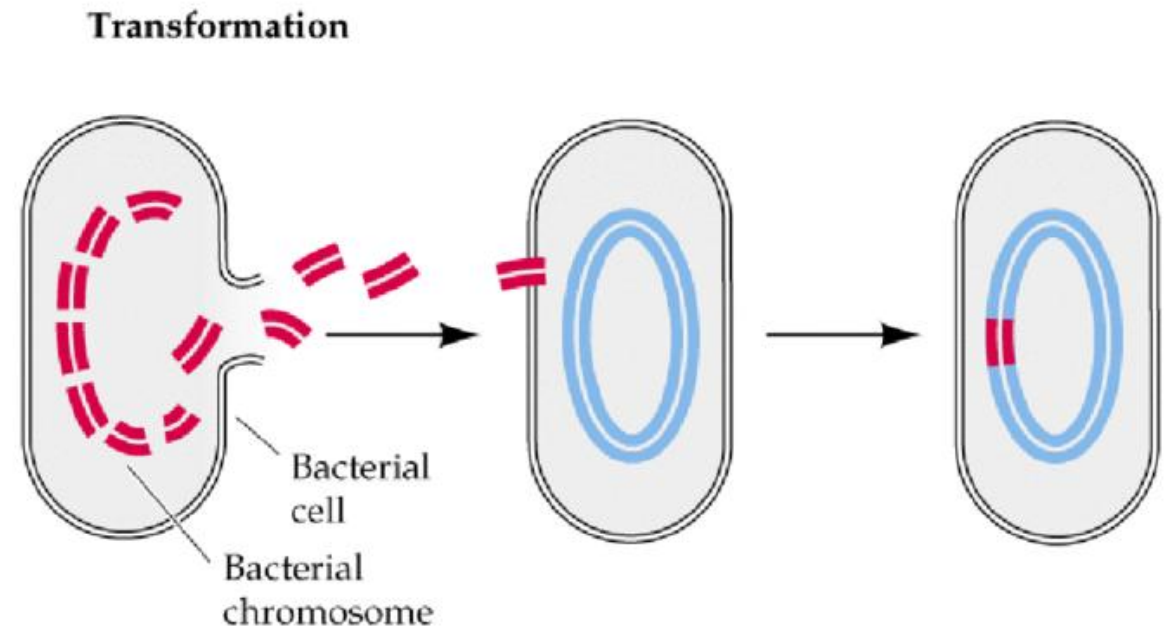
## La **trasformazione**

è quel processo di trasferimento nel quale

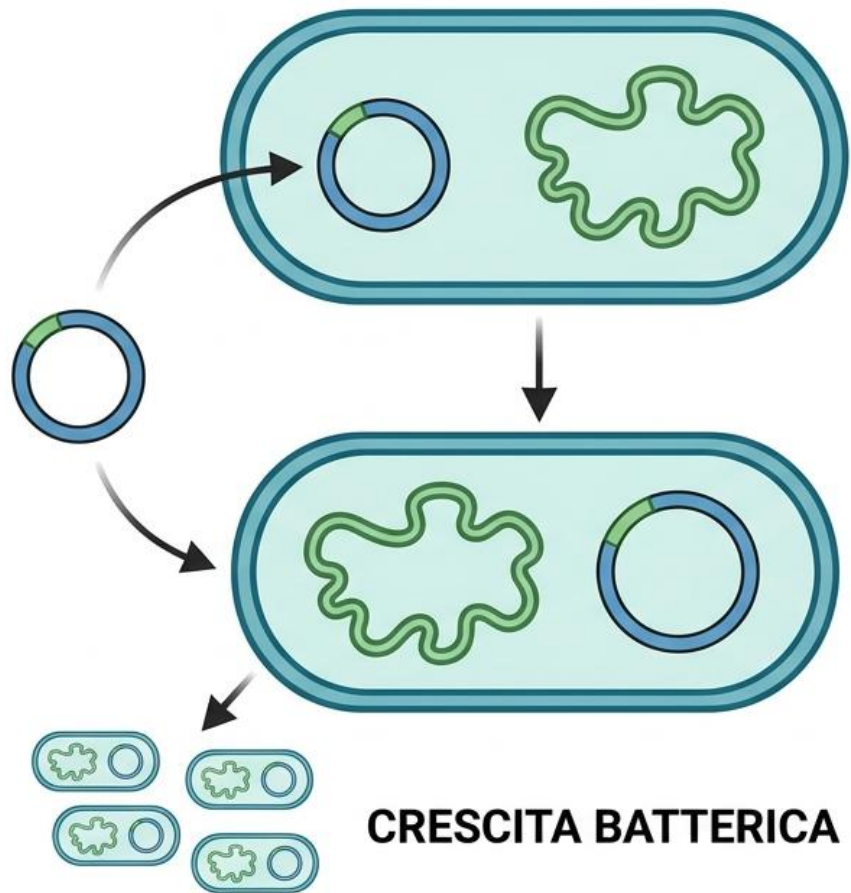
- **una molecola di DNA**, liberatasi da una cellula batterica “**donatrice**” in seguito a un **processo di estrazione chimica**, oppure liberatasi **spontaneamente** dalla cellula per lisi di questa,
- **penetra in una cellula “recettrice”** e si va a sostituire in corrispondenza della regione cromosomica omologa.

**Competenza** – capacità cellulare di “catturare” il DNA.

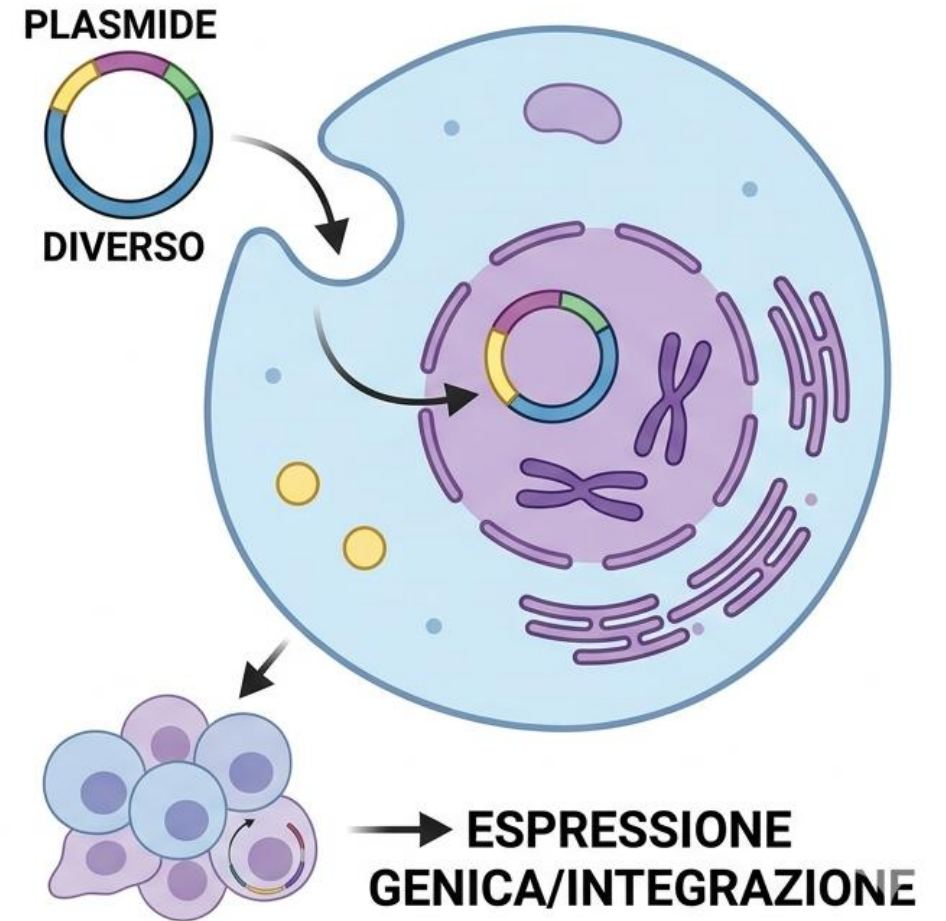
La cellula accettrice, per poter essere **trasformata**, deve trovarsi in una particolare condizione che prende il nome di **competenza**



## TRASFORMAZIONE (BATTERI)



## TRASFEZIONE (EUCARIOTI)



# METODI DI TRASFEZIONE

## • PROCESSO:

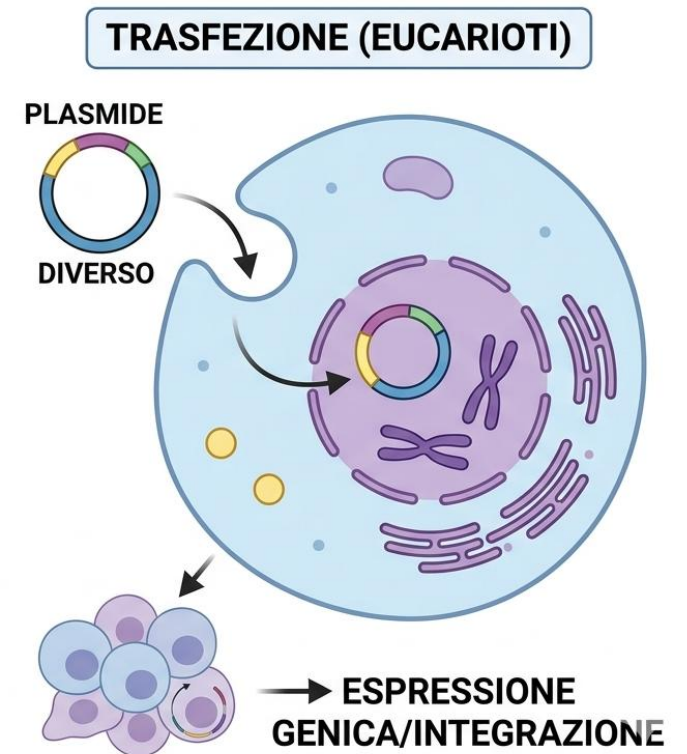
- **Introduzione** del DNA nella cellula
- Ottenimento dell'**espressione** del gene d'interesse
- (selezione delle cellule che si sono trasfettate stabilmente)
- **Caratterizzazione** del gene/ proteina prodotta

## • CARATTERISTICHE:

- Elevata efficienza
- Bassa tossicità
- Riproducibilità *in vitro* e *in vivo*

## • PROBLEMATICHE:

- Come superare le barriere naturali???
  - **DNA: fortemente POLARE** (carica negativa)
  - **MEMBRANA CELLULARE LIPOFILA**



# Il trasferimento genico

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- **Tipi cellulari:**

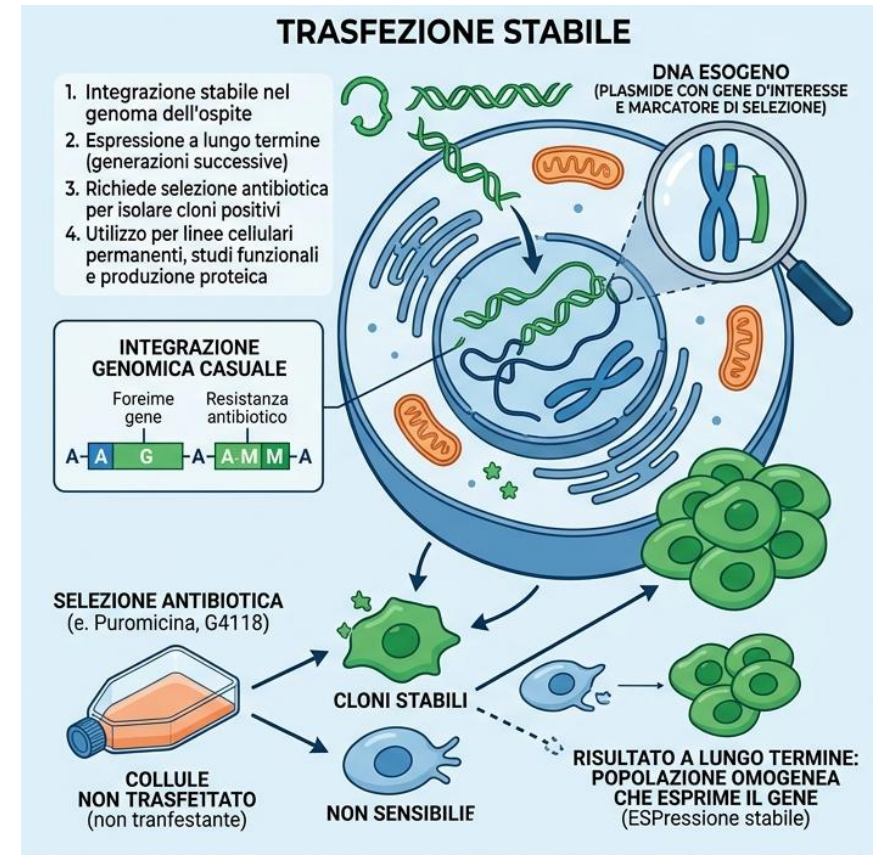
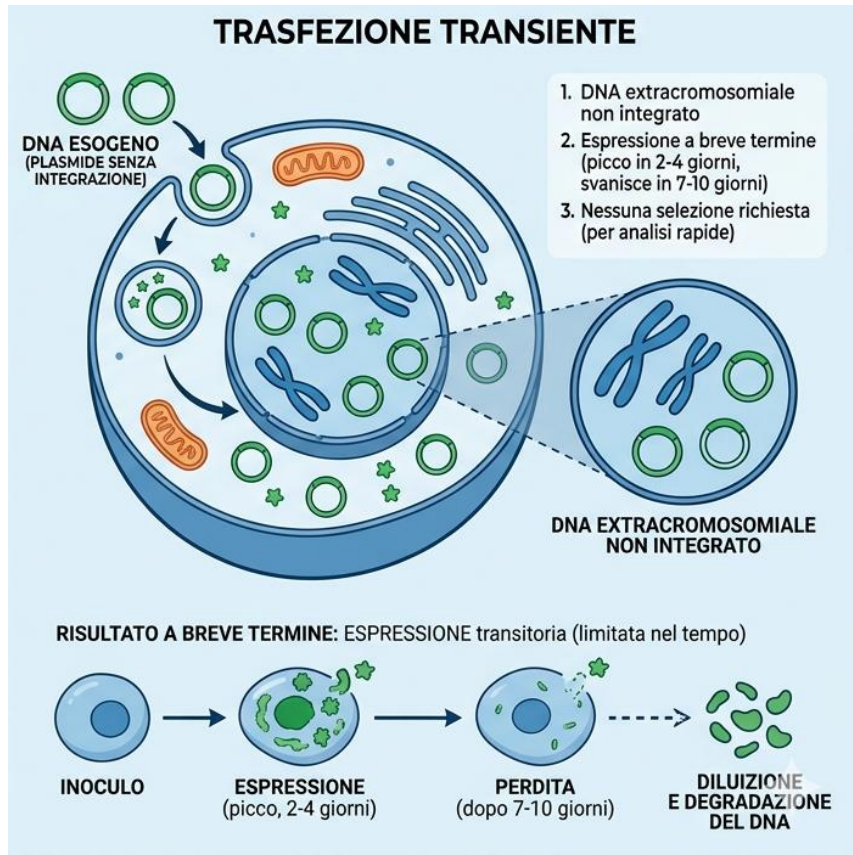


**Non** tutte le cellule possono essere trasfettate con successo

- Processo in sé **inefficiente**
- Necessaria una fonte **abbondante di cellule di partenza** per ottenere un numero utilizzabile di cellule trasfettate

# Che tipo di trasfezione?

## CONFRONTO TRA TRASFEZIONE STABILE E TRASFEZIONE TRANSIENTE



## • TRANSIENTE:

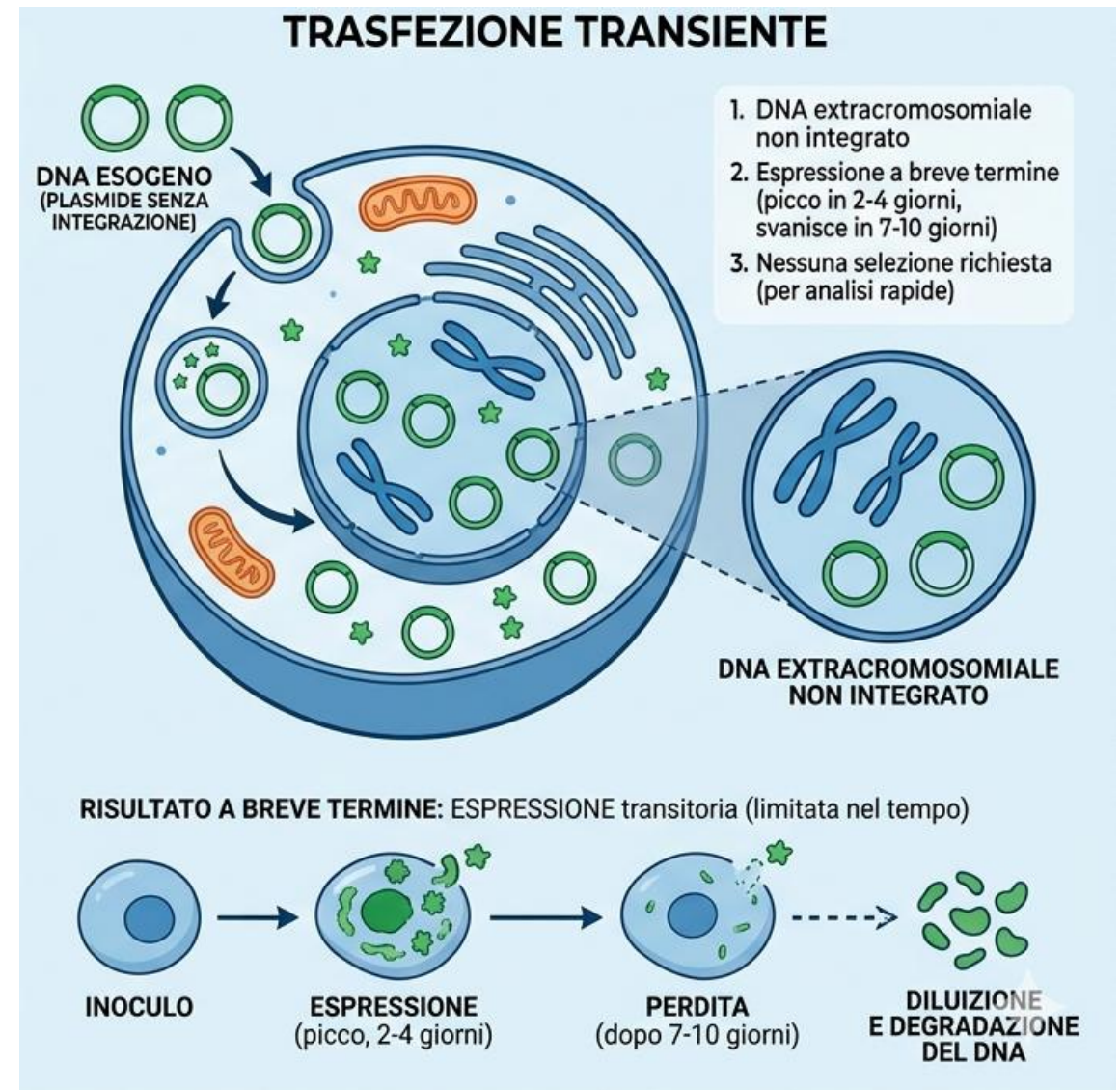
per esperimenti **a breve termine** (es. studio del promotore...)

- le cellule sono normalmente raccolte **48-72 h** dopo la trasfezione

- **over-espressione** genica

- **popolazione cellulare disomogenea**: poche cellule con molto plasmide

- immediata



- Il **DNA trasfettato non si duplica.**

A ogni mitosi raddoppiano le cellule e si dimezza la quantità di DNA trasfettato in rapporto alle cellule.

## STABILE:

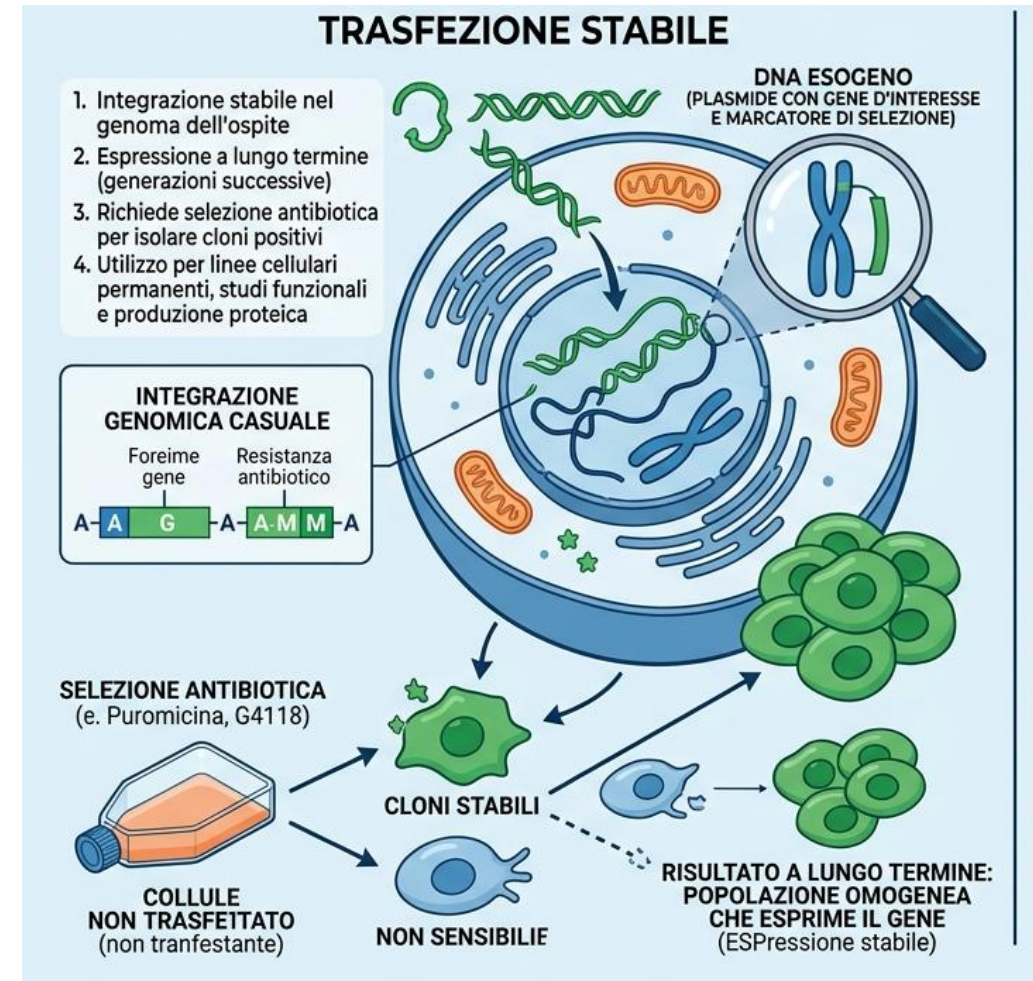
per esperimenti a **lungo termine**

- **il plasmide si integra nel genoma**, processo lungo e laborioso

- **l'integrazione è casuale**

- necessario **marker di selezione** (morfologia, resistenza a sostanze...)

- possibilità di **isolare e propagare singoli cloni** contenenti il DNA trasfettato



**popolazione cellulare omogenea:** molte cellule con poco plasmide

# ***METODI DI TRASFEZIONE***

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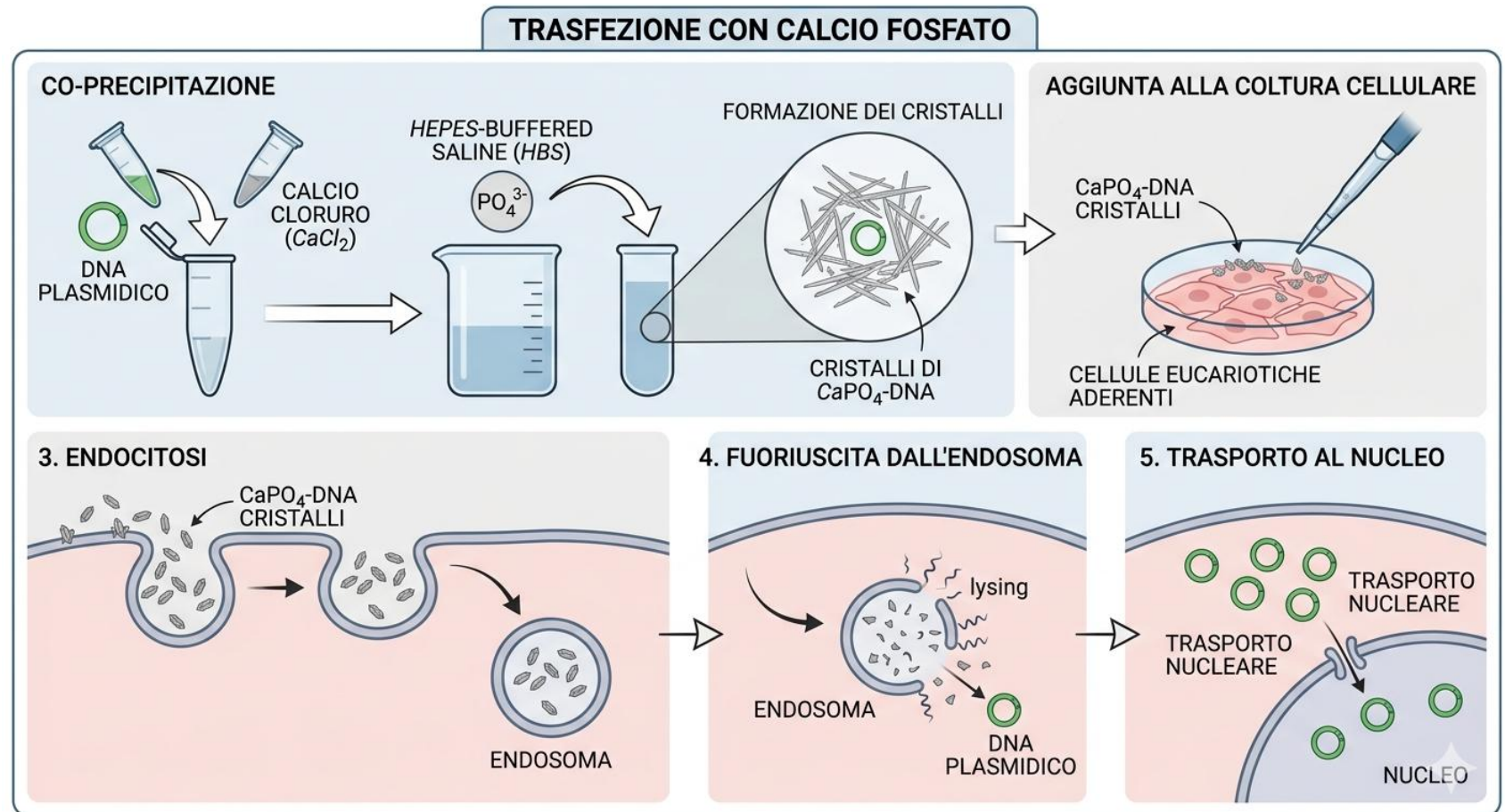
**1) METODI CHIMICI**

**2) METODI FISICI**

# Metodi chimici

## • CALCIO FOSFATO

- Il DNA a contatto con una soluzione di **fosfato di calcio** forma dei **precipitati** i quali, con un meccanismo poco noto (probabilmente per endocitosi) entrano nelle cellule



Gli ioni bivalenti possono promuovere l'ingresso di acidi nucleici attraverso le membrane

## • CALCIO FOSFATO

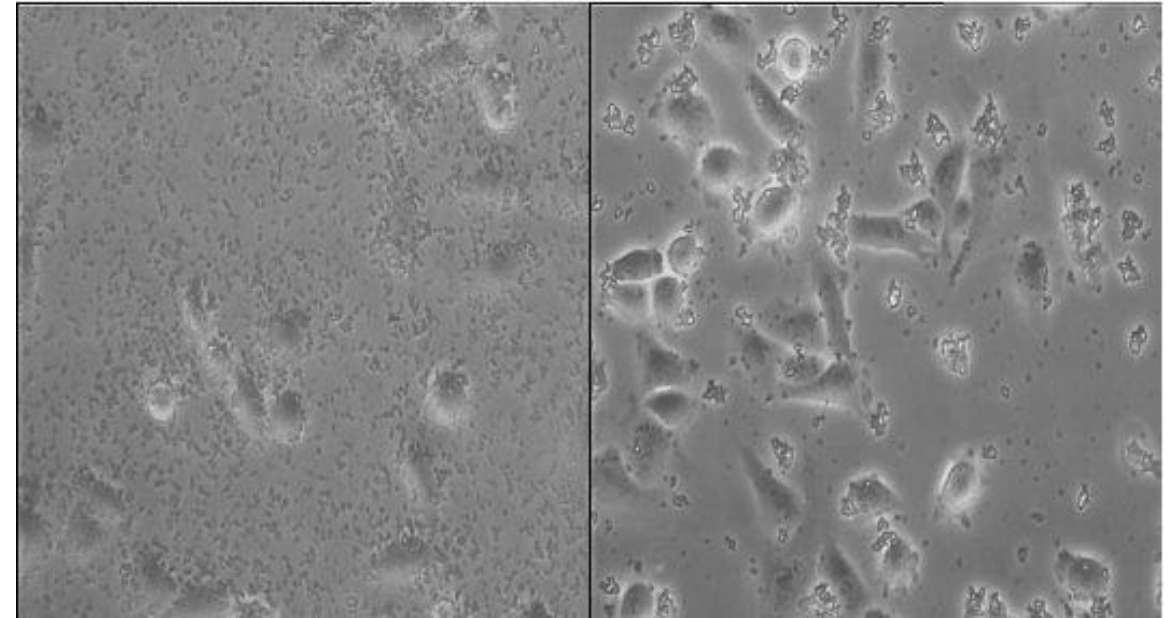
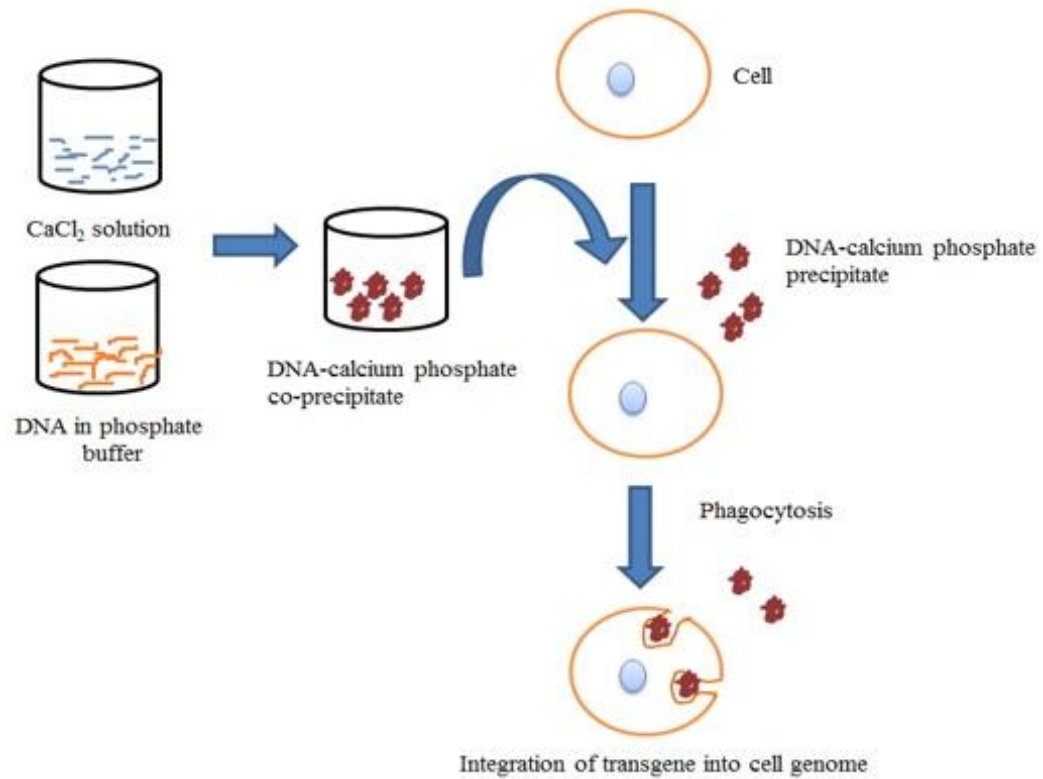


Figure 2. **Small calcium phosphate-DNA precipitates** (left) results in higher reporter gene expression posttransfection than **larger precipitates** (right). Pictures were taken three hours after addition of the transfection complex to the cells.

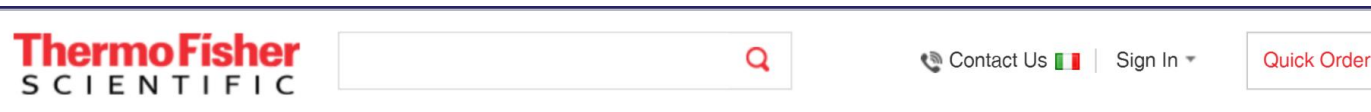
## • CALCIO FOSFATO

### • VANTAGGI

- **Economico**
- Relativamente versatile

### • SVANTAGGI

- ✓ Tecnicamente **delicato**
  - forma e dimensioni del precipitato
  - influenzato da variazioni anche minime di pH
- ✓ **Efficienza bassa**
- ✓ Elevata Citotossicità
- ✓ **Non funziona con alcuni tipi cellulari**



## Calcium Phosphate Transfection Kit

Catalog number: K278001

Invitrogen™ Related applications: [Transfection](#)

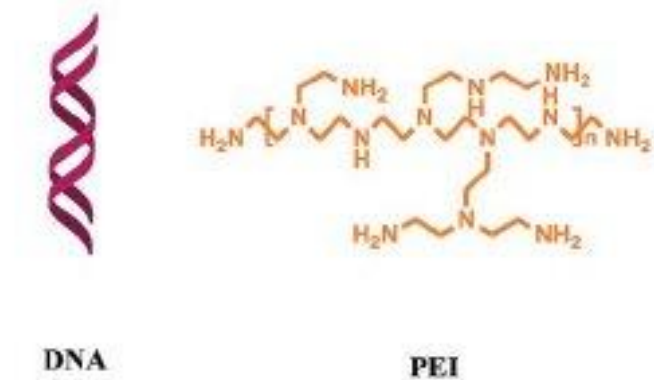


[Contact us for su](#)

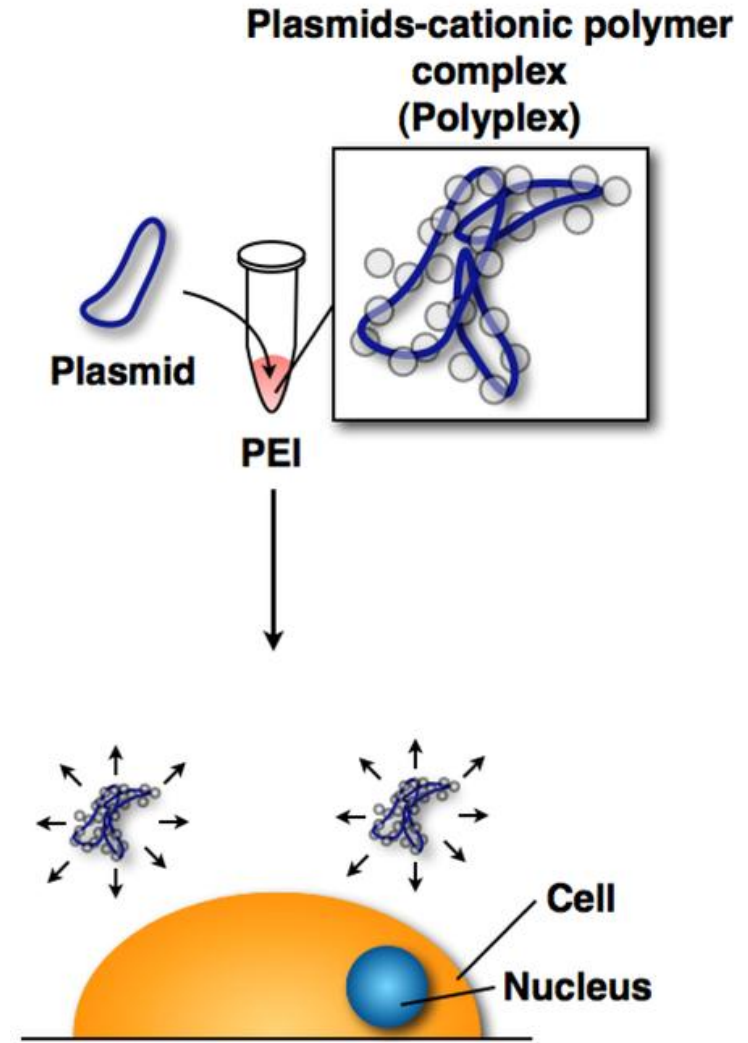
|   | Catalog number                      | Unit size    | List price (EUR) |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| ★ | K278001<br>also known as K2780-01 ? | 75 reactions | 636,00           |

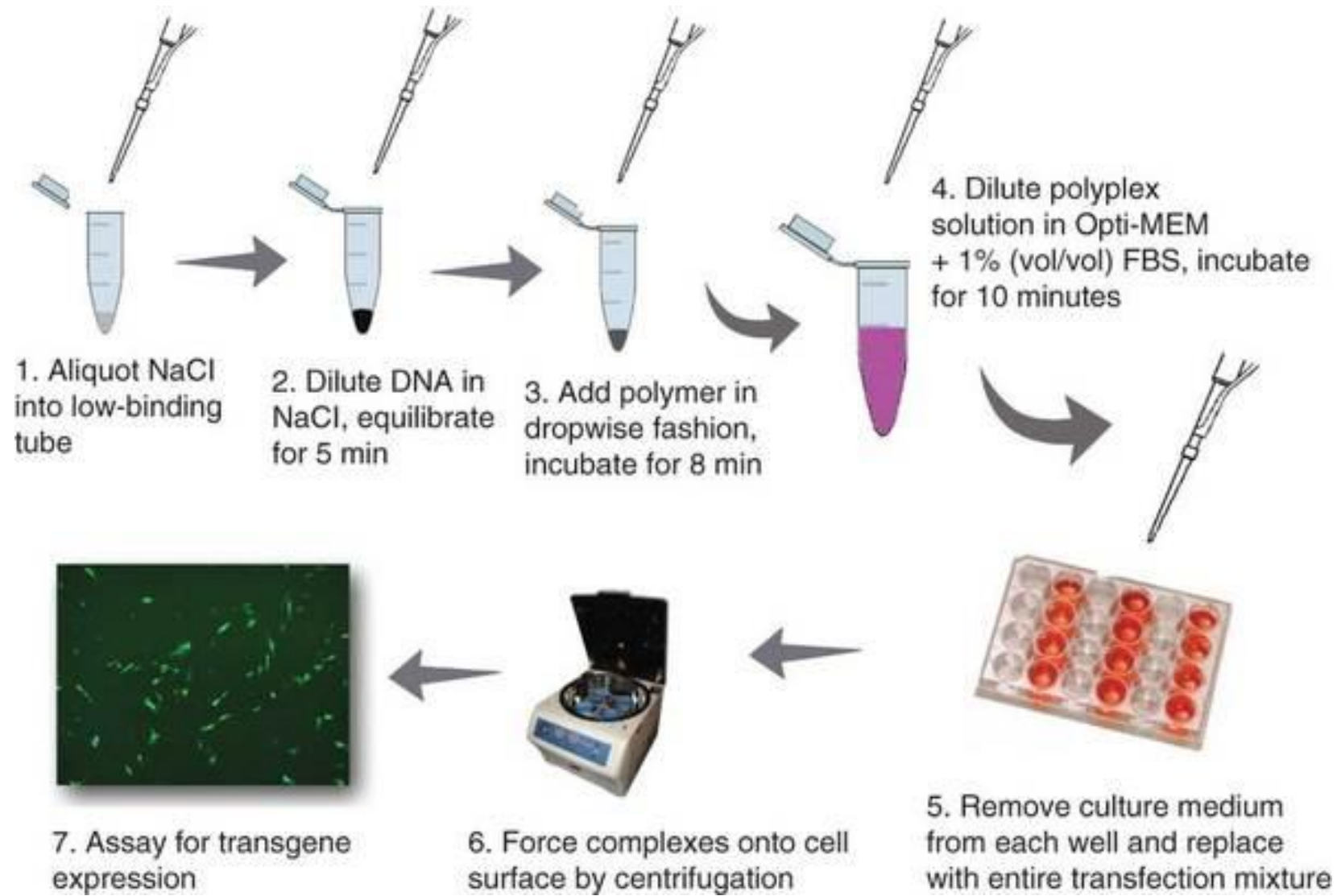
- **polyethylenimine (PEI)**

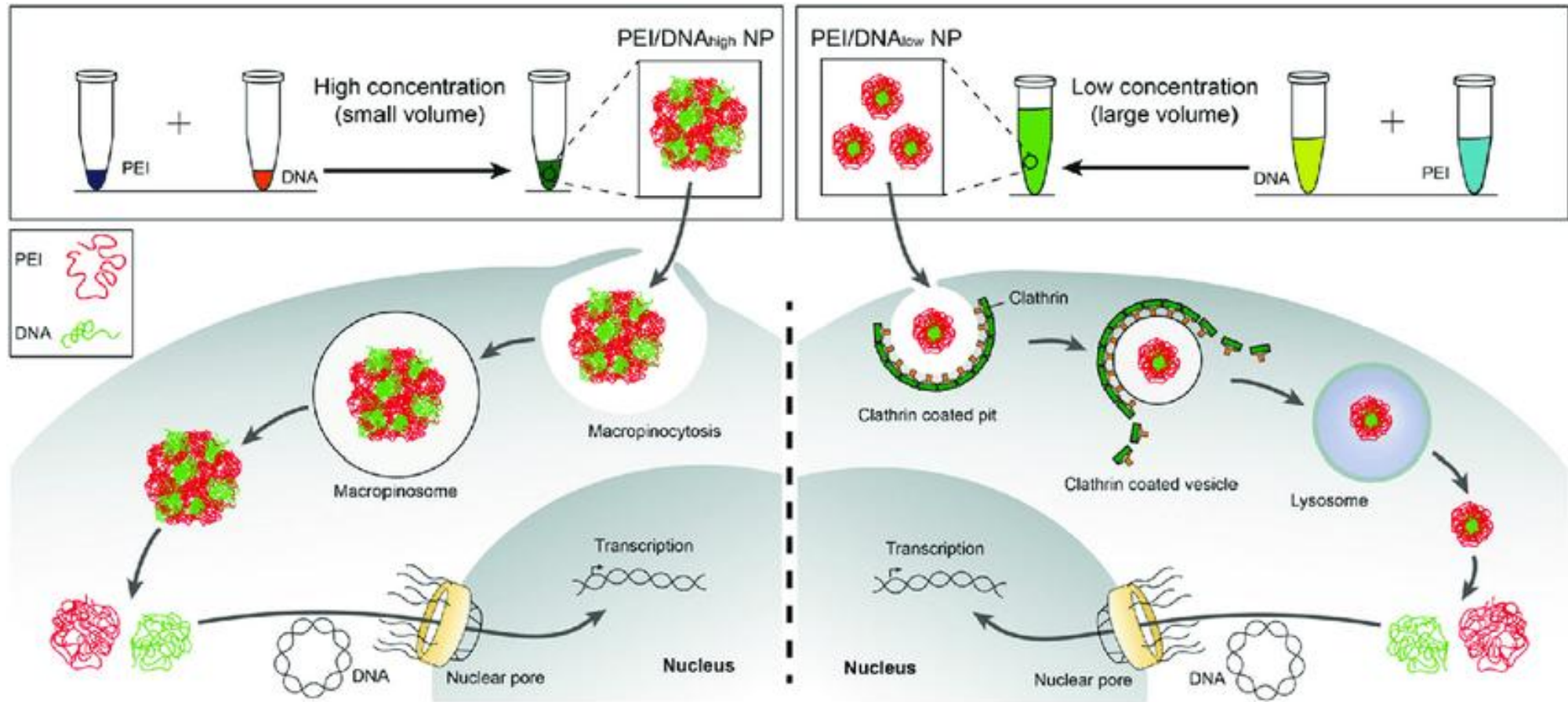
- PEI is an organic **polymer** with a **high density of amino groups** that can be protonated.



- At physiological pH, the polycation presents a high affinity for binding DNA and can mediate the transfection of eukaryotic cells

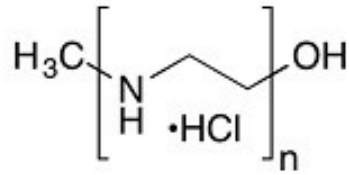






small NPs were firmly condensed, whereas the large NPs were bulky and botryoid-shaped. The large NPs entered the tumor cells via the macropinocytosis pathway, and then efficiently dissociated in the cytoplasm and released DNA, thus promoting the intranuclear delivery.

• **PEI:**

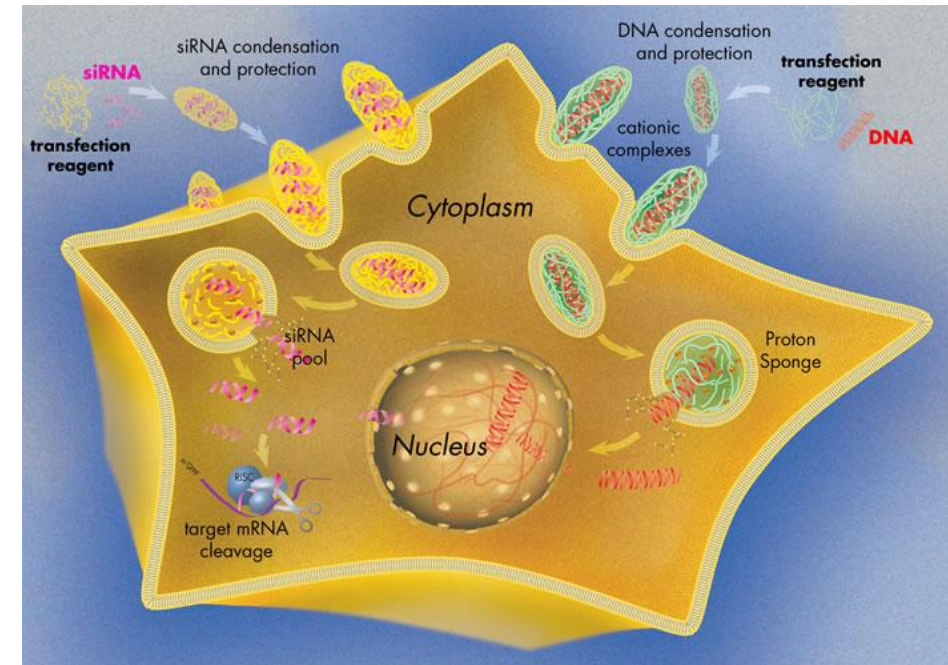


**VANTAGGI**

- ✓ Molto semplice
- ✓ Poco costoso
- ✓ Buona efficienza

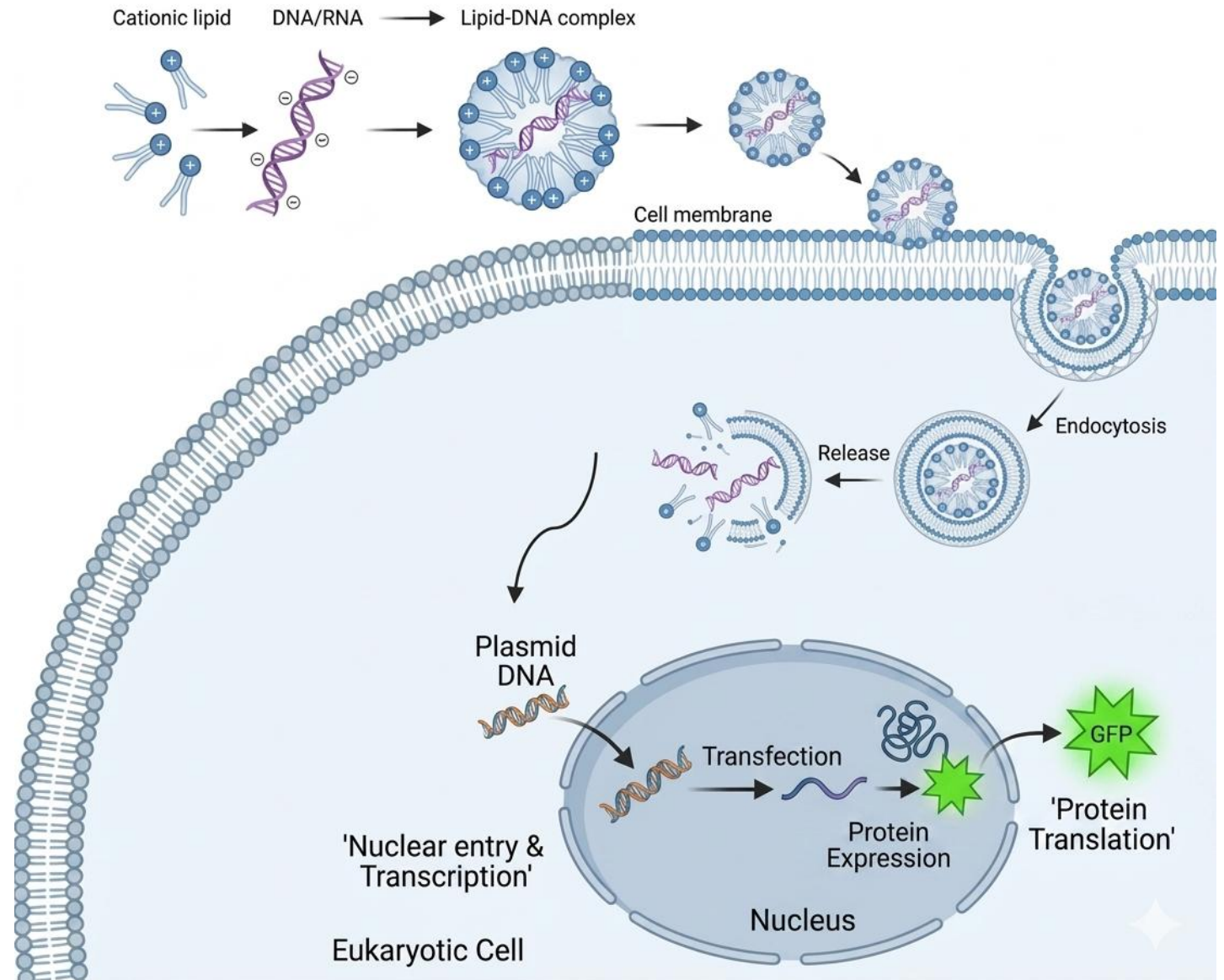
• **SVANTAGGI**

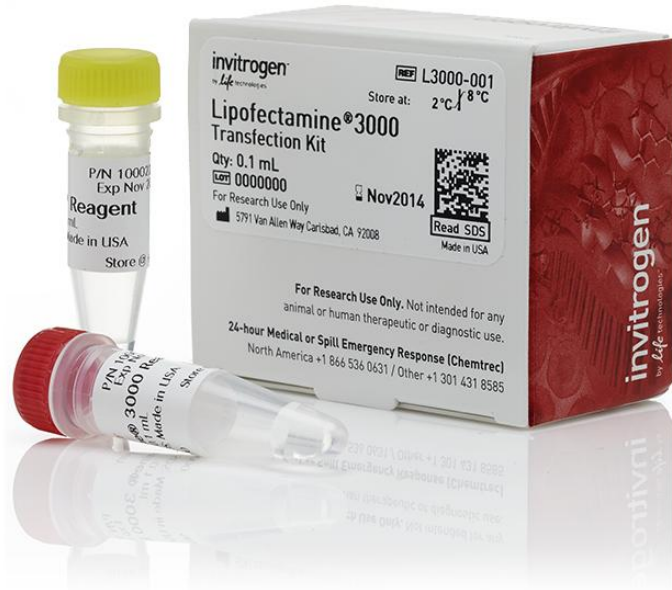
- ✓ tarare rapporto PEI/DNA
- ✓ Condizioni delle cellule



## • LIPOSOMI:

- misto di **lipidi policationici e neutri**, permette la formazione di vescicole liposomiali unilamellari che portano una **carica netta positiva**
- La testa cationica del composto lipidico si associa ai gruppi P negativi dell'acido nucleico
- I complessi lipidi- DNA **si fondono con le membrane cellulari** e rilasciano spontaneamente il loro contenuto nelle cellule



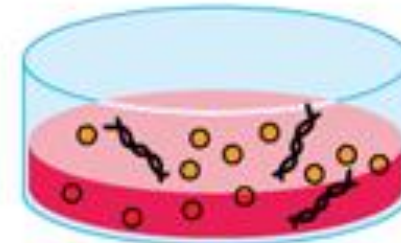


A  
Using popular  
transfection reagents

Add plasmid DNA  
and transfection reagent to cells



Add/Change medium



Assay for gene expression

Start transfection

A1

4 to 6 hours

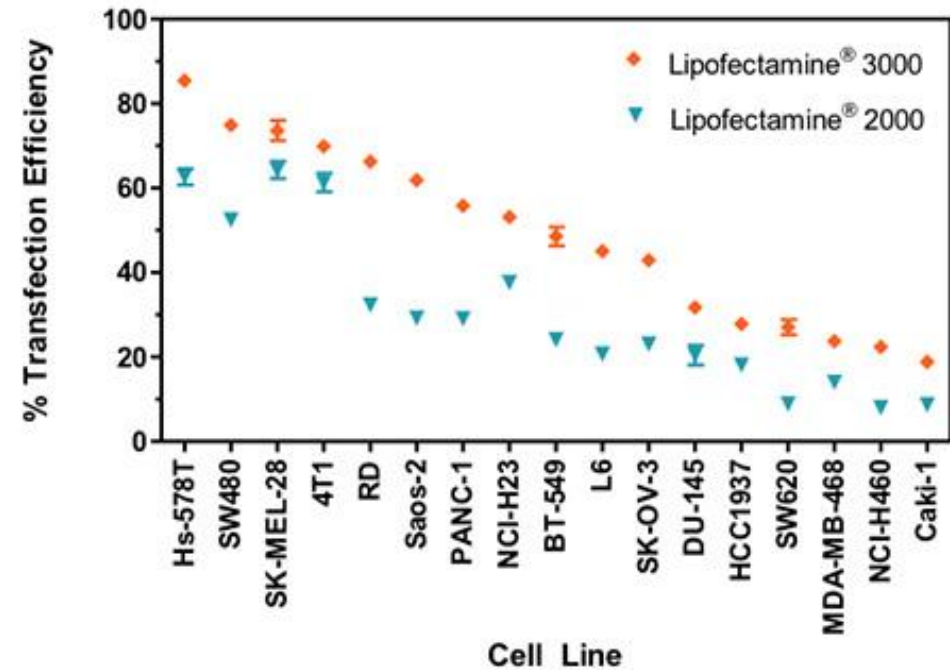
24 hours

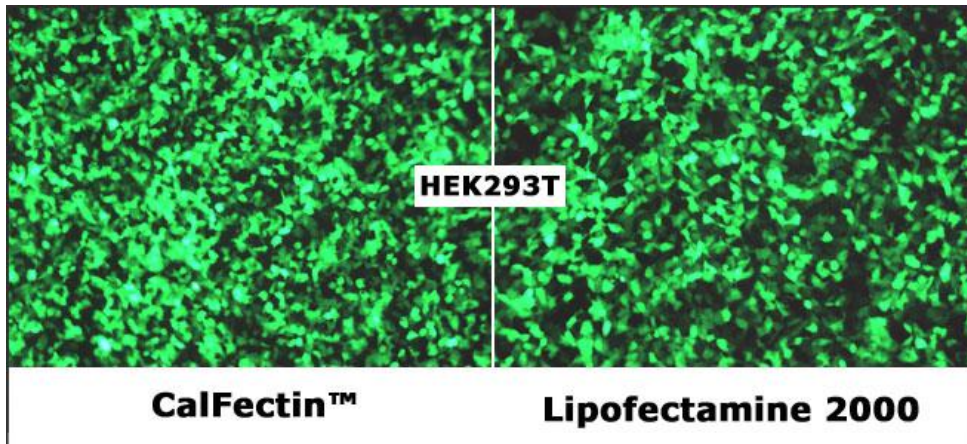
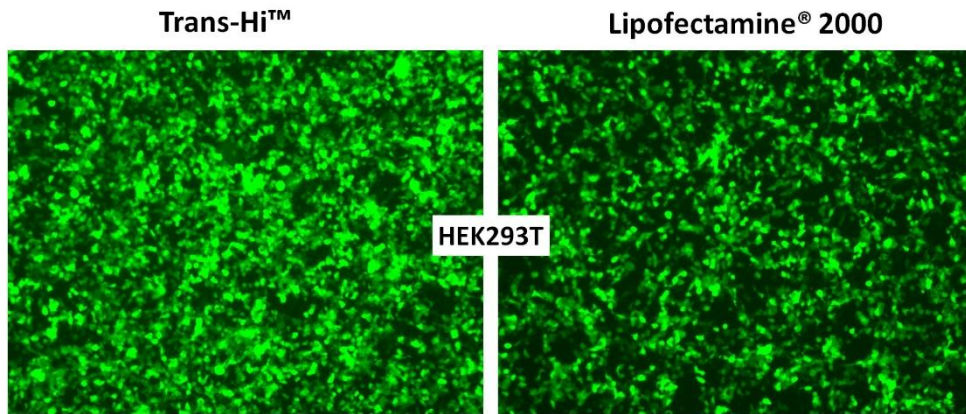
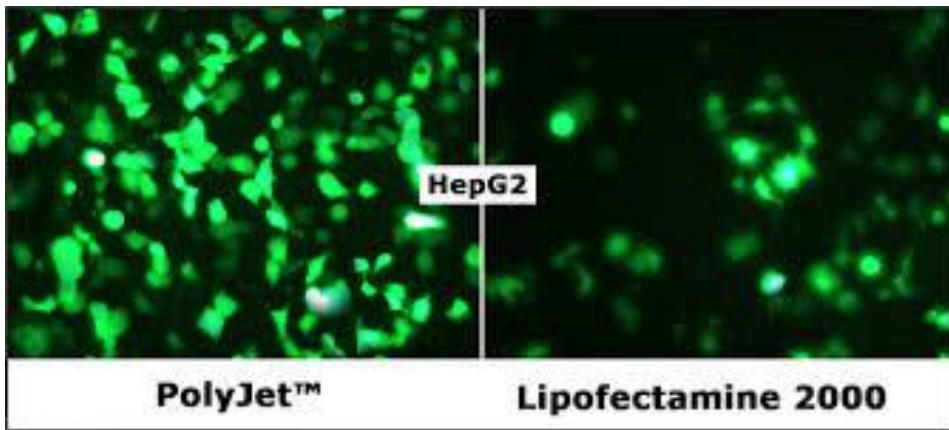
The **advantages** of cationic lipid-mediated transfection are:

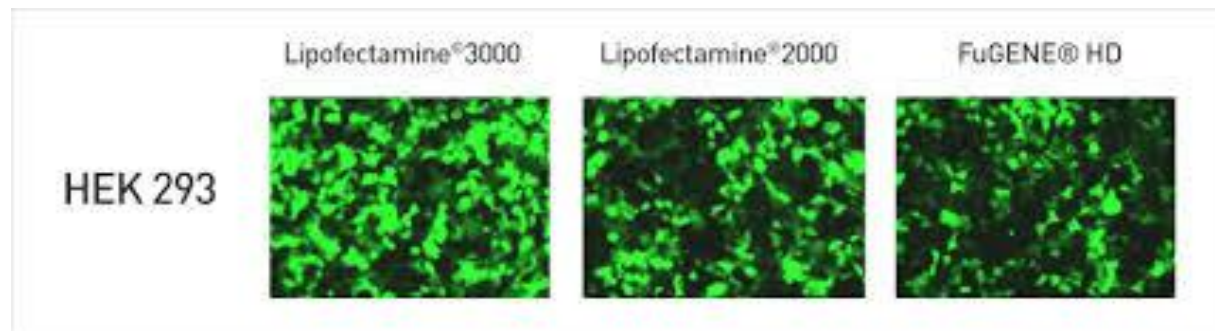
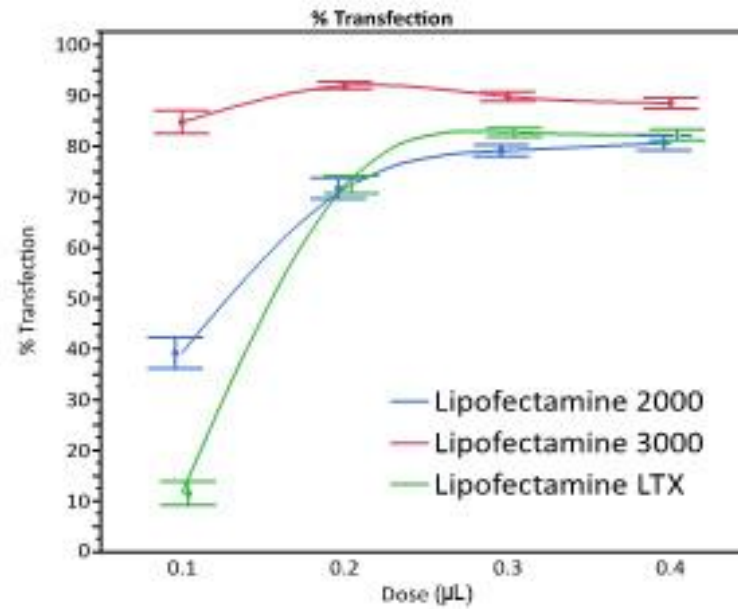
- the ability to transfect **a broad range of cell lines** with high efficiency;
- its applicability to **high-throughput screens**;
- the ability to deliver **DNA of all sizes**, as well as **RNA** and **proteins**.
- In addition, this method can be applied to both **stable and transient**
- expression, and unlike other chemical methods, it can be used for in vivo transfer of DNA and RNA to animals and humans.

The **main drawback** of cationic lipid-mediated transfection is the **dependence of transfection efficiency on the cell type and culture conditions**, requiring the optimization of transfection conditions for each cell type and transfection reagent

Transfection Efficiency in Cancer Cell Line Panel







## Ordering Information

| Catalog # | Name                                     | Size   | List Price (EUR) |
|-----------|--|--------|------------------|
| L3000015  | Lipofectamine® 3000 Transfection Reagent | 1.5 mL | 864,00           |
| L3000150  | Lipofectamine® 3000 Transfection Reagent | 15 mL  | 7.380,00         |

# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

## • ELECTROPORATION:

- The cells are placed in a solution containing DNA,
- are exposed to a short electrical impulse which transiently produces pores in their membranes



Cell Membrane  
Before Pulse



Cell Membrane  
During Pulse

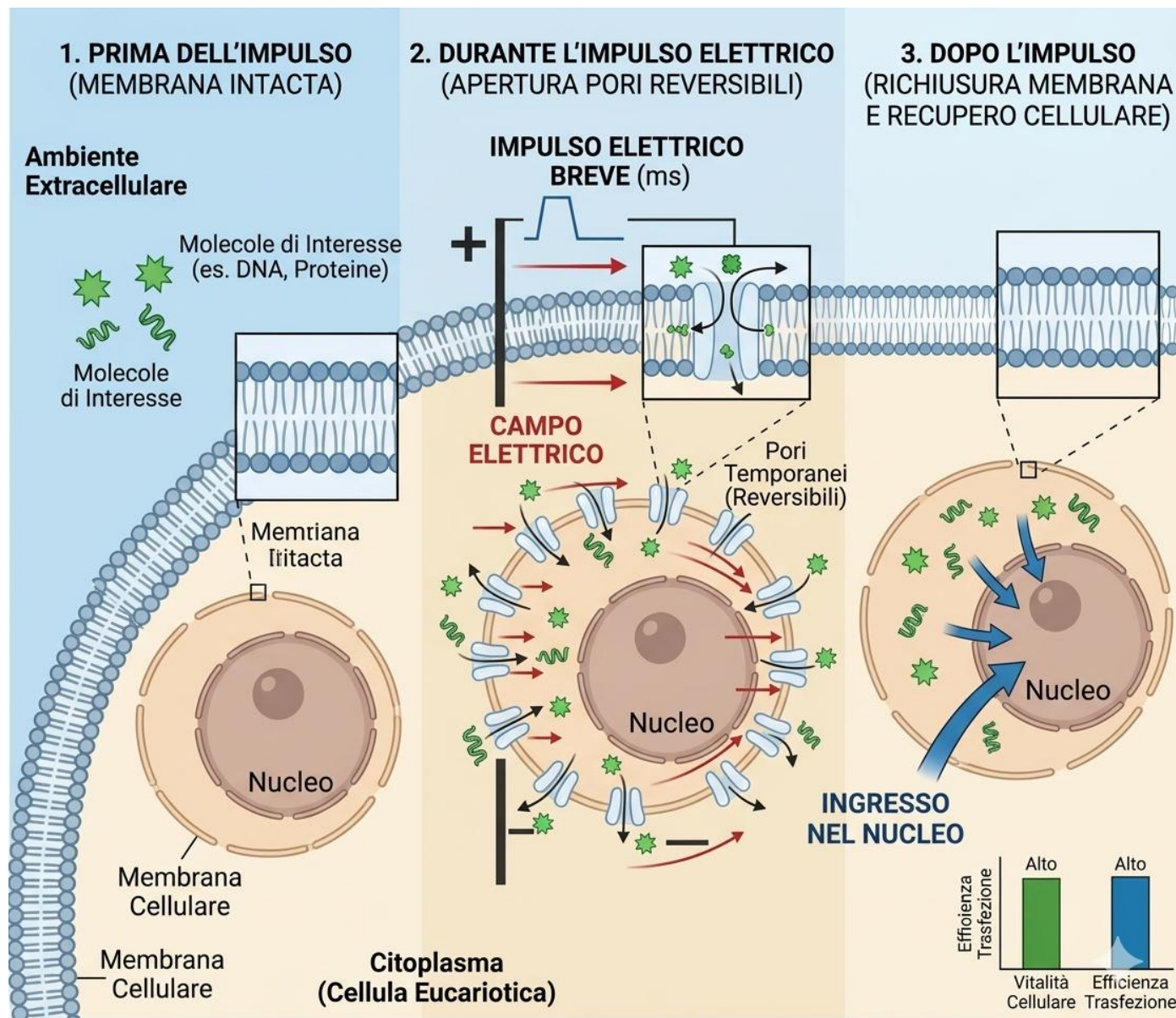


Cell Membrane  
After Pulse

# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

## • **ELECTROPORATION:**

- The cells are placed in a solution containing DNA,
- are exposed to a short electrical impulse which transiently produces pores in their membranes



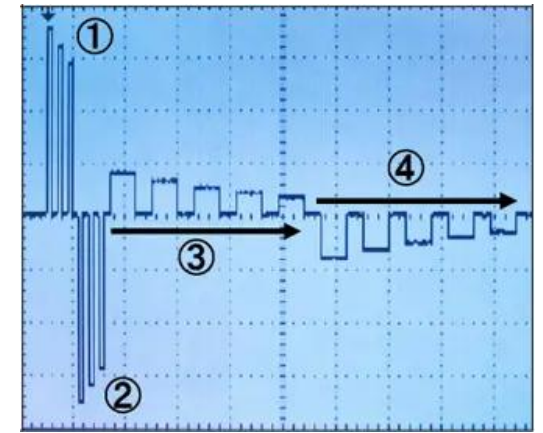
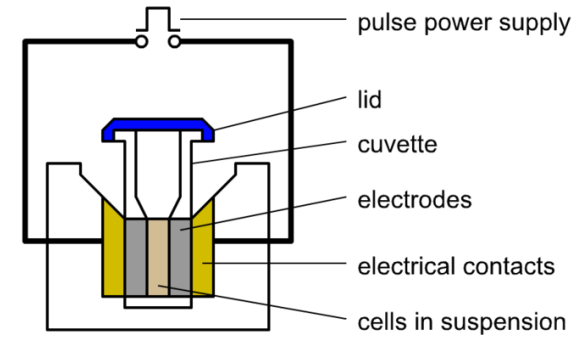
**Electroporation** is based on a simple process.

- Host cells and selected molecules are **suspended in a conductive solution**, and an electrical circuit is closed around the mixture.

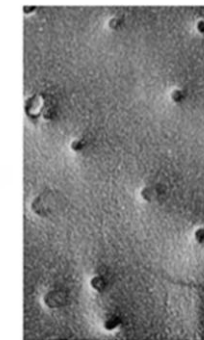
- An electrical pulse at an optimized voltage and only lasting a few microseconds to a millisecond is discharged through the cell suspension.

- This disturbs the phospholipid bilayer of the membrane and results in the formation of temporary pores.

- charged molecules like DNA are driven across the membrane through the pores in a manner similar to electrophoresis



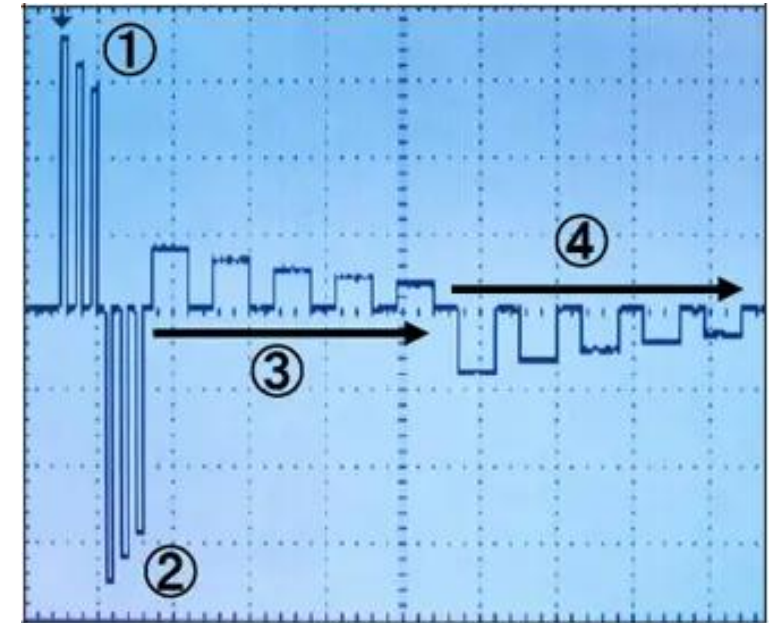
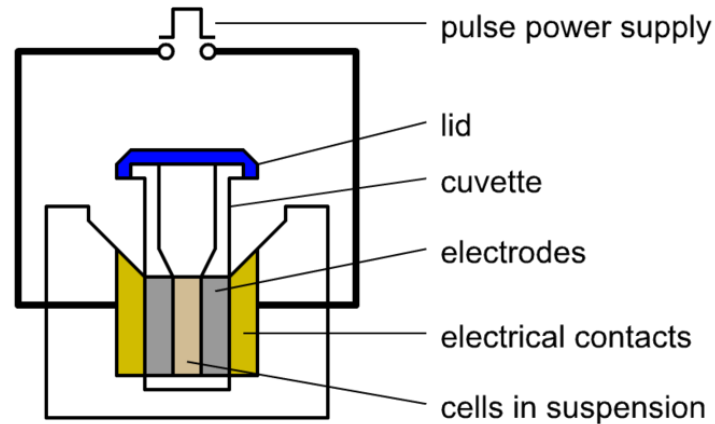
Cell Membrane Before Pulse



Cell Membrane During Pulse



Cell Membrane After Pulse



### 1. Poring Pulse Mode:

1. **Higher voltage, shorter duration**, multiple pulses, voltage decay; This is for forming pores (small holes) in cell membrane with minimum damage.

### 2. Polarity Exchanged Poring Pulse

1. This can be applied to tissue transfection as well.

### 3. Transfer Pulse Mode:

1. **Lower voltage, longer duration**, multiple pulses, voltage decay; This is for delivering the target molecules (DNA, RNA, etc.) into cells with minimum damage.

### 4. Polarity Exchanged Transfer Pulse

1. This can increase the transfection efficiency

# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

---

## • ELECTROPORATION:

The **main advantages** of electroporation are:

- its applicability **for transient and stable transfection of all cell types.**
- electroporation is **easy and rapid,**
- it is able **to transfect a large number of cells in a short time** once optimum electroporation conditions are determined.

The **major drawback** of electroporation is

- **substantial cell death caused by high voltage pulses** and only partially successful membrane repair, requiring the use of greater quantities of cells compared to chemical transfection methods.

# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

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## • ELETTROPORAZIONE:

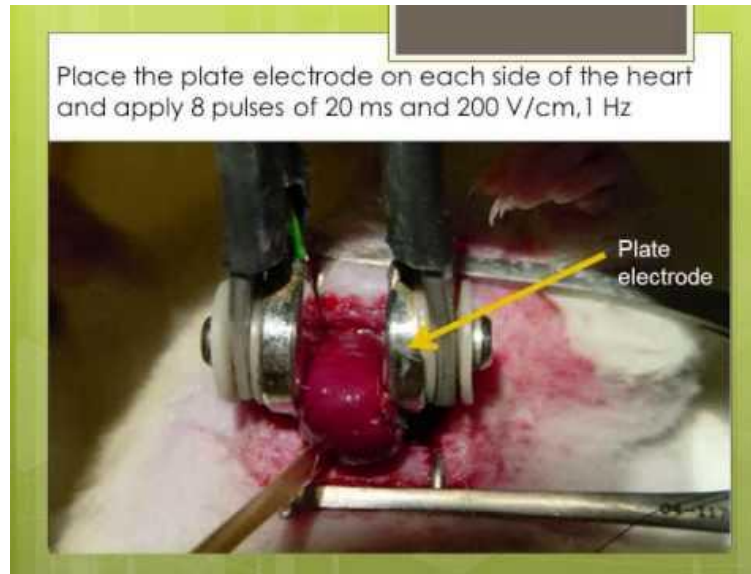
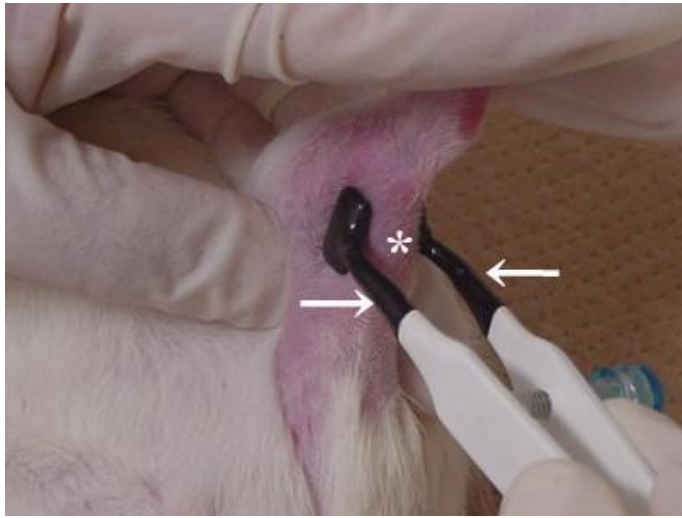
### VANTAGGI

- ✓ *Può essere utile per quei tipi cellulari in cui non si ottengono risultati con i metodi classici*
- ✓ *Il DNA entra direttamente senza passare attraverso il compartimento endosomiale dove può aver luogo la degradazione/**mutazione** dell'acido nucleico*

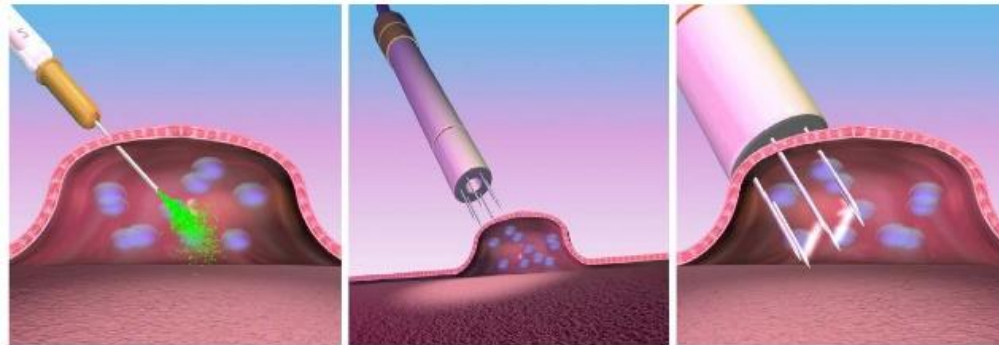
### SVANTAGGI

- ✓ *Necessità di ottimizzare le condizioni del campo elettrico -intensità e durata-*
- ✓ *Elevato livello di tossicità (50%)*





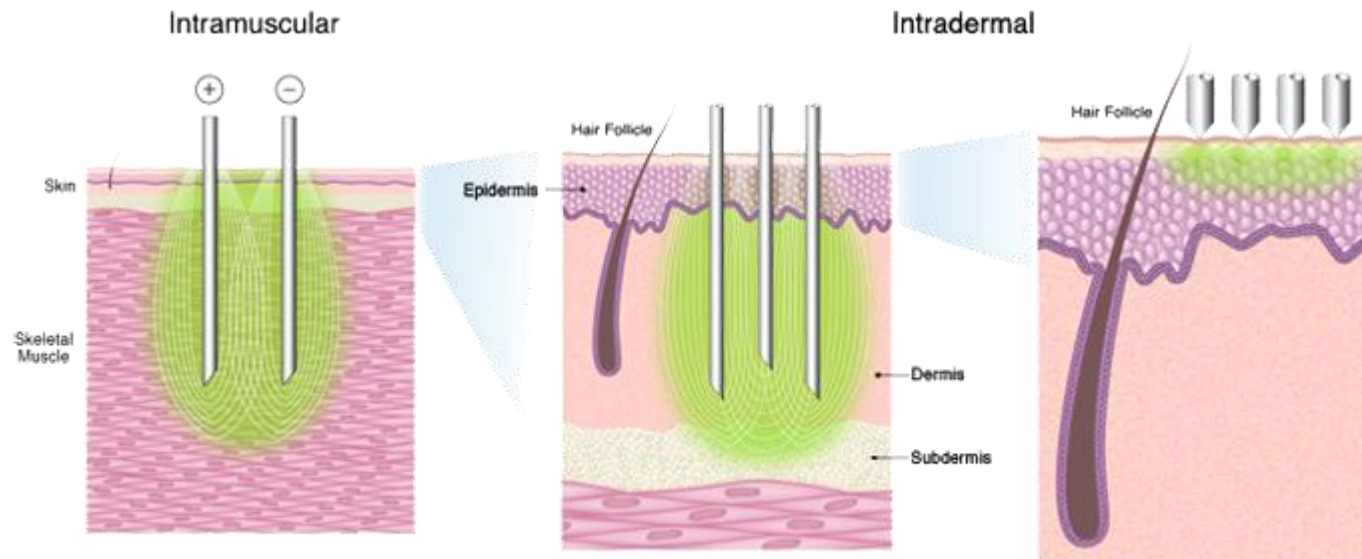
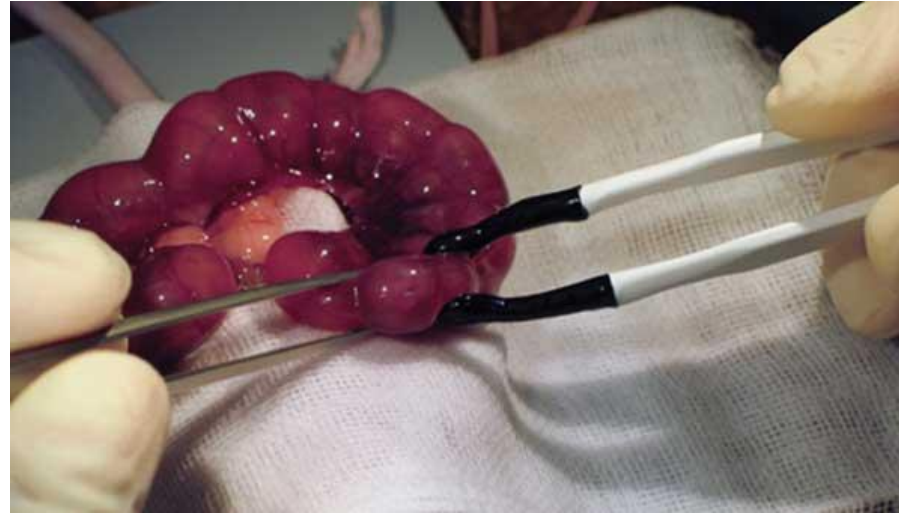
Intratumoral Injection of IL-12 plasmid followed by *in vivo* Electroporation



**Injection of plasmid**

**Electrode Insertion**

**Electroporation**



# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

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## • **Microinjection**

Microinjection is a **direct method** to introduce DNA into either **cytoplasm** or **nucleus**.

It is a microsurgical procedure conducted **on a single cell**, using

- a glass needle (i.e., a fine, glass microcapillary pipette)
- a precision positioning device (a micromanipulator) to control the movement of the micropipette
- a microinjector.



# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

## • MICROINIEZIONE:

### VANTAGGI

- ✓ *effettuare il trasferimento selettivamente nel citoplasma o nel nucleo*
- ✓ *aumenta efficienza di espressione*
- ✓ *modulare facilmente il livello di espressione*

### SVANTAGGI

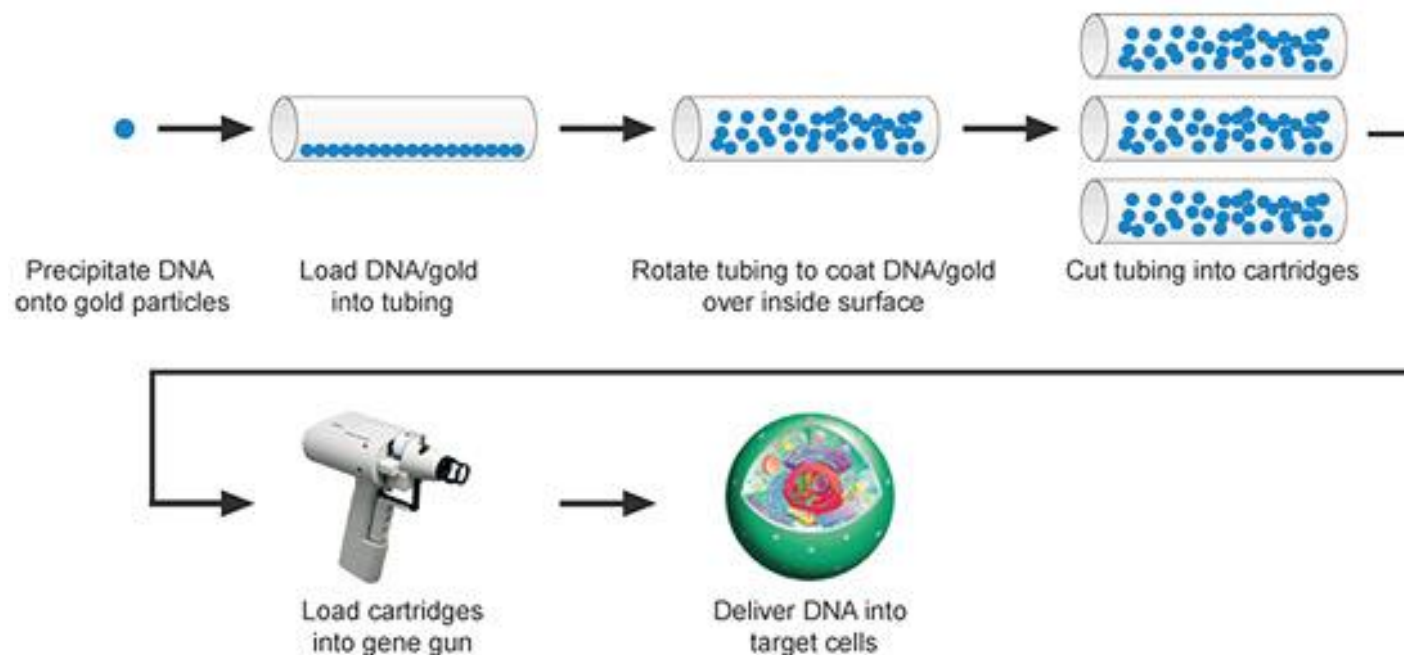
- ✓ *Tecnicamente impegnativa*
- ✓ *Poche cellule alla volta*
- ✓ **COSTOSO**



# Gene Delivery Using Physical Methods

## • GENE GUN:

- **DNA-coated** gold (or tungsten) microcarriers are prepared
- The particles are distributed on the inner wall of a plastic cartridge
- Use adjustable **helium pressure** to accelerate gold microbullets and "fire" them directly at the target





Gene gun Helios™ by BioRad is used to transfect cells in cultures and plant leaves

## VANTAGGI

- ✓ Possibilità di lavorare **in situ**
- ✓ Applicabile a quei sistemi cellulari poco responsivi ad altri carrier per il trasferimento genico anche in vivo
- ✓ Possibilità di fare studi di espressione genica in condizioni fisiologiche:
  - espressione tessuto specifiche
  - studi sullo sviluppo
- ✓ Possibilità di usare meno DNA e meno cellule di partenza

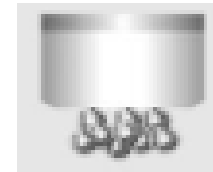
## SVANTAGGI

- ✓ Trattamento invasivo
- ✓ Efficienza fortemente dipendente dal tipo cellulare
- ✓ Molti parametri da controllare
- ✓ COSTOSO

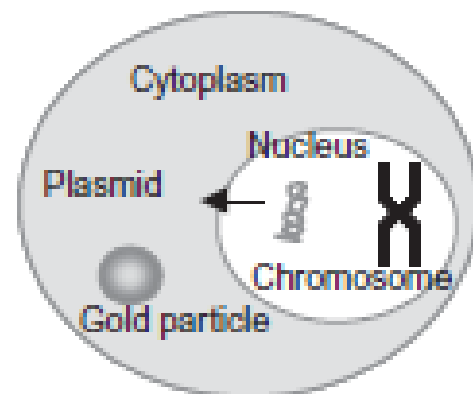
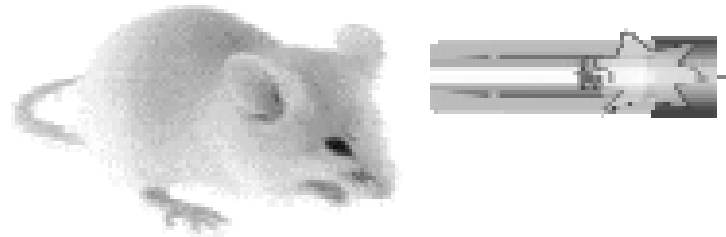
DNA is adsorbed onto gold particles



Particles are placed in a cartridge



The cartridge is coupled to the "gene gun", and the particles are accelerated against the animal's skin



On hitting the cell, the DNA is released from the particle and gets to the nucleus, where it controls the protein synthesis