

Progress in Myocardial Regeneration – Exosomes and iPCs

A New Understanding of Cardiovascular Physiology, Pathology and Future Therapies

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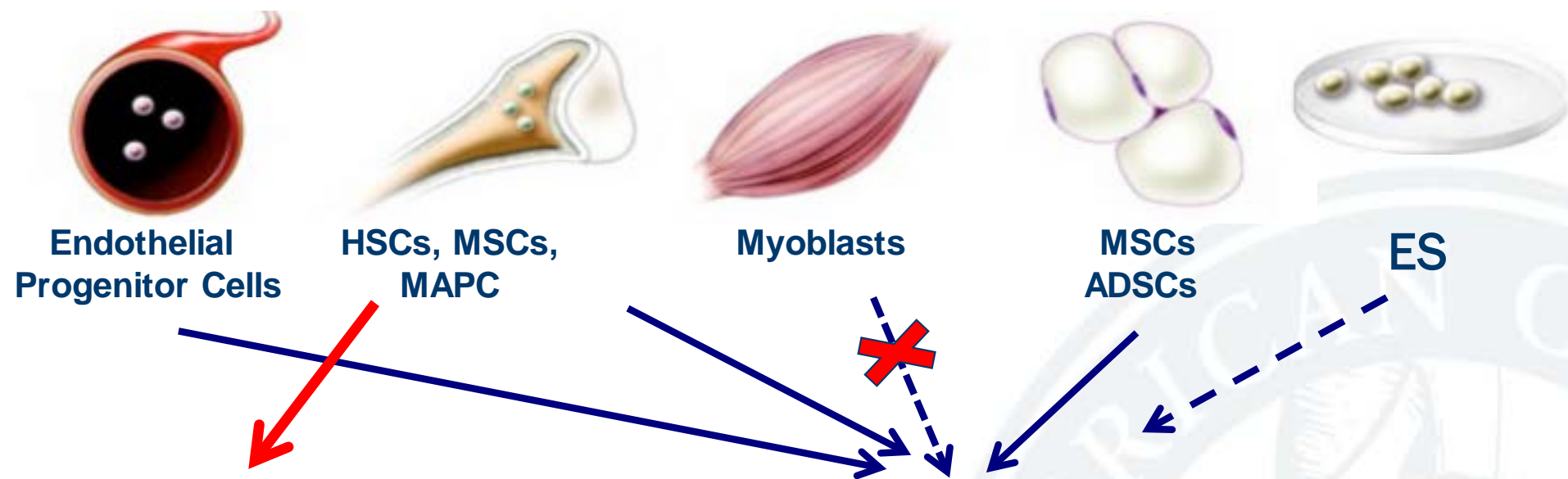
Chair Department of Cardiology

University of Leuven, Belgium

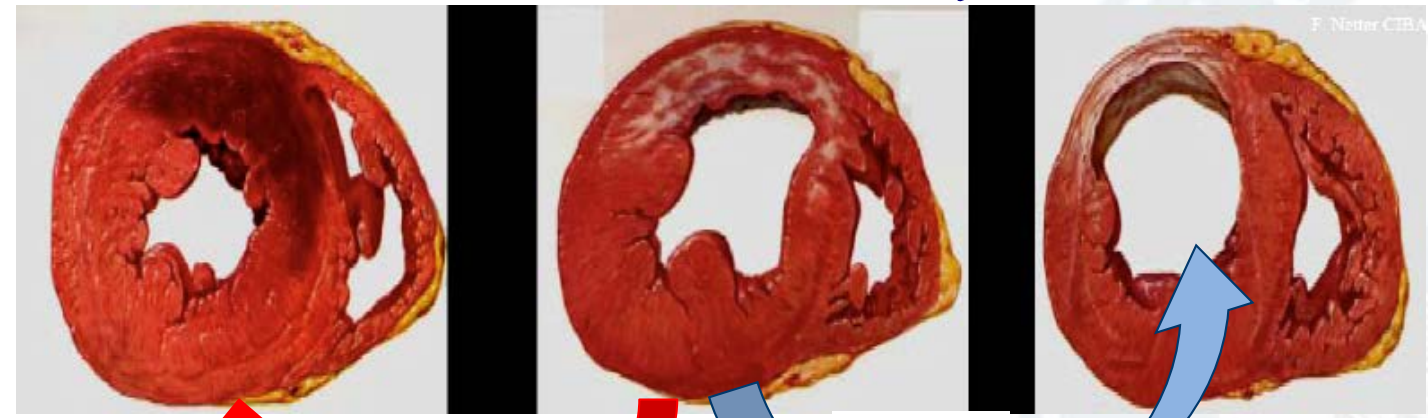


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Progenitor Cells for Cardiac Repair-Regeneration



STEMI



Chronic Heart Failure

CPC

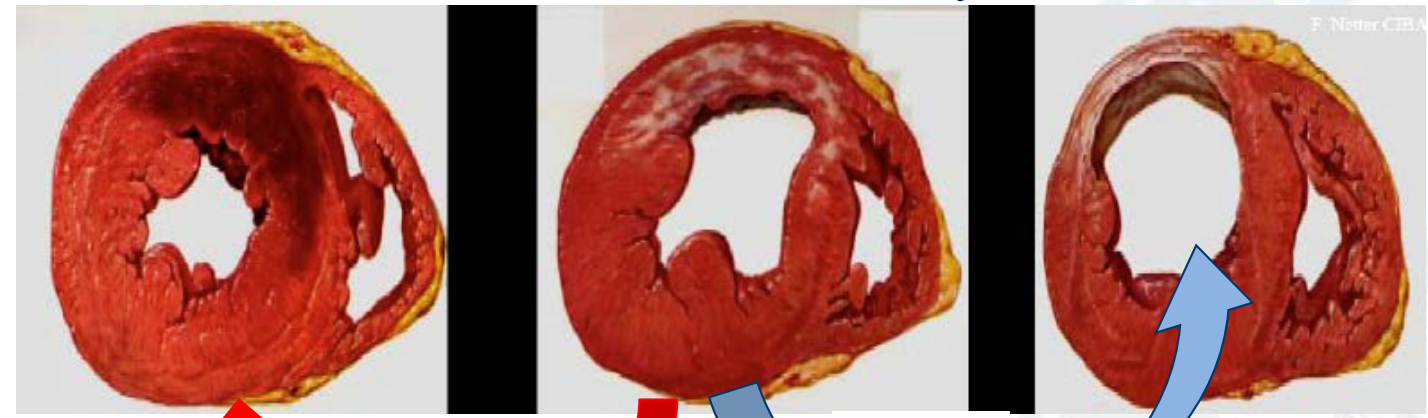
*c-Kit⁺, SP cells, Isl1⁺, SSEA-1⁺, Epicardial cells
Cardiospheres and -derived cells*

Progenitor Cells for Cardiac Repair-Regeneration



PARACRINE MODE OF ACTION: EXOSOMES,

STEMI



Chronic Heart Failure

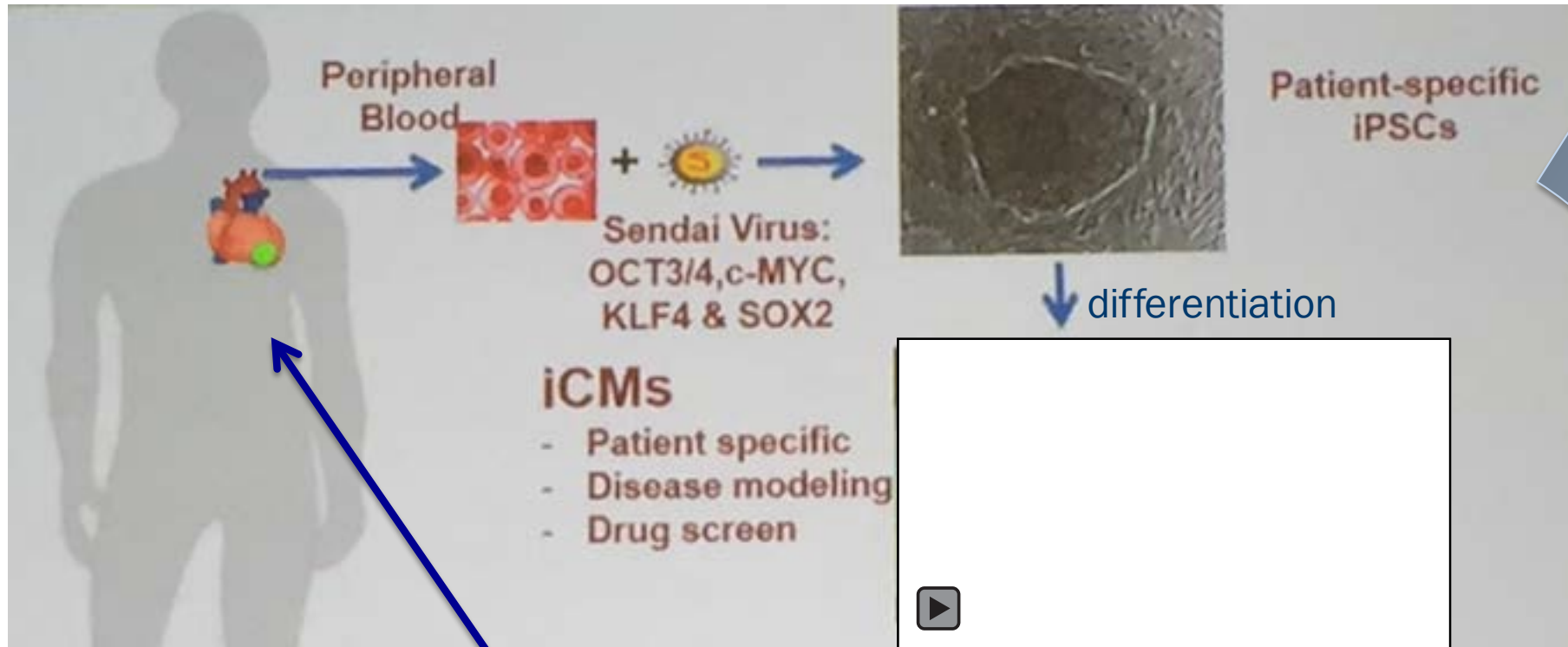
CPC
*c-Kit⁺, SP cells, Isl1⁺, SSEA-1⁺, Epicardial cells
Cardiospheres and -derived cells*

Outline Of Presentation (I): induced Pluripotent Stem Cells, iPSC

- What are iPSCs?
- Role in Cardiovascular Physiology / Pathology
- Therapeutic potential: how, when, where?

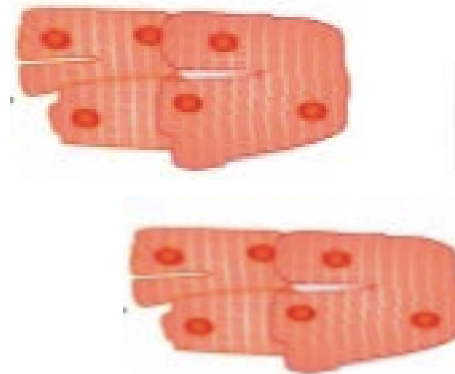


Generation of iPSC-derived Cardiac Myocytes



Personalized therapy
(+/- gene editing)

→ Cardiac regeneration?



expansion ex vivo



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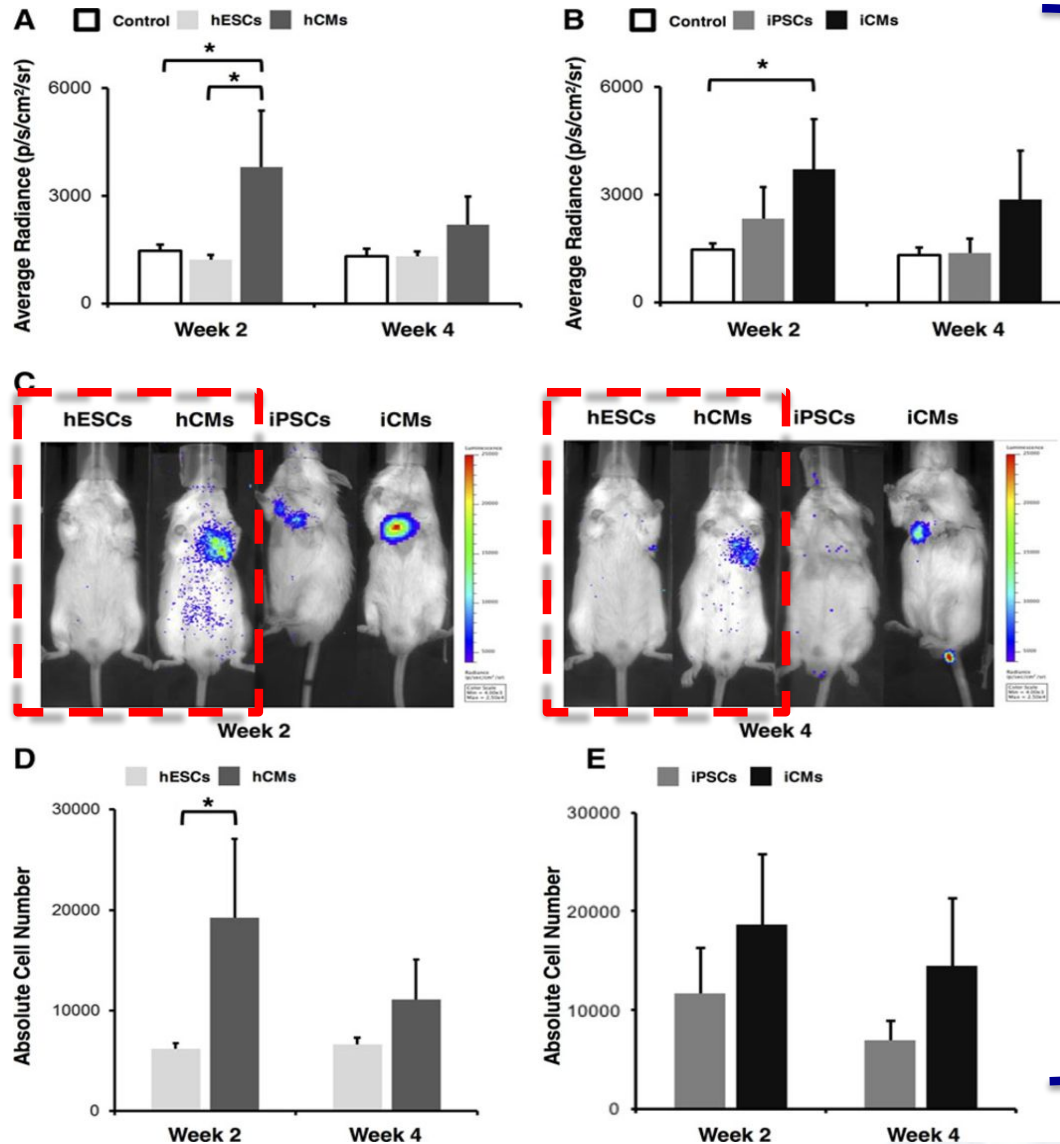


iPSC-derived Human Cardiac Myocytes in Cardiac Regeneration: caveats

- Cell Survival after Transplantation?
- Maturity of iPSC-derived cardiac myocytes ?
- Arrhythmias ?
- Tumor formation ?



Human ES- and iPS Cell Engraftment in SCID Mice Measured by Bioluminescence Imaging



ES cells
ES-hCM

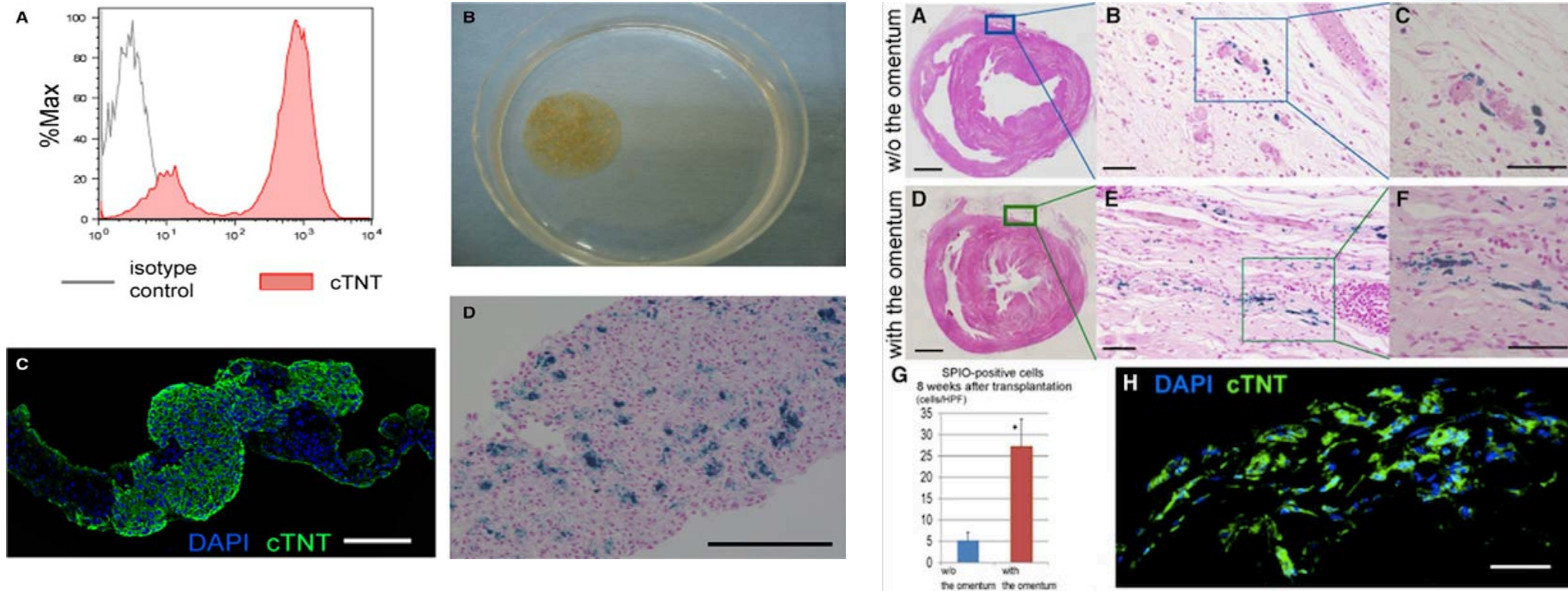
↑ LVEF & viability

iPS cells
iPS-iCM

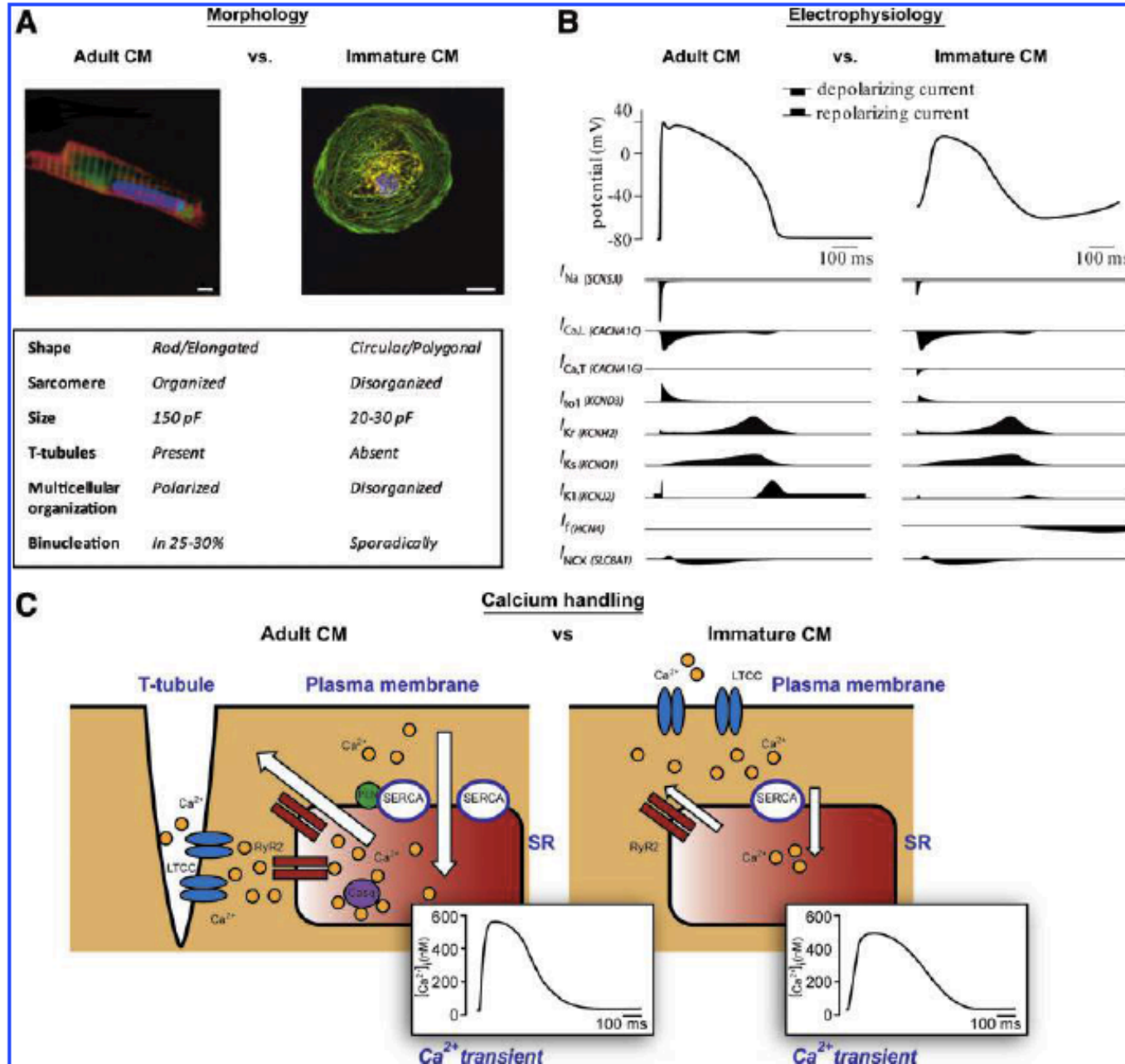
↑ LVEF & viability

Tachibana et al.
Circ Res. 2017;121:e22-e36.

Human induced pluripotent stem cell-derived cardiac myocytes (hiPS-CMs) cell sheet improves survival after transplantation.



Immaturity of human iPSC-derived Cardiac Myocytes

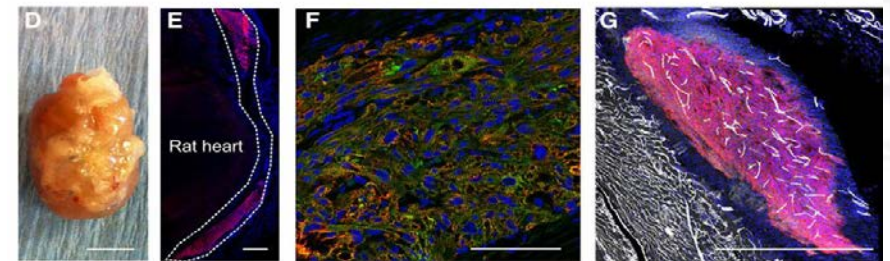
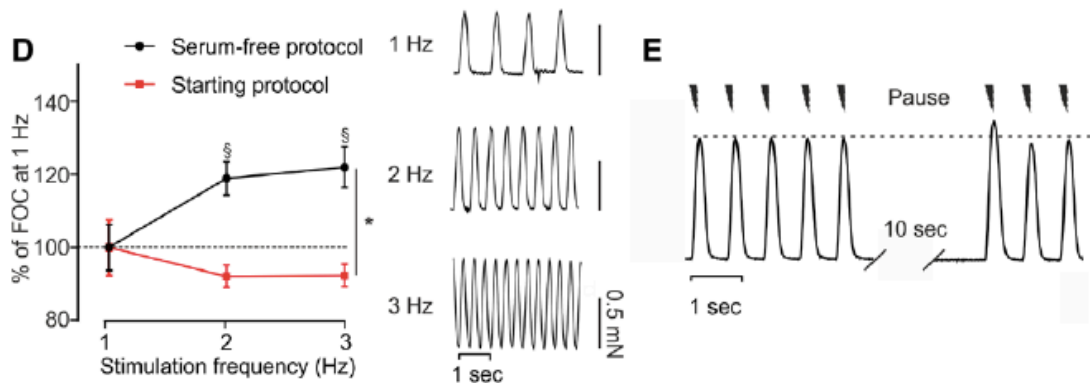
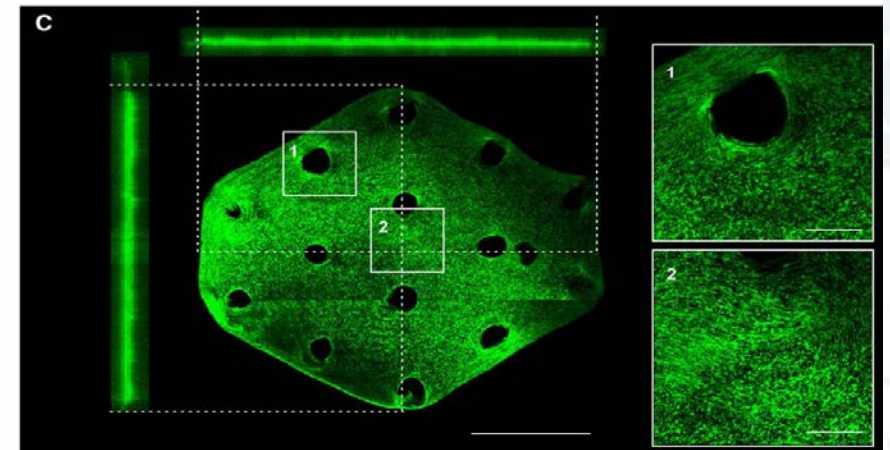
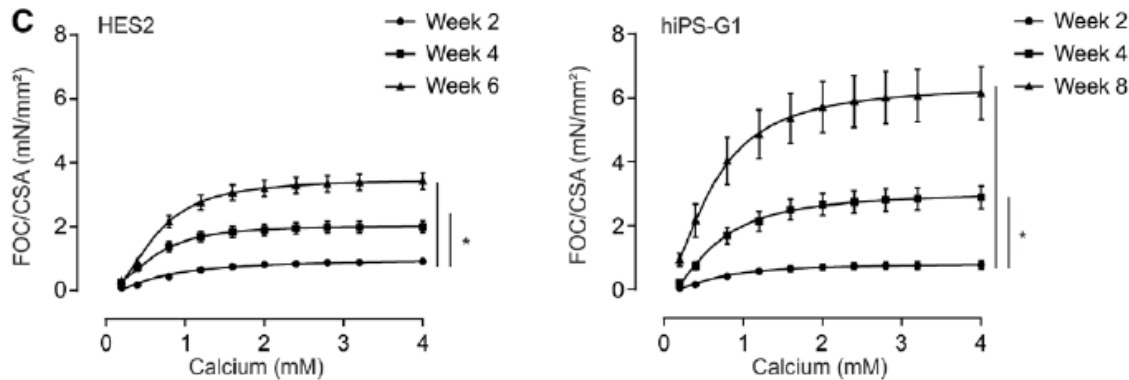
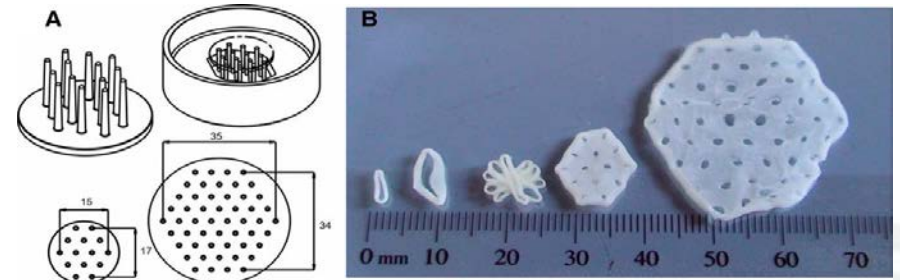
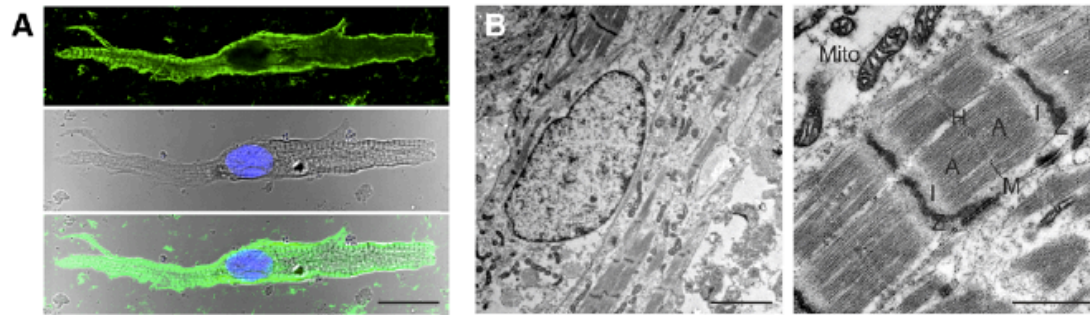


*Veerman et al.
Stem Cells Dev 2015*

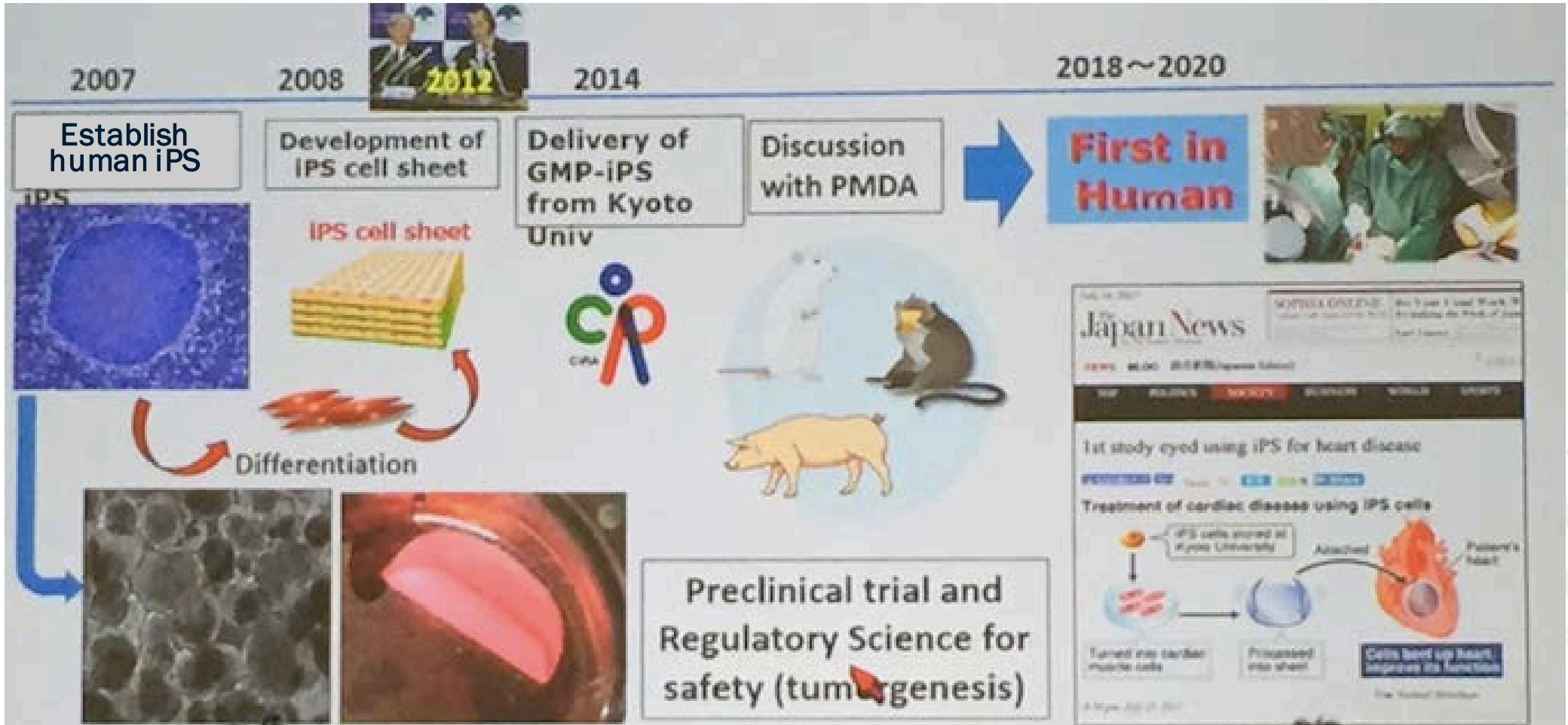


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Engineered Human Myocardium for Heart Repair



Future Clinical Application of human iPSC-derived cardiac myocytes: EHT



Courtesy of Yoshinori Yoshida, Kyoto, Japan

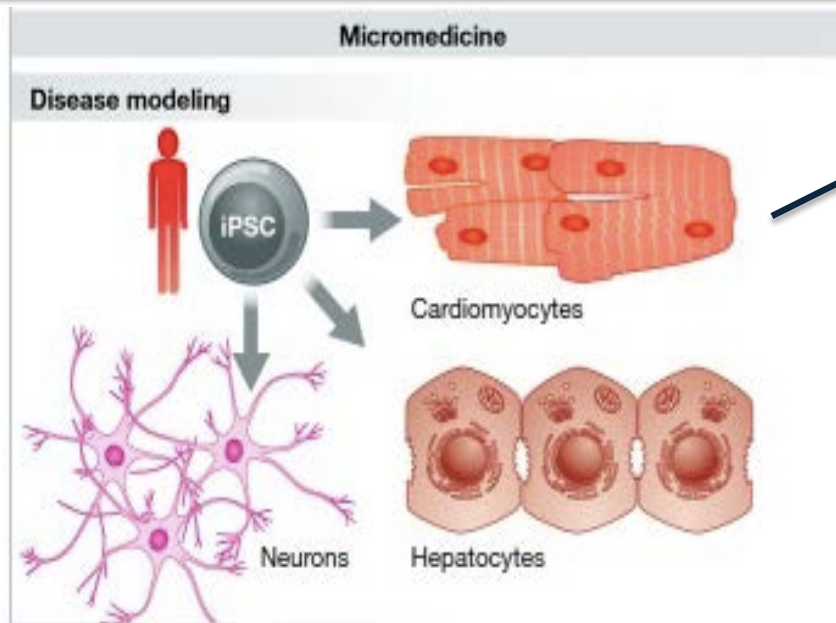


iPSC-derived Human Cardiac Myocytes in Cardiac Regeneration: caveats

- Cell Survival after Transplantation not permanent
 - Maturity of iPSC-derived cardiac myocytes incomplete
 - Arrhythmias (tbd)
 - Tumor formation (tbd)
- ➔ Major potential in disease modeling



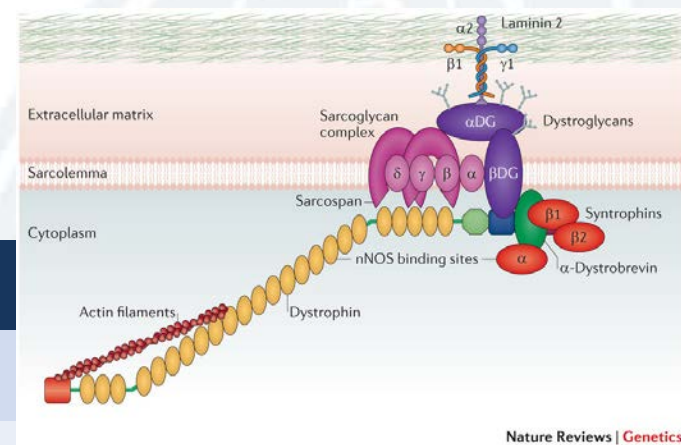
iPSC Application beyond Cardiac Regeneration



Disease modeling:

→ mutations in genes encoding ion channels, sarcomeric proteins,...

- **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy**



iPSC Line	Meth	origin	Mutation	Cardiac Function
DMD01	SeV	PBMC	del exon 49-52	normal (13y)
DMD02	SeV	fibrobl	pt mut exon 35	cardiomyopathy (20y)
DMD03	SeV	PBMC	del exon 16-17	normal (8 y)
DMD04	SeV	PBMC	del exon 46-51	cardiomyopathy (15y)
HC01	SeV	fibrobl	NA	normal

(Courtesy of M. Sampaolesi, SCIL 2017)

iPSC Application beyond Cardiac Regeneration

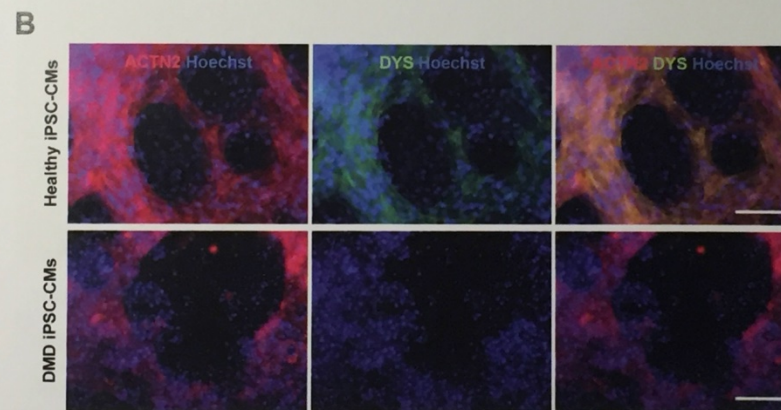
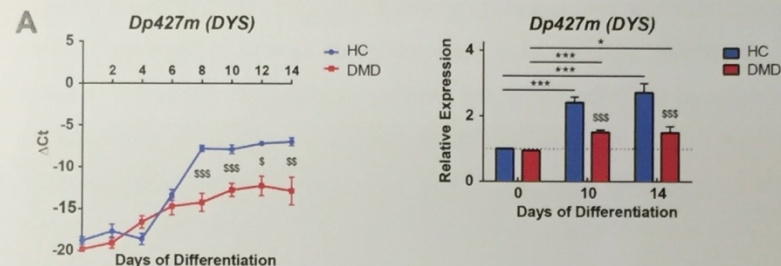
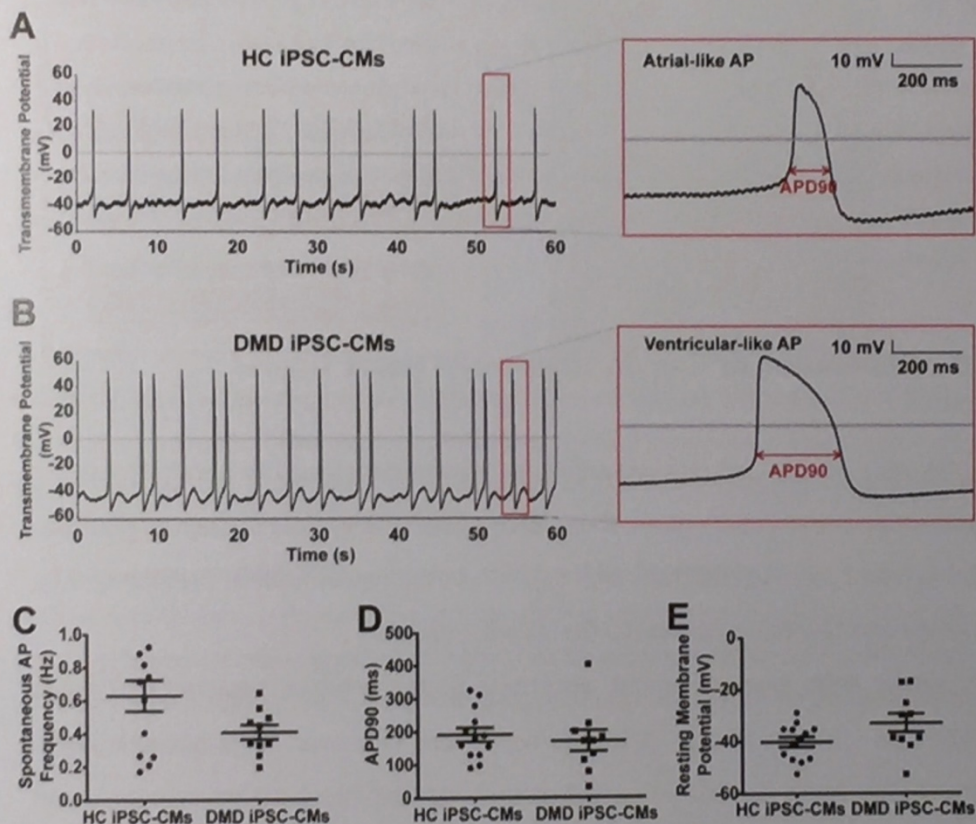
Micromedicine

Disease modeling



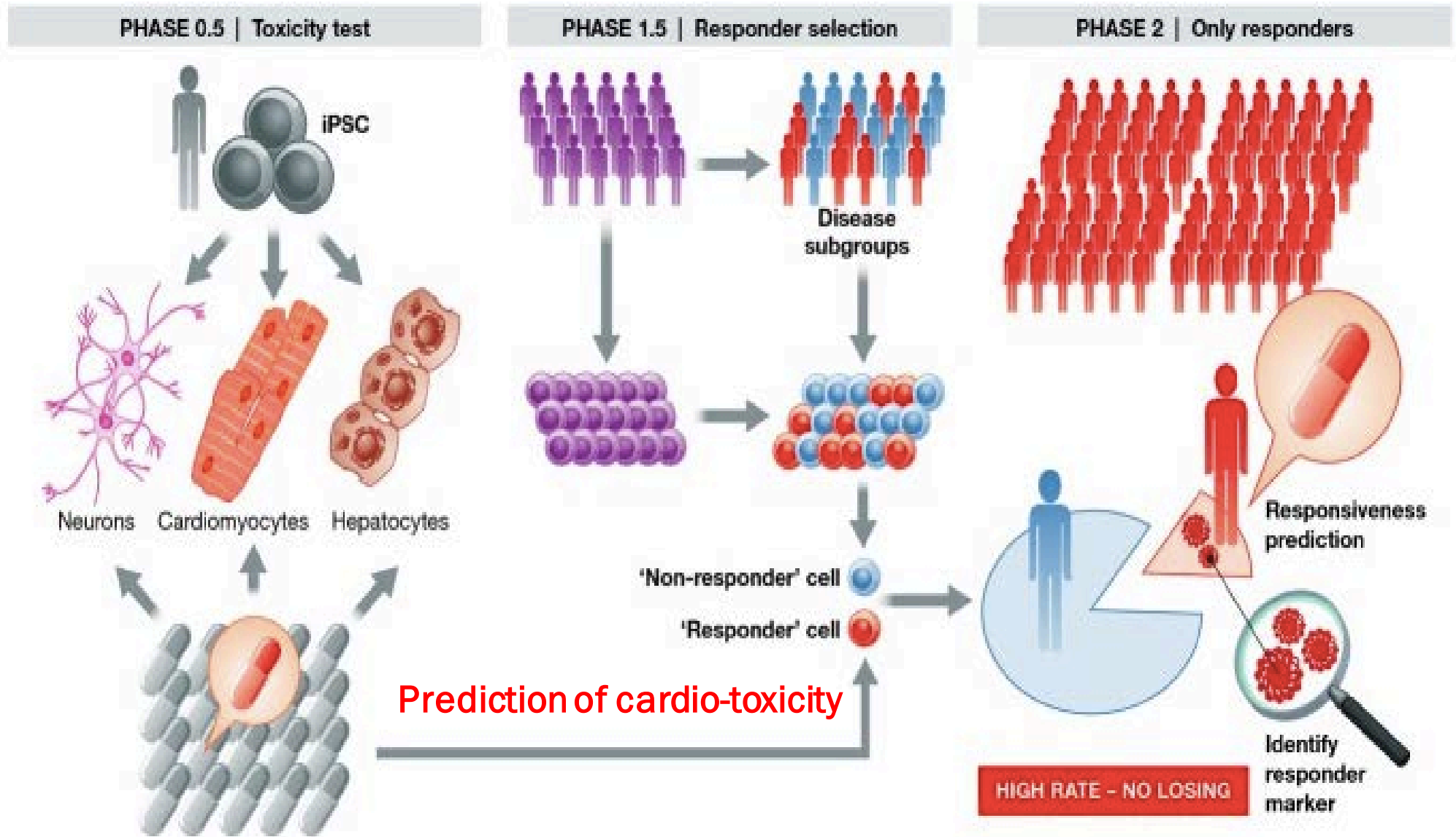
Disease modeling:

→ Screening mutations in dystrophin



(Courtesy of M. Sampaolesi, SCIL 2017)

iPSC Application beyond Cardiac Regeneration

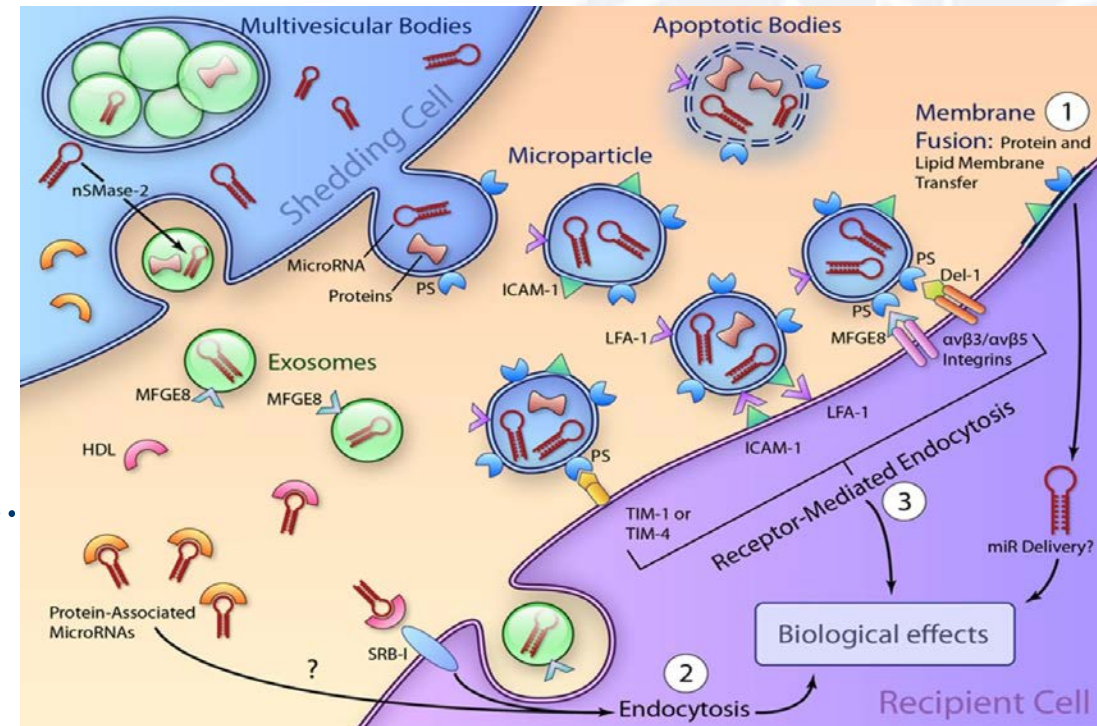
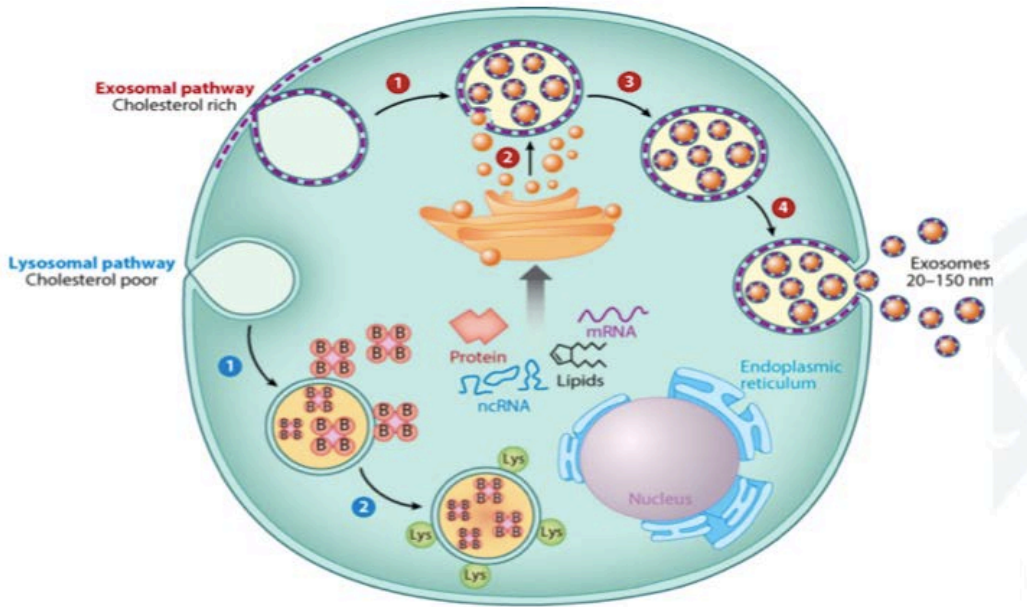


Outline Of Presentation (II): Exosomes

- What are exosomes?
- Role in Cardiovascular Physiology / Pathology
- Therapeutic potential: how, when, where?



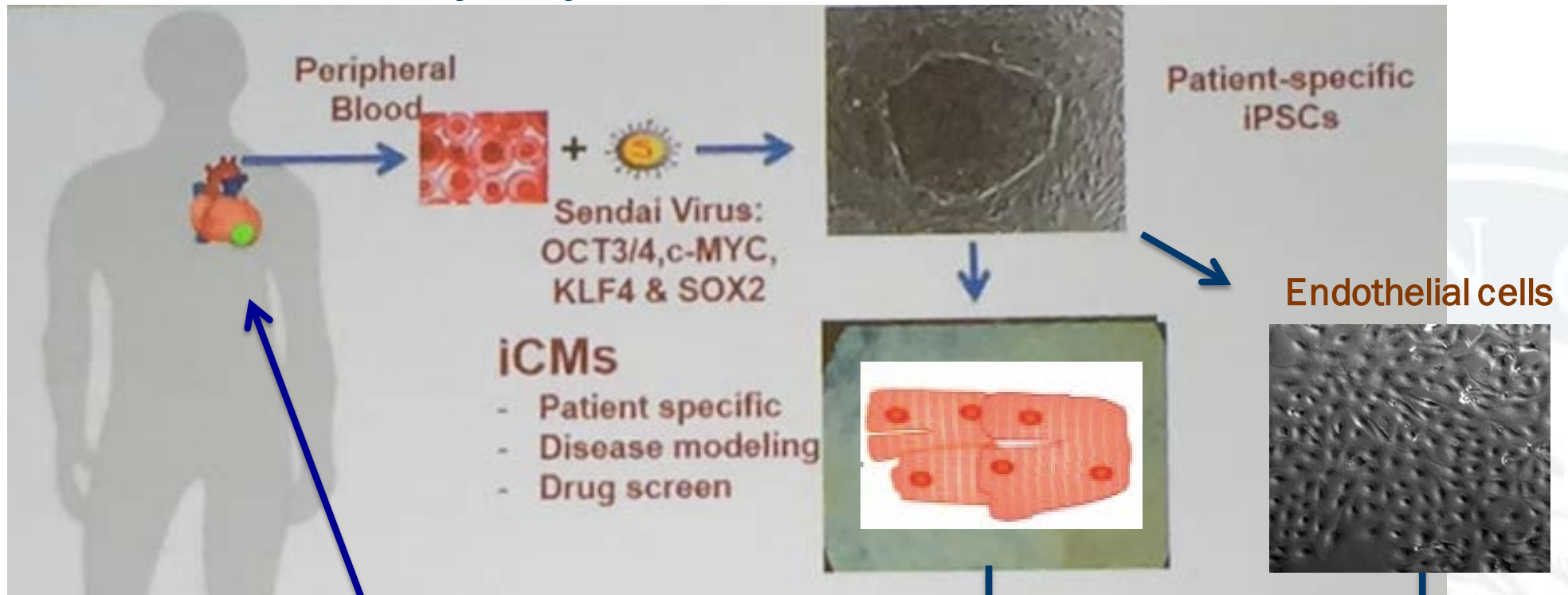
What are Exosomes?



Small (100 nm) vesicles:

- cell- and tissue- specificity
 - contain proteins, miRNA, mRNA,..
 - stable in circulation (capsid)
 - rapid uptake by cells
 - cell – cell communication
- mediate paracrine effects of progenitor cells

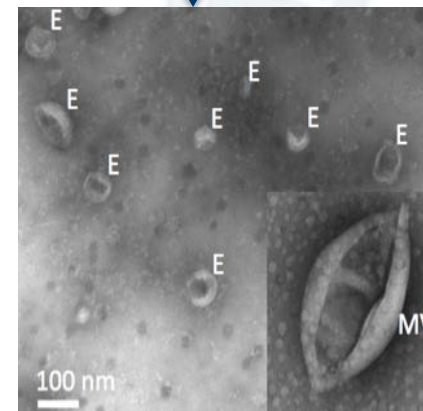
Generation of Exosomes from iPSC-derived Cardiac Myocytes and Endothelial Cells



Personalized therapy?

Exosomes:

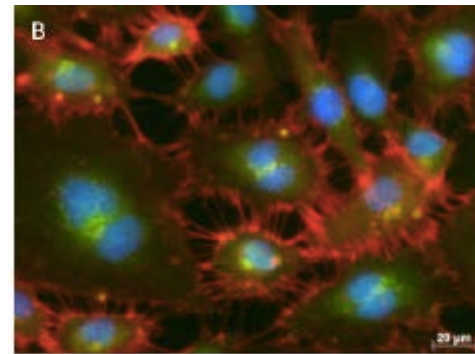
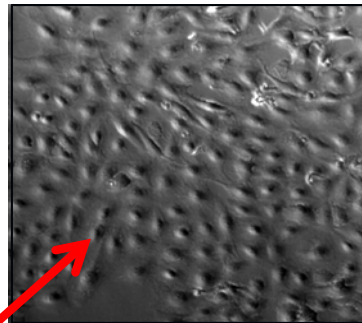
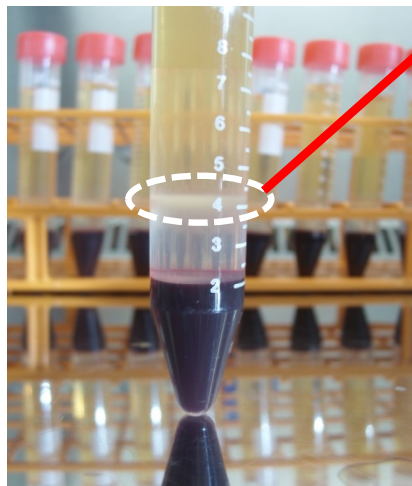
- Cell free
- Patient specific
- Disease specific



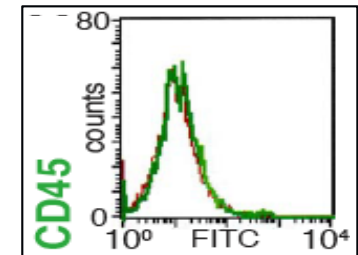
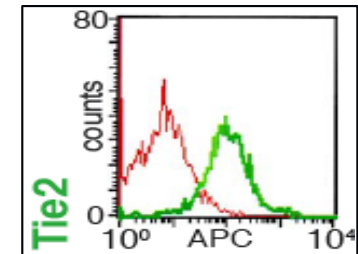
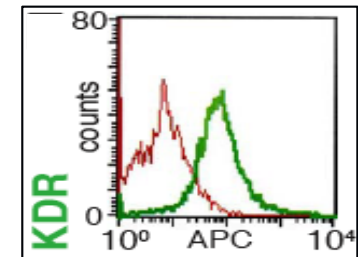
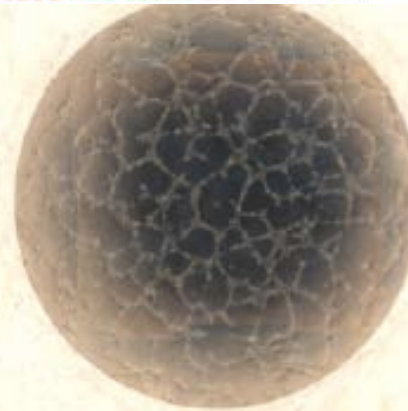
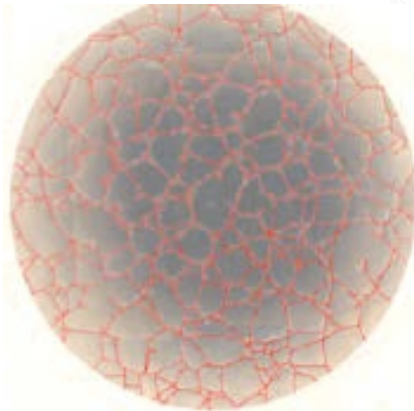
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Characterization of human Blood Outgrowth Endothelial Cells (BOEC) and BOEC-derived Exosomes

B? Peripheral **B**lood derived
O? **O**utgrowth after 2-3 weeks
EC? **E**ndothelial Progenitor **C**ell characteristics



CD31 FITC-Lectin DAPI



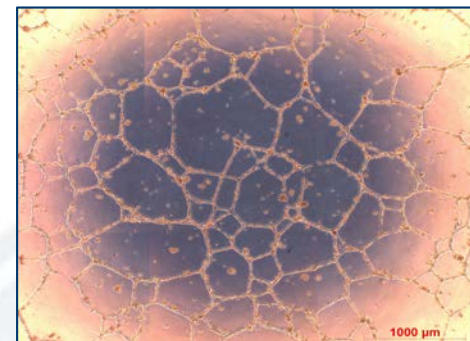
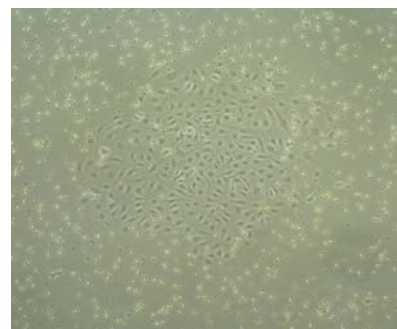
BOECs improve myocardial perfusion and reduce LV remodeling in Ischemic CMP



TTC: 6w after IC cell transfer

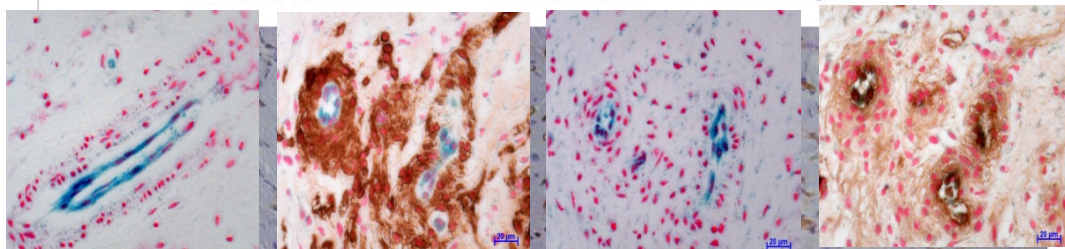
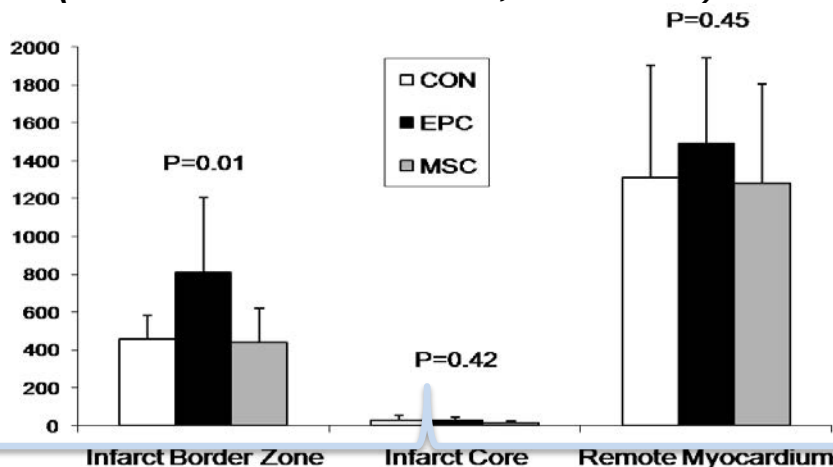


(Dubois et al. JACC 2010;55:2232-43)

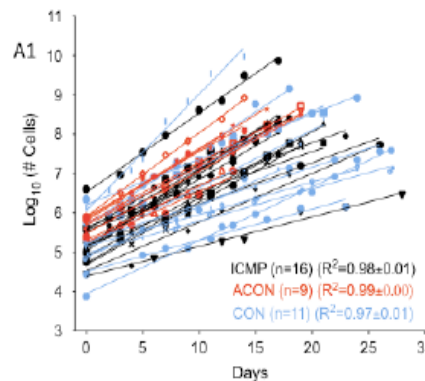


IHD (EF<35%): n=45, Isolation Efficiency 81%
 Con: n=32, Isolation Efficiency 71%

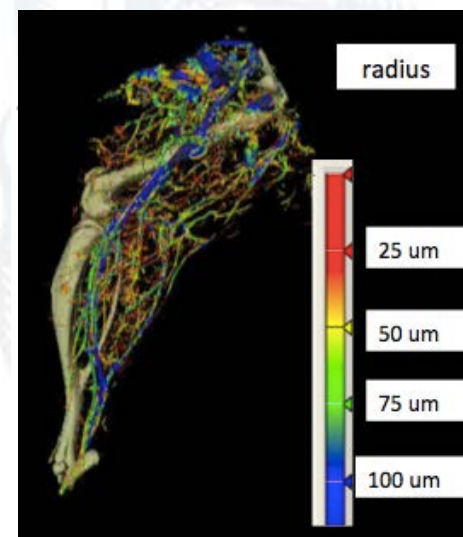
Vessels/mm²



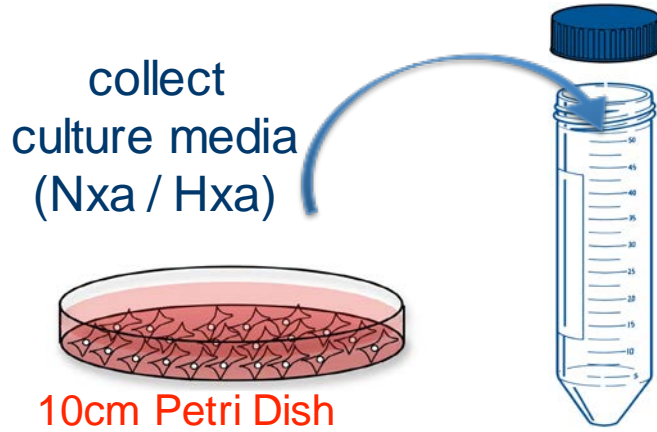
In vitro expansion



(Dauwe et al, JAHA 2016)

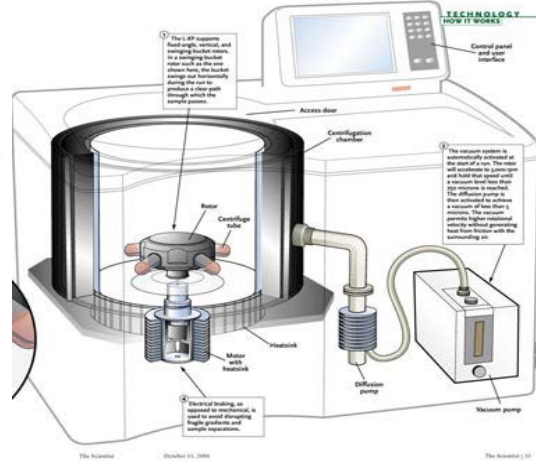


BOEC Exosome Characterization

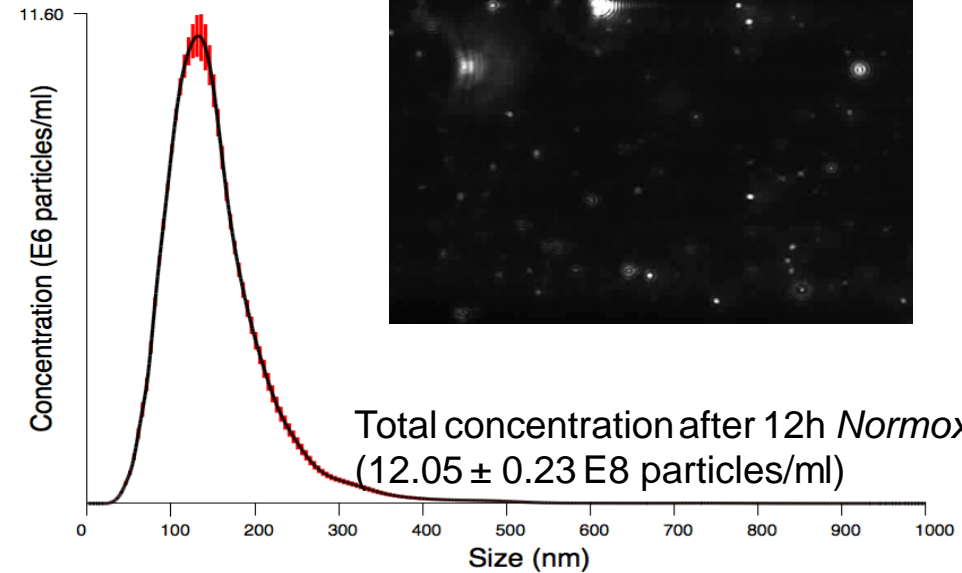
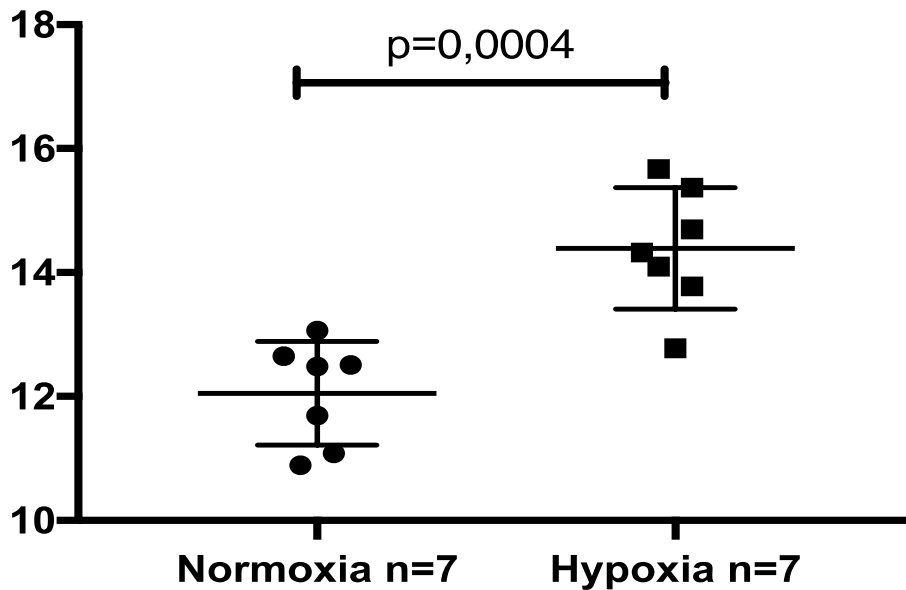


10cm Petri Dish
@7ml of culture media
(FBS Depleted Exosomes)

Ultracentrifugation



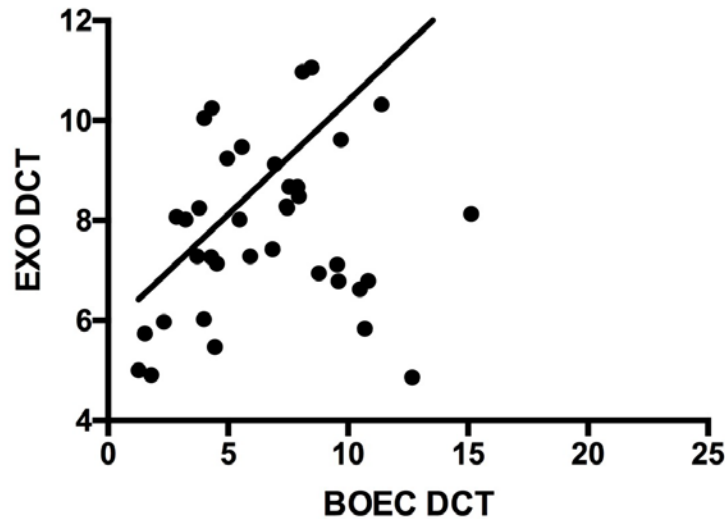
Supernatant
Exosomes Pellet



Averaged Size / Concentration
Red error bars indicate +/- 1 standard error of the mean

BOEC-specific Exosomes stimulate 2D Tube Formation of HUVEC in Matrigel

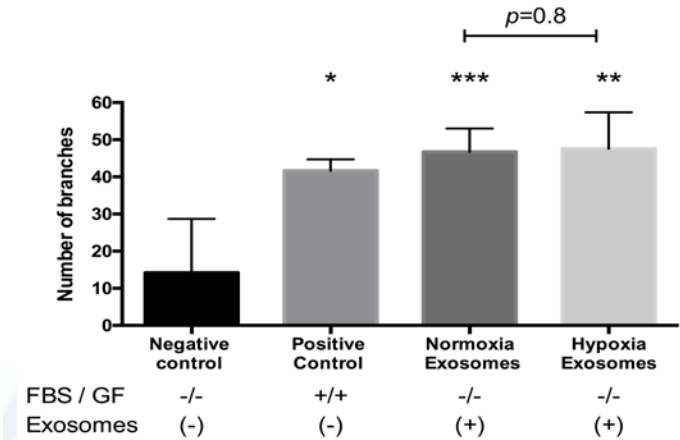
Gene Expression BOECs vs BOECs derived Exosomes



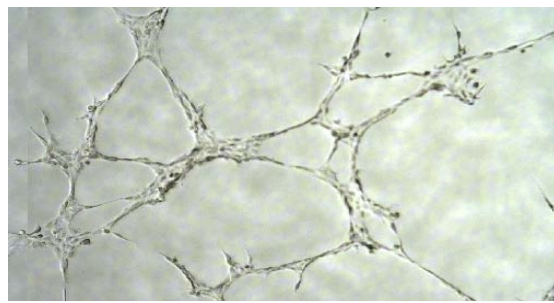
MMP1
MCP1
KGF/FGF2
PLGF
VEGFR2

P Value < 0.001
 $R^2 = 0.33$

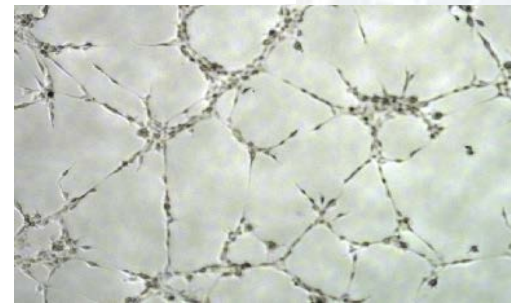
Exosomes treatment on HUVECs (n=7)



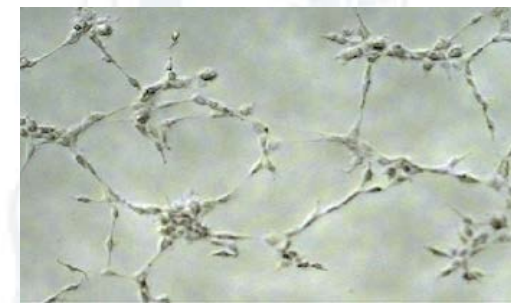
Negative Control
FBS/GF -/-



Positive Control
FBS/GF +/+

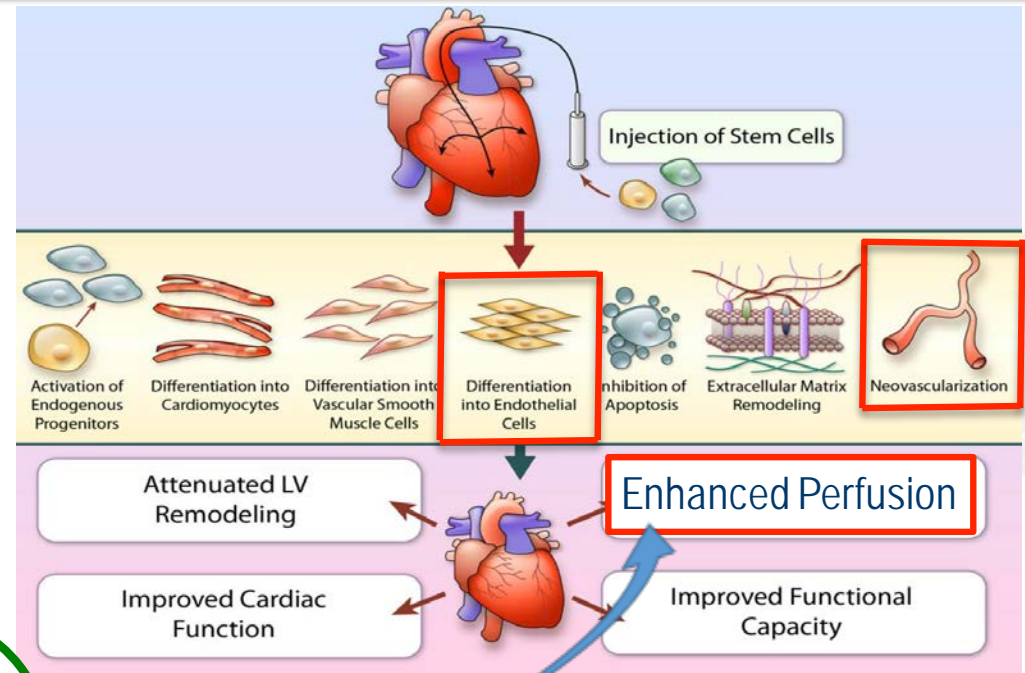
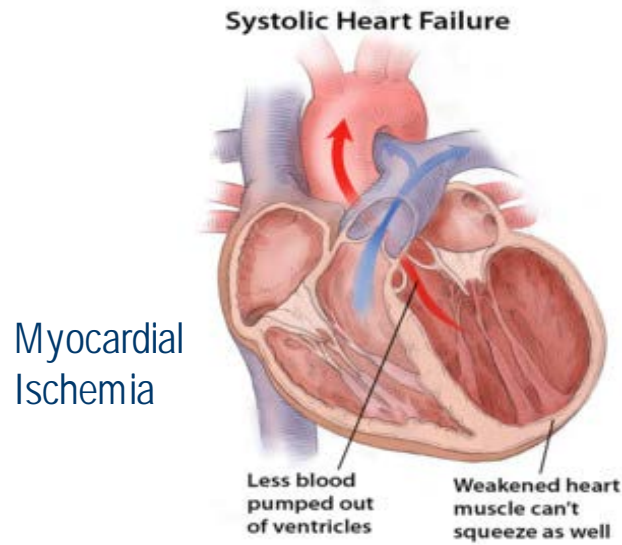


Normoxia Exosomes
FBS/GF -/-

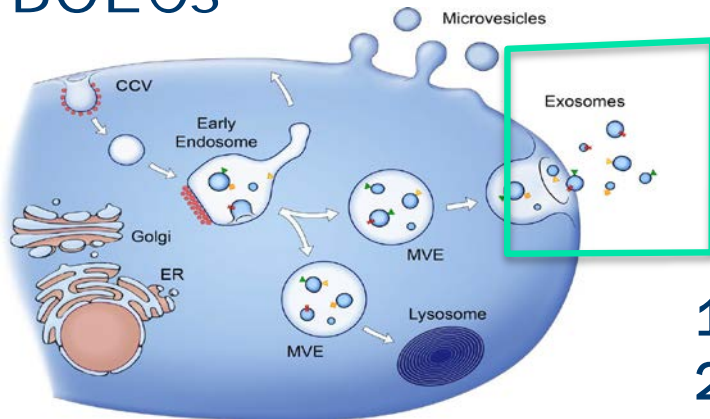


Hypoxia Exosomes
FBS/GF -/-

BOEC-derived Exosomes for Cardiac Revascularisation



BOECs



Exo_RNA
Exo_Protein

1. Standardization of EXO purification?
2. Optimal concentration and delivery mode?
3. Pathological micro-environment?
4. Exo content and stimulus for release?

BOEC transfer in Refractory Ischemic Cardiomyopathy

Preclinical Research

Clinical Research



Small animals



Large Animals



Phase Ib



Phase II

BOEC transfer

IMAGING

SAFETY/FEASIBILITY

FIM Phase 1 (safety/feasibility) dose escalation

- ICMP with EF 15-35%

- dose escalation (n=3 pts /dose

FU: 1w - 3, 6 mo - 1 y (PET-MRI)

(Hendrickx, Stem Cells 2010)

(Dauwe, EHJ CV imaging 2015)

(Coppens, Diabetologia 2013)

(Dauwe, JAHA 2016)

Future iPSC and Exosome-based Therapies

- **iPS-derived cardiac myocytes:**

- Source cells for cardiac regeneration?

- Paracrine mode of action: immunomodulatory, cytoprotective, pro-angiogenic, anti-fibrotic,...
- Immature cardiac phenotype: arrhythmogenicity
- **FIM**: cell sheet with human iPS-CM for ischemic CMP (Japan)

- Robust potential for disease modeling and precision medicine

- Cardio-oncology applications

- **Progenitor cell-derived Exosomes:**

- Mediators of paracrine effects and intercellular signaling molecules
- Recapitulate benefit of parent progenitor cells in vitro and in vivo
- **FIM**: - graft versus host disease
 - wound healing in scleroderma (Japan)



Thank you



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