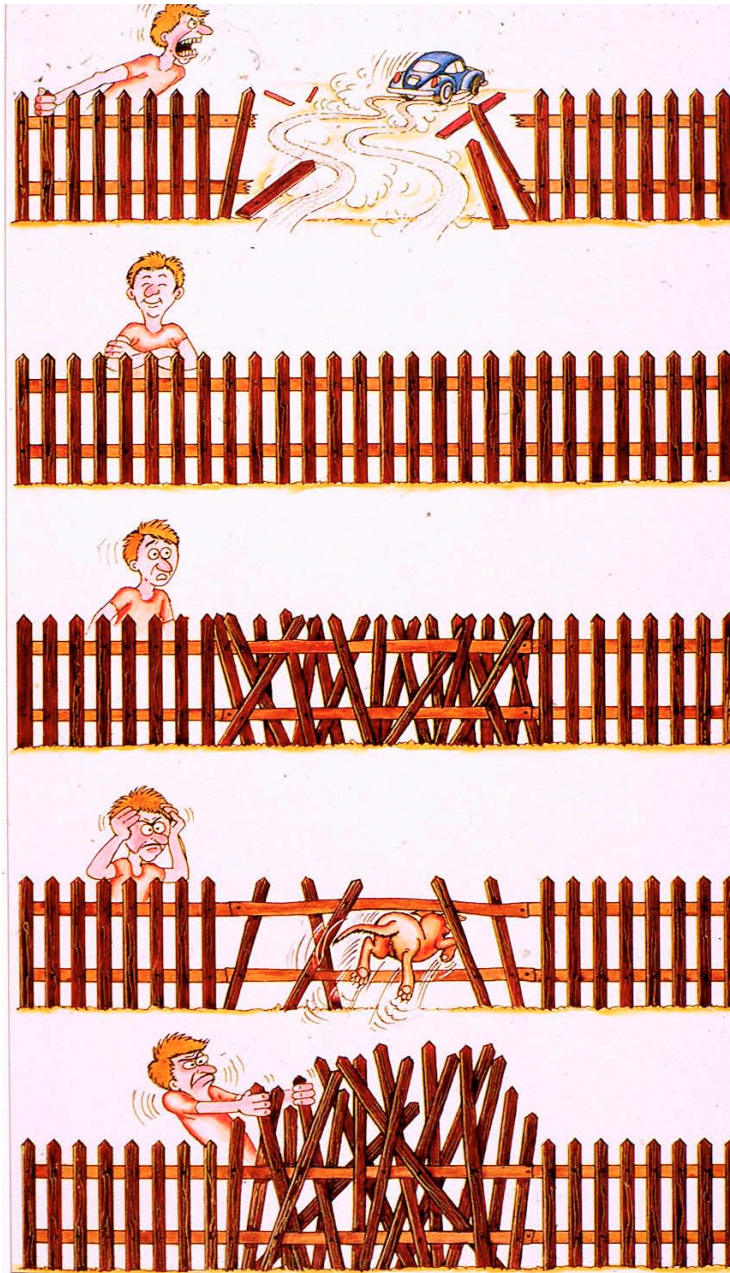


# Differentiation of mesothelial cells – potential role in fibrosis

‘Scarring in the female reproductive tract’  
ESHRE, Edinburgh  
5-6th February 2013

Sarah Herrick  
Institute of Inflammation and Repair  
The University of Manchester, UK

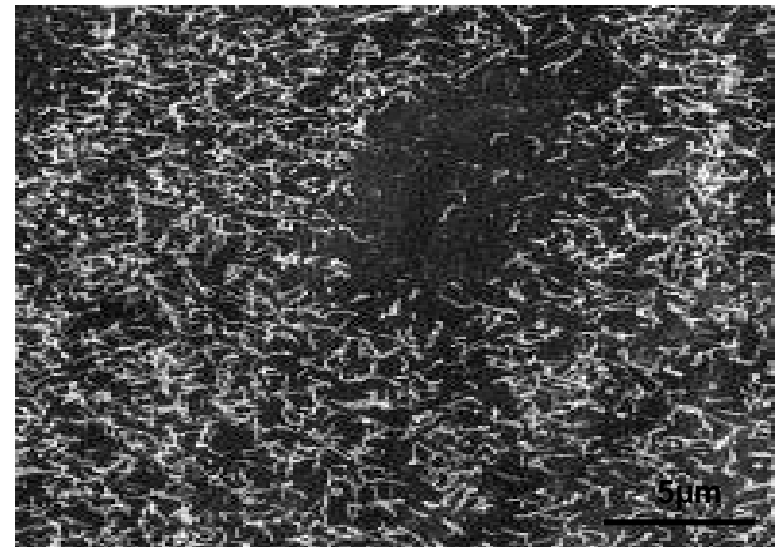
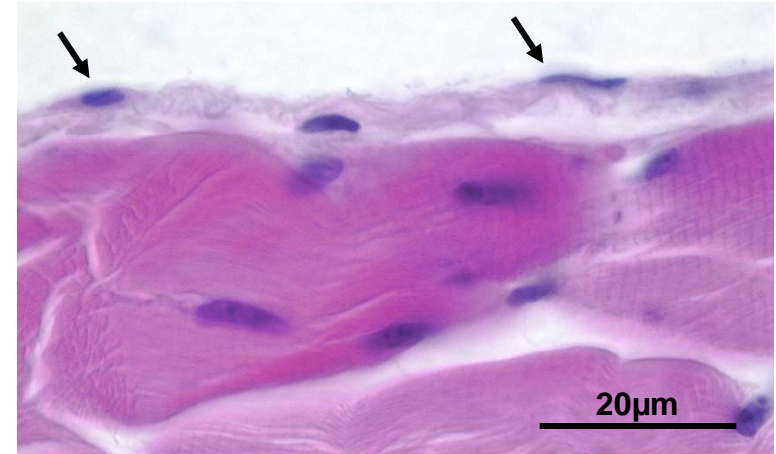
# Repair scenarios



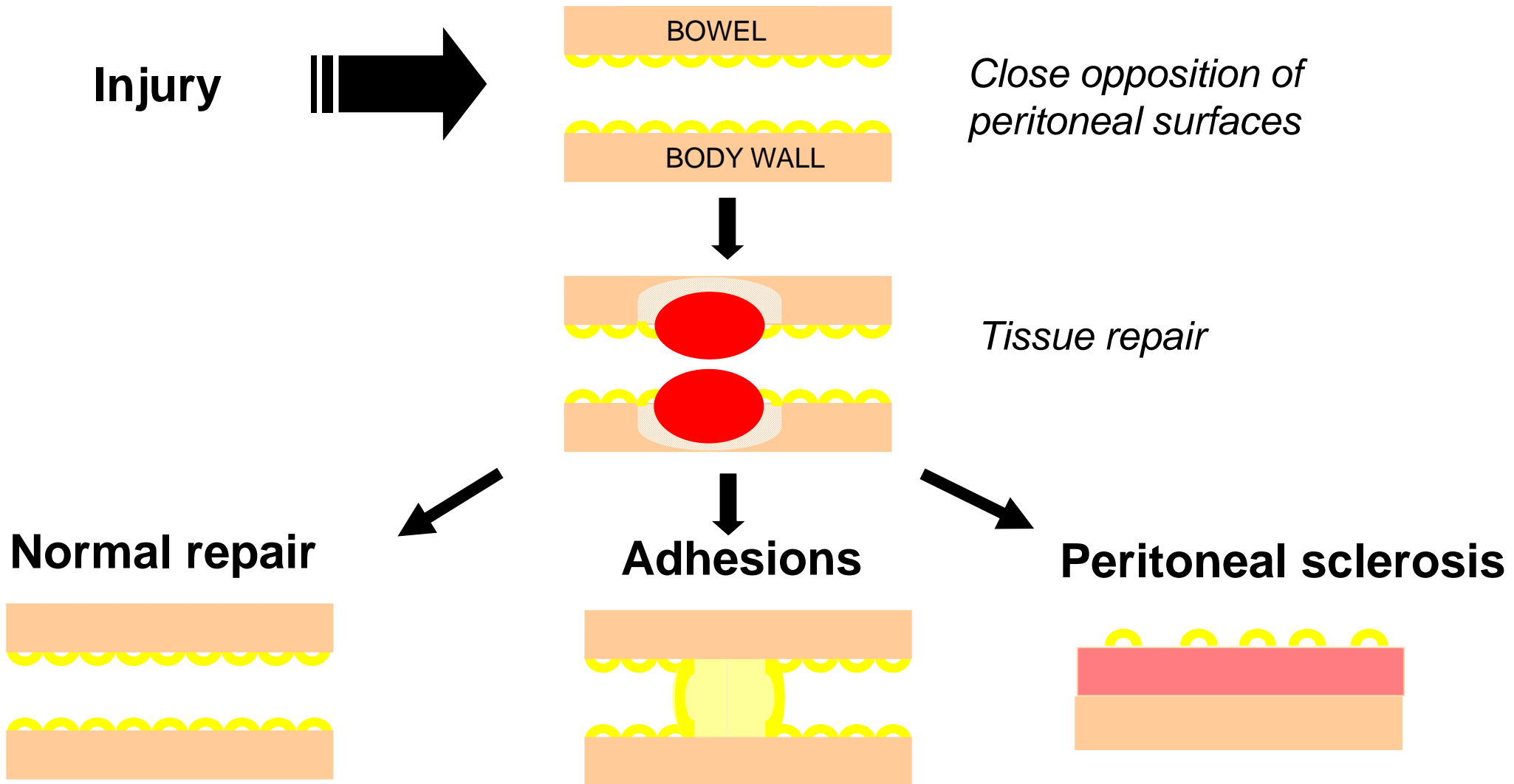
- After injury...
- the ideal is regeneration...
- but usually repair with scarring occurs...
- if inadequate and weak, chronic wounds form...
- or if excessive, hypertrophic/fibrotic scarring results

# Importance of the mesothelium

- Mesothelium
  - single layer of squamous epithelium
  - mesodermally derived
  - all three serosal cavities
- Subserosal connective tissue
- Peritoneal fluid
- Functions
  - Non-adhesive barrier-surfactant and microvilli
  - Solute and fluid transport
  - Immune function
- Pathology



# Peritoneal repair scenarios

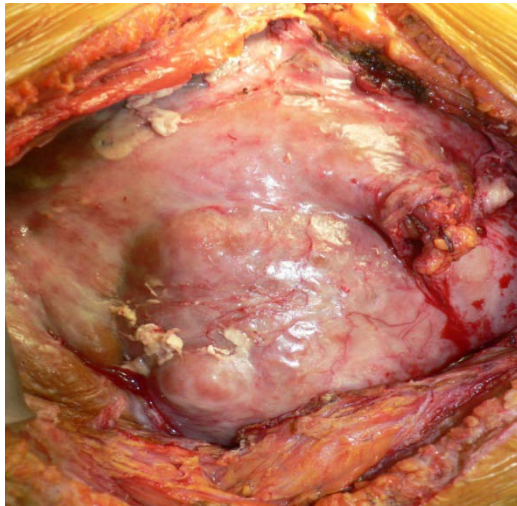
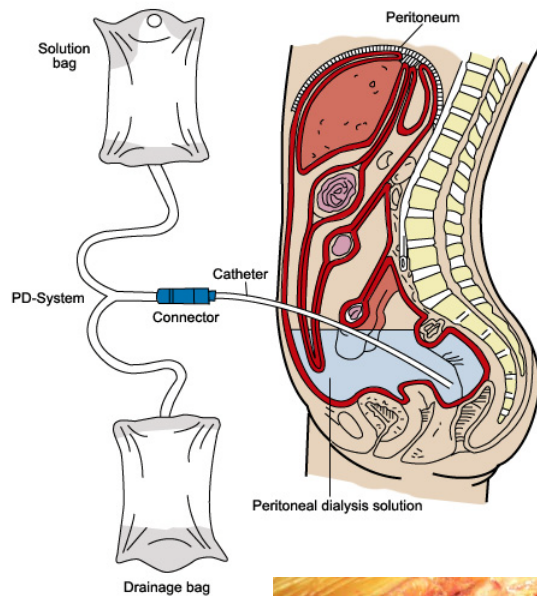


# Abdominal/pelvic surgery often leads to adhesion formation



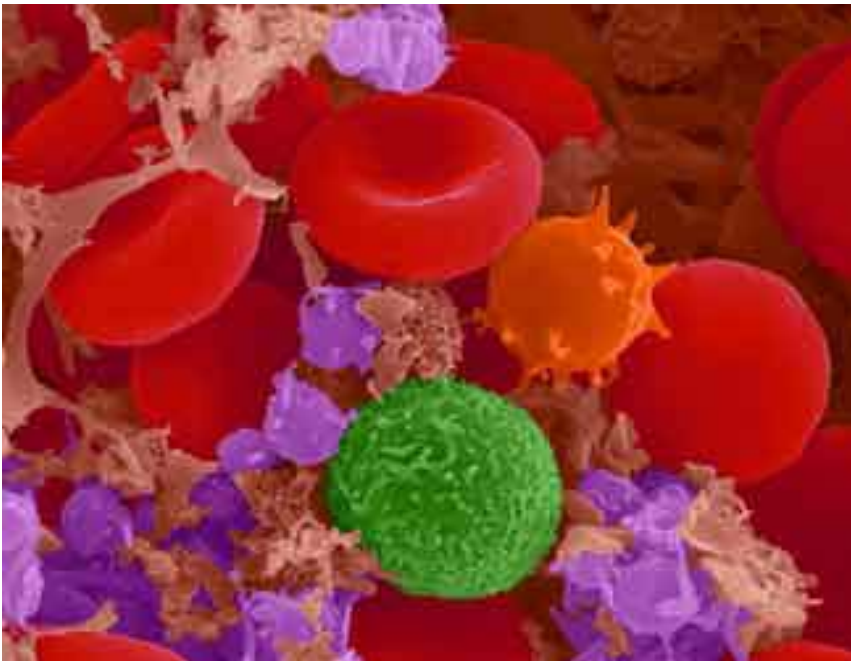
- Form after a range of peritoneal insults
- Complications :
  - Small bowel obstruction
  - infertility in women
  - difficulty of repeat surgery
  - chronic pelvic pain
- 5.5% of all abdominal repeat surgery directly due to adhesions - SCAR studies
- Reform after surgical adhesiolysis
- Limited preventative treatment – barrier devices
- Pharmaceutical interventions?

# Peritoneal dialysis commonly results in peritoneal sclerosis



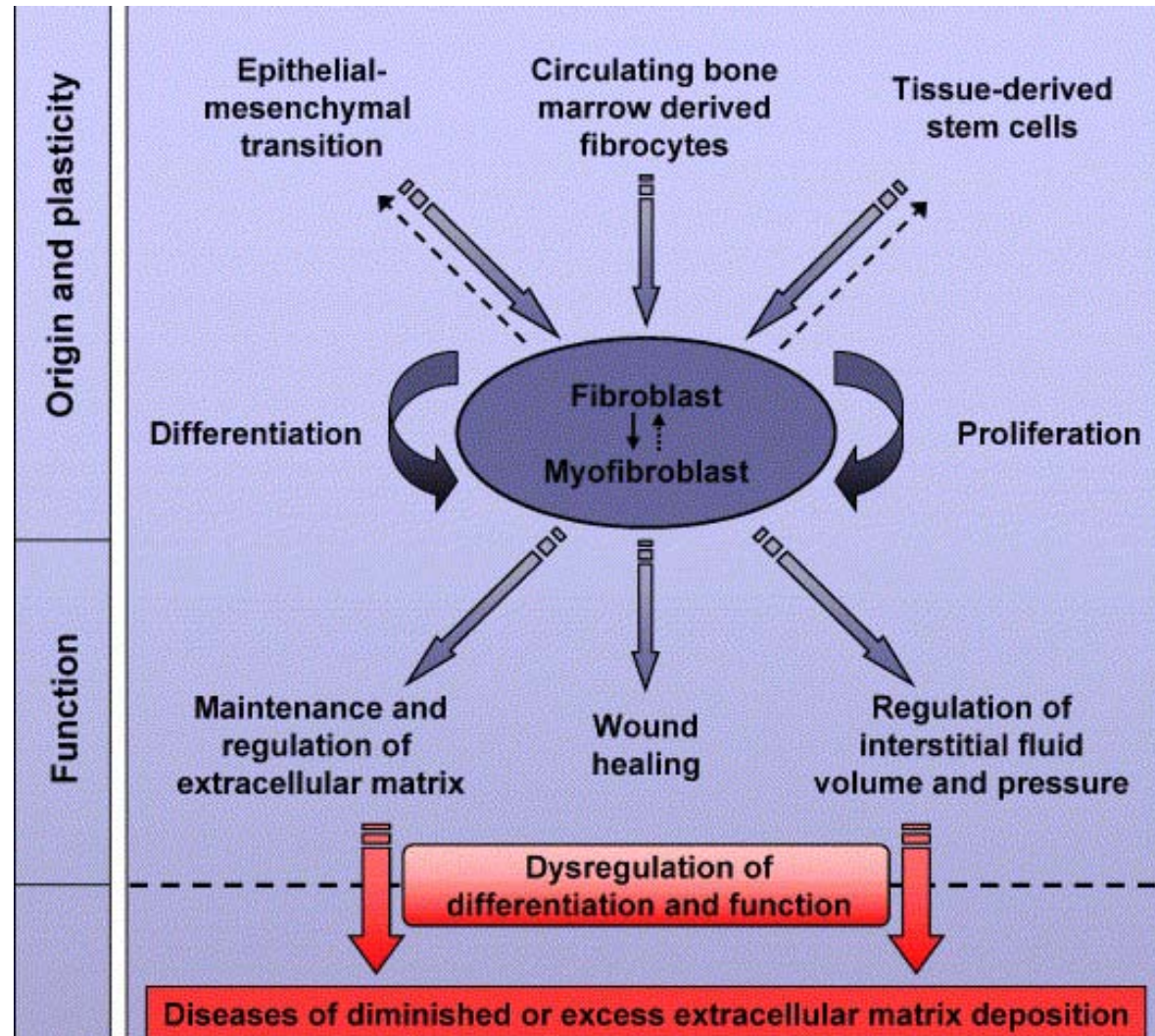
- Peritoneal dialysate – high glucose, low pH, high lactate
- Peritonitis
- Thickening of peritoneal membrane leads to ultrafiltration failure
- Rare condition of PD - Encapsulating Peritoneal Sclerosis (EPS)
- Cocooning of viscera by mass scar tissue leading to bowel obstruction
- Incidence linked to time on dialysis
  - 2 years – 1.9%
  - 8 years – 19.4%
- Surgical management
- Pathophysiology?

# How does tissue repair progress to fibrosis?



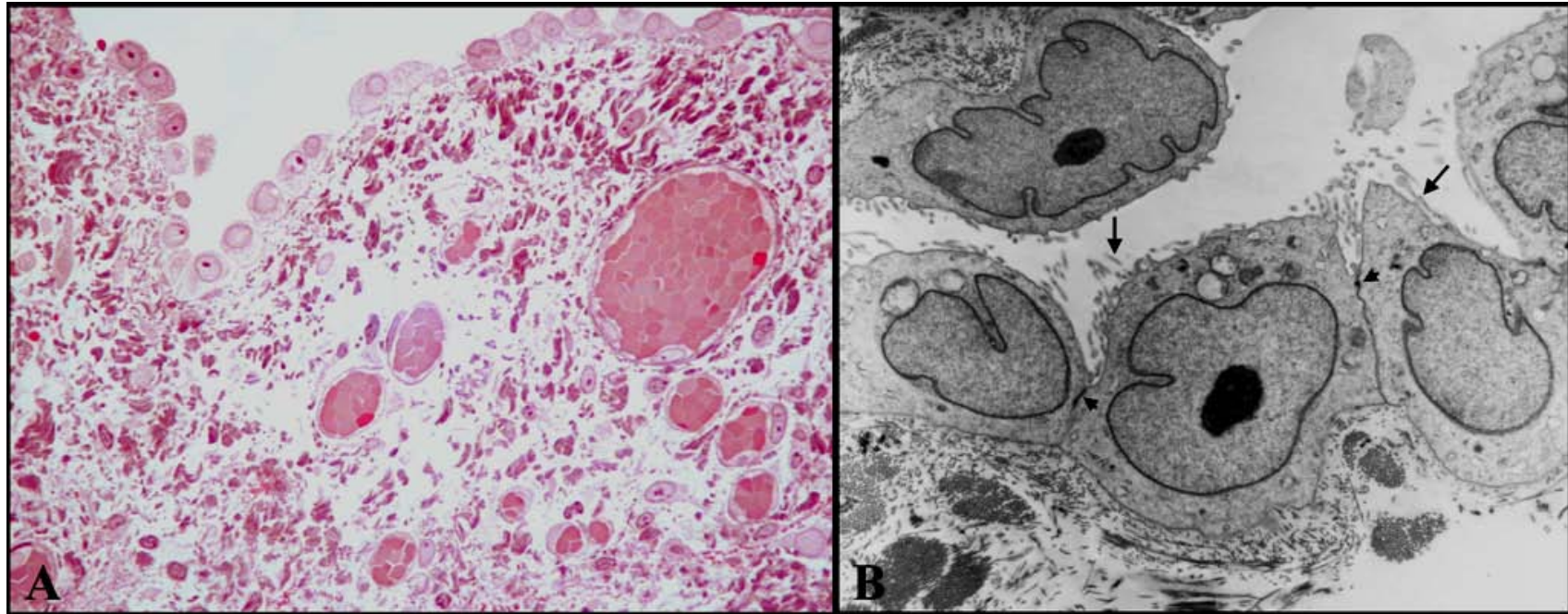
- Coagulation and inflammation
- Granulation tissue formation
- Re-epithelialisation
- Tissue contraction
- Remodeling and scar formation -  
.....fibrosis

# Important role of the 'fibroblast' in tissue repair and fibrosis



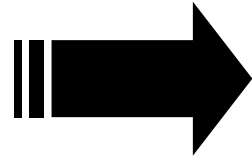


Does the mesothelium play a role in peritoneal fibrosis?



# Peritoneal repair scenarios

**Injury**

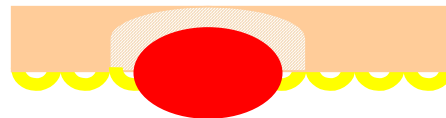


BOWEL

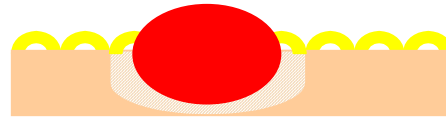


BODY WALL

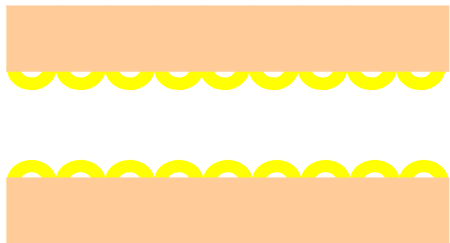
*Close opposition of peritoneal surfaces*



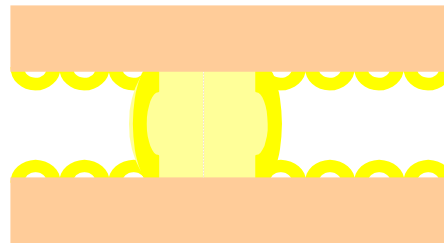
*Tissue repair*



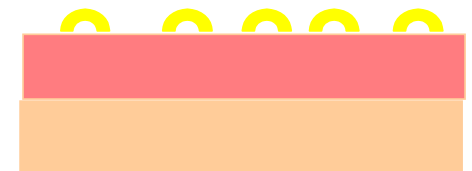
**Normal repair**



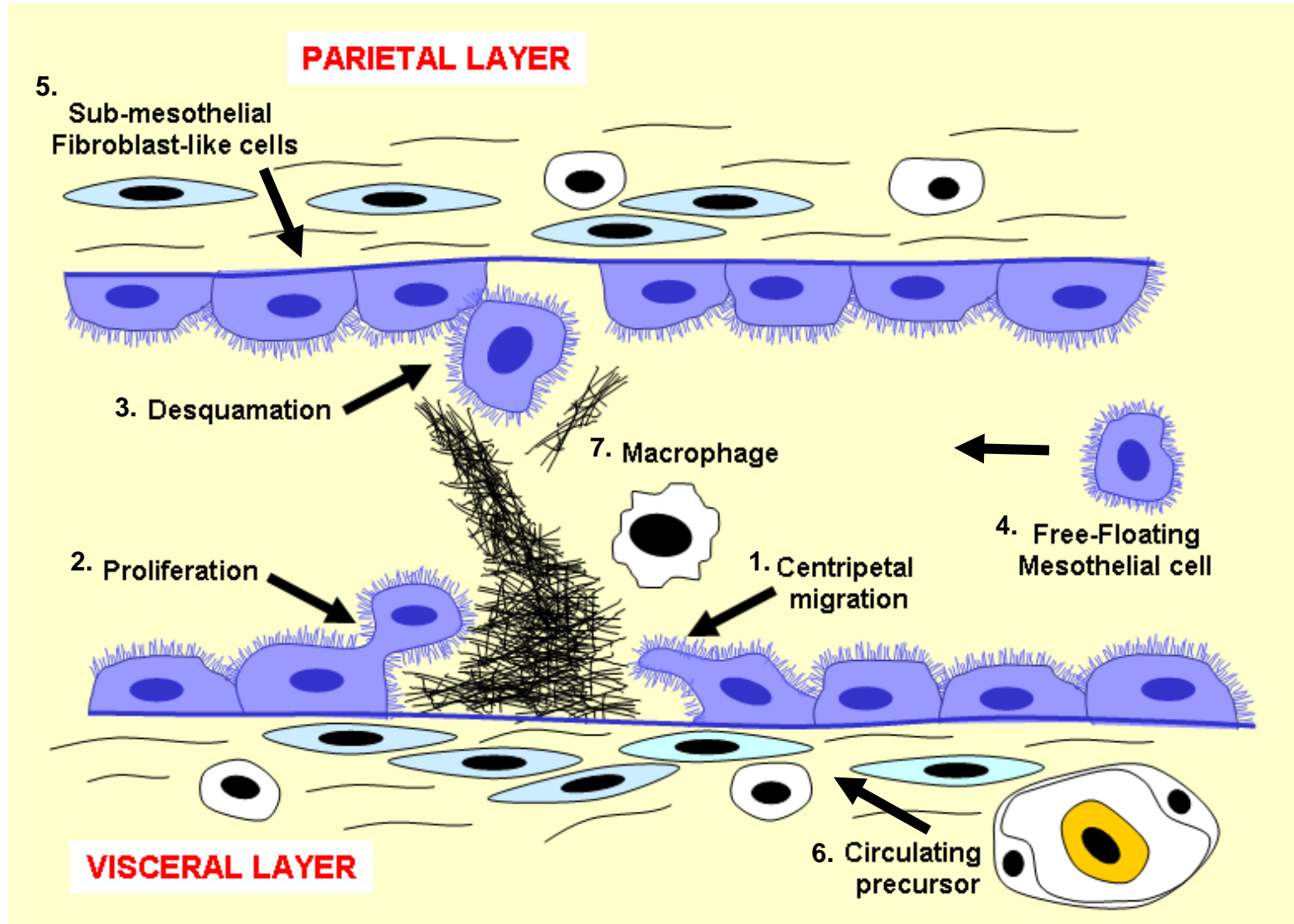
**Adhesions**



**Peritoneal sclerosis**

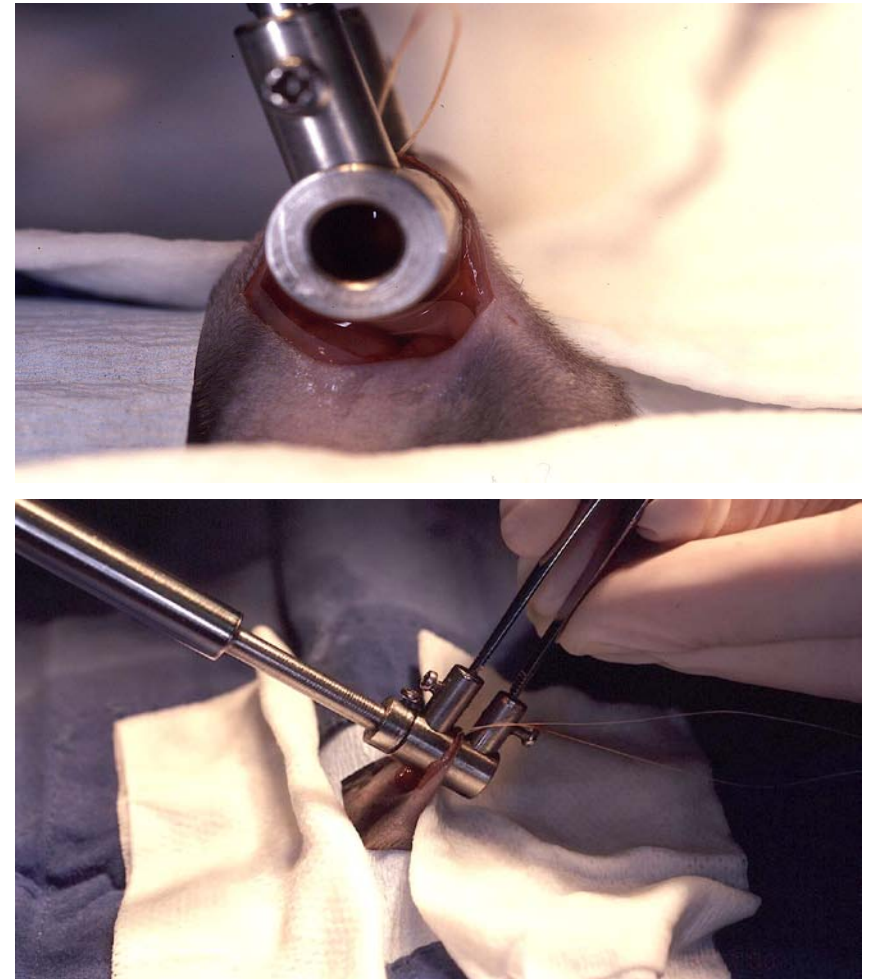


# Proposed schemes of mesothelial regeneration



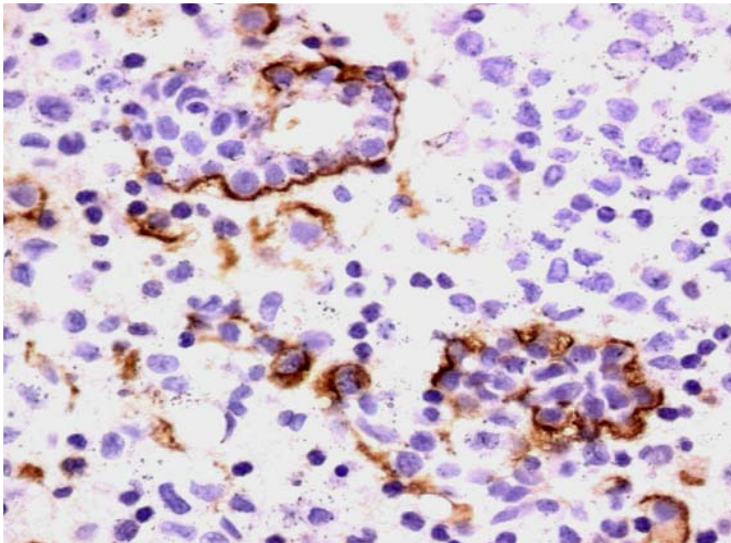
# Rodent model of surgical injury

- Isolate and label rat cells
  - mesothelial cells
  - peritoneal lavage cells
  - peritoneal macrophages
  - lung fibroblasts
- Laparotomy and simple abrasion injury
- Intra-peritoneal injection of fluorescent Di-I labelled cells
- Assessed distribution of labelled cells post-injury

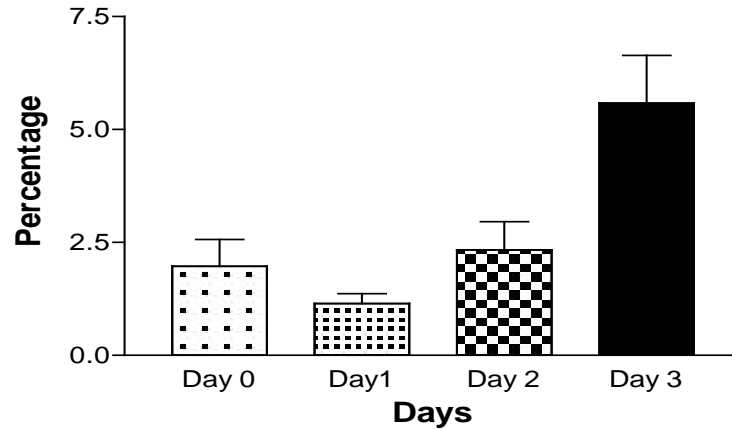


# Mesothelial cells in serosal fluid increase after injury in rats

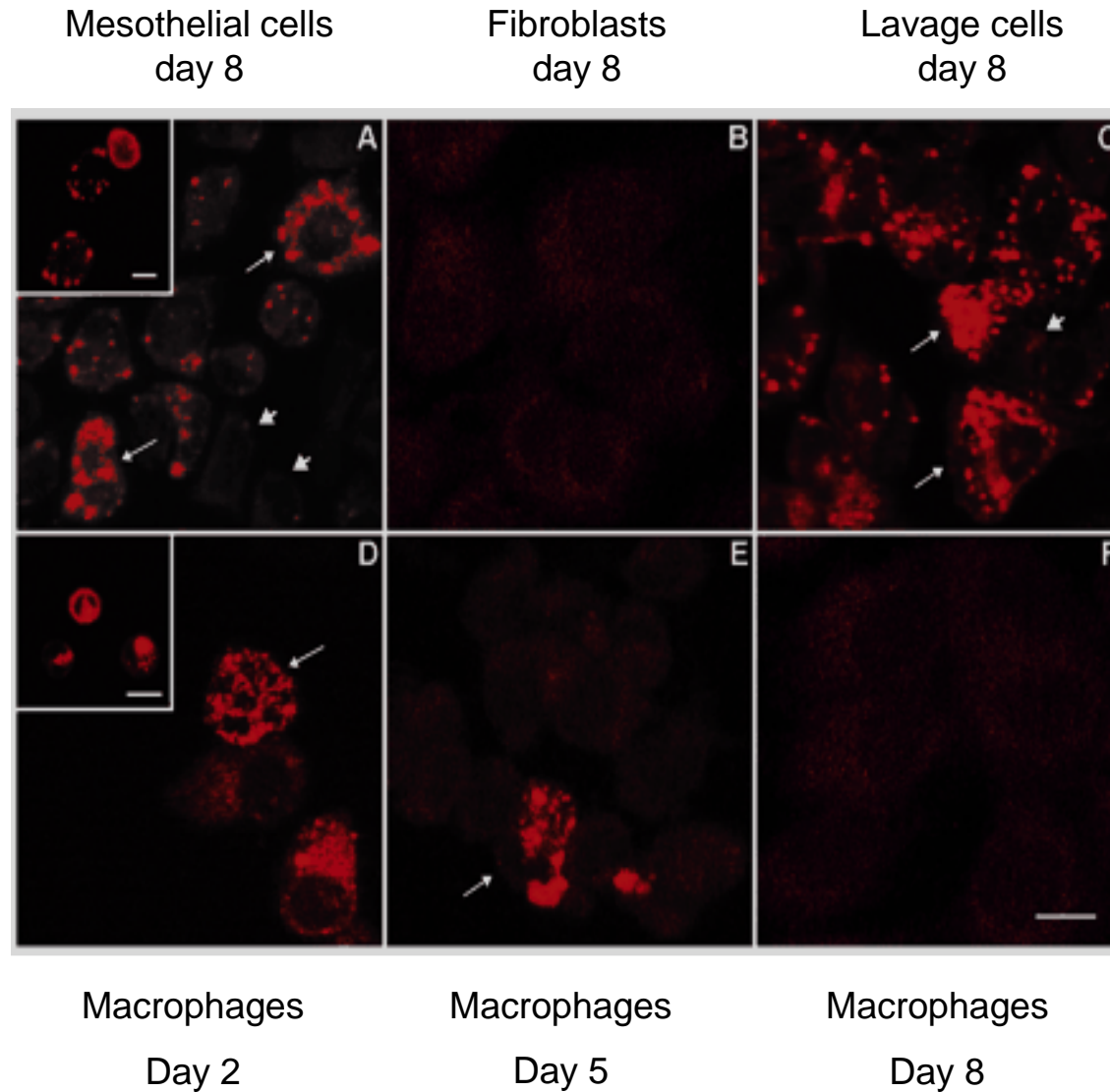
**HBME+ve**



**Percentage of Mesothelial Cells Over a 3-day period**

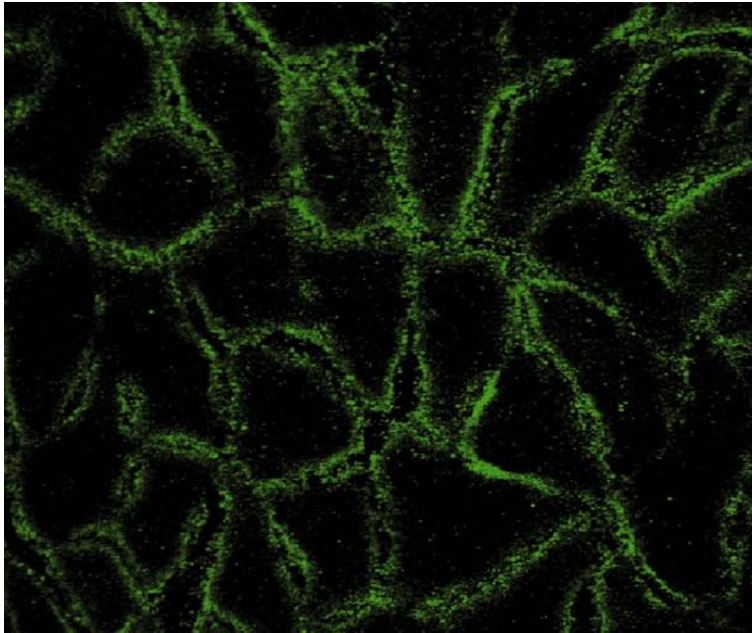


# Incorporation of isolated free-floating mesothelial cells on denuded surface

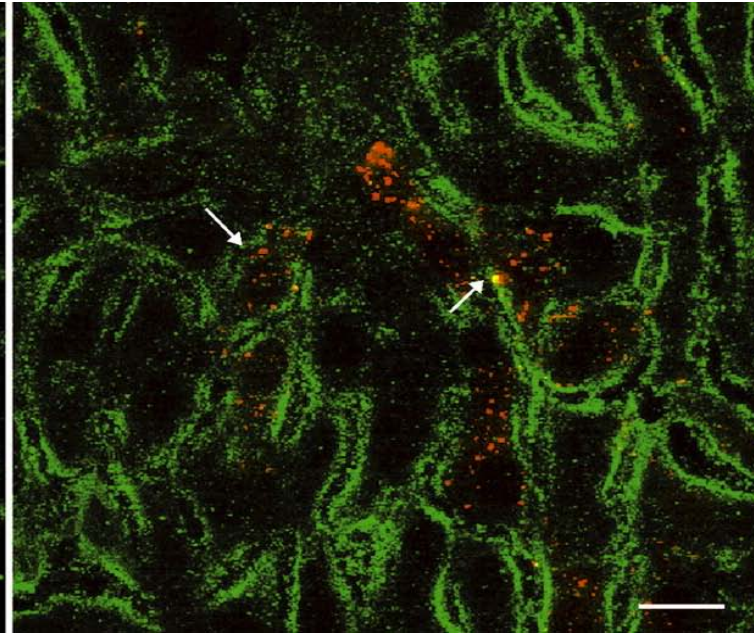


# Formation of junctional components by incorporated mesothelial cells

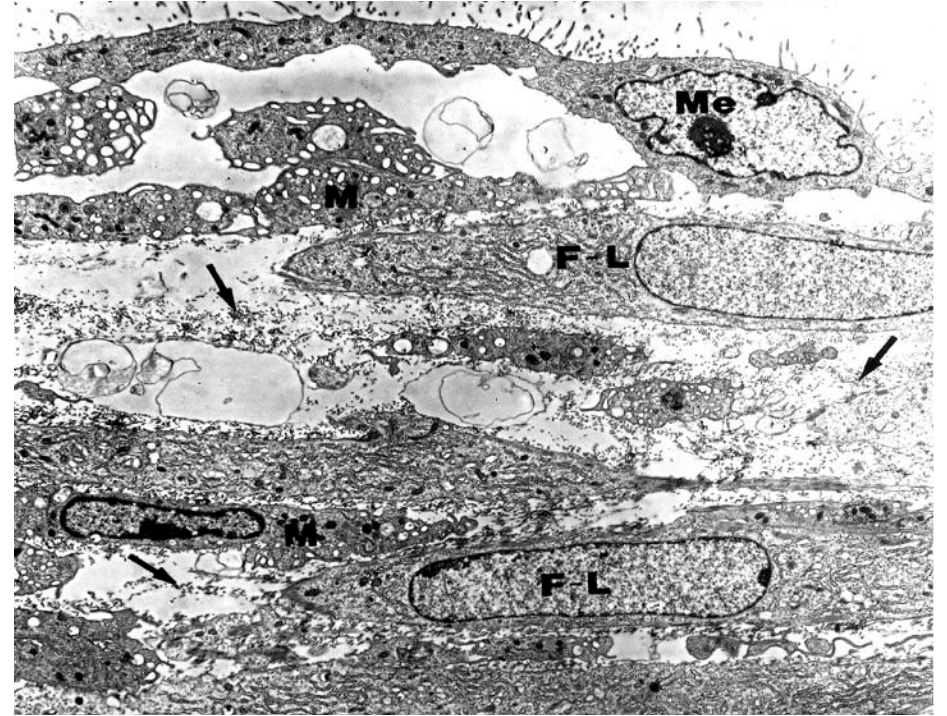
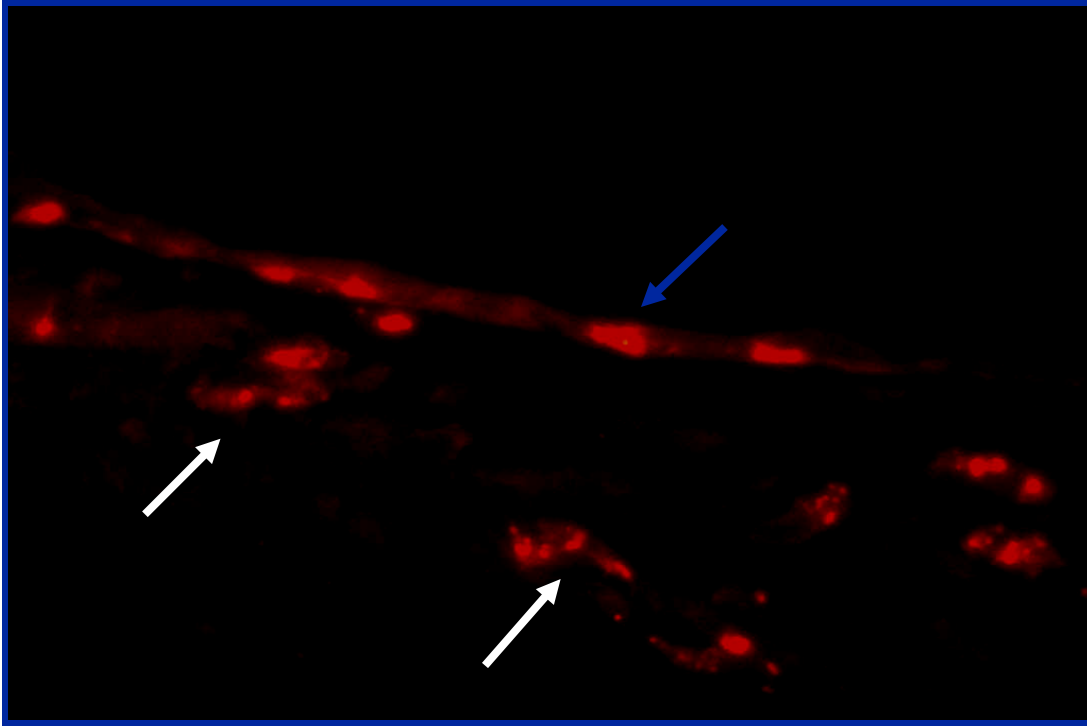
Dil-fibroblasts



Dil-mesothelial cells

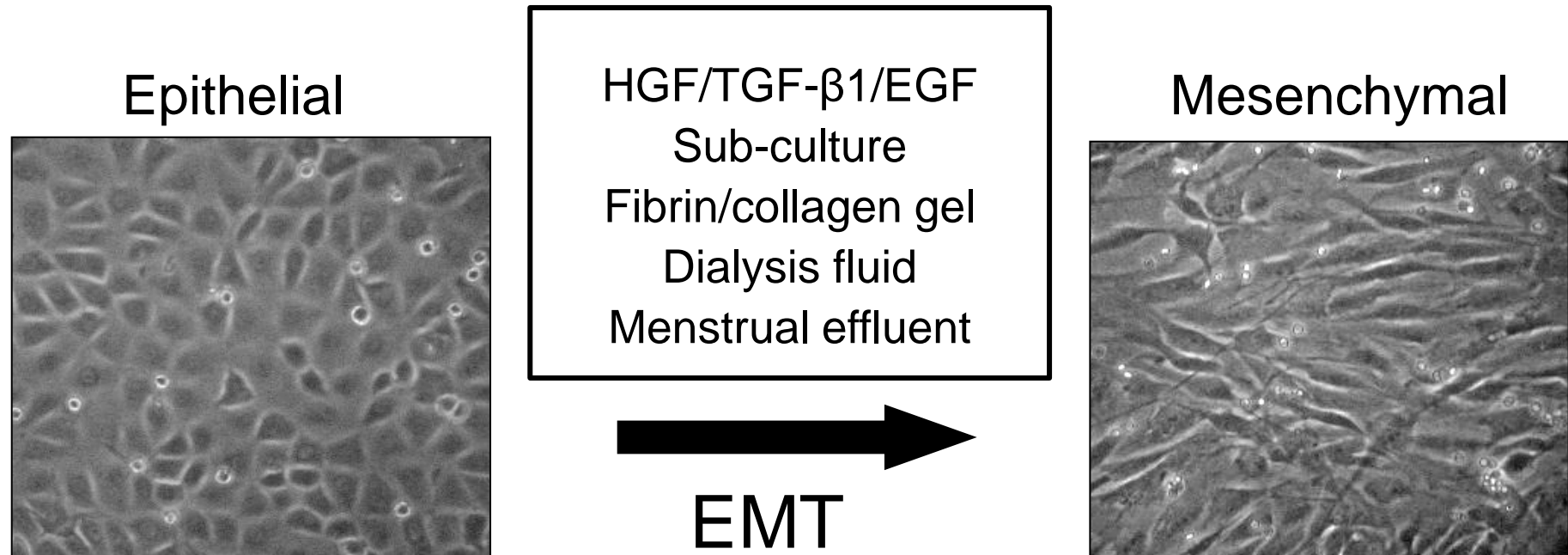


# Di-I labelled mesothelial cells incorporate into multiple layers



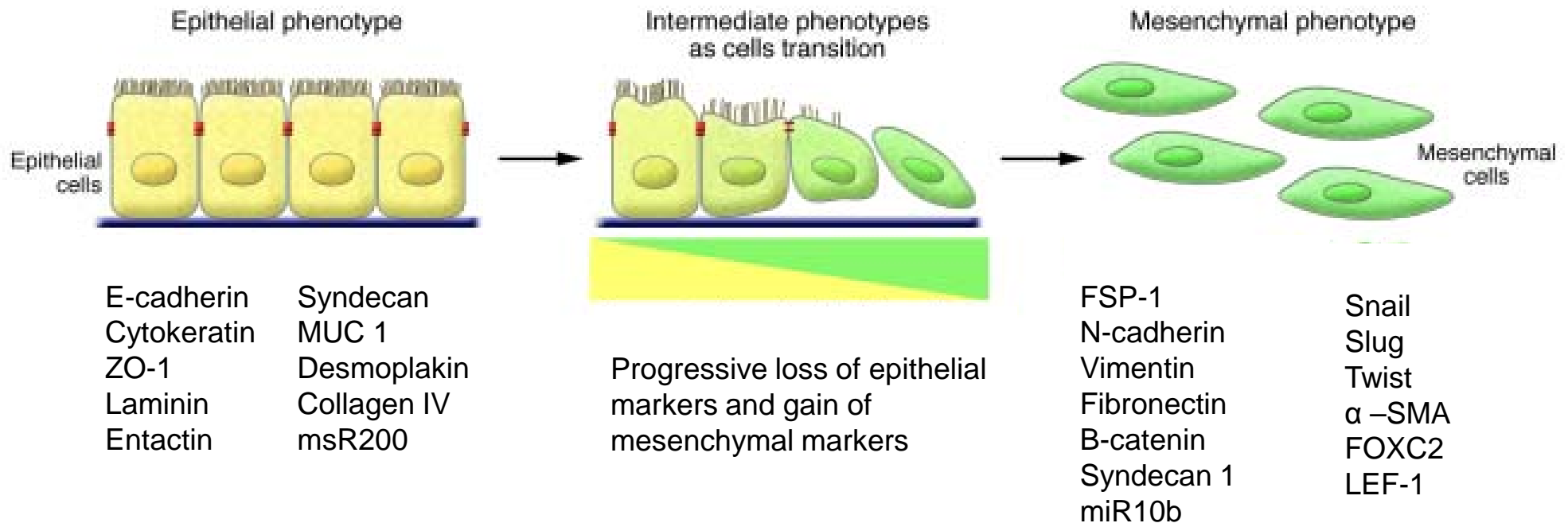


# Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transdifferentiation (EMT) of mesothelial cells *in vitro*



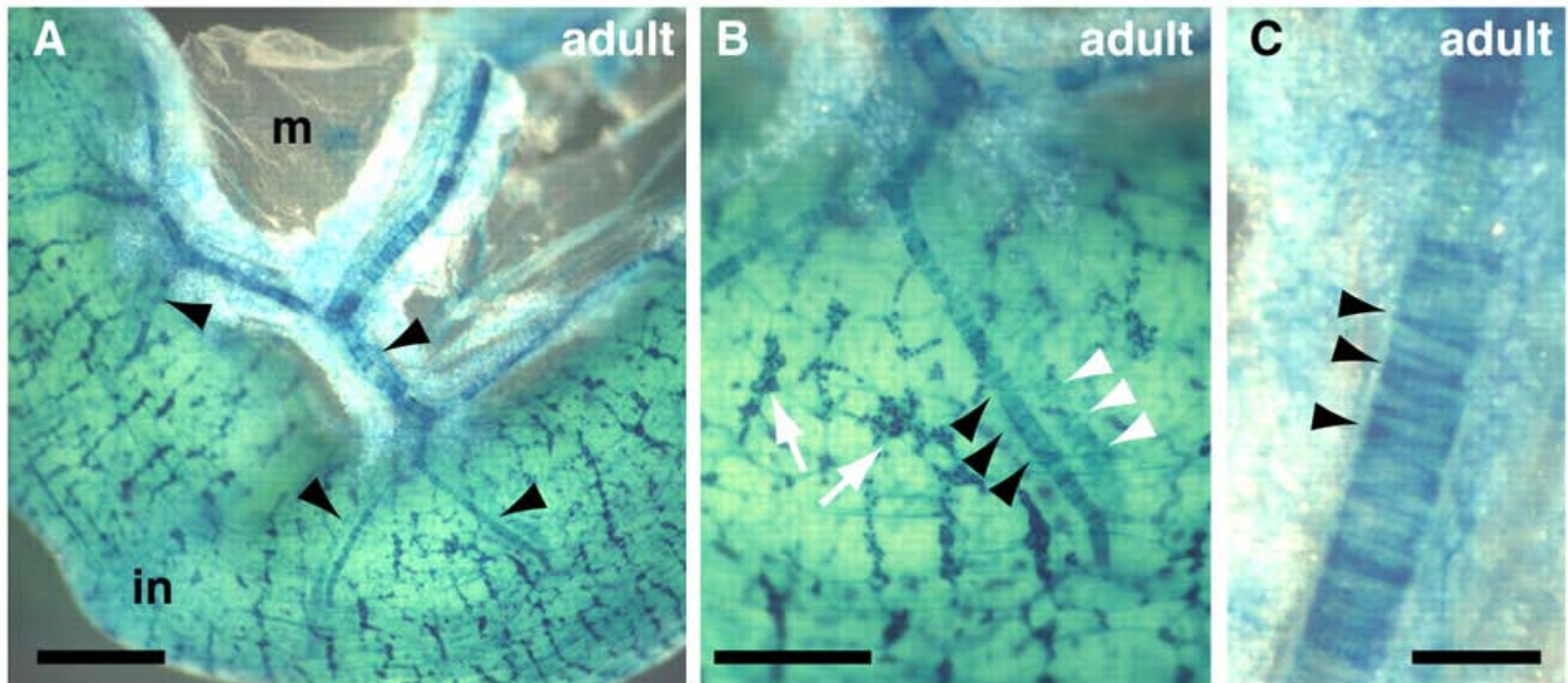
epithelial – fibroblast - myofibroblast - smooth muscle-like phenotype

# Pathway to epithelial-mesenchymal transdifferentiation

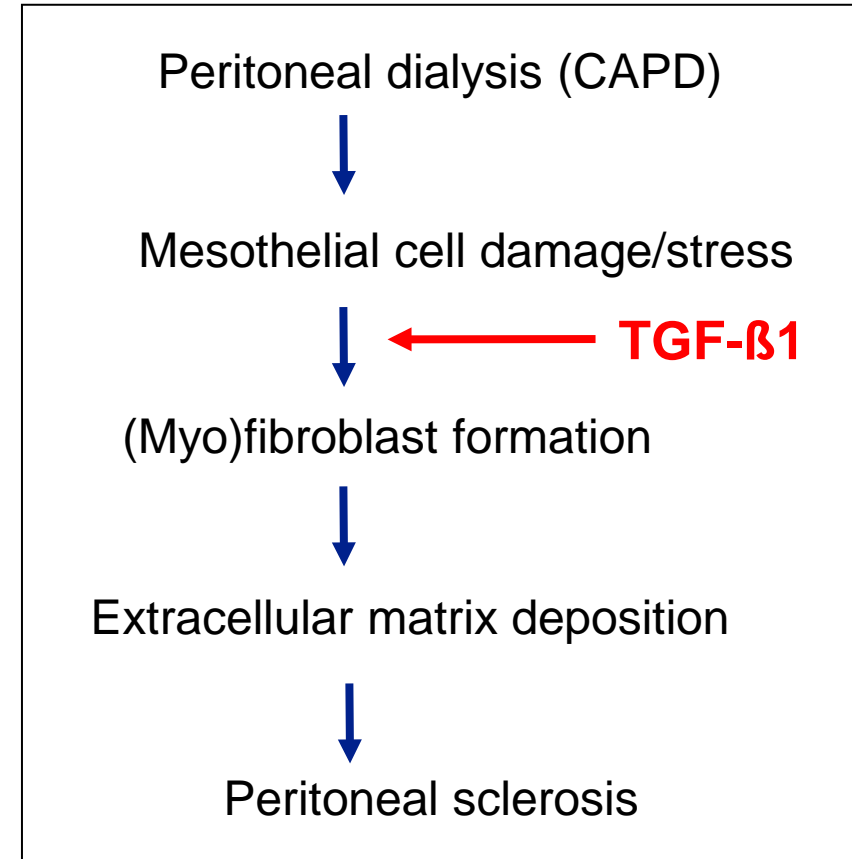
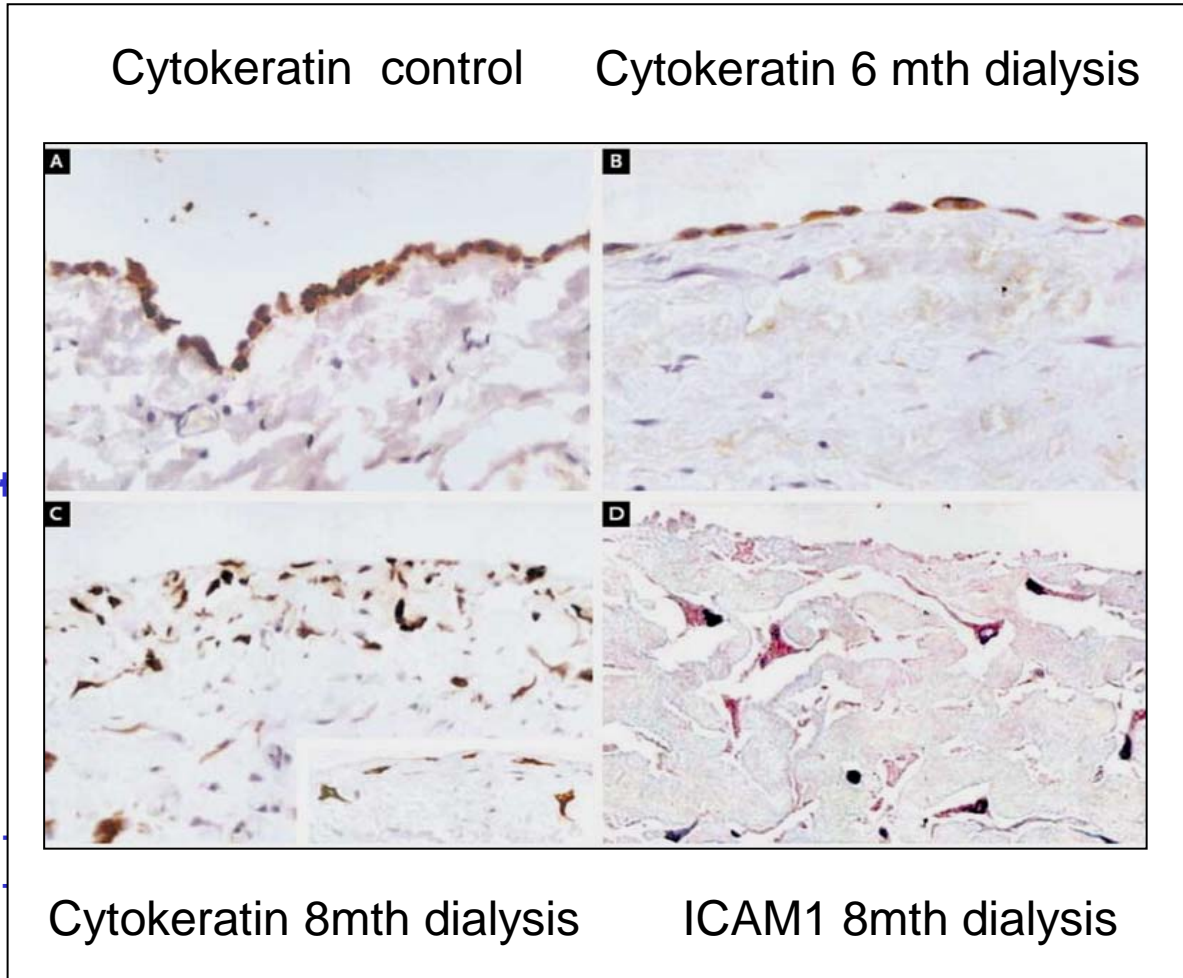


Does mesothelial cell EMT occur *in vivo*?

# Mesothelium EMT contributes to blood vessels of the heart, lung, mesentery and gut during development



# Mesothelial cell EMT occurs with injury in adult



# Transforming Growth Factor (TGF)- $\beta$

Fibrogenic cytokine:

- Wound healing
- Fibrosis
- Growth and development

3 mammalian isoforms:

- TGF- $\beta$ 1, TGF- $\beta$ 2 and TGF- $\beta$ 3

Secreted in latent form

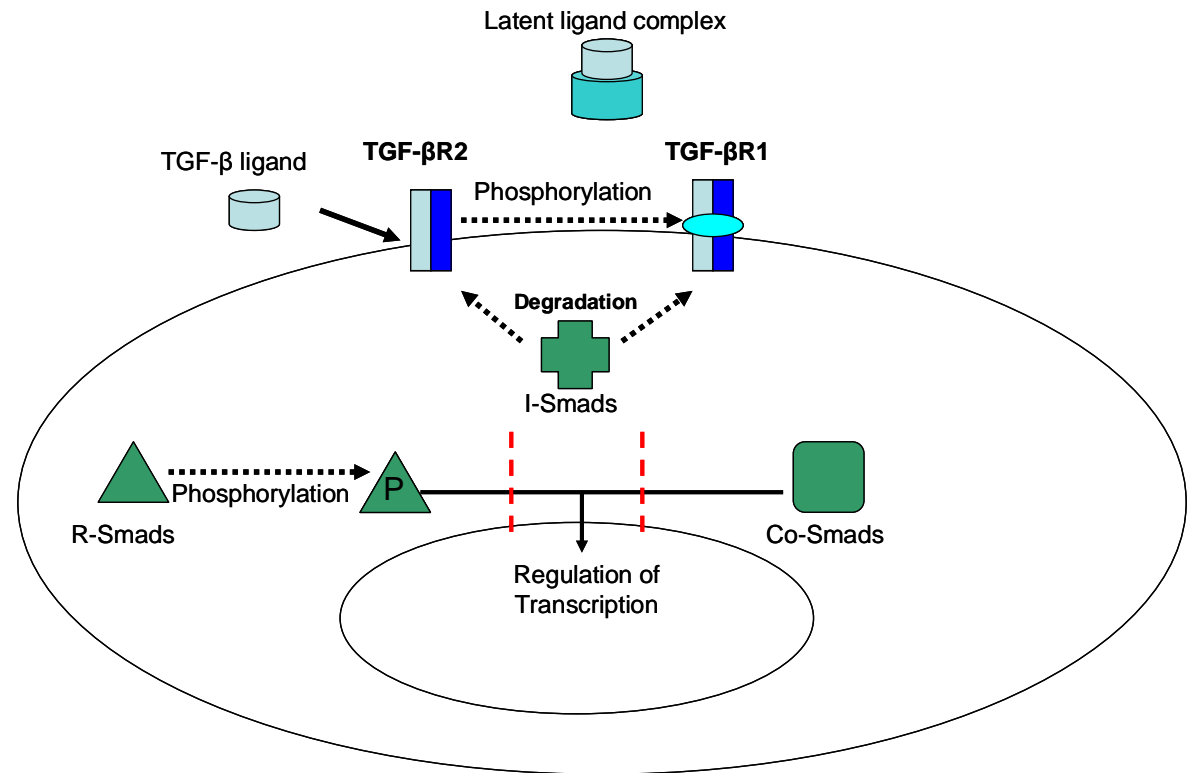
- Activation

Once activated can signal through

- TGF- $\beta$ RI
- TGF- $\beta$ RII
- SMAD pathway

Functions

- Induction of myofibroblasts
- Increase in ECM production
- Upregulates protease inhibitors

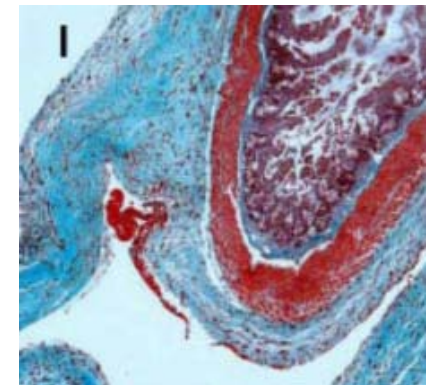
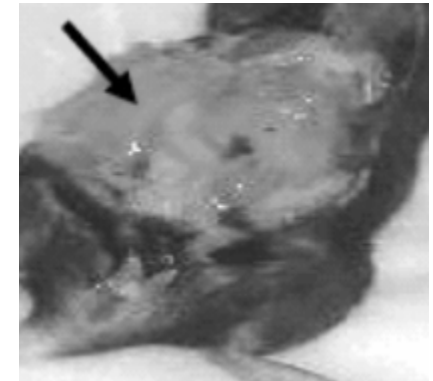
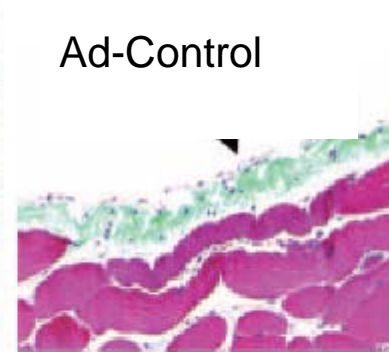
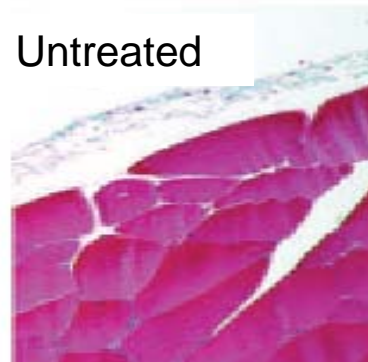
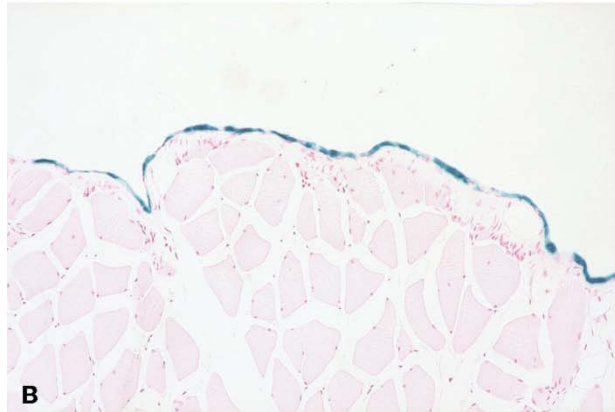


# Mouse model of peritoneal fibrosis

- Peter Margetts, McMaster University, Canada

Adenovirus delivery of TGF- $\beta$ 1 – 20days – transient peritoneal fibrosis

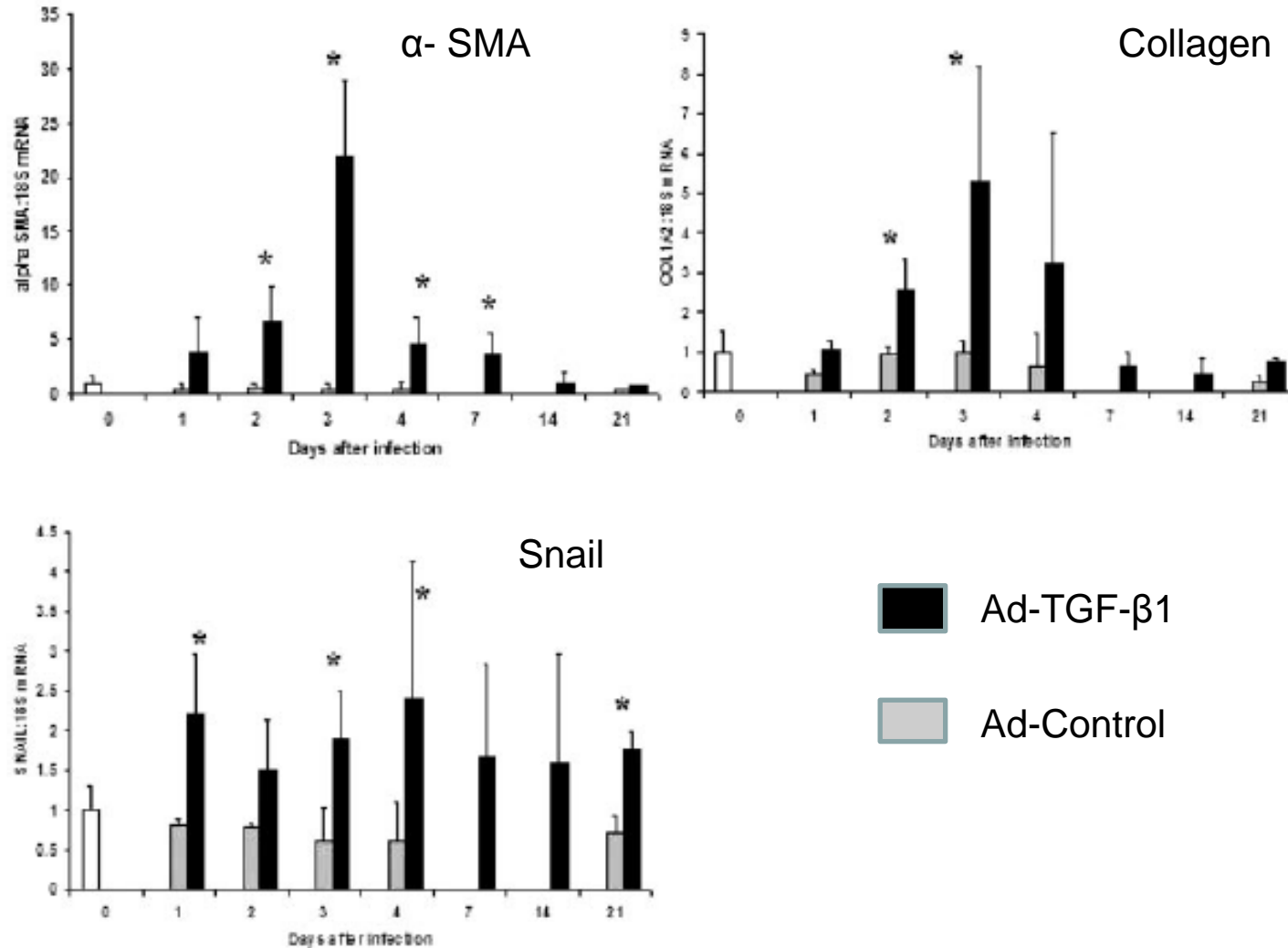
Expression extended by helper-dependent adenovirus – 70days – severe fibrosis/EPS



Liu L et al., Perit Dial Int 29; 508 (2009);

Margetts P et al., J Am Soc Nephrol 12; 2029 (2001) and J Am Soc Nephro 16,425 (2005)

# Peritoneal expression of mesenchymal markers after adenovirus infection



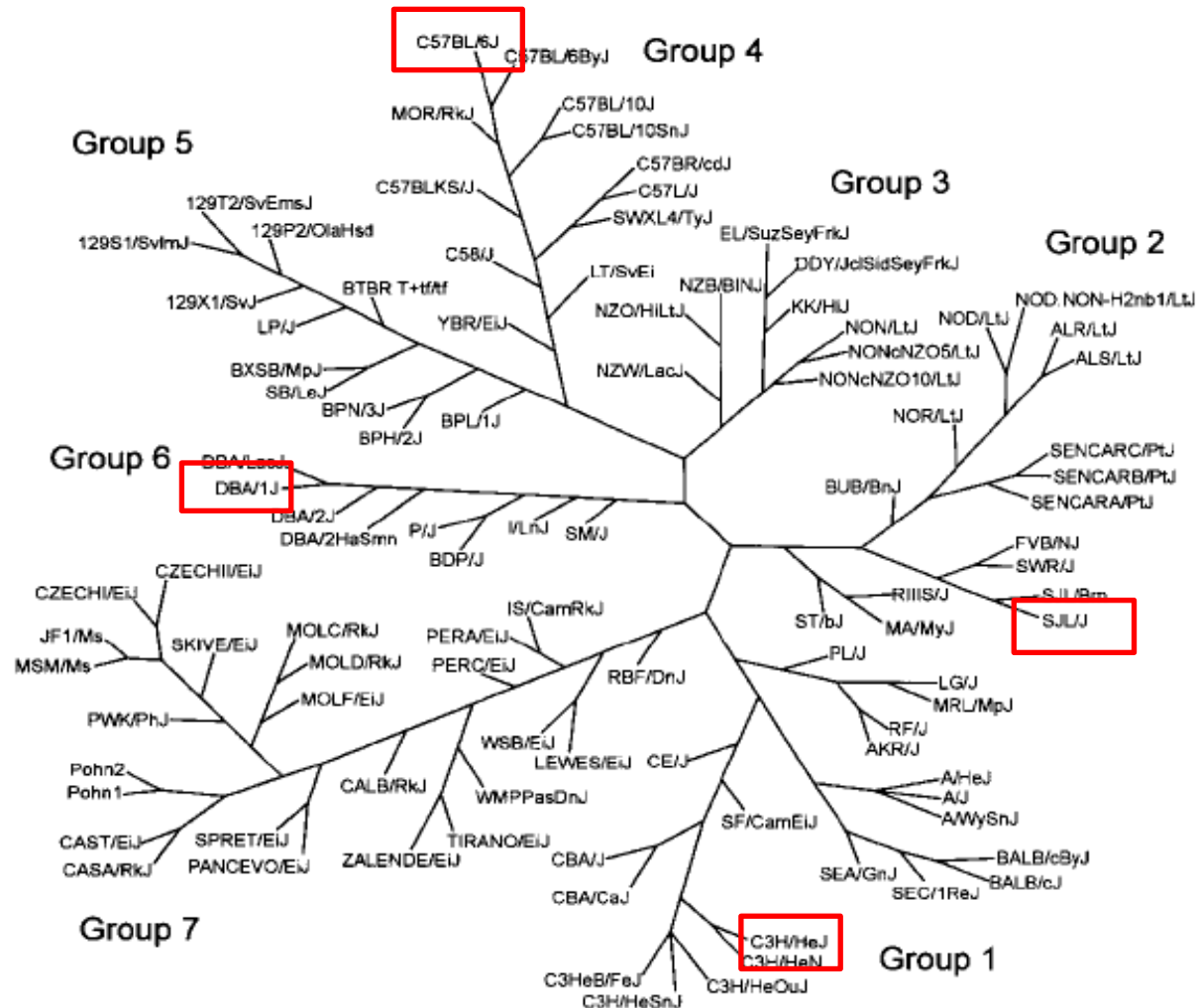


Is there a genetic predisposition to peritoneal fibrosis?

# Mouse strain differences in the fibrotic response

Strain	Susceptibility	Fibrosis Type	Reference
<b>C57BL/6J</b>	Susceptible	Pulmonary	Haston et al., 1996
		Hepatic	Hillebrandt et al., 2002
		Renal	Kato et al., 2008
<b>C57BL/6</b>	Susceptible	Pulmonary	Schrier et al., 1983
		Intestinal	Skwarchuk and Travis, 1998
		Hepatic	Knight et al., 2007
		Renal	Puri et al., 2010
<b>C57BL/6</b>	Intermediate	Hepatic	Shi et al., 1997
	Resistant	Renal	Sugimoto et al., 2007
		Cardiac	Faulx et al., 2005
<b>BALB/c</b>	Susceptible	Hepatic	Shi et al., 1997
	Resistant	Pulmonary Hepatic Renal	Schrier et al., 1983 Knight et al., 2007 Puri et al., 2010
<b>BALB/cJ</b>	Susceptible	Hepatic	Hillebrandt et al., 2002
<b>A/J</b>	Susceptible	Cardiac	Faulx et al., 2005
	Resistant	Hepatic	Hillebrandt et al., 2002

# Mouse family tree – Jackson Labs



# Animal model of peritoneal fibrosis - mouse strain differences

**C57BL/6J**



**DBA/2J**



**C3H/HeJ**

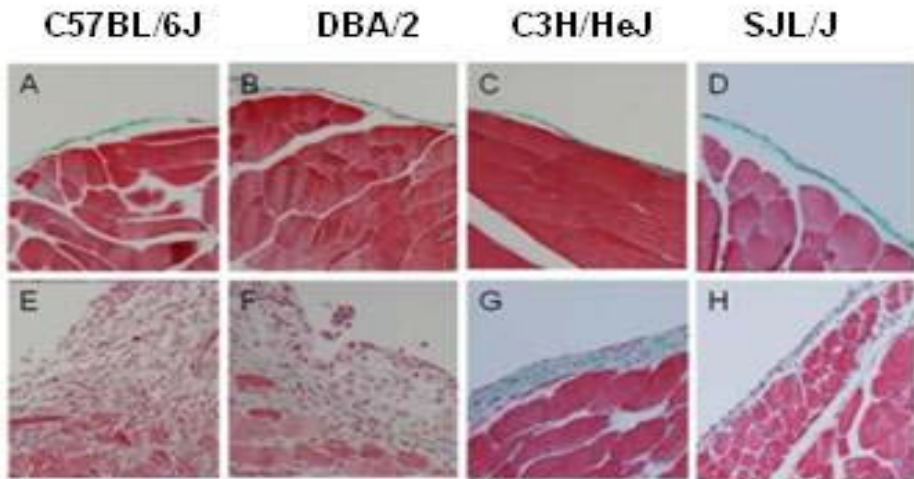
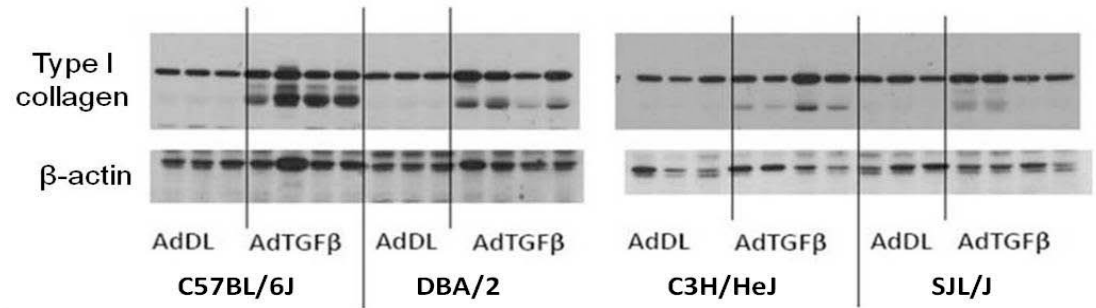


**SJL/J**

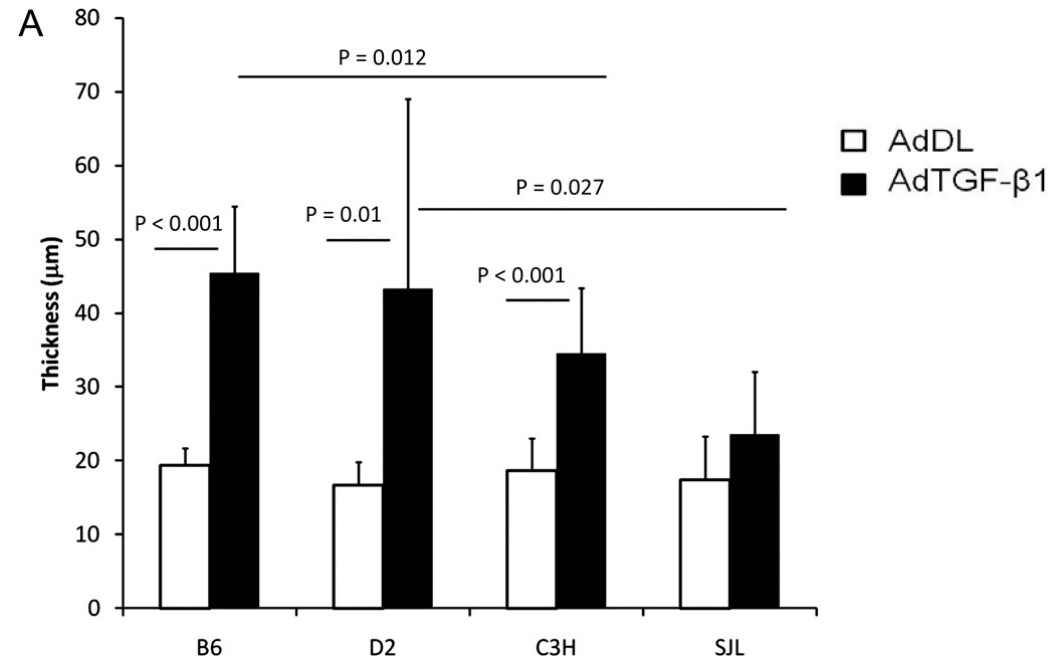


- Intraperitoneal injection of TGF- $\beta$ 1 expressing adenovirus administered to mice.
- After 4 or 10 days peritoneal tissue and omental tissue samples collected and analysed for fibrogenic differences

# Mouse strain differences in the development of peritoneal fibrosis



C57BL/6J = fibrotic  
SJL/J = resistant



# Mesothelial cell culture – mouse strain differences?

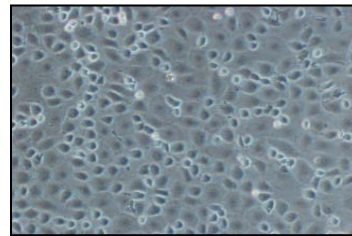


**C57BL/6J**

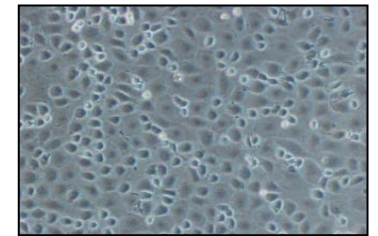


**SJL/J**

The Jackson  
Laboratory - JAX<sup>®</sup>  
- Male , 8 weeks



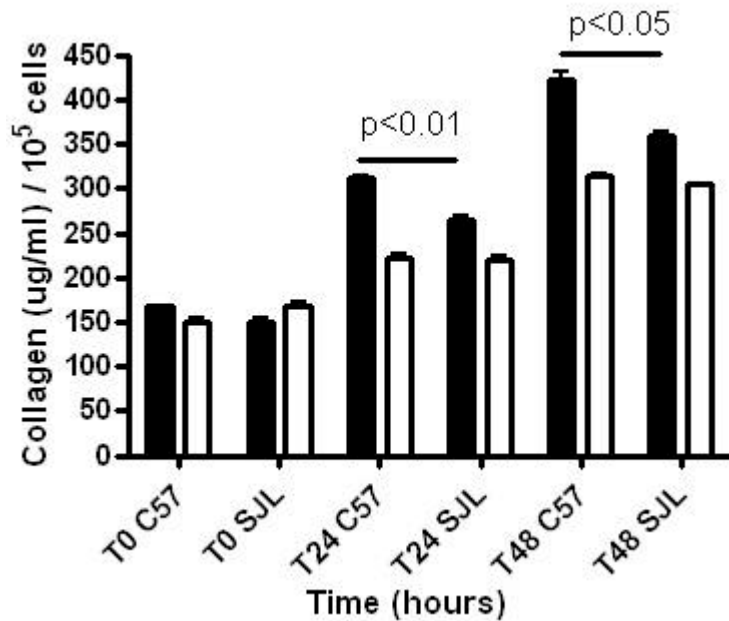
Isolation & culture  
+/- 1ng/ml TGF- $\beta$ 1



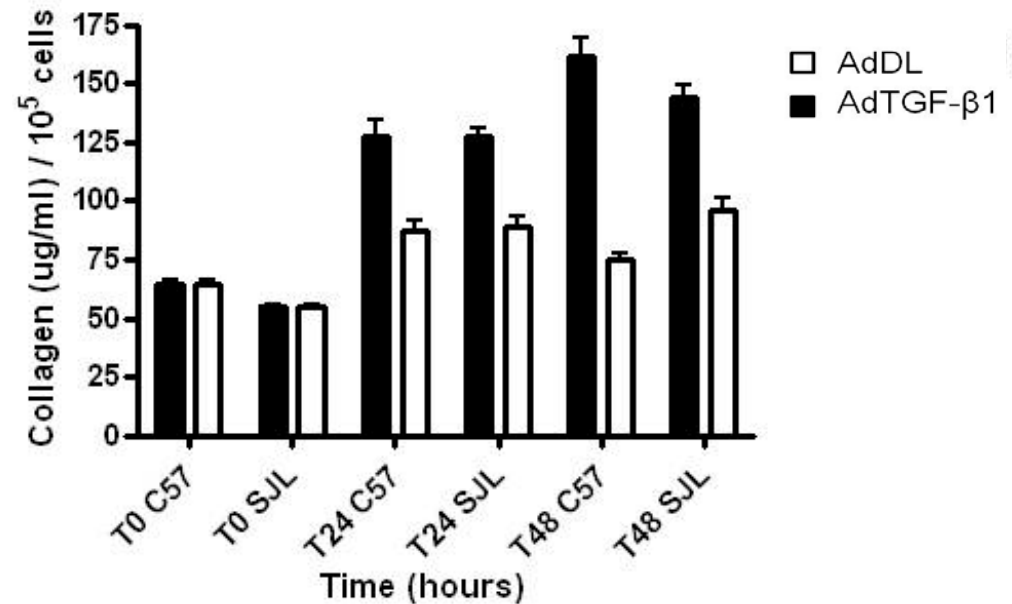
- Collagen production at 0, 24, 48 hours

# Mouse strain difference in mesothelial cells – collagen production

## Mesothelial cells



## Fibroblasts



EMT markers?

# Inhibition of EMT to prevent peritoneal fibrosis

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

2012 PLOS ONE

## Inhibition of Transforming Growth Factor-Activated Kinase 1 (TAK1) Blocks and Reverses Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition of Mesothelial Cells

Raffaele Strippoli<sup>1,2</sup>, Ignacio Benedicto<sup>3,4</sup>, Maria Luisa Perez Lozano<sup>3,5</sup>, Teijo Pellinen<sup>1</sup>, Pilar Sandoval<sup>3,5</sup>, Manuel Lopez-Cab

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

2012 PLOS ONE

## Fibrin-Induced Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal Transition of Peritoneal Mesothelial Cells as a Mechanism of Peritoneal Fibrosis: Effects of Pentoxifylline

Cheng-Chung Fang<sup>1,2</sup>, Jenq-Wen Huang<sup>2</sup>, Ren-Shi Shyu<sup>3</sup>, Chung-Jen Yen<sup>2</sup>, Cheng-Hsiang Shiao<sup>4</sup>, Chih-Kang Chiang<sup>2</sup>, Rey-Heng H

Nephrol Dial Transplant (2010) 25: 1098–1108

doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfp618

Advance Access publication 12 January 2010

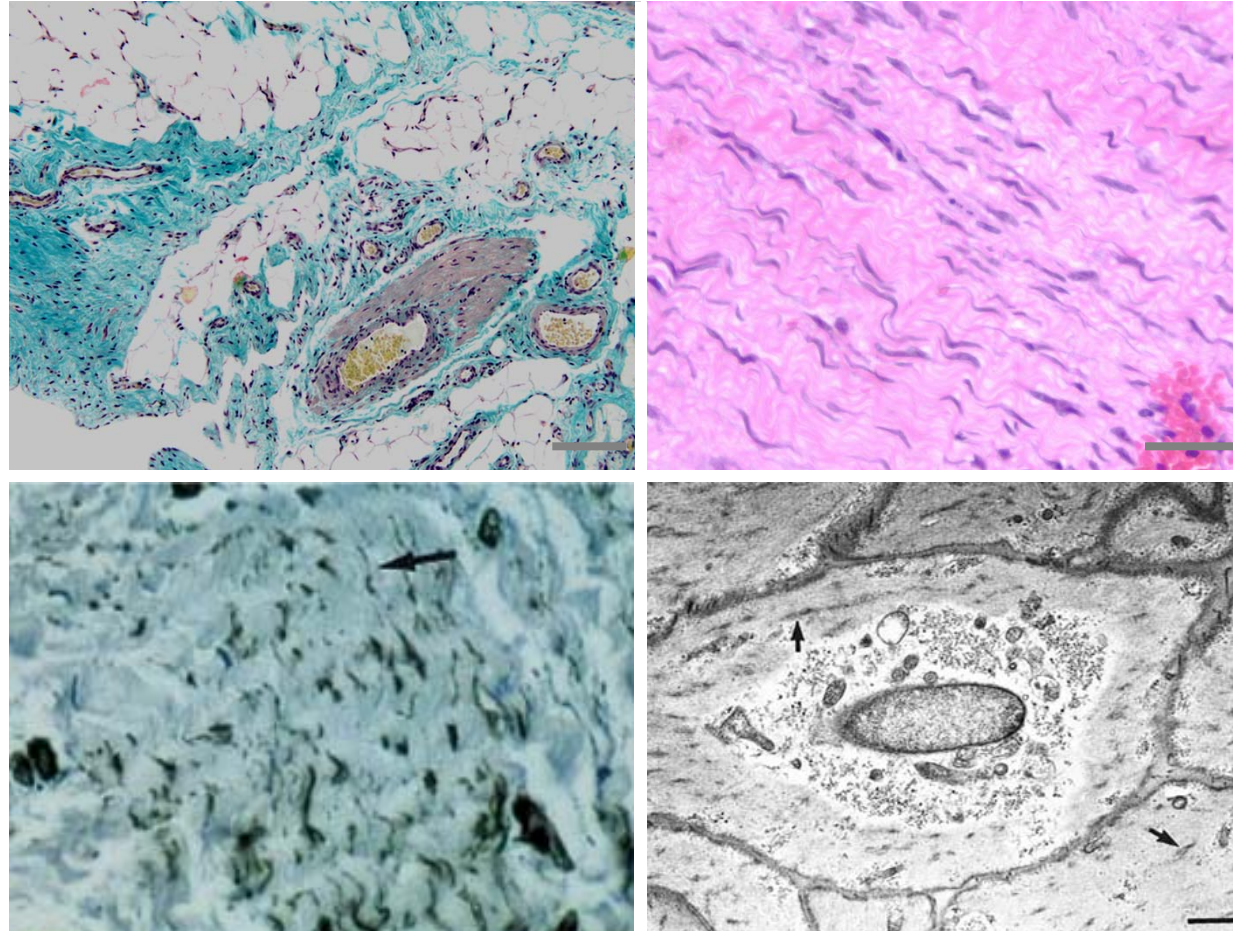
2010

## BMP-7 blocks mesenchymal conversion of mesothelial cells and prevents peritoneal damage induced by dialysis fluid exposure

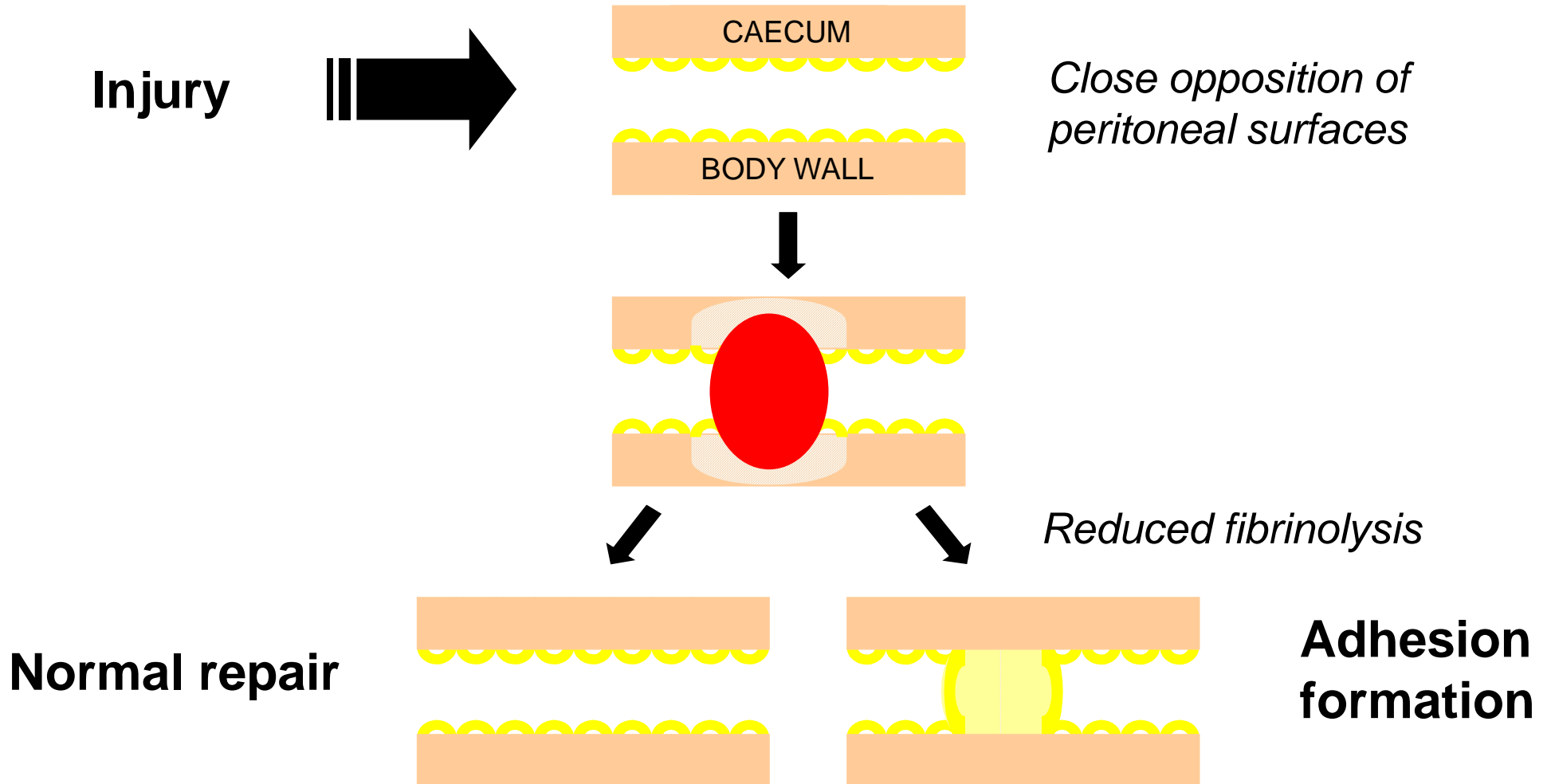
Jesús Loureiro<sup>1</sup>, Margot Schilte<sup>2</sup>, Abelardo Aguilera<sup>1</sup>, Patricia Albar-Vizcaíno<sup>1</sup>, Marta Ramírez-Huesca<sup>1</sup>, M. Luisa Pérez-Lozano<sup>1</sup>, Guadalupe González-Mateo<sup>3</sup>, Luiz S. Aroeira<sup>3</sup>, Rafael Selgas<sup>3</sup>, Lorea Mendoza<sup>4</sup>, Alberto Ortiz<sup>5</sup>, Marta Ruíz-Ortega<sup>5</sup>, Jacob van den Bom<sup>2</sup>, Robert H.J. Beelen<sup>2</sup> and Manuel López-Cabrera<sup>1,6</sup>



# Human adhesions show the presence of myofibroblasts and clusters of smooth muscle



# Does mesothelial cell EMT occur in the pathogenesis of adhesion formation?

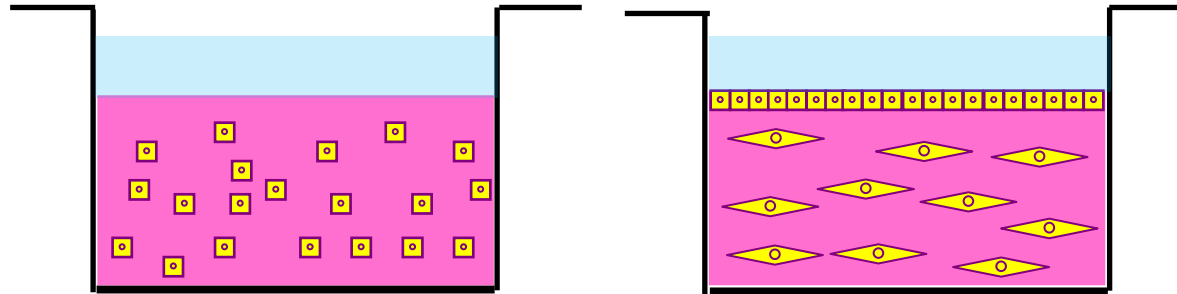


## Remodeling of Peritoneal-like Structures by Mesothelial Cells: Its Role in Peritoneal Healing

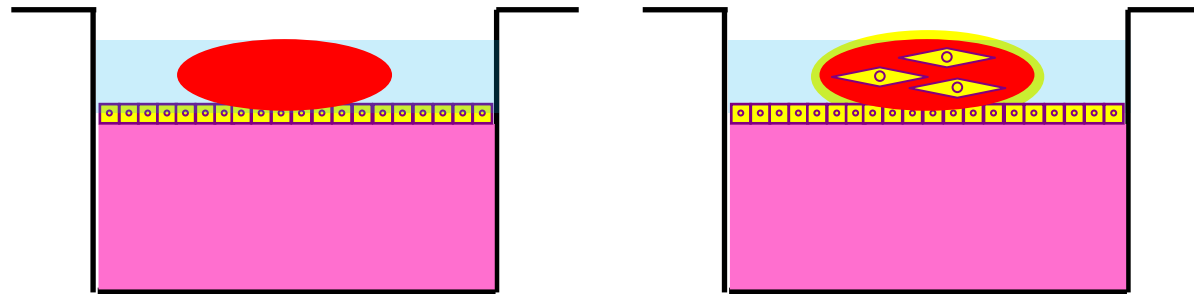
Fernando Bittinger,<sup>\*,1</sup> Caroline Schepp,<sup>\*</sup> Christoph Brochhausen,<sup>\*</sup> Hans Anton Lehr,<sup>\*</sup> Mike Otto,<sup>\*</sup>  
Holger Köhler,<sup>\*</sup> Carsten Skarke,<sup>\*</sup> Siegfried Walgenbach,<sup>†</sup> and C. James Kirkpatrick<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Department of Pathology, and <sup>†</sup>Department of Surgery, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Federal Republic of Germany

In collagen gel



On gel with blood clot

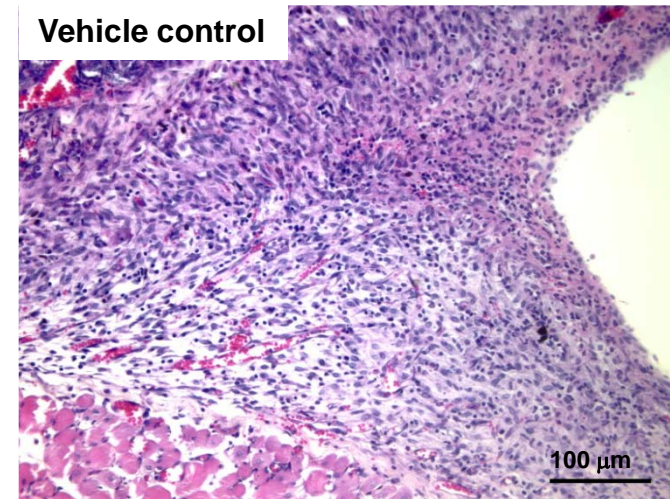
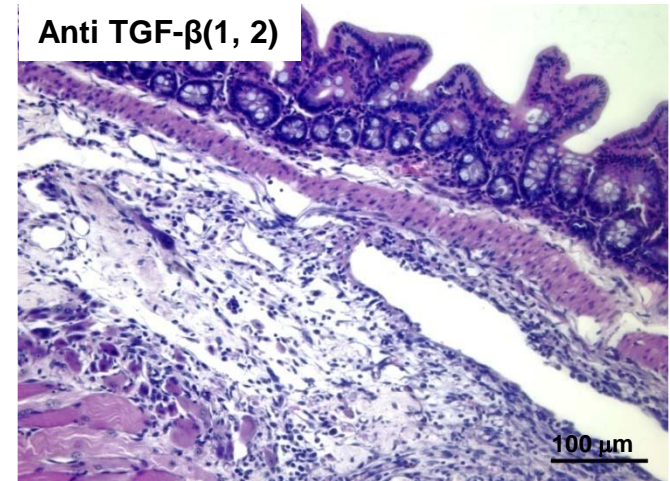
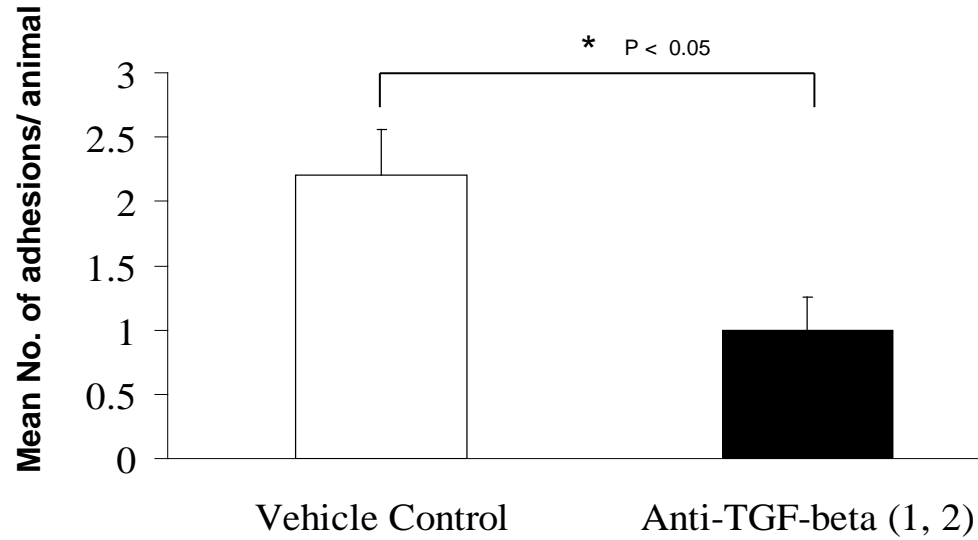


30 mins

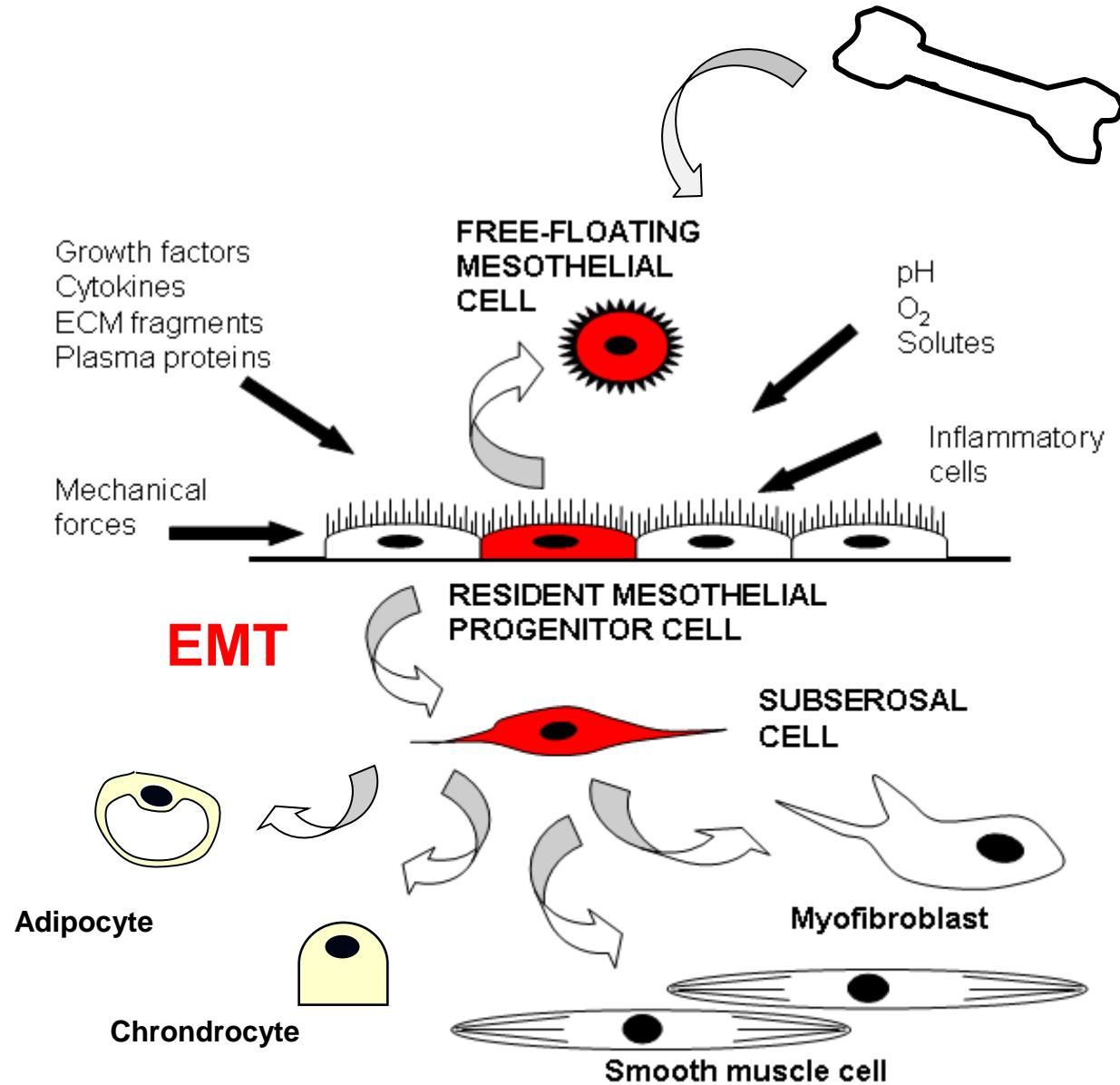
14 days

# Inhibition of TGF- $\beta$ 1 and 2 reduces adhesion formation in murine model

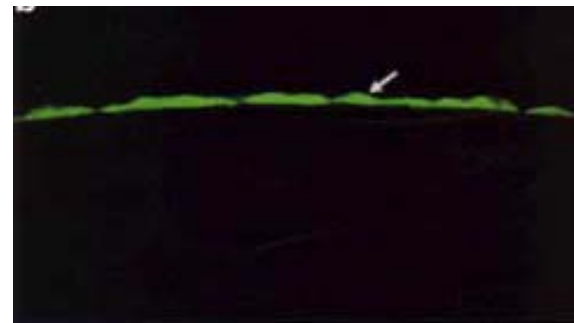
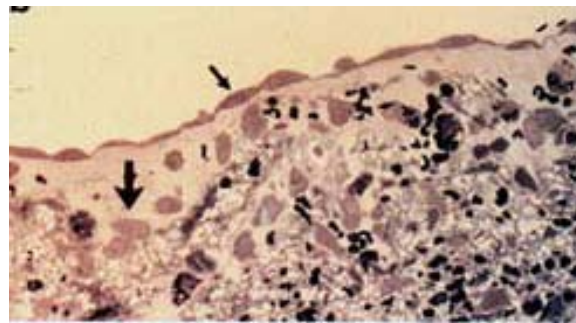
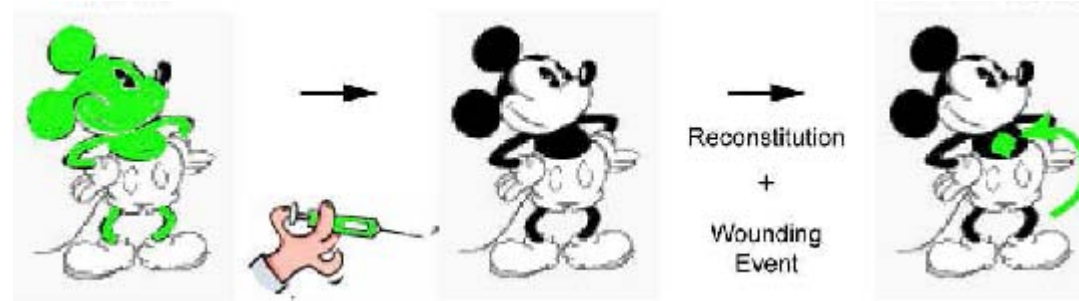
- Neutralising antibody to TGF-  $\beta$ 1 and 2 given topically on day of surgery and i.p 4hrs pre-surgery, post-surgery and every 4hrs for 24hrs
- Significant reduction of adhesions by blocking TGF-  $\beta$ 1 and - $\beta$ 2 by 7 days



# Source and plasticity of mesothelial cells?



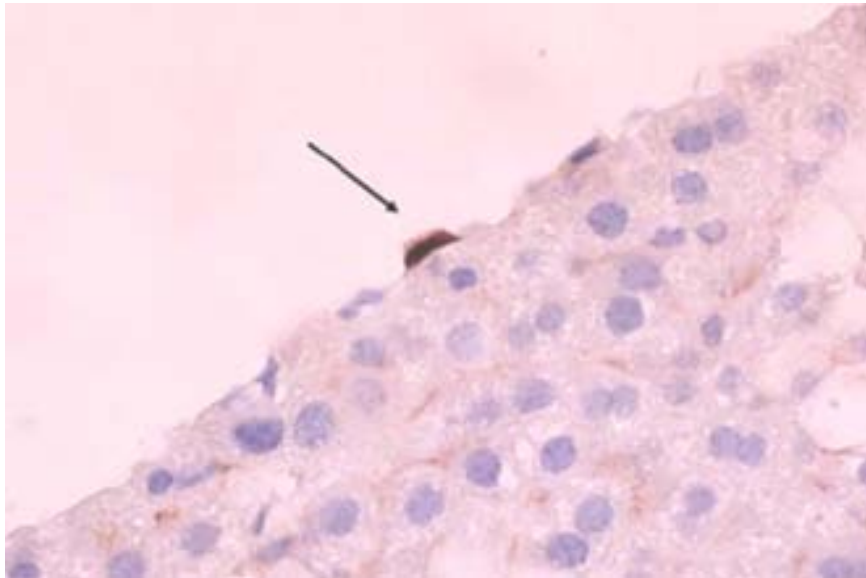
# Evidence for a bone marrow source of regenerating mesothelial cells



LABORATORY STUDY

## Potential role of bone marrow-derived cells in the turnover of mesothelium

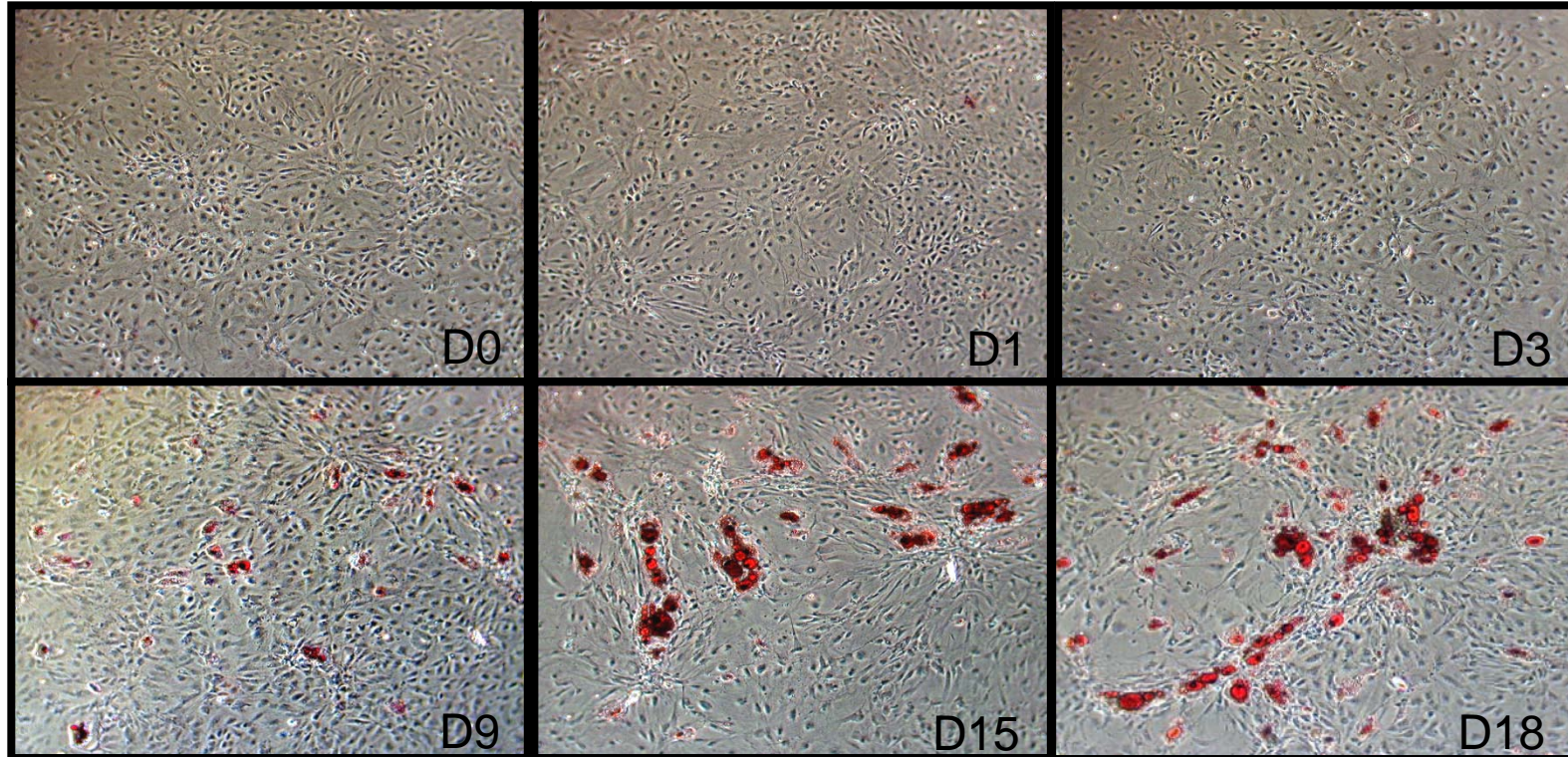
Kuo-Su Chen,<sup>1</sup> Chao-Hung Wang,<sup>2</sup> Tzung-Hai Yen,<sup>1</sup> Jim-Ray Chen,<sup>3</sup>  
Ming-Jui Hung,<sup>2</sup> and Ching-Yuang Lin<sup>4</sup>



- GFP- bone marrow transplant into irradiated mice
- Found 2.2% of mesothelium GFP-labelled after 6 months
- Bone-marrow derived cells contribute to normal mesothelial turnover
- After injury?

# Stimulated rat mesothelial cells accumulate lipid during adipogenic differentiation

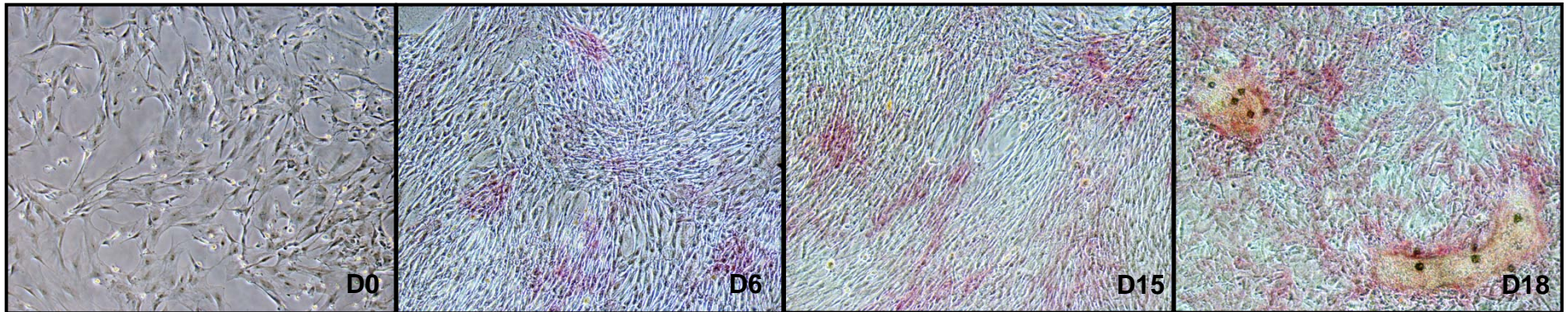
- Steve Mutsaers, UWA, Perth



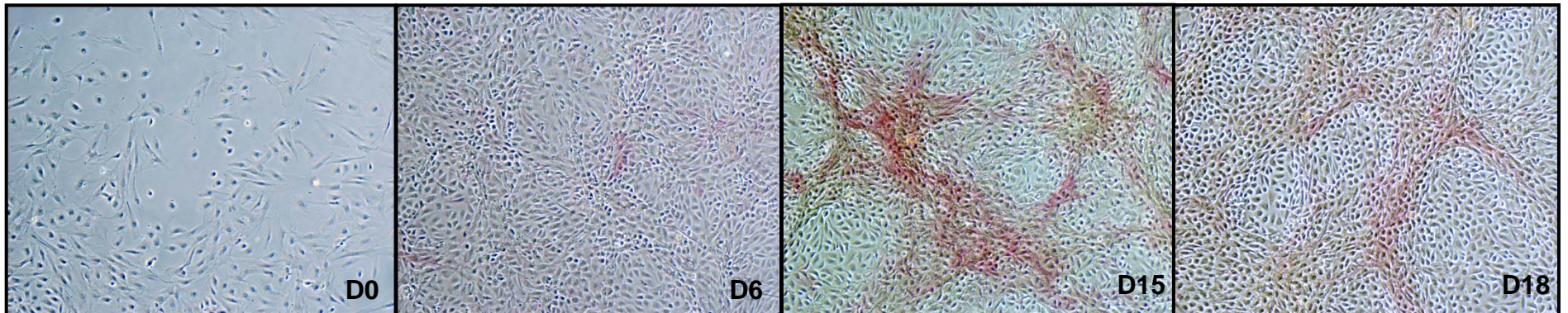


# Stimulated rat mesothelial cells express alkaline phosphatase during chondrogenic differentiation

## Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Cells (BMMC)

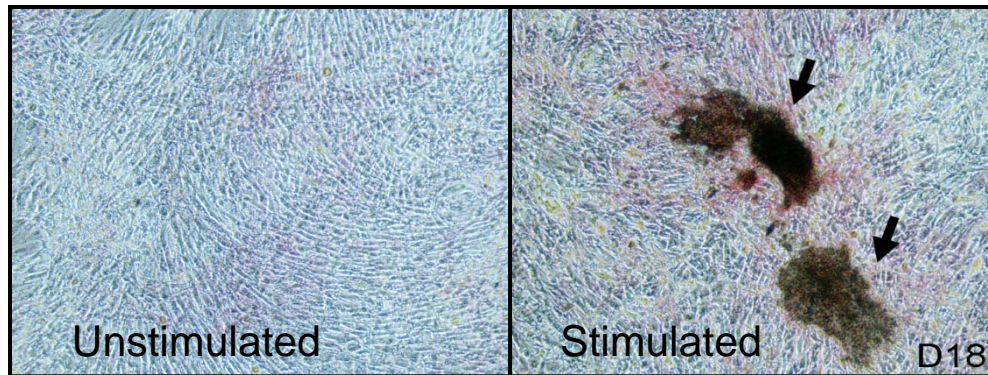


## Mesothelial Cells

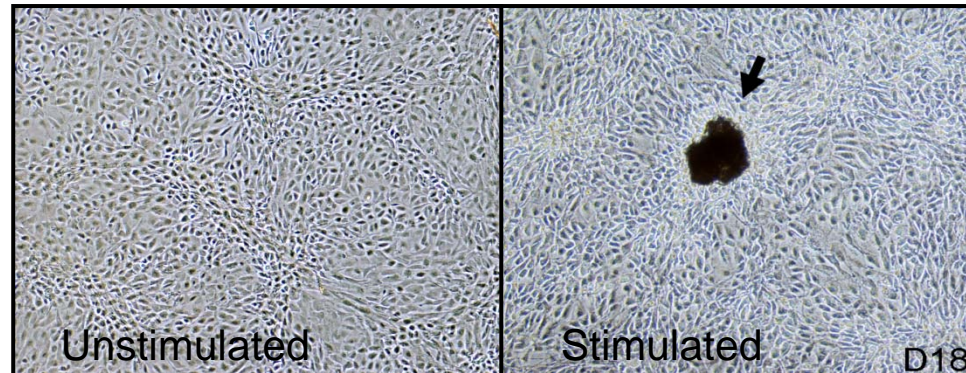


# Stimulated rat mesothelial cells form mineralized bone nodules – Von Kossa staining

## Bone Marrow Mesenchymal Cells (BMMC)



## Mesothelial Cells



# Conclusions

- Mesothelial cells undergo EMT during peritoneal fibrosis - adhesion formation?
- Inhibit EMT prevents peritoneal fibrosis – adhesion formation?
- Mesothelial cells show multipotential ability in culture – in people?
- Apparent bone marrow source of mesothelial cells – do these cells have stem cell-like properties?
  
- Need to perform cell tracking studies – which promoter?
- Use primary human mesothelial cells – source?
- Multidisciplinary approach?

# Acknowledgements

## **Manchester University**

Sylwia Wilkosz  
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