



MITOCHONDRIA: more than energy
production.

FUNCTIONS OF MITOCHONDRIA

Oxidative phosphorylation

Fatty acid oxidation

Ca²⁺ homeostasis

Urea cycle

Steroid synthesis

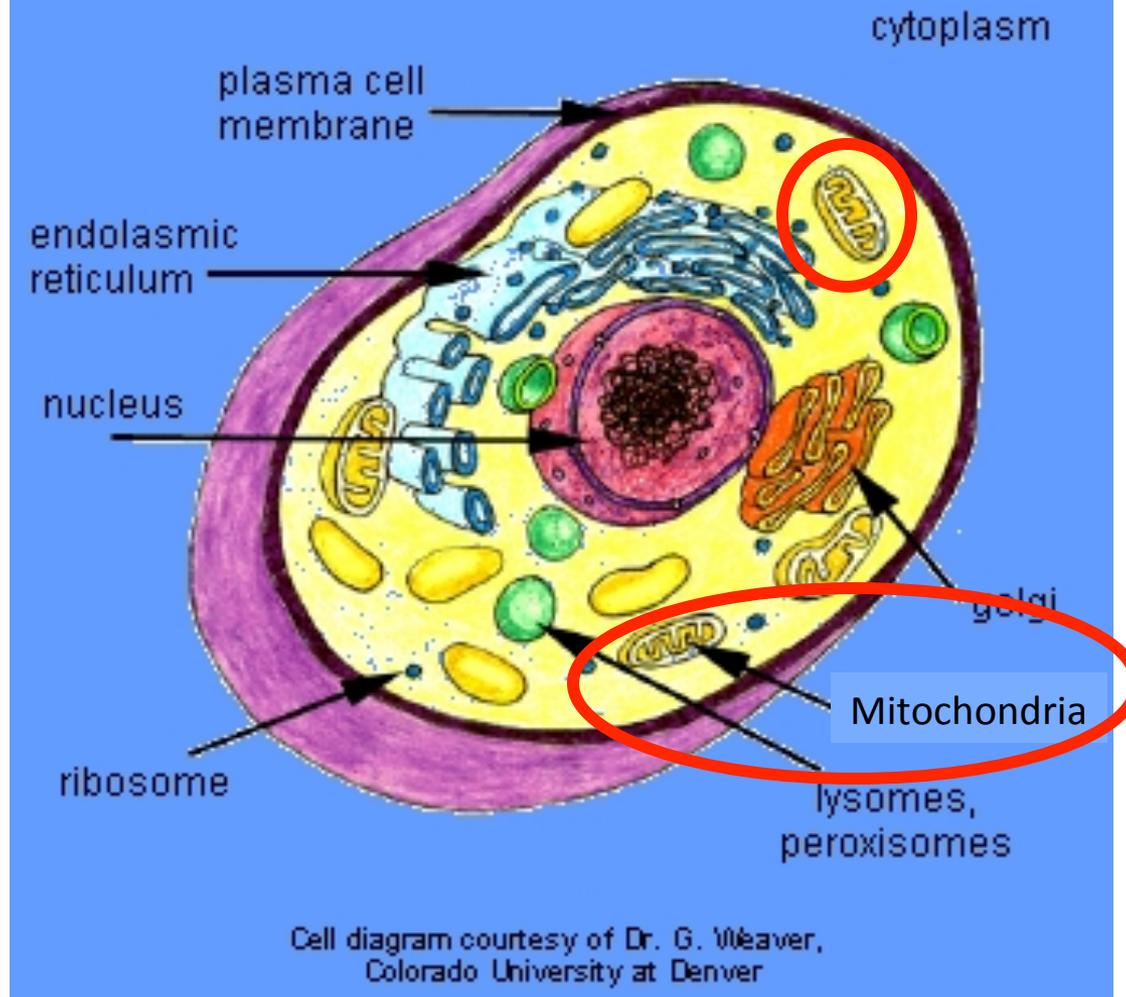
APOPTOSIS

Krebs cycle

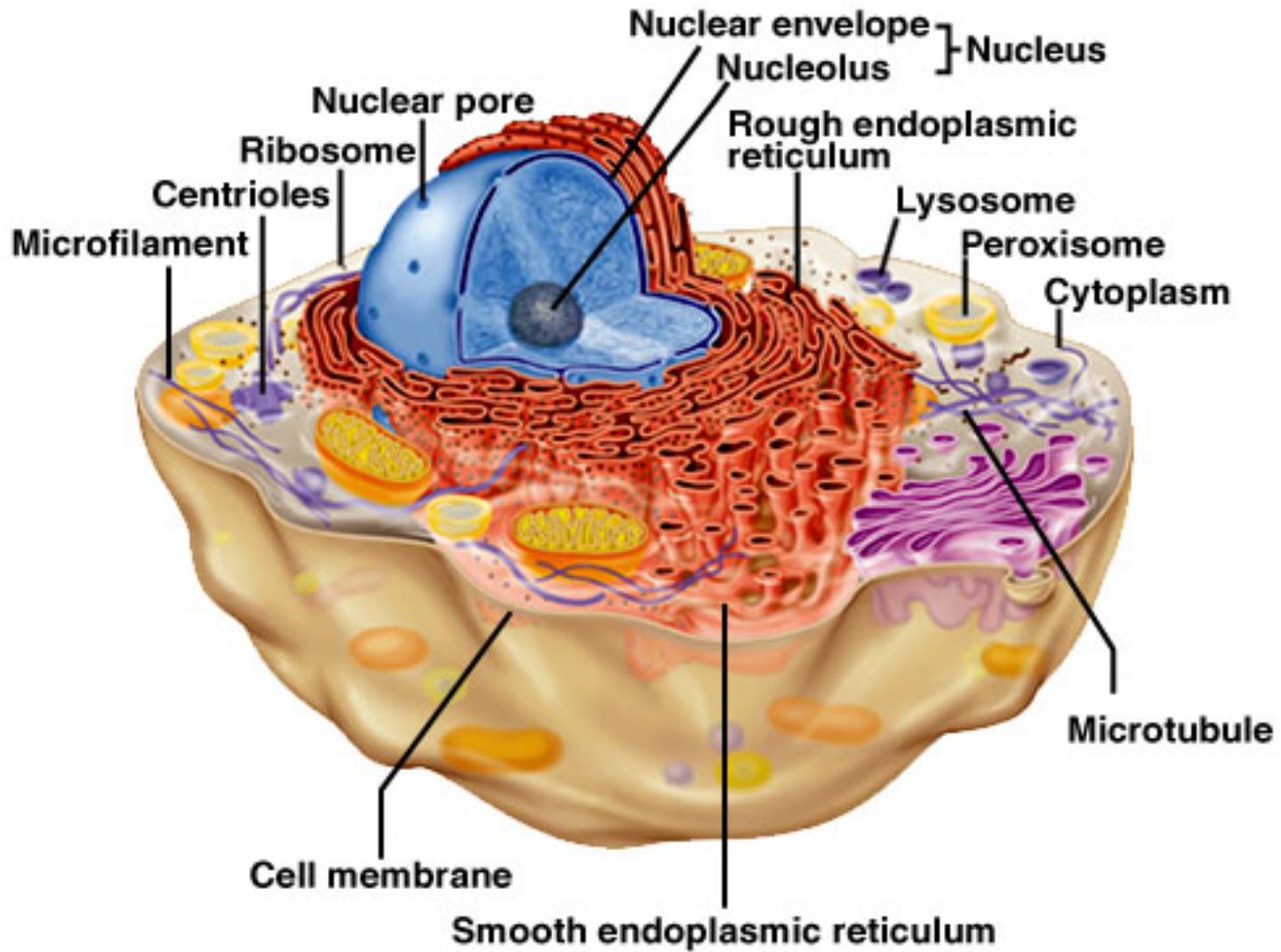
And more

STRUCTURE: the mitochondrion is not the bean shaped organelle often pictured in text books

Cell Structure



An animal cell



Mitochondria Structural Features

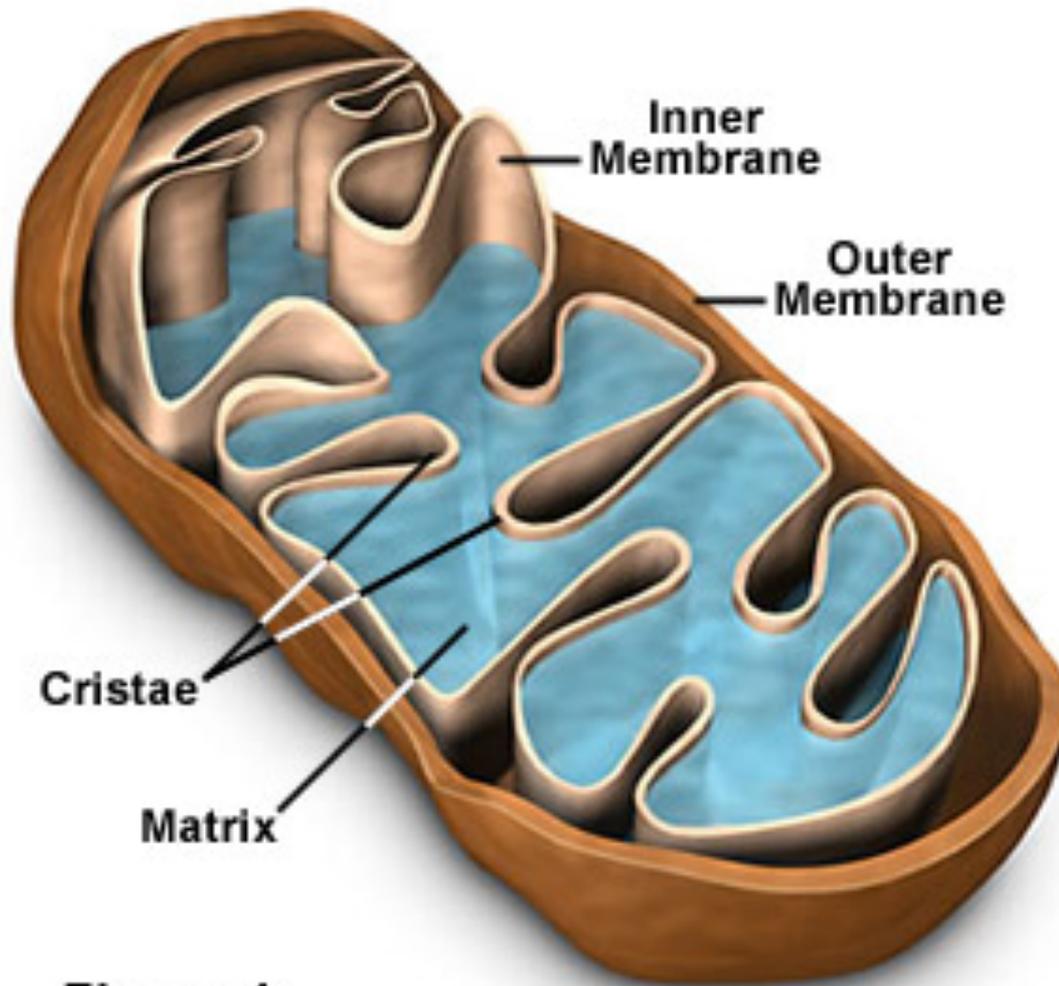
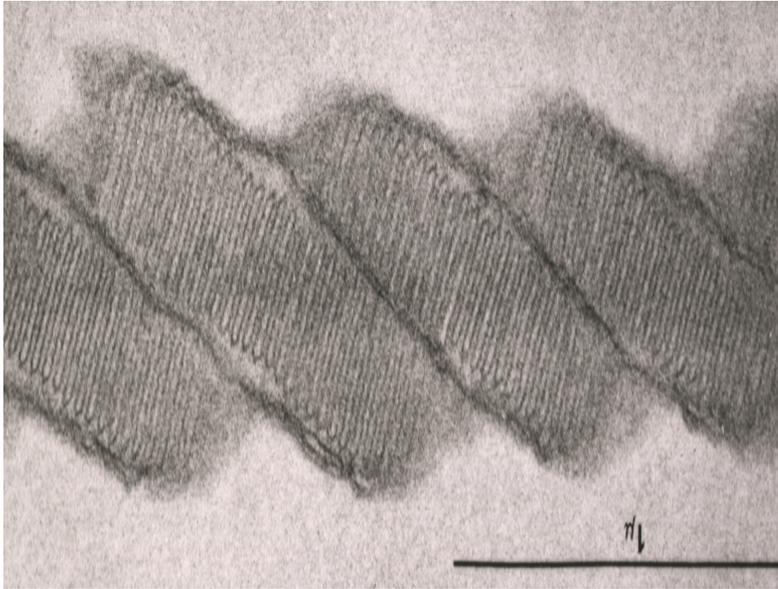
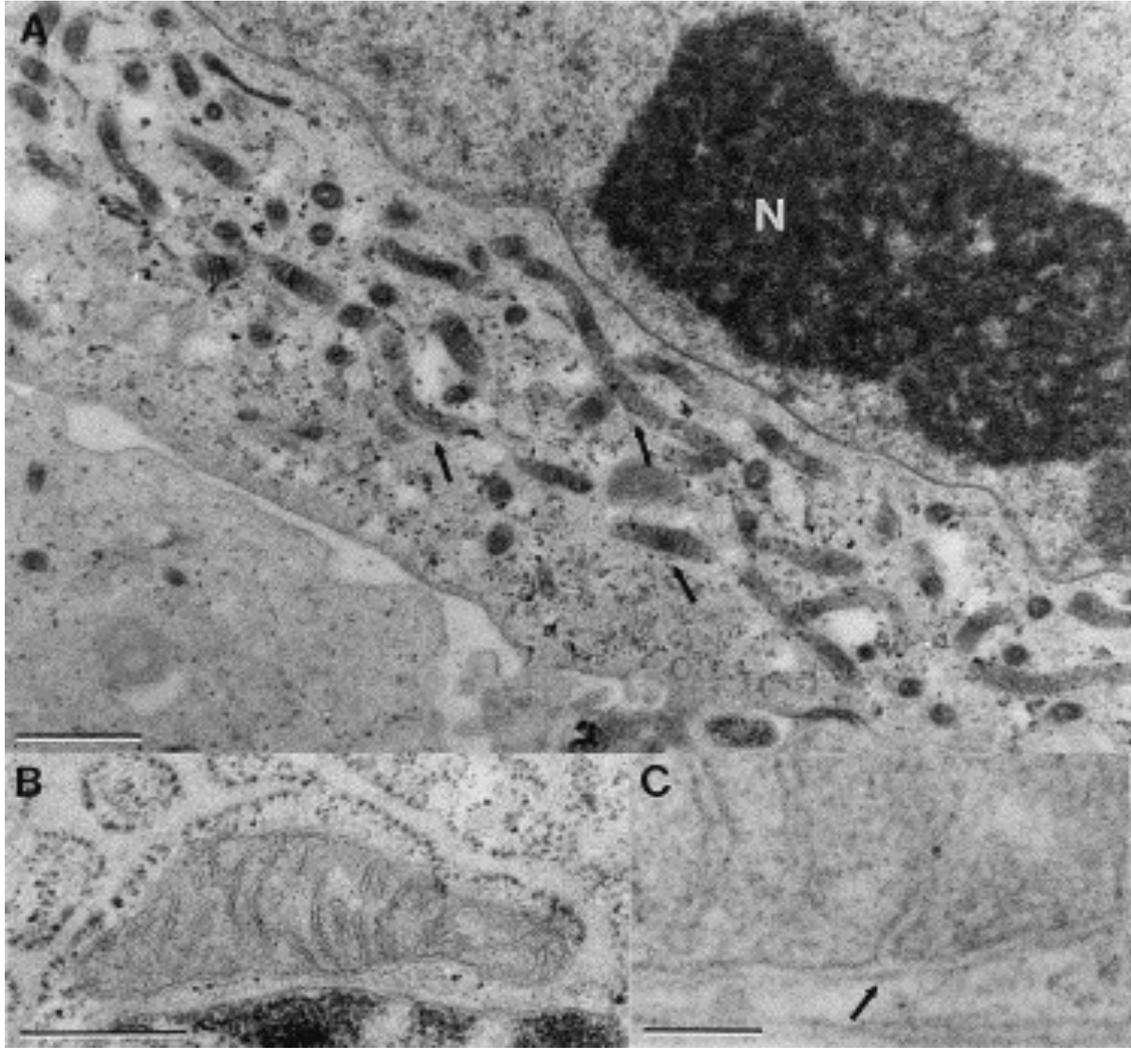
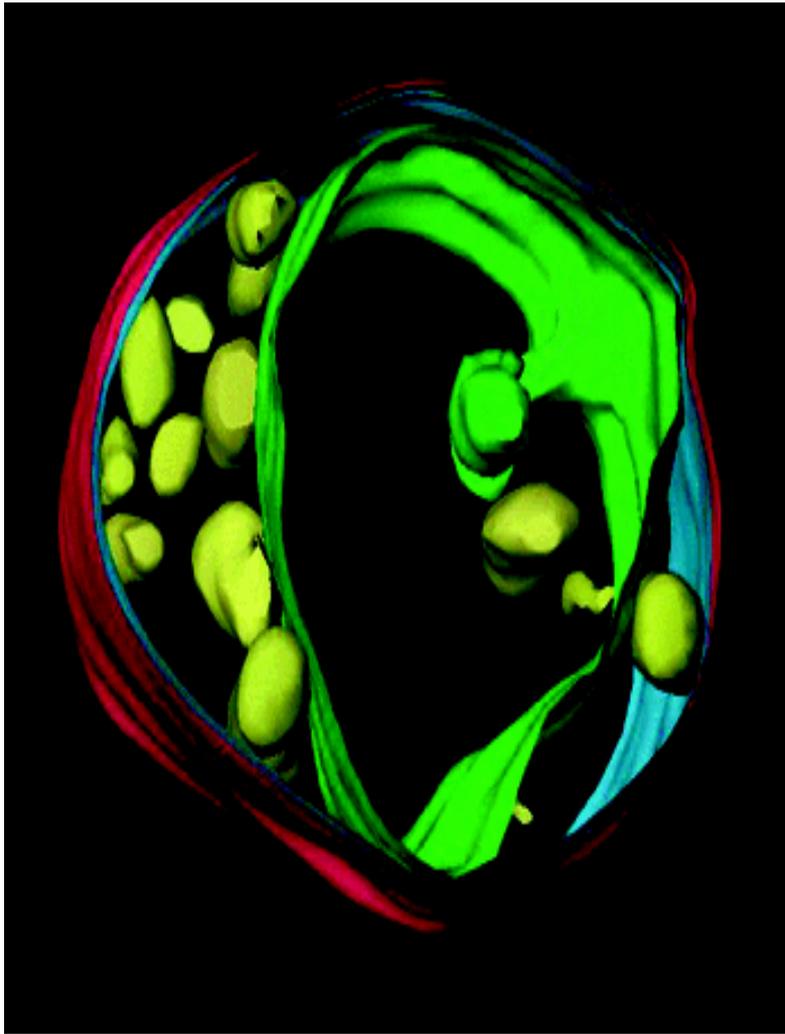


Figure 1





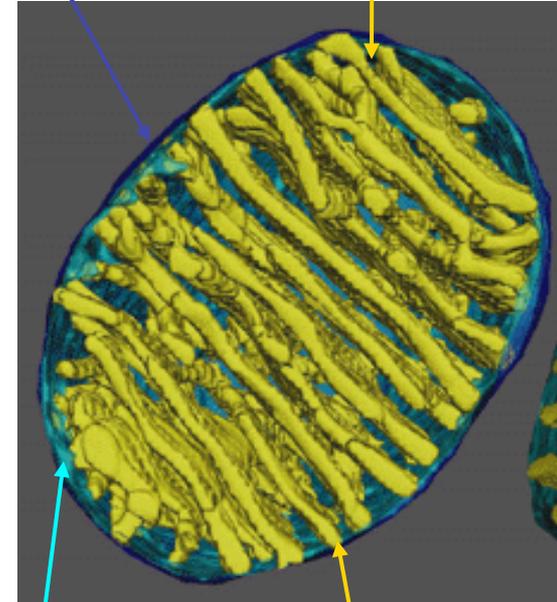
- As shown by 3D tomographic EM studies there is a discrete inner membrane and the cristae are not invaginations of this but distinct compartments linked to the inner membrane by narrow connections or pores.



The internal structure of mitochondria [Review]
Terrence G. Frey and Carmen A. Mannella
Trends in Biochemical Sciences, 2000, 25:7:319-324

outer
membrane

cristae



inner boundary
membrane

crista junction

3D reconstructed electron tomogram of mitochondria
Dr. Terry Frey; San Diego State University

MITOCHONDRIA ARE HIGHLY PLEOTROPIC

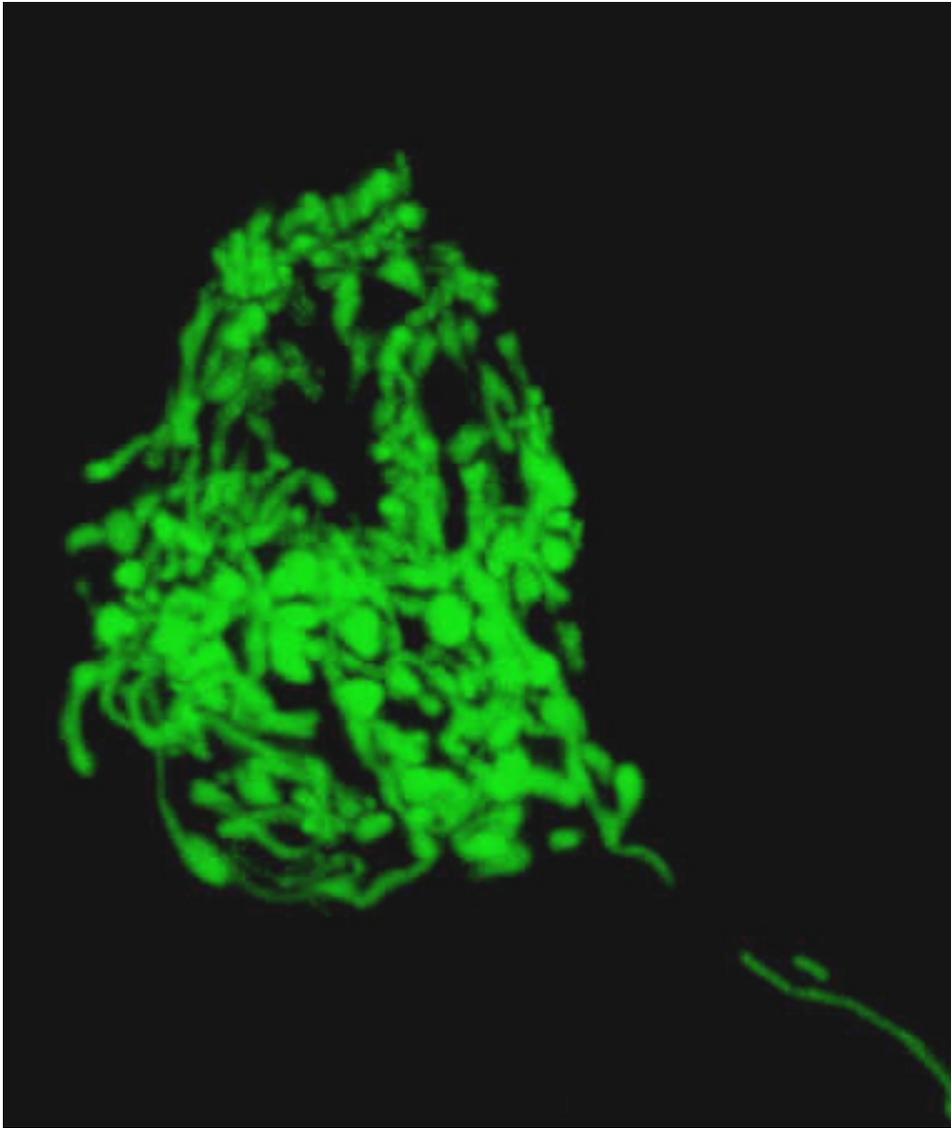
Change shape

Numbers

Composition

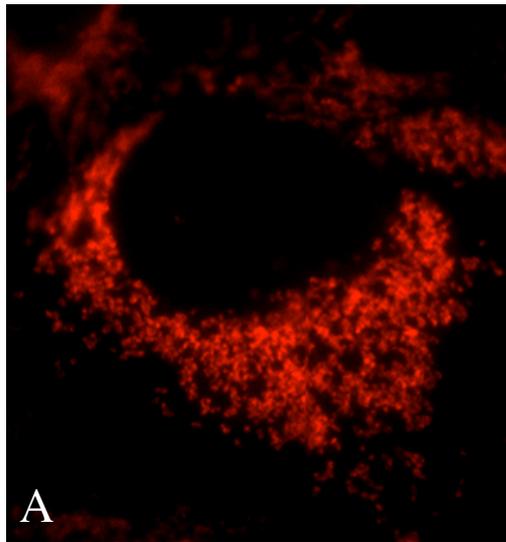
The mitochondrial mass can exist as a continuum or reticulum or as in a fragmented form. The switching Between the 2 forms i.e. fission and fusion involves sets of different proteins and is triggered by cell cycle. Fragmentation is an early and required step in Apoptosis.

3) 3D view of reticulum

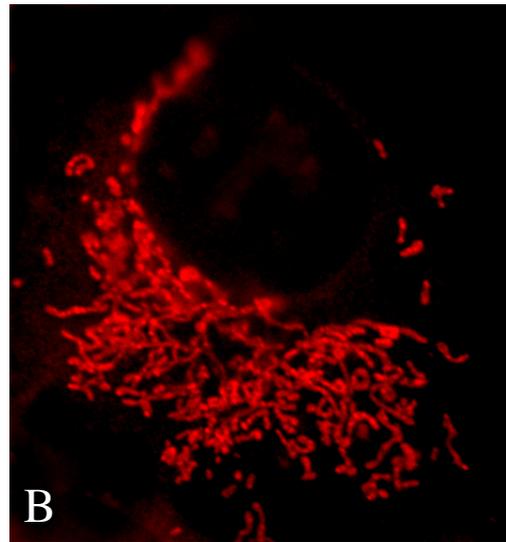


143B osteosarcoma
GFP-pH transfected
Confocal microscope
3D projection

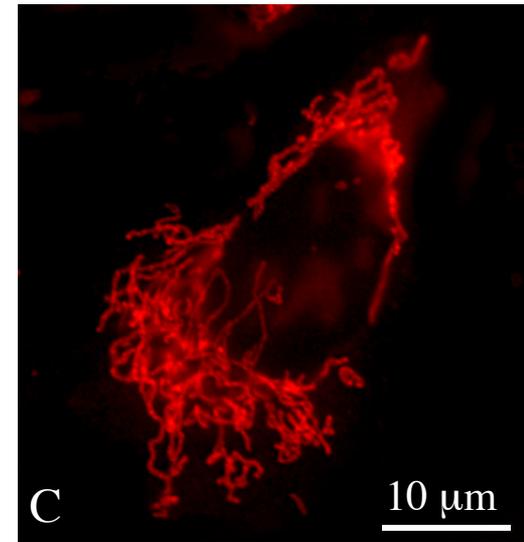
2) Different states (fragmented, intermediate, reticulum)



fragmented



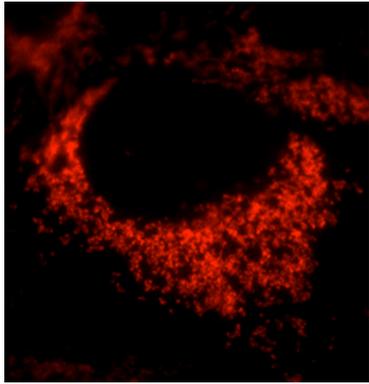
intermediate



reticular

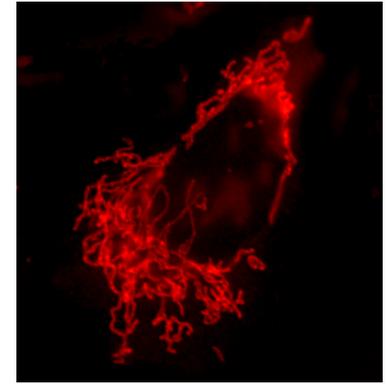
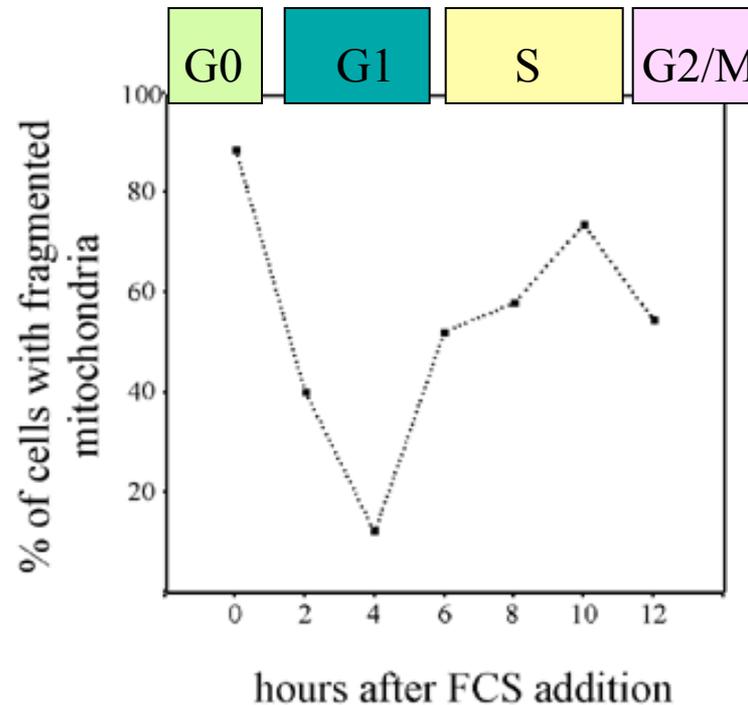
- MitoTracker Red staining
- osteosarcoma cells (143B)

Cell cycle dependent changes of mitochondrial morphology

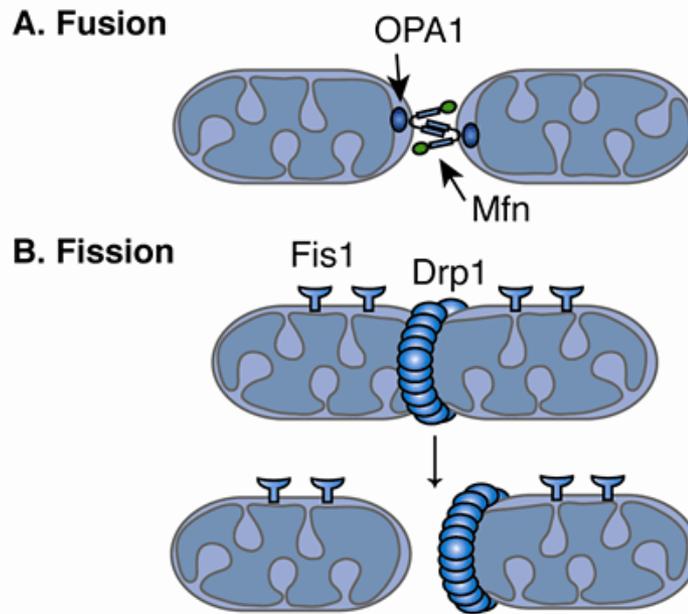


Fragmented

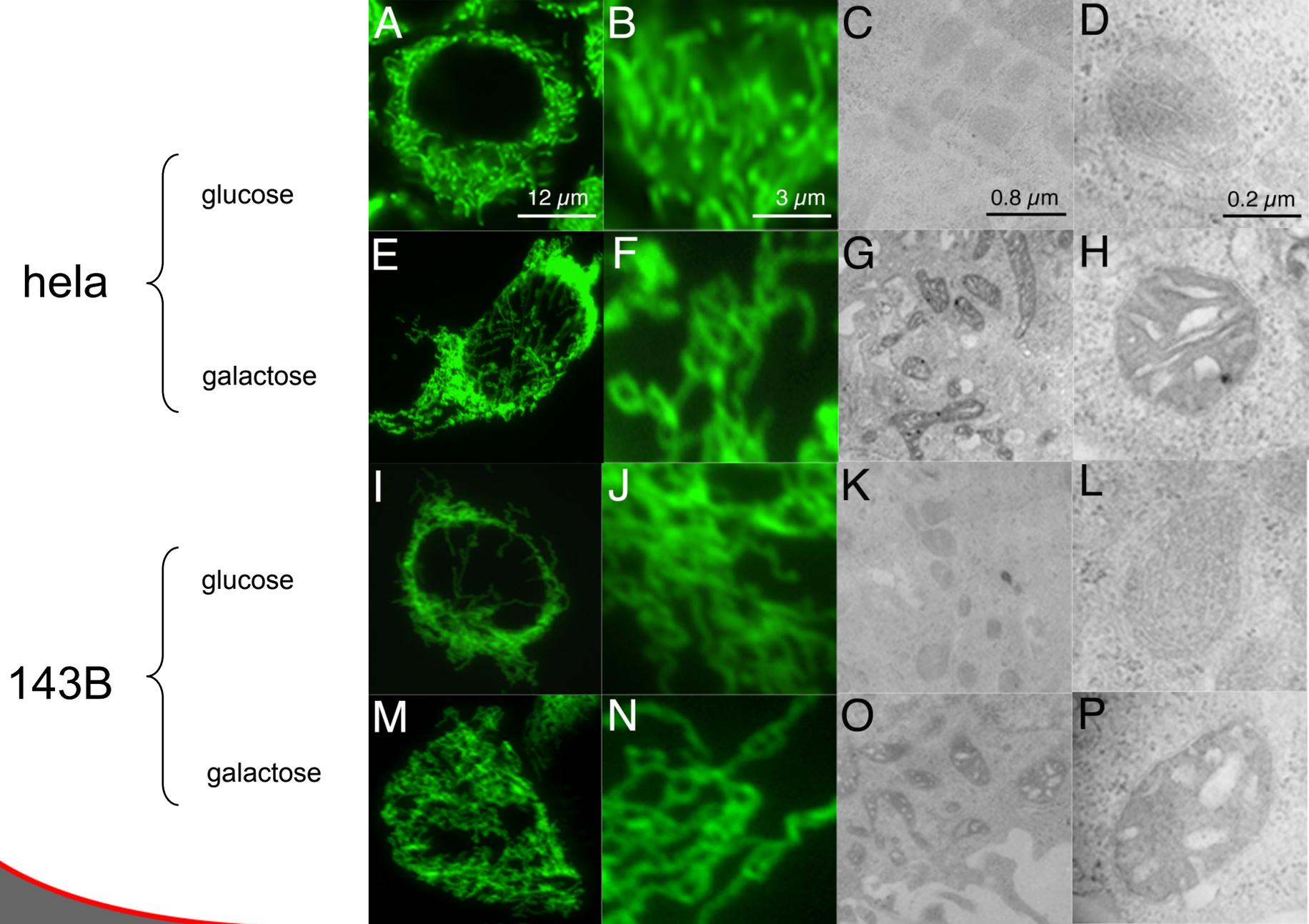
- **Osteosarcoma** cells were **arrested** in G0 by FCS starvation for 60-72 h
- **Released** by FCS addition
- **Stained** with MitoTracker Red



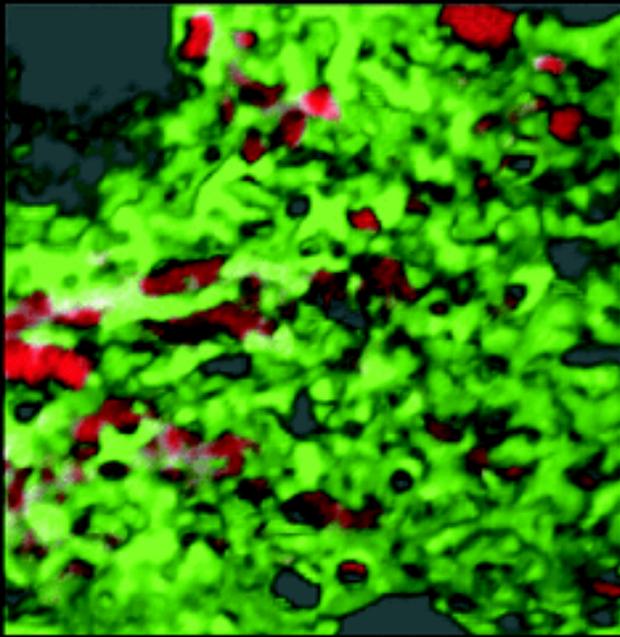
Reticular



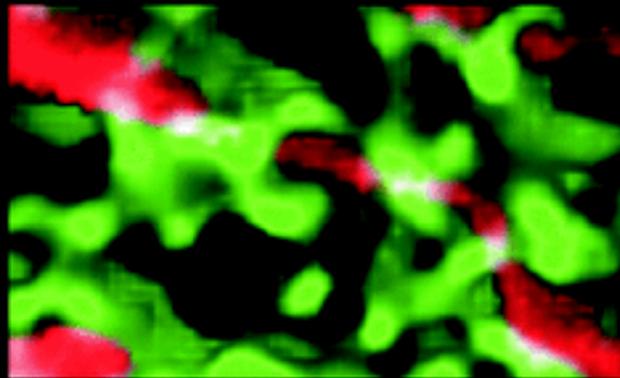
FISSION AND FUSION IS ESSENTIAL FOR CELL SURVIVAL. It is orchestrated by special proteins several of which are altered in neurological diseases.



The mitochondrion (red)
intercalates in and has
specific connections
With the ER (green)



— 1 μm



— 1 μm

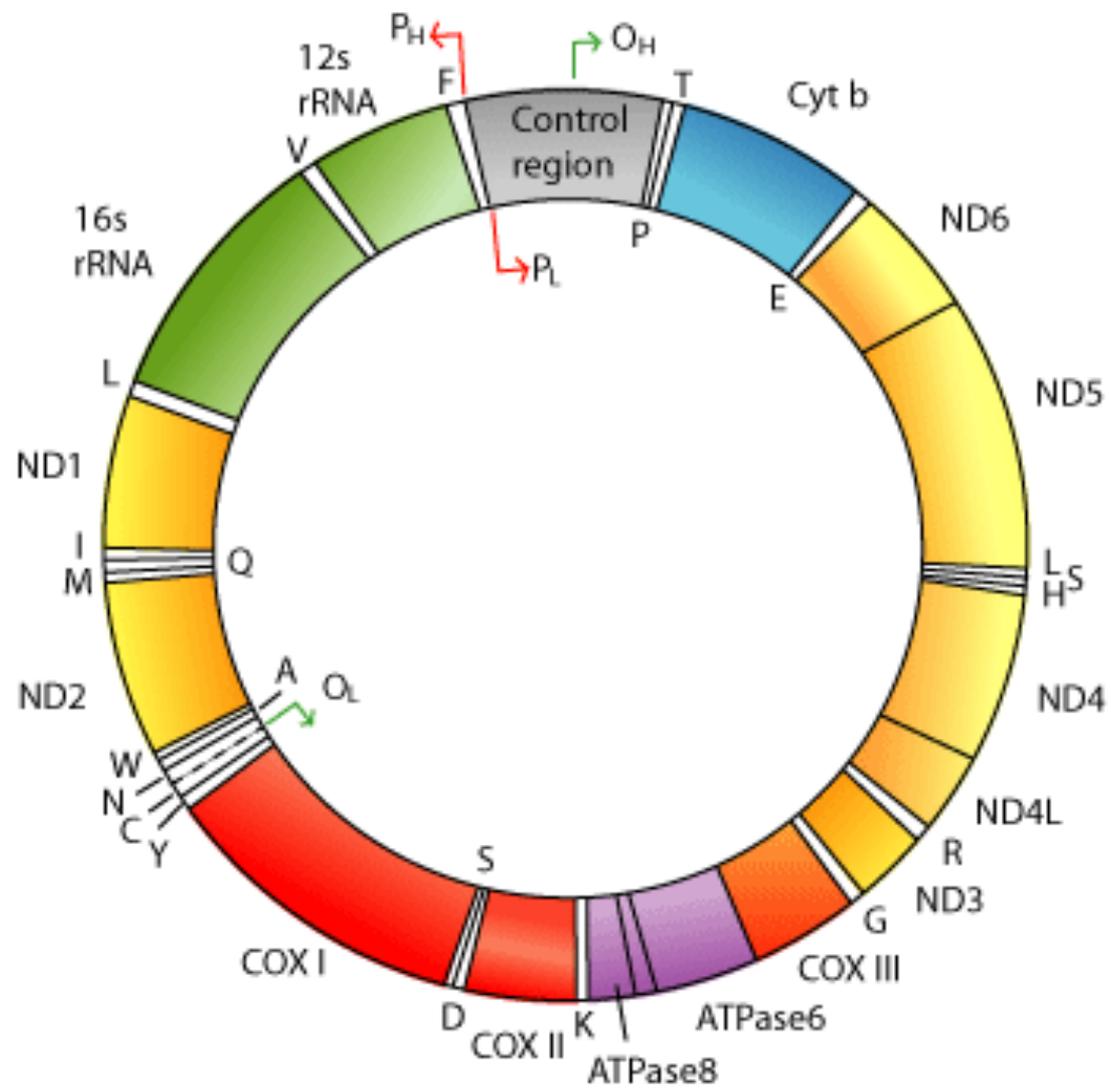
TiBS

THE BUILDING BLOCKS

MITOCHONDRIA ARE MADE FROM 2
GENOMES

mtDNA and nuclear genes

mtDNA is bacteria-like as is mt protein
synthesis



Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)

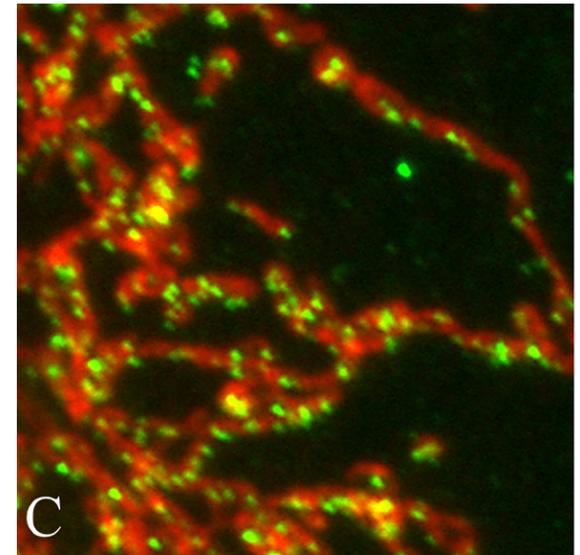
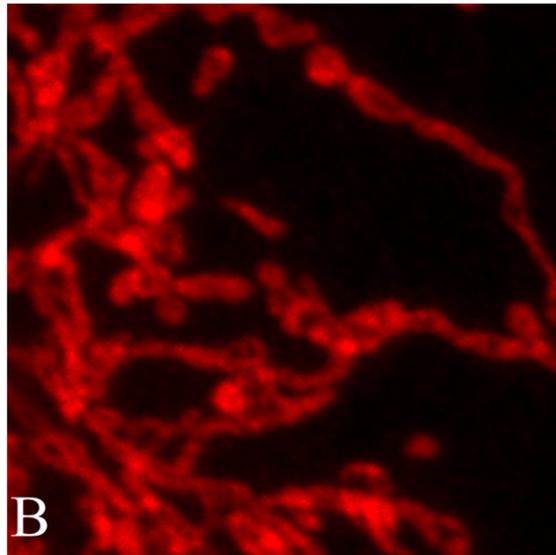
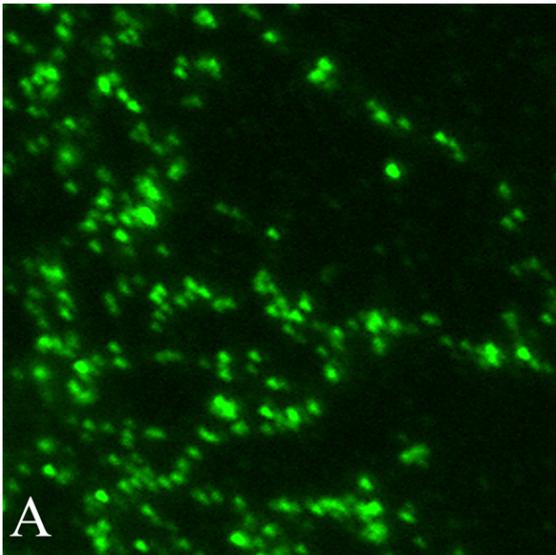
- FISH probes: - amino-allyl dUTP conjugated to Alexa Fluor dyes



COX I - AF488

MitoTracker Red

merged image



mtDNA content

The number of copies of mtDNA varies by species, by tissue and by metabolic factors
100-5000 per cell.

Not all copies are the same based on genetic variations and accrued mutations =
HETEROPLASMY

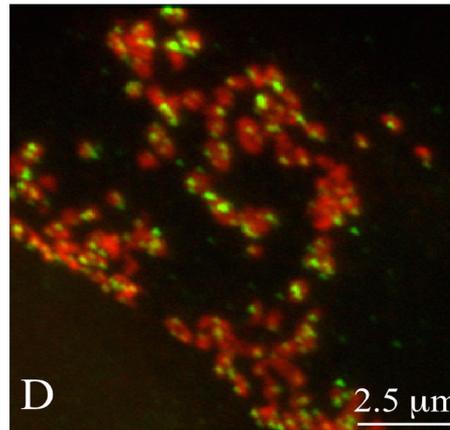
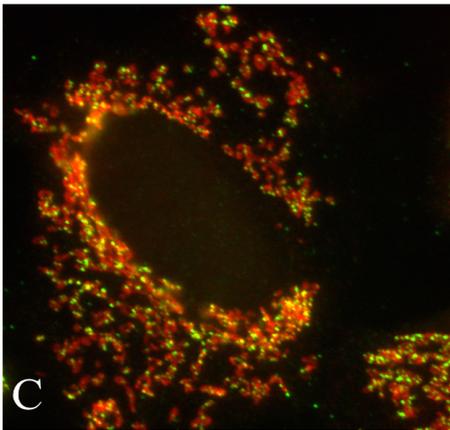
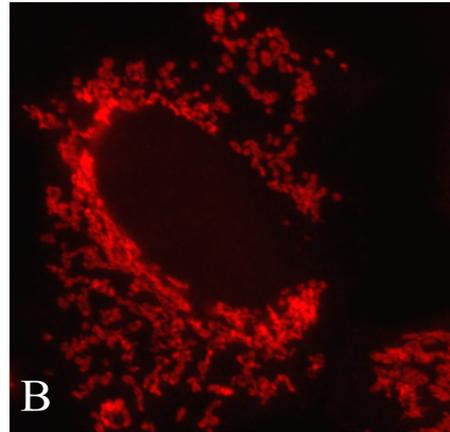
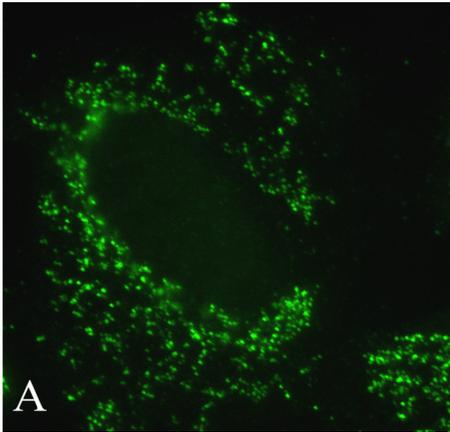
Heteroplasmy is the presence of multiple forms of mtDNA with small polymorphic variations in the sequence of open reading frames for tRNAs or the OXPHOS proteins.

There are distinct differences in mtDNA sequence between different human populations called haplogroups. There is good evidence that different haplogroups respond differently to some drugs because of subtle changes in OXPHOS enzymes

Distribution of mtDNA in fragmented mitochondria

COX I - AF488

MitoTracker Red



Each
mitochondrion
contains
mtDNA

merged image

enlargement

Inborn Errors of Metabolism and Incidence

(1:8,000) Mitochondrial disorders; (e.g., mitochondrial DNA depletion syndromes)

(1:10,000) Fatty acid oxidation disorders
inc. medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency (1:20,000)

(1:15,000) Phenylketonuria

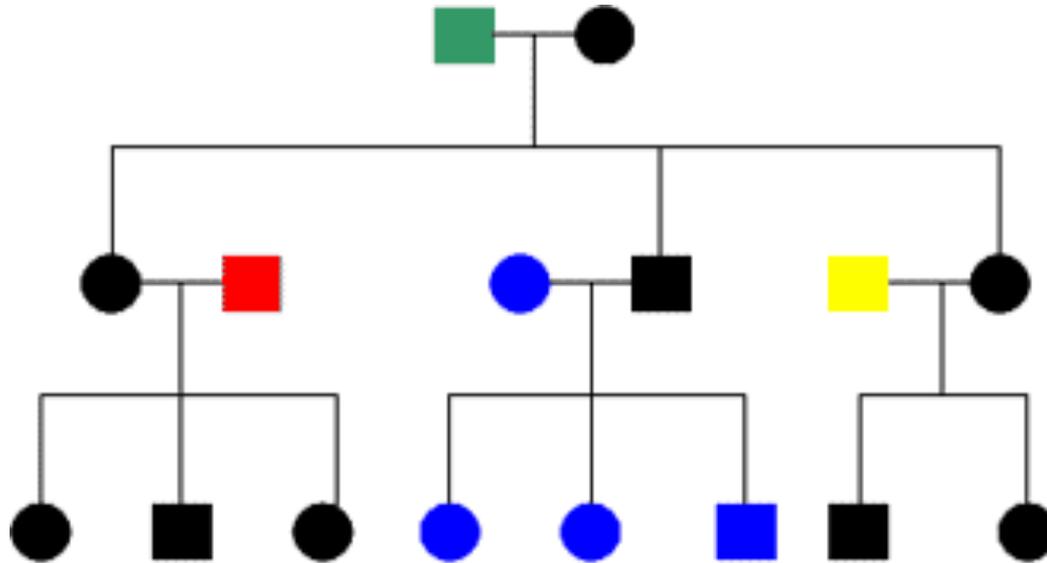
(1:15,000) Methylmalonicaciduria. Methylmalonyl-CoA mutase, cobalamin metabolism

(1:40,000) Aminoacidopathies

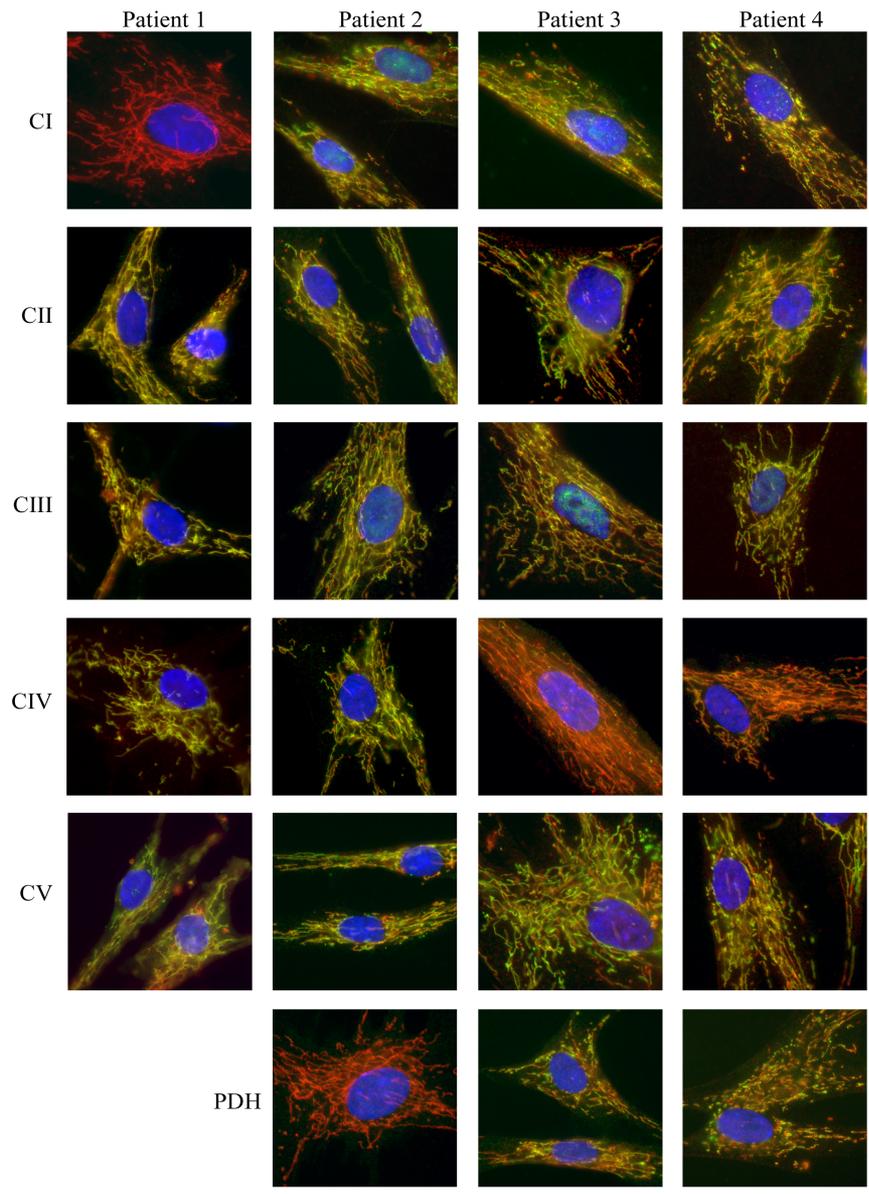
(1:50,000) Peroxisomal disorders; e.g., Zellweger syndrome, neonatal adrenoleukodystrophy, Refsum's disease)

(1:150,000) Maple syrup urine disease (BCOAD)

MATERNAL INHERITANCE



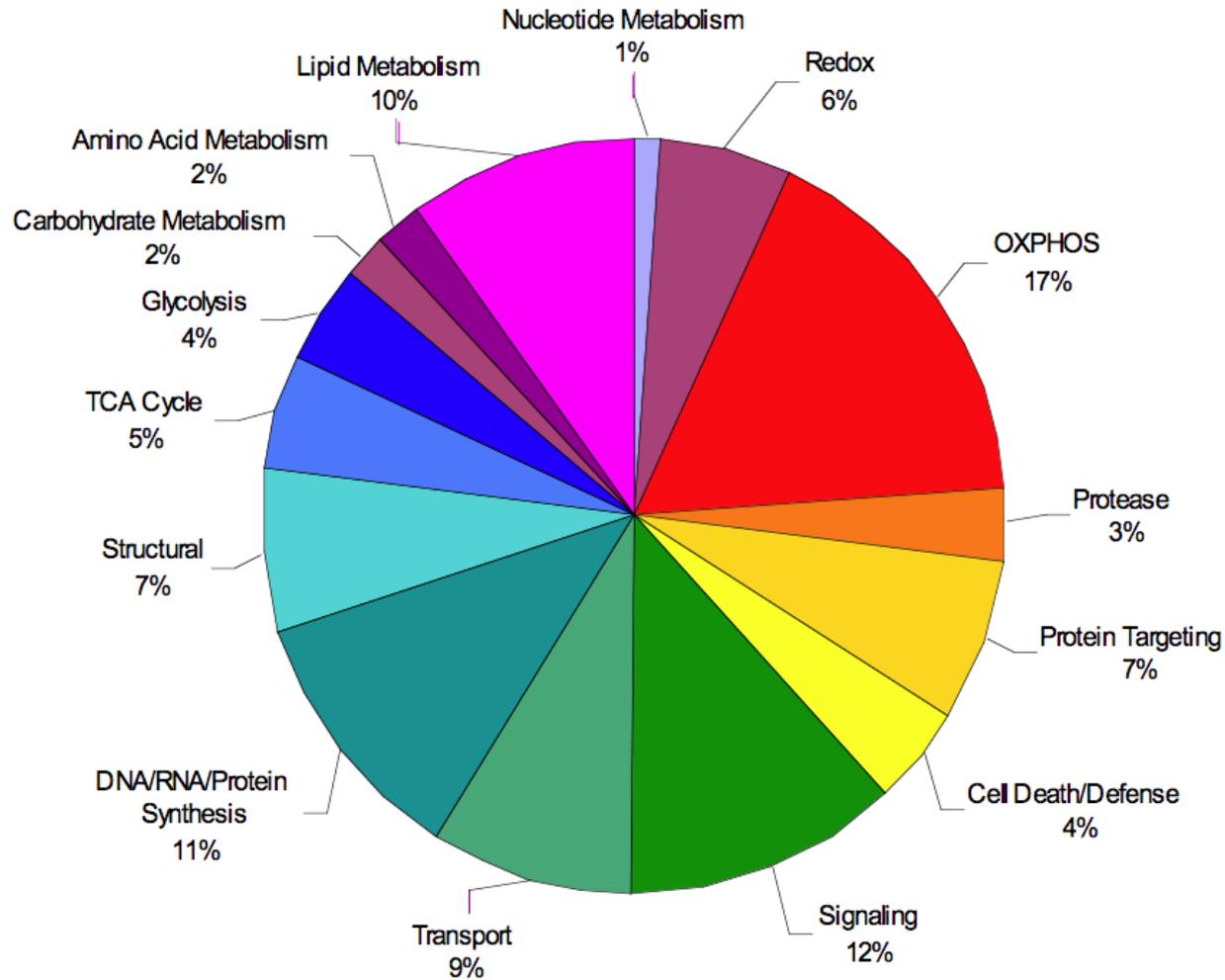
**Colors reflect inheritance of the same mitochondrial genome*



MITOCHONDRIAL PROTEOME

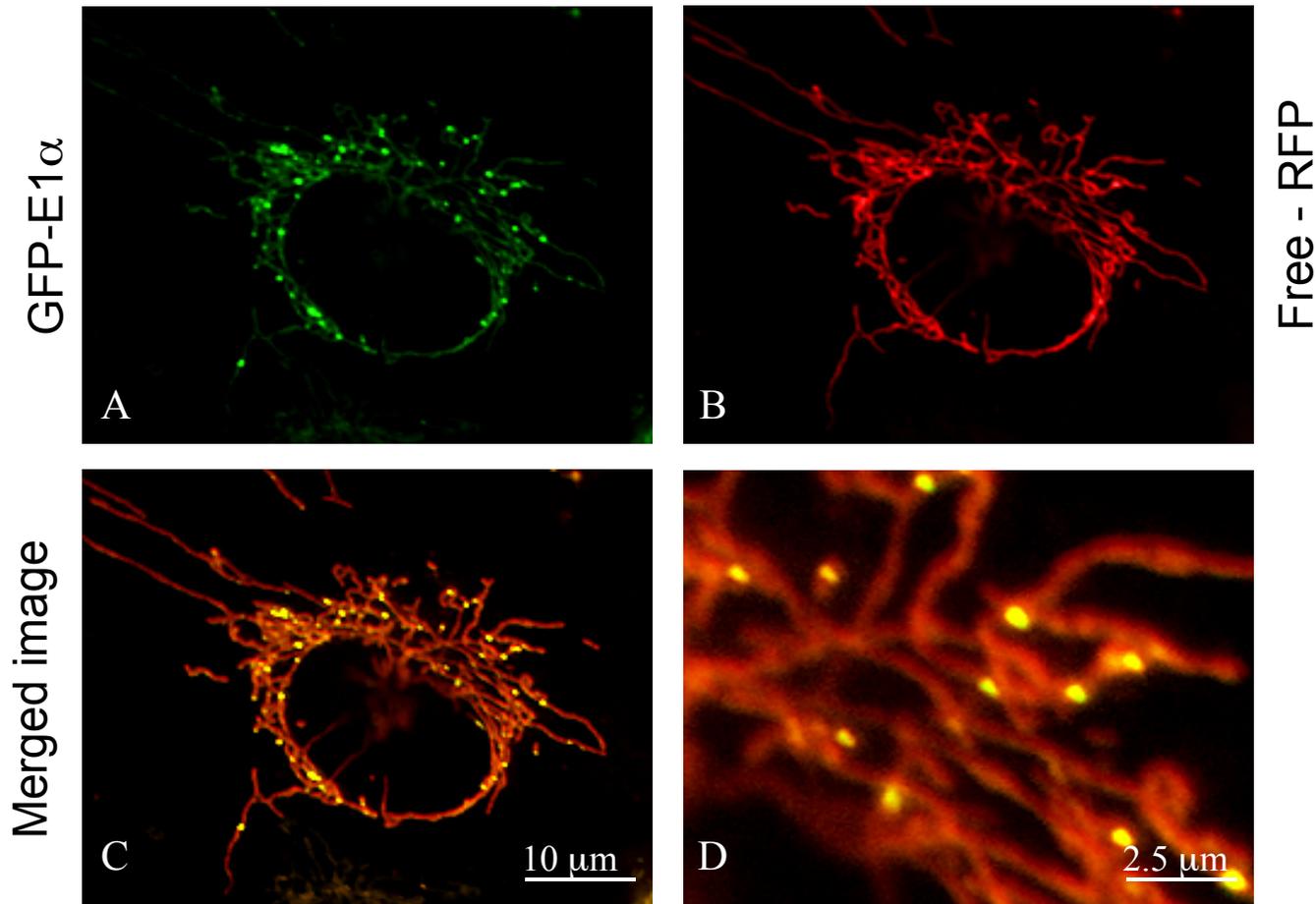
Best estimate 2000 polypeptides.
13 made in mitochondrion; rest nuclear.

Mitochondrial Proteome



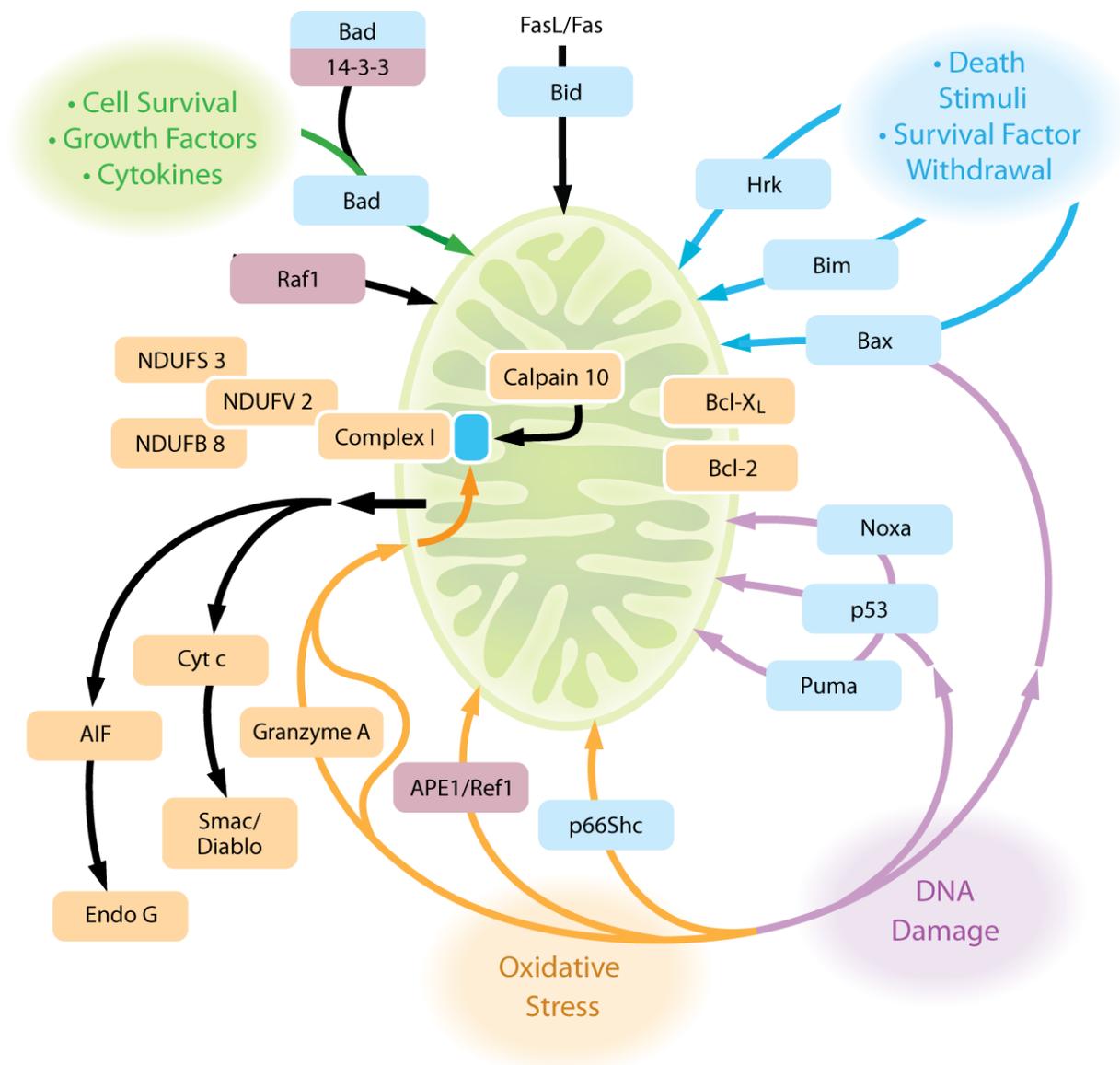
**PROTEIN DISTRIBUTION IS
RELATIVELY FIXED TO OPTIMIZE
METABOLIC PATHWAYS AND
PROCESSES**

Distribution of GFP-E1a and RFP in co-transfected cells



24 hours post transfection

- THE PROTEIN COMPOSITION OF THE MITOCHONDRION IS NOT FIXED.
- THERE IS MOVEMENT OF PROTEINS ONTO, IN AND OUT OF THE ORGANELLE IN SEVERAL FUNCTIONS

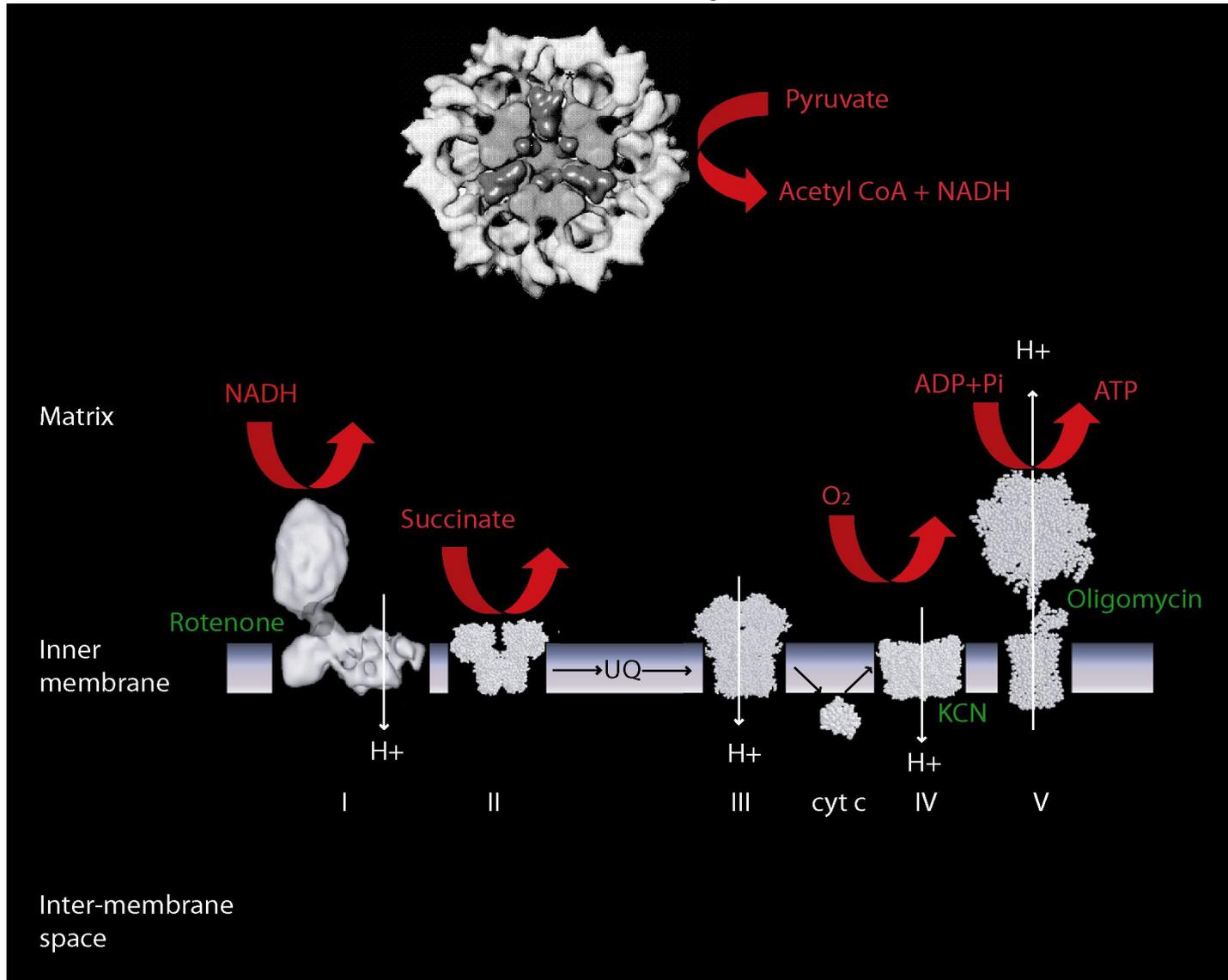


In apoptosis there is movement of proteins such as Bax, Bcl2 and other proapoptotic factors onto mitochondria. In response the organelle releases cytochrome c, SMAC and other proteins into the cytosol and into the nucleus.

During normal cellular events there are movements of kinases and transcription factors into and out of the organelle to co-ordinate nuclear and mitochondrial biogenesis

- FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF MITOCHONDRIA IN INTERMEDIARY METABOLISM.
- THE KEY ROLE OF ENERGY PRODUCTION

OXPHOS System

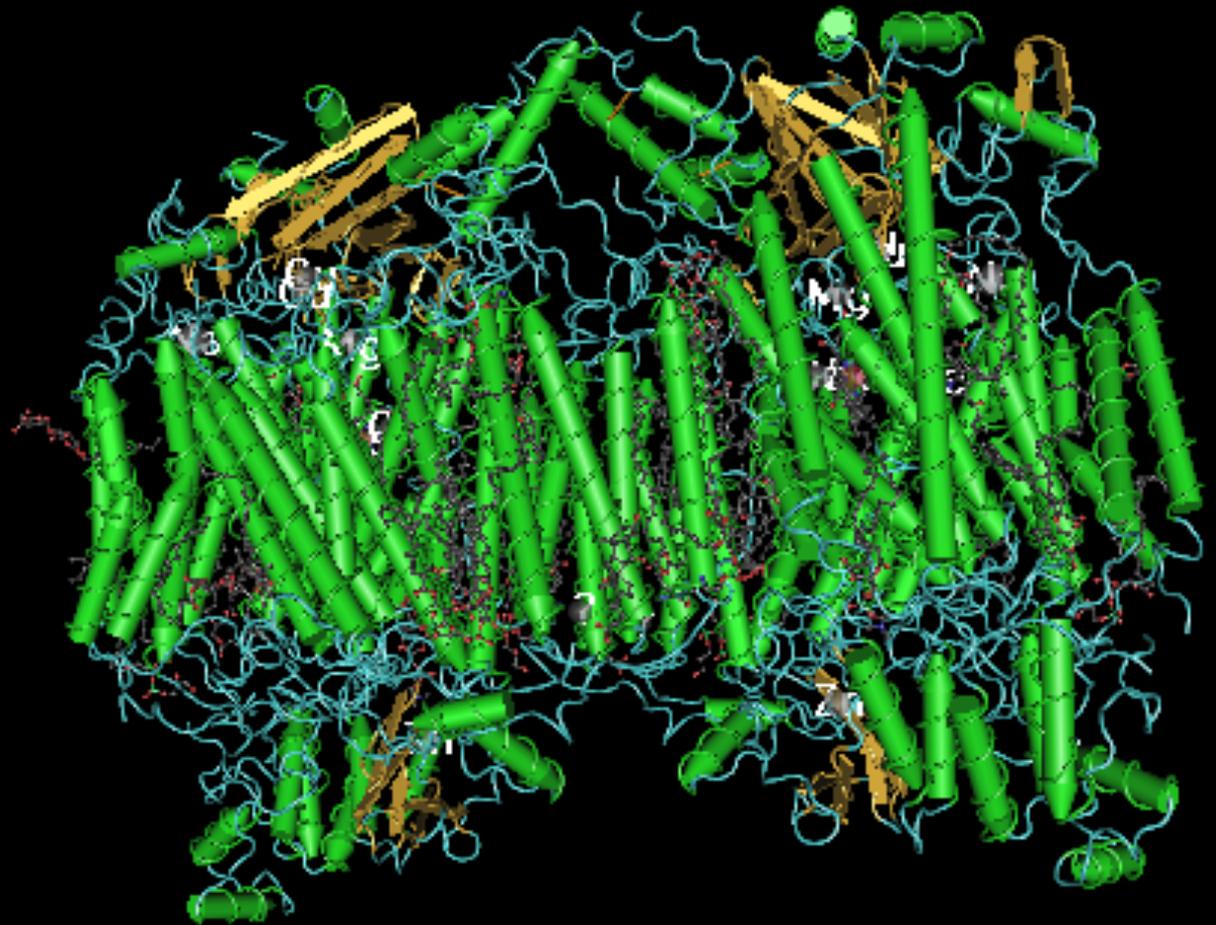


The high resolution structure of cytochrome c oxidase shows a complex of 13 different polypeptides some spanning the lipid bilayer, others located on the cytosol side where substrate cytochrome c binds. Segments that are within the bilayer are alpha helical. Hemes and copper prosthetic groups form an electron wire carrying electron to the oxygen binding site for reduction of O₂ to H₂O

COX Model

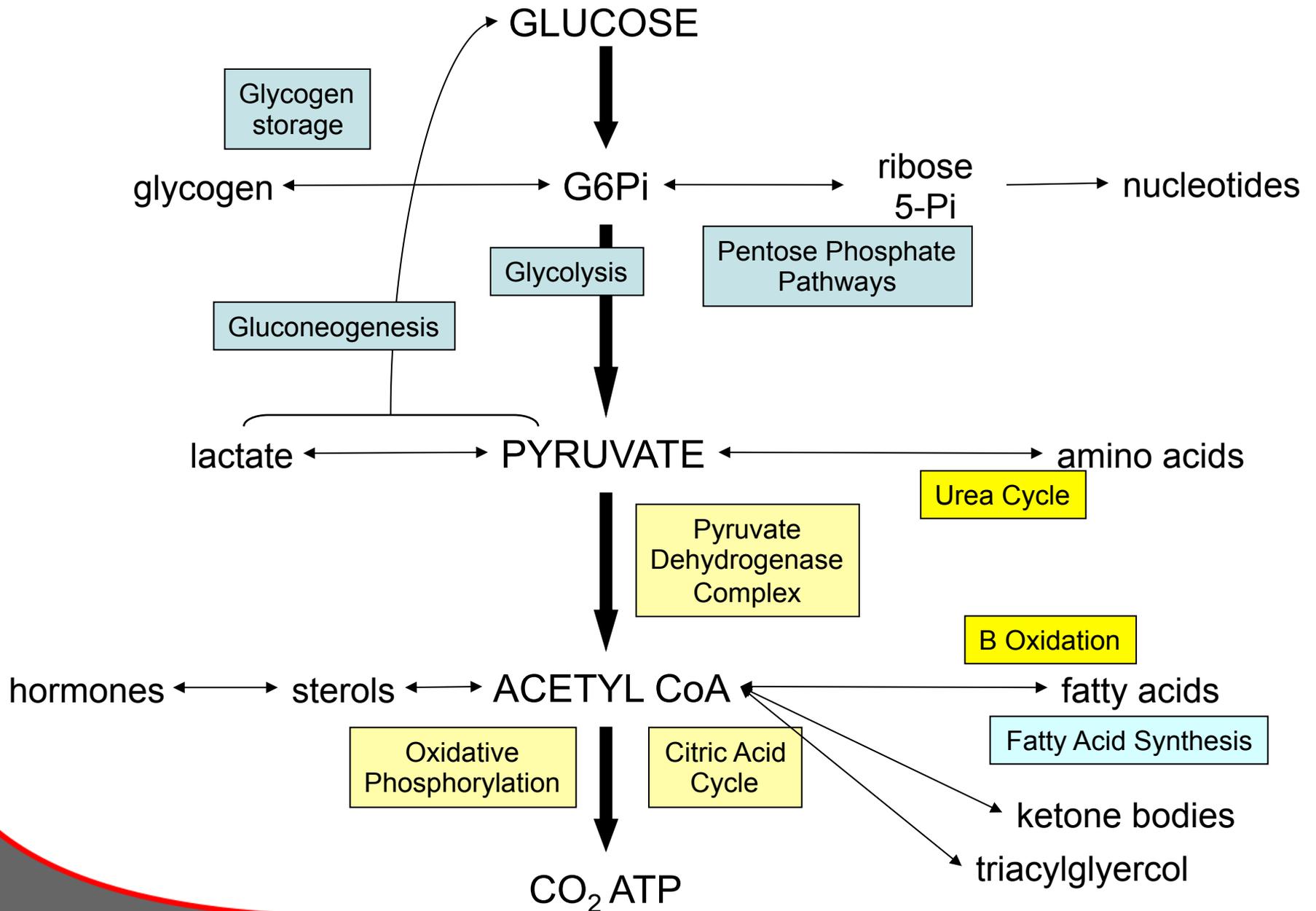
gold= β -sheet

green= α -helix



- INTERMEDIARY METABOLISM IS A HIGHLY INTEGRATED
- HIGHLY REGULATED
- MITOCHONDRIA-CENTRIC
- CELLULAR PROCESS.

It is important to consider mitochondrial OXPHOS
in the context of overall glucose metabolism
As all metabolic pathways are interlinked by the levels
of their intermediates that are used in multiple reactions.



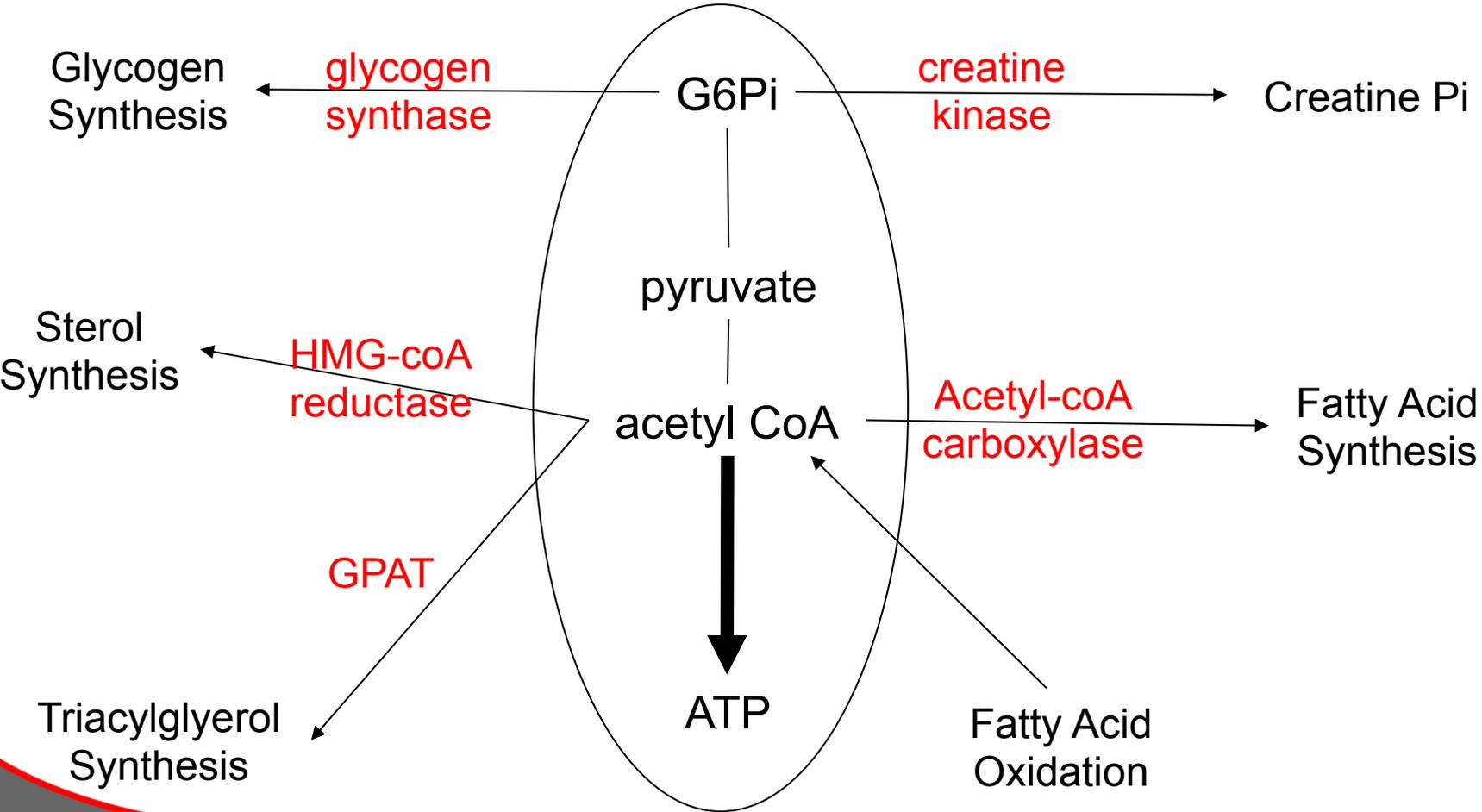
SHORT TERM REGULATION OR METABOLISM

PHOSPHORYLATION
ACETYLATION
UBIQUITINYLATION

Kinases and phosphatases provide integrated regulation of multiple pathways as in the control of the utilization of glucose based on the cellular ATP/ADP ratio as measured by AMP Kinase. When ATP levels are low, phosphorylation of key enzymes in anabolic pathways are down regulated and those in catabolic pathways are upregulated.

Short term Cellular Control of Energy Metabolism

AMP-activated Kinase



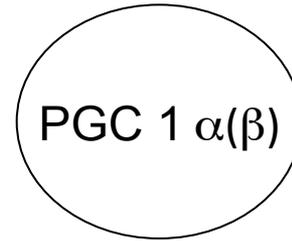
LONG TERM REGULATION

Transcription factors

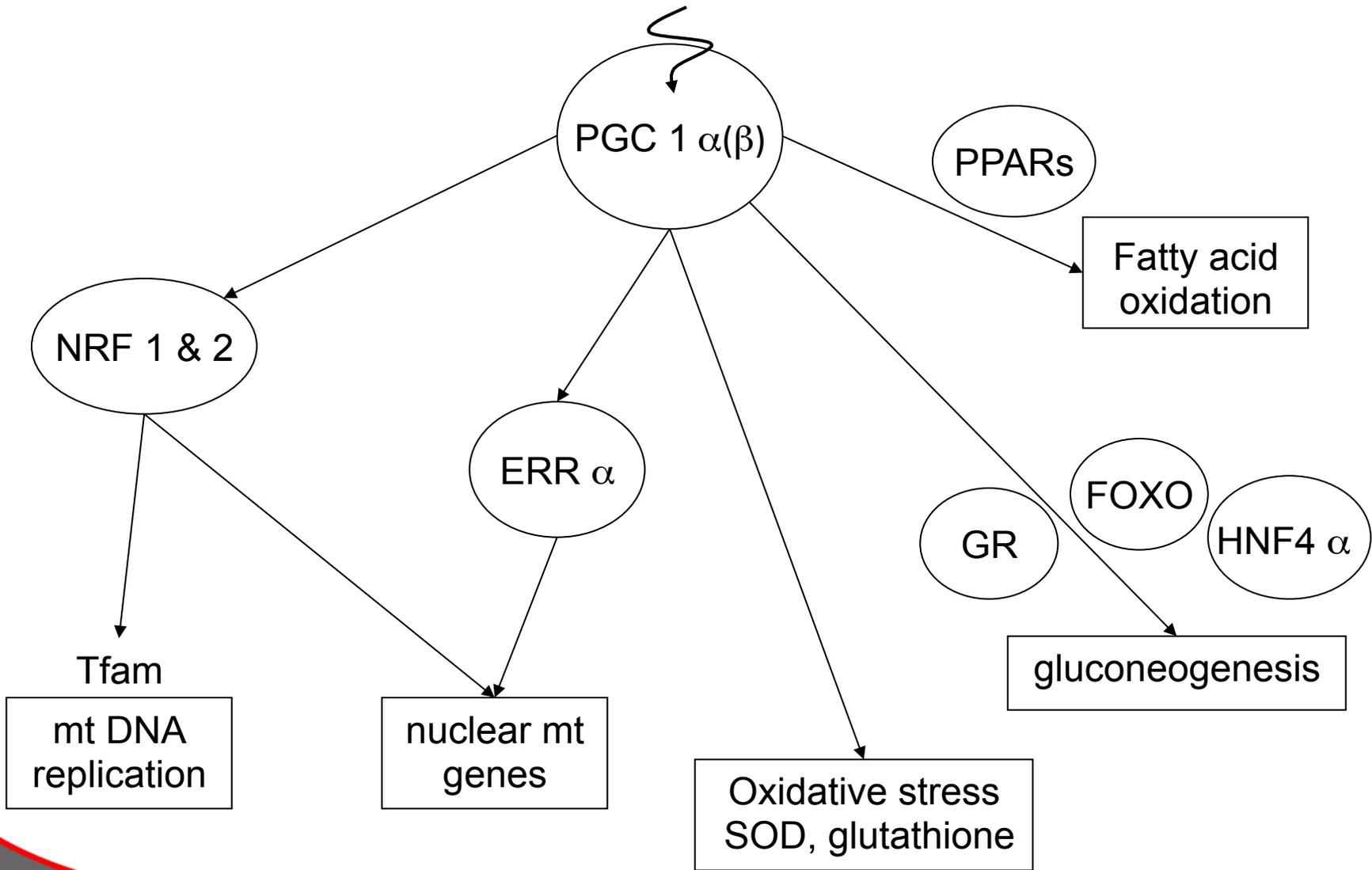
Transcription factor activators

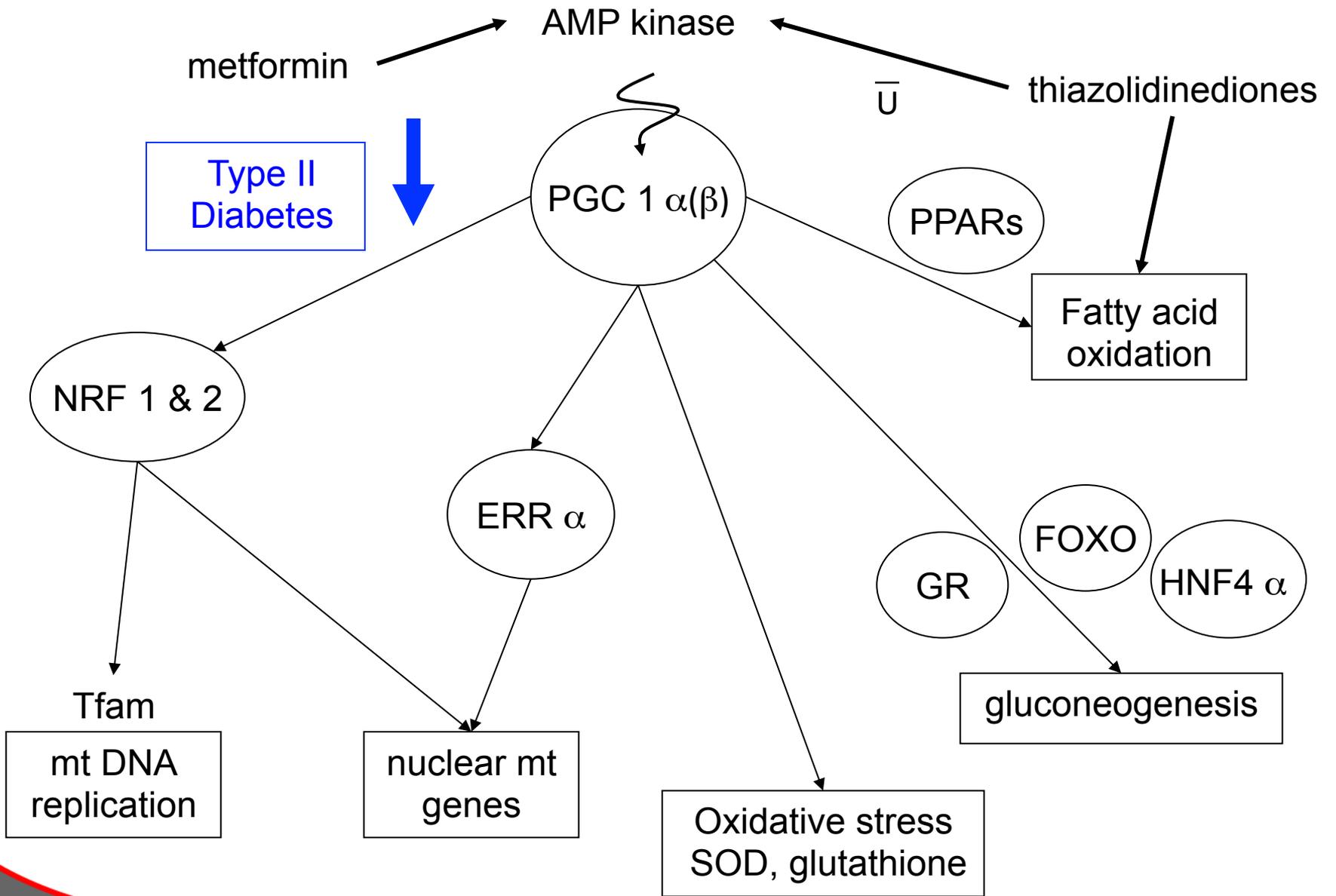
Transcription factor activator activators
(sirtuins!)

AMP kinase



AMP kinase





NOT SUPRISINGLY, THERE IS TISSUE VARIATION IN METABOLISM.

Expression of whole pathways are different between tissues e.g. urea cycle and gluconeogenesis are liver specific. Actin and myosin are muscle (inc. heart) specific.

Even pathways in common can be controlled differently through the presence of different isoforms of the same protein with different specificity, rate of turnover. Particularly true of substrate carriers and hormone receptors etc.