

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Application: In Hindsight

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08/2004-05/2008

**Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY USA**

09/2008-08/2013

**University of Ottawa
Ottawa, ON Canada**

09/2013-03/2015

**CWRU
Cleveland, OH USA**

05/2015-

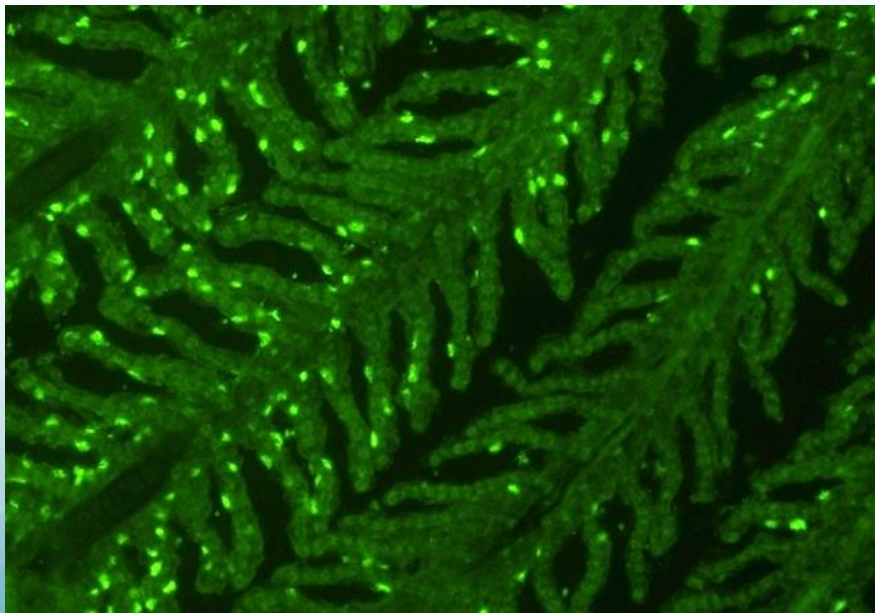
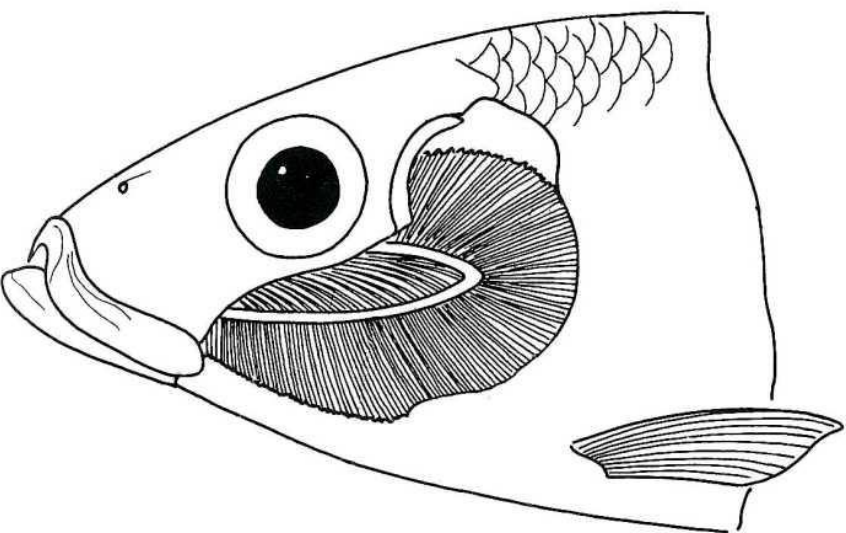
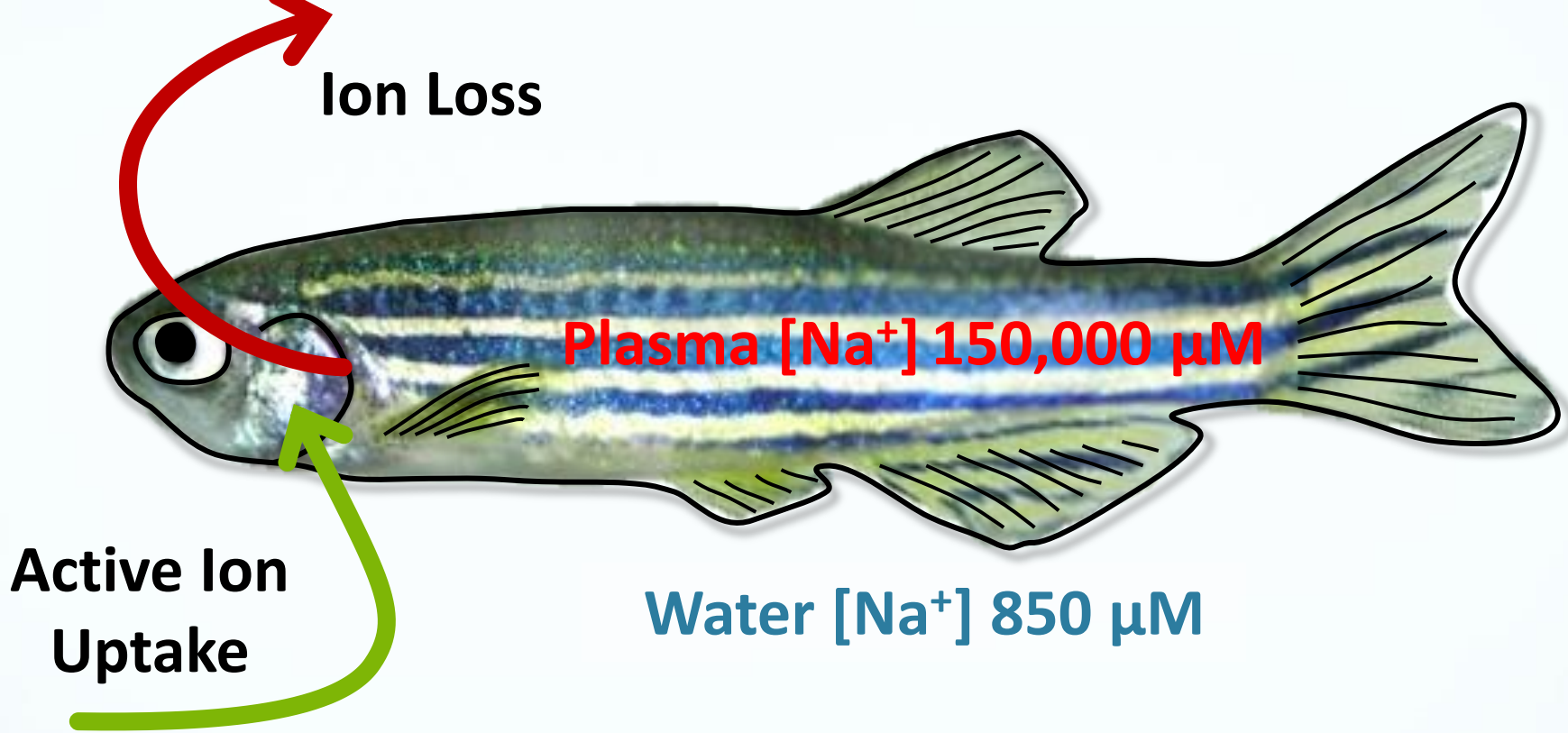
Paris Cardiovascular Research Center

Team 12: Physiopathologie du tubule rénal, homéostasie et pression artérielle



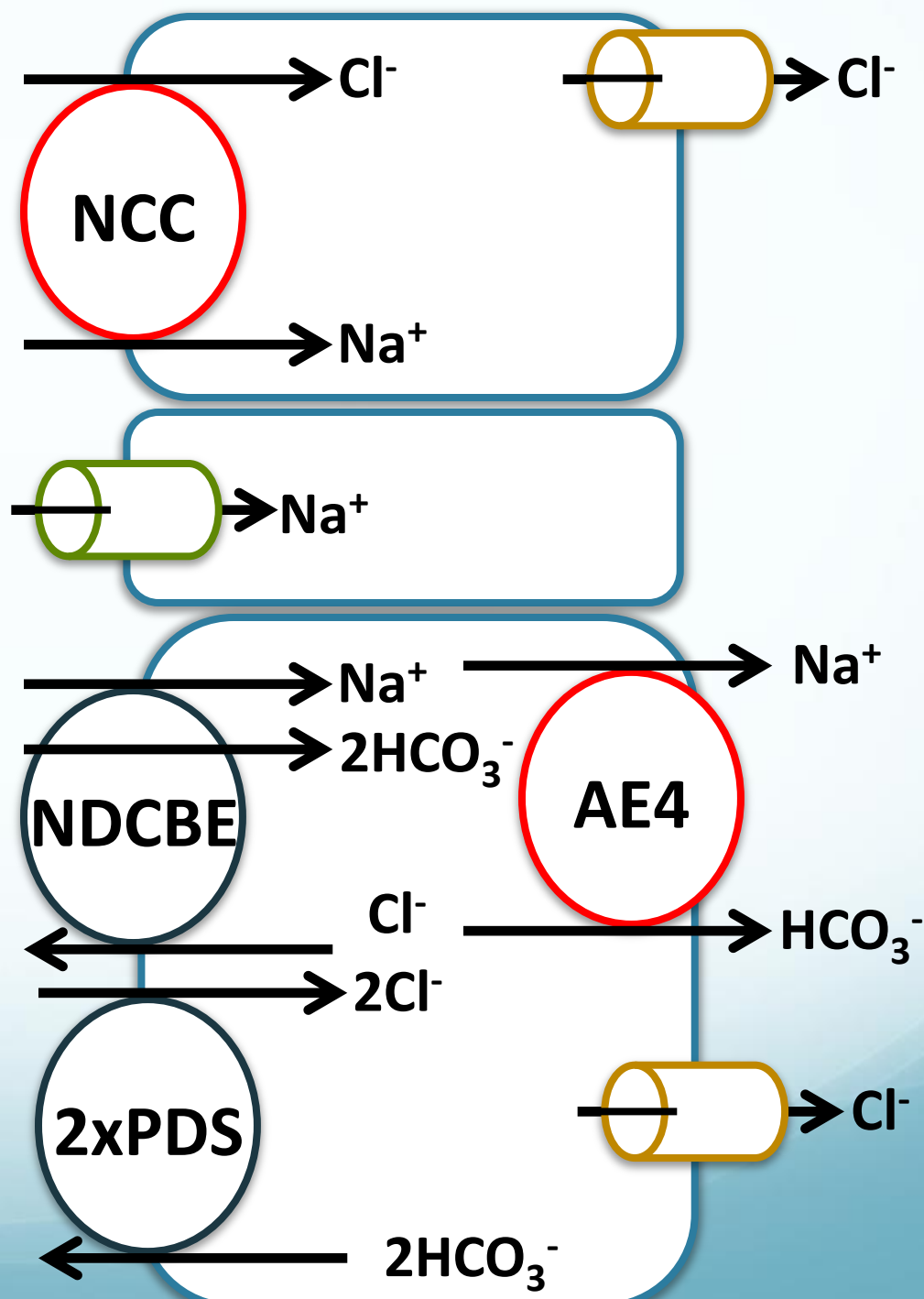
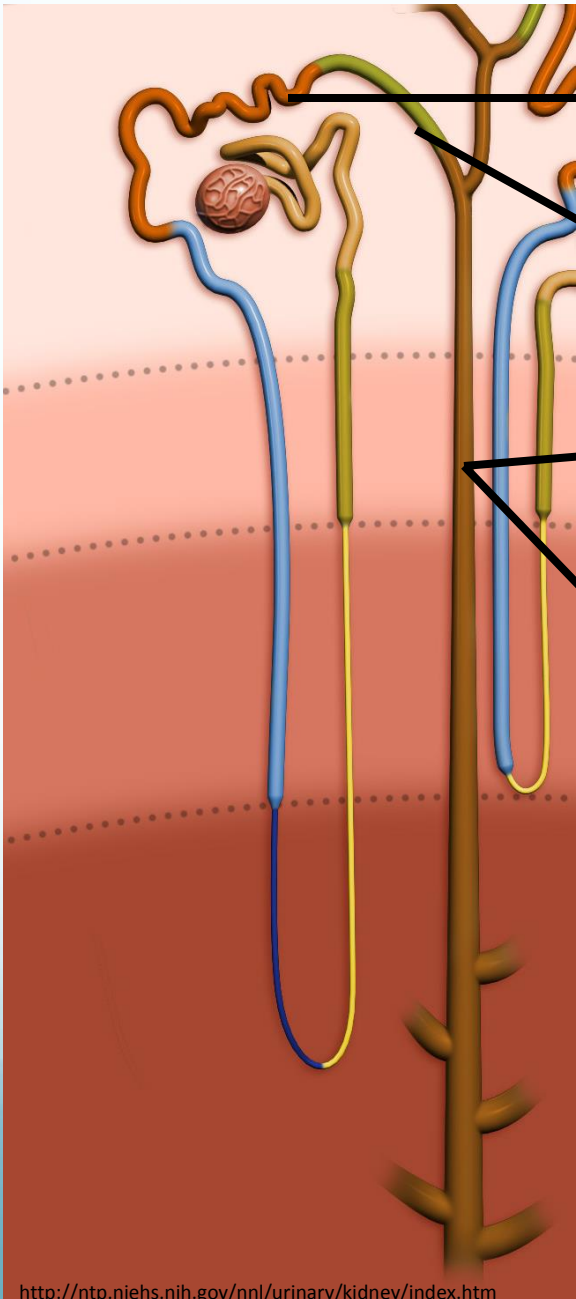
circa 2014

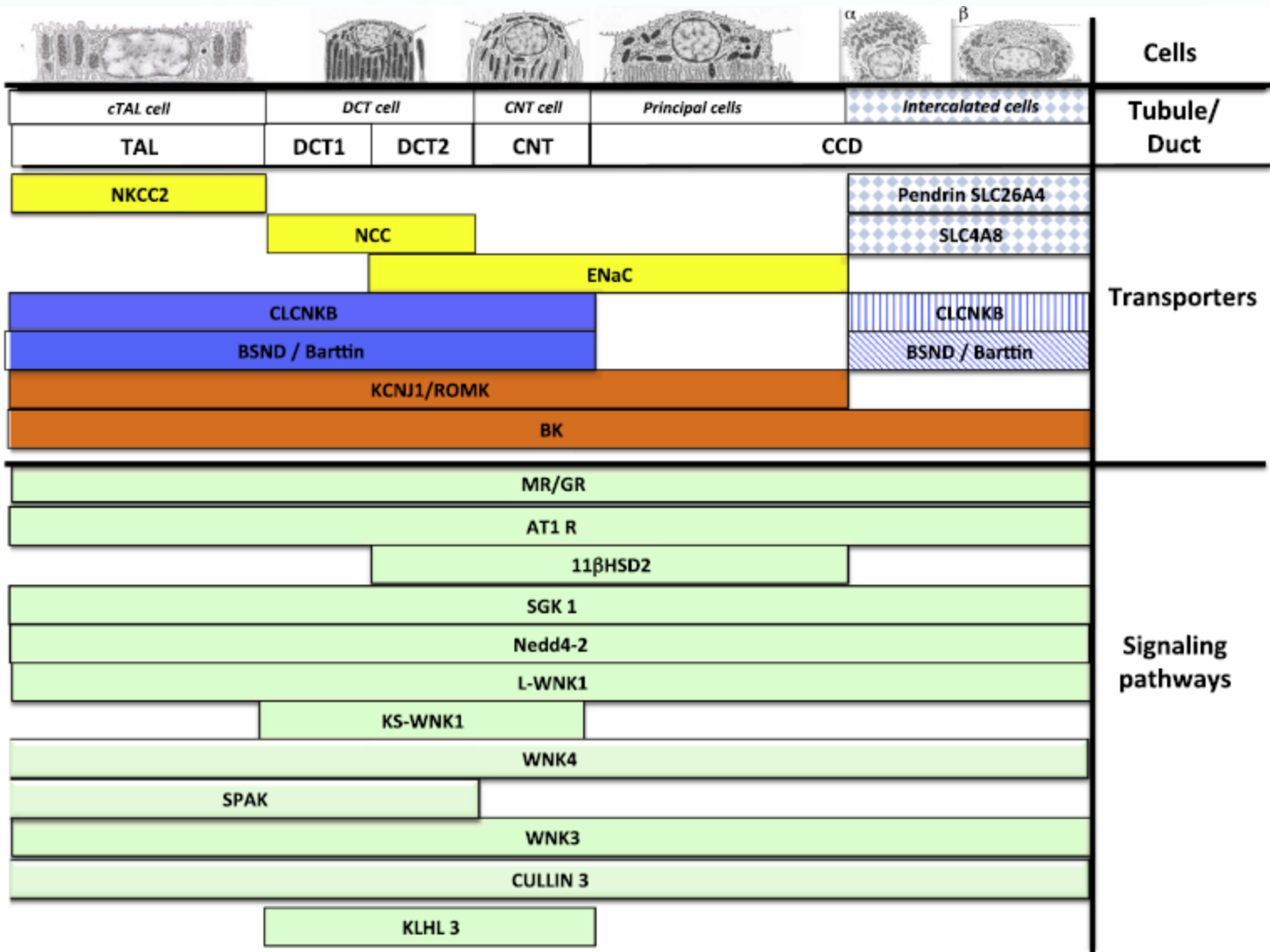
“Molecular Basis and Regulation of Body Fluid Electrolyte Homeostasis”



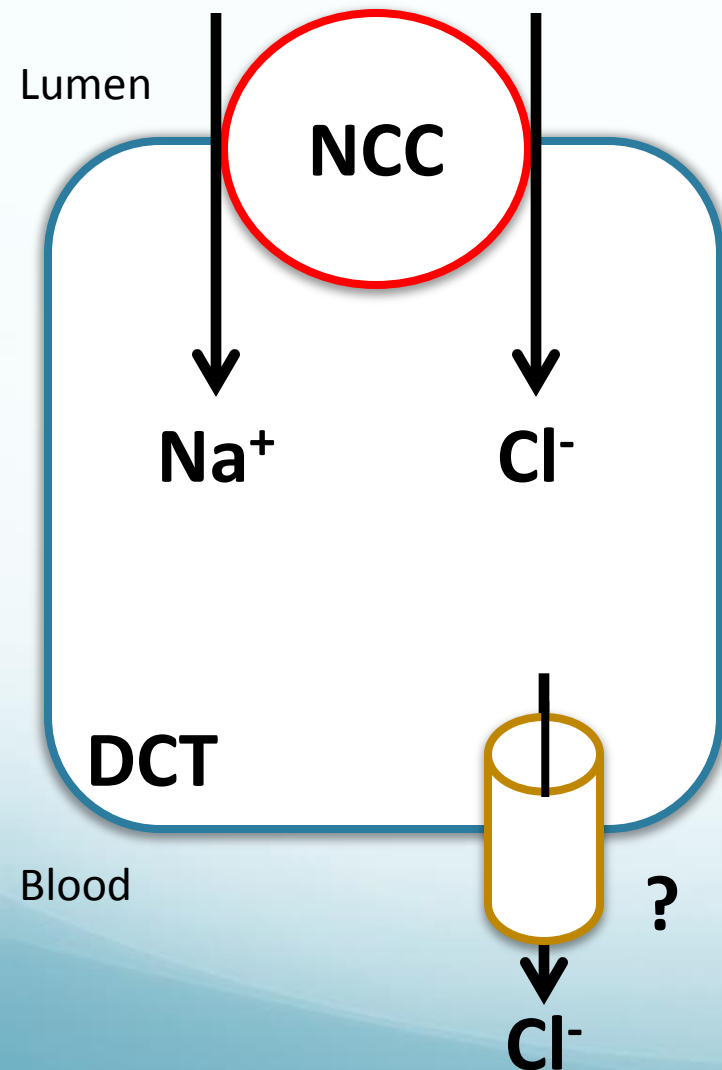


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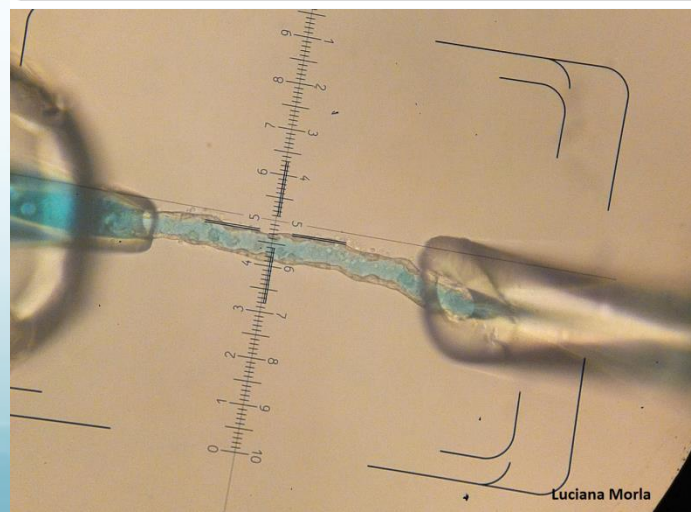
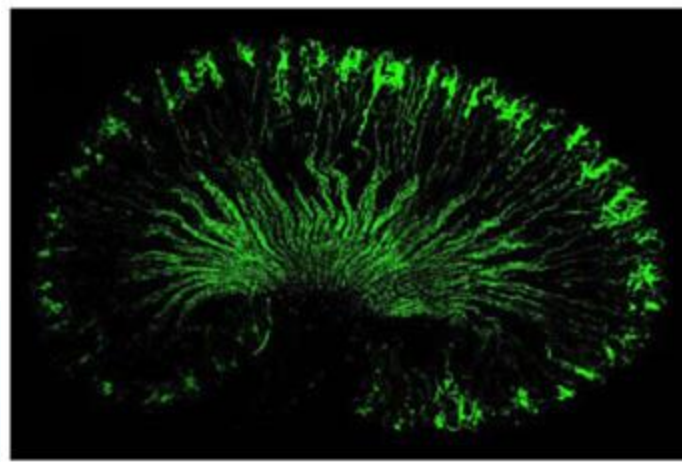
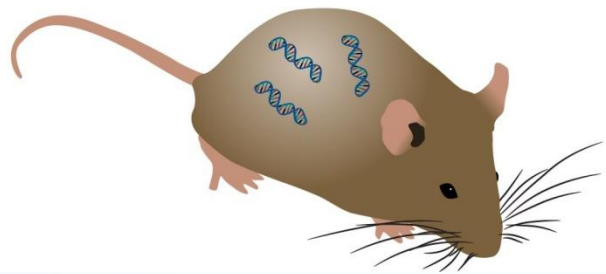
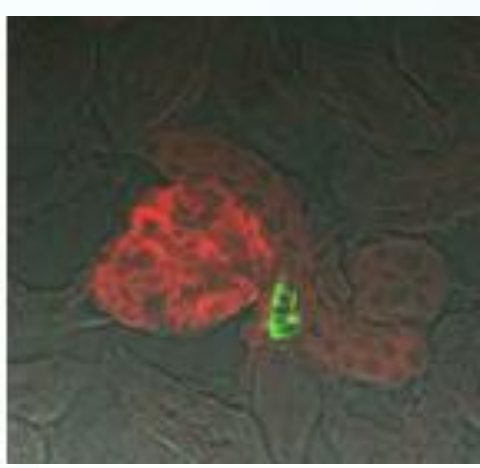
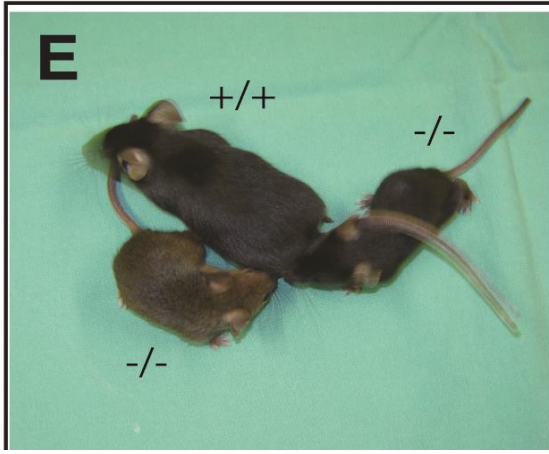
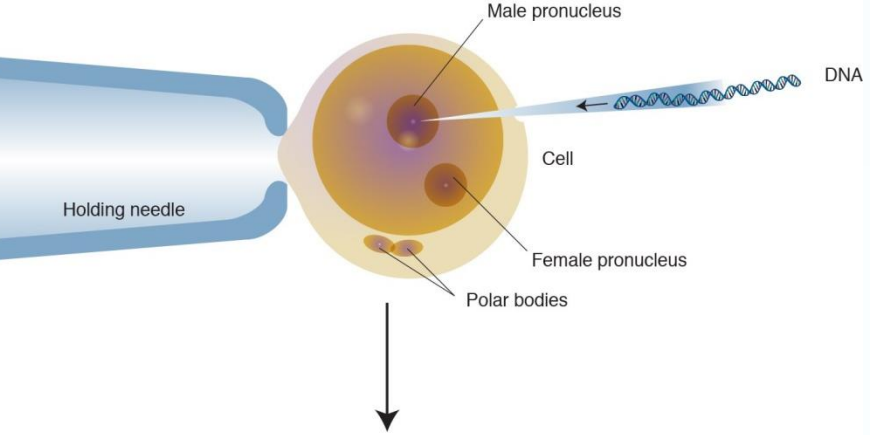




Molecular Mechanism of Cl⁻ Reabsorption



- What is the physiological role of basolateral Cl⁻ channels in Cl⁻ reabsorption and blood pressure regulation?
- How is the basolateral Cl⁻ channel regulated?
- Is the basolateral Cl⁻ channel contributing to “salt sensing” within the nephron tubule (role in macula densa cells)?



Practical Comments on Prepping the Application (1)

- **READ** the guide to fellowship applications!!!!
 - *Check eligibility
 - *What do you need to submit?
 - *When is the deadline?
 - *What information needs to go into the grant?
 - *If not sure, ask the current boss/intended host/programme coordinator

Practical Comments on Prepping the Application (2)

- Expect that your grant will be read:
 - *very quickly
 - *by someone who is not necessarily an expert in your specific field
 - *by someone who has been forced to review a lot of grant applications, who is tired and is getting grumpy

Practical Comments on Prepping the Application (3)

- Your grant **MUST** be reader-friendly
 - *be very clear and straightforward
 - *use figures whenever possible and appropriate
 - *use different fonts (bold/italic/colored) for section headers and emphasis
 - *leave a space between paragraphs and sections

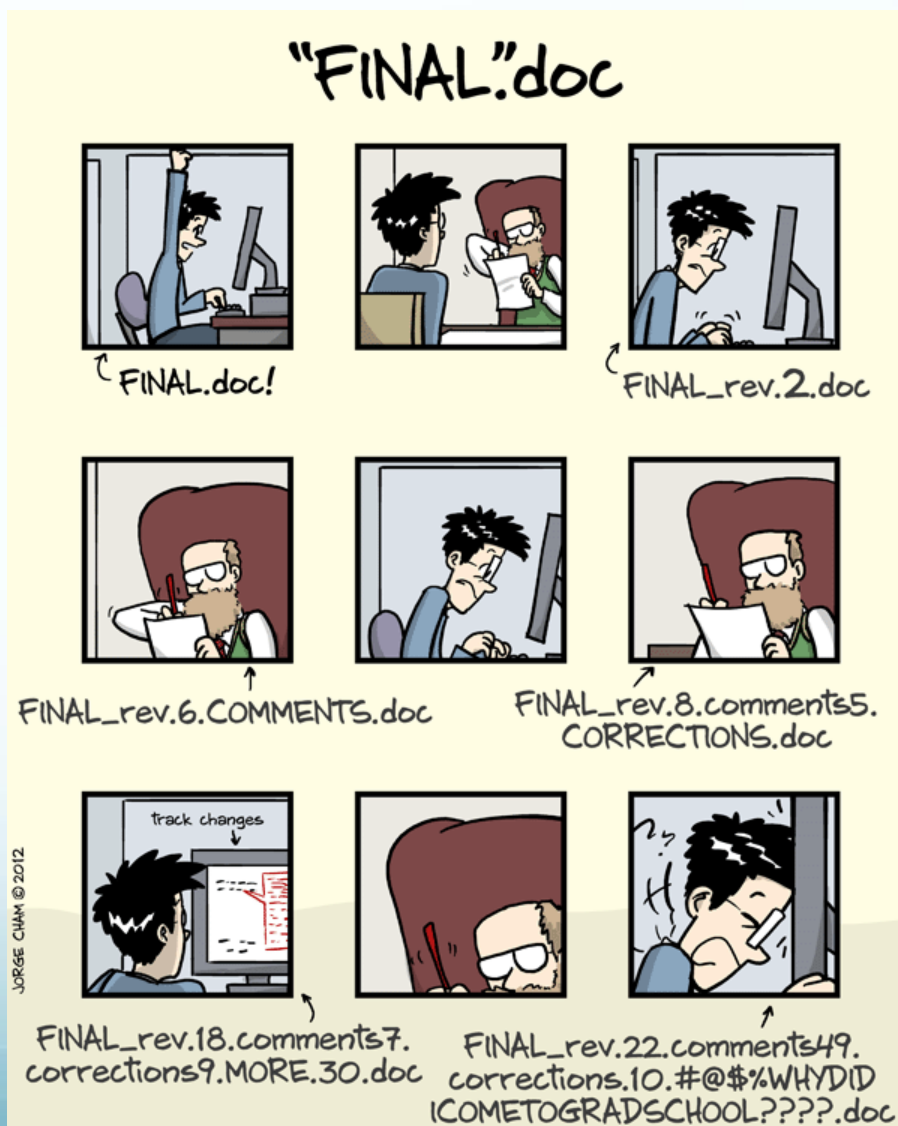
NOTHING IS WORSE THAN ONE GIANT BLOCK OF TEXTS IN A SMALL FONT WITH FULL OF OBSCURE JARGONS THAT FILLS UP THE ENTIRE PAGE.

Practical Comments on Prepping the Application (4)

- START EARLY

- *give your host supervisor time to comment on the draft
- *have your draft read by a peer
- *revise, proofread, and more revise

March 2014 : Contacted the prof
June 2014 : Sent the first draft
July : Exchange edits and sent a semi-final draft to another prof



What Makes Good Applications? (1)

- Evaluation criteria for my grant (2014):
 - * **Quality, innovative aspects and credibility of the research**
 - * **Clarity and quality of transfer of knowledge/training**
 - * **Quality of the supervision and the hosting arrangements**
 - * **Capacity of the researcher**
 - * **Enhancing research- and innovation-related human resources, skills, and working conditions**
 - * **Effectiveness of the proposed measures for communication and results dissemination**
 - * **Overall coherence and effectiveness of the work plan**
 - * **Appropriateness of the management structures and the institutional environment**
 - * **Competences, experience and complementarity of the participating organisations and institutional commitment**

What Makes Good Applications? (2)

- Is the scientific question of your project novel?
- Does your project incorporate multiple techniques (whole animal physiology/molecular biology/biochemistry etc)?
- Are you proposing something that is an obvious “next step” of your PhD/PhD project?

What Makes Good Applications? (3)

- Evidence for researcher's capacity is important
 - *Need solid publication record. Both QUALITY and QUANTITY matters
 - *Other qualities to consider:
 - mentored younger peers (undergrad/MS) in the lab
 - secured research/travel grants and fellowships
 - took part in/initiated collaborations
 - worked in a foreign country (country mobility)

Finding Supervisors (1)

- Look for online job posting sites
 - *Naturejobs <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/>
 - *Sciencecareers <http://jobs.sciencecareers.org/>
 - *ResearchGate www.researchgate.net/
- Talk to your current boss/peers
- Directly send a prof an email.
 - *Describe who you are/your research interests and skills/possible date you can start PDF/project you are thinking of etc.
 - *Keep it short- all details can go into “see the cv attached”

Finding Supervisors (2)

- Try to arrange an interview with the prof... or meet the prof at scientific meetings
- If feasible, visit a lab to give a talk and meet the people in the lab
 - * Be very aware of the “atmosphere” of the lab....

Why Apply to Fellowships?

- Expands the choice of the lab to do PDF in
- Having fellowship secures two (or three) years of employment
- Builds your credibility as a capable scientist

Securing funding is an inevitable and never-ending trial for a scientist. Never too early to realize that by applying for your own fellowship.

Thank You!