

Lungs, Gut, and Skin: Biological Interfaces with the Outside World

Dr Ian Mudway

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News Opinion Sport Culture Life

Environment Climate crisis Wildlife Energy Pollution

Plastics

Microplastics found in human first time

Exclusive: The discovery shows the particles can travel a body and may lodge in organs



Microplastics cause damage to human cells in the laboratory. Photograph by Kelly/Photograph David Kelly

Microplastic pollution has been detected in human blood

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

@dpcarrington

Thu 24 Mar 2022 11:00 GMT



Section:GDN IN PaGe1 Edition Date:1905



Air pollution 'every organ'

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

Air pollution may be damaging every organ and virtually every cell in the human body, according to a comprehensive new global review. The research shows head-to-toe harm, from heart and lung disease to diabetes and dementia, and from liver problems and bladder cancer to brittle bones and damaged skin. Fertility, foetal health and childhood development are affected by toxic air, the review found. The damage results from pollutants causing inflammation that floods through the body and ultrafine particles carried around the body in the bloodstream.

Blame game starts as Brexit talks collapse

Peter Walker
Heather Stewart

The government and Labour sought to blame each other last night after cross-party talks to find a compromise Brexit plan finally collapsed, leaving any remaining hopes of an imminent solution to the impasse in tatters. Both sides insisted the talks had taken place in good faith, but Theresa May said Labour split over a second referendum were a sticking point. Labour said the government was unwilling to compromise and May's imminent departure meant there was no guarantee any agreement would be kept by a successor such as Boris Johnson.

Grumpy Cat RIP Death of an internet sensation

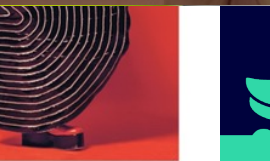
Page 9

Russia's grief Parents in limbo wait to hear fate of their sons

Andrew Botham Max Avdeev
Semen
Fifteen minutes before midnight, a young Russian conscript named Ivan, who had been sent to fight in Ukraine, picked up his phone to write a message to his family and friends back home in a small town in the Samara region. It was 21 December. "We congratulated each other, wished each other the best for the new



80,000 items will form the basis of the Levell Bowle Centre for the Study of Performing Arts, in London, from 2025



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EST. 1597

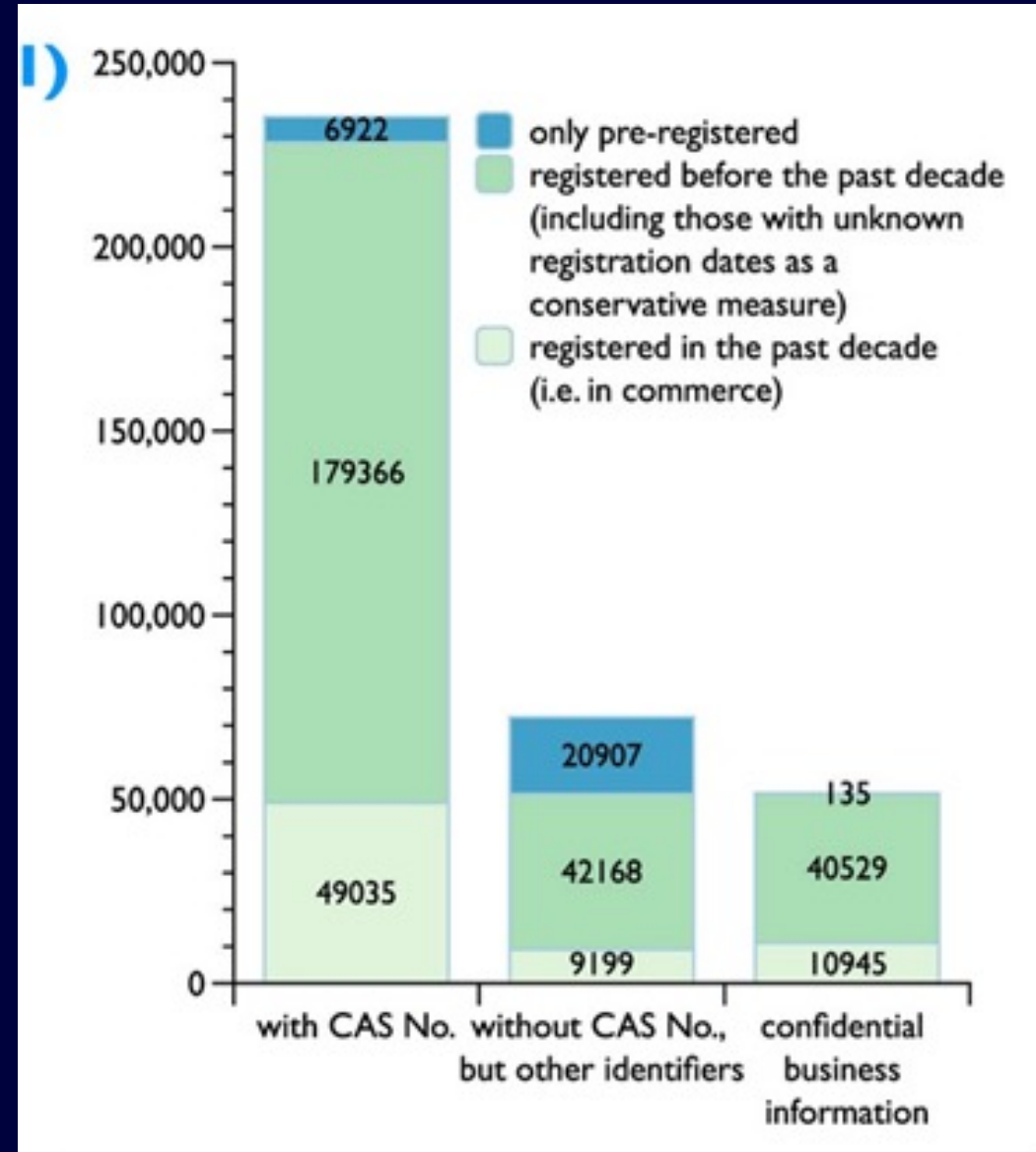
GRESHAM COLLEGE

Women 'work for free' for 54 days a year

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt challenged to assess his budget to cut gender pay gap
News Page 5

Chemical Complexities

- 201 million chemicals reported in the literature since early 1800s (CAS registry, as of today's date)
- Global inventory of chemicals licenced for manufacture and sale: 359,206
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.9b06379>,
About 100,000 used in the EU
<https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/ec-inventory>
- REACH has 26,642 substances
<https://echa.europa.eu/information-on-chemicals/registered-substances>



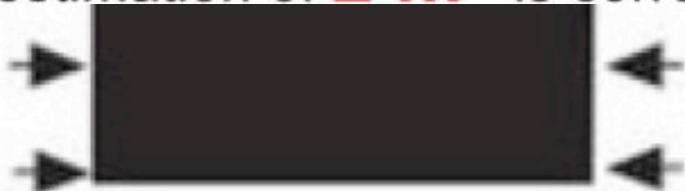




If the skin surface looked like this



Then the standard surface area estimation of **2 m²** is correct



2 m²

(Mosteller, 1987)



But human skin has appendage openings and looks like this



Therefore the surface area is closer to **25 m²**



30 m²

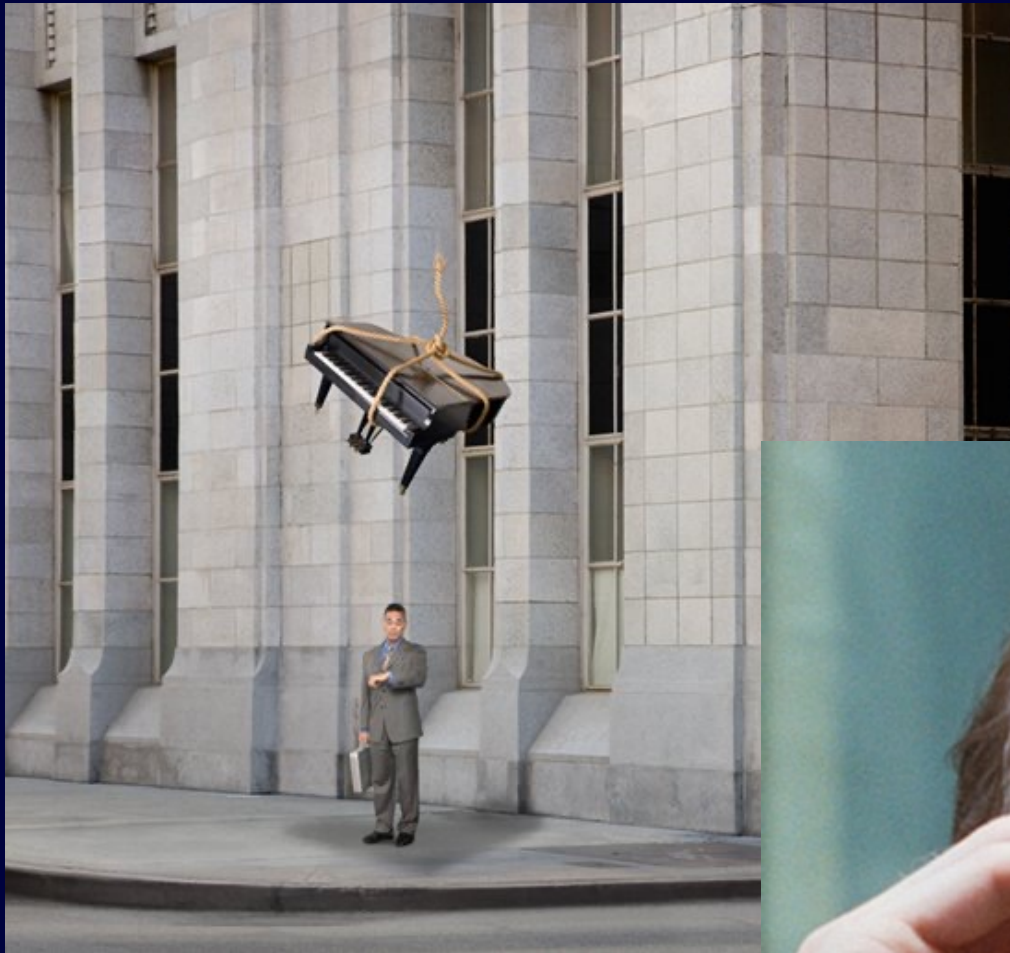
(Helander and Fandriks, 2014)

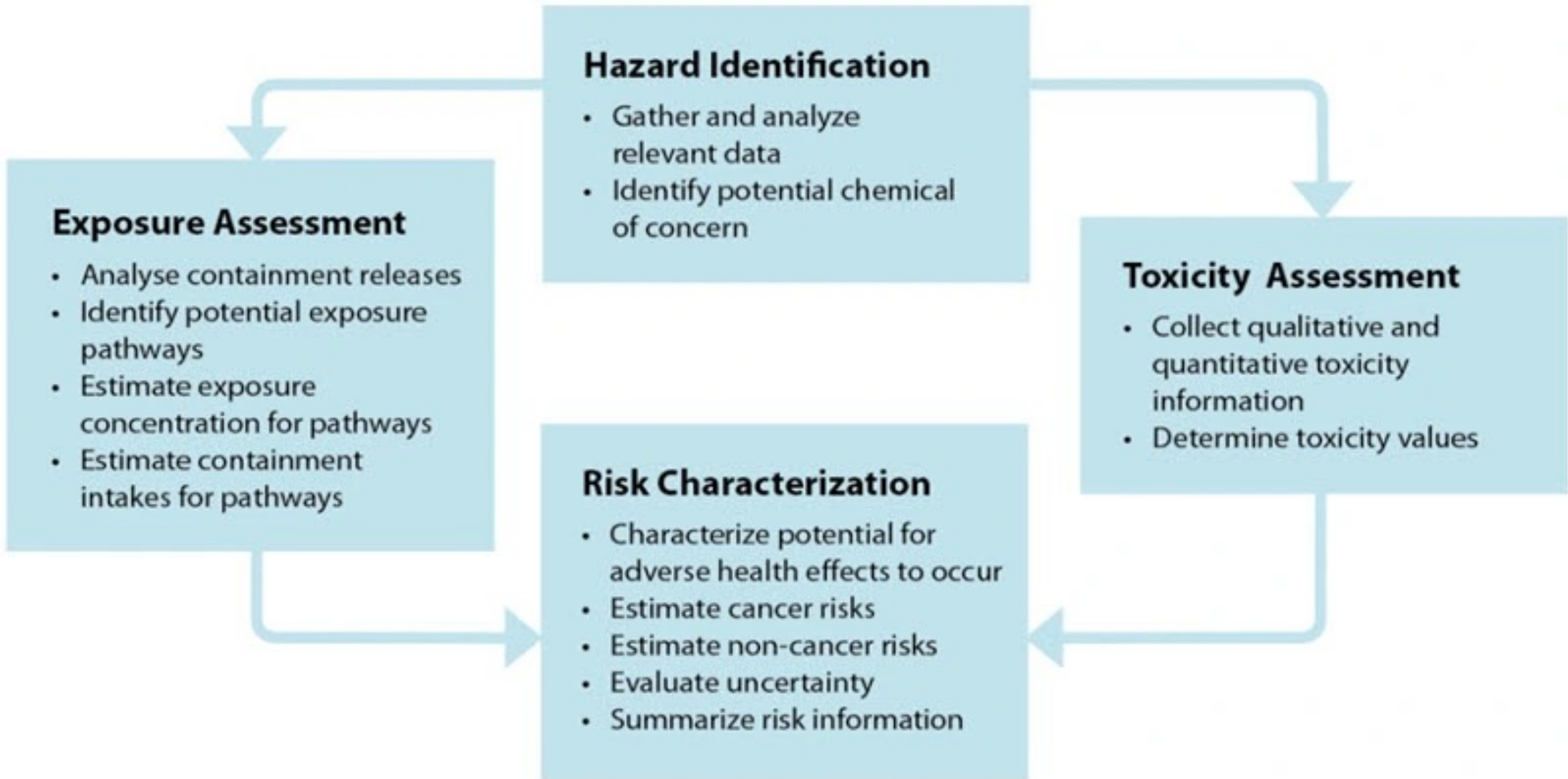


50-130 m²

(Hasleton, 1972; Weibel, 2009)

Hazards & Risks





Individual Susceptibility

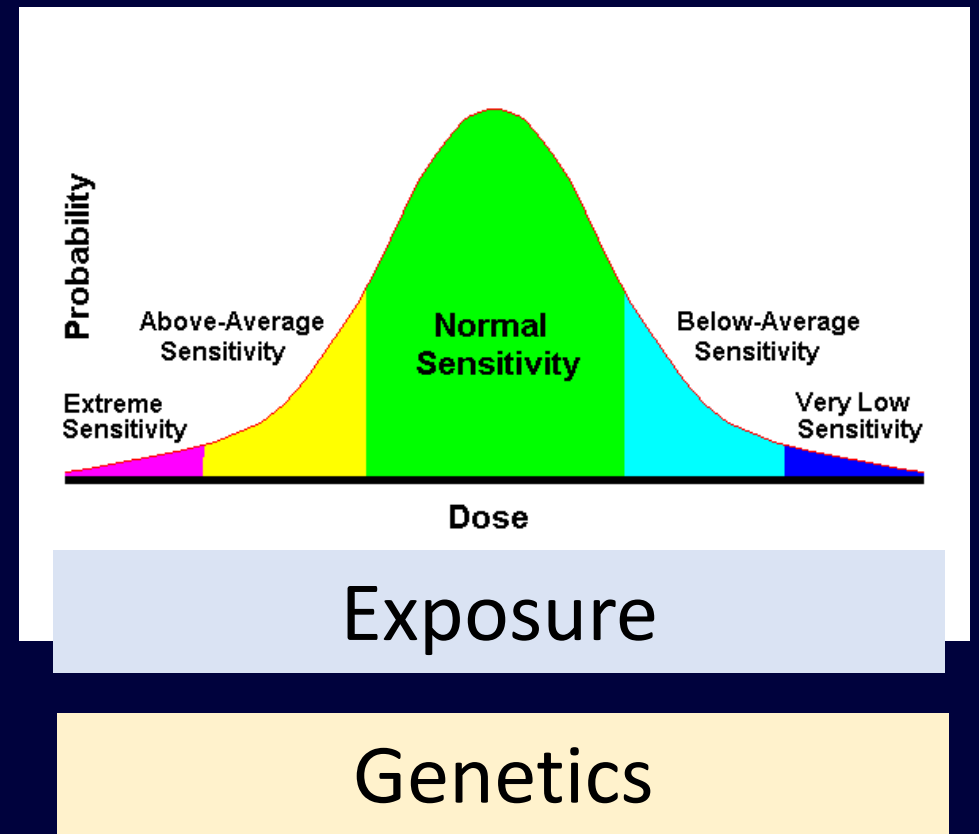
Gender

Age—young

underdeveloped excretory mechanisms
underdeveloped biotransformation enzymes
Underdeveloped antioxidant systems
underdeveloped blood-brain barrier
Lung/brain (BBB) immaturity

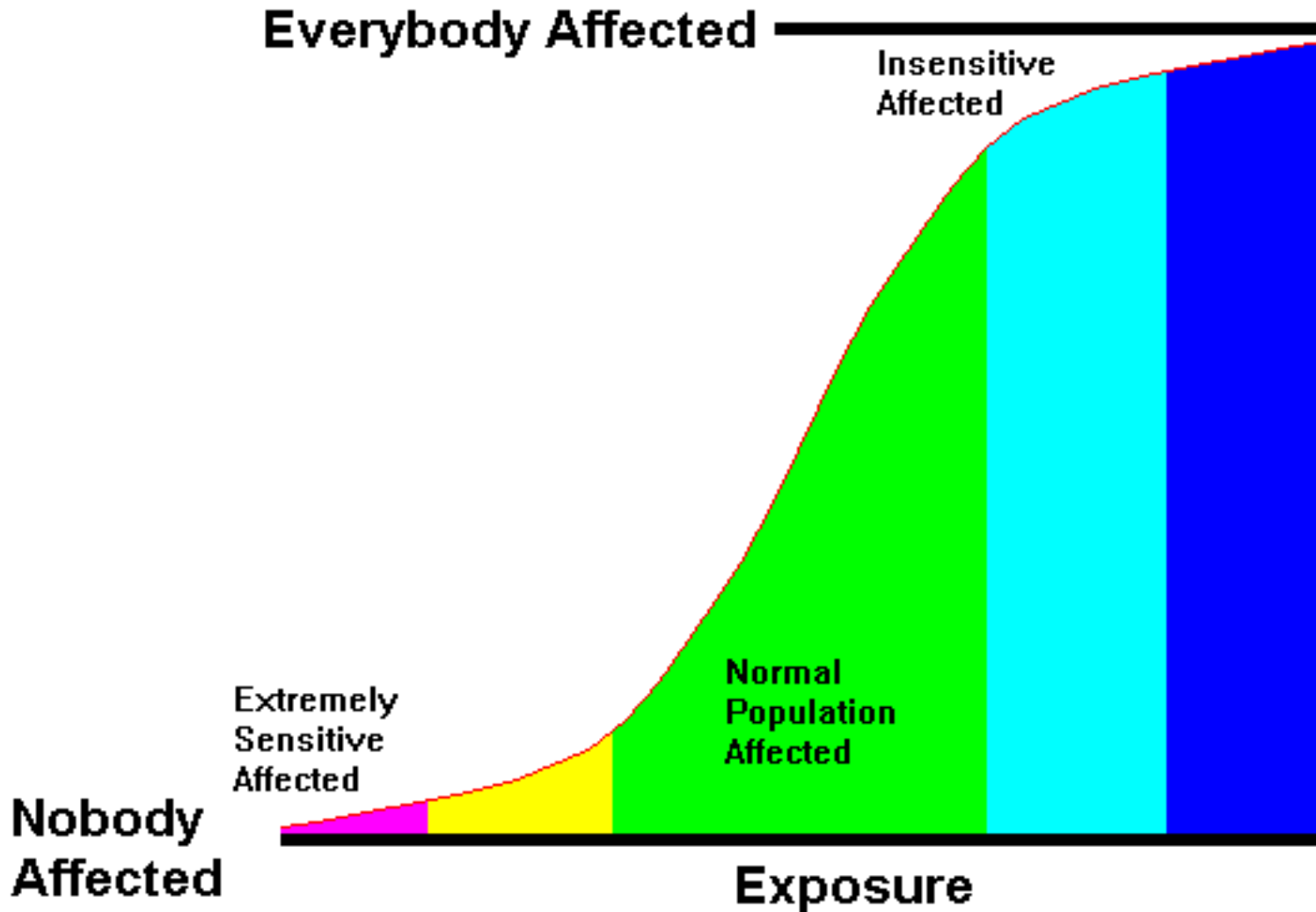
Age—old

changes in excretion and metabolism rates
nutritional status
depressed immunity
diminished antioxidant defenses
pre-existing health conditions
Previous or Concurrent Exposures

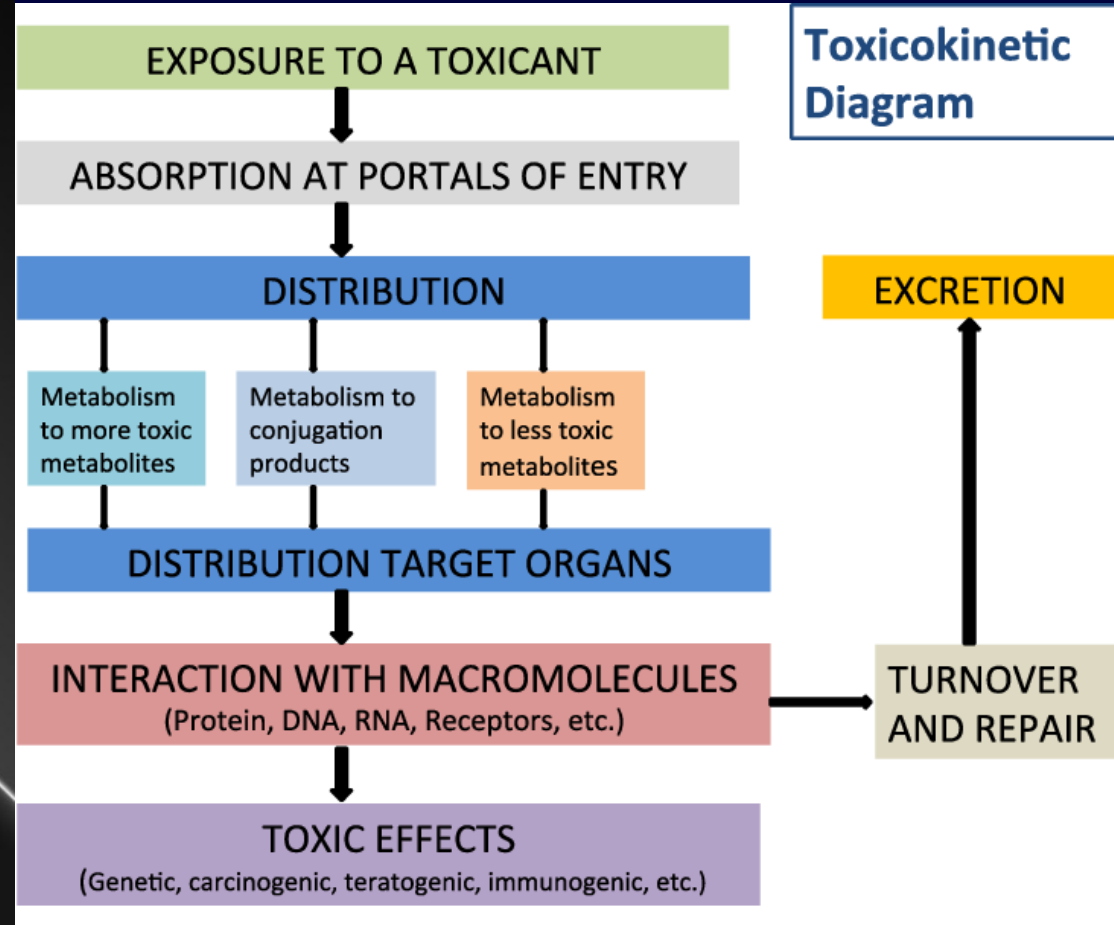
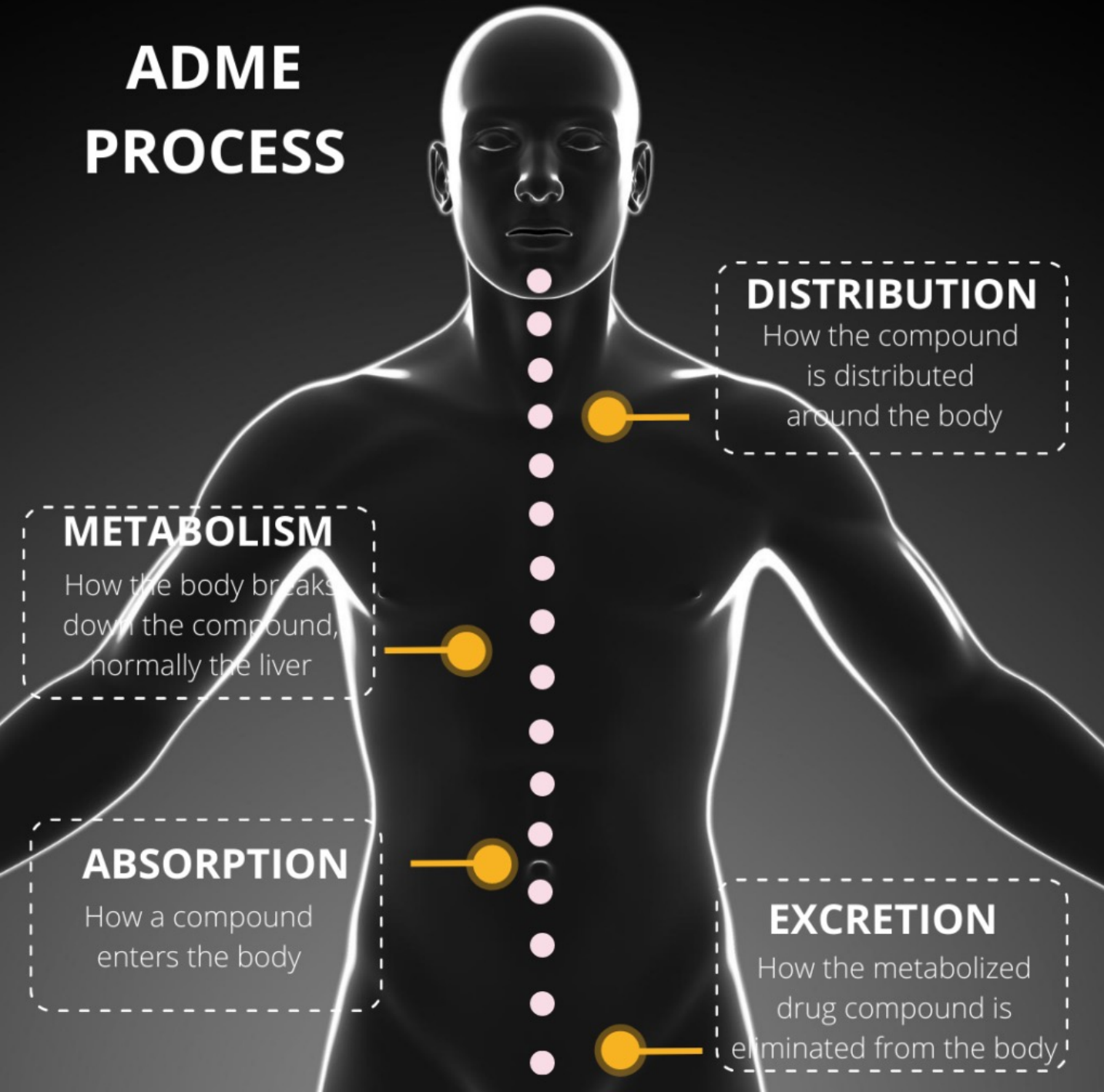


- Antioxidants defences
- Xenobiotic metabolism
 - Inflammation
- Repair / remodelling

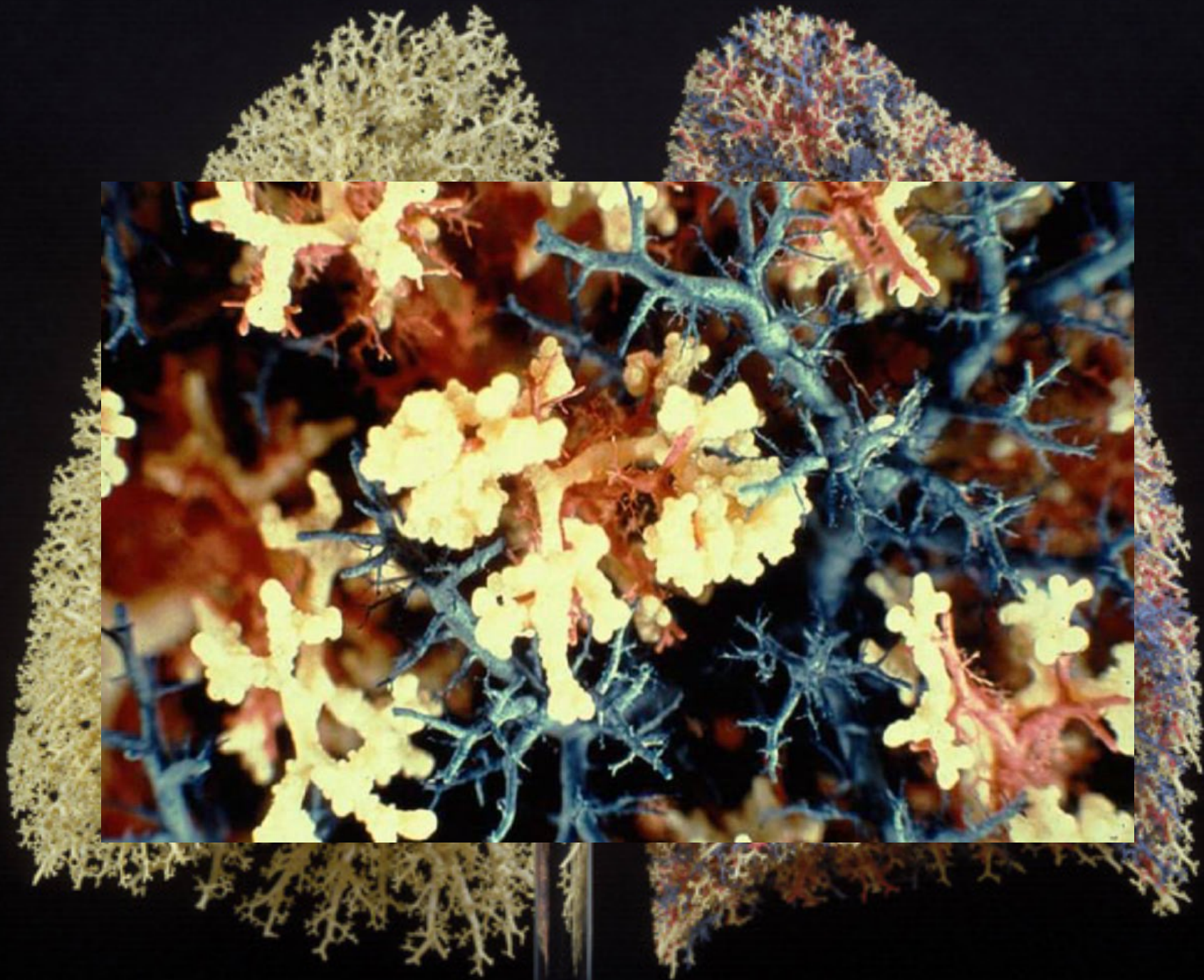
Probability of exposure



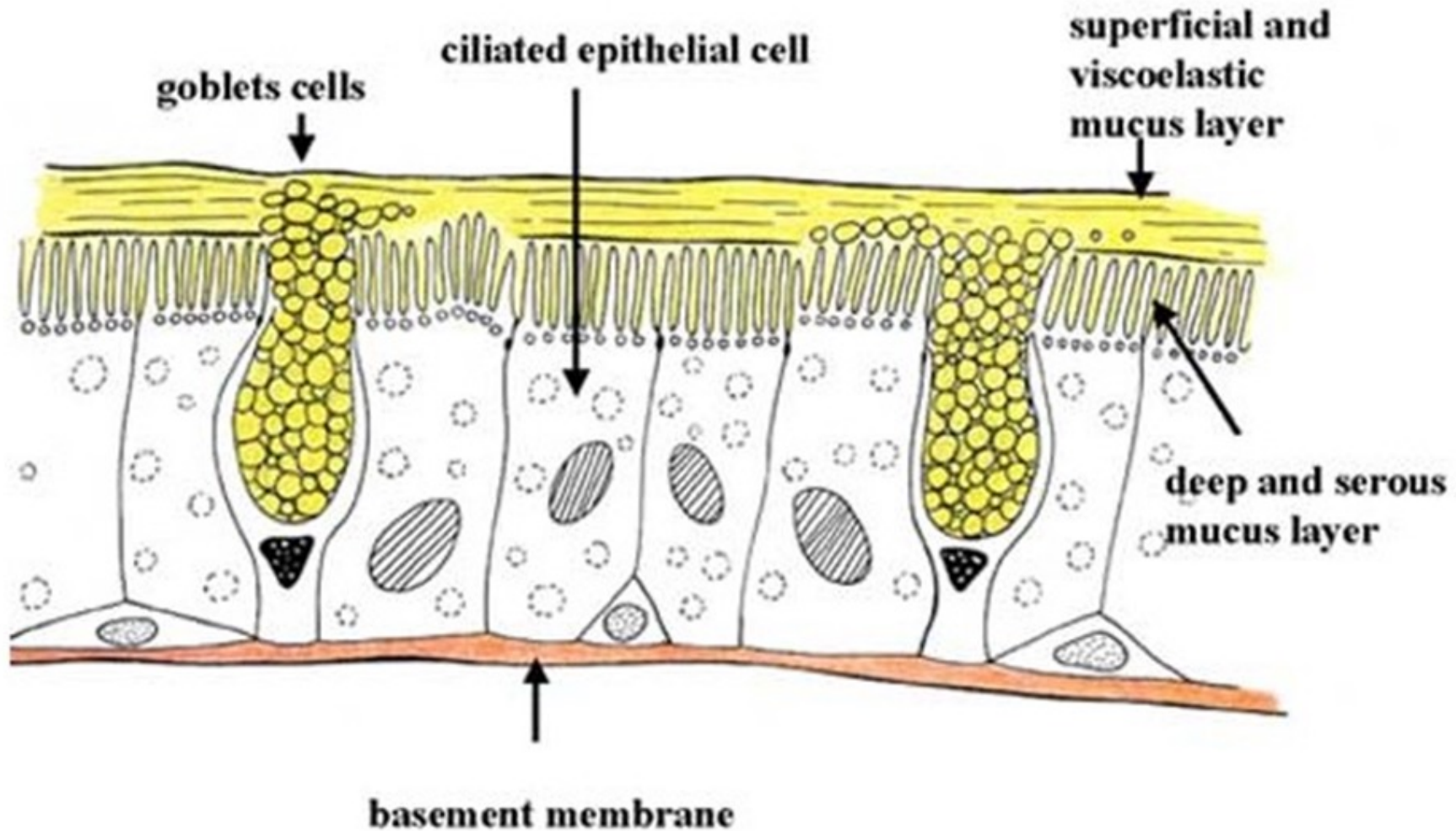
ADME PROCESS

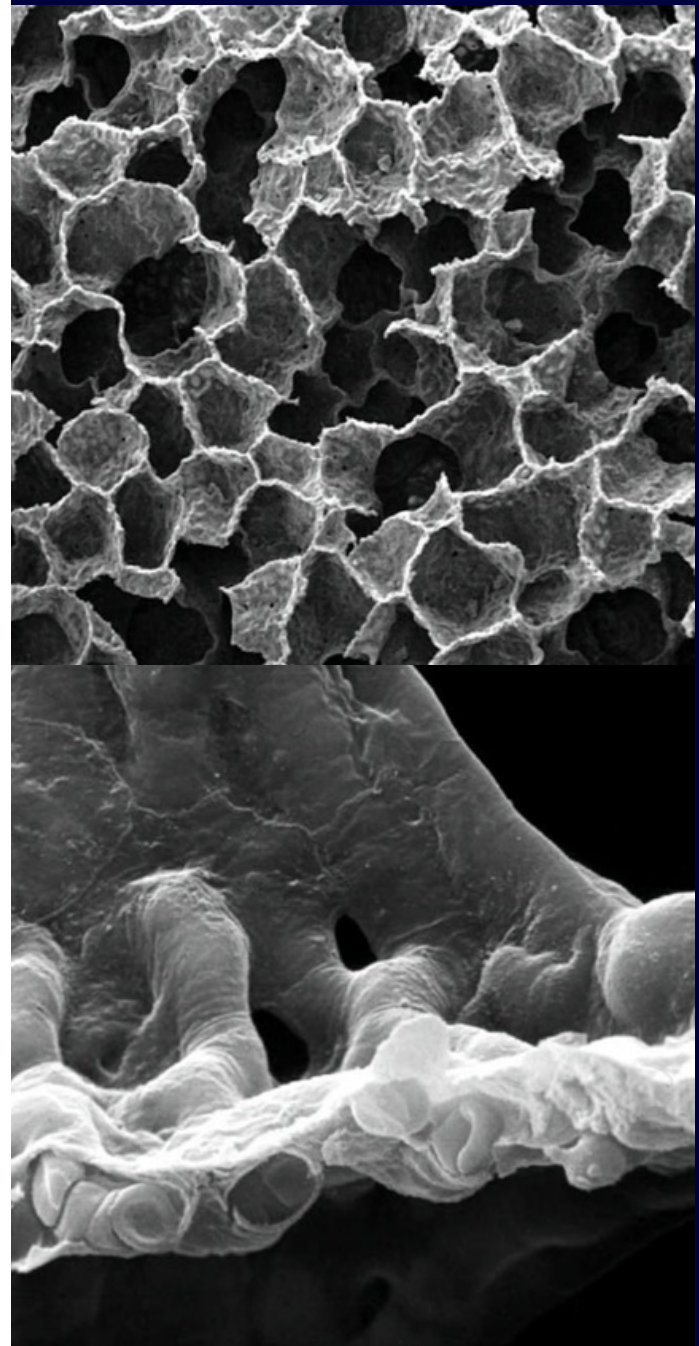
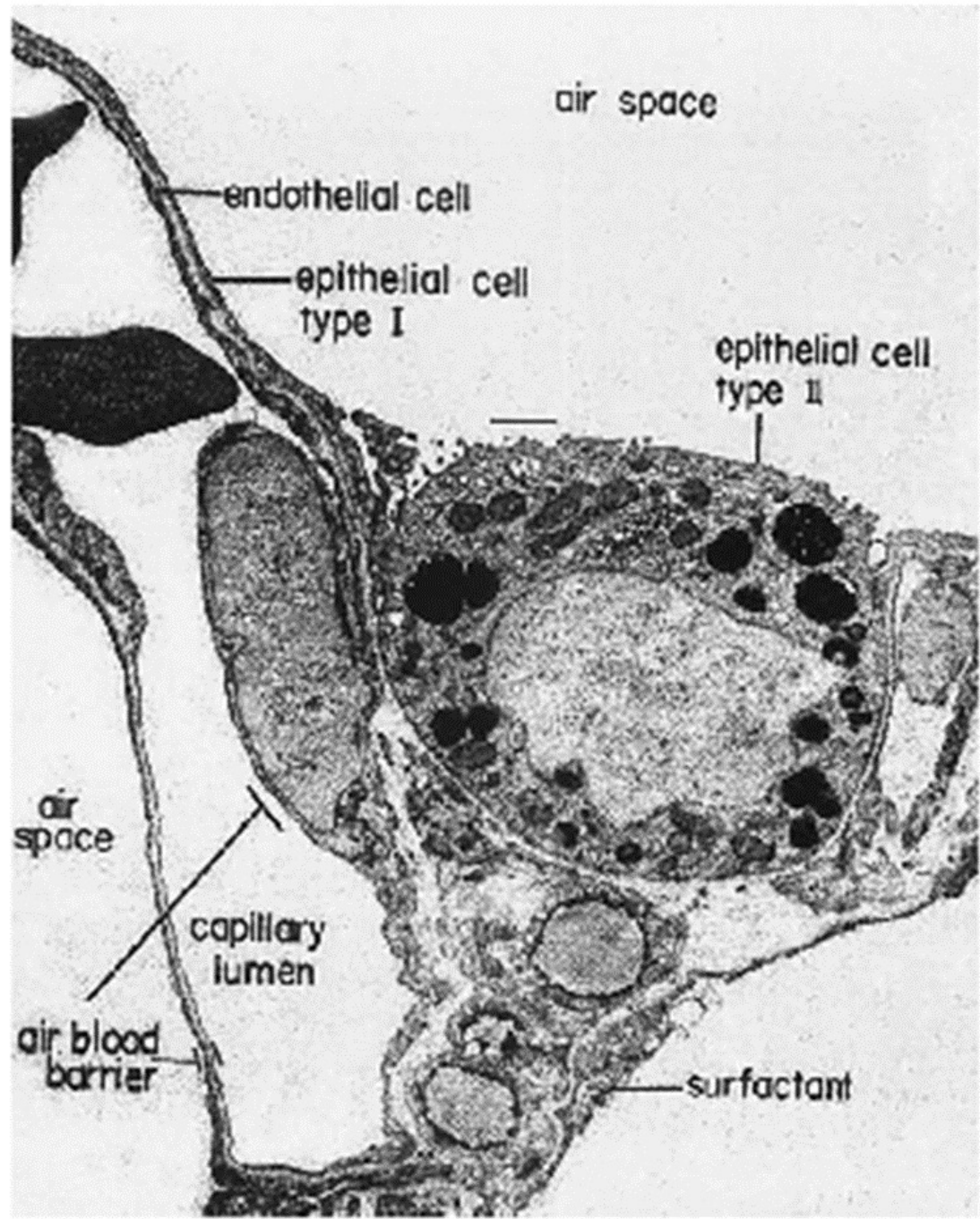
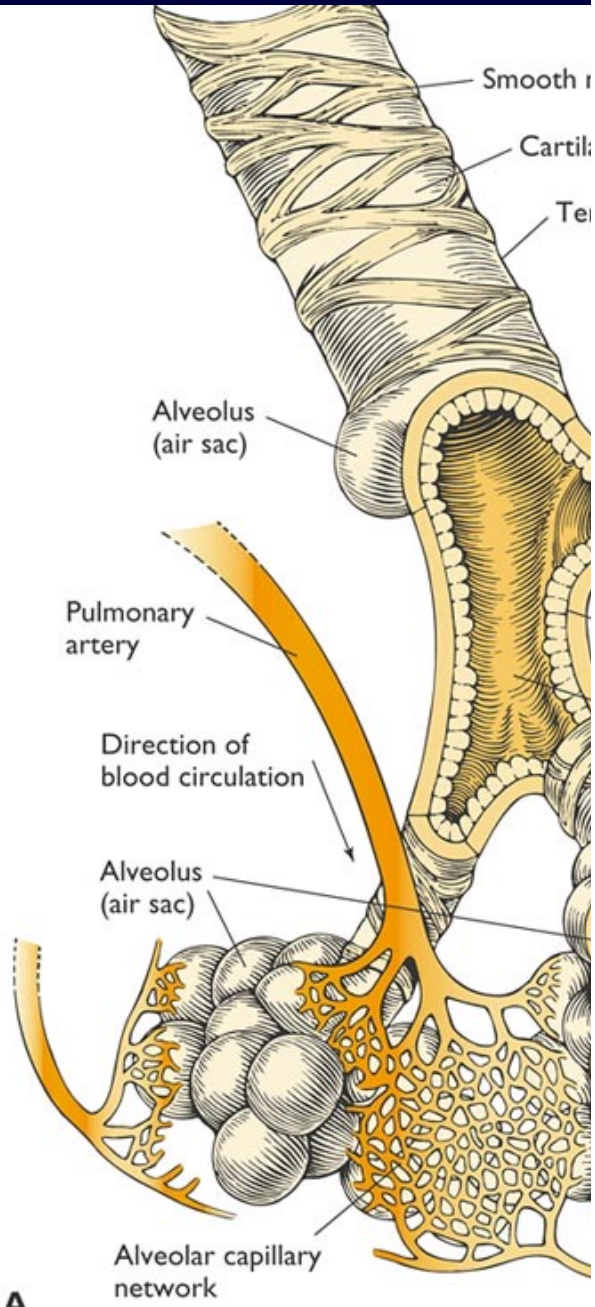


Alison J Falck et al. *Pediatr Clin North Am.* 2015; 62(5): 1173-97.



Conduction region - lung airways

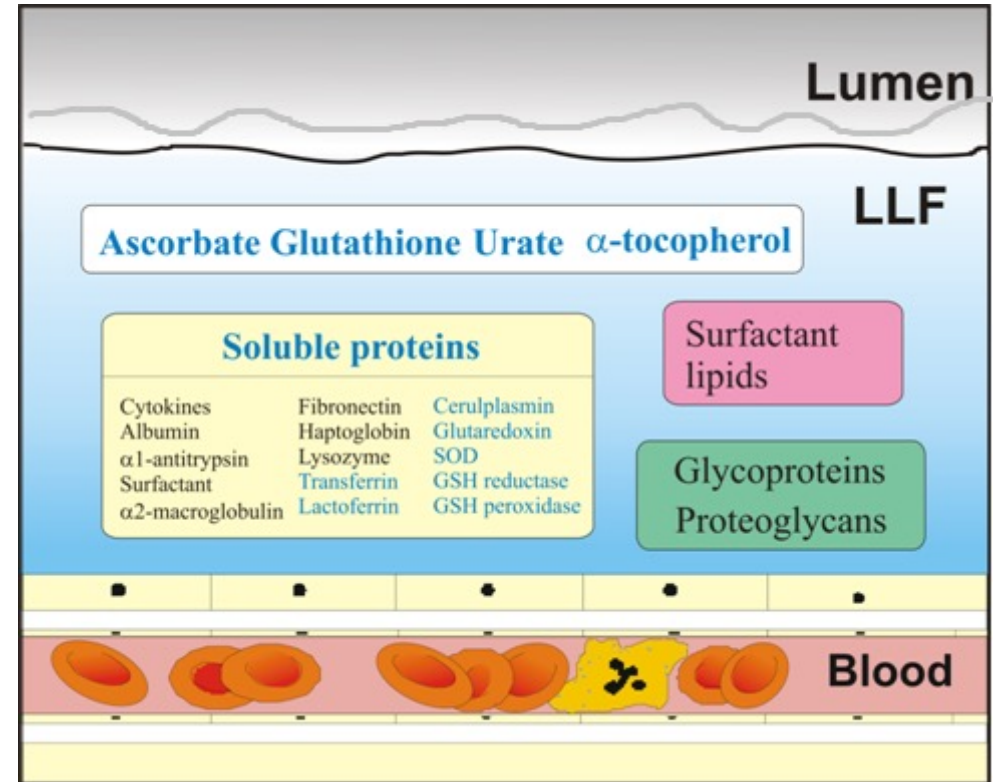
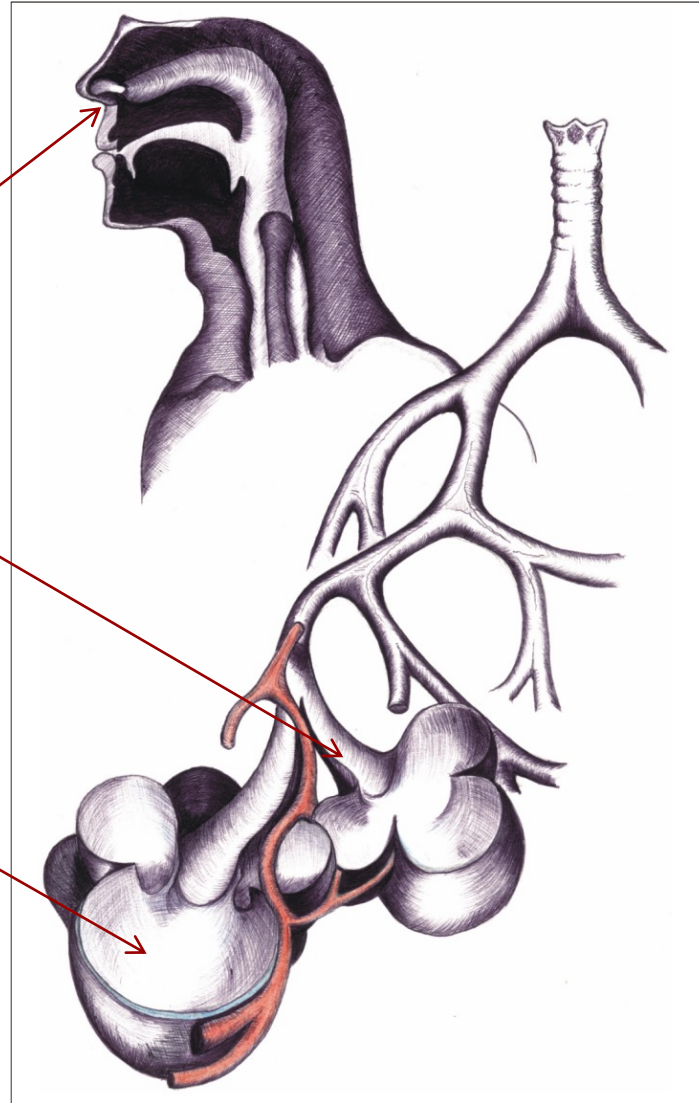


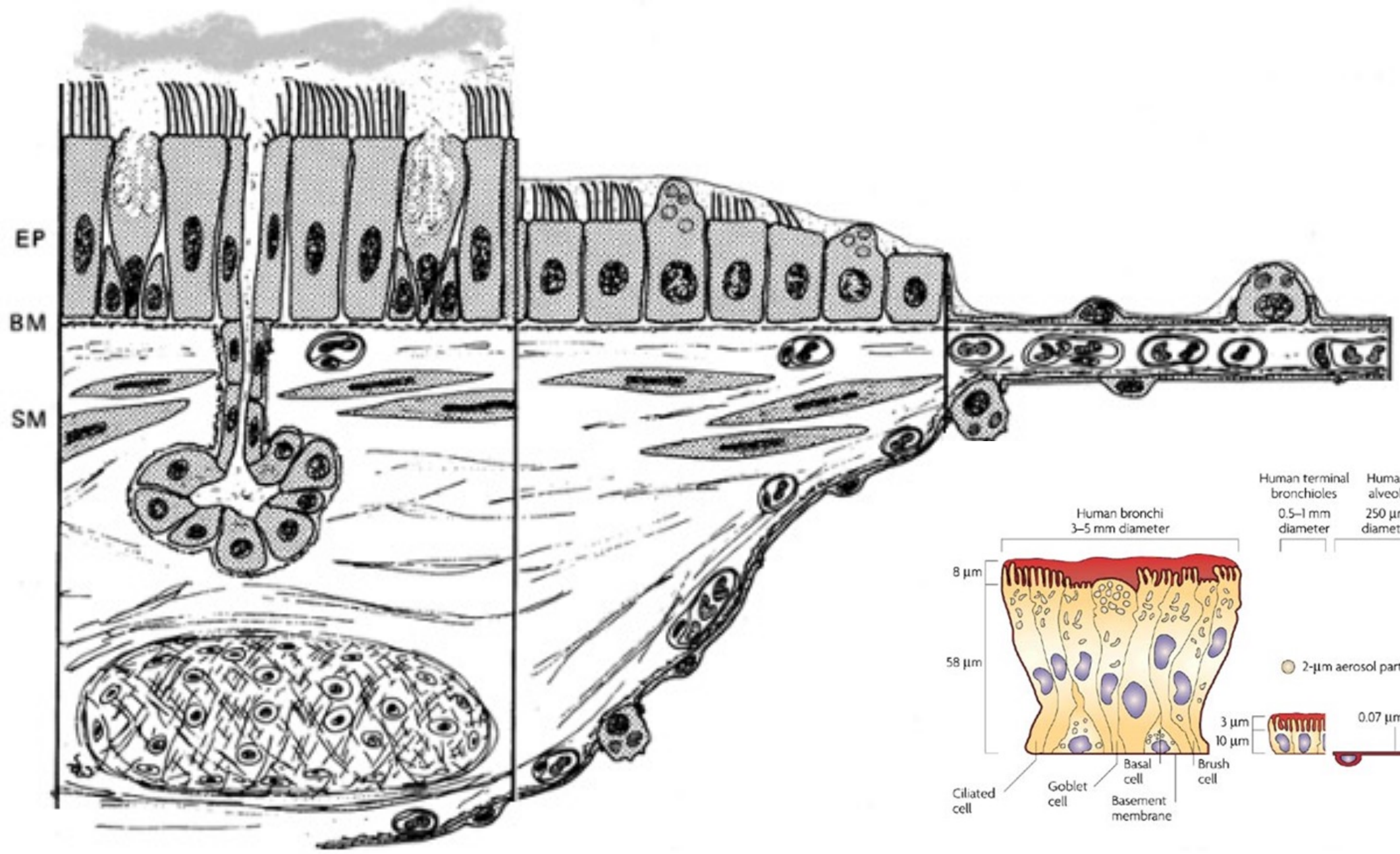


Nasal Lavage (NL)

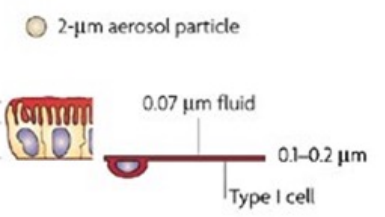
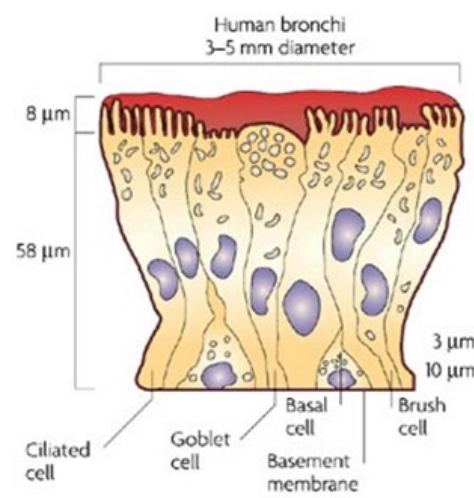
Bronchial Wash (BW)

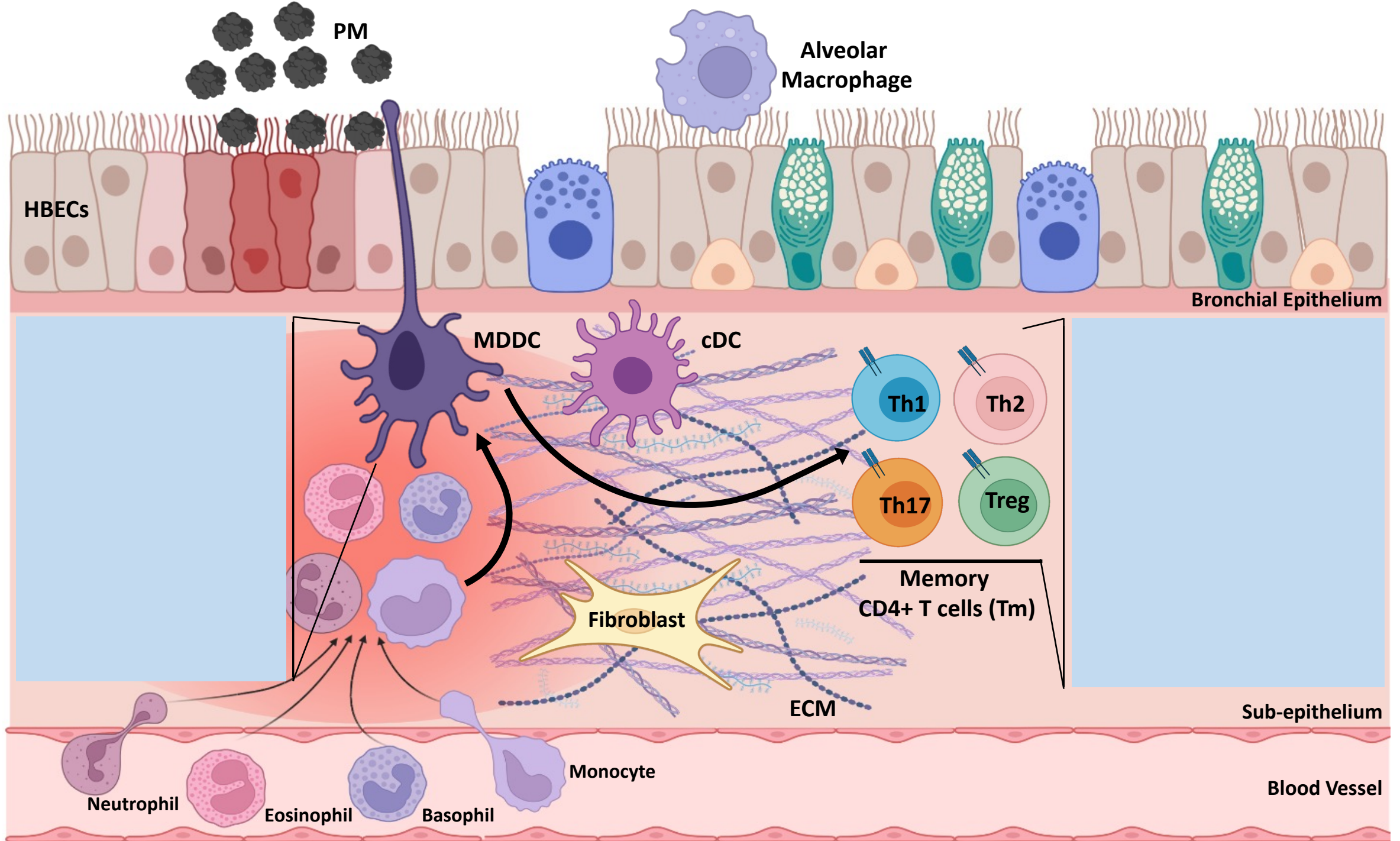
Bronchoalveolar Lavage (BAL)



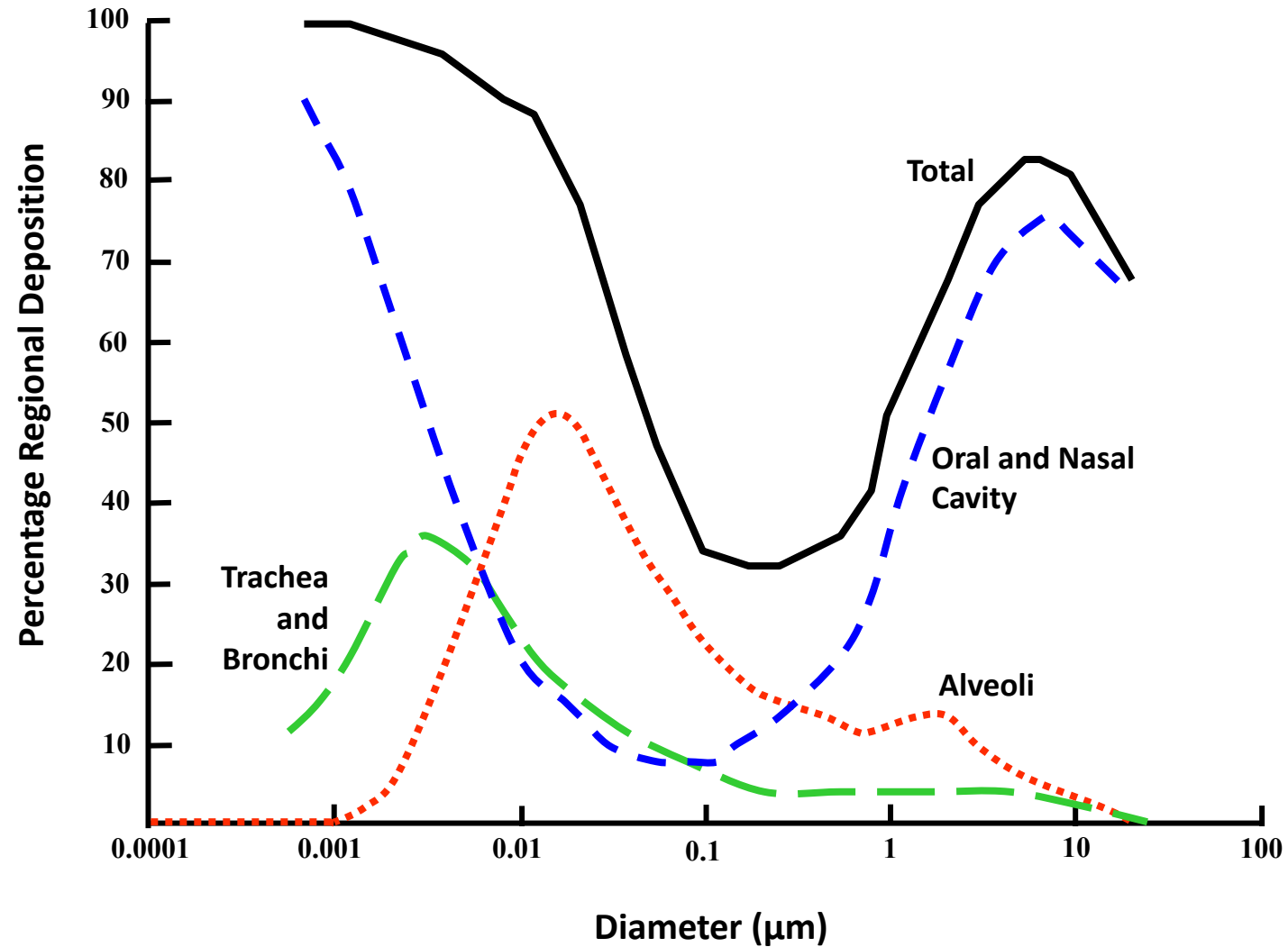


Human terminal bronchioles	Human alveoli
0.5–1 mm diameter	250 μm diameter

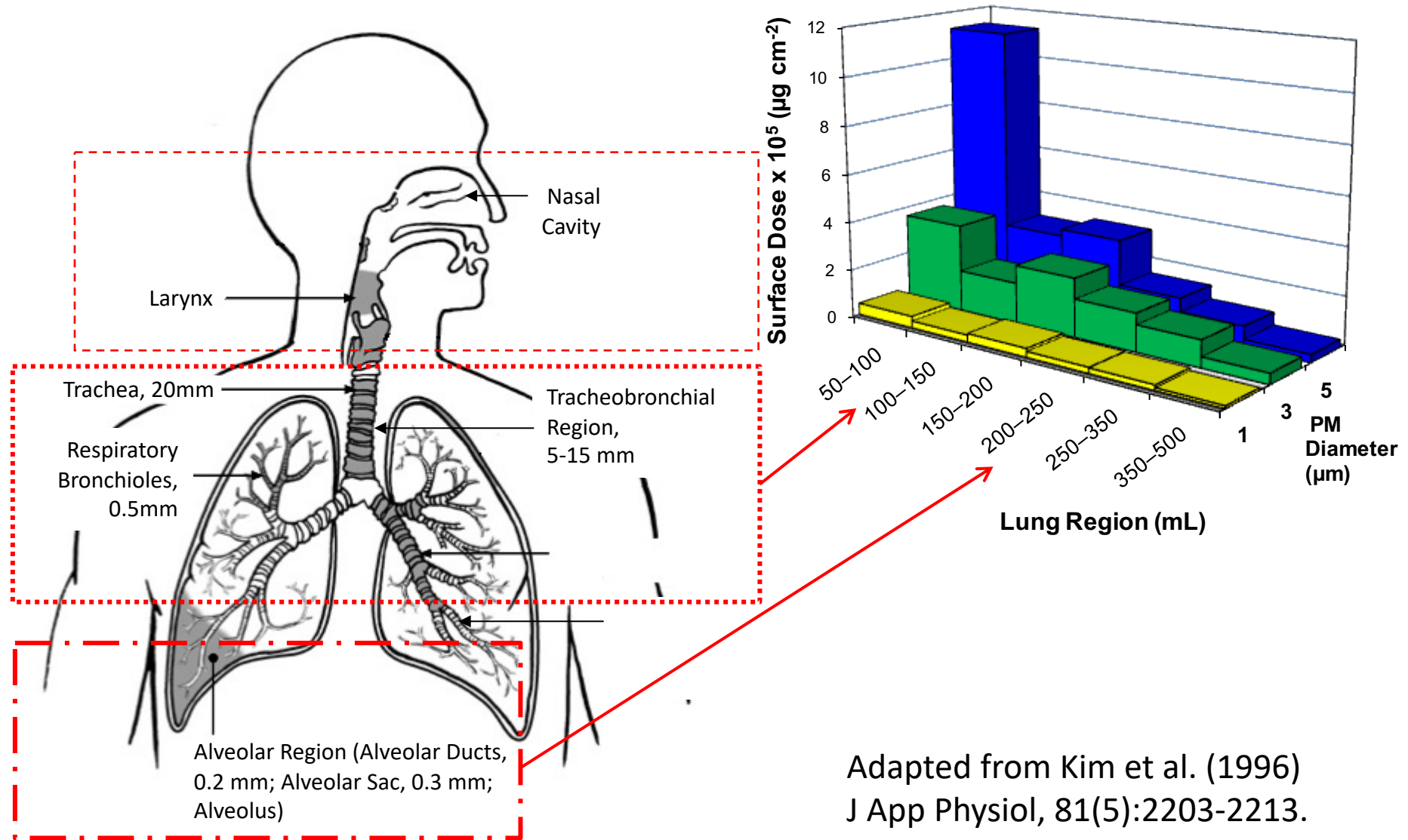




Deposition depends on size and



Dose depends on the site of deposition

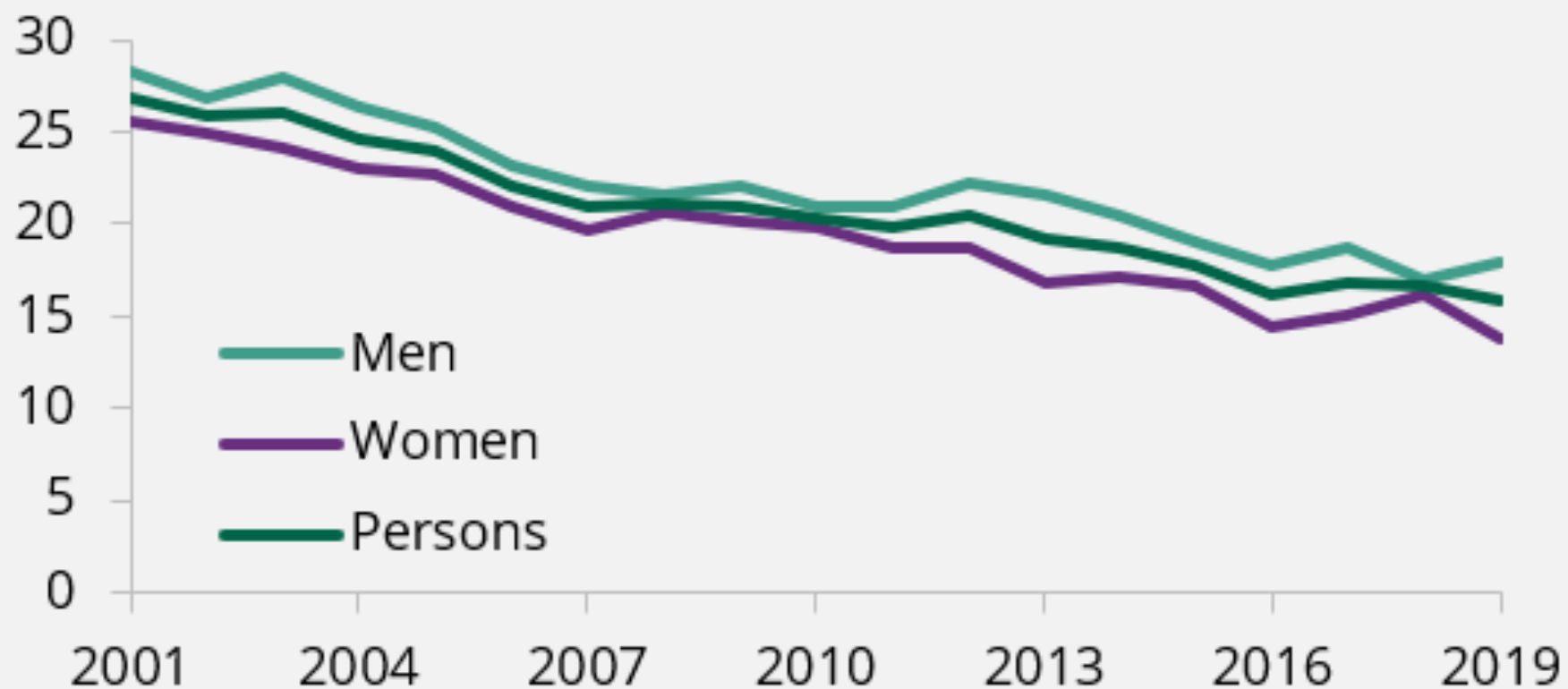


Problems of lung functional anatomy

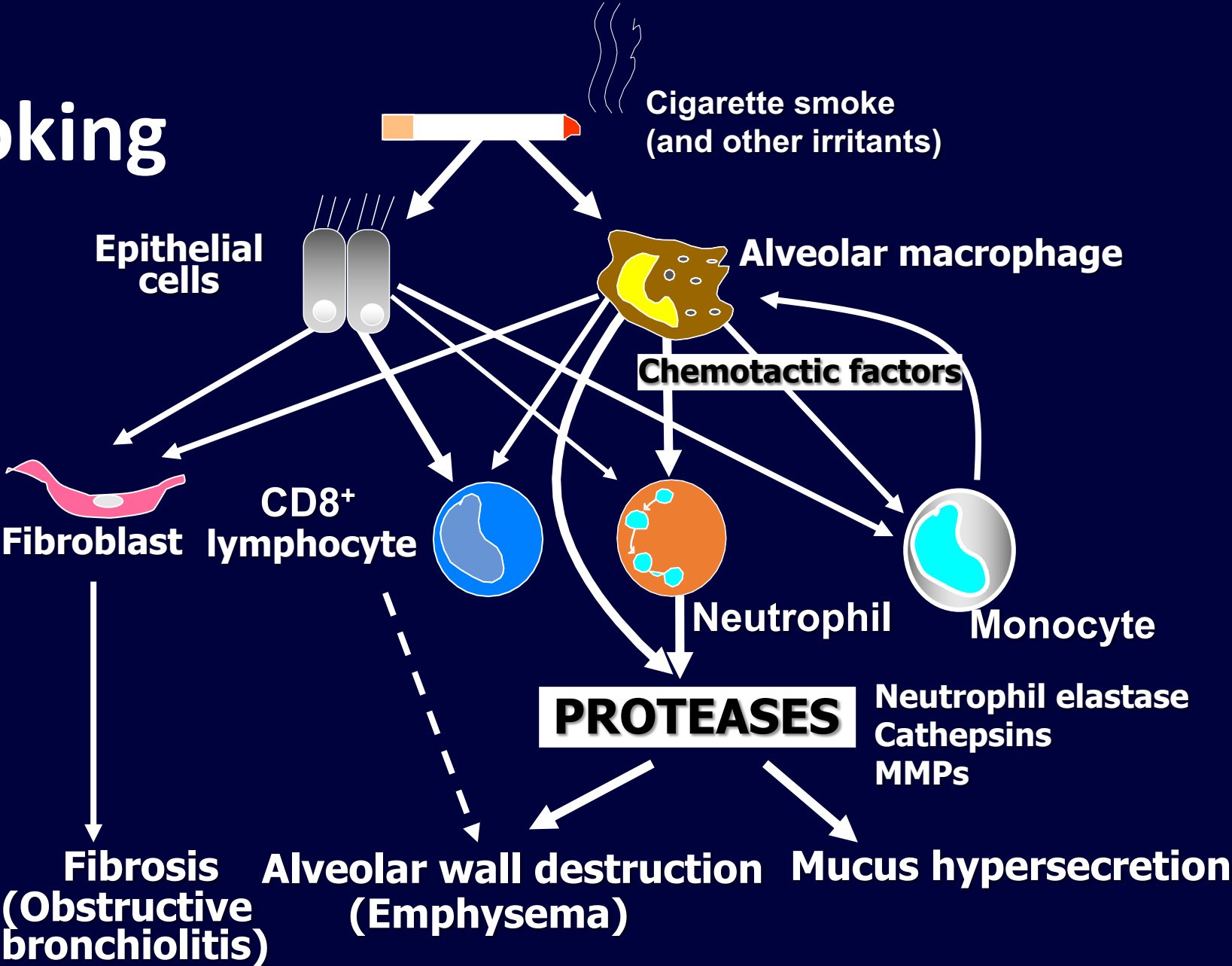
1. Epithelial cells lining airways and alveoli are not highly exfoliative & require specific cellular regeneration & repair after serious damage
2. The large tidal volume of external air (roughly 8 cu meters per day) tidal air flow -- not a flow-through system -- airborne particles can accumulate
3. The branching and narrowing of airways traps particulate matter
4. Lung immune cells (macrophages, neutrophils) can produce lung injury via inflammatory mediators and reactive oxygen species (ROS)
5. High pO₂
6. Lungs often exposed to high conc of *reactive oxygen species* (ROS)
external - oxidant gases such as ozone, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter
internal - produced by lung cells/tissues in response to irritants or noxious agents

Smoking prevalence

Great Britain (%)



Lessons from cigarette smoking



Extra-cellular
Antioxidant defences

Tolerance

Adaptation

Inflammation

Cell death

Oxidative Stress

Nrf2 & AP-1

NFκB

GST
NQO1
GCLc/m
GGT
UGT
Trx reductase
Trx peroxidase
heme oxidase-1
ferritin
SOD
CAT
Gpx

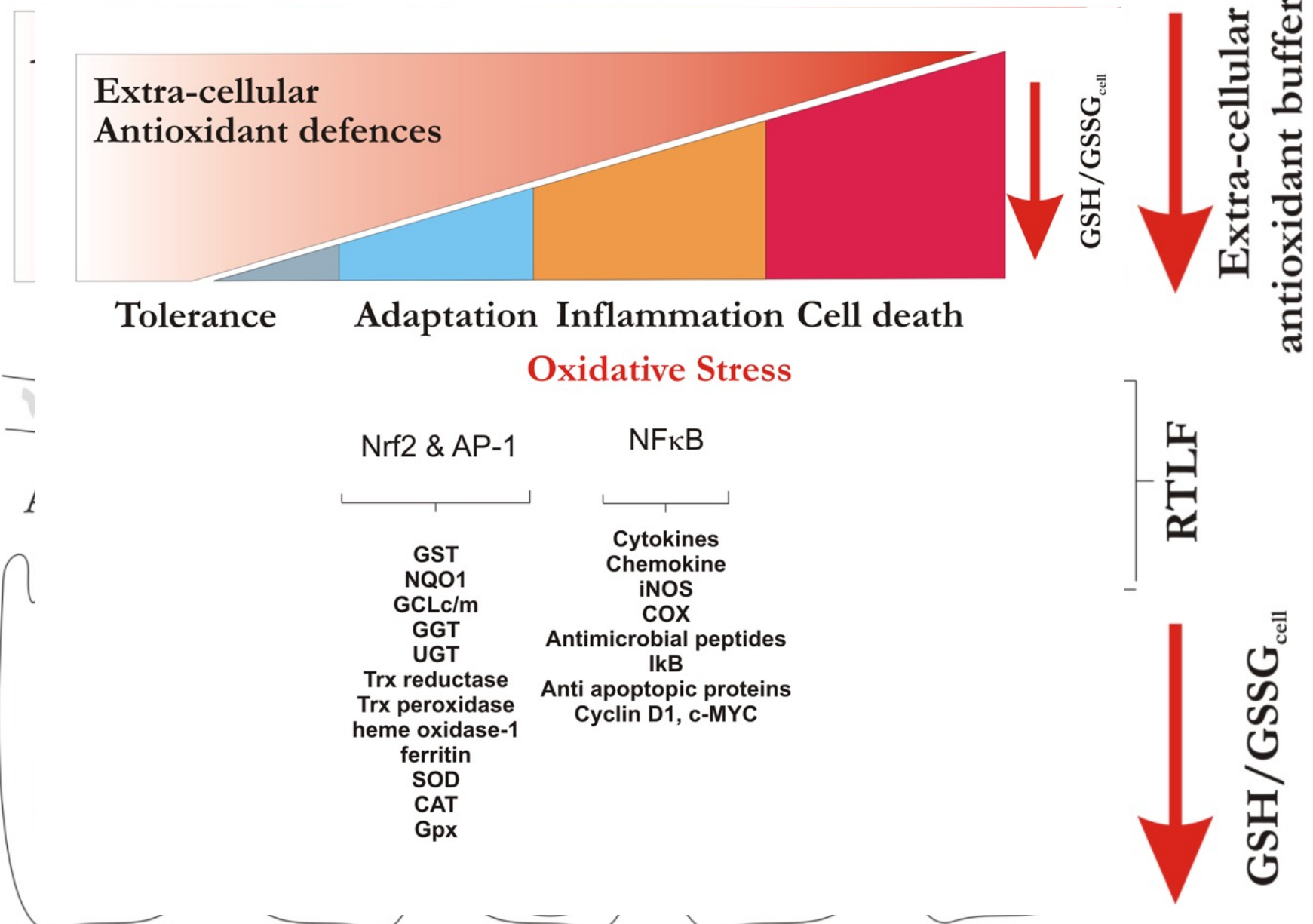
Cytokines
Chemokine
iNOS
COX
Antimicrobial peptides
IκB
Anti apoptotic proteins
Cyclin D1, c-MYC

GSH/GSSG_{cell}

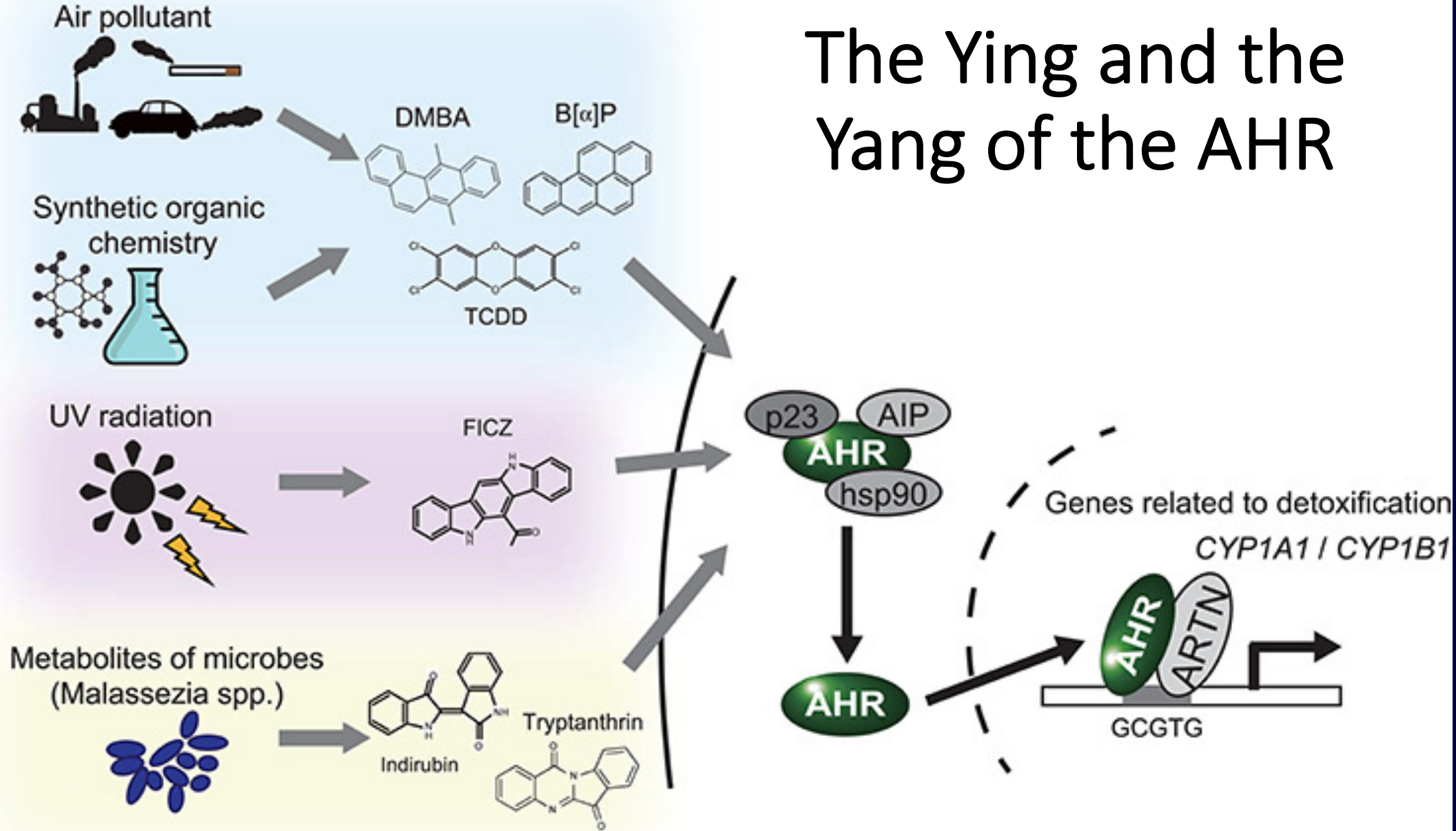
Extra-cellular
antioxidant buffering

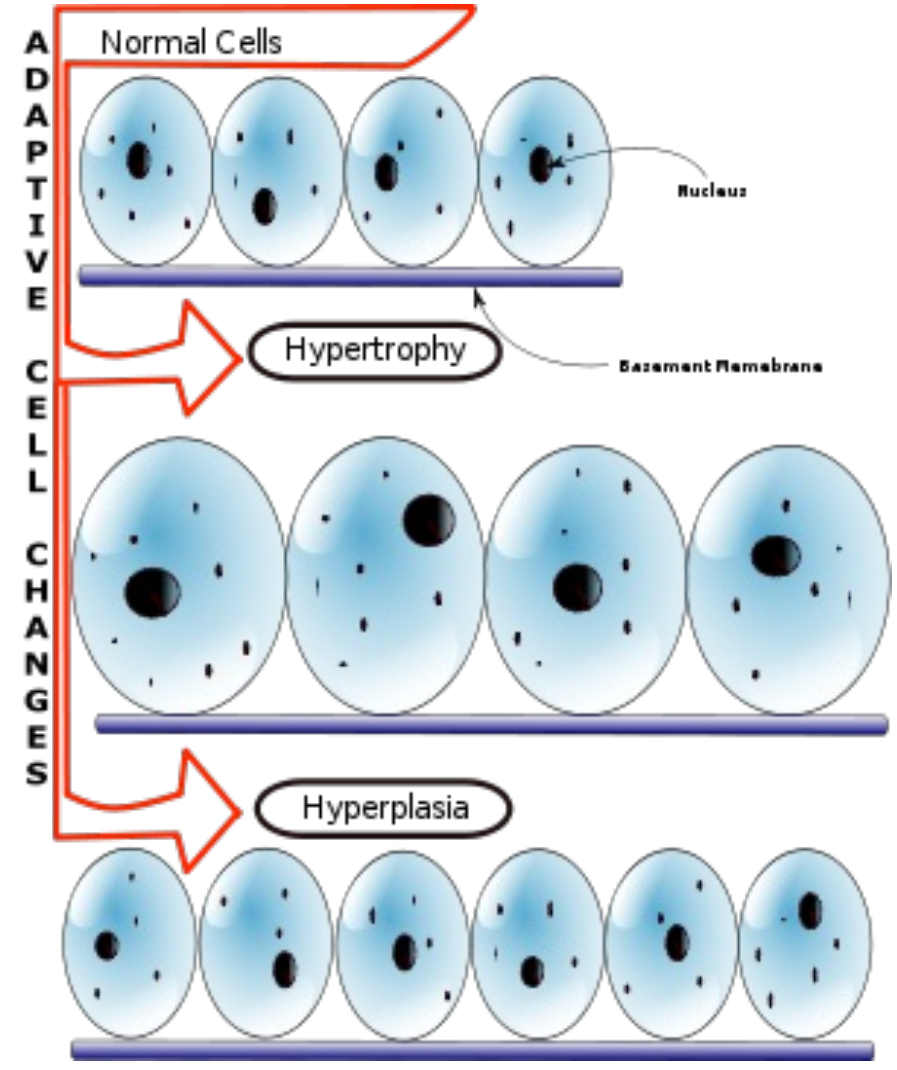
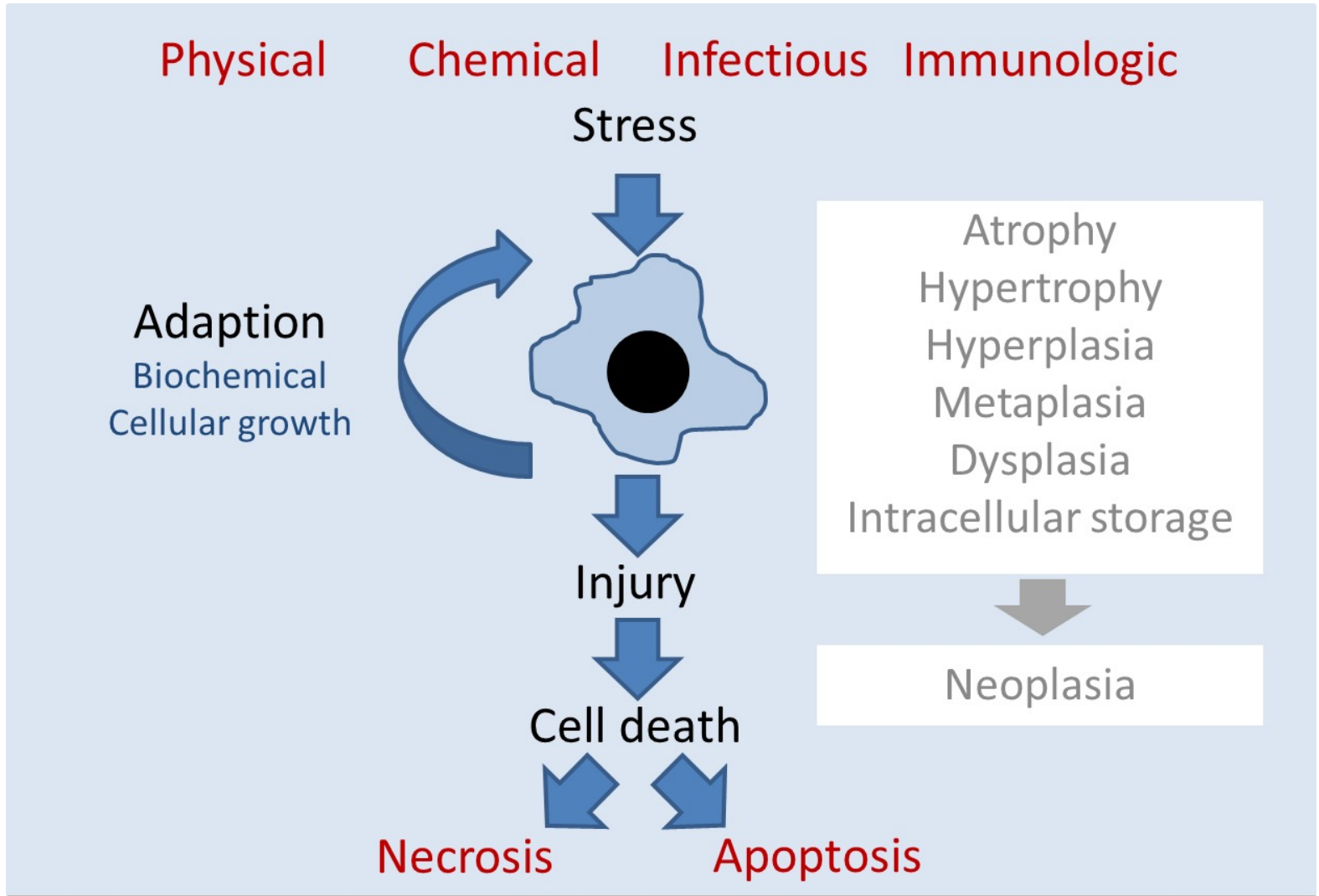
RTLIF

GSH/GSSG_{cell}

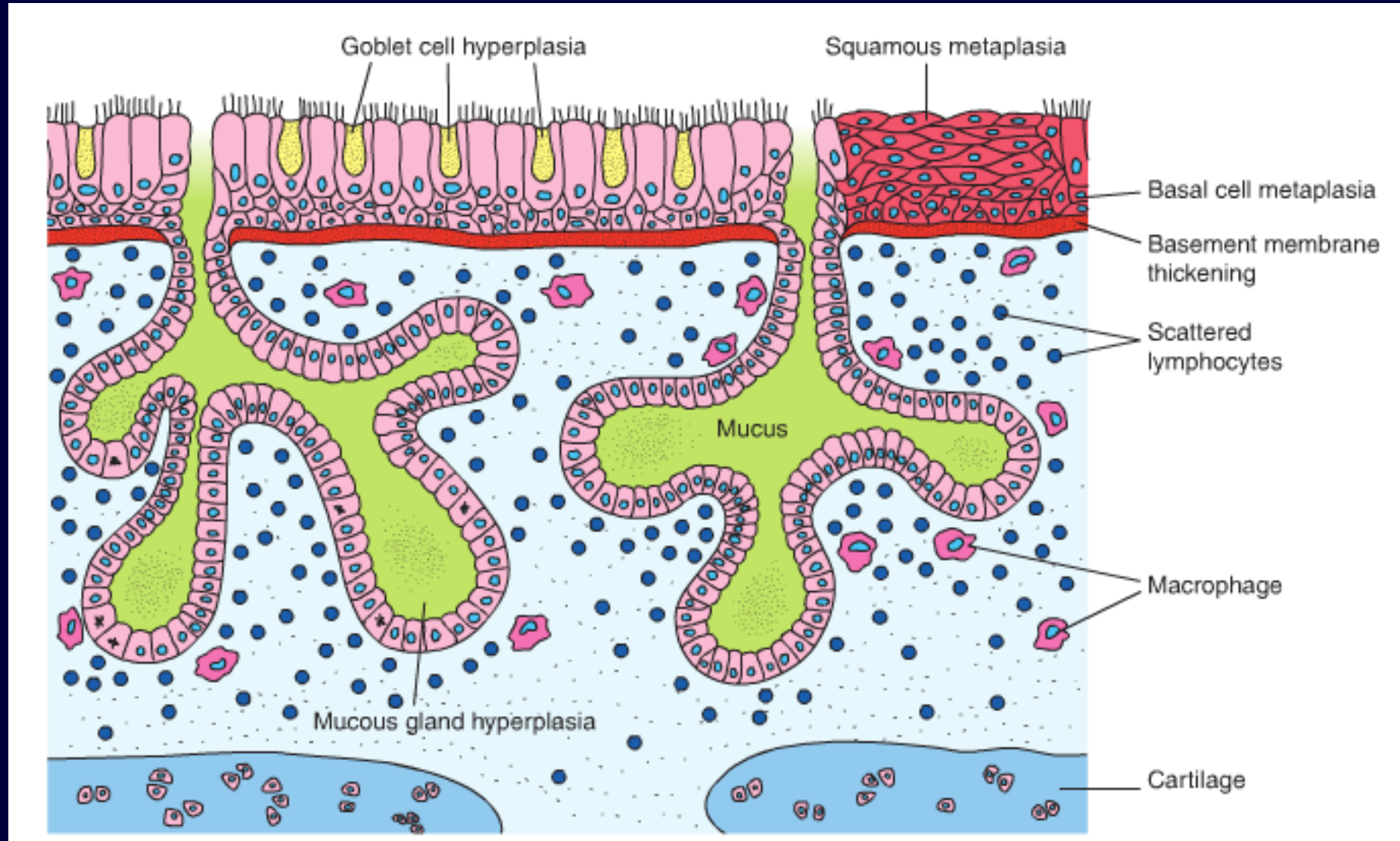


The Ying and the Yang of the AHR





Morphologic changes in chronic bronchitis

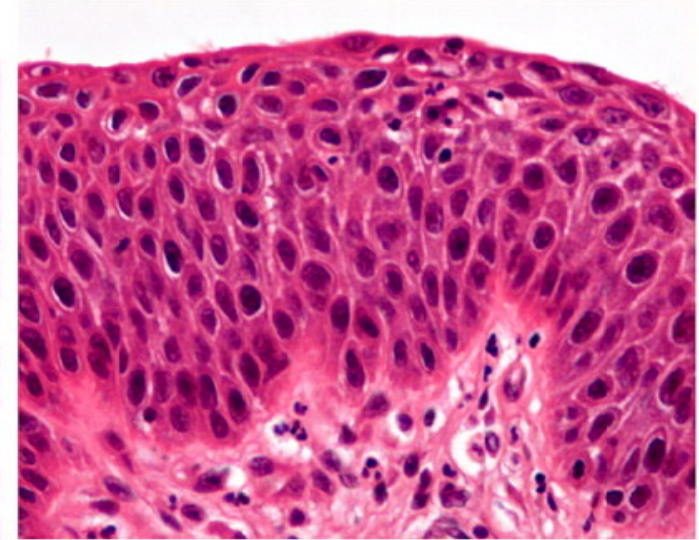
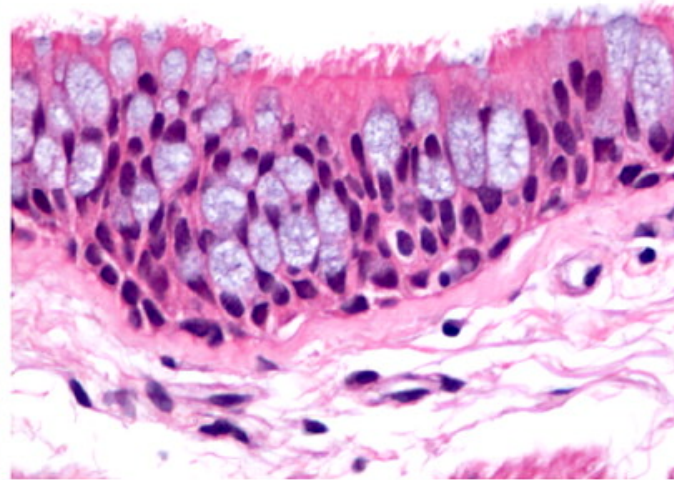
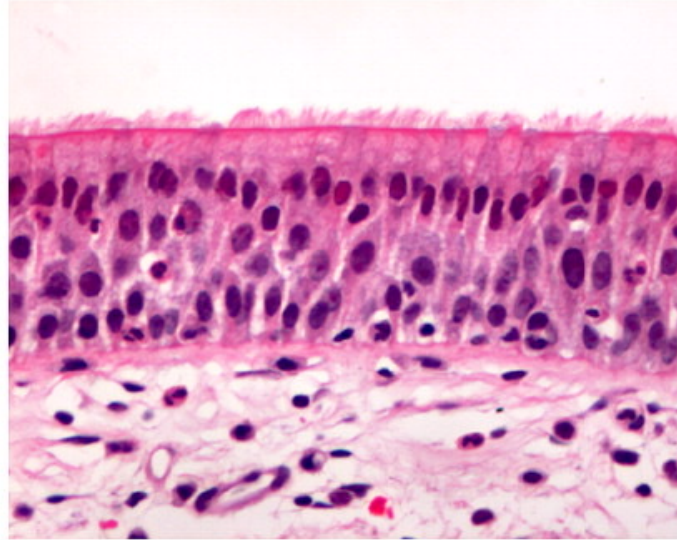


Normal donor lung

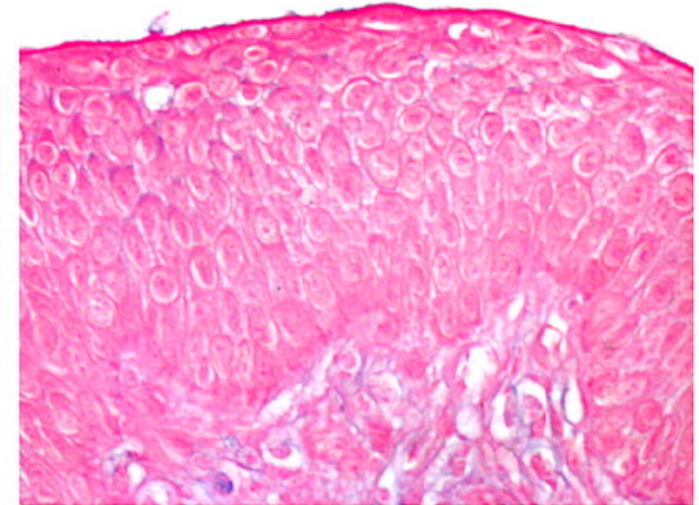
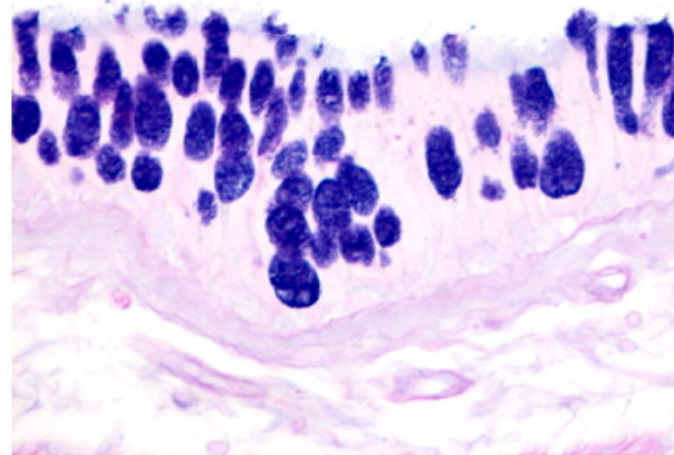
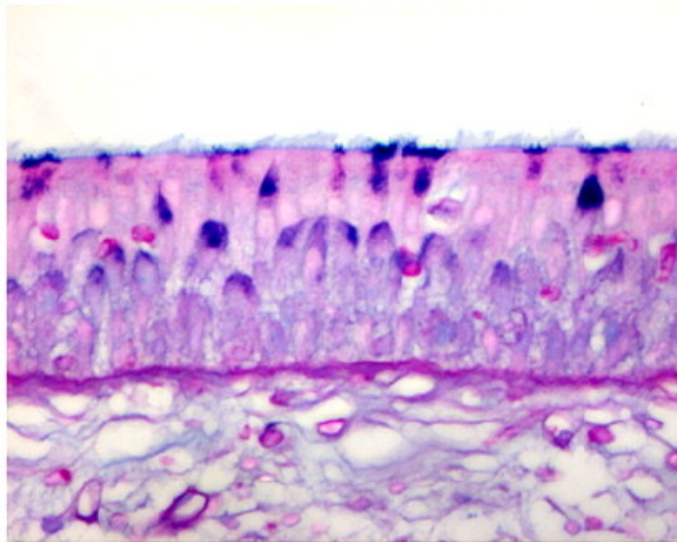
COPD bronchus

COPD bronchus

H&E



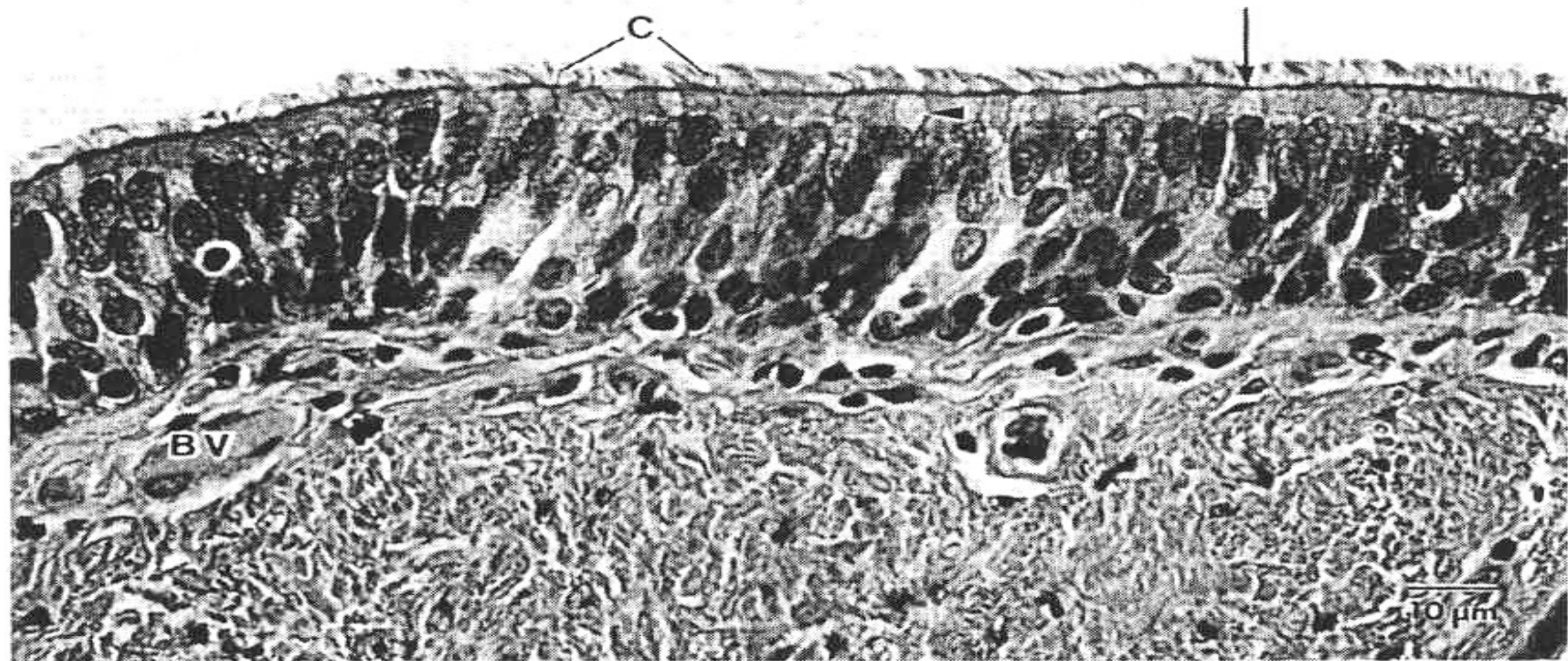
AB-PAS



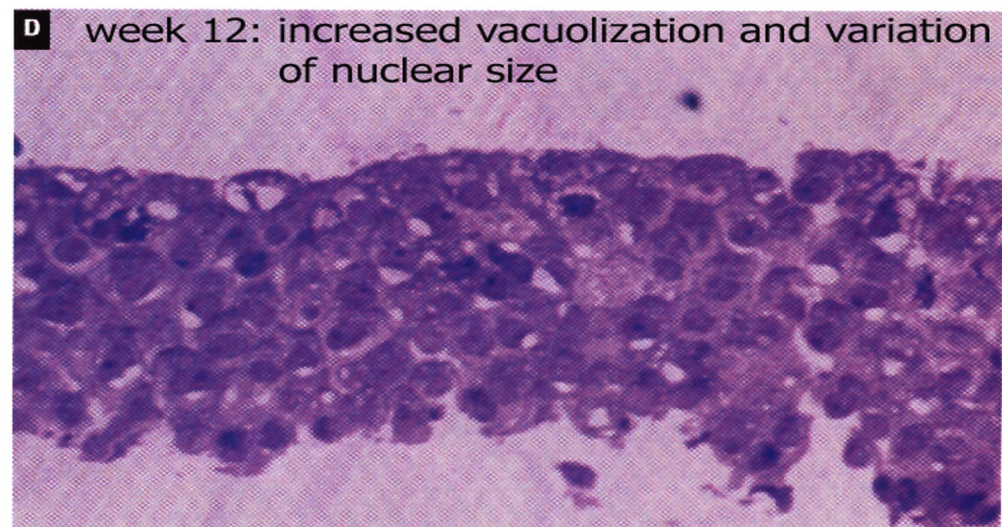
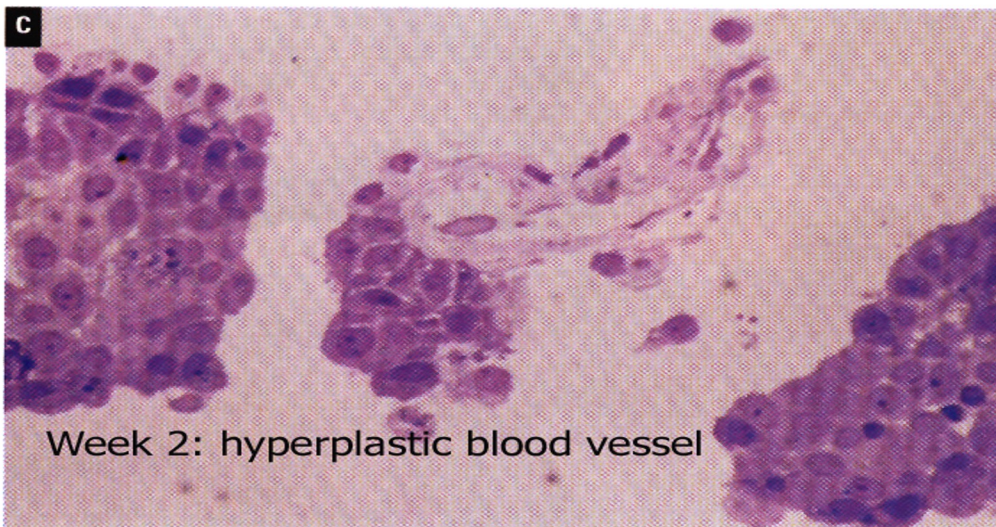
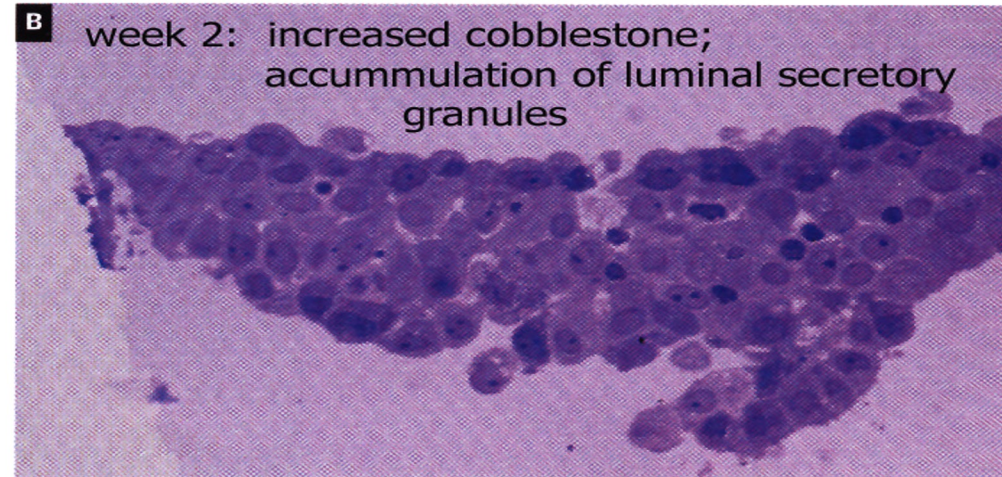
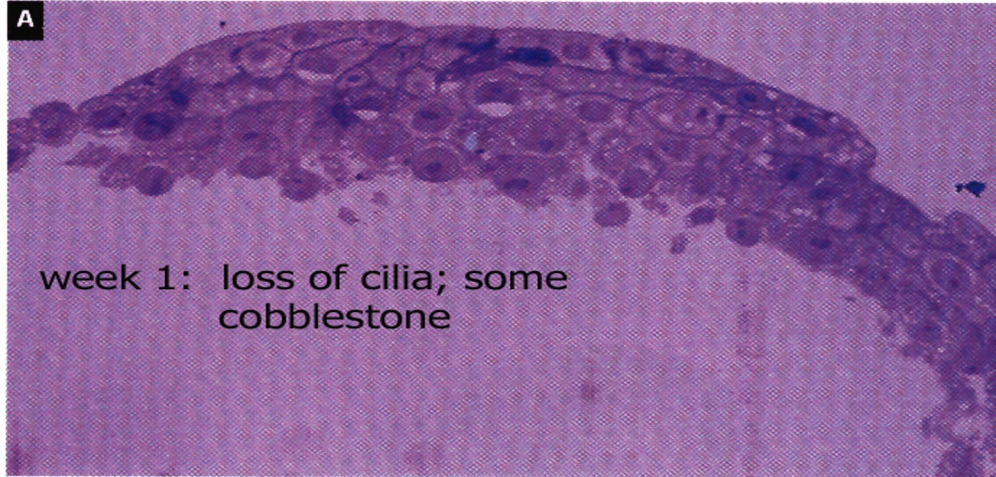
Normal

Mucous secretory cell hyperplasia

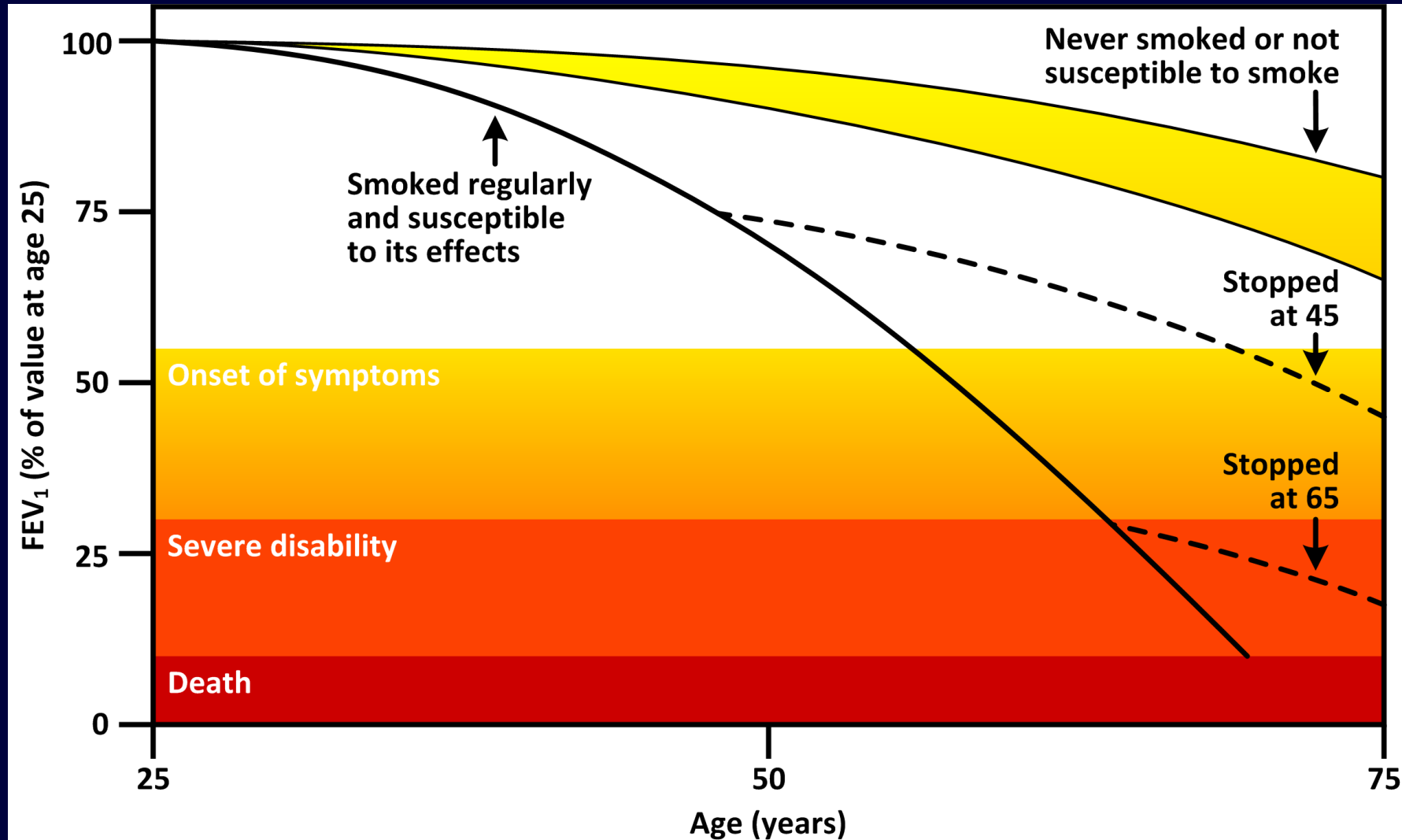
Squamous metaplasia



Effects of Ozone on Nasal Mucosa 22-Year-Old Male Migrant to Mexico City



The Fletcher Curve



Hazard of cigarette smoking (in men)

- Many young men started smoking in the first few decades of the 20th century, so full lifelong risks among men are now known.
- Young women started smoking substantial numbers of cigarettes just after the mid-20th century, so full hazards in later middle age among women have become apparent only in the 21st century

UK male doctors born 1900–1930: continuing cigarette vs never smokers. 50-year follow-up of mortality, 1951–2001

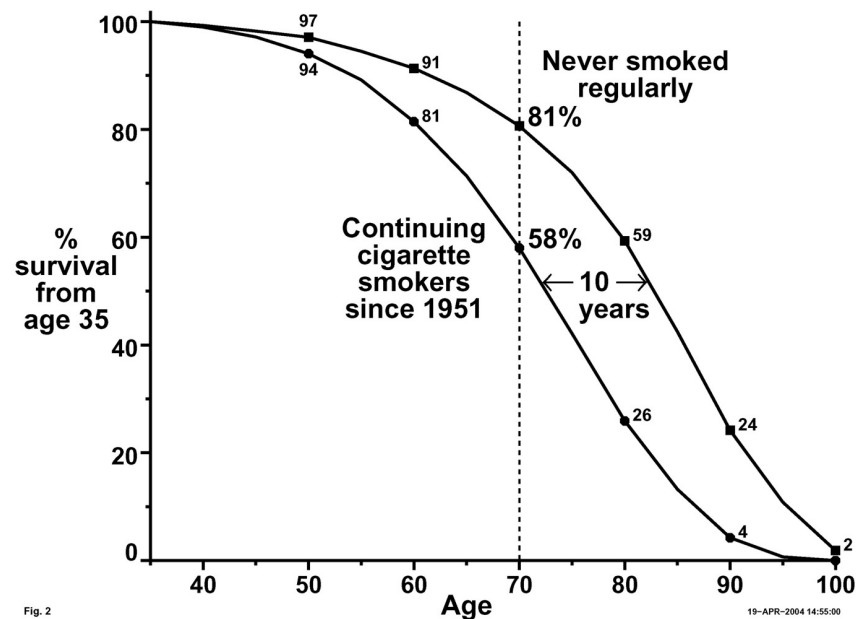


Fig. 2

19-APR-2004 14:55:00

Effect of stopping smoking at age ~40 on survival from age 40

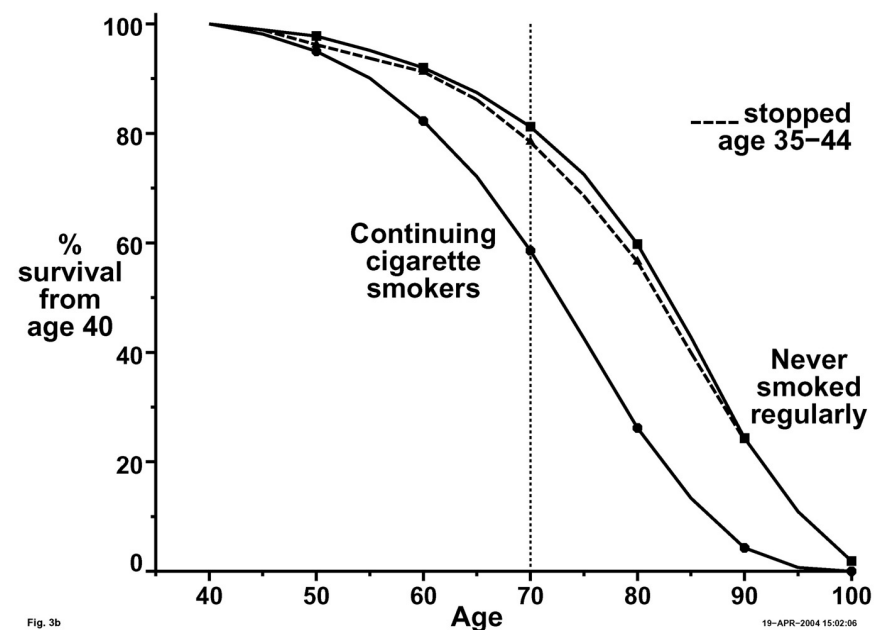


Fig. 3b

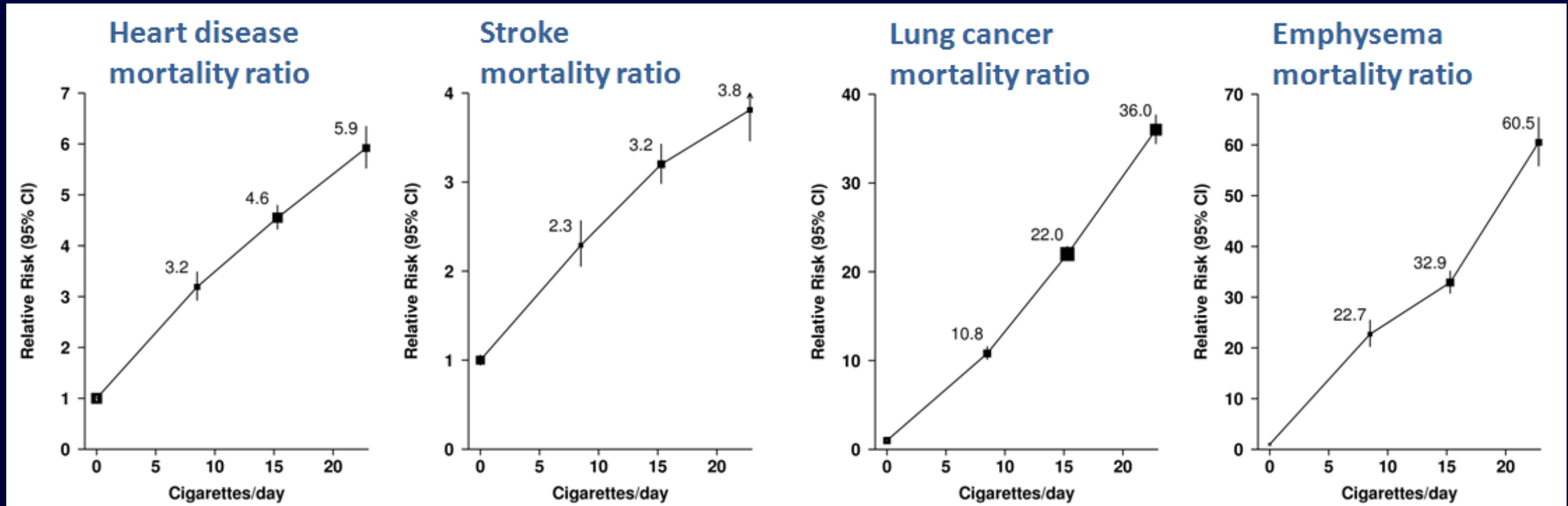
19-APR-2004 15:02:06

Hazard of cigarette smoking (in women)

THE UK MILLION WOMEN STUDY. Valerie Beral, Kirstin Pirie, Richard Peto.

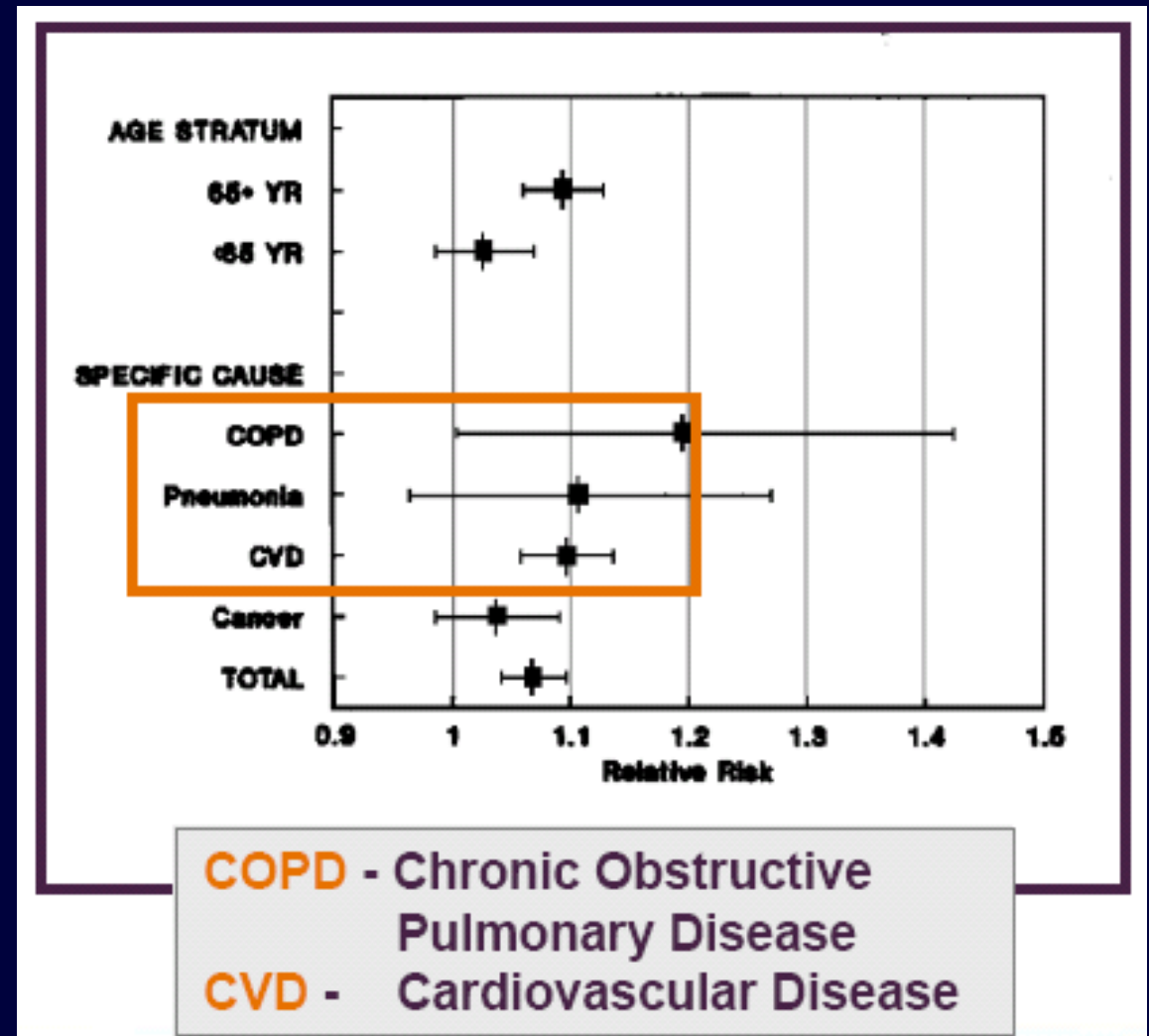
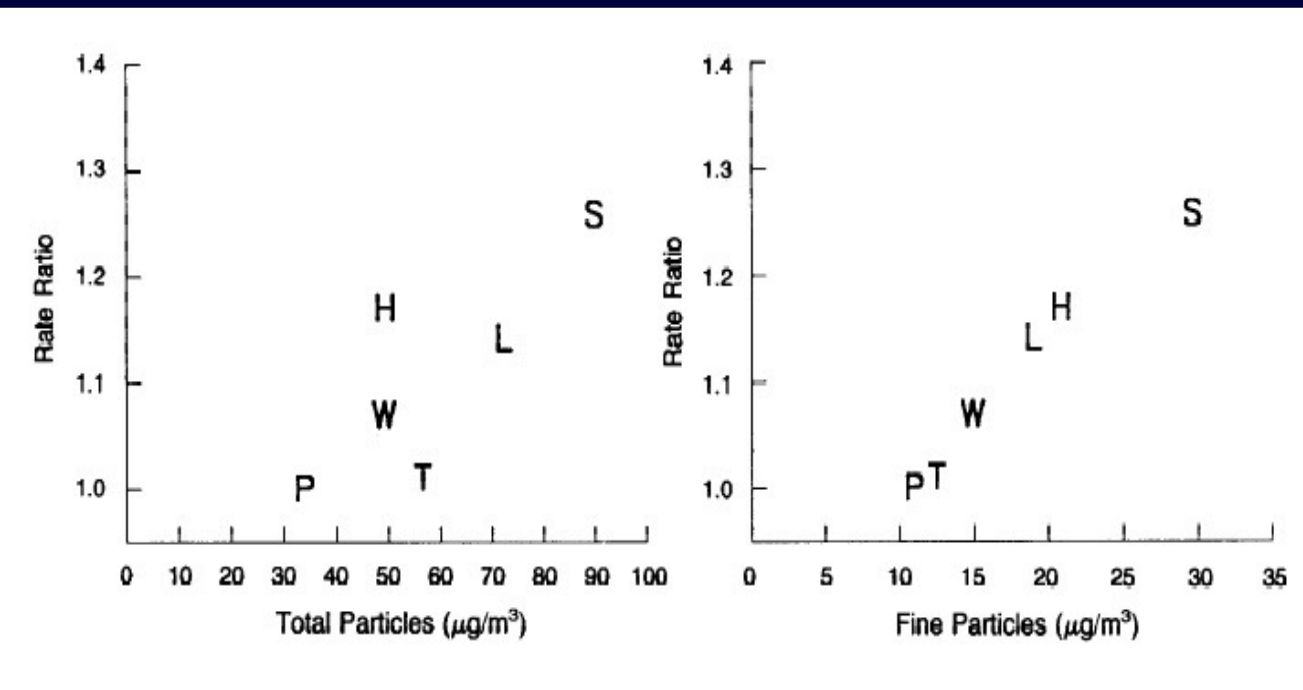
Lancet 2013; 381: 133-41

First large prospective study of women who have smoked throughout adult life



Cigarette smoke risks vs. PM_{2.5}

Data from the 6-cities study



Cigarette smoke risks vs. PM_{2.5}

Table 5. Adjusted Mortality-Rate Ratios for Current and Former Cigarette Smokers and for the Most Polluted City as Compared with the Least Polluted, According to Cause of Death.*

CAUSE OF DEATH	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	CURRENT SMOKER [†]	FORMER SMOKER [‡]	MOST VS. LEAST POLLUTED CITY
		<i>rate ratio (95% CI)</i>		
All	100	2.00 (1.51–2.65)	1.39 (1.10–1.75)	1.26 (1.08–1.47)
Lung cancer	8.4	8.00 (2.97–21.6)	2.54 (0.90–7.18)	1.37 (0.81–2.31)
Cardiopulmonary disease	53.1	2.30 (1.56–3.41)	1.52 (1.10–2.10)	1.37 (1.11–1.68)
All others	38.5	1.46 (0.89–2.39)	1.17 (0.80–1.73)	1.01 (0.79–1.30)

*The city with the highest level of air pollution (indicated by the level of fine particles) was Steubenville, Ohio, and that with the lowest was Portage, Wisconsin. CI denotes confidence interval. Rates have been adjusted for age, sex, smoking, education, and body-mass index.

[†]The risk of death for a current smoker with approximately the average number of pack-years of smoking at enrollment (25 pack-years), as compared with that for a nonsmoker.

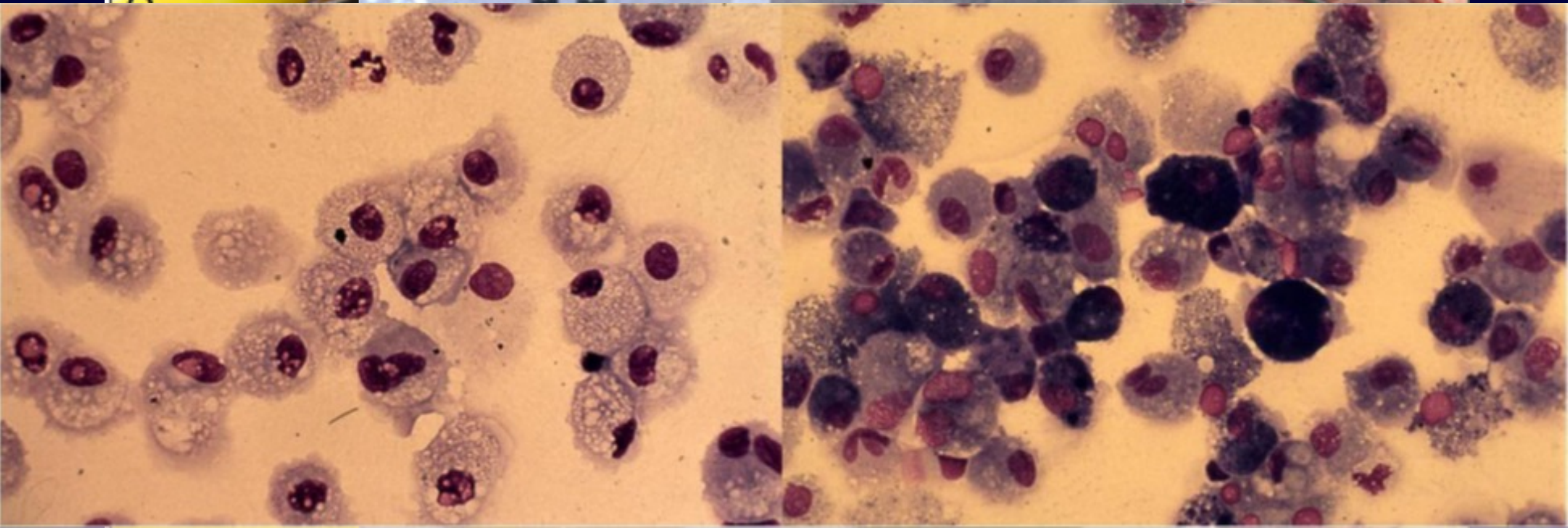
[‡]The risk of death for a former smoker with approximately the average number of pack-years of smoking at enrollment (20 pack-years), as compared with that for a nonsmoker.



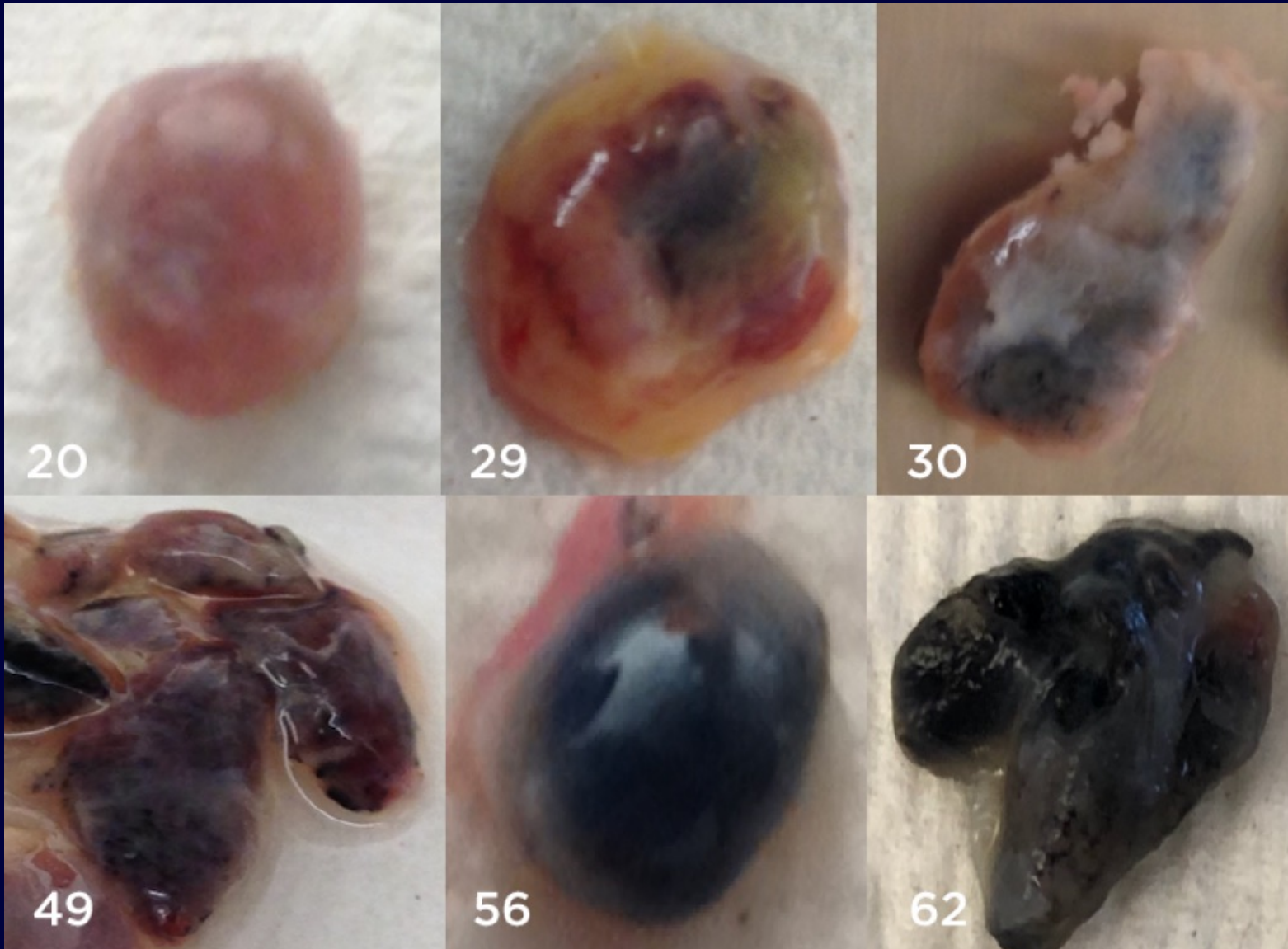
Smoker

Non-smoker

A



FA = 0.48



Lung lymph nodes from six non-smokers with their age just in the bottom left of each image.
Image credit: Donna Farber / Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Questions

