

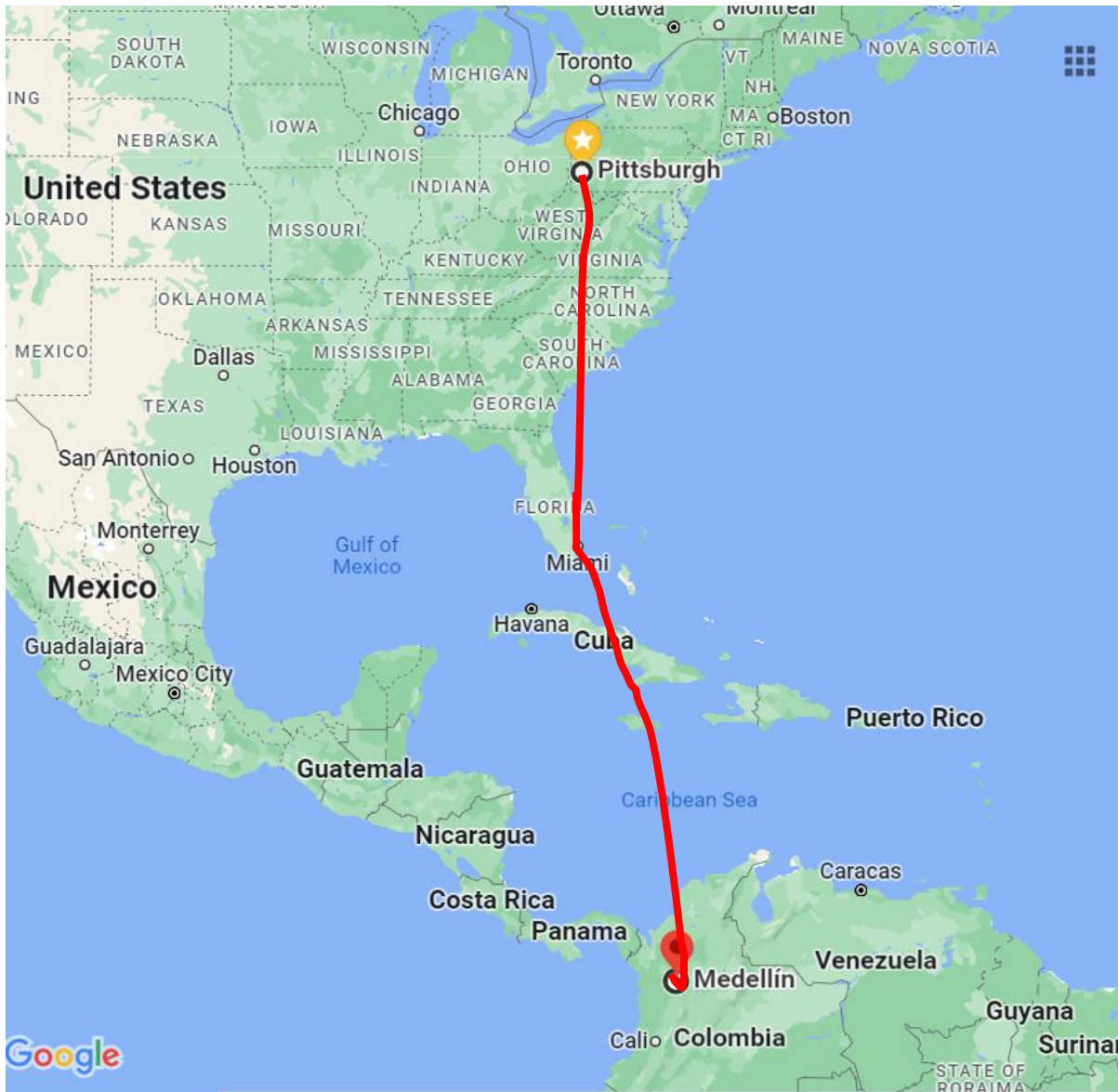
# Oxidative stress, DNA damage, and human disease: from patients to single molecules.



**Ben Van Houten, PhD**

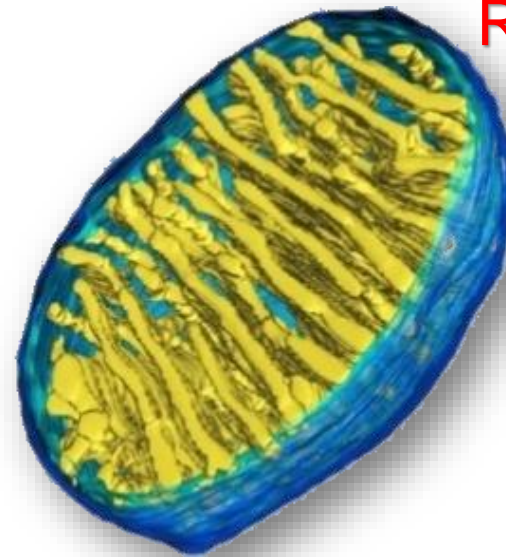
Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology  
Genome Stability Program UPMC-Hillman Cancer Center  
University of Pittsburgh [vanhoutenb@upmc.edu](mailto:vanhoutenb@upmc.edu)

# Today's journey

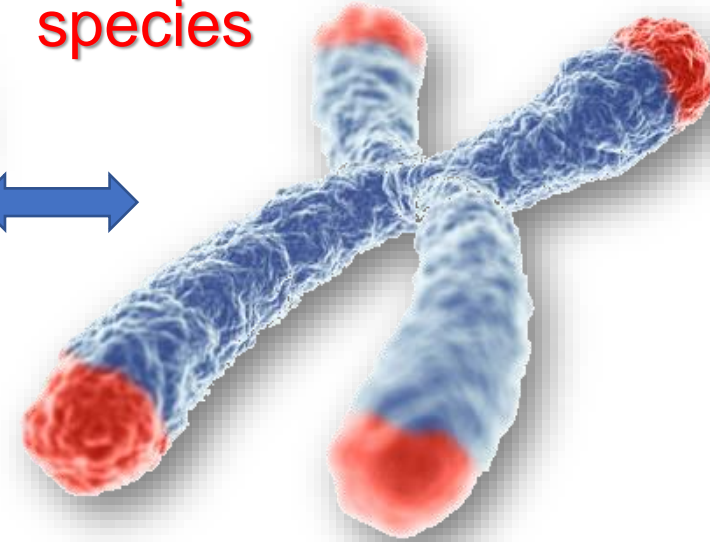


Interaction between two libraries of life: **mitochondrial DNA** and **nuclear DNA**.

Mitochondrial dysfunction



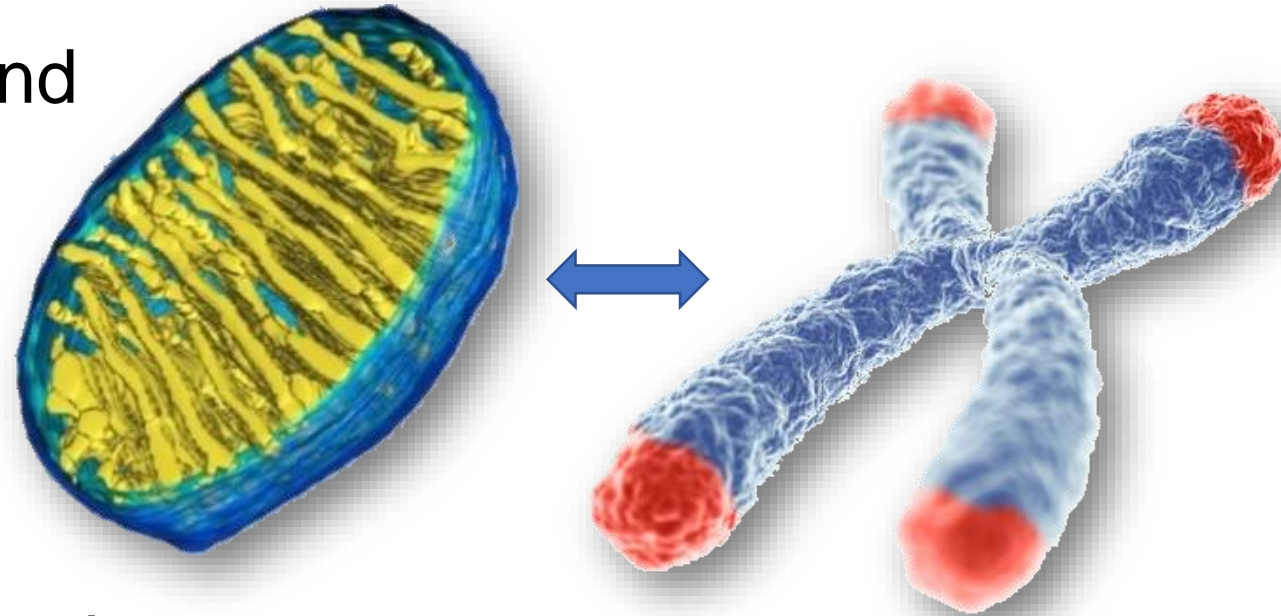
**Reactive oxygen species**

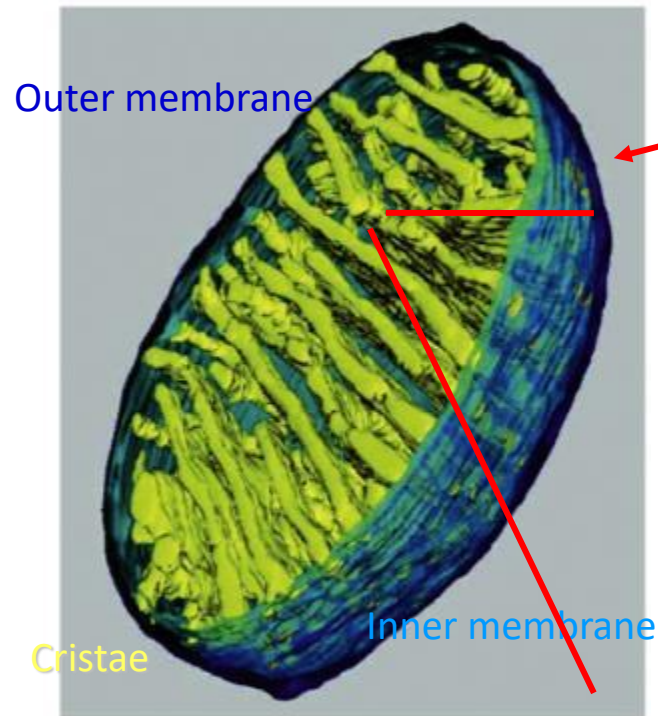
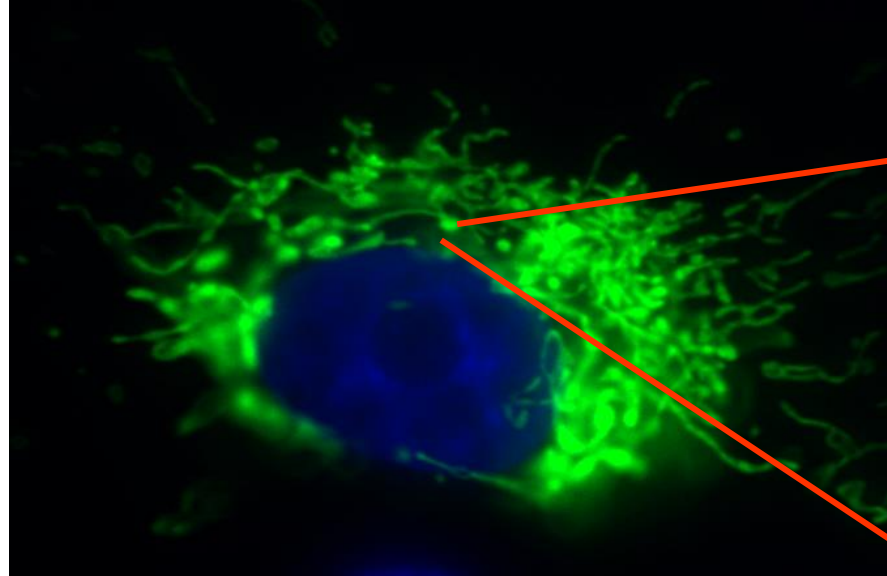


Nuclear damage

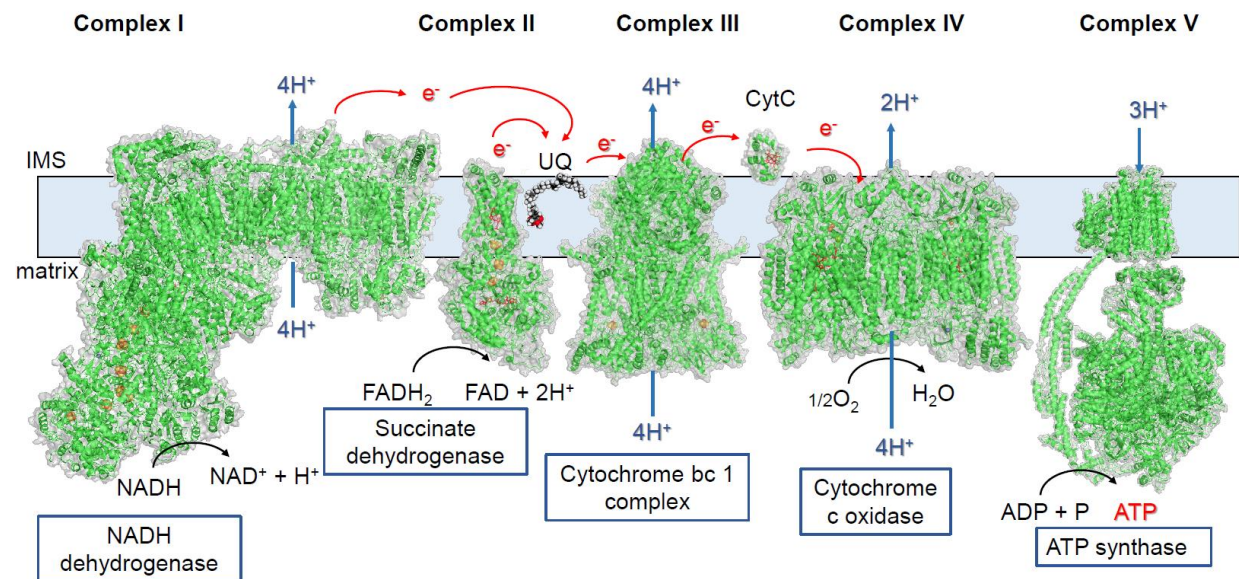
# Today's presentation:

1. Mitochondria and **ROS** and human disease: **Friedreich's Ataxia**
2. Using a **chemoptogenetic "nanosurgery"** approach to understand how mitochondria generate **ROS** and consequences of telomere DNA damage
3. **Mitochondria-telomere crosstalk** and associated diseases: **PD & cancer**
4. **UVA causes ROS** from mitochondria and nuclear mutation signatures of melanoma.
5. Watching DNA repair in real-time at the **single molecule level**





Electron transport chain = site of **oxidative phosphorylation**



# Importance of mtDNA and oxidative phosphorylation

mtDNA codes for:

7 subunits of Complex I (46)

0 subunits of Complex II (4)

1 subunit of Complex III (11)

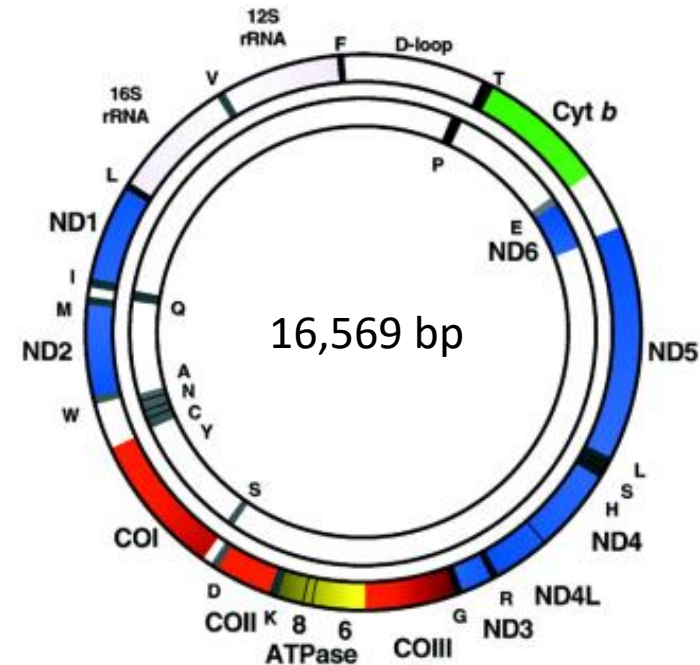
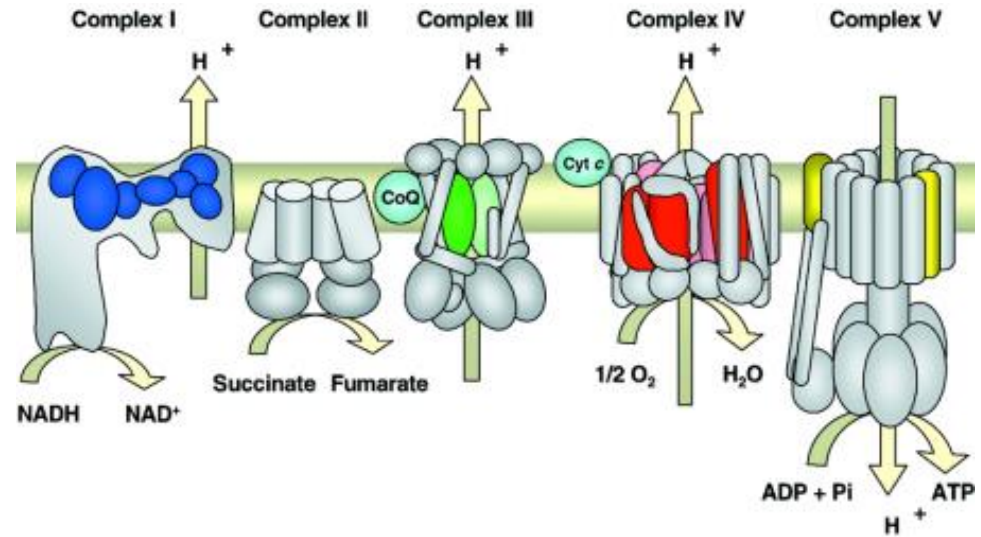
3 subunits of Complex IV (13)

2 subunits of Complex V (14)

PLUS

2 rRNAs

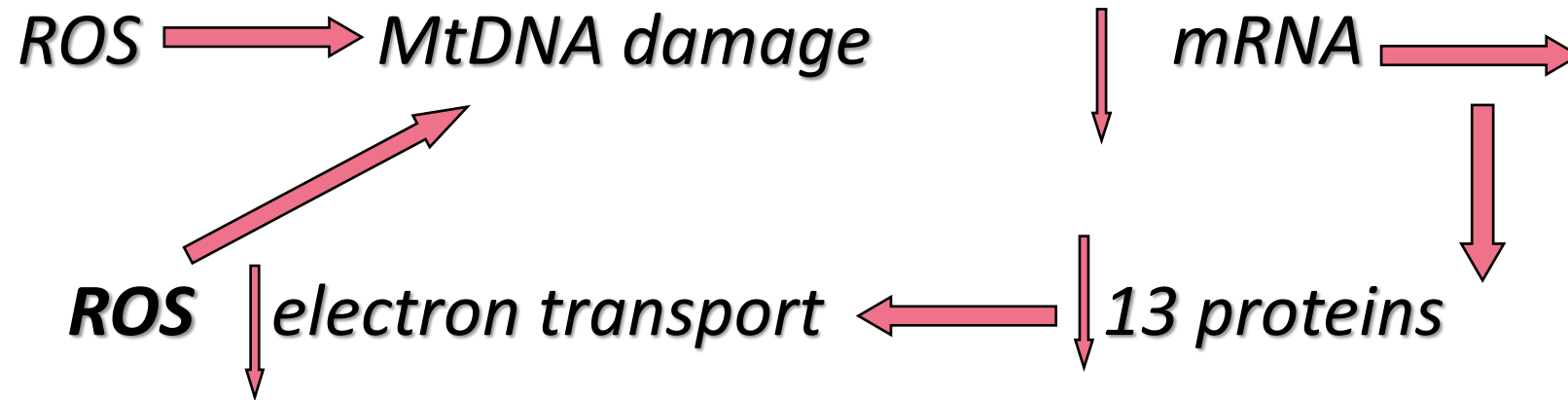
22 tRNAs





# ROS and mtDNA damage

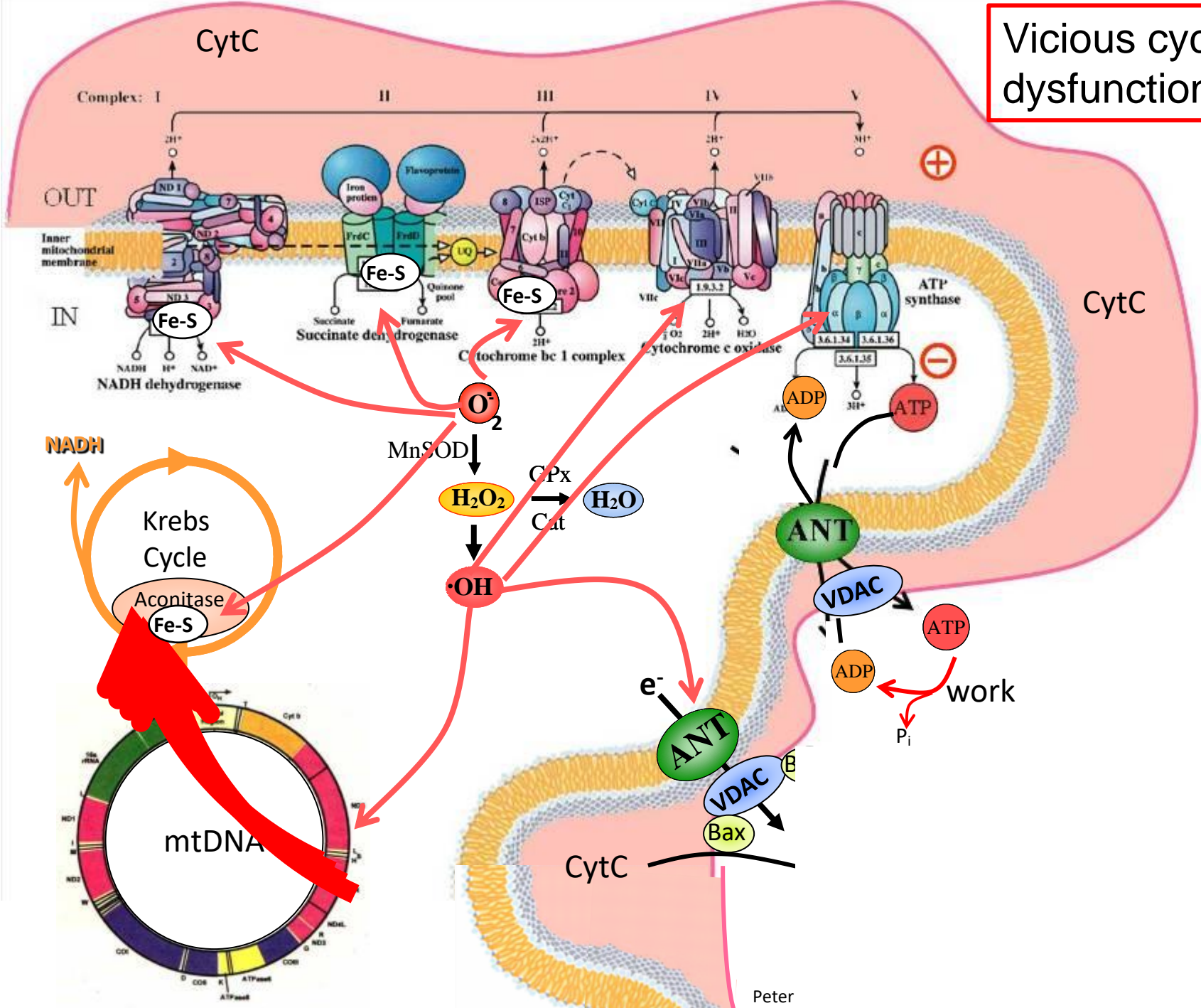
- Hydrogen peroxide leads to rapid mtDNA damage; protracted treatments lead to persistent mtDNA



*loss of PMF, decrease of OXPHOS & ATP, cytC release, apoptosis/necrosis*

- Persistent mtDNA damage could be caused by repair enzyme oxidation and/or lack of transport into the mitochondria.

Vicious cycle of mitochondrial dysfunction due to mtDNA damage

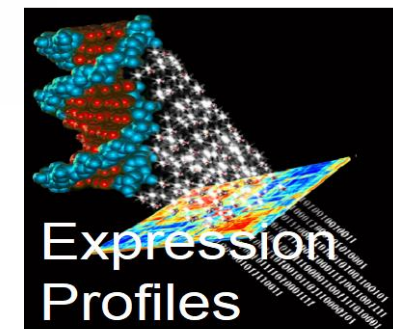




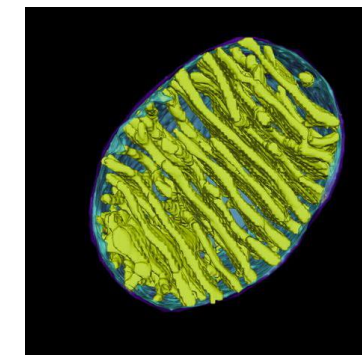
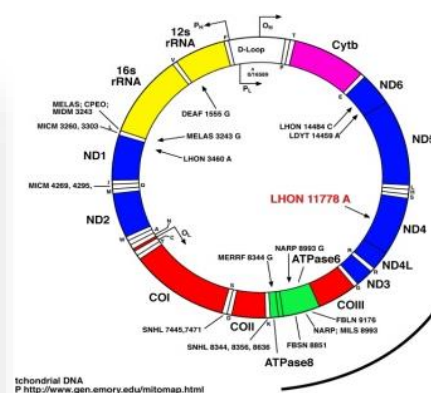
# Altered Gene Expression and DNA Damage in Peripheral Blood Cells from Friedreich's Ataxia Patients: Cellular Model of Pathology

Astrid C. Haugen<sup>1</sup>, Nicholas A. Di Prospero<sup>2</sup>, Joel S. Parker<sup>3</sup>, Rick D. Fannin<sup>4</sup>, Jeff Chou<sup>4</sup>, Joel N. Meyer<sup>5</sup>, Christopher Halweg<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer B. Collins<sup>4</sup>, Alexandra Durr<sup>6,7</sup>, Kenneth Fischbeck<sup>2</sup>, Bennett Van Houten<sup>8,9\*</sup>

- **Total Blood RNA** for **microarray profiling** on the 22K Agilent chip – 28 patients; 10 controls
- **Total Blood DNA** for analysis of **mitochondrial** and nuclear **DNA damage** – 47 patients; 15 controls

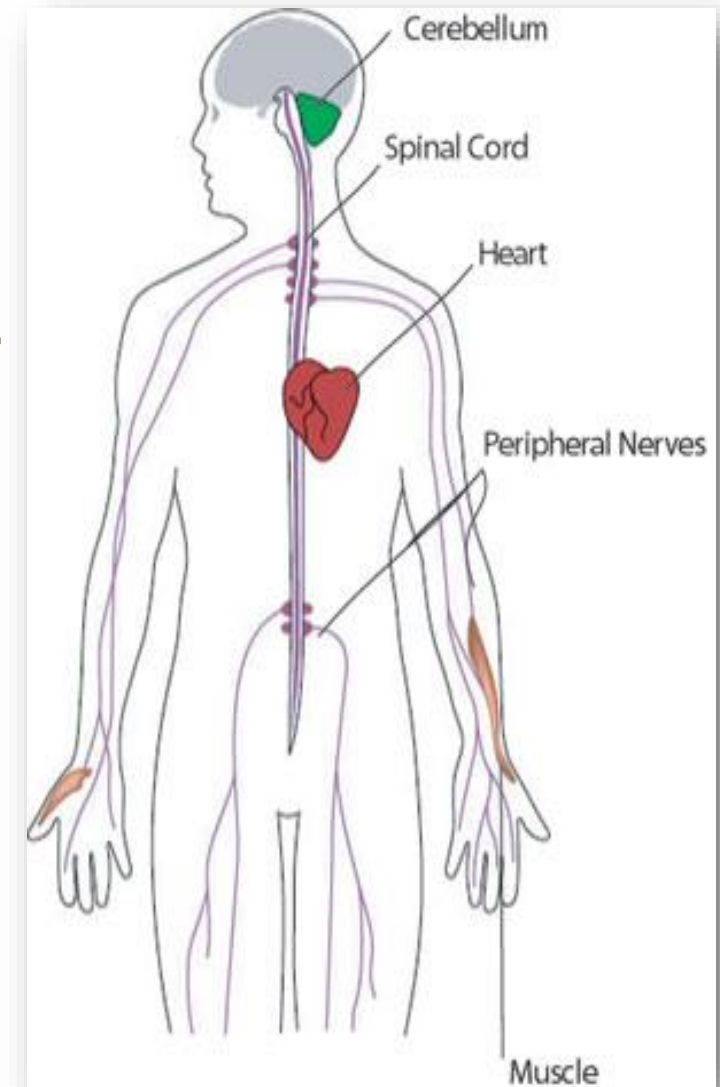
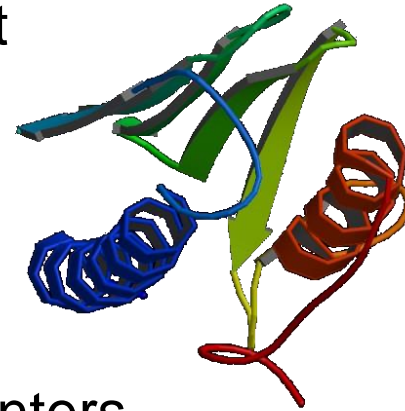


Astrid Haugen

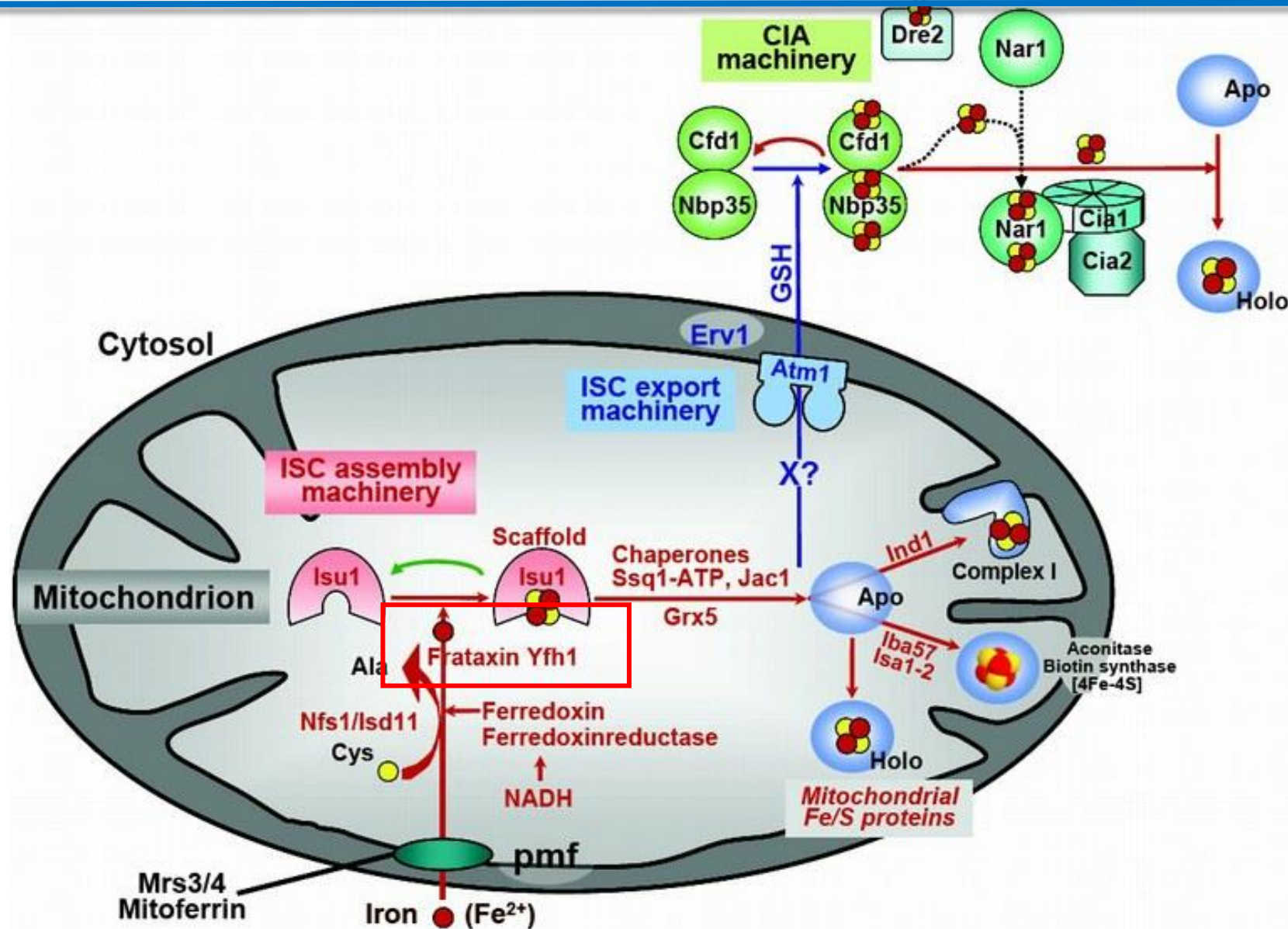


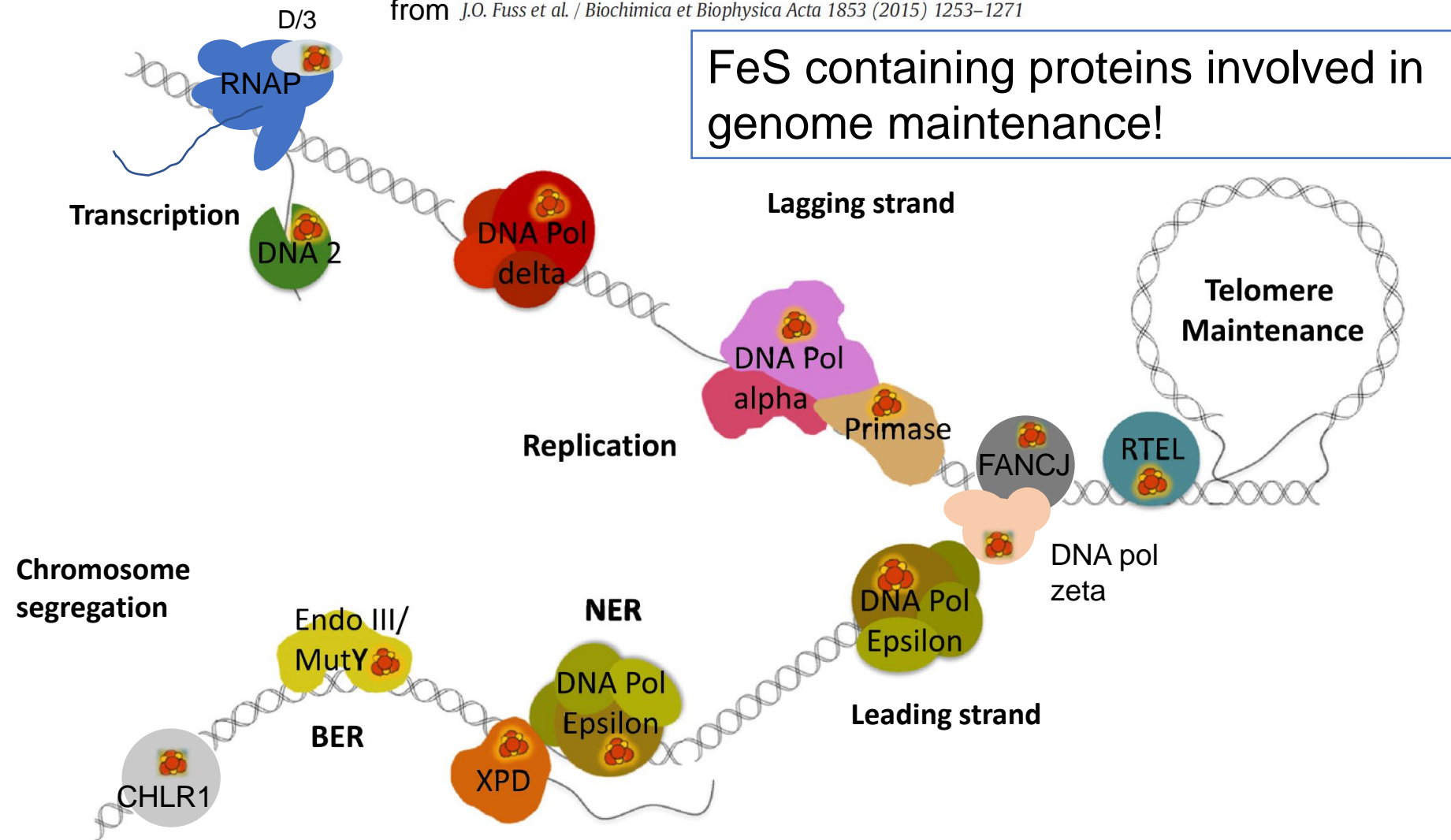
# Friedreich Ataxia: an iron homeostasis disease

- autosomal-recessively inherited: caused by triplet repeat expansion
- reduced levels of frataxin
- KO is embryonic lethal
- more mitochondrial iron and loss of iron-sulfur centers
- symptoms usually begin between the ages of 5 and 15
- progressive damage to the nervous system, muscle weakness, speech problems, heart disease.
- hypertrophic cardiomyopathy leads to cardiac arrest



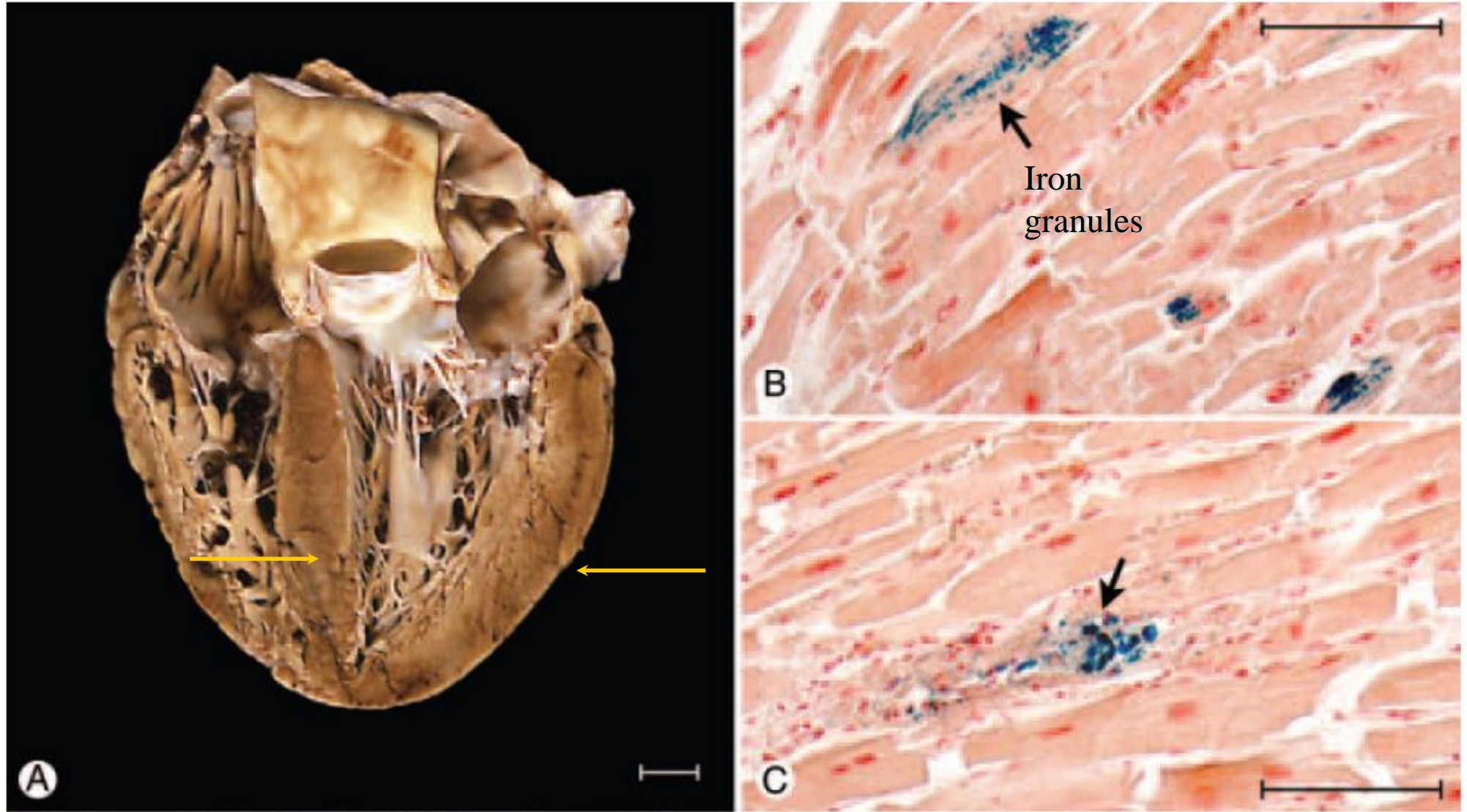
# A current model of Fe/S protein biogenesis in eukaryotes





**Fig. 1.** The emerging roles of Fe-S cluster enzymes in DNA replication and repair. Replication: Fe-S clusters are critical elements of DNA primase, all replicative DNA polymerases (DNA pols  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  shown), and the nuclease/helicase Dna2 (shown on lagging strand 5' flaps). Nucleotide Excision Repair (NER): the 5'→3' Fe-S cluster helicase XPD opens a single stranded bubble around duplex distorting DNA damage allowing excision of the damaged strand by endonucleases and the gap filling by DNA polymerase (DNA pol  $\epsilon$  shown). Base Excision Repair (BER): glycosylases Endo III / MutY and their role in the discovery and removal of damaged and mismatched bases. Telomere Maintenance: the helicase RTEL is involved in the unwinding of telomeric D-loops that affects telomere length maintenance and HR in the region.

# Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy



SUSAN MICHAEL<sup>1</sup>, SIMONE V. PETROCINE<sup>2</sup>, JIANG QIAN<sup>2</sup>, JACQUES B. LAMARCHE<sup>4</sup>, MITCHELL D. KNUTSON<sup>5</sup>, MICHAEL D. GARRICK<sup>6</sup> & ARNULF H. KOEPPEN<sup>1,2,3,7</sup>

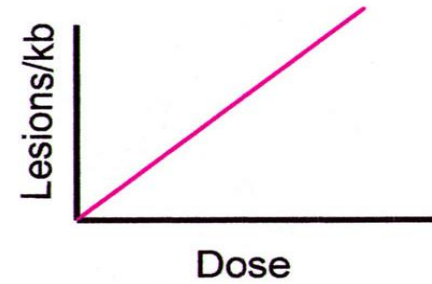
*The Cerebellum*. 2006; 5: 257–267

# How to measure DNA damage in mitochondrial and nuclear DNA

1.



PAX Gene blood DNA tubes 8.5 ml sample – stored at -80 °C



2. DNA Isolation

3. Quantify DNA

4. QPCR

6.

## Lesion Frequency Calculation

$f(x) = e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x / x!$  Poisson expression

Zero Class:  $f(0) = e^{-\lambda}$

$\lambda$  = lesion frequency

$A_D$  = Amplification of damaged template

$A_O$  = Amplification of non-damaged template

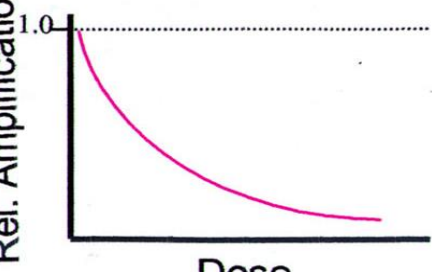
Lesion frequency / genomic strand:  $\lambda = -\ln A_D / A_O$

5.

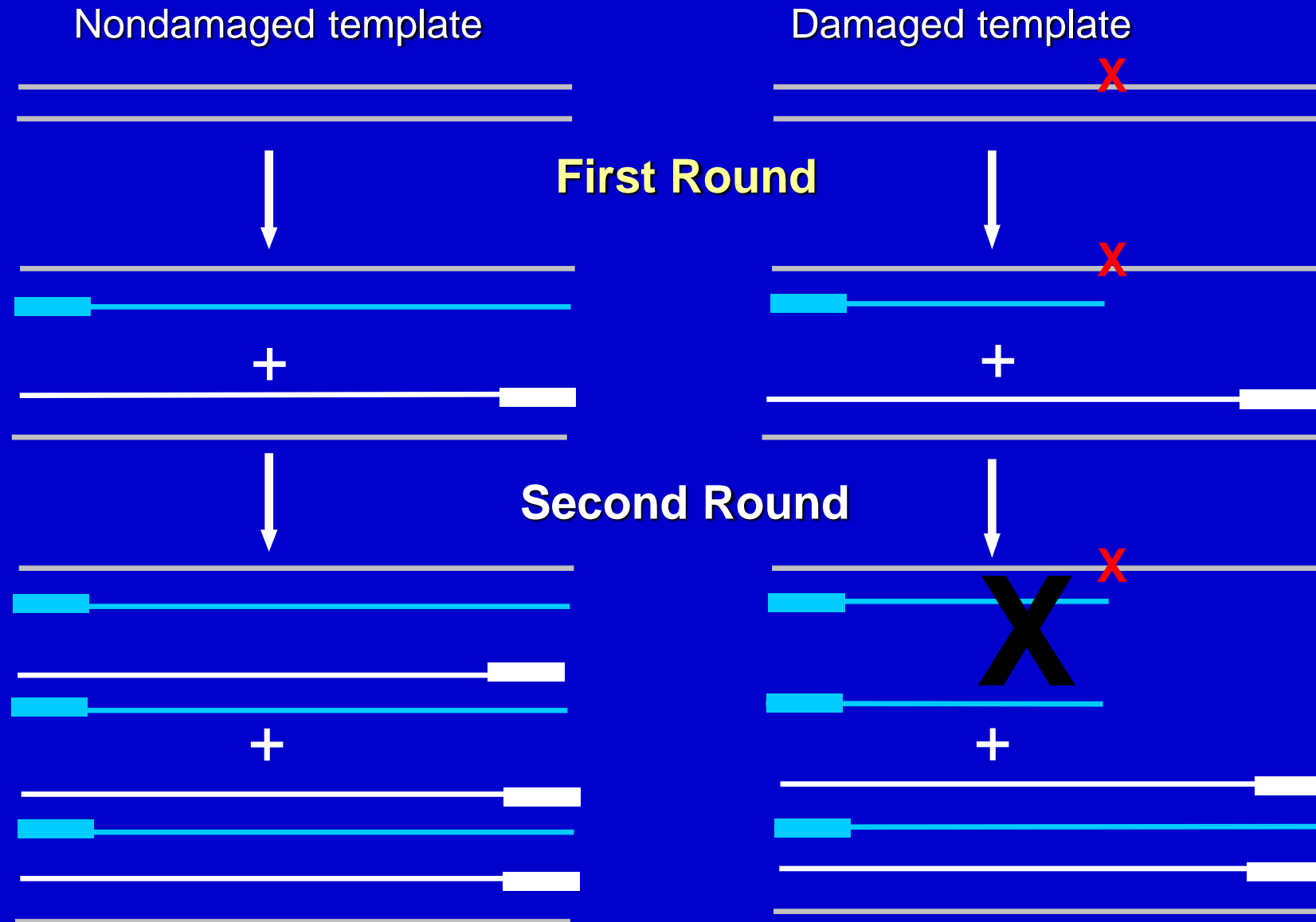
Quantify PCR Products



Rel. Amplification



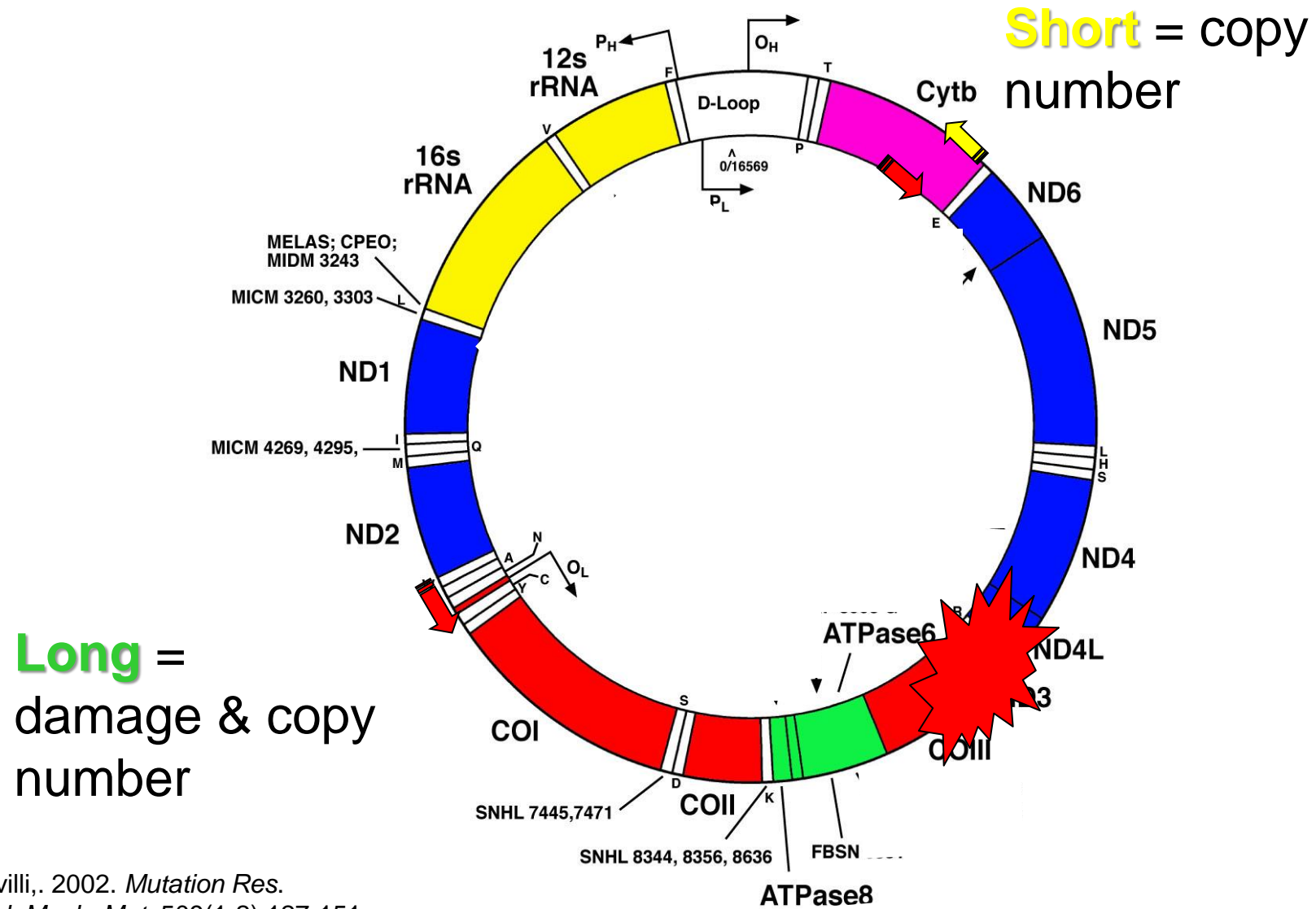
# Detection of gene-specific damage by QPCR





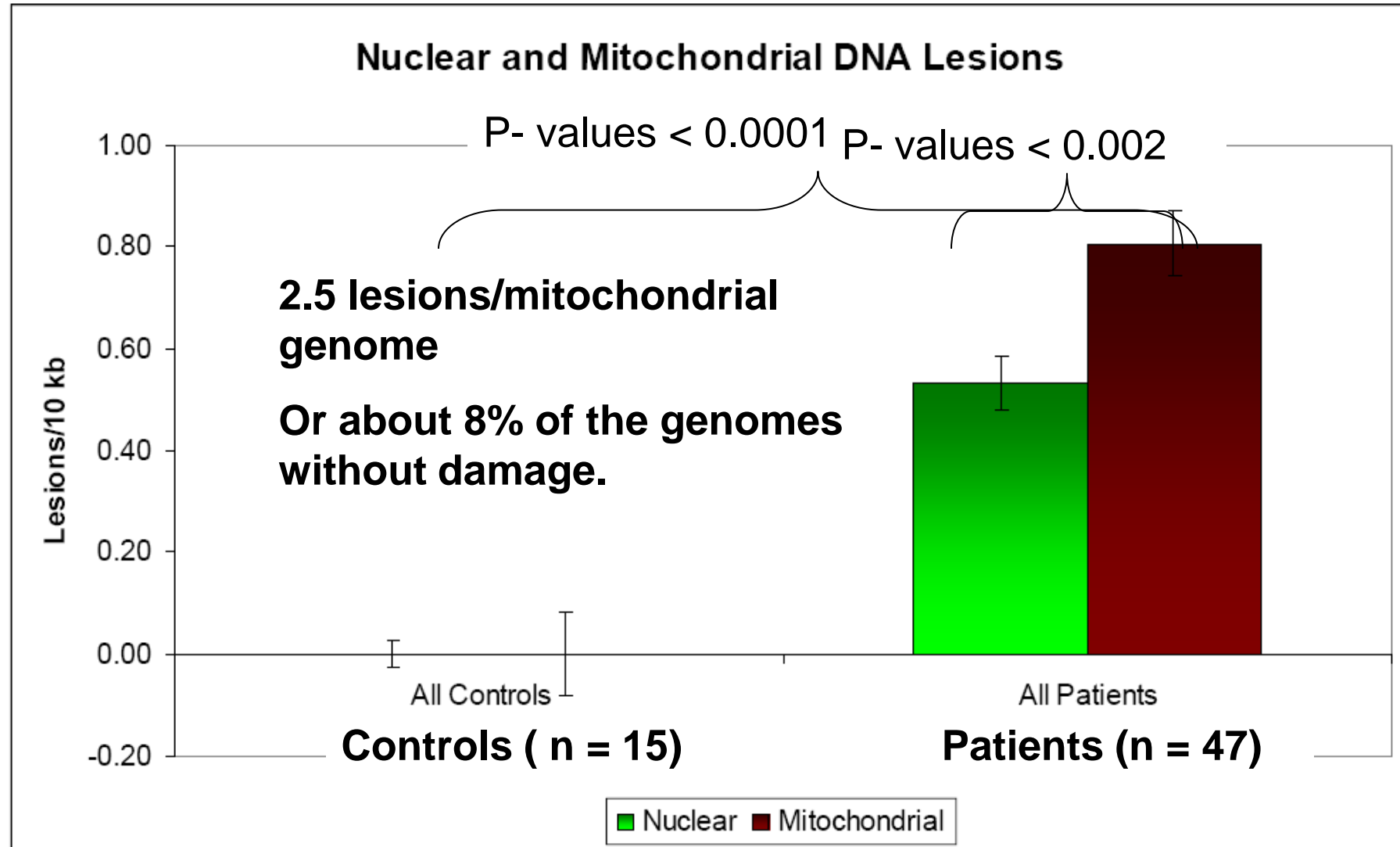


# How to study mtDNA damage and repair?



B. S Mandavilli, 2002. *Mutation Res. Fundam. Mol. Mech. Mut.* 509(1-2):127-151.

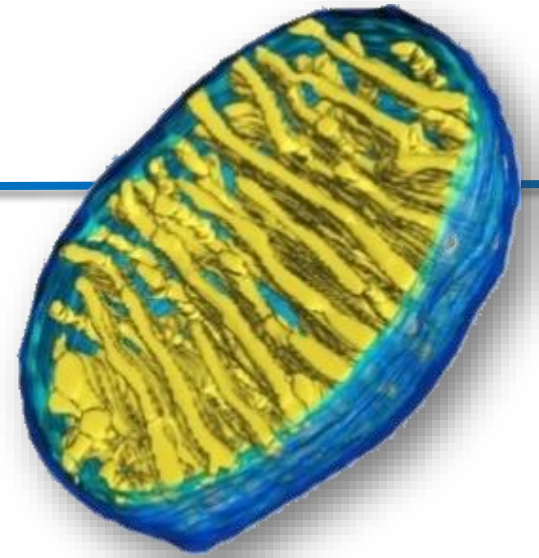
# QPCR assay indicated significant DNA damage in children with FRDA

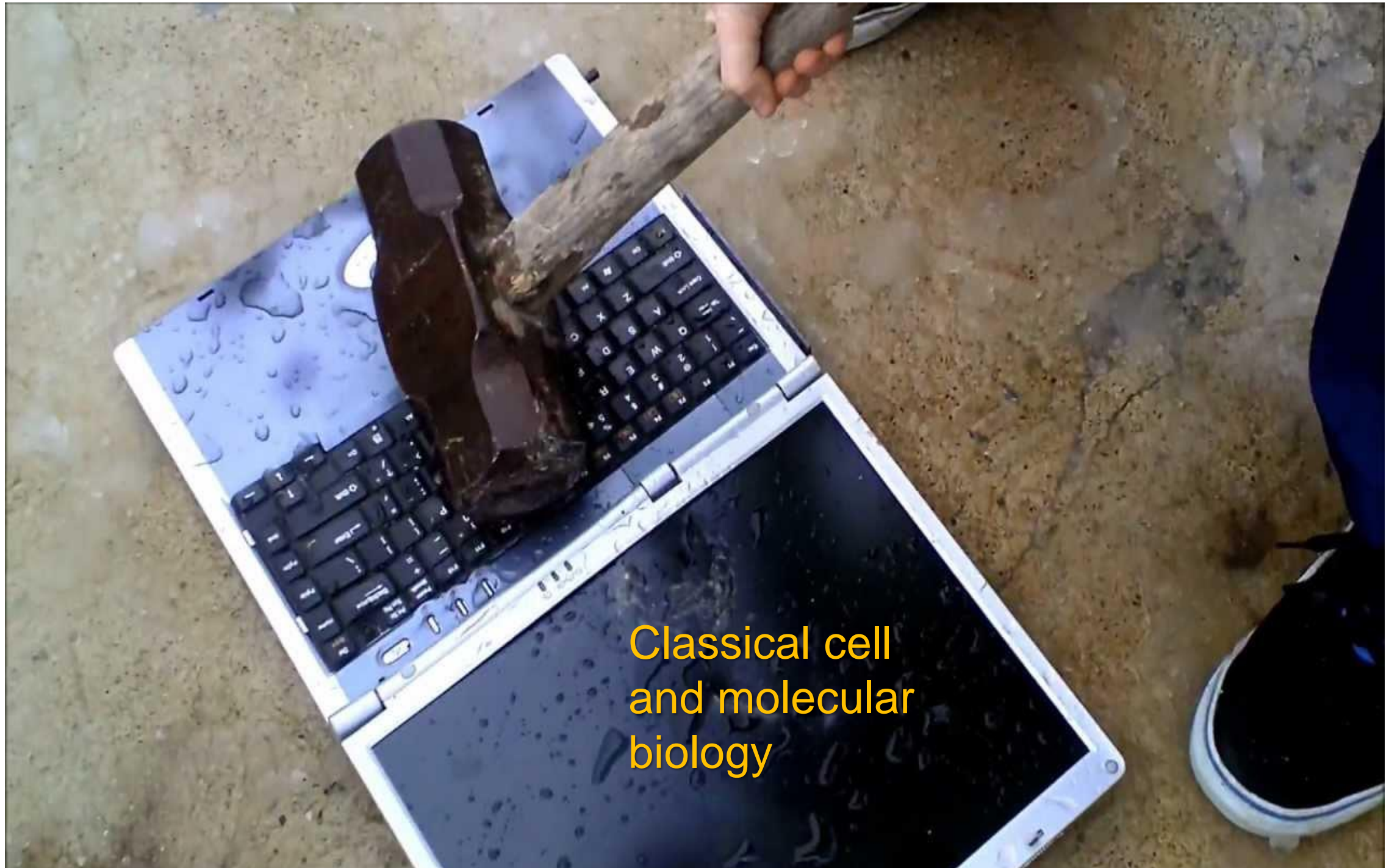


# Summary

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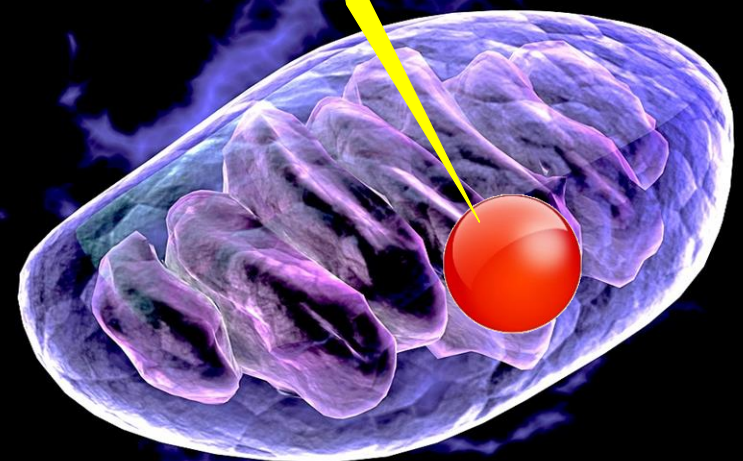
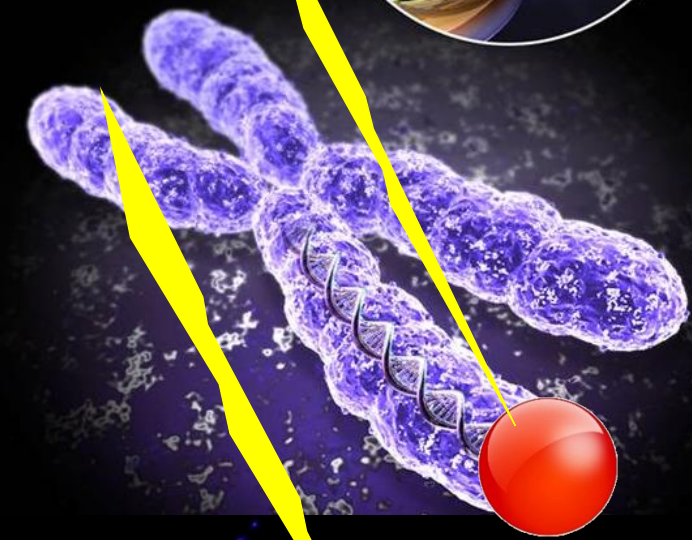
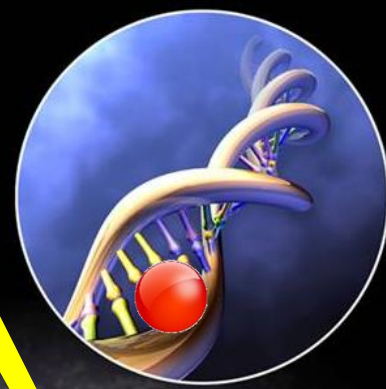
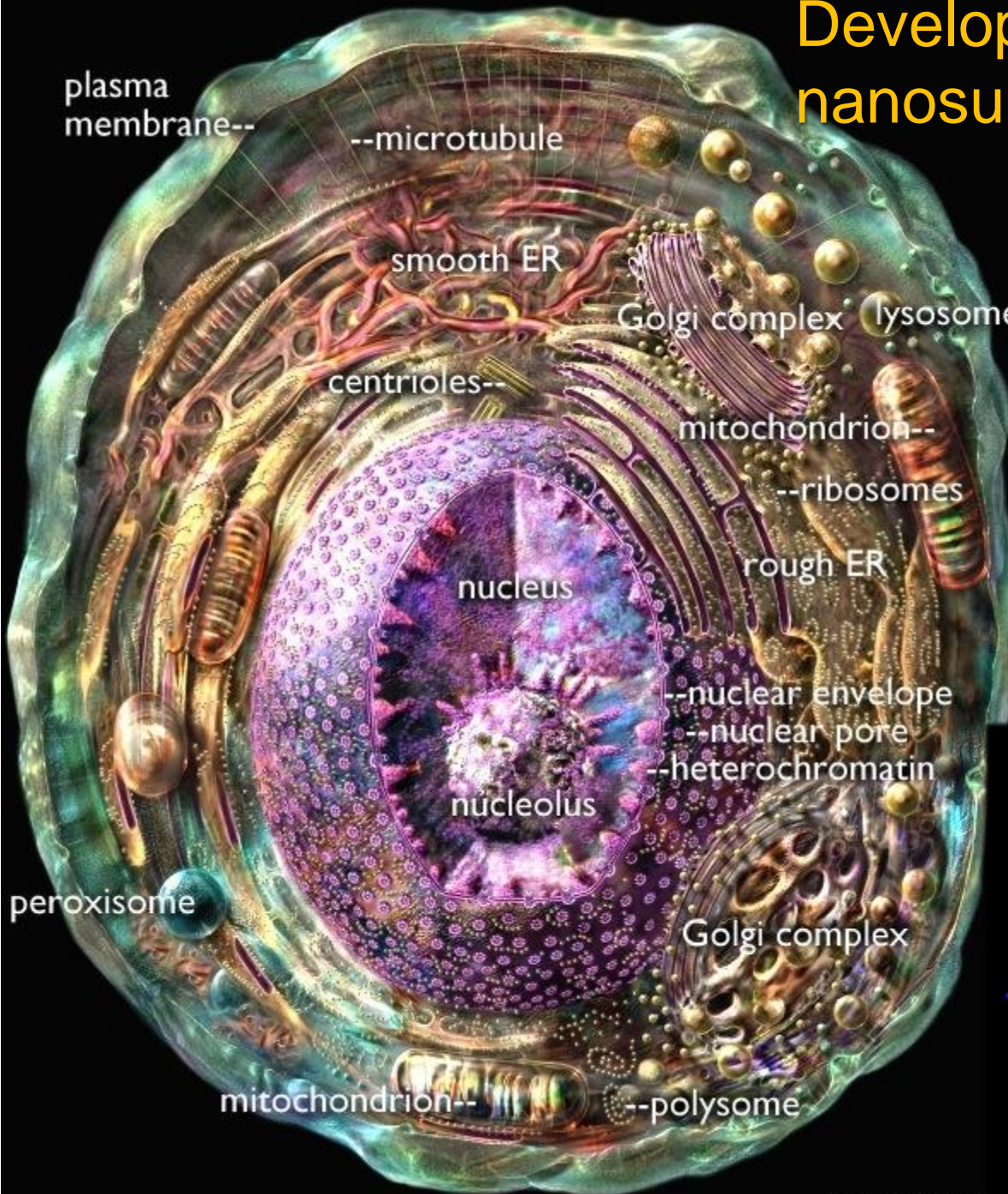
- QPCR assay could be used effectively on human samples
- Young patients with Friedreich's Ataxia displayed:
  - early heart damage
  - Increased gene expression suggesting nuclear damage
  - Increased mtDNA and nuclear damage





Classical cell  
and molecular  
biology

# Development of nanosurgery

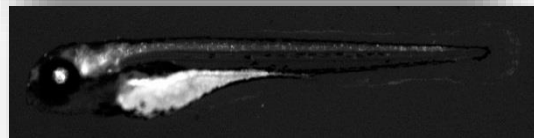


## Co-Principal Investigators

**Ben Van Houten, PhD,**  
Genome stability group  
Dept. Pharmacology &  
Chemical biology

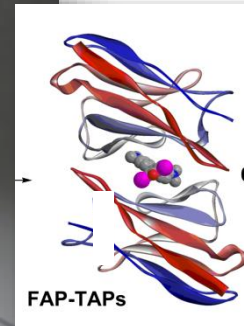


**Patty Opresko, PhD,**  
Genome stability group  
Dept. of Environmental  
& Occupational Health



**Ed Burton, MD, PhD**  
Pittsburgh Institute of  
Neurodegenerative  
Diseases

**DREAM TEAM**  
of  
**Co-investigators**

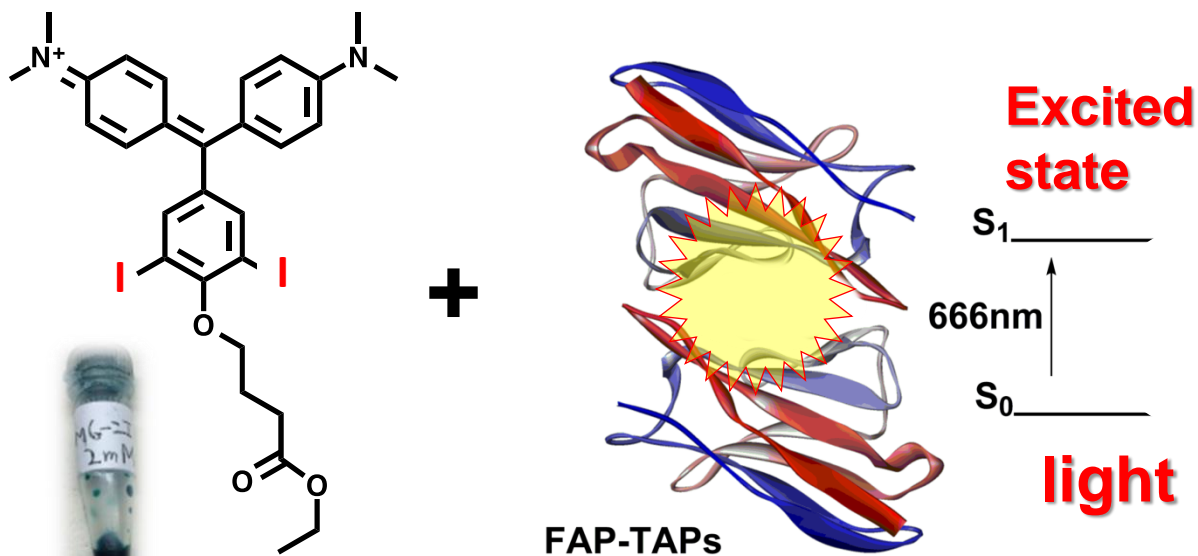


**Marcel Bruchez** , Depts. of Chemistry &  
Biology, Carnegie Mellon University



**Simon Watkins,**  
**PhD,** Center for  
Biologic Imaging,  
Univ. of Pittsburgh

# Chemoptogenetic Innovative technology: targeting singlet oxygen damage using Fluorogen Activating Peptide (FAP)

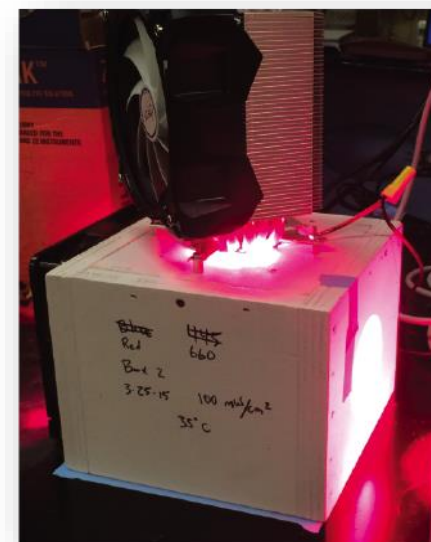


targeted and activated photosensitizer

Malachite green dye  
(inactive)

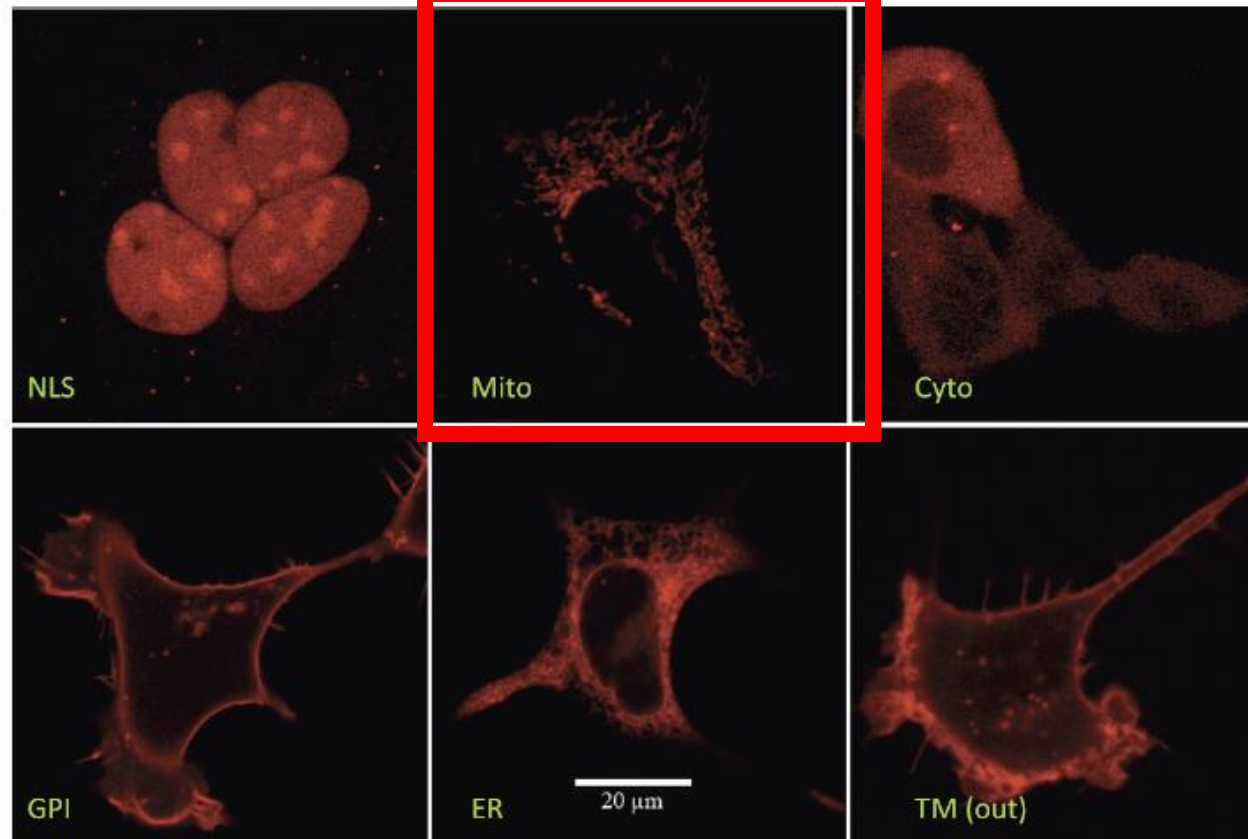
**MG21**

**Marcel Bruchez**,  
Depts. of Chemistry  
& Biology, Carnegie  
Mellon University



*Nature Methods*, Mar;13(3):263-8, 2016

# Versatility of **FAP** technology: multiple cellular targets & sensor dyes



Targeted locations

**Figure A1.2** Subcellular targeting of MG-binding FAPs. Using targeting sequences, HEK293 cells labeled with MG-lys- $(\text{SO}_3^-)_2$  or MG-Ester were imaged on a Zeiss LSM510 MetaNLO with 633 nm excitation. Scalebar is 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .



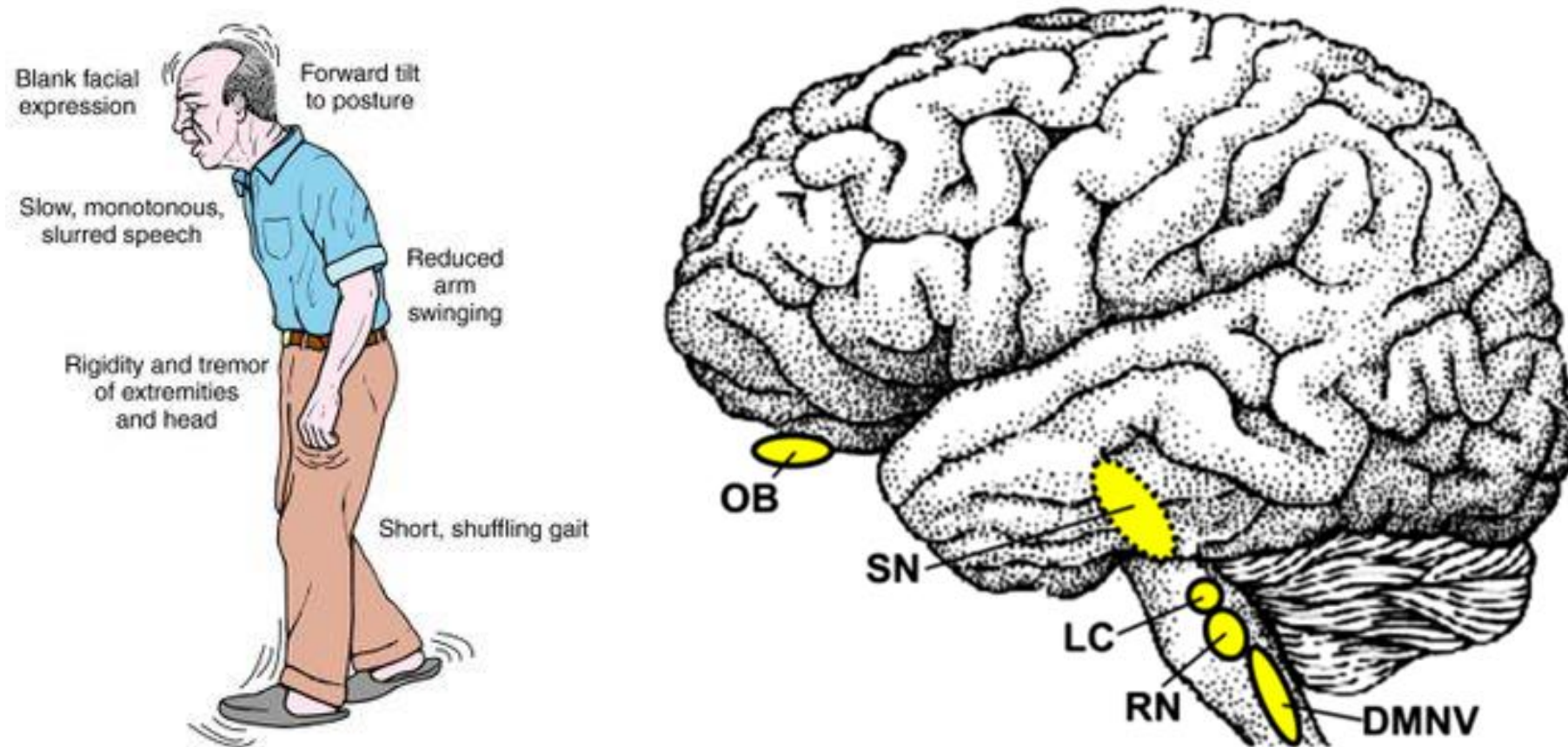


As many as one million Americans live with Parkinson's disease



Approximately 60,000 Americans are diagnosed with Parkinson's disease each year

# Regions of brain affected in Parkinson's Disease



Several lines of evidence suggest that mitochondrial dysfunction is part of the pathophysiology of PD.

PD patients show shorter telomeres in their peripheral blood.

# Bipartite gal4/UAS expression system with cell-type expression of FAPs using Gal4 driver lines.

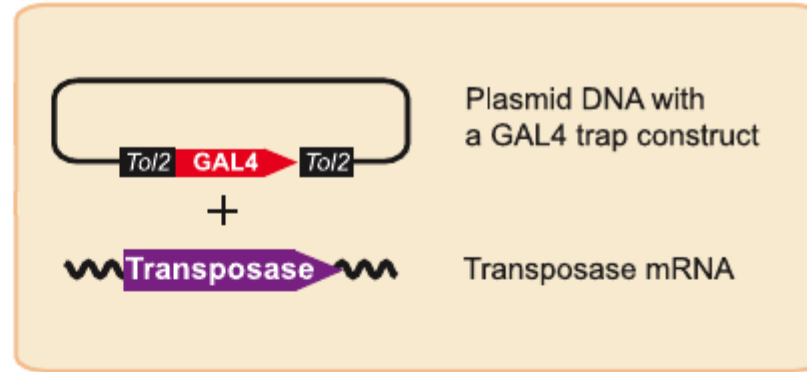
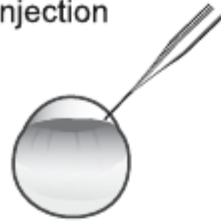


Ed Burton,  
MD, PhD



Qing Bai, PhD

Microinjection



Casper background



Driver lines

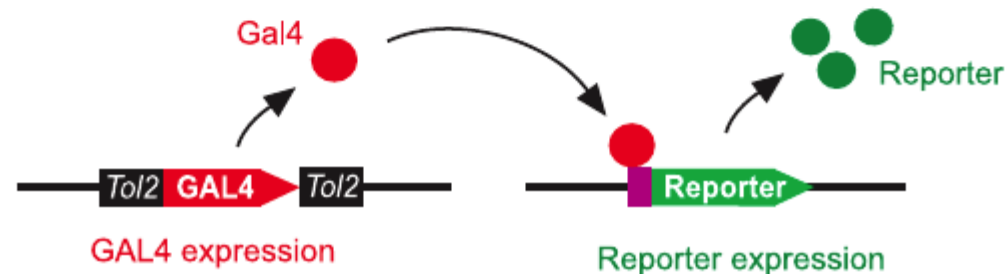
Eno2



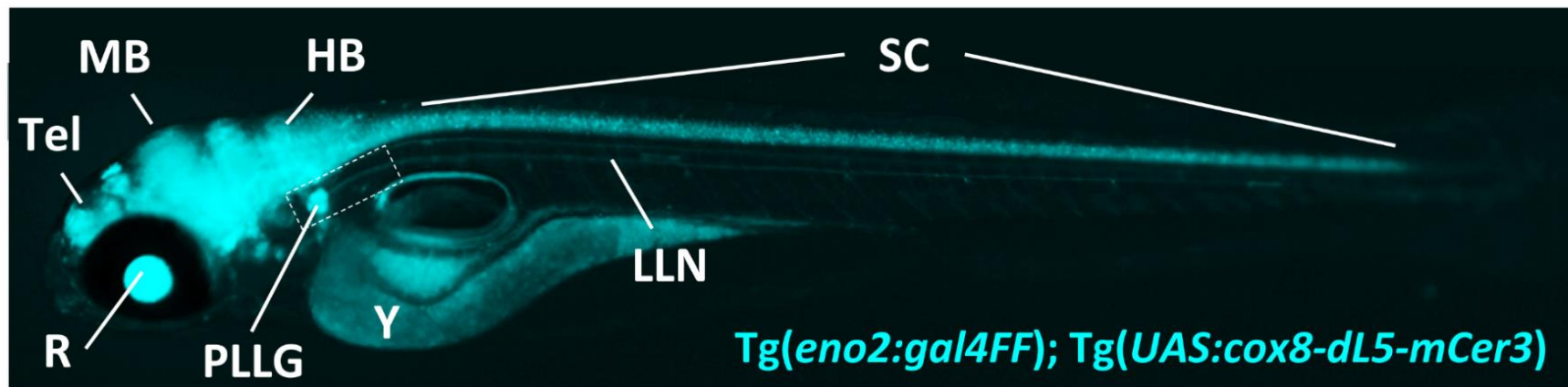
UAS:Mito-FAP

Responder line

ENO2, neuron specific promoter.



# Mito-FAP-mCer expression in CNS of zebrafish

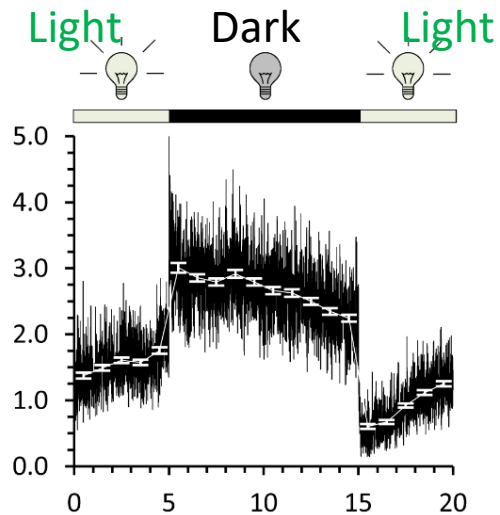


Tel: telencephalon  
MB: midbrain  
HB: hindbrain  
R: retina  
PLLG: posterior lateral line ganglion  
Y: yolk sac (autofluorescence)  
LLN: lateral line neurons  
SC: spinal cord

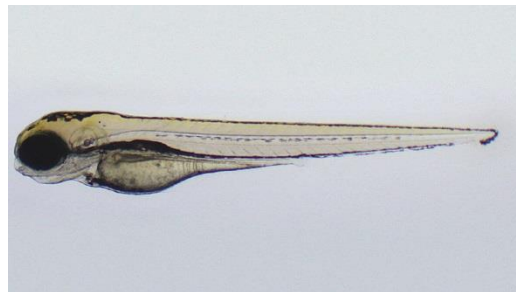
**Expression only in neurons and not other brain cells such as glial cells or astrocytes.**

Xie W, et al, Chemoptogenetic ablation of neuronal mitochondria in vivo with spatiotemporal precision and controllable severity. *Elife*. 2020 Mar 17;9:e51845.

# Light & dye causes movement deficits in the in CNS of zebrafish



Visual motor response in zebrafish embryos

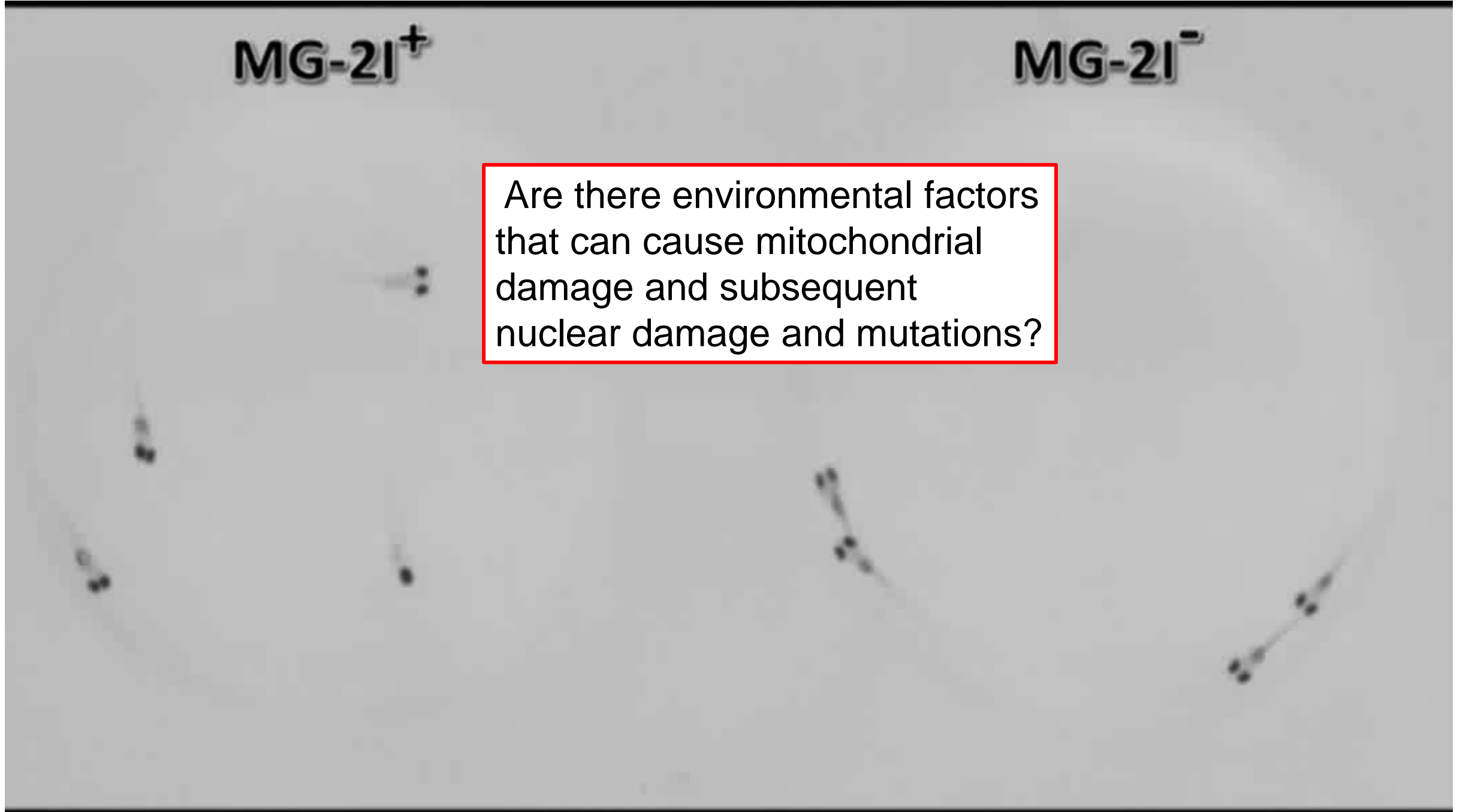


Wenting Xie  
Tsinghau Visiting Scholar

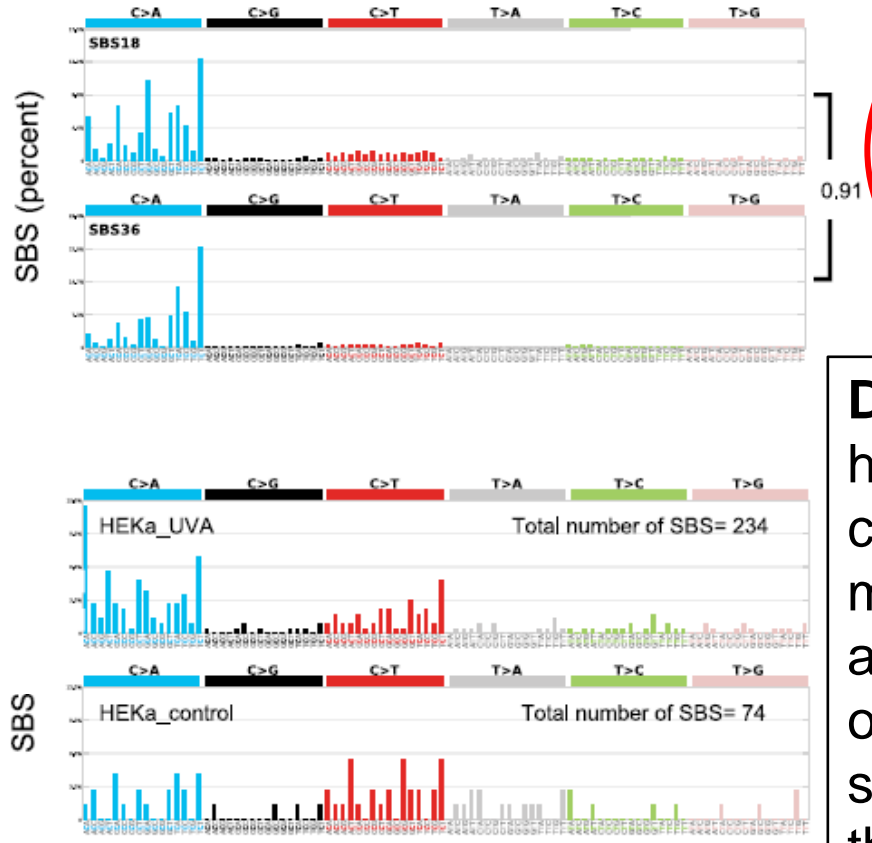
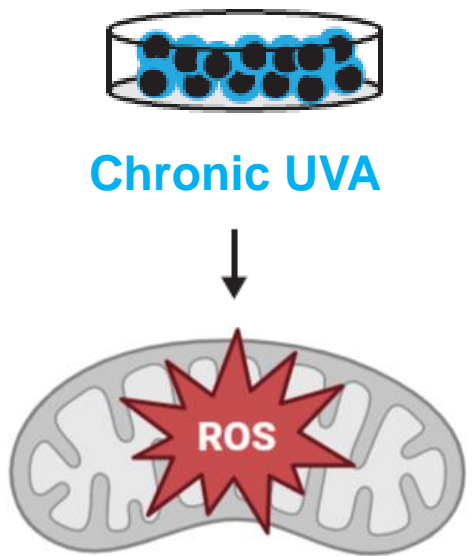
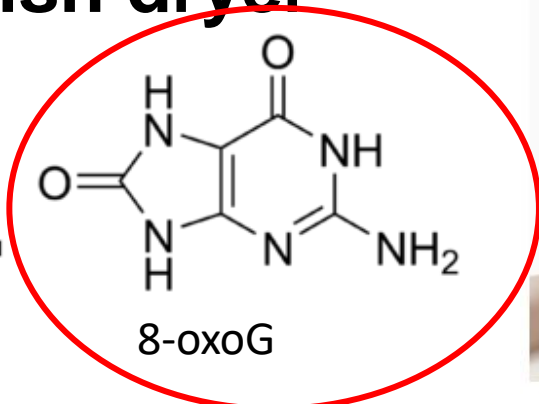
MG-2I<sup>+</sup>

MG-2I<sup>-</sup>

Are there environmental factors that can cause mitochondrial damage and subsequent nuclear damage and mutations?



# DNA damage and somatic mutations in mammalian cells after UVA irradiation with a nail polish dryer



**Discovery:** UVA-nail polish dryer causes high levels of reactive oxygen species, consistent with 8-oxoguanine damage and mitochondrial dysfunction. Somatic mutation analysis reveals a dose dependent increase of C:G>A:T substitutions in irradiated samples with mutagenic patterns similar to those attributed to reactive oxygen species.



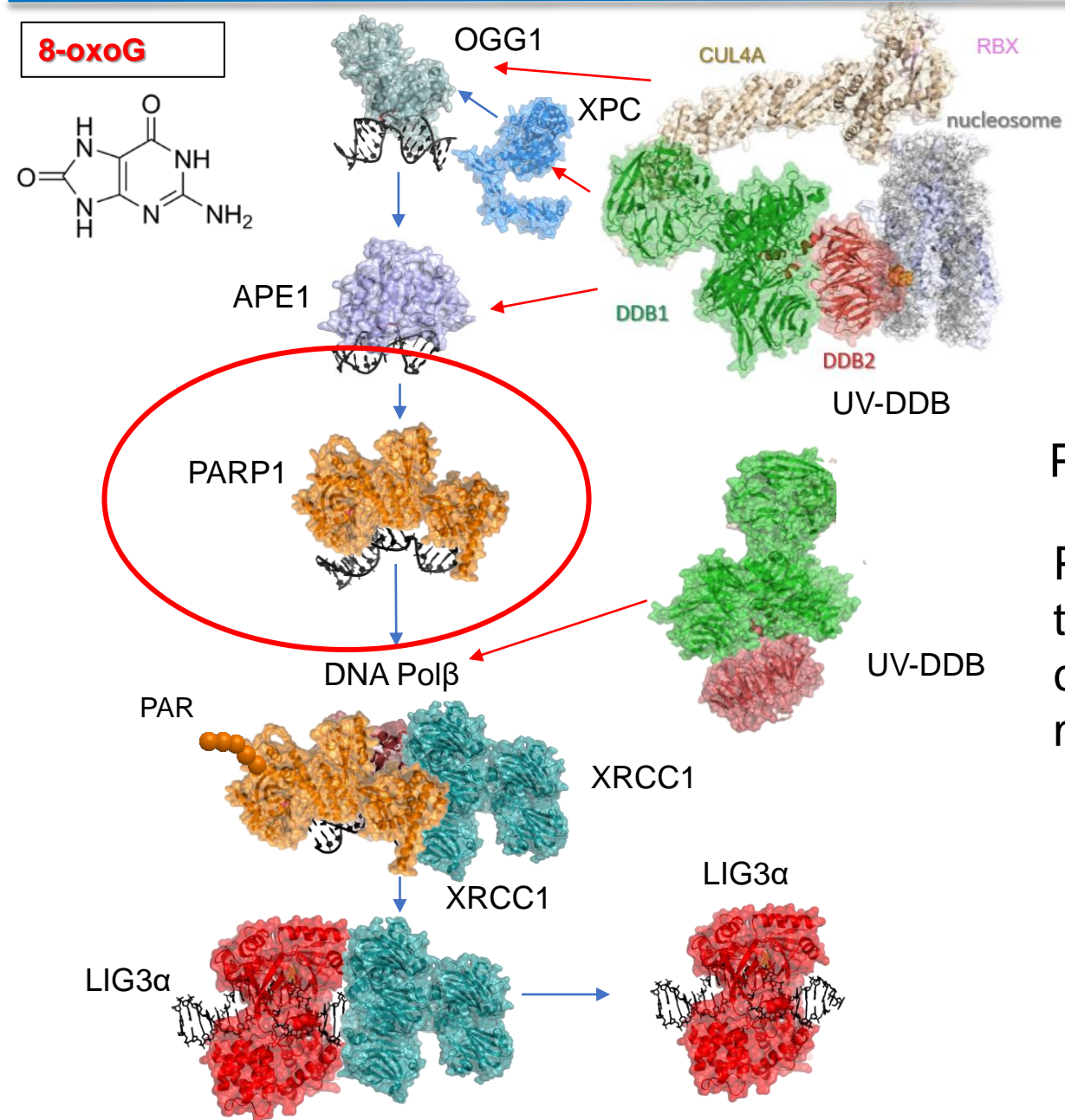
Ludmil Alexandrov

**Impact:** This study demonstrates that UVA radiation emitted by nail polish dryers can both damage DNA and permanently engrave mutations on the genomes of mammalian cells and is consistent with driver mutations in melanoma. Caution is recommended for a large population using this apparatus.

*Zhivagui et al, Nature Comm. 2023*



# Base excision repair with the help of UV-DDB and XPC



**Goal:** To observe the kinetics of all the intermediate steps in BER for these complexes in chromatin

PARP1 = poly(ADP)-ribose polymerase

PARP1 inhibitors are used widely in the treatment of breast and ovarian cancers that are BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutated

Jang *et al.*, *NSMB*, 2019, 26(8):695-703;  
Jang *et al.*, *NAR*, 2021, 49(14):8177-8188  
Jang *et al.*, *NAR*, 2022, 50(22):12856-12871.  
Jang & Raja *et al.*, *NAR*, 2023 (in press).  
Kumar *et al.*, *Nature Comm.*, 2022, 13(1):974  
Nagpal, A. *et al.*, *Biochem. Society Tran.* (2022),  
Schaich *et al.*, *NAR*, 2023.



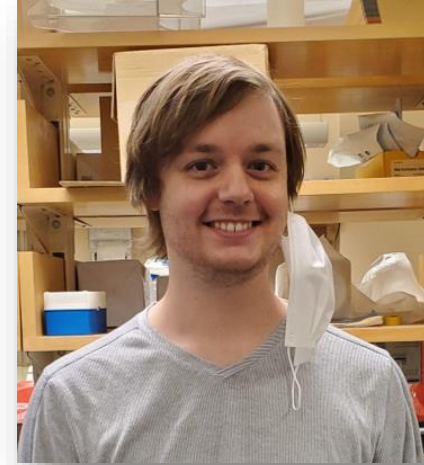
**“Progress in science depends on new techniques, new discoveries and new ideas, probably in that order”  
- Sydney Brenner**

**Sydney Brenner**

**1927 - 2019**

# SMADNE (Single Molecule Analysis of DNA binding proteins from Nuclear Extracts)

- Can follow your favorite fluorescently-tagged protein
- Protein binding kinetics to DNA targets
- Multiple colors allows assessment of order of assembly and dissociation
- Allows rapid survey of protein variants
- Can assess the affects of post-translation modifications
- Contains protein chaperones which may help improve activity



**Matt Schaich, PhD**



**Brittani Schnable**

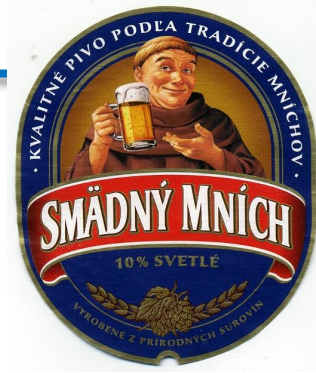


**Namrata Kumar, PhD**

# SMADNE (Single Molecule Analysis of DNA binding proteins from Nuclear Extracts): **workflow**

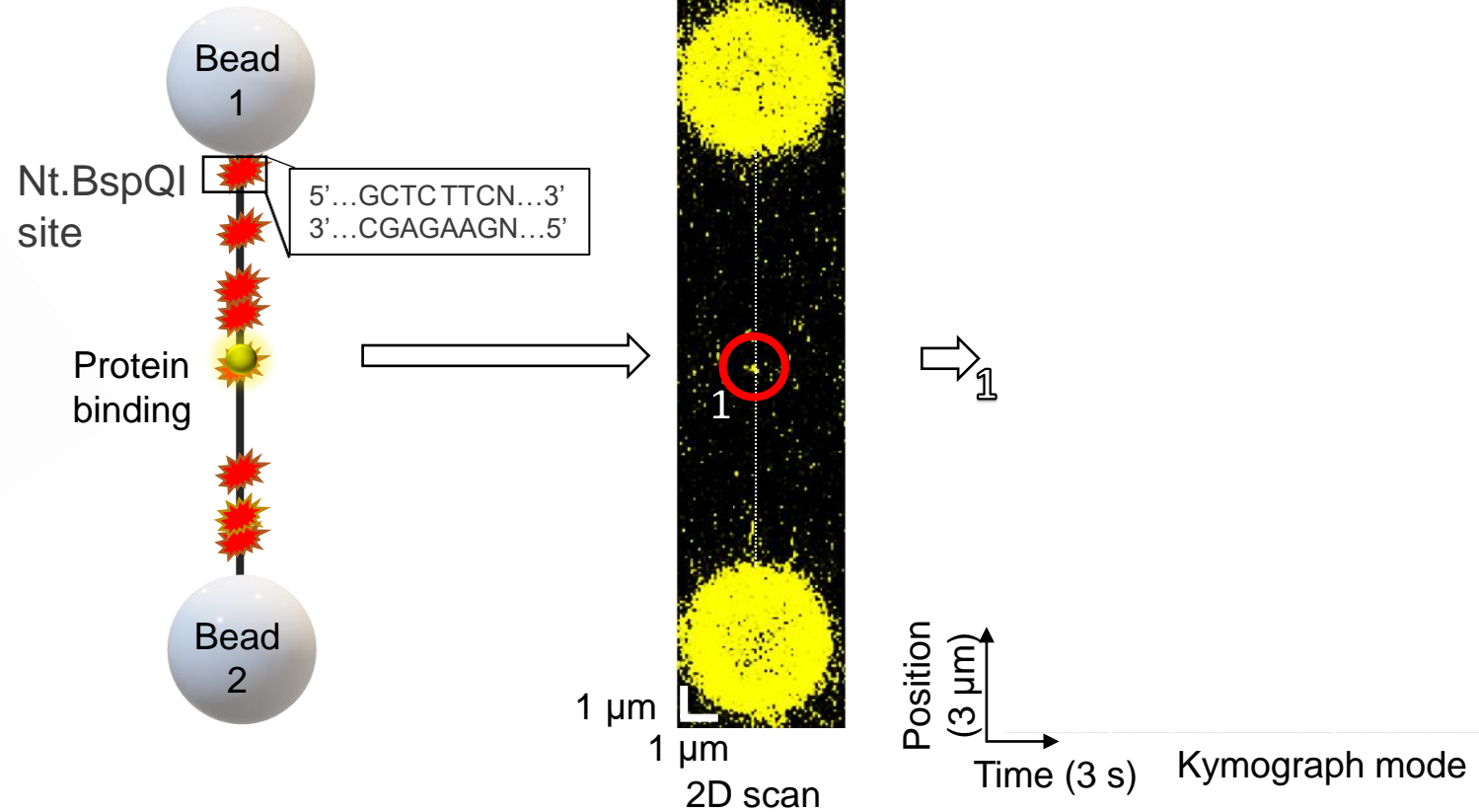
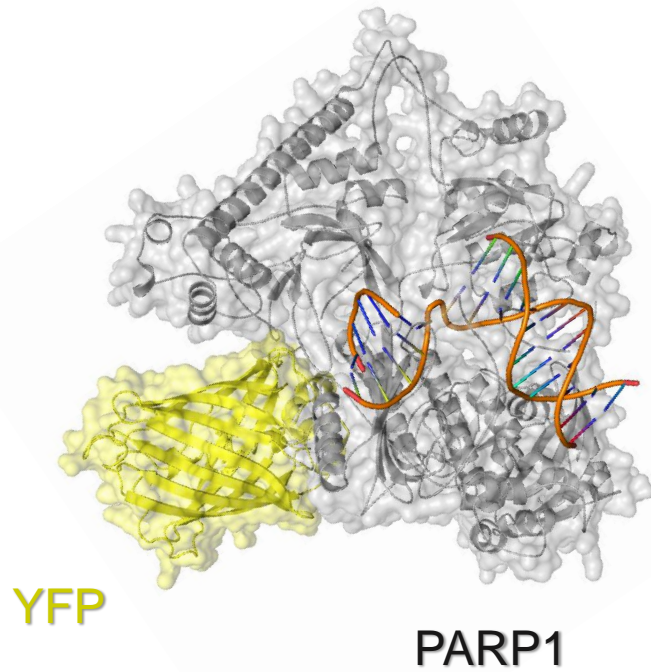
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From construct to extract to C-trap in one week!

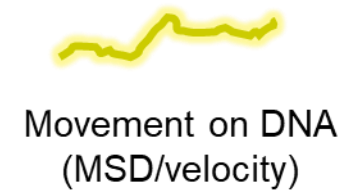
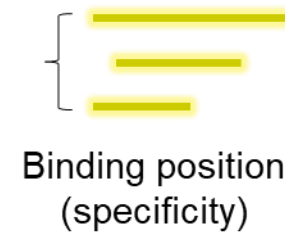
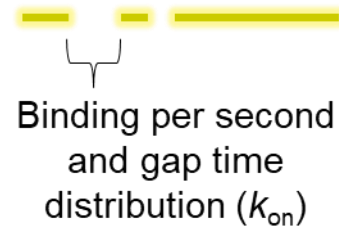


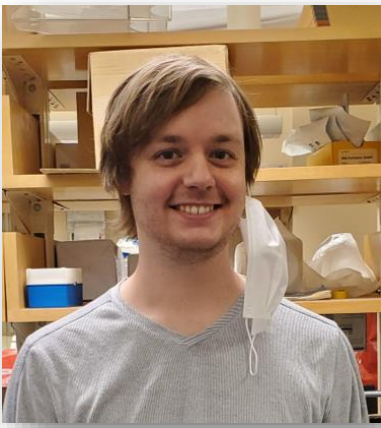


# YFP-PARP1 binds nicked DNA



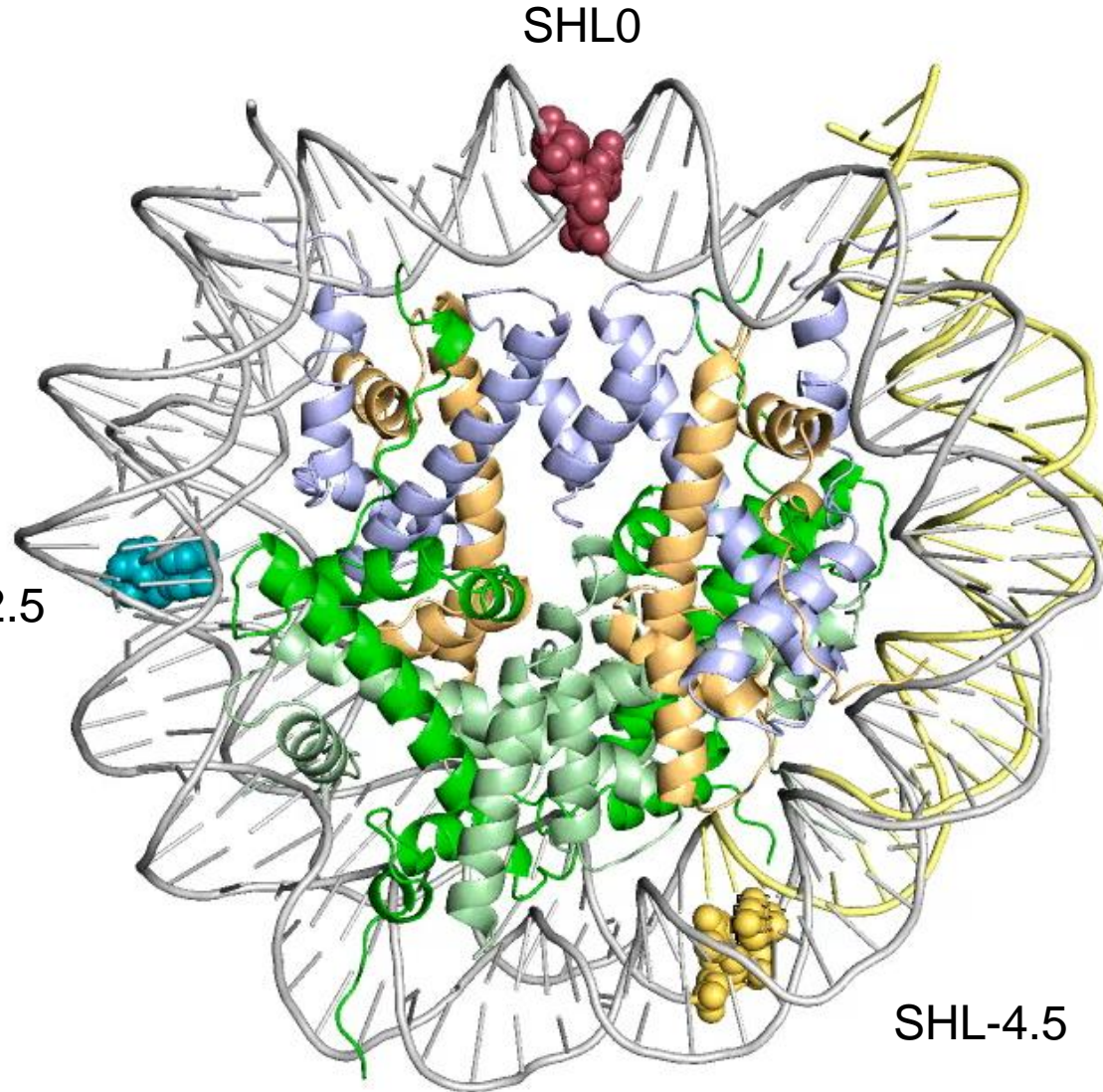
Key outcomes:



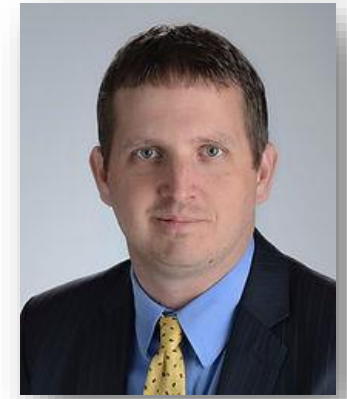


**Matt Schaich, PhD**

# Can we study repair protein interactions on a nucleosome containing a non-ligatable nick?



- H2A
- H2B
- H3
- H4



**Bret D. Freudenthal, PhD**  
UKMC

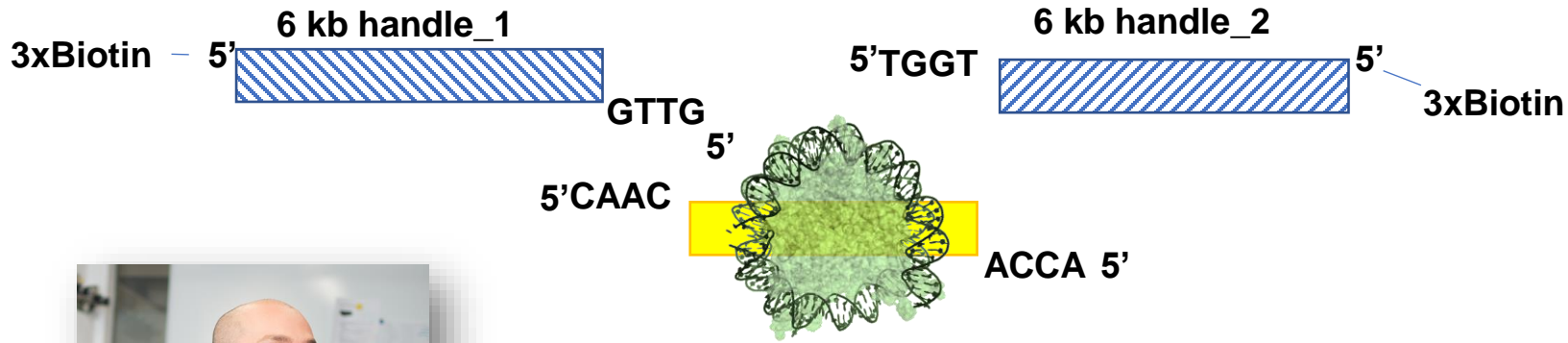


**Tyler Weaver, PhD**

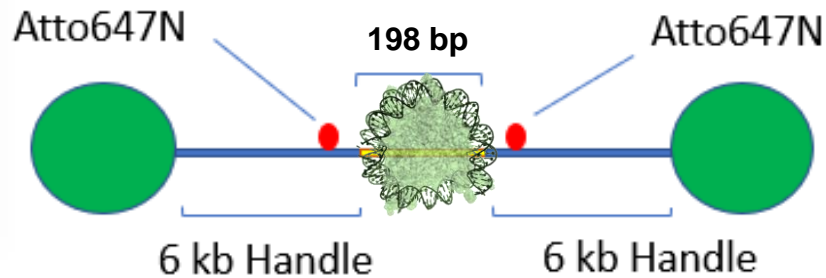
Positions of nicks on **Cy3**-labeled **H2A** nucleosomes

SHL – superhelical location  
SHL0 = dyad

# Strategy for making nucleosomes containing nicks



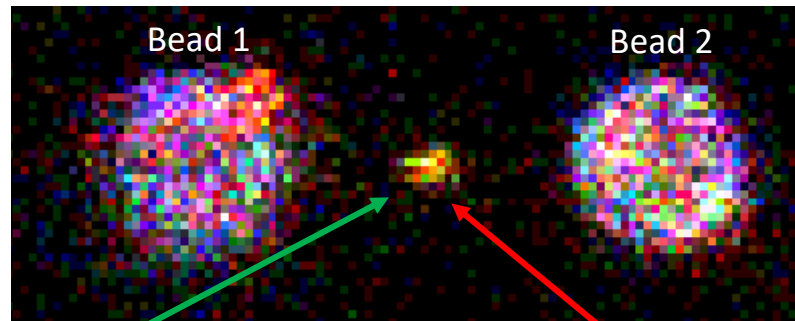
Marco Simonetta, PhD



Ligated product suspended in the C-trap



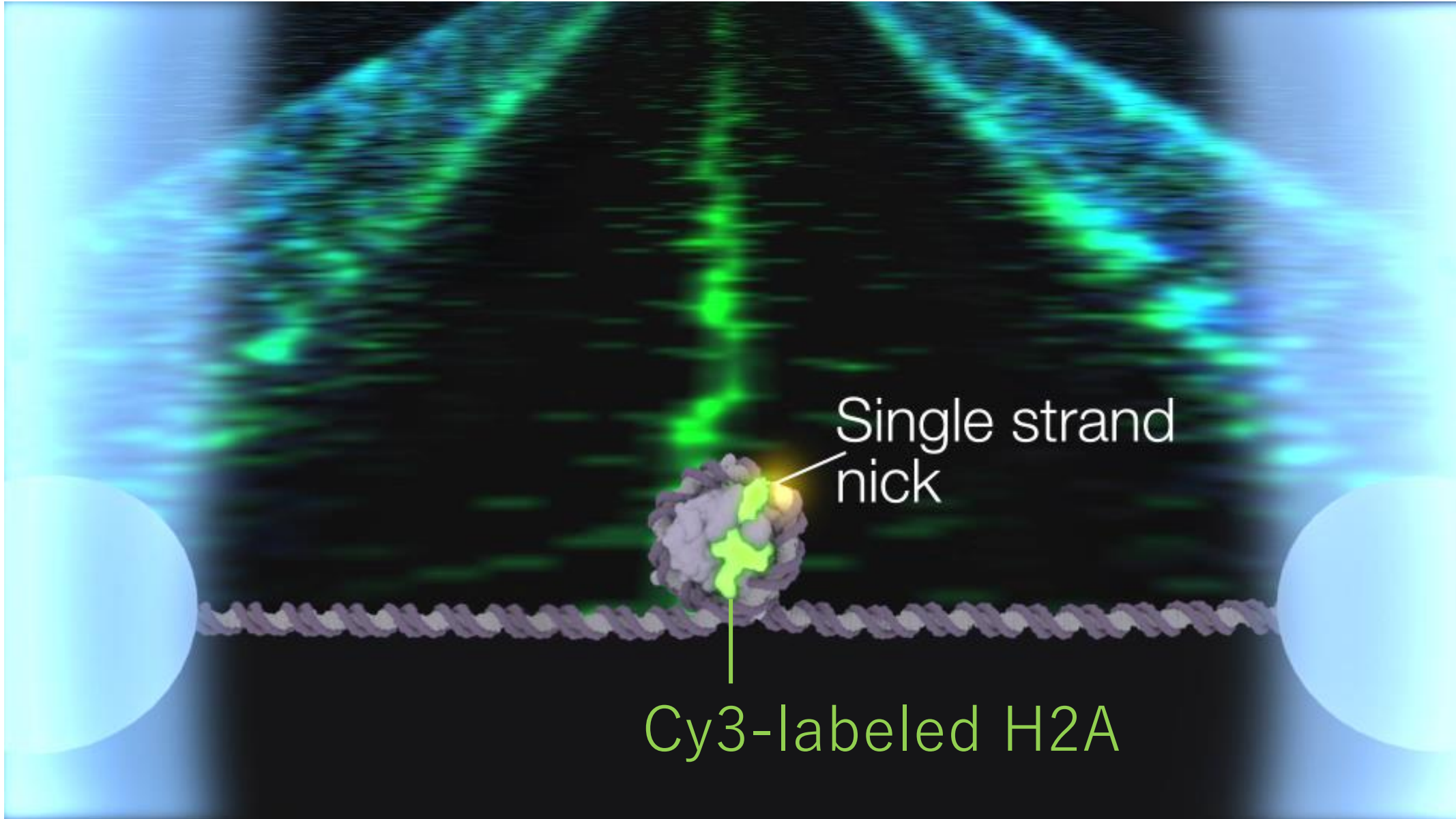
Bas Groen



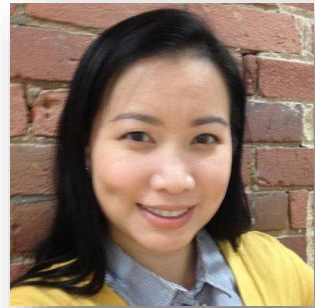
Cy3-labeled H2A nucleosome and Atto647 labeled 601 DNA attached to 6 kb handles



# Can **YFP-PARP1** interact with a nick within a nucleosome?



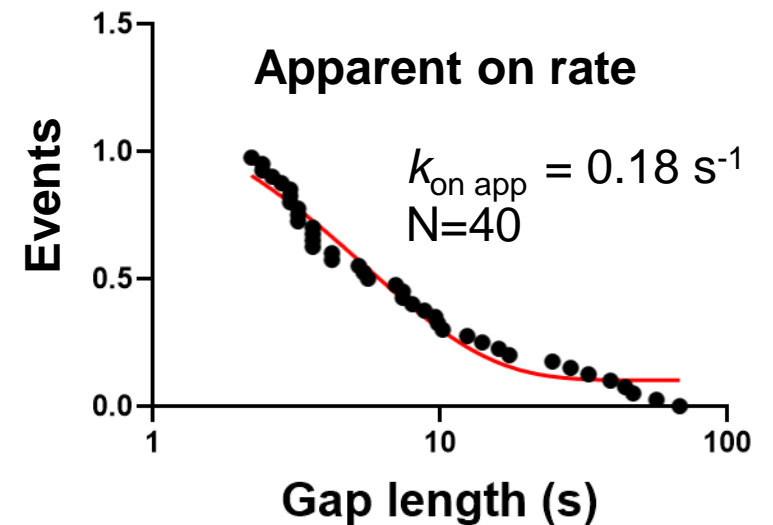
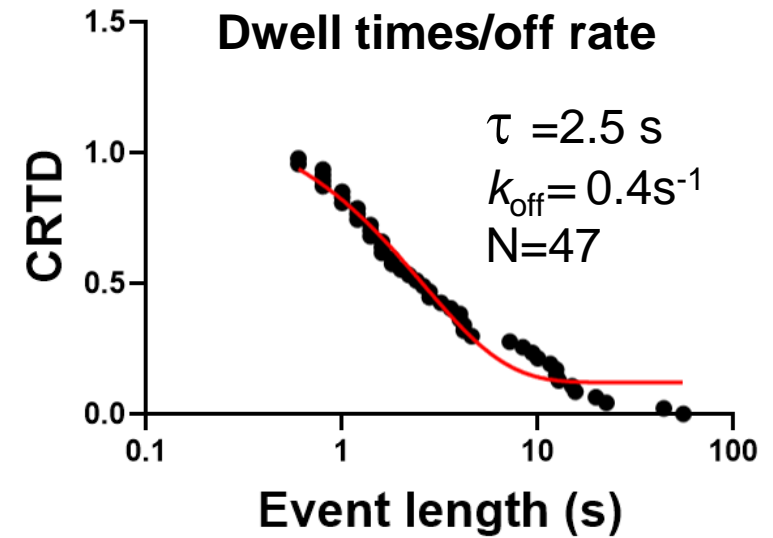
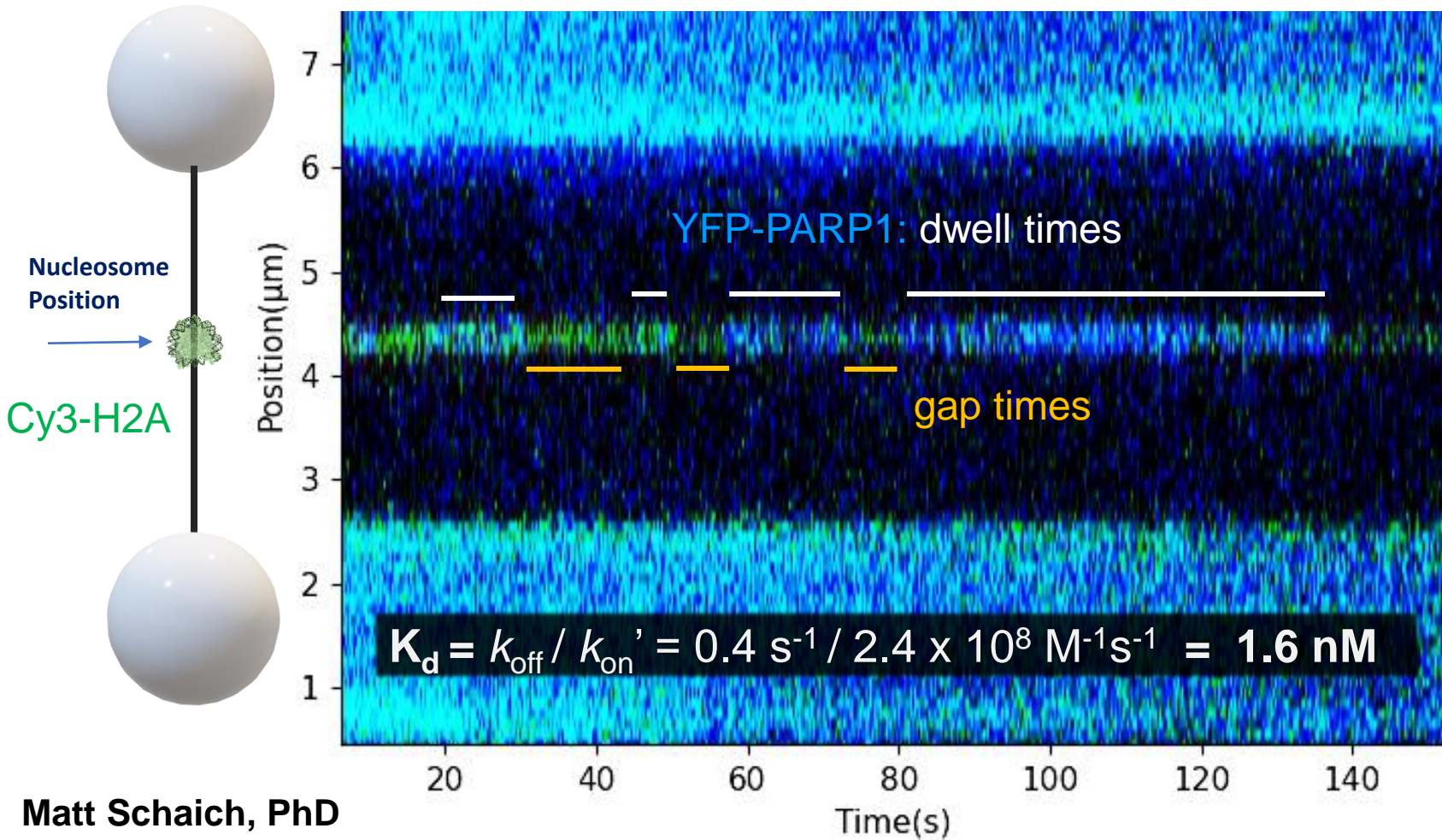
**Janet Isawa**  
PhD,  
Univ. of Utah



**Grace Hsu**

# YFP-PARP1 binding events at SHL 0 location at 4 pN

## Obtaining a $K_d$ from on and off rates

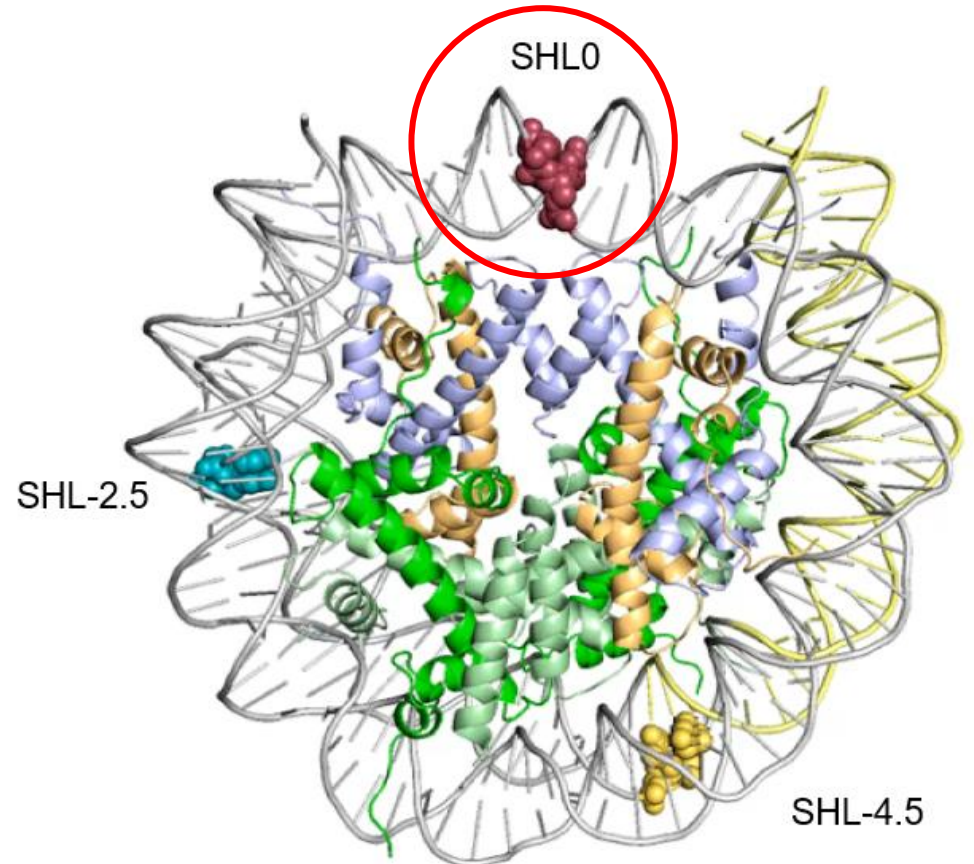
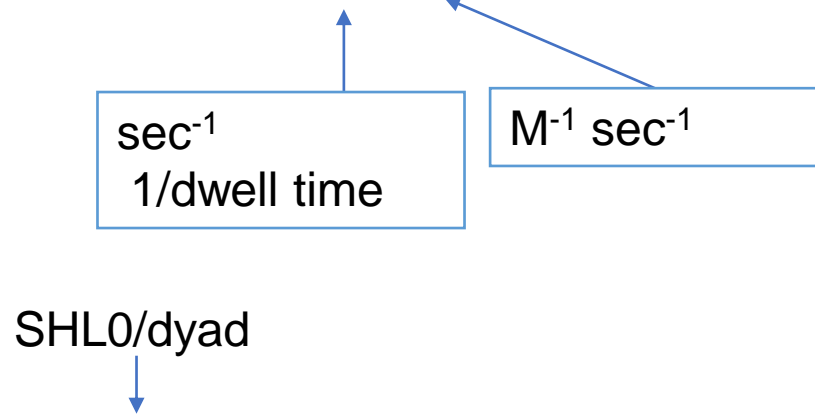


Similar to the on rate for DSB by Rudolph J, *et al* Luger K. *Elife*. 2018

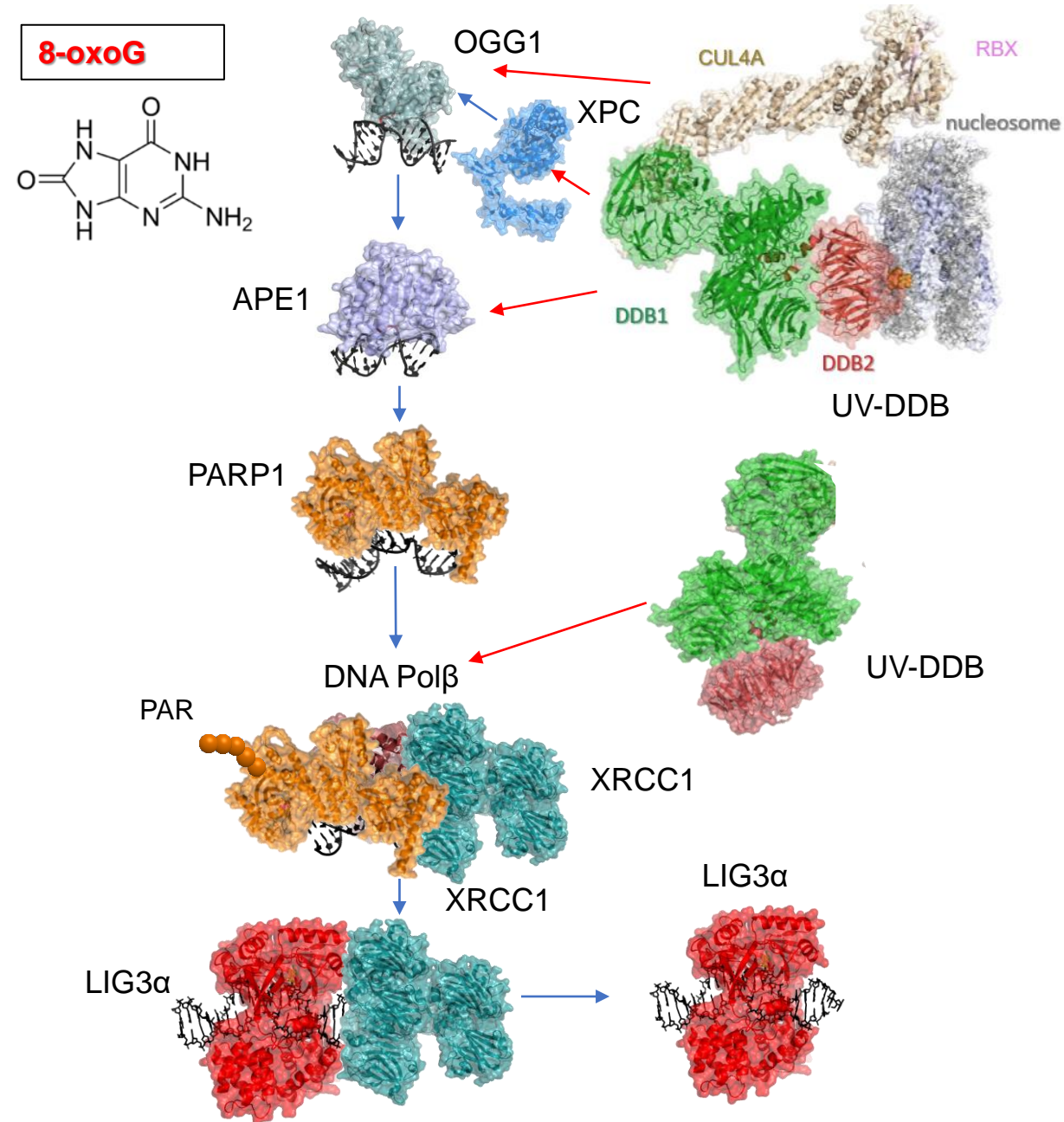
YFP-PARP1 = 0.7 nM  
 $k_{\text{on}}' = 2.4 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$

- Binding to undamaged nucleosome increases ~ 4-fold from 12.8 to 3.0 nM, at 4 pN and 10 pN respectively.
- Binding to naked nicked DNA has the highest affinity (0.9 nM).
- Binding to nicked nucleosomes (SHL0) at the dyad at 4 pN (1.6 nM) is 8-fold tighter than the undamaged nucleosome.

$$K_D \text{ (nM)} = k_{\text{off}}/k_{\text{on}}$$



# Base excision repair with the help of UV-DDB and XPC

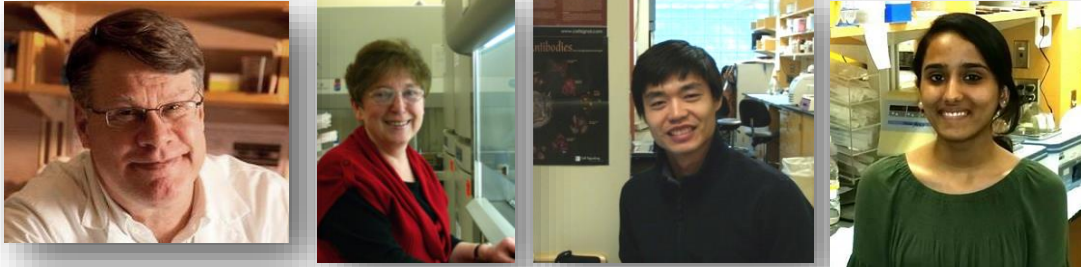


Protein	Function	fluorescent tag N- or C-	Substrate	weighted corrected lifetime (S)
AAG	glycosylase BER	C-GFP	Hx	2.8
APE1	nicking BER	N-GFP	DNA nicks	0.3
APOBEC3A	deamination	N-GFP	ssDNA	6.0
DDB1	recog. NER	N-eGFP	UV	43.7
DDB2	recog. NER	N-Halo	JV	39.0
K249E		C-Halo	UV	27.2 (motile)
HPF1	modifying PARP activity	C-GFP	Nicked nucleosome + PARP1	27.5
LIG3	nick sealing BER	S-Halo	DNA nicks	5.4
ATP + Mg		N-Halo	DNA nicks	1.7
K421A		N-Halo	DNA nicks	1.7
ZNF1-BRCT		N-Halo	DNA nicks	11
ΔZNF1		N-Halo	DNA nicks	11.5
OGG1	glycosylase BER	C-GFP	8-oxoG	2.0
K249Q		C-GFP	8-oxoG	47.2
SPRTN-E112A	DPC removal	N-Halo	DPC	184.5
PARP1	nick recog. BER	N-Halo	DNA nicks	4.3
F44A		N-Halo	DNA nicks	8.3
ZNF1&2		N-Halo	DNA nicks	2.3
H862A/Y896A/E988A		N-Halo	DNA nicks	97.4
PARP2	BER	N-YFP	DNA nicks	11.7
Pol-β	gap filling BER	N-GFP	DNA nicks	2.0
TDG		C-Halo	nondamaged DNA	7.5 (motile)
WT		C-Halo	formyl-C	72.1
N140A		C-Halo	formyl-C	1.9
R275A		C-Halo	nondamaged DNA	2.8
R275L		C-Halo	nondamaged DNA	1.8
XPC	recog. NER	N-eGFP	UV	75.5 (motile)
ATP + Mg		N-Halo	DNA nicks	6.9
XRCC1	nick sealing BER	C-YFP	DNA nicks	6.9

**Goal: To observe the kinetics of all the intermediate steps in BER for these complexes**

# Acknowledgements (1-4)

**Ben Van Houten**  
**Vera Roginskaya**  
**Wei Qian**  
**Namrata Kumar**



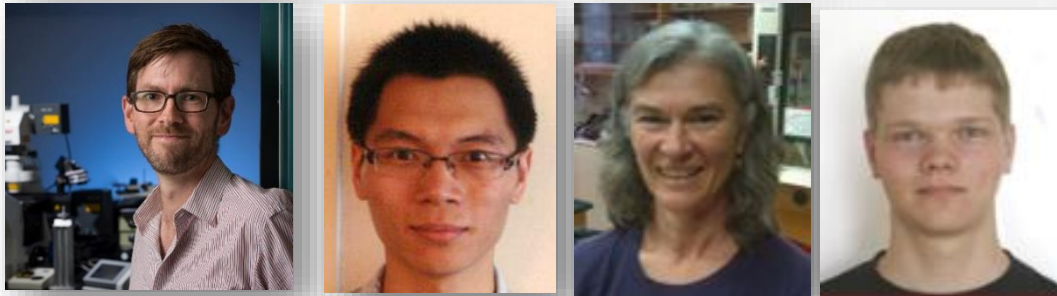
**Patty Opresko**  
**Elise Fouquerel**  
**Ryan Barnes**



**Ed Burton**  
**Qing Bai**  
**Wenting Xie**  
**Vlad Llin**



**Marcel Bruchez**  
**Jianjun He**  
**Cheryl Telmer**  
**Dmytro Kolodieznyi**



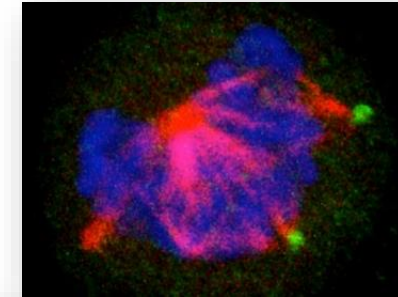
**Sruti Shiva**



**Simon Watkins**



**Claudette St Croix**



**City of bridges**

Funding: Aging Institute, Hillman Cancer Center, NIH  
R33ES025606

# Acknowledgements (5)

Yasmin Ali  
Ashna Gupta  
Rachel Jakielski  
Sunbok Jang  
Namrata Kumar  
Liam Leary  
Awishi Mondal  
Wei Qian  
Priya Raja  
Vera Roginskaya  
Amir Salem  
Matt Schaich  
Brittani Schnable  
Sophia Staggers  
Suo Tan  
Zhou Zhong

## Genome Stability Program - DNA Pitt Crew -

Marcel Bruchez (CMU)  
Elise Fouquerel  
Sarah O'Melia  
Patty Opresko/ Ryan Barnes  
Vesna Ropic-Otrin



Positions available !



R01ES019566, R35ES031638,  
T32GM088119

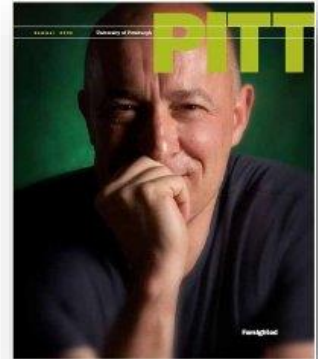
Sheila David  
Sarah Delaney  
Alex Drohat  
Bret Freudenthal /Tyler Weaver  
Janet Iwasa/Grace Hu  
Neil Kad  
Barbara Van Loon  
Wim Vermeulen/ Arjan Theil/ Alex Pines/  
Hannes Lans  
Sam Wilson/ Rajen Prasad

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Evan Gates  
Bas Groen  
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Marco Simonetta  
Afke van de Berg

Center for  
Biologic Imaging  
Simon Watkins





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Co-leader of the Genome Stability**