

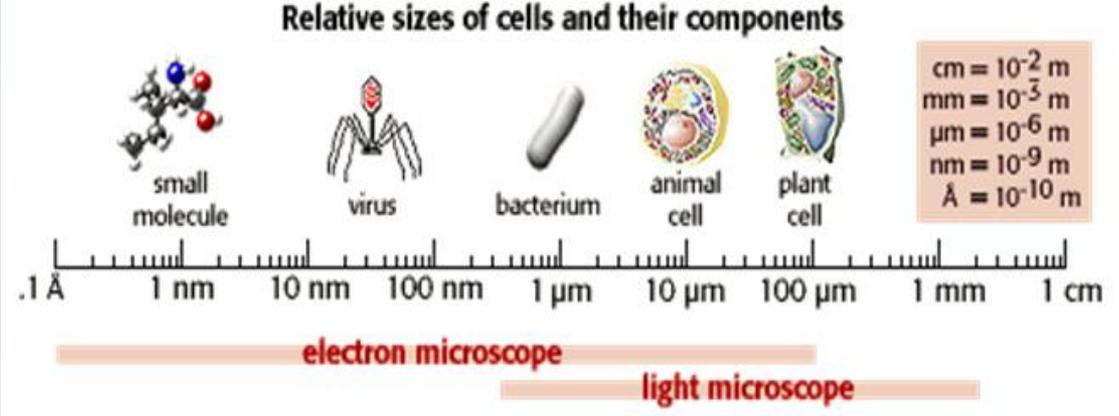


# The cell II.

Renáta Schipp

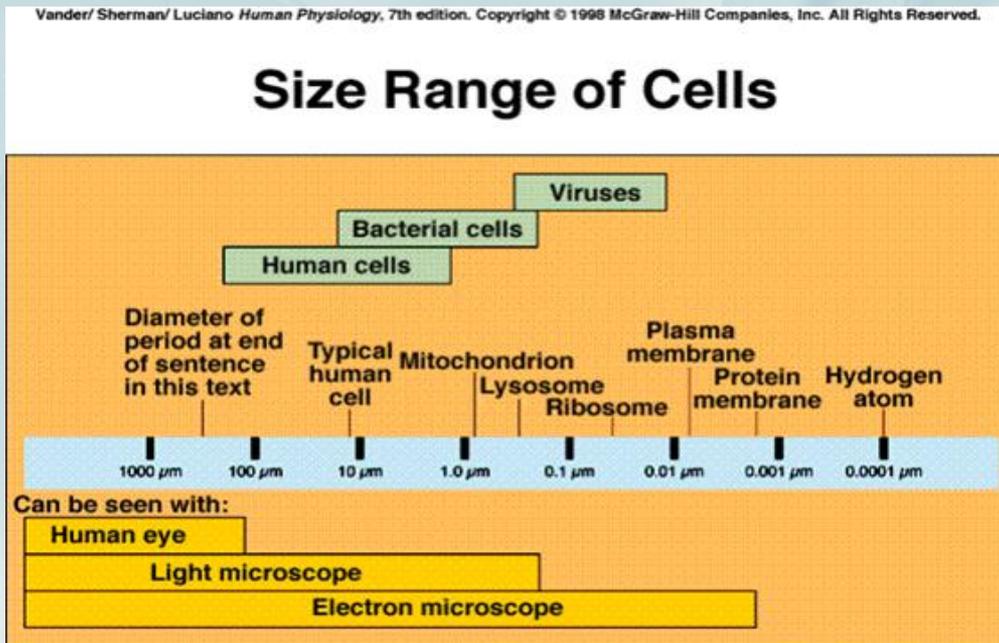
Gergely Berta

Department of Medical Biology



## Size and Biology

- Biology is a visually rich subject
- many of the biological events and structures are smaller than the unaided human eye can see
- resolution of the human eye is about 100  $\mu$ m



# History of studying cells

- 1632 – 1723: Antonie van Leeuwenhoek builds a microscope and draws protozoa, from rain water, and bacteria from his own mouth.
- 1665: Robert Hooke discovers cells in cork
- 1839: Matthias Jakob Schleiden and Theodor Schwann described the cell theory.
- 1855: Rudolph Virchow states that cells always emerge from cell divisions
- 1898: Camillo Golgi discovered the Golgi apparatus
- 1931: Ernst Ruska builds first transmission electron microscope
- 1953: Watson and Crick made their first announcement on the double-helix structure for DNA.
- 1981: Lynn Margulis published the endosymbiotic theory

# History of studying cells

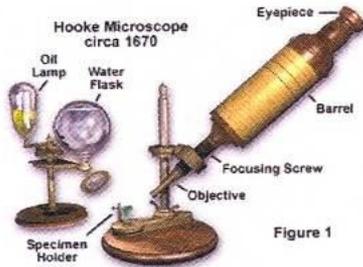


Figure 1



Robert Hooke observes cells of a cork tree through a primitive microscope

1655 | 1683  
 Leewenhoek discovers bacteria  
 1674  
 Leewenhoek discovers protozoa

## Major events in cell biology & imaging

1857 | 1882 | 1898 | 1931 | 1965 | 1997  
 Kelliker describes mitochondria in muscle  
 Koch uses aniline dyes to identify bacteria causing TB and cholera  
 Raska builds the first transmission electron microscope  
 Schleiden & Schwann propose the Cell Theory  
 Golgi stains cells with silver nitrate, discovering the Golgi apparatus  
 1st commercial scanning electron microscope  
 Sheep "cloned"

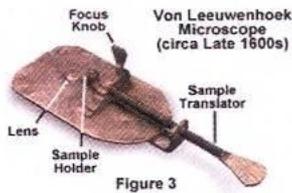


Figure 3



# The cell Theory

## *Classical interpretation*

- All organisms are made of one or more cells.
- Cells are the fundamental functional and structural unit of life.
- All cells come from pre-existing cells.
- The cell is the unit of the structure, physiology, and organization in living things

## *Modern interpretation*

- Energy flow (metabolism and biochemistry) occurs within cells.
- Cells contain hereditary information (DNA) which is passed from cell to cell during cell division
- All cells basically have the same in chemical composition.
- Some organisms are unicellular, i.e., made up of only one cell.
- Others are multicellular, composed of a number of cells( humans have an estimated 100 trillion cells).

# Definition of cell

**The cell is the smallest structural and functional unit of all known living organisms**

(The word cell comes from the Latin cellula, meaning a small room (was chosen by R. Hooke)

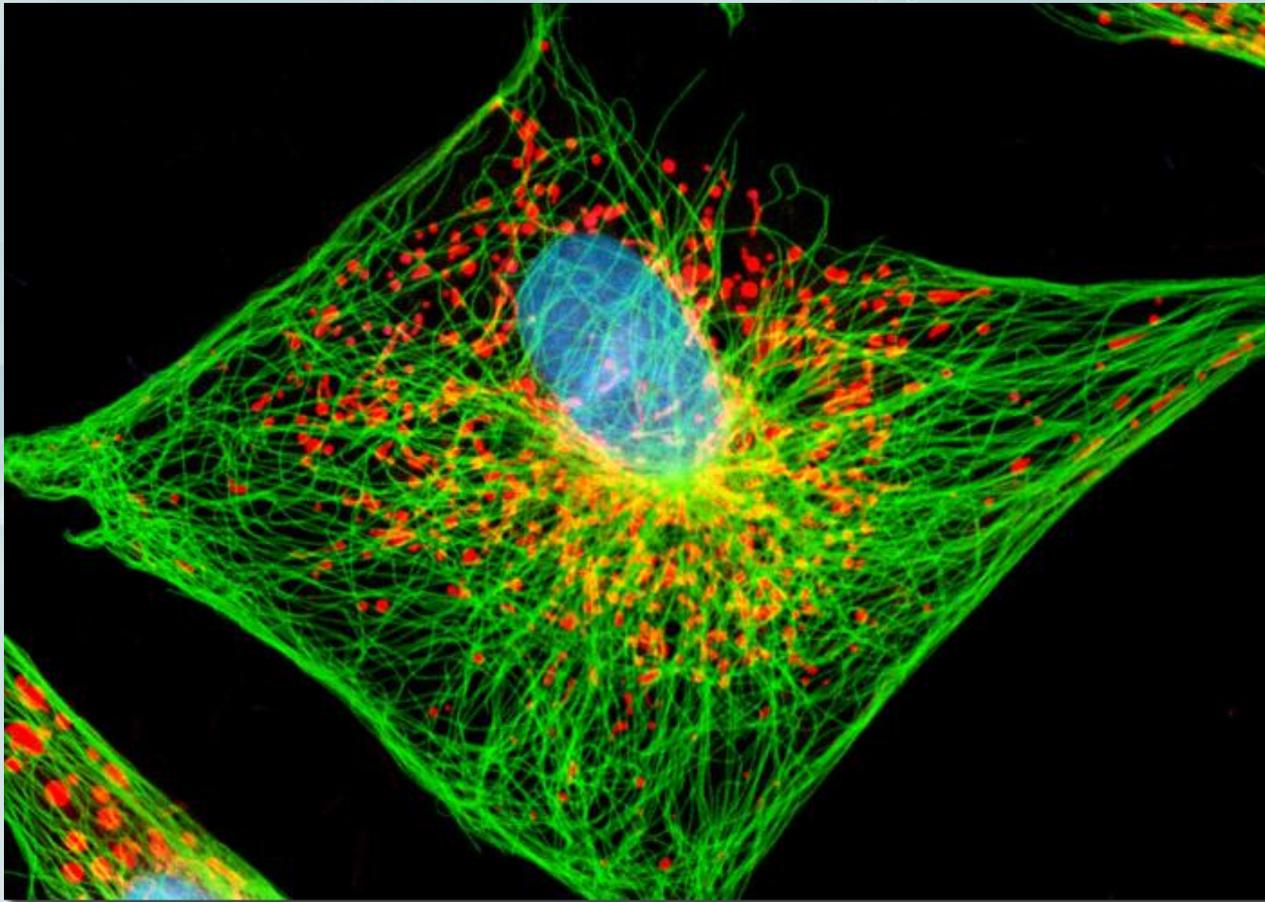
## *General principles*

Each cell is at least somewhat self-contained and self-maintaining

- Reproduction by cell division
- Use of proteins coded by DNA genes and made via mRNA and ribosomes
- Metabolism: taking in nutrients, converting these into energy and molecules, building cell components
- Response to external and internal stimuli, such as changes in temperature, pH
- Transport processes

# The structure of cells:

## The cytoplasm and the cytoskeleton



# Cytoplasm

- The cytoplasm is the part of a cell that is enclosed within the plasma membrane (between the cell membrane and the nuclear membrane).
- This three-dimensional, jelly-like material
- In eukaryotic cells the cytoplasm contains organelles
- The cytoplasm is the site where most cellular activities occur eg. metabolic reactions
- Contains mostly water 80 to 97% in different cells
- The dry component contains macromolecules: proteins, carbohydrates, nucleic acids, and lipids

## **Components**

- The cytoplasm has four major elements: the cytosol, the cytoskeleton organelles and inclusions

# Cytoplasm

## **Cytosol**

- Is a fluid in which the other cytoplasmic elements are suspended.
- Makes up about 70 % of the cell volume and is composed of water, salts and organic molecules/ potassium, sodium, magnesium, calcium, iron/

## **Organelles**

- Organelles are membrane-bound compartments within the cell that have specific functions.

## **Cytoplasmic inclusions**

- The inclusions are small particles of insoluble substances suspended in the cytosol
- calcium oxalate or silicon dioxide in plants
- granules of energy-storage materials such as starches, glycogen in animal cells
- lipid droplets

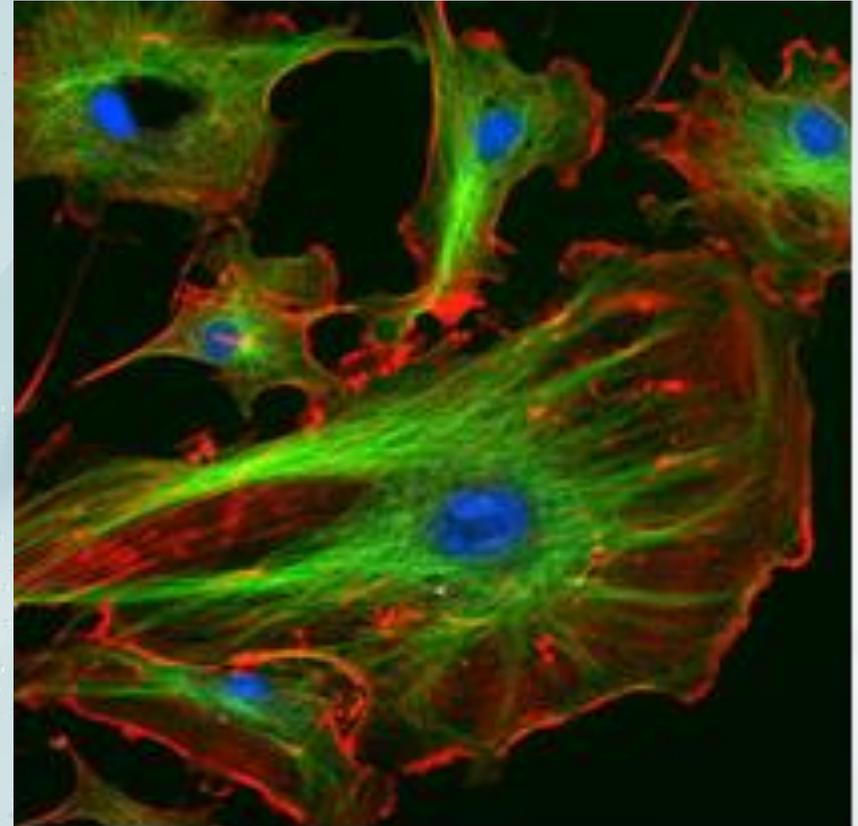
# Cytoskeleton

## Structure

- The cytoskeleton is present in all eukaryotic cells
- Eukaryotic cells contain three main kinds of cytoskeletal filaments: **microfilaments**, **intermediate filaments**, and **microtubules**.

## Functions

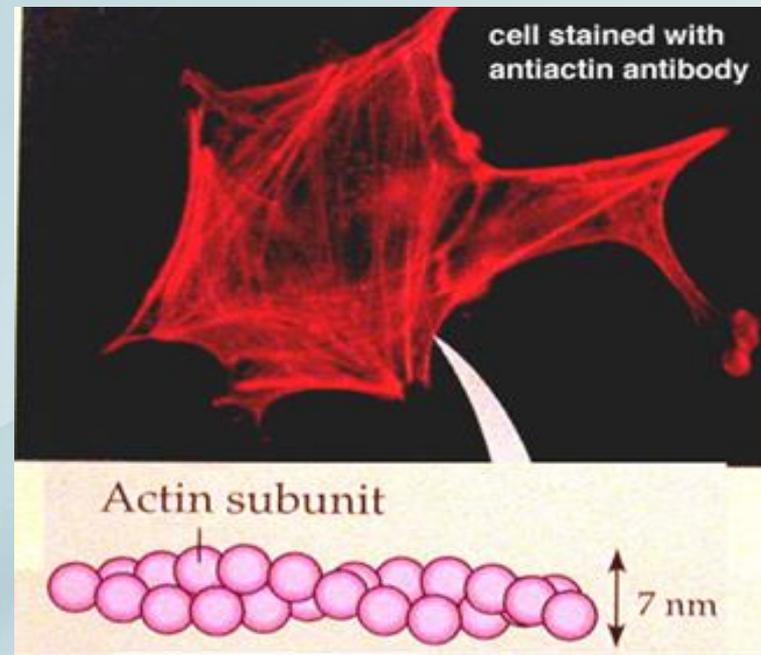
- determines cell shape
- Mechanical support
- drives active cell movements
- transport organelles
- drives cell division
- Signaltransduction



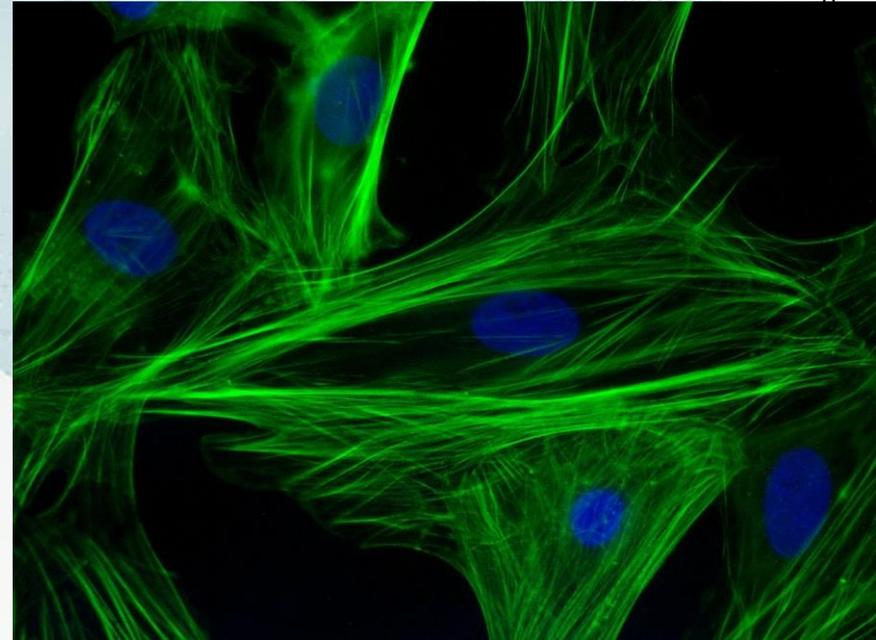
The eukaryotic cytoskeleton/**actin**, **microtubules**, **nuclei**/

# Microfilaments

- Made of actin proteins (most abundant cellular protein)
- 3-7 nm in diameter (smallest type)
- 2 possibilities for organization:
  - Actin bundles in the cytoplasm
  - Actin network eg. under the cell membrane
- Capable of dynamic changes → cell shape change, cell movement
- Muscle cells: contraction by myosin proteins
- Intracellular transport by myosin also
- participation in some cell-to-cell or cell-to-matrix junctions
- important for cytokinesis

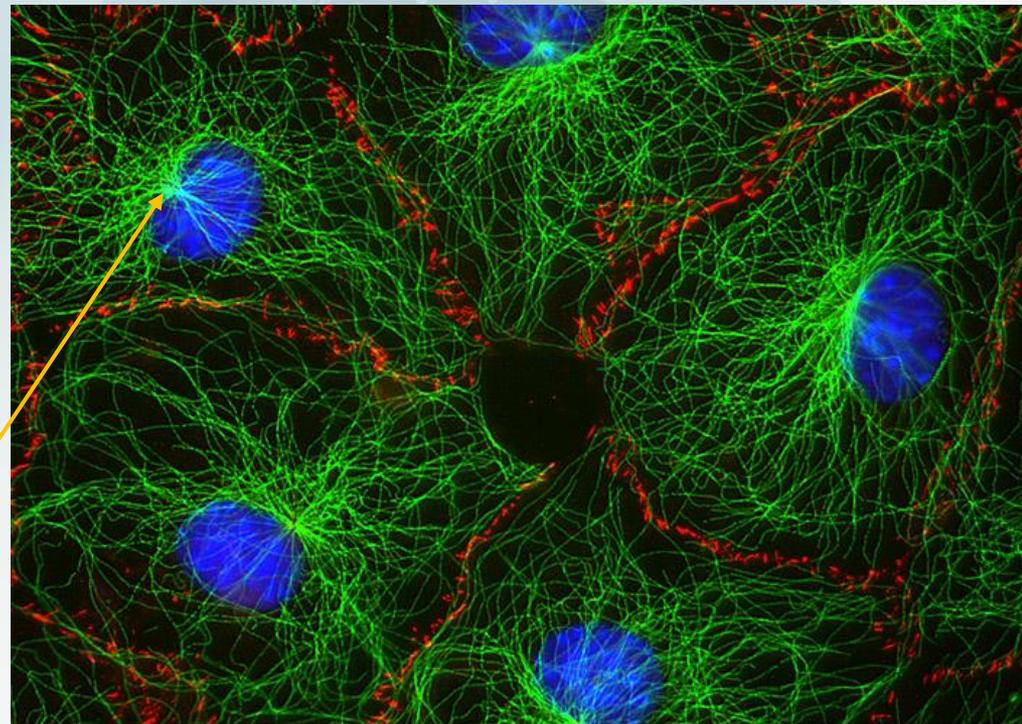
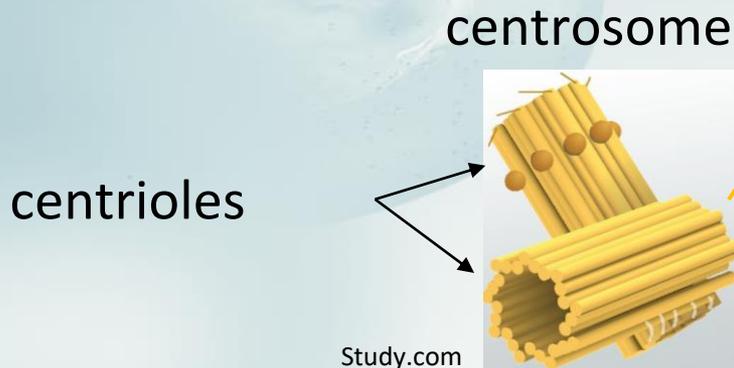
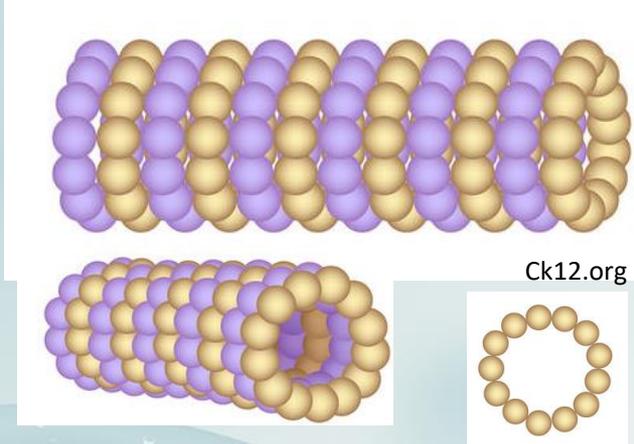


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# Microtubules

- Diameter: 20-25 nm (largest type)
- Made of tubulin proteins
- Globular monomers → dimers → tube-like structure
- Their center is the centrosome composed of 2 centrioles
- They are dynamic, important in cell division (eg. movement of chromosomes as components of the mitotic spindle)
- intracellular transport
- ciliae and flagellae
- synthesis of the cell wall in plants



# Intermediate filaments

- Diameter: 10nm
- organize the internal 3D structure of the cell in a stable fashion
- They are less dynamic, more stable
- anchoring organelles
- participate in some cell-cell and cell-matrix junctions
- There are more than 50 types of proteins composing intermediate filaments (ie. they are tissue specific)
- Keratins, cytokeratin, →epithelial cells
- vimentin→connective tissue, smooth muscle cells, leukocytes
- desmin→striated and heart muscle
- peripherin→peripheral neurons
- neurofilaments→central nervous system
- lamins→nucleus (in all cells): serving as structural components of the nuclear lamina

