

Budding yeast as a model system to study aging:



Has multiple features of higher eukaryotic model organisms

organelles: nucleus, endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi apparatus, mitochondria, vacuoles (lysosomes)

chromosomes containing telomeres (physical ends) and centromeres

multiple processes are similar (mitosis, meiosis)

multiple metabolic and signal transduction pathways are similar

Budding yeast as a model system to study aging:



advantages:

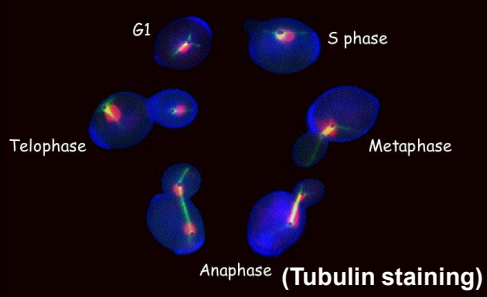
- " "fast" cell division (~ 110 minutes)
- " in-expensive growth media
- " convenient growth conditions
- " non-pathogenic, so can be handled with few precautions
- " highly versatile DNA transformation system
- " can be maintained in stable haploid and diploid states that facilitate genetic analyses
- " novel techniques (2-hybrid, Yeast Artificial Chromosomes (YACs)) make yeast valuable for studies of many organisms.
- " rather small genome size (~1/100th of mammals):
 - haploid: 16 chromosomes (12 Mb)
 - many genes present as single copy

disadvantage:

- " cell differentiation processes (like in higher eukaryotic systems (flies, worms)) can almost not be studied
- Yeast is mostly present as a unicellular organism.**

Examples of how studies using yeast can reveal how human cells work

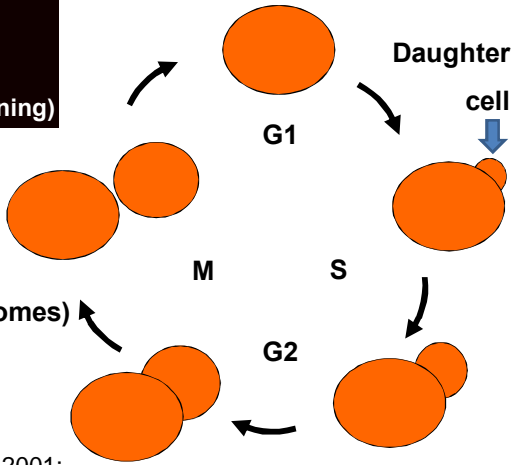
- " Cell cycle studies by Lee Hartwell
(2001 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine)
 - . Mitotic spindle assembly depends on the completion of DNA synthesis
 - . The concept of START (transition from G1 to S phase)
 - . Identification of cdc28, the first cyclin-dependent kinase
 - . Other crucial concepts critical for cancer, etc.
- " Dissection of the secretory pathway by Randy Schekman
(2013 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine)
[together with Jim Rothman and Tom Suedhof]
 - . Identified dozens of complementation groups involved in protein transport throughout the secretory pathway (Endoplasmic reticulum, Golgi Apparatus, Plasma membrane, Lysosomes, ...)
- " Many other studies of conserved processes such as DNA synthesis, transcription, translation, cell signaling, ...



Budding yeast:
 Asymmetric cell division
S-phase (DNA replication)
M-phase (separation of chromosomes)
G1, G2: gap-phases
 (prepare for S or M phases)

Nobel prize for Physiology or Medicine 2001:
 Lee H. Hartwell
 (Key regulators for the cell cycle)

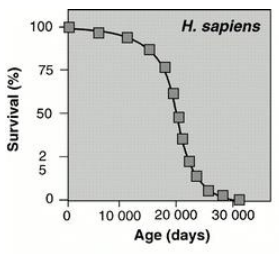
Budding yeast as a model system to study the cell cycle



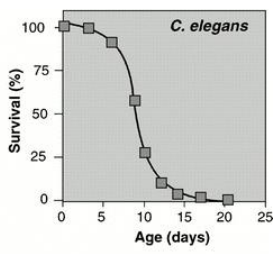
“Aging” is characterized as a functional decline of living units (cells, tissues, whole organisms).

Is it random or does it follow a specific program?

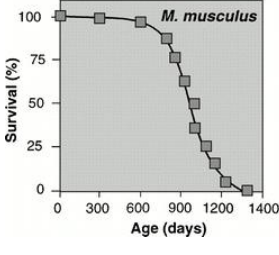
Humans



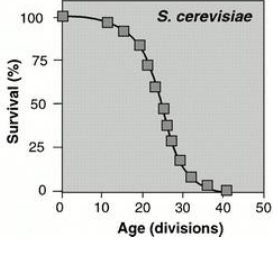
Worms



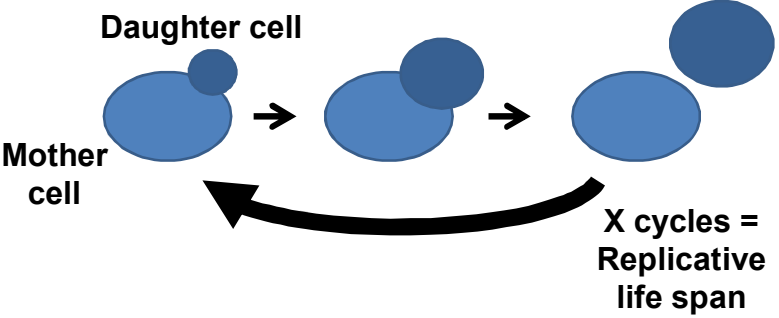
Mice



Budding yeast Baker's yeast



Replicative aging of budding yeast cells



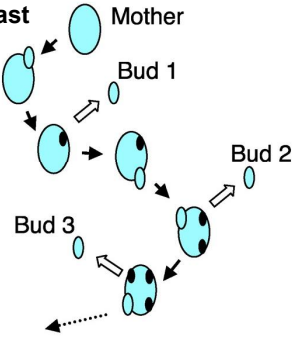
X cycles =
Replicative
life span

Replicative life span is defined as the number of daughter cells which a budding yeast mother cell can generate.
In most mammalian cell types mother and daughter cells cannot be distinguished.
In contrast, in budding yeast the daughter cell is gradually emerging from the mother cell allowing to determine the number of daughter cells produced by one mother cell.

Replicative life span versus chronological life span


Aging in the yeast *S. cerevisiae* is the number of buds a mother cell produces

Budding yeast
Baker's yeast



REPLICATIVE AGING
of 1 MOTHER CELL

Aging in the worm *C. elegans* is the number of days a worm lives

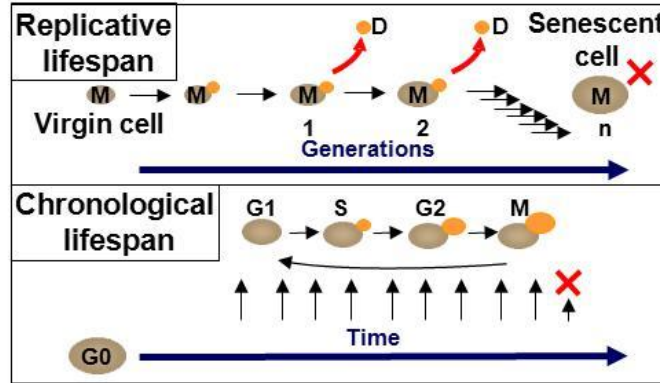


Prod individuals daily
to check for the ability
to move any part of the body

CHRONOLOGICAL AGING
of 959 MOTHER CELL

S Hekimi, L Guarente Science 2003;299:1351-1354

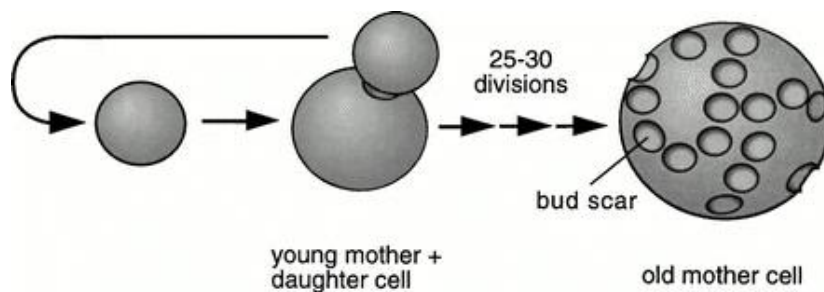
Replicative versus chronological lifespan using budding (baker's) yeast as a model system



Yeast **replicative lifespan** is thought to be comparable to aging phenomena observed in asymmetrically dividing cells of higher eukaryotes, such as **stem cells**.

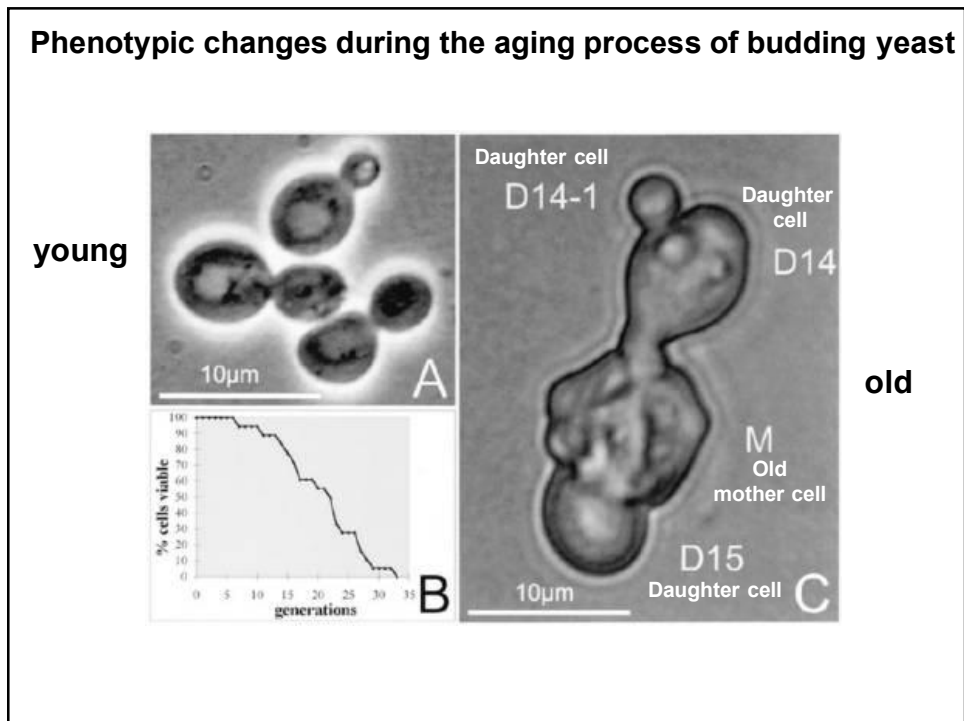
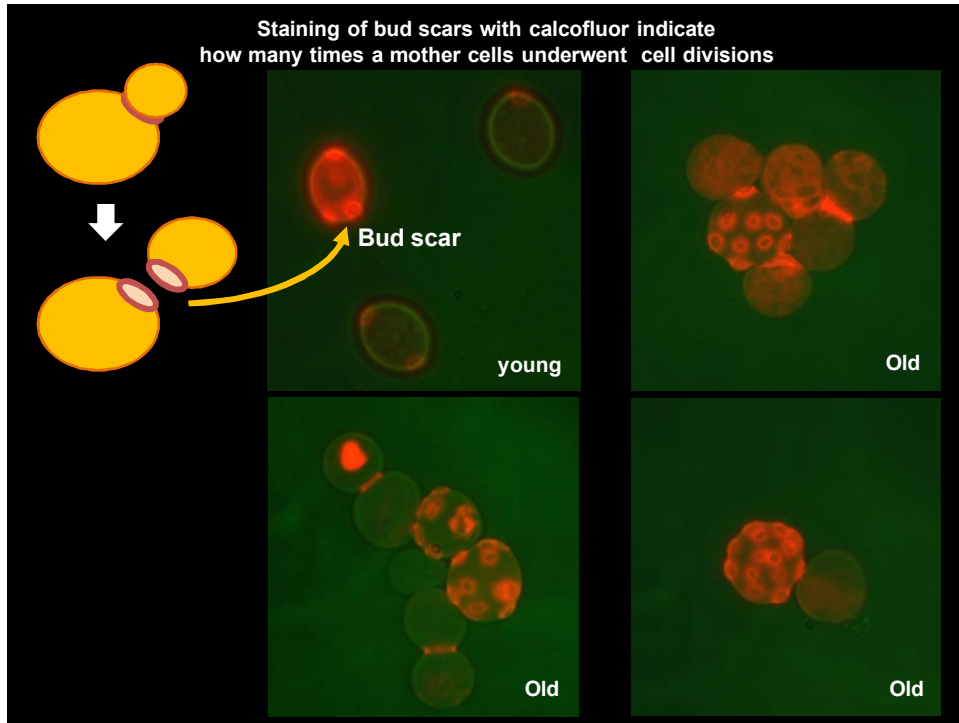
Yeast **chronological aging** is similar to aging of non-dividing higher eukaryotic cells such as **end-differentiated neurons or cardiac cells**.

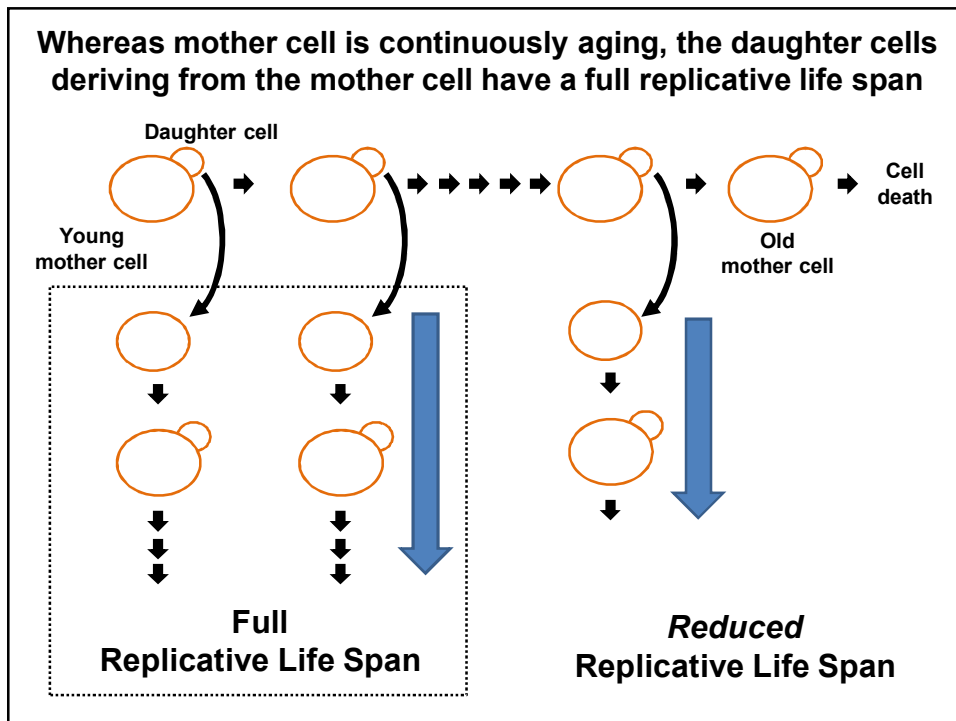
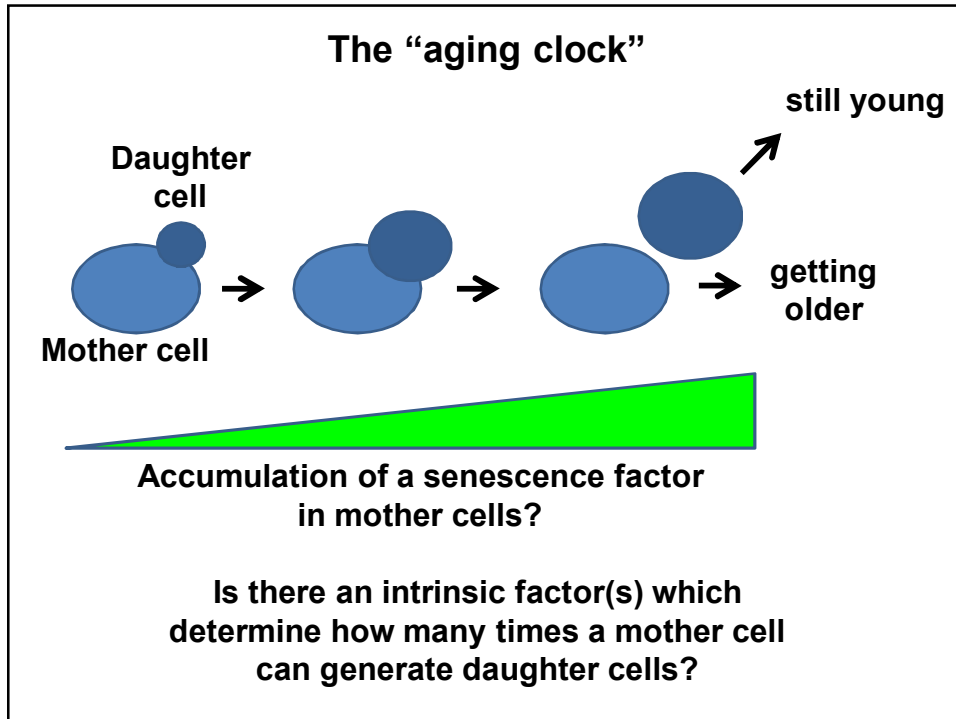
Phenotypic changes during the replicative aging process of budding yeast

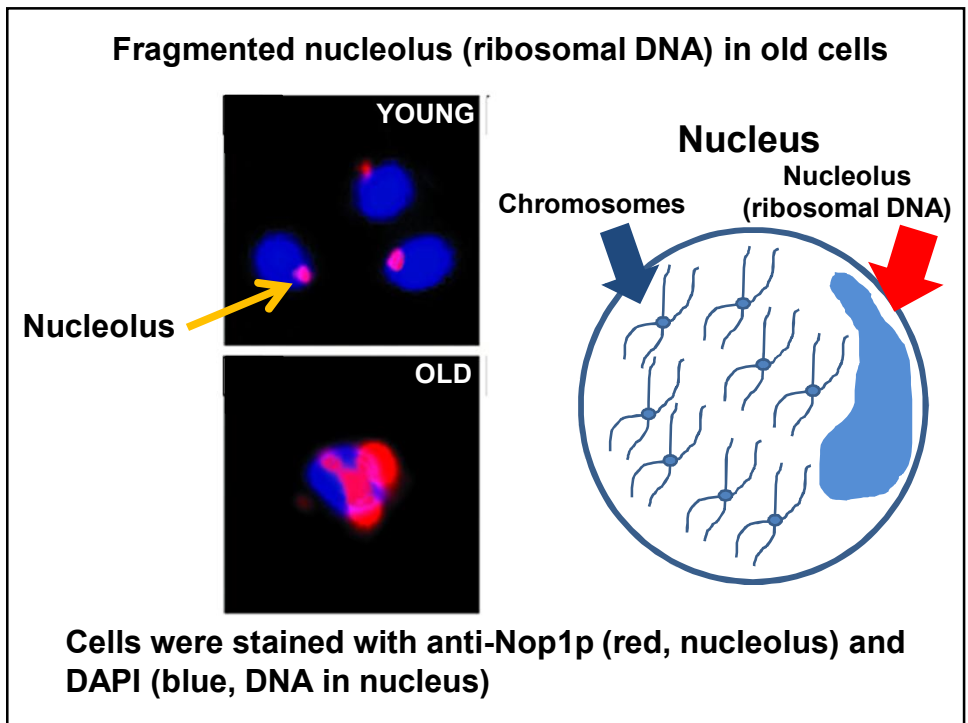
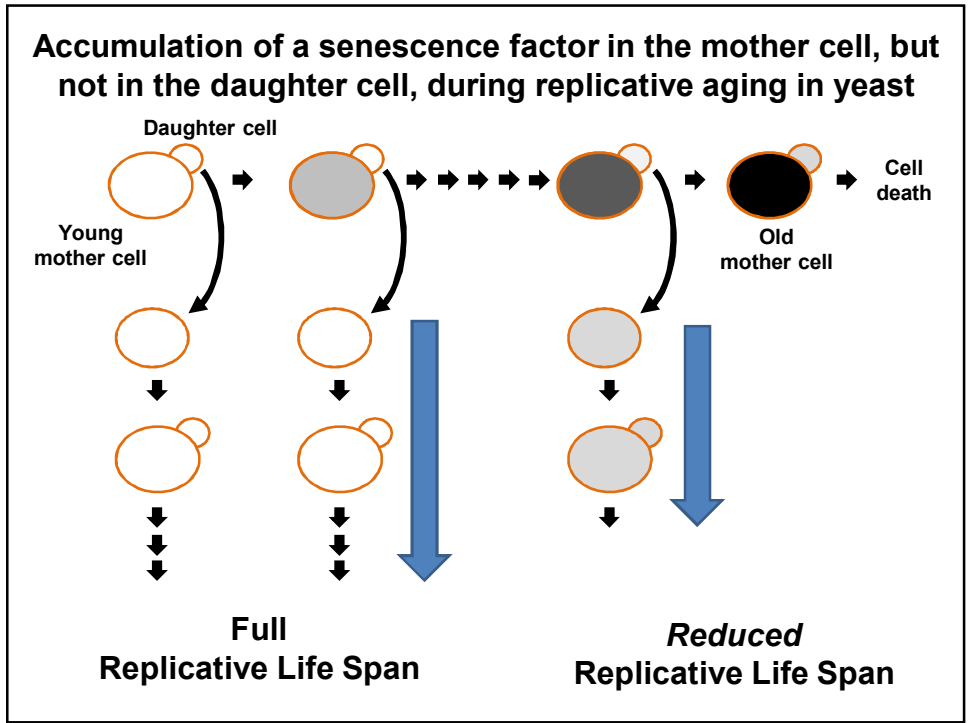


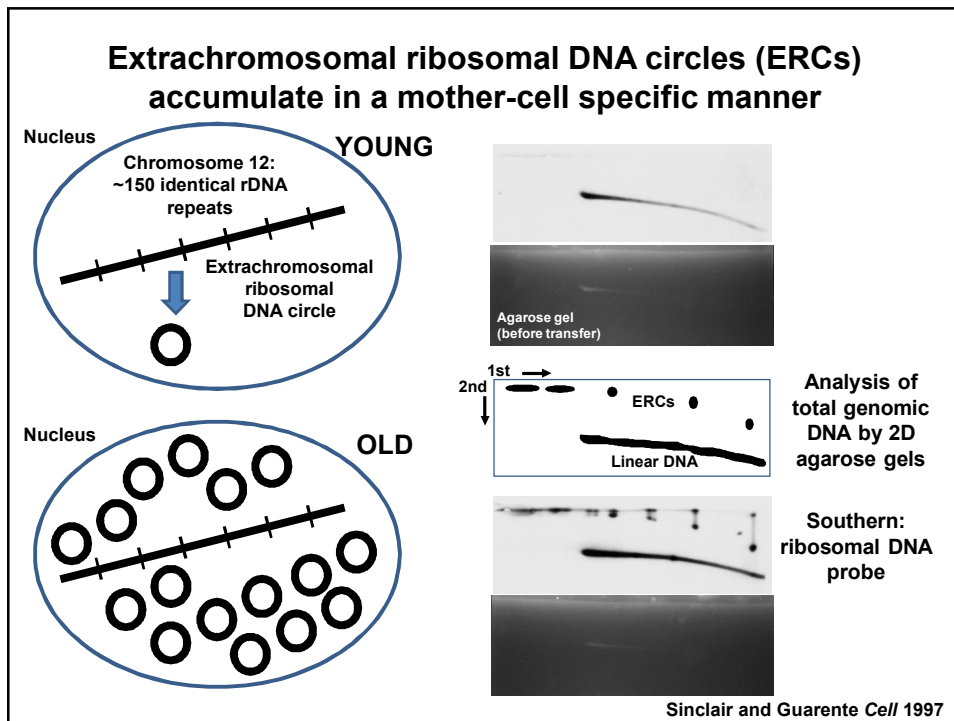
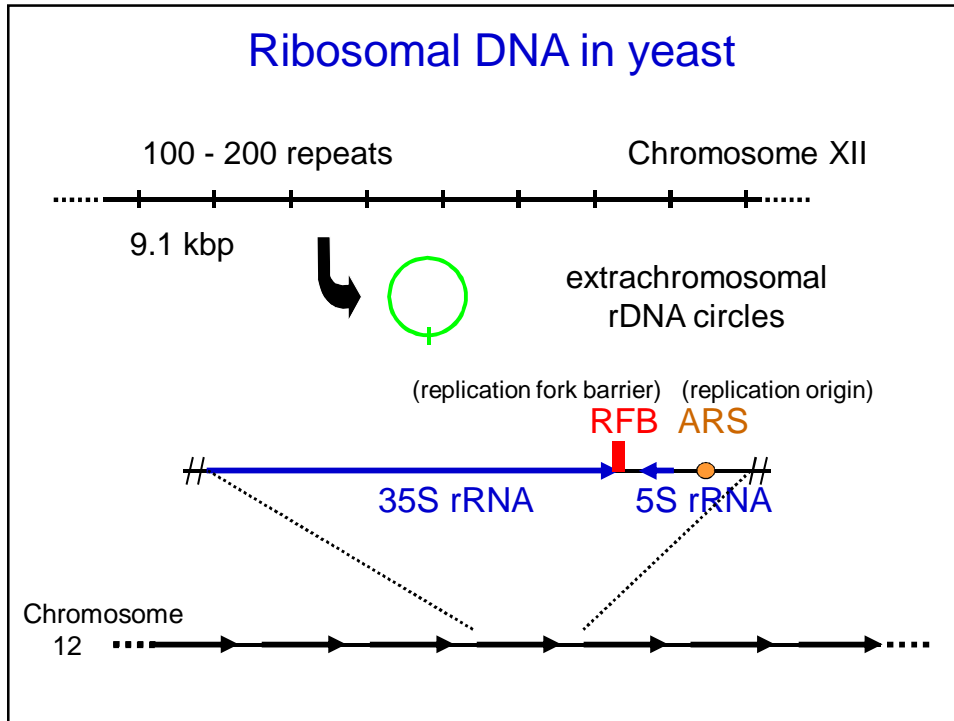
	young mother + daughter cell	old mother cell
Size:	small	large
Cell surface:	smooth	wrinkled
Cell division:	1.5 hr / asymmetrical	2 – 3 hrs / symmetrical
Daughters:	full life span	reduced life span
Nucleolus:	intact	fragmented

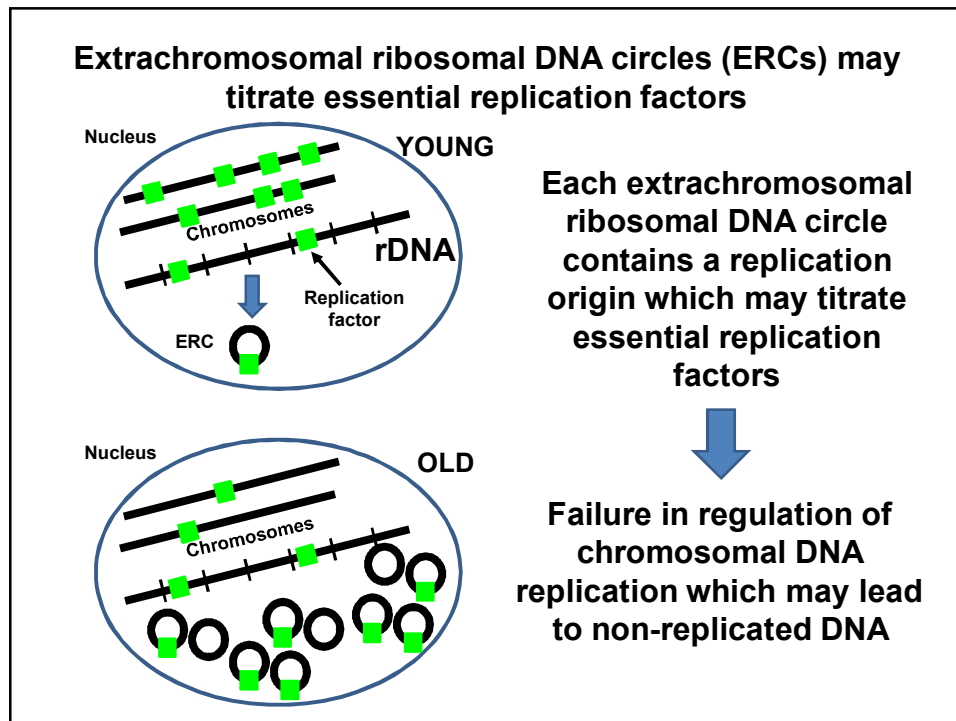
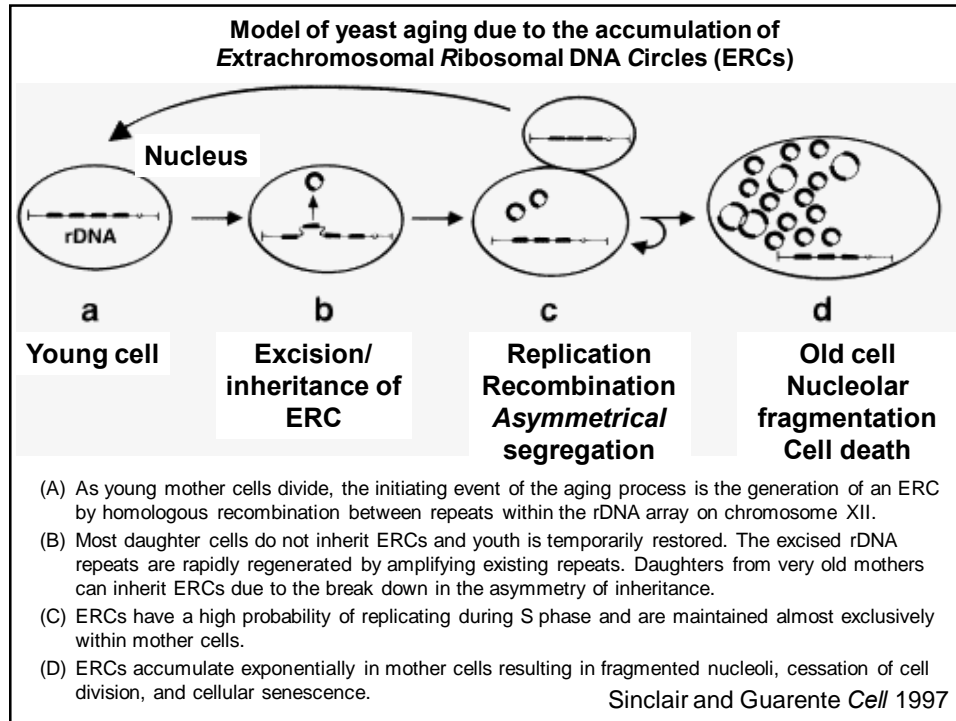
Nucleolus: Part of the nucleus that contains the ribosomal DNA genes.

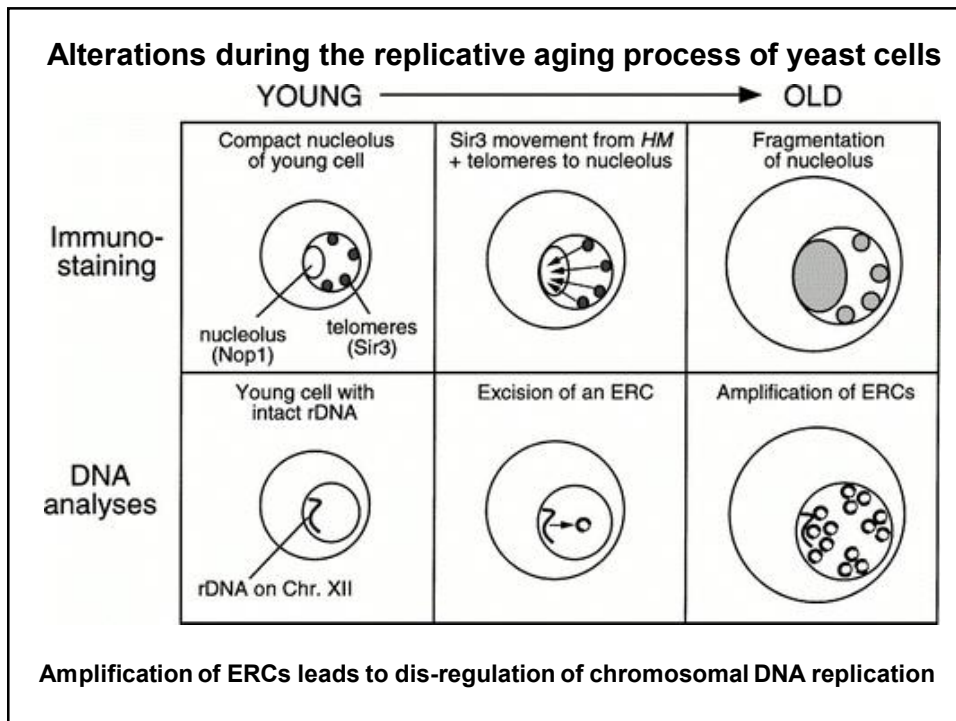
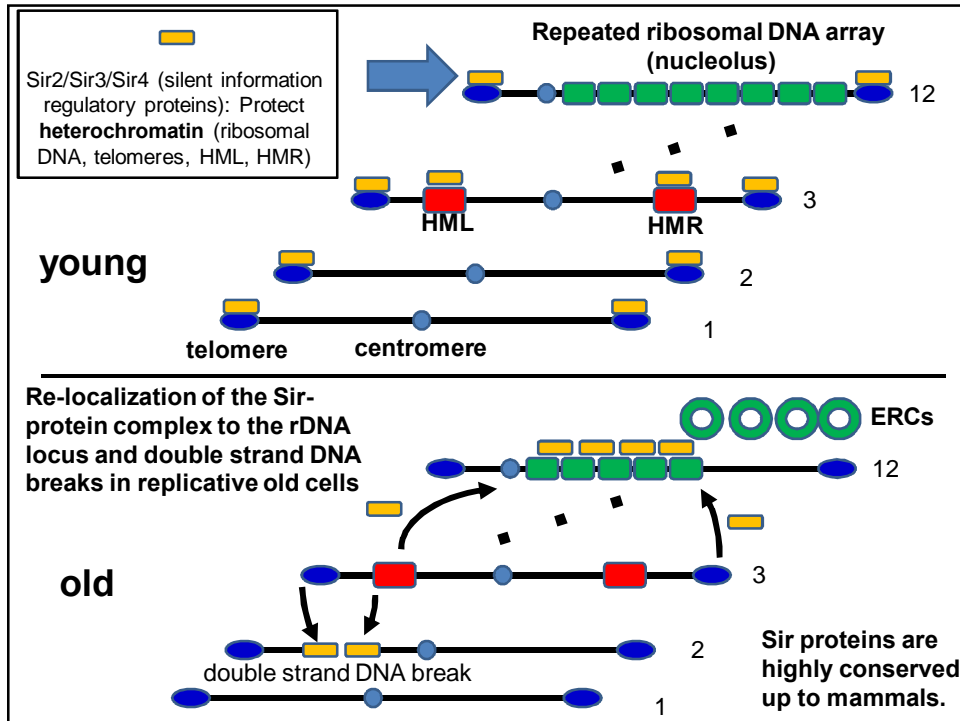


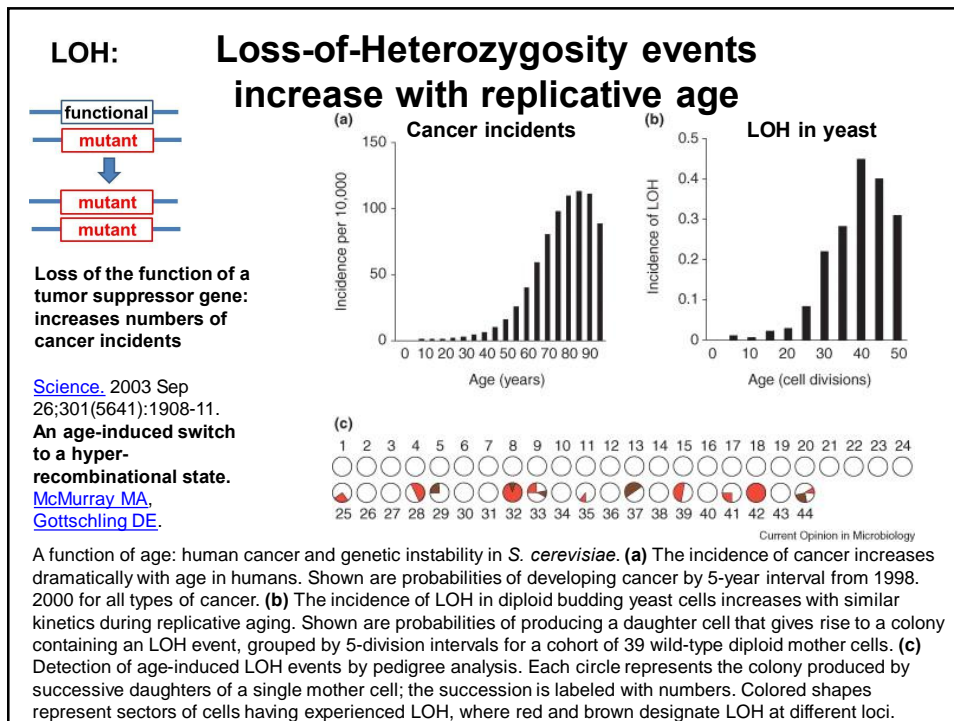
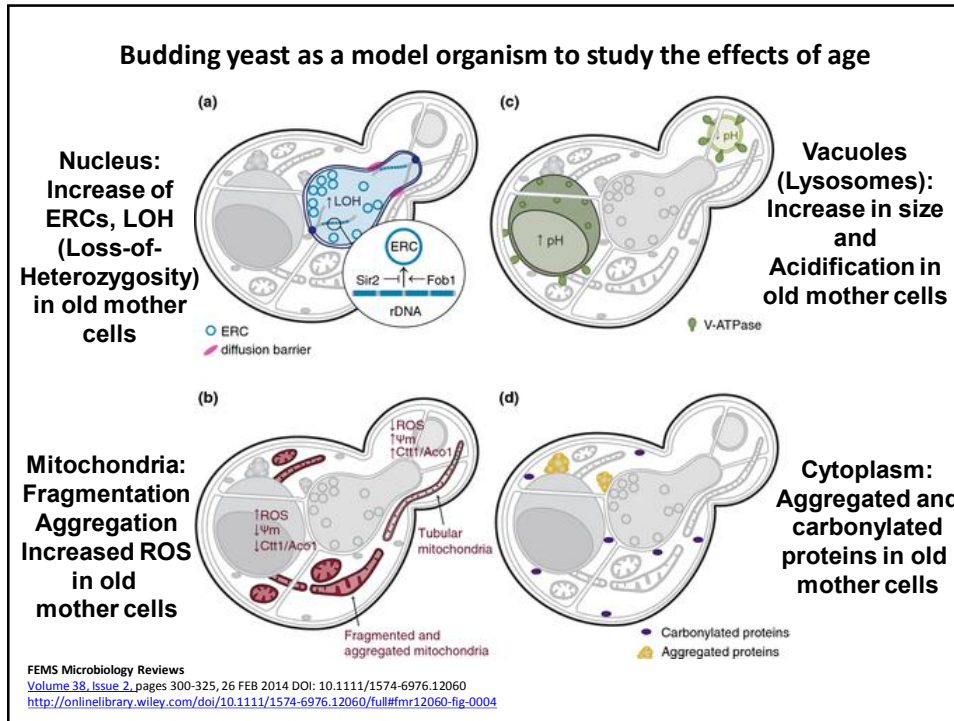












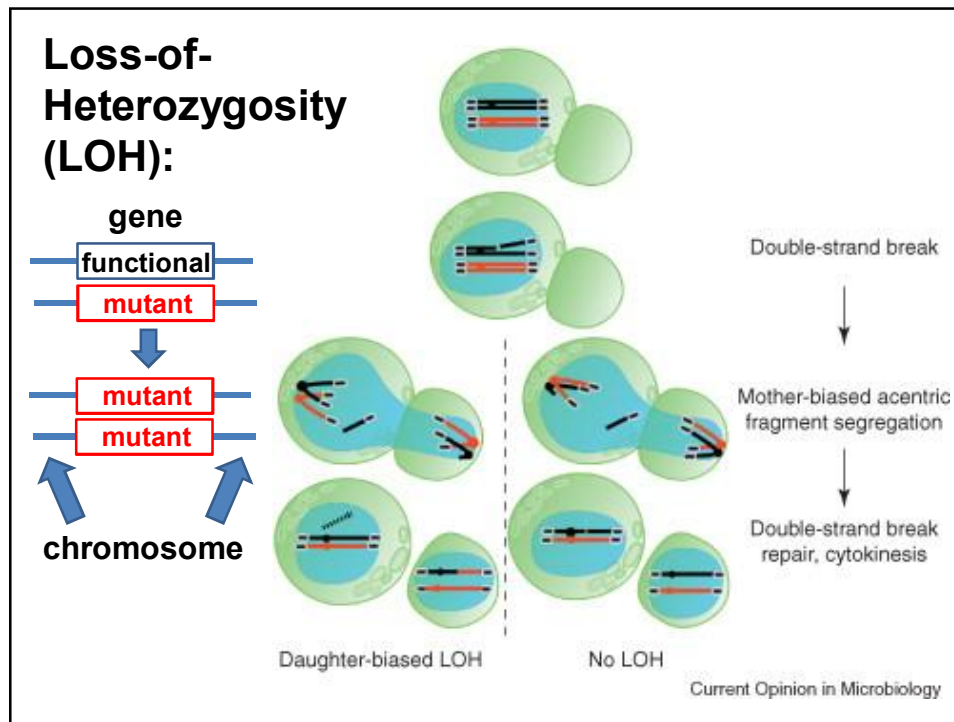


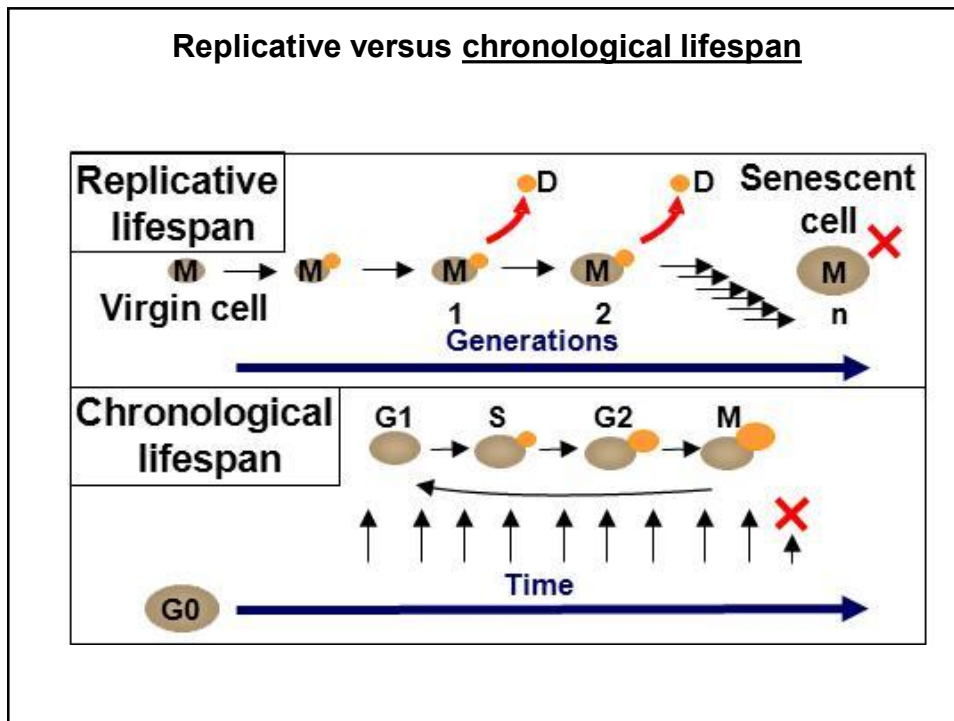
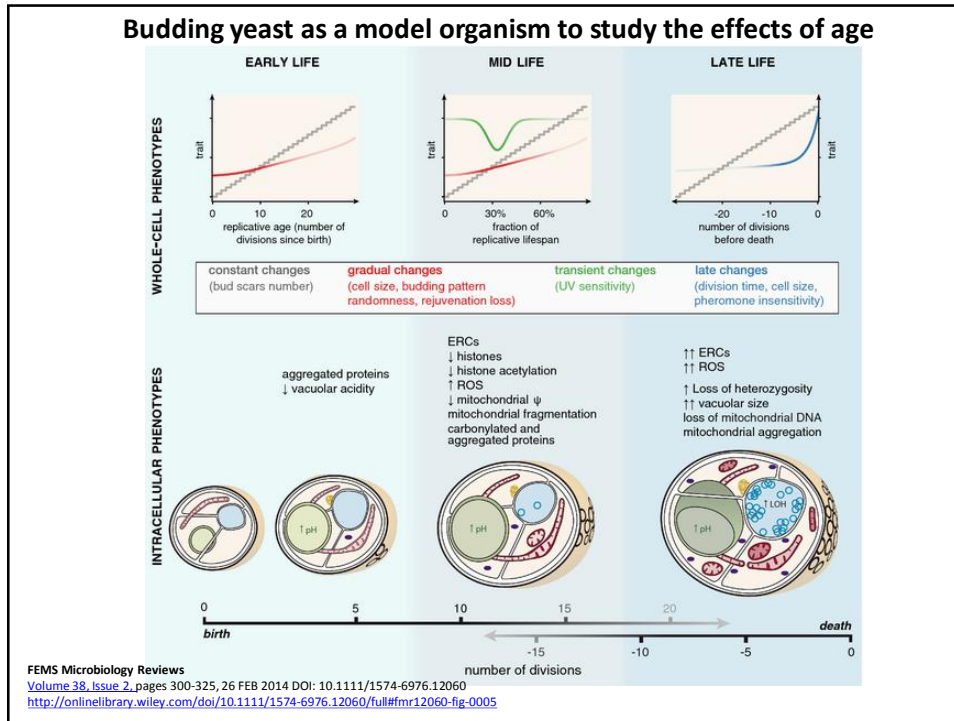
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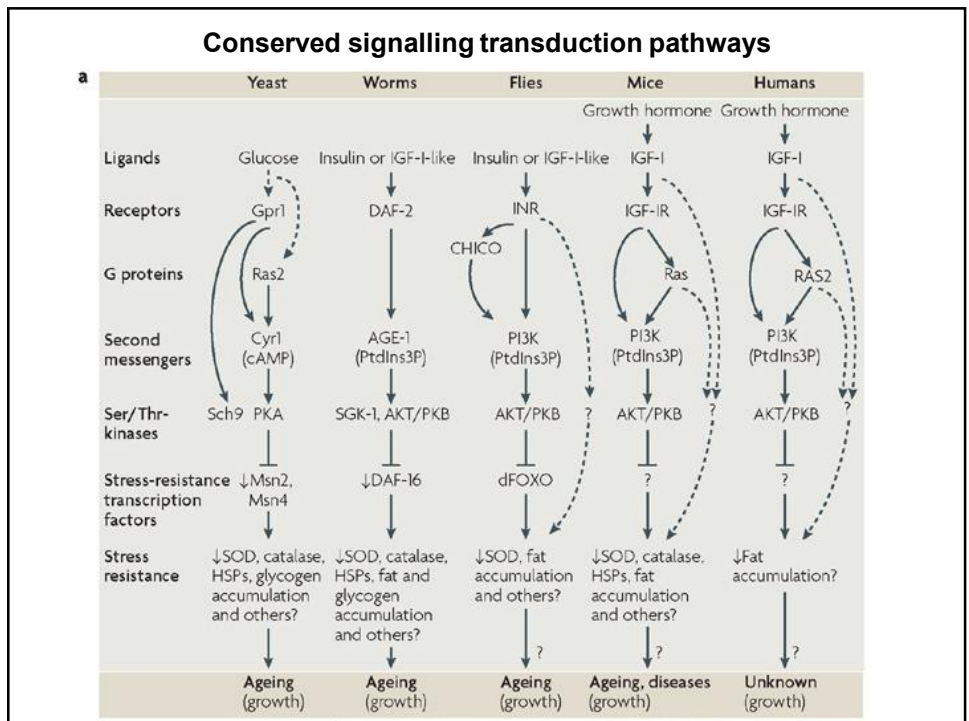
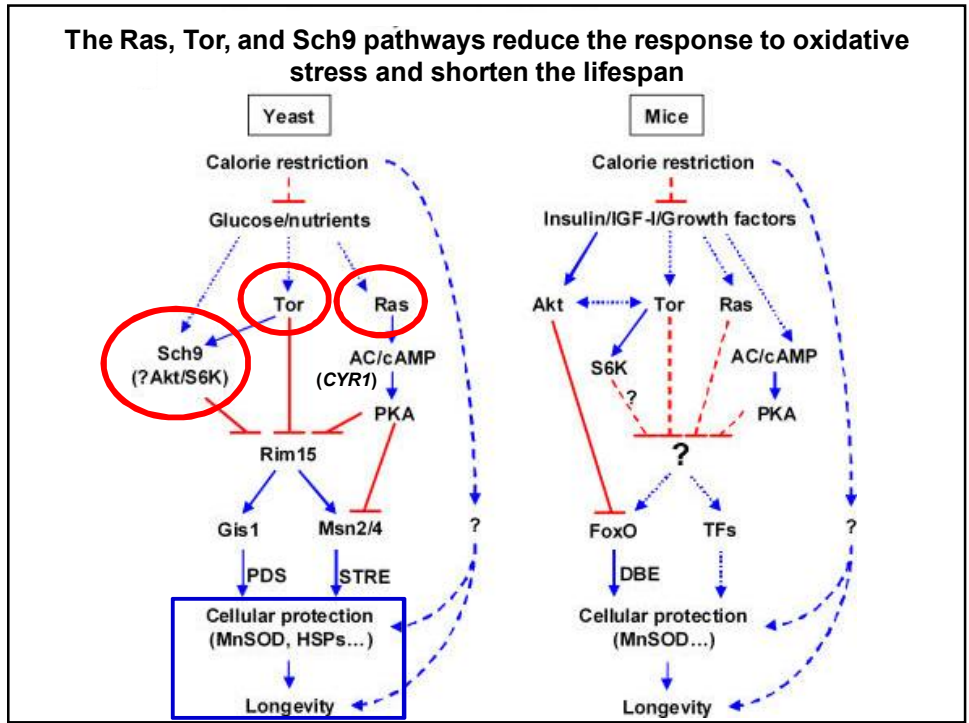
A model for asymmetric age-induced LOH. A diploid mother yeast cell is depicted with two homologous chromosomes (red and black - centromeres are filled circles) contained within the nucleus (blue). The cell wall is shown in green and bud scars are depicted.

Top, a mother cell after DNA replication with duplicated chromosomes. A double strand DNA break (DSB) in one sister chromatid of the black chromosome is followed by mitosis without repair, resulting in two potential outcomes: on the left, the broken centromere-containing chromosome fragment segregates to the daughter; on the right, it segregates to the mother. In both cases, the acentric chromosome fragment remains in the mother cell after cytokinesis.

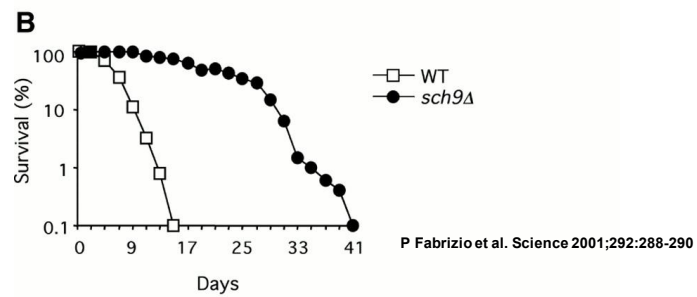
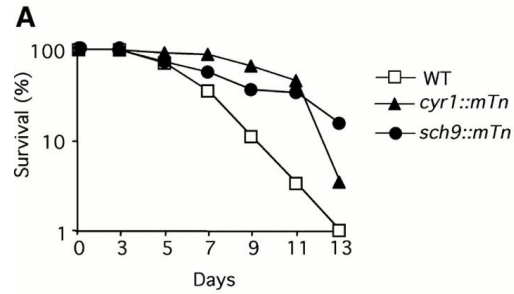
On the left, the two fragments of the broken chromosome are separated by mitosis, and repair of the broken centromere-containing fragment occurs by break-induced replication (BIR), resulting in duplication from the homologous chromosome of all sequences centromere-distal to the break. The acentric fragment remaining in the mother cell is shown to be degraded (dashed), but could have other fates.

On the right, where the mother inherits both fragments, DSB repair by non-homologous end-joining or local gene conversion without crossing over preserves both alleles at distal loci (signified by the small red segment in the mother's otherwise black chromosome). Note that, before DNA replication, gene conversion accompanied by crossing over would not cause LOH.

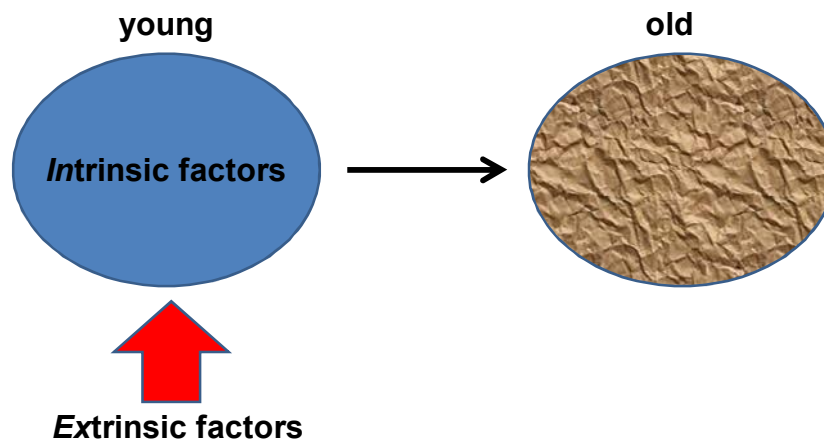










Mutations in CYR1 (adenylate cyclase) and in SCH9 increase the *chronological* life-span of budding yeast.



Impact on aging:



Experiments on dietary restriction (DR) and genetic or chemical alteration of nutrient-sensing pathways have been performed on a range of model organisms.

	Life-span increase		Beneficial health effects	
	Dietary restriction	Mutations/ drugs	Dietary restriction	Mutations/ drugs
 Yeast	3-fold	10-fold (with starvation/ DR)	Extended reproductive period	Extended reproductive period, decreased DNA damage/mutations
 Worms	2- to 3-fold	10-fold	Resistance to misexpressed toxic proteins	Extended motility Resistance to mis-expressed toxic proteins and germ-line cancer
 Flies	2-fold	60–70%	None reported	Resistance to bacterial infection, extended ability to fly
 Mice	30–50%	30–50% (~100% in combination with DR)	Protection against cancer, diabetes, atherosclerosis, cardiomyopathy, autoimmune, kidney, and respiratory diseases; reduced neurodegeneration	Reduced tumor incidence; protection against age-dependent cognitive decline, cardiomyopathy, fatty liver and renal lesions. Extended insulin sensitivity
 Monkeys	Trend noted	Not tested	Prevention of obesity; protection against diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease	Not tested
 Humans	Not determined	Not determined (GHR-deficient subjects reach old age)	Prevention of obesity, diabetes, hypertension Reduced risk factors for cancer and cardiovascular disease	Possible reduction in cancer and diabetes

L Fontana et al. Science 2010;328:321-326

Premature aging: Werner's syndrome

Mutations in *WRN* result in Werner's syndrome, a disease with symptoms resembling premature aging.

Patients with Werner's syndrome display many symptoms of old age including graying and loss of hair, osteoporosis, cataracts, atherosclerosis, loss of skin elasticity, and a propensity for certain cancers.

Cells isolated from patients with Werner's syndrome divide approximately half as many times in culture as those from normal individuals.

The *WRN* gene encodes a DNA helicase which is proposed to detect chromosomal DNA damage.



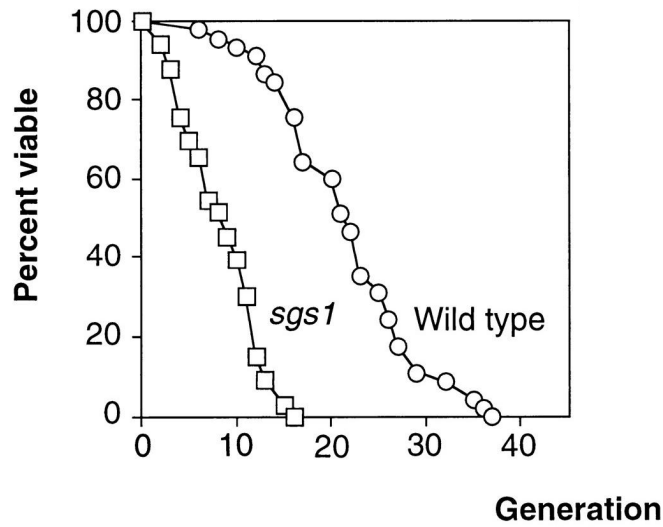
WS patient age 15 yrs



WS patient age 48 yrs

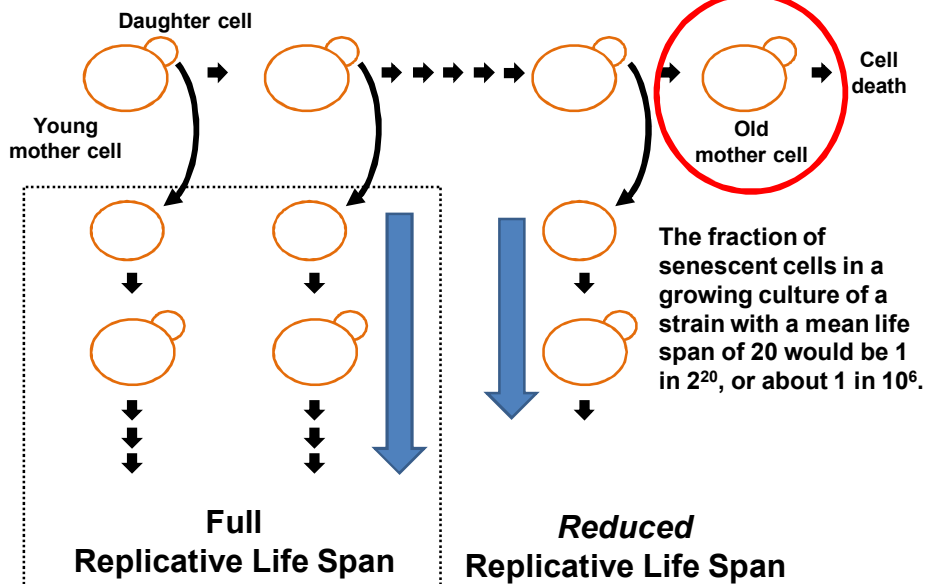
Image from <http://www.pathology.washington.edu/research/werner>

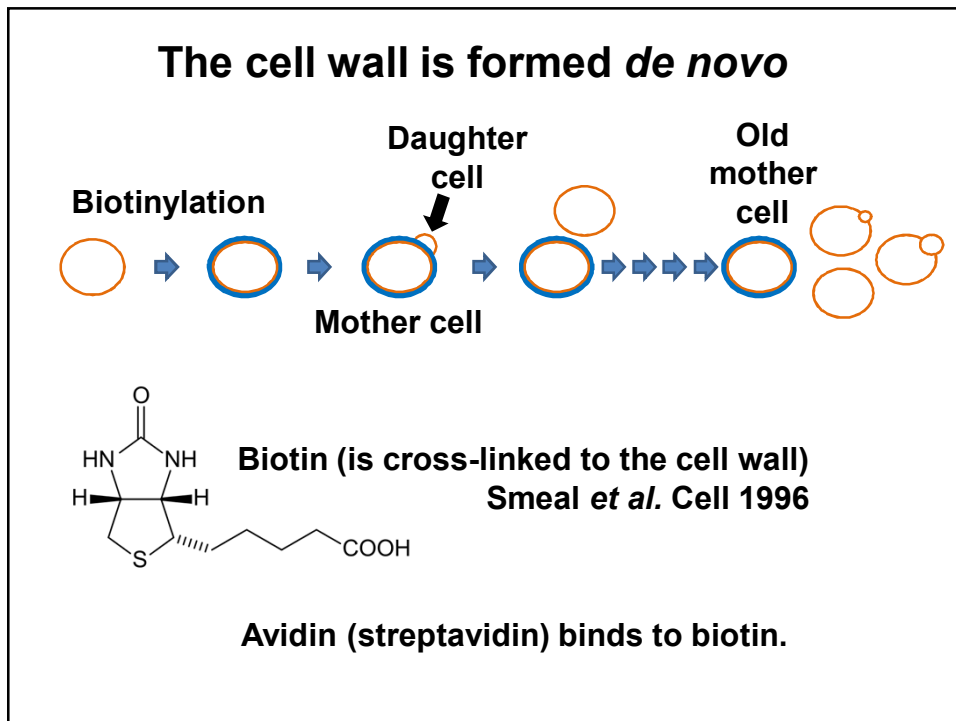
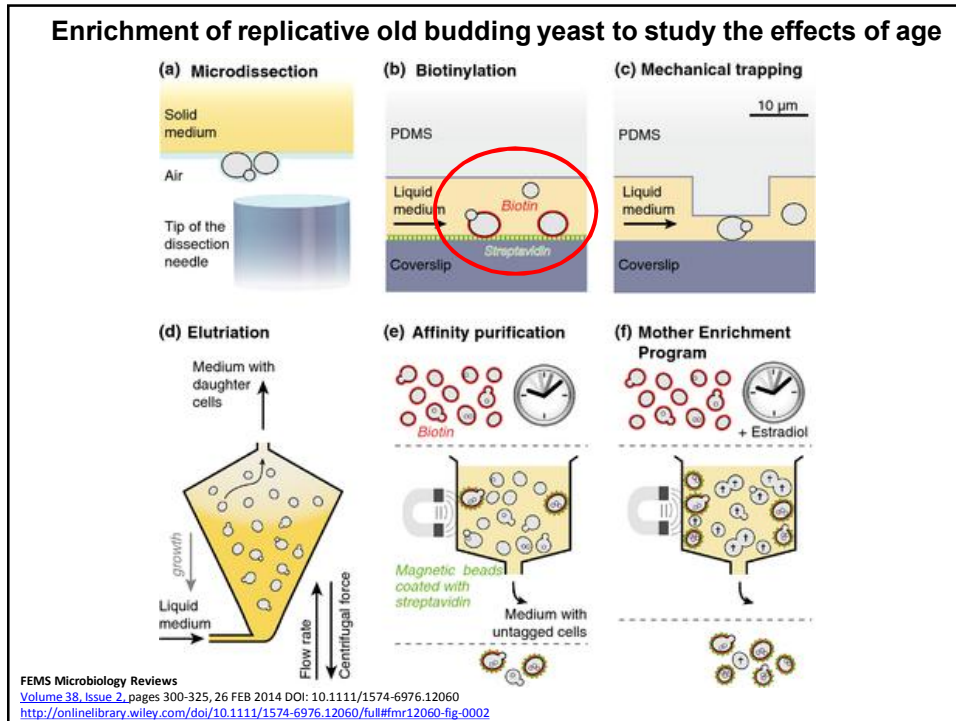
Yeast mutants of the Werner's syndrome homolog *sgs1* cells have a short life-span.



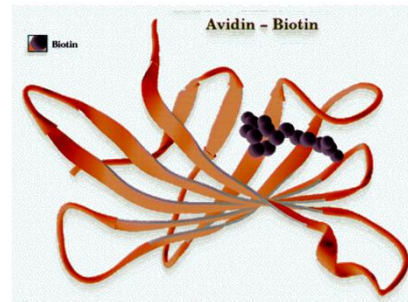
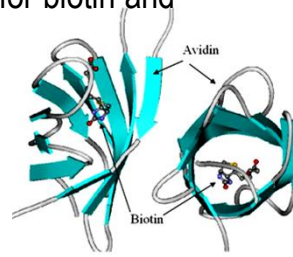
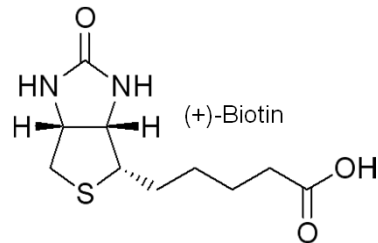
D A Sinclair et al. Science 1997;277:1313-1316

**Purification of old cells:
Old mother cells are **very rare** in a yeast culture**

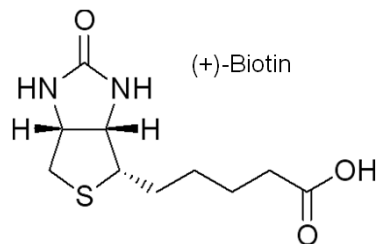




Avidin/streptavidin. Affinity proteins for biotin and biotinylated biomolecules



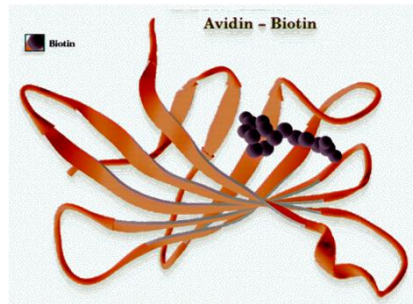
Avidin/streptavidin. Affinity proteins for biotin and biotinylated biomolecules



- ❶ Biotin, also known as vitamin H, is a small molecule (MW 244.3) that is present in tiny amounts in all living cells.
- ❷ The valeric acid side chain of the biotin molecule can be derivatized in order to incorporate various reactive groups that are used to attach biotin to other molecules. Once biotin is attached to a molecule, the molecule can be affinity purified using an immobilized version of any biotin-binding protein. Alternatively, a biotinylated molecule can be immobilized through interaction with a biotin-binding protein, then used to affinity purify other molecules that specifically interact with it.

- ❸ Many manufacturers offer biotin-labeled antibodies and a number of other biotinylated molecules, as well as a broad selection of biotinylation reagents to label any protein.
- ❹ Some applications in which the avidin-biotin interaction has been used include **ELISA; immunohistochemical staining; Western, Northern and Southern blotting; immunoprecipitation; cell-surface labeling; affinity purification; and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS).**

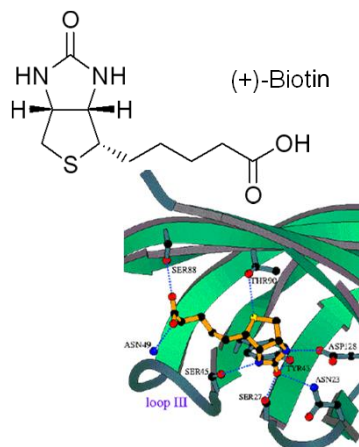
Avidin/streptavidin. Affinity proteins for biotin and biotinylated biomolecules



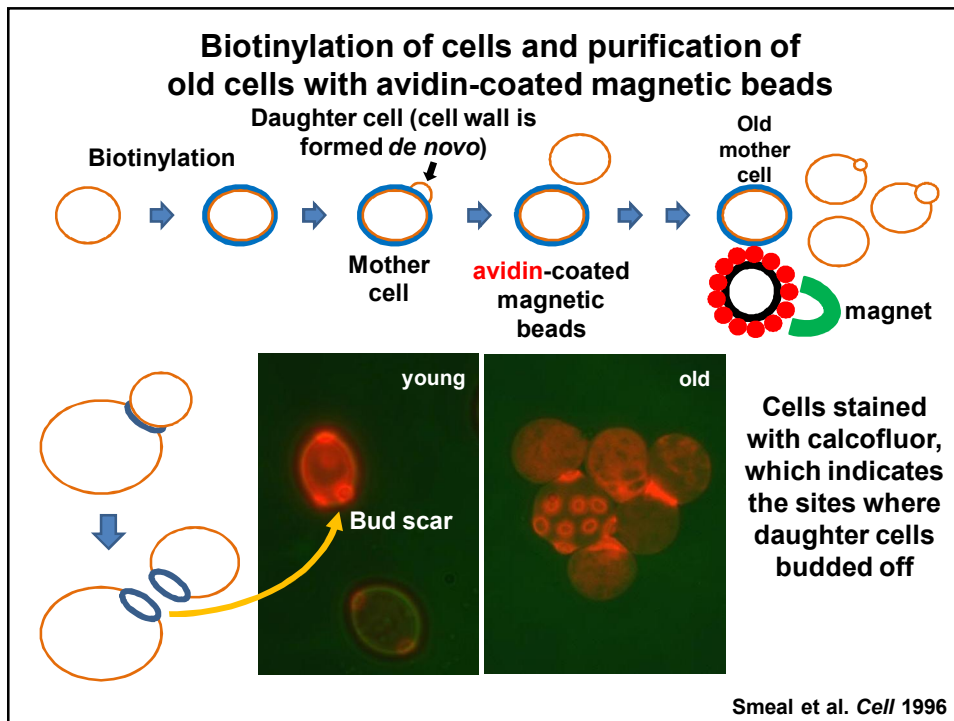
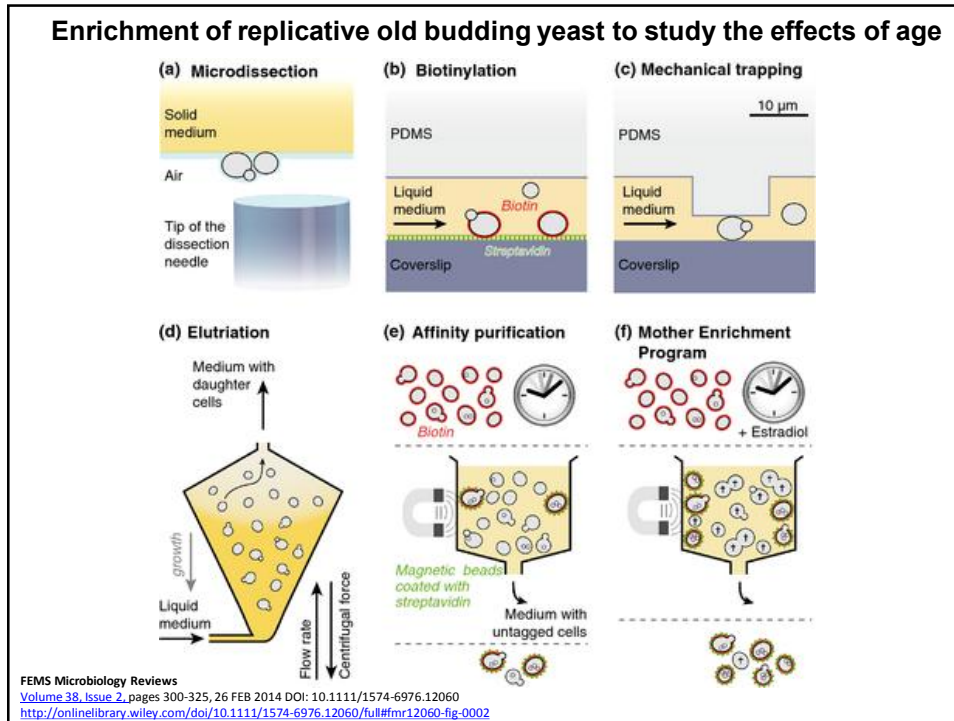
Biotin-Binding Proteins
Avidin

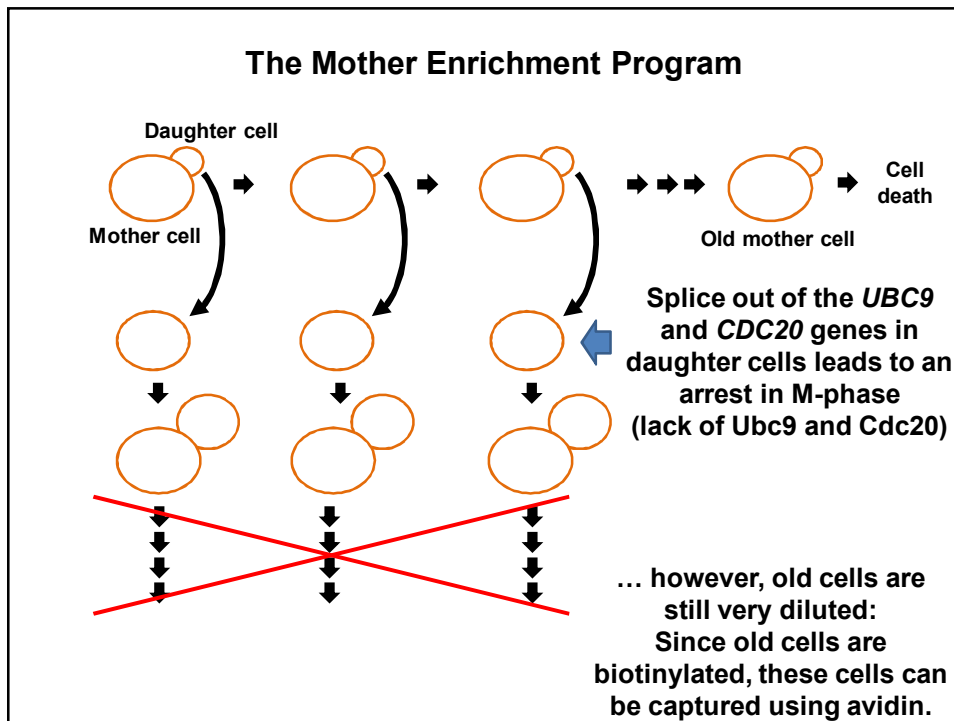
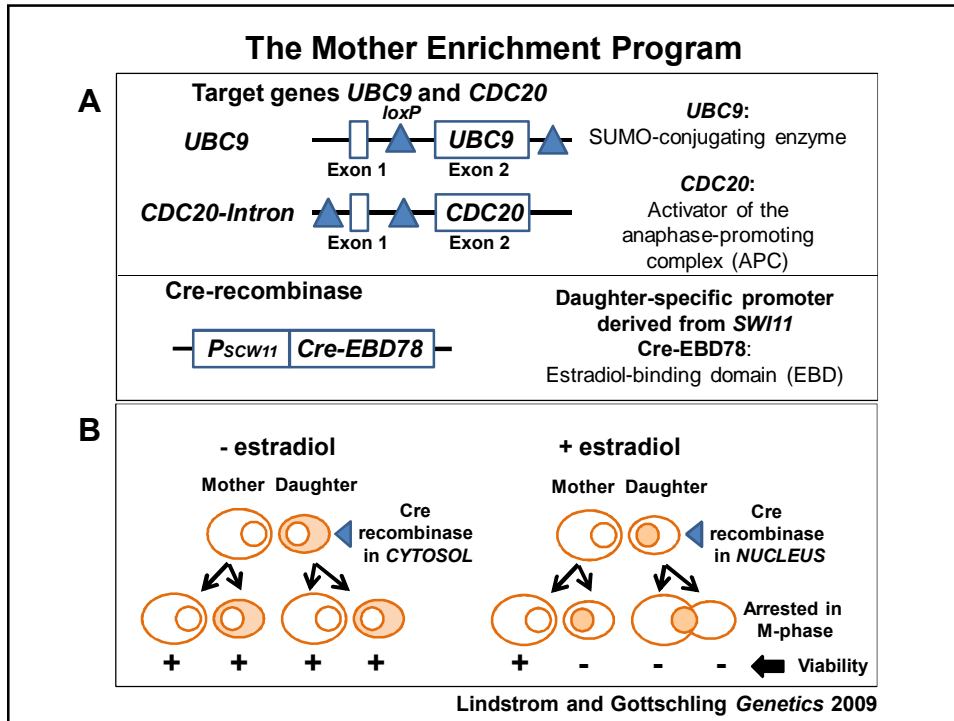
- ❶ The extraordinary affinity of **avidin** for biotin allows biotin-containing molecules in a complex mixture to be discretely bound with avidin.
- ❷ Avidin is a glycoprotein found in the egg white and tissues of birds, reptiles and amphibia.
- ❸ It contains four identical subunits having a combined mass of 67,000-68,000 daltons. Each subunit consists of 128 amino acids and binds one molecule of biotin.
- ❹ The extent of glycosylation on avidin is very high; carbohydrate accounts for about 10% of the total mass of the tetramer.
- ❺ Avidin has a basic isoelectric point (pI) of 10-10.5 and is stable over a wide range of pH and temperature.
- ❻ Extensive chemical modification has little effect on the activity of avidin, making it especially useful for protein purification.
- ❼ Because of its carbohydrate content and basic pI, avidin has relatively high nonspecific binding properties.

Avidin/streptavidin. Affinity proteins for biotin and biotinylated biomolecules



- ❶ The avidin-biotin complex is the strongest known non-covalent interaction ($K_a = 10^{15} M^{-1}$) between a protein and ligand.
- ❷ The bond formation between biotin and avidin is very rapid, and once formed, is unaffected by **extremes of pH, temperature, organic solvents and other denaturing agents**.
- ❸ These features of avidin . features that are shared by streptavidin and NeutrAvidin Protein . make immobilized forms of the biotin-binding protein particularly useful for purifying or immobilizing biotin-labeled proteins or other molecules.
- ❹ However, the strength of the interaction and its resistance to dissociation make it difficult to elute bound proteins from an immobilized support.
- ❺ **Harsh, denaturing conditions (8 M guanidine-HCl, pH 1.5 or boiling in SDS-sample loading buffer) are required to efficiently dissociate avidin:biotin complexes.**





Projects:

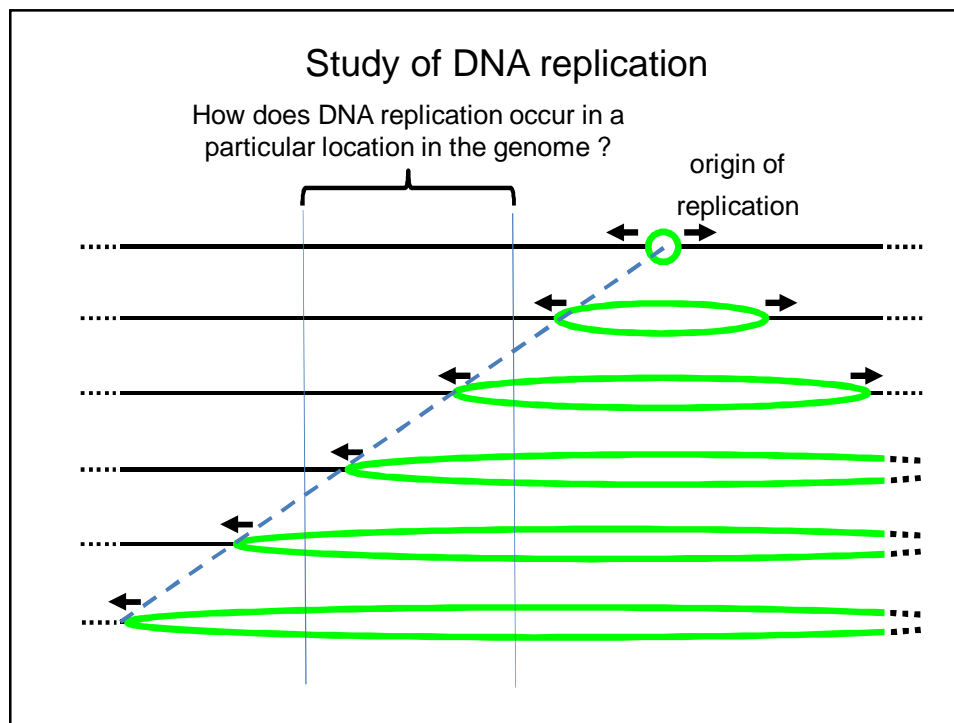
Various forms of DNA damage accumulate during aging: DNA strand breaks, loss of bases, bulky adducts (inter-strand crosslinks). (Burgess et al. *Current Opinion in Cell Biology* 2012; Garinis et al. *Nature Cell Biology* 2008)

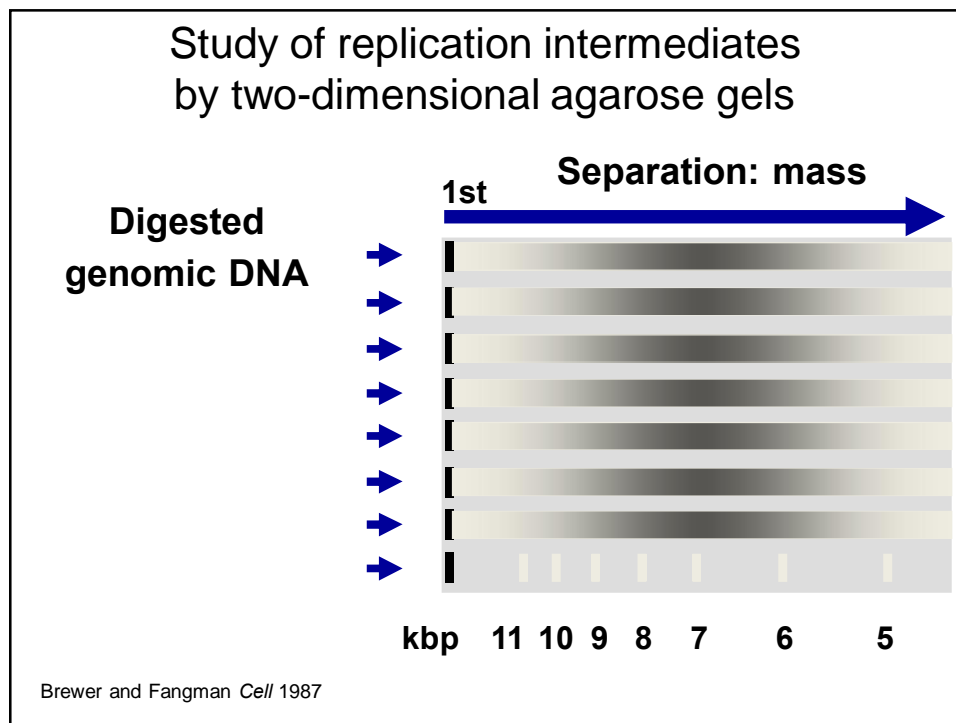
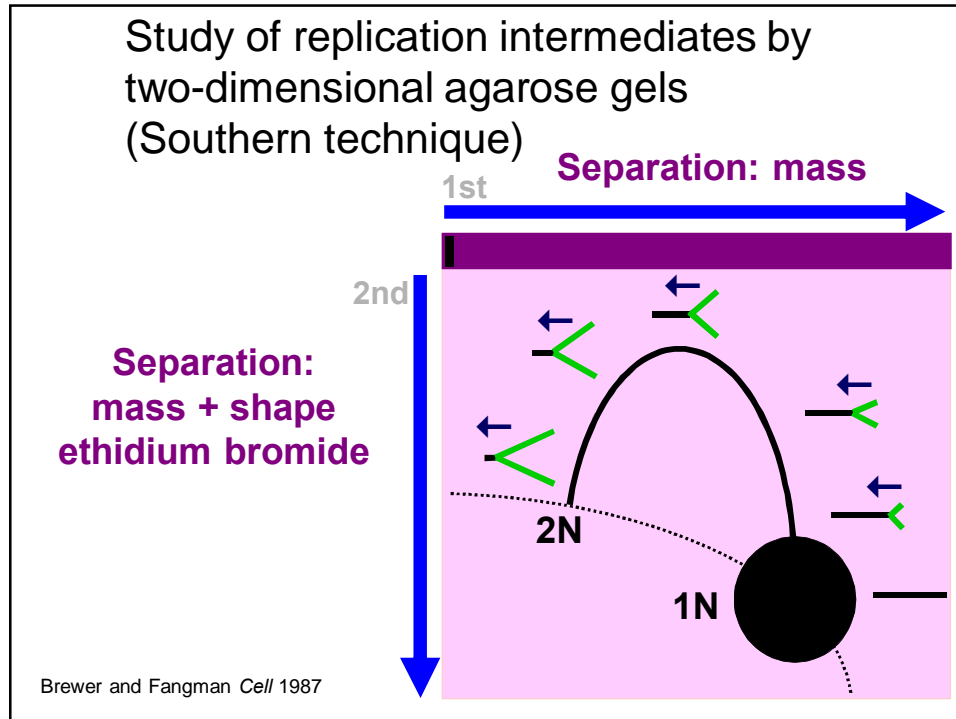
Is chromosomal DNA equally affected by DNA damage during aging or are there chromosomal sites which are preferentially affected? (e.g. Fragile sites)

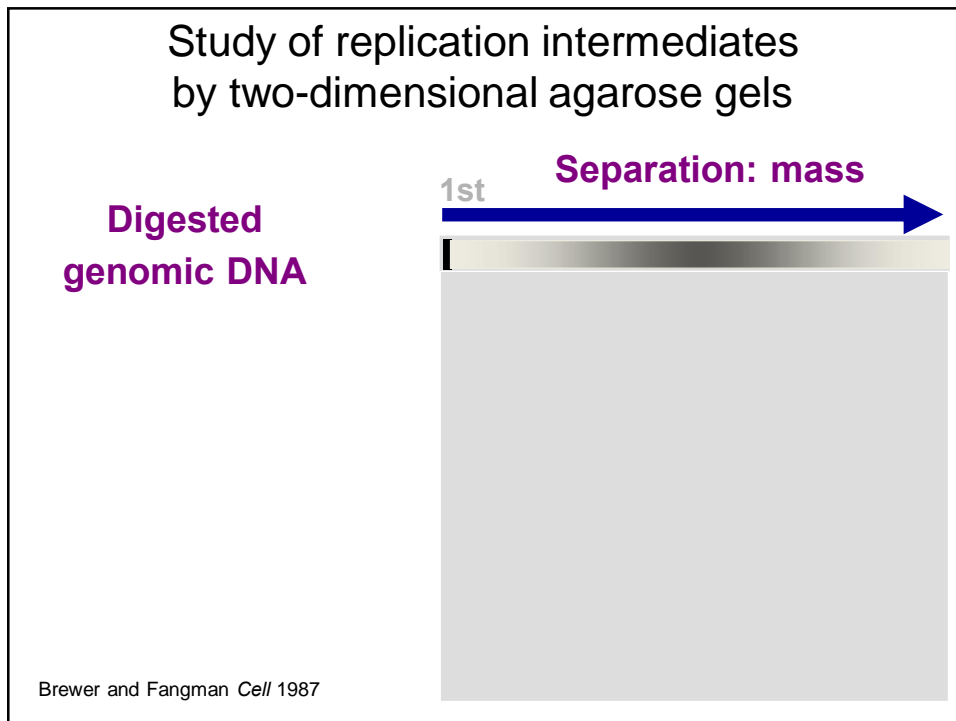
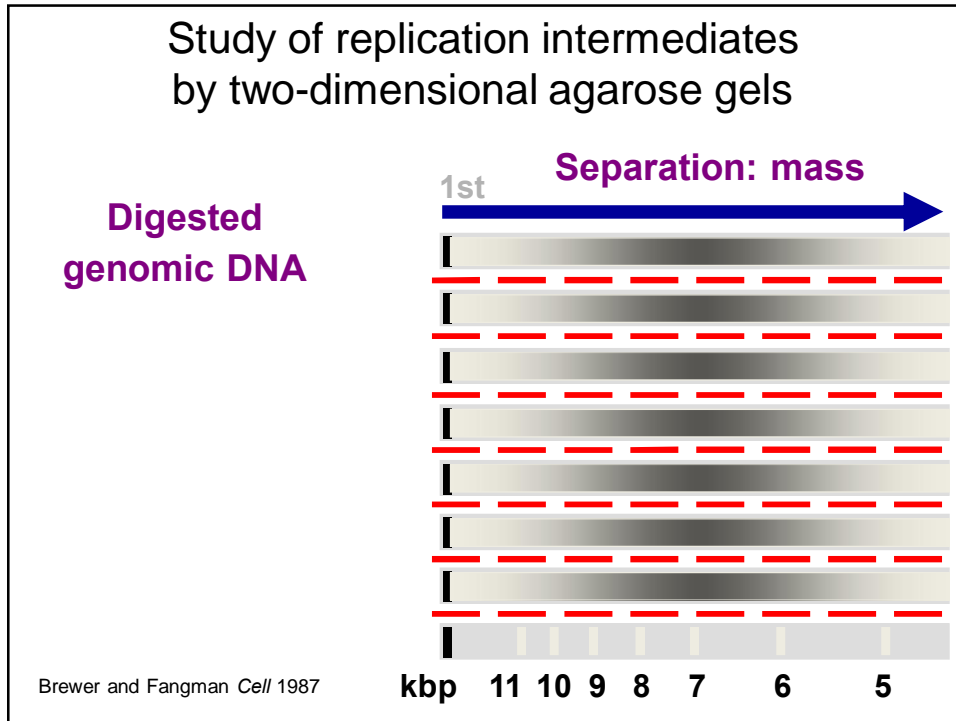
Initiation of chromosomal DNA replication is highly regulated: In yeast there are about 400 replication origins. Locations and timing of activation of these origins during the cell cycle is precisely known. (Raghumaran *Science* 2001)

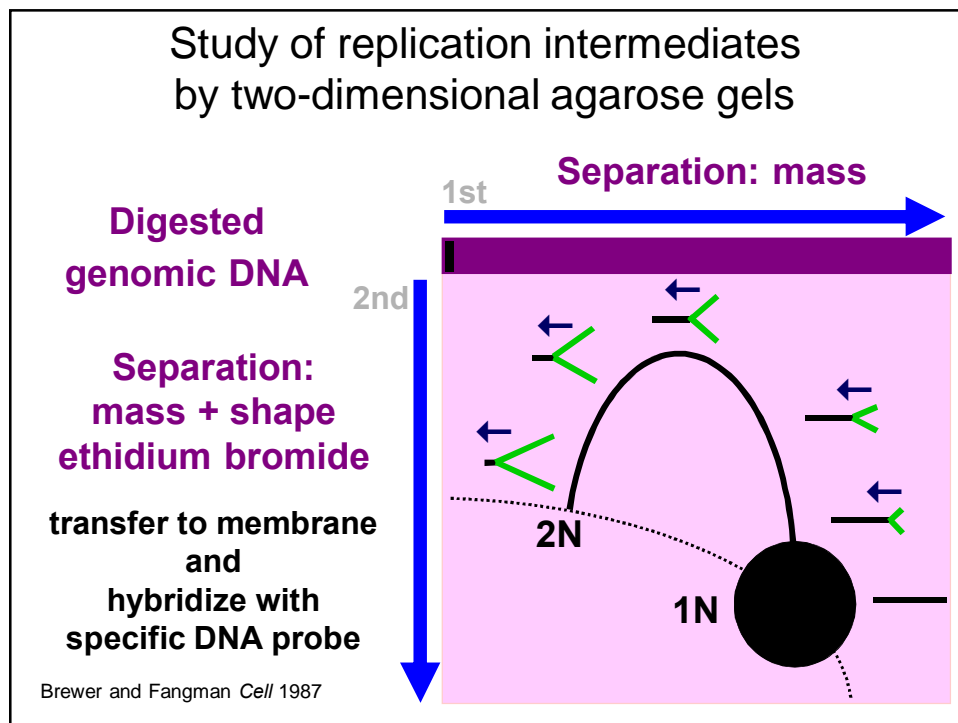
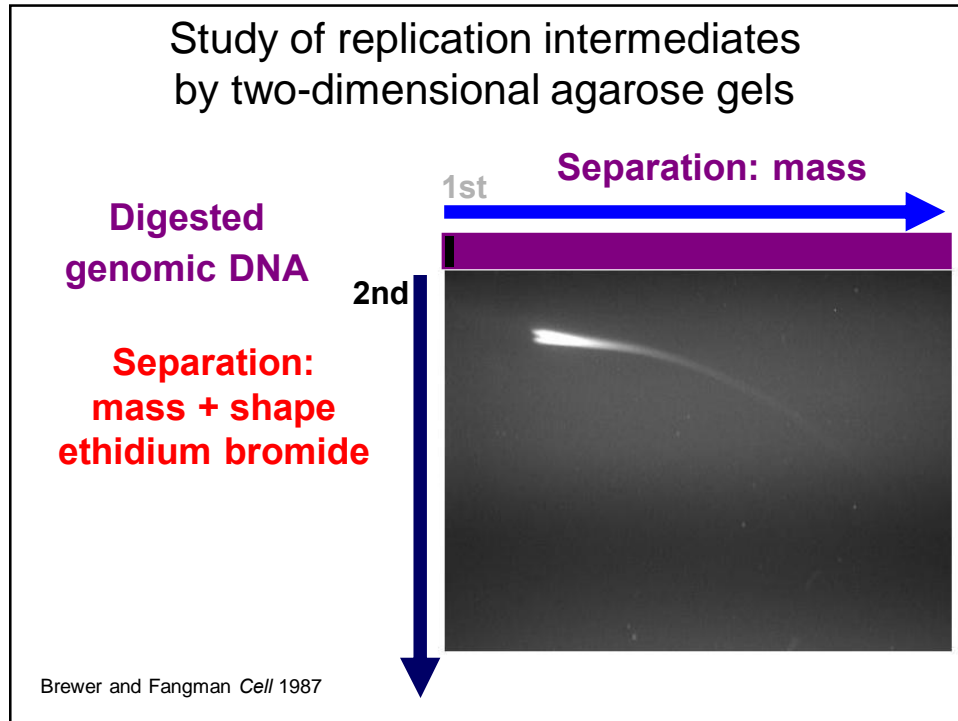
Is DNA replication changing during aging?

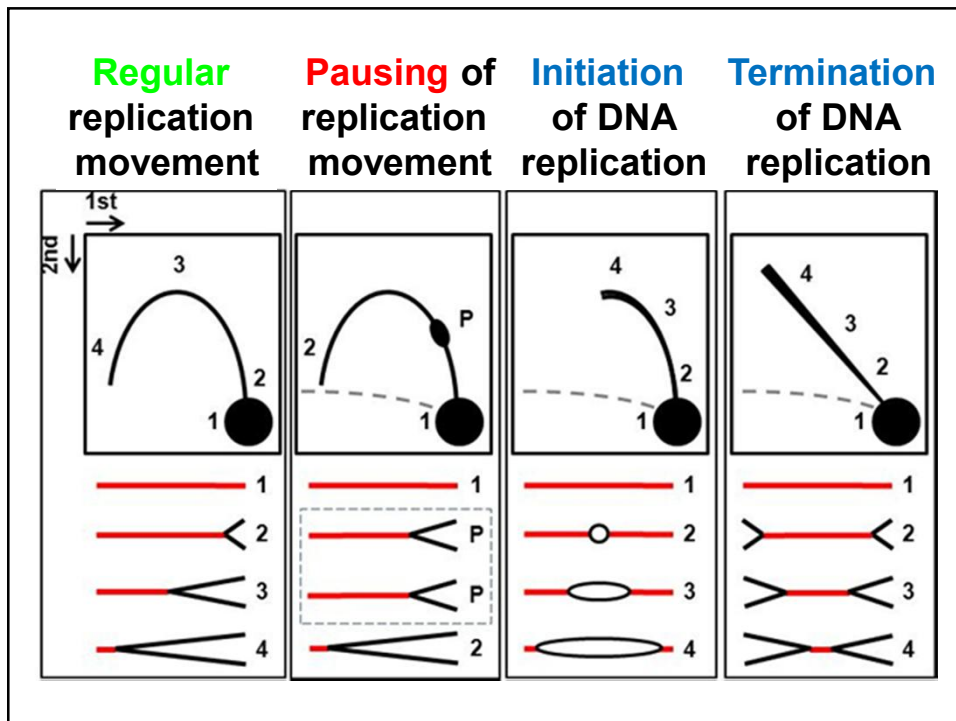
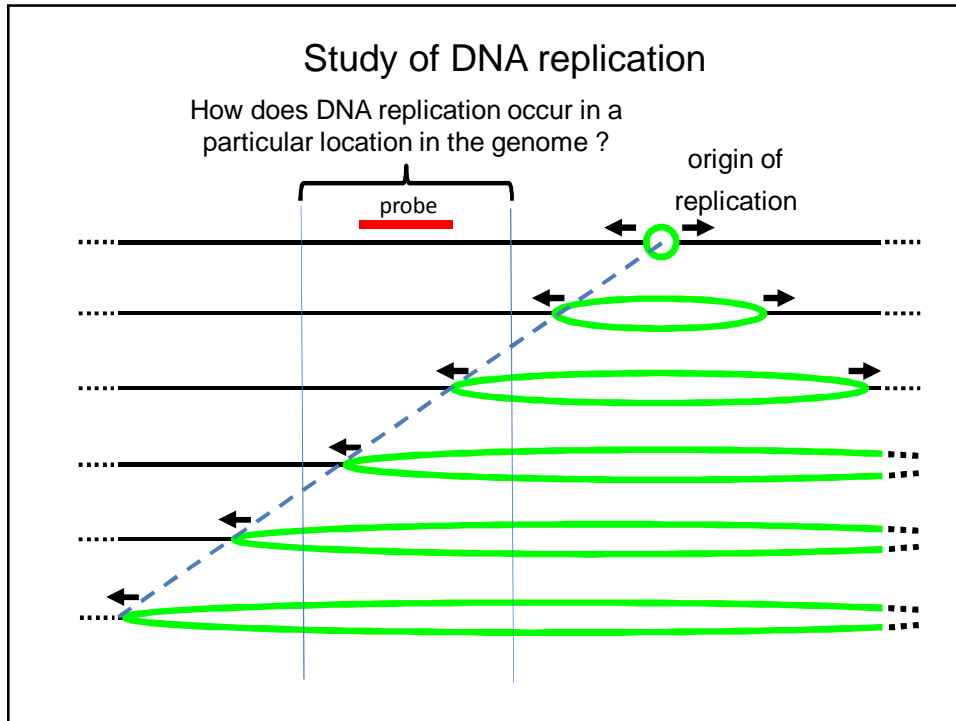
Analyses of DNA replication intermediates in yeast have been studied extensively in YOUNG cells but not in OLD cells, because it is difficult to obtain sufficient numbers of replicative old yeast cells.

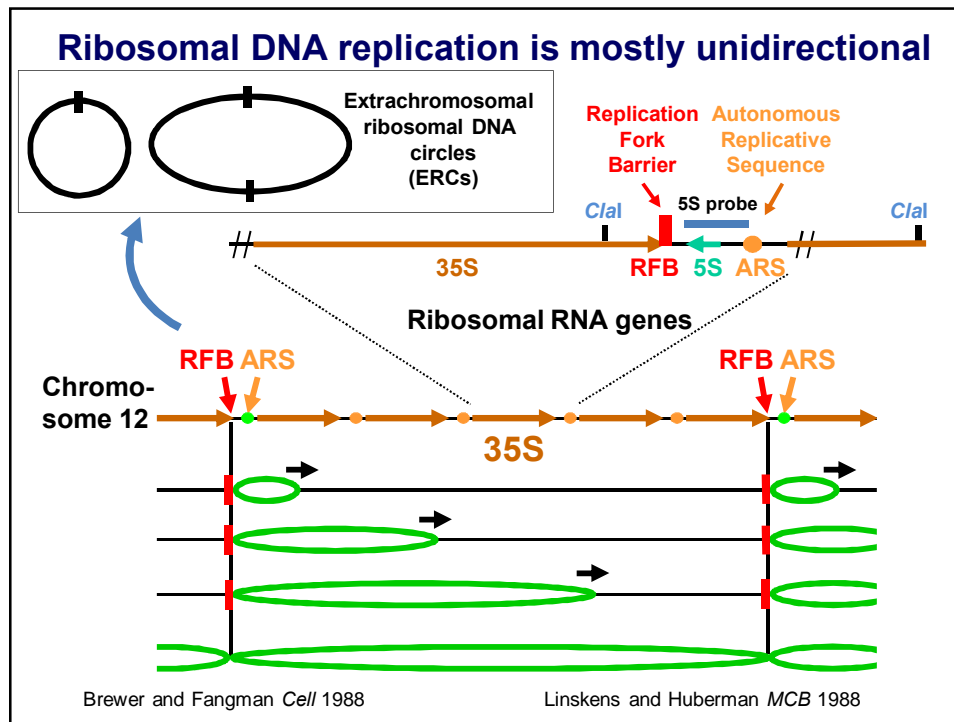








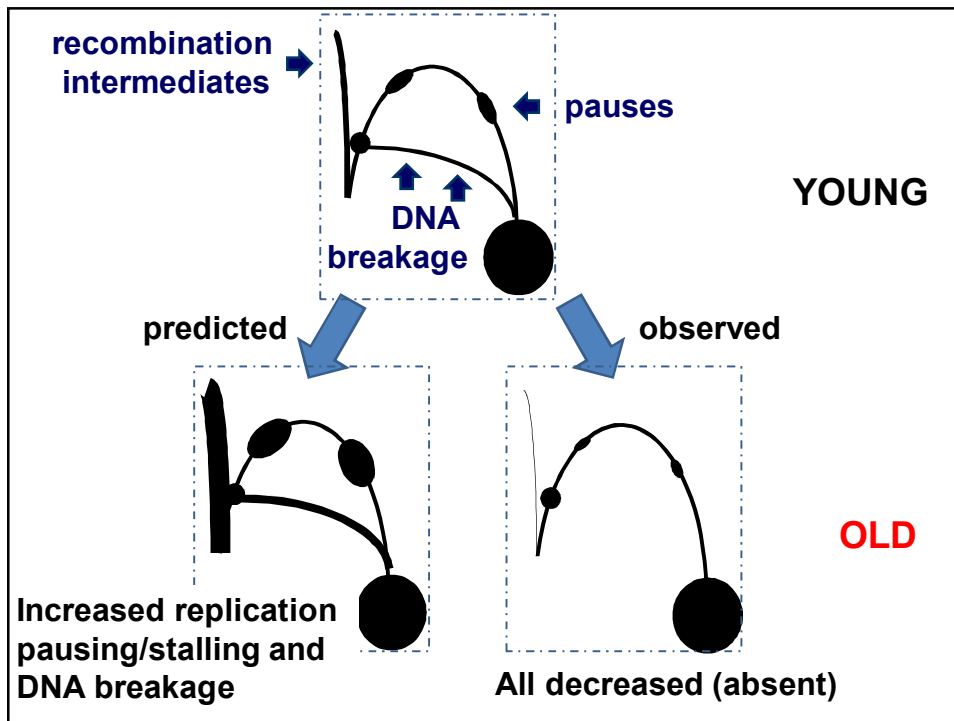
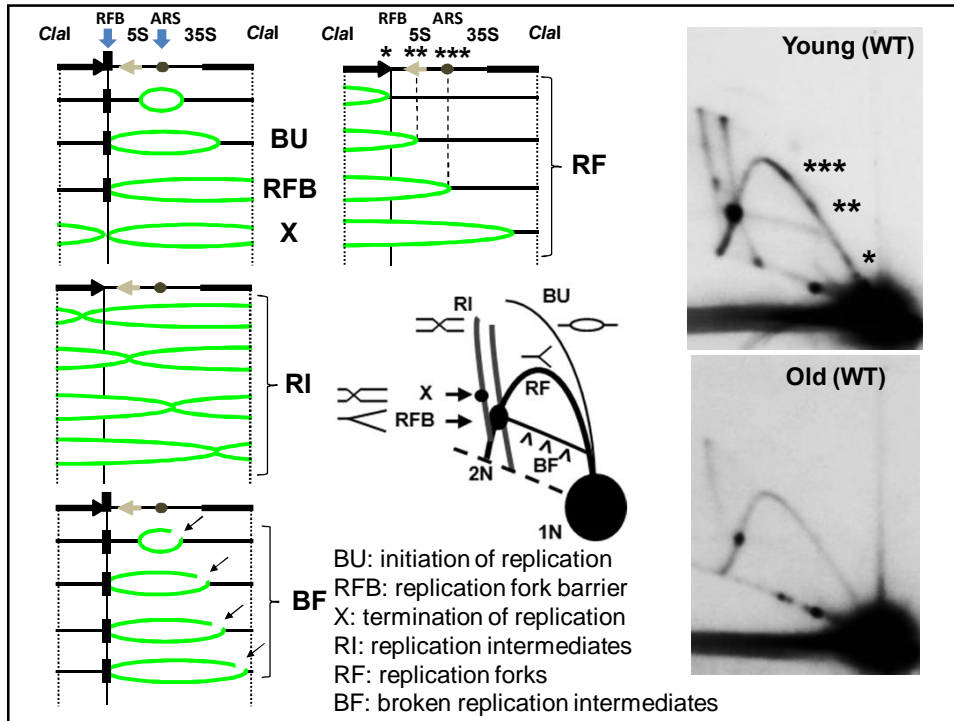


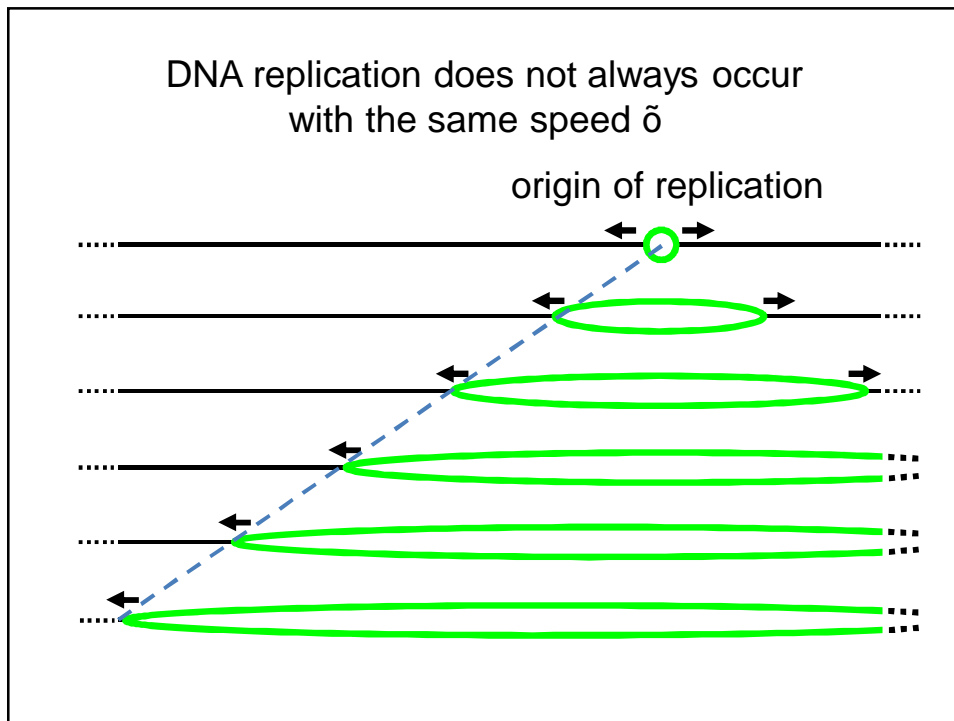
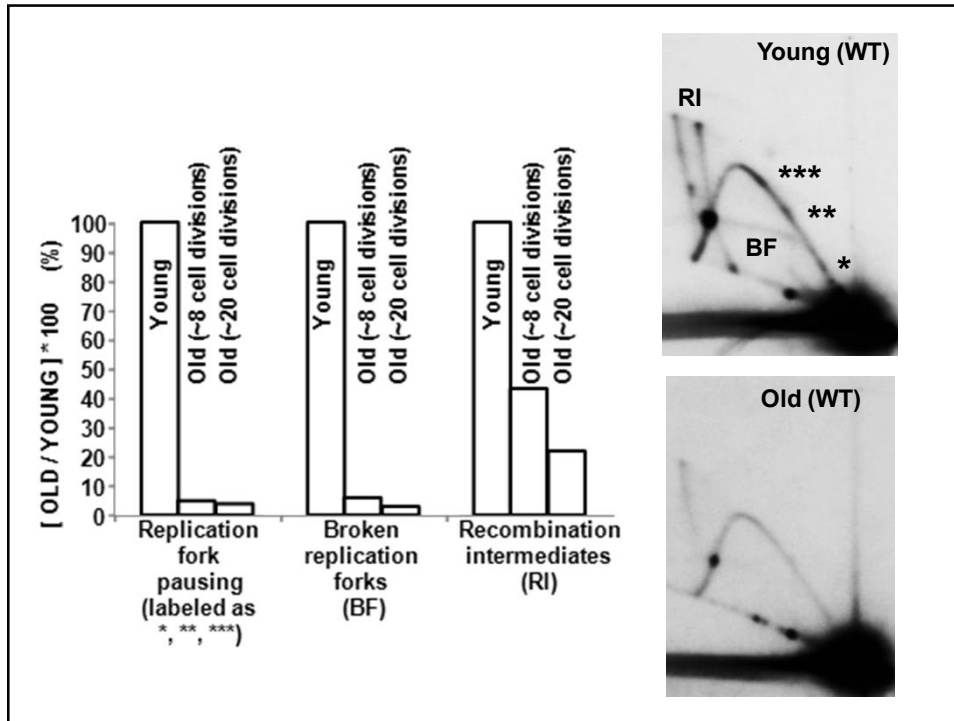


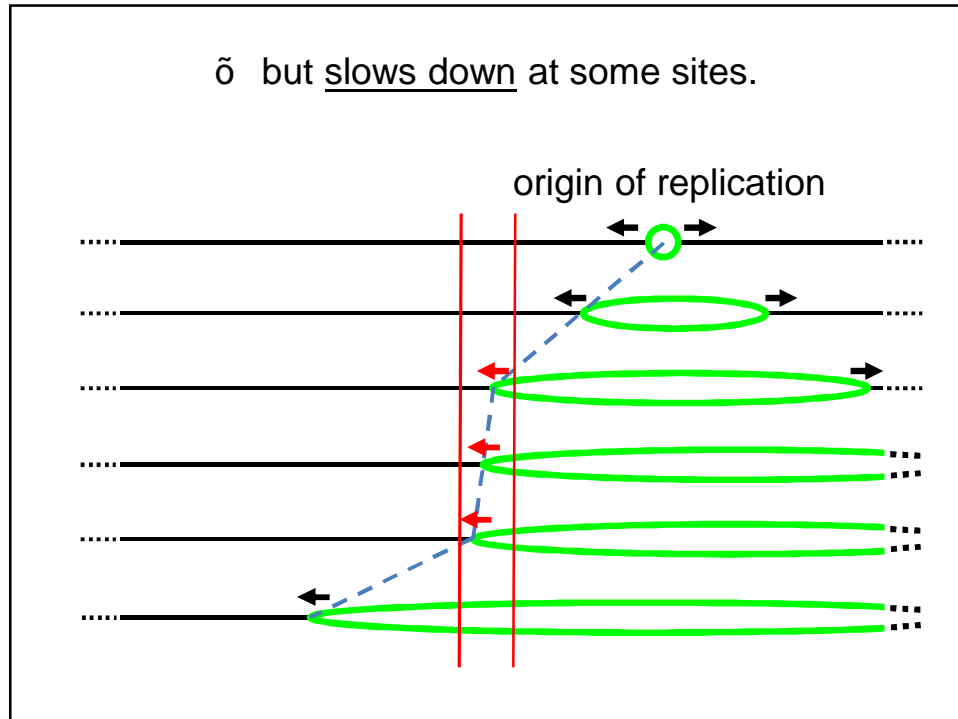
Predictions:

We propose that various forms of DNA damage will accumulate during aging:

- Increased slowing of replication movement (pausing)
- Increase frequency in DNA strand breaks
- Increase in DNA exchange (recombination) which is indicative of increased DNA damage



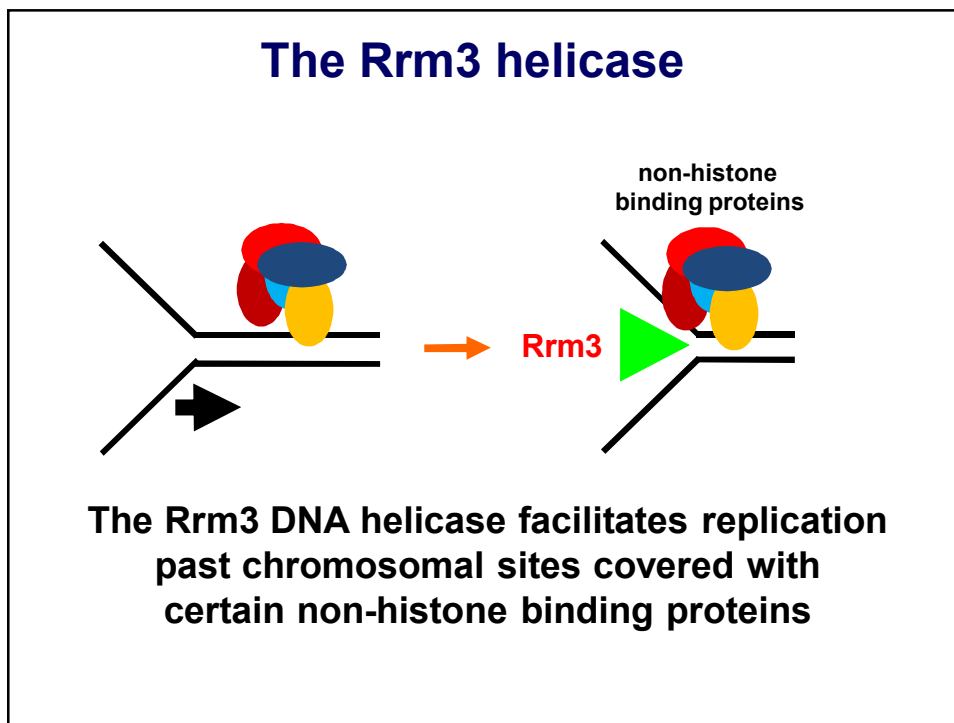
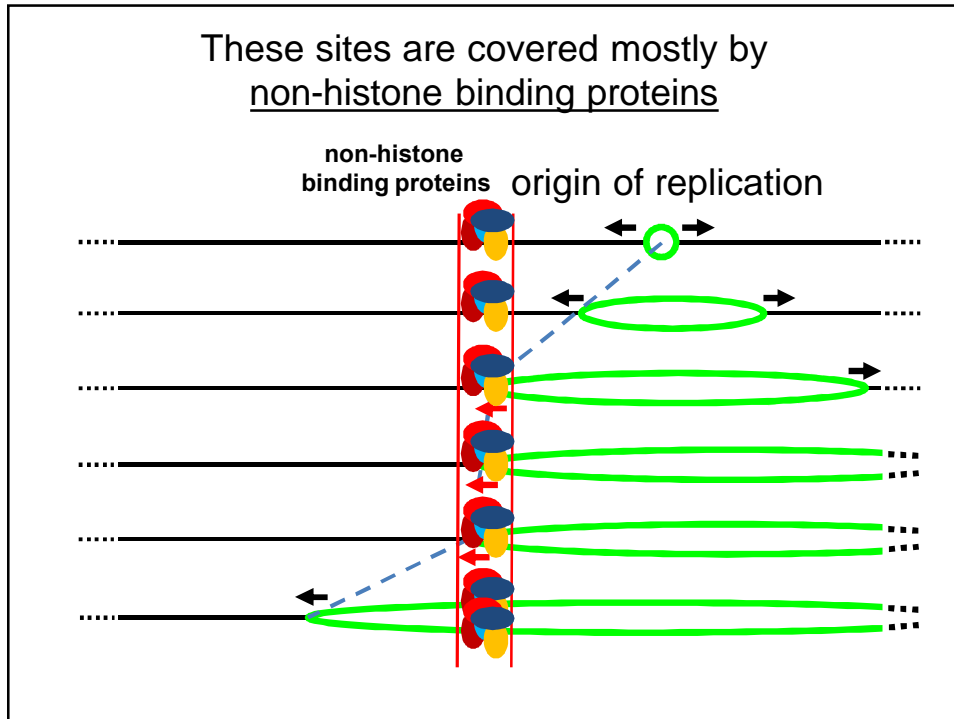


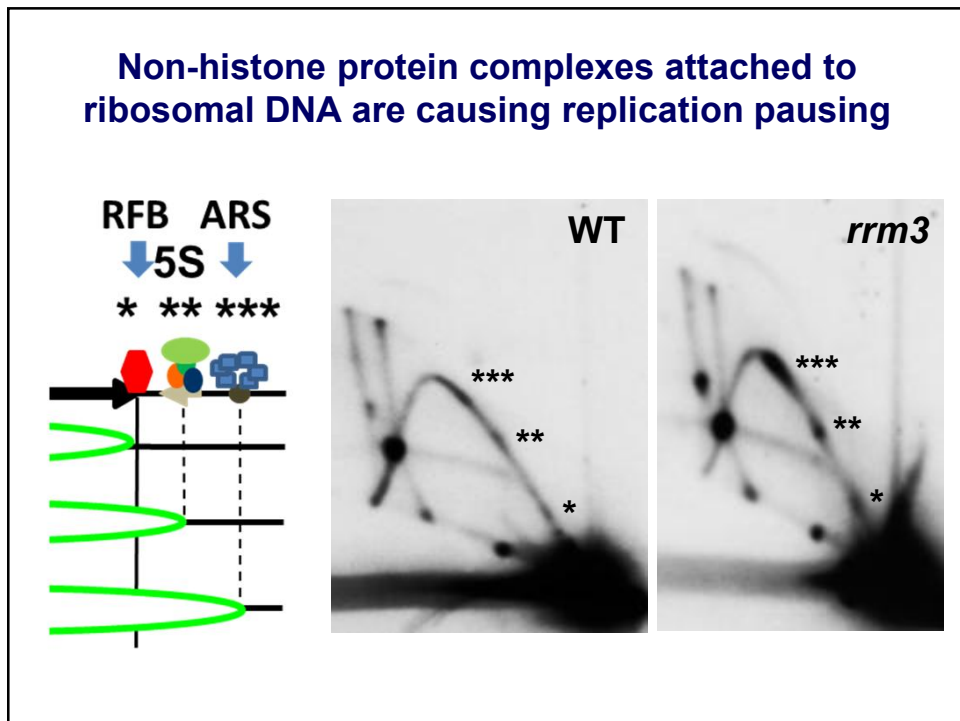
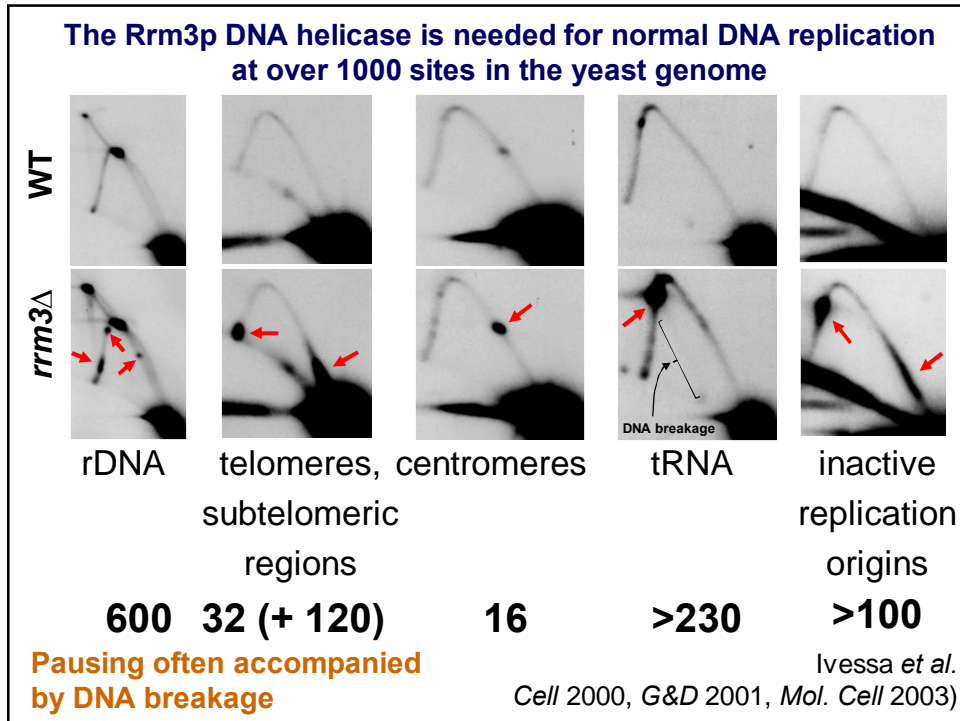


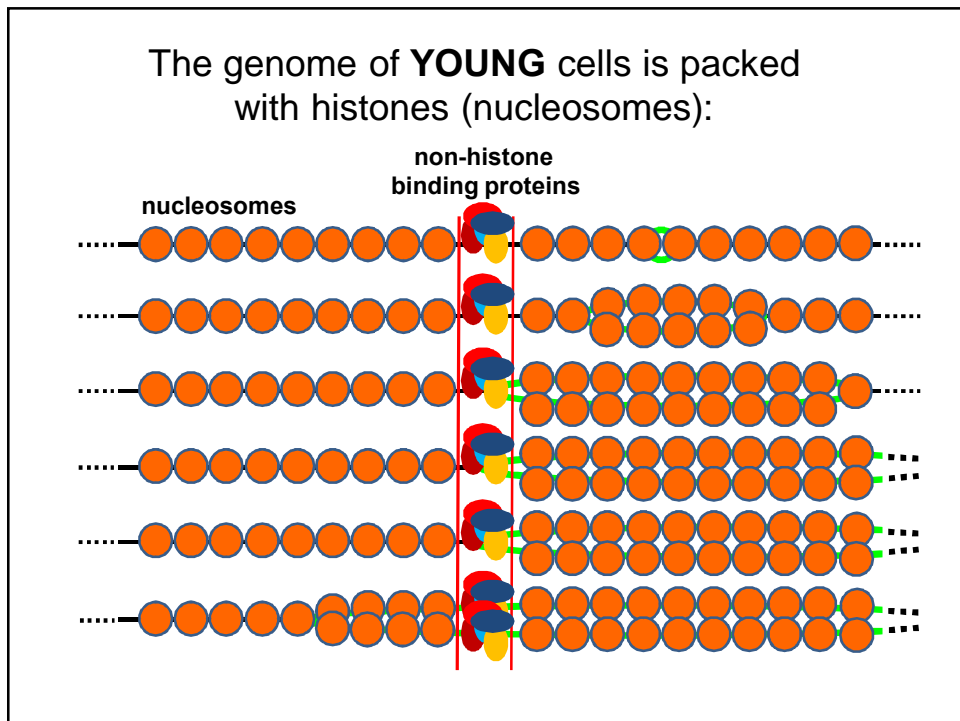
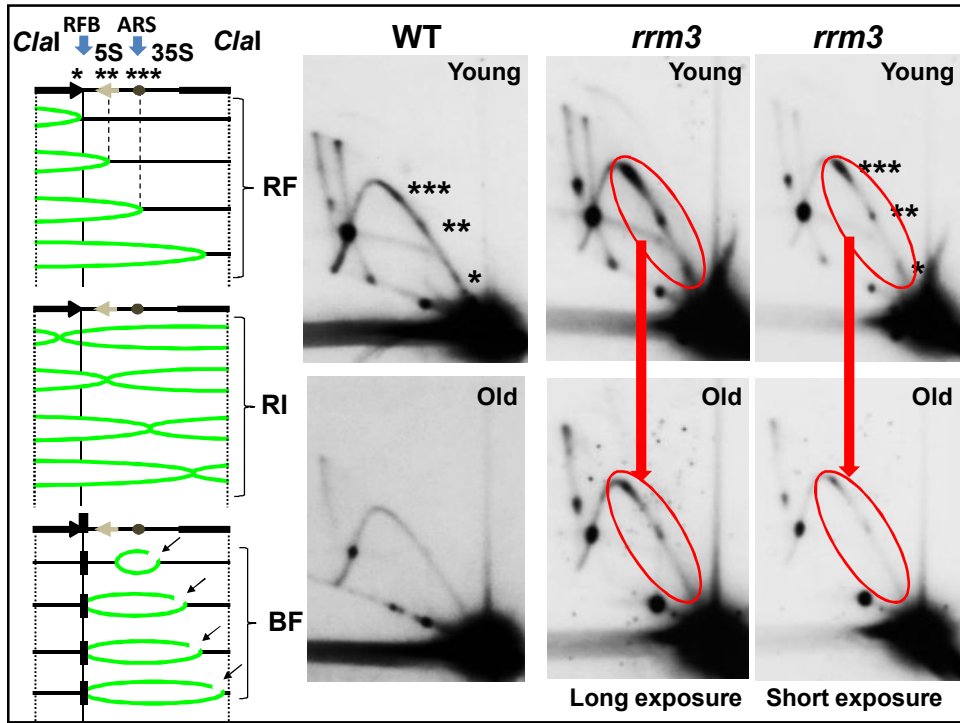
Examples of DNA “replication slow zones”

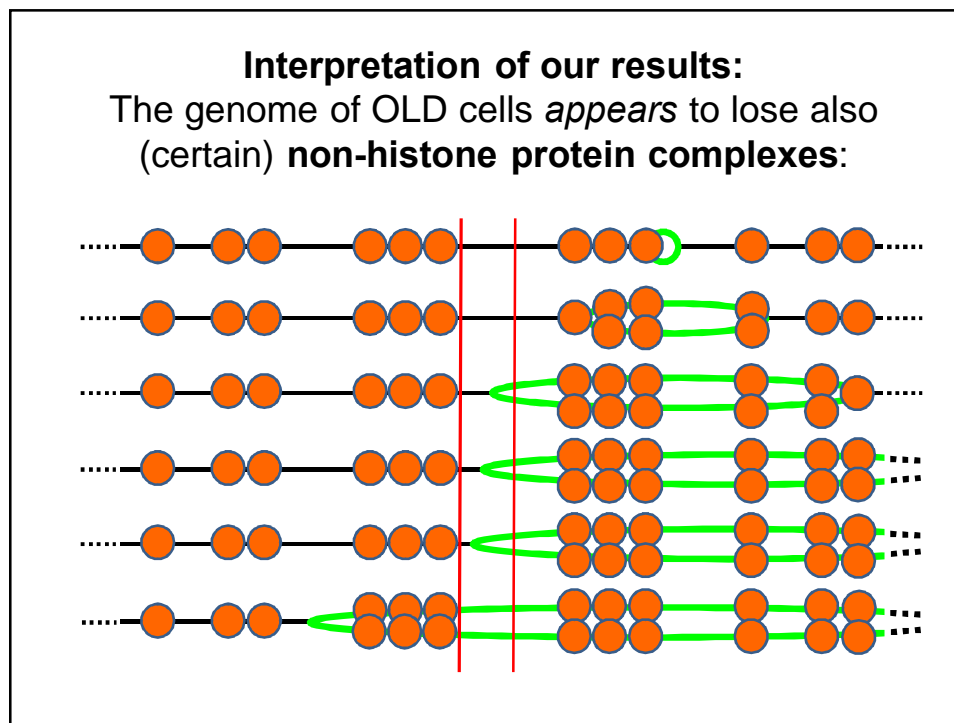
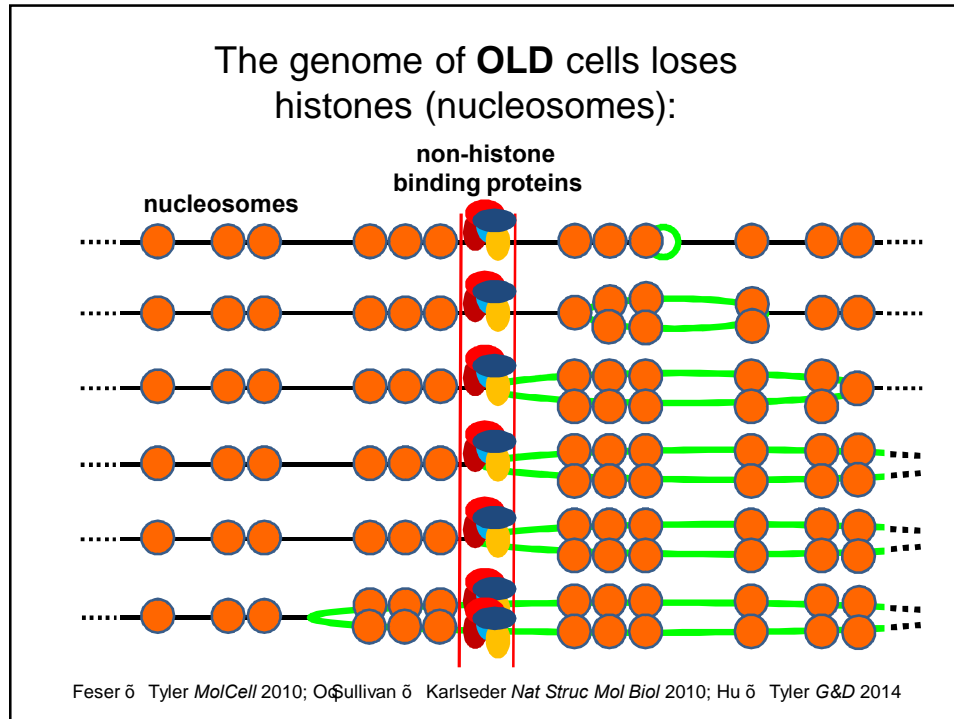
- “ centromeres
- “ transfer RNA genes
- “ telomeres
- “ silent replication origins
- “ ribosomal DNA array (5S rRNA gene, replication fork barrier)

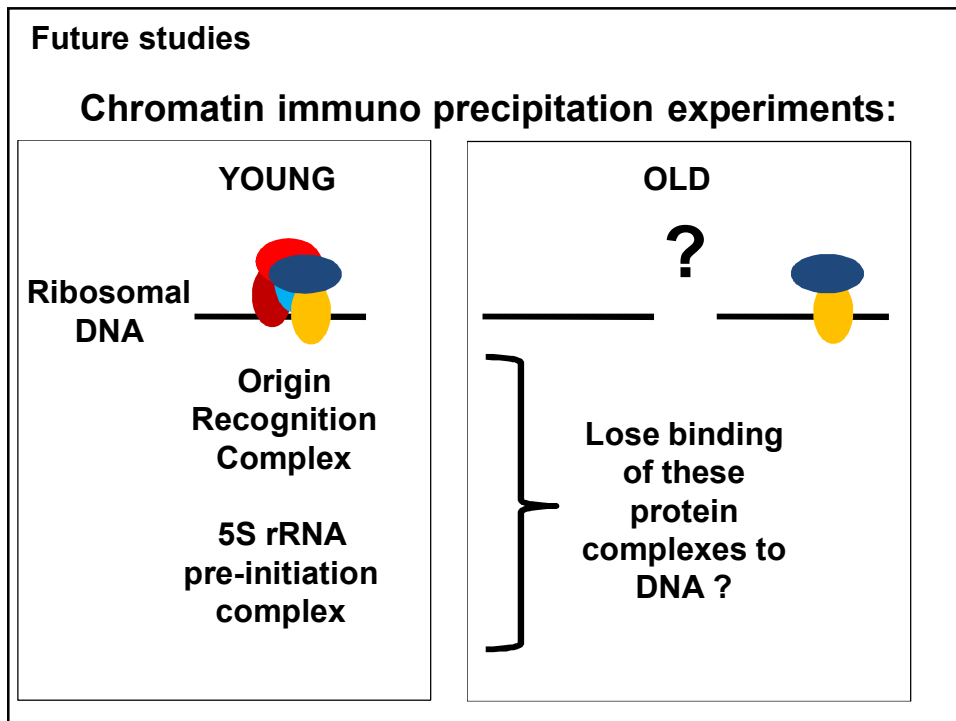
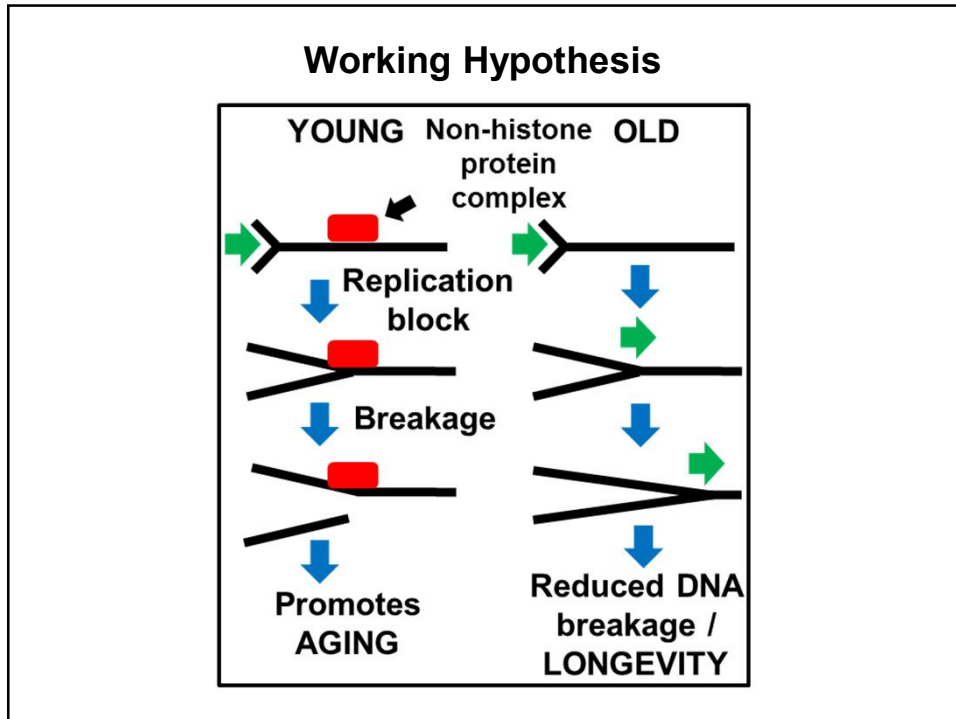
Pausing, stalling, breakage → fragile sites+

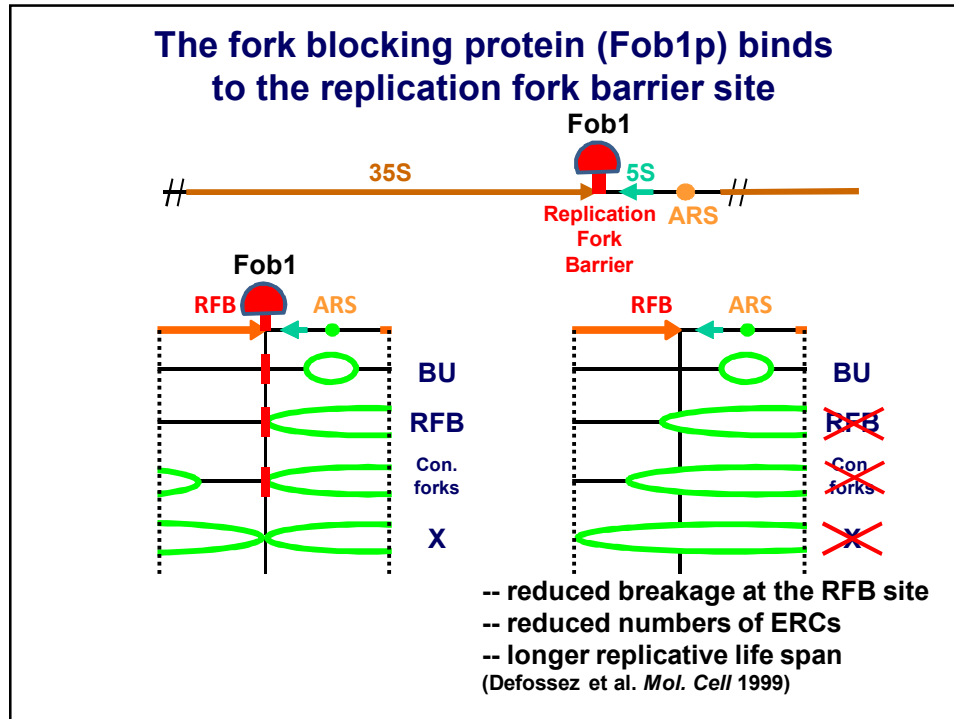








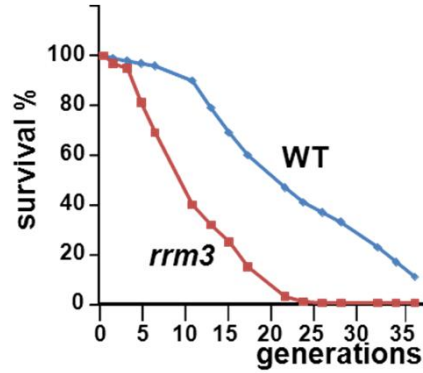




Loss of pausing / stalling at other fragile sites in the genome of old cells:

- " centromeres
- " transfer RNA genes
- " telomeres
- " silent replication origins

Cells lacking the DNA helicase Rrm3p
have a short replicative lifespan



▶ Extension of the replicative lifespan in a strain moderately overexpressing the helicase Rrm3p?