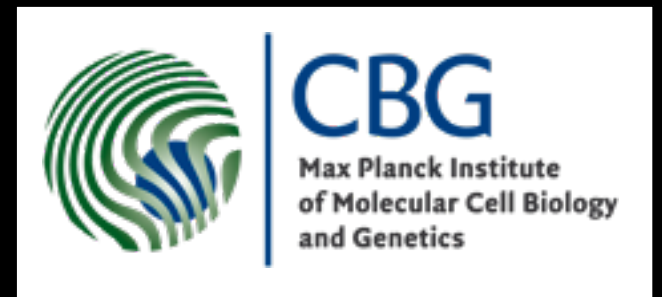


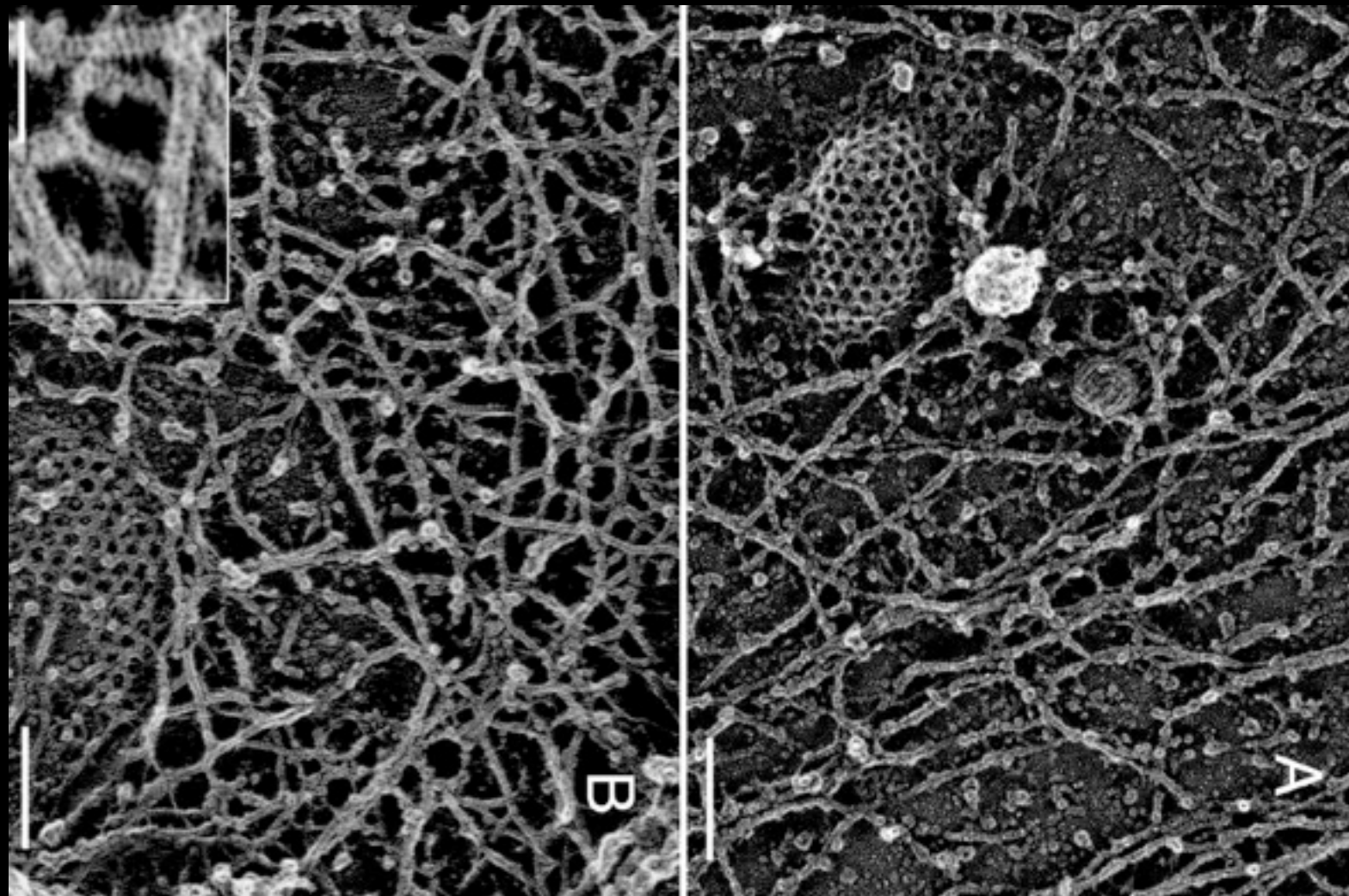
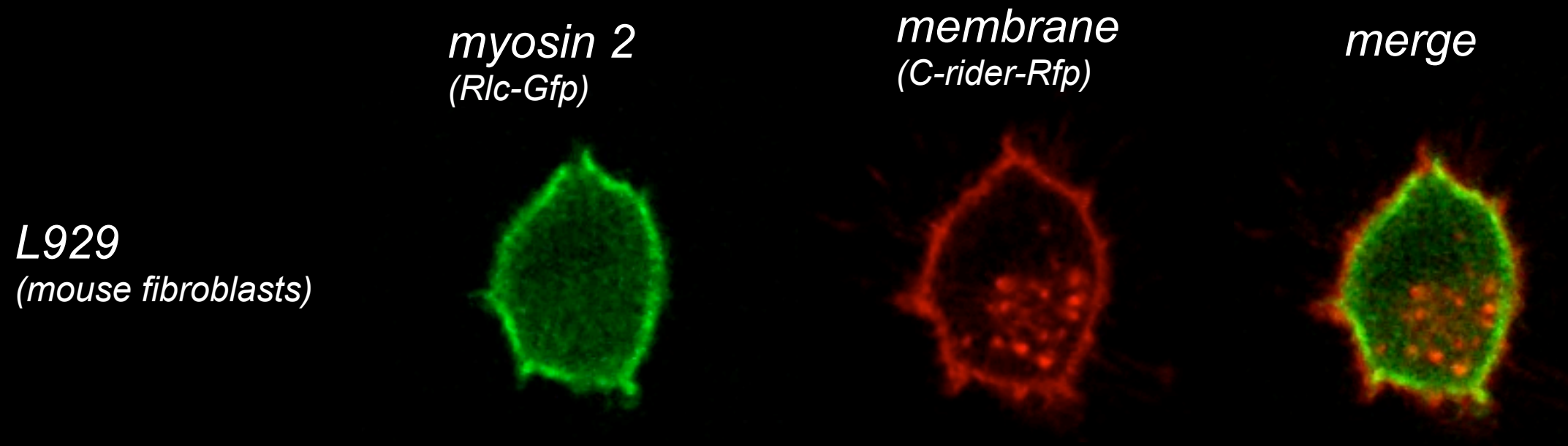
Blebs, actin cortex mechanics and the control of cell shape

Ewa Paluch



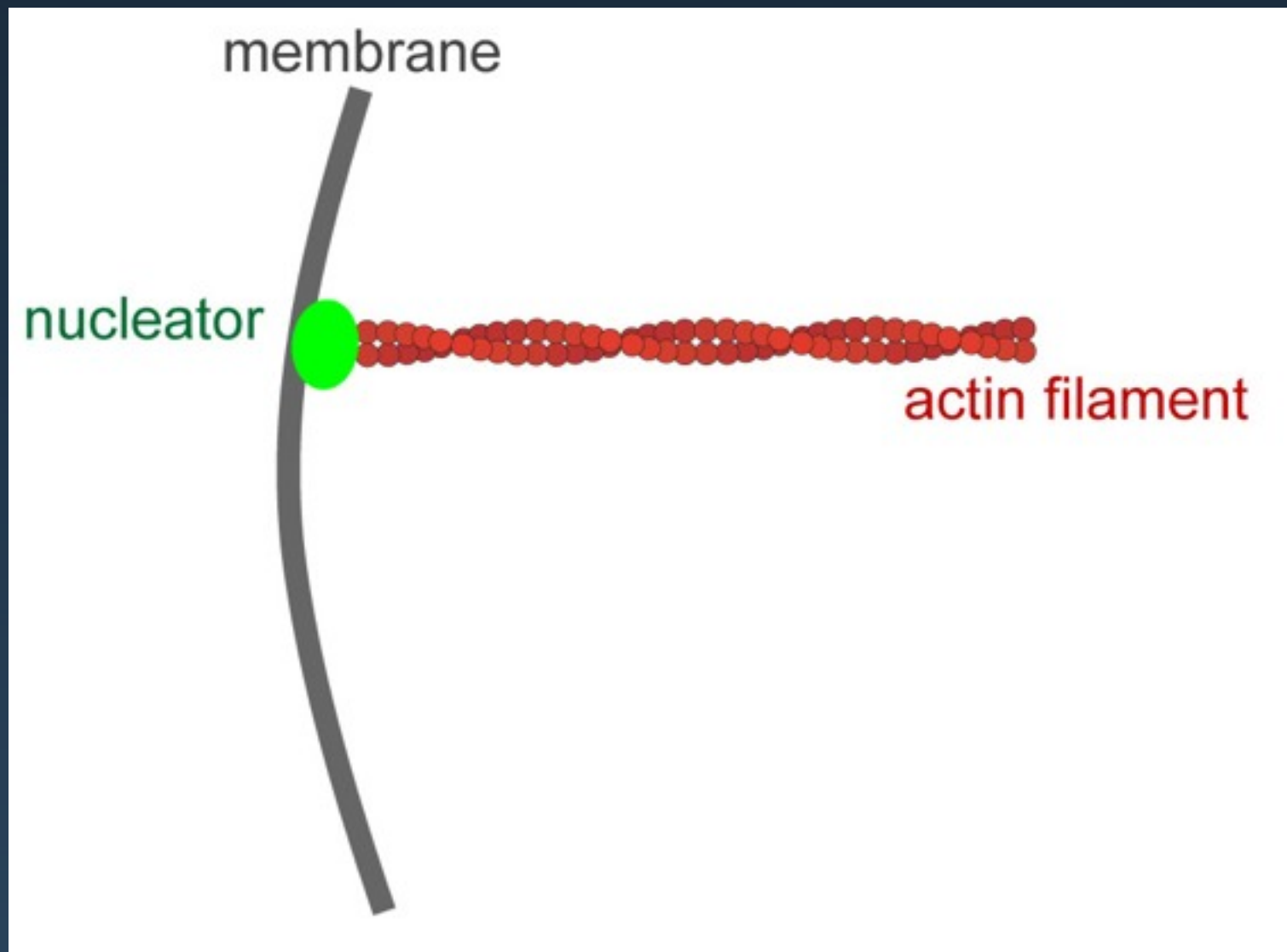
KITP
22.02.2010

The actomyosin cortex

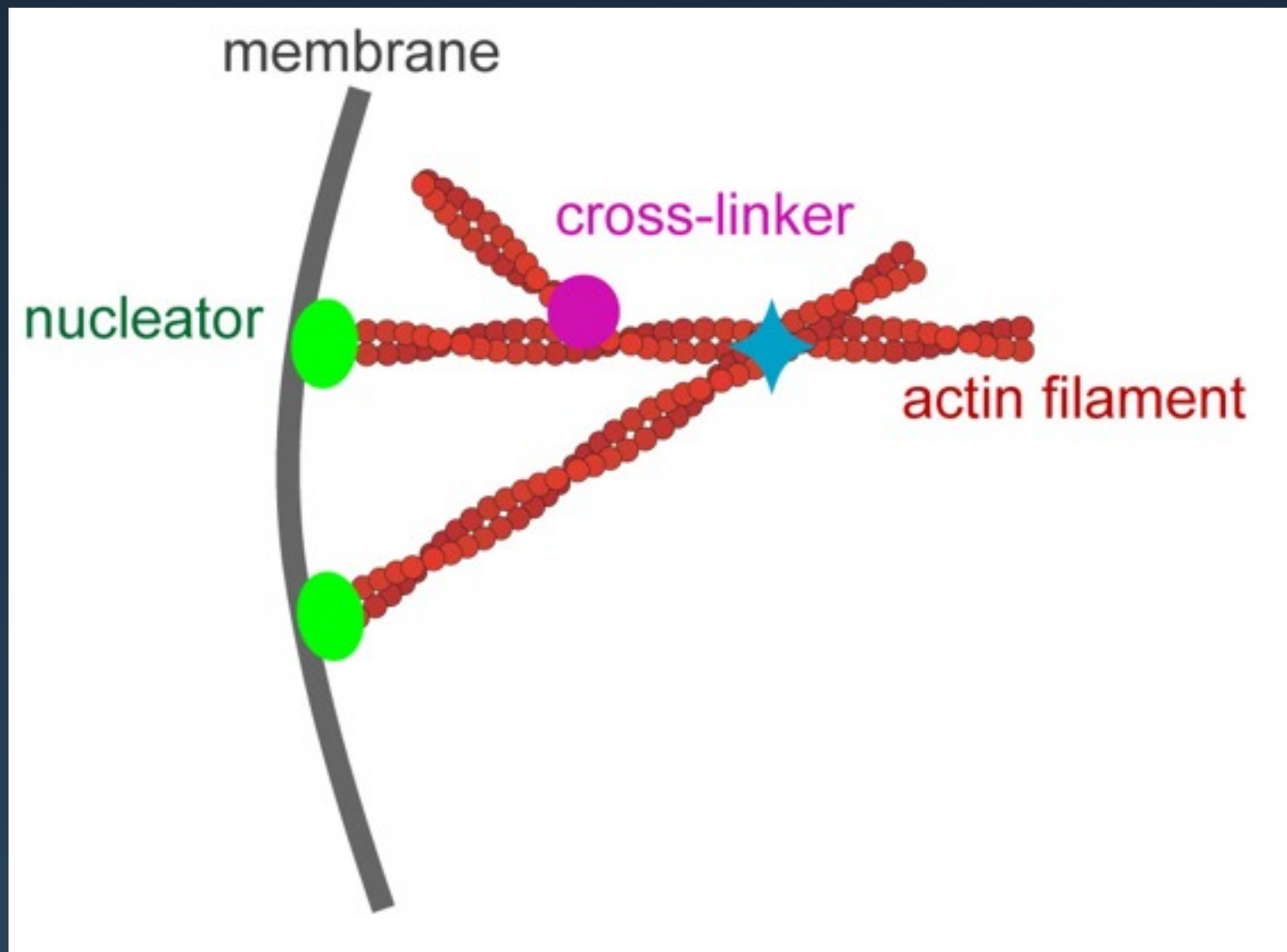


NRK cells
[Morone et al., J Cell Biol 2006]

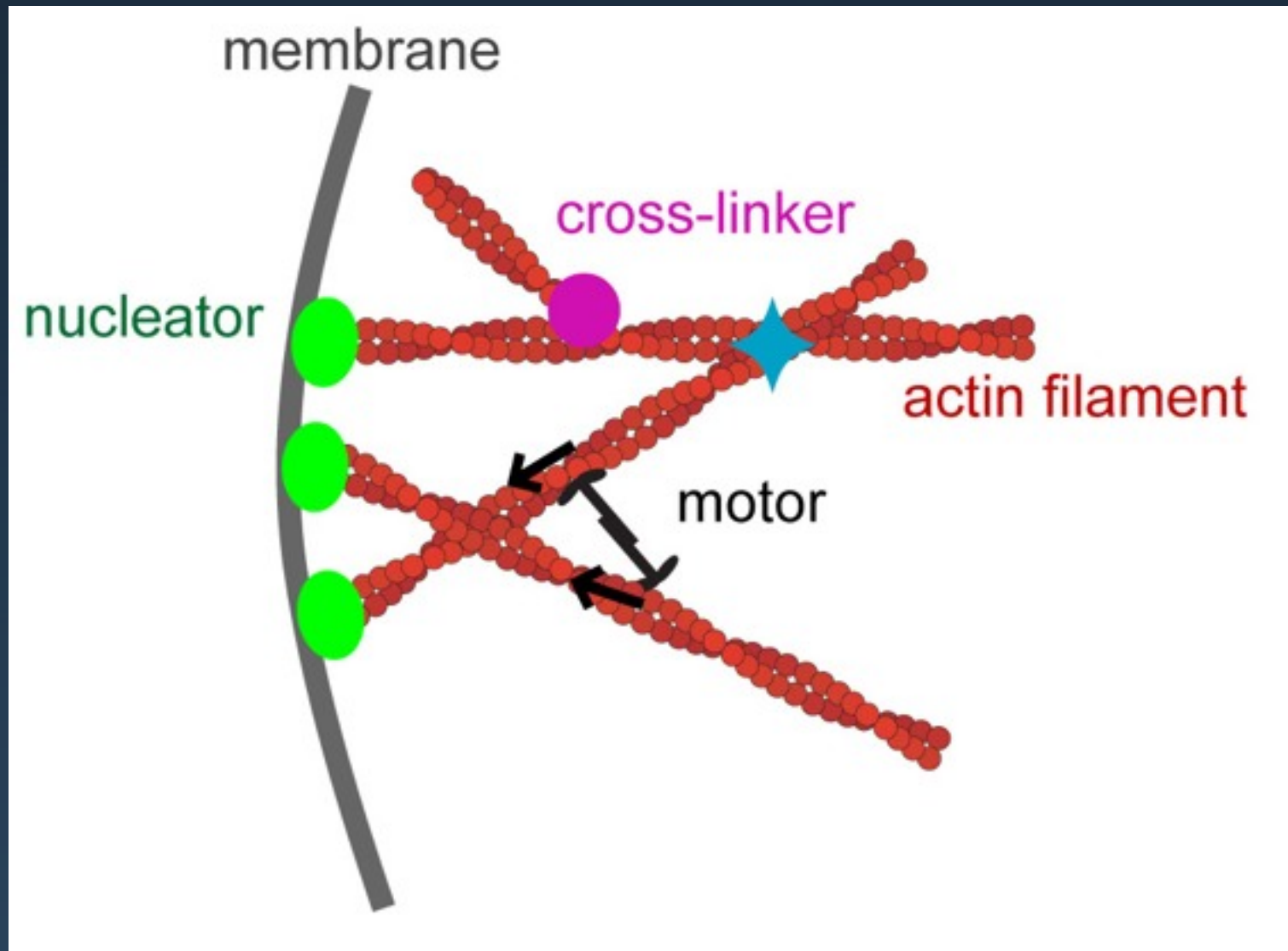
The cell cortex



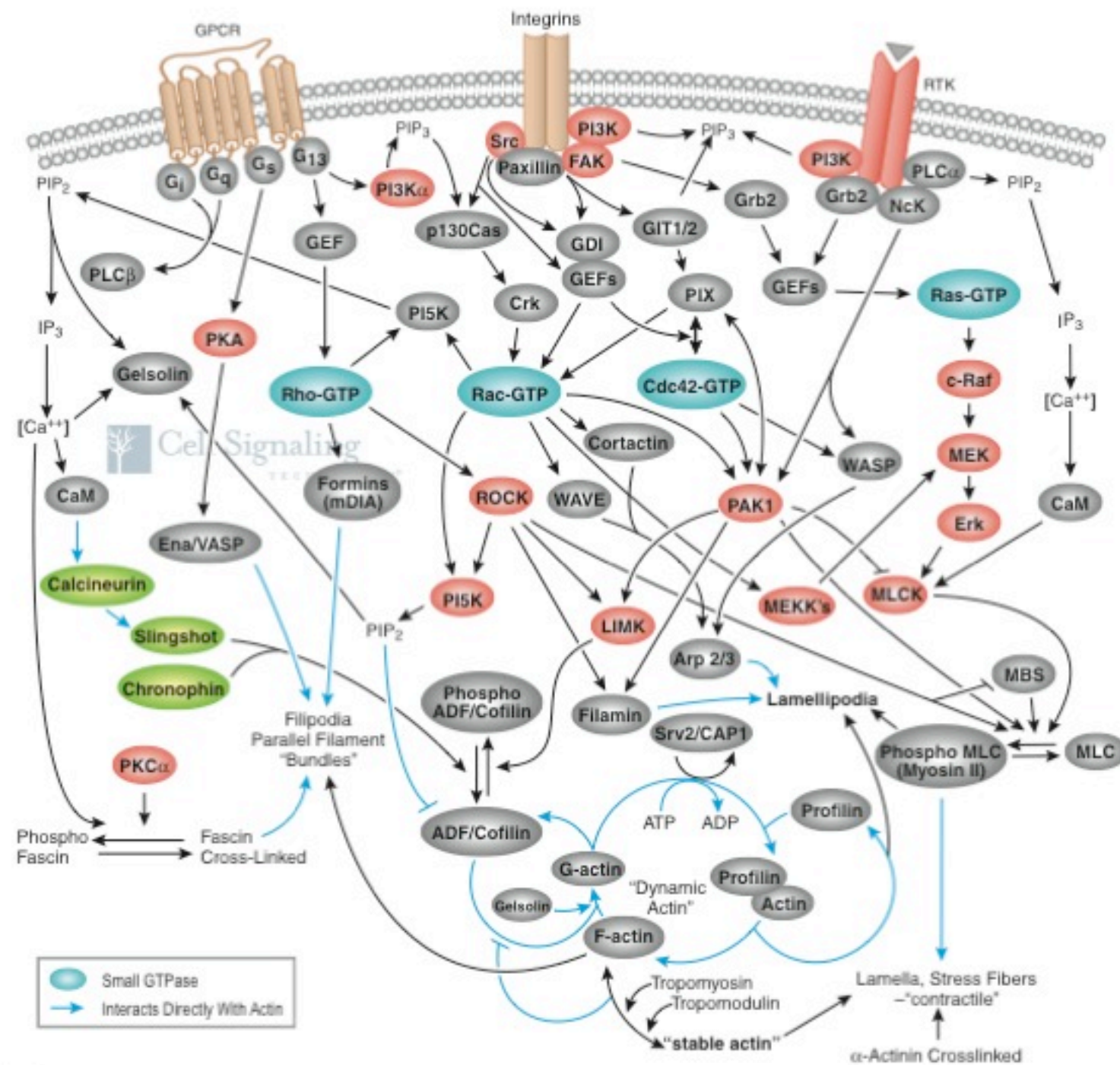
The cell cortex



The cell cortex



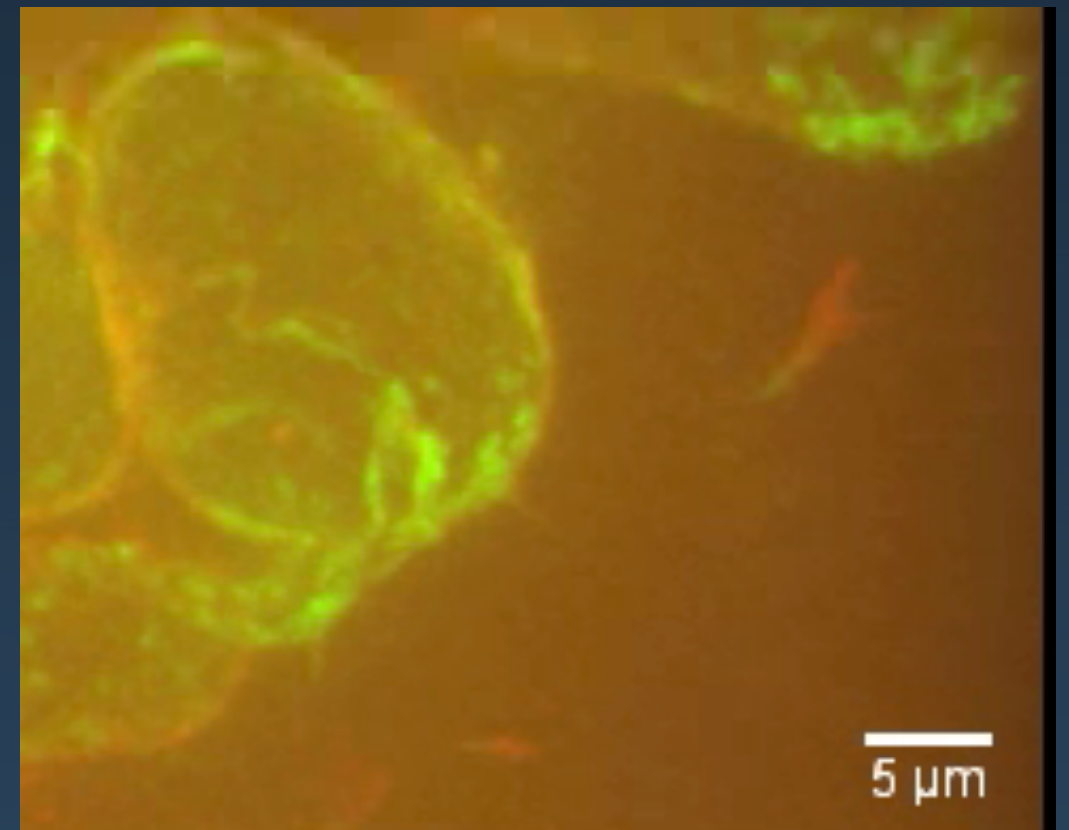
Cytoskeletal Signaling



Cortical contractions drive cell deformations

L929 fibroblast dividing

Zebrafish prechordal plate
progenitor cell

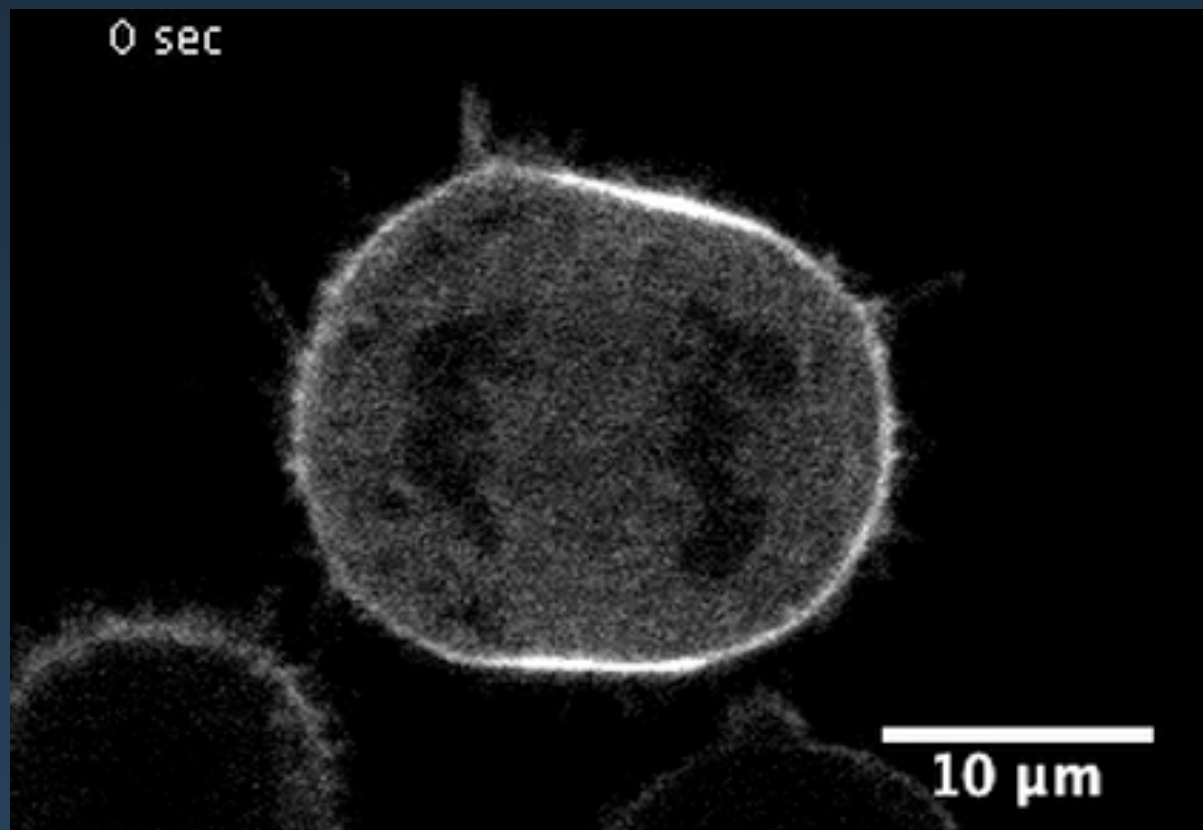


Lifeact-GFP (F-actin marker)

GPI anchored RFP (membrane)
Lifeact-GFP (F-actin)

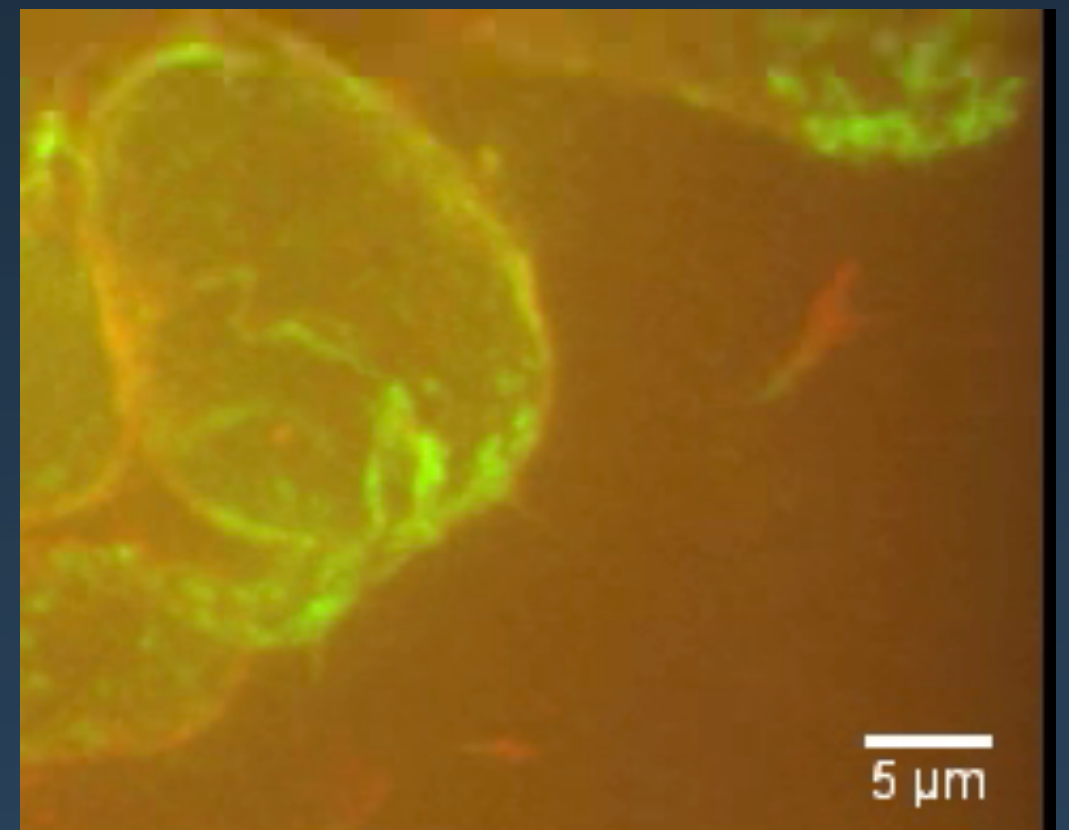
Cortical contractions drive cell deformations

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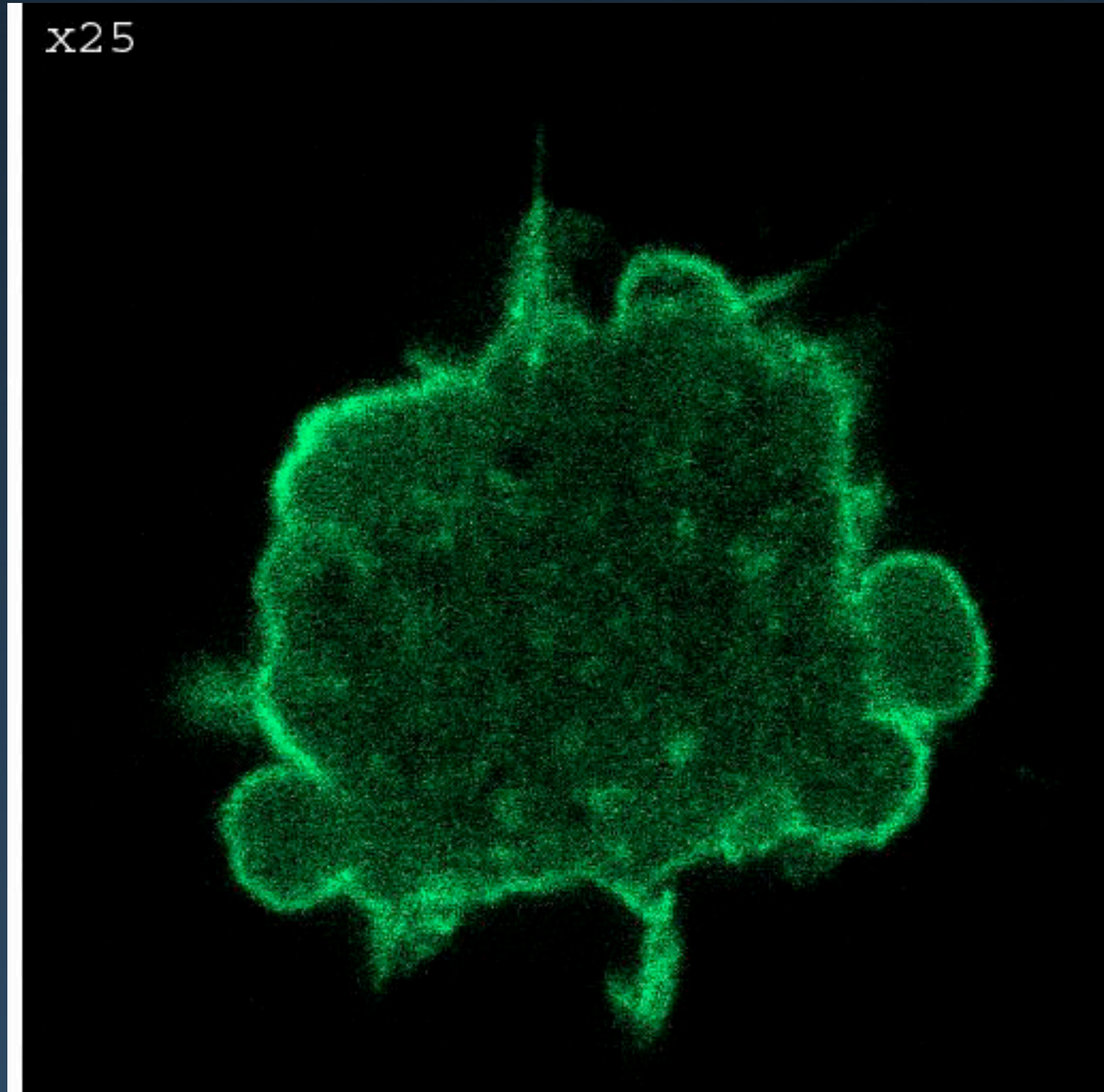


GPI anchored RFP (membrane)
Lifeact-GFP (F-actin)

Blebbing

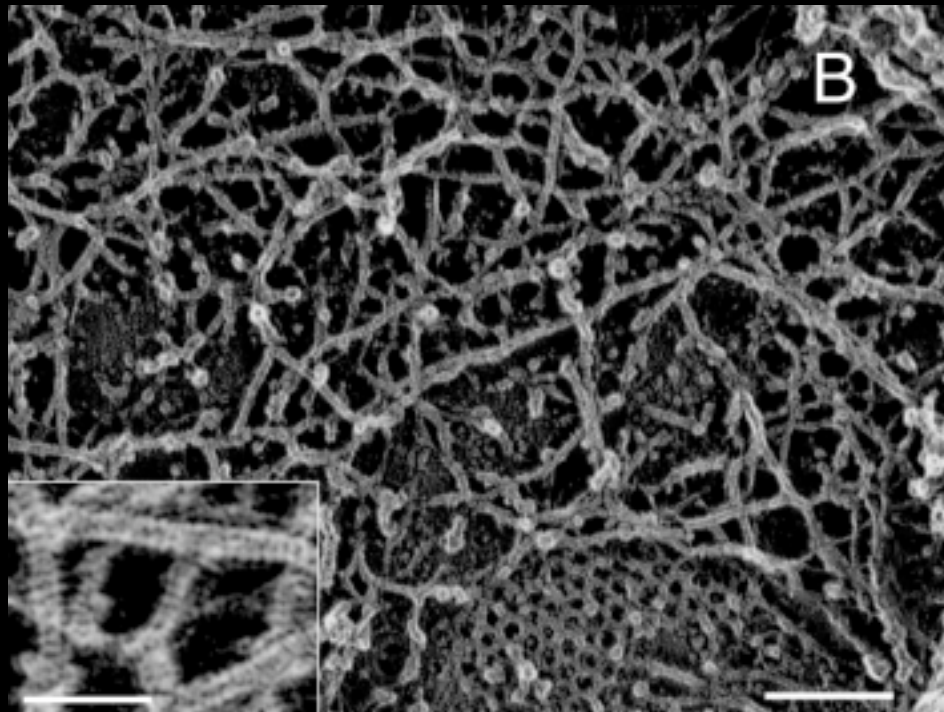
L929 fibroblast NZ-treated, actin-GFP

Blebbing



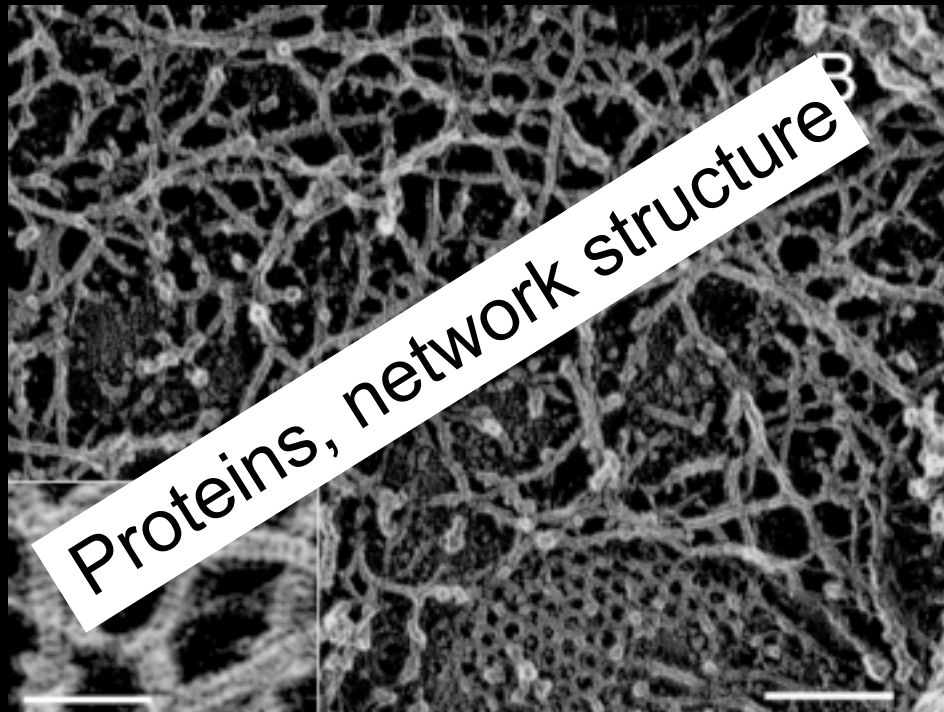
L929 fibroblast NZ-treated, actin-GFP

The actomyosin cortex



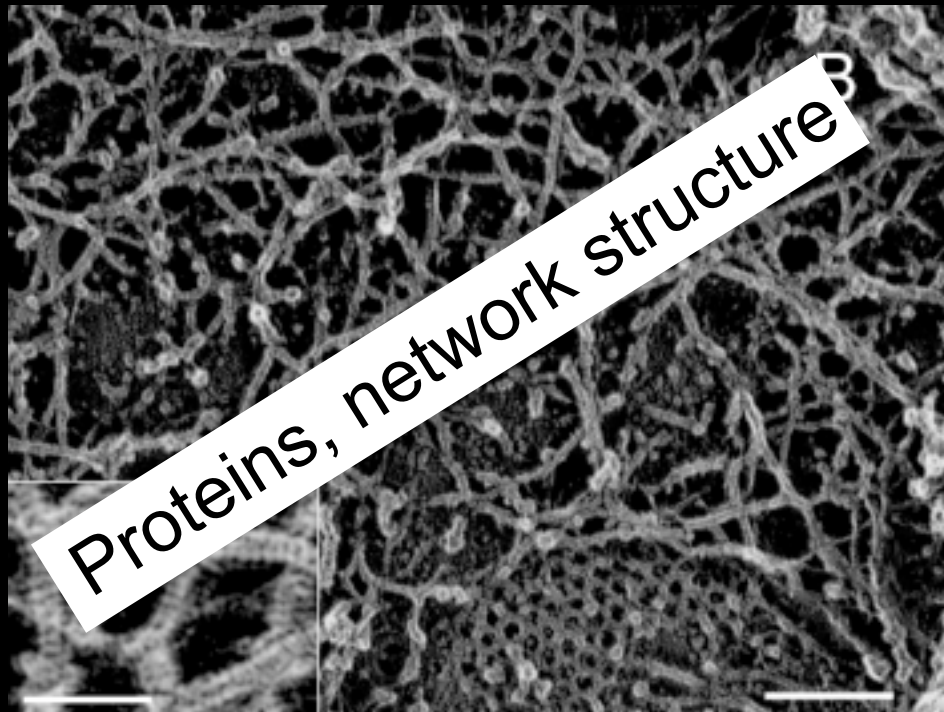
NRK cells
[Morone et al., J Cell Biol 2006]

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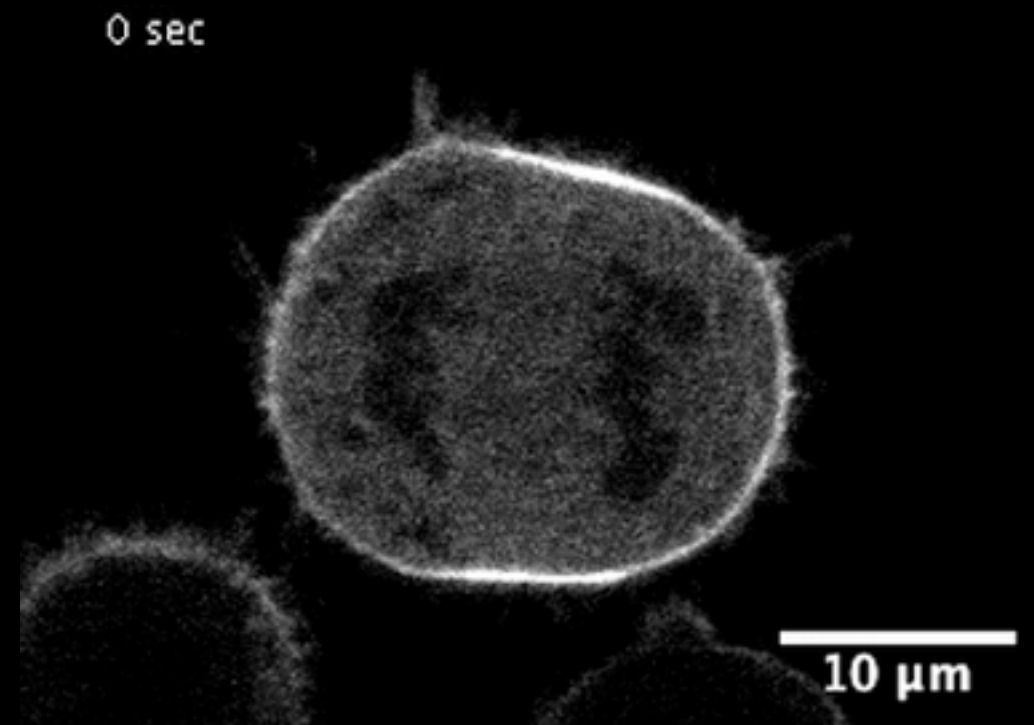


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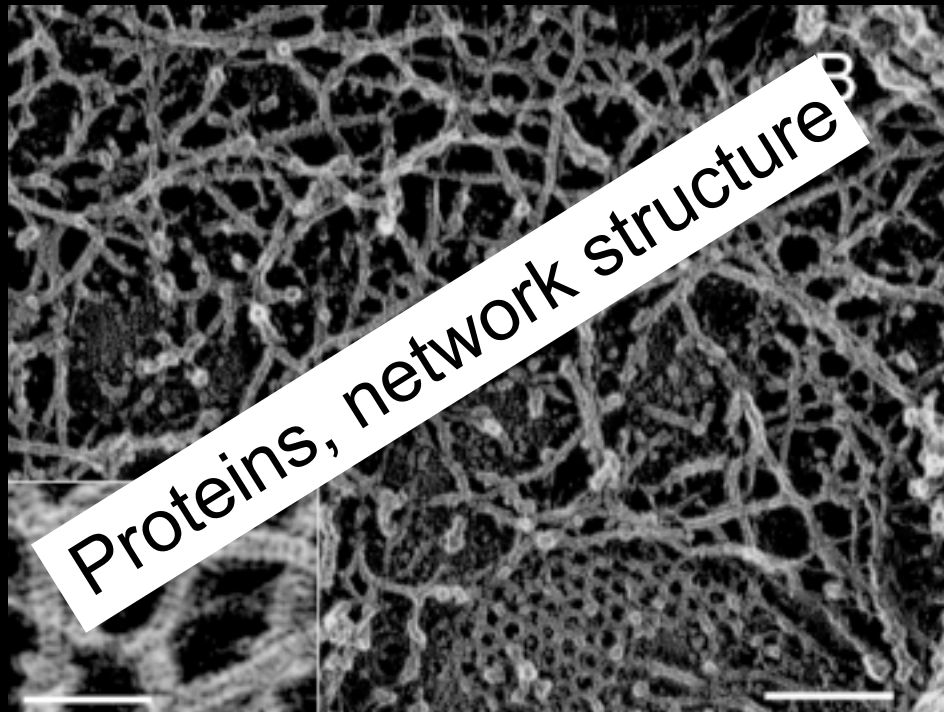


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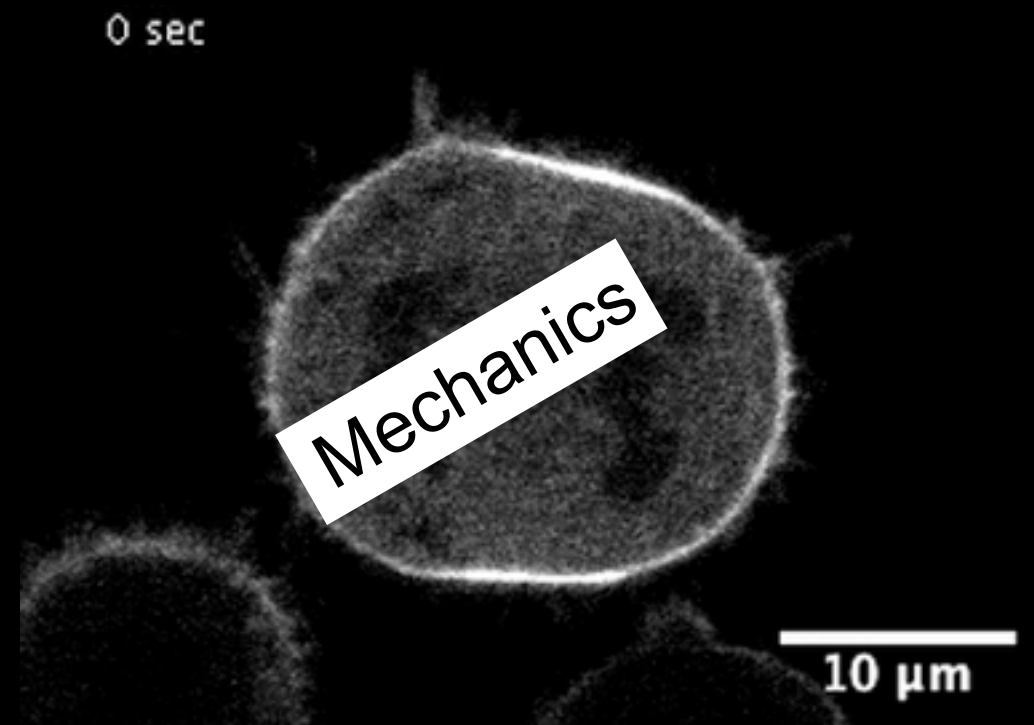


L929 fibroblast dividing, Lifeact-GFP

The actomyosin cortex

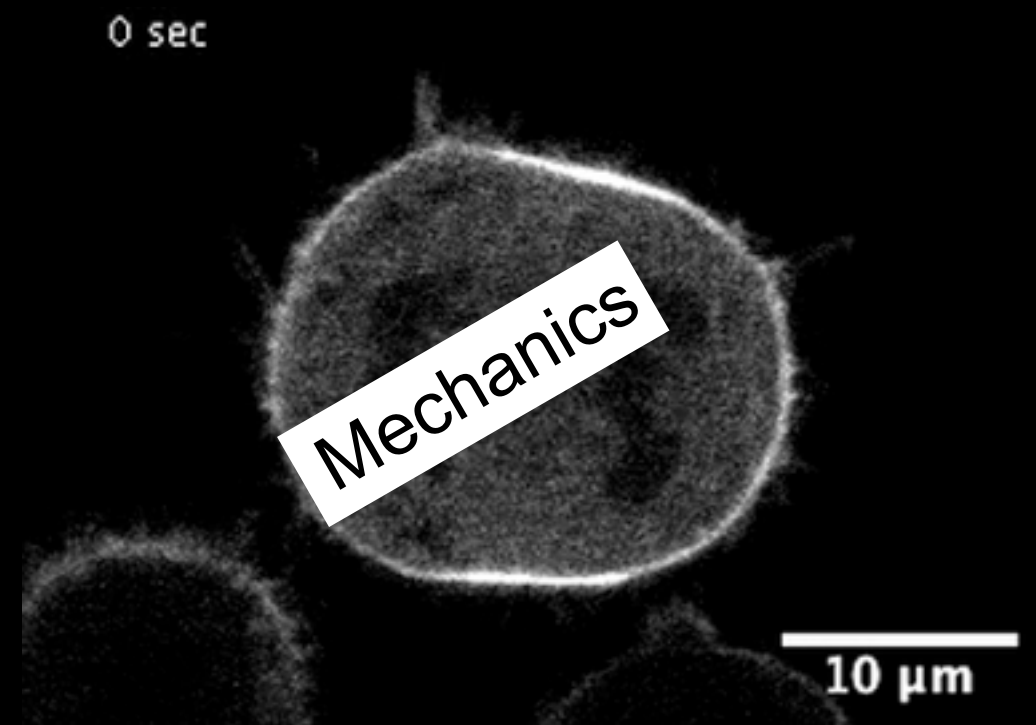
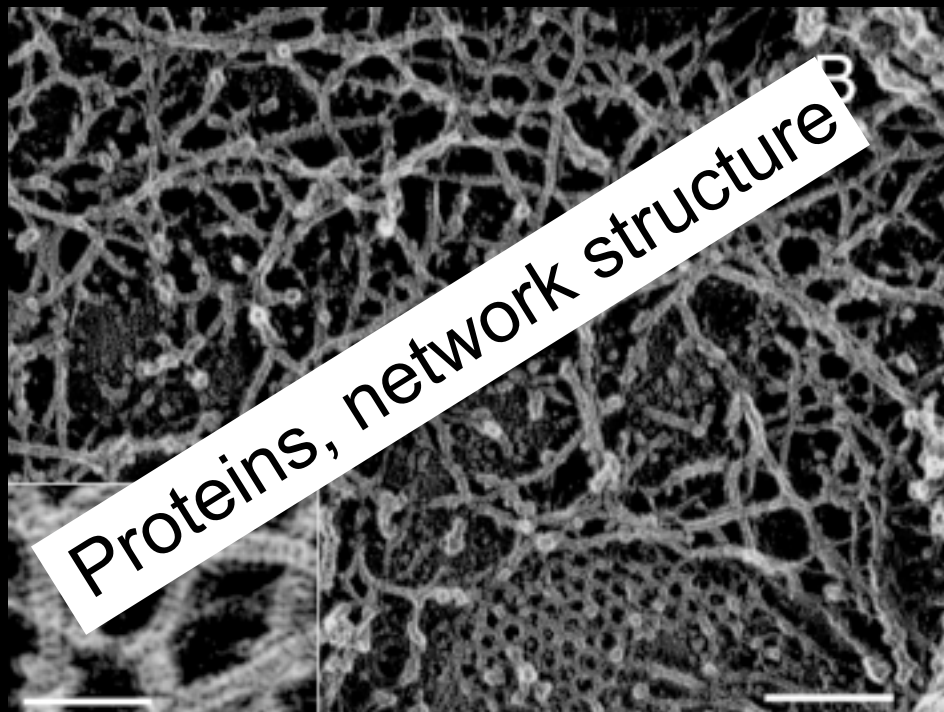


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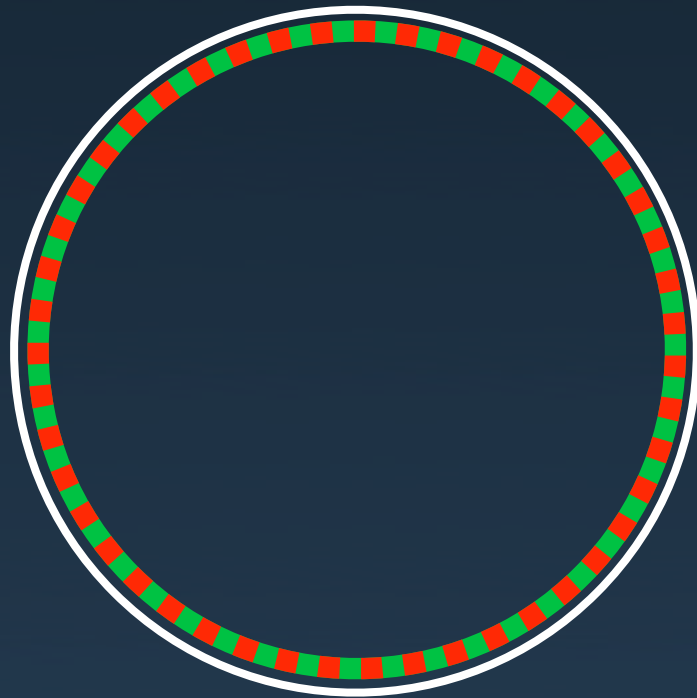
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[Morone et al., J Cell Biol 2006]

L929 fibroblast dividing, Lifeact-GFP

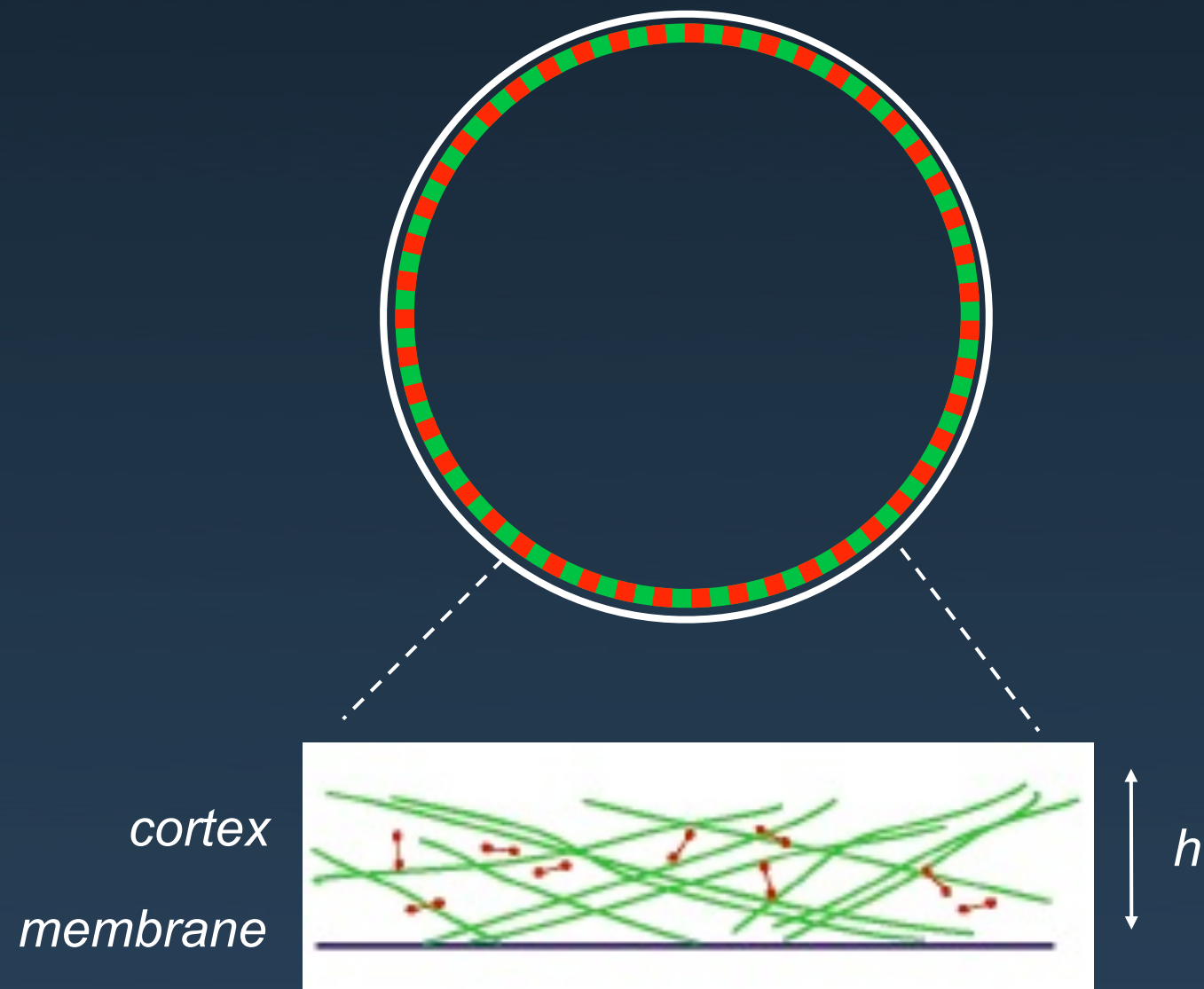
- Cortex mechanics and blebs
- Blebs and cleavage furrow stability
- Blebs in migration

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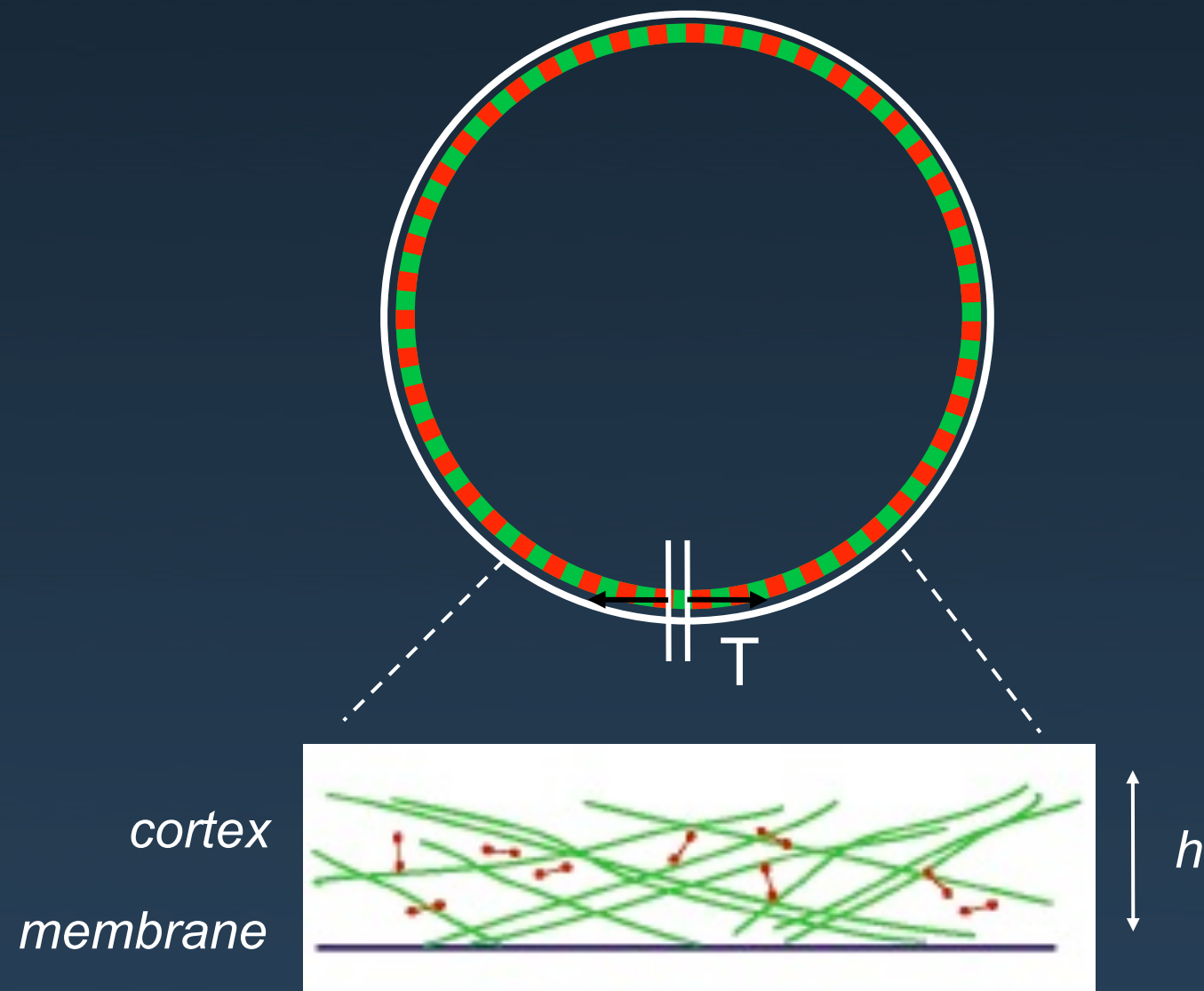
Cortical tension



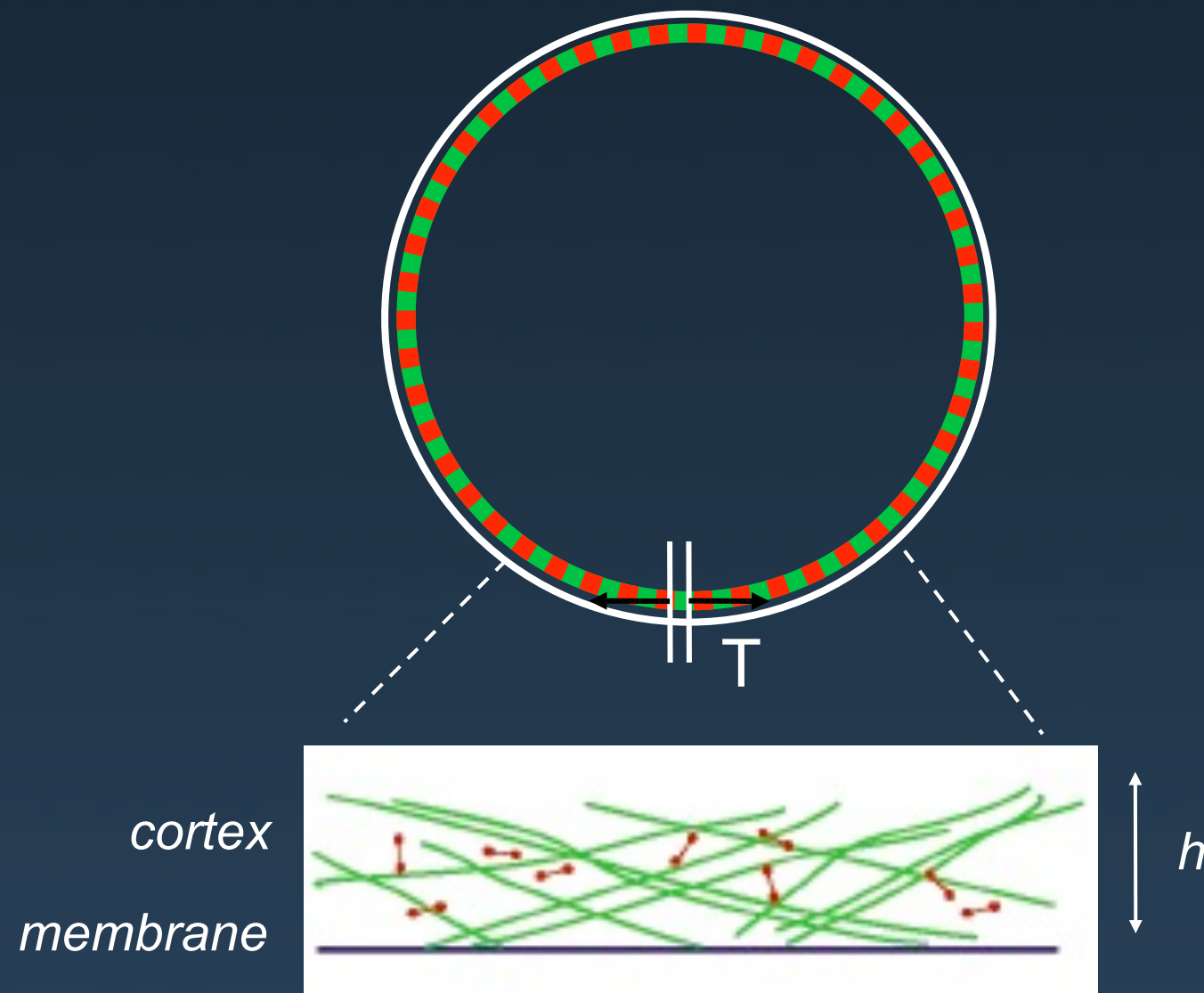
Cortical tension



Cortical tension

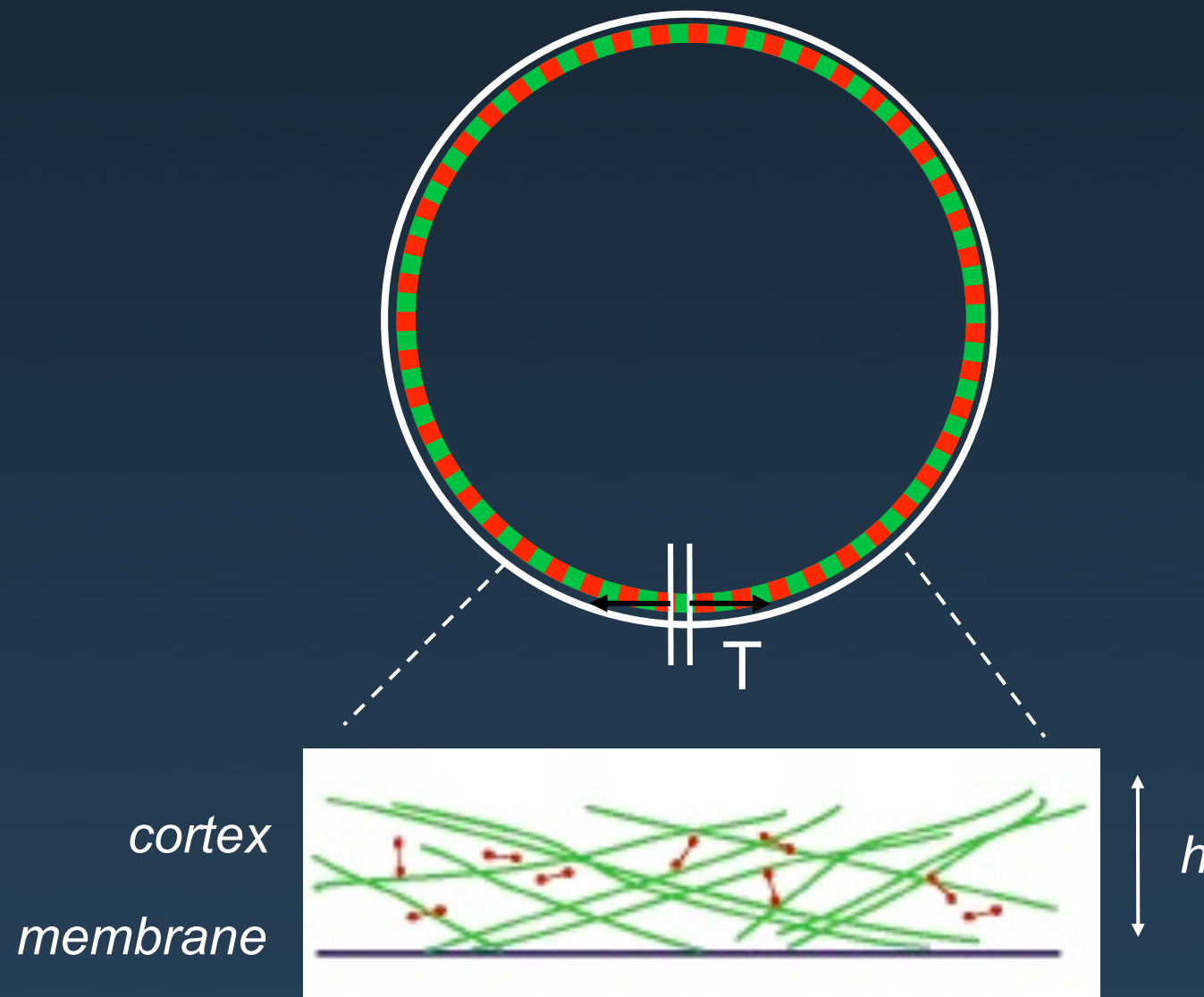


Cortical tension



Tension: $T = \zeta \Delta\mu \times h$

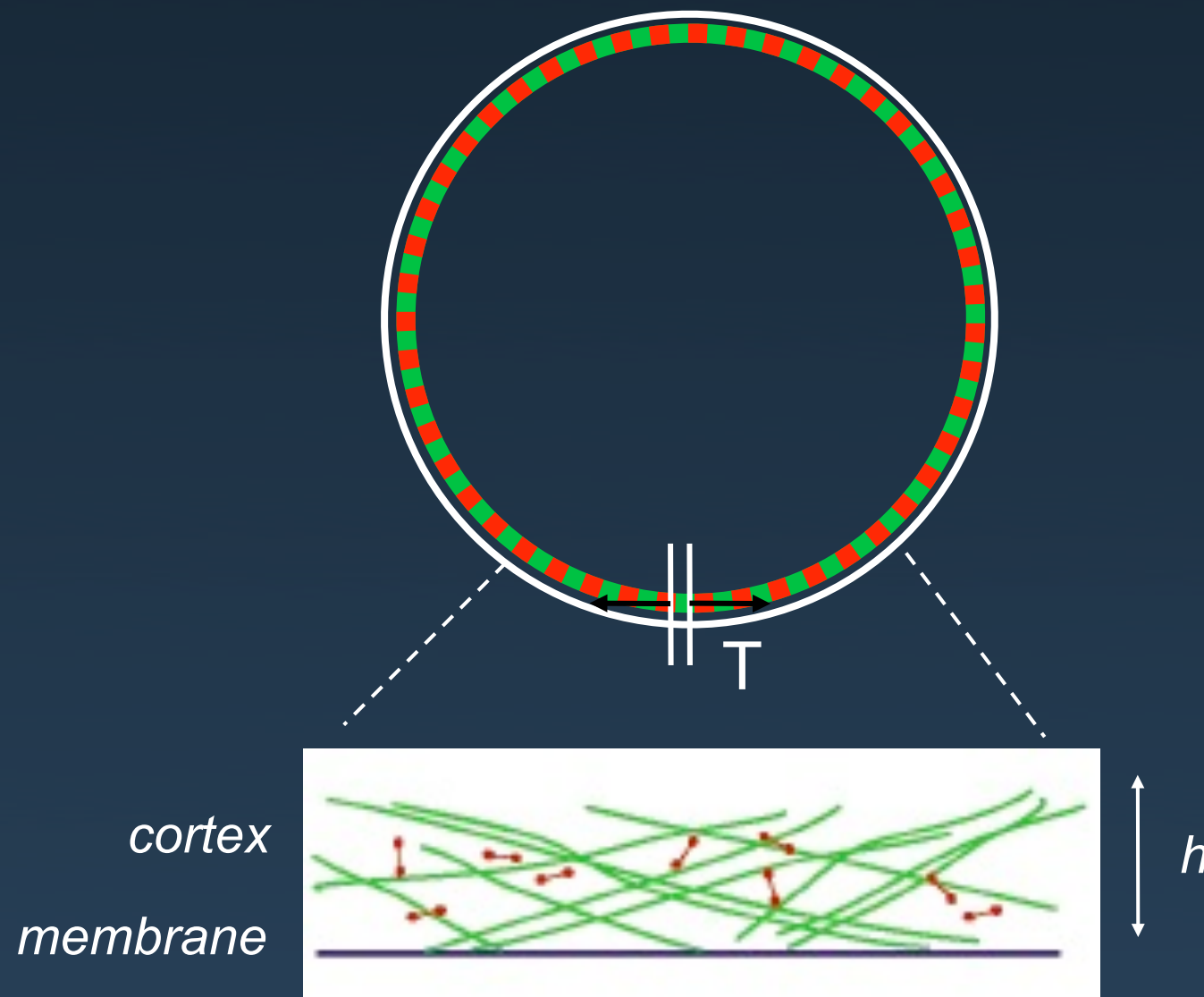
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Tension: $T = \zeta \Delta \mu \times h$

Active stress in the network
Proportional to myosin
concentration

Cortical tension

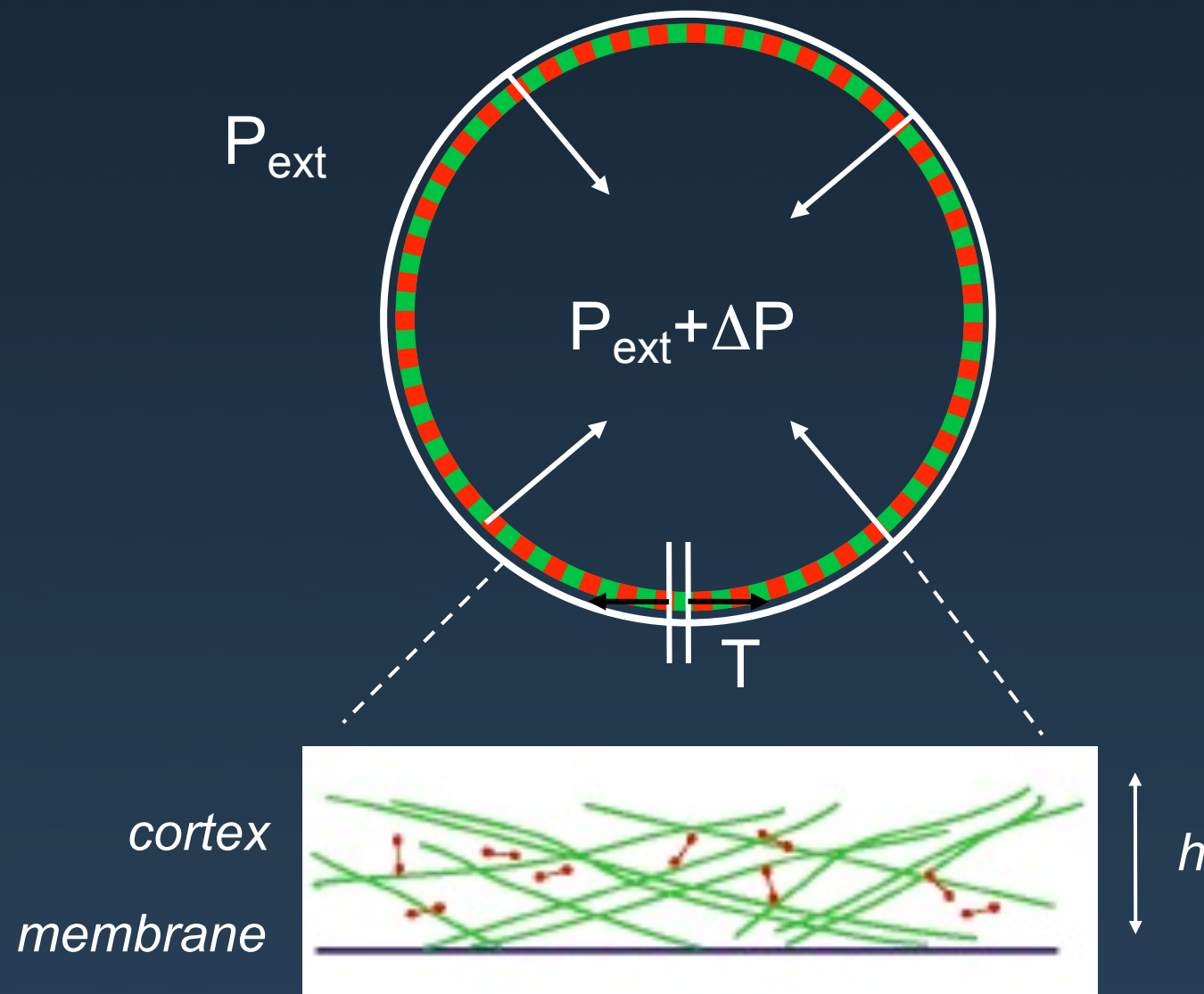


Tension: $T = \zeta \Delta \mu \times h$

Active stress in the network
Proportional to myosin
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Cortex
thickness

Cortical tension

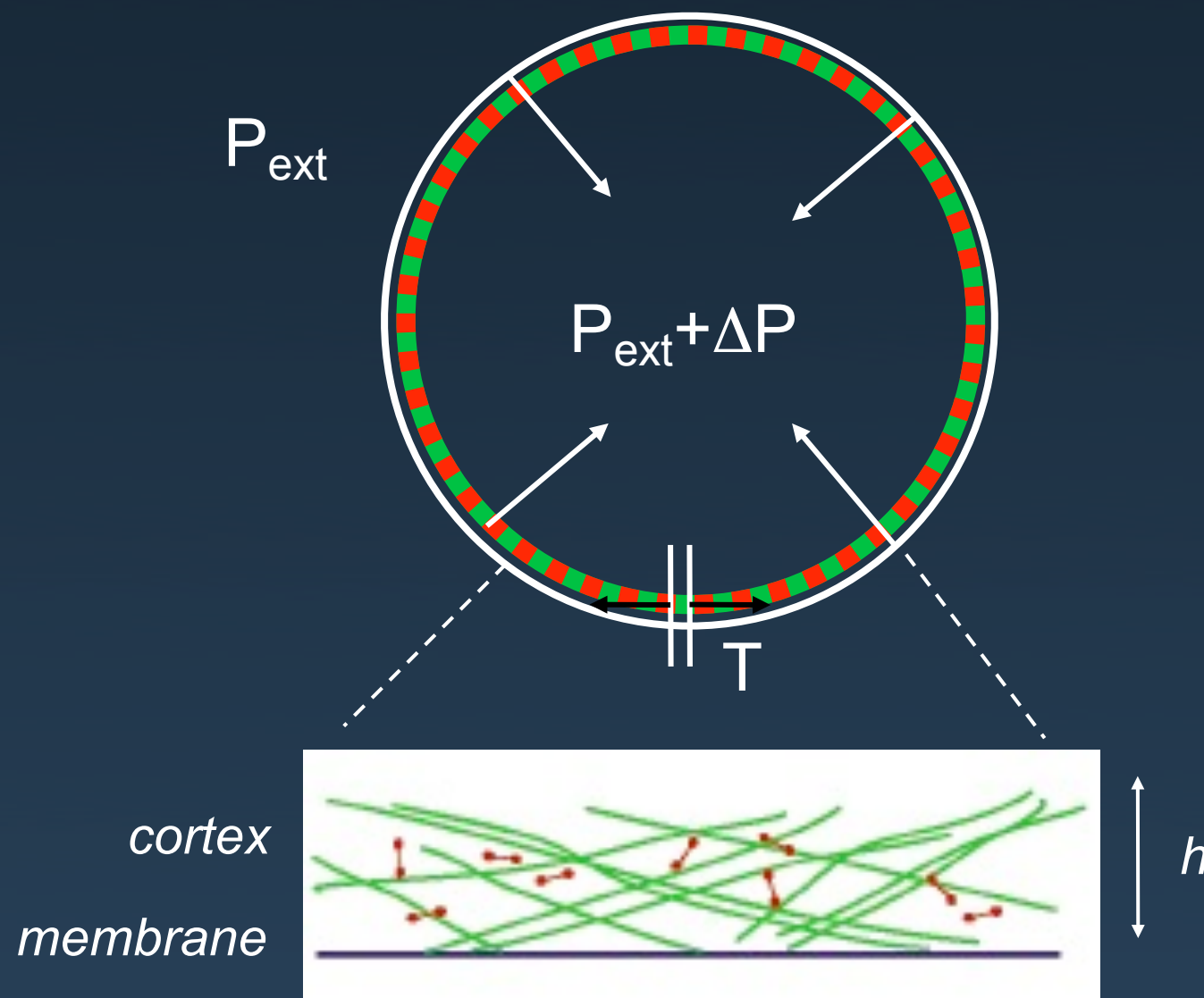


Tension: $T = \zeta \Delta \mu \times h$

Active stress in the network
Proportional to myosin
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Cortex
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Cortical tension



Laplace law gives intracellular pressure:

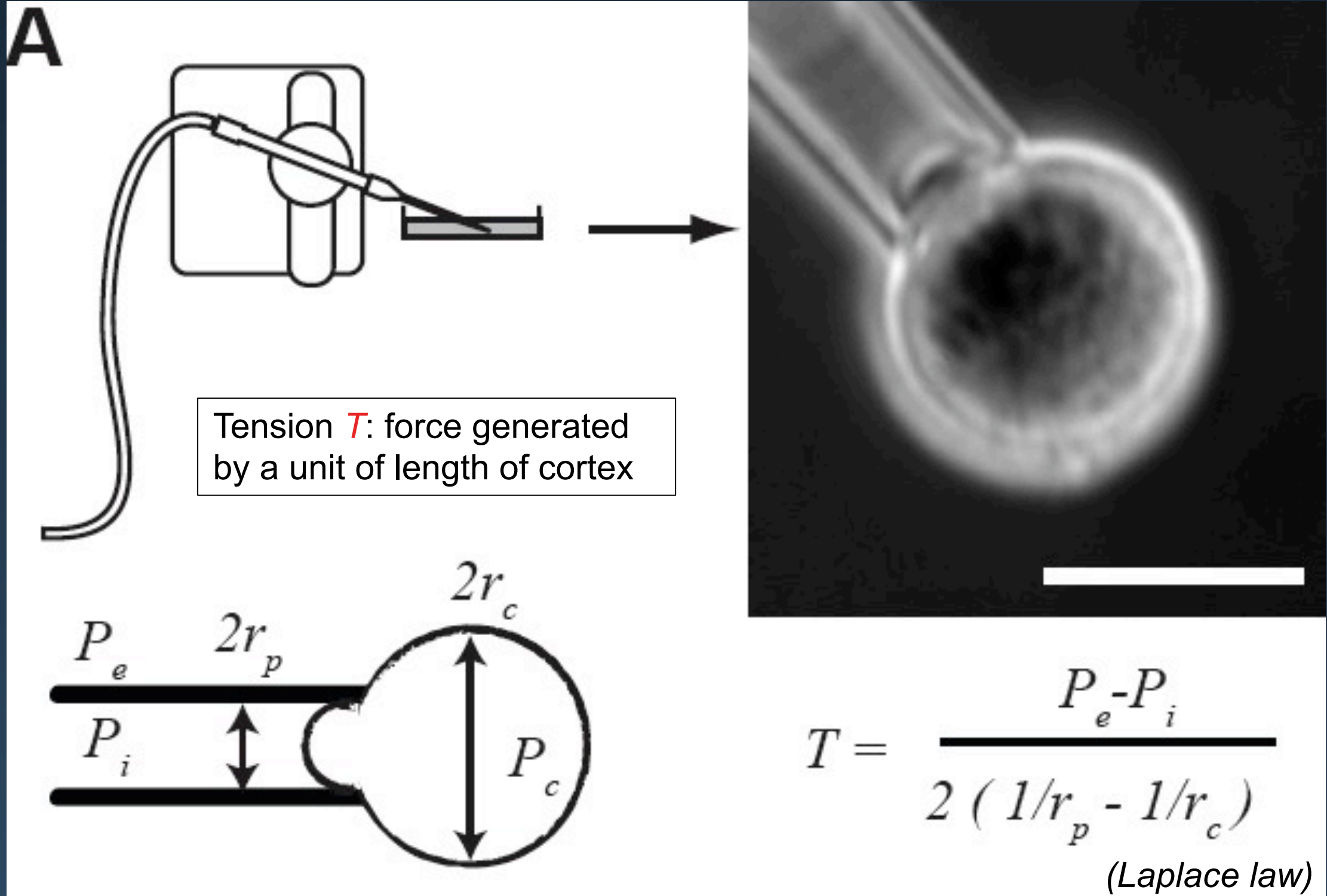
$$\Delta P = \frac{2T}{R}$$

Tension: $T = \zeta \Delta \mu \times h$

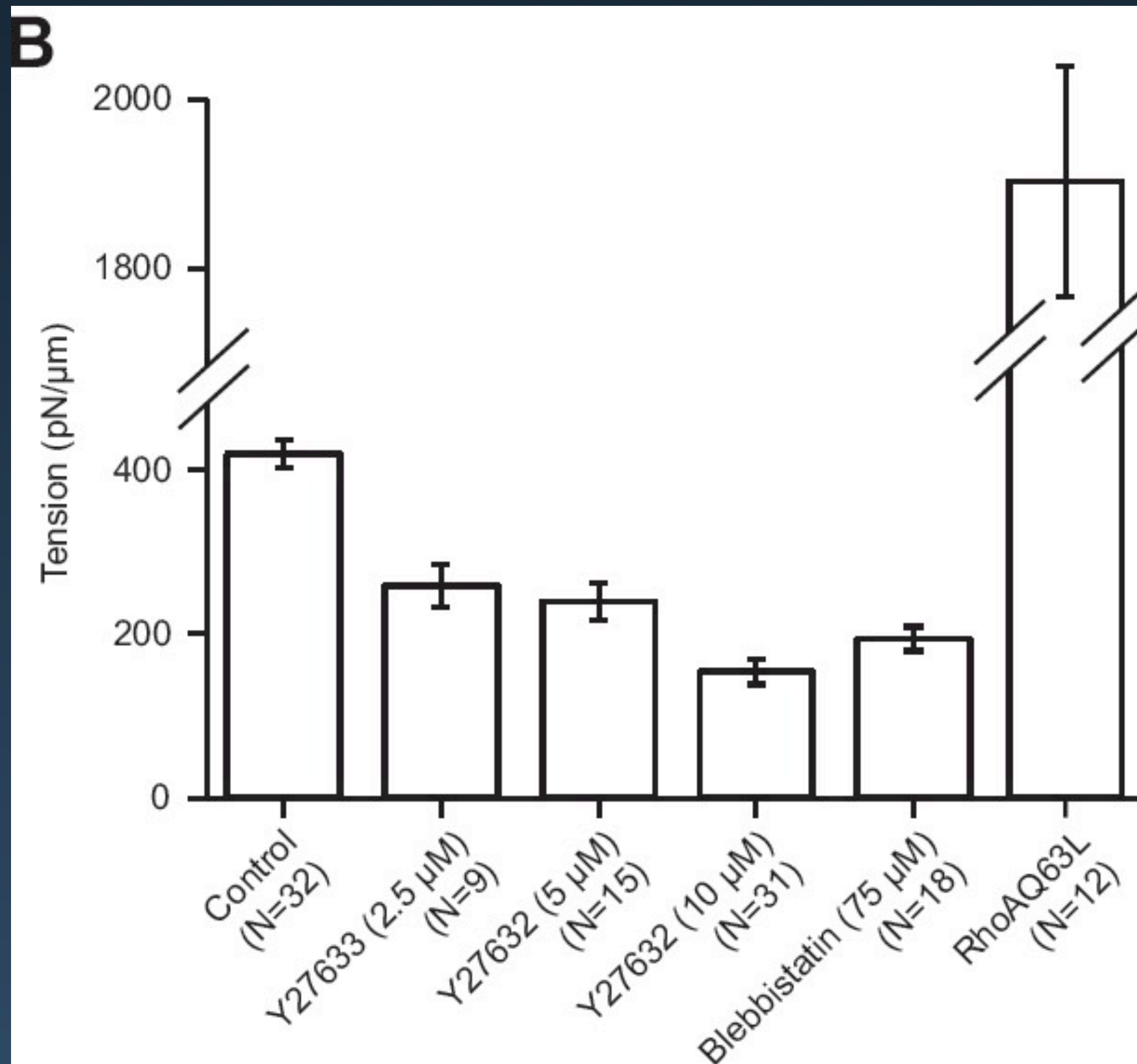
Active stress in the network
Proportional to myosin
concentration

Cortex
thickness

Cortex tension measurement



Cortical tension depends on myosin activity



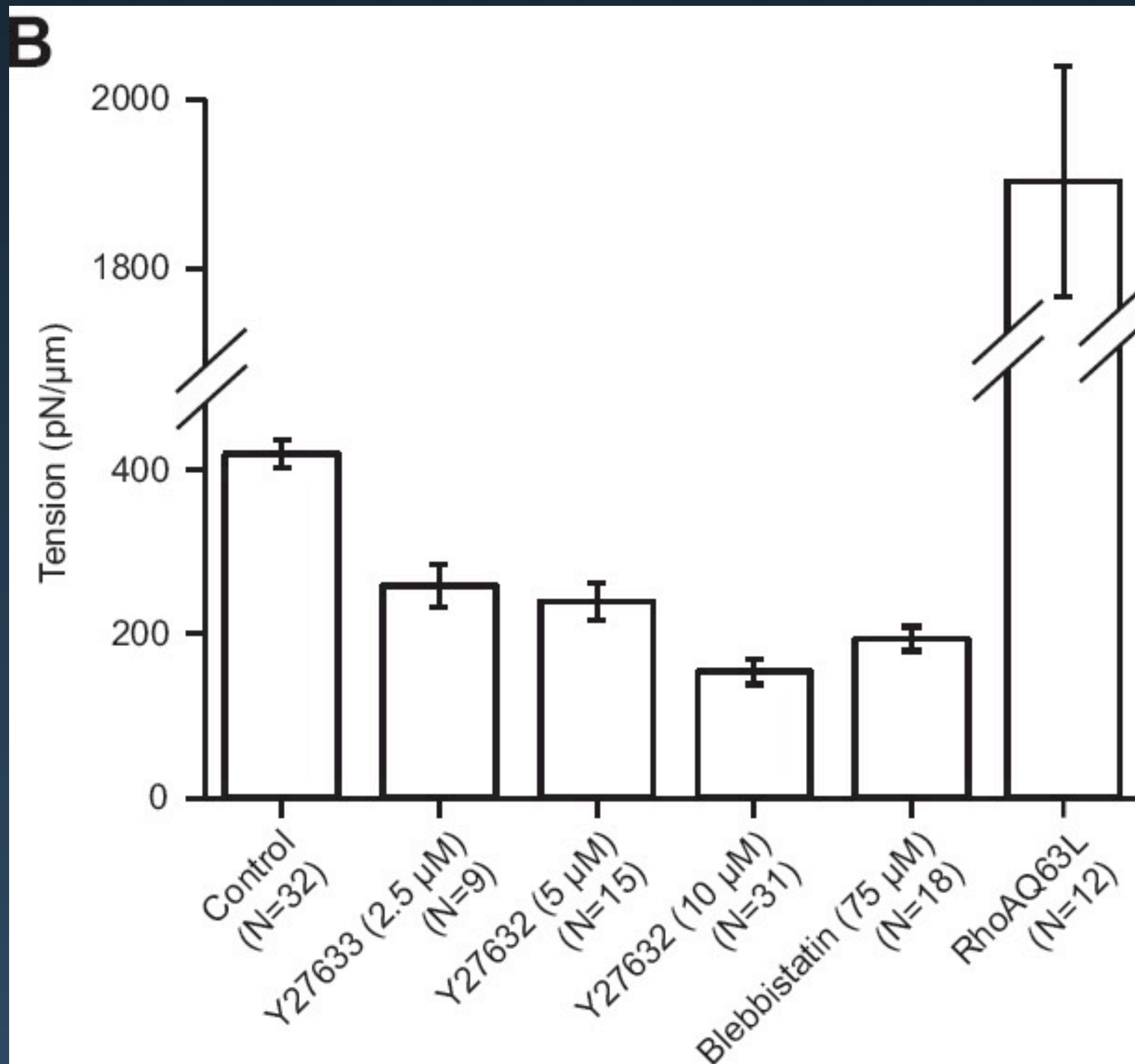
(Ulrike Schulze)

Myosin activity reduced

Tinevez et al. PNAS 2009

Cortical tension depends on myosin activity

$$P_{in} - P_{out} \approx 100 \text{ Pa}$$



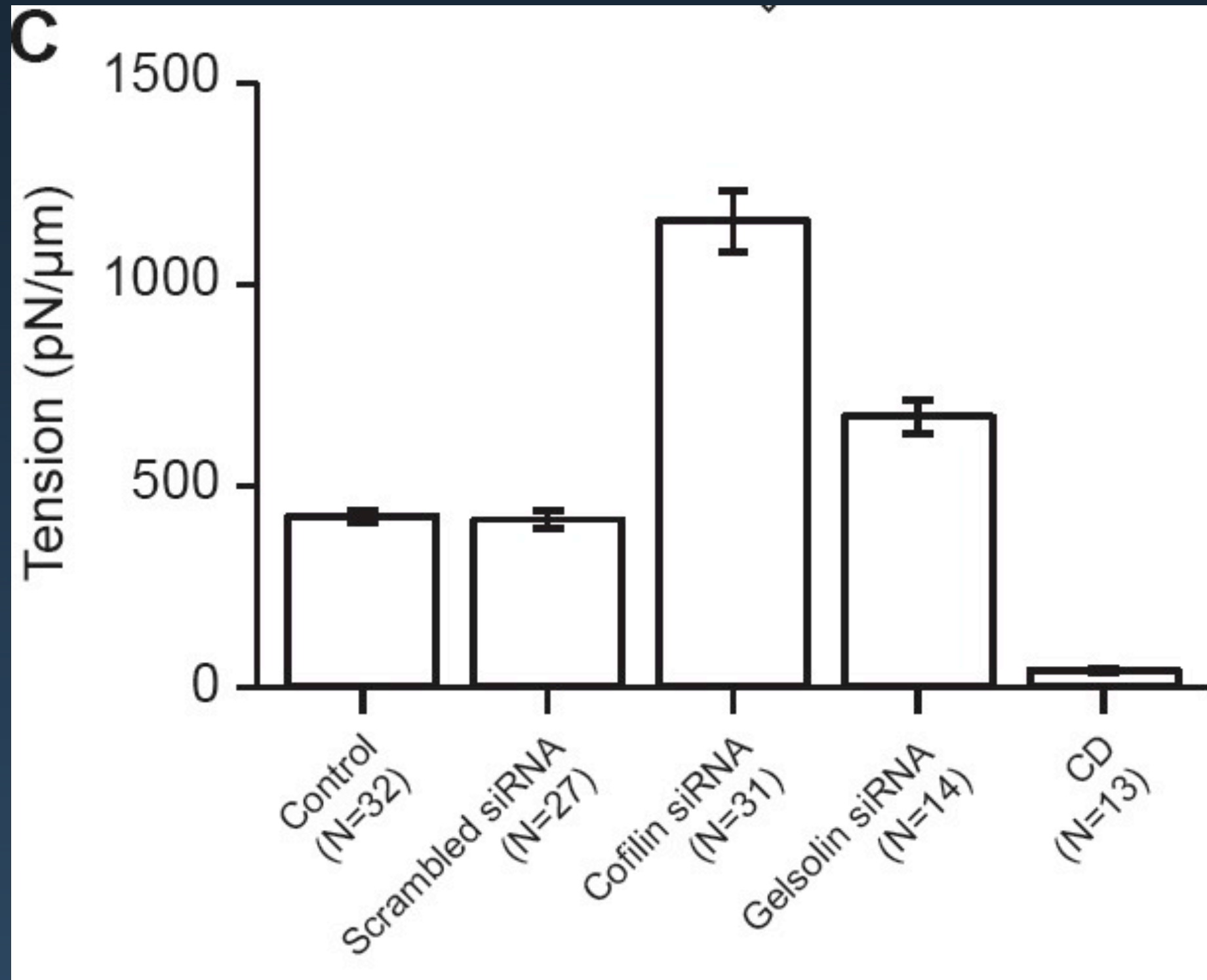
CA Rho:
myosin
overactivated

(Ulrike Schulze)

Myosin activity reduced

Tinevez et al. PNAS 2009

Cortical tension depends on actin turnover



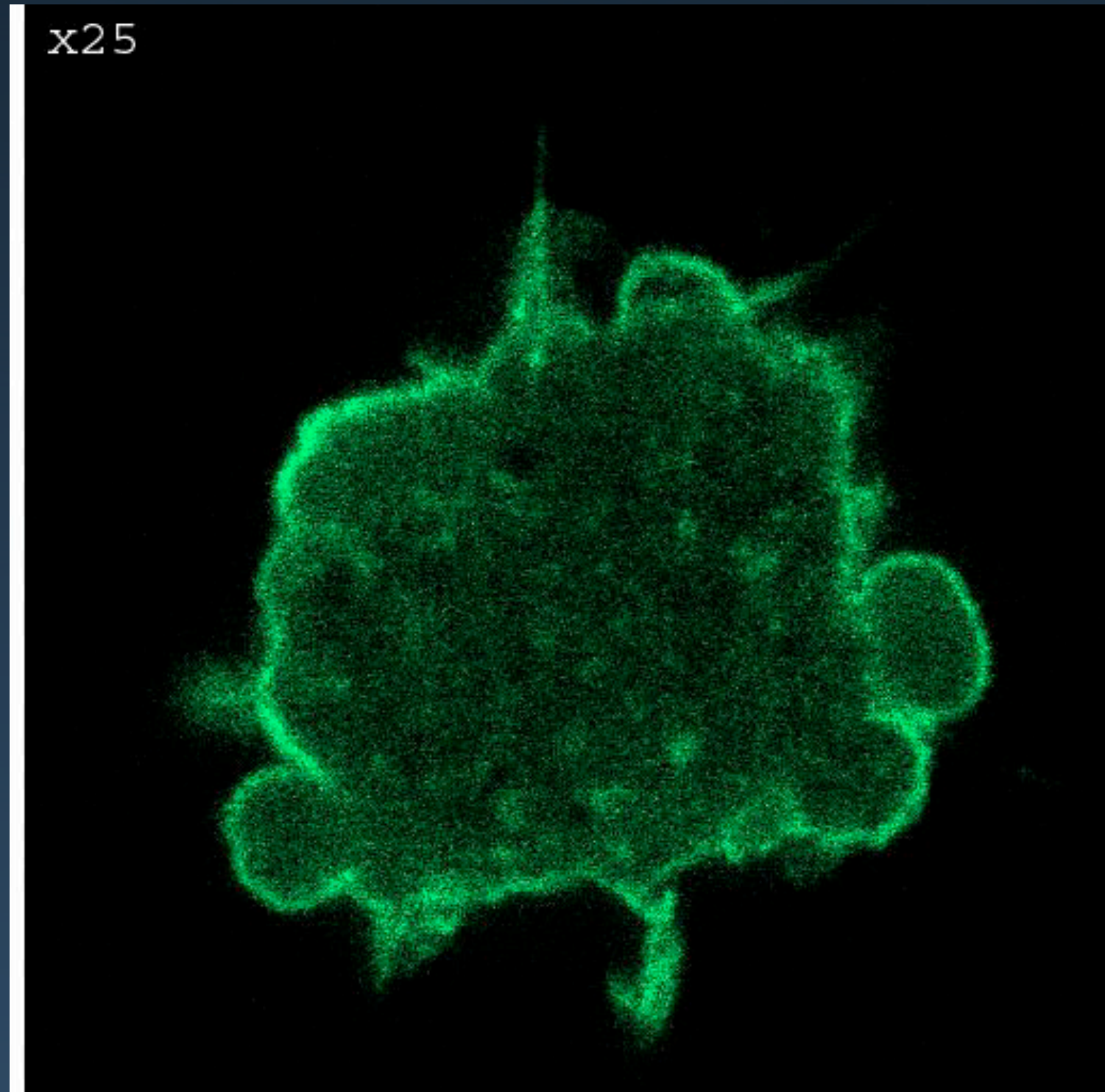
Cofilin: actin-depolymerizing factor
Gelsolin: actin capping protein

*CD: cytochalasin D,
depolymerizes actin F*

Bleb formation is thought to result from contractions
of the actomyosin cortex

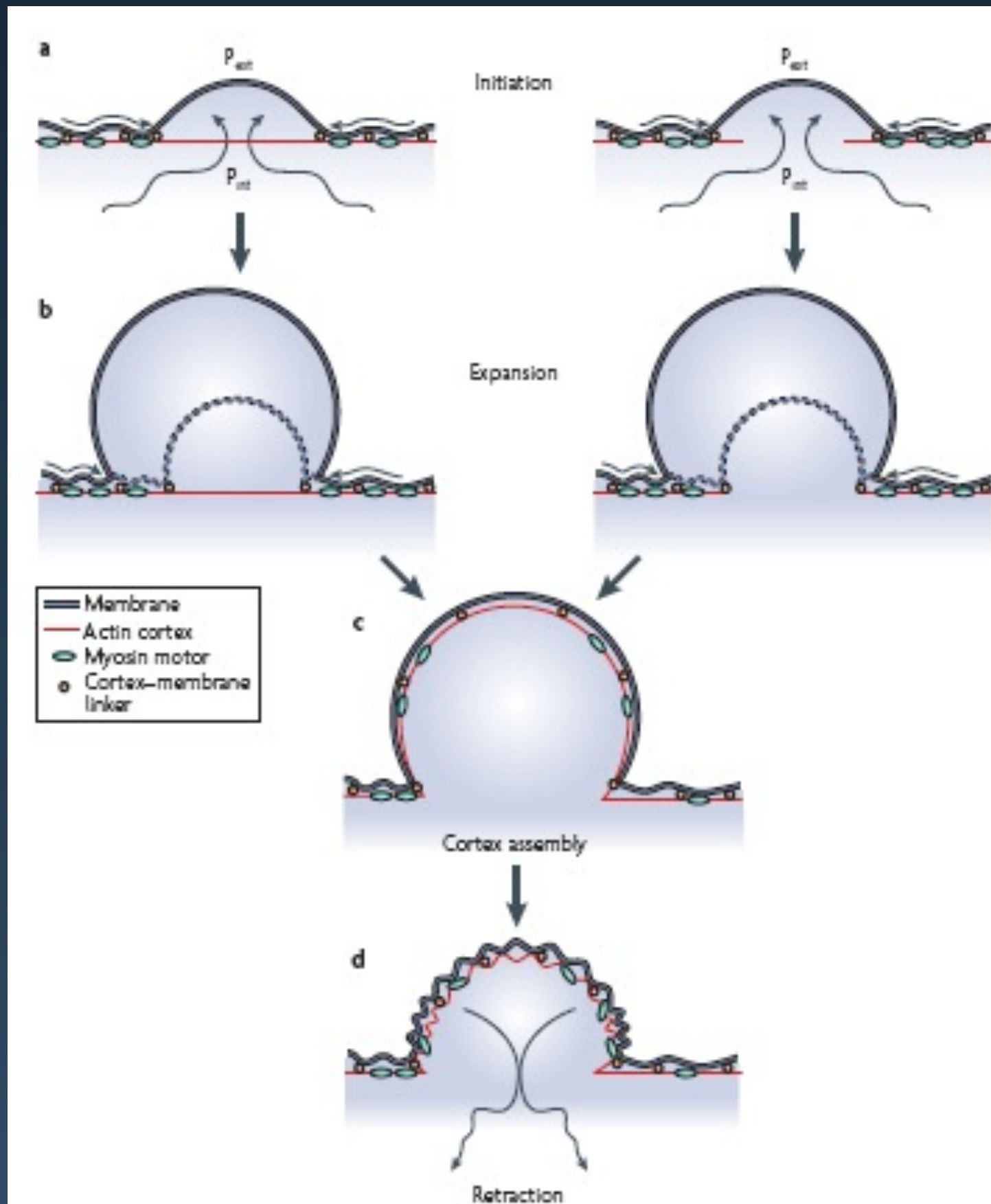
L929 fibroblast NZ-treated, actin-GFP

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L929 fibroblast NZ-treated, actin-GFP

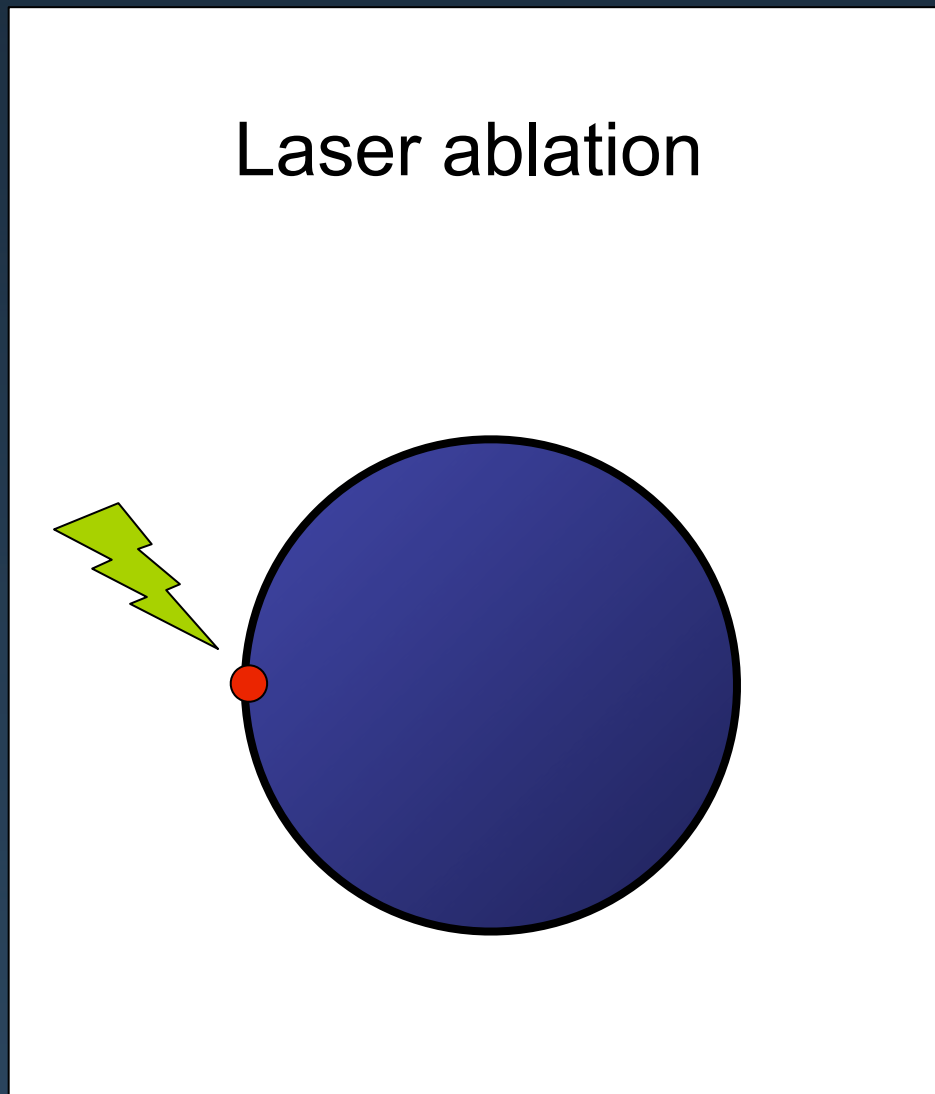
The life-cycle of a bleb



[G. Charras & E. Paluch, *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*, 2008]

Bleb growth can be triggered by laser ablation

Laser ablation of the cortex:

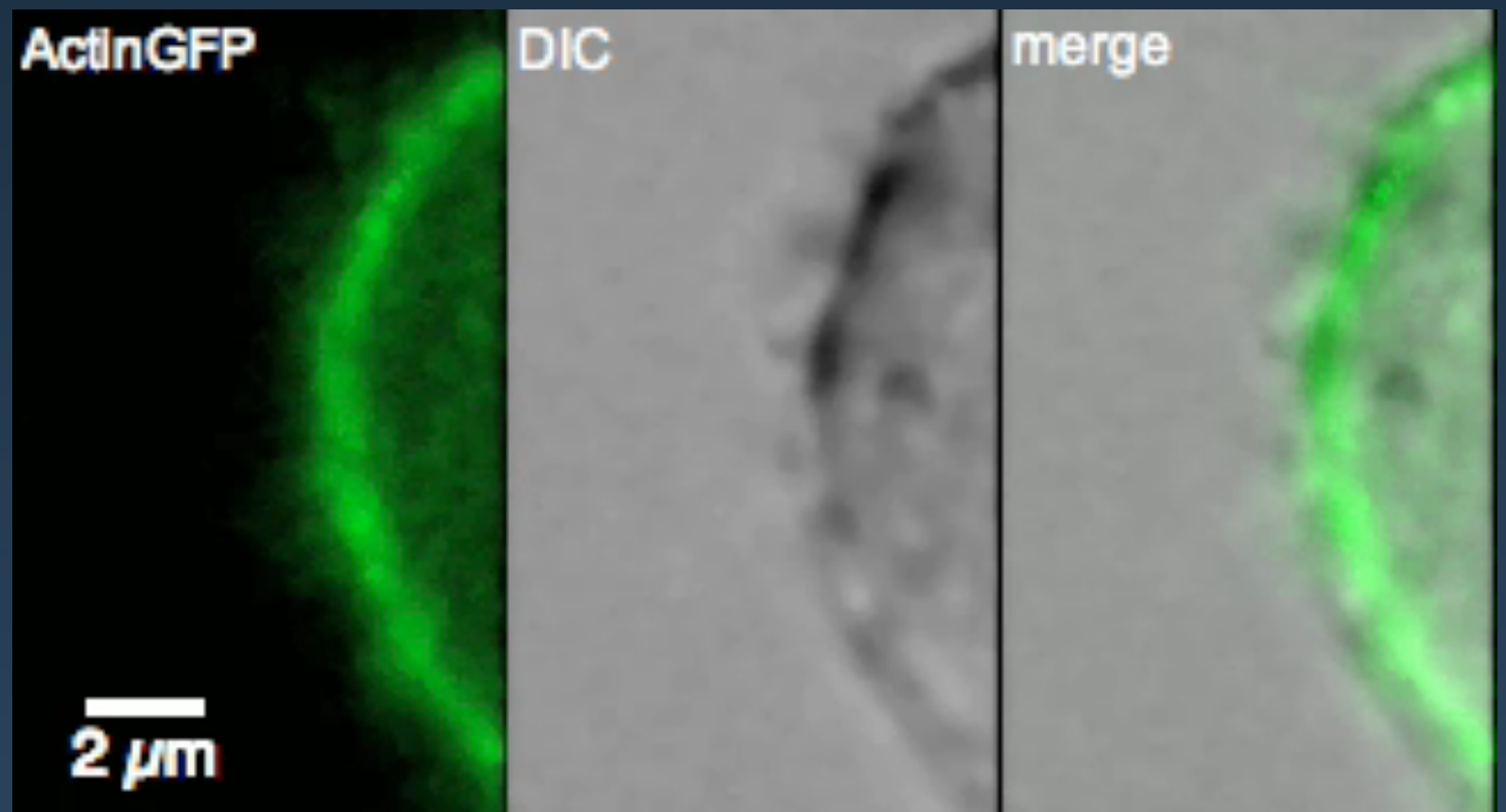
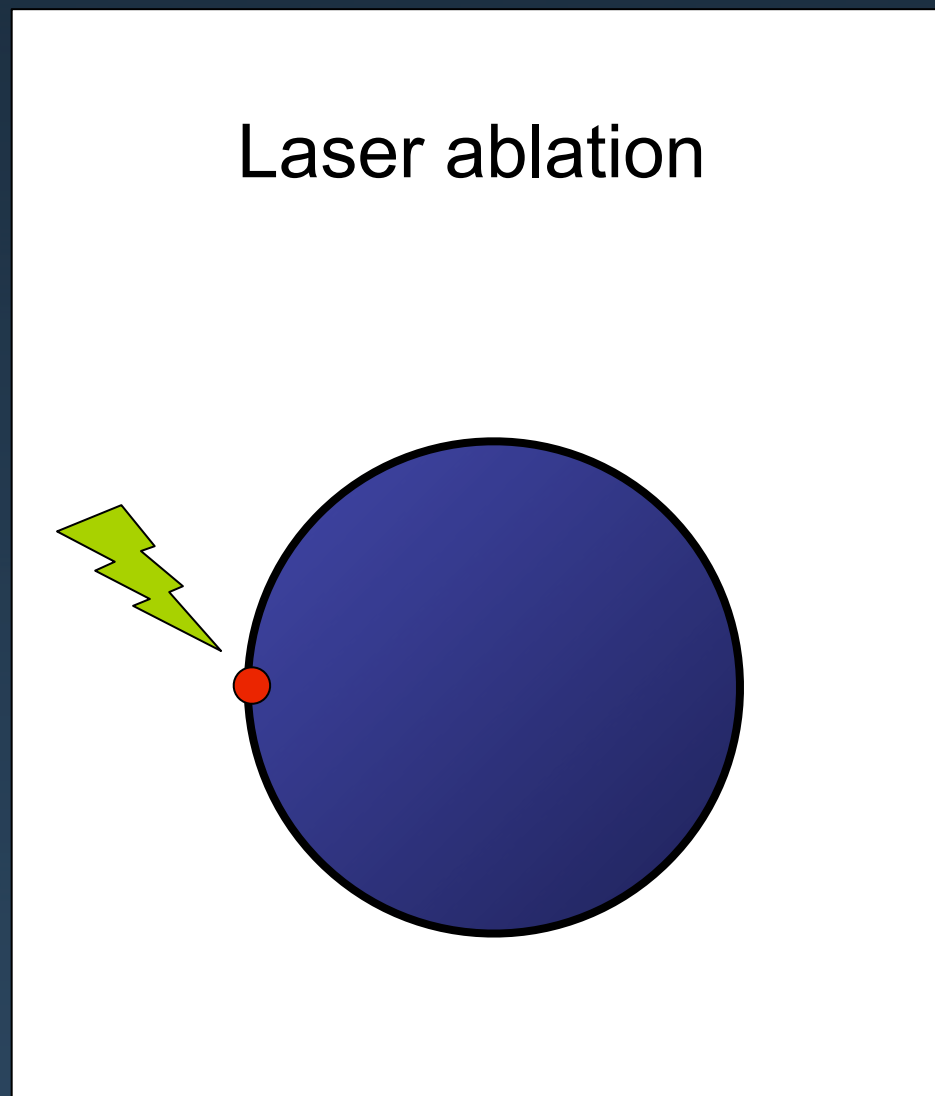


L929 cell
Picosecond pulsed laser
(405 nm, 3 mW)

(Jean-Yves Tinevez)

Bleb growth can be triggered by laser ablation

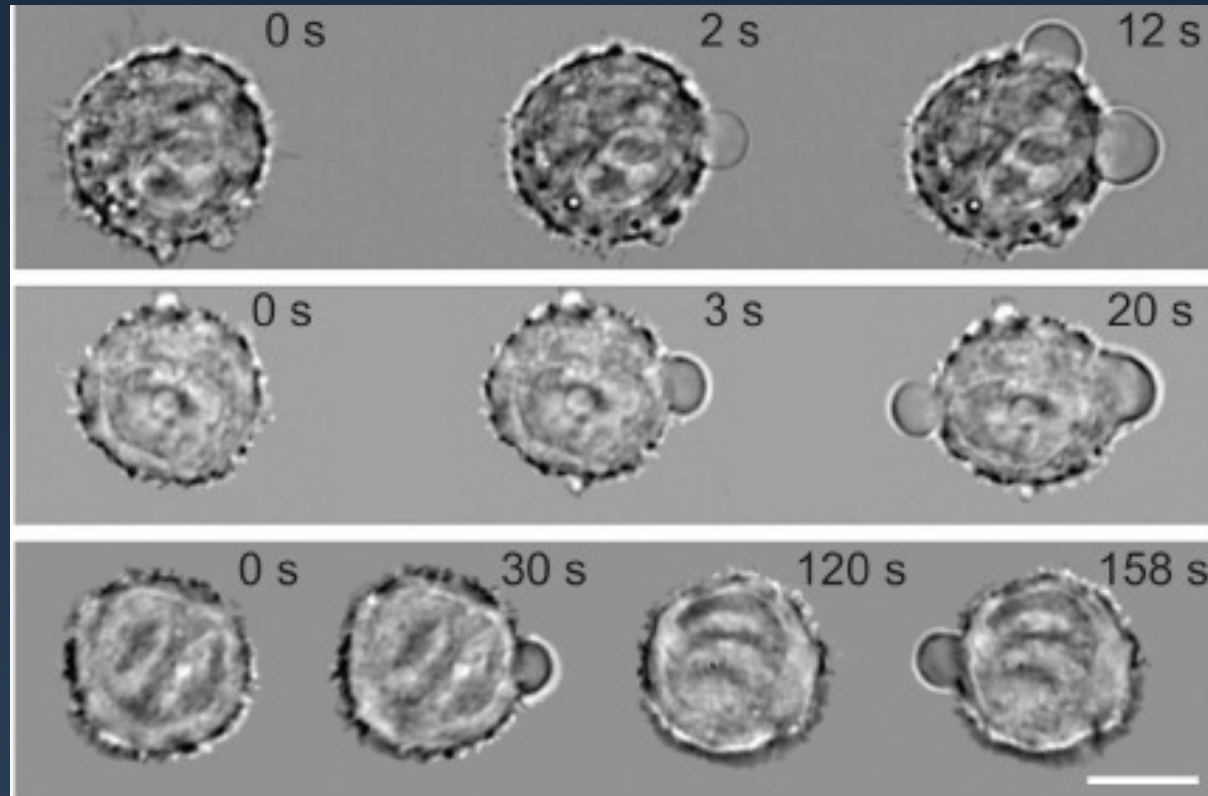
Laser ablation of the cortex:



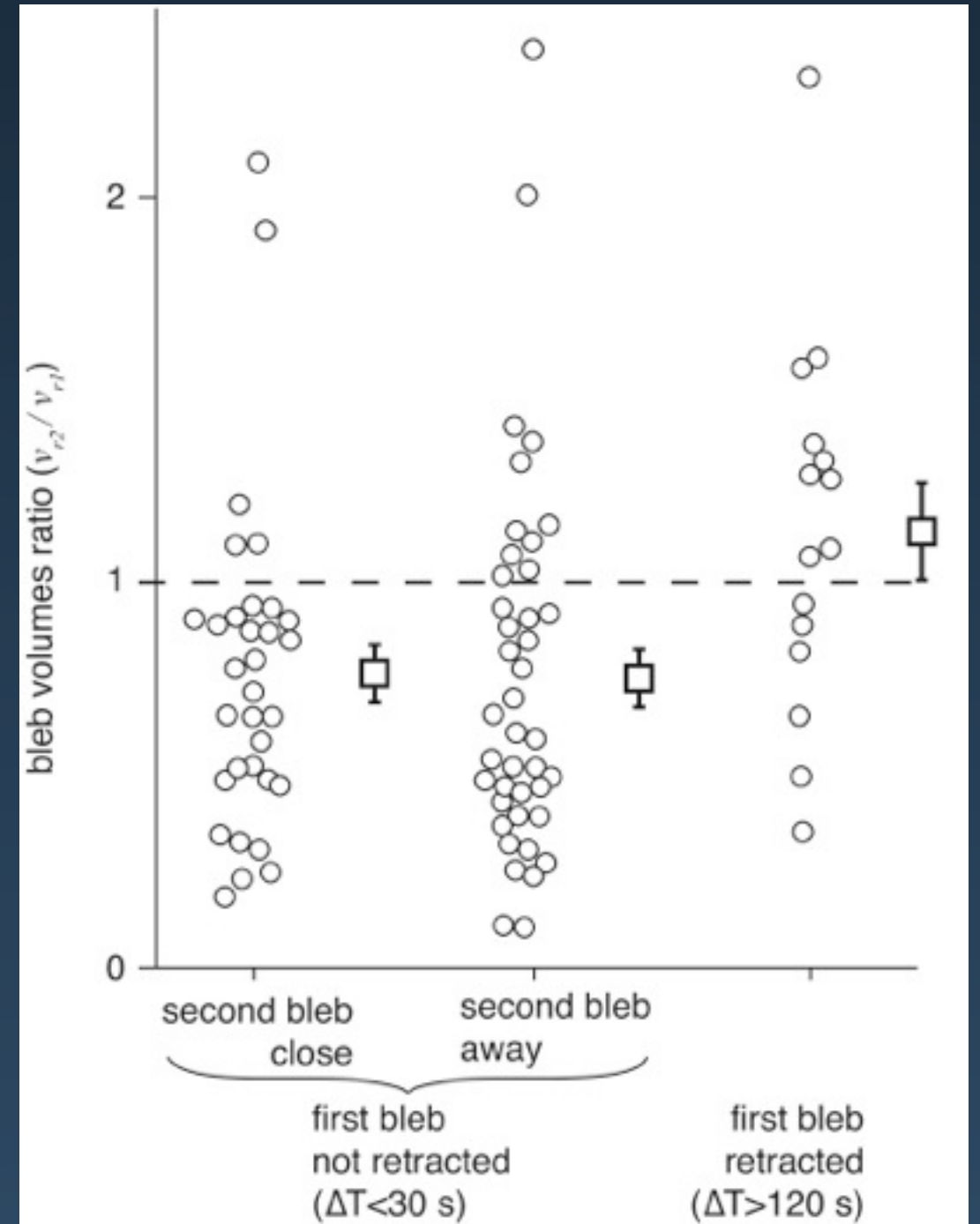
L929 cell
Picosecond pulsed laser
(405 nm, 3 mW)

(Jean-Yves Tinevez)

Double-bleb experiments: bleb growth releases intracellular pressure

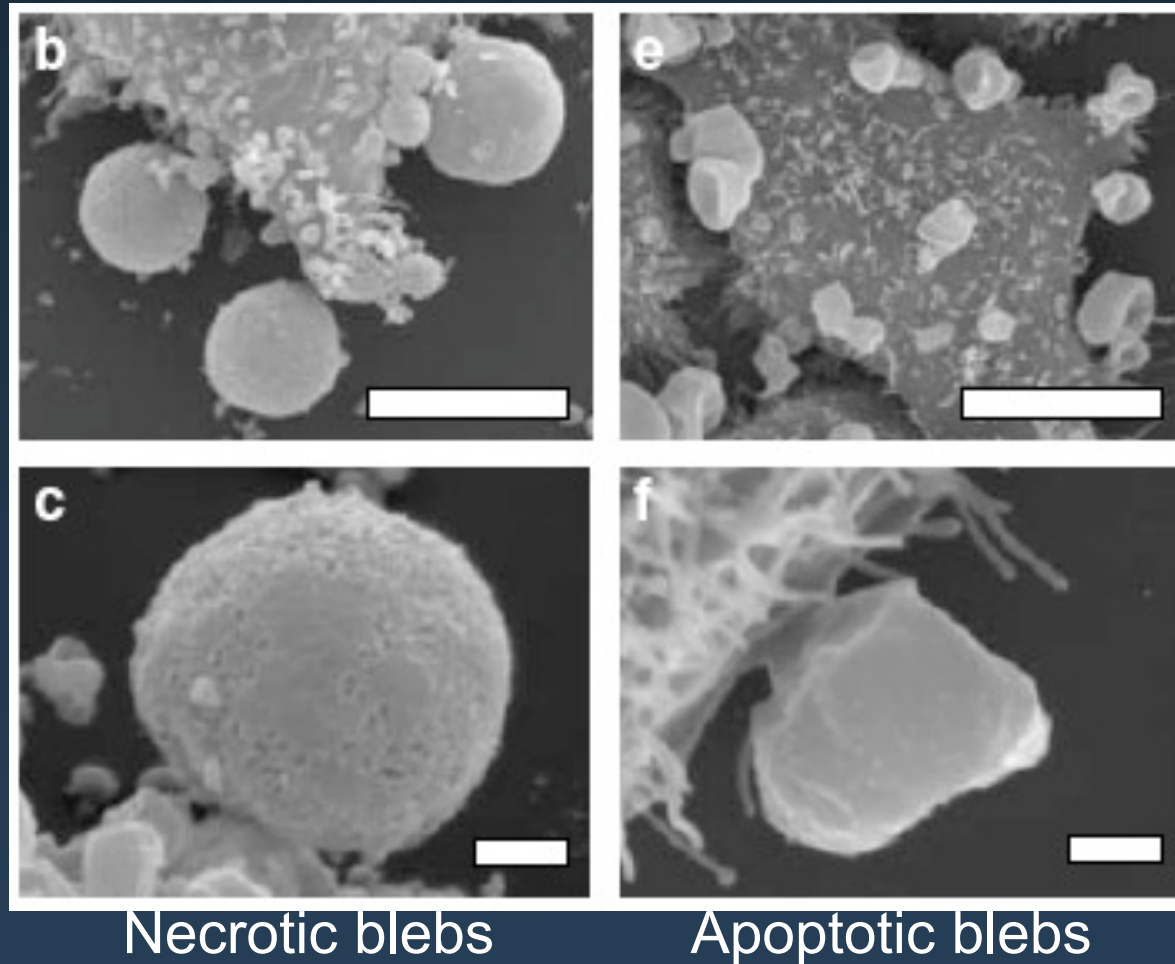


Successive blebs:
2nd bleb triggered immediately after 1st bleb is smaller



Blebs in apoptosis

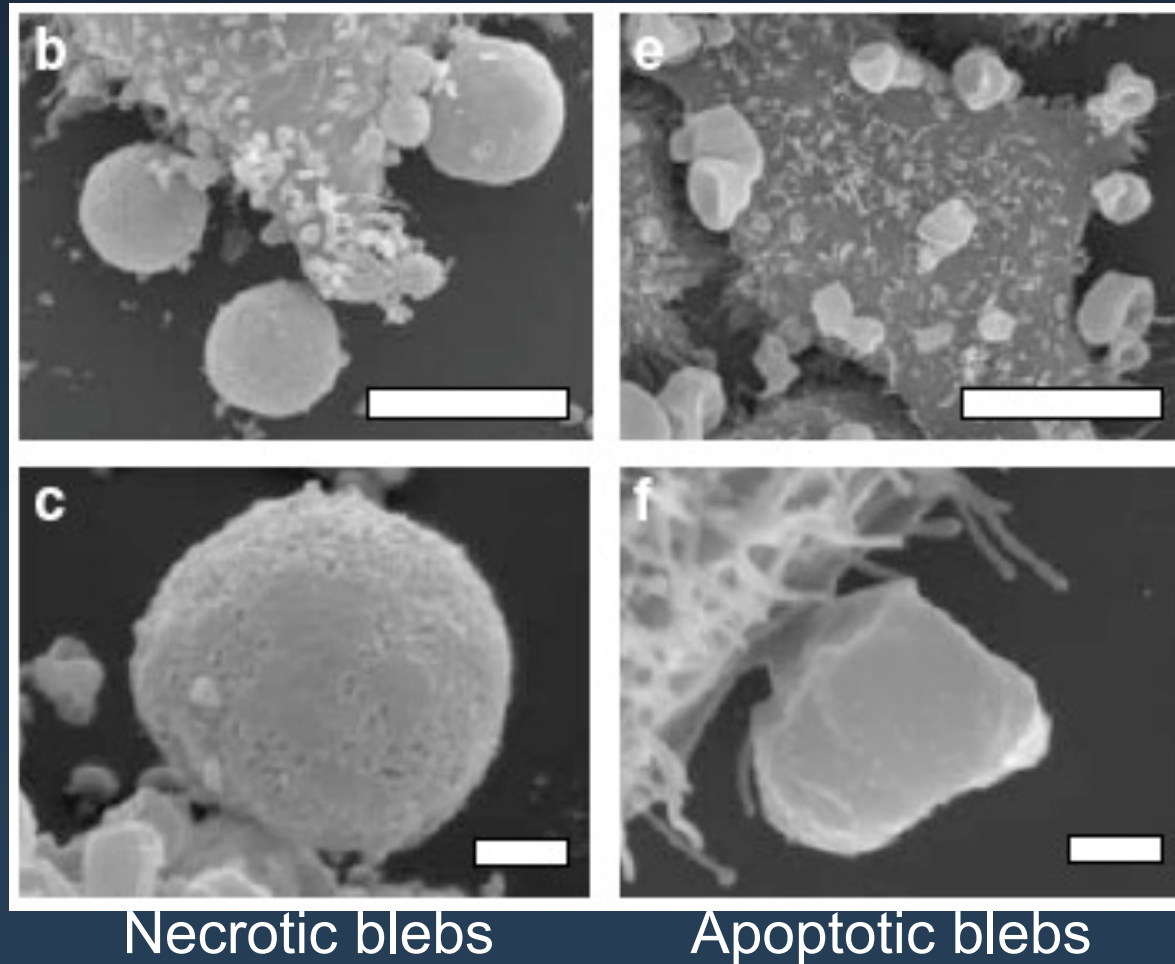
One of the most dramatic features of the execution phase of apoptosis:



[L. F. Barros et al., *Cell Death and Differentiation* 2003]

Blebs in apoptosis

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[L. F. Barros et al., *Cell Death and Differentiation* 2003]

Depends on myosin activation by:

- MLCK
- ROCK1 (caspase-cleaved)
- or ROCK2 (granzymeB-cleaved in caspase-independent apoptosis)

May facilitate dispersion of fragmented DNA into apoptotic bodies. Not lethal by themselves.

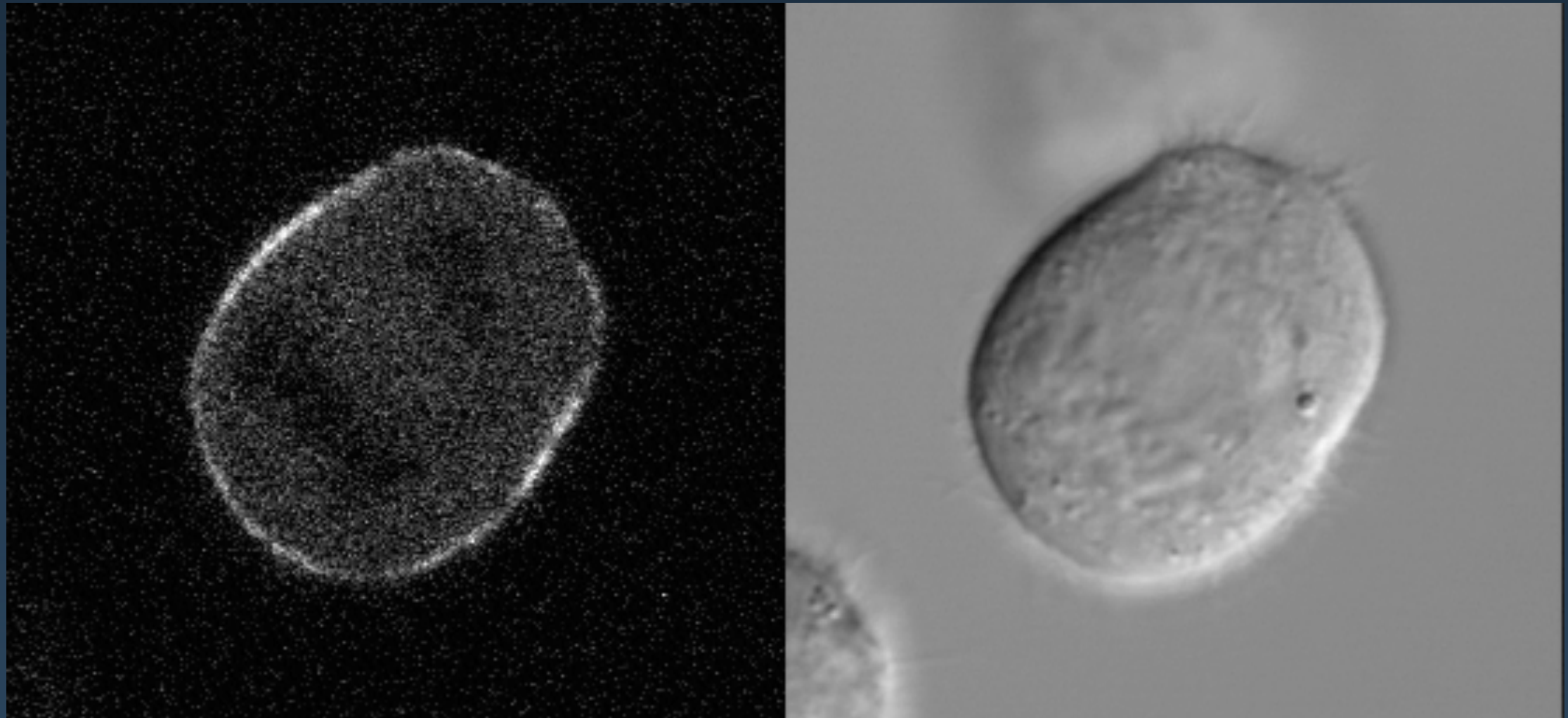
Blebs in cytokinesis

Division of a L929 fibroblast:

May release extra membrane for cell spreading (Trinkaus, '70s)
May help stabilize the cleavage furrow.

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Already observed a long time ago:

At this stage most interesting changes at the outline of the cell develop. Small balloons of cytoplasm project from the surface of the cell (figs. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10), these remain for a few seconds and then collapse. The granules in the cytoplasm can be seen (figs. 6 to 10), flowing in when the balloons are formed and streaming out when they collapse. This movement continues for about 6 minutes, new balloons being formed as the others collapse. This balloon formation is unlike amoeboid movement, and appears due to local changes of surface tension. During this stage the cell begins to divide and

Observations on the Changes seen in Living Cells during Growth and Division.

[T. Strangeways, *Proc. Roy. Soc. London Series B*, 1922]

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Blebs during migration

Fundulus Killfish embryo deep cell:

Zebrafish progenitor cells:

[http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rfink/
Videopages/index.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/rfink/Videopages/index.htm)

(Alba Diz Muñoz)

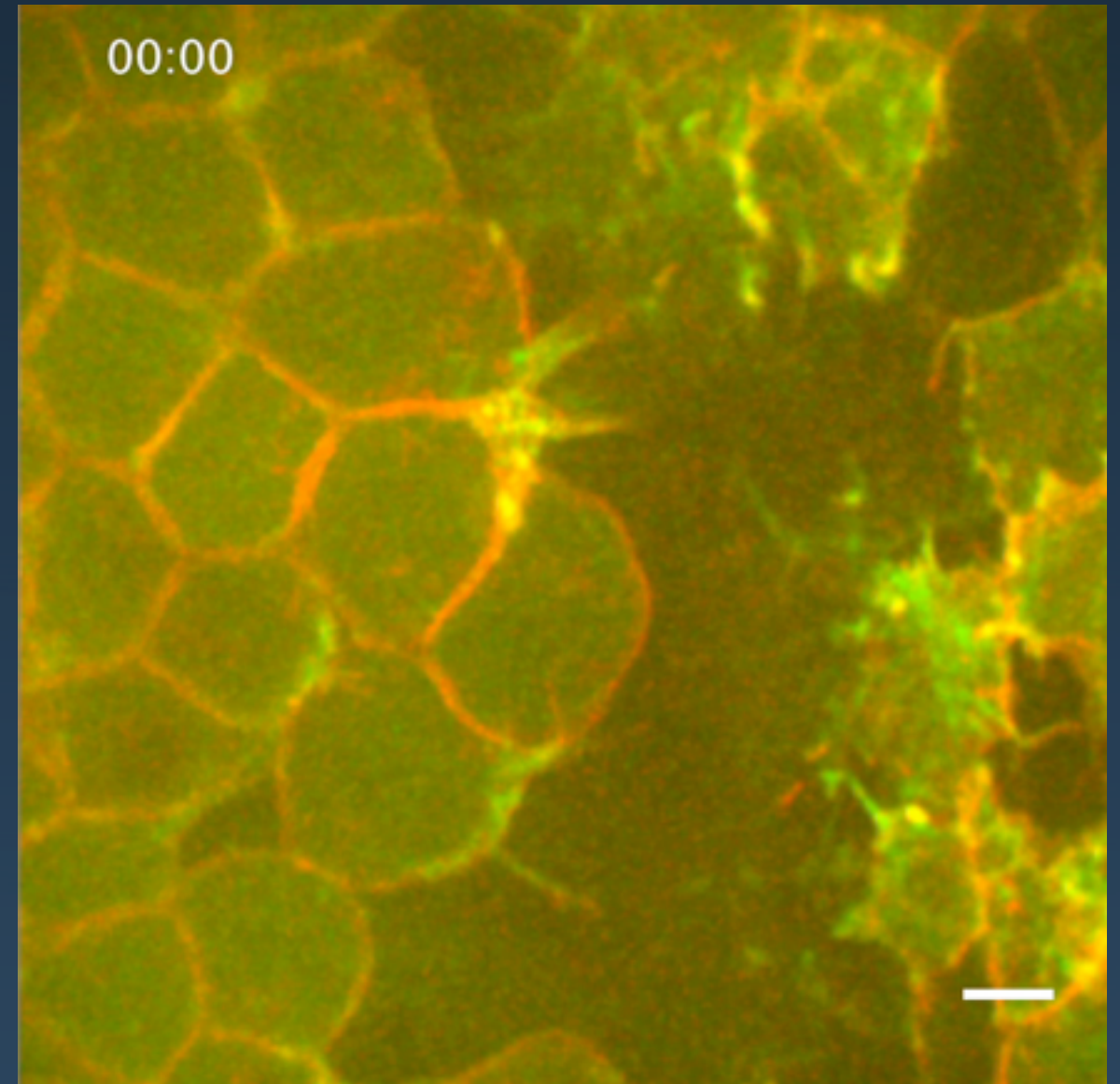
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Zebrafish progenitor cells:



(Alba Diz Muñoz)

Blebs overview

- **Apoptosis** - may help forming apoptotic bodies?
- **Cell spreading** - may allow searching for an adhering surface more efficiently?
- **Cell division** - may provide additional membrane for cell spreading?
- **Virus uptake** - may help viral infection?
- **Cell migration** - protrusion at the cell leading edge, alternative to lamellipodia

Reviews:

- O. Fackler and R. Grosse, "Cell motility through plasma membrane blebbing", J Cell Biol, 2008
- E. Paluch and G. Charras, "Blebs lead the way: how to migrate without lamellipodia", Nature Rev Mol Cell Biol, 2008