

Special techniques in histology

MUDr. Pavel Rořtok

Conventional histochemistry

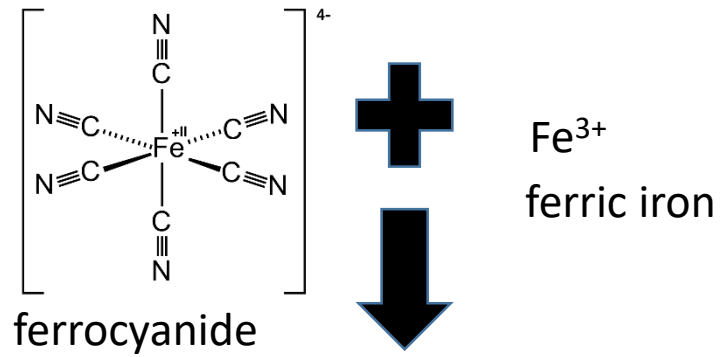
- Elements (ions)
 - Kossa reaction – AgNO₃ to demonstrate Ca²⁺
 - Perls reaction – Prussian blue to demonstrate Fe³⁺
- Nucleic acid (Feulgen reaction to demonstrate DNA)
- Lipids (PFAS reacton to demonstrate double bonds)
- Saccharides (PAS to demonstrate vicinal glycols)
- Pigments (Gmelin reaction – oxidation to demonstrate bilirubin)
- Proteins (Sakaguchi reaction - arginine, Million reaction - tyrosine)

富嶽三十六景 神奈川沖
波裏

江戶 葛飾 富嶽



Painting (staining)



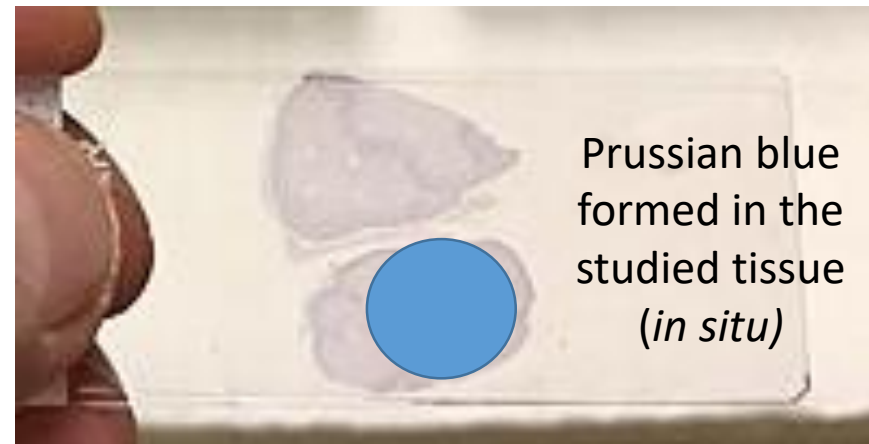
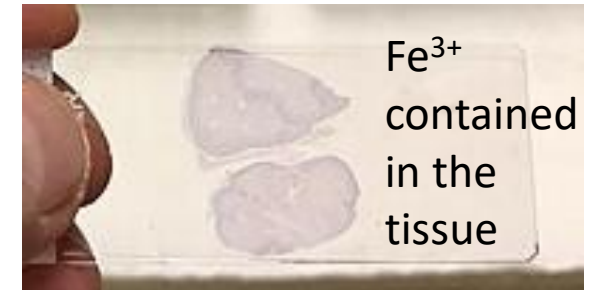
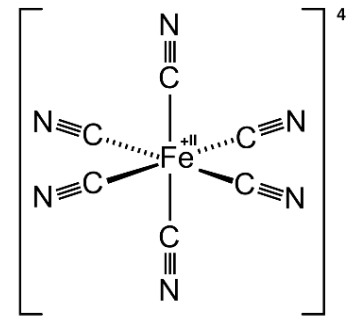
Prussian blue
(ferric
ferrocyanide)

Apply to canvas
or woodblock



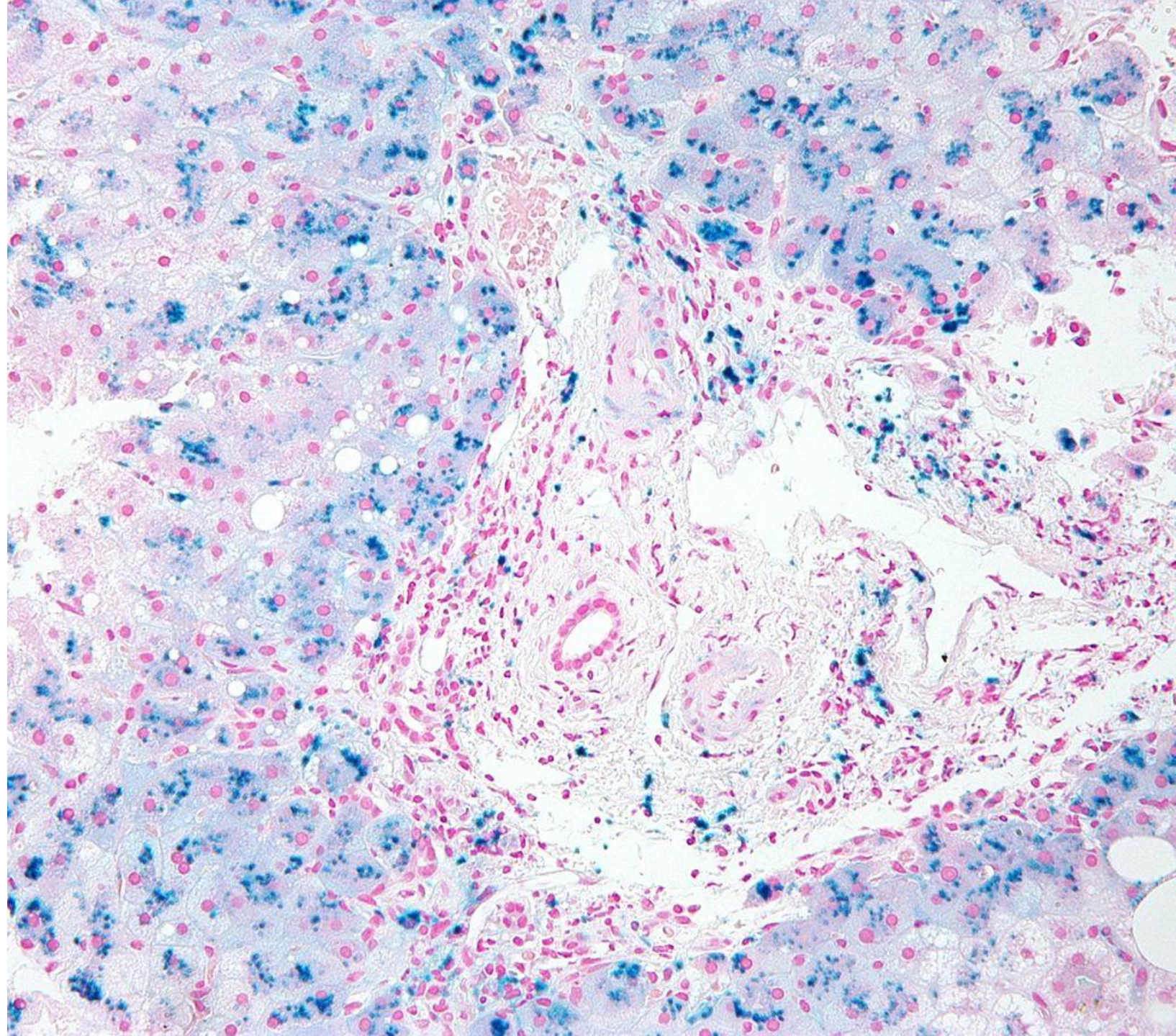
Histochemistry

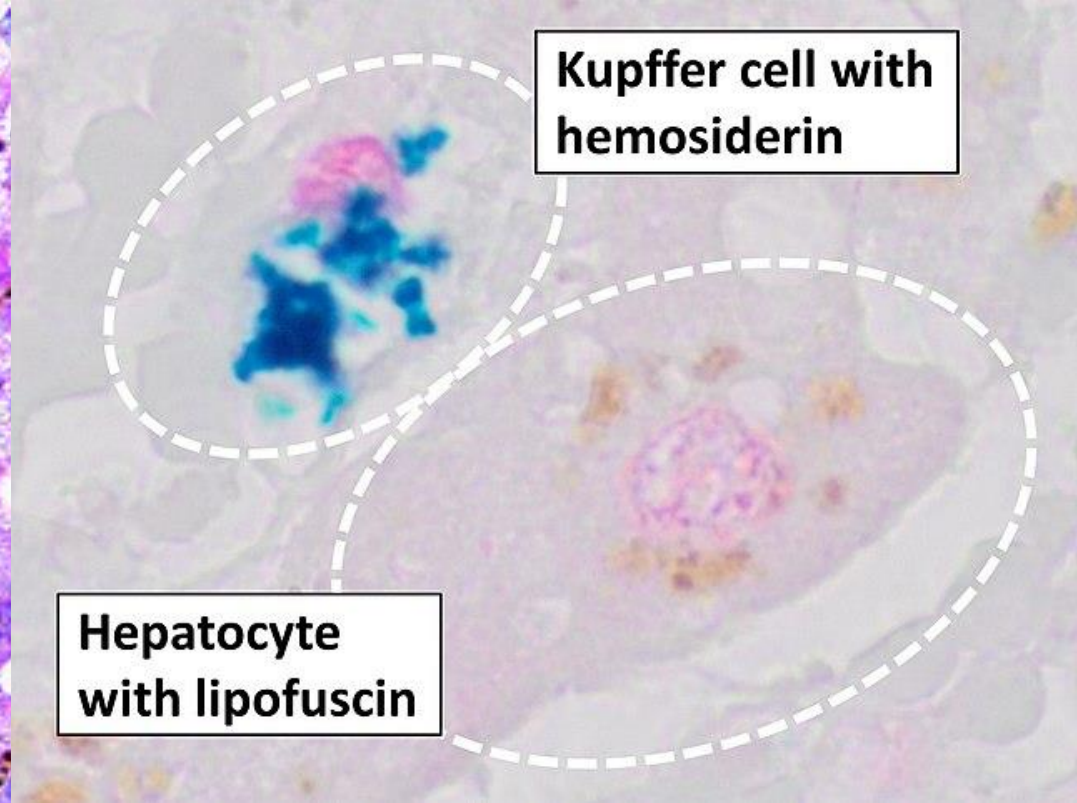
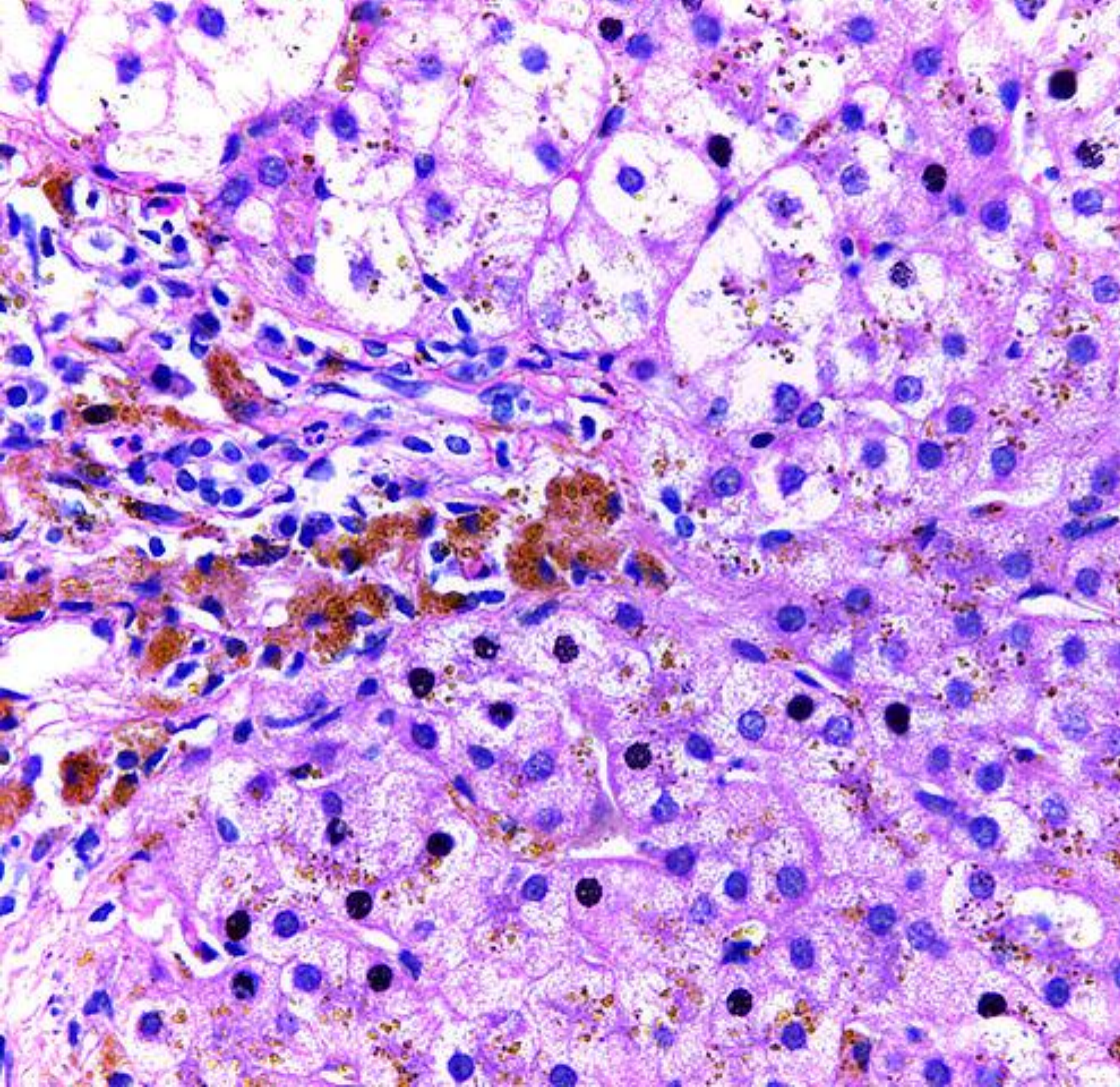
Apply to the slide



Perls reaction
showing
hemosiderin

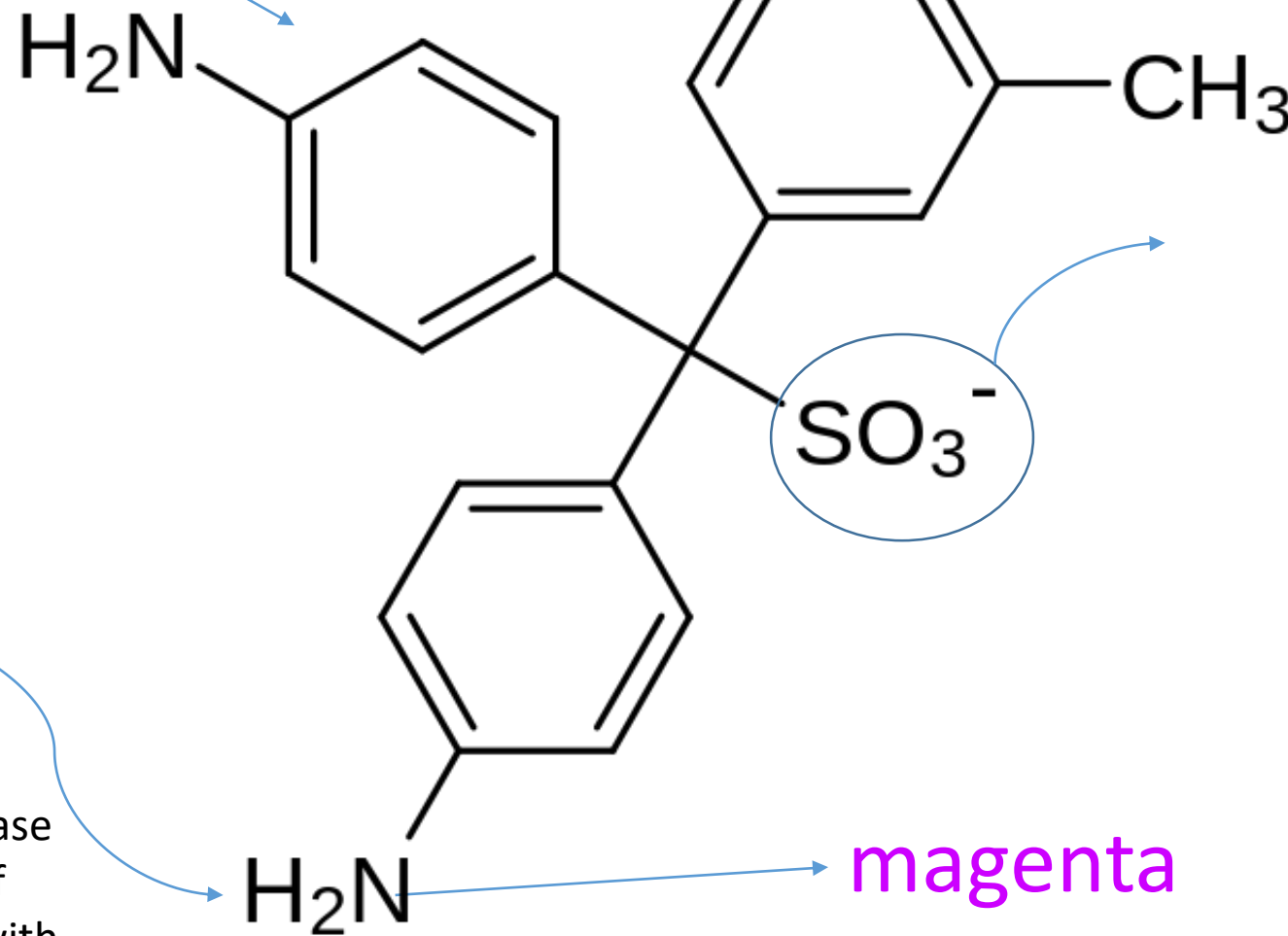
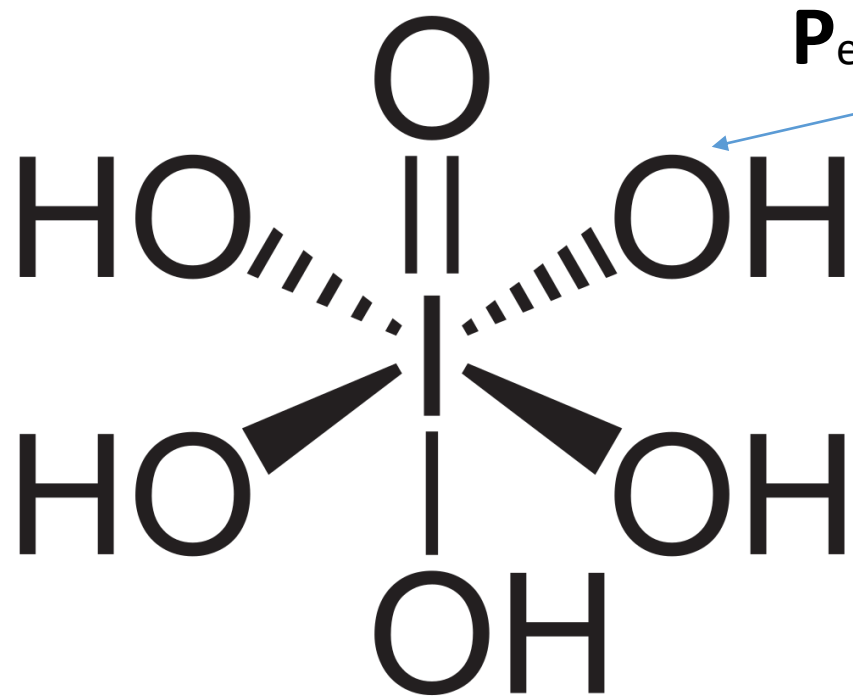
What is the
organ?



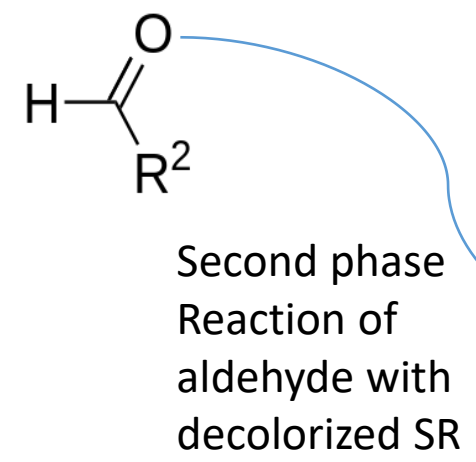
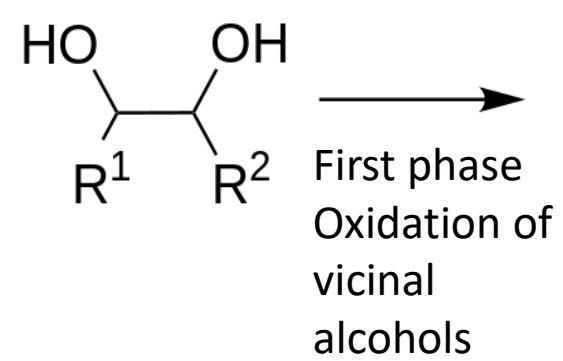


**Kupffer cell with
hemosiderin**

**Hepatocyte
with lipofuscin**

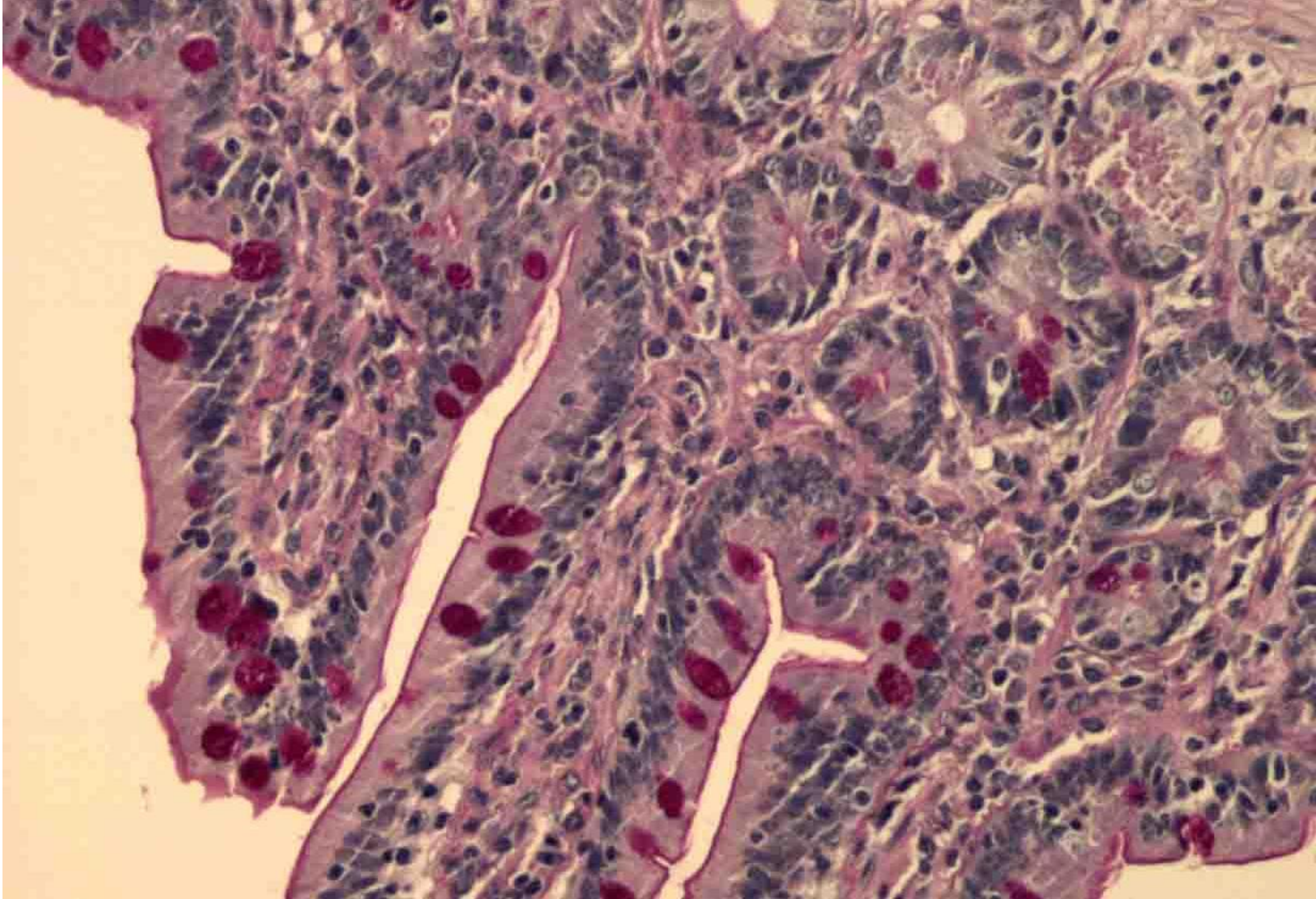


magenta



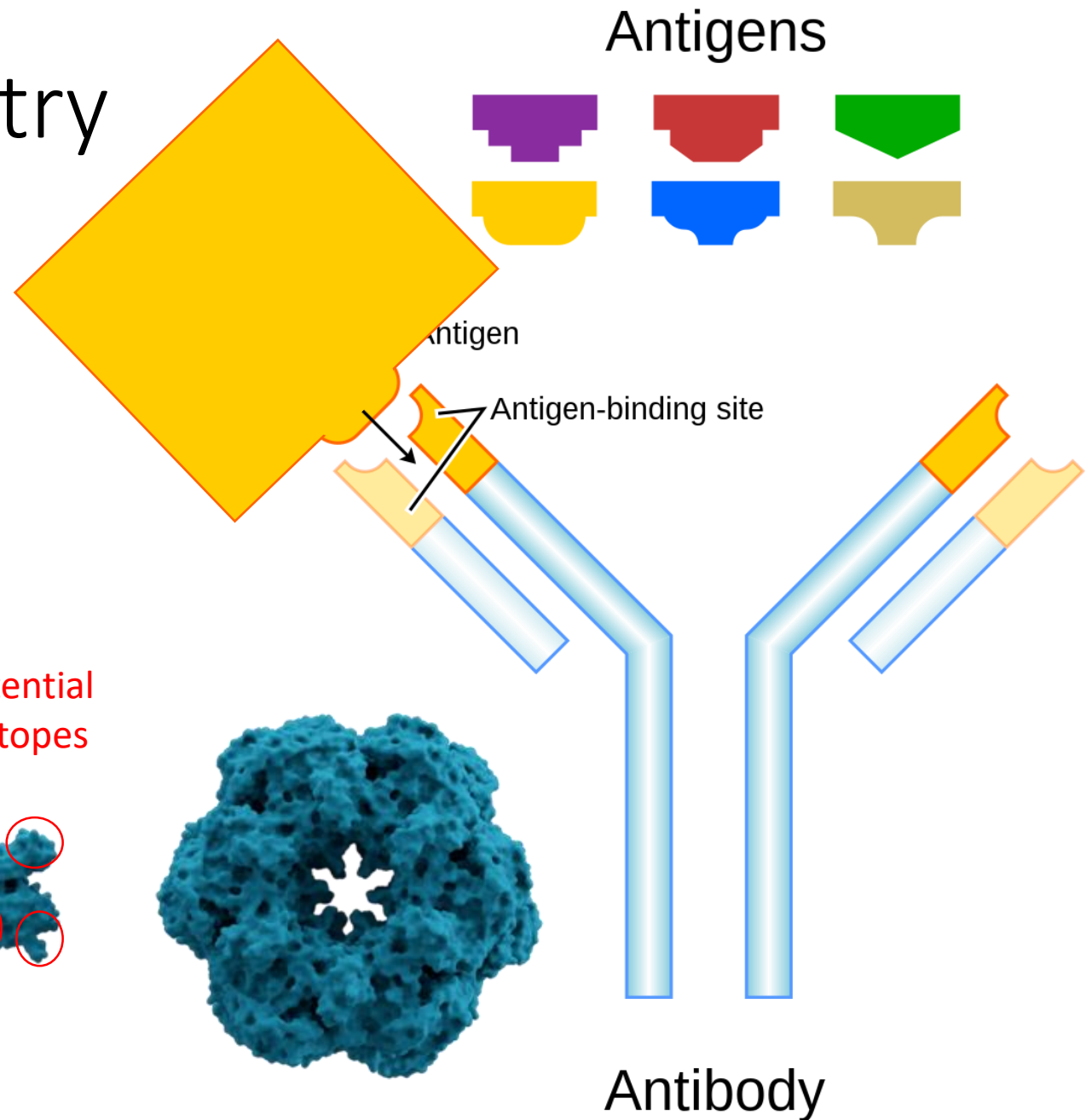
Describe this slide.

How do you differentiate from similar organs?

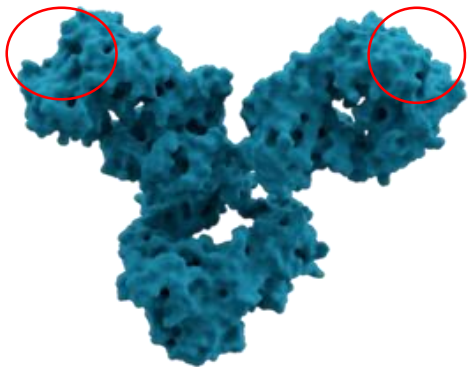


Immunohistochemistry

- Antigen – antibody interaction
- Epitope is a specific part of an antigen that binds to the antibody

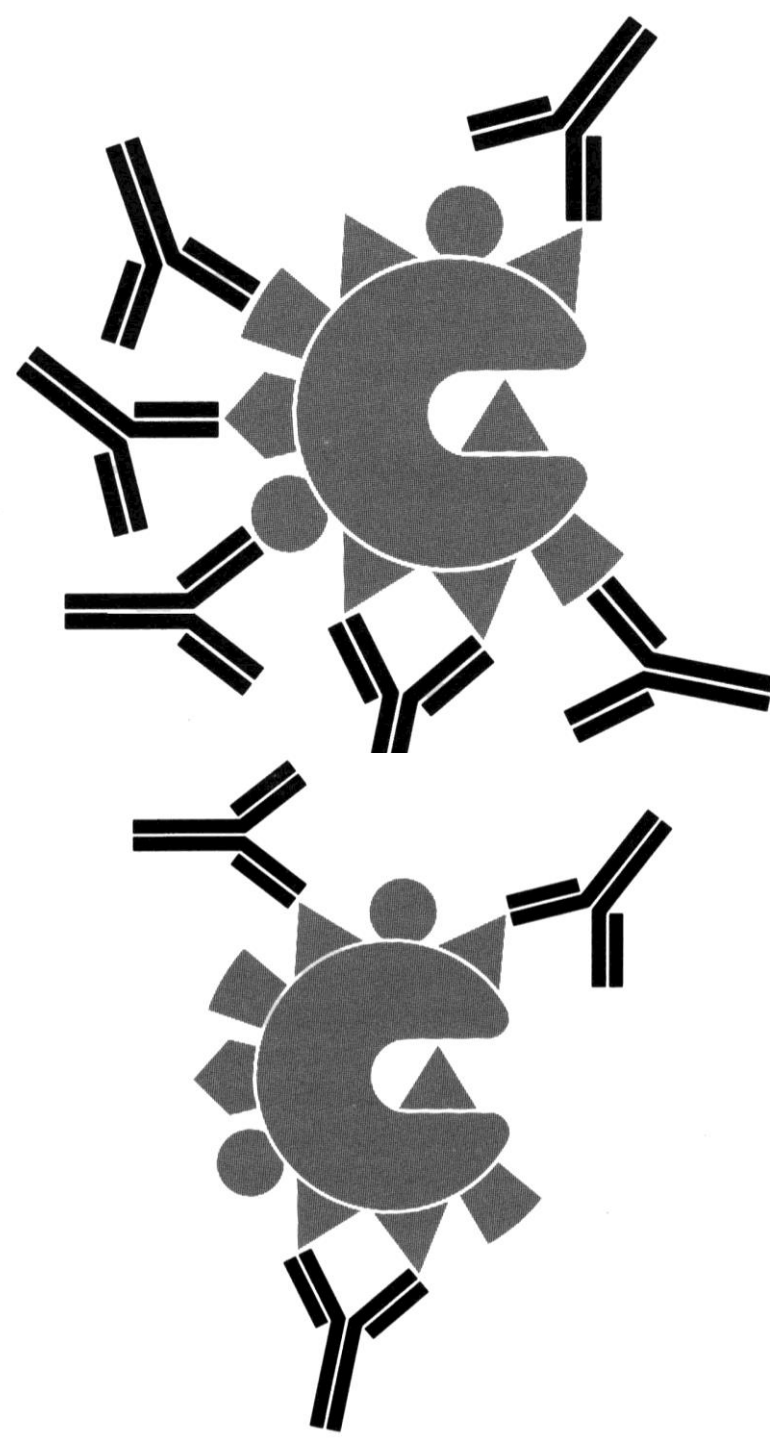
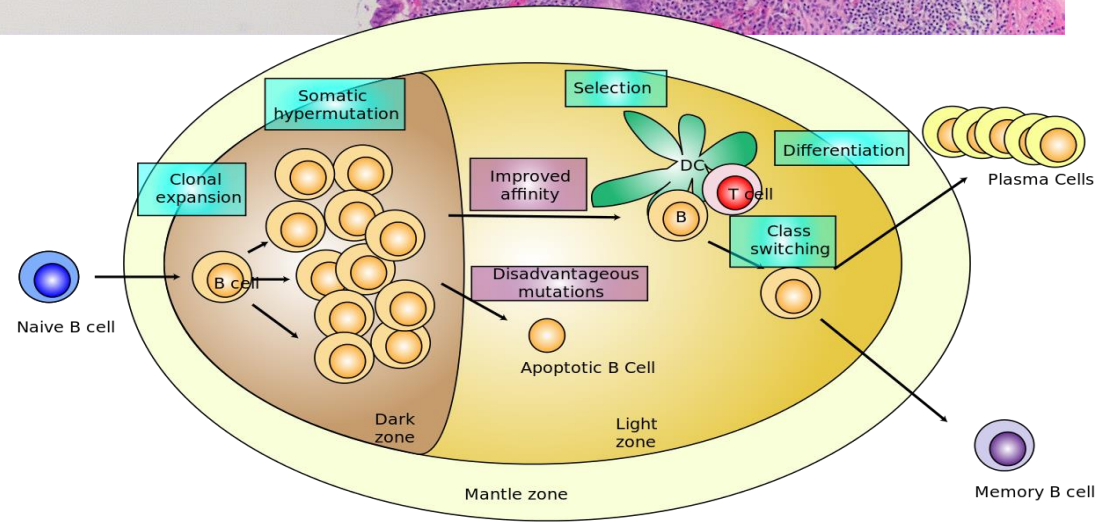
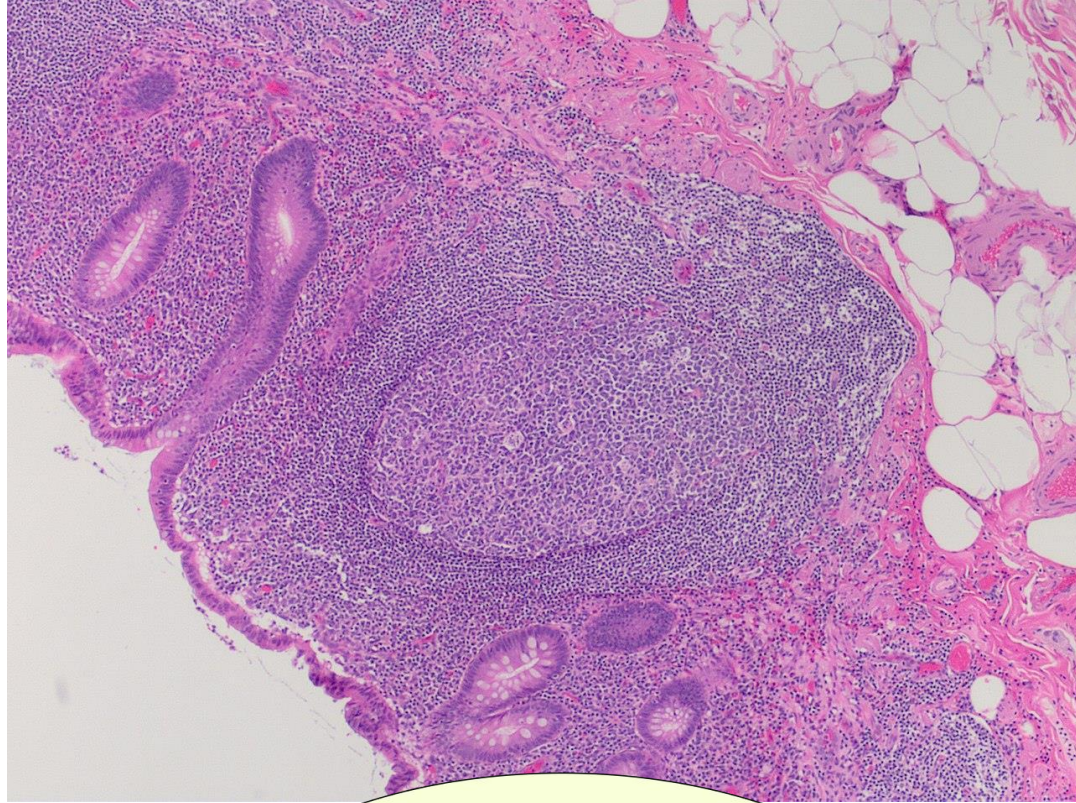


Approximate location of antigen binding sites (paratopes)



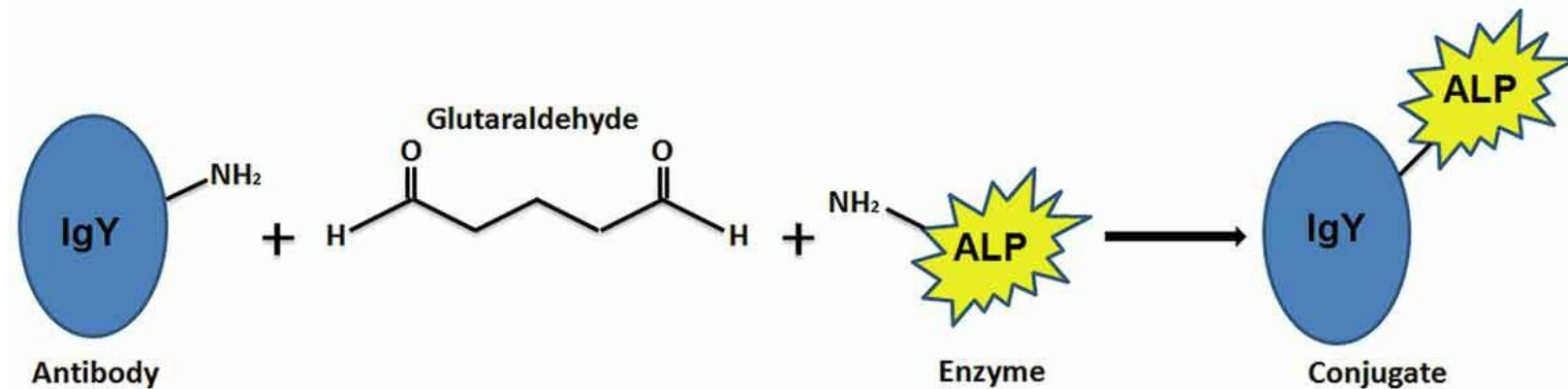
potential epitopes





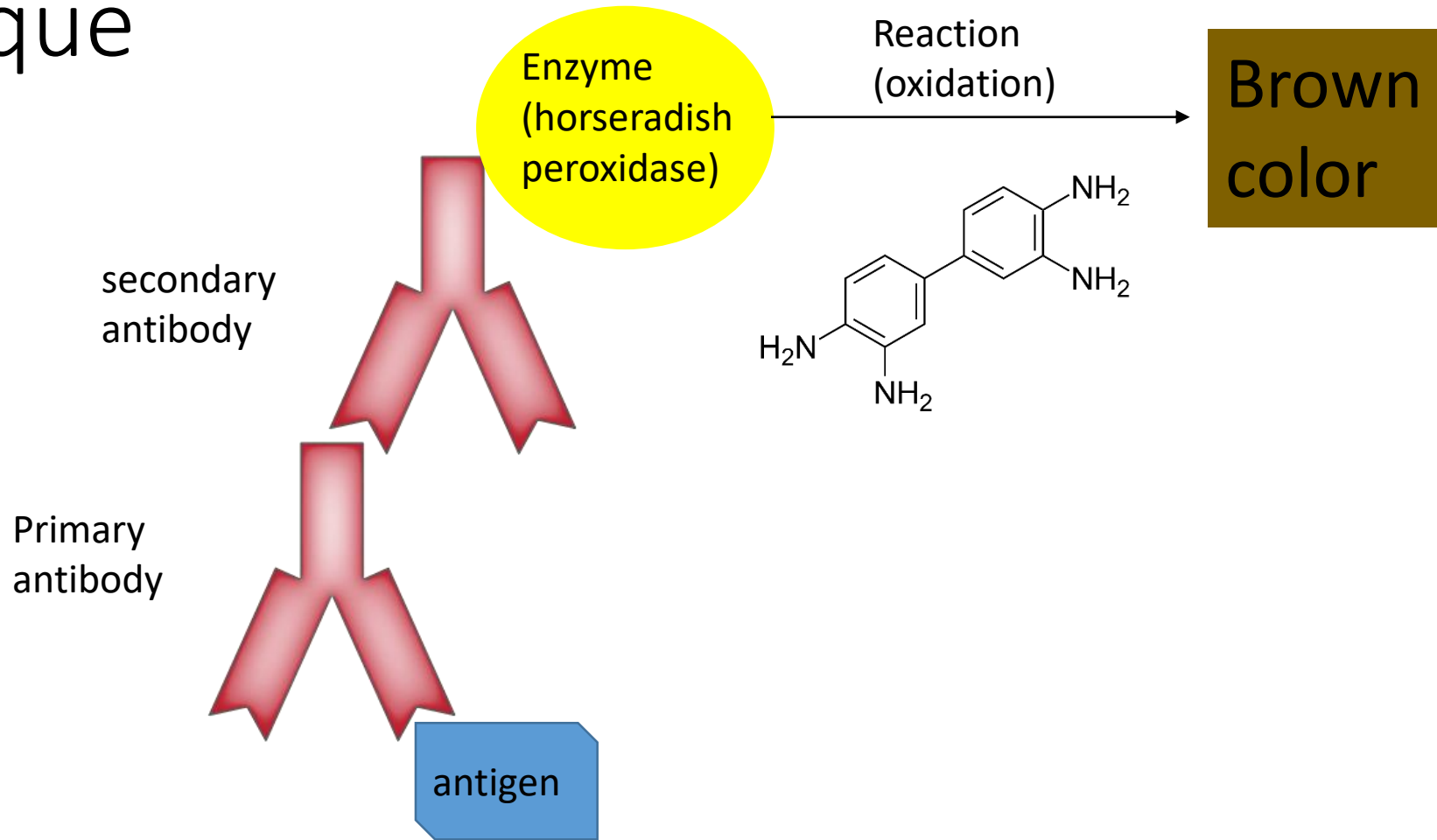
Antibody labeling

- Light microscopy - enzyme, fluorochrome or hapten
- Electron microscopy – heavy metal
- Used for visualizing the presence of antibodies by microscopic methods

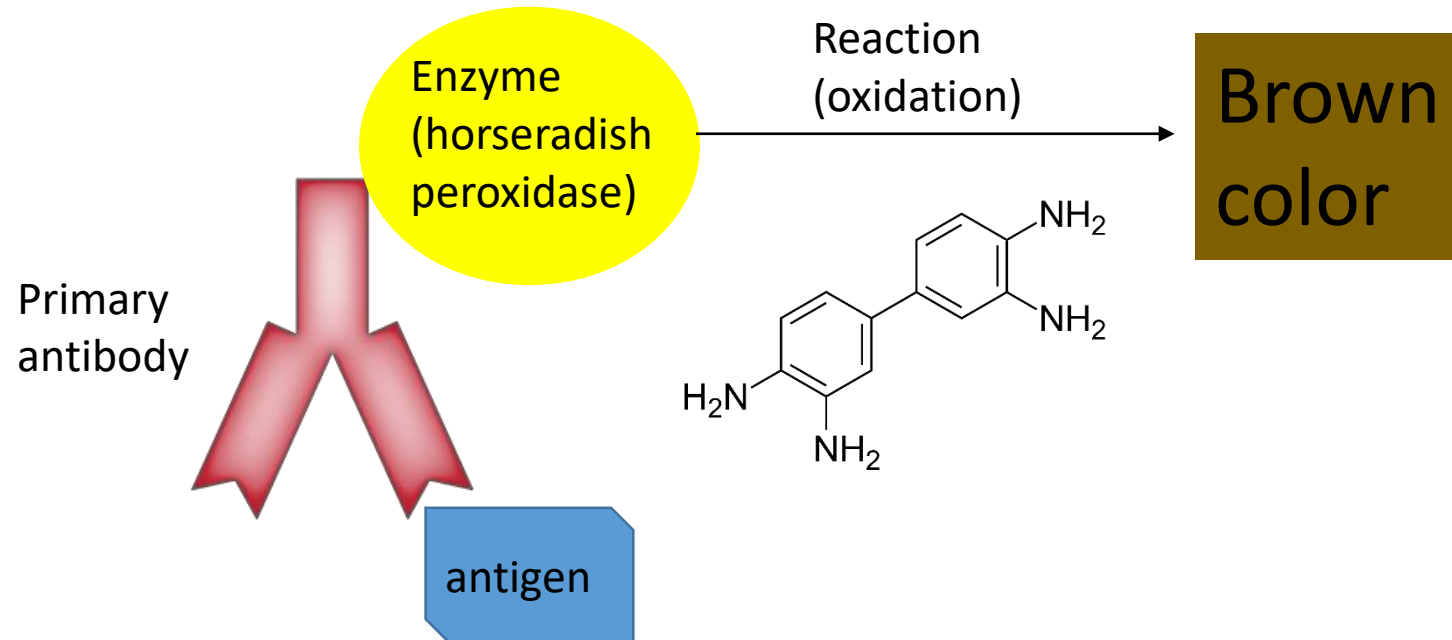


Ozkan, B., Budama-Kilinc, Y., Cakir-Koc, R., Mese, S., & Badur, S. (2019). Application of an immunoglobulin Y-alkaline phosphatase bioconjugate as a diagnostic tool for influenza A virus. *Bioengineered*, 10(1), 33–42. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21655979.2019.1586054>

Enzyme labeling, two-step indirect technique



Direct technique

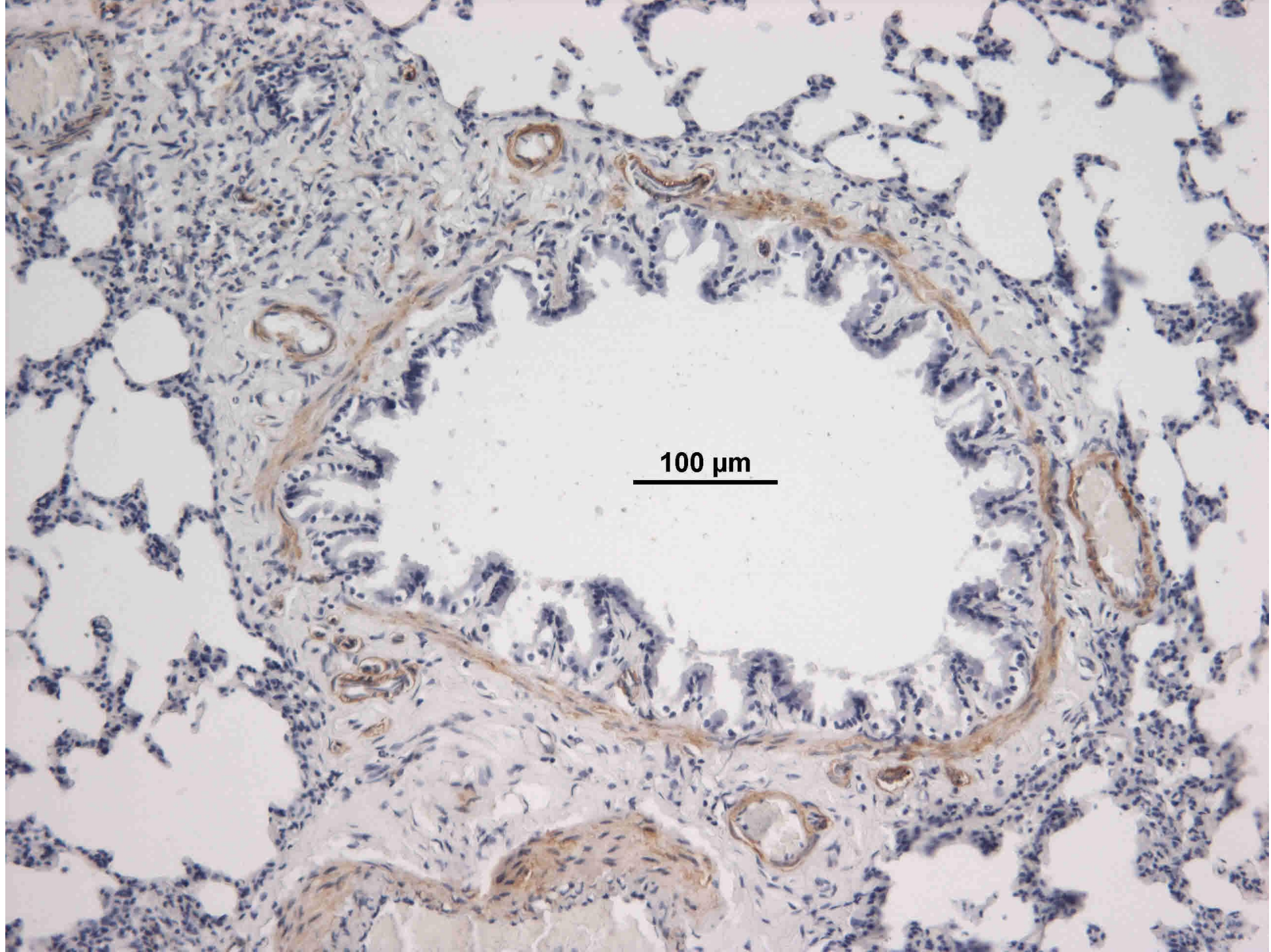


primary antibody mouse
monoclonal against
smooth-muscle actin

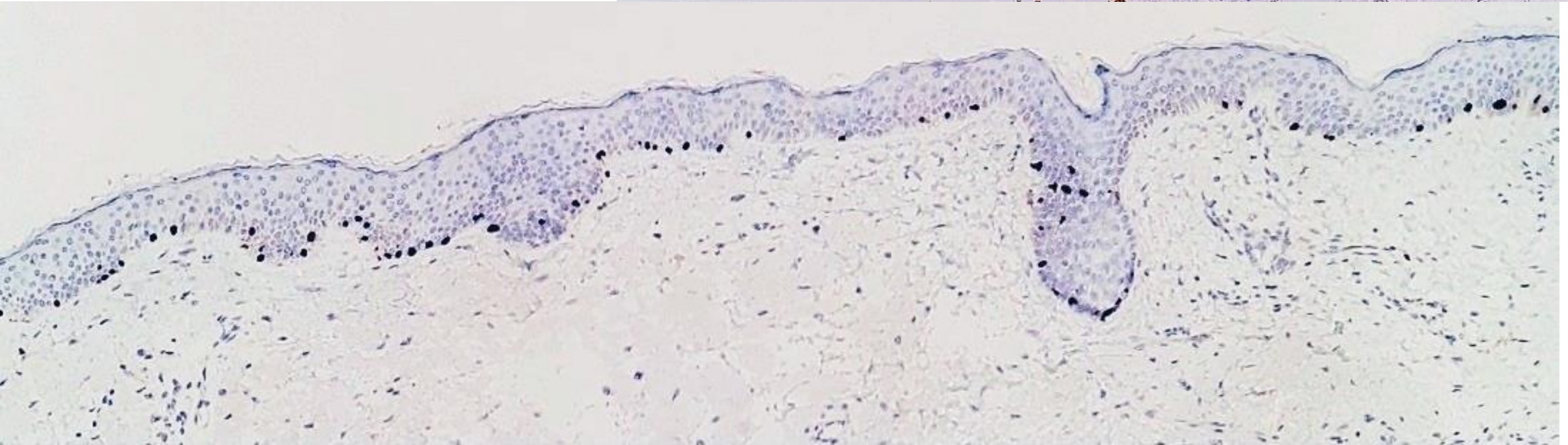
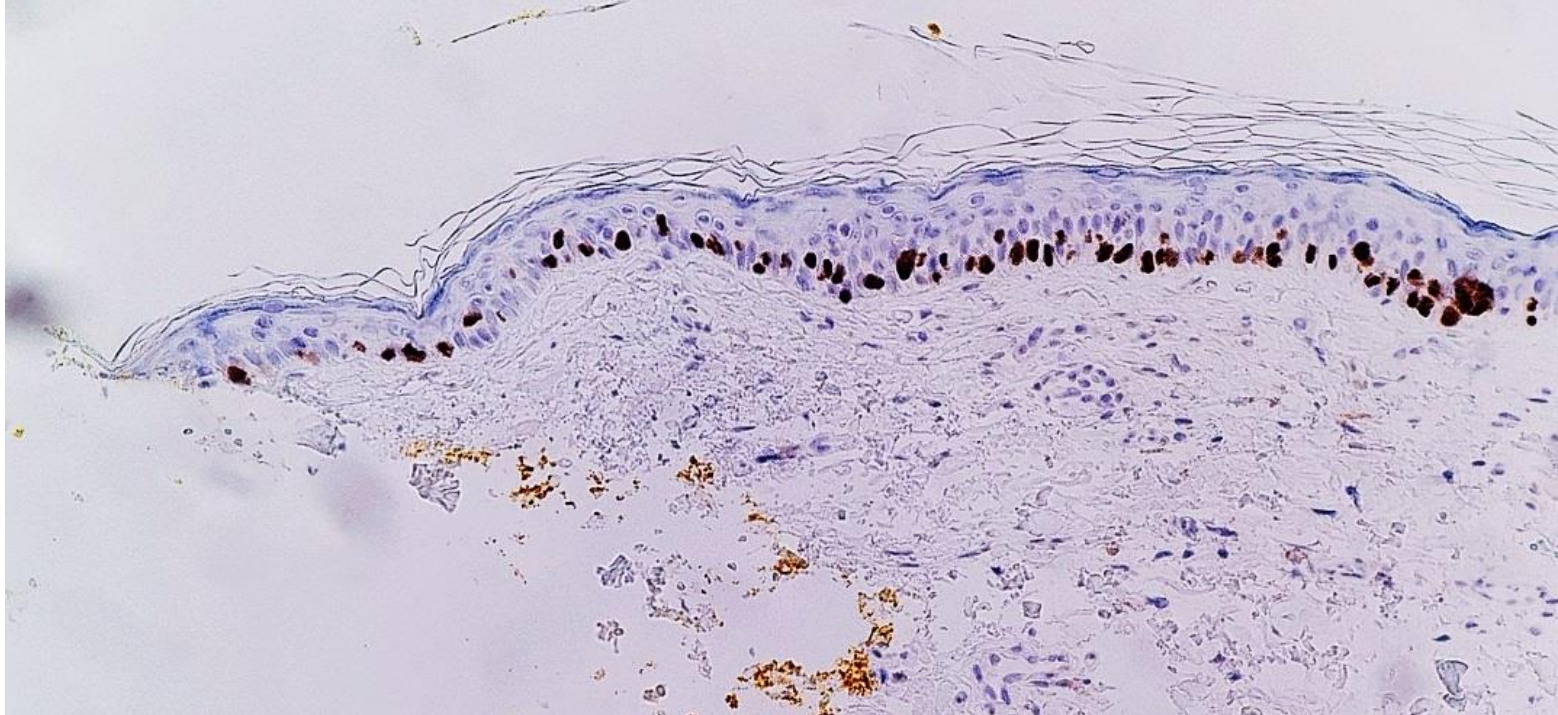
secondary antibody
rabbit polyclonal
RabAMouse-HRP

visualization H_2O_2 + DAB

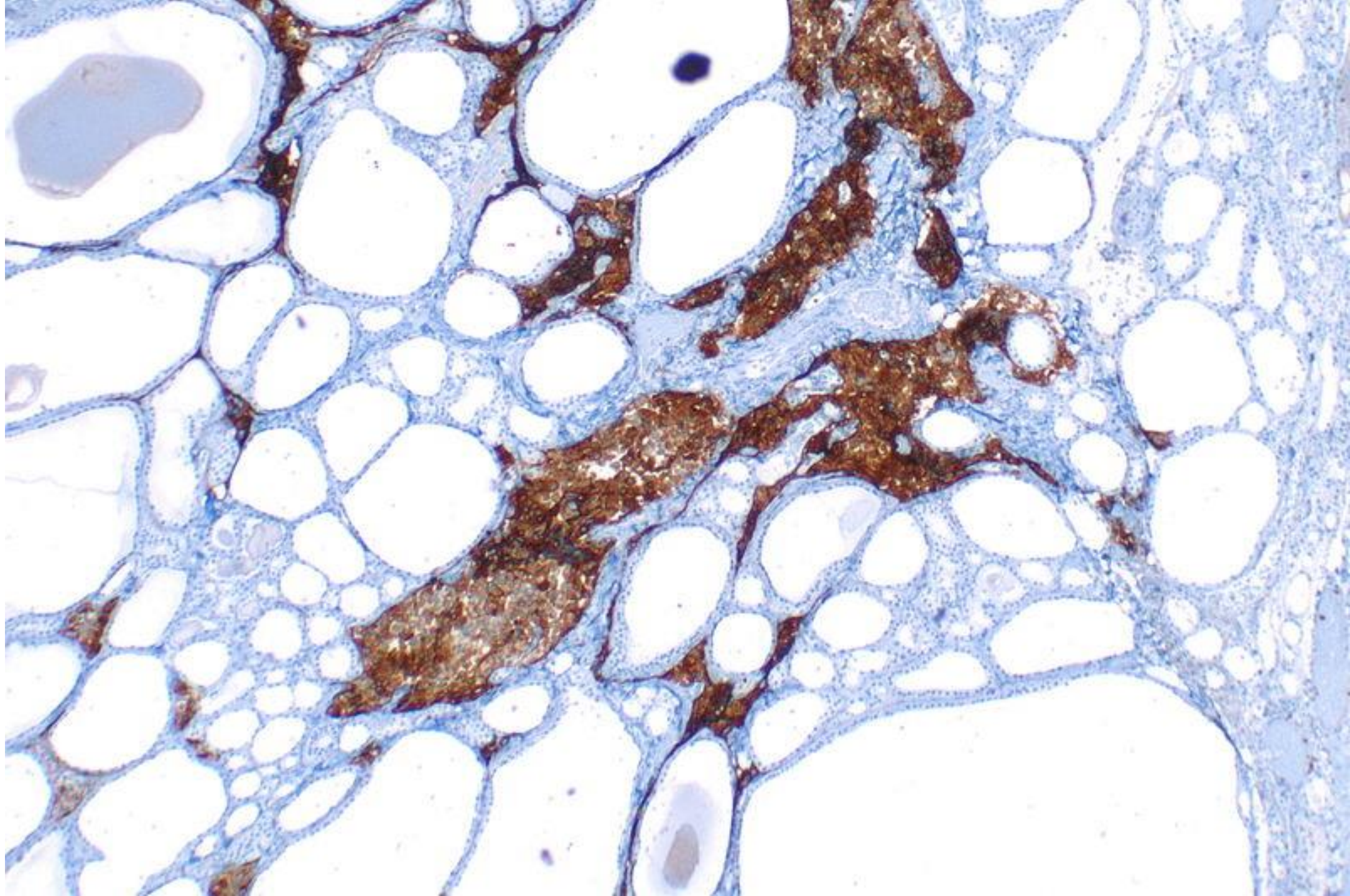
counterstain
haematoxylin



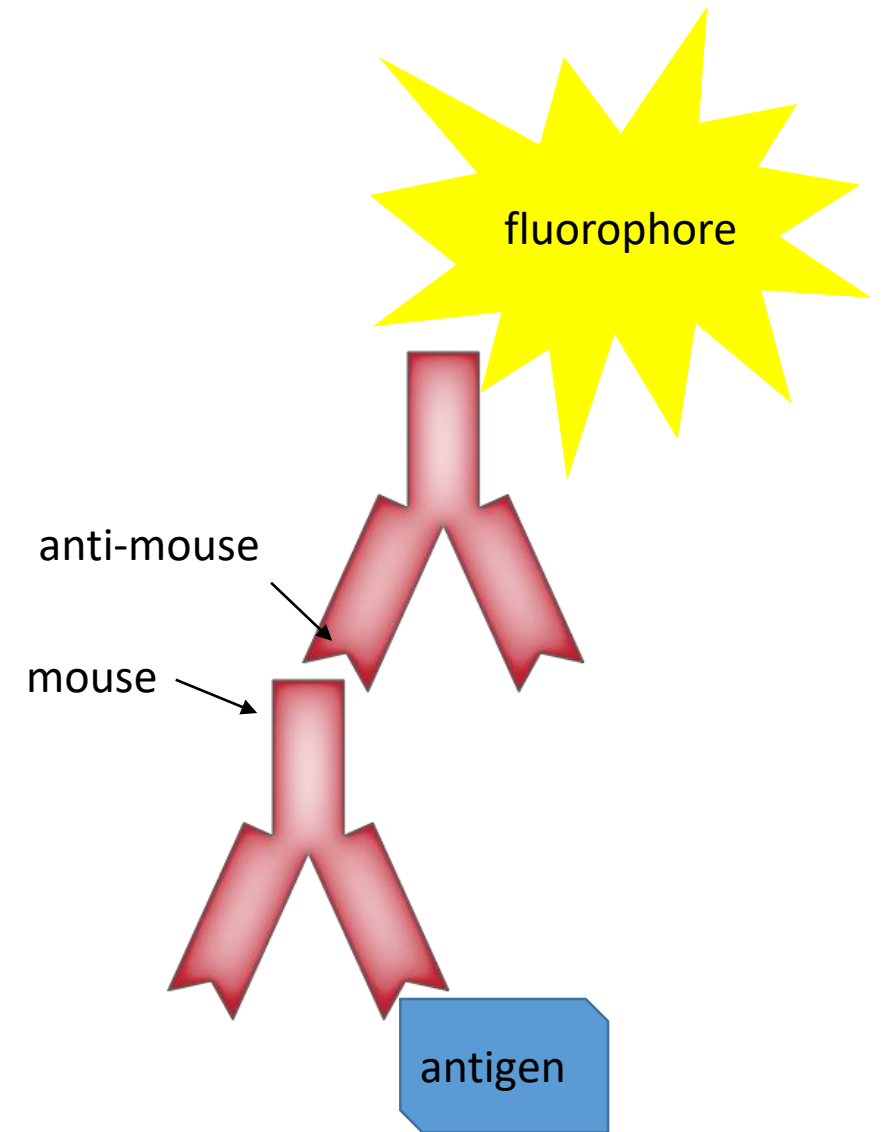
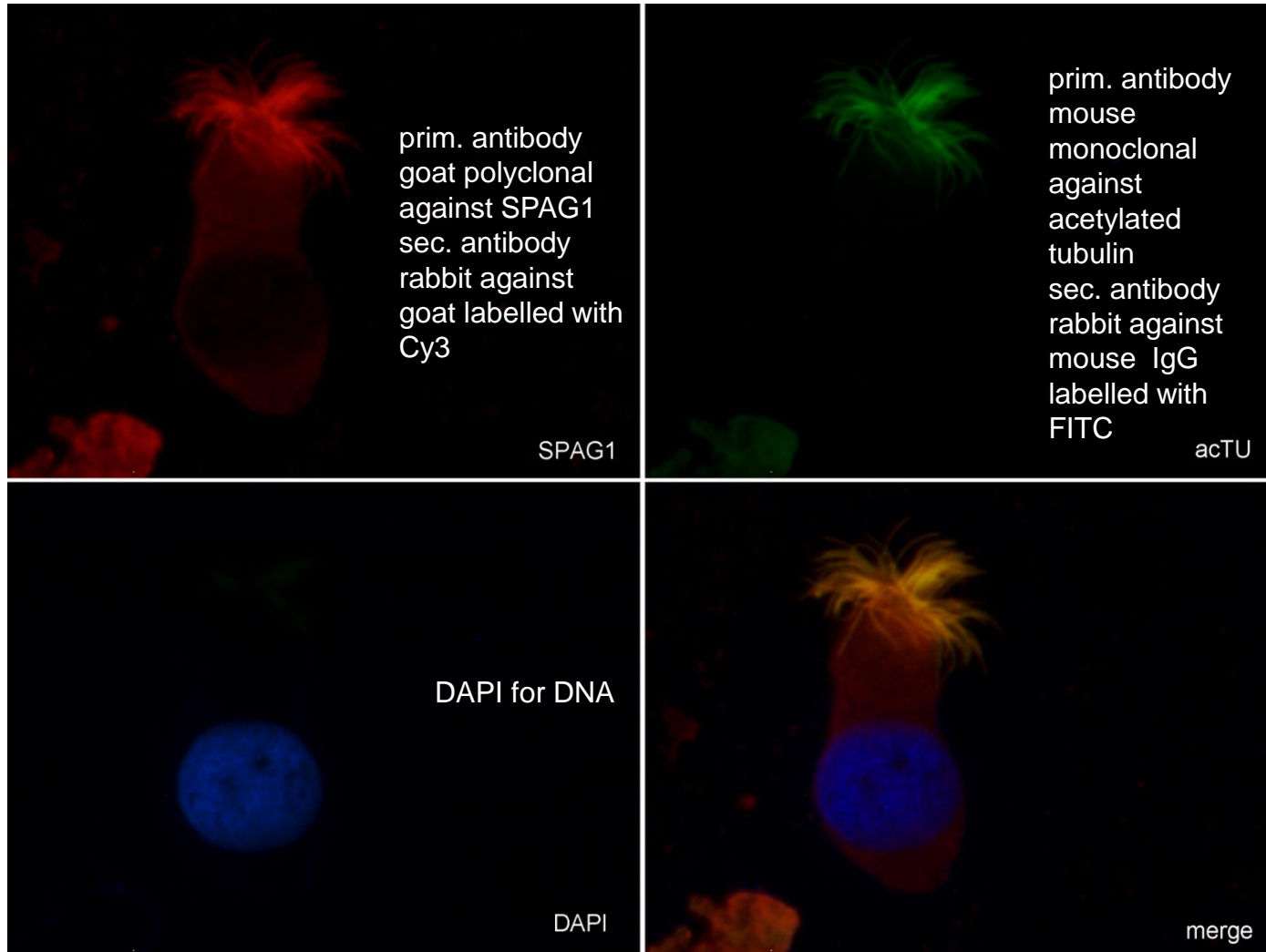
SOX10 (typical
for the neural
crest)



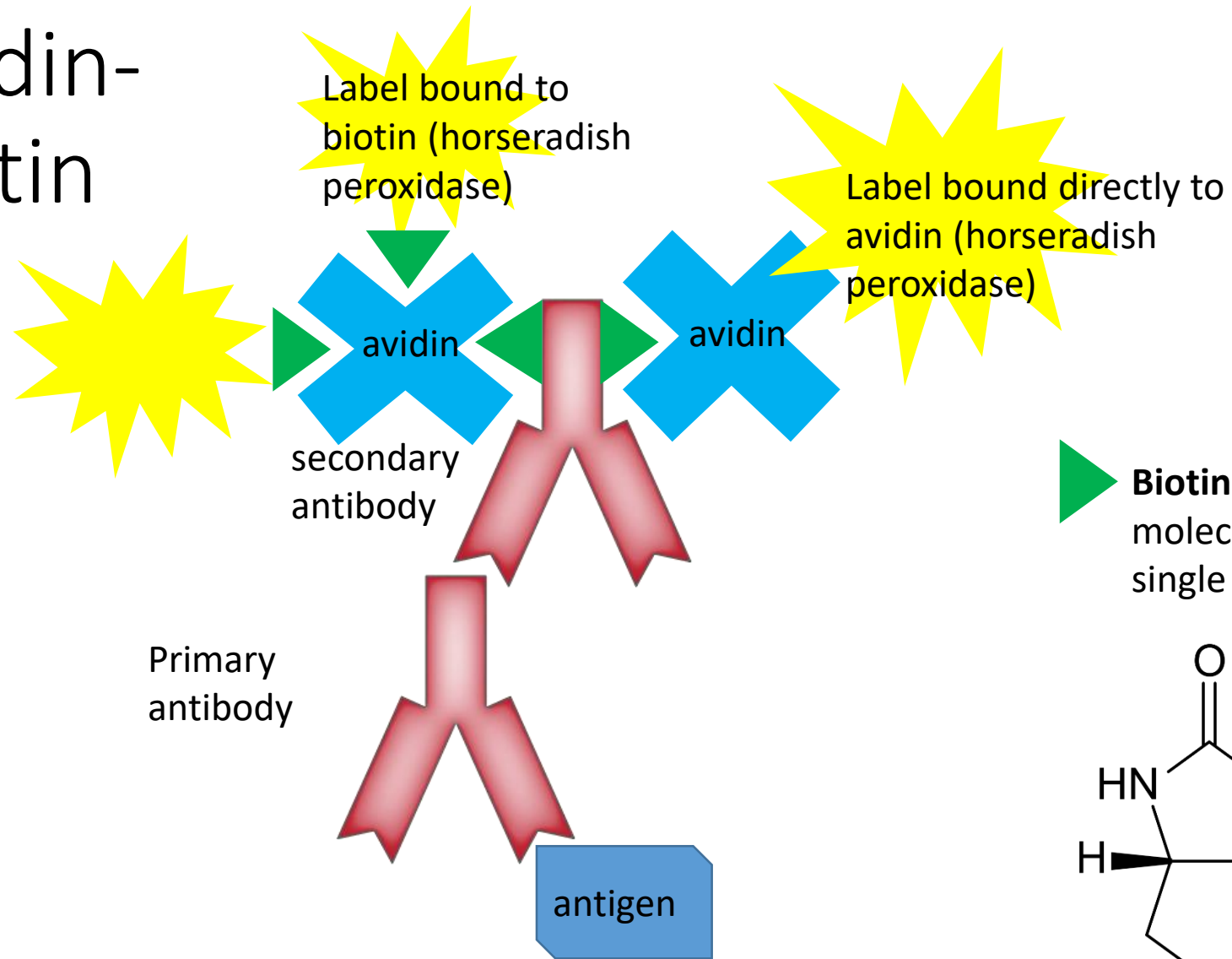
CEA –
MEN2



Fluorescent labeling

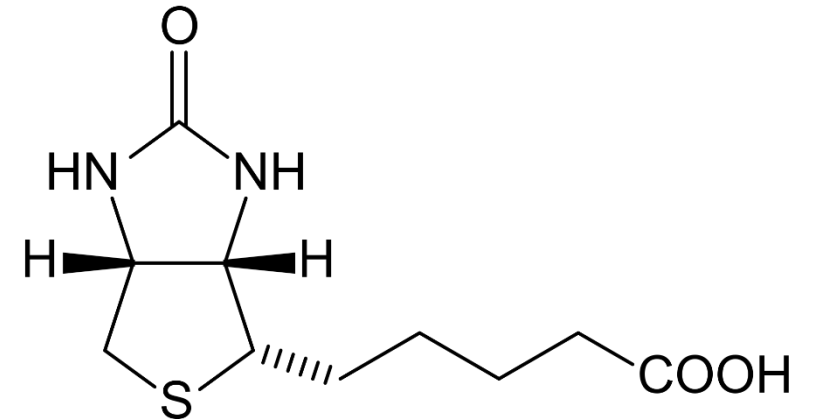


Avidin-biotin



Avidin – biotin interaction is one of the strongest non-covalent bonds

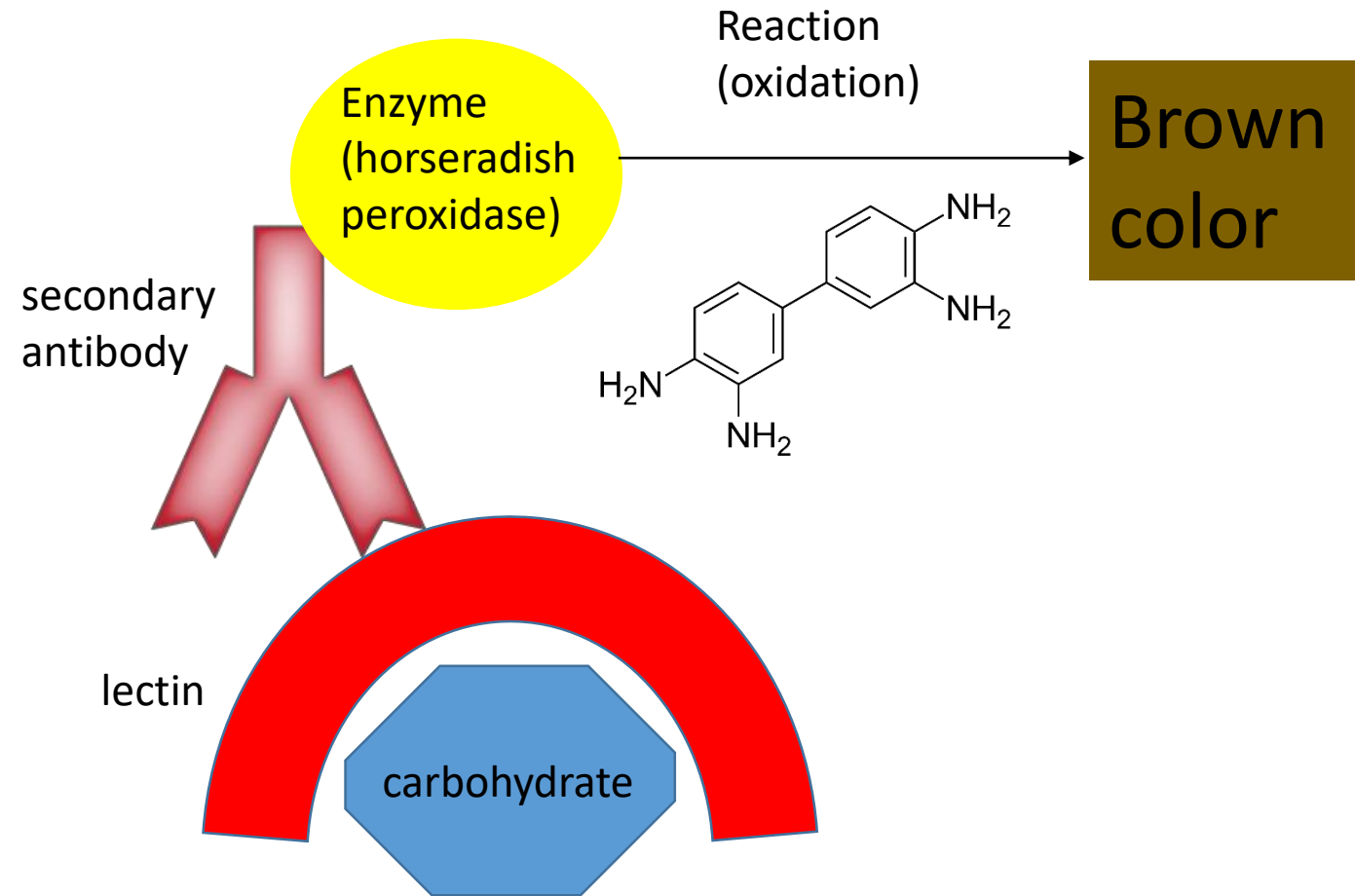
▶ **Biotin** - up to 150 biotin molecules can be bound to a single antibody



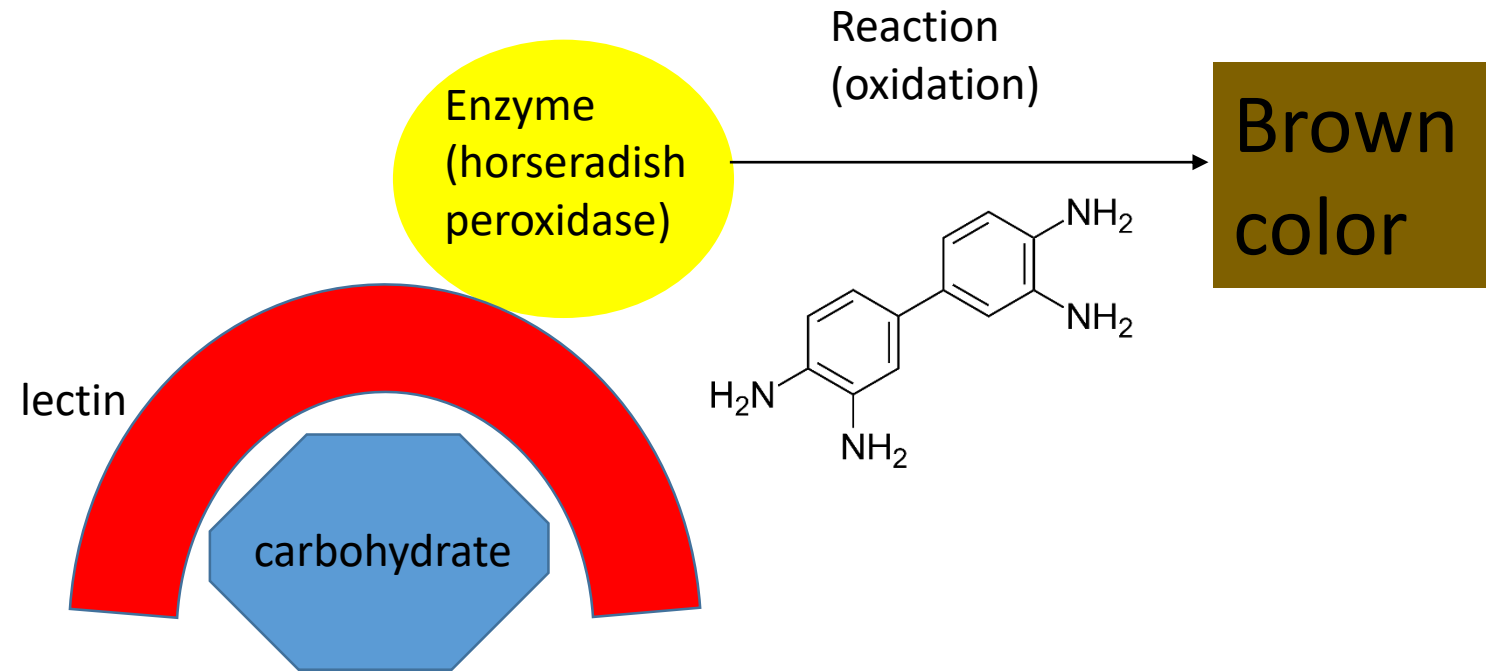
Lectin histochemistry

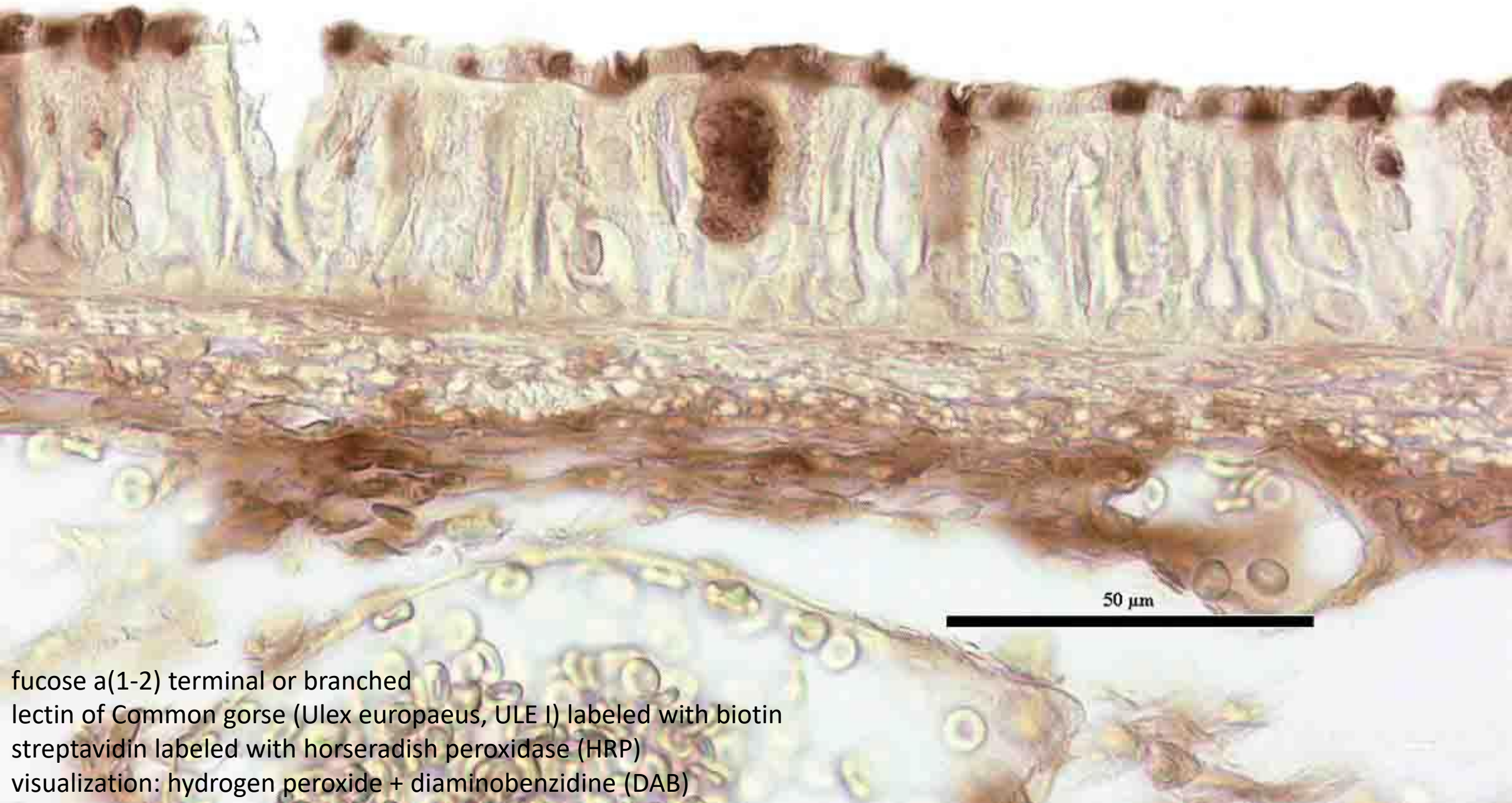
- Binding specifically to certain saccharides, *in vivo* they provide a defense mechanism
- They are named after the species, in which they have been described

Indirect antibody method



We have the direct method here as well





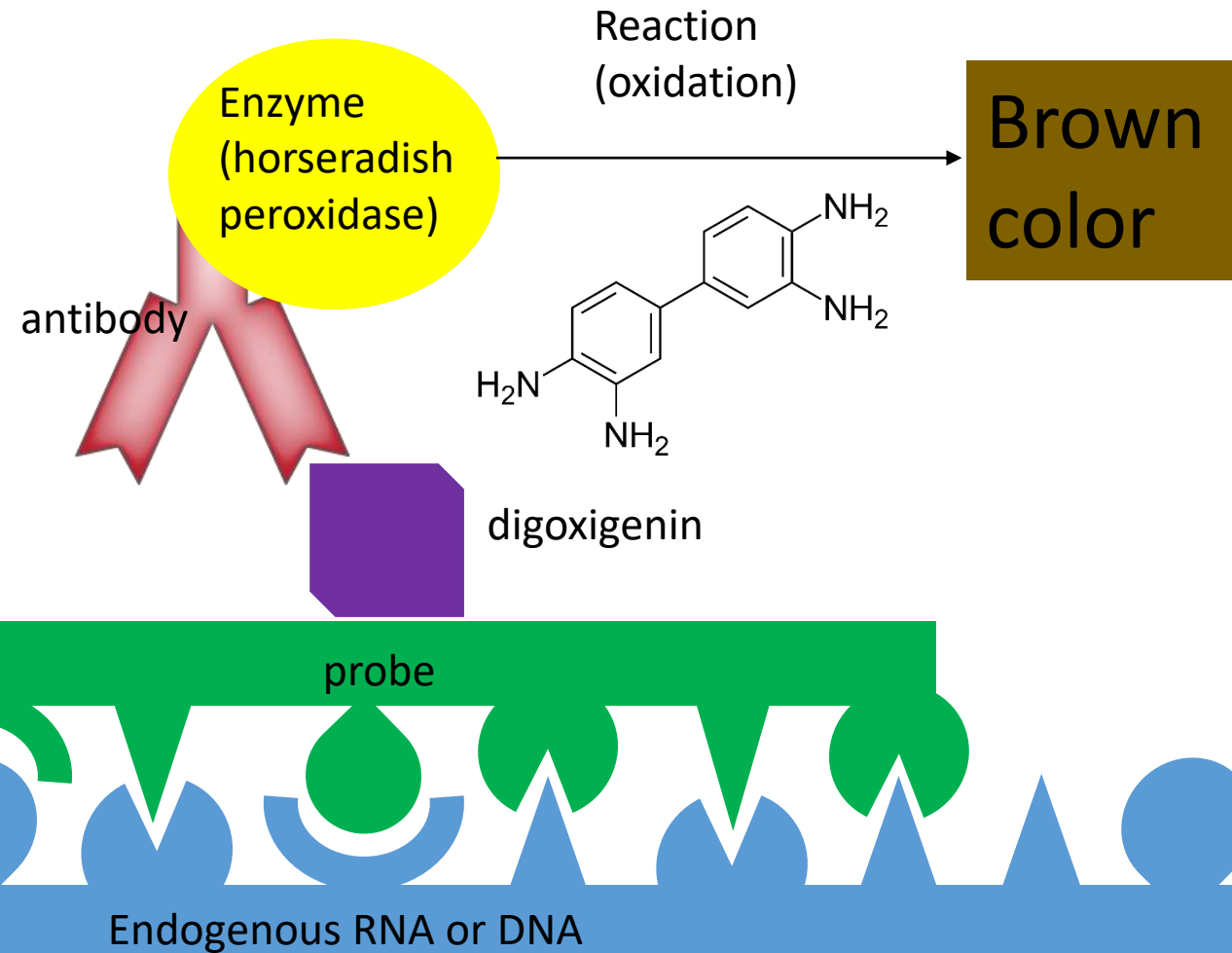
50 μm

fucose $\alpha(1-2)$ terminal or branched
lectin of Common gorse (*Ulex europaeus*, ULE I) labeled with biotin
streptavidin labeled with horseradish peroxidase (HRP)
visualization: hydrogen peroxide + diaminobenzidine (DAB)

ISH and FISH

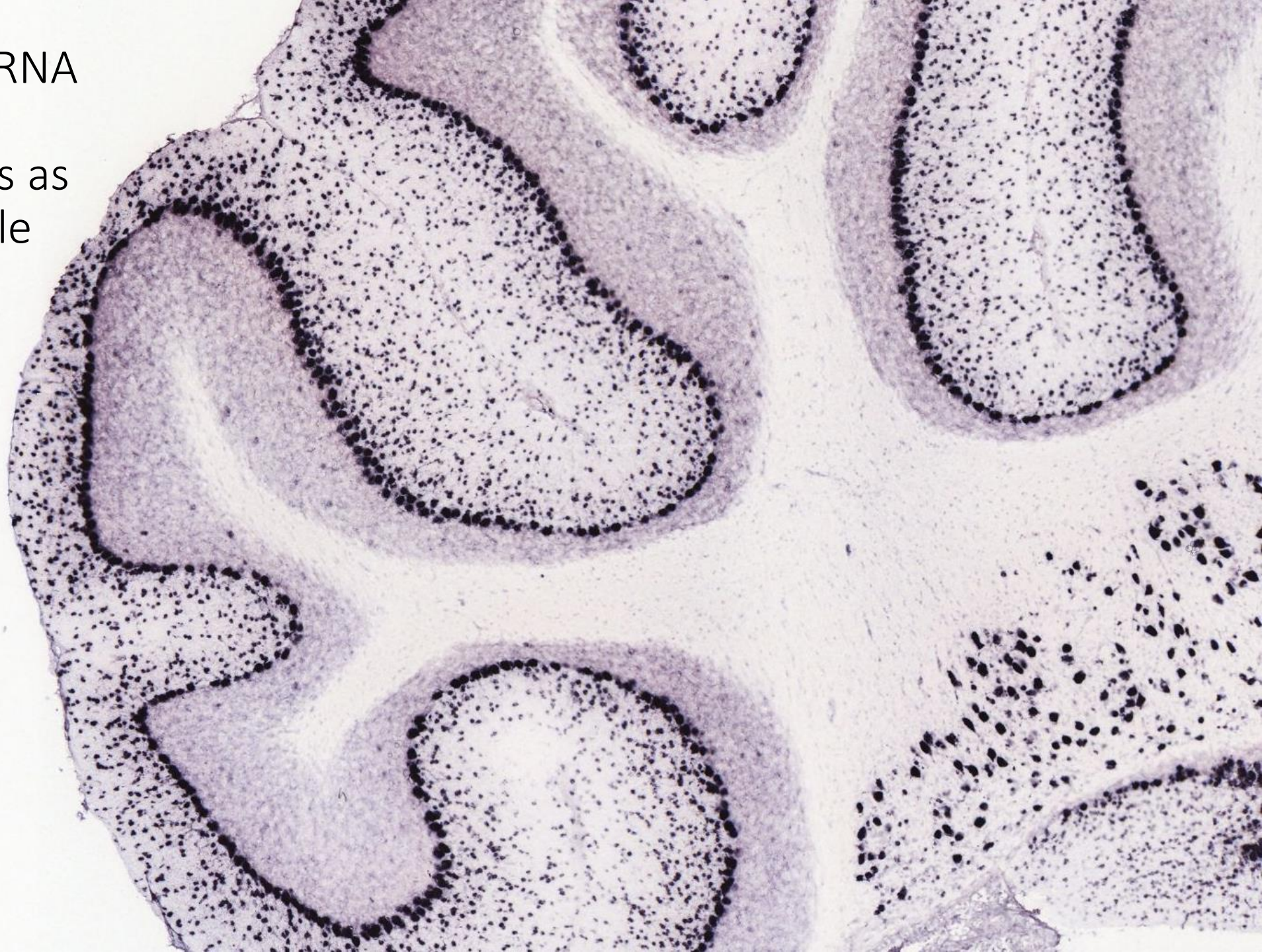
- Hybridization of nucleic acid with a probe
- A probe is a short sequence of nucleotides, that specifically binds to a DNA or RNA sequence in the cell
- Visualization by histochemistry or fluorescence

histochemistry

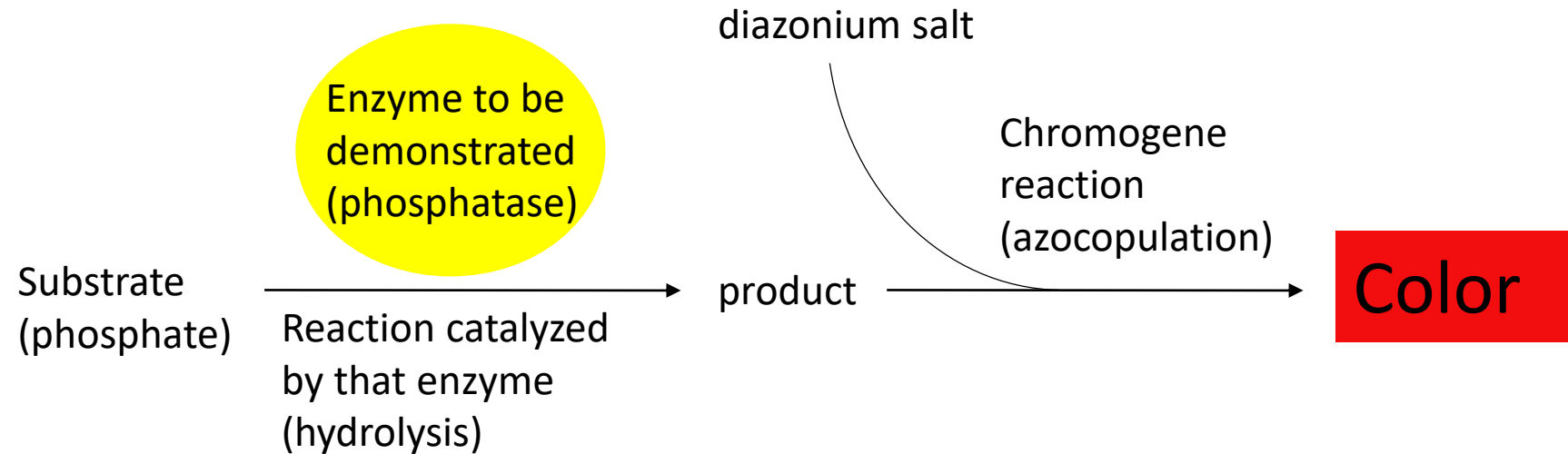


ISH - parvalbumin RNA

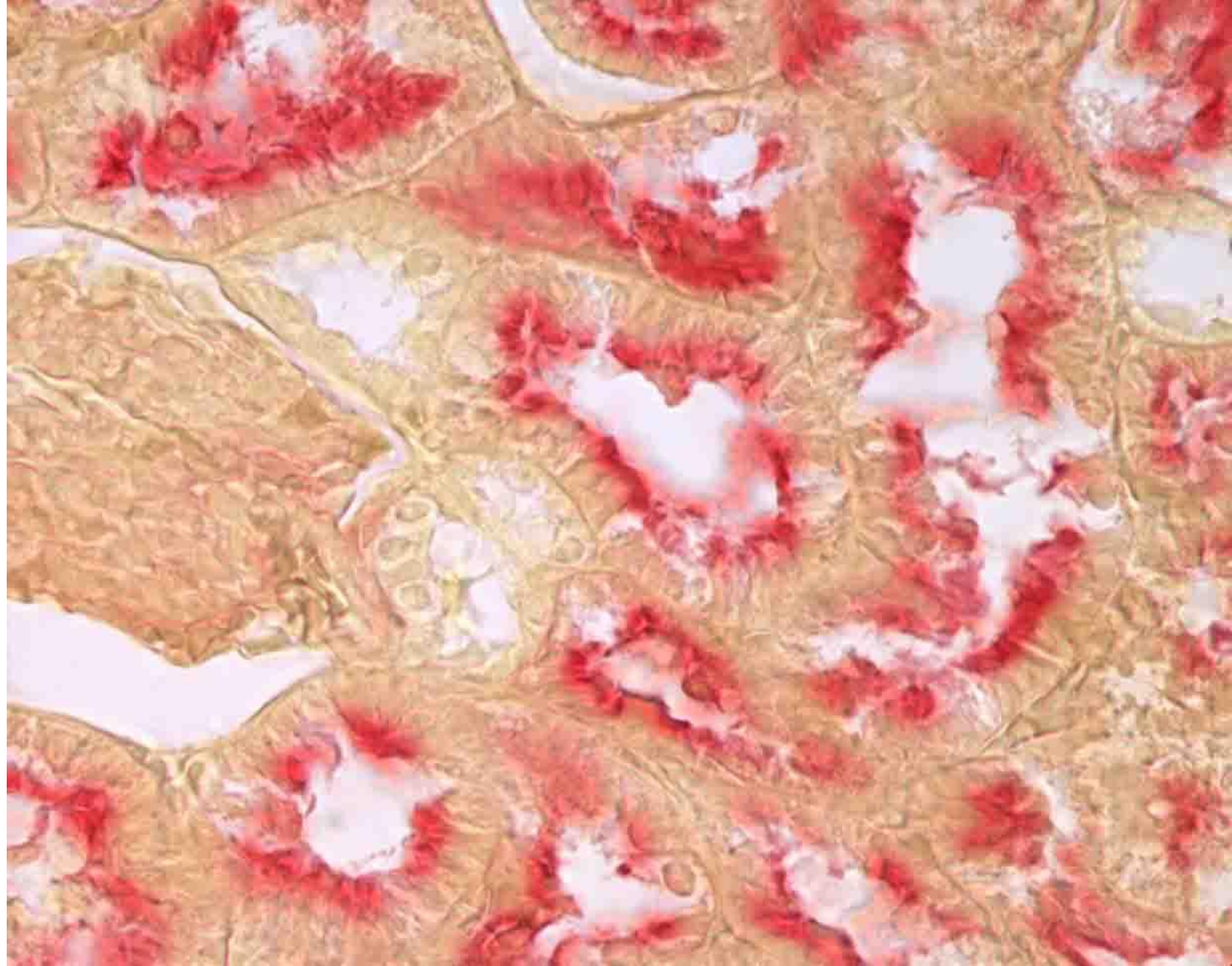
parvalbumin serves as
a marker of multiple
inhibitory neuron
types



Enzyme histochemistry – Visualizing activity of an endogenous enzyme



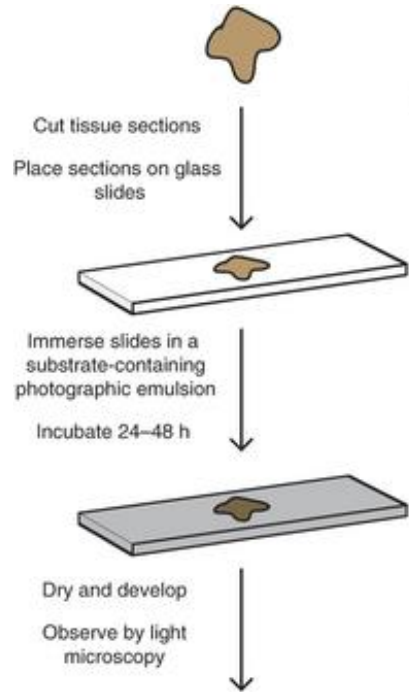
Proof of alkaline phosphatase in
brush border – α -
naphtylphosphate +
azocopulation



Zymography in situ

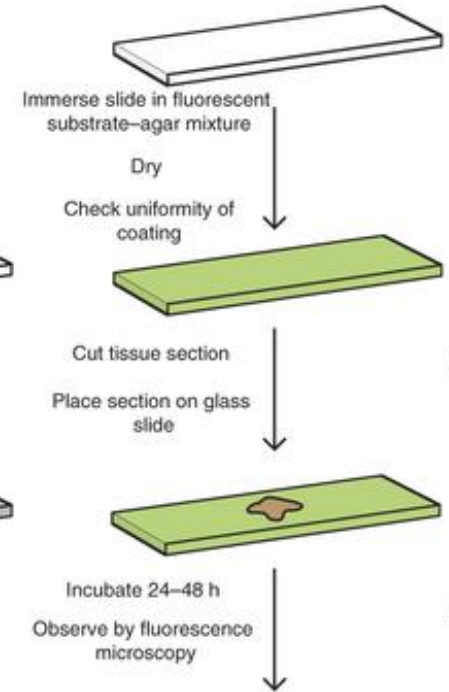
- Mapping the activity of proteases
- Some interesting proteases
 - MMP (matrix metalloproteinases)
 - Serine proteases (chymotrypsin, trypsin, thrombin, callicrein)
 - Cystein proteases (caspases – play a role in apoptosis)
 - Aspartate proteases (pepsin, renin)

Photographic emulsion-based ISZ



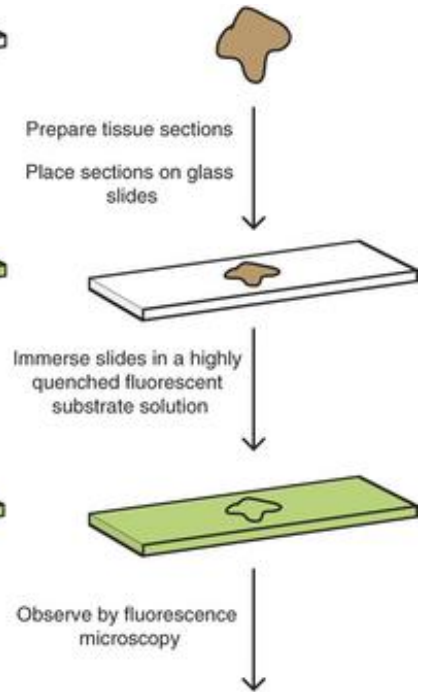
Photographic emulsion contains a substrate, which is digested. After development, empty areas are seen.

Fluorescently labeled substrate-based ISZ

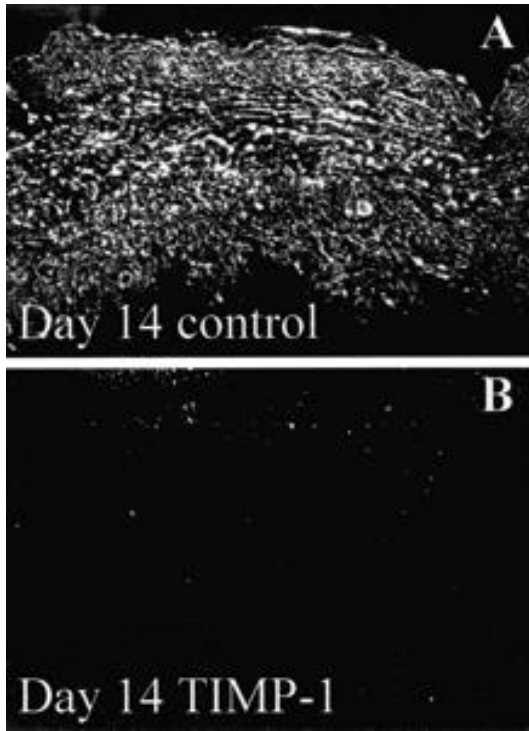


The slide is coated by a substrate conjugated with a fluorochrome. After digestion, empty (non-fluorescing) areas are seen.

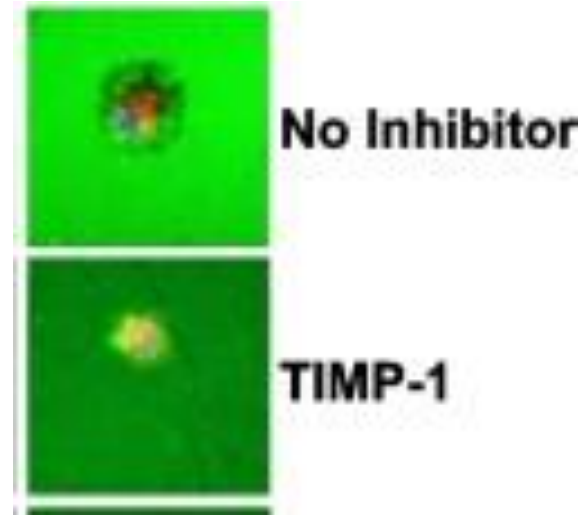
Highly quenched substrate-based ISZ



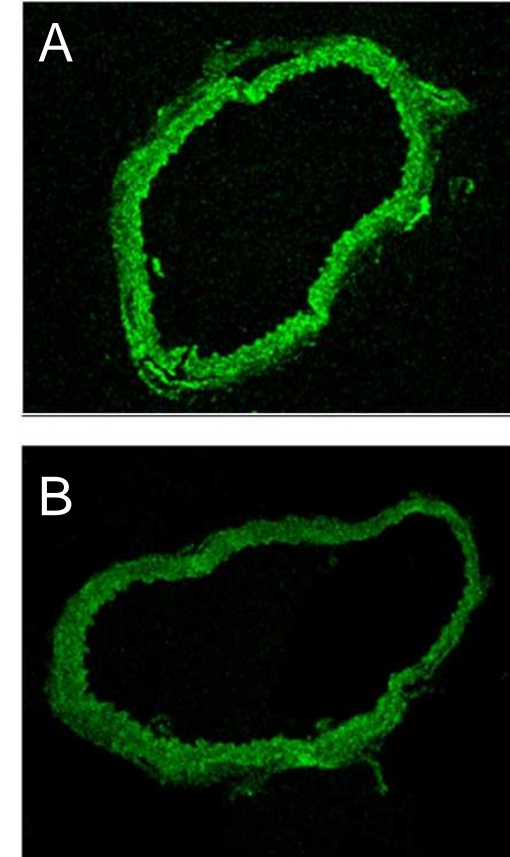
The section is incubated with a substrate conjugated with a fluorochrome and its quencher. After digestion, quenching is lost and fluorescent areas are seen.



ISZ based on photographic emulsion. White areas indicate metalloproteinase activity in the wall of vein (A). Metalloproteinase inhibitor TIMP-1 was used in B.



ISZ based on fluorescently labeled substrate. Dark areas indicate metalloproteinase activity of human breast carcinoma cells, which is inhibited by a TIMP-1.



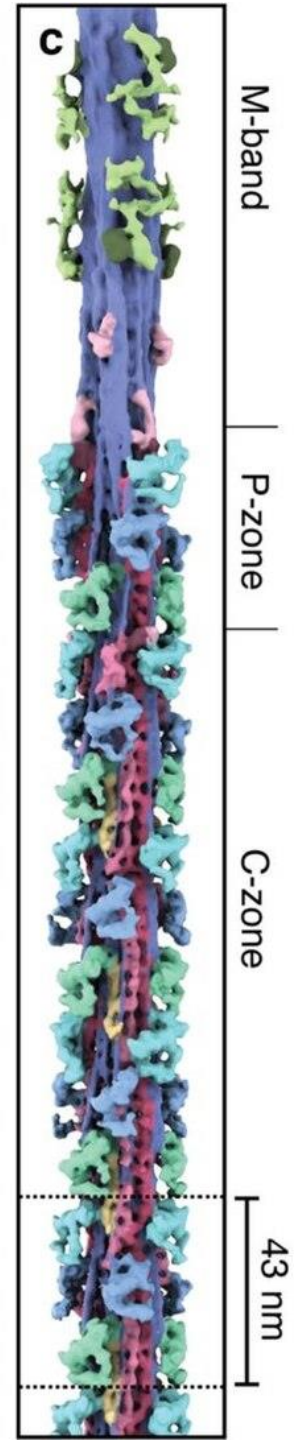
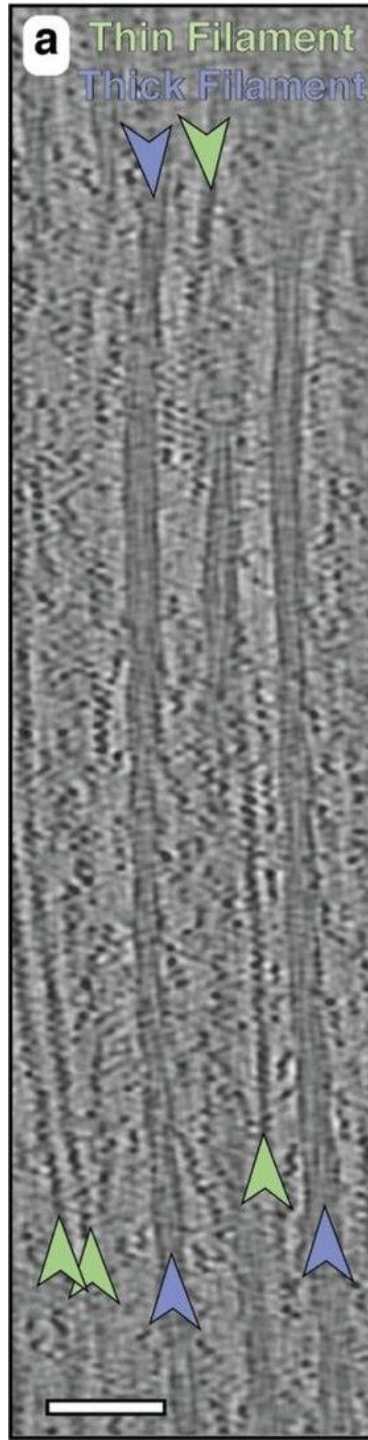
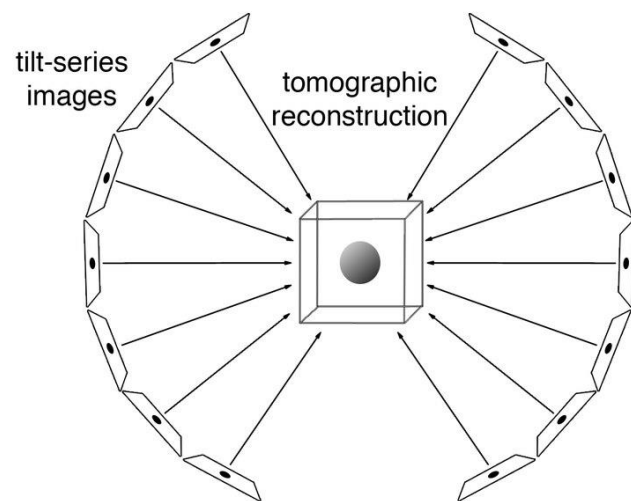
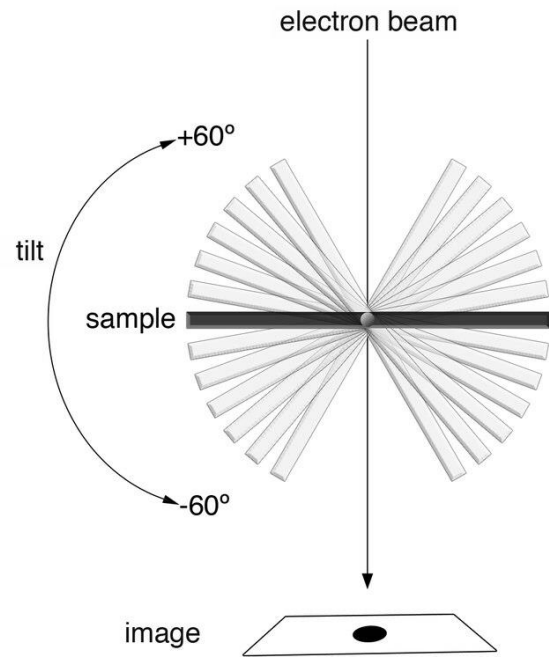
ISZ based on highly quenched substrate. Green areas indicate metalloproteinase activity in the wall of mouse aorta, which was partly inhibited in figure B.

Cryofixation

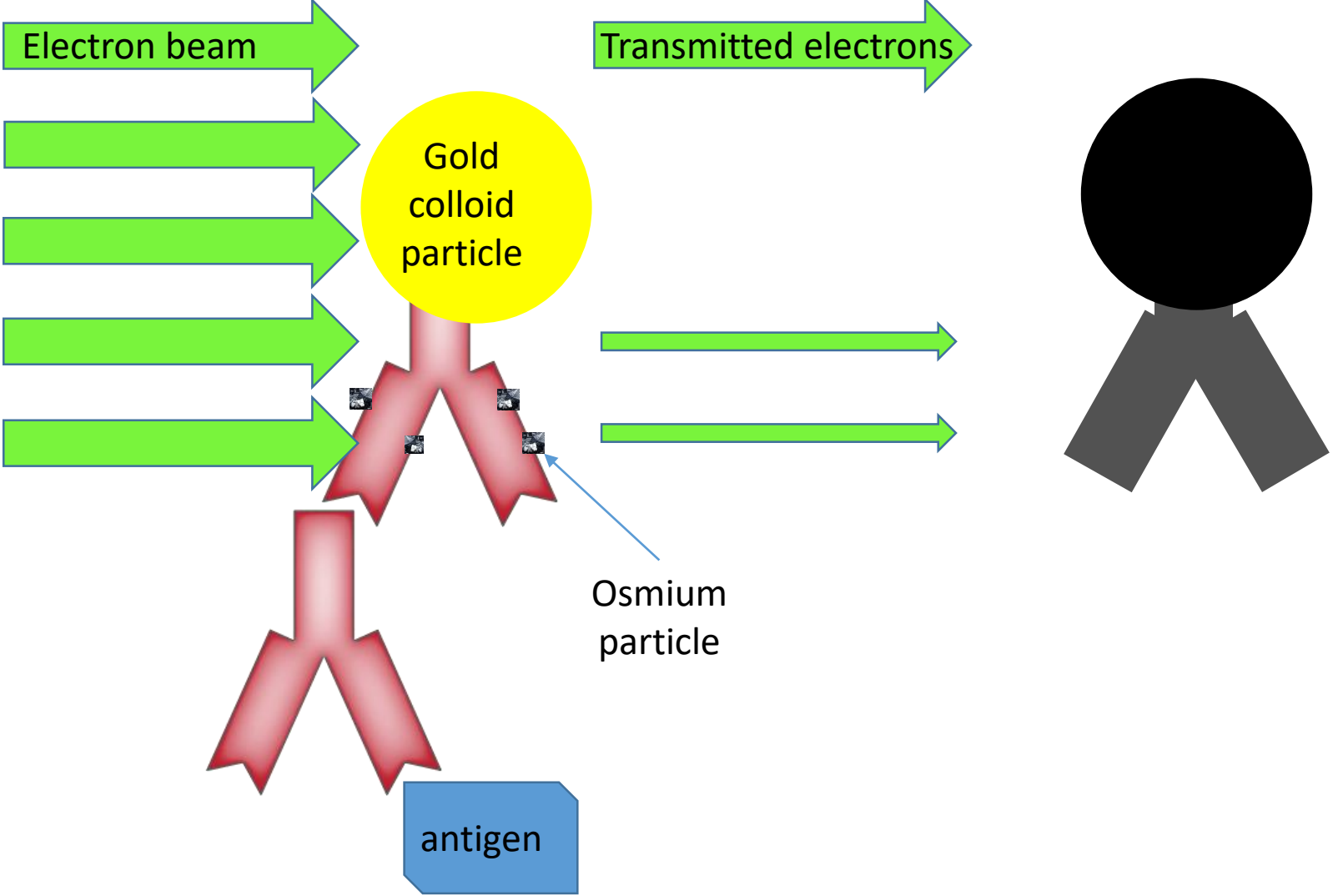
- Deep and rapid freezing used in electron microscopy
- Cellular processes are instantly immobilized, „screenshot“
- Processing and observation are quite complicated

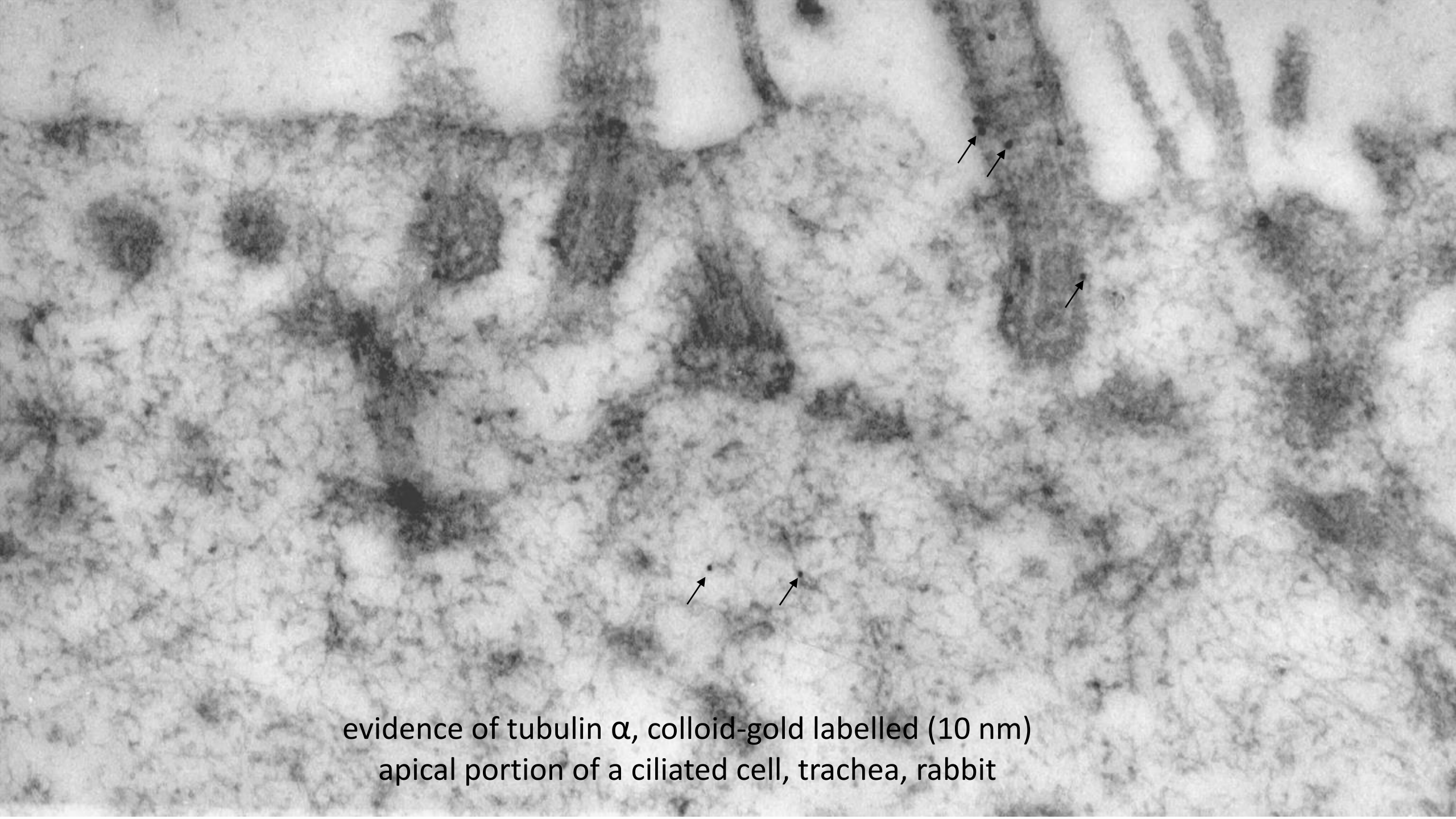


Cryogenic electron tomography



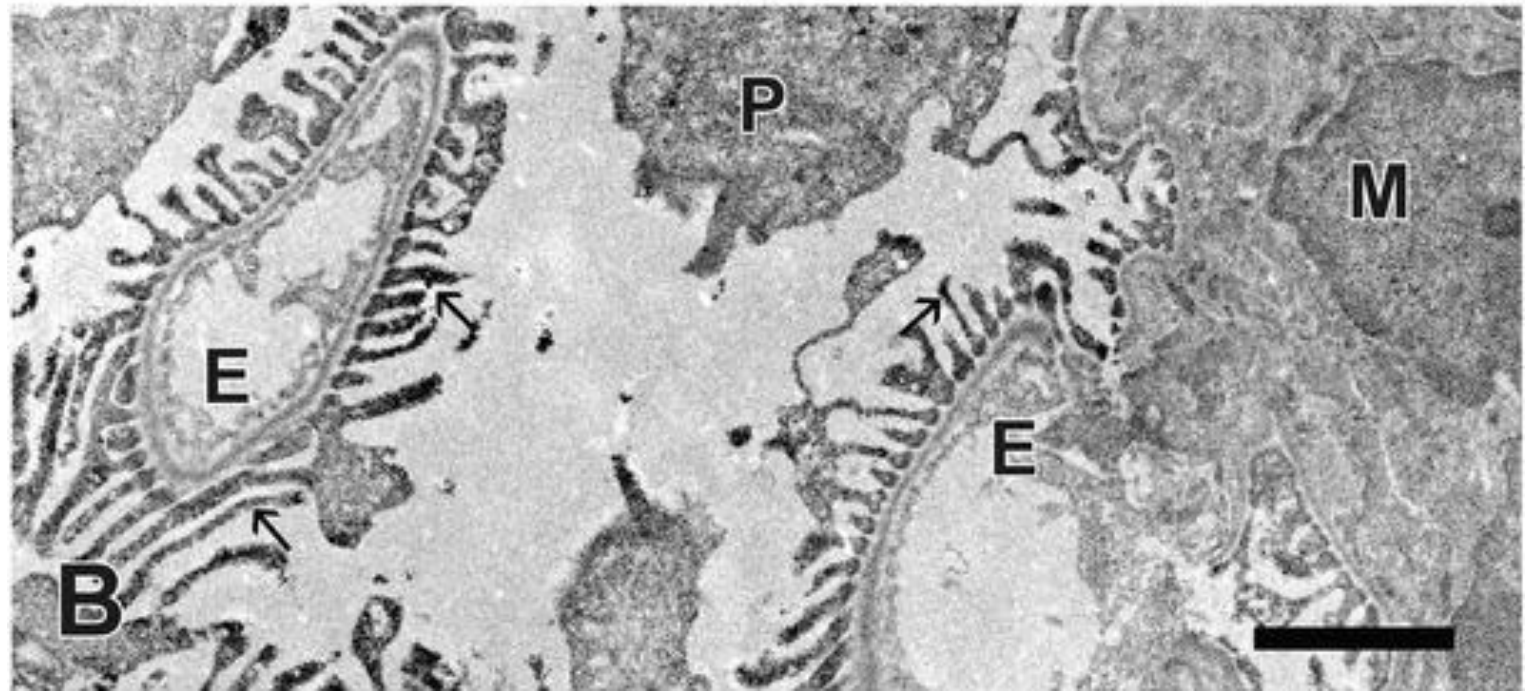
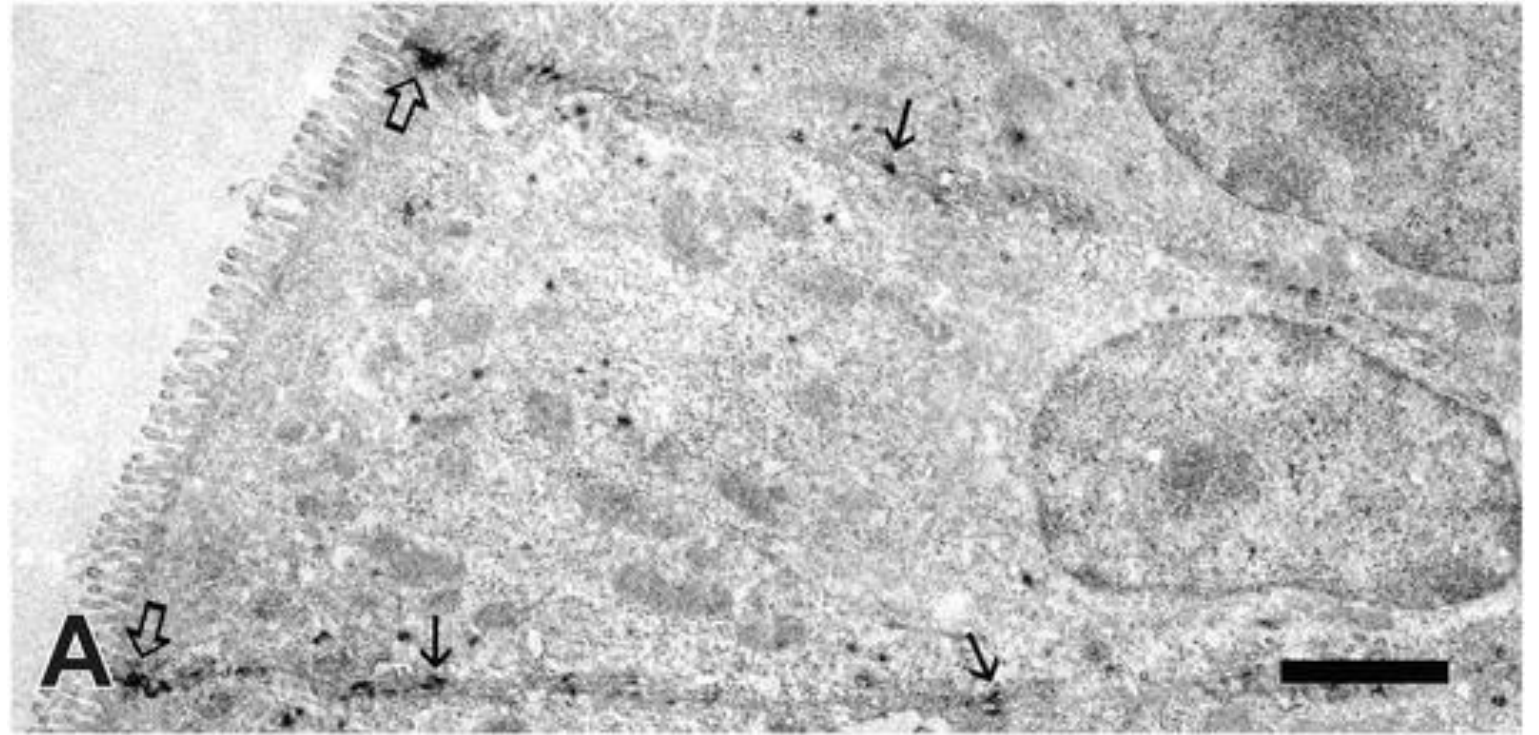
Immunolectron microscopy





evidence of tubulin α , colloid-gold labelled (10 nm)
apical portion of a ciliated cell, trachea, rabbit

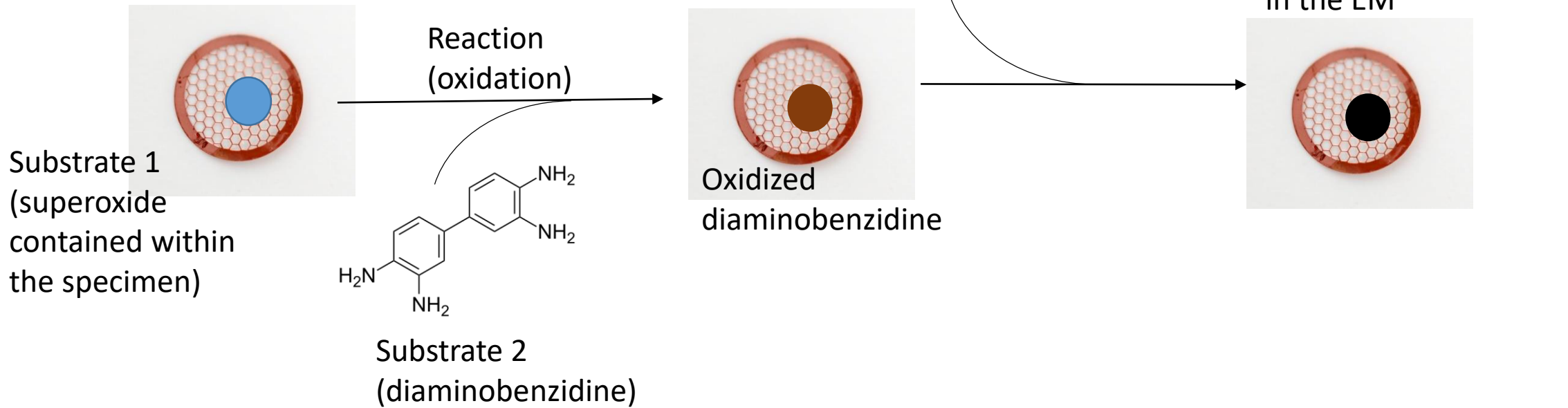
A – anti-E-cadherine
B – anti-claudin-5



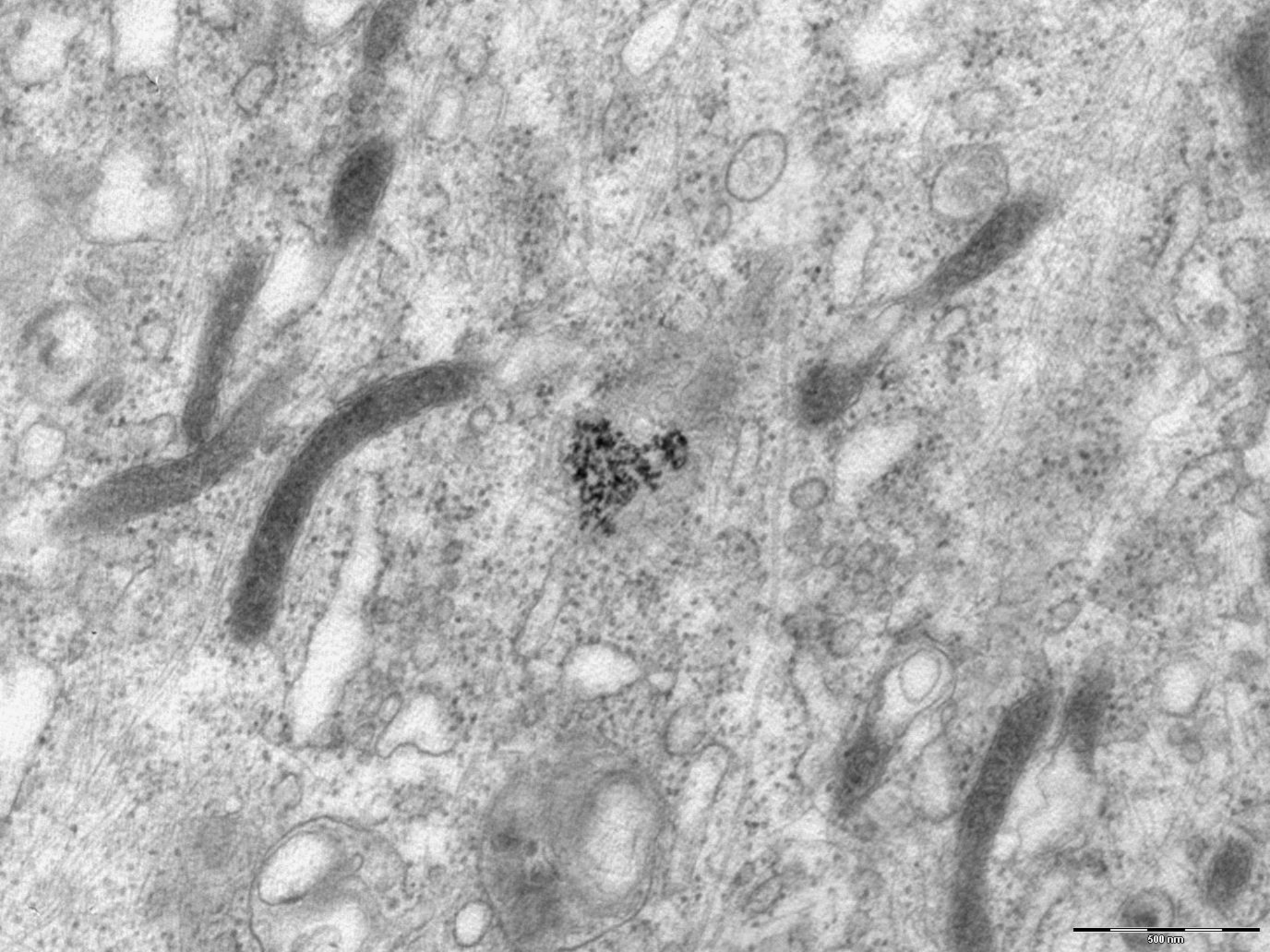
Yamashita S. Antigen Retrieval for Light and Electron Microscopy [Internet]. Immunohistochemistry - The Ageless Biotechnology. IntechOpen; 2020. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.80837>

Conventional histochemistry for the EM

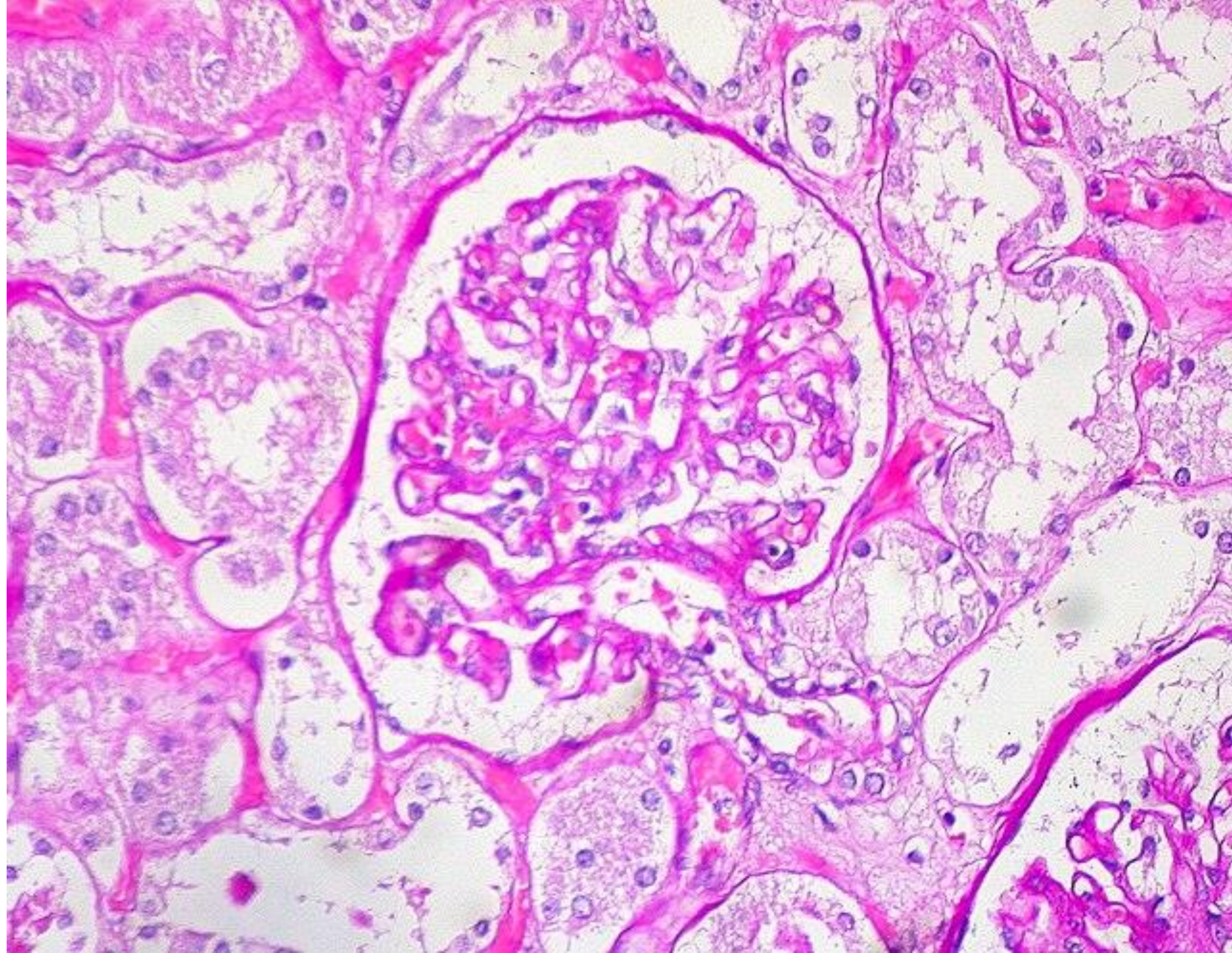
Similar to histochemistry in the LM, but the visualization is not by a formation of colored substance, but by formation of heavy metal ion containing compounds

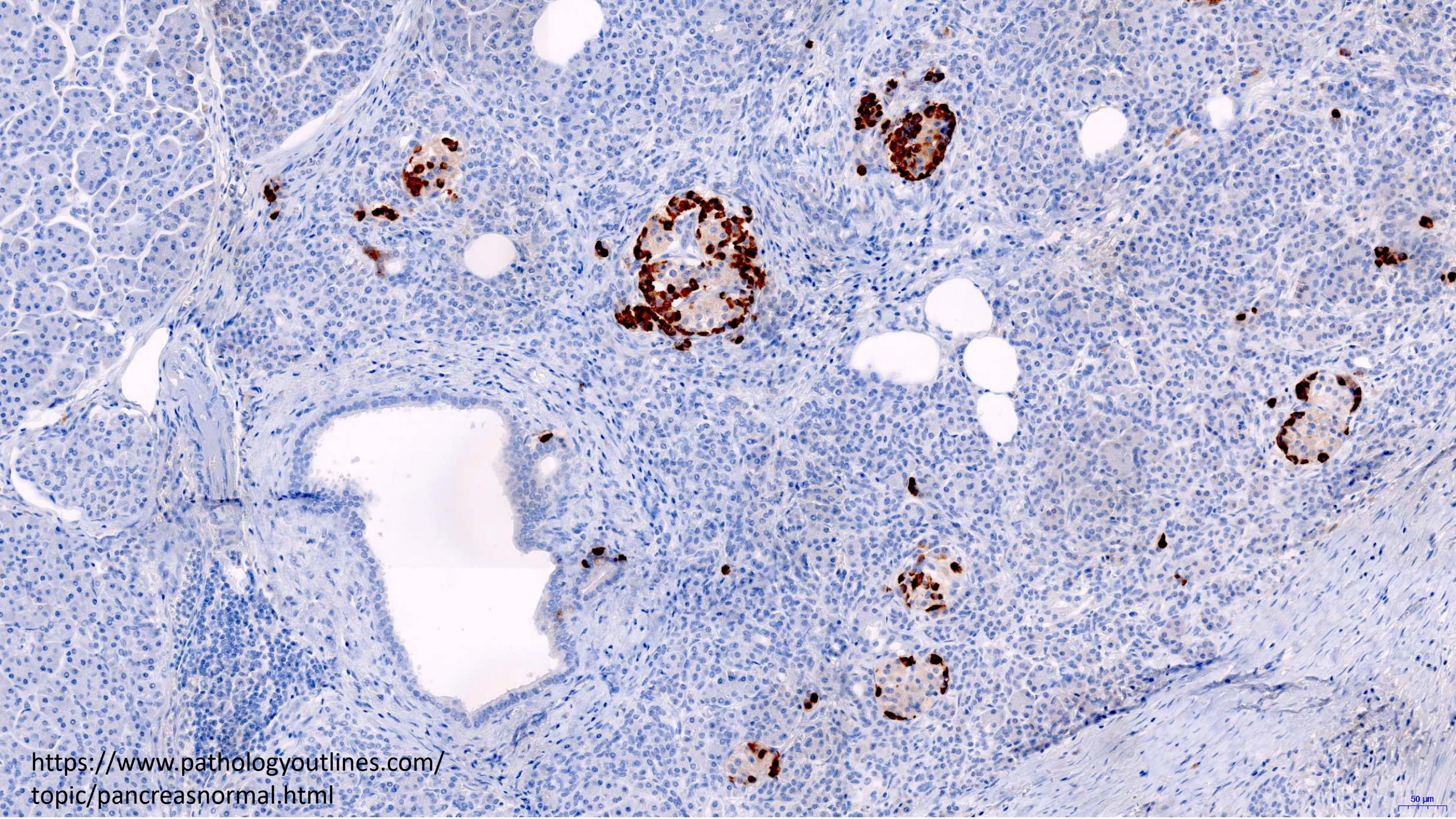


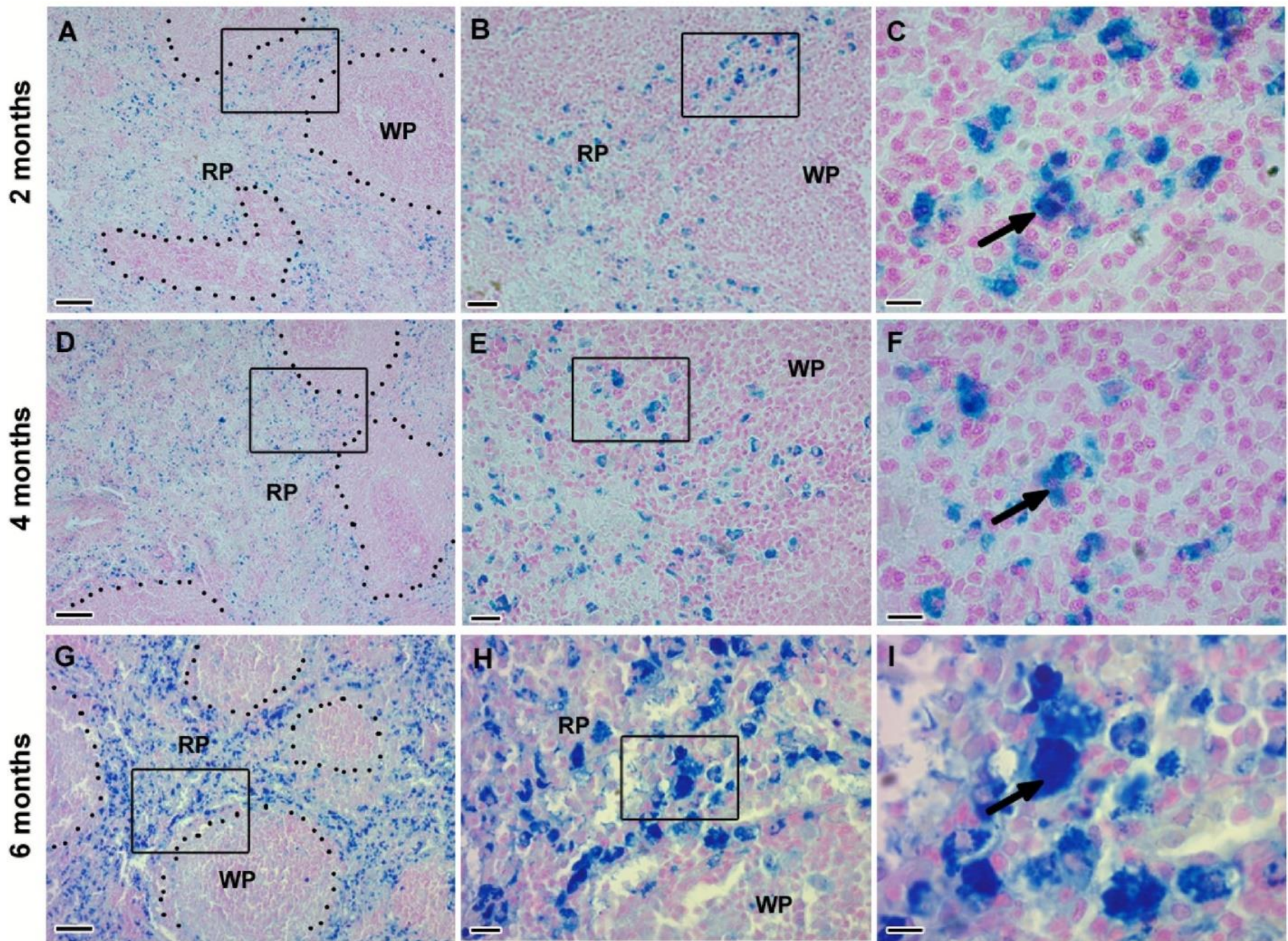
evidence of the
superoxide formation
by diaminobenzidine
(DAB);
lens cells cultivation,
modified Babbs'
reaction











Awaad, A., Abdel Aziz, H.O. Iron biodistribution profile changes in the rat spleen after administration of high-fat diet or iron supplementation and the role of curcumin. *J Mol Histol* **52**, 751–766 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10735-021-09986-w>

<https://ms-validatedantibodies.com/products/>

<https://ms-validatedantibodies.com/product-gallery/normal-tissue-gallery-synaptophysin/>

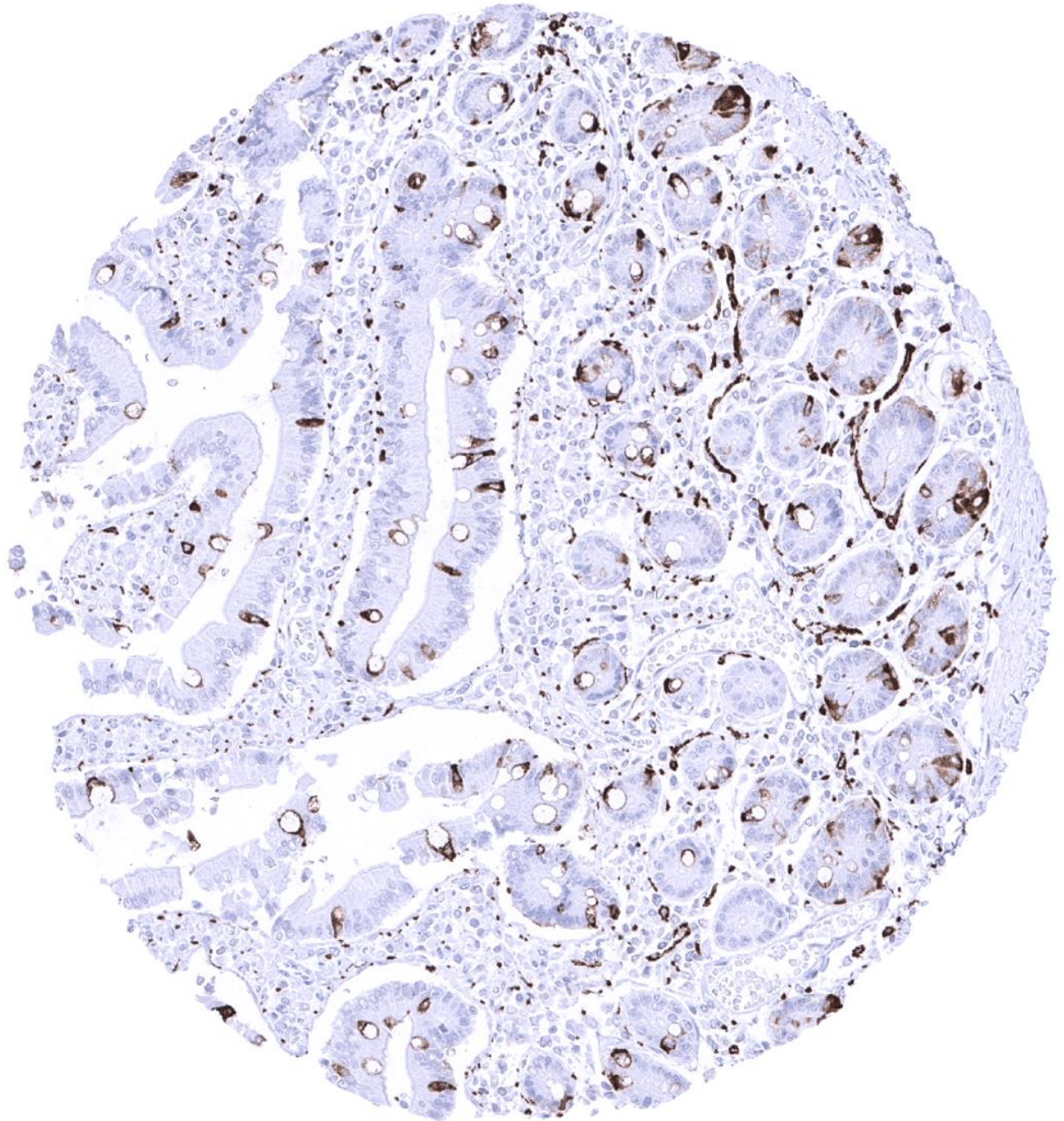


Image sources

- Wikimedia commons
- Own work