

Cellular Physiology
Cell Culture Laboratory

A fluorescence microscopy image showing several cells. The cytoskeleton is stained green, revealing a network of filaments. The nuclei are stained blue. Numerous small red puncta are visible throughout the cells, likely representing specific organelles or protein aggregates. A scale bar in the top right corner indicates 10 μm.

Laboratory 1
Primary Culture

PRIMARY CELL CULTURE

Separate cells directly from the tissue (kidney, liver, heart, skin etc)

Separated by enzymatic or mechanical method

Maintaining the growth of the cell in a culture medium using glass or plastic container

APPLICATIONS of Cell Culture

Excellent model system for studying

- The normal physiology, cell biology and biochemistry of cells
- The effects of drugs, radiation and toxic compounds on the cells
- Study mutagenesis and carcinogenesis

Used for gene transfer studies

Large scale manufacturing of biological compounds (vaccines, insulin, interferon, other therapeutic protein)

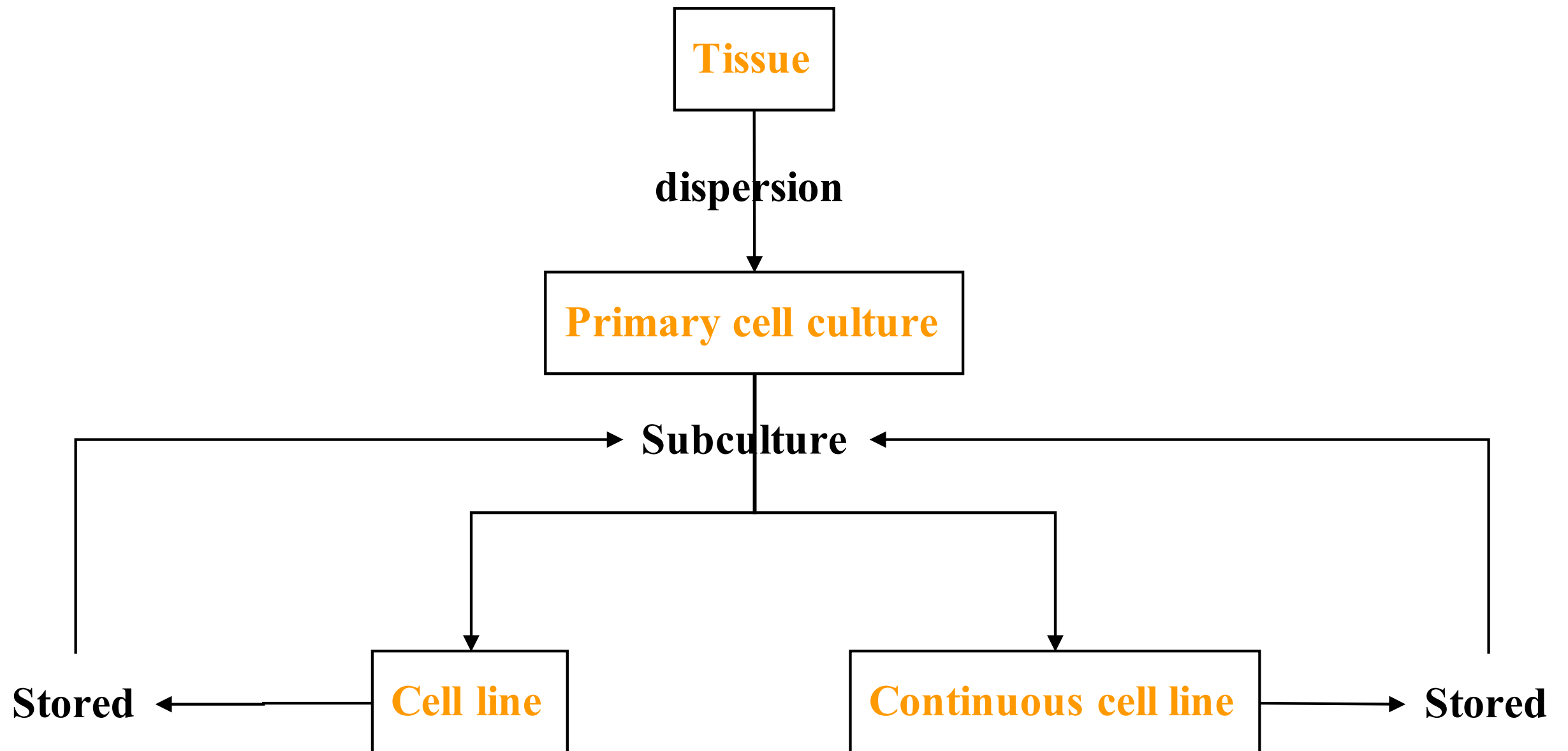
ADVANTAGES of Cell Culture

Absolute control of physical environment (pH, temperature, osmotic pressure, CO₂ and O₂ tension)

Homogeneity of sample

Less compound needed than in animal models

Initiation of Cell Culture



Type of cell culture

Primary Culture

A primary culture is that stage of the culture following isolation of the cells, but before the first subculture. They are usually more representative of the cell types in the tissue from which they were derived and in the expression of tissue-associated properties.

From the outgrowth of migrating cells from an explant

From tissue that is disaggregated mechanically or enzymatically

Subculture allows the expansion of the culture (now known as a cell line) but may cause a loss of specialized cells and differentiated properties (de-differentiation).



(+) Advantages:

Usually retain many of the differentiated characteristics of the cell *in vivo* (represent the tissue of their origin with regard to their properties).



(-) Disadvantages:

Initially heterogeneous but later become dominated by fibroblasts.

The preparation of primary cultures is labor intensive and time consuming.

Can be maintained *in vitro* only for a limited period of time.

Cell culture morphology

Morphologically cell cultures take one of two forms:

Growing in **suspension** (as single cells or small free-floating clumps)
cell lines derived from blood (leukaemia, lymphoma)

Growing as a **monolayer** that is attached to the tissue culture flask.
cells derived from solid tissue (lungs, kidney), endothelial, epithelial,
neuronal, fibroblasts

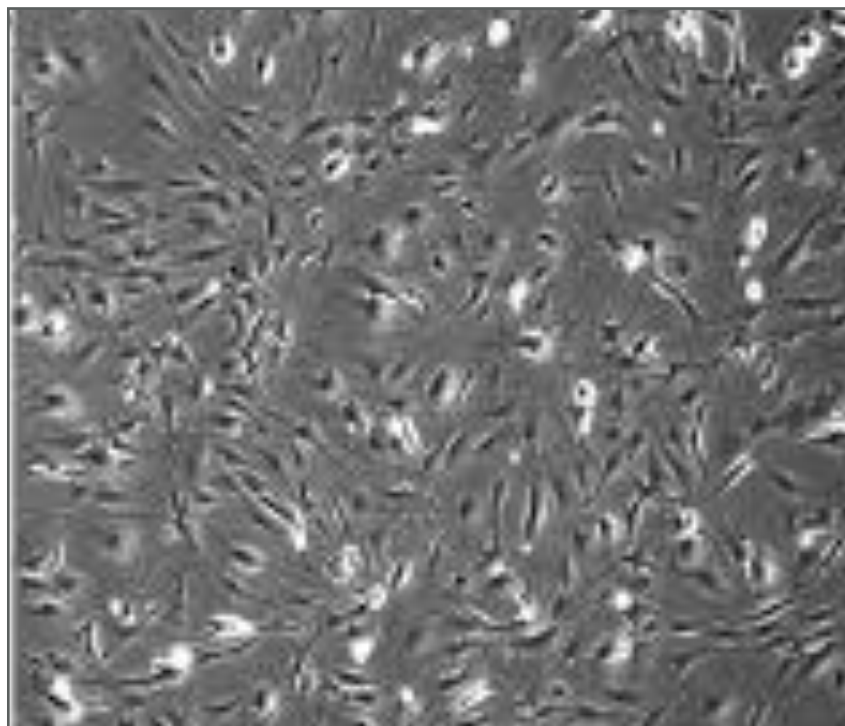
Adherent cells

Adherent cells are **anchorage-dependent** and usually propagate as a monolayer attached to the substrate.

The attachment is essential for proliferation

Adherent cells stop proliferating once they become confluent (i.e., when they completely cover the surface of the substrate) – a phenomena known as **contact inhibition**

Some cells will die if they are left in the confluent state for too long.



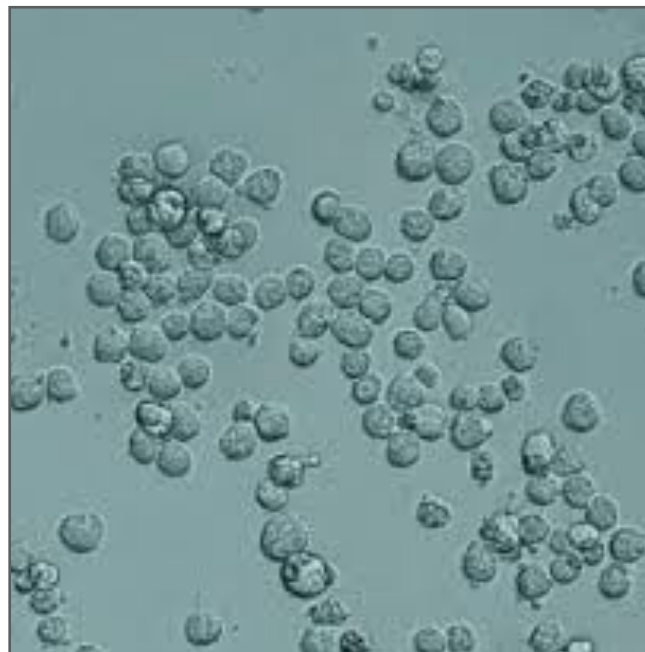
Suspension cells

Suspension cells can survive and proliferate without being attached to a surface –
anchorage independence

Hematopoietic cells (derived from blood, spleen, or bone marrow) as well as some transformed cell lines and cells derived from malignant tumors can grow in suspension

Easier to passage as no need to detach them

As the suspension cells reach to confluency, aseptically remove 1/3rd of medium and add fresh one



Establishment of Primary Culture

Laboratory 1

Establishment of primary Culture



Materials:

Culture dish (non treated) - 2x
Culture dish (treated for cell culture) - 1x
1 pairs of scissors
1 needle
1 blade
15 ml tube - 3x (1 for MEM+10%FBS, 1 for PBS, 1 for tissue fragments)
1 eppendorf (for trypsin)
5-6 or more pasture pipette
Wast container



Reagents:

1 ml of Trypsin - (transfer into 1.5ml eppendorf and warm up in 37°C water batch)
10 ml of MEM medium + 10% FBS - prepared before - warm up in 37°C water batch
10 ml of PBS - Calcium, Magnesium free – phosphate buffered saline (PBS) - 10 ml (warm up in 37°C water batch)

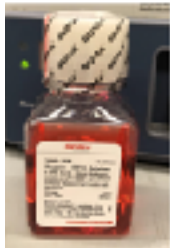
Tissue from sheep foetus or adult tissue (small pice of tail or ear or skin).



Methods

1. Put on gloves and lab coat.
2. Sterilise/clean the laminar/bench by 70% ethanol.
3. Collect all materials/reagents required for experiment and prepare work place.
4. Isolate small piece (0.5 - 1cm) of tissue or adult tissue from sheep/mouse using scissors and/or blades.
5. Transfer tissue in culture dish (non treated) and wash with 1ml of PBS.
6. Remove hair, fat or death cells if you isolate piece of tissue from adult organs (ex. ear)
7. Transfer the tissue to the drop of trypsin (cover of non treated dish).
8. Cut tissue into small 1-2 mm pieces (keeping always in trypsin) (mechanical and enzymatic desegregation).
Using needle, blade or scissors (as you prefer).
9. At the end of the above period add 5ml of medium containing serum and stir the contents for 1-2 more minutes to inactivate the action of trypsin.
10. Collect and transfer all the tissue/ trypsin/medium solution into a 15 ml tube (using Pasteur pipette).
11. Centrifuge at ~ 1000 rpm for 5mins.
12. Pour out the supernatant and resuspend the pellet in 5ml of warm PBS.
13. Centrifuge at ~ 1000 rpm for 5mins.
14. Pour out the supernatant and resuspend the pellet in 1ml of medium (MEM + 10% FBS).
15. Distribute all tissue piece equally to all the culture culture bottles and incubate at 37°C + 5% CO₂.
16. Observe culture every day under the microscope

Trypsin - is most commonly used **enzyme** in tissue culture to **detach** the adherent cells from culture vessel surface and/or to **disaggregate tissue** into single cell suspension.



Cell-cell and cell-matrix interaction depends on the **adhesion molecules**, which in turn, relies on the presence of calcium.

Trypsin weakens the function of adhesion molecules, EDTA is frequently included in the trypsin solution for its function as divalent cations chelator.

Tissue culture media contains calcium and magnesium ions, fetal bovine serum contains proteins that are trypsin inhibitors.

Both Mg^{2+} and Ca^{2+} inhibit trypsin.



PBS (phosphate buffered saline) is a **balanced salt solution** used for a variety of cell culture applications, such as **washing** cells before dissociation, **transporting** cells or tissue, **diluting** cells for counting, and preparing reagents.

PBS is formulated without calcium and magnesium for rinsing chelators from the culture before cell dissociation.



Culture **Minimal Essential Medium (MEM)** is a synthetic **cell culture medium** that can be used to maintain cells in **tissue culture**. It is based on 6 salts and glucose: (calcium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium sulfate, sodium chloride, sodium phosphate and **sodium bicarbonate**), supplemented with 13 essential amino acids, and 8 vitamins: **thiamine** (vitamin B₁), **riboflavin** (vitamin B₂), **nicotinamide** (vitamin B₃), **pantothenic acid** (vitamin B₅), **pyridoxine** (vitamin B₆), **folic acid** (vitamin B₉), choline, and myo-inositol (originally known as vitamin B₈).

Reagents:

Trypsin - warm up in 37°C water bath

Phosphate buffered saline (PBS) - warm up in 37°C water bath

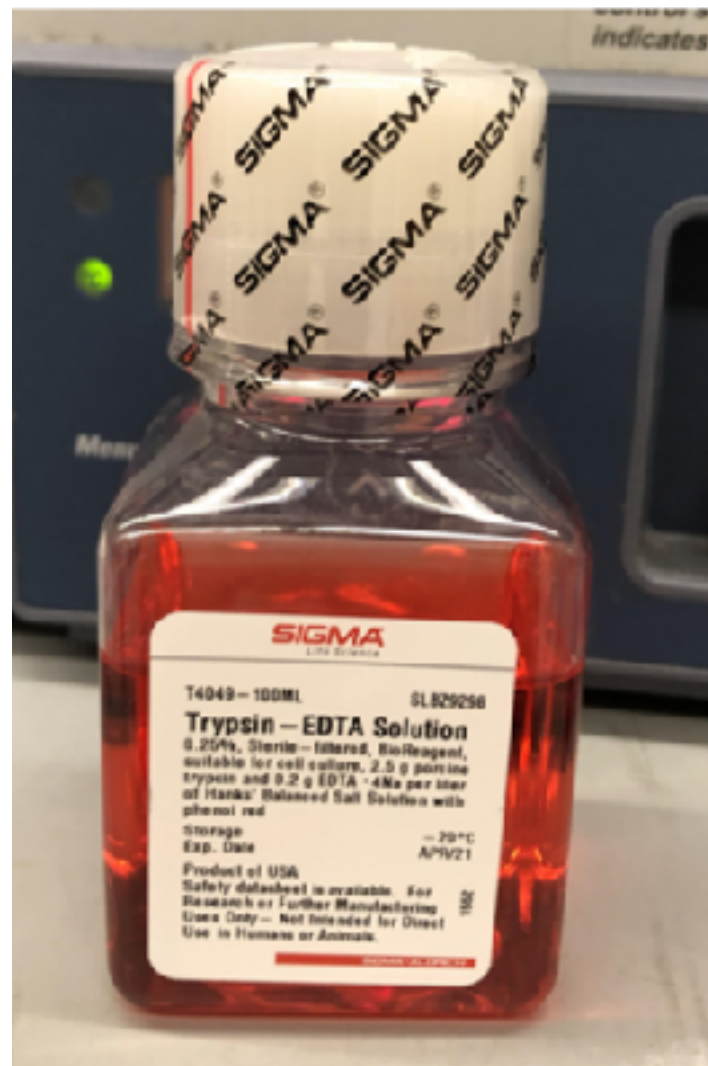
Minimal Essential Medium (MEM) containing 10% FBS - warm up in 37°C water bath

Phosphate buffered saline (PBS)



Store at 4°C

Trypsin



Store at 4°C, stock in - 20°C

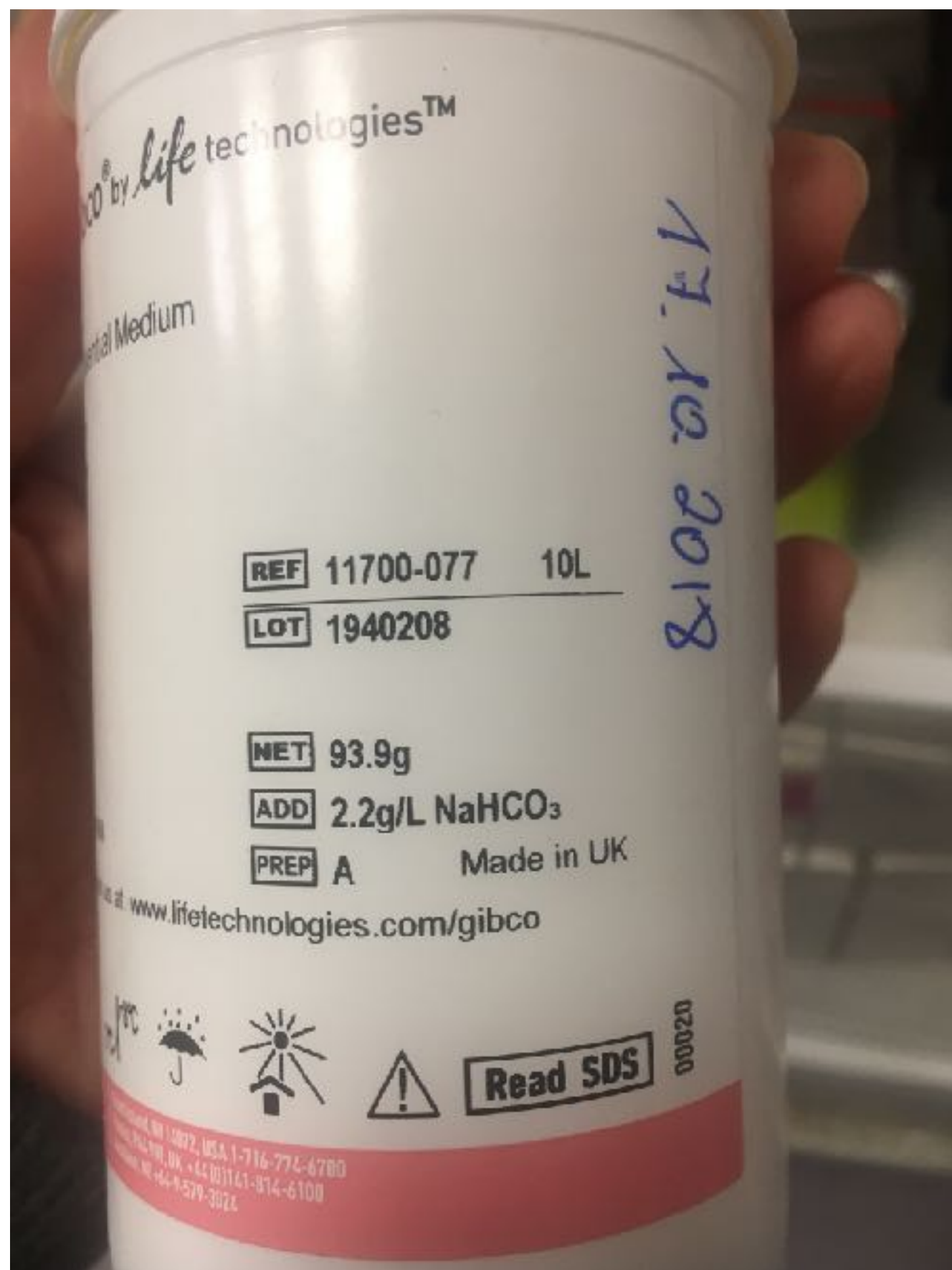
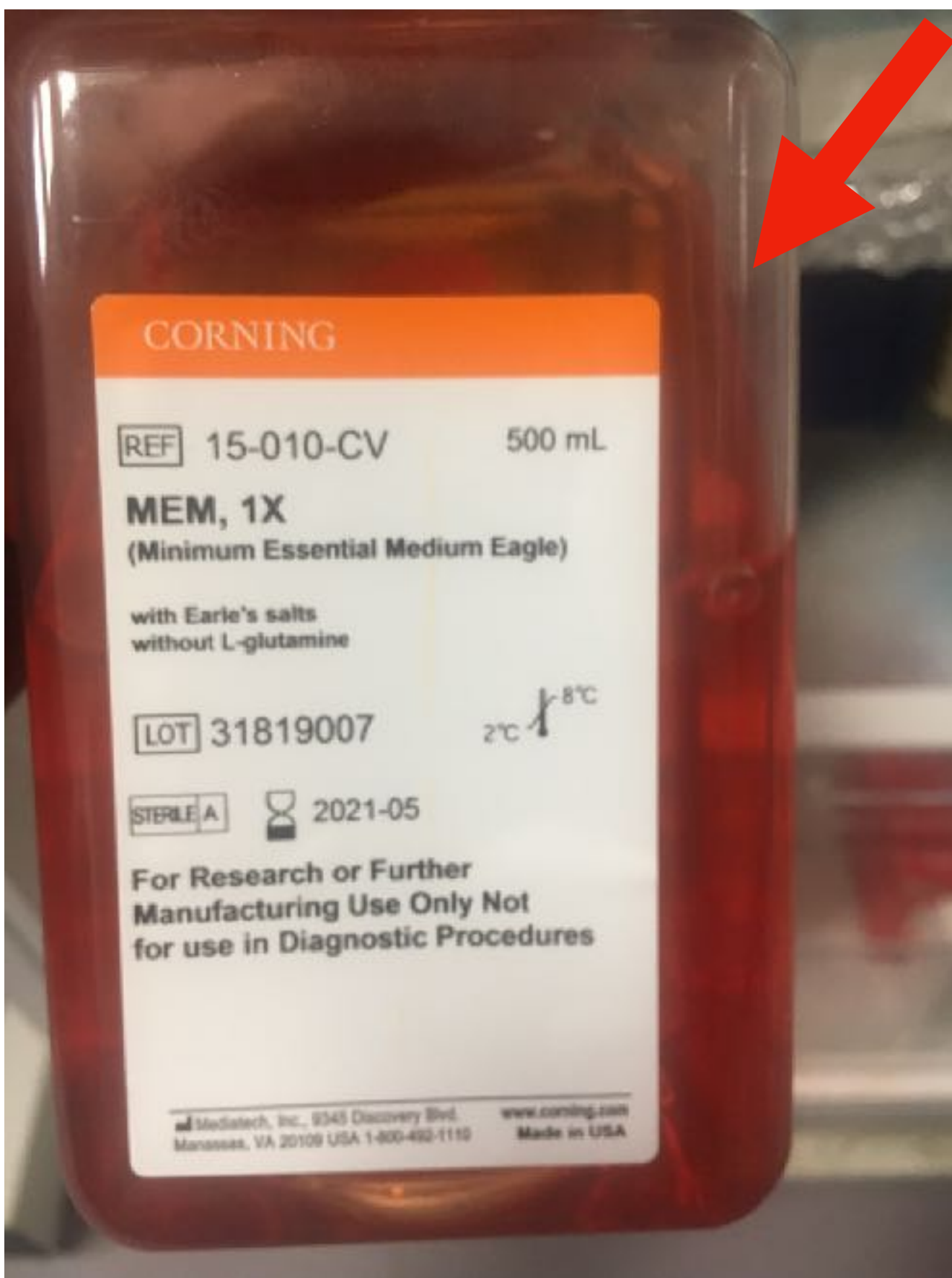
MEM - Minimum Essential Medium



Store at 4°C

Liquid media kept at 4°C; enzymes (e.g. trypsin) and media components (glutamine and serum) at -20°C





Prepare 10 ml of MEM which contain 10% FBS

What we need:

Reagents:

Cell Culture medium - Minimum essential Medium (MEM) ready to use (4°) which contain:

- Foetal bovine serum - FBS (-20°C)

Materials:

Membrane filter (0.2µm)

15 ml tube

Syringe

Pipet

How to prepare culture medium

Sterilise the laminar/bench by 70% ethanol.

- 1.To prepare 10 ml of medium containing 10% foetal bovine serum (FBS) you need to take **9ml of MEM add 1ml of FBS**
- 2.Filter sterilise using 0,2 μm filter.
- 3.Warm up medium in water bath for at least 20min.

YES →



← NO



pH Control

pH can affect on:

- Cell metabolism
- Growth rate
- Protein synthesis
- Availability of nutrients

pH

- For Most Cells pH=7.4 - 7.7 (while transformed cells may be better at pH 7.0 - 7.4, epidermal cells could grown at pH 5.5)
- Phenol Red is Used as pH Indicator
- Purple at $\text{pH} > 7.8$, $\text{pH} < 6.5$ yellow (see Fig. 1)

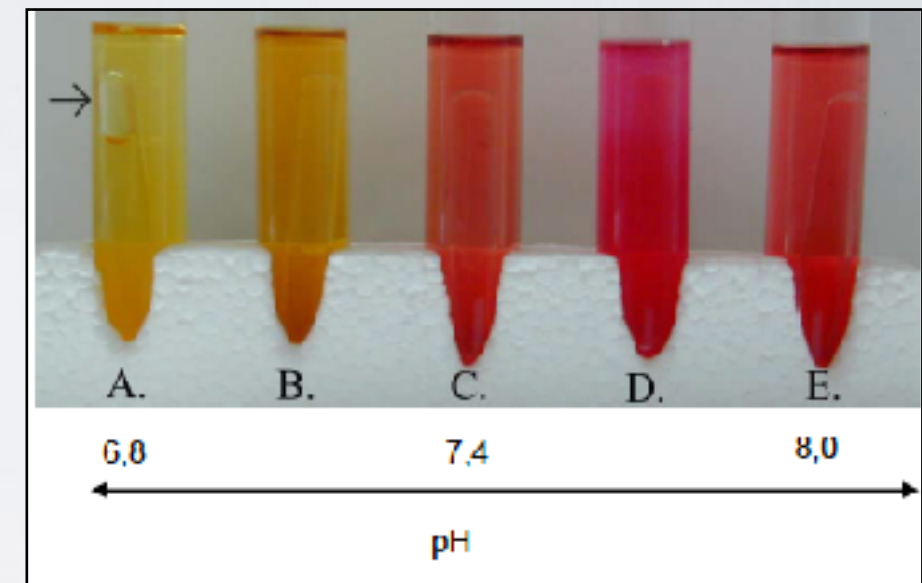


Figure 1. Phenol red is commonly used for visible detection of pH in the medium

- pH of the medium is dependent on the delicate balance of dissolved carbon dioxide (CO_2) and bicarbonate (HCO_3^-), changes in the atmospheric CO_2 can alter pH of the medium
- necessary to use exogenous CO_2 when using medium buffered with CO_2 -bicarbonate basal buffer

Warm up in 37°C water batch



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DONE

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Wast container

Culture dish (non treated)



pairs of scissors



15 ml tube



5-6 or more pasture pipette



Culture dish (treated for cell culture)



blade



Wast container



Trash container

Blade

Needle

PBS

MEM -
10% FBS

TRYPsin

Pasteur pipet

Scissors

Tweezers

Culture dish (non treated)

Dish for cell culture

15 ml tube

Culture dish (treated)

Gloves

WORK PLACE

Establishment of primary Culture

Methods

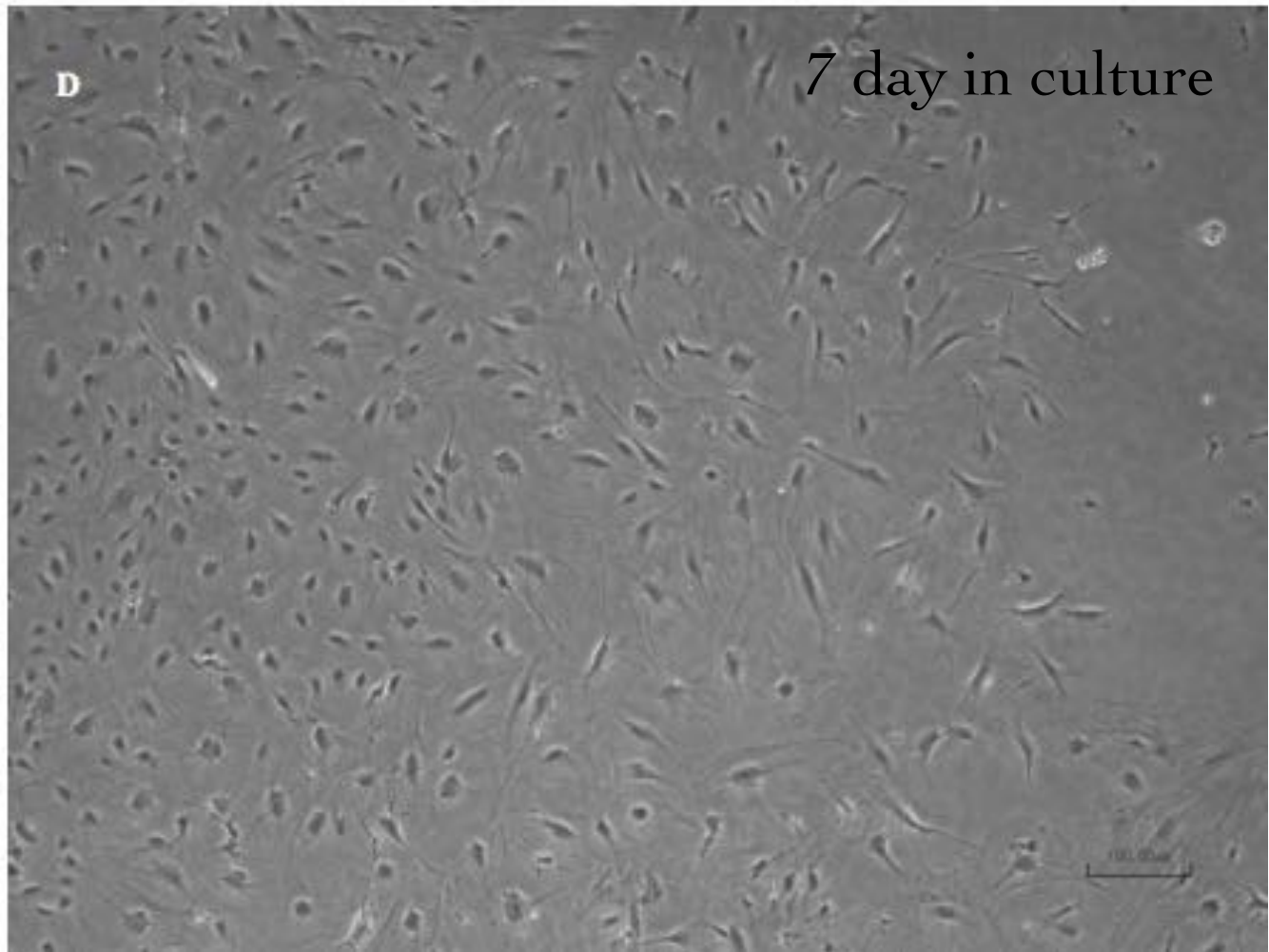
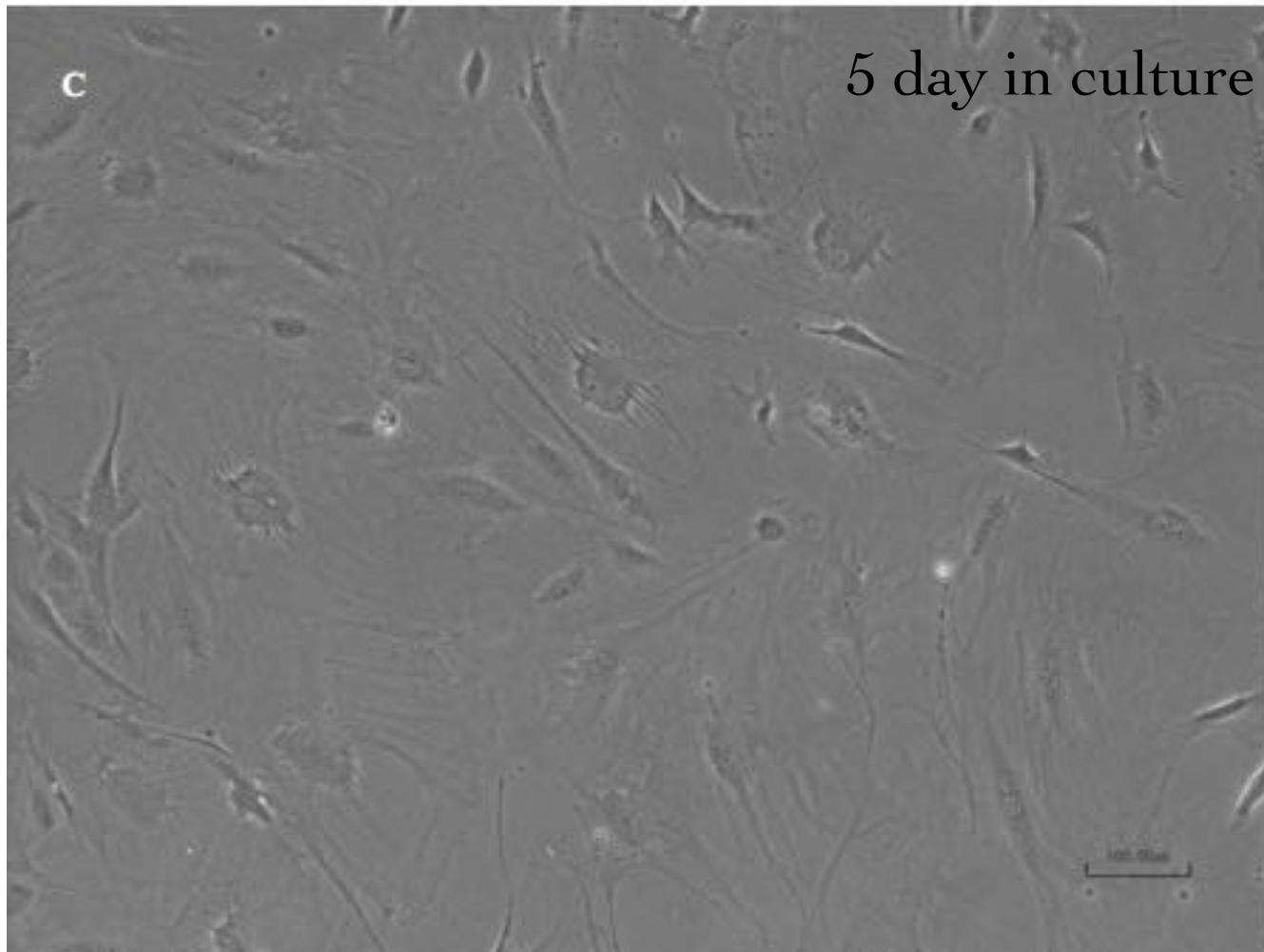
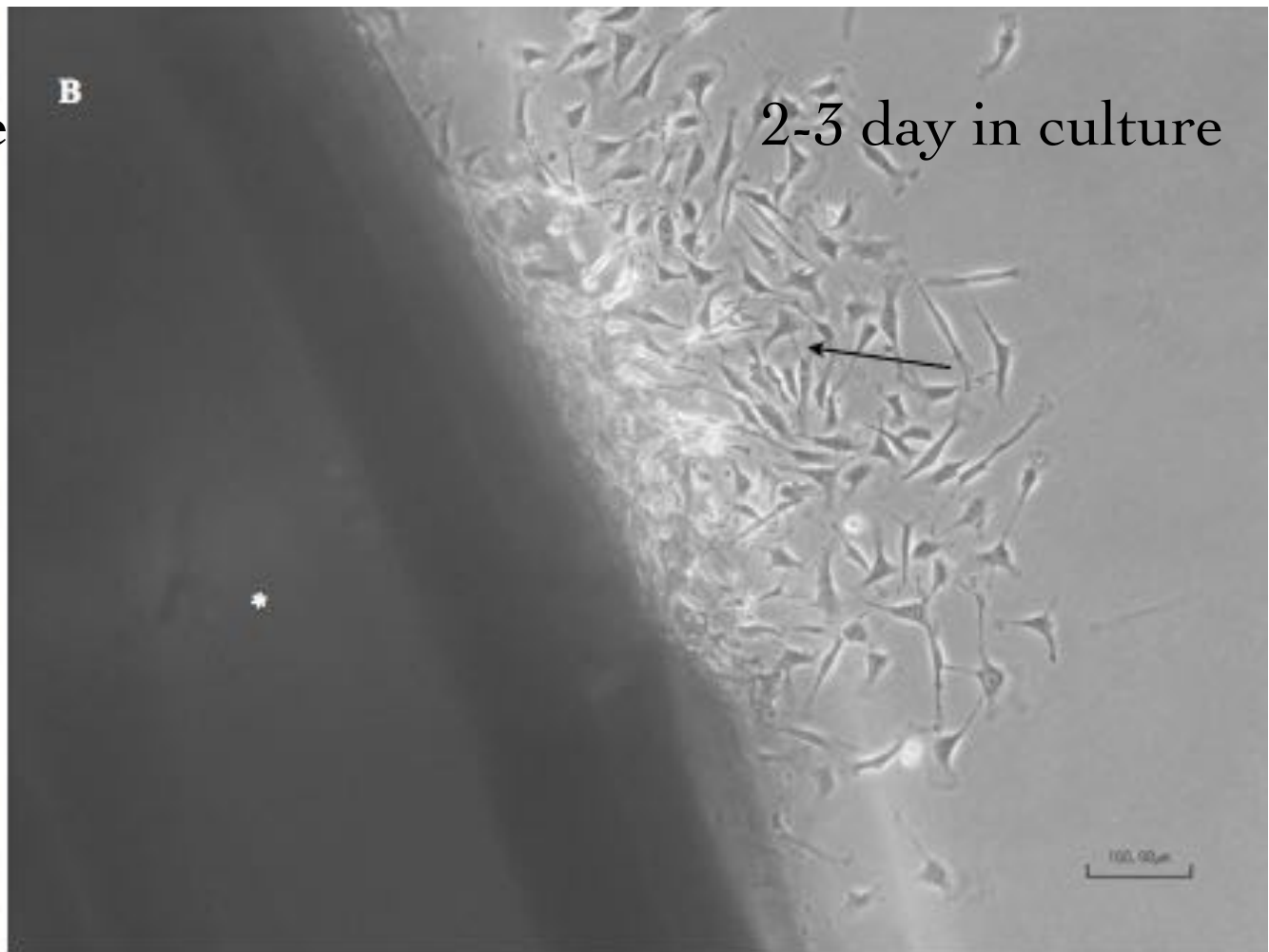
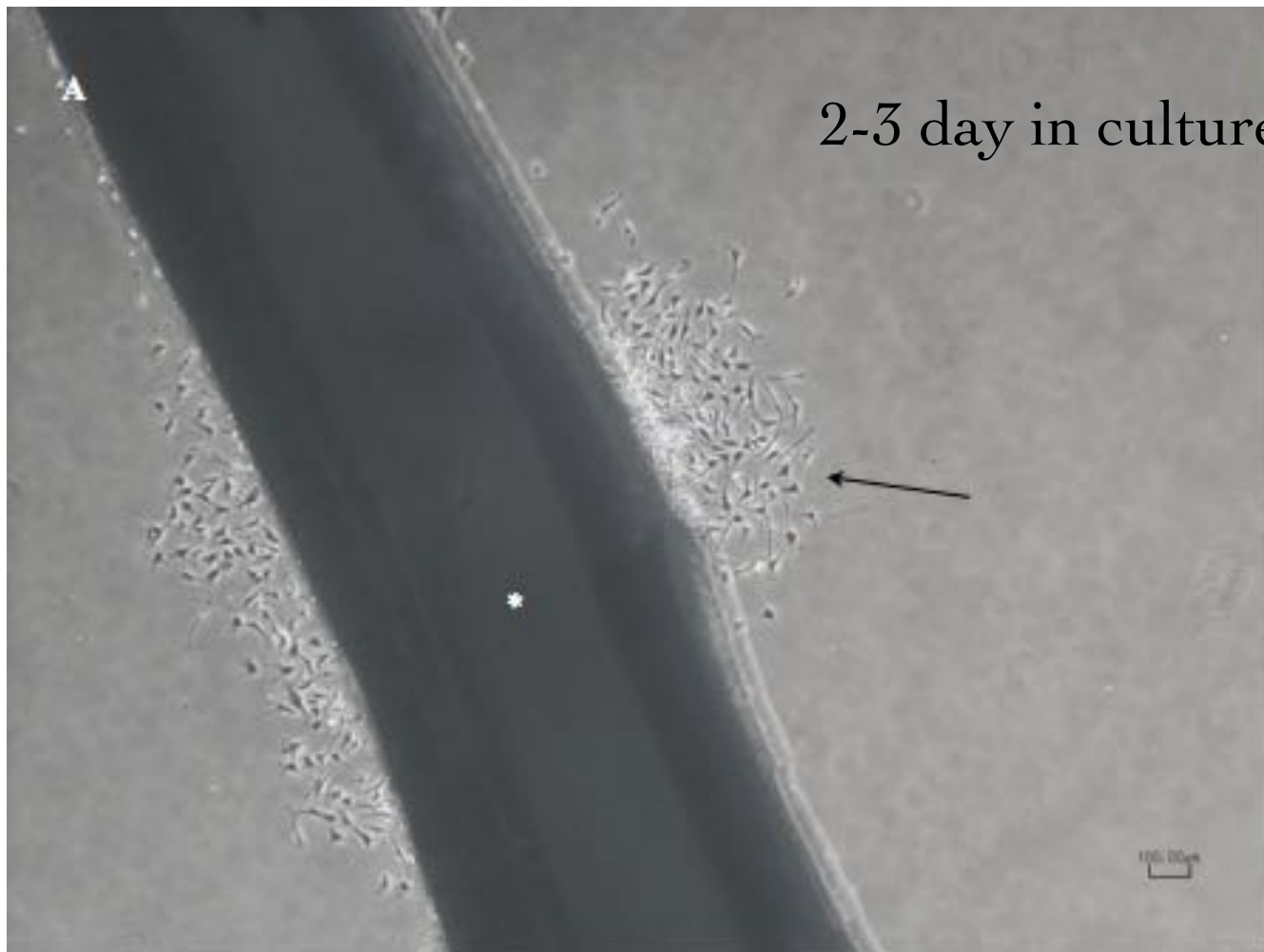
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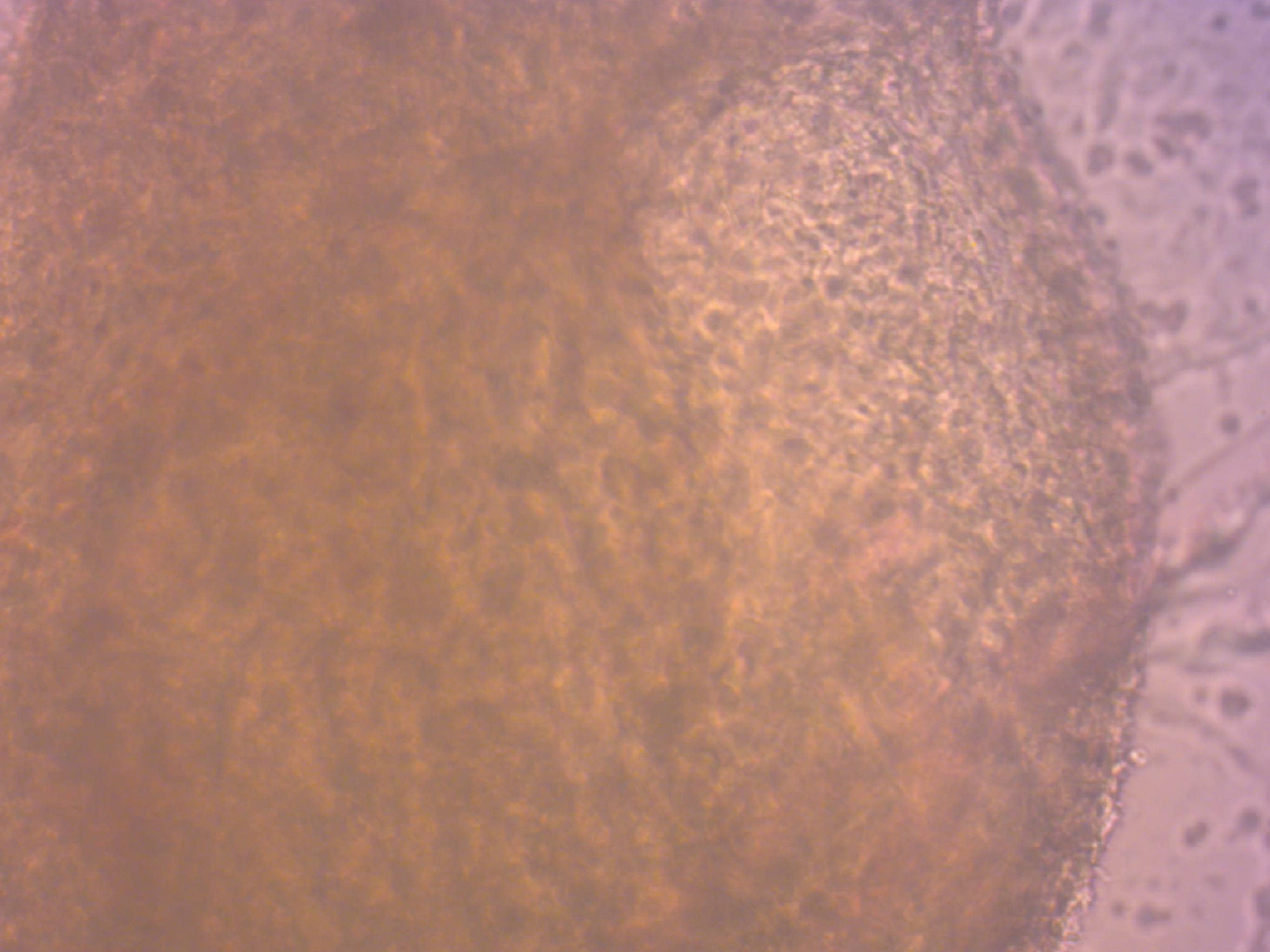
Small pieces

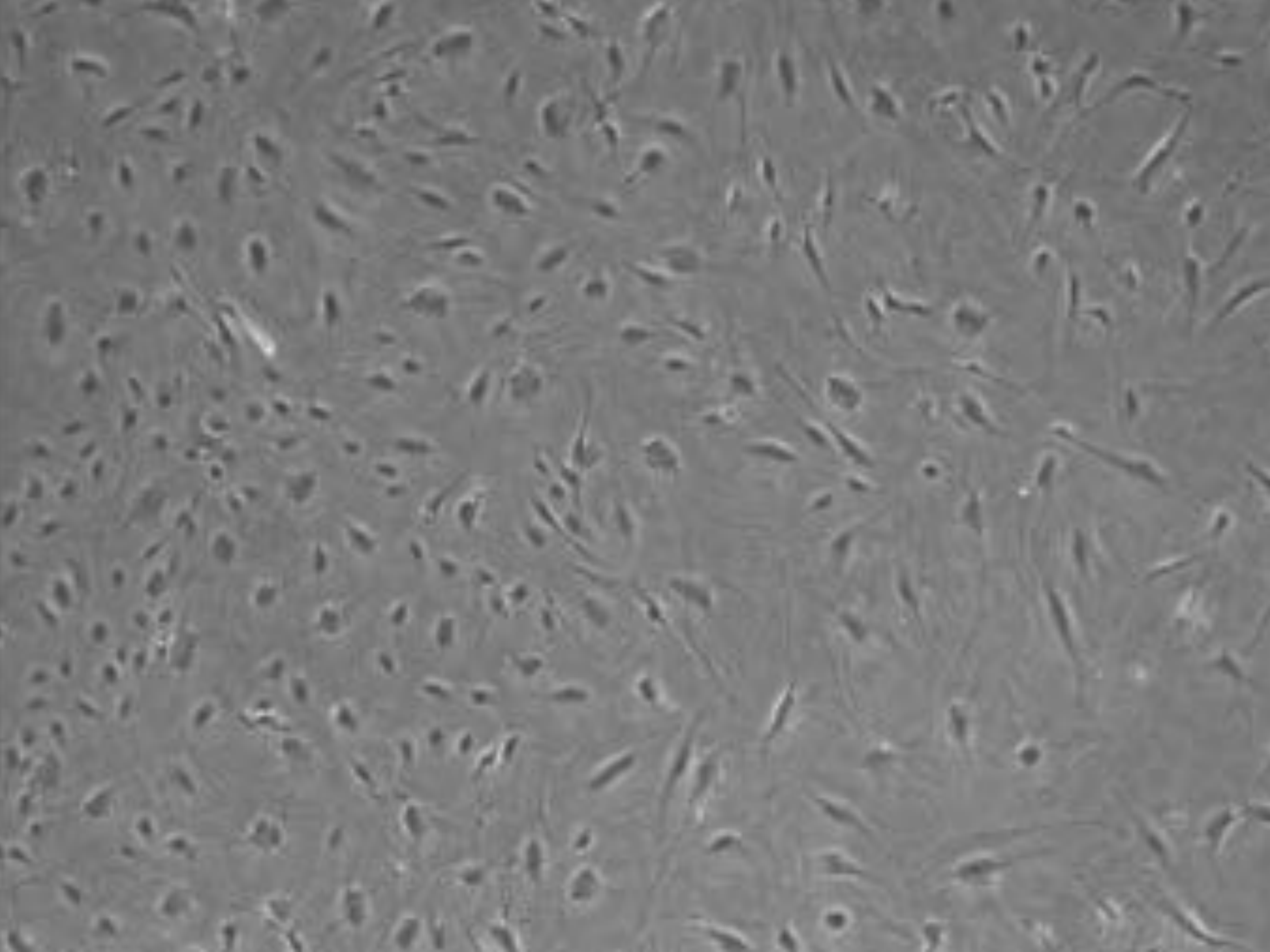
Separate from each other

Small volume of medium









SECONDARY CELL CULTURE

When primary cell is sub cultured then it is **secondary cell**

Sub culture:

Transfer of cells from one culture dish to other

Method:

- remove growth medium
- detach adherent cells using enzyme (Trypsin, collagenase)

Why required:

- to provide fresh nutrients
- to provide more space

Establishment of primary Culture

Subculturing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2PMEET4Smo>

Remove spent media from the culture vessel.

Add the pre-warmed dissociation reagent such as trypsin. Gently rock the container to get complete coverage of the cell layer.

Incubate the culture vessel at room temperature for approximately 2 minutes.

Add equivalent of 2 volumes of pre-warmed complete growth medium. Disperse the medium by pipetting over the cell layer surface several times.

Then split the cells into 2 or 3 flasks containing complete media.

Incubate the cells.

DETECTION OF CONTAMINATION

- In general indicators of contamination are **turbid culture media**, change in growth rate, abnormal pH, poor attachment, vacuolization, cell lysis...
- Yeast, bacteria and fungi usually shown visible effect on the culture (change in medium turbidity or pH)
- Mycoplasma detected by direct DNA staining with intercalating fluorescent substance eg. Hoechst 33258

TERMINOLOGIES

PRIMARY CELL CULTURE: When cells are surgically removed from an organism and placed into a suitable culture environment they will attach, divide and grow

CELL LINE: when the primary culture is subcultured and they show an ability to continuously propagate

ANCHORAGE DEPENDENCY: Cells grow as a monolayer adhering to the surface (glass/plastic)

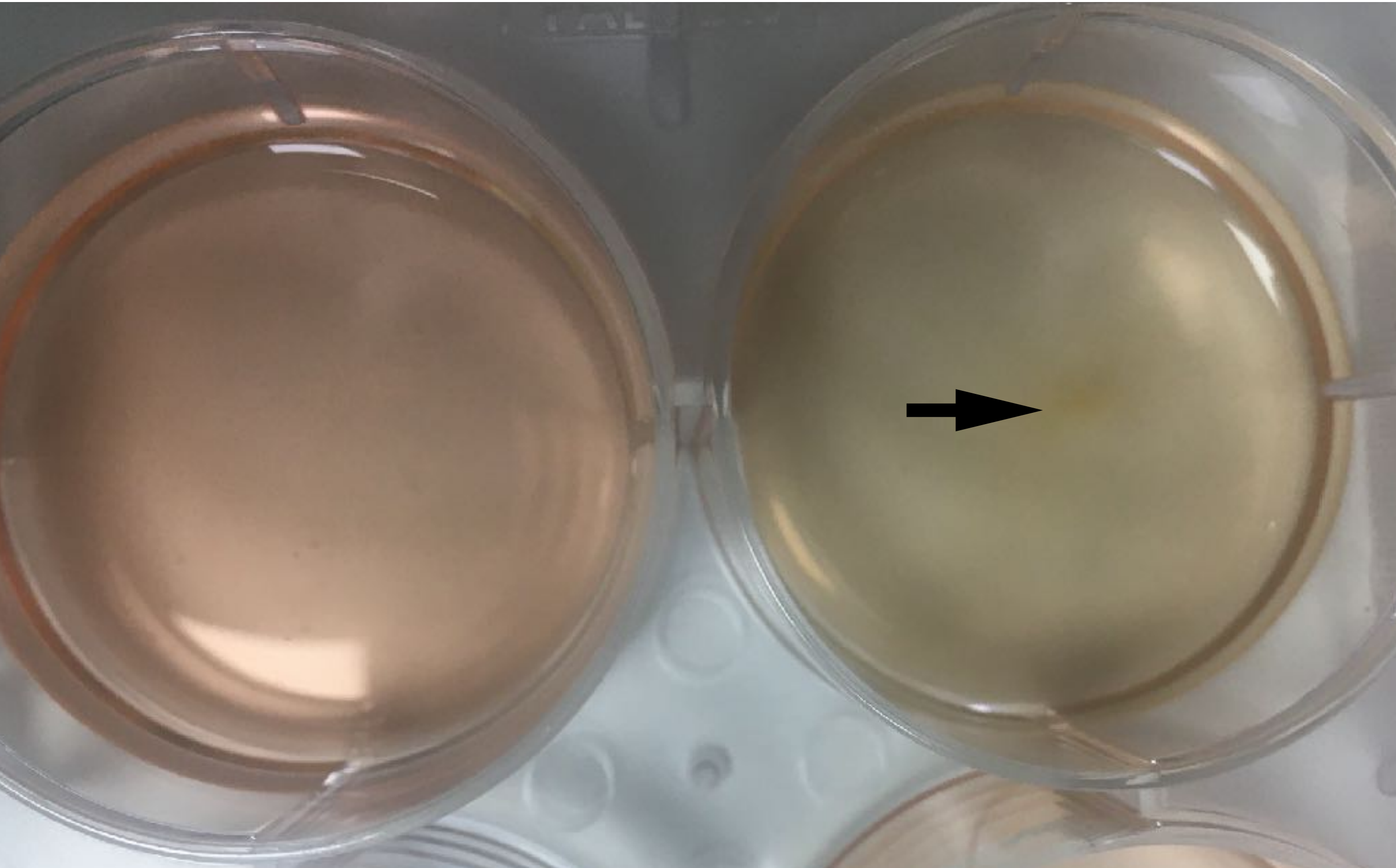
PASSAGING/SUBCULTURING: The process of splitting the cells

FINITE CELLS: When the cells have a finite life span

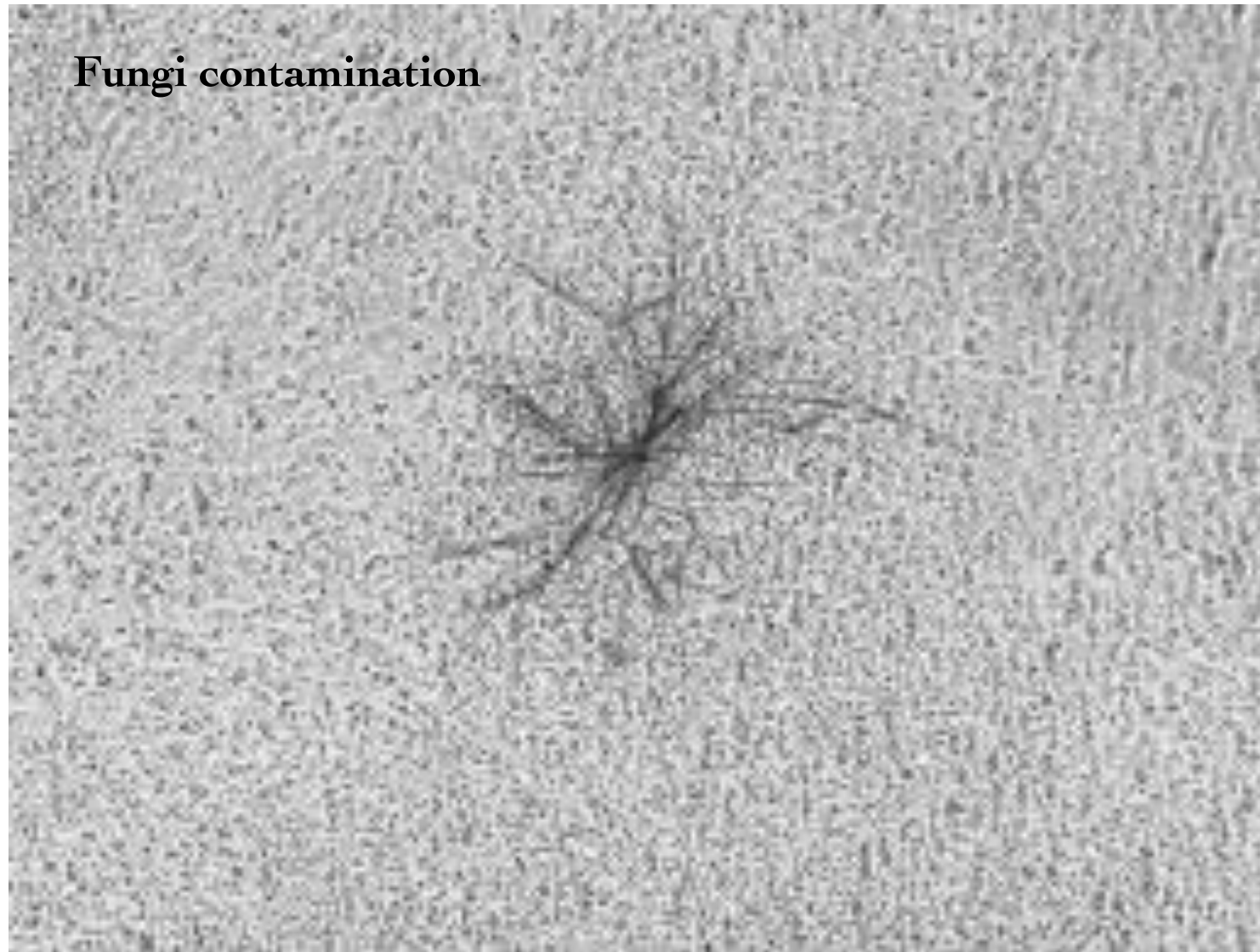
CONTINUOUS CELL LINE: When the cells can grow up to infinite lifespan

OK

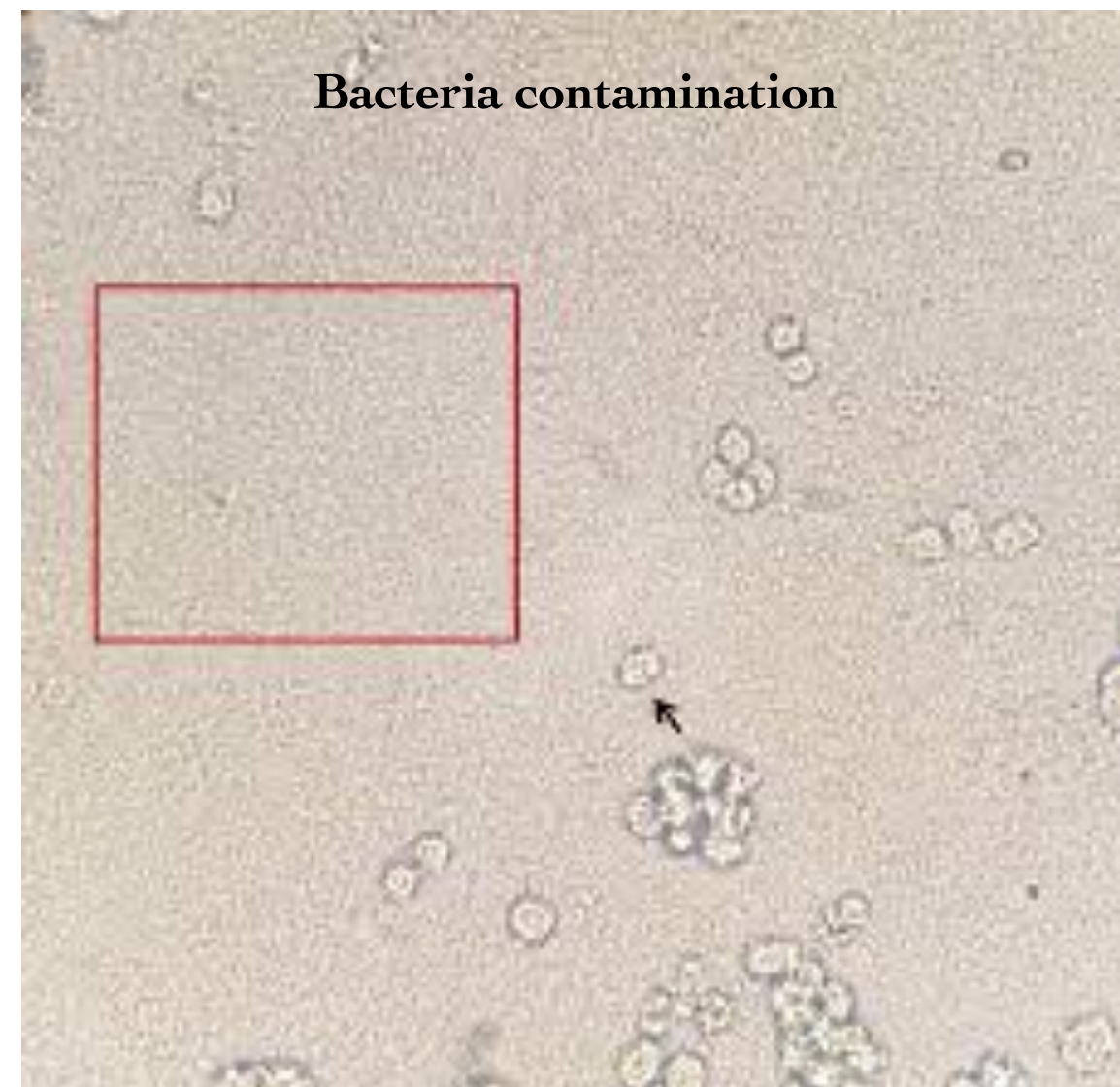
CONTAMINATED

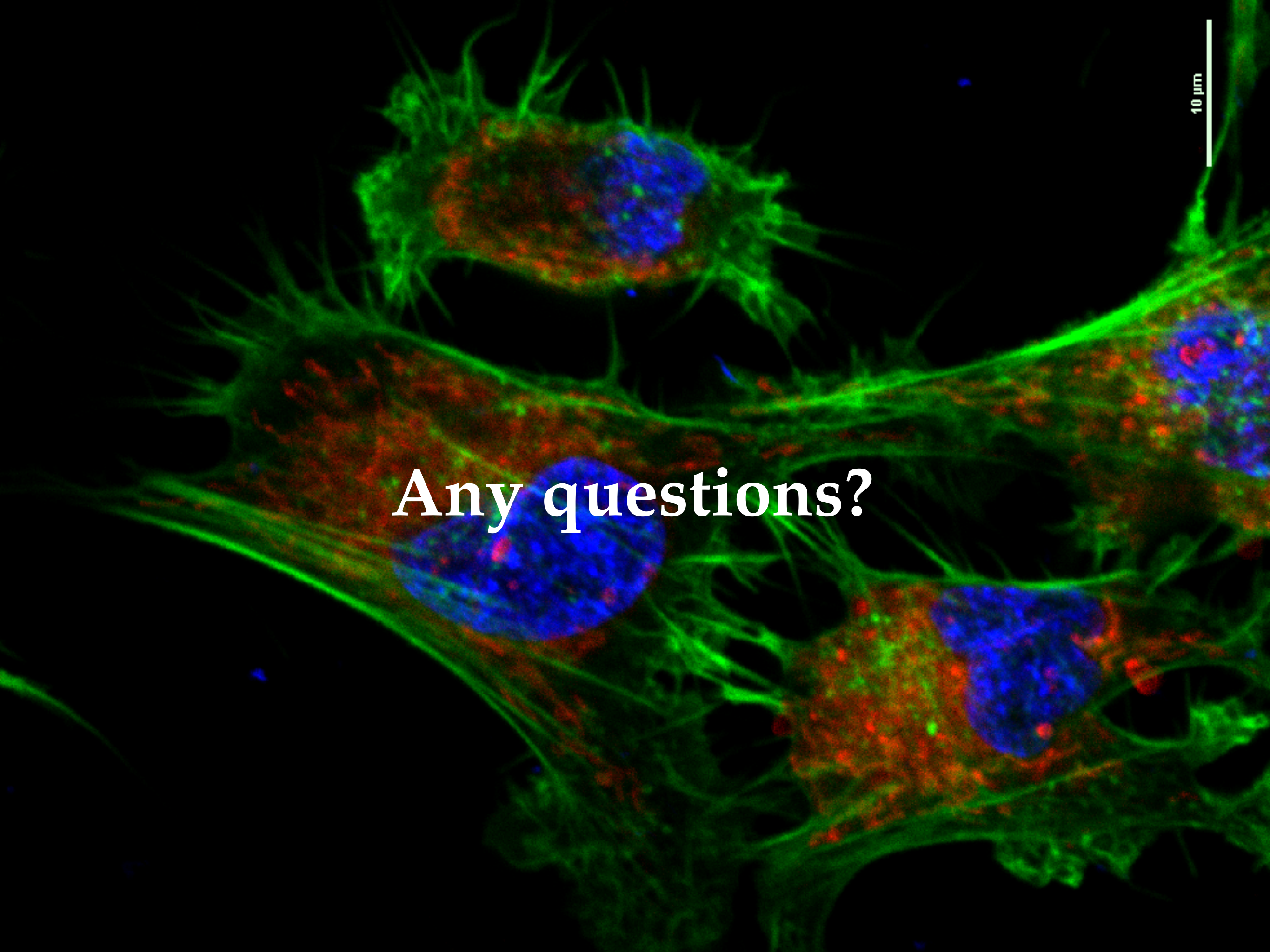


Fungi contamination



Bacteria contamination





10 μm

Any questions?



