

# Studies of Melanocyte Proliferation and Movement

Curtis T. Thompson, MD

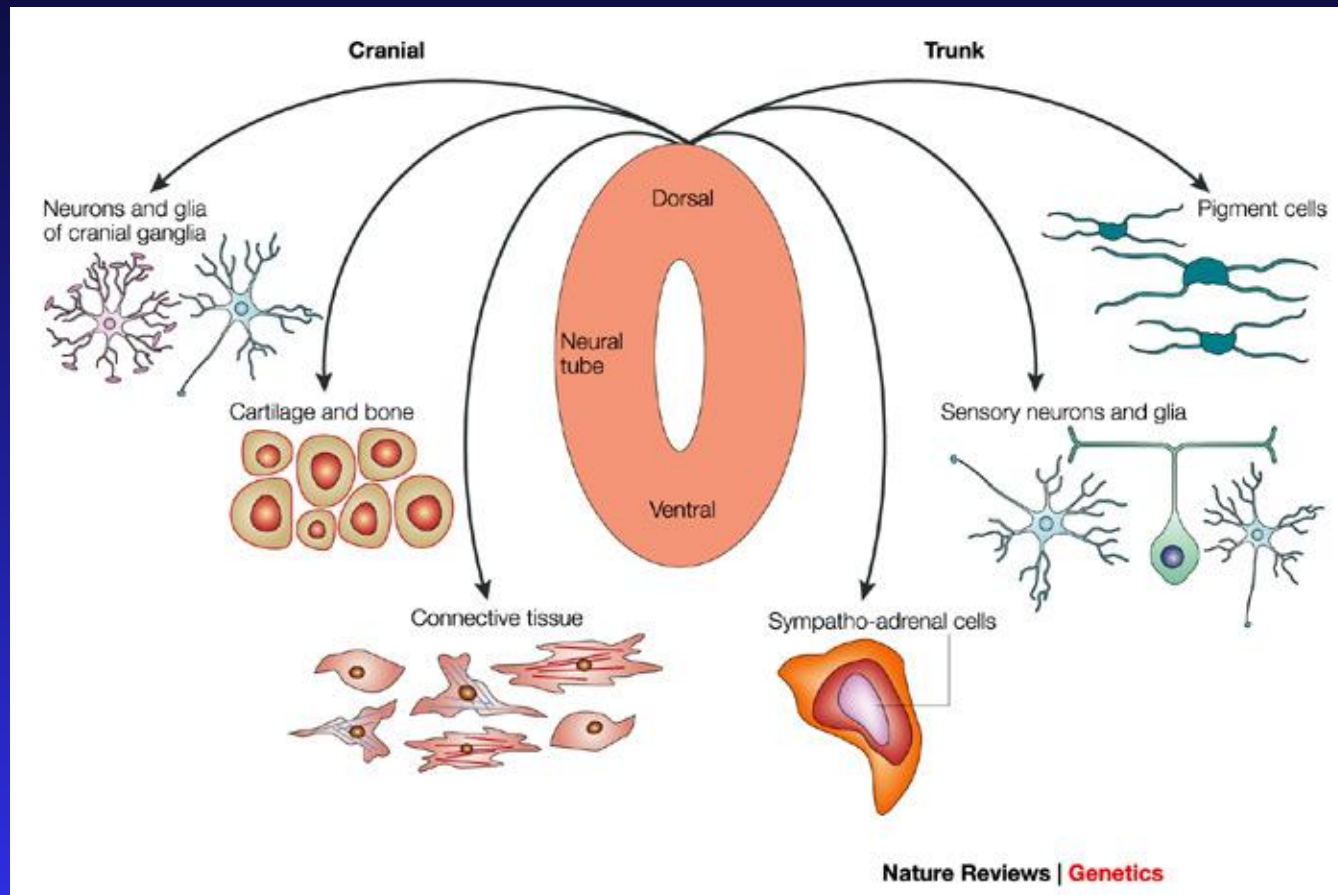
Departments of Biomedical Engineering,  
Dermatology and Pathology

Oregon Health and Science University

Portland, Oregon

# Embryonic origin of melanocytes

## ■ Neural crest migration



Knecht AK and Bronner-Fraser M. Induction of the neural crest: a multigene process

Nature Reviews Genetics 3: 453-461 2002

# Concept: Melanocyte migration

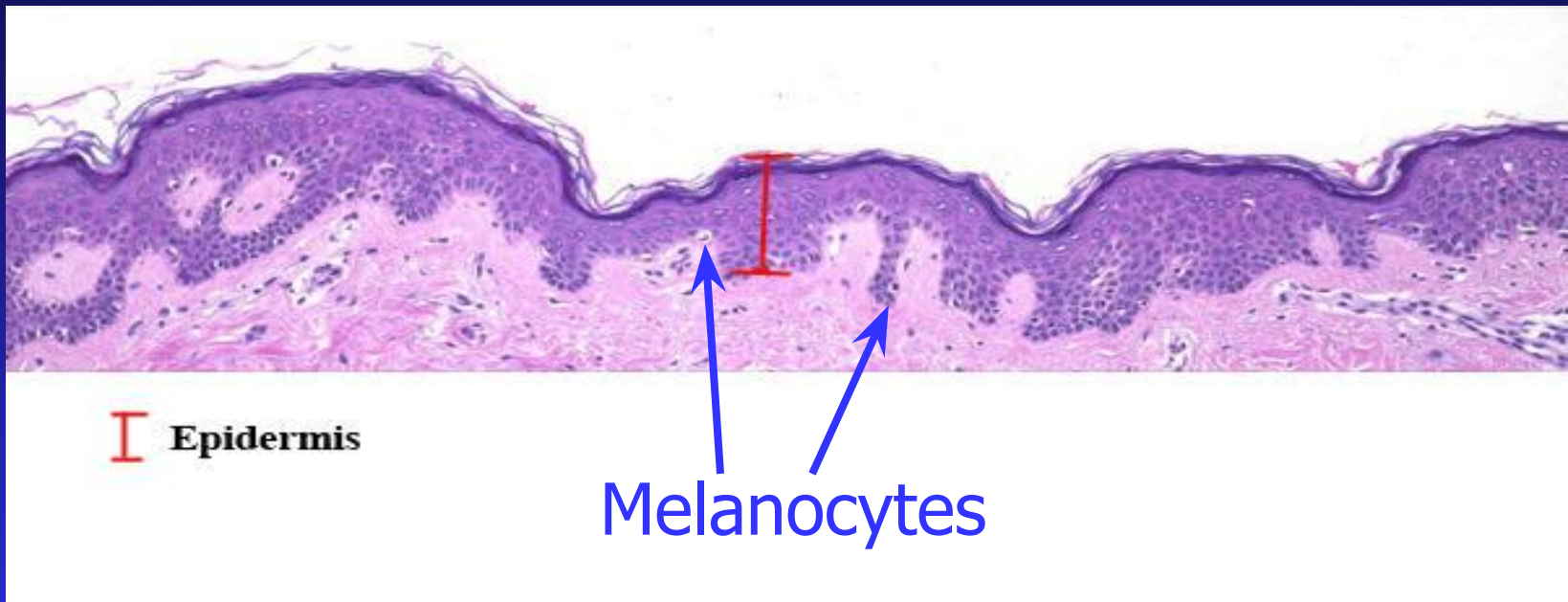
- Intraepidermal--truncal neural crest--ectodermo
- Internal—cardiac neural crest

# Concept: Melanocyte migration

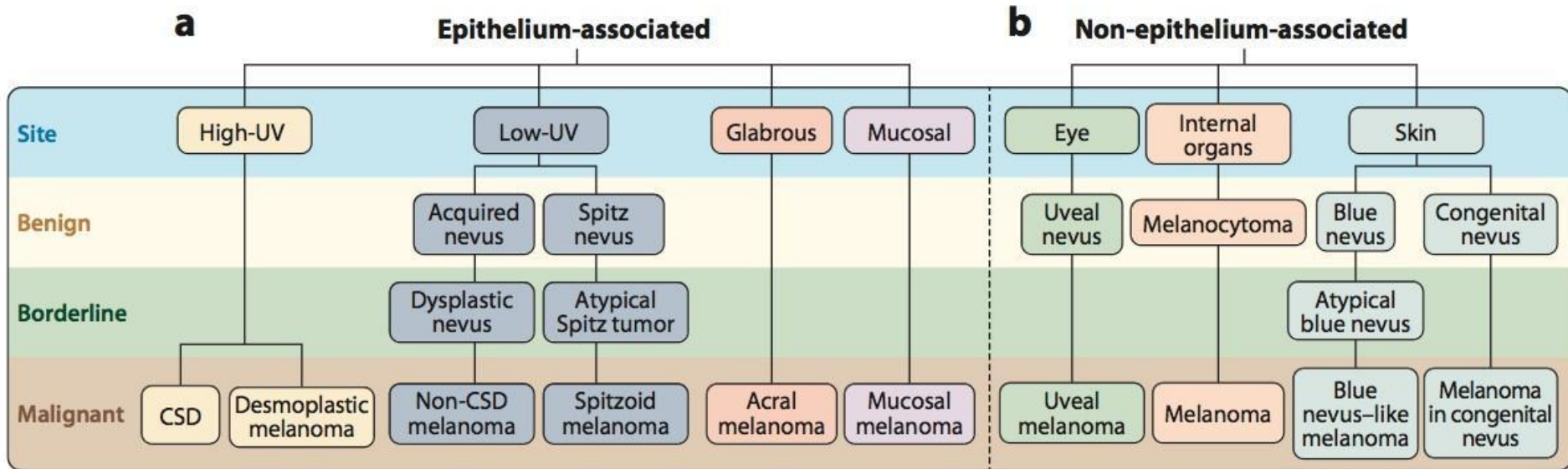
- Intraepidermal--truncal neural crest--ectodermo
- Internal—cardiac neural crest

Cancer=Anaplasia to an embryonic behavior

# Intraepidermal melanocytes

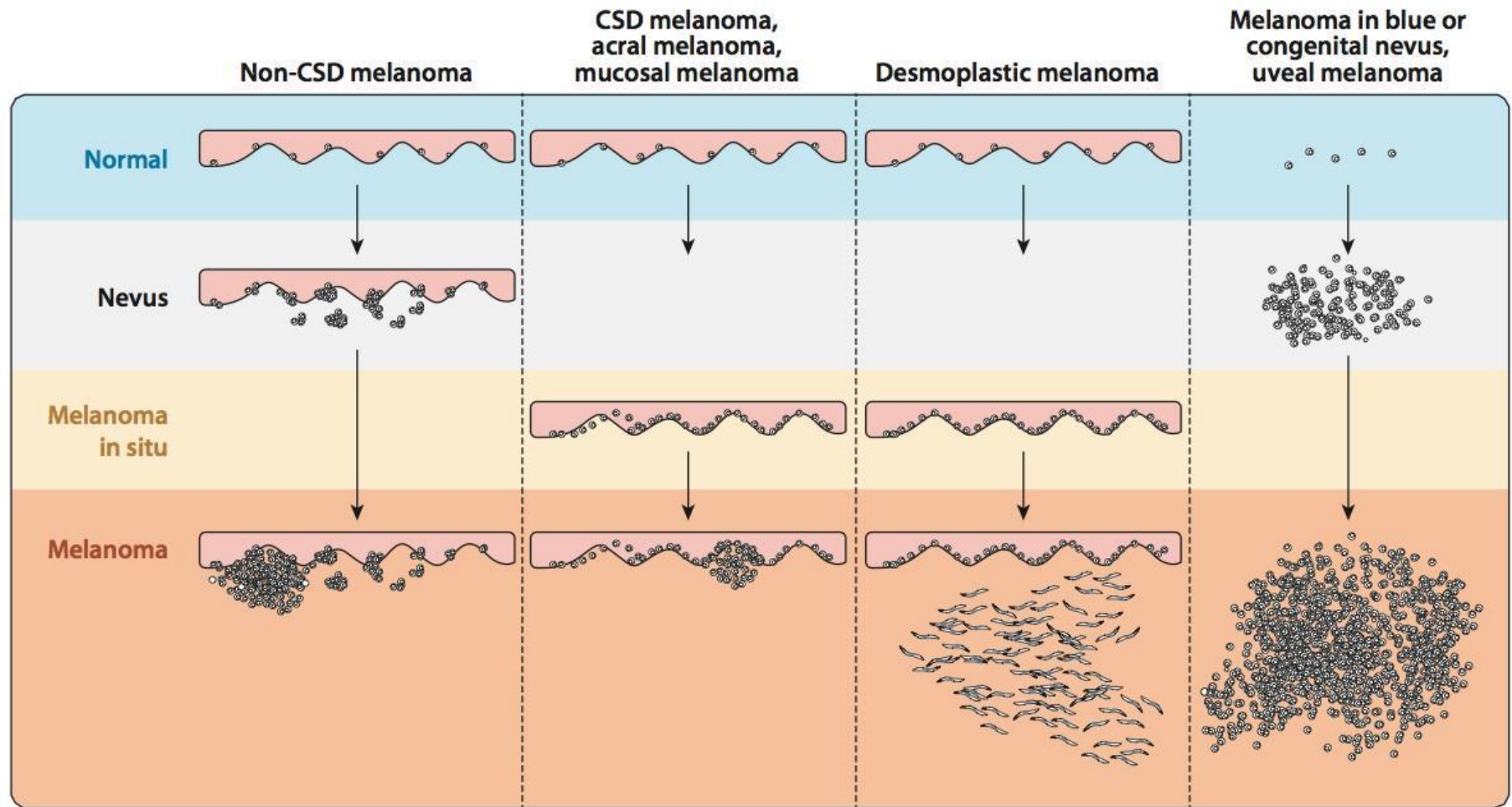


# Origin of melanocytic tumors



Bastian BC. The molecular pathology of melanoma: an integrated taxonomy of melanocytic neoplasia. Annu Rev Pathol. 2014 Jan 24; 9:239-71.

# Ascending and descending melanocytic tumors



Bastian BC. The molecular pathology of melanoma: an integrated taxonomy of melanocytic neoplasia. Annu Rev Pathol. 2014 Jan 24; 9:239-71.

# Progression

Benign (resident) melanocytes



Simple lentigo



Junctional nevus



Compound nevus



Nevus with "atypia"



Melanoma in-situ



Invasive melanoma



Metastatic melanoma



# Progression

Benign (resident) melanocytes



Simple lentigo



Junctional nevus



Compound nevus



Nevus with atypia



Melanoma in-situ



Invasive melanoma



Metastatic melanoma

# Progression

Benign (resident) melanocytes



Simple lentigo



Junctional nevus



Compound nevus



**Dysplastic nevus =** Nevus with "atypia"



Melanoma in-situ



Invasive melanoma

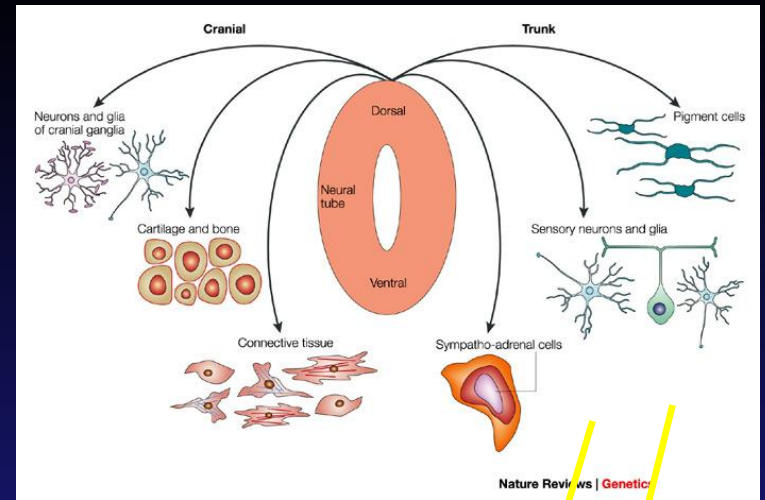


Metastatic melanoma

# Dysplastic nevus syndrome



# Melanomas and atypical nevi



Descendants  
from a  
germline  
mutation?



# Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization as an Ancillary Tool in the Diagnosis of Ambiguous Melanocytic Neoplasms

## *A Review of 804 Cases*

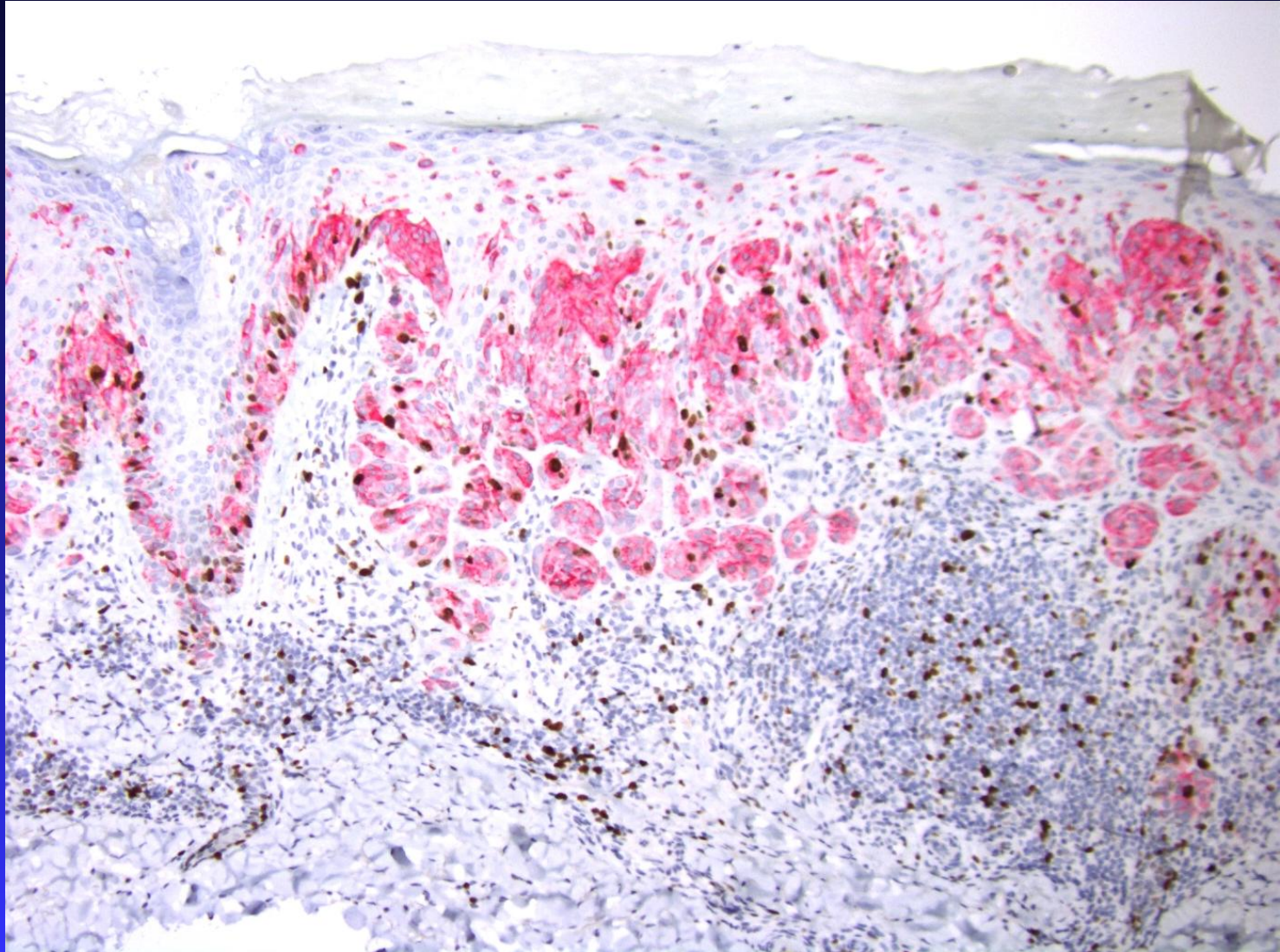
*Jeffrey P. North, MD,\*† Maria C. Garrido, MD,‡ Nicholas A. Kolaitis, MD,‡  
Philip E. LeBoit, MD,\*†‡ Timothy H. McCalmont, MD,\*†‡ and Boris C. Bastian, MD\*†‡*

- 630 cases—Negative FISH
  - ◆ 489 (78%) benign
  - ◆ 91 (14%) ambiguous
  - ◆ 50 (8%) malignant



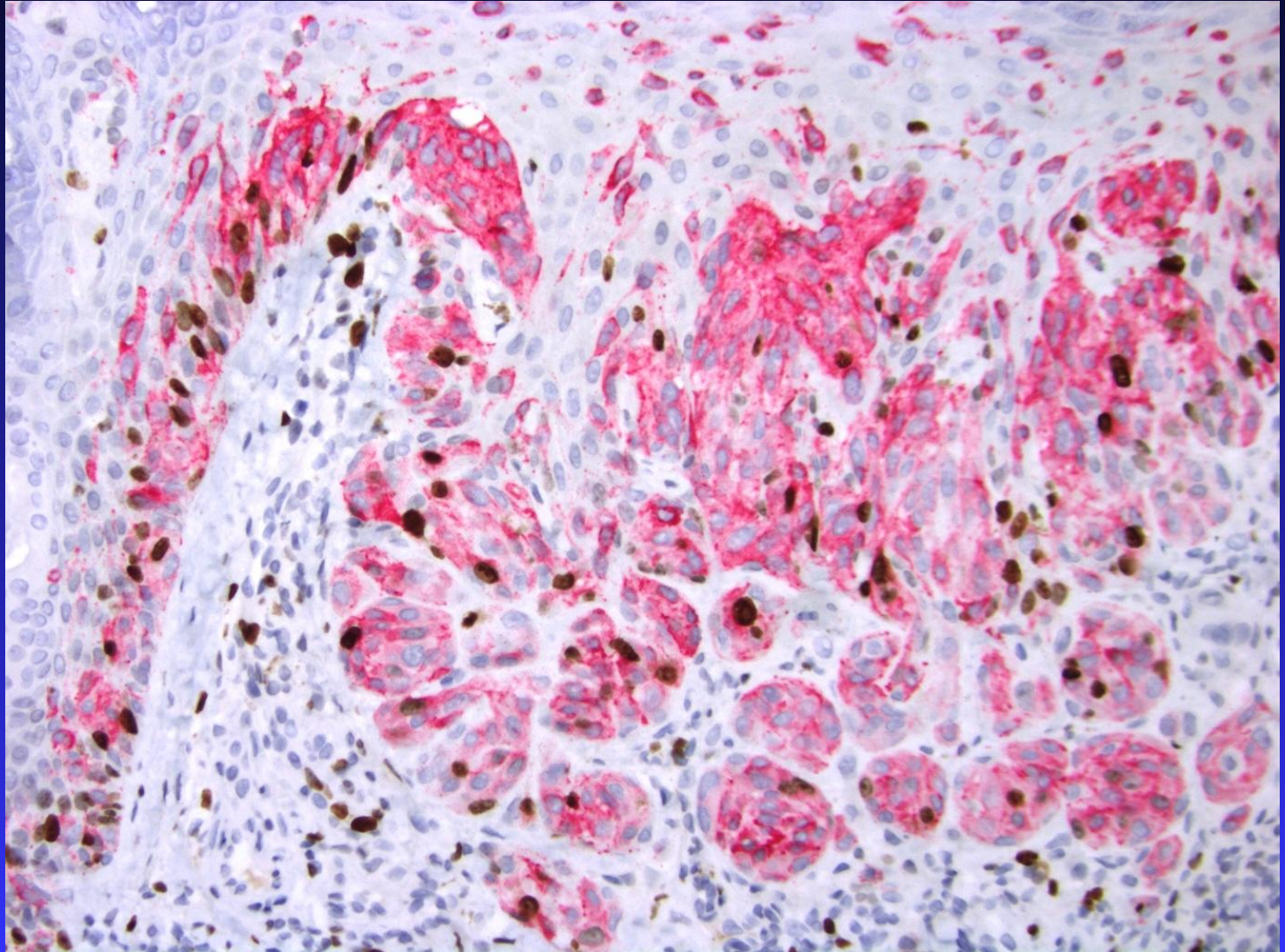
# Ki-67/MelanA IHC

## Proliferative rate



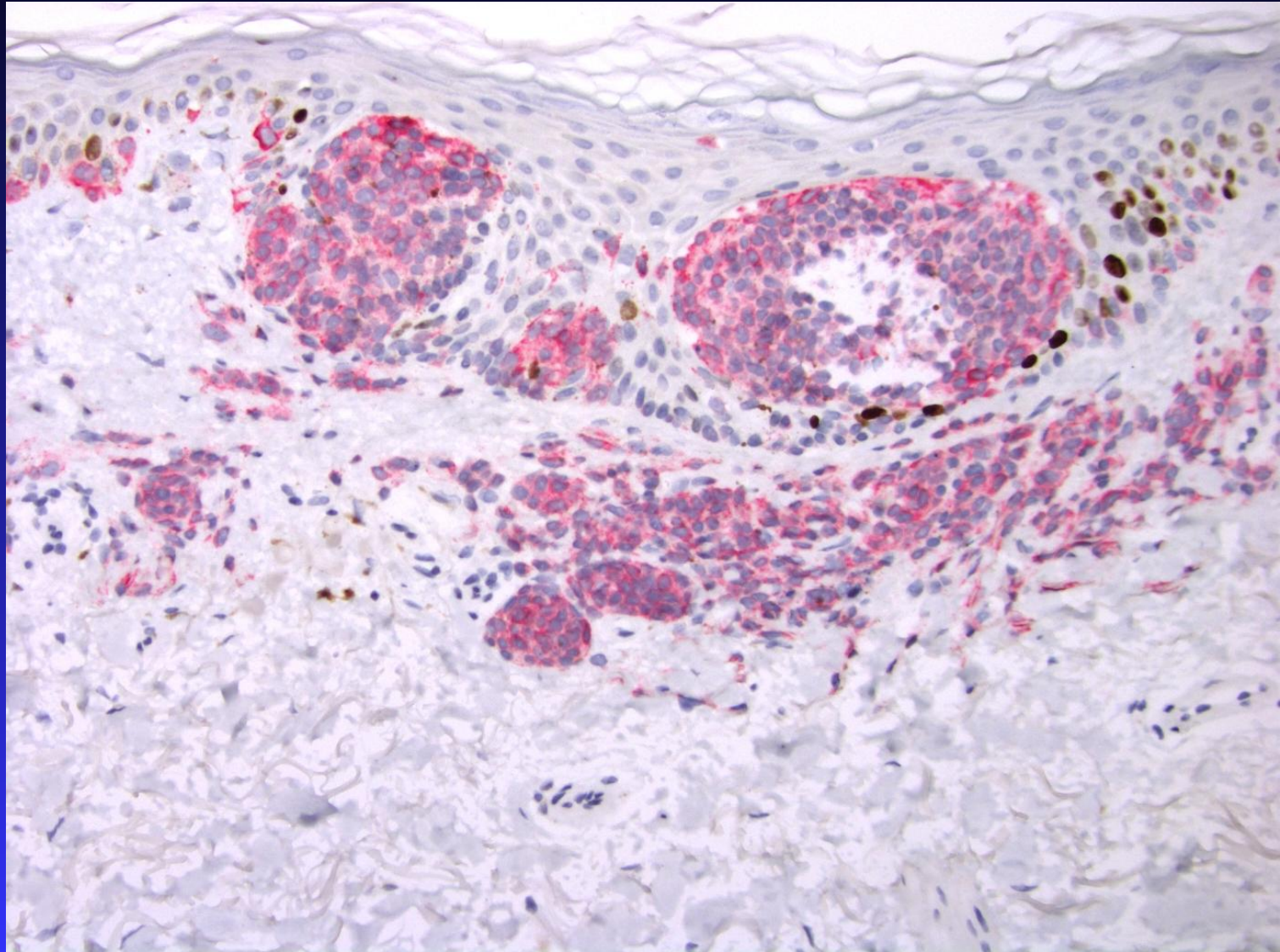


# Ki-67/MelanA--Melanoma





# Ki-67/MelanA—Benign nevus





# Quantification of RNA

- Two companies
  - ◆ Myriad (myPath)
  - ◆ Castle Biosciences (DecisionDX)

# Myriad

## **qRT-PCR Diagnostic Assay**

- Expression of the gene signature was analyzed in each of the 50 selected lesions by quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR).
- An expression score was calculated on a scale of -14.9 to +9.6 using a proprietary formula.
  - Scores from 0 to +9.6 were reported as “likely malignant”.
  - Scores from -14.9 to -0.1 were reported as “likely benign”.

# Castle Biosciences (DecisionDx)

**Dhillon, et al.** Gene expression profile signature (DecisionDx-Melanoma) to predict visceral metastatic risk in patients with Stage I and Stage II cutaneous melanoma. J Clin Oncol 2012;30(suppl; abstr 8543).

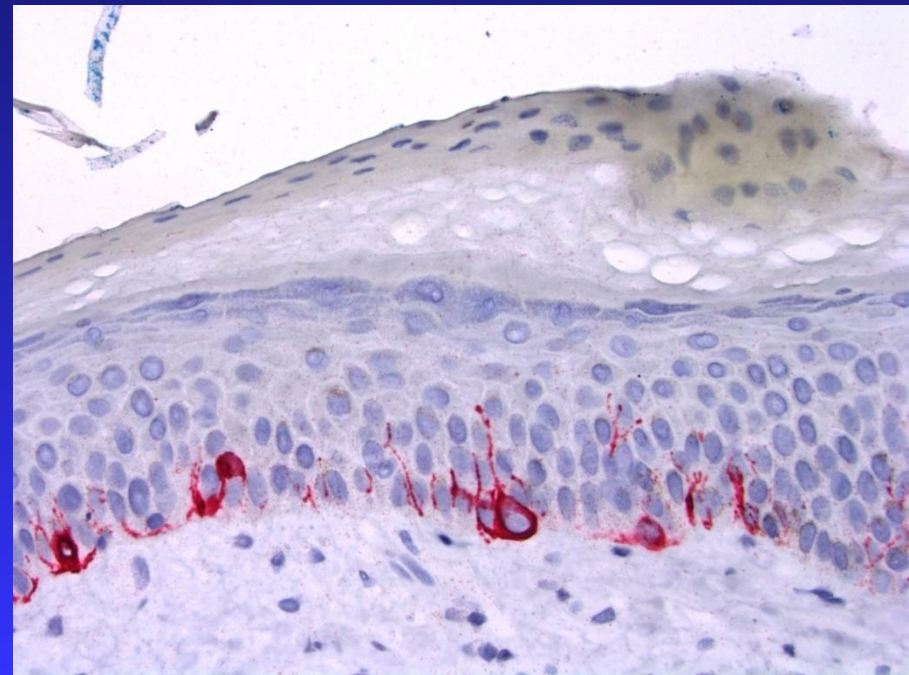
# Castle Biosciences (DecisionDx)

**Dhillon, et al.** Gene expression profile signature (DecisionDx-Melanoma) to predict visceral metastatic risk in patients with Stage I and Stage II cutaneous melanoma. J Clin Oncol 2012;30(suppl; abstr 8543).

## DNA Sequencing

# Movement of melanocytes in the epidermis

- Normal movement
  - ◆ Embryogenesis
  - ◆ Repigmentation (vitiligo), recurrent, over a scar
- Melanoma in-situ



## Review

# Expression and function of cell adhesion molecules during neural crest migration

Sonja J. McKeown\*, Adam S. Wallace, Richard B. Anderson

*Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, University of Melbourne, 3010 VIC, Australia*

## ARTICLE INFO

### *Article history:*

Received 8 August 2012

Received in revised form

18 October 2012

Accepted 25 October 2012

Available online 1 November 2012

### *Keywords:*

Neural crest

Cell adhesion

Migration

Mouse

Chick

Xenopus

## ABSTRACT

Neural crest cells are highly migratory cells that give rise to many derivatives including peripheral ganglia, craniofacial structures and melanocytes. Neural crest cells migrate along defined pathways to their target sites, interacting with each other and their environment as they migrate. Cell adhesion molecules are critical during this process. In this review we discuss the expression and function of cell adhesion molecules during the process of neural crest migration, in particular cadherins, integrins, members of the immunoglobulin superfamily of cell adhesion molecules, and the proteolytic enzymes that cleave these cell adhesion molecules. The expression and function of these cell adhesion molecules and proteases are compared across neural crest emigrating from different axial levels, and across different species of vertebrates.

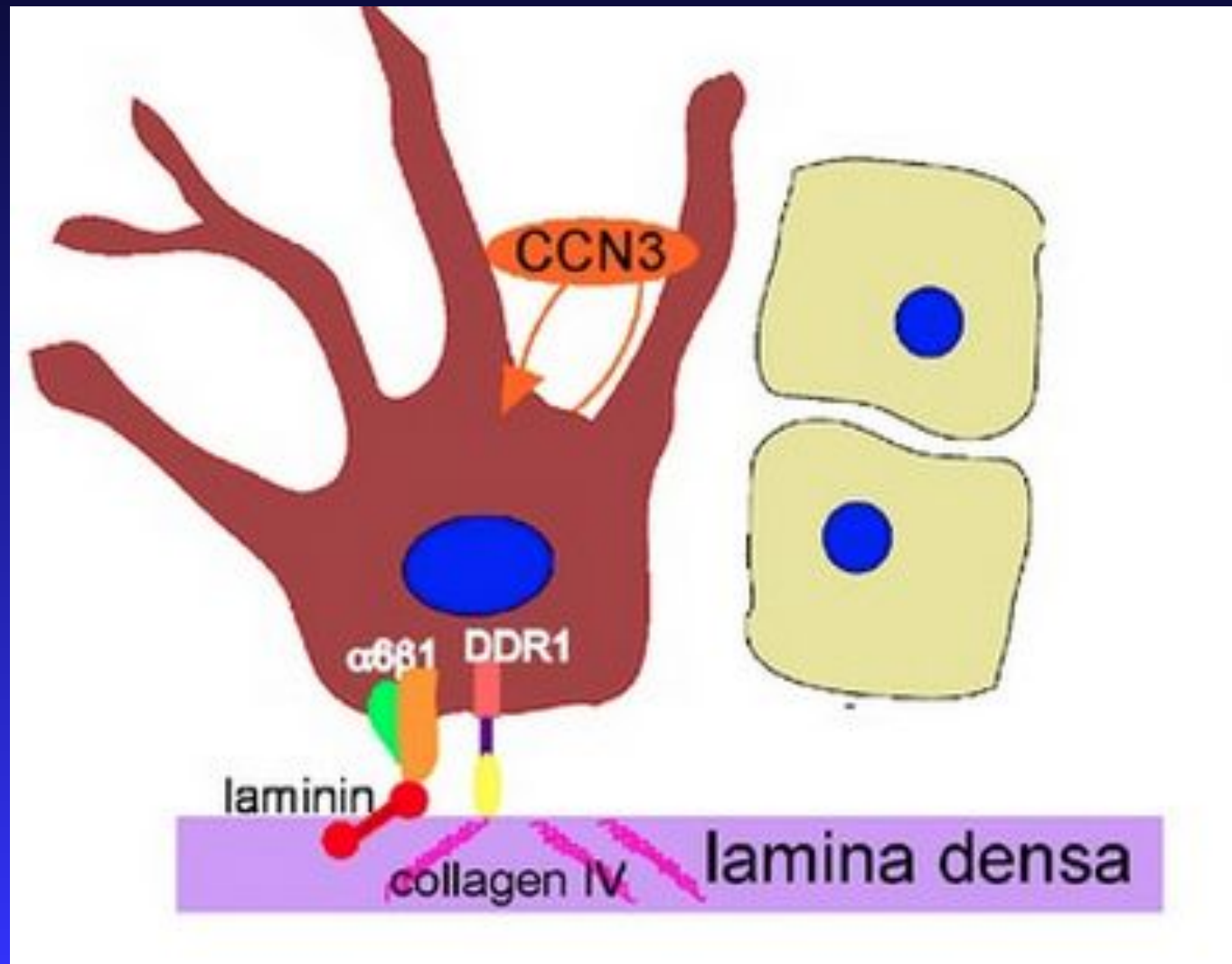
© 2012 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

# Neural crest migration

- Cadherins
- Integrins
- Matrix metalloproteases
- IgCAM family



# Molecular





# CCN3 controls 3D spatial localization of melanocytes in the human skin through DDR1

Mizuho Fukunaga-Kalabis,<sup>1</sup> Gabriela Martinez,<sup>1</sup> Zhao-Jun Liu,<sup>1</sup> Jiri Kalabis,<sup>1</sup> Paul Mrass,<sup>2</sup> Wolfgang Weninger,<sup>2</sup> Sue M. Firth,<sup>3</sup> Nathalie Planque,<sup>4</sup> Bernard Perbal,<sup>4</sup> and Meenhard Herlyn<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Molecular and Cellular Oncogenesis Program and <sup>2</sup>Immunology Program, The Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, PA 19104

<sup>3</sup>Kolling Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney, Royal North Shore Hospital, St. Leonards NSW 2065, Australia

<sup>4</sup>Laboratoire d'Oncologie Virale et Moléculaire, Université Paris, 75005 Paris, France

**M**elanocytes reside within the basal layer of the human epidermis, where they attach to the basement membrane and replicate at a rate proportionate to that of keratinocytes, maintaining a life-long stable ratio. In this study, we report that coculturing melanocytes with keratinocytes up-regulated CCN3, a matricellular protein that we subsequently found to be critical for the spatial localization of melanocytes to the basement membrane. CCN3 knockdown cells were dissociated either upward to the suprabasal layers of the epidermis or downward into the dermis. The overexpression

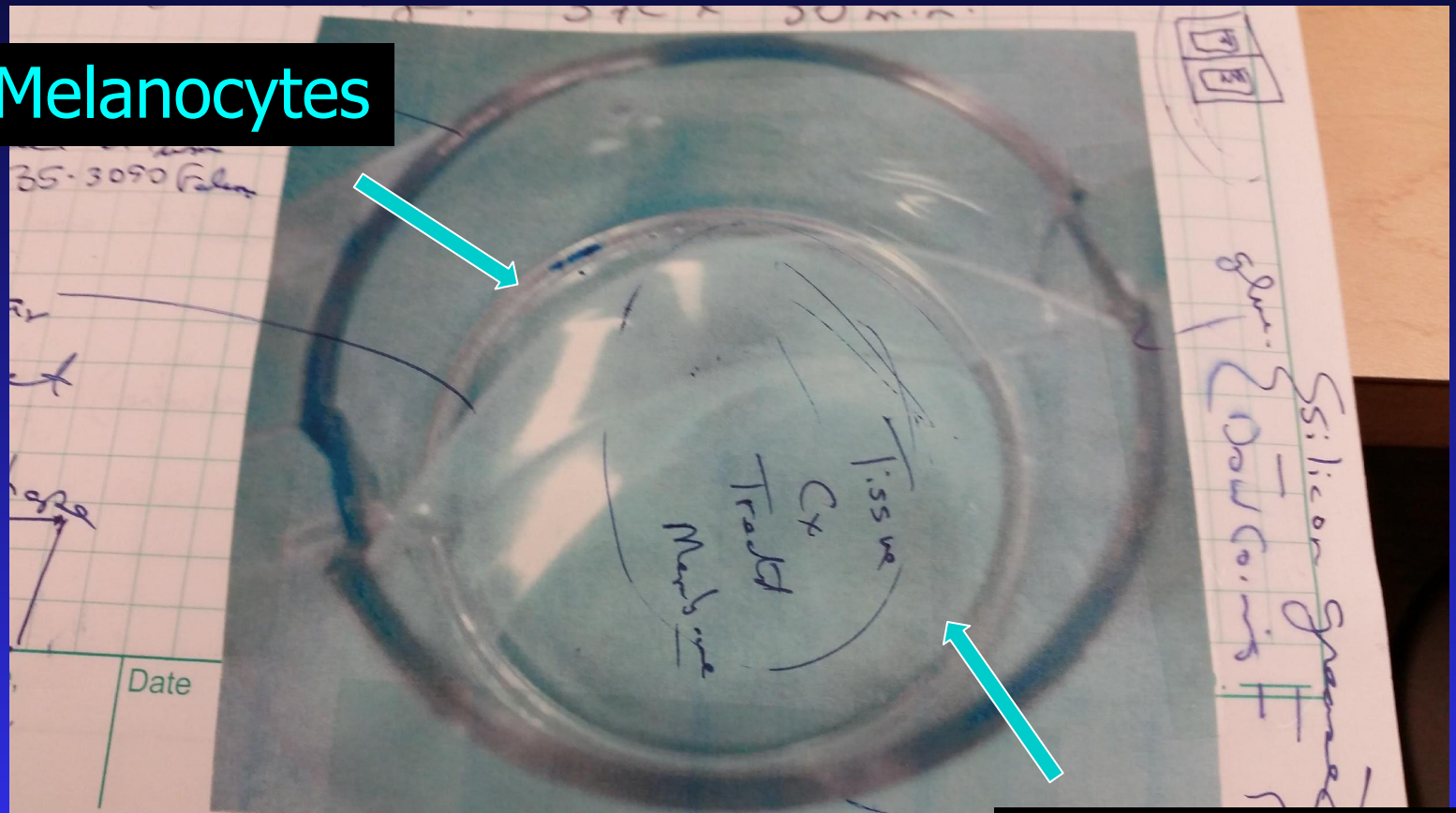
of CCN3 increased adhesion to collagen type IV, the major component of the basement membrane. As the receptor responsible for CCN3-mediated melanocyte localization, we identified discoidin domain receptor 1 (DDR1), a receptor tyrosine kinase that acts as a collagen IV adhesion receptor. DDR1 knockdown decreased melanocyte adhesion to collagen IV and shifted melanocyte localization in a manner similar to CCN3 knockdown. These results demonstrate an intricate and necessary communication between keratinocytes and melanocytes in maintaining normal epidermal homeostasis.

# Developing a model for in-vitro migration of melanocytes.

- Co-culture of melanocytes and keratinocytes.
  - ◆ Proliferation and movement.
  - ◆ Molecular mechanisms
  - ◆ Agents that induce or suppress movement

# Co-culture in-vitro model

Melanocytes

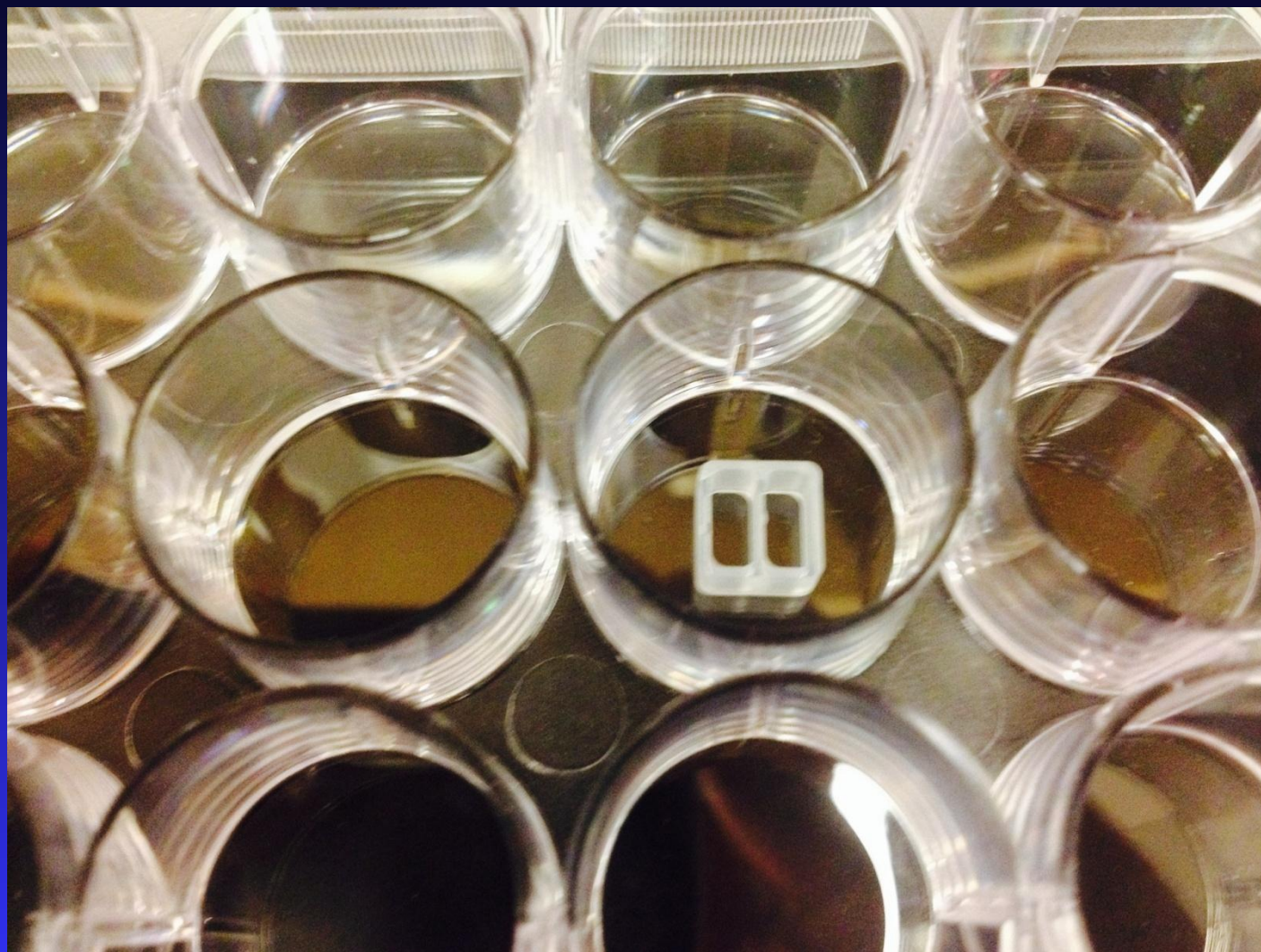


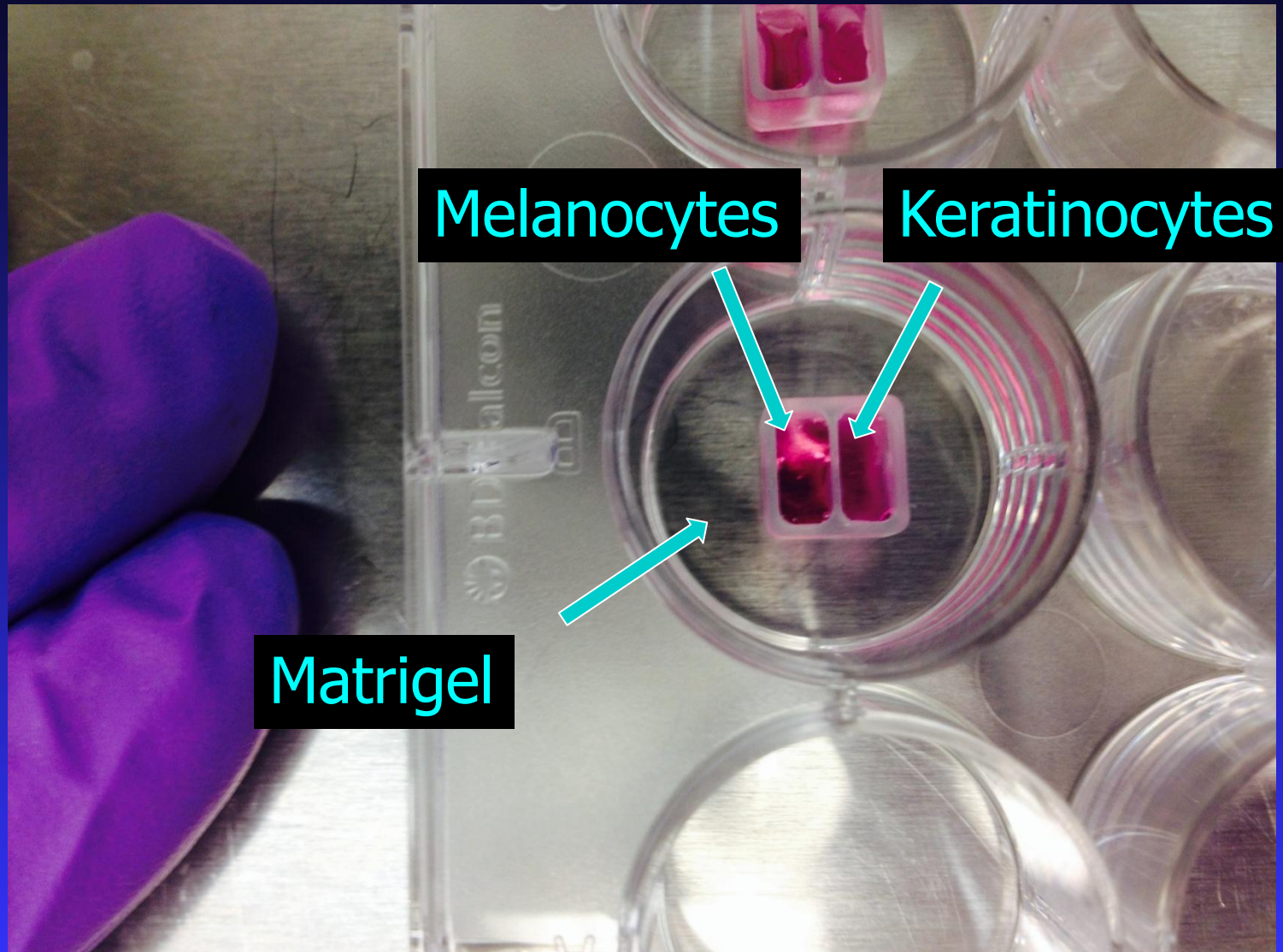
Keratinocytes

**H. Decean · M. Perde-Schrepler · C. Tatomir ·  
E. Fischer-Fodor · I. Brie · P. Virag**

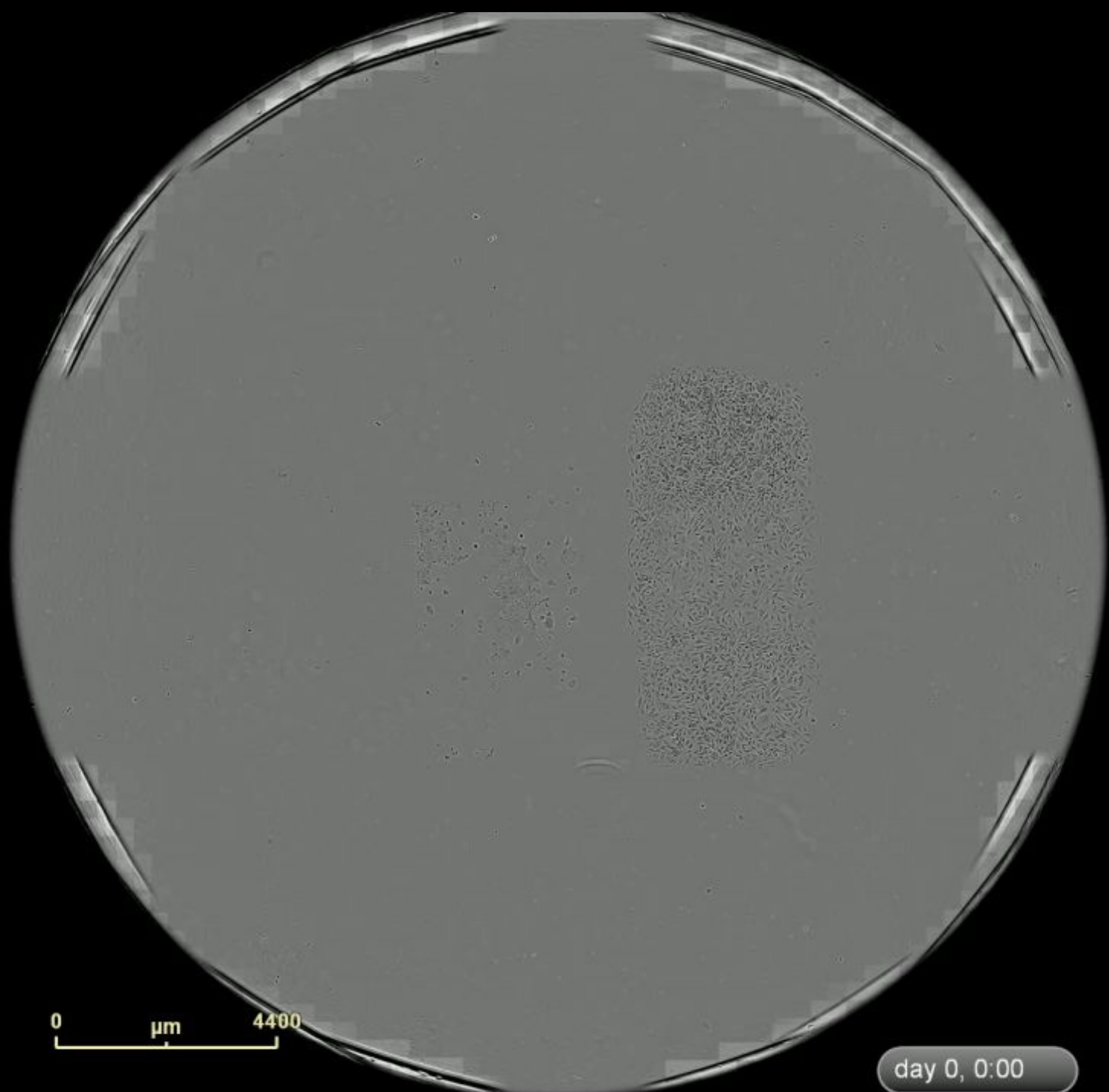
Received: 27 November 2012 / Accepted: 30 March 2013 / Published online: 20 April 2013  
© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2013







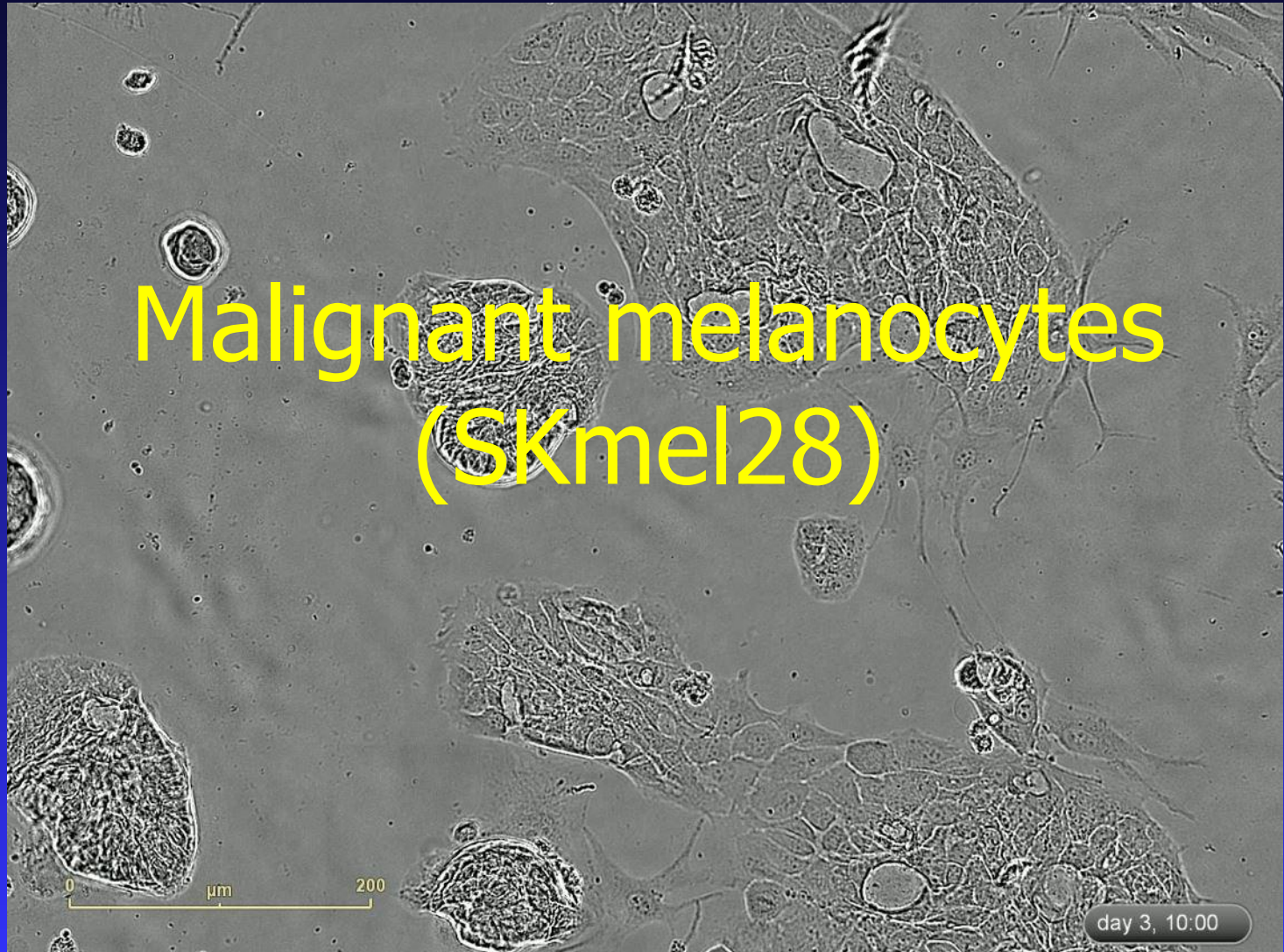




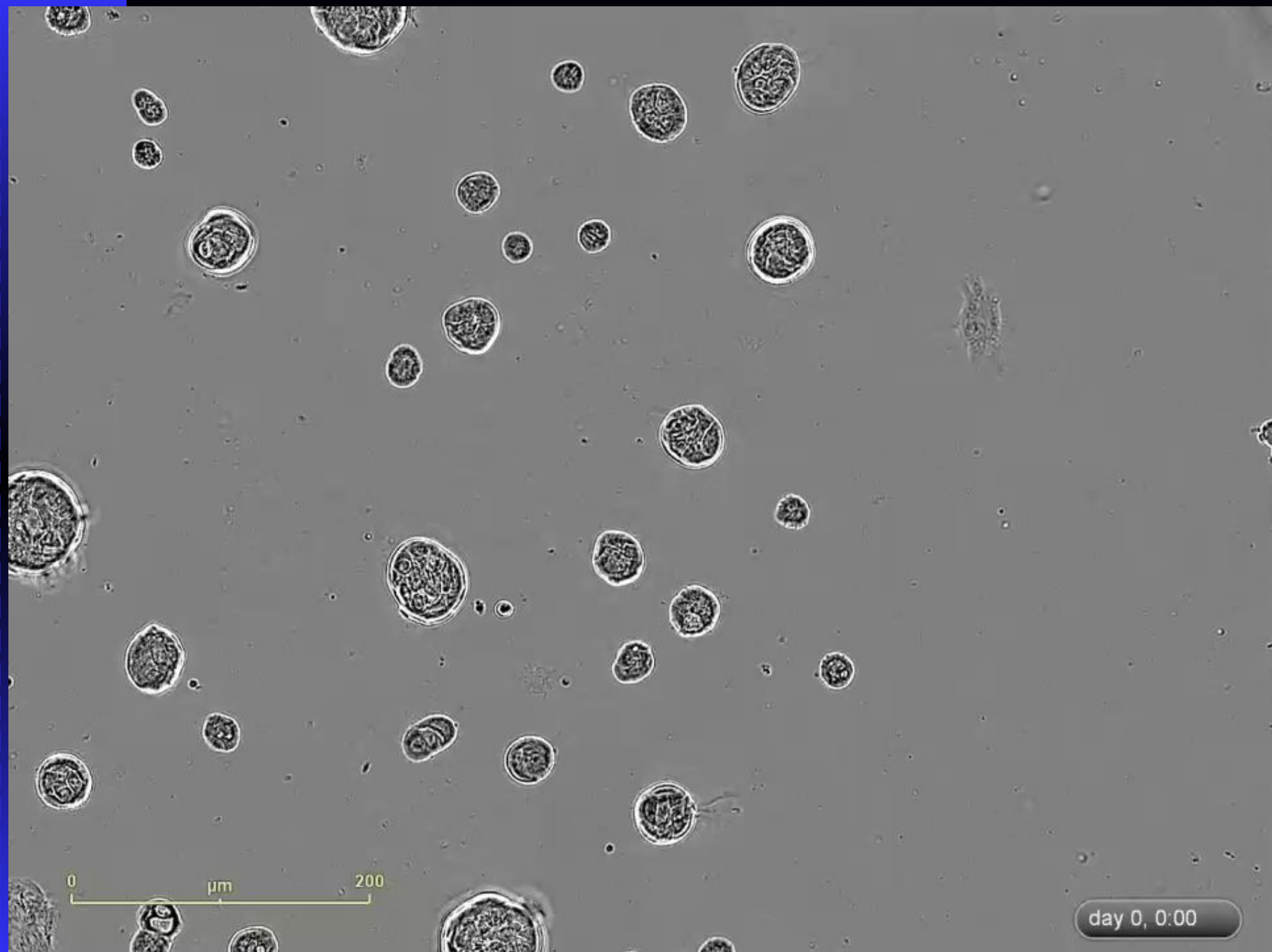
0  $\mu\text{m}$  4400

day 0, 0:00

# Malignant melanocytes (SKmel28)

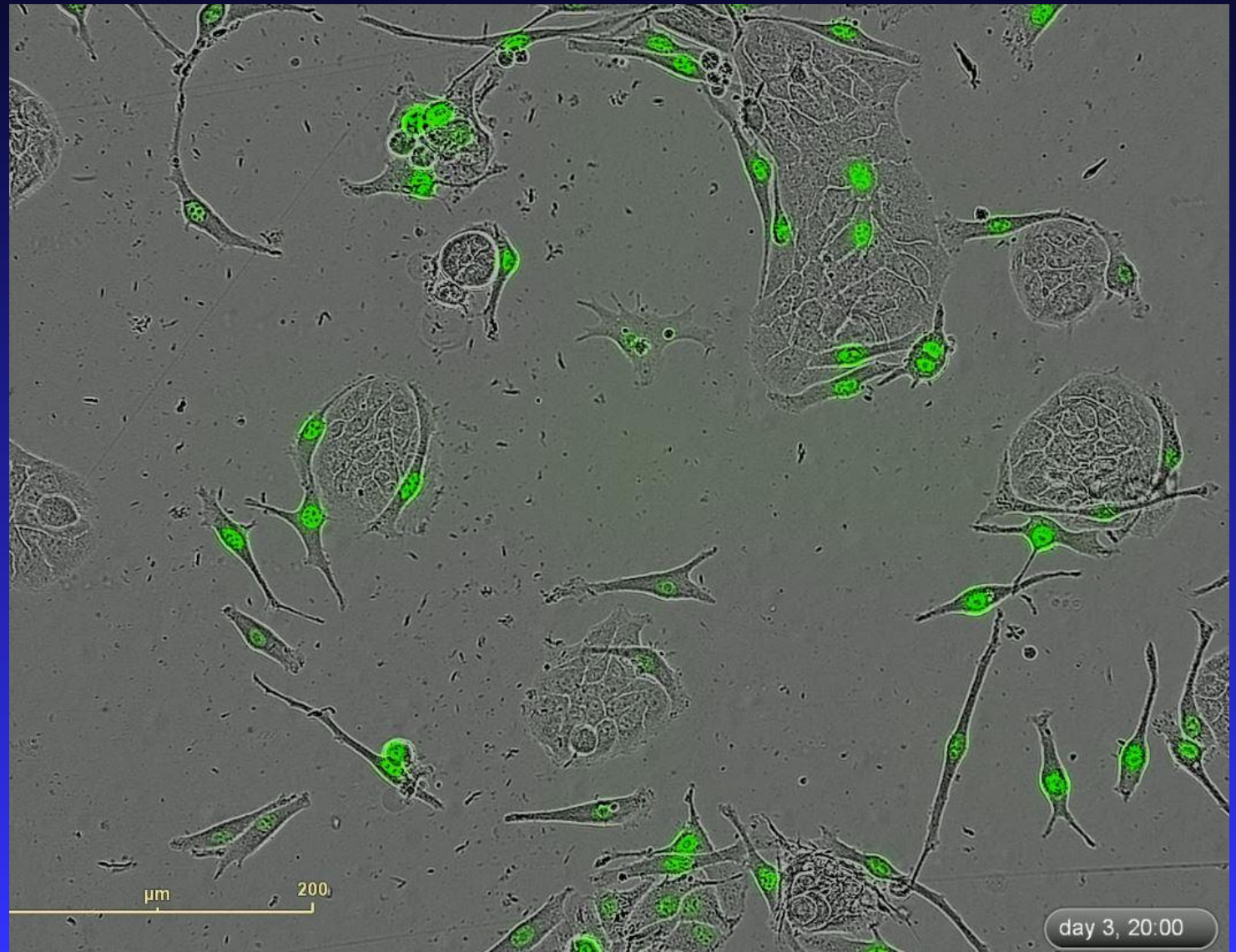






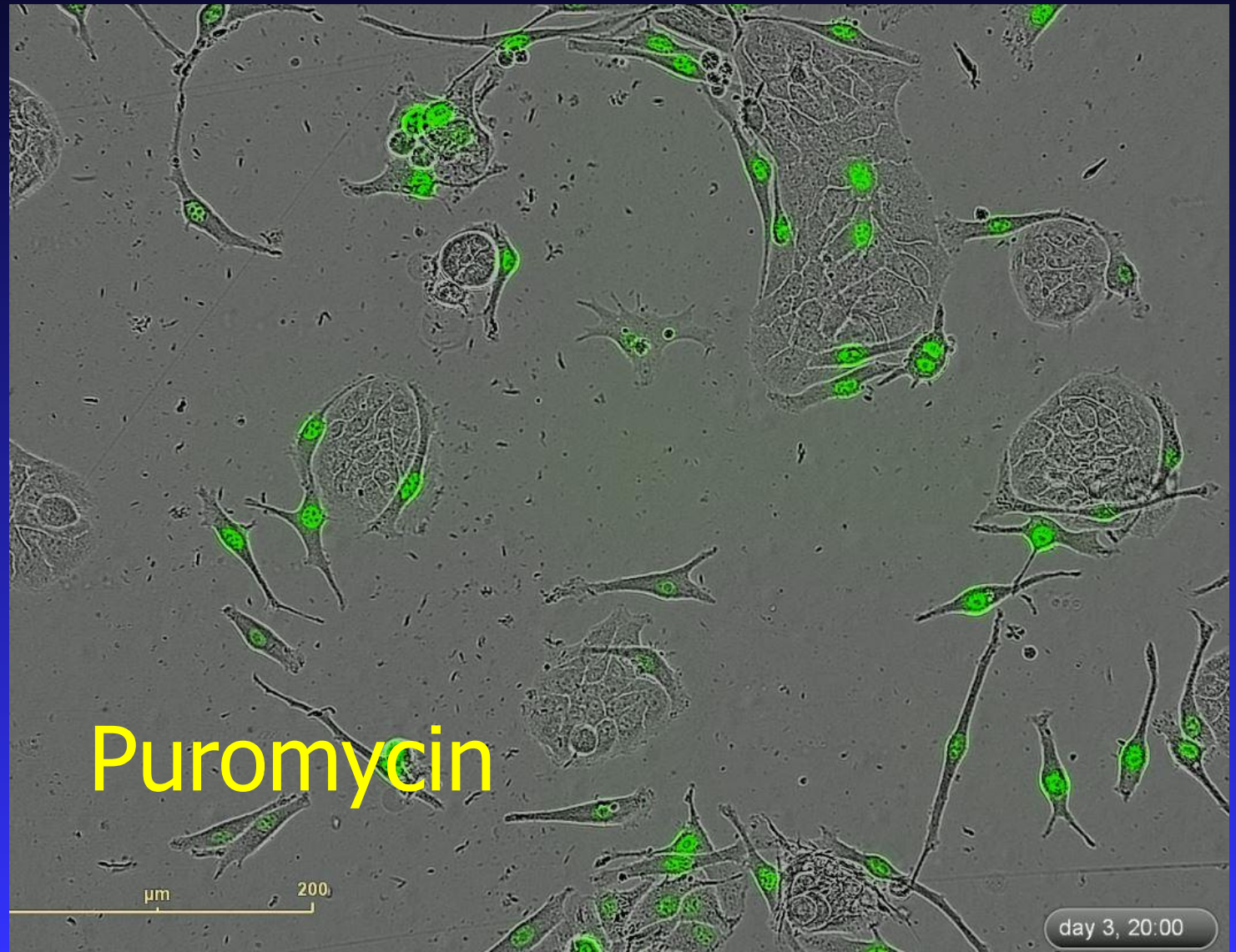


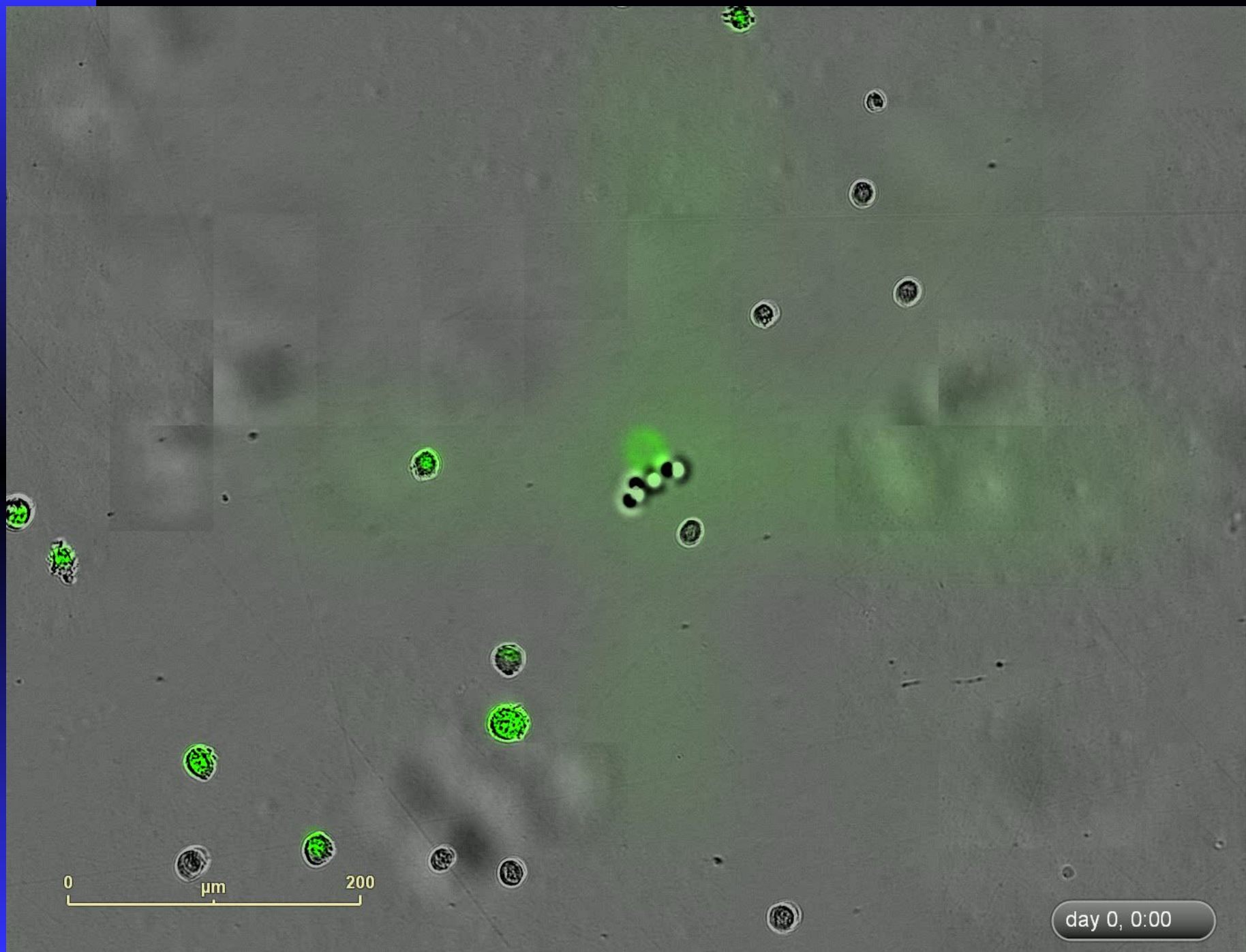
# Malignant—SKmel28GFP





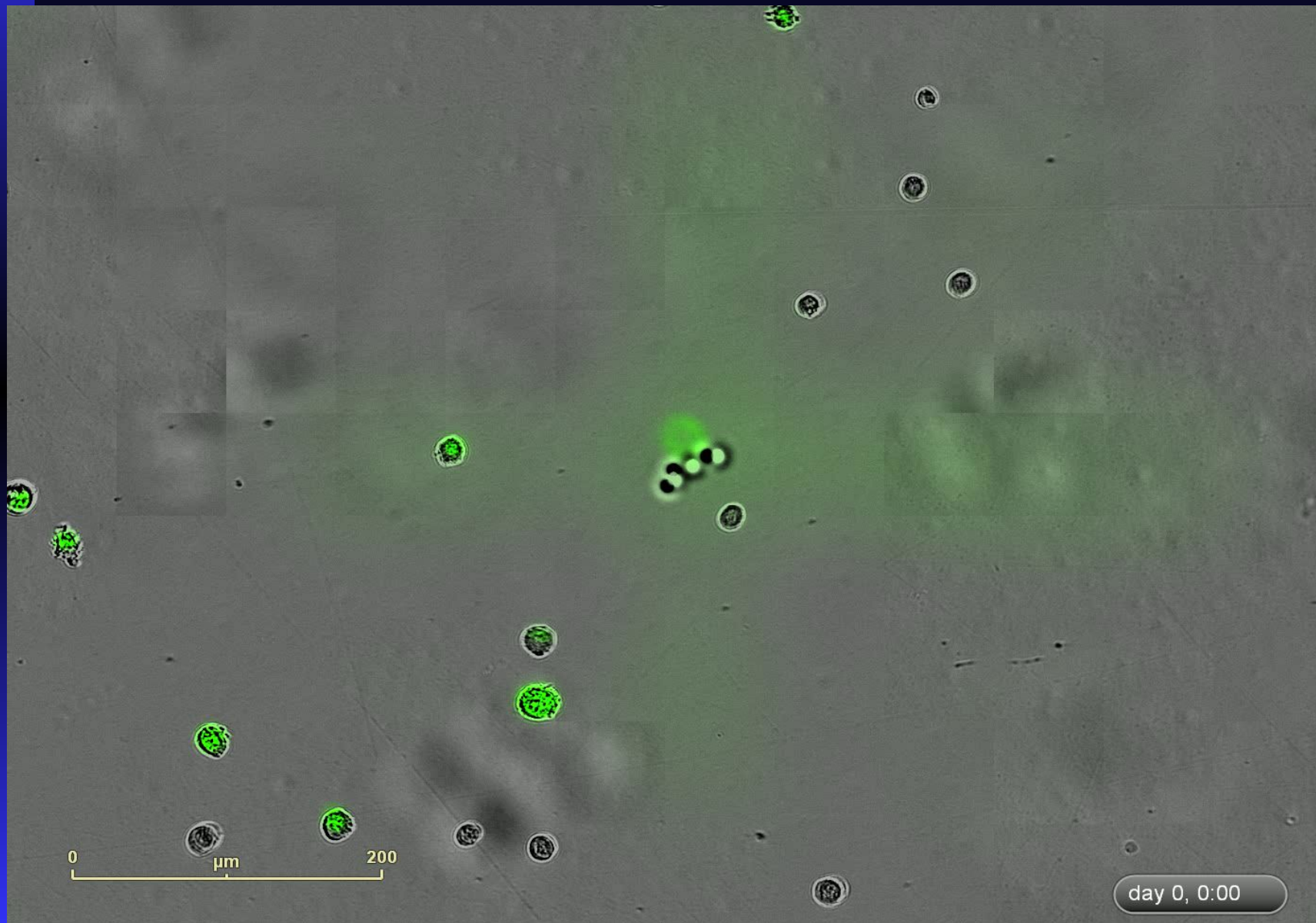
# Malignant—SKmel28GFP



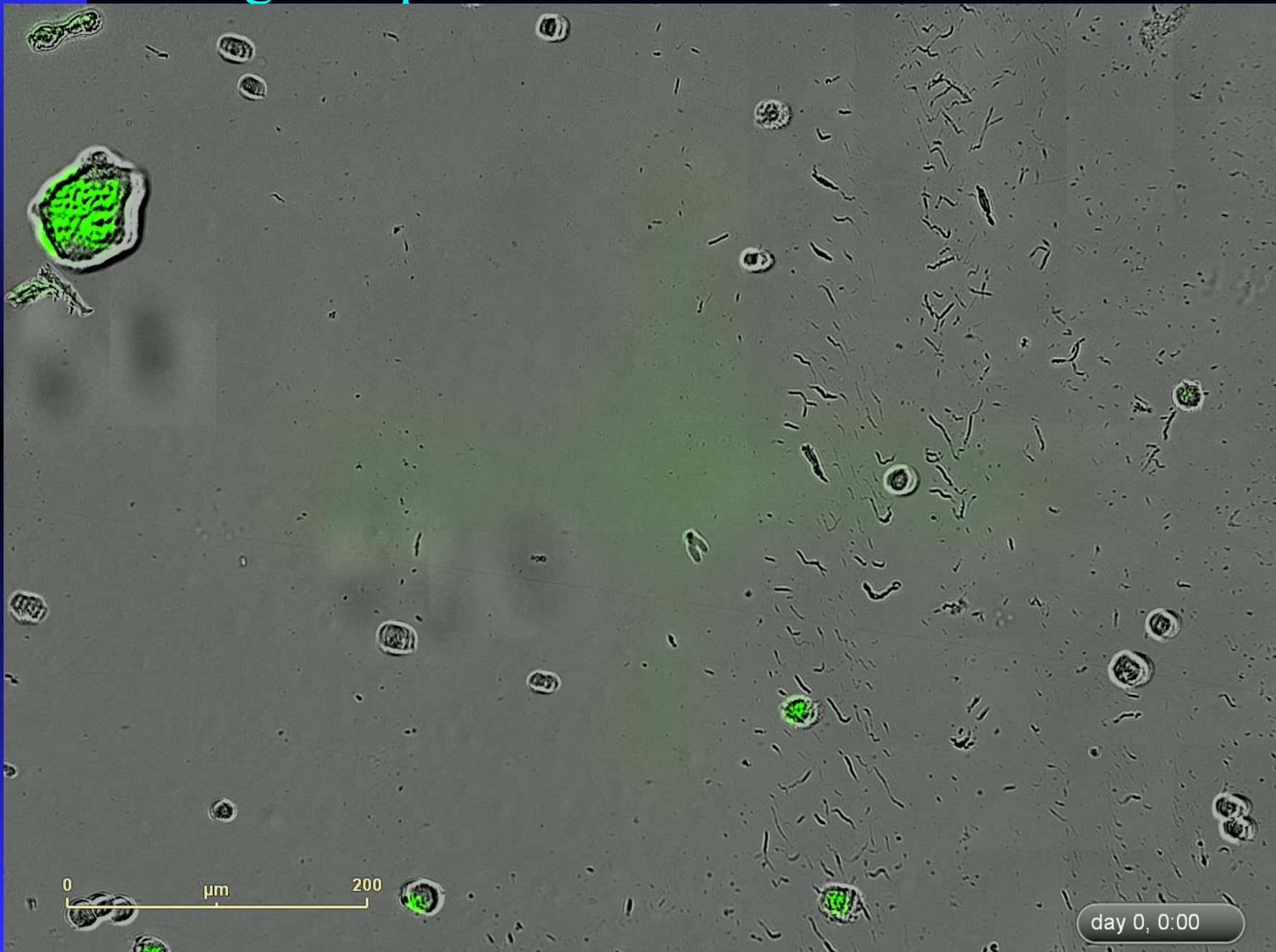


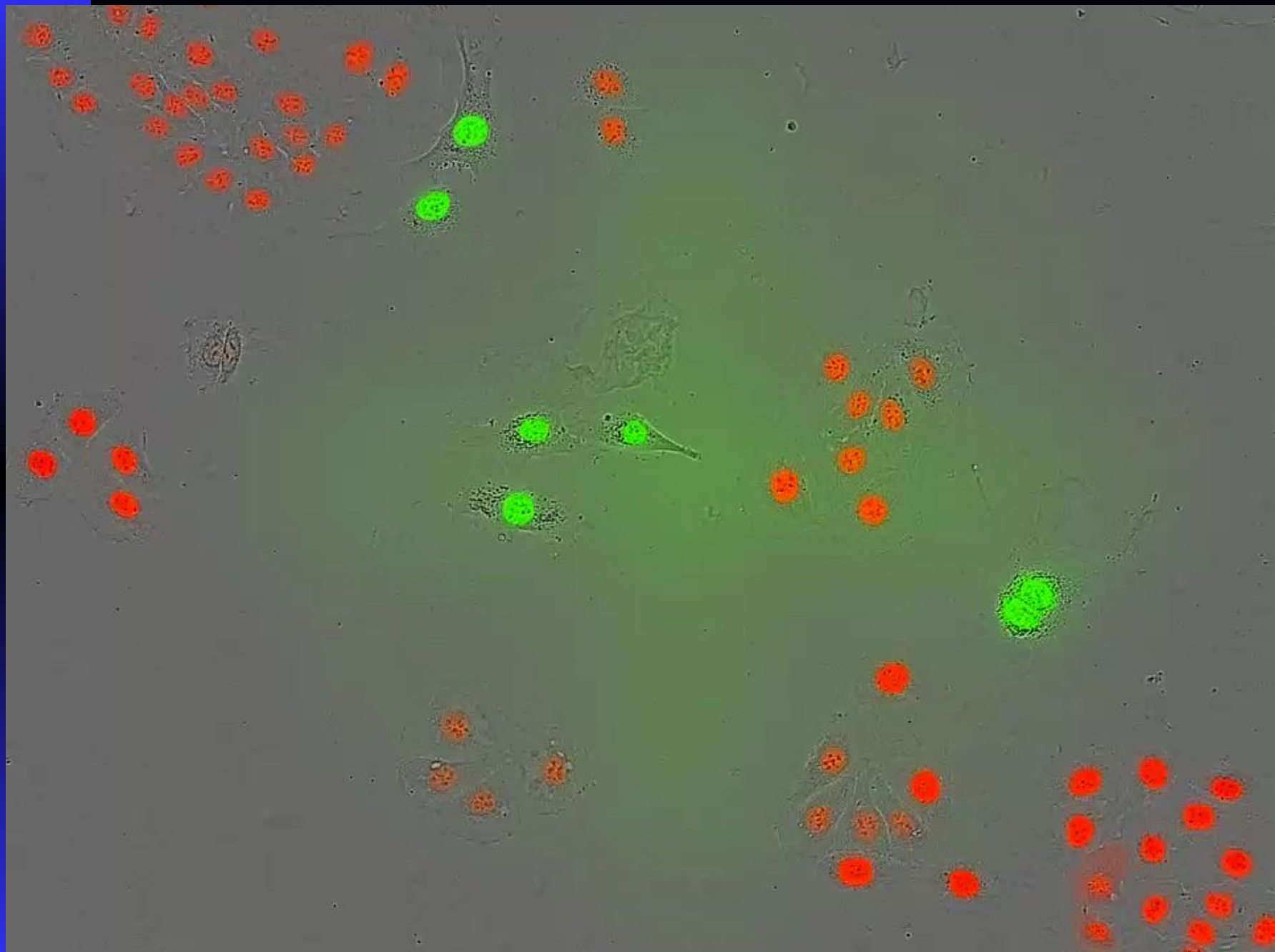


# Minimal interaction of the cells.



# Matrigel required



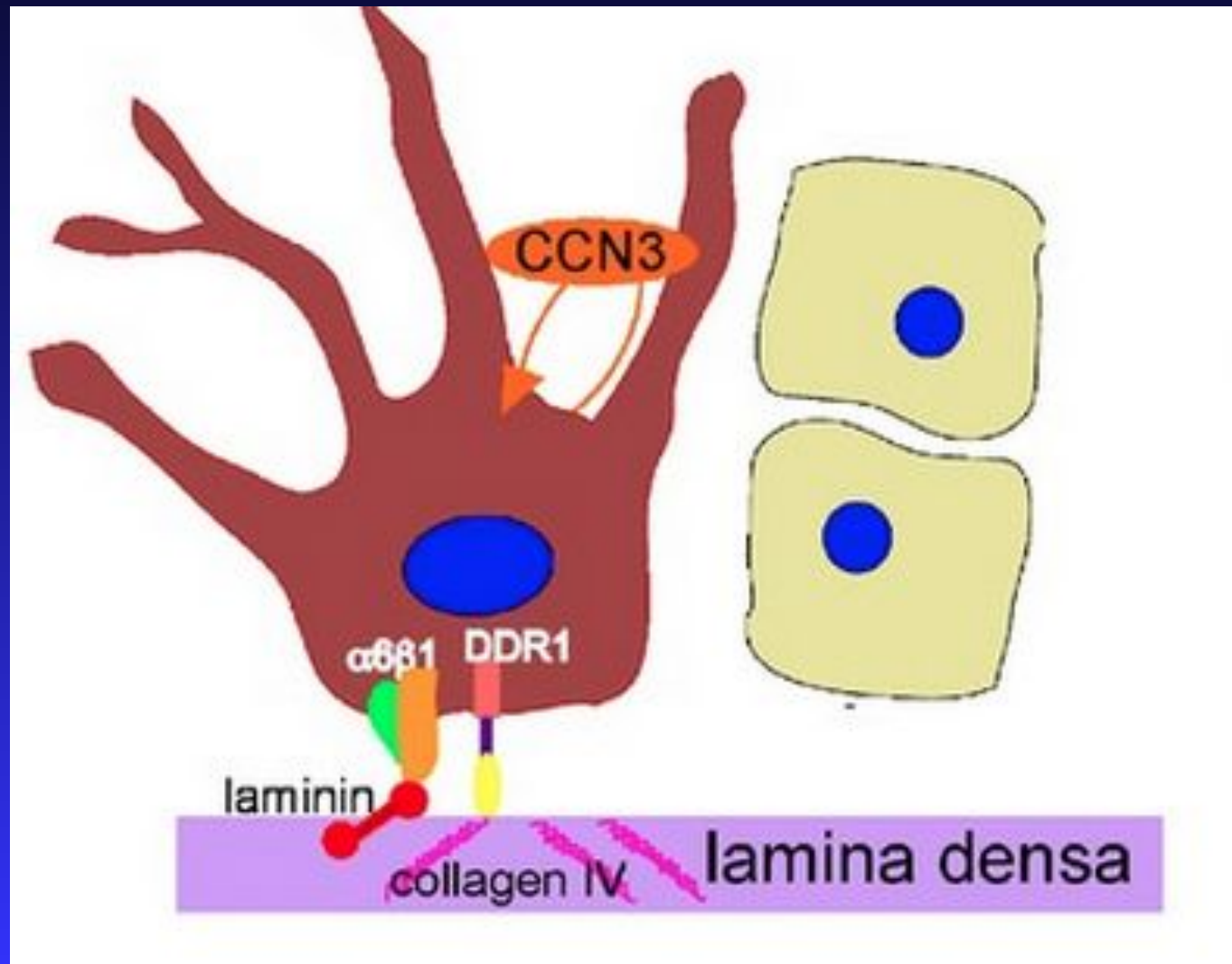


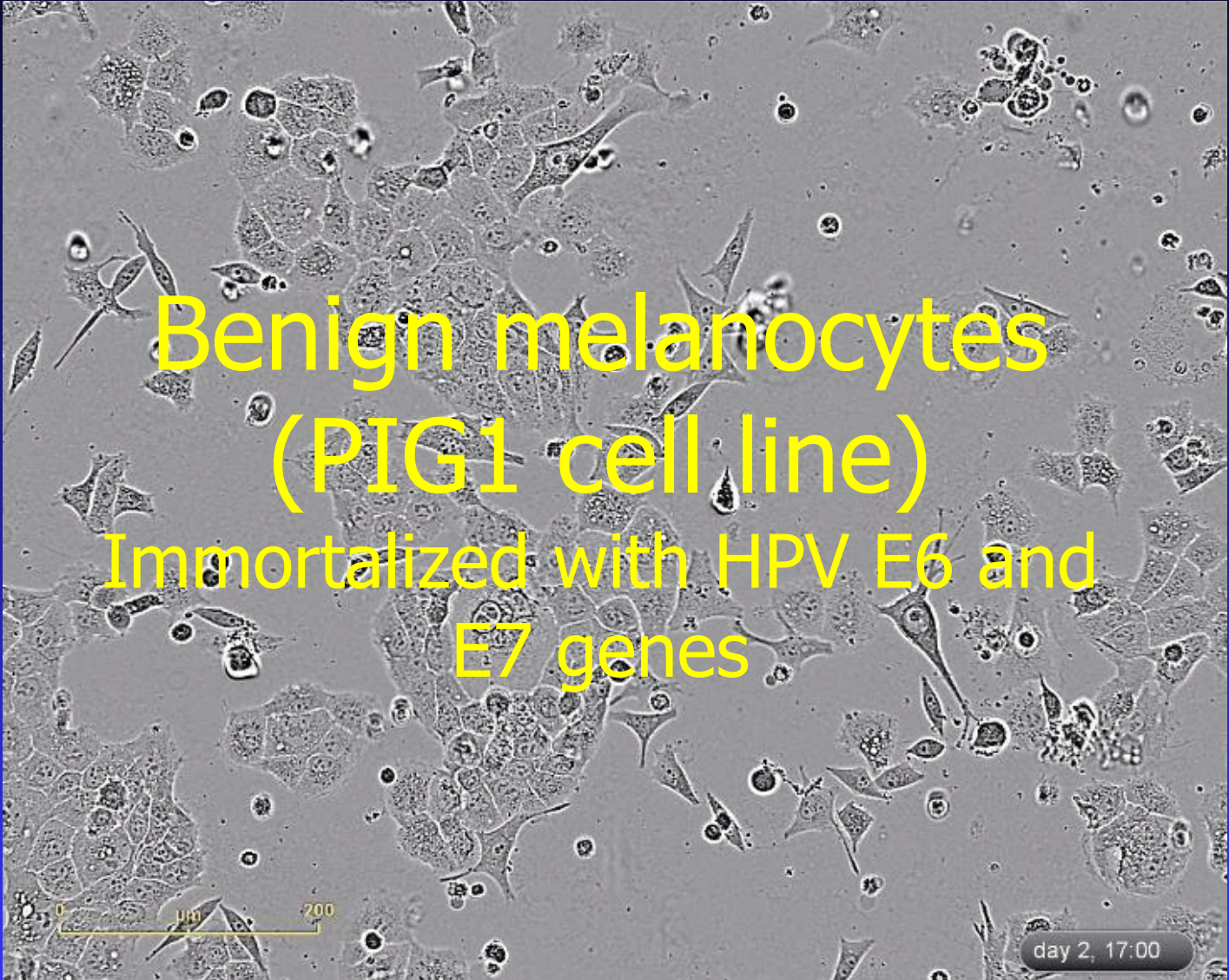


# Matrigel—In process of testing components

- Laminin
- Beta-NGF
- Nidogen-1/Entactin
- Heparan sulfate
- Collagen IV—No interaction

# Molecular

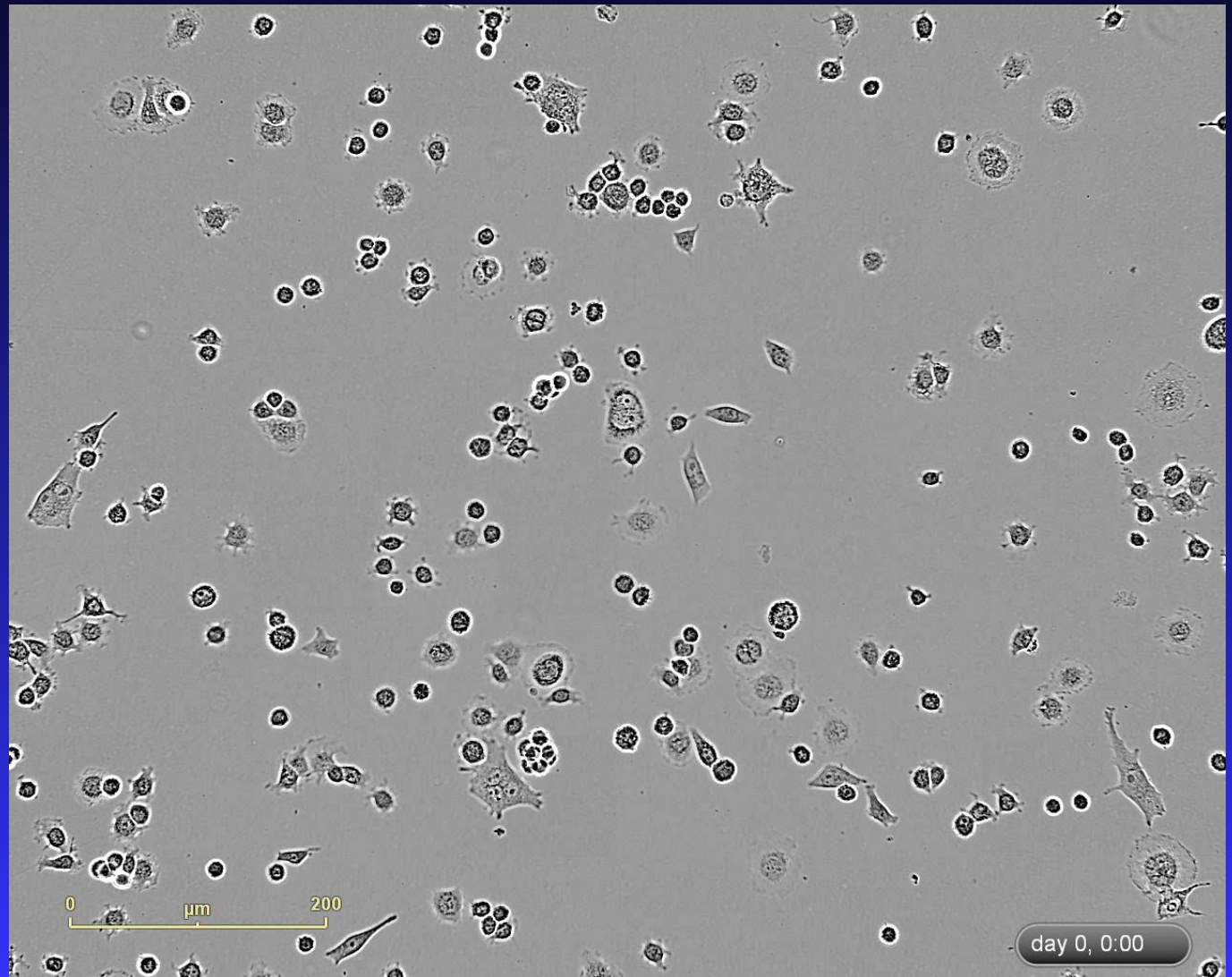


A phase-contrast micrograph showing a dense population of PIG1 melanocytes. The cells are mostly rounded with prominent nuclei and some show dendritic extensions. The background is a light gray, and the cells are darker. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 0, 100, and 200 micrometers. A timestamp at the bottom right reads 'day 2, 17:00'.

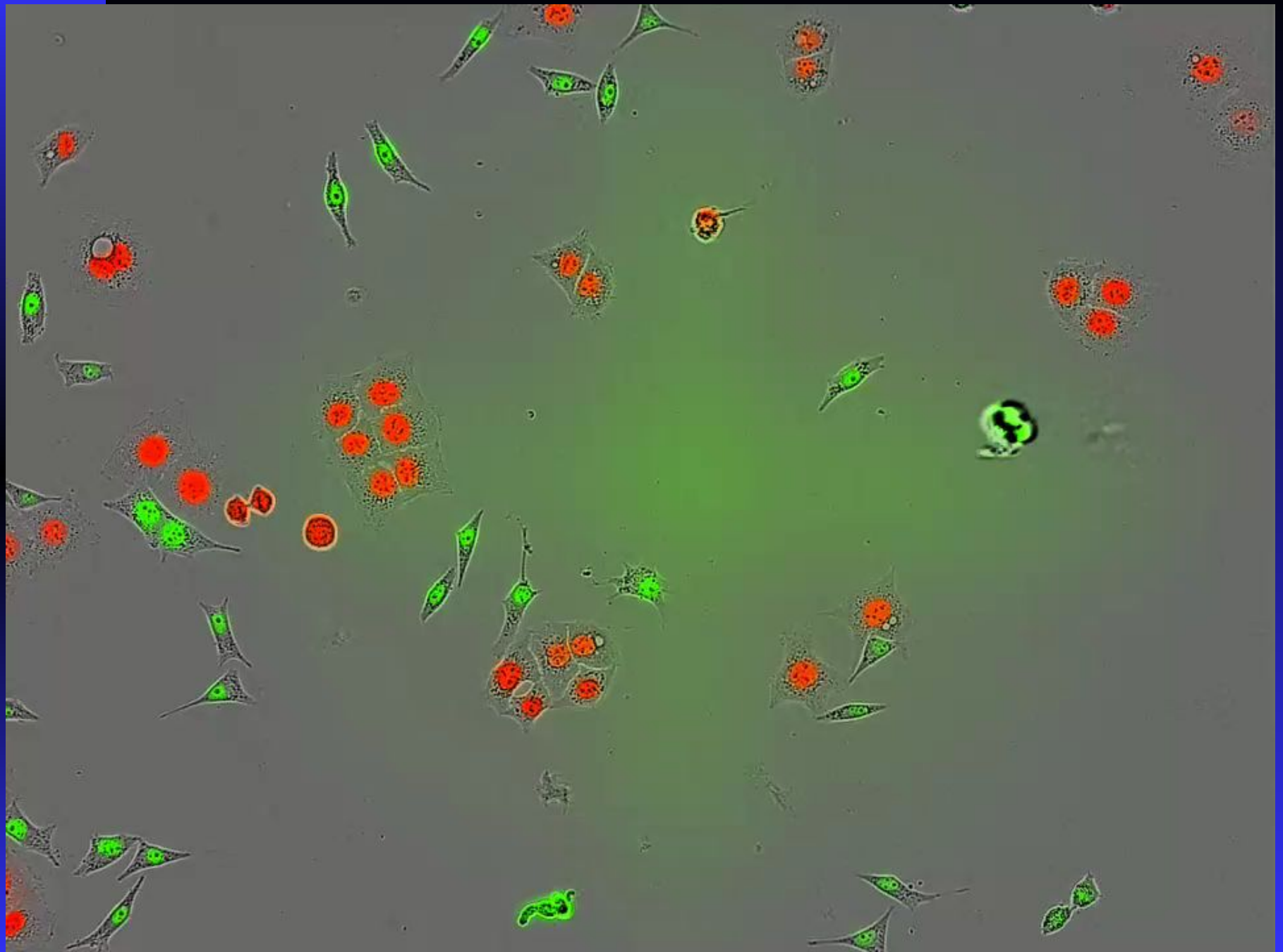
# Benign melanocytes (PIG1 cell line)

Immortalized with HPV E6 and  
E7 genes

# PIG1

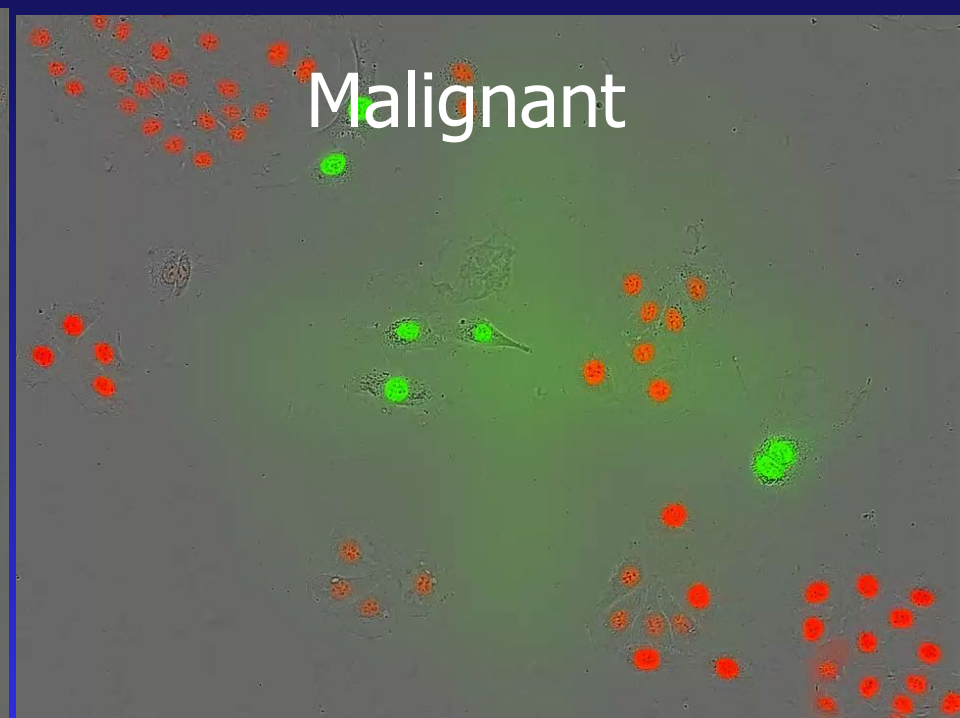
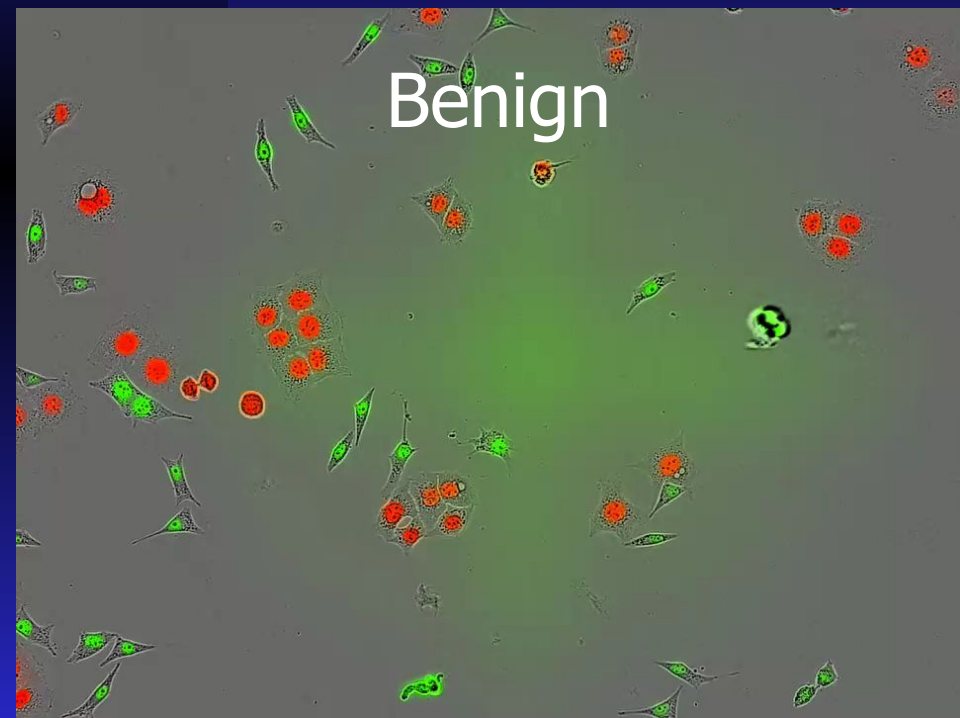








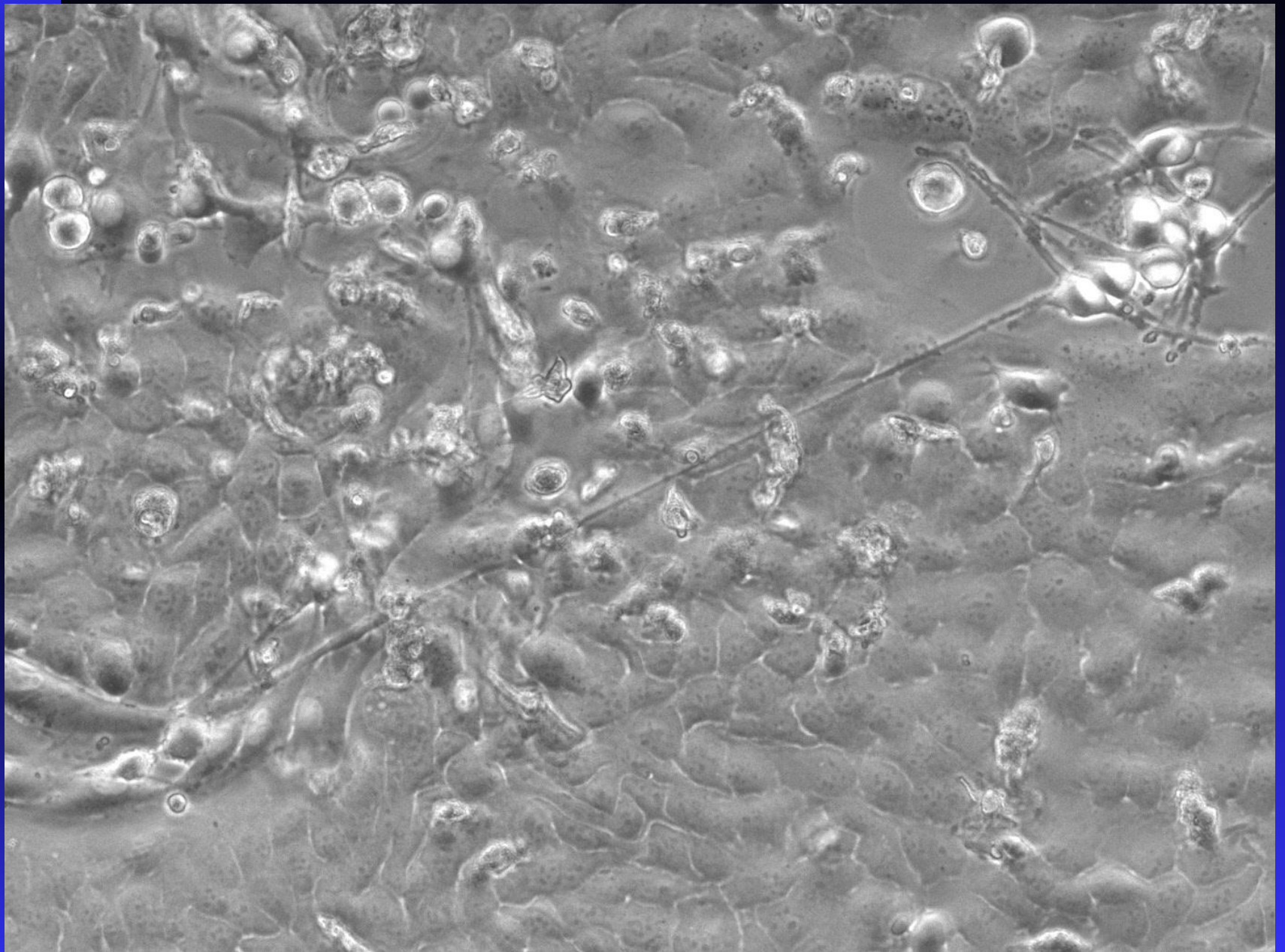
# Malignant melanocytes move more than benign melanocytes



# Co-culture Media

- Keratinocytes (HaCaT)—DMEM or EMEM with 10%FBS
- Melanocytes (Malignant)—EMEM10%FBS
- Melanocytes (Benign)—HAM F10, 7.5%FBS, Isobtyl-methylxanthin, PCN, sodium orthovanadate, cholera toxin, PMA (PIG1 media)

**3:1 EMEM10%FBS:PIG1**



# Plans for the Co-culture Model

- Define movement and interaction
  - ◆ Transfer or melanosomes (endocytosis?)
- Testing of agents
  - ◆ Inhibit
  - ◆ Stimulate
- Understanding cell-matrix (environment)



# Stimulation of Pigmentation

- Piperine

- ◆ Black pepper

- ◆ Unknown mechanism

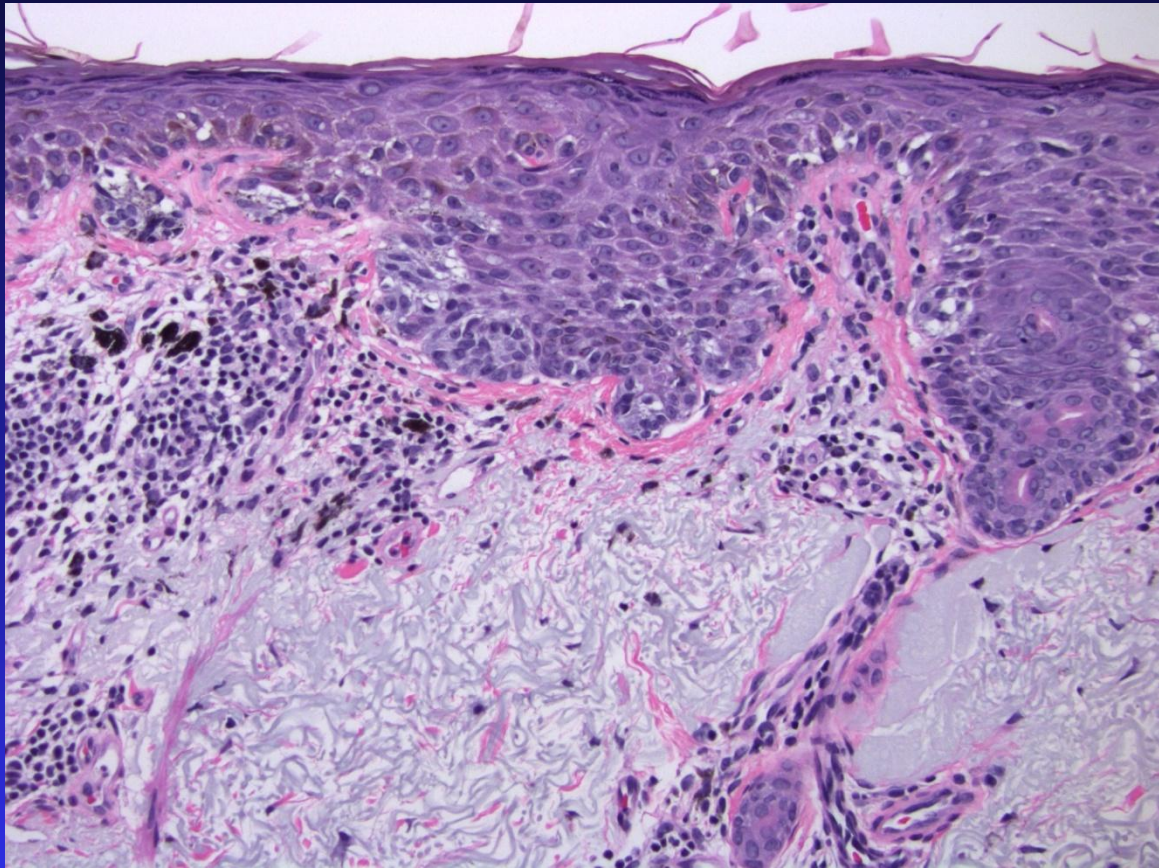
- ◆ Inhibition of CYP3A4, P-glycoprotein y “enzymes”

- ◆ Important in the metabolism and transportation of molecules.

# Types of melanoma

- Lentigo maligna—chronic sun—face/neck
- Superficial spreading--sunburns
- Nodular—sunburns
- Acral lentiginous—hand/foot—dark skin

# Lentigo Maligna (Melanoma in-situ)



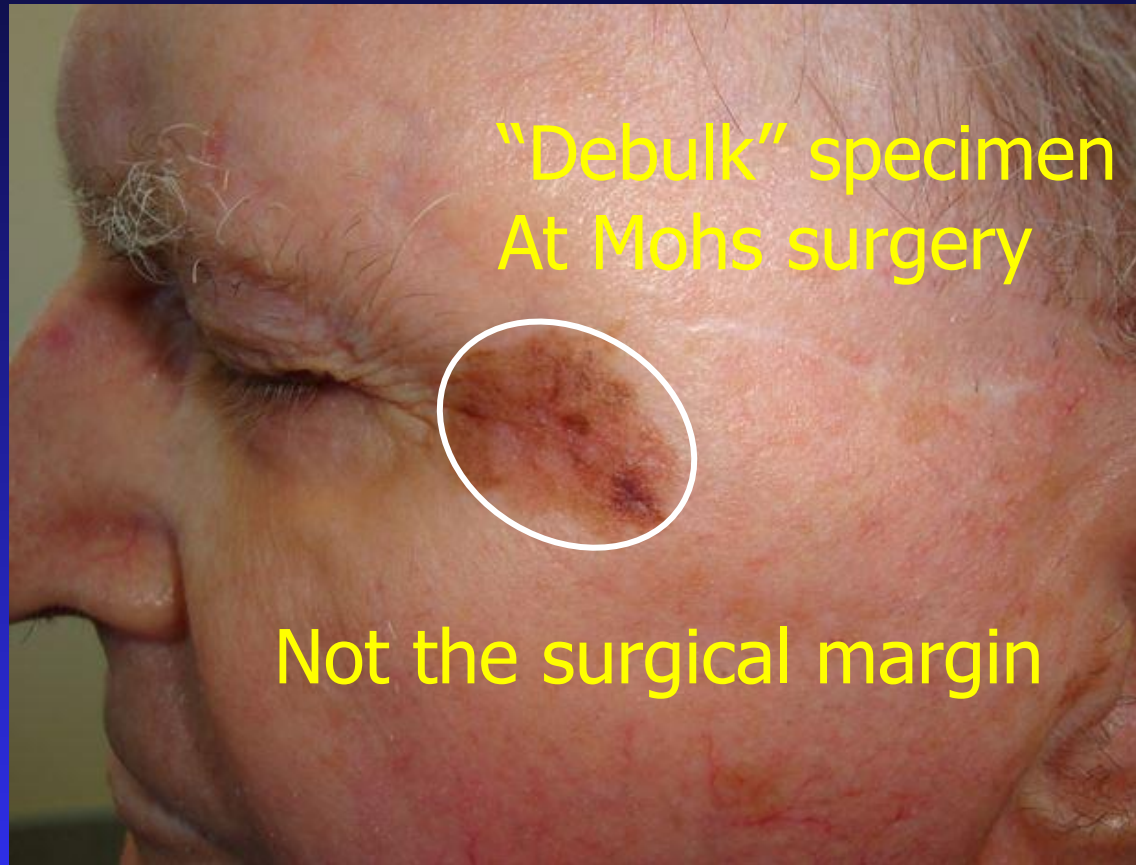
# Lentigo Maligna (Melanoma in-situ)

A malignant but benign tumor



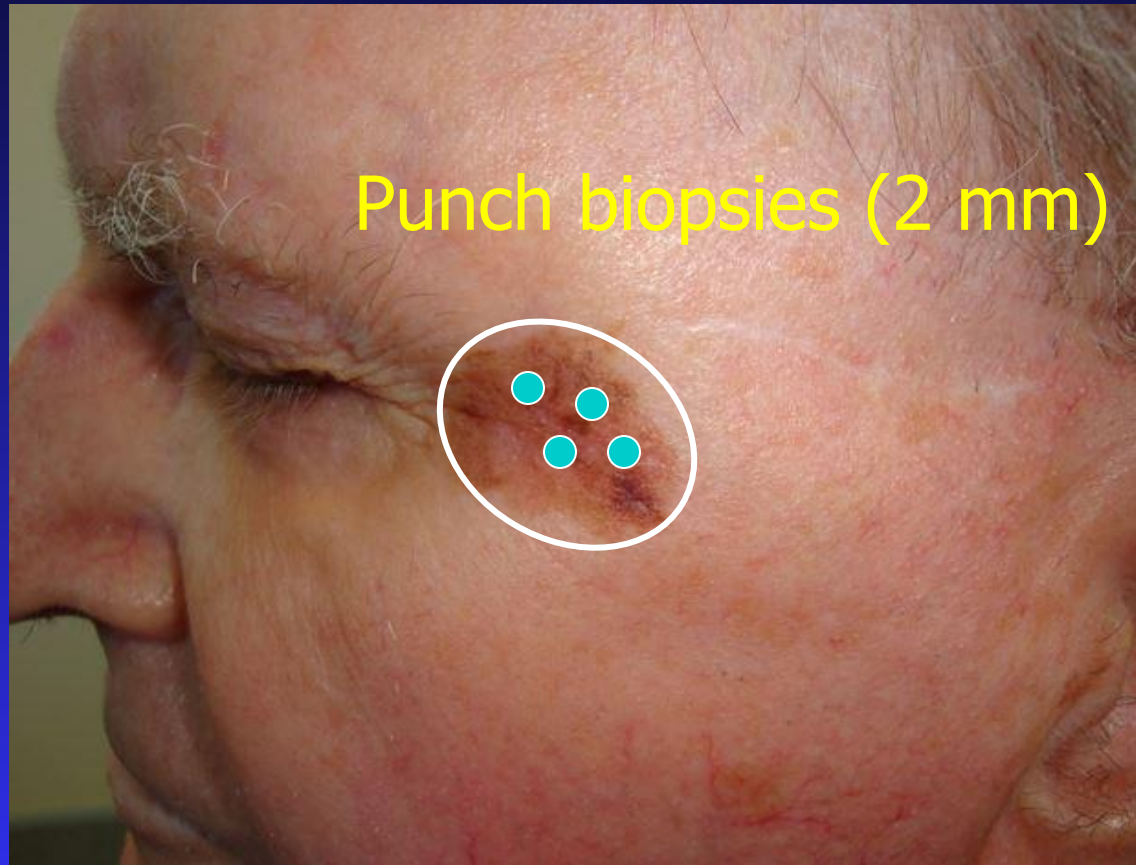


# Lentigo Maligna (Melanoma in-situ)



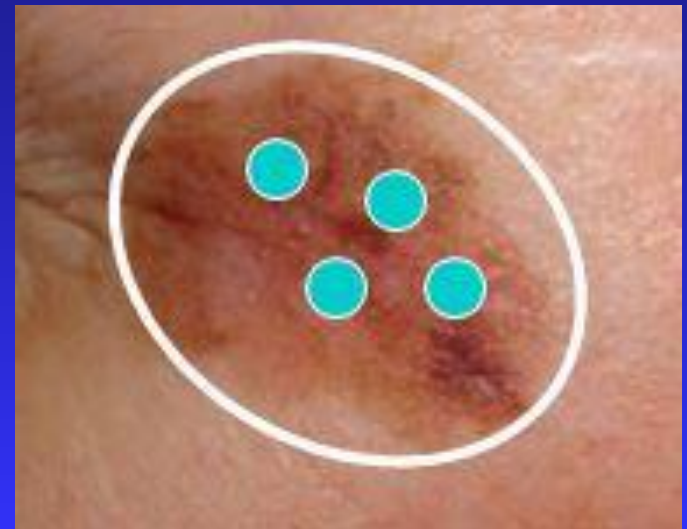
# Lentigo Maligna (Melanoma in-situ)

(Added to existing squamous cell carcinoma IRB of Molly Kulesz-Martin)



# Fresh tissue--MIS-LM—2 cases and normal control tissue

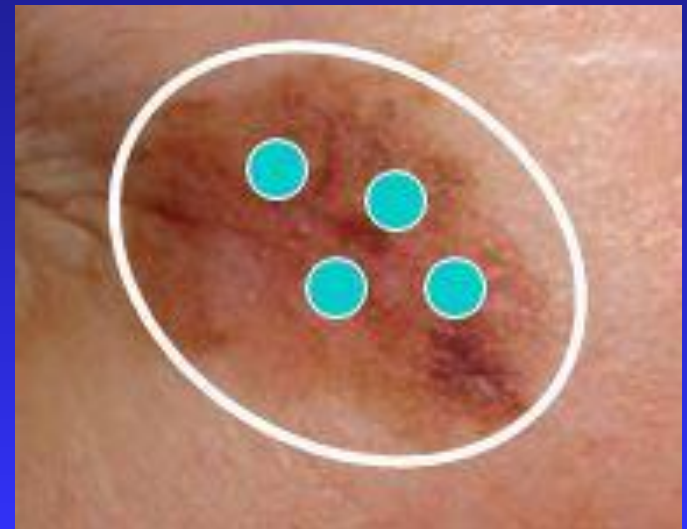
- Electron microscopy
  - ◆ Morphology
  - ◆ Immunomorphological
- Establish cell lines
- Frozen (OCT) specimen
- Pathology specimen



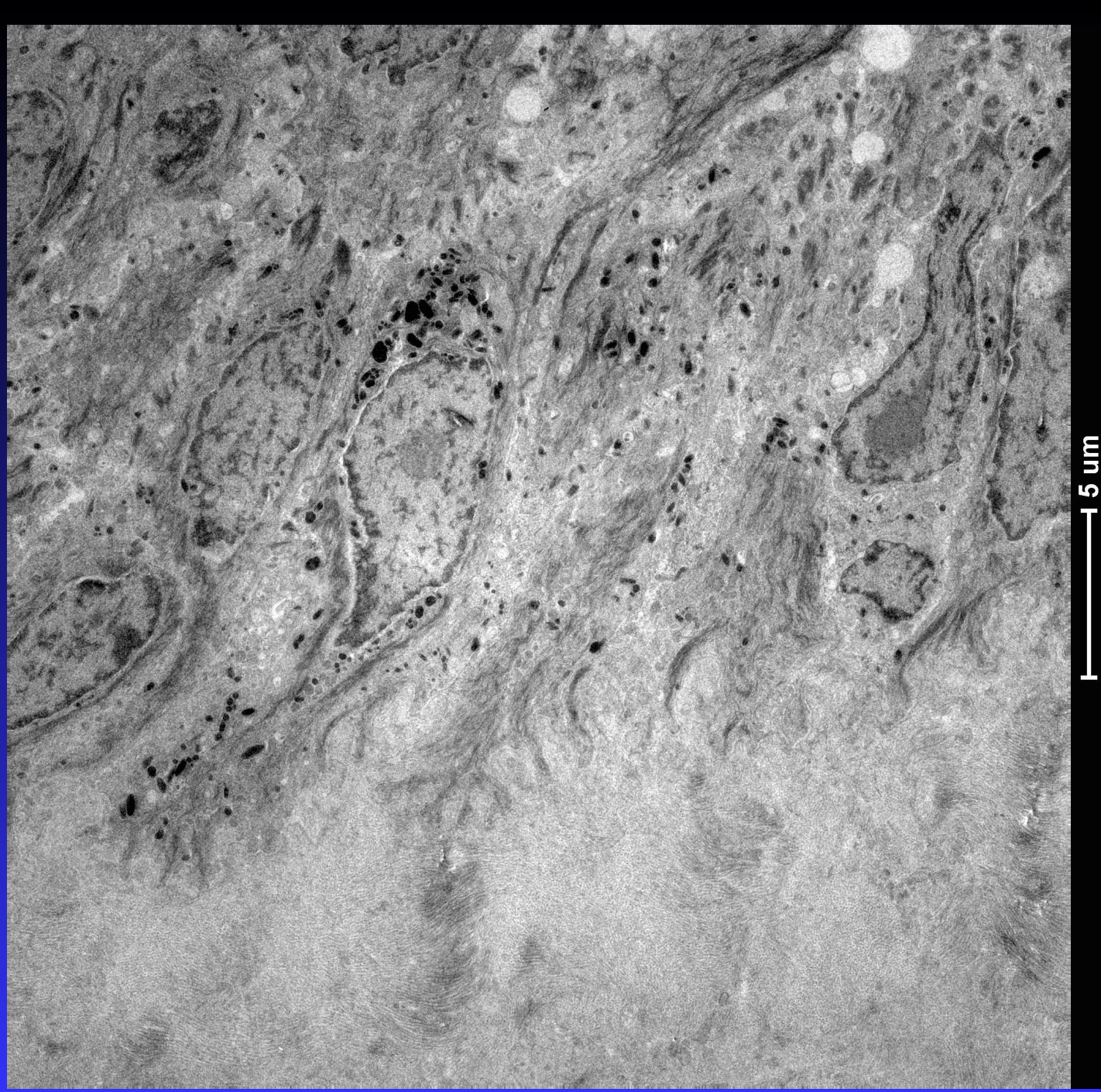
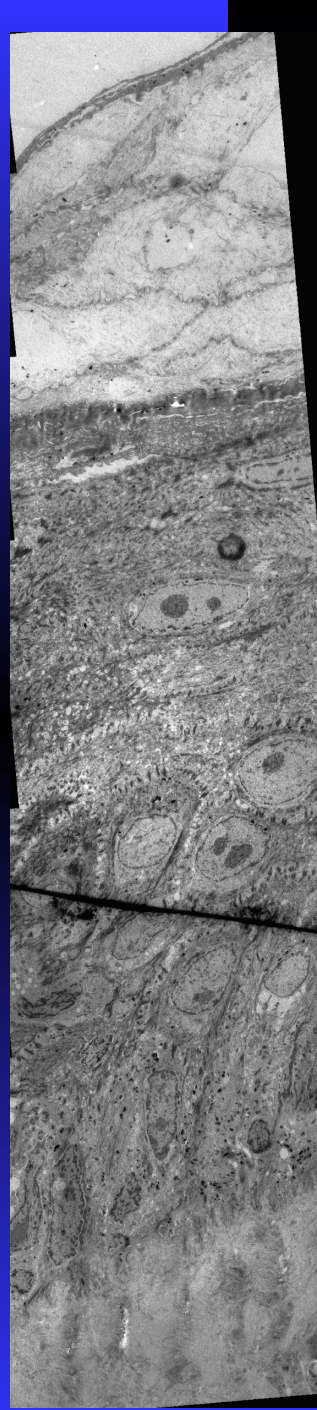
# Fresh tissue--MIS-LM—2 cases and normal control tissue

- Electron microscopy
  - ◆ Morphology
  - ◆ Immunomorphological
- Establish cell lines

**The only source of  
fresh tissue from  
melanoma**

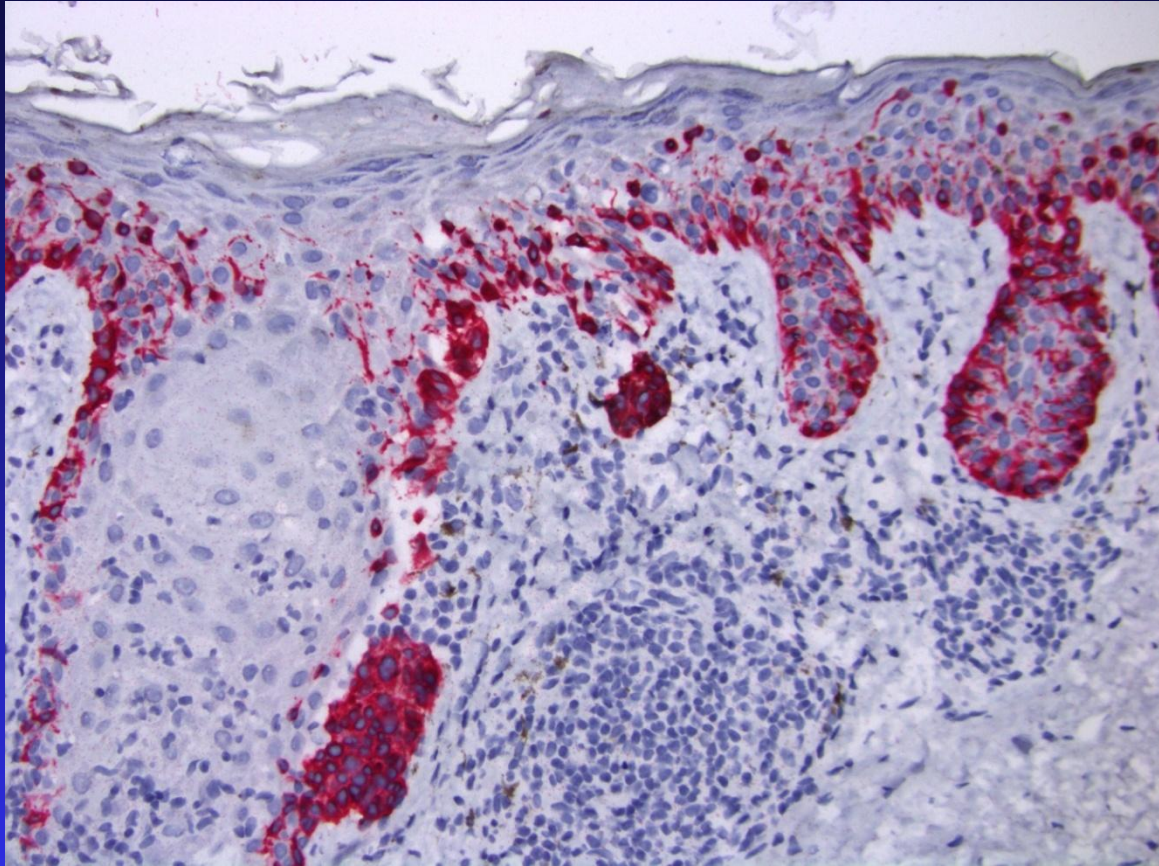








# Laser microdissection for DNA/RNA analysis—3 cases then expand



# Laser Microdissection



# What are we going to find?

- A single oncogenic mutation driving proliferation and movement?
  - ◆ CCN1/DDR3?
  - ◆ Upstream regulatory genes?
  - ◆ The “Usual players” in melanoma?



# Utility

- New treatments (topical)
  - ◆ Mechanism or to stop (or stimulate) movement and proliferation of the melanocytes.
- Development of agents that promote movement for repigmentation.
- Development of tests that can distinguish good MIS from bad MIS.

# Collaboration--Thanks

- Oregon Health & Science University
  - ◆ Biomedical Engineering
    - ◆ Danielle Jorgen, Brett Johnson, Tiera Liby, and Joe Gray.
  - ◆ Dermatology
    - ◆ Pamela Cassidy, Sancy Leachman, Molly Kulecz-Martin, Anna Bar, Justin Leitenberger
  - ◆ Amala Soumyanath, Nupur Pande, and Philippe Thuillier (Neurology and Dermatology)
  - ◆ Pathology
    - ◆ Nastaran Neishaboori
- St. Pierre University Hospital
  - ◆ Athanssios Kolivras