The background of the slide is a reproduction of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It depicts the hand of God on the right reaching towards the hand of Adam on the left, with a small gap between their fingers. The text is overlaid on this image.

Creation, Evolution and the Seventh-day Adventist Church

A Critical View of Creation and Evolution

Three Key Questions for Adventist Christians

- Why is there controversy on origins?
- What is the cost of accepting evolution?
Can I believe in evolution and also believe in God?
- How can we respond to the hard issues of origins?

WHY IS THERE CONTROVERSY ON ORIGINS?

- ✘ Cosmic – Isa 14:12-14
- ✘ Corporate – Rev 3:14-16
- ✘ Personal – 1 Peter 5:8
- ✘ Prophetic – Romans 1:20-25,
2 Peter 3:3-6



Three Key Questions

- Why is there controversy on origins?
- What is the cost of accepting evolution?
Can I believe in evolution and also believe in God?
- How can we respond to the hard issues of origins?

Worship

- Issue – Matt 4:8-10
- Basis – Exodus 20
- Exodus 31
- Neh. 9: 5,6
- Psalm 33:6-9
- Psalm 95, 100
- Acts 4:23,24
- Acts 14:11-15
- Acts 17: 24-27
- Rev 4:10-11



Salvation and Redemption

- Issue: Romans 5:18, 19
- Redemption: To **recover ownership** of by paying a specified sum. (Isa. 52:3)
 - Isaiah 43:1, 44:22-24, 54:5
 - Isa 43:11-14,
 - John 1:1-12
 - Col. 1: 13-16
- Salvation: Ps 95: 1-7, 96:2-6 Isa 43:1-3
 - ISA 45:8-12, 17-19;
- Sanctification: Exodus 31:12,13

Integrity and Authority

- Exodus 31:12-18
 - God's integrity
 - Moses' integrity
 - Integrity of Revelation
- Isaiah 29:15,16, 45:9-19,
 - Romans 9: 20,21
- Jeremiah 27: 4-6
- Col 1:15-18



OUR POSITION AS SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHRISTIANS

- ✘ There is only one position we can take that preserves our faith intact: belief in:
 - + a literal fiat creation of the surface of the earth and the life forms on it.
 - + in seven days of ~24 hours
 - + a few thousand years ago
 - + a perfect world with a perfect Adam and Eve
 - + followed by the fall
 - + and later a catastrophic global flood that purified and reformed the surface of the whole earth.
- ✘ just the story we read in Genesis.
- ✘ This is the message our church has been called into existence to proclaim:
 - + Rev 10:5, 6 – two parts.
 - + Rev 14: 6, 7 – two parts.
- ✘ Historically we have had an impact.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS AND CREATION

- ✘ Special seminar on creationism at annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Two separate speakers named and figured this person as individual responsible more than any other for the modern creationist movement



SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS AND CREATION

- ✘ Special seminar on creationism at annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Two separate speakers named and figured Ellen G. White as individual responsible more than any other for the modern creationist movement



Three Key Questions

- Why is there controversy on origins?
- What is the cost of accepting evolution?
Can I believe in evolution and also believe in God?
- How can we respond to the hard issues of origins?

THERE ARE ISSUES THAT CHALLENGE THE CONCEPT OF A FIAT CREATION

- ✗ Radiometric dating
- ✗ Other dating methods
- ✗ Fossil record
 - + Orderly fossil record
 - + Hominid record
 - + Etc.

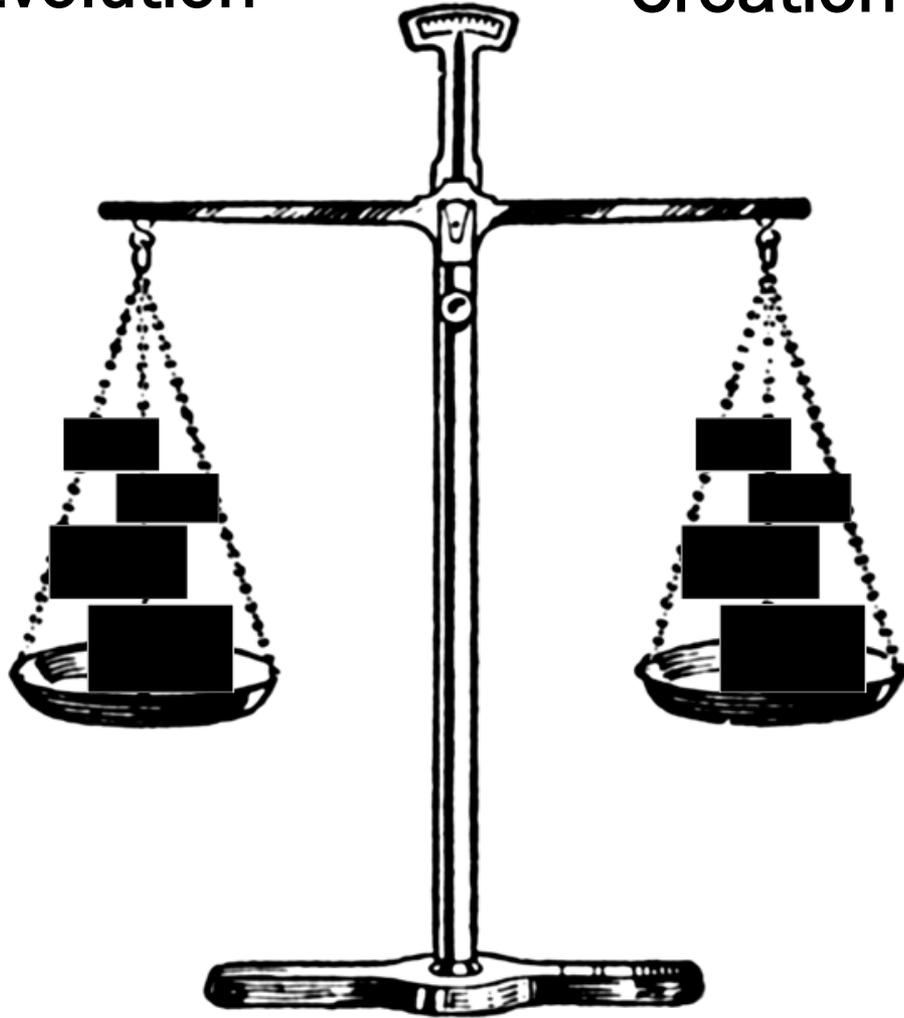
THERE ARE ISSUES THAT SUPPORT THE CONCEPT OF A FIAT CREATION

- ✘ Origin of life
- ✘ Fossil record
 - + Sudden appearances
 - + General absence of intermediate forms
- ✘ Sedimentology and Catastrophism
 - + Evidence of extraordinary events.
 - + General lack of evidence for time.
- ✘ Molecular biology

WHAT SCIENCE TELLS US:

Evolution

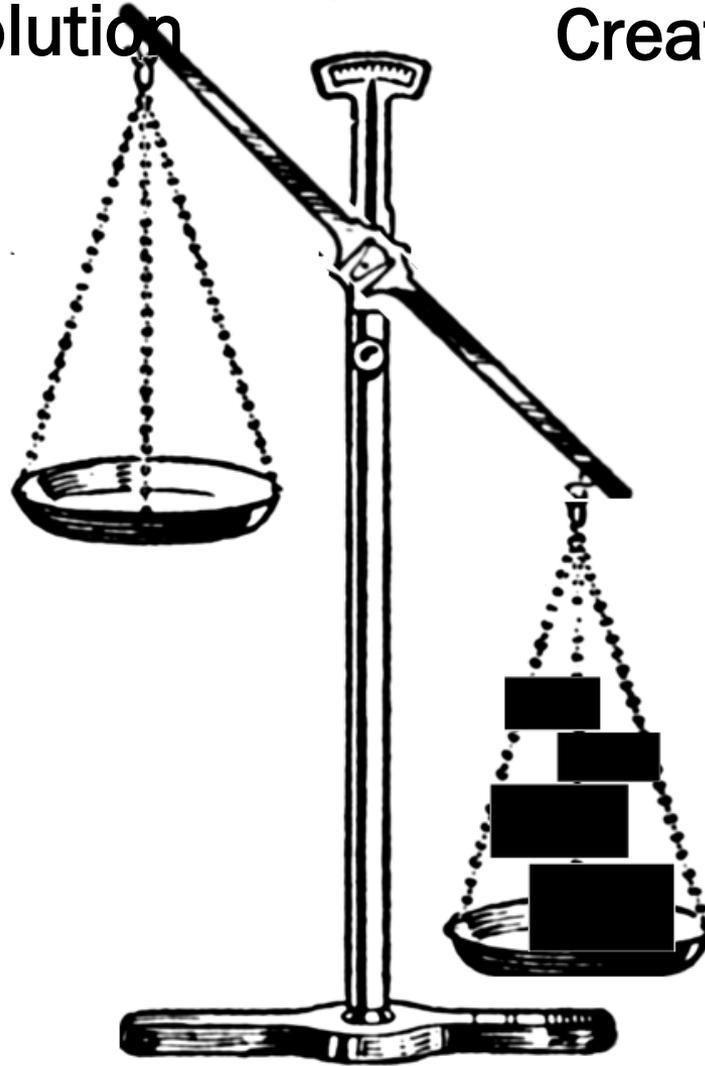
Creation



WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE: (?)

Evolution

Creation



...OR THIS:

Evolution

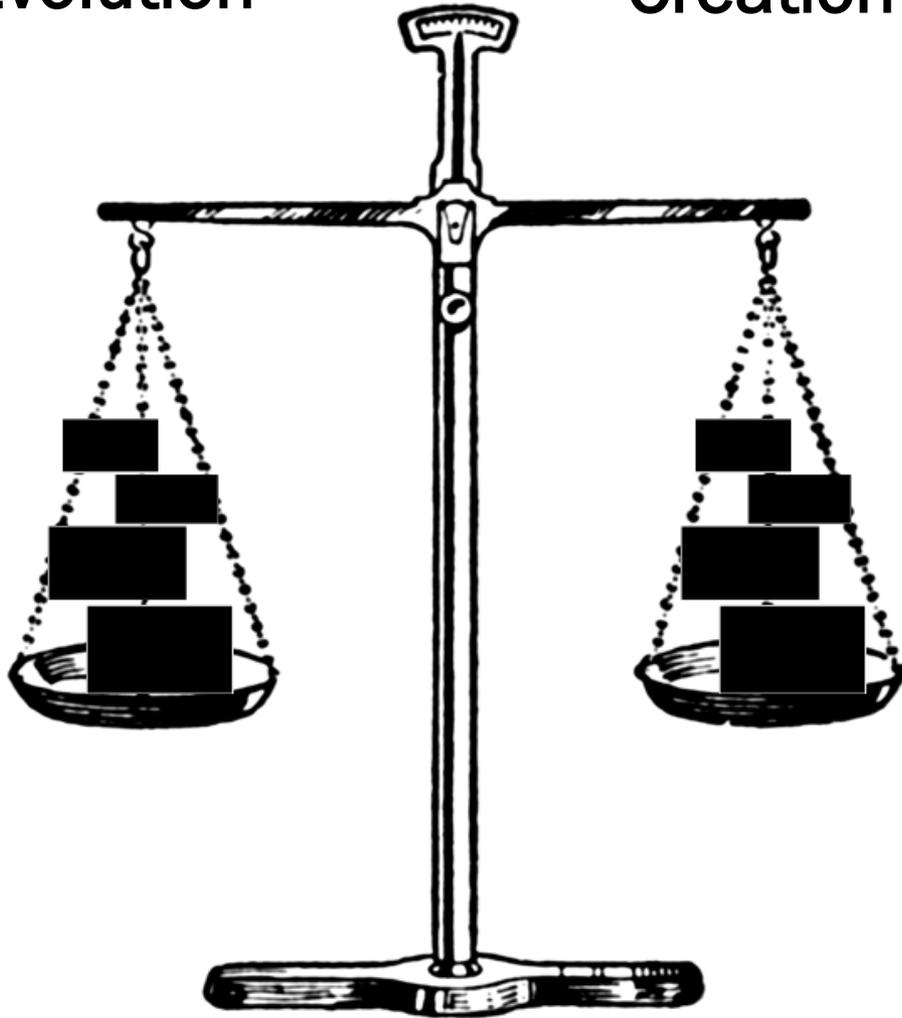
Creation



WHAT WE SEE:

Evolution

Creation



CONCLUSION:

$$A = B$$

$$\cancel{A} = \cancel{B}$$

Therefore:

For those who know the science, the decision about origins is always going to be based upon something other than science.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS AND CREATION

- ✘ So then, why do we hear of people in our own midst that reject the message of Creation? They may reject belief in Biblical creation on a variety of grounds, but often it is because of their (mis)understanding of the science and theology.
- ✘ Subsequently, they may reject their Adventist faith entirely. That would be sad, but consistent with their decision.
- ✘ All too often, they seem to lack the courage to follow where their convictions lead. Perhaps they were raised in the Adventist Church and want to continue to associate with their friends. Or perhaps they are employed by the Church and are afraid they would lose their jobs if their true beliefs were known. Or something else....

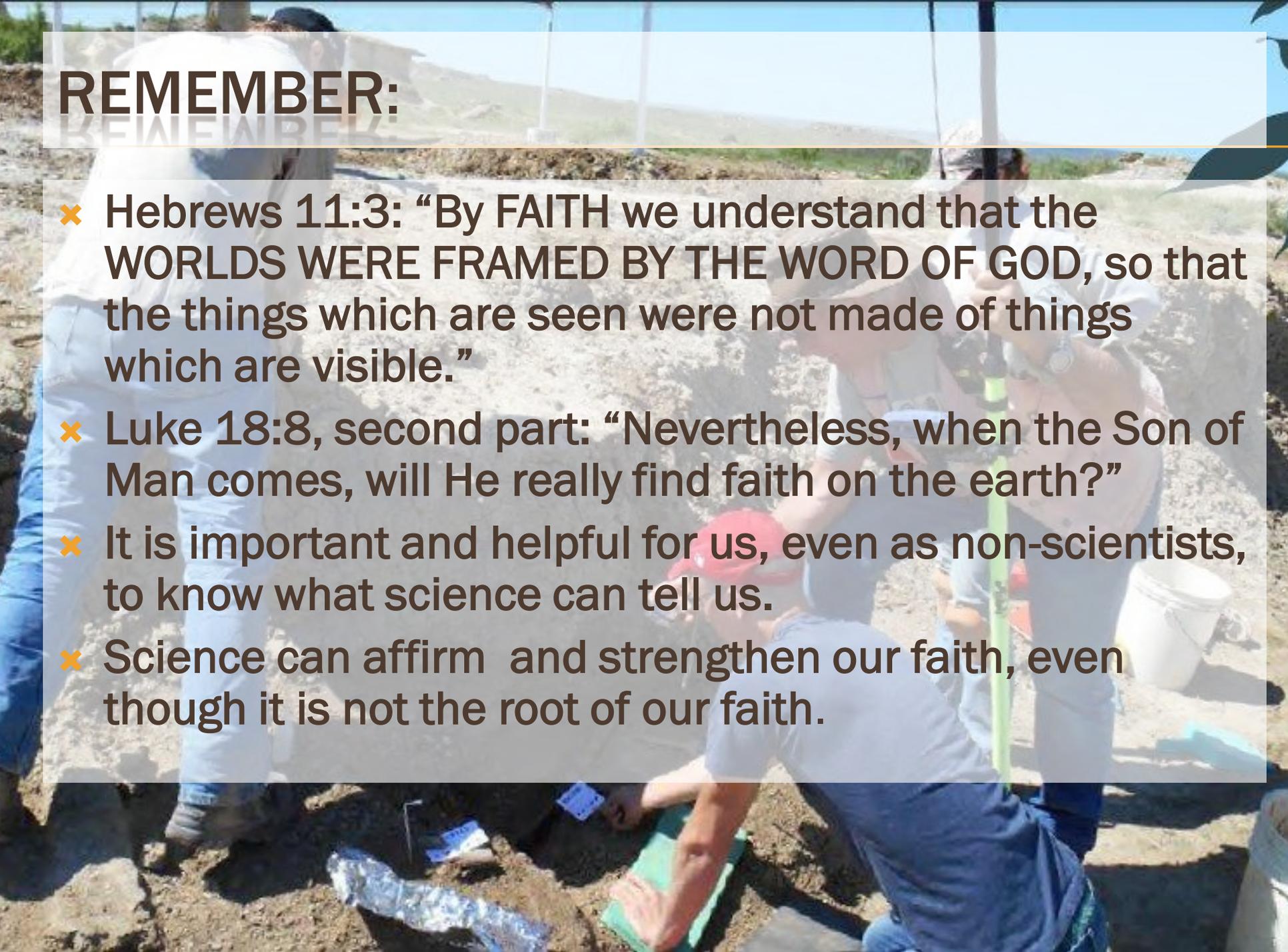
SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS AND CREATION

- ✘ They may rationalize something like this:
 - + “The time and ‘how’ of Creation is not essential to be a Christian, but the belief in Christ and his Resurrection is paramount and all that is needed.”
 - Or
 - + “The Genesis text is poetry, not meant to be read historically.”
 - Or
 - + “The Genesis text is prose meant to be read as an accurate historical record, but it is contradictory and incoherent and the author(s) was mistaken.”
 - Or
 - + “There are two accounts of creation: Genesis 1 and 2. Which one do we believe?”
- ✘ Unfortunately they often become evangelists for their new-found faith. If they are teachers of our youth, that can spell disaster.
- ✘ To confront these issues, we must be prepared.

WHAT NOW?

- ✘ As laity, we must do everything we can to resist the advance of evolution and to promote the truth about our Creator God.
- ✘ The church will not be changed from the top. It must be changed from within. That is us.
- ✘ We must be vigilant in choosing who will educate our children, in science and in theology.
- ✘ We must carefully screen the pastors of our churches.
- ✘ We must raise our voices to protect our children from those who would promote an evolutionary view.
- ✘ We must pray that God will vindicate His name.

REMEMBER:

The background image shows an archaeological excavation site. In the foreground, a person wearing a red hard hat and a blue shirt is kneeling and working with a green mat on the ground. To their right, another person in a blue shirt is standing and holding a long green level. In the background, a person in a white shirt and blue cap is standing near a large white bag. The site is outdoors with a clear blue sky and some vegetation in the distance.

- ✘ Hebrews 11:3: “By FAITH we understand that the WORLDS WERE FRAMED BY THE WORD OF GOD, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.”
- ✘ Luke 18:8, second part: “Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”
- ✘ It is important and helpful for us, even as non-scientists, to know what science can tell us.
- ✘ Science can affirm and strengthen our faith, even though it is not the root of our faith.



Compelling Evidence for Design in Nature:

Why evolution is not a candidate



Proterozoic

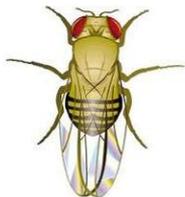
Phanerozoic



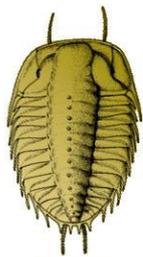
Annelida



Mollusca



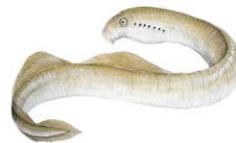
Arthropoda



Trilobitomorpha



Echinodermata



Agnatha



Gnathostomata



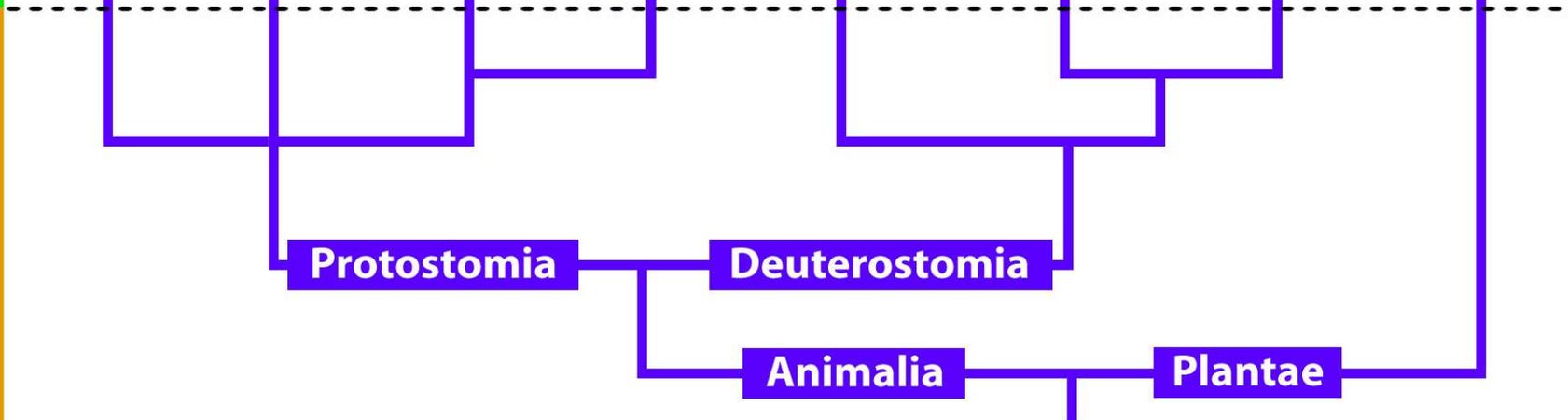
Plantae

Protostomia

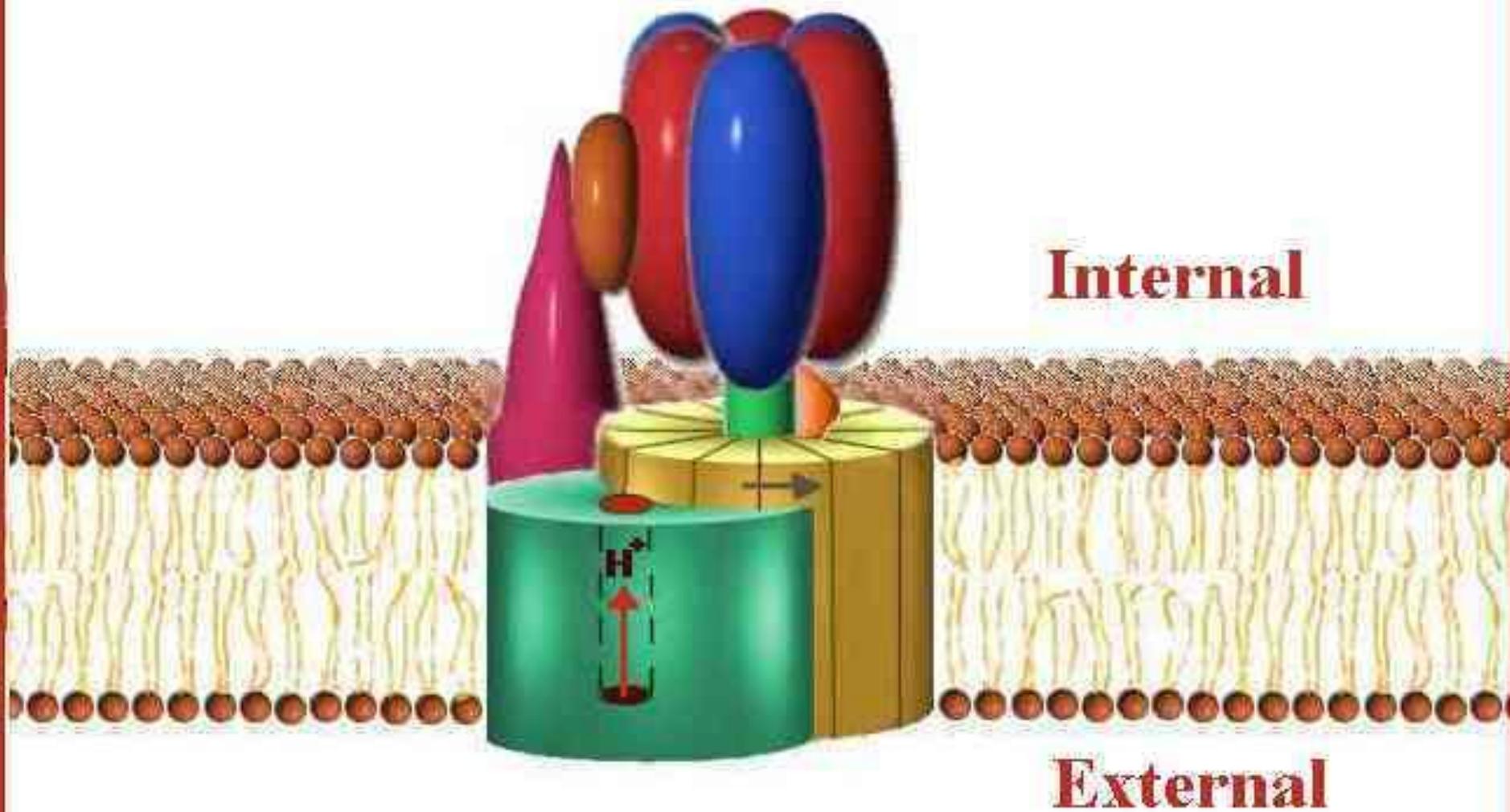
Deuterostomia

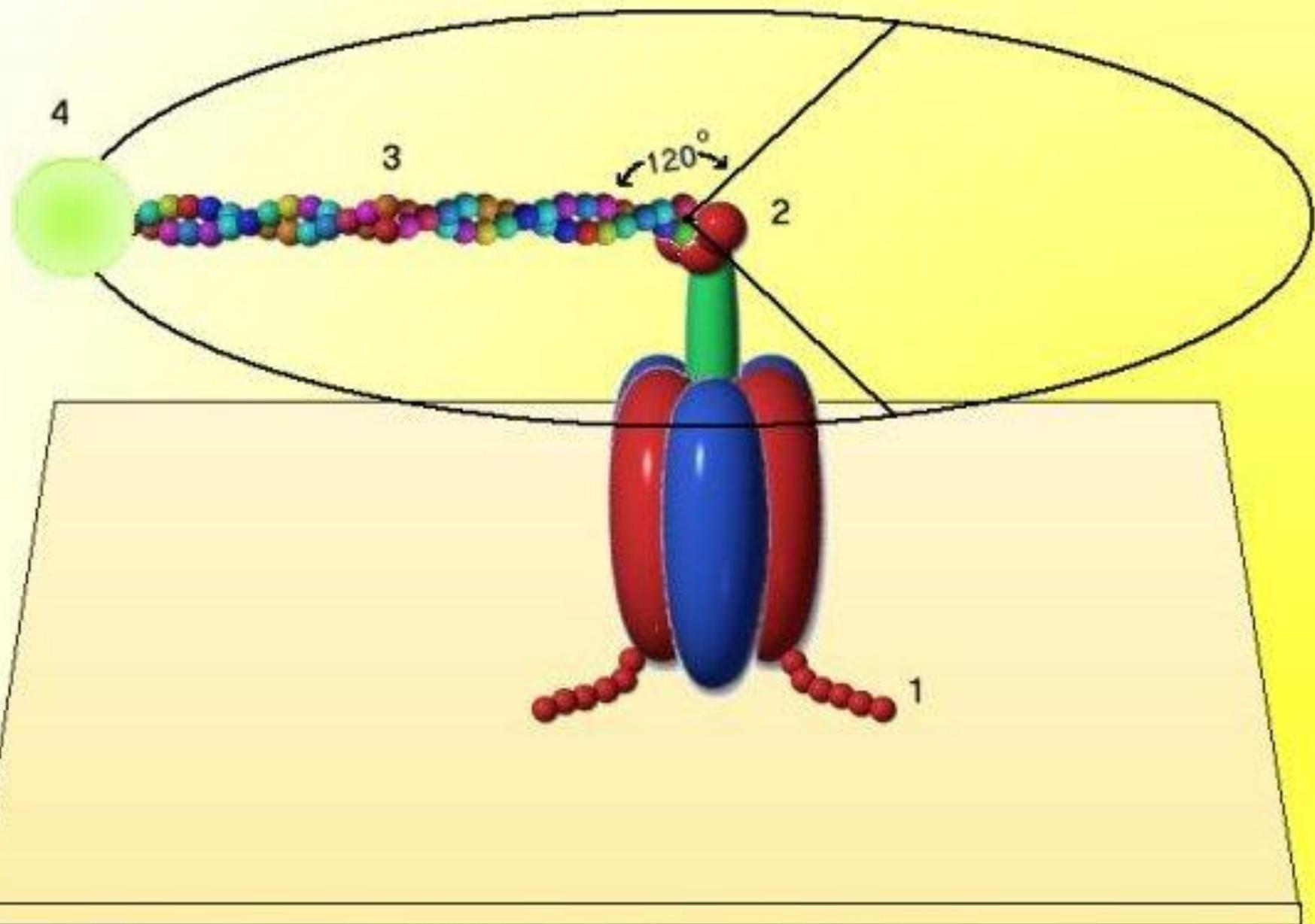
Animalia

Plantae



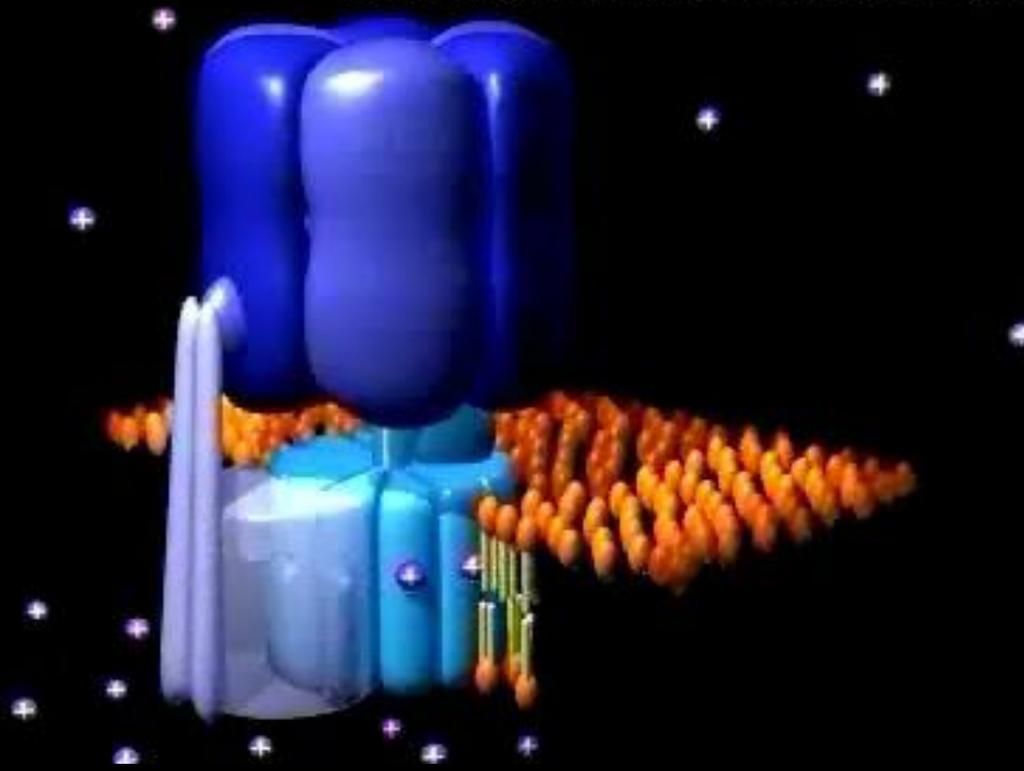
ATP Synthase Complex







W. Junge, Bereiter-Hahn & IWF (1999)



Chromatids

Kinetochores



Microtubules





1



2



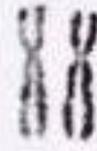
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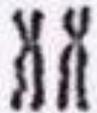
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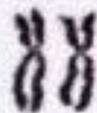
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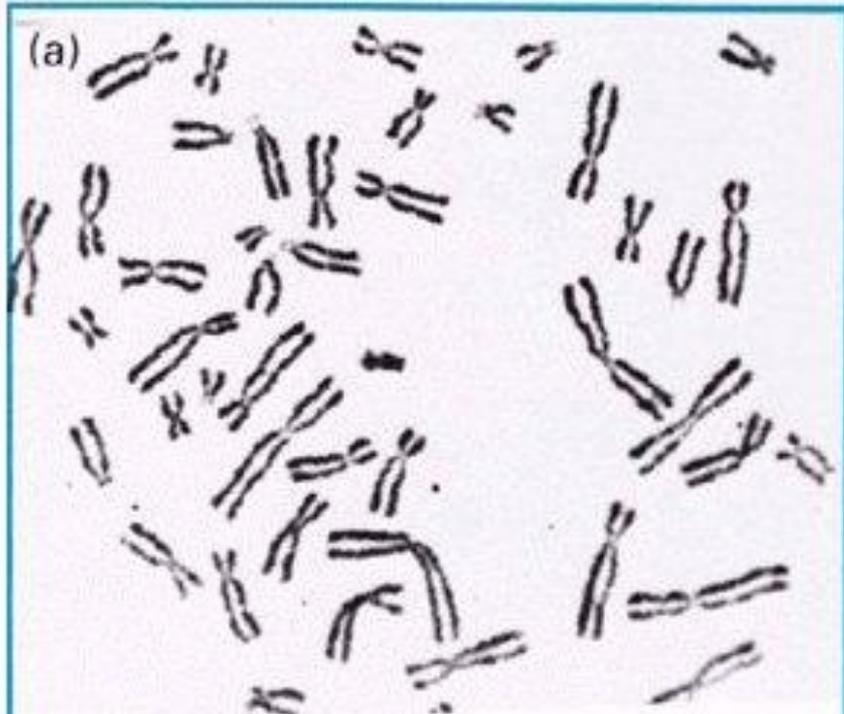
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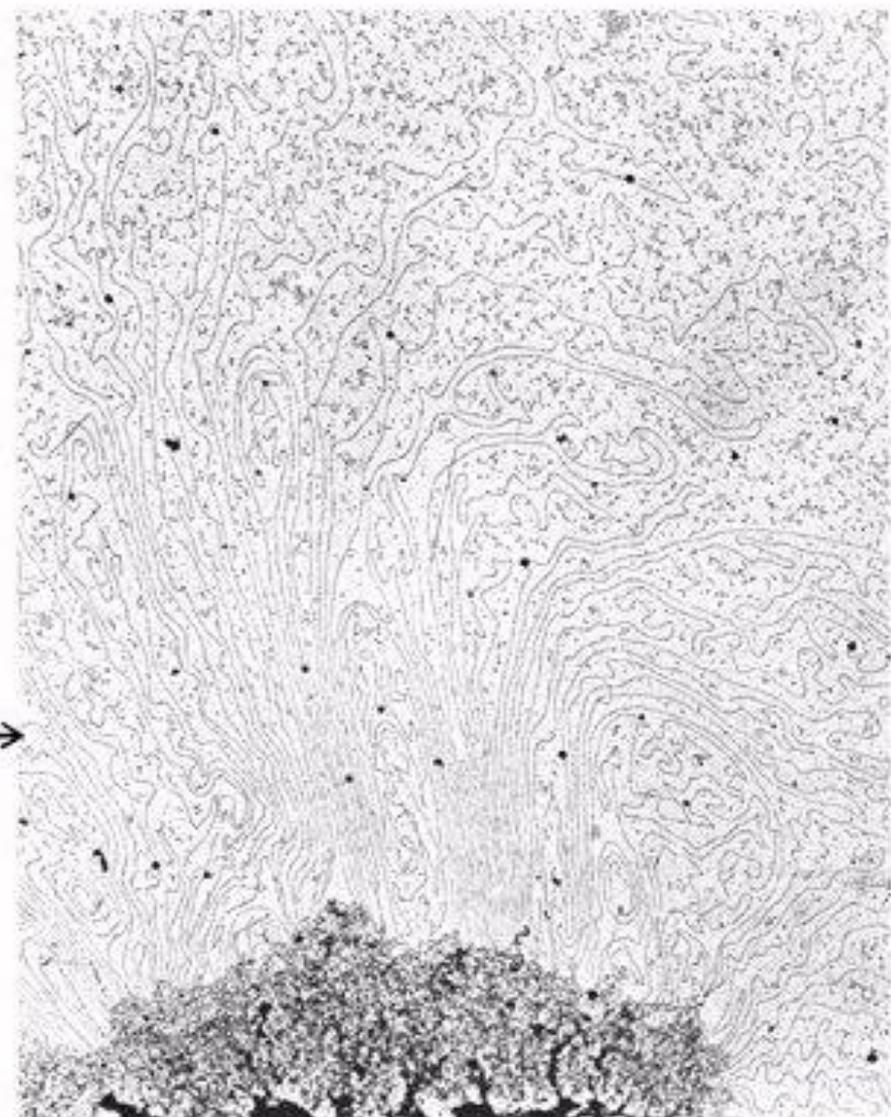
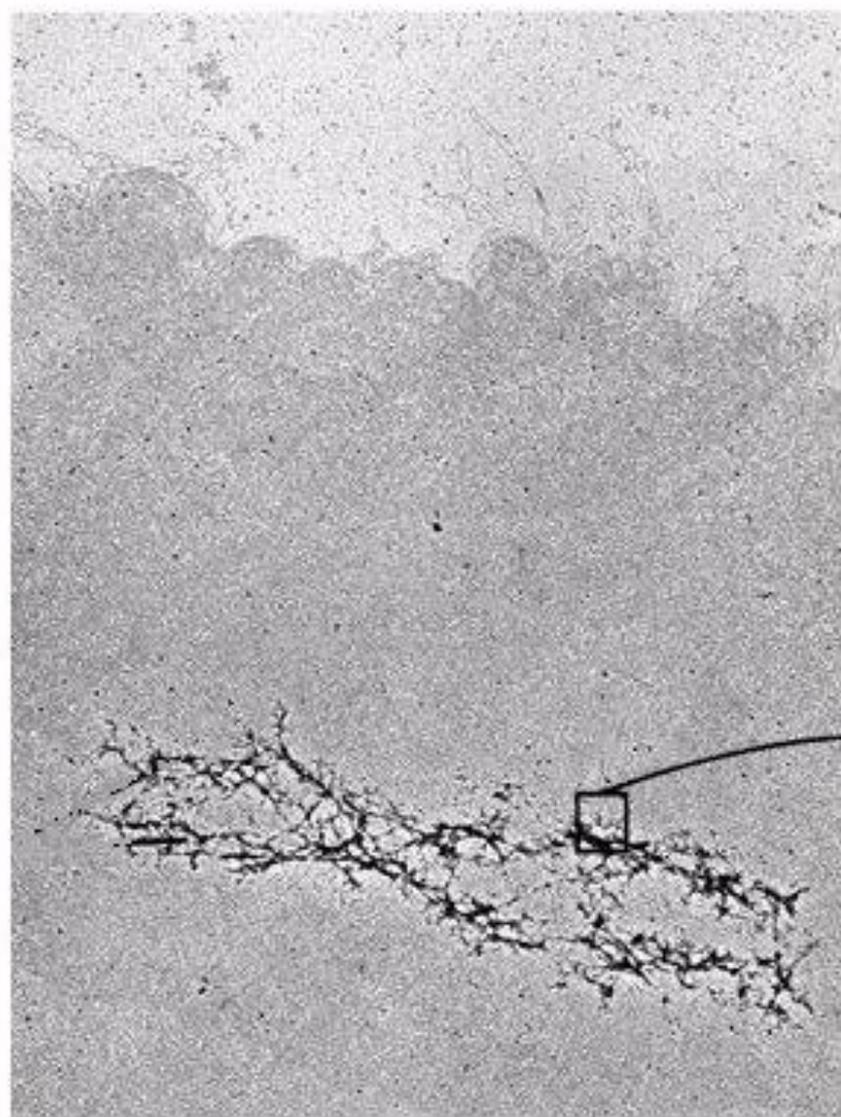
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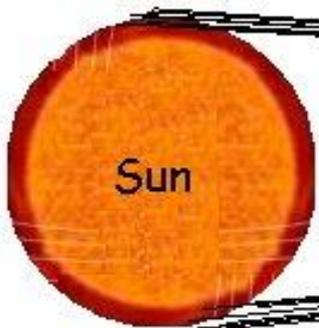


22



Y





Sun

Length of DNA in Nucleus

Nucleus

Earth

12,800 Km.

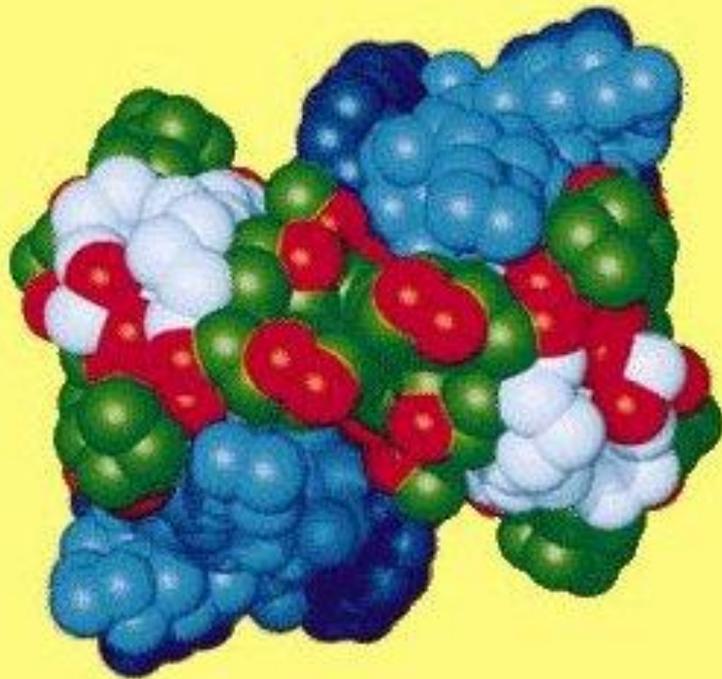
150,000,000 Km.



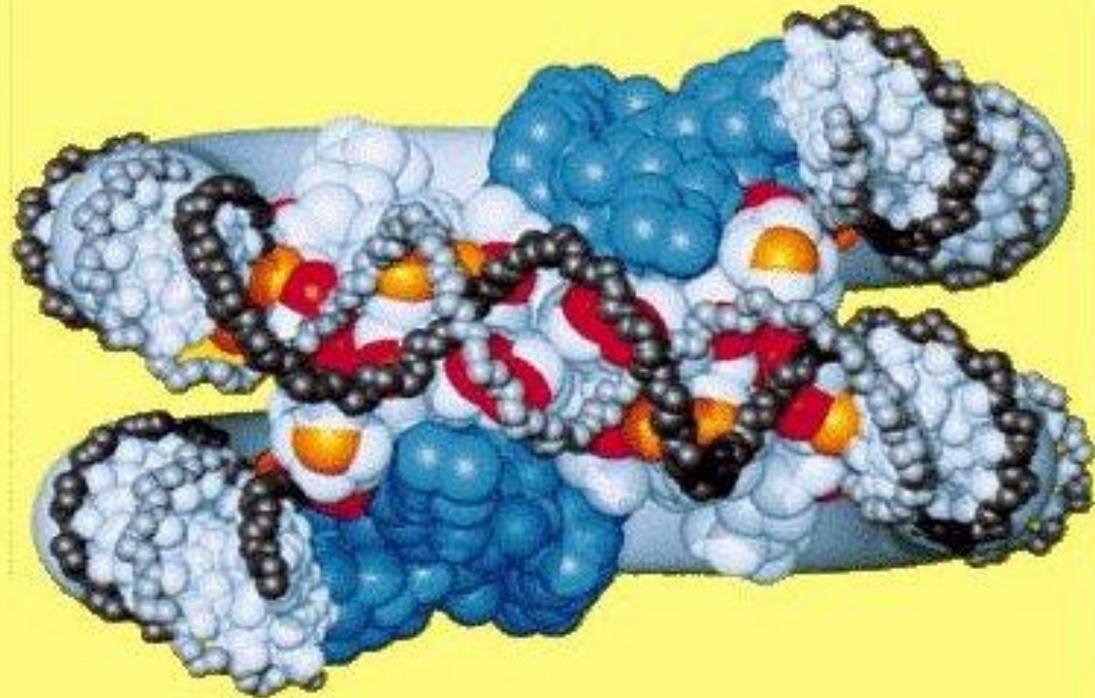
Molecular visualizations of

DNA

2. DNA Replication



**Histone
Octamer**



Nucleosome

Molecular visualizations of

DNA

1. *DNA Wrapping*



1



2



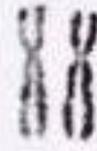
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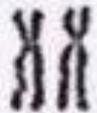
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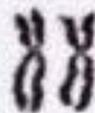
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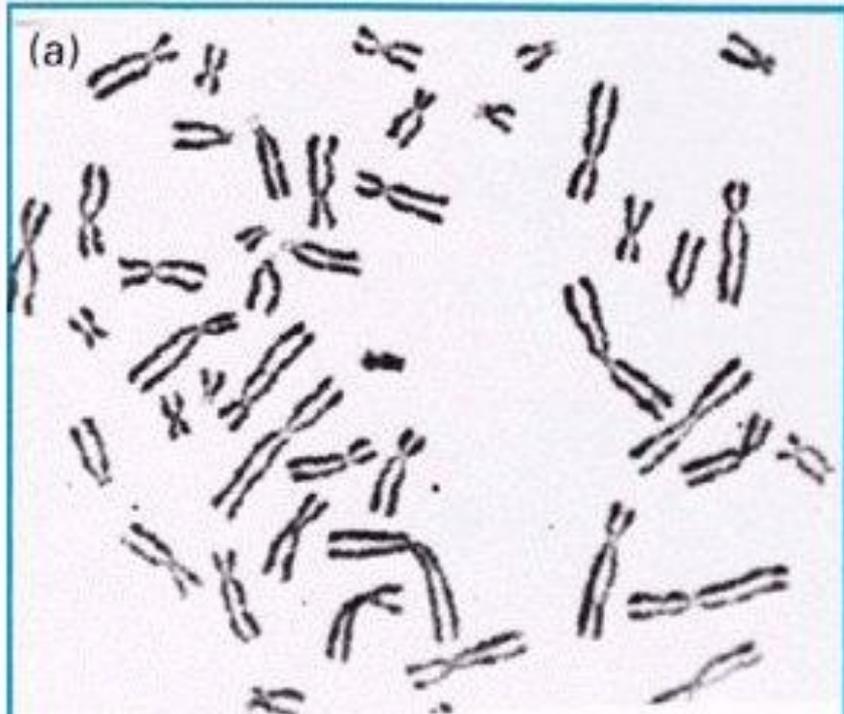
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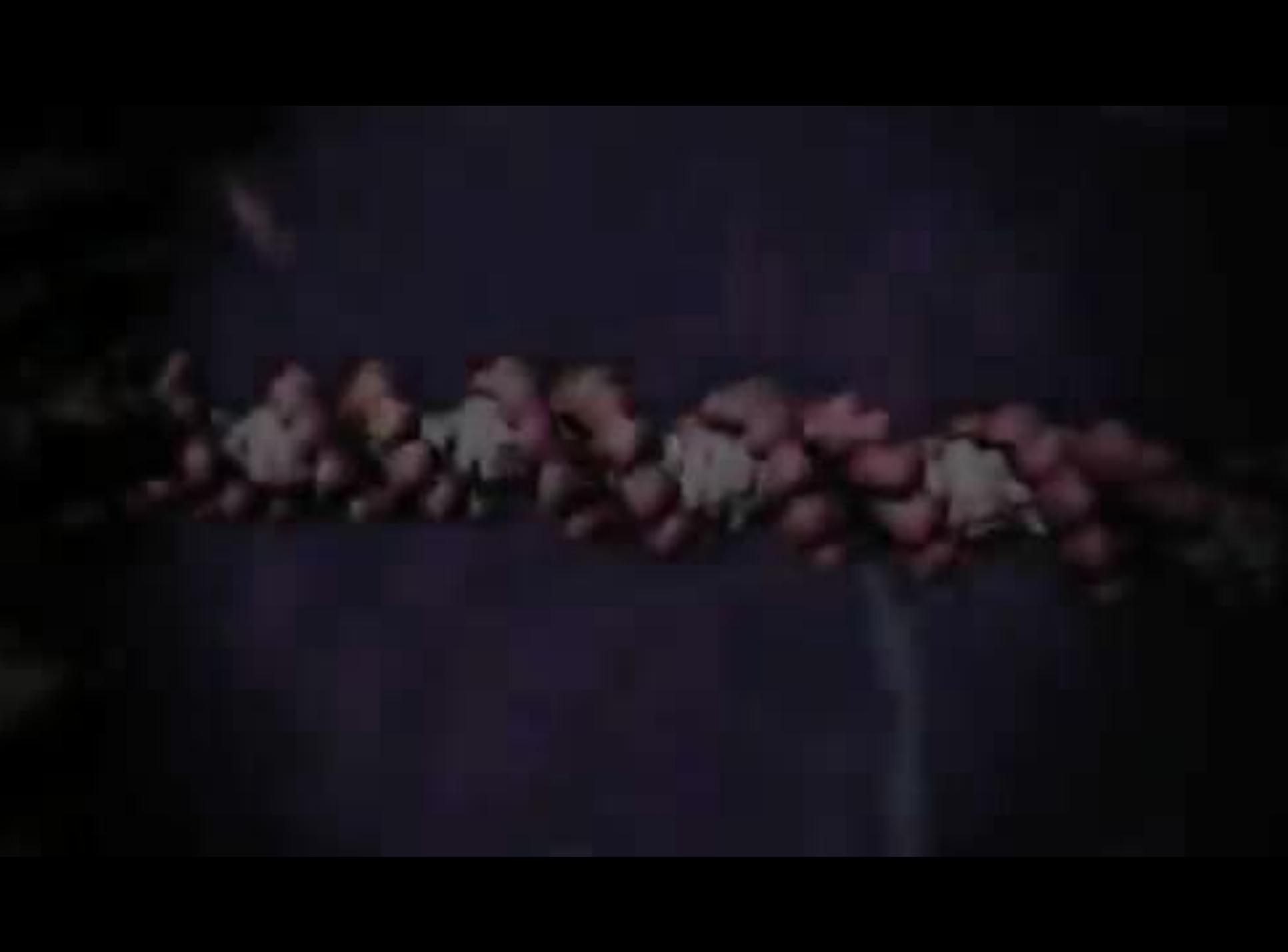
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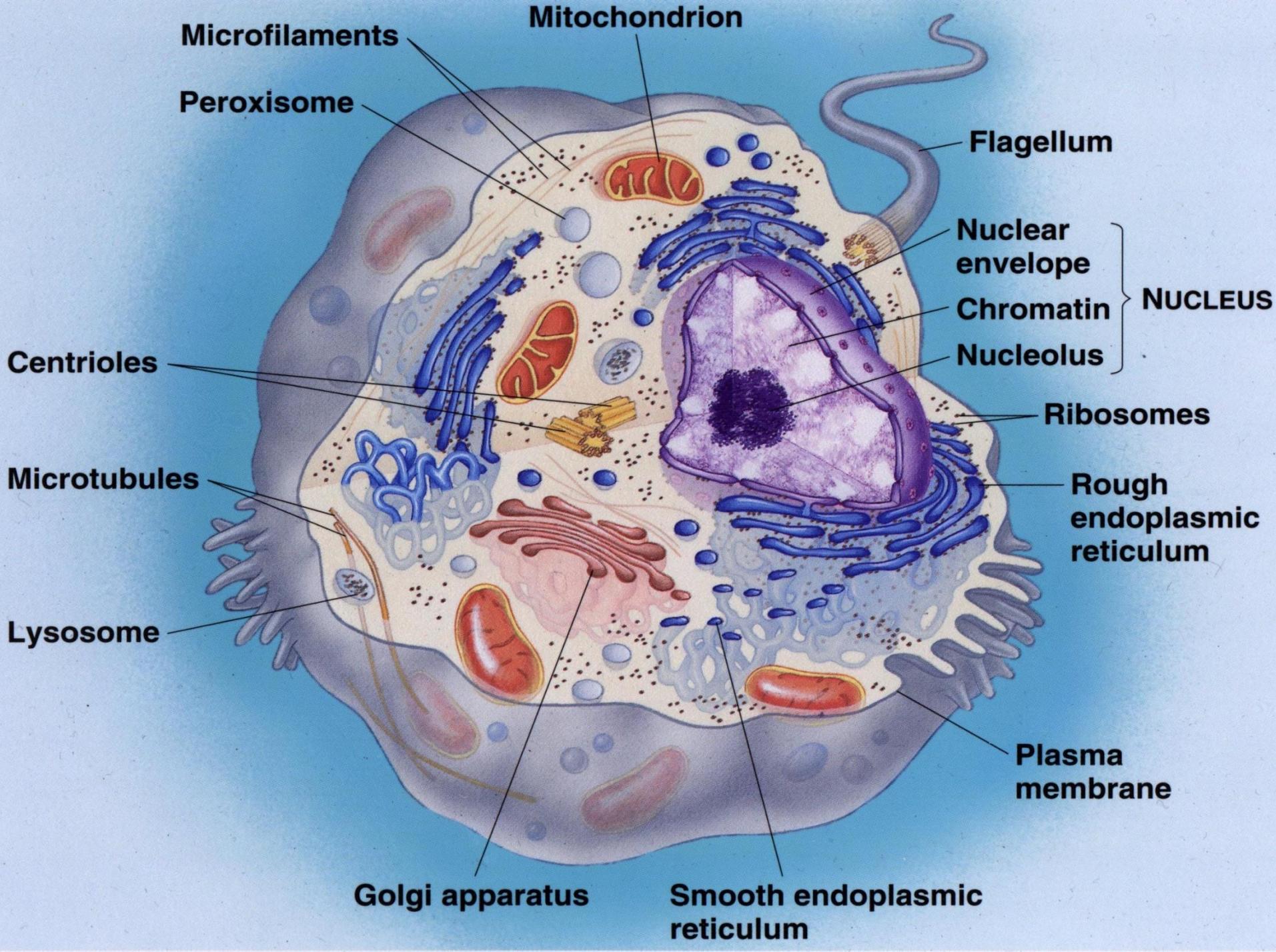


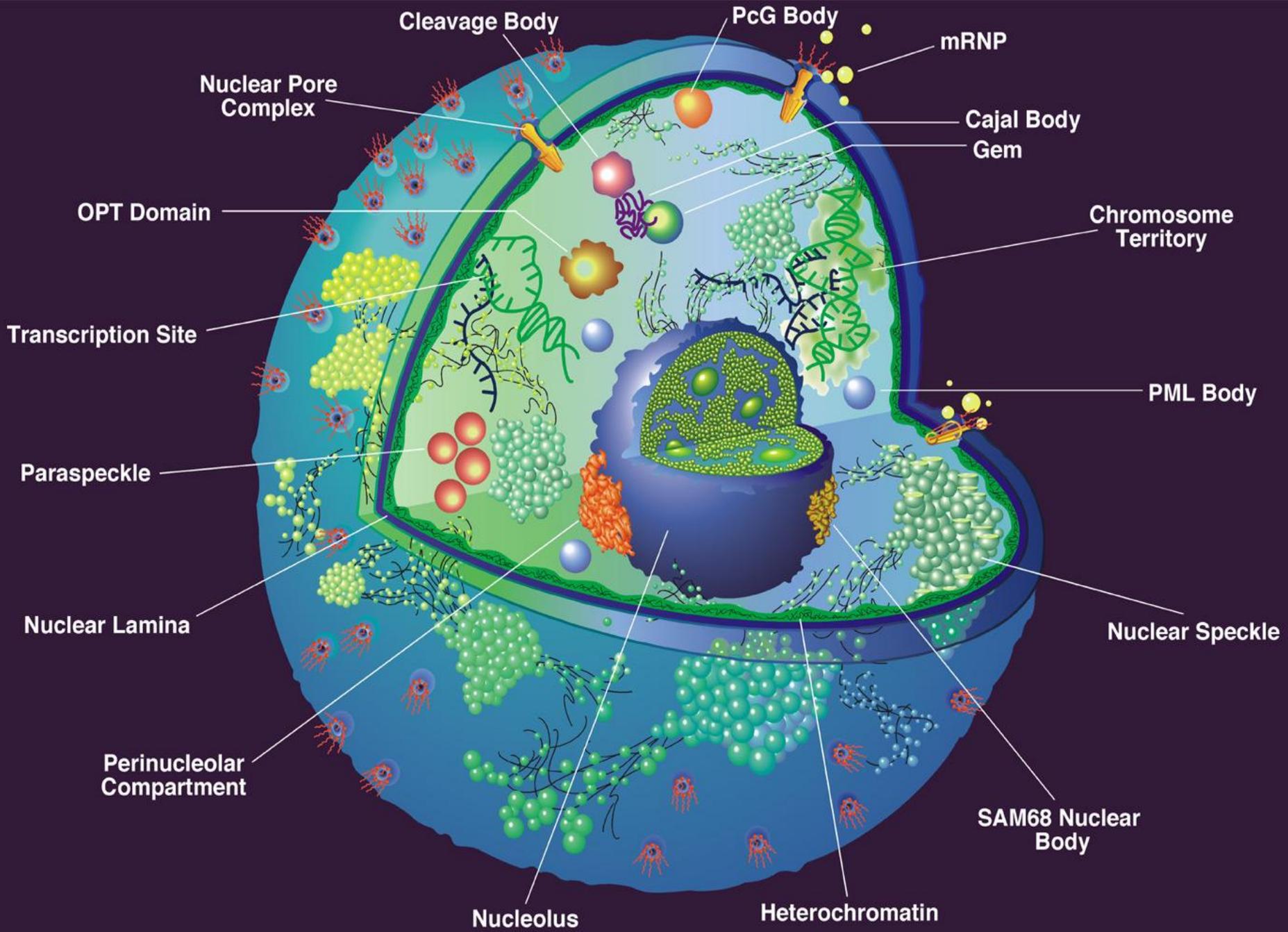
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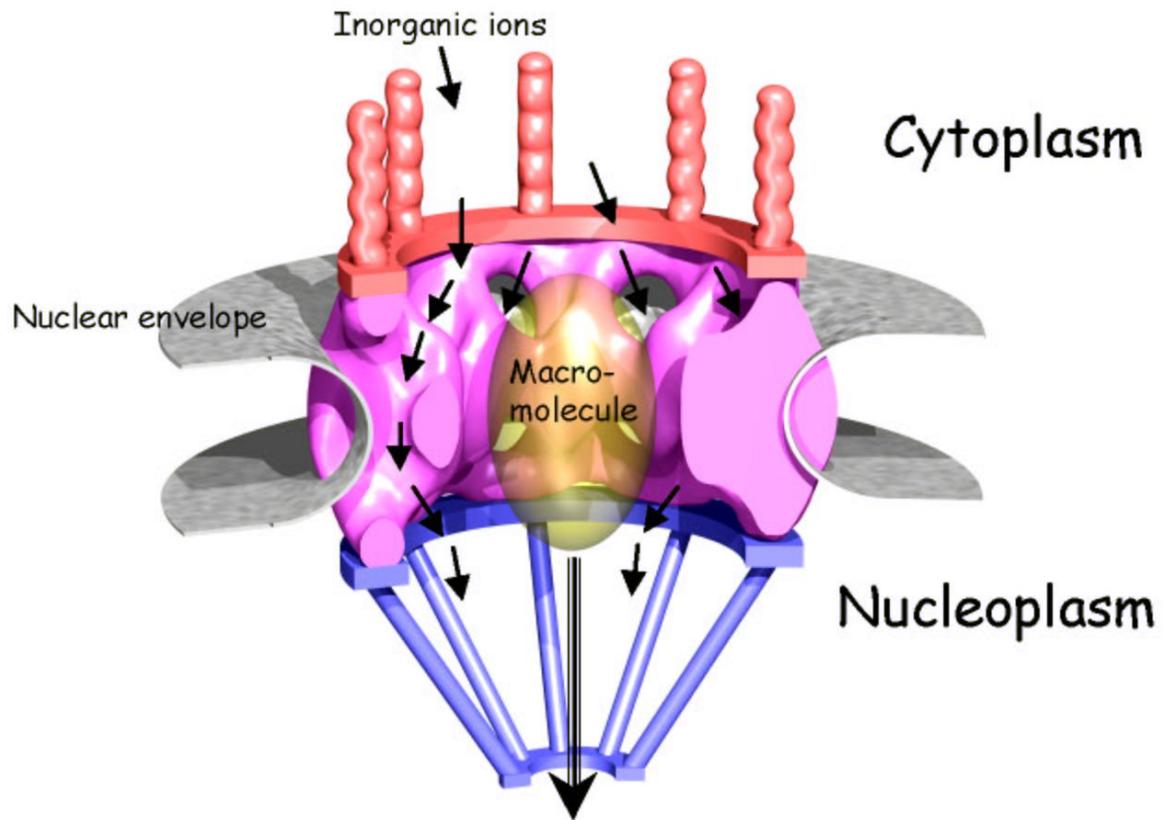


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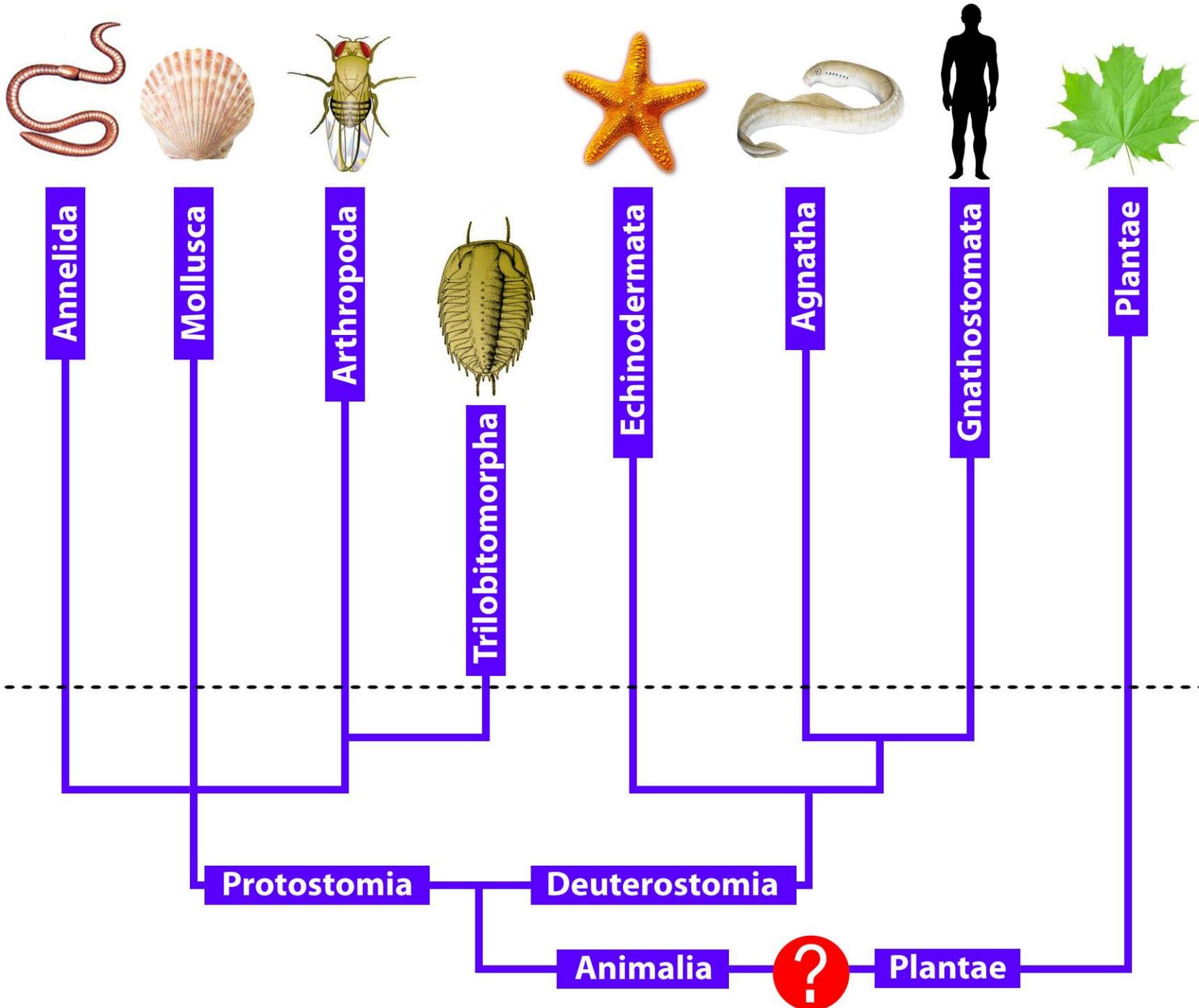


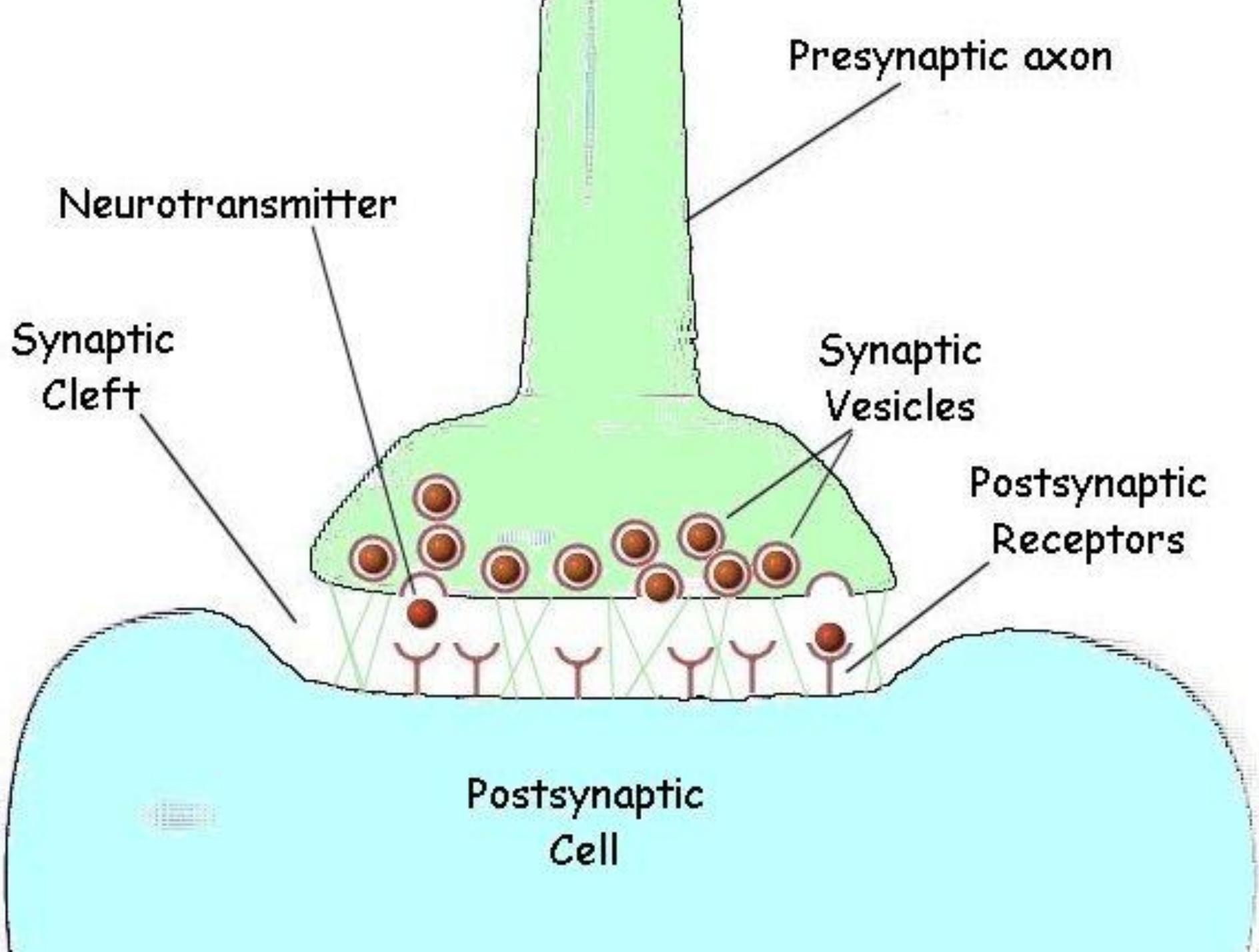




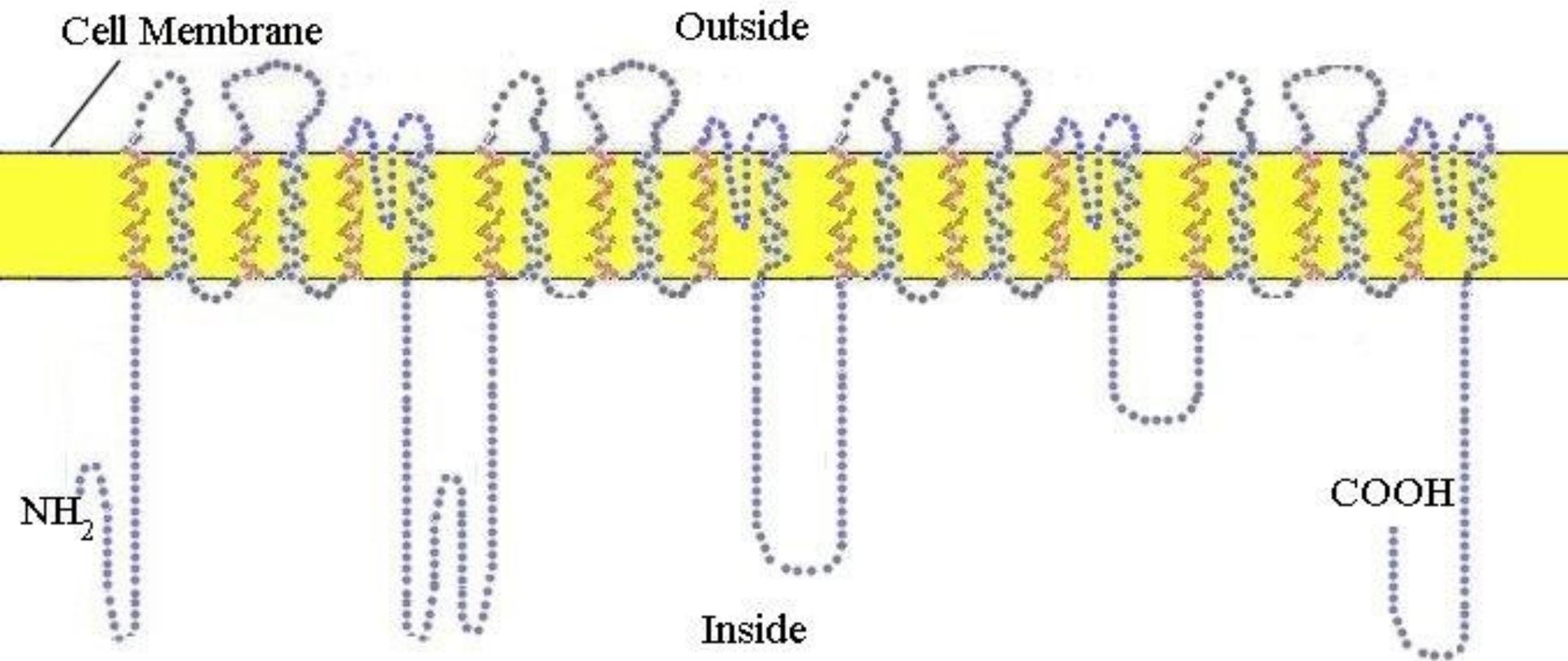
Proterozoic

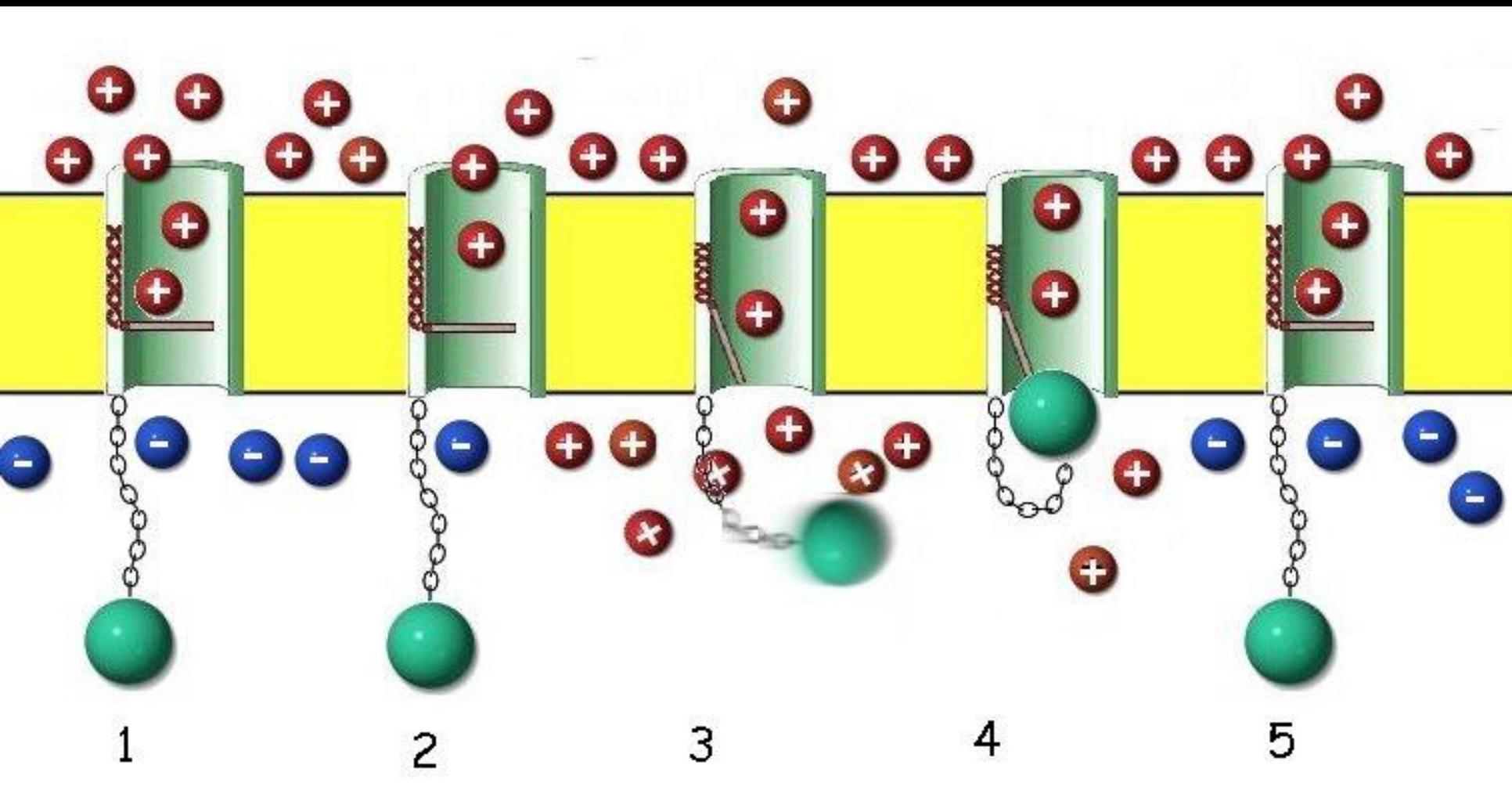
Phanerozoic

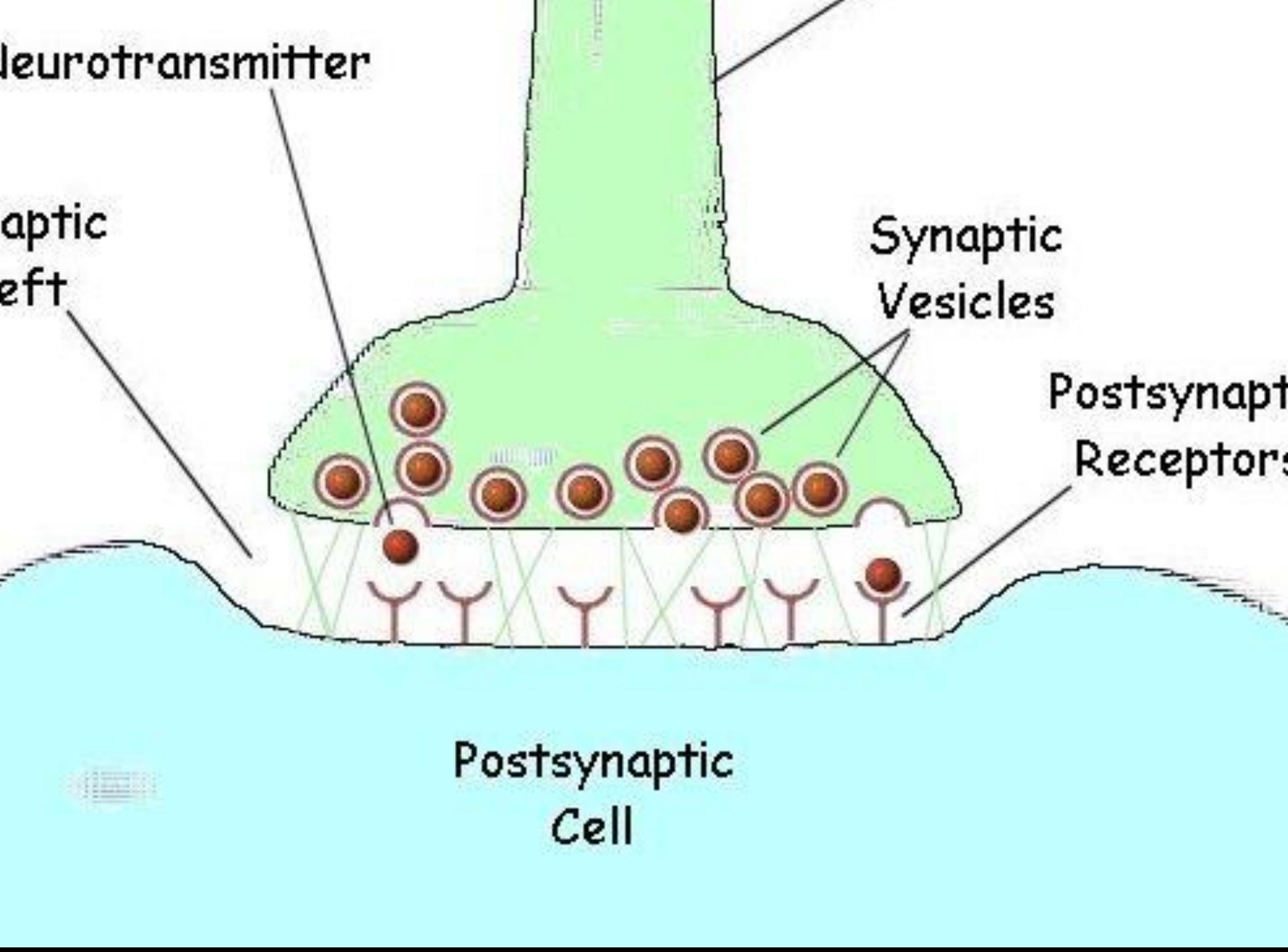


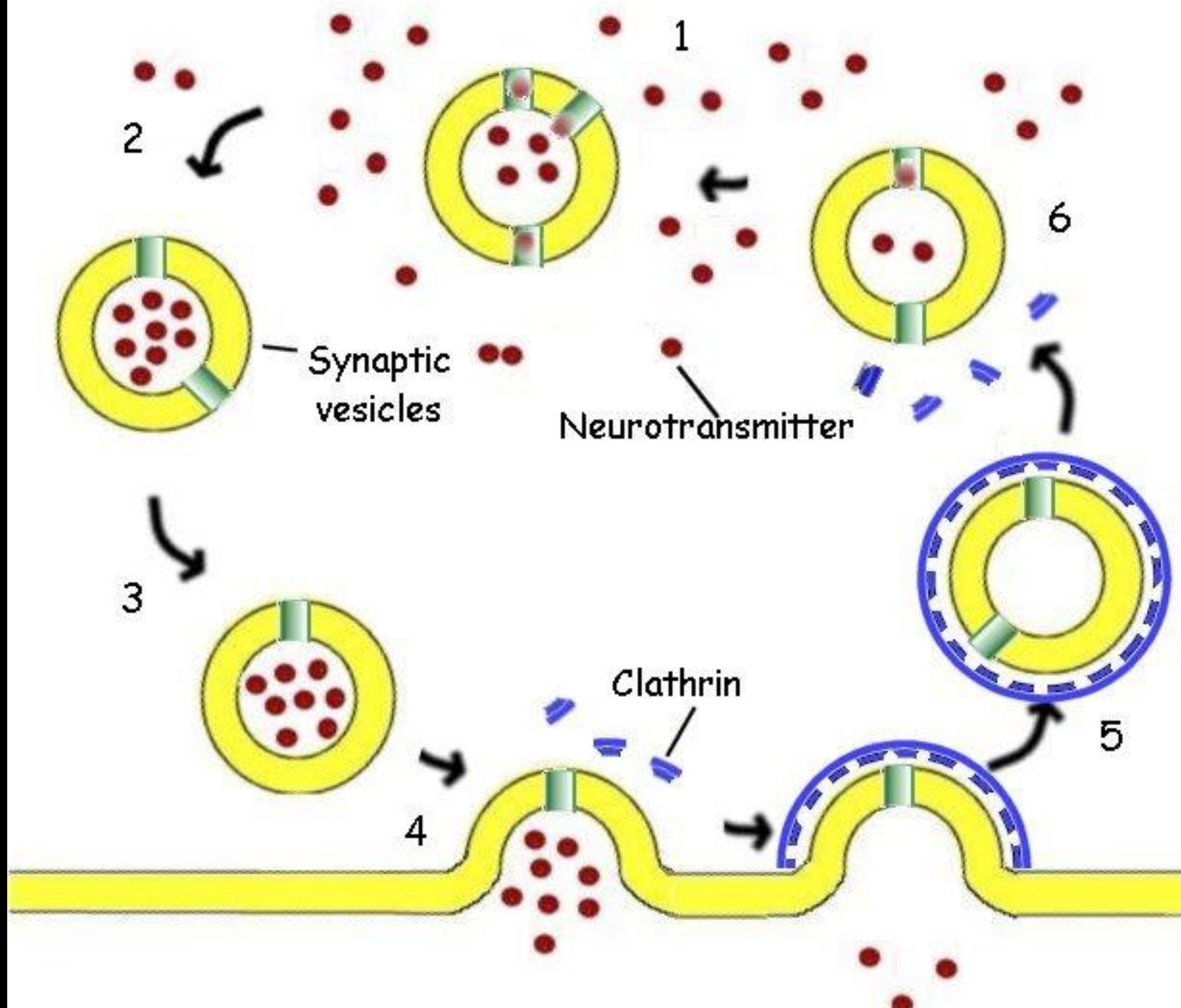


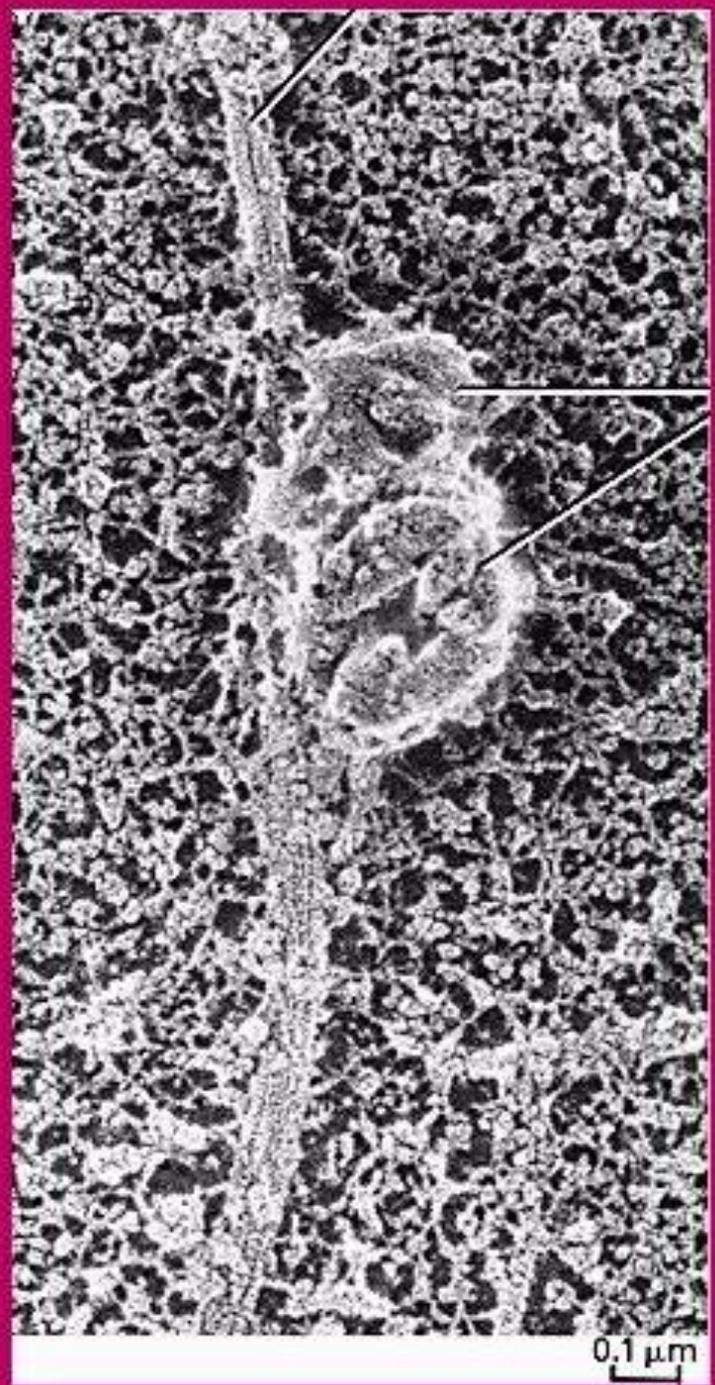
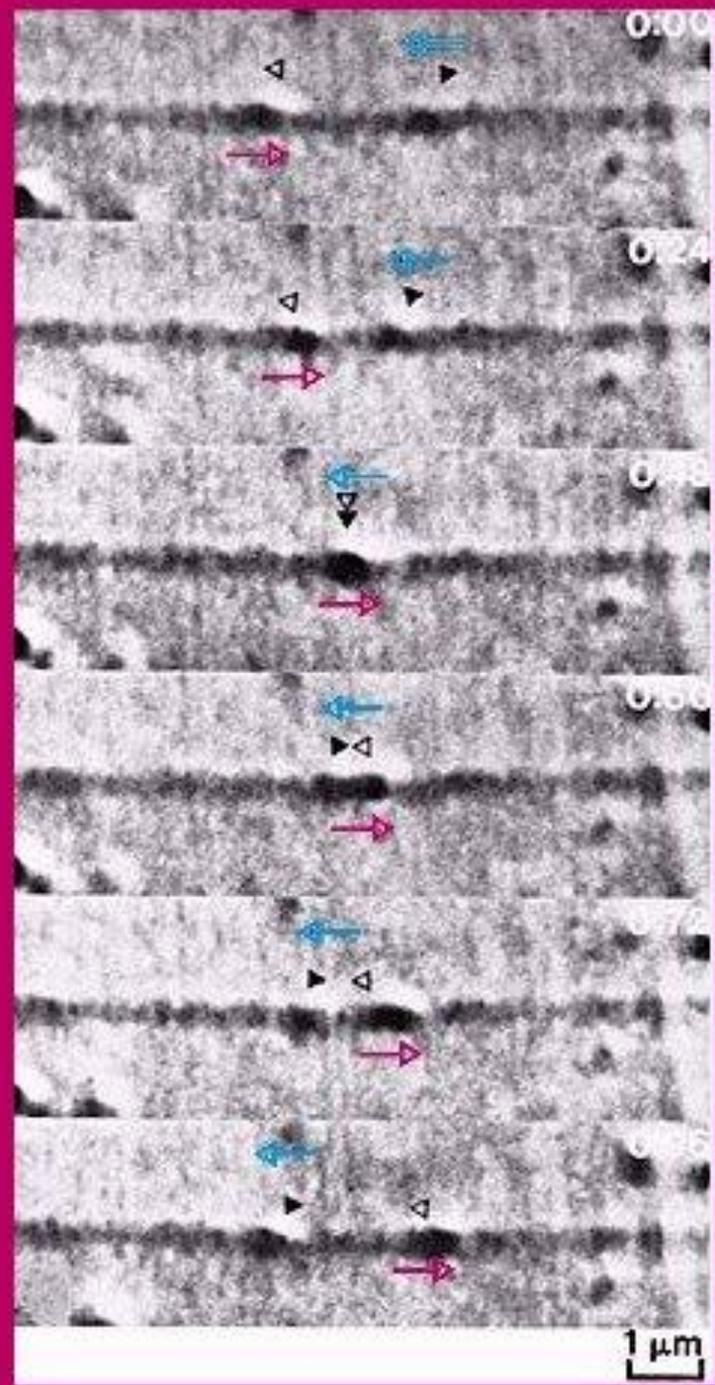
Voltage Gated Sodium Channel Protein

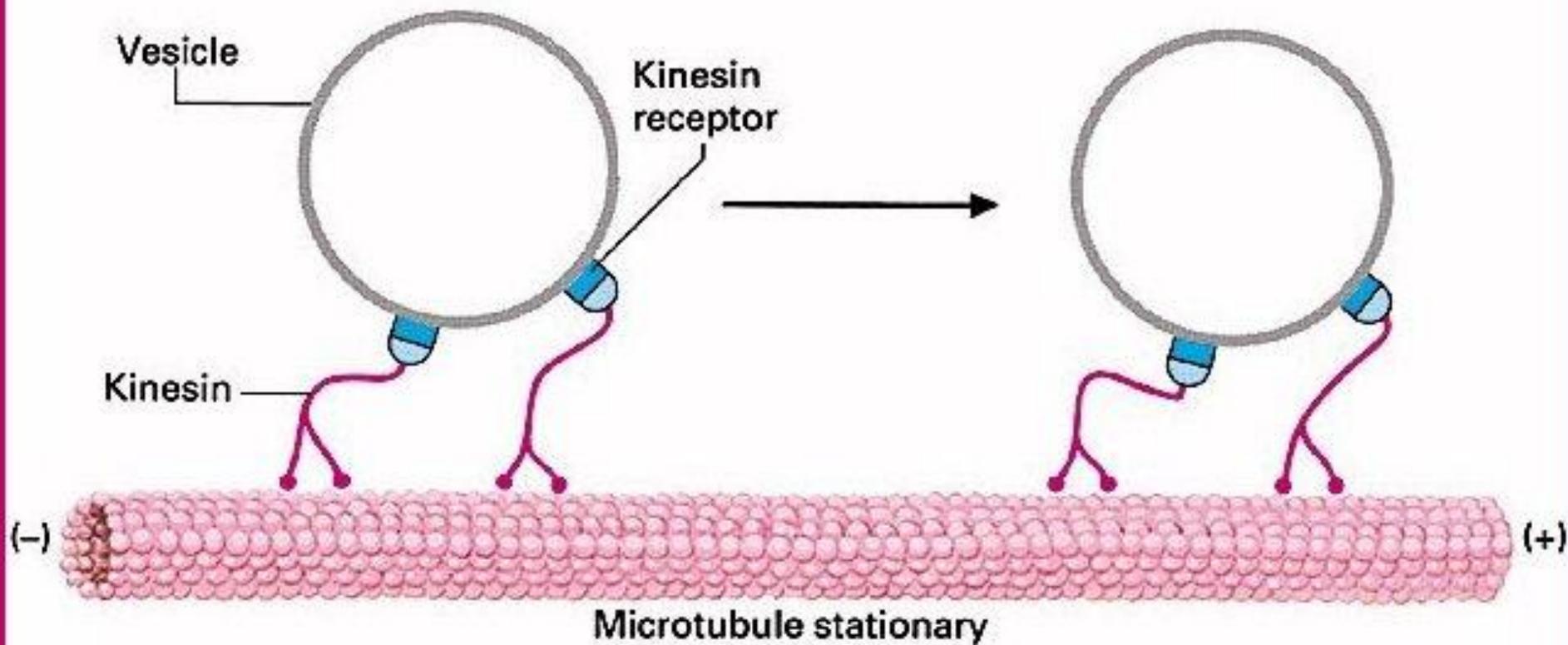


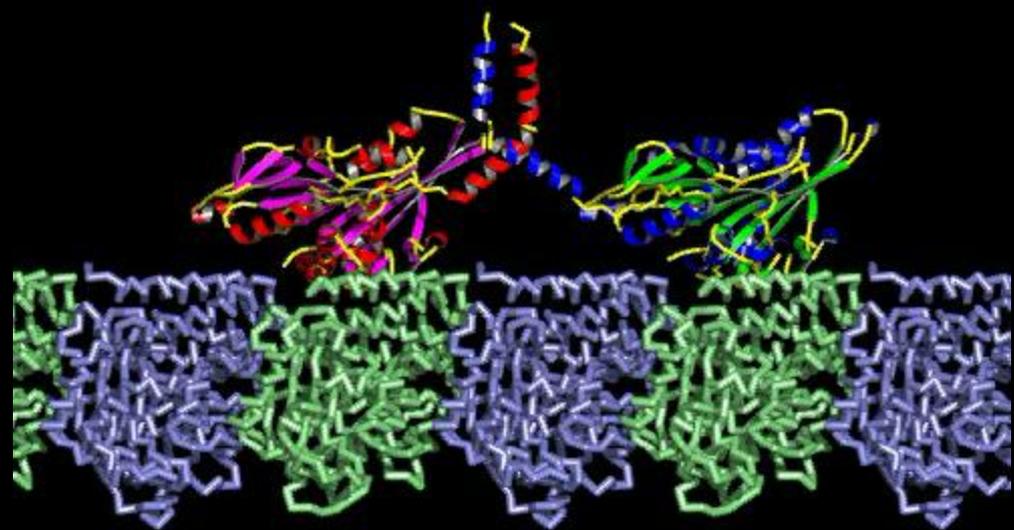




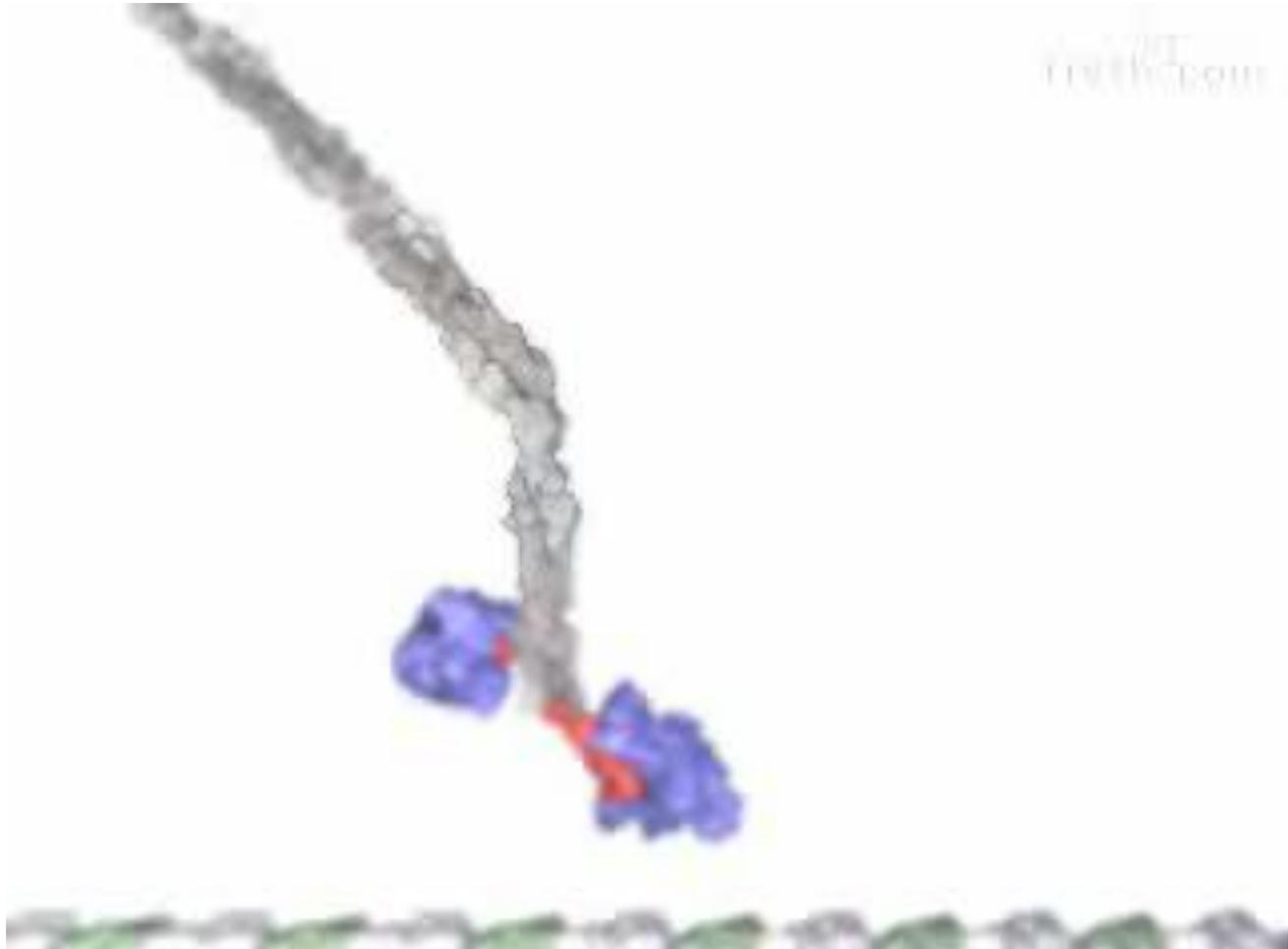


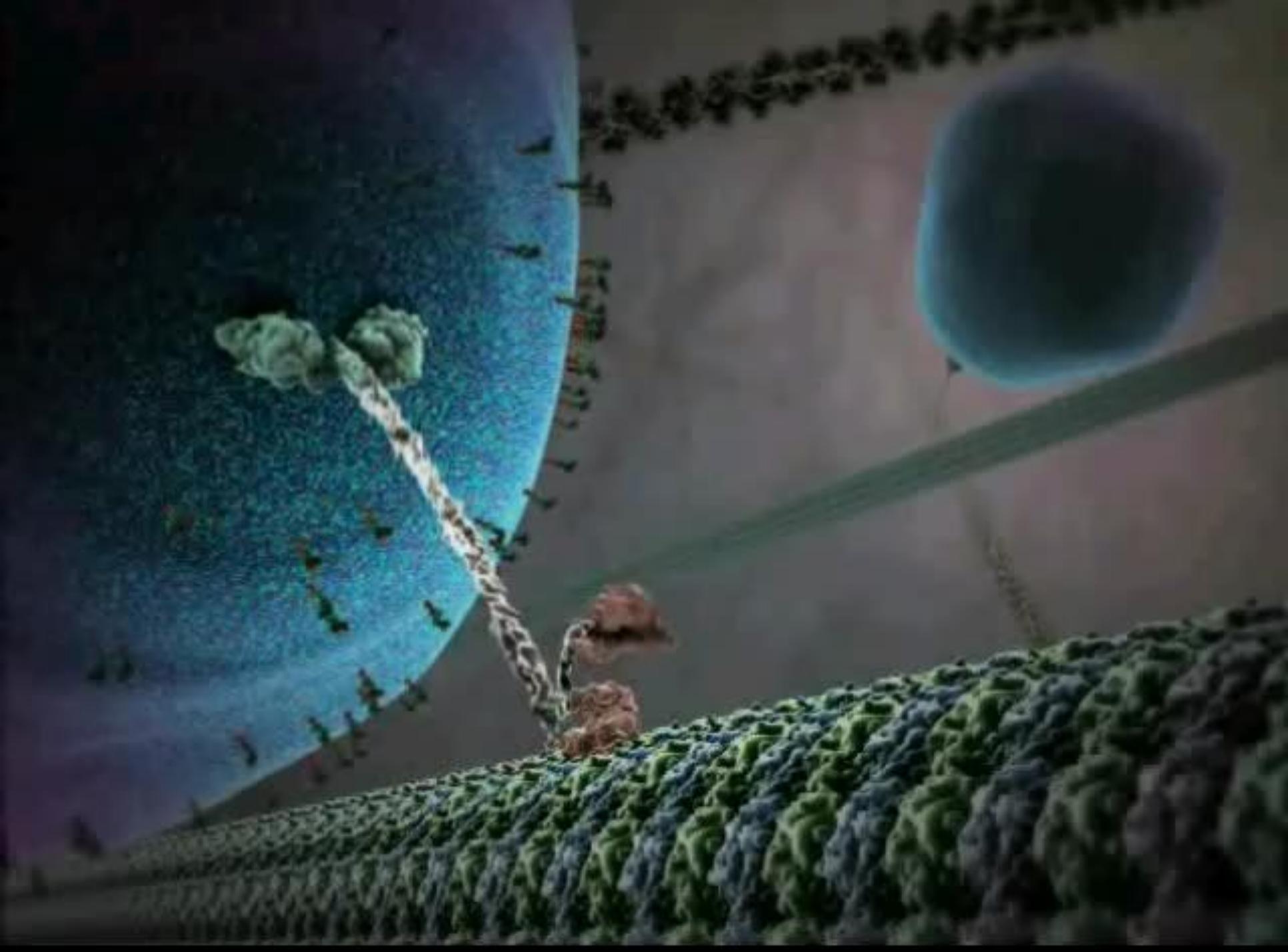


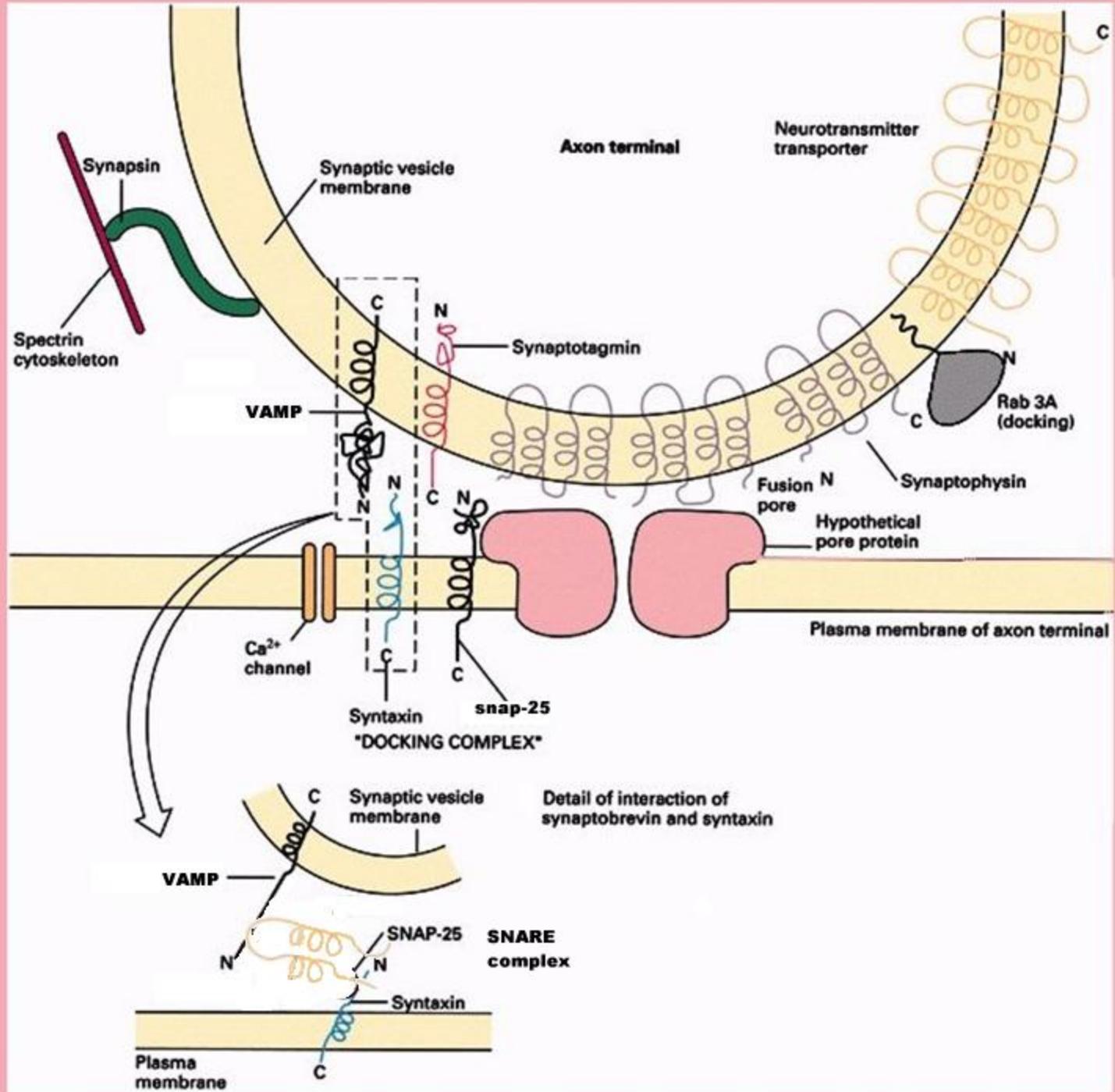




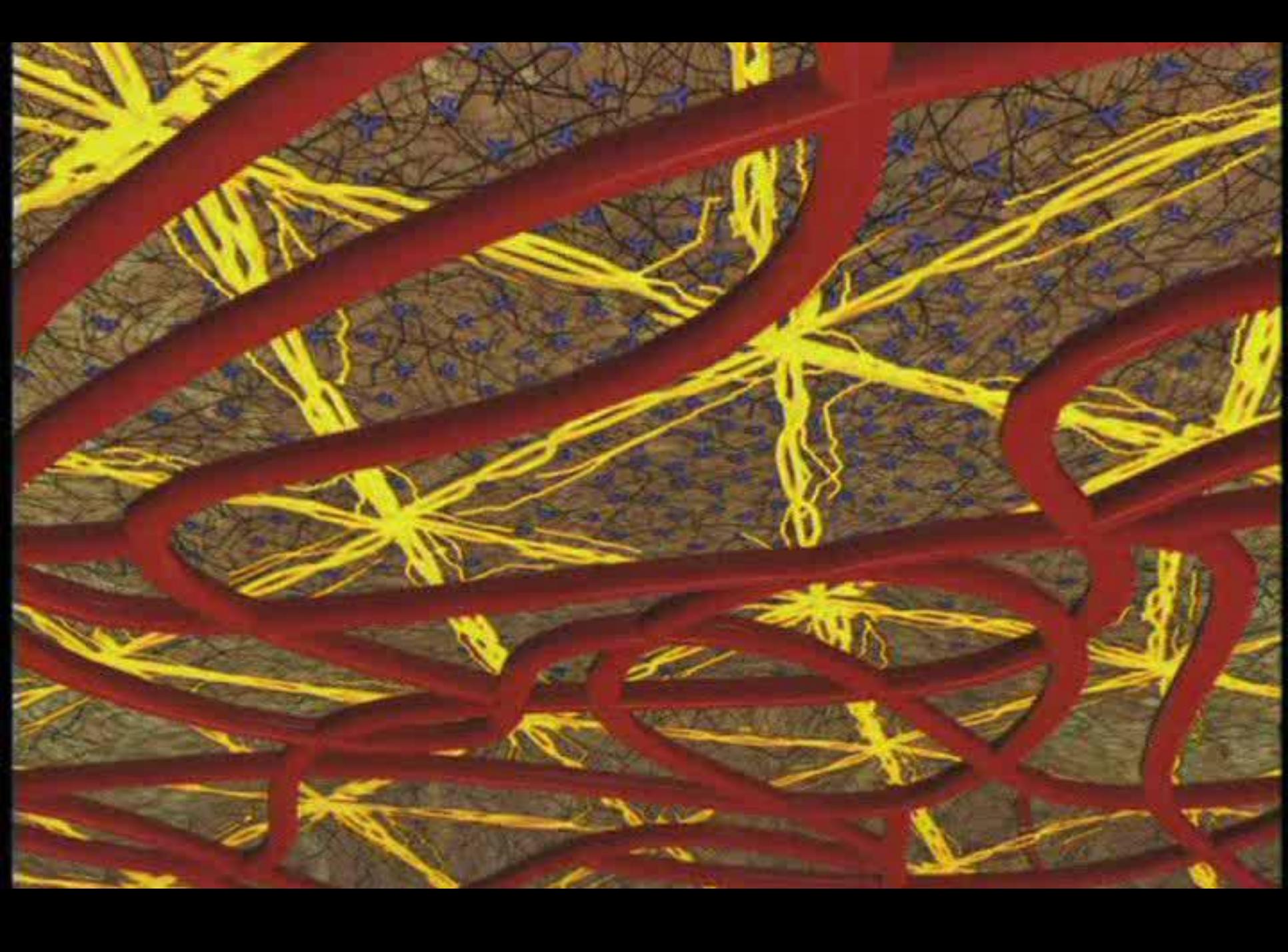
orthogon





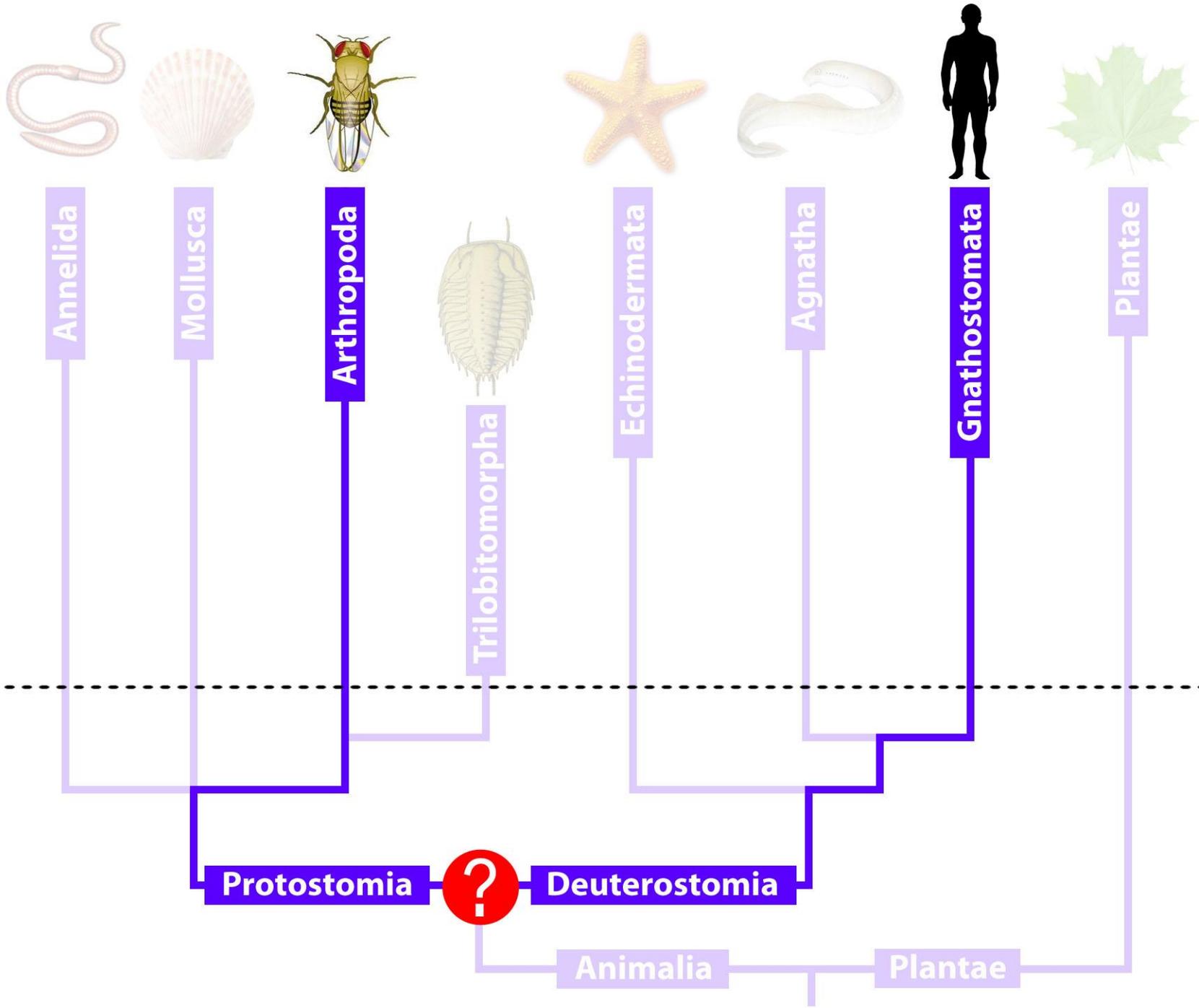






Proterozoic

Phanerozoic



Notable Quotes

Steven J. Gould, Harvard: "Fast is now a lot faster than we thought, and that's extraordinarily interesting"

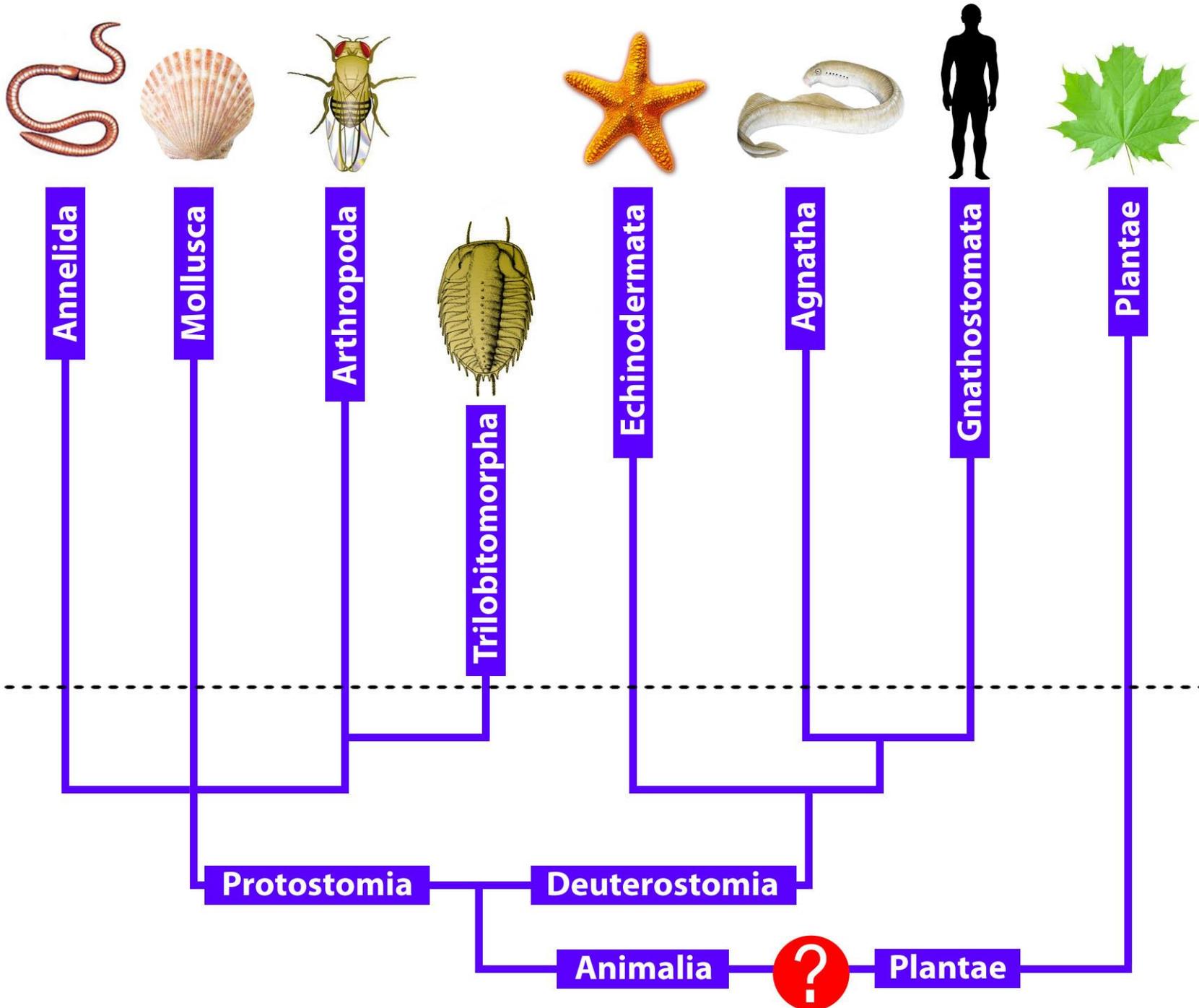
Samuel A. Bowring, M.I.T.: "We now know how fast fast is, and what I like to ask my biologist friends is, How fast can evolution get before they start feeling uncomfortable?"

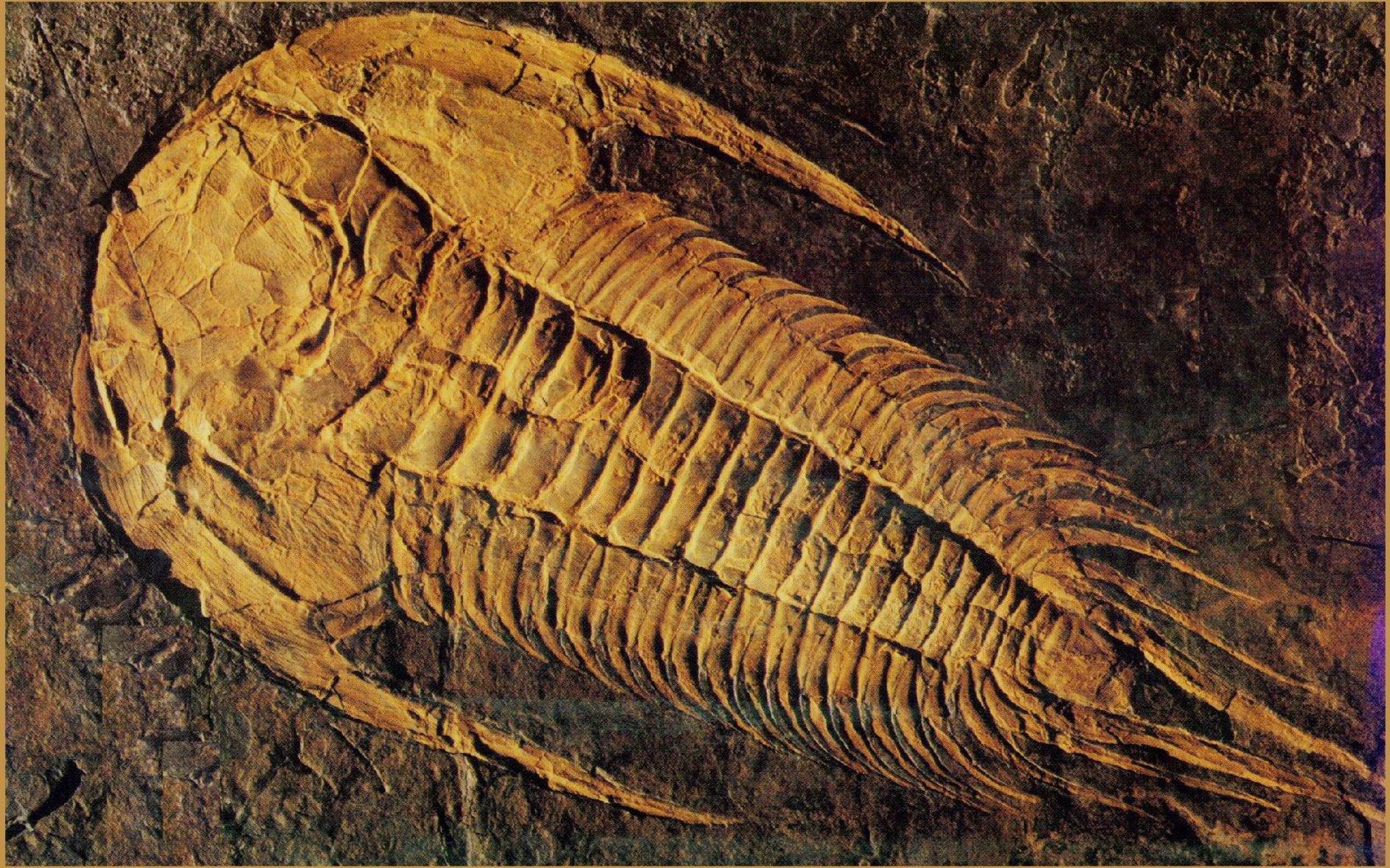
Rudolph Raff, Indiana U.: "There must be limits to change. After all, we've had these same old body plans for half a billion years"

G. M. Narbonne, Queens U.: "What Darwin described in the Origin of Species was the steady background kind of evolution. But there also seems to be a non-Darwinian kind of evolution that functions over extremely short time periods-- and that's where all the action is."

Proterozoic

Phanerozoic





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- Videos for mitochondria, microtubules, vesicle and DNA are taken from “Voyage Inside the Cell” by Sardet, Larsonneur and Koch (Digital Studio)
- Video for Synthase is from W. Junge, Bereiter-Hahn and IWF
- Video for Clathrin from Allison Bruce
- Video for ribbon Kinase model is from Max-Planck Unit for Structural Molecular Biology, Hamburg
- Video for space-filling Kinesin is from Molecular Biology of the Cell
- Video for dividing cell from Molecular Biology of the Cell
- Some trilobite pictures from Trilobites by Riccardo Levi-Setti
- Several illustrations taken from Molecular Cell Biology
- Drosophila photos from Flybase and Thomas Kaufman and Rudolf Turner, Department of Biology, Indiana University
- Video on cell functions from Howard Hughes Medical Institute via Harvard University

RICHARD DAWKINS ON “DESIGNED”

- ✘ “Its terribly terribly tempting to use the word designed, time and again I have to bite my tongue, and stop myself. [...] when talking to other biologists, we none of us bother to bite our tongues, we just use the word designed.”
- ✘ Richard Dawkins, *Waking up in the Universe*, 1991 Royal Institution Christmas Lecture; 2nd lecture - *Designed and designoid objects*.

RICHARD DAWKINS ON “JUNK DNA”

- ✘ Before ENCODE: “Pseudogenes are genes that once did something useful but have now been sidelined and are never transcribed or translated. They might as well not exist, as far as the animal's welfare is concerned. But as far as the scientist is concerned they very much exist, and they are exactly what we need for an evolutionary clock. . . . What pseudogenes are useful for is embarrassing creationists. It stretches even their creative ingenuity to make up a convincing reason why an intelligent designer should have created a pseudogene --a gene that does absolutely nothing and gives every appearance of being a superannuated version of a gene that used to do something, unless he was deliberately setting out to fool us.”
Dawkins then continues: “Leaving pseudogenes aside, it is a remarkable fact that the greater part (95 percent in the case of humans) of the genome might as well not be there, for all the difference it makes.” *The Greatest Show on Earth*, 2009, pp 332-333.
- ✘ After ENCODE: “I know there are some creationists who have jumped on it because they think it is awkward for Darwinism. Quite the contrary, of course. It is exactly what a Darwinist would hope for -- is to find usefulness in the living world.”

“PSEUDOGENES ARE NOT PSEUDO ANY MORE

- ✘ “The study of functional pseudogenes is just at the beginning. There remain many questions to be addressed, such as the regulatory elements controlling the cell or tissue specific expression of pseudogenes. But, definitely, the so-called pseudogenes **are really functional, not to be considered any more as just “junk” or “fossil” DNA.** Surely, many functional pseudogenes and novel regulatory mechanisms remain to be discovered and explored in diverse organisms.”
- ✘ Wen et al, RNA Biology 9:27-32. Jan 2012

ORFAN GENES

- ✘ Evolutionary theory predicts all functional proteins will be related by common descent and that comparing proteins between organisms will give a true picture of evolutionary process and relationships. There should be no “new” genes introduced in the process , or they should be exceedingly rare.
- ✘ As sequencing technology has progressed evolutionary biologists were surprised and unprepared for the discovery of Orphan (ORFan) Genes – genes in an organism that have no homologues in genes of other organisms.
- ✘ ORFans constitute 1-30% of genes in an organism. The more organisms you sequence, the more orphans you will find – i.e. an unending supply.
- ✘ Question: Where did they come from?
- ✘ Evolutionists would expect to find similar genes in “related” organisms.
- ✘ Orphan genes defy evolutionary explanations to this point.

LEVINTHAL PARADOX OF THE INTERACTOME

- ✘ Anyone who has studied the protein folding problem will have met the famous [Levinthal paradox](#), formulated in 1969 by the molecular biologist Cyrus Levinthal. Put simply, the Levinthal paradox states that when one calculates the number of possible topological (rotational) configurations for the amino acids in even a small (say, 100 residue) unfolded protein, random search could never find the final folded conformation of that same protein during the lifetime of the physical universe. Therefore, concluded Levinthal, given that proteins obviously *do* fold, they are doing so, not by random search, but by following favored pathways. The challenge of the protein folding problem is to learn what those pathways are. That's the classical version of the paradox.
- ✘ **But now consider the origin of an entire cell.** All cells possess what has been called an "interactome," namely, "a complex network" comprising "a host of cellular constituents" -- proteins, nucleic acids, lipids, metal ion cofactors, and so on. If the Levinthal paradox (old version) arises from the difficulty of searching the space of possible configurations for a single protein, the new version of the paradox, formulated by Tompa and Rose, asks the same question for the possible arrangements of the cell's interactome, an enormously larger collection of objects with a correspondingly greater search space. As Tompa and Rose express the problem,
- ✘ Tompa, P. and G.D. Rose. [Levinthal paradox of the interactome](#)," *Protein Science* 20 (2011):2074-79

LEVINTHAL PARADOX OF THE INTERACTOME

- ✘ “Unlike protein folding, self-assembly of the interactome has not yet prompted such widespread attention, and for understandable reasons. It is a problem of bewildering complexity...Where does one begin? Our goal here is to show that assembly of the interactome in biological real-time is analogous to folding in that the functional state is selected from a staggering number of useless or potentially deleterious alternatives.”
- ✘ Tompa and Rose calculate the "total number of possible distinct patterns of interactions," using yeast, a unicellular eukaryote, as their model system; this "total number" is the size of the space that must be searched. With approximately 4,500 proteins in yeast, the interactome search space "is on the order of 10^{7200} , an unimaginably large number," they write -- but "more realistic" estimates, they continue, are "yet more complicated." Proteins present many possible surfaces for chemical interaction. "In all," argue Tompa and Rose, "an average protein would have approximately 3540 distinguishable interfaces," and if one uses this number for the interactome space calculation, the result is 10 followed by the exponent 7.9×10^{10} .

LEVINTHAL PARADOX OF THE INTERACTOME

- ✘ Tompa and Rose draw a number of lessons from their calculations. They argue, first, that any increase in biological realism will only make the Levinthal interactome paradox worse:
- ✘ “Of course, there are additional complicating factors such as alternative splicing, post-translational modifications, non-pairwise macromolecular interactions, incorrect complex formation that is adventitiously stable, and so forth. However, even neglecting such complications, the numbers preclude formation of a functional interactome by trial and error complex formation within any meaningful span of time. This numerical exercise...is tantamount to a proof that the cell does not organize by random collisions of its interacting constituents.”
- ✘ But secondly, what they call "the most profound conclusion" from their analysis bears directly on widely held assumptions about the origin of life.
- ✘ A highly enriched soup of proteins and nucleic acids will never form a functional cell, even if lipid bilayer membranes were provided to help these materials become organized.

LEVINTHAL PARADOX OF THE INTERACTOME

- ✘ Indeed, the fully functional contents of a living cell, once the wall or membrane enclosing them has been breached (thus, killing the cell), move irreversibly in the direction of non-living chemistry. It enters what Tompa and Rose call the "zone of chaos," never to return.
- ✘ Tompa and Rose have sketched the theoretical basis for *why* this happens:
- ✘ “[O]ur calculations of combinatorial complexity [show] that the emergent interactome could not have self-organized spontaneously from its isolated protein components. Rather, it attains its functional state by templating the interactome of a mother cell and maintains that state by a continuous expenditure of energy. In the absence of a prior framework of existing interactions, it is far more likely that combined cellular constituents would end up in a non-functional, aggregated state, one incompatible with life...The spontaneous origination of a *de novo* cell has yet to be observed; all extant cells are generated by the division of pre-existing cells that provide the necessary template for perpetuation of the interactome.”

PROTHERO ON STASIS

- ✘ The first major discovery was that stasis was much more prevalent in the fossil record than had been previously supposed. Many paleontologists came forward and pointed out that the geological literature was one vast monument to stasis, with relatively few cases where anyone had observed gradual evolution. If species didn't appear suddenly in the fossil record and remain relatively unchanged, then biostratigraphy would never work—and yet almost two centuries of successful biostratigraphic correlations was evidence of just this kind of pattern. As Gould put it, it was the “dirty little secret” hidden in the paleontological closet. Most paleontologists were trained to focus on gradual evolution as the only pattern of interest, and ignored stasis as “not evolutionary change” and therefore uninteresting, to be overlooked or minimized. Once Eldredge and Gould had pointed out that stasis was equally important (“stasis is data[sic]” in Gould's words), paleontologists all over the world saw that stasis was the general pattern, and that gradualism was rare—and that is still the consensus 40 years later.

PROTHERO ON STASIS

- ✘ In my dissertation on the incredibly abundant and well preserved fossil mammals of the Big Badlands of the High Plains, I had over 160 well-dated, well-sampled lineages of mammals, so I could evaluate the relative frequency of gradualism versus stasis in an entire regional fauna. I also had a wide geographic spread [...]. I had large fossil samples of many species, with dozens at each level, and excellent stratigraphic data. When I finally plunged in and plotted and analyzed my data carefully, it was clear that nearly every lineage showed stasis, with one minor example of gradual size reduction in the little oreodont *Miniochoerus*. I could point to this data set and make the case for the prevalence of stasis without any criticism of bias in my sampling. More importantly, the fossil mammals showed no sign of responding to the biggest climate change of the past 50 million years [...]. In North America, dense forests gave way to open scrublands, crocodiles and pond turtles were replaced by land tortoises, and the snails changed from those typical of Nicaragua to those of Baja California. Yet out of all the 160 lineages of mammals in this time interval, there was virtually no response.

PROTHERO ON STASIS

- ✘ After six years of work and publication, the conclusion is clear: none of the common Ice Age mammals and birds responded to any of the climate changes at La Brea in the last 35,000 years, even though the region went from dry chaparral to snowy piñon-juniper forests during the peak glacial 20,000 years ago, and then back to the modern chaparral again.
- ✘ In four of the biggest climatic-vegetational events of the last 50 million years, the mammals and birds show no noticeable change in response to changing climates. No matter how many presentations I give where I show these data, no one (including myself) has a good explanation yet for such widespread stasis despite the obvious selective pressures of changing climate. Rather than answers, we have more questions—and that's a good thing! Science advances when we discover what we don't know, or we discover that simple answers we'd been following for years no longer work.

EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS PRIAPULIDS (GROUP OF MARINE WORMS)

- ✘ See <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/10/121009092533.htm>. Excerpt: He explained: "The fossils from the Cambrian period can cause a real headache for evolutionary biologists. Instinct tells us to expect simple organisms evolving over time to become increasingly more complex. However during the Cambrian period there was an apparent explosion of different major groups of animals, all appearing simultaneously in the fossil record. We looked at priapulid worms, which were among the first ever predators. What's remarkable is that they had already evolved into a diverse array of forms -- comparable to the morphological variety of their living cousins -- when we first encounter them in the Cambrian fossil record. It's precisely this apparent explosion of anatomical diversity that vexed Darwin and famously attracted the attention of Harvard biologist Stephen Jay Gould."
- ✘ Dr Ruta, from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Lincoln, continued: "Our work has shown that despite many new fossil finds, including many from China in the last decade, the picture remains largely unchanged."

NEW FOSSILS SUGGEST ANCIENT ORIGINS OF MODERN-DAY DEEP-SEA ANIMALS

- ✘ A collection of fossil animals discovered off the coast of Florida suggests that present day deep-sea fauna like sea urchins, starfish and sea cucumbers may have evolved earlier than previously believed and survived periods of mass extinctions similar to those that wiped out the dinosaurs.
- ✘ Previously, researchers believed that these present-day animals evolved in the relatively recent past, following at least two periods of mass extinction caused by changes in their oceanic environment. The new fossil collection described in this study predates the oldest known records of the present-day fauna. "We were amazed to see that a 114 million year old deep-sea assemblage was so strikingly similar to the modern equivalents," says lead author Ben Thuy.
- ✘ According to the authors, this evidence shows that the ancestors of modern deep-sea animals have lived in these deep waters for much longer than previously thought. That this collection of fossils appears to have survived several drastic changes in oceanic climates also suggests that deep-sea biodiversity may be more resilient than shallow-water life forms, and more resistant to extinction events than previously thought.
- ✘ *Thuy B, Gale AS, Kroh A, Kucera M, Numberger-Thuy LD, et al.. Ancient Origin of the Modern Deep-Sea Fauna. PLoS ONE, 2012 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0046913*

The Biblical Account of Origins

- The Bible presents the prehistory of the world from Creation to Abraham in the first 11 chapters of Genesis.
- None can doubt that the Genesis 1-11 account is being assaulted from every quarter today.
- Yet all significant authorities, including those who deny its message, admit that the author of Genesis intended the account of creation and a worldwide flood in Chapter 1-11 to be taken literally.

- **Professor James Barr, Regius Professor of Hebrew at the University of Oxford, has written:**
- “Probably, so far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1–11 intended to convey to their readers the ideas that:
- (a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24 hours we now experience
- (b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story
- (c) Noah’s flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguish all human and animal life except for those in the ark.”

- **He continues: “Or, to put it negatively, the apologetic arguments which suppose the “days” of creation to be long eras of time, the figures of years not to be chronological, and the flood to be a merely local Mesopotamian flood, are not taken seriously by any such professors, as far as I know.”**
- **[He is not saying they believe the account is historical, just that to argue for a nonliteral interpretation is contratextual.]**
- **Conclusion: the best scholarship supports a literal reading of the first 11 chapters of Genesis.**