

Therapeutic Perspectives in Ineffective Erythropoiesis

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Imagine institute

Laboratory of cellular and molecular mechanisms of hematological disorders and therapeutic implications

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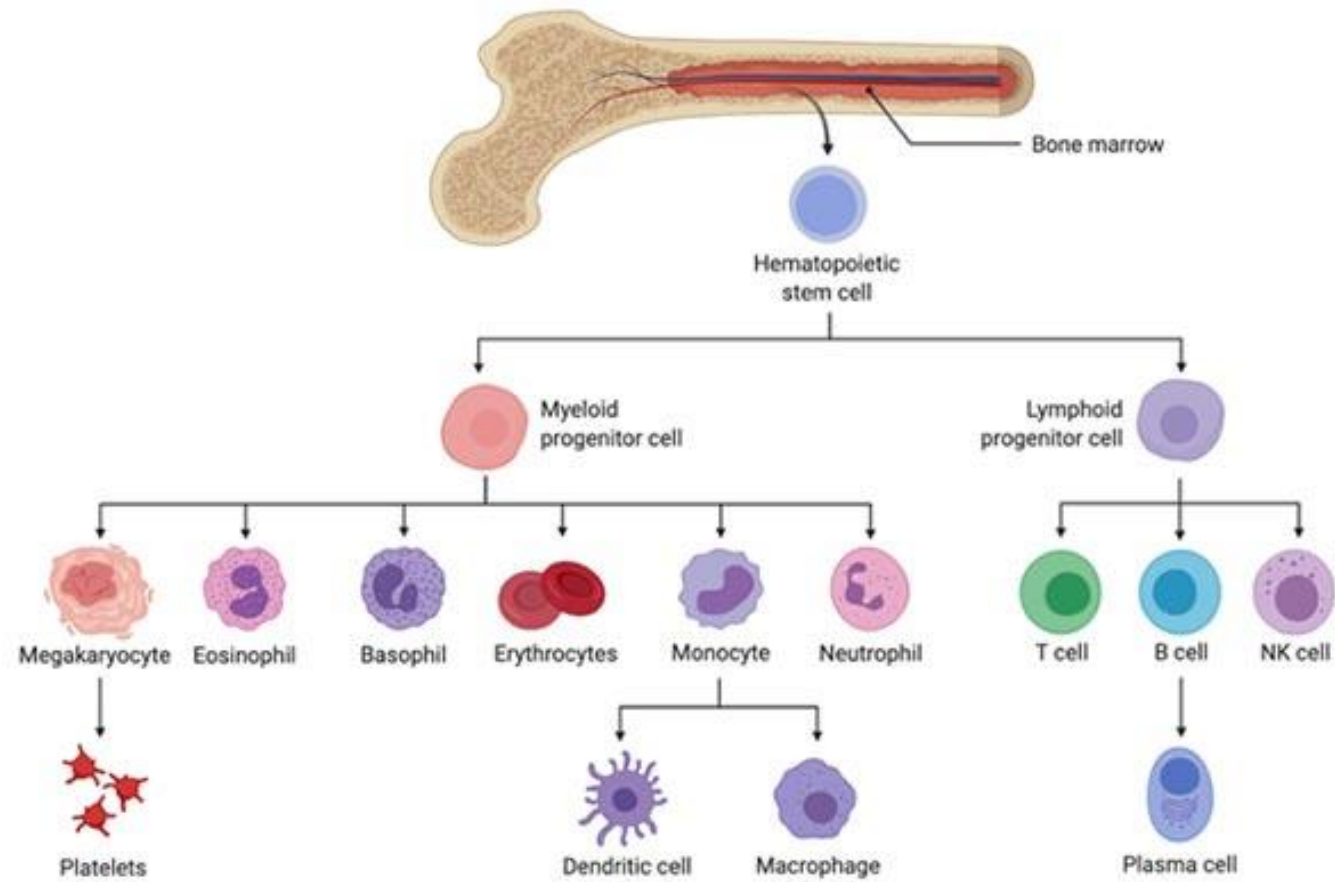
Conflicts of Interest

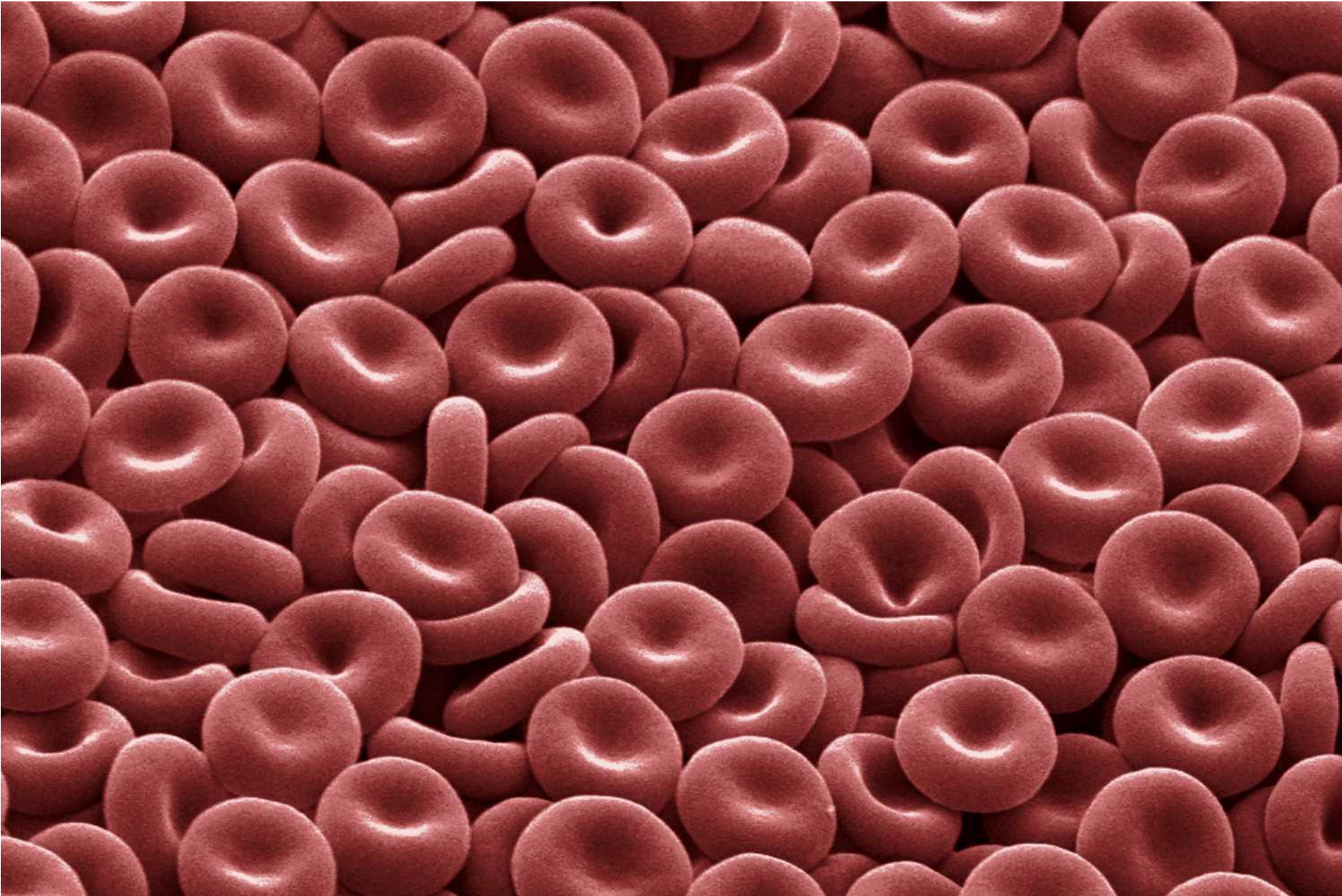
BMS research fund

 Bristol Myers Squibb



Hematopoiesis





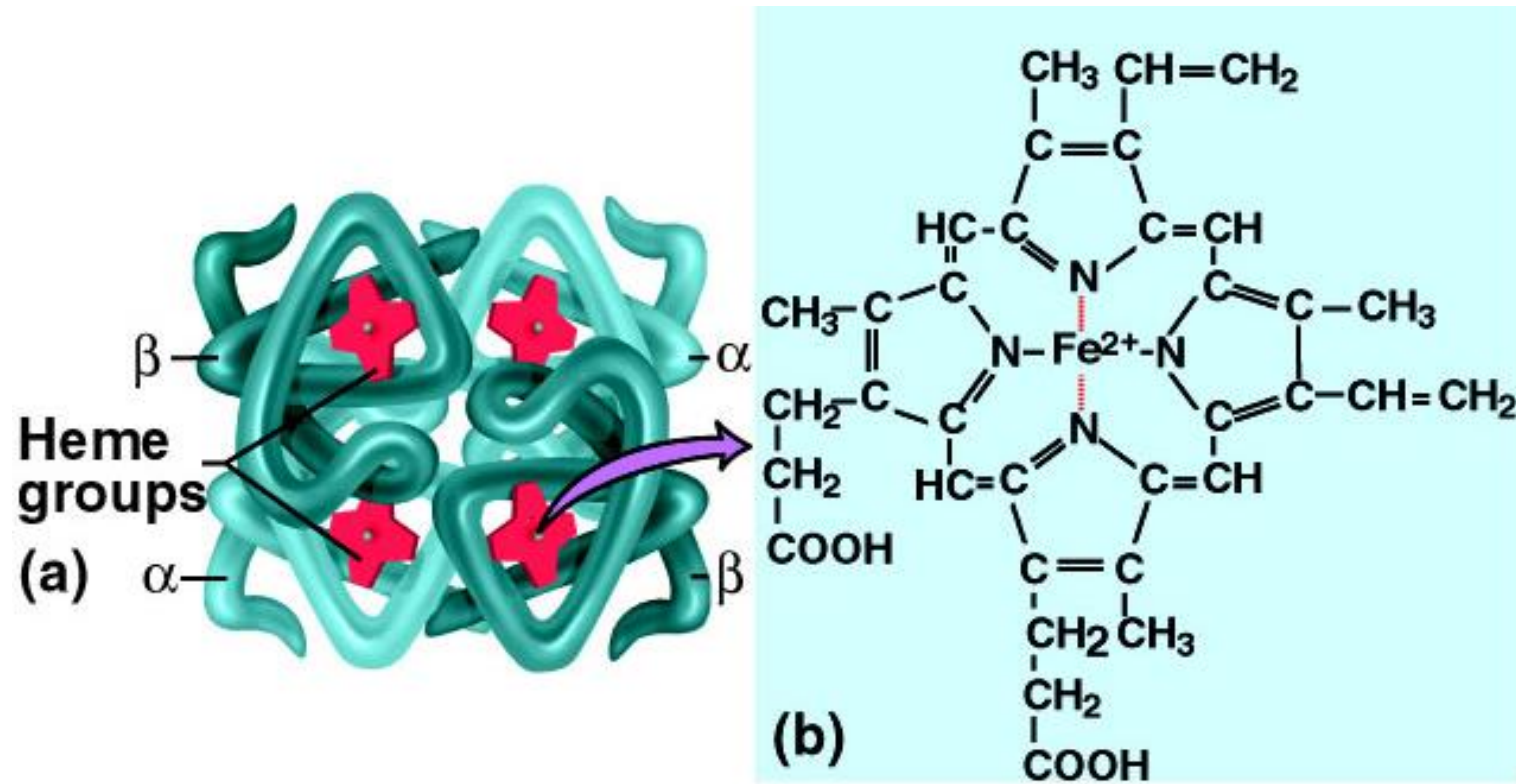
The Mature Erythrocyte I

(This is not your average cell)

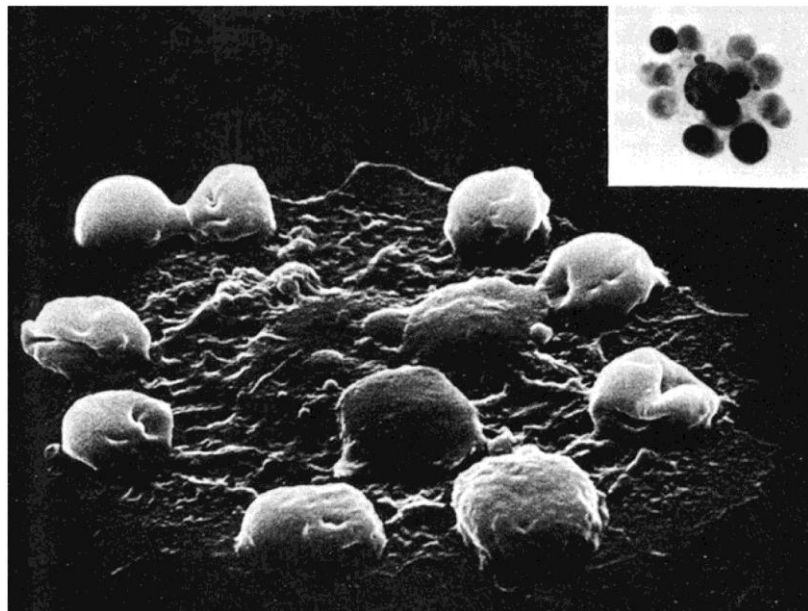
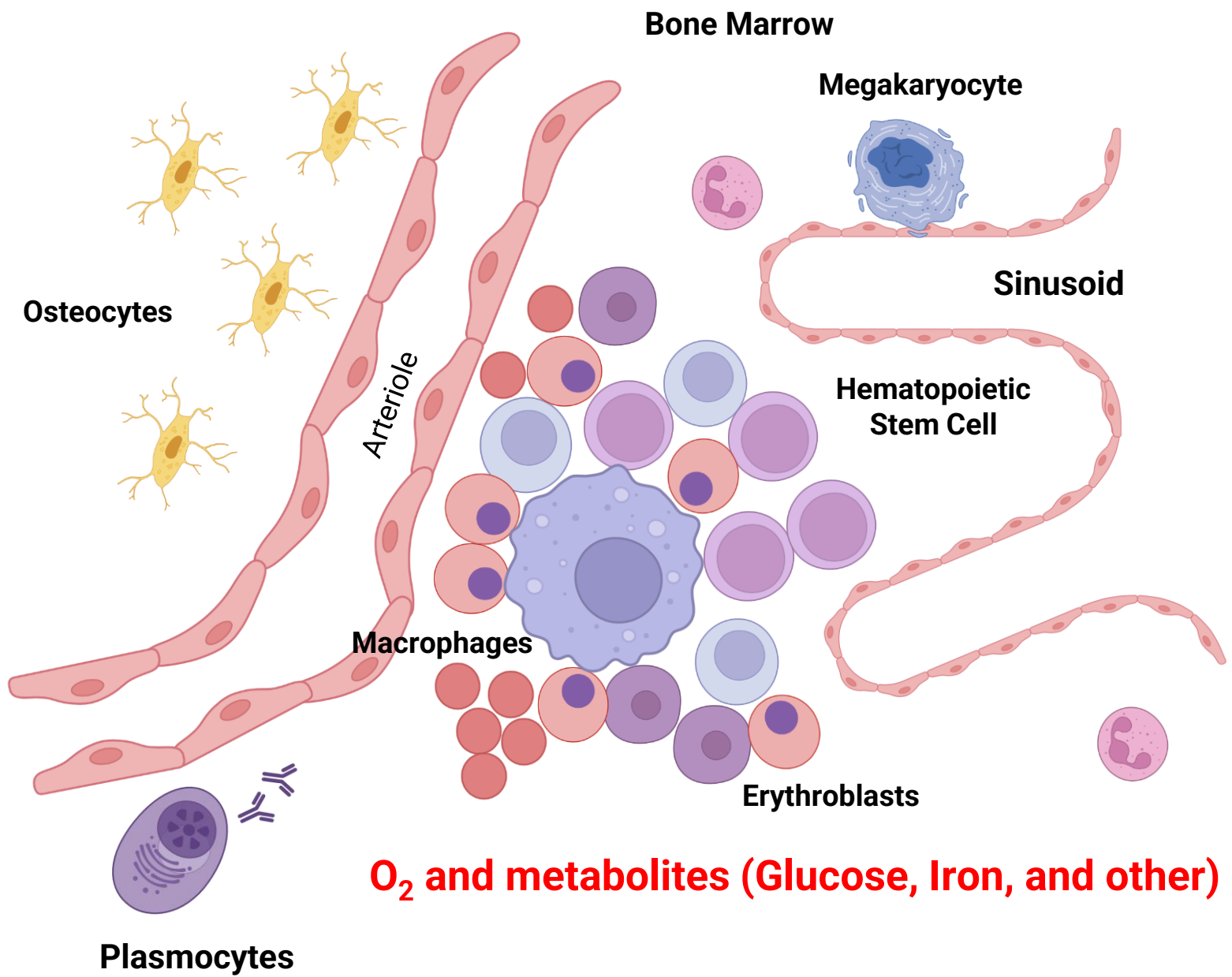
- One quarter of cells in human body are RBCs
- 2.4 million erythrocytes produced per second
- Develop in the bone marrow
- 7–8 microns in size (μm)
- Circulate for about 100–120 days
- Each cycle of circulation takes 20 seconds
- Erythrocyte components recycled by macrophages
- Must maintain slippery exterior
- Must maintain integrity in circulation



Hemoglobin



Erythropoiesis occurs in the bone marrow niche



Erythroblastic islands
Marcel Bessis 1958

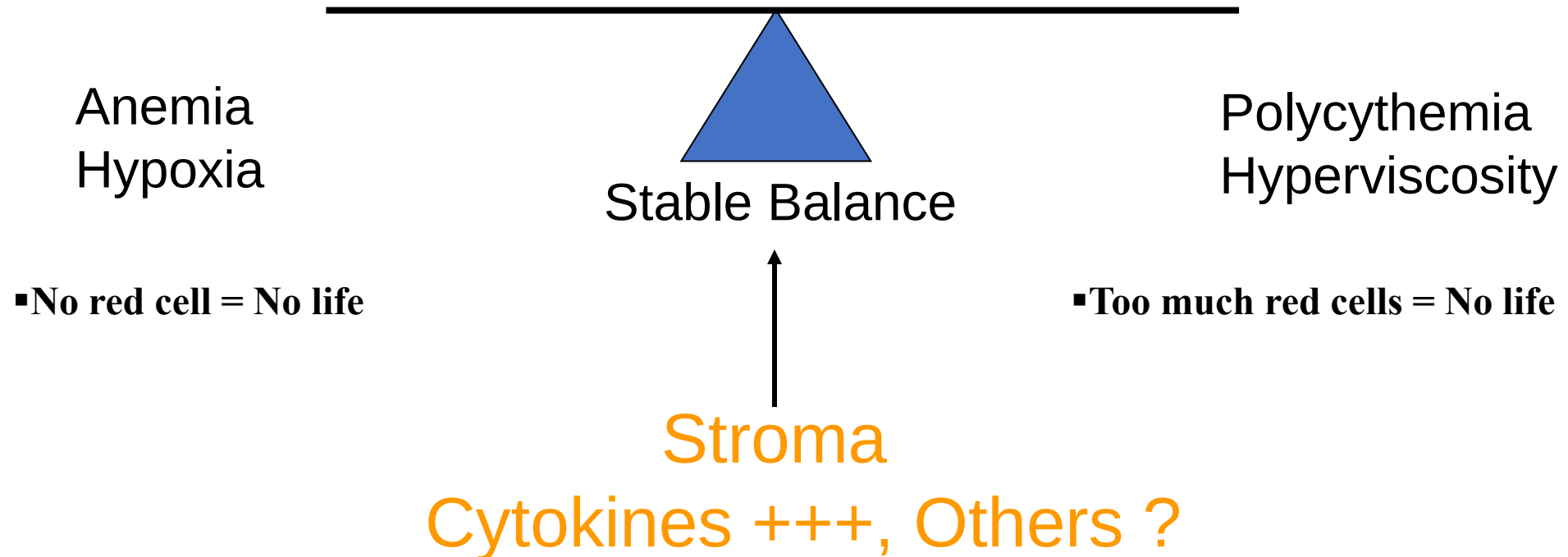
O₂ and metabolites (Glucose, Iron, and other)

Regulation of Erythropoiesis

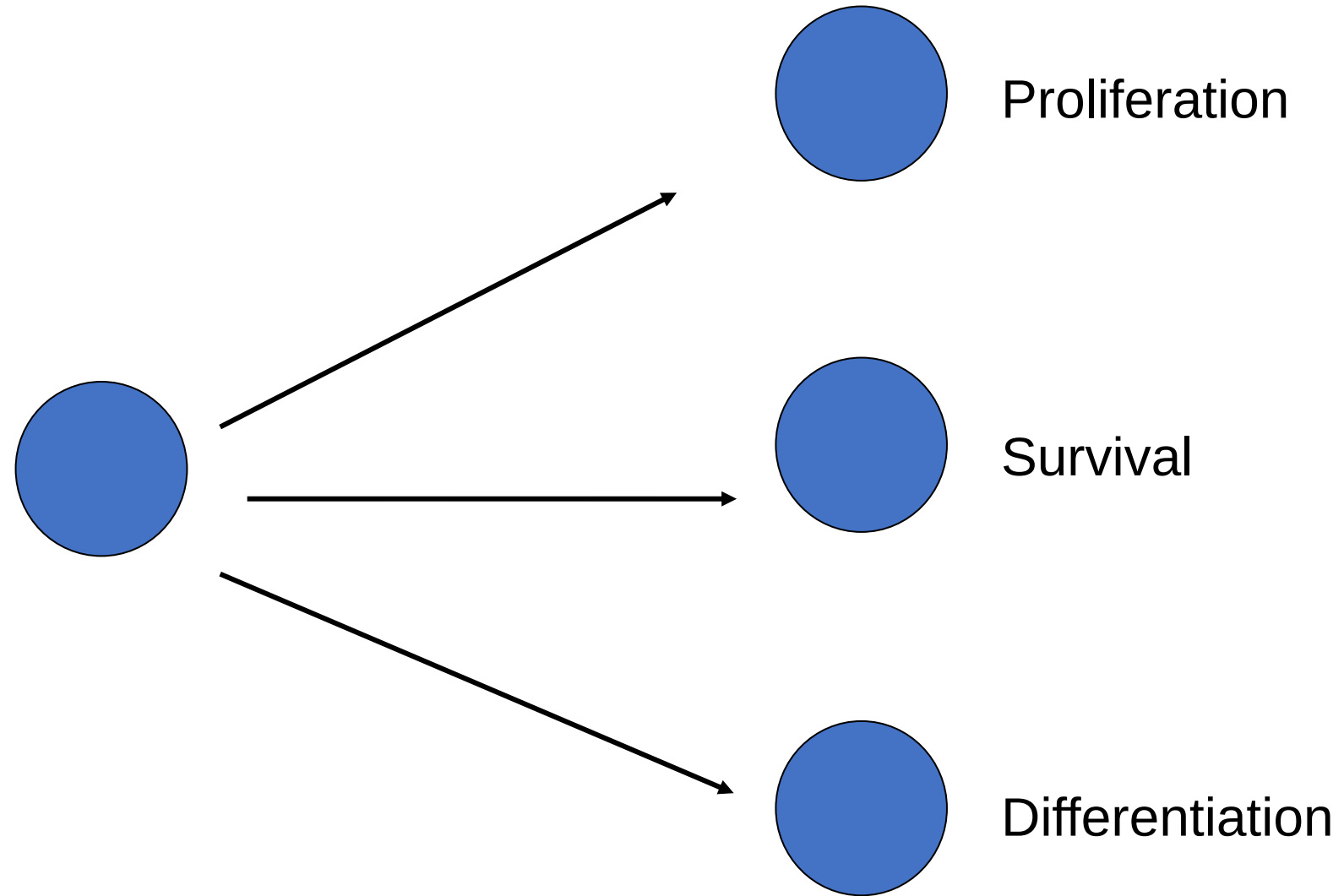
Fine regulation of erythropoiesis is a matter of life and death

10^{11} erythrocytes /day

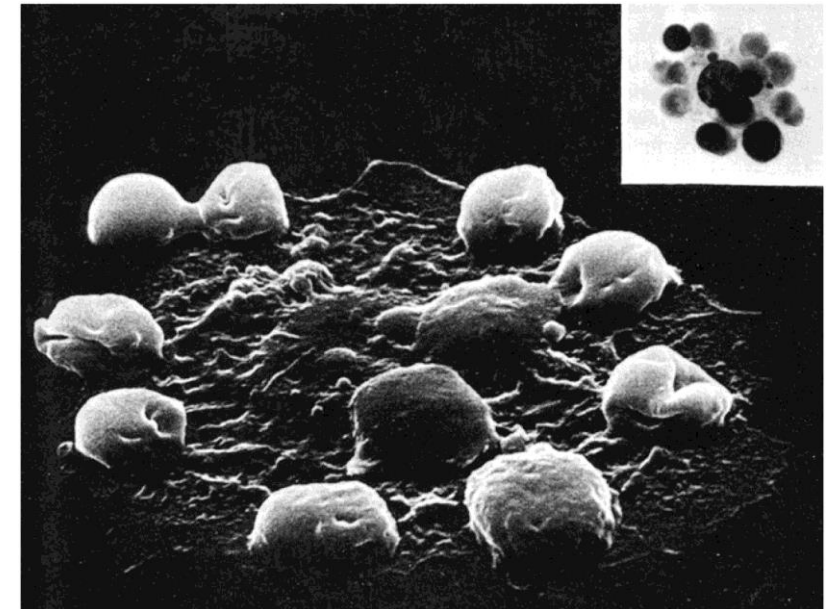
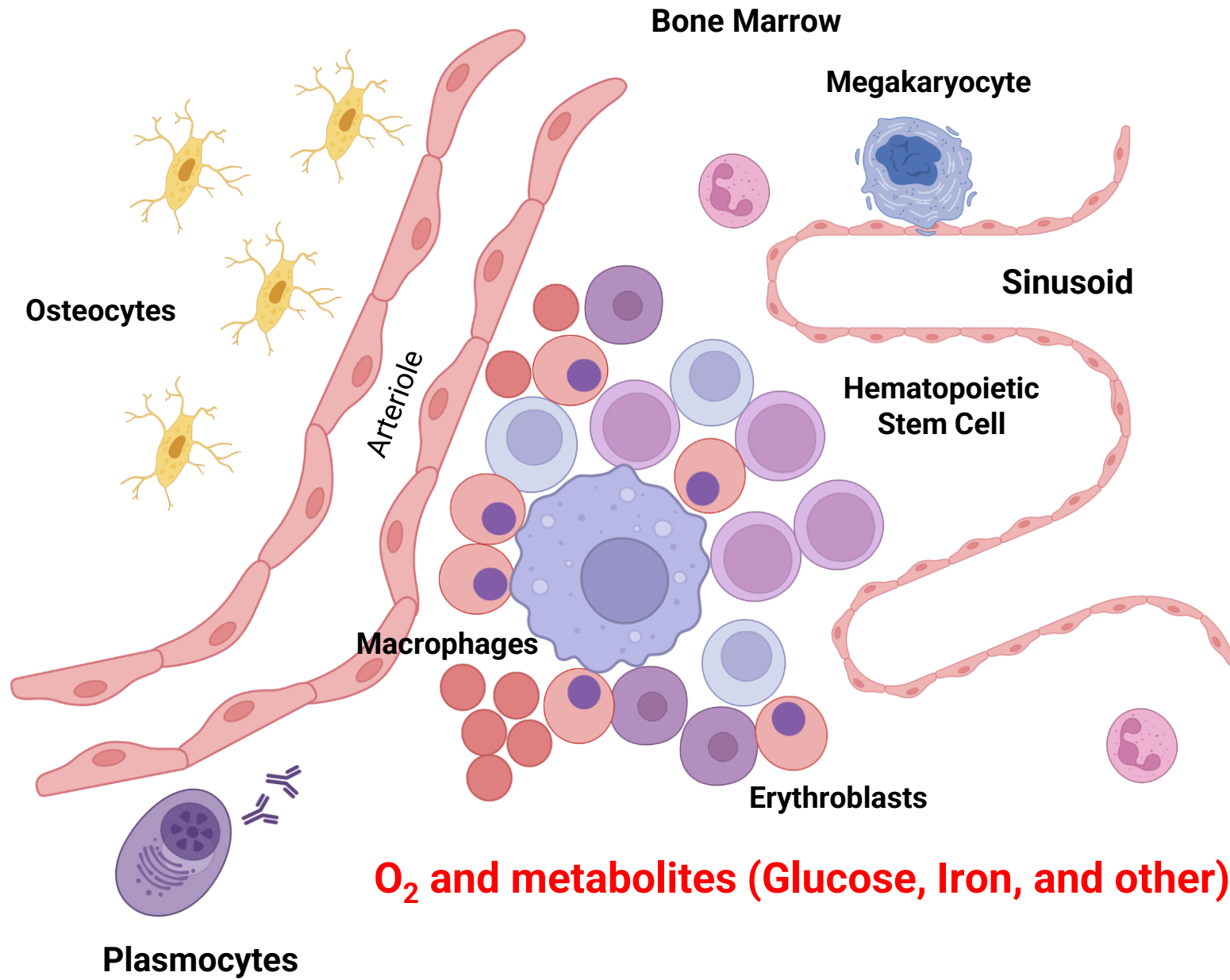
Iron, vitamins (B12, B9),
Hormones (T4, Androgens, IGF-1,...)



ROLES OF CYTOKINES



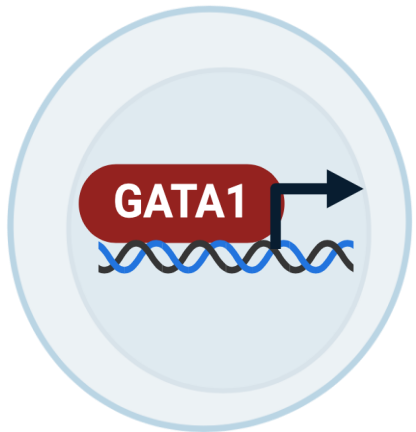
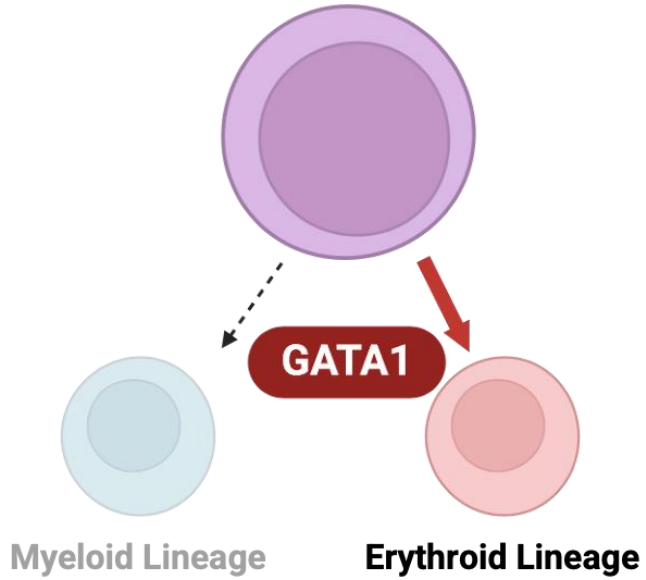
Erythropoiesis occurs in the bone marrow niche



Erythroblastic islands
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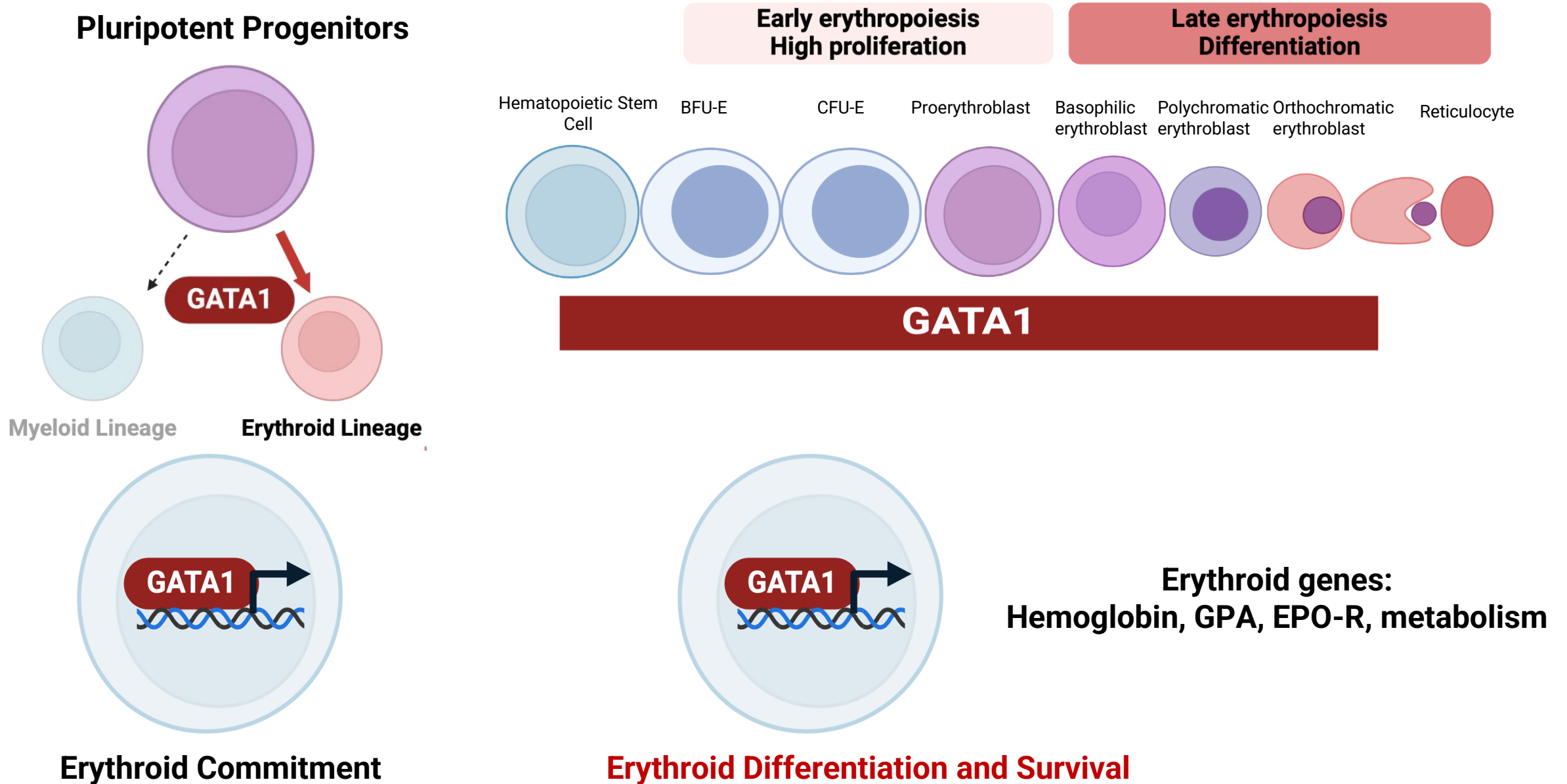
GATA1: The master transcriptional factor regulator of erythropoiesis

Pluripotent Progenitors

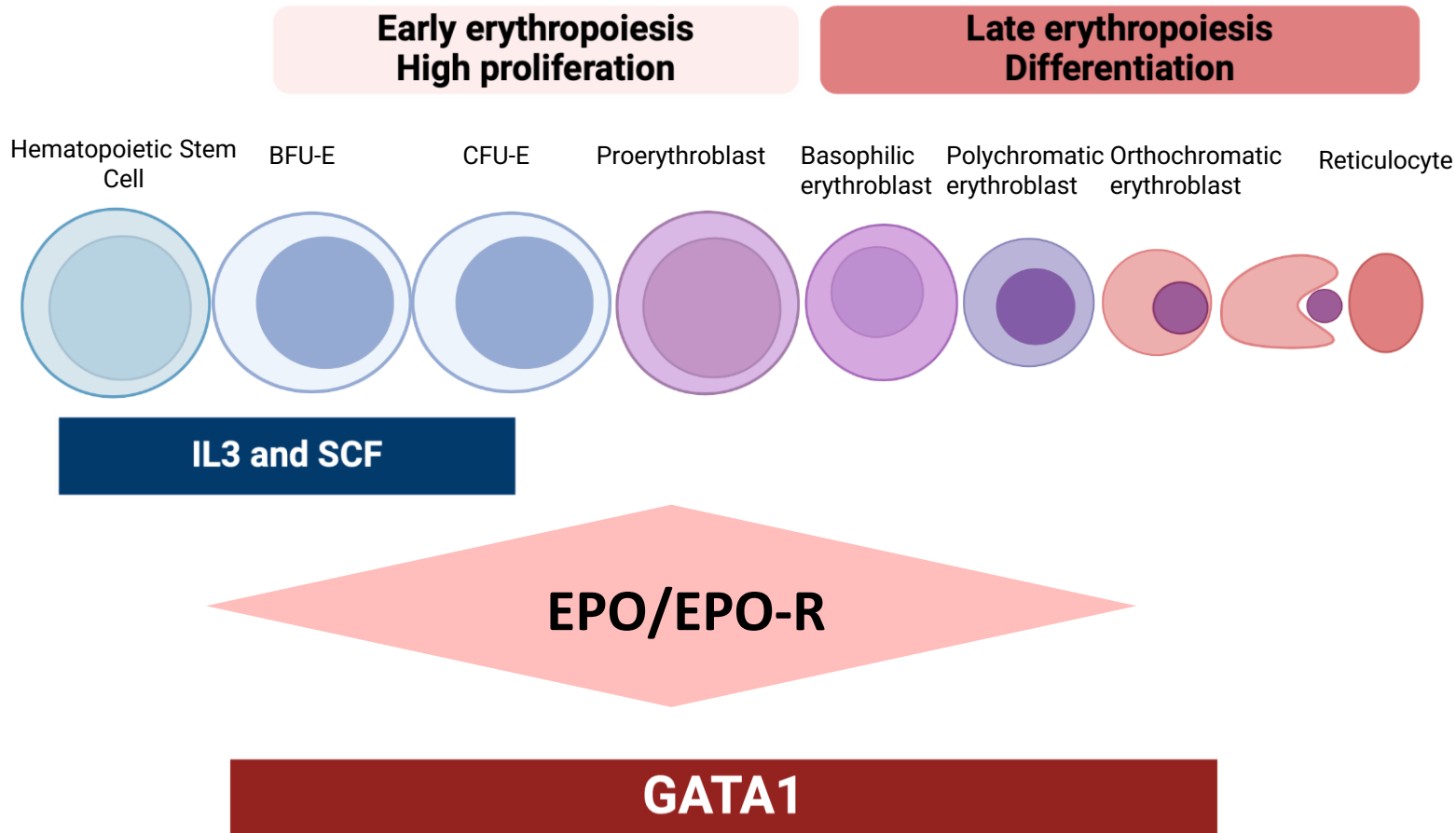


Erythroid Commitment

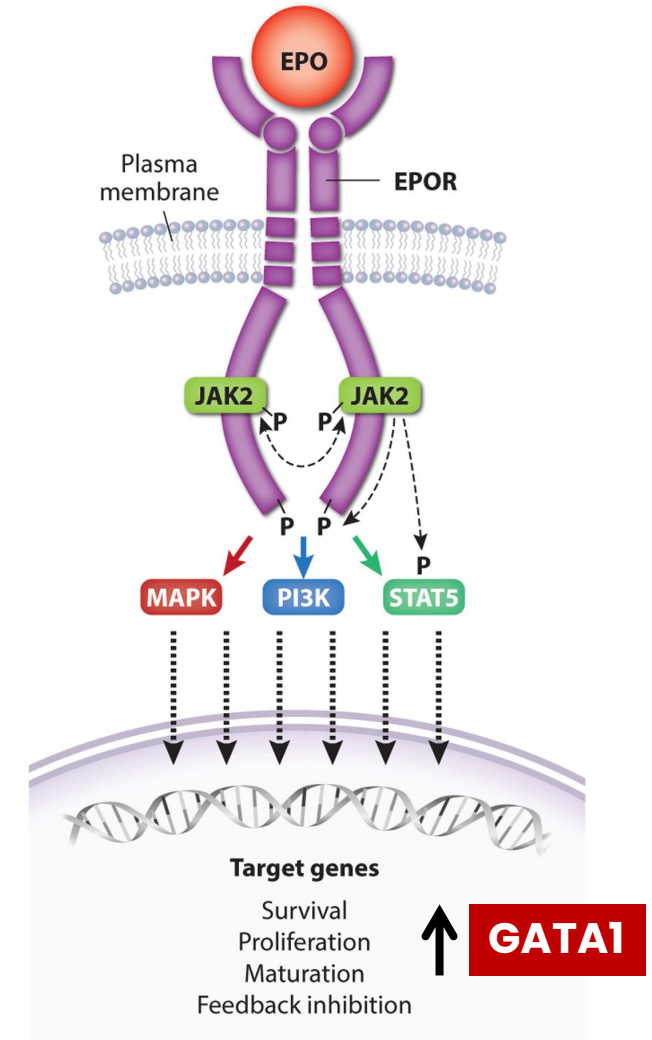
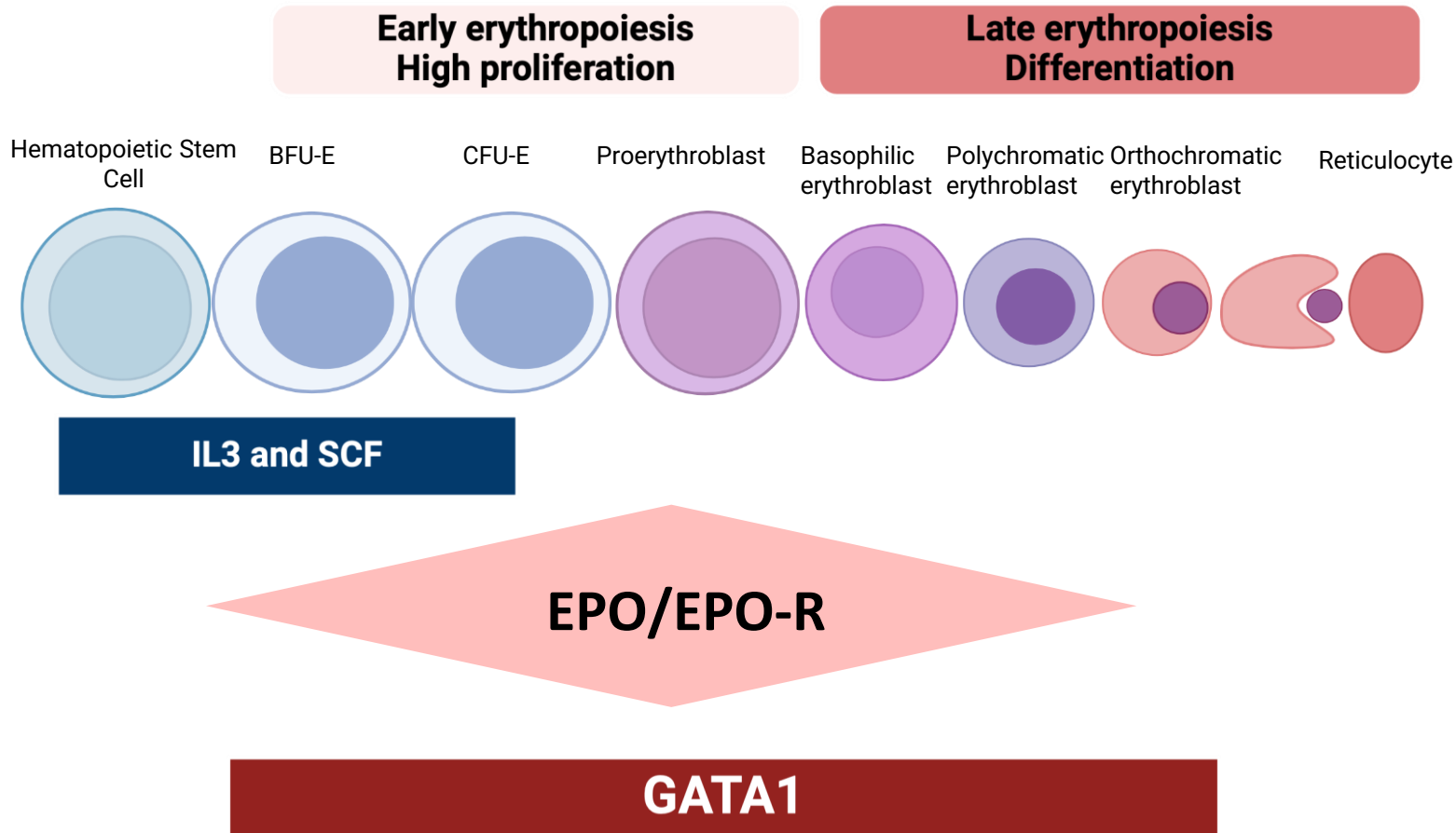
GATA1: The master transcriptional factor regulator of erythropoiesis



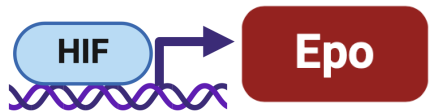
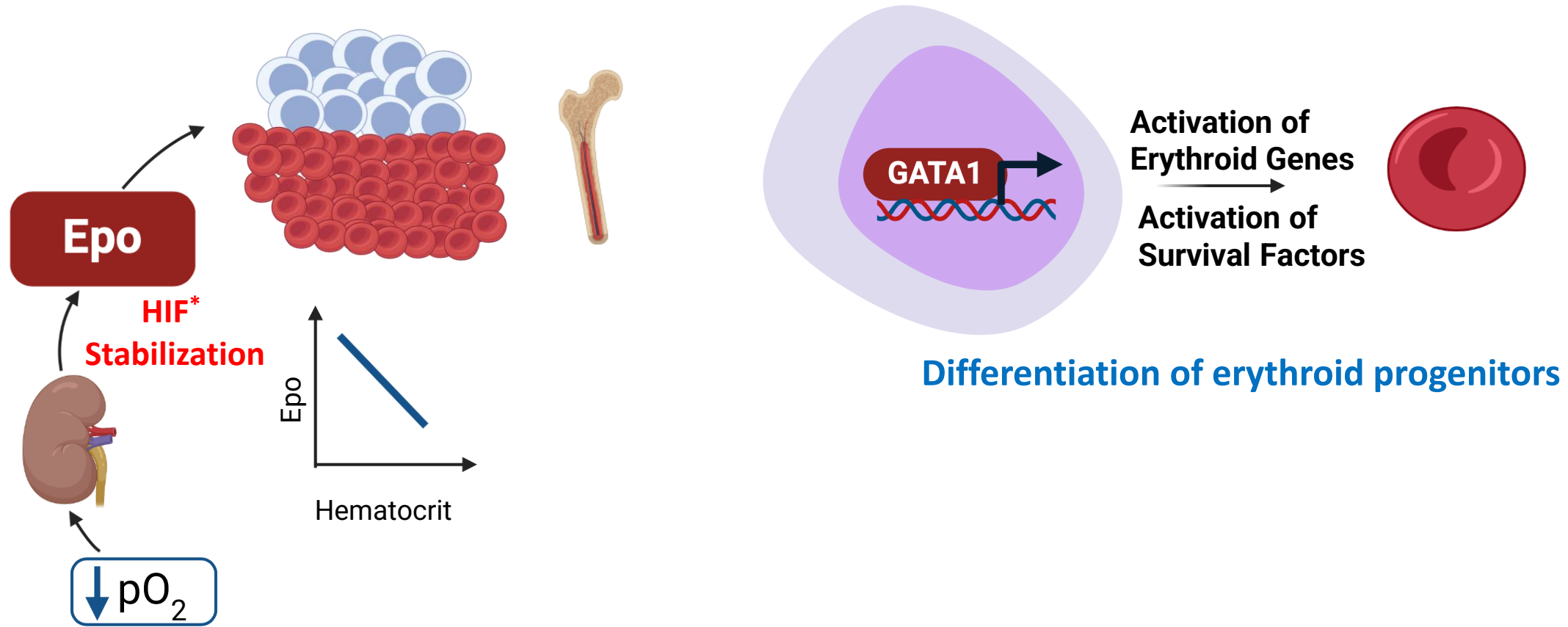
EPO is the main regulator of erythropoiesis, allowing the GATA1 induced differentiation program



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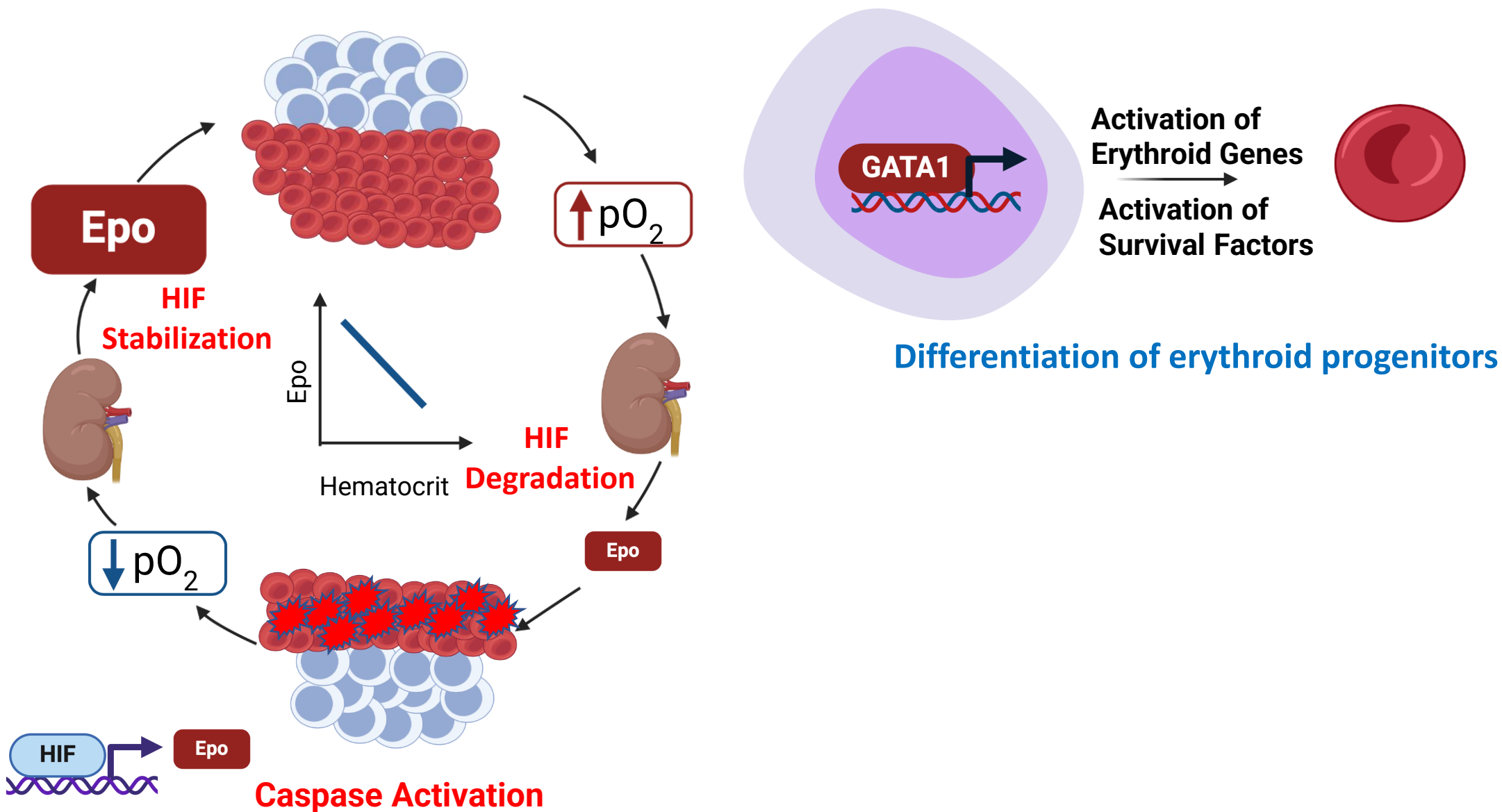
Model of erythropoiesis regulation : O₂ regulates EPO synthesis



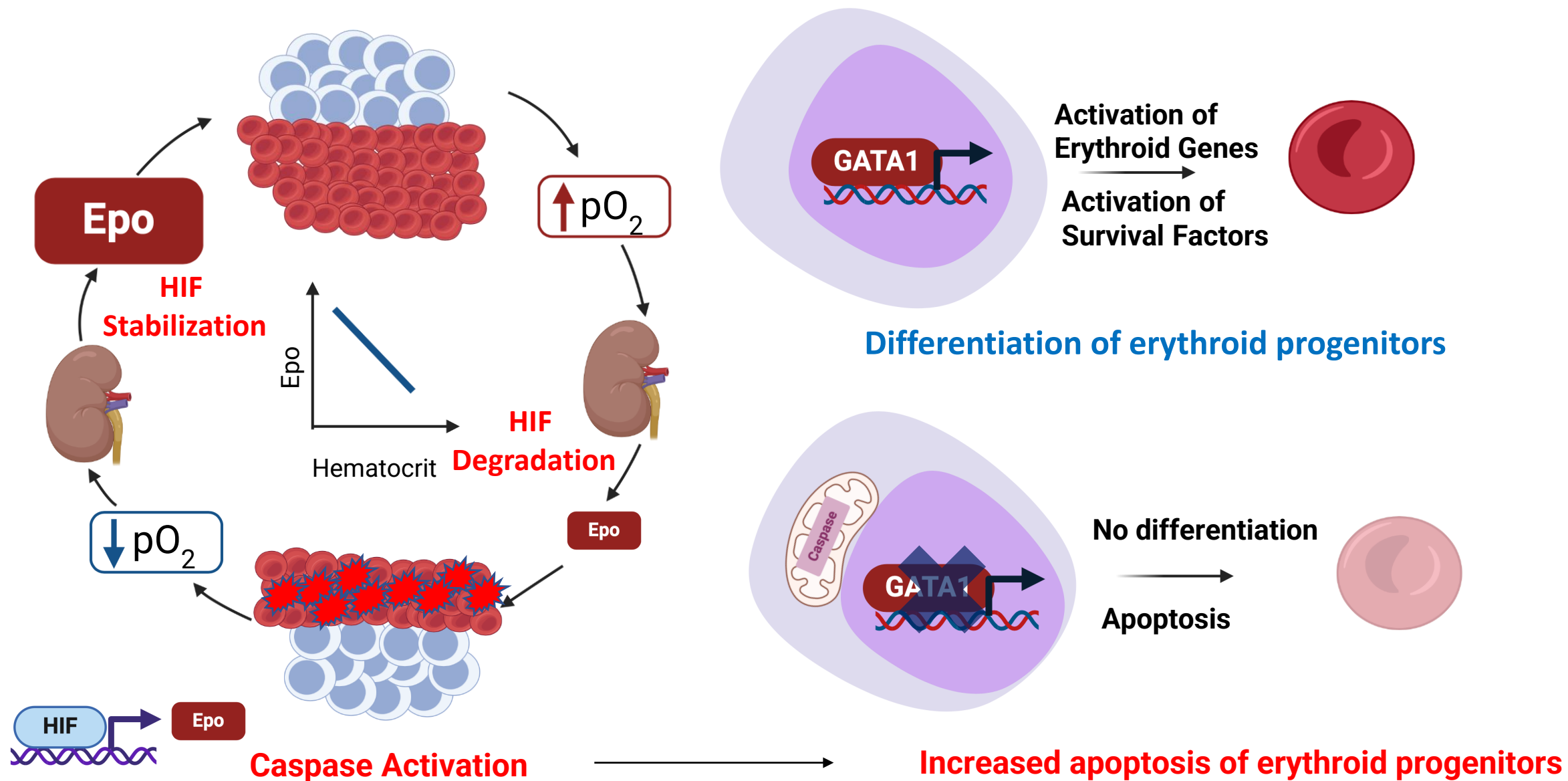
* HIF-Hypoxia inducible factor

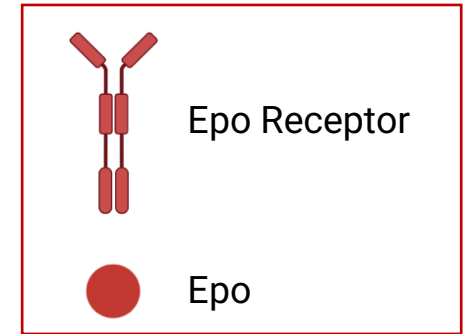
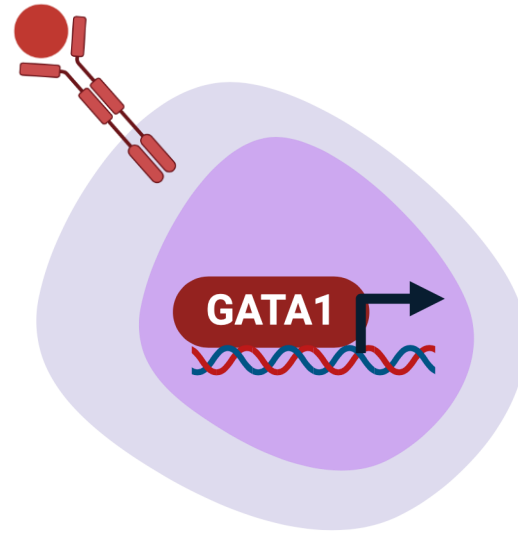
Adapted from: Koury M and Bondurant M , Science 1990

Model of erythropoiesis regulation : Apoptosis as a key regulator



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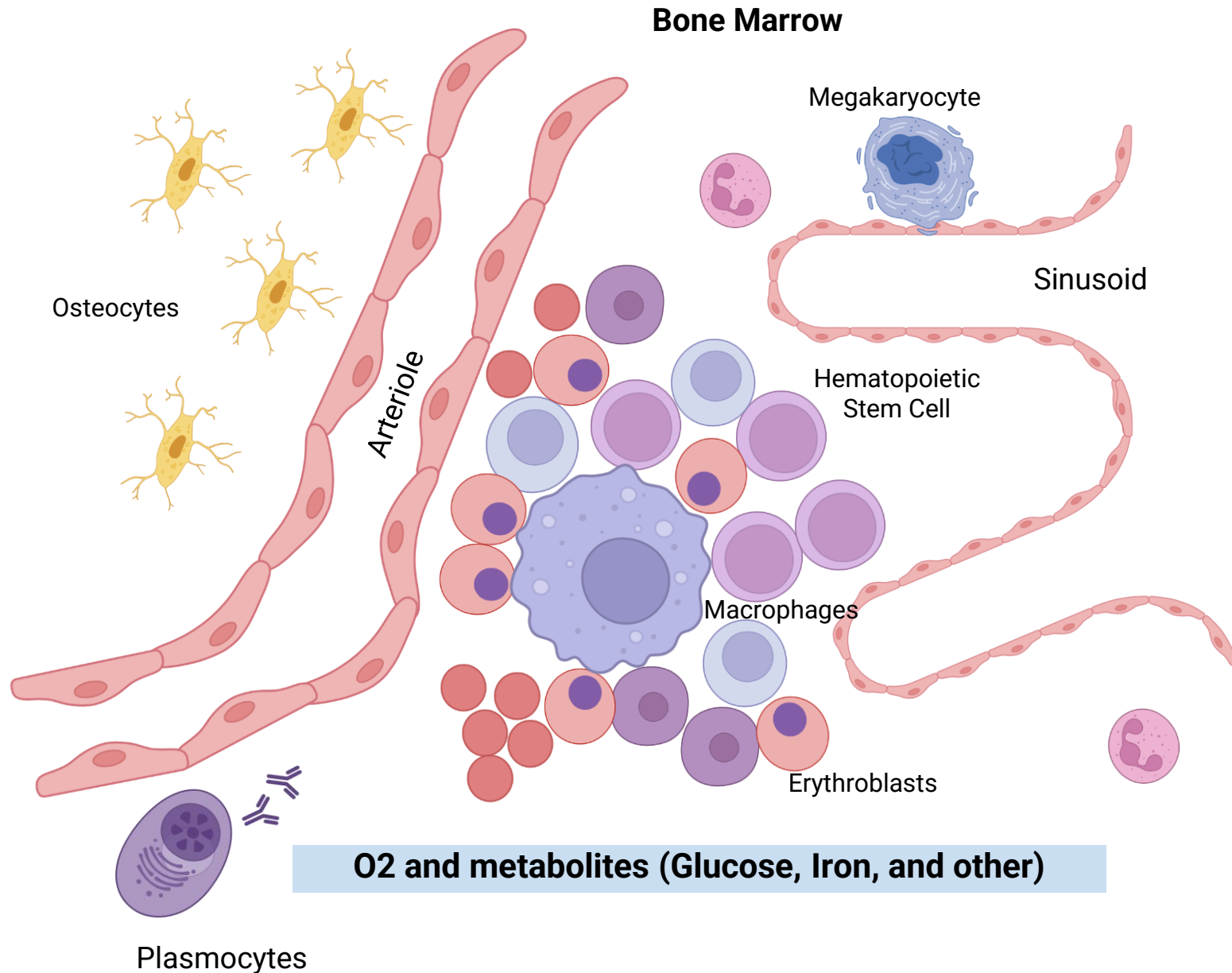




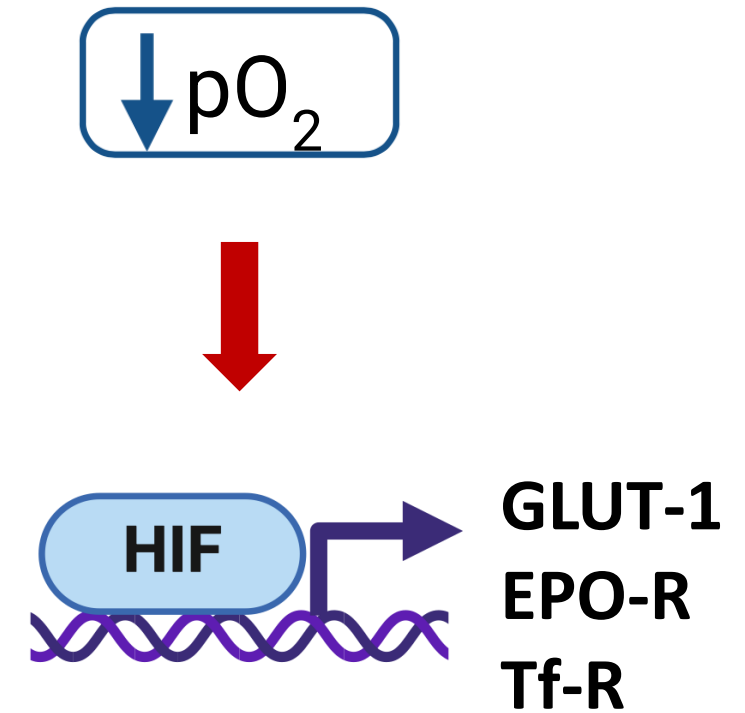
Differentiation of the erythroid lineage

What regulates sensitivity of erythroblasts to Epo?

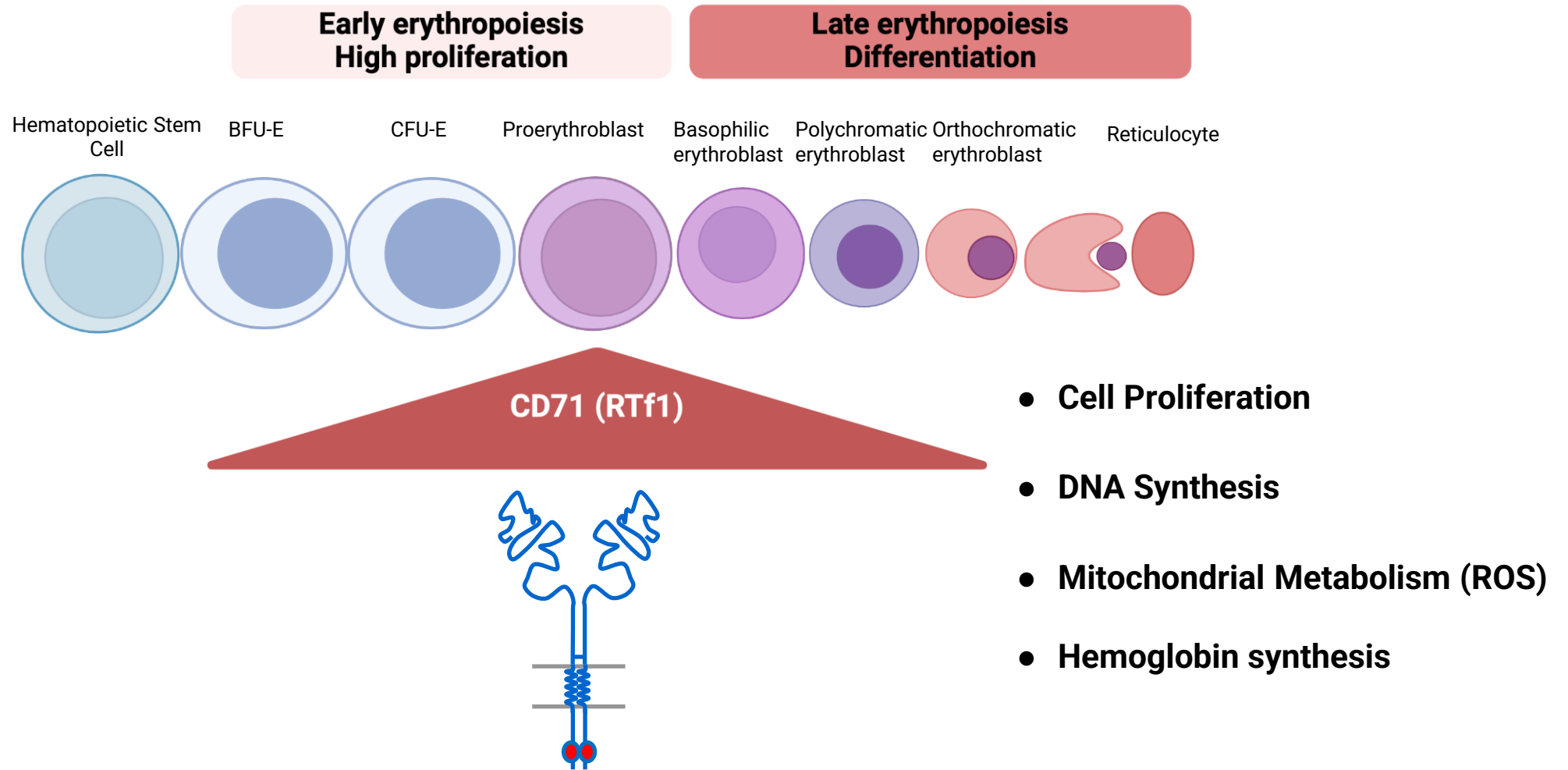
What determine the sensitivity of progenitors to Epo in the BM niche?



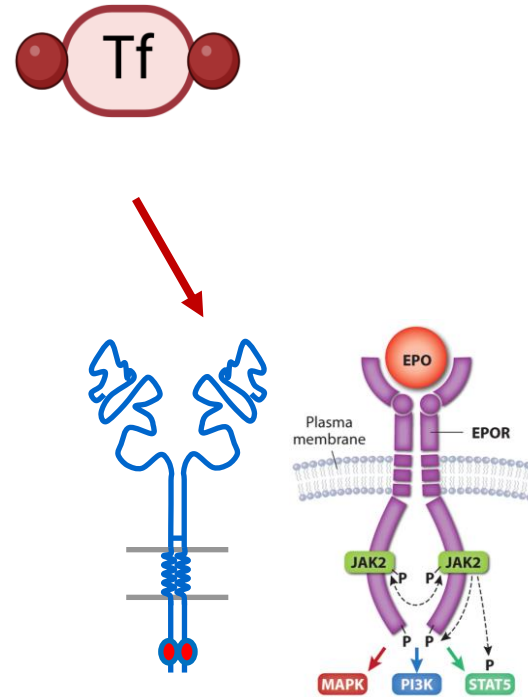
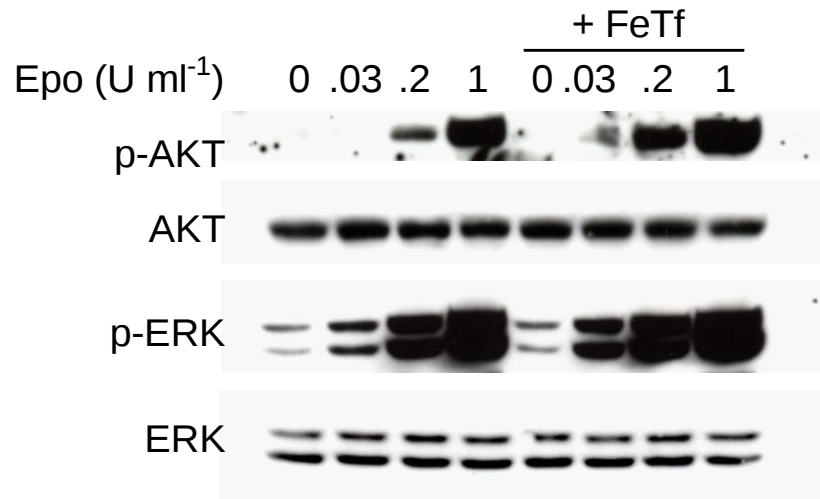
**Oxygen is a key regulator
in the bone marrow niche**



Transferrin Receptor: A Key Regulator of Erythropoiesis

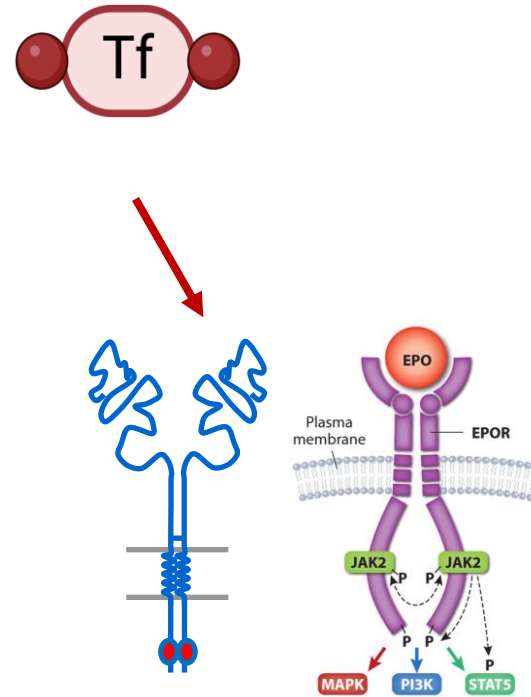
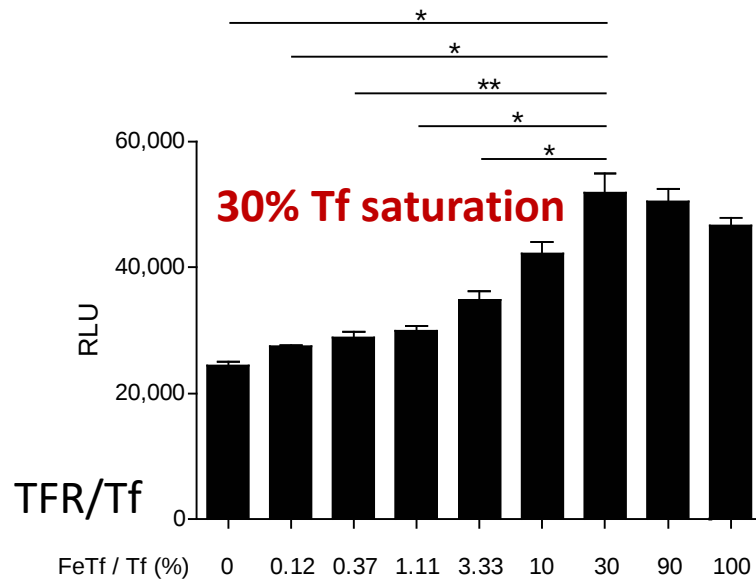
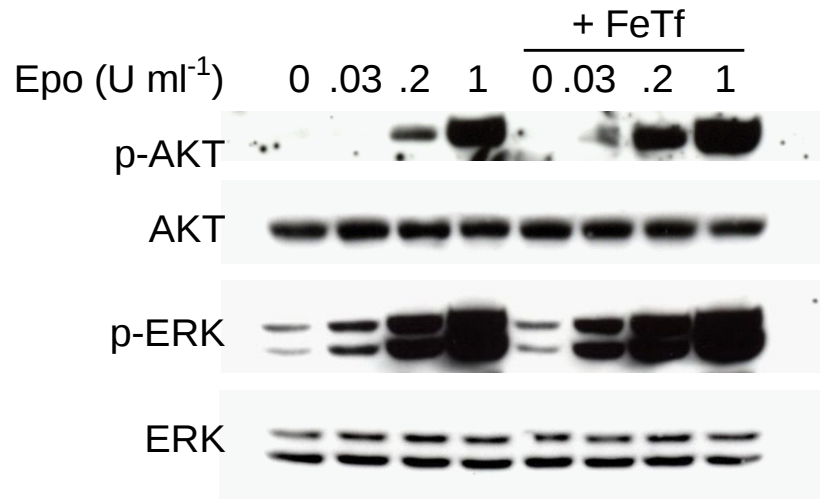


Transferrin Receptor activation synergizes with Epo signaling



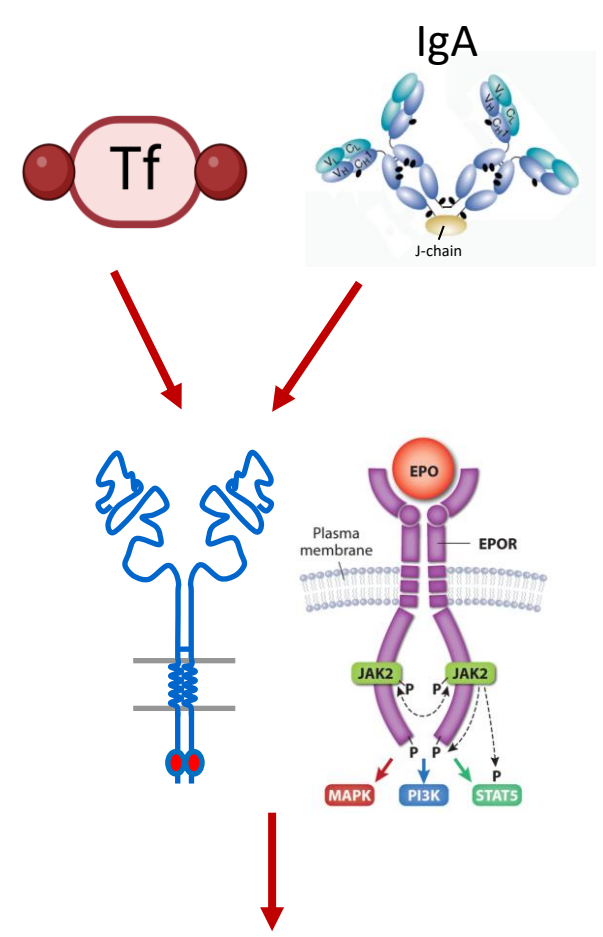
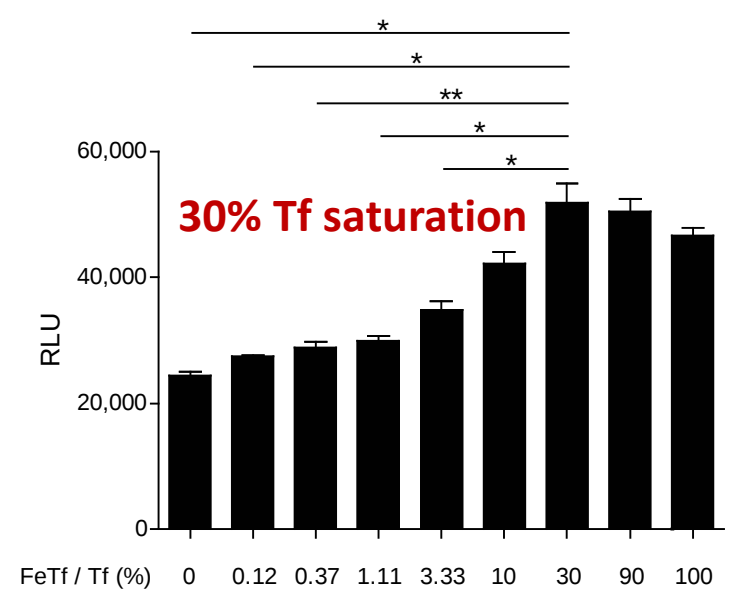
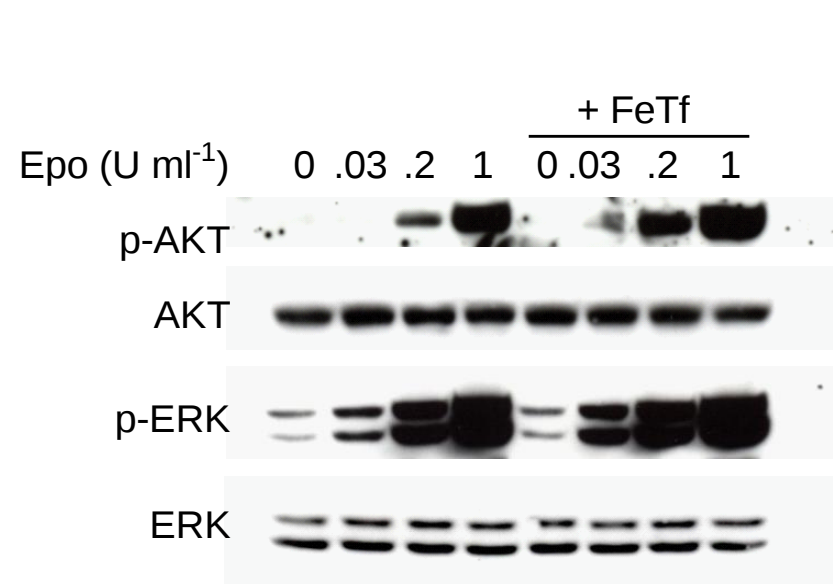
**Signal Transduction
Synergy with Epo
MAPK and AKT**

Transferin Receptor synergizes with Epo signaling

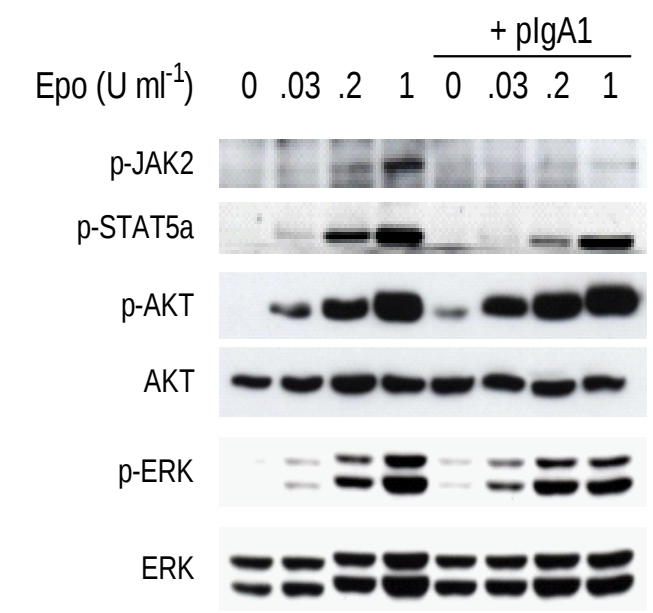


**Signal Transduction
Synergy with Epo
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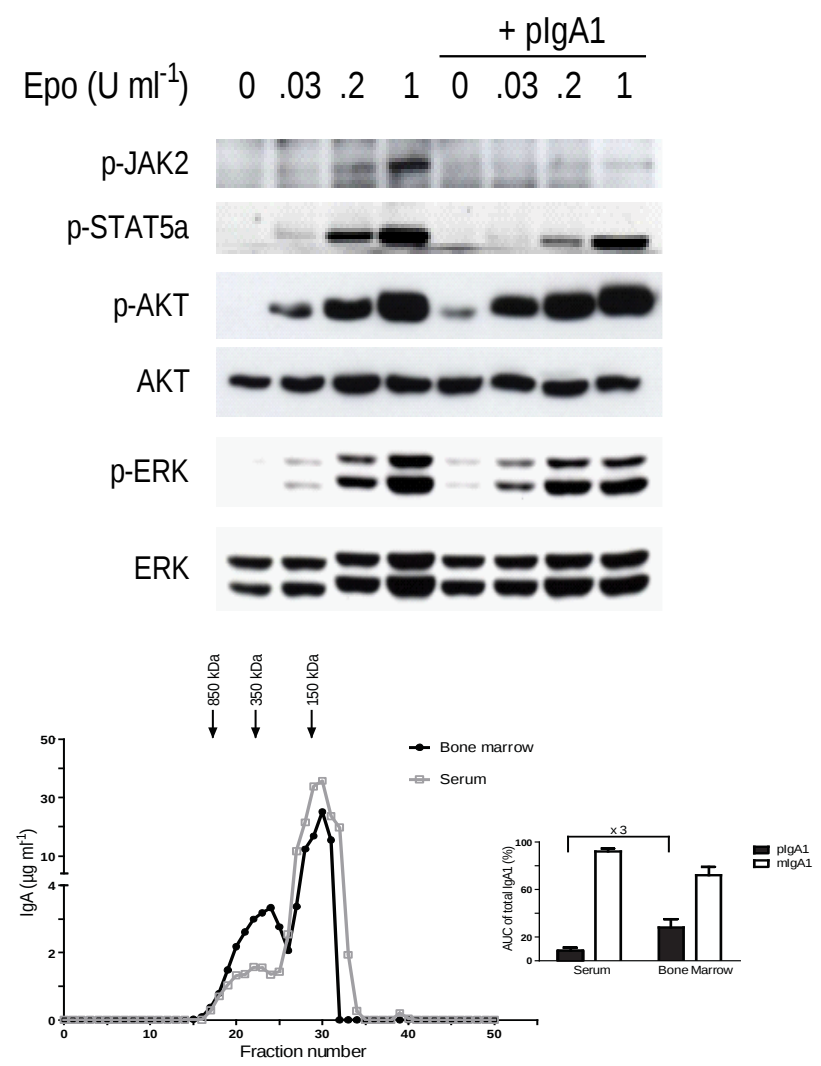
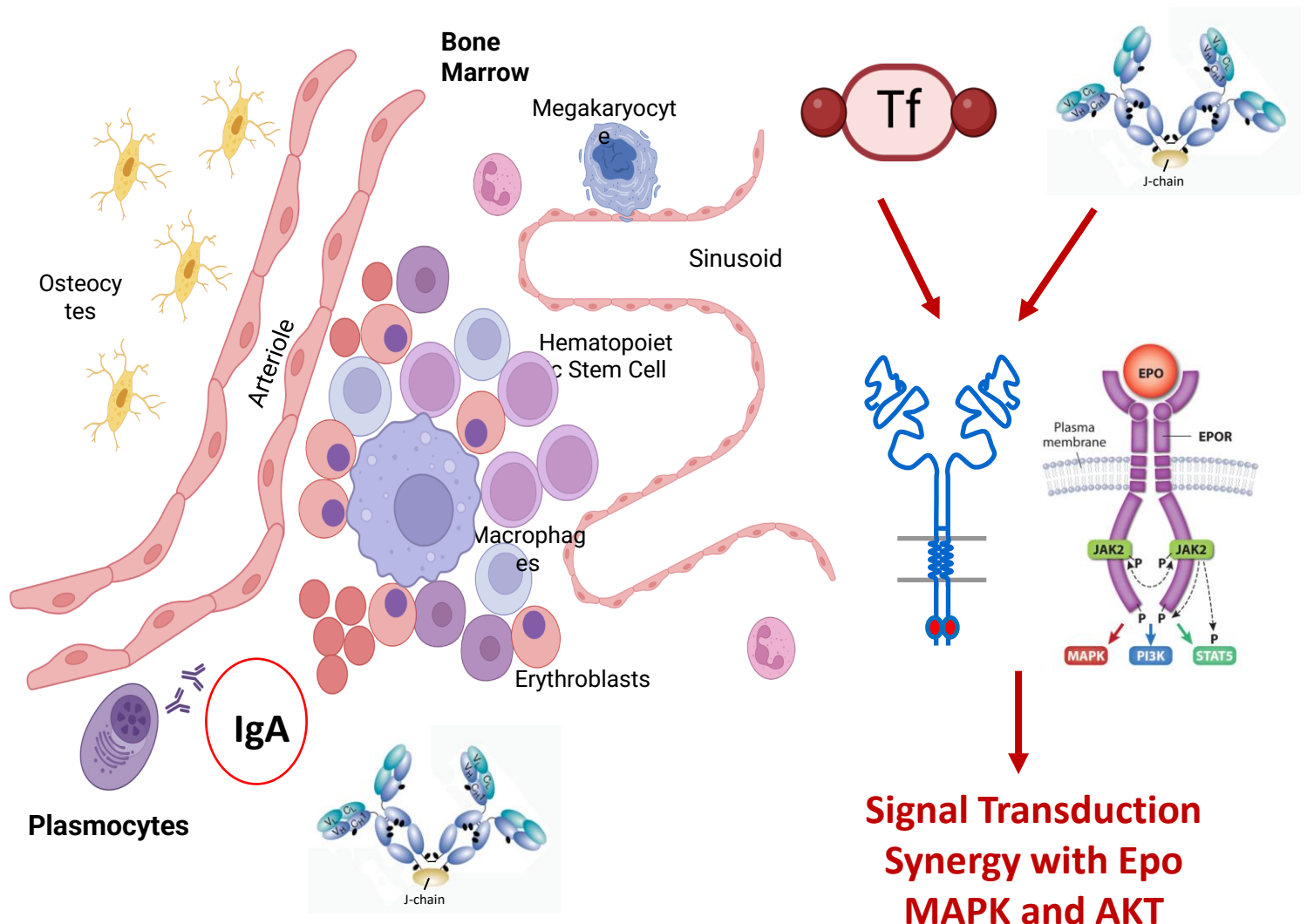
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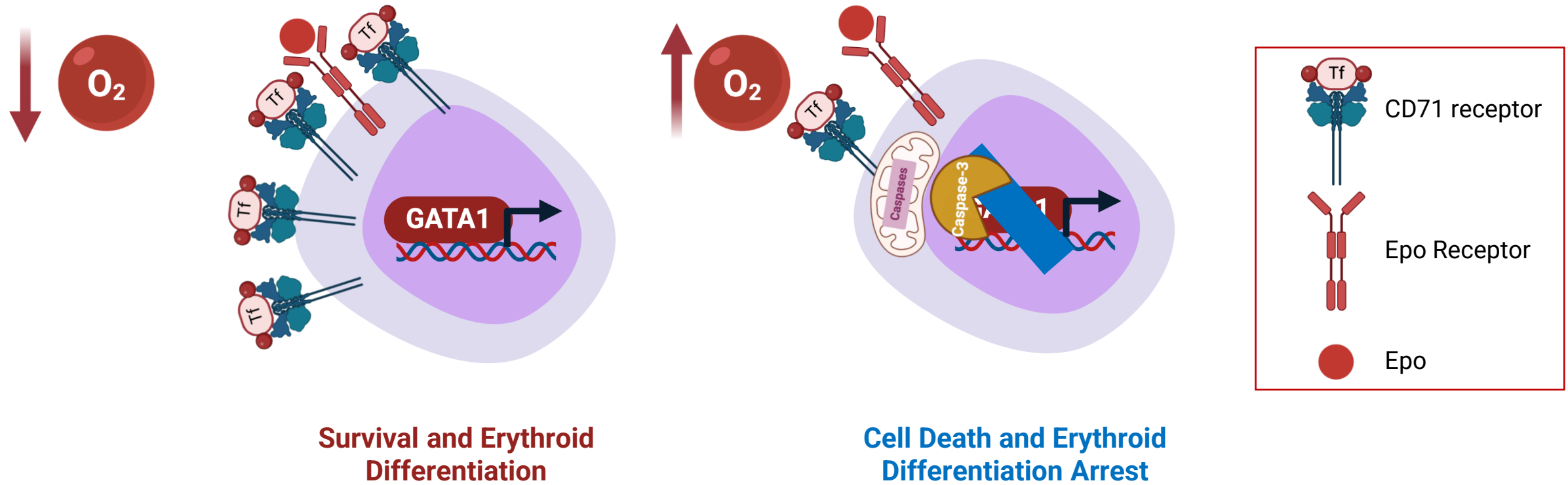
**Signal Transduction
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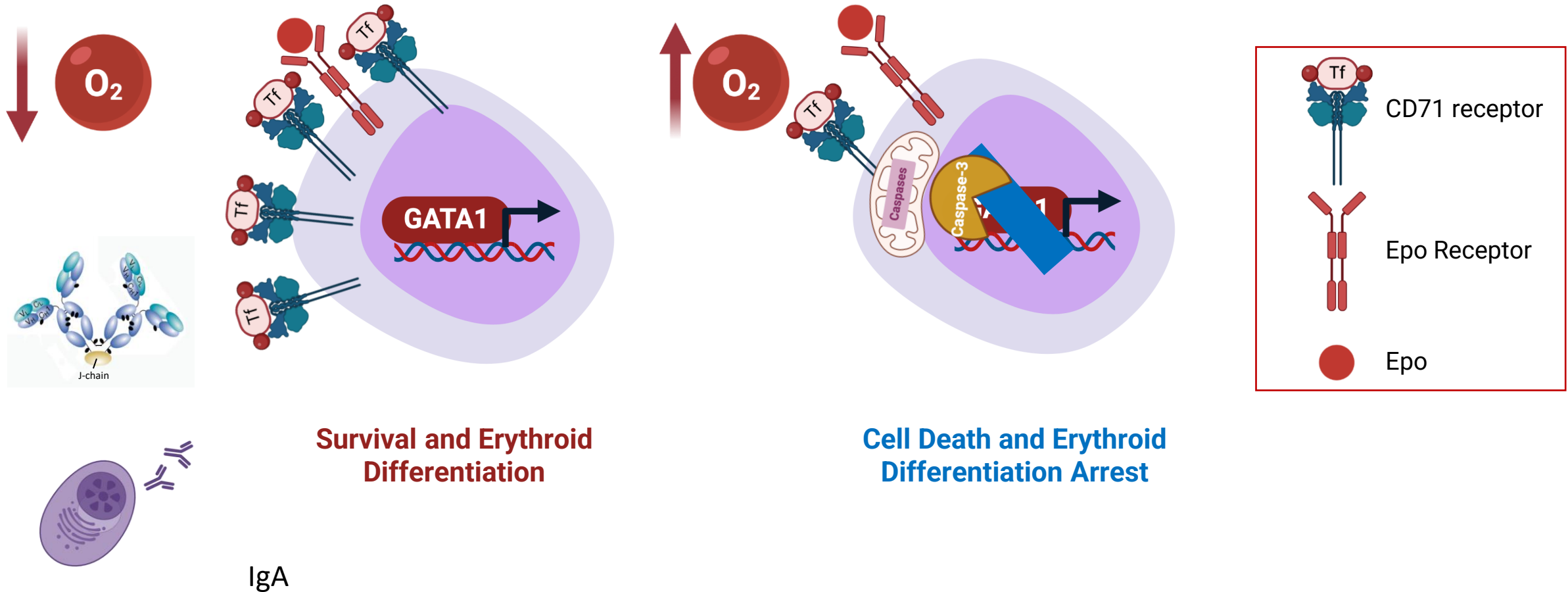
IgA binds and stimulation activation synergizes with Epo signaling



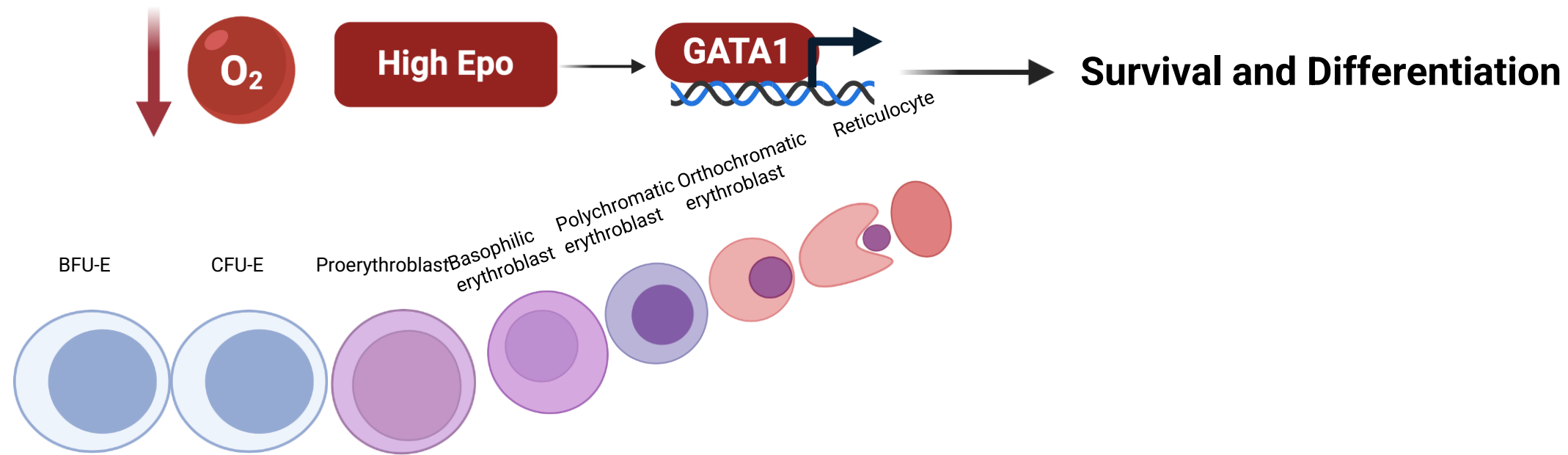
Transferrin Receptor Expression and Iron: Key Factors Underlying Erythroblast Sensitivity to Erythropoietin



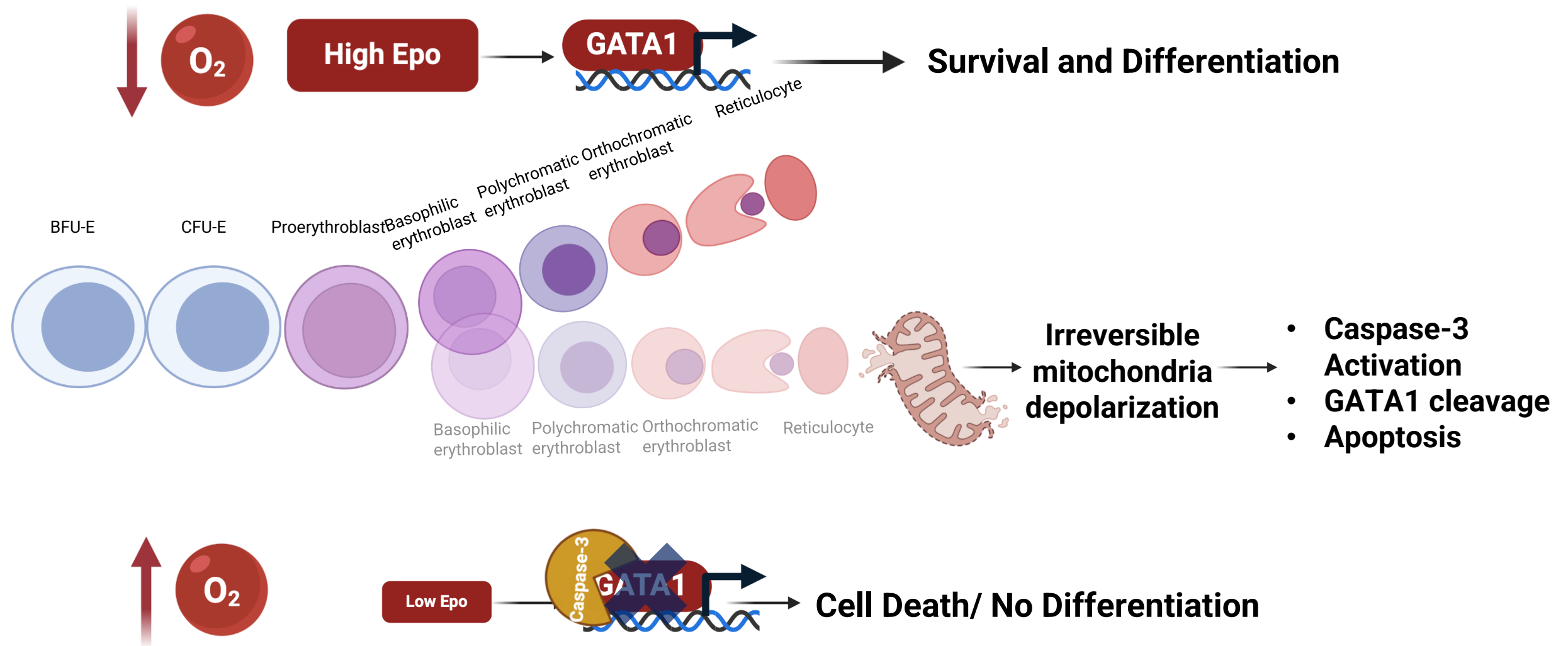
Transferrin Receptor Expression and IgA: Key Factors Underlying Erythroblast Sensitivity to Erythropoietin



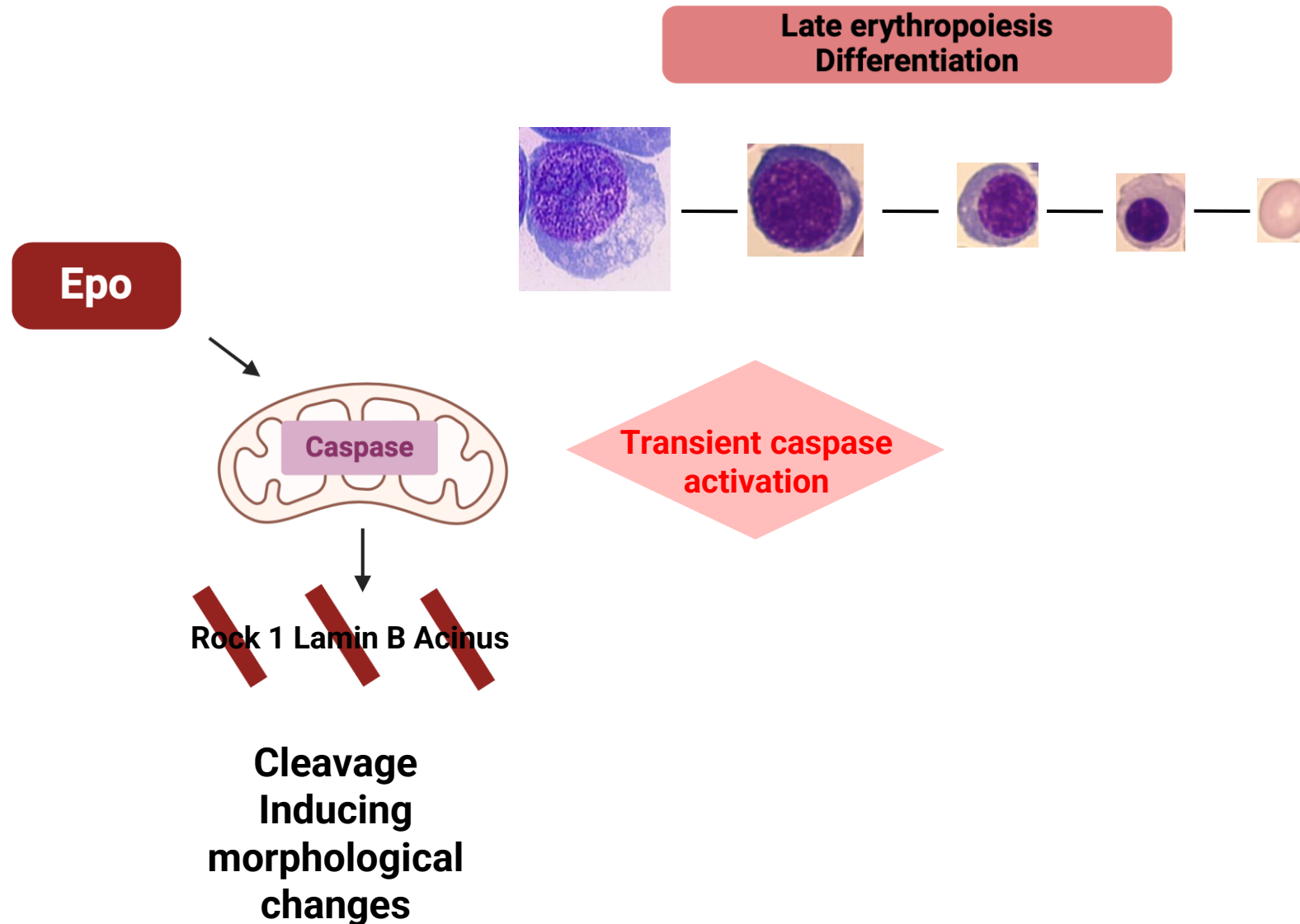
Caspase-3 is a key player in apoptosis of erythroid precursors



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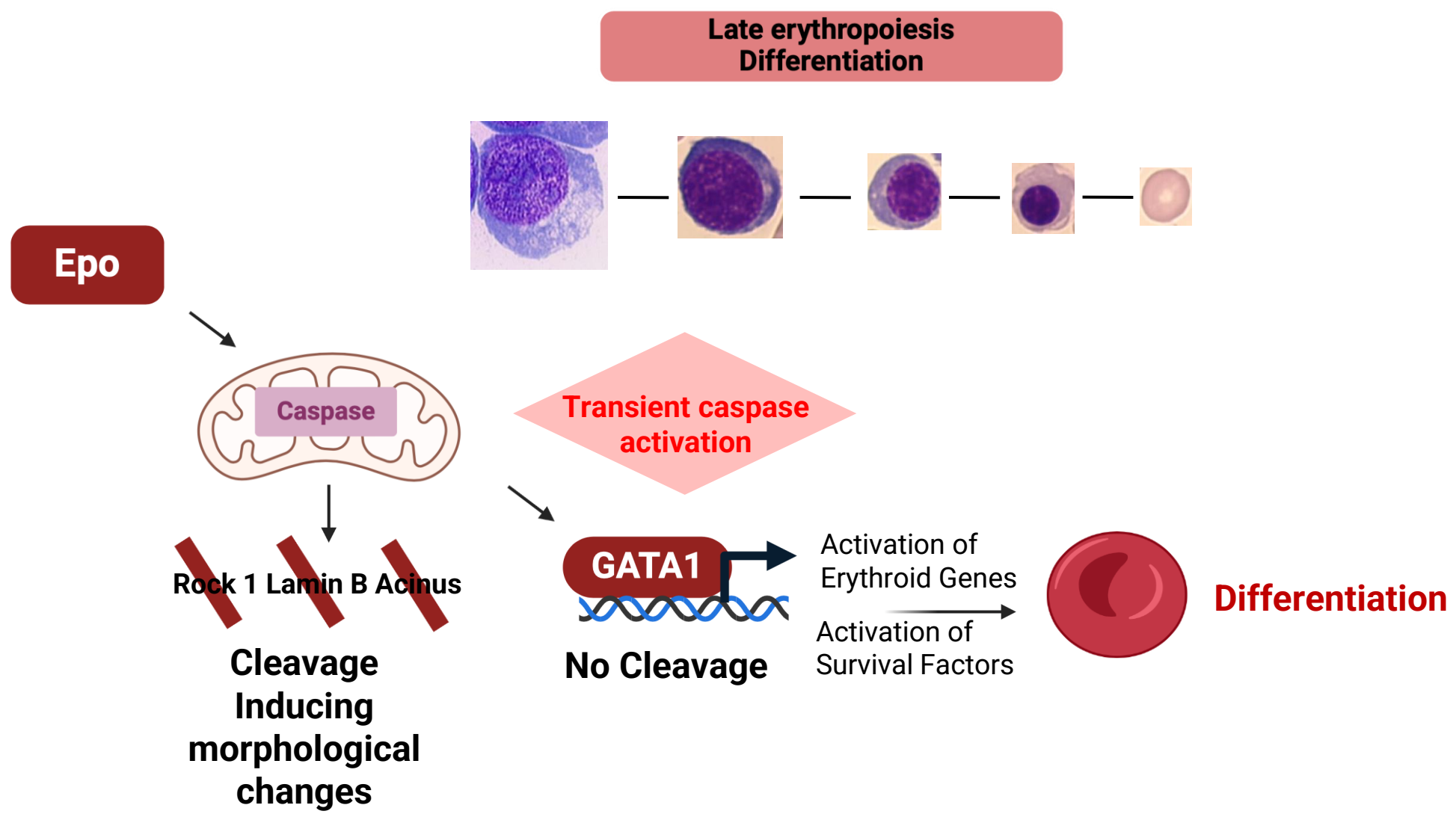


But transient caspase activation is required for terminal erythroid differentiation



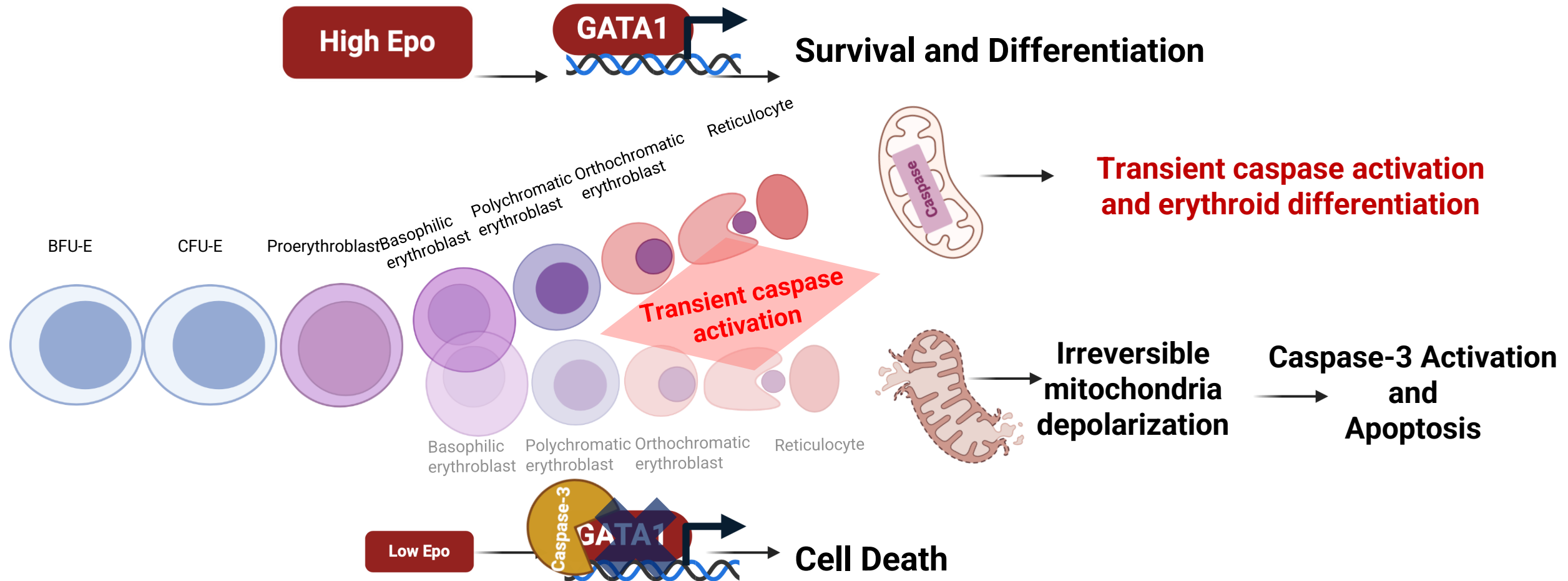
Eric Solary

And GATA1 is not cleaved by Caspase-3 during erythroid differentiation



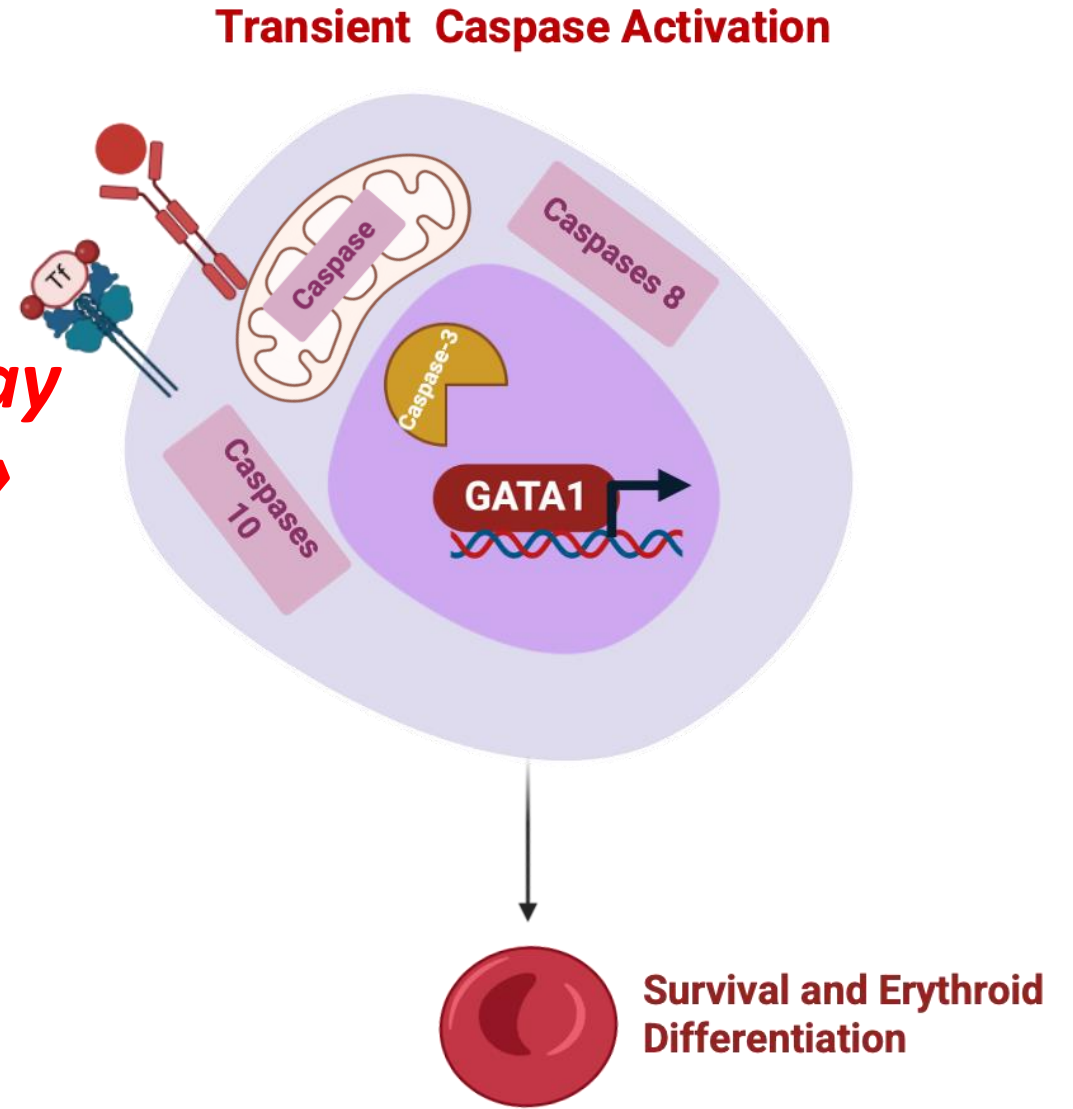
Eric Solary

Caspase-3: A key player in terminal erythroid differentiation and apoptosis



**Caspase 3 is critical both for
differentiation and apoptosis**

***« Blocking this cell death process may
prevent red blood cell generation »***

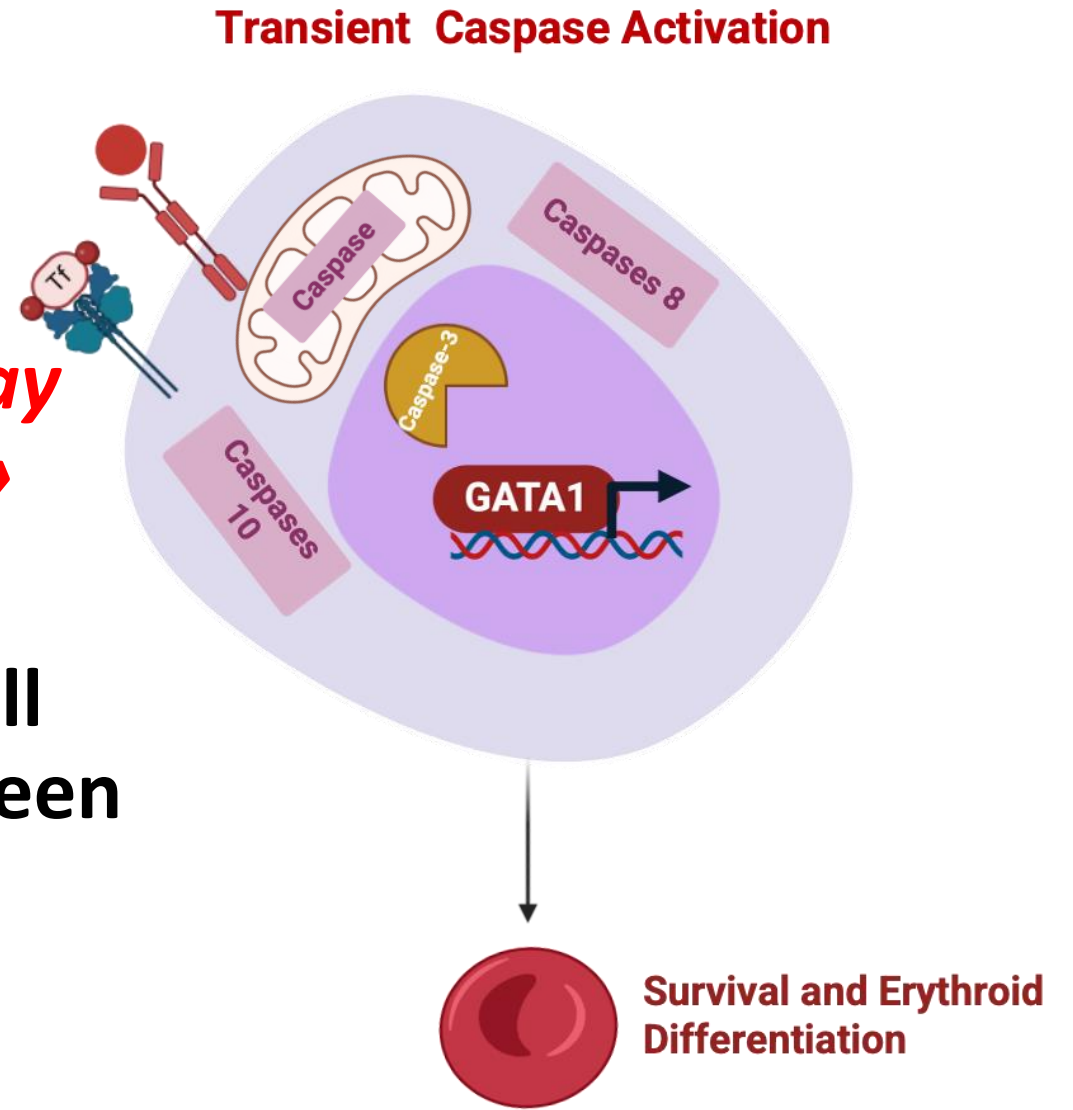


Caspase 3 is critical both for differentiation and apoptosis

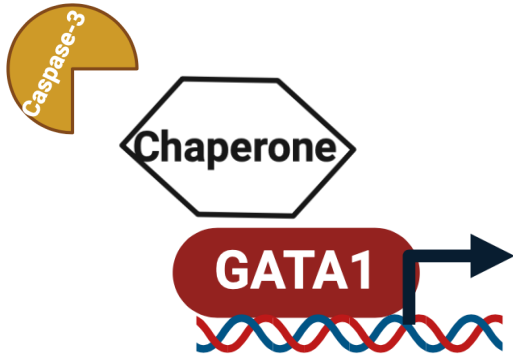
« Blocking this cell death process may prevent red blood cell generation »

Cell differentiation is an abortive cell death program and the decision between death and differentiation is made downstream Caspase activation

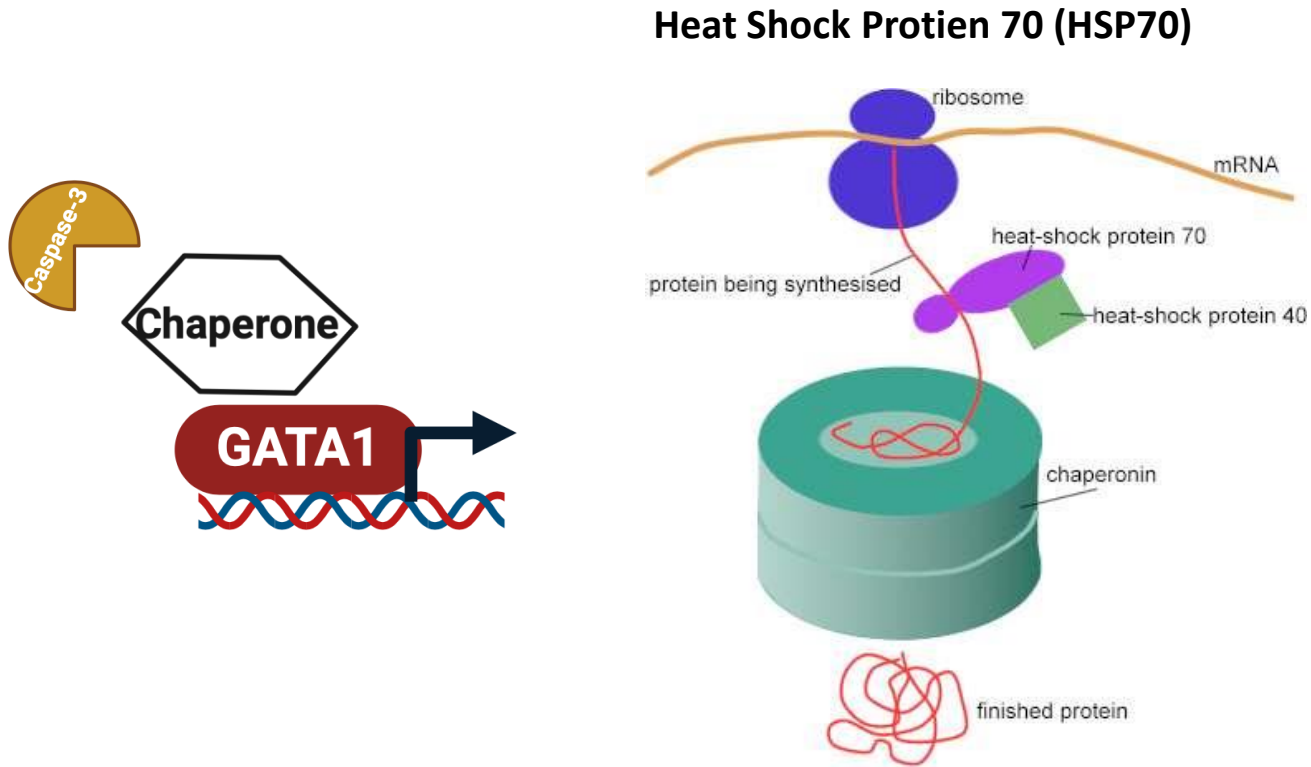
How is GATA1 protected from cleavage downstream of caspase 3 activation in the presence of Epo?



Role of chaperon proteins in cellular homeostasis



Role of chaperon proteins in cellular homeostasis



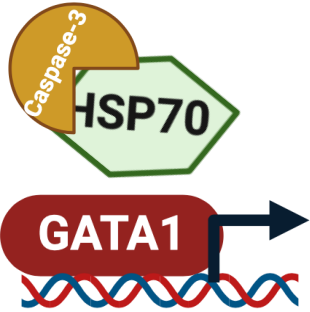
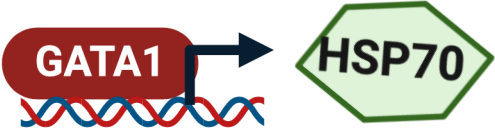
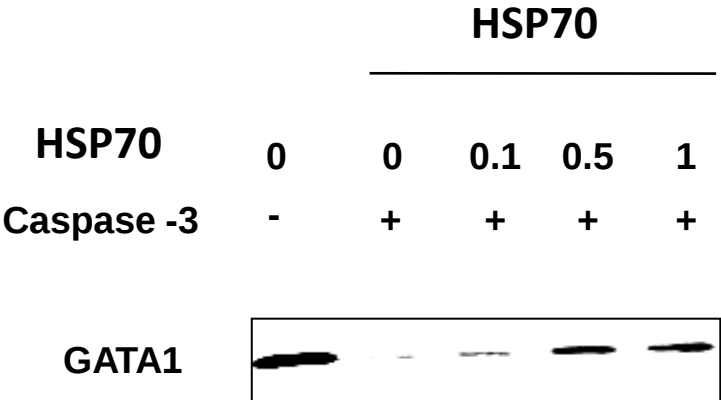
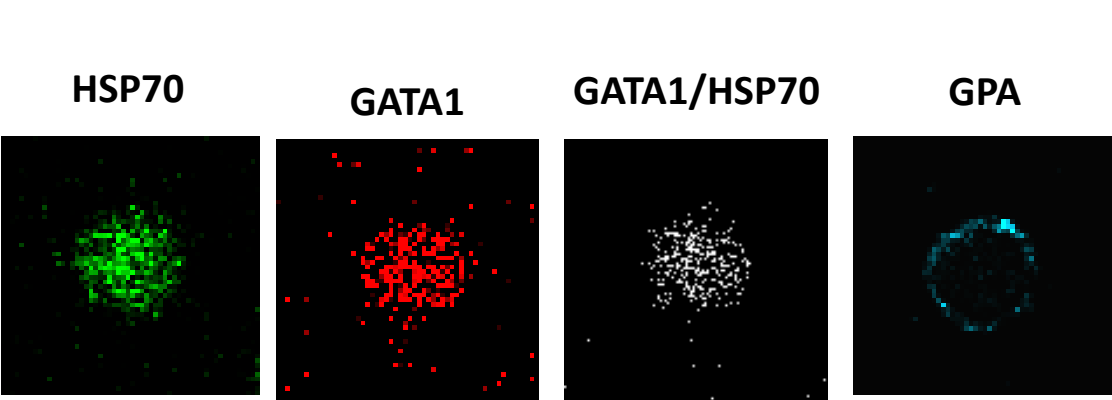
1. Protein « folding »
2. Prevention of damaging aggregates
3. Disaggregation of aggregates
4. Protecting cancer cells from death by downstream caspase activation

Is HSP70 the right candidate ?

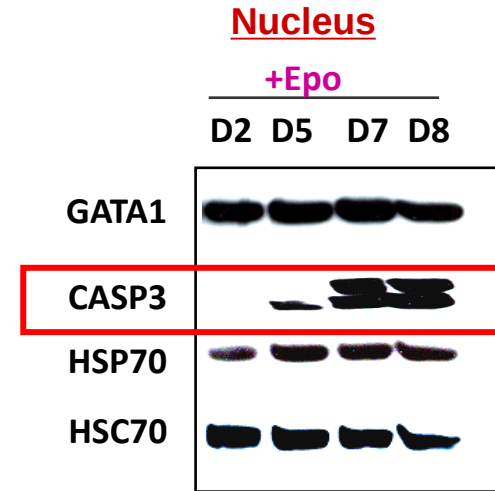
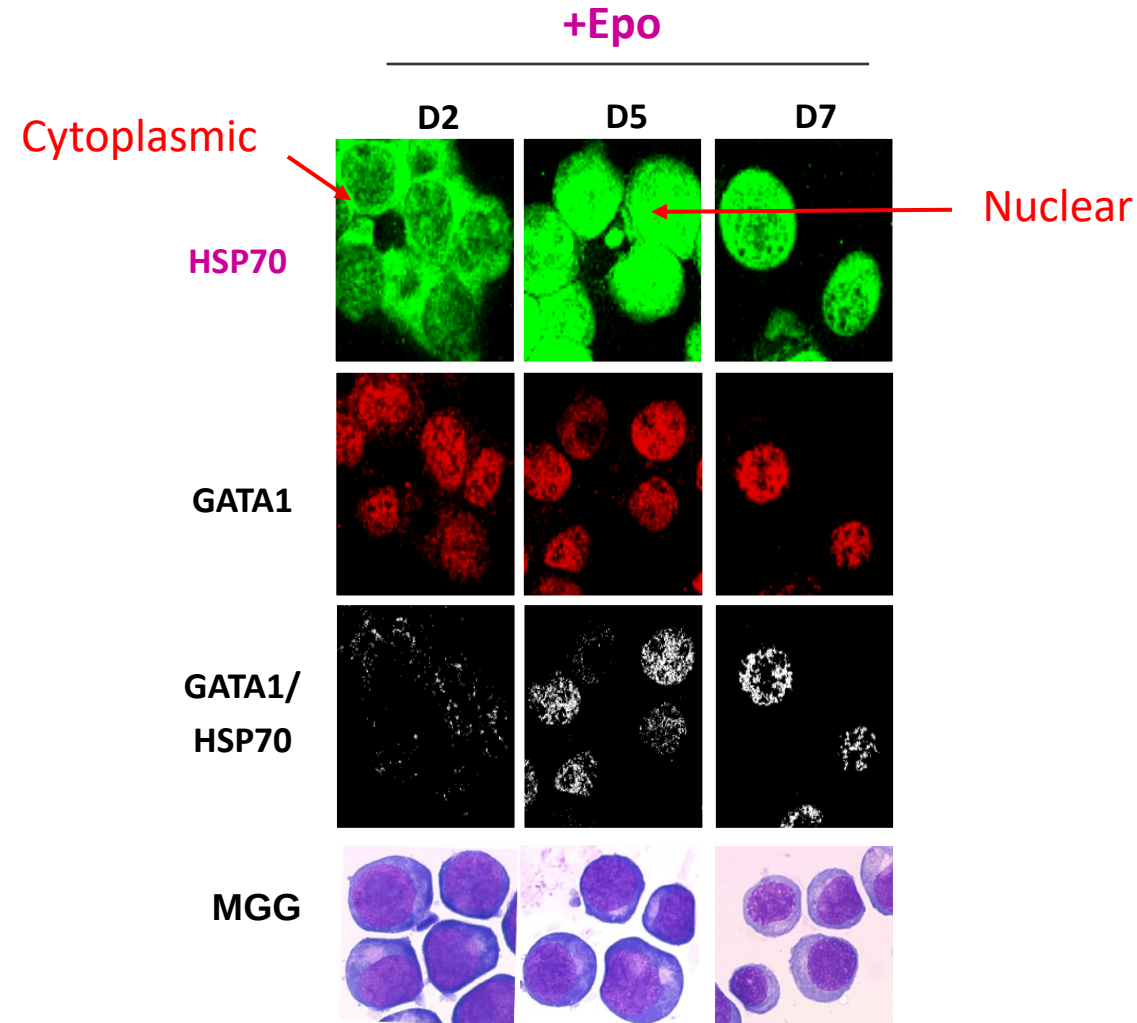


Carmen Garrido

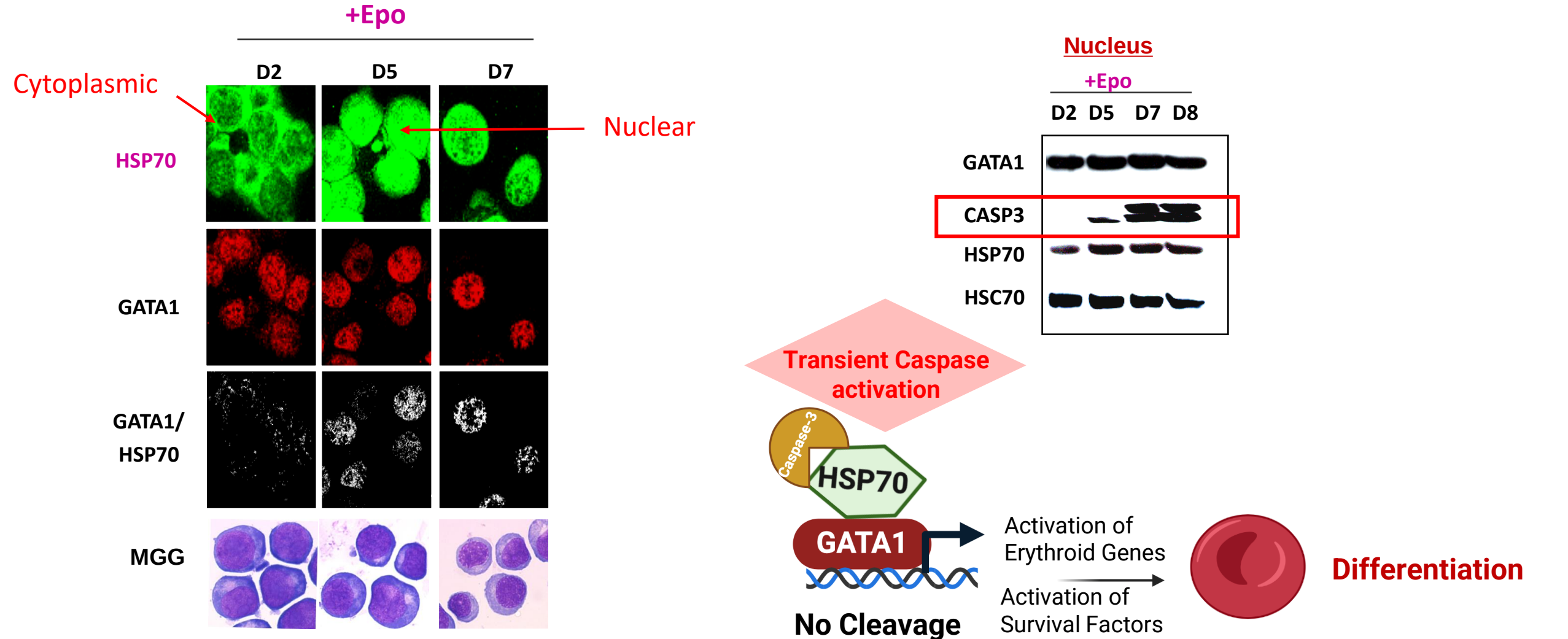
HSP70 is constitutively expressed in bone marrow erythroid cells



HSP70 accumulates in the nucleus during erythroid differentiation, colocalizing with GATA1 at the time of caspase 3 activation

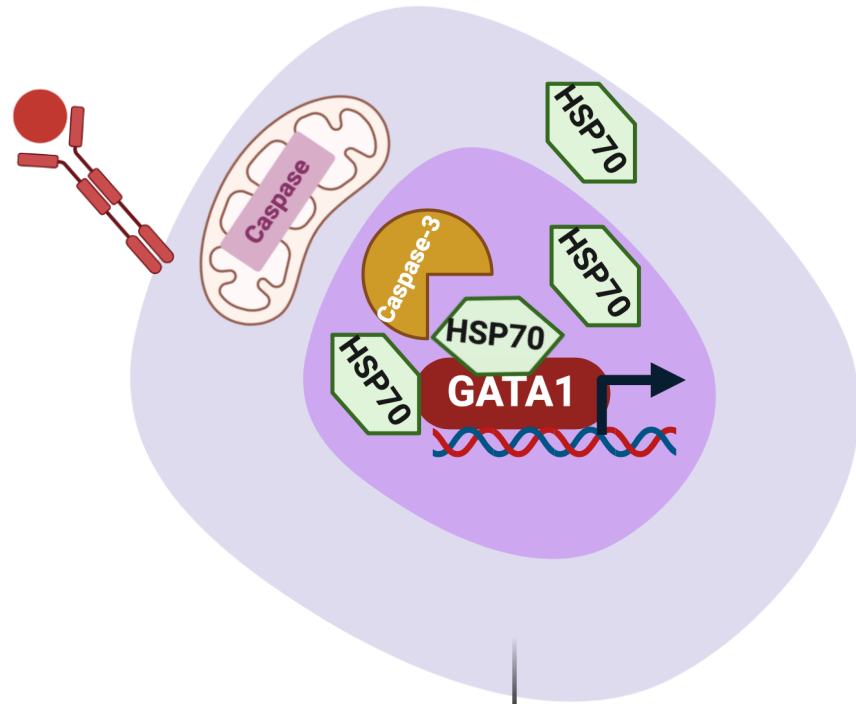


HSP70 accumulates in the nucleus during erythroid differentiation, colocalizing with GATA1 at the time of caspase 3 activation



The fate of erythroblasts – between death and survival – depends on HSP70 nuclear localization

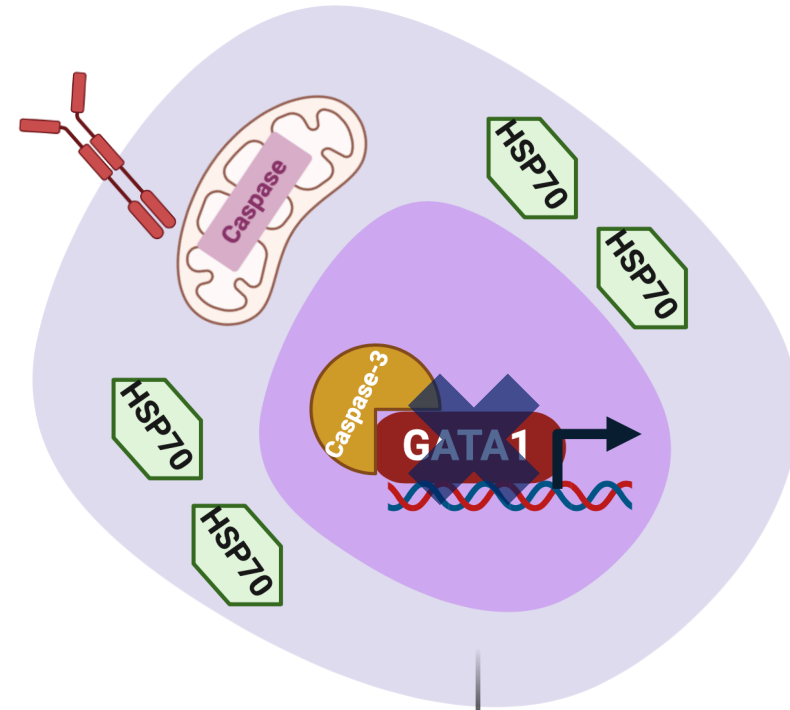
**Transient Caspase Activation
And HSP70 in the nucleus**



**Survival and Erythroid
Differentiation**

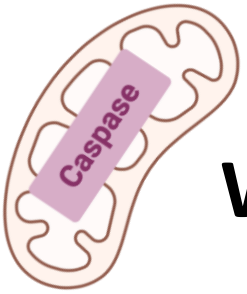


**Irreversible Caspase Activation
And HSP70 in the cytosol**



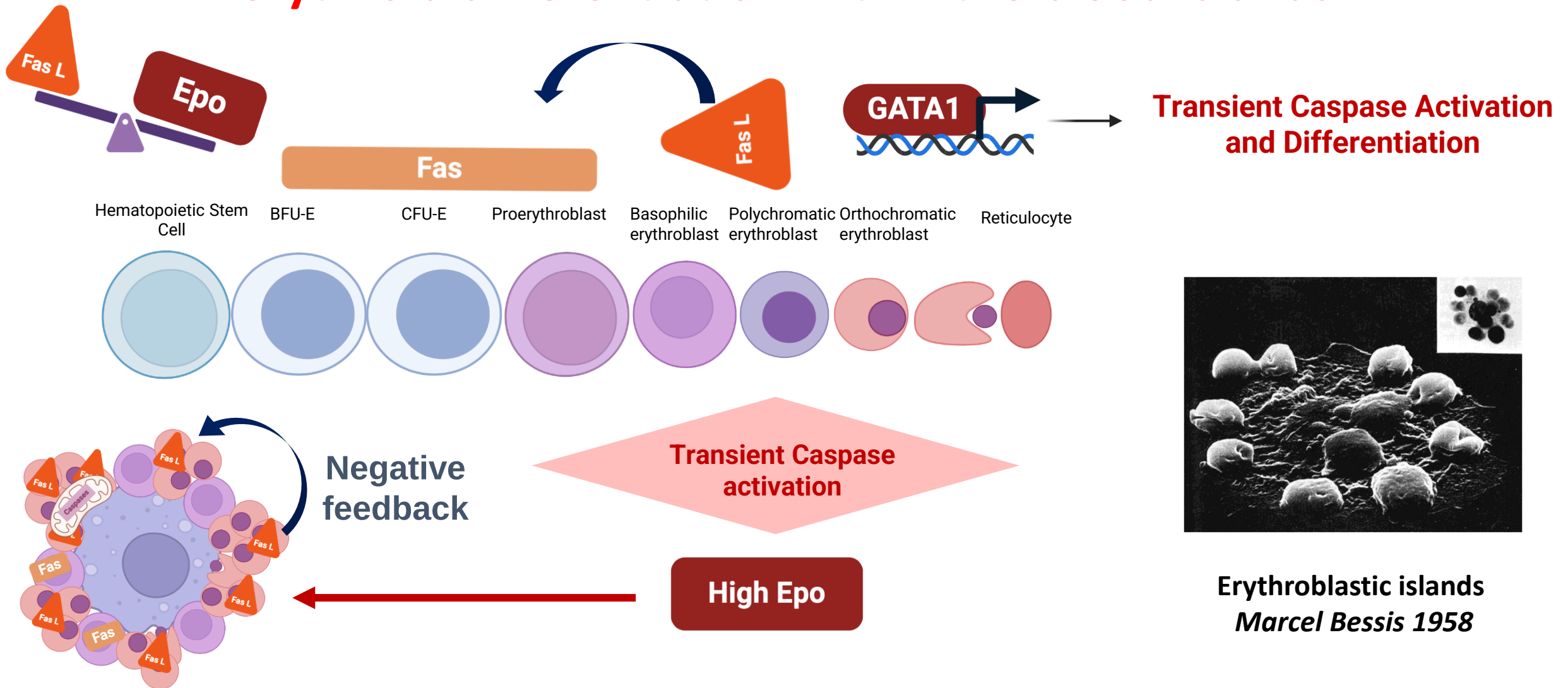
**Cell Death and Erythroid
Differentiation Arrest**



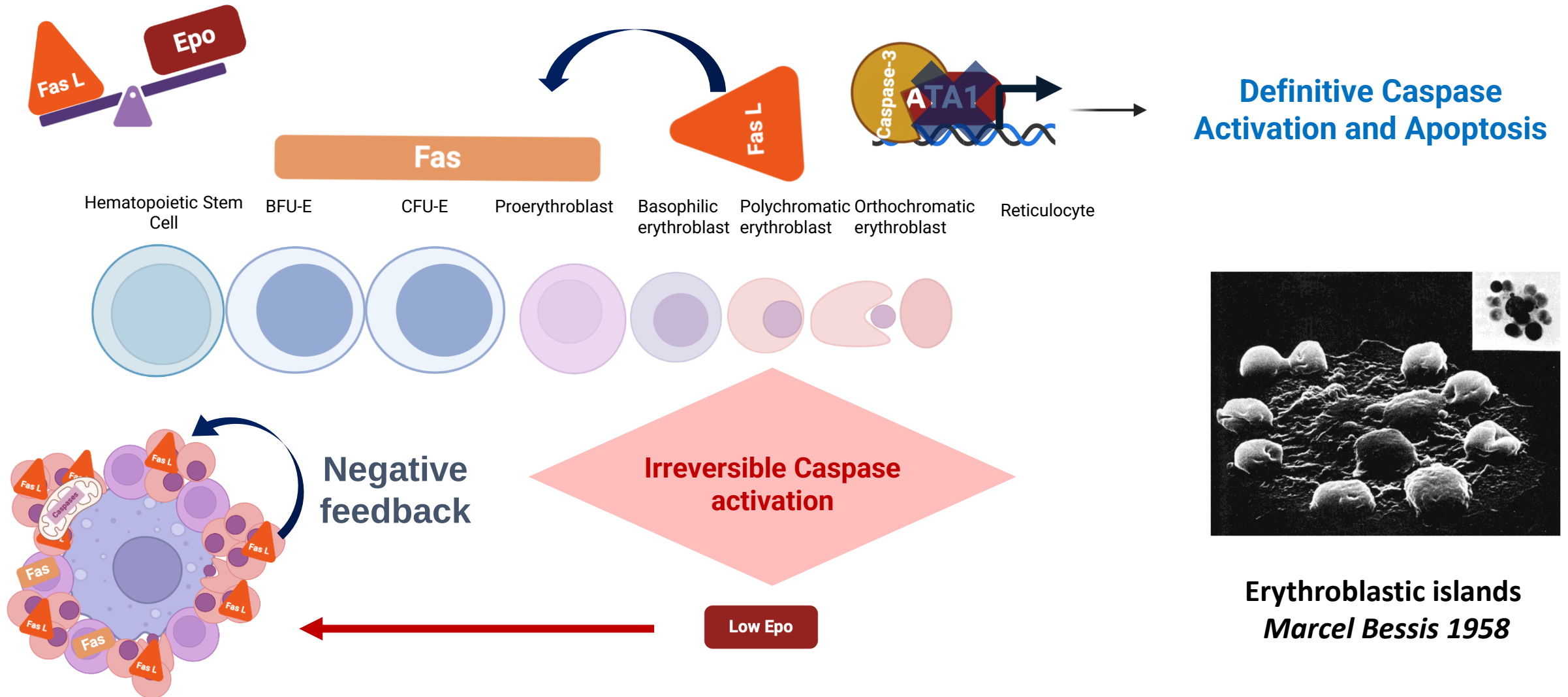


What is responsible for mitochondrial depolarization and caspase activation during erythroid differentiation?

Death receptor Fas and FasL interactions activate caspases during erythroid differentiation within the blood islands



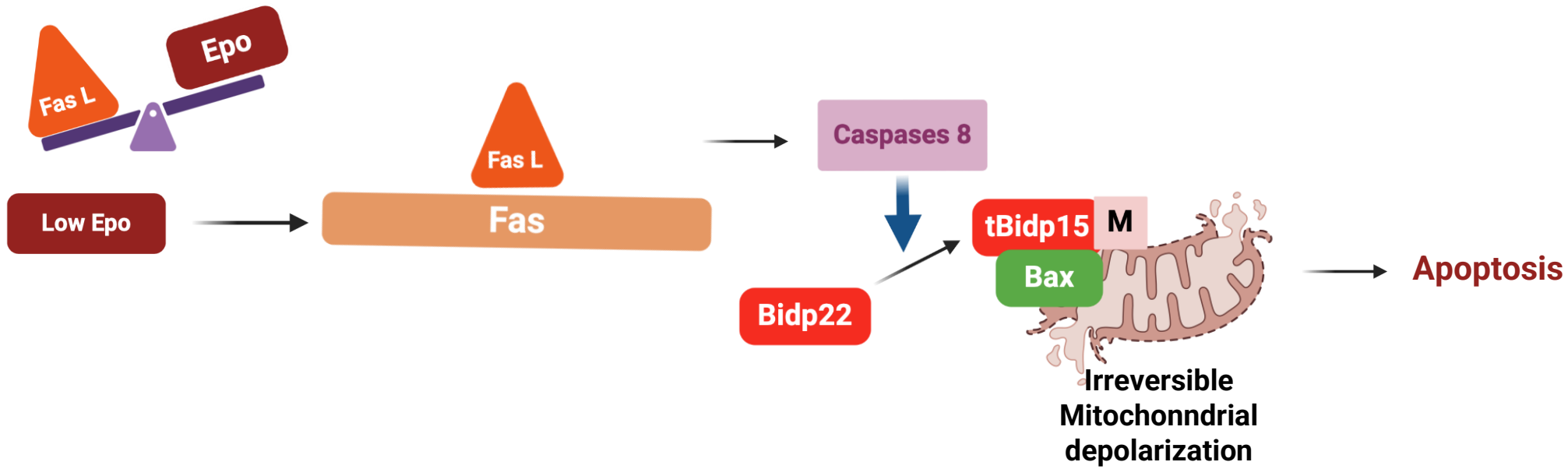
Fas and FasL interactions activate caspases during erythroid differentiation within the blood islands



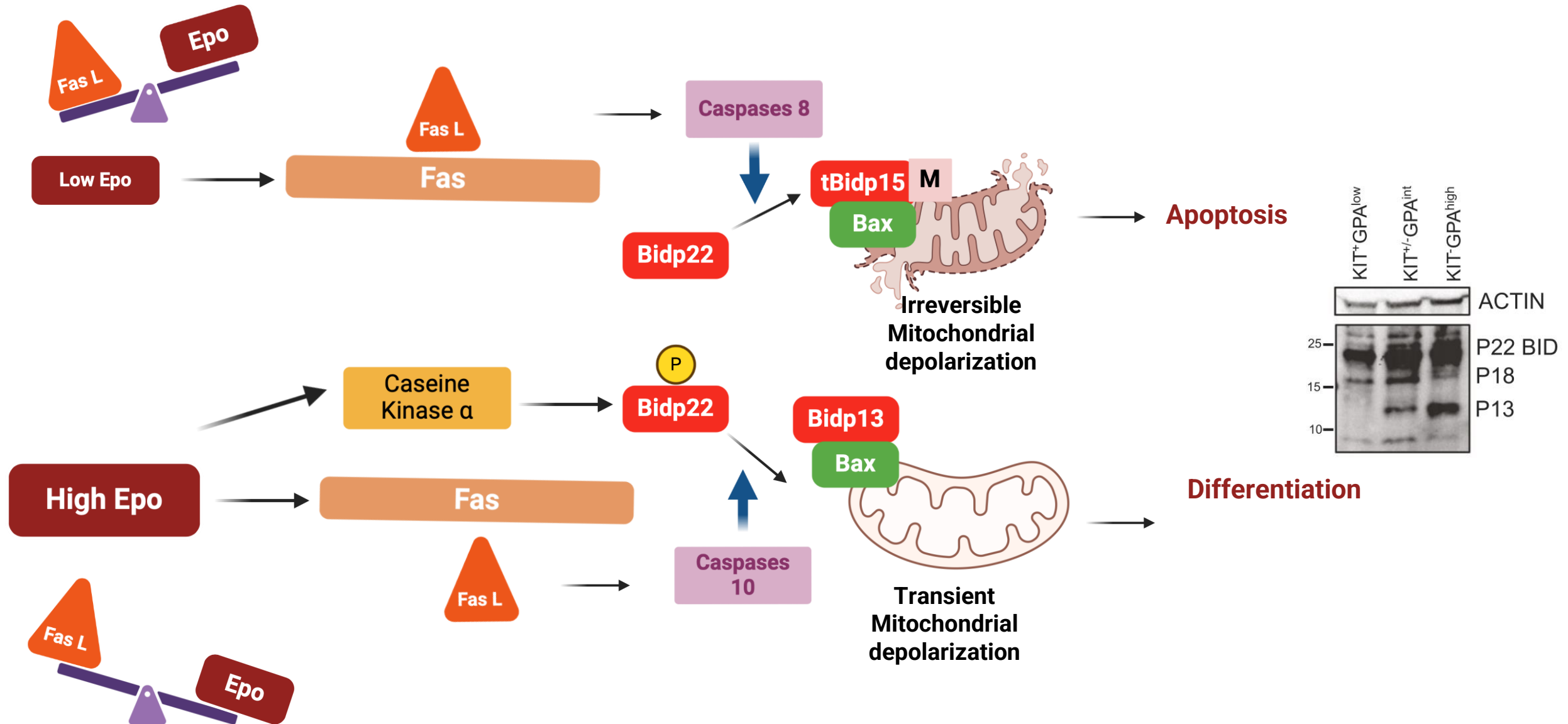


How does EPO control FAS-induced caspase activation?

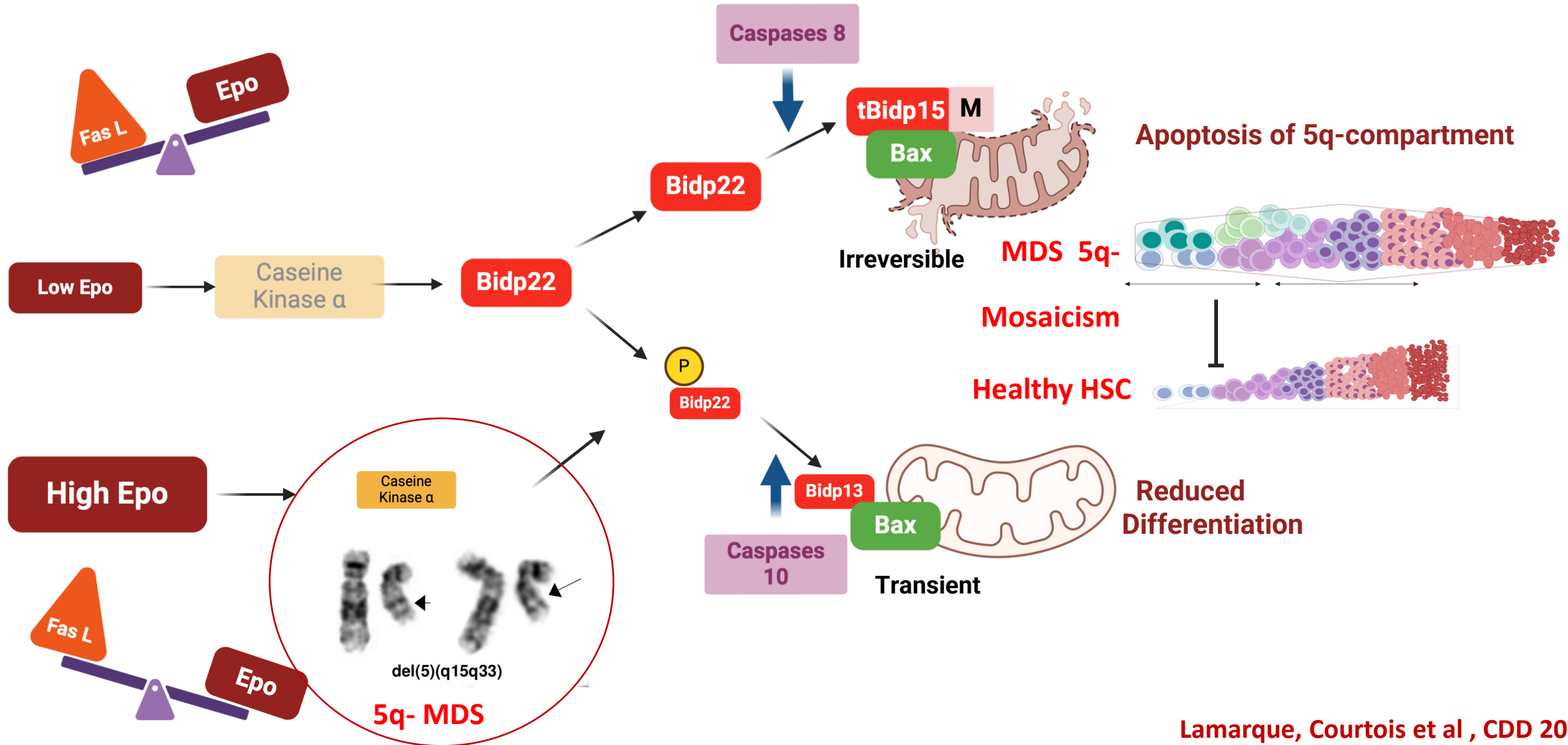
Fas induced mitochondrial depolarization through Bid cleavage and Bax activation



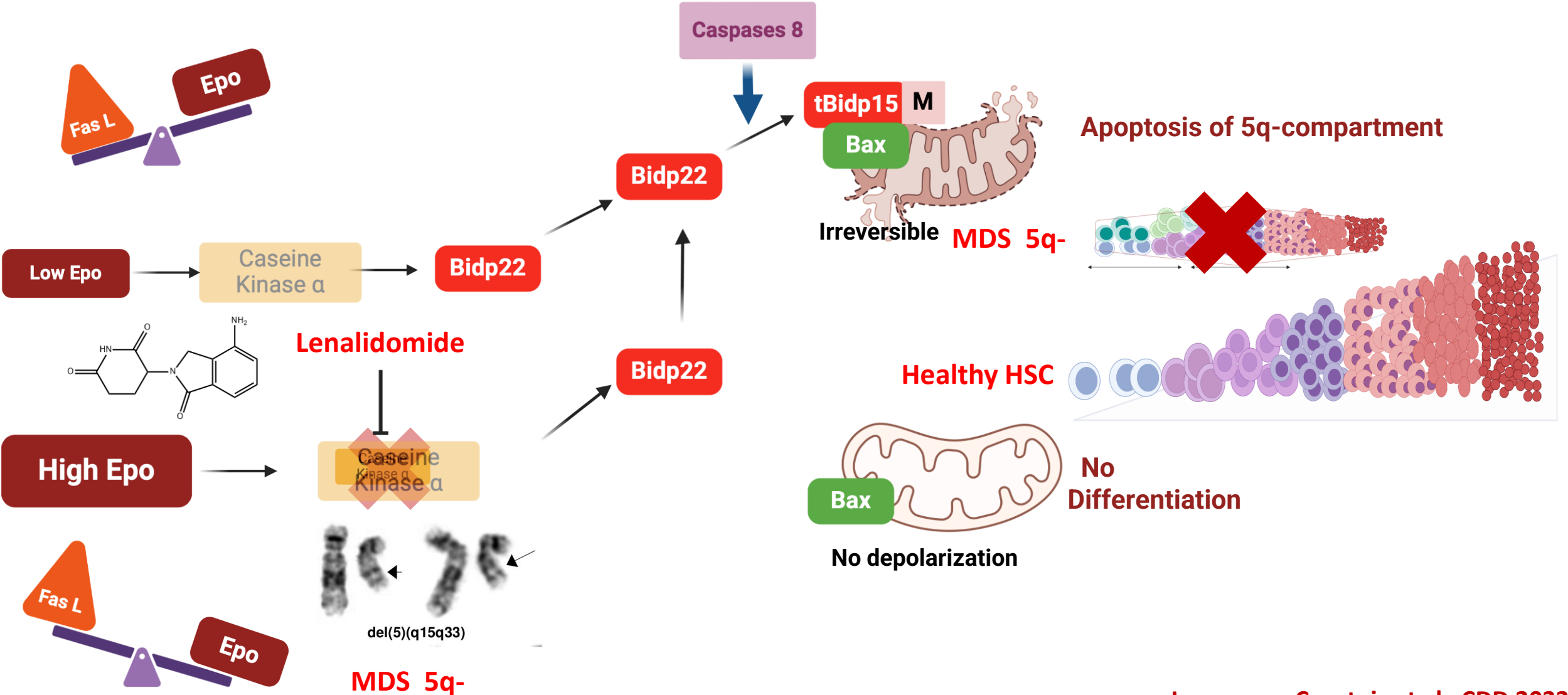
Epo modulates Bid cleavage both through induction of Caseine kinase and Caspase 10 activation

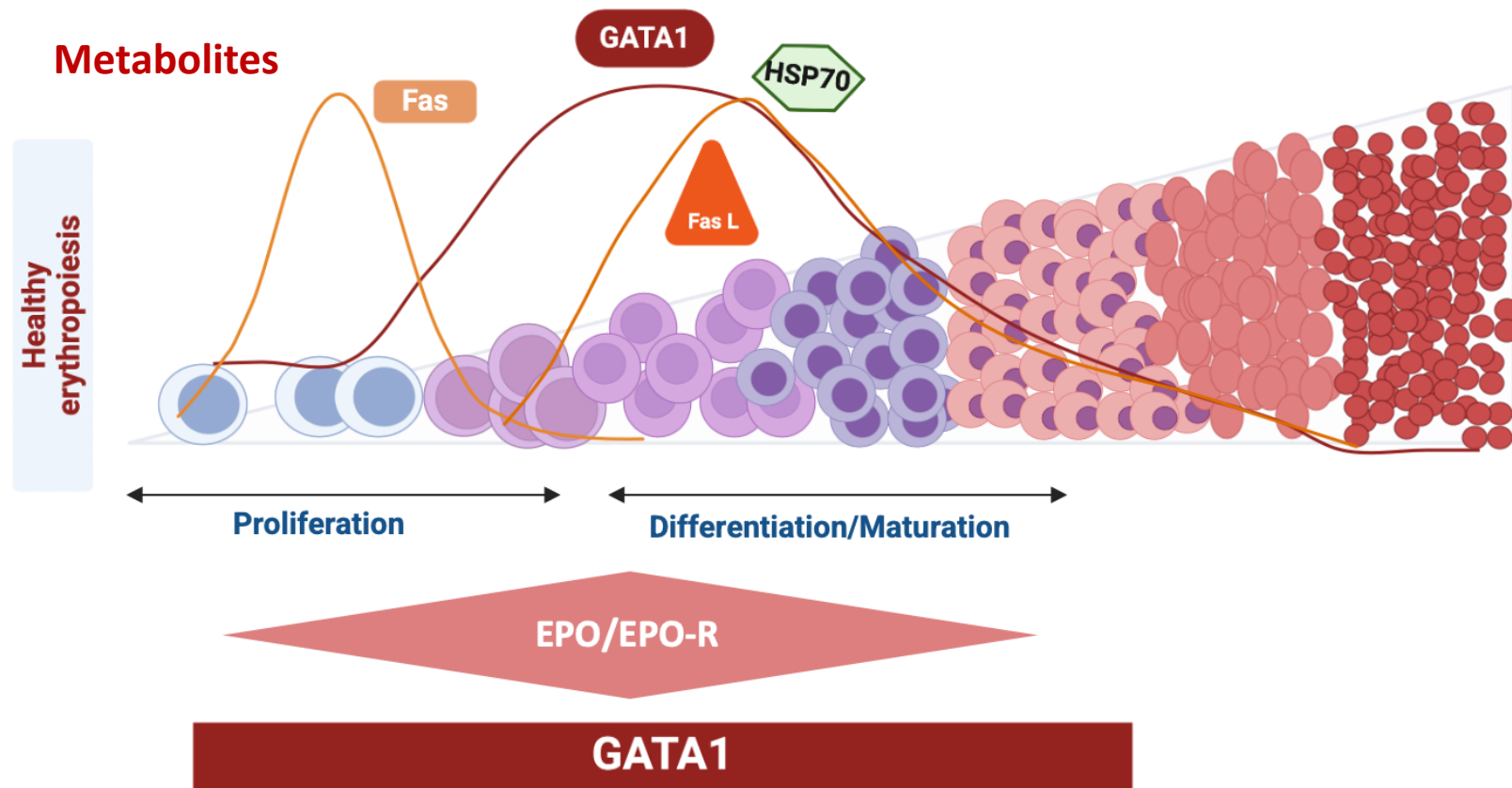


Epo modulates Bid cleavage through Caseine Kinase a expression and Caspase 10 activation : Implication in 5q-MDS



Epo modulates Bid cleavage through Casein Kinase- α expression and Caspase 10 activation : Implication in 5q-MDS



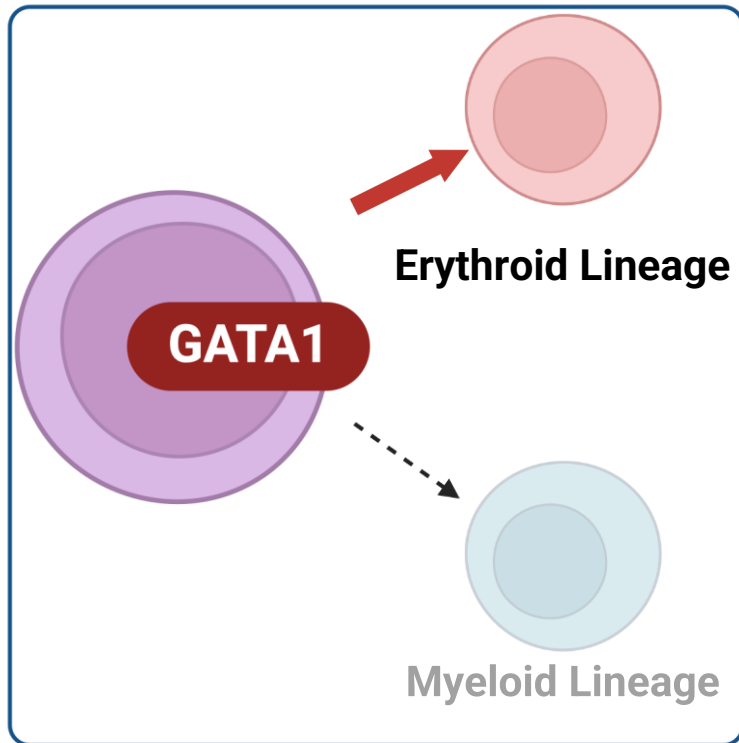


Abnormalities

- germline or somatic mutations/ environmental factors –
- in this network may result in pathological erythropoiesis

Defects in Erythropoiesis

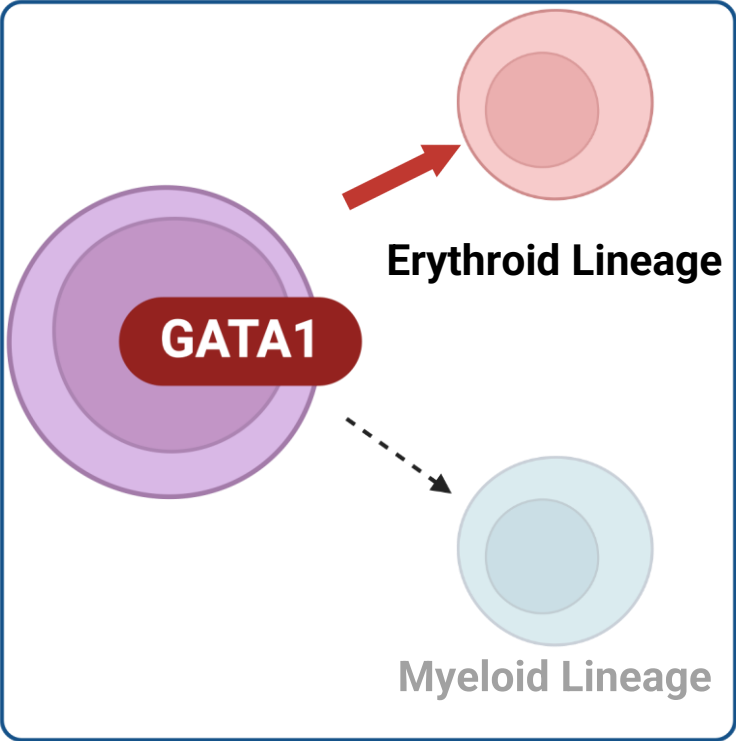
Defects in erythroid commitment



Genetic or environmental factors

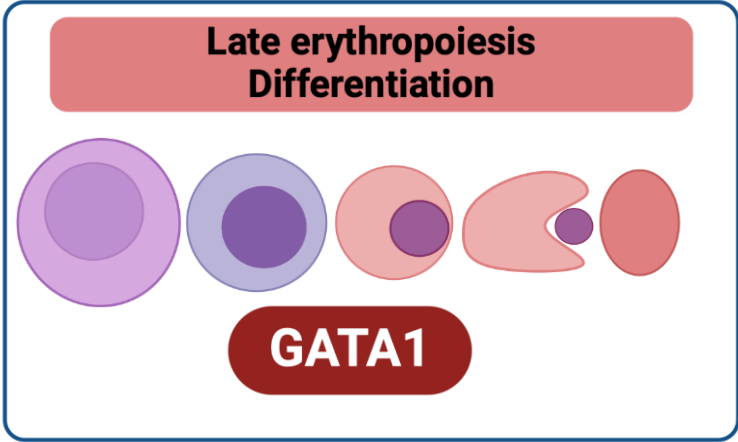
Defects in Erythropoiesis

Defects in erythroid commitment

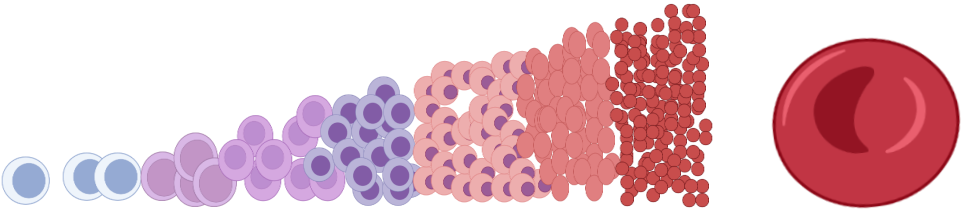


Genetic or environmental factors

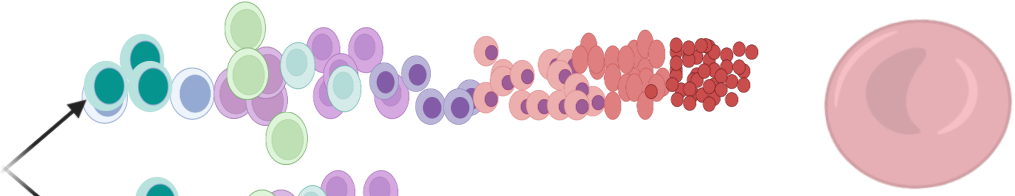
Defects in terminal erythroid differentiation



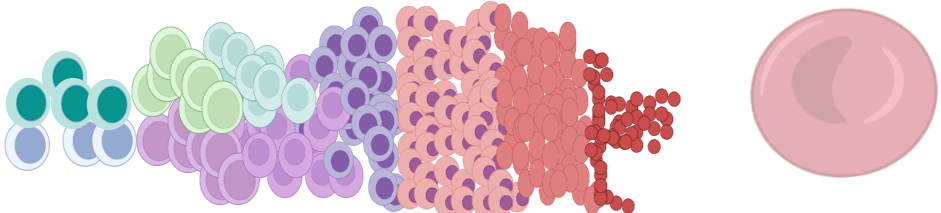
Healthy Erythropoiesis



Defective Erythropoiesis

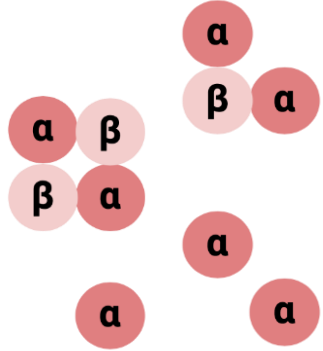


Ineffective Erythropoiesis

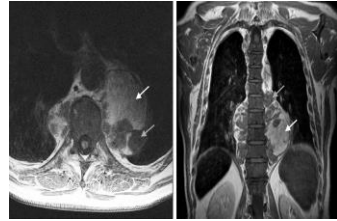
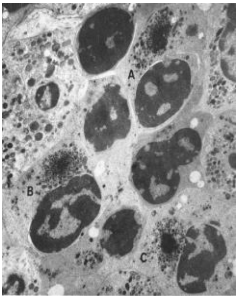


β -Thalassemia - Pathophysiology

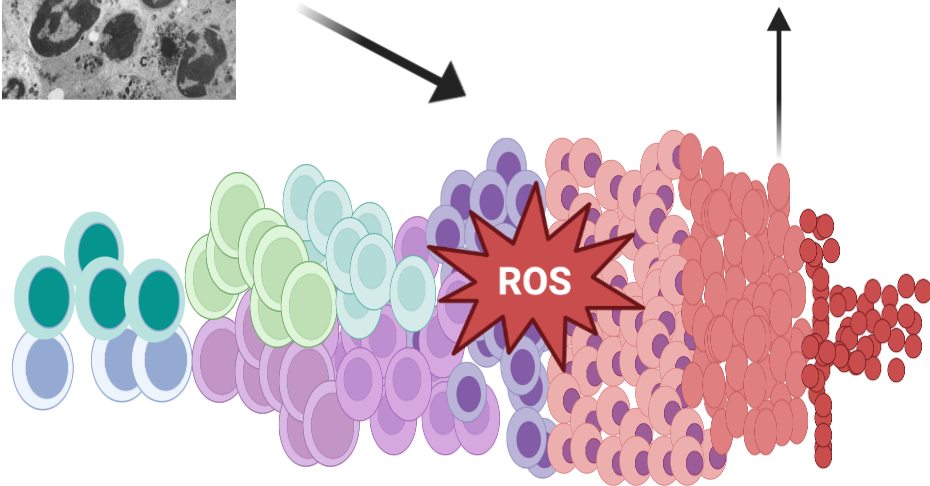
Free α chains



α aggregates

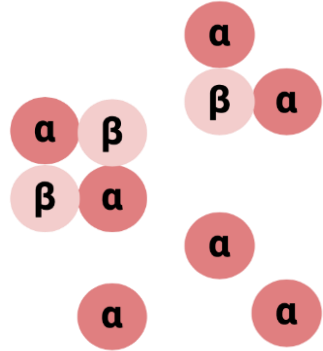


Bone Abnormalities
Extra-medullary erythropoiesis

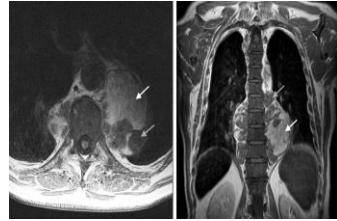
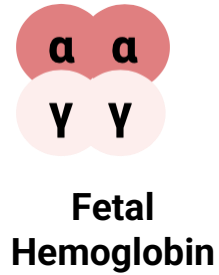
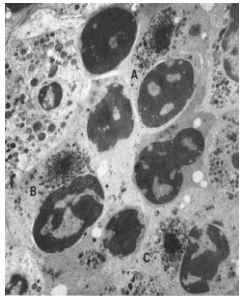


β -Thalassemia - Pathophysiology

Free α chains



α aggregates



Bone Abnormalities
Extra-medullary erythropoiesis

β Thalassemia Major -
Transfusion Dependent
(TDT)

Hypothyroidism
Hypoparathyroidism

Cardiac siderosis left-
sided heart failure

Hepatic failure -
viral hepatitis

Diabetes mellitus

Hypogonadism

Osteoporosis

Non-Transfusion
Dependent Thalassemia
(NTDT)

Silent cerebral
ischemia

Pulmonary hypertension,
right-sided heartfailure

Extramedullary
hematopoiesis

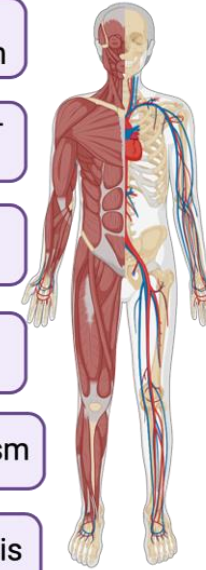
Gallstones

Splenomegaly

Osteoporosis

Leg ulcers

Venus
thrombosis

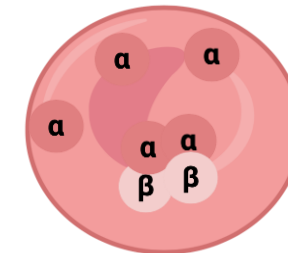


ERFE/hepcidin

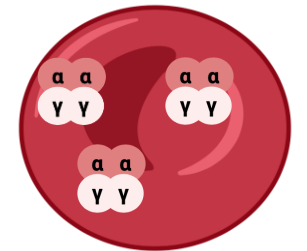
Iron overload

Anemia

Other factors ?

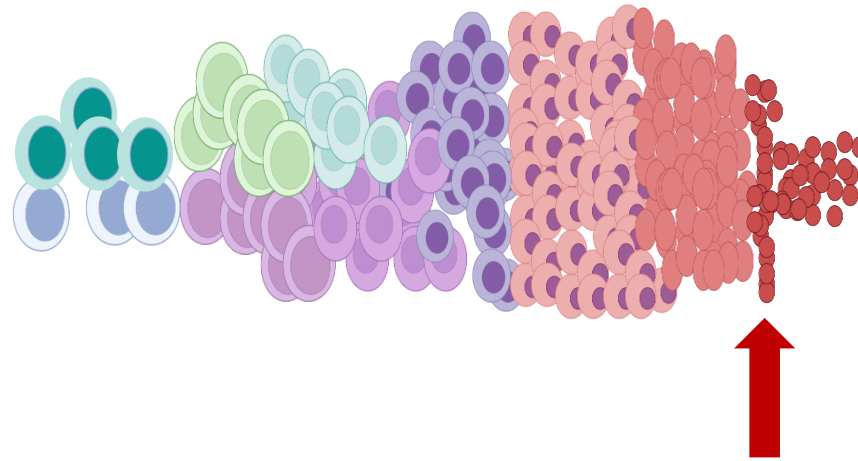


Abnormal red cells

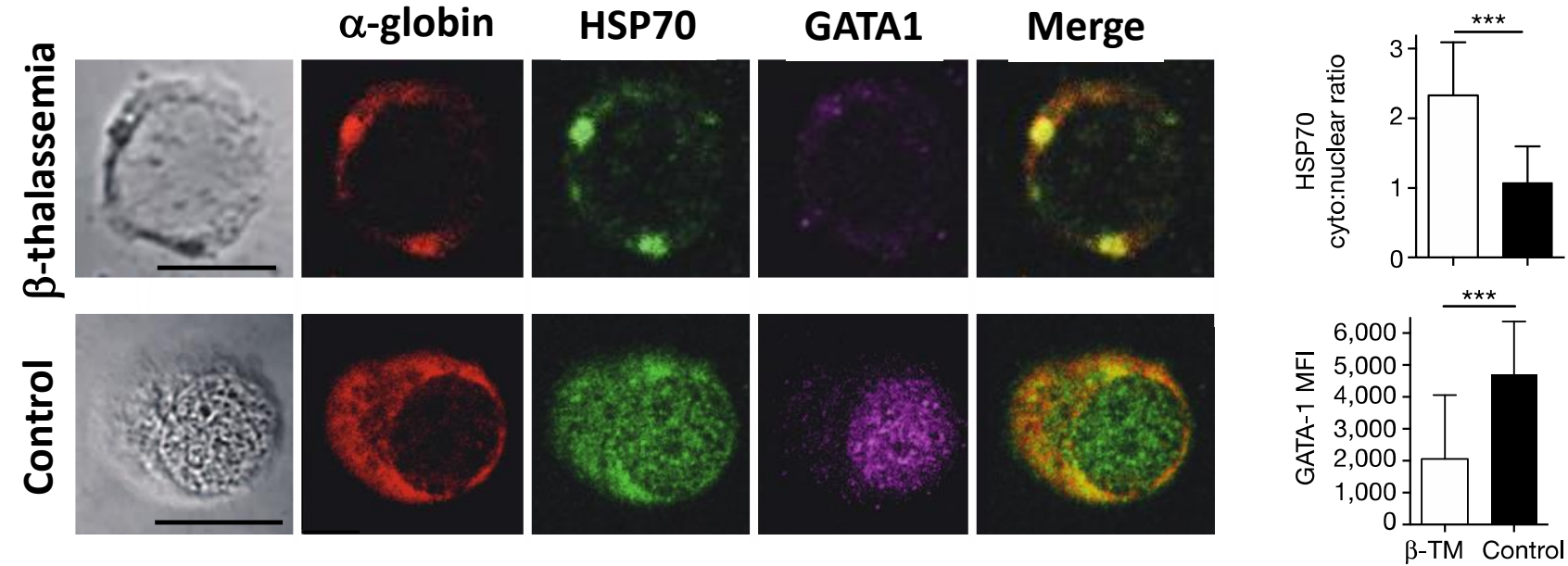


Healthy red cells

Why do mutations in the HBB gene results in defective late stage differentiation?

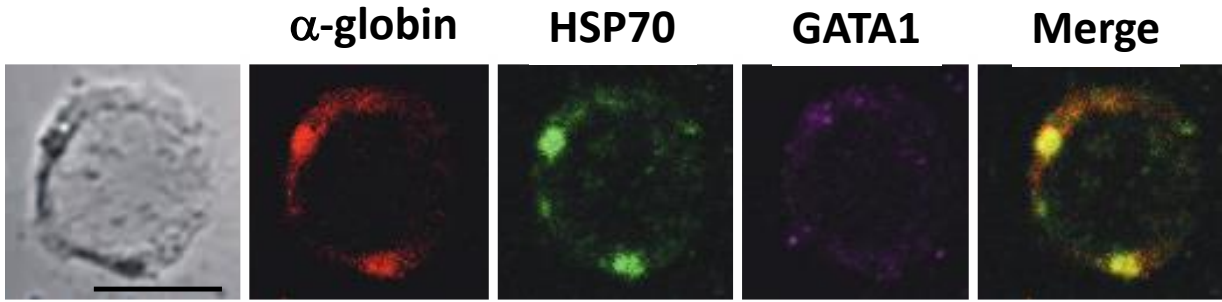


HSP70 is sequestered in the cytosol by alpha chain aggregates

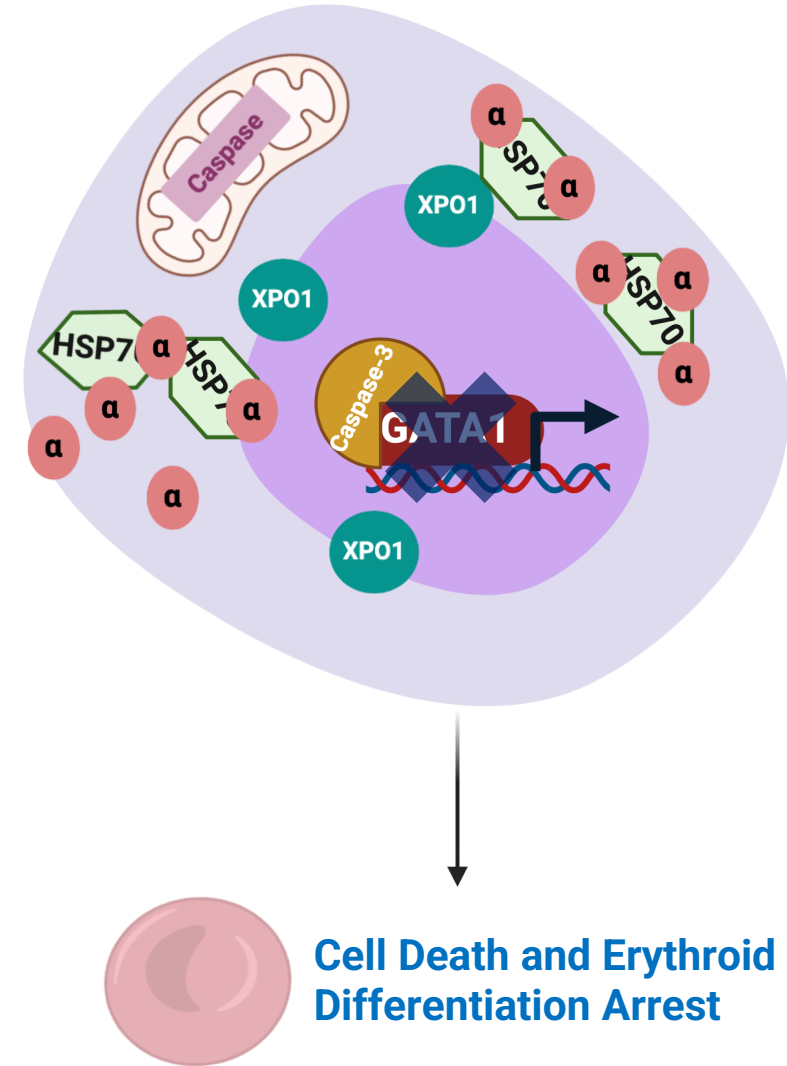
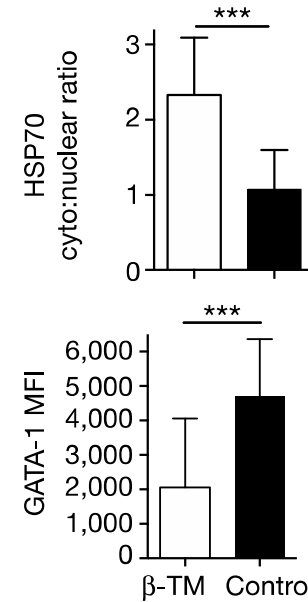
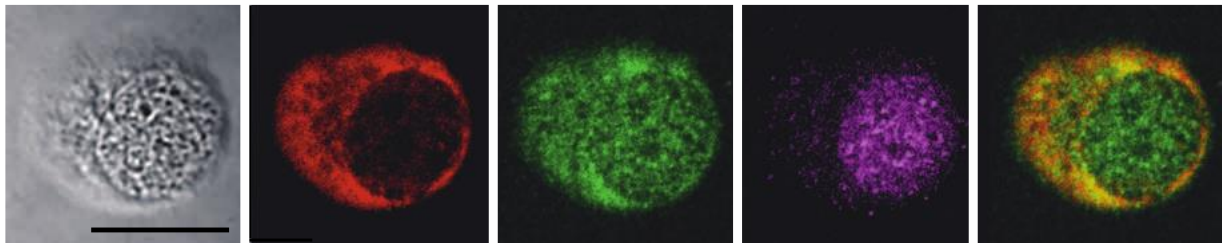


HSP70 is sequestered in the cytosol by alpha chain aggregates

β -thalassaemia

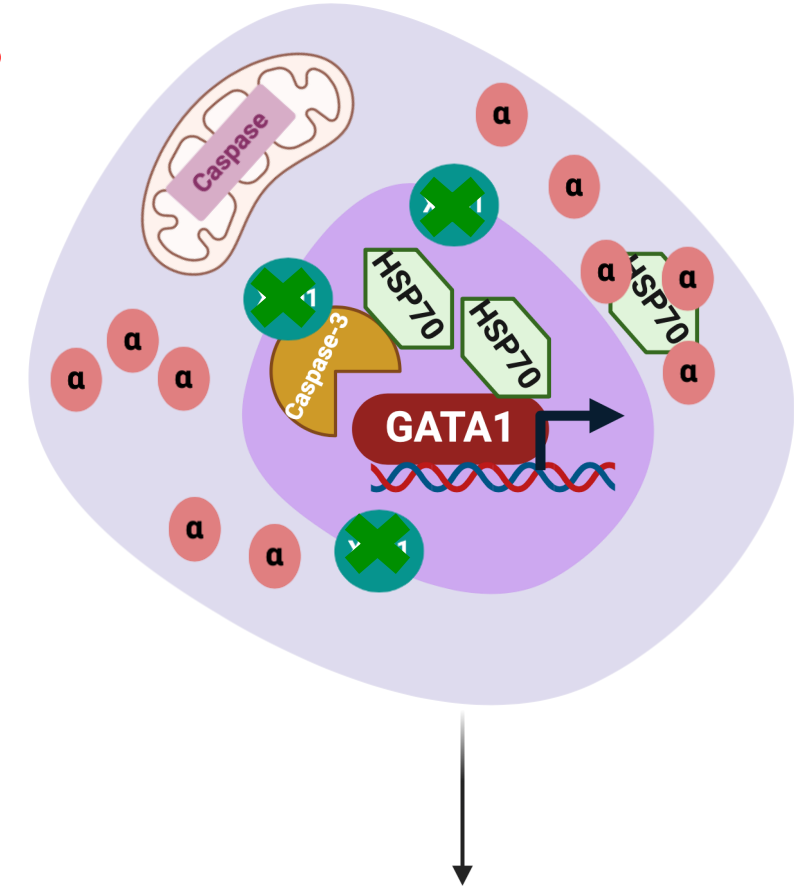
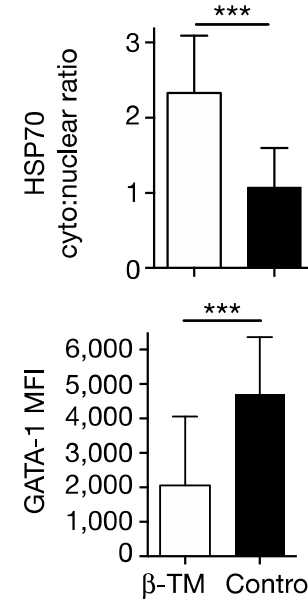
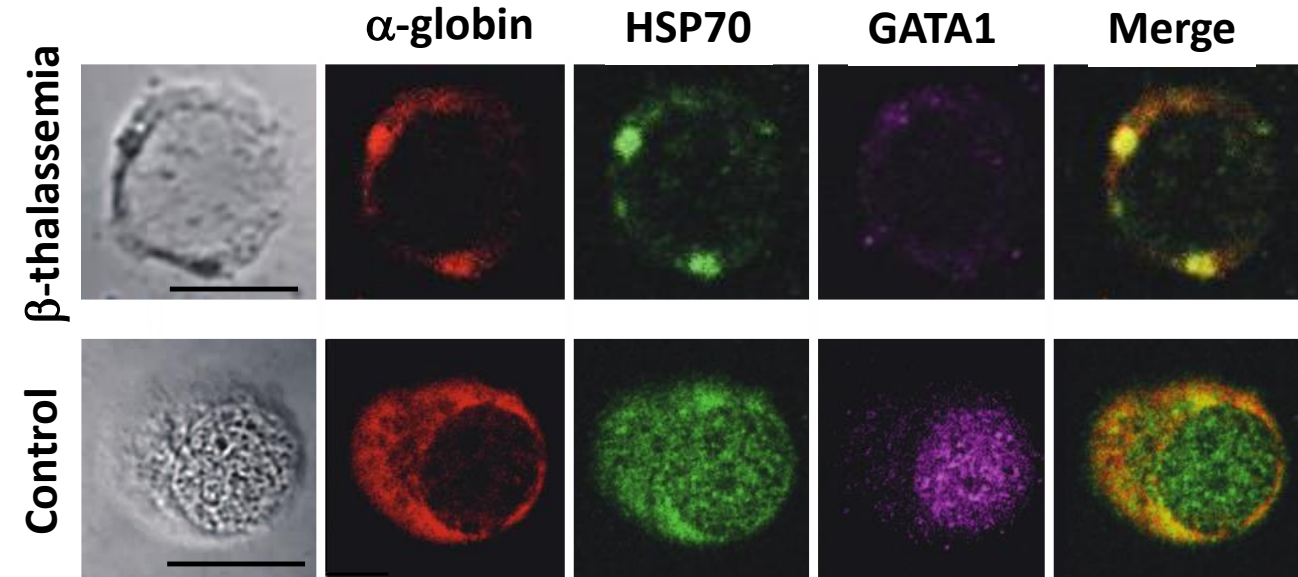


Control

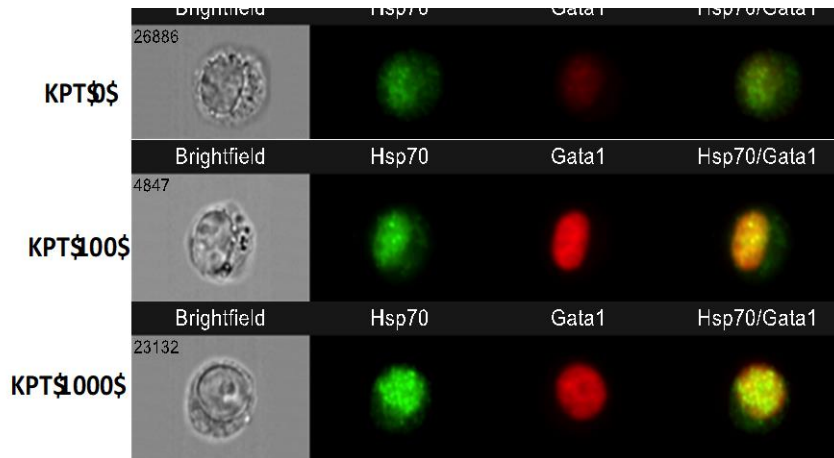
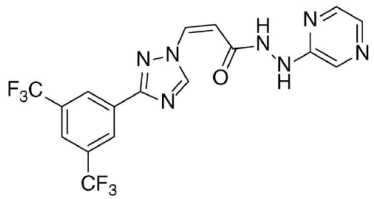


HSP70 sequestration decreases GATA1 Level

HSP70 is sequestered by alpha chain globin aggregates and may be a target of XPO-1 inhibitors

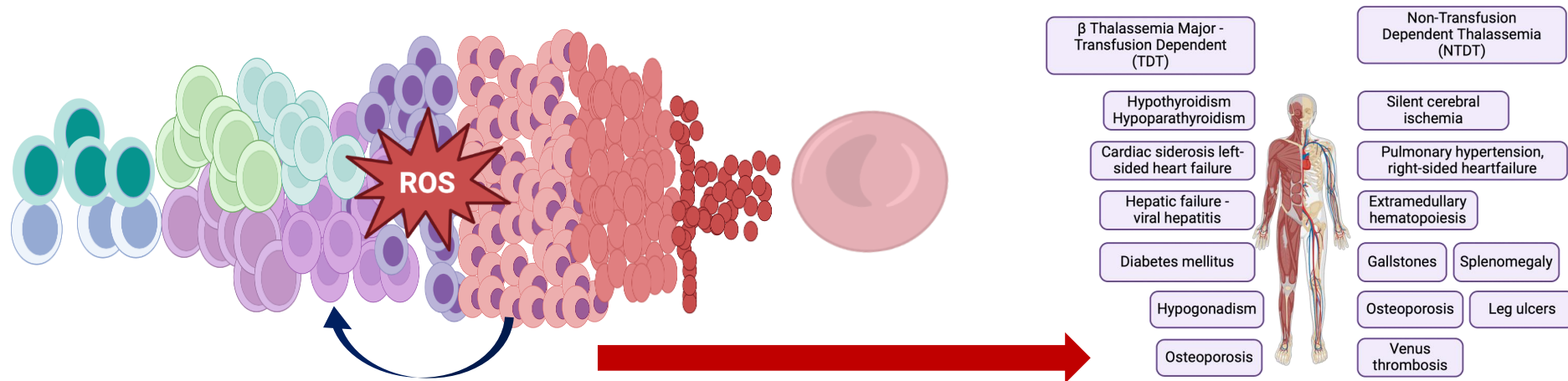


XPO1 Inhibitor



Survival and Erythroid Differentiation

Do thalassemic precursors express differentiation/ proliferation factors that can be therapeutically targeted?



Secreted factors that could play a role in ineffective erythropoiesis and disease manifestations (bone, muscle, heart, endothelial cells) ?

GDF-11 (TGF- β member family) expression is increased in β -Thalassemic mice and humans

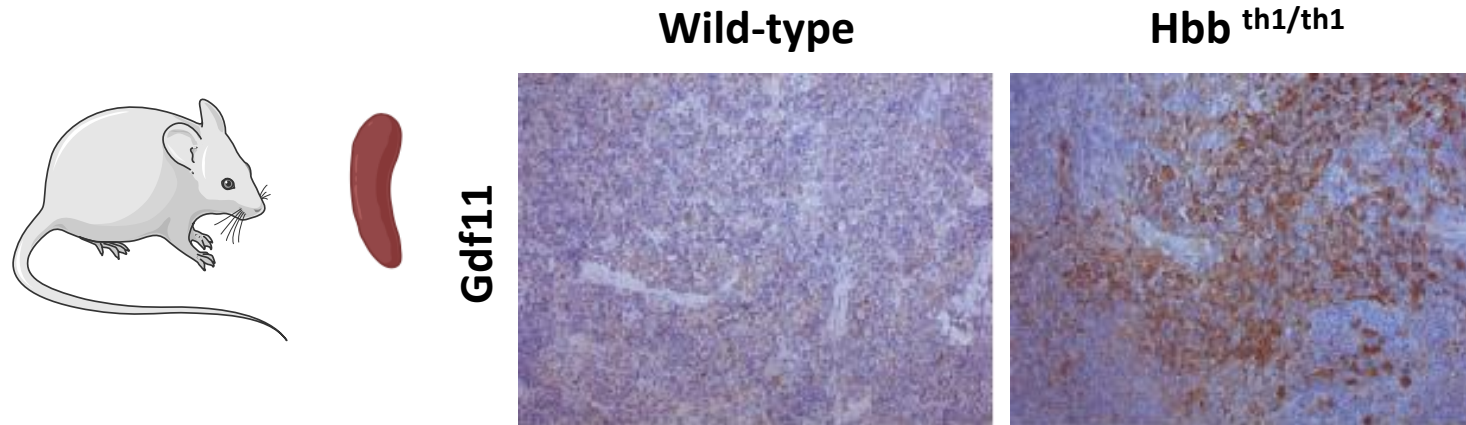
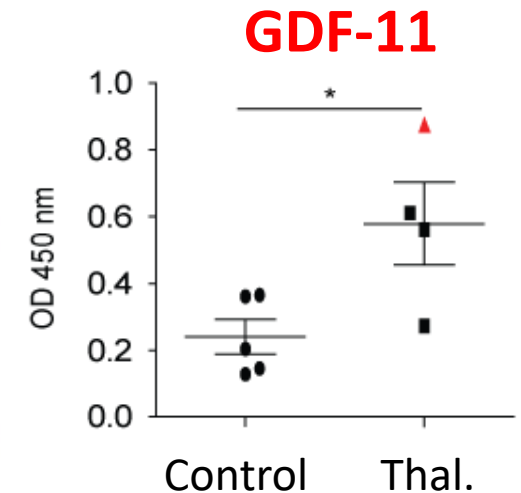
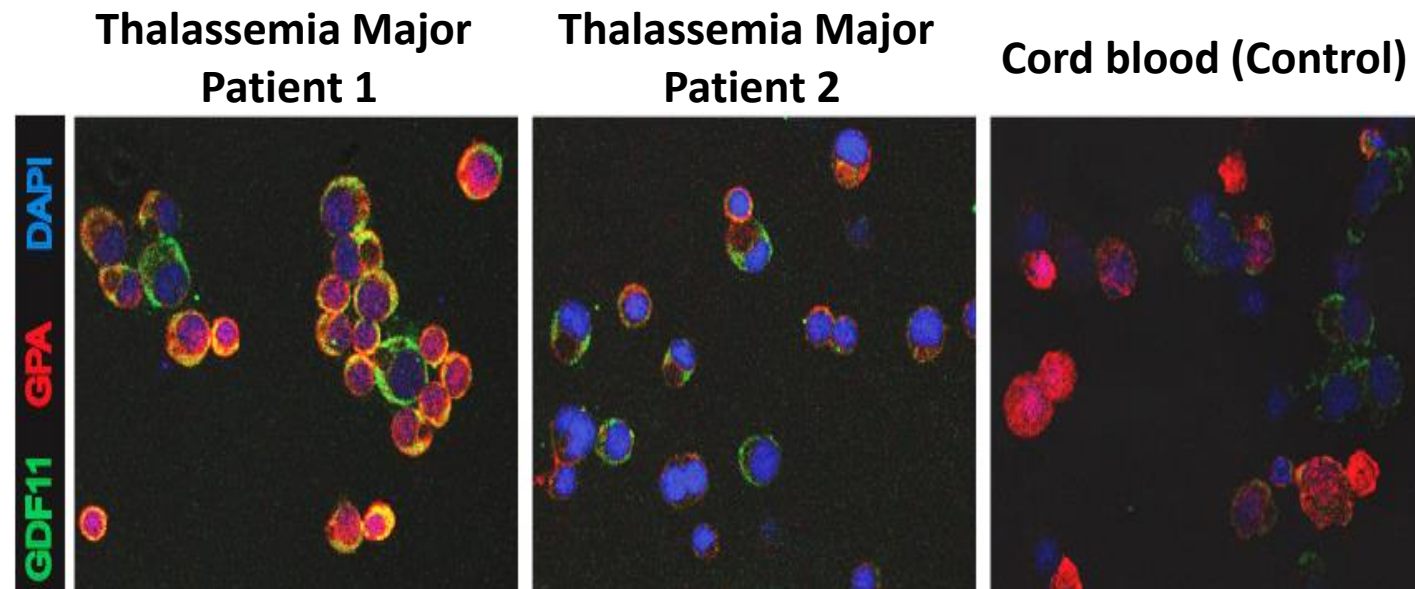
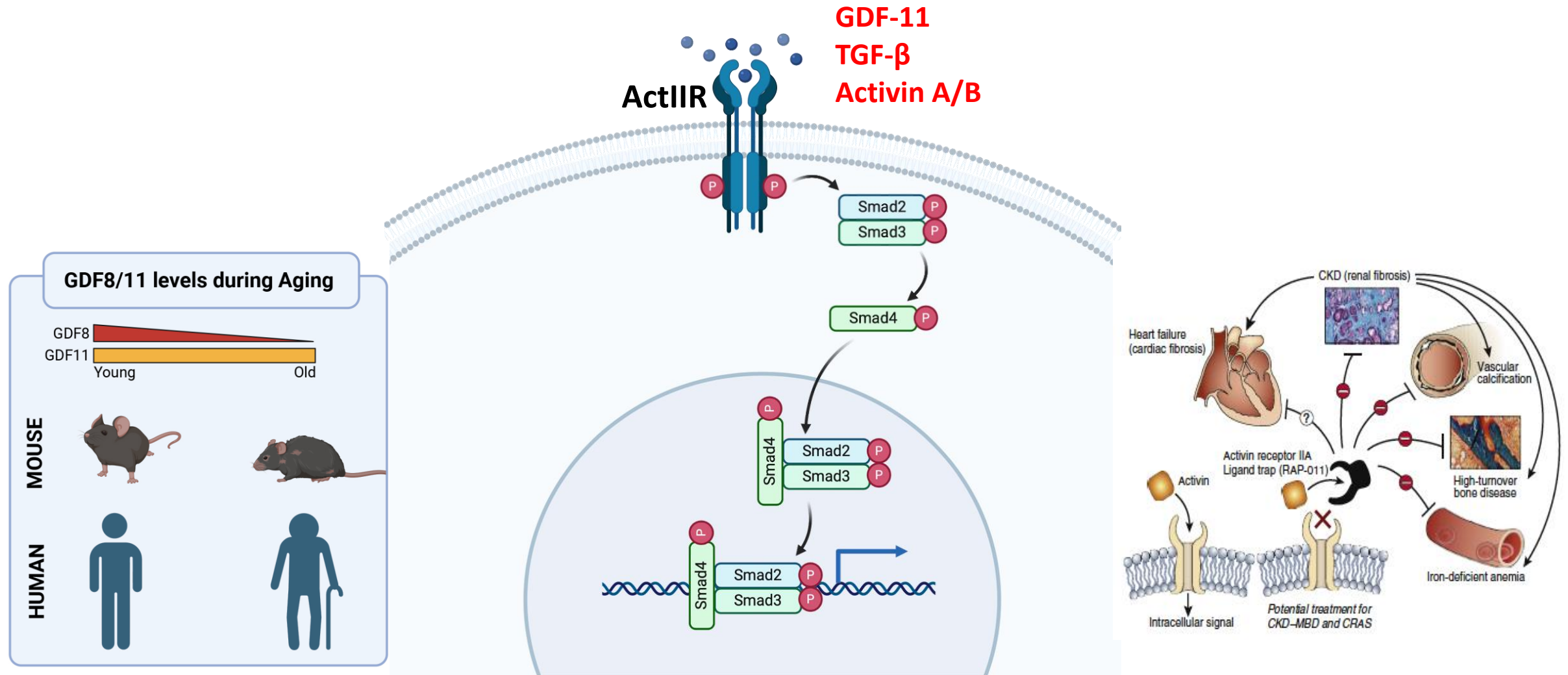


Photo used with consent



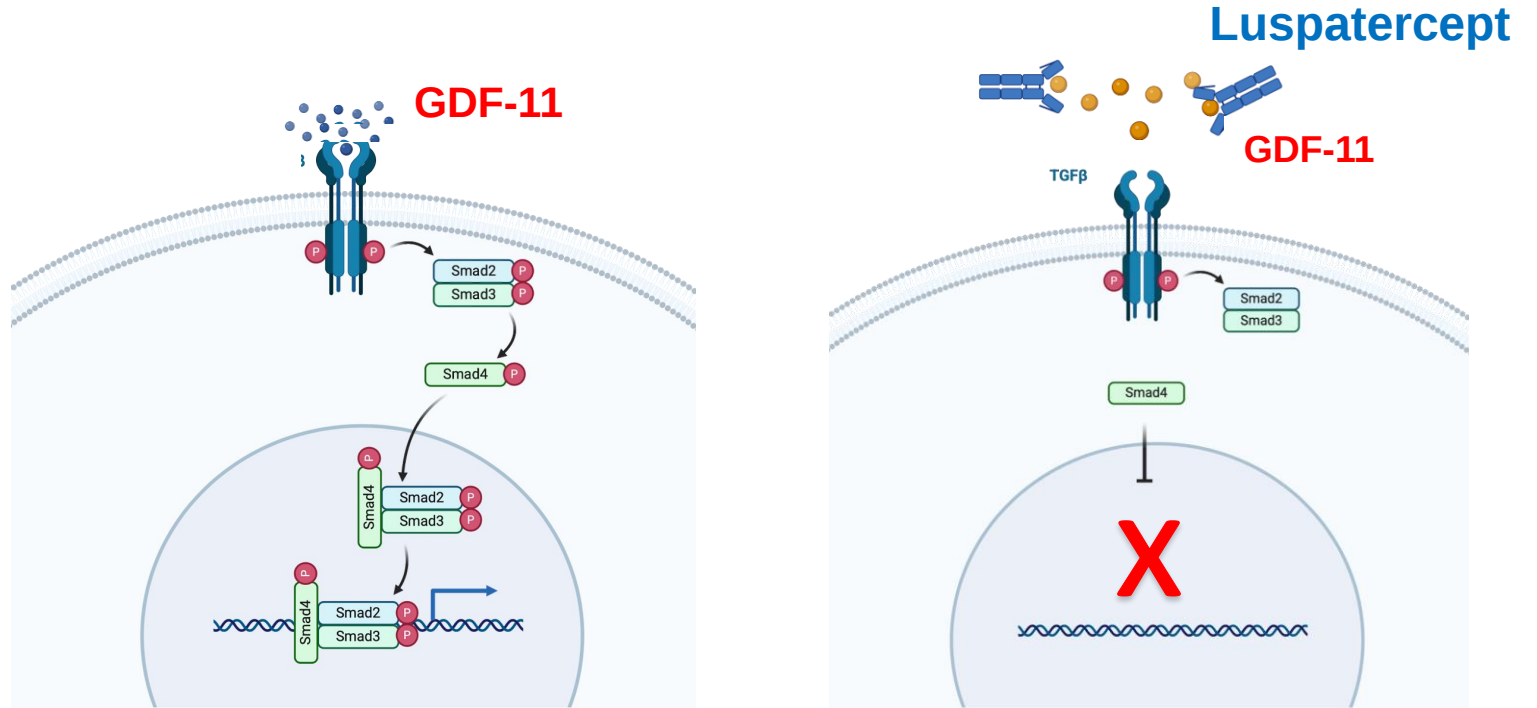
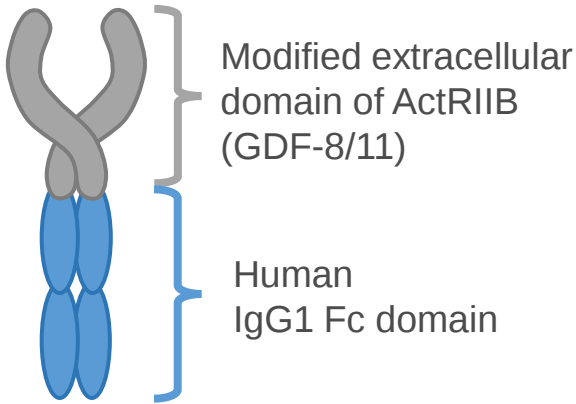
GDF-11: A member of the TGF- β family of pleiotropic cytokines



Luspatercept is a TRAP receptor of GDF-11

Luspatercept

ActRIIB / IgG1 Fc recombinant fusion protein

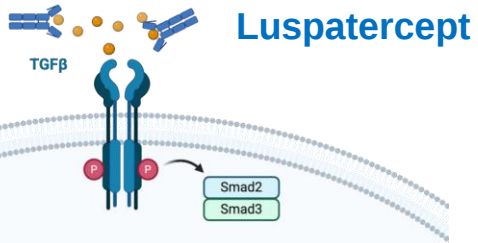
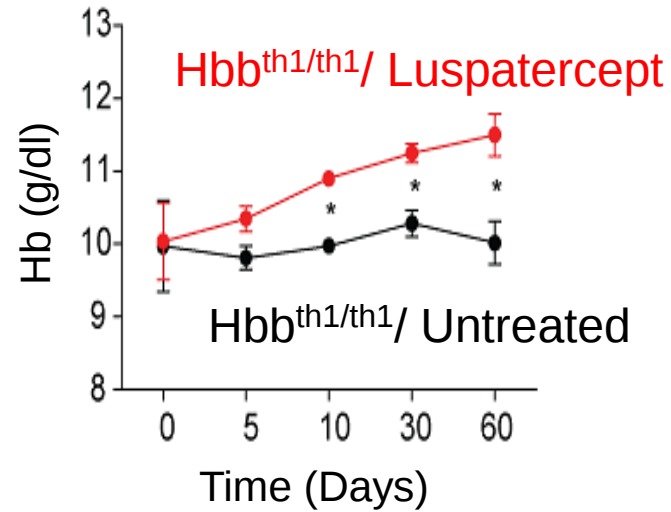
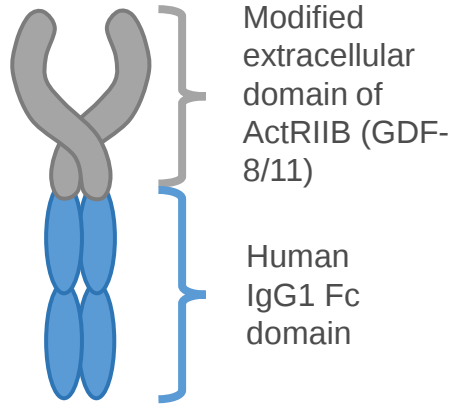


Can GDF-11 TRAP improve ineffective erythropoiesis ?

Luspatercept increases hemoglobin levels

Luspatercept

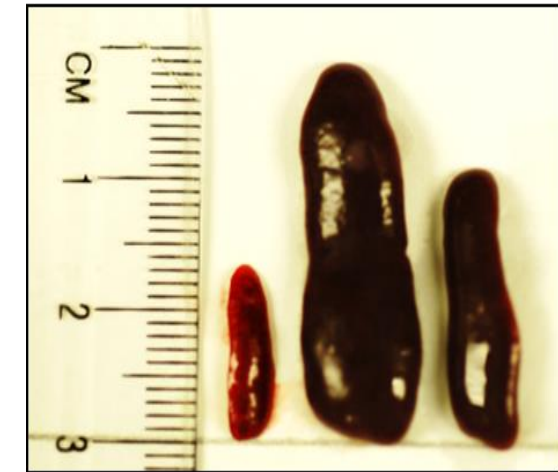
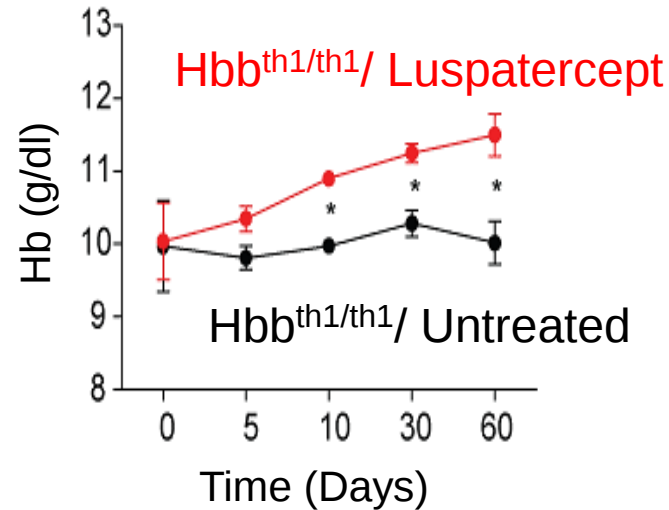
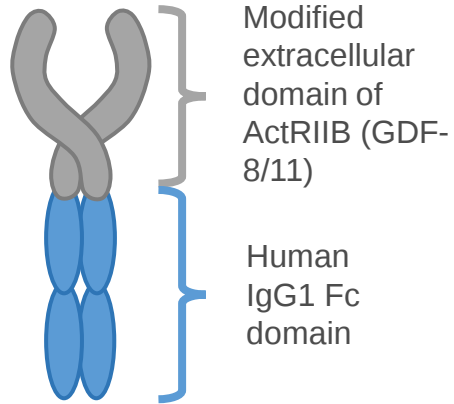
ActRIIB / IgG1 Fc recombinant fusion protein



Luspatercept corrects ineffective erythropoiesis in a β -thalassemia mouse model ($Hbb^{th1/th1}$)

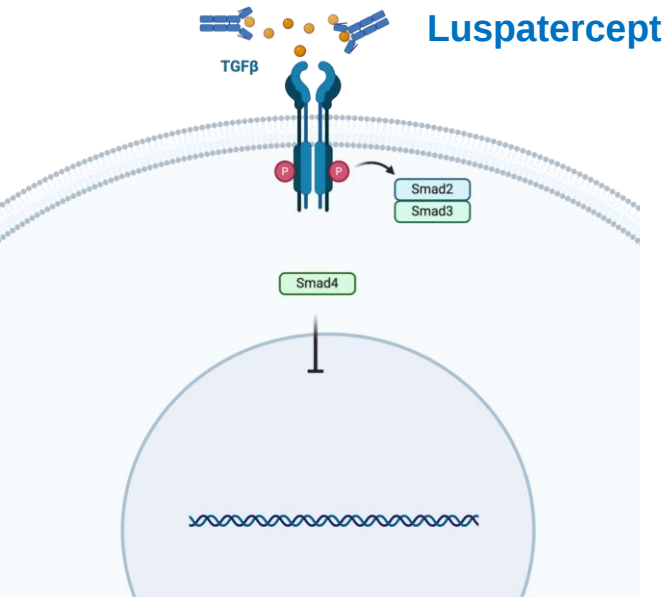
Luspatercept

ActRIIB / IgG1 Fc recombinant fusion protein



WT
 $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Untreated
 $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Luspatercept

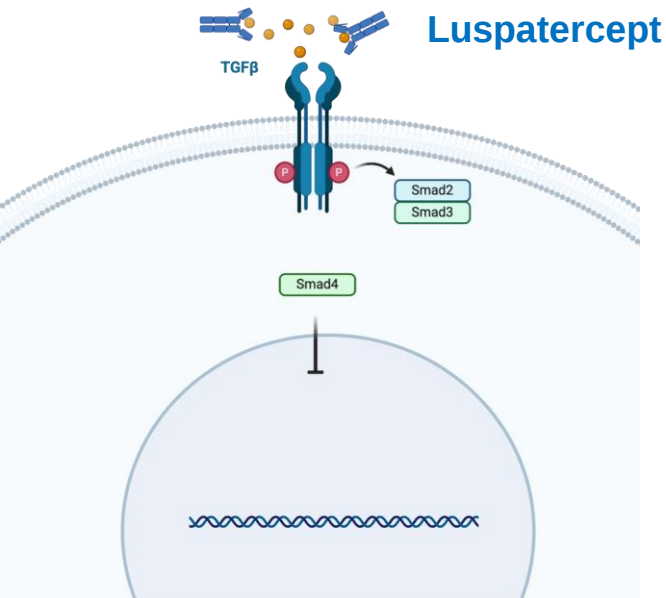
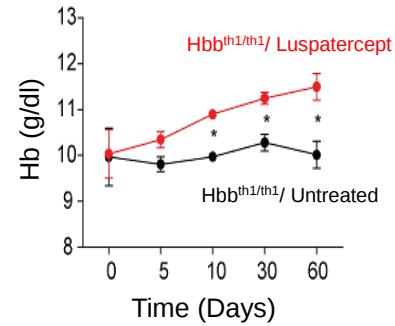
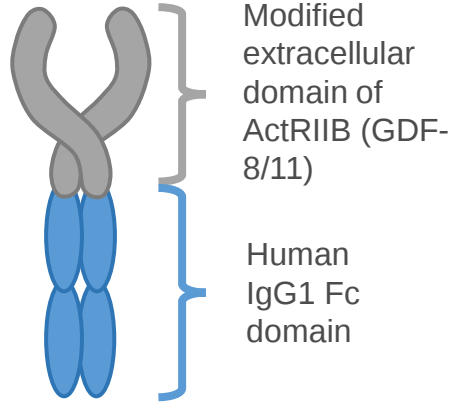
Luspatercept results in decreased splenomegaly in $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ mice



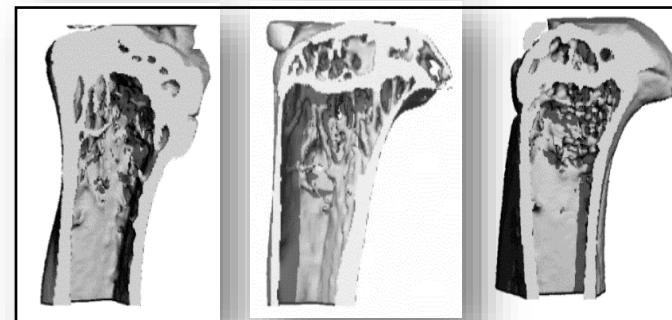
Luspatercept reduces co-morbidities in a β -thalassemia mouse model

Luspatercept

ActRIIB / IgG1 Fc recombinant fusion protein

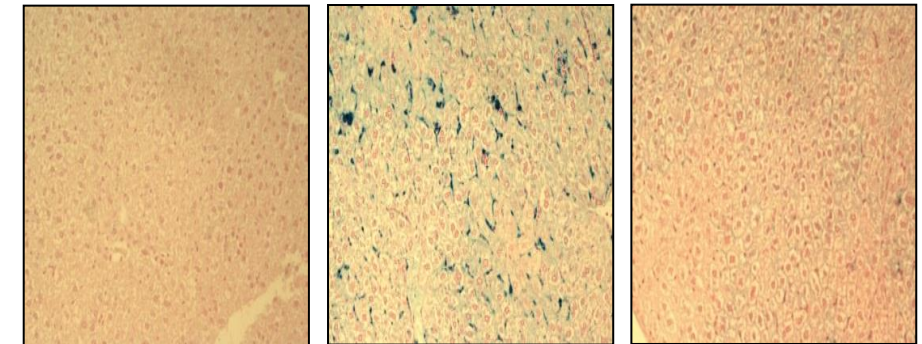


Improved Bone Mineral Density



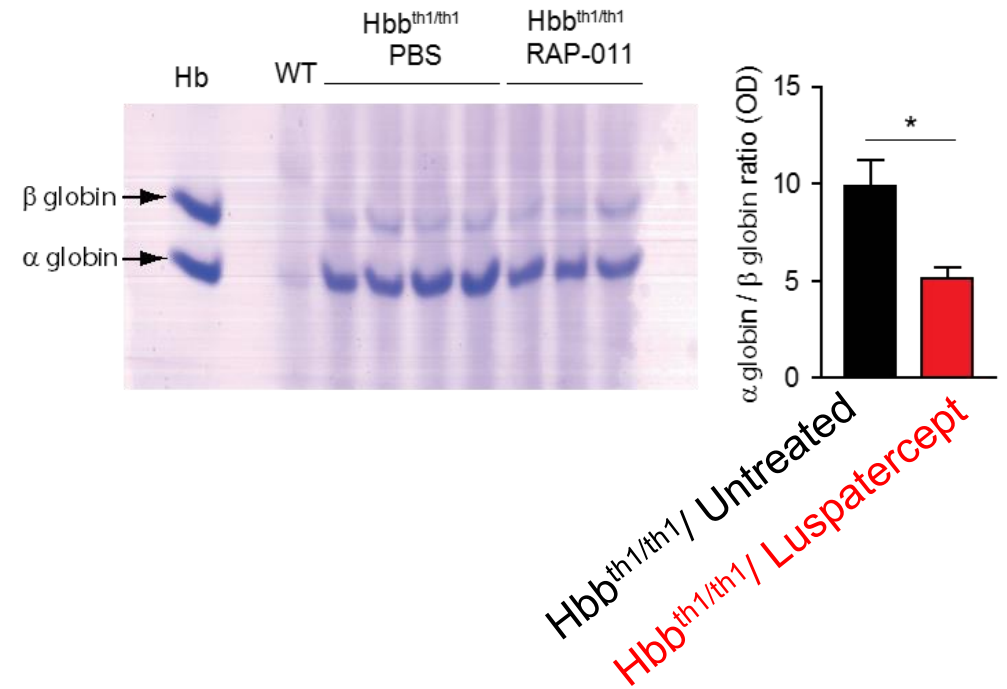
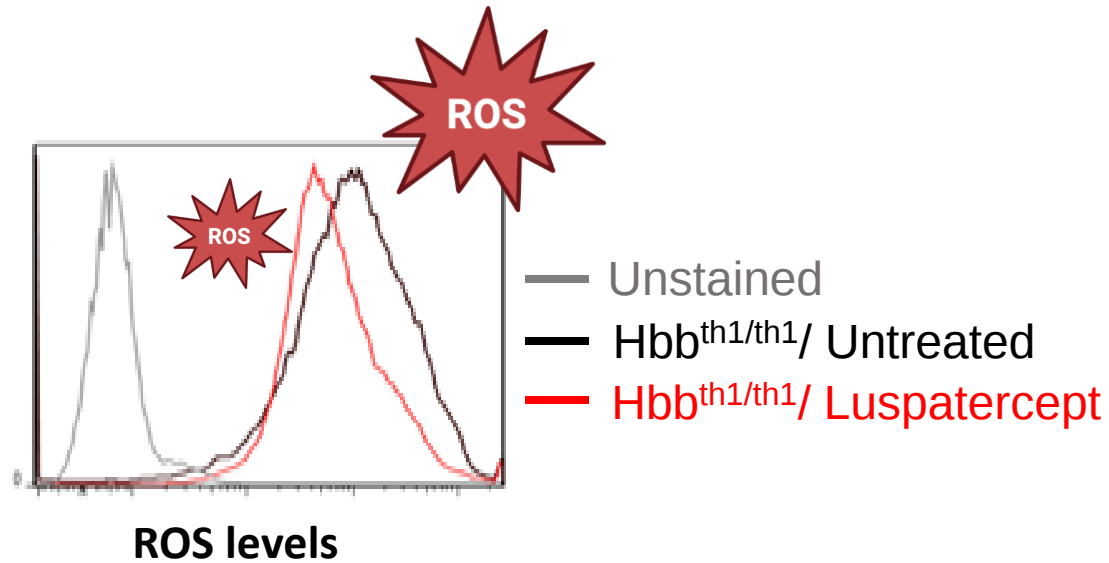
WT $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Untreated $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Luspatercept

Decreased Liver Iron

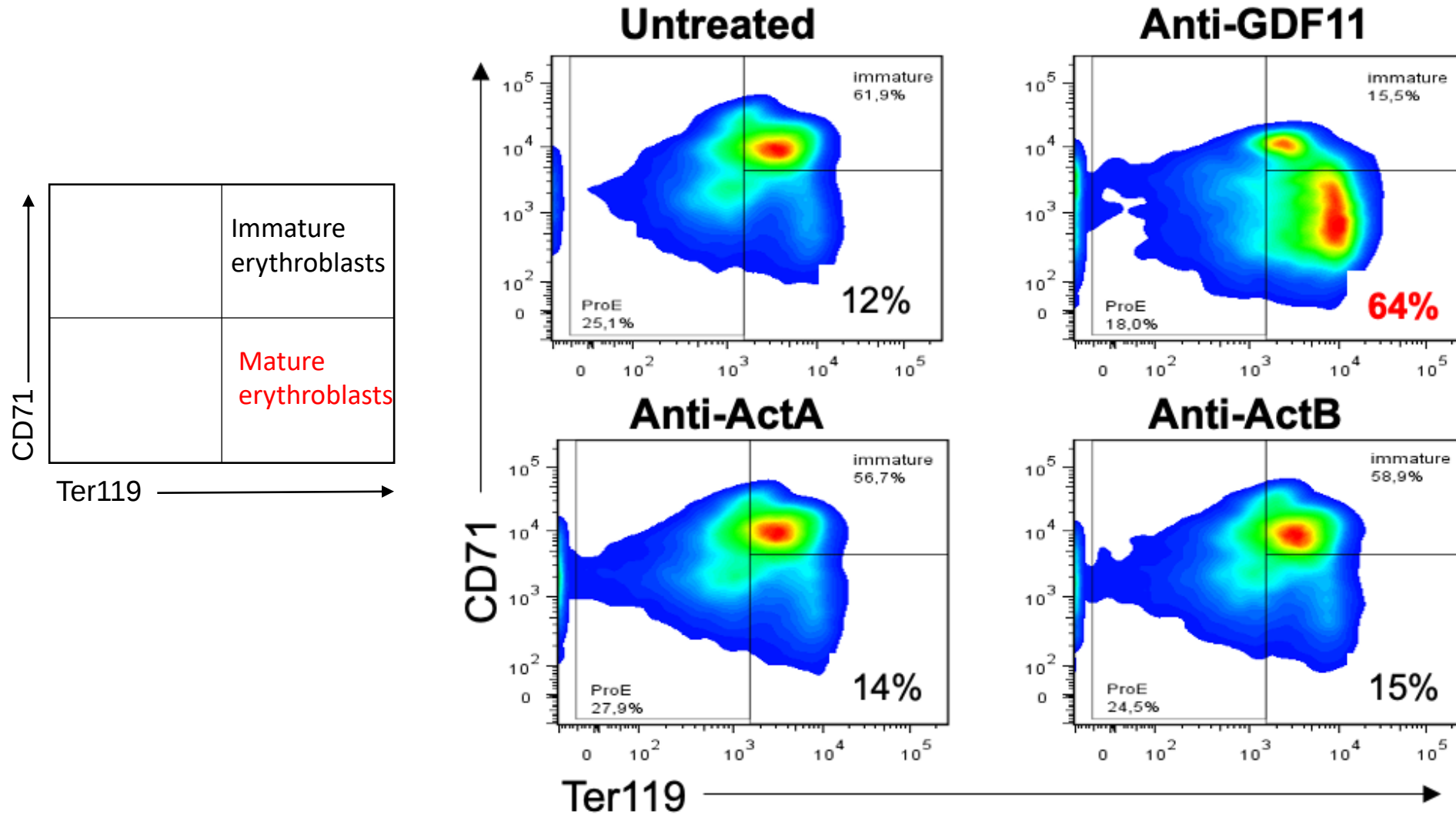


WT $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Untreated $Hbb^{th1/th1}$ / Luspatercept

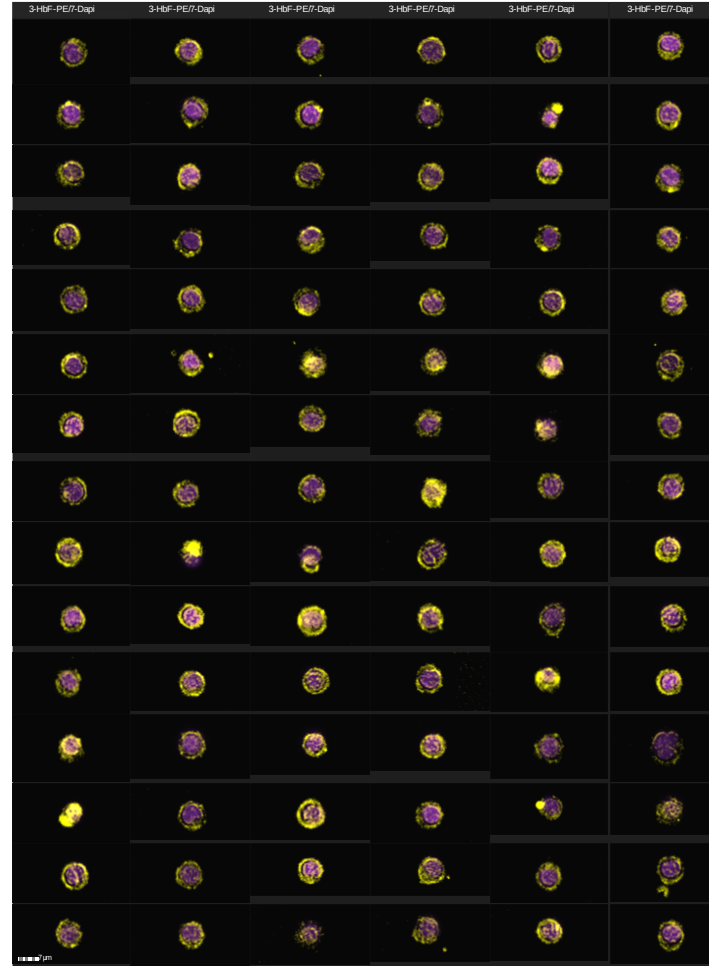
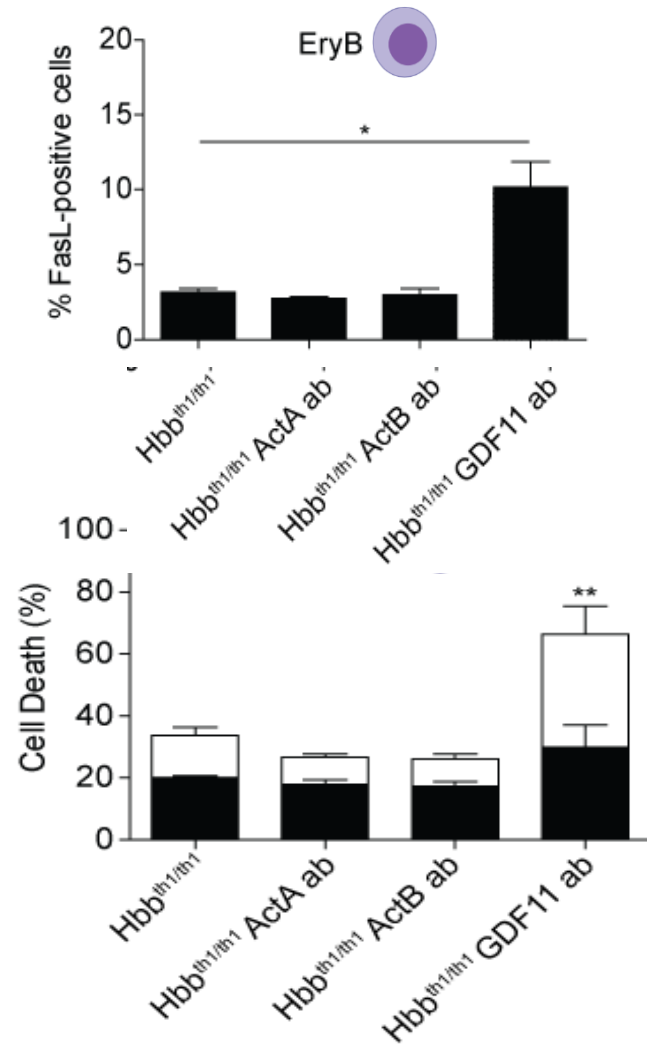
Luspatercept reduces ROS generation, α -globin, hemoglobin precipitates in β -thalassemia



Luspatercept restoration of terminal erythroid differentiation occurs through GDF-11 trapping

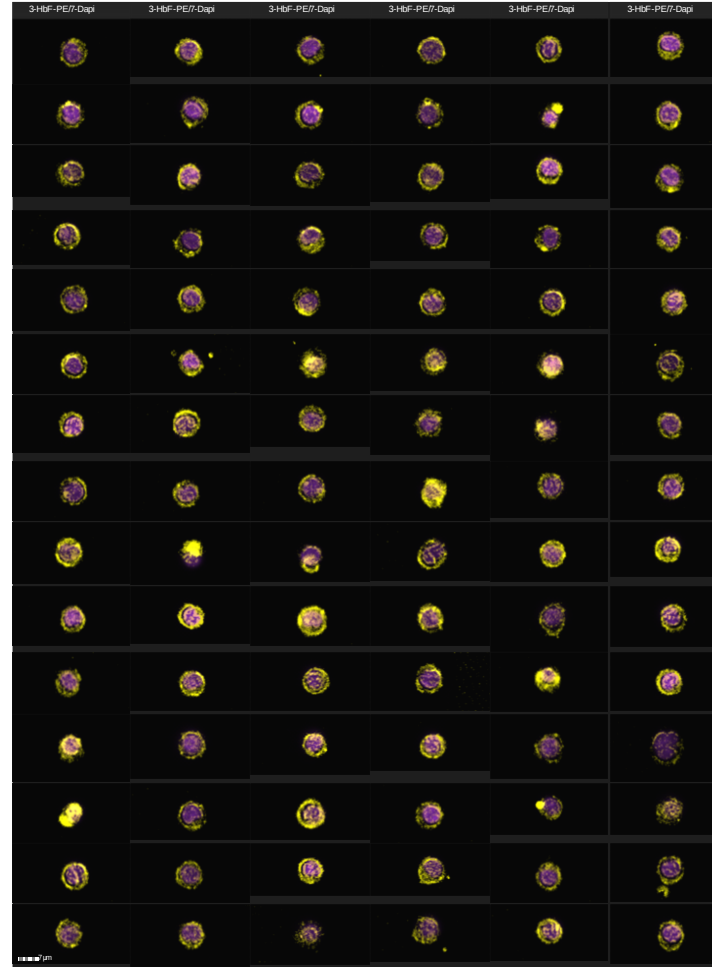
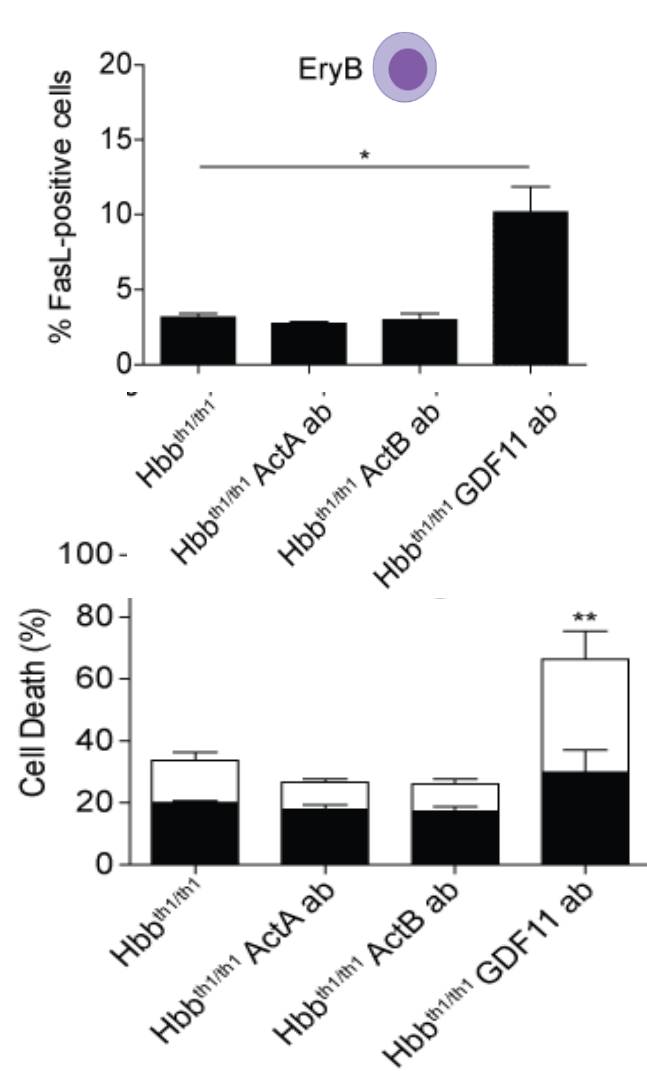


Luspatercept induces FAS-L and reduces ineffective erythropoiesis selecting « better » red cells with more HbF (human)

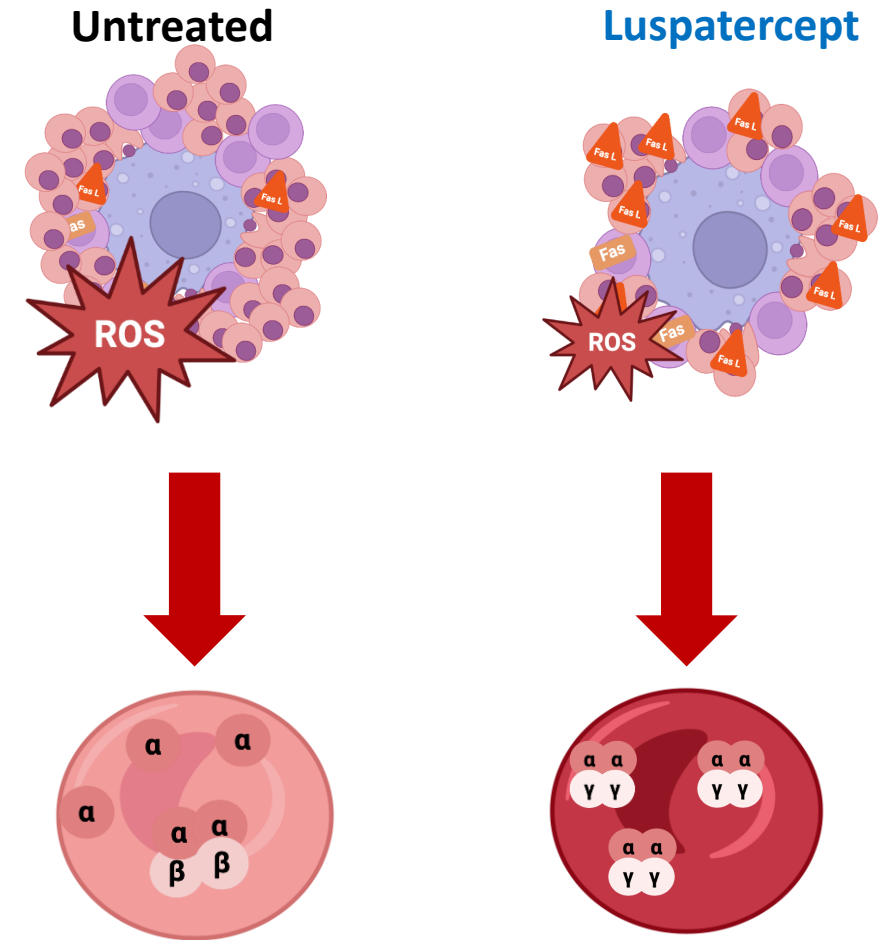


HbF (yellow) Nucleus (purple)

Luspatercept induces FAS-L and reduces ineffective erythropoiesis selecting « better » red cells with more HbF (human)



HbF (yellow) Nucleus (purple)



Luspatercept reduces blood transfusion needs in thalassemic patients and improves some manifestations of ineffective erythropoiesis

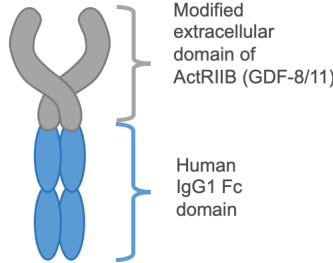
THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Phase 3 Trial of Luspatercept in Patients with Transfusion-Dependent β -Thalassemia

M.D. Cappellini, V. Viprakasit, A.T. Taher, P. Georgiev, K.H.M. Kuo, T. Coates, E. Voskaridou, H.-K. Liew, I. Pazgal-Kobrowski, G.L. Forni, S. Perrotta, A. Khelif, A. Lal, A. Kattamis, E. Vlachaki, R. Origa, Y. Aydinok, M. Bejaoui, P.J. Ho, L.-P. Chew, P.-C. Bee, S.-M. Lim, M.-Y. Lu, A. Tantiworawit, P. Ganeva, L. Gercheva, F. Shah, E.J. Neufeld, A. Thompson, A. Laadem, J.K. Shetty, J. Zou, J. Zhang, D. Miteva, T. Zinger, P.G. Linde, M.L. Sherman, O. Hermine, J. Porter, and A. Piga, for the BELIEVE Investigators*

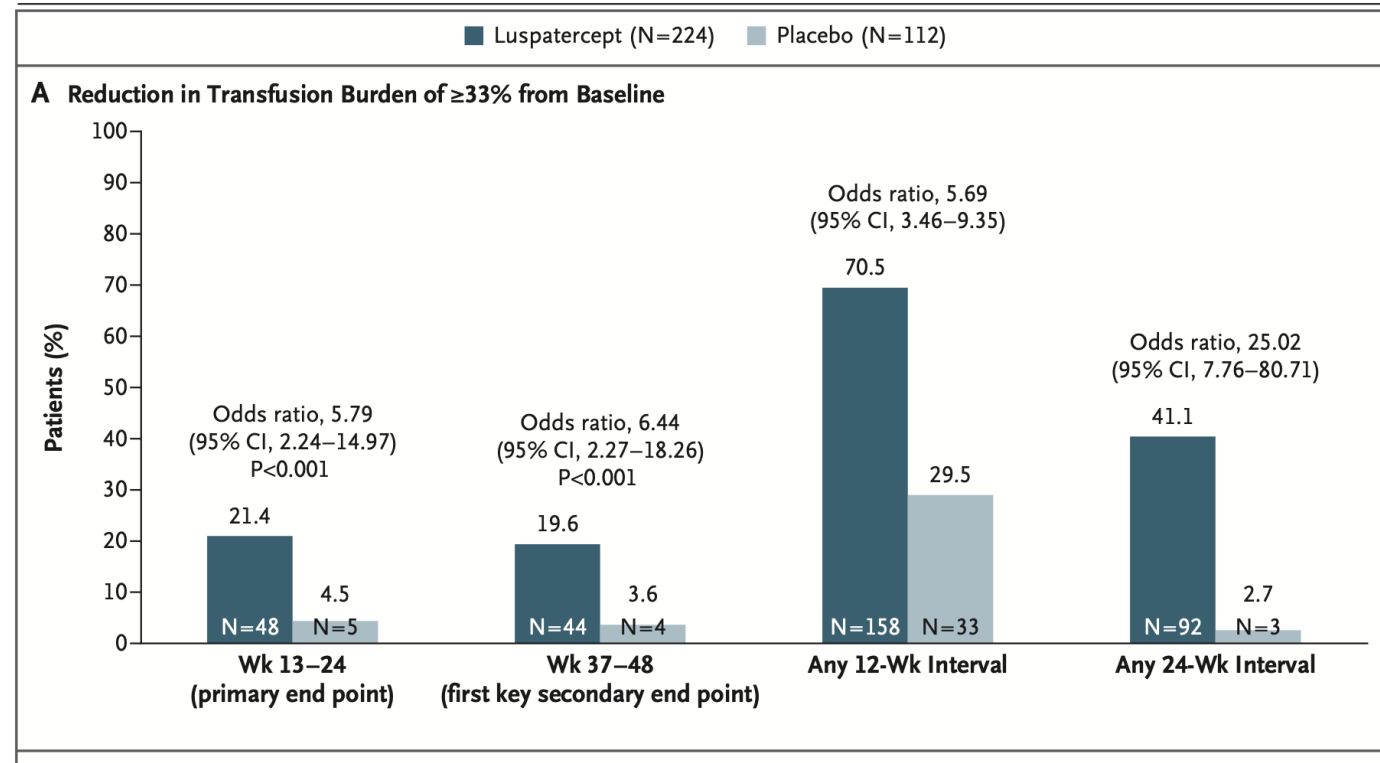
Luspatercept
ActRIIB / IgG1 Fc recombinant fusion protein



Pre-Treatment

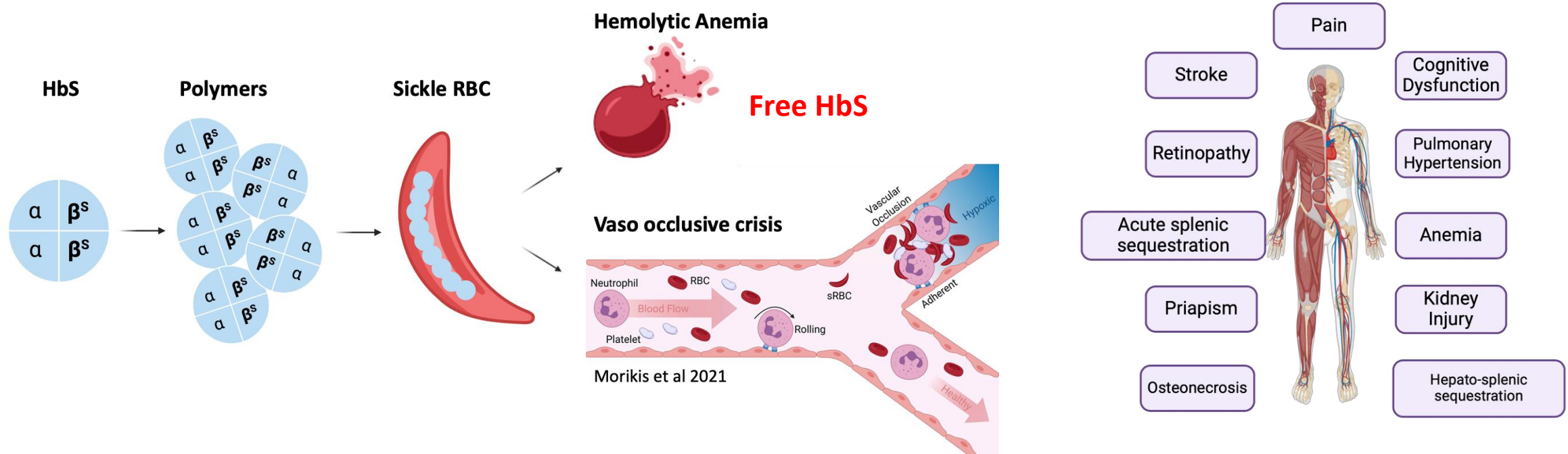


6 weeks Post-Treatment

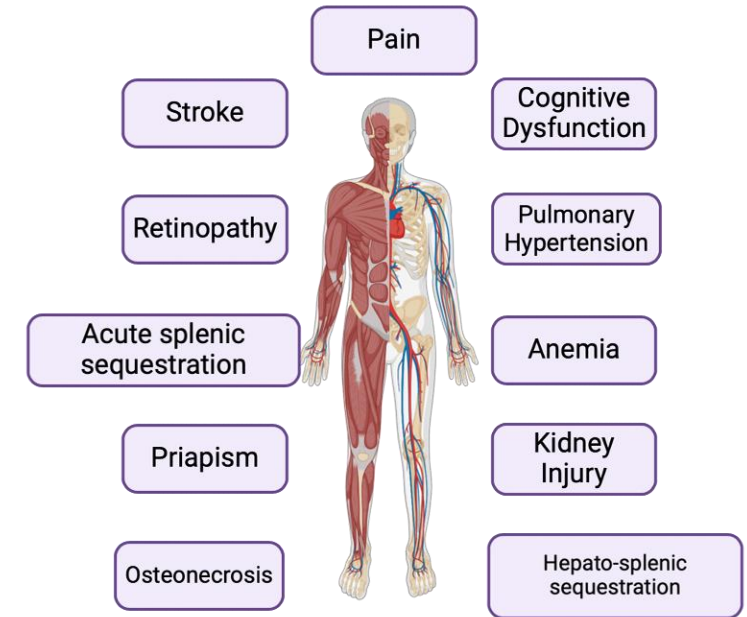
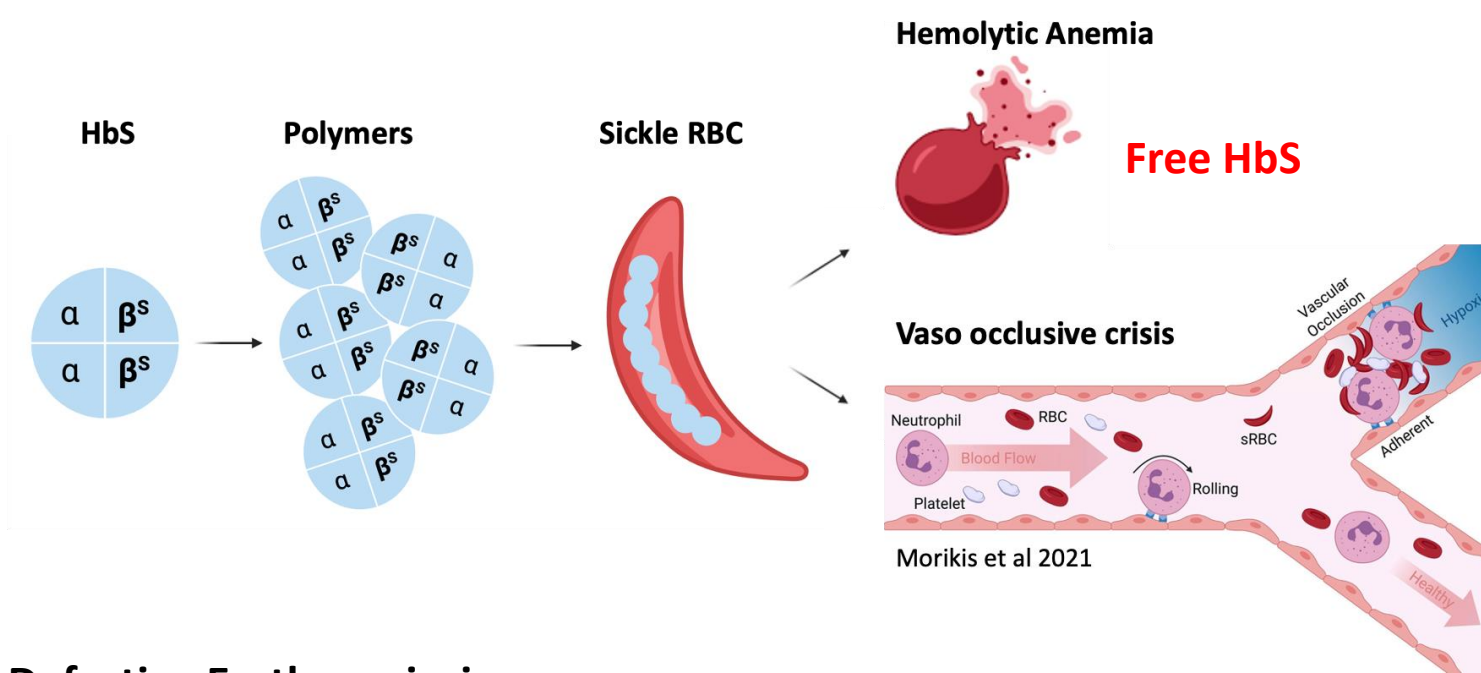


FDA and EMA approval for Transfusion-Dependent Beta-Thalassemia (2020)

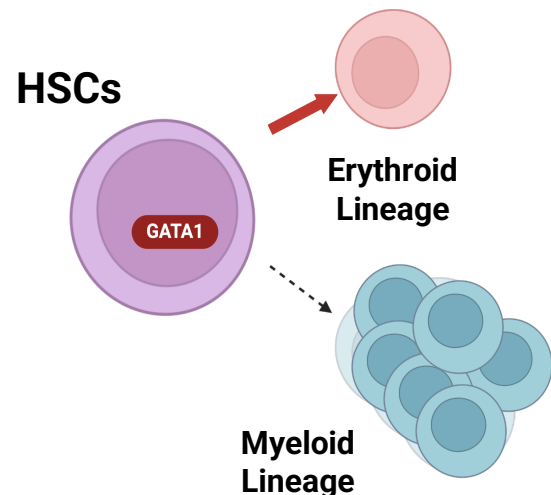
Sickle Cell Disease - Pathophysiology



Sickle Cell Disease - Pathophysiology



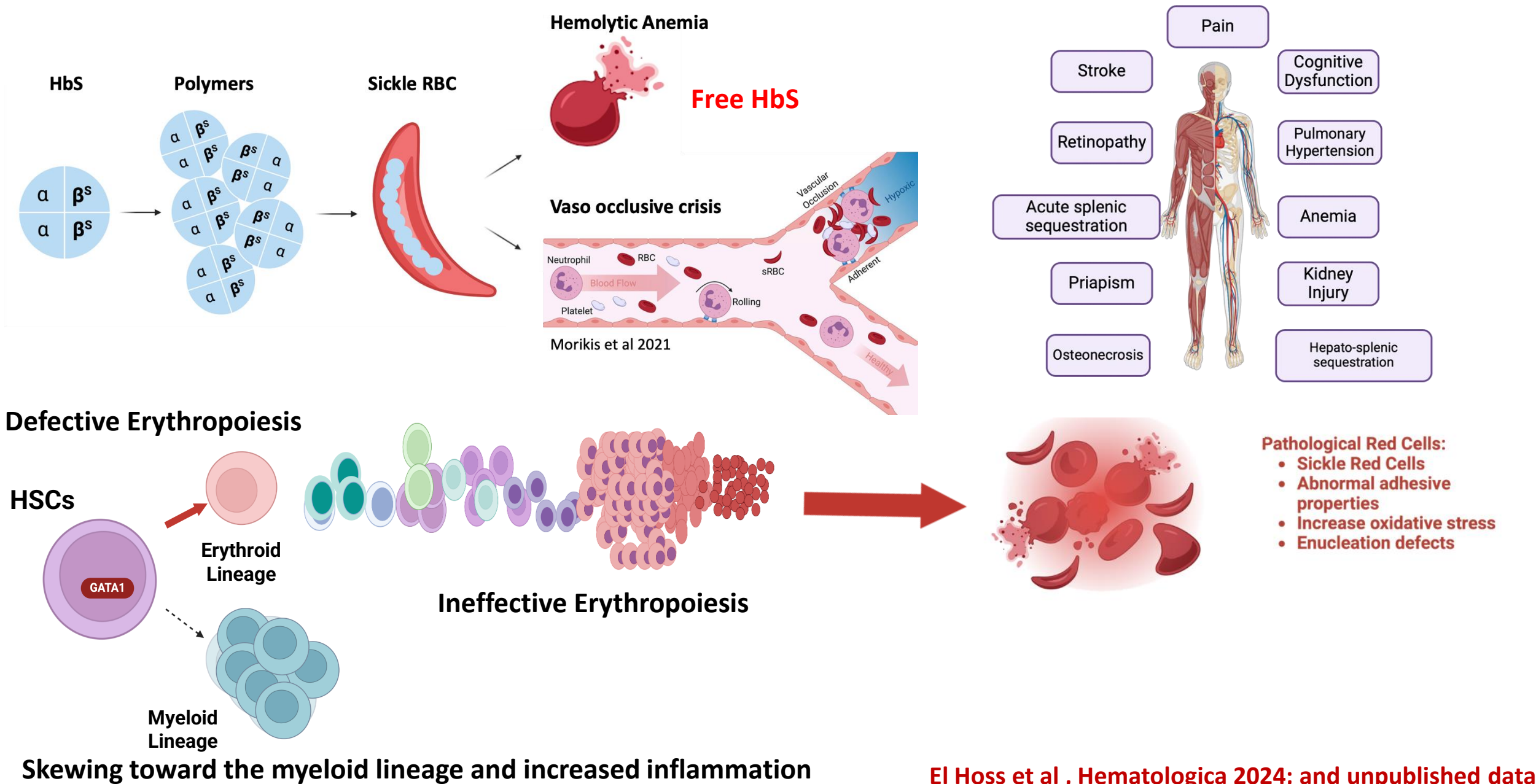
Defective Erythropoiesis



Skewing toward the myeloid lineage and increased inflammation

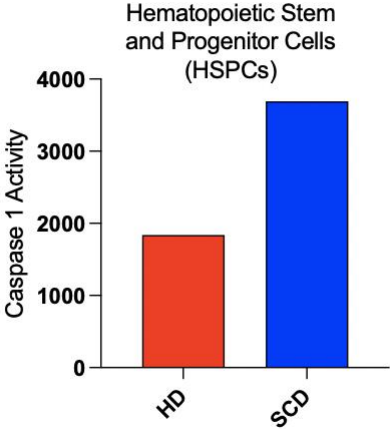
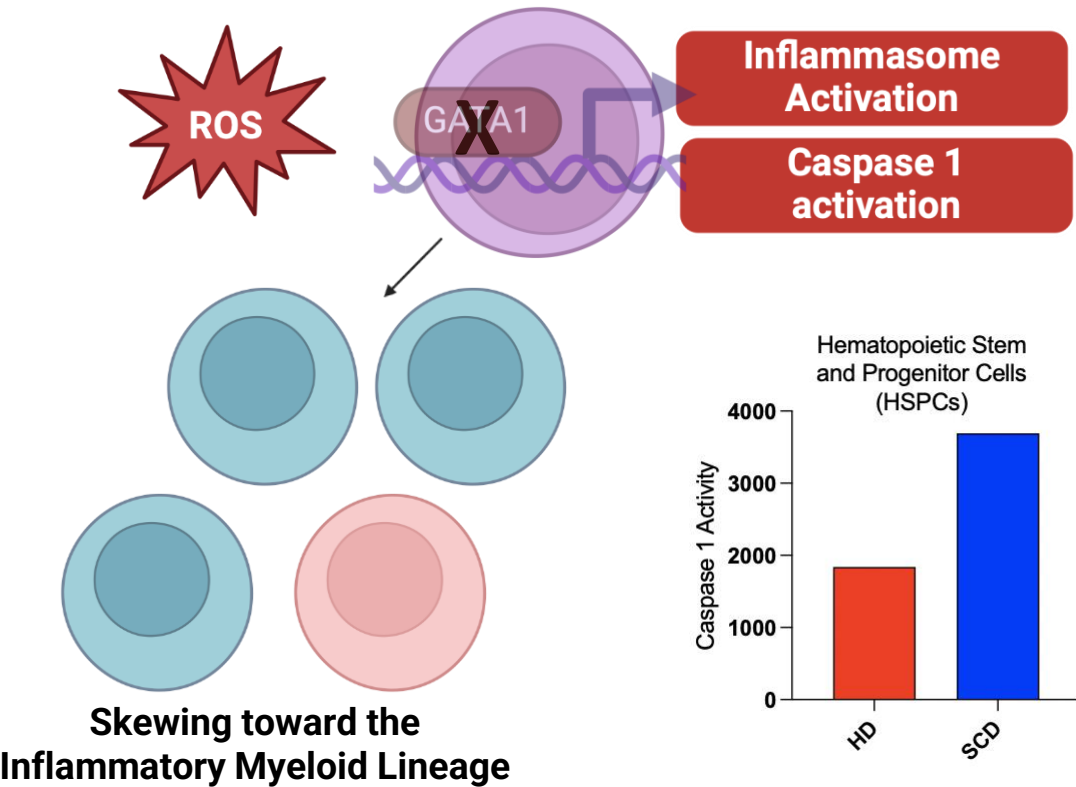
El Hoss et al , Hematologica 2024; and unpublished data

Sickle Cell Disease - Pathophysiology

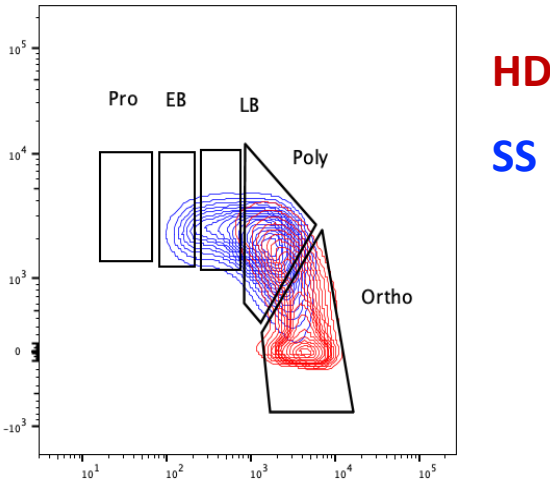
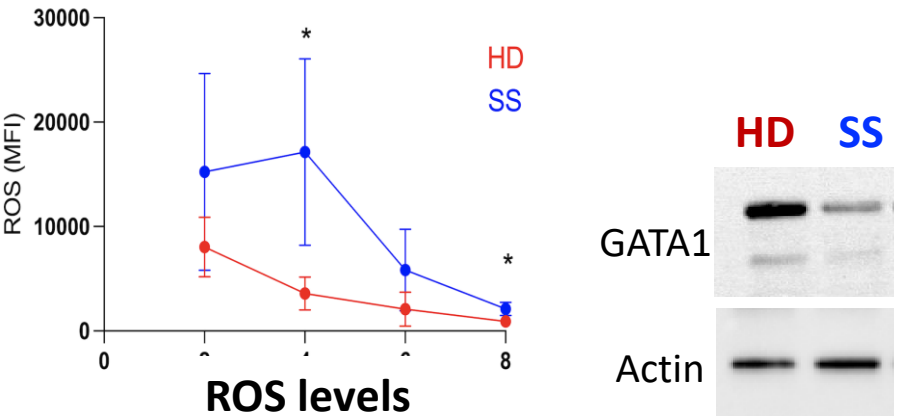


What is responsible for defective erythropoiesis in SCD?

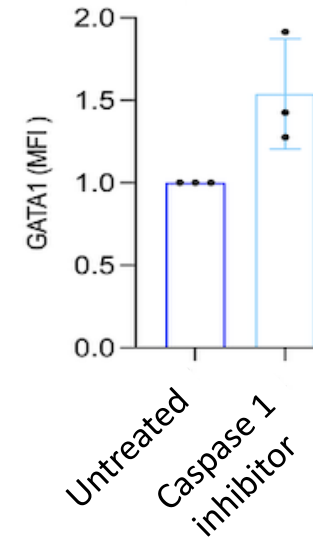
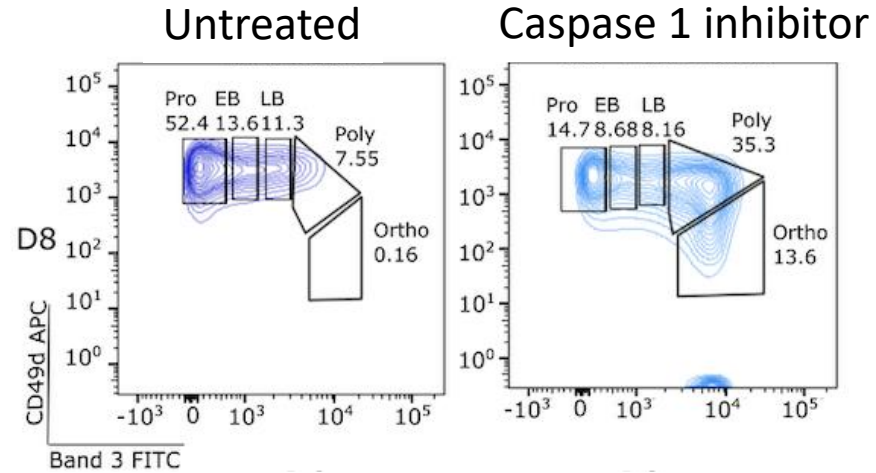
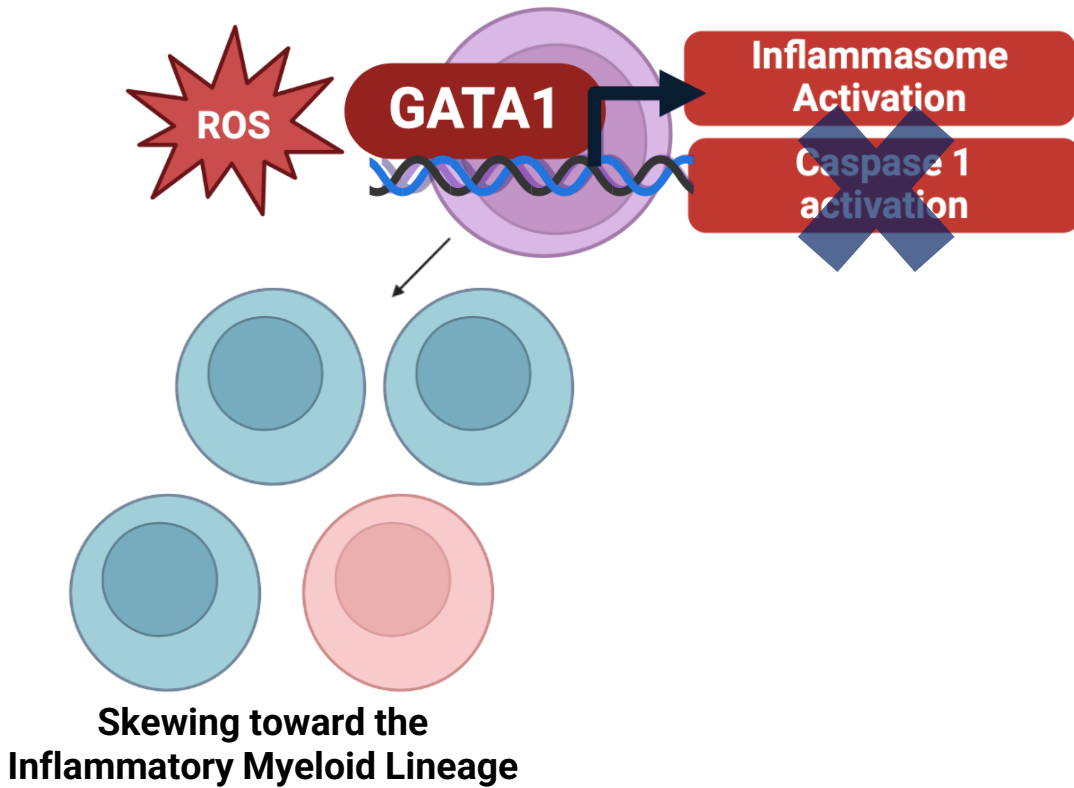
Caspase 1 is activated and cleaves GATA1 in early erythropoiesis



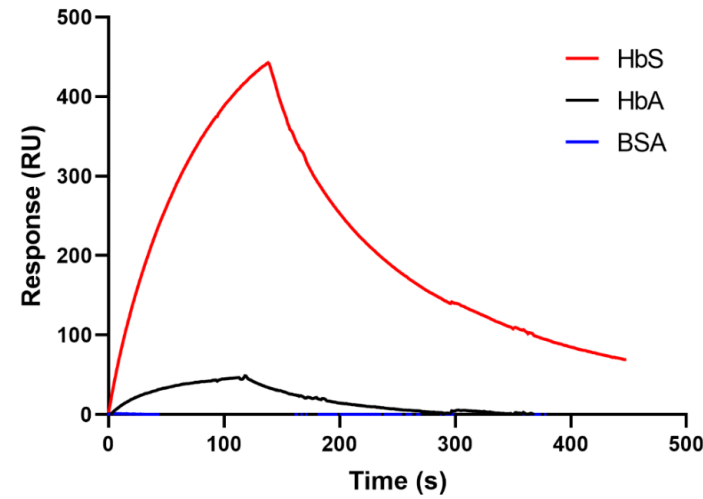
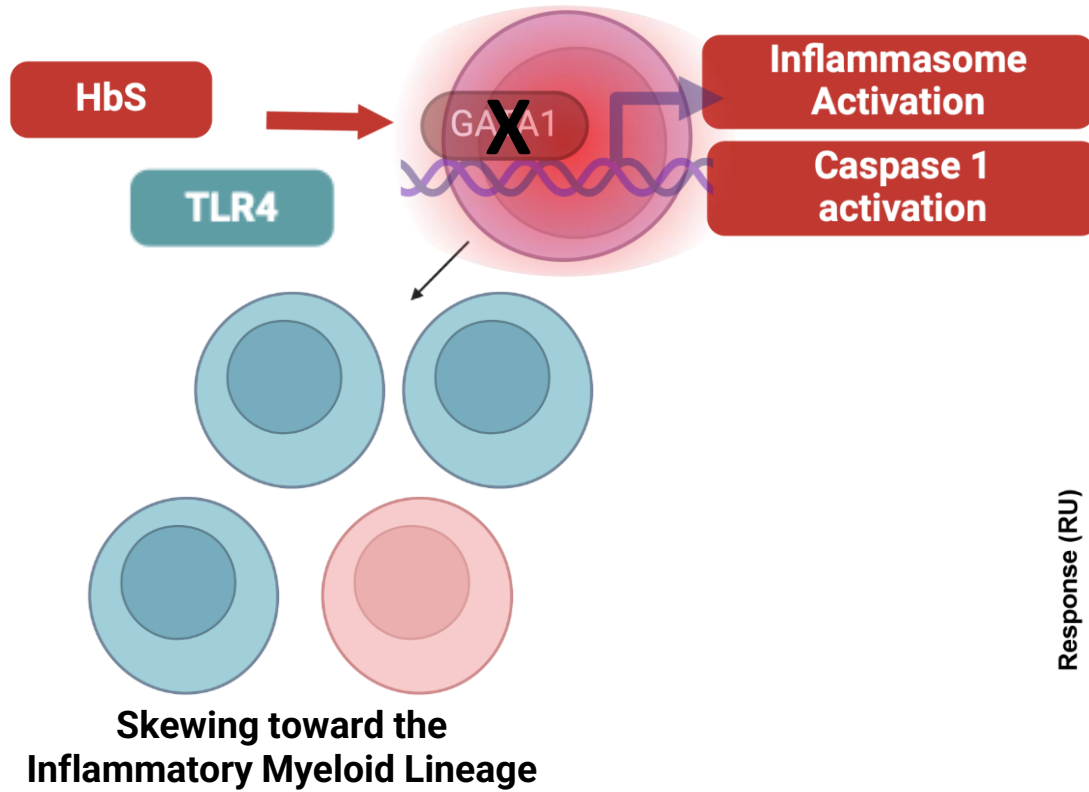
El Hoss et al unpublished data



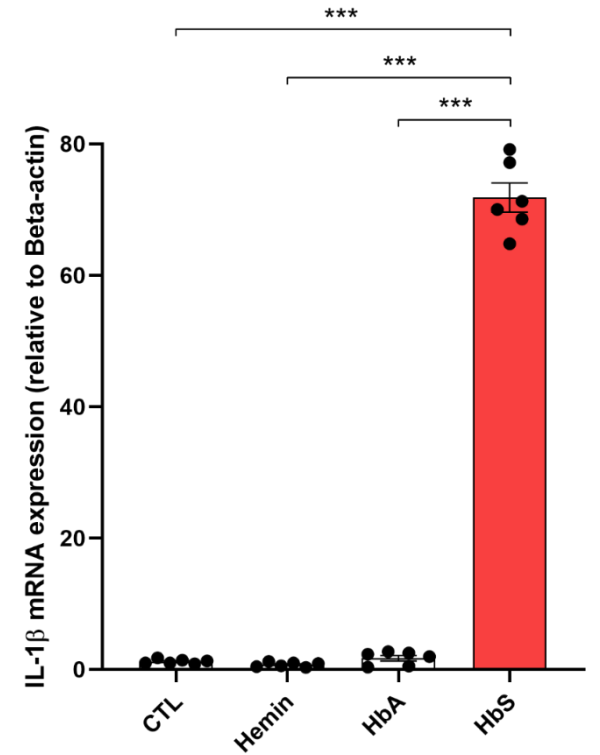
Caspase 1 inhibition rescues erythropoiesis defects in SCD



HbS/TLR4 interaction induced an inflammatory environment in SCD



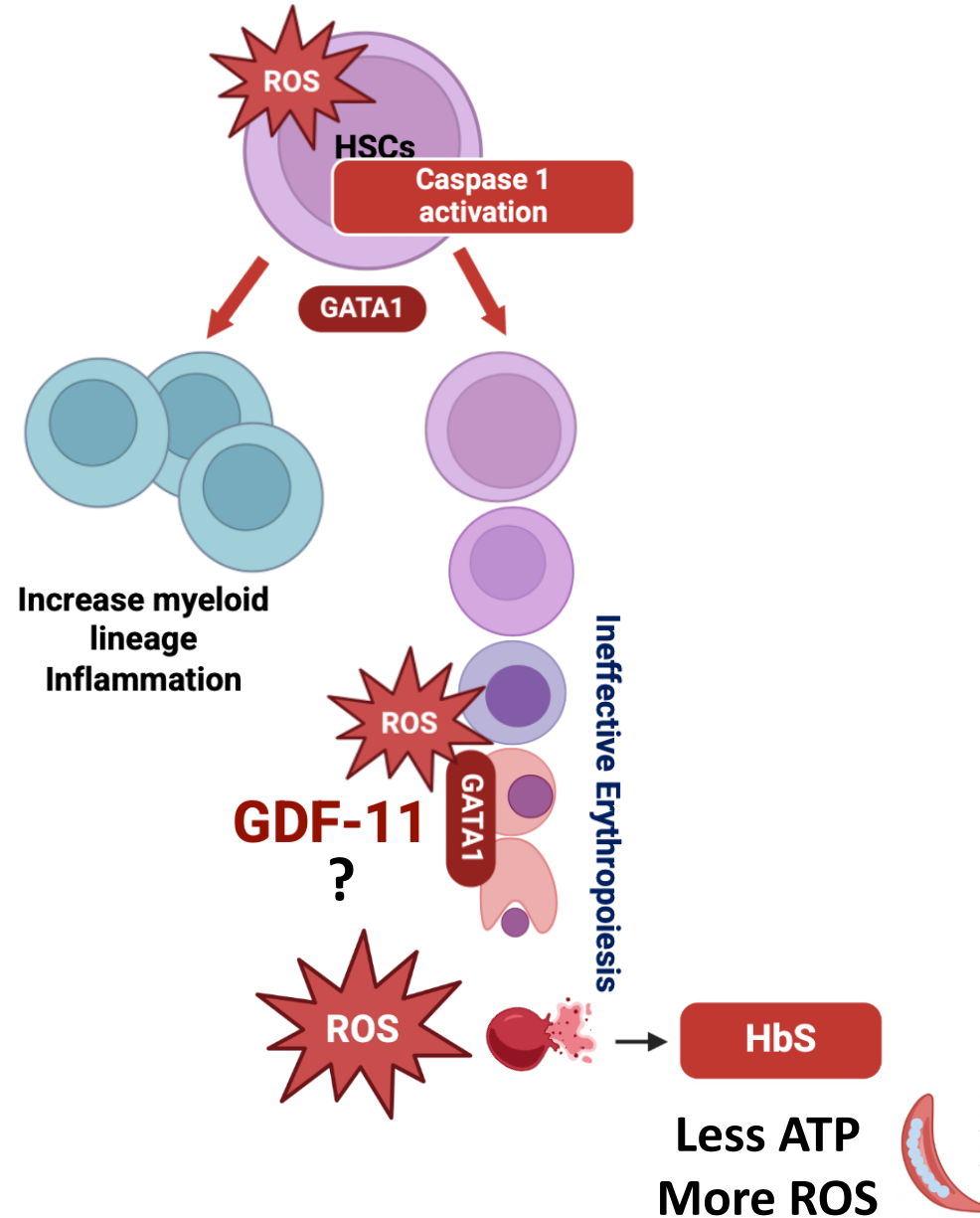
Binding HbS vs HbA to TLR4



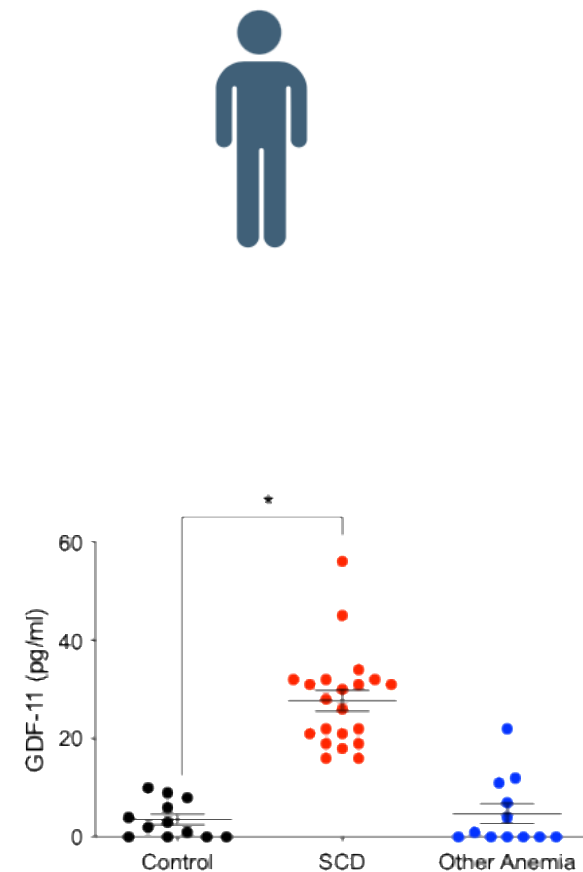
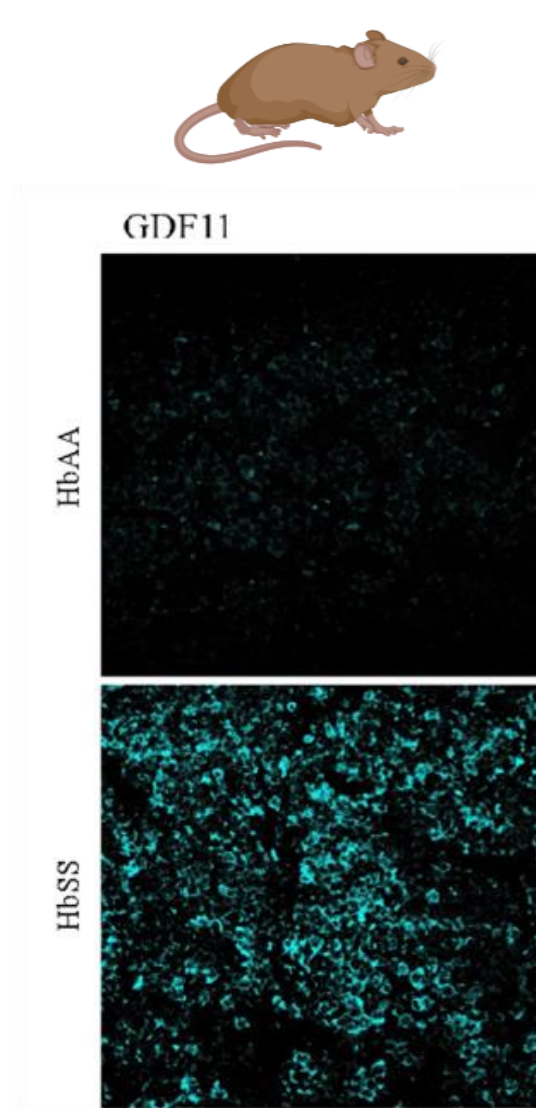
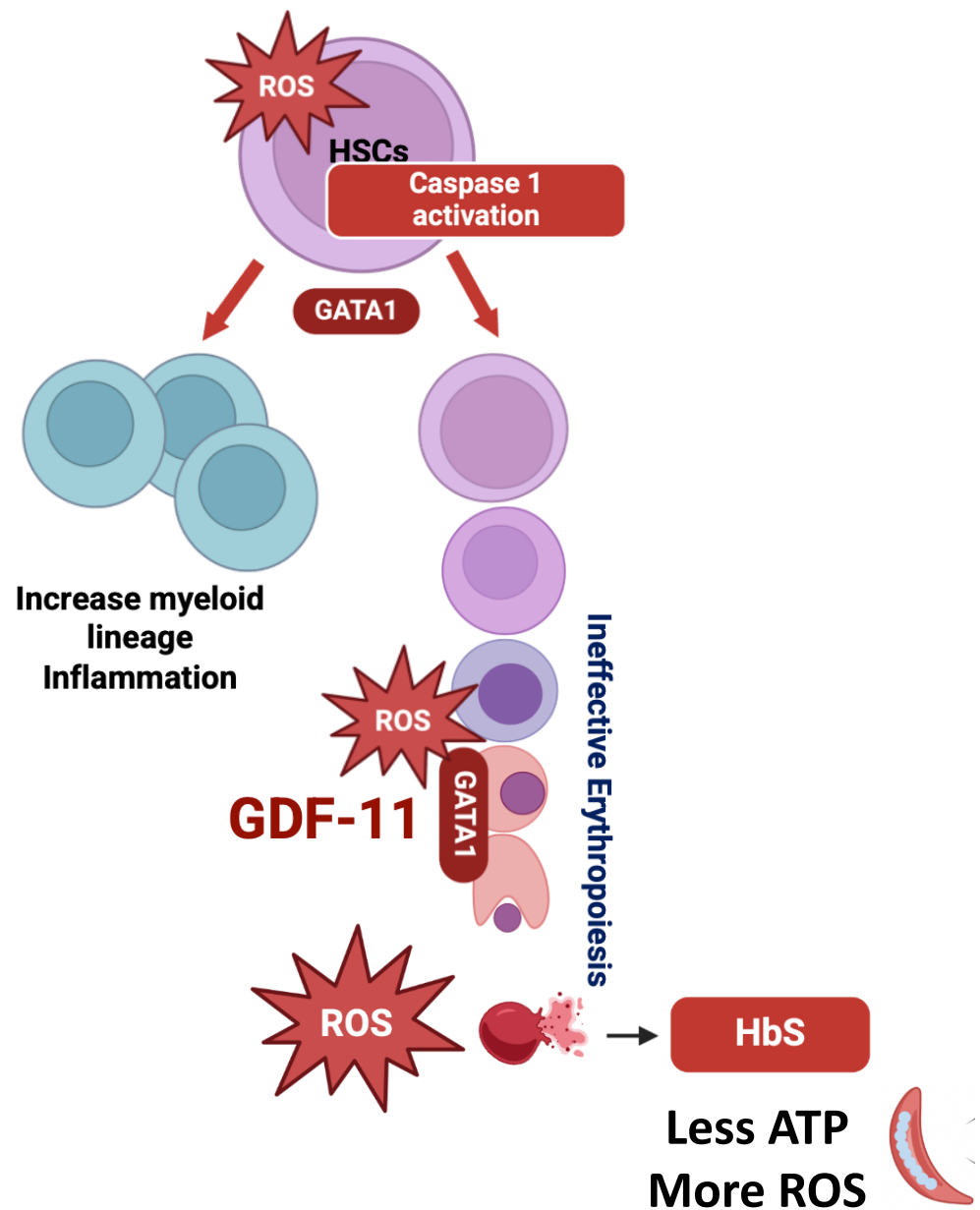
TLR4 activation by HbS vs HbA

What explains the ineffective erythropoiesis in SCD?

Is GDF-11 increased in SCD erythropoiesis?

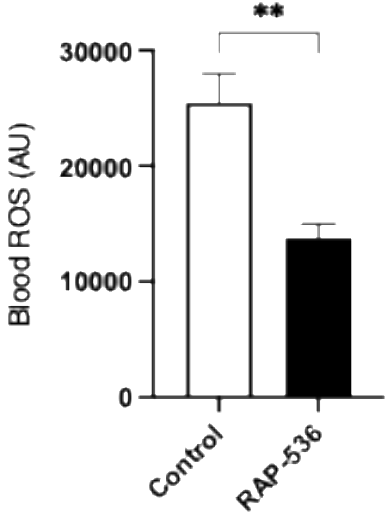
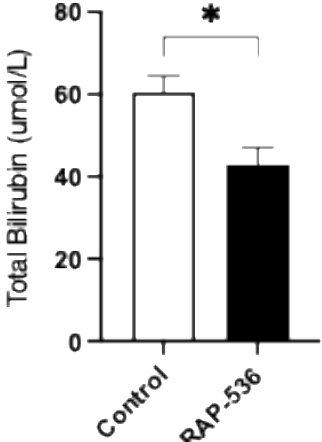
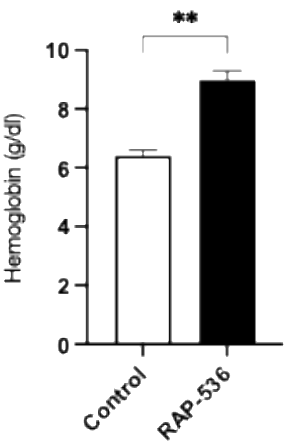
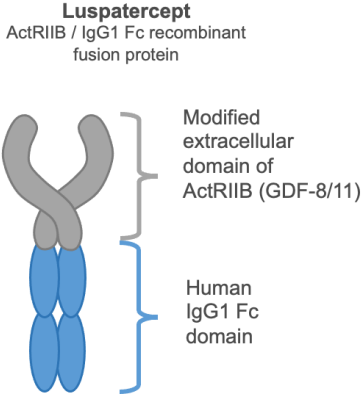


GDF-11 is increased in SCD erythropoiesis

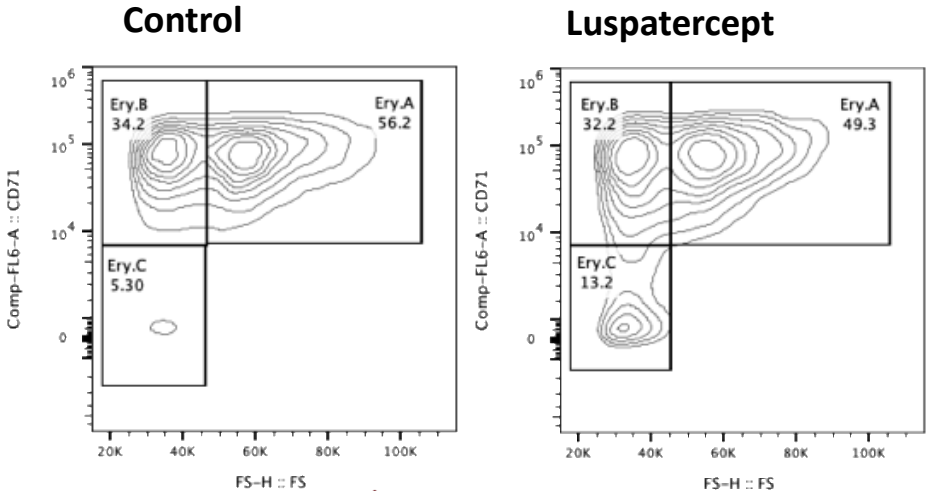


Luspatercept rescues ineffective erythropoiesis in SCD and reduces sickling

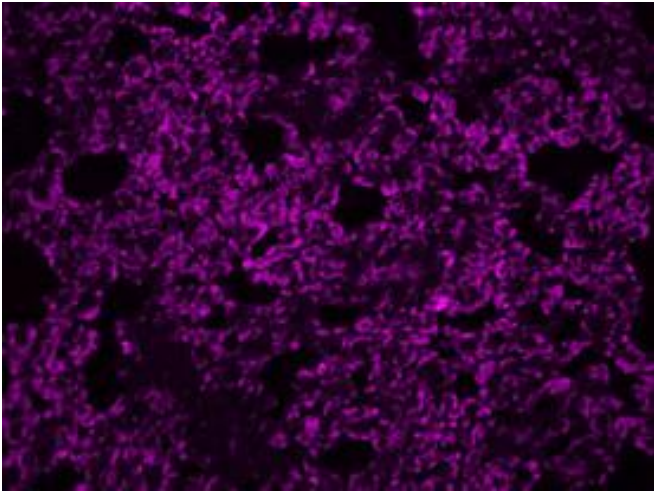
TOWNES SS Mice



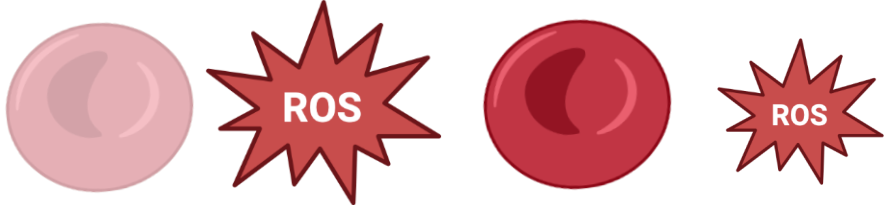
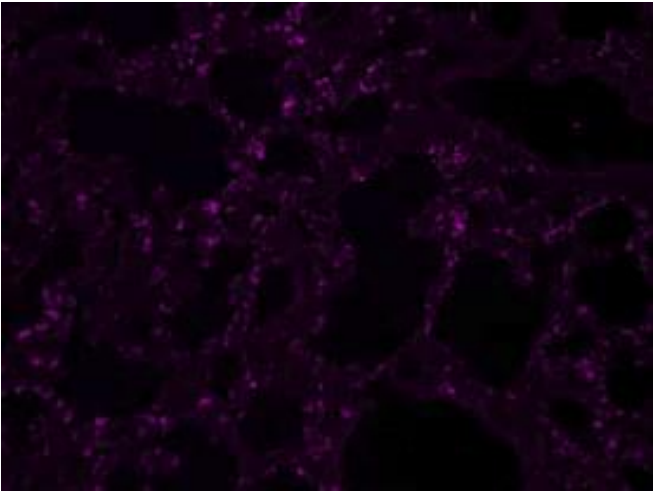
Lungs – Measurement of hypoxia induced Vaso-occlusive crisis



Control



RAP-536

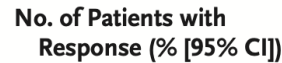


TER-119+ erythrocytes

Could Luspatercept be utilized beyond hemoglobinopathies, in other conditions characterized with ineffective erythropoiesis?

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

P. Fenaux, U. Platzlecker, G.J. Mufti, G. Garcia-Manero, R. Buckstein, V. Santini, M. Díez-Campelo, C. Finelli, M. Cazzola, O. Ilhan, M.A. Sekeres, J.F. Falantes, B. Arrizabalaga, F. Salvi, V. Giai, P. Vyas, D. Bowen, D. Selleslag, A.E. DeZern, J.G. Jurcic, U. Germing, K.S. Götze, B. Quesnel, O. Beyne-Rauzy, T. Cluzeau, M.-T. Voso, D. Mazure, E. Vellenga, P.L. Greenberg, E. Hellström-Lindberg, A.M. Zeidan, L. Adès, A. Verma, M.R. Savona, A. Laadem, A. Benzohra, J. Zhang, A. Rampsad, D.R. Dunshee, P.G. Linde, M.L. Sherman, R.S. Komrokji, and A.F. List



Luspatercept	58 (38 [30–46])	43 (28 [21–36])	51 (33 [26–41])	29 (19 [13–26])	43 (28 [21–36])
Placebo	10 (13 [6–23])	6 (8 [3–16])	9 (12 [6–21])	3 (4 [1–11])	5 (7 [2–15])



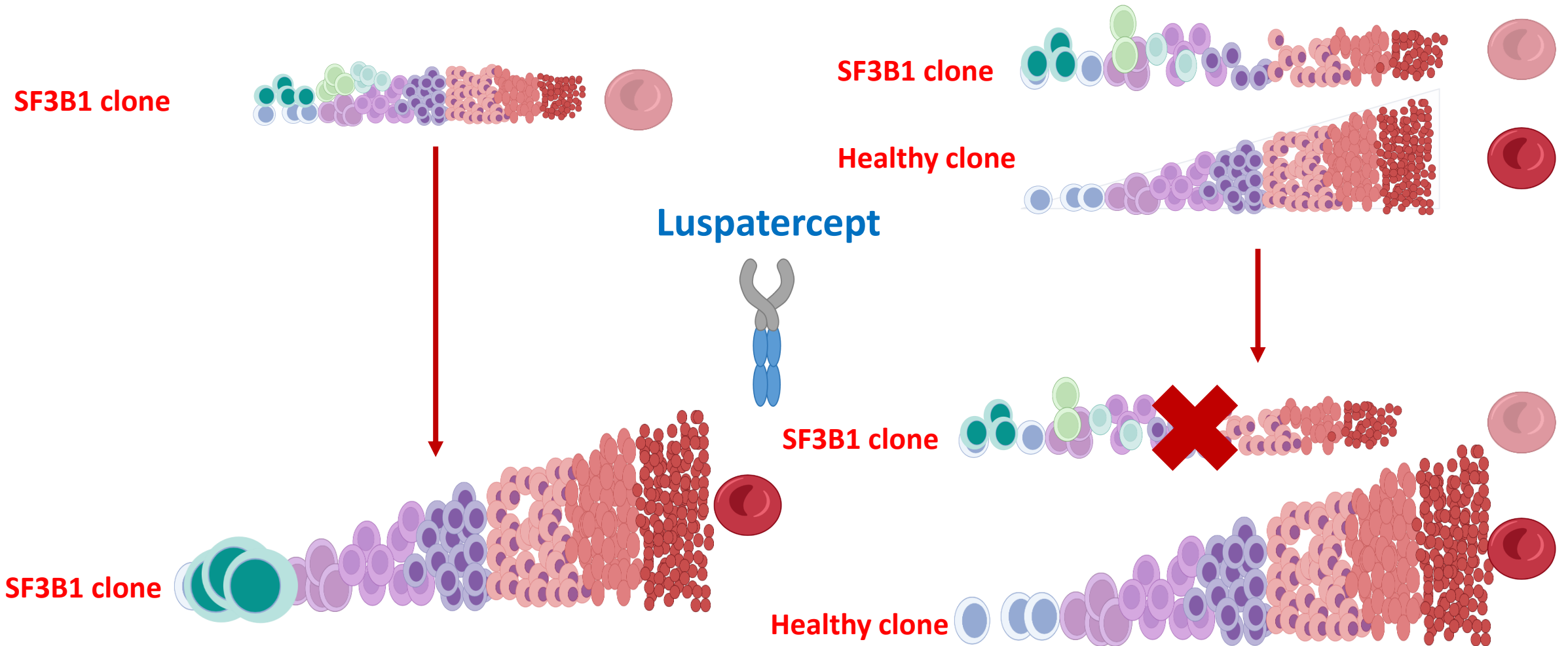
(A)

Bar chart showing the percentage of patients achieving red blood cell transfusion independence at 12 weeks and 24 weeks, and the percentage of patients achieving HI-E (weeks 1-24) for Luspatercept (n=147) and Epoetin alfa (n=154) groups. The chart shows significantly higher rates for Luspatercept in all three categories.

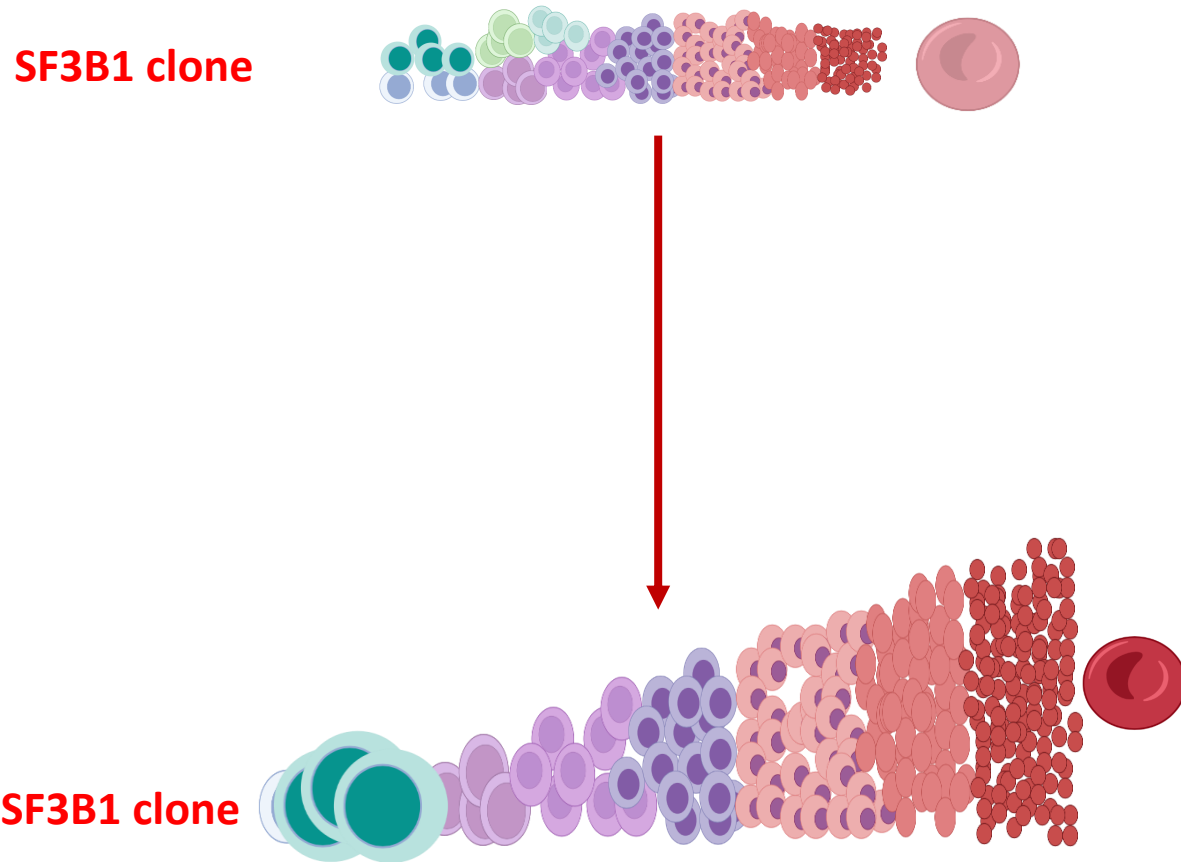
Endpoint	Luspatercept (n=147)	Epoetin alfa (n=154)	p-value
Red blood cell transfusion independence ≥ 12 weeks (weeks 1-24)	67% (n=98)	46% (n=71)	p=0.0002
Red blood cell transfusion independence 24 weeks (weeks 1-24)	48% (n=70)	30% (n=45)	p=0.0006
HI-E (weeks 1-24)	74% (n=109)	51% (n=79)	p<0.0001

	Luspatercept		Epoetin alfa			Risk difference (95% CI)	Weight (%)
	Responders	Total	Responders	Total			
ASXL1	15	31	3	29		0.38 (0.17 to 0.59)	10.5
CBL	0	5	2	5		-0.40 (-0.85 to 0.05)	3.6
DNMT3A	19	28	11	25		0.24 (-0.02 to 0.50)	8.1
DTA SF3B1.n	12	31	12	40		0.09 (-0.14 to 0.31)	9.8
EZH2	5	10	2	9		0.28 (-0.13 to 0.69)	4.2
IDH2	2	4	1	3		0.20 (-0.23 to 0.83)	2.7
RAS	1	4	0	9		0.25 (-0.17 to 0.67)	1.0
SF3B1	64	92	27	90		0.40 (0.26 to 0.53)	15.1
SF3B1.n	41	55	16	55		0.45 (0.29 to 0.62)	12.9
SF3B1β	1	4	0	3		0.25 (-0.18 to 0.68)	3.9
SRSF2	5	14	2	14		0.21 (-0.10 to 0.53)	6.4
TET2	30	48	16	53		0.32 (0.14 to 0.51)	11.8
U2AF1	6	16	4	19		0.16 (-0.14 to 0.46)	6.8
Random-effects model		344		361		0.27 (0.18 to 0.37)	100

Mechanism of action: Increased differentiation vs extinction of SF3B1 clones and restoration of erythropoiesis



Mechanism of action: Increased differentiation vs extinction of SF3B1 clones

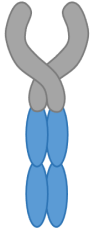


No significant change in SF3B1 VAF
No clonal extinction

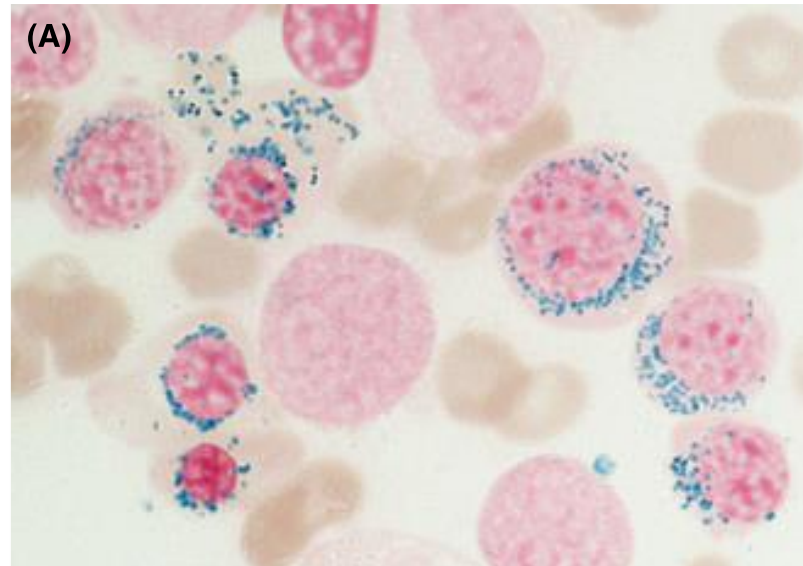
Luspatercept in congenital sideroblastic anemia?

Luspatercept corrects anemia in a patient with congenital sideroblastic anemia

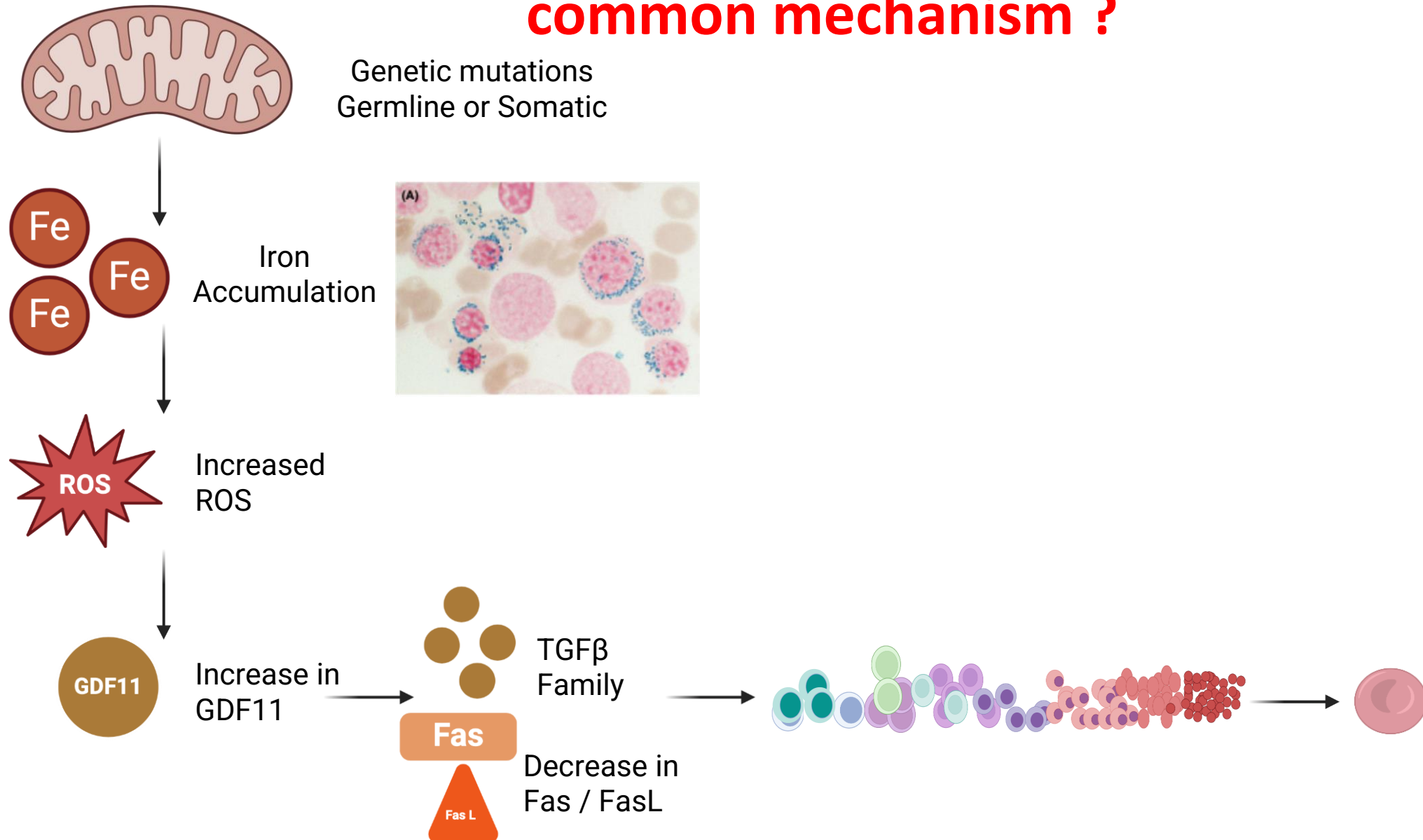
Luspatercept



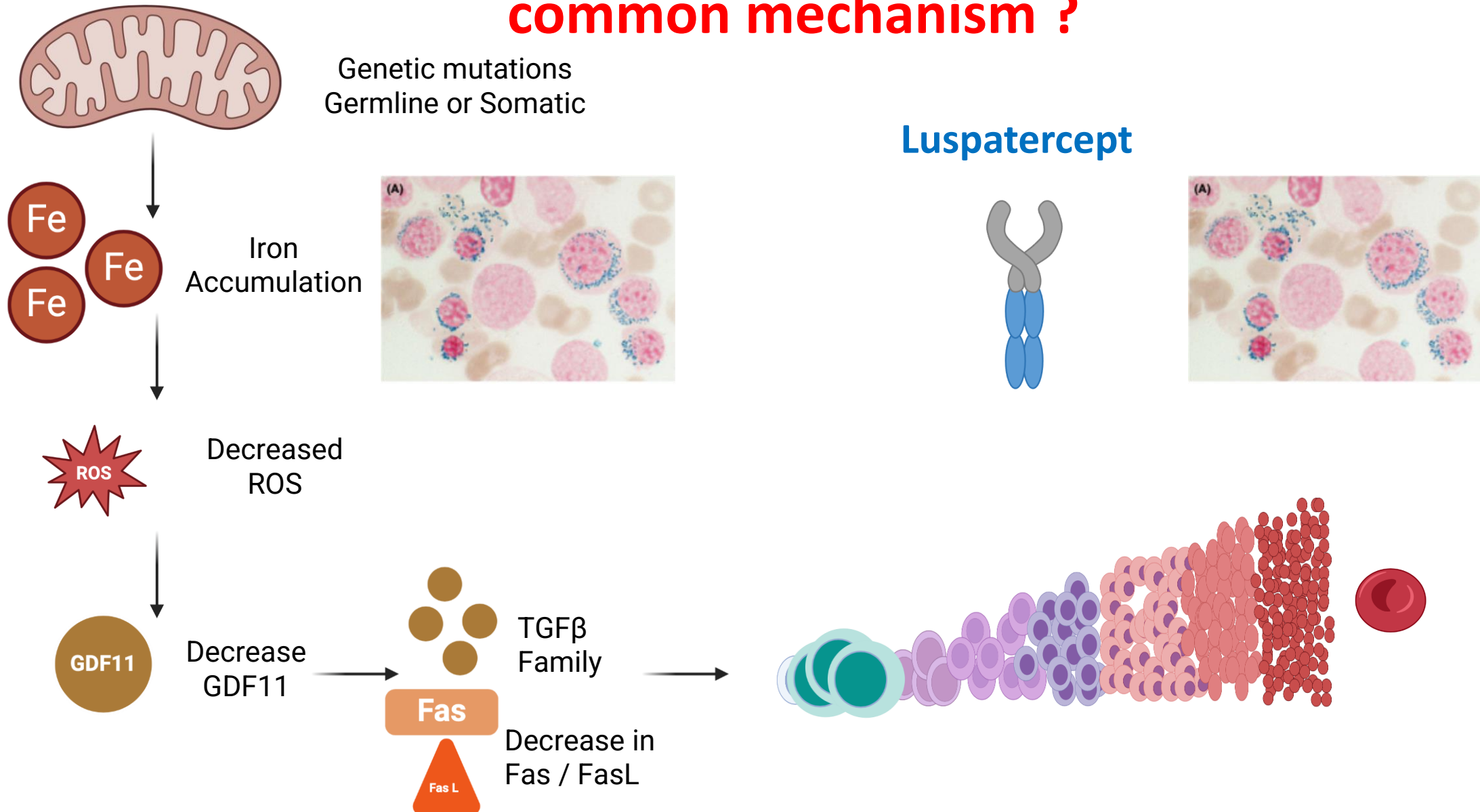
- Congenital sideroblastic anemia with PUS-1 deficiency
- 4g/dl Transfusion dependent
- Luspatercept 1mg/3wk
- **Hemoglobin increased to 10-12g/dl (Transfusion independent for the last 18 months)**
- Bone marrow aspiration no change from diagnosis **(80% sideroblasts)**



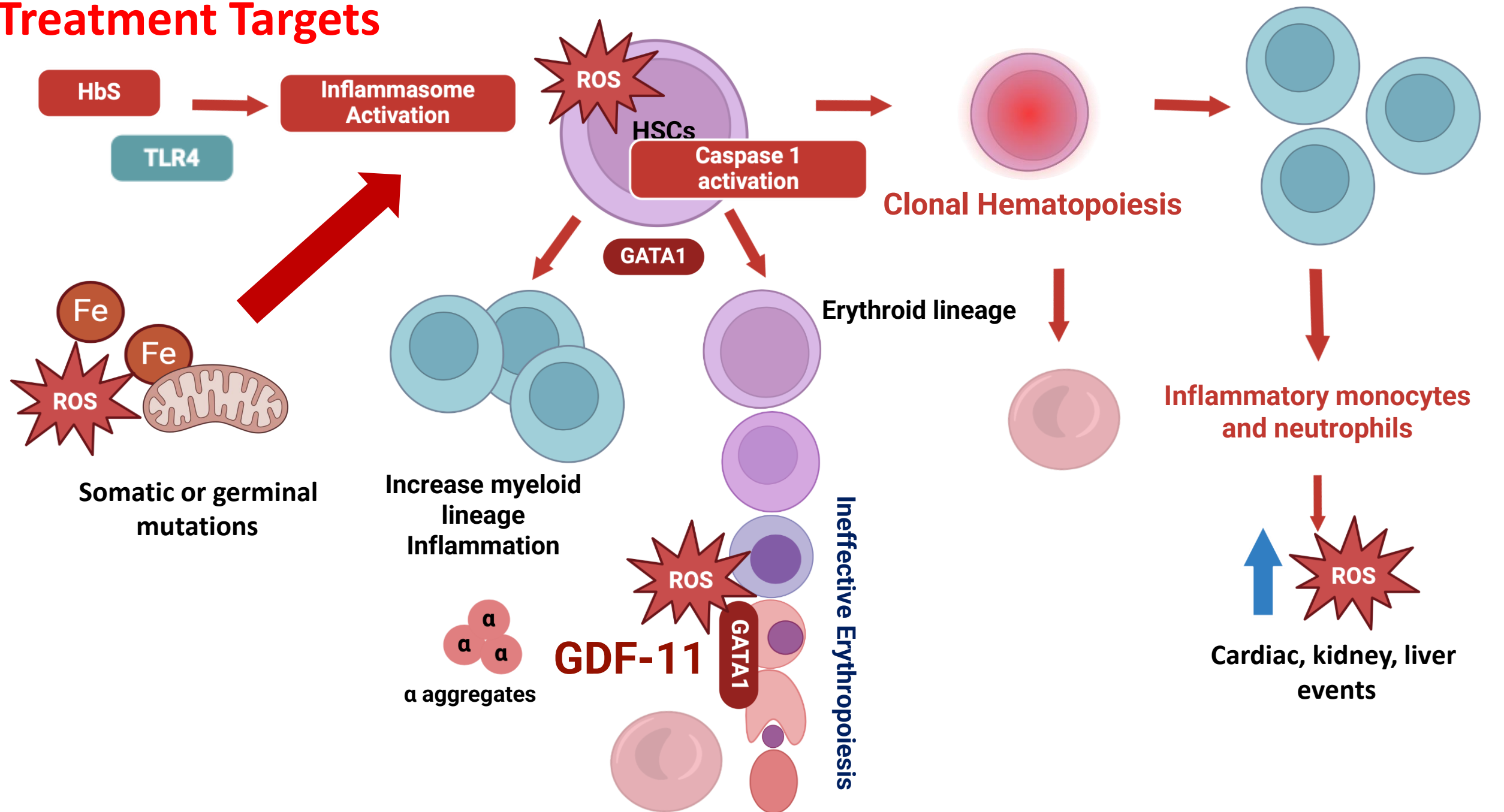
Acquired and congenital sideroblastic anemia : common mechanism ?



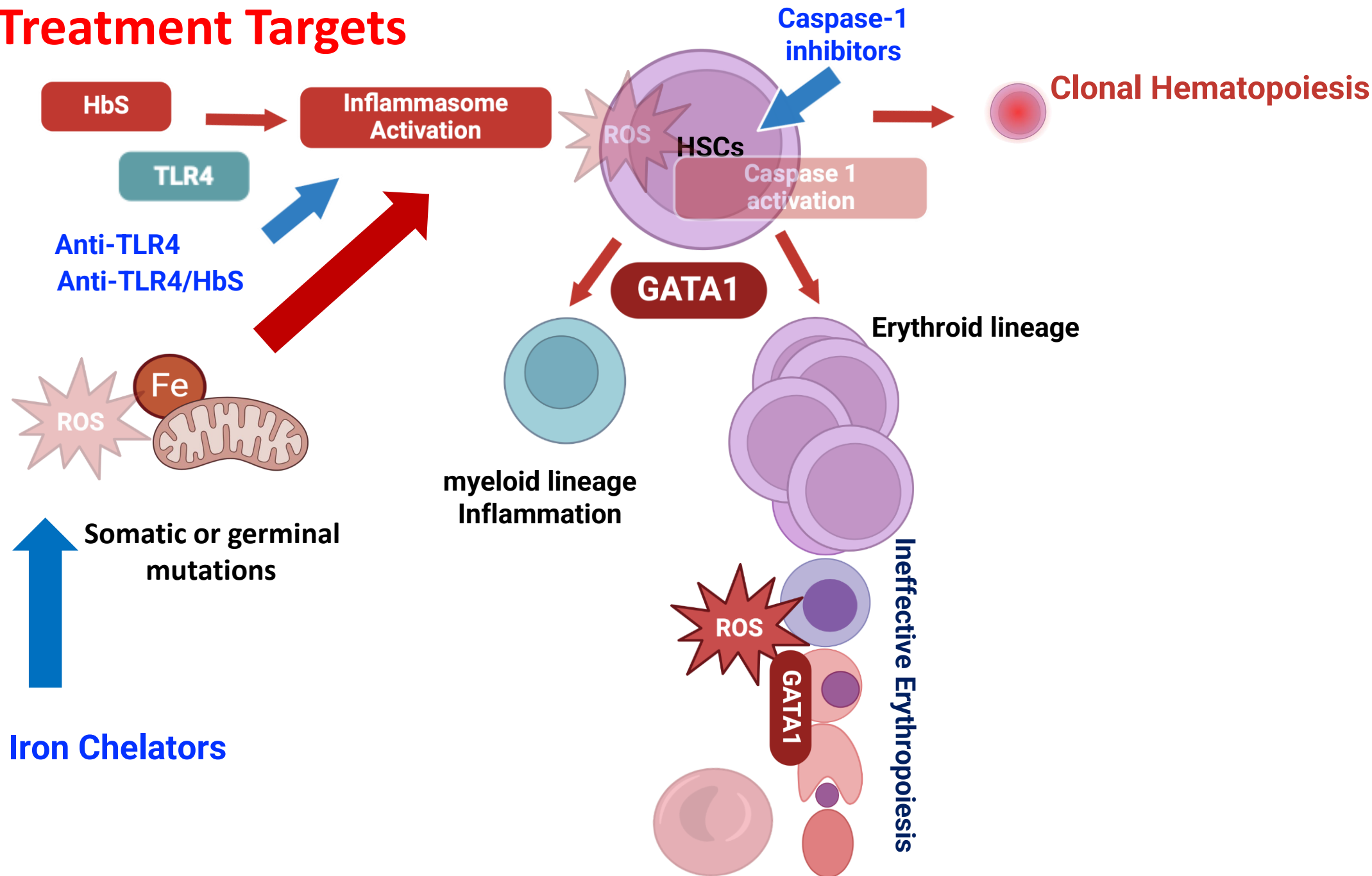
Acquired and congenital sideroblastic anemia : common mechanism ?



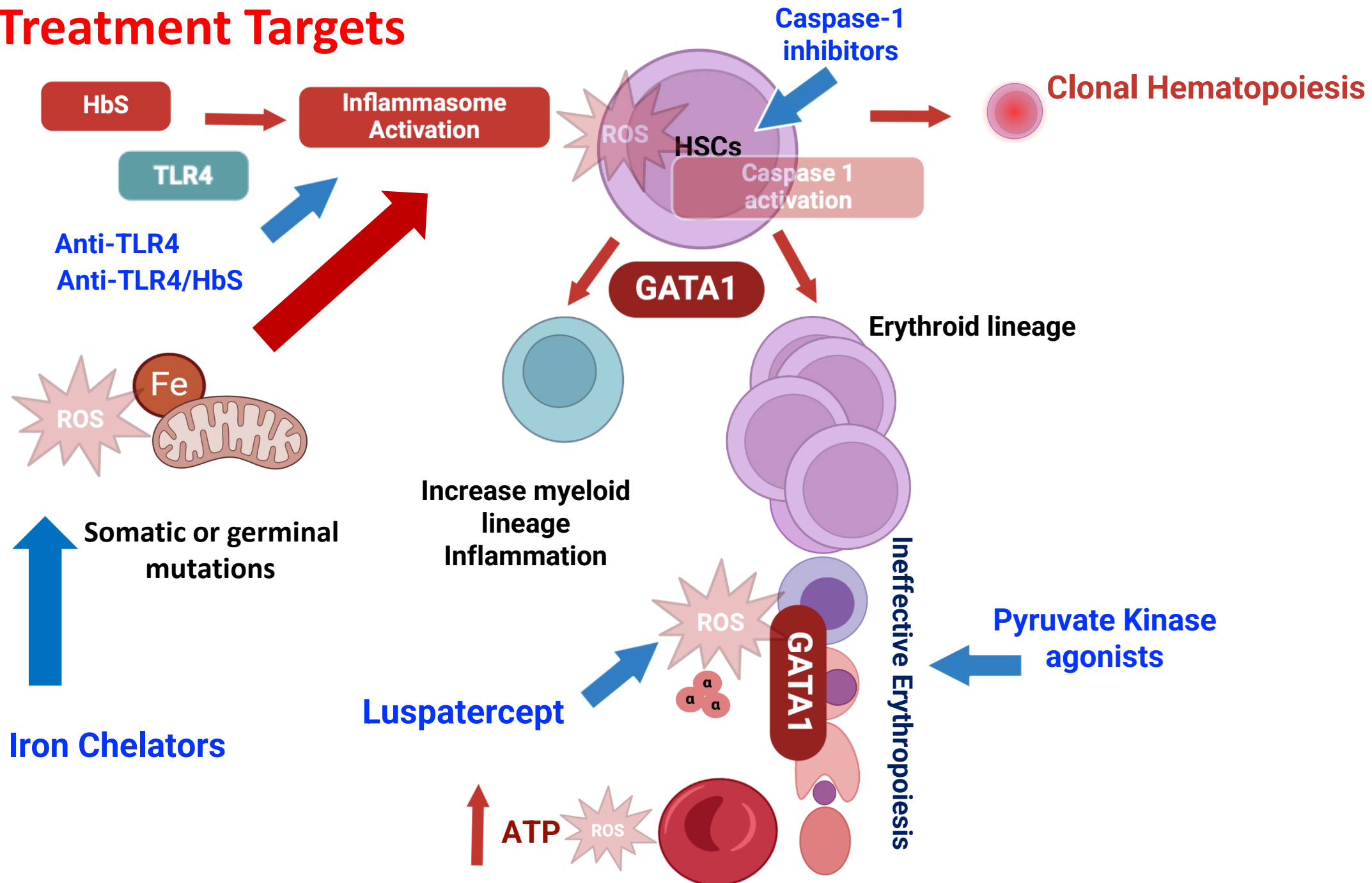
Treatment Targets



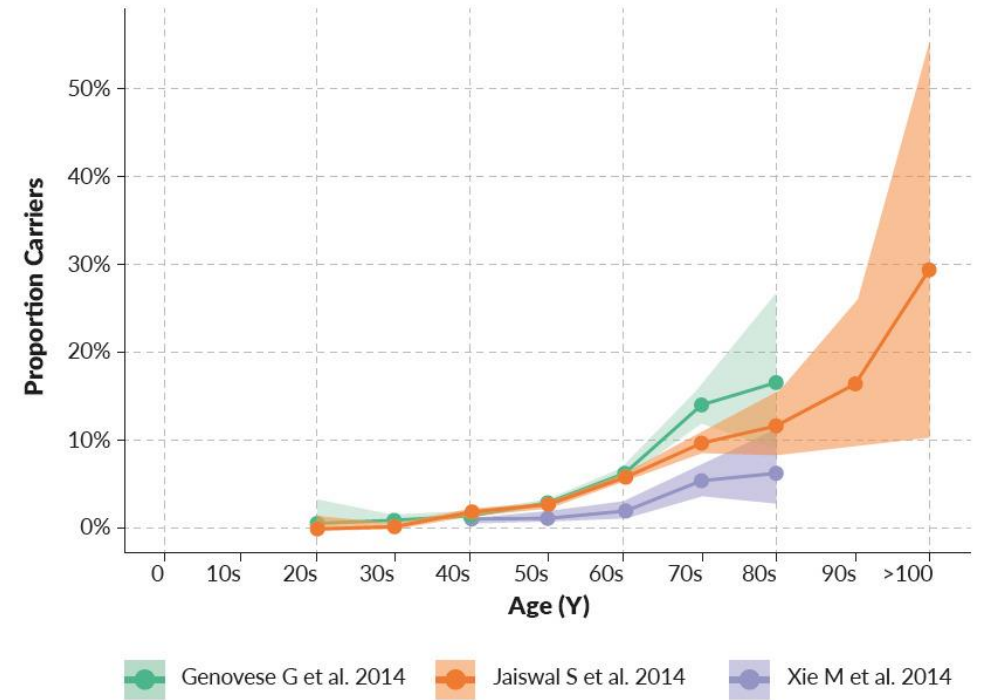
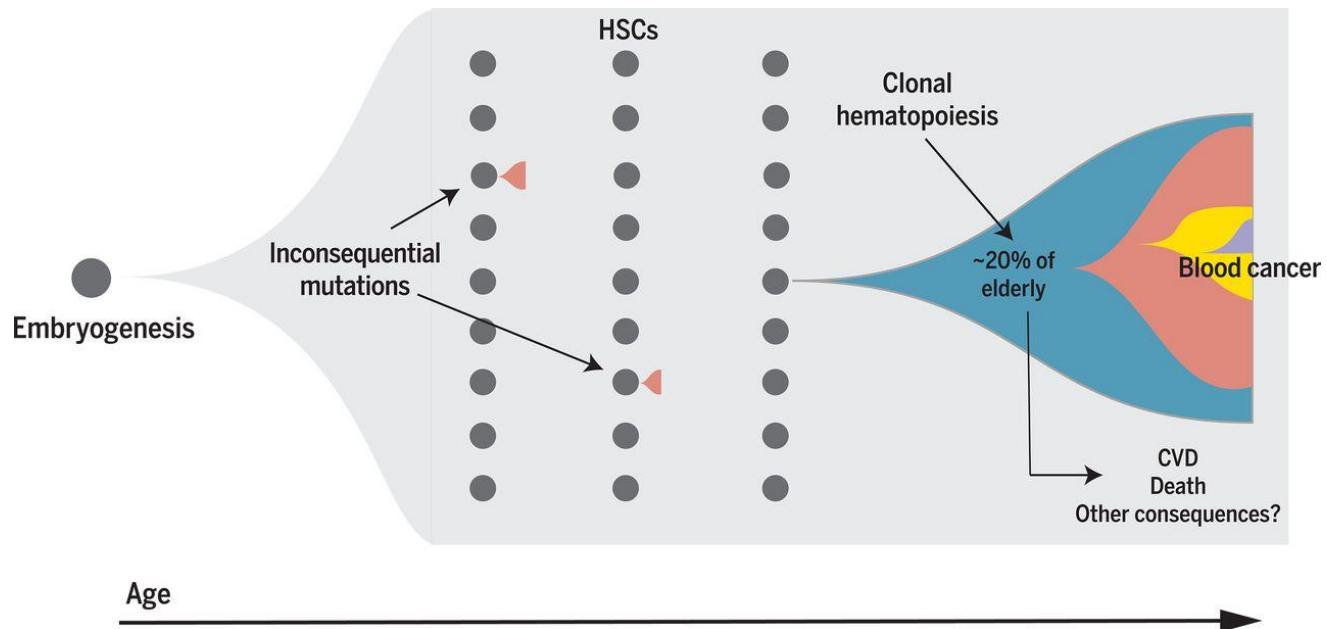
Treatment Targets



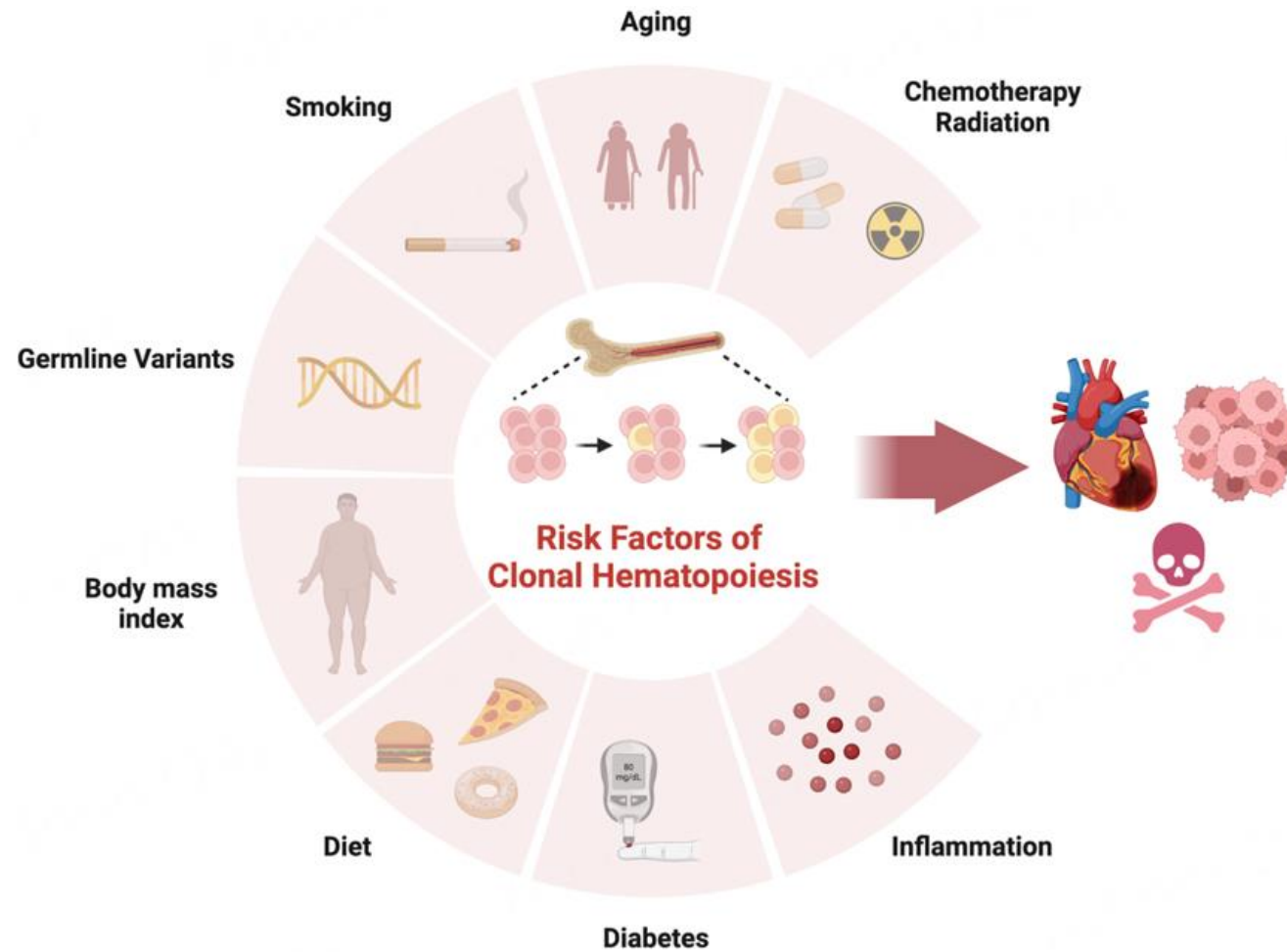
Treatment Targets



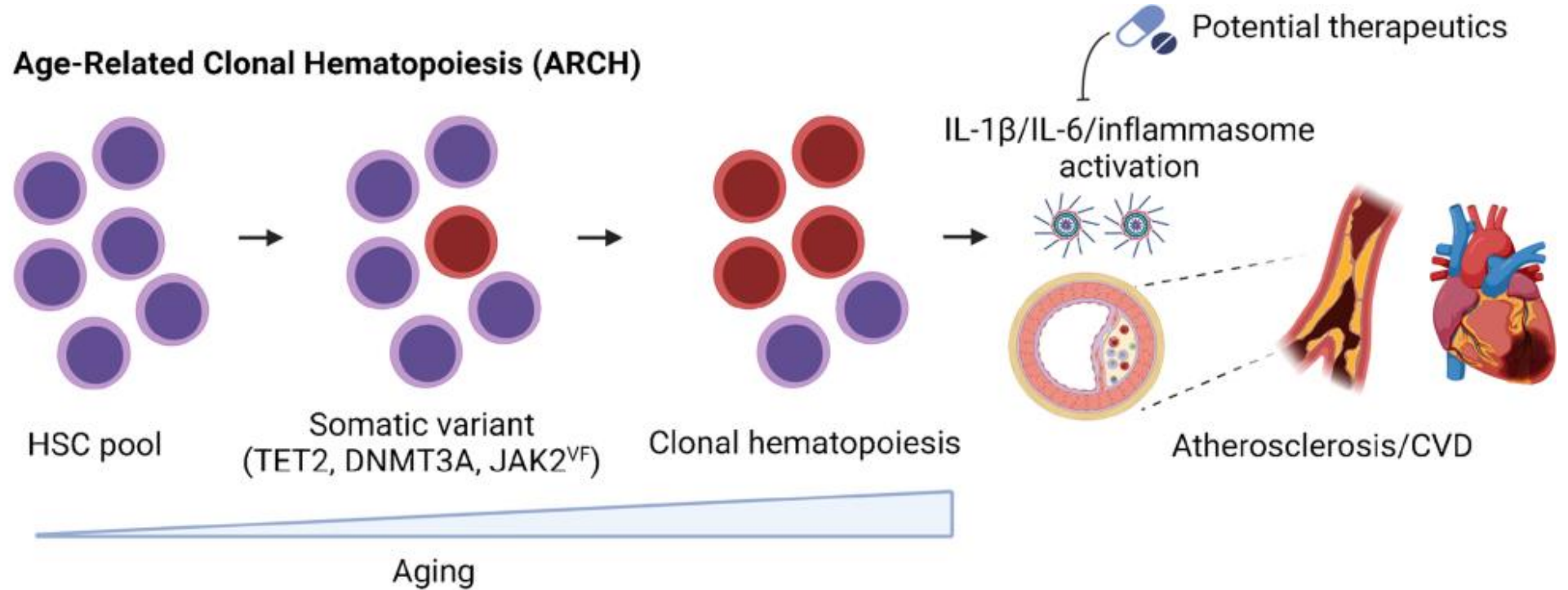
Clonal hematopoiesis



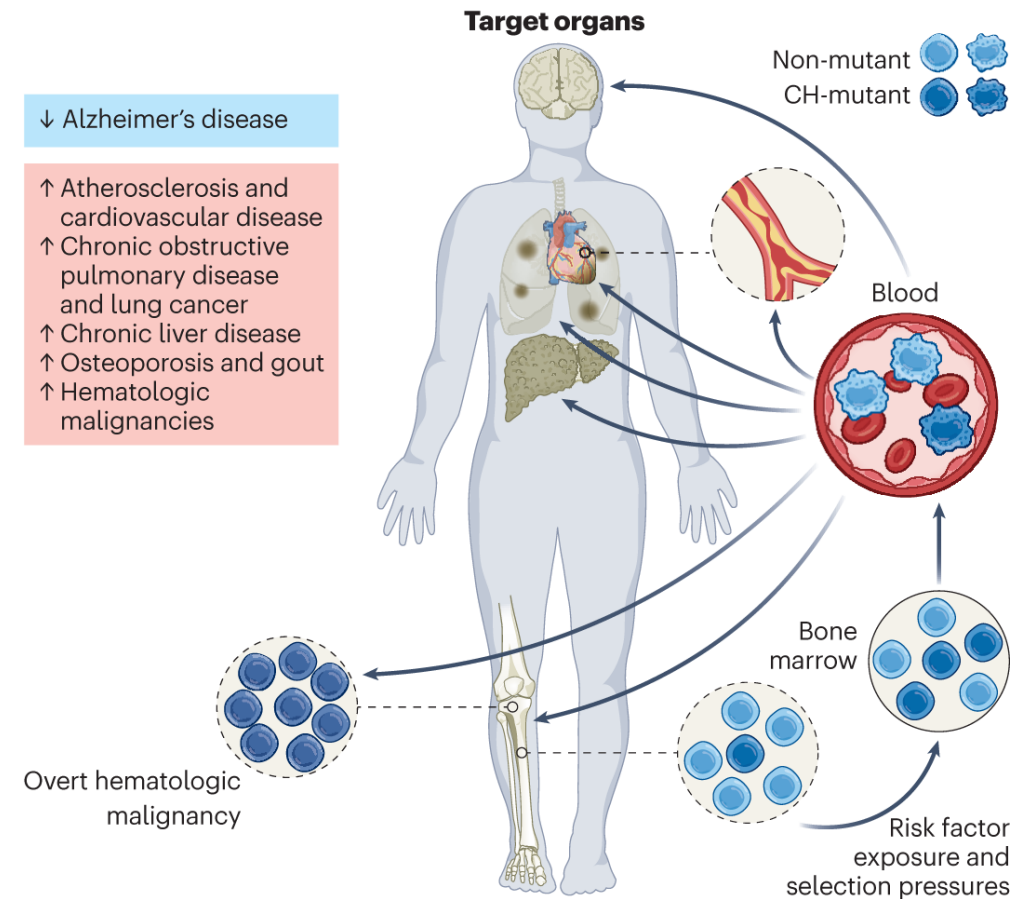
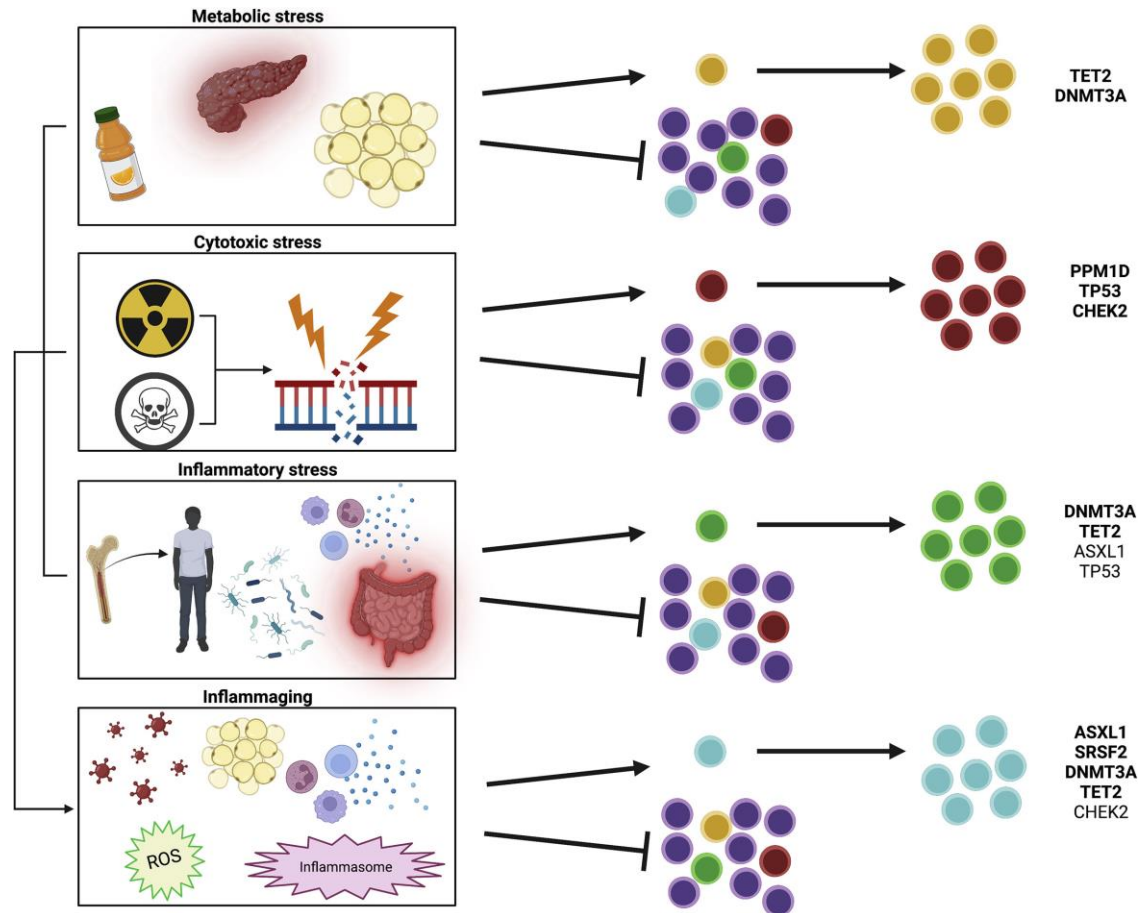
Clonal hematopoiesis : Risk factors



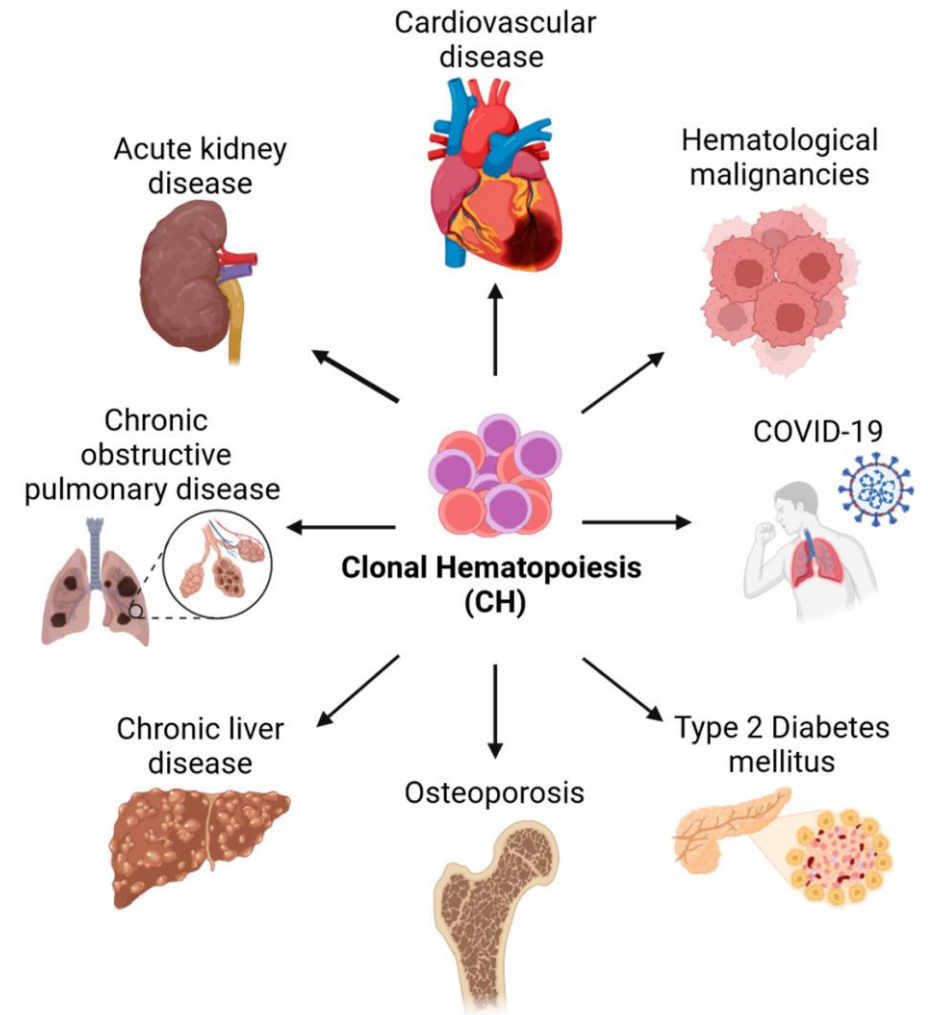
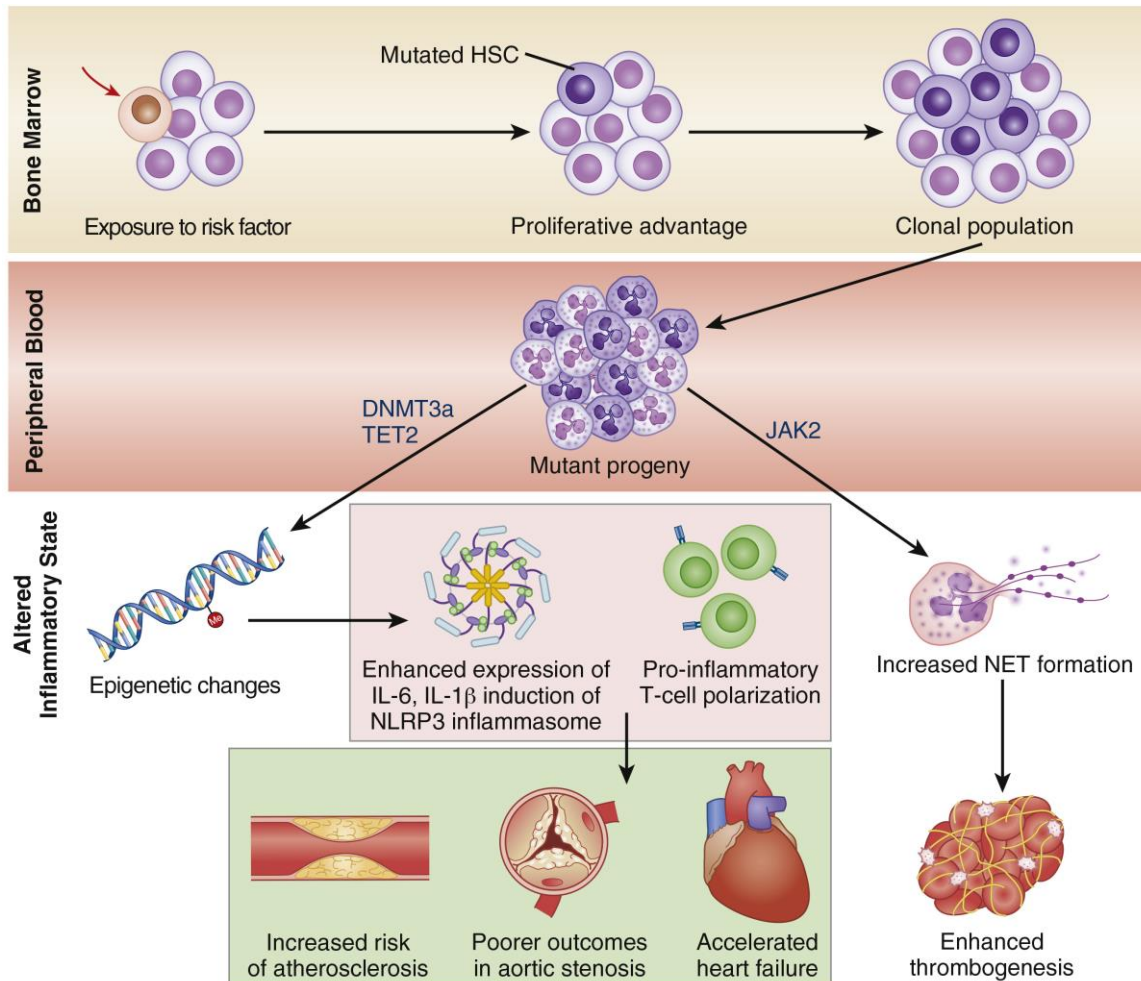
Age and Clonal hematopoiesis



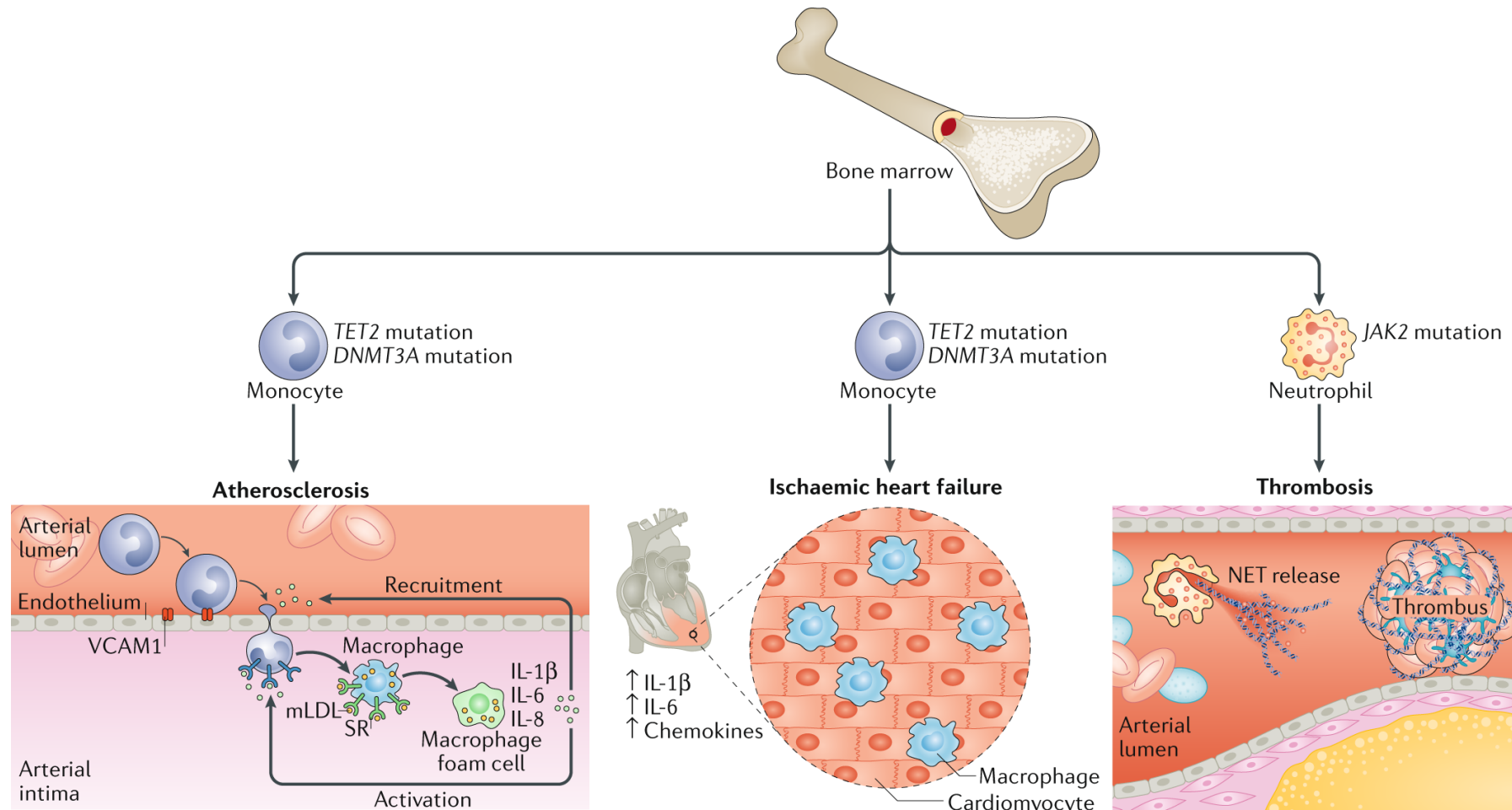
Clonal hematopoiesis : Mechanisms and consequences



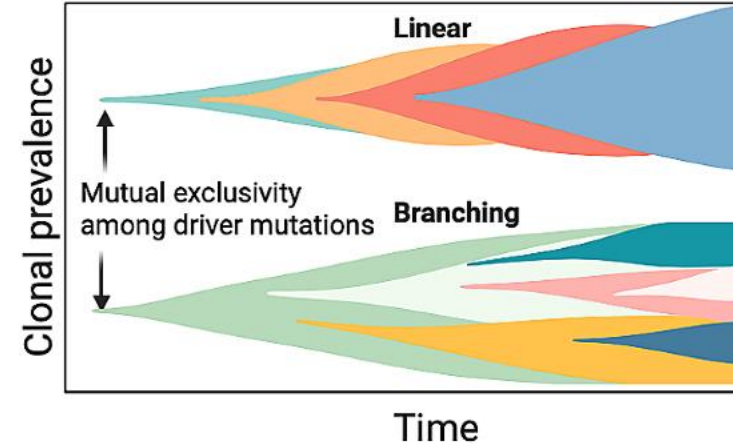
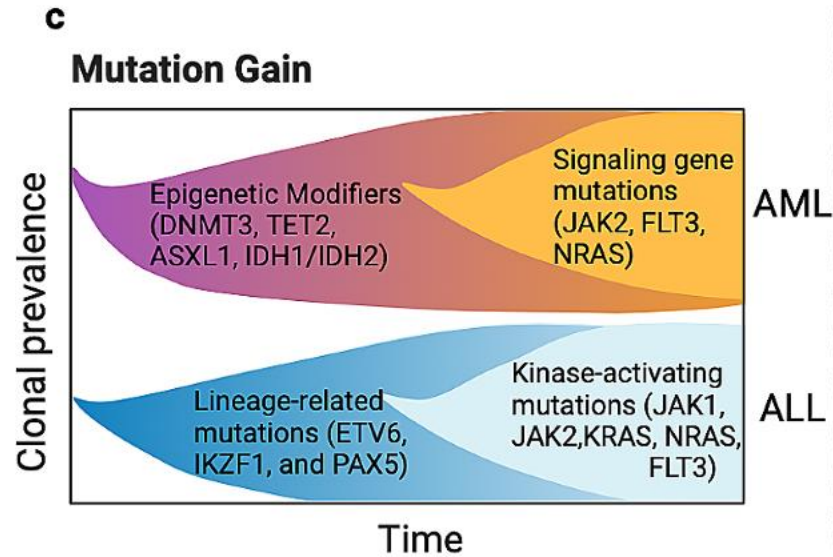
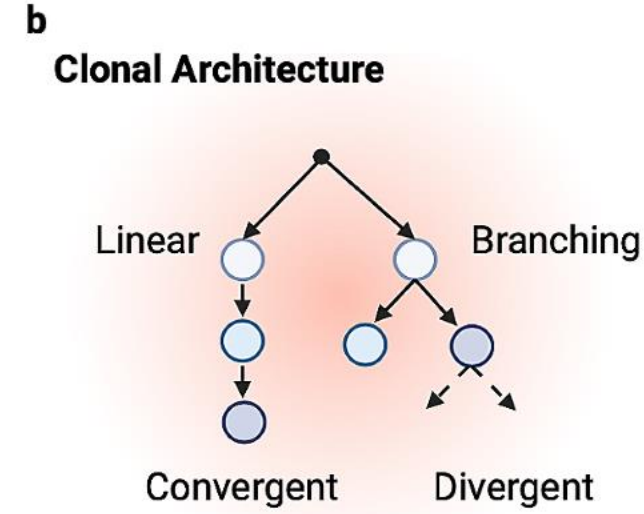
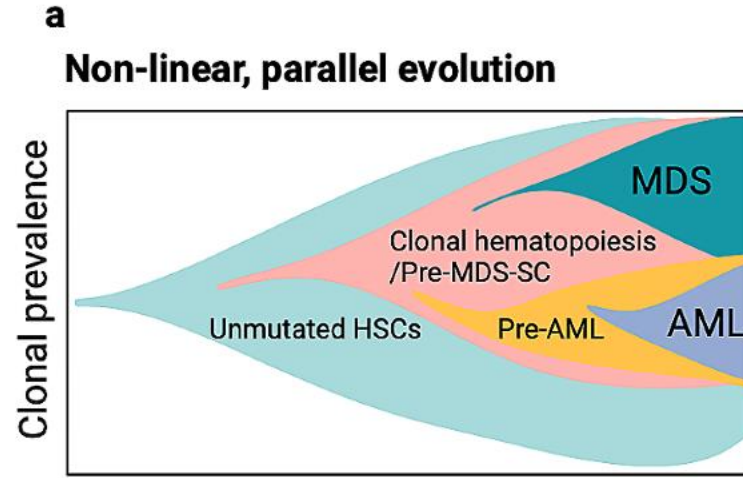
Clonal Hematopoiesis consequences



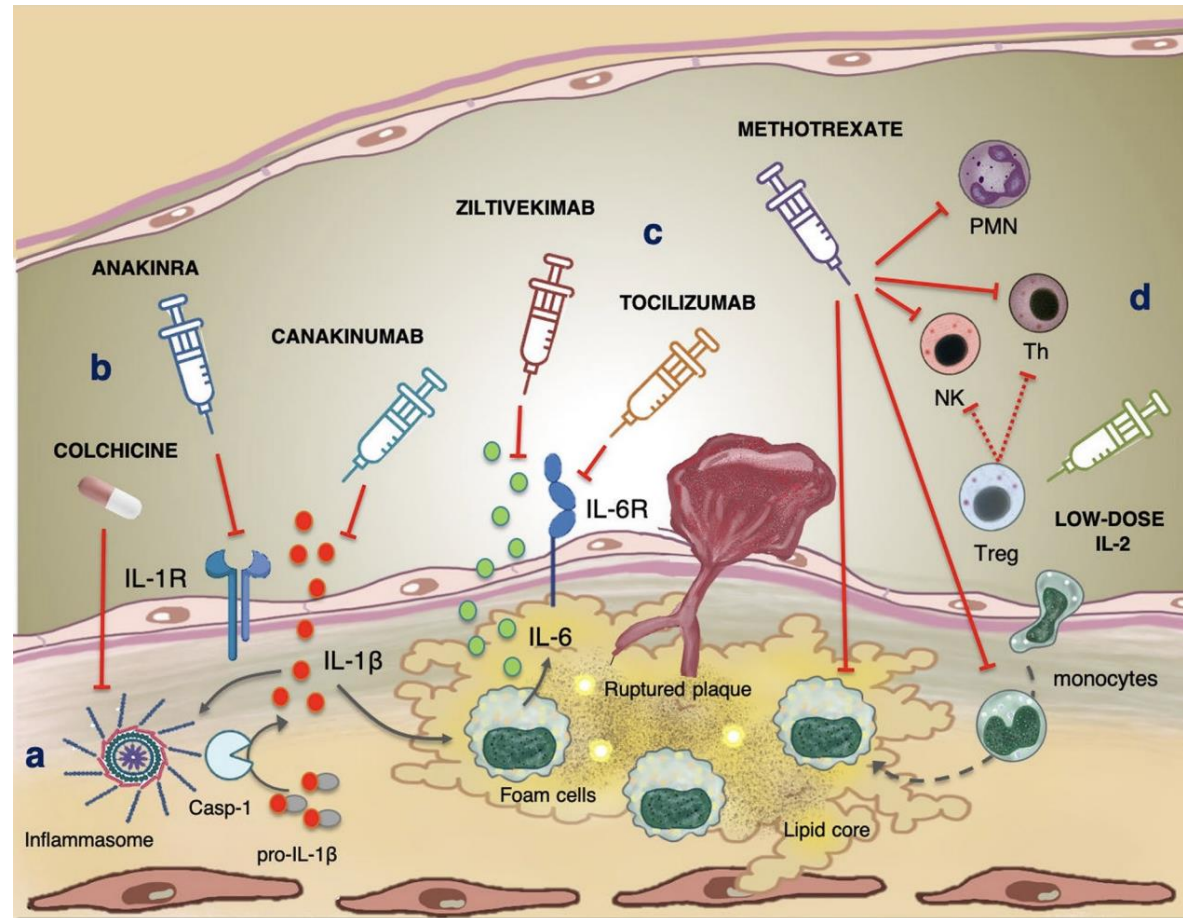
Mechanisms of cardiac diseases in clonal hematopoiesis



CHIP and leukemia



Clonal Hematopoiesis treatment

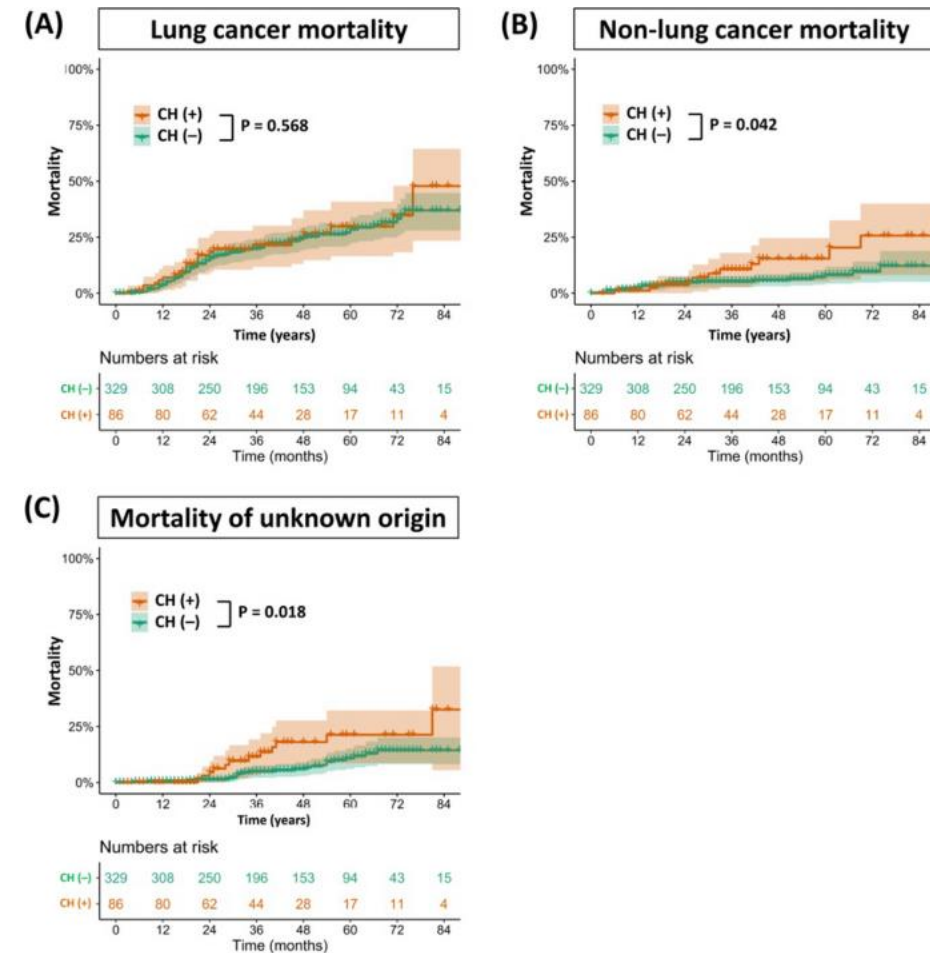
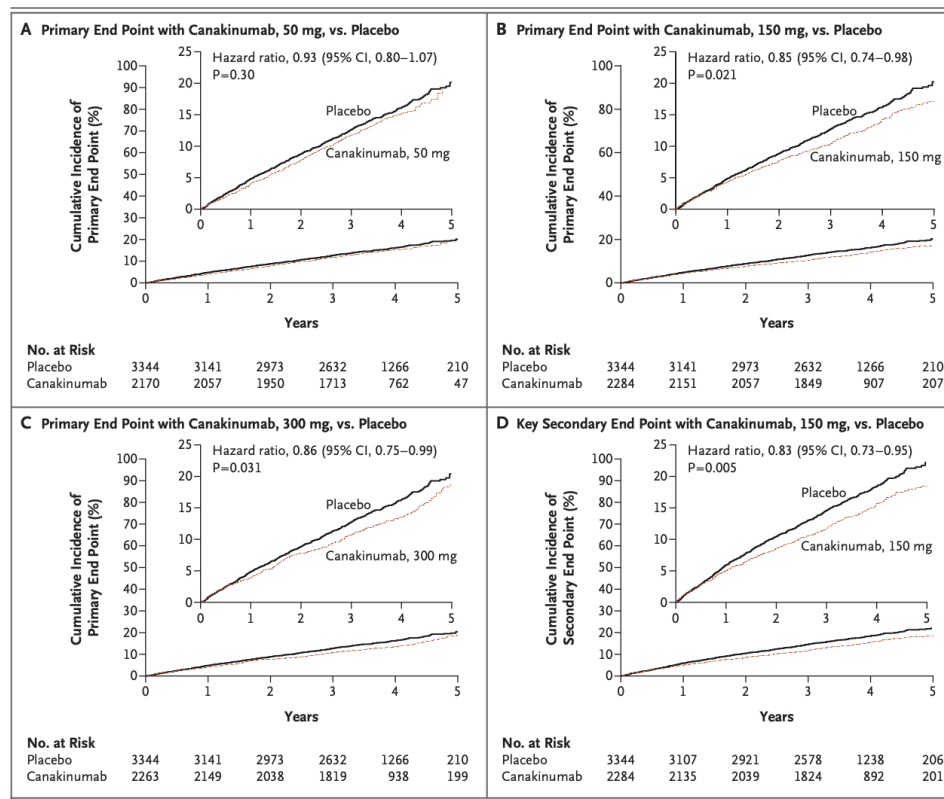


Relationship between chelation and clinical outcomes in lower-risk patients with myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS): Registry analysis at 5 years

Patient characteristics	Nonchelated n=328	Chelated n=271	Chelated ≥6 months n=202
Time to death, median (min/max) mo	47.8 (43.4, 53.1)	88.0 (78.4, 103.0) *P<0.0001	100.0 (83.4, 118.2) *P<0.0001
Deaths (n), %	239 (72.9)	161 (59.4) *P=0.0005	115 (56.9) *P=0.0002
Median OS (mo) No CVC With CVC	34.0 (n=42) 43.4 (n=286)	69.3 (n=72) 67.7 (n=199) *P<0.0001	79.3 (n=60) 72.6 (n=142) *P<0.0001
Median OS (mo) No EC With EC	38.5 (n=162) 44.6 (n=166)	67.1 (n=149) 75.0 (n=122) *P<0.0001	69.6 (n=114) 81.8 (n=88) *P<0.0001
Time to AML transformation from diagnosis, median (min, max) mo	46.4 (6.9, 82.5)	72.1 (16.4, 176.6) *P<0.0001	78.8 (16.4, 176.6) *P<0.0001
AML transformation, n (%)	34 (10.4)	17 (6.3)	14 (6.9)

Antiinflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for Atherosclerotic Disease

P.M. Ridker, B.M. Everett, T. Thuren, J.G. MacFadyen, W.H. Chang, C. Ballantyne, F. Fonseca, J. Nicolau, W. Koenig, S.D. Anker, J.J.P. Kastelein, J.H. Cornel, P. Pais, D. Pella, J. Genest, R. Cifkova, A. Lorenzatti, T. Forster, Z. Kobalava, L. Vida-Simiti, M. Flather, H. Shimokawa, H. Ogawa, M. Dellborg, P.R.F. Rossi, R.P.T. Troquay, P. Libby, and R.J. Glynn, for the CANTOS Trial Group*

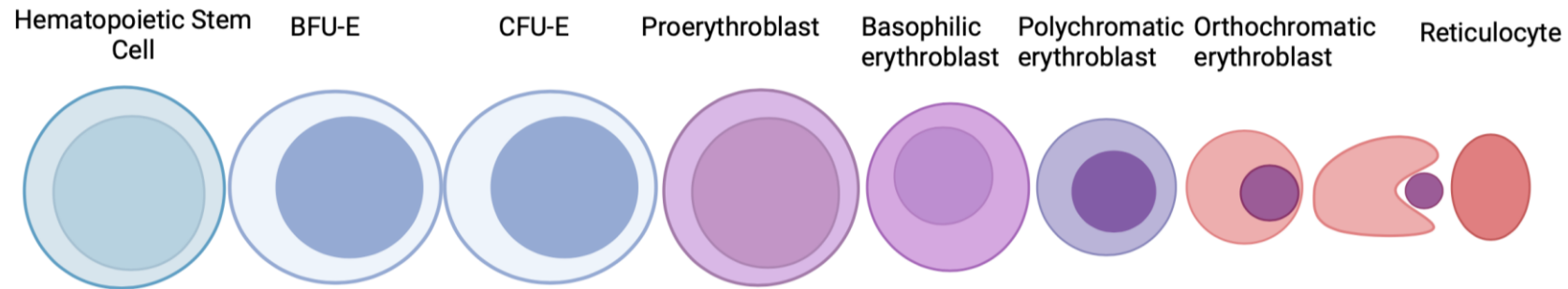


Total cancer mortality (n=196) was significantly lower in canakinumab group than in the placebo group (p=0.0007) (HR 0.23 [95% CI 0.10–0.54]; p=0.0002)

Conclusion

Erythropoiesis is a remarkable system:

A complex network regulates erythroblasts survival, proliferation, and differentiation to ensure constant oxygenation and optimal metabolism



Understanding ineffective erythropoiesis is essential for making informed treatment decisions in hematological disorders (benign and malignant) and may enhance our knowledge of basic science and disease pathophysiology beyond the field of hematology

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