

Propojení výuky oborů Molekulární a buněčné biologie a Ochrany a tvorby
životního prostředí OPVK (CZ.1.07/2.2.00/28.0032)

Ebola therapy protects severely ill monkeys

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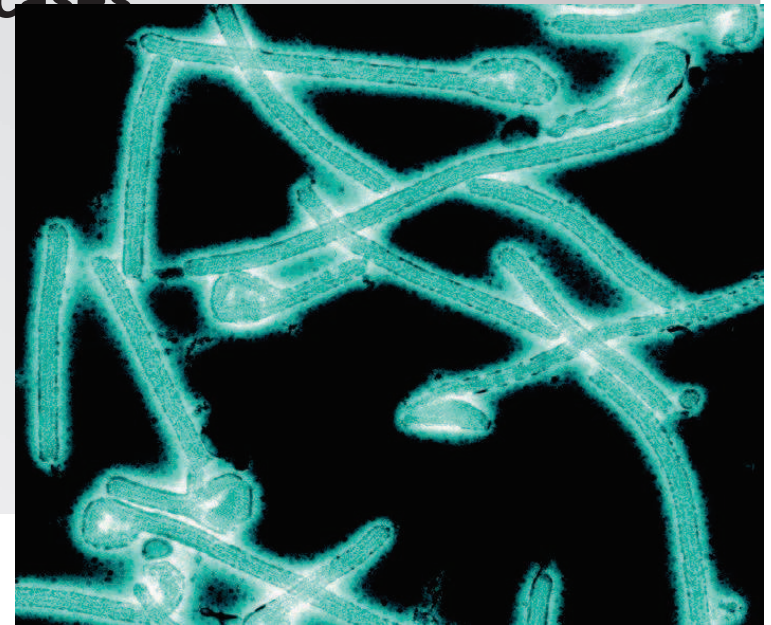
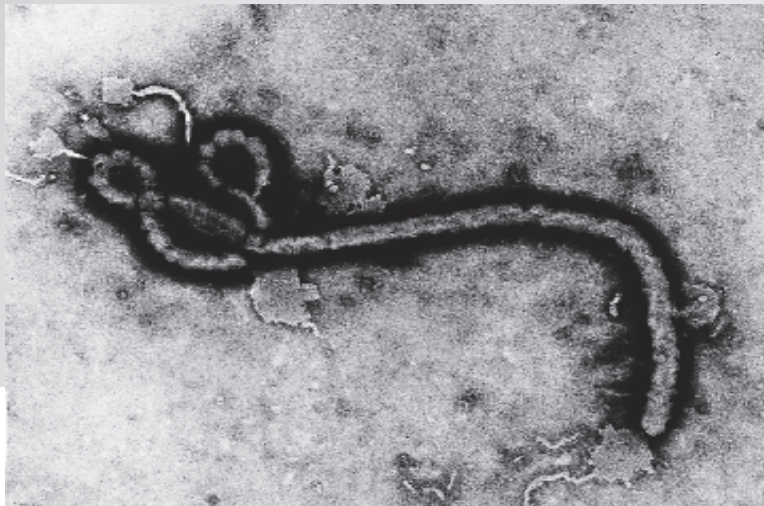


Ebola virus disease

- Ebola haemorrhagic fever
- fatal illness in humans
- is transmitted to people from wild animals
- spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission
- first appeared in 1976 in 2 outbreaks, one in Nzara (Sudan) and the other in Yambuku (Democratic Republic of Congo)
- the latter occurred in a village near the Ebola River, from which the disease takes its name

Symptoms of ebola virus disease

- the incubation period is 2 to 21 days
- humans are not infectious until they develop symptoms
- first symptoms - fever fatigue, muscle pain, headache and sore throat
- followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases both internal and external bleeding



Early 2014 year

- a new strain of the Zaire species of ebola virus emerged in the West African country of Guinea
- spread to Liberia, Siera Leone and Nigeria
- the outbreak persists despite the best efforts of local and international authorities
- the largest filovirus outbreak on record
- There are no licensed vaccines or post-exposure treatments against Ebola

ZMapp

- Rhesus monkeys can be completely protected from the lethal Ebola infection using ZMapp
- It is a blend of three monoclonal antibodies.
- This treatment protected monkeys even when it was administered as late as 5 days after exposure to the virus

Accidental experiment

- Studies have found that modulators of blood coagulation an antisense oligonucleotide called AVI – 6002 and a vaccine based on vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) all afforded partial protection of monkeys against Ebola when administered within an hour of virus exposure
- the VSV-based vaccine was used in 2009 to treat a laboratory worker in Germany shortly she was pricked with a needle possibly contaminated by an Ebola-infected animal
- the worker survived

- **treatments that can completely protect monkeys against Ebola include**
 - **small „interfering“ RNAs**
 - **various combinations of antibodies**
- **these treatments need to be administered within 2 days of exposure to the virus**
- **these approaches can be used to treat known exposures and need for treatments that protect at later times after infection**



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Types of therapy

- **Cocktail of monoclonal antibodies that protected 43% of monkeys when given as late as 5 days after Ebola exposure. The clinical signs of disease are apparent.**
- **Another therapy that combines monoclonal antibodies with interferon alfa provides almost complete protection of macaques when given 3 days after exposure at which point the virus can be detected.**
- **ZMapp - an antibody therapy that does not require interferon alfa and which was developed by 2 collaborating teams of researchers. ZMapp contains two chimaeric monoclonal antibodies and a third is from a different cocktail.**



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To test the therapy ...

- administered a lethal dose of Ebola virus to **3 groups of six animals** and then treated them with 3 doses of ZMapp:
 - **1. group** received therapy at 3,6 and 9 days post-infection
 - **2. group** at 4, 7 and 10 days
 - **3. group** at 5,8 and 11 days
- **The result:**
 - all the animals survived
 - undetectable viral loads by 21 days after infection
- The authors used the Kikwit variant of the virus , because the Guinean strain from the current West African outbreak was not available for this experiment.

Treat patients

- development of ZMapp and its success in treating monkeys is a monumental achievement
- treatment has been used in the current Ebola outbreak to treat several patients:

Of these 2 US health care workers have recovered - 45% of patients in this outbreak survive without treatment

Two other patients have not survived – might be the treatment was initiated too late

- lethal disease in humans is caused by 3 different species of ebola virus (Sudan, Bundibugyo, Zaire) and 2 genetically distinct lineages of Marburg virus

- **treatments that protect against one species of ebola – Zaire, in the case of ZMapp – will probably not protect against a different species of the virus.**
- **the need for treatments for filovirus infections is the most effective way to manage and control the outbreaks through preventive vaccines**
- **during outbreaks – single injection vaccines are needed to ensure protection**
- **at least five preventive vaccines have been shown to completely protect monkeys against Ebola and Marburg infection**
- **only VSV – based vaccines have been reported to completely protect monkeys against Ebola (Zaire) virus after a single injection**

Conclusion

- **antibody therapies and several other strategies mentioned here should be included in an arsenal of interventions for controlling future Ebola outbreaks**
- **ZMapp has been administered for compassionate use the next crucial step will be to formally assess its safety and effectiveness**
- **testing the latter is difficult because intentional infection of human subjects in clinical trials is not possible**

Thank you for your attention

Ivana Družbíková
MBB 2. ročník

METASTASIS RISK AFTER ANTI- MACROPHAGE THERAPY

Nature - 6 November 2014, VOL 515 - Bonapace,
Keklikoglou, De Palma

Martin Dihel

MACROPHAGES

- Immune cells that play key parts is our defence against invading pathogens
- Participate in organ development, remodelling, healing and disease
- Found in tumours, where they seem to support tumour progression -> development of drugs that decrease number of macrophages, block their infiltration into tumours, reduce protumoral functions

MONOCYTES

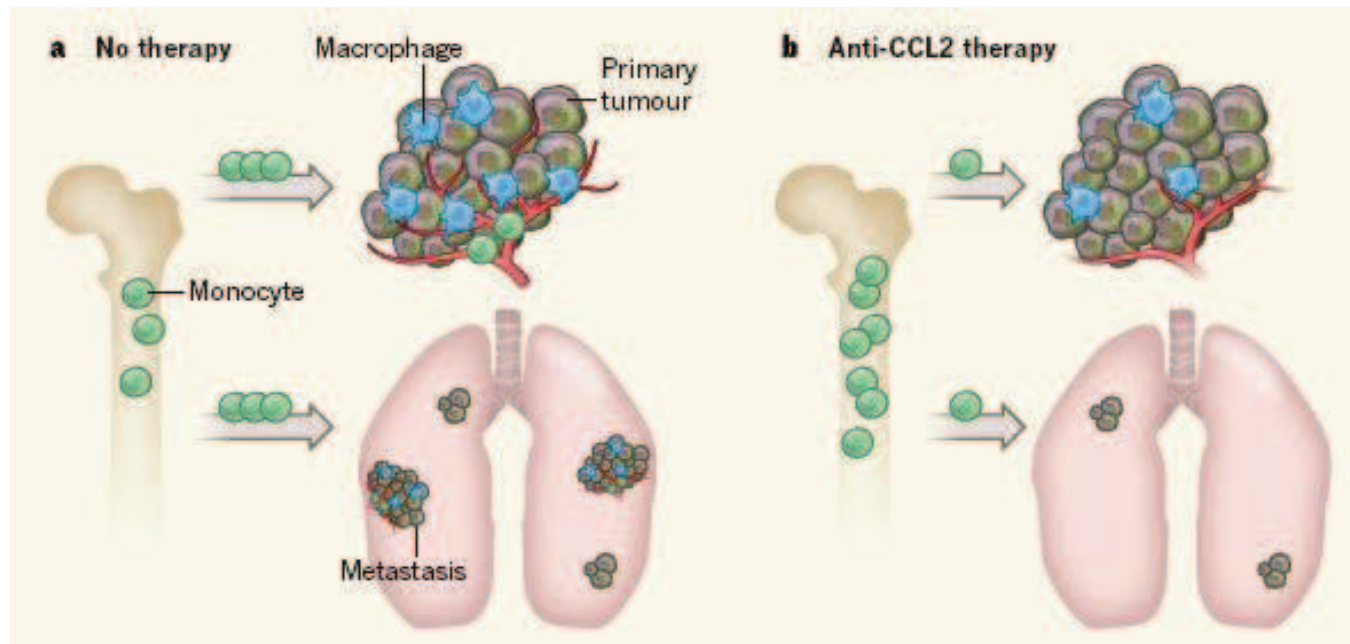
- Circulating precursors of macrophages-enter a tumour from the bloodstream and differentiate into macrophages
- The recruitment of monocytes and their differentiation into macrophages regulated by signalling molecules released by the tumour = C-C chemokine ligand 2 (CCL2)

CCL2

- A protein, which attracts monocytes and make a bond with receptor CCR2.
- Blocking CCL2 -CCR2 inhibits macrophages infiltration into the metastases.
- Blocking CCL2 may be an attractive way how to fight with metastasis in patients with breast cancer and other

ANTI-CCL2 THERAPY

- Blockade of CCL2 decreased number of macrophages, reduced macrophage recruitment to the tumour and also reduced growing of metastasis

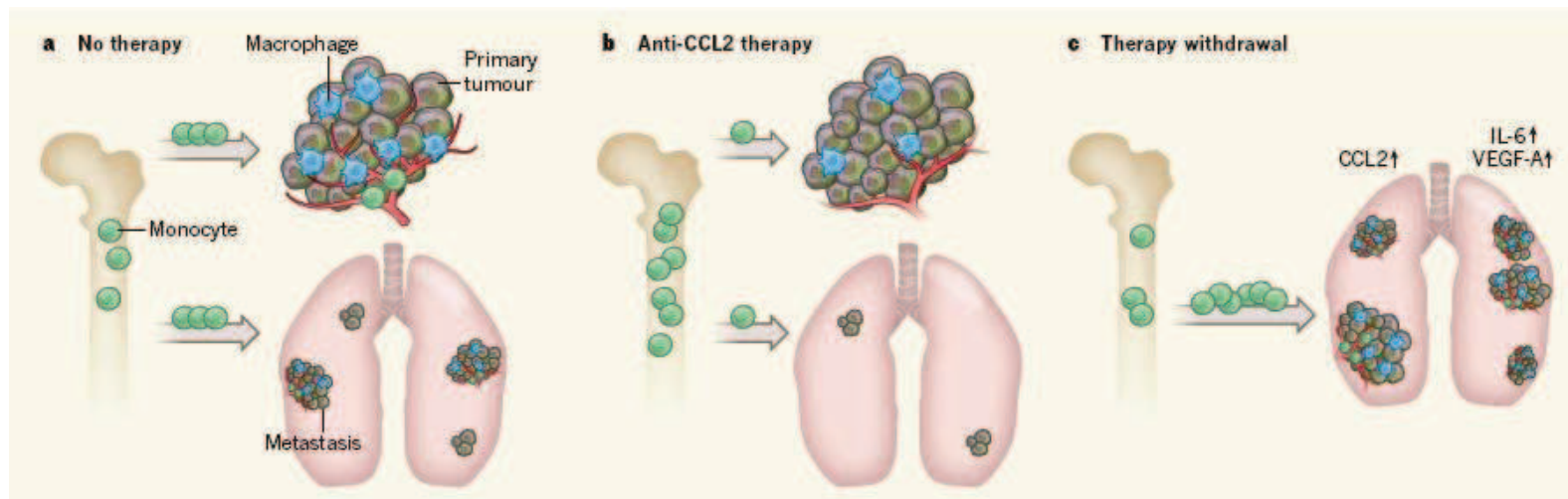


ANTI-CCL2 THERAPY

- CCL2 neutralization had a direct effect on the primary tumour, possibly through macrophage
- The treatment may also affect the establishment and growth of newly settled metastases, for example by inhibiting macrophage production of vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A)

AFTER ANTI-CCL2 THERAPY

- Interrupting anti-CCL2 therapy accelerated the development of lung metastases and death
- 10 days after withdrawal of the therapeutic antibody, they observed abnormally increased numbers of circulating cancer cells and monocytes in the blood of the mice



1ST MECHANISM

- Mechanism may involve heightened CCL2 levels in the lungs of the mice after therapy
- Clinical evidence that CCL2 levels increased in patients with cancer who are treated with the human anti-CCL2 antibody carlumab
- Pharmacological targeting of CCL2 may trigger a feedback mechanism, that stimulates CCL2 production



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2ND MECHANISM

- ◉ May involve the mode of action of the anti-CCL2 antibody
- ◉ Systemic neutralization of CCL2 does not impair the production of monocytes in the bone marrow, but rather blocks their mobilization to the circulation -> accumulation in the blood, lungs and tumours
- ◉ Macrophages seemed to precipitate metastatic tumour growth mainly through their production of VEGF-A -> blockade of VEGF-A after anti-CCL2 therapy restored normal tumour progression



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ANTI-MACROPHAGE THERAPY TODAY

- Anti-macrophage therapies are currently being investigated in patients with cancer, but have not yet received official approval for clinical use
- Carlumab did not show antitumoral activity in initial clinical trials

ANTI-MACROPHAGE THERAPY TOMORROW

- Small-molecule inhibitors that block the activity of the receptor CSF1R
- Anti-CSF1R antibodies function mainly as monocyte- (and macrophage-) depleting agents, unlikely to cause monocyte rebounds to tumours after therapy

CONCLUSION

- Macrophages can suppress the antitumoral functions of T cells of the immune system, so their transient depletion in tumours may increase the efficacy of immunotherapy
- Promising are pharmacological approaches that can ‘reprogram’ macrophages from being pro- to antitumoral effector cells
- In combination with the proper treatment against cancer cells and with the right timing, this new treatment should be used in constant fight against cancer



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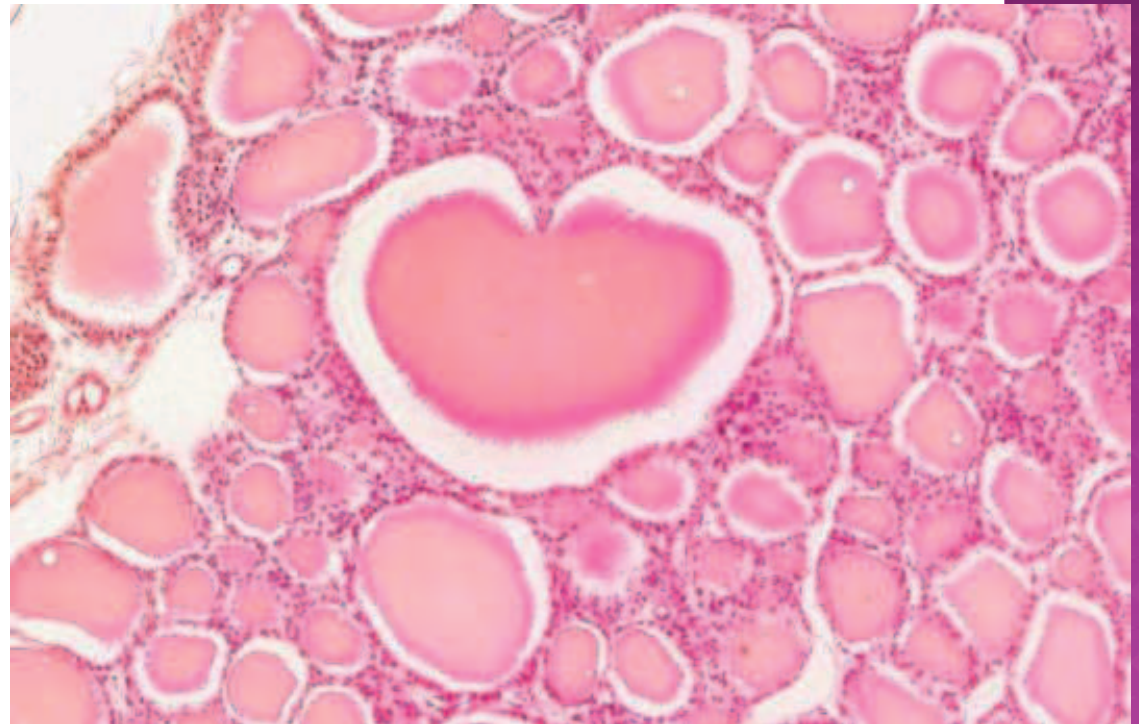
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Roadmap for Regulation

Nature
Volume 518
19 February 2015
Gabriela Fryčová
MBB 2



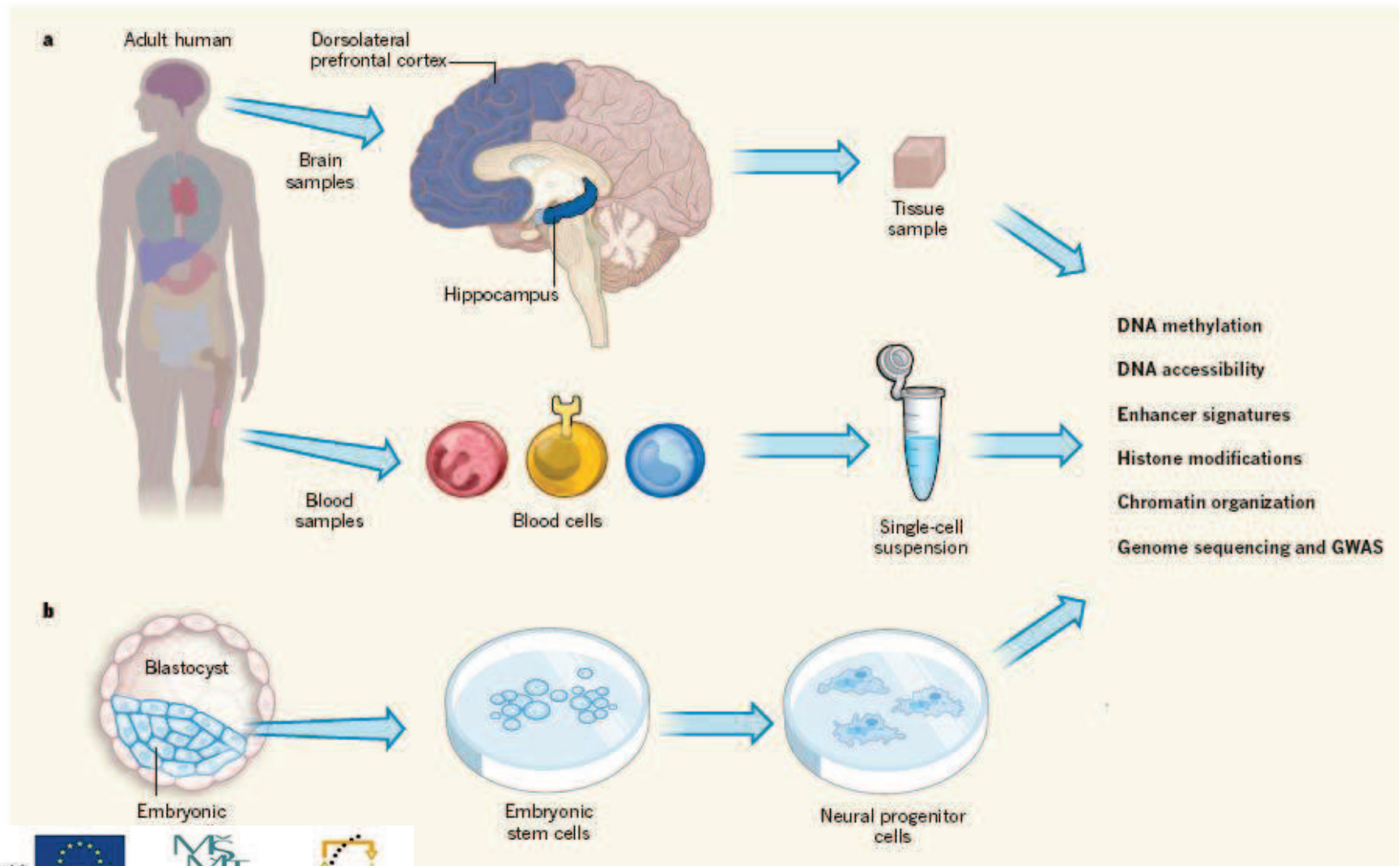
Epigenomics

- The study of the key functional elements that **regulate gene expression** in a cell **without altering the DNA sequence**.
- Two of the most characterized epigenetic modifications are DNA **methylation** and **histone modification**.
- Epigenomes provide information about:
 - patterns in which structures such as methyl groups tag DNA
 - interactions between distant sections of chromatin
 - regulatory elements in DNA itself

Epigenomics

- **The ENCODE Project** aims to catalogue the regulatory elements in human cells, studying the epigenomic signatures of cells.
- **The Roadmap Epigenomics Project** builds on this by analysing samples taken directly from human tissues and cells — embryonic and adult, diseased and healthy.
- Link between these epigenomic data and corresponding genetic information → reference epigenomes for 127 tissue and cell types.
- → The result is a representation of how epigenomic elements regulate gene expression in the human body.

Epigenomics



Differentiation enhanced

- All the cells in the body contain essentially **the same genome**, and arise from the progeny of **a single fertilized egg**.
- → defining the epigenomic signatures of a broad spectrum of human tissues and cells undergoing crucial developmental transitions.
- → delineating how cell-specific programs of gene expression are achieved.
- Only **half** of the 25,000 protein-coding genes of mammalian genome are expressed in any given cell type.
- → many of these genes are required for **general functions**.
- → others are active in only **one** or a **few cell types**, or exhibit **different patterns of regulation from cell to cell**.

Enhancers

- Regulation of gene expression at **long range**.
- Each cell type is regulated by perhaps 20,000–40,000 enhancers.
- Activation through **interactions with transcription factors**, which recognize and bind to specific DNA sequences within the enhancer region.
- Enhancers that are active in cell-type-specific epigenomic signatures are typically highly **enriched** in DNA sequences to which lineage-determining and signal-dependent transcription factors bind.
- → the delineation of a particular cell's active enhancer repertoire → **prediction of the transcription factors required for that cell's identity**.

Enhancers

- Model of neuronal development in vitro, by generating six lineages of neuronal progenitors from embryonic stem (ES) cells.
- → created computational **models to predict the transcription factors** that bind to core neural-differentiation enhancers, as well as those that bind enhancers of distinct neural lineages only.
- → studied the **sets of transcription factors** that bind to **promoters** and **enhancers** in the first three cell lineages that differentiate from ES cells.
- Sequences bound by transcription factors in one of the three lineages **exhibited molecular modifications that promote gene expression**, such as loss of DNA methylation.
- By contrast, the same DNA regions exhibited **repressive modifications** in the other two cell types.
- → **that regulatory elements controlling genes that are essential for cellular identity are often also epigenetically modified in parental cells.**

Major caveats

- These studies are based on analysis of cell populations, and therefore miss potentially crucial aspects of cellular variability within populations.
- When tissues are examined, enhancer landscapes represent the composite of the cell types that make up that tissue, not a pure cell population.
- Studies of different populations of white blood cells called macrophages suggest that the tissue environment can shape enhancer landscapes.
- Although the DNA sequences found in cell-specific enhancers provide clues to the identities of the transcription factors that regulate enhancer activation, functional roles must be validated experimentally.

Thank you for your attention.