



III WORKSHOP APTITUDE PAMPLONA

## **The ageing muscle: from stem cells to athletic performance**

Stephen Harridge  
King's College London



ACTUAR PARA LA PREVENCIÓN  
TRANSPARENCIA DE LA DEPENDENCIA  
DE LAS PERSONAS MAYORES



# Stephen Harridge

Centre for Human & Applied Physiological Sciences  
Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

*Ageing Research at King's (ARK)*



The ageing muscle: from stem cells  
to athletic performance

**MRC-ARUK Birmingham 2019**

# Presentation Outline

## Part 1

- The “typical” older muscle, inflammation, cell senescence and the potential role of muscle-derived precursor cells in contributing to this phenotype

## Part 2

- Heterogeneity of older phenotypes. Comparing the inactive and active older muscles. What we can learn from master athletes and life-long exercisers

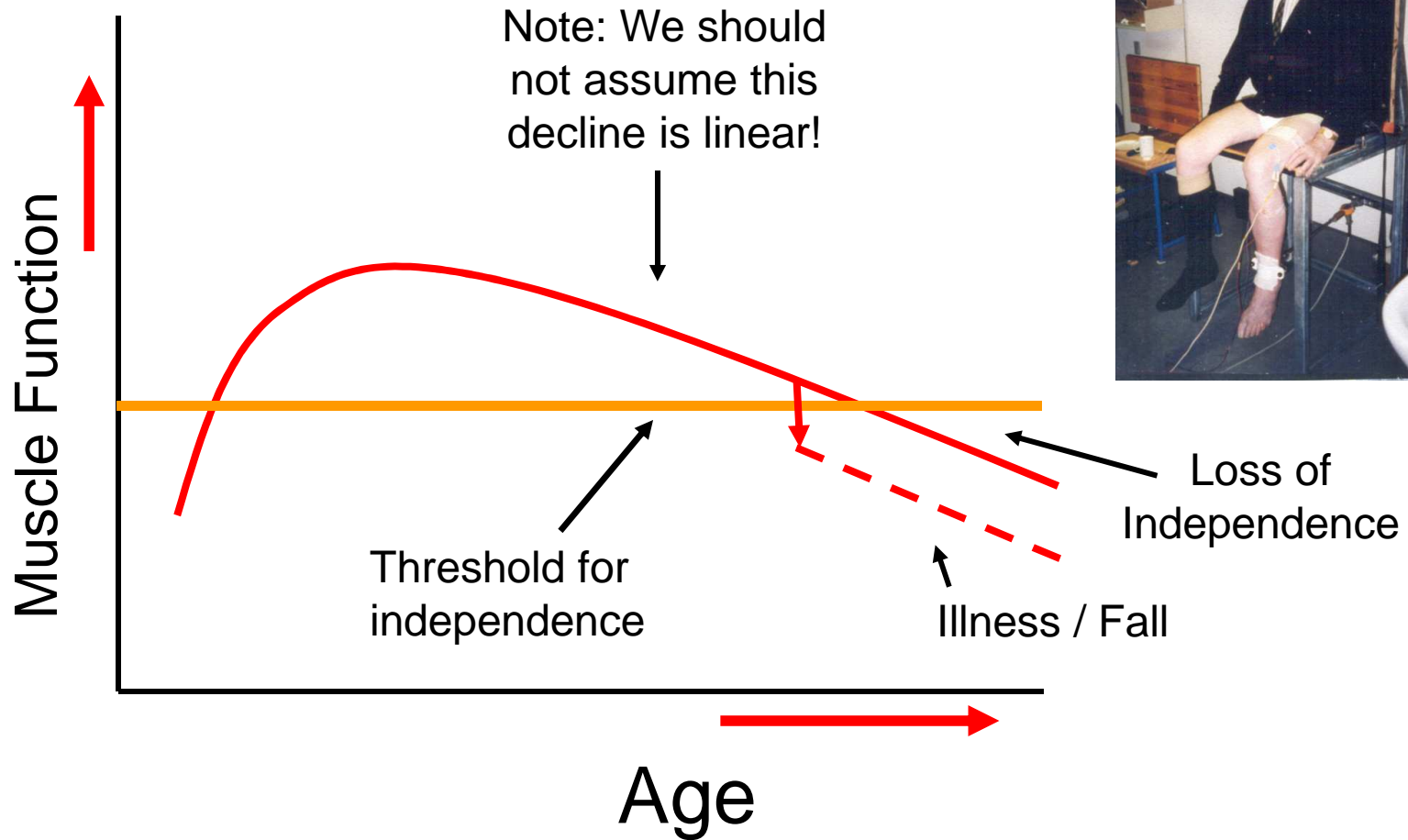
# Acknowledgement



**Professor Emeritus  
Norman Lazarus**

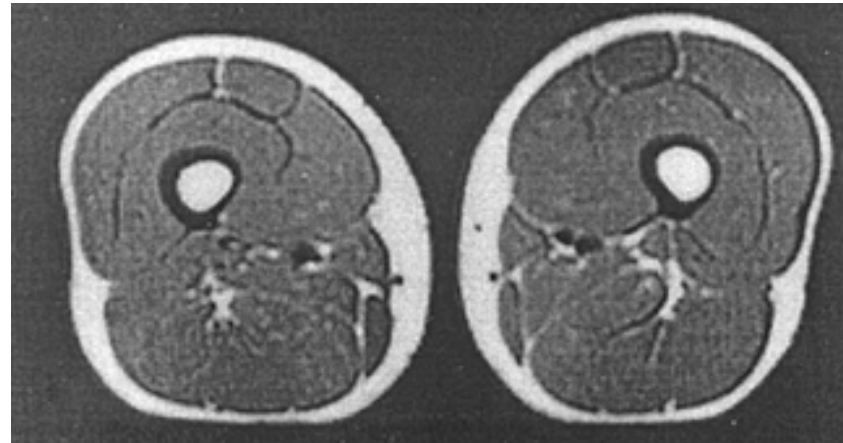
**Steve Harridge**

# Implications of a progressive age-related decline in muscle function

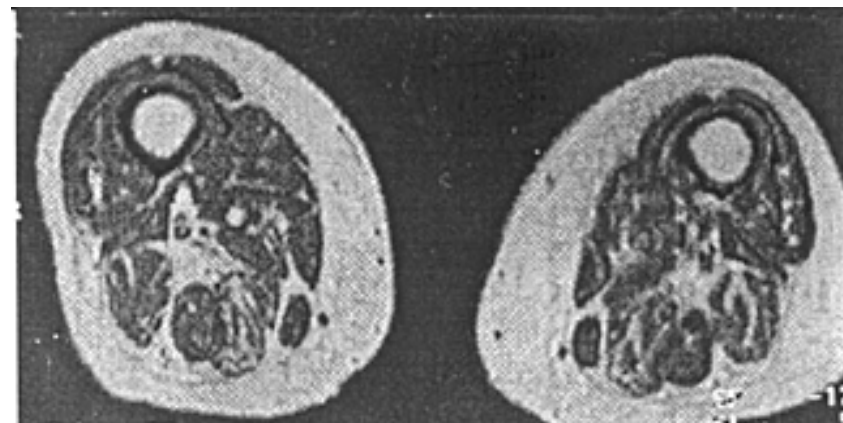


Modified from Young (1995)

# Loss of muscle size and quality in ageing (sedentary)



31 yr



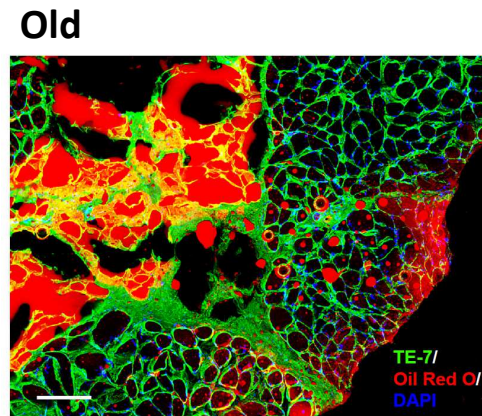
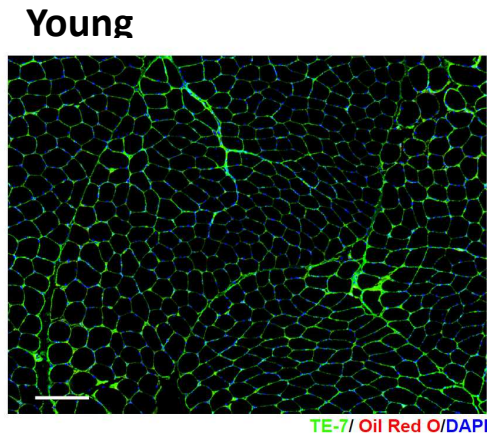
85 yr

Parise & Yarasheski (2000)  
*Curr Opin Clin Nutr Metab Care,*

**Sarcopenia**

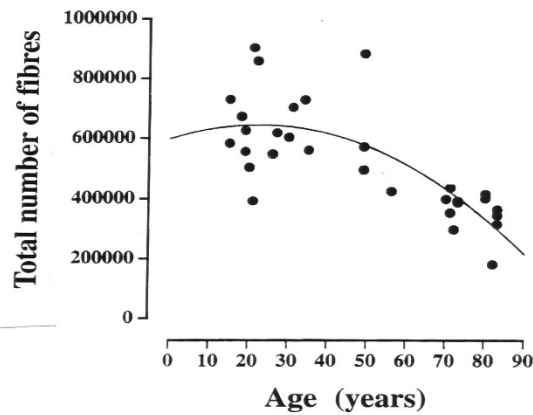
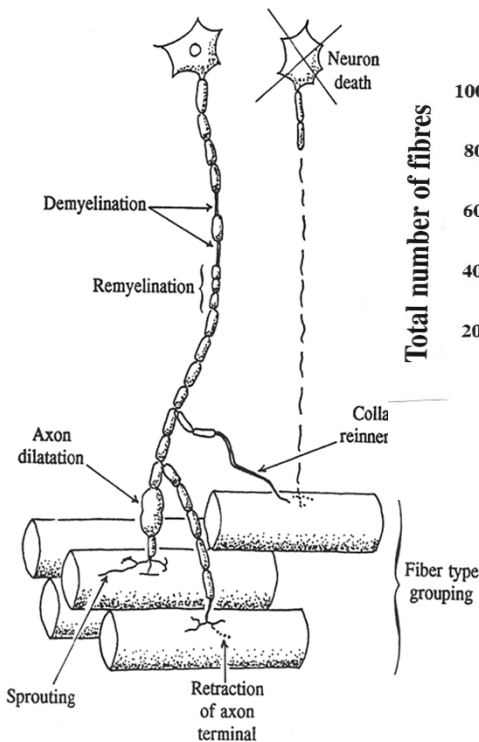


# Sarcopenia characterised by:



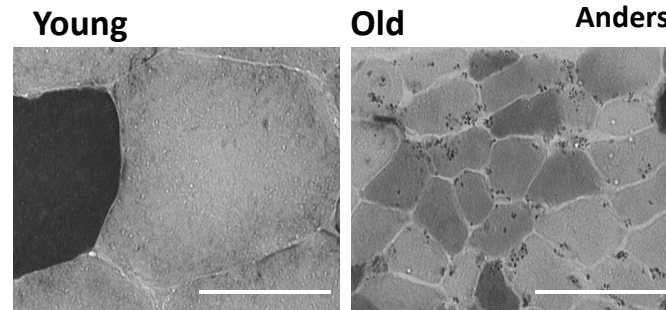
**Infiltration of fat and connective tissue**  
(probably an extreme example)

Agley *et al.* 2013

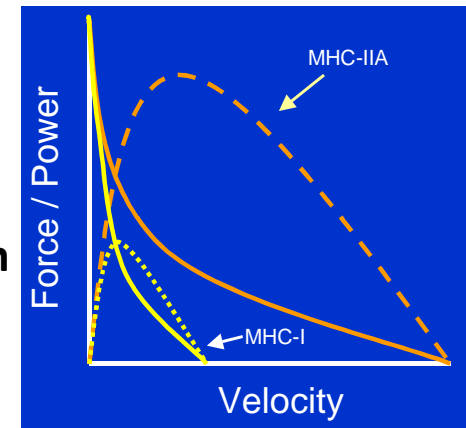


Lexell *et al.* 1988

**Motor unit loss & remodelling**



**Type II fibre atrophy & reduction in MHC-II isoform expression**

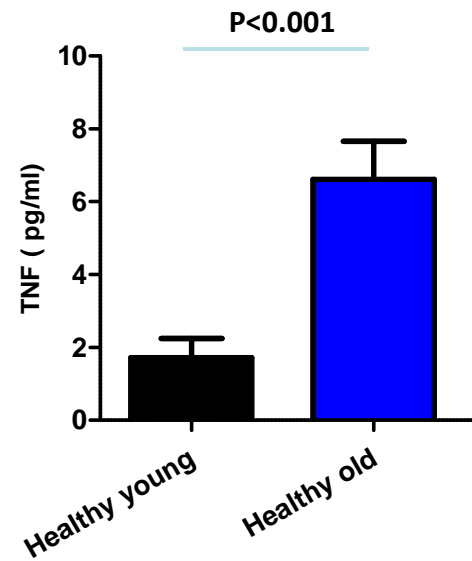
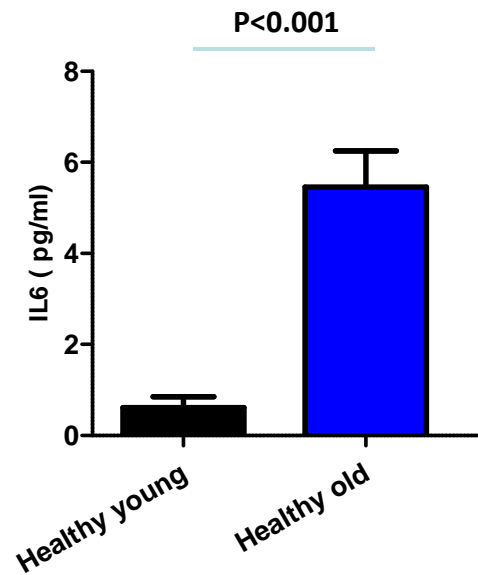


# Factors associated with sarcopenia..

- “Anabolic resistance” to feeding and exercise
- Changes in circulating “anabolic” hormones
- Metabolic dysregulation
- Inflammation (“inflammageing”)
- Cellular senescence
- Impaired regeneration from exercise-induced damage

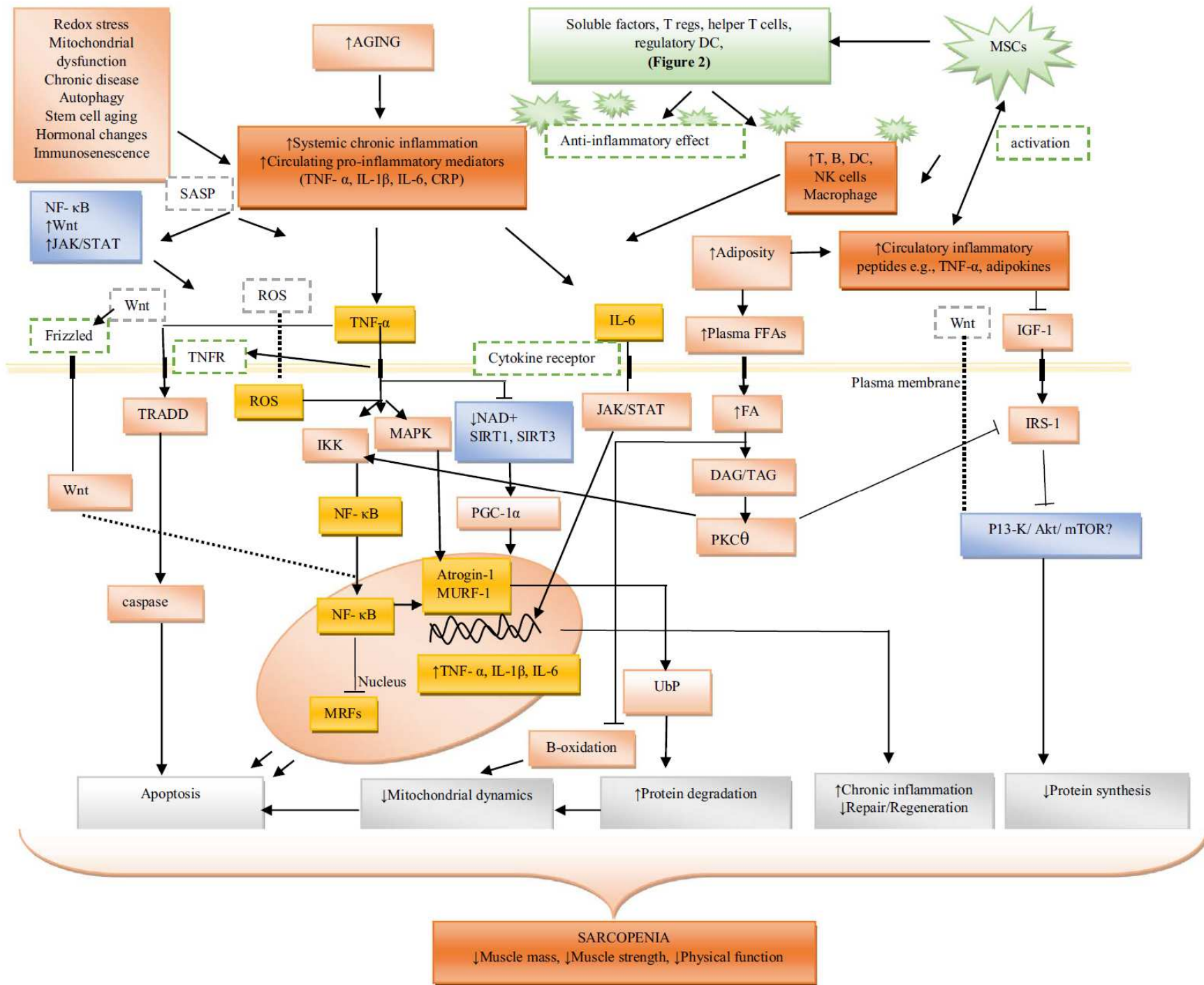


# “Inflammageing”



Young 20-36 yrs, n = 55 (30,m 25f)

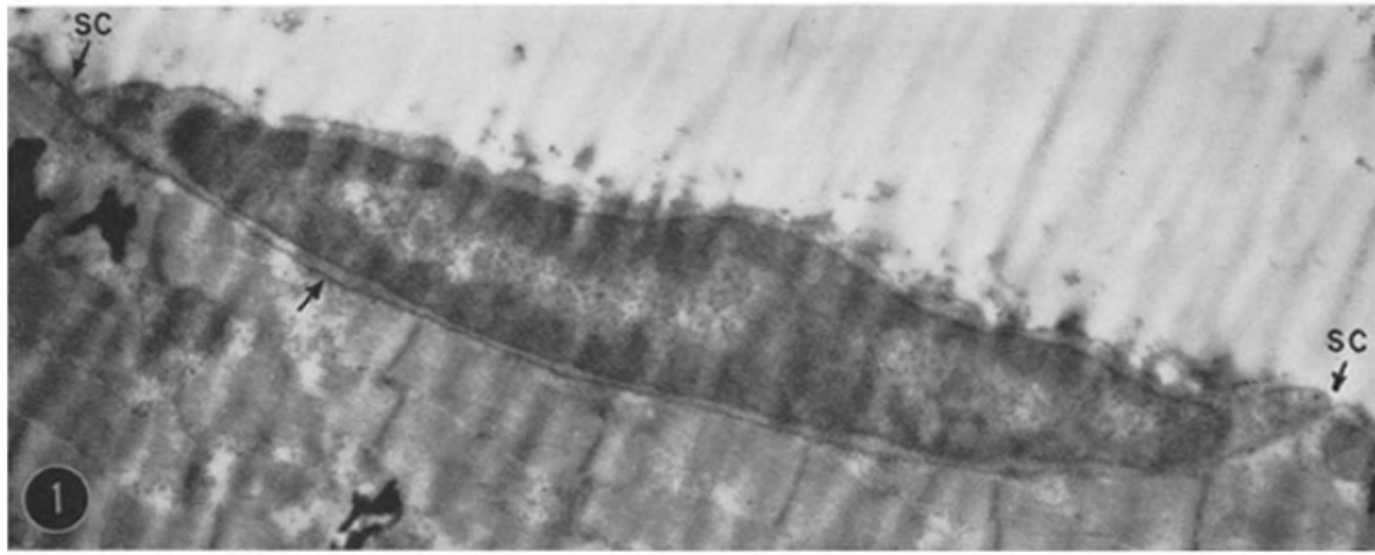
Healthy Old (sedentary) 57-80yrs, n= 75 (43m, 31f)



# Factors associated with sarcopenia..

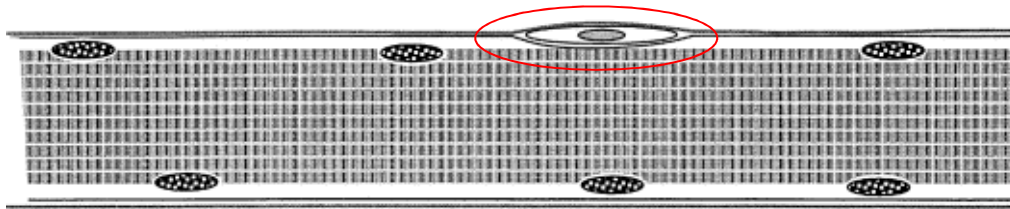
- “Anabolic resistance” to feeding and exercise
- Changes in circulating “anabolic” hormones
- Metabolic dysregulation
- Inflammation (“inflammaging”)
- Cellular senescence
- Impaired regeneration from exercise-induced damage

# Satellite cells – the muscle's resident stem cells

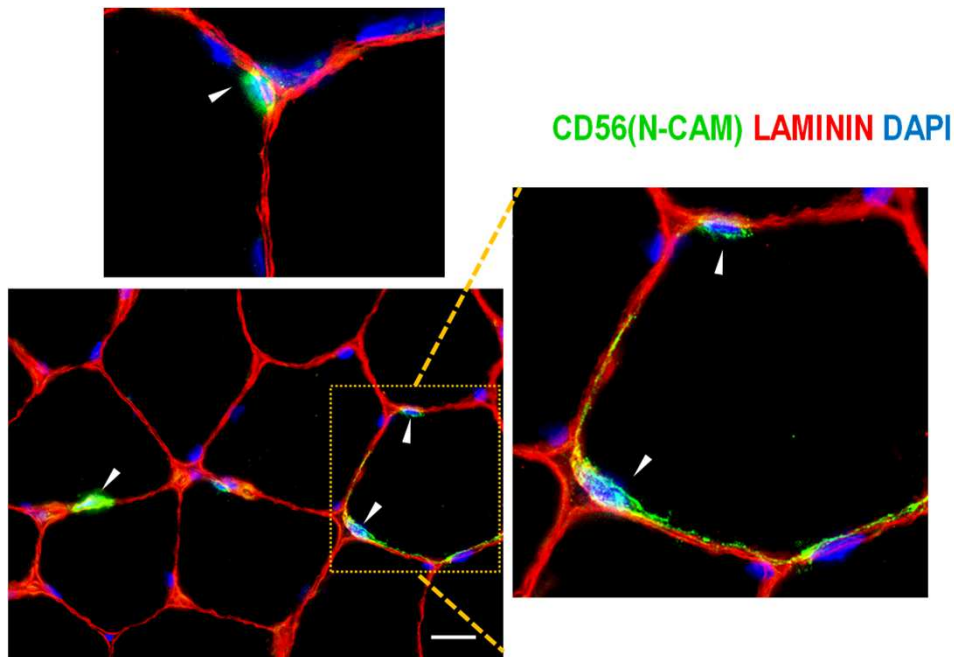


Mauro 1961

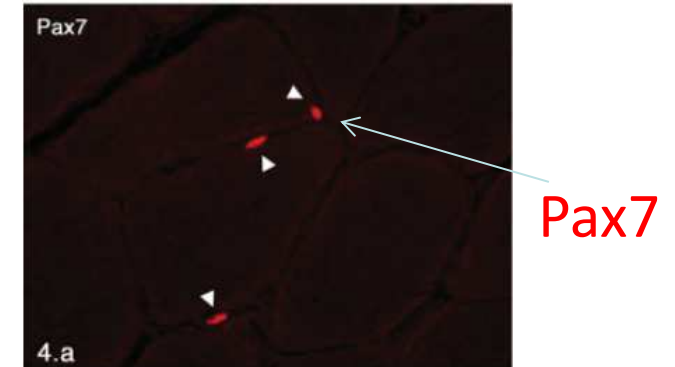
# Identification of human satellite cells ...



**Quiescent satellite cell**  
*Expresses: Pax7, NCAM/CD56*

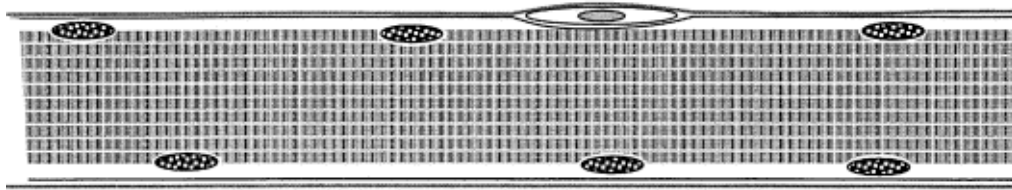


Agley et al. (2013)



Mackey et al. (2010)

# satellite cells →



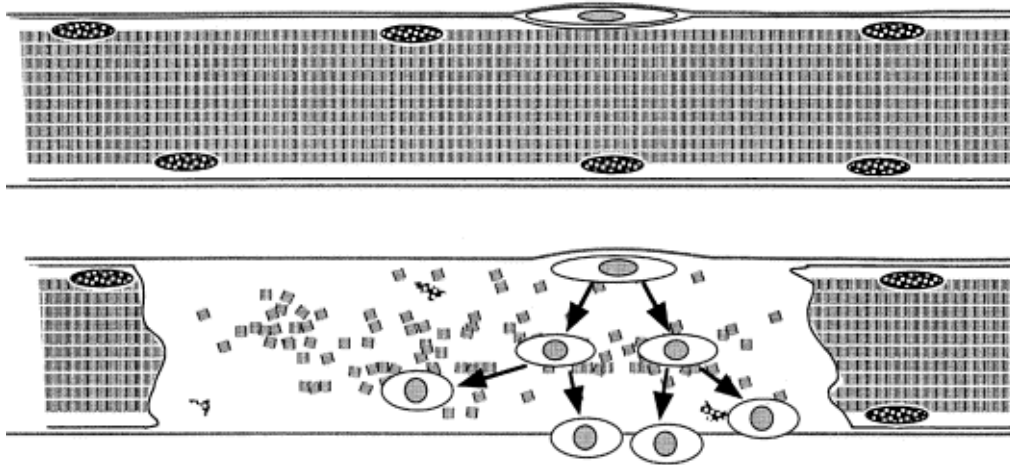
## Quiescent satellite cell

*Expresses: Pax 7, CD56 (NCAM), Myf5*

Morgan & Partridge (2003)



# satellite cells → proliferating myoblasts (muscle precursor cells)



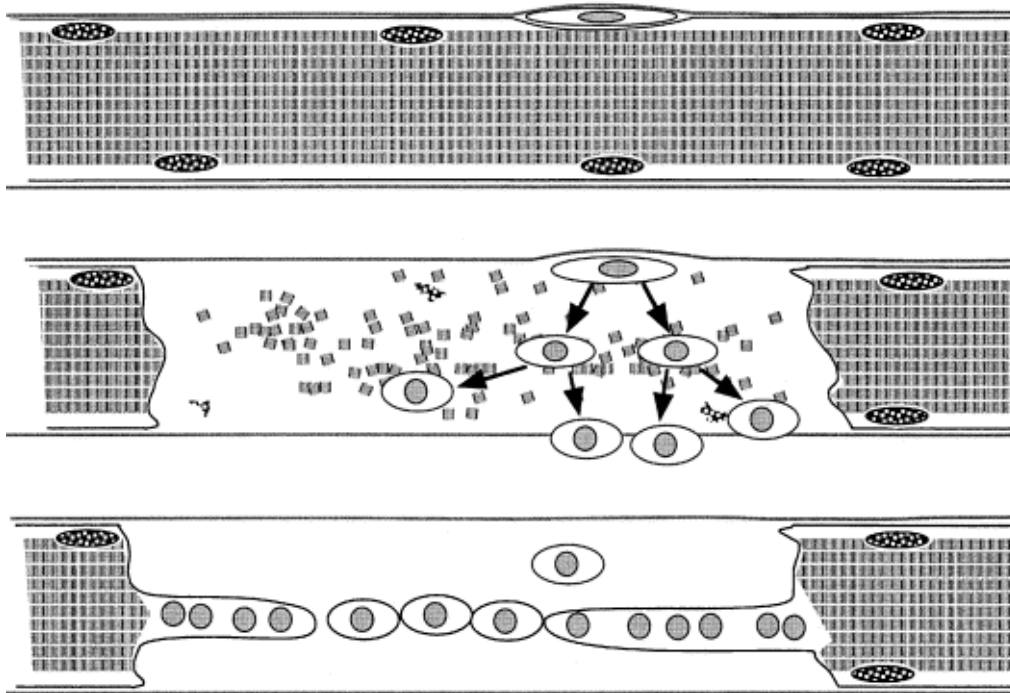
## Quiescent satellite cell

Expresses: Pax 7, CD56 (NCAM), Myf5

## Activated Satellite cell – (proliferation and commitment)

Expresses: Pax7, MyoD, Myf5, Desmin

satellite cells → proliferating myoblasts (muscle precursor cells) → fusion & differentiation...



**Quiescent satellite cell**

*Expresses: Pax 7, CD56 (NCAM), Myf5*

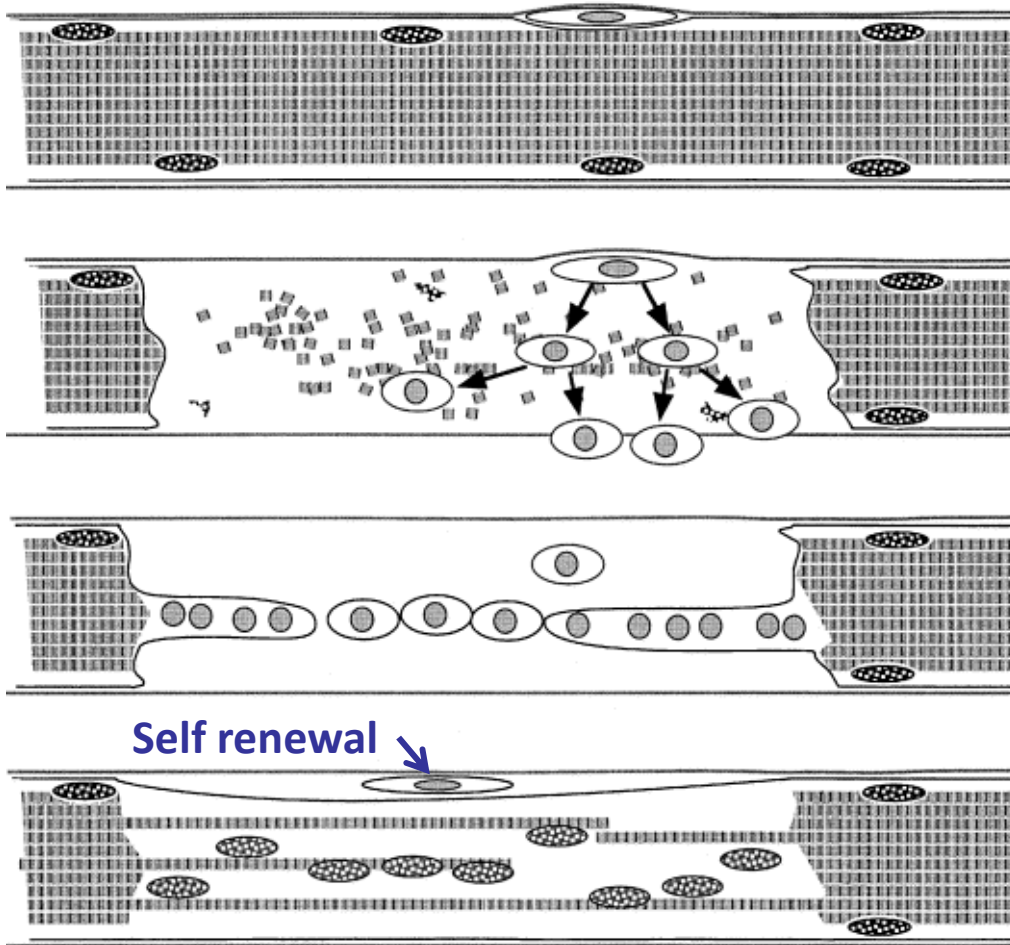
**Activated Satellite cell –  
(proliferation and commitment)**

*Expresses: Pax7, MyoD, Myf5, Desmin*

**Fusion**

*Expresses: CD56, MyoD, MRF4,  
Desmin, Myogenin,*

satellite cells → proliferating myoblasts (muscle precursor cells) → fusion & differentiation...



**Quiescent satellite cell**

*Expresses: Pax 7, CD56 (NCAM), Myf5*

**Activated Satellite cell –  
(proliferation and commitment)**

*Expresses: Pax7, CD56, MyoD, Myf5,  
Desmin*

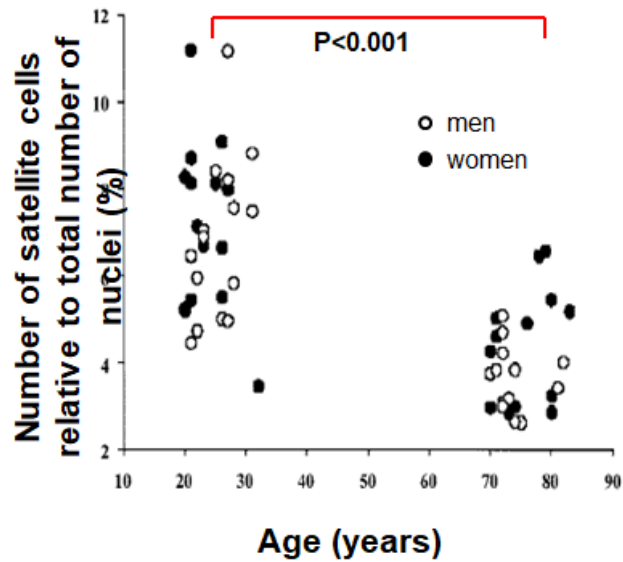
**Fusion**

*Expresses: CD56, MyoD, MRF4,  
Desmin, Myogenin,*

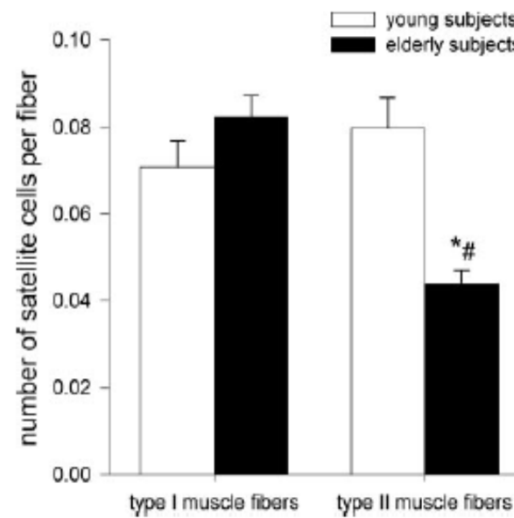
**Terminal differentiation - (in  
culture forming myotubes)**

*Expresses: CD56, Desmin, myogenin  
and MHC*

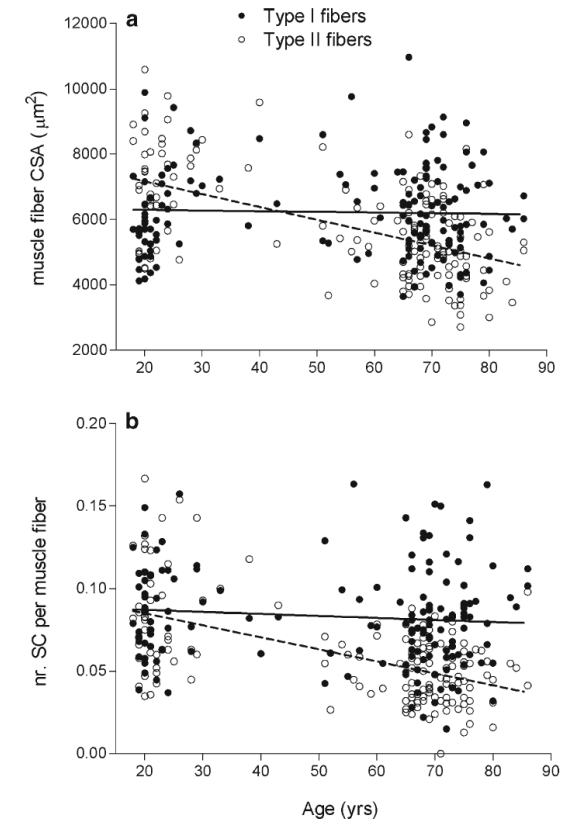
# Are there fewer satellite cells in older muscle?



Charifi et al. (2004)

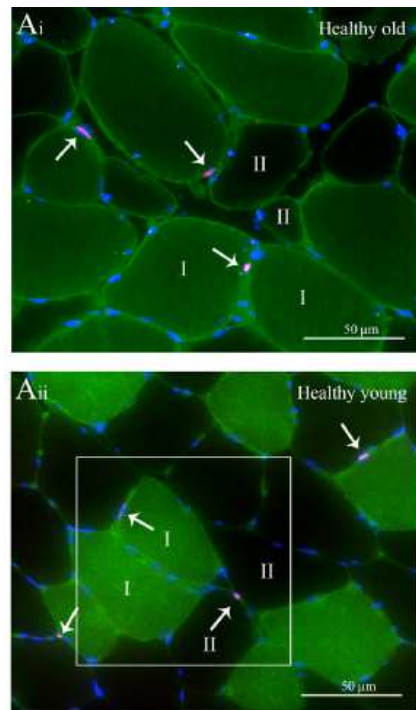


Verdijk et al. (2007)

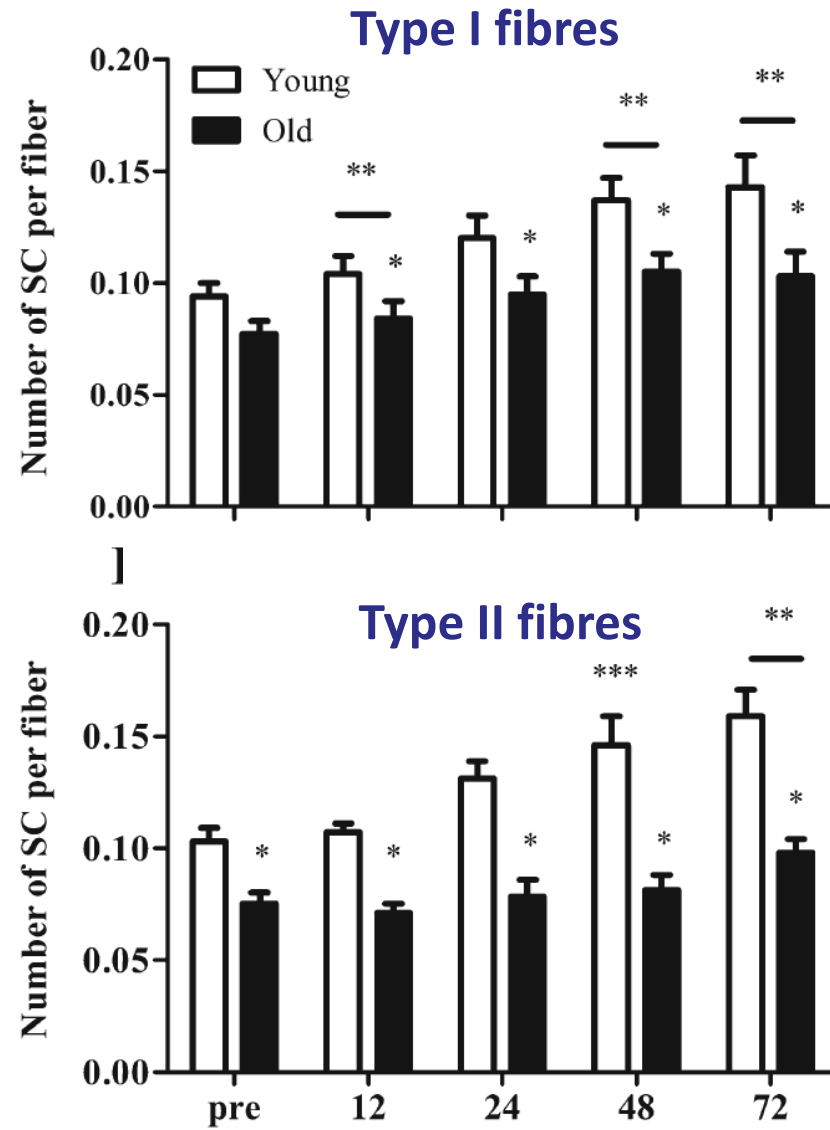


Verdijk et al. (2014)

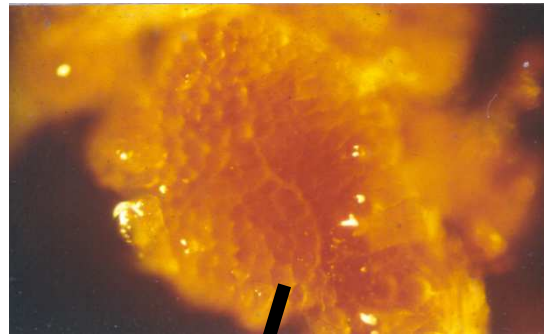
# Delayed increase in satellite cell number in older men following a single bout of high resistance exercise



Snijders et al (2014)  
Age



# Primary human muscle cell culture

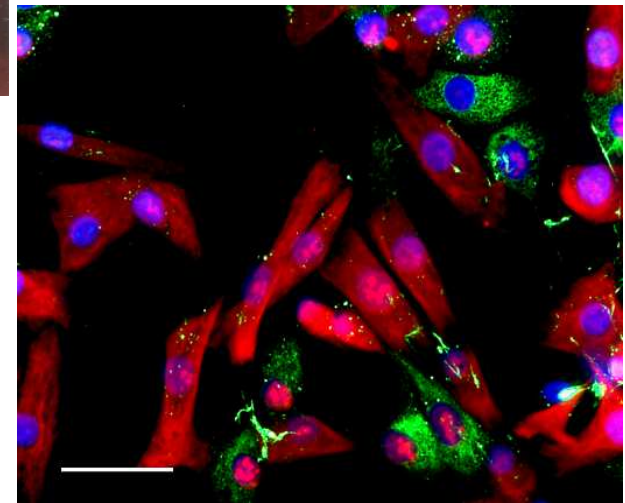
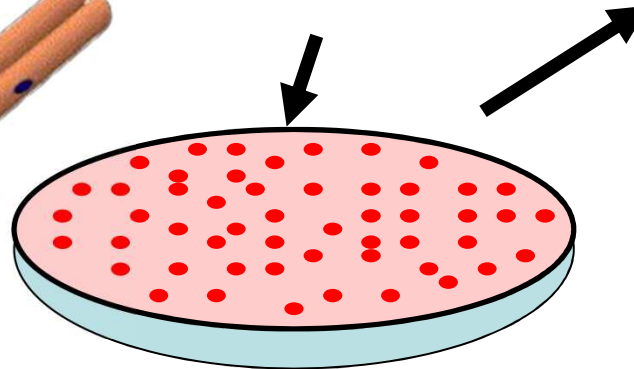
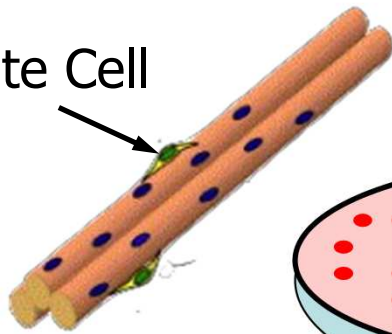


Mixed cell population



Enzyme Digest

Satellite Cell



DESMIN/HOECHST/TE-7/KI67

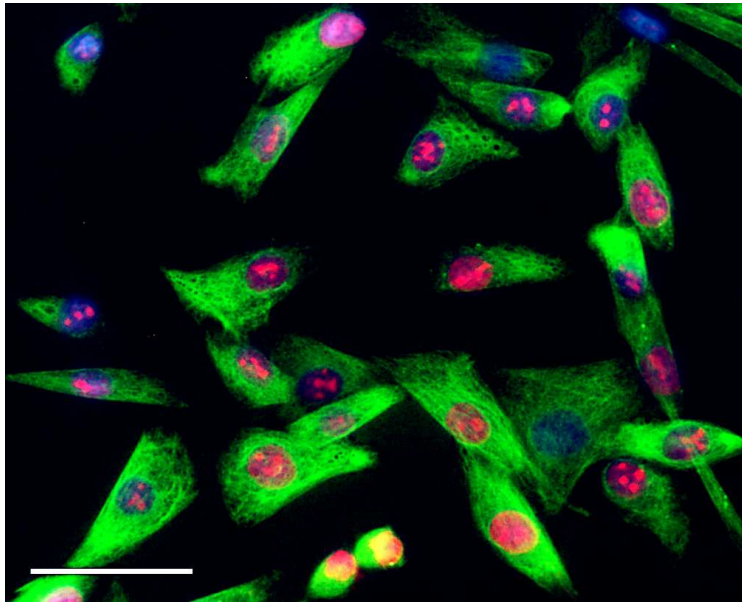
Myoblasts

Fibroblasts

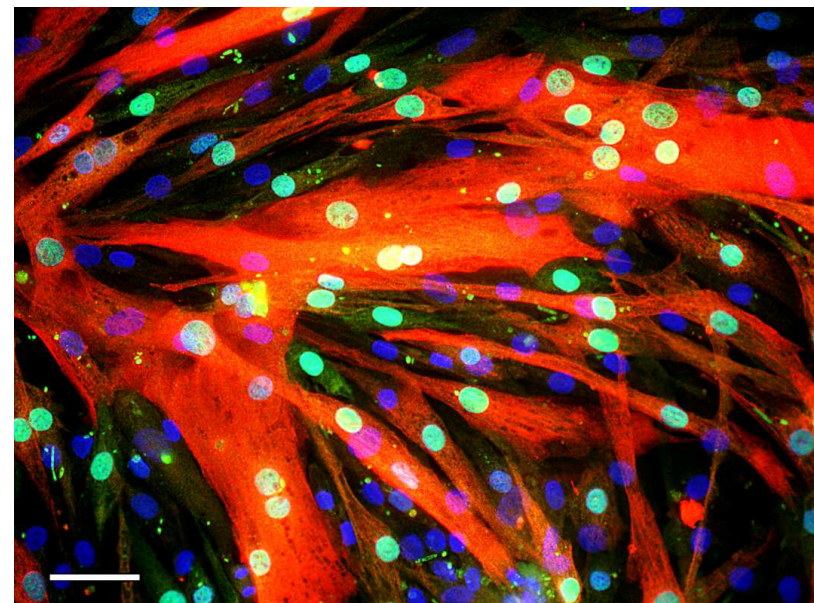


# MPCs → myotubes

Proliferation → differentiation

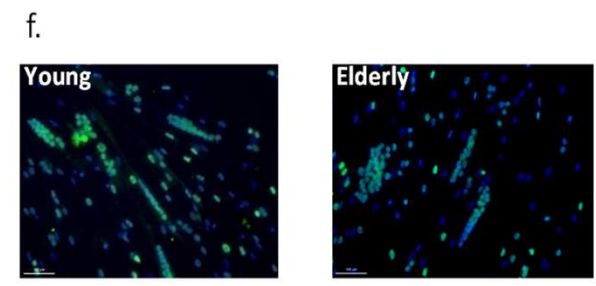
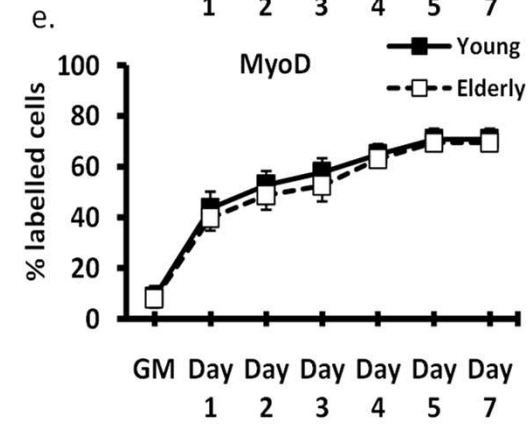
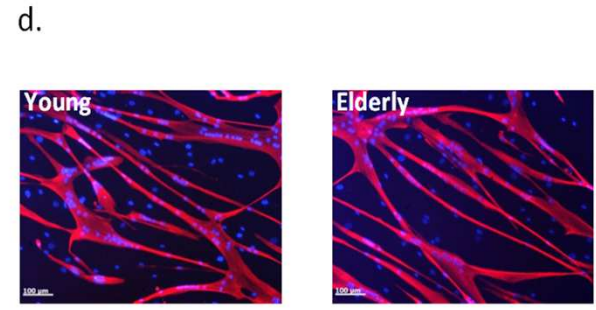
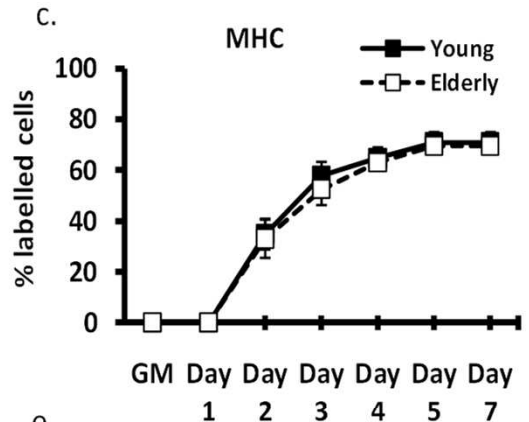
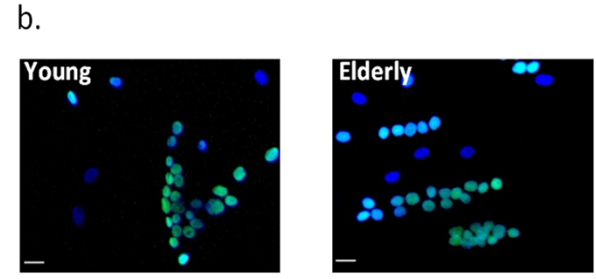
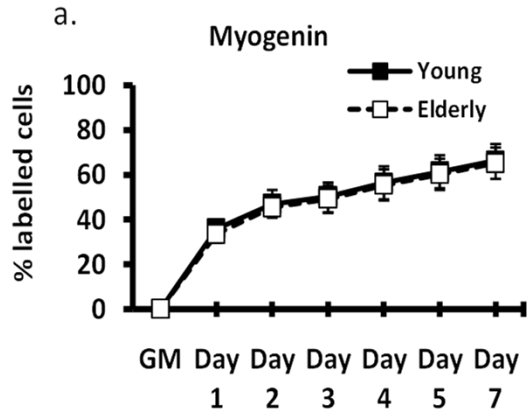


Desmin Ki67 Hoechst



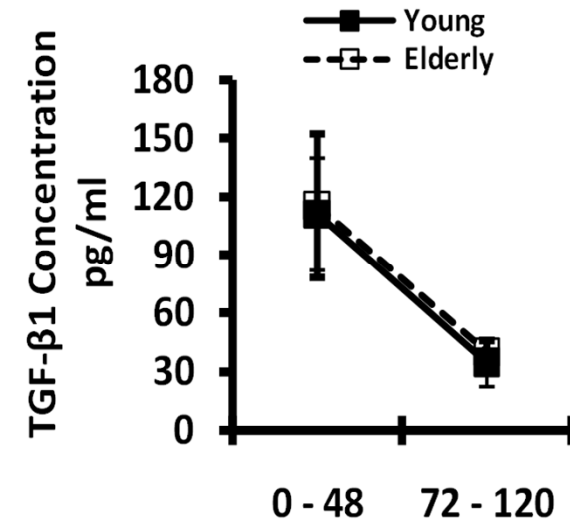
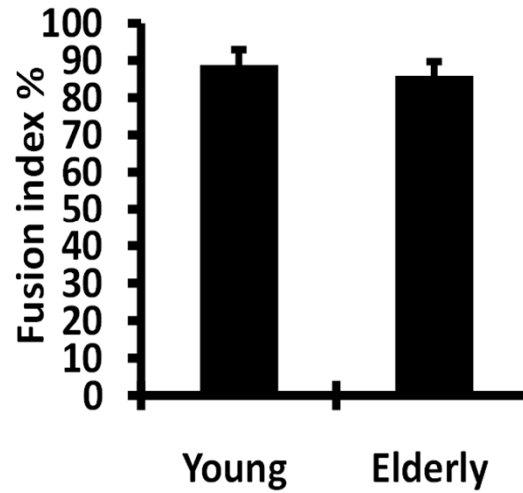
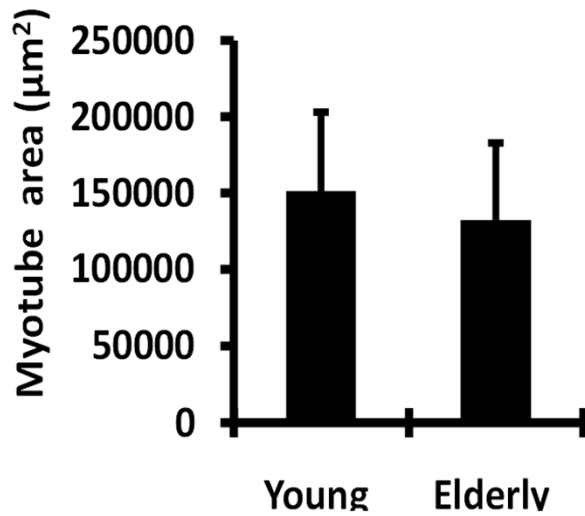
MHC Myogenin Hoechst

**Differentiation:**  
 Similar responses  
 in cells obtained  
 from young and  
 old people



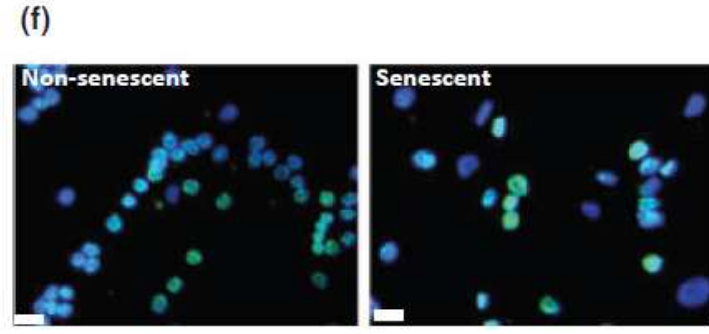
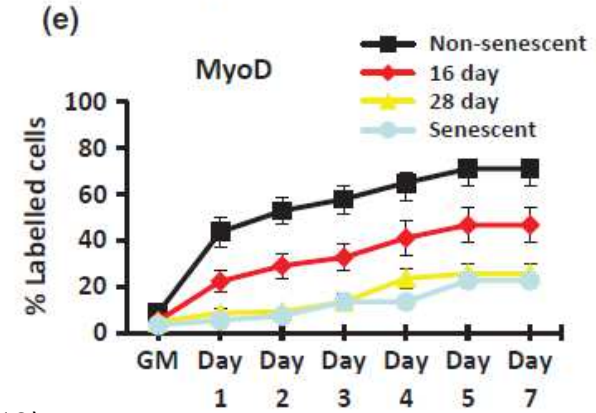
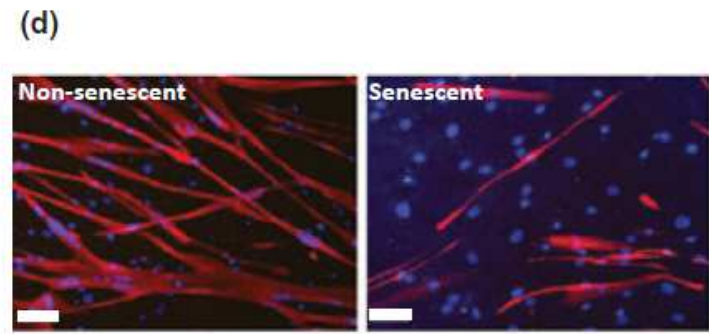
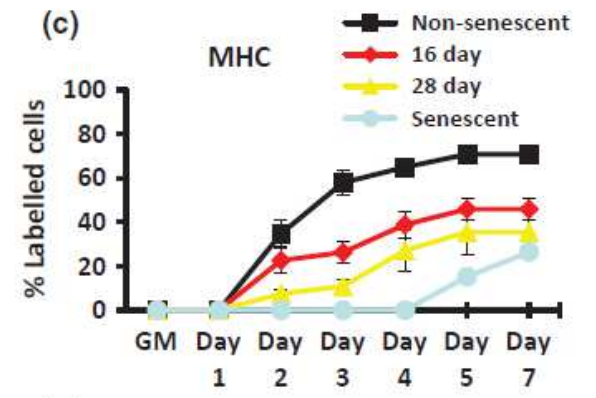
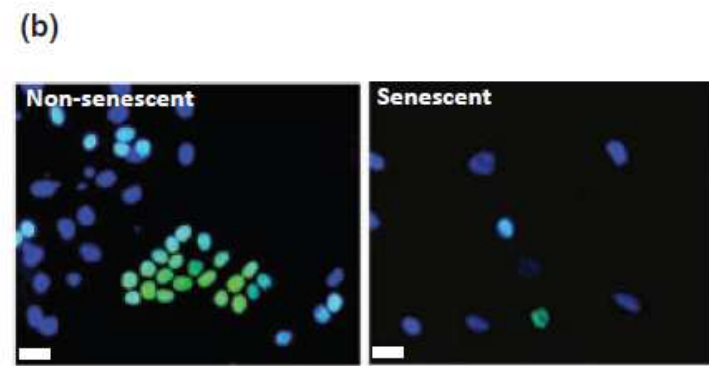
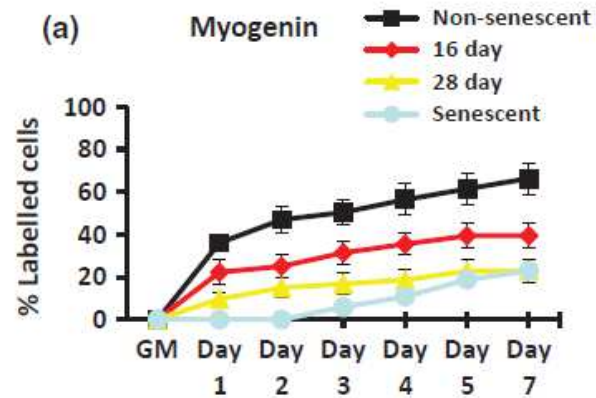
Alsharidah et al. (2013)  
*Aging Cell*

***Differentiation:***  
Similar responses  
in cells obtained  
from young and  
old people

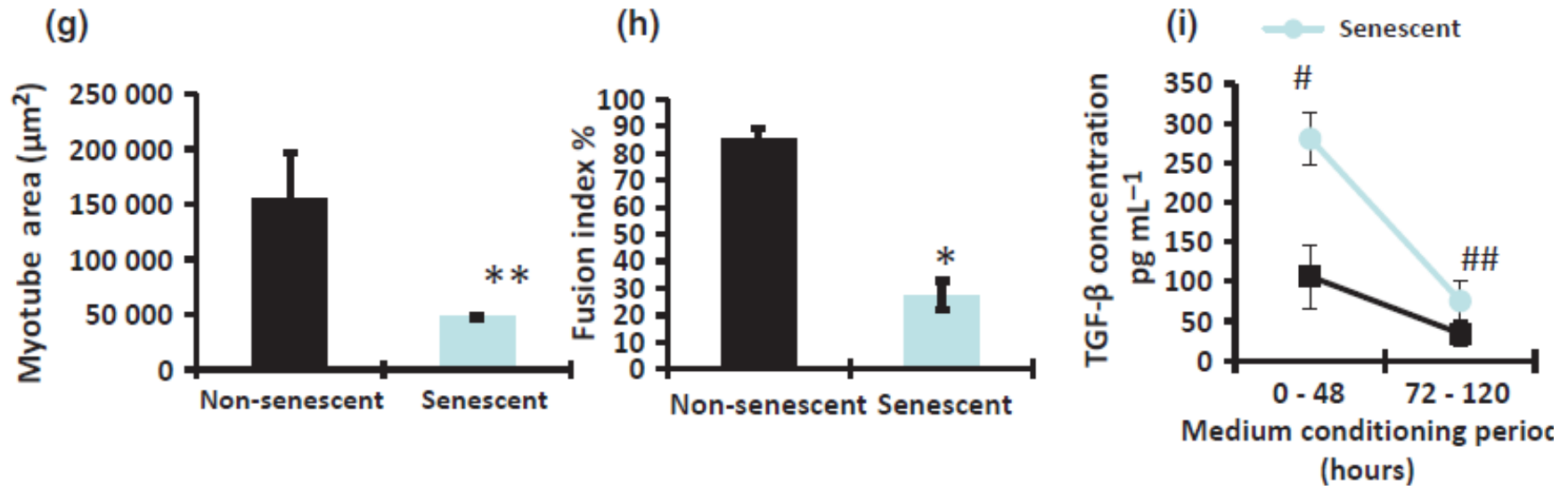


# Differentiation

Senescent cells have impaired ability to differentiate



***Differentiation:***  
Impaired responses  
in senescent cells

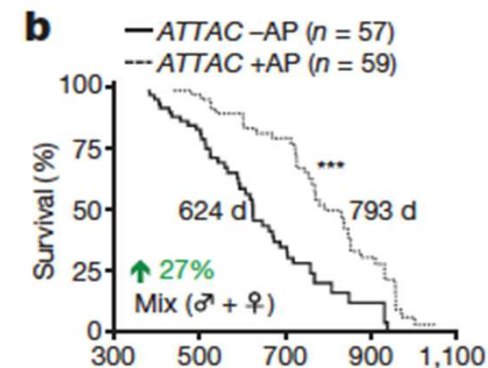


Alsharidah et al. (2013)  
*Aging Cell*

# Naturally occurring p16<sup>Ink4a</sup>-positive cells shorten healthy lifespan

Darren J. Baker<sup>1</sup>, Bennett G. Childs<sup>2</sup>, Matej Durik<sup>1</sup>, Melinde E. Wijers<sup>1</sup>, Cynthia J. Sieben<sup>2</sup>, Jian Zhong<sup>1</sup>, Rachel A. Saltness<sup>1</sup>, Karthik B. Jeganathan<sup>1</sup>, Grace Casacang Verzosa<sup>3</sup>, Abdulmohammad Pezeshki<sup>4</sup>, Khashayarsha Khazaie<sup>4</sup>, Jordan D. Miller<sup>3</sup> & Jan M. van Deursen<sup>1,2</sup>

**Induction of apoptosis in p16<sup>Ink4a</sup> (senescent cells) improves lifespan and healthspan**

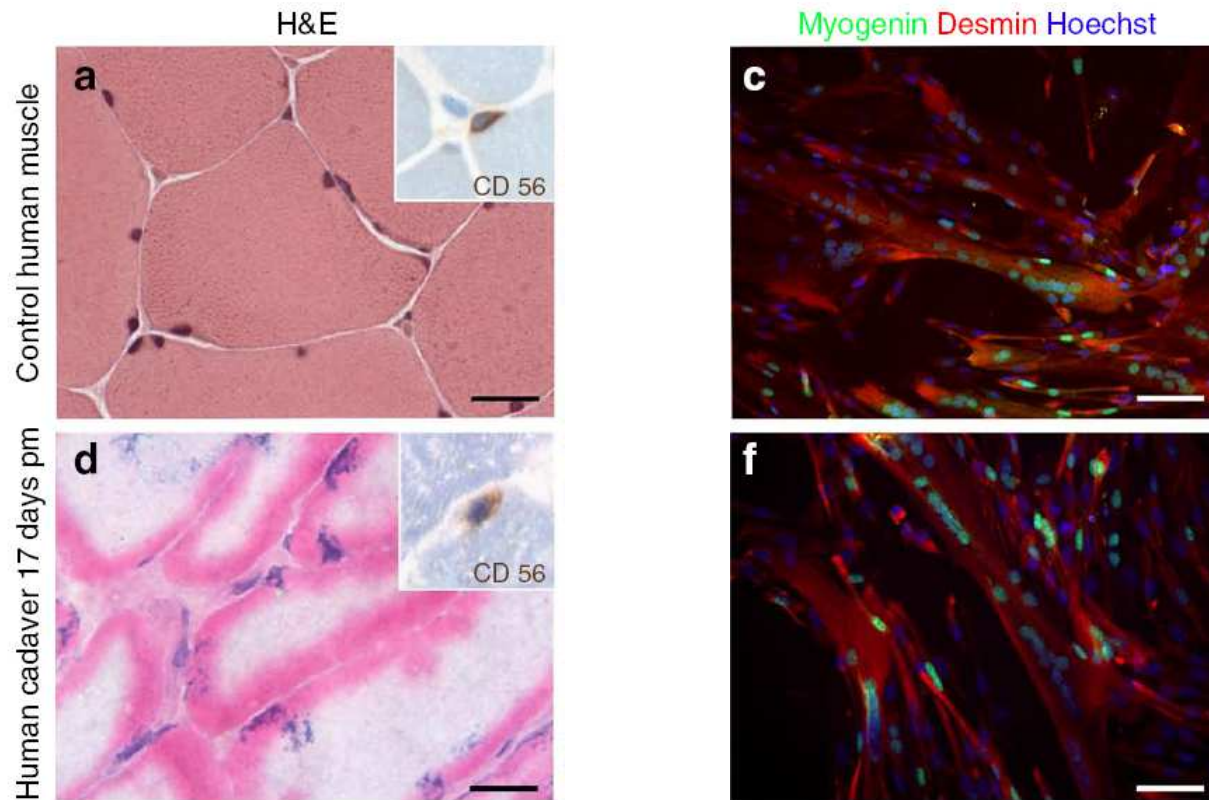




# Ageing & human muscle precursor cells

- 1) Is there an inherent ageing effect on the myogenic properties of human MPCs?**
  - No, but senescence in culture creates a distinct and impaired phenotype*

# Functioning satellite cells obtained from a 96 yr old - 17 days after death...

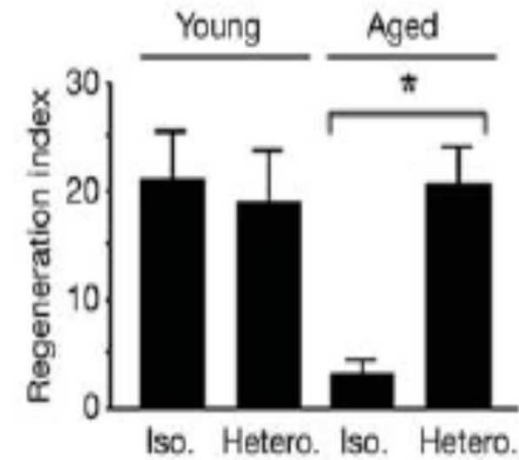
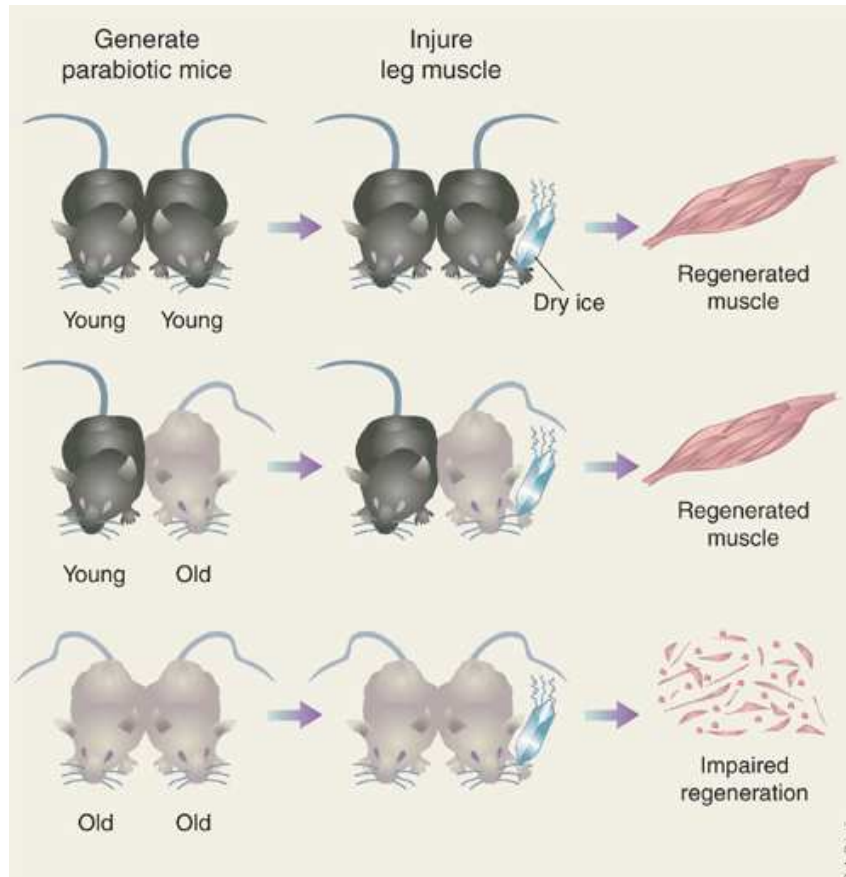


Latil *et al.* (2012)  
Nature Communications

# Ageing & human muscle precursor cells

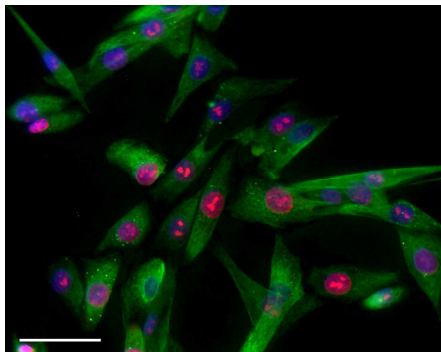
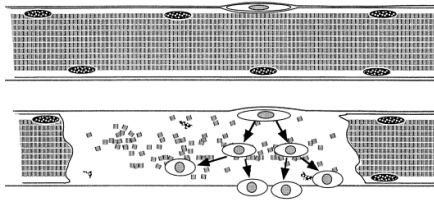
- 1) Is there an inherent ageing effect on the myogenic properties of human MPCs?**
  - No, but senescence in culture creates a distinct and impaired phenotype*
- 2) Do environmental factors influence human MPC behaviour?**

# Parabiotic mice – conjoined circulation

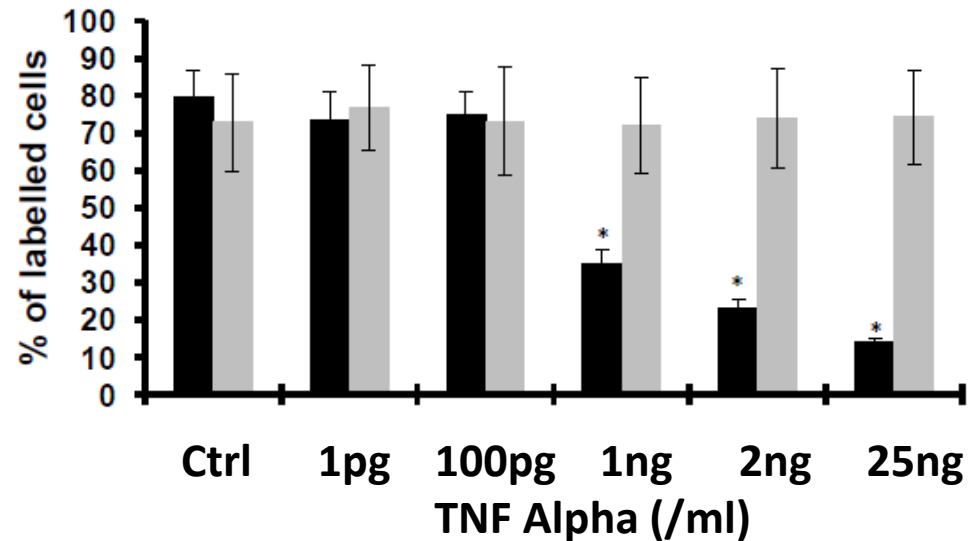
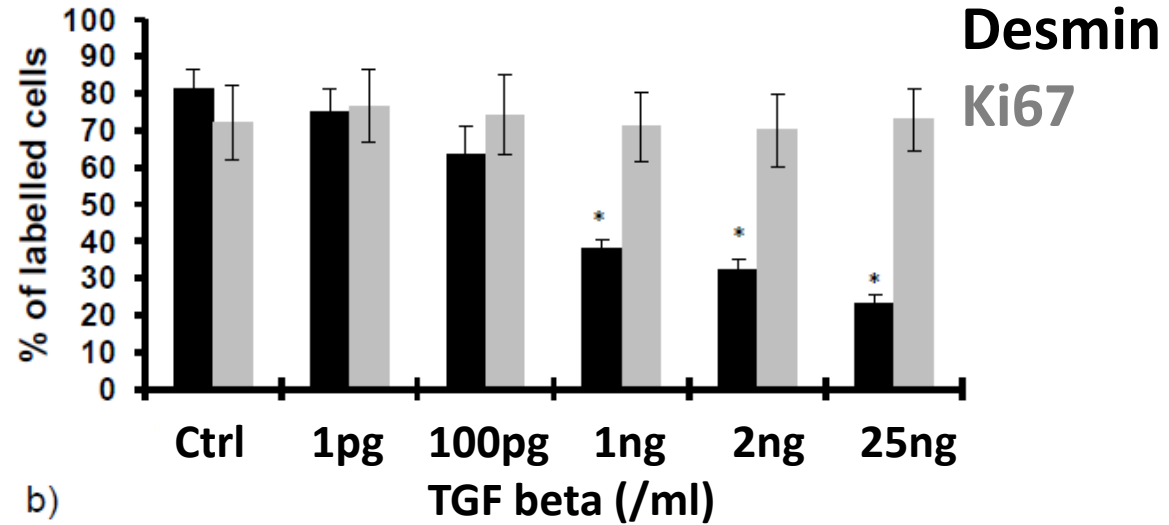


Conboy *et al.* (2005)

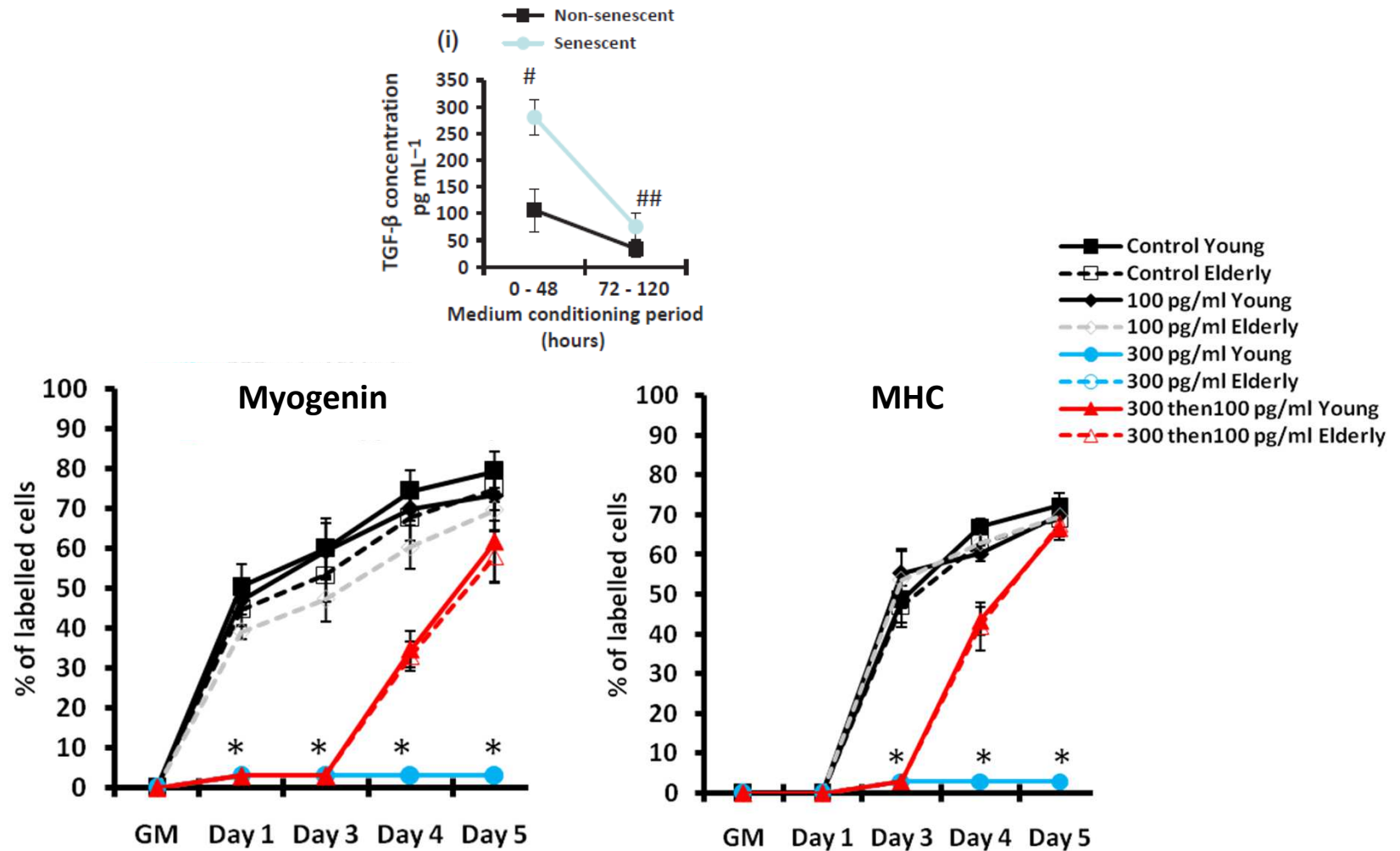
# Inflammatory cytokines inhibit the progression of CD56<sup>+ve</sup> cells to myoblasts (expressing desmin)



Desmin Ki67 Hoechst



# TGF- $\beta$ 1 inhibits differentiation in both young and old human cells at concentrations secreted by senescent cells





# Ageing & human muscle precursor cells

- 1) Is there an inherent ageing effect on the myogenic properties of human MPCs?
  - *No, but senescence in culture creates a distinct and impaired phenotype*
- 2) Do environmental factors influence human MPC behaviour?
  - *Yes, e.g. inflammatory cytokines (which can be released from muscle cells) impair behaviour*

# Presentation Outline

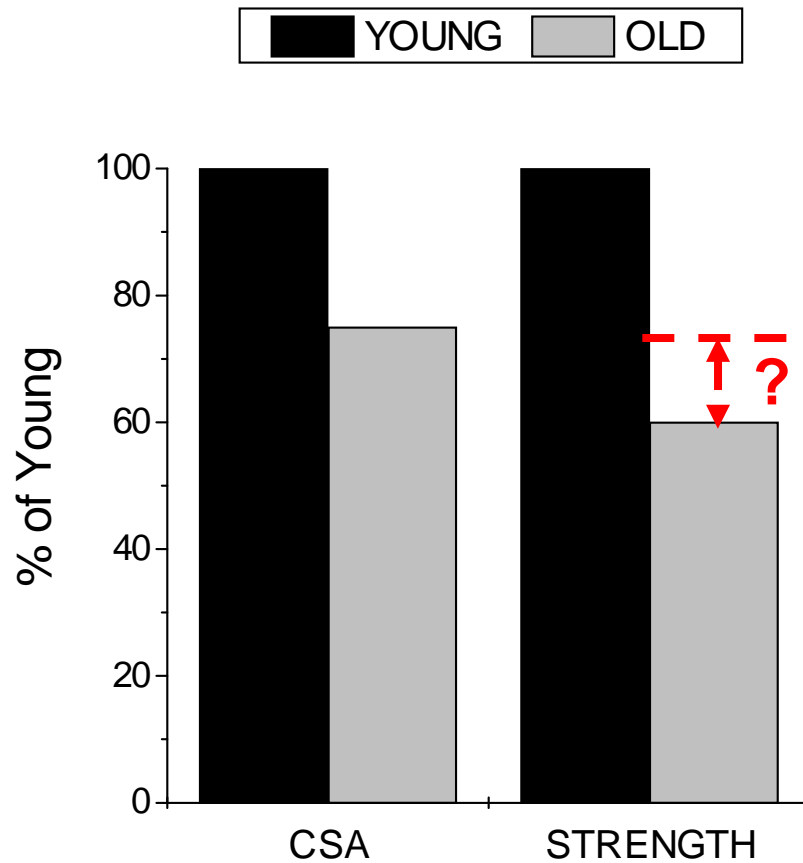
## Part 1

- The “typical” older muscle, inflammation, cell senescence and the potential role of muscle-derived precursor cells in contributing to this phenotype

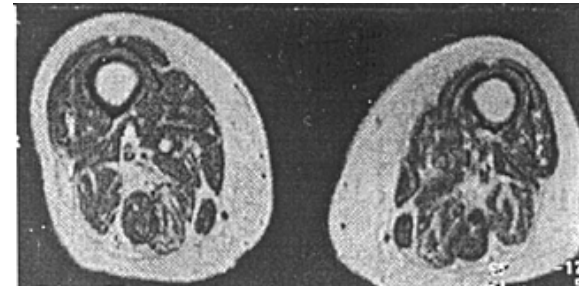
## Part 2

- Heterogeneity of older phenotypes. Comparing the inactive and active older muscles. What we can learn from master athletes and life-long exercisers

# Specific Force Loss (sedentary)



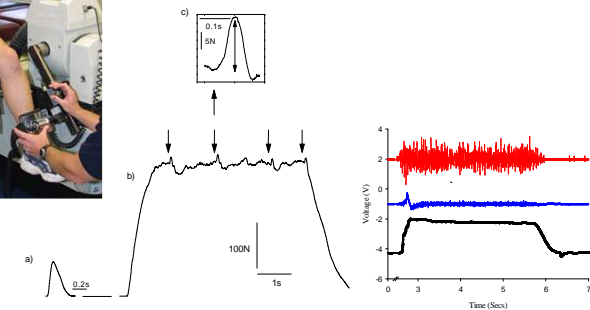
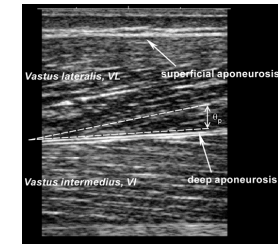
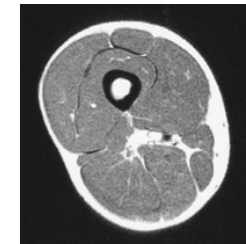
The decline in maximum voluntary isometric knee extensor force (strength) can be greater than the decline in quadriceps CSA



Young *et al.* (1985)

# How strong is healthy human muscle *in vivo*?

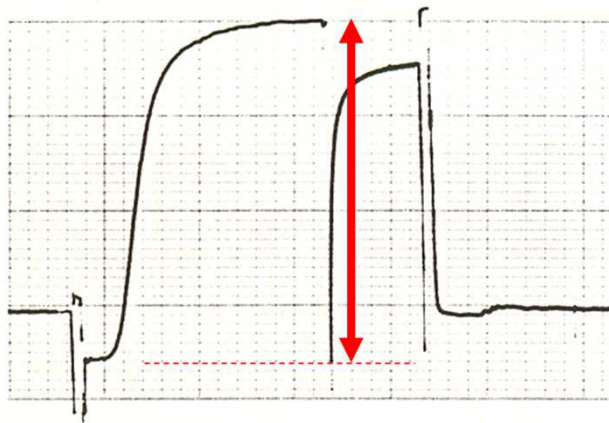
- Accounting for:
  - Accurately determined muscle CSA
    - MRI for lean, anatomical cross-sectional area
    - Ultrasound for determination of muscle architecture (pennation angles) to calculate physiological CSA
  - Objective measures of function (torque)
    - Full activation of agonists (confirmed or corrected for using twitch interpolation)
    - Corrected for antagonist co-contraction
  - Calculation of force applied directly to the tendon from external torque
    - Correction applied from measurement (through MRI) of internal level systems



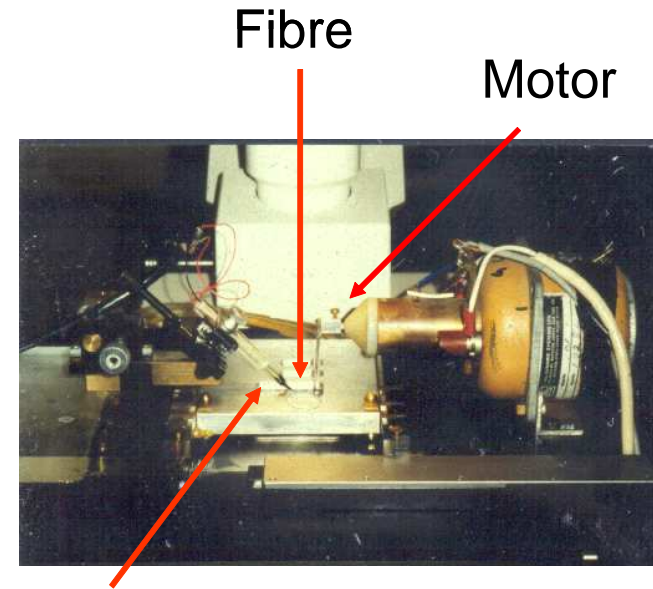
$$= \sim 55 \text{ N/cm}^2$$

O'Brien *et al.* (2010)

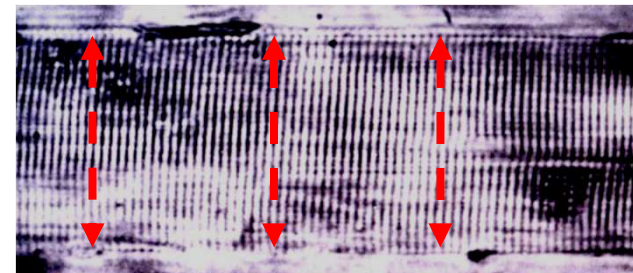
# Isometric force in human skinned fibres



Isometric force at max  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  activation

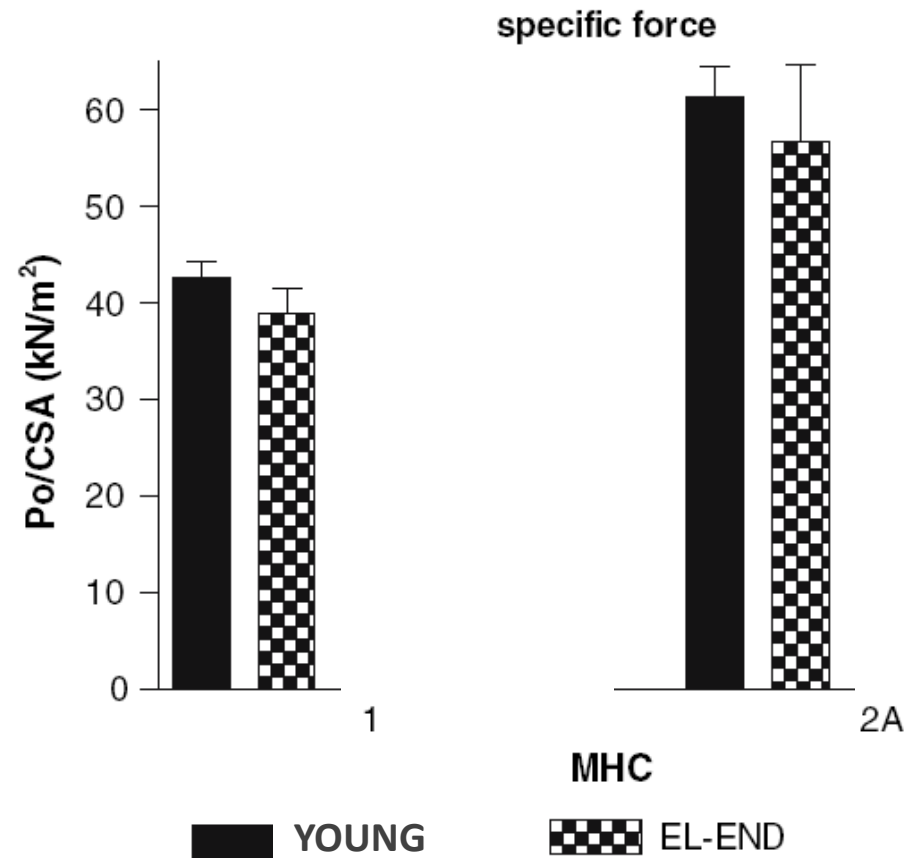


Force transducer



Measurement of fibre diameter for calculation of CSA

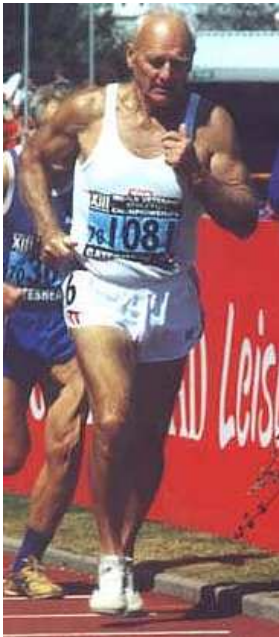
↓ specific force related to ↓ activity not ageing *per se*



D'Antona *et al.* (2007)

# “Ageing” or the study of “older people”?

Optimal Biological Ageing



Most studies of ageing err in this direction

Ageing + disuse ≠ ageing



Inactivity is deleterious to health and contaminates many studies of ageing. As such it confounds our understanding of the inherent biological ageing process

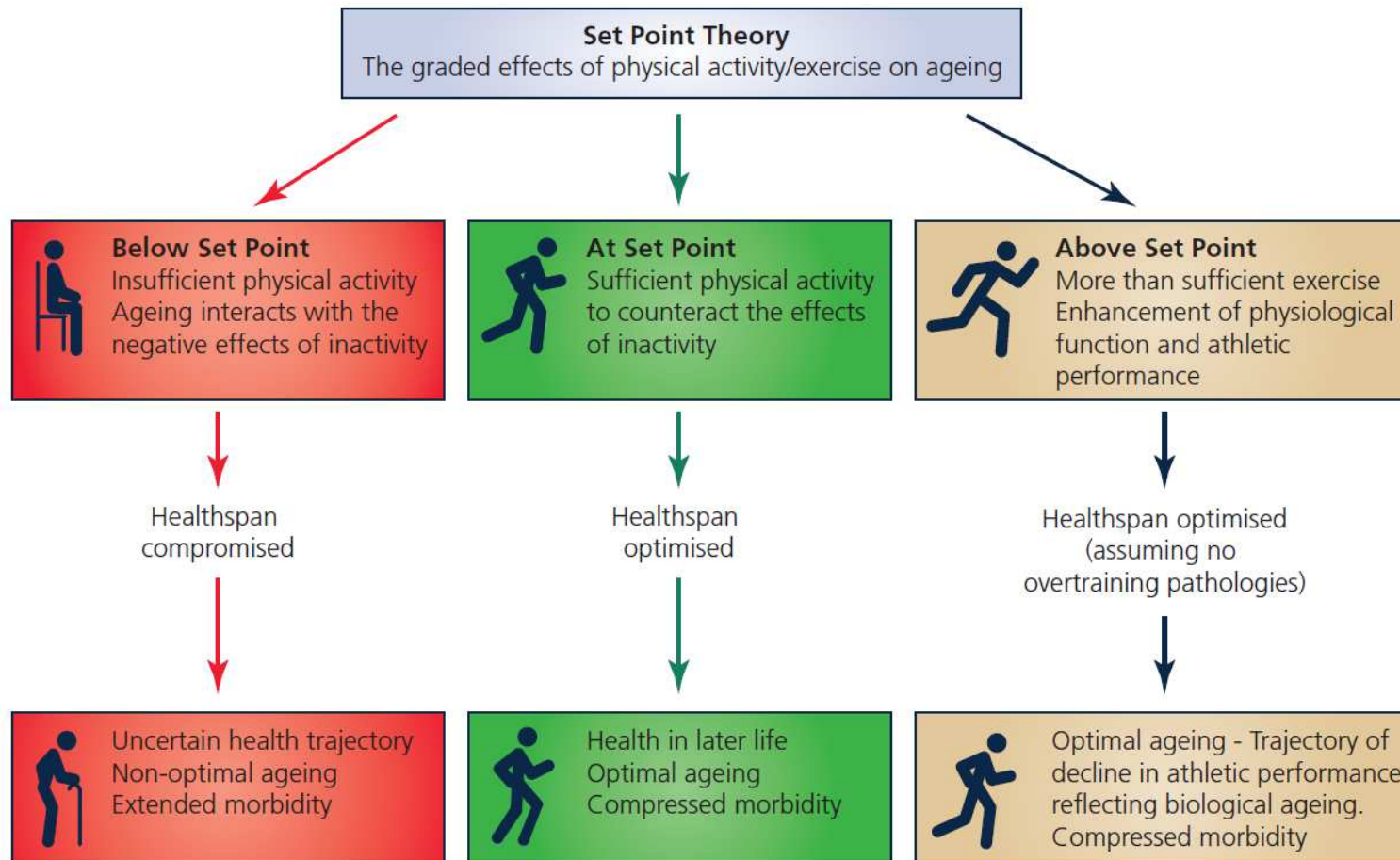




# Declining performance of master athletes: silhouettes of the trajectory of healthy human ageing?

Norman R. Lazarus and Stephen D. R. Harridge

Centre of Human and Aerospace Physiological Sciences, King's College London, London, UK



# Optimally Ageing Phenotypes

125 amateur cyclists (aged 55-79 years)

## Cyclists were:

- non-elite (amateur road cyclists primarily from Audax)
- Entry criteria
  - Males 100km < 6.5 hrs
  - Females 60km < 5.5 hrs
  - 2 rides completed 3 weeks prior to testing
- Average monthly cycling distance
  - 725km (males)
  - 600km (females)
  - No decline with age



Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*

# A study of optimal human ageing

Detailed physiological profiling of 125 amateur cyclists  
(aged 55-79 years)

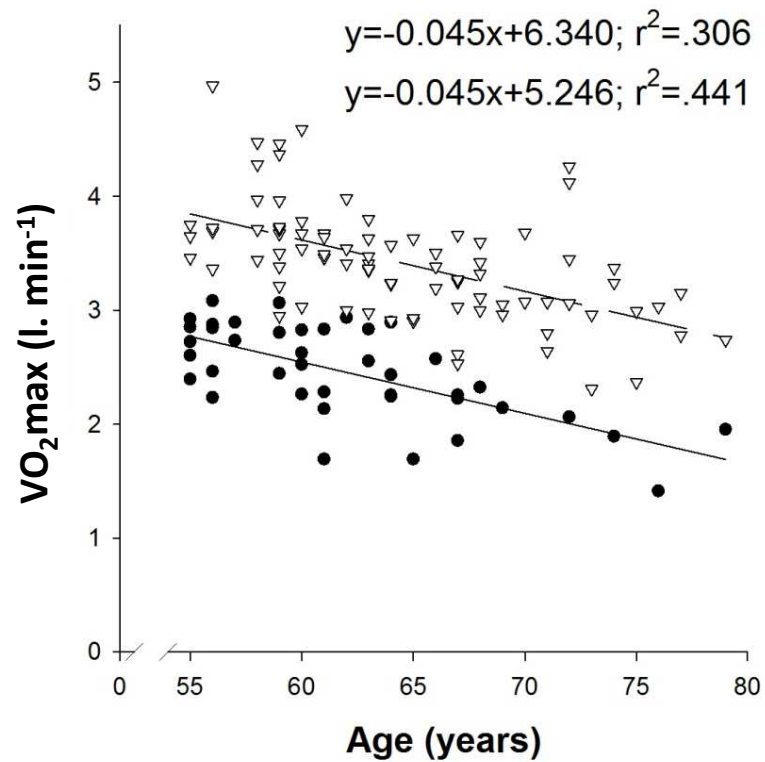
## Laboratory measures:

- Exercise capacity
- Neuromuscular function
  - Muscle biopsies
- Lung function
- Endocrine, metabolic, immune function
- Cardiovascular function
- Bone (DXA)
- Cognitive function
- Quality of life.....



Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*

# Maximal Oxygen uptake ( $\dot{V}O_2\text{max}$ )

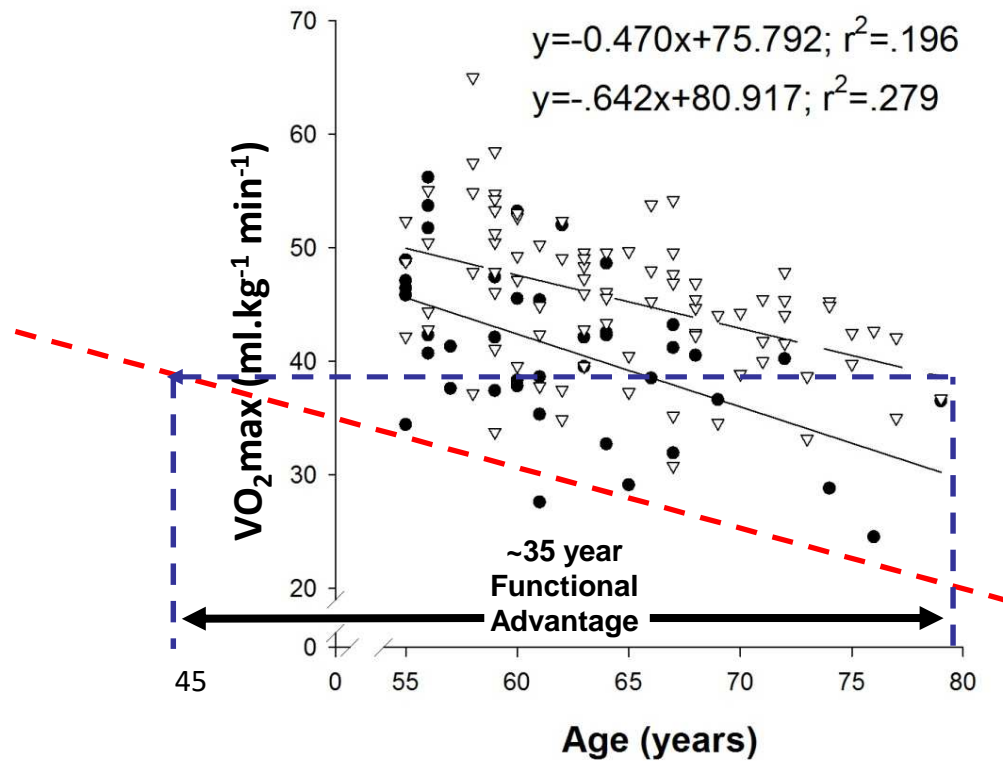


Females ● Males ▽



Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*

# Maximal Oxygen uptake ( $\dot{V}O_2\text{max}$ )



Females ● Males ▽

--- Sedentary males. From Wilson *et al.* (2000)



Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*

# No association between age and appendicular muscle mass (SMI)



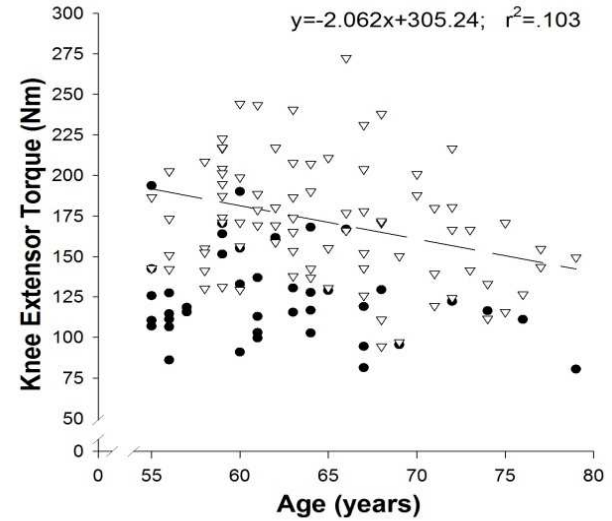
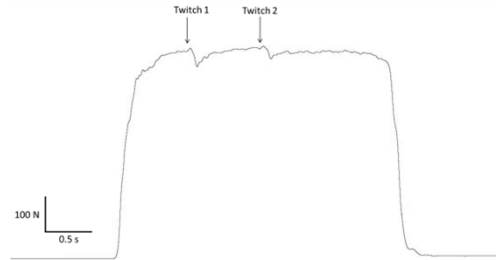
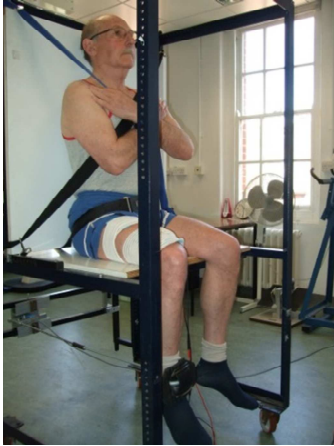
Females ● Males ▽

Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*

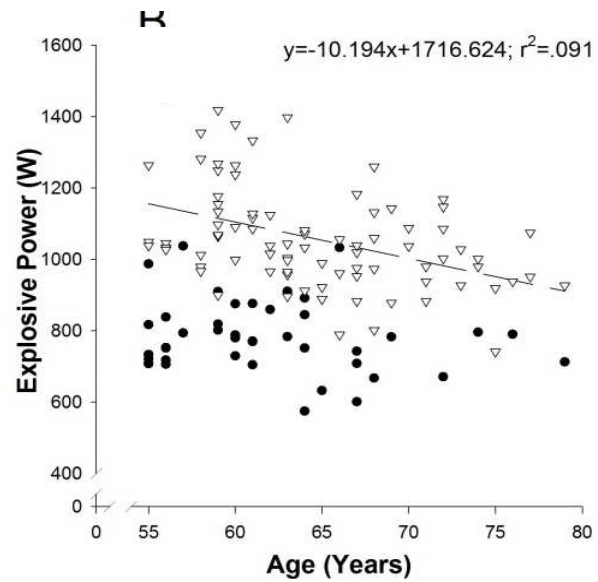
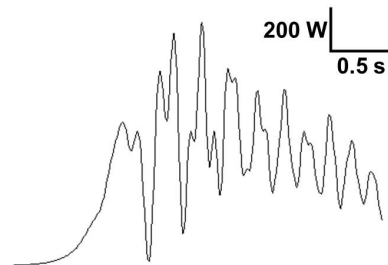


# Neuromuscular function

## Isometric strength



## Explosive Power

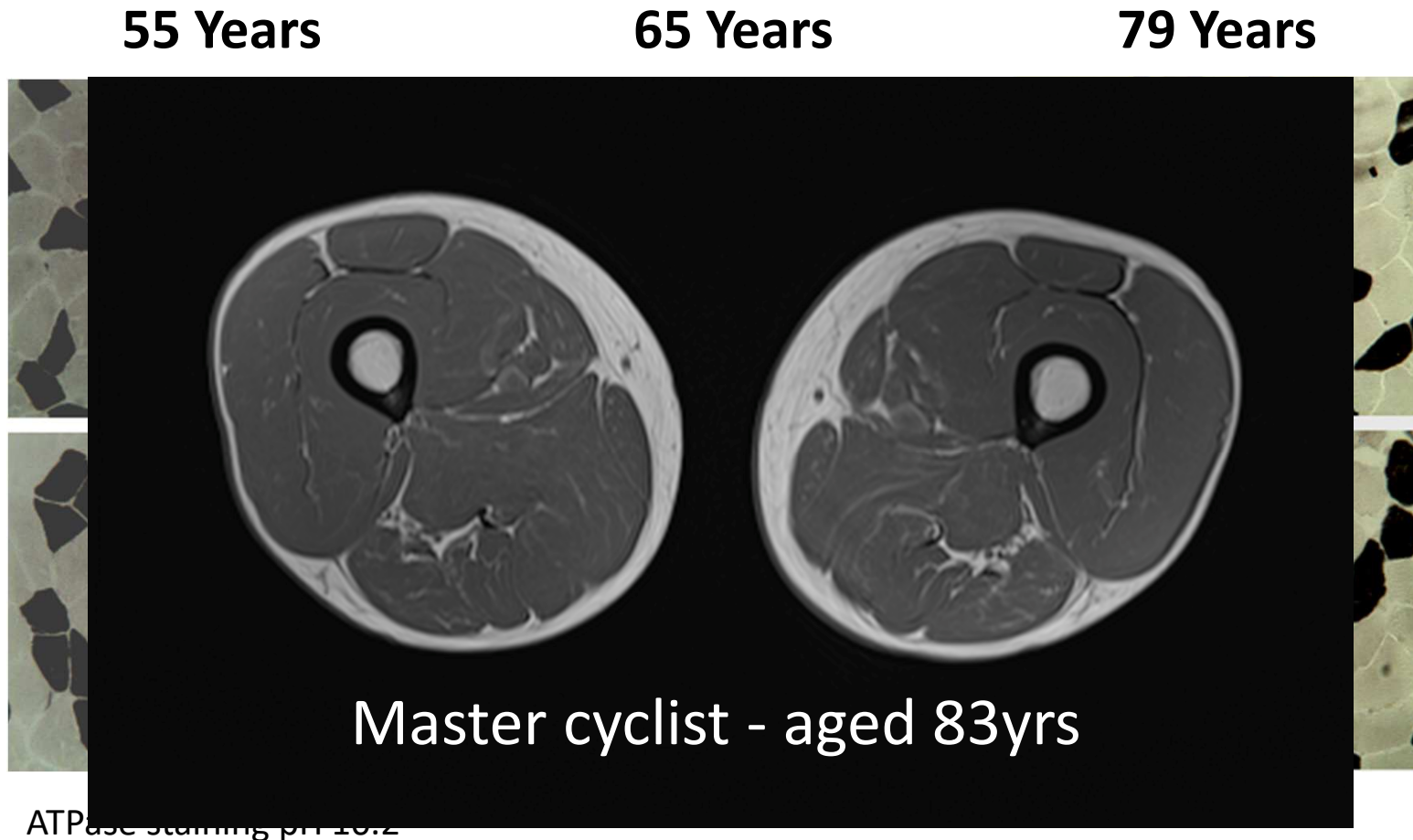


Females ● Males ▽

Pollock *et al.* (2015)  
*Journal of Physiology*



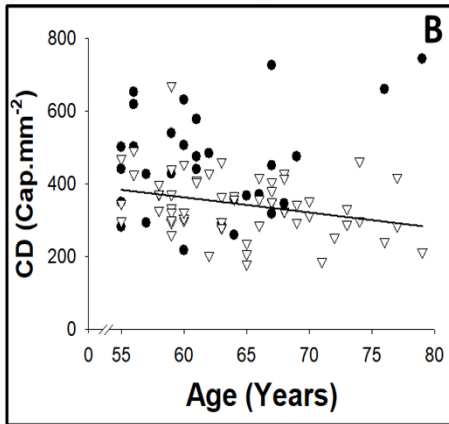
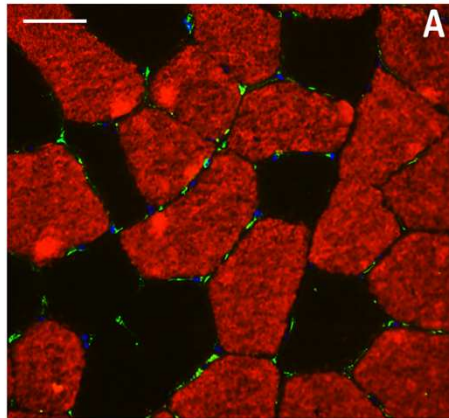
# Muscle morphology showed “young” fibres



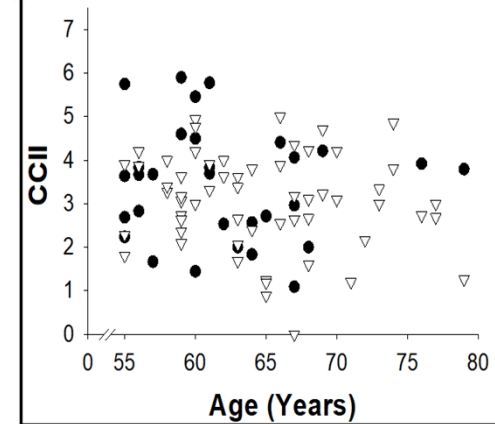
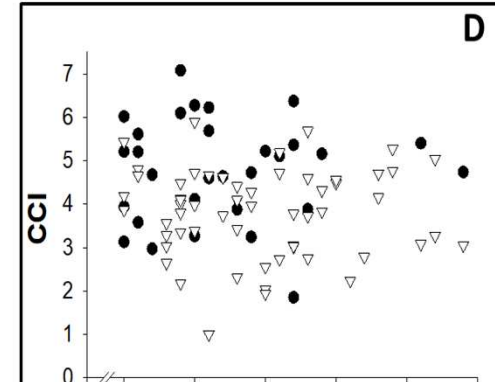
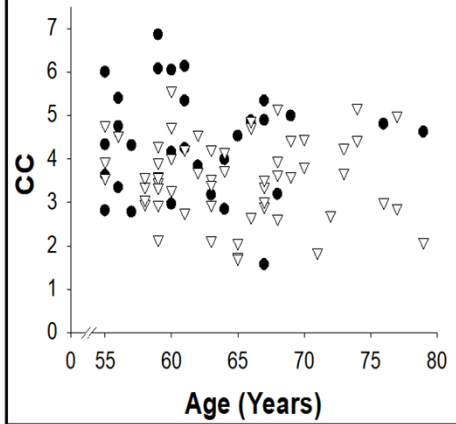
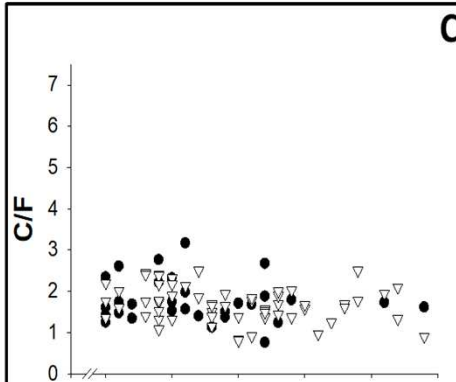
**No correlation between age and  
type 2 fibre area**

Pollock *et al.* (2018)  
*Ageing Cell*

# No age-related ↓ in capillarity\*



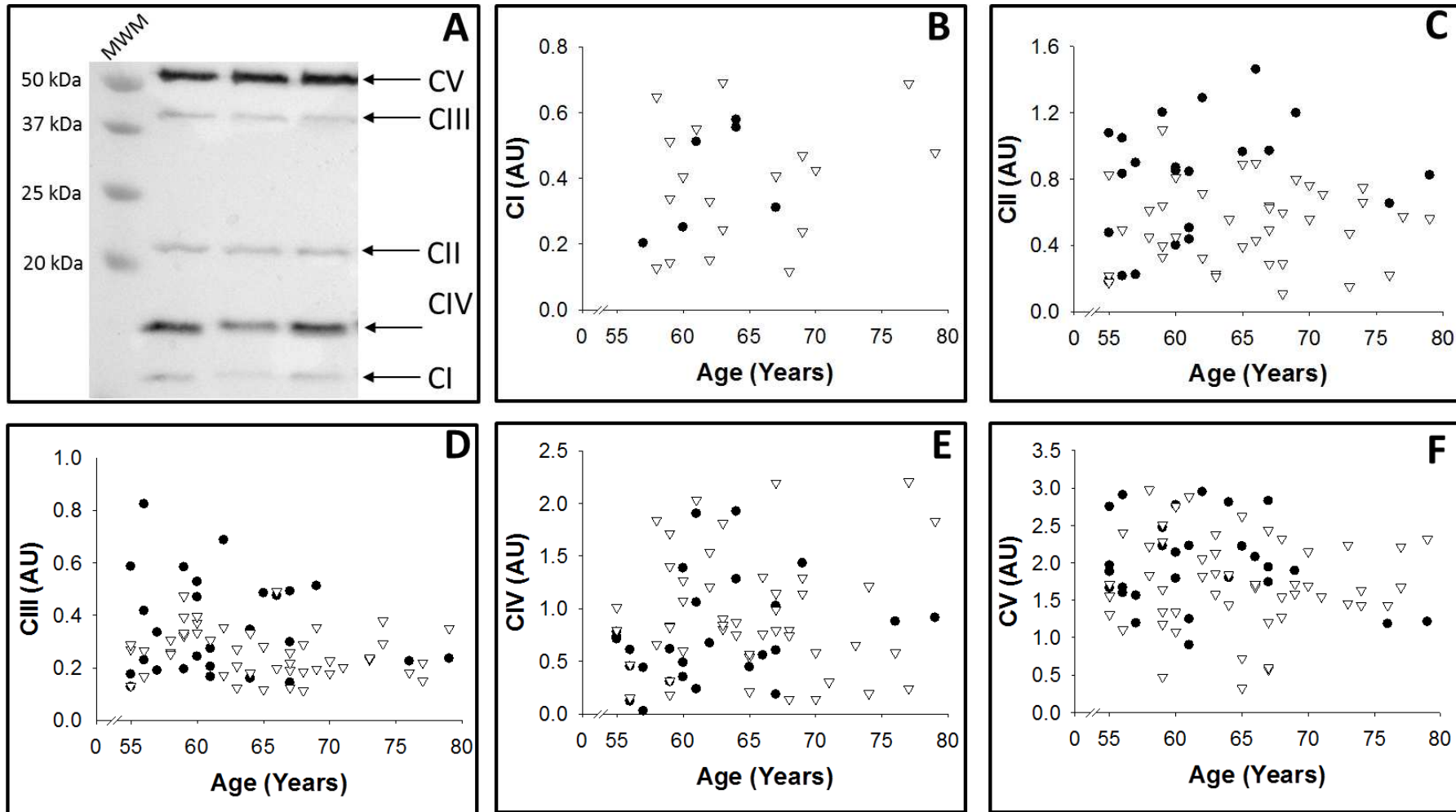
\*In males ( $r^2 = 0.089$ )



Females ● Males ▽

Pollock *et al.* (2018)  
*Ageing Cell*

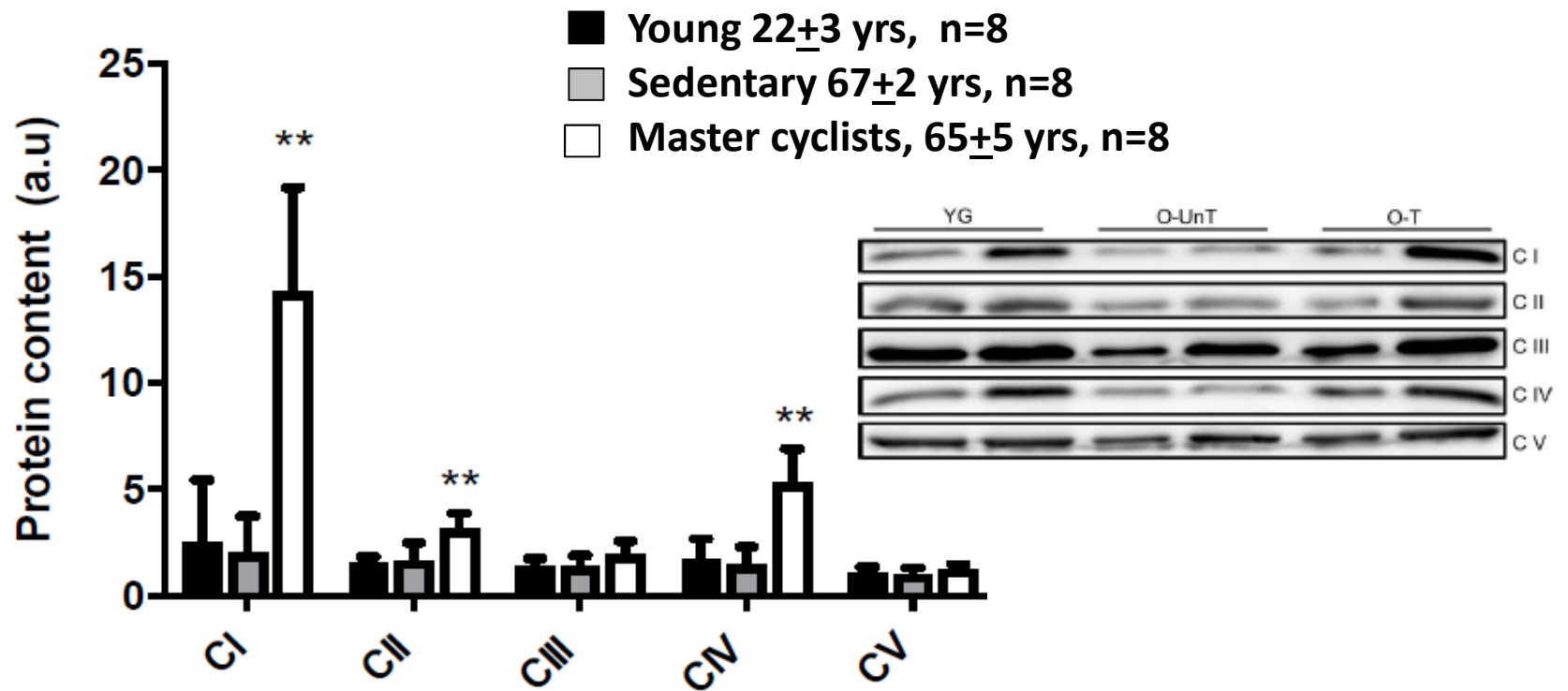
# No age-related ↓ in mitochondrial complex proteins



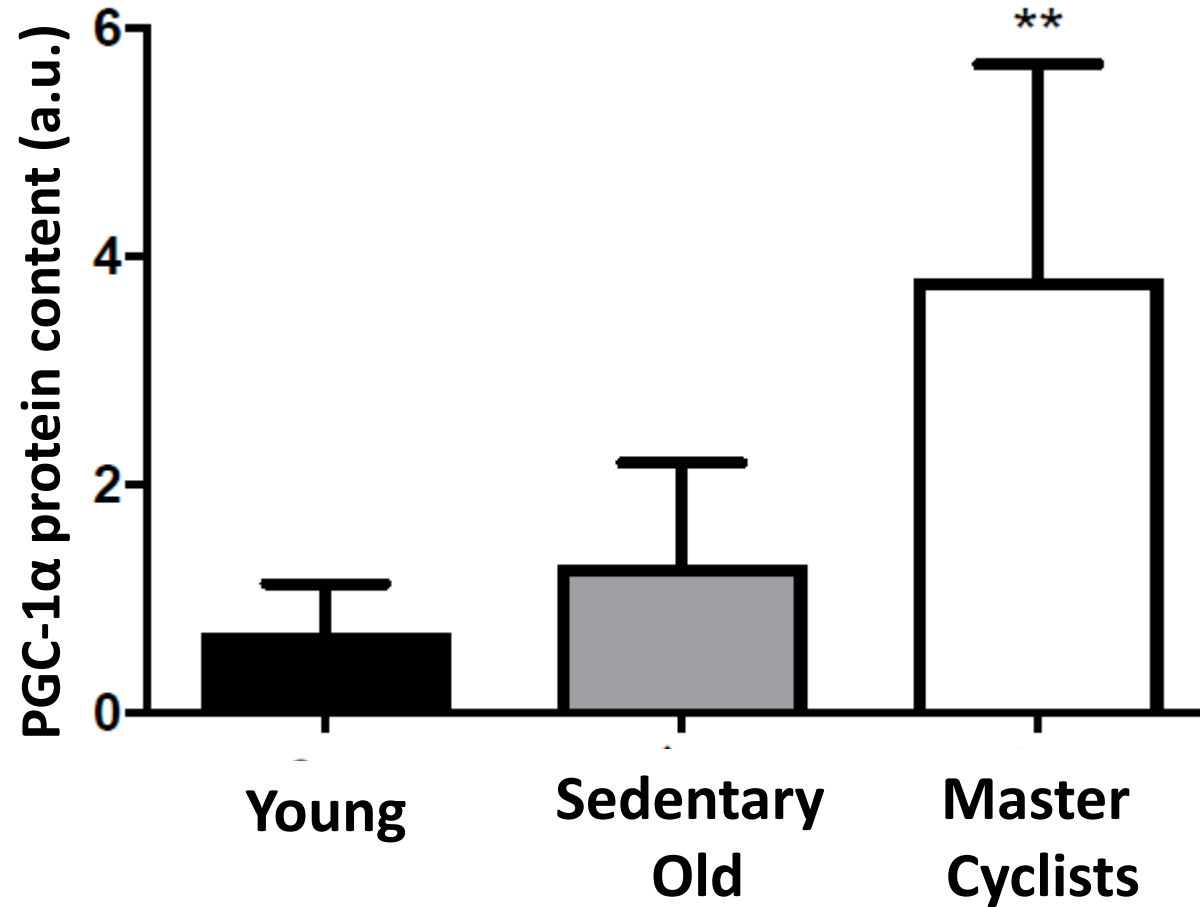
Females ● Males ▽

Pollock *et al.* (2018)  
*Ageing Cell*

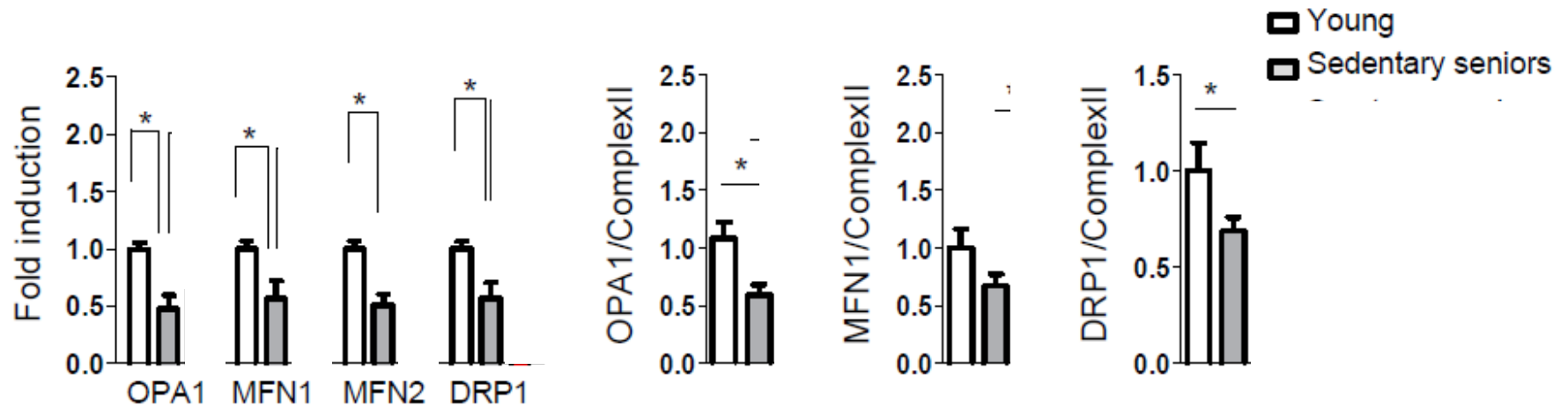
# Higher mitochondrial complex protein content in master cyclists compared to both young and elderly sedentary



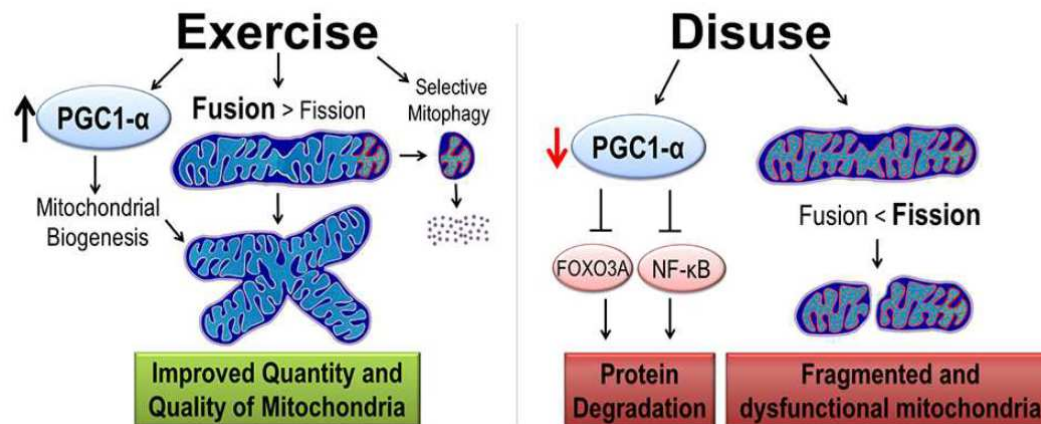
# Higher PGC1- $\alpha$ protein content in master cyclists compared to both young and elderly sedentary



# Mitochondrial fission / fusion – determined more by activity than by age

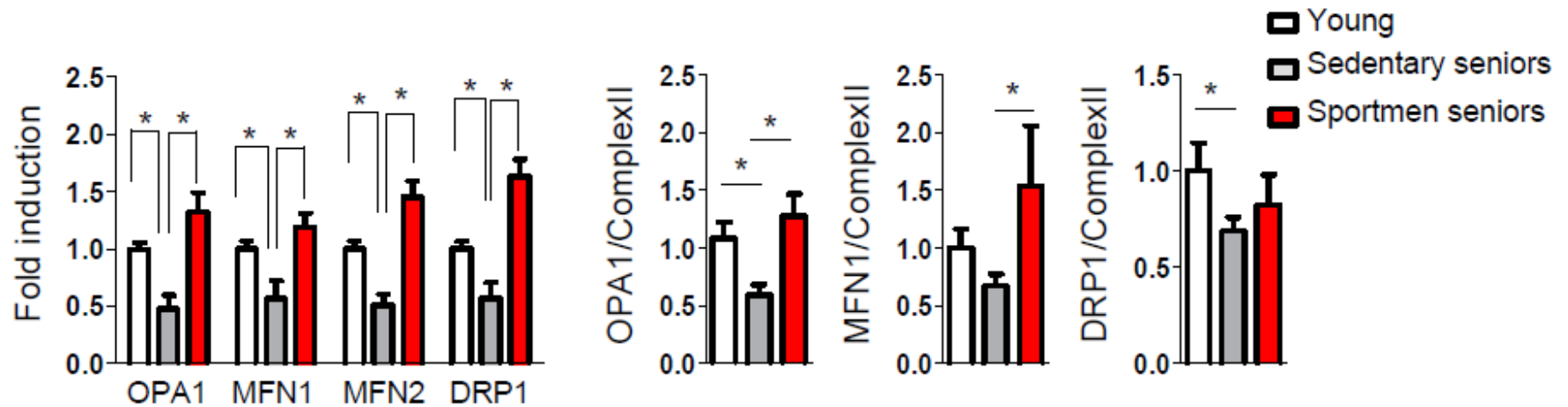


Tezze et al 2017  
Cell Metabolism

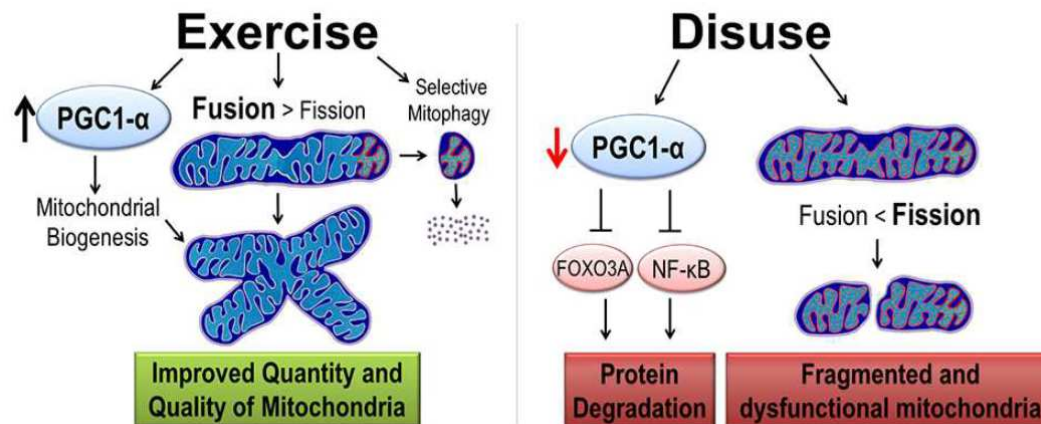


Wigg (2015)

# Mitochondrial fission / fusion – determined more by activity than by age



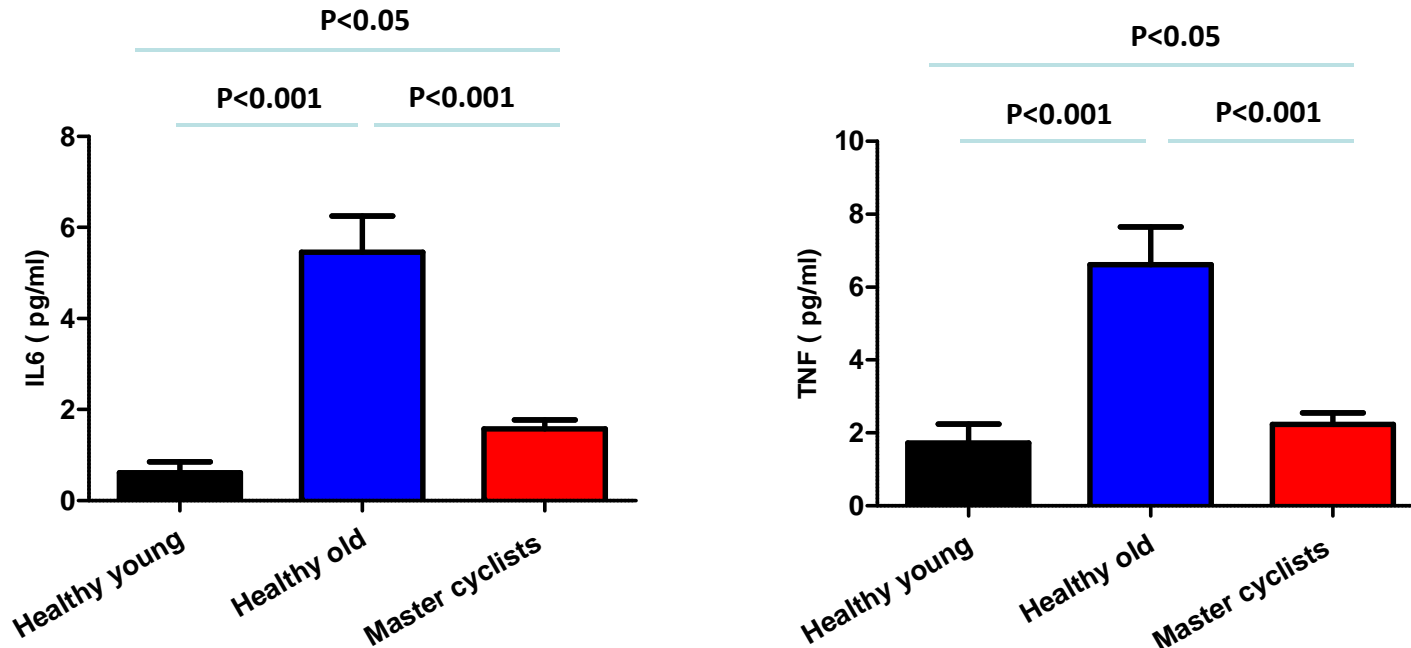
Tezze et al 2017  
Cell Metabolism



Wigg (2015)



# Marked amelioration of “Inflammageing” in master cyclists

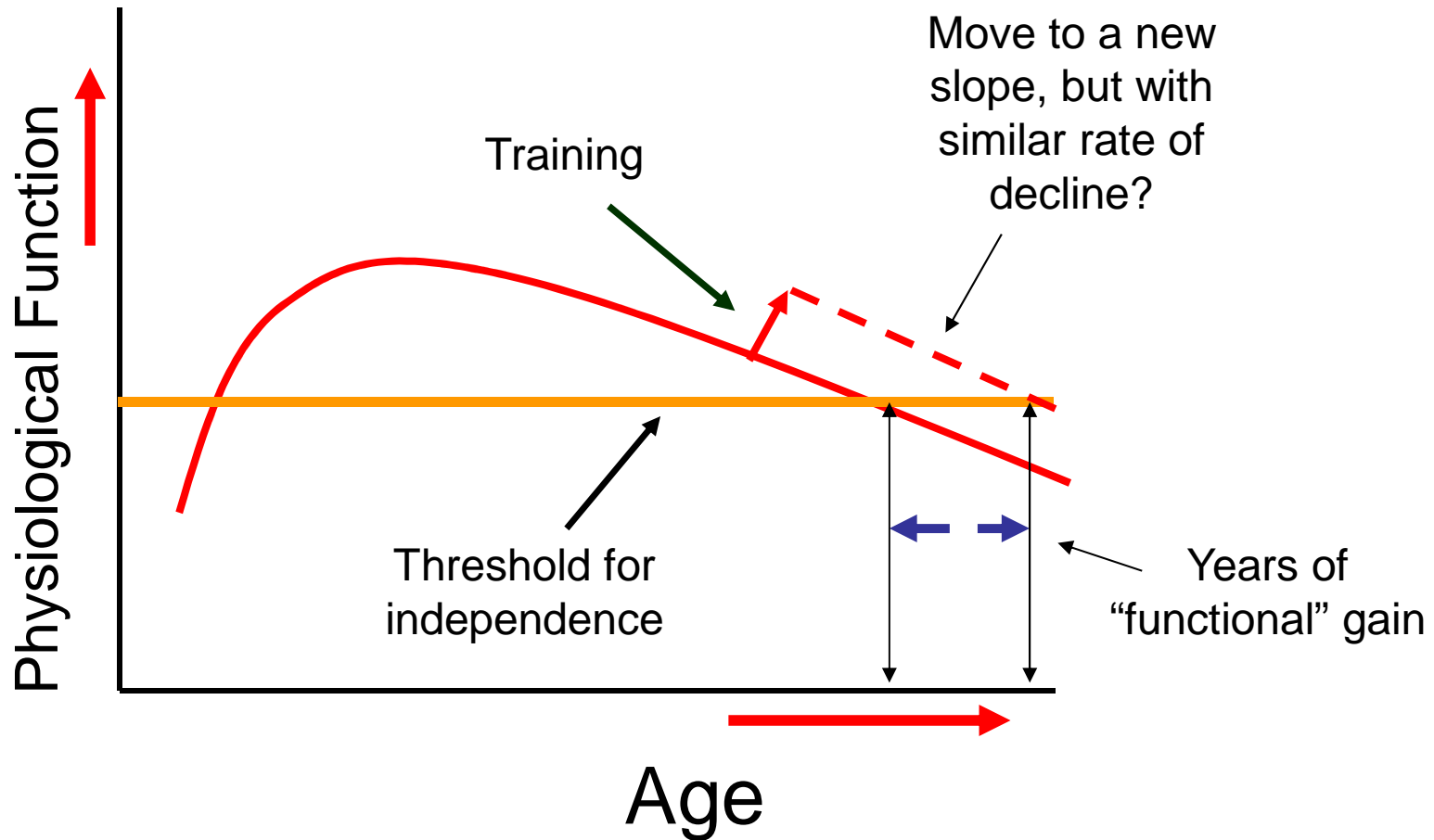


Young 20-36 yrs, n = 55 (30m, 25f)

Healthy Old (sedentary) 57-80yrs, n= 75 (43m, 31f)

Master cyclists 55-79 yrs, n=125 (84m 41f)

# Does exercise (or being a master athlete) prevent or reverse the effects of ageing?



Harridge & Saltin (2007) – Adapted from Young (1995)  
*Encyclopaedia of Gerontology*

# General conclusions

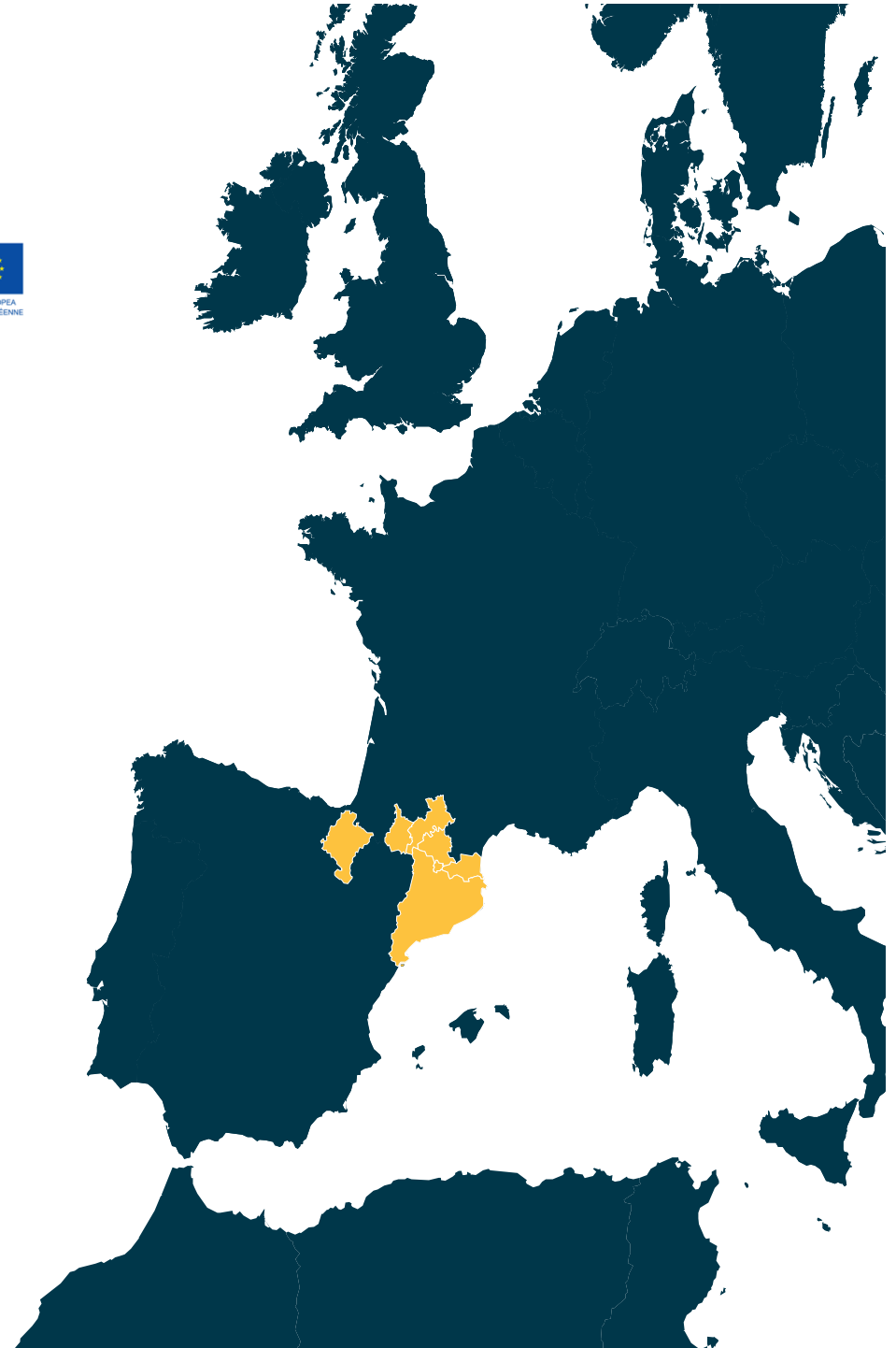
- In most studies of ageing it is not possible to differentiate the effects of ageing from those of inactivity, disuse and pathology
- Older exercisers have generally superior levels of physiological function and global health compared to sedentary - concept of “buying back” years of function
- Physical performance declines even in the elite old (e.g. world records) - this decline accelerates in the eighth decade. Do these records reflect the change in integrative physiology due to ageing?
- However, the gap in muscle mass, contractile and metabolic function between exercisers and the sedentary demonstrates that activity pattern plays a large role in determining the phenotype of the older muscle



¡Gracias! / Merci! / Thank you!

Stephen Harridge

[www.aptitude-net.com](http://www.aptitude-net.com)  
[aptitude@navarra.es](mailto:aptitude@navarra.es)



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Prof Hugh Montgomery  
Prof Kenny Smith  
Prof Phil Atherton

