



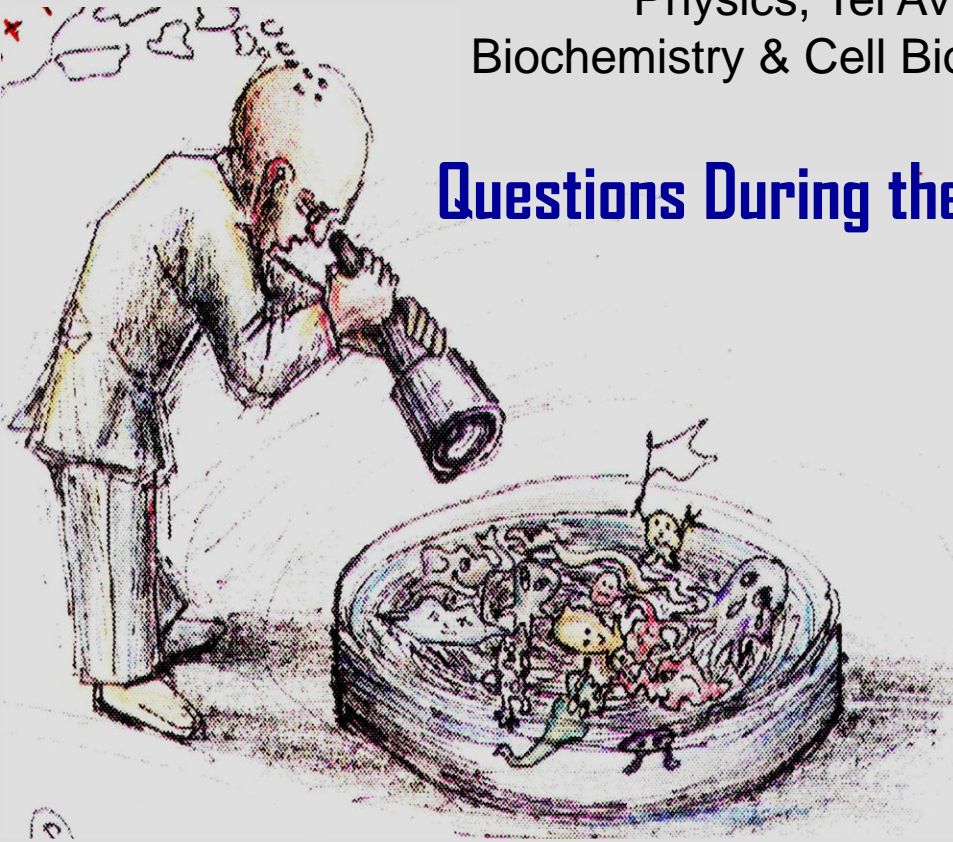
From Bacterial Swarming Logistics to Cancer Metastatic Migration



Eshel Ben-Jacob

Physics, Tel Aviv University
Biochemistry & Cell Biology, Rice University

Questions During the Lecture are Encouraged



KI-Net CSCAMM Workshop , Univ. Maryland, November 5-9, 2012

The Big Challenges

Metastasis Colonization

Dormancy and Relapse

Multiple Drug Resistance

**These most alarming aspects of cancer
are little understood and clinically insuperable**

**Looking at bacterial sociality
as a source of inspiration and suggestion**

Bacterial Survival Strategies Suggest Rethinking Cancer Cooperativity

Ben-Jacob, Coffey, Levine Opinion in *Trends in Microbiology* (2012)

Parallels Between Bacteria and Cancer

Why?



Why is it that cancer, a disease of eukaryotic organisms, shares so many features with a colony of prokaryotes?

A possible resolution to this conundrum comes from the realization that cancer represents an atavistic form of life, which ensues following a breakdown of the regulatory processes that underlie multicellular organization of eukaryotic cells.



This breakdown unlocks 'ancient toolkits' of pre-existing adaptations.

Thus, the cancer cells resort to more fundamental (primitive) survival strategies that have been perfected by bacteria.

Davis and Lineweaver *Phys. Biol.* (2011)

Cancer tumors as Metazoa 1.0: tapping genes of ancient ancestors

Ben-Jacob et al *Trends in Microbiology* (2012)

Collaborations & Acknowledgments

Tel Aviv University

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Tel Aviv University

Gil Ariel

Rice University

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Today

Why Bacteria and Cancer?

Bacterial Swarming Logistics & Cancer Cell Migration

Reflections on Cancer Selection of navigation Strategy

Reflections on "Cyber Warfare" against cancer

Today

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Bacterial Drug Resistance #1 World Health Problem

Why?

The Wisdom of the Crowd

A scene from Star Wars showing several AT-AT walkers in a desert landscape. The walkers are large, four-legged mechanical vehicles with a boxy body and a small cockpit. They are standing on a sandy, hilly terrain under a clear blue sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day. The walkers are arranged in a line, with some in the foreground and others in the background, creating a sense of depth.

The Bacteria Strike Back

Cooperative Behavior

Task Distribution and Cell Differentiation

Sharing Resources and Risks

Learning from Experience

Collective Decisions

Changing the Environment

Planning for the Future

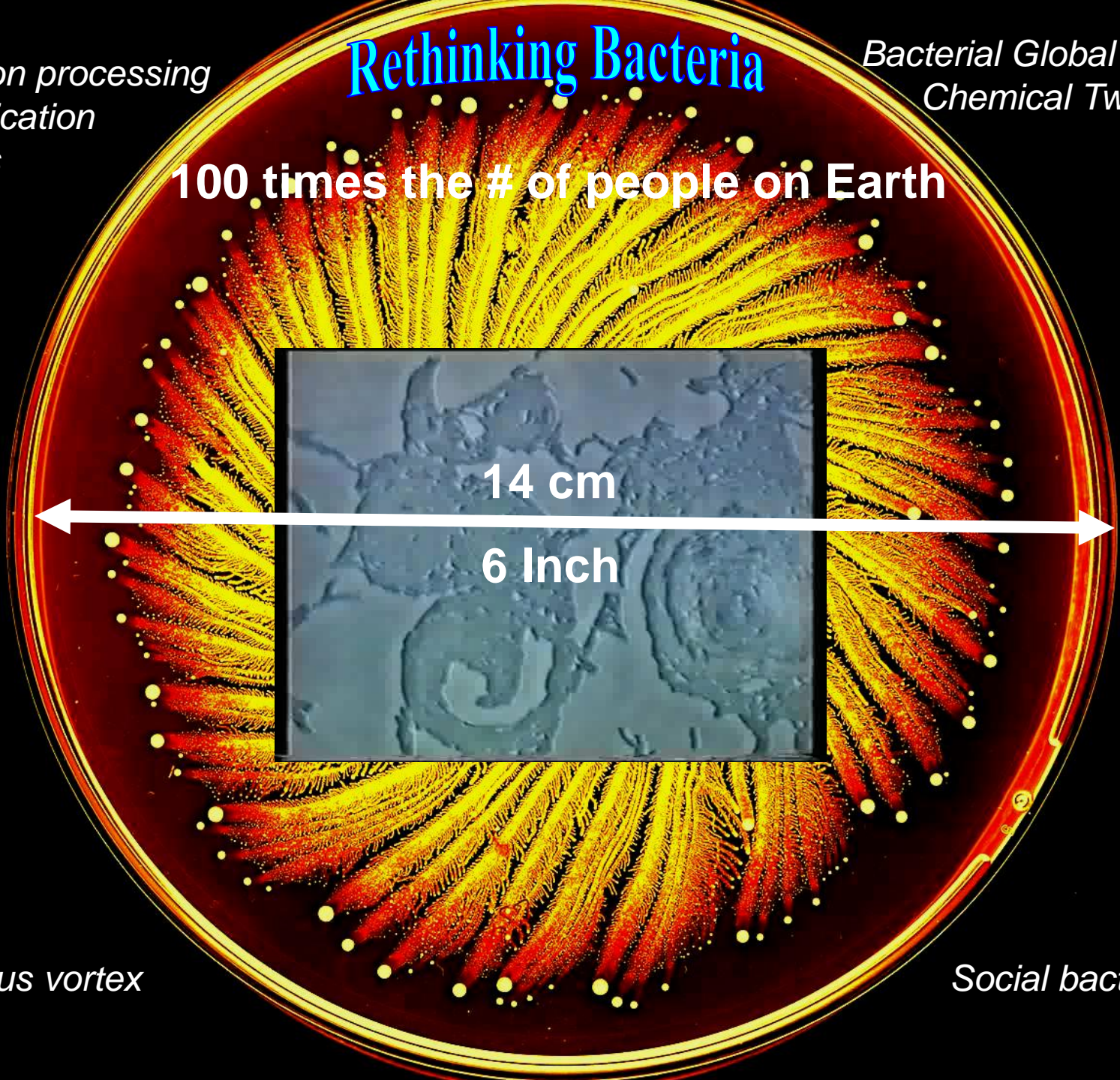
Ben-Jacob, *Roy. Soci.* 2003 ;
Ben-Jacob, et al *Trends in Microbiology* 2004 , 2012

Sensing
Information processing
Communication
Decisions

Rethinking Bacteria

Bacterial Global Village
Chemical Twittering

100 times the # of people on Earth

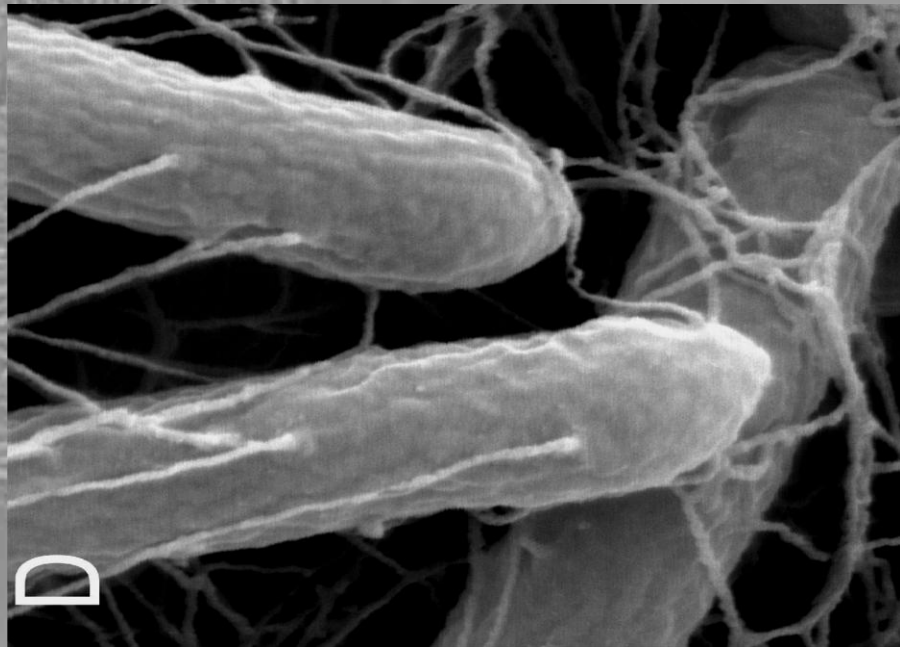
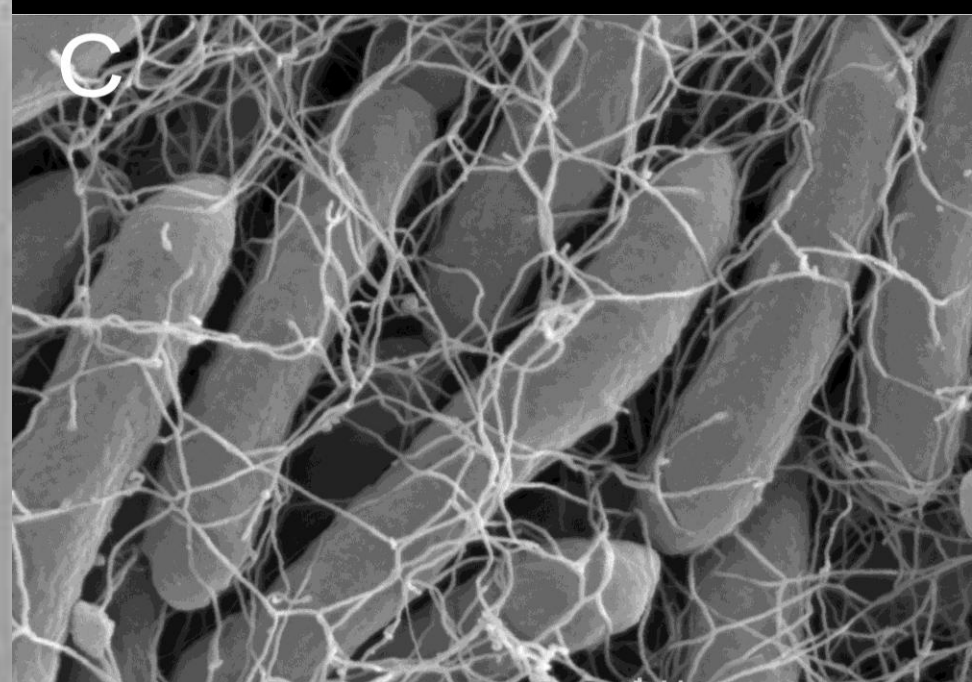
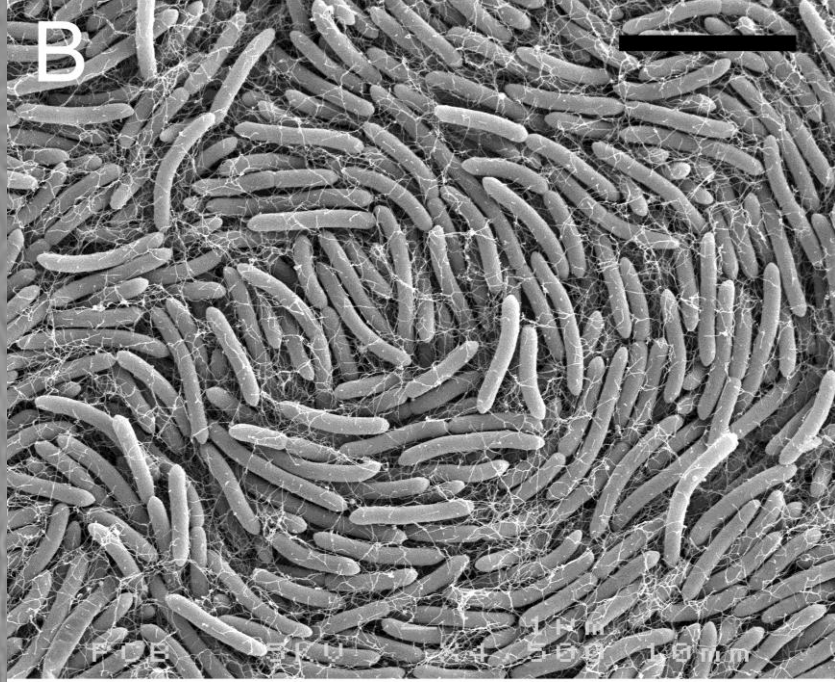


14 cm

6 Inch

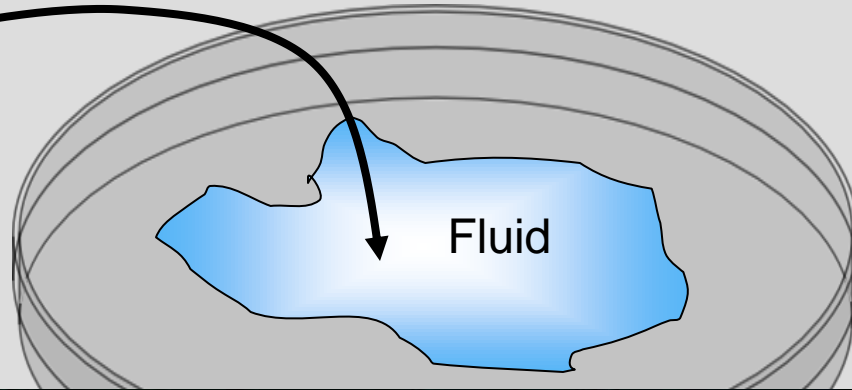
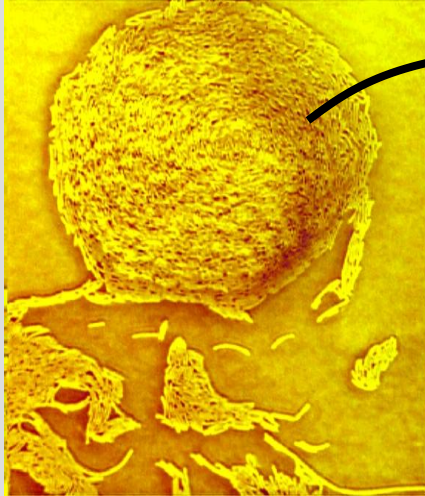
Paenibacillus vortex

Social bacteria



Variability of cells composing a vortex

Breaking a vortex and let the cells move

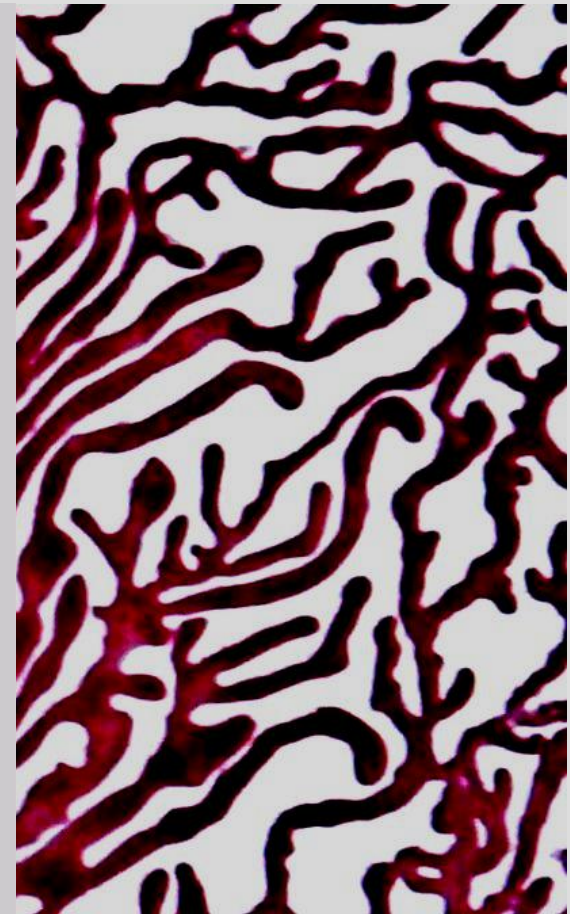
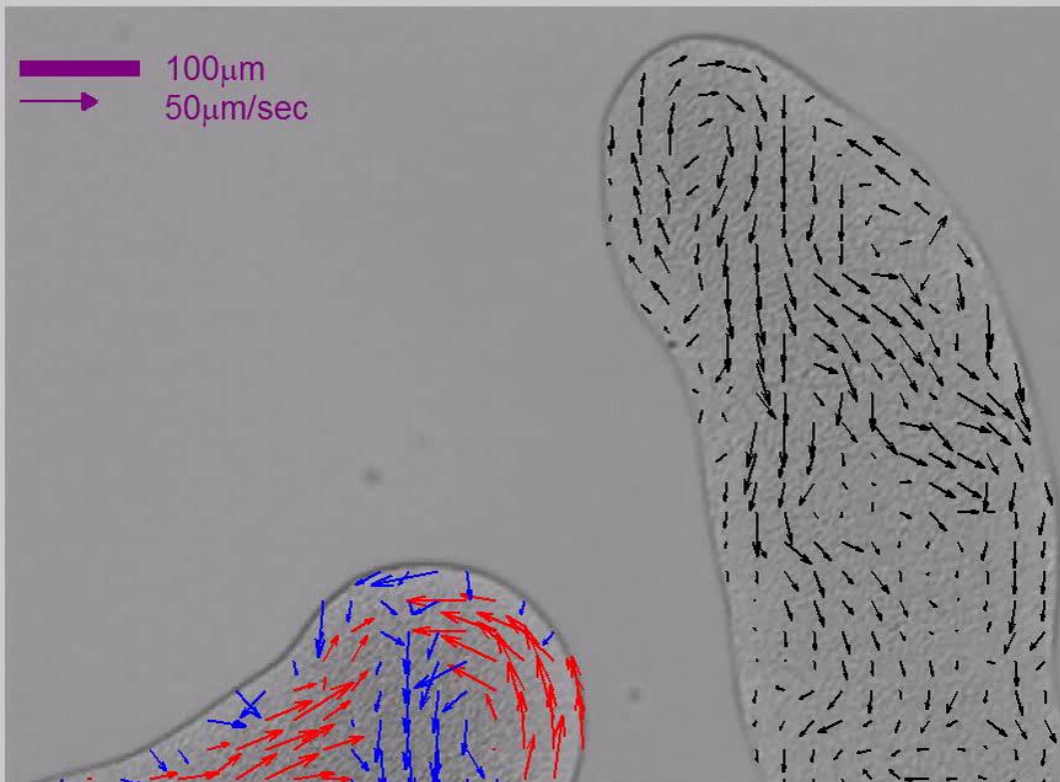


Searching for New Territories

With Ingham, Kalishman and Finkelstein, PNAS 2011
With Ariel, Shklarsh, Ingham, Finkelstein, Interface 2012



experiment - two branches repelling



Searching for New Territories

Collective Navigation

Task Distribution and Cell Differentiation

Explorers

Builders



Paenibacillus vortex

With Ingham, BMC Microbiology 2009

With Ingham, Kalishman and Finkelstein, PNAS 2011

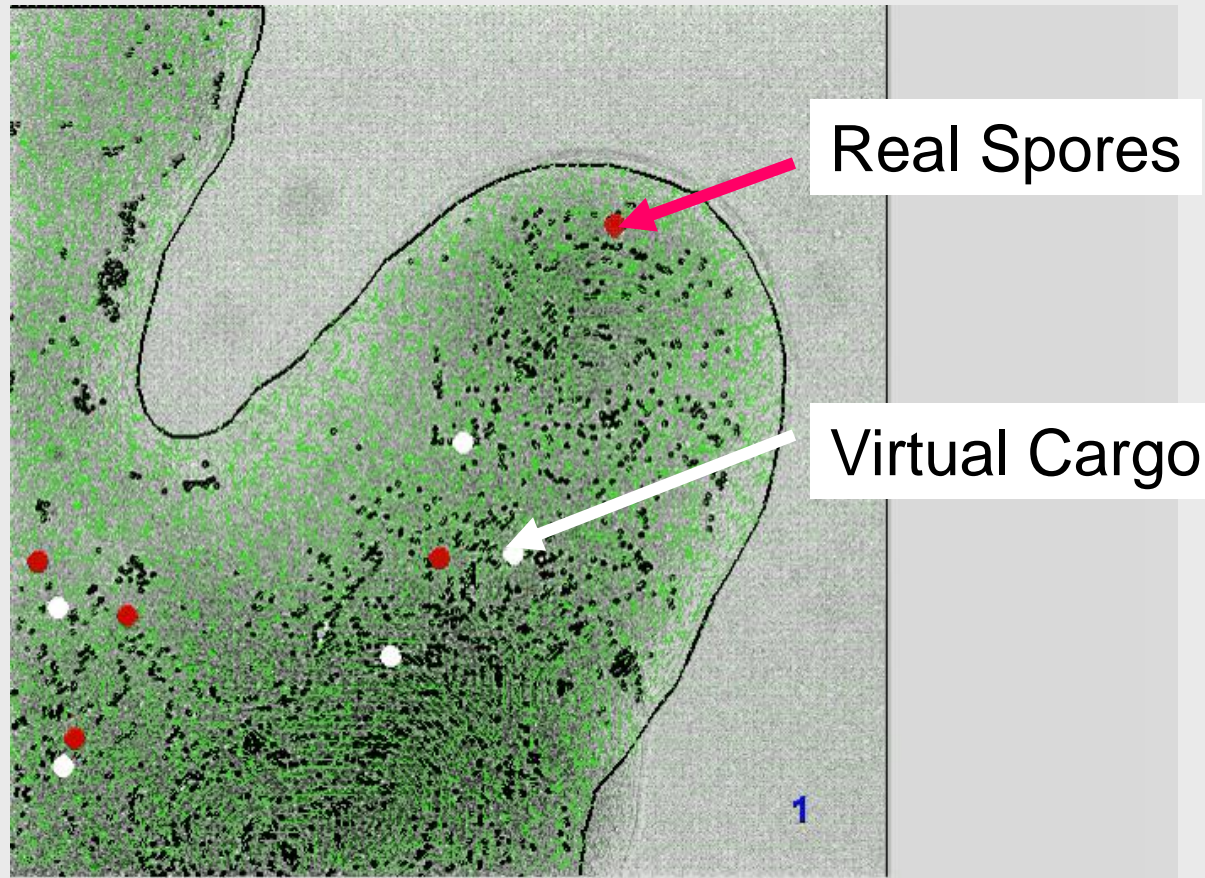
With Ariel, Shklarsh, Ingham, Finkelstein, Interface 2012

Swarming Intelligence

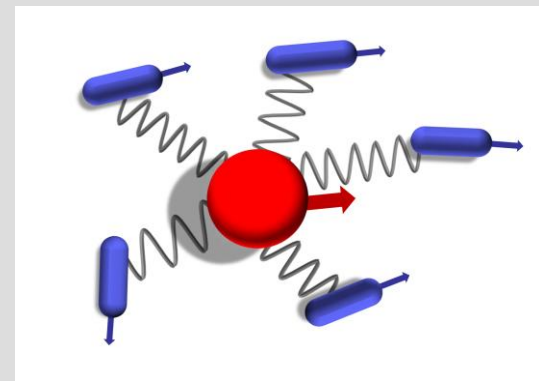
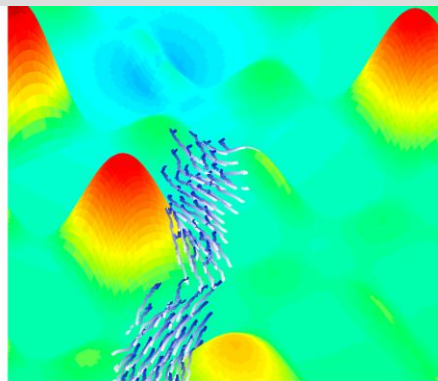
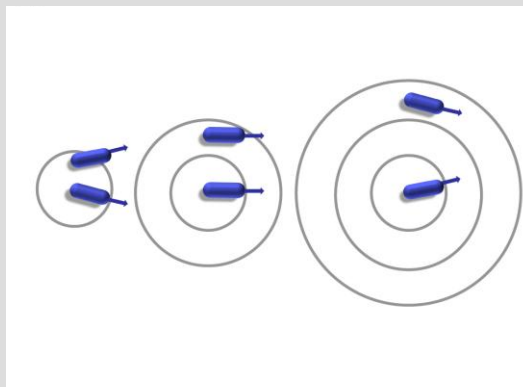
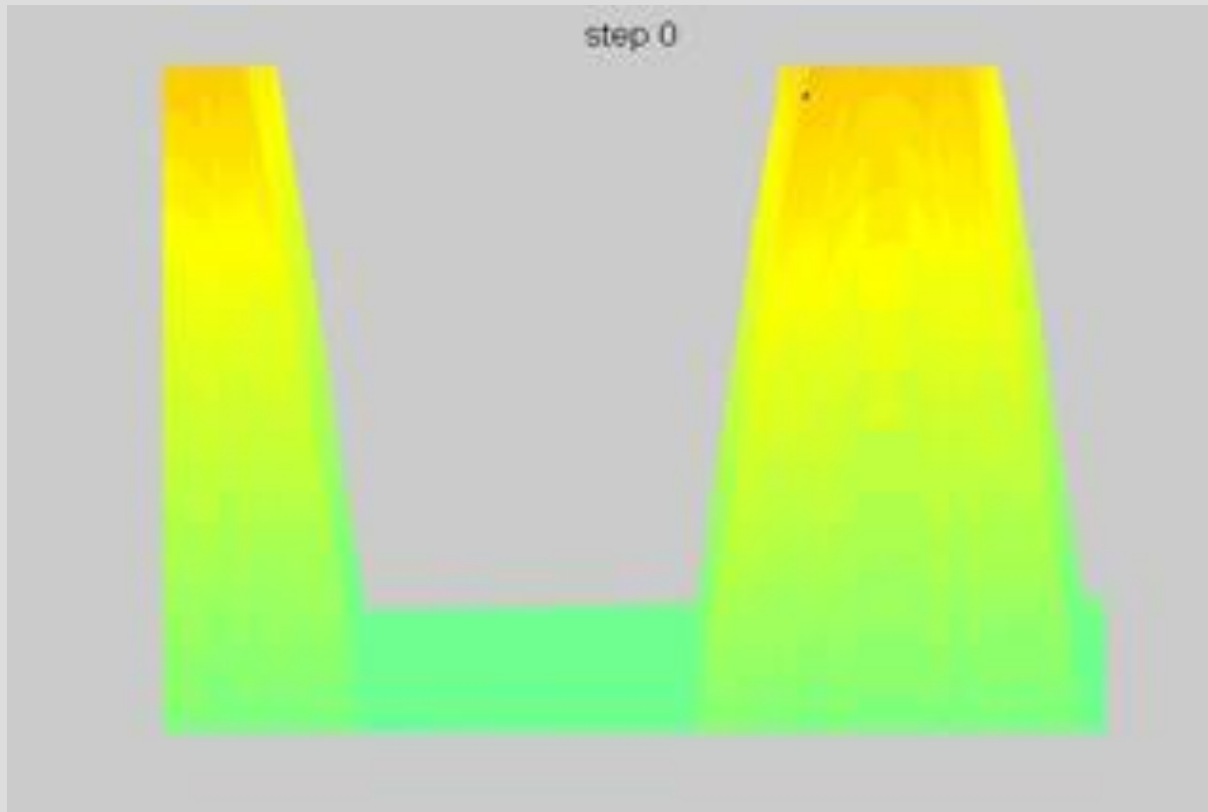


Hitching a Ride with Bacteria

Fungal spores hitching a ride on bacterial swarms
Bacteria use the fungal mycelia as natural bridges

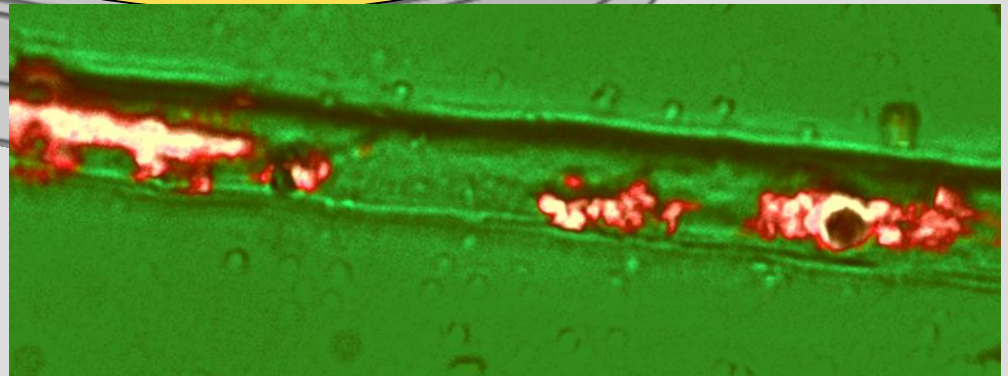
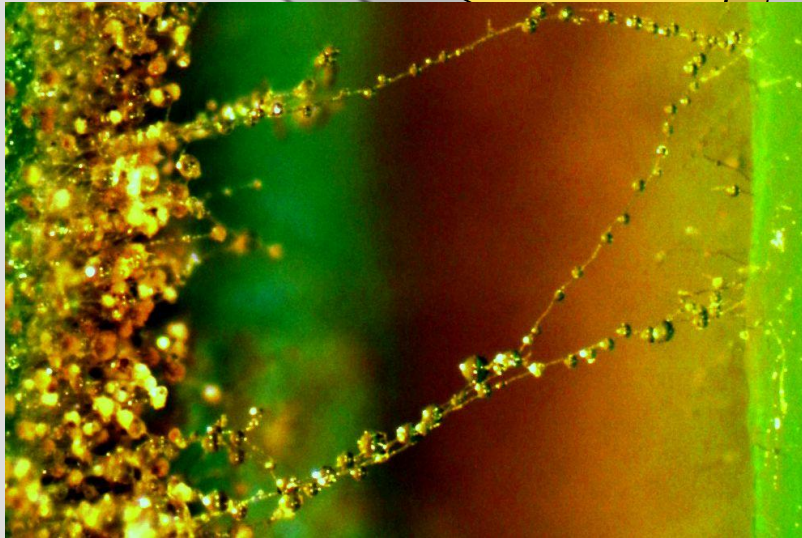
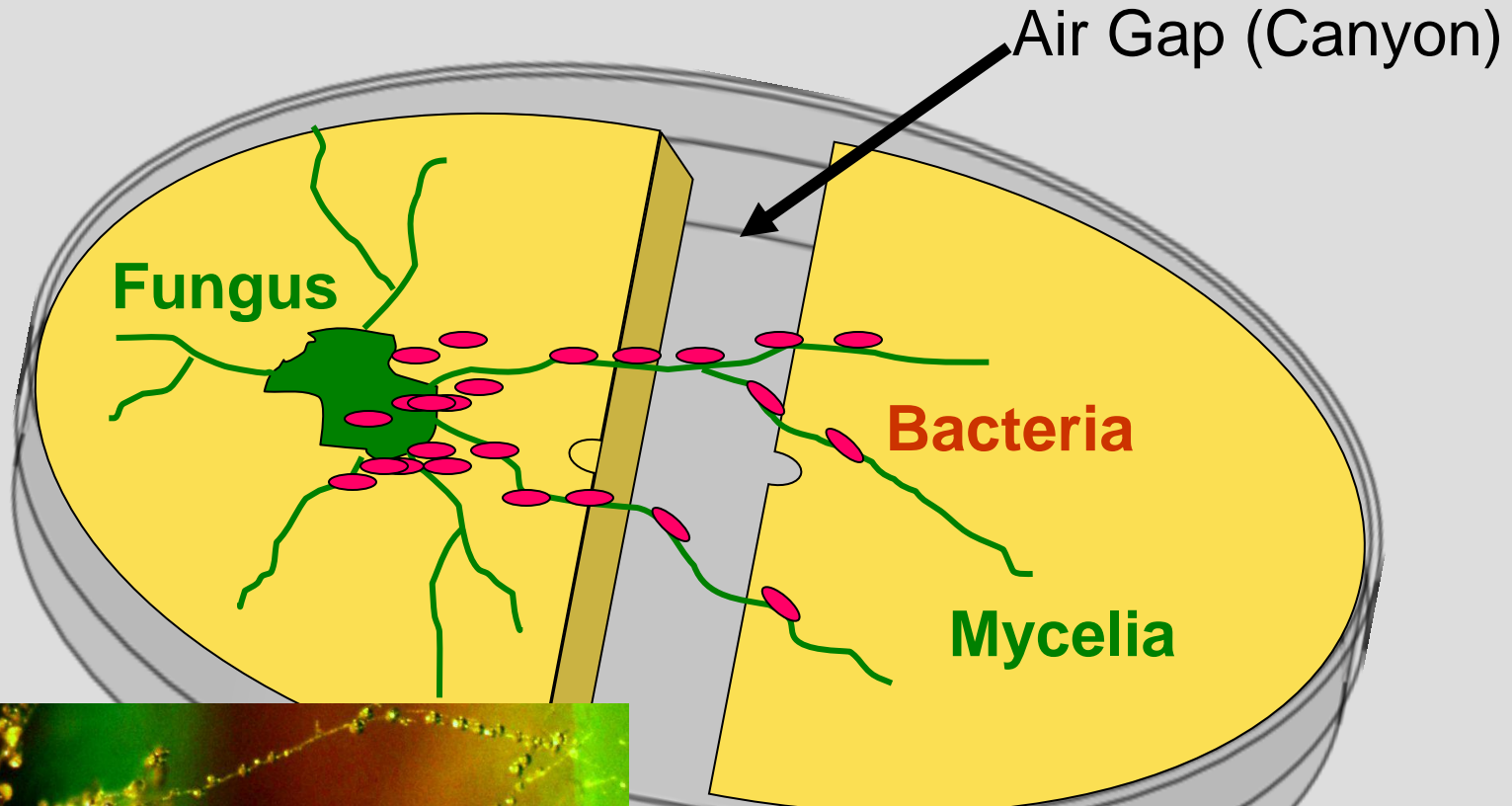


With Ingham, Kalishman and Finkelstein, PNAS 2011
With Ariel, Shklarsh, Ingham, Finkelstein, Interface 2012



With Adi Shklarsh, Alin Finkelstein, Gil Ariel, Oren Kalisman Colin Ingham
Roy Soci INTERFACE (2012 to be published)

The Bacteria Benefit



Today

Why Bacteria and Cancer?

Bacterial Swarming Logistics & Cancer Cell Migration

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Reflections on "Cyber Warfare" against cancer

Parallels Between Bacteria and Cancer

Rapid proliferation

High Phenotypic Variability
(Genetic&Epigenetic Plasticity)

Advanced Motility and Navigation

Rapid development of drug resistance

Dormancy (sporulation) and relapse (germination)

Capacity to Decoy the immune system

Cooperative behaviors

Deisboeck and Couzin *BioEssays* (2009)

Collective behavior in cancer cell populations

Austin et al Perspective in *Nature Reviews Cancer* (2011)

An Analogy Between the Evolution of Drug Resistance in Bacterial Communities and Malignant Tissues

Ben-Jacob, Coffey, Levine *Trends in Microbiology* (2012)

Bacterial Survival Strategies Suggest Rethinking Cancer Cooperativity



Why Advanced Communication?



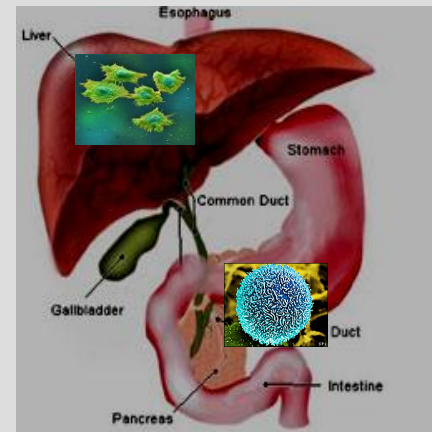
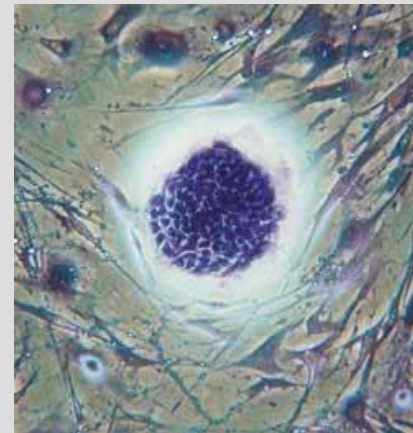
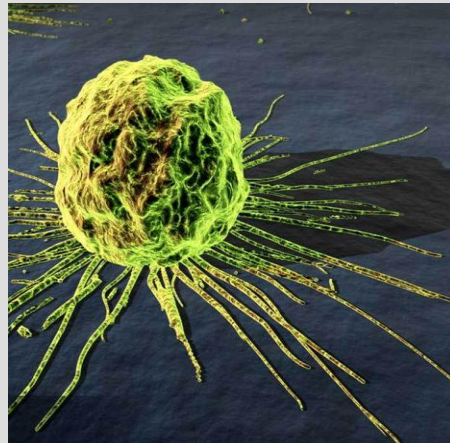
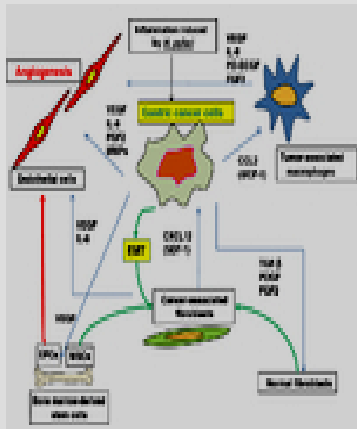
Collectively regulated innate plasticity (phenotypic, epigenetic and genetic diversification) is a key strategy shared by bacteria and cancer cells.

1. Coordination of heterogenic population requires linguistic plasticity
2. Decoy of the immune system
3. Enslaving stromal cells



Bridging the Gap and Closing the Loop

Intracellular \longleftrightarrow Cellular \longleftrightarrow Multicellular \longleftrightarrow Metacommunity



Advanced Communication

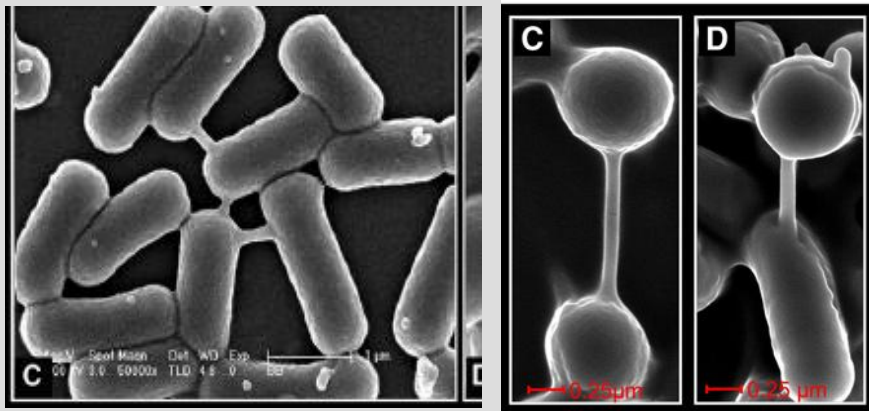
Physical interactions

Chemical signaling

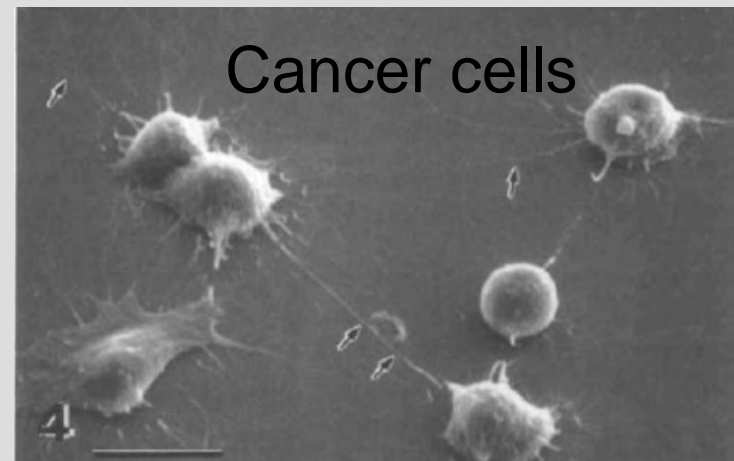
Exchange of genetic information - Exosomes

Gap junctions and Nanotubes
(calcium waves? electrical signals?)

Bacteria

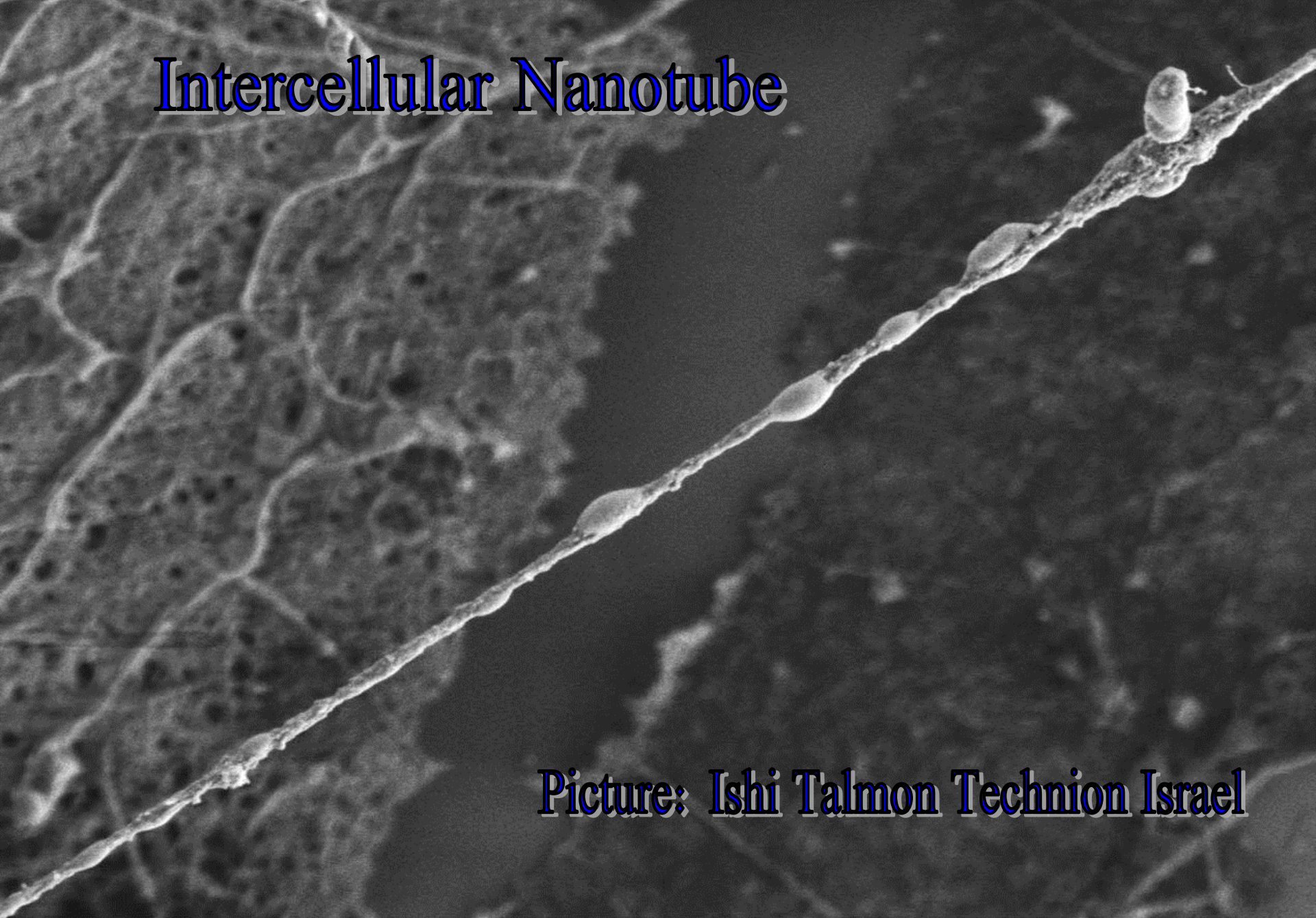


Dubey and Ben-Yehuda Cell 2011



Gilloteaux et al SCANNING (1998)

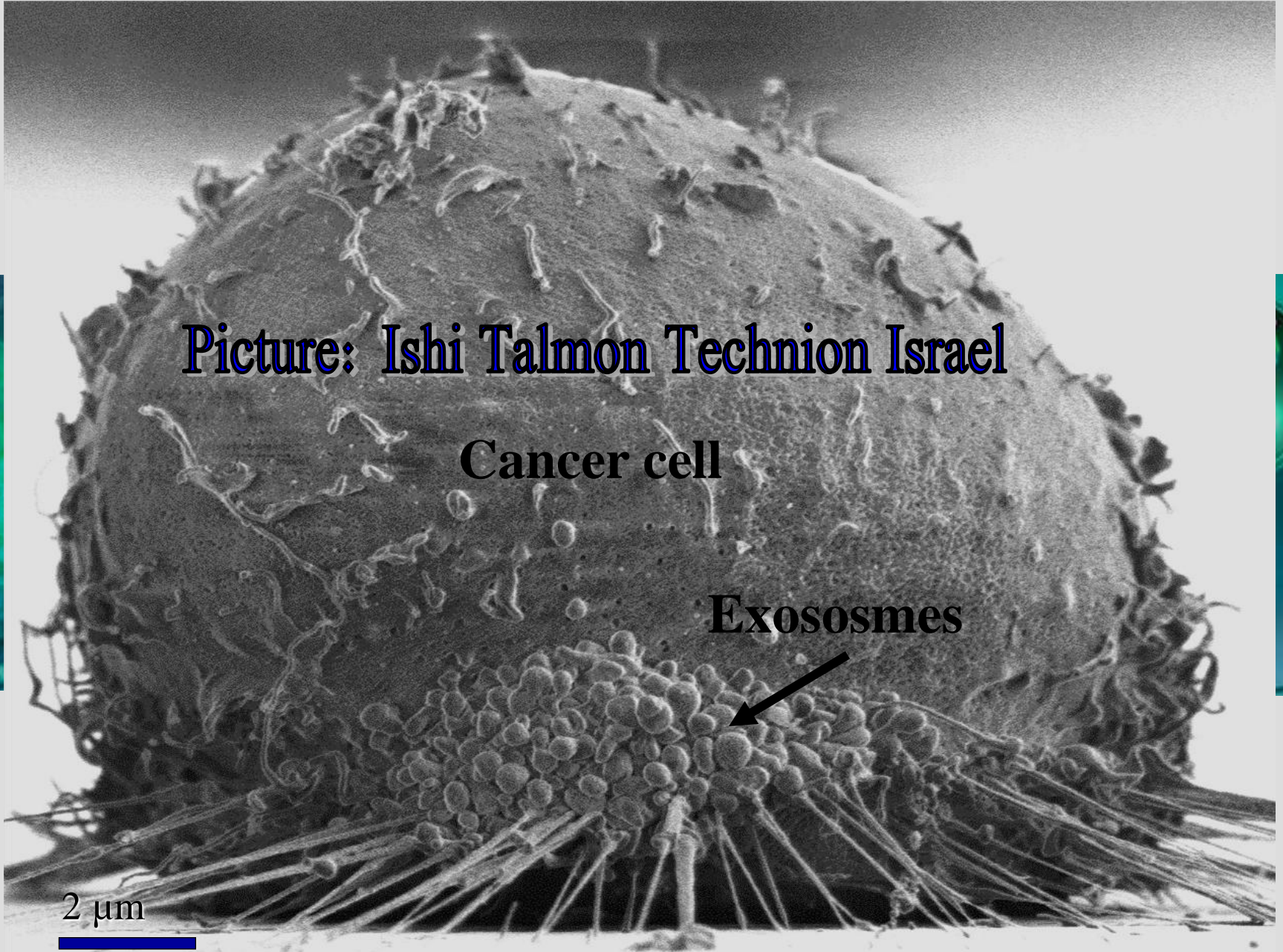
Intercellular Nanotube



Picture: Ishi Talmon Technion Israel



Exosomes: A new dimension in cell-cell communication



Picture: Ishi Talmon Technion Israel

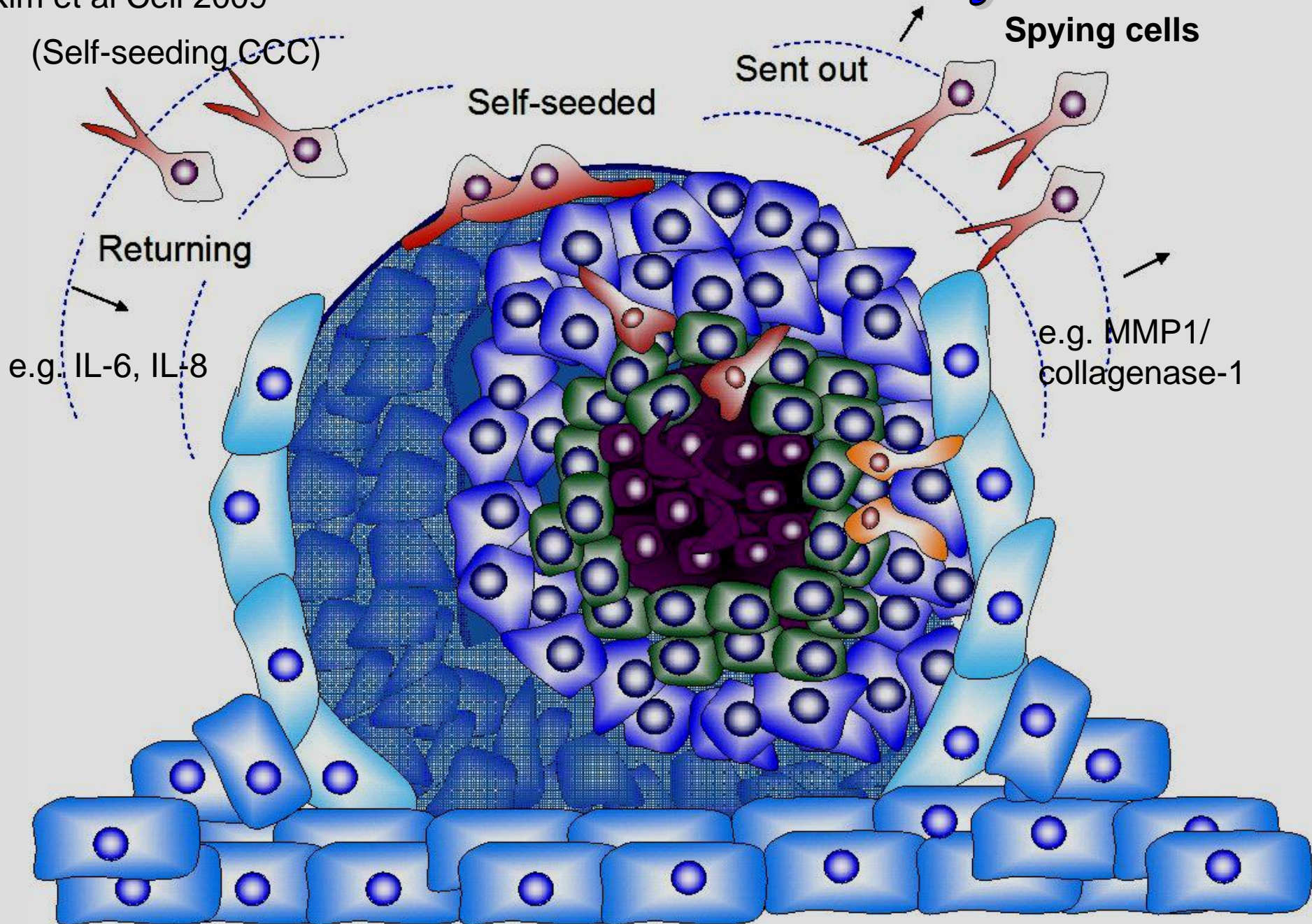
Cancer cell

Exosomes

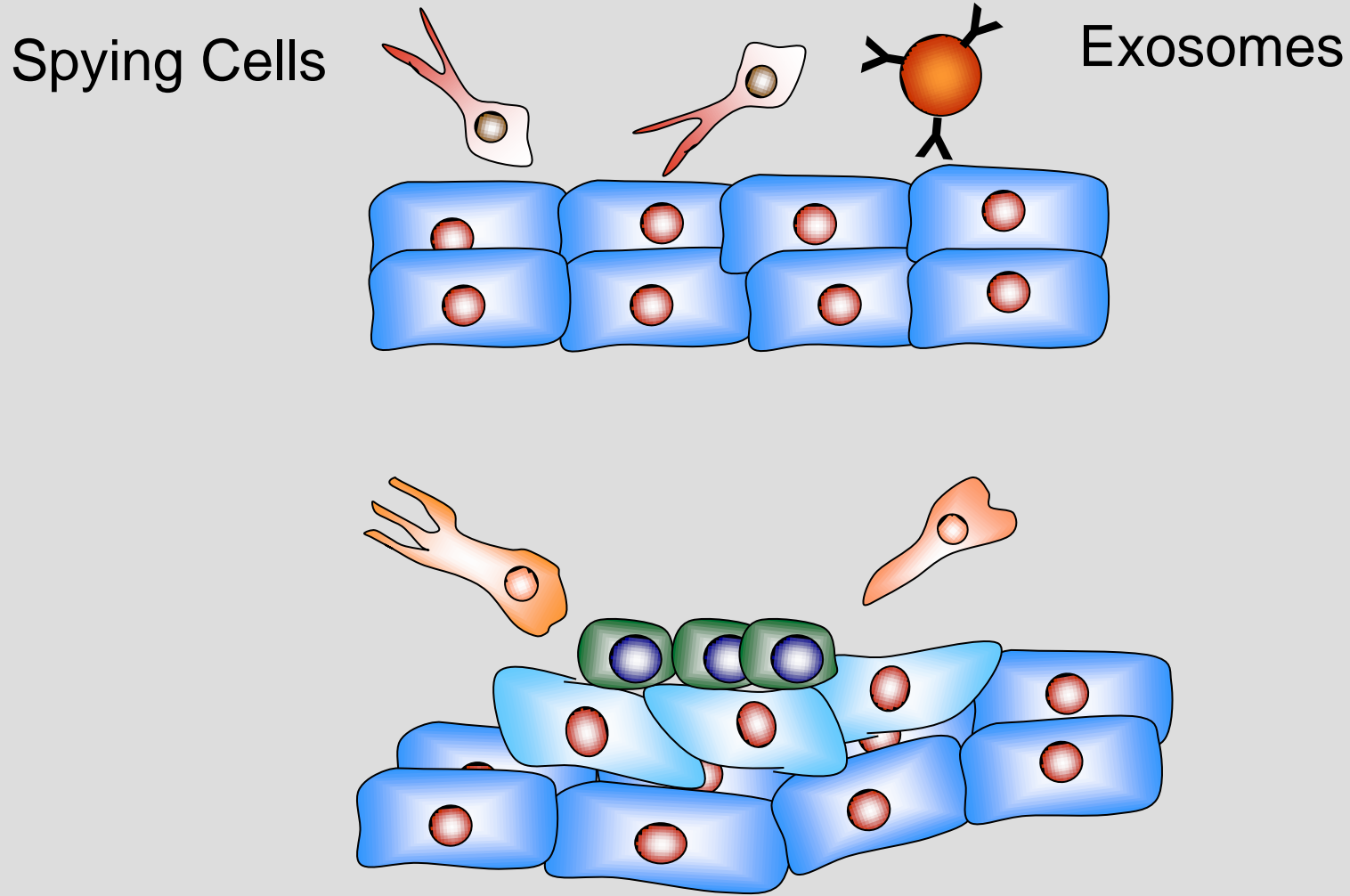
2 μm

The Tumor Community

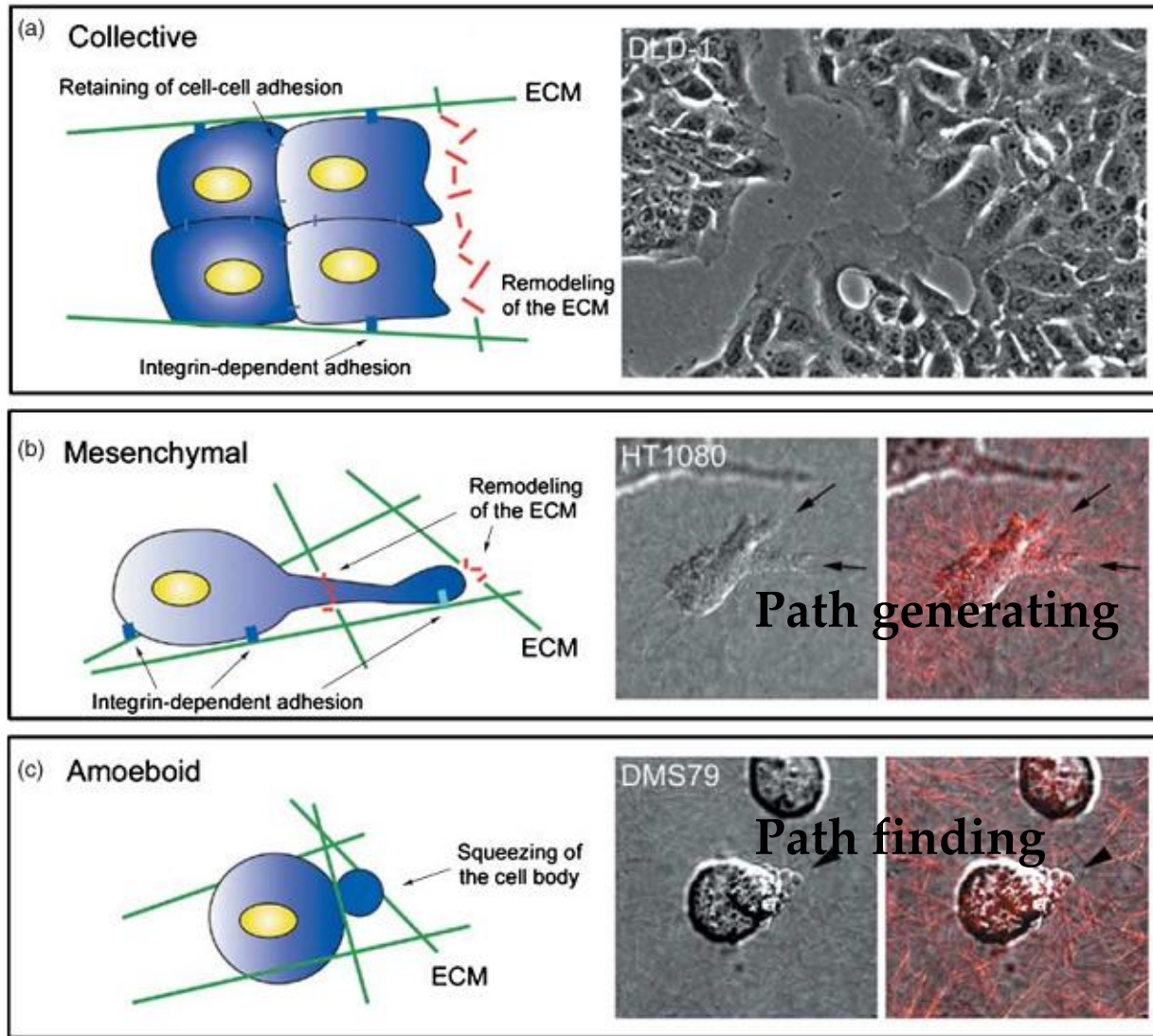
Kim et al Cell 2009



Selecting and Preparing the Niche



Cancer Navigation Strategies



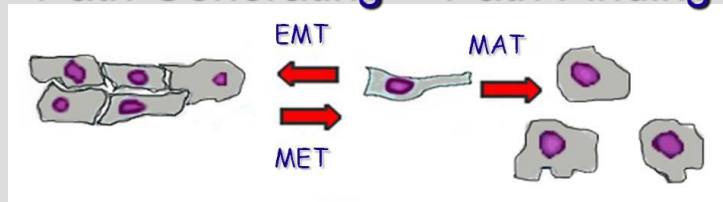
Yamazaki, Kurisu & Takenawa, Cancer Sci 96, 379 (2005)

Collective Migration

HGF/SF Induced collective motility

Work in progress with Assaf Zaritsky and Ilan Tsarfaty

Path Generating Path Finding



Collective Motility



mal cell Transi
elial cell Transi
boidal cell Transi

No HGF/SF

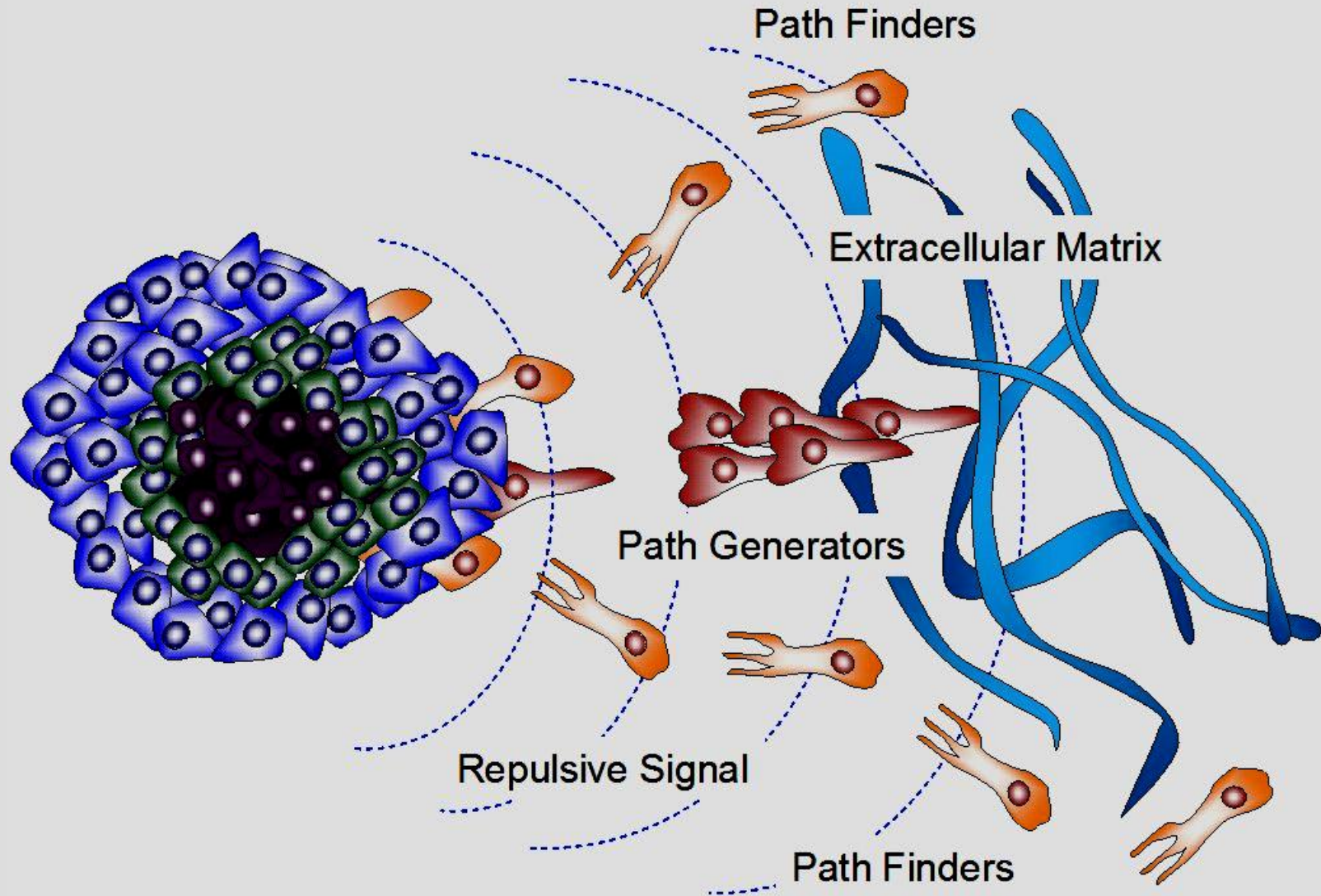
Wound healing-like assay

With HGF/SF

100 μ m

100 μ m

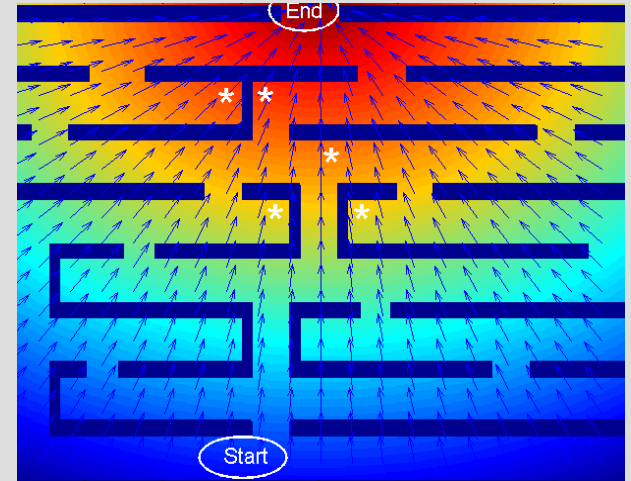
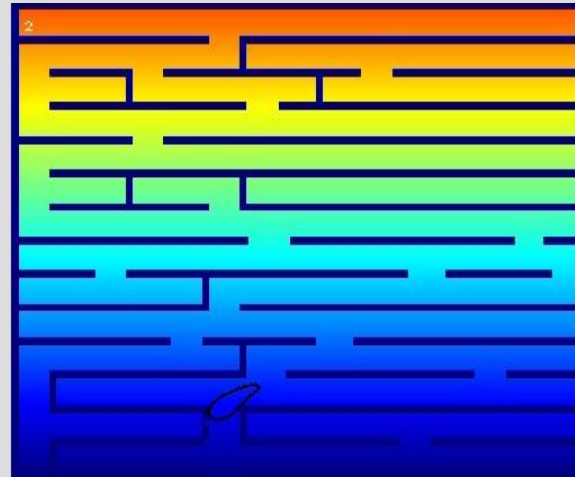
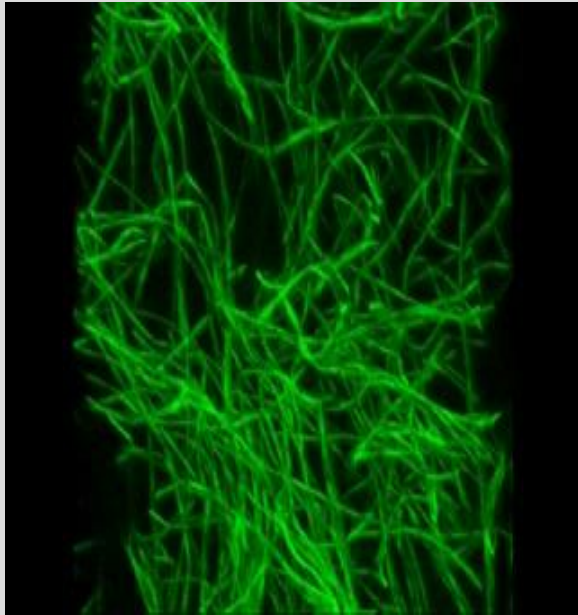
Cancer Navigation Strategies



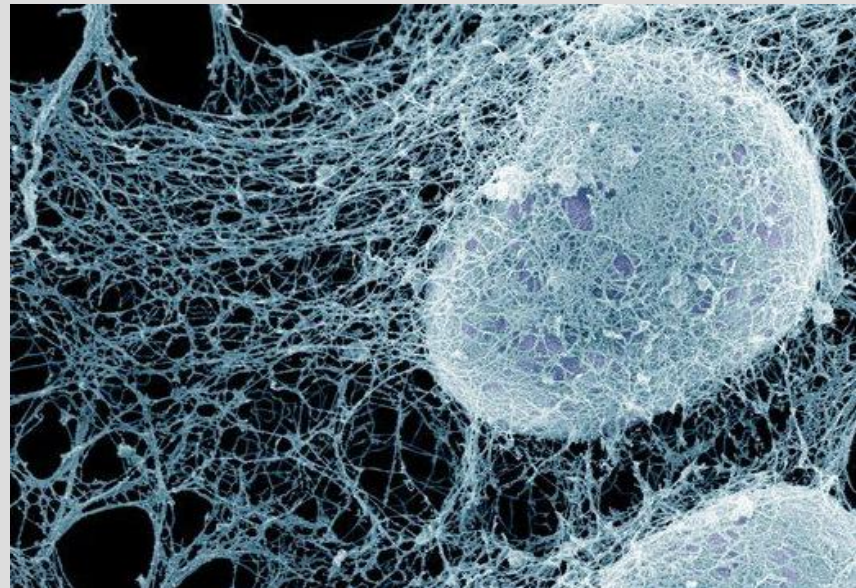
The ECM as a Maze

Chemical signaling

Attractive – from blood vessels



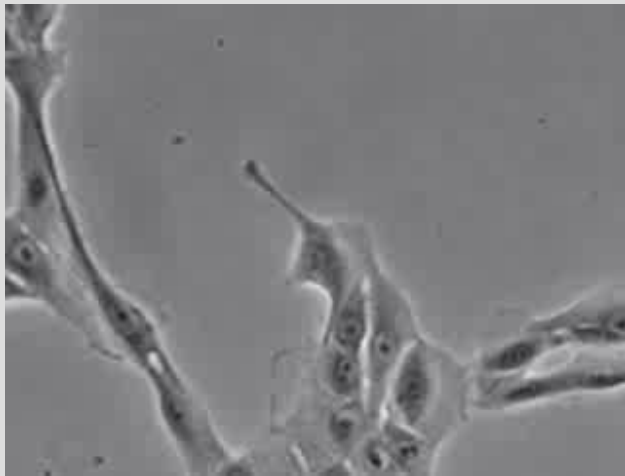
Repulsive – from the Tumor



Collagen Mesh

Single Cell Motility - Amoeboid

(Dicty as a model for amoeboid motility)



Exp Cancer

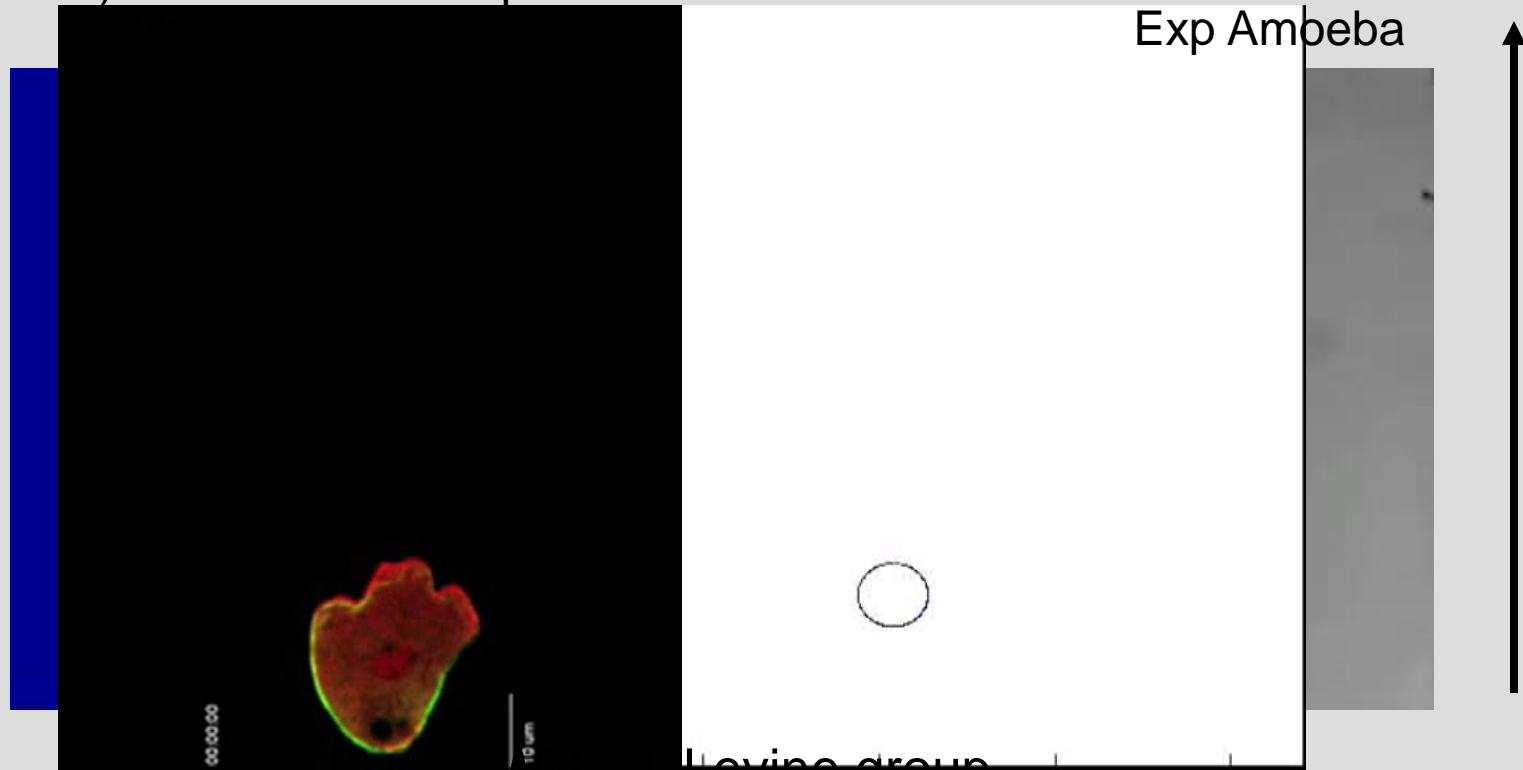
(Bob Austin)

Exp Amoeba

Model

Chemical gradient

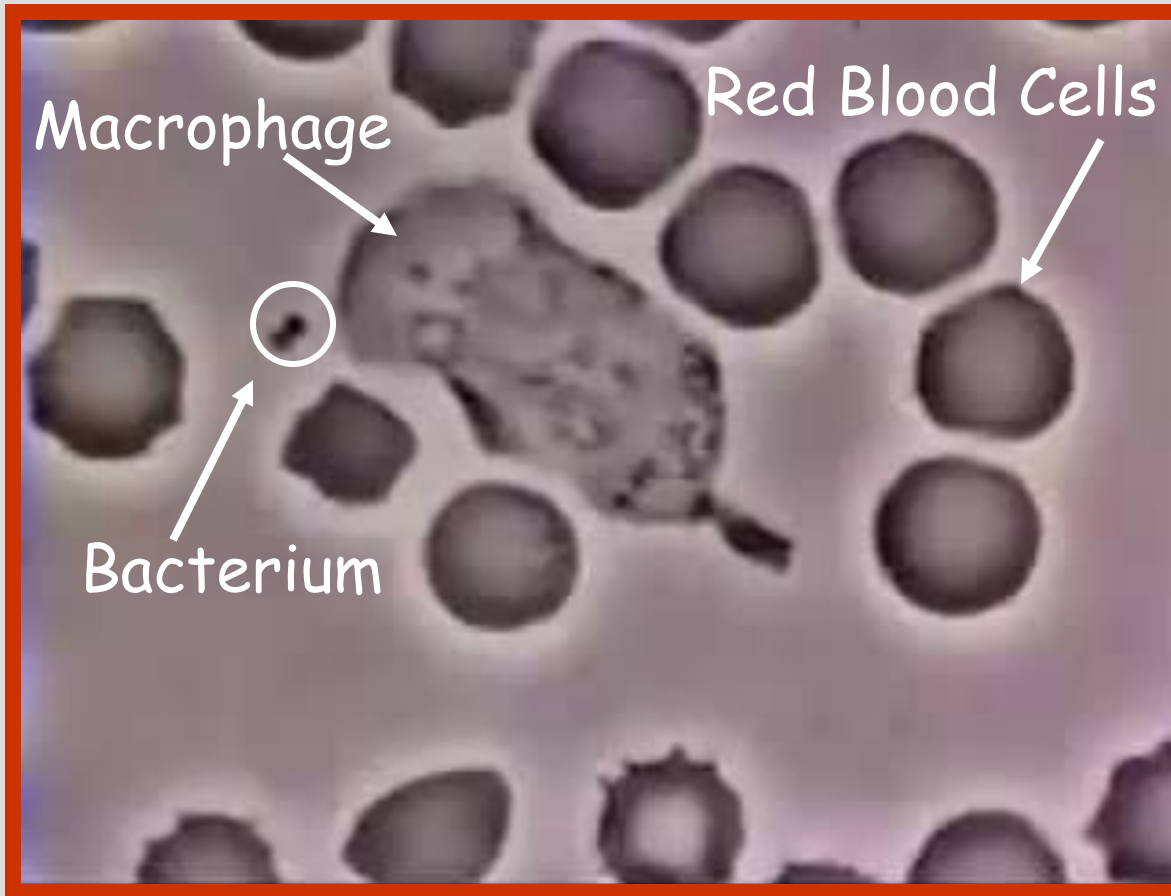
Exp Amoeba



Hecht et al PLoS Comp Bio (2011)
with the Levine group

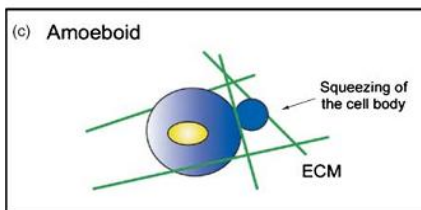
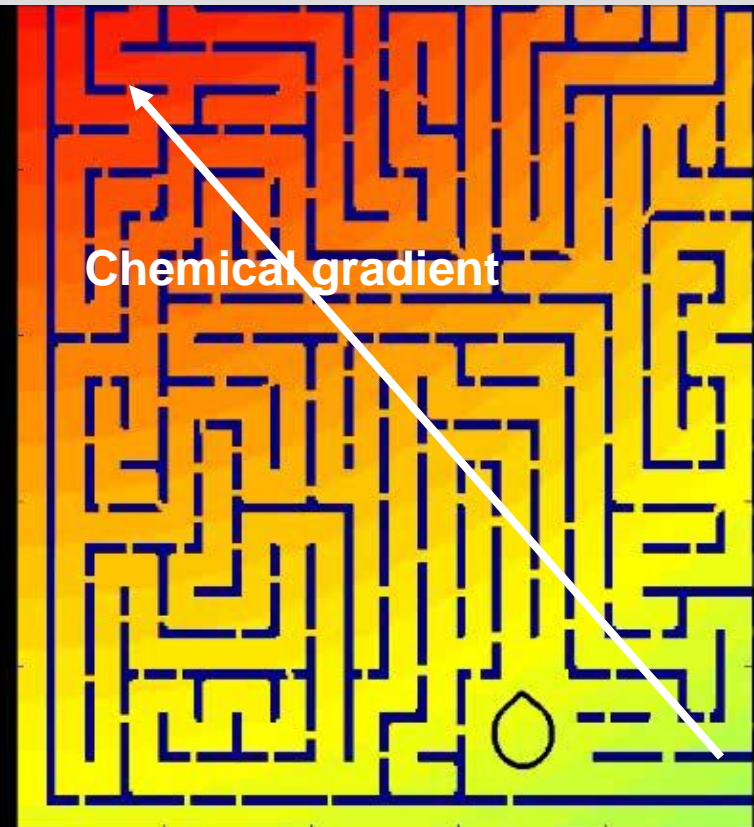
Energy – Risk Considerations

Let see how bacteria make-decisions

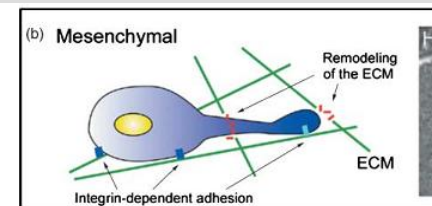


Path finder - Amoeboid

Path generator - Mesenchymal



Flexible,
squeezes through small gaps

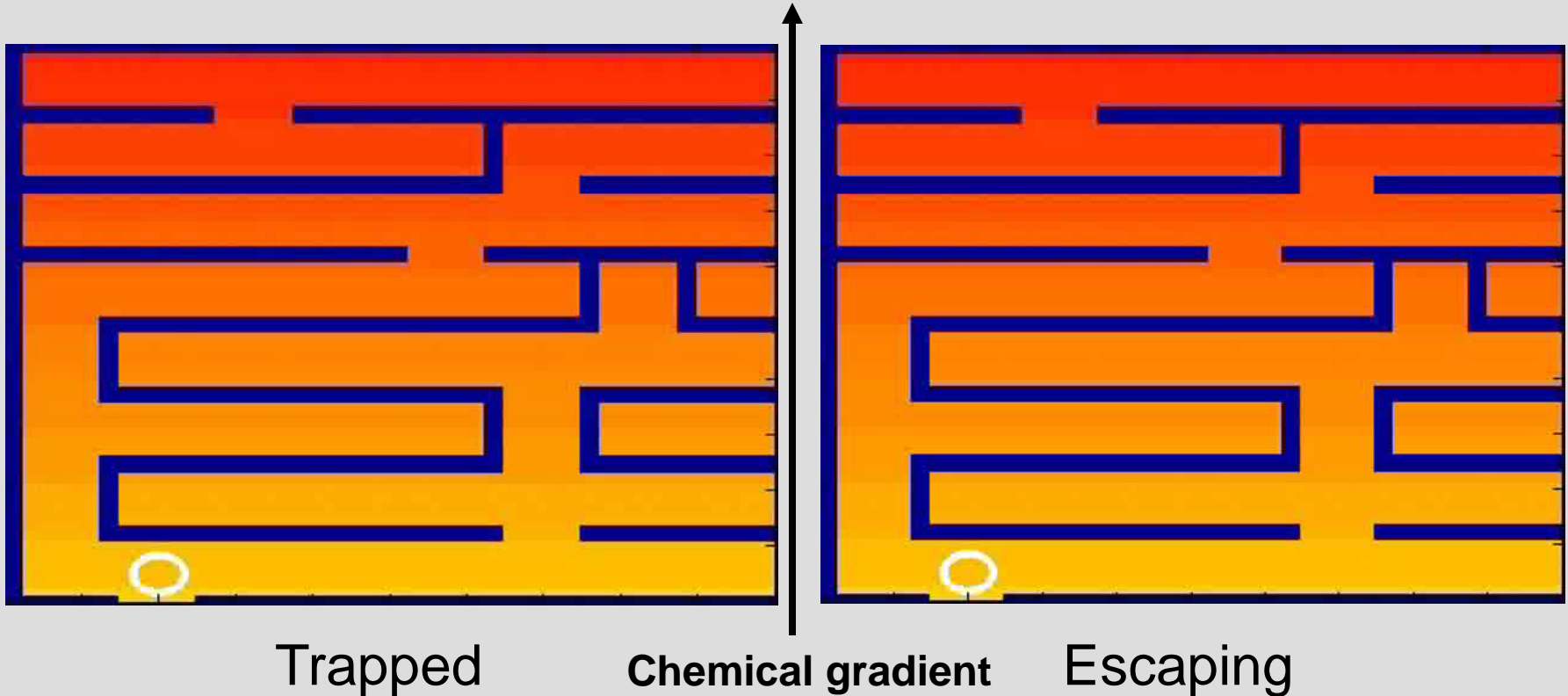


Rigid,
degrades the wall

Self-Assisted Navigation

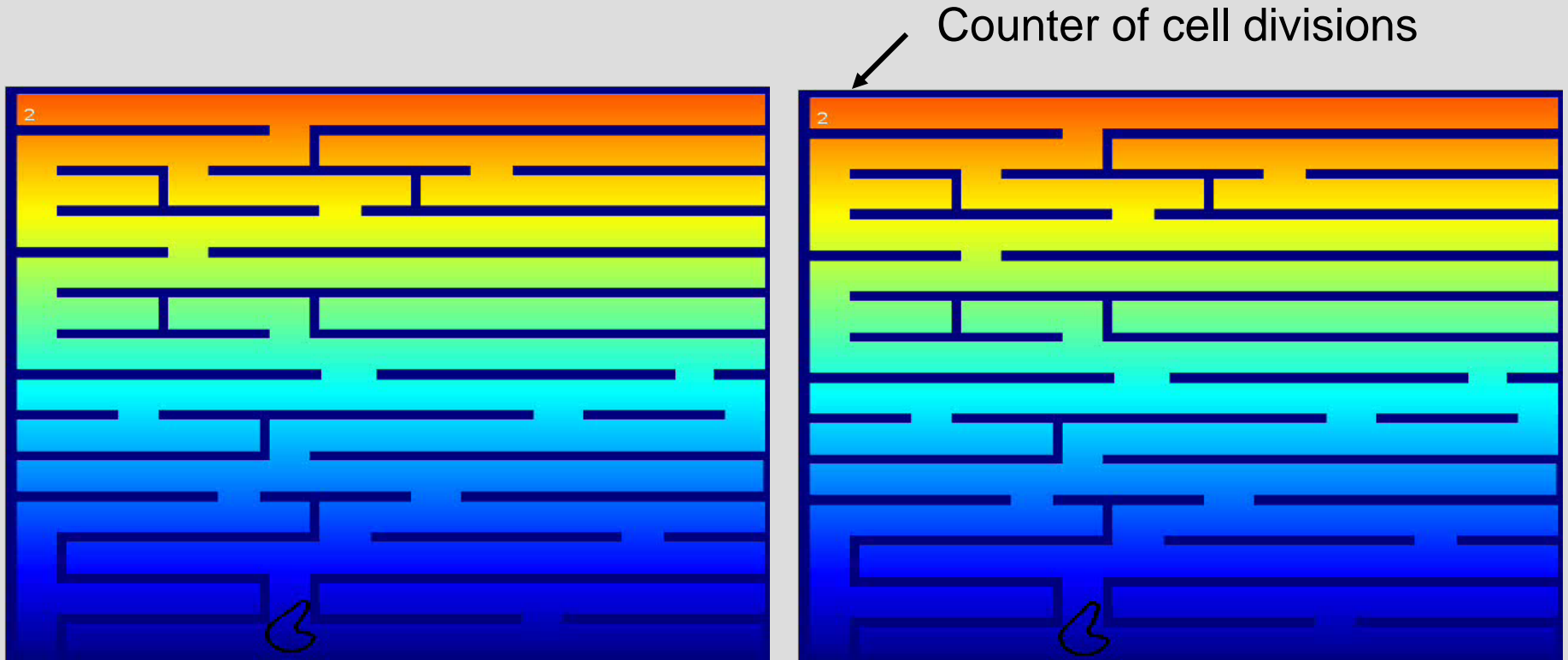
Escaping traps by secretion of repulsive agent

Predictions to be Tested



With Inbal Hecht, Herbert Levine, Wouter-Jan Rappel, PLoS ONE 2011

Invasion vs. Proliferation



Invasion only

Invasion and Proliferation

With Inbal Hecht and Ilan Tsarfaty

Model-based Predictions

Theoretical models can bridge the gap between intracellular processes, cell dynamics and population behavior

1. Proliferation is always beneficiary
2. But invading cells have much higher success rate relative to invasion in the absence of HGF!
3. At “bad times” (e.g. hypoglycemia and hypoxia conditions) proliferation should be limited, to allow enough resources for invasion.
4. Tumor growth induces repeating cycles of hypoxia and angiogenesis. Therefore, the population of colonizing cells is expected to always include a fraction of invading cells.

Therapeutic Implications?

Today

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A New Challenge: Deciding or Playing Dice

Looking for hints at the way bacteria decide fate



Gamblers should take a hint from bacteria

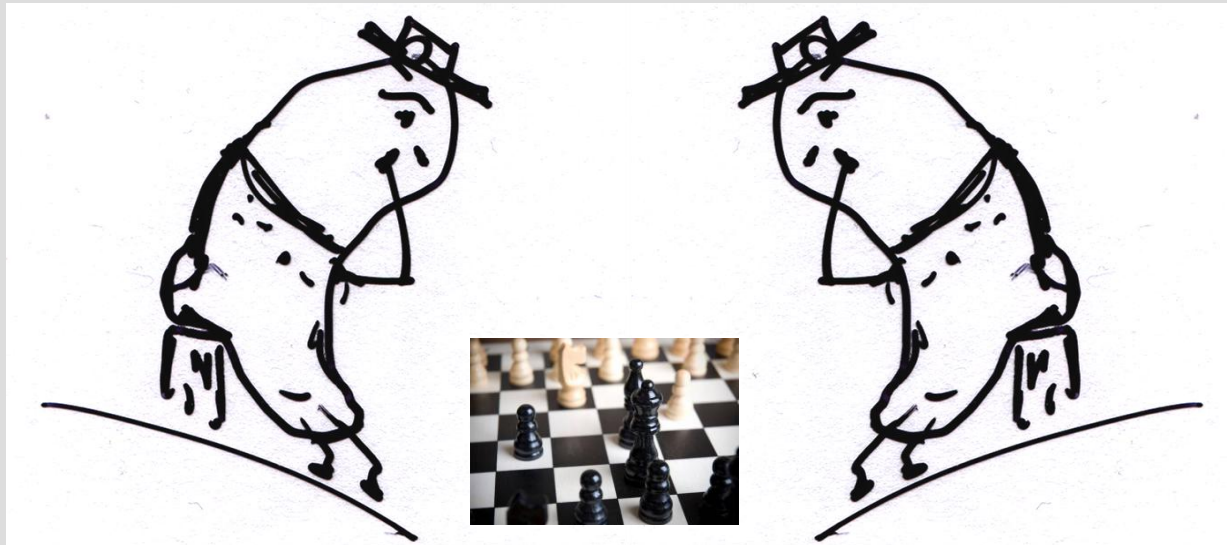
Forget that lucky charm

12 Oct 2010 17:11 | by [Andrea Petrou](#) | posted in [Science](#)

Schultz and Ben-Jacob *PNAS*, 2011

Bacterial Collective Decisions

Bacterial Game Theory During Phenotypic Transitions



Schultz et al PNAS 2007, 2009, Ben-Jacob and Schultz PNAS 2010



Can we learn from the ways
Bacteria Determine Fate Under Stress

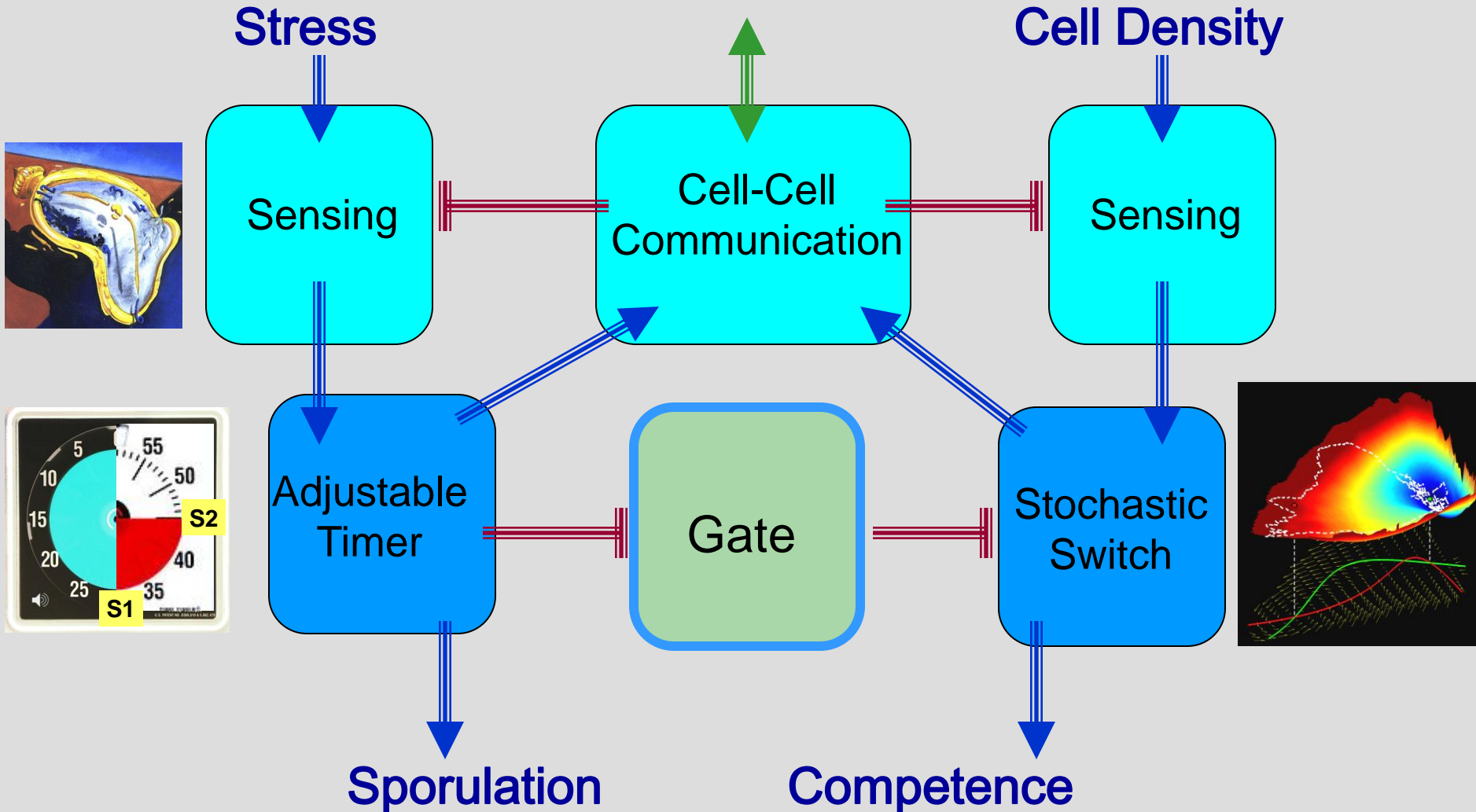
Gene Circuit Principles

Operational Principles

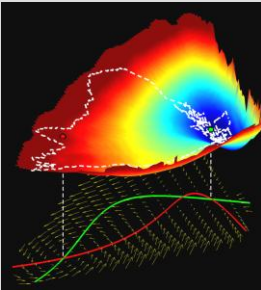
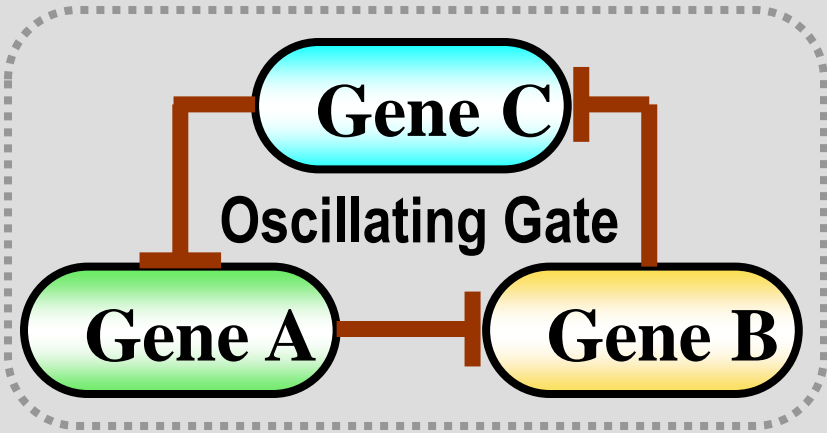
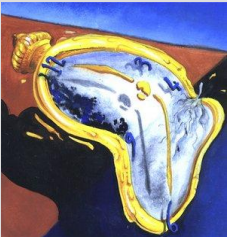
Inhibition of Inhibition

Coordination of Clock Rate

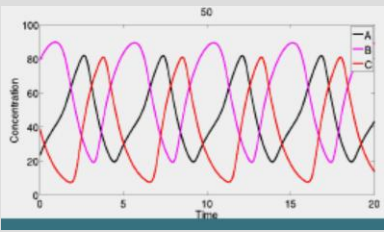
The Elements of Bacterial Collective Decision-Making



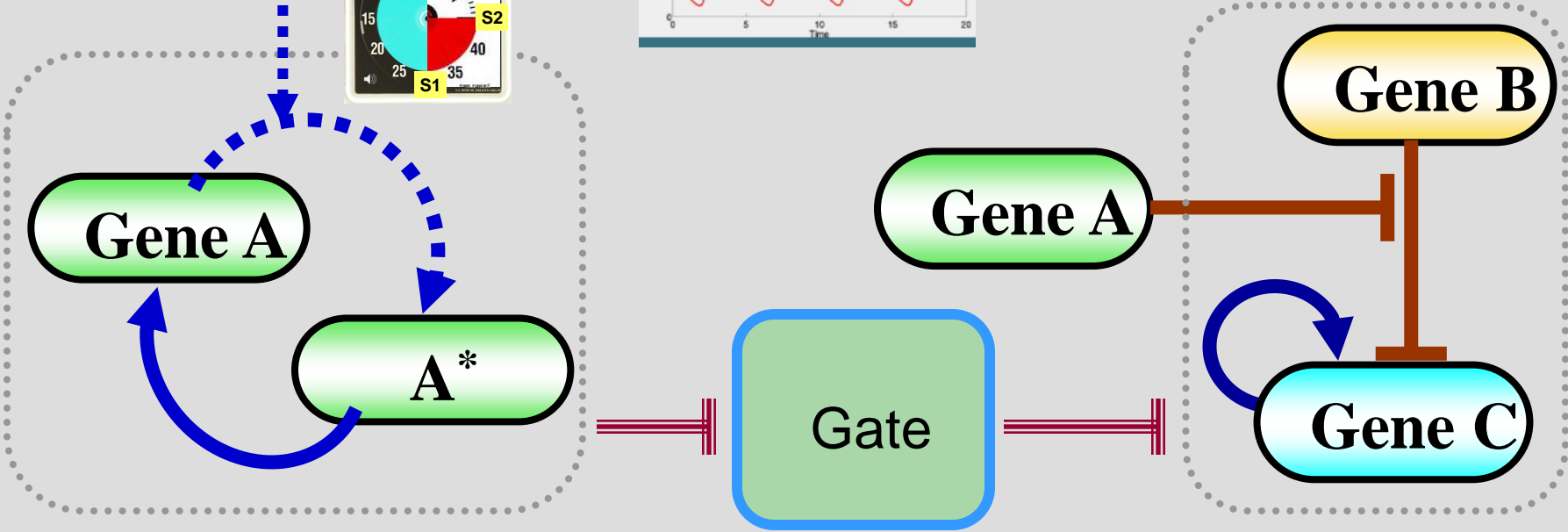
Let the complex be simple – looking for key elements



Timer with adaptable Clock rate



Stochastic Switch

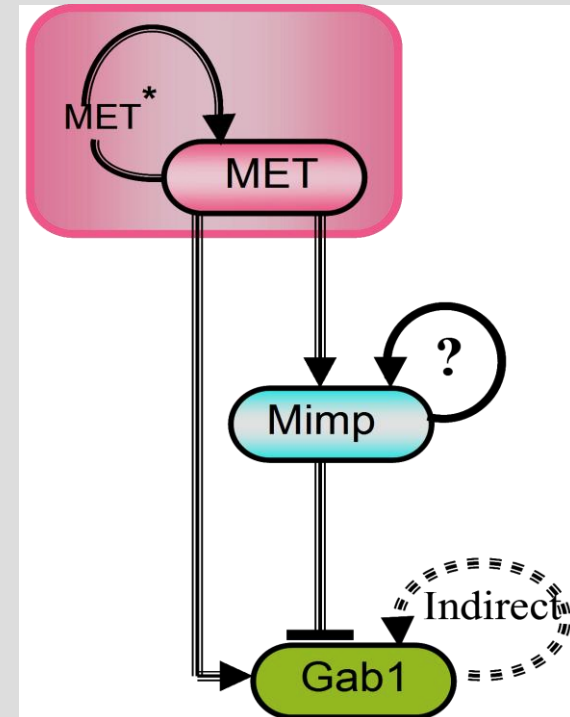
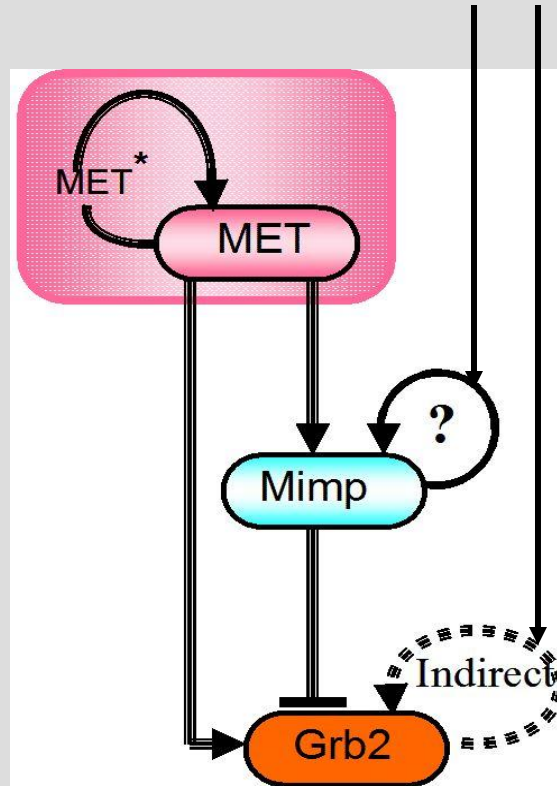
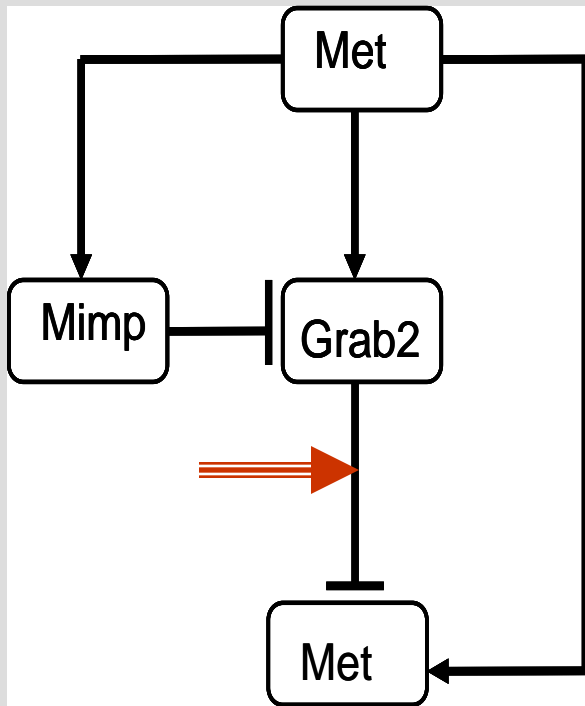
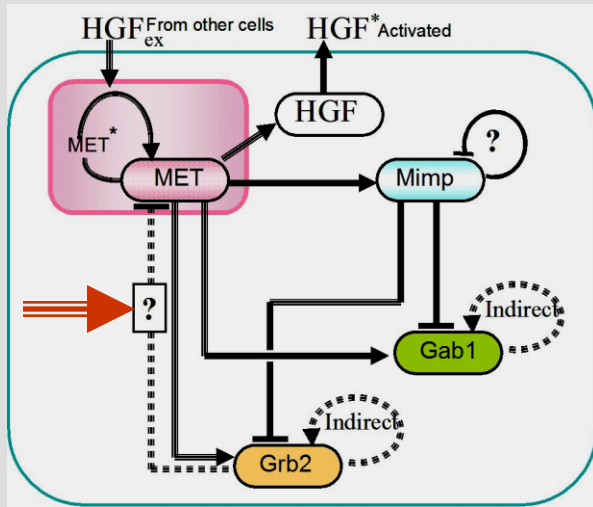


"Games" of Incoherent FFL

Work in progress

With Ilan Tsarfati (TAU), Jose' Onuchic and Herbert Levine (Rice)

The additional elements control the noise effect



Today

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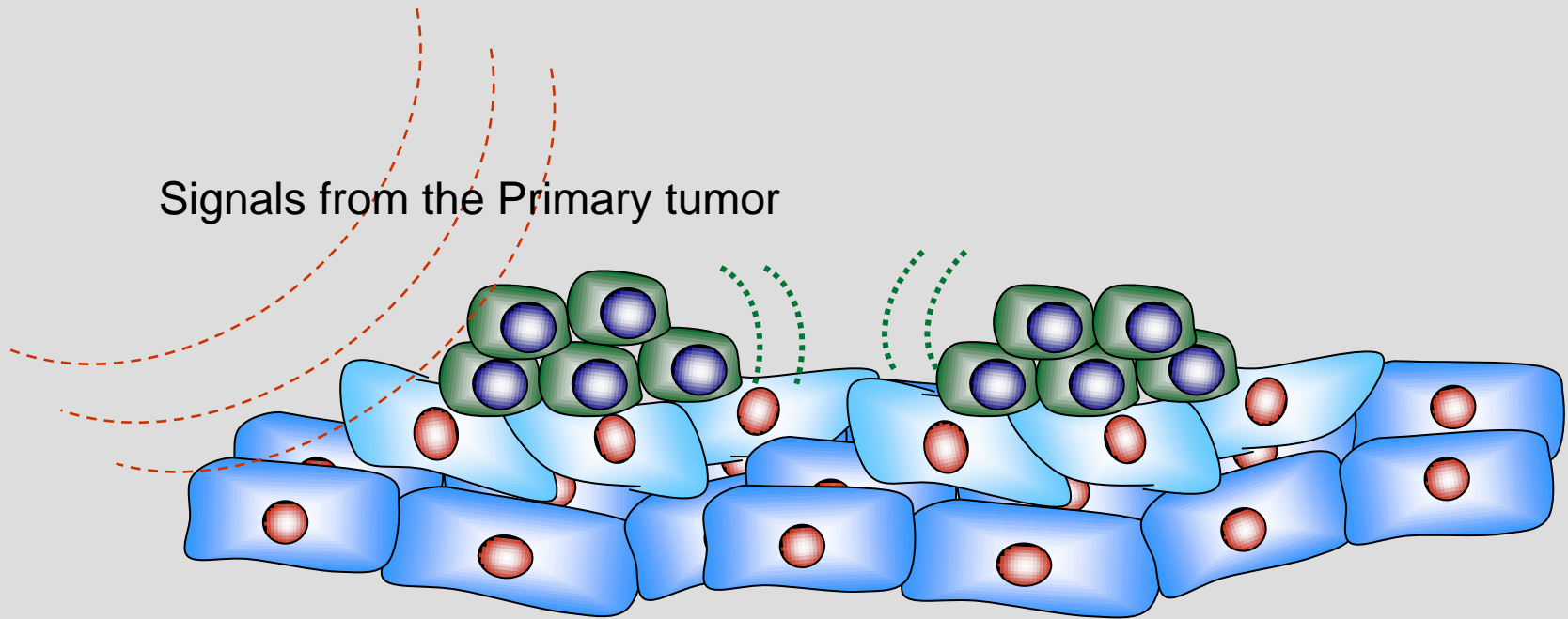
Reflections on Cancer Selection of navigation Strategy

Reflections on "Cyber Warfare" against cancer

Ben-Jacob, Coffey, Levine *Trends in Microbiology* 2012

Germination of Micrometastases

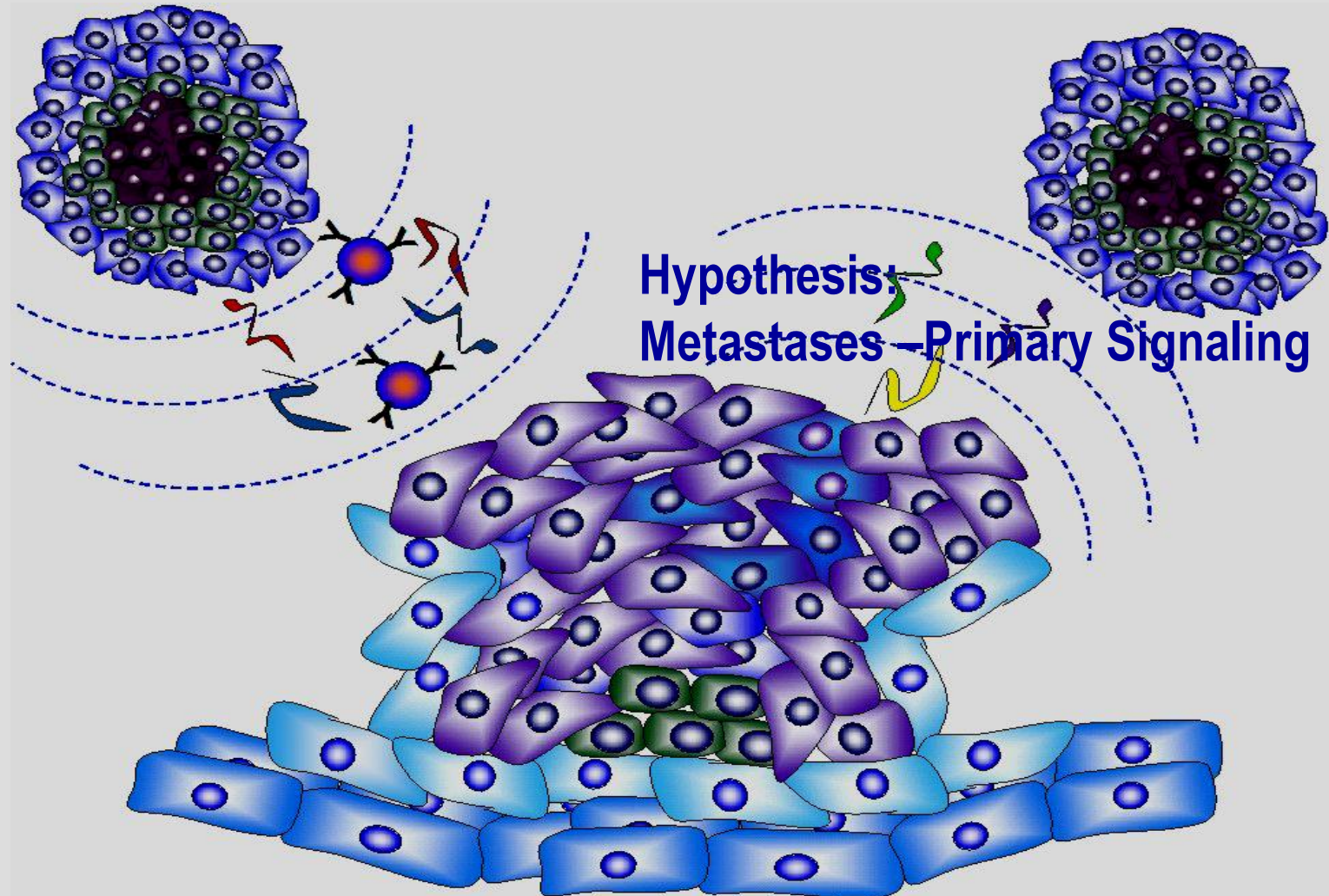
Signals from the Primary tumor



Kaplan et al Nature 2005

Maturation of Micrometastases

Can Metastasis be Controlled by Breaking the Code?



For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war

בתחבולות תעשה לך מלחמה



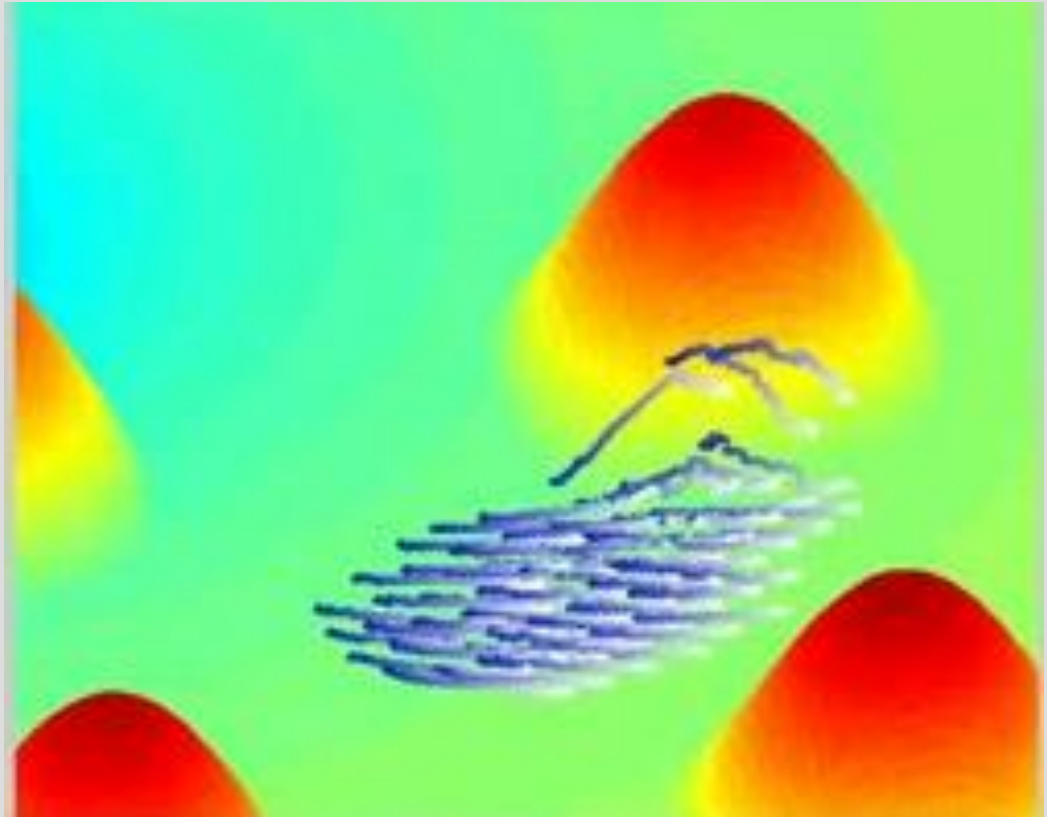
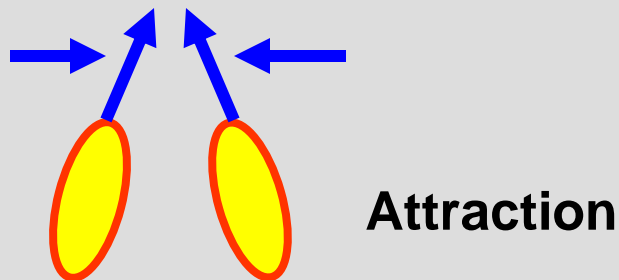
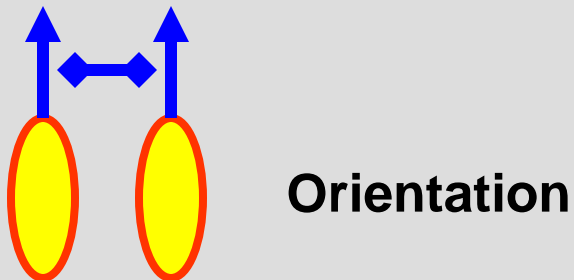
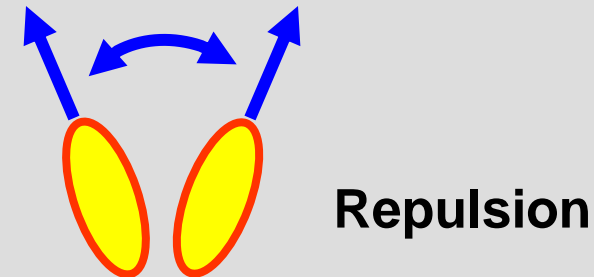
To decipher the secrets of cancer communication.

To develop drugs targeting cancer communication, cooperation and control.

The End

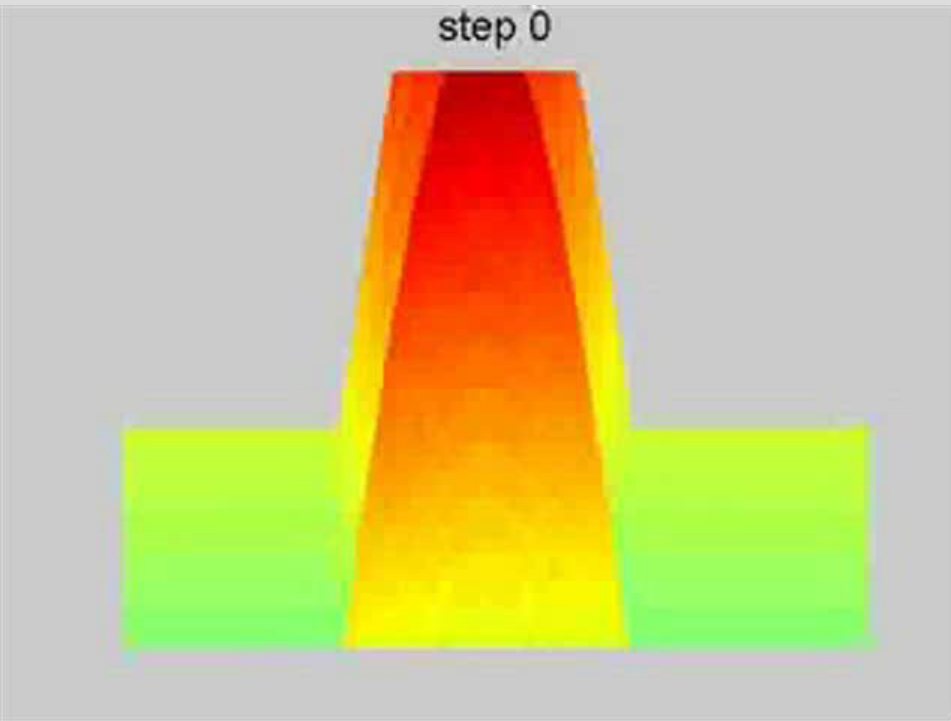
Collective Navigation of Interacting Agents

With A. Shklarsh, E. Schneidman, G. Ariel, PLoS Comp. Bio 2011

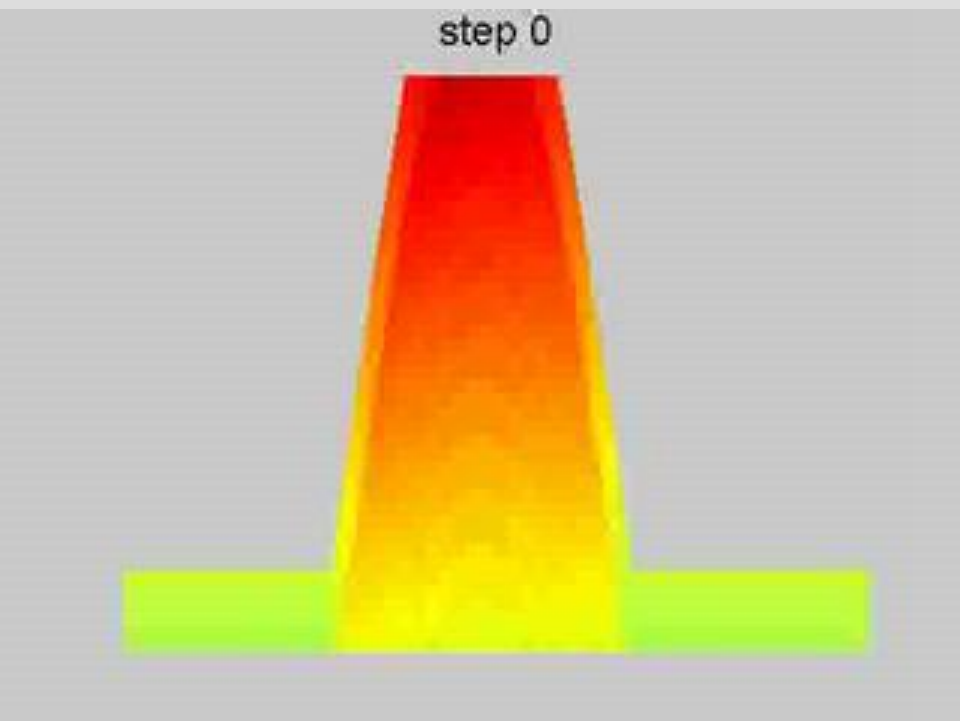


Extension of Vicsek, Ben Jacob et al., PRL 1995 + Couzin et al., Nature 2005

Independent agents



Interacting agents

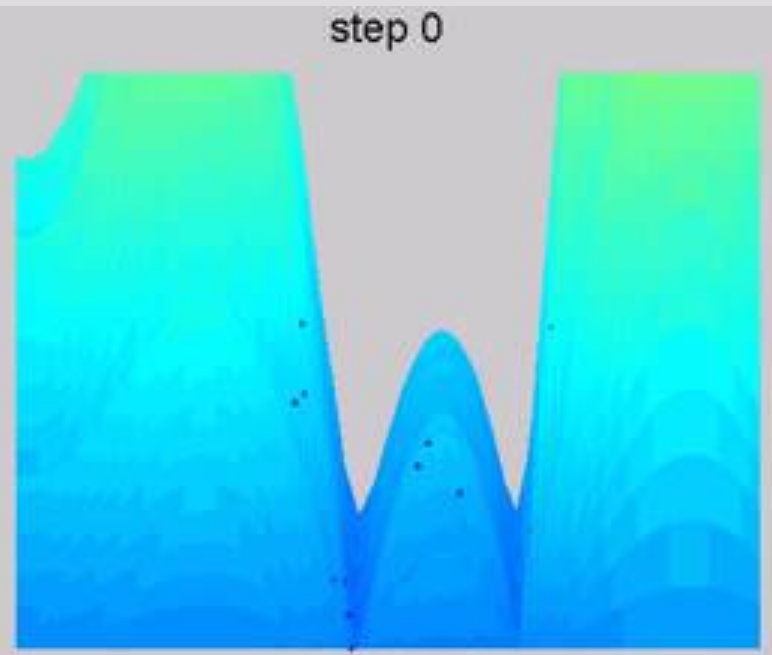
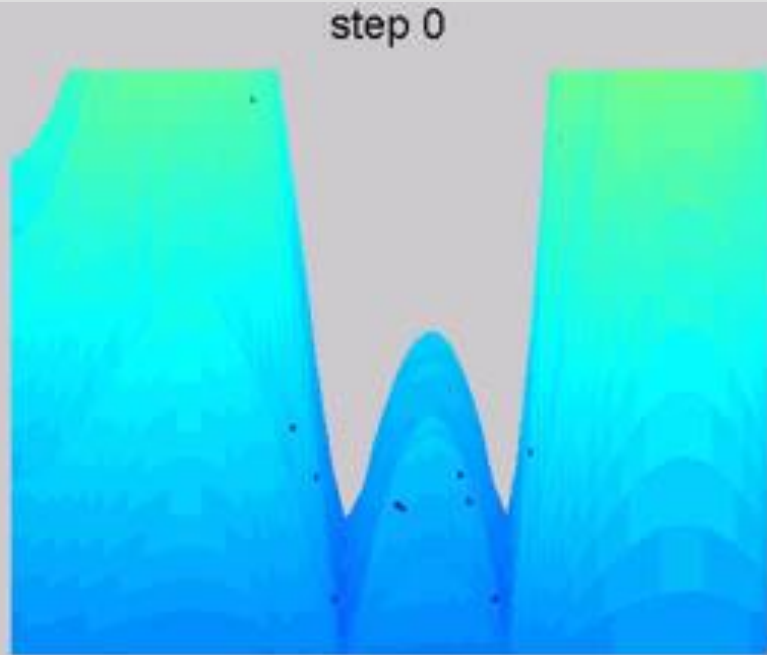


Collective sensing and
Distributed information processing

Navigation in Complex Terrains

Fixed interactions

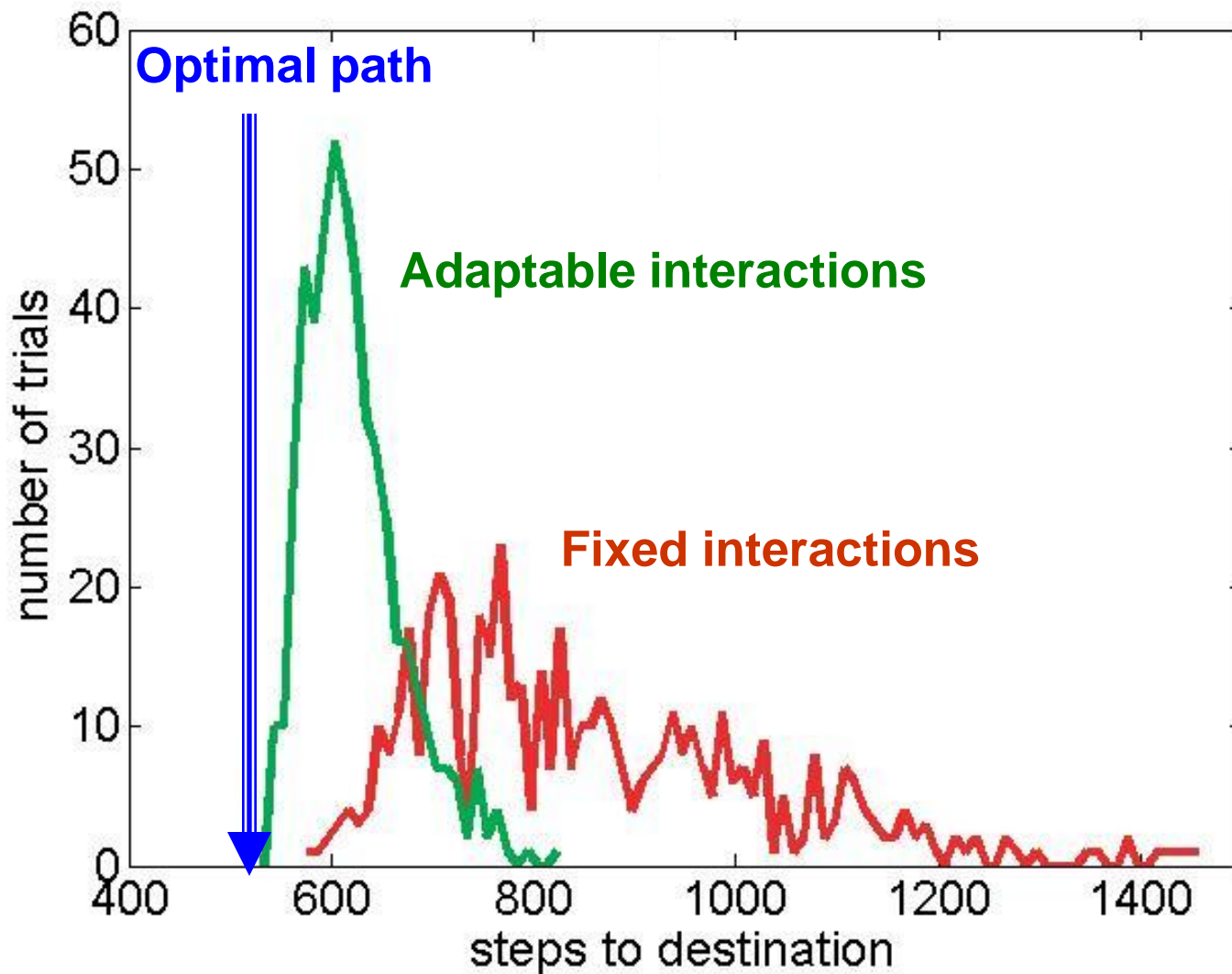
Adaptable interactions

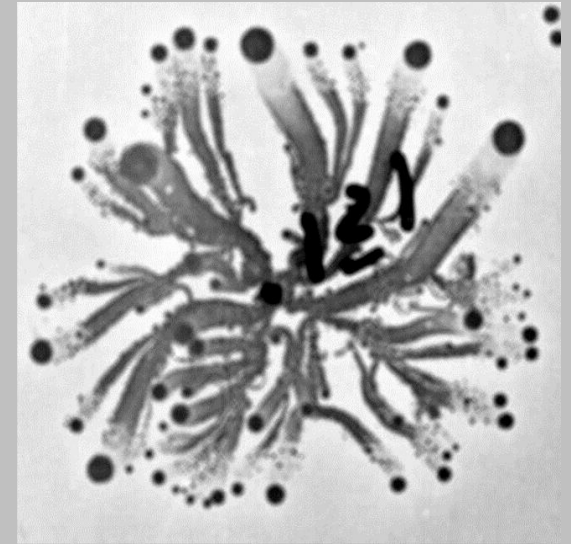


What is the Advantage?

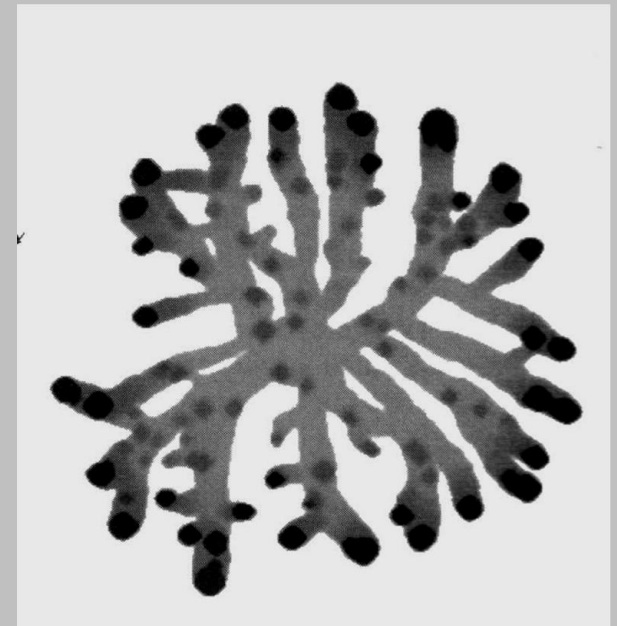
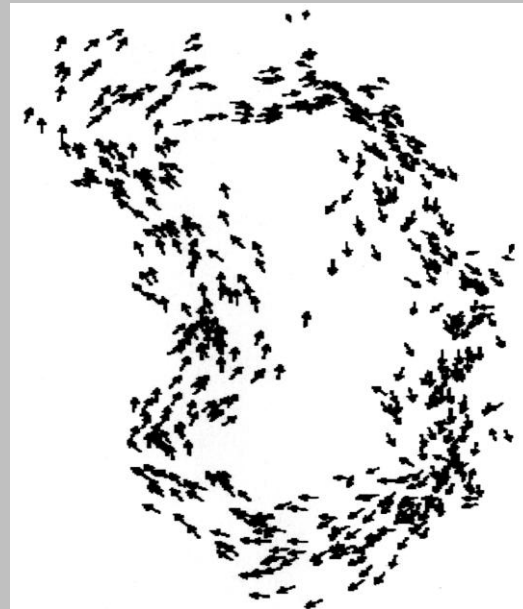
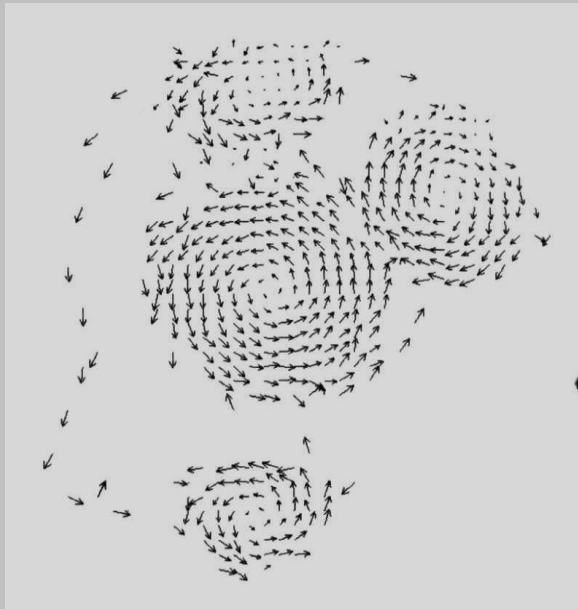
With A. Shklarsh, E. Schneidman, G. Ariel, PLoS Comp. Bio 2011

Quantification of the results

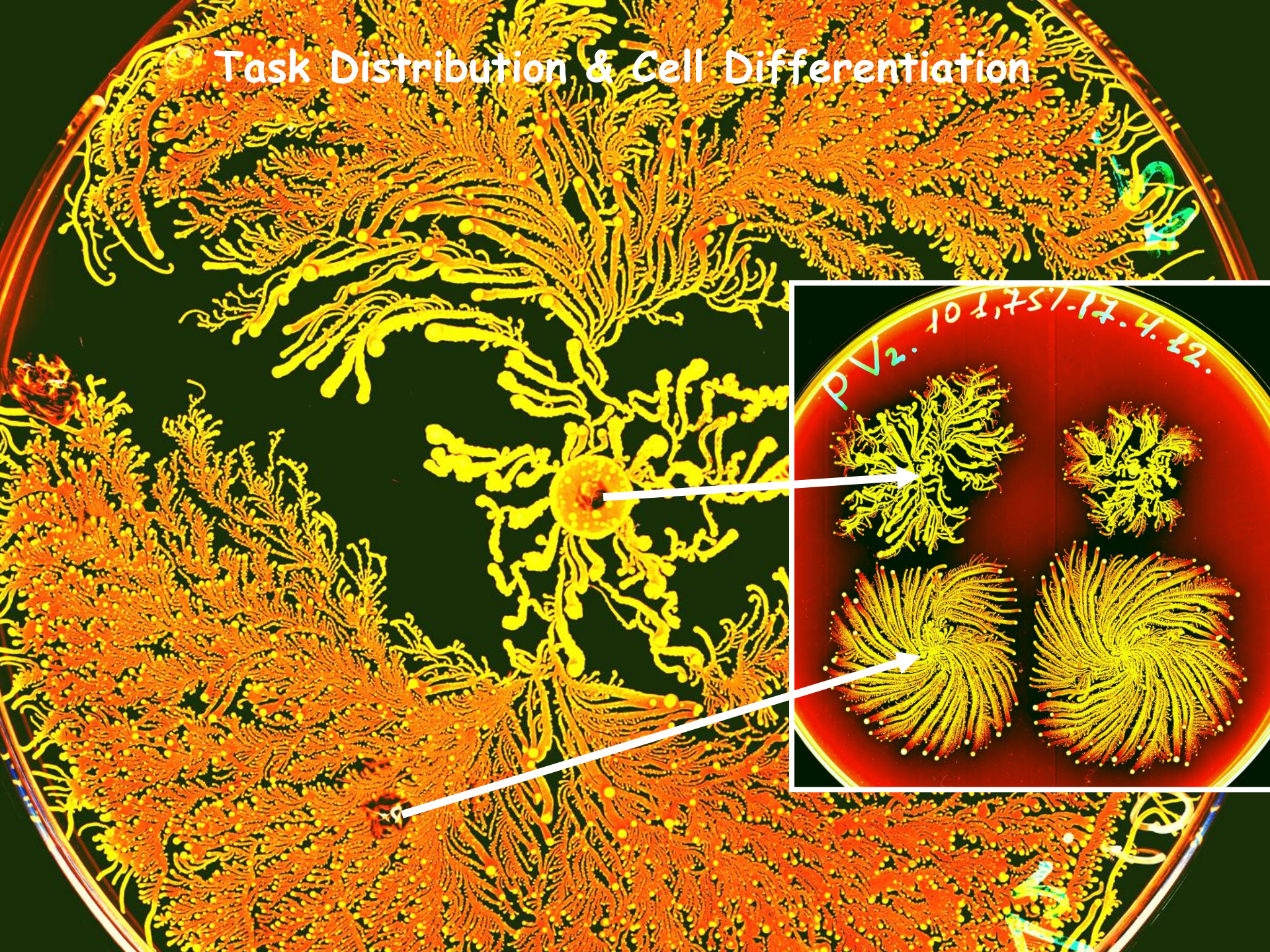




Modeling

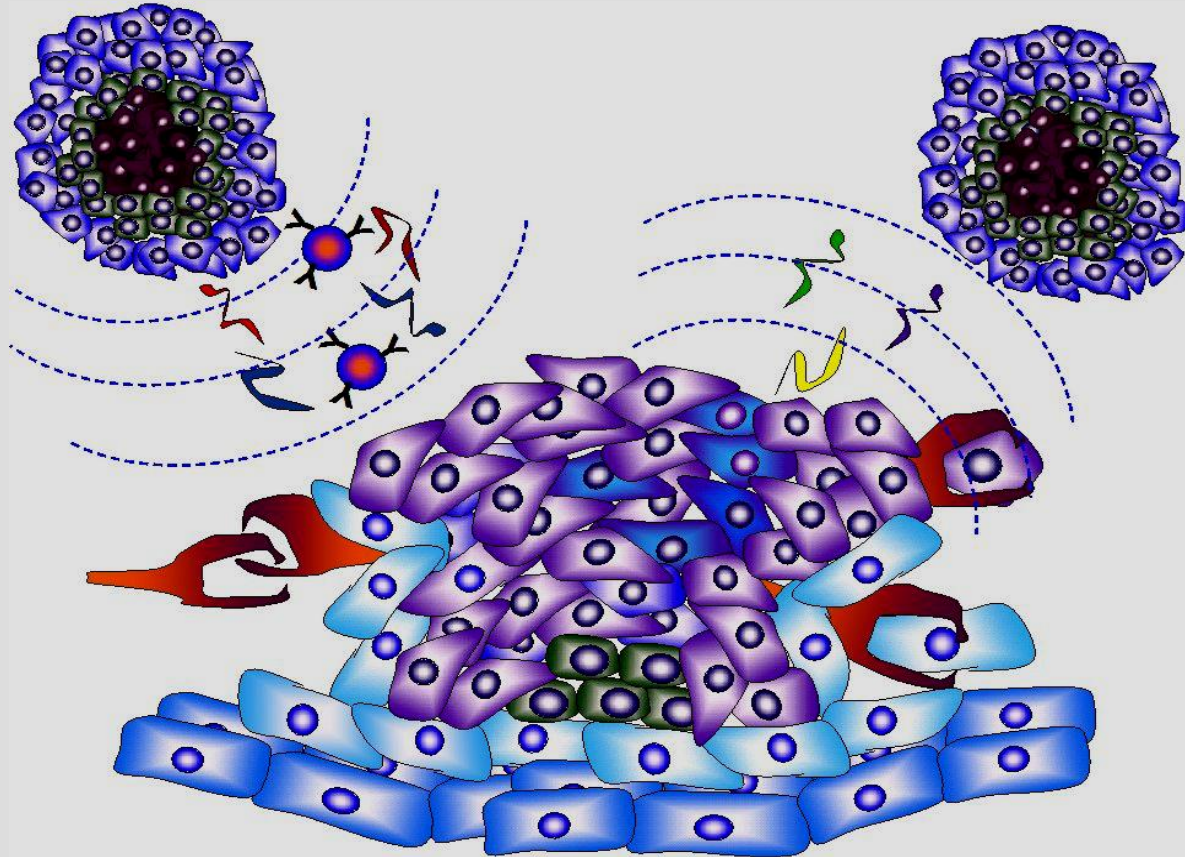


Task Distribution & Cell Differentiation



Cancer Cannibalism

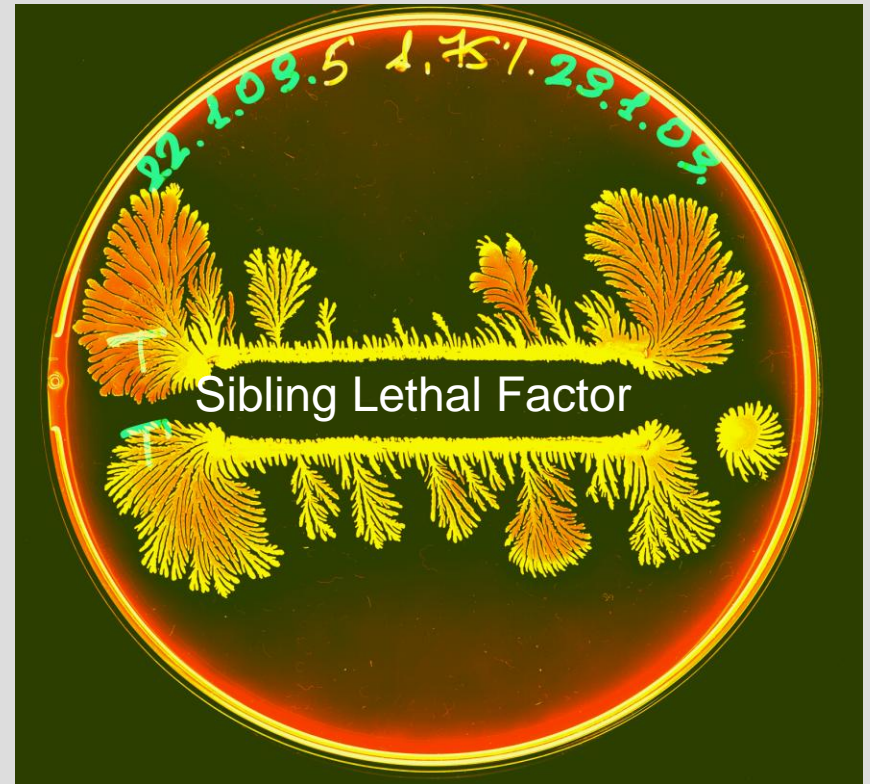
Can Breaking the Code Help Fighting Cancer?



Fais et al Cancer Lett. 2007

Deadly Competition Between Sibling Colonies

Discovery of a New Toxin



With Be'er, *et al.* *PNAS* 2009, Be'er, Ariel *et al.*, *PNAS* 2010

Using Bacteria to Fight Cancer

TUMOR IMMUNOLOGY

Bacteria-Induced Gap Junctions in Tumors Favor Antigen Cross-Presentation and Antitumor Immunity

Fabiana Saccheri,¹ Chiara Pozzi,¹ Francesca Avogadri,² Sara Barozzi,¹ Mario Faretta,¹
Paola Fusi,³ Maria Rescigno^{1*}

(Published 11 August 2010; Volume 2 Issue 44 44ra57)

Injected *Salmonella* can cause melanoma cells to form gap junctions with adjunct immune dendritic cells. Consequently, the dendritic cells use peptides transferred from the cancer cells to 'teach' T cells to recognize and kill the tumor cells at the primary site and prevent metastasis formation.

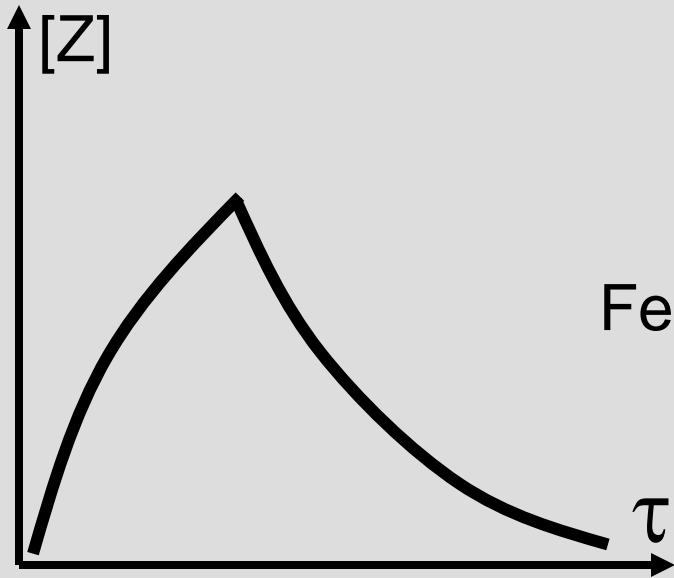
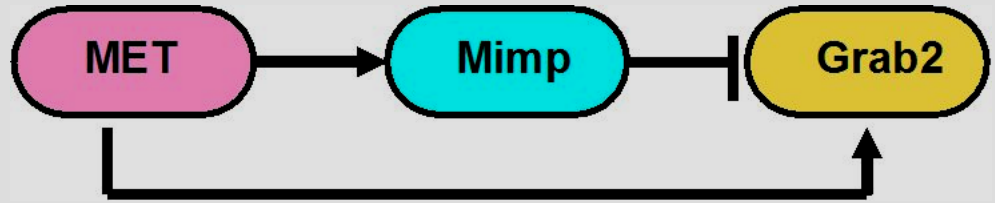
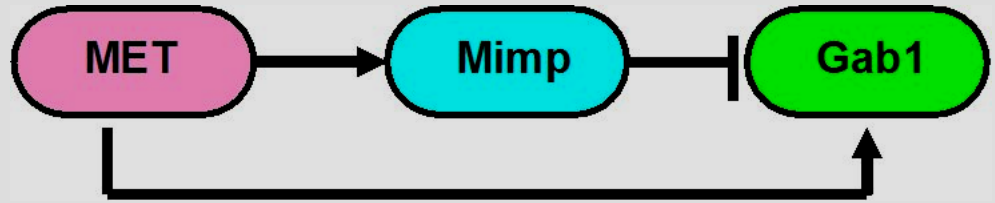
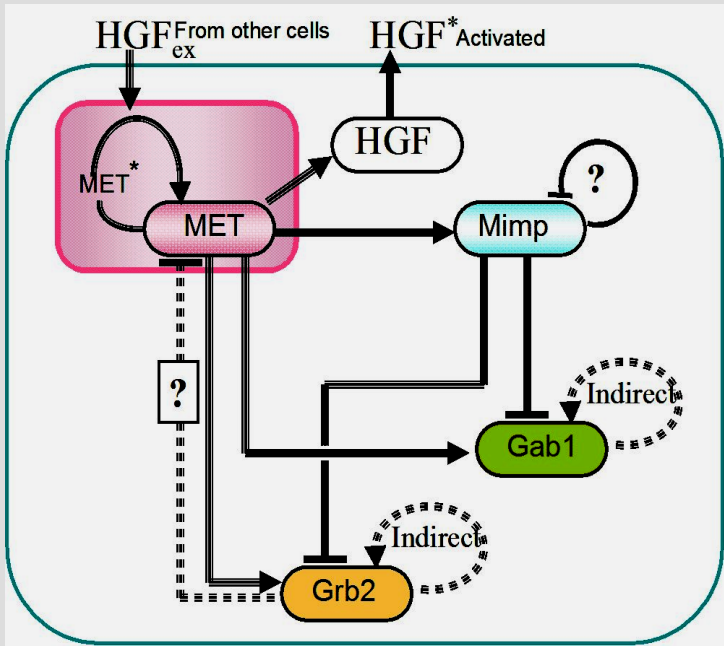
the digestive tracta

10 trillion bacteria of more than 40,000 different strains

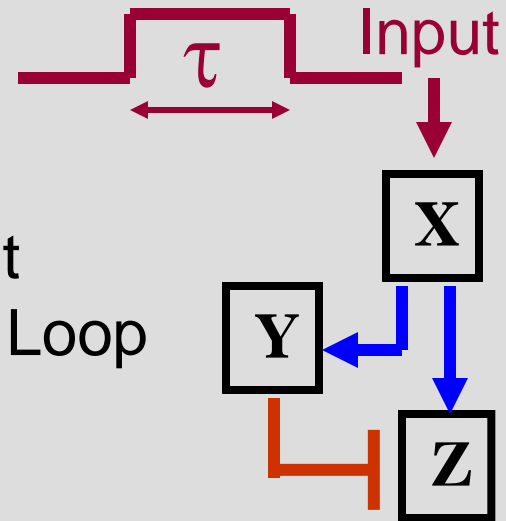
Affect digestion, the immune system,
the endocrine system and the brain

Very relevant for cancer but not today





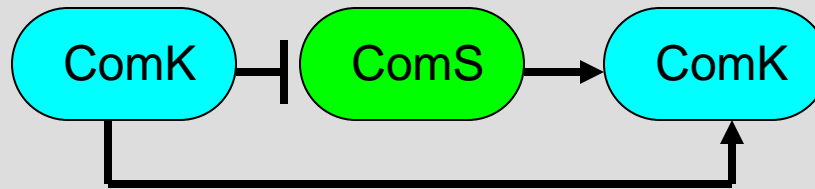
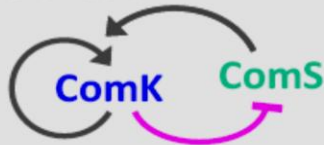
Incoherent Feed Forward Loop



Learning from Bacteria Decisions

Competence switch as an Incoherent Feed Forward Loop

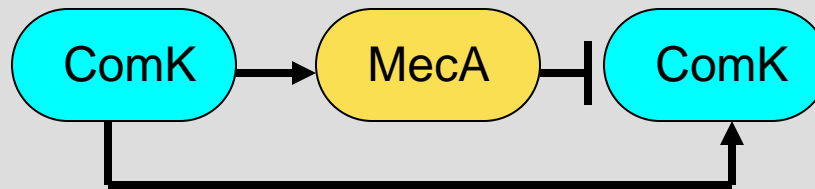
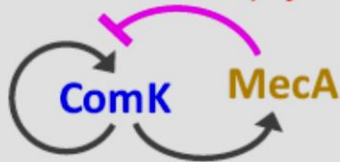
Native circuit



Rare transitions

Süel et al *Cell* 2009

Alternative circuit (SynEx)



Frequent transitions

Circuit architecture and noise effect

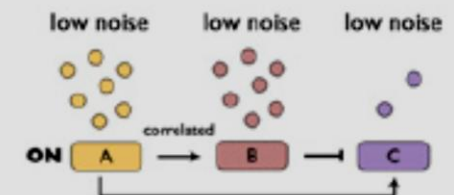
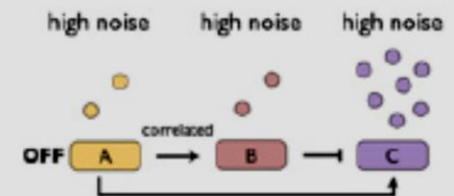
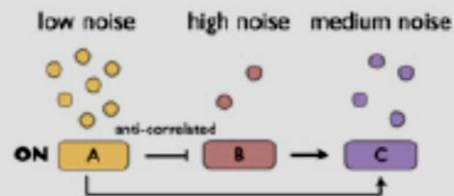
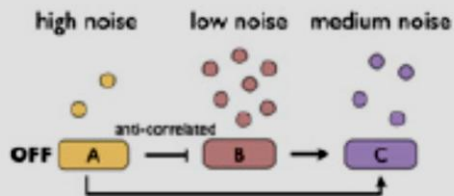
Süel et al *PNAS* 2010

Used for rare events

Used for frequent events

“Bacteria play dice with controlled odds”

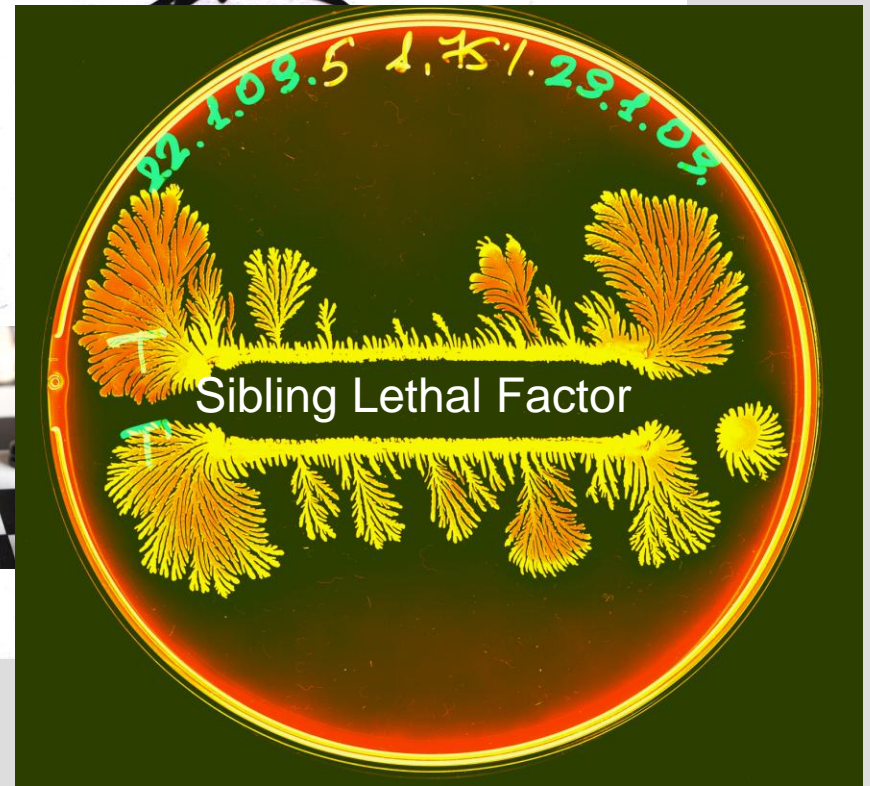
Ben-Jacob and Schultz *PNAS* 2010



Harnessing Cannibalism to Fight Bacteria

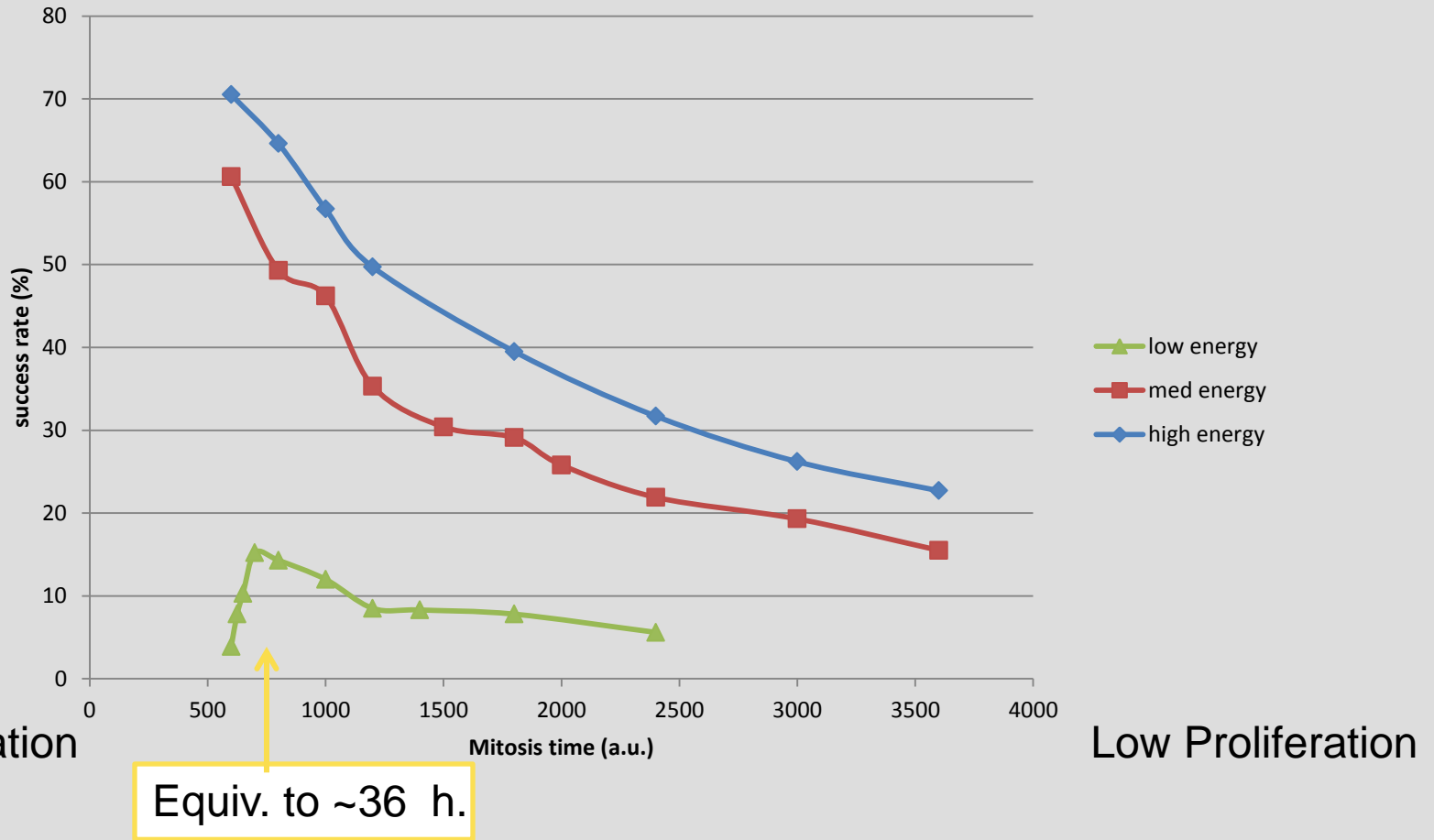
Deadly Competition Between Sibling Colonies

Discovery of a New Toxin



With Be'er, *et al.* PNAS 2009, Be'er, Ariel *et al.*, PNAS 2010

Success rate

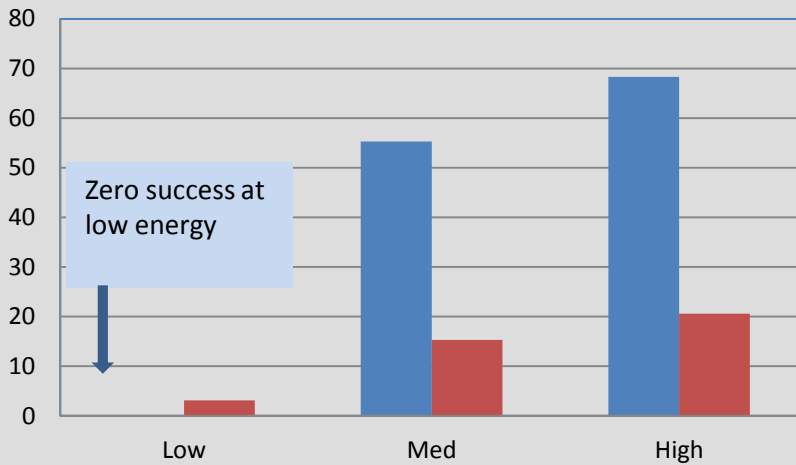


With very low energy, high proliferation results in no invasion and therefore very low success rate.

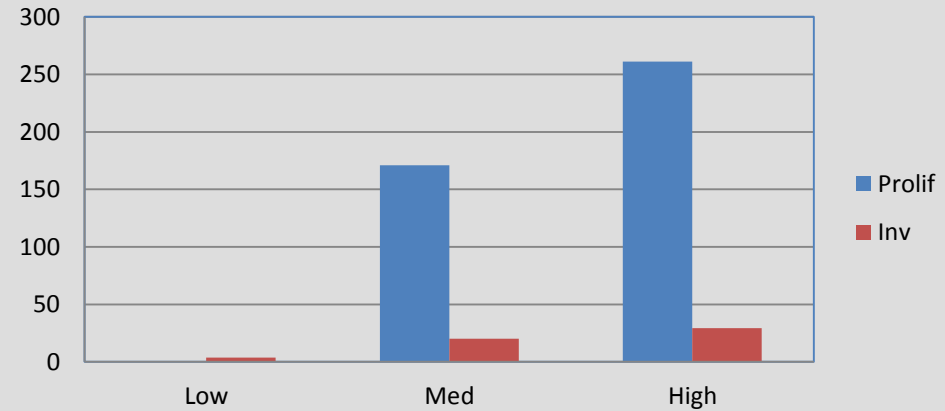
Proliferative vs. Invasive :

Trade-off between success rate and time to goal

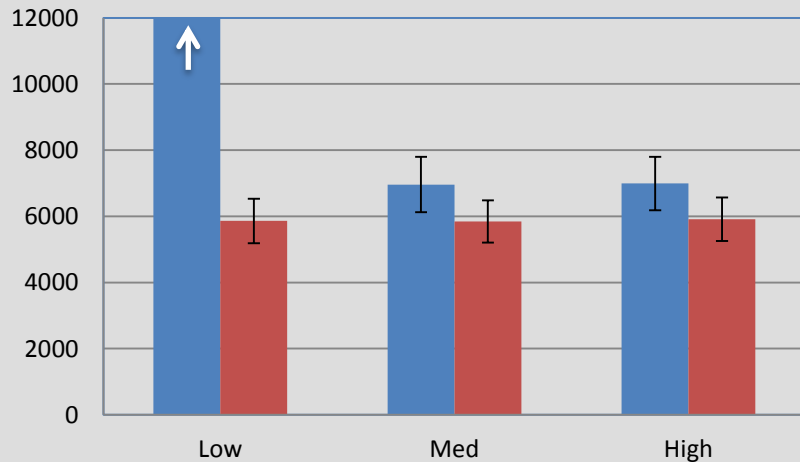
Success rate (%)



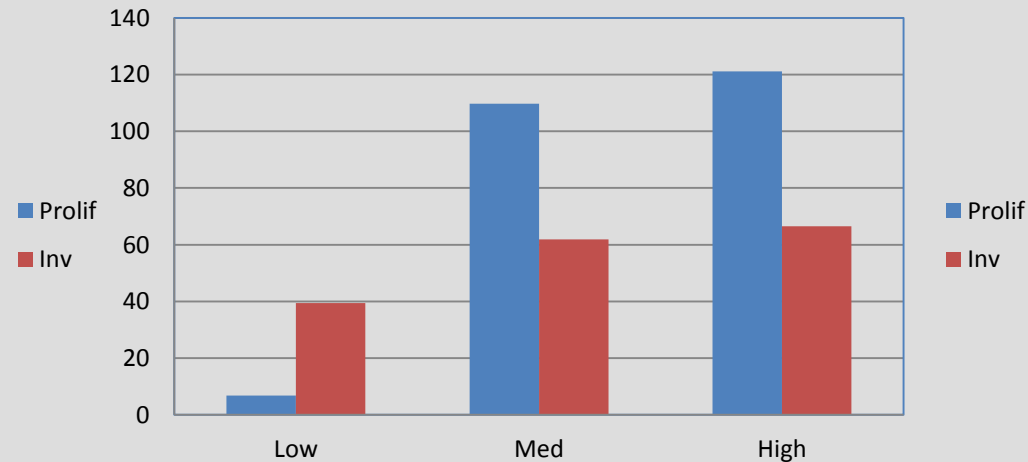
Effective success rate (%) (multiplied by proliferation)



Time to goal

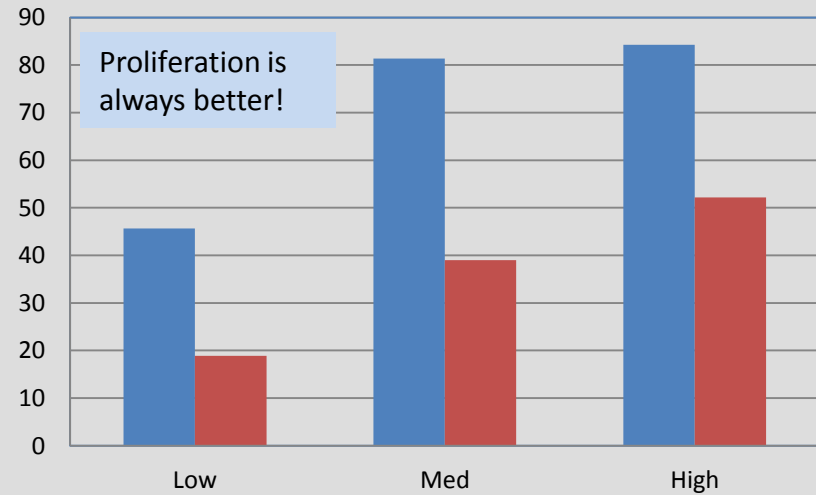


Average invasion per cell (all cells)

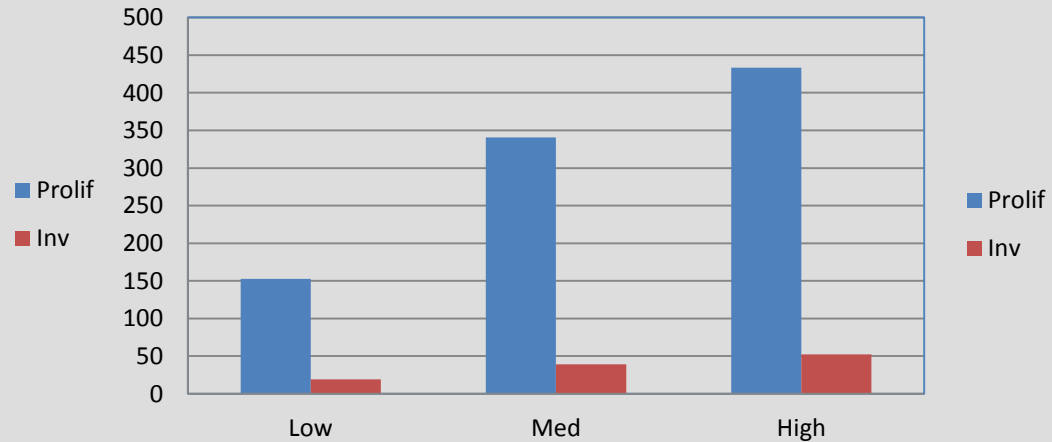


HGF effect

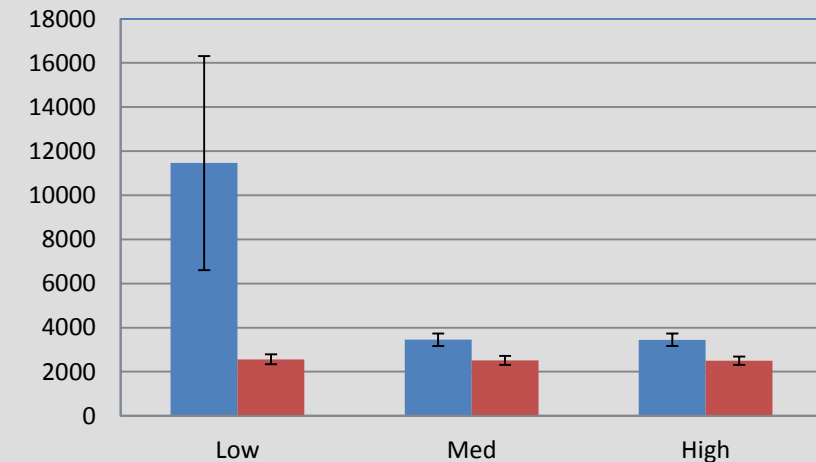
Success rate (+HGF)



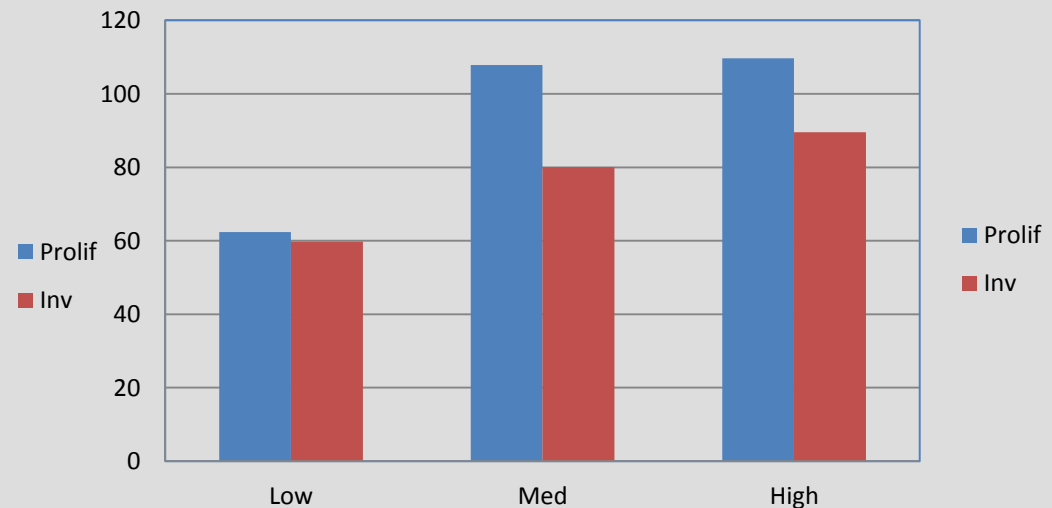
Effective success rate (+HGF) (multiplied by proliferation)

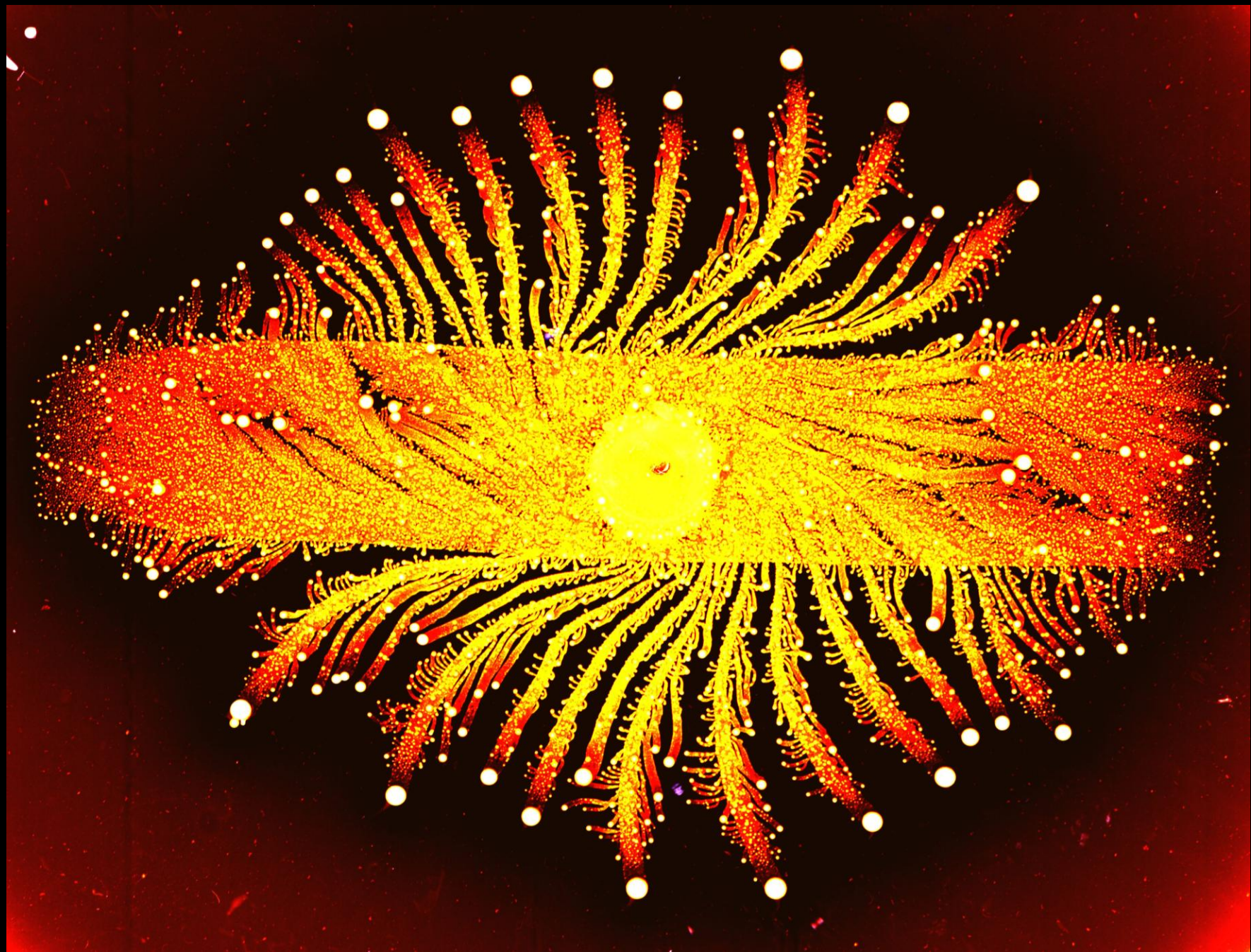


Time to goal +HGF

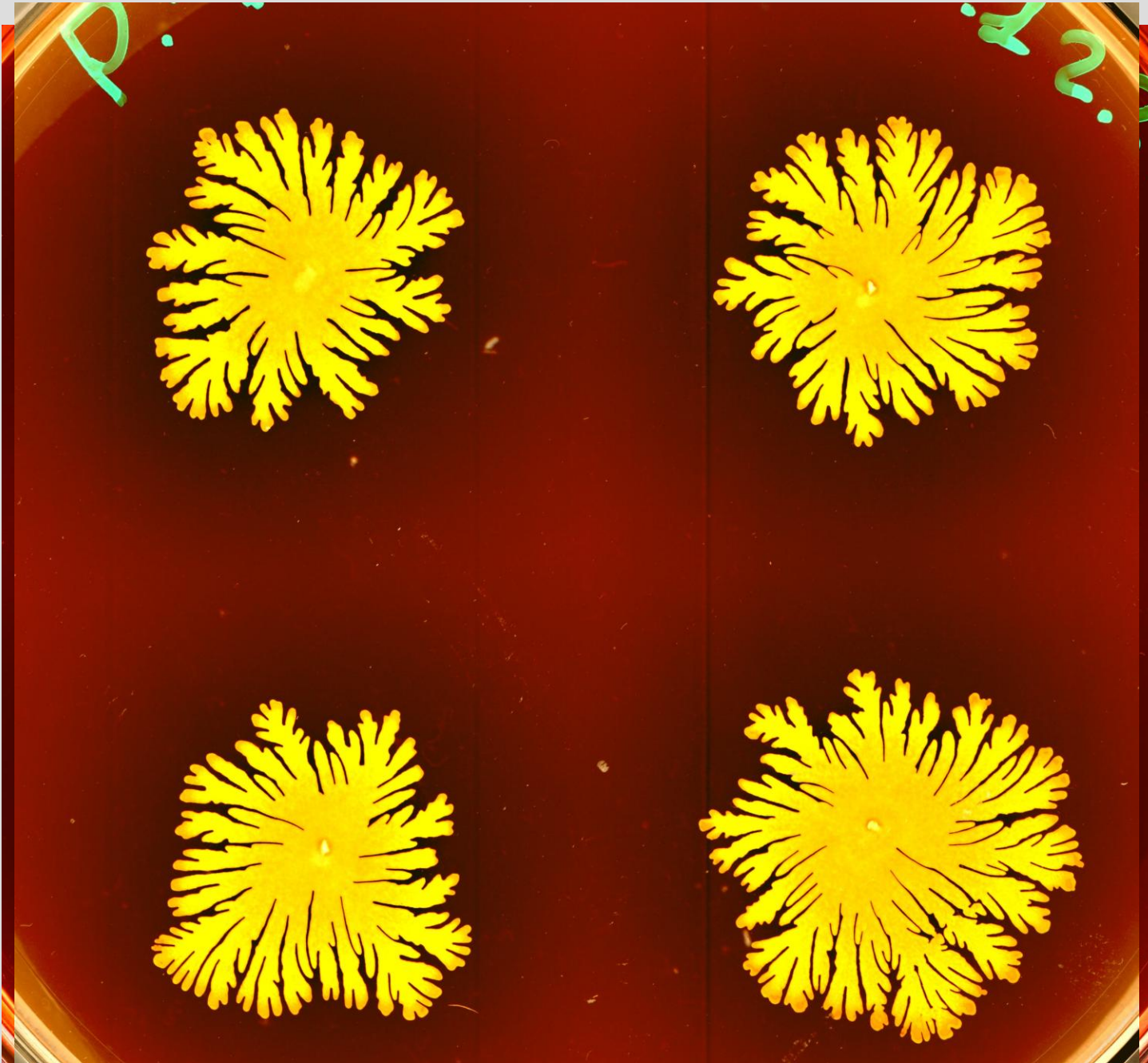


Average invasion per cell (all cells) +HGF





Bacteria Societies (Metacommunities)



Deciding Fate at Adverse Times

Altruism, Cannibalism and Fratricide



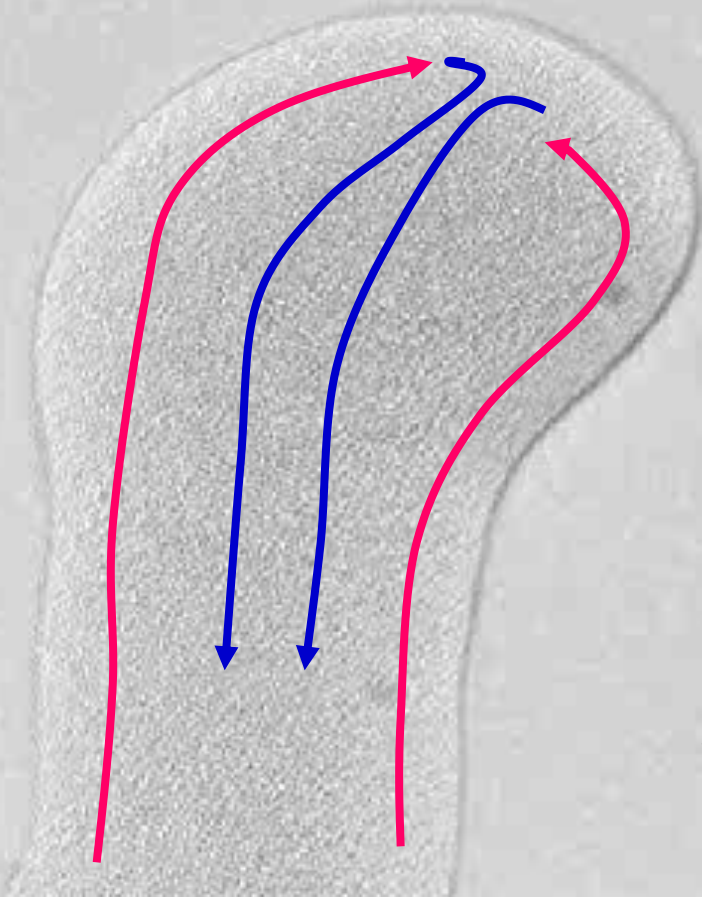
Gonzalez-Pstor et al Science 2003

G

o

Searching for New Territories

Collective Navigation



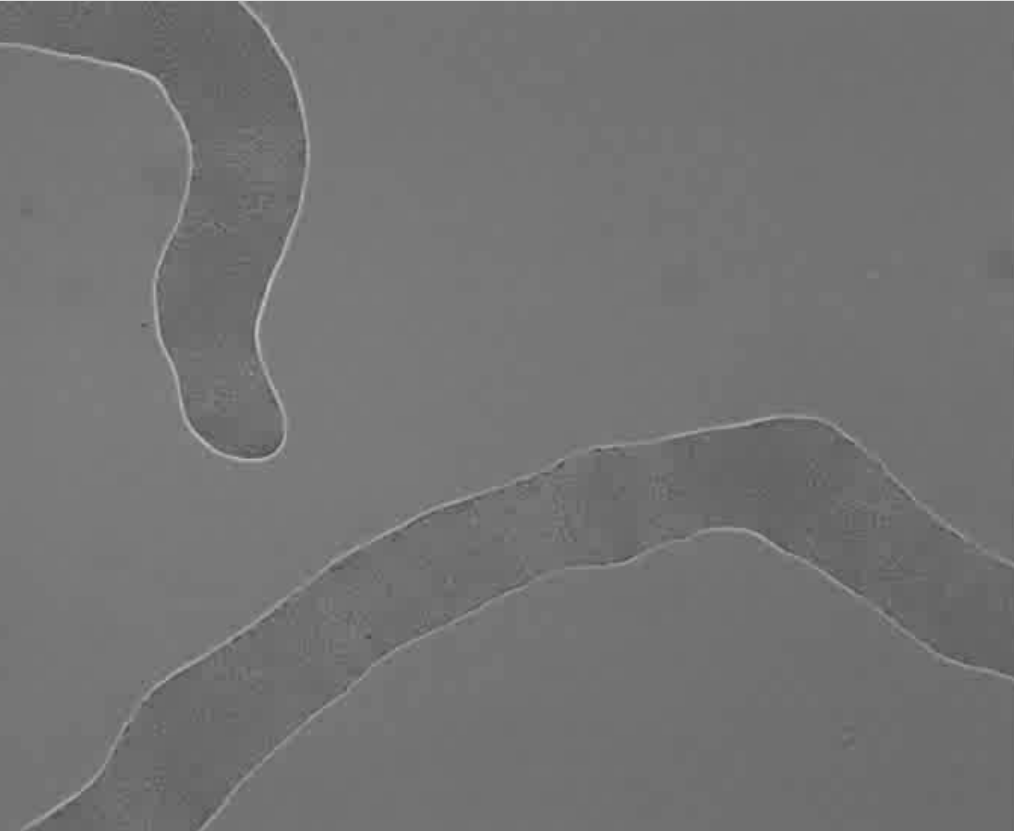
Paenibacillus vortex

With Ingham, BMC Microbiology 2009

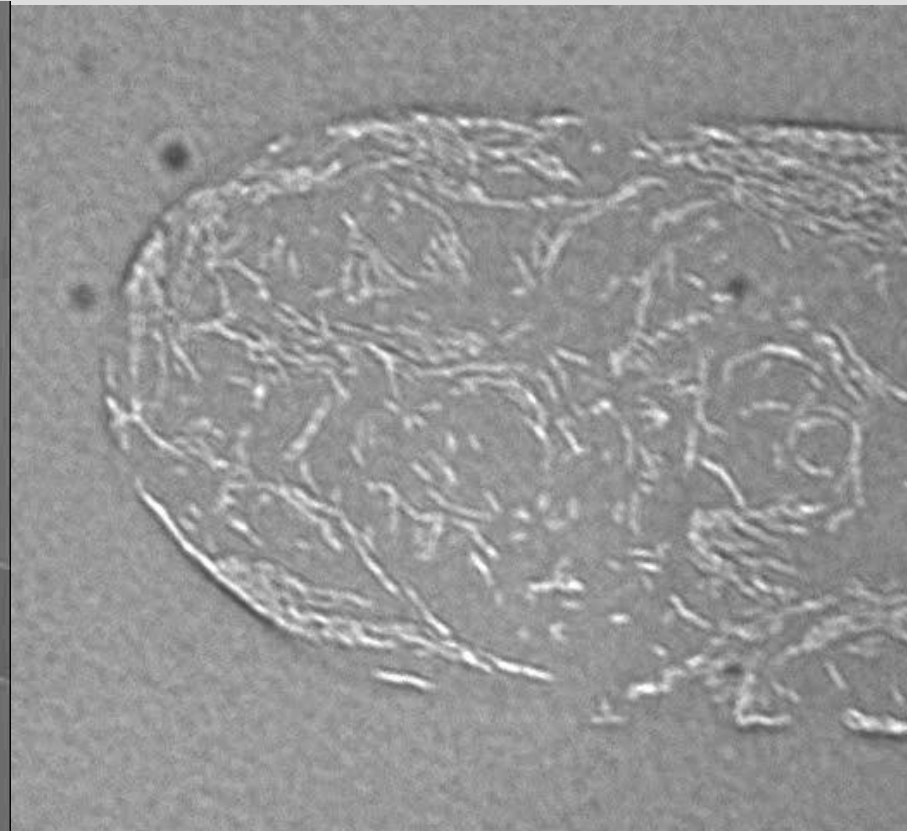
With Ingham, Kalishman and Finkelstein, PNAS 2011

Additional Features

Swarm-Swarm Repellent



Marking the trail



Colin Ingham and Ben-Jacob BMC Microbiology 2009

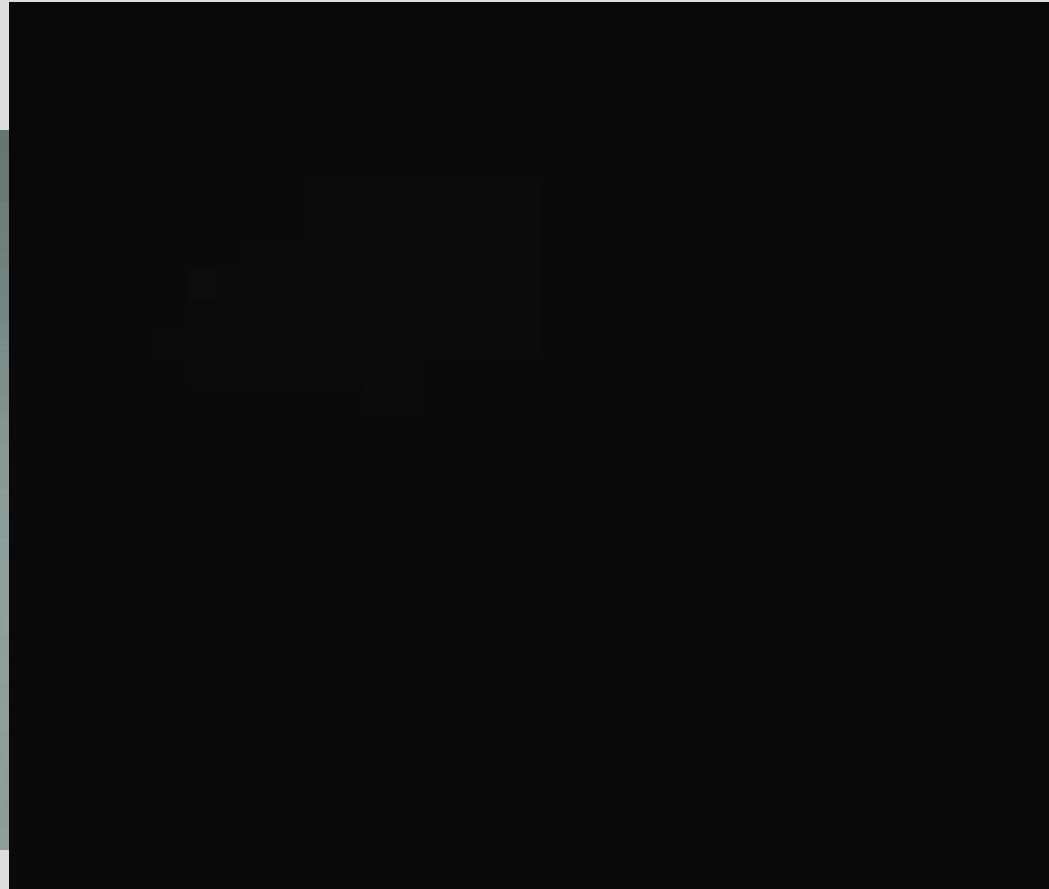
Collective Navigation in Search for Food



Collective (Distributed) Information Processing

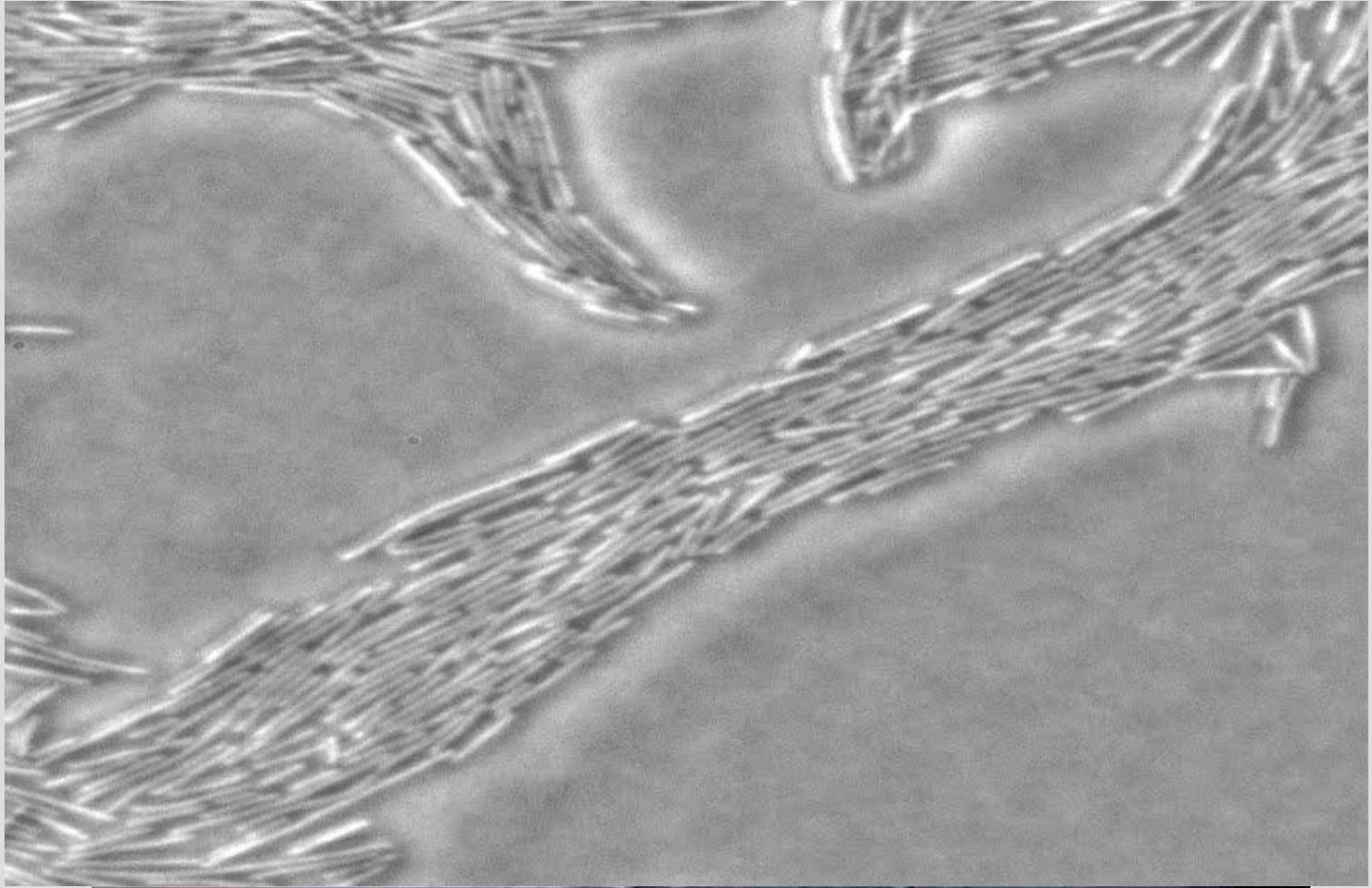
Social Networking by Chemical Twitting

Bacteria Mating



How Bacteria Move

Swimming by Flagella, Gliding by Pili and more



Movie: Thanks to Avraham (Menni) Beer, Sde Boker
Flagella swimming (Howard Berg)

Gut Bacteria and Human Mating - Choice of Partners



Sex pheromones

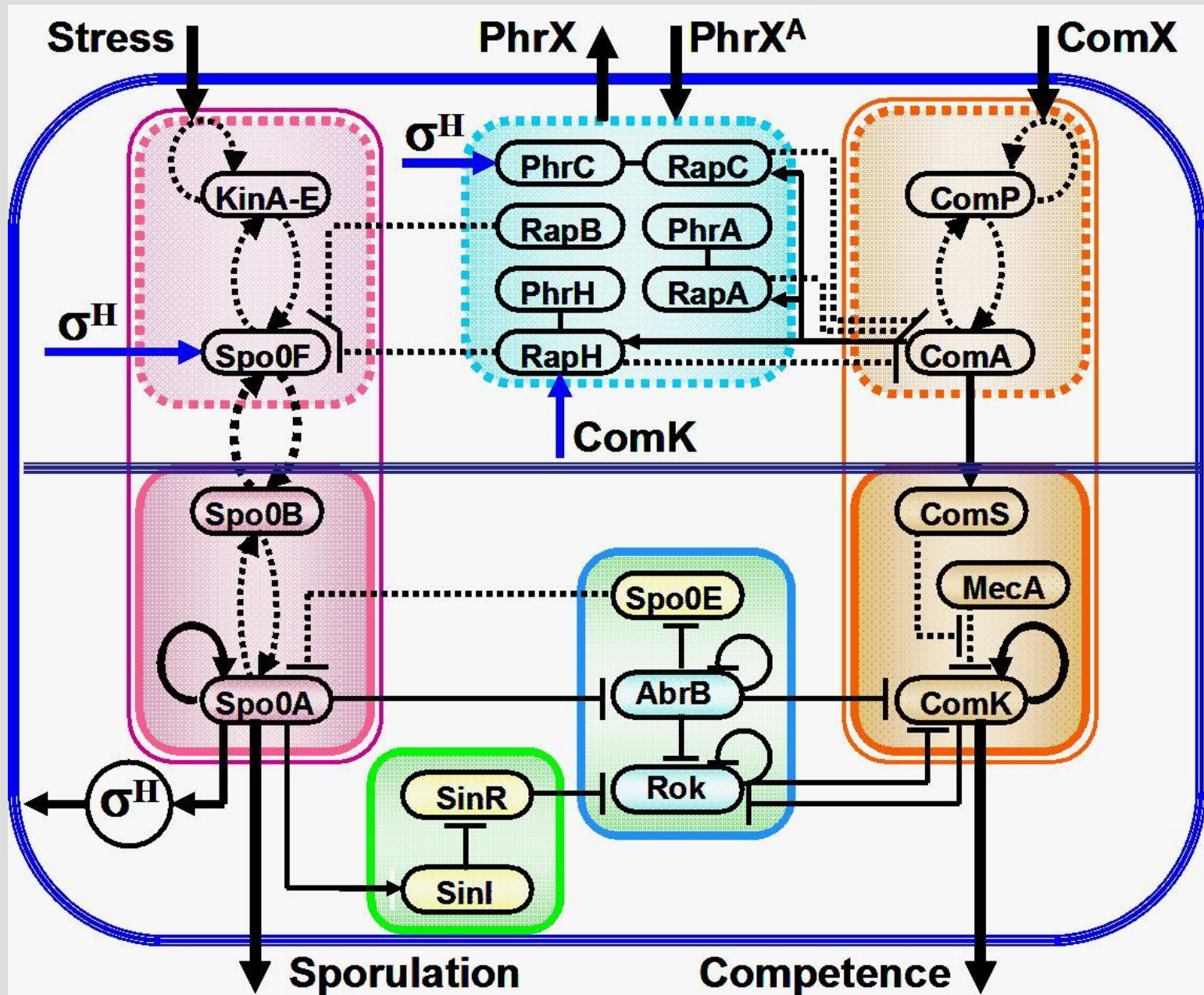




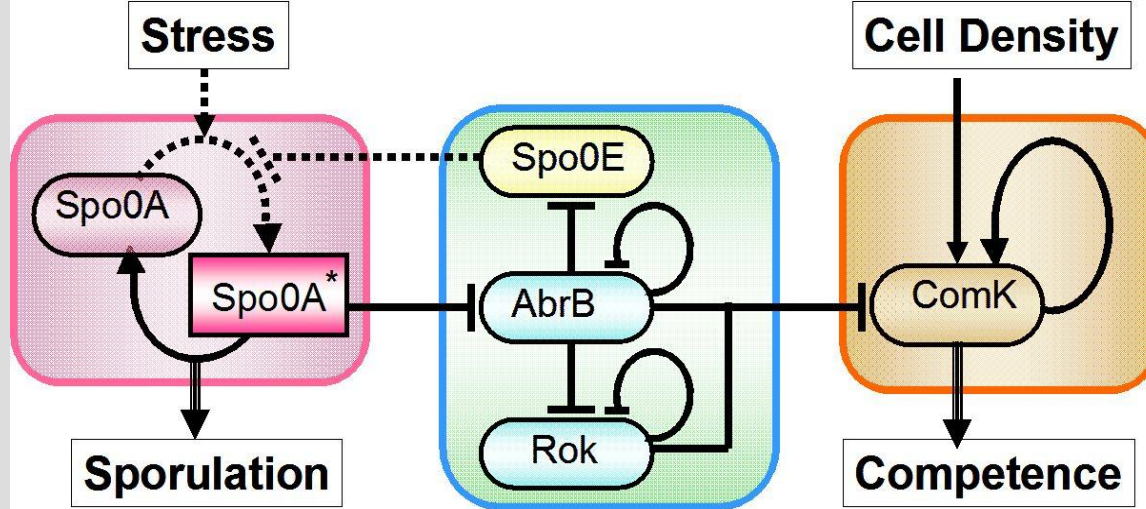
Conclusions & Reflections



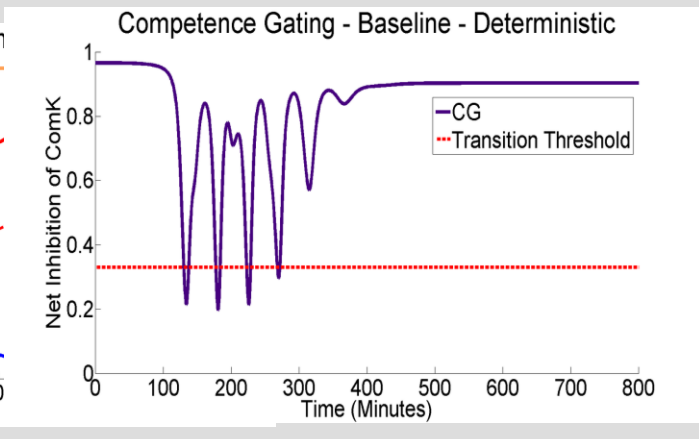
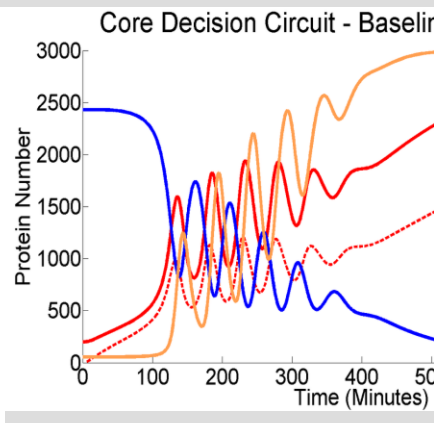
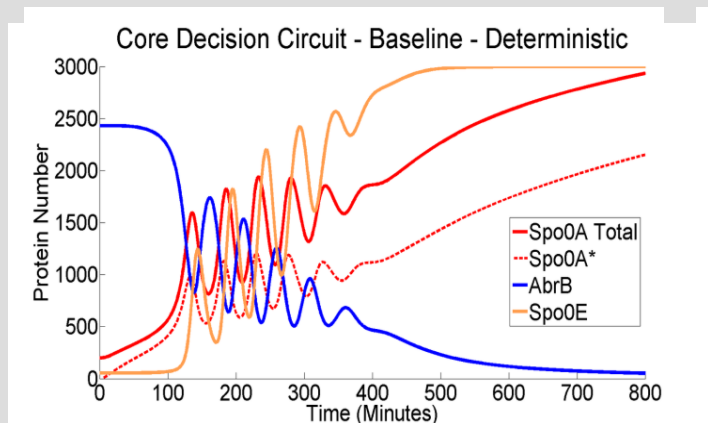
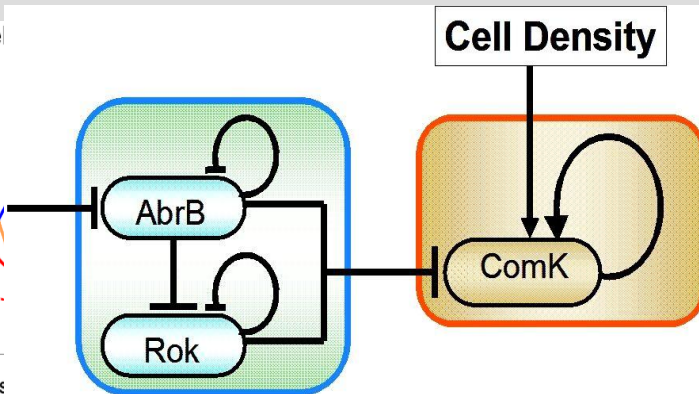
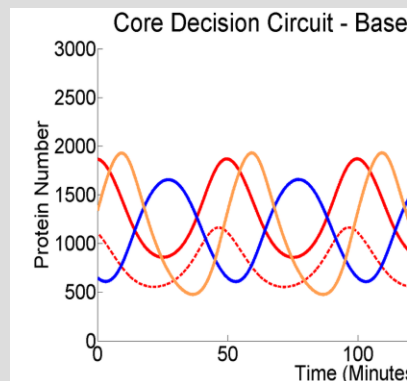
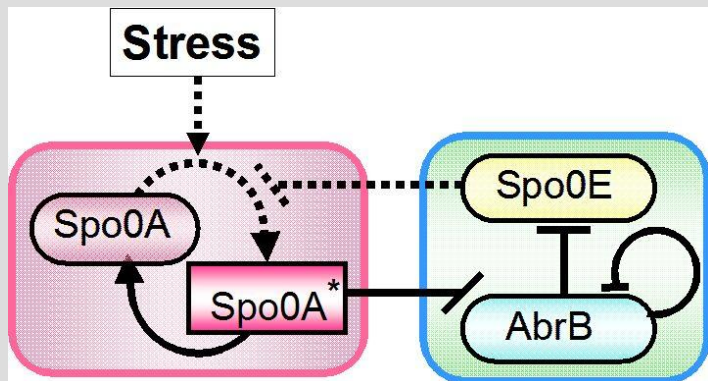
The Decision Network

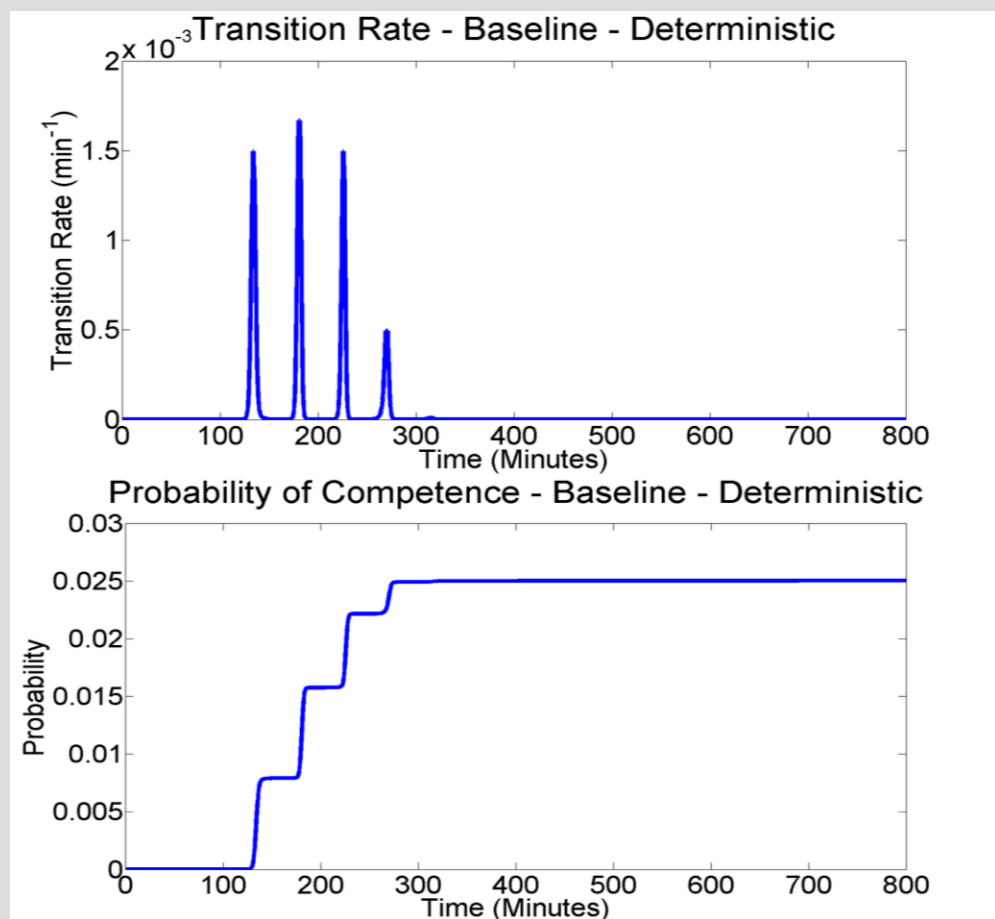
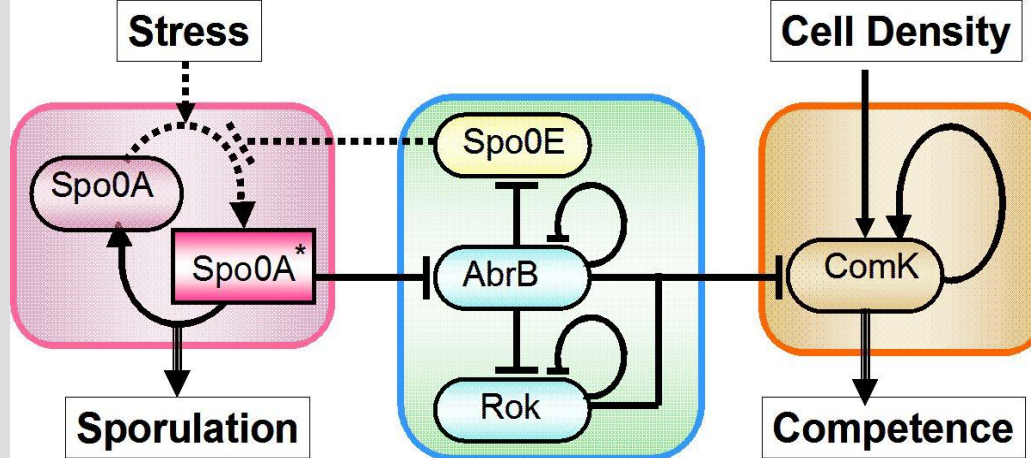


With Trevor Schultz Onuchic (unpublished)

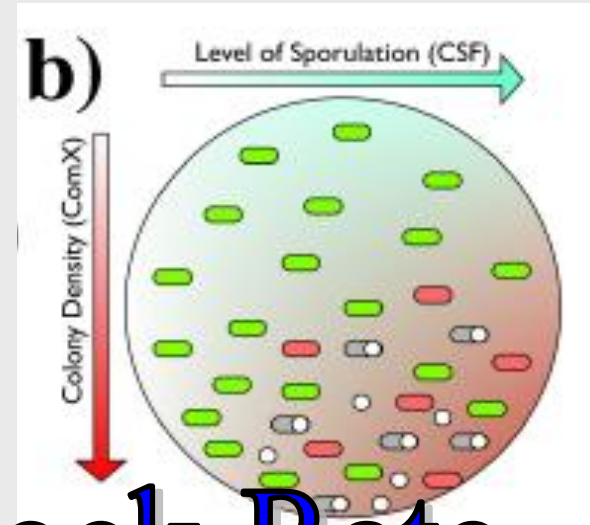
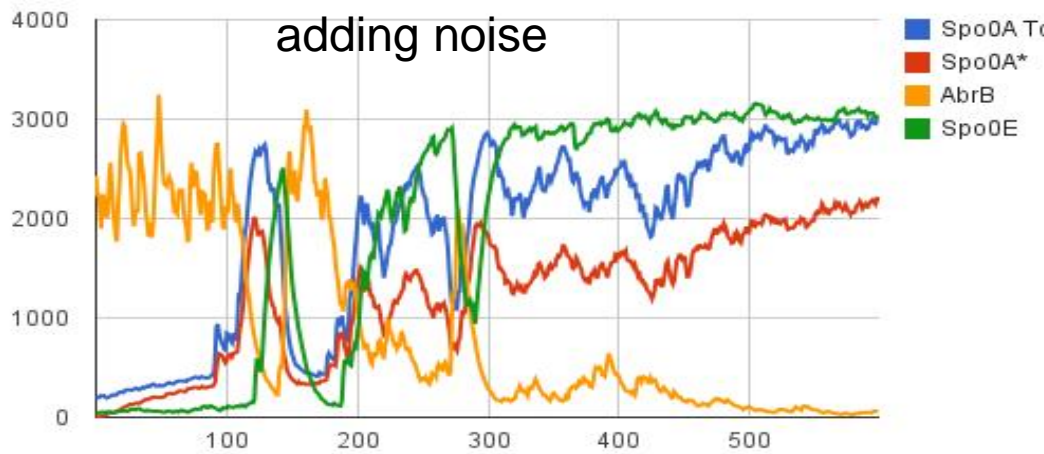


With Trevor Schultz Onuchic Süel (RMP unpublished)





Comparison with experiments



Coordination of Clock Rate

