



# HTERT IMMORTALIZED CELL LINES – UNIQUE TOOLS FOR PHYSIOLOGICALLY- RELEVANT RESEARCH

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Senior Scientist, ATCC  
March 27, 2014



THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE SCIENCE RESEARCH  
GLOBALLY DELIVERED™

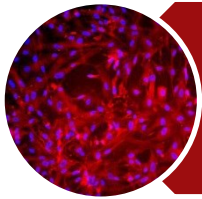
# Who we are

- ATCC serves and supports the scientific community with industry-standard products and innovative solutions
- World's leading biological resource center and provider of biological standards
- Broad range of biological materials
  - Microorganisms
  - Cell lines
  - Derivatives
  - Bioproducts
- Founded in 1925, ATCC is a non-profit organization with headquarters in Manassas, VA

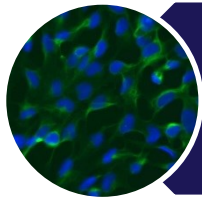




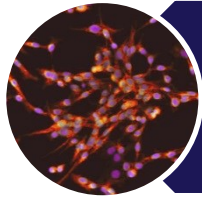
# Outline



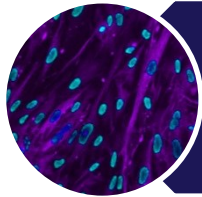
History of cell culture, telomerase, and cell immortalization



Create your own immortalized cell lines



Overview of hTERT immortalized cell lines from ATCC



Examples of hTERT immortalized cell lines

# Inconvenience of primary cell culture

## The Hayflick Limit



Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology

**Who:** Leonard Hayflick

**When:** 1965

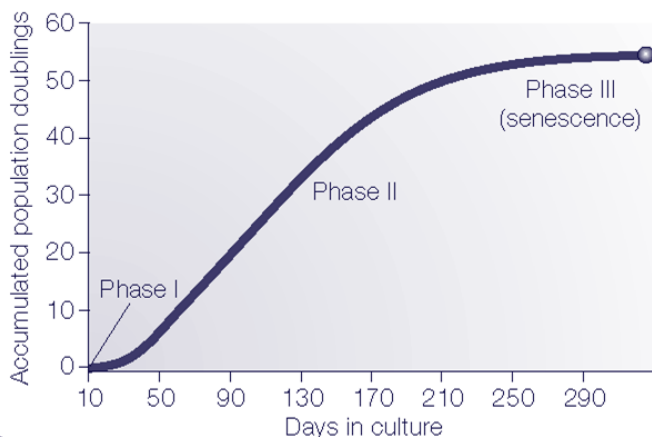
**Methods:** Normal diploid cells were serially passaged in culture until they stopped dividing

**Institution:** Wistar Institute

**Where:** Philadelphia, PA, U.S.A

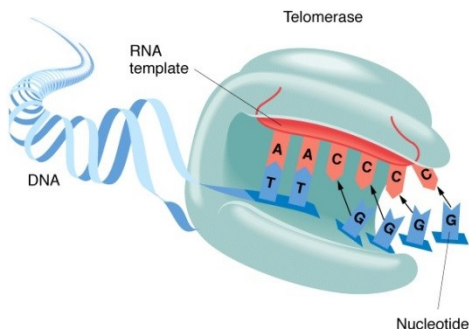
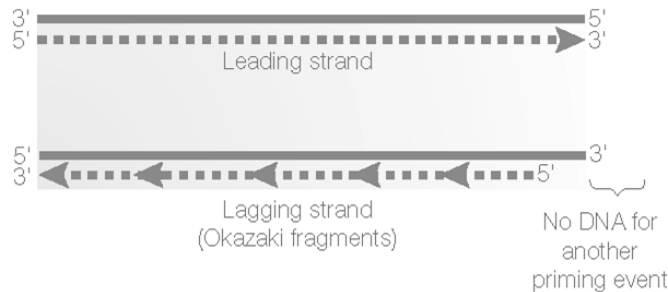
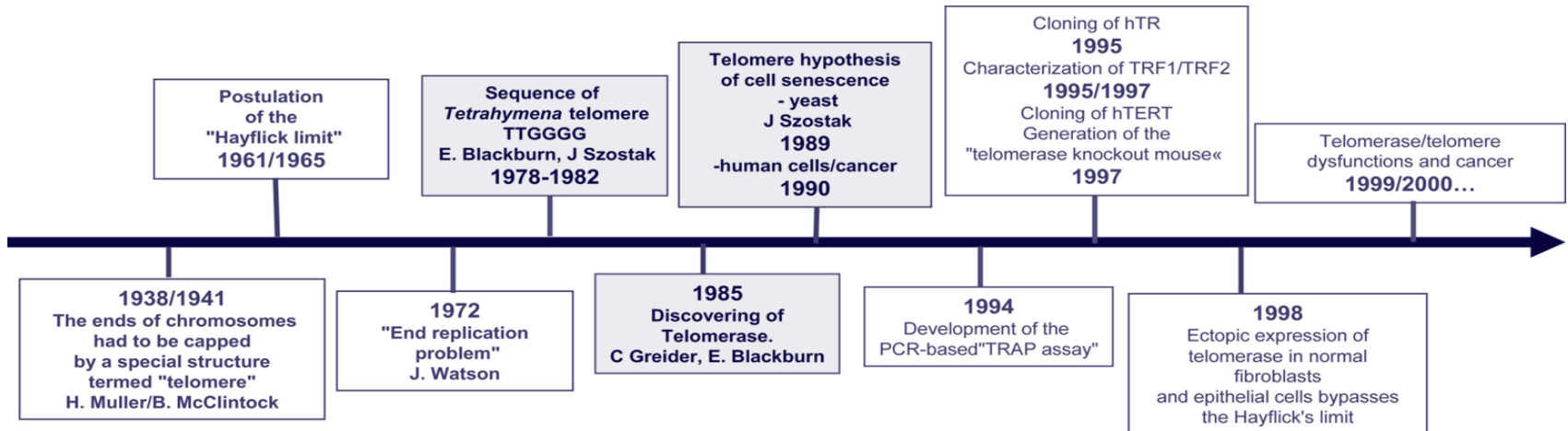
**Primary human cell strains** each have a characteristic replicative lifespan or "doubling potential", and that this lifespan is an intrinsic characteristic that can differ between strains.

- **Phase I** is the primary culture.
- **Phase II** represents subcultivated cells during the period of exponential replication.
- **Phase III** represents the period when cell replication ceases but metabolism continues. Cells may remain in this state for one year before death occurs.





# Telomere and telomerase: The history



**The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2009**

"for the discovery of how chromosomes are protected by telomeres and the enzyme telomerase"



Photo: Gerbil, Licensed by Attribution Share Alike 3.0

**Elizabeth H. Blackburn**



Photo: Gerbil, Licensed by Attribution Share Alike 3.0

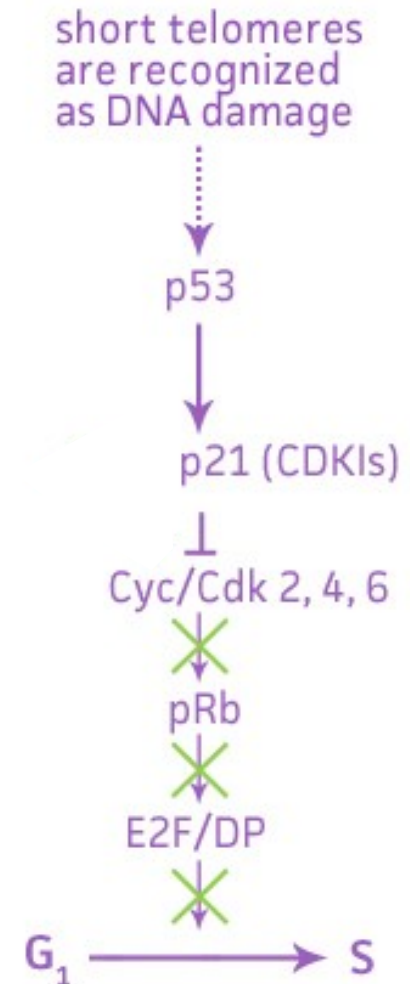
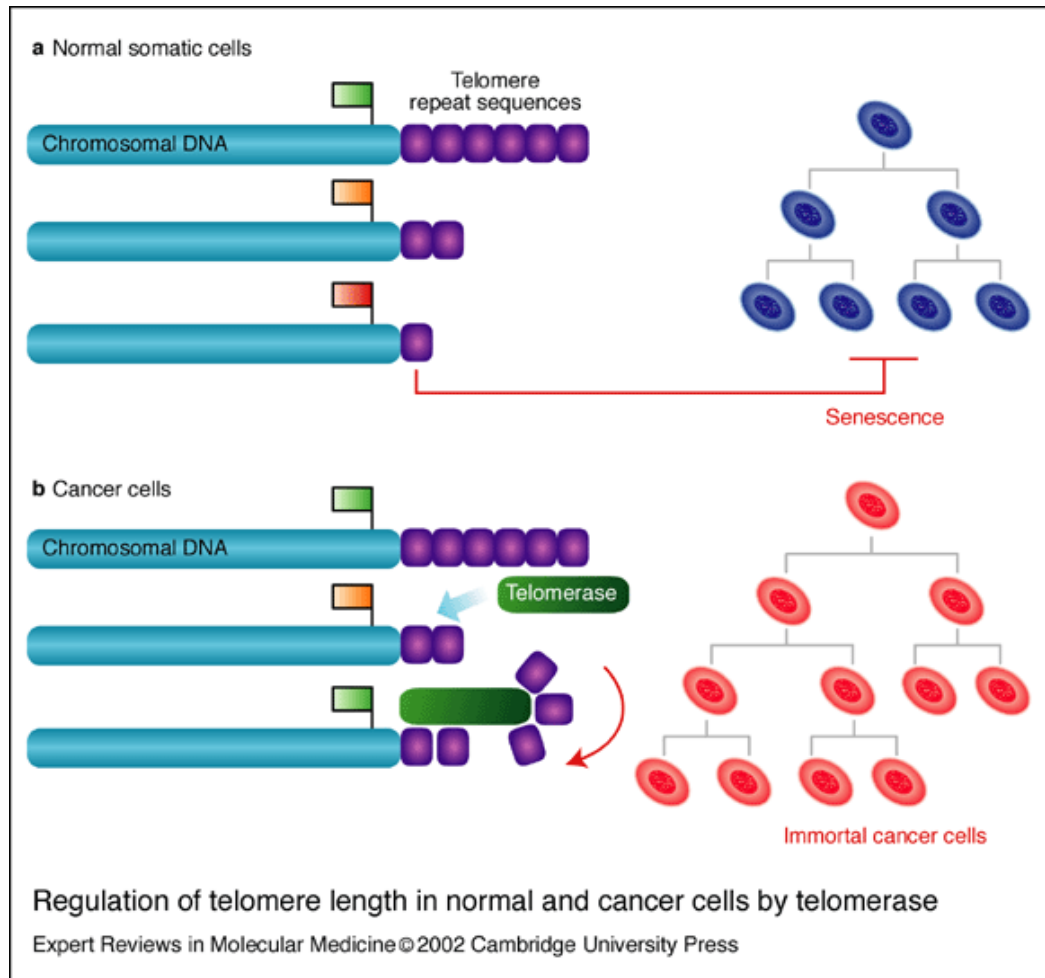
**Carol W. Greider**



Photo © Harvard Medical School

**Jack W. Szostak**

# Bypass replicative senescence by telomerase



# Immortalization of normal human cells by hTERT

## Extension of Life-Span by Introduction of Telomerase into Normal Human Cells

Andrea G. Bodnar,\* Michel Ouellette,\* Maria Frolkis, Shawn E. Holt, Choy-Pik Chiu, Gregg B. Morin, Calvin B. Harley, Jerry W. Shay, Serge Lichtsterner,† Woodring E. Wright†

Normal human cells undergo a finite number of cell divisions and ultimately enter a nondividing state called replicative senescence. It has been proposed that telomere shortening is the molecular clock that triggers senescence. To test this hypothesis, two telomerase-negative normal human cell types, retinal pigment epithelial cells and foreskin fibroblasts, were transfected with vectors encoding the human telomerase catalytic subunit. In contrast to telomerase-negative control clones, which exhibited telomere shortening and senescence, telomerase-expressing clones had elongated telomeres, divided vigorously, and showed reduced staining for  $\beta$ -galactosidase, a biomarker for senescence. Notably, the telomerase-expressing clones have a normal karyotype and have already exceeded their normal life-span by at least 20 doublings, thus establishing a causal relationship between telomere shortening and in vitro cellular senescence. The ability to maintain normal human cells in a phenotypically youthful state could have important applications in research and medicine.

Normal human diploid cells placed in culture have a finite proliferative life-span and enter a nondividing state termed senescence, which is characterized by altered gene expression (1, 2). Replicative senescence is dependent upon cumulative cell divisions and not chronologic or metabolic time, indicating that proliferation is limited by a "mitotic clock" (3). The reduction in proliferative capacity of cells from old donors and patients with premature aging syndromes (4), and the accumulation in vivo of senescent cells with altered patterns of gene expression (5, 6), implicate cellular senescence in aging and age-related pathologies (1, 2).

Telomere loss is thought to control entry into senescence (7–10). Human telomeres consist of repeats of the sequence TTAGGG/CCCTAA at chromosome ends; these repeats are synthesized by the ribonucleoprotein enzyme telomerase (11, 12). Telomerase is active in germ-line cells and, in humans, telomeres in these cells are maintained at about 15 kilobase pairs (kbp). In contrast, telomerase is not

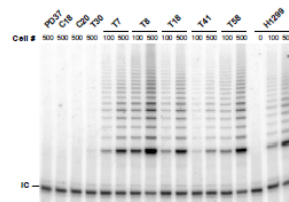
expressed in most human somatic tissues (13, 14), and telomere length is significantly shorter (15). The telomere hypothesis of cellular aging (16) proposes that cells become senescent when progressive telomere shortening during each division produces a threshold telomere length.

The human telomerase reverse transcriptase subunit (hTERT) has been cloned (17). We recently demonstrated that telomerase activity can be reconstituted by transient expression of hTERT in normal human diploid cells, which express low levels of the template RNA component of telomerase (hTR) but do not express hTERT (18). This provided the opportunity to manipulate telomere length and test the hypothesis that telomere shortening

causes cellular senescence.

Introduction of telomerase into normal human cells. To determine if telomerase expression increases cell life-span, we transfected hTERT<sup>+</sup> normal cells with two different hTERT expression constructs. One construct was engineered for increased translational efficiency by removal of the 5' and 3' untranslated regions of hTERT and creation of a Kozak consensus sequence. This engineered hTERT cDNA was cloned downstream of the MPSV promoter (19). The second construct consisted of the complete (native) hTERT cDNA cloned downstream of the SV40 promoter in pZeoSV (19). In the first experiments, we compared the life-span of stable clones transfected with MPSV-hTERT versus "vector only" clones, and in the second, we compared the life-span of activity-positive and activity-negative stable clones containing integrated SV40-hTERT constructs.

hTERT<sup>+</sup> normal retinal pigment epithelial cells (RPE-340) were transfected with the MPSV-hTERT vector at population doubling (PD) 37, and 27 of the 99 resultant stable clones (69%) expressed telomerase activity. BJ foreskin fibroblasts were transfected with the MPSV-hTERT vector at PD 58, and 3 of the 22 stable clones (14%) expressed telomerase activity. Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction experiments demonstrated that the hTERT mRNA originated from the transfected cDNA and not the endogenous gene (20). Telomerase activity, measured relative to that in the lung cancer-derived human cell line H1299, ranged from 65 to 360% in the RPE clones (Fig. 1) and 86 to 95% in the BJ clones. This range of telomerase activity is similar to that observed for tumor cell lines (13). Thirty-three RPE clones and 24 BJ clones transfected with the control plasmid were also isolated; RPE clones that generated sufficient cells for the TRAP assay ( $n = 15$ ) (Fig. 1) and control BJ clones ( $n = 15$ )



**Fig. 1.** Telomerase activity in stable RPE clones. Stable human RPE clones obtained by transfection with a control vector (clone numbers prefixed with "C") or with a vector expressing the hTERT cDNA ("T" clones) were analyzed for telomerase activity by the TRAP assay (19). "P0T" represents the cell population at the time of transfection. The number of cells assayed for each clone is indicated above each lane. "C0" is the internal control in the TRAP assay. The positive control was the telomerase activity extracted from H1299 cells (20).

Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cell

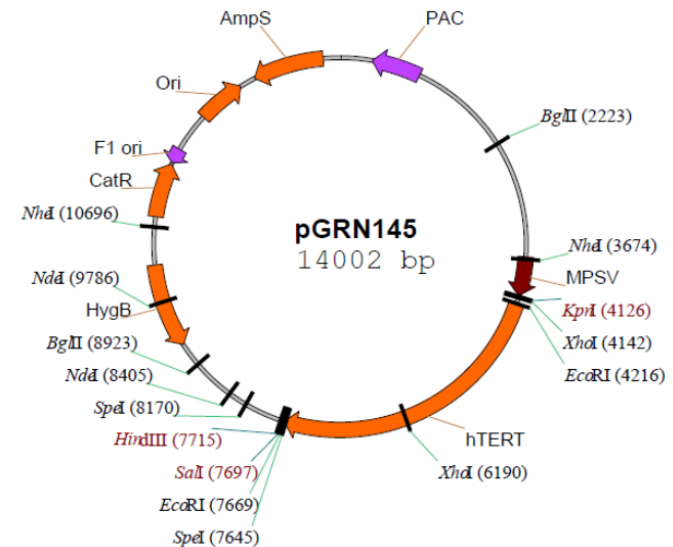
CRL-4000™

hTERT-RPE1

Foreskin Fibroblast

CRL-4001™

BJ-5ta



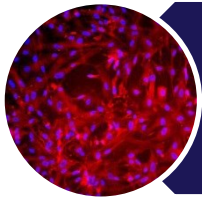
pGRN145, plasmid in *E. coli*  
ATCC® MBA-141

A. G. Bodnar, M. Frolkis, C.-P. Chiu, G. B. Morin, C. B. Harley, and S. Lichtsterner are at Genon Corporation, 230 Constitution Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, USA. M. Ouellette, S. E. Holt, J. W. Shay, and W. E. Wright are in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, 5322 Harry Hines Boulevard, Dallas, TX 75235-9039, USA.

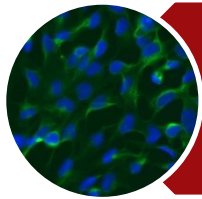
\*These authors contributed equally to this work.  
†To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: alight@genon.com; wright@utsw.med.utd.edu



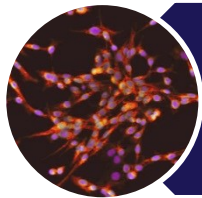
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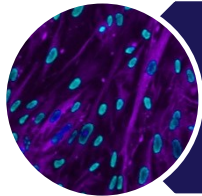
History of cell culture, telomerase, and cell immortalization



Create your own immortalized cell lines



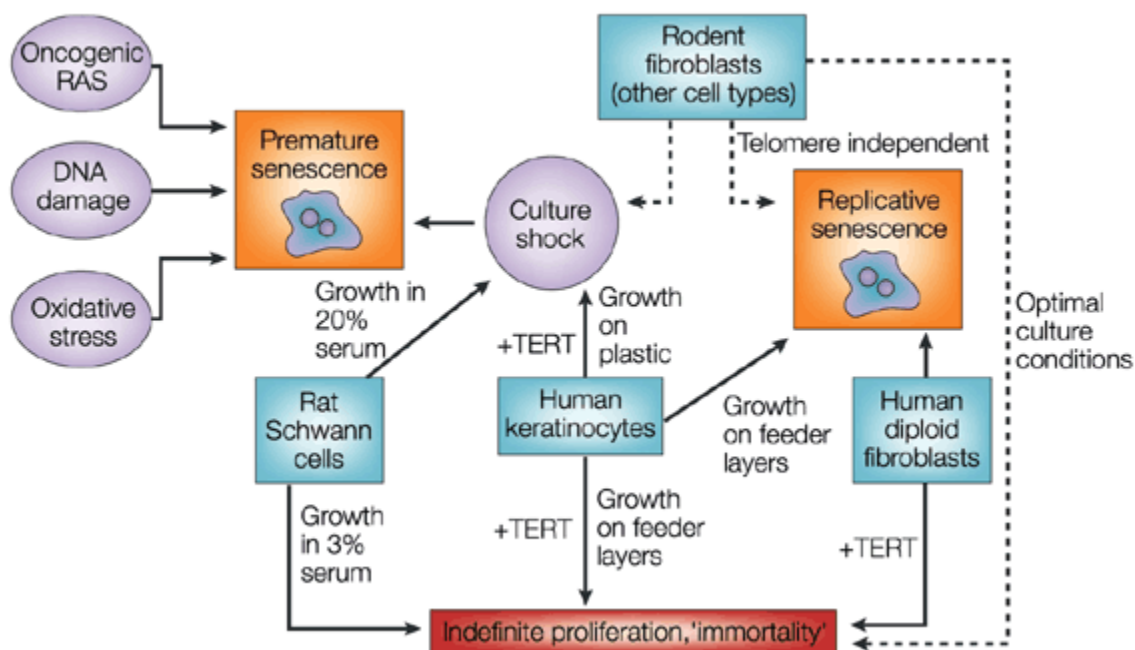
Overview of hTERT immortalized cell lines from ATCC



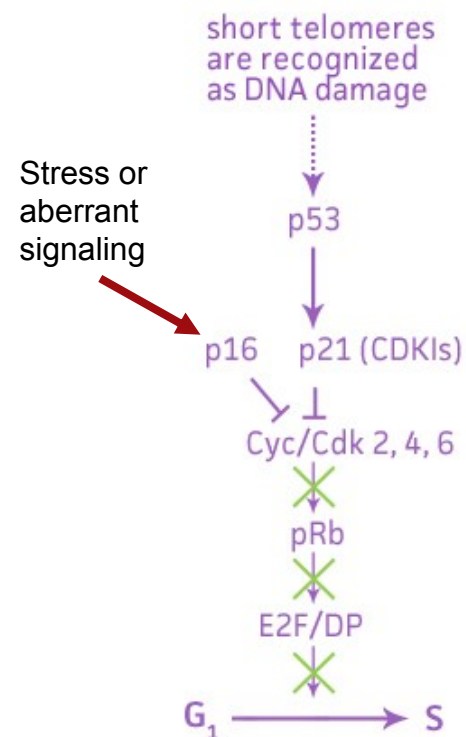
Examples of hTERT immortalized cell lines



# Roads to cell immortalization



Mathon NF, Lloyd AC. *Nature Reviews Cancer* 1: 203-213, 2001.



[http://www.senescence.info/telomeres\\_telomerase.html](http://www.senescence.info/telomeres_telomerase.html)

## ⬆ Telomerase

hTERT  
HPV-16 E6  
Myc T58A

## ⬆ p53/p21

SV40T  
HPV-16 E6

## ⬆ p16/pRB

HPV-16 E7  
CDK4  
Bmi-1

## Other Methods

Feeder culture (3T3)  
Rho-associated kinase inhibitor (Y-27632)  
Physiological Oxygen (2-5%)

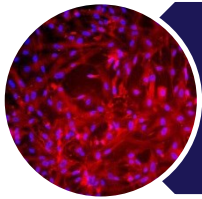


# Tools for cell immortalization

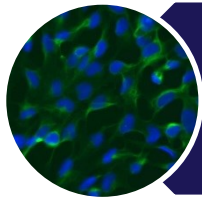
Plasmids and Reagents	ATCC® No.
hTERT	MBA-141
SV40-Baylor	VRMC-3™
HPV-16 E6/E7	CRL-2203™, 45113D
CDK4	MGC-19704, MGC-4678, MGC-3719
Bmi-1	81582D, MGC-12685
3T3 Feeder Cells	CCL-92™, 48-X™
ROCK Inhibitor Y-27632	ACS-3030



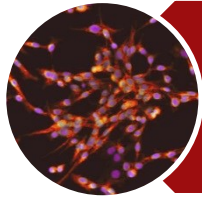
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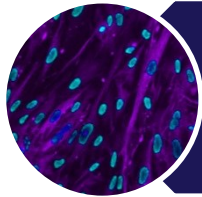
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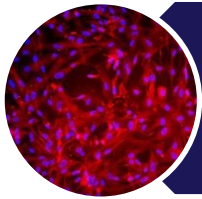
# hTERT immortalized cell lines from ATCC

Tissue	Cell Type	ATCC® No	Designations	Comments
<b>Breast</b>	Mammary Epithelial	CRL-4010™	hTERT-HME1	Normal adult
<b>Bone</b>	Bone Cartilage Fibroblast	CRL-2846™, CRL-2847™	CHON-001, CHON-002	Normal fetal
<b>Esophagus</b>	Barrett's Esophageal Epithelial	CRL-4027™, CRL-4028™, CRL-4029™, CRL-4030™	CP-A, CP-B, CP-C, CP-D	Pre-malignant sample
<b>Eye</b>	Retinal Pigment Epithelial	CRL-4000™	hTERT-RPE1	Normal
<b>Kidney</b>	Angiomyolipoma	CRL-4004™	UMB1949	Angiomyolipoma
		CRL-4008™	SV7tert PDGF tumor-1	Autocrine transformation and epigenetic changes
	Proximal Tubule Epithelial	CRL-4031™	RPTEC/TERT1	Normal adult
<b>Lung</b>	Bronchial Epithelial	CRL-4011™	NuLi-1	Normal adult
		CRL-4013™, CRL-4015™, CRL-4016™, CRL-4017™	CuFi-1, CuFi-4, CuFi-5, CuFi-6	Cystic Fibrosis
		CRL-4051™	HBEC3-KT (coming soon)	Normal adult
	Small Airway Epithelial	CRL-4050™	HSAEC1-KT (coming soon)	Normal adult
<b>Pancreas</b>	Pancreatic Duct	CRL-4023™	hTERT-HPNE	Normal adult
		CRL-4036™, CRL-4037™, CRL-4038™, CRL-4039™	hTERT-HPNE E6/E7, E6/E7/st, E6/E7/K-RasG12D, E6/E7/K-RasG12D/st	Stepwise oncogenic transformation
<b>Skin</b>	Foreskin Fibroblast	CRL-4001™	BJ-5ta	Normal neonatal
	Keratinocyte	CRL-4048™	Ker-CT (just released)	Normal neonatal
	Dermal Fibroblast	CRL-4005™	TelCOFS02MA (just released)	COFS
<b>Uterus</b>	Endometrium Stromal	CRL-4003™	T HESCs	Normal adult
<b>Vascular</b>	Microvascular Endothelial	CRL-4025™	TIME	Normal neonatal
	Microvascular Endothelial	CRL-4045™	TIME-GFP (just released)	Stable GFP expression
	Microvascular Endothelial	CRL-4049™	NFKB-TIME (just released)	NanoLuc reporter line
	Aortic Endothelial	CRL-4052™	TeloHAEC (coming soon)	Normal adult
<b>Adipose</b>	Mesenchymal Stem Cell	SCRC-4000™	ASC52telo (just released)	Normal Adult

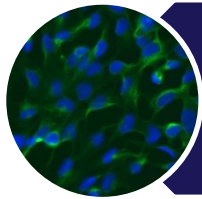




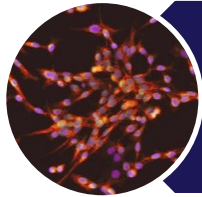
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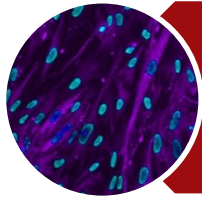
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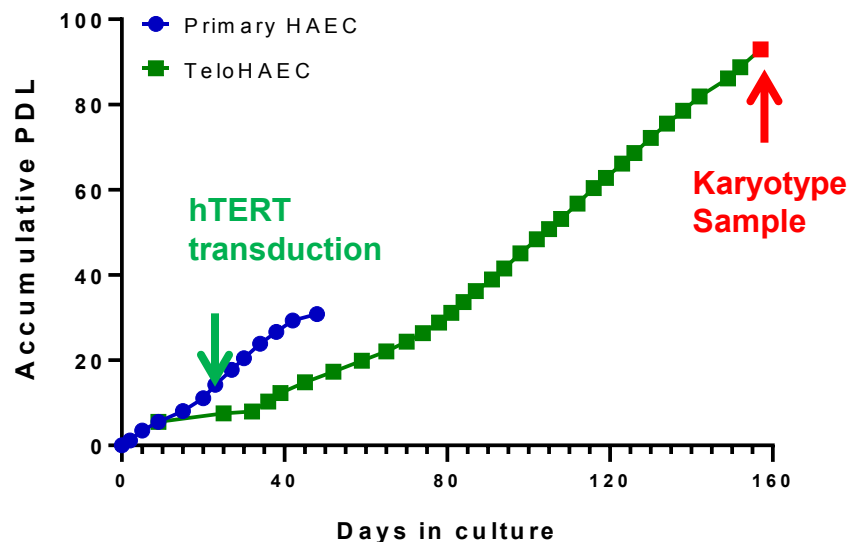


# hTERT Immortalized Endothelial Cell Lines – Good endothelial cell models

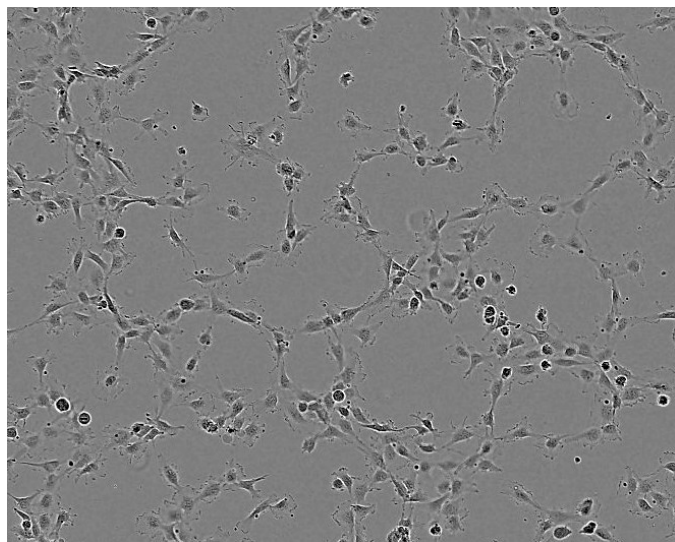
- Over-expression of ectopic telomerase can immortalize endothelial cells isolated from diverse tissues sources, e.g., umbilical cord vein, dermis of juvenile foreskin, aorta, etc.
  - Extended lifespan with normal diploid karyotype
  - Normal endothelial cell phenotype/function
    - Surface markers and receptors (PECAM-1/CD31, VEGFR2, Tie-2)
    - Ac-LDL uptake (LDL receptor functional assay)
    - Neoangiogenesis – Tubule formation on basement membrane gel
- ATCC's hTERT-immortalized endothelial cells collection

ATCC® Cat. No.	Cell Line	Description
CRL-4052™	TeloHAEC	Normal adult aortic endothelial cells <b>(coming soon)</b>
CRL-4025™	TIME	Foreskin microvascular endothelial cells
CRL-4045™	TIME-GFP	Foreskin microvascular endothelial cells with constitutive expression of EmGFP®
CRL-4049™	NFkB-TIME	Foreskin microvascular endothelial cells with NanoLuc® reporter expression under the control of NFkB response elements

# TeloHAEC – immortalized aortic endothelial cell line



Normal Diploid Karyotype



TeloHAEC  
Media

Cell Basement Membrane Gel

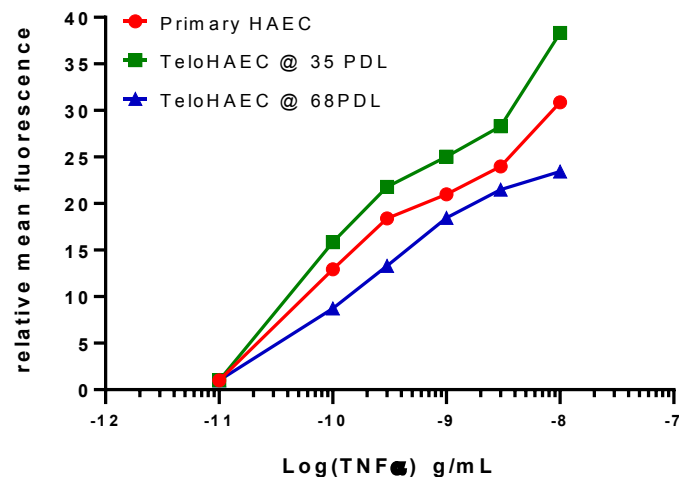
ATCC® CRL-4052™  
ATCC® PCS-100-030  
ATCC® PCS-110-040 (BBE Kit)  
ATCC® PCS-110-041 (VEGF Kit)  
ATCC® ACS-3035

Tubule formation on Basement Membrane Gel

# TeloHAEC – consistent functionality over time

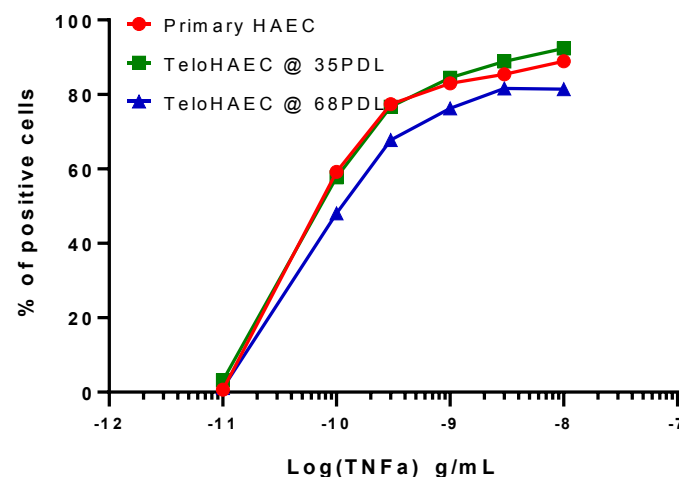
**A.**

Upregulation of CD54/ICAM-1



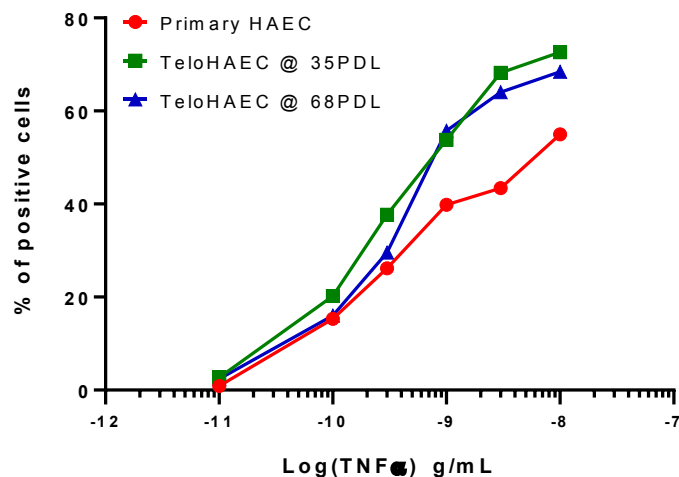
**C.**

Upregulation of CD106/VCAM-1



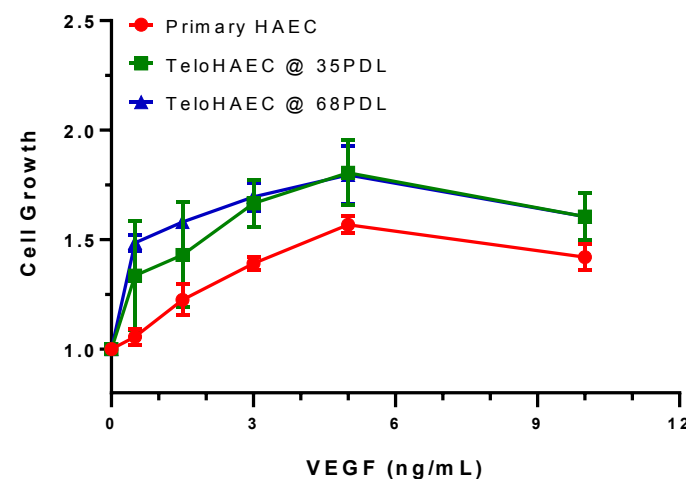
**B.**

Upregulation of CD62E/E-Selectin



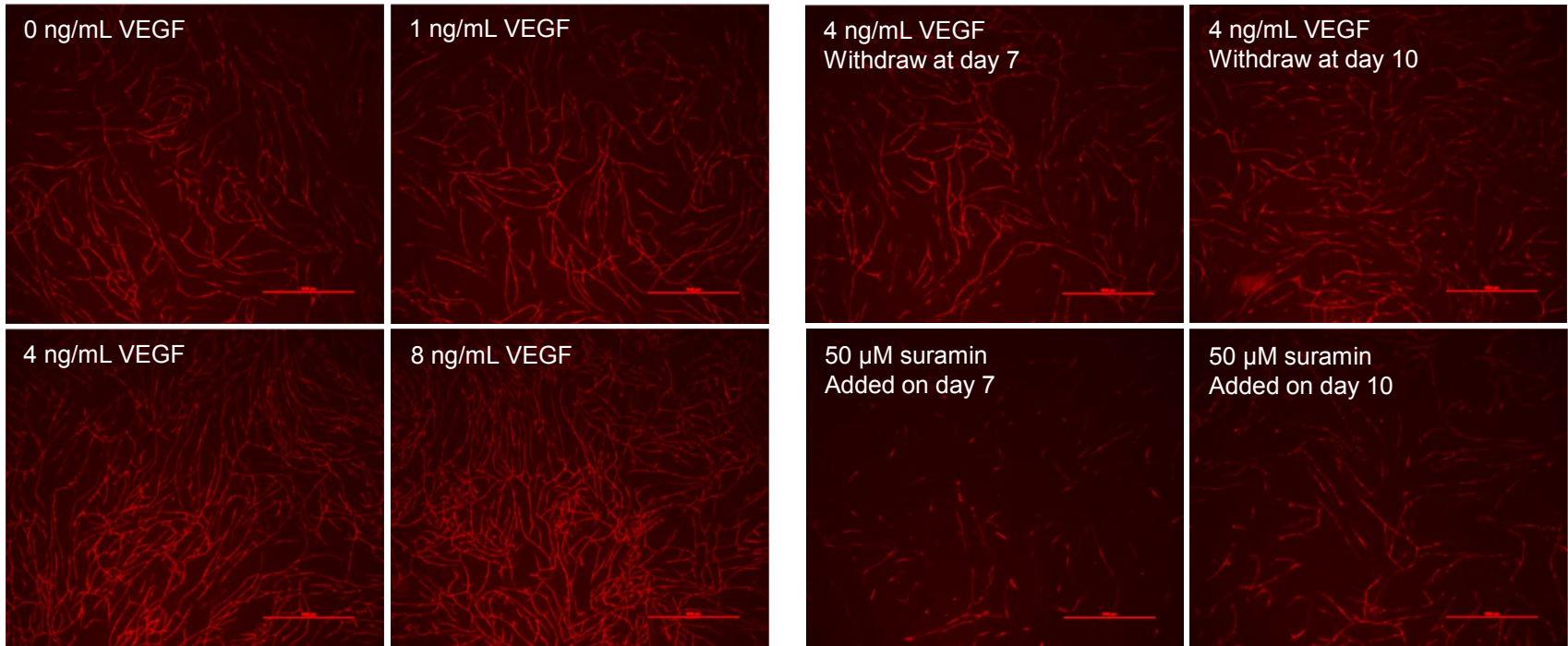
**D.**

VEGF-stimulated cell growth

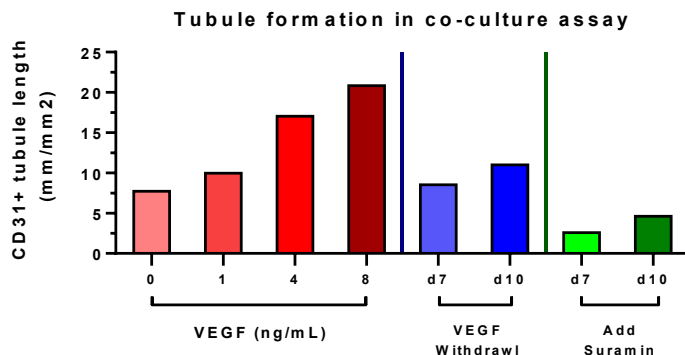




# TeloHAEC – phenotypic angiogenesis assay



## Long-term tubule formation in co-culture of endothelial cells and fibroblasts

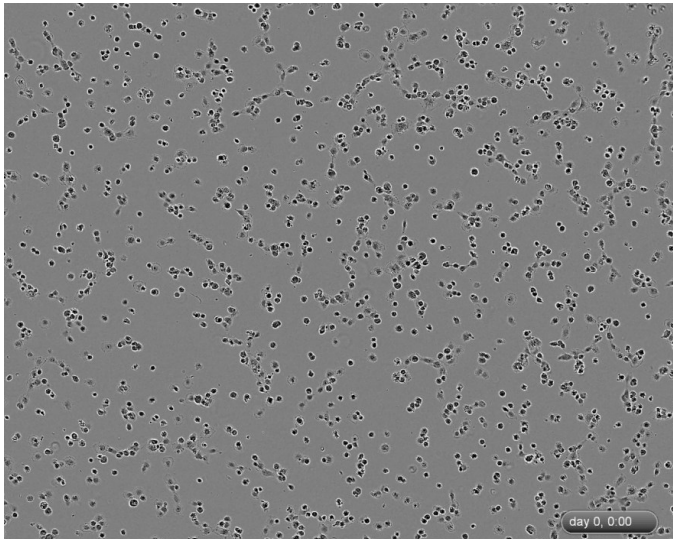


Endothelial cells co-cultured with mesenchymal cells produce stable tubular structure that appears more representative of capillary formation *in vivo*.

TeloHAEC cells are co-cultured with BJ fibroblast for 14 days, and stained with anti-CD31 to reveal tubular structure.

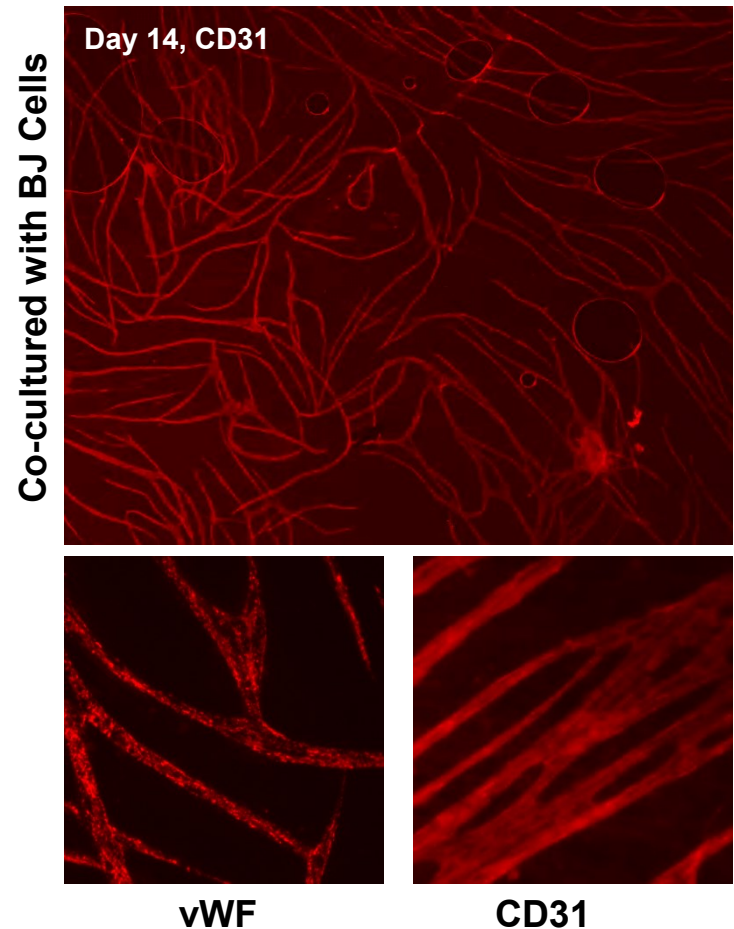
# TIME – immortalized microvascular endothelial cells

## Tubule formation on Gel



**TIME** ATCC® CRL-4025™  
**Media** ATCC® PCS-100-030  
ATCC® PCS-110-040 (BBE Kit)  
ATCC® PCS-110-041 (VEGF Kit)  
**Cell Basement Membrane Gel**

## Tubule formation on co-culture





# Genetic engineered cell lines derived from hTERT-immortalized endothelial cells

## **TIME-GFP (ATCC® CRL-4045™)**

- Derived by transfecting TIME (ATCC® CRL-4025™) cells with linearized pWE2-EmGFP plasmid
- Clonal cell line selected based on its stable expression of EmGFP® driven by CMV promoter

## **NFκB-TIME (ATCC® CRL-4049™)**

- Derived by transfecting TIME (ATCC® CRL-4025™) cells with linearized pNL3.2-Nluc/NF-kB-RE/Hygro plasmid
- Clonal cell line selected based on its high expression of NanoLuc® reporter in response to TNFα

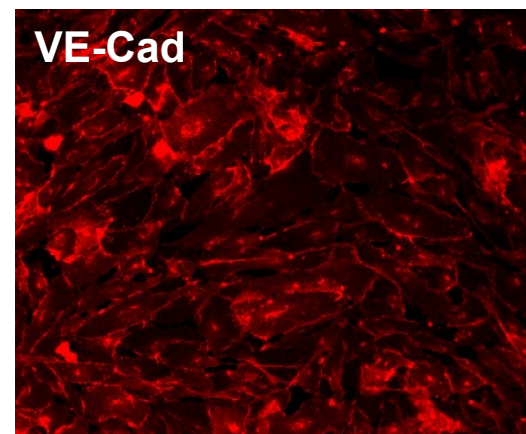
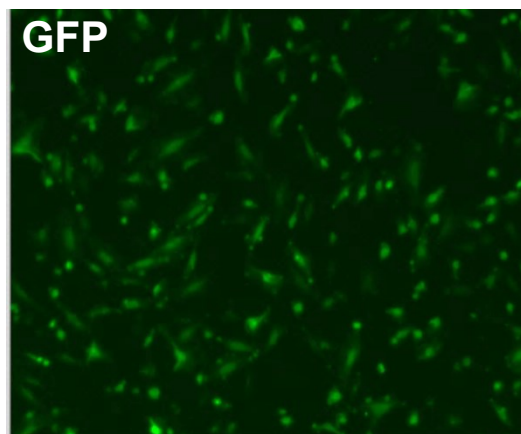
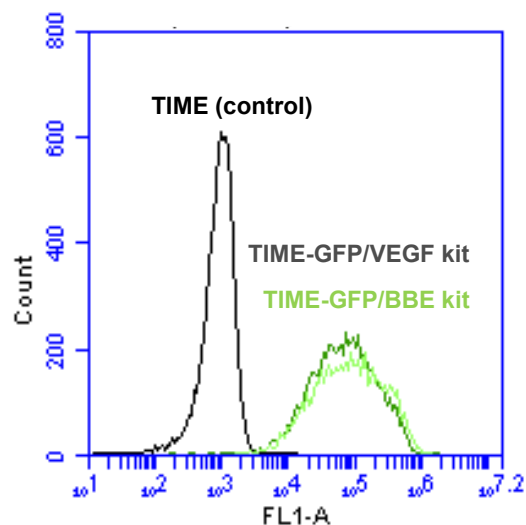
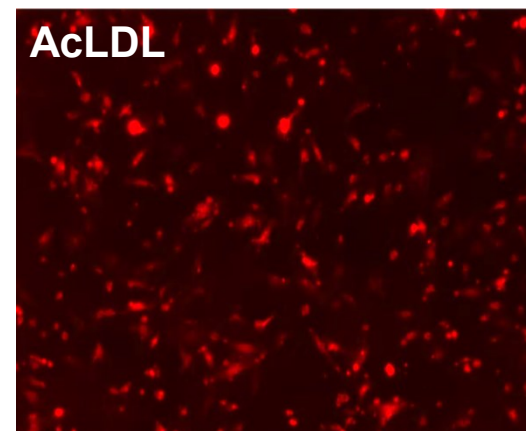
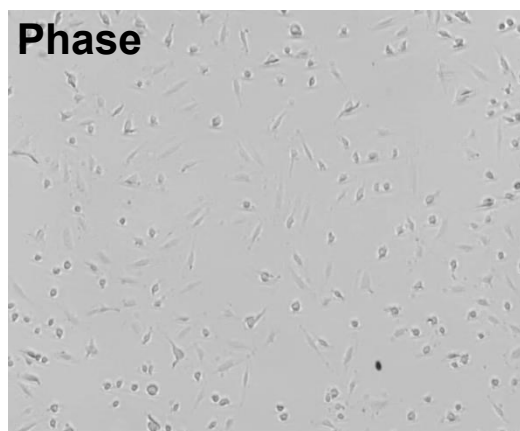
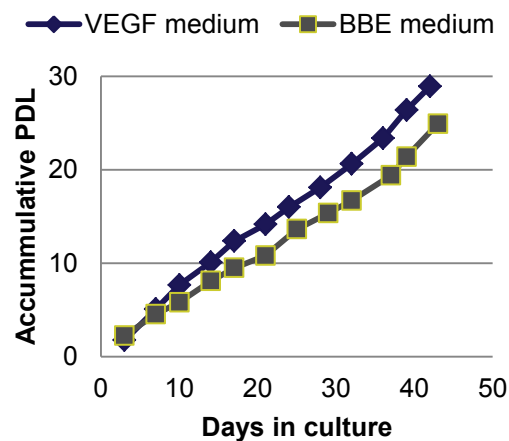
## **Both TIME-GFP and NFκB-TIME are:**

- Diploid cell line with a chromosome number of 46
- Positive for endothelial cell markers as the parental TIME cells (CD31, AcLDL uptake, VEGFR-2, Tie-2)
- Tubule formation on Gel
- Tested for at least 15 population doublings after recovery from cryopreservation



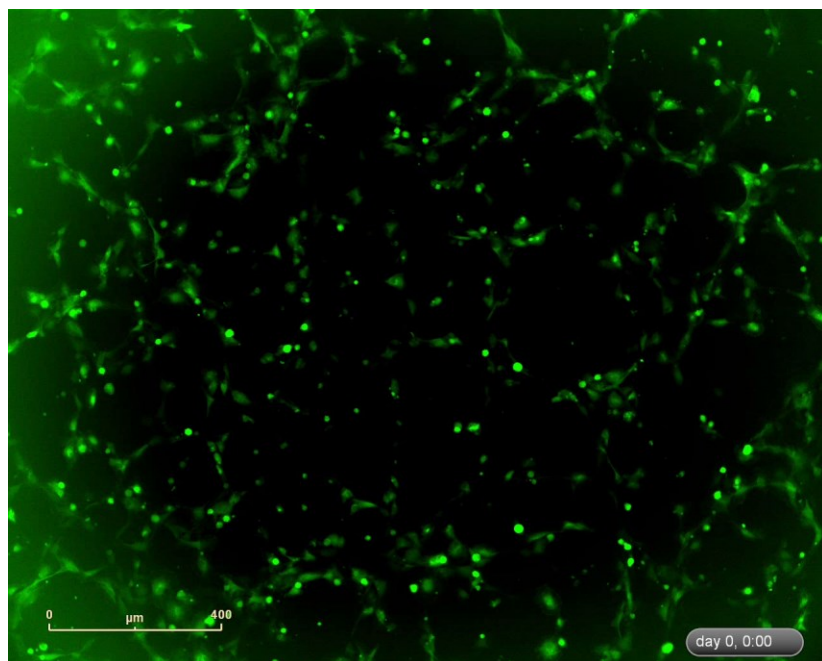


# TIME-GFP – consistent endothelial phenotype over extended culture

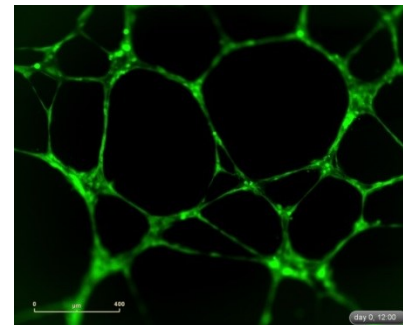
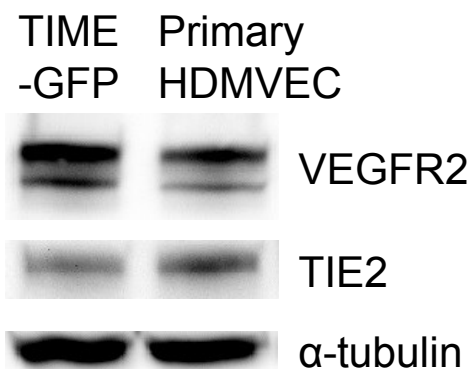




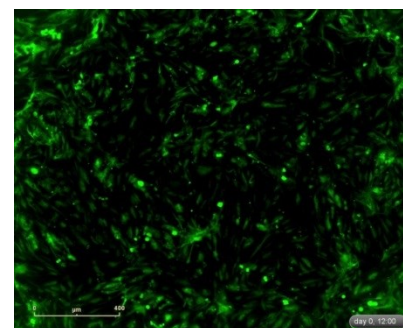
# TIME-GFP – GFP expression facilitates real-time analysis



The GFP-expressing cells migrate and coalesce into networks of vessel-like structures within 10 hours after being plated onto Cell Basement Membrane Gel (ATCC® ACS-3035™). The stable expression of GFP in these cells enables the detection and analysis of the fragile endothelial structures to occur without post-assay fixation and/or staining.



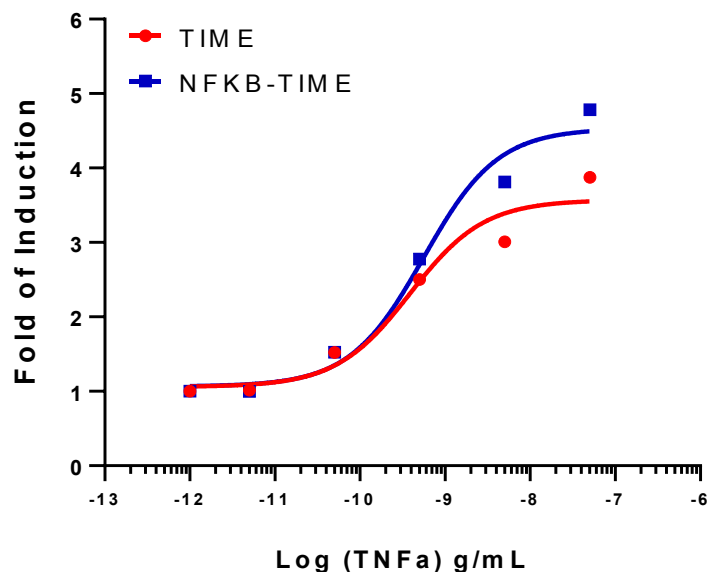
Vehicle



30 nM  
Suramin

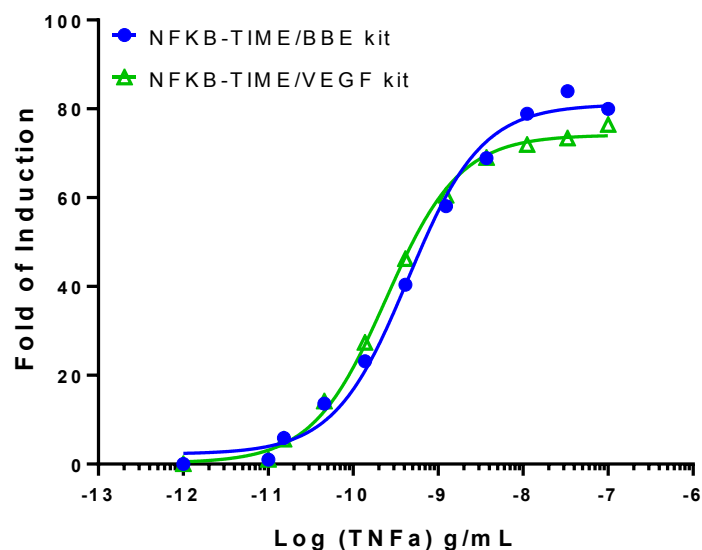
# NFkB-TIME – NanoLuc<sup>®</sup> reporter expression correlates with endogenous marker

## CD54/ICAM-1 Expression



	TIME	NFKB-TIME
EC50	3.868e-010	5.590e-010

## Nano-Glo Luciferase Assay

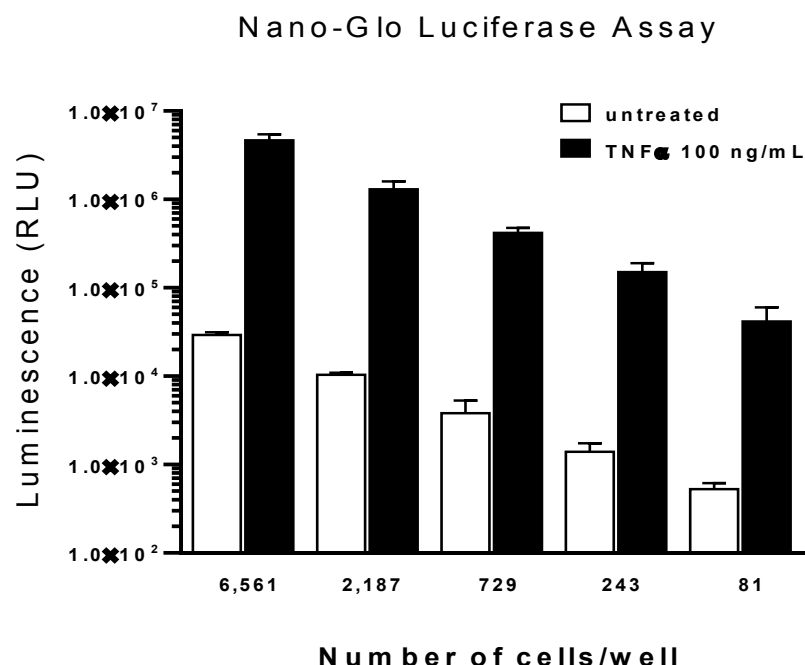


	NFKB-TIME/BBE kit	NFKB-TIME/VEGF kit
EC50	4.395e-010	2.427e-010

NFkB-TIME (ATCC<sup>®</sup> CRL-4049<sup>™</sup>) expresses NanoLuc<sup>®</sup> luciferase regulated by multiple copies of the NFkB response element. When the cells are exposed to inflammatory cytokine such as TNFα, activation of the NFkB signaling pathway results in increased NanoLuc<sup>®</sup> luciferase activity. The high sensitivity, excellent signal/background ratio, and simple single-addition assay makes this reporter cell line an ideal replacement for the cumbersome and highly variable CD54/ICAM-1 activation assays.



# NFκB-TIME – use of NanoLuc<sup>®</sup> reporter increases assay sensitivity



Cells/well	Luminescence (RLU)		FOI
	Untreated	100 ng/mL TNFα	
6,561	29,228 ± 2,153	4,664,244 ± 786,091	160
2,187	10,347 ± 578	1,297,479 ± 301,887	125
729	3,812 ± 1,482	418,410 ± 57,006	110
243	1,394 ± 349	150,531 ± 38,821	108
81	528 ± 89	41,651 ± 18451	79

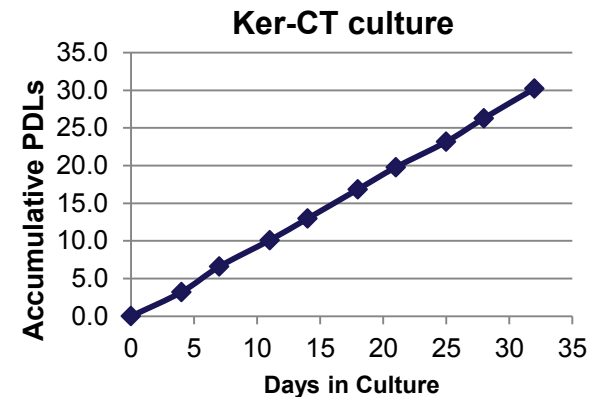
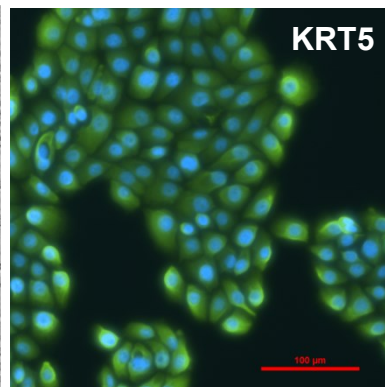
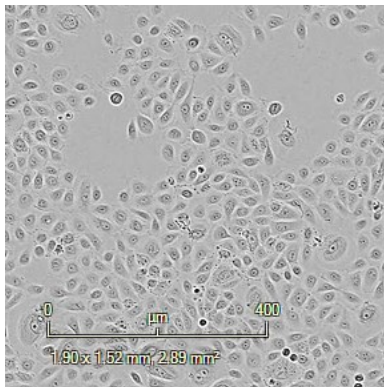
A variable number of NFκB-TIME (ATCC<sup>®</sup> CRL-4049<sup>™</sup>) cells were seeded into a 96-well plate and incubated for 24 hours in culture medium. The cells were then exposed to 100 ng/mL TNFα for 3 hours to activate the NFκB signaling pathway. Comparable fold of induction (FOI) of luminescence was observed within a wide range of cell seeding densities. Less than 100 cells/well produced significant activation of the reporter gene expression.

# Ker-CT (CRL-4048™) – immortalized keratinocytes that retain intact differentiation capability

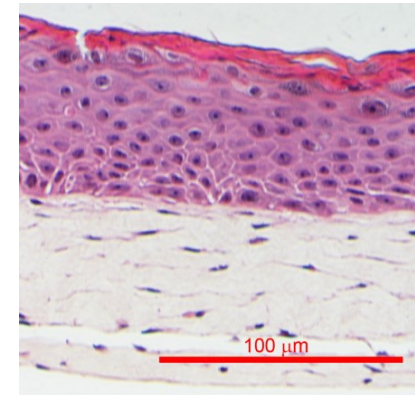
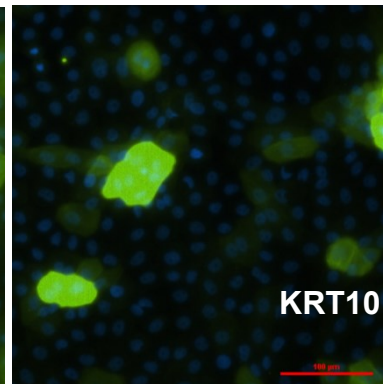
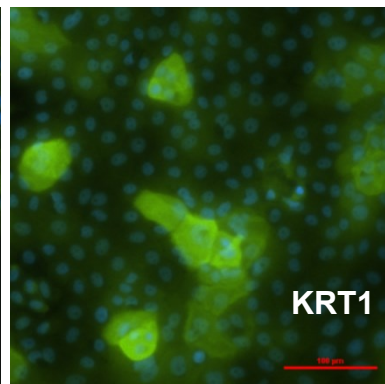
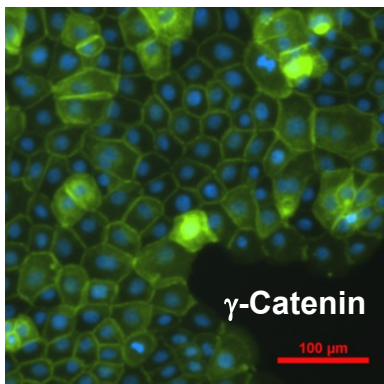
- Ker-CT cell line was immortalized by human telomerase and CDK4 from neonatal foreskin keratinocyte culture (Deposited by Dr. Shay, UTSW)

Ramirez R, et al. *Oncogene* 22(3): 433-44, 2003.

Proliferating



Differentiation




BJ + Ker-CT

2D differentiation

3D differentiation





# RPTEC/TERT1 (CRL-4031™) – a new RPTEC cell line overcomes limitations of existing renal cell models

## Primary Cells

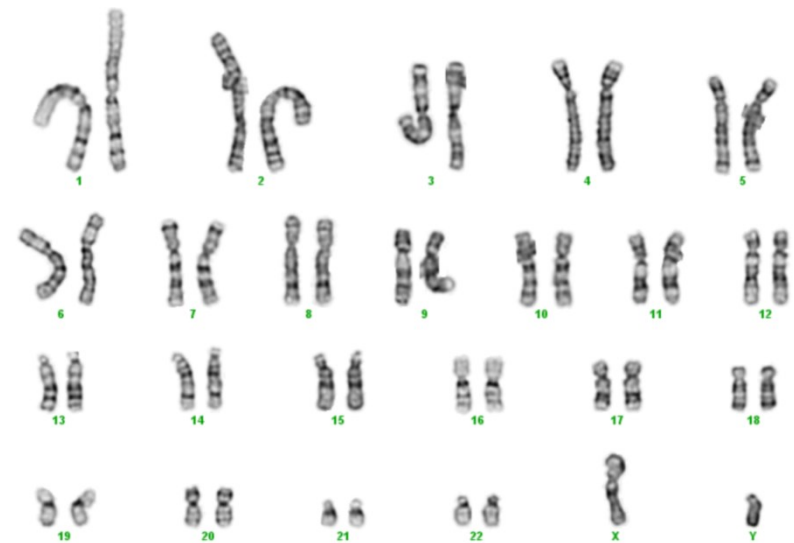
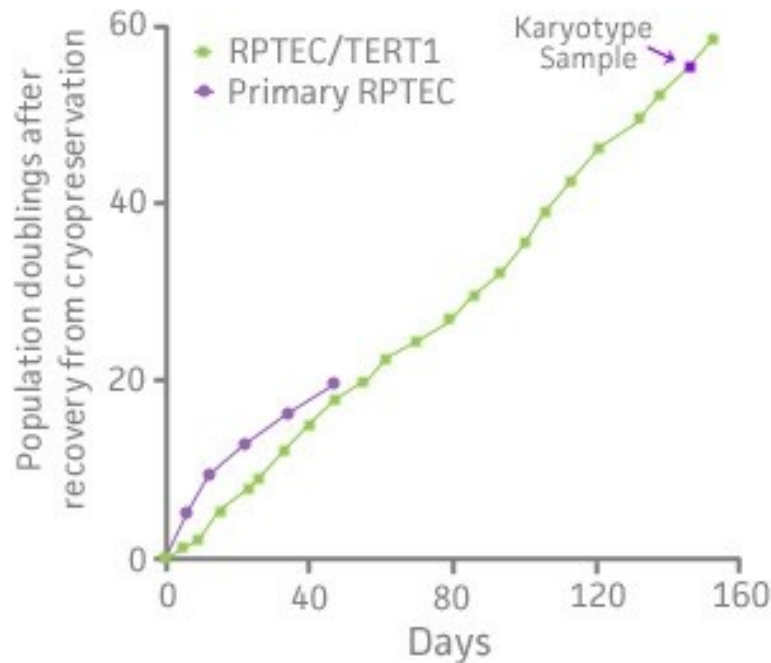
Obtaining primary cultures from the kidney is hampered by the fact that there are 15-20 cell types in the kidney cortex and the nephron. Homogeneous cultures retaining physiological functions are hard to obtain.

## Immortal renal epithelial cell lines

Cell Line	Derived from	Nephron Segment of origin
LLC-PK1	Yorkshire Pig	Proximal nephron
OK	North American Opossum	Proximal nephron
JTC-12	Monkey	Proximal nephron
MDCK	Dog	Collecting duct
A6	Xenopus laevis	Distal tubule
HK-2	Human	HPV16-transformed, Proximal/Distal?
Caki-1	Human	Kidney carcinoma
HEK293/OATs	Human	OATs over-expressing lines

None of the continuous renal epithelial cell lines fully express all the needed differentiated functions known from the ancestor cells *in vivo*

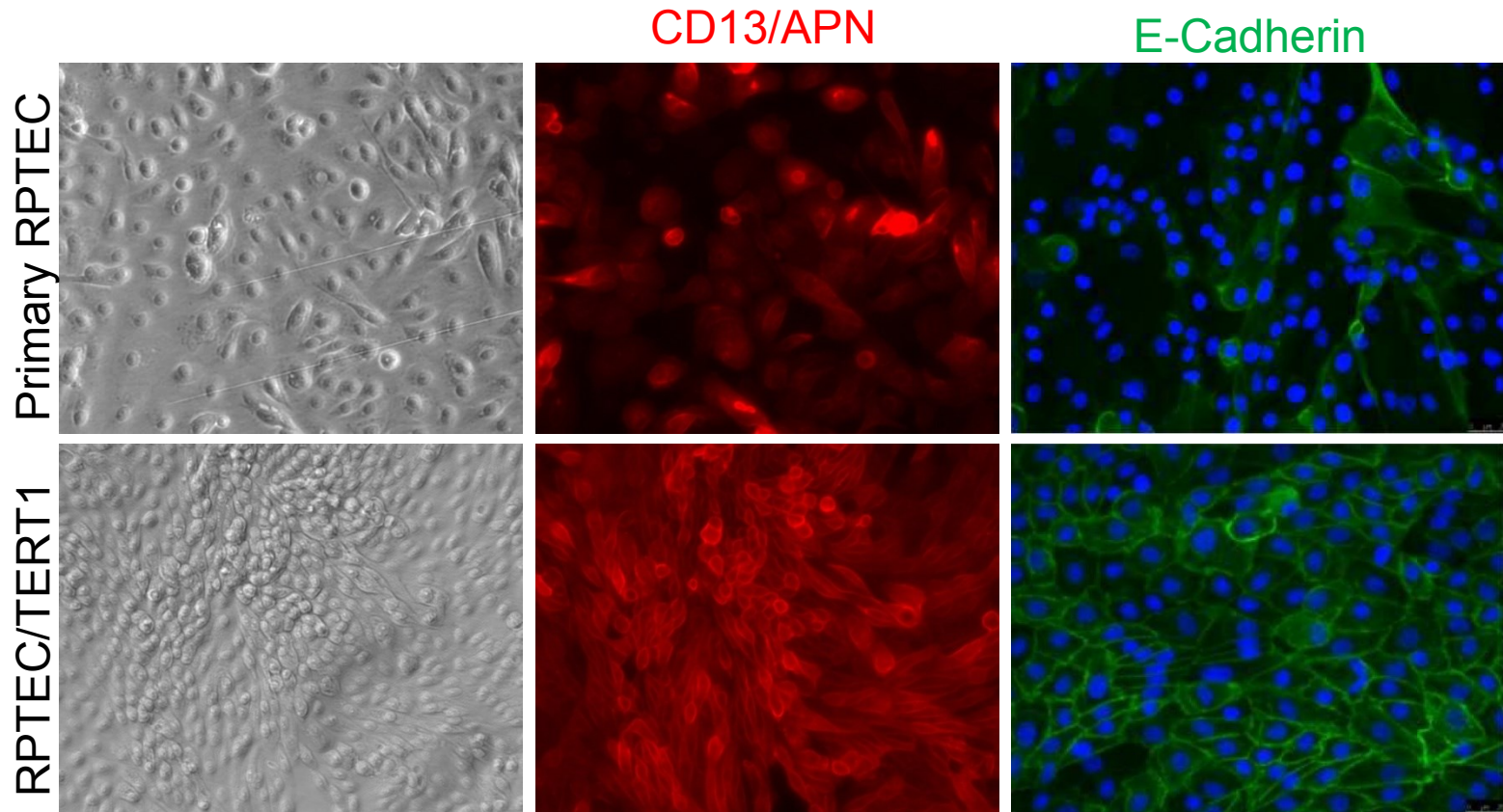
# RPTEC/TERT1 – extended lifespan and stable karyotype



RPTEC/TERT1 at P21  
After recovery from cryopreservation

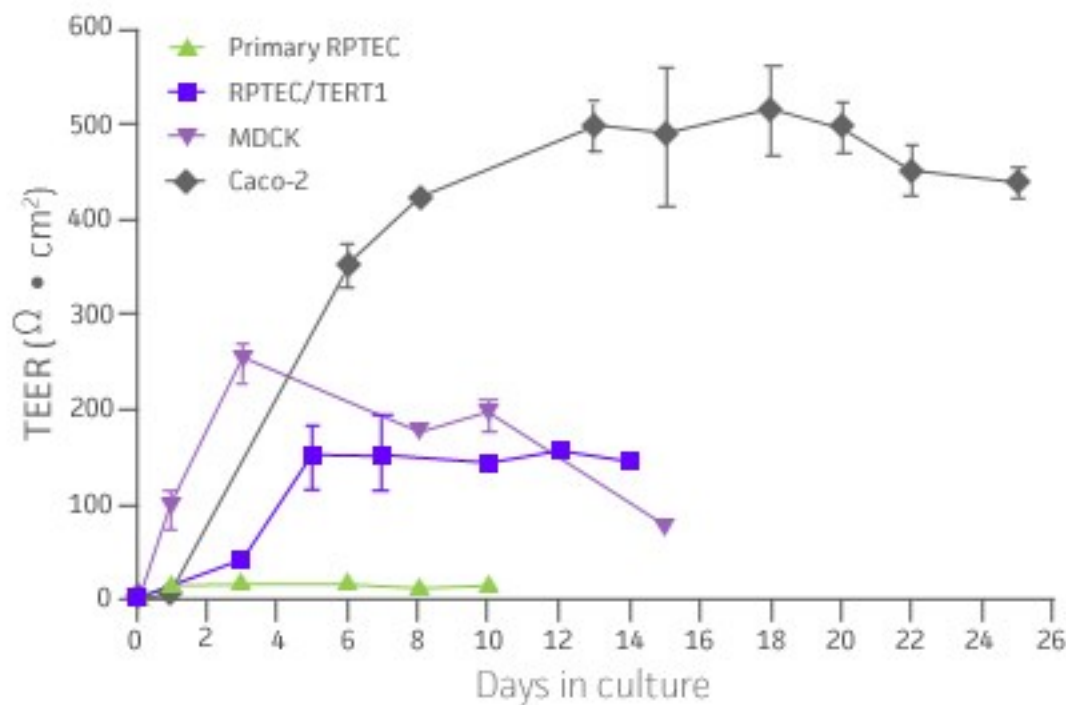
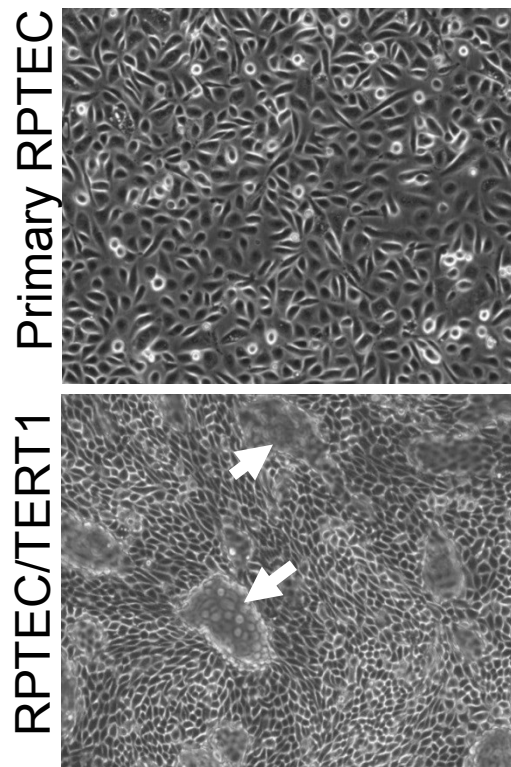
The **RPTEC/TERT1 cells** propagate well and retain a normal male karyotype after extended culture in serum-free medium.

# RPTEC/TERT1 – homogenous population



The **RPTEC/TERT1** cells show uniform expression of E-cadherin and CD13(Aminopeptidase N), while primary RPTEC cells expression of these markers are highly variable.

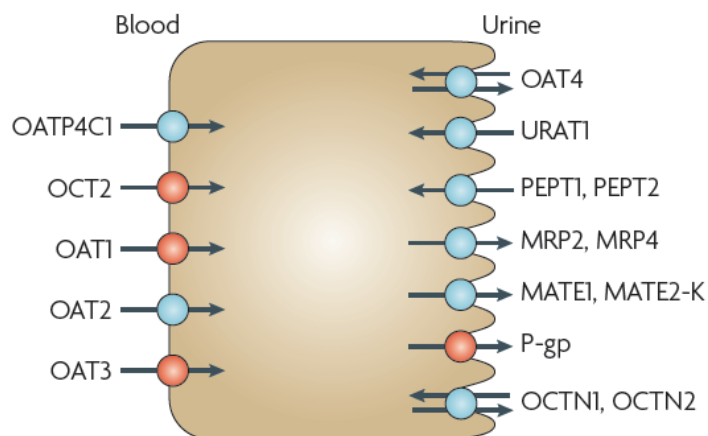
# RPTEC/TERT1 – intact epithelial barrier



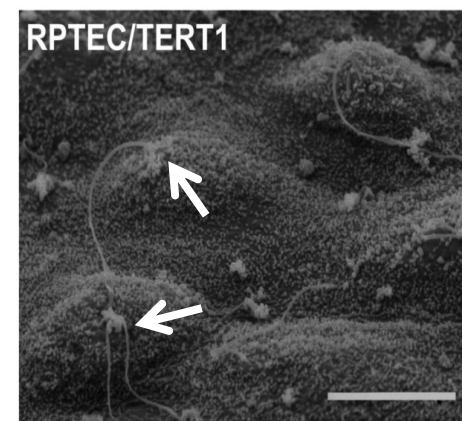
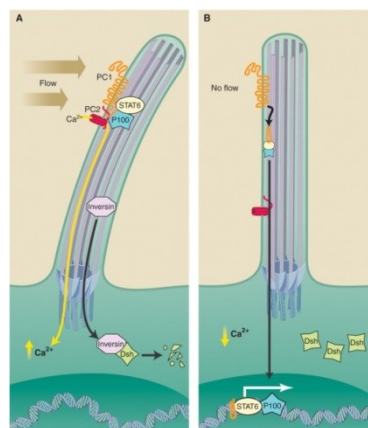
Dome-like structures (indicated by the arrows) form as water and solutes are transported across the cell layer and become trapped underneath; the development of these structures is a good indicator of intact epithelium formation. Similarly, the formation of an intact epithelium can be demonstrated by stabilized Trans-Epithelial Electrical Resistance (TEER). RPTEC/TERT1 cells exhibit both dome-like structures and stabilized TEER, while the primary RPTEC cells do not possess either feature of intact epithelial formation.



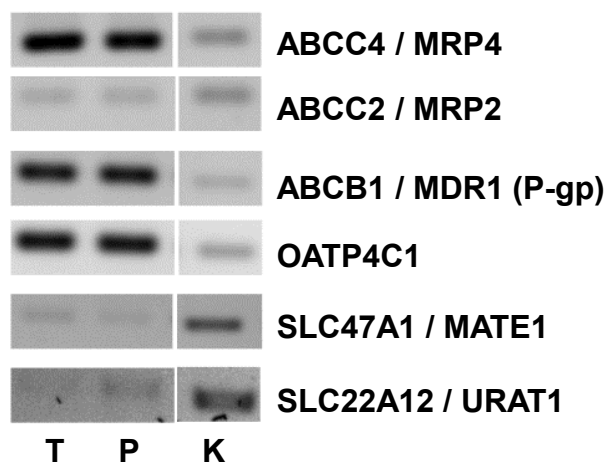
# RPTEC/TERT1 – other interesting features



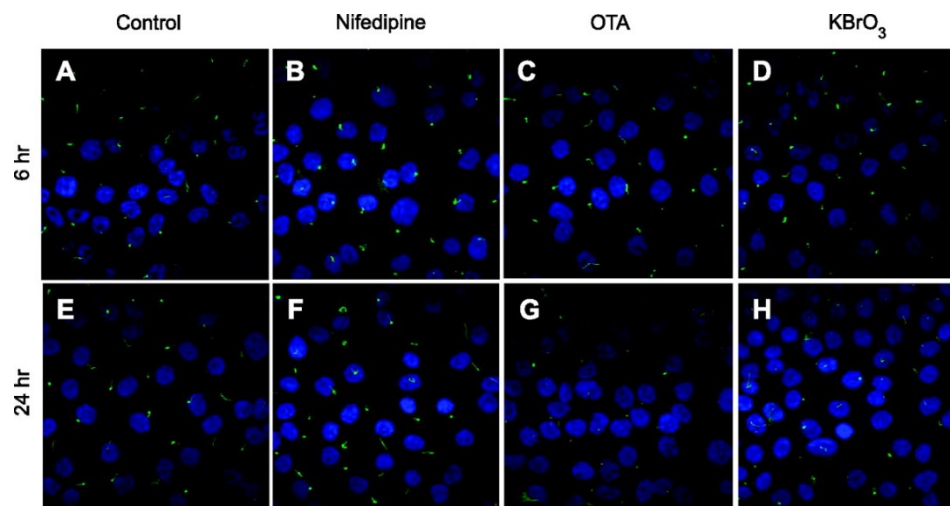
Giacomini KM, et al. *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* 9: 215-236, 2010.



Wieser M, Stadler G, Jennings P, et al. *Am J Physiol Renal Physiol* 295(5): F1365-75, 2008.



**T.** RPTEC/TERT1 (CRL-4031™)  
**P.** Parental primary RPTEC  
**K.** Kidney tissue



Radford, et al. *AJP - Renal Physiol* 302(8): F905-F916, 2012.

# hTERT immortalized cells provide unique tools

	Primary cells	hTERT immortalized	Oncogene, viral immortalized	Cancer cell lines
Mimic <i>in vivo</i> Tissue Phenotype	++++	+++	++	+
Genotypic Stability	Diploid	Diploid / Near diploid	Near diploid / Aneuploid	Aneuploid
Proliferative Capacity	+	+++	+++	+++
Supply	+	+++	+++	+++
Inter-Experimental Reproducibility	Low	Good	Good	Good
Cost	High	Medium	Low	Low
Ease of Use	+	++	++	+++

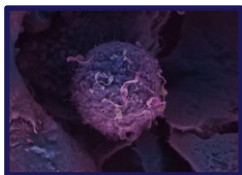
Pros and cons of different cell models for tissue-relevant functional studies

hTERT immortalized cells combine the *in vitro* nature of primary cells and the ability to be cultured continuously, avoiding the limitations of both types while still reaping their benefits.



# Thank you!

Register for more webinars in the ATCC “*Excellence in Research*” webinar series at [www.atcc.org/webinars](http://www.atcc.org/webinars).



**April 24, 2014**

**10:00 AM, 3:00 PM EST**

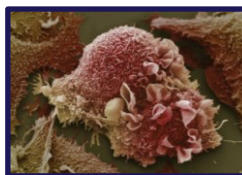
Dr. Fang Tian will highlight cell lines that can be used to address recently identified genomic and clinical features of breast cancer subtypes.



**May 8, 2014**

**10:00 AM, 3:00 PM EST**

Liz Kerrigan will discuss the importance of molecular standards, and how their use can contribute to improvements in assay reproducibility and reliability.



**June 5, 2014**

**10:00 AM, 3:00 PM EST**

Dr. Doug Storts and Dr. Yvonne Reid will discuss the recent advances in STR profiling technologies and how the Standard STR protocol is transforming scientific practices.

**Thank you for joining today!**  
**Please send additional questions to [tech@atcc.org](mailto:tech@atcc.org)**