



# The Mitochondrion

Renáta Schipp



# Origin

- Endosymbiotic theory
- the Mitochondria (and Chloroplastids) were originally **free-living cells**
- they lived in an endosymbiosis with a hostcell
- organellfreie **anaerobe** Prokaryotes phagocyted **aerobe** Prokaryotes → Mitochondrion.

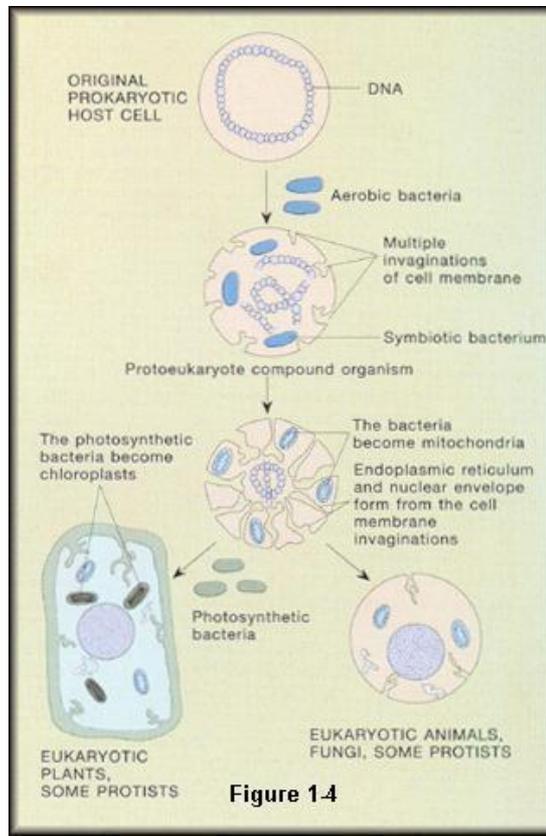
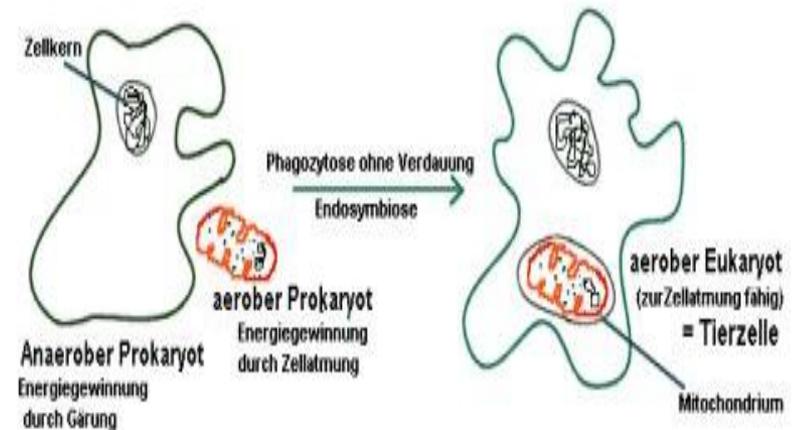
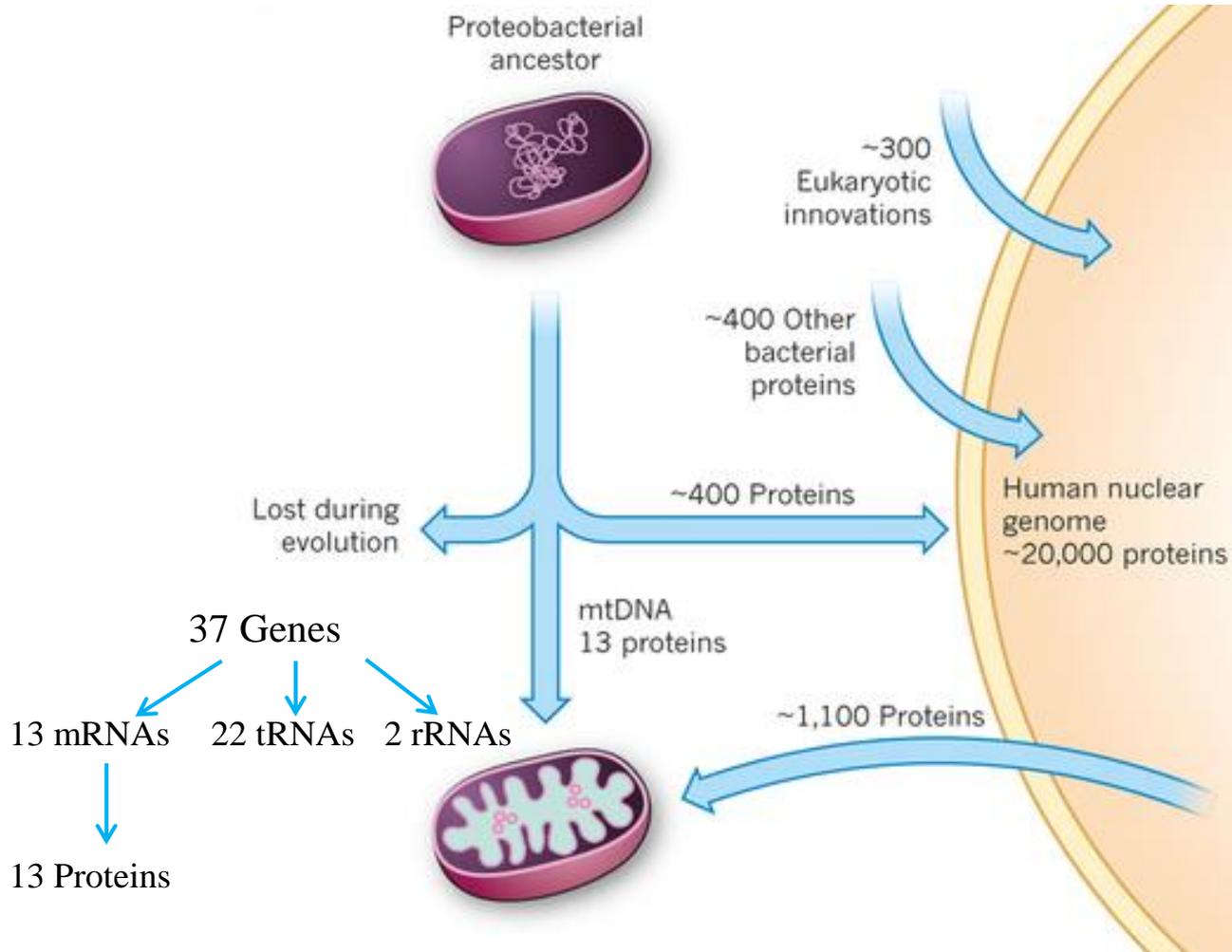


Figure 1-4



# Origin



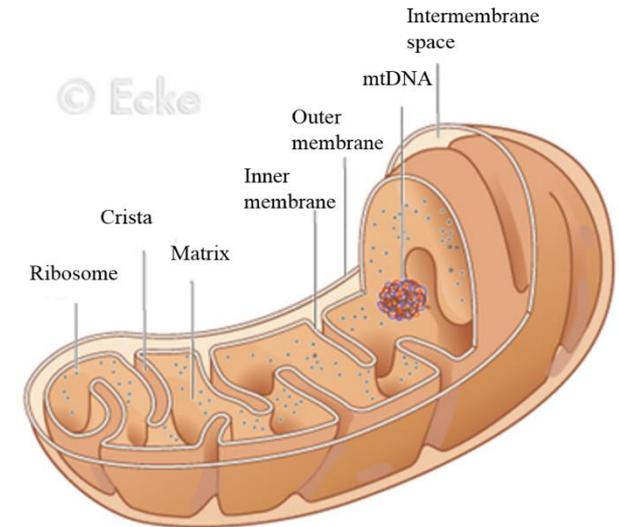
# Structure

## Outer membrane:

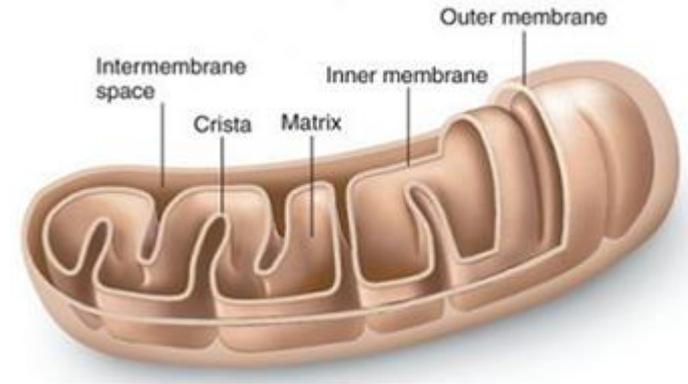
- enclose the whole mitochondrion
- no invaginations
- contains large number of integral proteins
- **Porin**-highly permeable
- Porins form channels → allow the exchange of different Moleküls and Ions
  - small Moleküls pass freely
  - bigger Proteins- signalsequenc

## Intermembrane space:

- is the space between the outer membrane and the inner membrane
- composition is similar to that of the cytosol



# Structure



## Inner membrane:

- enclose the matrix
- is compartmentalized into numerous → **Cristae**
- rich in an unusual phospholipid → **Cardiolipin** → make the inner membrane impermeable
- contains more than 150 proteins → are classified into three functional groups

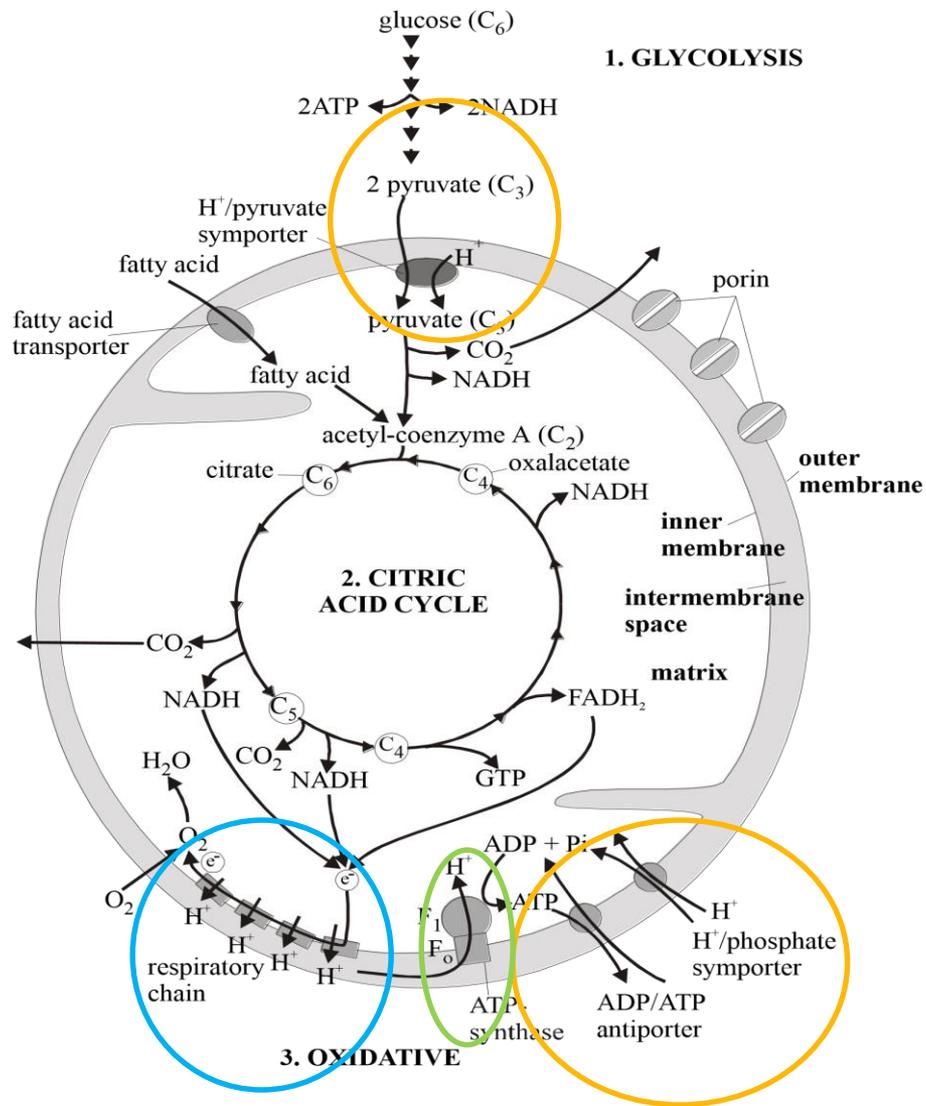
Transportproteines: - **H<sup>+</sup> /Pyruvate-Symporter**

- **H<sup>+</sup> /Phosphate-Symporter**

- **ADP/ATP-Antiporter**

Respiratory-chain Proteins: **Electrontransport Proteins**

ATP-Synthase: **Fo/F1 complex**



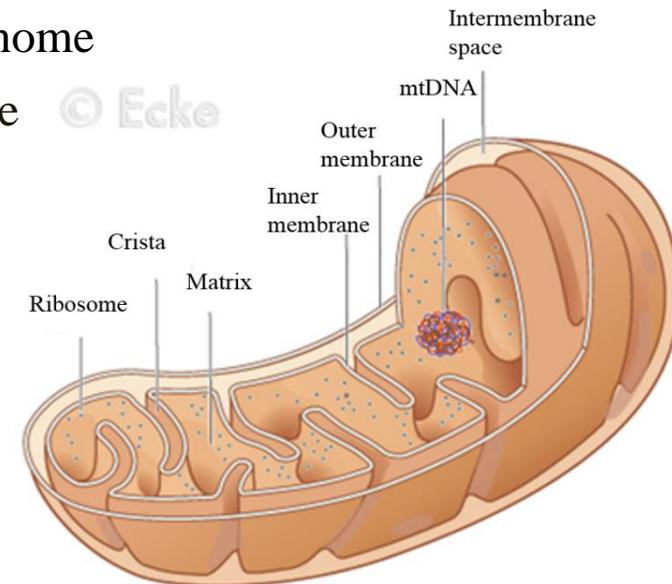
# Structure

## Cristae:

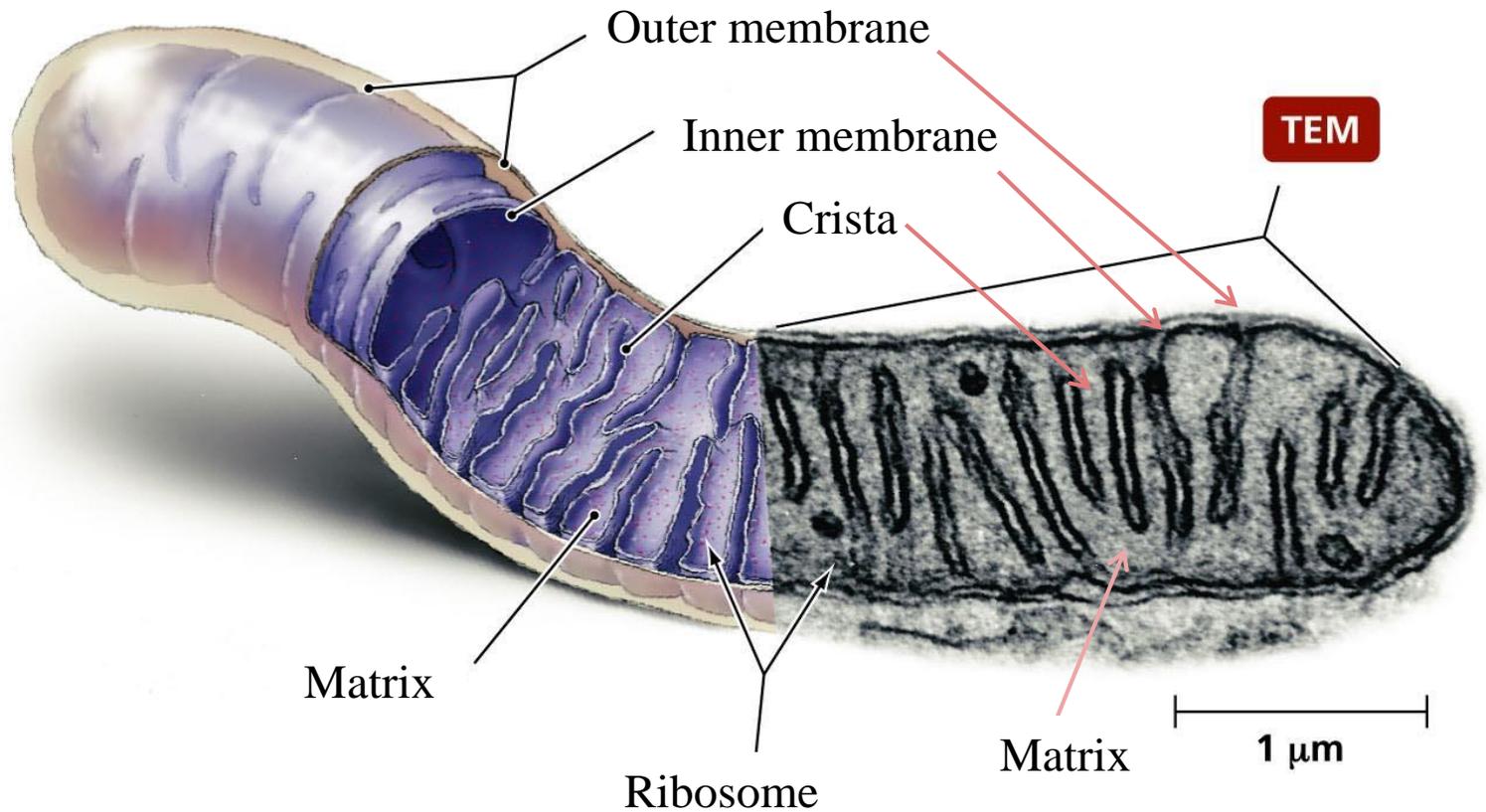
- inner membrane invaginations → expand the surface → enhancing the ATP synthesis

## Matrix:

- is the space enclosed by the inner membrane
- contains - Proteins (Enzymes)
  - mitochondrial ribosomes and tRNAs
  - several copies of the mitochondrial genome
  - intermediates from the citric acid cycle

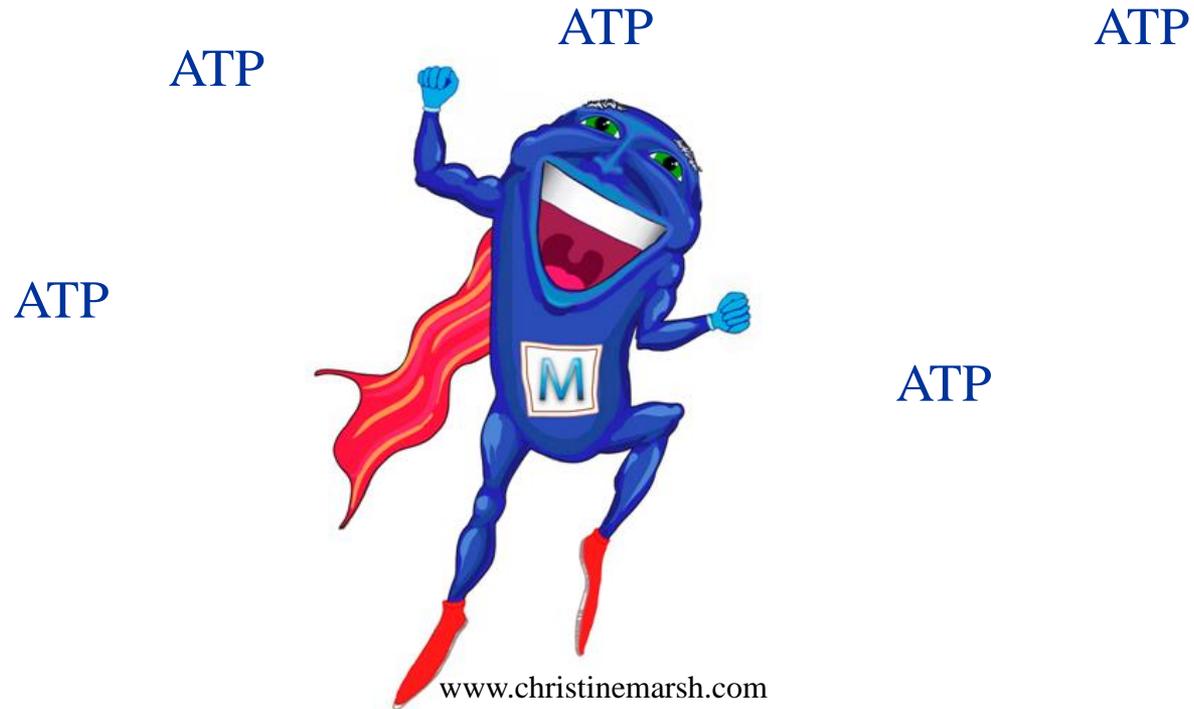


# Structure



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# Function-Energy metabolism

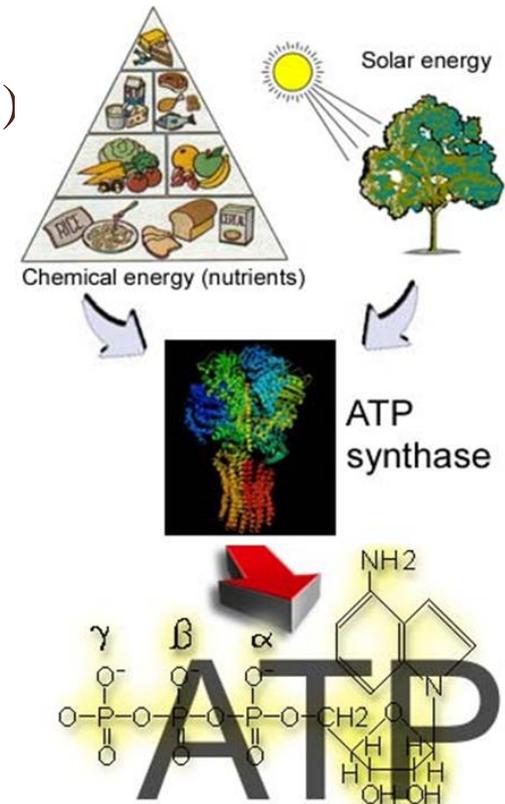


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# Energy metabolism in mitochondria

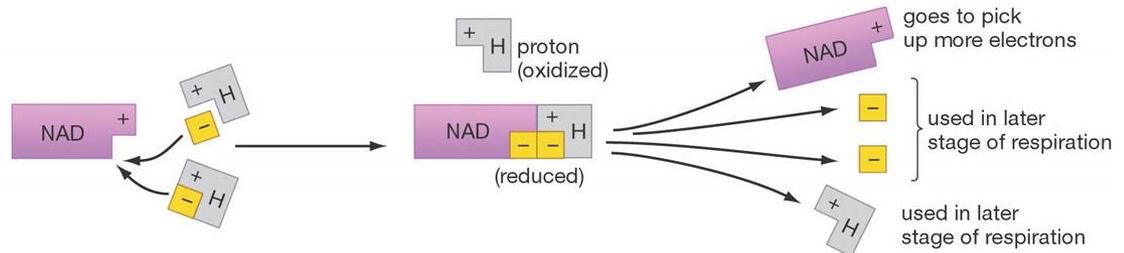
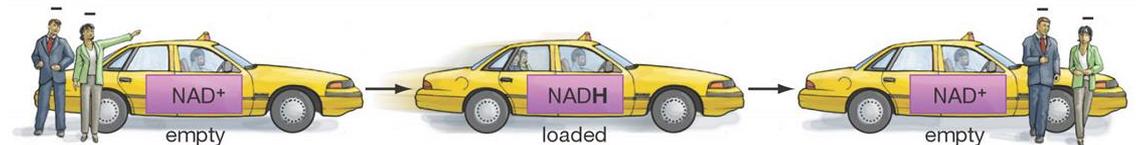
- Breakdown of glucose (aerobic eukaryotes):

1. glycolysis
2. citric acid cycle (Szent-Györgyi-Krebs)
3. oxidative phosphorylation



# NAD(Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide)

- Coenzyme
- transports electrons from one reaction to another
- $\text{NAD}^+ \rightarrow$  accepts electrons from other molecules and becomes reduced  $\rightarrow \text{NADH}$
- $\text{NADH} \rightarrow$  donate electrons and becomes oxidized to its original form  $\rightarrow \text{NAD}^+$



1.  $\text{NAD}^+$  within a cell, along with two hydrogen atoms that are part of the food that is supplying energy for the body.

2.  $\text{NAD}^+$  is reduced to NAD by accepting an electron from a hydrogen atom. It also picks up another hydrogen atom to become NADH.

3. NADH carries the electrons to a later stage of respiration then drops them off, becoming oxidized to its original form,  $\text{NAD}^+$ .

# Energy metabolism in mitochondria – Glycolysis, citric acid cycle

- Glycolysis:

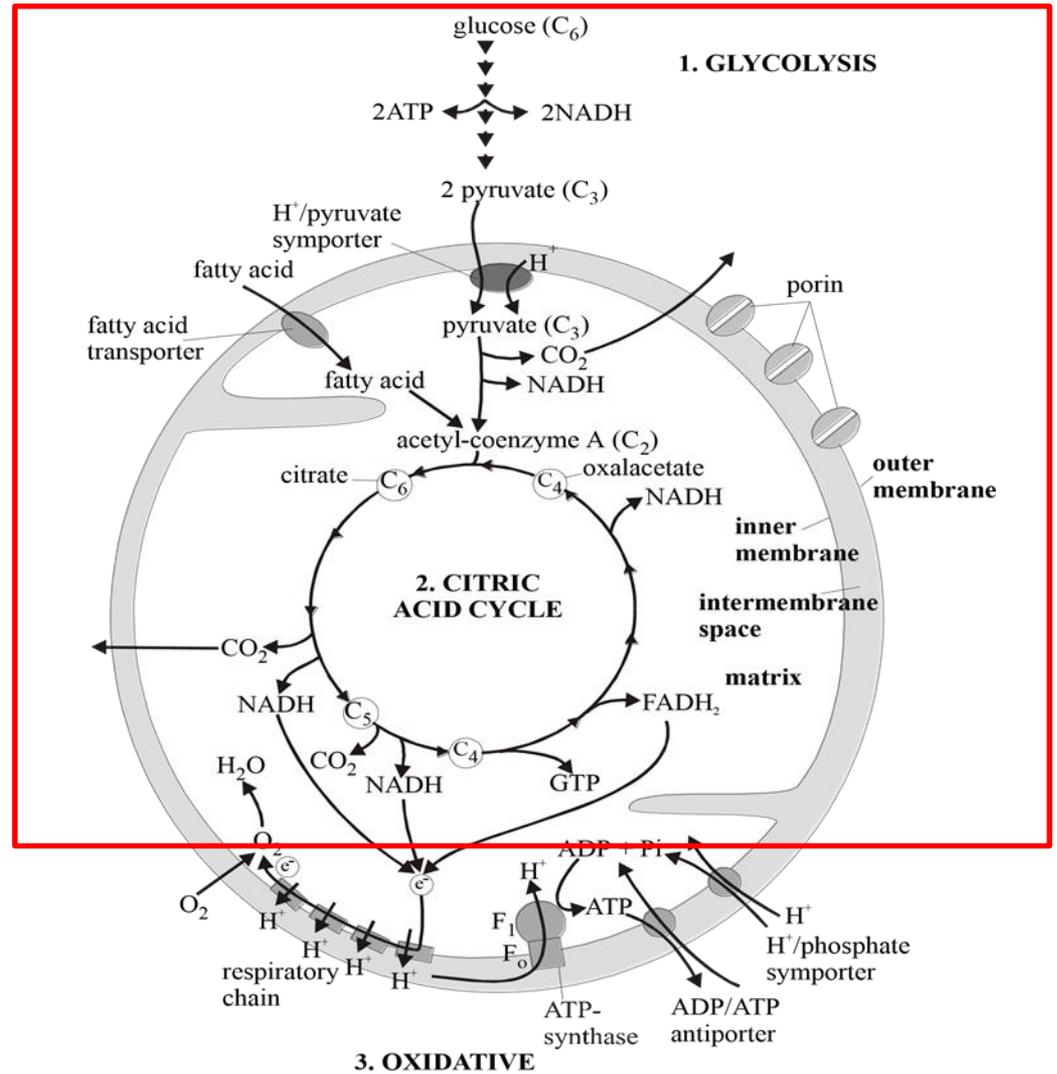
- in the cytosol
- glucose (C<sub>6</sub>) converted into → 2 pyruvate (C<sub>3</sub>) molecules
- 2 ATP and 2 NADH molecules are produced

- Citric acid cycle:

- in the mitochondrial matrix
- pyruvate → acetyl-coenzyme A (C<sub>2</sub>)
- acetyl-coenzyme A + oxalacetate (C<sub>4</sub>) → citric acid (C<sub>6</sub>) → cycle → oxalacetate
- production of GTP, CO<sub>2</sub>, reduced coenzymes (NADH, FADH<sub>2</sub>)

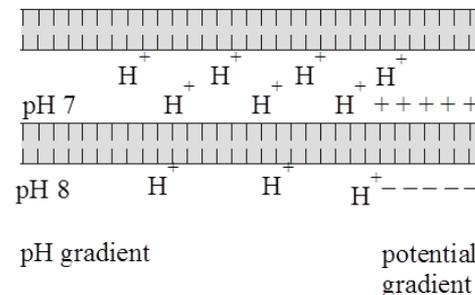
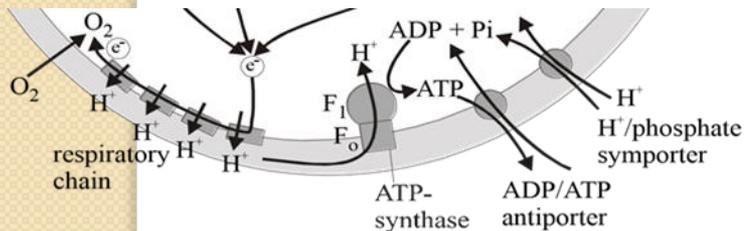
formation of:  
2 ATP  
2 NADH

formation of:  
2 CO<sub>2</sub>  
3 NADH  
1 FADH<sub>2</sub>  
1 GTP



# Energy metabolism in mitochondria – Oxidative phosphorylation

- Oxidative phosphorylation:
  - in the inner membrane
  - electrons: reduced coenzymes → respiratory chain (electron transport system) →  $O_2 \rightarrow H_2O$
  - generation of electrochemical proton gradient (chemiosmosis mechanism)
  - ATP synthase: ATP-production ( $ADP + P_i \rightarrow ATP$ )
  - The final electron acceptor is molecular oxygen → is reduced to water (harmful intermediates are generated =ROS)



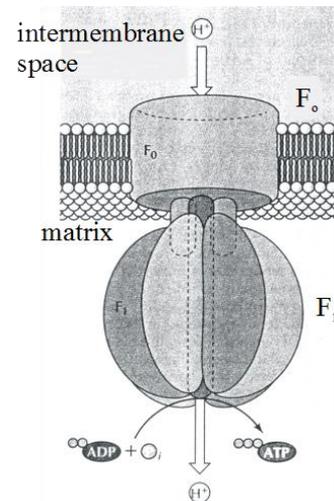
cytosol

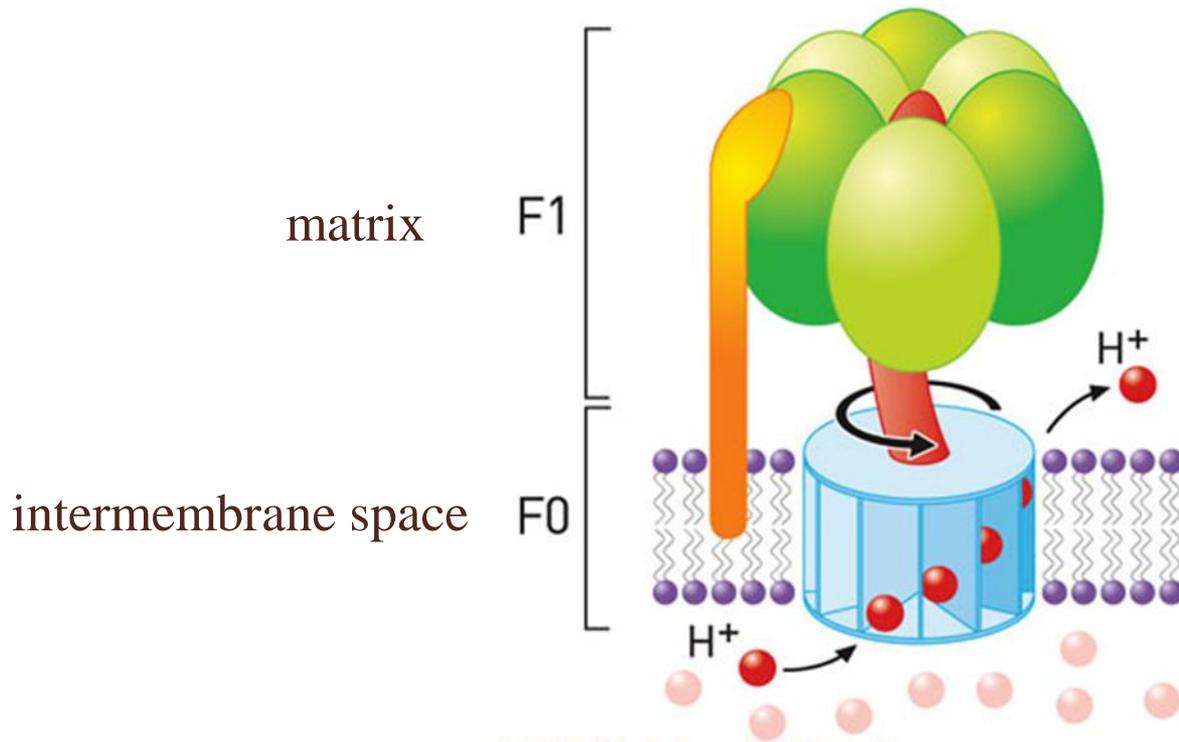
outer membrane

intermembrane space

inner membrane

matrix





1 Proton-  $30^\circ$   
 1ATP- 4 Protons- $120^\circ$   
 $360^\circ$ - 3ATP

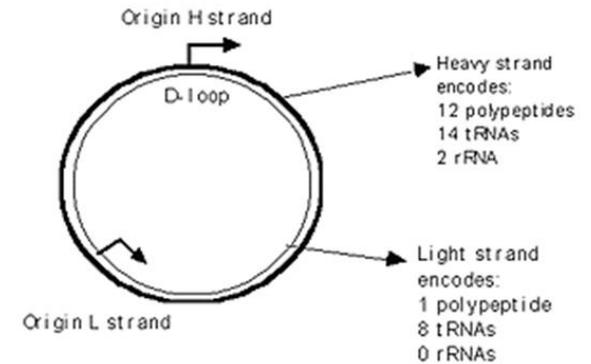
# Fully oxidation of 1 glucose molecule

- Glycolysis:
    - Production of 4 ATP but 2 are consumed → 2 ATP
  - Citric acid cycle:
    - 2 ATP (indirectly)
  - Oxidative phosphorylation:
    - 30 or 32 ATP
- 34 or 36 ATP molecules

# The human mitochondrial genetic apparatus

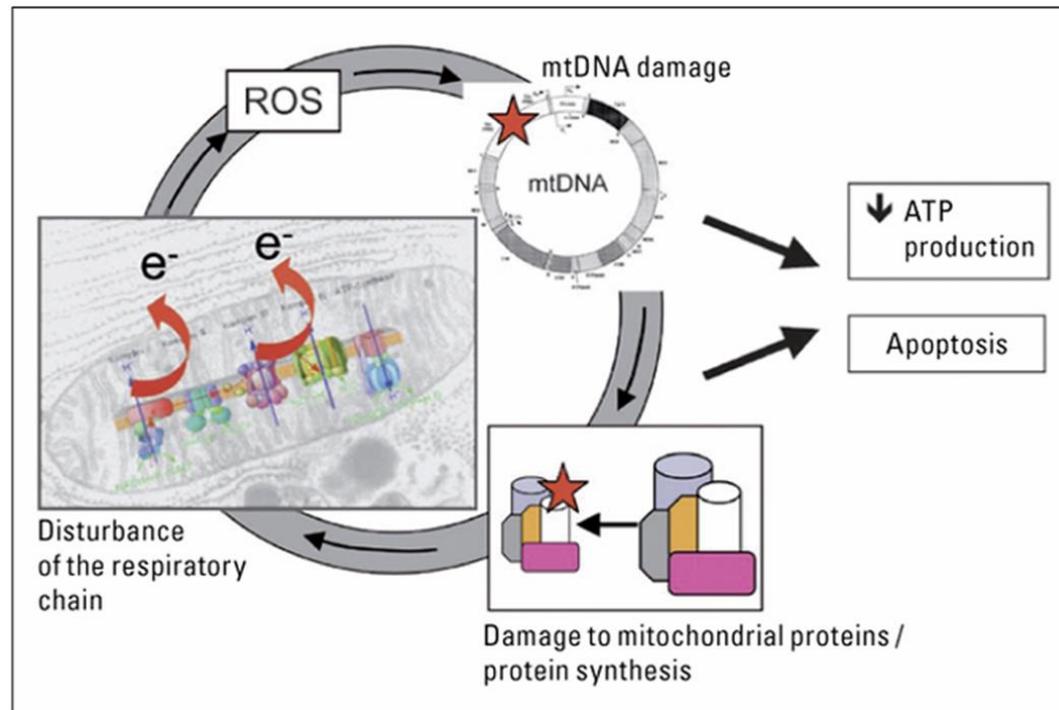
- Mitochondrial DNA:

- small
- circular
- double-stranded → heavy (H) and light (L) chain
- 2-10 copies/mitochondrion
- in the mitochondrial matrix
- mostly coding regions → rRNAs, tRNAs, mRNAs
- symmetrical transcription
- no RNA import or export
- no protein export
- protein import
- high mutation rate



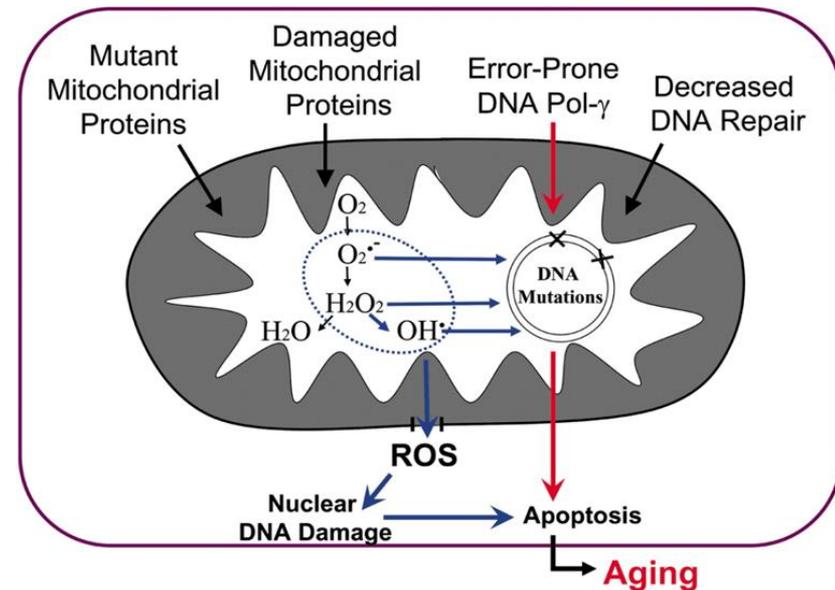
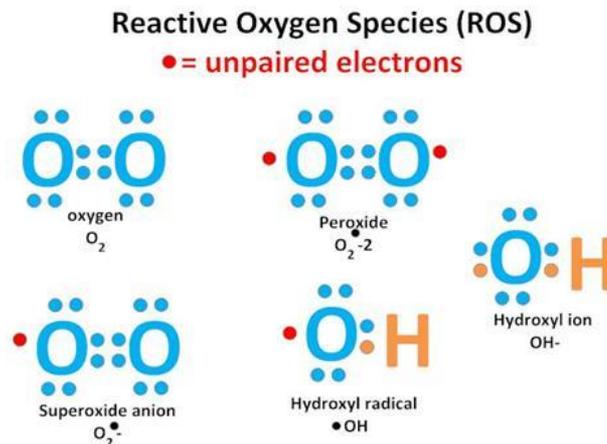
# Mutation of mtDNA

- Free radicals
- No histon proteins
- Proofreading and repair are weak



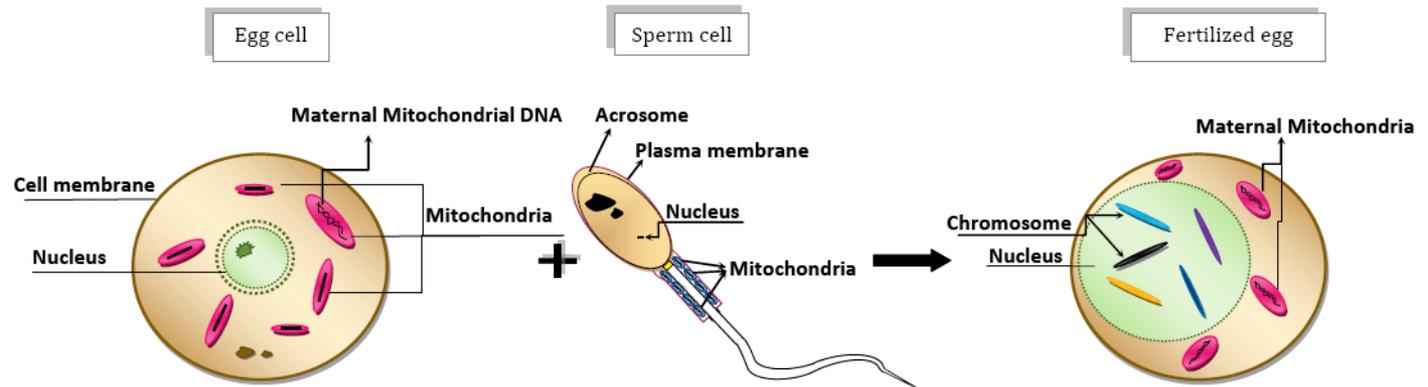
# Reactive oxygen species (ROS)

- During reduction of oxygen → harmful, instable intermediates are produced (superoxide or peroxide anions)
- These are called reactive oxygen species (ROS):
  - are very harmful to cells
  - oxidize proteins, destroy the membrane and cause mutations in DNA
  - cause diseases and is proposed as one cause of aging

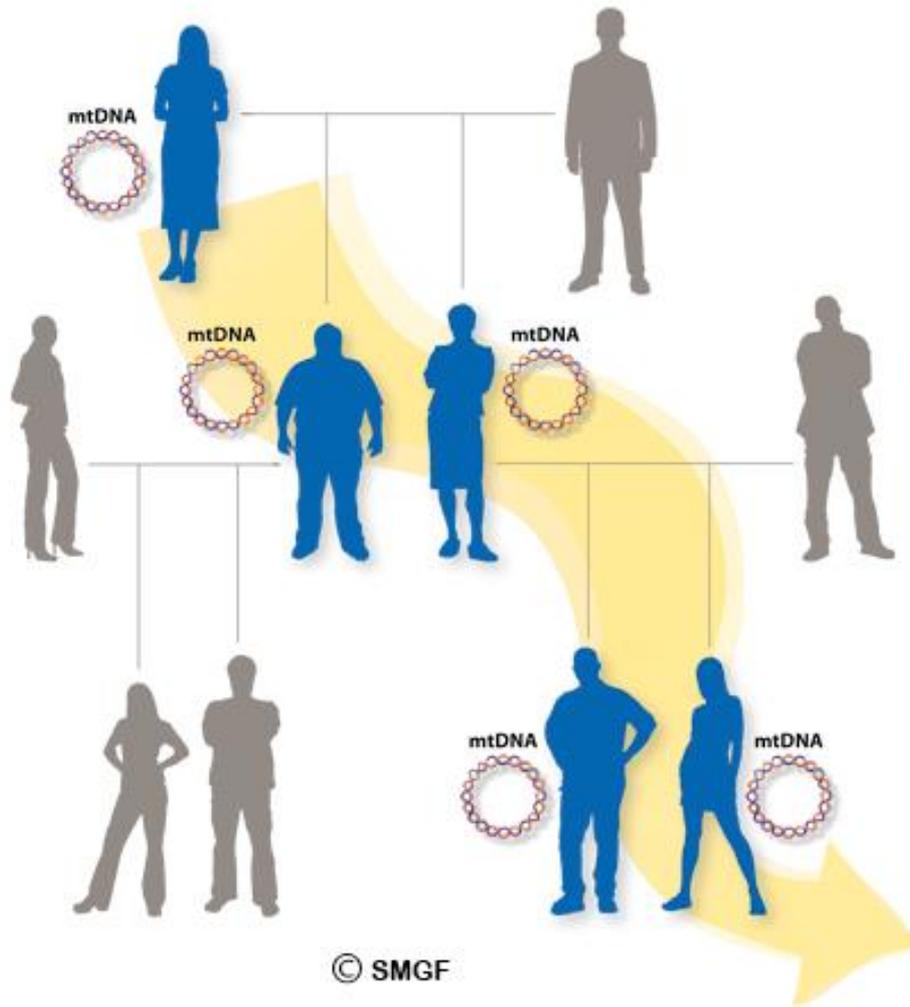


# Inheritance

**Maternal:** mitochondria are inherited only from mothers  
non- mendelian inheritance

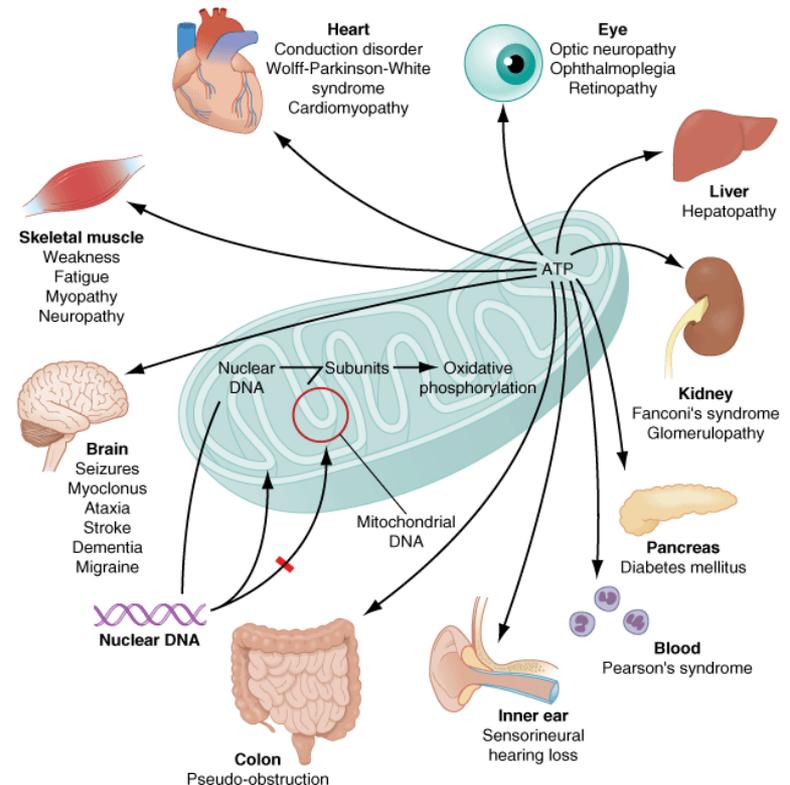


# Inheritance



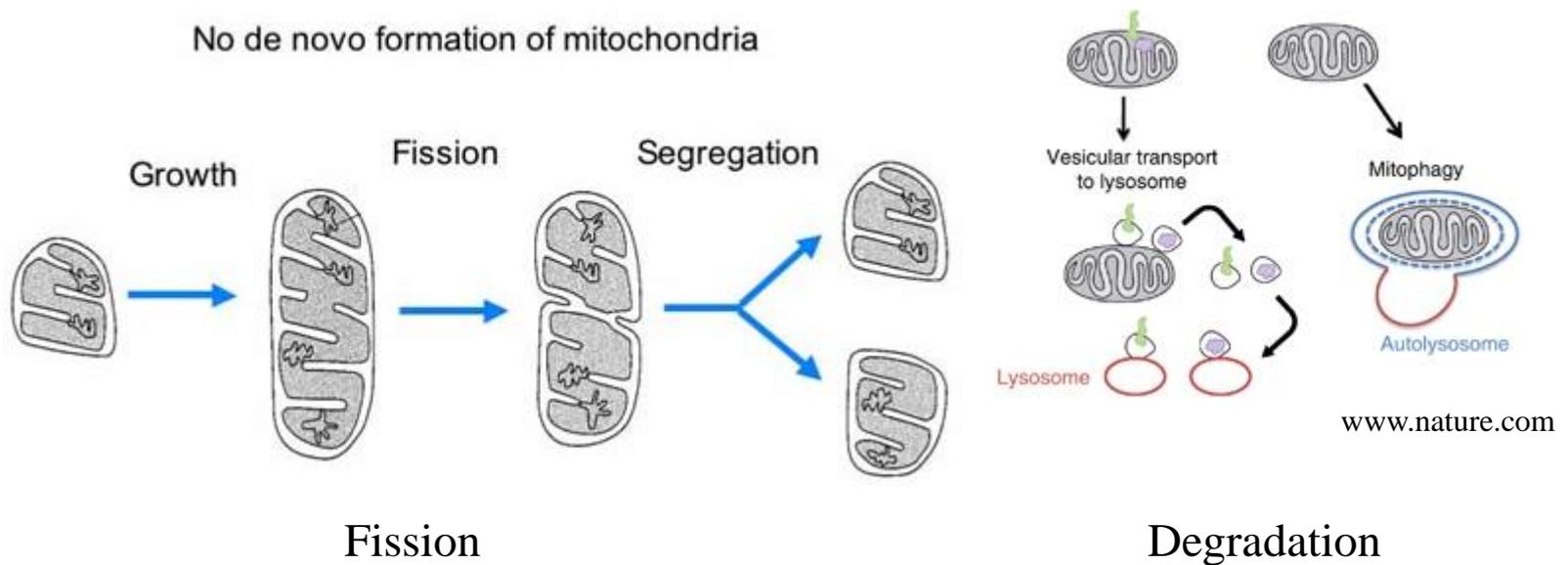
# Mitochondrial diseases

- mutations in the mitochondrial DNA → decrease in ATP production
- those tissues/organs are affected, which require lots of energy
- Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy
- Parkinson disease
- Alzheimer disease
- diabetes mellitus
- physiological aging

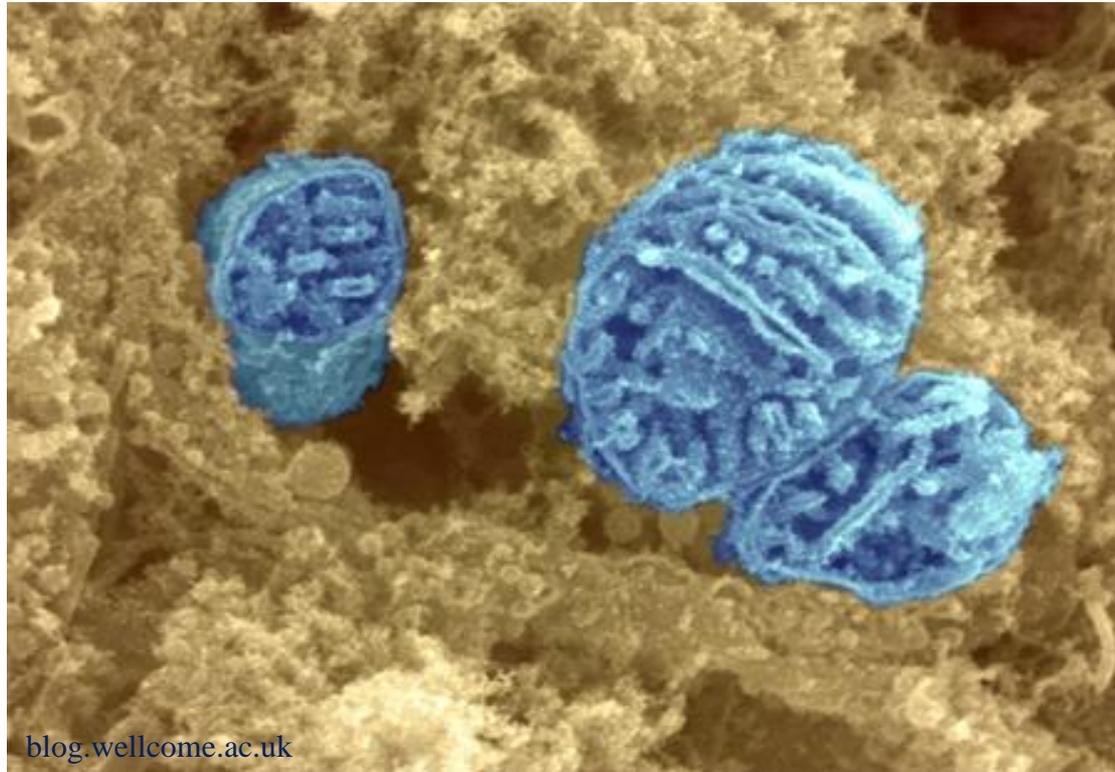


# Formation and degradation

- no de novo formation
- are generated through growth and binary fission
- lysosomal degradation

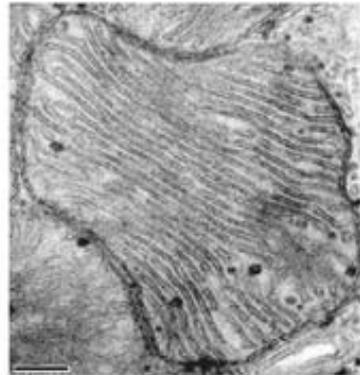


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# Structure



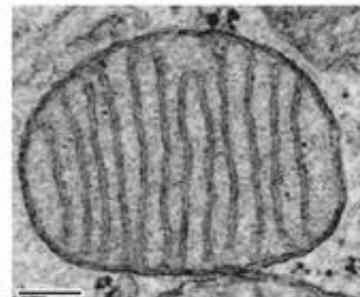
Heart



Pancreas



Skeletal muscle



Brown fat



White fat



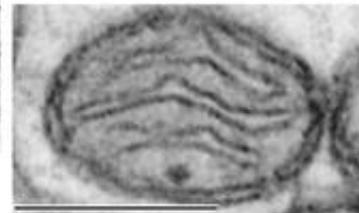
Retina



Peripheral nerve



Liver



Brain

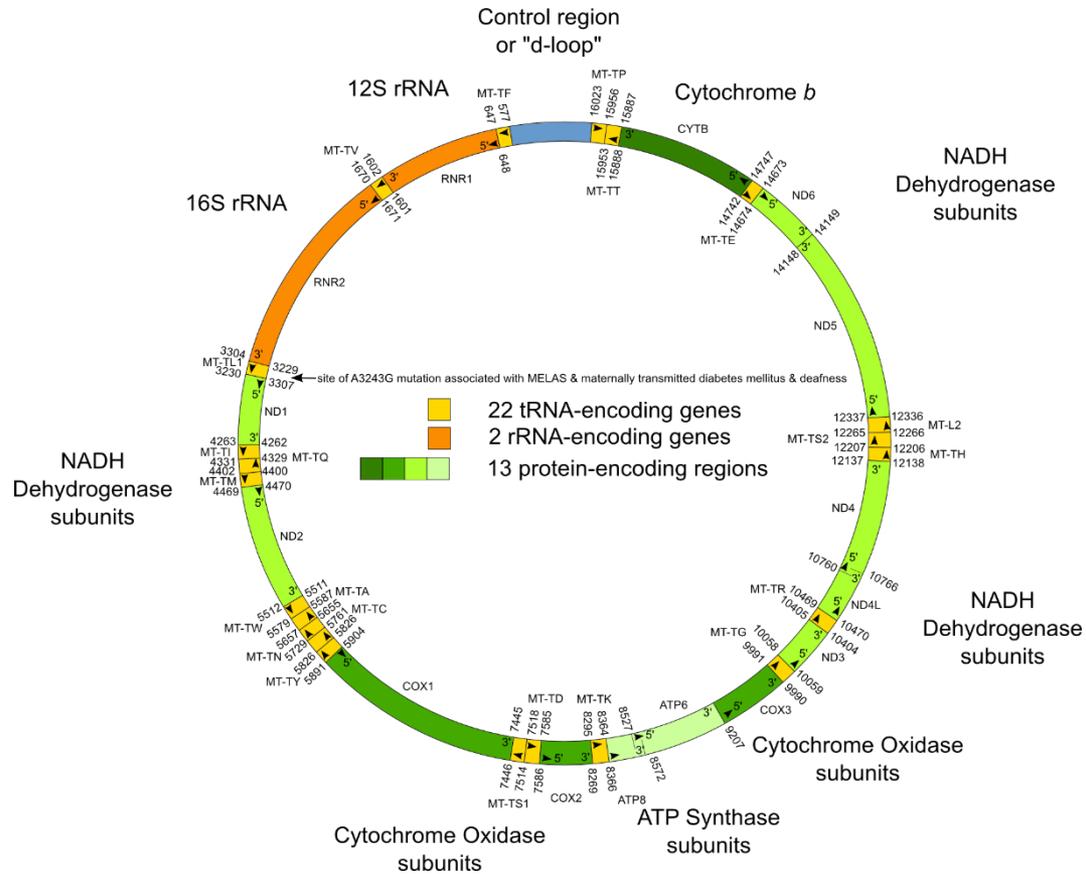
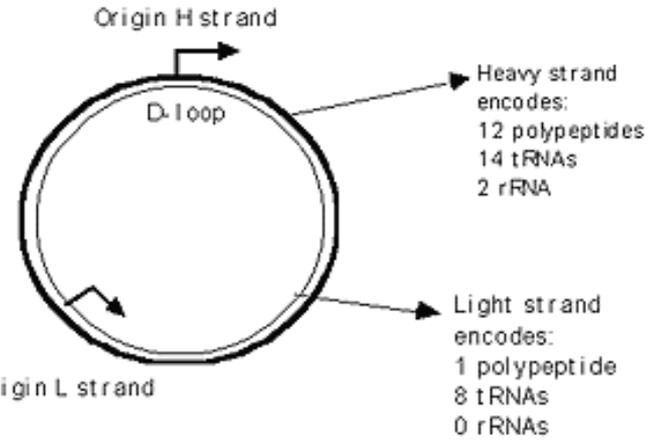


Kidney

# Genome

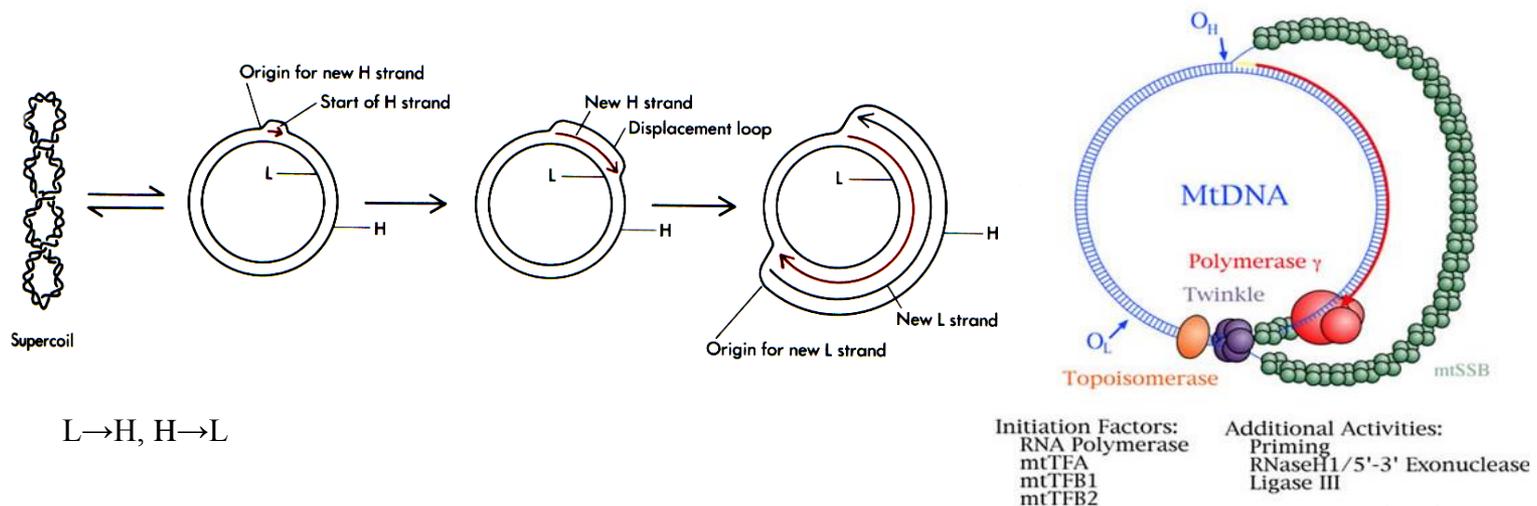
Characteristic	Nuclear Genome	Mitochondrial Genome
<b>Size</b>	~ 3.3x10 <sup>9</sup> bp	16,569bp
<b>Form of DNA</b>	linear, doublestranded	circular, doublestranded H-strand, L-strand
<b>Number of DNA- molecules per cell</b>	23 (haploid) 46 (diploid)	tausende Kopien pro Zelle 2-10 Kopien pro Mitochondrium
<b>Percentage of coding DNA</b>	~ 3% vorwiegend nichtkodierend	~ 93% vorwiegend kodierend
<b>Number of Genes encoded</b>	~20.000-30.000	37 13mRNAs, 22tRNAs, 2rRNAs
<b>Associated proteins</b>	Histone and non-Histone- Proteins	no Histones (Nucleoid)
<b>Mutations-rate</b>	< 20 %	no Histones weak Proofreading free radicals (ROS)

# Genome



# mtDNA Synthesis

Characteristic	Nuclear Genome	Mitochondrial Genome
DNA Replication	symmetric	asymmetric
Replication enzymes	in nuclear genome encoded DNA-Polymerase $\alpha, \delta, \epsilon$	in nuclear genome encoded DNA-Polymerase $\gamma$
Proofreading	normal	weak

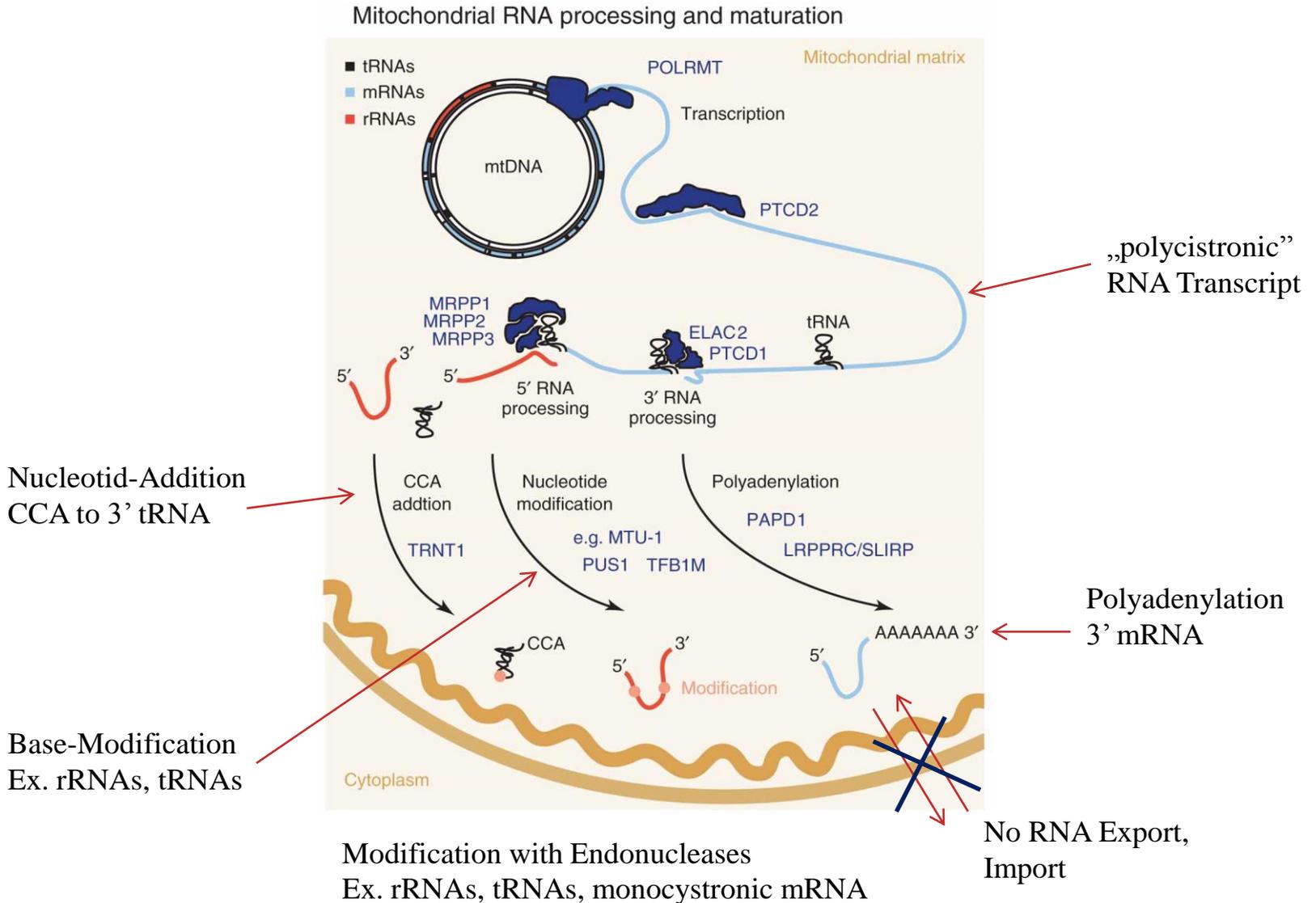


L→H, H→L

# Transcription

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>Nuclear Genome</b>	<b>Mitochondrial Genome</b>
<b>Transcription</b>	asymmetric	symmetric
<b>RNA Polymerase</b>	in nuclear genom encoded	in nuclear genom encoded
<b>Introns</b>	highly repeated	no
<b>Splicing</b>	✓	—
<b>5' Cap</b>	✓	—
<b>Poly A tail</b>	✓	✓

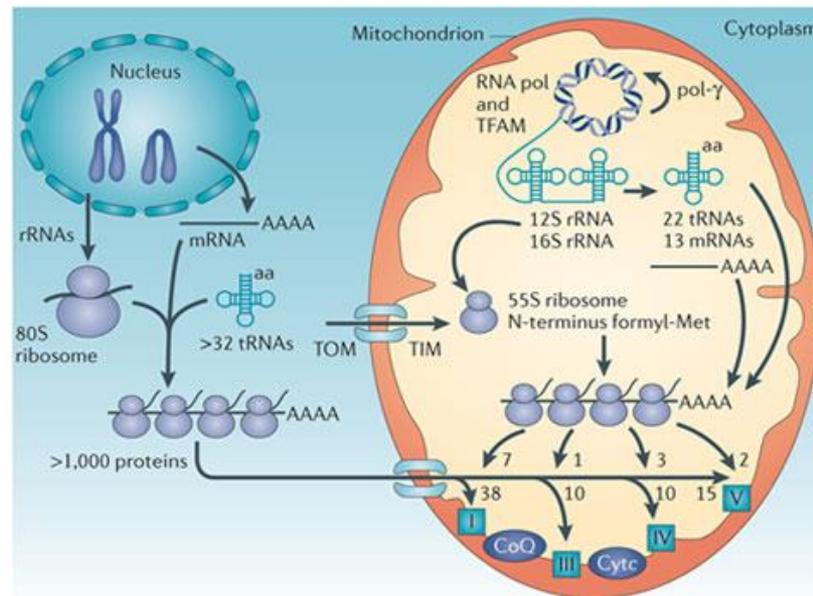
# Posttranscriptional Modifications of mtRNAs



# Translation

Characteristic	Nuclear Genome	Mitochondrial Genome
Proteins	All in cytoplasm translated	1% in Mitochondrion 99% at free Ribosomes in cytoplasm
Genetic Code	Universal	unique codes

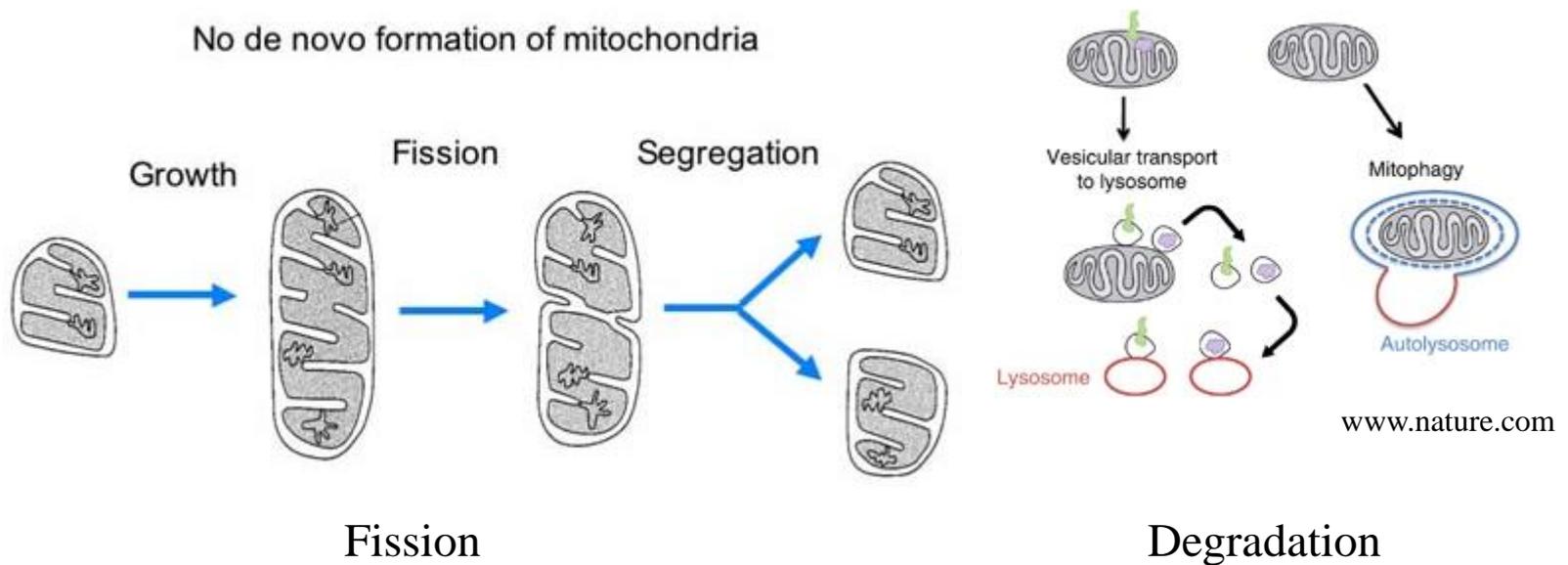
**99 %**  
All other Proteins  
(Functional)



**1%**  
Subunits of respiratory  
chain proteins

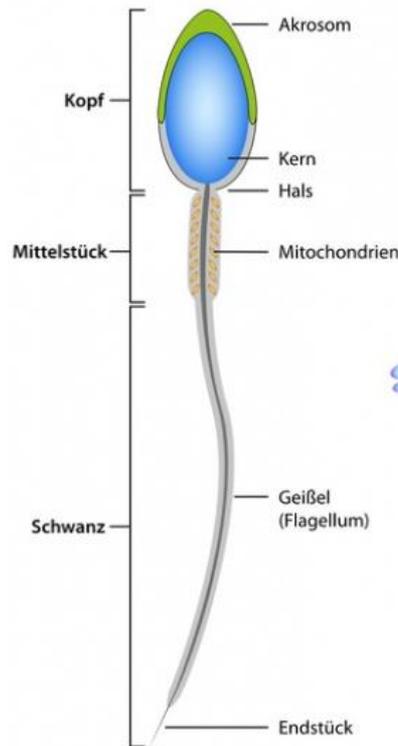
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# Inheritance

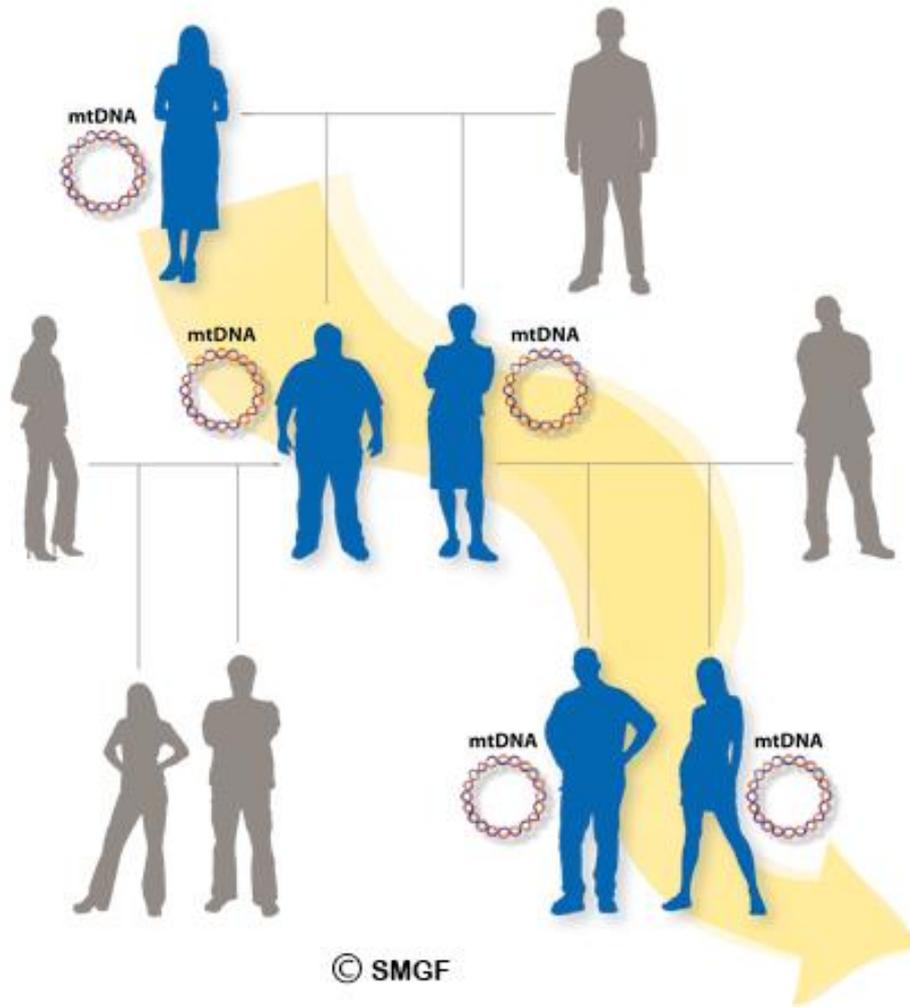
**Maternal:** mitochondria are inherited only from mothers



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[www.symptomat.de](http://www.symptomat.de)

# Inheritance

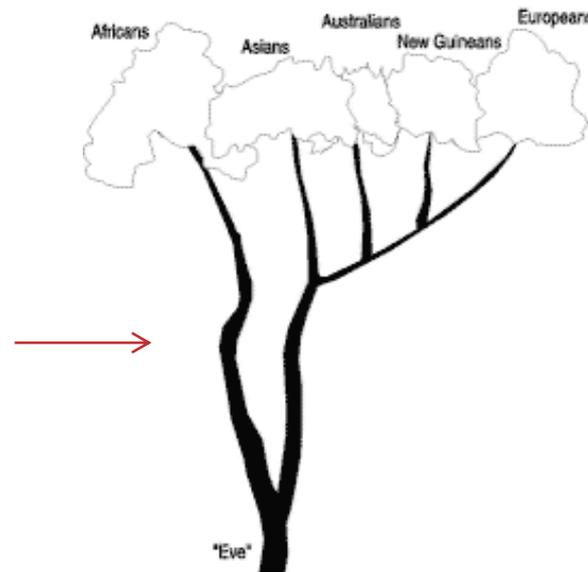


## Eva Hypothesis

she is the woman from whom all living humans today descend on their mother's side

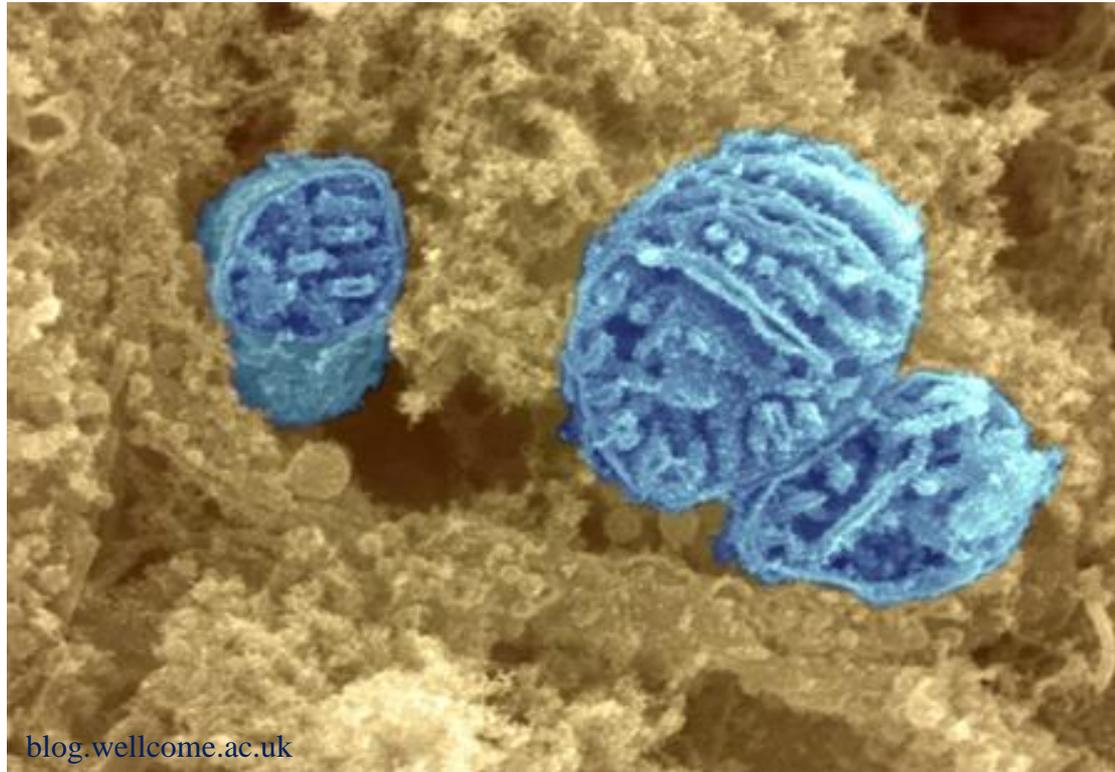


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Family tree of recent human evolution as proposed by Cann, et al. (1987).

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