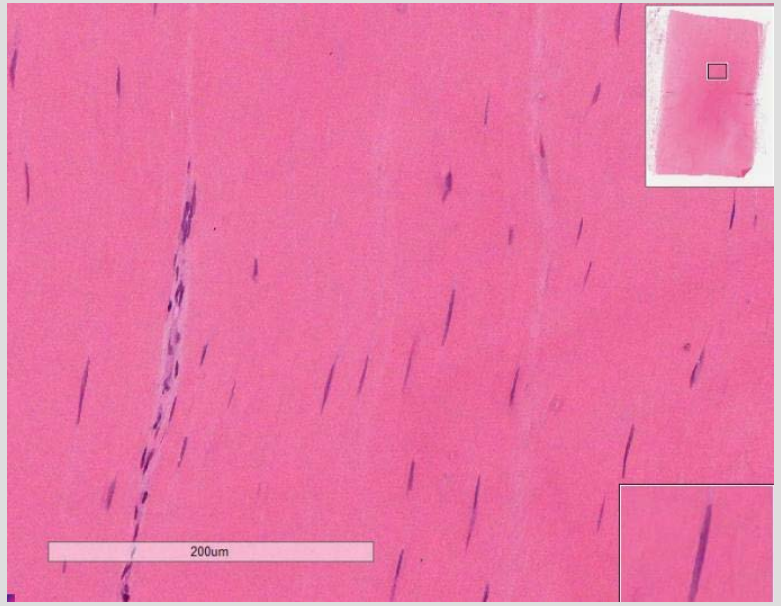
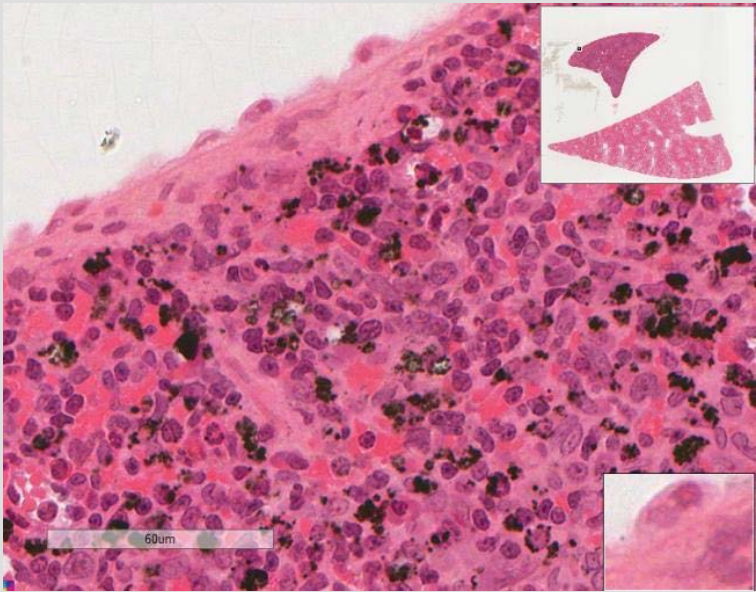
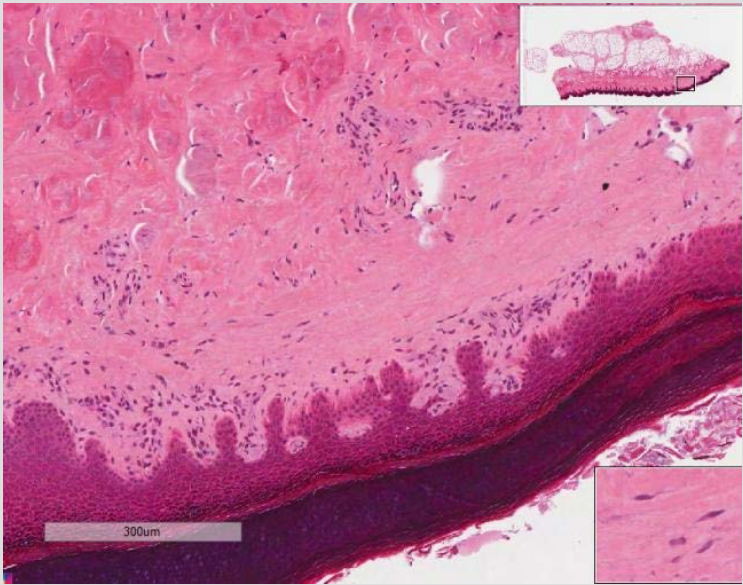


# Medical School Histology Basics: Connective Tissue

## VIBS 243



Mast cell



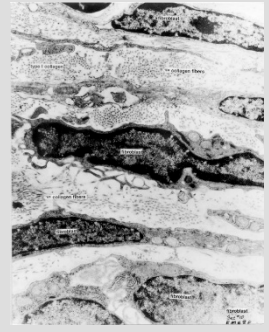
Macrophage



Fibroblasts



Fibroblasts



Plasma cell



Fat cells



# Function of Connective Tissue

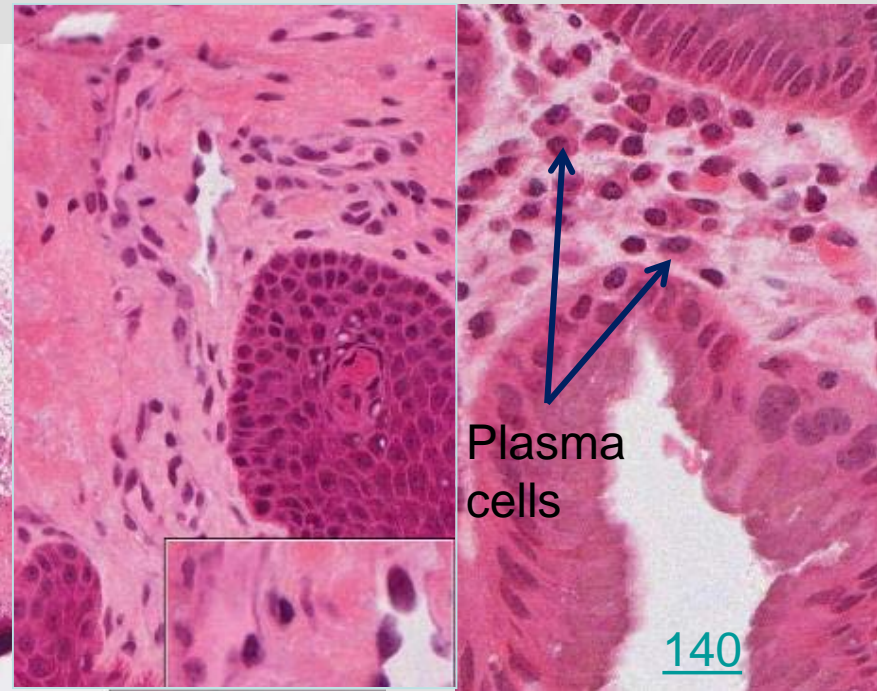
The histological glue which binds the other tissues together to form organs

Mechanical support - stroma below epithelium, skeleton

Metabolite exchange - vascular beds

Energy storage - adipose tissue

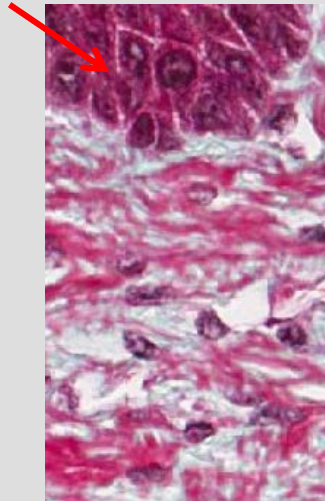
Inflammation - site of action for blood borne immune cells



# Distinguishing features and histological identification

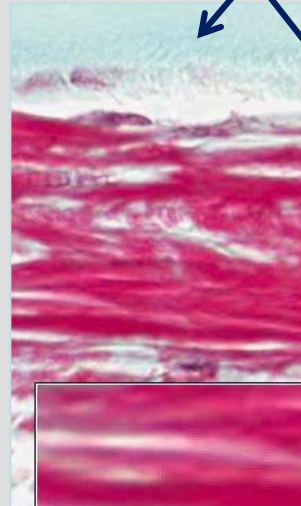
- **Loose connective tissue** – sparse collagen and elastic fibers, plentiful cells including fibroblasts, leukocytes
- **Dense connective tissue** – concentrated collagen, few cells
- **Cartilage** – avascular homogeneous matrix of collagen and protein-polysaccharides with few cells
- **Bone** – calcified collagen matrix with few cells trapped in the caves of bone

Epithelium



Loose connective tissue

Cartilage



Dense connective tissue

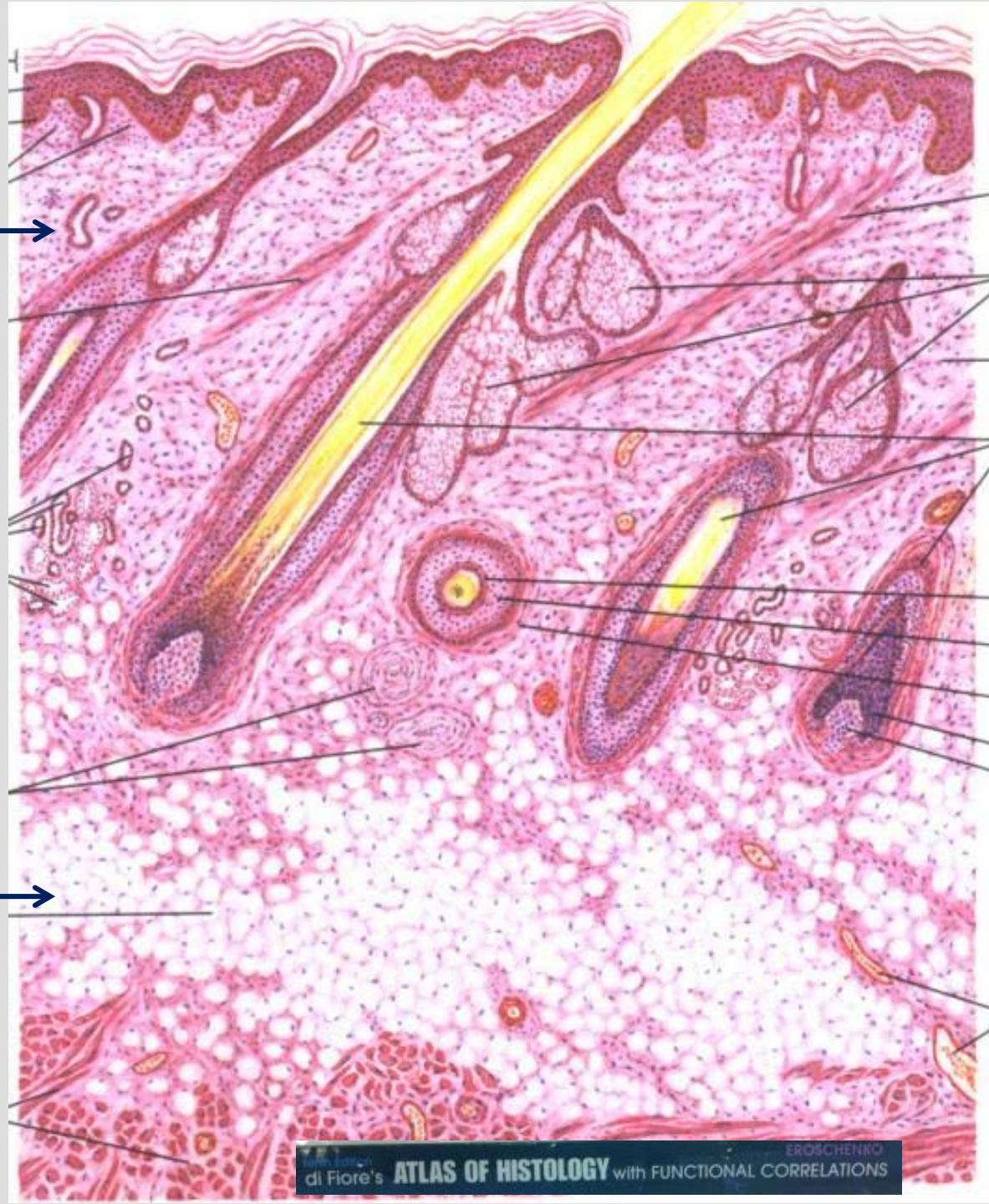


Bone

# SKIN

Dense irregular connective tissue  
(few cells and lots of fibers) →

Loose connective tissue  
(lots of cells and few fibers) →



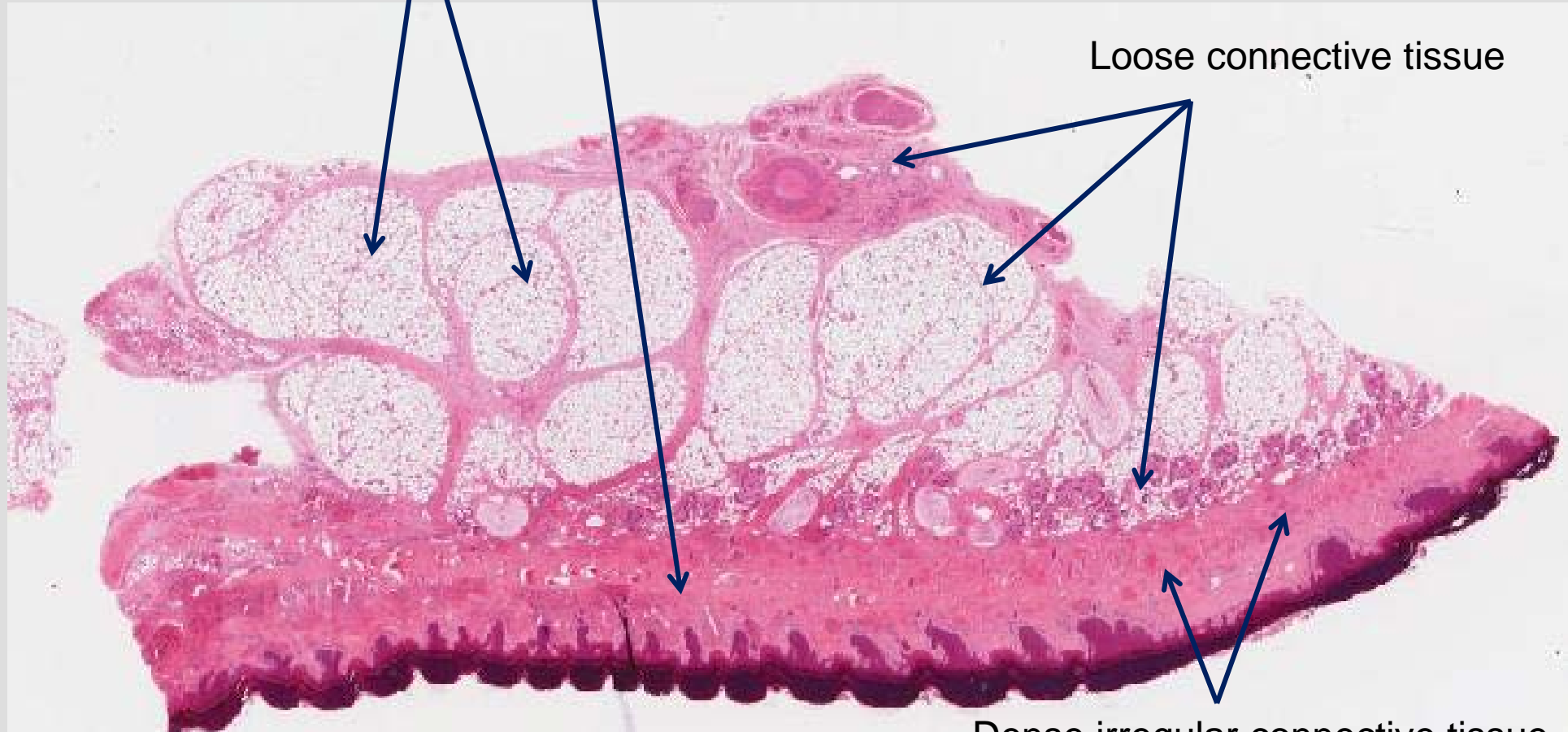
# Slide 109: Skin, hand, monkey

- Irregular connective tissue, dense surface region and loose subdermal region

Adipose cells,

Location of a high density of collagen fibers

Loose connective tissue



Dense irregular connective tissue

# Slide 109: Skin, hand, monkey

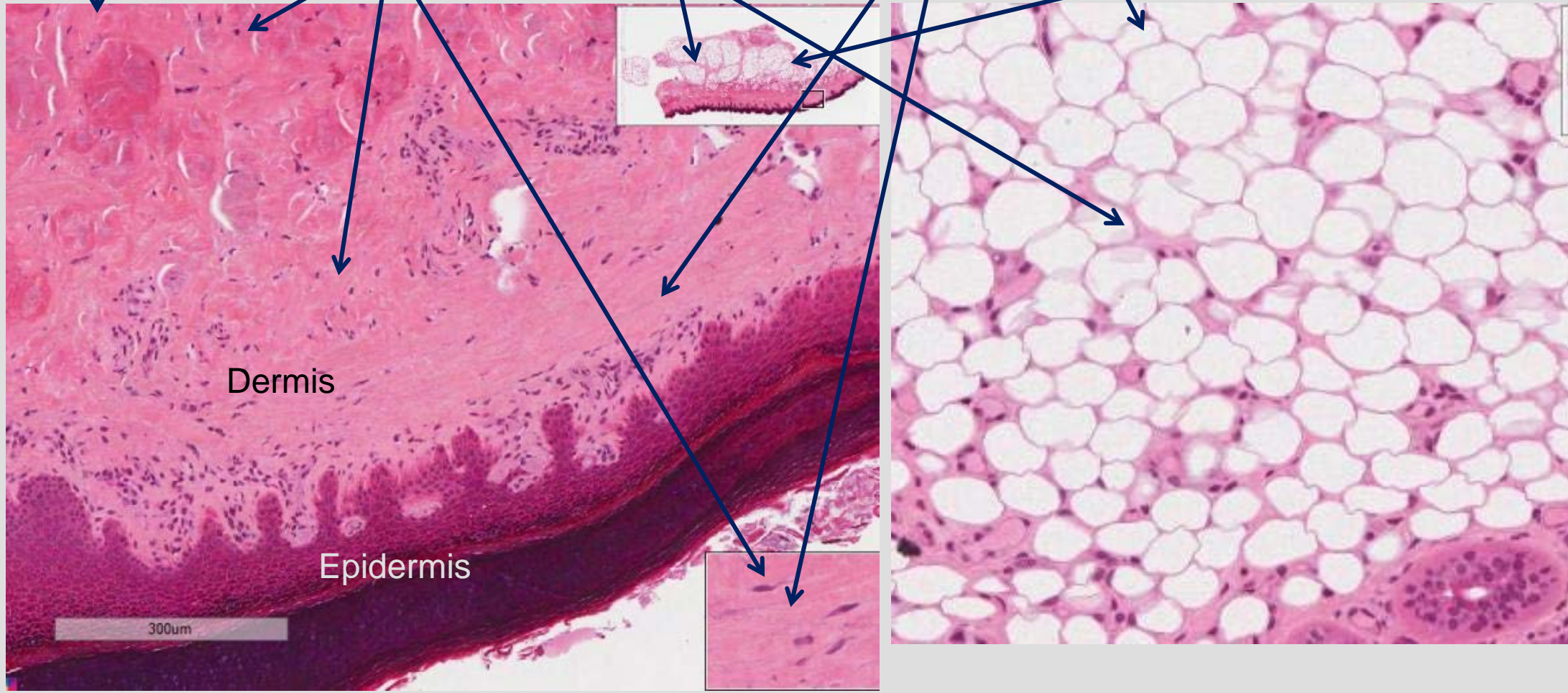
Dense Irregular  
connective tissue

Fibroblasts

Adipose cells

Collagen fibers in bundles

Loose connective tissue

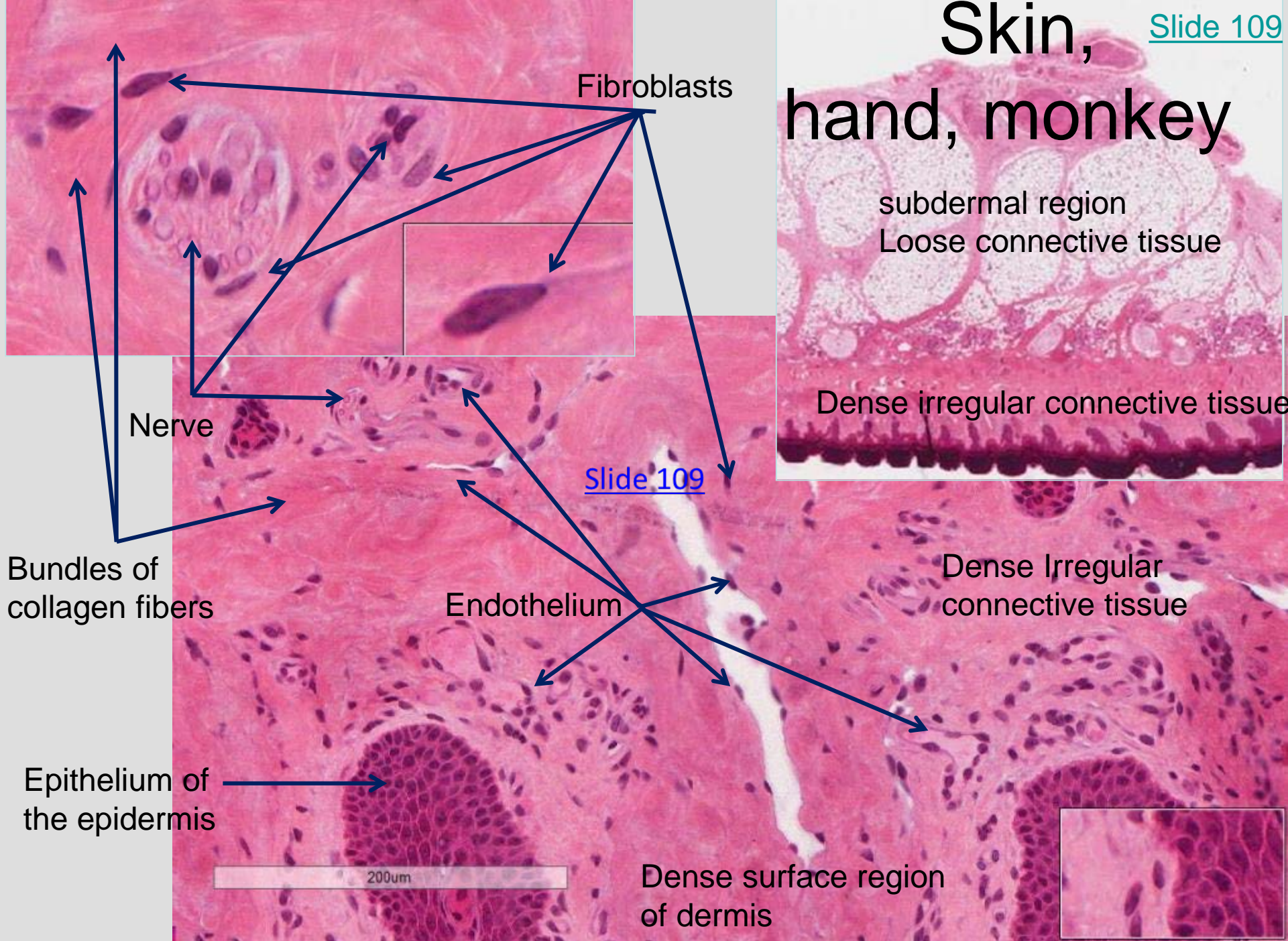


Dermis

Epidermis

300um

# Skin, hand, monkey



Fibroblasts

subdermal region  
Loose connective tissue

Dense irregular connective tissue

Nerve

Slide 109

Bundles of  
collagen fibers

Endothelium

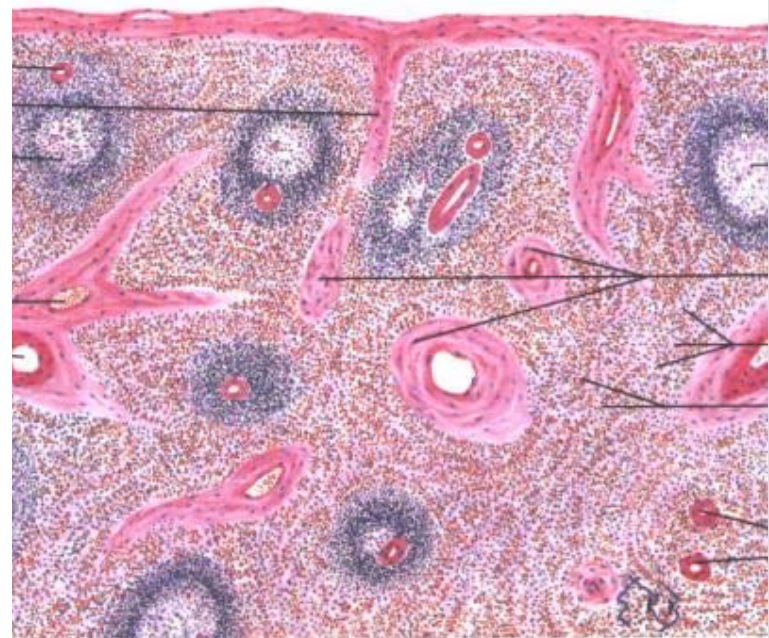
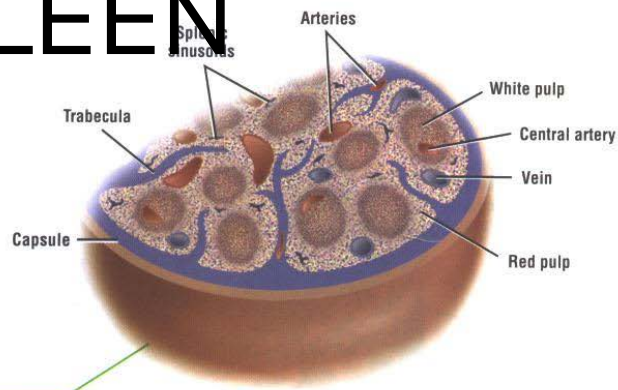
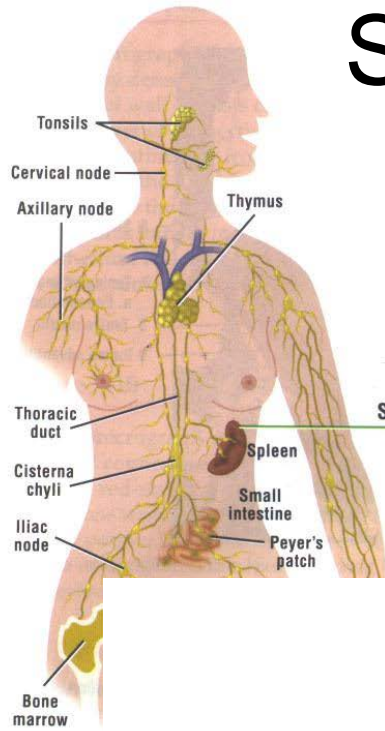
Dense Irregular  
connective tissue

Epithelium of  
the epidermis

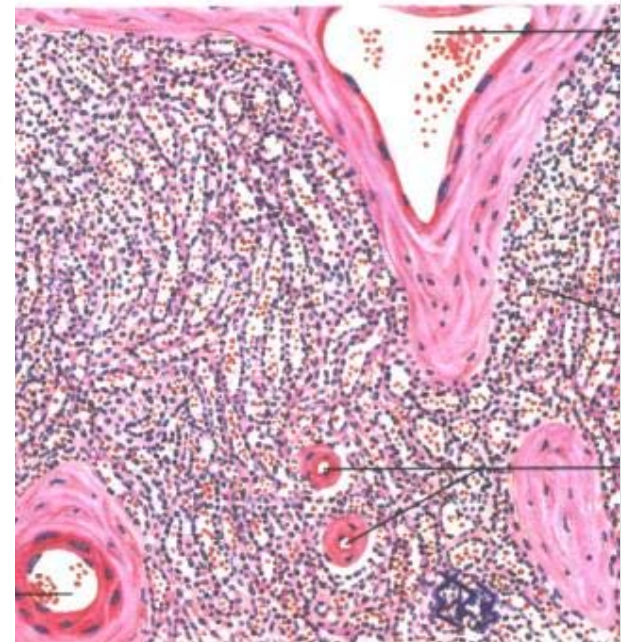
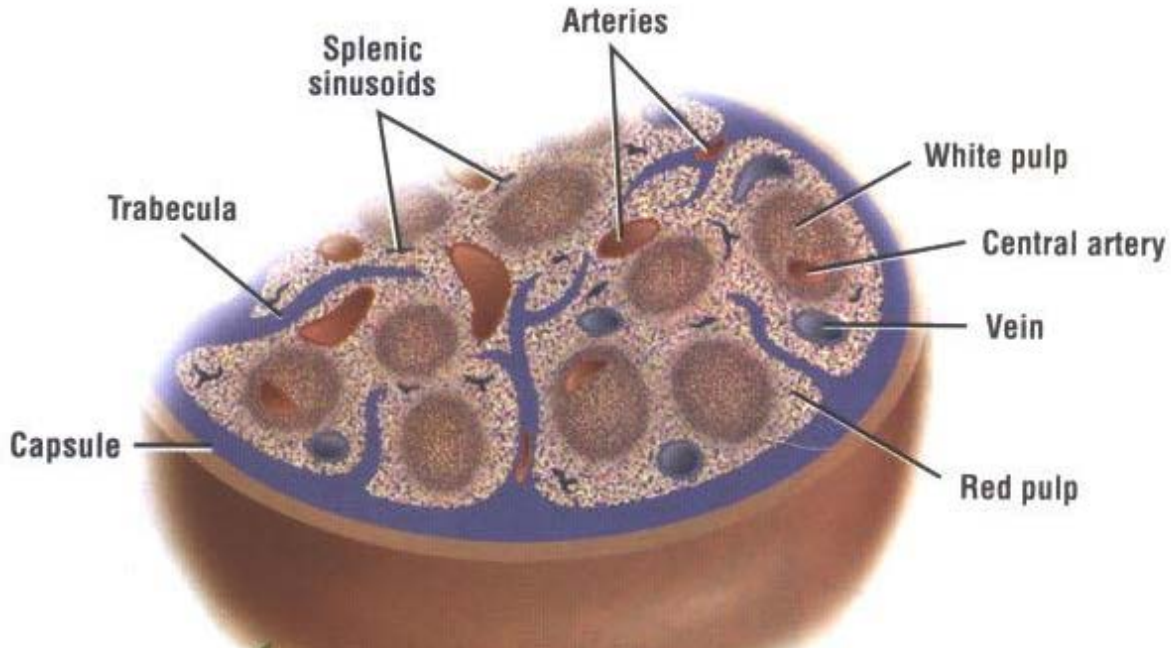
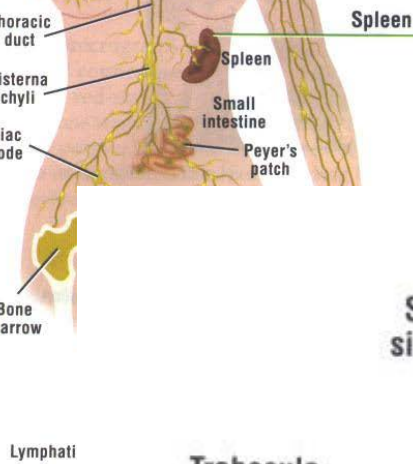
200um

Dense surface region  
of dermis

# SPLEEN

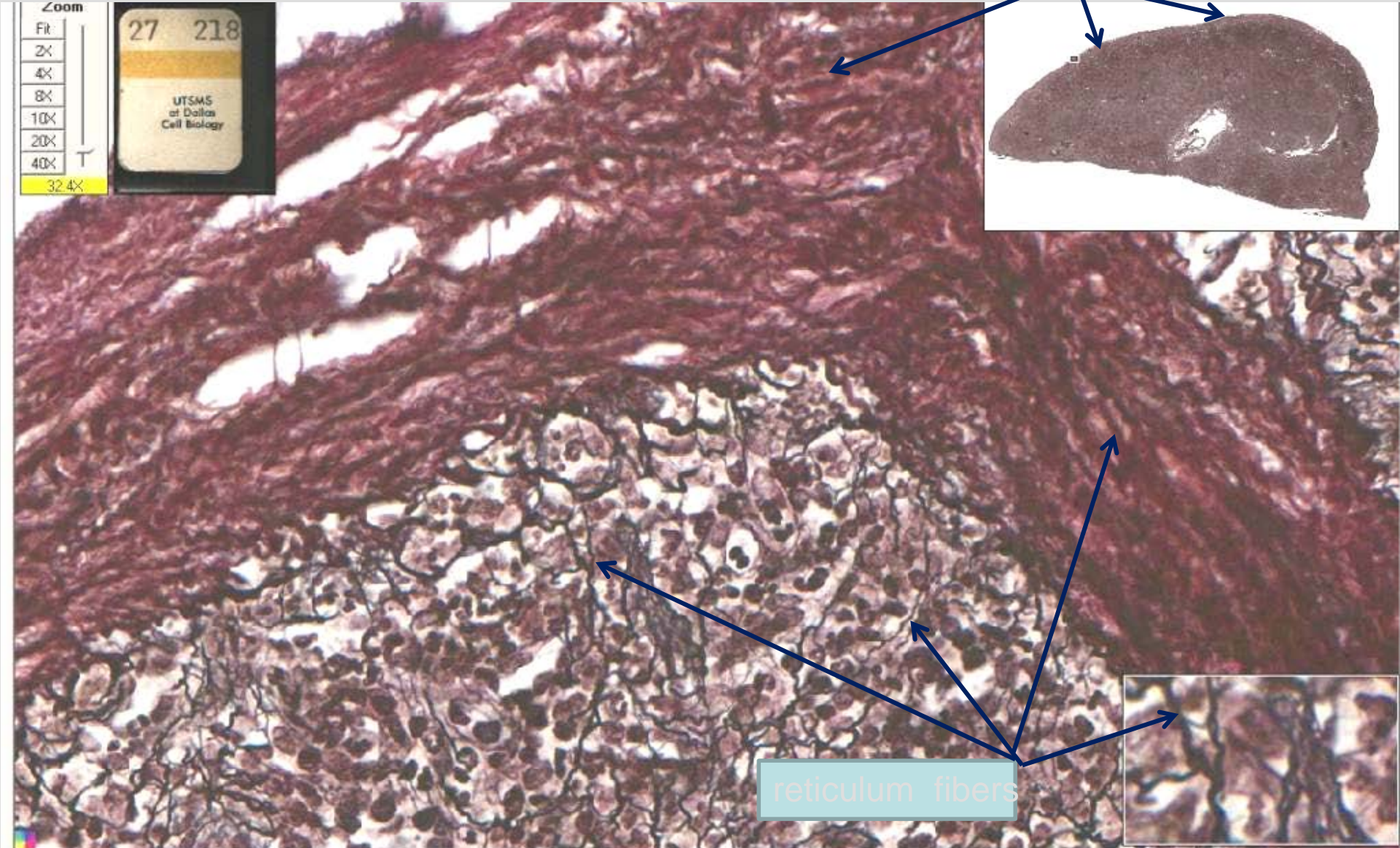


mic view). Stain: hematoxylin-eosin. Low magnification



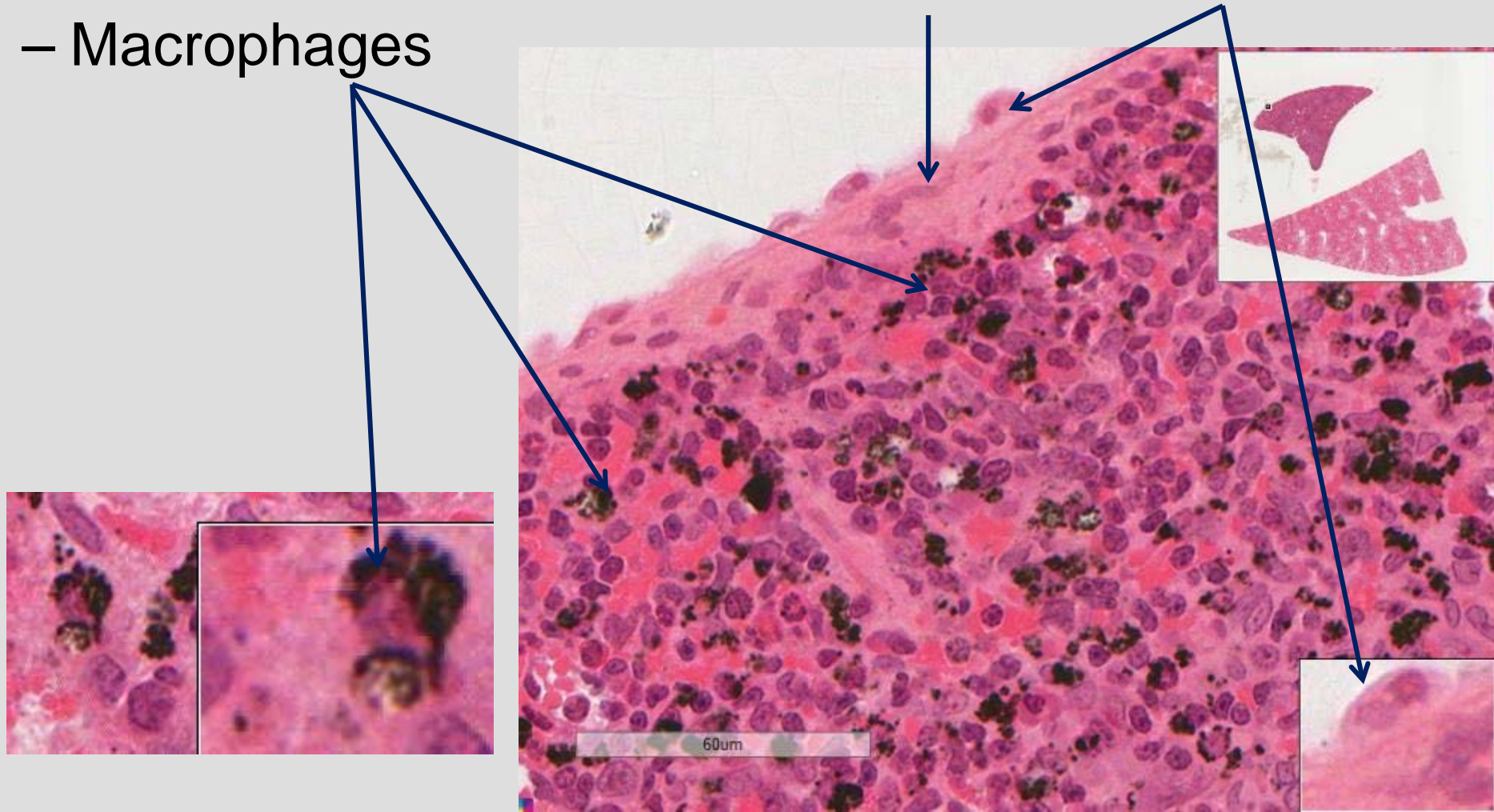


# 218 Spleen (reticulum stain)- capsule and reticulum fibers

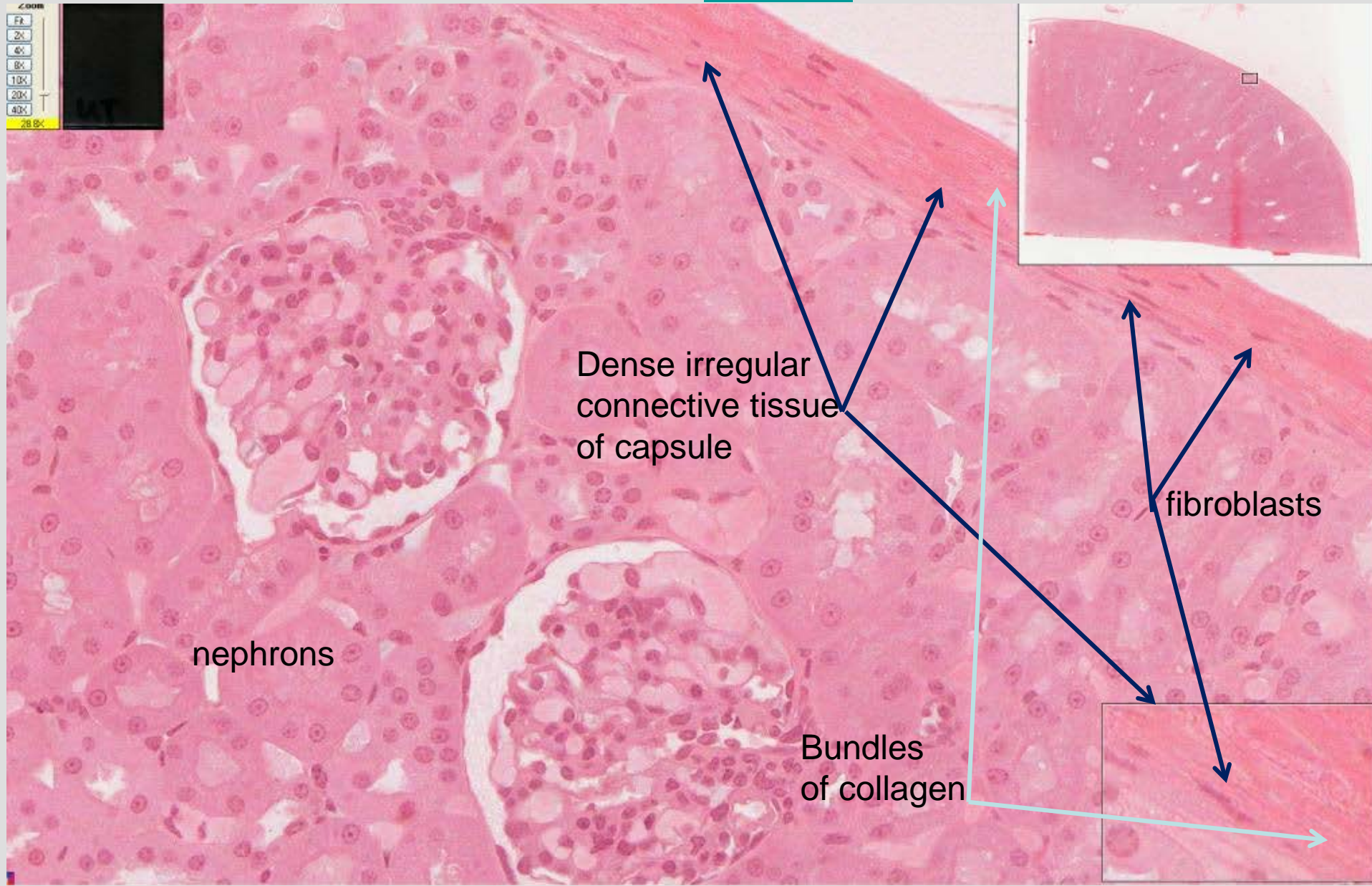


# Slide 118: Liver & spleen with colloidal carbon, rat

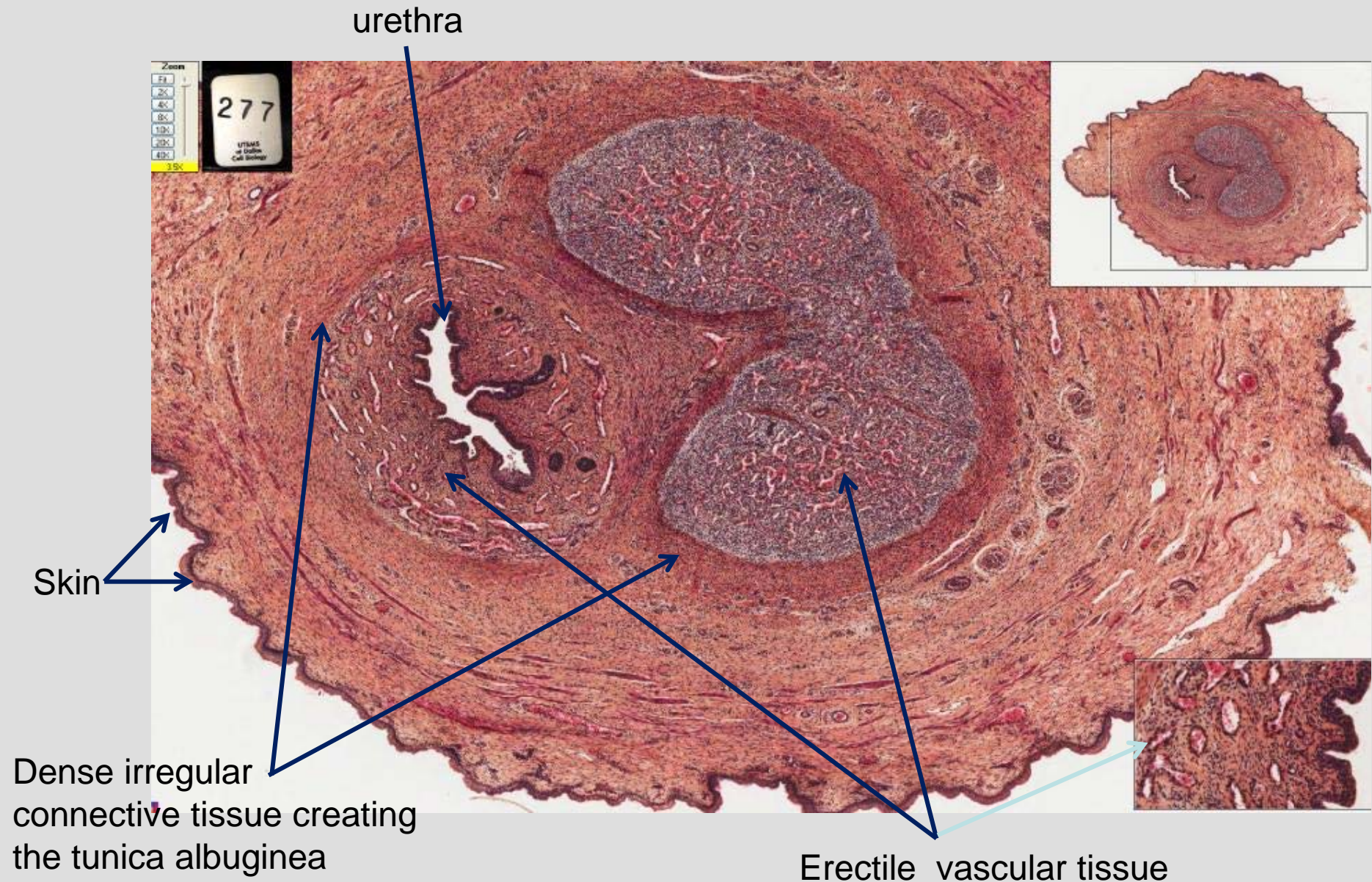
- Dense irregular connective tissue capsule<sub>mesothelium</sub>
- Macrophages

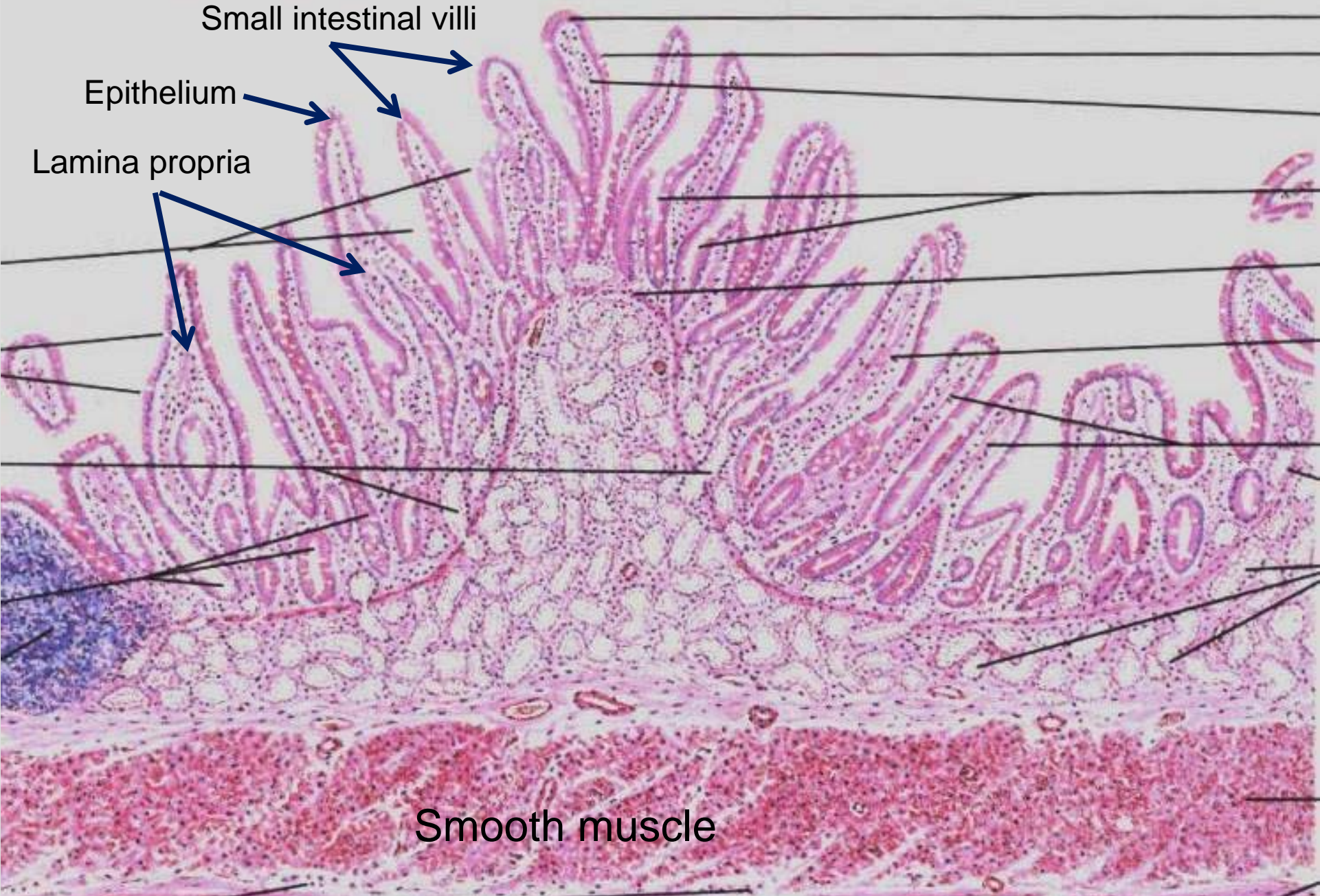


# Kidney Capsule, urinary vascular poles slide #19713



# Penis – transitional epithelium and surrounding [slide 277](#) spongy cavernous of penial urethra





Small intestinal villi

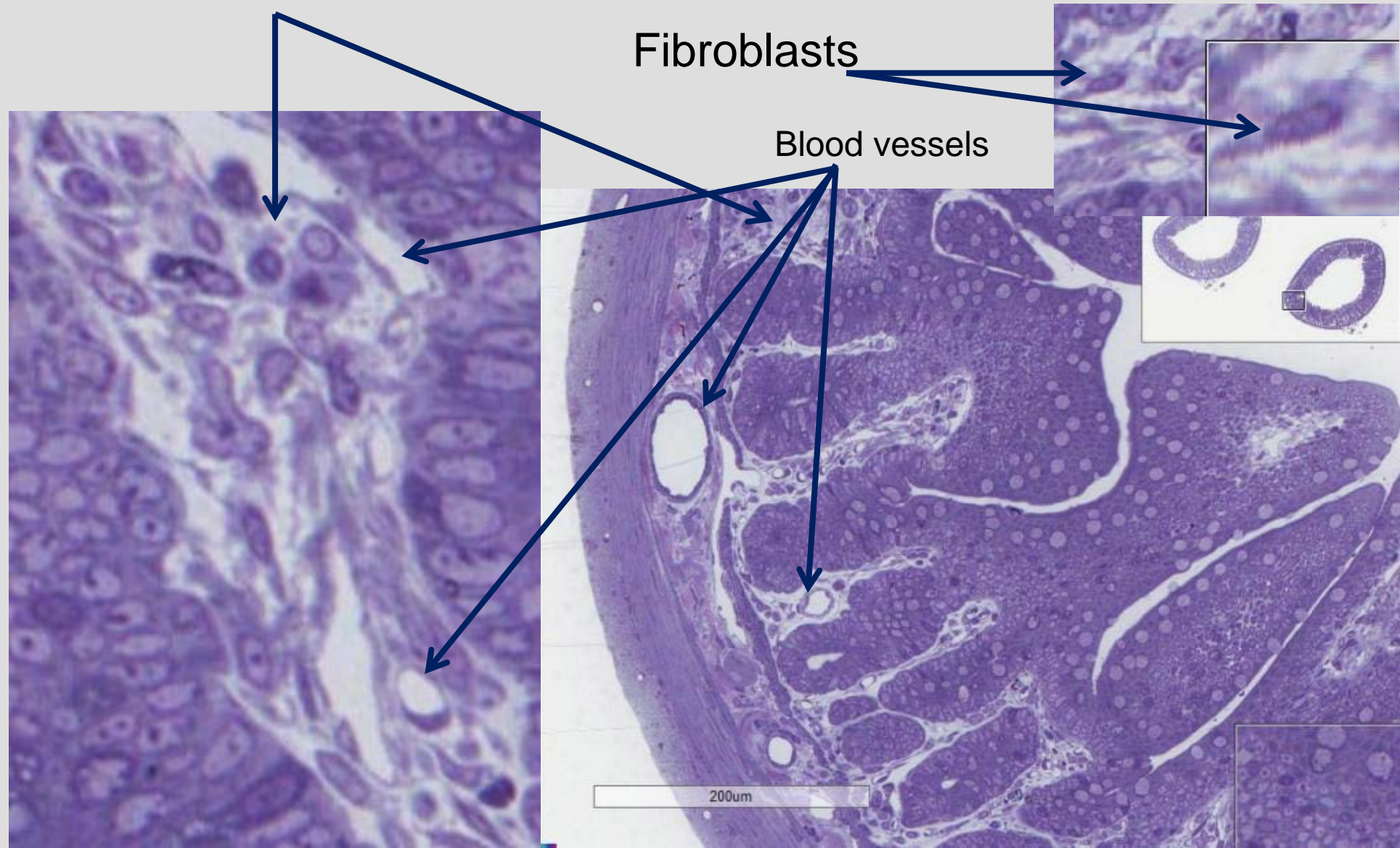
Epithelium

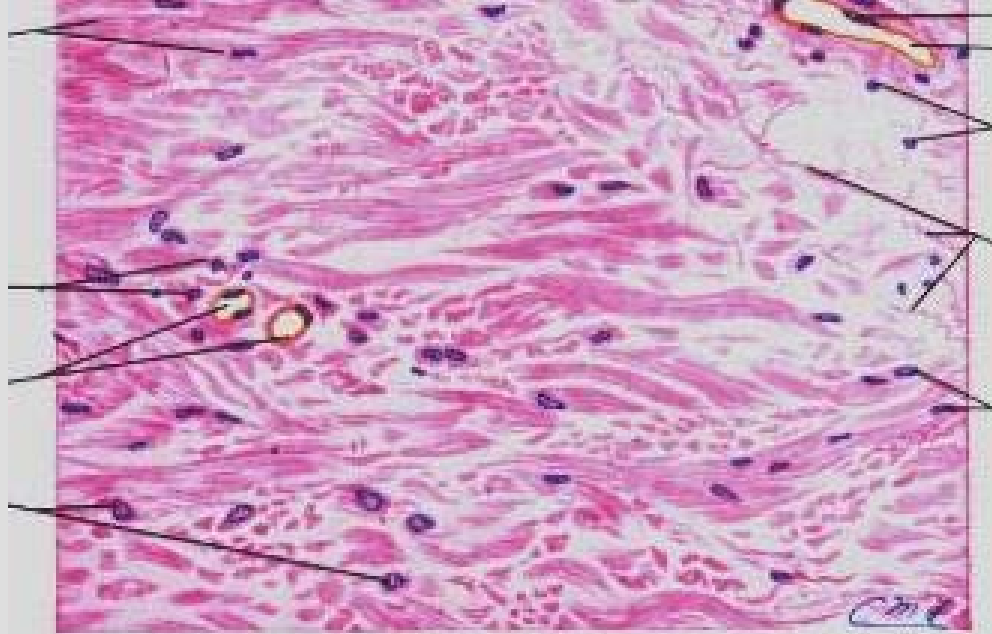
Lamina propria

Smooth muscle

# Slide 32409: Rat intestine (toluidine blue)

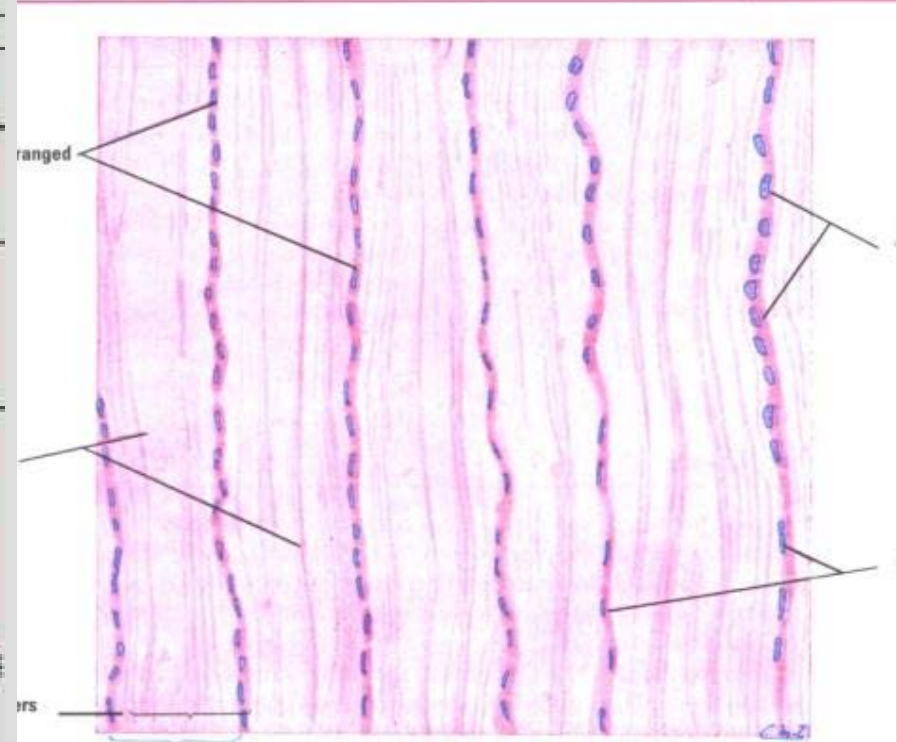
- Loose connective tissue (e.g., lamina propria)





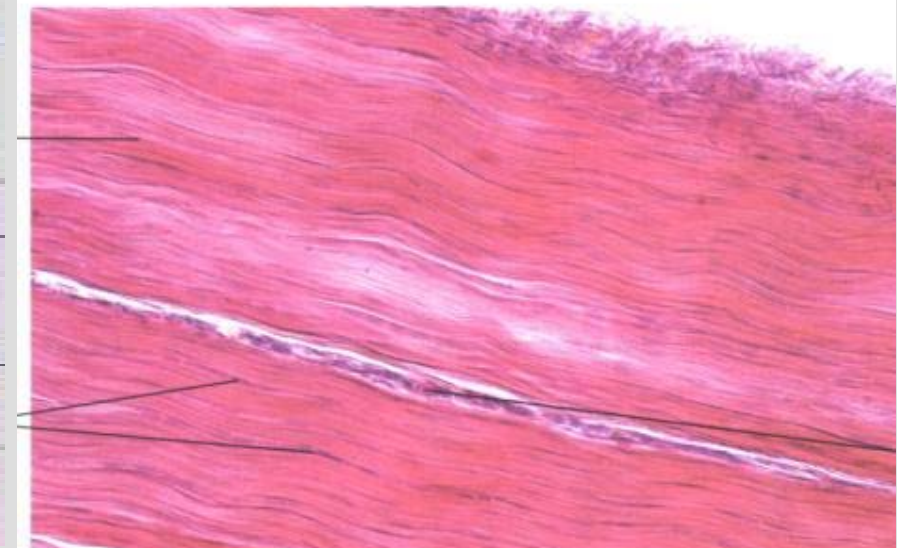
Dense Irregular Connective Tissue. Stain: hematoxylin/eosin. High mag

Dense irregular connective tissue



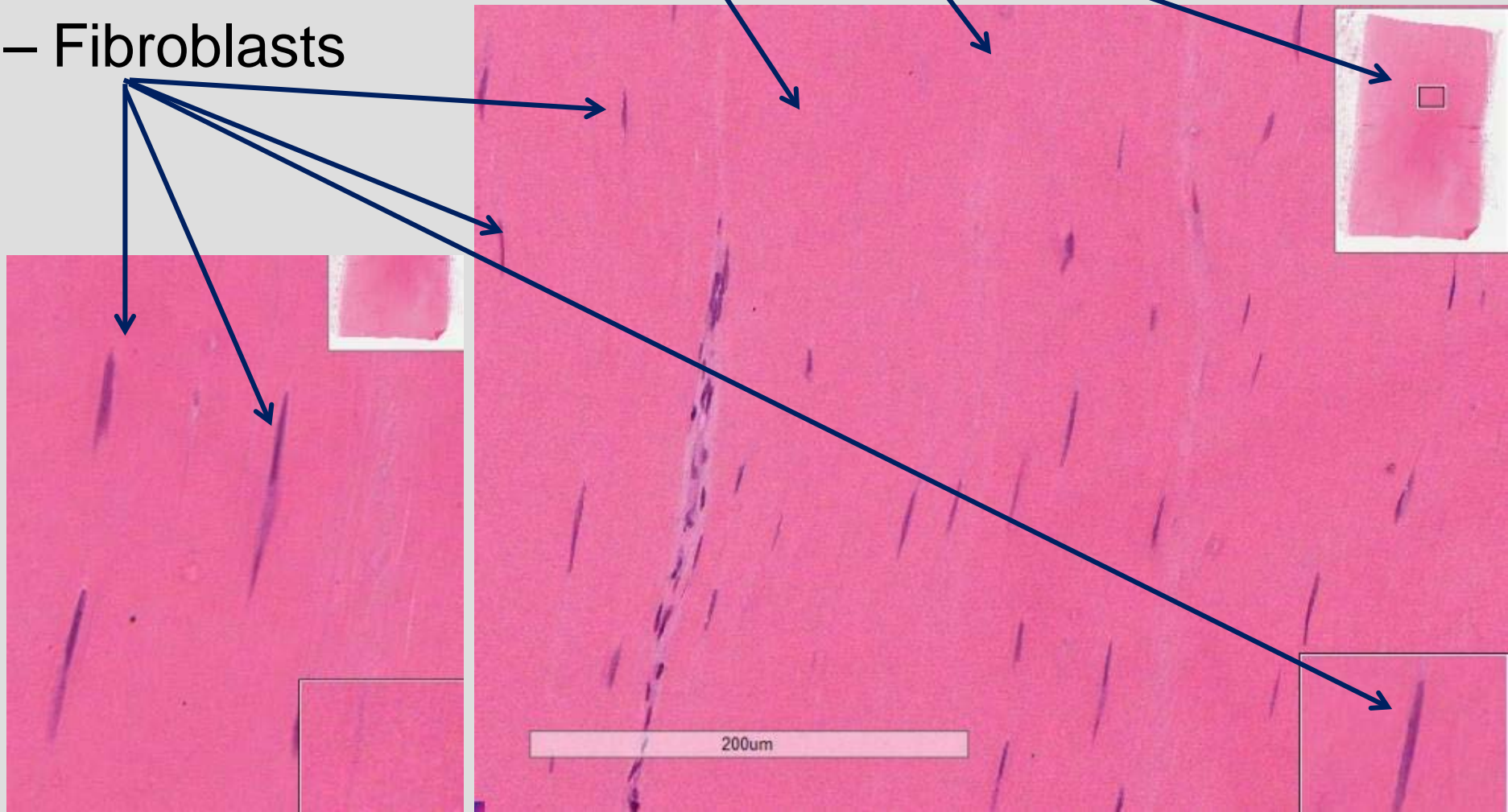
Dense Regular Connective Tissue: Tendon (longitudinal section). Stain: hematoxylin/e

Dense regular connective tissue



# Slide 202: Tendon

- Dense regular connective tissue
- High density of collagen fibers
- Fibroblasts



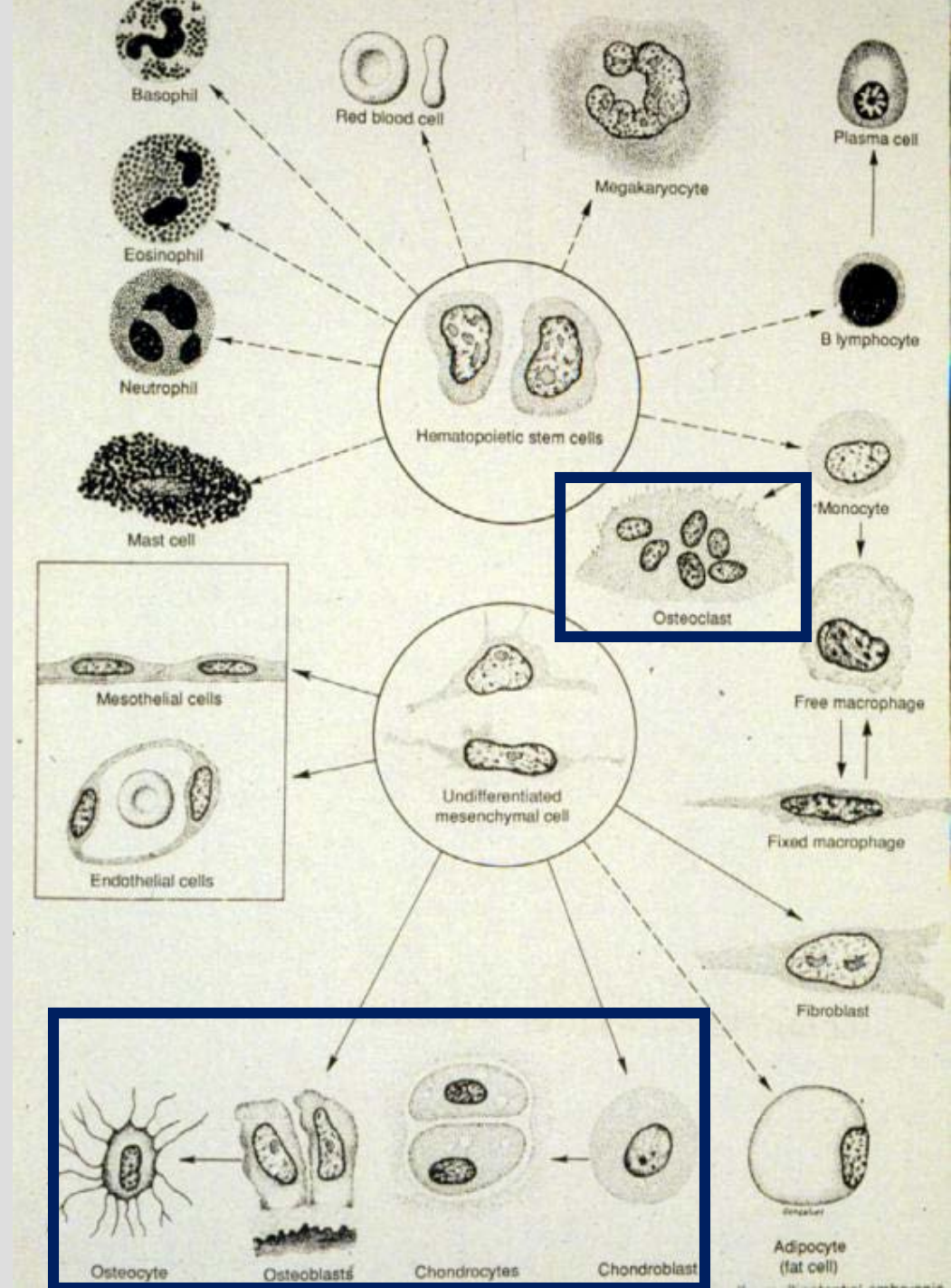


# CELLS OF CT

FIBROBLASTS  
MESENCHYMAL  
CELLS and RBC  
ADIPOSE CELLS  
MACROPHAGE  
PLASMA CELLS  
MAST CELLS and  
WBC

CHONDROBLASTS  
CHONDROCYTES

OSTEOBLASTS  
OSTEOCYTES  
OSTEOCLASTS





Ref code # 5

# Cells of connective tissue



**Fig. 2-1 Loose Connective Tissue (spread).** Supravital staining with neutral red. Upper: high magnification immersion.

di Fiore's **ATLAS OF HISTOLOGY** with FUNCTIONAL CORRELATIONS

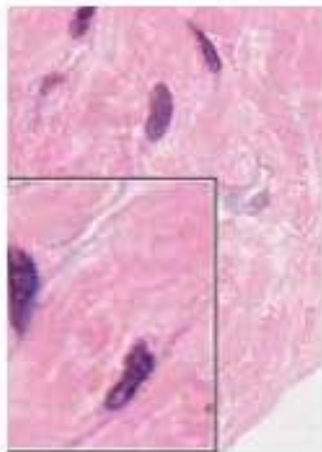
Mast cell



Macrophage



Fibroblasts



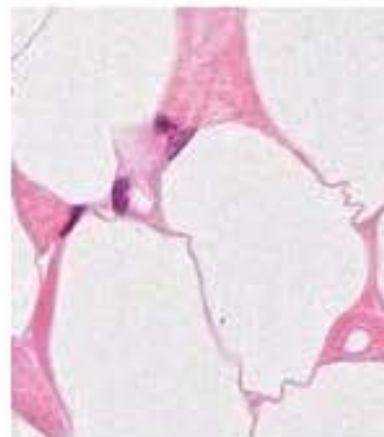
Fibroblasts

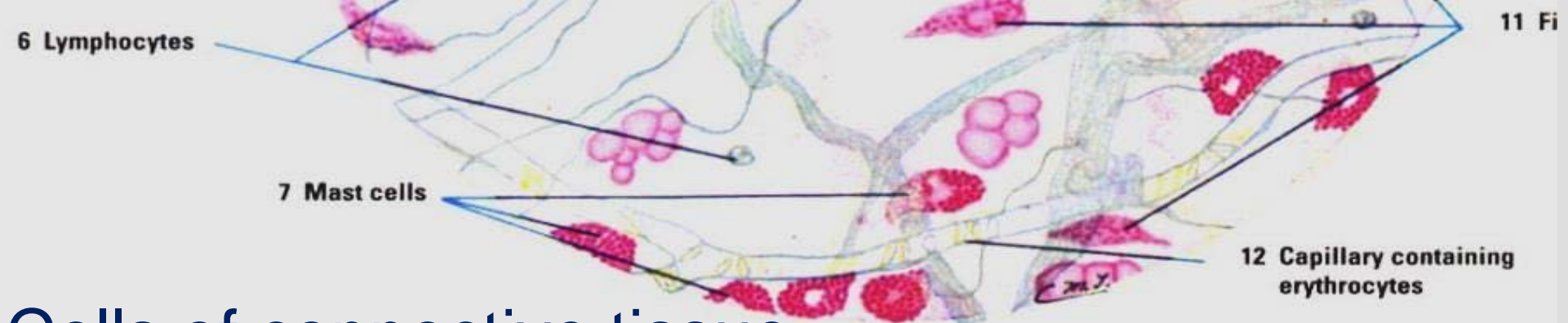


Plasma cell



Fat cells

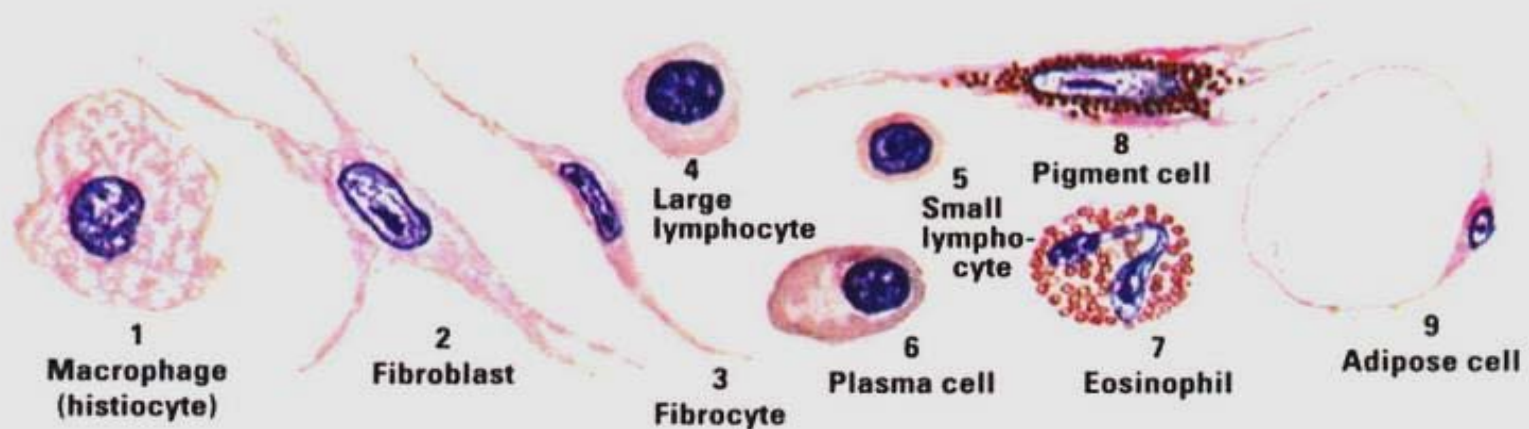




# Cells of connective tissue



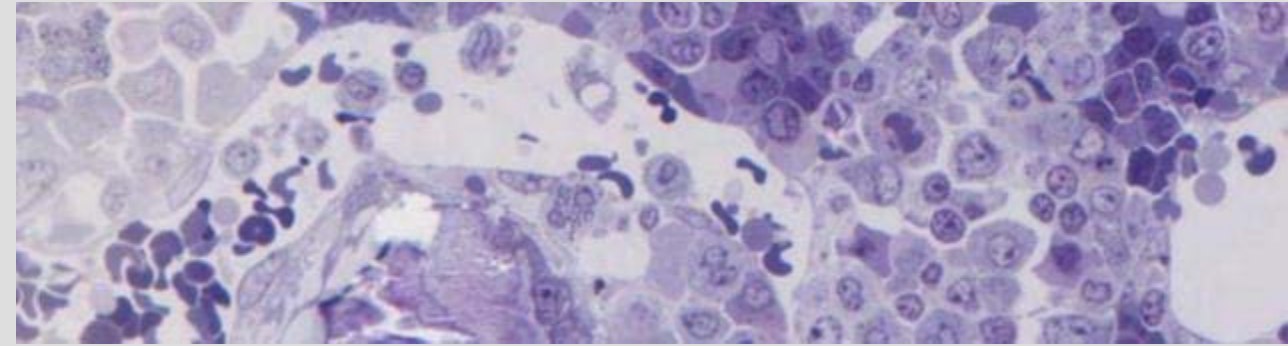
**Fig. 2-1 Loose Connective Tissue (spread).** Supravital staining with neutral red. Upper: high magnification immersion.



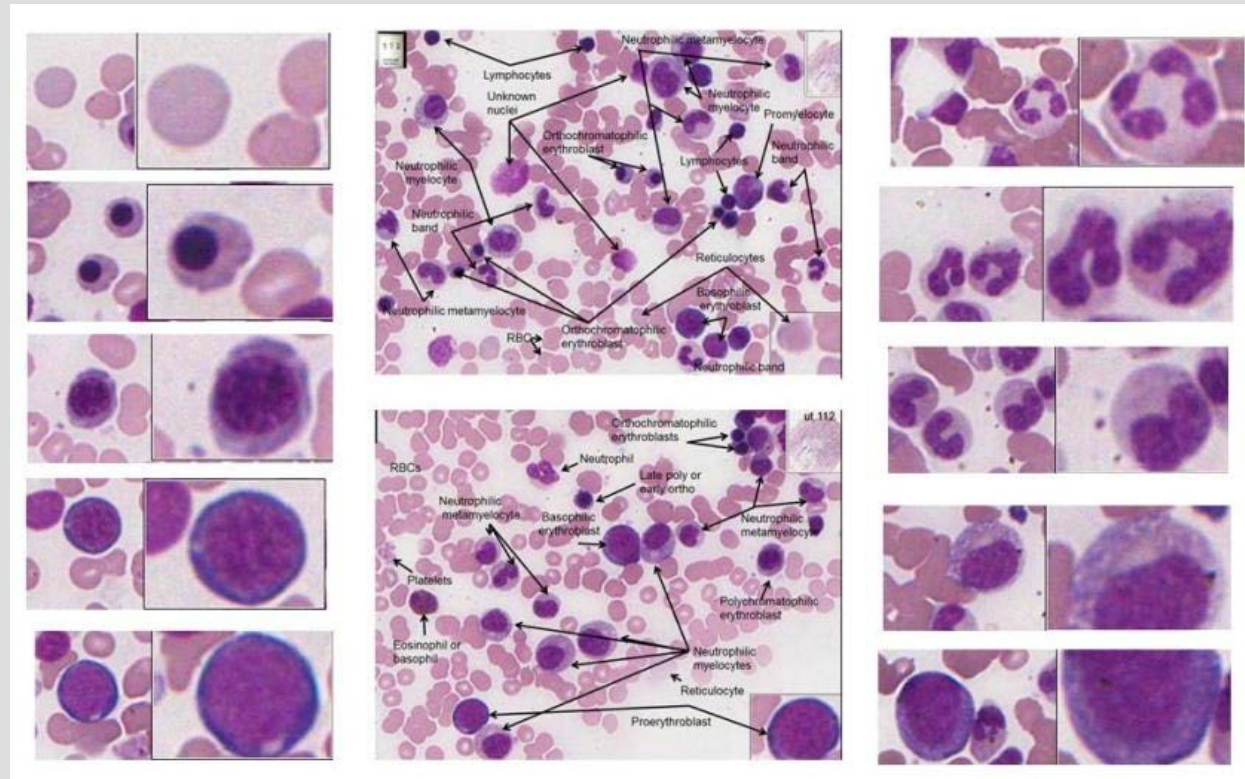
# Blood cells are connective tissue cells

## Blood cells

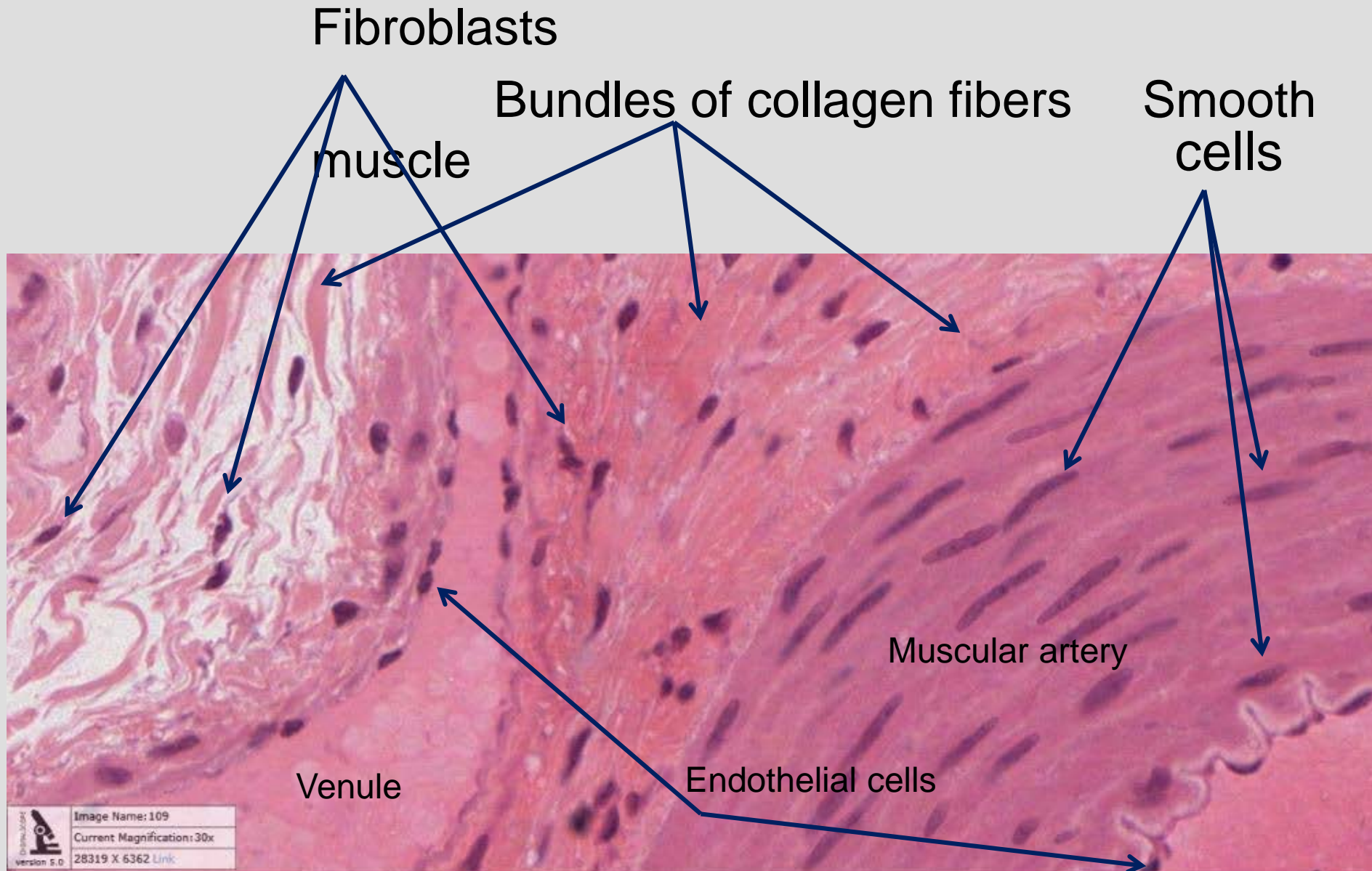
32583



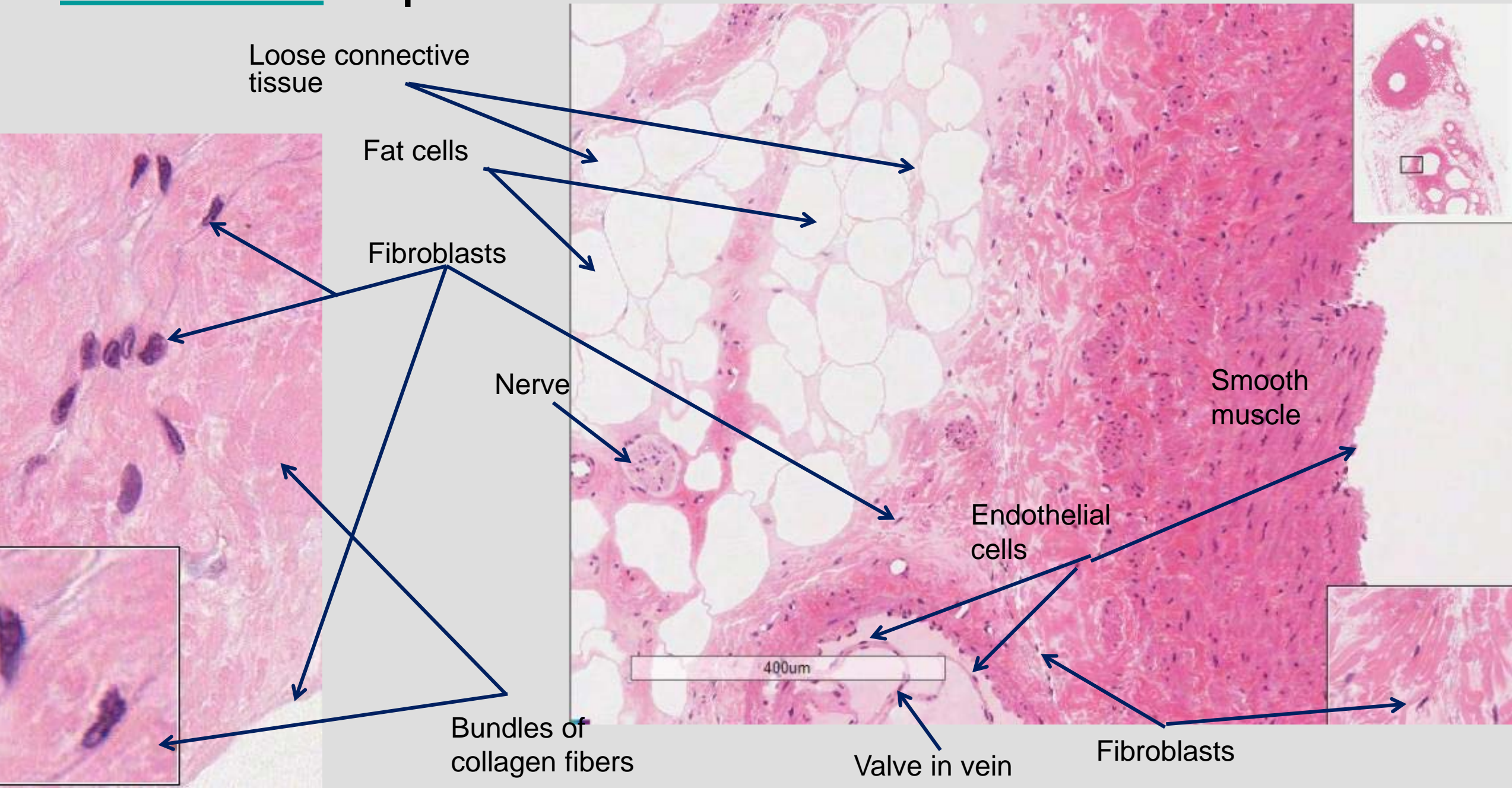
## Bone marrow cells



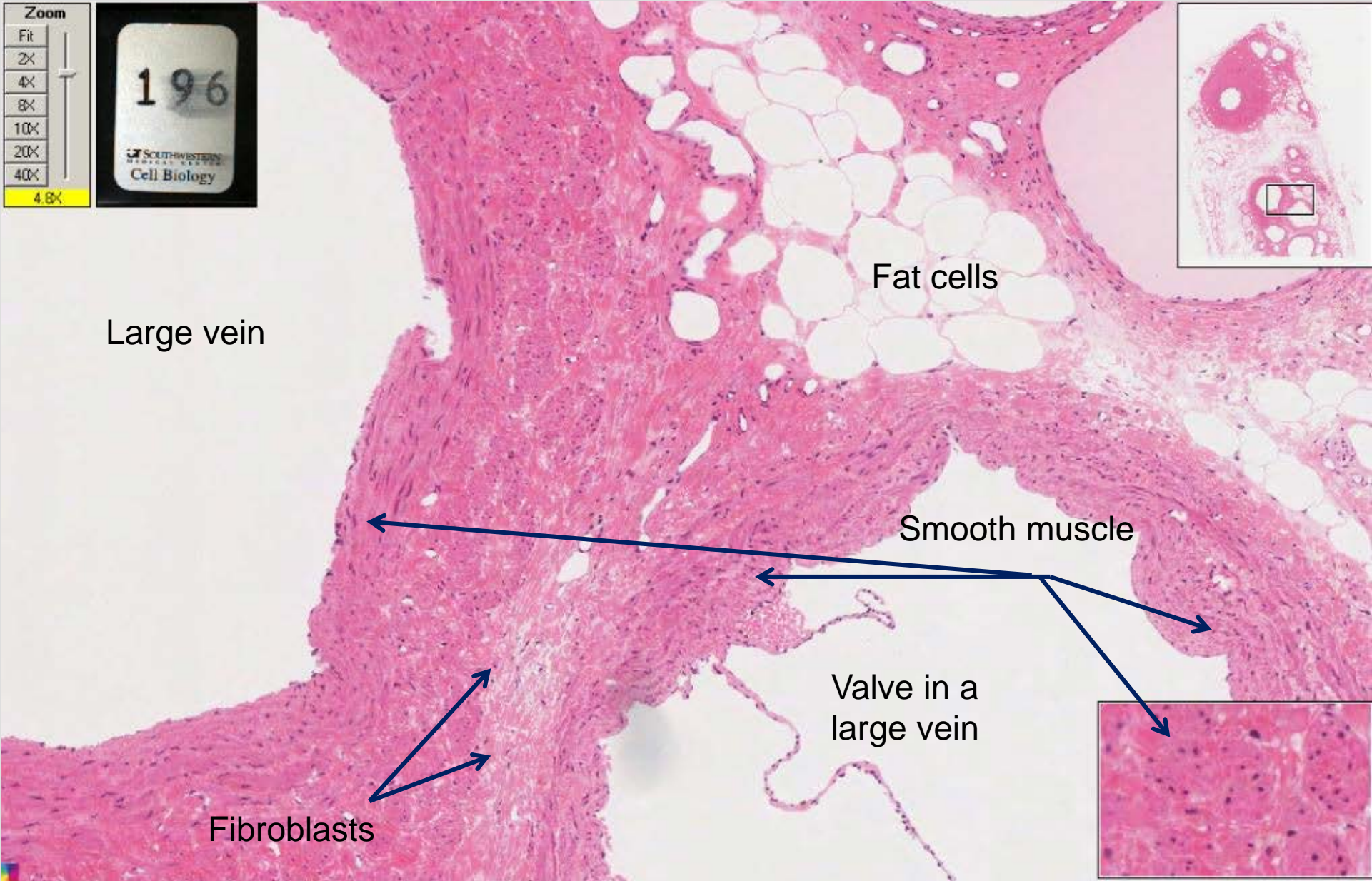
# Slide 109: Skin, hand, monkey



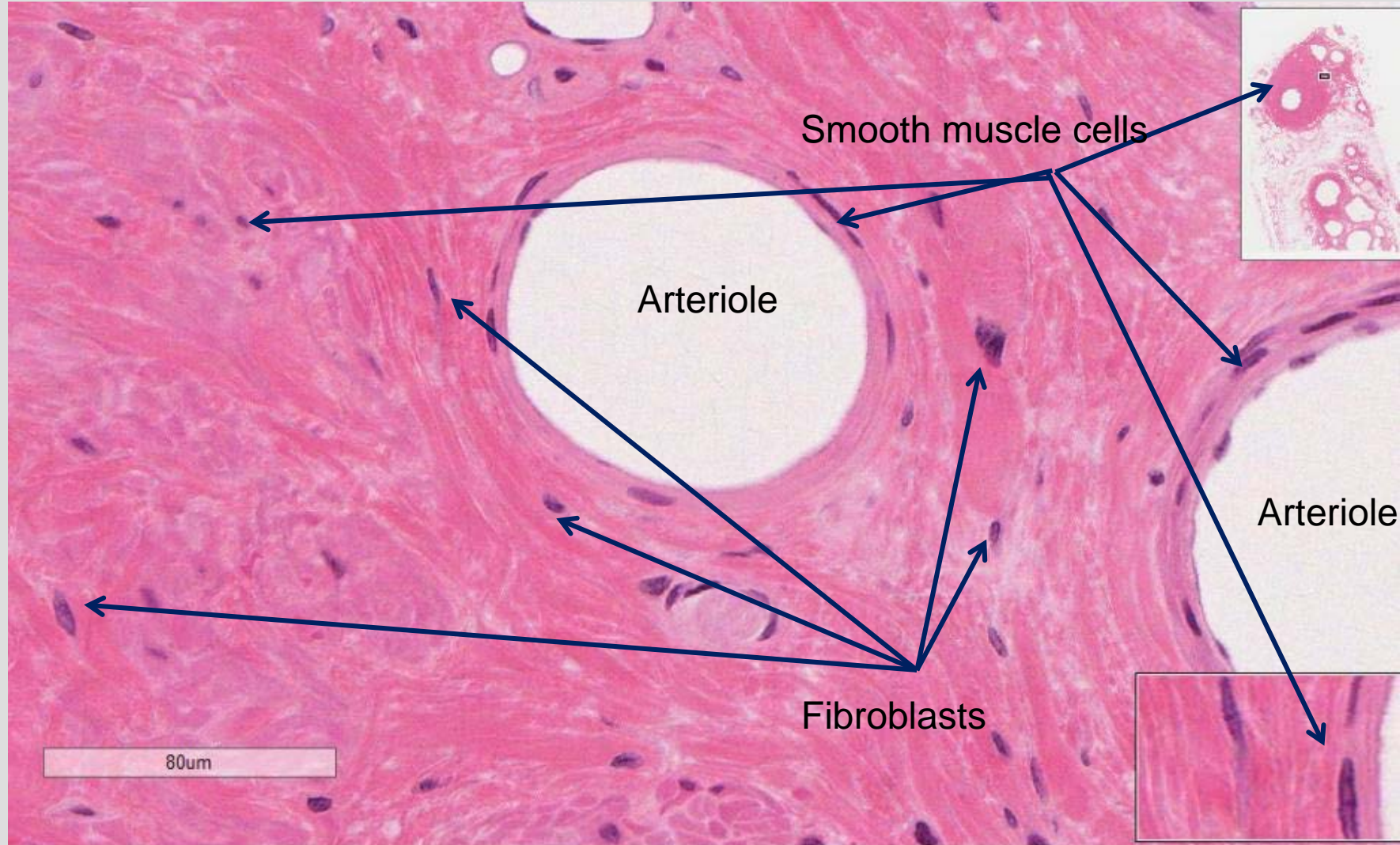
# Slide 196: Spermatic cord



# Slide 196 Vein of Spermatic cord

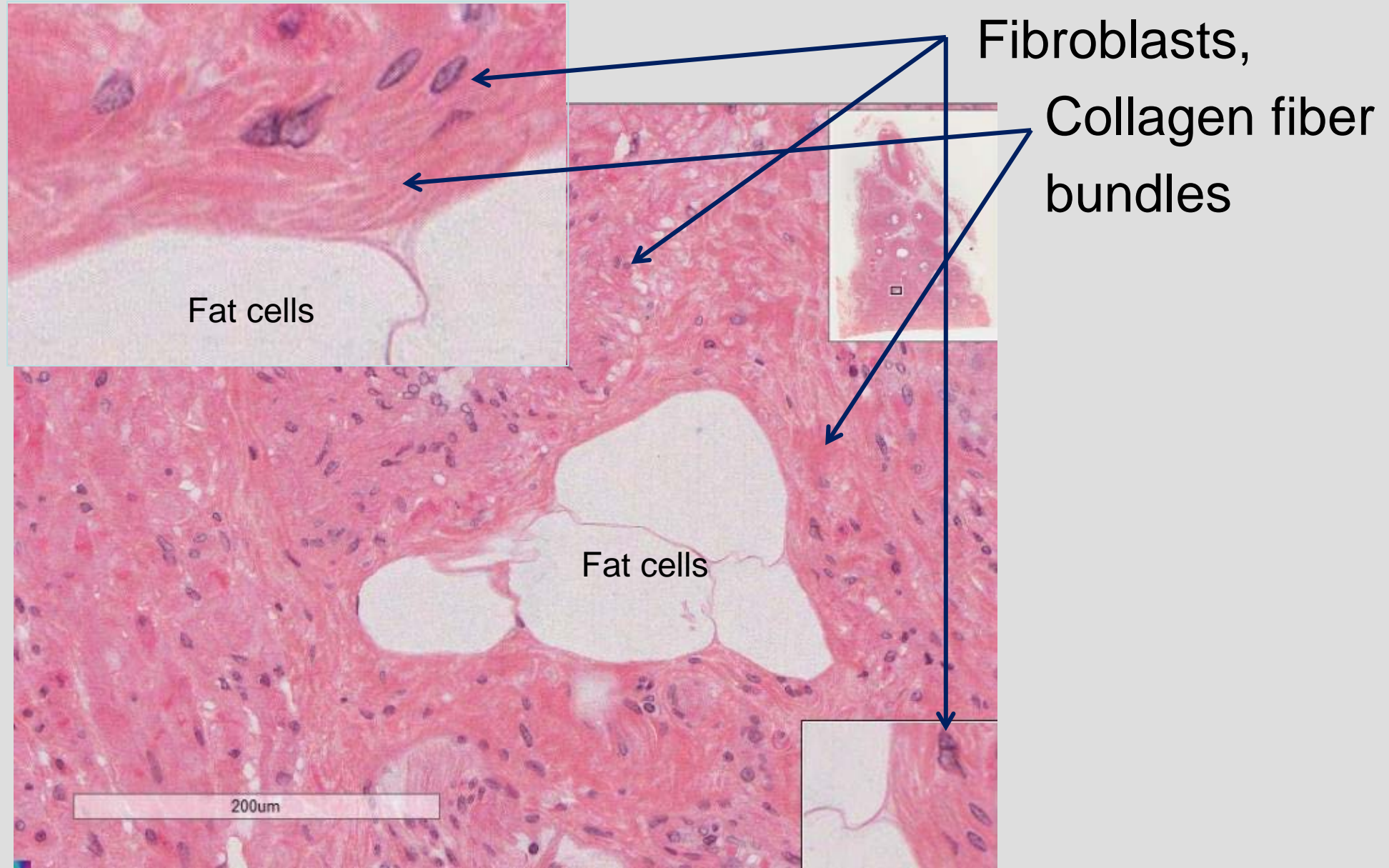


Slide 196 Vein of Spermatic cord



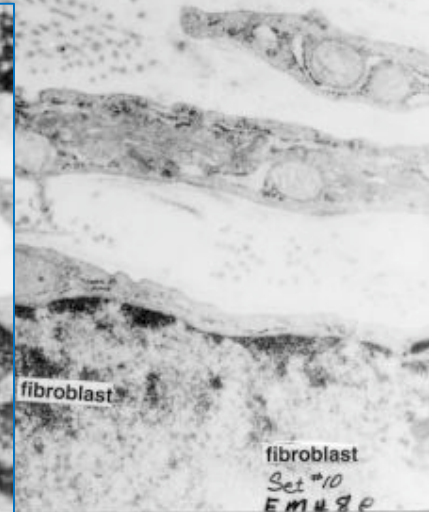
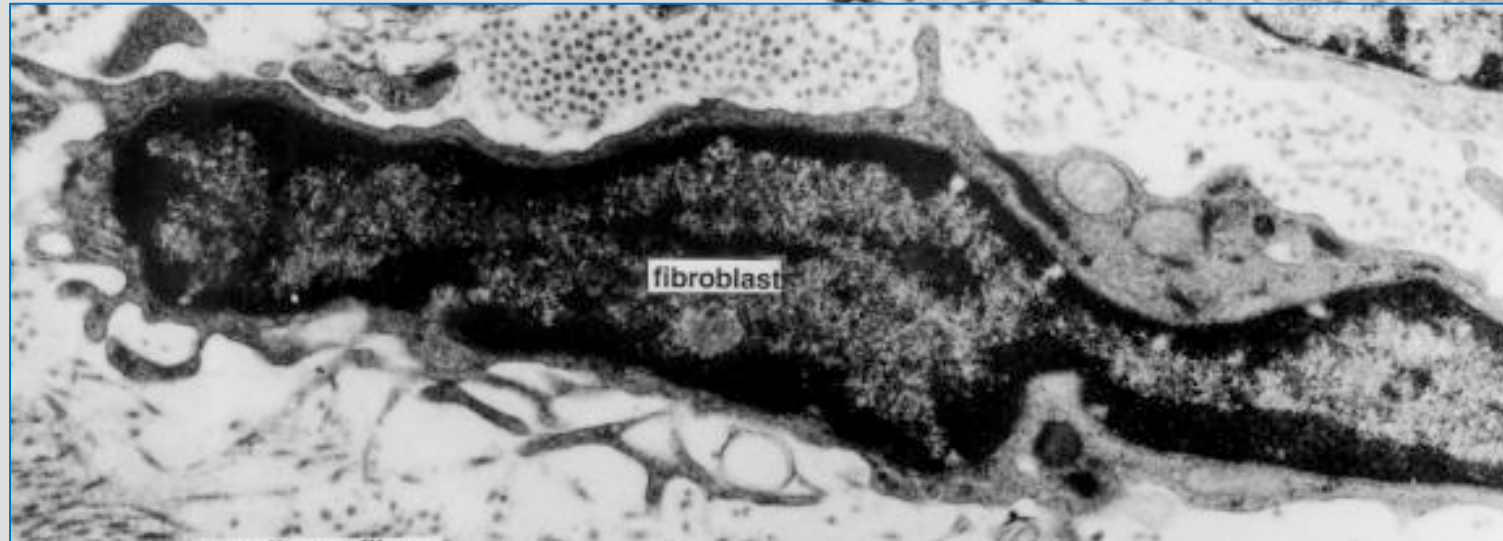
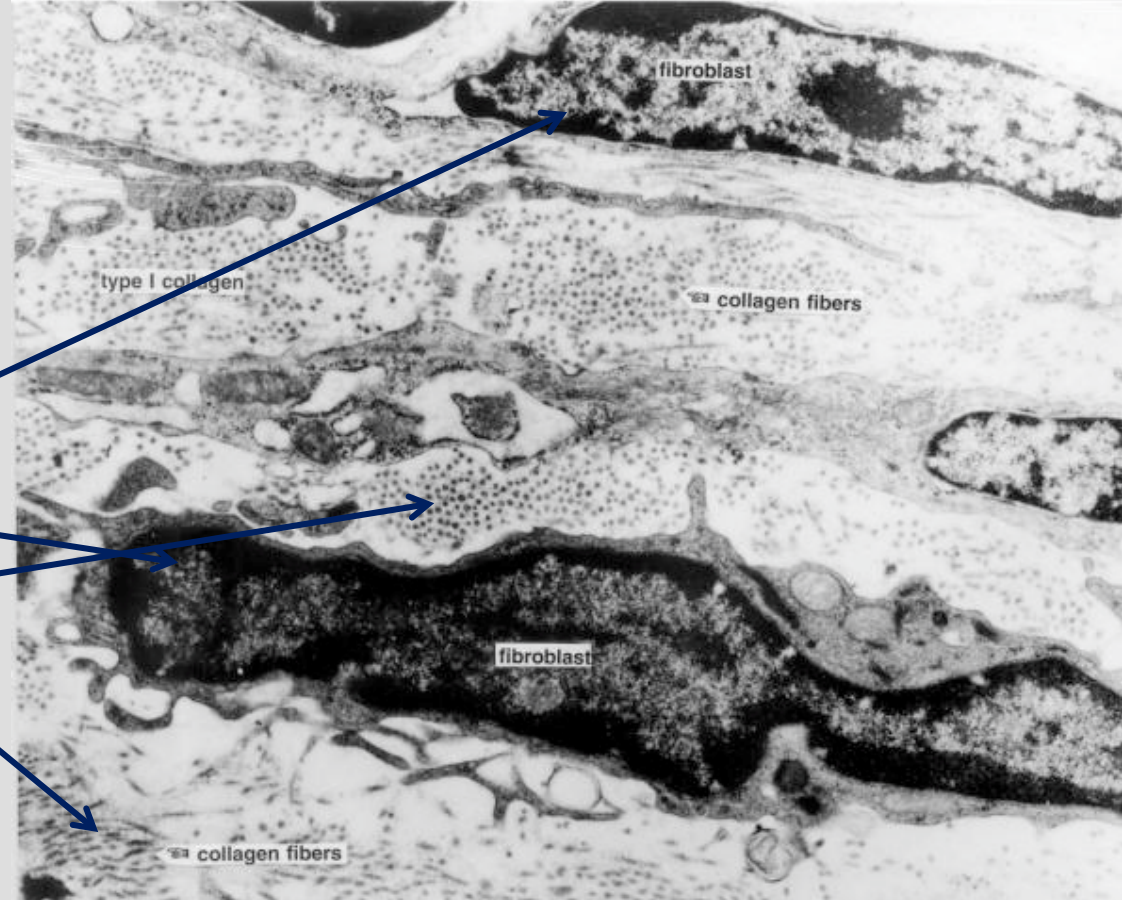


# Slide 19716: Tail of epididymis



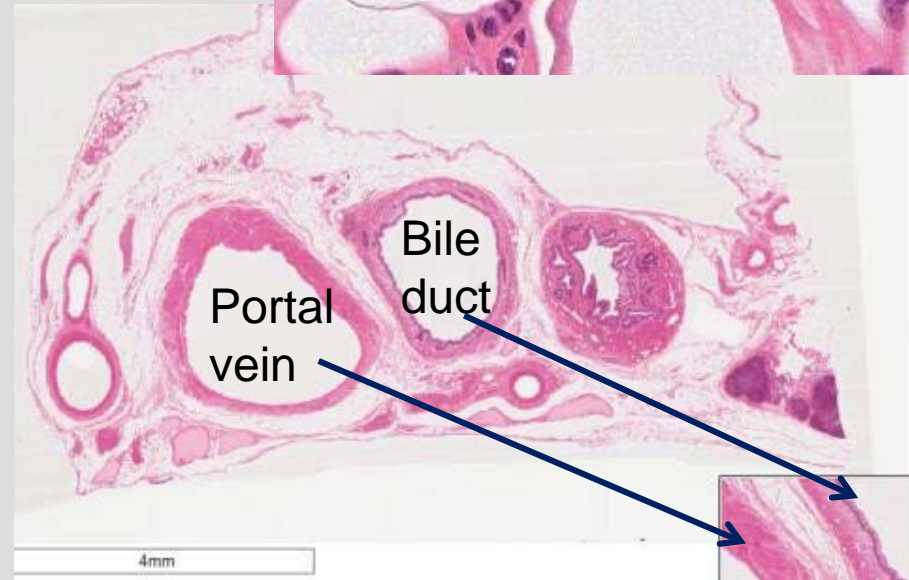
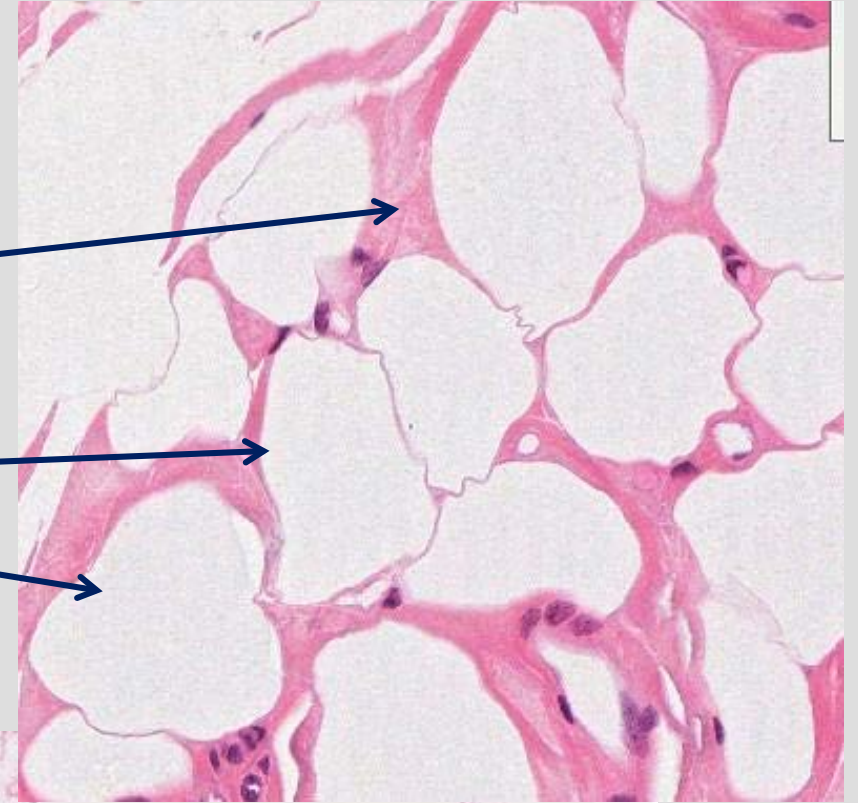
# EM 8e: Fibroblasts

Fibroblasts  
Collagen fibers



# Slide 126: Bile duct with portal vein, monkey

- Loose connective tissue (many cells and few fibers),
- Adipose cells,
- Fibroblasts



Plasma cells

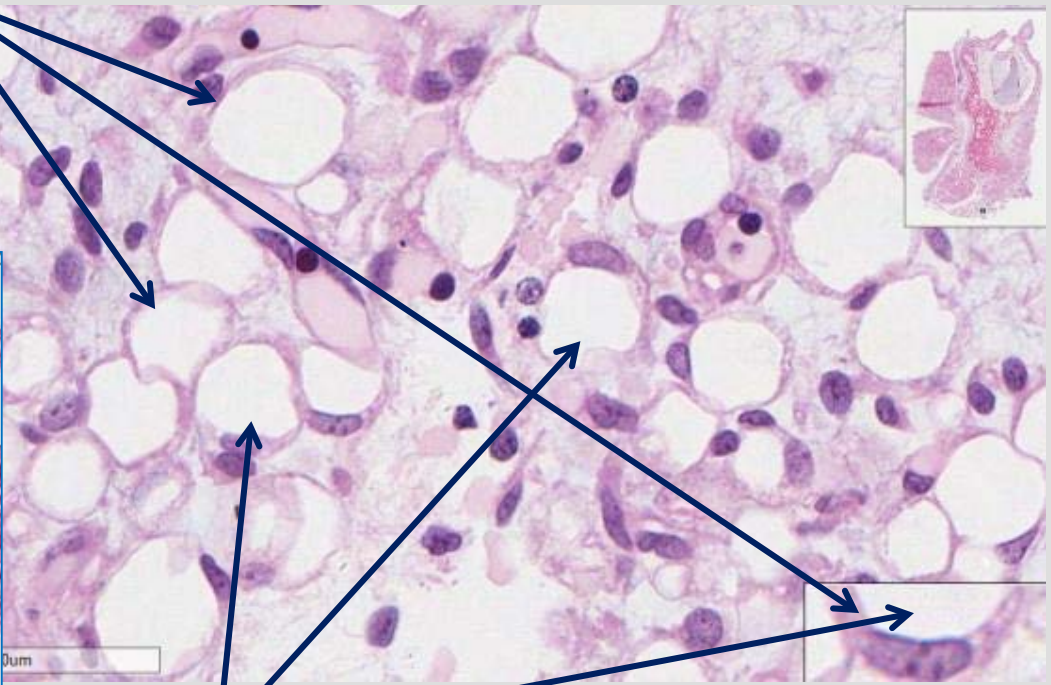
60um

4mm

Slide 195 Fetal jaw

White fat cells

Fibroblasts



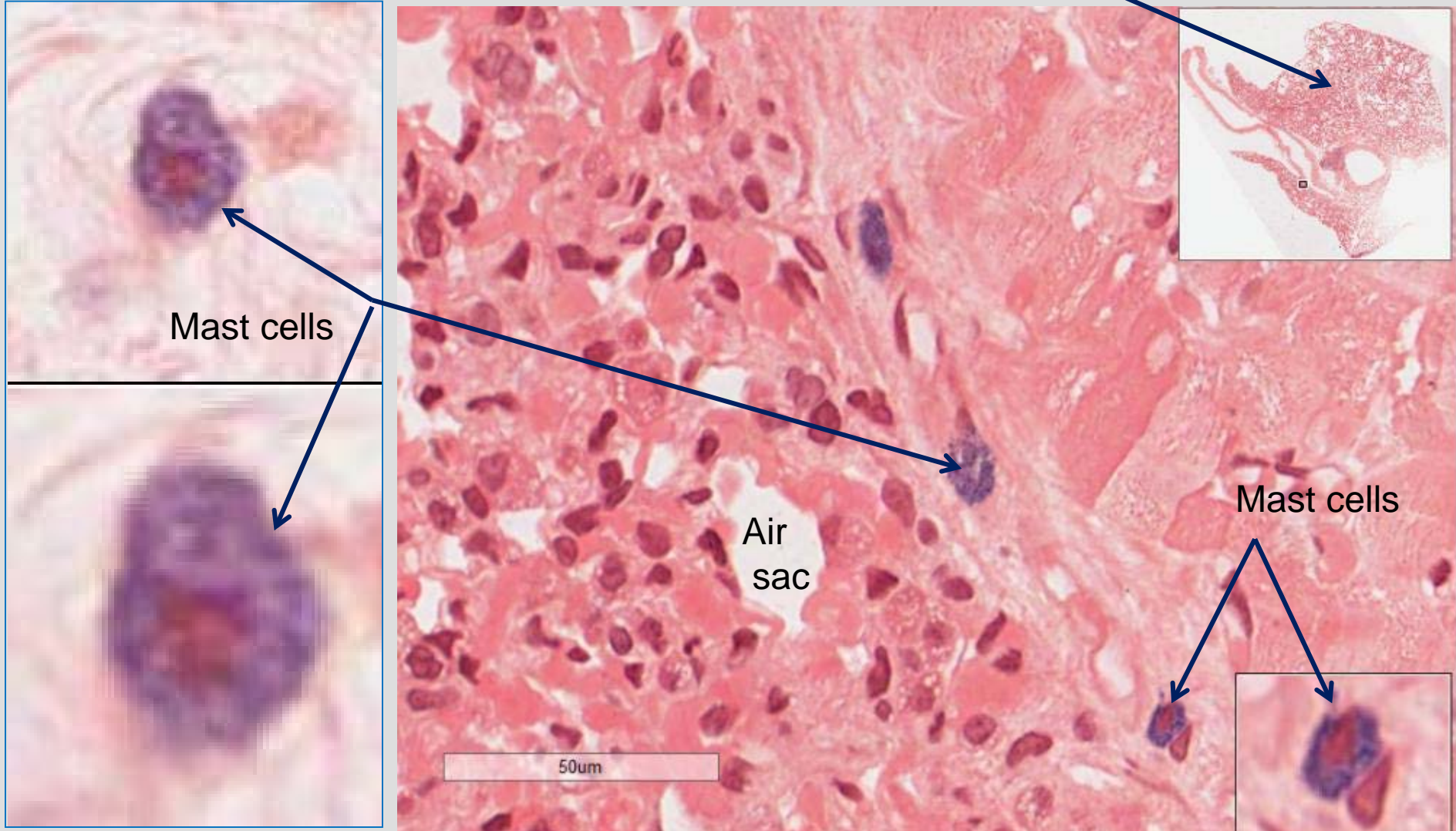
White fat cell cytoplasm can be seen surrounding the single fat droplet

Brown fat cell cytoplasm can be seen surrounding multiple fat droplets

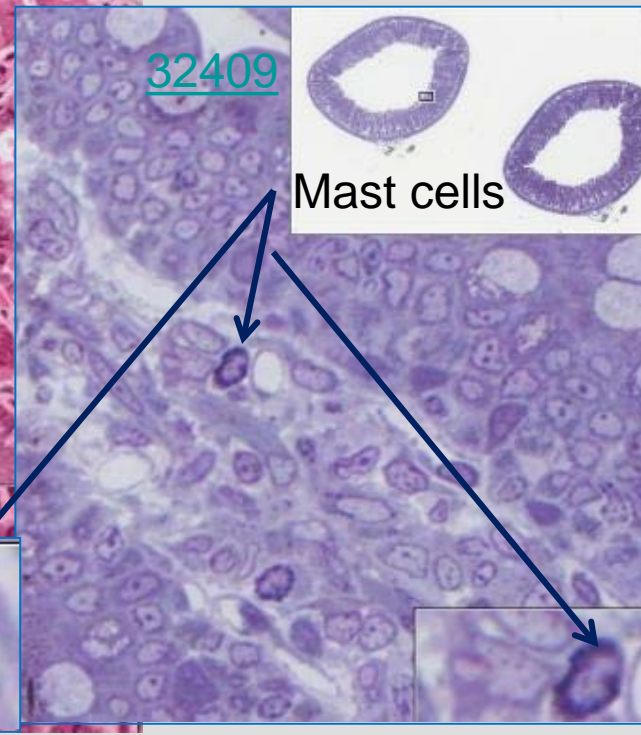
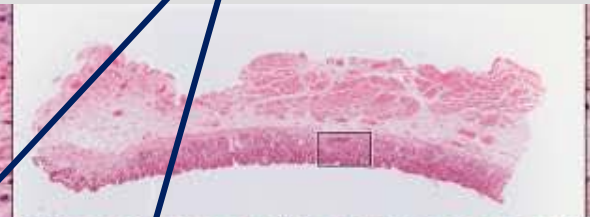
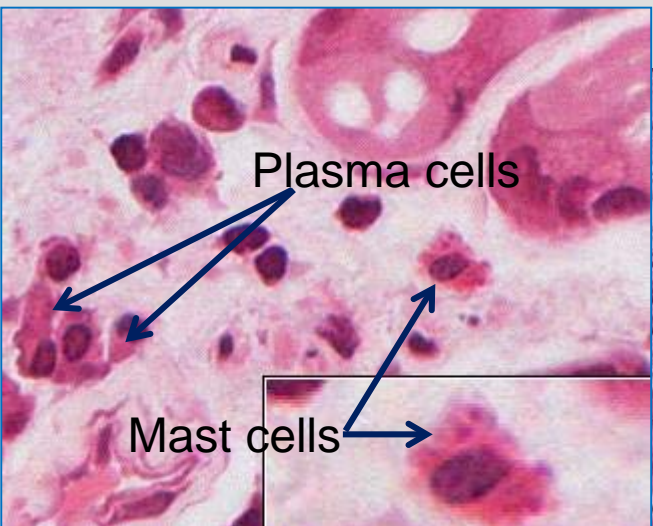
Slide HISTO039

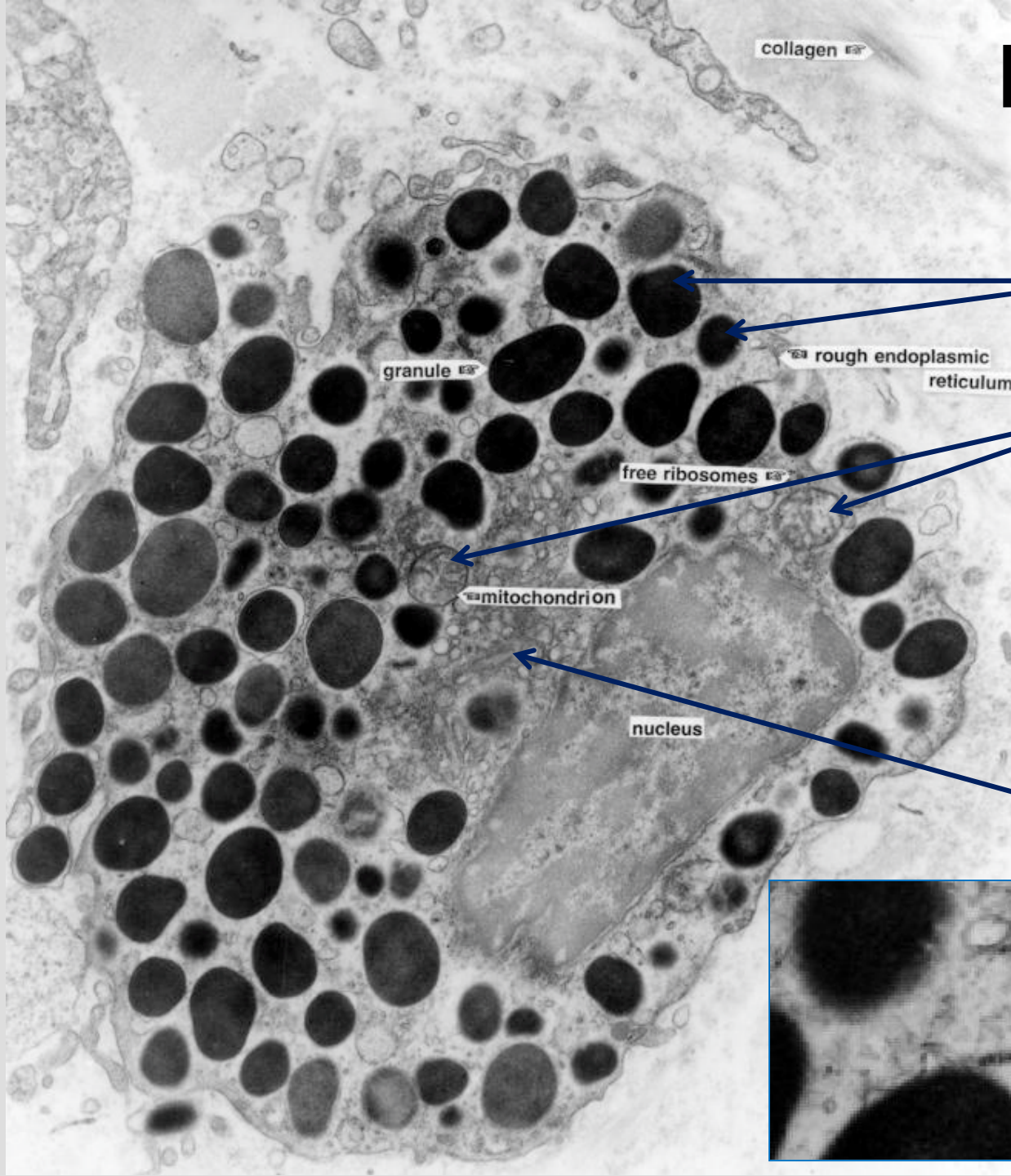
# Slide HISTO42: Lung Mast cell

– Light blue granules



# 140 Cardiac stomach w/chronic infection





# EM 8d: Mast cell

Granules,

Mitochondria,

Golgi region

collagen

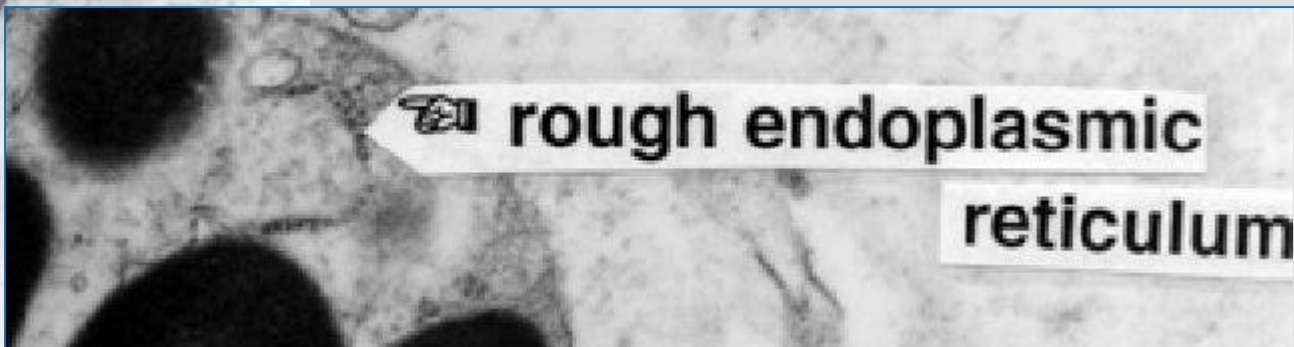
granule

rough endoplasmic reticulum

free ribosomes

mitochondrion

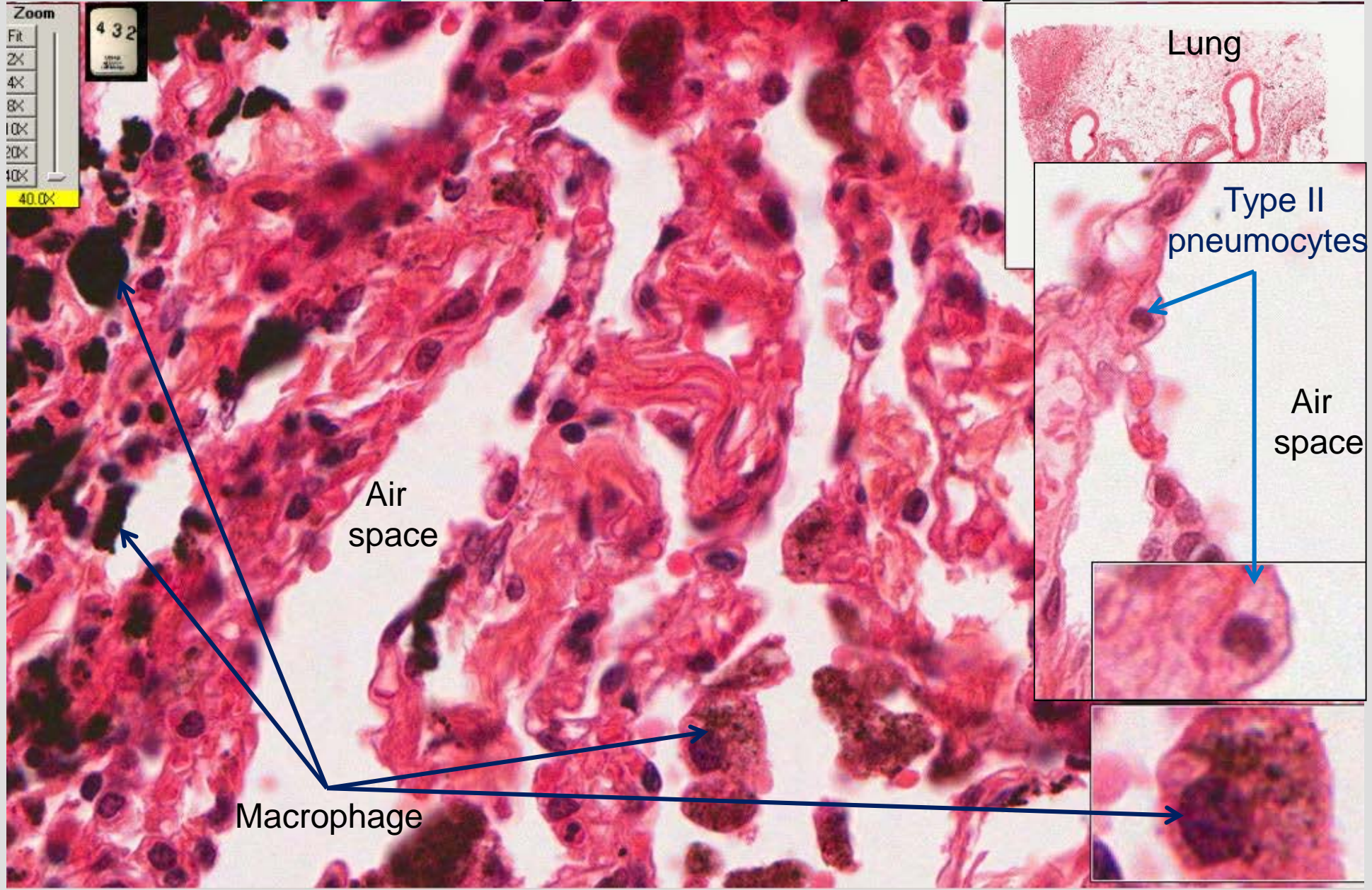
nucleus



rough endoplasmic

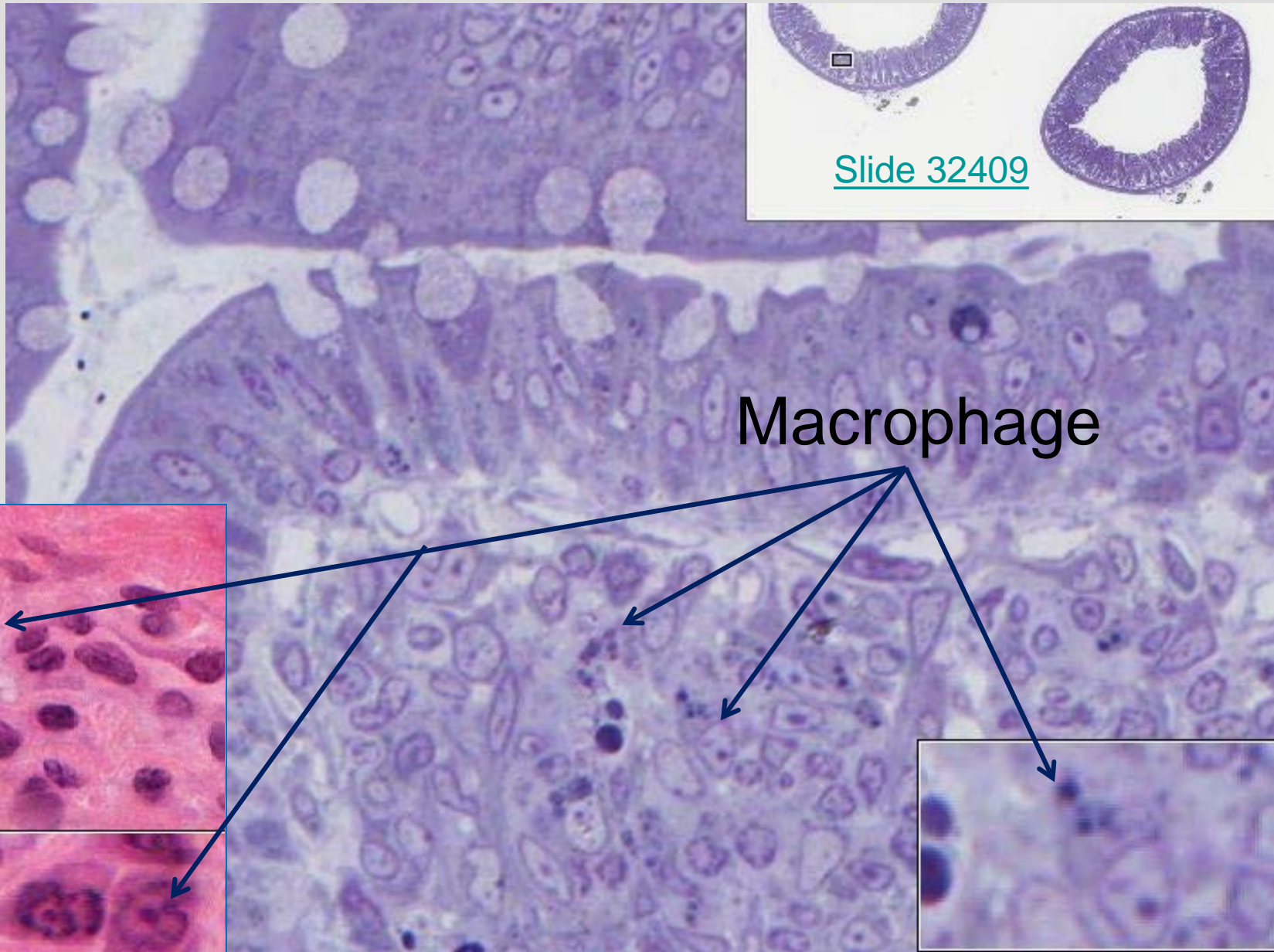
reticulum

# 432 lung macrophages





# Macrophage in lamina propria of rat intestine



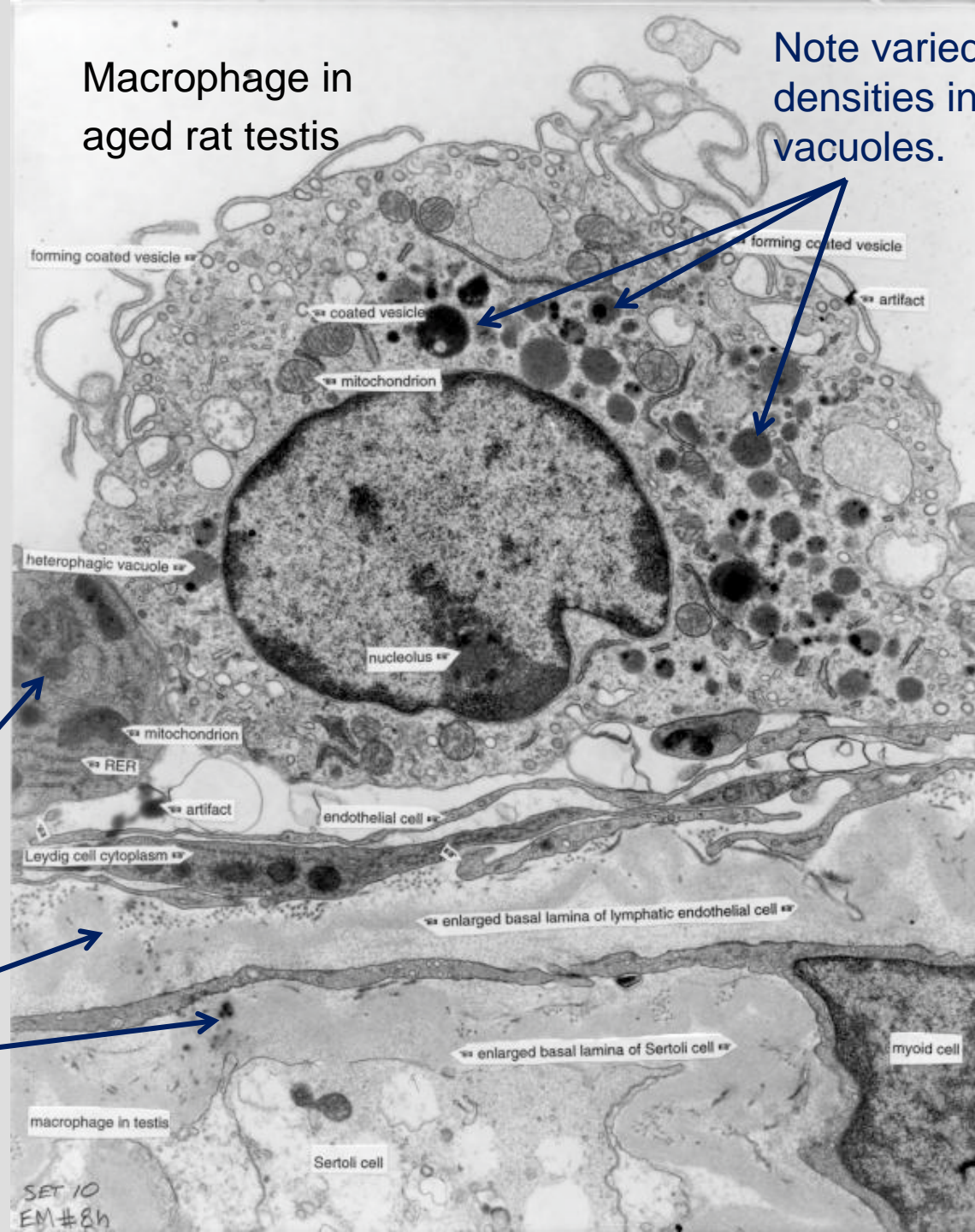
Slide 32409

Macrophage

Slide 109

Macrophage in aged rat testis

Note varied densities in vacuoles.



EM 8h: Macrophage in aged testis;  
30,000x

Enlarged basal lamina

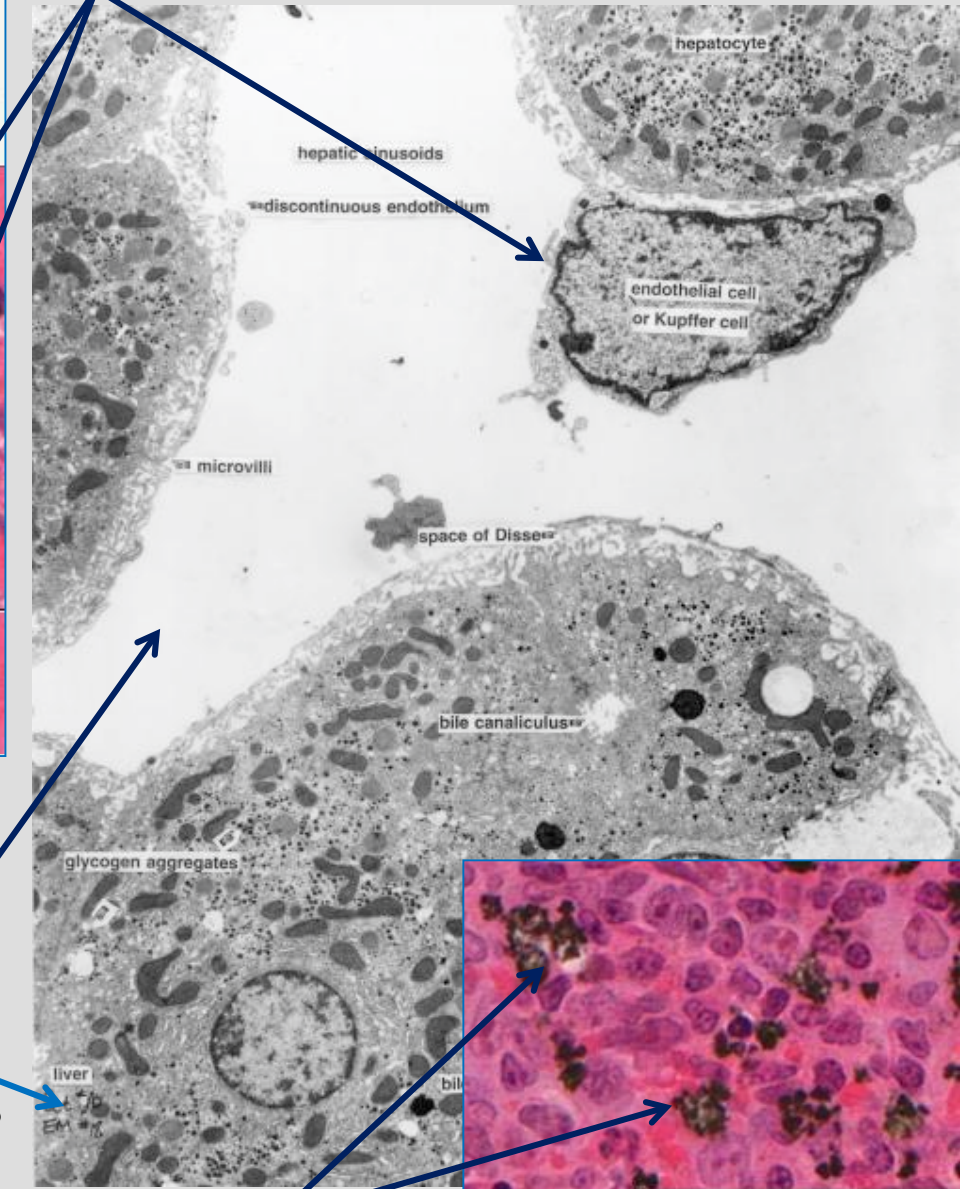
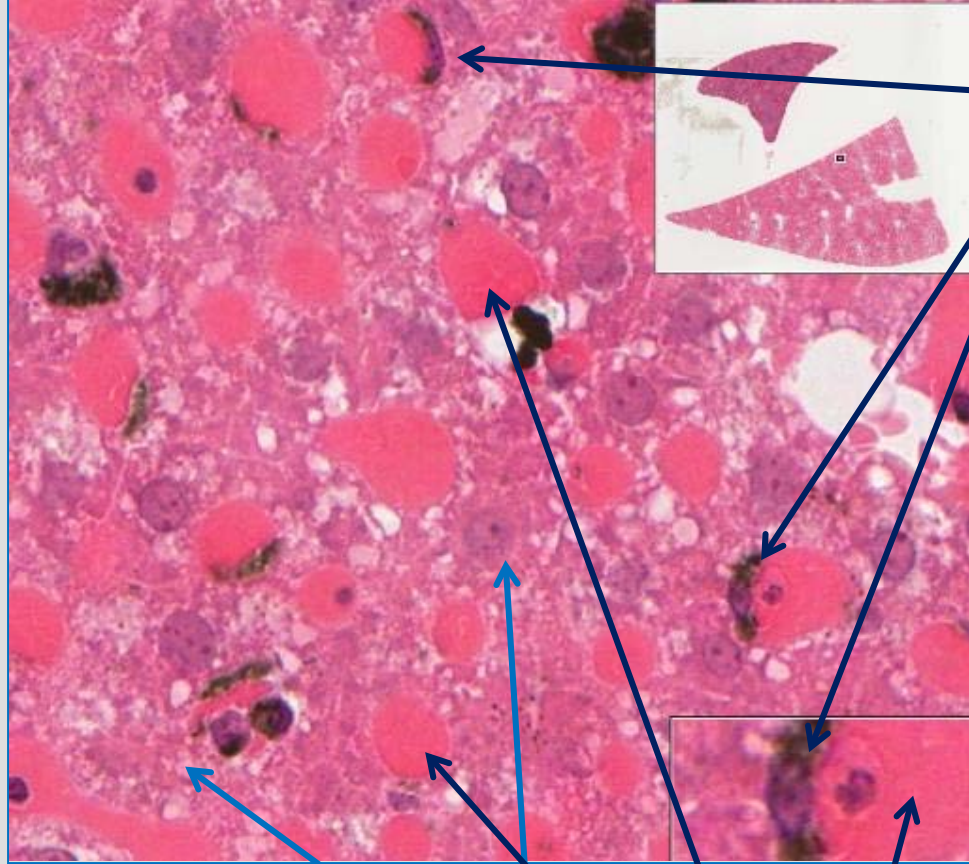
Heterophagic vacuoles

Leydig cell cytoplasm

Myoid cell

Kupffer cells

EM 18

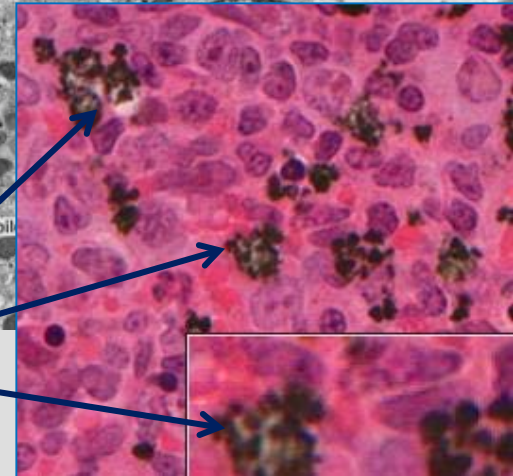


Slide 118 liver

Hepatocytes

Blood bathing of the hepatocytes travels through portal sinuses

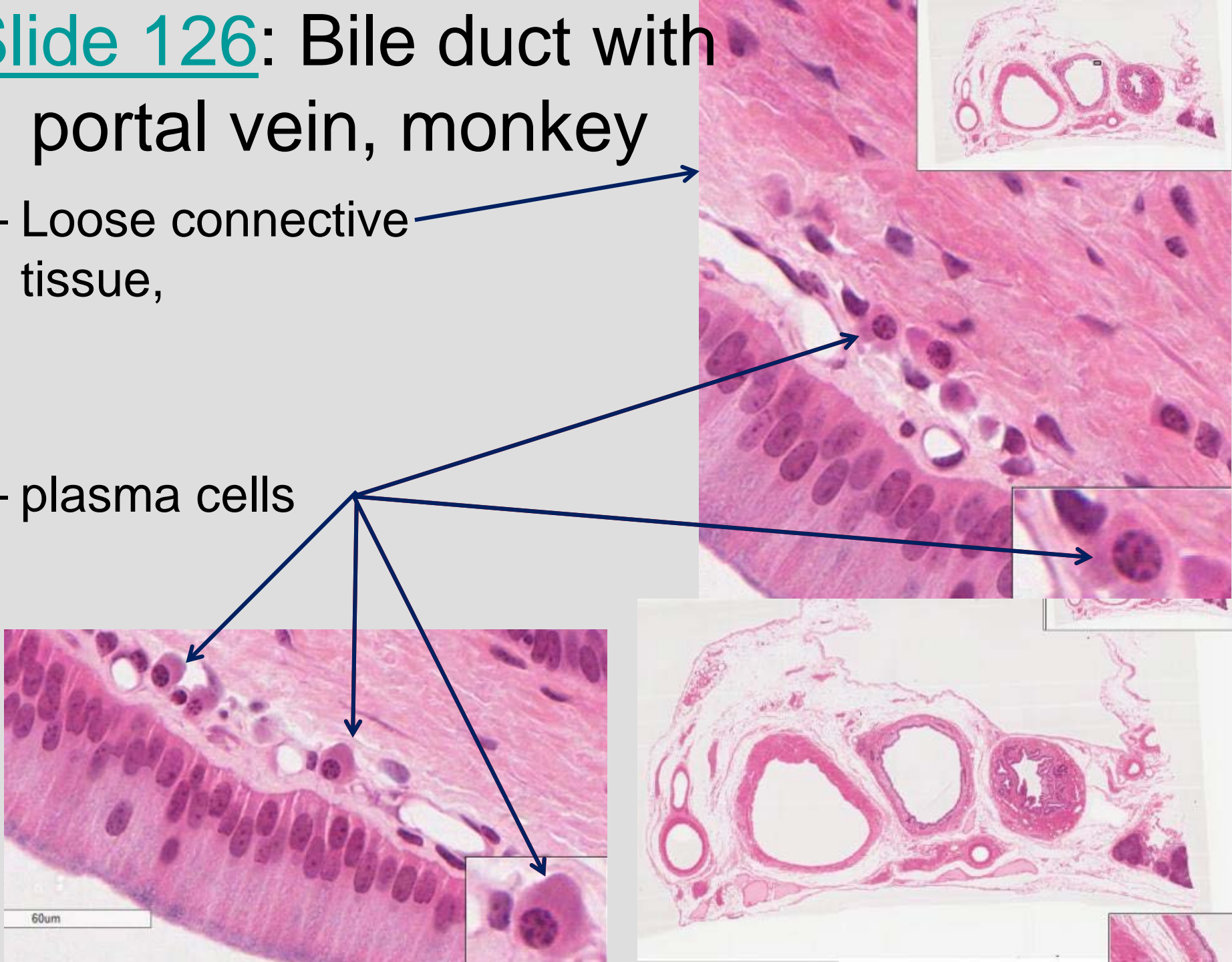
Slide 118 carbon deposits in the macrophages in the spleen



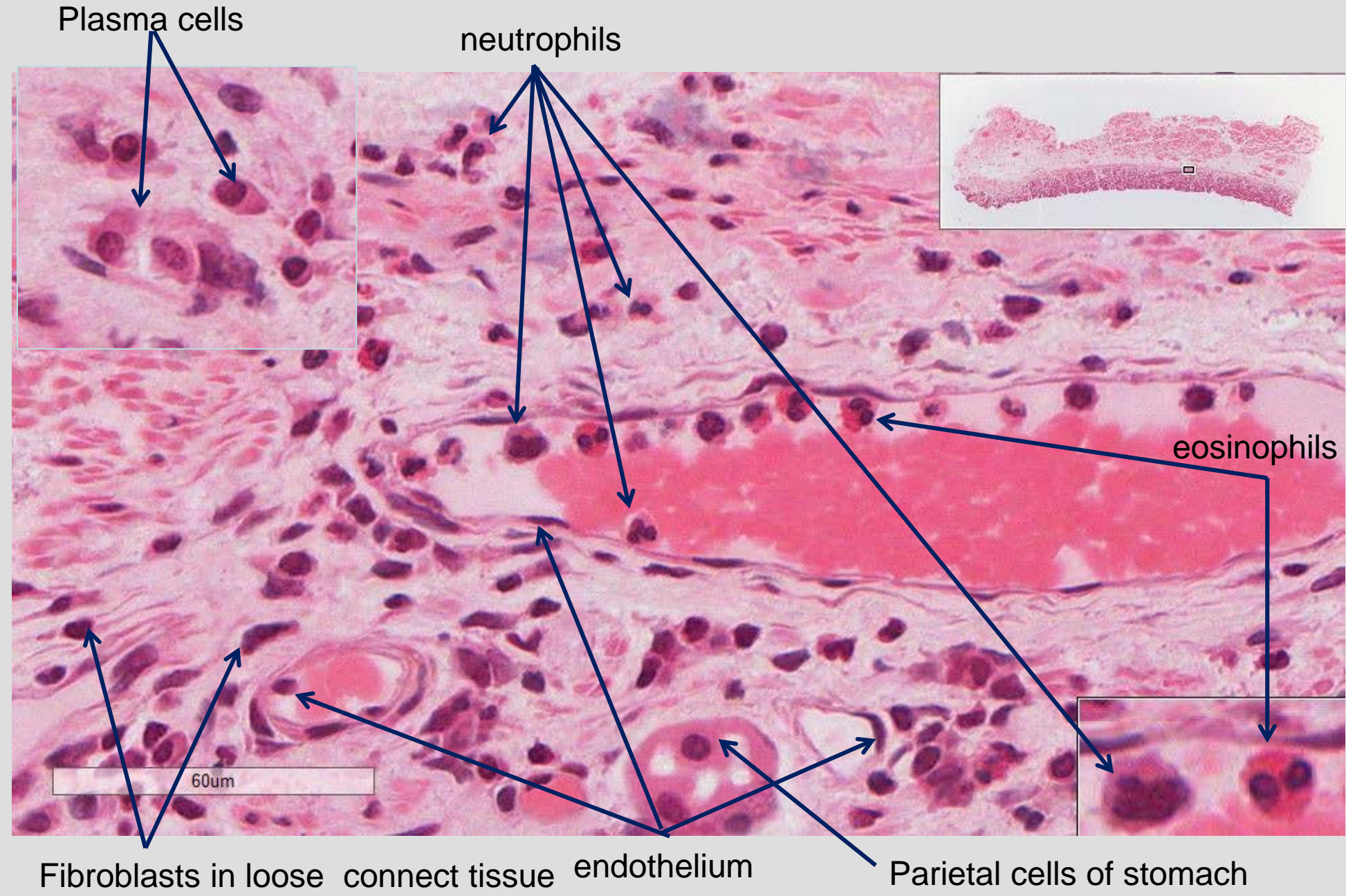
# Slide 126: Bile duct with portal vein, monkey

– Loose connective tissue,

– plasma cells

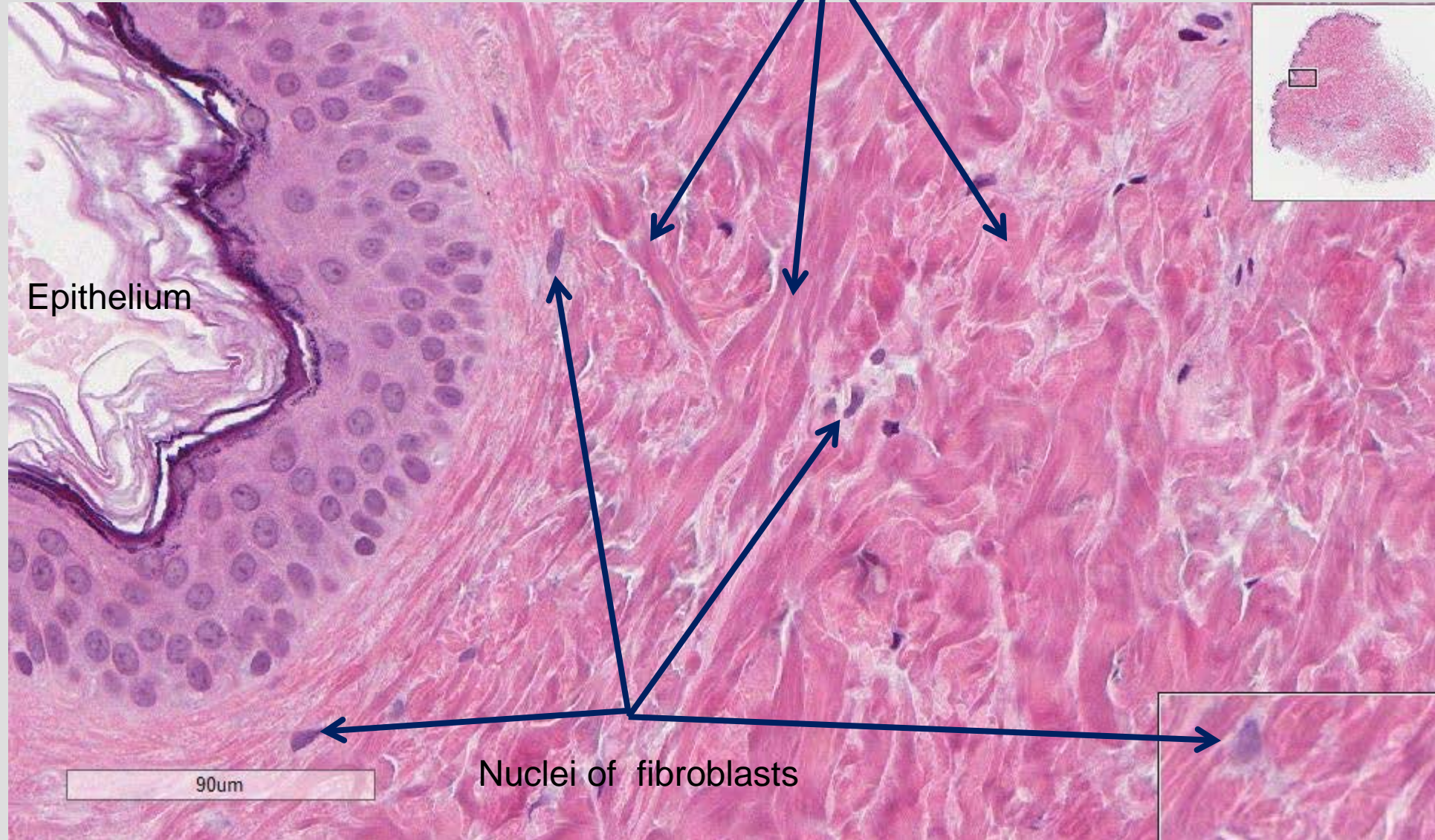


# 140 Cardiac stomach w/chronic infection

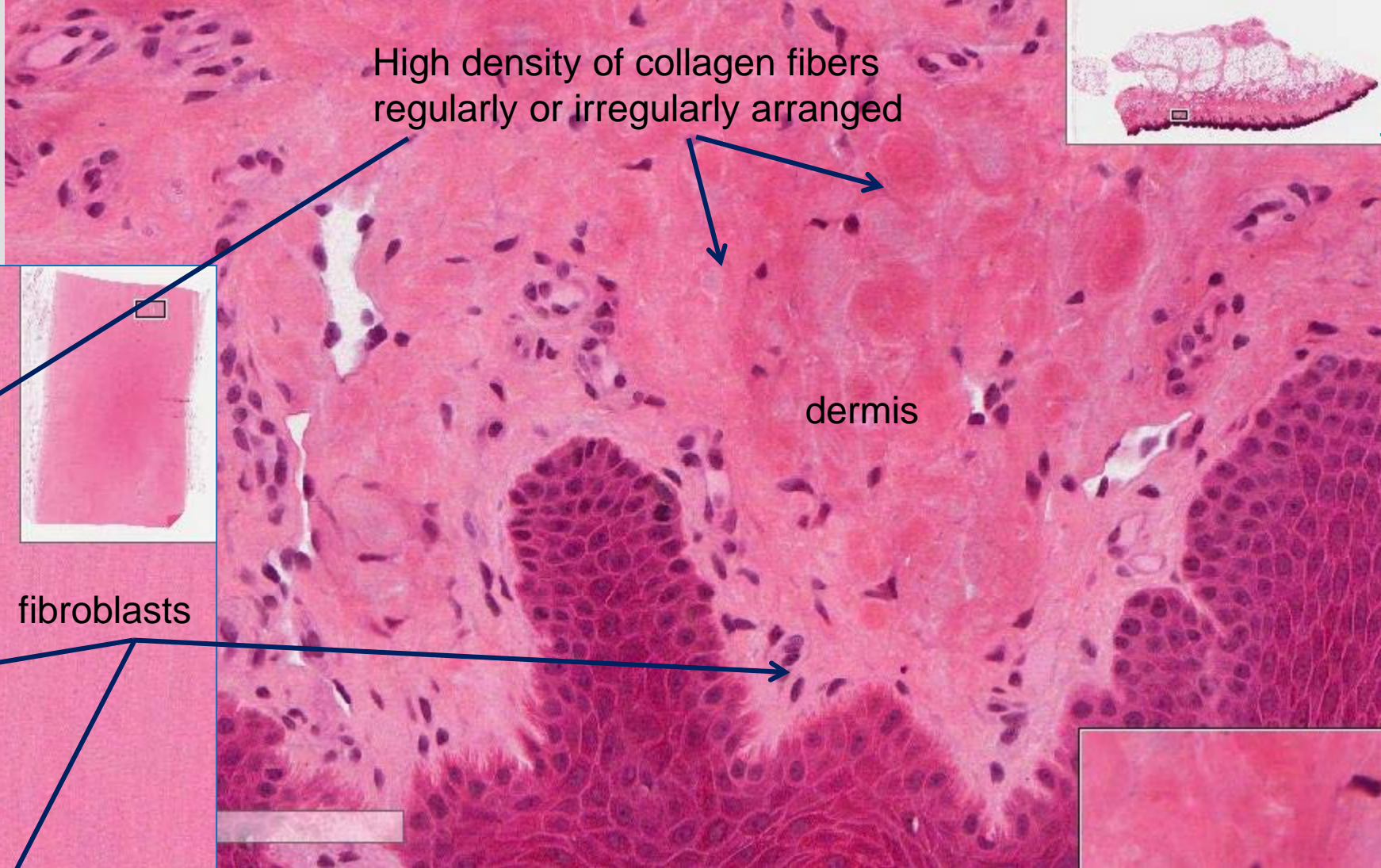
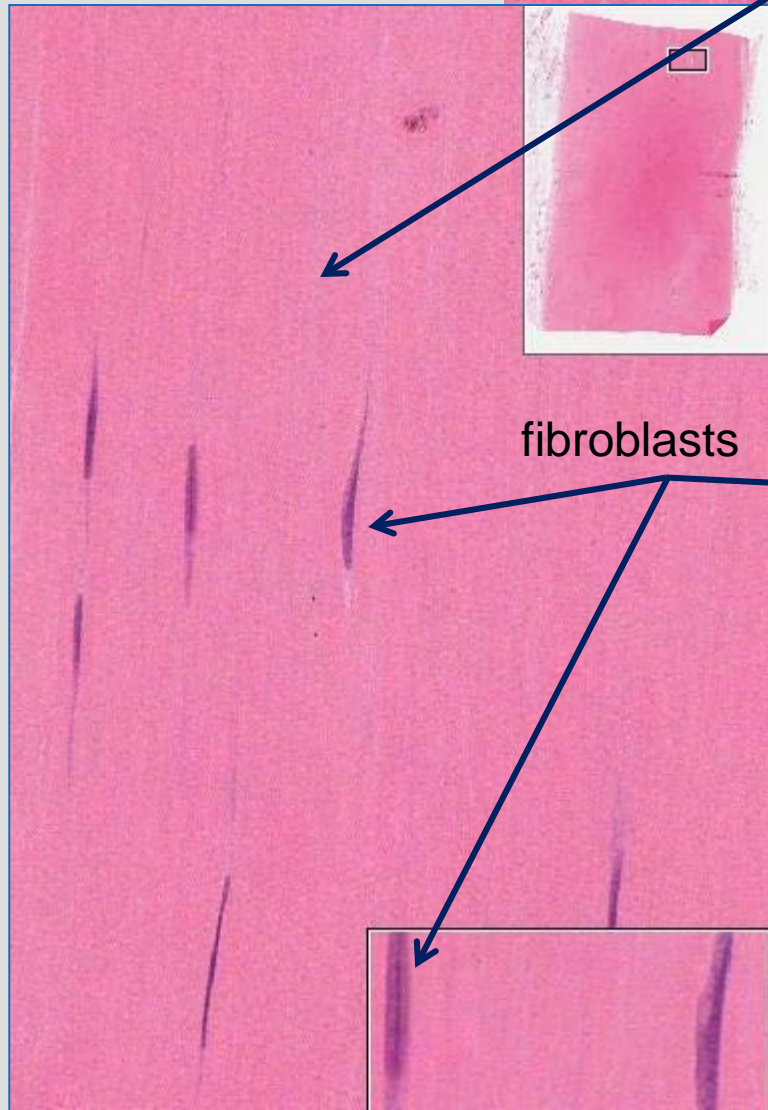


# 111 Skin

Large bundles of collagen fibers running in different directions (irregular) and of high density (dense) = dense irregular connective tissue in the dermis of skin



Slide 202 tendon

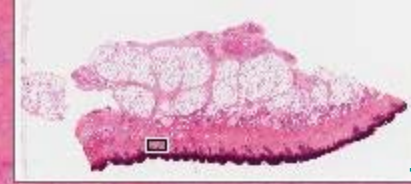


High density of collagen fibers  
regularly or irregularly arranged

dermis

fibroblasts

With flexibility, high tensile strength, and impressive resistance to stretch, concentrations of these fibers are found where these attributes are crucially important.



Slide 109 skin

# Slide HISTO039: Larynx

Loose connective tissue  
of the lamina propria

Dense irregular  
connective tissue  
in capsule

Fibroblasts

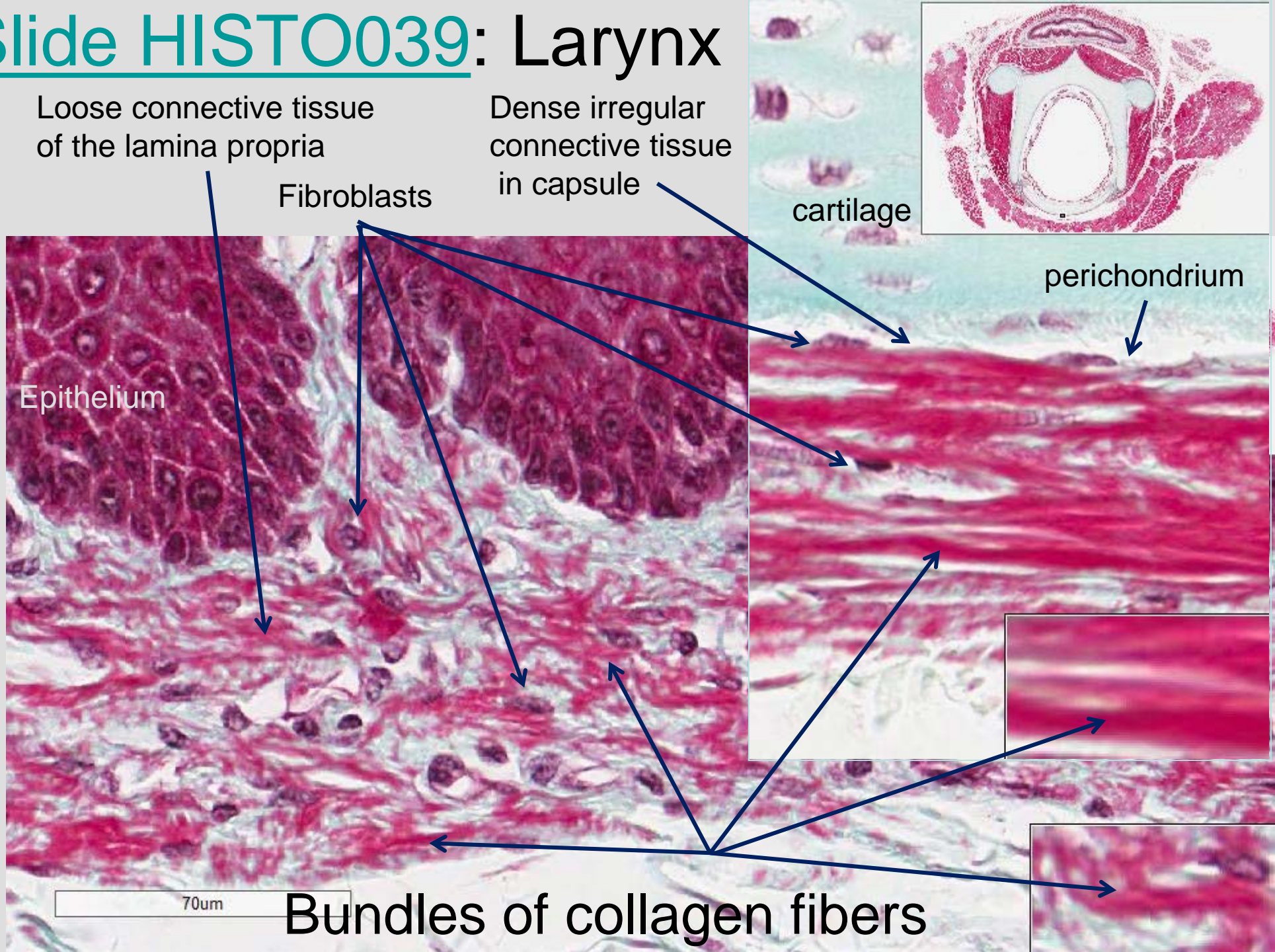
cartilage

perichondrium

Epithelium

70um

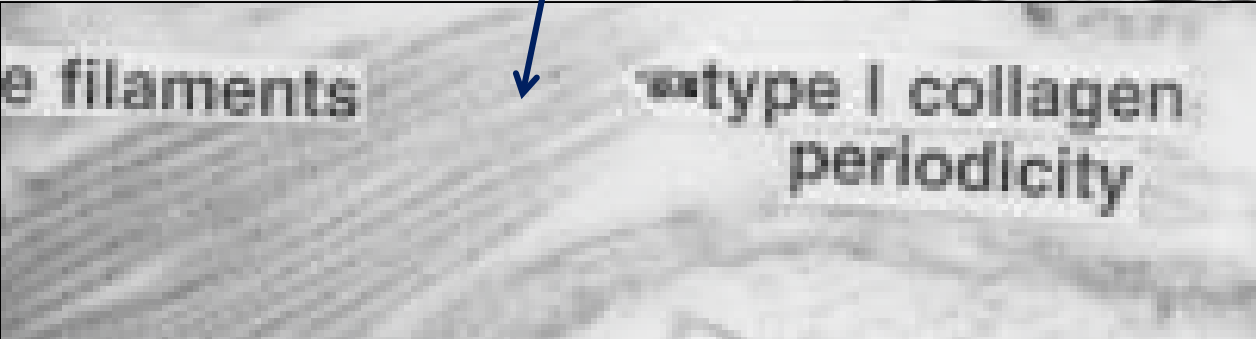
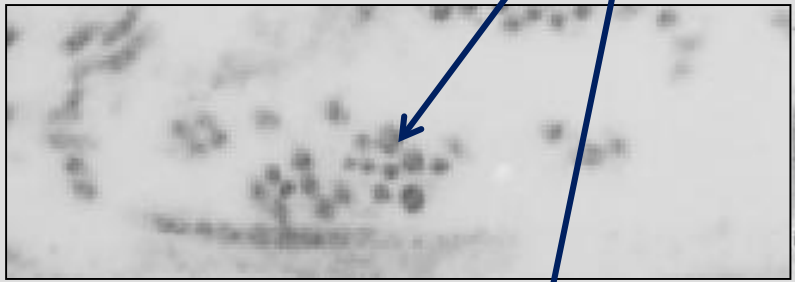
Bundles of collagen fibers





# EM 10d: Schwann cell

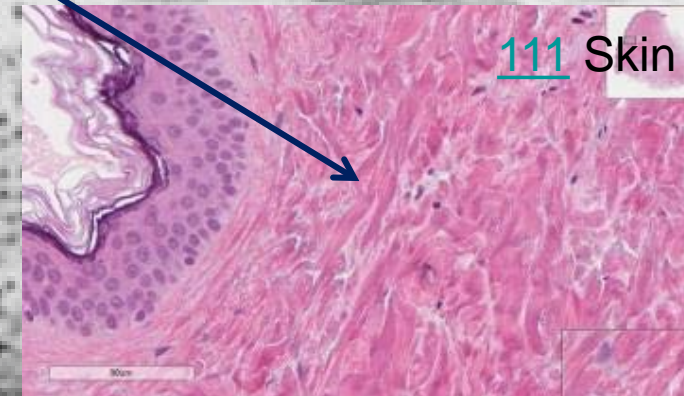
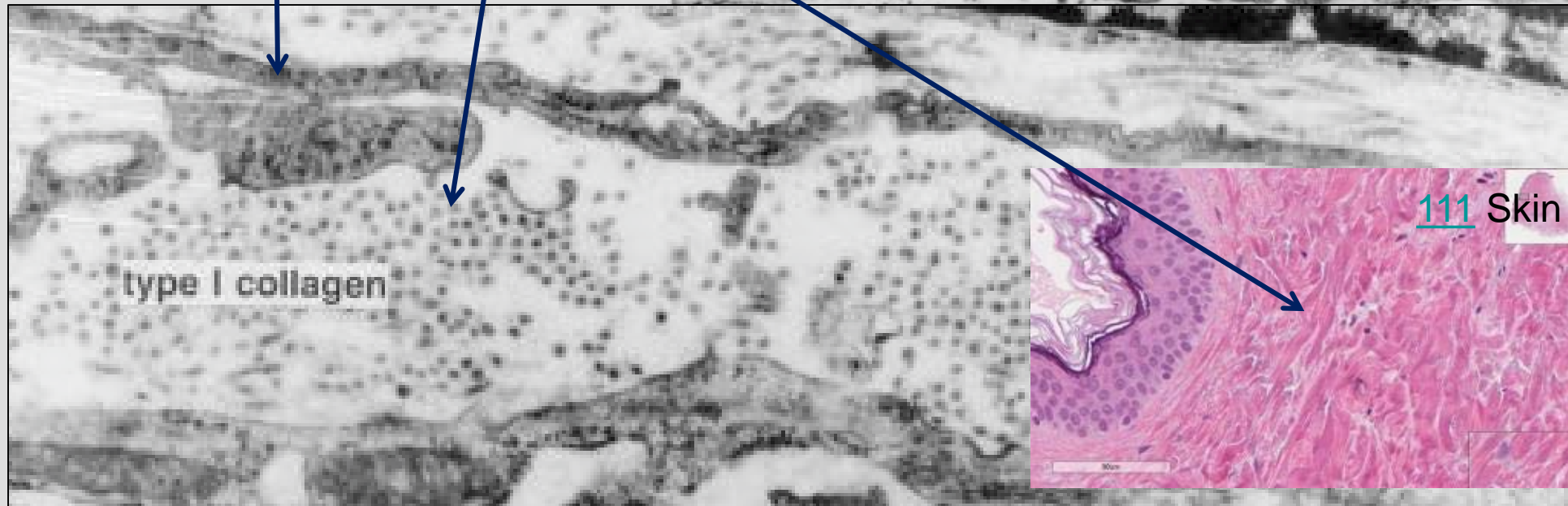
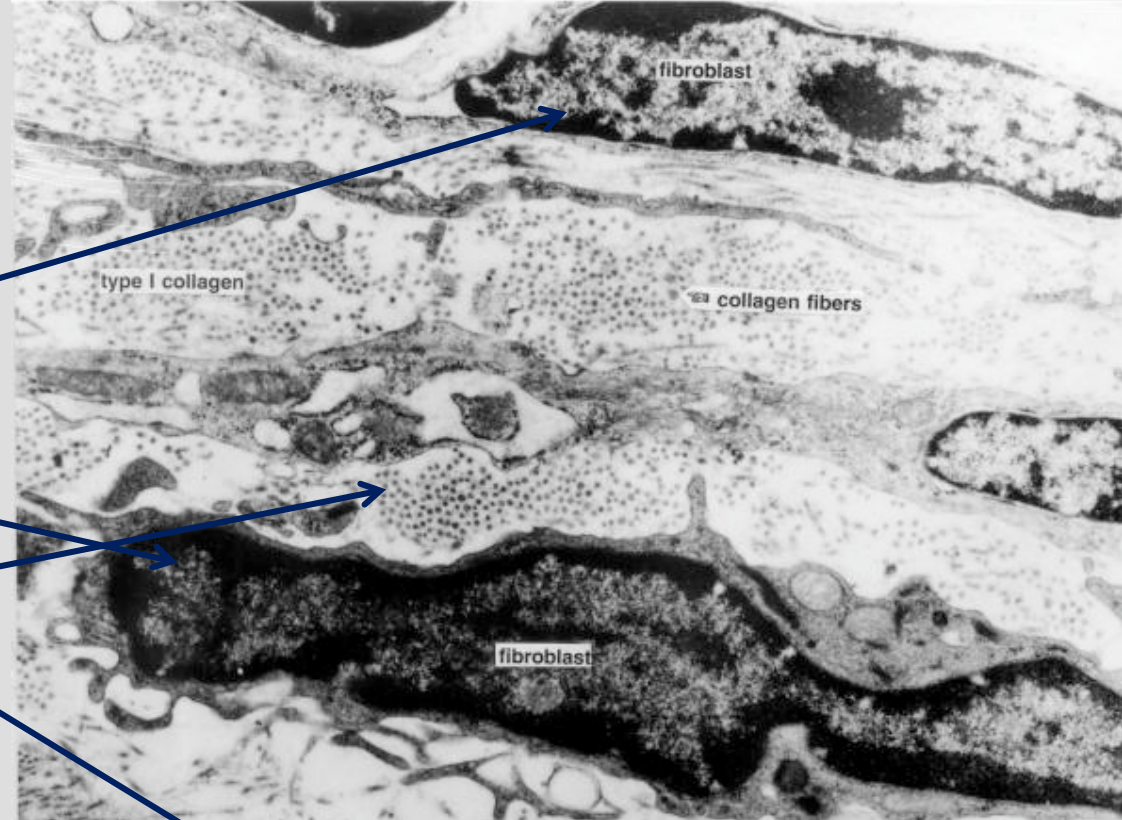
Collagen fibers



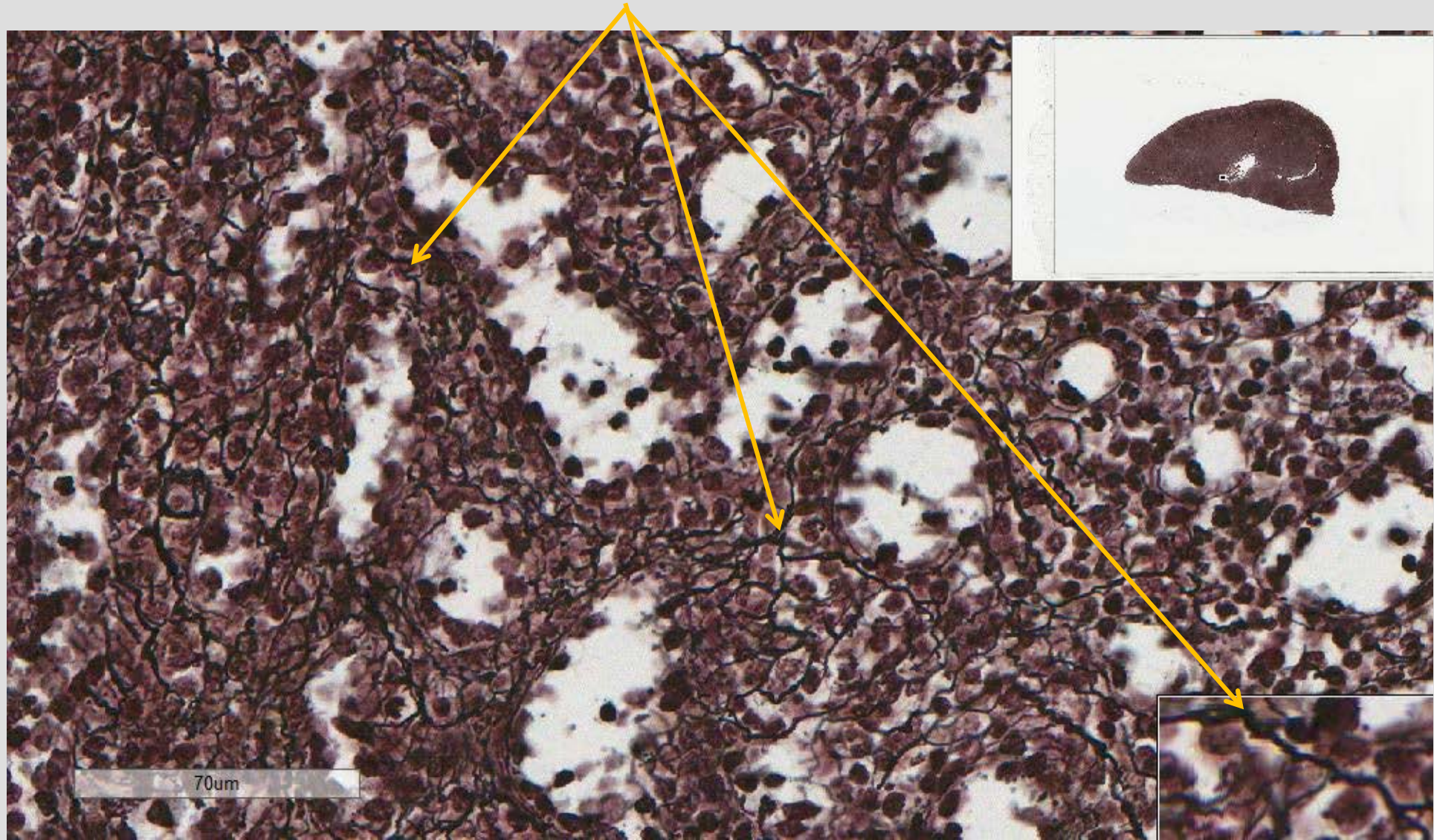
# EM 8e: Fibroblasts

Fibroblasts

Bundles of  
collagen  
fibers



Slide 218 spleen with dark, branched reticular fibers



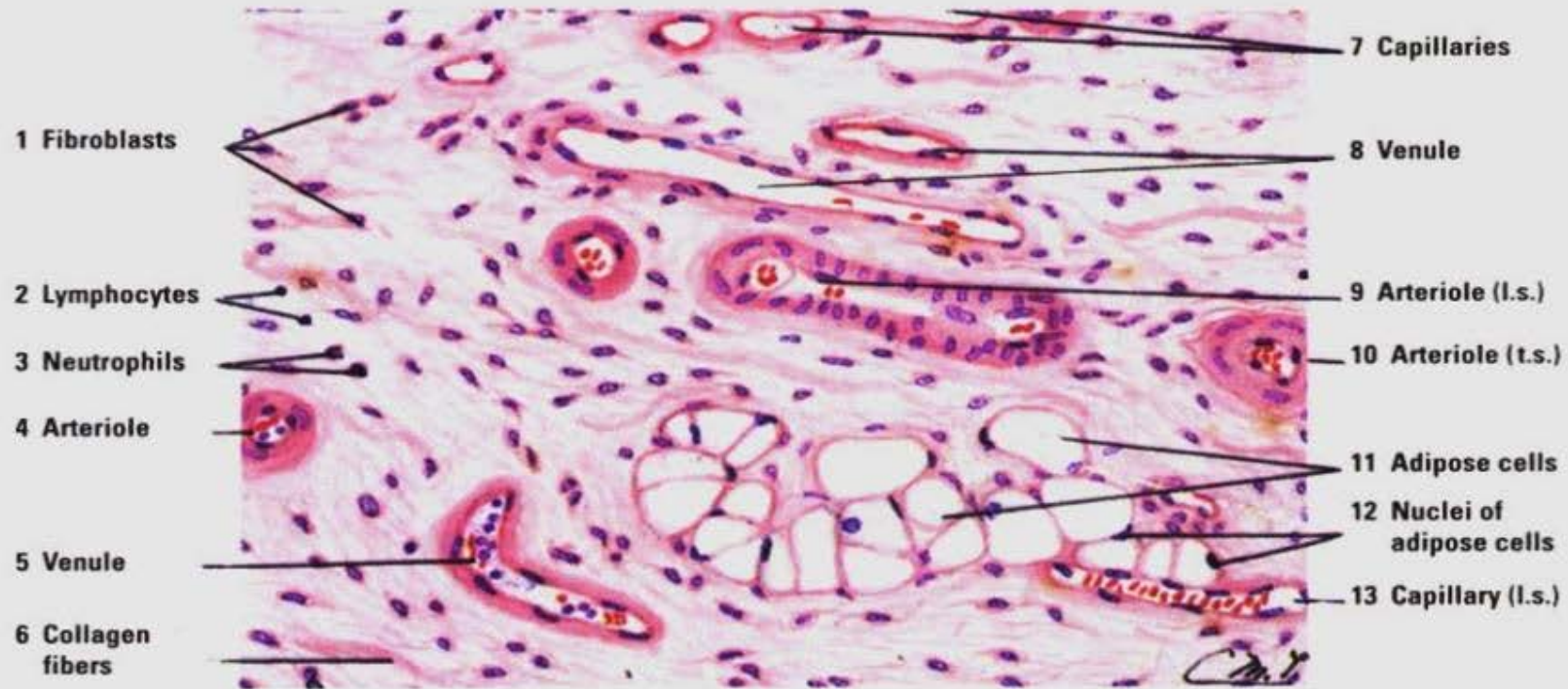
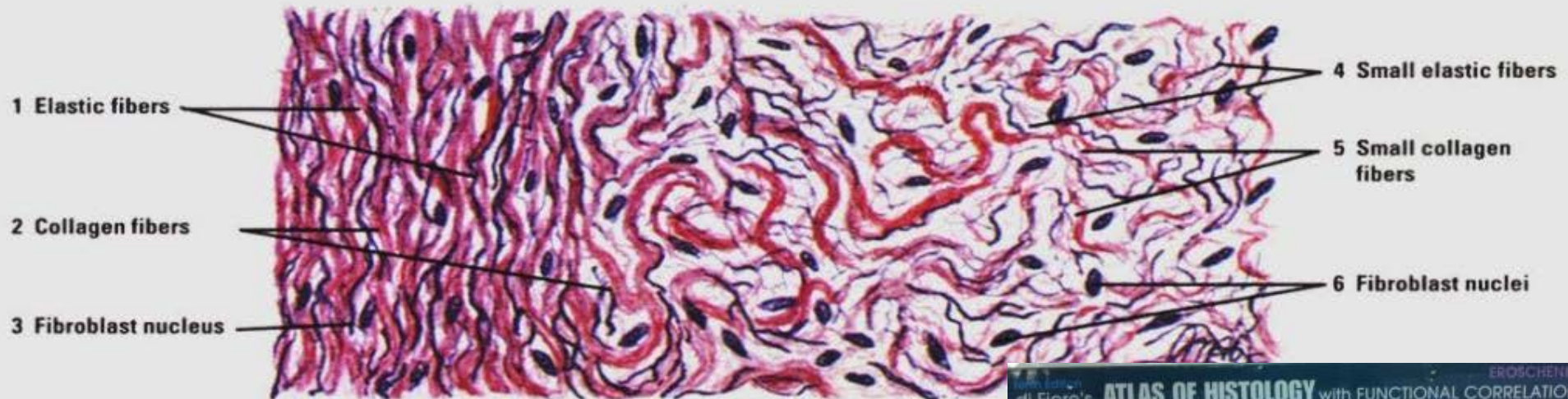
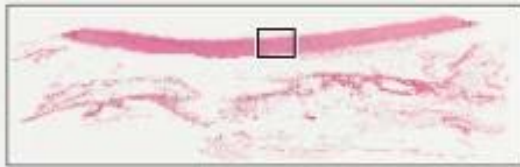
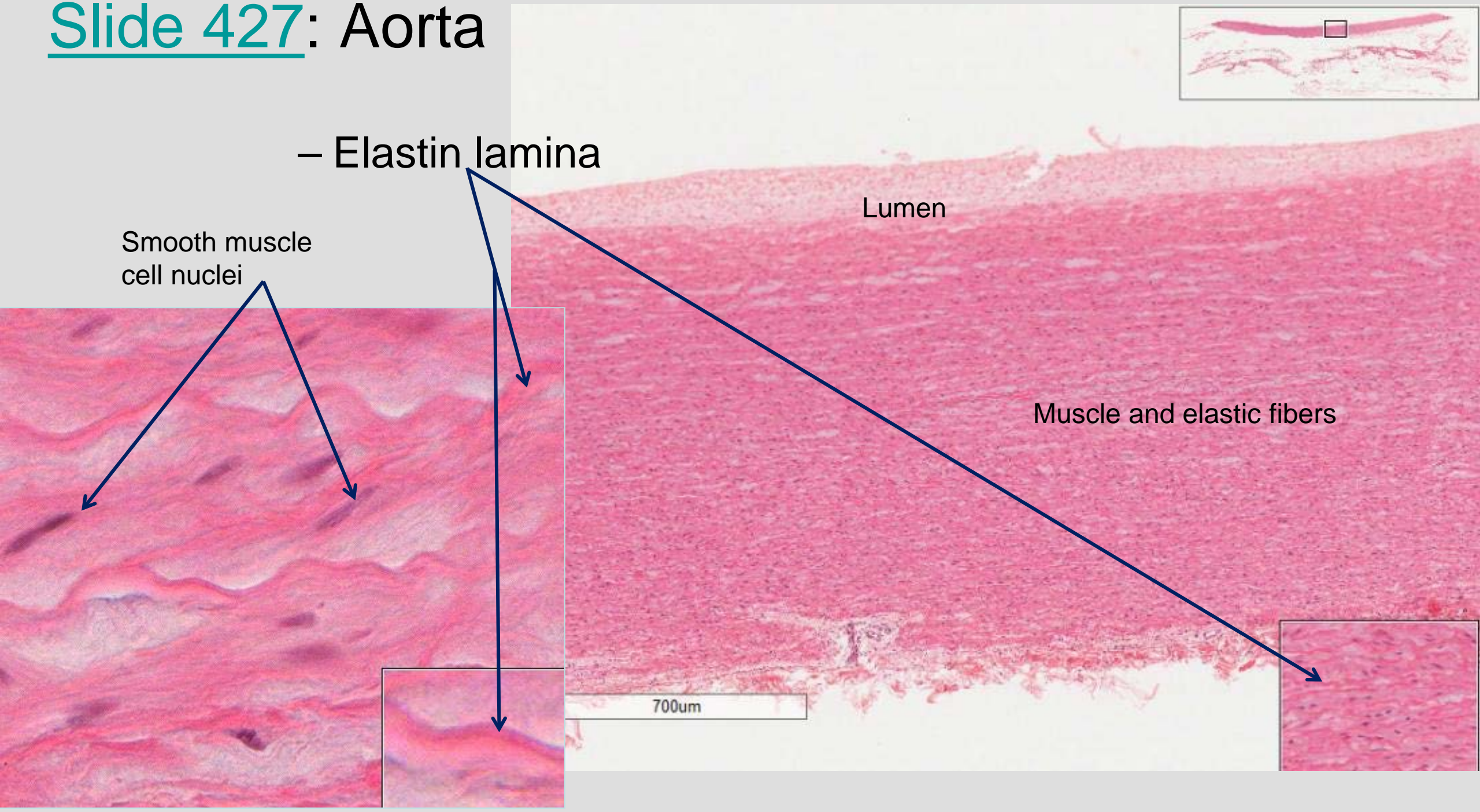


Fig. 2-4 Loose Connective Tissue. Stain: hematoxylin-eosin. High magnification.



# Slide 427: Aorta



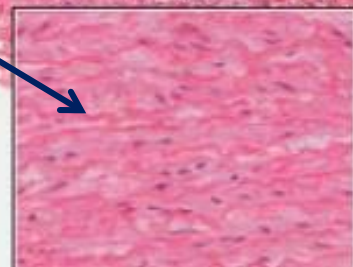
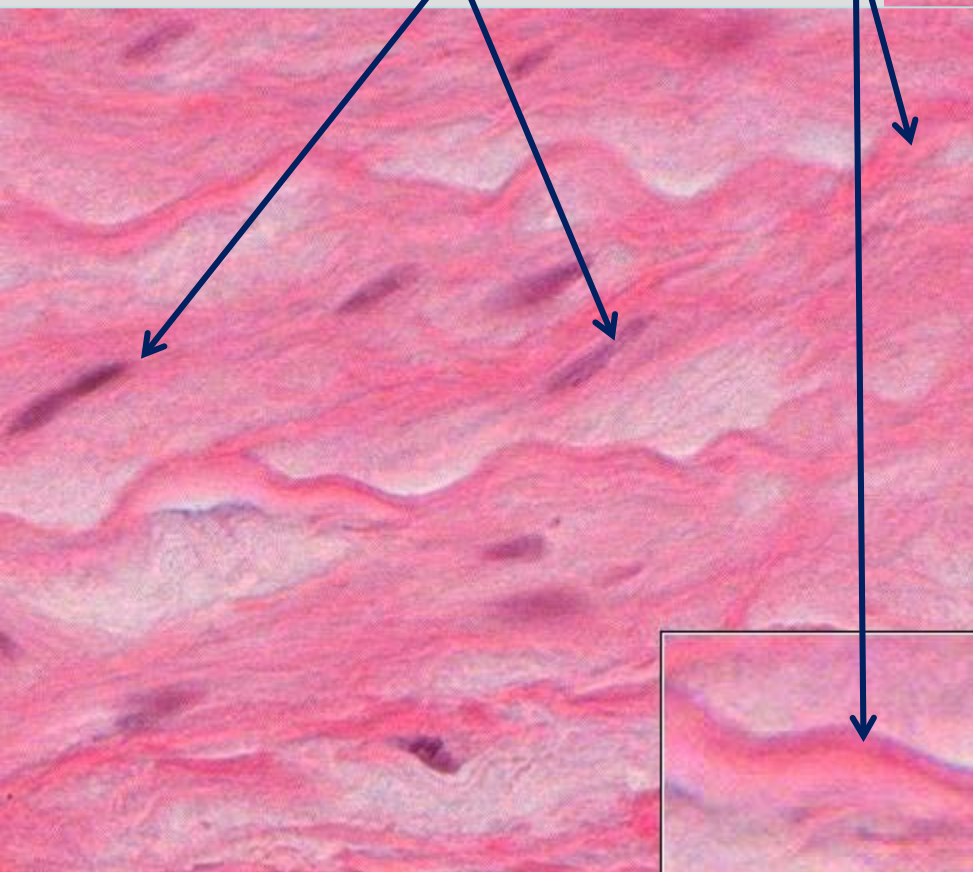
– Elastin lamina

Lumen

Smooth muscle  
cell nuclei

Muscle and elastic fibers

700um

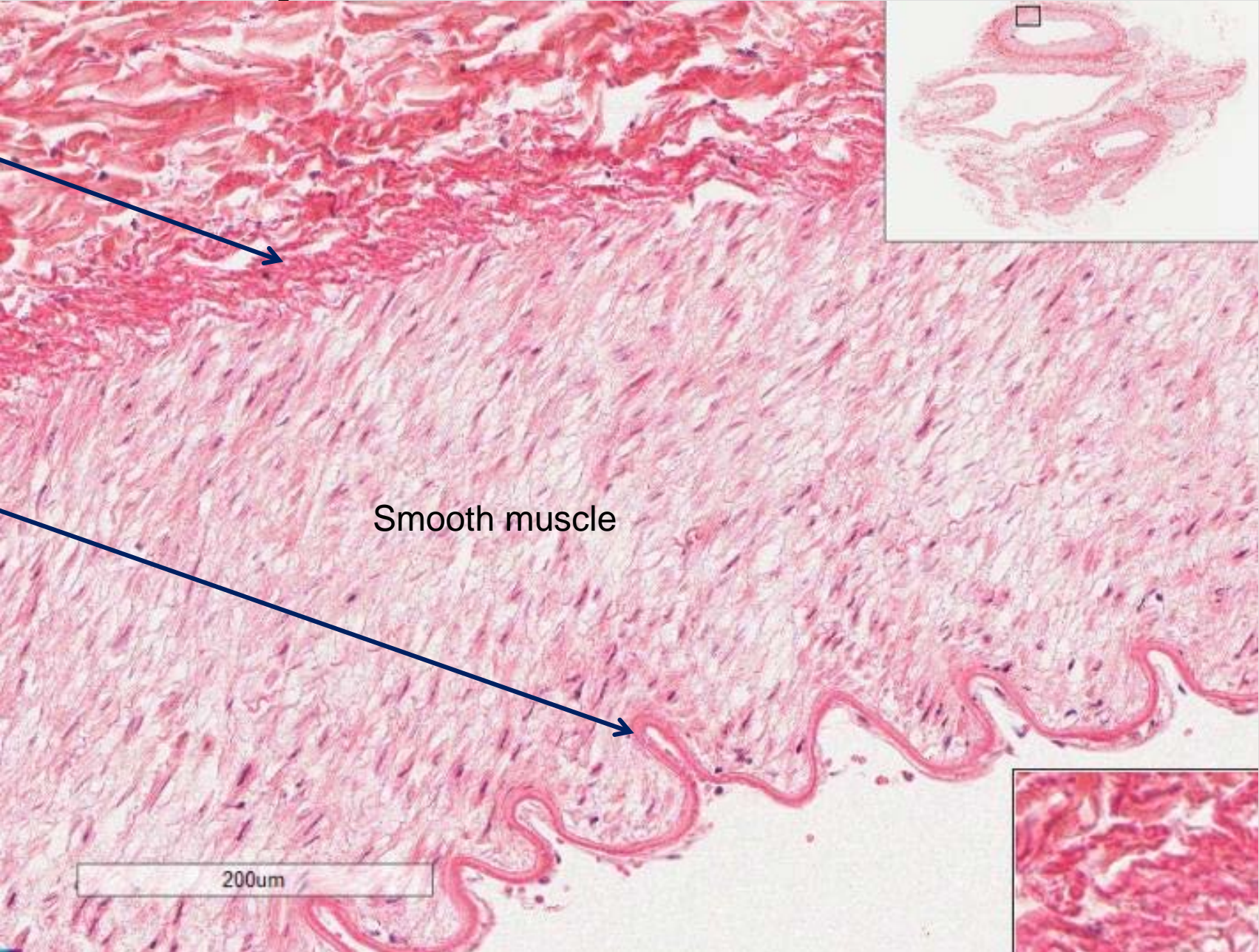


# Slide 426: Renal artery and vein with nerves

Elastin fibers

Elastin lamina

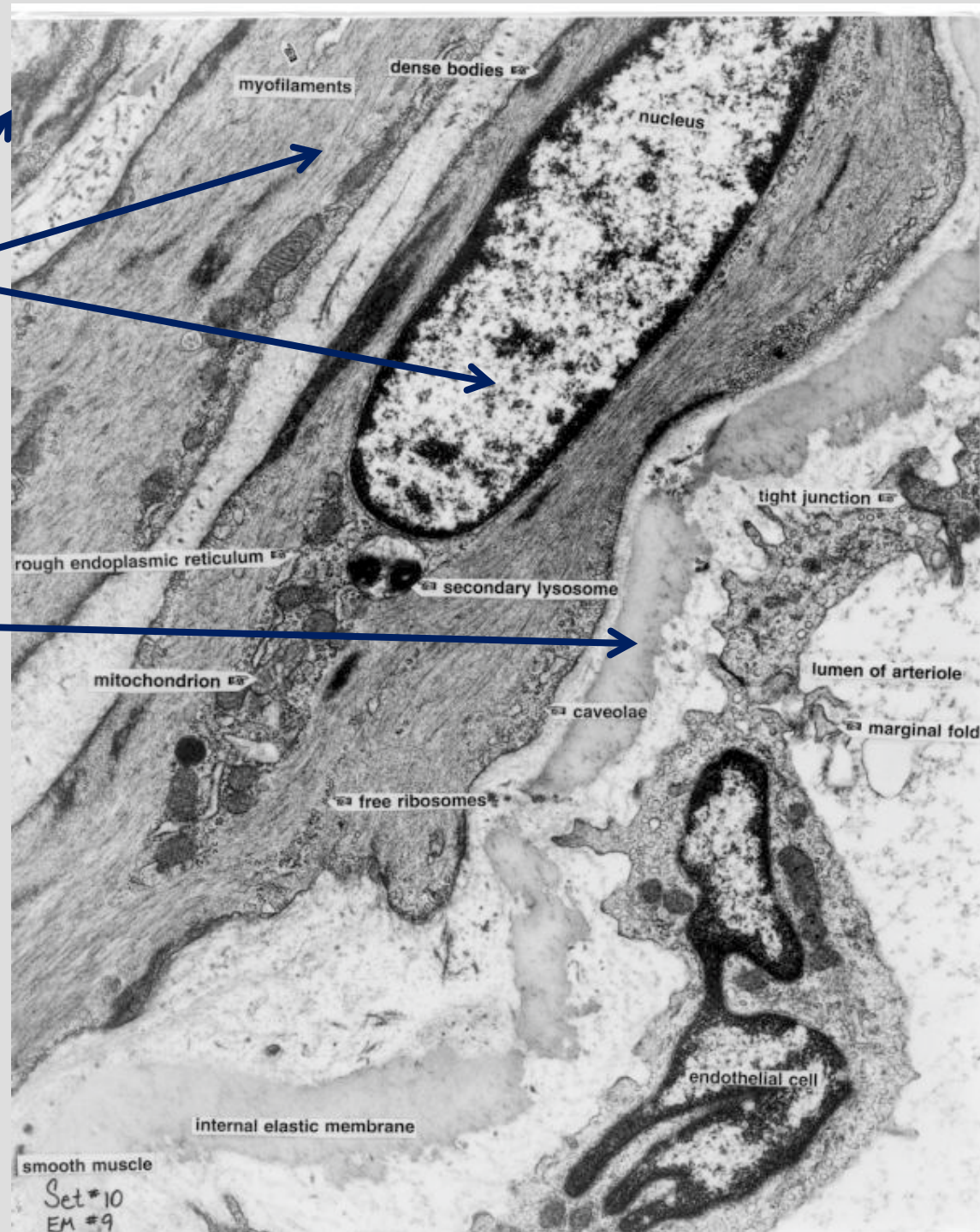
Smooth muscle



200um

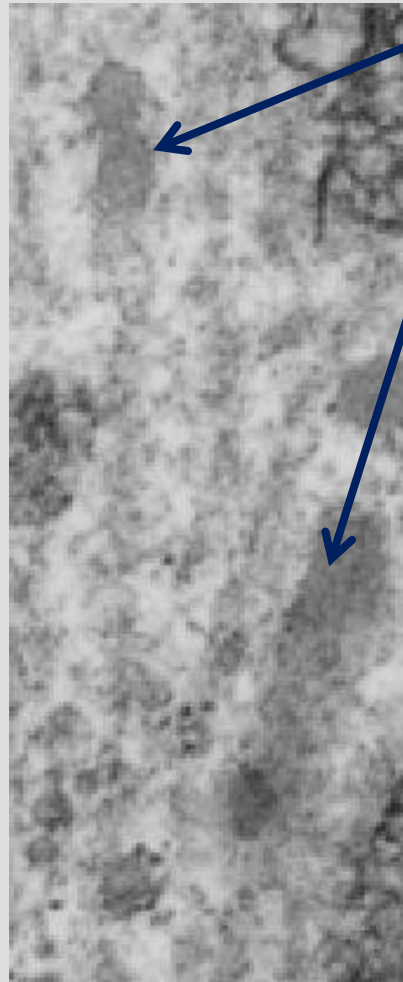
# EM 9: Smooth muscle cells

Elastic lamina

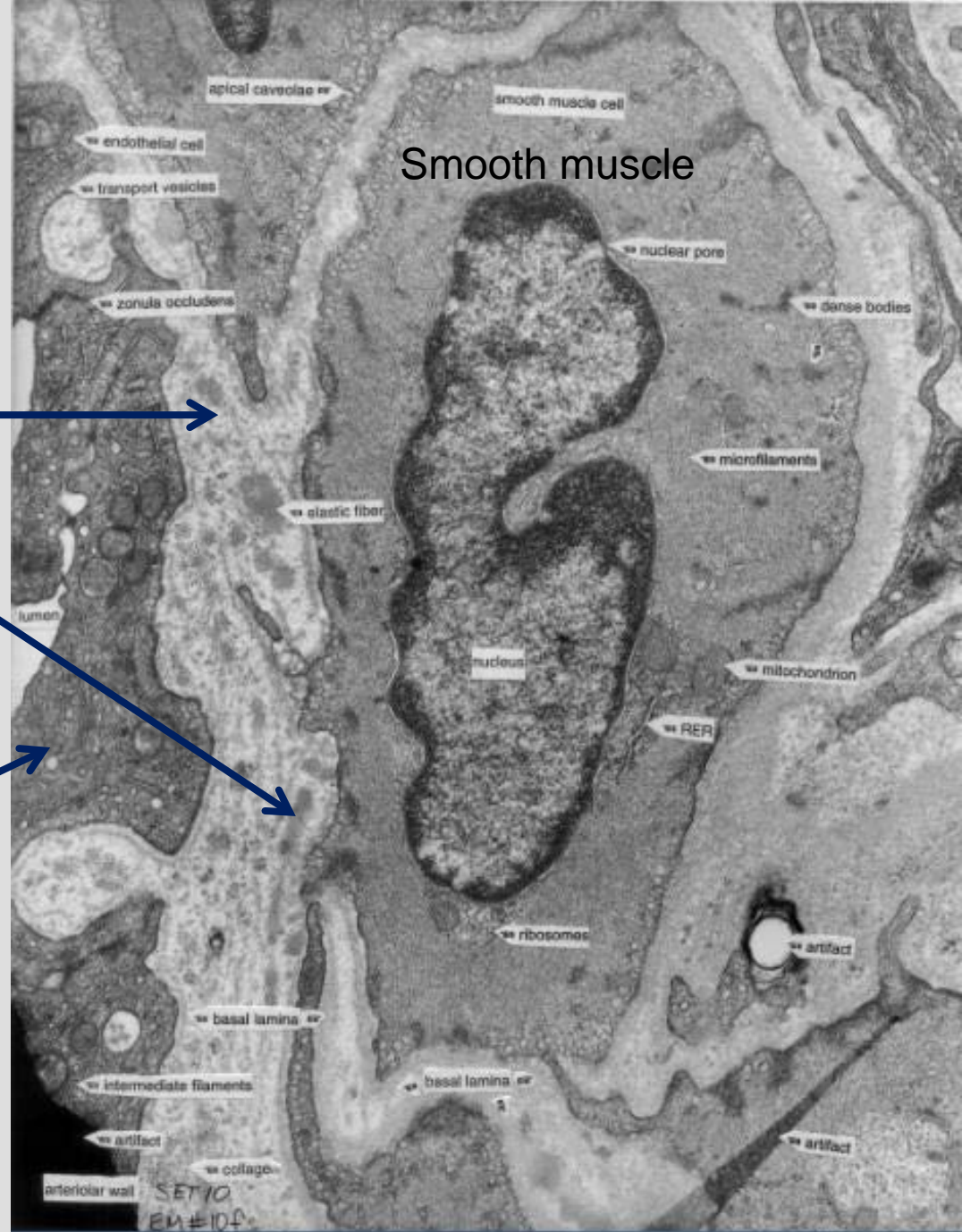


# EM 10f: Arteriolar Wall

Elastic fibers



Endothelium





# Slide 32409 Intestine: Connective Cells

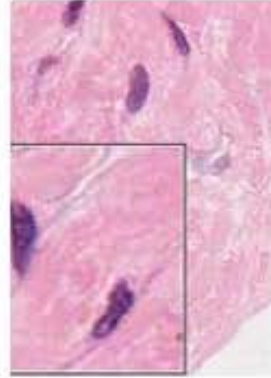
Mast cell



Macrophage



Fibroblasts



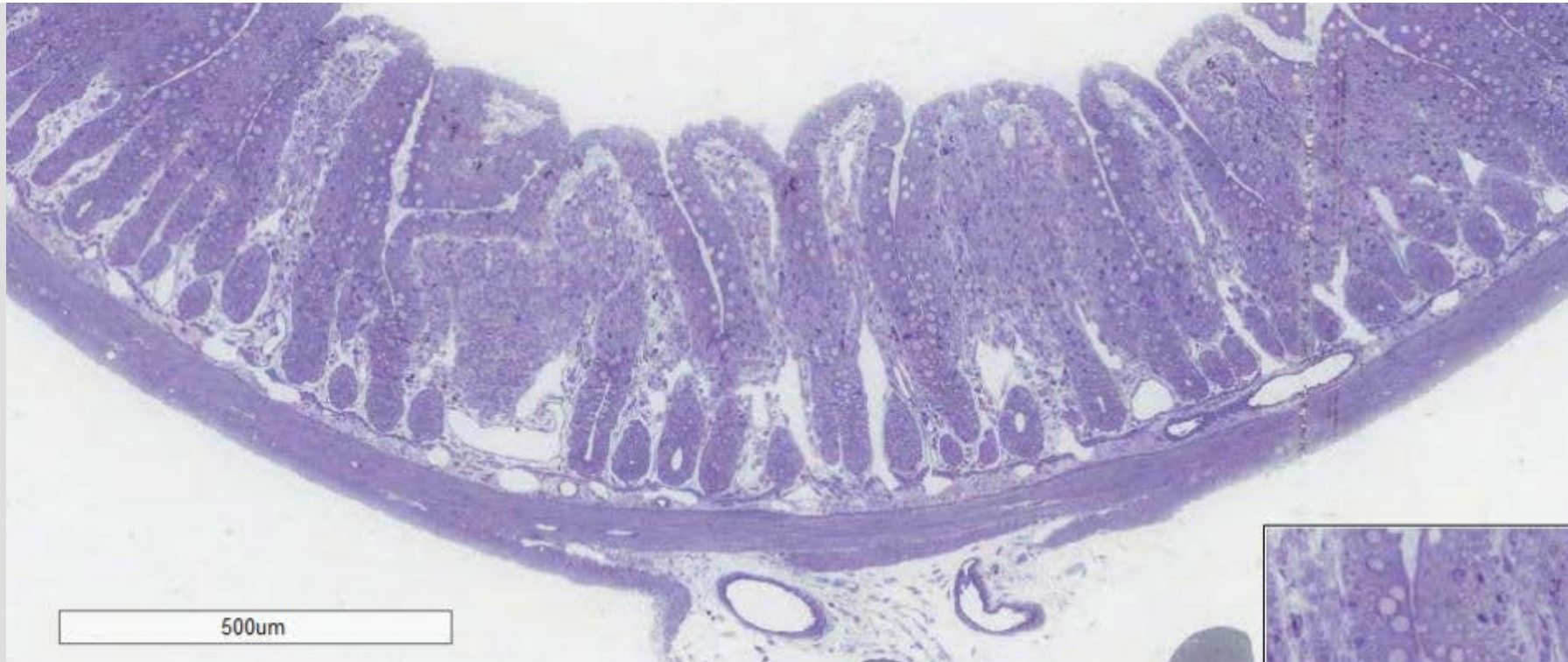
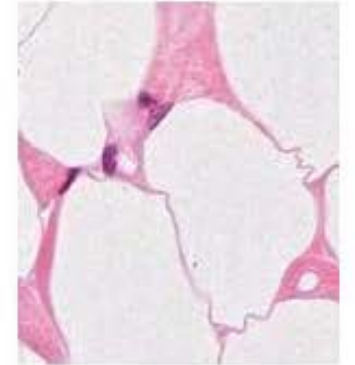
Fibroblasts



Plasma cell



Fat cells



# In summary

## Function of Connective Tissue

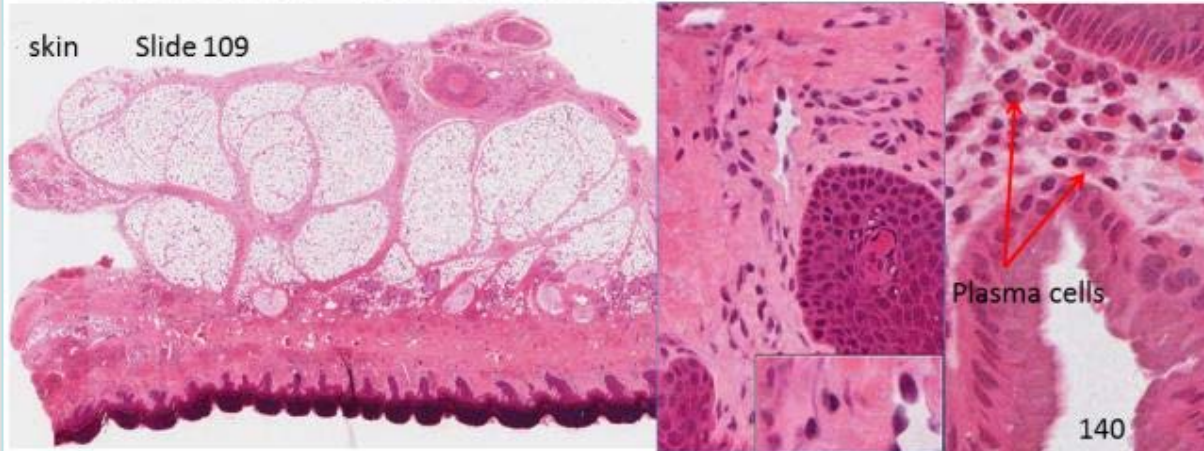
The histological glue which binds the other tissues together to form organs

Mechanical support - stroma below epithelium, skeleton

Metabolite exchange - vascular beds

Energy storage - adipose tissue

Inflammation - site of action for blood borne immune cells



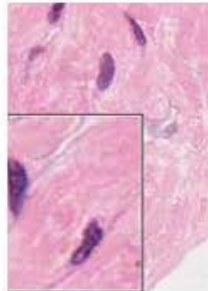
Mast cell



Macrophage



Fibroblasts



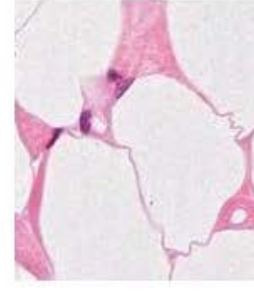
Fibroblasts



Plasma cell



Fat cells



Blood cells

Marrow cells



Many illustrations in these VIBS Histology YouTube videos were modified from the following books and sources: Many thanks to original sources!

1. Alberts, et al., 1989. Molecular Biology of the Cell. 2nd Edition. Garland Publishing, Inc. New York. ISBN 0-8240-3695-6.
2. Alberts, et al., 1994. Molecular Biology of the Cell. 3rd Edition. Garland Publishing, Inc. New York. ISBN 0-8153-1619-4.
3. Bloom, W. and Fawcett, D.W., 1968. A Textbook of Histology. 9th Edition. W.B. Saunders Company. Philadelphia. Library of Congress #67-17445.
4. Elias, H. et al., 1978. Histology and Human Microanatomy. A Wiley Medical Publication. John Wiley & Sons, New York. ISBN 0-471-04929-8.
5. Eroschenko, V. 2000. Di Fiore's Atlas of Histology with Functional Correlations. 9th Edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. Philadelphia. ISBN 0-7817-2676-X.
6. Fawcett, D.W., 1986. Bloom and Fawcett. A Textbook of Histology. 11th Edition. W.B. Saunders Company. Philadelphia. ISBN 0-7216-1729-8.
7. Fawcett, D.W., 1994. Bloom and Fawcett. A Textbook of Histology. 12th Edition. Chapman and Hall. New York. ISBN 0-412-04691-1.
8. Guyton, A.C. 1971. Textbook of Medical Physiology. 4th Edition. W.B. Saunders Company. Philadelphia. Library of Congress # 74-118589.
9. Ham, A.W. 1974. Histology. 7th Edition. J.B. Lippincott Company. Philadelphia. ISBN 0-397-52062-X.
10. Ham, A.W. and Cormack, D.H. 1979. Histology. 8th Edition. J.B. Lippincott Co. Philadelphia. ISBN 0-397-52089-1.
11. Junquera, et al., 1995. Basic Histology. 8th Edition. Appleton and Lange. Norwalk, Connecticut. ISBN 08385-0567-8.
12. Junqueira, et al., 1998. Basic Histology. 9th Edition. Appleton and Lange. Stamford, Connecticut. ISBN 0-8385-0590-2.
13. Knobil, E. et al. 1988. The Physiology of Reproduction. Volume 1. Raven Press. New York. ISBN 0-88167-281-5.
14. Langley, et al., 1974. Dynamic Anatomy and Physiology. 4th Edition. McGraw-Hill Book Company. New York. ISBN 0-07-036274-2.
15. Mescher, A.L., 2010. Junqueira's Basic Histology Text and Atlas. 12th Edition. McGraw Hill Medical. New York. ISBN 978-0-07-160431-4.
16. Tuttle, W.W. and Schottelius, B.A. 1969. Textbook of Physiology. 16th Edition. The C.V. Mosby Company. Saint Louis. Library of Congress # 75-89848.
17. Varner, D. et al. 1991. Diseases and Management of Breeding Stallions. American Veterinary Publications. Goleta, California. ISBN 0-939674-33-5.
18. Von Hagens, Gunther and A. Whalley, 2007. Body Worlds – The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies. ISBN 978-3-937256-04-7
19. Weiss, L. 1983. Histology: Cell and Tissue Biology. 5th Edition. Elsevier Biomedical. New York. ISBN 0-444-00716-4.
20. Weiss, L. and Greep, R. 1977. Histology. 4th Edition. McGraw-Hill Book Company. New York. ISBN 0-07-069091-X.

# Questions on Connective Tissue

Connective tissue:

- a. provides mechanical support and metabolic exchange for epithelia
- b. provides site of battle for blood borne immune cells
- c. stores energy in striated muscle cells
- d. **a and b**
- e. a, b, and c

Classification of connective tissue proper is based on:

- a. ratio of cells to extracellular matrix
- b. arrangement of fibers
- c. the density of fibers in the extracellular matrix
- d. a and b
- e. **a, b, and c**

Cells of connective tissue that are progenitor (stem) cells are:

- a. adipose cells
- b. macrophages
- c. plasma cells
- d. **fibroblasts**
- e. mast cells

Ocotillo plant

Mexico

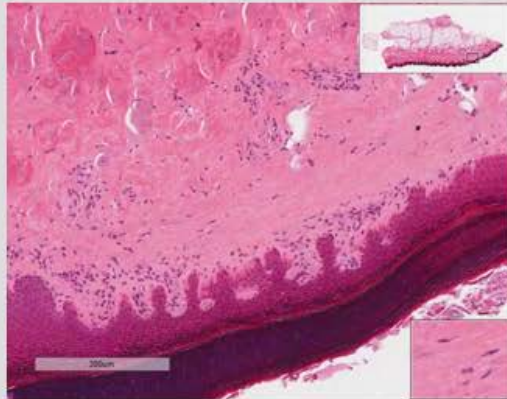


Big Bend TX, USA

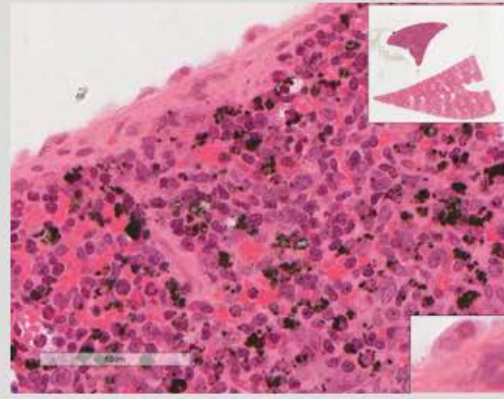
# End of

## Medical School Histology Basics Connective Tissue

VIBS 243



Mast cell



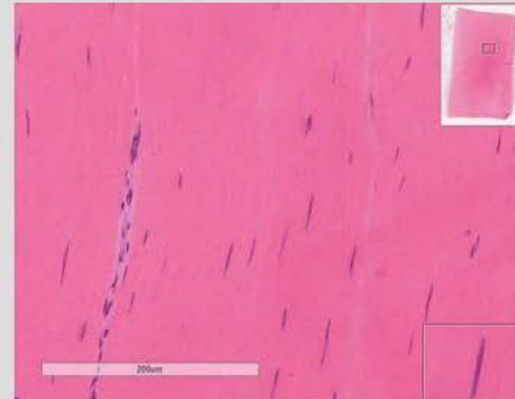
Macrophage



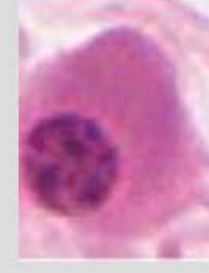
Fibroblasts



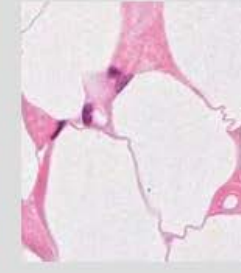
Fibroblasts



Plasma cell



Fat cells



Larry Johnson

Texas A&M University