

# Transcriptional control of cell migration in the ascidian cardiogenic mesoderm

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NYU Biology

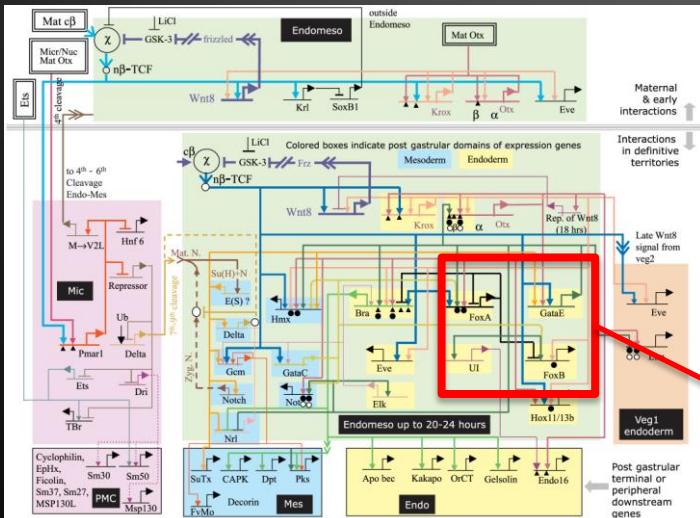
KITP, UC Santa Barbara  
August 19<sup>th</sup> 2011

# The central dogma of systems biology

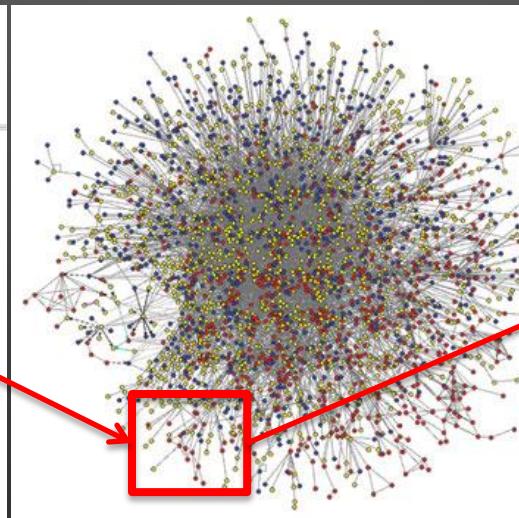
Gene  
Regulatory  
Network

Protein  
Interaction  
Network

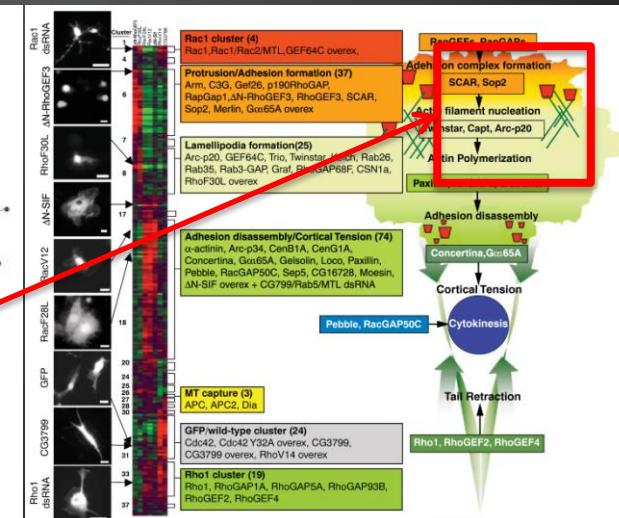
Cellular  
Activities  
(Phenotypes)



Davidson *et al.* (2002) *Science*



Li *et al.* (2004) *Science*

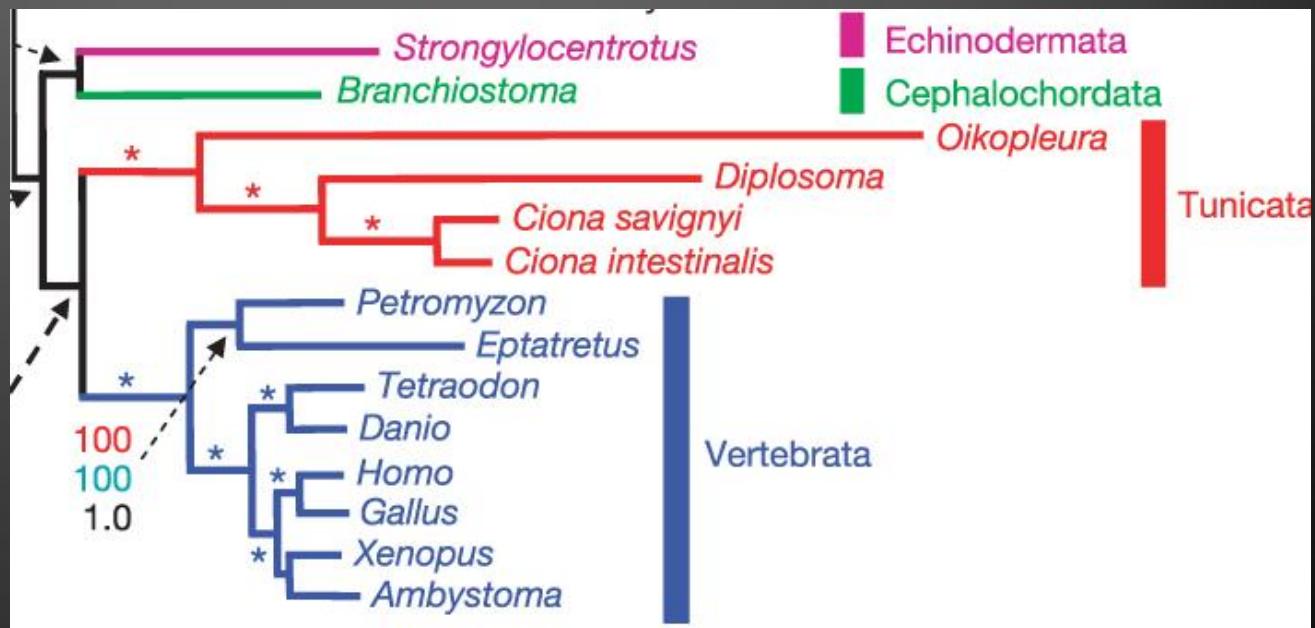
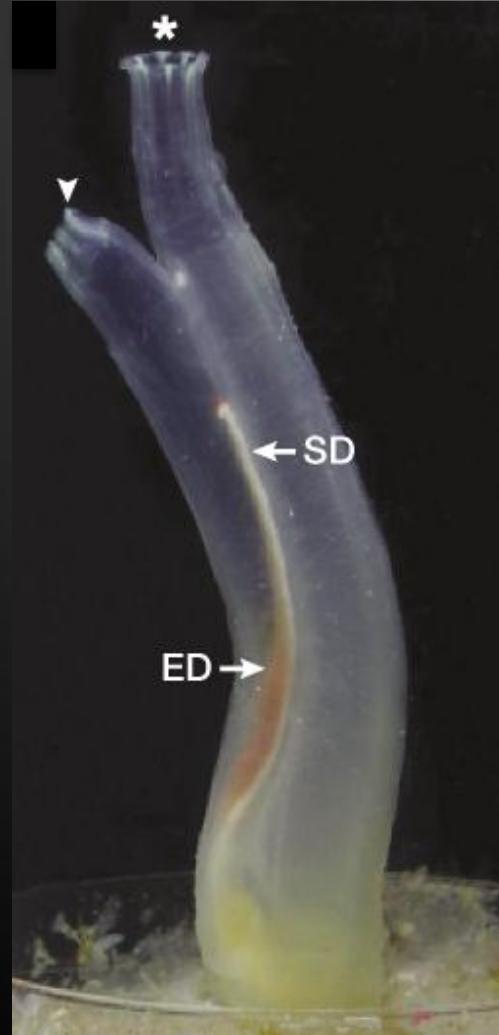


Bakal *et al* (2007) *Science*

# Talk outline

- Introduction to early development of the cardiogenic lineage in *Ciona*
- Transcriptional control and regulated effectors of TVC migration
- Atrial Siphon Muscle precursors re-activate a muscle program and turn on their own migration effectors
- Insights into the modular organization of the network from comparison with the Oral Siphon Muscles

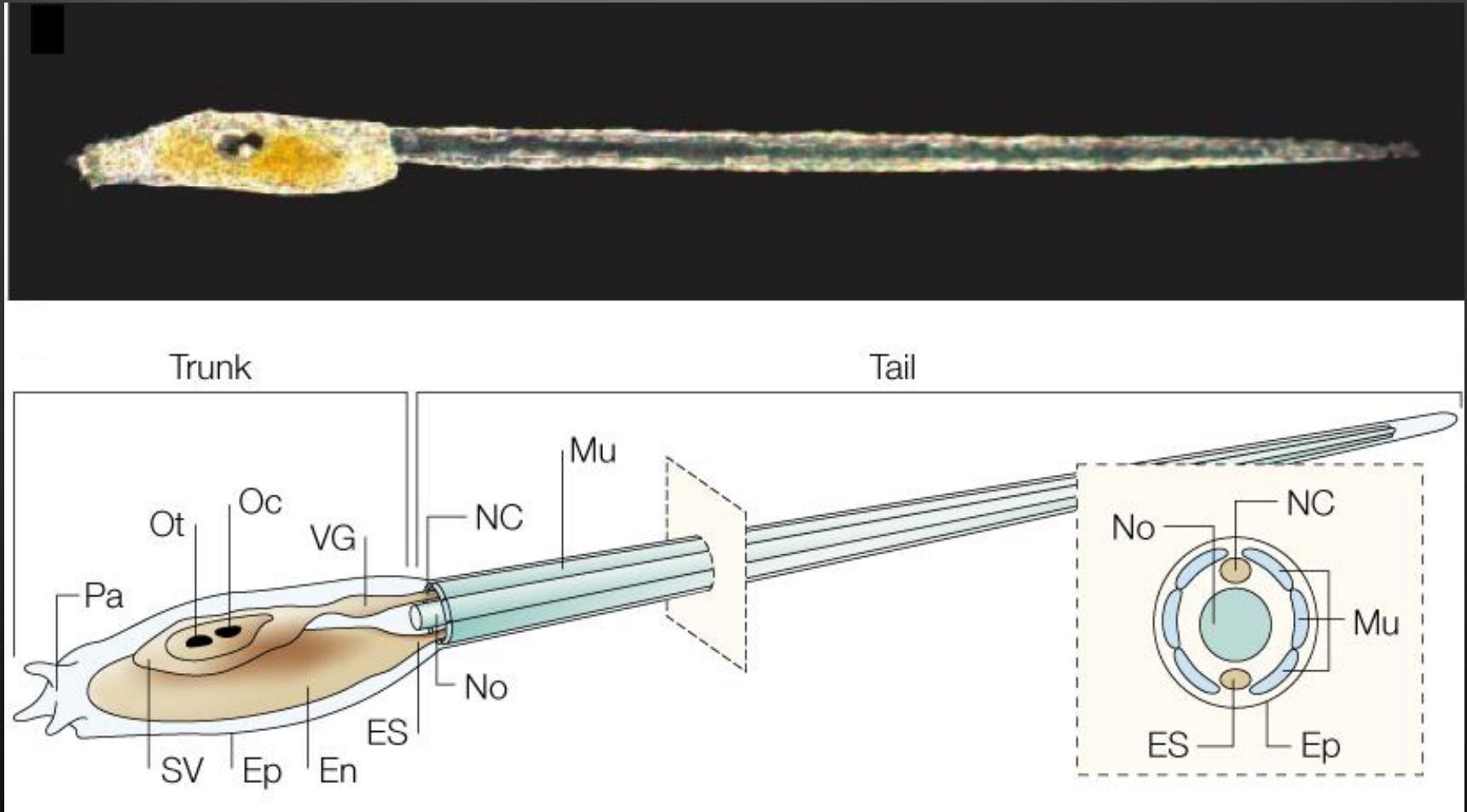
# Tunicates are the closest living relatives to vertebrates



Delsuc et al. (2006) *Nature*

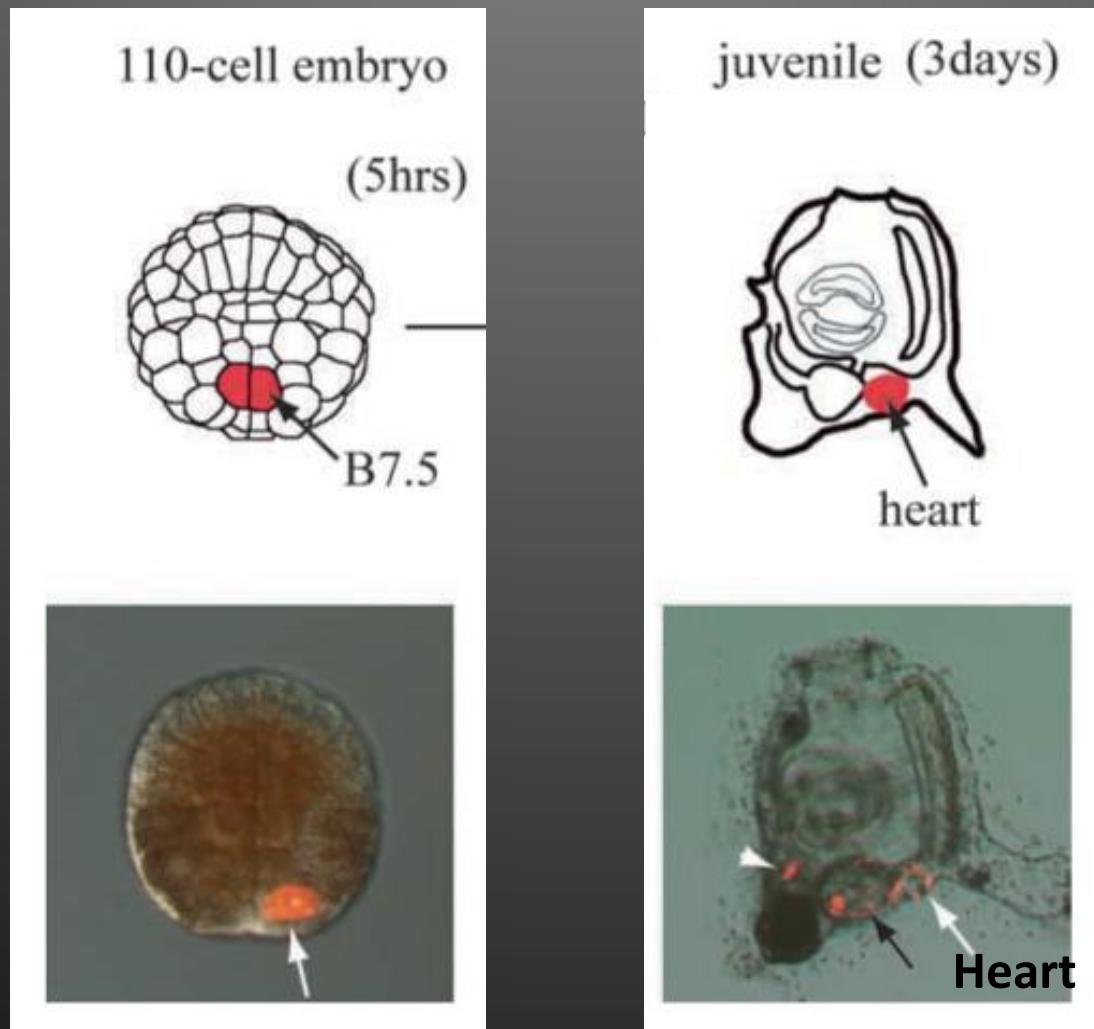
Satoh (2003) *Nat Rev Genet*

# A typical chordate body plan



Satoh (2003) *Nat Rev Genet*

# The Ascidian Heart originates from B7.5 cells



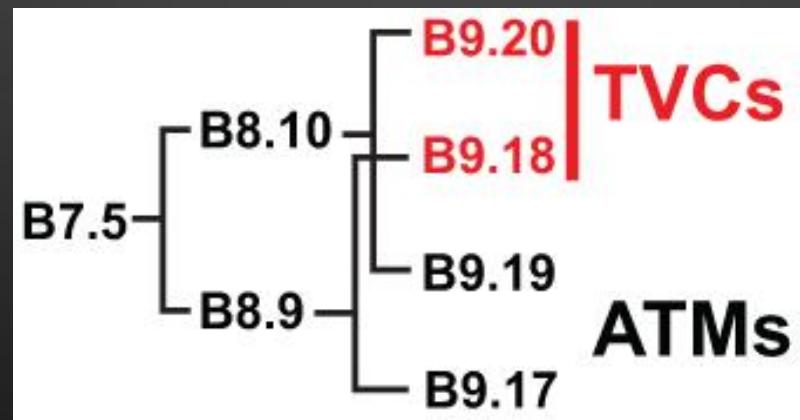
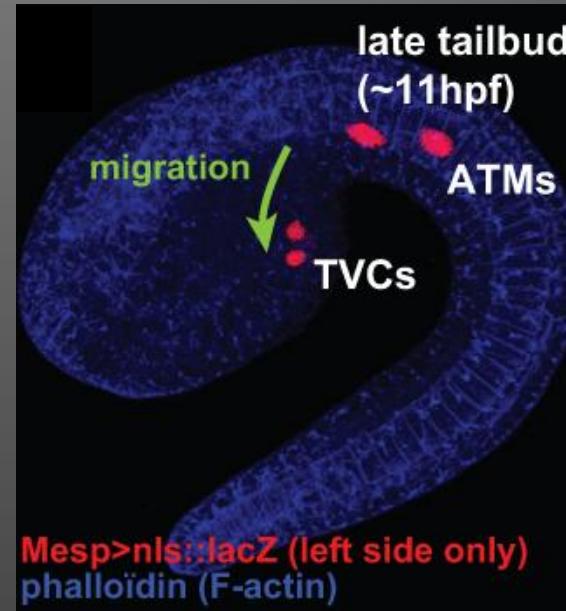
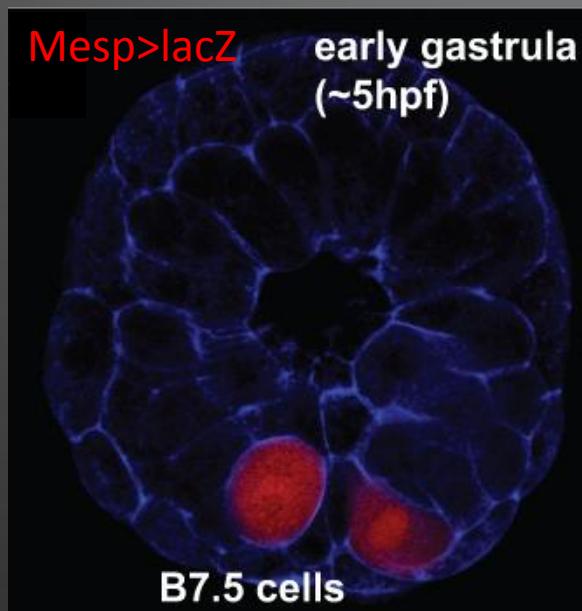
Satou *et al* (2004) *Development*

B7.5 blastomeres express *Mesp*



*Mesp*

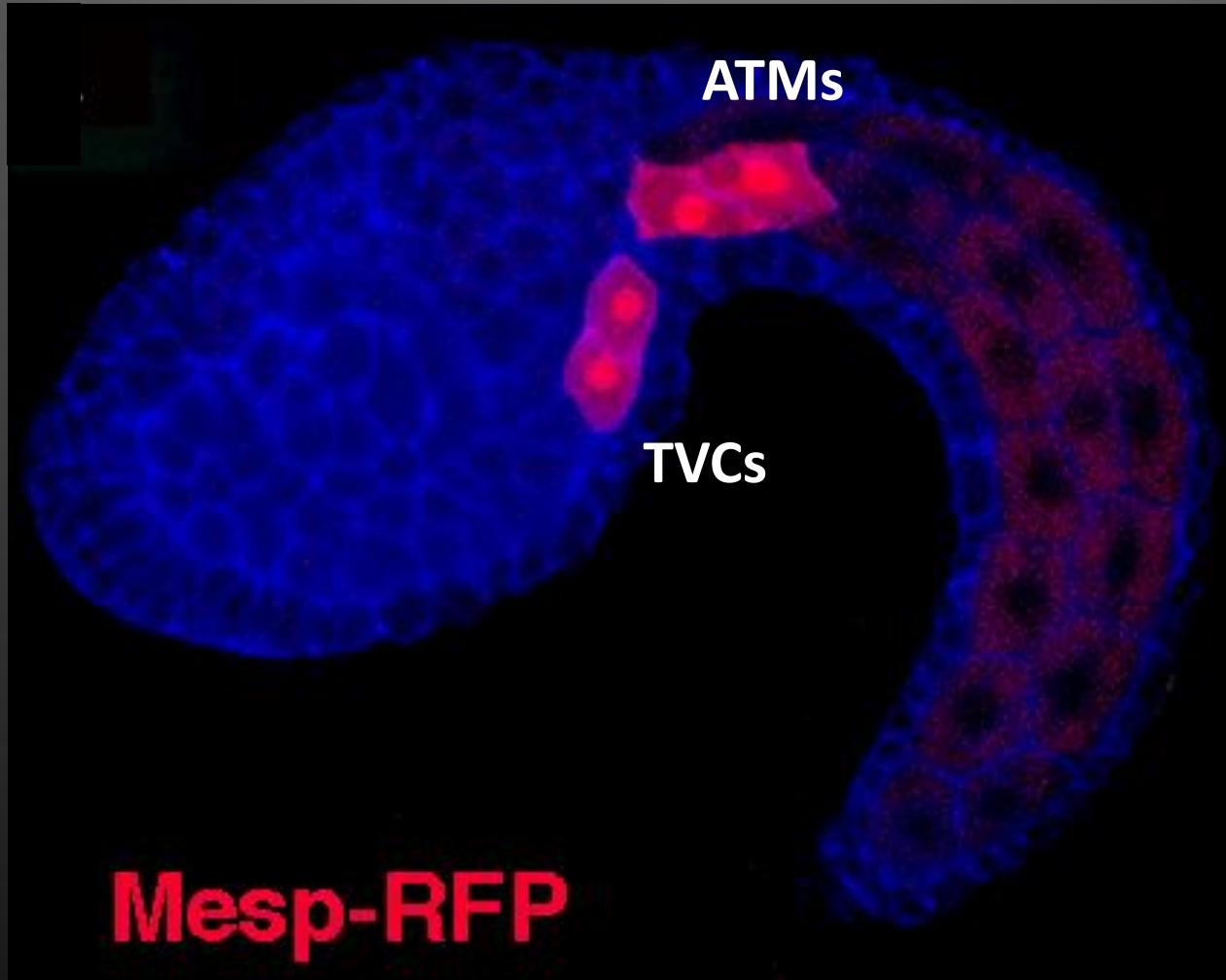
# B7.5 blastomeres form TVCs and ATMs





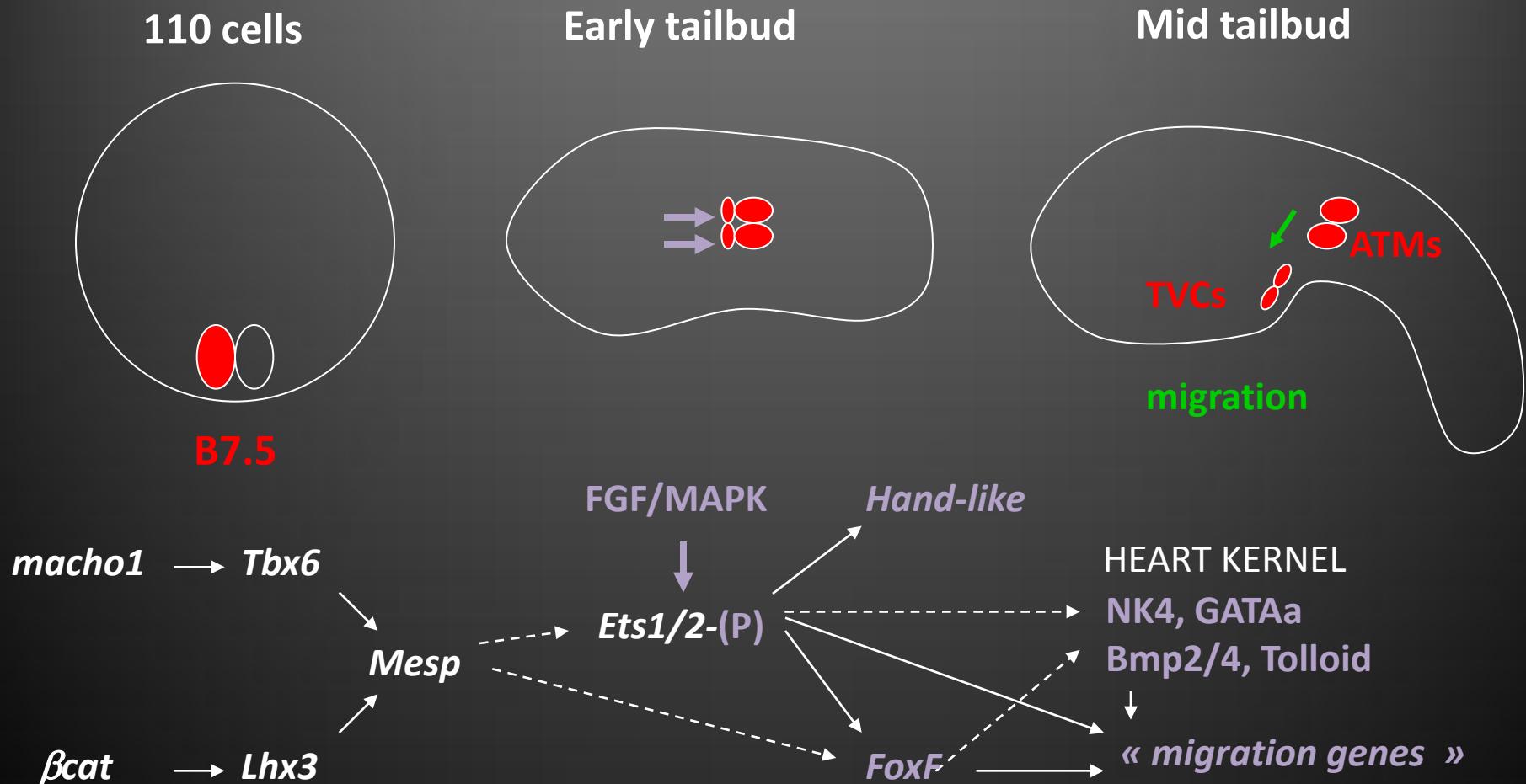
(Courtesy of Alberto Stolfi)

# The B7.5-lineage gives birth to distinct cell types



(Davidson et al., 2006, Genes&Dev)

# Transcriptional control of TVC fate specification and migration



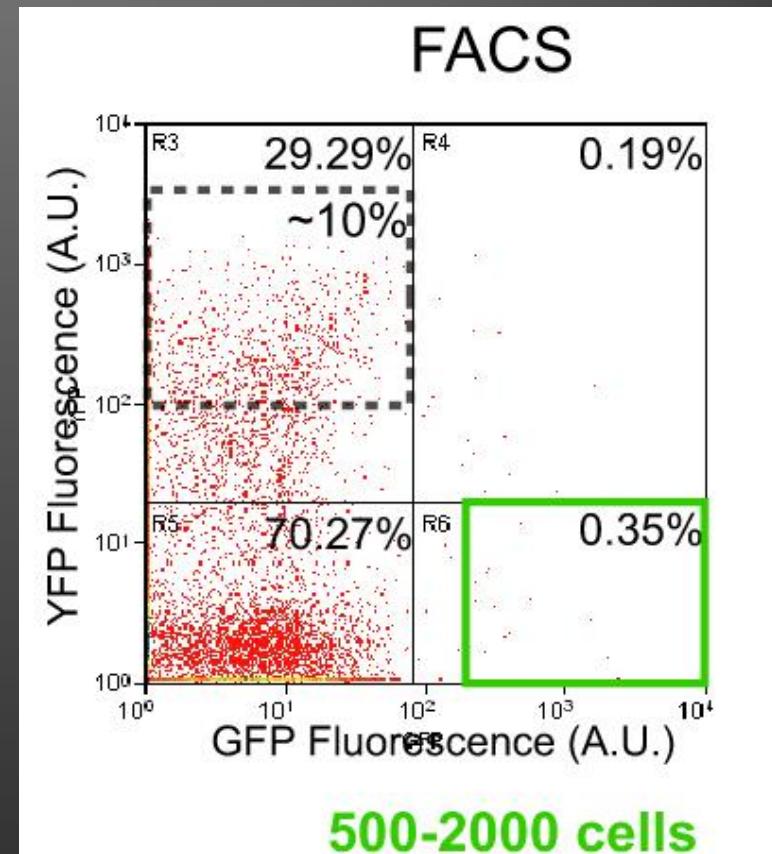
(Satou, 2004; Davidson, 2005, 2006; Beh, 2007; Christiaen, 2008, 2009, 2010; Ragkousi, 2011)

# FACCS

## Fluorescence Activated Ciona Cell Sorting

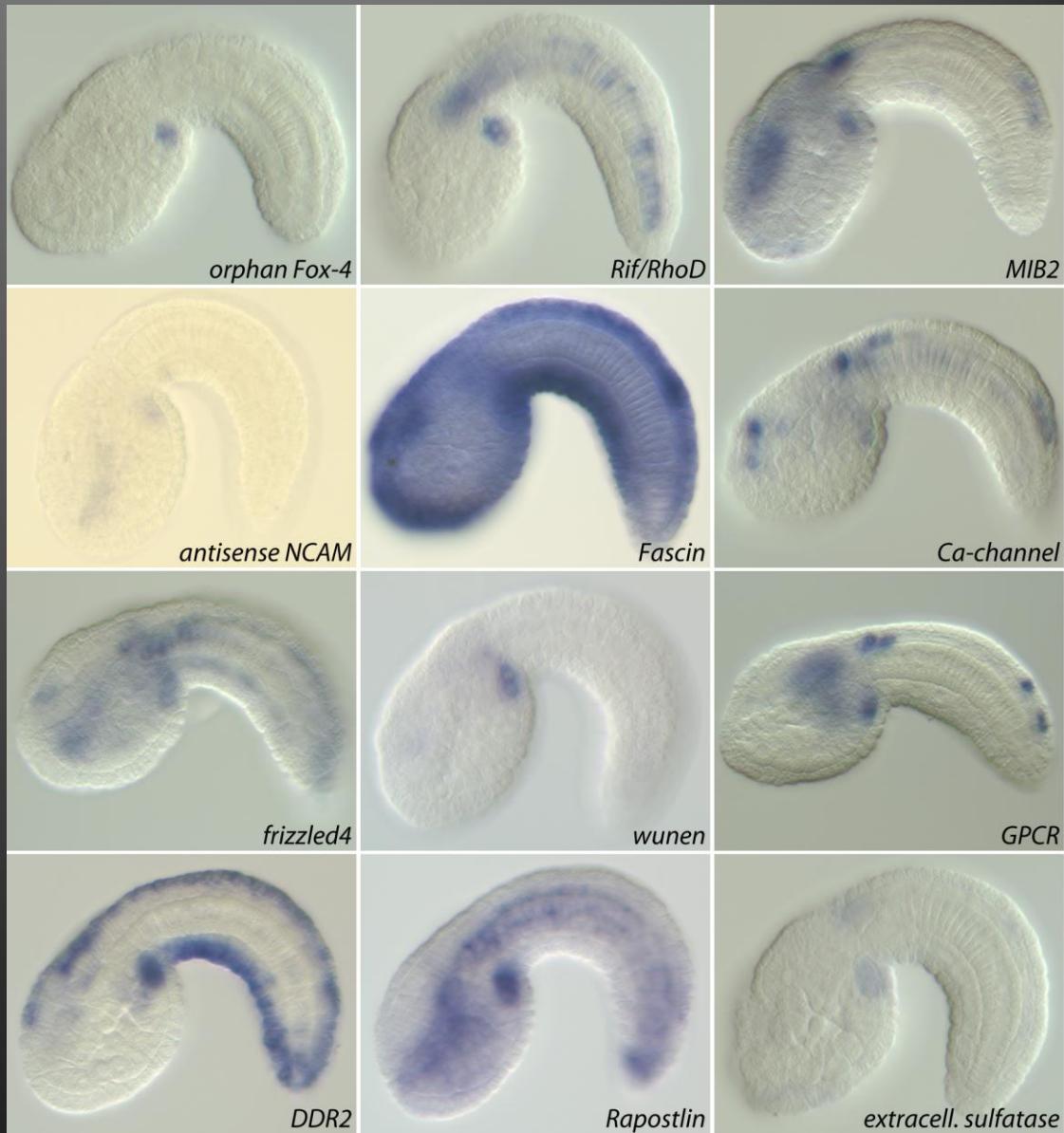
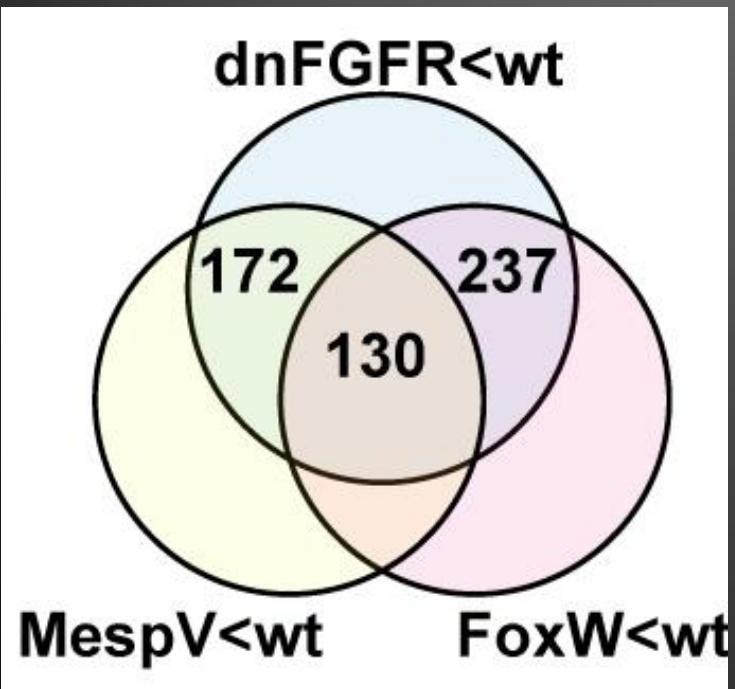
development & phenotype >75%

Mesp>GFP  
MyoD>YFP

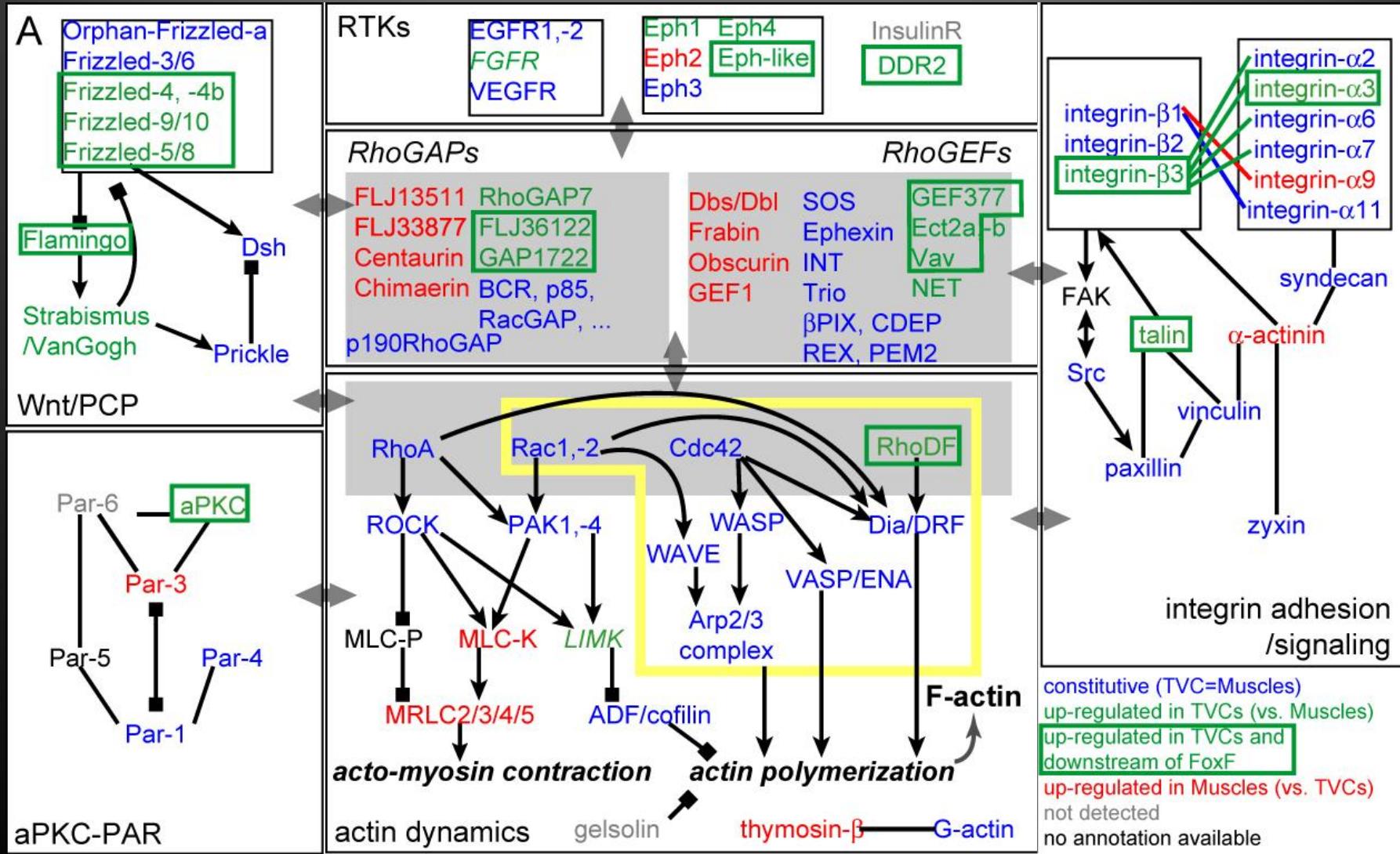


Whole Genome Microarrays

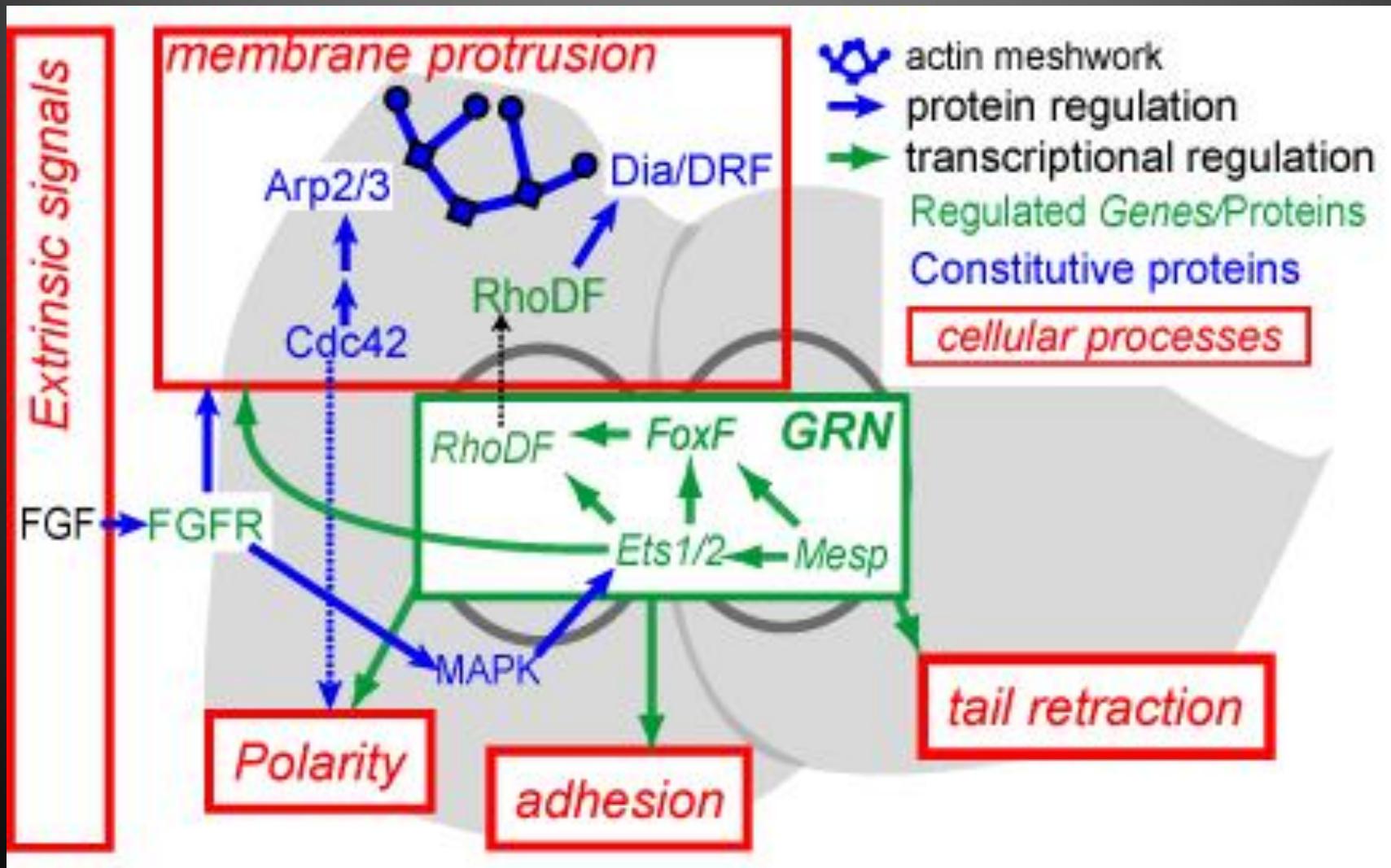
# candidate migration genes



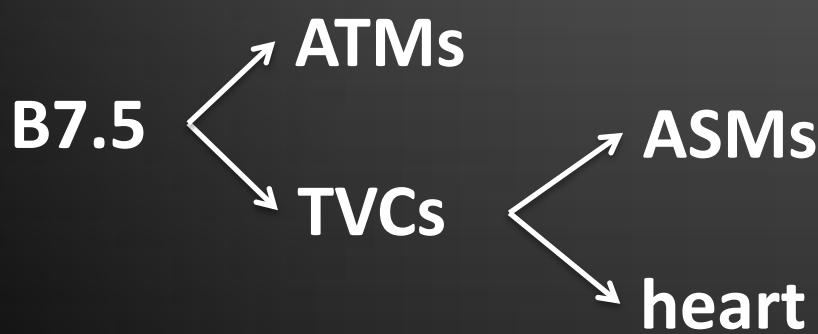
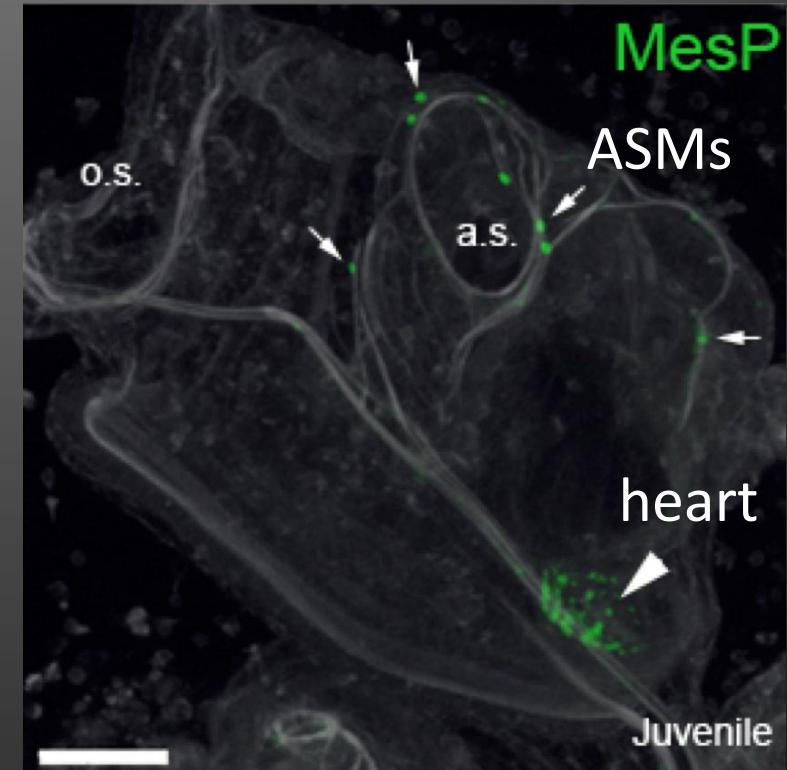
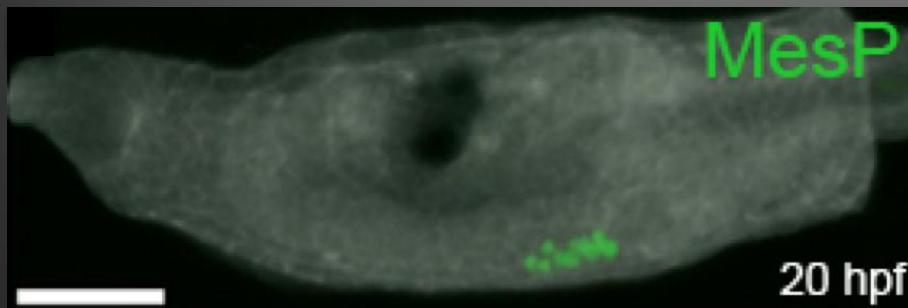
# process-specific effectors genes



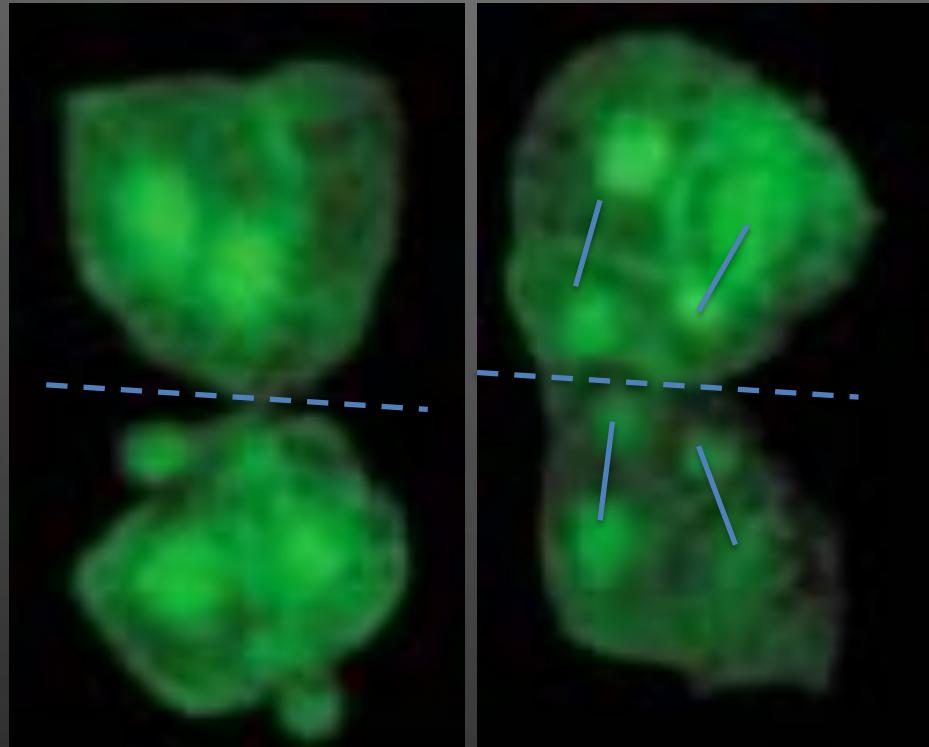
# Summary model



# TVCs from heart and atrial siphon muscles (ASM)

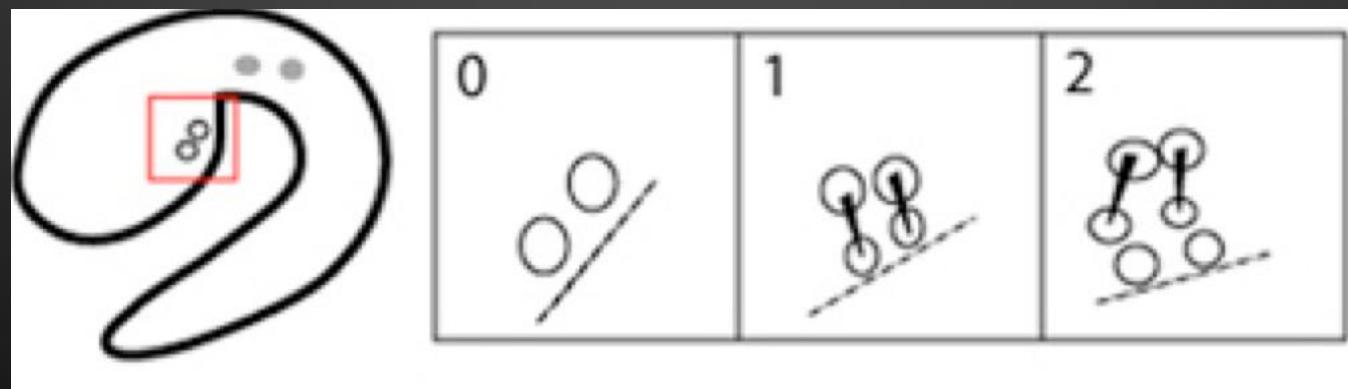
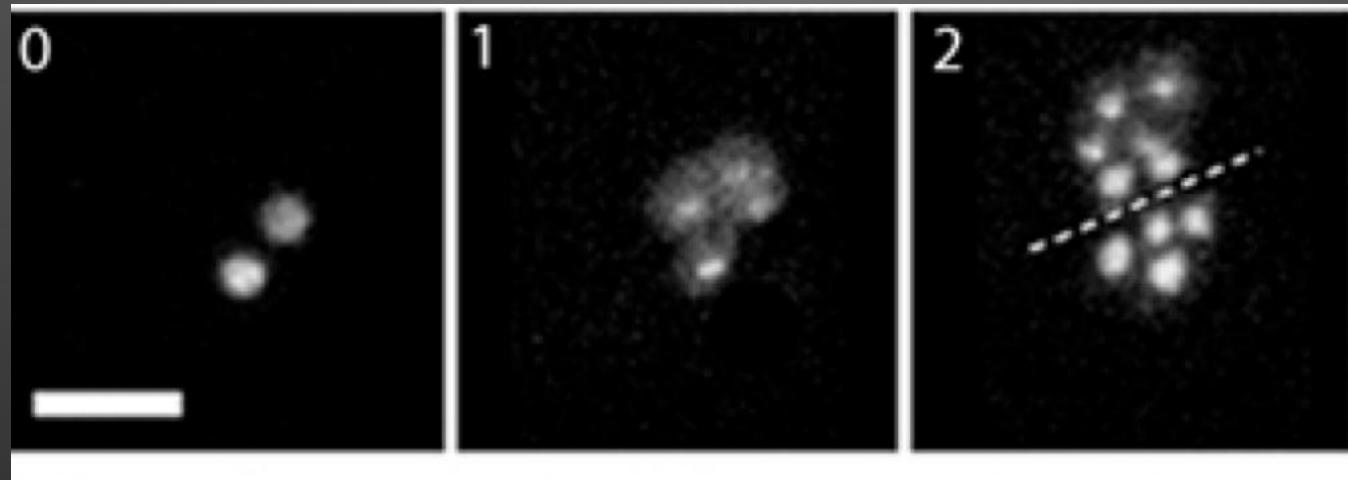


# TVCs first divide asymmetrically

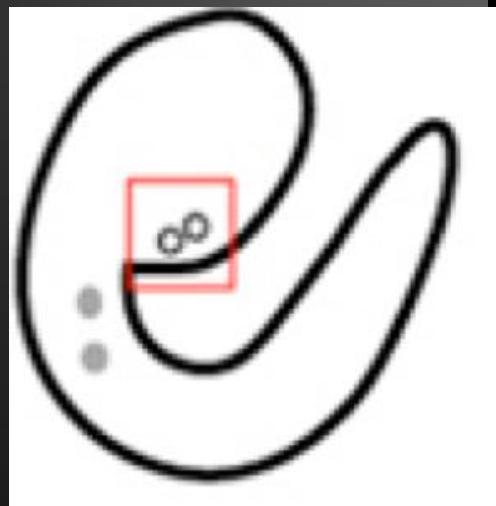


Davidson *et al* (2005) *Development*

# TVCs first divide asymmetrically

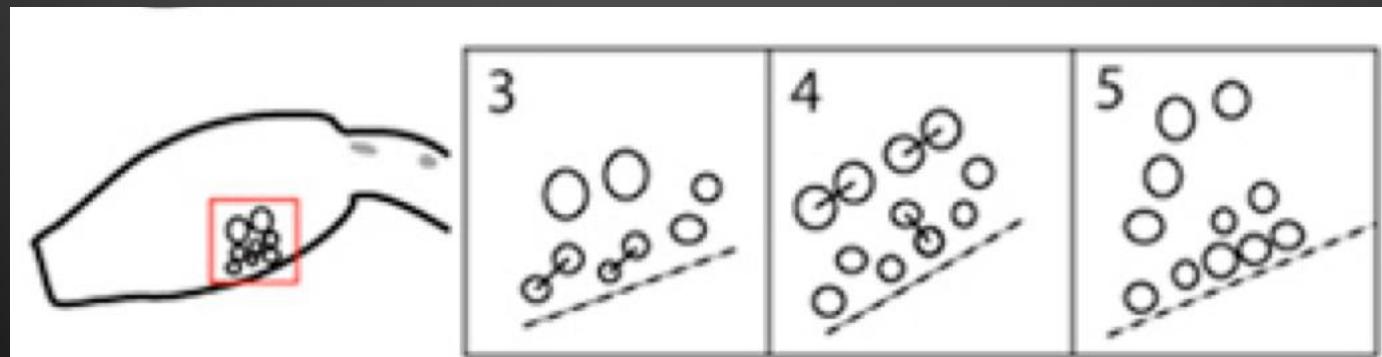
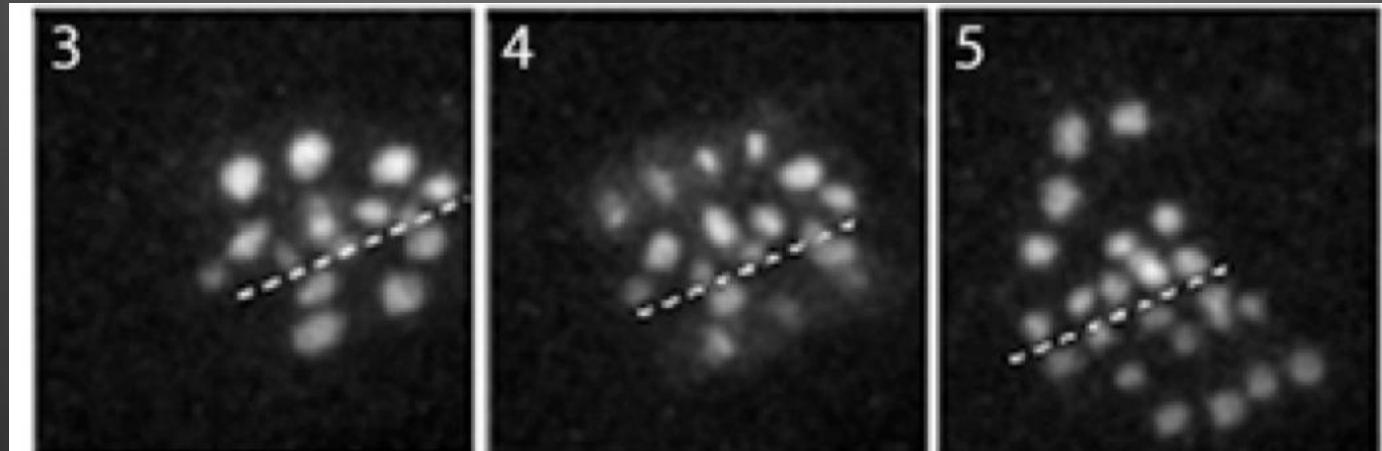


# TVCs first divide asymmetrically

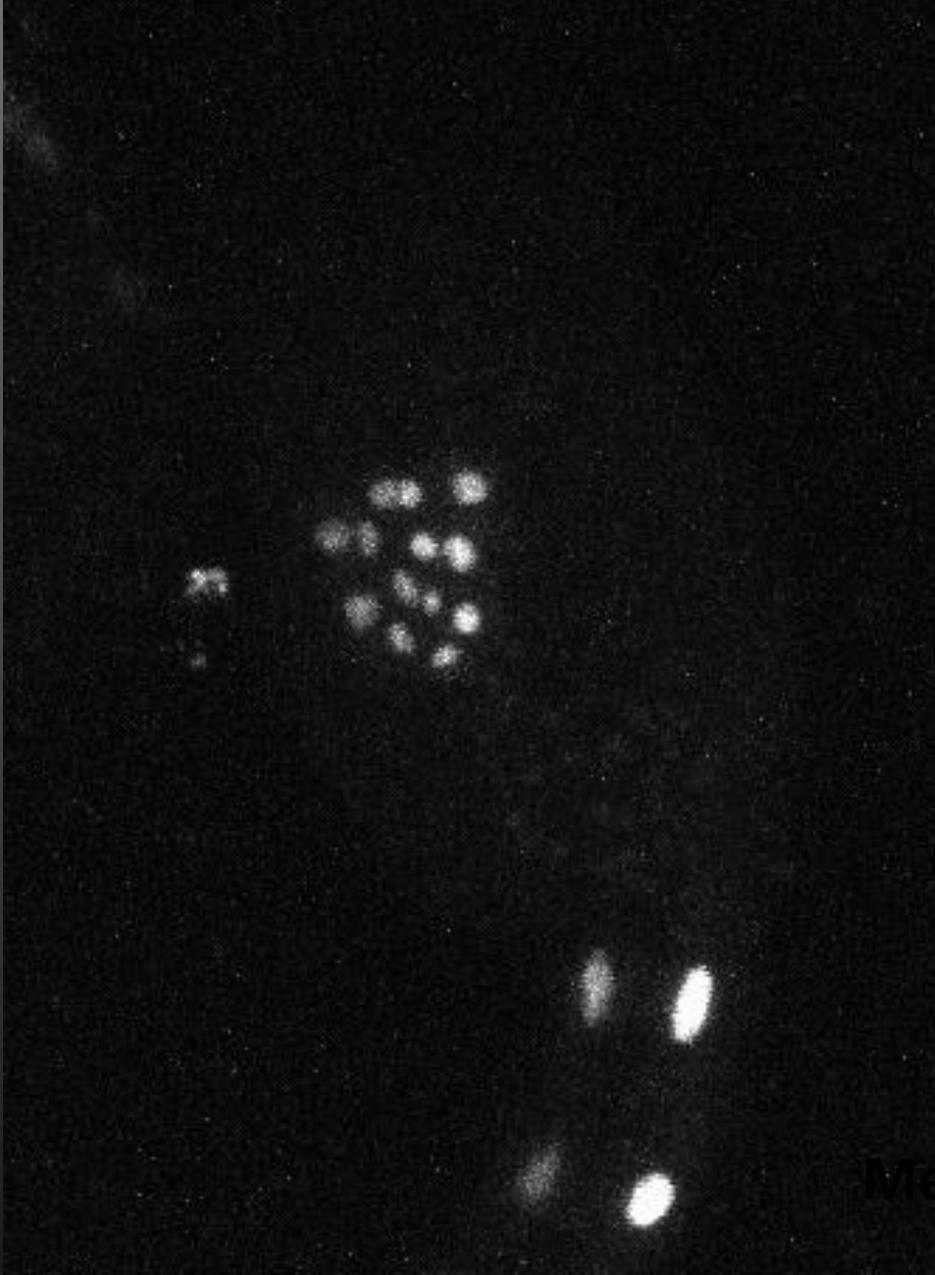
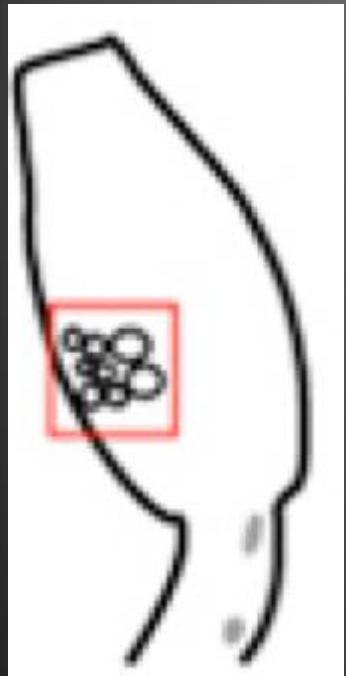


\lesp>H2B-GFP

# lateral TVCs migrate again



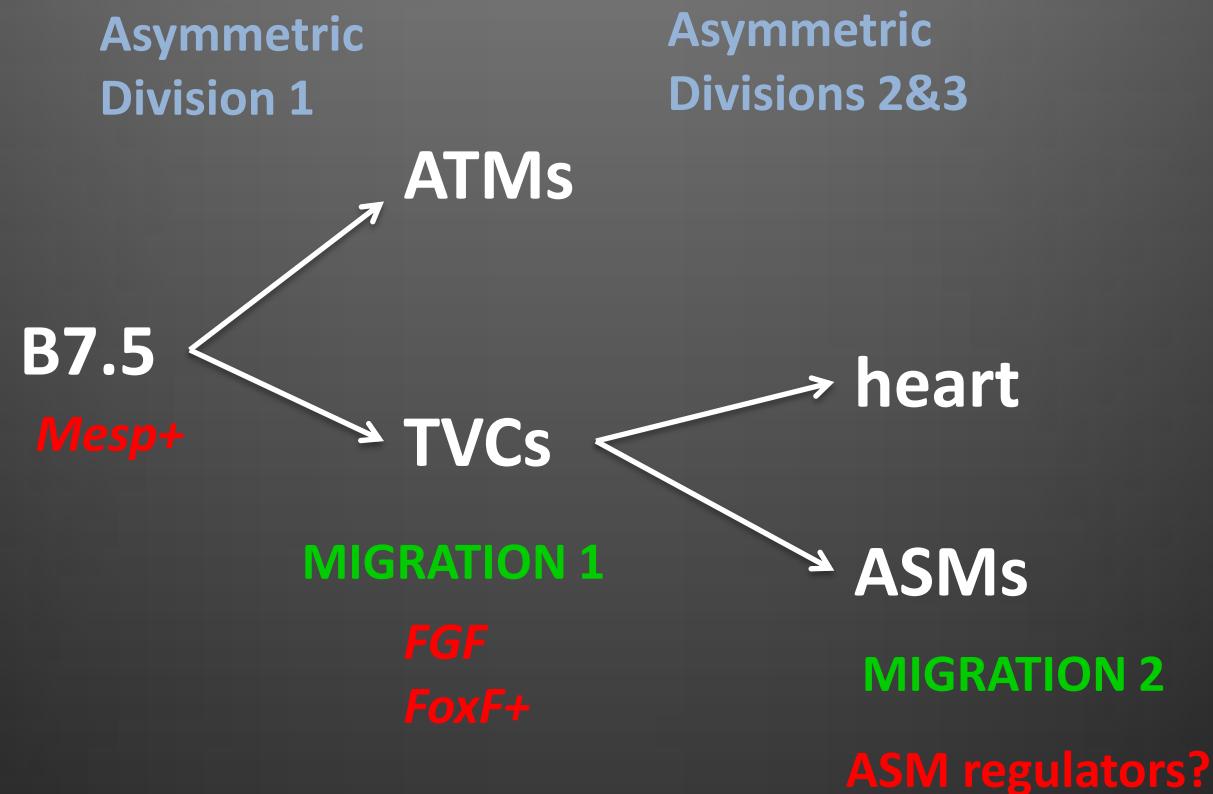
# lateral TVCs migrate again





Mesp>H2B:mCherry

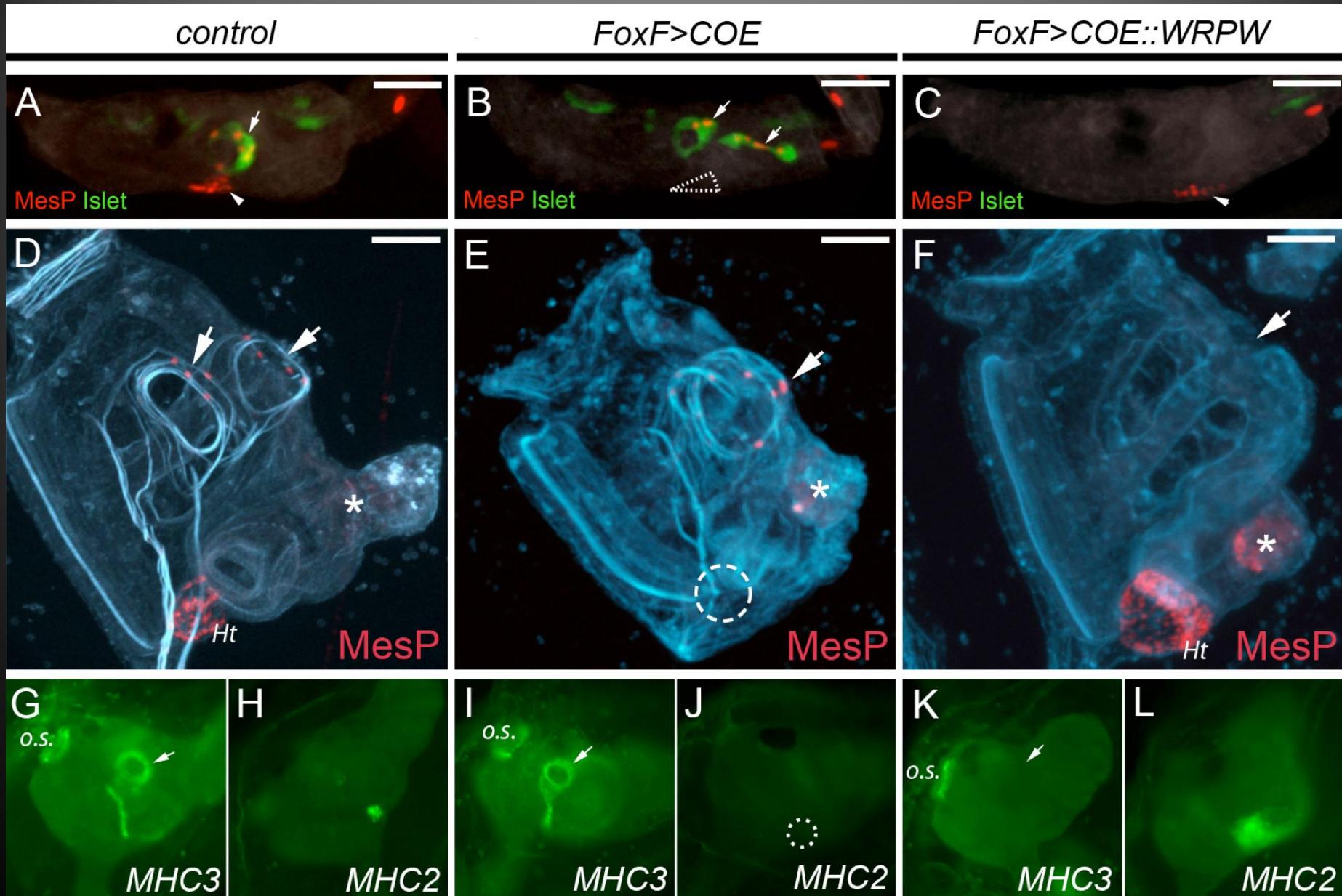
Mesp>PH:GFP



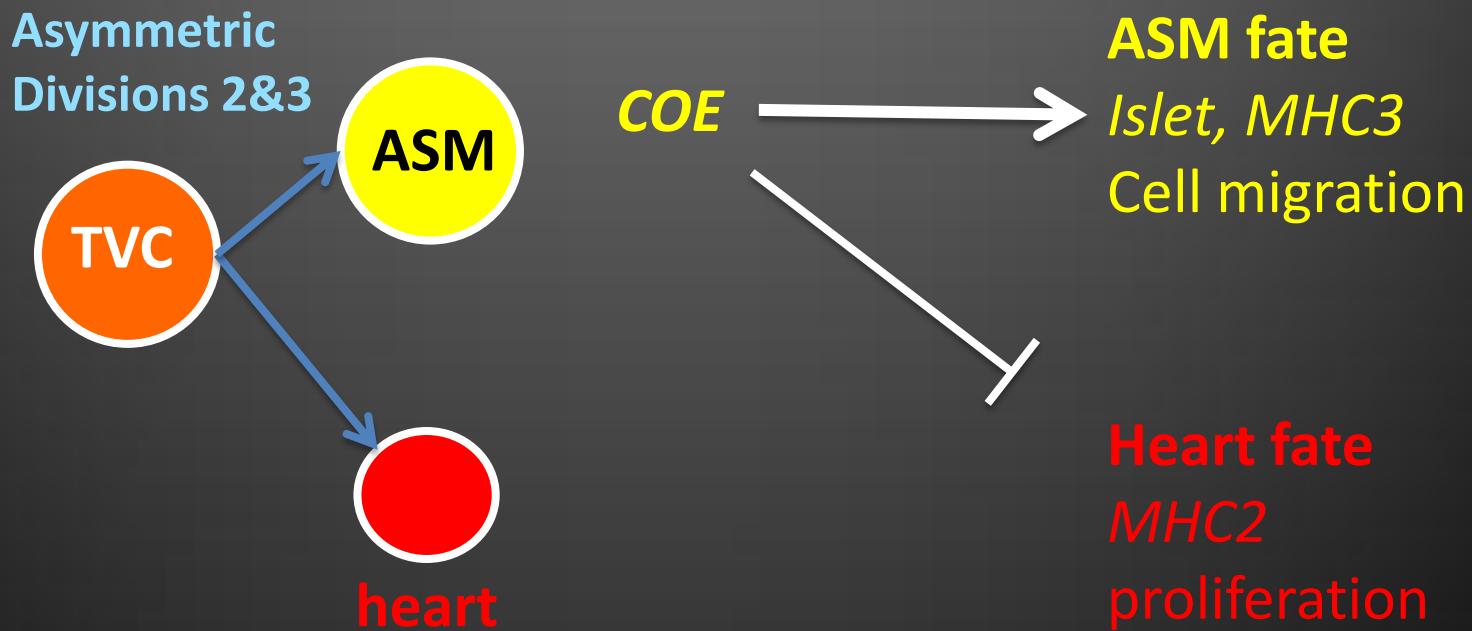
# Early ASM-specific expression of *COE*



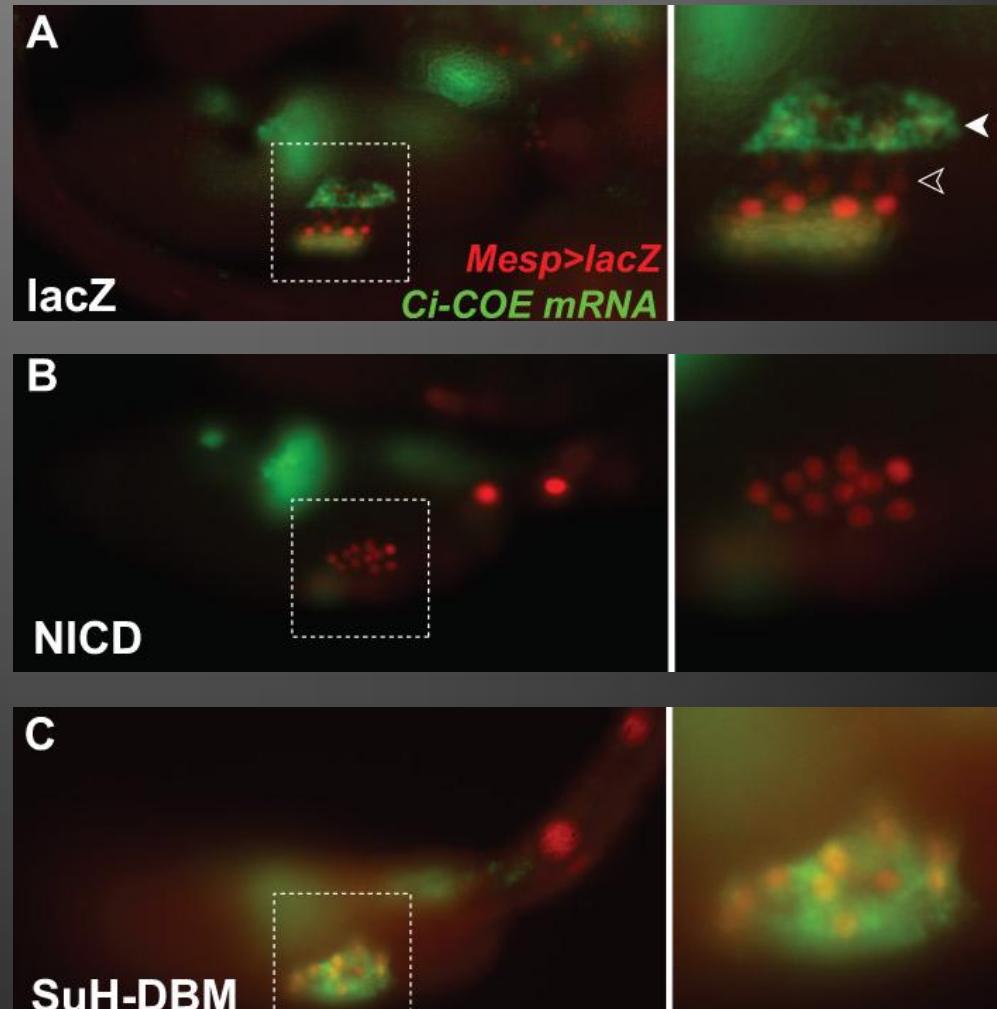
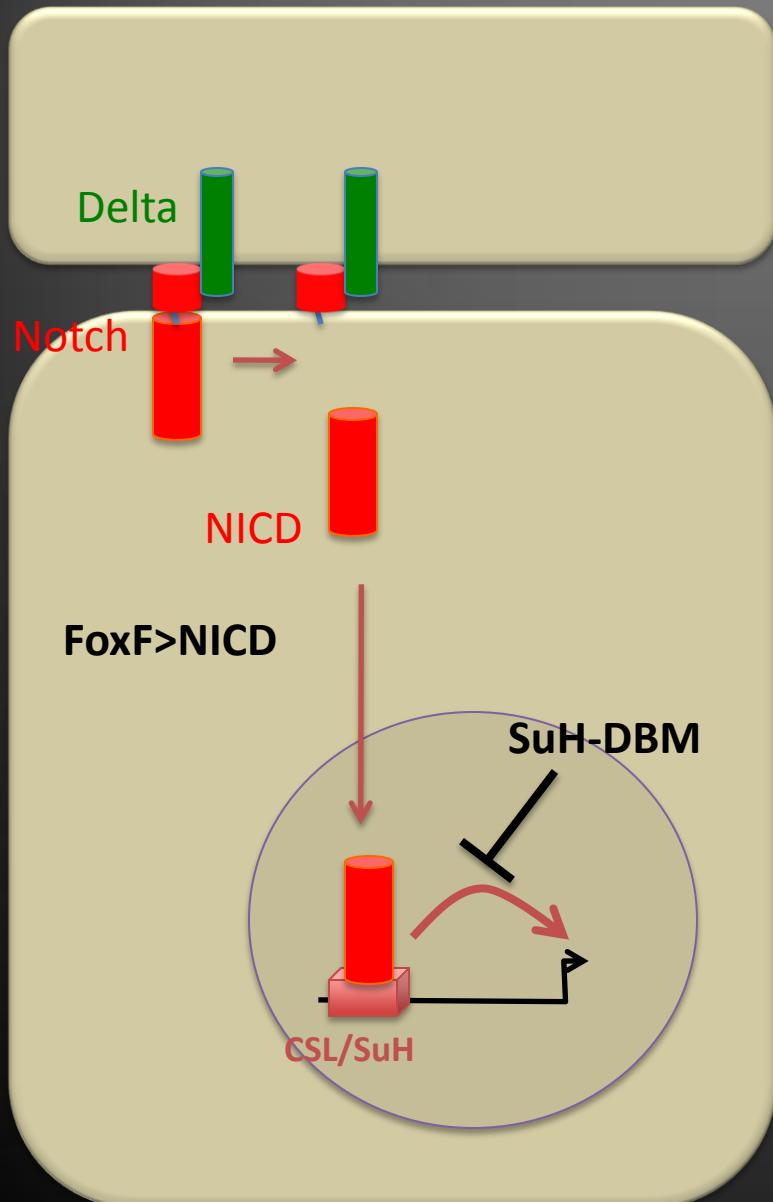
# COE is necessary and sufficient for ASM specification



# Simplest model



# Notch signaling inhibits *COE* expression



Alexandra Budny

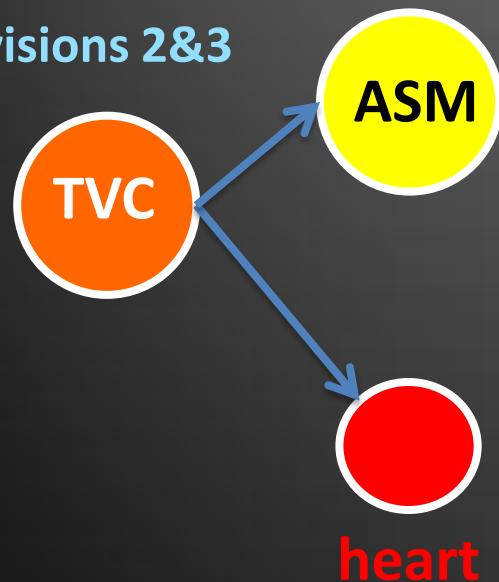
# Over-expression of NICD blocks the second migration

50 $\mu$ g FoxF>mCherry  
(CONTROL)

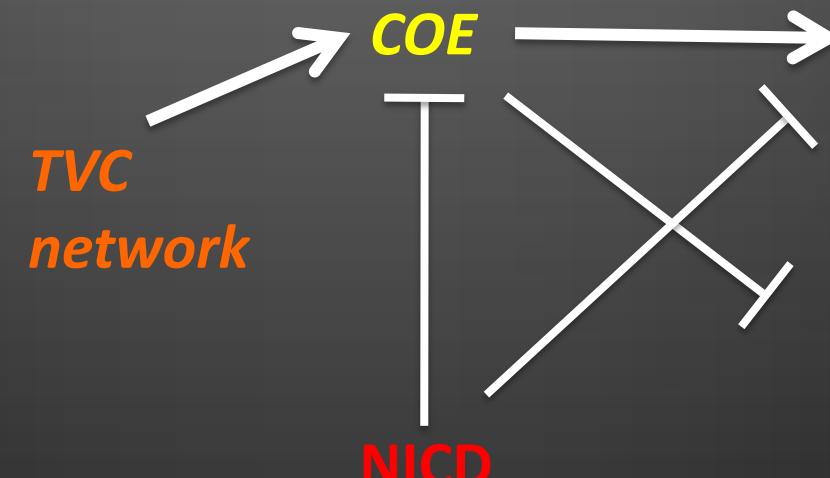
50 $\mu$ g FoxF>NICD  
(CONTROL)

# Simplest model

Asymmetric  
Divisions 2&3



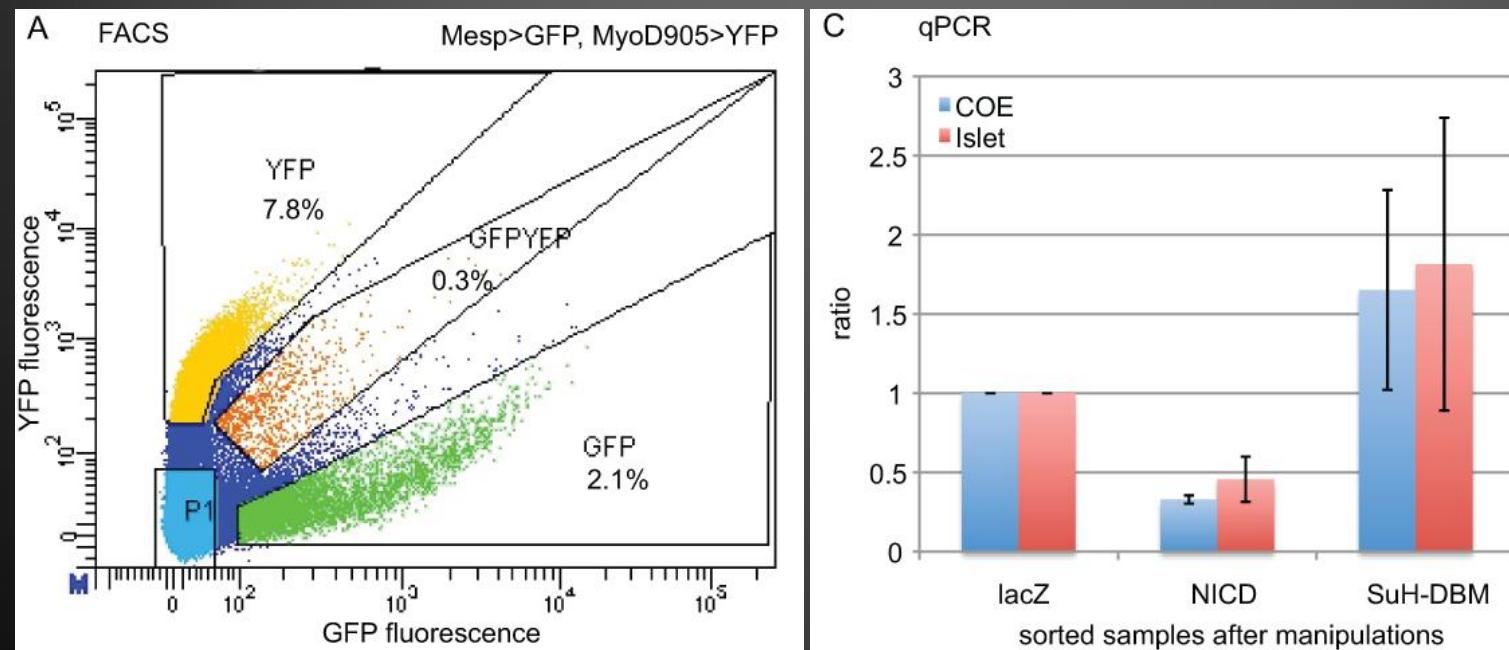
TVC  
*network*



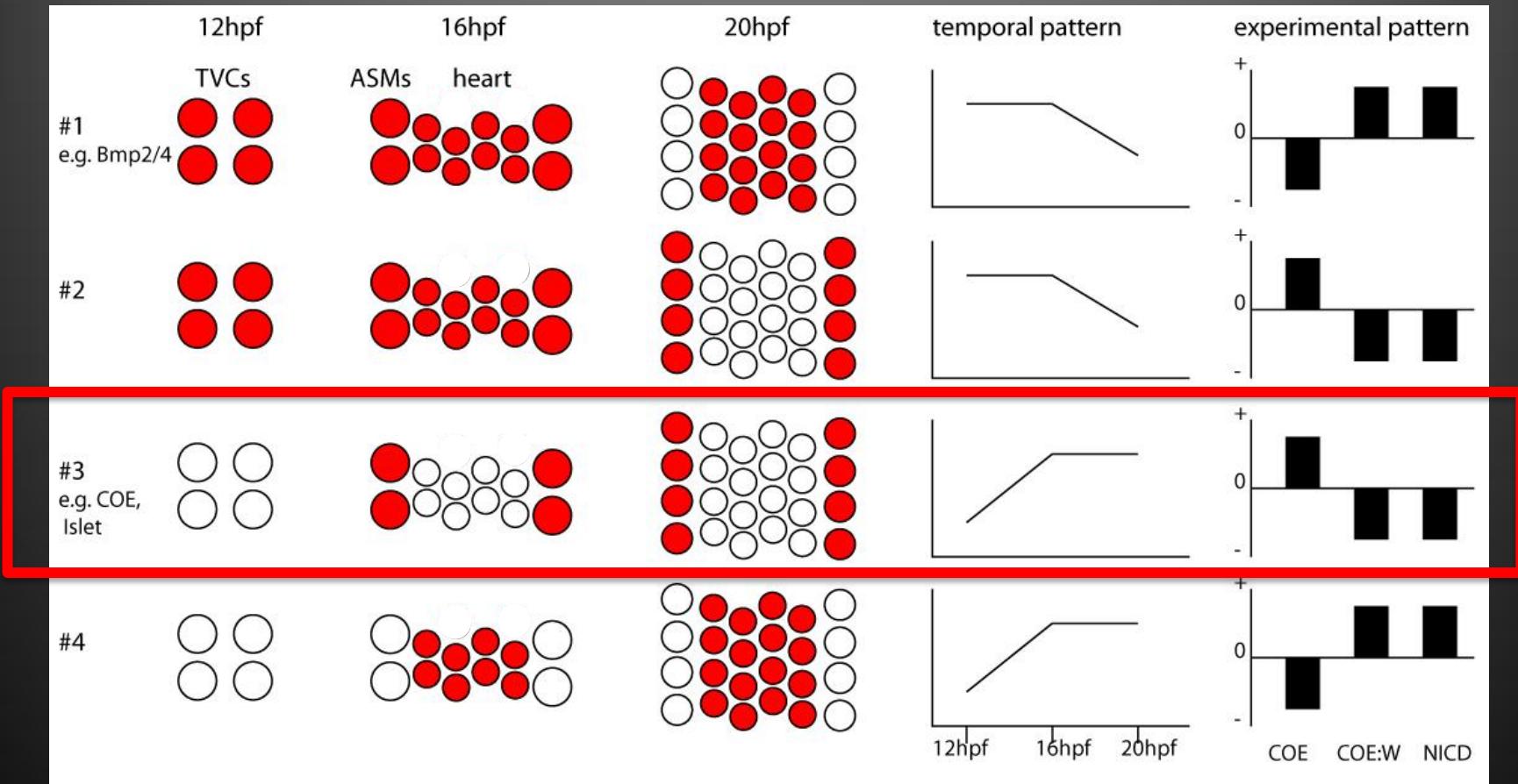
**ASM fate**  
Islet  
Cell migration

**Heart fate**  
proliferation

# FACS and qPCR confirm that Notch signaling inhibits *COE* and *Islet* expression in the TVC lineage



# Using FACS and microarrays to identify heart and ASM-specific transcripts

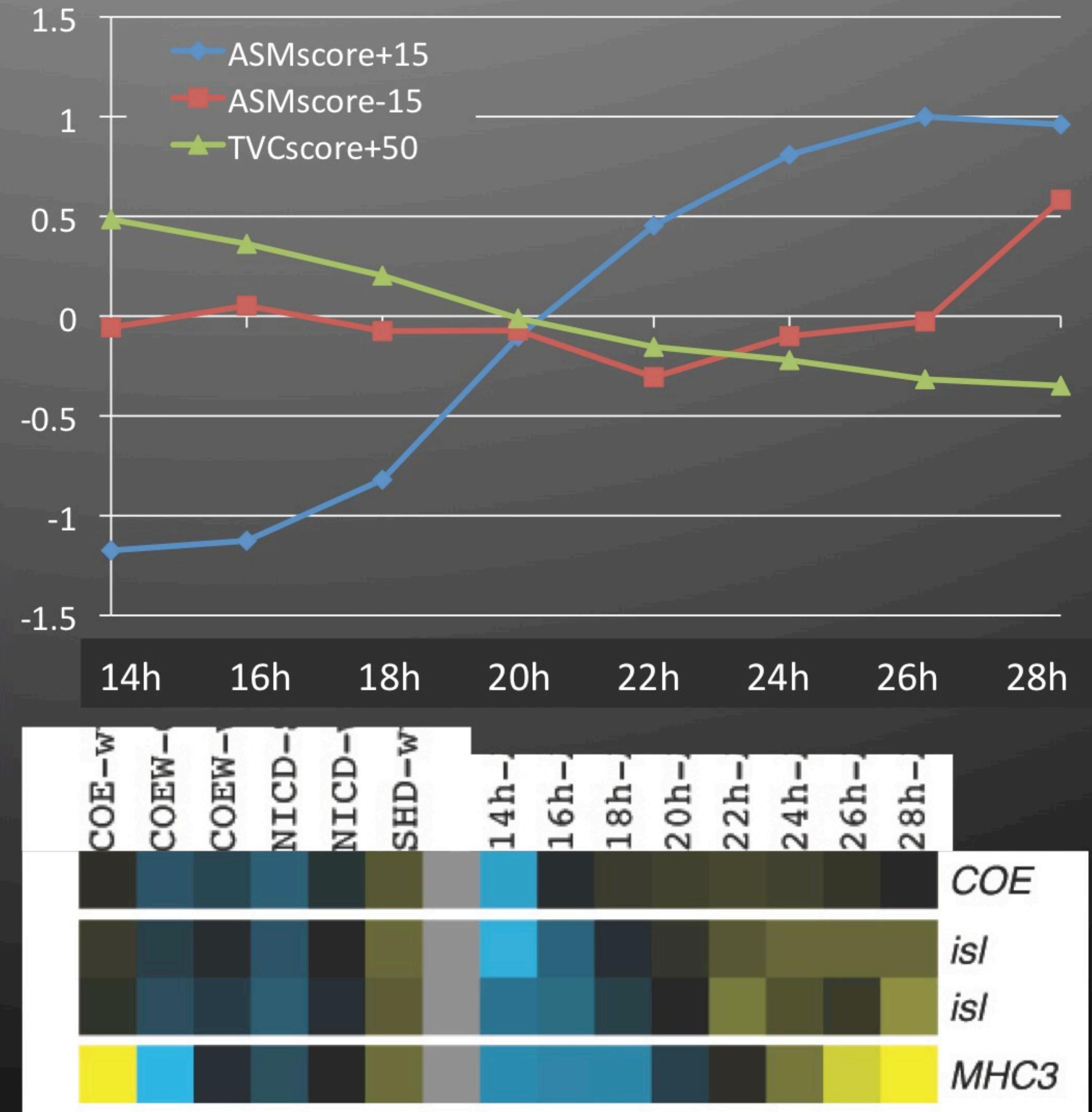
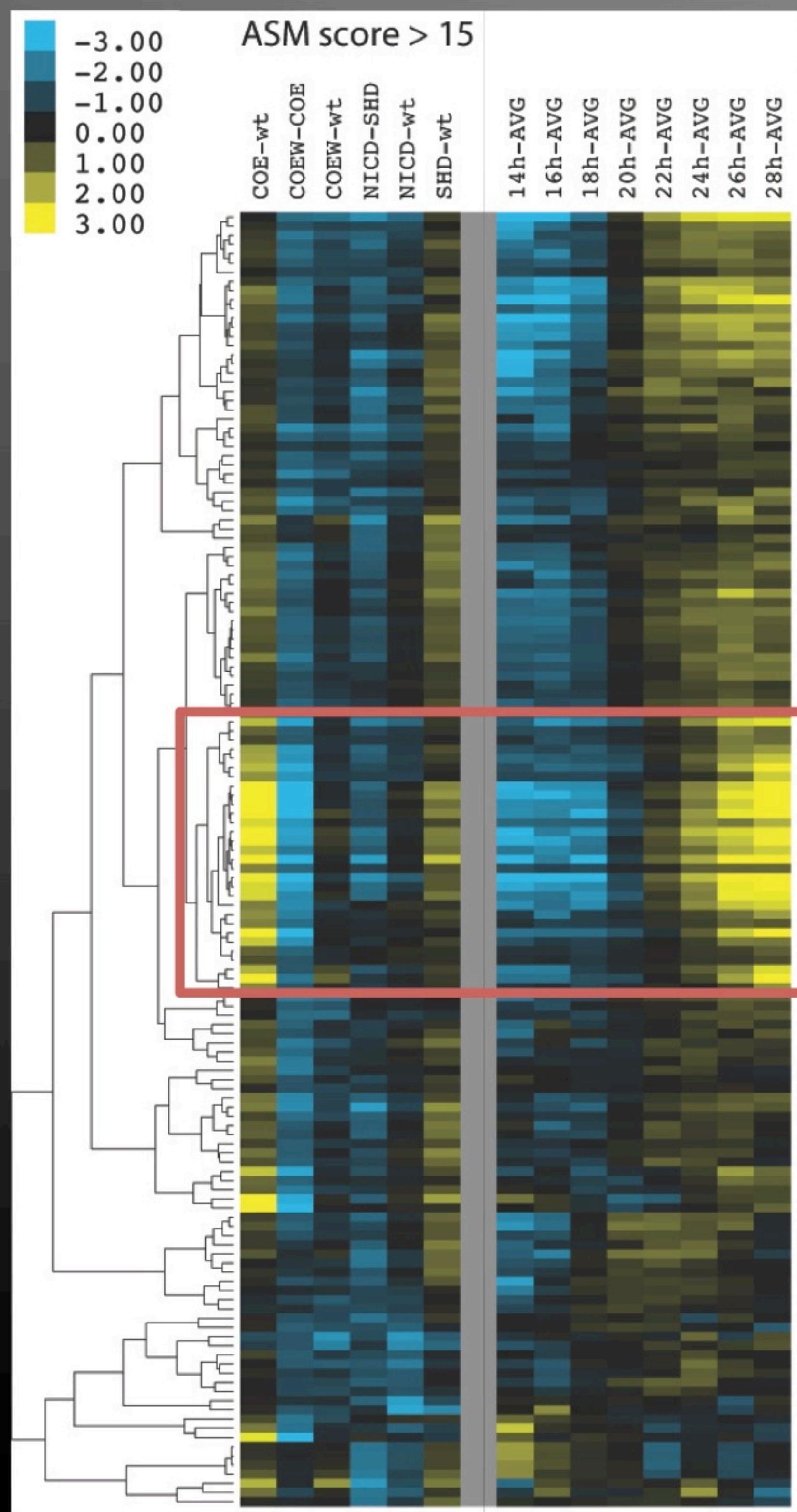


5 conditions: control (lacZ), NICD, SuH-DBM, COE, COEWRPW

8 time points : 14h, 16h, 18h, 20h, 22h, 24h, 26h, 28h

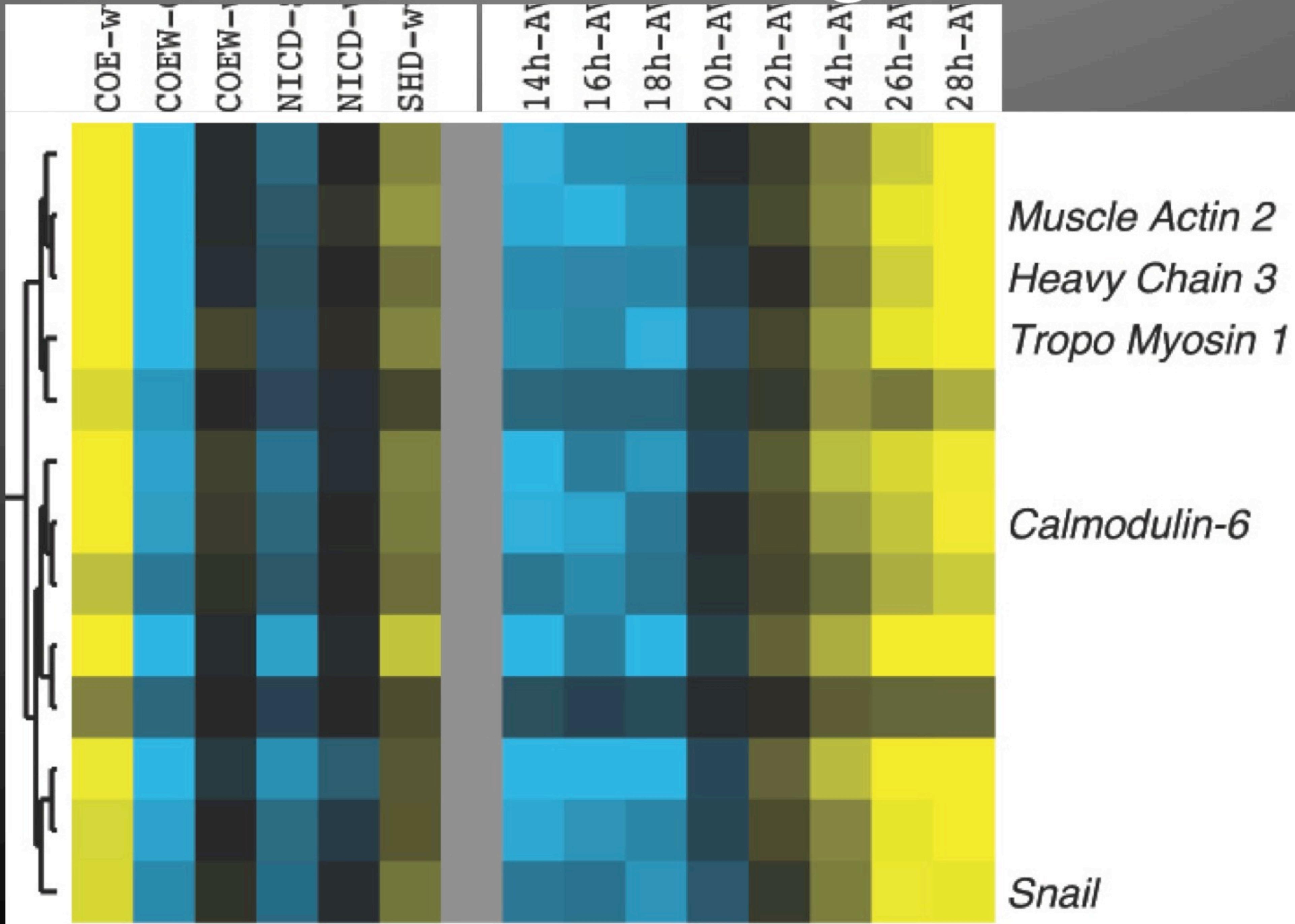
ASM score = 20h(WT) x [(COE-COEWRPW)+(SuHDBM-NICD)]

# Most ASM candidates show *de novo* expression

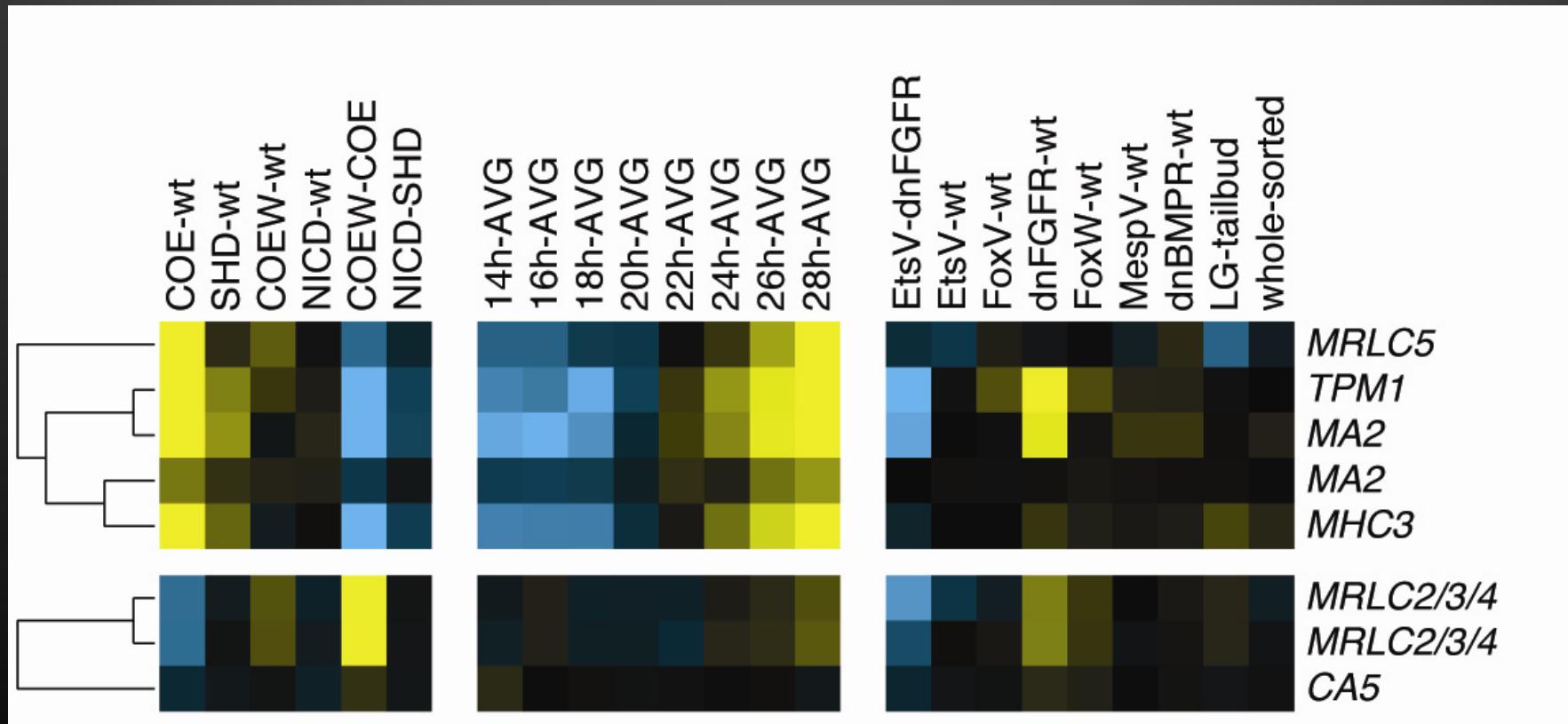


Florian Razy

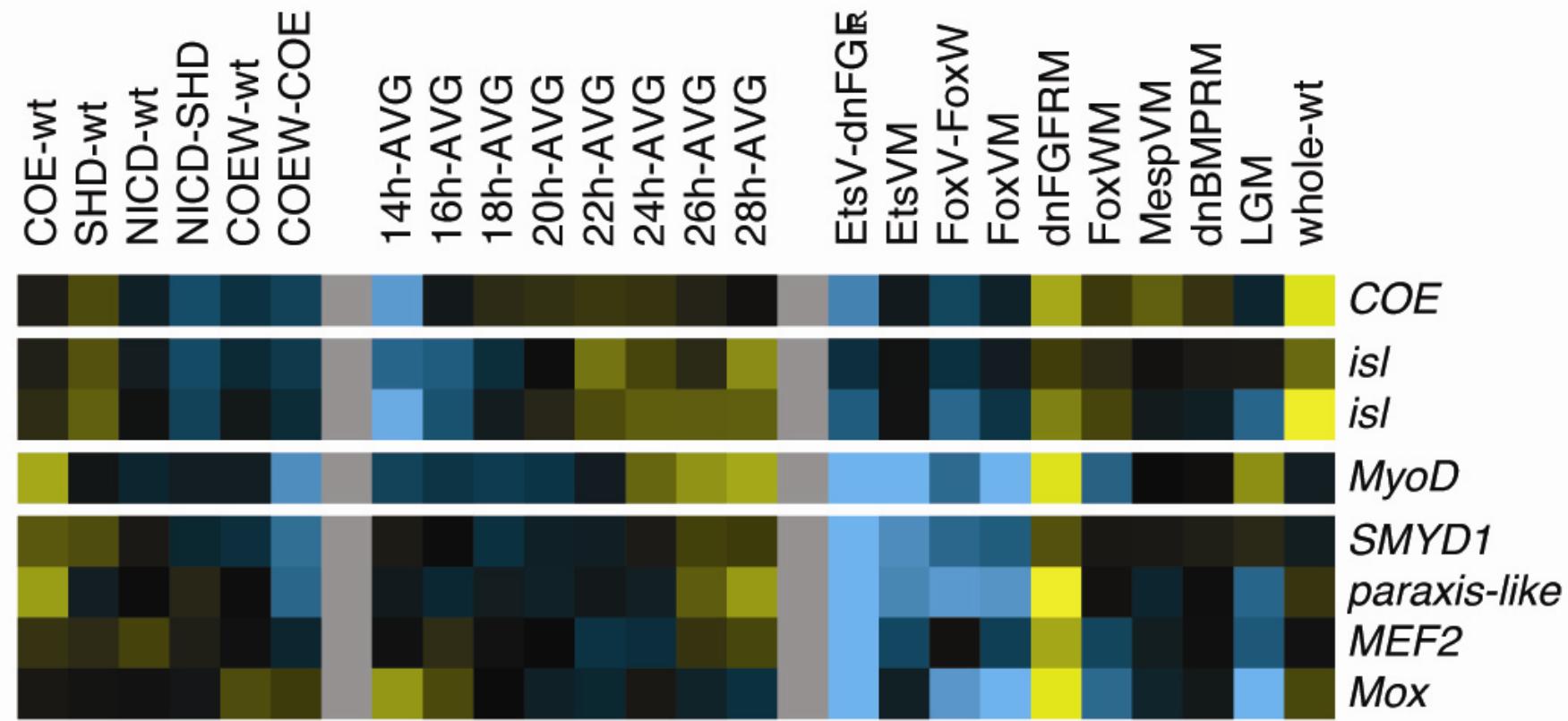
# Several candidate ASM genes are skeletal muscle genes



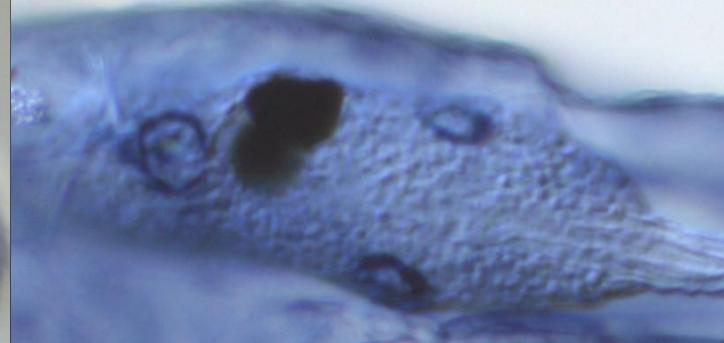
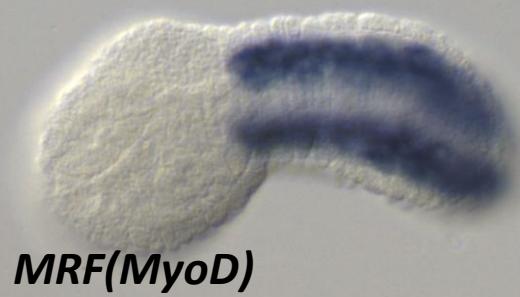
# Re-activation of muscle gene batteries?



# Essential Muscle Regulators are activated downstream of COE

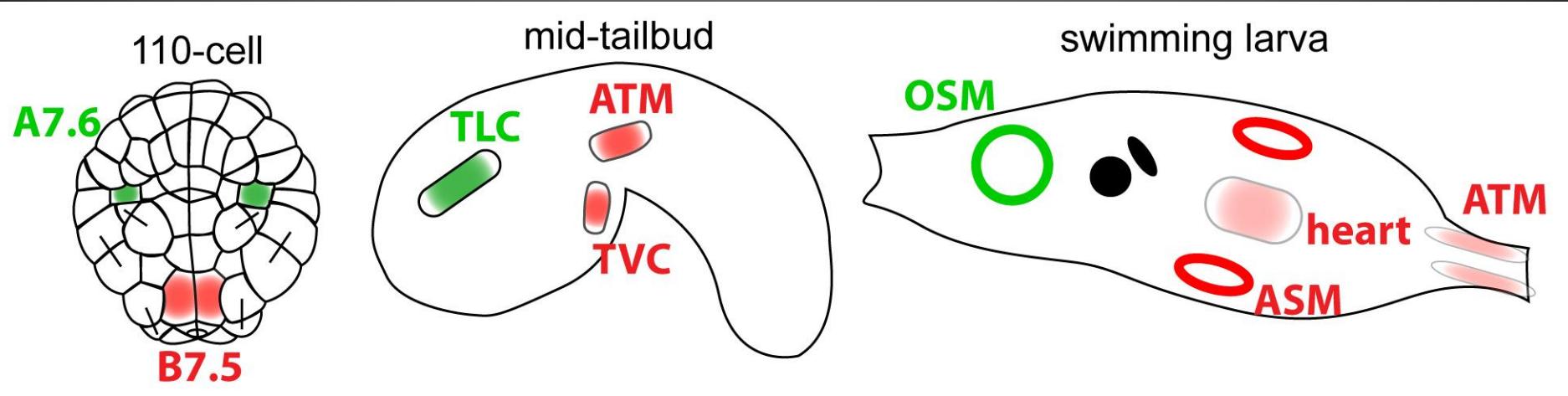


14/18 new  
ASM markers  
Also in OSM

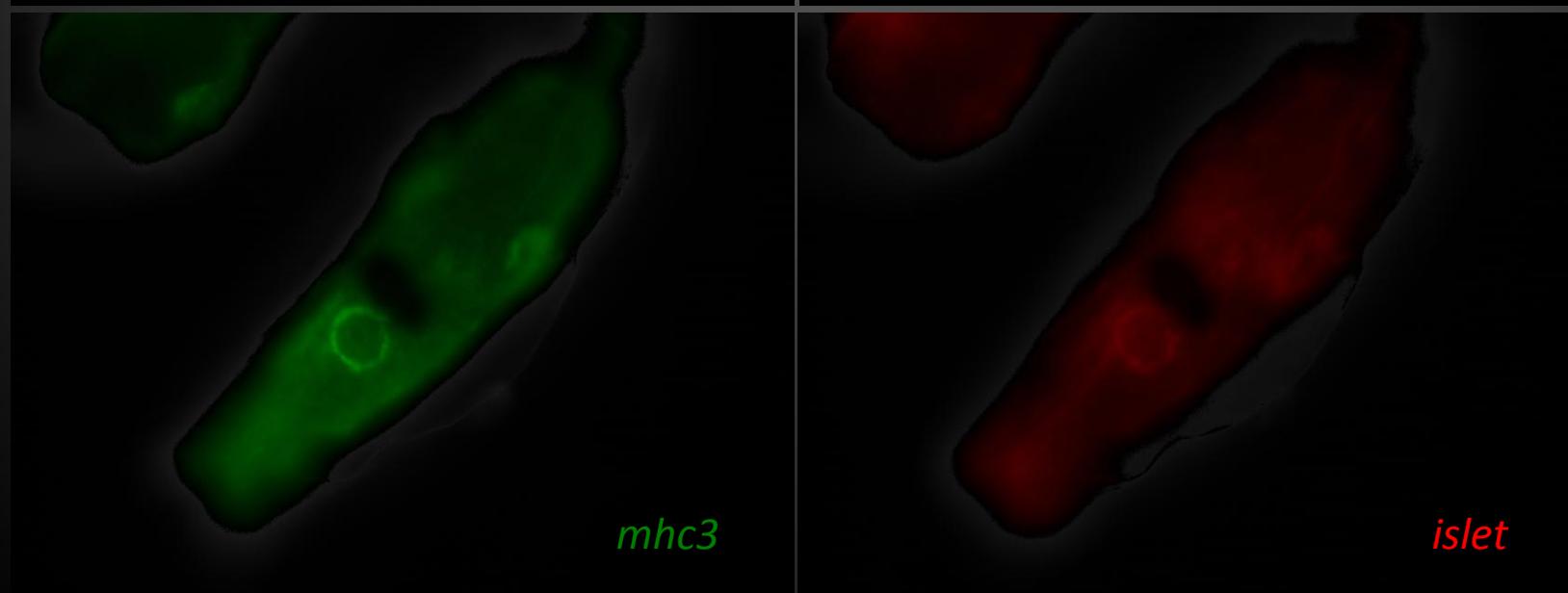
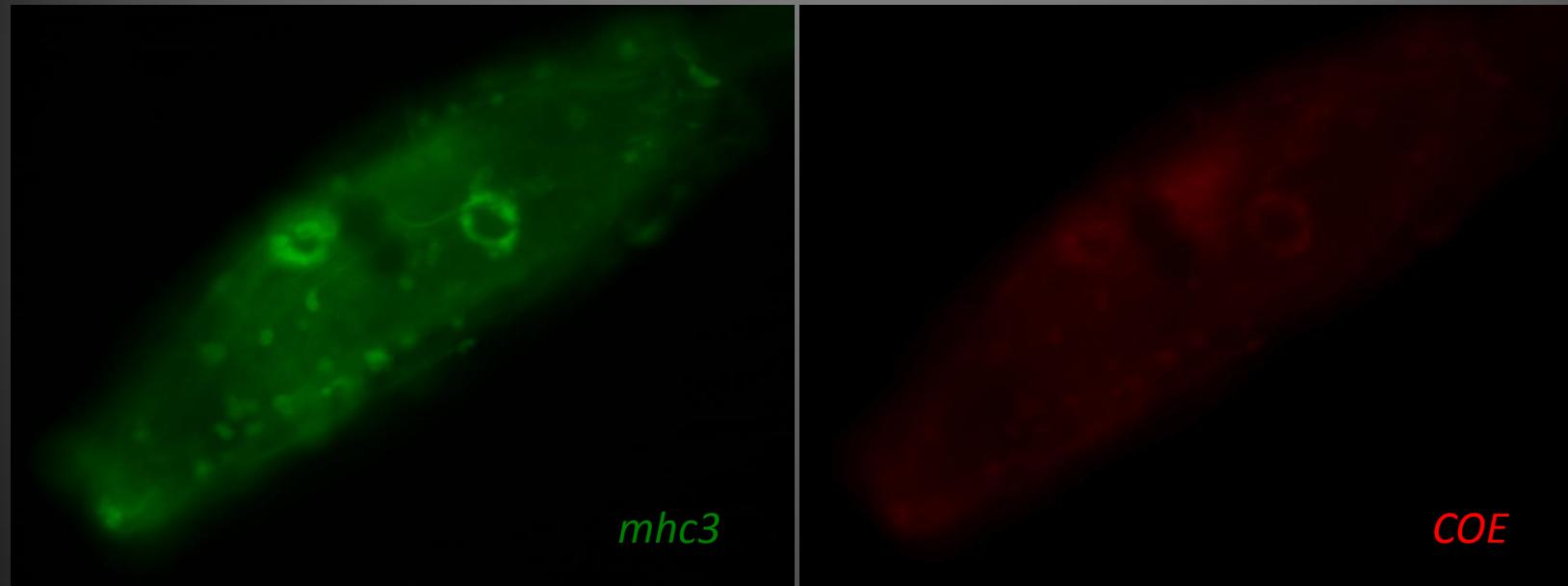


Florian Razy

# ASM and Oral Siphon Muscles (OSM) derive from distinct lineages



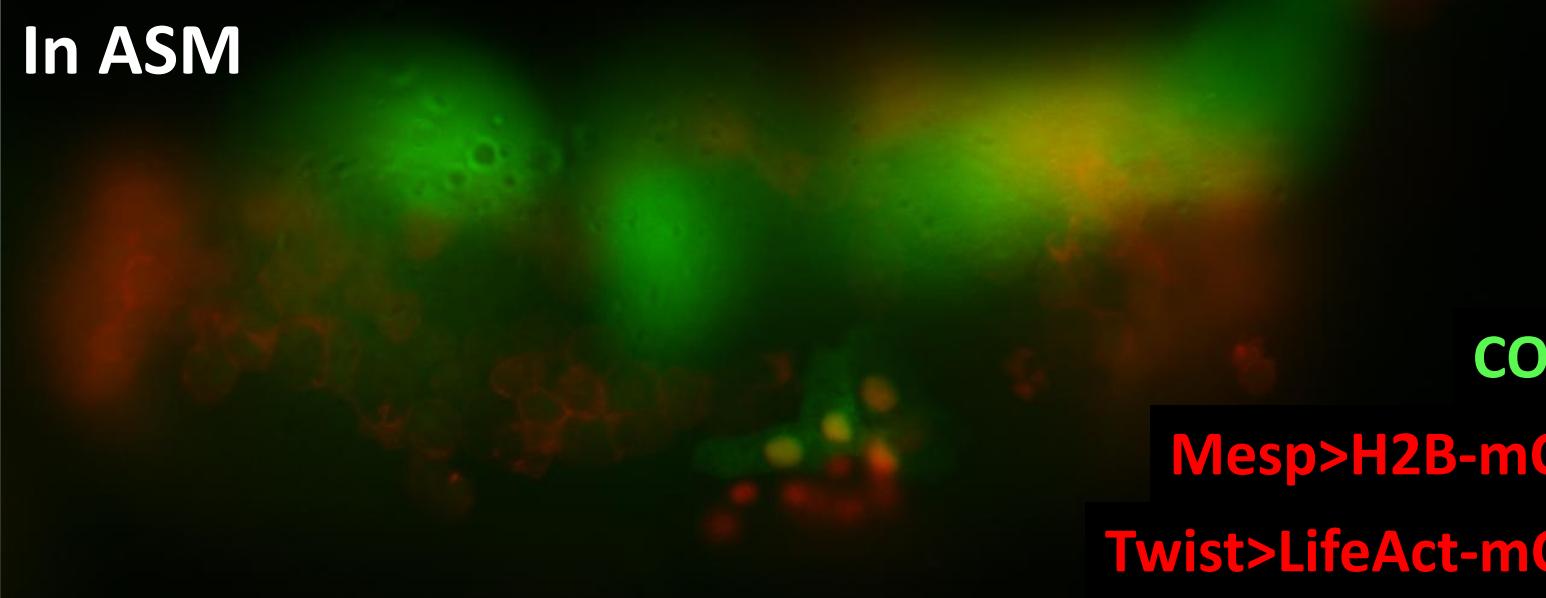
COE, islet and MHC3 are co-expressed in ASM and OSM



Theadora  
Tolkin

# The COE enhancer is expressed

In ASM



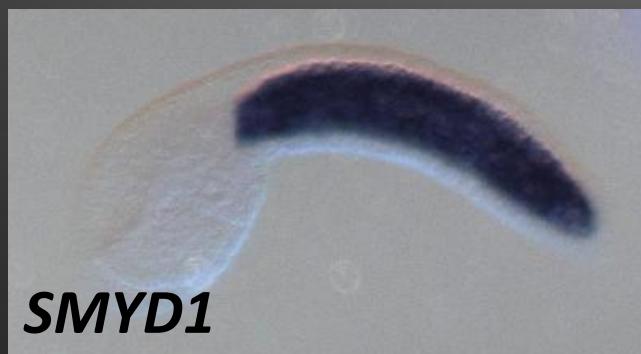
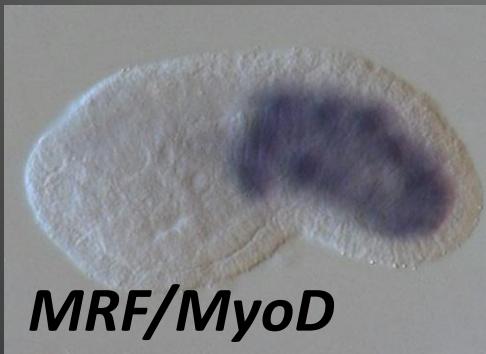
COE>YFP

Mesp>H2B-mCherry

Twist>LifeAct-mCherry

and OSM

# Skeletal Muscle regulators are expressed in muscle precursors but not *COE* and *Islet*



*Imai et al., Development, 2004*

# Independent activation of a “muscle regulatory module” in the ASM and OSM(?)

I-ary and II-ary Muscles

ATM

Macho-1, ZicL  
Tbx6 genes

OSM(?)

OSM

ASM

A7.6/TLC inputs

B7.5/TVC inputs

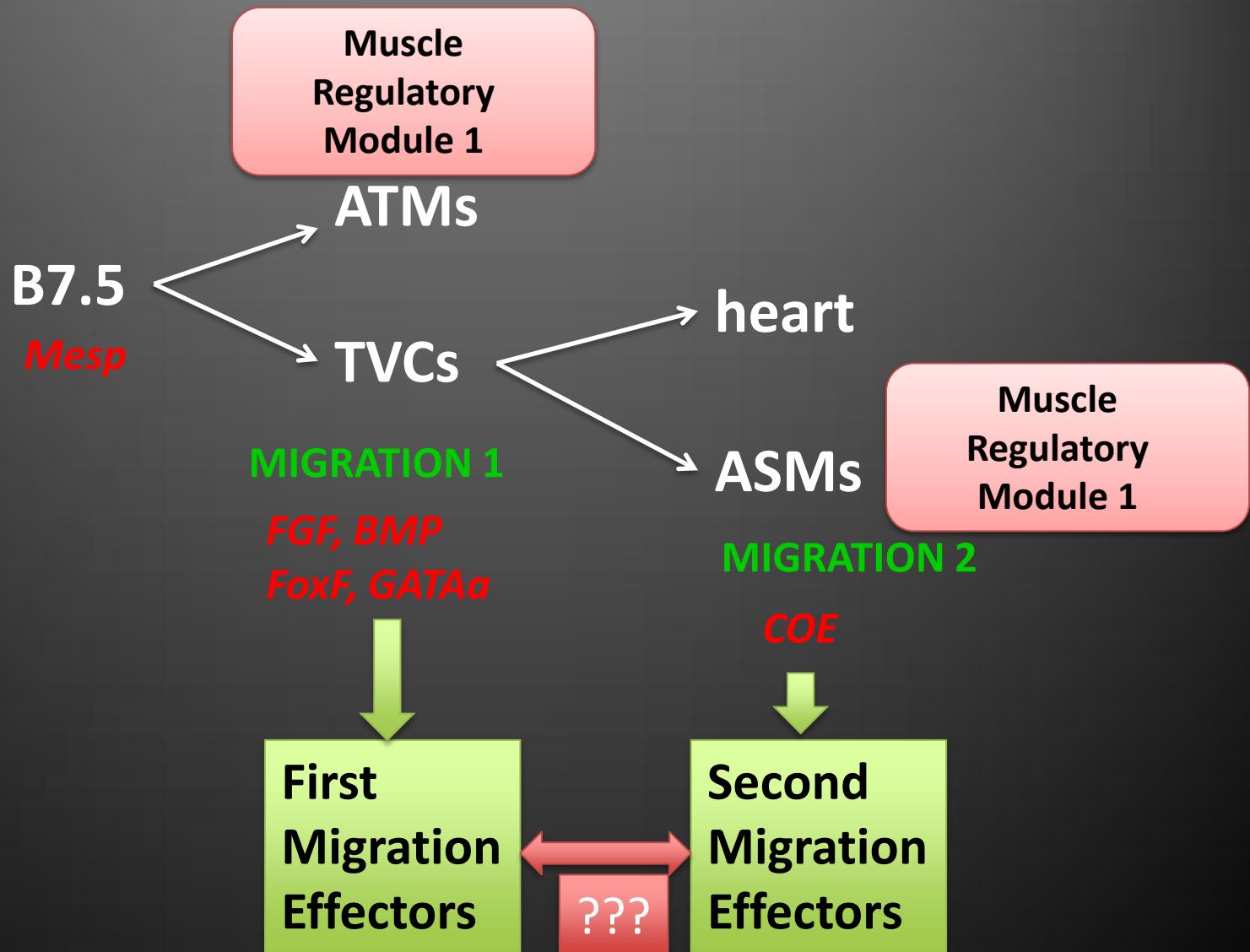
COE, Islet  
Siphon Muscle plug-in

Generic Muscle Regulators  
(MyoD, MEF2, SMYD1, Paraxis)

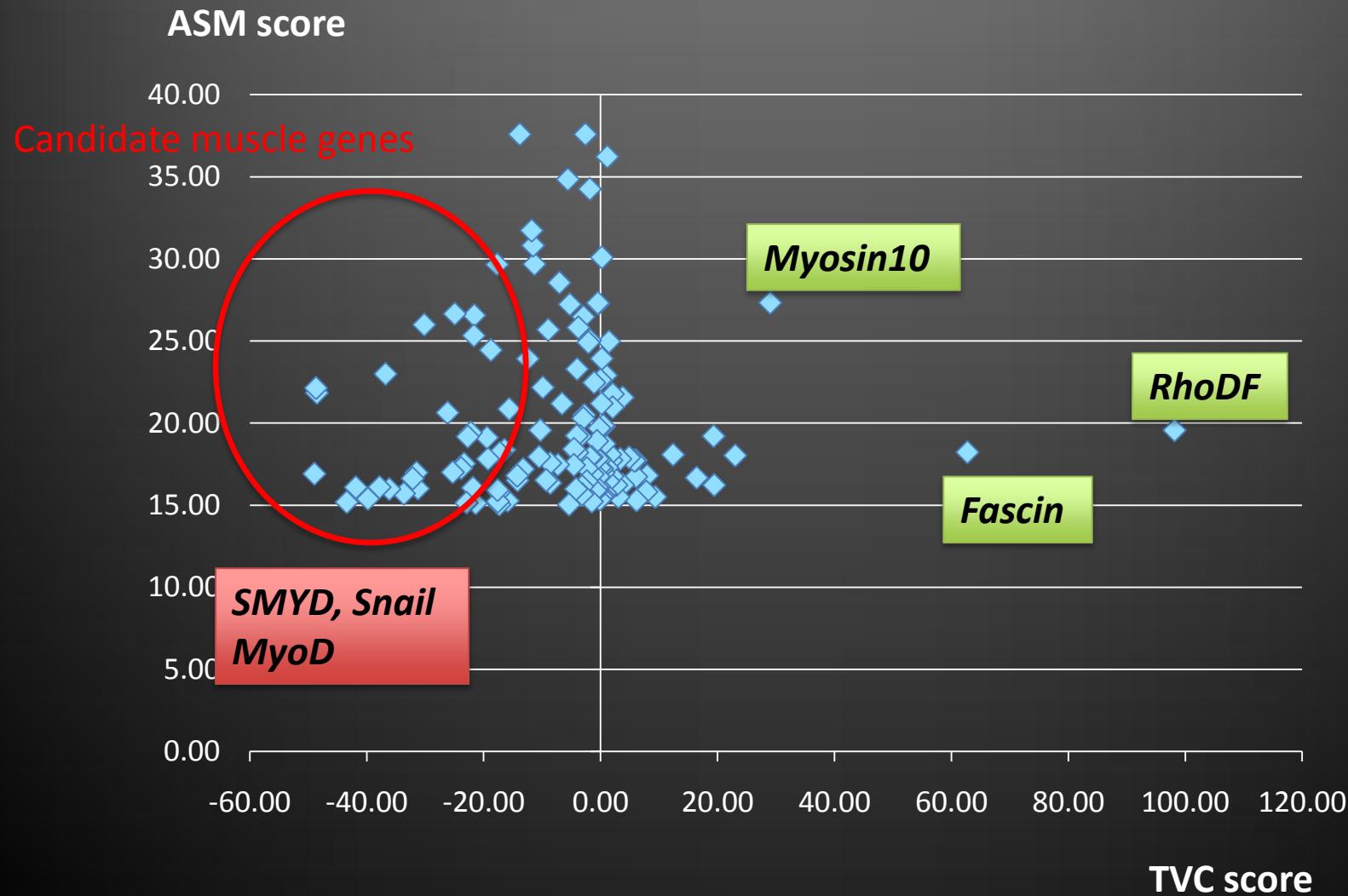
Muscle Differentiation Genes  
(Actin, Myosin, Tropomyosin, etc...)

**Muscle Regulatory Module 1**

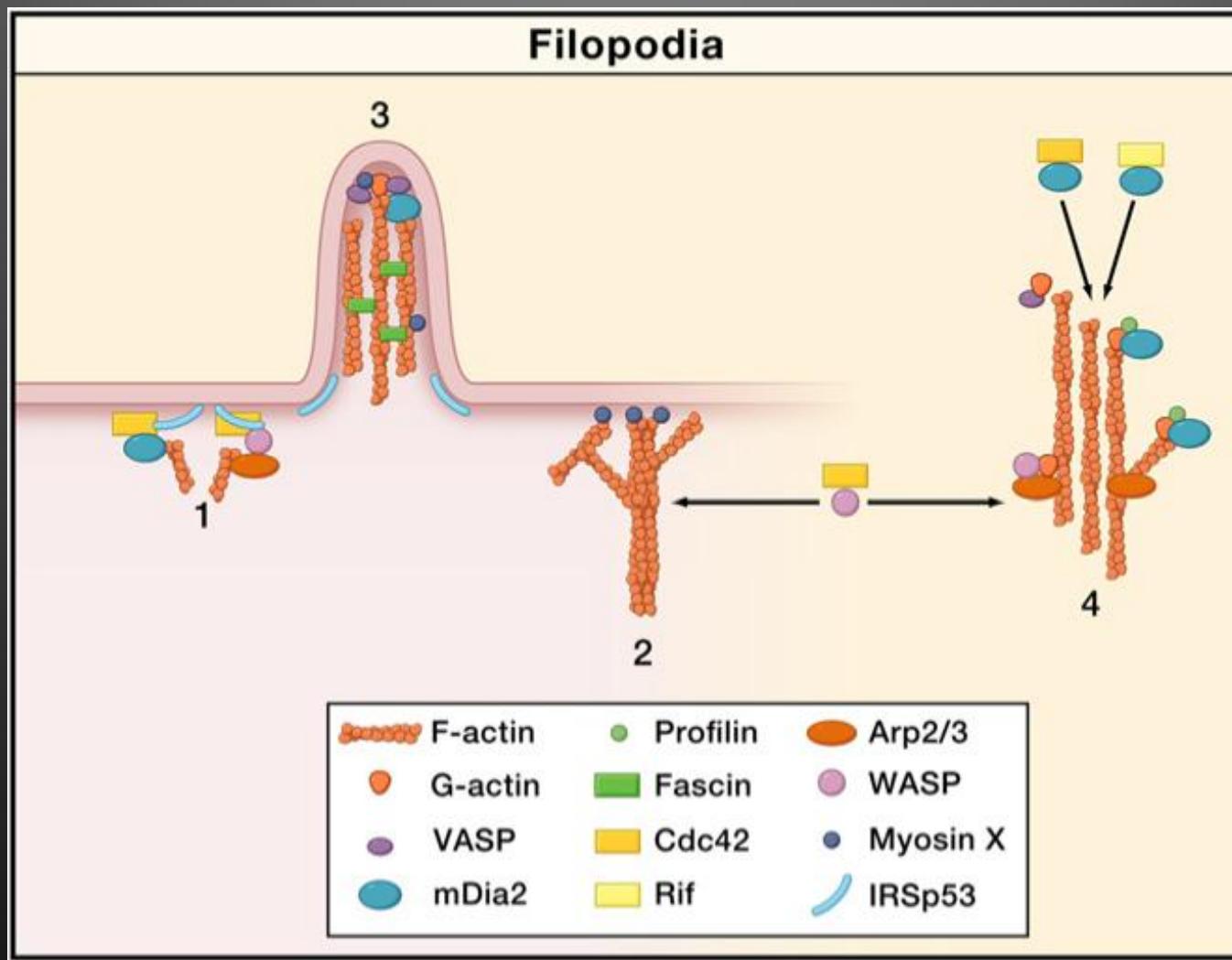
# Searching for migration gene batteries



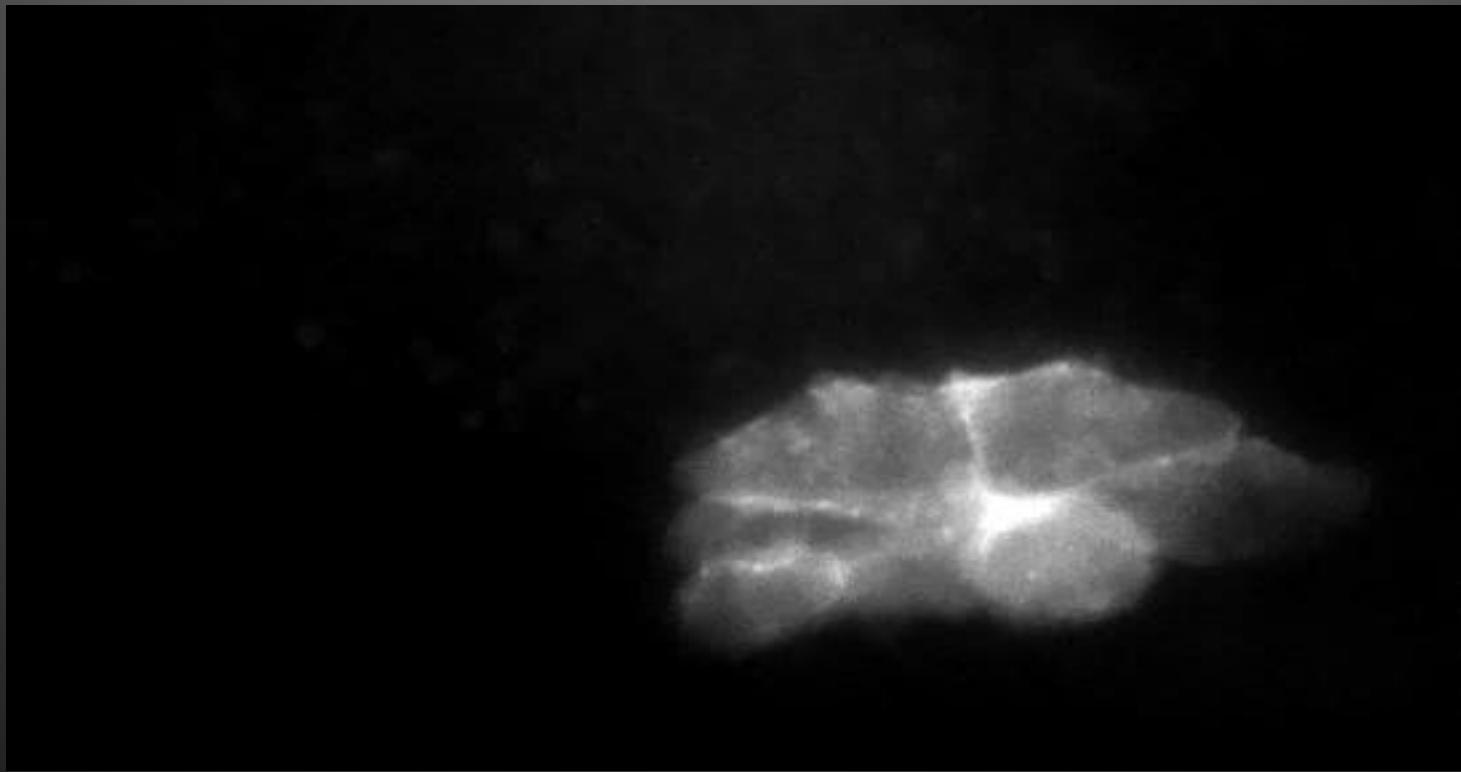
# Most ASM candidates have low TVC scores



# RhoDF, Fascin and Myosin10 homologs have been implicated in the formation of filopodia



Ridley, Cell, 2011



# summary

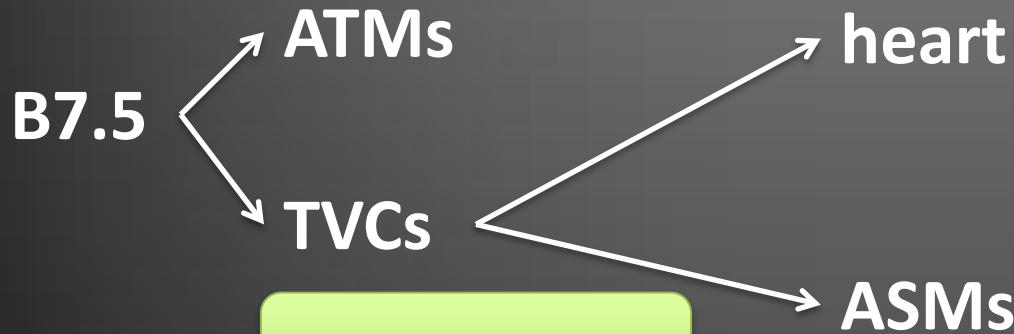
A7.6



TLC



OSM



Siphon Muscle plug-in  
(COE, Islet)

Muscle  
Regulatory  
Module 1

MIGRATION 1

Filopodia  
effectors

Migration-specific  
Receptors and signaling

MIGRATION 2

Filopodia  
effectors

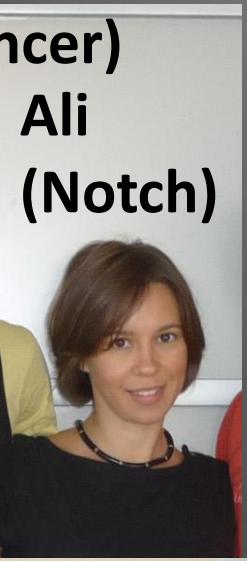
Migration-specific  
Receptors and signaling

# Acknowledgements

Eric

(COE enhancer)

Ali  
(Notch)



Florian  
(FACS/array)



Renee  
(HESb)



Emily

Nikki



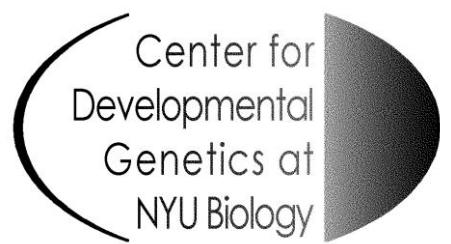
Katherine



Wei



Dylan



American Heart Association  
*Learn and Live*



Levine lab  
Alberto Stolfi  
T. Blair Gainous  
Mike Levine