



# Retinal cell therapy using iPS cells

Center for Developmental Biology, **RIKEN**

Laboratory for Retinal Regeneration

Kobe City Medical Center **General Hospital**

Ophthalmology department

Institute of Biomedical Research and **Innovation Hospital**

Ophthalmology section

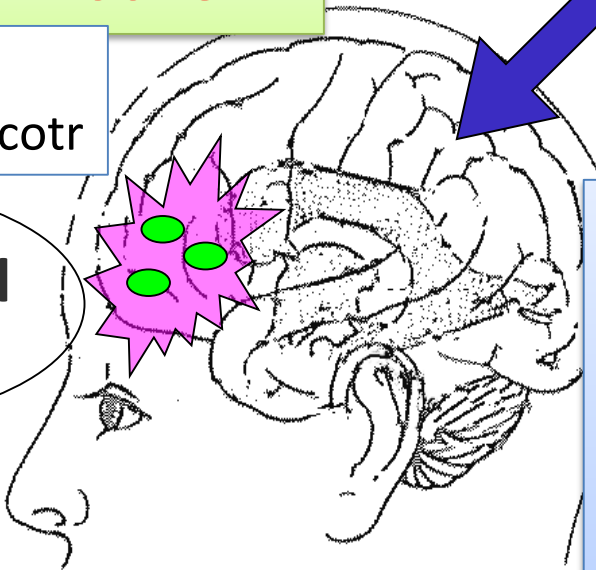
**Masayo Takahashi MD, PhD**

# Regeneration of central nervous system using stem cells

## 1. . Regeneration from intrinsic stem cells

Mitotic factor  
Differentiation facotr

intrinsic neural stem cells



embryonic tissue neural stem cell

## 2. Transpla

Functional cell  
Mature cell  
Enough amount

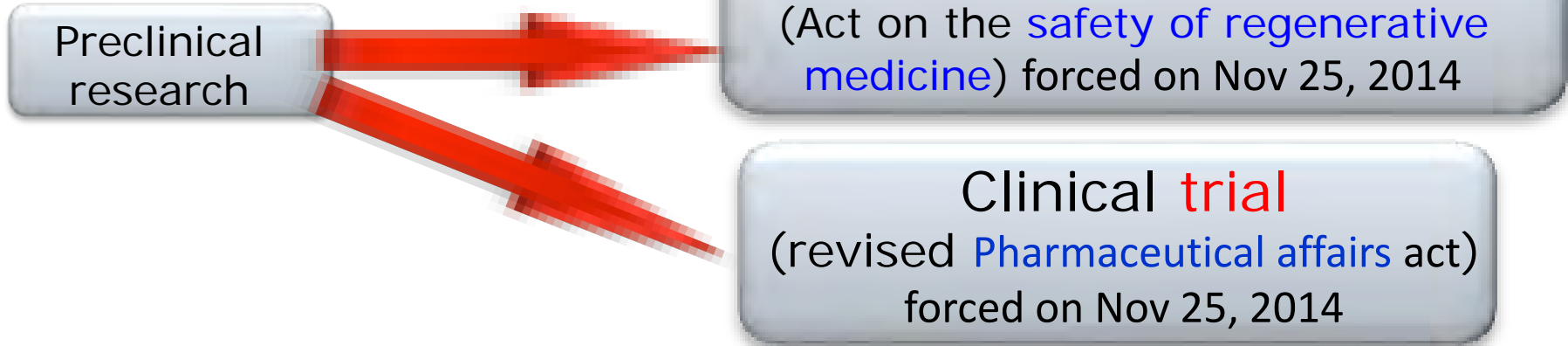
A Replacement therapy

B Trophic effect

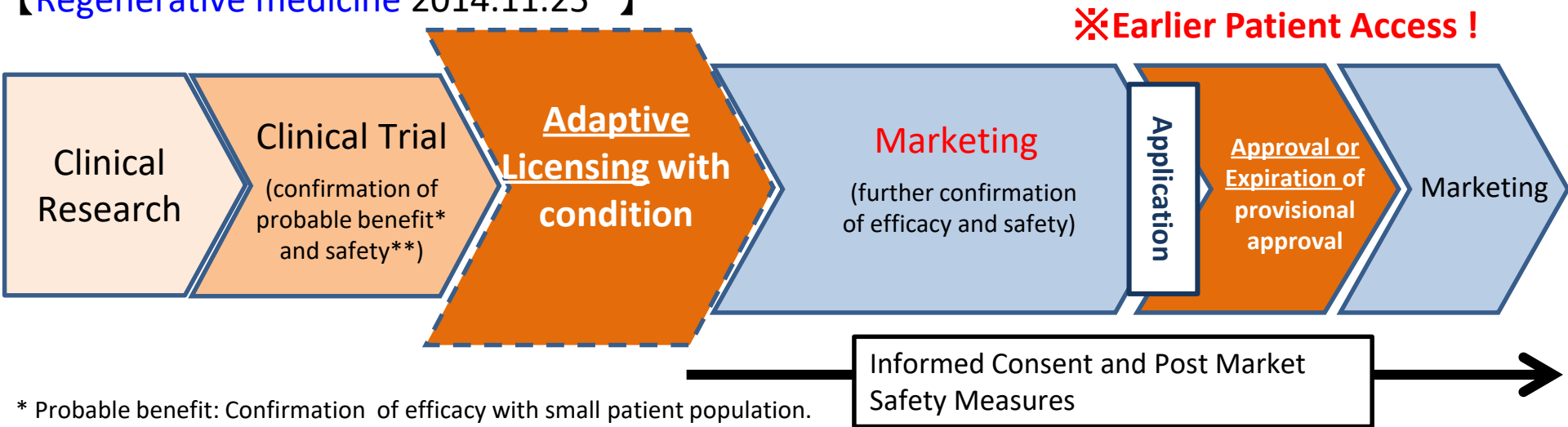
Trophic factor  
Immature cell  
Small amount

# Regulation for cell therapy in Japan

Enforcement 2015.11.25~

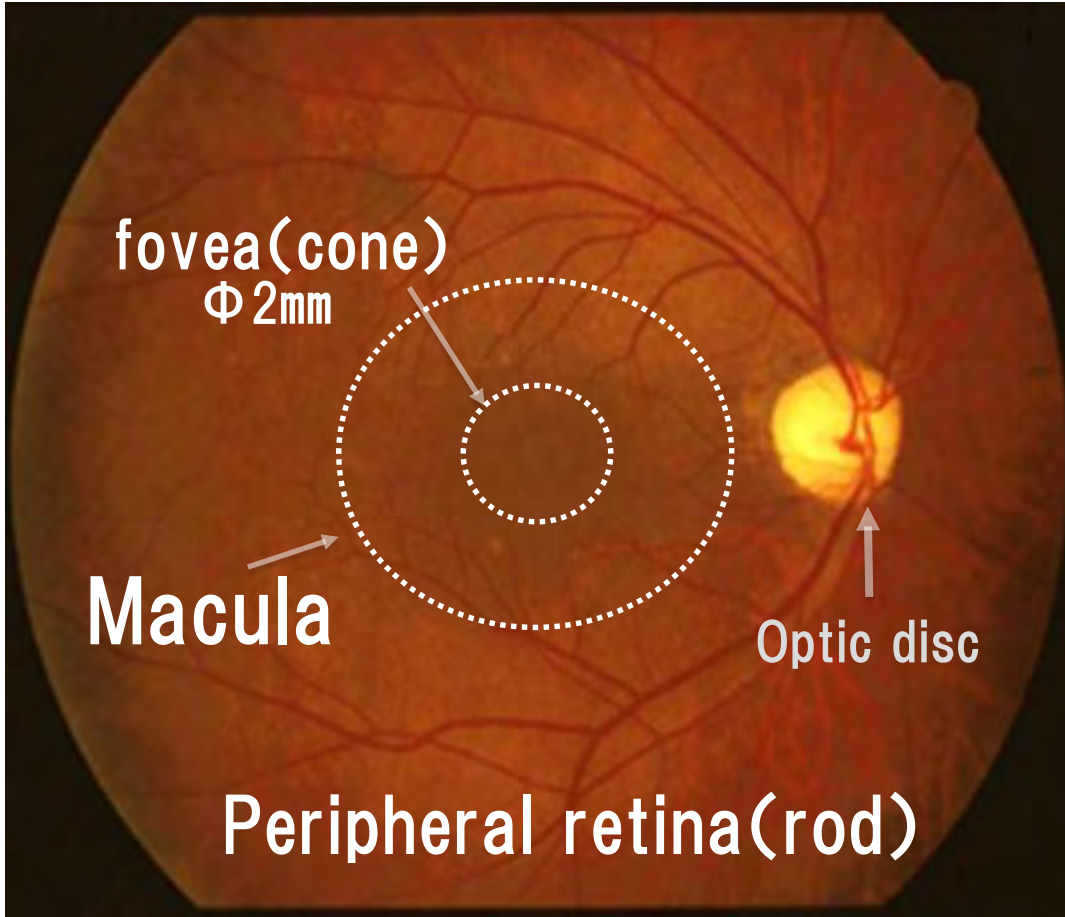


【**Regenerative medicine** 2014.11.25~】

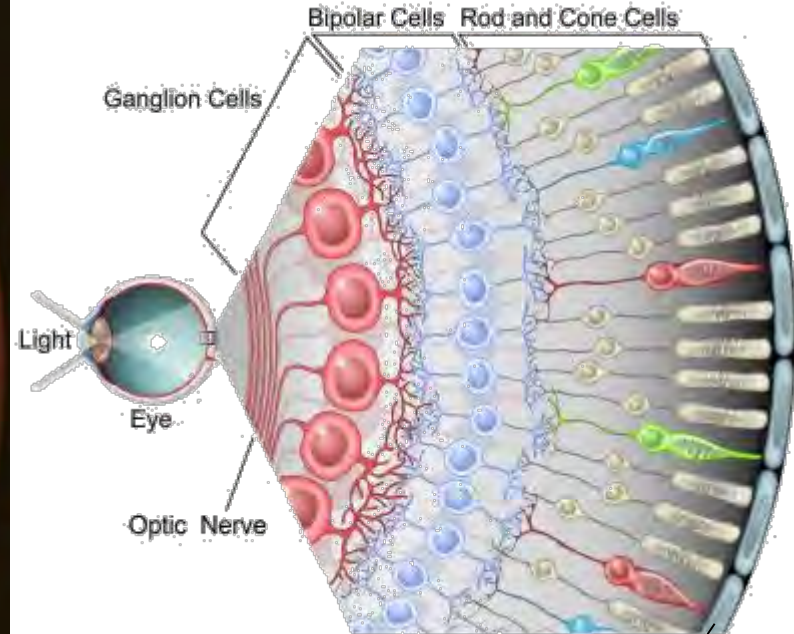


\* Probable benefit: Confirmation of efficacy with small patient population.  
 \*\* Safety: Earlier detection and evaluation of adverse events.

# Retina

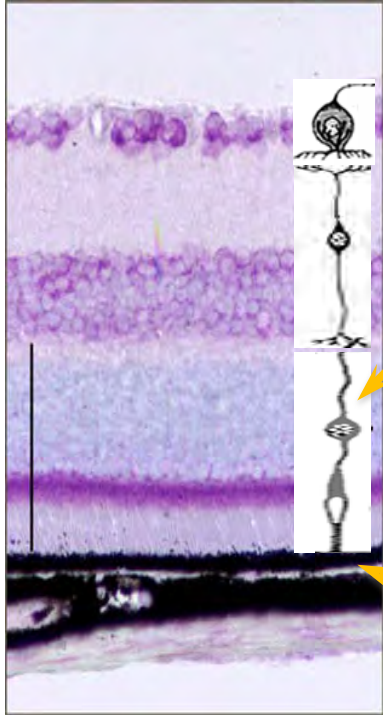


Fundus



Retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)

# Retinal cell transplantation



## Photoreceptor (for Retinitis pigmentosa)

### *Issue*

- Structure of photoreceptor cells
- Purification
- Functional connection with the host's neurons

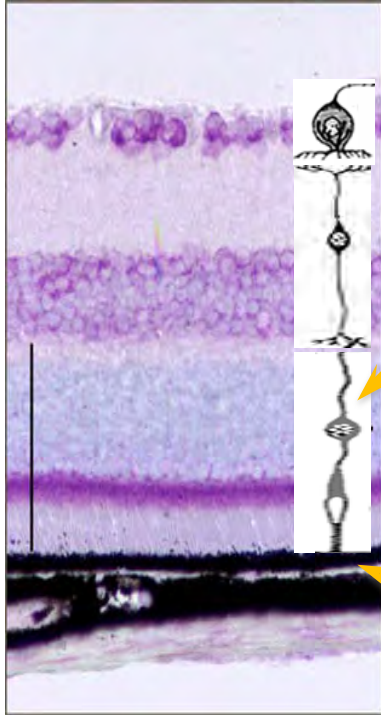
## RPE cells (for AMD)

- Started clinical study (Safety)

### *Issue*

- Variety of cell forms
- Efficacy

# Retinal cell transplantation



## Photoreceptor (for Retinitis pigmentosa)

### *Issue*

Structure of photoreceptor cells

Purification

Functional connection with the host's neurons

## RPE cells (for AMD)

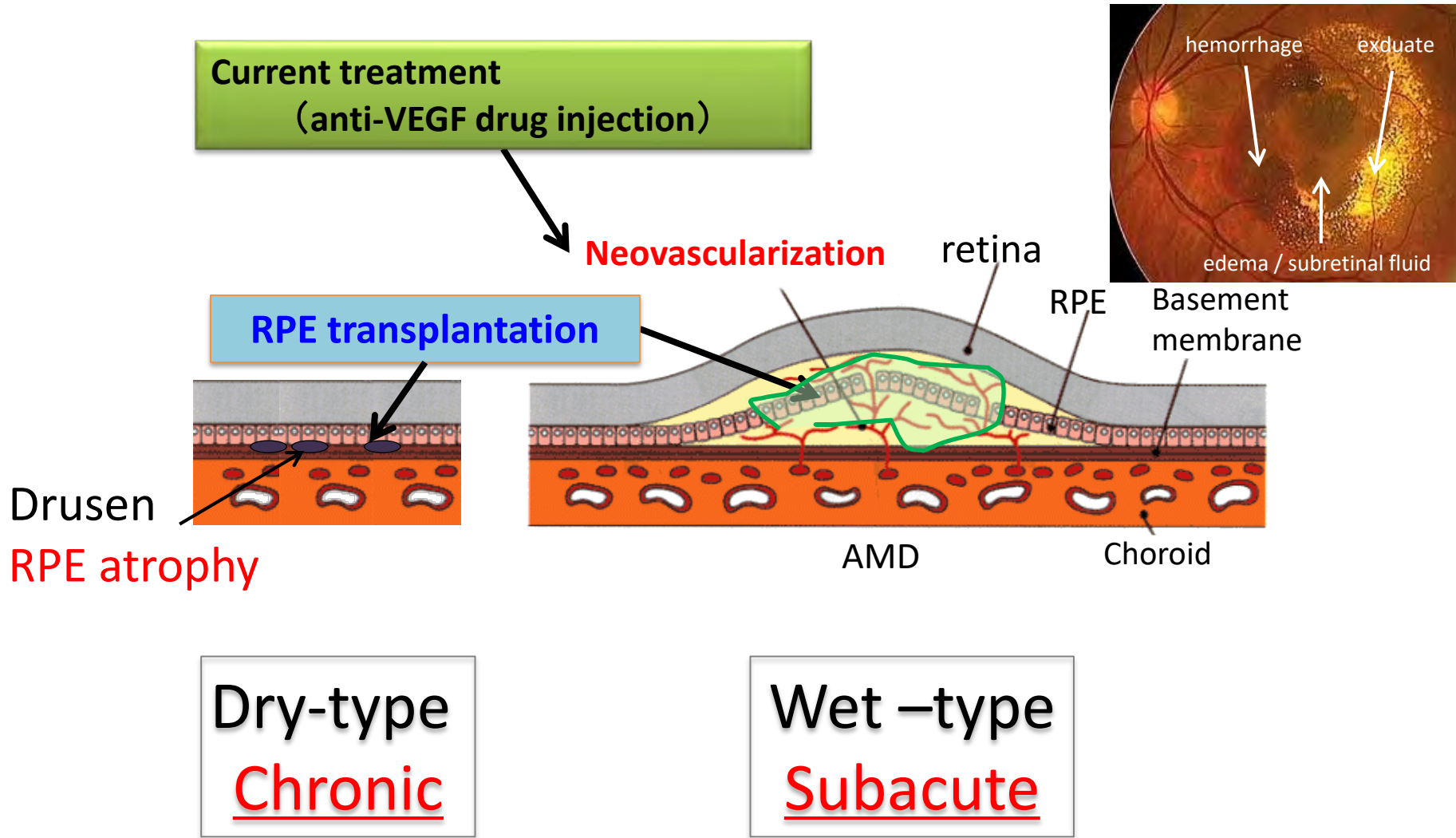
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### *Issue*

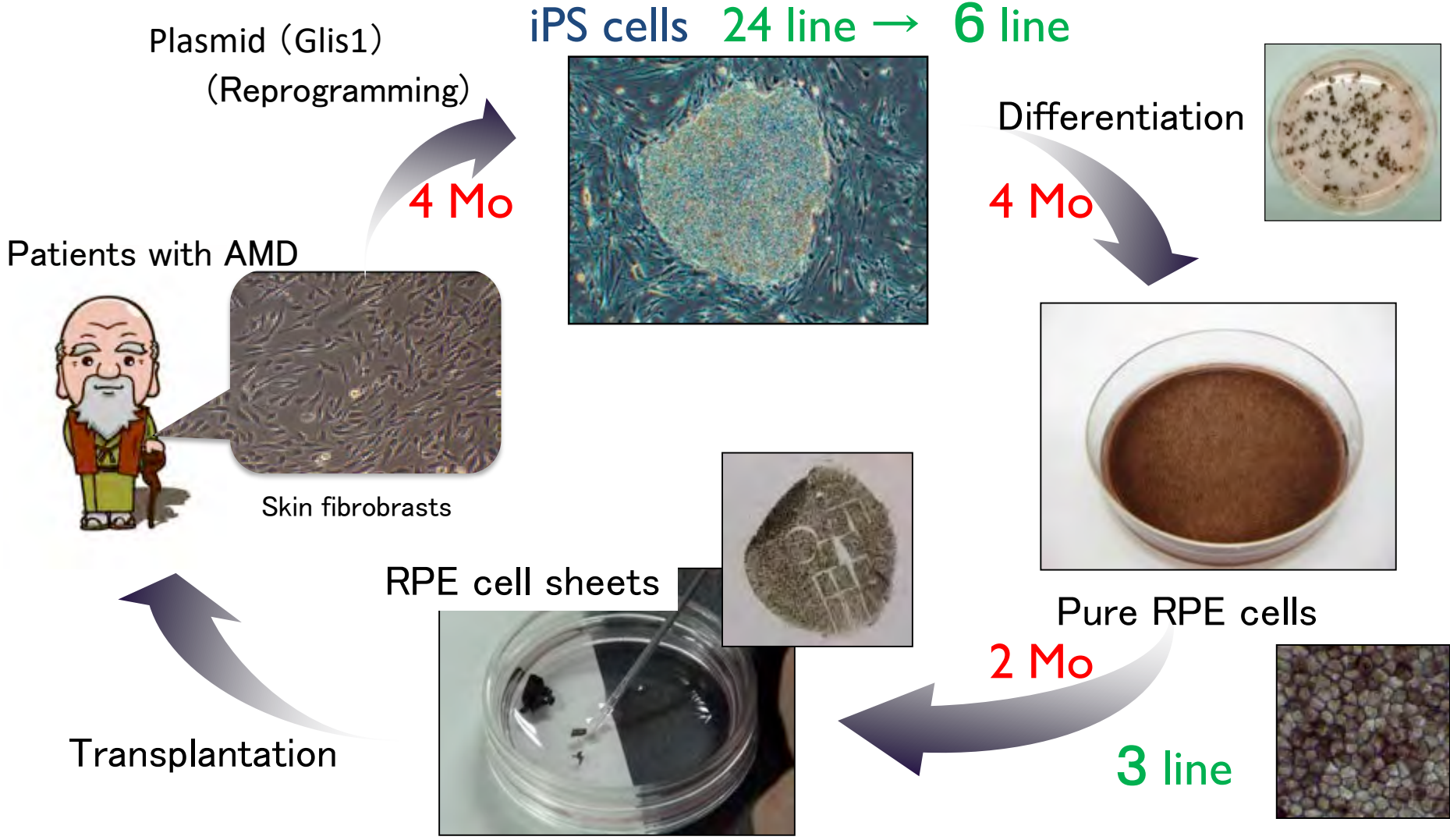
Variety of cell forms

Efficacy

# Age-related macular degeneration (AMD)



# Treatment for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) with hiPS-RPE cell sheets





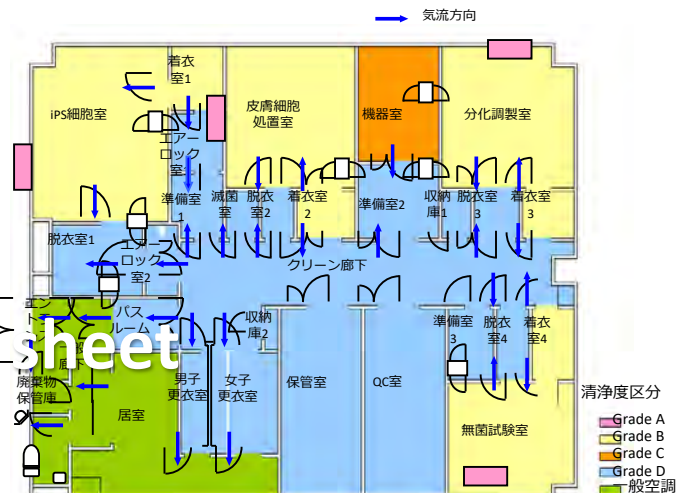
# Cell Processing Facility (CPF)

Skin harvesting from the patient

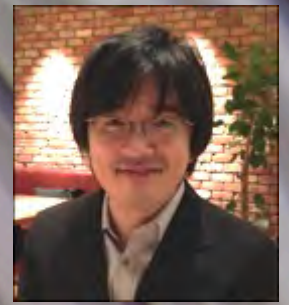


Skin trephine

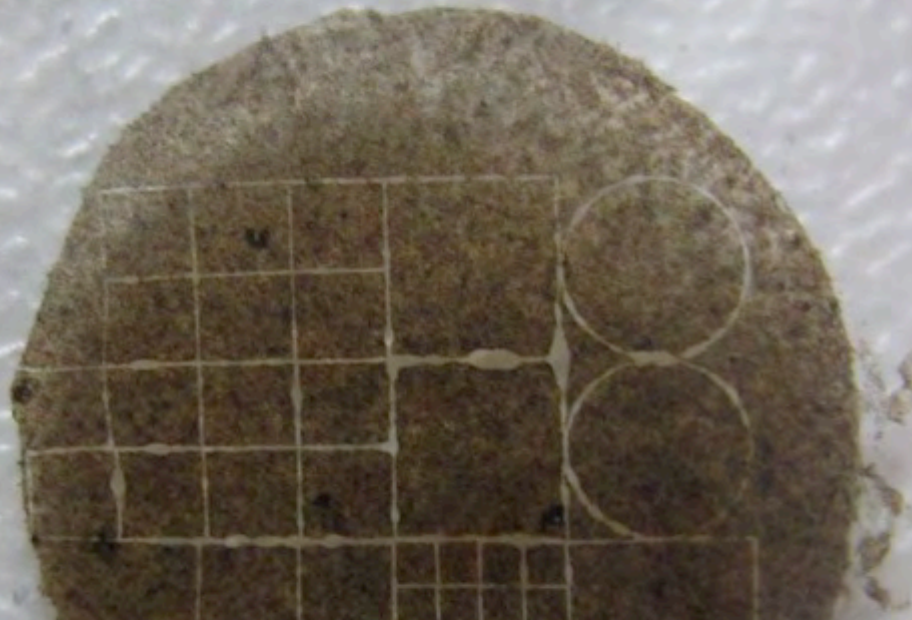
Cell culture in the cell processing facility



# Quality & quantity of hiPSC-RPE cell-sheets

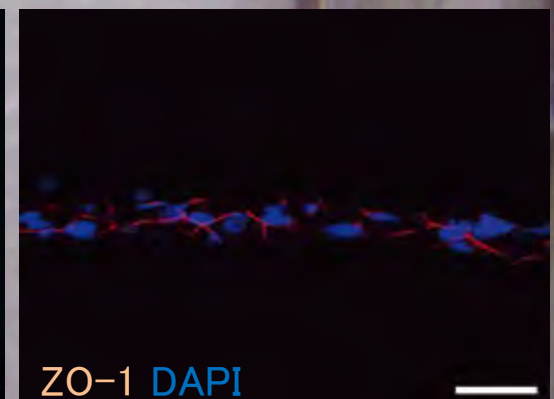
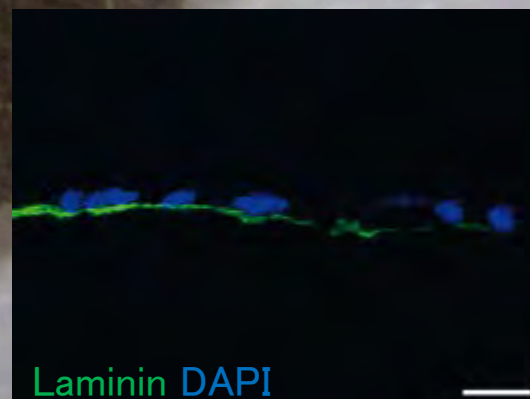
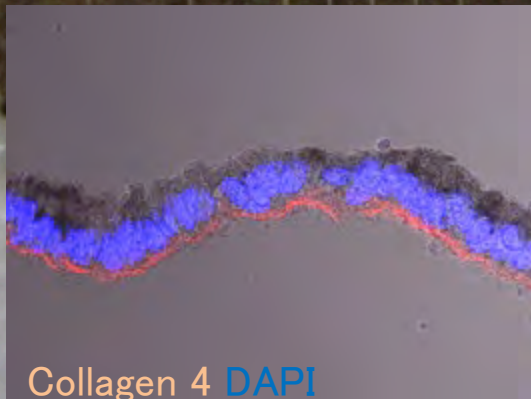


Hiroyuki Kamao

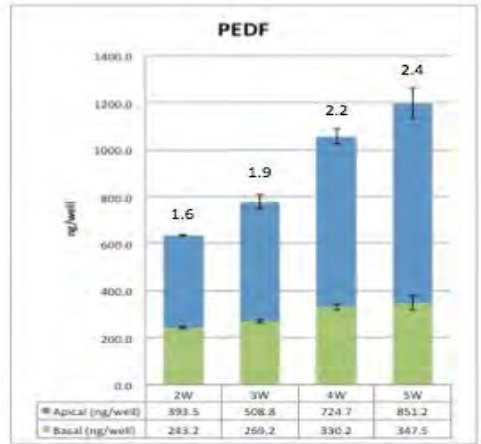
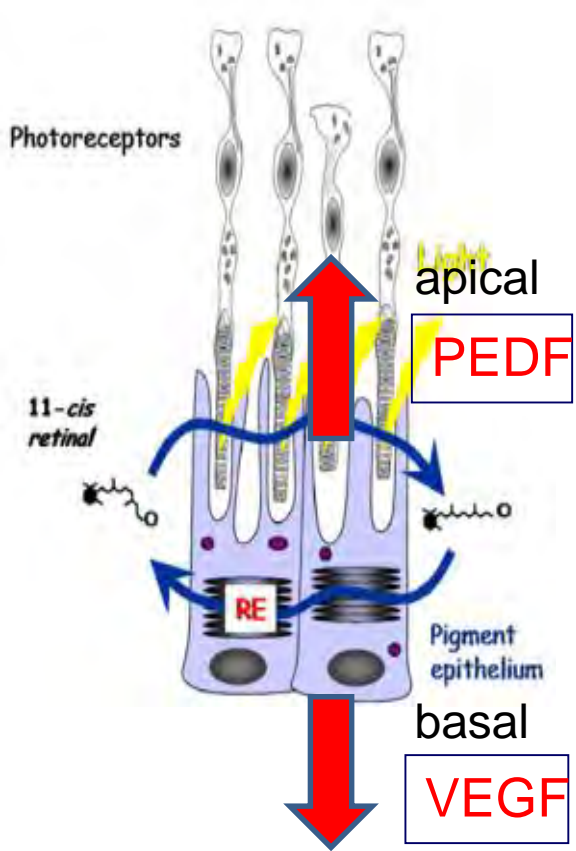


RT-PCR	1	2	3
BEST1			
RPE65			
MERTK			
CRALBP			
GAPDH			

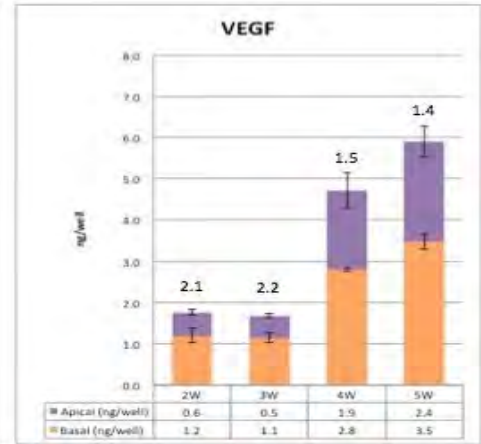
1. 1w after  
2. 4w after  
3. Human RPE



# Monitoring points : RPE function

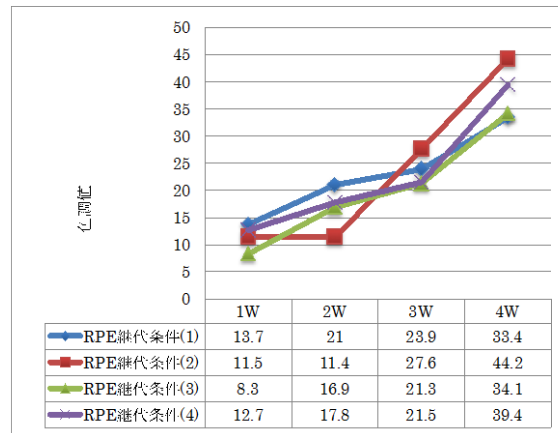


PEDF

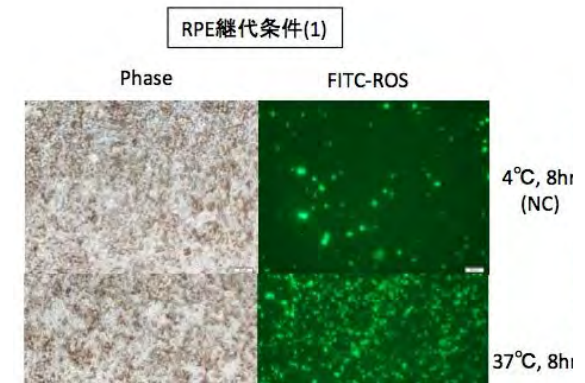


Growth factors

VEGF

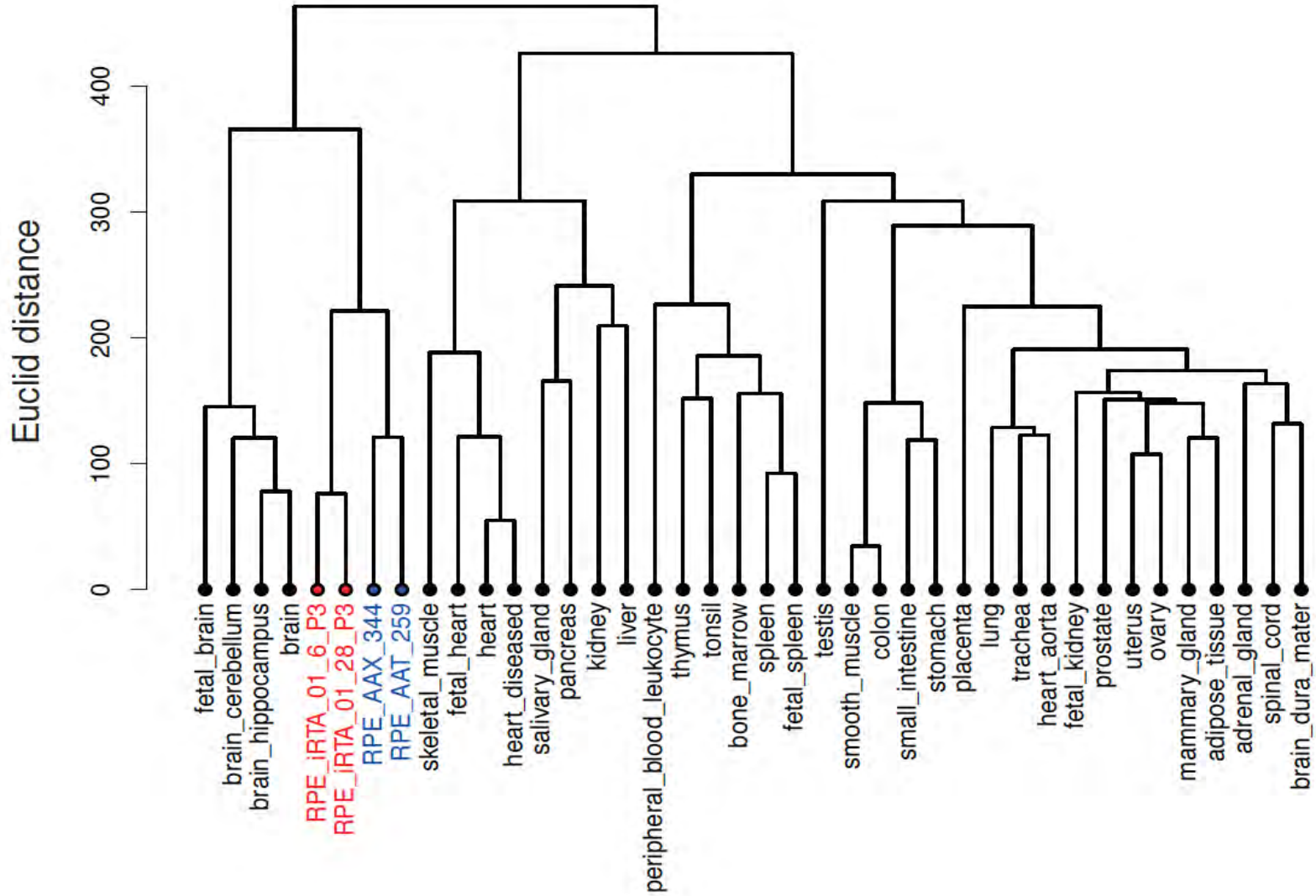


Color



Phagocytosis

# Cluster analysis of gene expression profiles



# RPE & Tumors

- No report of **metastatic tumor** ever in the history
  - Even in the familial tumor patients  
=various cancer formation with hereditary  
**oncogene (ex. p53) mutations**  
**only hyperplasia of RPE occurs**
  - **PEDF (pigment epithelial derived factor)**  
= strong antitumor factor

Cells

- Eye ball is full of **Retinoic Acid** = antitumor factor

Environment

# Summary of tumorigenicity test

(Kanemura et al.2014 PlosONE)

NOD-SCID mice, subcutaneous,  $1 \times 10^5$  cells in Matrigel

**Purified hiPS-RPE did not generate tumors**

	donor	Vector	# of animal	tumor
<b>1st</b> 2010. 11~2011. 9	RPE cell	Retrovirus Sendai virus Plasmid A	57	<b>0</b>
<b>2nd</b> 2011. 2~2012 4	RPE cell	Plasmid A	11	<b>0</b>
	RPE cell: OCT3/4 remnant+	Plasmid A	7	<b>0</b>
<b>3rd</b> 2012. 3~10	RPE cell	Plasmid B	27	<b>0</b>
<b>4th</b> 2012. 12~2013 7	RPE sheet (subcutaneous+subretinal)	Plasmid B	16	<b>0</b>

The most important thing is ....

**the robust protocol that will not make tumor**  
(even with genetic changes)

Safety issue ( risk size) will be different  
depending on

1. Final cell types
2. Treatment procedure (i.v. or surgery)
3. Host environment (diseases)

# Hazard Level

1. The protocol that sometimes makes tumor in vivo
2. Purity: contamination of tumor cells

↑ Actual hazard difficult to prove negative  
↓ Possible hazard easy to find

3. Genetic change: SNV, Indel, CNV、Plasmid remnant
4. Epigenetic change .....

Regulatory Science

vs

Basic Science



# Requirements for replacement therapy

Quality 1: function

Quality 2: Purity

Kuroda et al. 2012 PlosONE

Quantity: Small amount of cells

Safety: no tumor formation

Kanemura et al. 2013 Scientific report

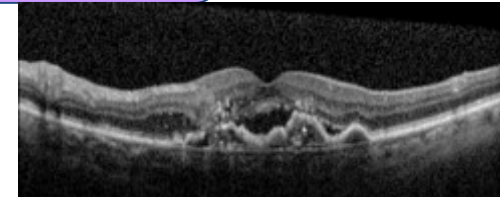
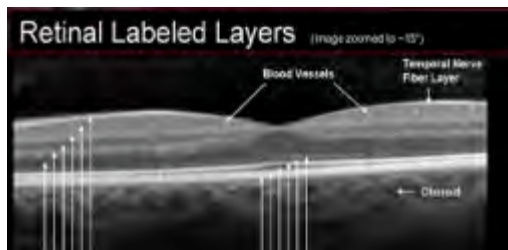
OCT ; fine examination

OCT

OCT



Clinical application



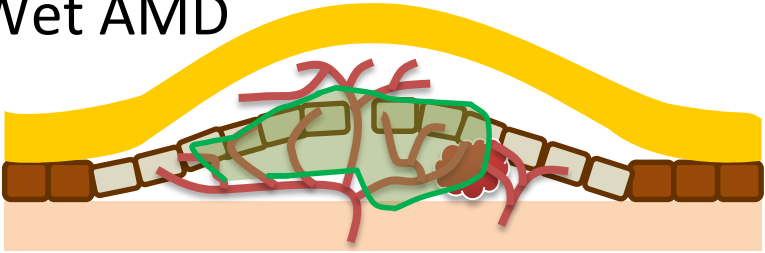
# SURGERY ROOM

(SEP. 12. 2014)

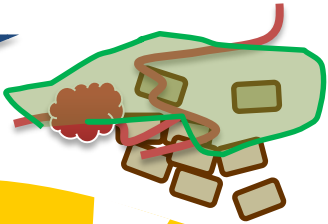


# iPS-RPE sheet transplantation

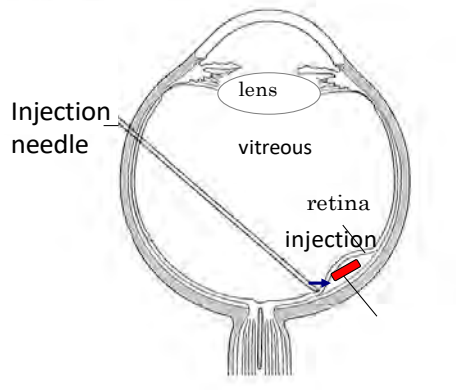
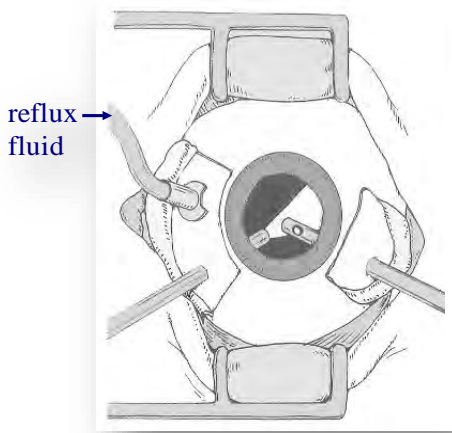
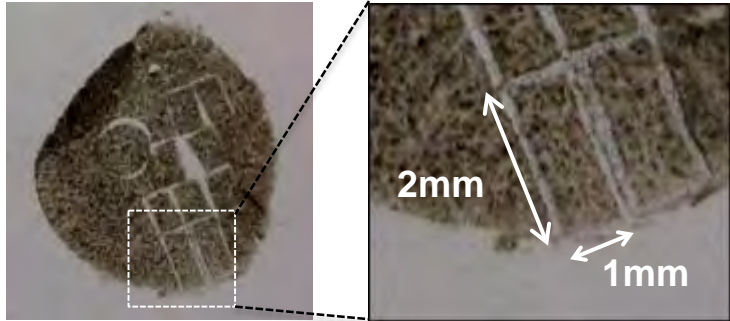
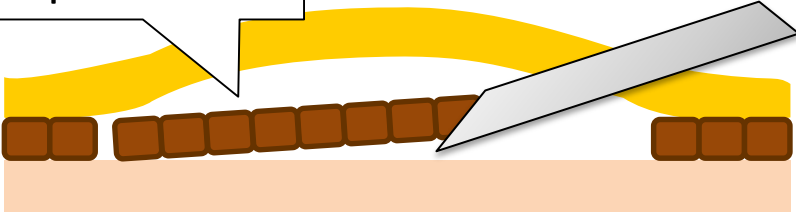
Wet AMD



CNV removal



iPS-RPE sheet transplantation



subretinal injection needle

Animal experiment



# Fundus photograph after the surgery

3 day



1 week



4 week



3 month



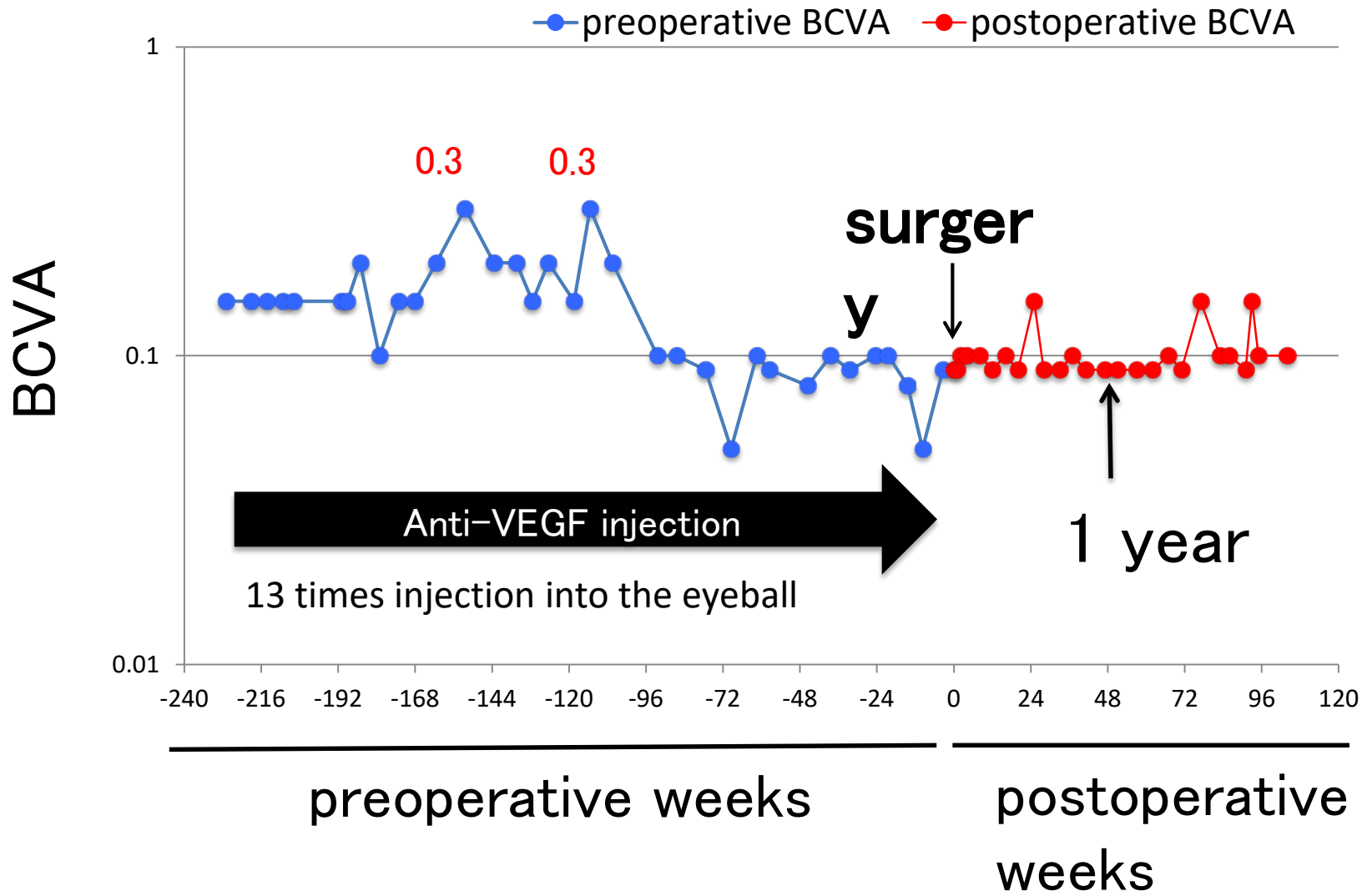
6 month



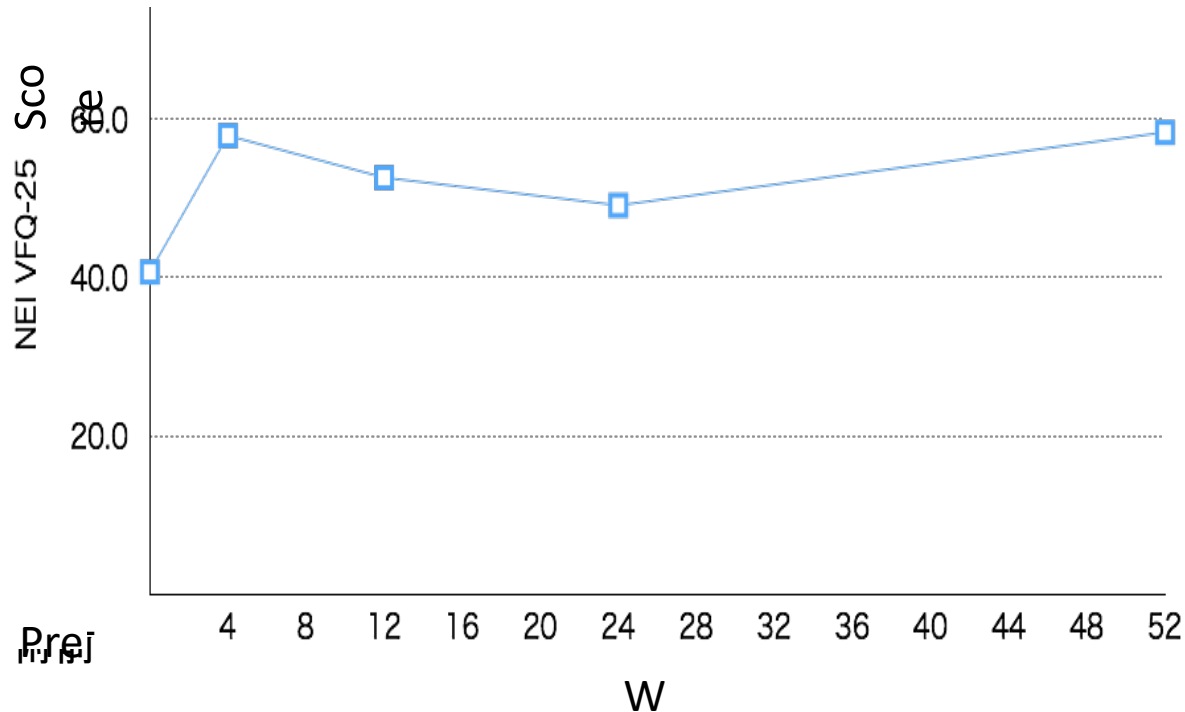
1 year



# Visual acuity before & after the surgery



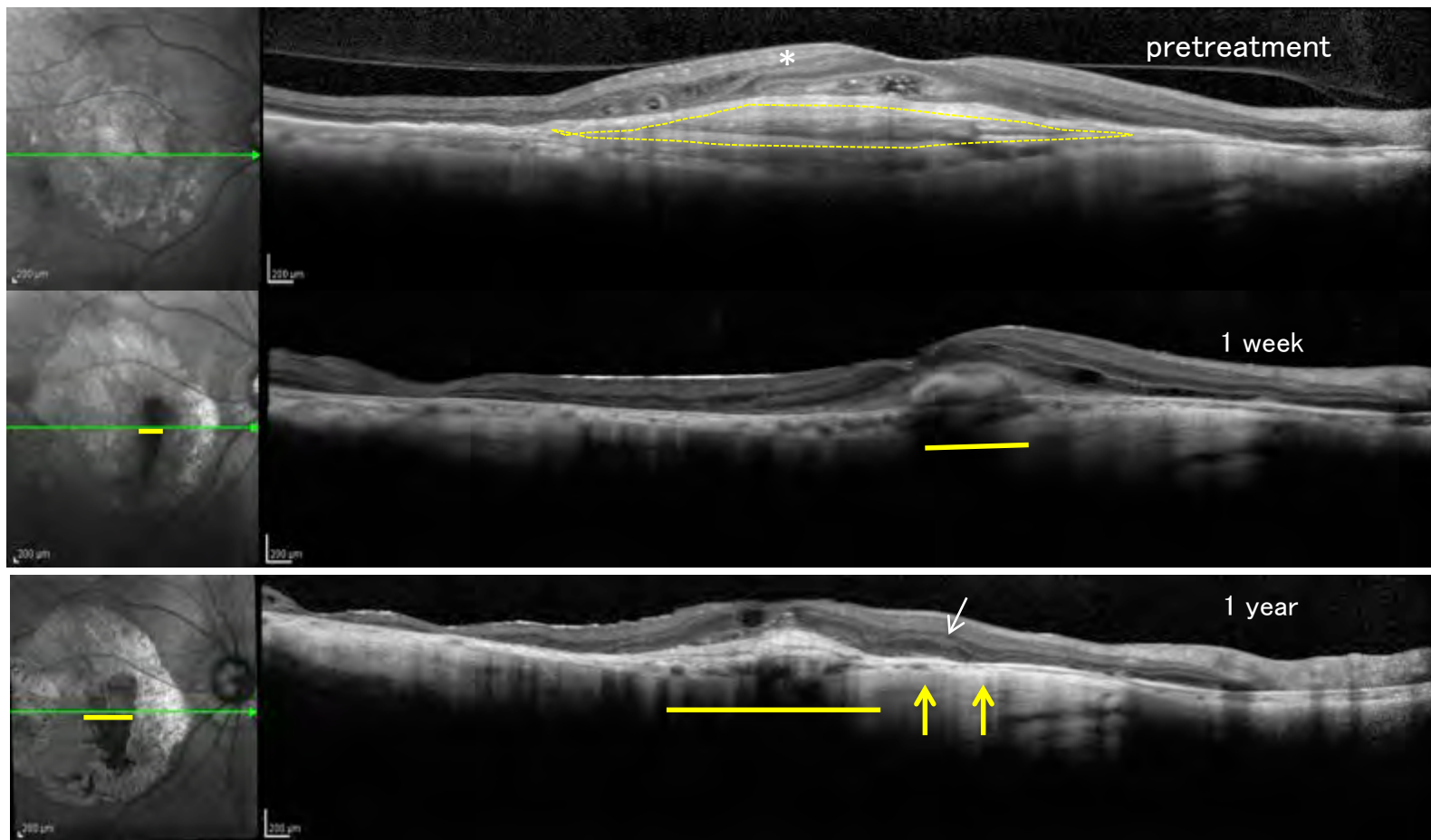
# NEI VFQ-25 (QOL)



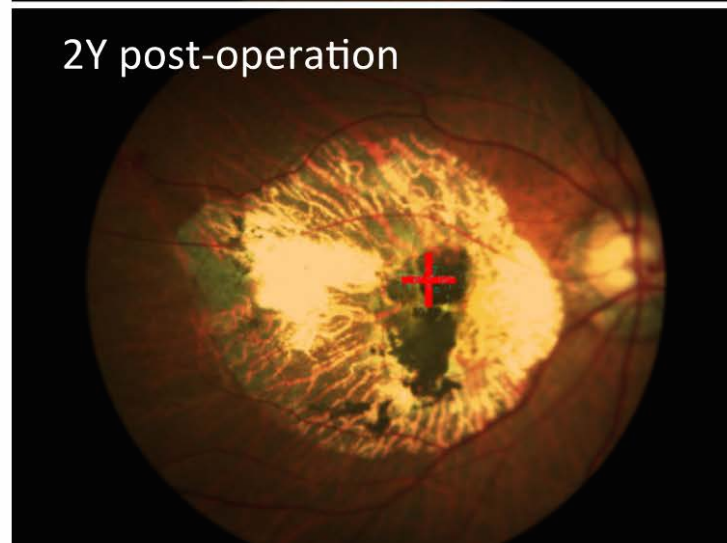
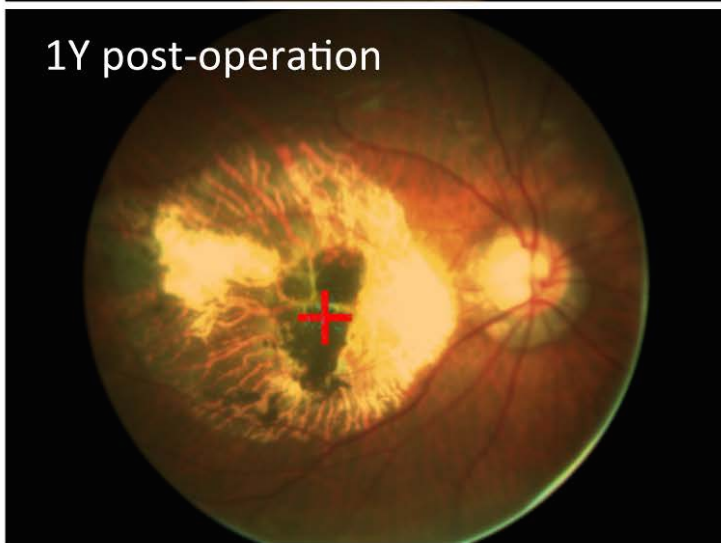
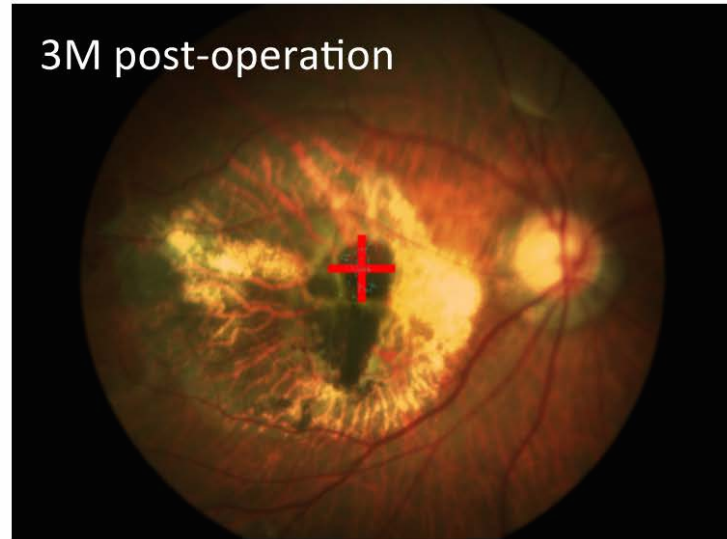
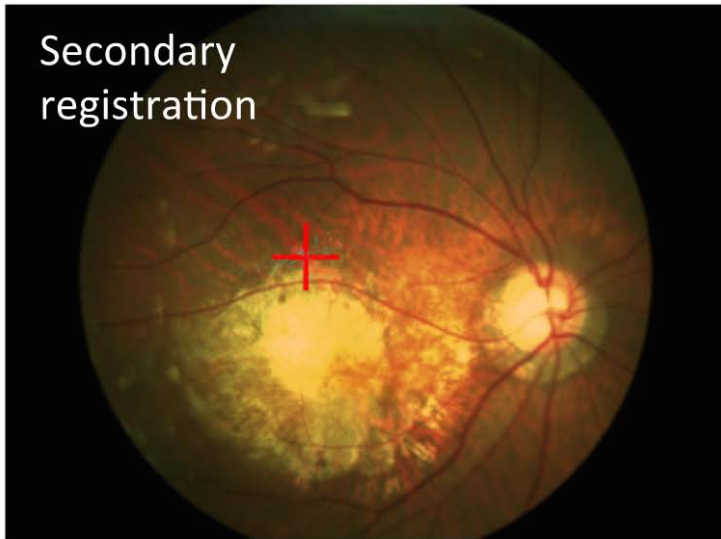
The patient, who has remained anonymous, told  
**The Japan Times:**

**‘I am glad I received the treatment.  
I feel my eyesight has brightened and widened.’**

# 1 year results : OCT (transvers section)



# Fixation tests using MP-1





March, 2017



# The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

BRIEF REPORT

## Autologous Induced Stem-Cell–Derived Retinal Cells for Macular Degeneration

Michiko Mandai, M.D., Ph.D., Akira Watanabe, Ph.D., Yasuo Kurimoto, M.D., Ph.D., Yasuhiko Hiram, M.D., Ph.D., Chikako Morinaga, Ph.D., Takashi Daimon, Ph.D., Masashi Fujihara, M.D., Ph.D., Hiroshi Akimaru, Ph.D., Noriko Sakai, B.S., Yumiko Shibata, M.S., Motoki Terada, Yui Nomiya, M.S., Shigeki Tanishima, B.S., Masahiro Nakamura, M.D., Ph.D., Hiroyuki Kamao, M.D., Ph.D., Sunao Sugita, M.D., Ph.D., Akishi Onishi, Ph.D., Tomoko Ito, Kanako Fujita, Shin Kawamata, M.D., Ph.D., Masahiro J. Go, Ph.D., Chikara Shinohara, Ph.D., Ken-ichiro Hata, D.D.S., Ph.D., Masanori Sawada, M.D., Ph.D., Midori Yamamoto, Sachiko Ohta, Yasuo Ohara, B.S., Kenichi Yoshida, M.D., Ph.D., Junko Kuwahara, Yuko Kitano, M.S., Naoki Amano, M.S., Masafumi Umekage, M.S., Fumiyo Kitaoka, Ph.D., Azusa Tanaka, Ph.D., Chihiro Okada, M.S., Naoko Takasu, M.S., Seishi Ogawa, M.D., Ph.D., Shinya Yamanaka, M.D., Ph.D., and Masayo Takahashi, M.D., Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2017; 376:1038-1046 | [March 16, 2017](#) | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1608368

## EDITORIAL

# Polar Extremes in the Clinical Use of Stem Cells

George Q. Daley, M.D., Ph.D.  
N Engl J Med 2017; 376:1075-1077  
March 16, 2017

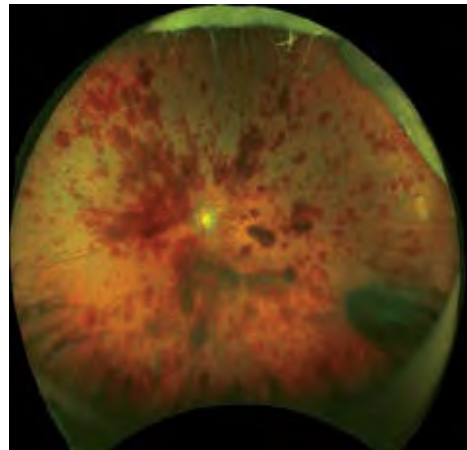
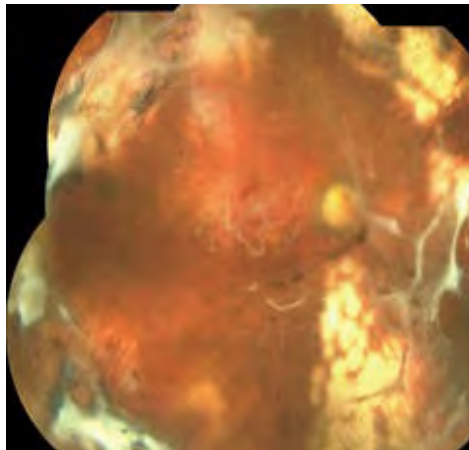
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

BRIEF REPORT

## Vision Loss after Intravitreal Injection of Autologous “Stem Cells” for AMD

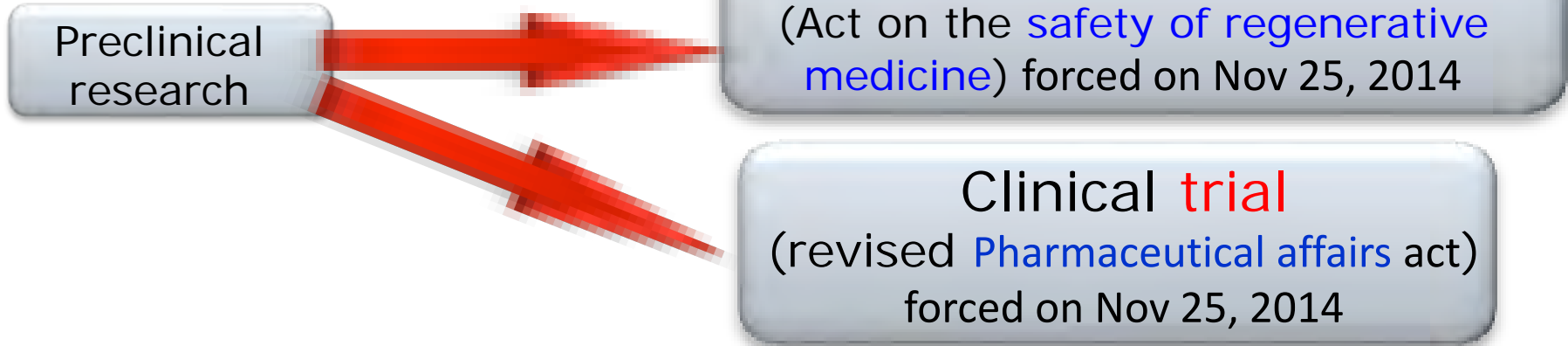
Ajay E. Kuriyan, M.D., Thomas A. Albin, M.D., Justin H. Townsend, M.D., Marianeli Rodriguez, M.D., Ph.D., Hemang K. Pandya, M.D., Robert E. Leonard, II, M.D., M. Brandon Parrott, M.D., Ph.D., Philip J. Rosenfeld, M.D., Ph.D., Harry W. Flynn, Jr., M.D., and Jeffrey L. Goldberg, M.D., Ph.D.

N Engl J Med 2017; 376:1047-1053 | March 16, 2017 | DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1609583

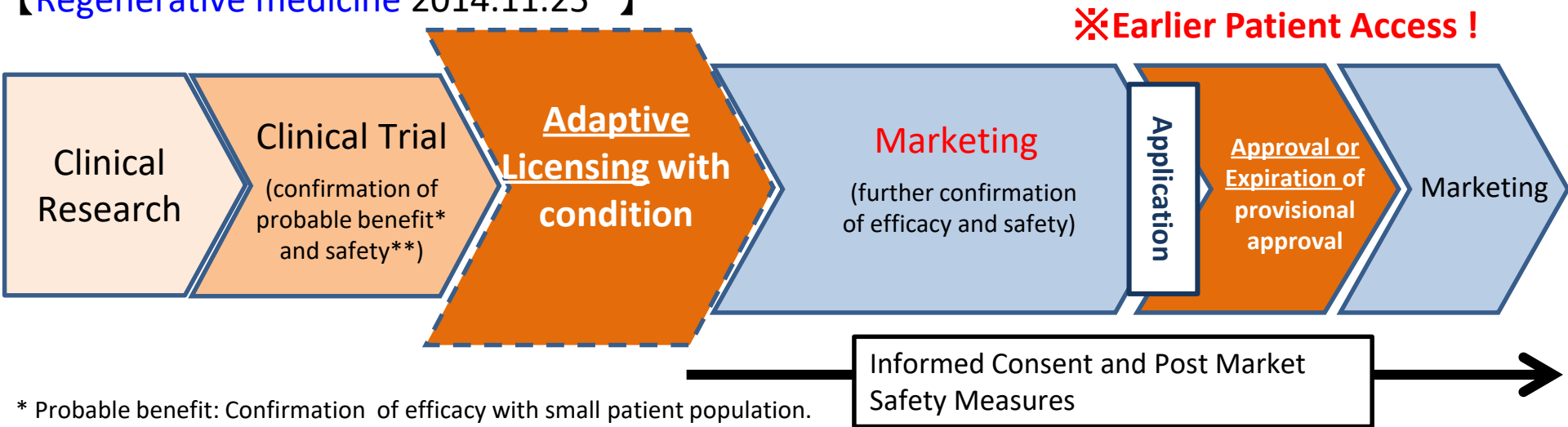


# Regulation for cell therapy in Japan

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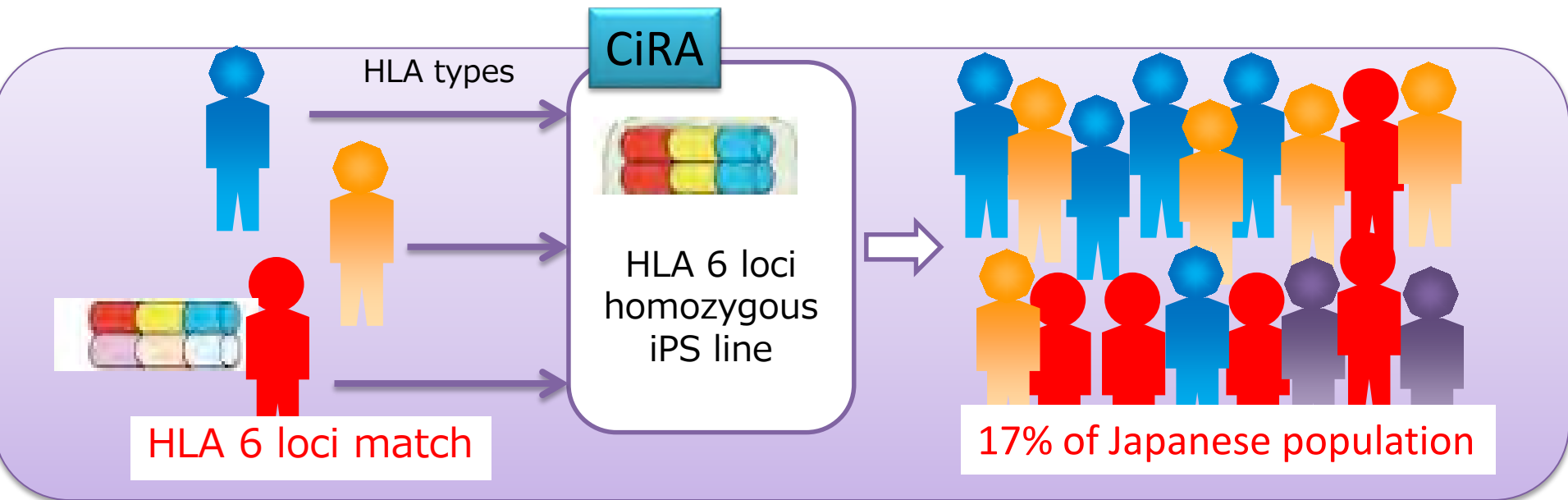
【**Regenerative medicine** 2014.11.25~】



\* Probable benefit: Confirmation of efficacy with small patient population.  
 \*\* Safety: Earlier detection and evaluation of adverse events.

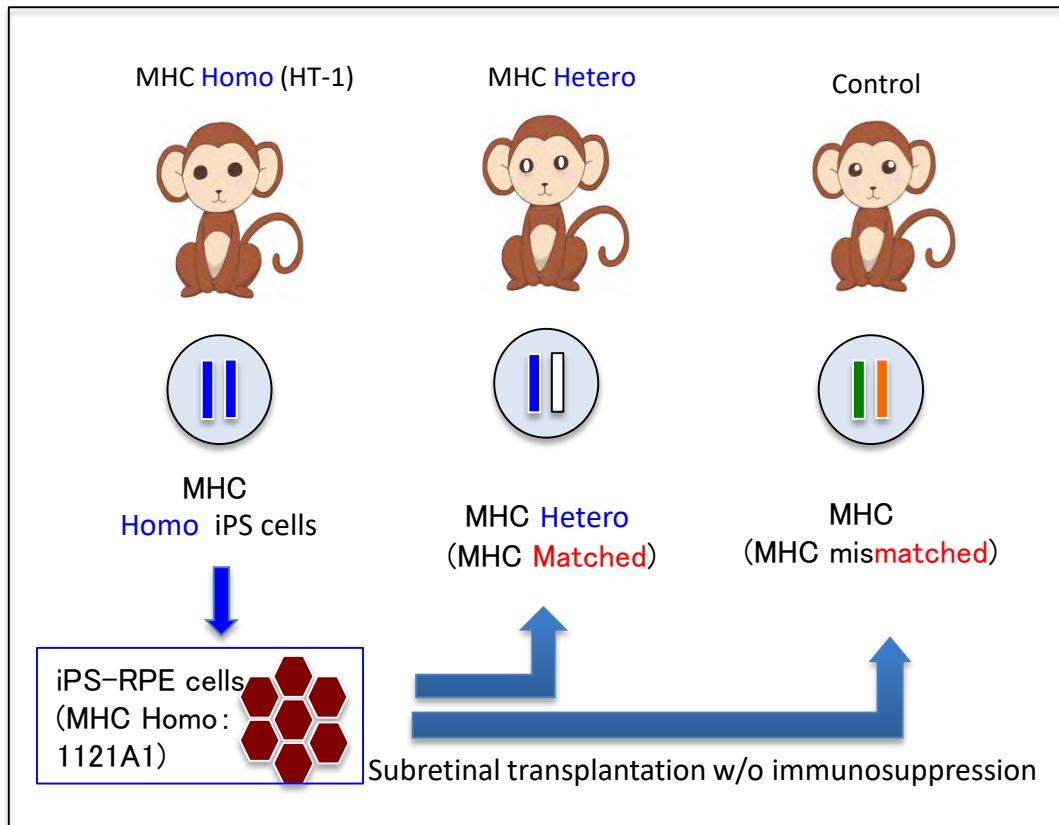
# Types of hiPS-RPE cell transplantation

	Sheet	Suspension
	<b>Surgery risk: Big</b>	<b>Surgery risk: Small</b>
Auto Cost: Big	Auto/Sheet 8.2013~ (Clinical research)	Auto/Suspension Application in preparation
Allo Cost : Small	Allo/Sheet Application in preparation	Allo/Suspension Approved by the ministry 2.3.2017

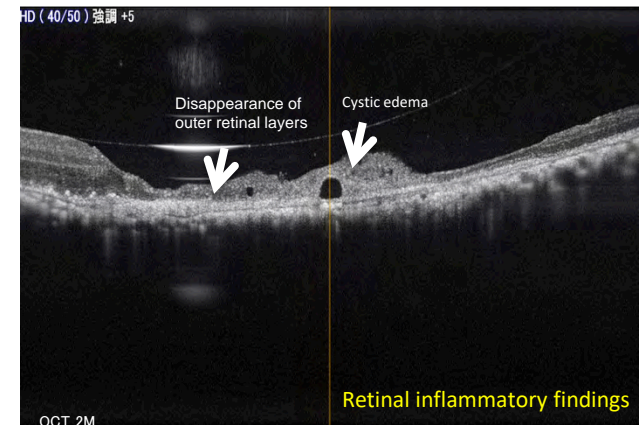


# Immune reaction to the MHC matched or unmatched iPS-RPE (in normal monkey)

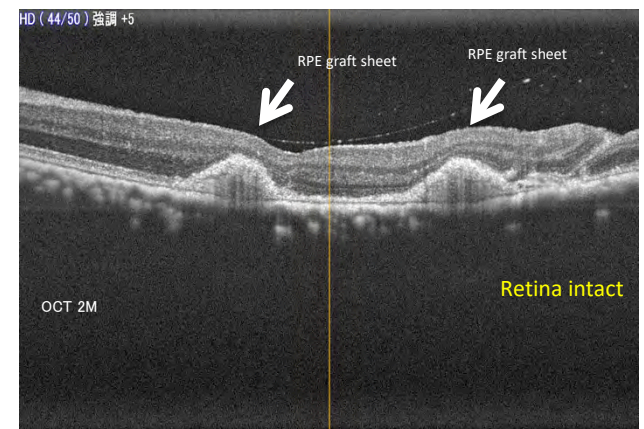
MHC homo iPS-RPE transplantation into hetero matched monkey eye: no immune rejection



MHC mismatched monkey → rejection



MHC matched monkey → no rejection



# The scheme of new clinical study using allograft

Superdonor blood cells



iPSCs  
HLA homozygous

A\*24:02-B\*52:01-C\*12:02-  
DRB1\*15:02-DQB1\*06:01-  
DPB1\*09:01



Induction of  
differentiation  
into PRE

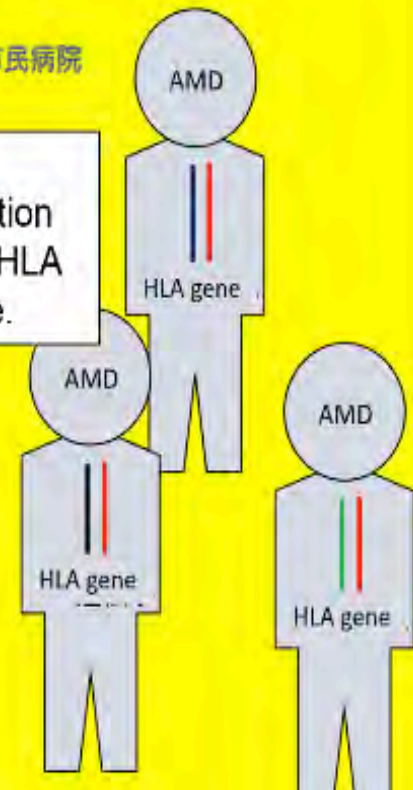


地方独立行政法人 神戸市民病院機構  
神戸市立医療センター中央市民病院  
Kobe City Medical Center General Hospital

Transplantation  
✓ w/o immunosuppressive medication  
✓ AMD patients who has matched HLA  
haplotype in at least one gene.



Frozen → culture → graft  
Cell suspension



# Japanese man is first to receive 'reprogrammed' stem cells from another person

World-first transplant, used to treat macular degeneration, represents a major step forward in movement to create banks of ready-made stem cells.

David Cyranoski

3/28/2017

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

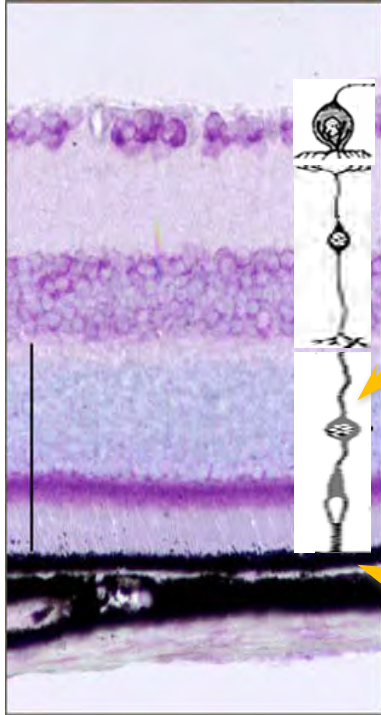
nature  
BIOTECH

## Japanese Man Is First to Receive "Reprogrammed" Stem Cells from Another Person

World-first transplant to treat macular degeneration could augur rise of iPS cell banks



# Retinal cell transplantation



## Photoreceptor (for Retinitis pigmentosa)

### *Issue*

Structure of photoreceptor cells

Purification

Functional connection with the host's neurons

## RPE cells (for AMD)

Started clinical study (Safety)

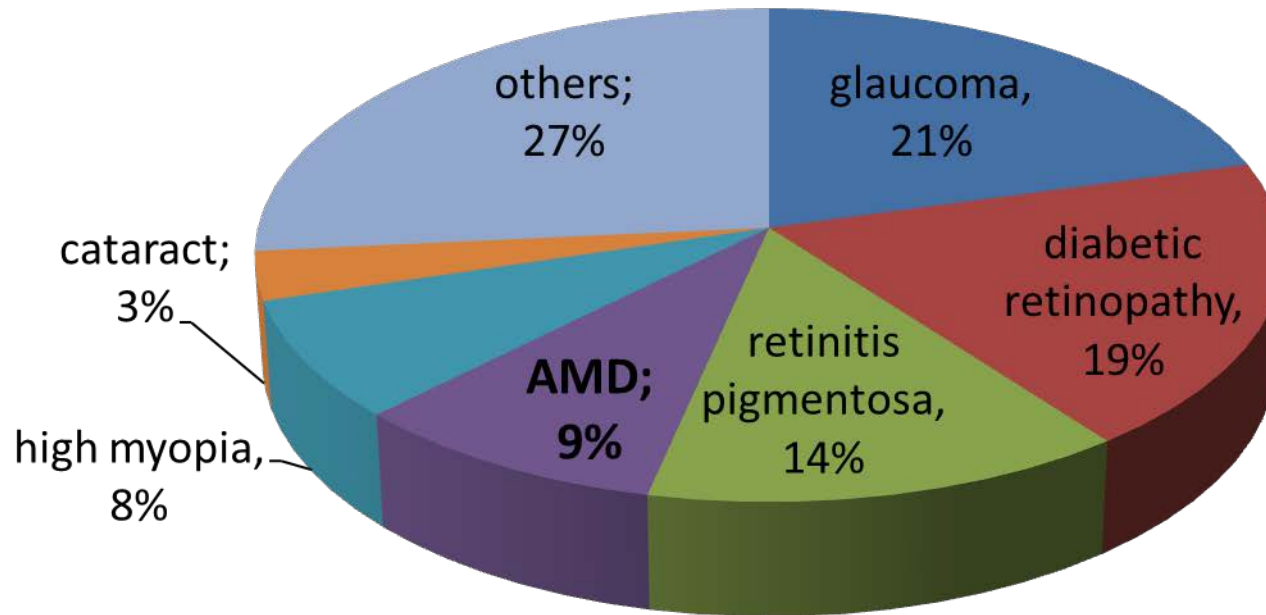
### *Issue*

Variety of cell forms

Efficacy



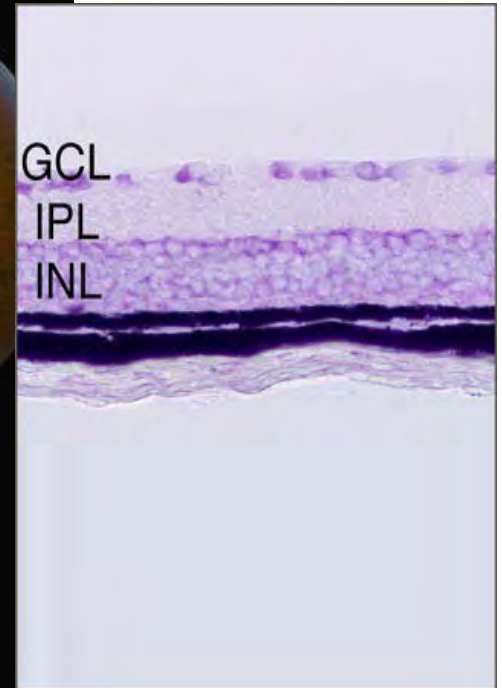
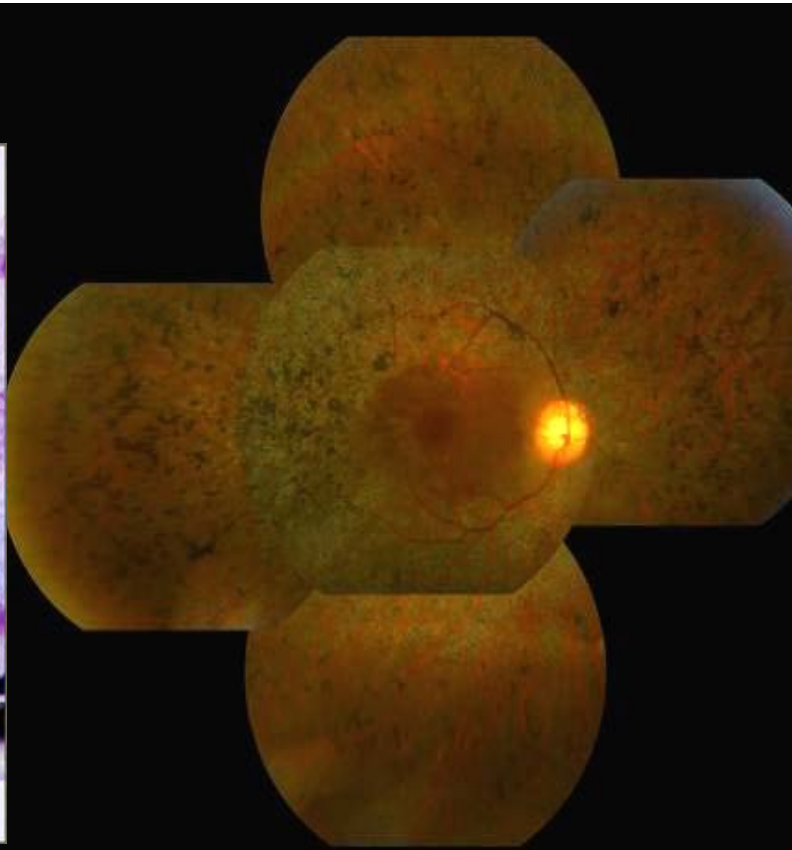
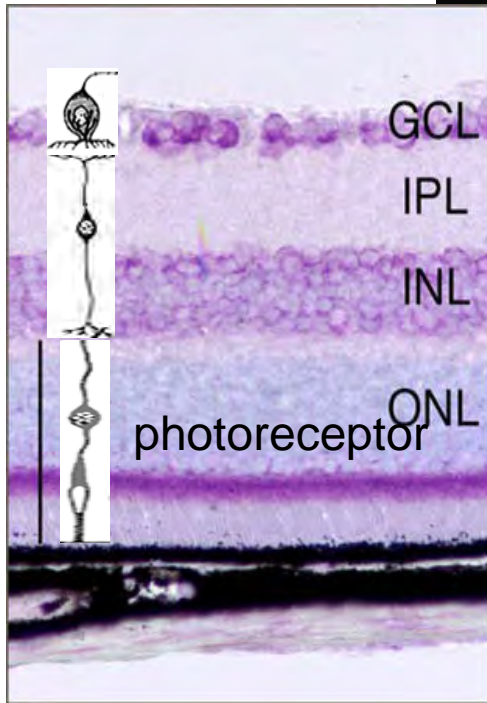
# Causative diseases of visual impairment in Japan (2005)



Health Labour Sciences Research Grant for Research on Measures for Intractable Diseases  
網脈絡膜・視神経萎縮症に関する研究 平成17年度総括・分担研究報告書 p.p.263-267 (2006)

# Retinitis pigmentosa

- More than 30000 patients in Japan
- No treatment



After birth (normal)

Photoreceptor degeneration

# Self-organizing optic-cup morphogenesis in three-dimensional culture

April 7, 2011



Mototsugu Eiraku,  
Nozomu Takata,  
Hiroki Ishibashi,  
Masako Kawada,  
Eriko Sakakura,  
Satoru Okuda,  
Kiyotoshi Sekiguchi,  
Taiji Adachi,  
Yoshiki Sasai (CDB, RIKEN)



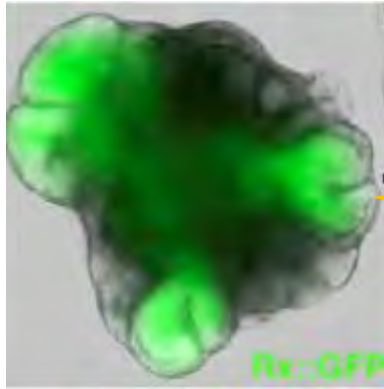
# Retinal tissue derived from mouse ES cells in vitro



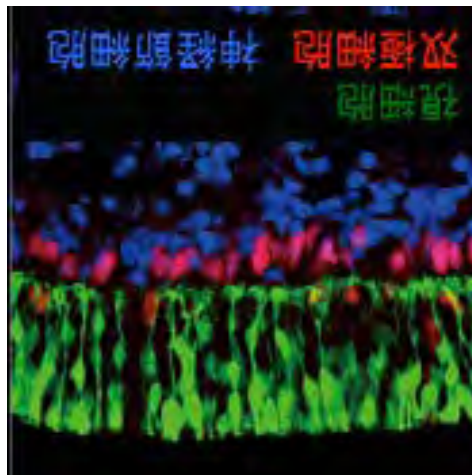
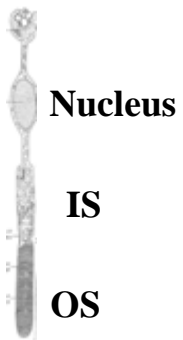
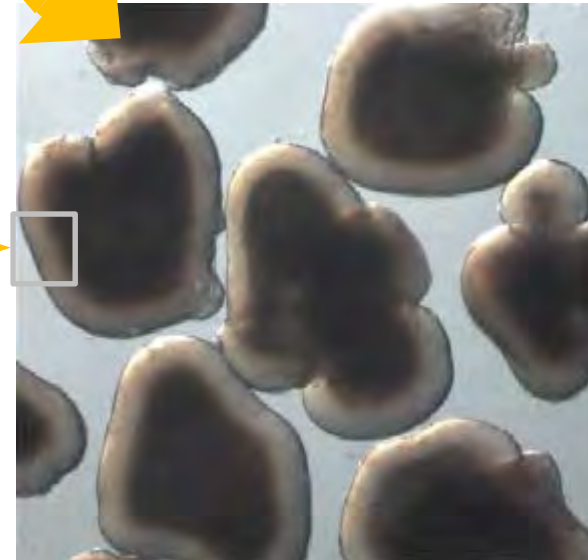
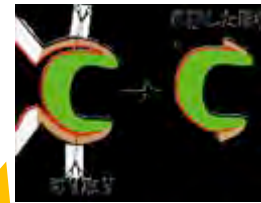
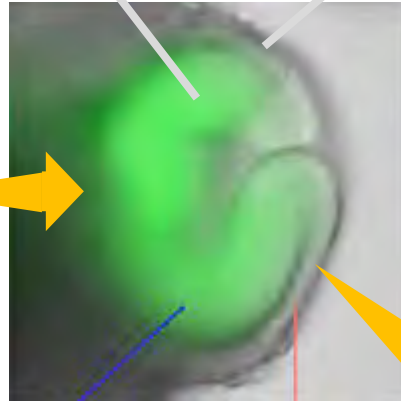
Dr. Eiraku



Sensory retina RPE



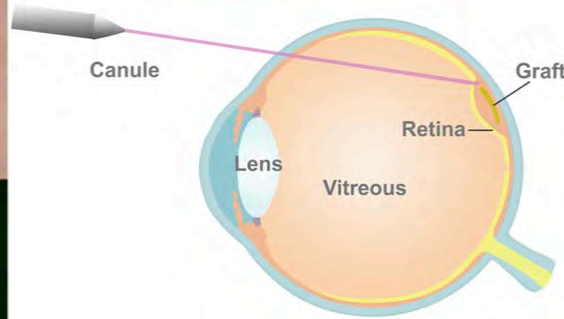
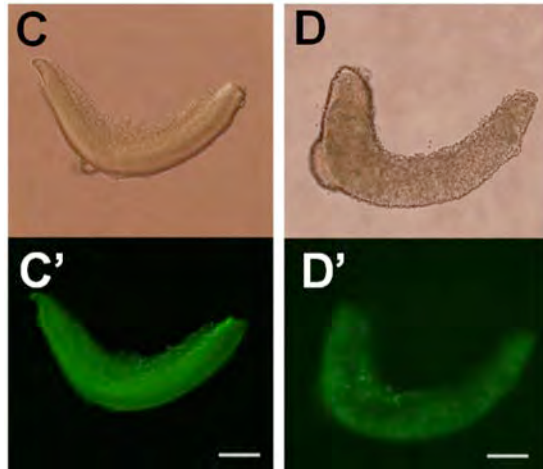
緑: 神経網膜



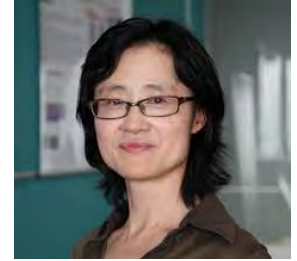
Green: photoreceptor



# Mouse retinal sheet transplantation

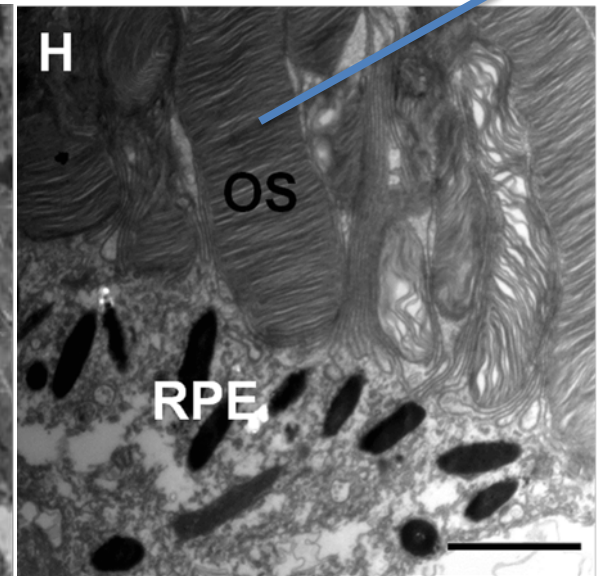
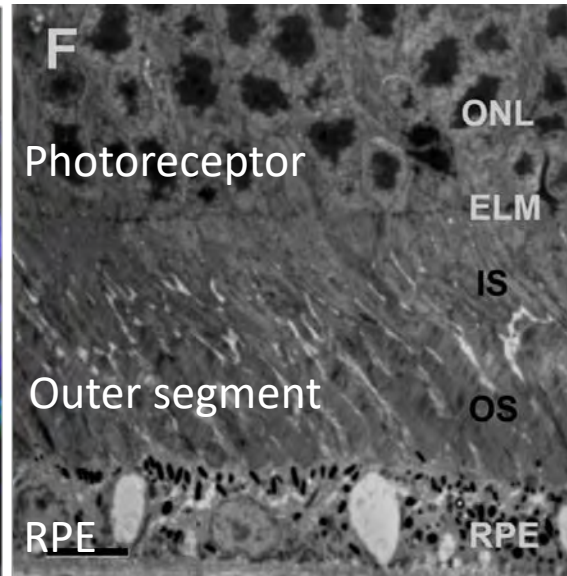
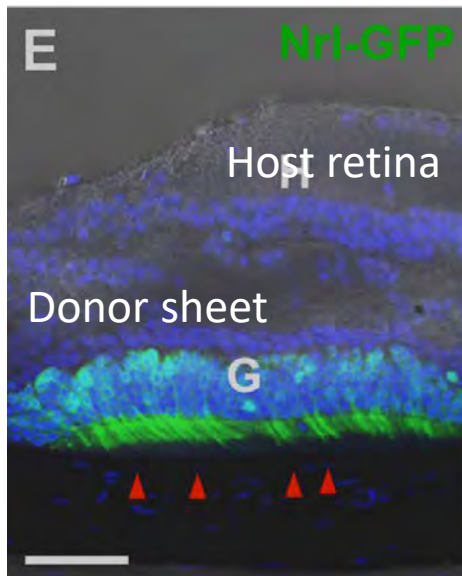


Assawachananont  
MD, PhD



Michiko Mandai  
MD, PhD

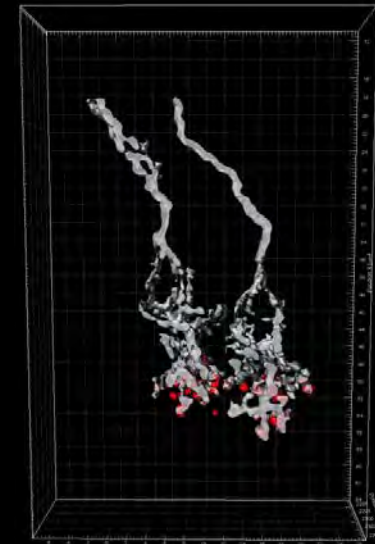
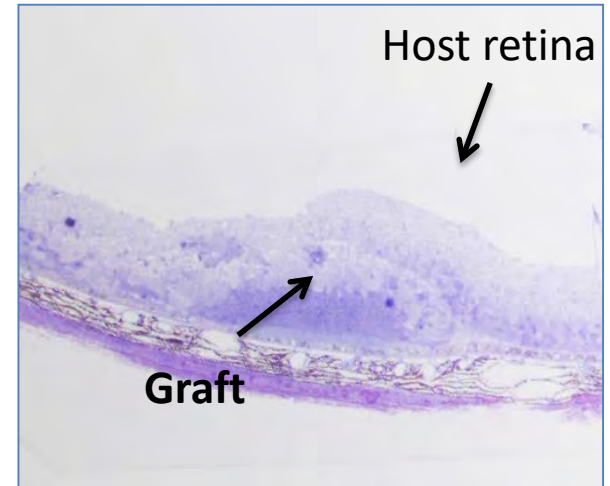
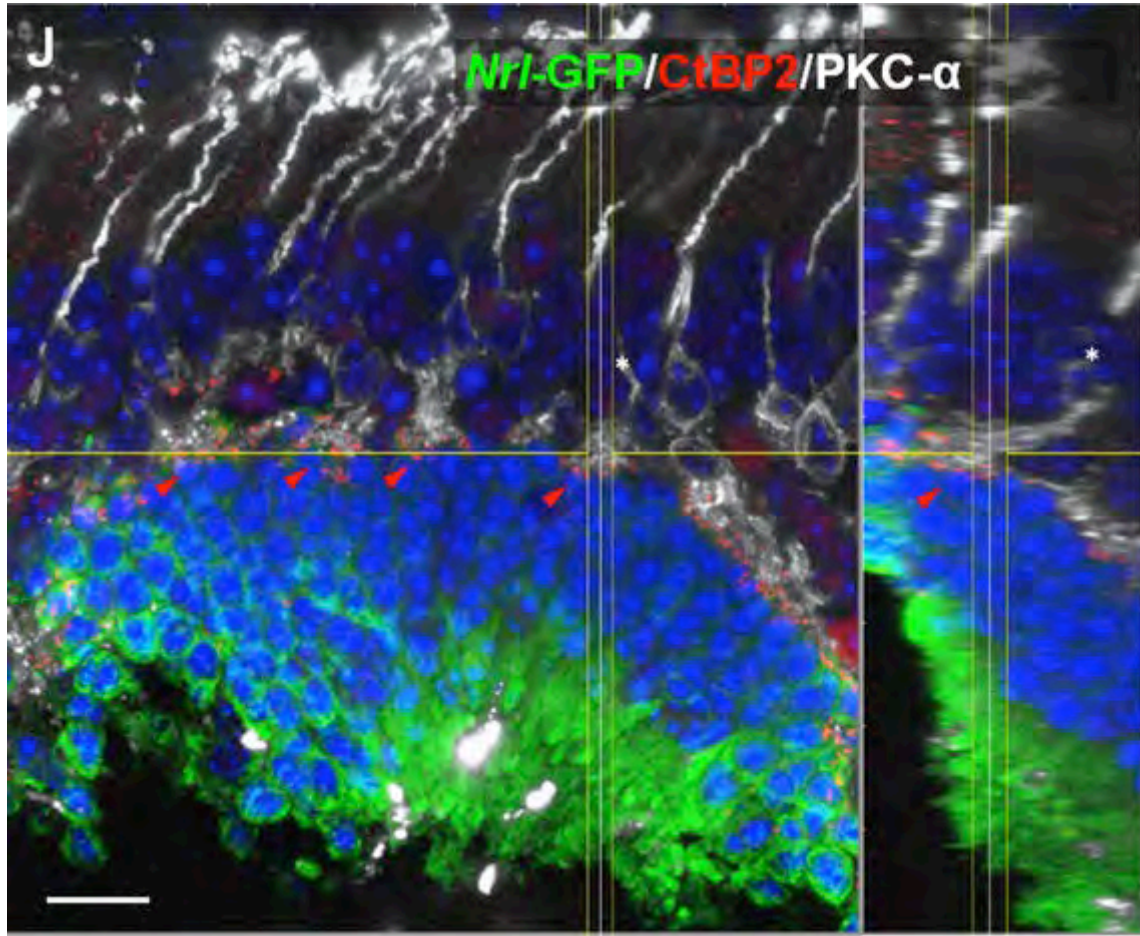
Outer segment





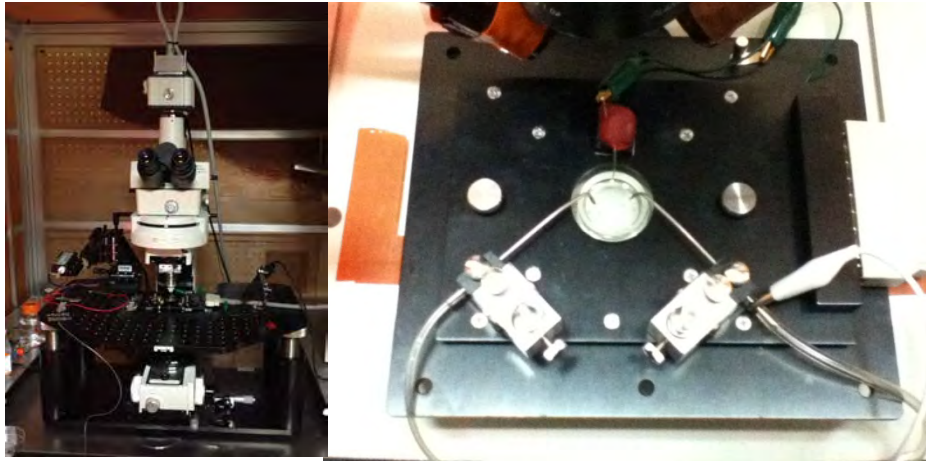
# Mouse retinal sheet transplantation

## Host-graft synaptic contact in direct contact pattern

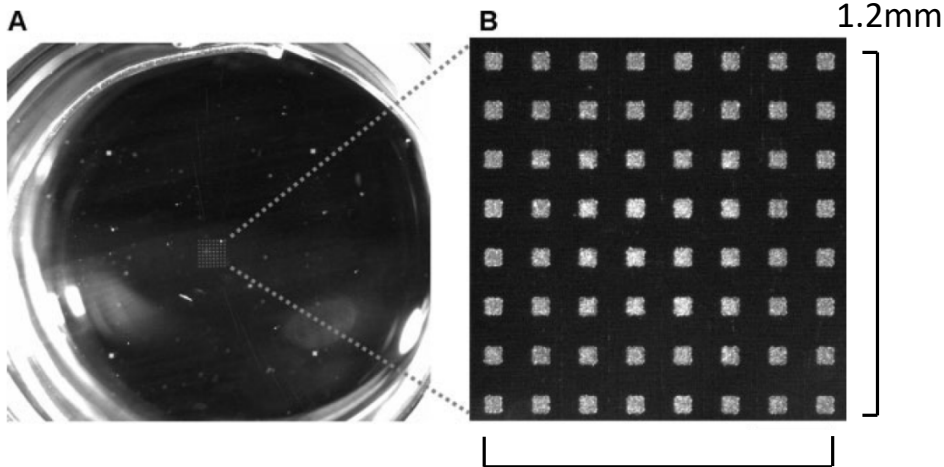




# Evaluation of Function after transplantation

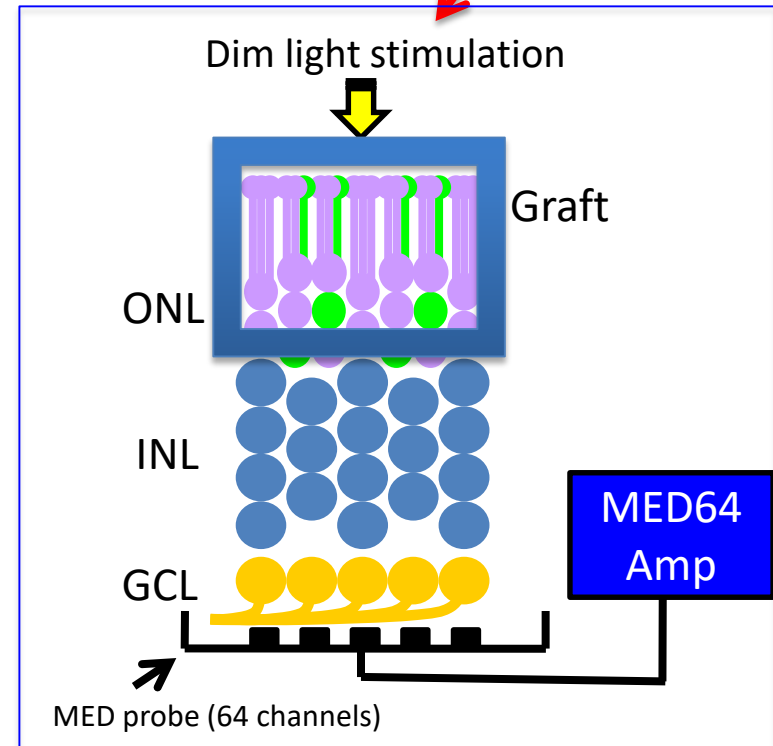
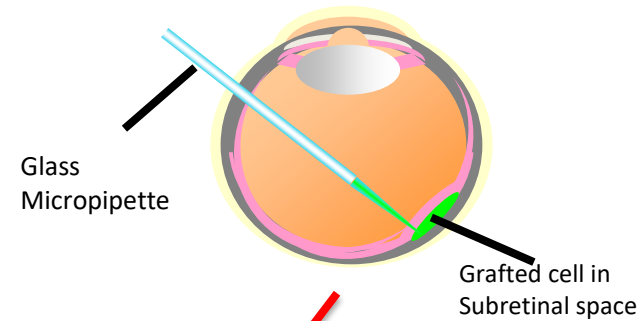


MED probe (MED-P5155)



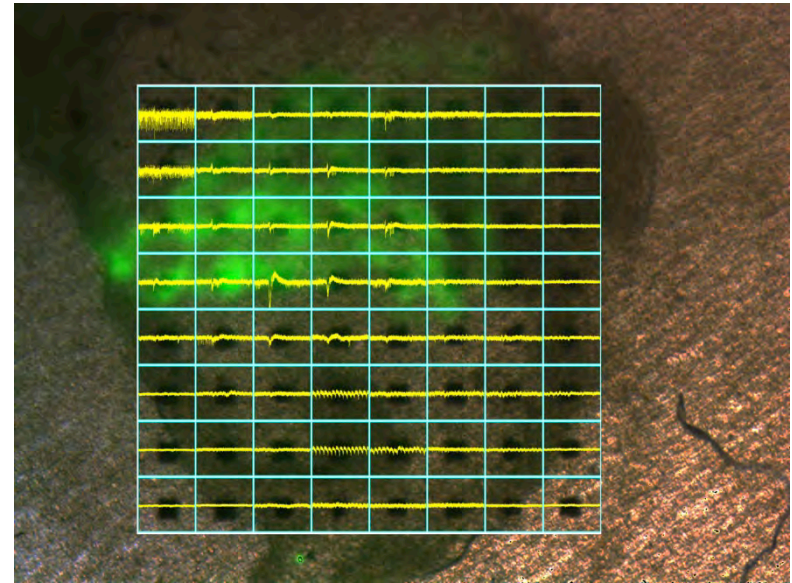
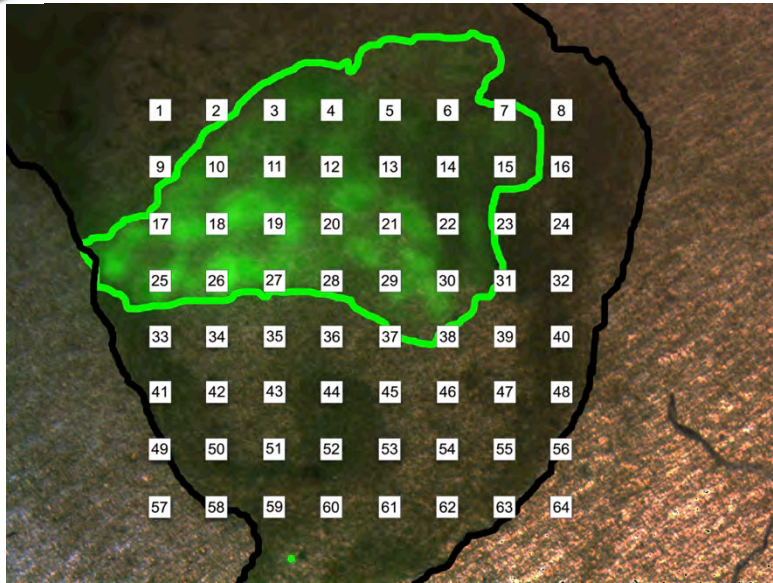
Electrode size: 50x50µm

1.2mm

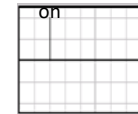
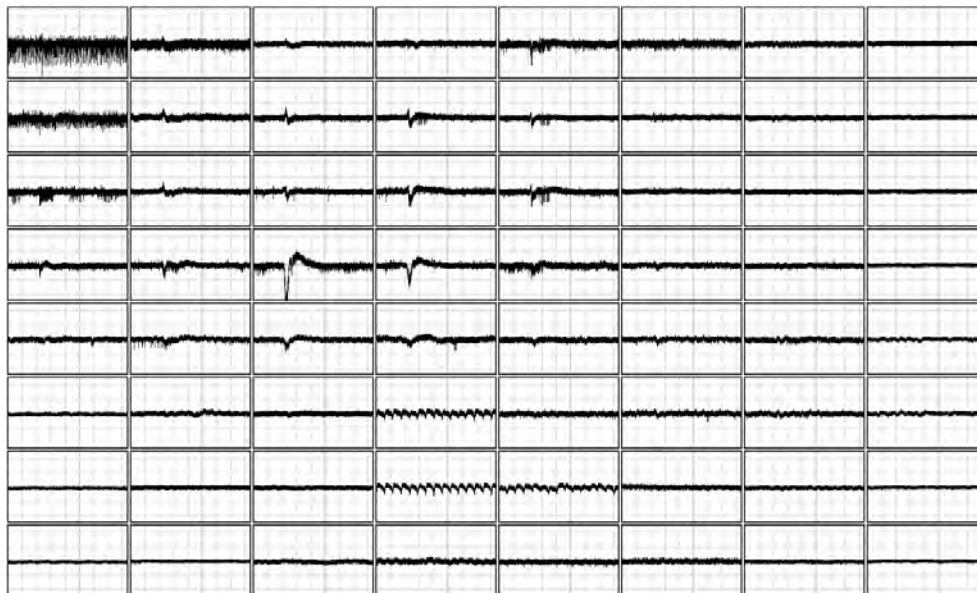




# Response to the light stimuli after transplantation



microERG



光刺激のタイミング

Light intensity: 750cds/m<sup>2</sup>

Stimulus duration: 10ms

1Hz low cut filter

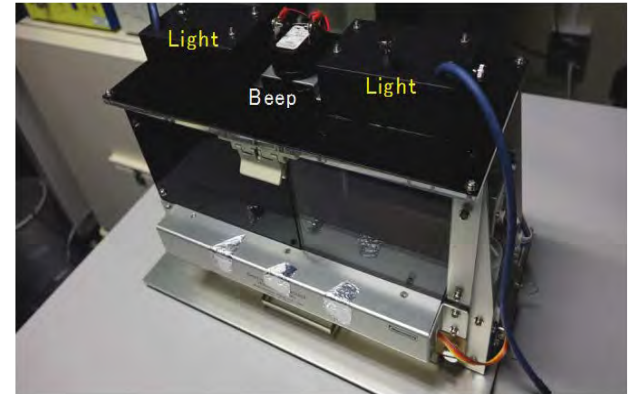
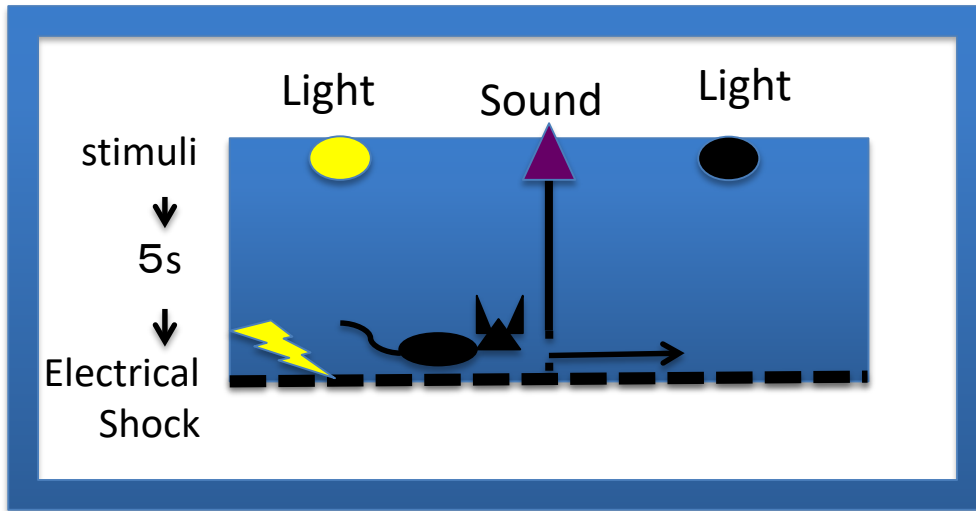
X-axis: Time (500ms/DIV)

Y-axis: Amplitude (0.05mV/DIV)





# Behavior test : shuttle avoidance test



Training with light & sound

Within 2w  
(avoidance ratio: 70% <)

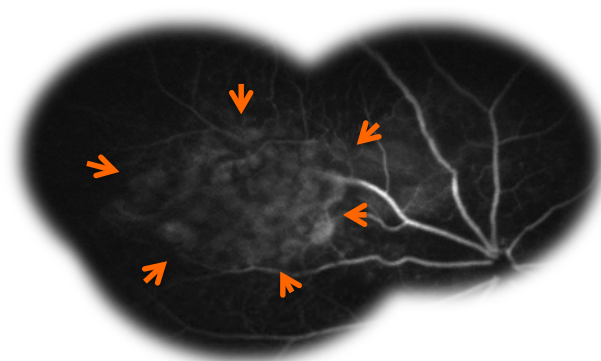
OK

stop

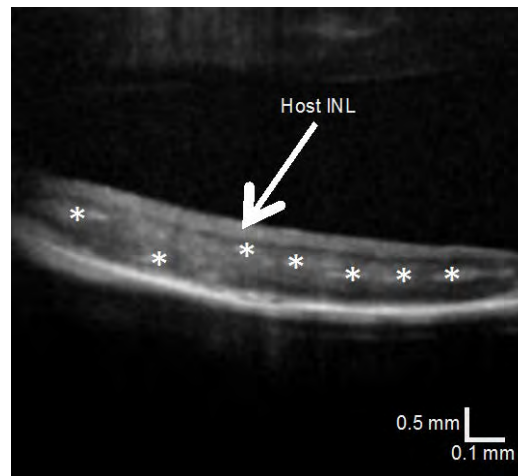
Test with light only

Analysis

Select the nicely grafted mice with OCT images

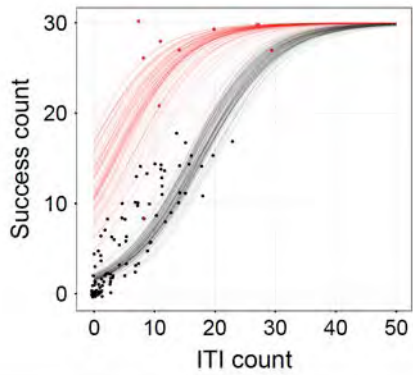


Grafted part is too small for ERG

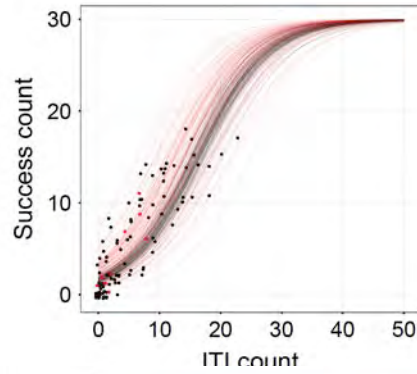


# Host with good transplants (post OCT selection)

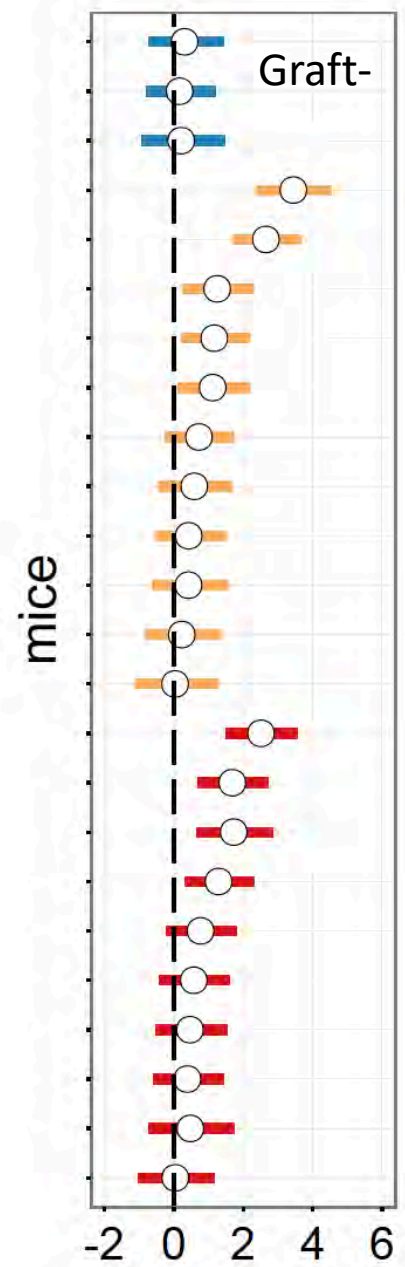
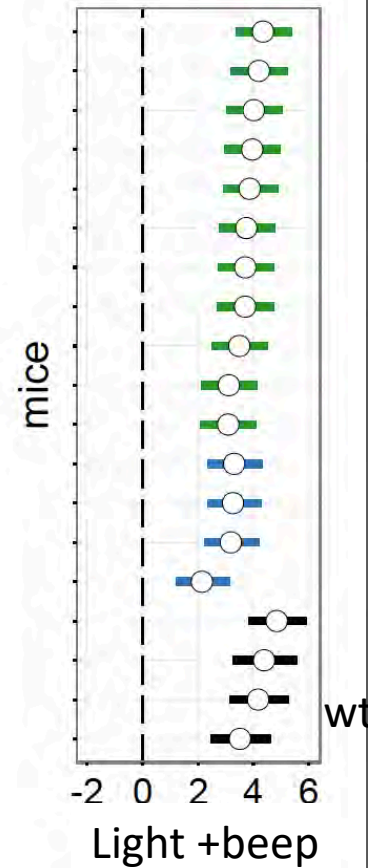
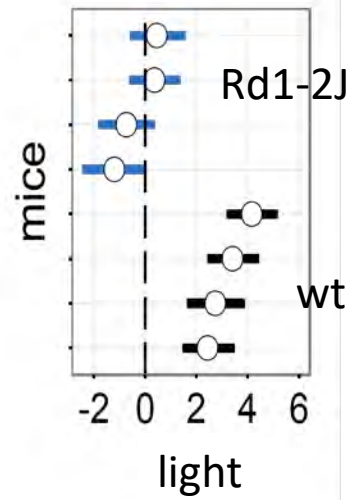
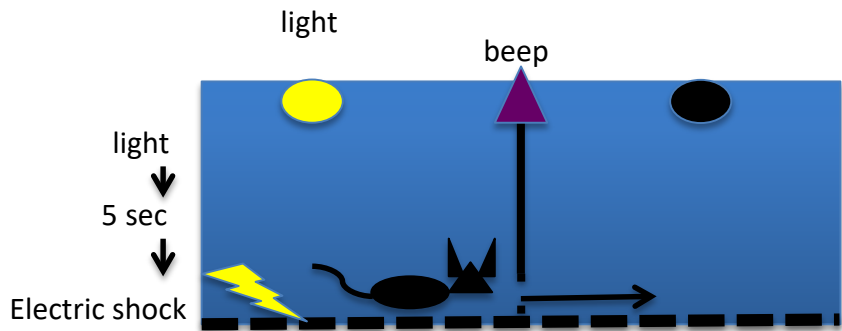
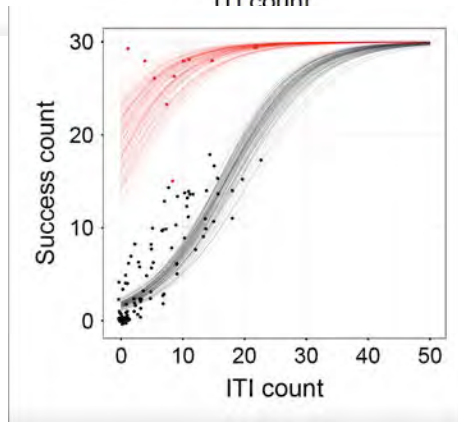
Light only wild type

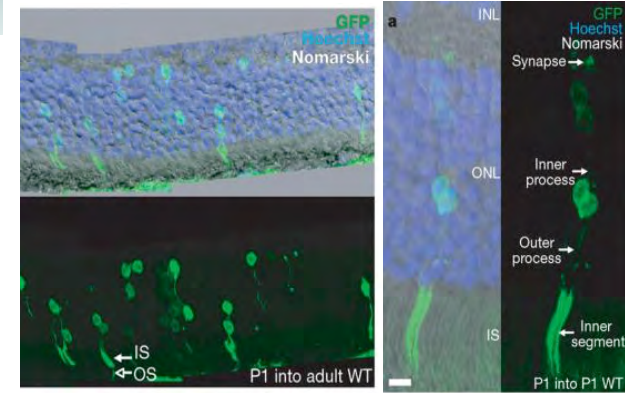


rd1



After transplantation....





It was **cytoplasmic exchange !!**

Published 4 Oct 2016

## Retinal transplantation of photoreceptors results in donor–host cytoplasmic exchange

Tiago Santos-Ferreira<sup>1,\*</sup>, Sílvia Llonch<sup>1,\*</sup>, Oliver Borsch<sup>1,\*</sup>, Kai Postel<sup>1</sup>, Jochen Haas<sup>1</sup> & Marius Ader<sup>1</sup>

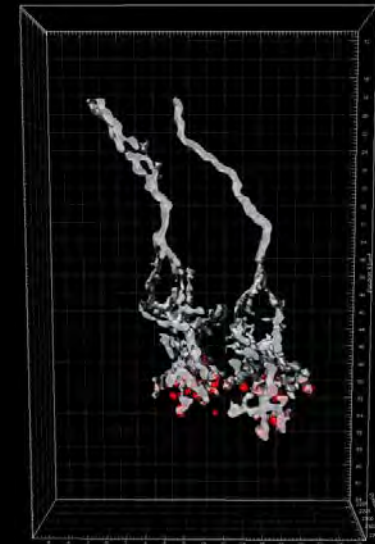
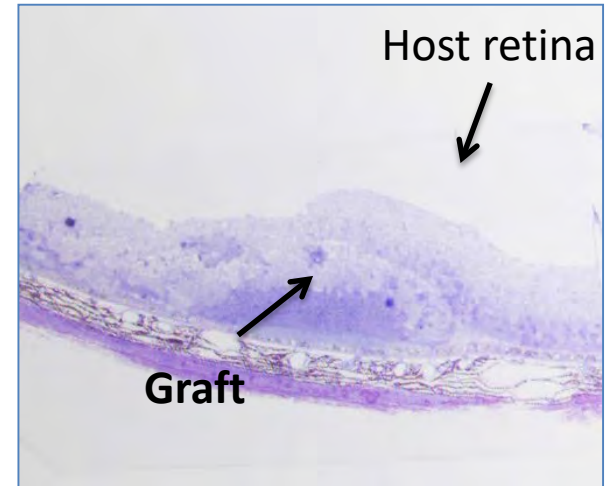
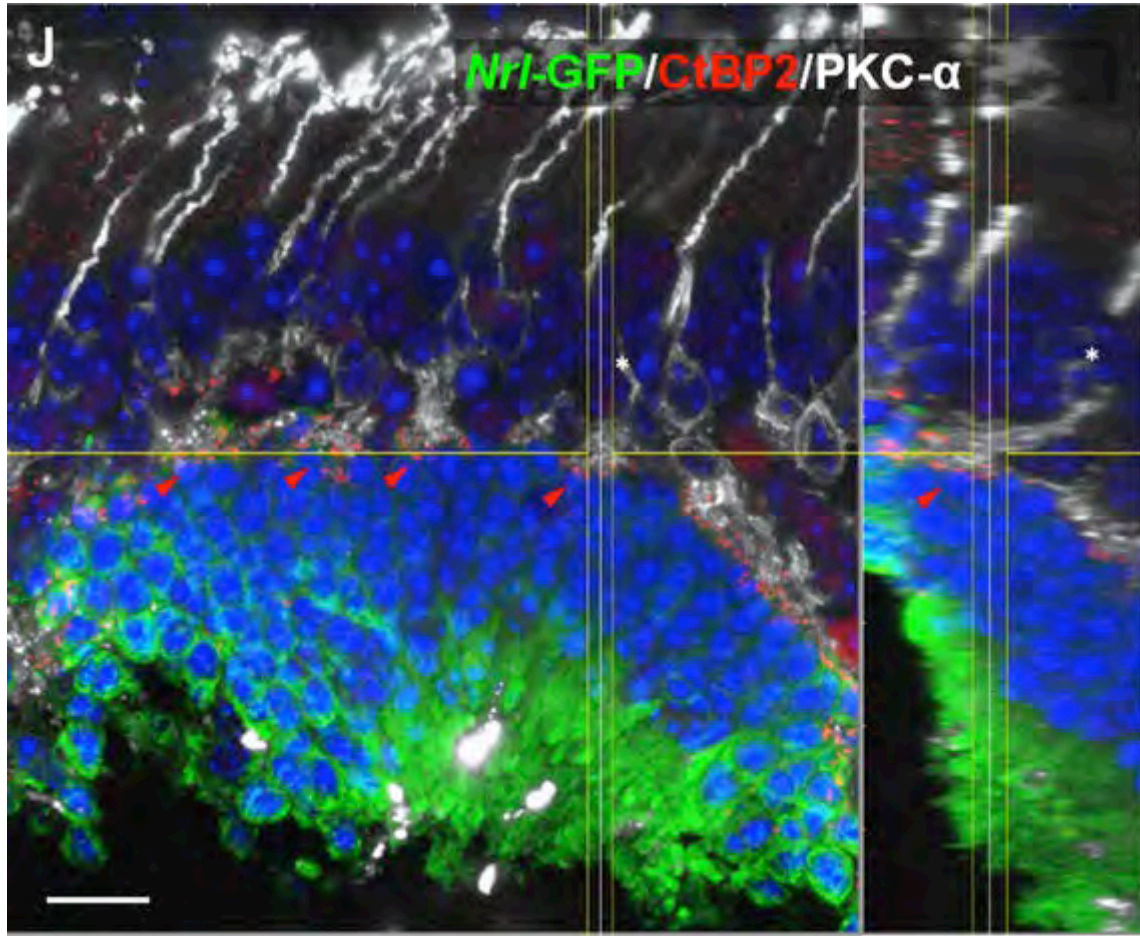
## Donor and host photoreceptors engage in material transfer following transplantation of post-mitotic photoreceptor precursors

R.A. Pearson<sup>1,\*</sup>, A. Gonzalez-Cordero<sup>1</sup>, E.L. West<sup>1,\*\*</sup>, J.R. Ribeiro<sup>1,\*\*</sup>, N. Aghaizu<sup>1,\*\*</sup>, D. Goh<sup>1</sup>, R.D. Sampson<sup>1</sup>, A. Georgiadis<sup>1</sup>, P.V. Waldron<sup>1</sup>, Y. Duran<sup>1</sup>, A. Naeem<sup>1</sup>, M. Kloc<sup>1</sup>, E. Cristante<sup>1</sup>, K. Kruczek<sup>1</sup>, K. Warre-Cornish<sup>1,w</sup>, J.C. Sowden<sup>2</sup>, A.J. Smith<sup>1</sup> & R.R. Ali<sup>1,3,\*</sup>



# Mouse retinal sheet transplantation

## Host-graft synaptic contact in direct contact pattern



# Effect of Regenerative medicine

1. Donor cells
2. Host environment

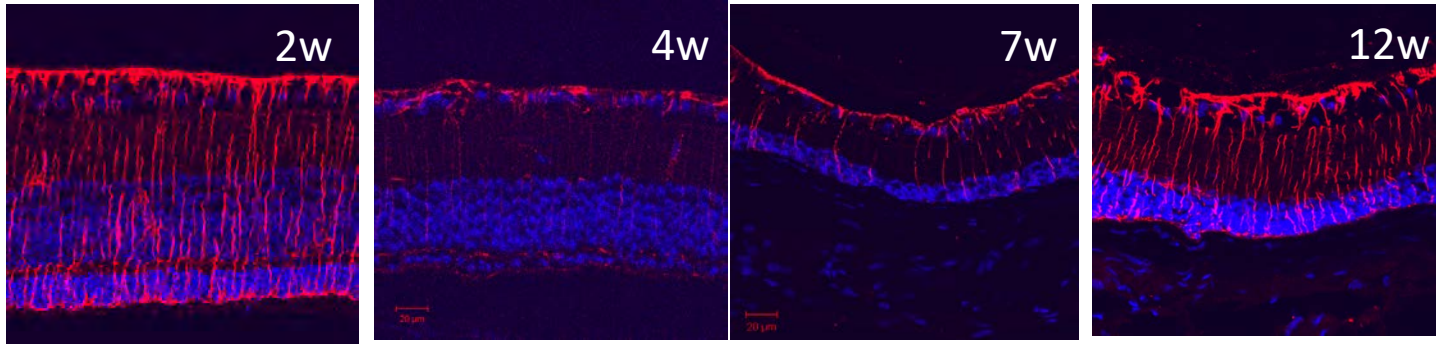


# Host environment and transplantation

(rd mice : rapid photoreceptor degeneration model mice)

## Glial scar

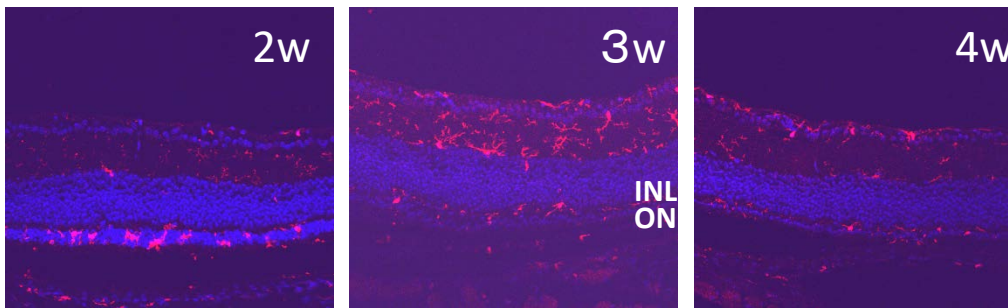
Red: GFAP  
Muller glia



Time window

## Immflamaion

Red: Iba1  
Microglia

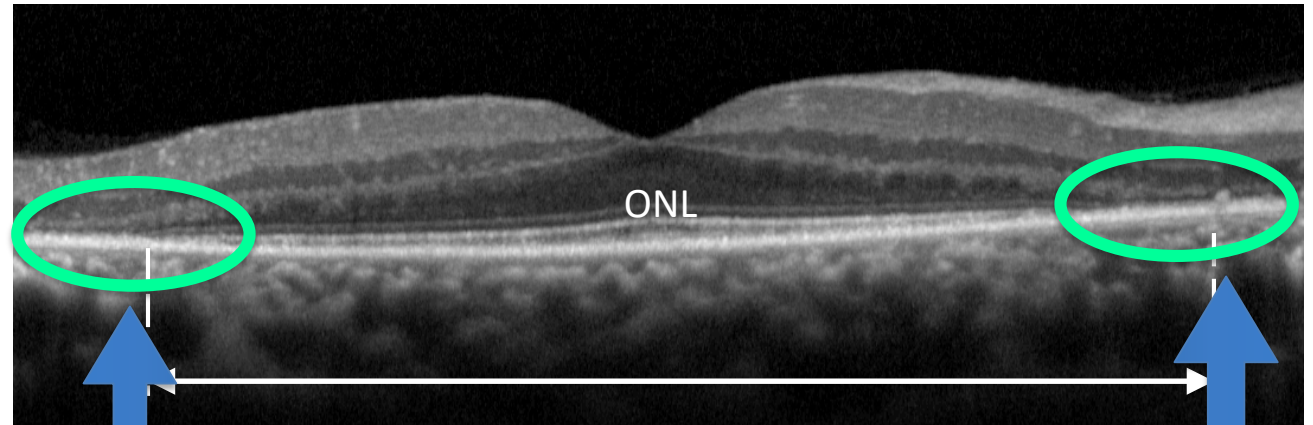
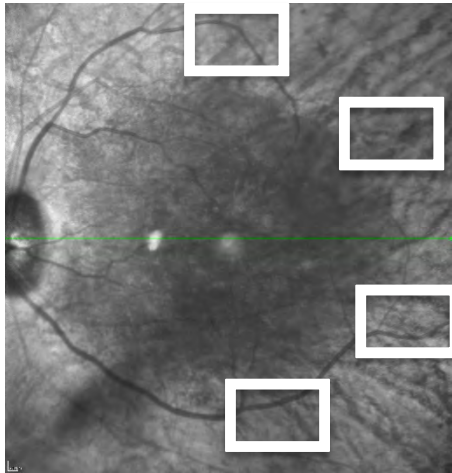


→ Rod degeneration → Cone degeneration → Bipolar degenration



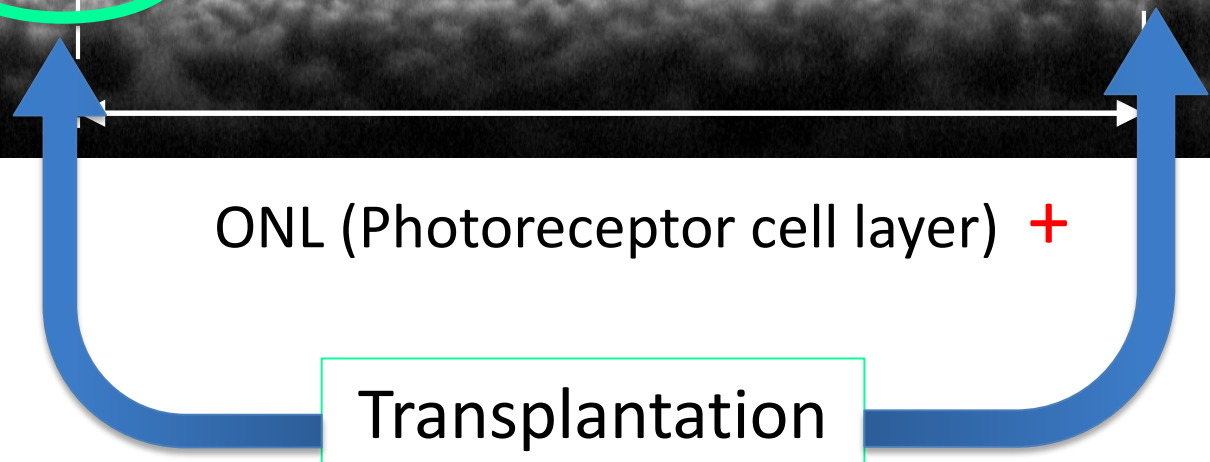
# Retinitis Pigmentosa

In human patients, various stages exist in one eye

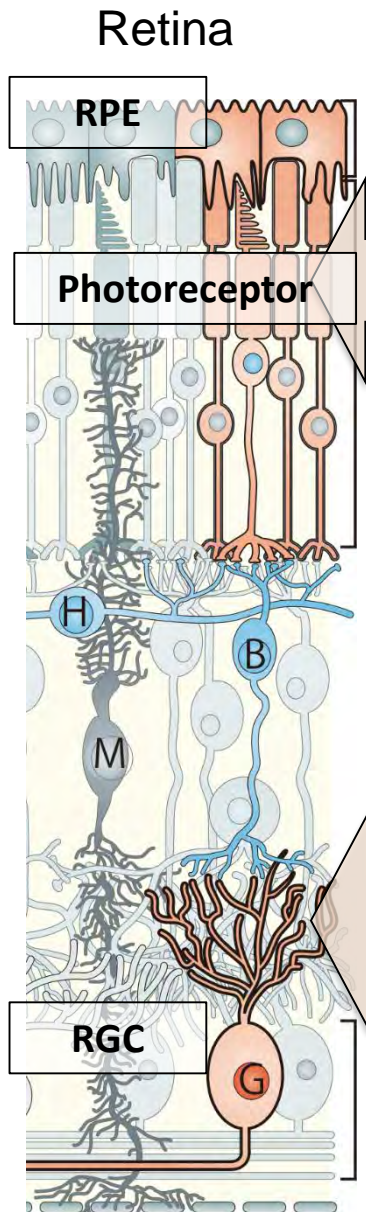


ONL (Photoreceptor cell layer) +

Transplantation



# Patient-derived iPSCs studies



## Photoreceptor dysfunction/degeneration

### Retinitis Pigmentosa

- 1 in 4000~8000 individuals
- ~50 causal genes identified
- ~60% are sporadic/unknown

- |          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| ① RHO    | outer segment         |
| ② RP1    | cilia                 |
| ③ PRPH2  | outer segment         |
| ④ RP9    | splicing factor       |
| ⑤ PRPH2  | outer segment         |
| ⑥ RP2    | cilia                 |
| ⑦ EYS    | outer segment/cilia   |
| ⑧ PRPF31 | splicing factor/cilia |

## RGC dysfunction/degeneration

### Leber hereditary optic neuropathy

- 1 in ~50000 individuals
- 80% of Japanese LHON patients

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| ⑨ MT-ND4 | Complex I |
|----------|-----------|

### Normal tension glaucoma

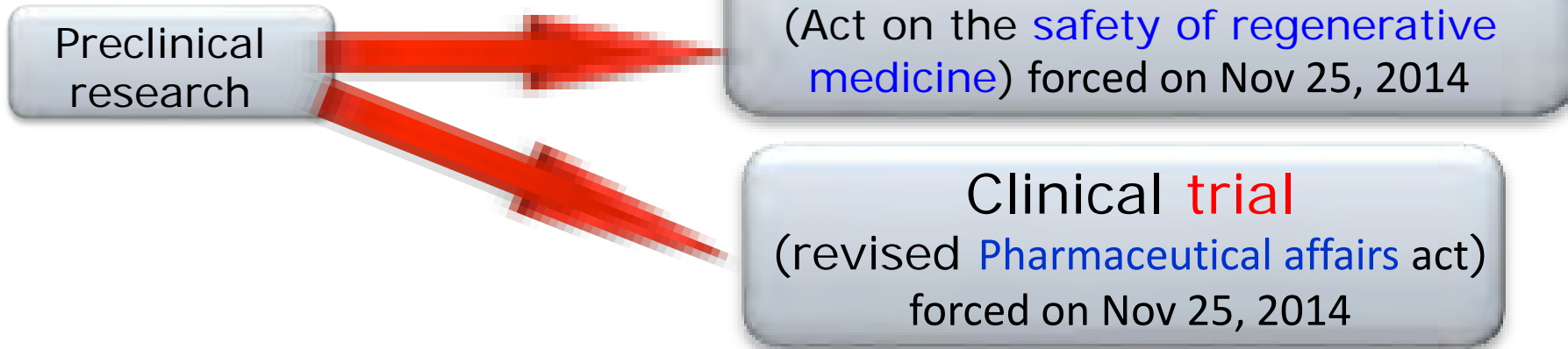
- 70~90% in Japanese patients
- Causal genes characterized (MYOC WDR36 OPTN)

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ⑩ NTG (uncharacterized) |  |
|-------------------------|--|

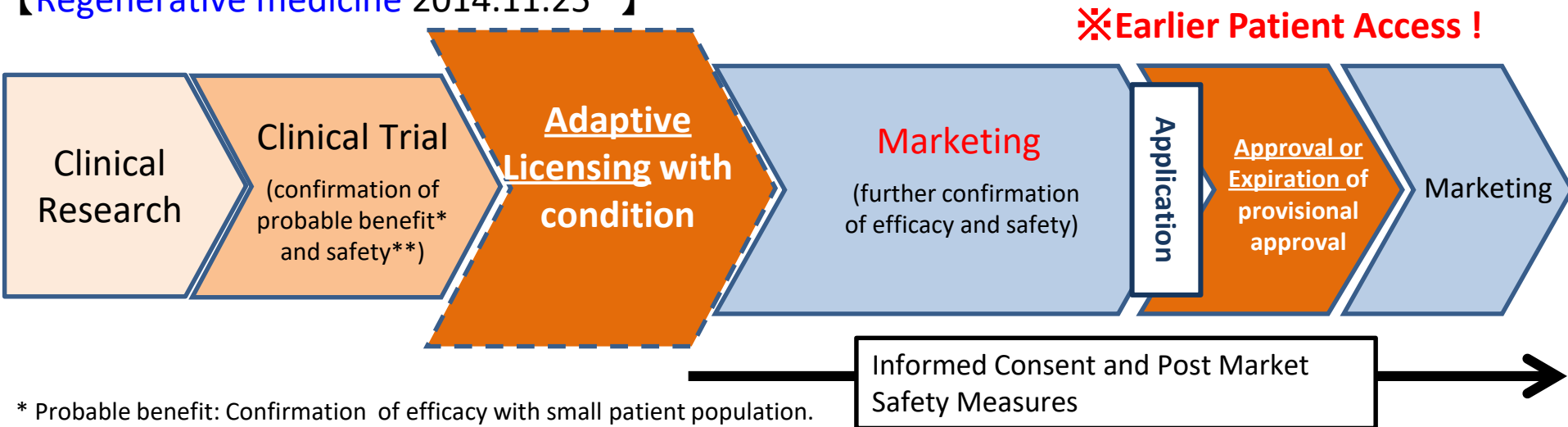


# Regulation for cell therapy in Japan

Enforcement 2015.11.25~



【**Regenerative medicine** 2014.11.25~】



\* Probable benefit: Confirmation of efficacy with small patient population.

\*\* Safety: Earlier detection and evaluation of adverse events.

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Deputy Project Leader

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Ojos Matsuyama

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Shinicro Ito

Satoshi Iraha

Kaori Ueda

So Goto

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Wataru Kobayashi

Cody Kime

Anouk Georges

Ryutaro Akiba

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Hiroyuki Kitajima

Noriko Sakai

Yumiko Shibata

Motoki Teragda

Mitsuhiro Nishida

Thank You !