



# Aging and metabolism in cardiovascular toxicities due to cancer therapies

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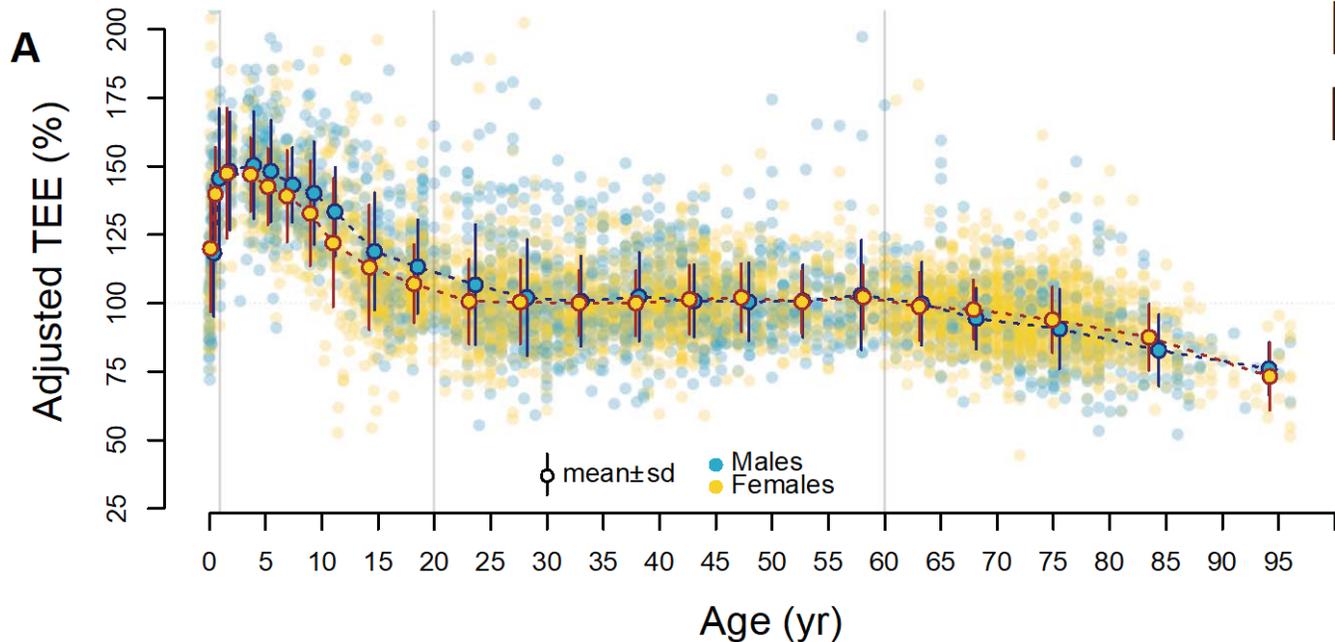
University of North Carolina School of  
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# Overarching hypothesis

- Aging is characterized by a progressive decline in mitochondrial capacity across most tissues, including the heart and vasculature.
- Numerous cytotoxic and targeted cancer therapies induce mitochondrial injury
- Mitochondrial toxicity may represent a specific vulnerability to adverse cardiovascular effects from cancer therapies for aging patients.

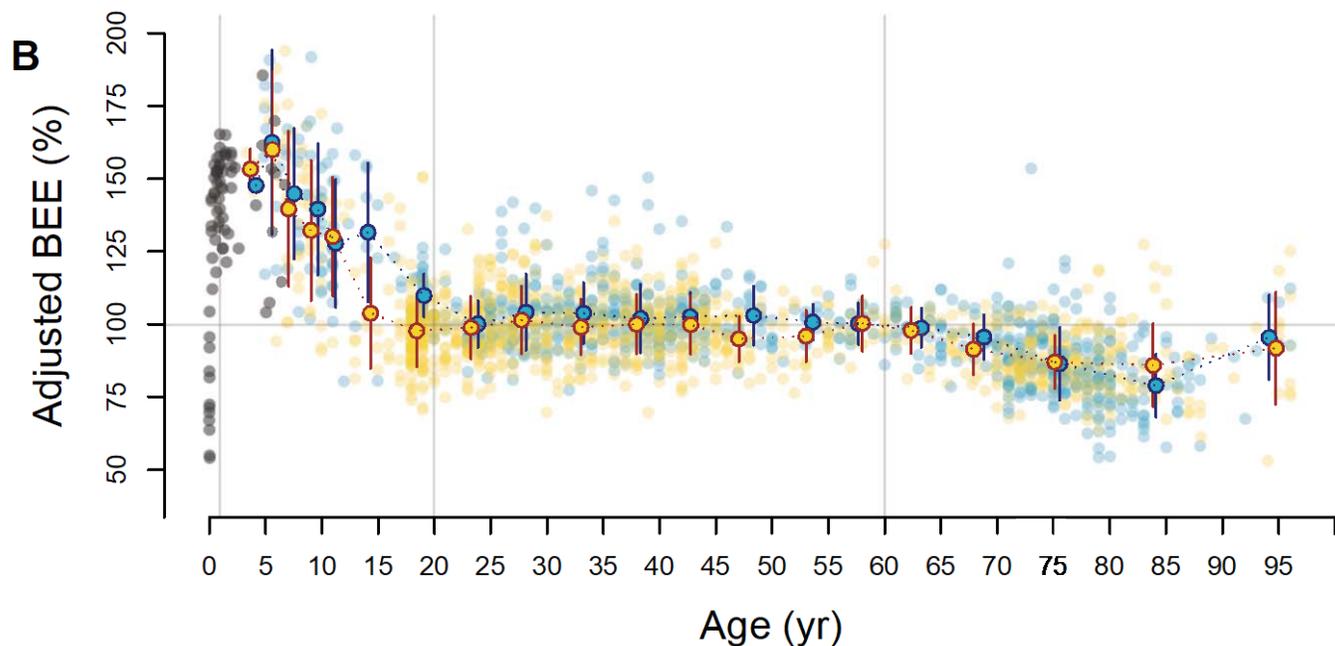
# Daily energy expenditure through the human life course



## Total Energy Expenditure (TEE)

Double isotope labeled water measurements  
4 distinct age groups

n = 6421 subjects (64% female) from 29 countries  
8 days – 95 years old



## Basal Energy Expenditure (BEE)

Indirect calorimetry (n=2008)  
4 distinct age groups

# The Mitochondrial Basis of Aging

Nuo Sun,<sup>1</sup> Richard J. Youle,<sup>2,\*</sup> and Toren Finkel<sup>1,\*</sup>

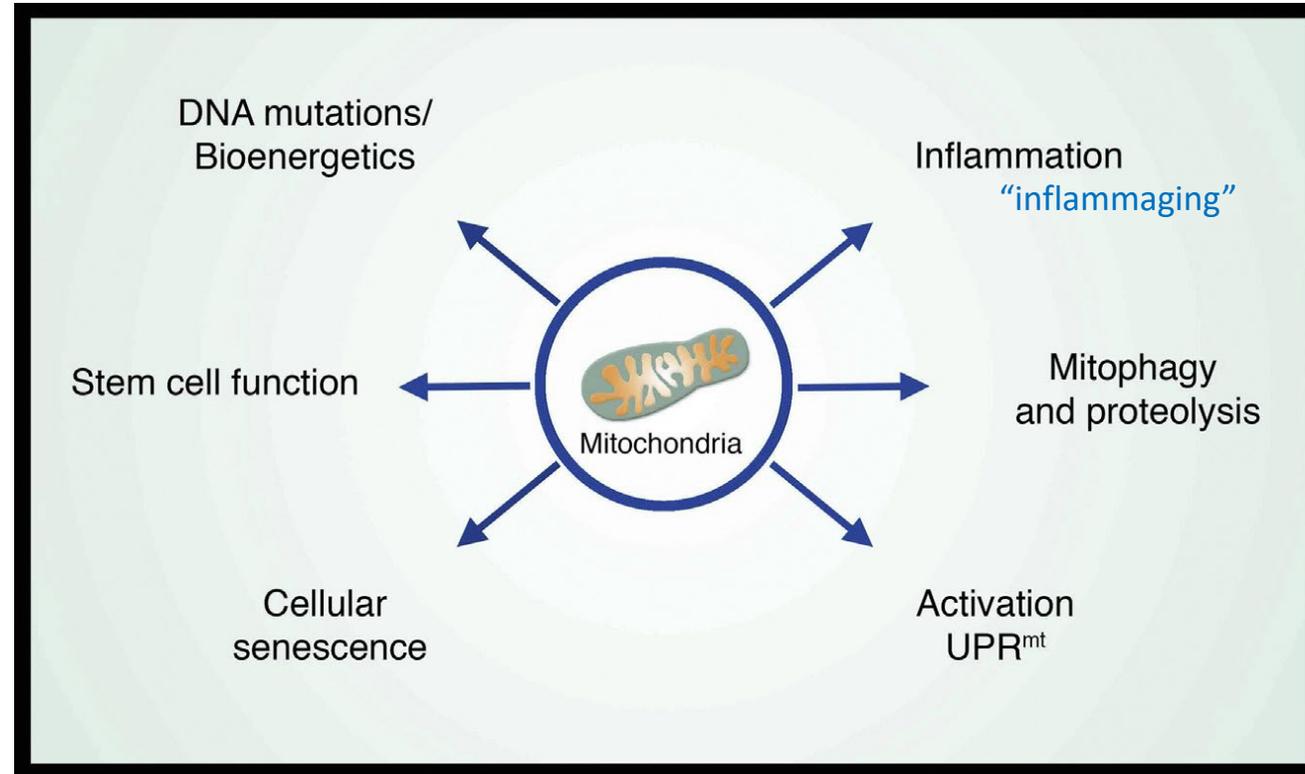
<sup>1</sup>Center for Molecular Medicine, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

<sup>2</sup>Biochemistry Section, Surgical Neurology Branch, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA

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Review



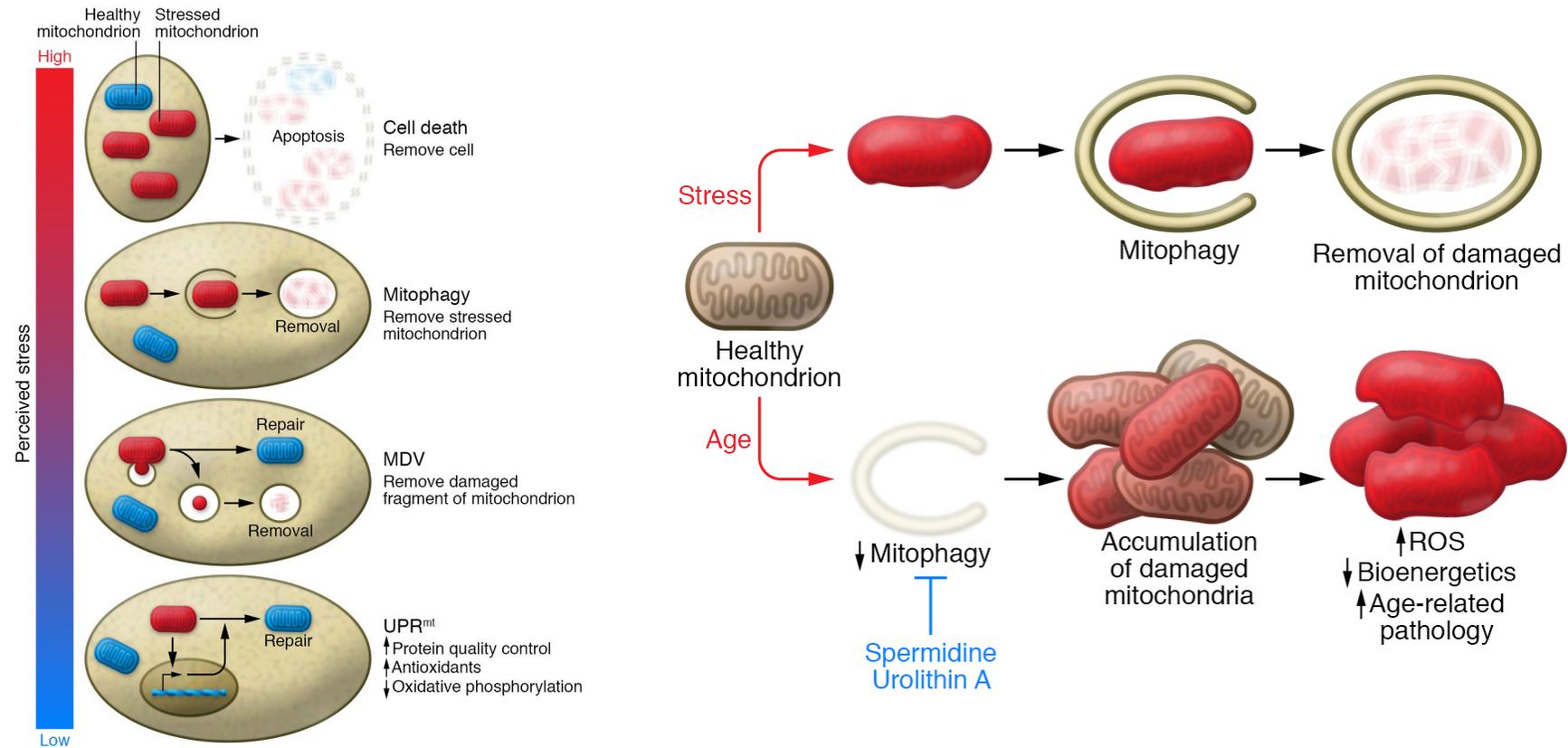
**Hypothesis:** Declines in multiple aspects of mitochondrial function, mediated by mitochondrial DNA mutations and impaired clearance of defective mitochondria, constitute a major basis of aging.

# The role of mitochondria in aging

Ji Yong Jang,<sup>1</sup> Arnon Blum,<sup>2</sup> Jie Liu,<sup>1</sup> and Toren Finkel<sup>1</sup>

jci.org Volume 128 Number 9 September 2018

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Aging impairs both mitochondrial quality and the systems for removal of damaged mitochondria (chiefly mitophagy)

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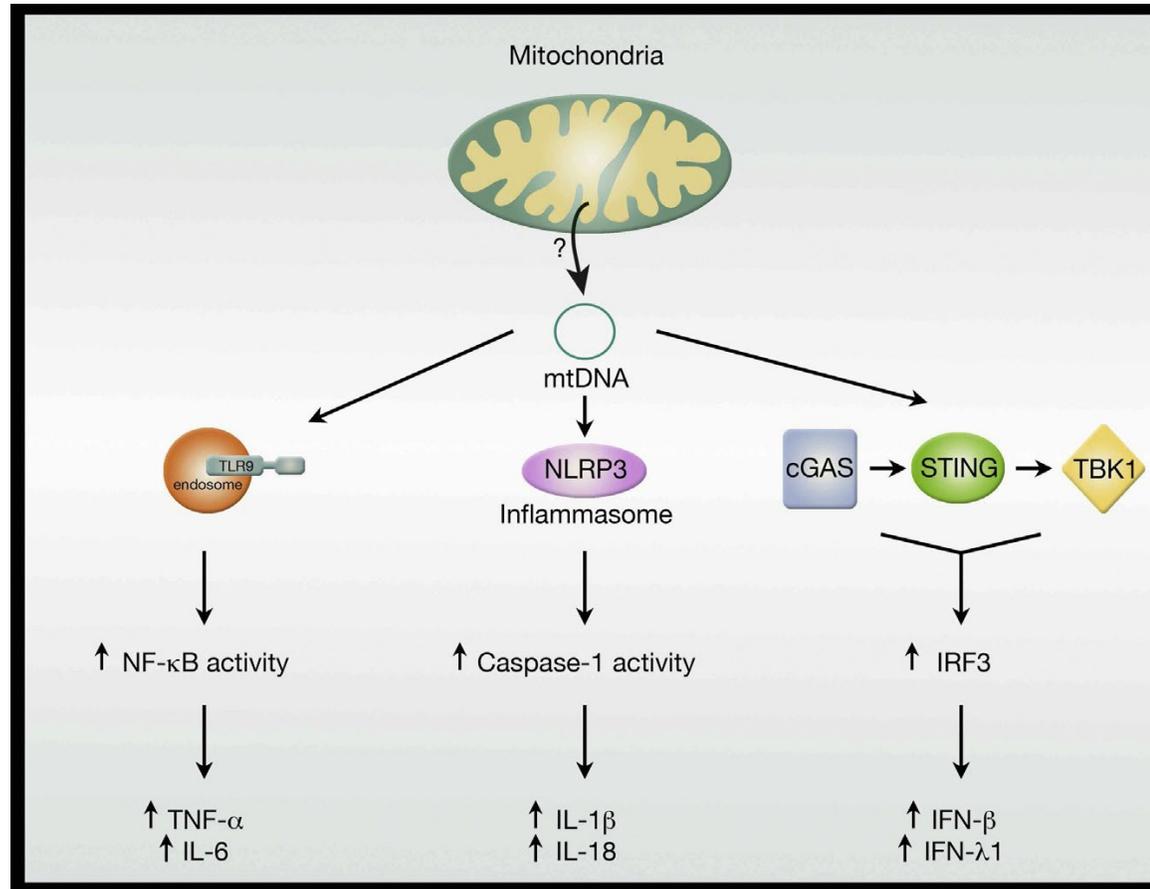
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Conflict of interest: The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

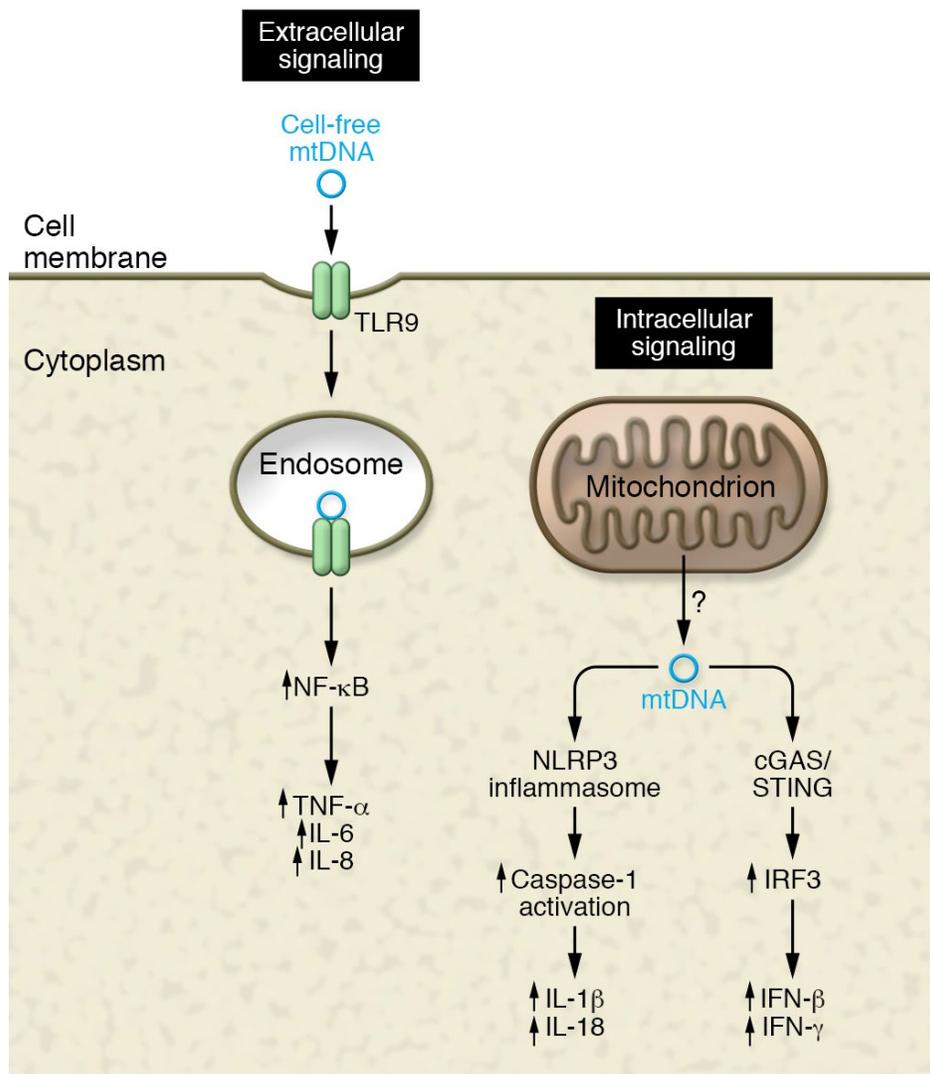
Reference information: *J Clin Invest.* 2018;128(9):3662–3670.

<https://doi.org/10.1172/JCI11033>

# The role of mitochondria in aging

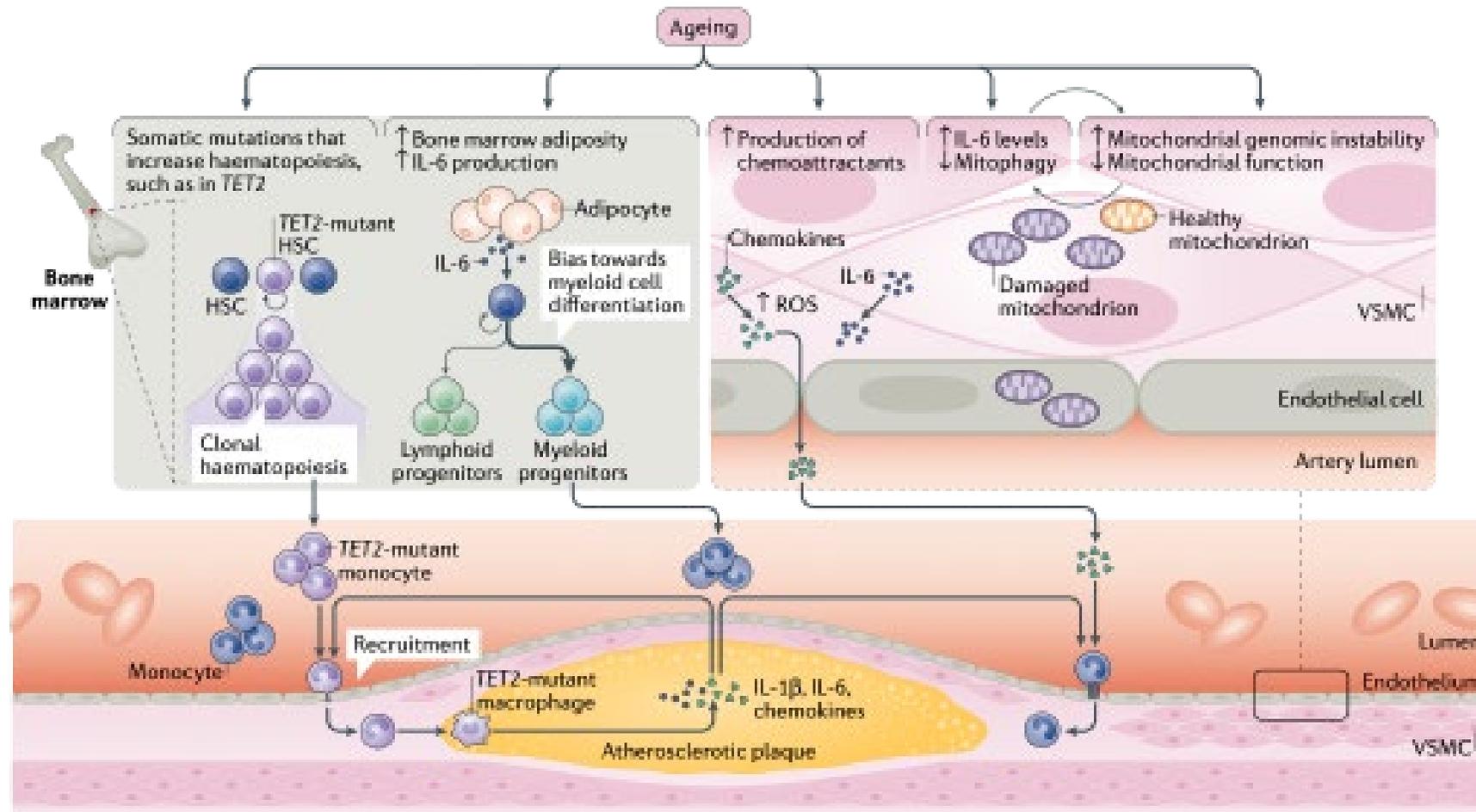
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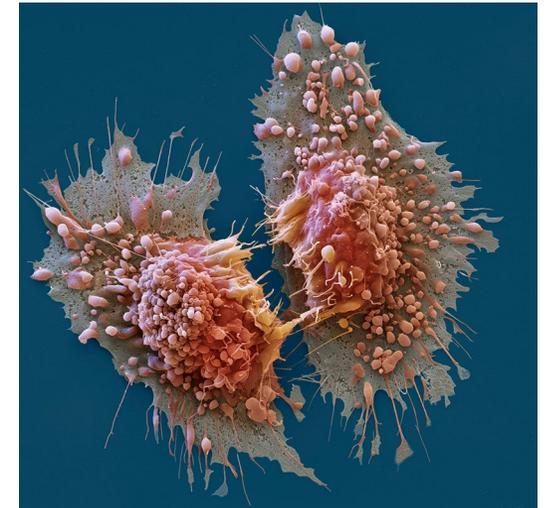
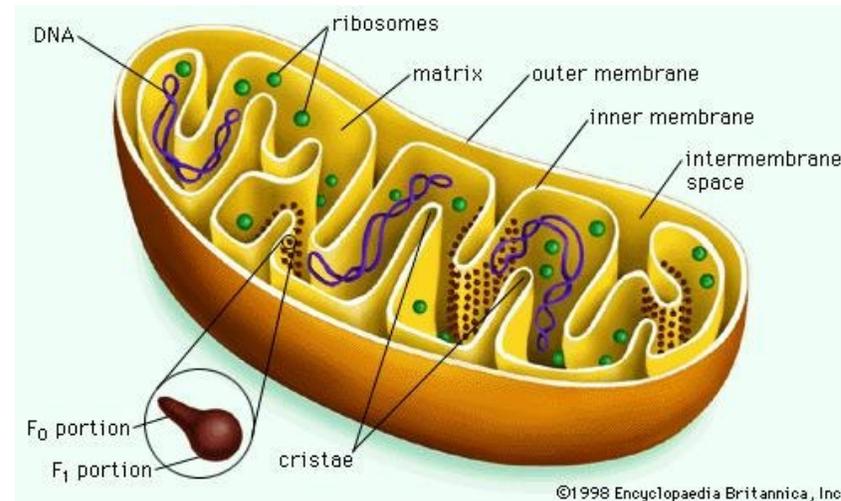
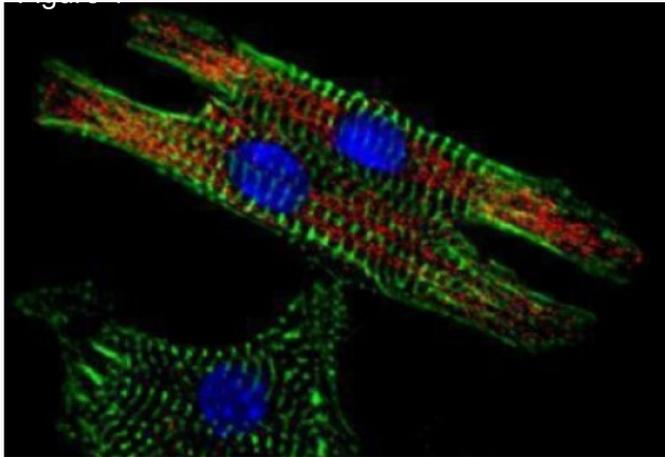
Persistent mitochondrial injury leads to release of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) that activates inflammatory signaling pathways (serving as a Damage Associated Molecular Pattern—DAMP)

# “Inflammaging” induced by mitochondrial defects contributes to atherosclerosis in aging



# The heart is highly reliant on optimal mitochondrial function

- Mitochondria constitute roughly 1/3 of cardiomyocytes by volume
  - The heart consumes 6 kg of ATP per day, the highest energy requirement for any organ
- Cardiomyocytes rely on fatty acid oxidation to fuel oxidative phosphorylation; cancer cells are more flexible metabolically
  - Aging compromises the metabolic resilience of the heart

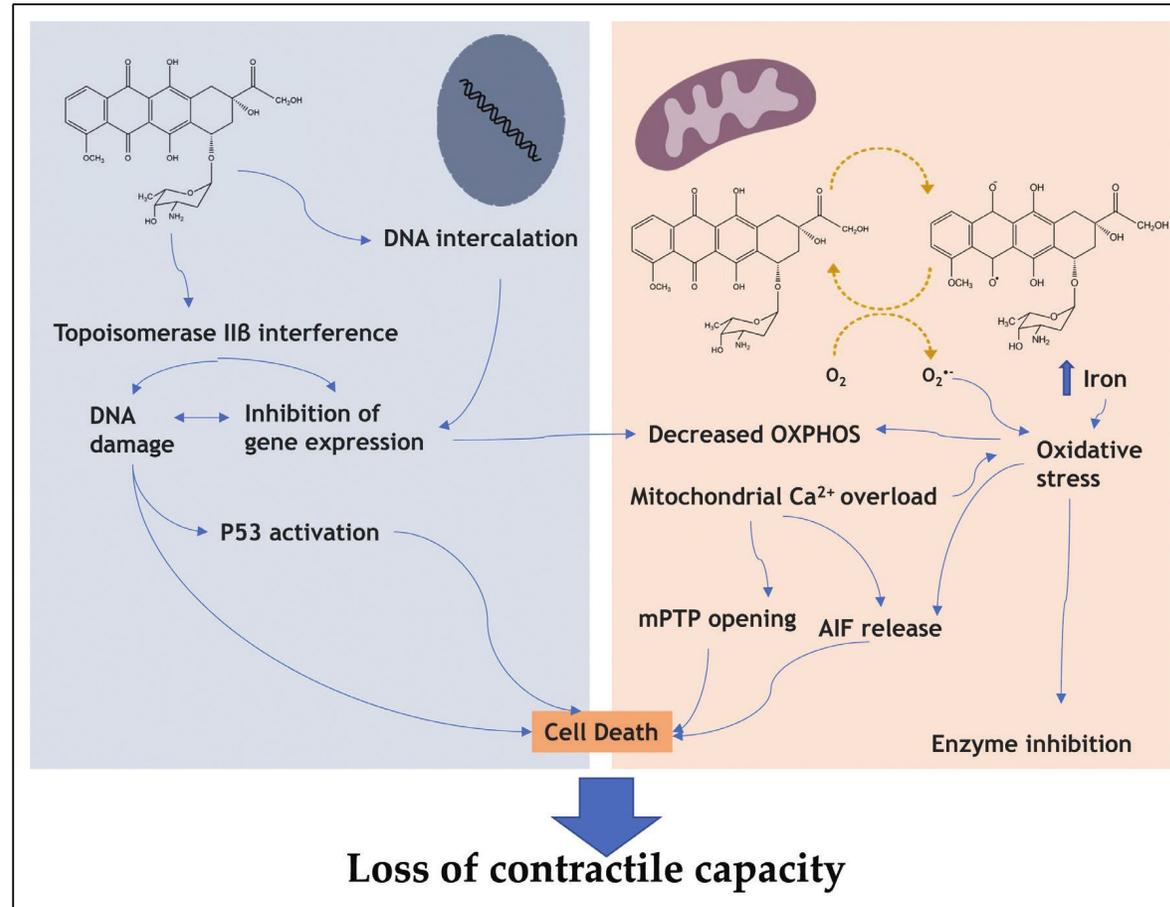


The high energy requirement and limited metabolic repertoire in cardiomyocytes may represent a specific vulnerability for cancer therapy cardiotoxicity

# Mitochondrial Determinants of Doxorubicin-Induced Cardiomyopathy

Kendall B. Wallace, Vilma A. Sardão, Paulo J. Oliveira

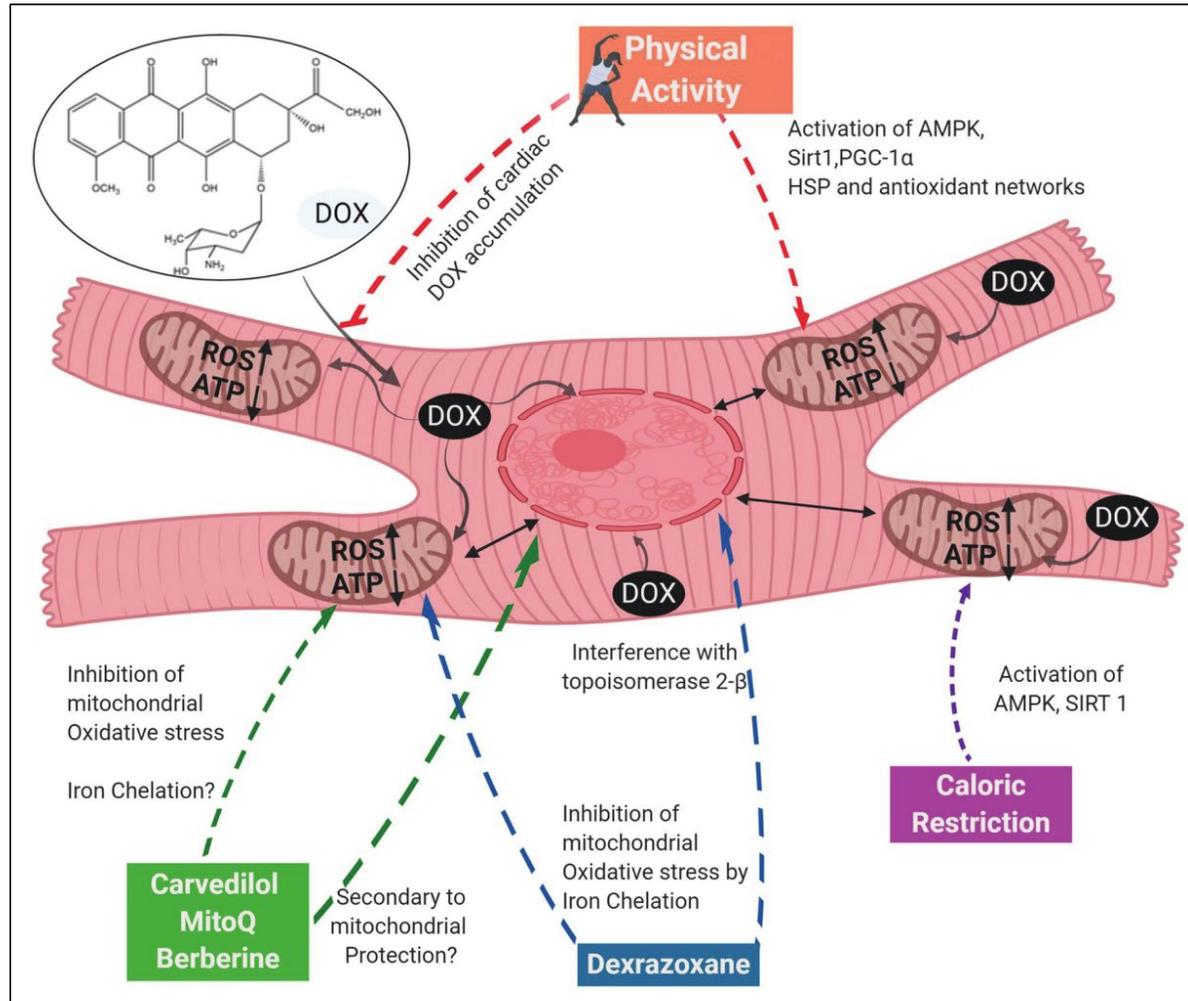
*Circulation Research.* 2020;126:926–941.



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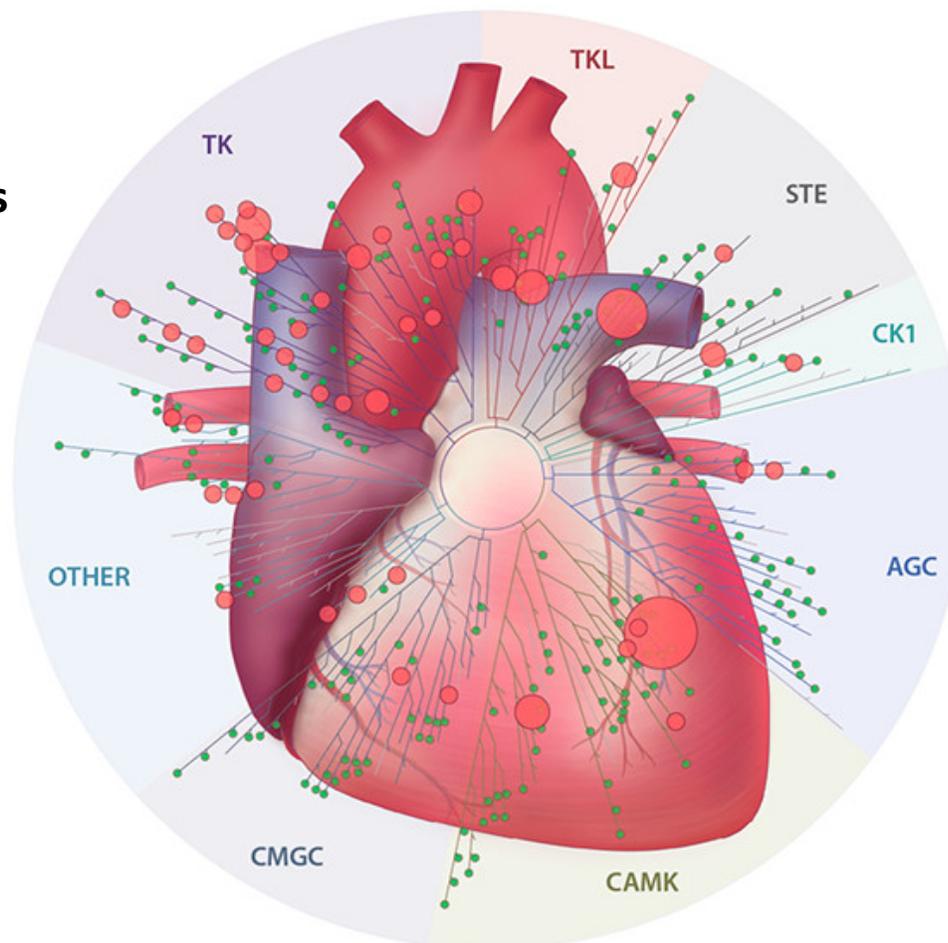
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# Other antineoplastic agents with mitochondrial (and cardiovascular) toxicities

## Kinase Inhibitors

Bevacizumab  
Dasatinib  
Imatinib  
Lenvatinib  
Regorafenib  
Sorafenib  
Sunitinib  
Trametinib



## Others

Cisplatin  
Trastuzumab  
Mitoxantrone  
Imatinib

# Challenges and Opportunities

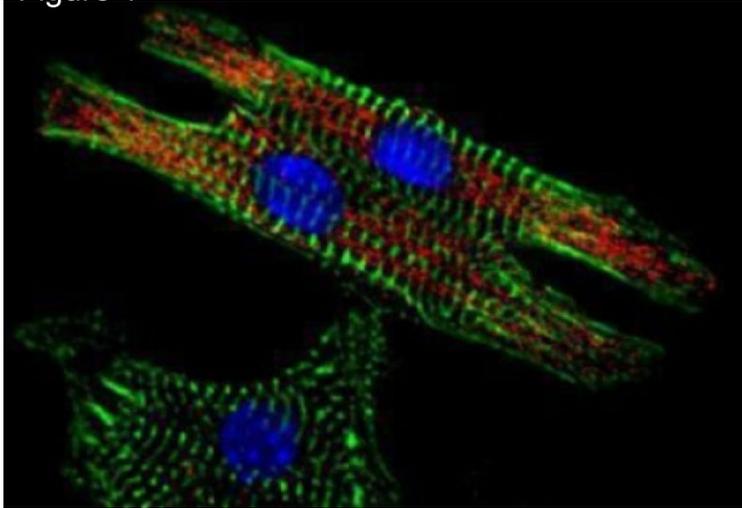
- Preclinical assessment for cardiovascular toxicities should include mitochondrial profiling
- Therapeutic strategies for cancer therapy associated toxicity should incorporate mitochondrial protection

**THANKS!**

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# Contrasting cardiomyocytes and cancer

**Cardiomyocytes**

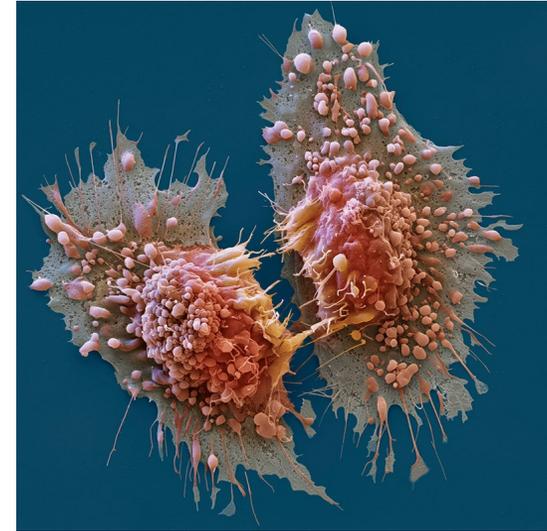


Terminally differentiated

Very limited regeneration

Energy derived from fatty acids

**Cancer cells**



Undifferentiated

Nearly limitless replication

Energy derived from glucose and glutamine

The differences between cardiomyocytes and cancer cells suggest the possibility that we could develop truly targeted and “cardiosafe” cancer drugs.