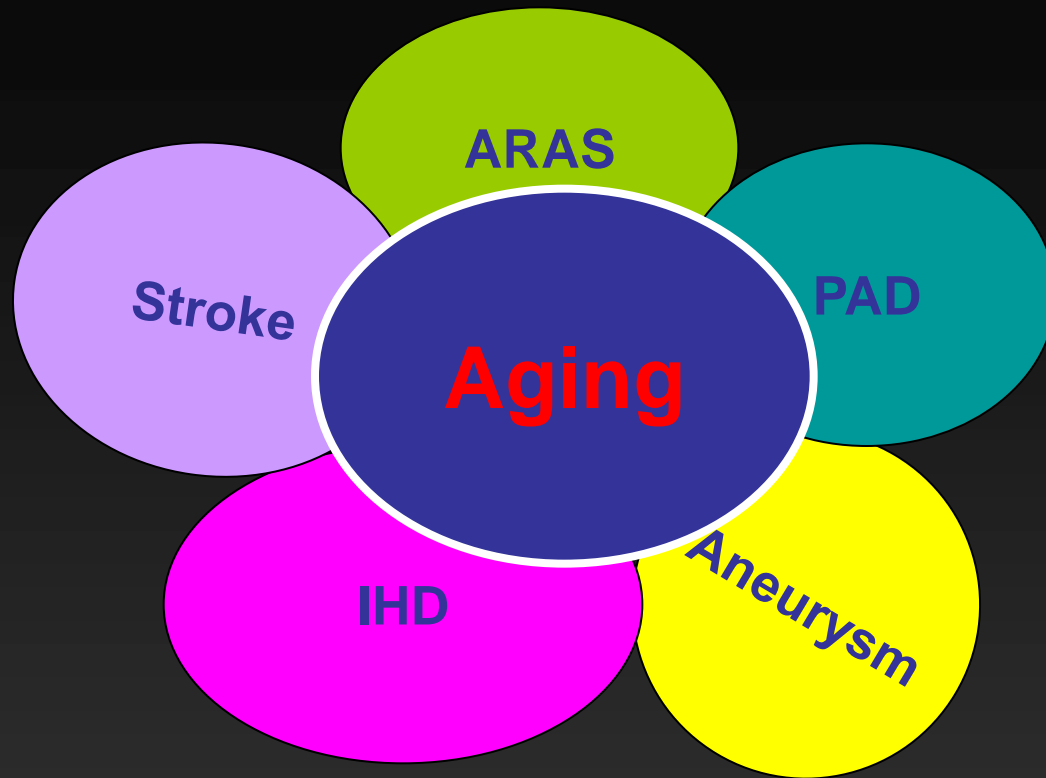


# Exercise Rescues Vascular Action in Response to Hypoxia in Aged Animal and Human

Department of Cardiology  
Nagoya University School of Medicine

Xian Wu Cheng MD, PhD



- 1) Atherosclerosis
- 2) Vascular aging
- 3) Ischemia-hypoxia

IHD: Ischemic heart disease

PAD: Peripheral arterial disease

ARAS: Atherosclerotic renal artery stenosis

# Anti-vascular aging (anti-aging)

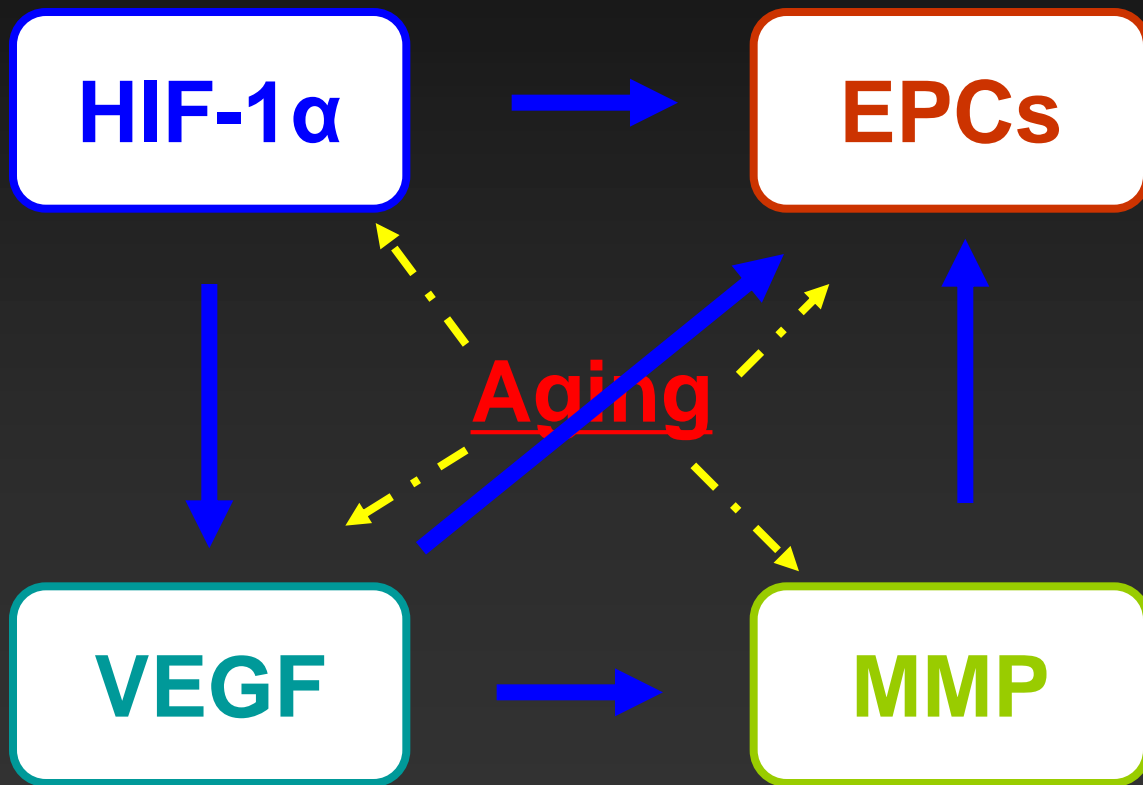
 **Exercises**

 **Pharmacological interventions**

 **Diet/calorie restriction**

 **Others**

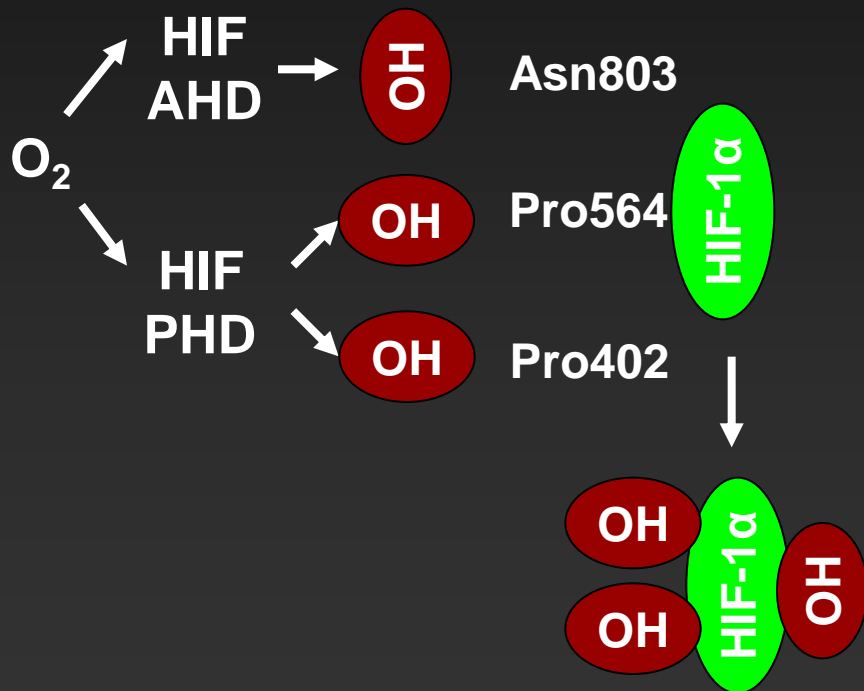
# Key player for vascular action response to hypoxia



**HIF-1 $\alpha$** : Hypoxia-induced factor- $\alpha$ ; **EPC**: endothelial progenitor cell  
**VEGF**: vascular endothelial growth factor; **MMP**: matrix metalloproteinase

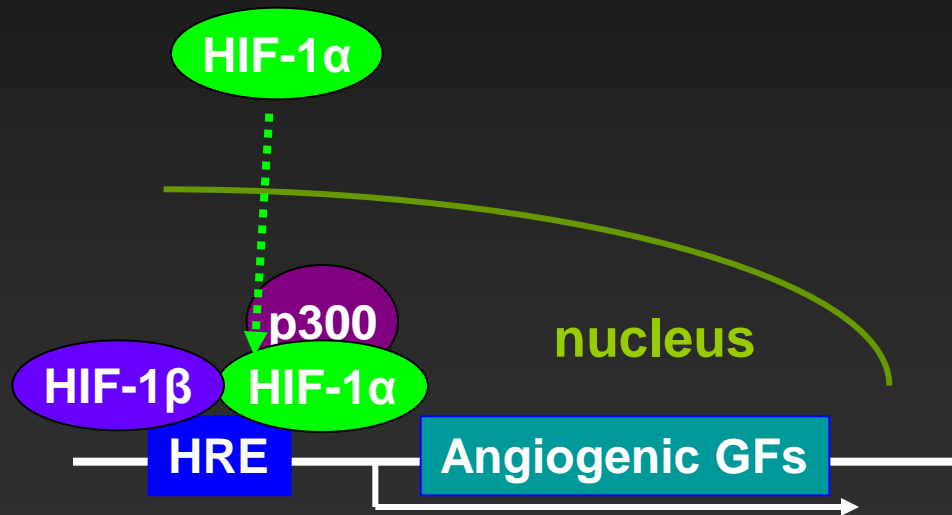
# HIF-1 $\alpha$ metabolism

## Normal oxygen condition



Ubiquitination  
**Proteasome**

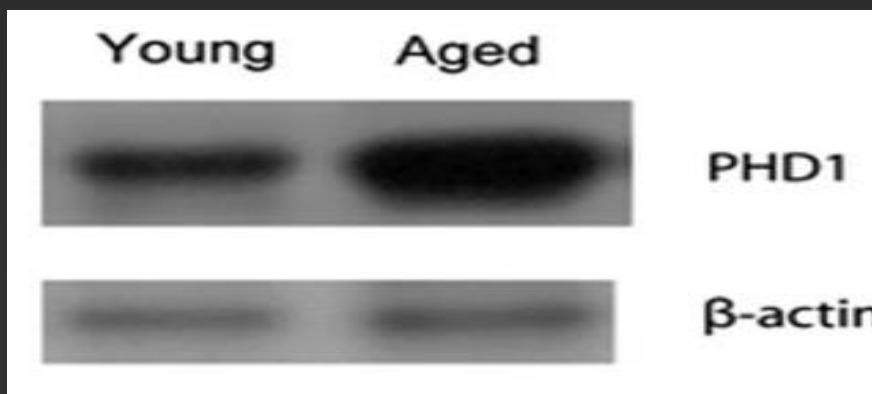
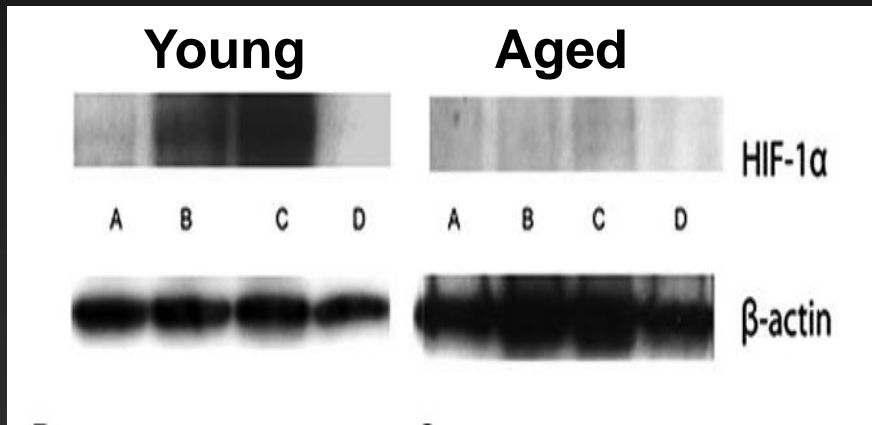
## Hypoxic condition



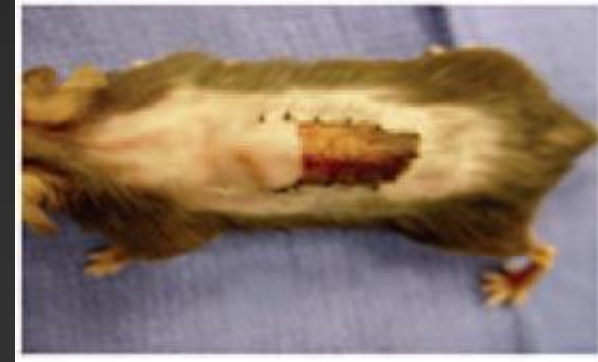
HIF-1 $\alpha$ : Hypoxia-induced factor- $\alpha$   
GF: Growth factor  
HD: Asparaginyl hydroxylase  
PHD: Prolyl hydroxylase domain

# Representative ischemic flaps showing complete healing in the young and necrosis in the aged

## Western Blotting

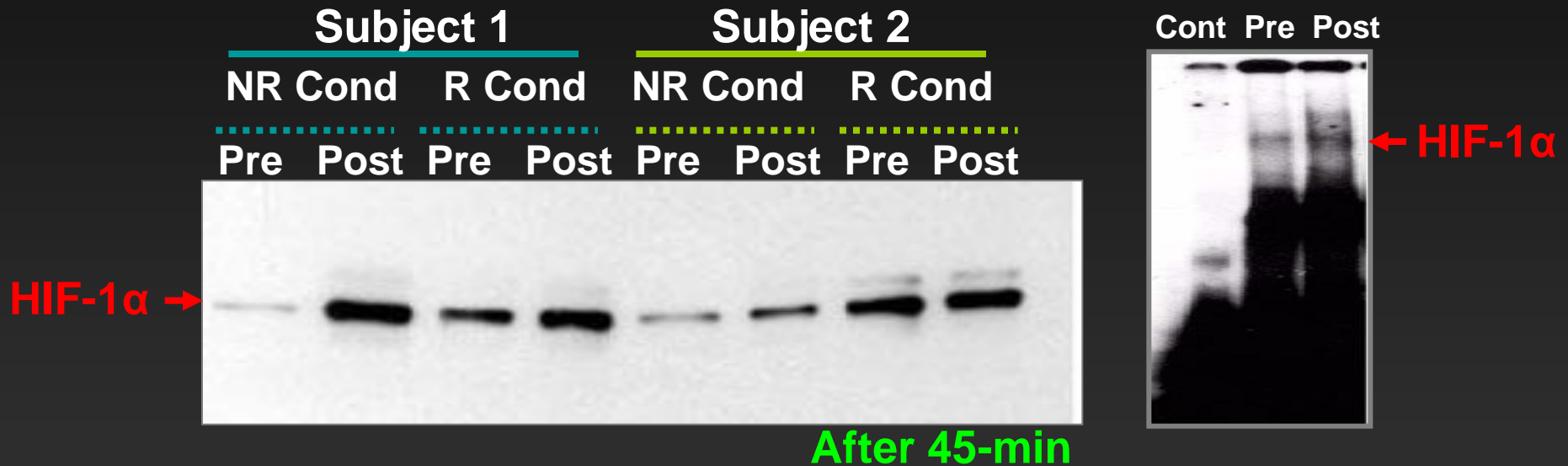


Young



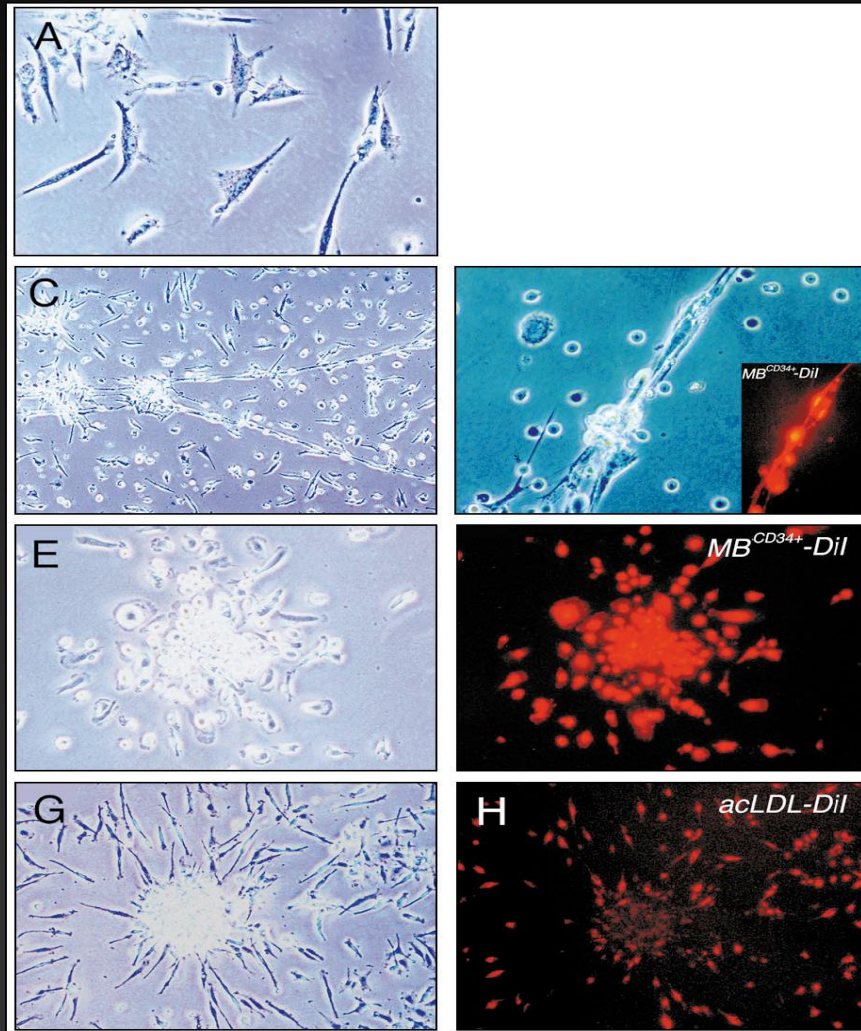
Aged

# Exercise induces HIF-1 $\alpha$ expression and its DNA binding activity



NR Cond: non-restricted blood flow condition  
R Cond: restricted blood flow condition  
Pre: before 1-legged knee-extension exercise  
Post: after 1-legged knee-extension exercise

# Isolation of putative endothelial progenitor cells (EPCs) in peripheral blood



## EPCs Markers:

CD45 (-)

CD31 (+)

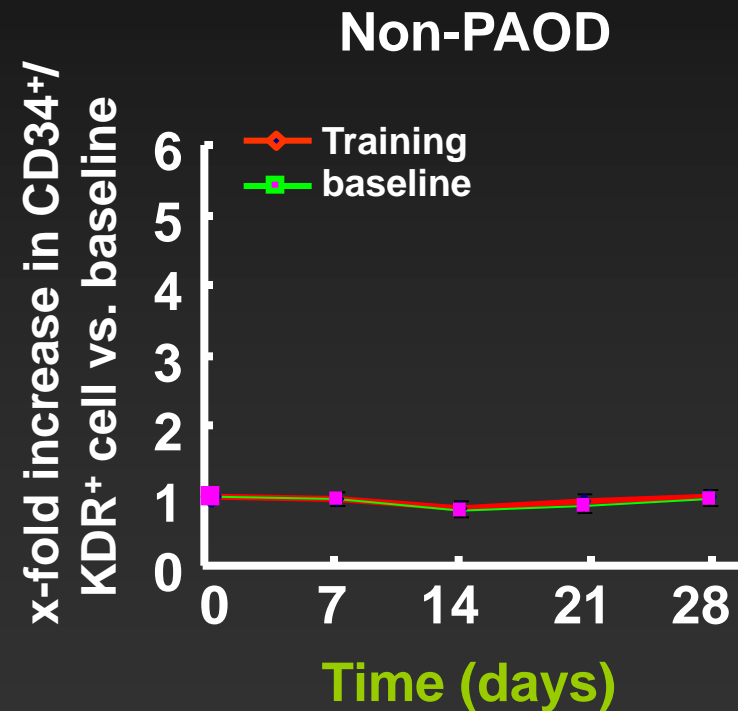
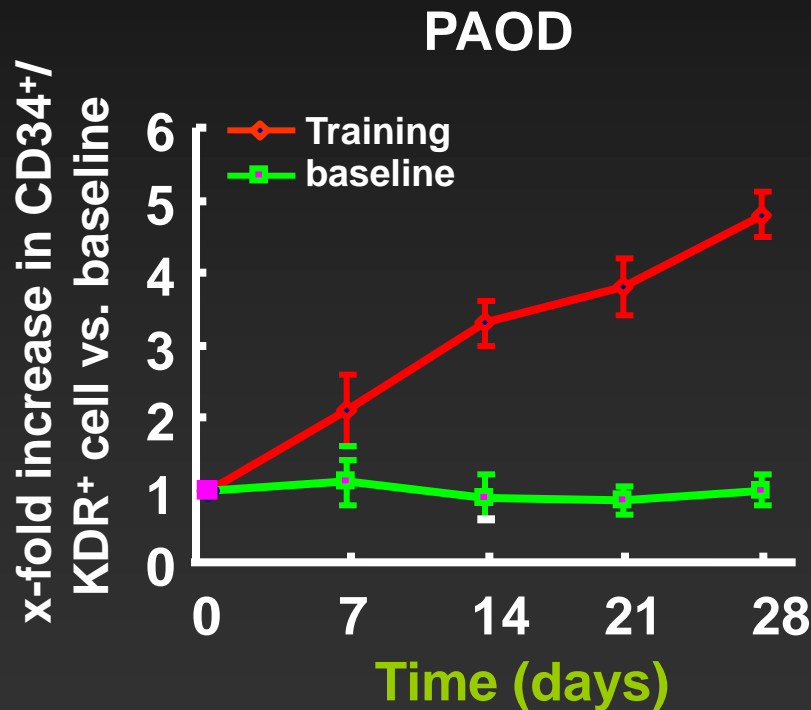
CD34 (+)

Flk-1 (+)

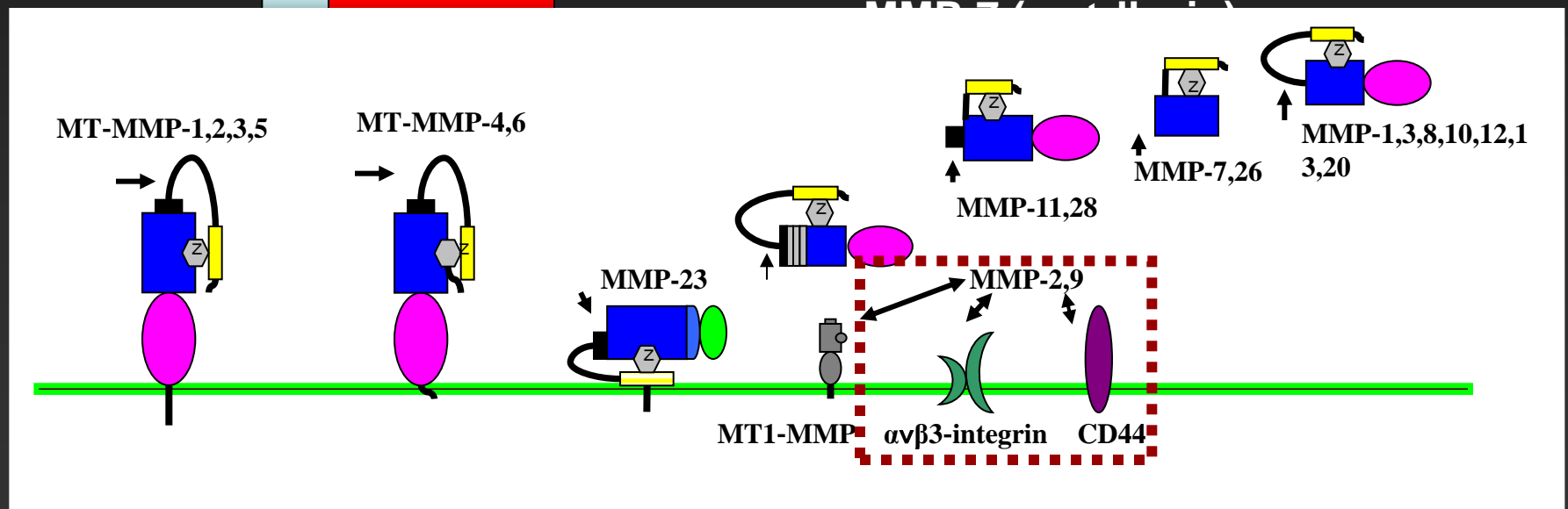
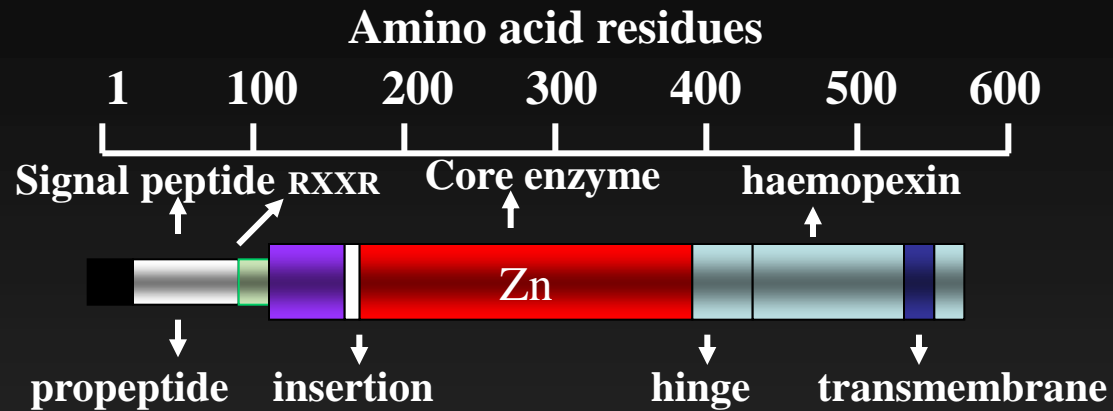
Tie-2 (+)



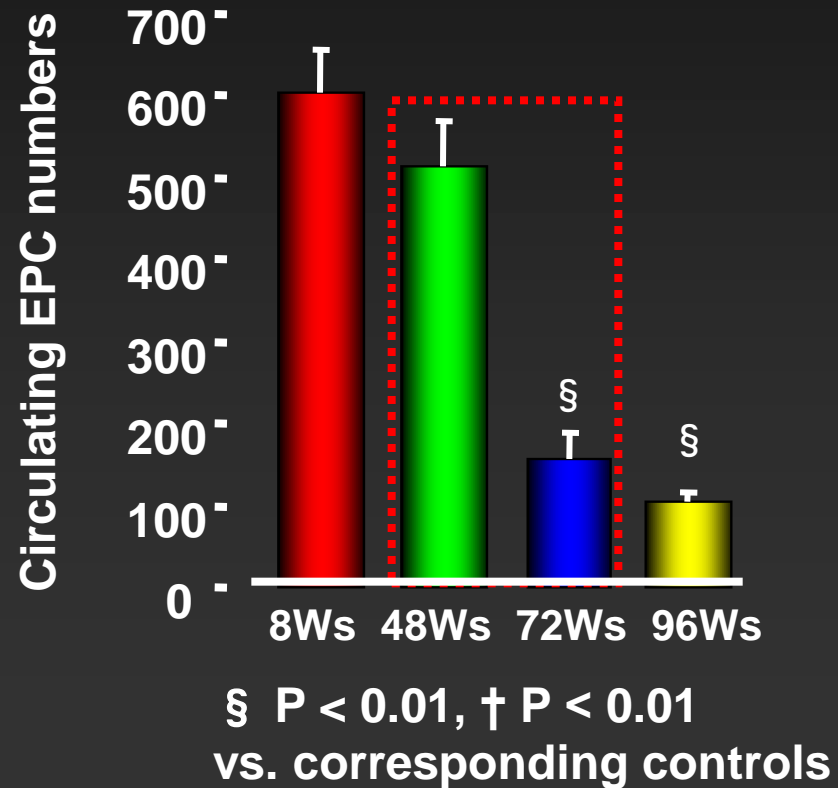
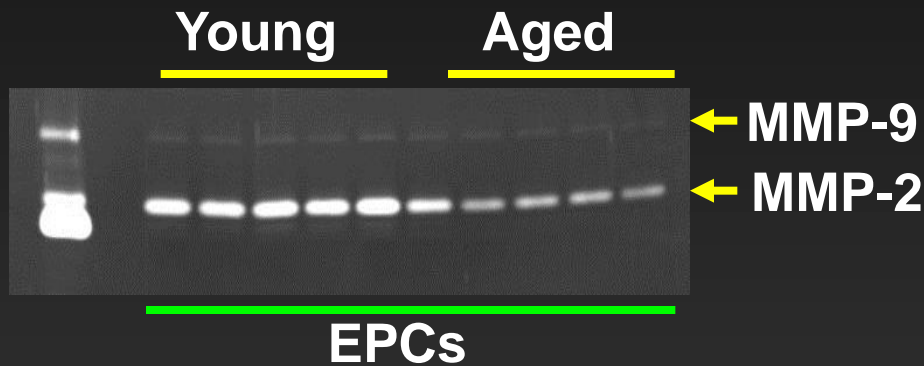
# Effects of exercise and ischemia on CPCs mobilization in patients with PAOD



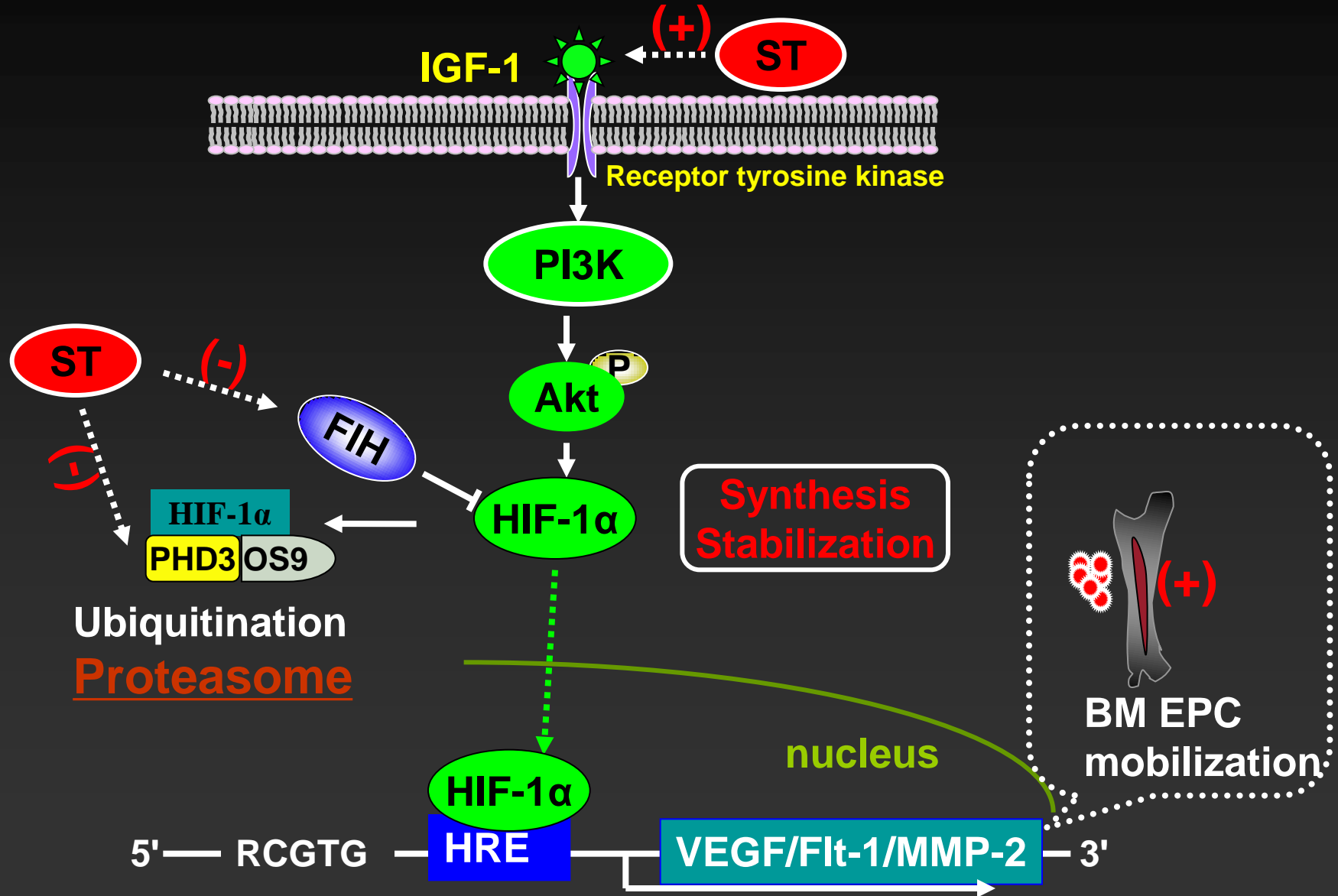
# Review on MMP structure and classification



# Age impairs MMP-2 expression and EPC recruitment response to ischemia



# Hypothesis



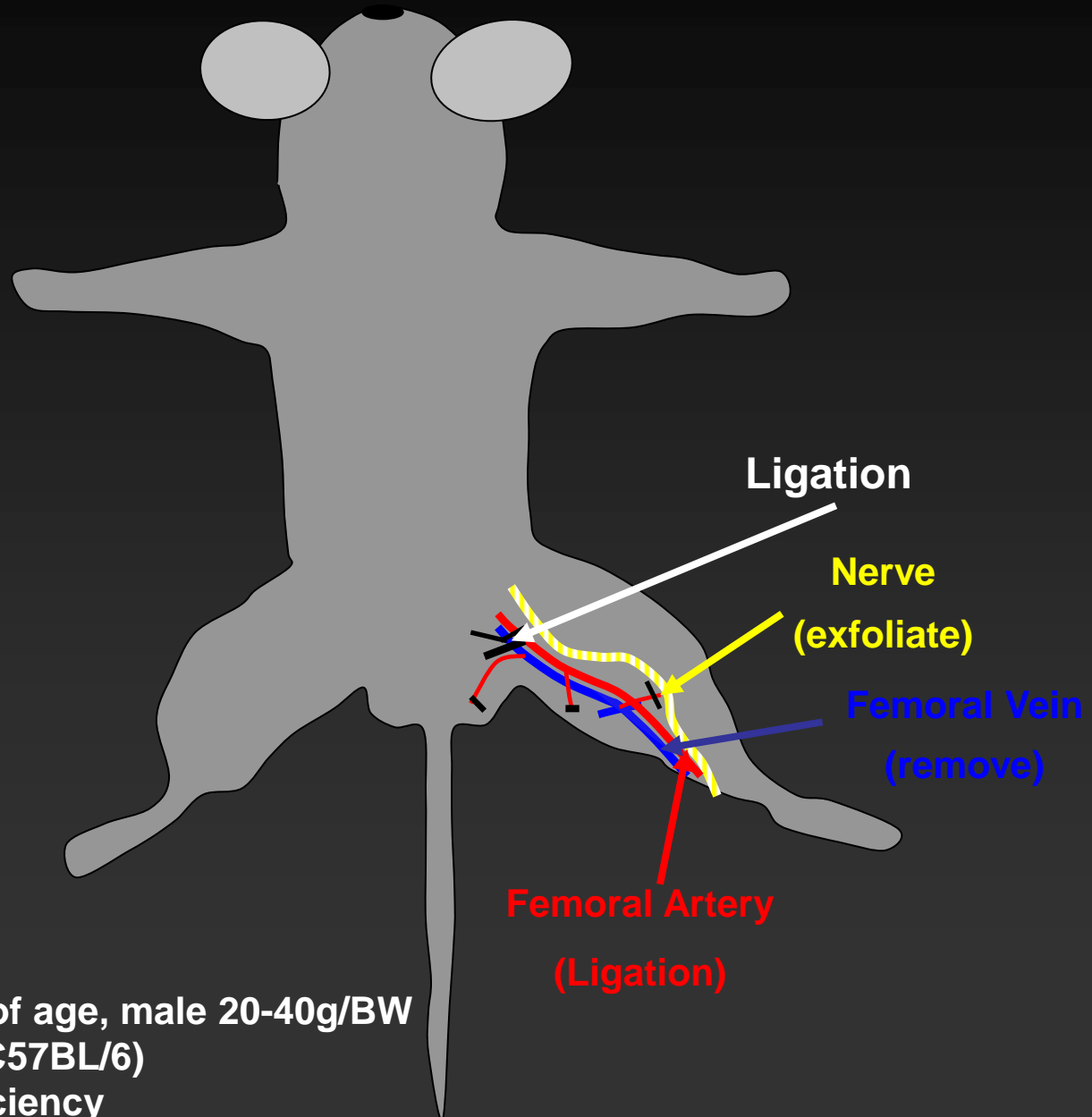
IGF: Insulin-like growth factor-1; FIH: factor inhibiting HIF-1

ST: Swimming training; PI3K: Phosphoinositide-3-kinase; (+): Positive; (-): Negative

# Goal

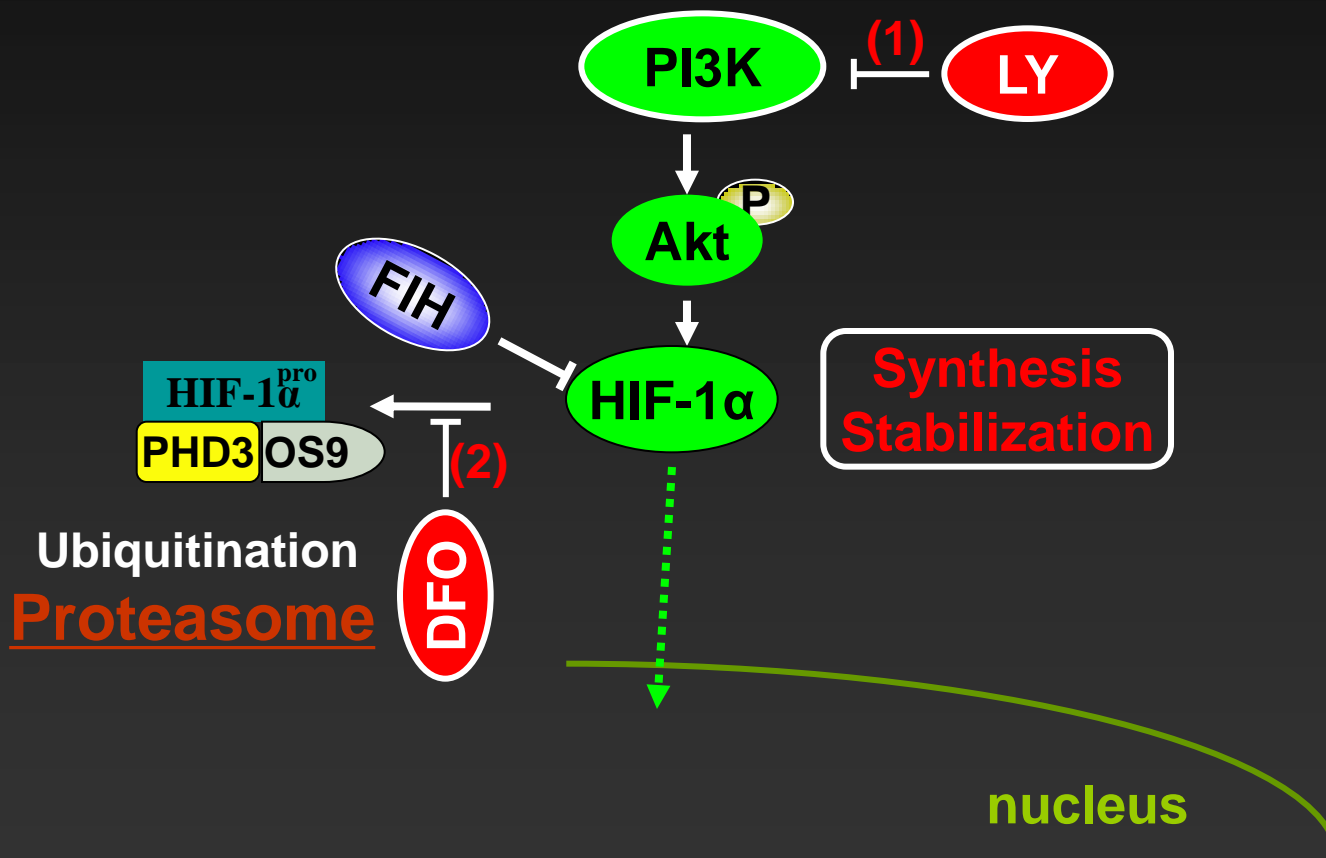
- **To clarify the beneficial effects, and the mechanisms of actions, of exercise training in neovascularization of advanced age.**

# Mouse femoral artery ligation model



Aged mice: 24 months of age, male 20-40g/BW  
WT: Wild type (C57BL/6)  
MMP-2 KO: MMP-2-deficiency

# Experiment (1)



FIH: Factor inhibiting HIF-1  
LY294002: PI3K inhibitor  
DFO: Deferoxamine, HIF-1α stabilizer

# Protocol (1)

WT mice (WT; n= 102)



- ① Non-swimming training (non-ST),
- ② Swimming training (ST),
- ③ LY294002 (0.5 mom/kg/d; ST-LY),
- ④ Deferoxamine (10 mg/kg/d; ST-DFO)

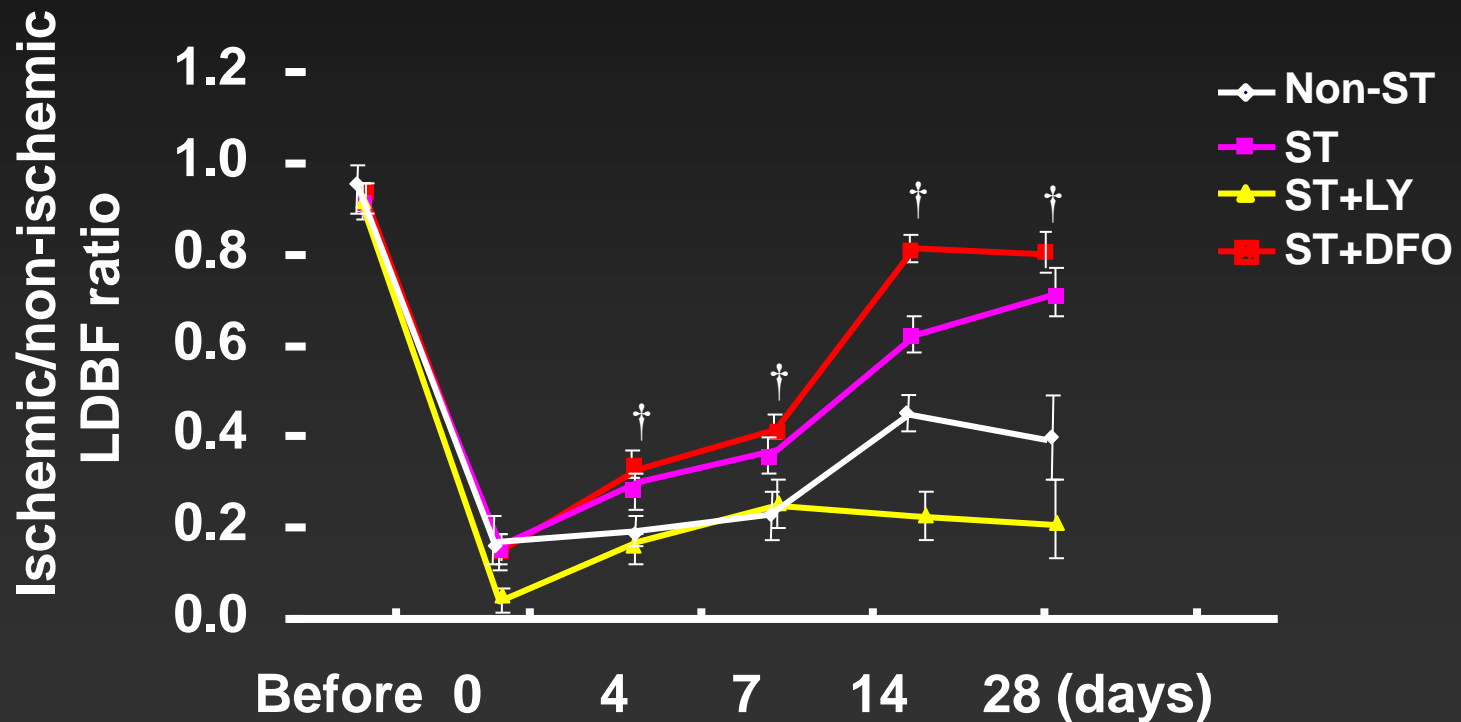


## Methods

- Laser Doppler blood flow (LDBF) analysis
- Histological and biological analysis
- Bone-marrow transplantation assay
- In vitro stimulation assays

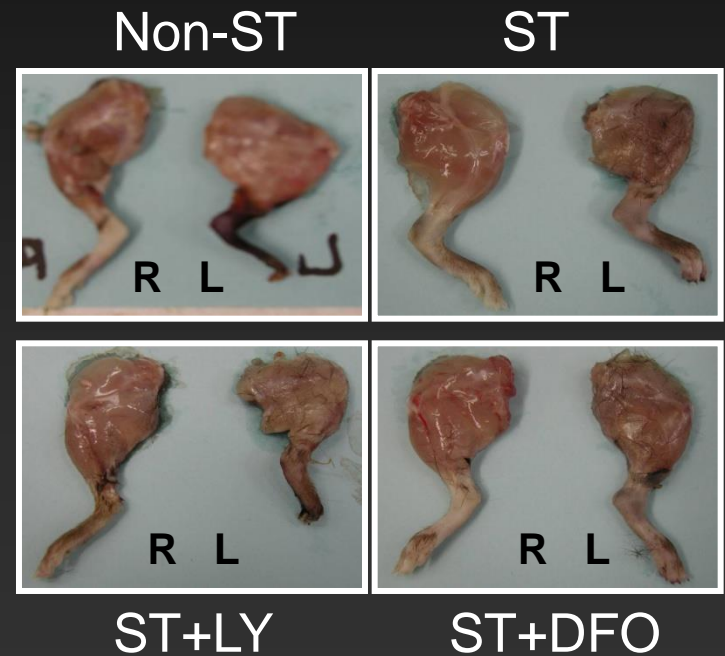
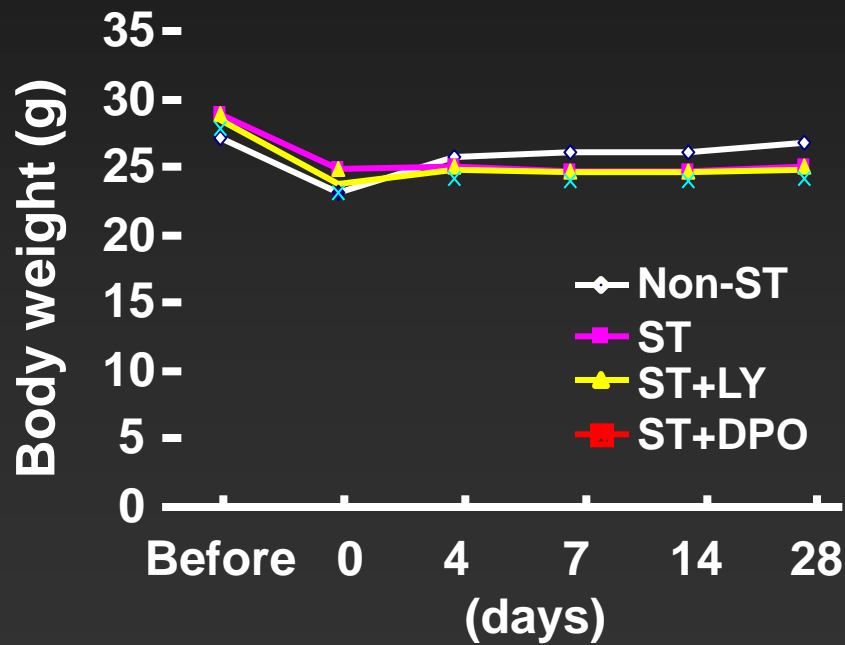


# ST improves impaired blood flow perfusion in advanced age

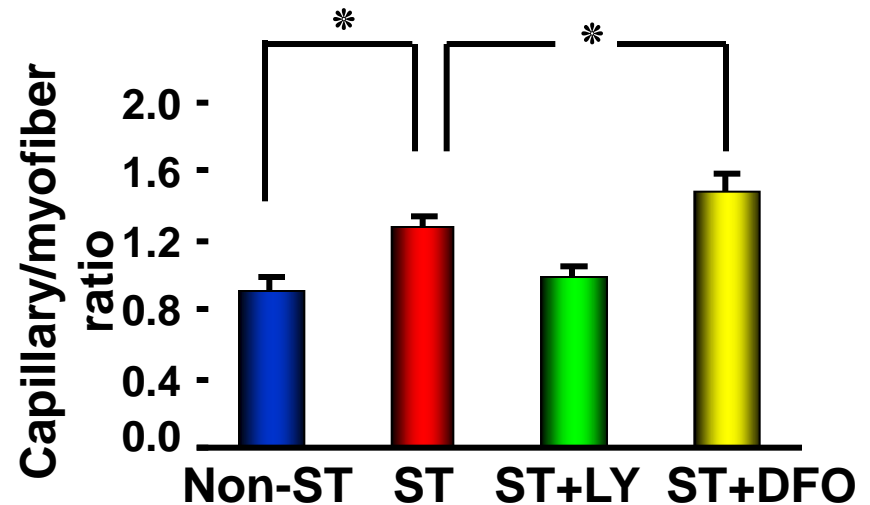
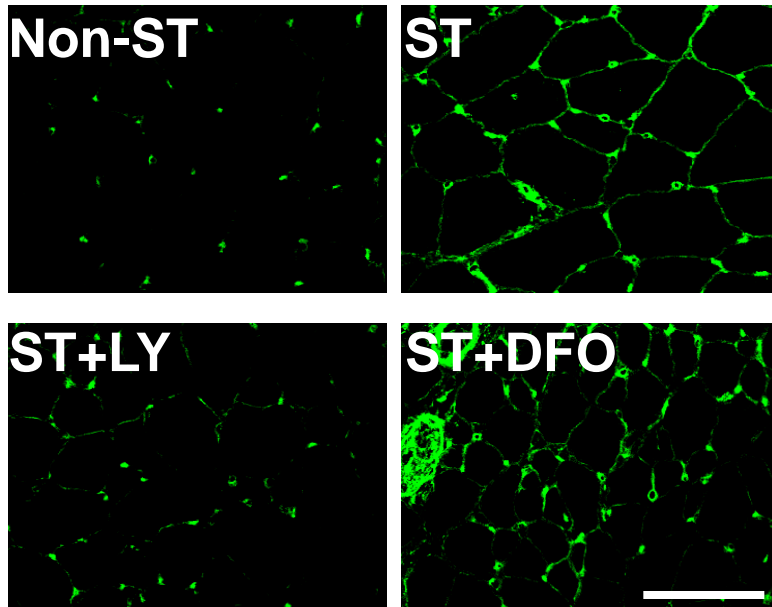


† P < 0.01 vs. corresponding controls

# Body weight in four experimental groups

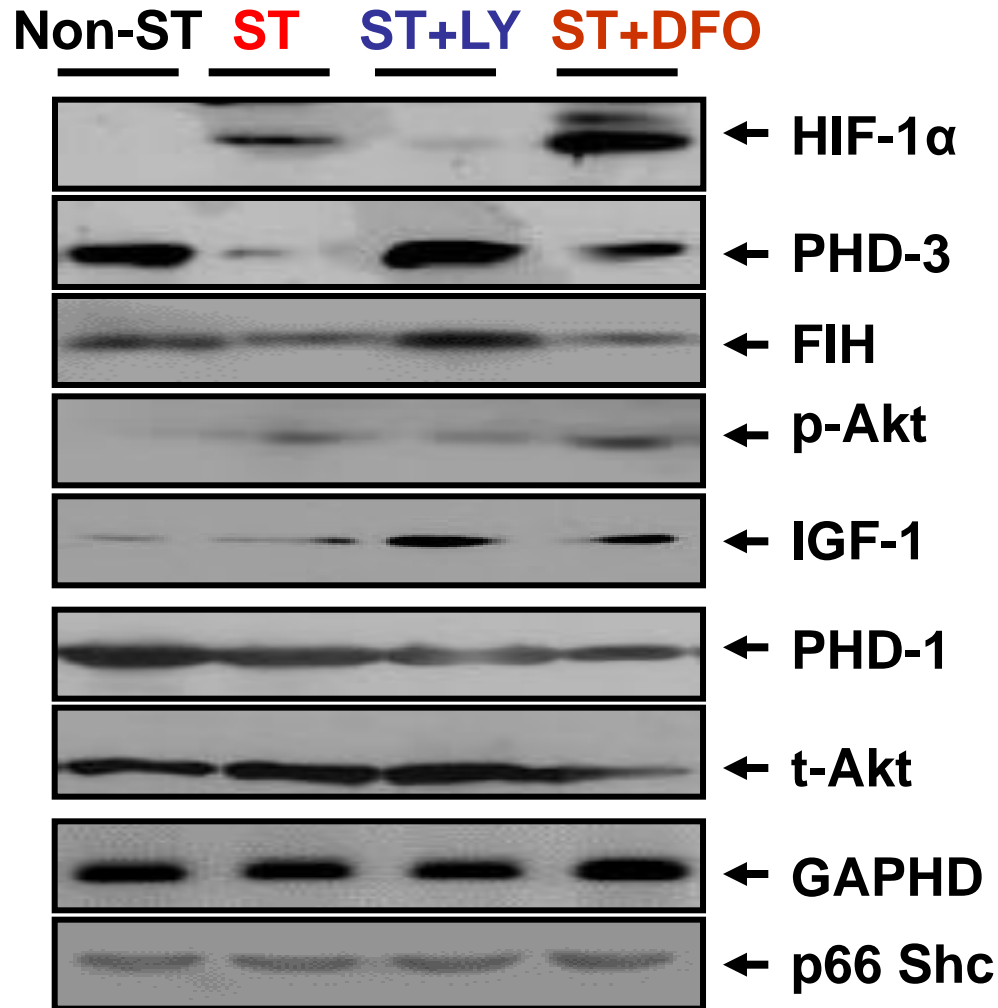


# ST restores neovascularization response to hypoxia in the muscle of advanced age

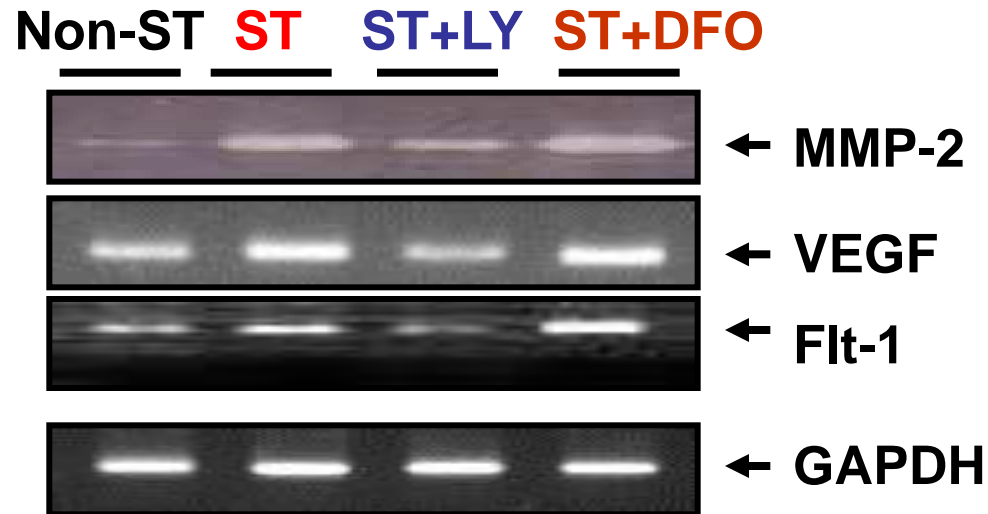


\*  $P < 0.05$  vs. corresponding controls

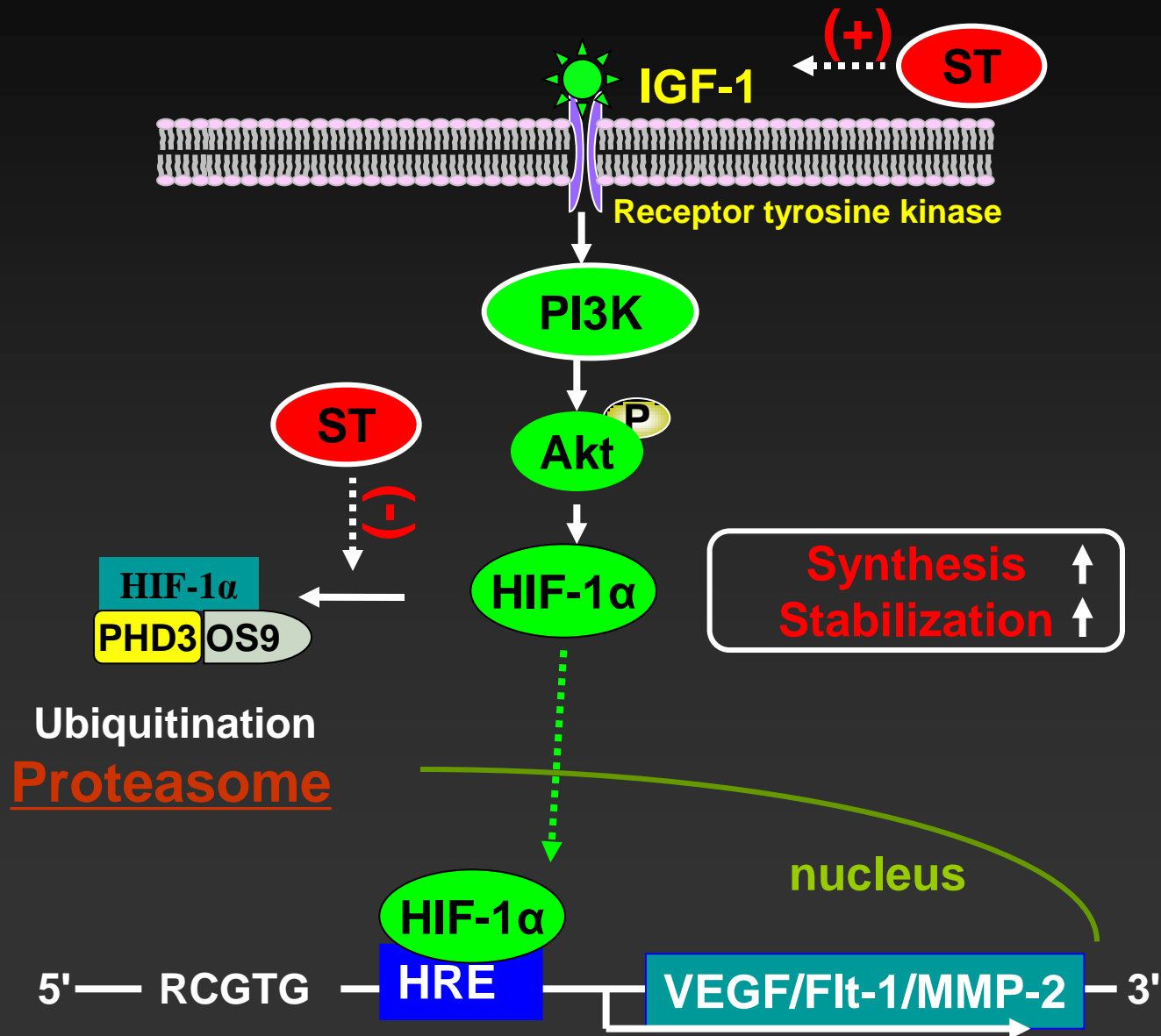
# Effects of ST on the levels of HIF-1/p-Akt and PHD3/FIH proteins in ischemic muscles



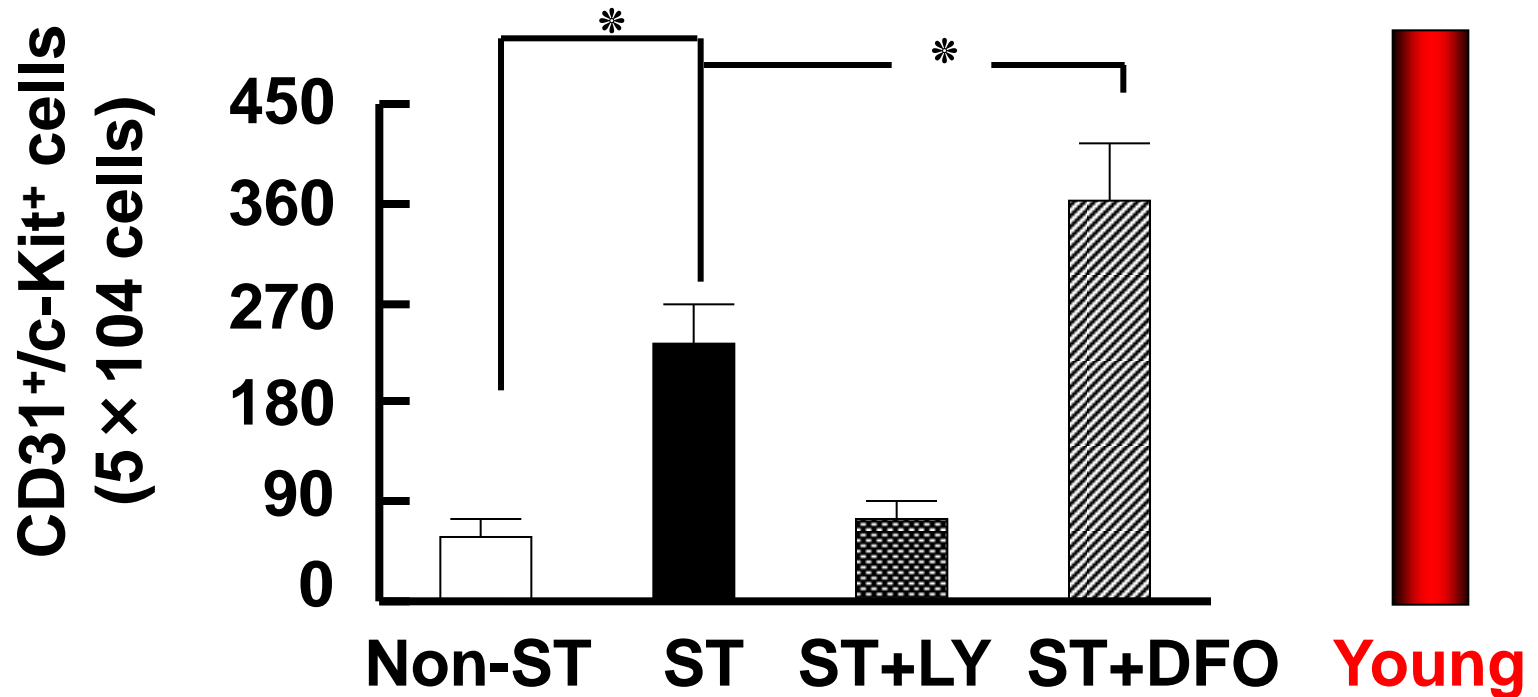
# ST increased VEGF/Flt-1 mRNAs and MMP-2 activity in ischemic muscle



# ST stimulates IGF-1/PI3K/Akt signaling pathway in ischemic tissue of advanced age

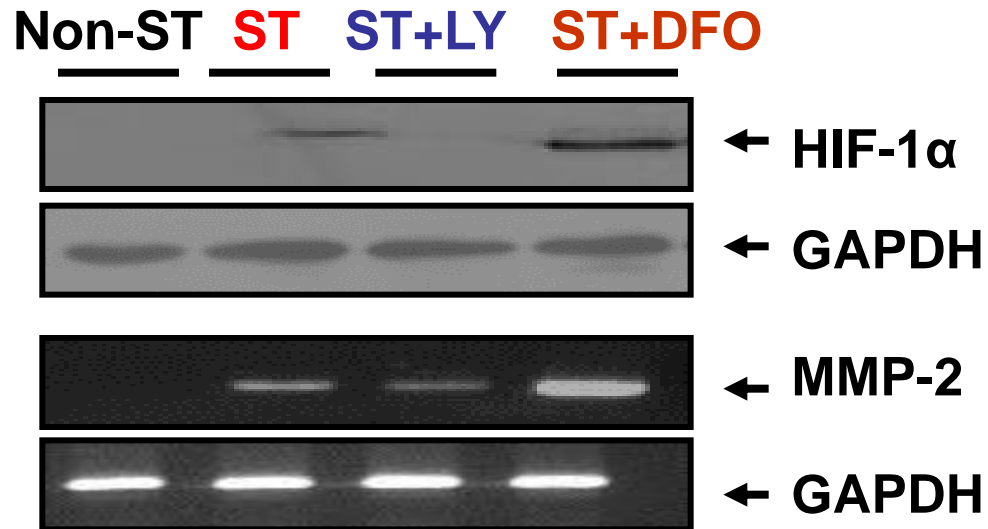


# ST enhances BM-derived CD31<sup>+</sup>/c-Kit<sup>+</sup> EPC-like mononuclear cell mobilization



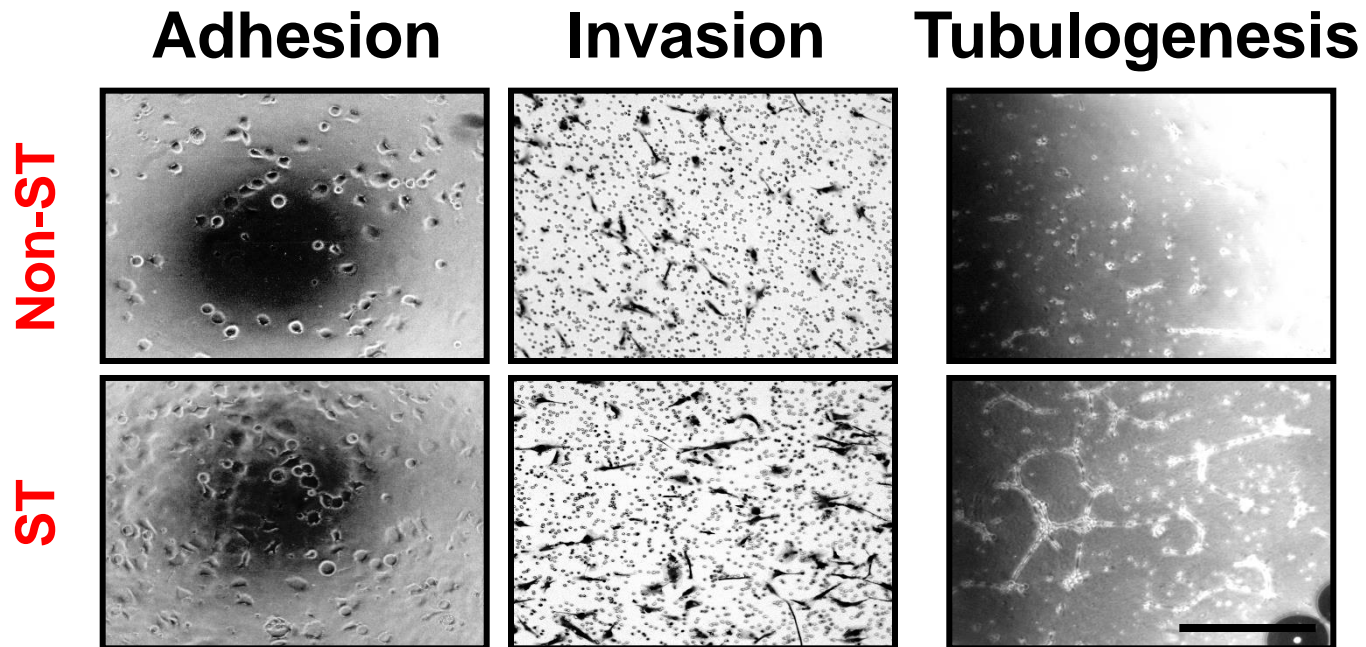
\* P < 0.05 vs. corresponding controls

# ST stimulates HIF-1 $\alpha$ protein production and MMP-2 activity in BM-derived EPCs

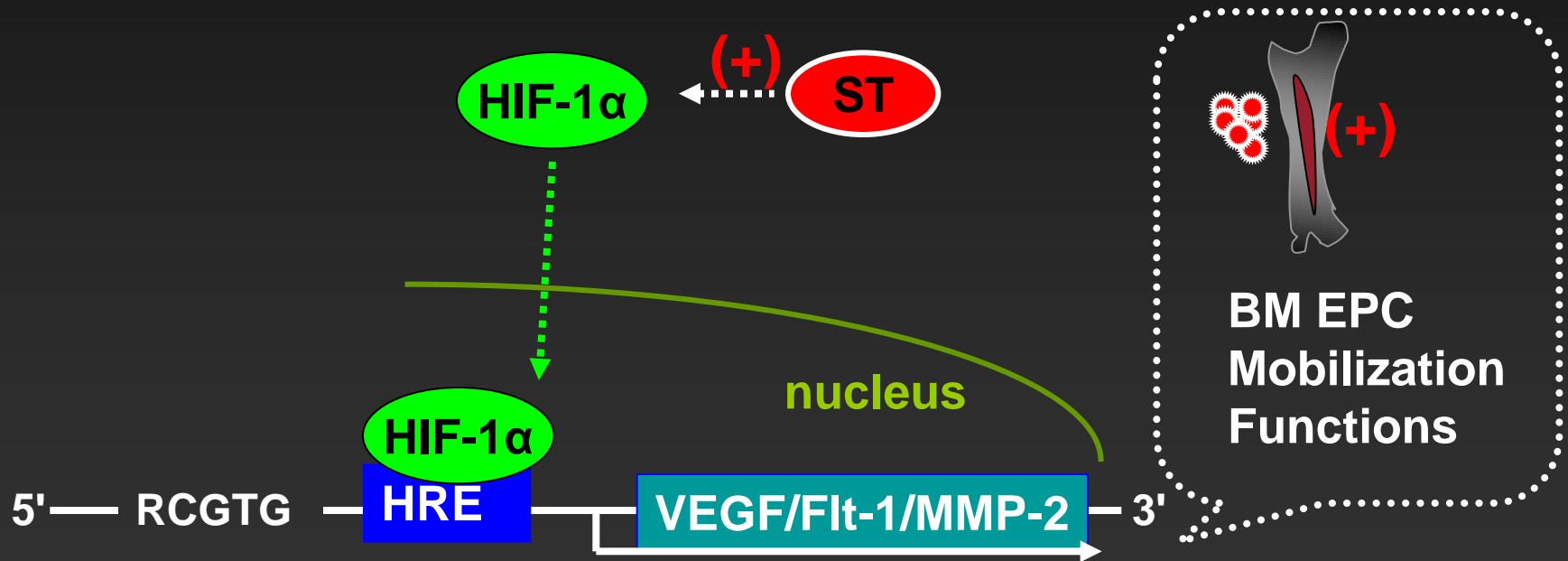




# ST improves BM-derived EPC function in advanced age



# ST may stimulate HIF-1/VEGF/MPP-2 activation in BM-derived EPCs of advanced age

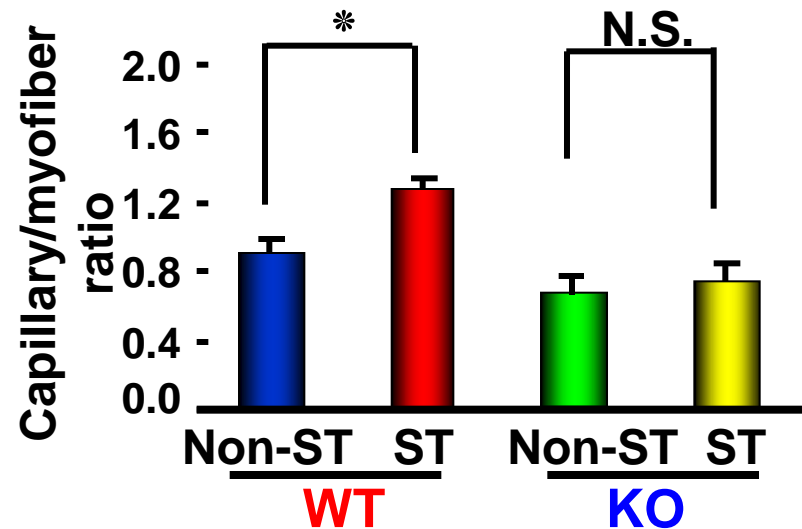
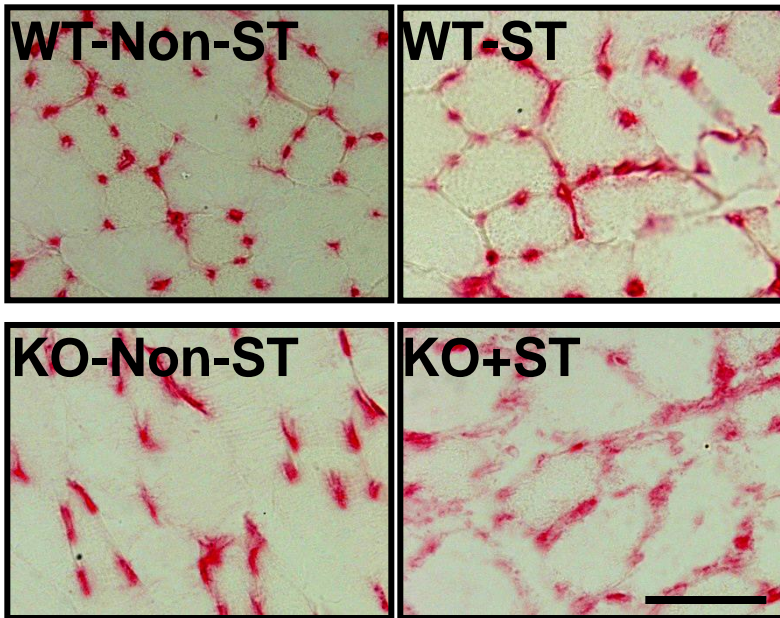


# Exp1: Protocol (2)

MMP-2<sup>-/-</sup> mice (KO; n= 48)



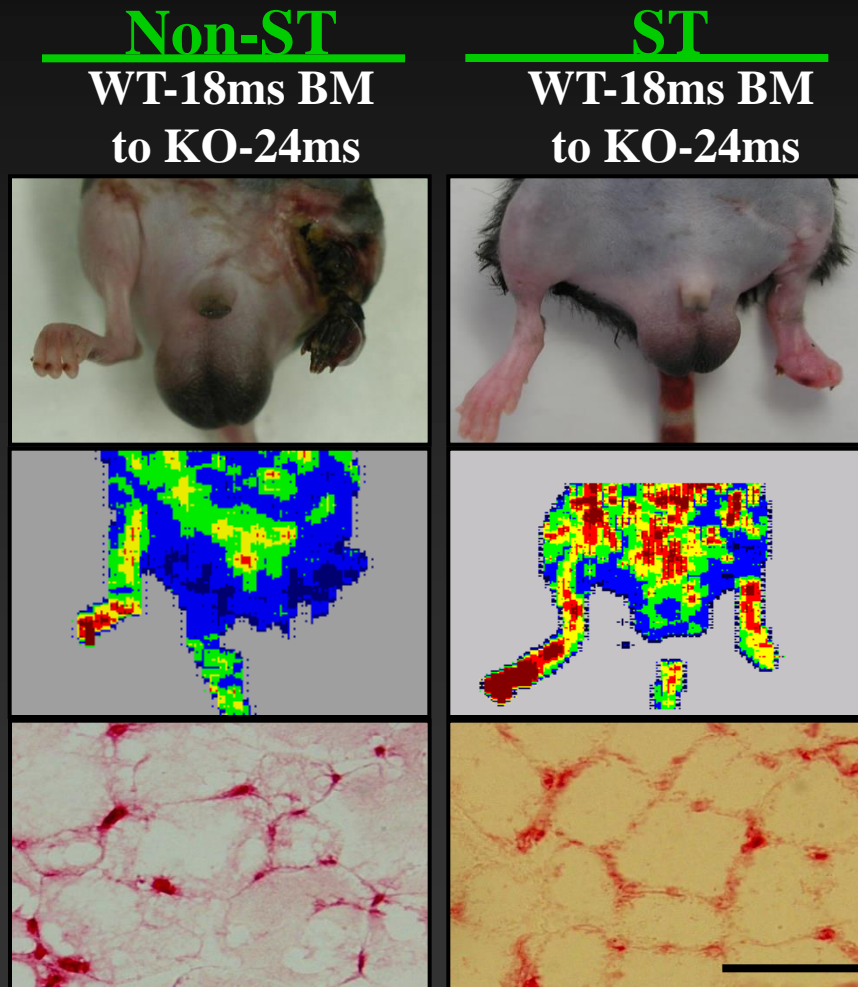
# MMP-2 deficiency impairs ST-induced neovascularization in advanced age



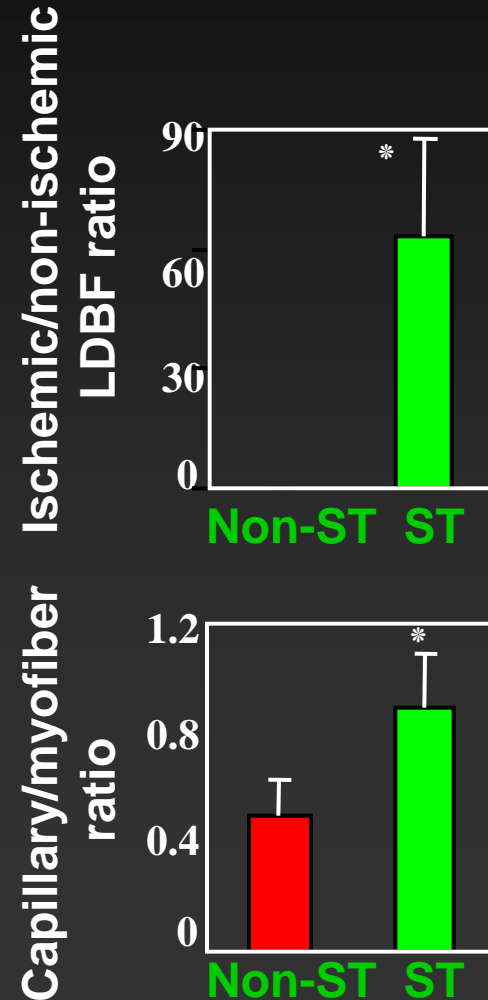
\*  $P < 0.05$  vs. corresponding controls

• N.S.: no significant difference

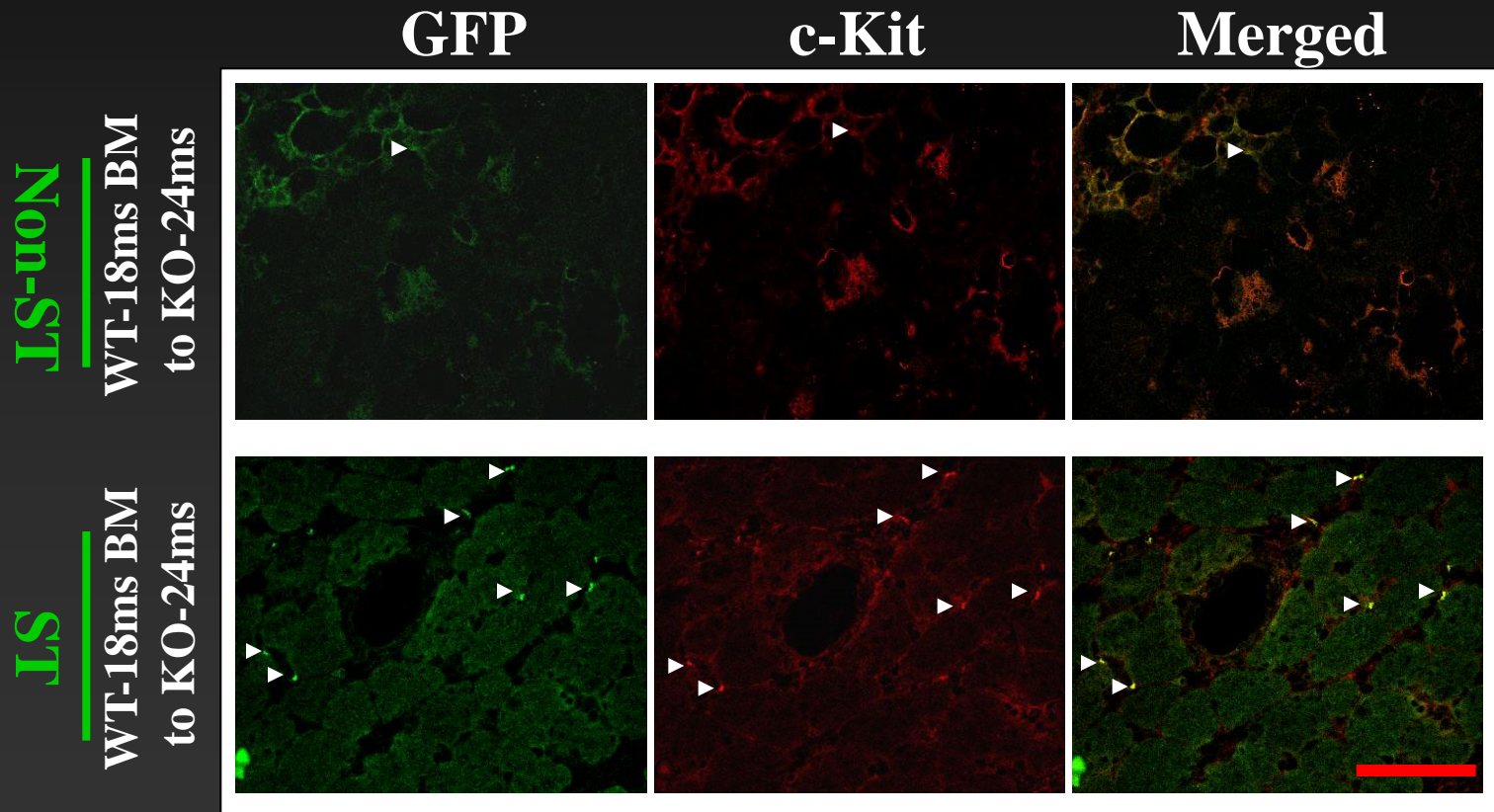
# ST improves BMT-mediated blood flow and capillary density in mice of advanced age



BMT: bone marrow transplantation



# ST improves EPC-like c-Kit<sup>+</sup> cells trafficking to sites of ischemic muscle in KO mice



# Anti-vascular aging (anti-aging)

 **Exercises**

 **Pharmacological interventions**

 **Diet/calorie restriction**

 **Others**



# Protocol (3)

WT mice (WT; n= 24)



ischemia

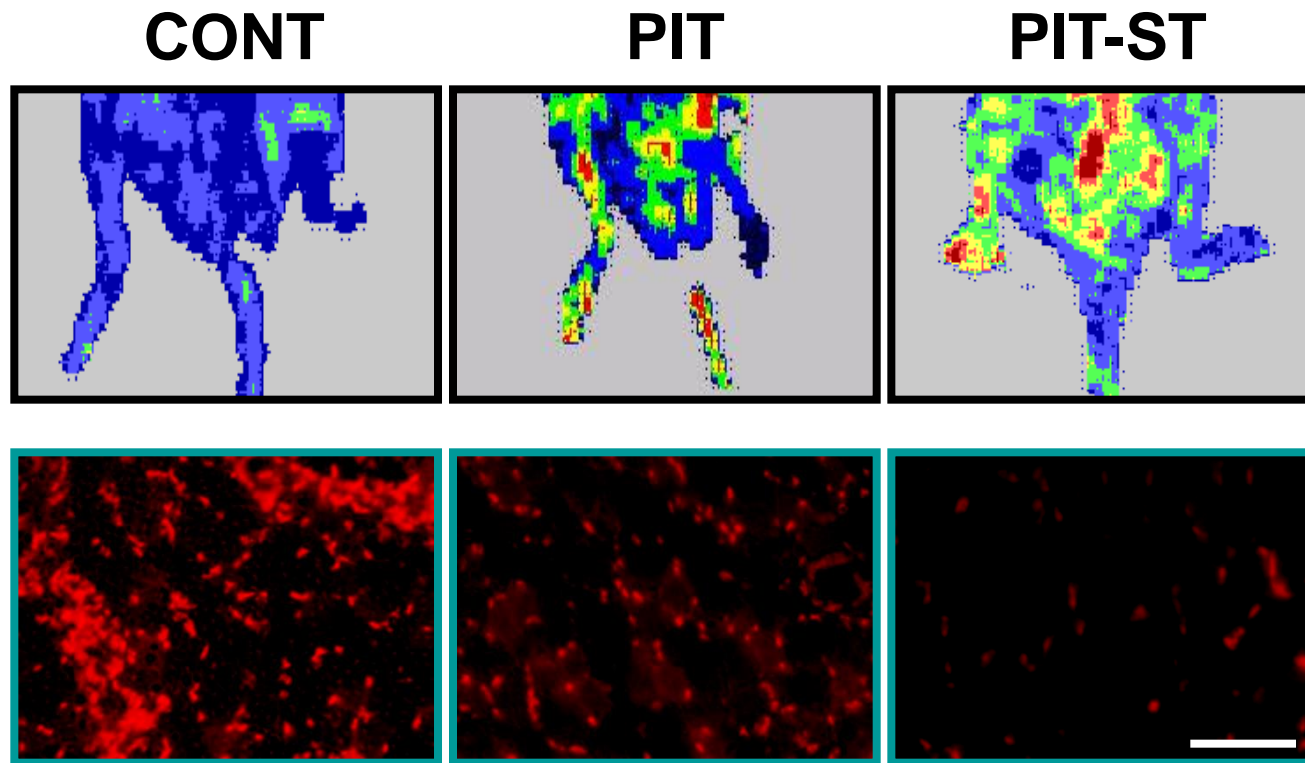
- ① None treatment (Cont)
- ② Pitavastatin (PIT)
- ③ Pitavastatin+swimming training (PIT-ST),

## Methods

- Laser Doppler blood flow (LDBF) analysis
- Histological and biological analysis
- Bone-marrow transplantation assay
- In vitro stimulation assays



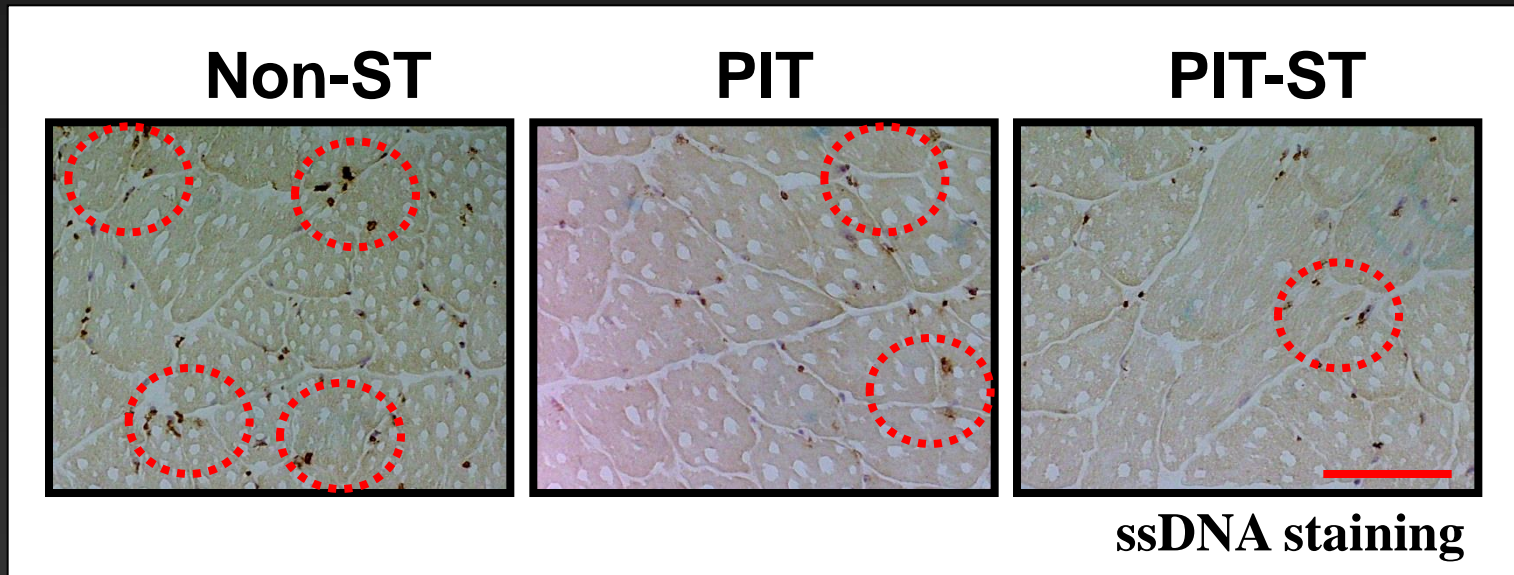
# ST enhanced improvement statin-mediated of blood flow in aged mice



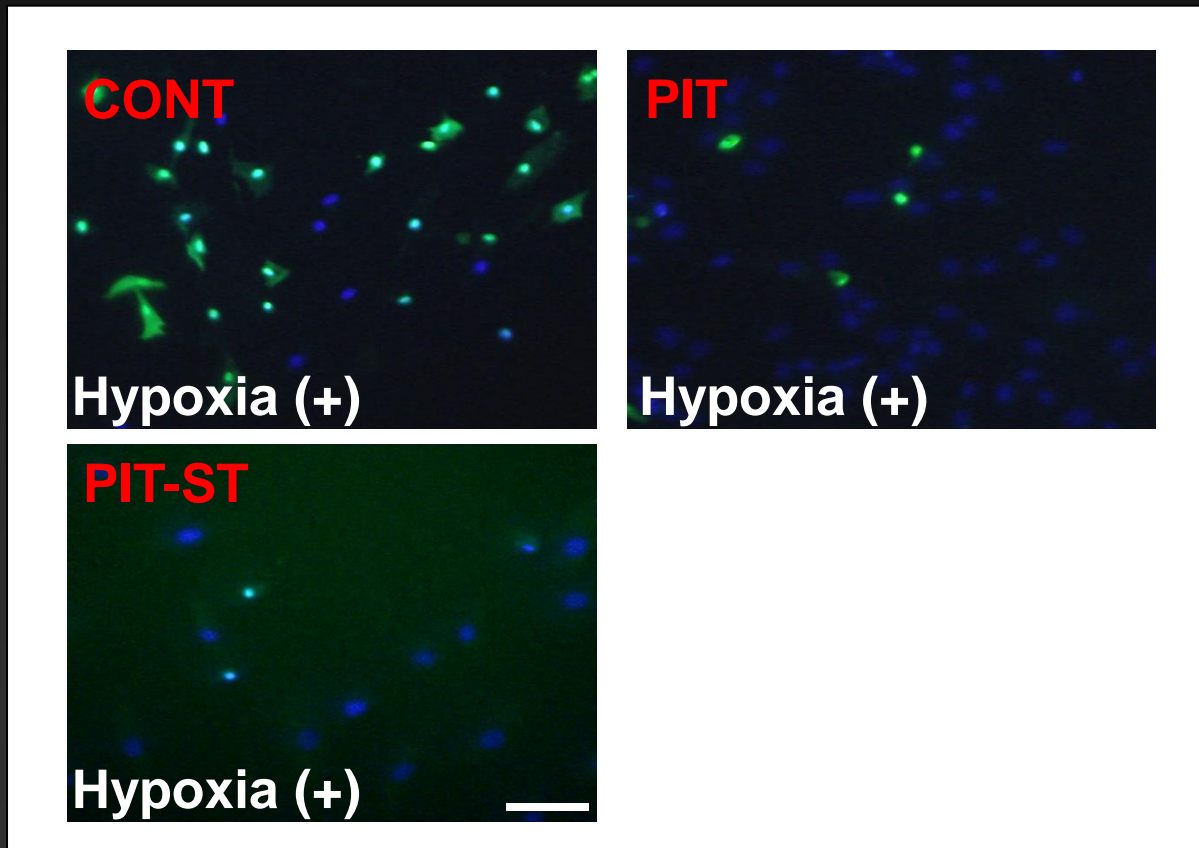
DHE: Dihydroethidium staining

*Cheng XW, et al. (un-published data)*

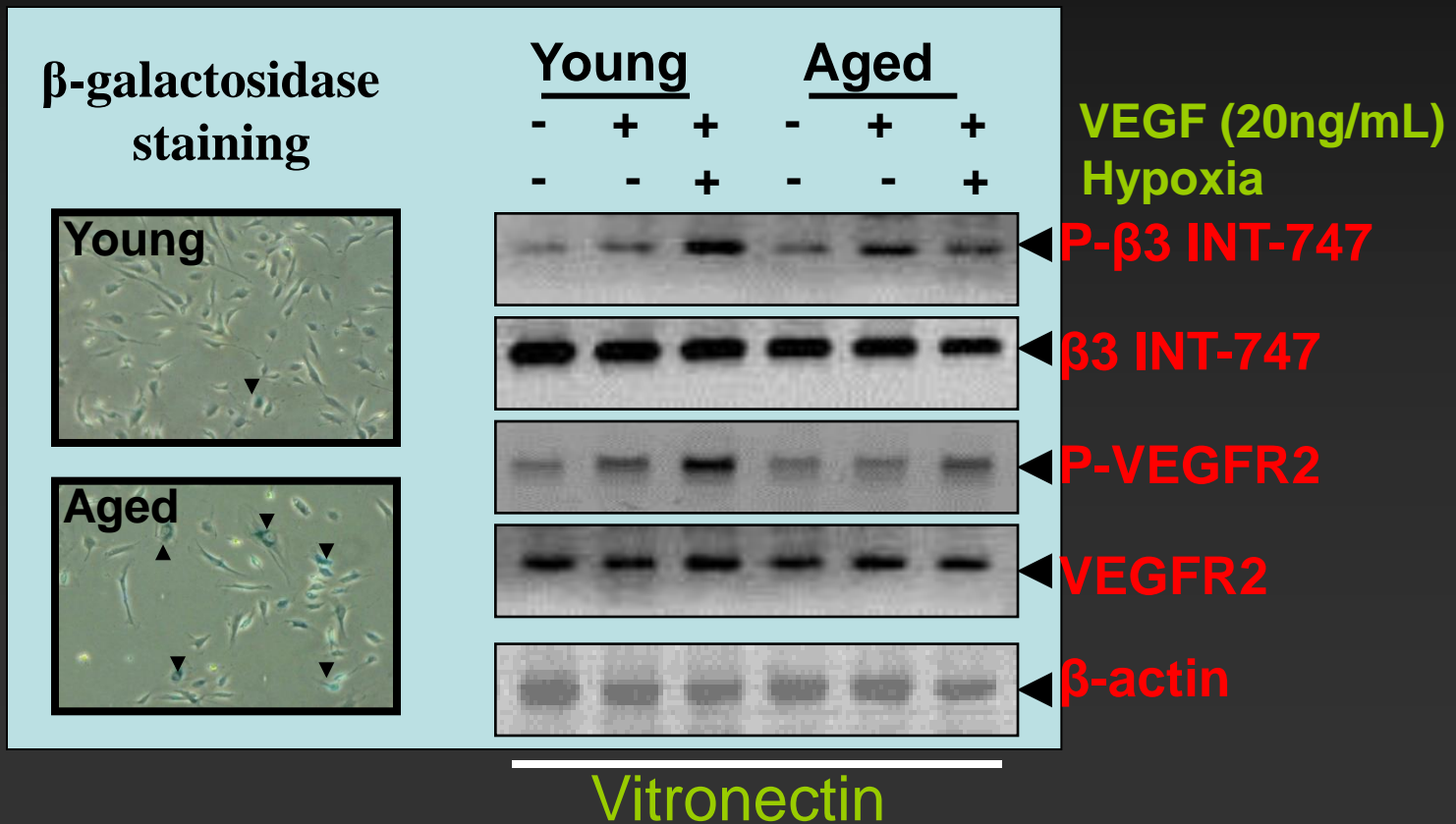
# ST enhances PIT-mediated anti-apoptotic effect in ischemic muscle of aged mice



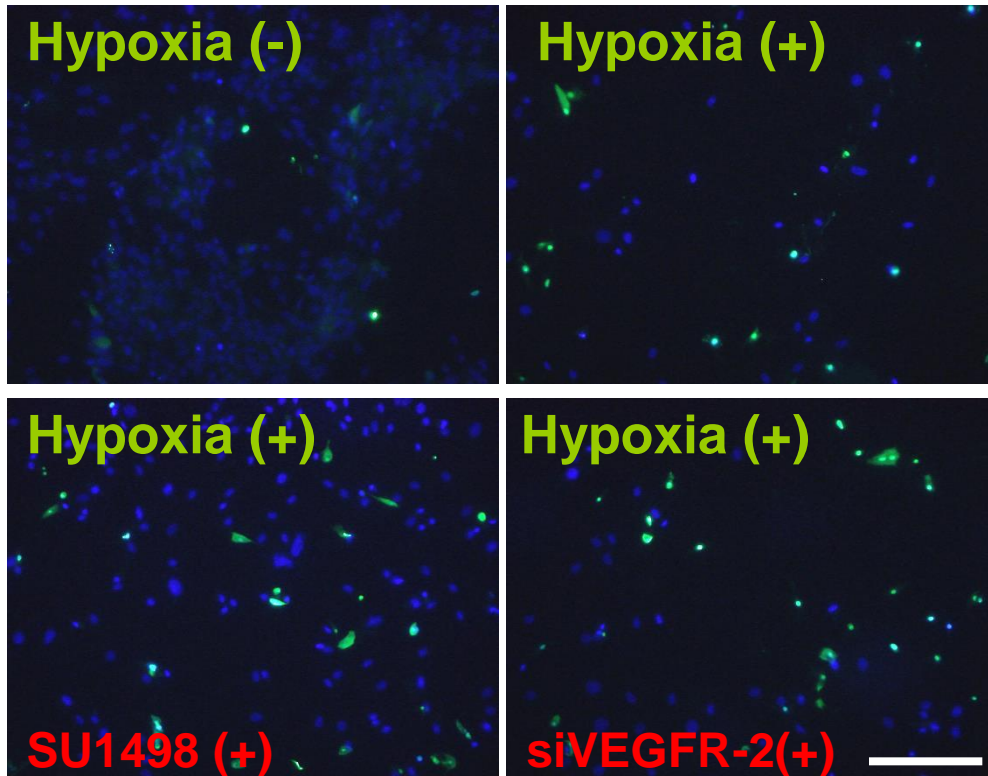
# ST enhanced pitavastatin-mediated anti-apoptotic effect in circulating EPCs in aged mice



# Aging impairs VEGF-induced VEGFR2 and INT $\beta$ 3-phosphorylation in human EPCs response to hypoxia



# Impairment of VEGFR-2 involved contributes to apoptosis response to hypoxia in aged EPCs

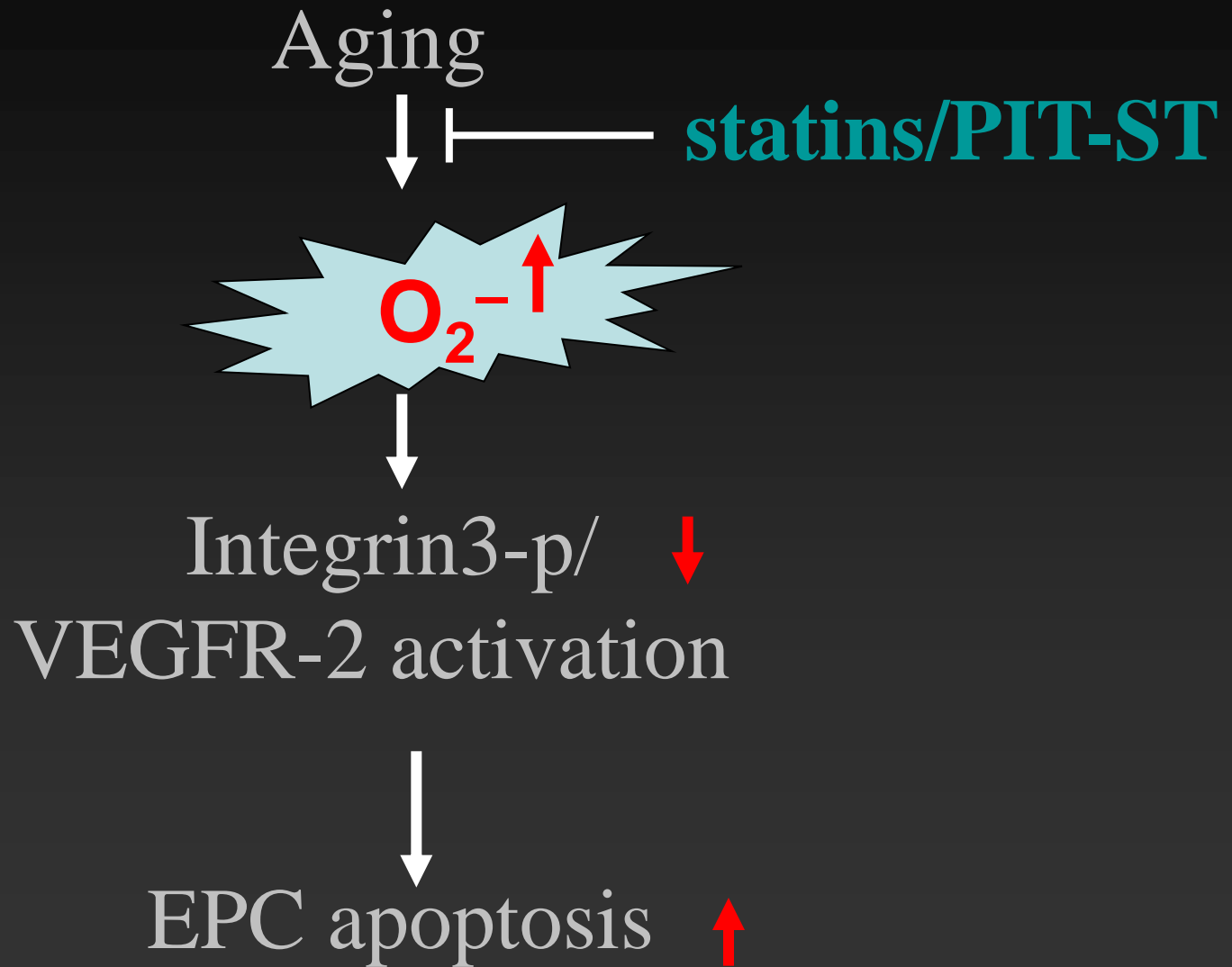


SU1498: VEGFR-2 inhibitor

siVEGFR-2: short-interfering RNA to VEGFR-2

*Cheng XW, et al. (un-published data)*

# Proposed mechanism

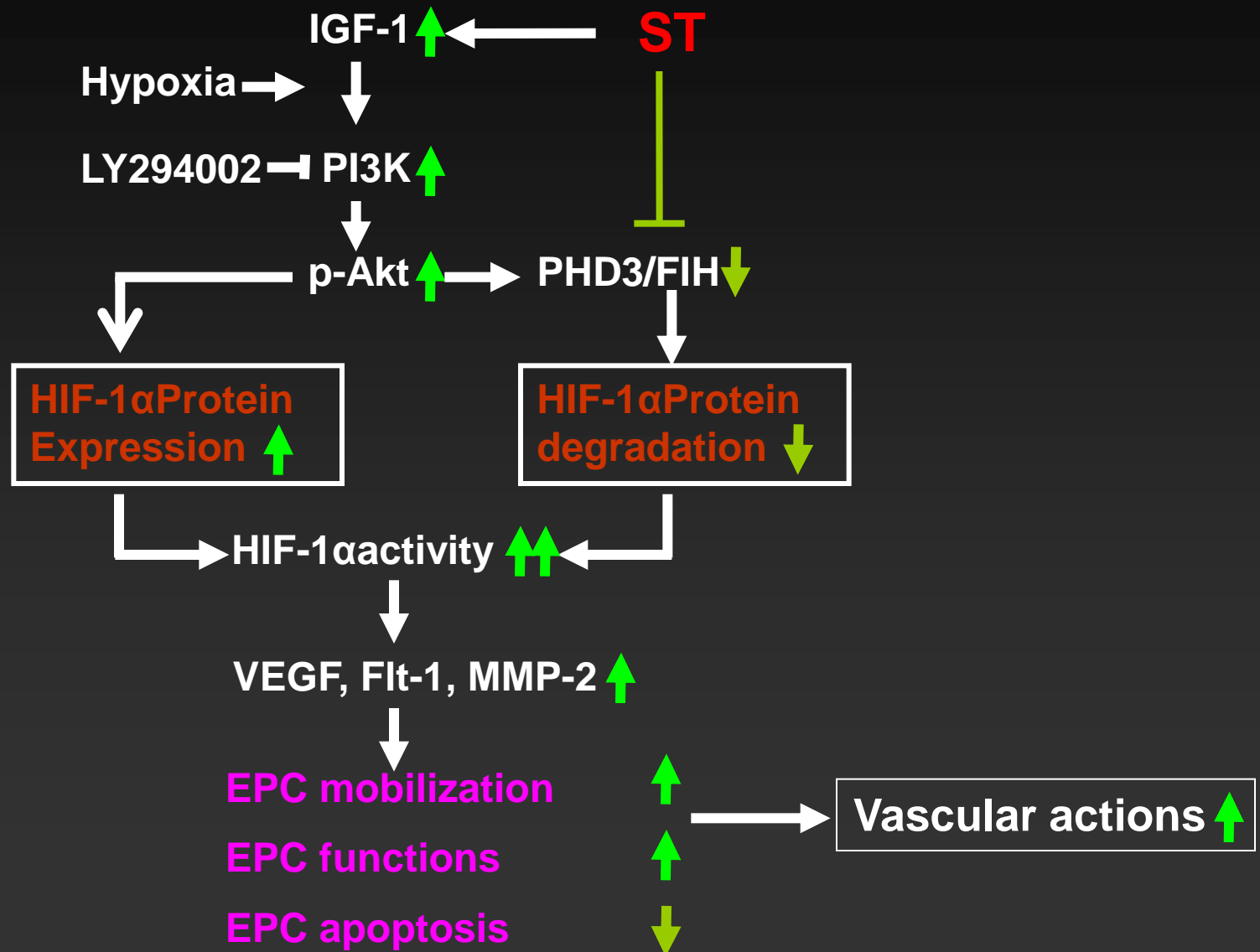


*Cheng XW and Murohara T (unpublished)*

# Observations

- ST improved blood flow perfusion and capillary formation in the ischemic muscle of advanced age.
- ST enhanced BM-derived CD31<sup>+</sup>/c-Kit<sup>+</sup> EPC-like mononuclear cell recruitment and their intrinsic functions.
- ST increased HIF-1 $\alpha$  synthesis and stabilization through stimulation of PI3K/Akt signaling pathway and reduction of PHD3/FIH expression of ischemic muscle of advanced age.
- ST also increased HIF-1 protein production and MMP-2 activity in cultured BM-derived EPC of advanced age.

# Proposed mechanisms underlying the improvement of ST-mediated vascular actions in advanced age





# Conclusion

Our findings suggest that therapeutic interventions with exercise training in advanced age designed to restore the “**young**” hypoxic response can be recommended as a powerful strategy to prevent age-associated decline in vascular and regeneration and function by **recruiting and improving delivery of EPCs to the vasculature of Ischemic tissues through PI3K signaling pathway-dependent HIF-1 $\alpha$ /VEGF/MMP-2 activation.**

**Φ Ablation group:**

**Φ PCI Group: Cathepsin K in CAD; On going studies**

Yinden Y et al. Cathepsin K in chronic AF; **On going studies;**

**Φ Imaging group:**

Oshima S et al. mitochondrial and DCM; **JACC Img 2008, EHJ 2009 and on going studies;**

**Φ HF group:**

Hirashiki A et al. Cardiac morphology in DCM/HCM; **JCVF2009; CEPP2010 and On going;**

**Φ Clinical Laboratory:**

Takehita K et al. Notch Signaling; **BBRC 2009, Lab Invest 2011 and On going studies;**

**Φ Basic Research group:**

Bando Y et al. DPP4 in DM. **Circ Res (2011 submission) and On going studies;**



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