

# Mitochondria, Antioxidants and Aging

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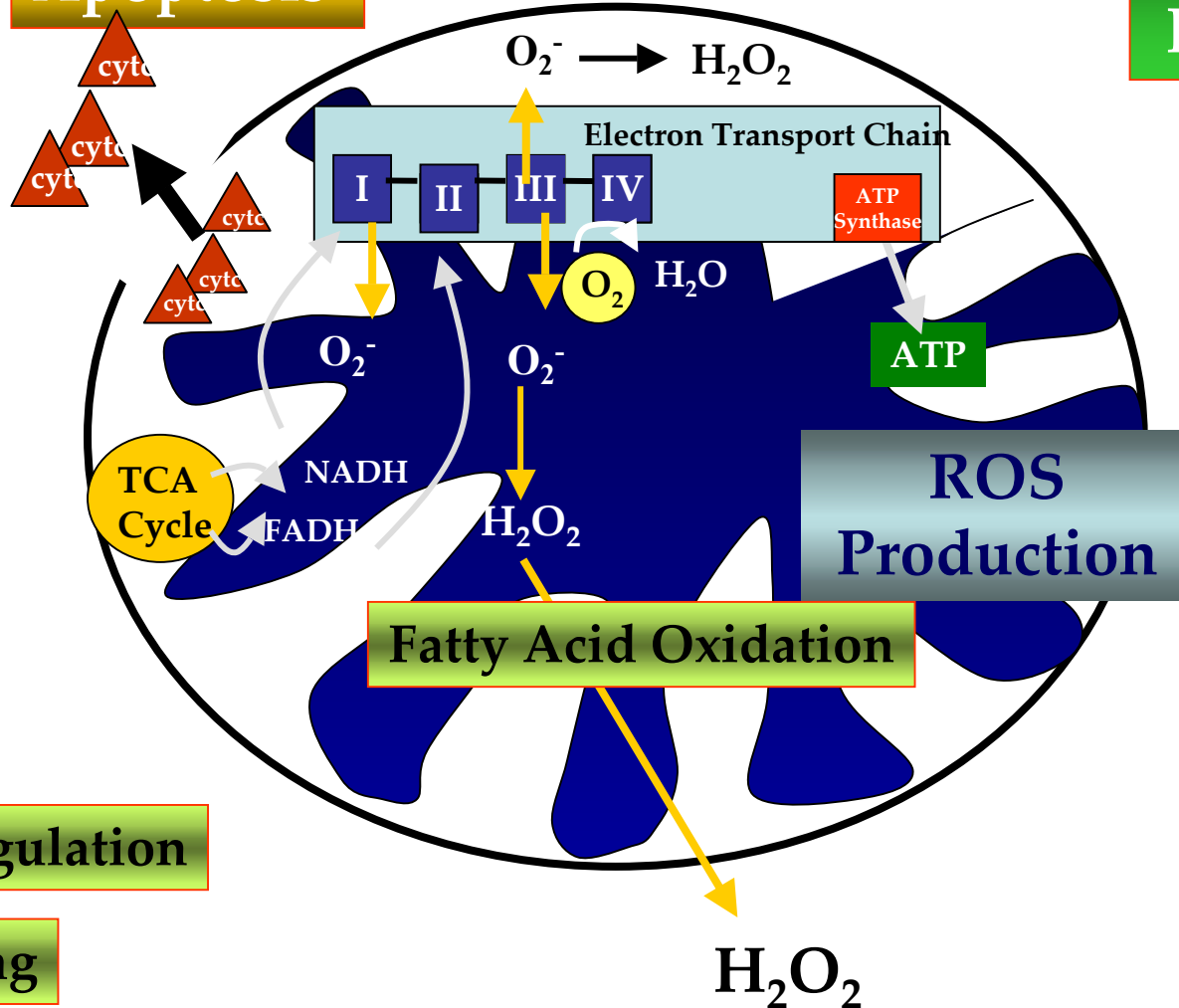


# **Review of the Role of Mitochondria in Aging**

- I. Mitochondrial Function and Oxidative Stress**
- II. Mitochondrial Theory of Aging**
- III. Studies Manipulating Mitochondrial Oxidative Stress in Animal Models-what can we learn?**

Apoptosis

ATP  
Production



Ca<sup>++</sup> Regulation

Signaling

# Sources of Reactive Oxygen Species

## **Non mitochondrial:**

**NADPH Oxidases**

**Microsomal cytochrome P-450**

**Cyclooxygenases**

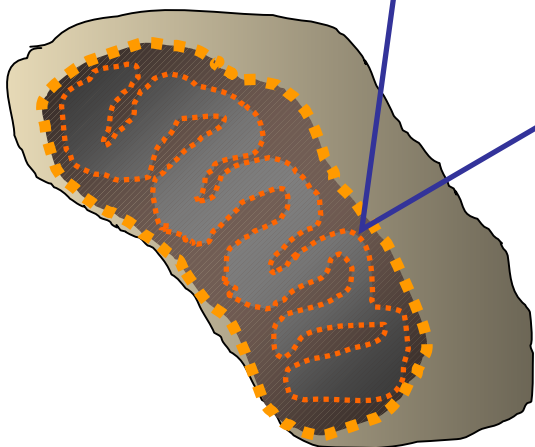
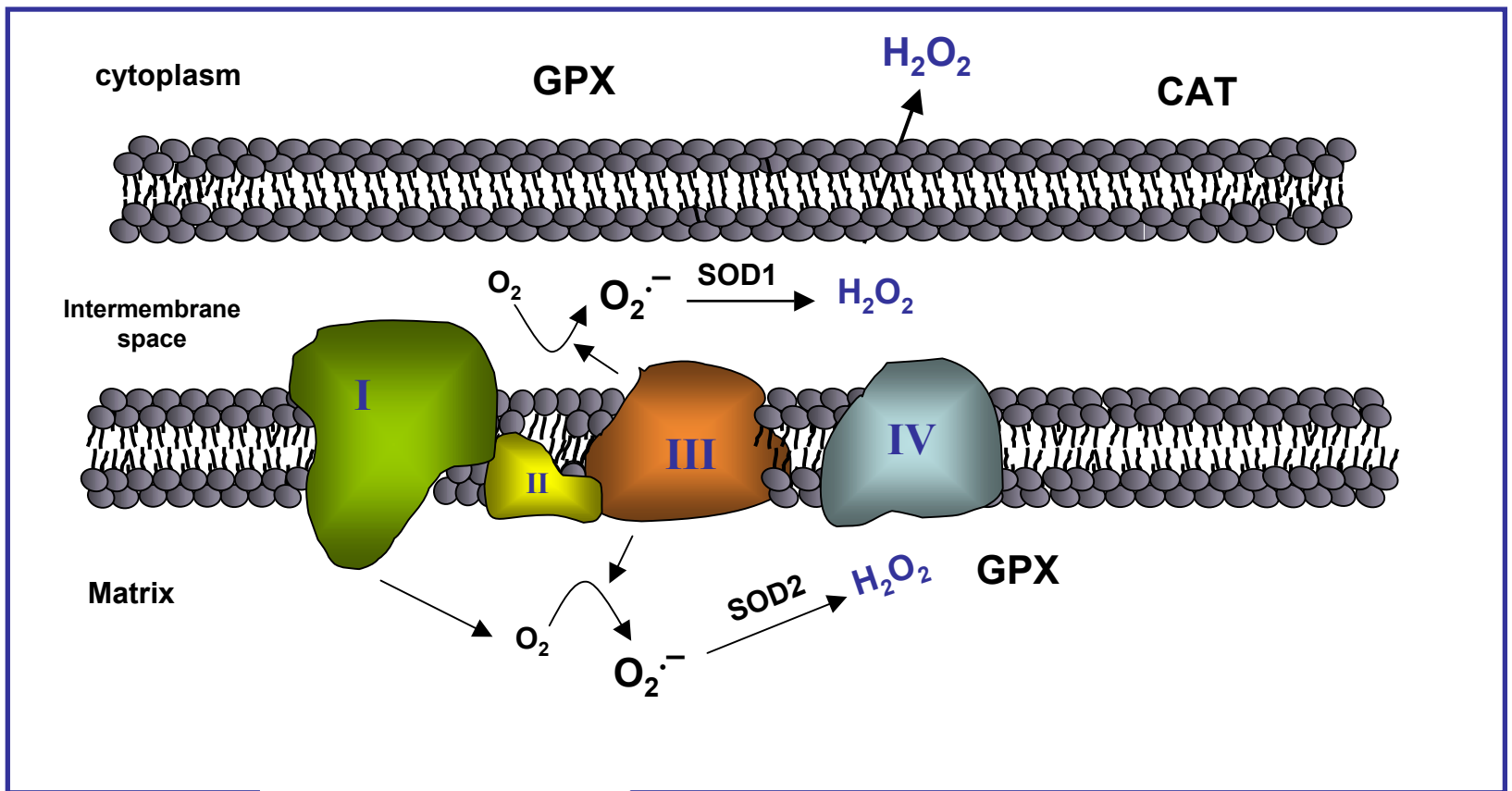
**Monoamine oxidases**

**Peroxisomal  $\beta$  oxidation of fatty acids**

**Phagocytes**

**>90% is mitochondrial**

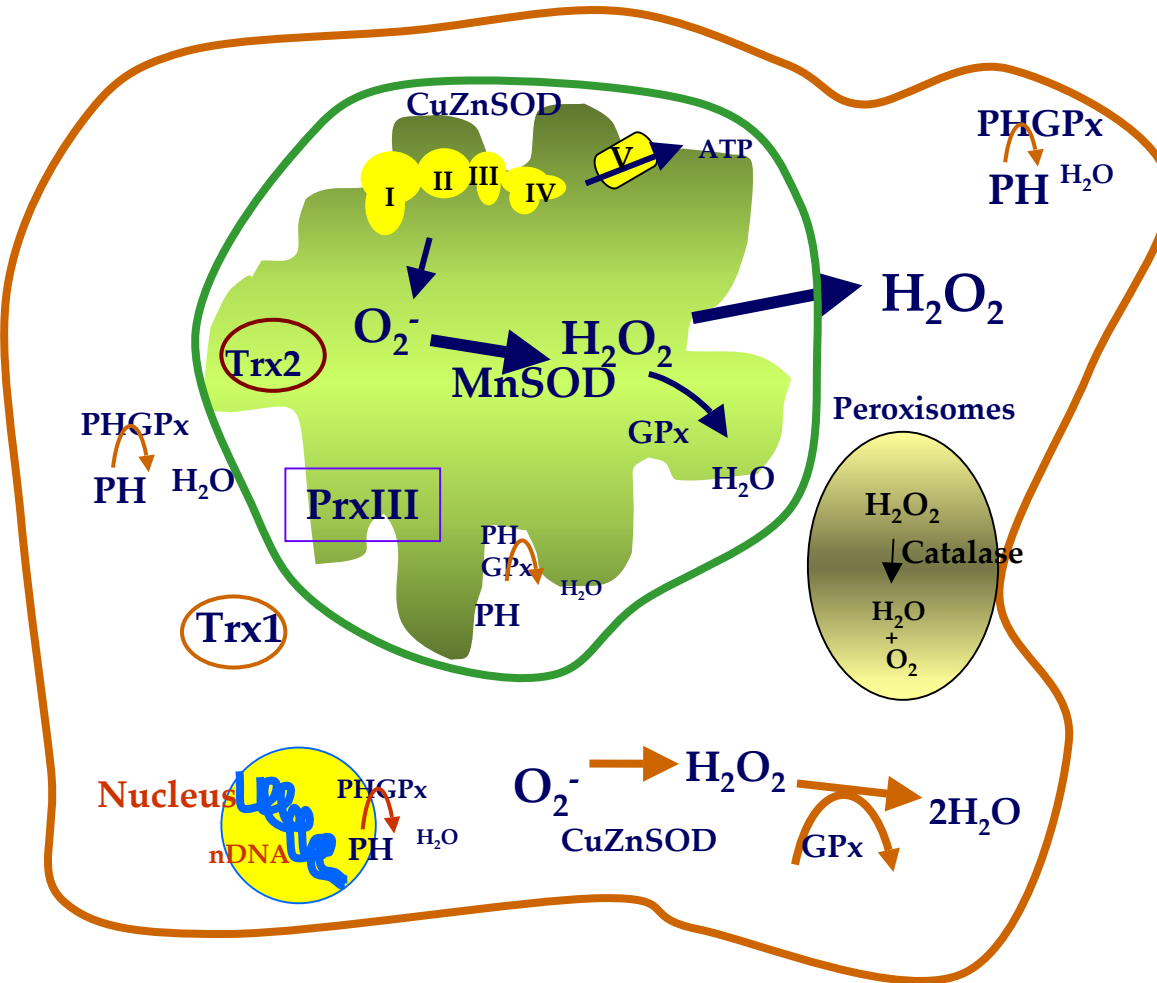
**electron transport chain contains several redox centers  
that may leak electrons to oxygen**



## Mitochondrial ROS generation

ROS production is at Complex I and Complex III

# Mitochondrial Antioxidant Defense:



## Enzyme

## Target

MnSOD

$O_2^-$

CuZnSOD

$O_2^-$

Gpx1

$H_2O_2$

Gpx4

lipid peroxides

PrxIII

$H_2O_2$

Trx2

Pr-S<sub>2</sub>

## Non-enzymatic:

Ascorbate

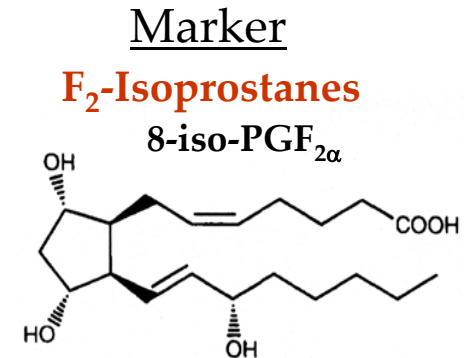
Glutathione (GSH)

Tocopherols

# Consequences of mitochondrial oxidative stress

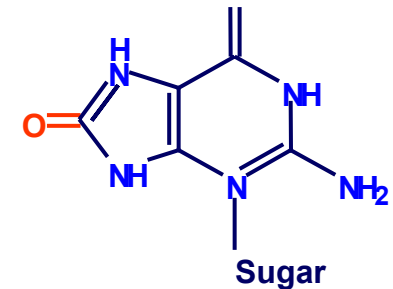
Oxidative Damage  
to Lipids

Membrane peroxidation  
Decreased membrane fluidity



Oxidative Damage  
to DNA

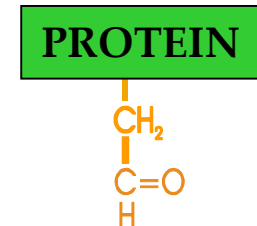
Mutations  
Deletions



Oxidative Damage  
to Proteins

Oxidation of sulfhydryl groups  
Reactions with aldehydes  
Protein aggregation

**Protein carbonyls**

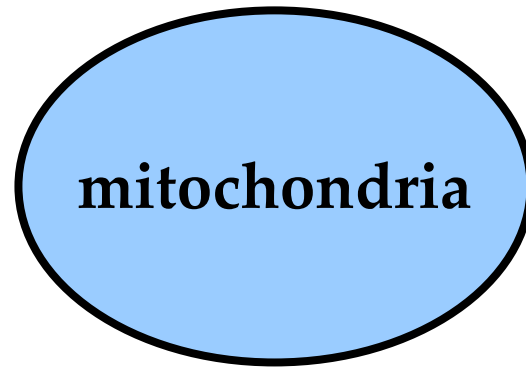


**The problem:**

**Mitochondria are required for energy production**

**Mitochondria produce potentially harmful  
reactive oxygen species**





What is the link?

# Some Current Theories of Aging:

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- **Rate of living theory**  
Energy consumption is limiting for longevity
- **Evolutionary Theories**  
Aging is a programmed event  
Mutation accumulation  
Antagonistic Pleiotropy
- **Genomic Instability**
- **Cell Senescence/Telomere Shortening**
- **GH/IGF-1 axis**
- **Free Radical Theory**

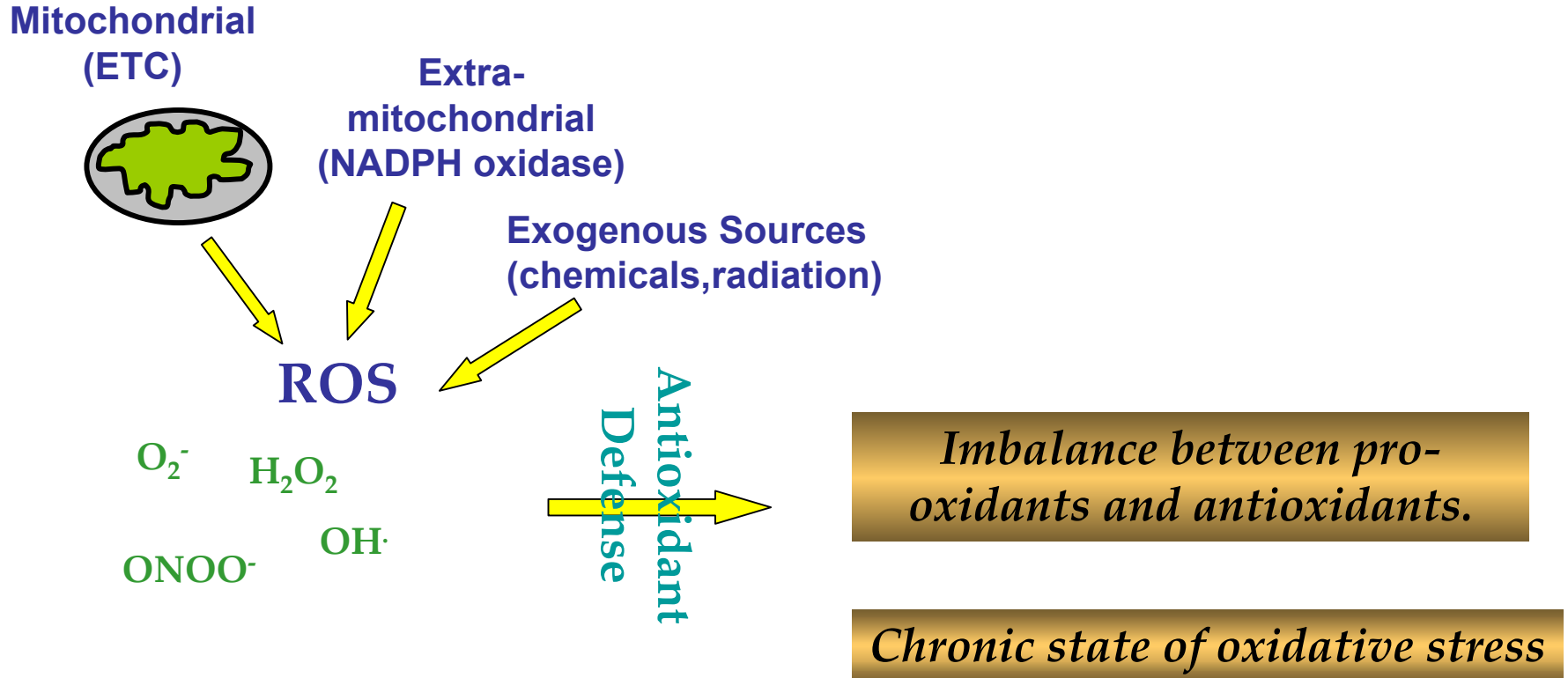
# Free Radical Theory of Aging

“Aging: a theory based on free radical and radiation chemistry”  
1956, D. Harman *J.Gerontology* 11(3):298-300

**A single common process, modified by genetics and environmental factors, is responsible for the aging and death of all living things.**

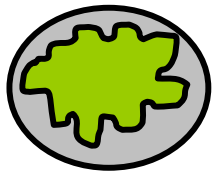
“Aging and the degenerative diseases associated with it are attributed basically to the deleterious side attacks of free radicals on cell constituents and on the connective tissues..... The free radicals probably arise largely through reactions involving molecular oxygen catalyzed in the cell by oxidative enzymes and in the connective tissues by traces of metals such as iron, cobalt, and manganese.”

# Oxidative Stress Theory of Aging



# Oxidative Stress Theory of Aging

Mitochondrial  
(ETC)



Extra-  
mitochondrial  
(NADPH oxidase)

Exogenous Sources  
(chemicals, radiation)

ROS

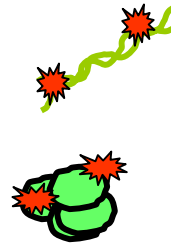
$O_2^-$

$H_2O_2$

$ONOO^-$

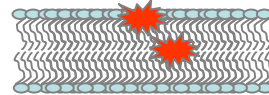
$OH^\cdot$

Antioxidant  
Defense



DNA

Protein



Lipid

Steady-state  
accumulation  
of oxidative damage  
that increases during  
aging

Progressive loss in  
efficiency of  
cellular processes

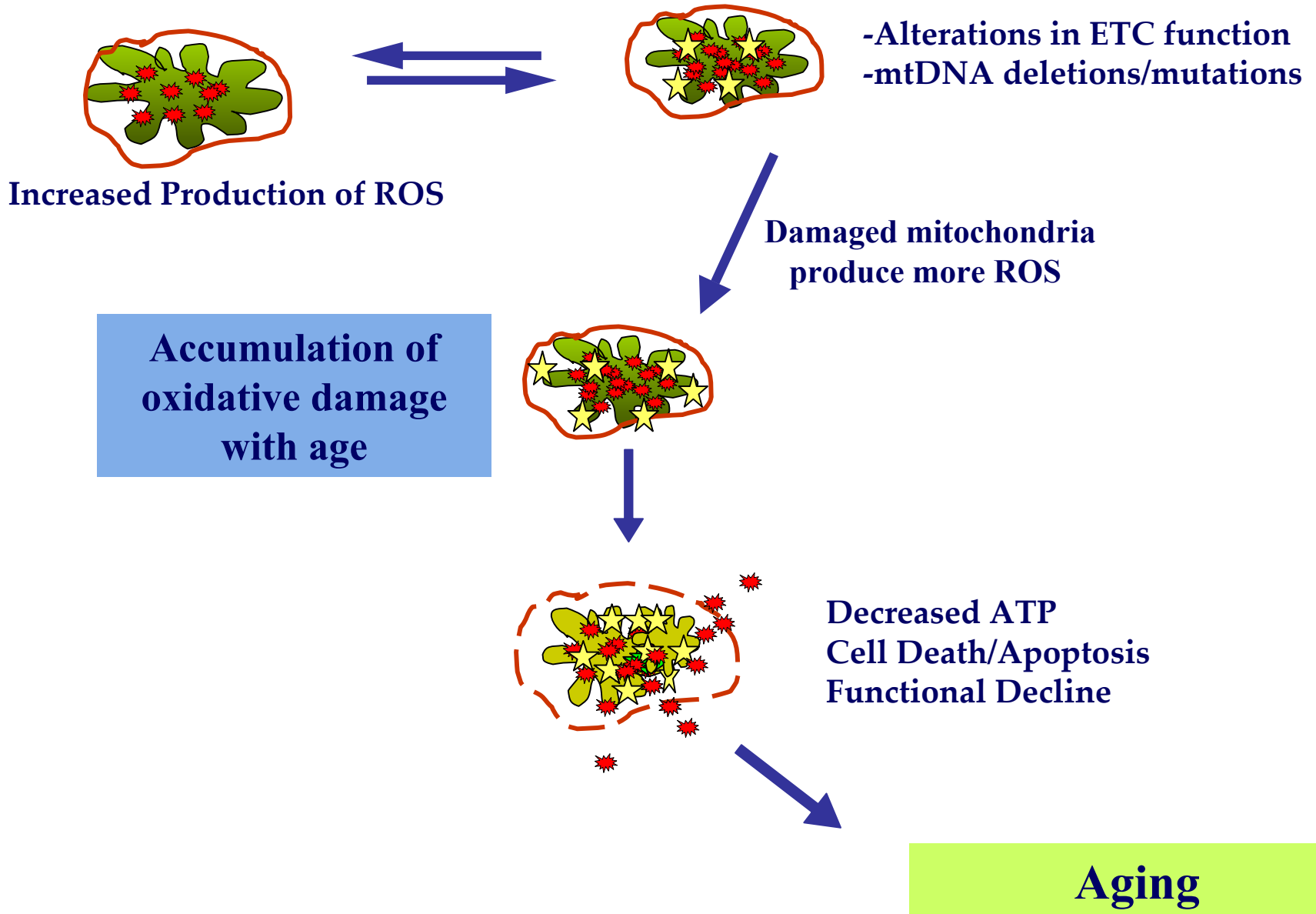
**Mitochondria are major source of ROS**

# Mitochondrial Theory of Aging

Harman,D. 1972 “The biologic clock: the mitochondria?”  
J. Am Ger Society 20:145-57

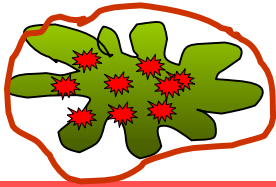
Free radicals escaping from the respiratory chain ...would be expected to produce deleterious effects mainly in the mitochondria  
...Are these effects mediated in part by mitochondrial DNA functions?

# Mitochondria Theory of Aging





# Mitochondria Theory of Aging

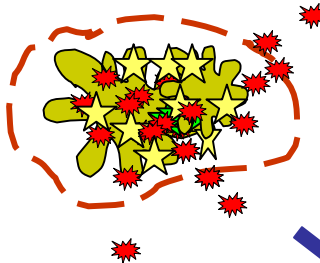


- Alterations in ETC function
- mtDNA deletions/mutations

Increased Production of ROS

Damaged mitochondria  
produce more ROS

Accumulation of  
oxidative damage  
with age



Decreased ATP  
Cell Death/Apoptosis  
Functional Decline

Aging

# Early studies supported an increase in ROS with age

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## Housefly flight muscle

(submitochondrial particles)

Sohal and Sohal (1991)

Mech of Aging and Dev. 187-202.

## Mouse kidney, heart and brain mitochondria

(submitochondrial particles)

Sohal et al (1994)

Mech.Ageing Dev.121-133

## Rat vastus lateralis or soleus muscle

(homogenates/isolated mitochondria)

Bejma and Ji (1999)

J.Appl.Physiol. 465-470

# Other studies show no increase.....

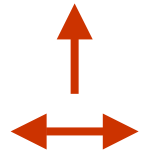
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## Rat Muscle

Capel et al.  
Mech. Aging Dev., (2004) 367-373.

Drew et al  
Am.J.Physiol  
Regul.Integr.Comp Physiol, (2003) R474-R480

Soleus  
Tibialis Anterior



Gastrocnemius



## Rat Heart

Hansford et al  
J.Bioenerg.Biomembr., (1997) 89-95



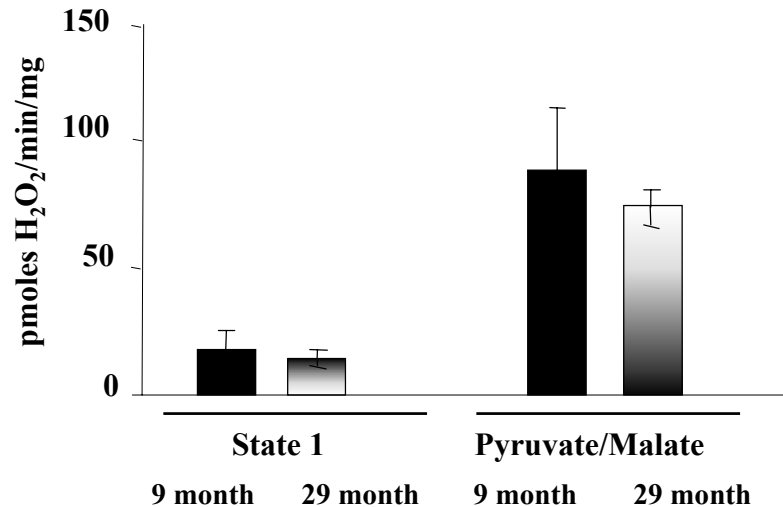
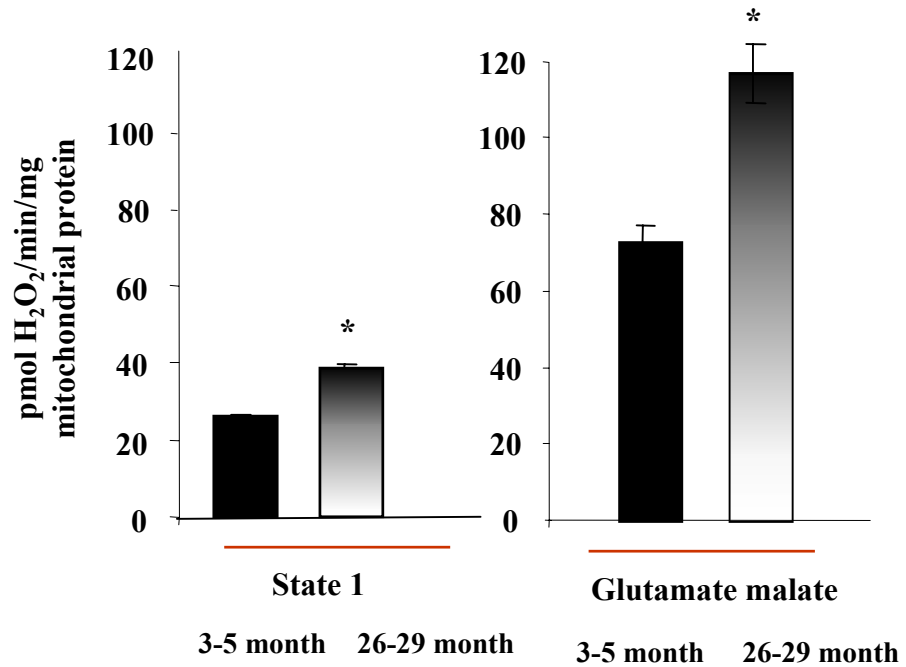
## Rat Liver

Lopez-Torres et al.  
Free Radic.Biol.Med., (2002) 882-889



## Increase may be tissue specific?.....

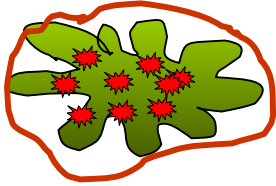
↑ Mouse hindlimb  
Skeletal muscle



↔ Mouse heart

# Mitochondria Theory of Aging

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-Alterations in ETC function

-mtDNA deletions

Increased Production of ROS

Some tissues?

# Aging and ETC function

Muscle Tissue		Complex				
		I	II	III	IV	V
Trounce et al., (1989) <i>Lancet</i> (8639):637-9	Human muscle	↓	↓		↓	
Boffoli et al. (1994) <i>BBA</i> 1226:73-82	Human muscle	↓	↓	↔	↓	
Sugiyama et al. (1993) <i>Biochem Mol Biol Int</i> 30:937-44	Rat muscle	↓	↔	↔	↓	
Muller-Hocker et al. (1990) <i>J Neurol Sci</i> 100:14-21	Human muscle		↔		↓	
Desai et al. (1996) <i>Arch Bioc Biophys</i> 333:145-151	B6C3F1 mice	↓	↔	↓	↓	
Muller-Hocker et al. (1996) <i>Mech Aging Dev</i> 86:197-213	monkeys			↓	↓	↓
Kwong et al. (2000) <i>Arch Bioc Biophys</i> 373: 16-22	C57Bl6 mice		↓	↓	↓	

## More recent studies in humans, mice

Barrientos 1996  
Rasmussen 2003  
Chretien 1998,  
Kwong and Sohal 2000

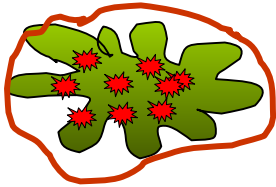


**No consistent change**

**Current evidence suggests that there is  
no consistent overall defect in the ETC with age.**

# Mitochondria Theory of Aging

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-Alterations in ETC function (?)

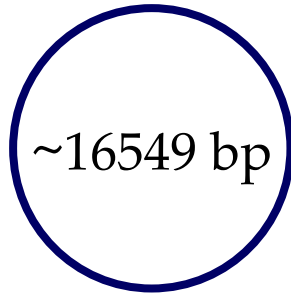
-mtDNA mutations/deletions

Increased Production of ROS

Some tissues?



## MtDNA



-Double-stranded, circular molecule

-2 to 10 copies in each mitochondrion  
> 1,000 in each cell

**mtDNA encodes for 37 genes:**

**22tRNA**

**13 mitochondrial peptides (ETC subunits)**

**16S and 26S rRNA**

**(Remaining > 67 ETC subunits are nuclear encoded)**

## **mtDNA is more sensitive to oxidative damage than nuclear DNA**

**Estimated at 1/8000 bases for mtDNA vs 1/130,000 for nDNA  
(Richter et al 1988 PNAS)**

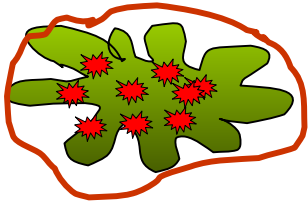
- high metabolism**
- proximity to generation of ROS**
- lack of histones**
- repair systems less efficient**

# mtDNA Deletions

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- **Tissues that turn-over more slowly (skeletal muscle, heart) have more mtDNA deletions than more rapidly dividing tissues (liver)**
- **Deletions increase with age in muscle heart and brain (identified using PCR)**
- **Common deletion mtDNA4977 increases by a factor of 10,000 in muscle during a normal human lifespan reaching 0.1% of total muscle mtDNA by 84 yrs**
- **Evidence indicates focal accumulation of deletions in some tissues**

# Mitochondrial Theory of Aging



Alterations in ETC function (?)  
mtDNA mutations/deletions  
**YES**

Increased Production of ROS  
**Some tissues?**

Damaged mitochondria  
produce more ROS

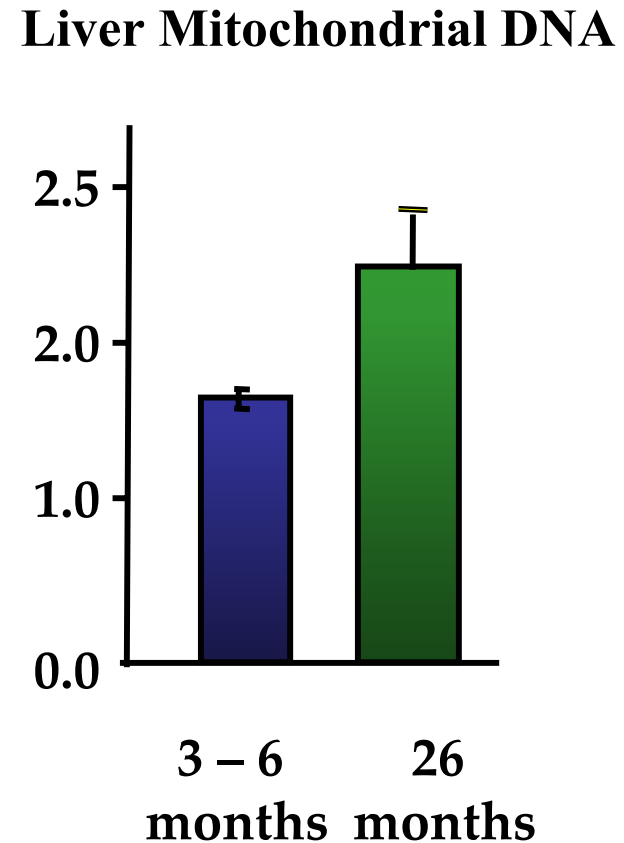
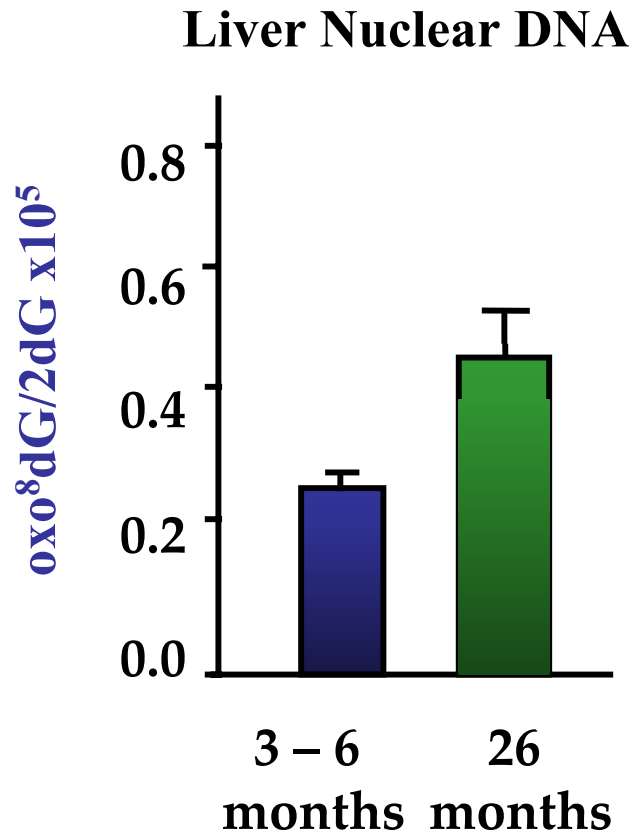


Accumulation of  
oxidative damage  
with age  
(mitochondrial and non-  
mitochondrial)

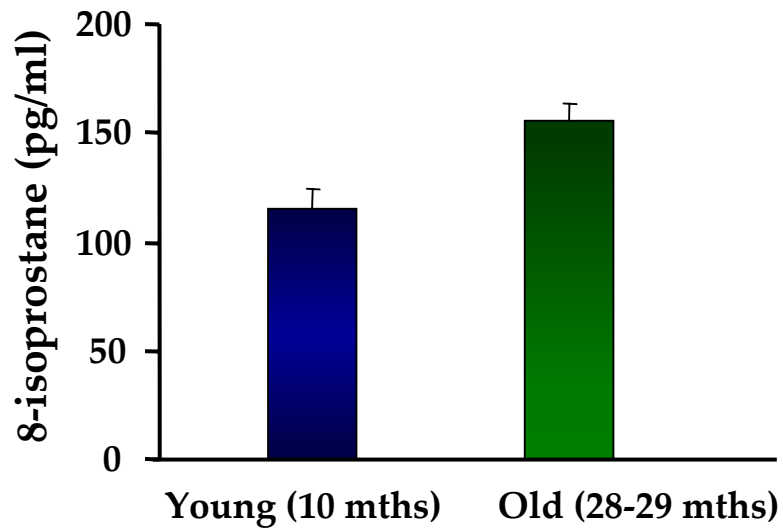


# Age related changes in mitochondrial DNA oxidative damage

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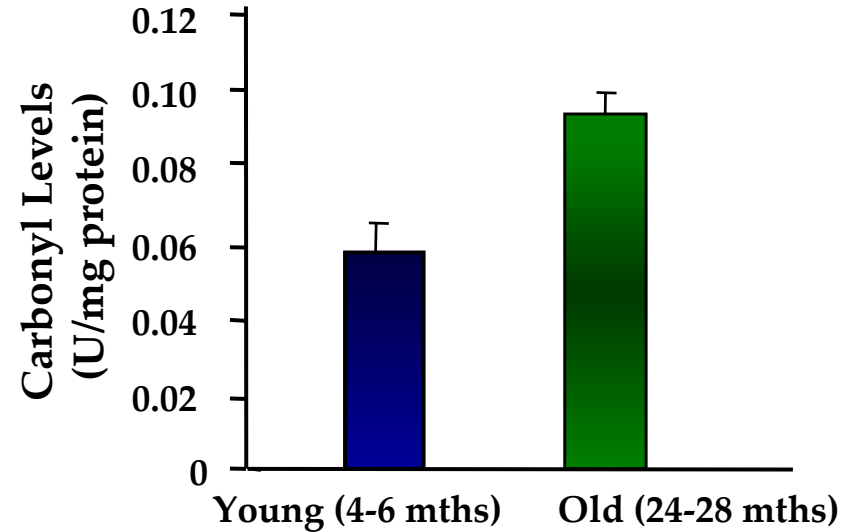


## Plasma Free Isoprostanes



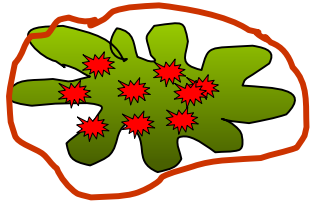
Jack Roberts, Vanderbilt University

## Carbonyl Groups in Liver Protein



Asish Chaudhuri, San Antonio

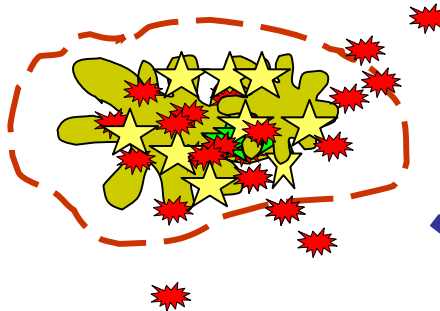
# Mitochondrial Theory of Aging



Alterations in ETC function (?)  
mtDNA mutations/deletions  
**YES**

Increased Production of ROS  
**Some tissues?**

Damaged mitochondria  
produce more ROS



Accumulation of oxidative  
damage with age  
(mitochondrial and non-  
mitochondrial)  
**YES**

Decreased ATP  
Cell Death  
Functional Decline  
**?**

**Aging**

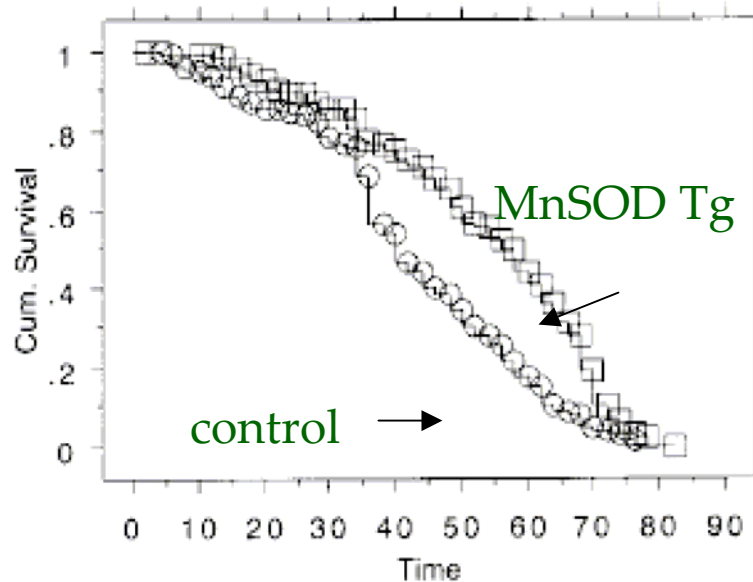
# **Effects of Manipulating Mitochondrial Oxidative Stress in Animal Models**



# Altered expression of MnSOD in *Drosophila*

Sun et al., *Genetics*. (2002) 161(2):661-72.

Induced overexpression of mitochondrial  
Mn-SOD extends the life span  
of adult *Drosophila melanogaster*.



Mean life span increased  
by an average of 16%

Another study finds no increase  
in lifespan in MnSOD Tg flies

(Orr et al., 2003 JBC)

# Increased Expression of Mitochondrial Uncoupling Protein 2

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Targeted expression of the human uncoupling protein 2 (hUCP2) to adult neurons extends life span in the fly.

## Alterations in Mitochondrial Function and Oxidative Stress

- decrease in ROS production
- decrease in oxidative damage
- increased resistance to paraquat

Increase in lifespan

Increased expression of  
Mitochondrial genes

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MnSOD

UCP2

Effect on Lifespan

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Seem to be consistent with the theory.....

# What can we learn about mitochondrial theory of aging from mouse models?

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- **MnSOD-mitochondrial antioxidant**
- **mtDNA polymerase mutant mice**
- **Mitochondrial targeting of catalase**

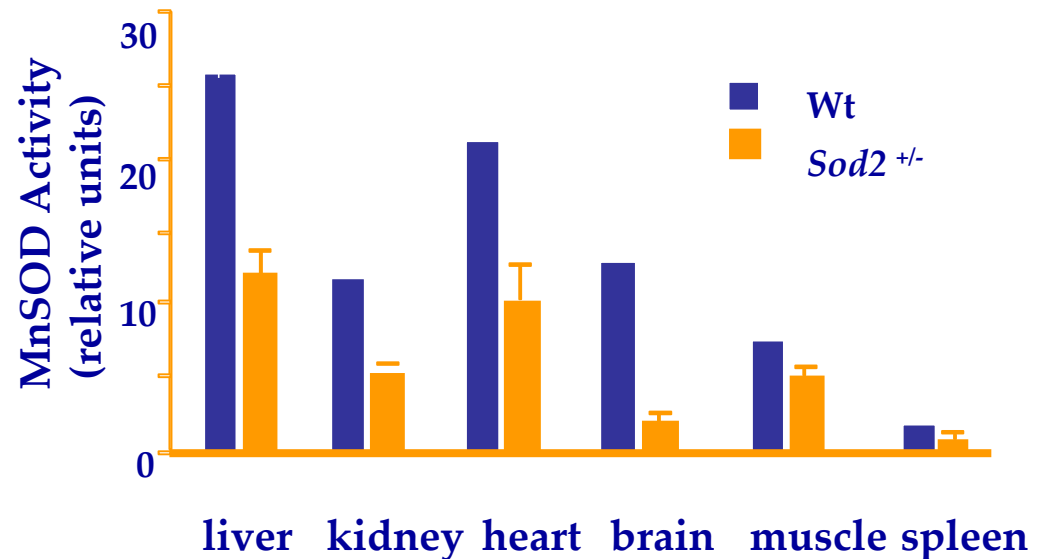
# MnSod (*Sod2*<sup>+/-</sup>) Knockout mice

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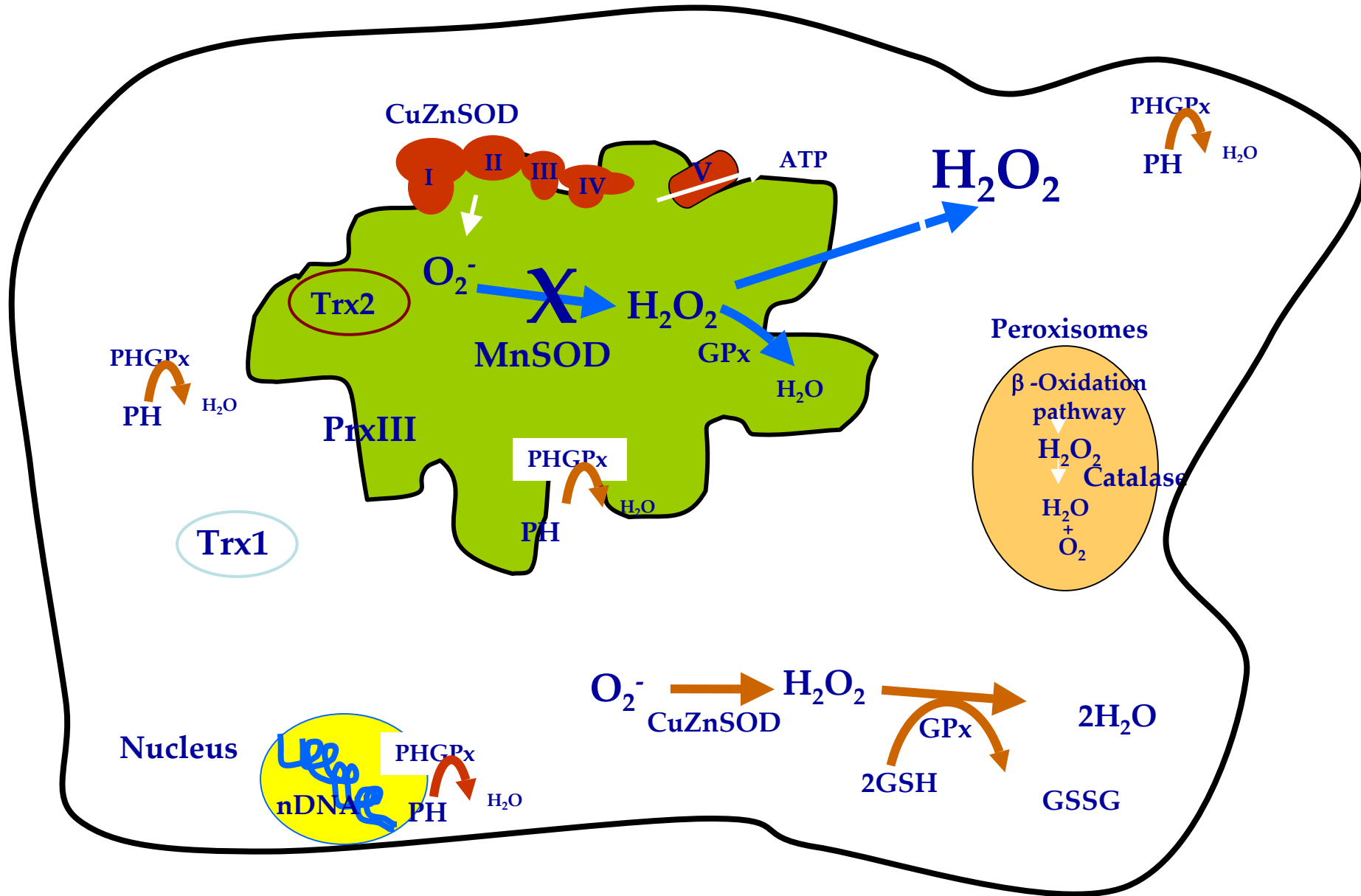
- Mitochondrial antioxidant enzyme ( $O_2^- + O_2^- \rightarrow H_2O_2$ )
- Homozygous mutant is lethal (survival is less than 2 weeks)
- 50% decrease in MnSOD activity in all tissues studied
- No compensation by other major antioxidant enzymes



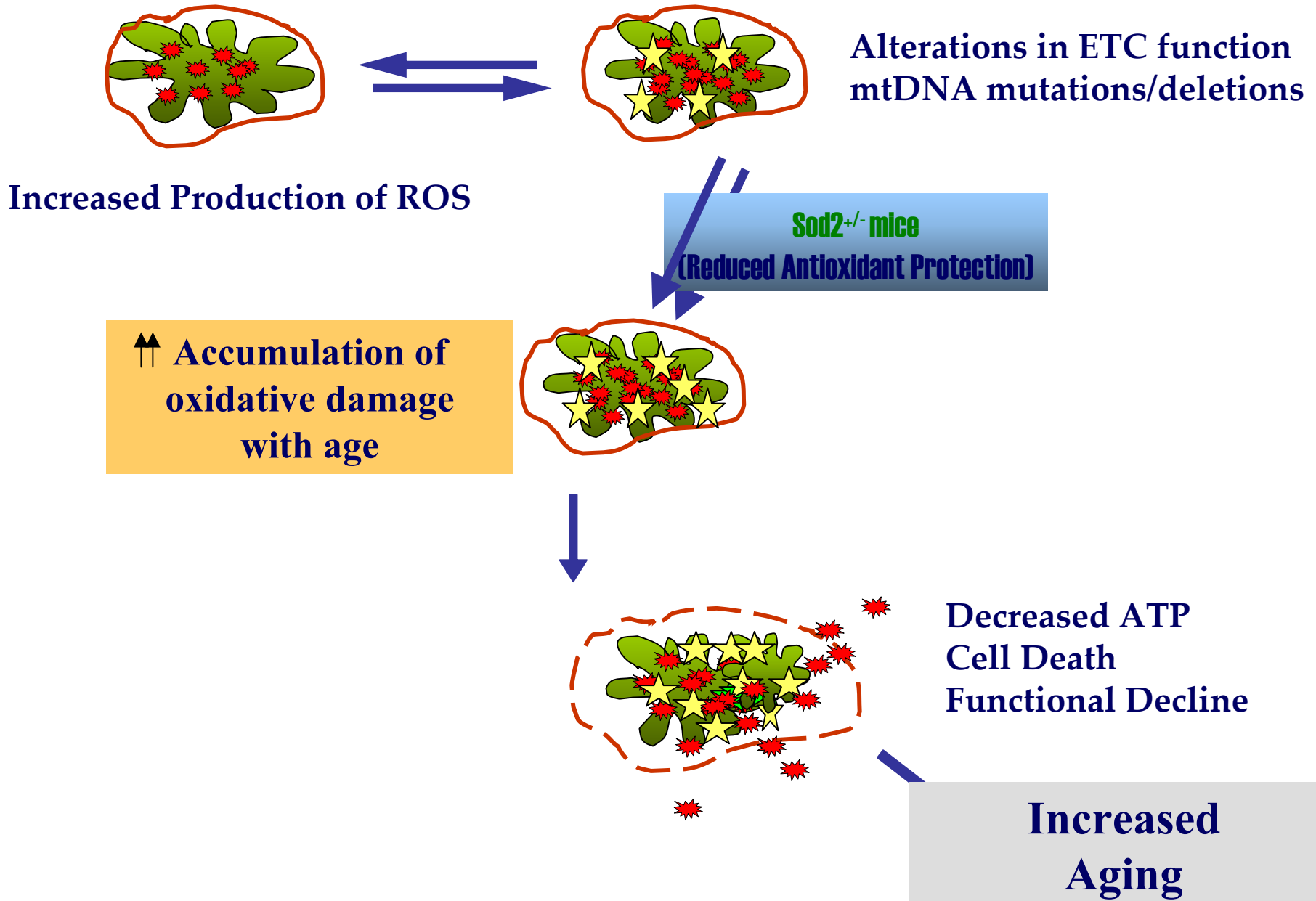
(Li et al. (1995) Nature Genetics.



# *Sod2*<sup>+/-</sup> Knockout Mice



# Mitochondrial Theory of Aging



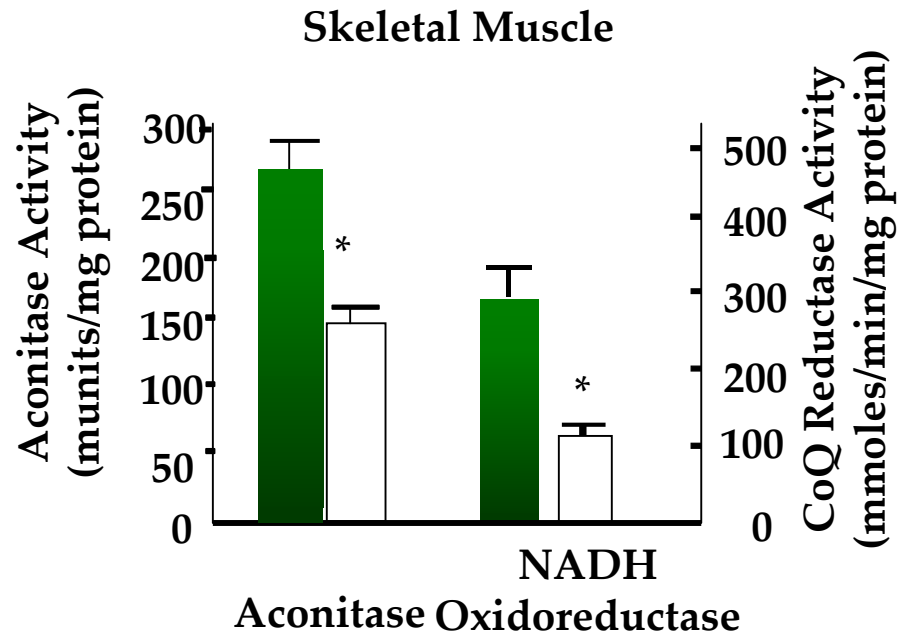
# MnSOD Heterozygous Knockout Mice

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Oxidative damage to specific  
mitochondrial proteins

aconitase

NADH oxidoreductase

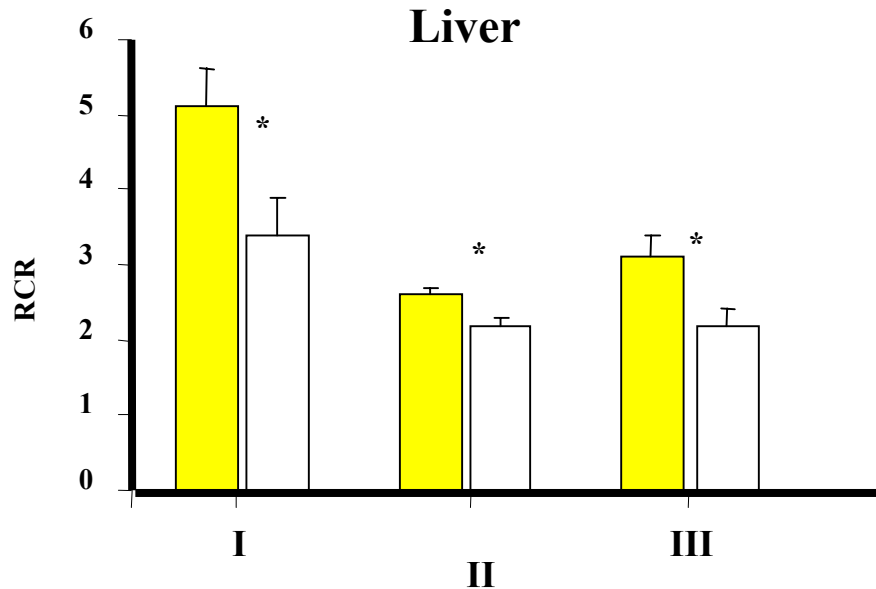




# MnSOD Heterozygous Knockout Mice

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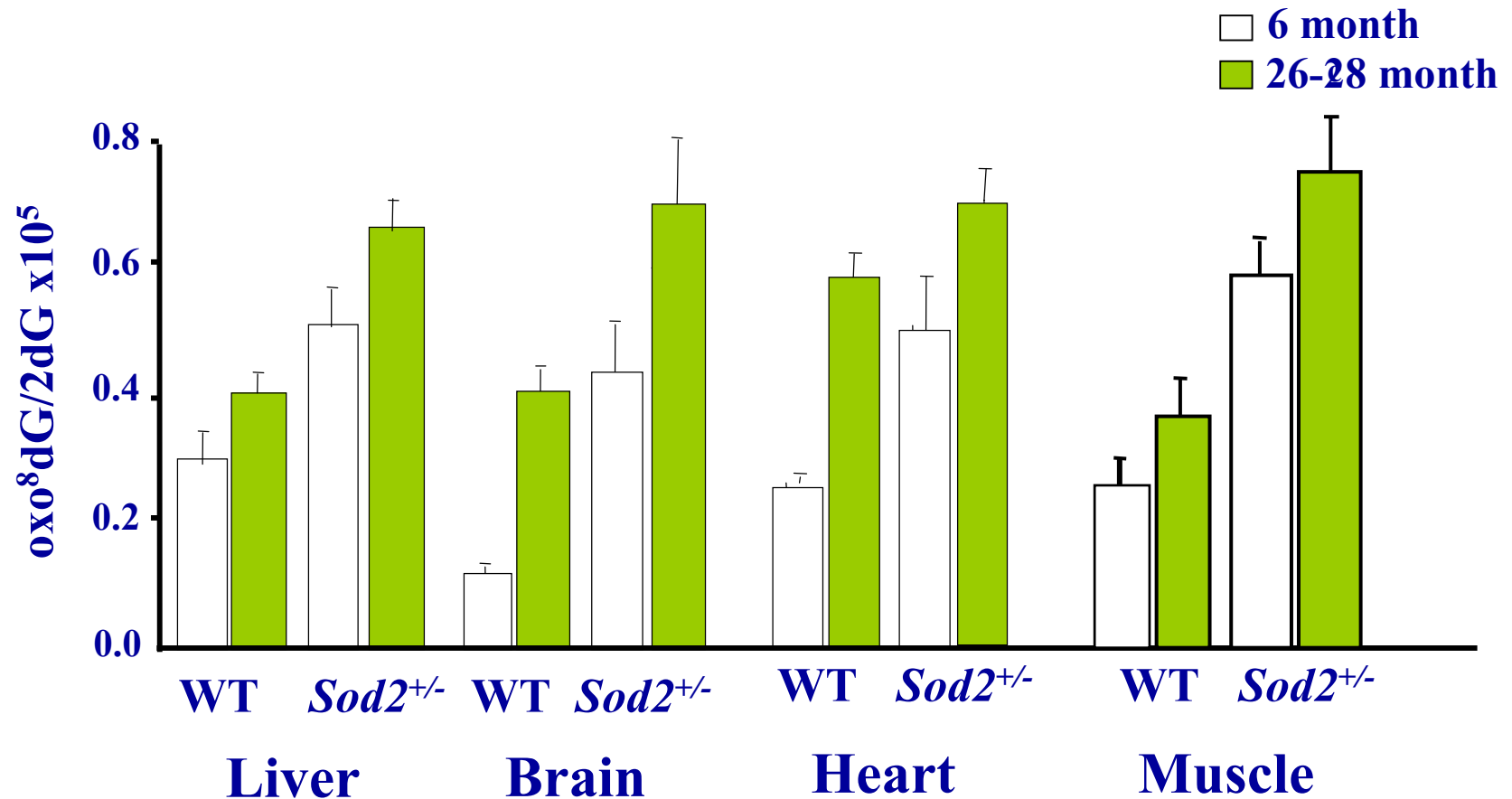
**Altered Mitochondrial Function  
/Decreased activities of ETCs**



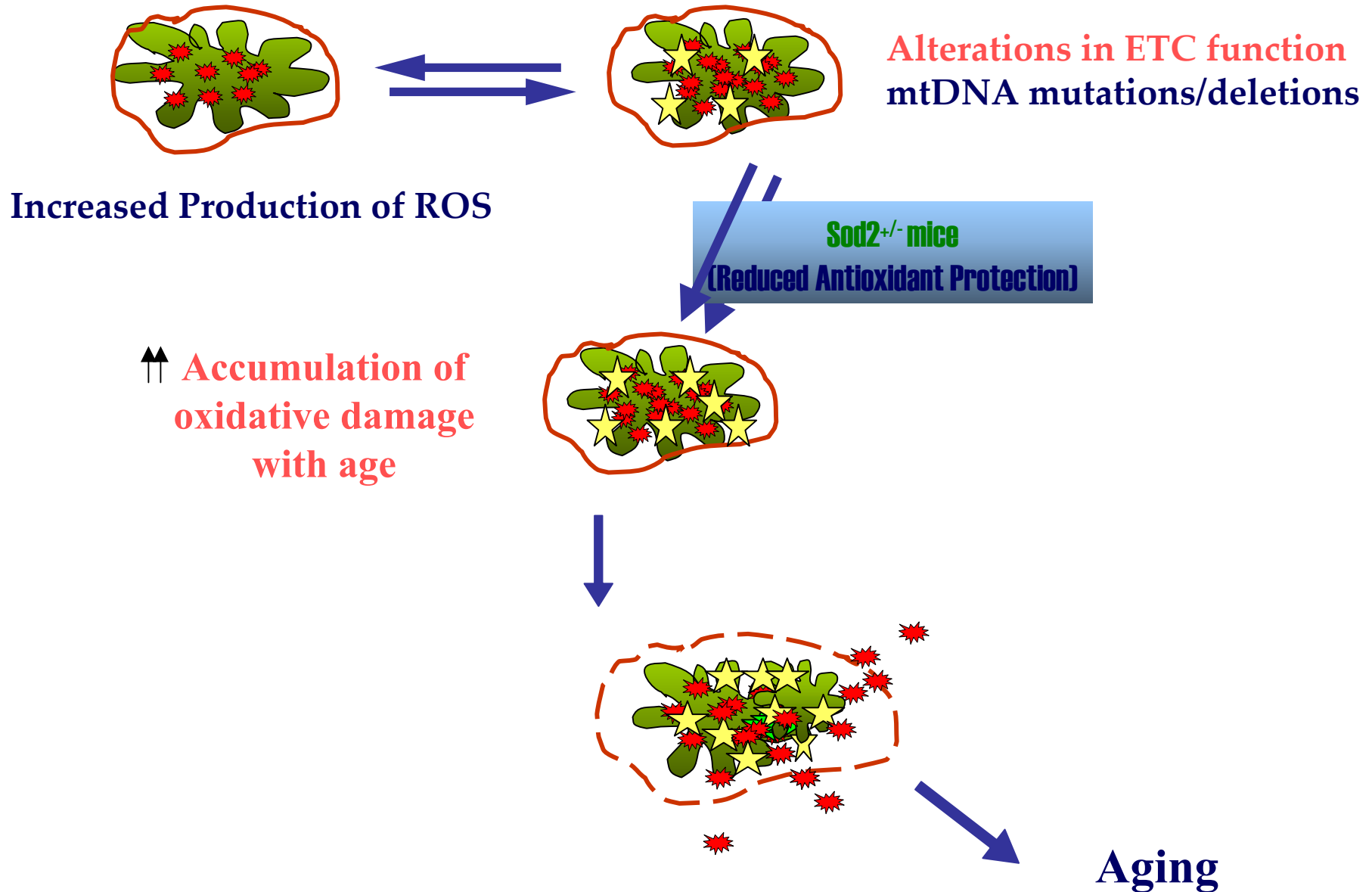
# MnSOD Heterozygous Knockout Mice

Nuclear DNA

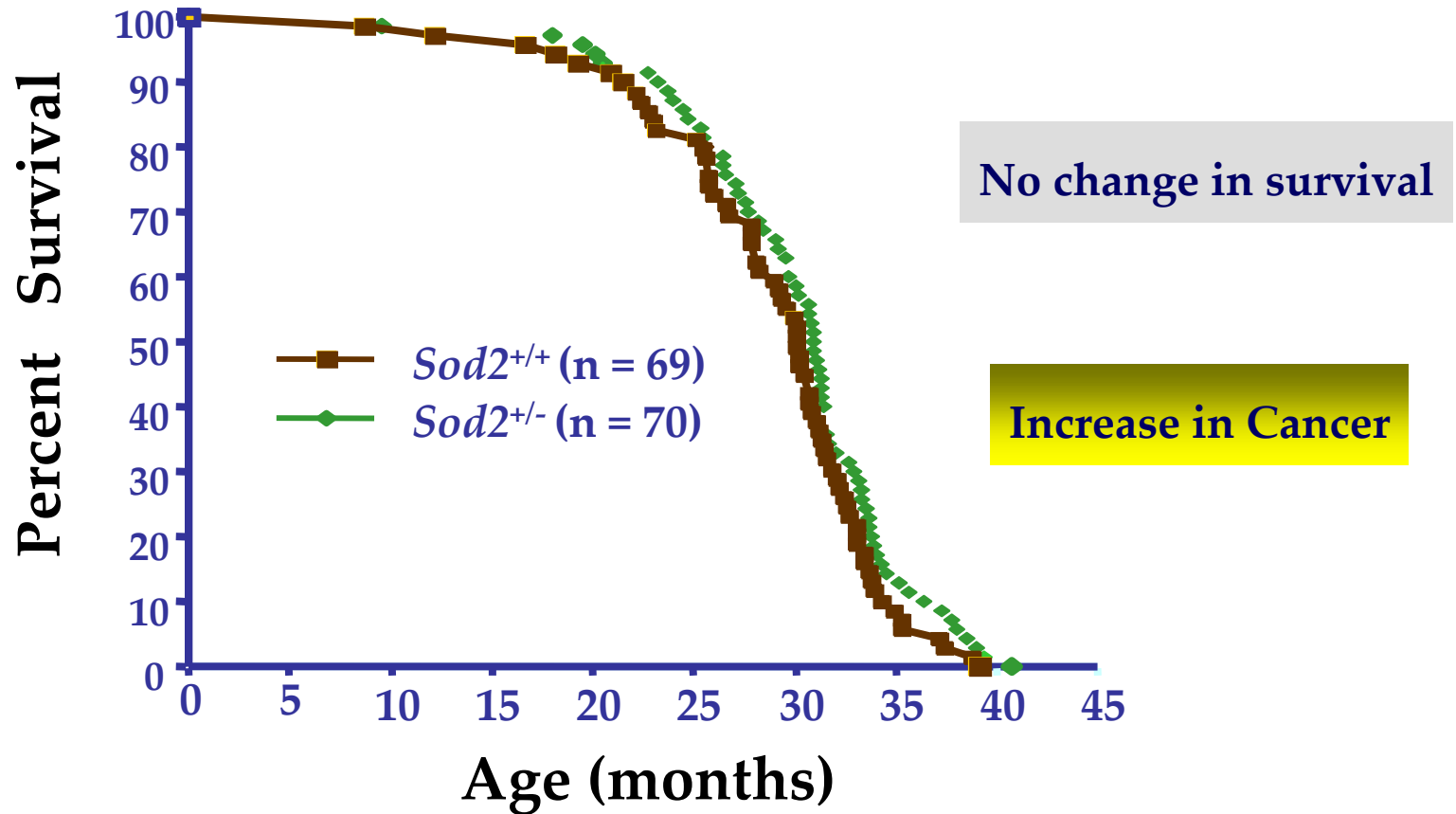
Increased oxidative damage to DNA



# Mitochondrial Theory of Aging



# MnSOD Heterozygous Knockout Mice



# Premature ageing in mice expressing defective mitochondrial DNA polymerase

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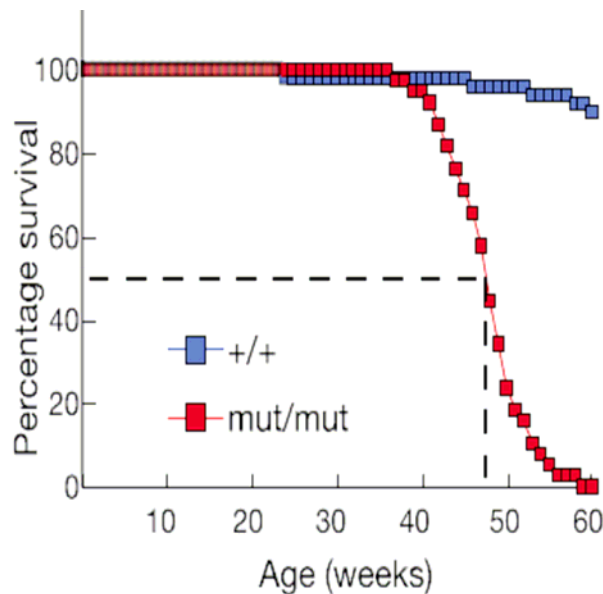
Nature, May 27, 2004, Trifunovic *et al*

Homozygous knock-in mice for a proof reading deficient PolgA-mtDNA polymerase

- 3-5 fold increase in point mutations and deletions in mtDNA
- Normal appearance until ~6 months (25 weeks)
  - Weight loss, kyphosis, alopecia, decreased fat, osteoporosis
- Decreased ETC activity and ATP production in heart

# mtDNA mutations -- Shortened lifespan

- Median lifespan, ~48 weeks, or 336 days
- All died by 61 weeks, or ~430 days



a link between mtDNA mutations and ageing phenotypes in mammals?

# Mitochondrial DNA Mutations, Oxidative Stress, and Apoptosis in Mammalian Aging

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Kujoth et al Science 259, 2005

- Targeted mutation of PolgA Mitochondrial DNA polymerase
- Residue substitution in the exonuclease domain that impairs proof reading ability

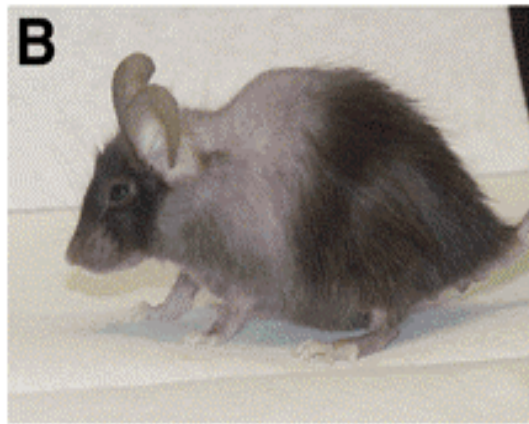
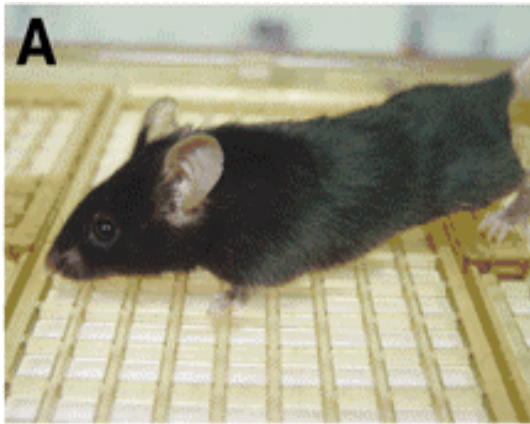
- increased mutations in mtDNA

- No increase in oxidative damage

- Apoptotic markers were increased during aging  
[increased caspase 3 activity]

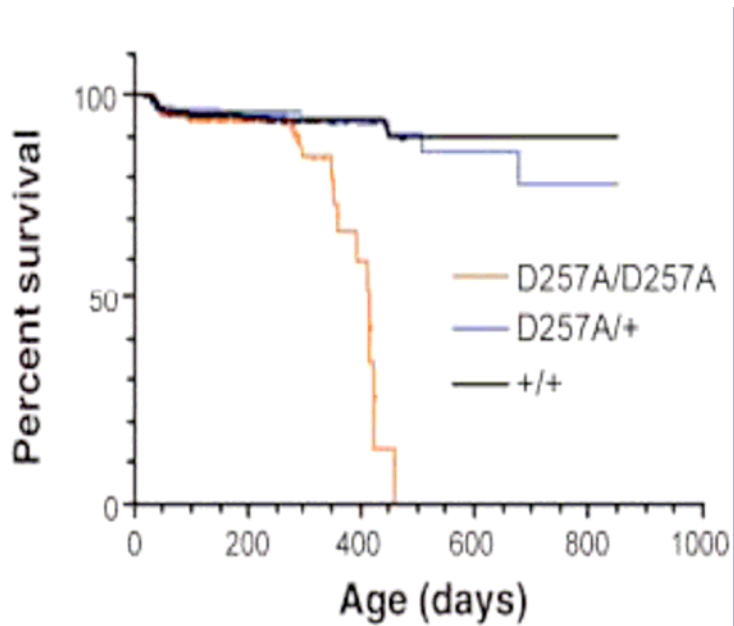
# Phenotype shows age-associated characteristics

- Indistinguishable in young age
- Phenotype evident at ~9 months



- Hair loss, graying, and kyphosis.
- Thymic involution
- Testicular atrophy associated with the depletion of spermatogonia
- Loss of bone mass
- Loss of intestinal crypts
- Decrease in circulating red blood cells
- Weight loss
- Hearing loss
- Loss of muscle mass

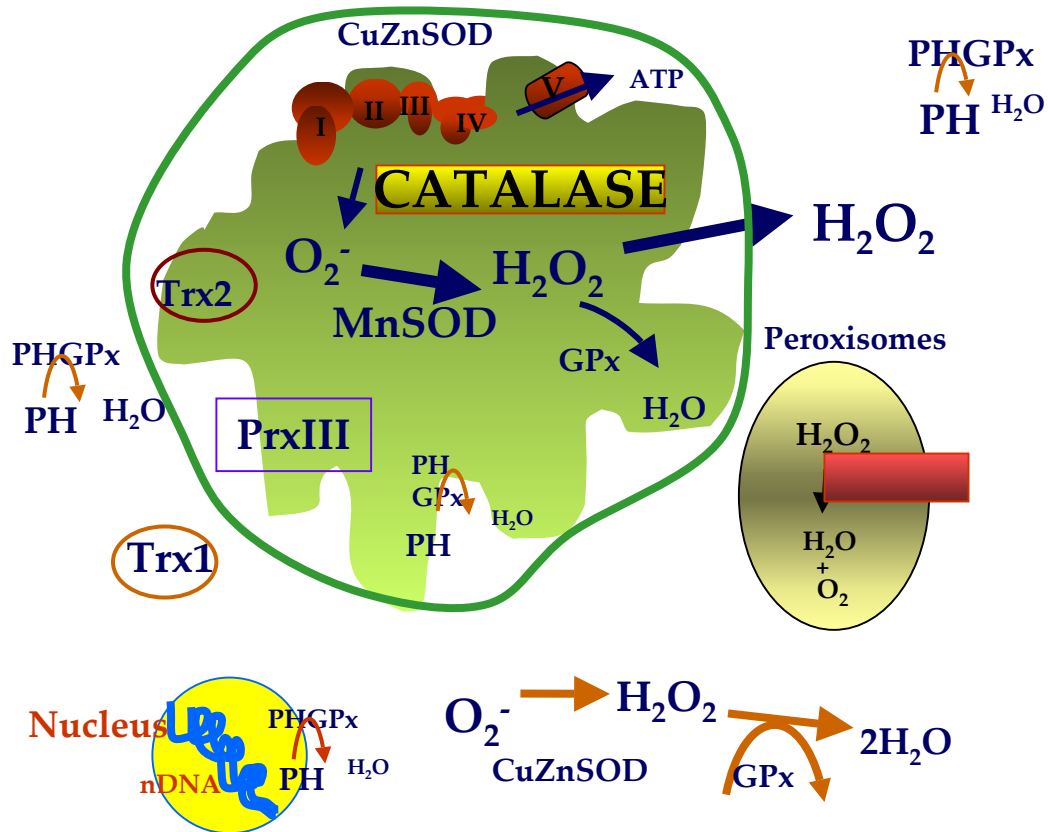




- Maximal survival, 460 days.
- Median survival, 416 days
- Wildtype, both are > 850 days

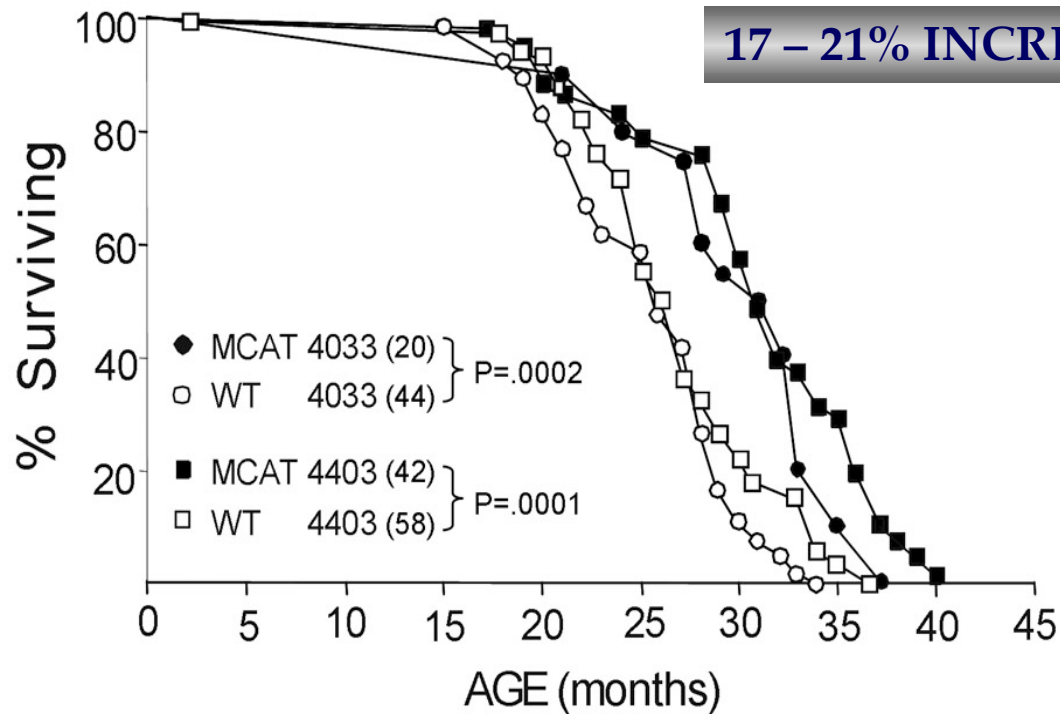
**Are mtDNA mutations linked to apoptosis and aging?**

# Extension of Murine Life Span by Overexpression of Catalase Targeted to Mitochondria



Increased expression in heart muscle and brain

Increased over 50x in heart mitochondria



**Both median and maximum lifespan were increased in MCAT animals**

- Cardiac pathology and cataract development were delayed
- $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  production was reduced
- Oxidative damage was reduced (aconitase activity, 8-OHdG)
- The development of mitochondrial deletions was reduced.

Support for the free radical theory  
of aging and the importance of  
mitochondria ??

## Lifespan Effect on Lifespan

- 50% reduction in MnSOD
- Increased mtDNA mutations
- Mitochondrial targeting of catalase



## Do mitochondria play a key role in aging??

Evidence to date would suggest that mitochondria and oxidative stress in general certainly play a role in age related disease, but a direct link between mitochondria and aging has not been definitively established