

Institute of Medical Chemistry, Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry,  
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Universität Wien



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# Bioactive compounds and senescence in cell culture models

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SUMMER SCHOOL, Bratislava



# Senescent cells



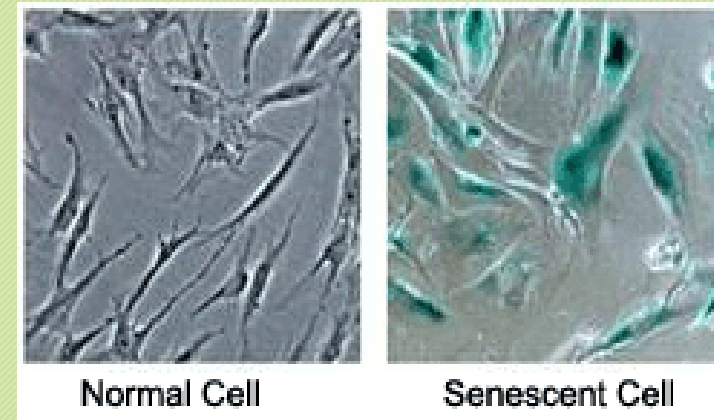
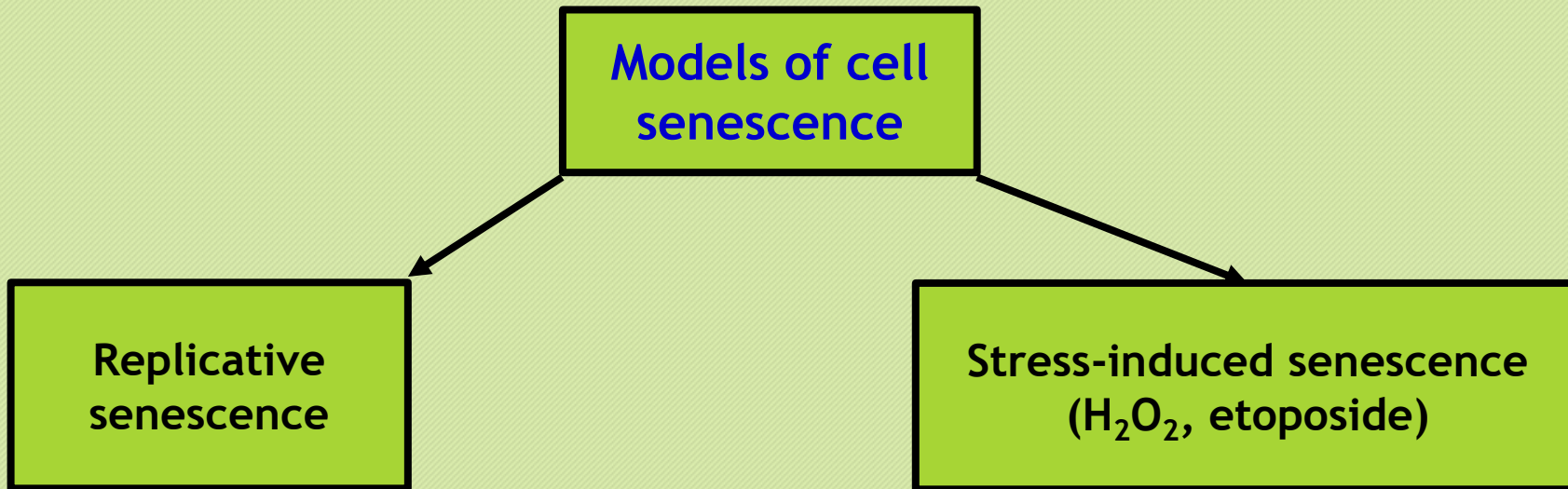
- Removal of senescent cells → increased health span and delayed age-related disorders in a progeroid model of accelerated mouse aging
- Discovery of the first “senolytic” compounds that can selectively target and eliminate senescent cells: Quercetin and Dasatinib

✓ Baker, C. L., and Pera, M. F. (2018). Capturing totipotent stem cells. *Cell Stem Cell* 22, 25–34.

✓ Zhu, Y. et al. (2015). The Achilles’ heel of senescent cells: from transcriptome to senolytic drugs. *Aging Cell* 14, 644–658.

# Cell culture model of senescence

- **Cell line** - MRC-5 - human lung fibroblasts



**Human MRC-5 fibroblasts**  
in Petri dish

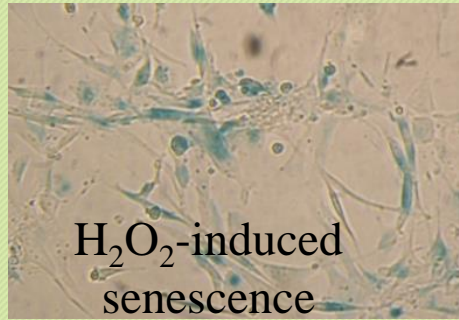
# Senescence markers

- Increased activity of SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase
- Decreased cell growth (MTT test)
- Accumulation of cells in the G2/M phase of the cell cycle (flow cytometry)
- Increased expression of p21 and p16 at the protein level (Western blot)
- Increased number of reactive oxygen species

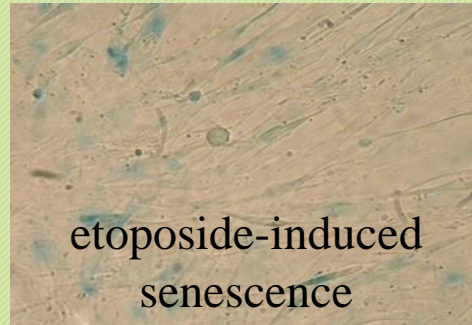
# Increased activity of SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase



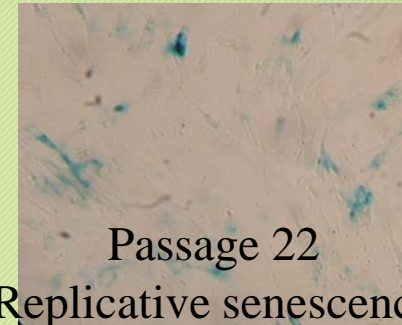
Control



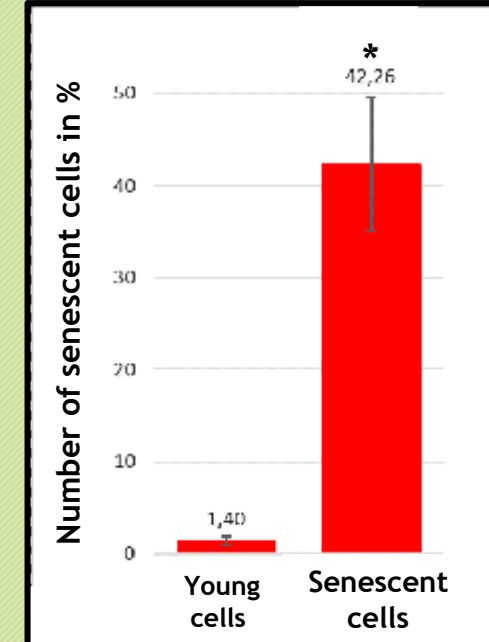
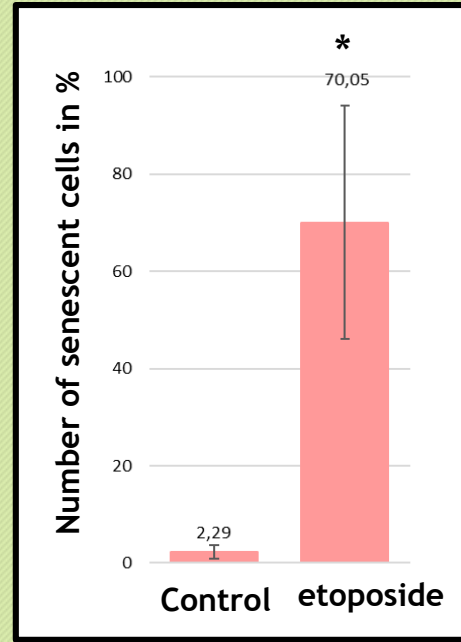
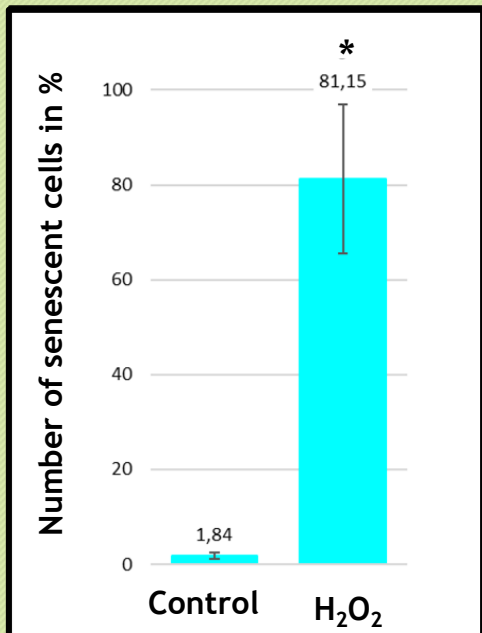
H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced  
senescence



etoposide-induced  
senescence



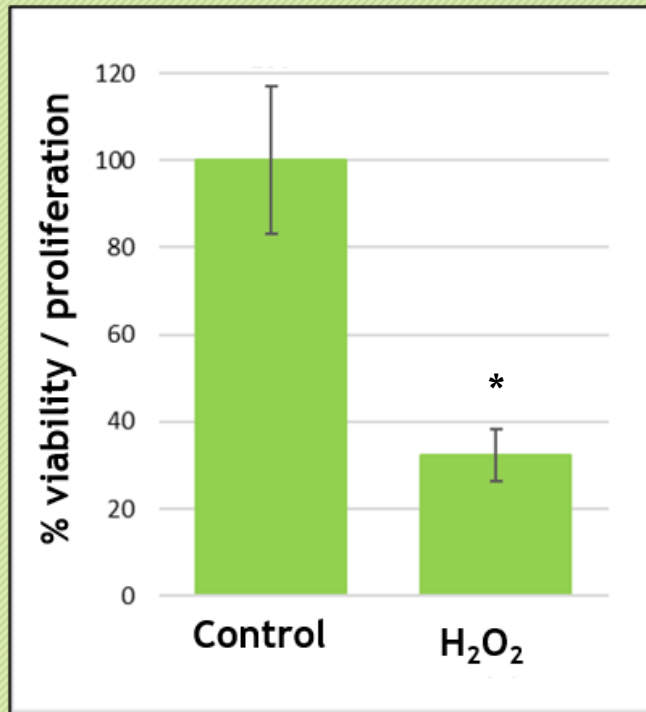
Passage 22  
Replicative senescence



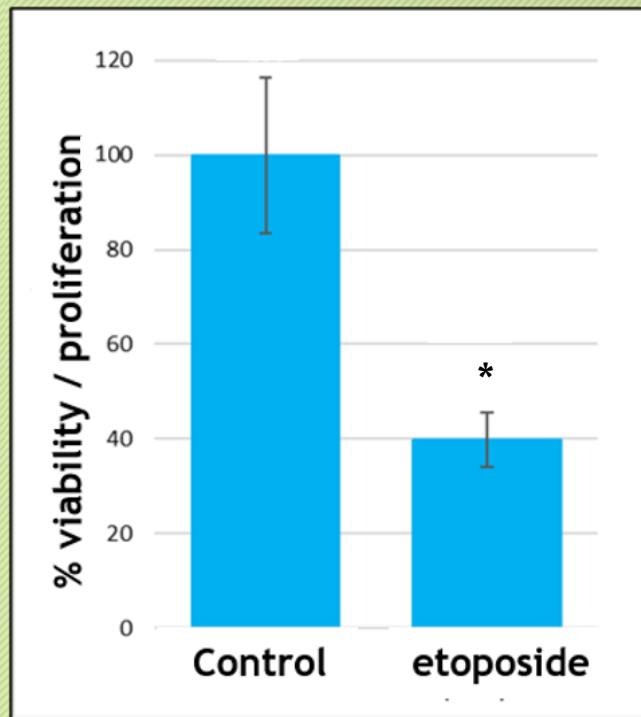
# Senescence markers

- Increased activity of SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase
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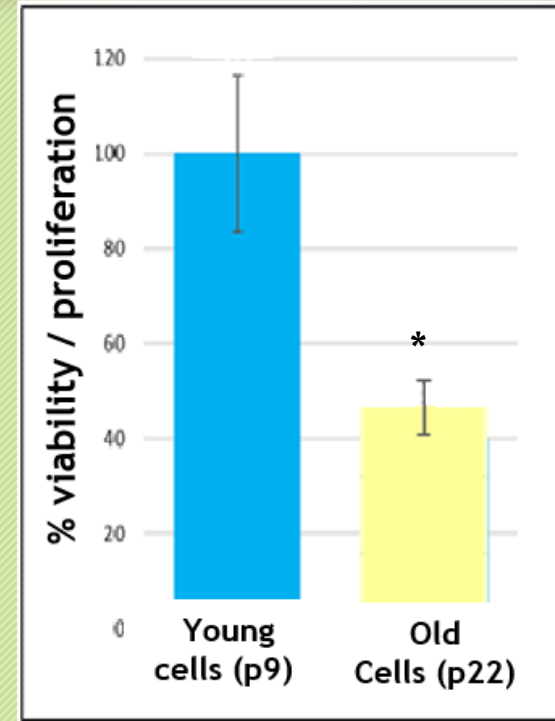
# Decreased cell viability/proliferation (MTT test)



H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced senescence



Etoposide-induced senescence



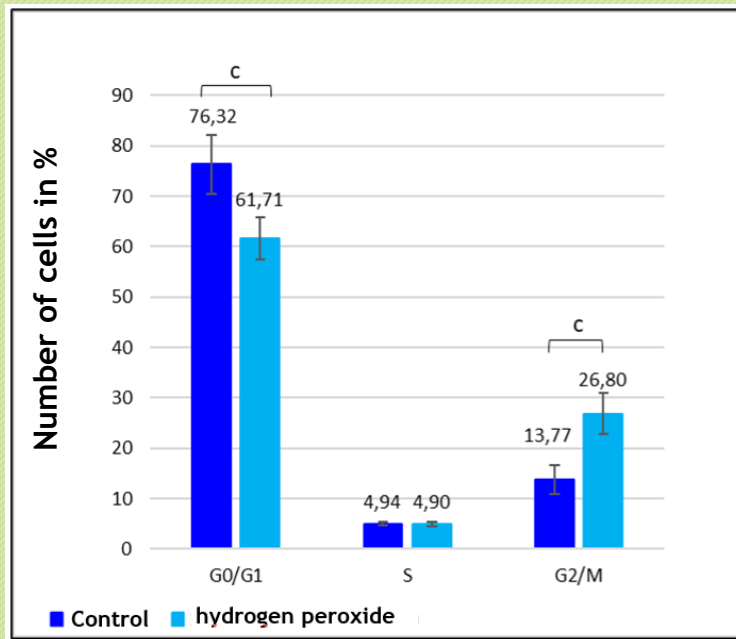
Replicative senescence

# Senescence markers

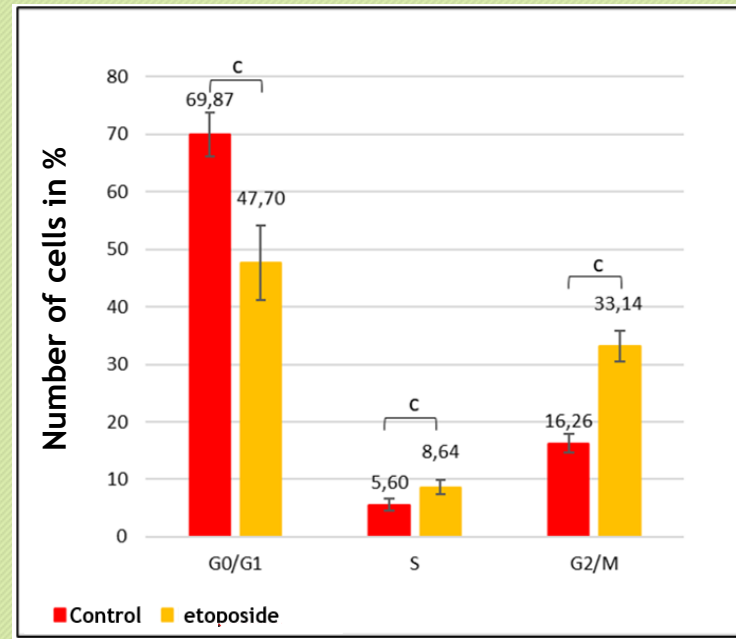
- Increased activity of SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase
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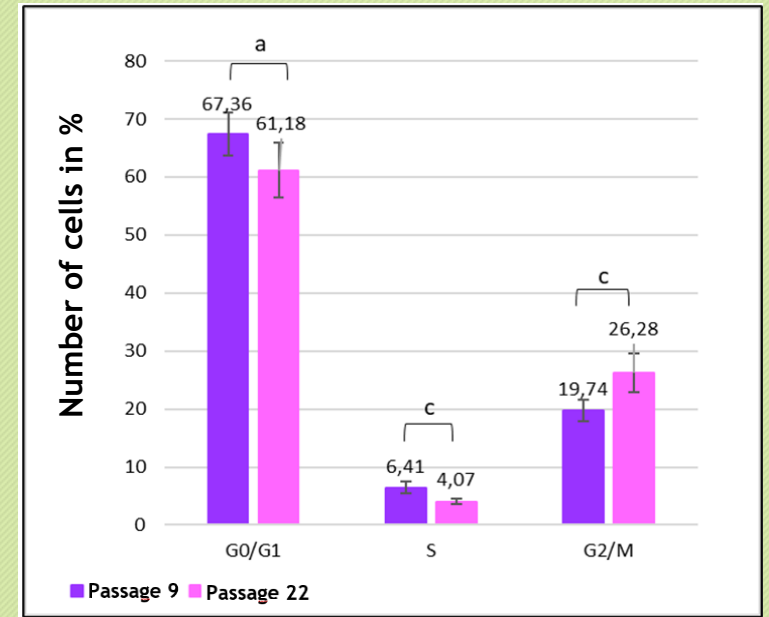
# Accumulation of cells in the G2/M phase of the cell cycle (flow cytometry)



H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>-induced senescence



Etoposide-induced senescence

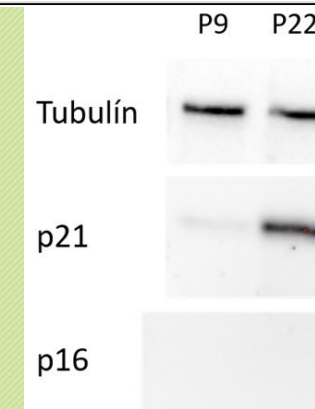
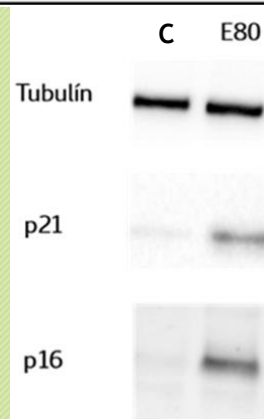
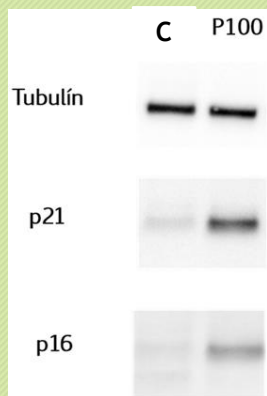
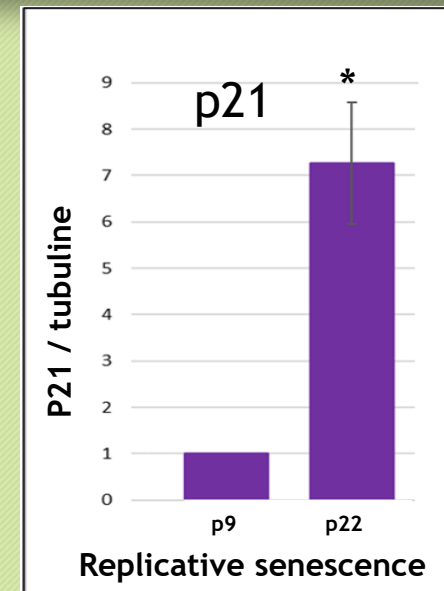
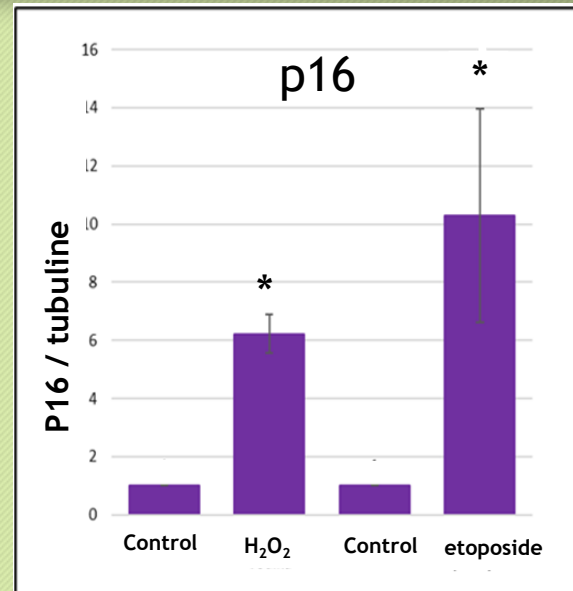
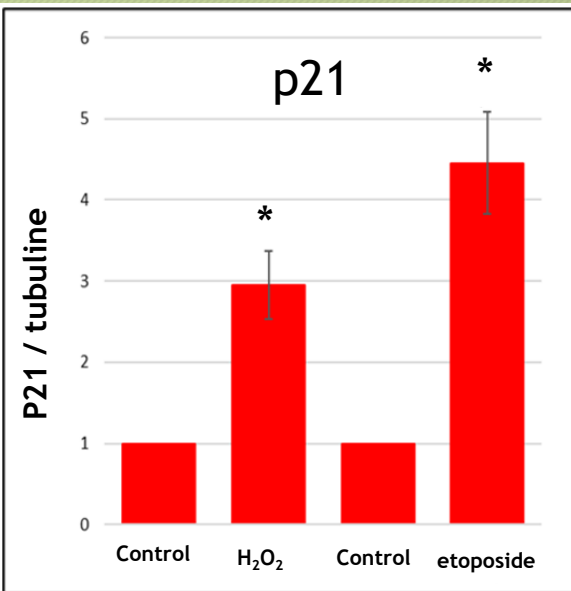


Replicative senescence

# Senescence markers

- Increased activity of SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase
- Decreased cell growth (MTT test)
- Accumulation of cells in the G2/M phase of the cell cycle (flow cytometry)
- **Increased expression of p21 and p16 at the protein level (Western blot)**
- Increased number of reactive oxygen species

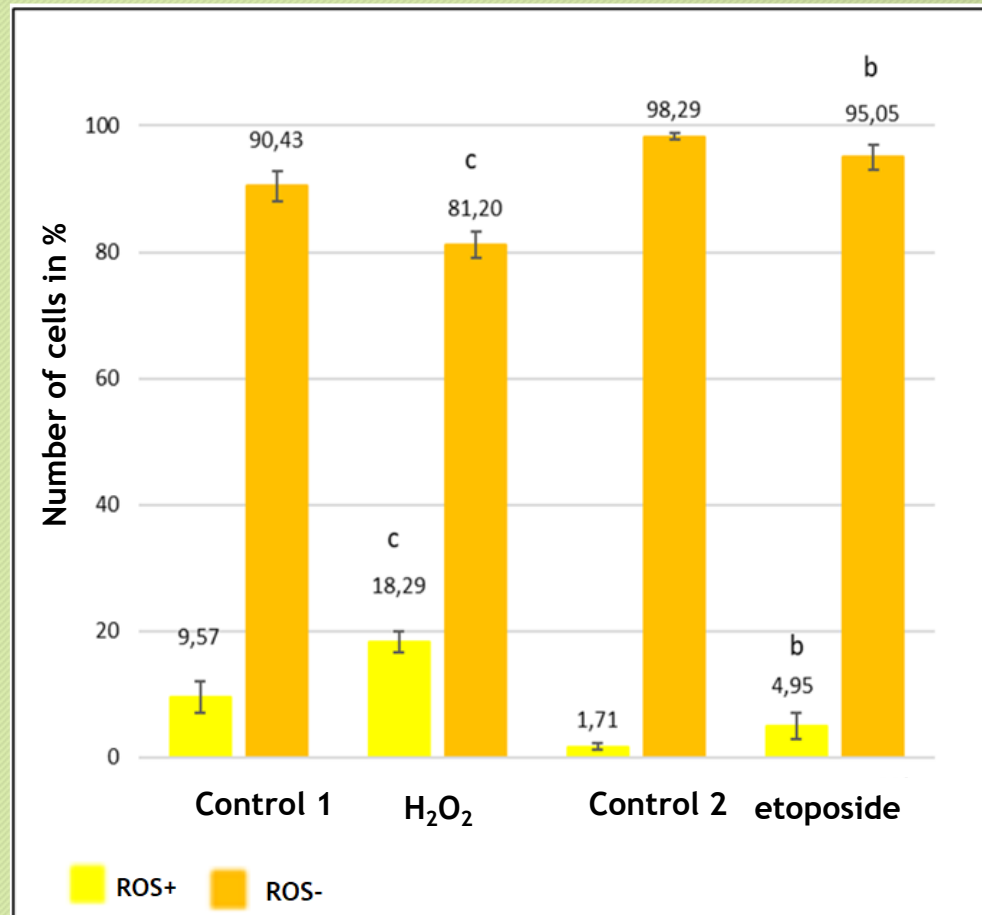
# Increased expression of p21 and p16 at the protein level (Western blot)



# Senescence markers

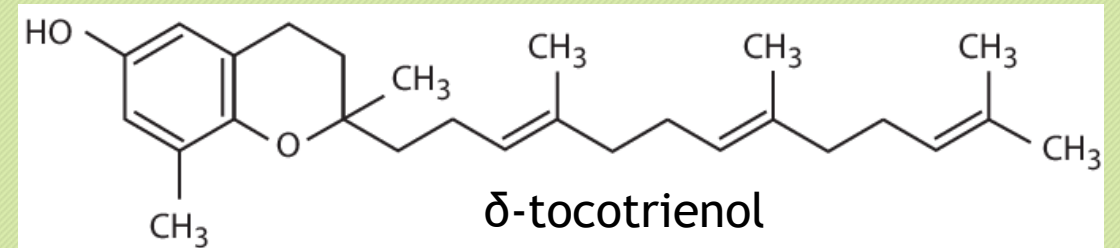
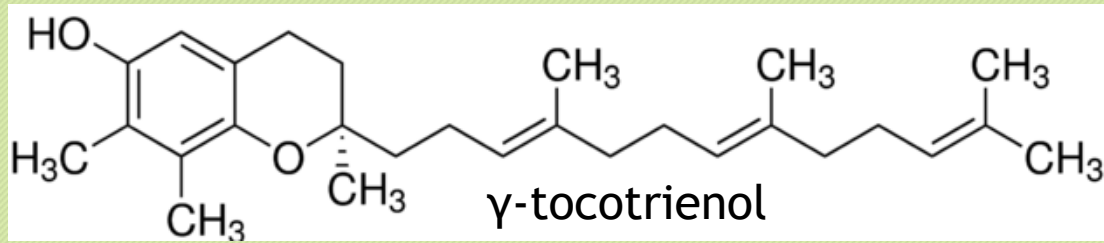
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- **Increased number of reactive oxygen species**

# Increased number of reactive oxygen species

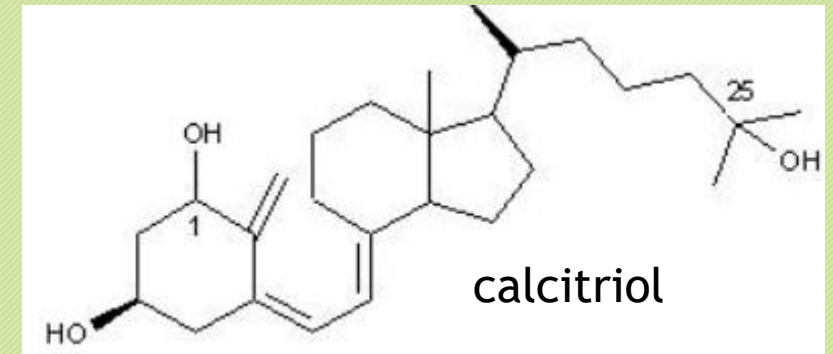


# Bioactive compounds

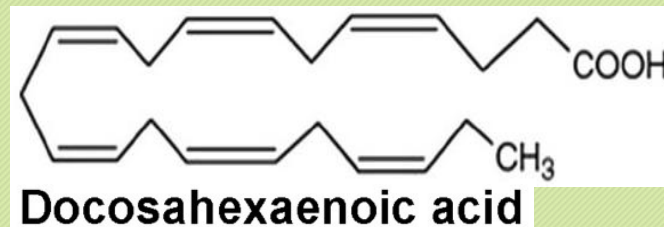
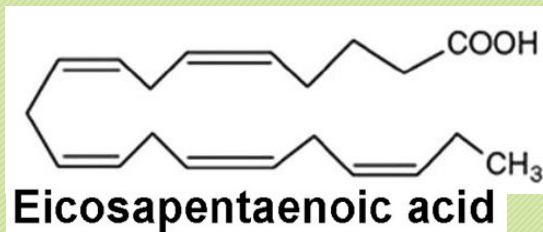
- $\gamma$  and  $\delta$ -tocotrienols



- Vitamin D



- Omega-3 fatty acids (EPA and DHA)



# $\gamma$ - and $\delta$ -tocotrienols

- do not significantly affect the growth of healthy cells
- significantly reduce the cell growth under stressful conditions ( $H_2O_2$ , etoposide)
- $\delta$ -tocotrienol is more effective than  $\gamma$ -tocotrienol

# $\gamma$ and $\delta$ -tocotrienols

## Papers:

- ✓ *Janubova M, Zitnanova I: Effects of bioactive compounds on senescence and components of senescence associated secretory phenotypes in vitro. Food Funct. 2017;8(7):2394-2418.*
- ✓ *Janubova M, Hatok J, Konarikova K, Zitnanova I.  $\gamma$ - and  $\delta$ -Tocotrienols interfere with senescence leading to decreased viability of cells. Mol Cell Biochem. 2021, 476(2):897-908*
- ✓ *Janubová M., Žitňanová I.: Effect of gamma-tocotrienol and delta-tocotrienol on senescent human fibroblasts. Spomienka na Ladzianskeho v čase COVID-19. - Bratislava : Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, 2020, 136-141.*

## PhD thesis:

- ✓ *Janubová M.: Effects of selected bioactive substances on the aging process in a cell culture model. PhD thesis 2020*

## Diploma thesis:

- ✓ *Fekete K.: Nutrition and healthy aging. Diploma thesis 2022*



# Vitamin D

- increases the growth of old cells MRC-5 (passages 21 and 22) compared to young cells (p8, p9)
- reduces the expression of the inhibitor of cell cycle (protein p21)
- increases astrocyte survival in normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions

# Vitamin D

## Papers:

- ✓ Sedlák M., Žitňanová I.: *Effect of vitamin D on metabolism and metabolic syndrome. Anatomia - 100 rokov LF UK. - Trebišov : k-PRINT, 2019. - S. 168-172. - ISBN 978-80-973545-0-3*
- ✓ Koňariková K., Chomová M., Janubová M., Muchová J., Ďuračková Z., Žitňanová I.: *Neuroprotective effects of vitamin D. In: Spomienka na Ladzianskeho v čase COVID-19. - Bratislava : UK v Bratislave, 2020.*
- ✓ Janubová M.: *Nenahraditeľná úloha vitamínu D v udržiavaní zdravia. (Irreplaceable role of vitamin D in maintaining health) Šanca 3/2021*
- ✓ Janubová M., Žitňanová I.: *Effect of vitamin D on cell senescence. A stále žijeme v čase Covidu... - Bratislava : UK v Bratislave, 2021. - S. 142-147. - ISBN 978-80-223-5302-1*
- ✓ Koňariková, K. et al.: *Role of Vitamin D in the DNA repair of senescent cells damaged by hydrogen peroxide. Laboratórna diagnostika 1/2021*
- ✓ Koňariková K. et al. *Effects of vitamin D in hyperglycemic conditions. Ladzianskeho zborník - „A stále žijeme v čase covidu...“ - Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave, Bratislava, 2021, 148-153 - ISBN 978-80-223-5302-1*

# Vitamin D

## Diploma thesis:

- ✓ Sedlák M. Effect of bioactive substances on the development of age-associated diseases. Diploma thesis 2018

## Conferences:

- ✓ Koňariková K., Janubová M., Muchová J., Ďuračková Z., Žitňanová I.: Possible regenerative effect of vitamin D against oxidative damage and subsequent tumor growth in human lung cancer cells. Conference in Prague, 2021
- ✓ Koňariková K., Chomová M., Janubová M., Muchová J., Ďuračková Z., Žitňanová I.: Biological effect of vitamin D on astrocyte viability in normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions. Scientific-pedagogical conference of teachers of biochemistry departments of medical faculties in the SR and CR, Martin, 16.6.-19.6.2022

**V NORMOGLYKEMICKÝCH A HYPERGLYKEMICKÝCH PODMIENKÁCH**  
Koňariková Karolína, Chomová Mária, Janubová Mária, Muchová Jana, Ďuračková Zdenka, Žitňanová Ingrid

**Background**  
Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin, which is essential for the normal functioning of the body. It is involved in the regulation of the immune system, bone metabolism, and cell growth. The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of Vitamin D on the viability of astrocytes under normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions.

**Aims of the work**  
1. Study of the effect of Vitamin D on the viability of astrocytes under normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions.  
2. Study of the effect of Vitamin D on the viability of astrocytes under normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions in the presence of oxidative stress.

**Methods**  
The effect of Vitamin D (1,25(OH)<sub>2</sub>D<sub>3</sub>) on the viability of astrocytes was studied under normoglycemic and hyperglycemic conditions. The viability of astrocytes was determined by the MTT assay. The effect of Vitamin D on the viability of astrocytes was also studied in the presence of oxidative stress induced by hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>).

**VÝSLEDKY**

**Astrocyty + HG 24h inkubácia**  
Bar chart showing the effect of Vitamin D on astrocyte viability under hyperglycemic conditions (HG) after 24 hours of incubation. The y-axis represents the percentage of viable cells (0-100%), and the x-axis represents the concentration of Vitamin D (0, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM). Viability increases with increasing Vitamin D concentration.

**Astrocyty + NG, po 24h HG s oxyplynením**  
Bar chart showing the effect of Vitamin D on astrocyte viability under normoglycemic conditions (NG) after 24 hours of hyperglycemic incubation followed by oxidative stress. The y-axis represents the percentage of viable cells (0-100%), and the x-axis represents the concentration of Vitamin D (0, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM). Viability is significantly higher in the presence of Vitamin D compared to the control.

**Astrocyty + paracet + vit D, 72h, NG**  
Bar chart showing the effect of Vitamin D on astrocyte viability under normoglycemic conditions (NG) after 72 hours of incubation with paracetamol and Vitamin D. The y-axis represents the percentage of viable cells (0-100%), and the x-axis represents the concentration of Vitamin D (0, 1, 10, 100, 1000 nM). Viability is significantly higher in the presence of Vitamin D compared to the control.

**ZÁVER**  
Vitamin D has a protective effect on astrocyte viability under hyperglycemic conditions and in the presence of oxidative stress. The effect is dose-dependent.

# Omega-3 FA: EPA and DHA

- Increase the cell growth of lung fibroblast MRC-5 cells
- DHA is more effective than EPA
- Inhibit development of senescence by reducing:
  - ✓ the number of cells that show increased SA- $\beta$ -galactosidase activity
  - ✓ the expression of cell cycle inhibitor - protein p21
  - ✓ the number of reactive oxygen species

# Omega-3 FA

## Papers:

- ✓ *Sedlák, M., Žitňanová, I.: Omega-3 fatty acids and cardiovascular diseases. In: Spomienka na Ladzianskeho v čase COVID-19. - Bratislava : UK v Bratislave, 2020.*
- ✓ *Janubová M., Gbelcová H., Koňariková K., Szentešiová Z. and Žitňanová, I.: DHA and EPA are Able to Affect the Development of Stress-Induced Senescence. Austin Med Sci. 2022; 7(1): 1062.*

## Diploma thesis:

- ✓ *Teresa Ridder: Proteins and omega-3 fatty acids: health benefits during aging. Diploma thesis 2021*

## Conferences:

- ✓ *Janubová M., Koňariková K., Žitňanová I.: Effect of omega-3 fatty acids on stress-induced senescence. XII. year of the Interactive Conference of Young Scientists 2020. Bratislava, May 7 - June 5, 2020*
- ✓ *Janubová M., Koňariková K., Žitňanová I.: DHA and EPA affect development of stress-induced premature senescence. Scientific-pedagogical conference of teachers of biochemistry departments of medical faculties in the SR and CR, Martin, 16.6.-19.6.2022*

# General papers on senescence

- ✓ Pazderová Petra: *Role of vitamin c in healthy aging. Šanca 2/2022*
- ✓ Janubová Mária, Žitňanová Ingrid: *Effect of some vitamins on cell senescence. A stále žijeme v čase Covidu... - Bratislava : UK v Bratislave, 2021, 136-142. - ISBN 978-80-223-5302-1*
- ✓ Žitňanová Ingrid: *Can antioxidants protect us from age-related diseases? Šanca 1/2021*
- ✓ Žitňanová Ingrid: *Oxidative stress and antioxidants. Seniors.sk, 14. apríla 2021*
- ✓ Žitňanová Ingrid, Oravec Stanislav, Janubová Mária et al.: *Gender differences in LDL and HDL subfractions in atherogenic and nonatherogenic phenotypes. Clinical Biochemistry. - 79 (2020), 9-13*
- ✓ Janubová Mária, Žitňanová, Ingrid: *Vplyv etanolových hubových extraktov G. lucidum a H. erinaceum na rast mladých a starých buniek. Horizonty anatómie. - Bratislava : Proprint, 2018, 160-167. - ISBN 978-80-89747-10-8*



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Katarína Koňariková  
Zuzana Sumbalová  
Petra Pazderová  
PhD-, Diploma students

EU grant from the CBC program Interreg V-A SK-AT V014 - NutriAging

