

Reversing Aging: Proinflammatory metabolite Prostaglandin E2 augments muscle regeneration

A photograph of the Stanford University Main Quad at sunset. The image shows the iconic red-tiled buildings of the quad, with the central tower and its mural. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. Palm trees are visible behind the buildings. In the foreground, there is a green lawn and a paved path. A white van is parked on the right side of the quad.

Helen M. Blau

**Baxter Laboratory for Stem Cell Biology
Stanford University**

NAS--Immune System and Tissue Regeneration – Nov. 2, 2021

Disclosure



Co-founder



MYOFORTE
REJUVENATING MUSCLE

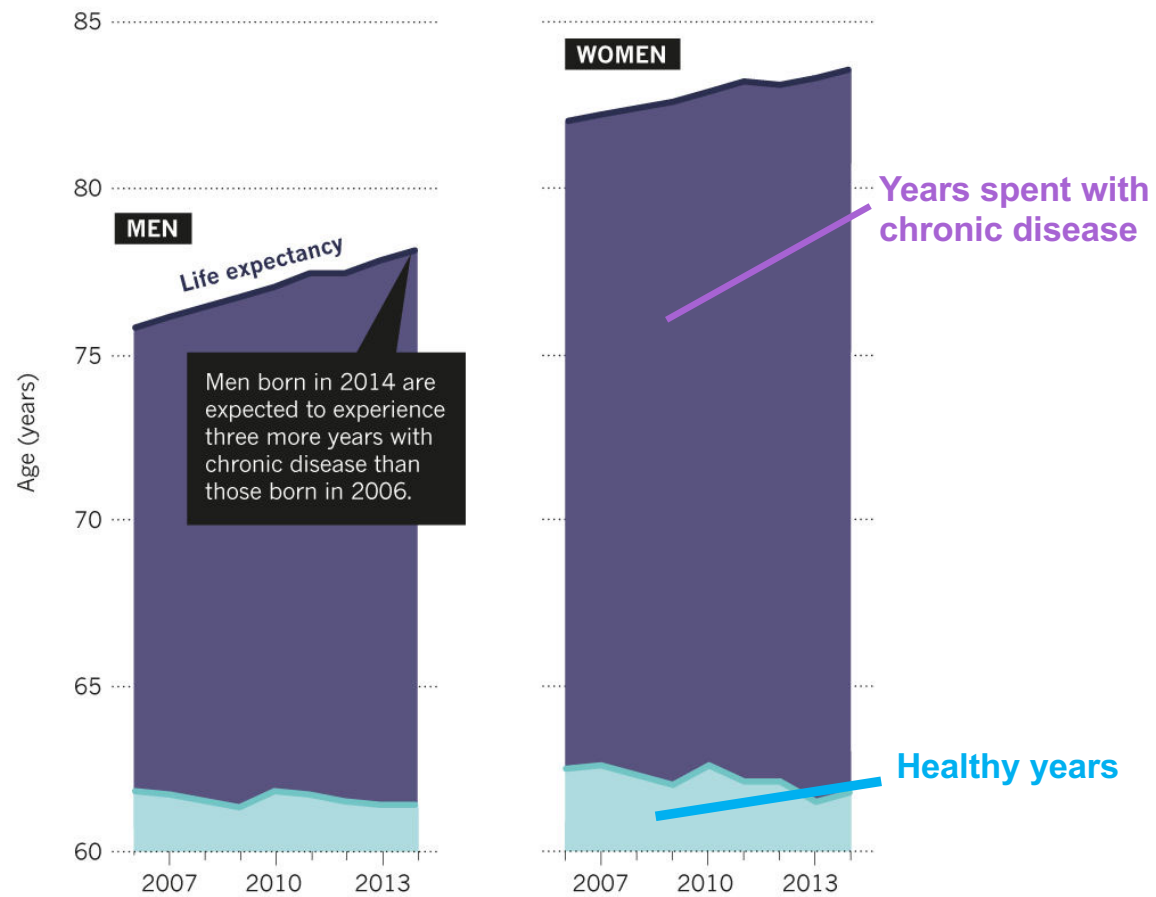
Co-founder

EPIRIUM

The Three Ages of Woman by Gustav Klimt



Aging: More years of what?

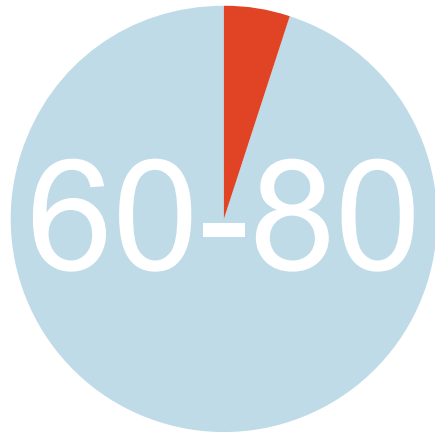


Bellantuono, *Nature*, 2018

Muscle is central to everything you do in life

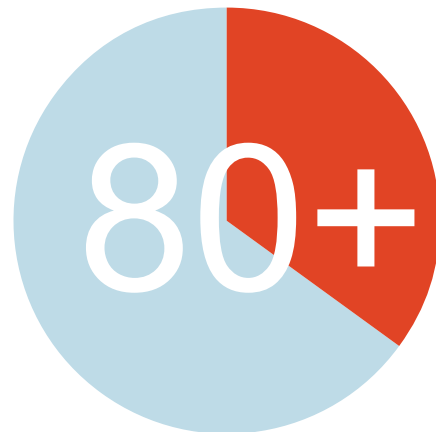


Sarcopenia is loss of muscle mass and strength with aging



Humans lose 10% of muscle mass per decade after age 50yr

5% of people age 60 – 70yr are affected by sarcopenia



30% of people age 80 or older are affected by sarcopenia

Source: Center For Disease Control

Loss of muscle mass has severe consequences

Frailty

Loss of muscle mass reduces the ability to perform basic tasks, such as walking and rising from a chair

Falls

Older adult falls result in more than **\$31 Billion** in annual Medicare costs

Dependency

Inability to perform activities of daily living leads to dependency and institutionalization

Institutionalization

Healthcare costs associated with institutionalization are high

Mortality

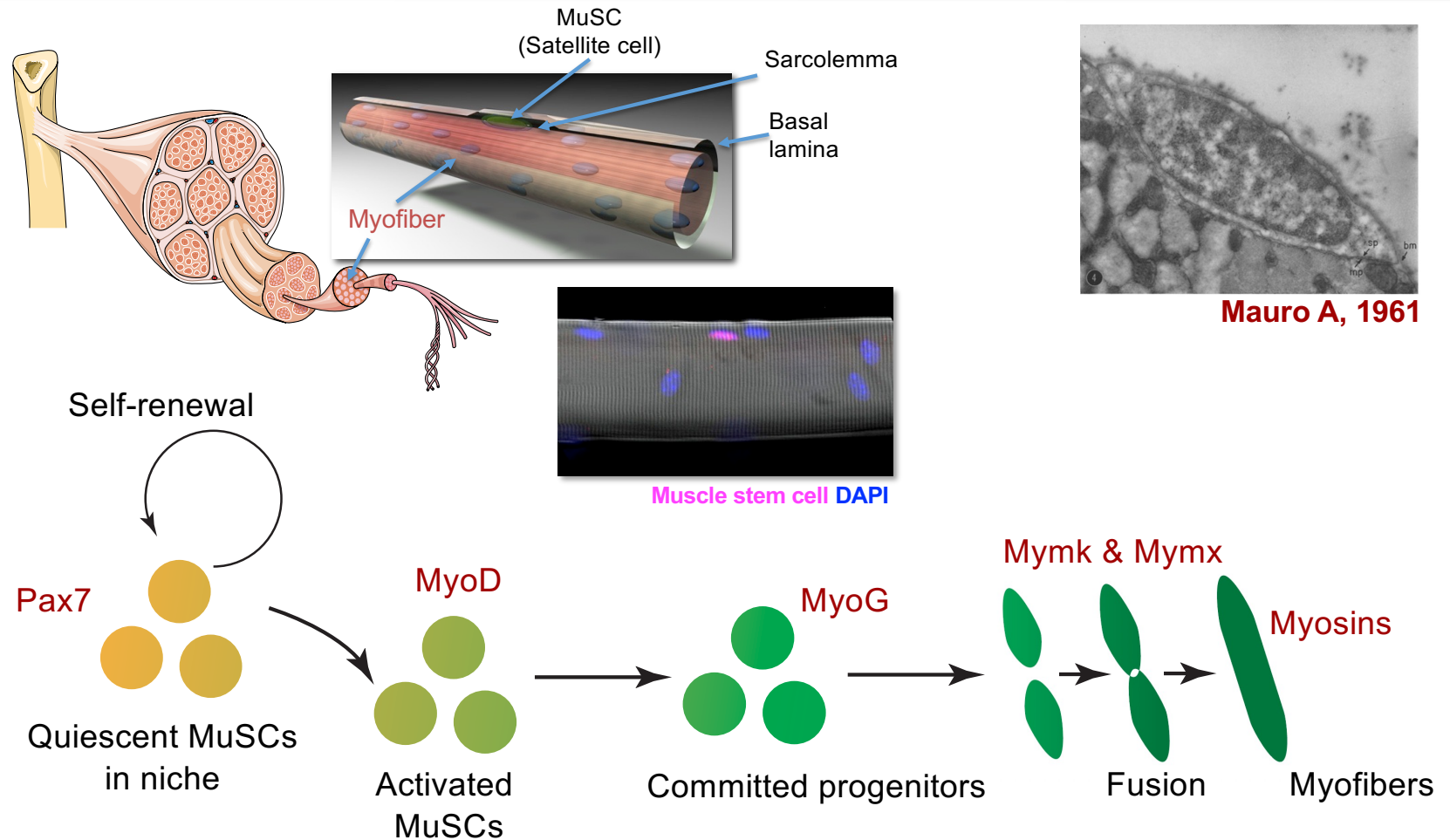
Sarcopenia is associated with an increased risk of death

Source: Burns ER, J. Safety Res. 2016

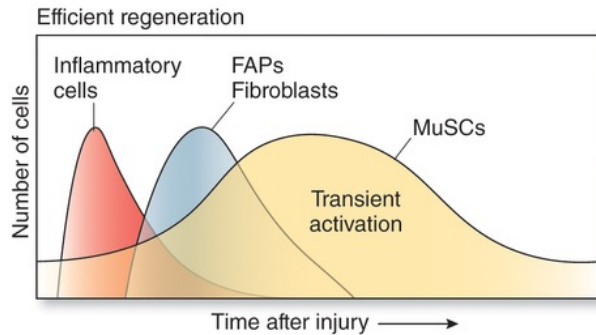
Approaches to combatting muscle aging

- 1) Muscle stem cell stimulation to enhance regeneration**
- 2) Muscle myofiber rejuvenation**

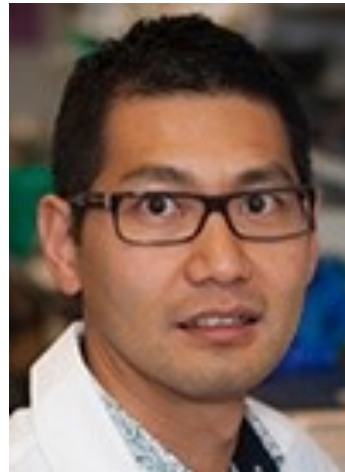
Muscle stem cells (MuSCs) are essential to muscle regeneration



PGE2: natural inflammatory mediator that stimulates muscle stem cell function



Blau et al., *Nature Med.*, 2015

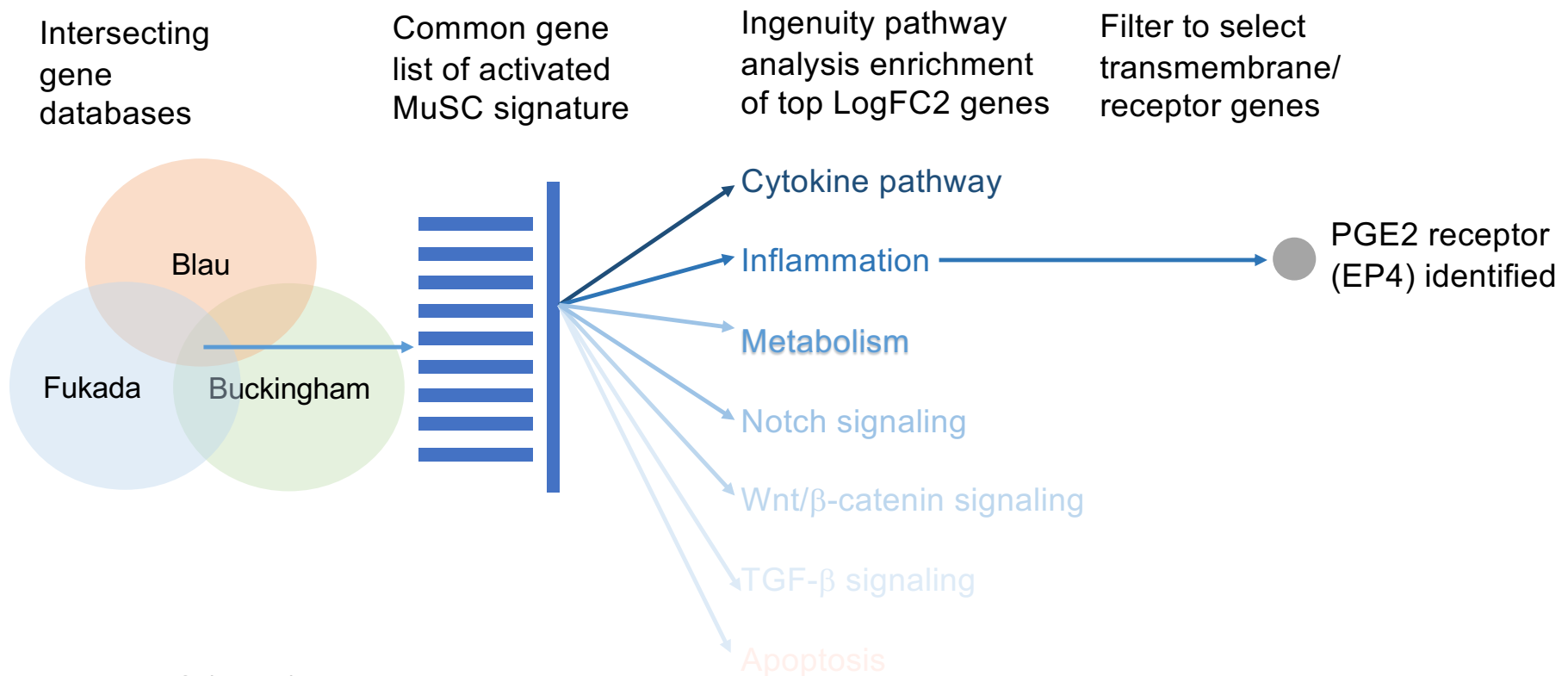


Andrew Ho



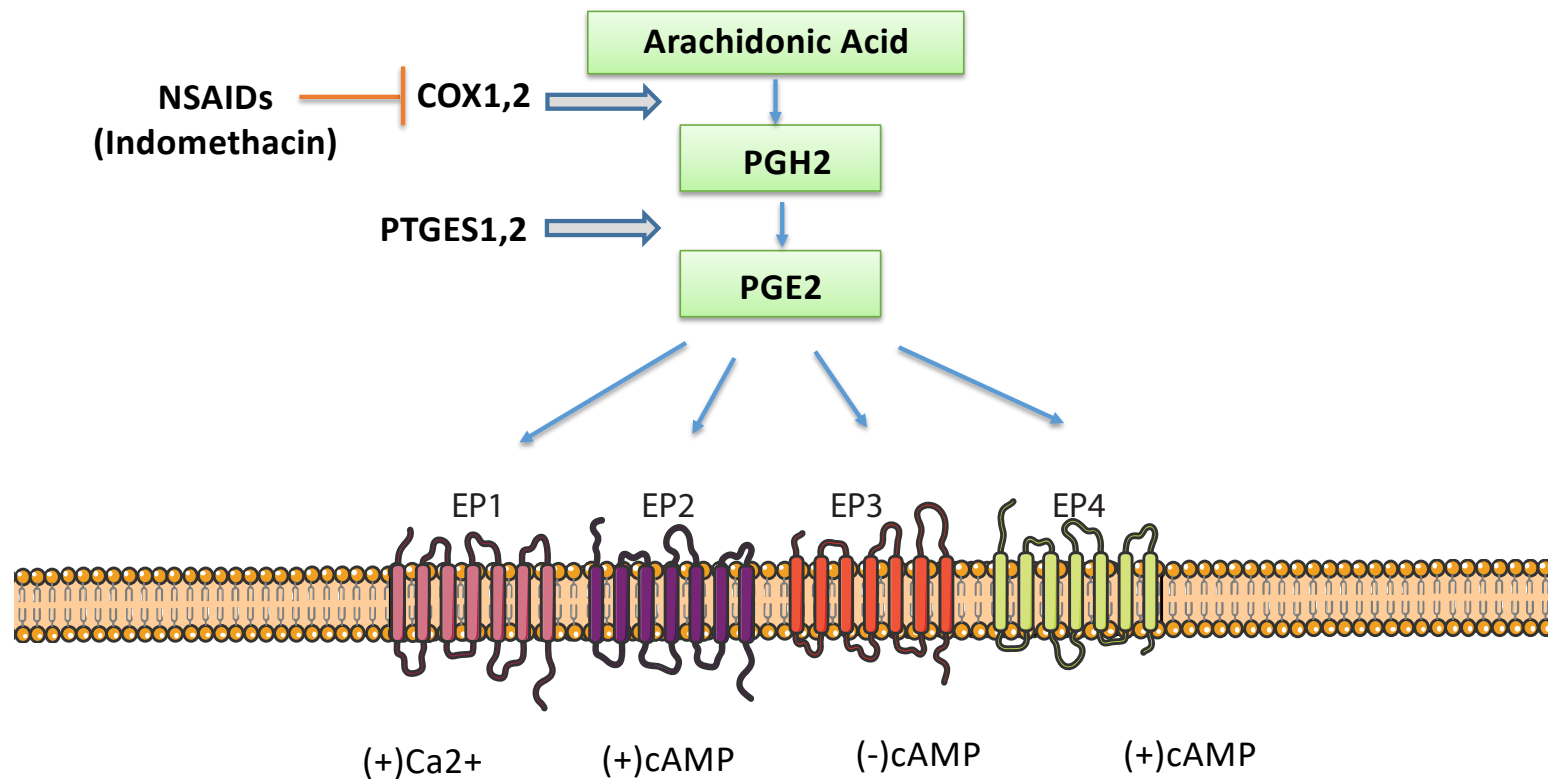
Adelaida Palla

Bioinformatic analysis implicates key inflammatory mediator as MuSC regulator



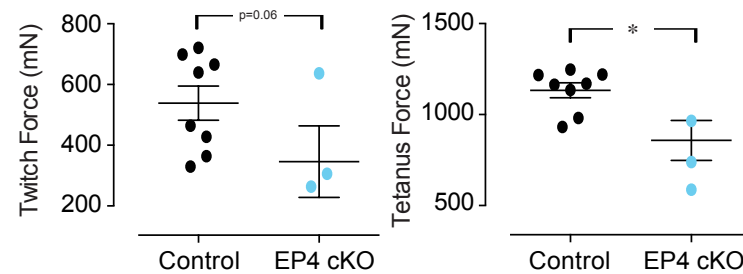
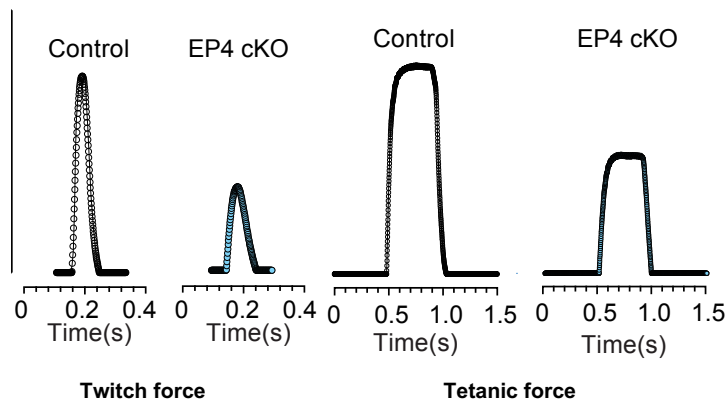
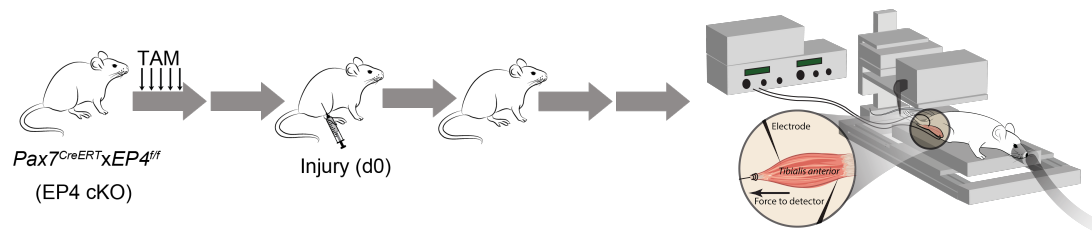
PNAS (2017) 114: 6675-6684

Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) is a metabolite that stimulates MuSC function



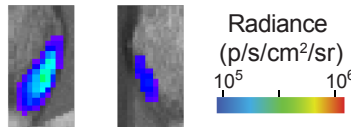
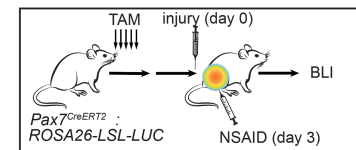
Loss of PGE2 signaling in MuSCs impairs regeneration and recovery of strength

Conditional
MuSC-specific
EP4 deletion

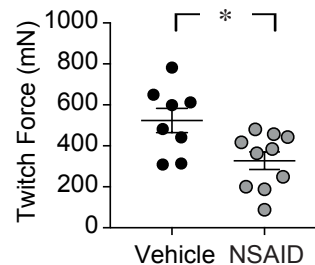
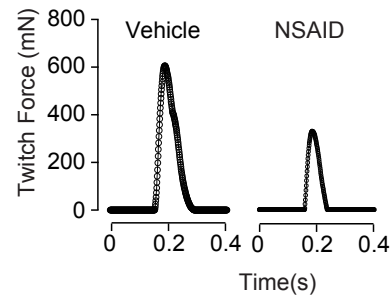
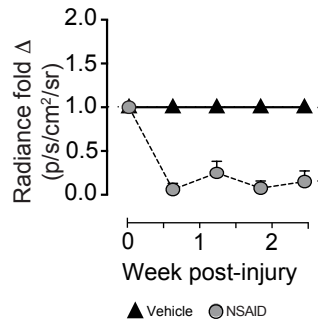


Young mice get weaker

Loss of endogenous PGE2 signaling after injury due to NSAIDs (ibuprofen) impairs strength



Vehicle NSAID



The New York Times

WELL | MOVE

July 10, 2017, Page D4

Bring On the Exercise, Hold the Painkillers

Phys Ed

By GRETCHEN REYNOLDS JULY 5, 2017



No pain, no gain!

Ho et al., *PNAS*, 2017

**Is it possible to globally increase muscle function with
PGE2?**

Inhibition of prostaglandin-degrading enzyme 15-PGDH rejuvenates aged muscle mass and strength



Adelaida Palla



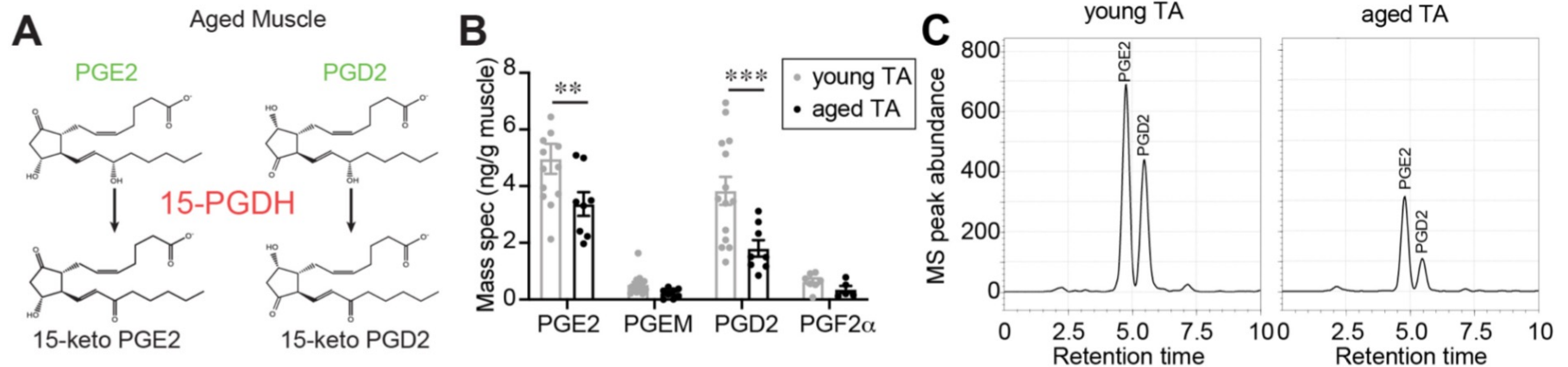
**Meenakshi
Ravichandran**



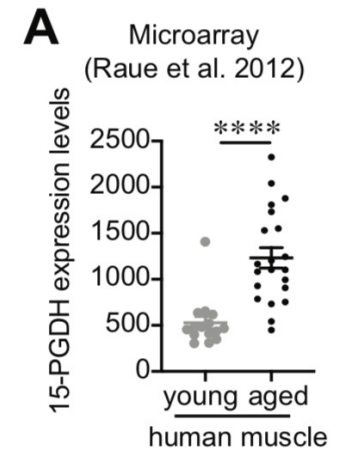
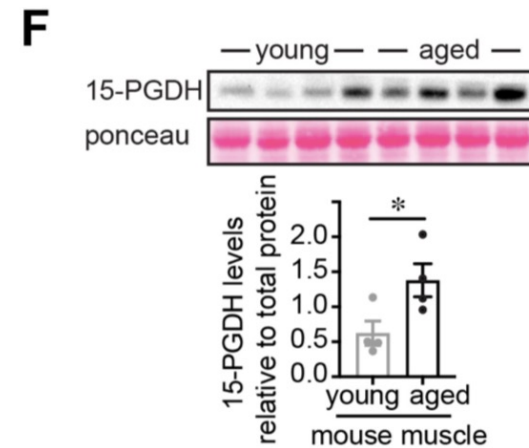
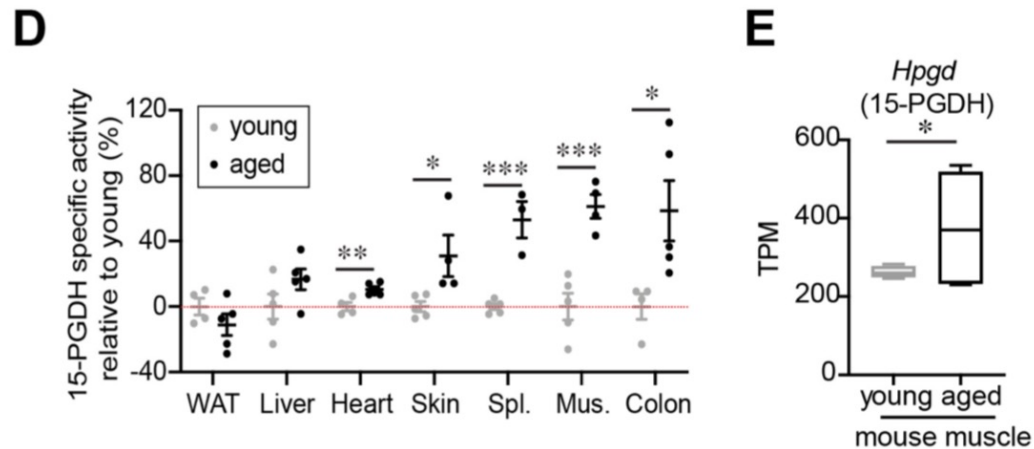
Yu Xin (Will) Wang

Palla et al, Science, 2020

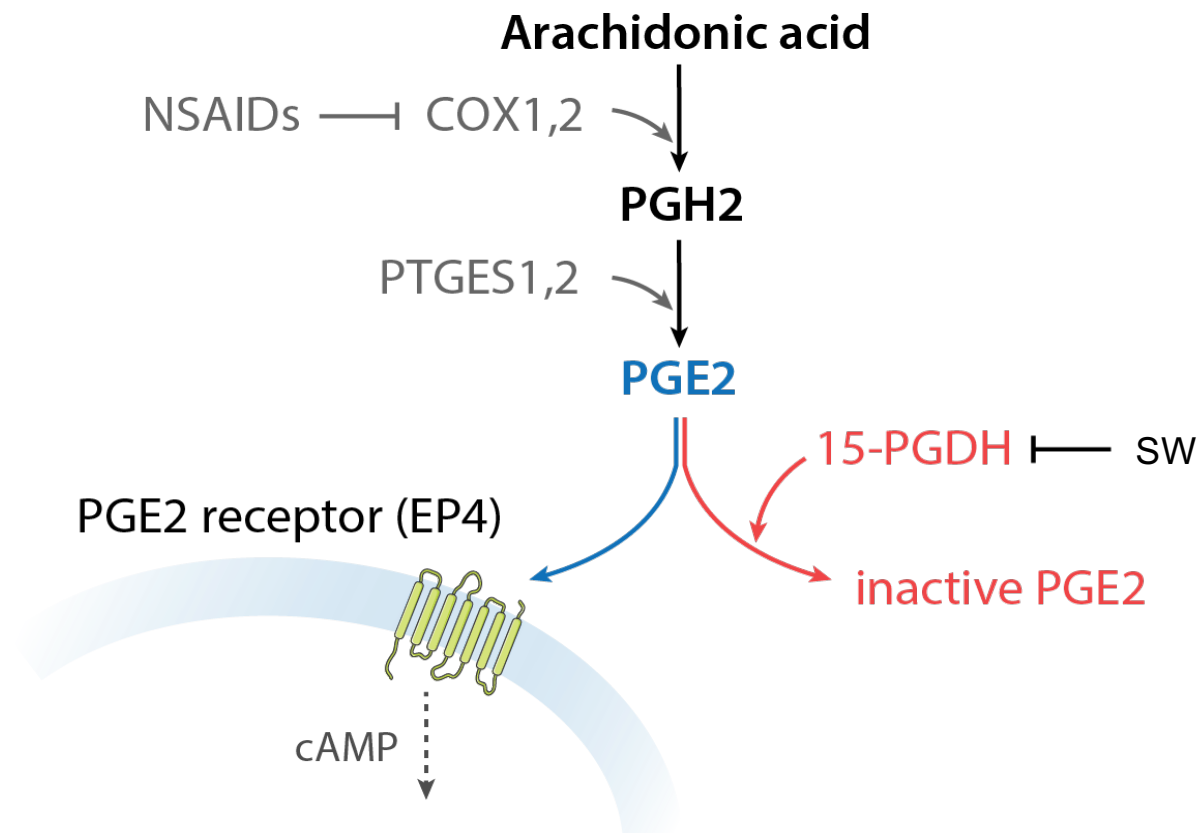
PGE2 and PGD2 are reduced in aged muscles



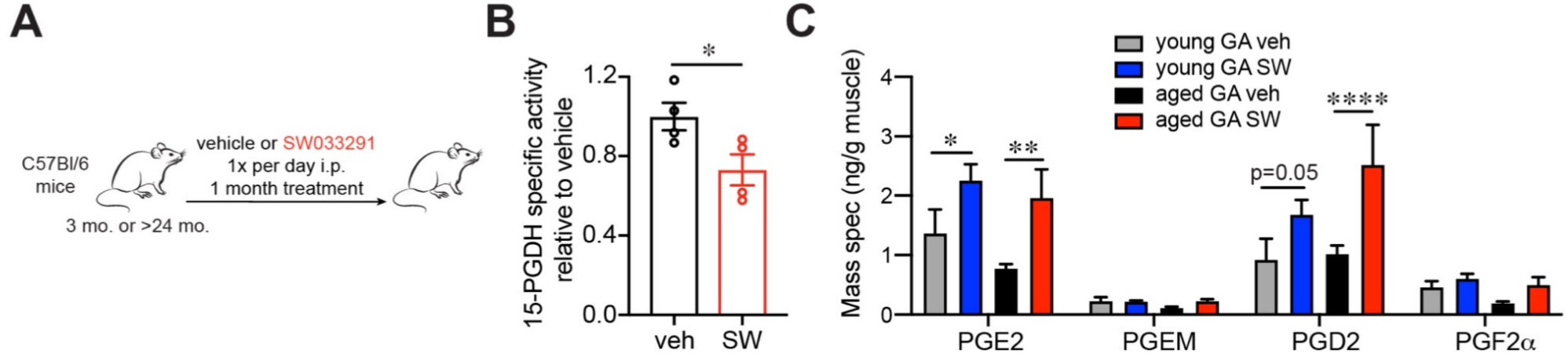
15-PGDH levels are elevated in aged mouse and human muscles



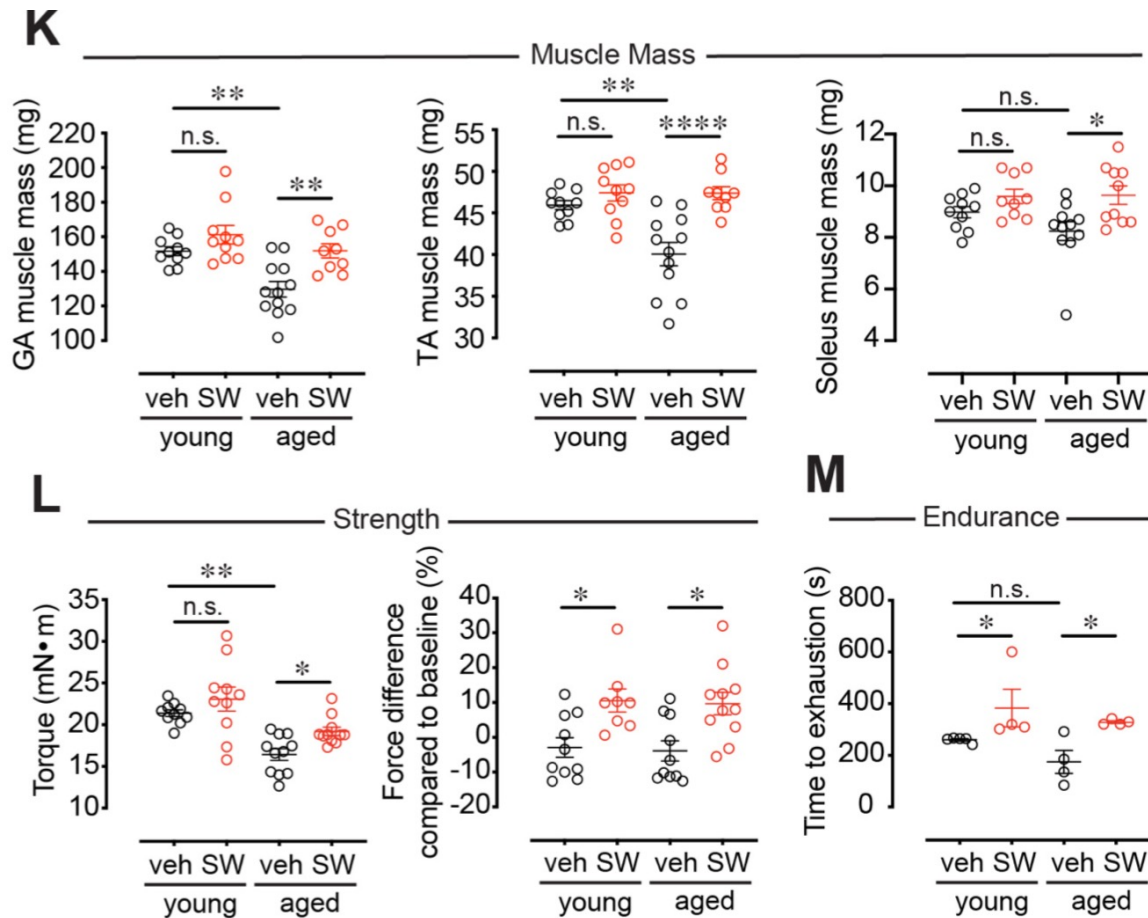
Inhibition of 15-PGDH increases PGE2 signaling to augment muscle stem cell and muscle fiber function



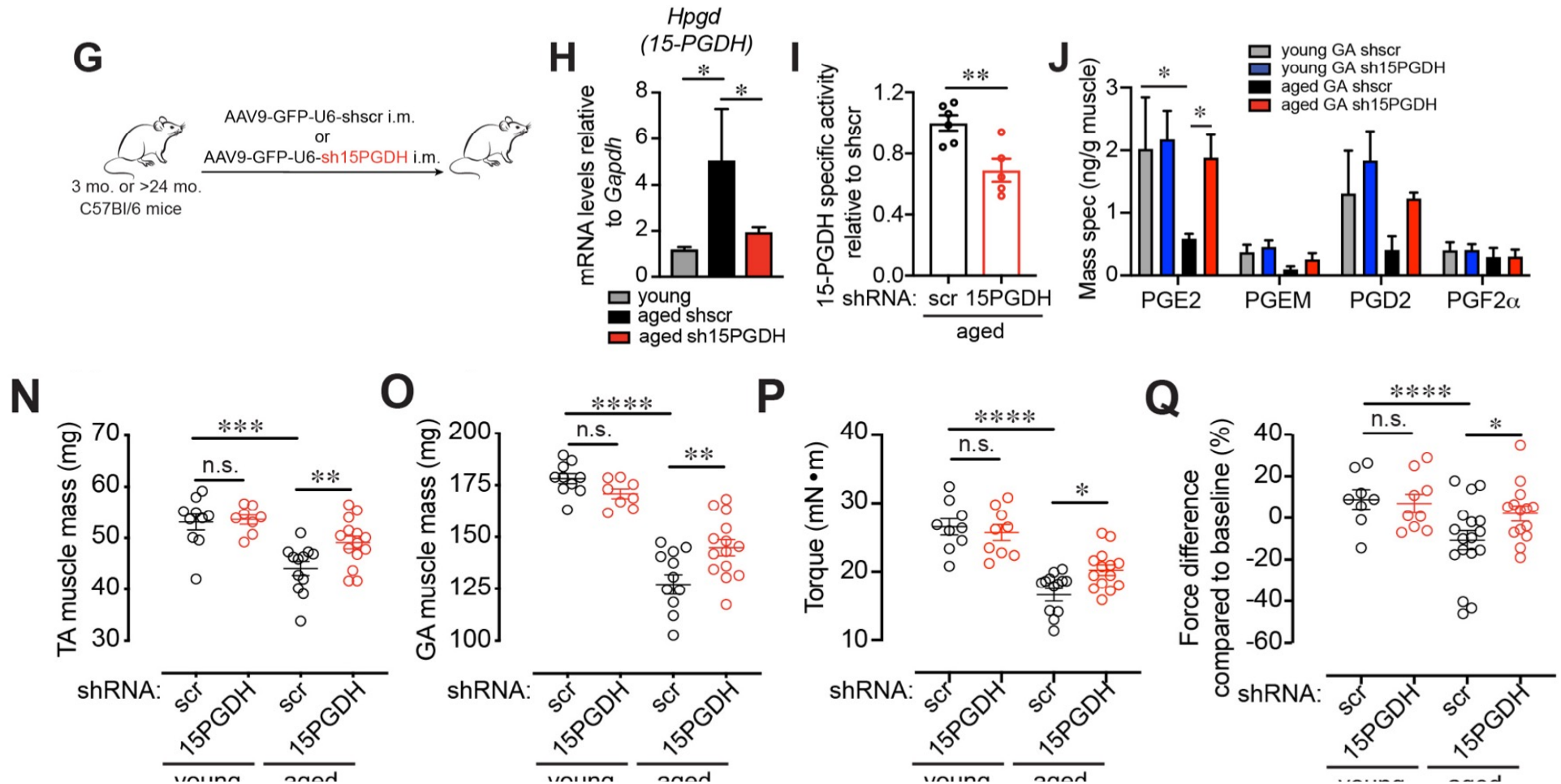
15-PGDH pharmacological inhibition increases PGE2 and PGD2 levels



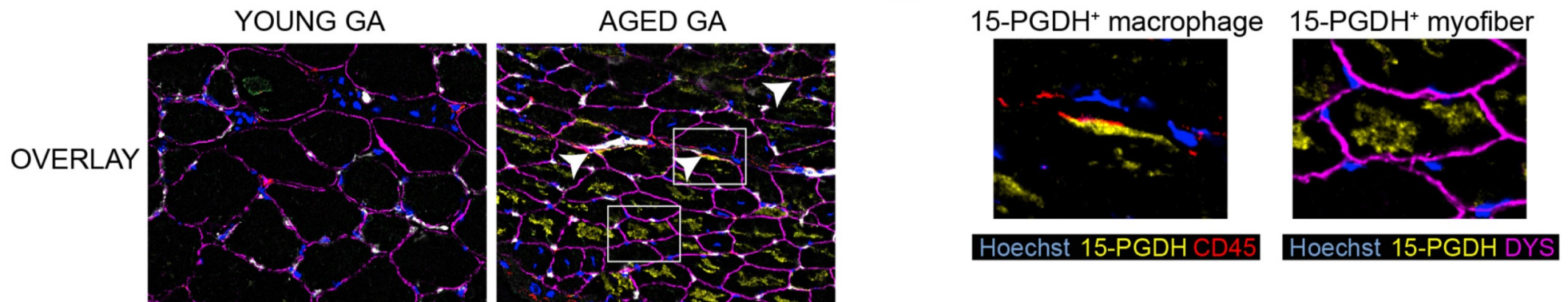
15-PGDH pharmacological inhibition augments aged muscle mass, strength and endurance



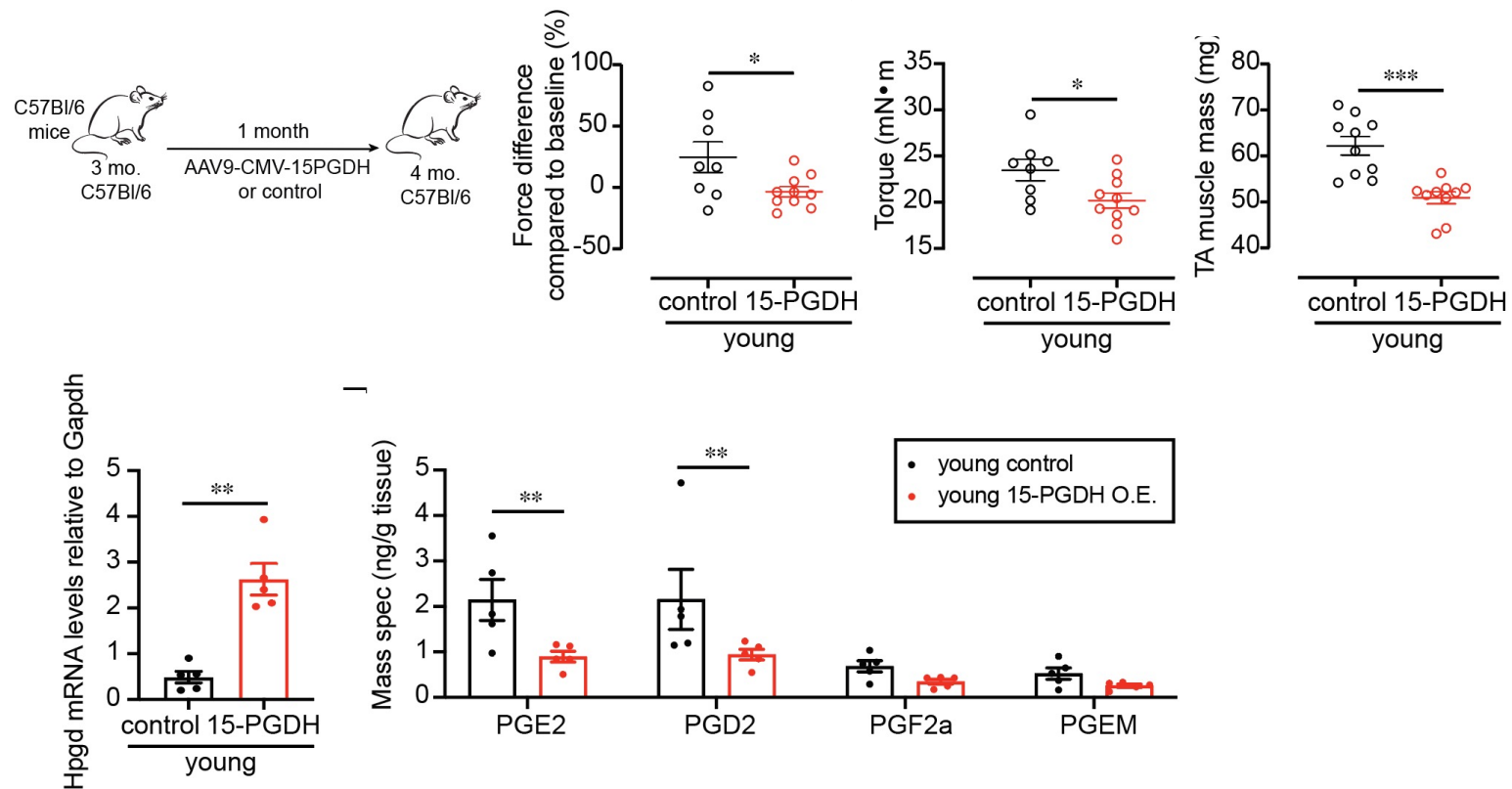
15-PGDH knockdown improves aged muscle function and establishes specificity



CODEX imaging reveals myofibers and macrophages as a 15-PGDH source in aging

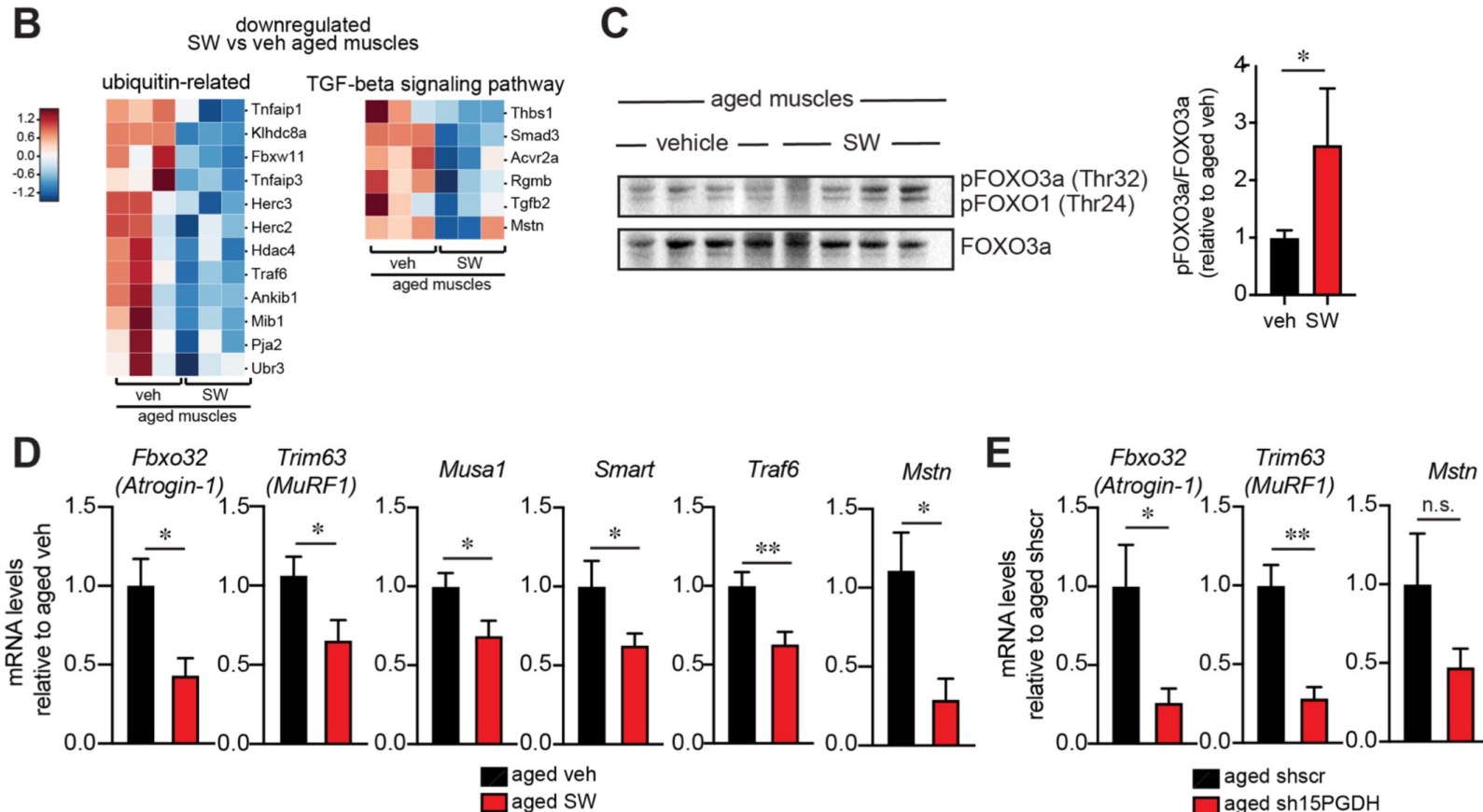


15-PGDH **overexpression** in young mice leads to muscle atrophy and loss of strength



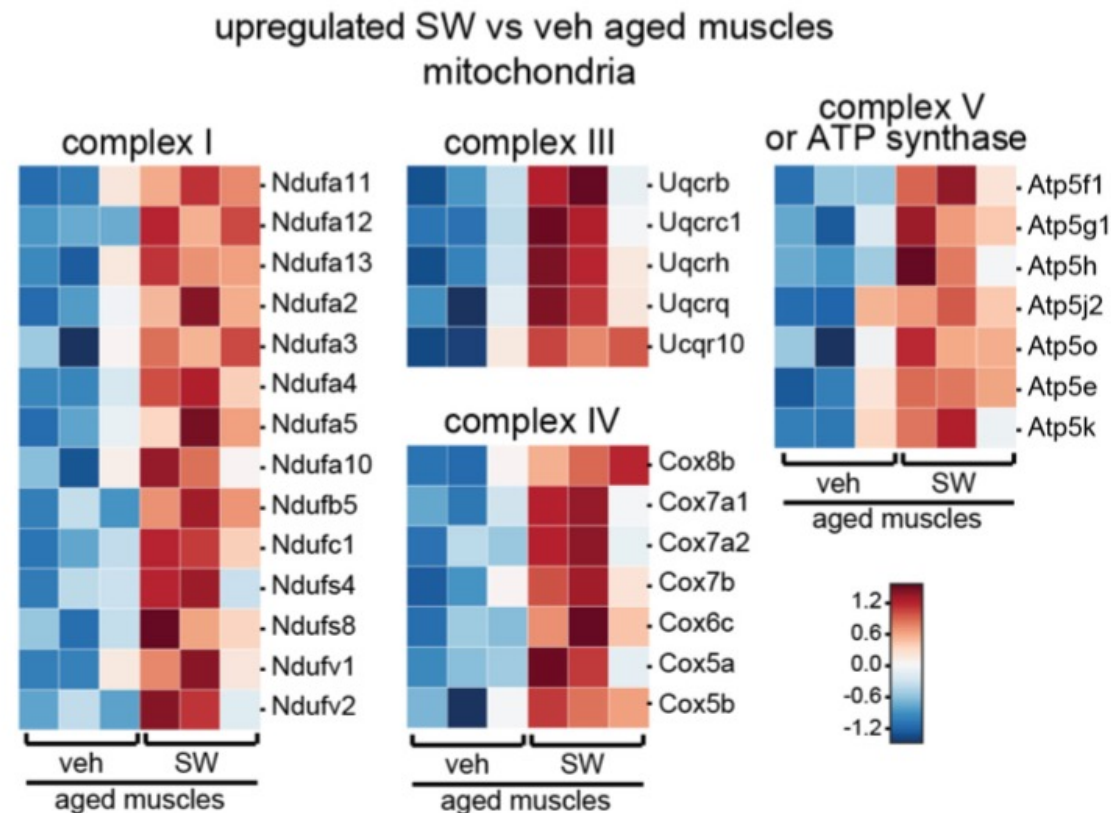
**What is the mechanism of action
of 15-PGDH inhibition
that leads to increase in muscle function?**

15-PGDH inhibition impacts multiple pathways to improve aged muscle function

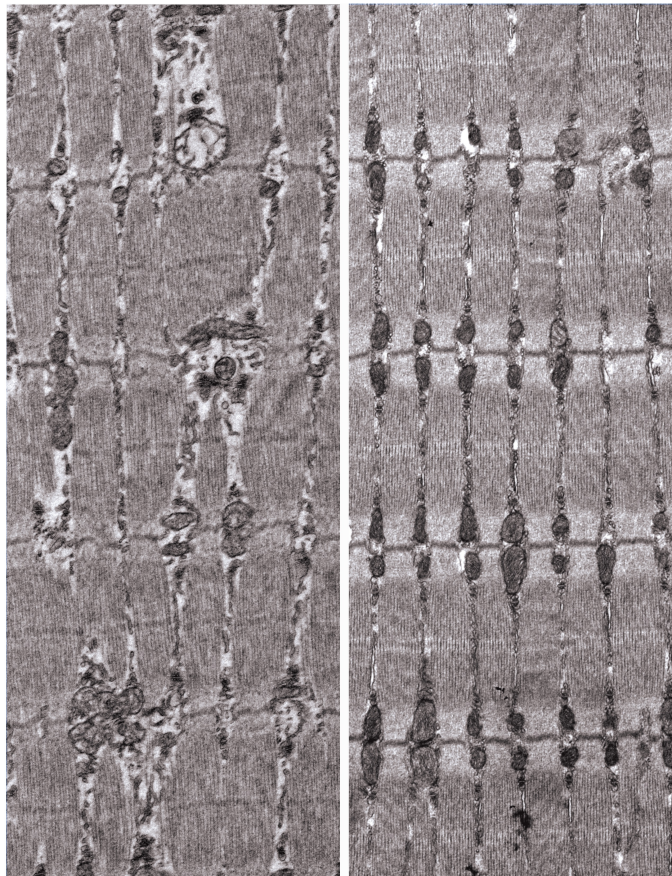


Palla et al., *Science*, 2020

15-PGDH inhibition upregulates mitochondria related genes in aged muscles

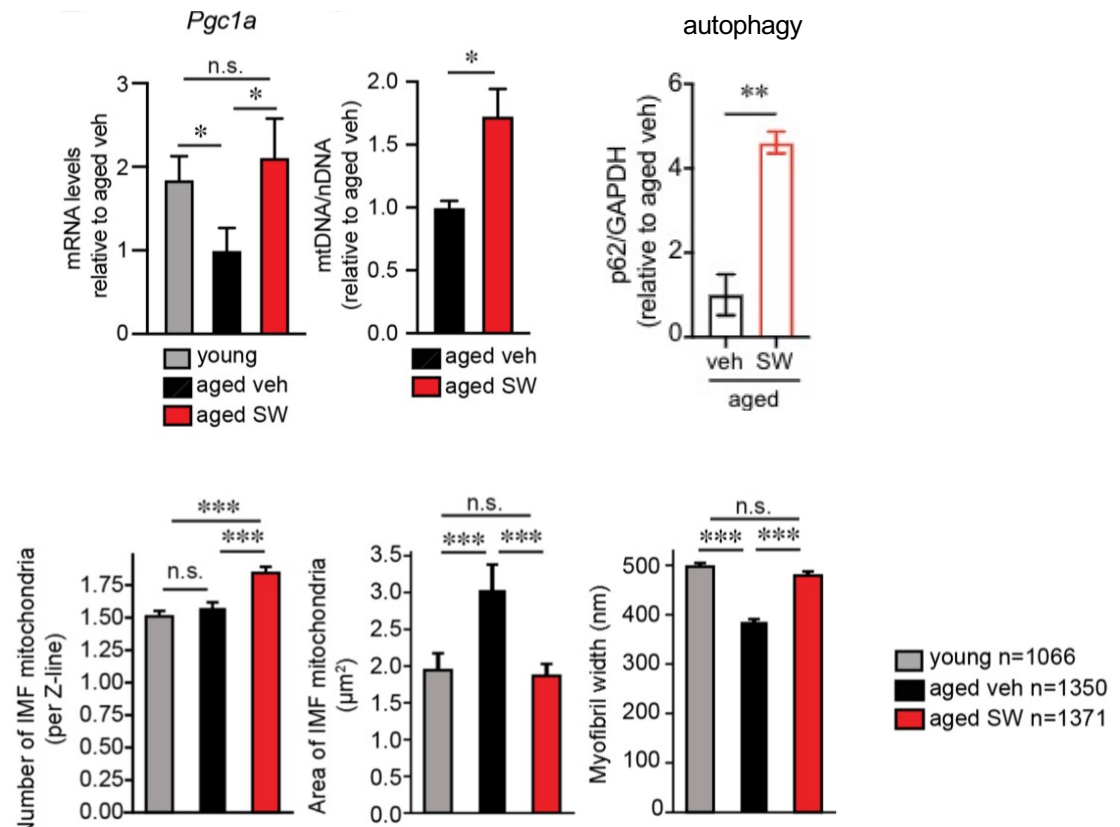


15-PGDH inhibition promotes mitochondria biogenesis in aged muscles

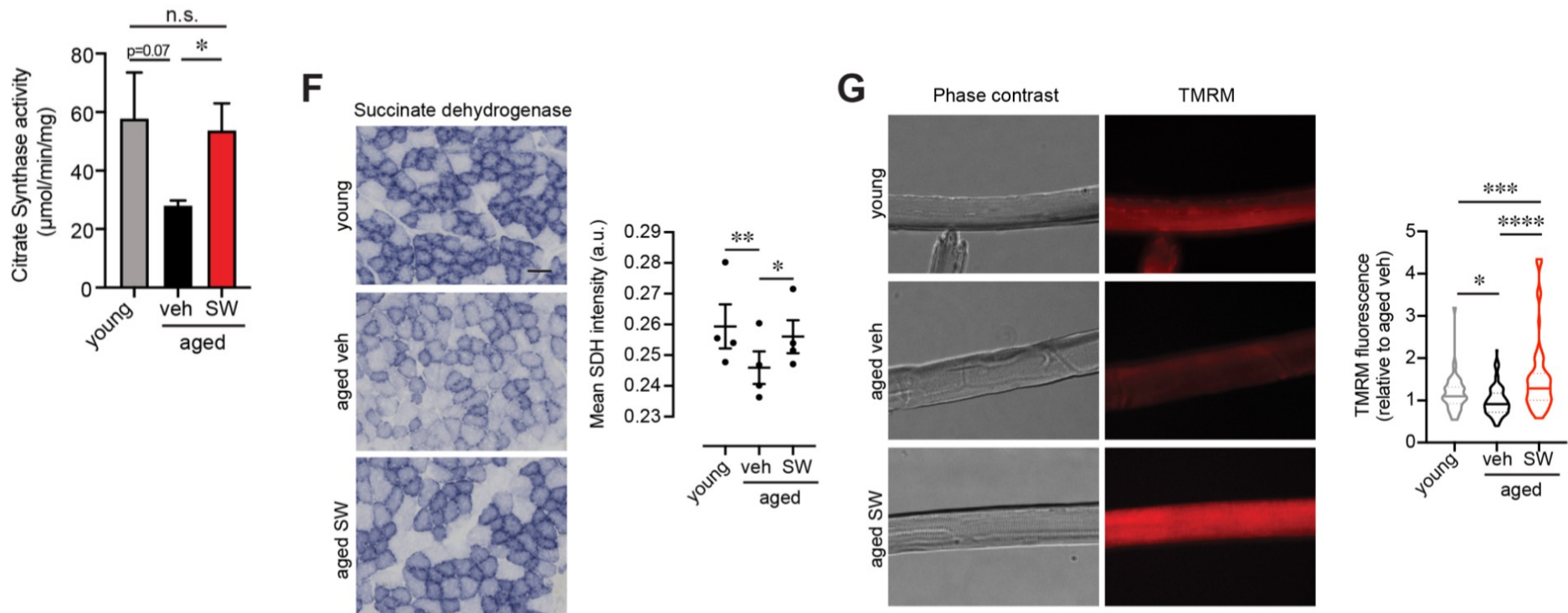


Aged

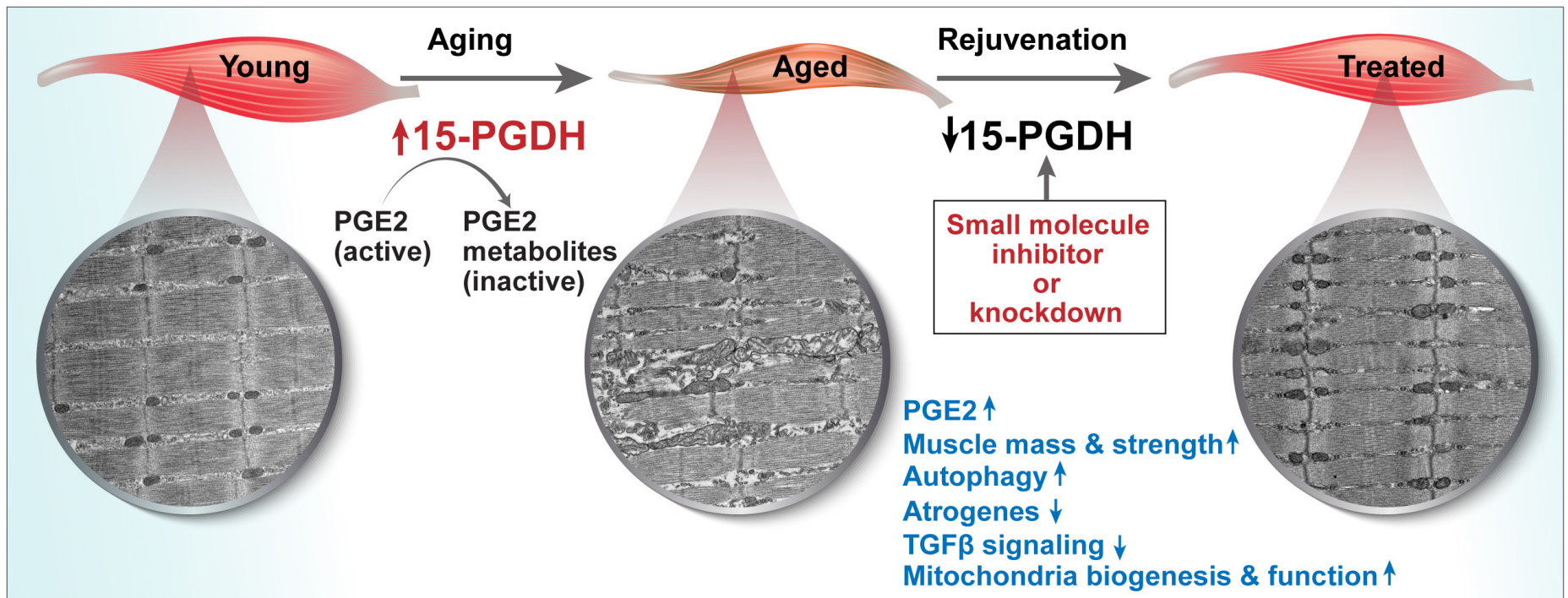
Aged SW



15-PGDH inhibition leads to increased mitochondrial function in aged muscles



Inhibition of prostaglandin degrading enzyme 15-PGDH increases muscle strength in sarcopenic aged mice



Palla et al., *Science*, 2020

SUMMARY: Prostaglandin signaling is critical for muscle maintenance, regeneration, and rejuvenation

PGE2 augments MuSC function:

- PGE2 is an essential inflammatory metabolite for muscle regeneration – body's natural healing mechanism
- PGE2 is required and sufficient for muscle stem cell (MuSC) expansion and engraftment
- PGE2 heritably alters MuSC function – epigenetic modifications

PGE2 augments muscle fiber function:

- 15-PGDH degrades PGE2 and is a novel hallmark of aged muscles and other aged tissues
- Benefit derives from physiologic modulation of “pro-inflammatory” metabolite to youthful level
- Targeting pivotal regulator of muscle aging, 15-PGDH, may be a therapeutic strategy to counter sarcopenia

Acknowledgements

Current members

Foster Birnbaum
David Burns
Erin Coyne
Asuka Eguchi
Iris Flaig
Jasmin Garoussian
Colin Holbrook
Kassie Koleckar
Peggy Kraft
Chris Madl
Fiona McBride
Adelaida Palla
Gaspard Pardon
Ermelinda Porpiglia
Meenakshi Ravichandran
Yu Xin (Will) Wang



Stanford Collaborators

Scott L. Delp	Garry Nolan
Sebastian Thrun	Peter Jackson
Stanley Qi	Anshul Kundaje



Baxter



LI KA SHING FOUNDATION
李嘉誠基金會



SPARK