

A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells, which are biconcave discs, filling the frame. The cells are densely packed and appear in various shades of red and orange, with some showing a distinct central pallor. The background is dark, making the individual cells stand out.

*Molecular mechanism
of oxygen sensing 2*

Tumor hypoxia plays a crucial role in tumorigenesis.
Under hypoxia, hypoxia-inducible factor 1 alpha (HIF-1 alpha) regulates activation of genes promoting malignant progression.

von Hippel-Lindau disease is characterized by a spectrum of **hypervascular** tumors, including renal cell carcinoma, hemangioblastoma, and pheochromocytoma,

VHL loss causes a failure to regulate the hypoxia inducible factors (HIF-1 α and HIF-2 α), resulting in accumulation of both factors to high levels.

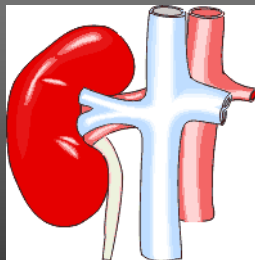
HIF dysregulation is critical to VHL disease-associated renal tumorigenesis,.

ERITROPOIETINA (Epo)

- ✓ Ormone glicoproteico di 34 kDa (165 aa)
- ✓ Struttura a 4 α -eliche (A, B, C, D)
- ✓ Funzione: stimola l'eritropoiesi



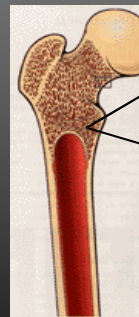
SINTESI



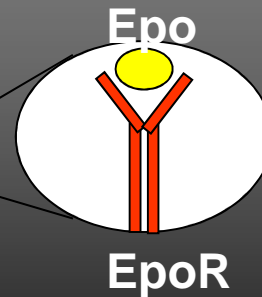
Reni



LEGAME CON IL RECETTORE

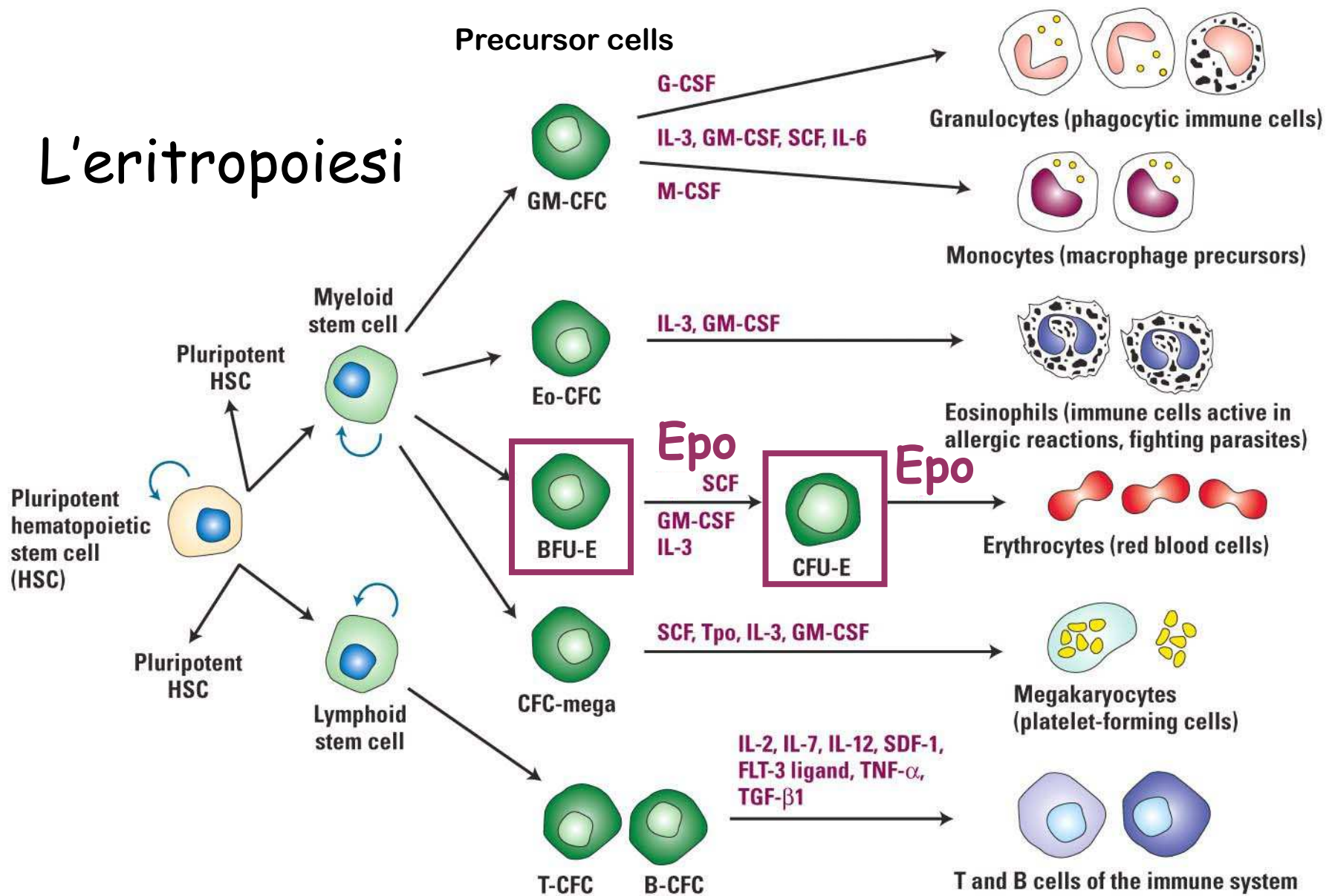


Midollo osseo

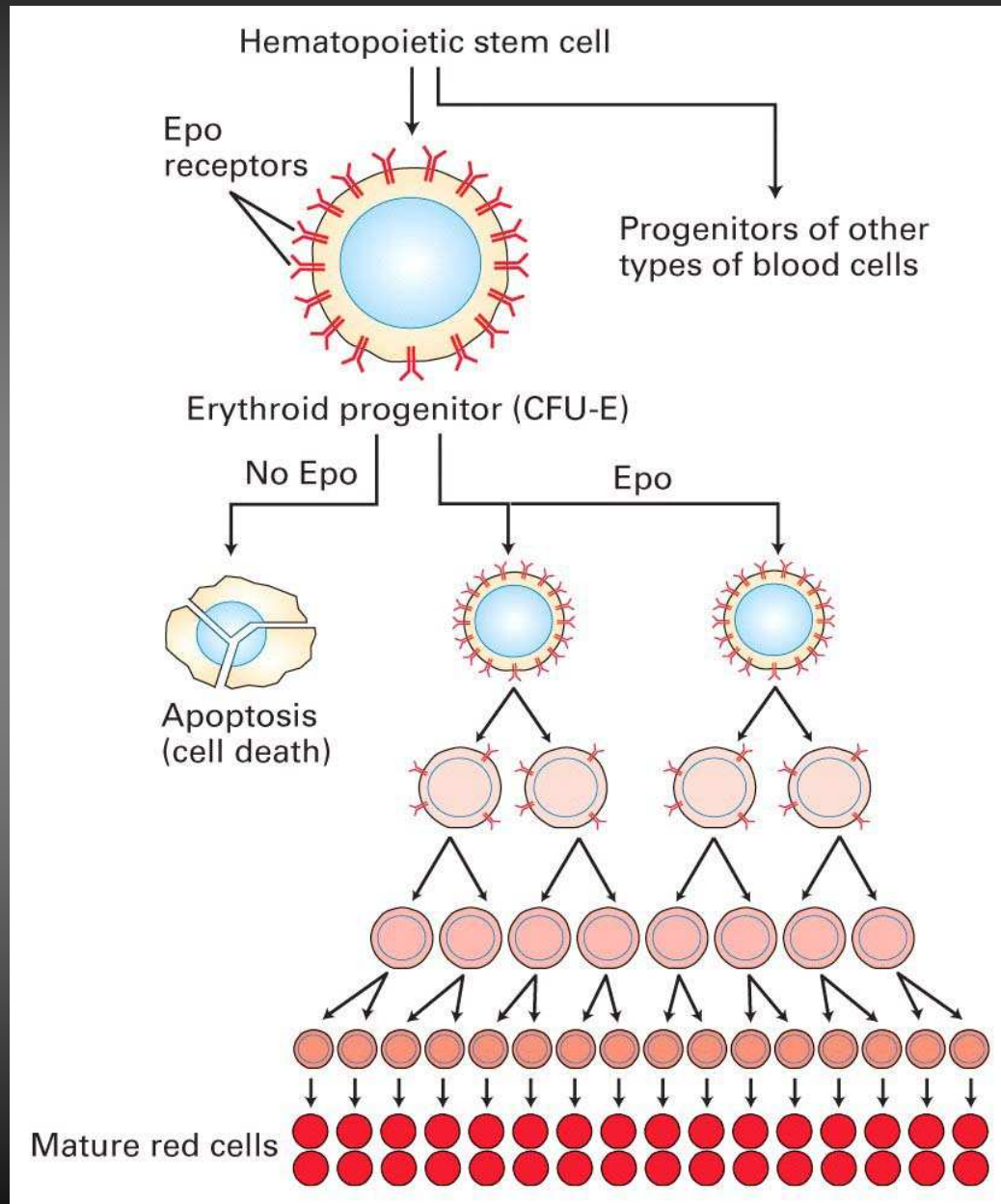


*PRODUZIONE
DI ERITROCITI*

L'eritropoiesi



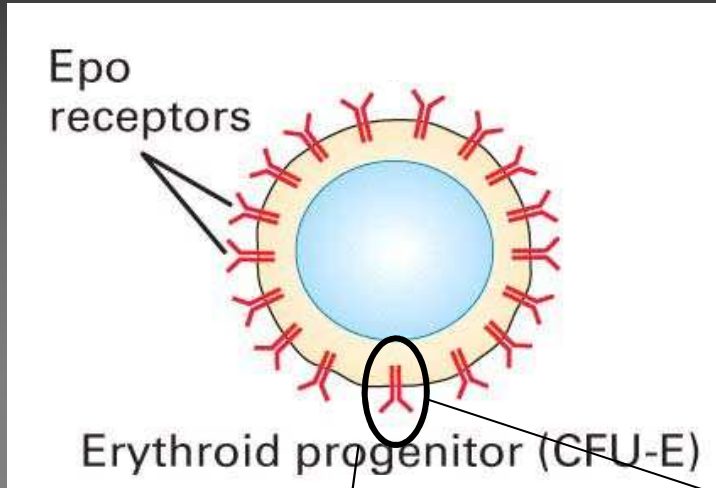
Ruolo dell'Epo nell'eritropoiesi



EpoR è espresso sulla superficie delle cellule eritroidi (massima espressione sulle CFU-E, diminuita sugli stadi più differenziati)

Epo agisce “salvando” dall’apoptosi le cellule progenitrici eritroidi, e stimolandone la maturazione

Il recettore dell'Epo (EpoR)



Glicoproteina
transmembrana

Monomero: 66
kDa (507 aa)

Famiglia dei recettori
delle citochine:

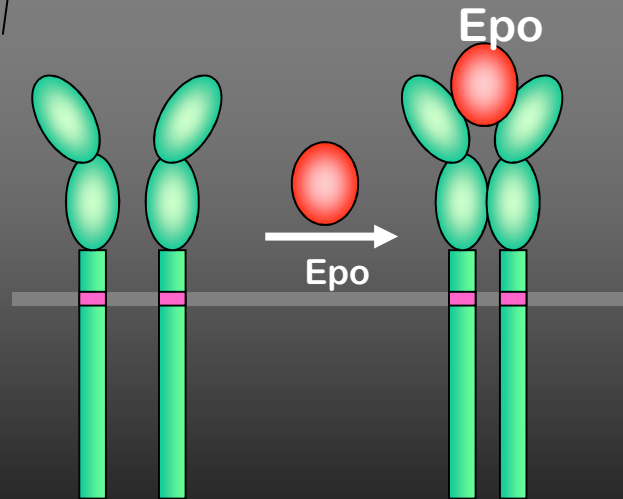
Legame del ligando



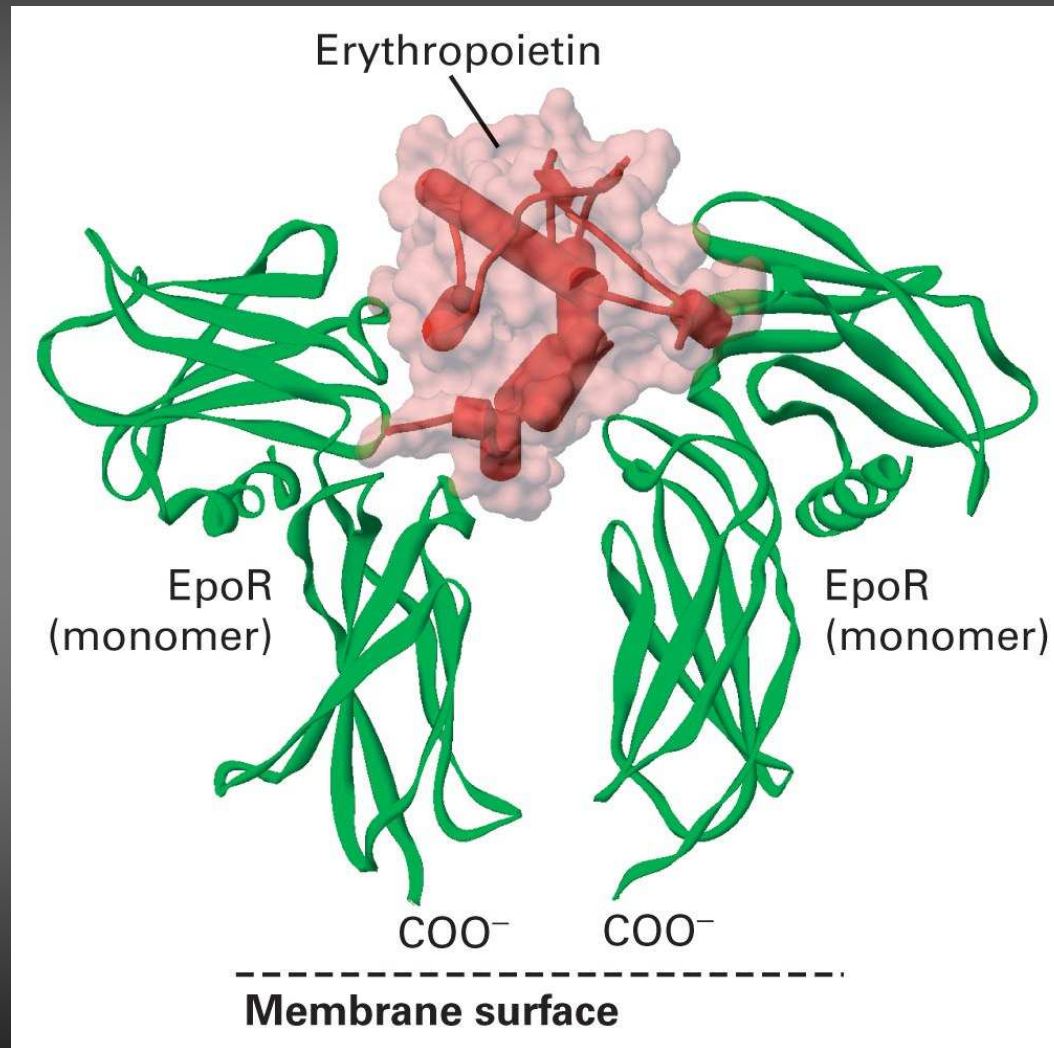
Dimerizzazione



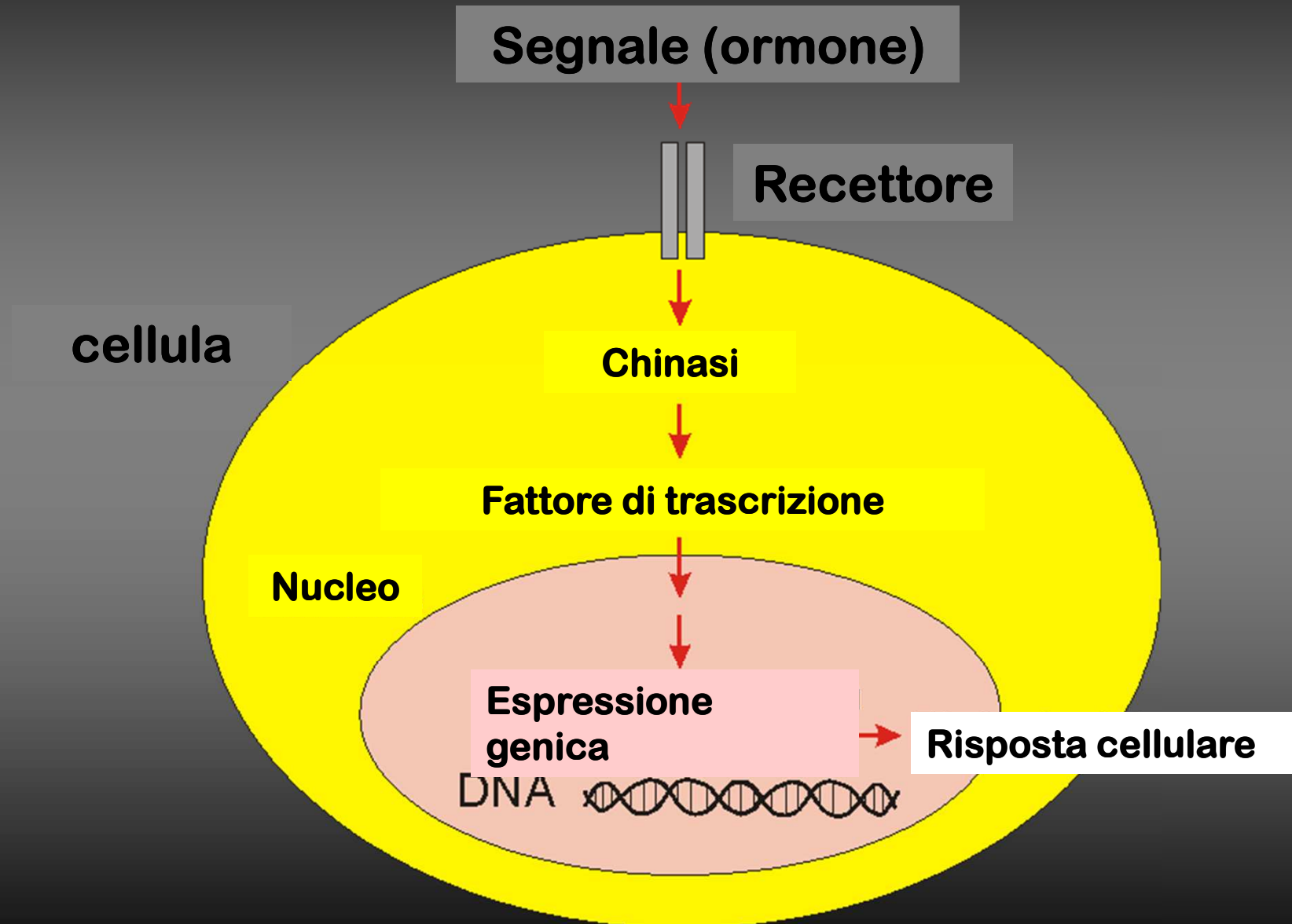
Attivazione del
recettore



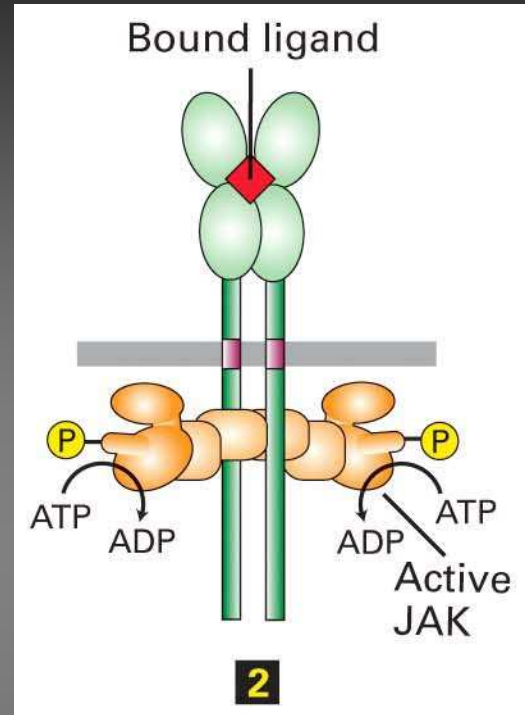
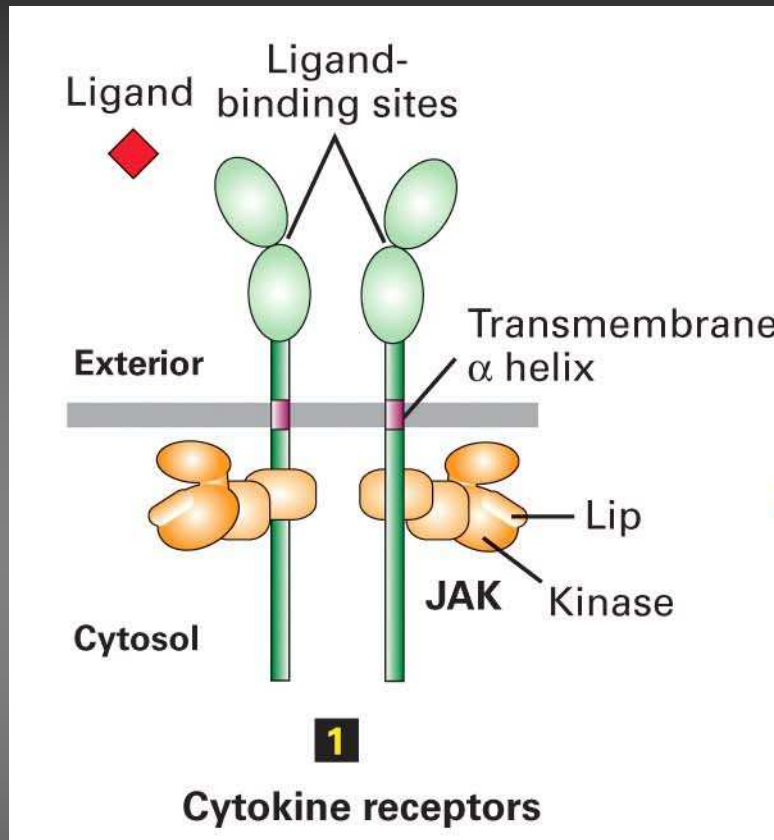
Erythropoietin-Epo Receptor complex



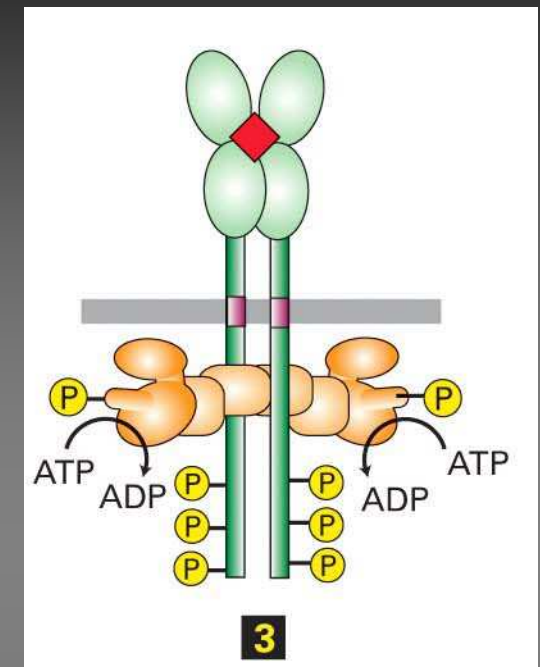
TRASDUZIONE DEL SEGNALE



Trasduzione del segnale



Dimerizzazione di EpoR
Fosforilazione di JAK e
attivazione di JAK chinasi



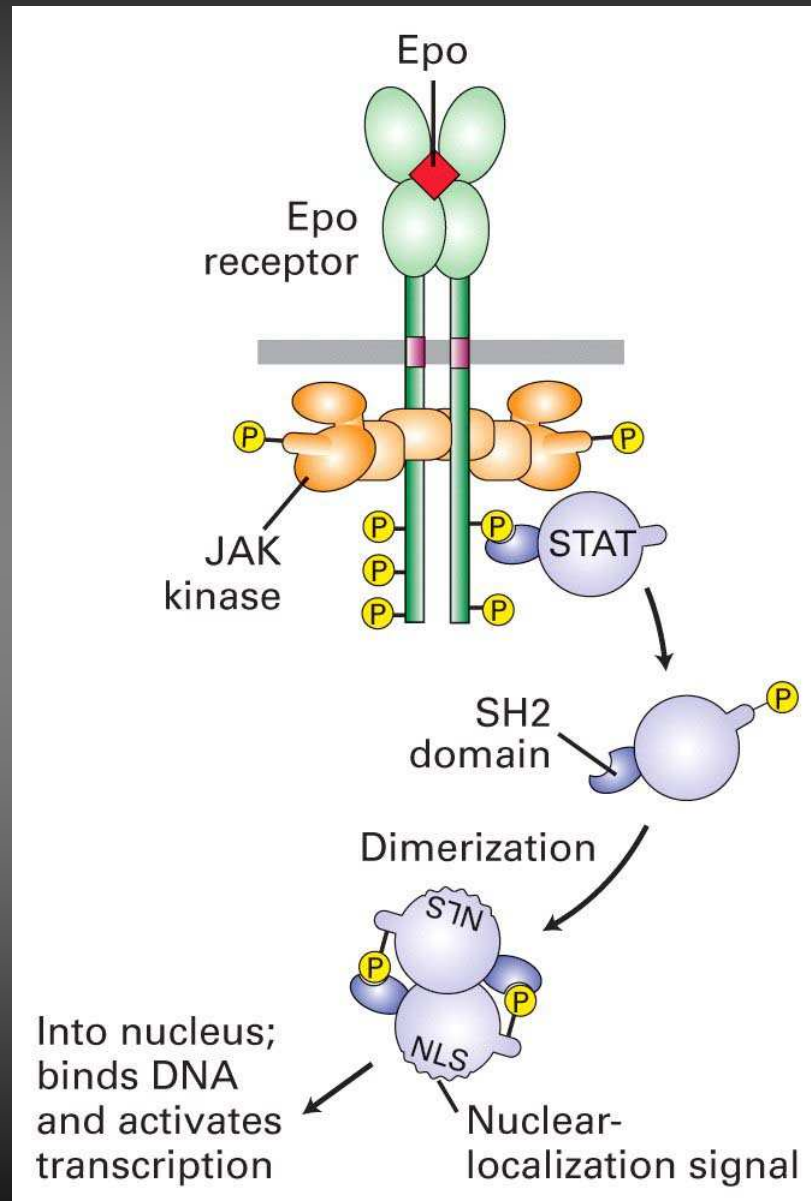
JAK fosforila i residui di
Tyr del dominio
intracellulare di EpoR

Dominio intracellulare privo di
attività catalitica



Una JAK chinasi è associata
al dominio citosolico di EpoR

Trasduzione del segnale



4) Legame di STAT ai residui di fosfo-Tyr di EpoR, mediante il dominio SH2 di STAT

5) Fosforilazione di STAT (fattore di trascrizione)

6) Dissociazione di STAT da EpoR e dimerizzazione di STAT



Esposizione di NLS (nuclear-localization signal)

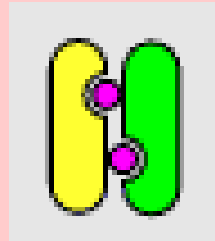


Spostamento di STAT al nucleo e legame a sequenze enhancer specifiche

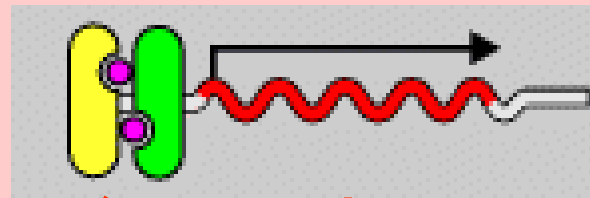
Trascrizione di geni target

Nucleo

STAT



Legame di STAT al DNA e trascrizione di geni target



Bcl-x_L



Azione anti-apopotica

Ciclina D1



Stimolazione del ciclo cellulare

Geni eritrospecifici (globine)

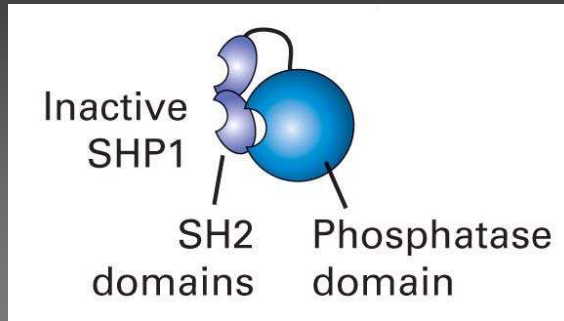
SOCS protein



Terminazione del segnale

Terminazione del segnale

A breve termine: *SHP1* fosfatasi



Struttura:

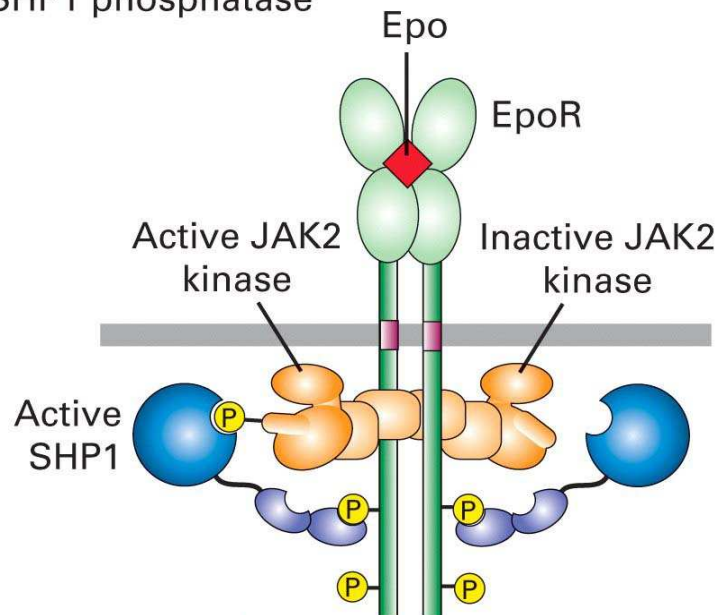
-2 domini SH2

-1 dominio catalitico ad attività fosfatasica

Forma inattiva:

1 dominio SH2 è legato al sito catalitico e lo nasconde

JAK2 deactivation induced by SHP1 phosphatase



Forma attiva:

il dominio SH2 si lega ad una fosfo-Tyr del recettore



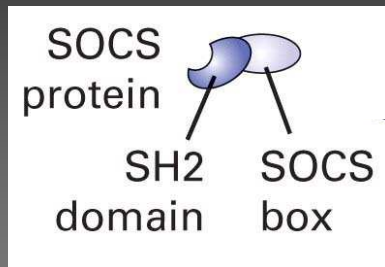
esposizione del sito catalitico, attività fosfatasica nei confronti di JAK



Inattivazione di JAK e terminazione della trasduzione del segnale

Terminazione del segnale

A lungo termine: *SOCS proteins*

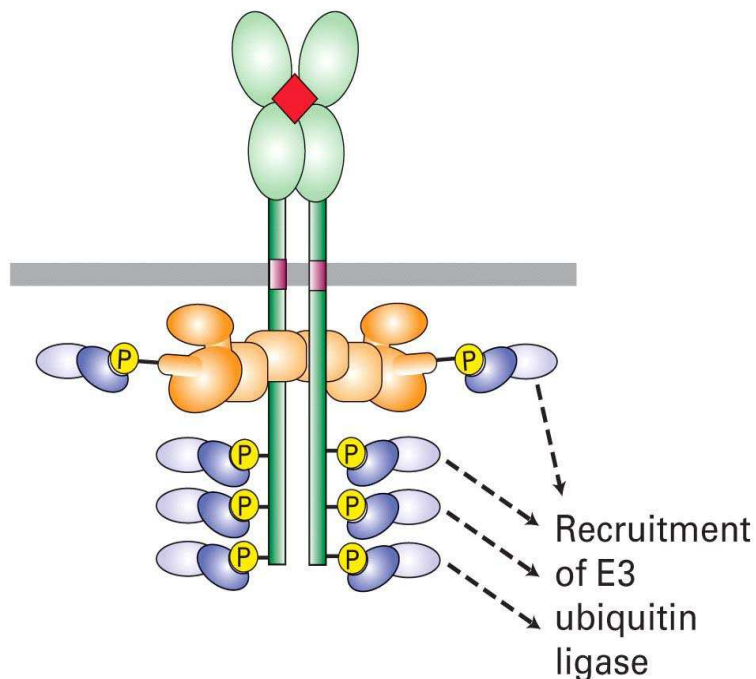


Struttura:

-1 dominio SH2

-1 dominio SOCS (SOCS box) →
richiama E3 ubiquitina ligasi

Signal blocking and protein degradation
induced by SOCS proteins



Meccanismo d'azione:

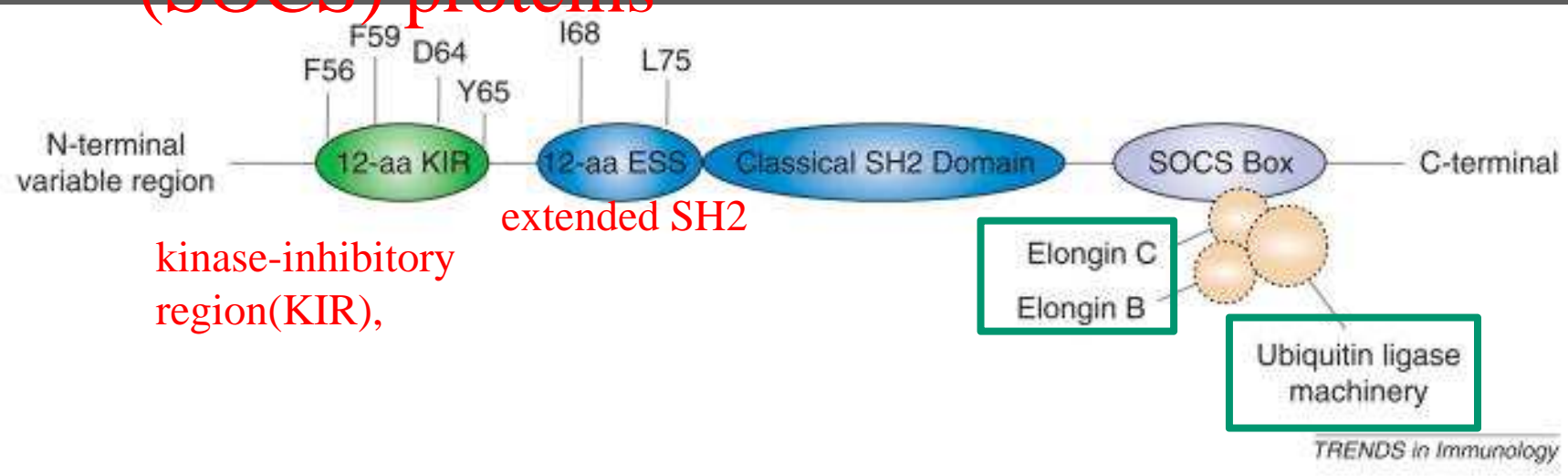
a) Il dominio SH2 si lega alle fosfo-Tyr del recettore: impedisce il legame di STAT

b) Il dominio SOCS richiama E3



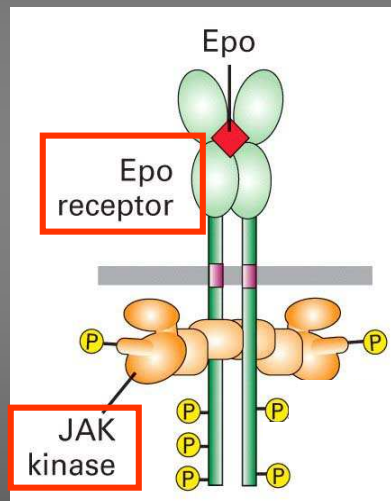
Ubiquinizzazione e degradazione proteosomica di JAK

- The suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS) proteins



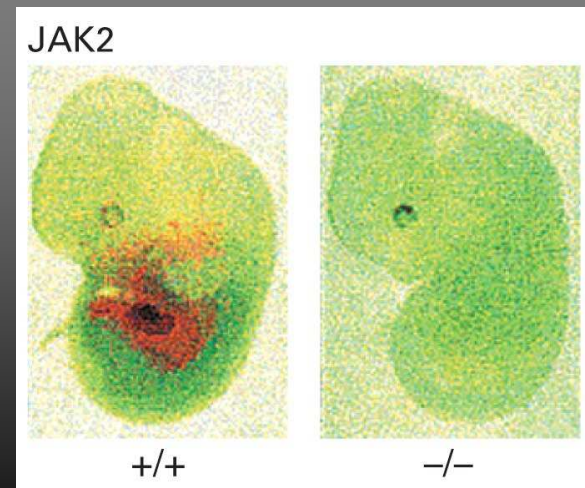
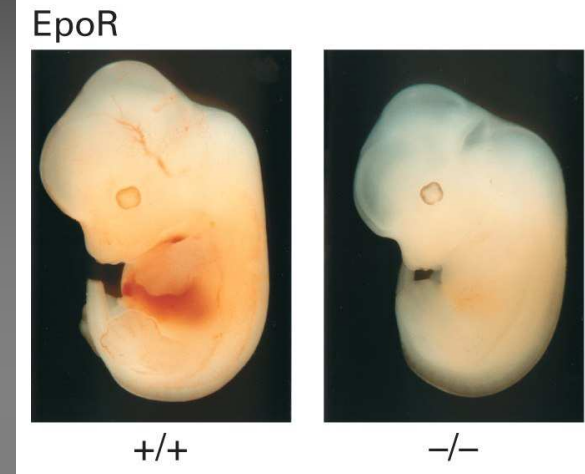
Trasduzione del segnale Epo-EpoR

Topi knock-out per **EpoR**
(Wu et al. Cell 1993)



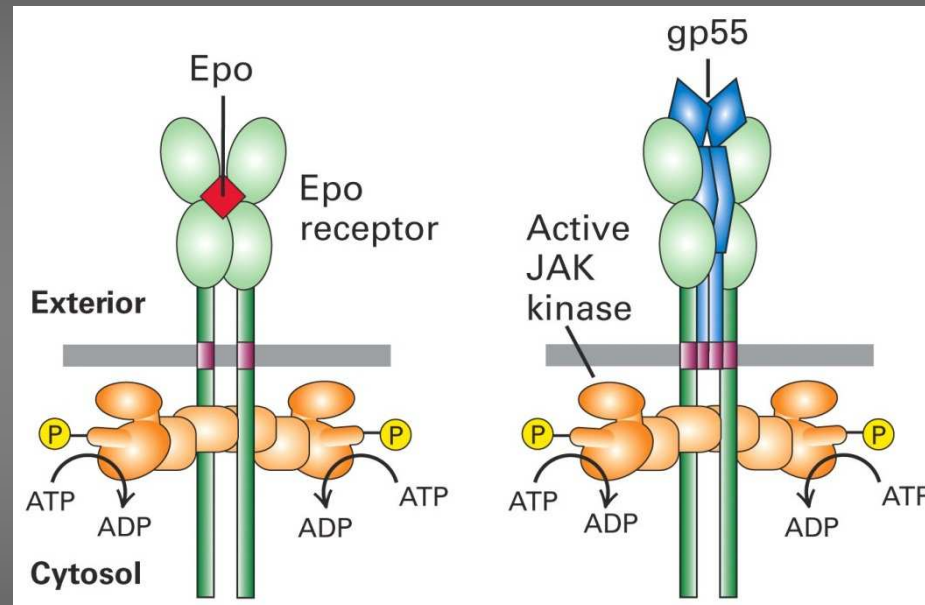
Mancata formazione degli eritrociti → *Morte dell'embrione al 13° giorno per anemia*

Topi knock-out per **JAK**
(Neubauer et al. Cell 1998)



Trasduzione del segnale Epo-EpoR

Friend spleen focus-forming virus (SFFV) → Retrovirus murino che causa eritroleucemia

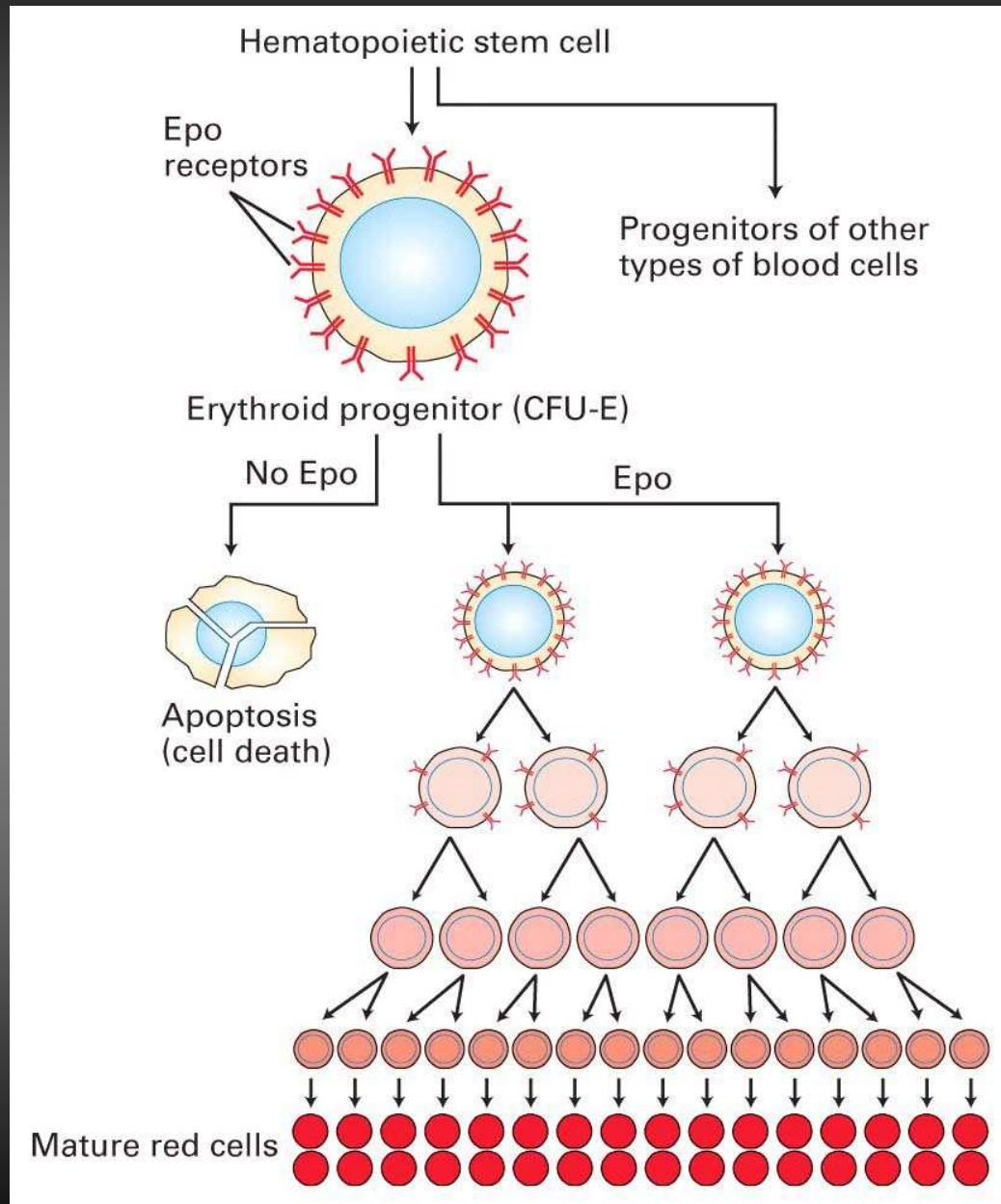


-Legame di gp55 a EpoR

-Attivazione di EpoR

-Proliferazione aberrante degli eritrociti → policitemia

Ruolo dell'Epo nell'eritropoiesi



EpoR è espresso sulla superficie delle cellule eritroidi (massima espressione sulle CFU-E, diminuita sugli stadi più differenziati)

Epo agisce “salvando” dall’apoptosi le cellule progenitrici eritroidi, e stimolandone la maturazione

Epo controls erythrocyte production by preventing apoptosis through activation of Janus kinase 2 (JAK2) and Stat5, which induce expression of the antiapoptotic Bcl2 family member **Bcl-xl**.

Epo/Bcl-xl-dependent survival is both necessary and sufficient for terminal erythroid differentiation.

Consequently, in mouse models, absence of Epo or its receptor, the Epo effector, Stat5, or the Epo/Stat5 target, Bcl-xl, results in **apoptosis of erythrocyte progenitors and anemia**.

Epo

down-modulates adhesion factors

Chemokine receptor-4 (*Cxcr4*) *Integrin* alpha-4 (*Itga4*)
mediates binding to vascular cell adhesion molecule 1
(VCAM-1), fibronectin, and paxillin

up-modulates

growth differentiation factor-3 (*Gdf3*),
oncostatin-M (*OncoM*) – acts via JAK- Stat- heterodimeric
receptor 19 and affects cell growth, differentiation,

Podocalyxin like-1 (*PODXL*)?

Mature mucins are composed of two distinct regions:

The amino- and carboxy-terminal regions are very lightly glycosylated, but rich in cys.

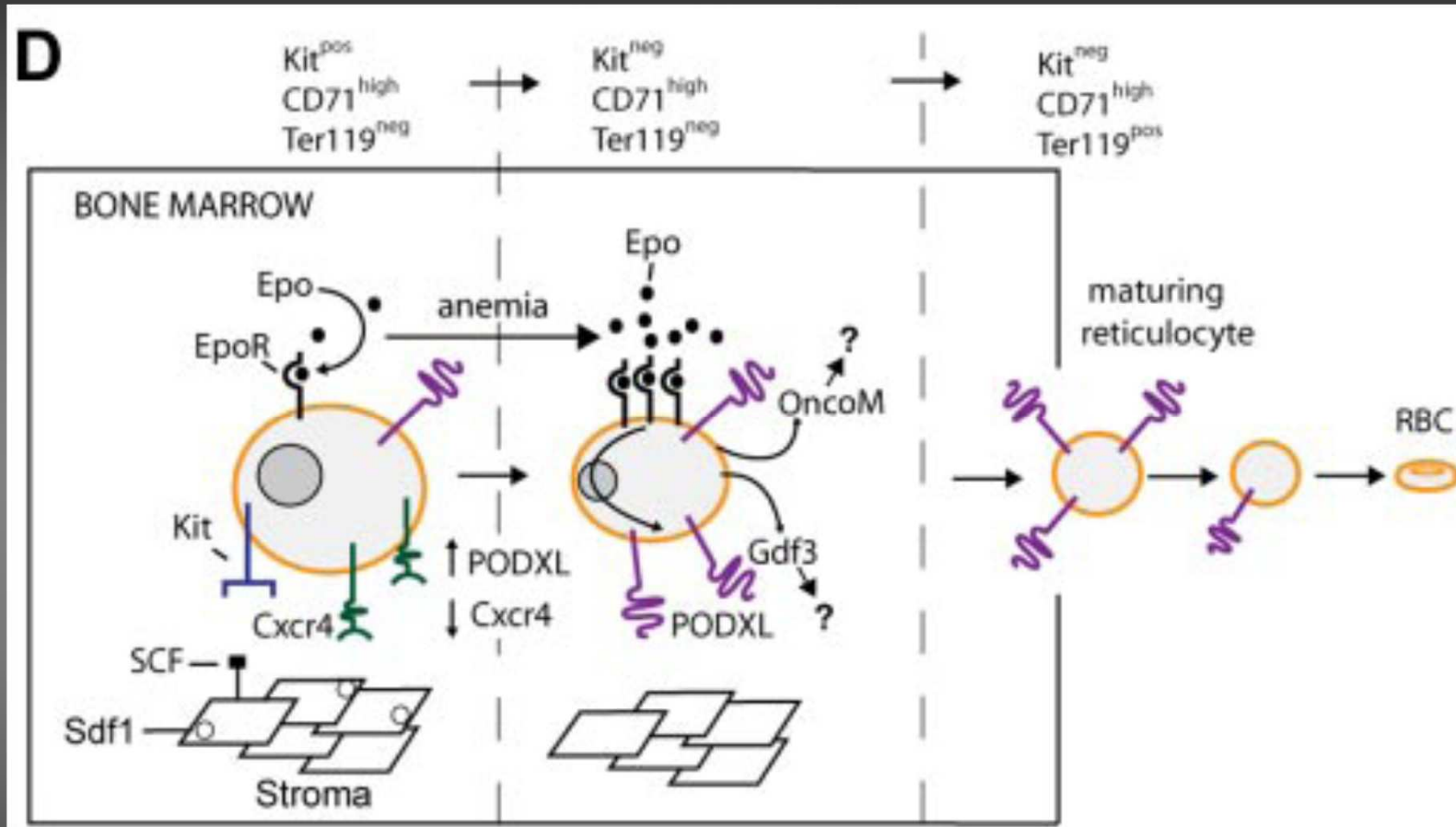
The cys residues participate in establishing disulfide linkages within and among mucin monomers.

A large central region formed of multiple tandem repeats of 10 to 80 residue sequences in which up to half of the aa ser thr.

This area becomes saturated with hundreds of O-linked oligosaccharides. N-linked oligosaccharides are also found

Sialomucin - acid mucopolysaccharide containing sialic acid

Model for Epo regulation of erythroid progenitor cell adhesion and migration within stromal niche



PODXL is a sulphated sialomucin, antiadhesive

A microscopic view of numerous red blood cells, appearing as bright red, biconcave discs, filling the entire frame. The cells are densely packed and slightly out of focus, creating a textured, organic background.

*USO TERAPEUTICO DI
Epo*

Stati Patologici legati all'eritropoietina

Anemia

Inadeguata produzione endogena
(es. patologia renale)



Carenza di globuli rossi

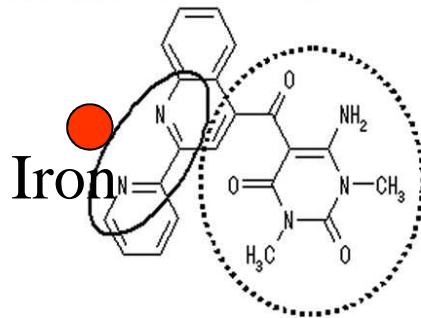
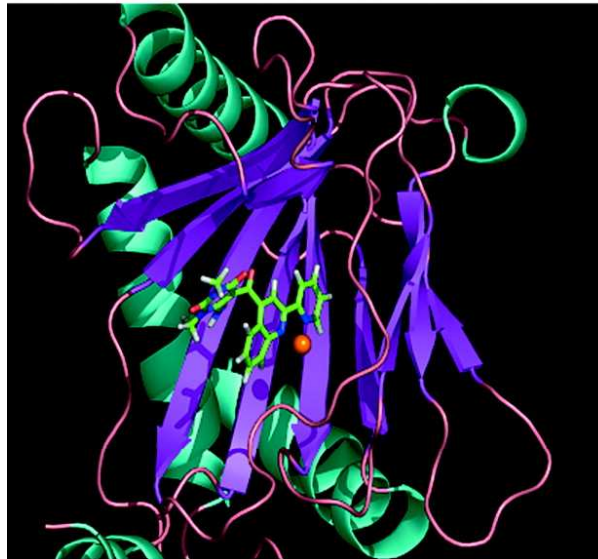


Anemia

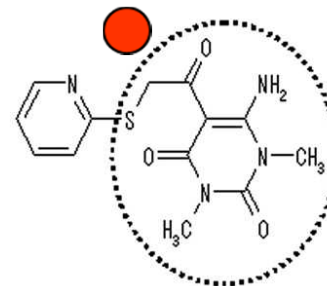
HIF prolyl hydroxylase inhibition results in endogenous erythropoietin induction, erythrocytosis

Figure 3. The predicted binding modes of TM6008 (A) and TM6089 (B) in PHD2.

PHD produces trans-4-hydroxyproline in the presence of Fe(II)



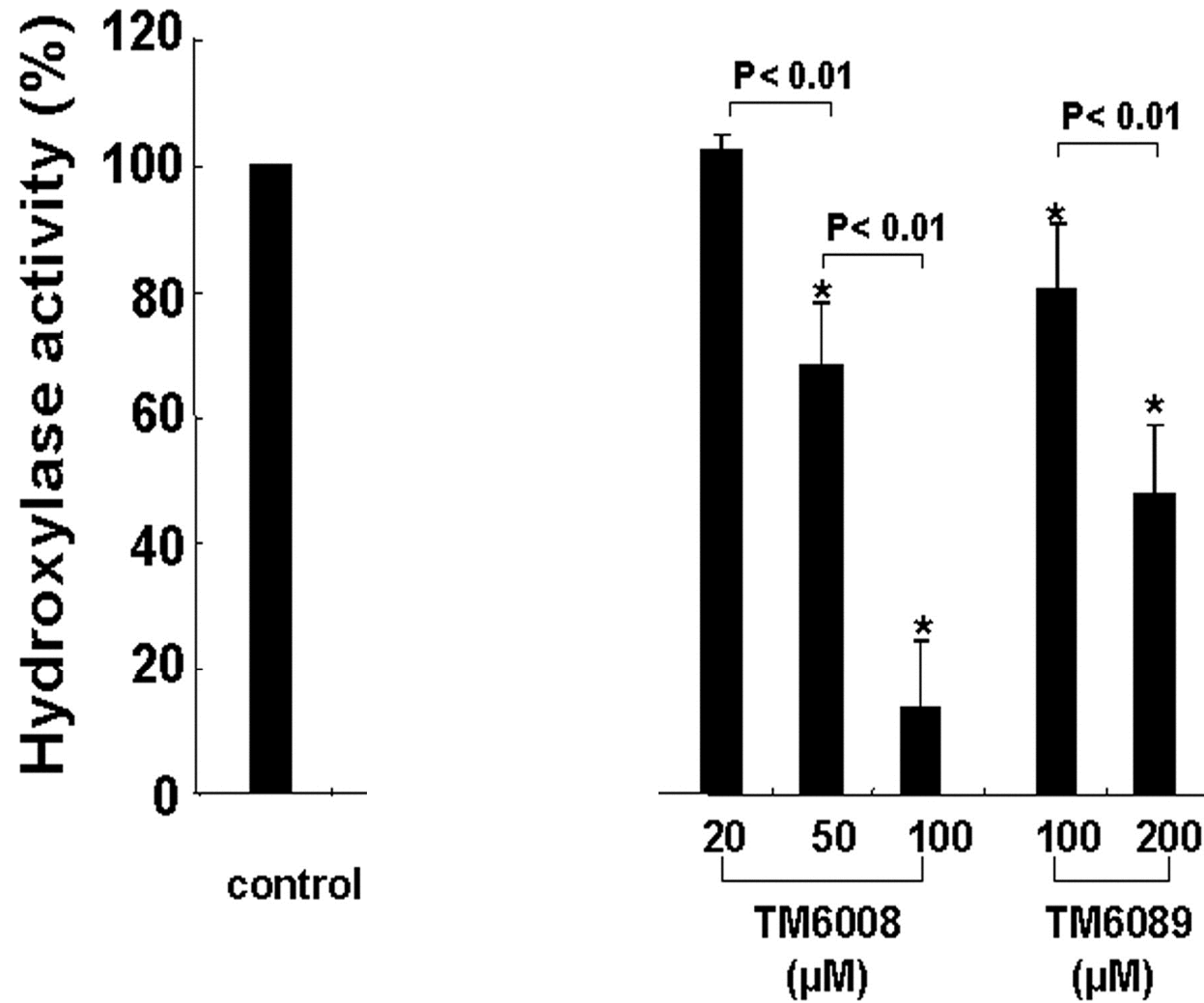
TM6008



TM6089

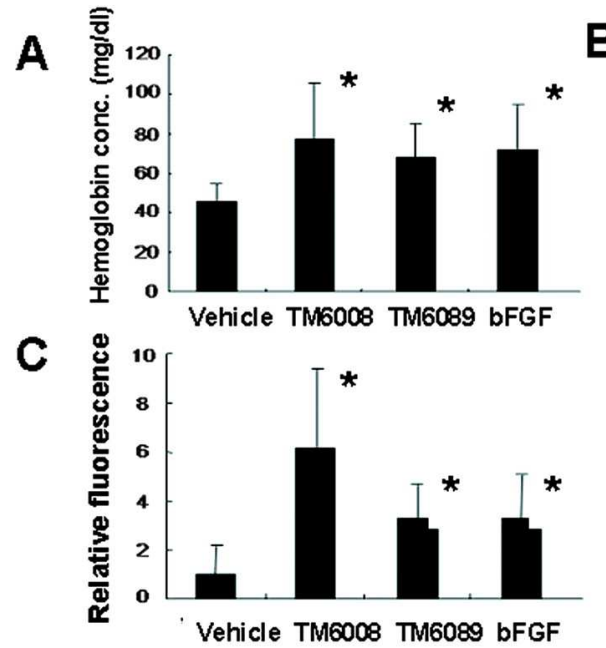
Nangaku M et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol
2007;27:2548-2554

Figure 2. Inhibition of PHD activity.



Nangaku M et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol
2007;27:2548-2554

Figure 4. Stimulation of angiogenesis in the mouse



Nangaku M et al. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol
2007;27:2548-2554

Trattamento dell'anemia

Epo ricombinante (rHuEPO)

Produzione su larga scala di Epo umana ricombinante

rHuEPO

✓ 34000 Da

✓ prodotta in cellule mammarie in cui è stato introdotto il gene dell'Epo

Novel Erythropoiesis Stimulating Protein (NESP)

NESP (darbepoetin):

- ✓ 38500 Da
- ✓ Aumentato contenuto di carboidrati, che conferiscono un aumento dell'emivita
- ✓ Somministrazione meno frequente

Epo contains one O-linked and three N-linked carbohydrate chains, each having 2–4 branches that often end in a negatively charged sialic acid.

These carbohydrate chains are not required for receptor binding in vitro or stimulation of growth of EpoR-expressing cultured cells but are required for the in vivo bioactivity

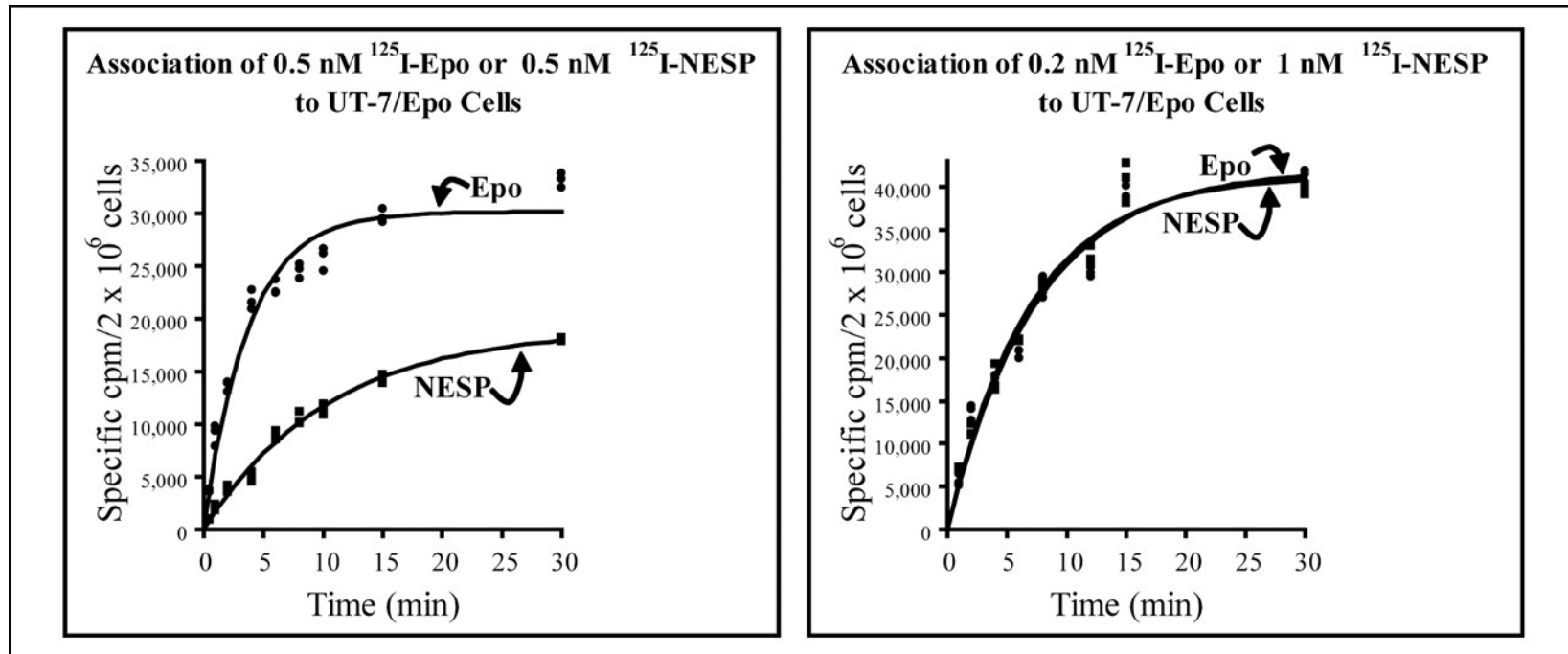
Heterogeneous branching of Epo N-linked carbohydrates results in Epo isoforms with different sialic acid contents up to a maximum of 14.

residues are mutated to provide for 2 additional N-linked glycosylation sites

Epo isoforms with higher sialic acid content have a lower affinity for EpoR but a longer serum half-life and are more effective for stimulating the production of red blood cells in vivo.

How Epo is cleared from the circulation and degraded?

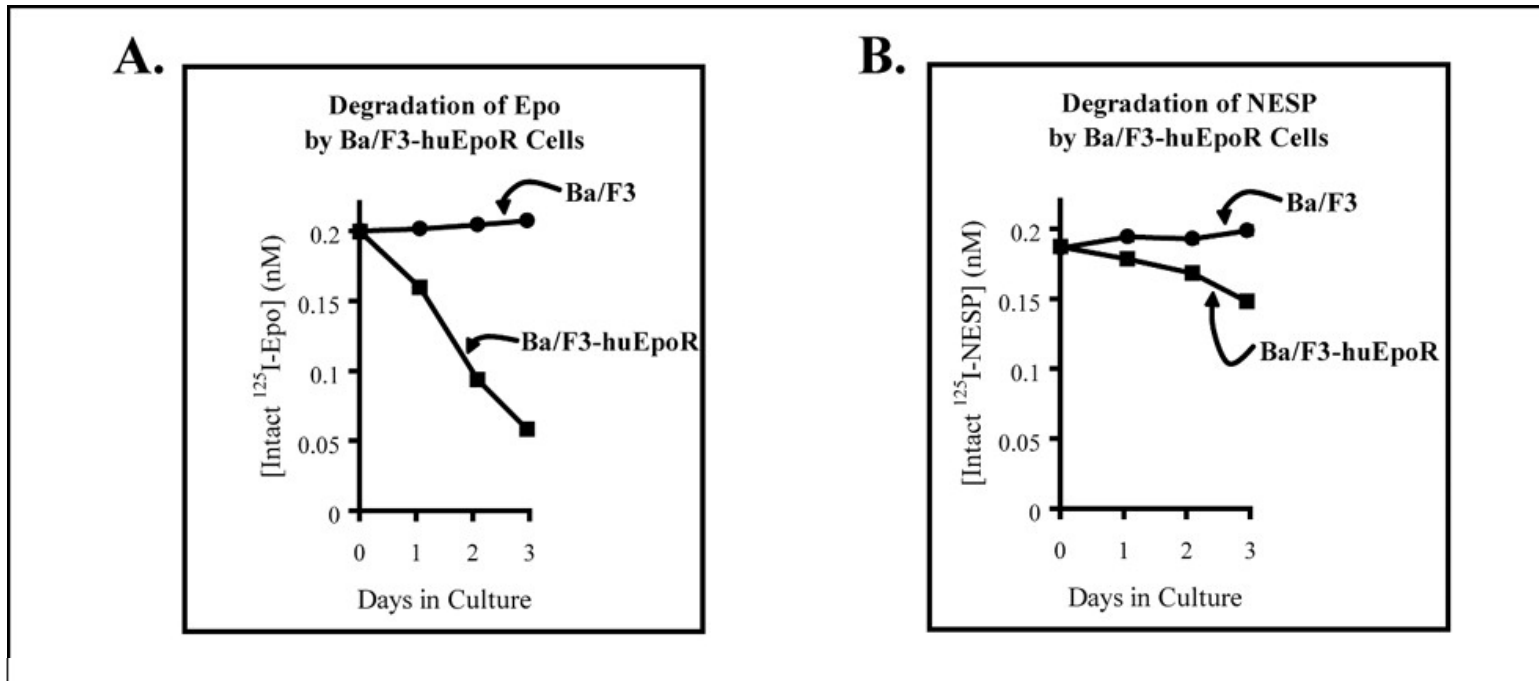
Net binding of ^{125}I -Epo or ^{125}I -NESP with UT-7/Epo cells at 37 °C.



Cells were preincubated at 37 °C for 5 min with endocytosis inhibitors (0.1% sodium azide and 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ cytochalasin B) then ^{125}I -labeled ligand was added. Cells were collected and rapidly separated from the medium after the indicated then cell-associated radioactivity was measured. The

Gross A W , Lodish H F J. Biol. Chem. 2006;281:2024-2032

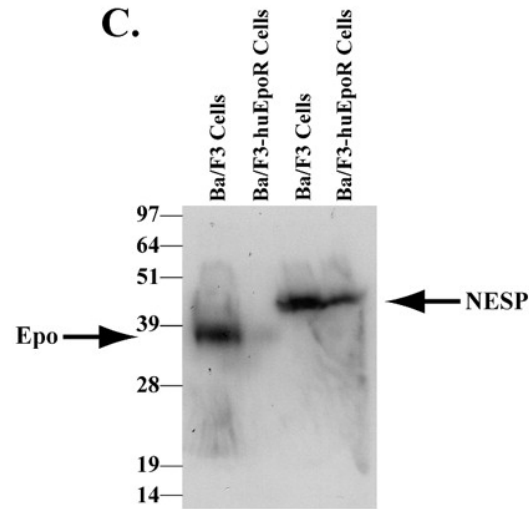
Degradation and endocytosis of Epo and NESP by Ba/F3-huEpoR cells.



cultures of Ba/F3 parental (circles) or Ba/F3-huEpoR (squares) cells were initiated with excess IL-3 and 0.2 nM ¹²⁵I-Epo (A) or 0.2 nM ¹²⁵I-NESP (B)

Gross A W , Lodish H F J. Biol. Chem. 2006;281:2024-2032

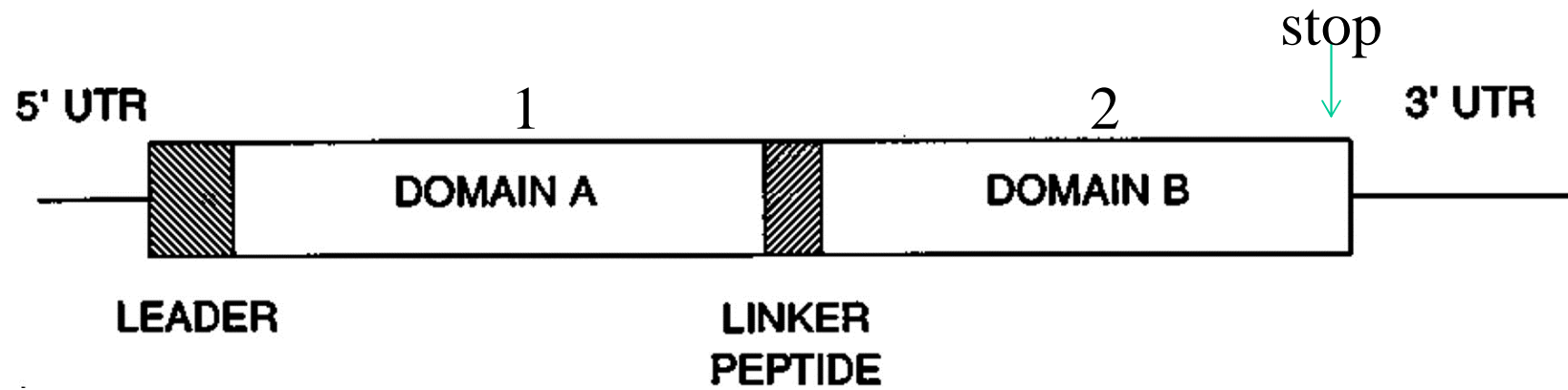
Degradation and endocytosis of Epo and NESP by Ba/F3-huEpoR cells.



cultures of Ba/F3 parental (circles) or Ba/F3-huEpoR (squares) cells were initiated with excess IL-3 and 0.2 nM 125 I-Epo (A) or 0.2 nM 125 I-NESP (B) after the third day in culture, proteins precipitated by trichloroacetic acid from the media of the cultures shown in A and B were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by autoradiography. The type of cells cultured with each sample is indicated at the top of each lane. The position of intact Epo and NESP proteins are indicated by arrows. Numbers indicate the size in kDa and position of prestained molecular weight markers.

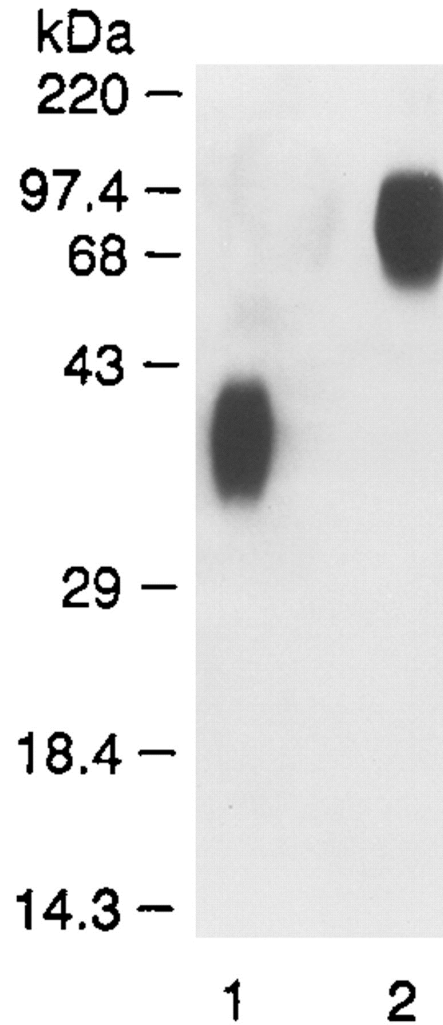
Epo-Epo” -a peptide-linked head-to-tail dimer

Diagram of cDNA encoding the Epo-Epo fusion protein.



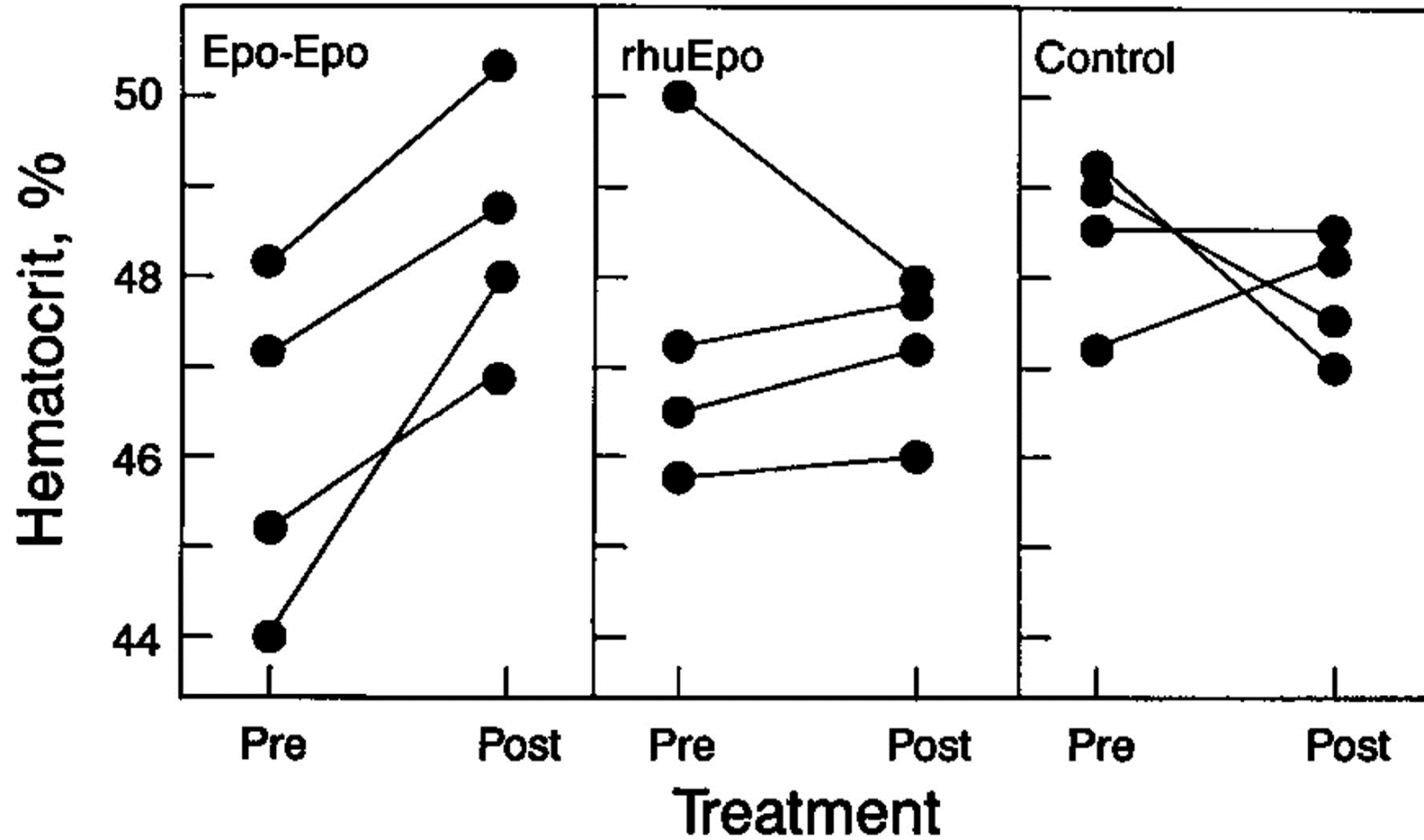
Sytkowski A J et al. J. Biol. Chem. 1999;274:24773-24778

Western blot of purified recombinant Epo (lane 1) and the supernatant of COS1 cells transfected with Epo-Epo cDNA (lane 2).



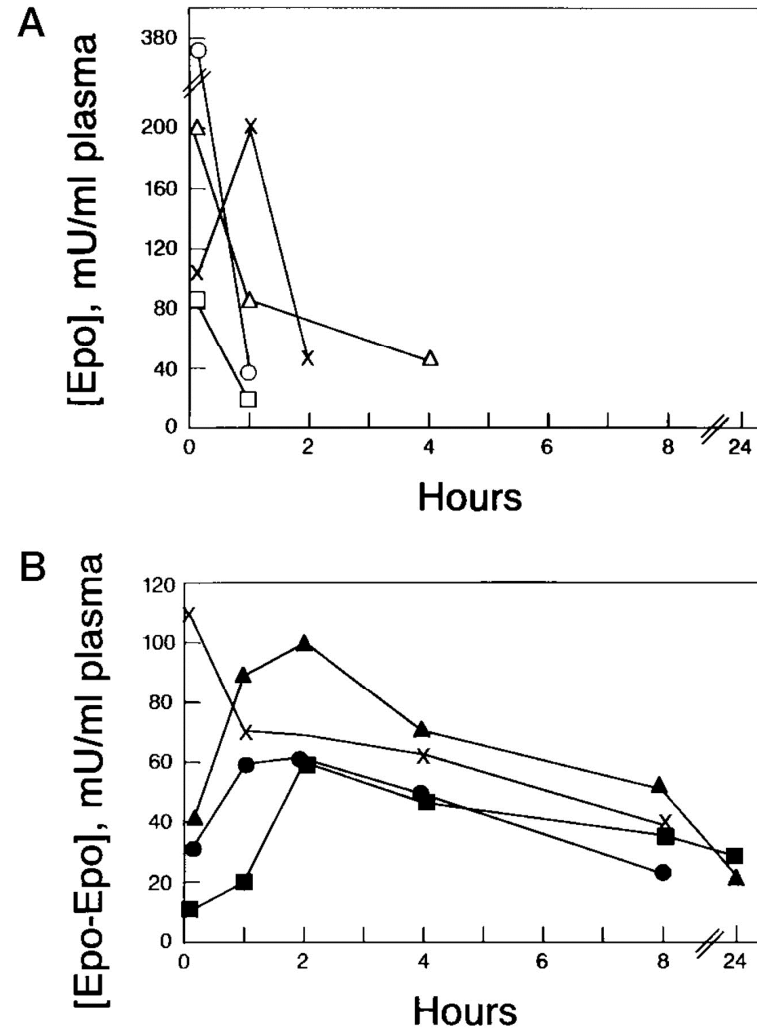
Sytkowski A J et al. J. Biol. Chem. 1999;274:24773-24778

In vivo efficacy of Epo-Epo compared with that of conventional Epo .



Sytkowski A J et al. J. Biol. Chem. 1999;274:24773-24778

Pharmacokinetics of Epo (A) and Epo-Epo (B) in mice.



Sytkowski A J et al. J. Biol. Chem. 1999;274:24773-24778

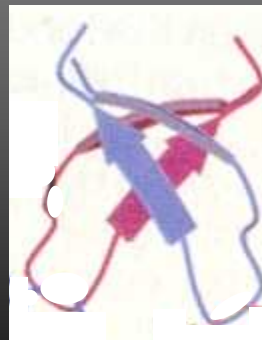
"Hormone mimicry"

Una piccola molecola può "mimare" la funzione di un grande ORMONE POLIPEPTIDICO

Wrighton et al, Science 1996

Sintesi di piccoli peptidi (20 aa) che si legano al recettore dell'Epo e lo attivano → "mimano" l'effetto biologico dell'Epo

EMP1

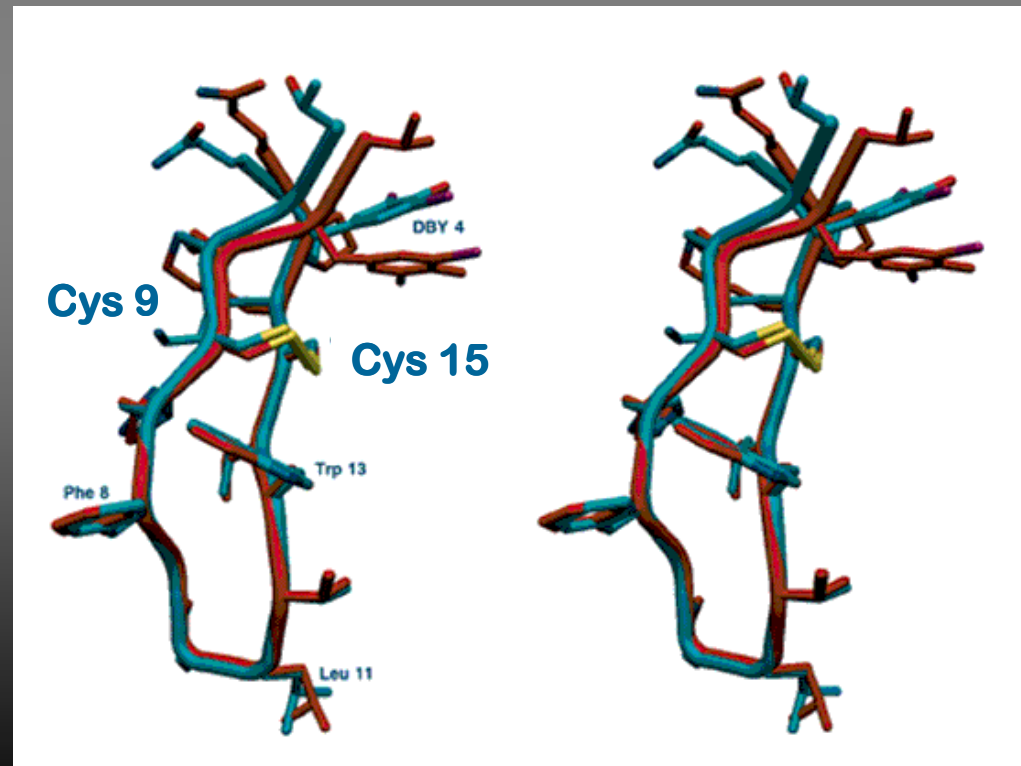
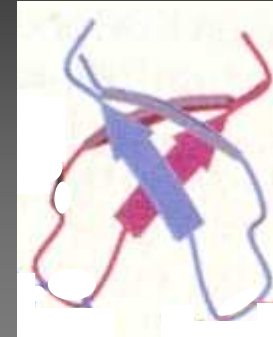


Eritropoietina

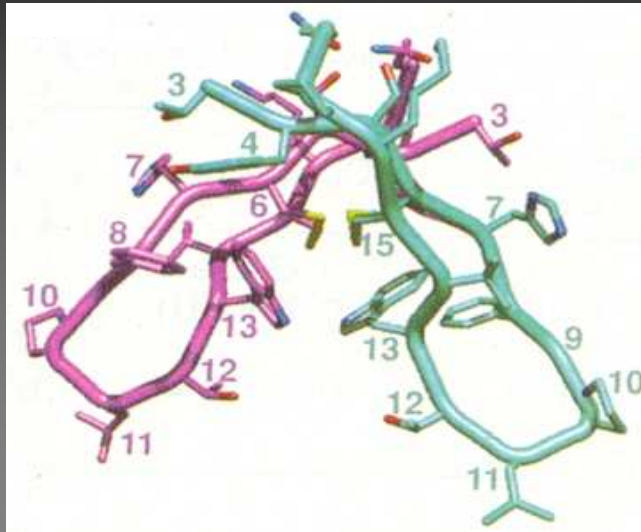


EMP1 (EPO mimetic peptides (EMPs))

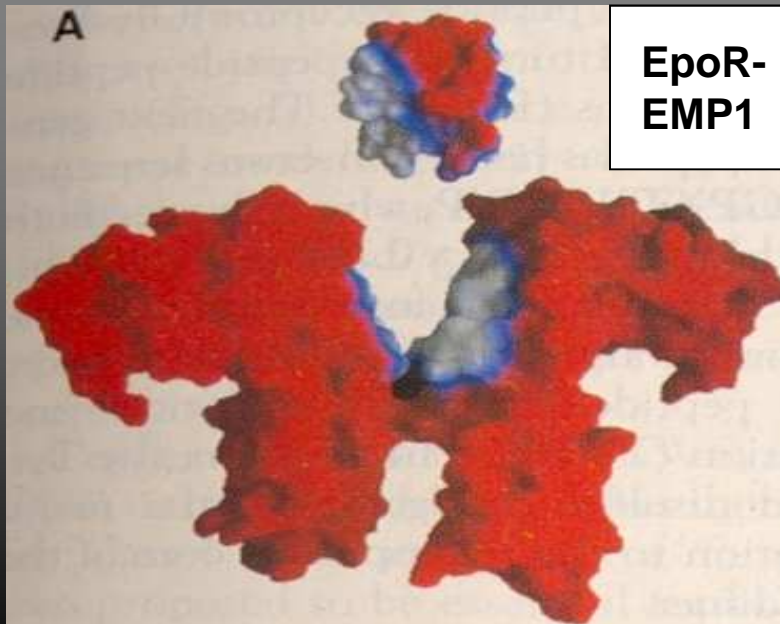
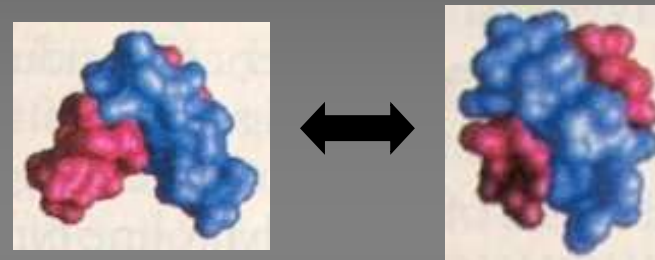
- ✓ Peptide di 20 aa (2 kDa): GGTYSCHFGPLTWVCKPQGG
- ✓ Struttura: 2 corti β -foglietti uniti da un ponte disolfuro
- ✓ Sintesi: ottenuto da una libreria di peptidi random prodotti in sistema fagico (phage display); selezionato mediante saggi di legame alla porzione extracellulare di EpoR



Complesso EpoR-EMP1

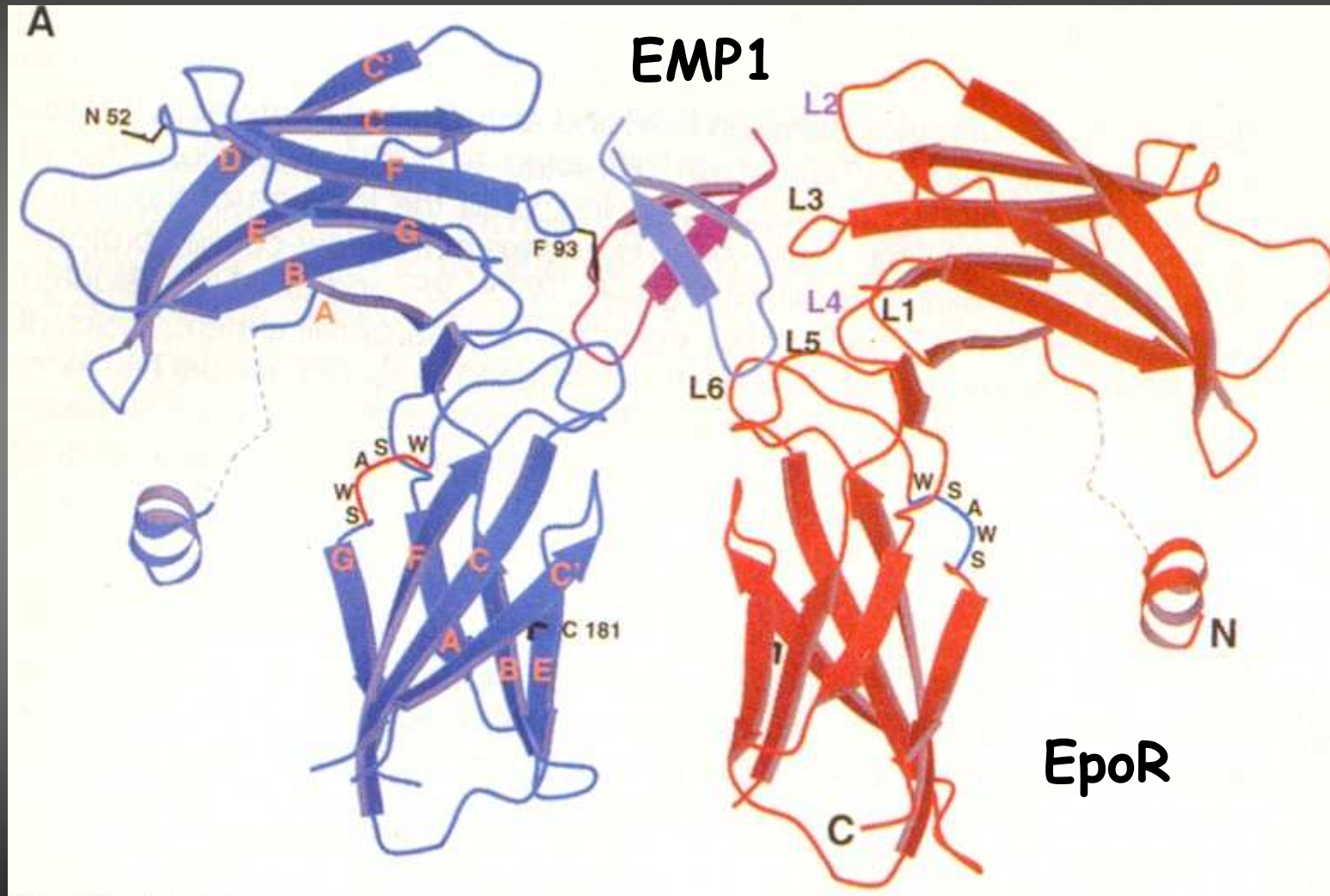


EMP1 dimerizza per legarsi a EpoR
Struttura dimerica molto forte,
stabilizzata da 4 legami idrogeno



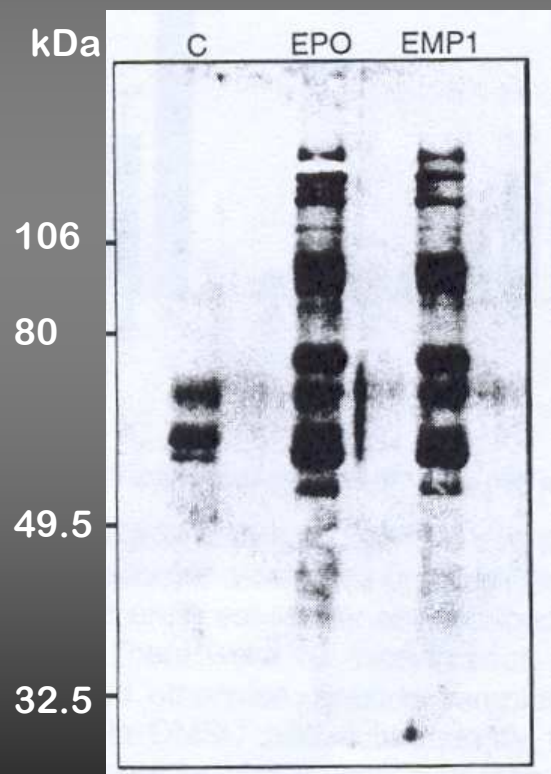
Ogni monomero di
EMP1 interagisce sia
con l'altro monomero
che con EpoR

Complesso EpoR-EMP1



EMP1 stimola l'eritropoiesi attraverso la *stessa via di trasduzione del segnale* indotta da Epo

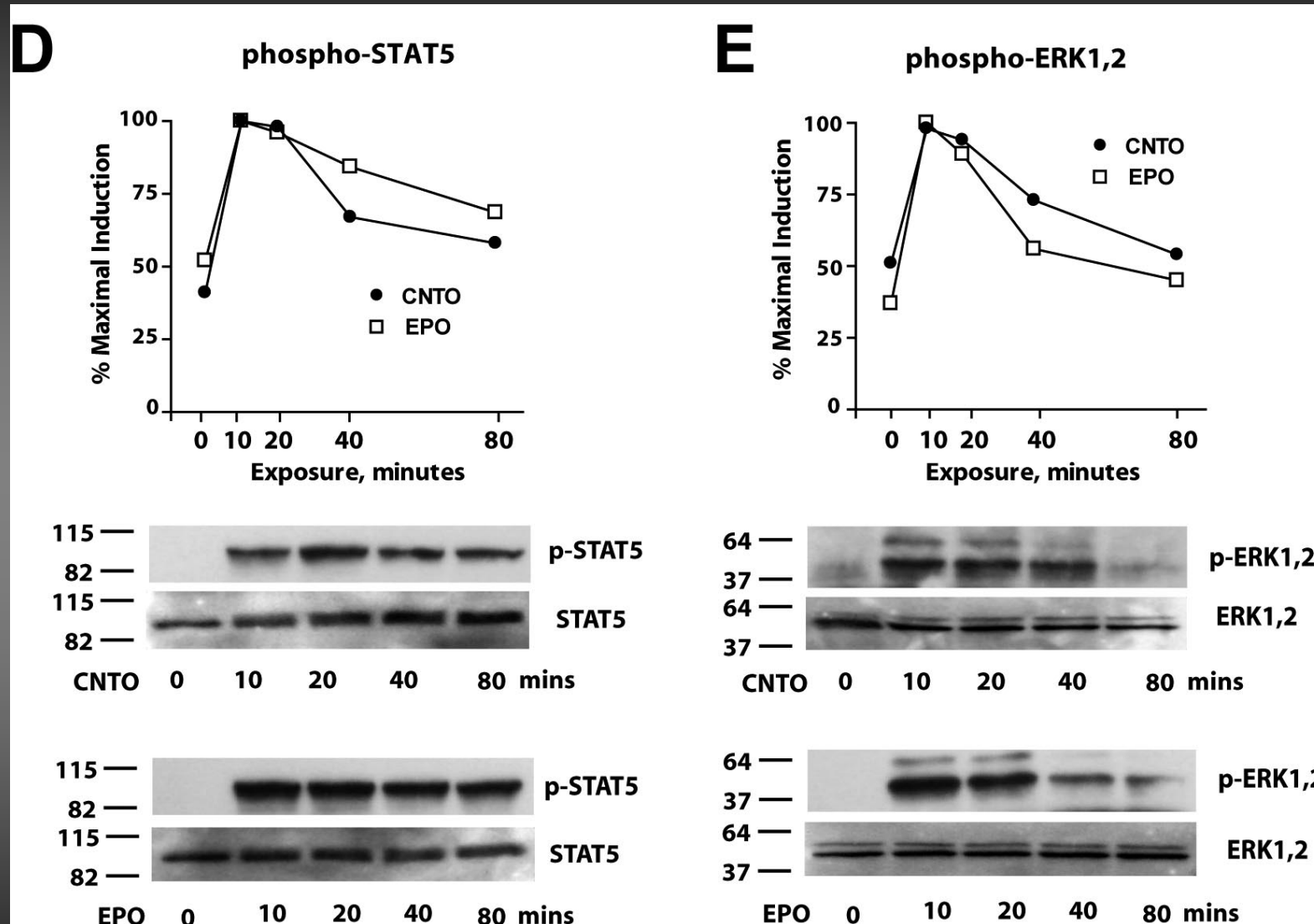
Western blot (anticorpo anti-fosfoTyr)



Cellule stimulate con EMP1 e con Epo presentano lo stesso pattern di fosforilazione

Wrighton et al., Science 1996, 273:458-463

CNTO 530 activates known EPO signal transduction pathways



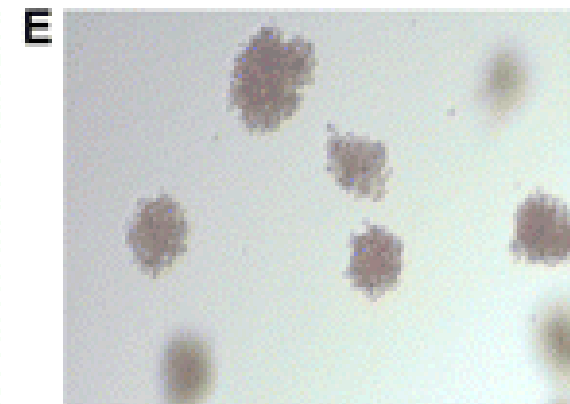
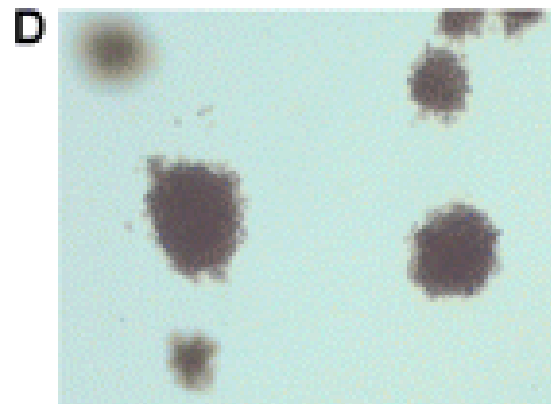
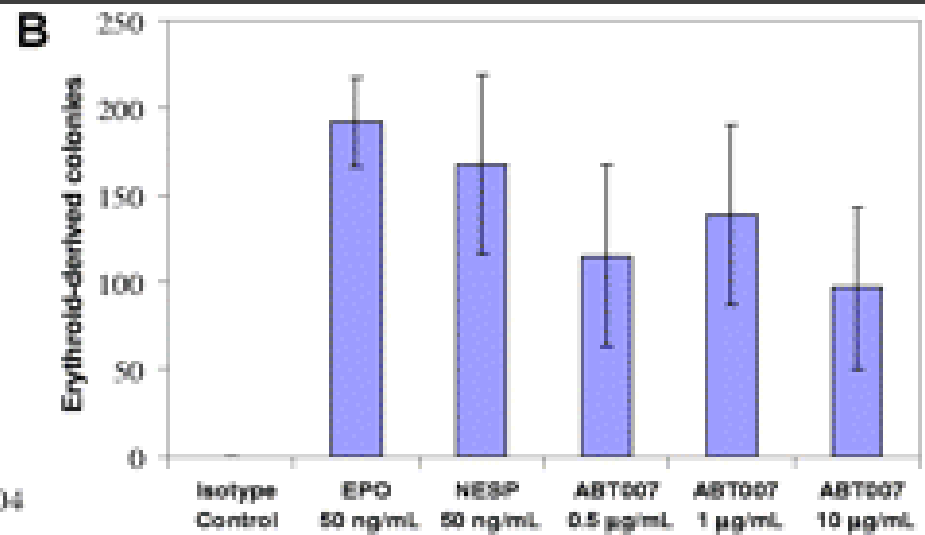
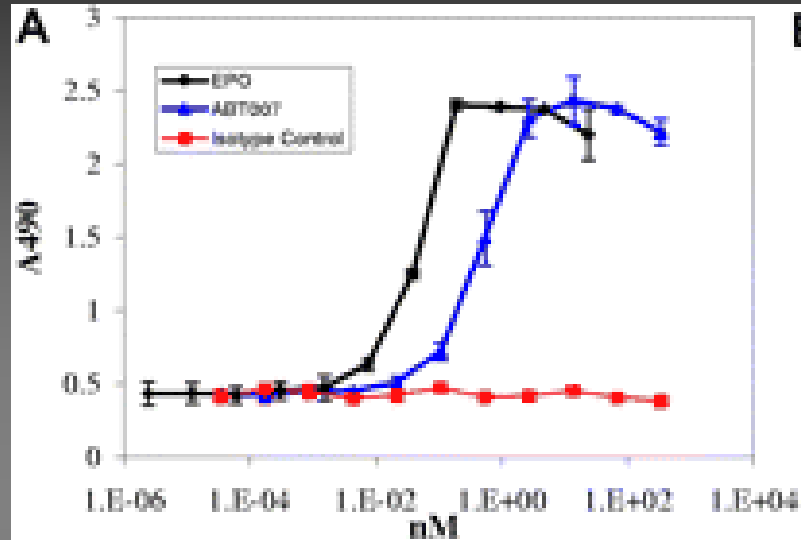
CNTO 530 is a dimeric EMP fused to a human IgG4 Fc

"Hormone mimicry"

EMP1 è la dimostrazione che una molecola di 20 aa può mimare la funzione di un ormone

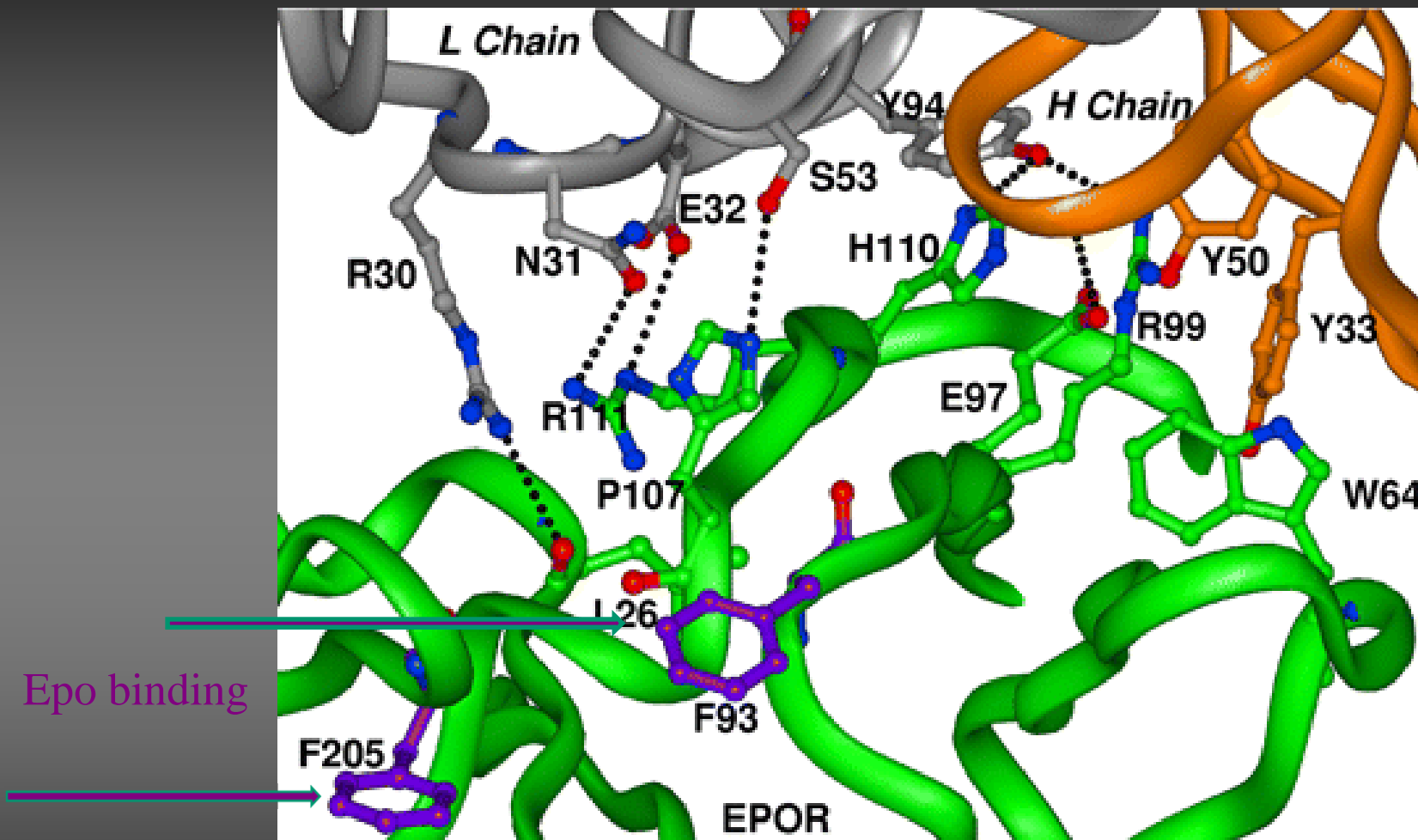
- ✓ Stimolando la stessa via di trasduzione del segnale (JAK, STAT...)
- ✓ Senza avere nessuna omologia di sequenza o struttura con l'ormone

A potent erythropoietin-mimicking human antibody



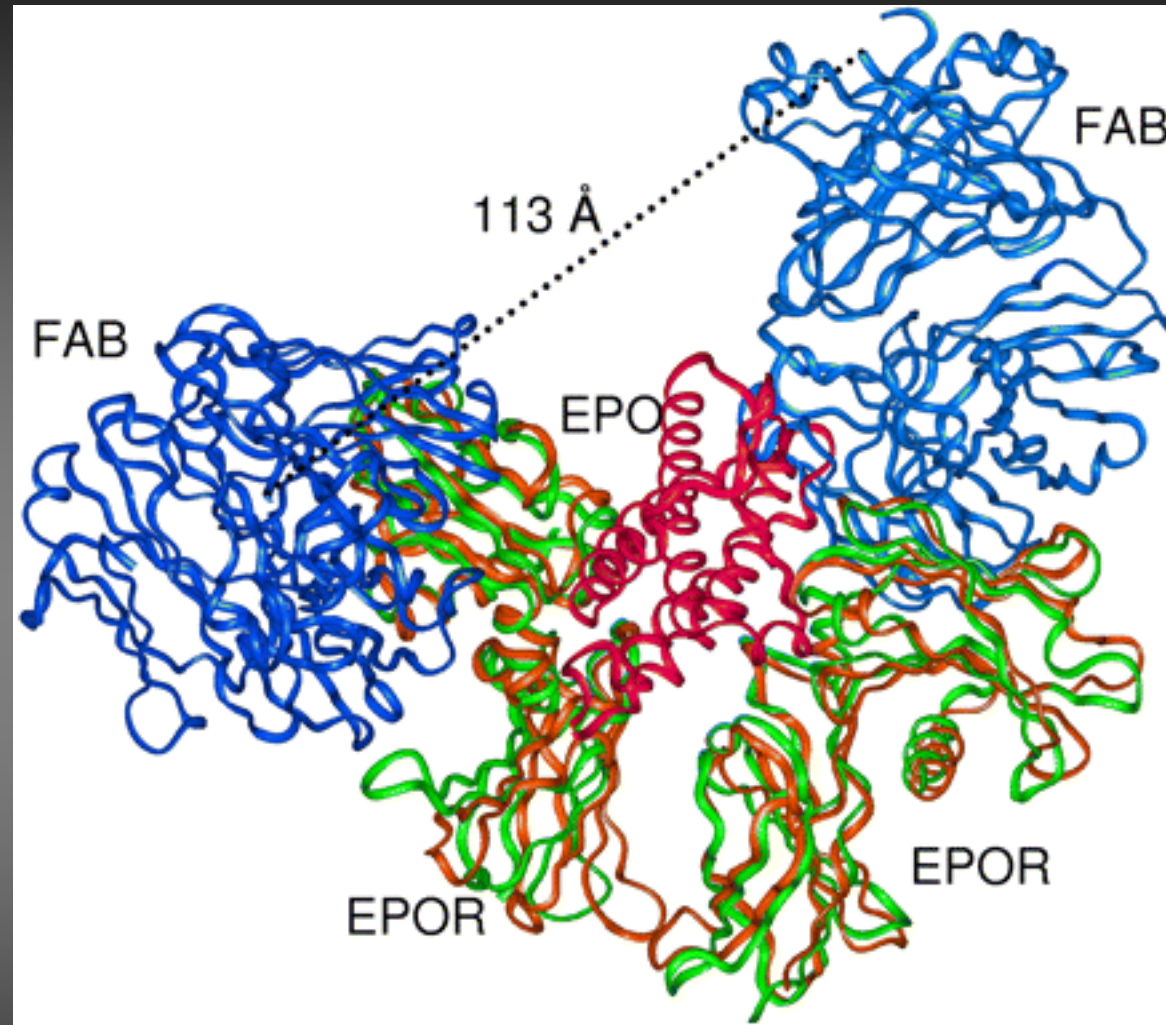
ABT007 stimulates in vitro erythropoiesis

The antibody interacts through a novel binding site



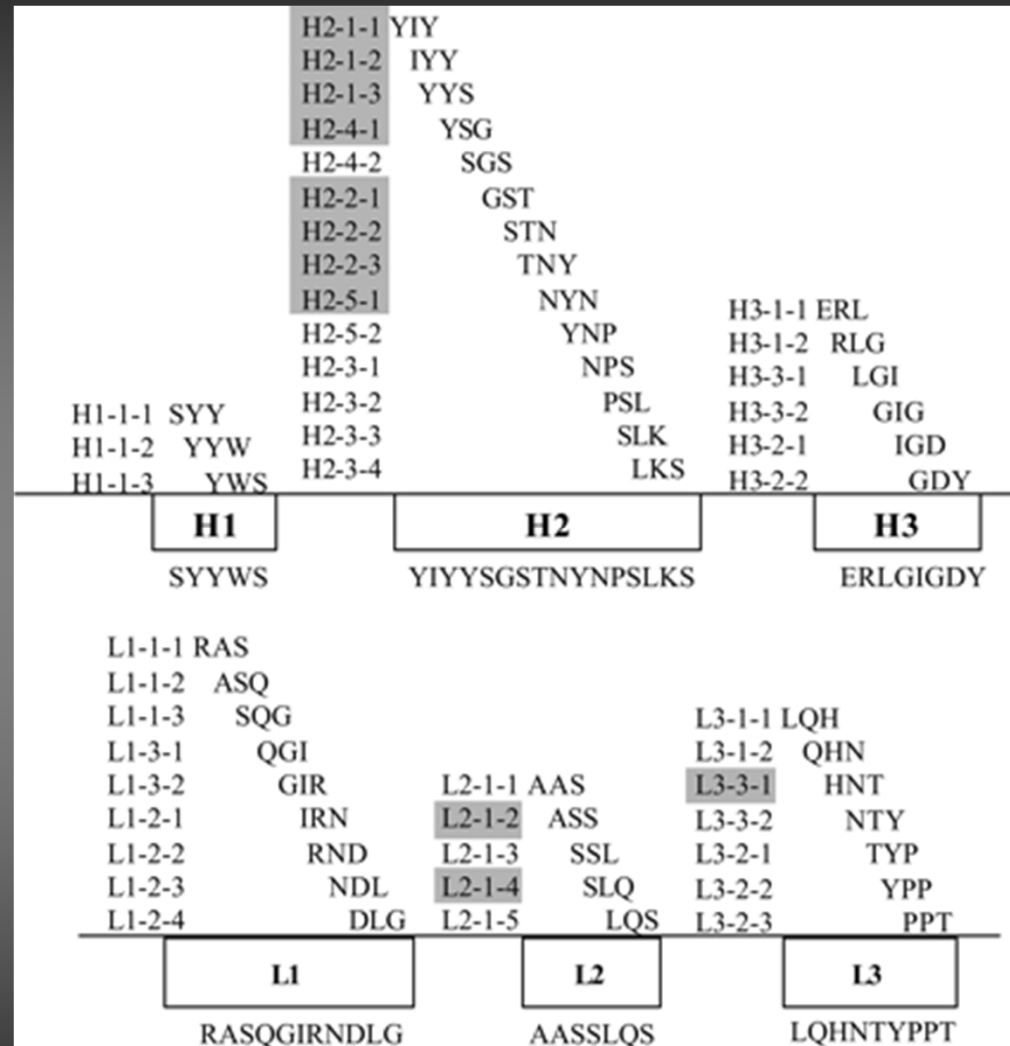
F93 and F205 of EPOR, highlighted in purple, are key residues involved in binding EPO and are not involved in Fab binding.

Comparison of the Fab-EPOR complex with the EPO-activated EPOR

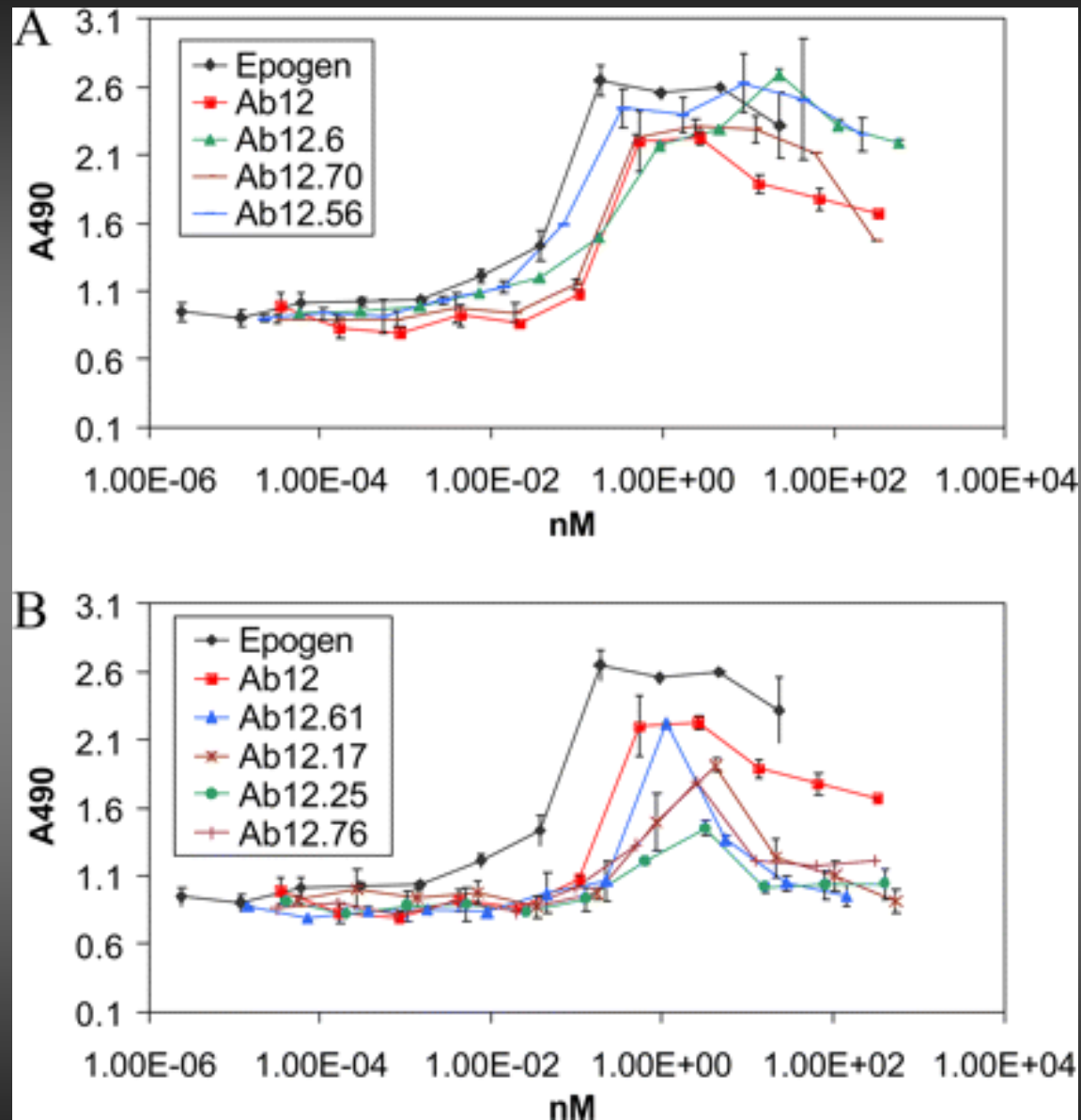


A model of activation based on a conformation induced onto EPOR by ABT007 in a 2:1 ratio that is different from that caused by EPO.

Ab12 scFv CDR VH and VL yeast libraries



EPO-dependent cell proliferation activity of Ab12 variants

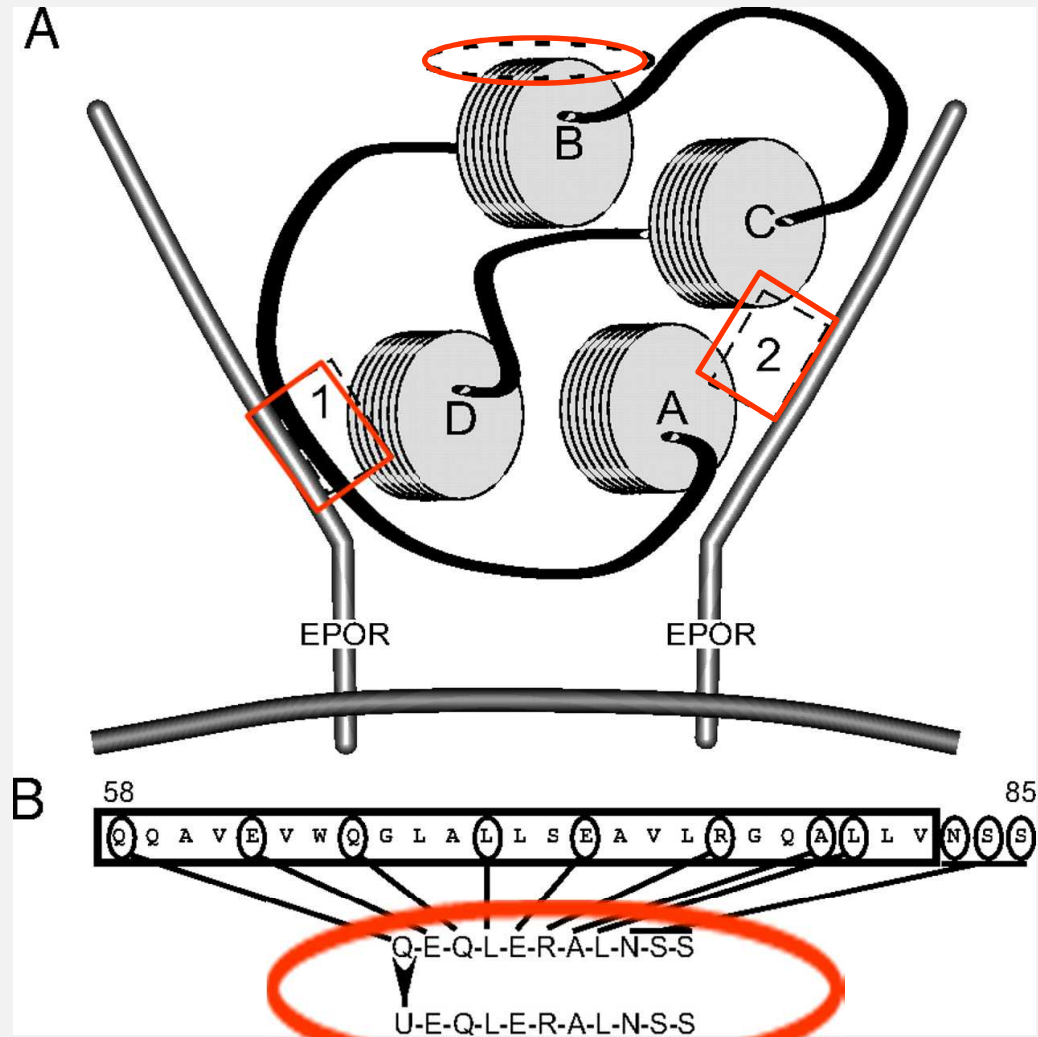


activity of Ab12 variants correlates inversely with Kd

EPO's tissue-protective actions have been shown to be mediated by a tissue-protective receptor complex consisting of the EPO receptor and the β common-receptor (CD131) subunit that is also used by GM-CSF, IL-3, and IL-5.

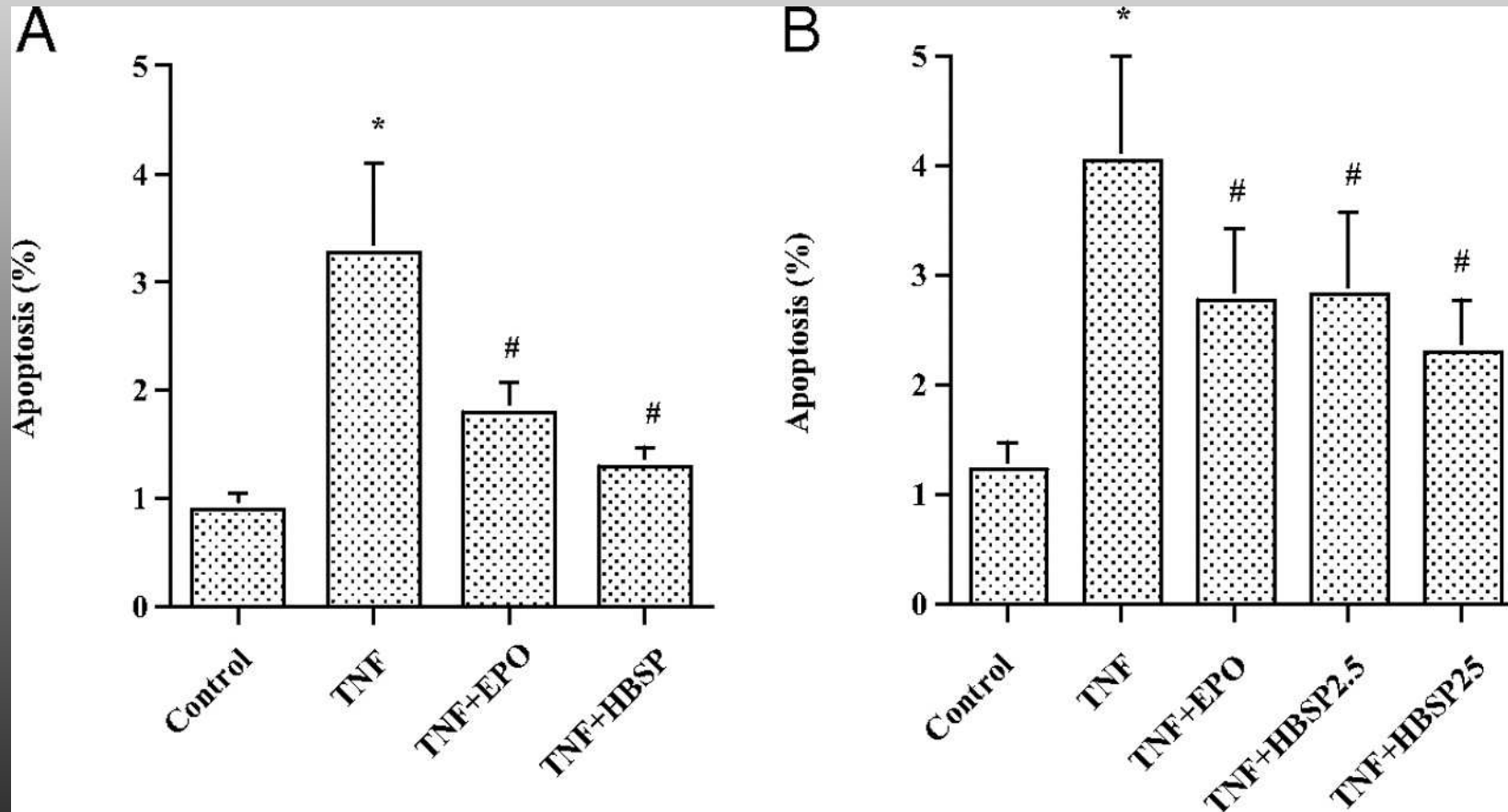
helix B-surface peptide (HBSP). This peptide is composed of 11 amino acids (QEQLERALNSS) derived from the aqueous face of helix B of EPO and exhibits tissue-protective activities

Structure of EPO indicating tissue protective domains and sequences.



Brines M et al. PNAS 2008;105:10929-10930

Effect of HBSP on TNF- α -induced cardiomyocyte apoptosis.



Ueba H et al. PNAS 2010;107:14357-14362