

Stem cells are the biological raw materials for repair and growth.

STEM CELL

- unspecialized cells
- capable of self-renewal
- under proper conditions will become specialized cells or tissues.

Distinguishing features of progenitor/precursor cells and

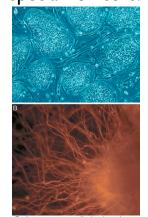
STEM CELL

SPECIALIZED CELL

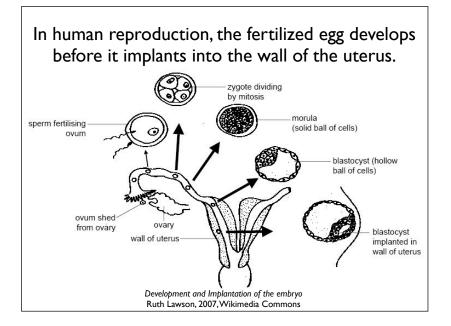
stem cells. http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/scireport/chapter4.asp

Understanding the signals during development allow for the production of specialized cells.

- normal development
 - unspecialized cells become specialized
- stem cells
 - apply chemicals to push cells to become desired cell types.

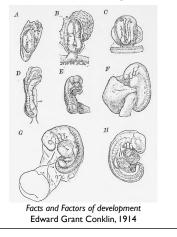


Human Embryonic stem cells (top) and neurons derived from human embryonic stem cells. Public Library of Science.



Development continues as cells divide and differentiate into organs.

- cells divide
 - produce more mass
- differentiate
 - basic organs produced by 8 weeks in utero.
 - heart beat at 3 weeks
 - brain waves at 6 weeks



At about 24 - 26 weeks of gestation, most babies are extremely premature but viable.

- 6 months (third trimester)
 - weight about 640 grams (22 ounces)
 - height about 23 centimeters (9 inches)
 - immature organs
 - especially lungs



Normally a pregnancy lasts 40 weeks (three trimesters).

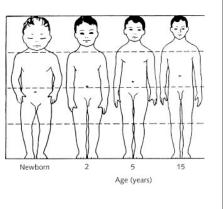
- Development occurs after birth
 - rapid growth
 - further development of organs such as the brain and spinal cord



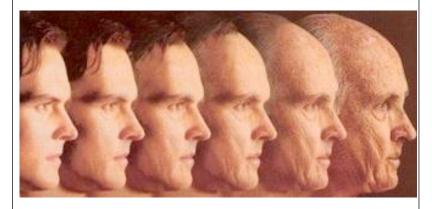
A newborn female human infant, glistens from amniotic fluid seconds after birth. Wikimedia Commons

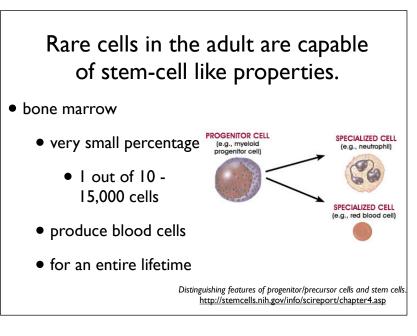
The human body continues to change throughout an individual's life.

- infant
 - < I year
- toddler
 - I 3 years of age
- Primary school age
 - 4 12 years of age
- Adolescence and puberty
 - 13 19 years of age



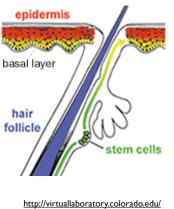
Many of the effects of aging are the result of a decrease in the normal body repair mechanisms.





Adult stem cells in some regions of the body are involved with tissue repair.

- skin
 - produce skin
- heart
 - when stimulated can produce new cardiac muscle cells



Biofundamentals/lectureNotes/ Topic5-3 StemCells.htm

TO BE CONSTANCE in the lecture on: Stem Cell Science: Embryonic Stem Cells

