



# **BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY**

**Tiruchirappalli- 620024,  
Tamil Nadu, India**

**Programme: M.Sc., Biomedical science**

**Course Title : Cancer Biology**

**Course Code : 18BMS59C16**

**Unit-V**

**TOPIC: RNAi Strategy**

**Dr. G.MATHAN**

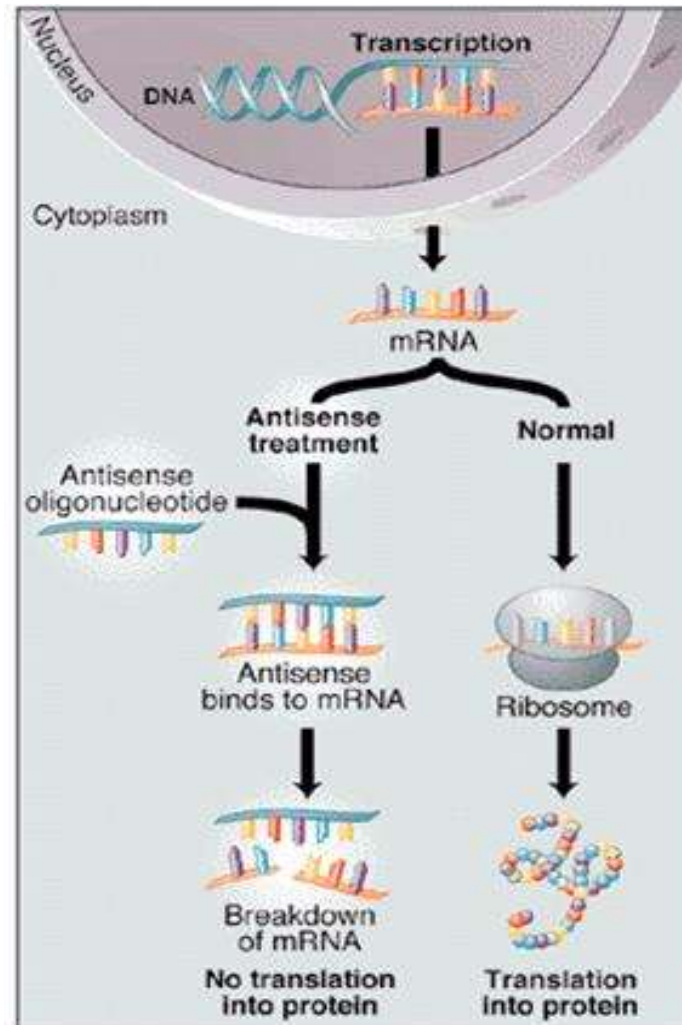
**Professor**

**Department of Biomedical Science**

## What is the antisense oligonucleotides?

The term antisense oligonucleotides refers to molecules made of synthetic genetic material, which interact with natural genetic material (DNA or RNA) harboring the information for production of proteins.

# What is the antisense oligonucleotides?



The term antisense oligonucleotides refers to molecules made of synthetic genetic material, which interact with natural genetic material (DNA or RNA) harboring the information for production of proteins.

# Molecular Biology's Central Dogma

DNA



Plasmid

Virus



RNA



messenger RNA  
ribosomal RNA  
transfer RNA  
other noncoding RNAs

protein



# History of RNA-mediated suppression

Curious findings in plants led the way...



Adding a pigment gene to petunias made them less pigmented! Biology works in mysterious ways...



Jorgensen 1990  
van der Krol 1990

Gene injection (pigmentation  
Enzyme-petunias)  
Expectation: more red color  
Co-suppression of transgene  
and endogenous gene.

Bill Douherty and Lindbo 1993

Gene injection with a complete tobacco  
etch virus particle.  
Expectation: virus expression  
Co-suppression of transgene  
and virus particles via RNA.

Hamilton and Baulcombe 1998

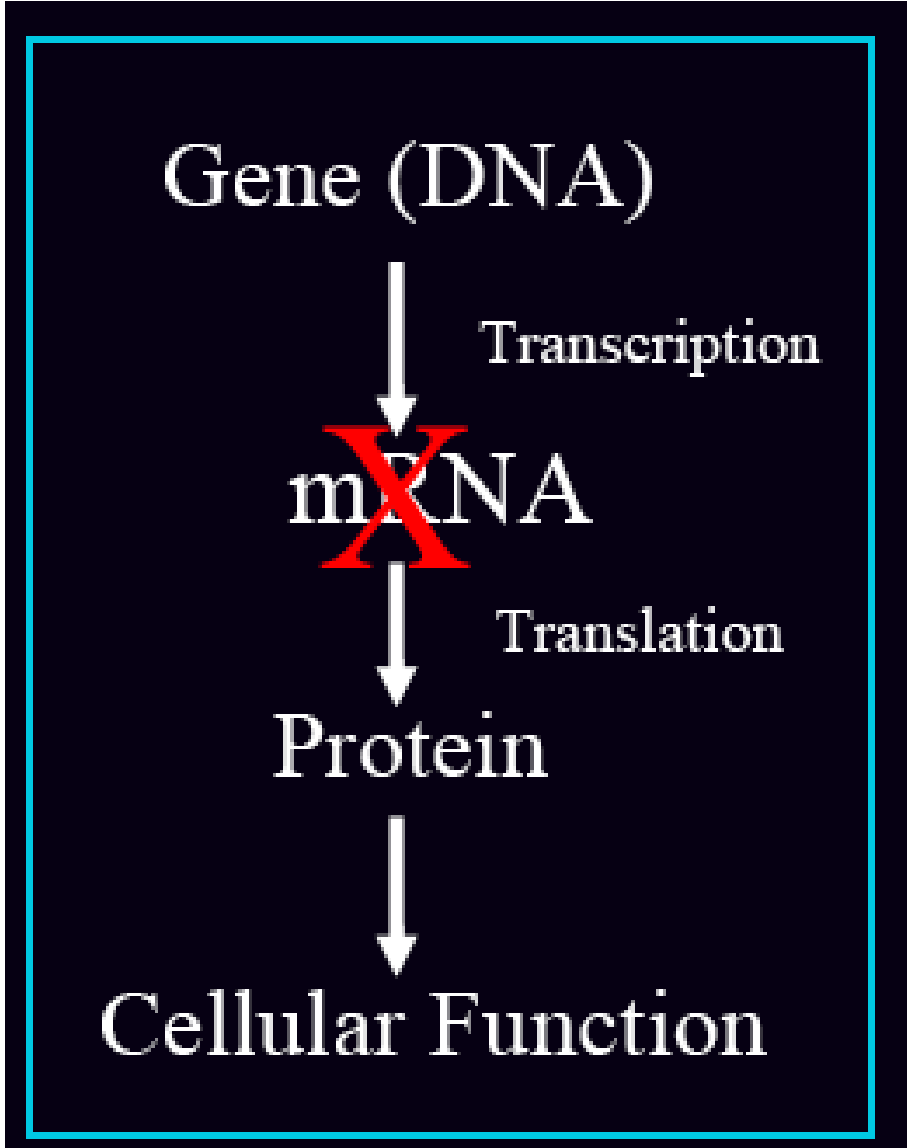
Identification of short antisense RNA  
sequences  
dsRNA?  
How?

Fire and Mello 1998

Injection of dsRNA into *C. elegans*  
RNA interference (RNAi) or silencing

Ambros 1993 (2000)

Identification of small RNA in  
*C. elegans* (micro RNA)



**RNA interference:**

--A type of gene regulation

--Involve small RNA molecules

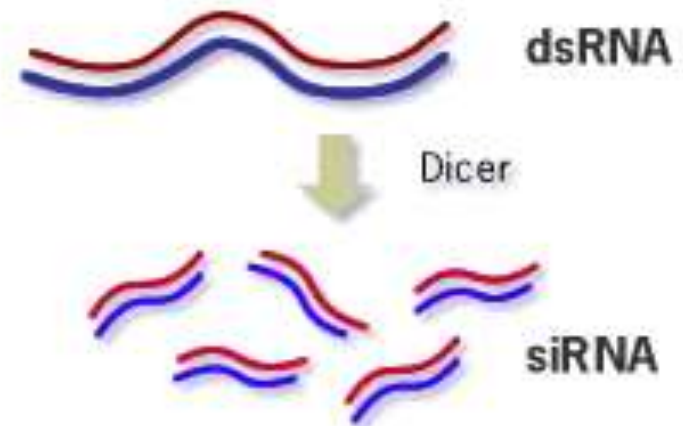
--Induce a double stranded RNA

**Shooting mRNA means RNA interference**



# Step 1

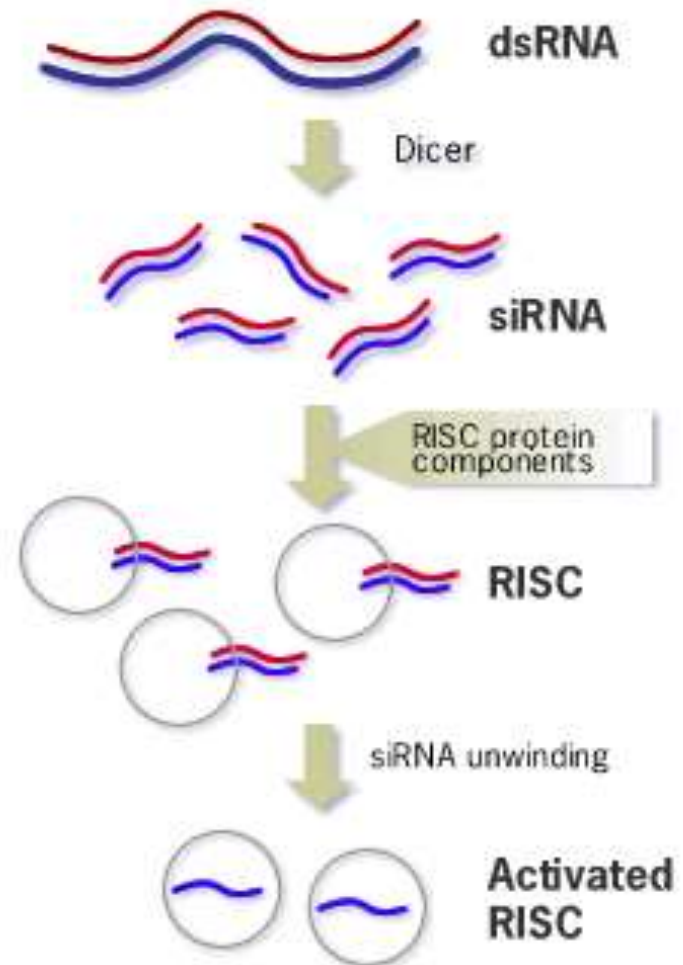
- dsRNA is processed into sense and antisense RNAs
  - 21-25 nucleotides in length
  - have 2-3 nt 3' overhanging ends
  - Done by *Dicer* (an RNase III-type enzyme)





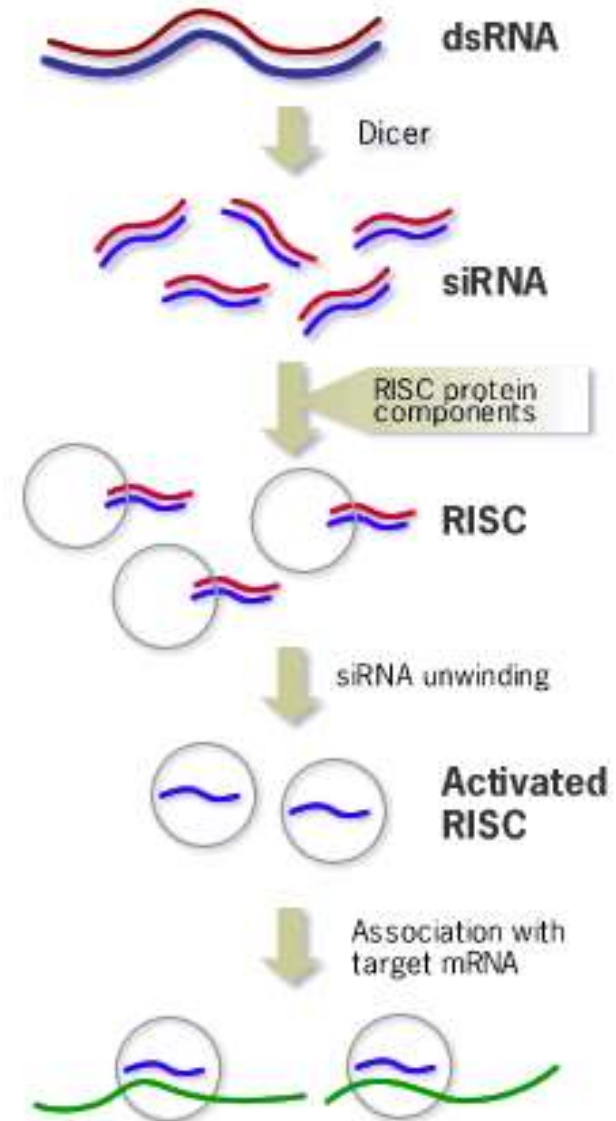
# Step 2

- The siRNAs associate with *RISC* (RNA-induced silencing complex) and unwind



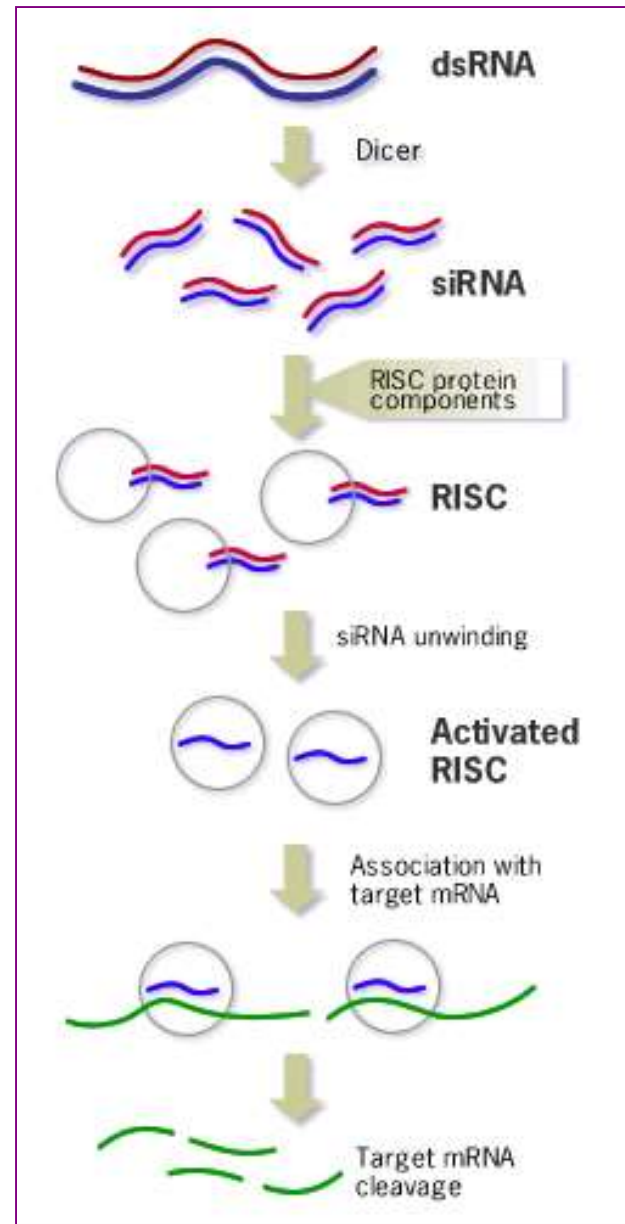
# Step 3

- the antisense siRNAs act as guides for *RISC* to associate with complementary single-stranded mRNAs.

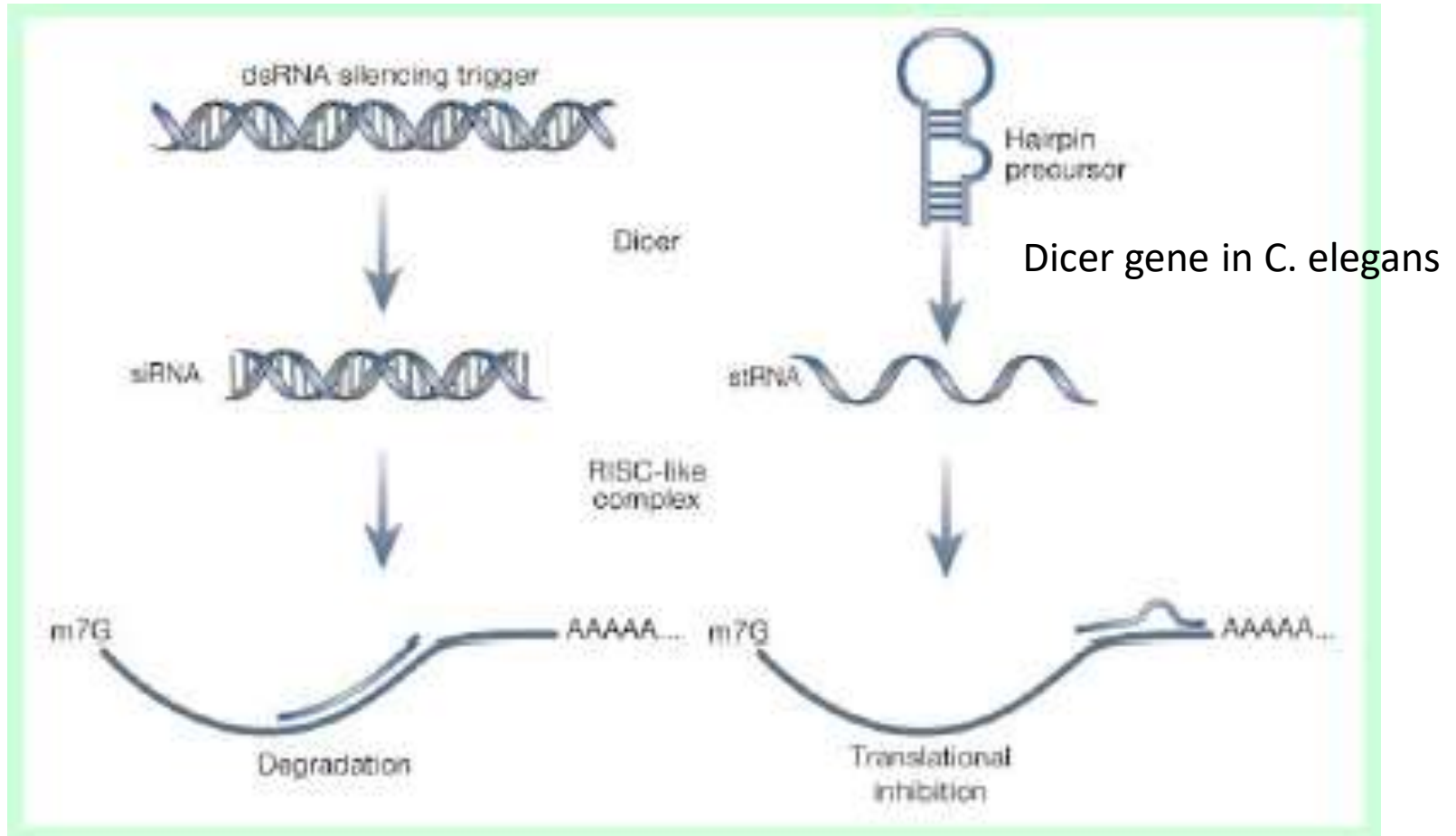


# Step 4

- *RISC* cuts the mRNA approximately in the middle of the region paired with the siRNA
- The mRNA is degraded further



# Gene regulation by small RNAs



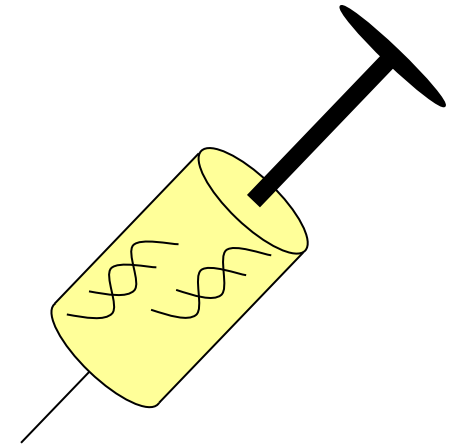
**siRNAs degrade mRNA to stop gene expression quickly**

**Small temporal(St) RNAs prevent translation to stop gene expression quickly**

# The discovery of RNA-mediated interference

- Antisense technology was used in worms...
- Difficult to explain: sense and antisense RNA preparations are each sufficient to cause interference.

inject worms with dsRNA  
corresponding to a gene  
involved in wiggling (*unc-22*)



QuickTime™ and a GIF decompressor are needed to see this picture.

## **Potent and specific genetic interference by double-stranded RNA in *Caenorhabditis elegans***

**Andrew Fire<sup>\*</sup>, SiQun Xu<sup>\*</sup>, Mary K. Montgomery<sup>\*</sup>,  
Steven A. Kostas<sup>\*†</sup>, Samuel E. Driver<sup>‡</sup> & Craig C. Mello<sup>‡</sup>**

# The discovery of RNA-mediated interference

Working hypothesis: the silencing effect by antisense or sense RNA might be due to low-level contaminations of **double-stranded RNA**.

Gene	segment	Size (kilobases)	Injected RNA	F <sub>1</sub> phenotype
<i>unc-22</i>				<i>unc-22</i> -null mutants: strong twitchers <sup>7a</sup>
<i>unc22A+</i>	Exon 21-22	742	Sense Antisense Sense + antisense	Wild type Wild type Strong twitchers (100%)
<i>unc22B</i>	Exon 27	1,033	Sense Antisense Sense + antisense	Wild type Wild type Strong twitchers (100%)
<i>unc22C</i>	Exon 21-22†	785	Sense + antisense	Strong twitchers (100%)

## Results:

- double-stranded RNA is far more effective than single-stranded RNA.
- The sense or antisense RNAs lose their silencing effect if they are purified from the contaminating Double-stranded RNA (dsRNA).
- only a few molecules of dsRNA are required per cell → non-stoichiometric effect that implies an amplification component.

## RNAi –Rapid way to test Gene Function

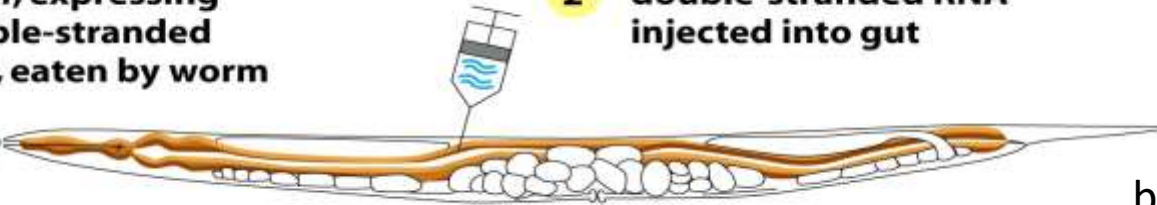
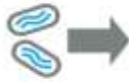
RNAi used to inactivate genes in Drosophilla and mammalian cell culture lines

To study the consequences and importance of the particular gene function through this study



# Dominant negative mutation created by RNAi

1 *E. coli*, expressing double-stranded RNA, eaten by worm



2 double-stranded RNA injected into gut

A. Double stranded RNA introduced in to *c. elegans*

1. Either by feeding the *E. coli* expressing dsRNA or
2. By injecting directly in to gut

It inhibits the expression of target gene in different tissue TYPE

- The RNAi effect is capable of **spreading** within the whole nematode.

→ this observation led to new discoveries that allowed the identification of genes and Therefore to the mechanisms that are involved in RNAi

B. Wild type worm-embryo after the egg has been fertilized  
Egg and sperm pronuclei (red arrow) migrated and come Together in the posterior half of the embryo

c. Worm embryo at the same stage in which a gene involved In cell division has been inactivated by RNAi  
2 pronuclei have failed to migrate

b

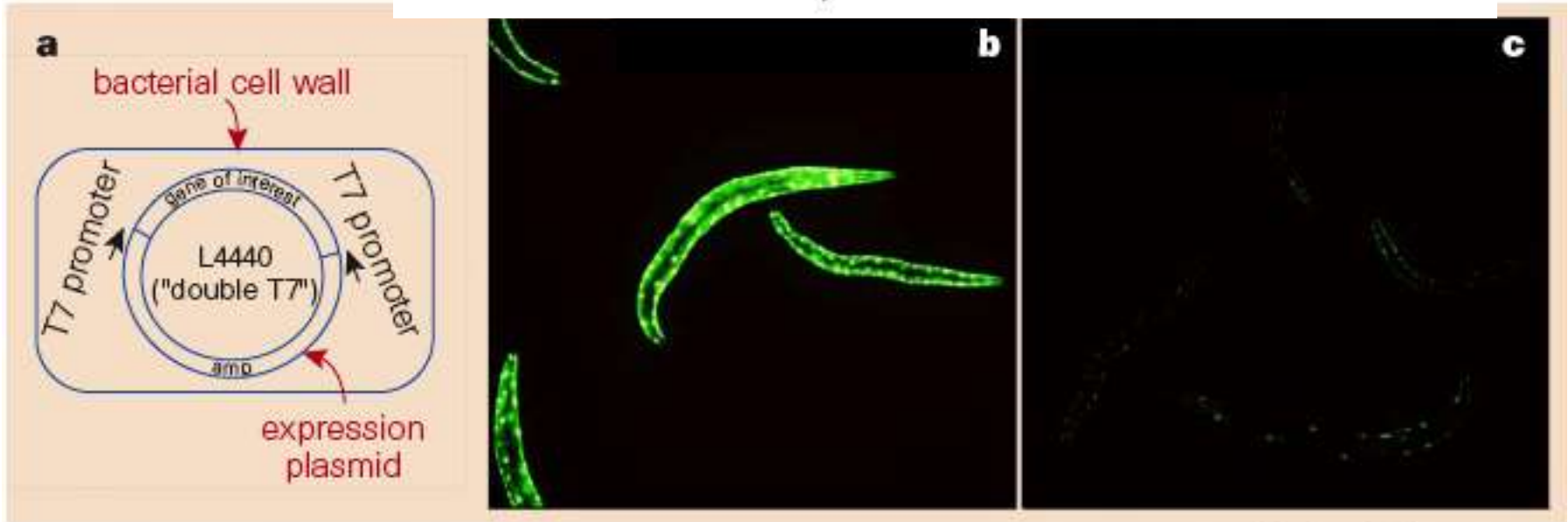
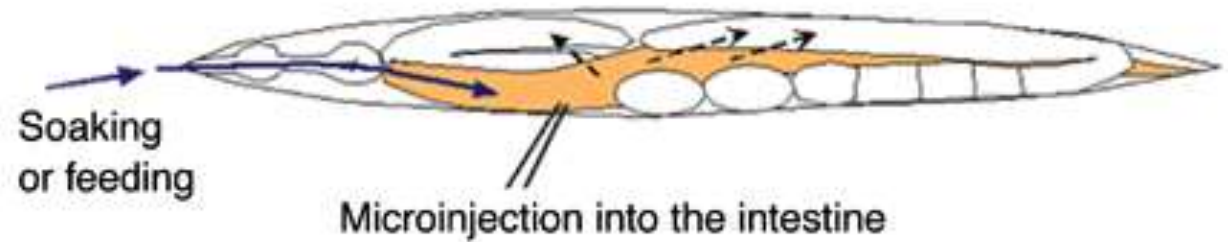


c

20  $\mu$ m

# RNAi does not require microinjection

Transgenes and endogenous genes can be inactivated through soaking worms in dsRNA or by feeding them with bacteria that produce dsRNA.

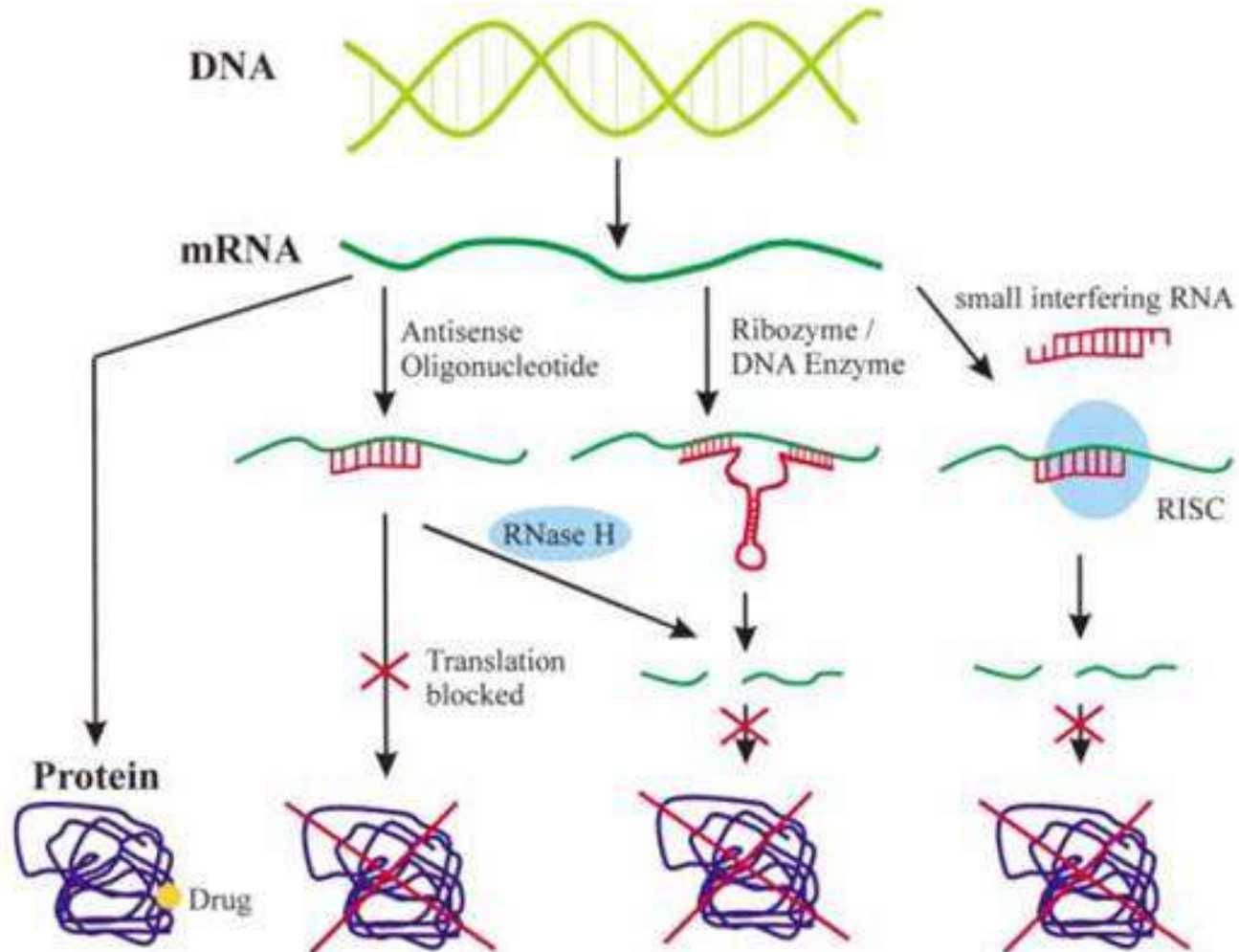


GFP-expressing strain fed on naive bacteria (b) and on dsRNA production in bacteria bacteria expressing dsRNA corresponding to the gfp coding region

Timmons and Fire, *Nature* **395**. (1998)

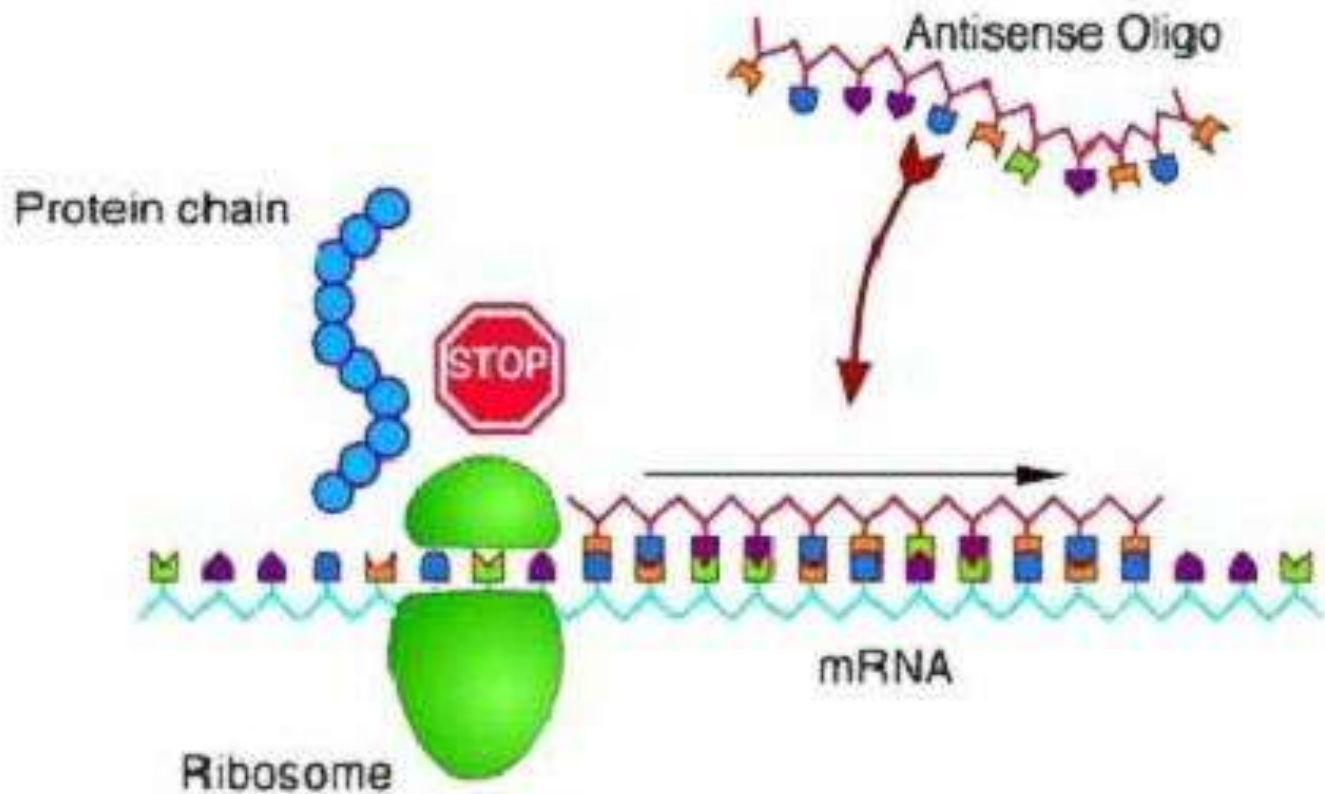
Tabara et al, *Science* **282** (1998)

# Anti-mRNA Strategies

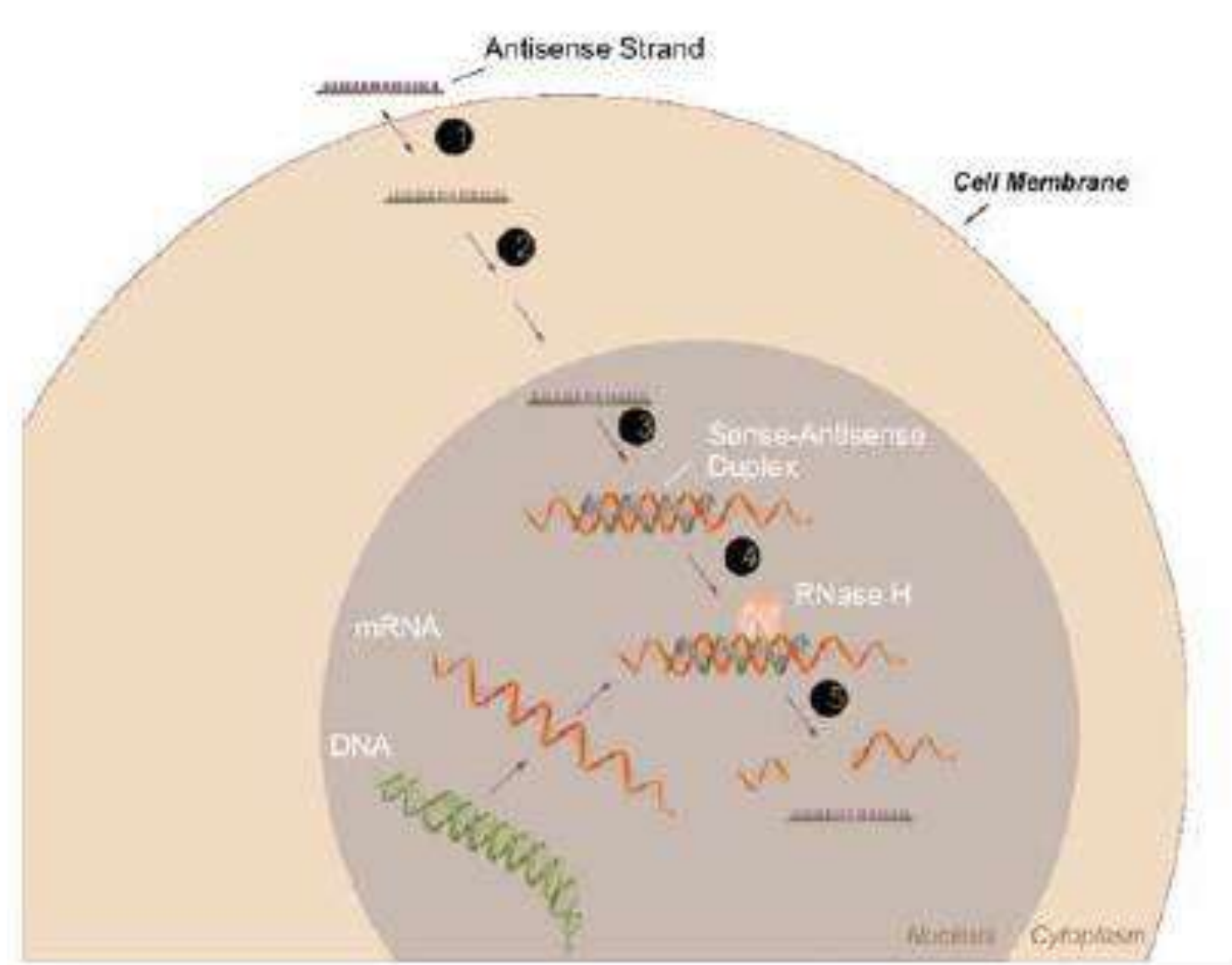


# Mechanism of Action of Antisense Oligonucleotides.

## 1. Translational Arrest by Blocking the Ribosome.



## 2. Activation of RNase H



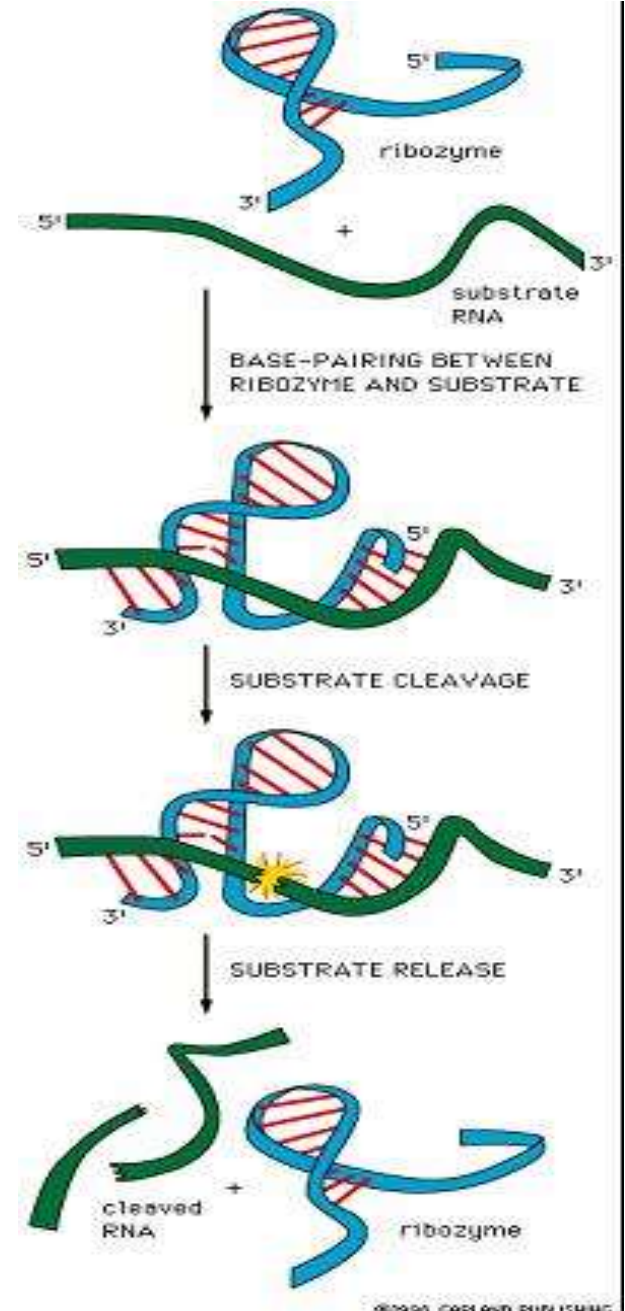


# Ribozymes

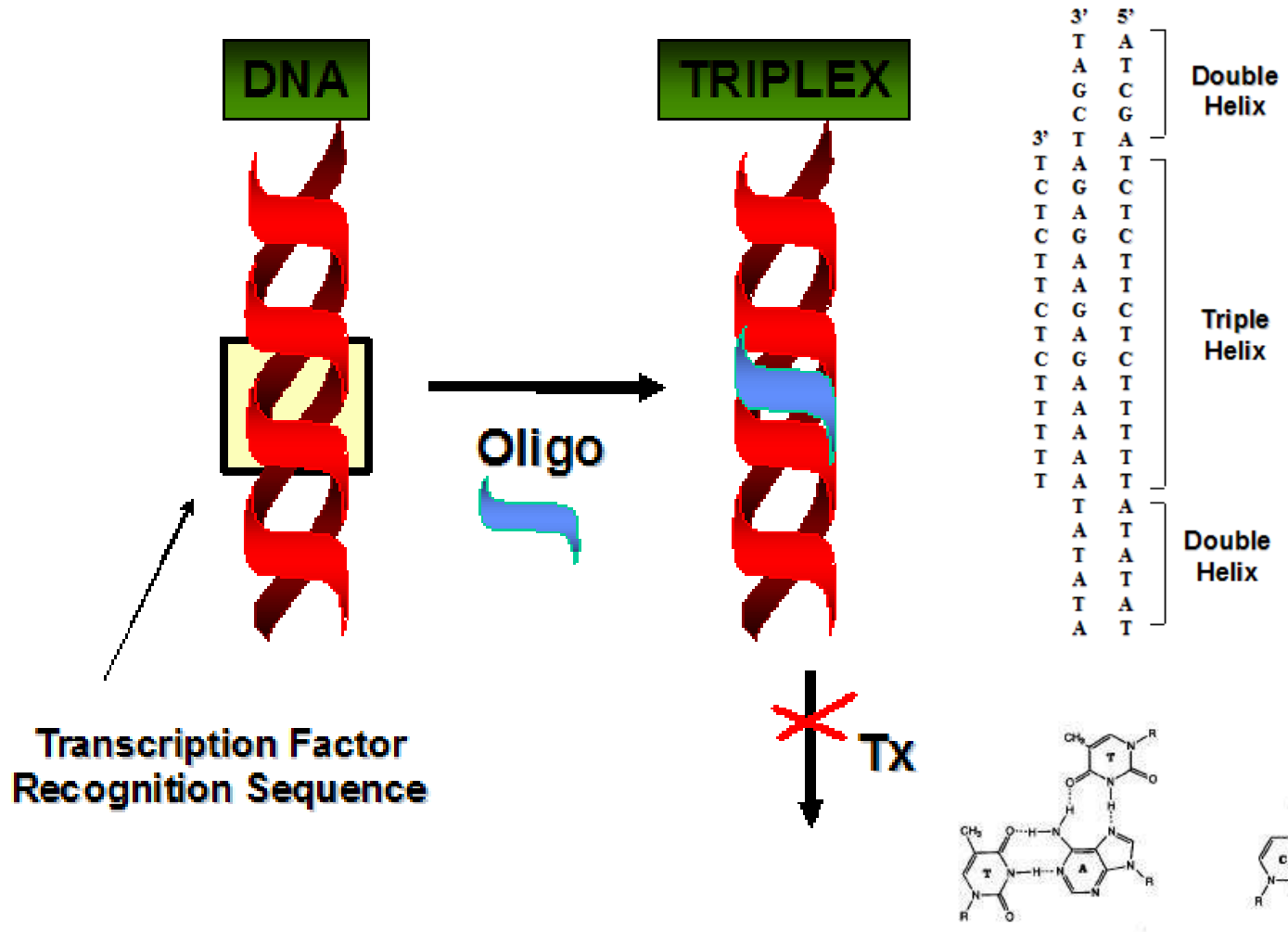
- Ribozymes are RNA molecules that catalyze biochemical reactions.

1982 T. Cech shows that the intron of one Tetrahymena pre-rRNA is self splicing. He proposes the term “ribozyme” to refer to catalytic RNA

- Ribozymes cleave single-stranded regions in RNA through transesterification or hydrolysis reactions that result in cleavage of phosphodiester bonds



# Triplex Antisense Technology (ANTIGENE)





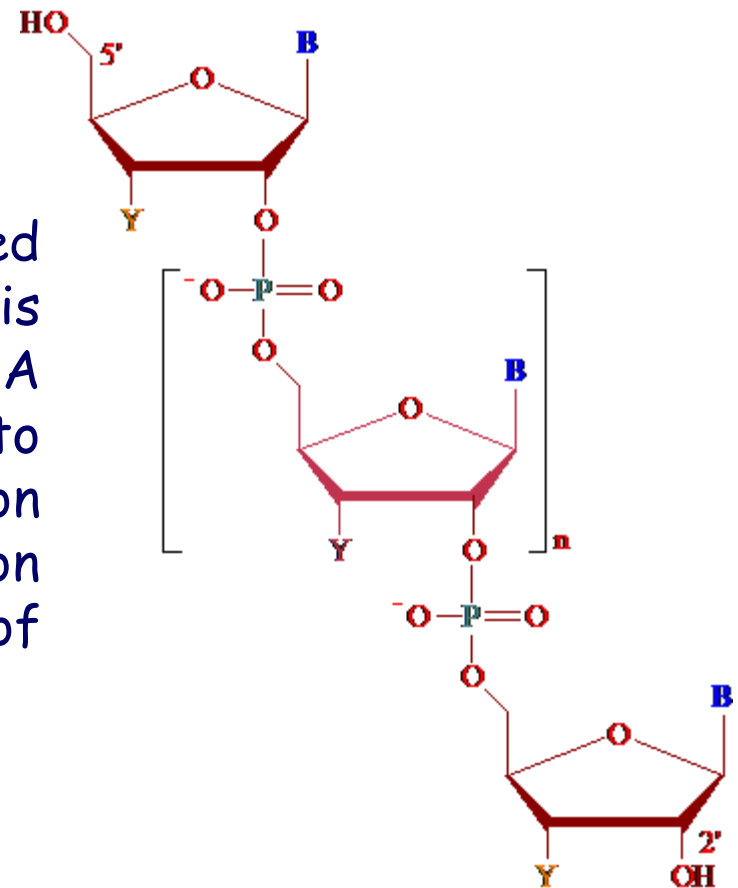
# Limitations of Practical Applications of Antisense Oligonucleotides

Despite the simplicity of the idea behind the Antisense, several problems have to be overcome for successful application:

1. Accessible sites of the target RNA for oligonucleotide binding have to be identified.
2. Antisense agents have to be protected against nucleolytic attack.
3. Cellular uptake and correct intracellular localization.

## Modification of Backbone Linkage Sites (2',5'-Oligonucleotides)

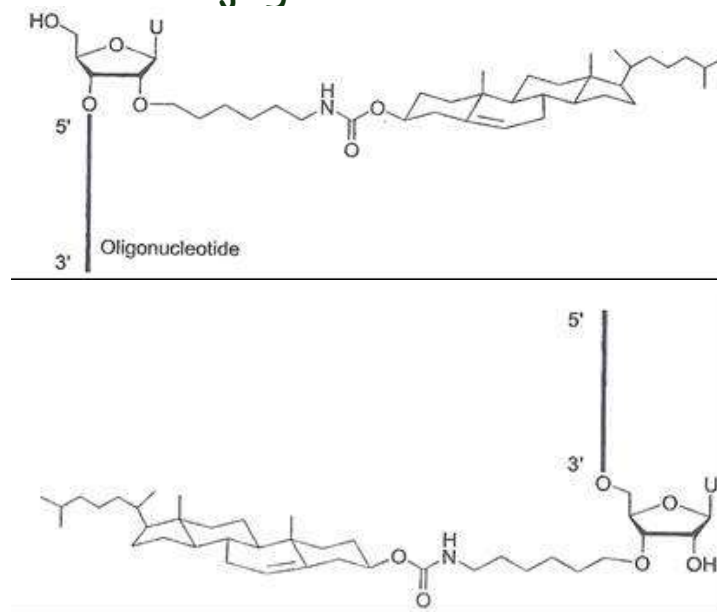
The 2',5'-backbone modified oligonucleotide system is naturally occurring RNA isomers that are thought to be involved in the regulation of cell growth/differentiation and the antiviral effect of interferon.



## Pendant (Conjugated) Oligonucleotides

Various molecules (**pendants**) have been attached (**conjugated**) to oligonucleotides to modify their pharmacokinetic properties.

The cholesterol conjugates have received the most attention.



The attachment at the 3'-O of the 3'-terminal nucleotide has been shown to provide greater nuclease resistance than the 2'-O of the 5'-terminal nucleotide.

# RNAi: Double-Stranded RNA Directs the ATP-Dependent Cleavage of mRNA at 21 to 23 Nucleotide Intervals

Phillip D. Zamore,<sup>\*#</sup> Thomas Tuschl,<sup>†#</sup>  
Phillip A. Sharp,<sup>‡§</sup> and David P. Bartel<sup>¶||</sup>

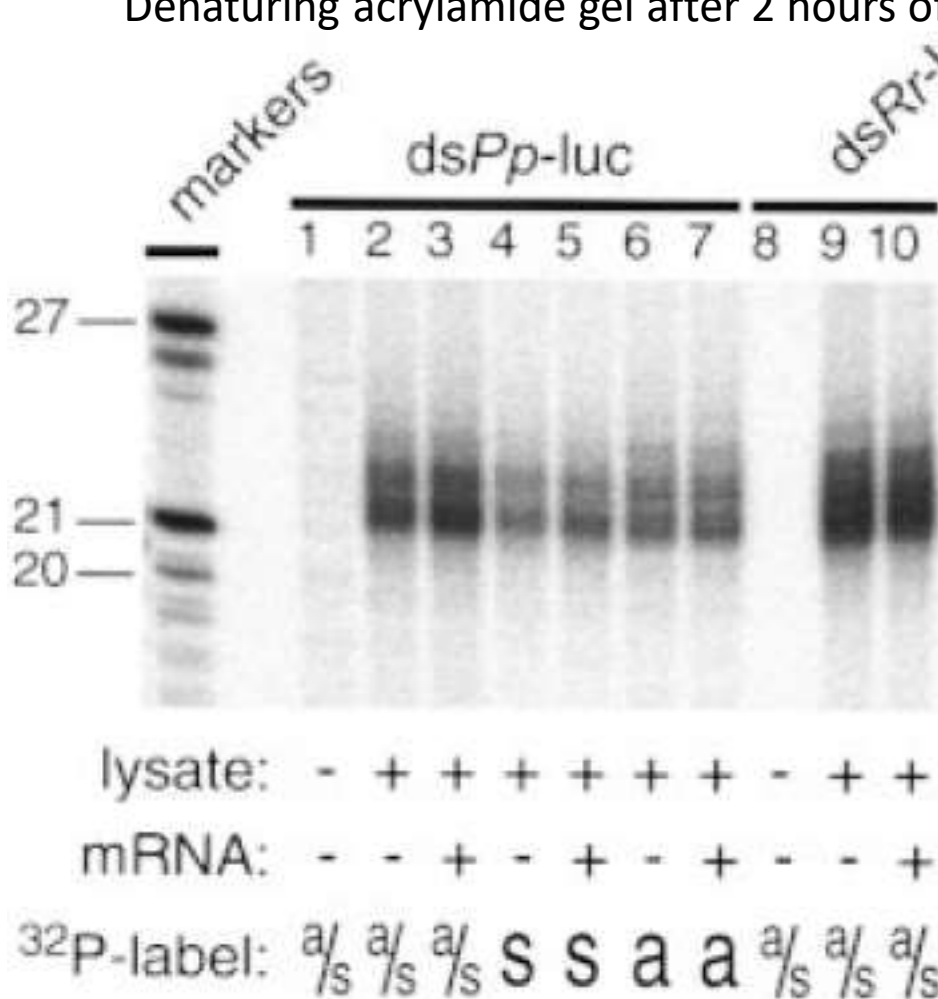
**During the RNAi reaction, both strands of the dsRNA are processed to RNA segments 21-23 nucleotides in length.**

Processing of the dsRNA to the small RNA fragments does not require the targeted mRNA.

**The mRNA is cleaved only within the region of identity with the dsRNA. Cleavage occurs at sites 21-23 nucleotides apart, the same interval observed for the dsRNA itself, suggesting that the 21-23 nucleotide fragments from the dsRNA are guiding mRNA cleavage**

## 21-22 nt RNA fragments are produced

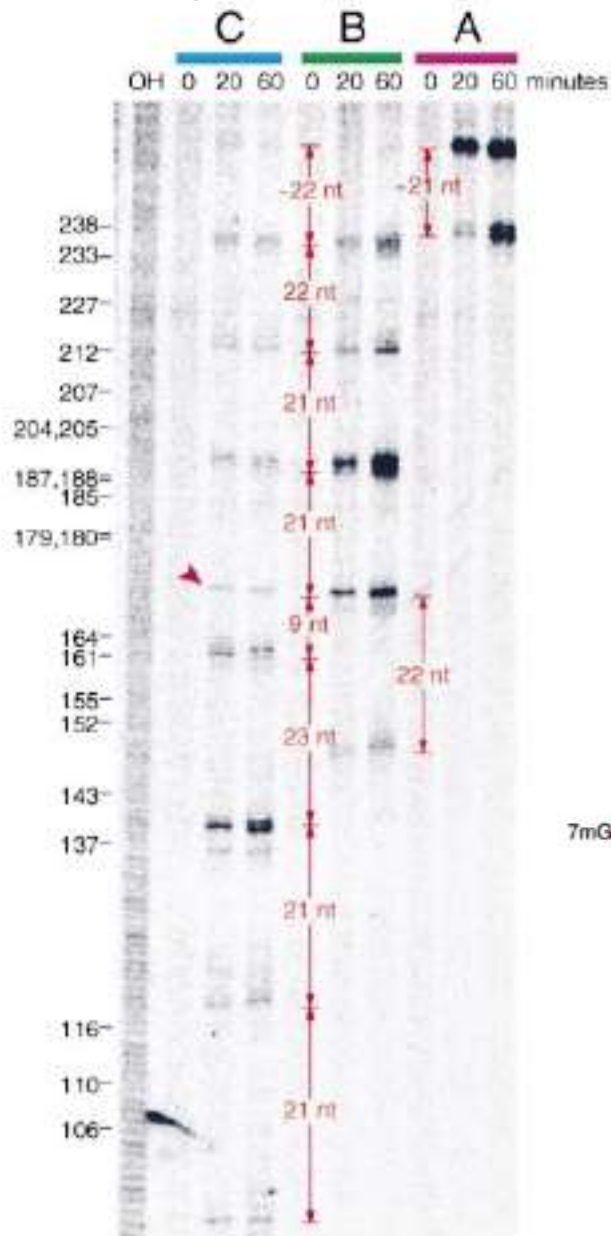
Experiment: *Drosophila* cell lysate + labelled dsRNA (one or both strands).  
Denaturing acrylamide gel after 2 hours of incubation.



### Results:

- 21-mer formation does not require the presence of the corresponding mRNA.
- both strands are equally processed.

# The target mRNA is cleaved in 21-23 nt intervals

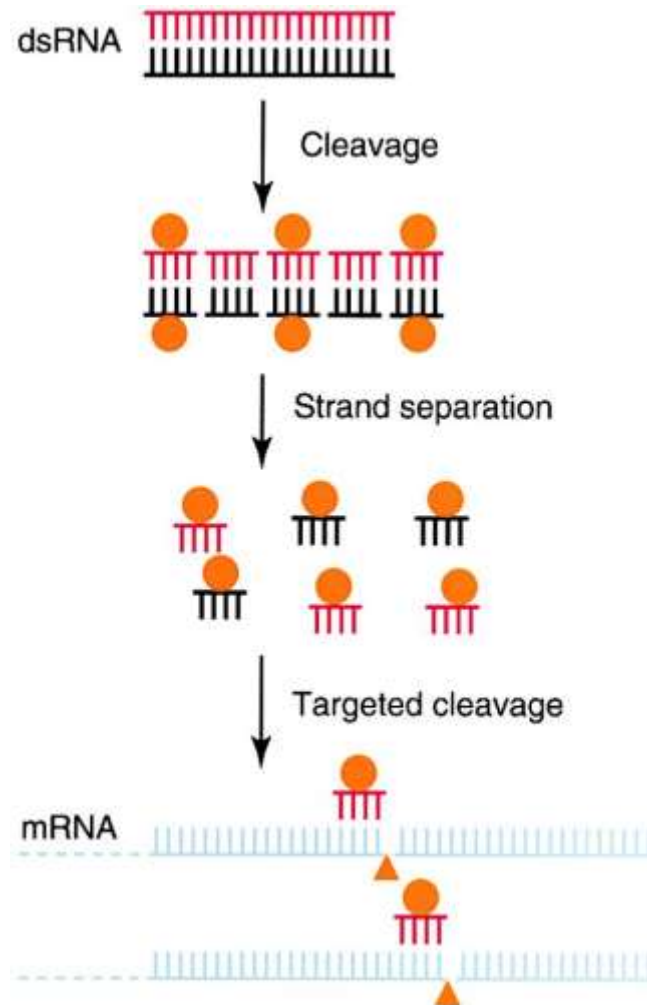


3 different target RNAs were tested (A, B, C).

Intermediate digestion products show differences of 21-23 nt.



# A first model for the mechanism RNAi



Zamore et al, Cell, v101 pp25-33 (2000)



# miRNA

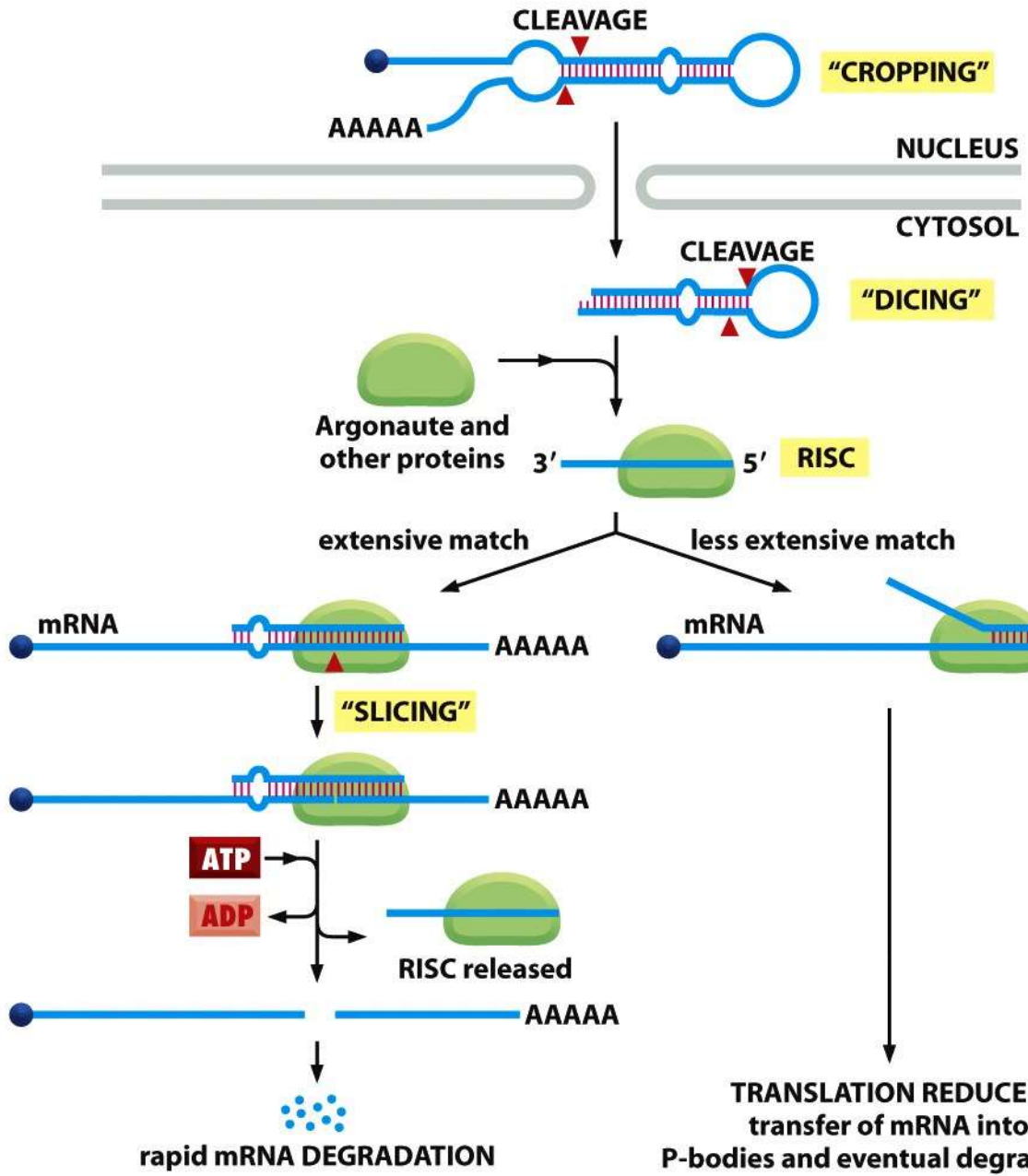
MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are genomically encoded non-coding RNAs that help regulate gene expression, particularly during development.

Mature miRNAs are structurally similar to siRNAs produced from exogenous dsRNA, but before reaching maturity, miRNAs must first undergo extensive post-transcriptional modification.

An miRNA is expressed from a much longer RNA-coding gene as a primary transcript known as a *pri-miRNA* which is processed, in the cell nucleus, to a 70-nucleotide stem-loop structure called a *pre-miRNA* by the microprocessor complex.

**MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are endogenous approximately 22 nt RNAs that can play important regulatory roles in animals and plants by targeting mRNAs for cleavage or translational repression.**

# miRNA processing and mechanism

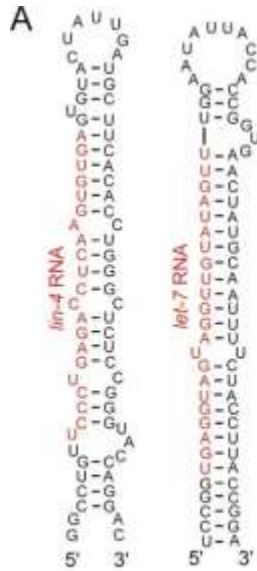


Precursor miRNA –complementarity  
Between one part of sequence & another  
Form double strand structure  
in cytosol it cleaved by dicer enzyme  
And form miRNA.  
CONJUCATE WITH RNA INDUCED  
SILENCING COMPLEX  
In plants RNA:RNA match is extensive-  
Cleaves the target m RNA and rapid  
degradation

Less extensive does not slice the m RNA  
TRANSLATION OF m RNA is repressed  
Effect is associated with shortening of  
Poly A tail  
The destabilized m RNA moved to cytosol  
Structure called processing bodies, which  
Contains RNA and m RNA degrading enzymes

Figure 7-112 Molecular Biology of the Cell (© Garland Science 2008)

First miRNA  
in *C.elegans*

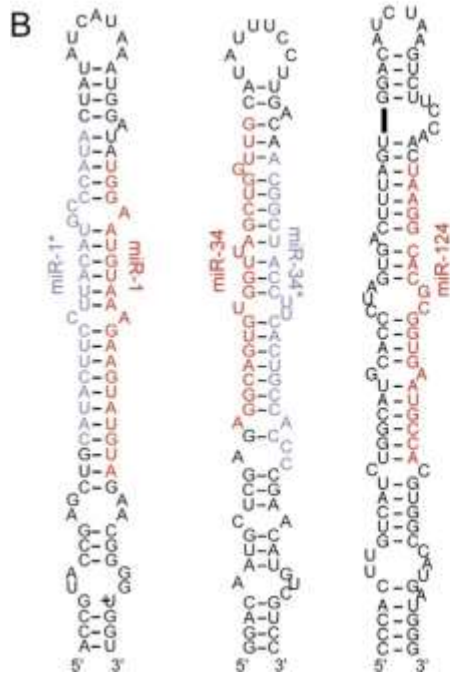


Human: 200-255 miRNA

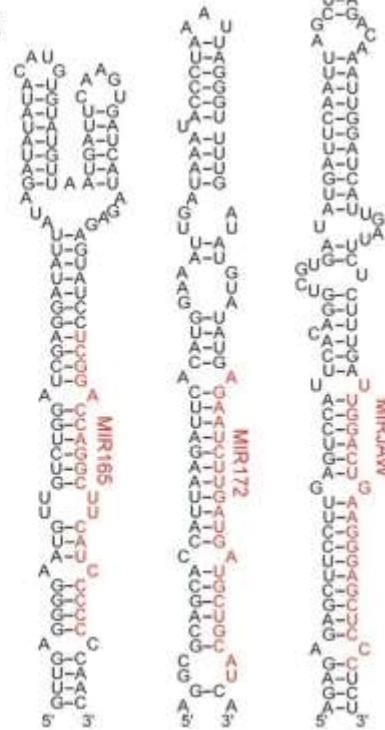
*C.elegans*: 103-120 miRNA

*Drosophila*: 96-124 miRNA

miRNA  
in *C.elegans*  
with homologs  
In flies and human



**C**



miRNA  
in Plants

# Functions ??

Table 1. MicroRNAs and Their Functions: Examples for which Phenotypic Consequences of Disrupted or Ectopic miRNA Regulation Are Known

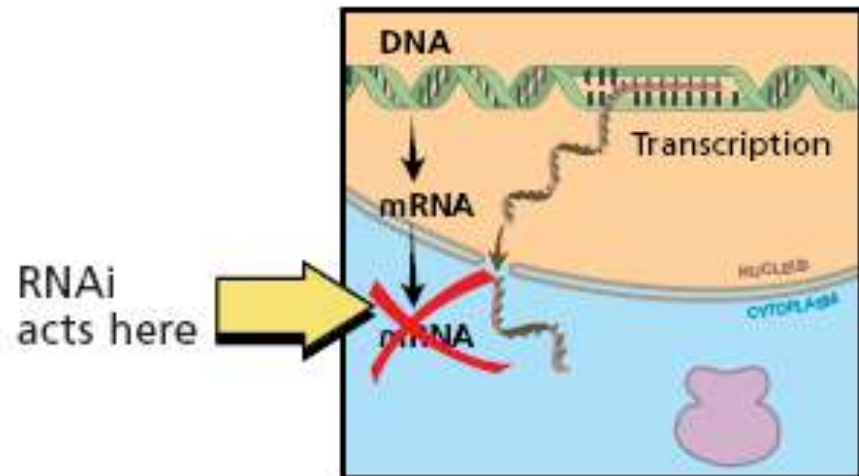
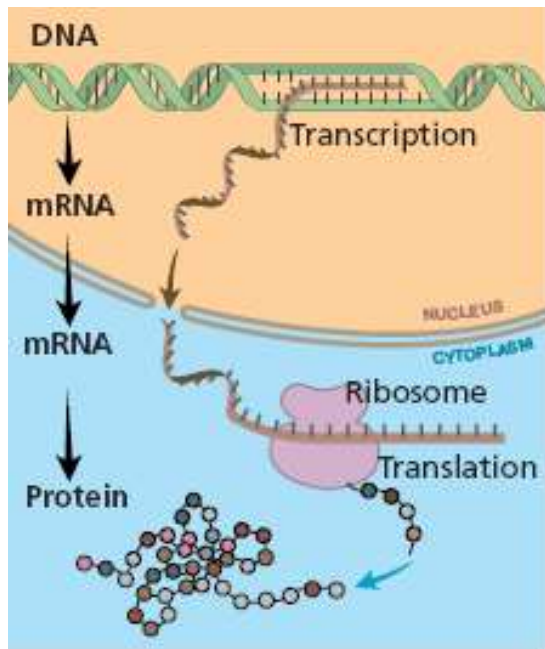
miRNA	Target Gene(s)	Biological Role of miRNA/Target Gene	Refs
<b>Nematodes</b>			
<i>lin-4</i> RNA	<i>Ce lin-14</i> probable transcription factor	Timing of early larval developmental transitions	1,2
	<i>Ce lin-28</i> cold shock domain protein	Timing of early larval developmental transitions	3
<i>let-7</i> RNA	<i>Ce lin-41</i> probable RNA-binding protein	Timing of late larval developmental transitions	4,5
	<i>Ce hbl-1</i> transcription factor	Timing of late larval developmental transitions	6,7
<i>lxy-6</i> RNA	<i>Ce cog-1</i> transcription factor	Left/right asymmetry of chemoreceptor expression	8
<b>Insects</b>			
<i>bantam</i> miRNA	<i>Dm hid</i> pro-apoptotic protein	Apoptosis and growth control during development	9
miR-14	unknown	Apoptosis and fat metabolism	10
<b>Mammals</b>			
miR-181	unknown	Hematopoietic differentiation	11
<b>Plants</b>			
miR165/166	<i>At REV</i> and related transcription factors	Axial meristem initiation and leaf development	12-14
miR172	<i>At AP2</i> and related transcription factors	Flower development; timing transition to flowering	15-18
miR-JAW	<i>At TCP4</i> and related transcription factors	Leaf development, embryonic patterning	19
miR159	<i>At MYB33</i> and related transcription factors	Leaf development	12,15,19

Species abbreviations: *Caenorhabditis elegans*, *Ce*; *Drosophila melanogaster*, *Dm*; *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *At*.

1 (Lee et al., 1993); 2 (Wightman et al., 1993); 3 (Moss et al., 1997); 4 (Reinhart et al., 2000); 5 (Slack et al., 2000); 6 (Abrahante et al., 2003); 7 (Lin et al., 2003); 8 (Johnston and Hobert, 2003); 9 (Brennecke et al., 2003); 10 (Xu et al., 2003); 11 (Chen et al., 2004); 12 (Rhoades et al., 2002); 13 (Tang et al., 2003); 14 (Emery et al., 2003); 15 (Park et al., 2002); 16 (Kasschau et al., 2003); 17 (Chen, 2003); 18 (Aukerman and Sakai, 2003); 19 (Palatnik et al., 2003)

# What is RNA interference (RNAi)?

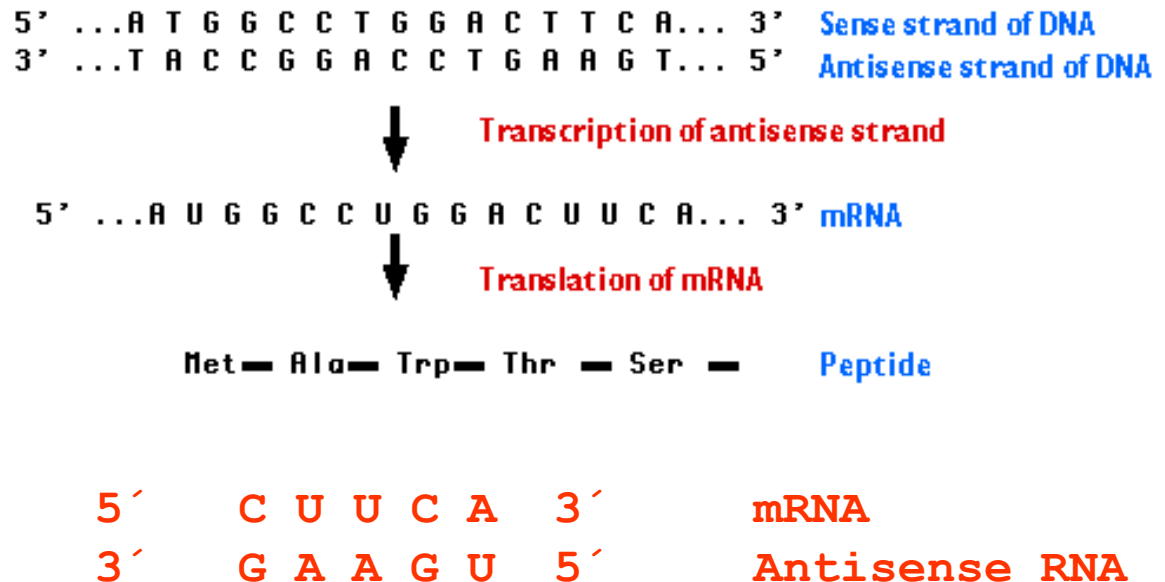
- *“The Process by which dsRNA silences gene expression...”*
- Degradation of mRNA or translation inhibition



*In RNA interference, RNA in double-stranded form breaks down the mRNA for a specific gene, thus stopping production of protein.*

# What are sense and antisense RNA?

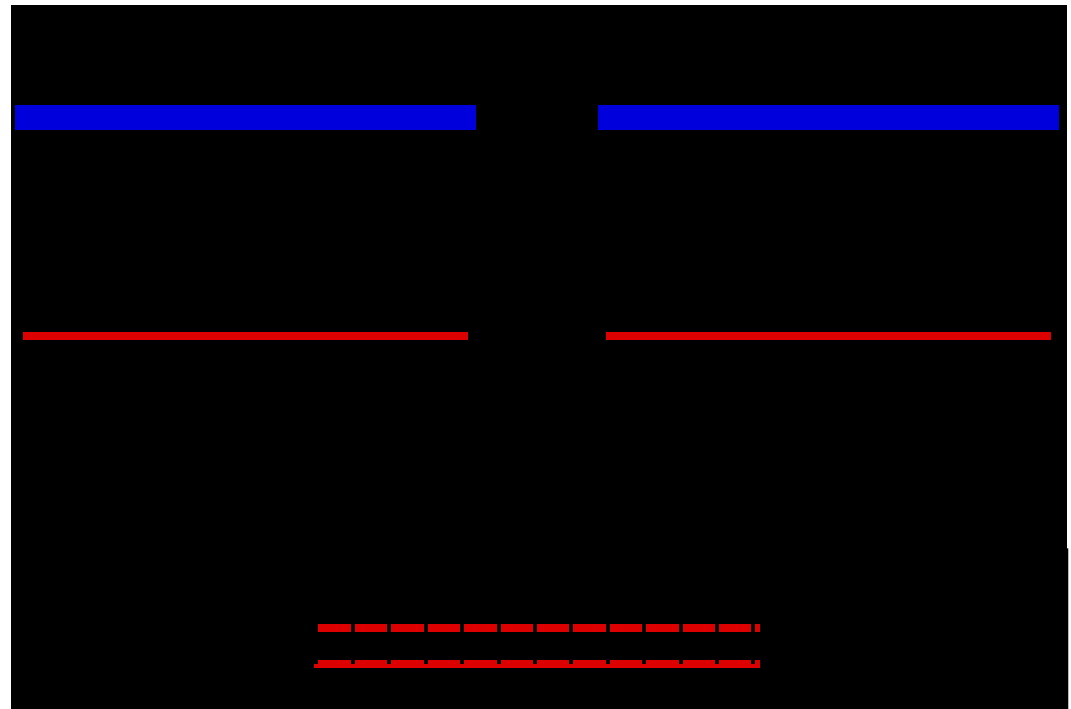
- Messenger RNA (mRNA) is single-stranded, called "sense" because it results in a gene product (protein).



# What are sense and antisense RNA?

- Antisense molecules interact with complementary strands of nucleic acids, modifying expression of genes.

5' C U U C A 3' mRNA  
3' G A A G U 5' Antisense RNA



# RNAi terms

- dsRNA: double stranded RNA, longer than 30 nt
- miRNA: microRNA, 21-25 nt.
  - Encoded by endogenous genes
- siRNA: small-interfering RNA, 21-25 nt.
  - Mostly exogenous origin



# RNAi like phenomena

- Plants
  - Petunias
- Fungi
  - *Neurospora*
- Animals
  - *Caenorhabditis elegans*

# Alternate terms to RNAi

- PTGS (Posttranscriptional Gene Silencing)
- Cosuppression
- Quelling
- Virus-induced gene silencing

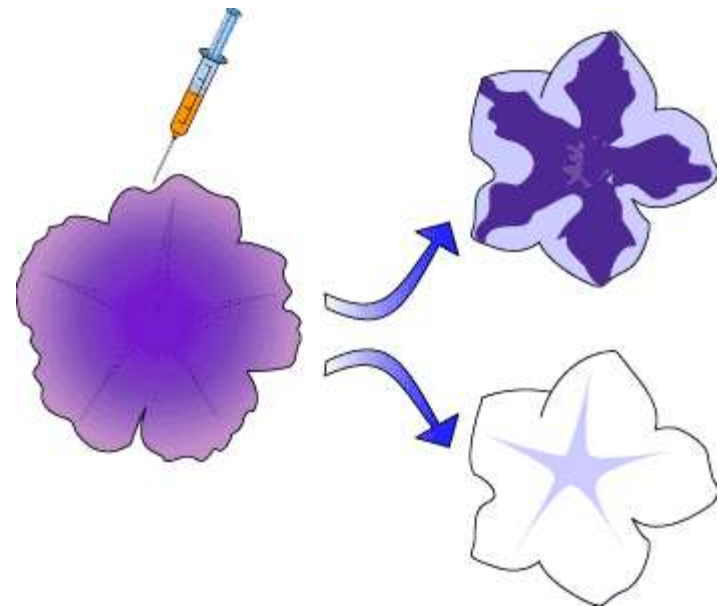
# 1990-Petunias

- Napoli et al. defined an RNAi-like phenomenon and called it “*cosuppression*”
- chalcone synthase (CHS), a key enzyme in flavonoid biosynthesis, the rate-limiting enzyme in anthocyanin biosynthesis, responsible for the purple coloration.

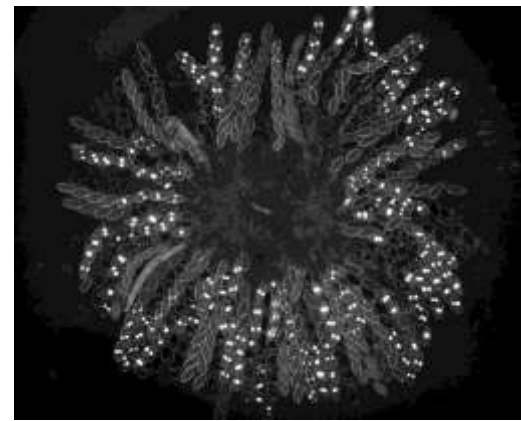


# Overexpression of chalcone synthase in petunias unexpectedly resulted in white petunias

- The levels of endogenous as well as introduced CHS were 50-fold lower than in wild-type petunias, which led the authors to hypothesize that the introduced transgene was “**cosuppressing**” the endogenous CHS gene.



# 1992-The mold

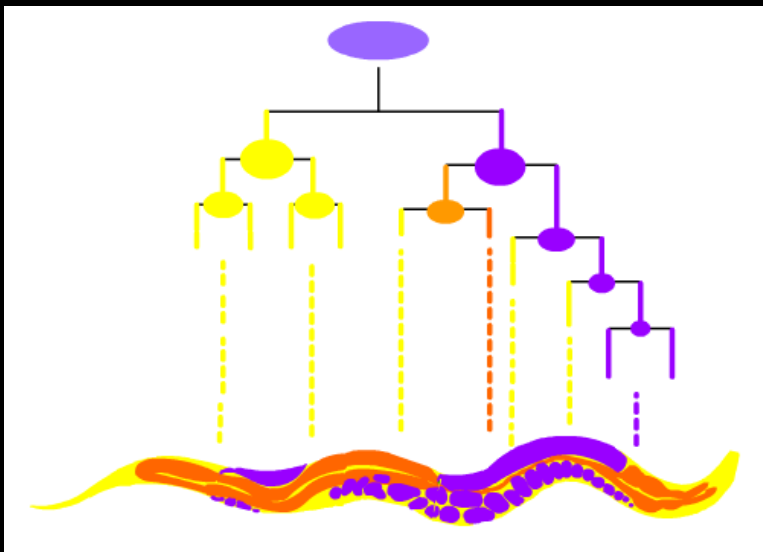


A rosette of the asci

- Carlo Cogoni and Giuseppe Macino of the Università di Roma La Sapienza in Italy introduced a gene needed for **carotenoid** synthesis in the mold *Neurospora crassa*:
  - The introduced gene led to inactivation of the mold's own gene in about 30% of the transformed cells. They called this gene inactivation "quelling."

# 1995-The worm

- Guo and Kemphues studied *par-1* gene during embryogenesis
- The worm, *C. elegans*
  - has a fixed lineage: **hypodermis**, **intestine**, **gonads**
  - asymmetric divisions



# The Laureates

**Andrew Fire**, born in 1959, is a US citizen. Since 2003 he has been professor of Pathology and Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California, USA.

In 1983 he took his PhD in Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He began his research on the nematode *C. elegans* during his time as visiting scientist in Cambridge, England, at the laboratory of Sydney Brenner (Nobel Laureate 2002). When Fire and Mello made their key discoveries about RNA interference, Fire was working at the Carnegie Institution of Washington.



L. CICERO/STANFORD



R. CARLINI/MIAS

**Craig Mello**, born in 1960, is a US citizen and a professor of Molecular Medicine. Since 1994 he has worked within the Program in Molecular Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. He is also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

In 1990 he took his PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology at Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts. Before he moved to the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, he worked at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center.

# How does RNAi work?

## How RNA interference works

Double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) binds to a protein complex, Dicer...



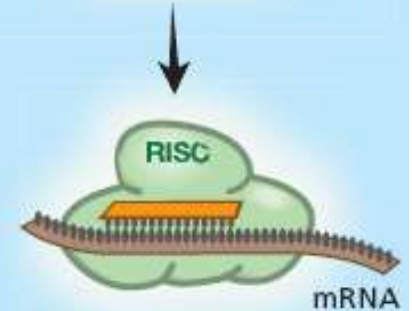
...which cleaves dsRNA into smaller fragments.



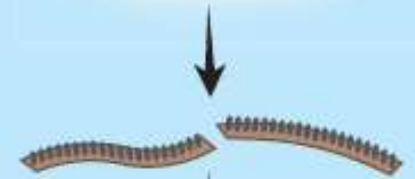
The fragments bind to another protein complex, RISC.



One of the RNA strands is eliminated, while the other serves as a search probe and links RISC to an mRNA molecule.



The mRNA molecule is cleaved and broken down.



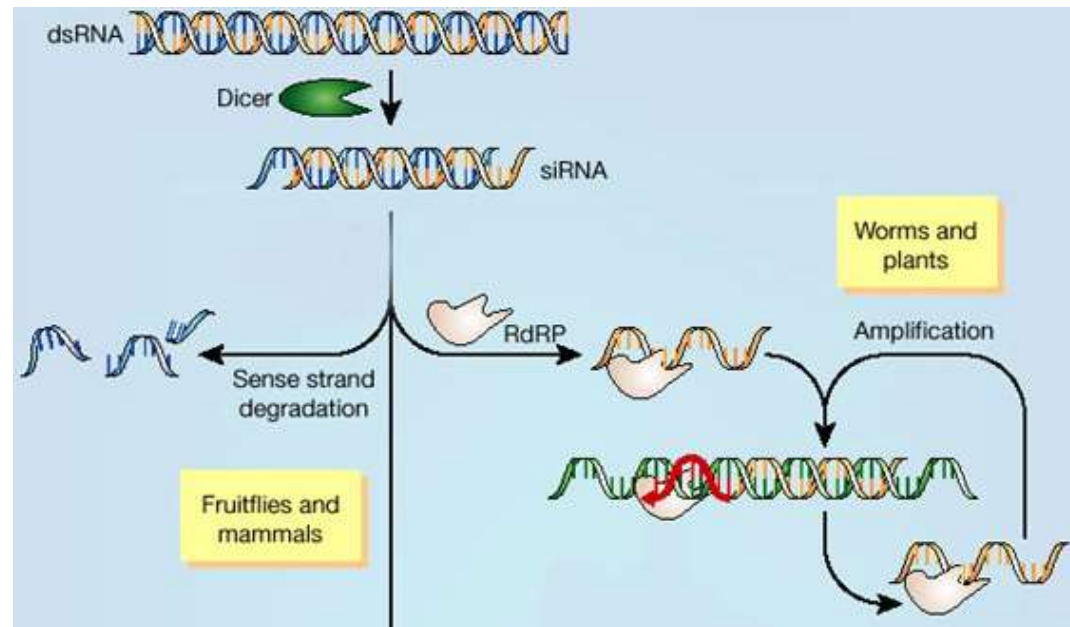
The gene for which the mRNA is a messenger has been silenced and no protein is formed.





# siRNA biogenesis

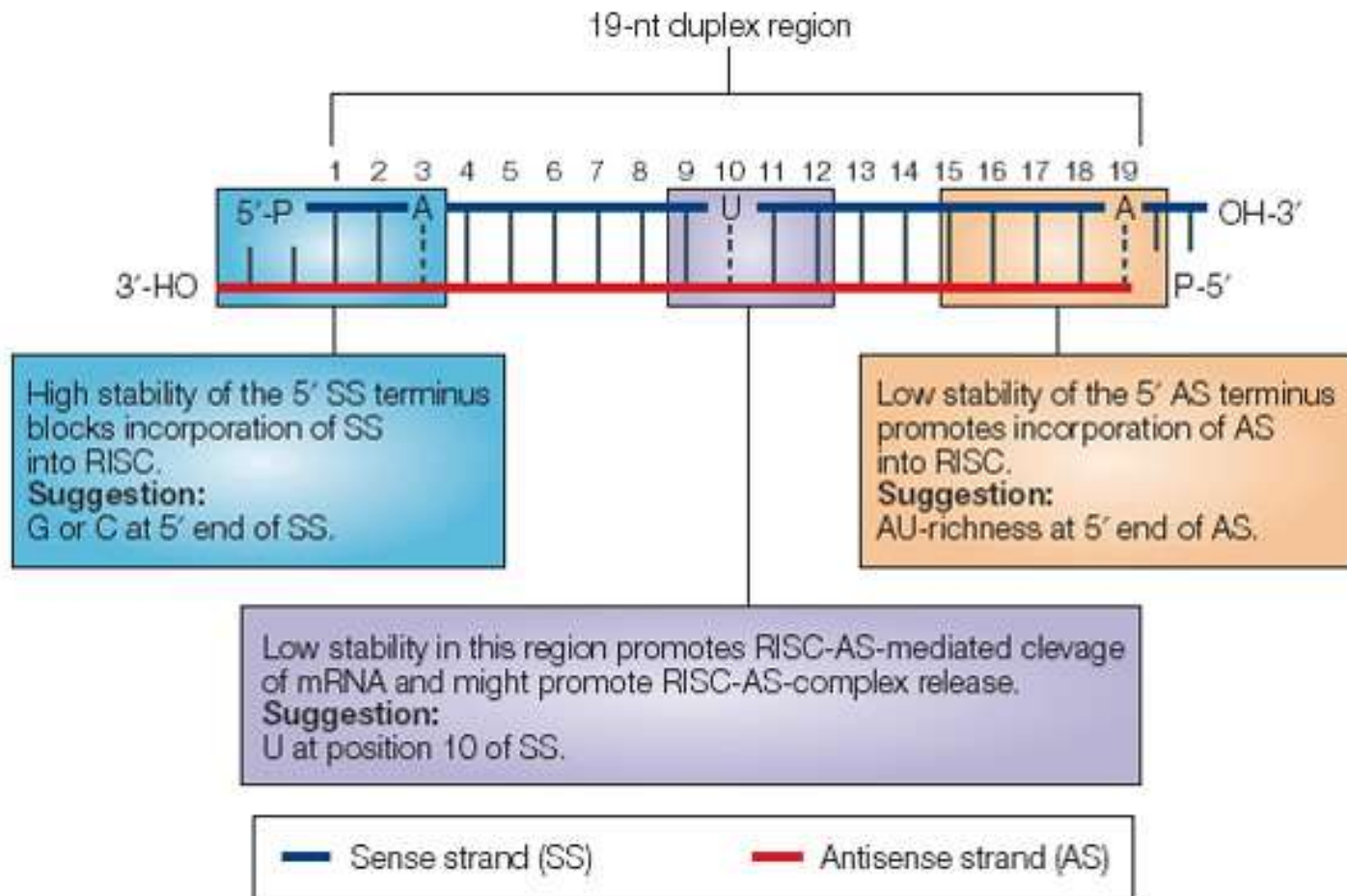
- Dicer (type III RNase III) cleaves long dsRNA into siRNA 21-25nt dsRNA from exogenous sources
  - Symmetric 2nt 3' overhangs, 5' phosphate groups
  - Evidence for amplification in *C. elegans* and plants



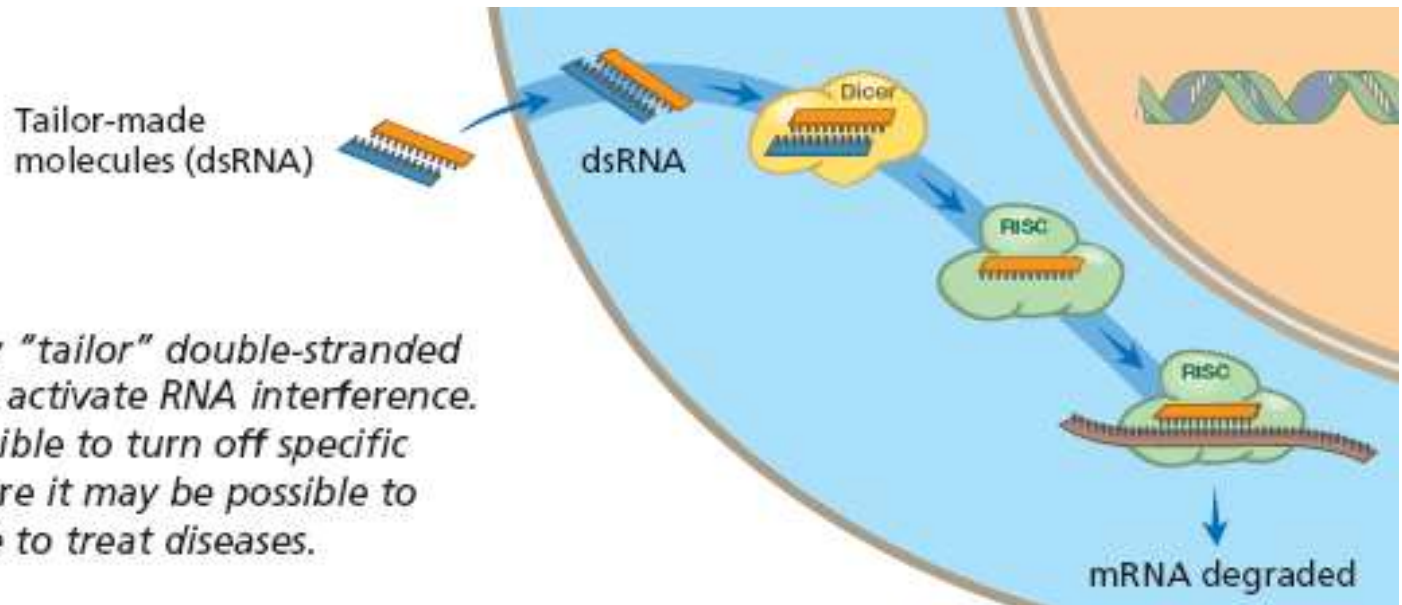
# RNA Induced Silencing Complex (RISC)

- RNAi effector complex
- Preferentially incorporates one strand of unwound RNA [Khvorova et al., 2003]
  - Antisense
- How does it know which is which?
  - The strand with less 5' stability usually incorporated into RISC [Schwarz et al., 2003]

# siRNA design



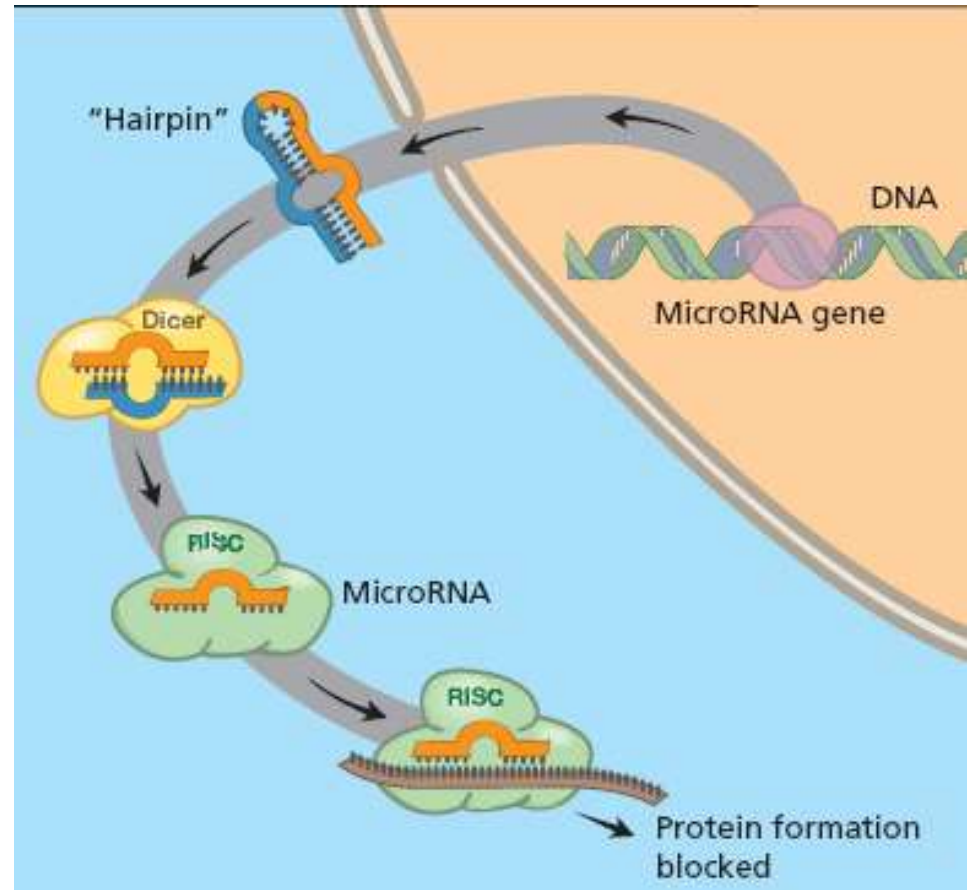
# Custom-made siRNAs



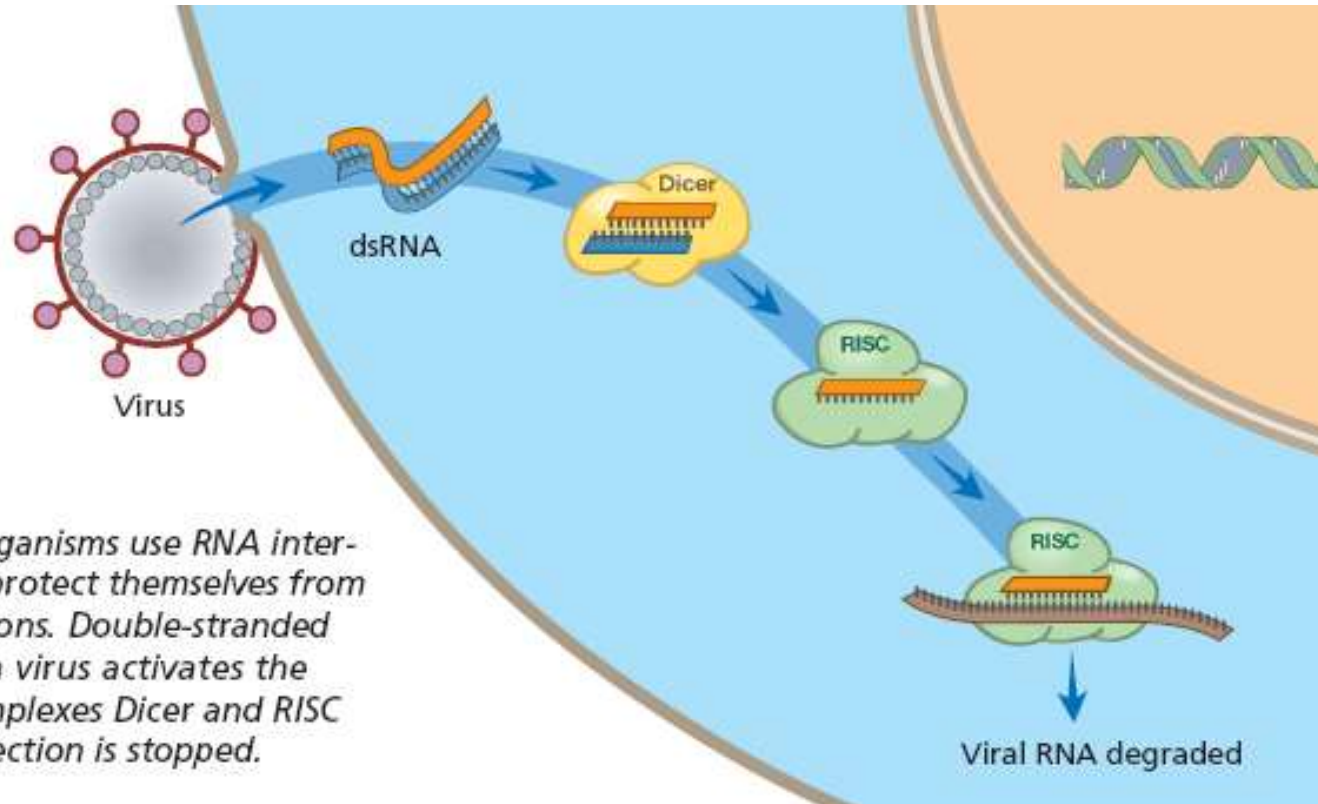
*Scientists can now "tailor" double-stranded RNA molecules to activate RNA interference. This makes it possible to turn off specific genes. In the future it may be possible to use this technique to treat diseases.*

# Endogenous RNAi-miRNA

- We have hundreds of different genes that encode small RNA (collectively, microRNA) whose precursors can form double-stranded RNA. These can activate the RNA interference process and thus switch off the activity of various genes with matching segments.
- First miRNA is lin-4



# Defense Against Viruses



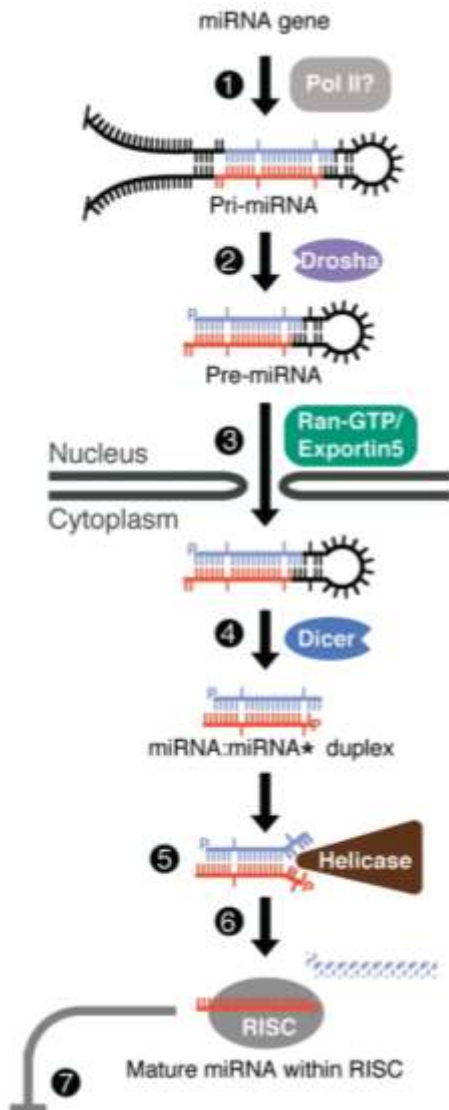
*Primitive organisms use RNA interference to protect themselves from virus infections. Double-stranded RNA from a virus activates the protein complexes Dicer and RISC and the infection is stopped.*

[www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

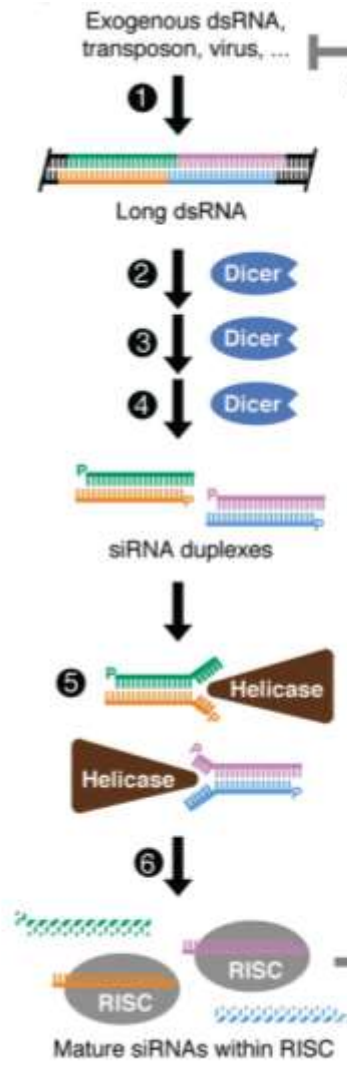
■ Indeed, Baulcombe, Vance, and others have shown that, in the continuing evolutionary war to survive and reproduce, plant viruses have evolved genes that enable them to suppress silencing.



## miRNA



## siRNA



A. miRNAs are produced by the successive actions of two RNaseIII ribonucleases:

Drosha (RNase) and Pasha (dsRNA binding protein) act as a heterodimeric complex in the nucleus.

The resulting pre-miRNA is then exported into the cytoplasm where it is cleaved by Dicer.

The miRNA duplex must be unwound and the miRNA strand be incorporated into RISC.

B. long dsRNA is a substrate for Dicer but not for Drosha. Dicer cut two times to yield the siRNA duplex.

The guide strand is incorporated into RISC.

# Nobel Prize Physiology- 2024



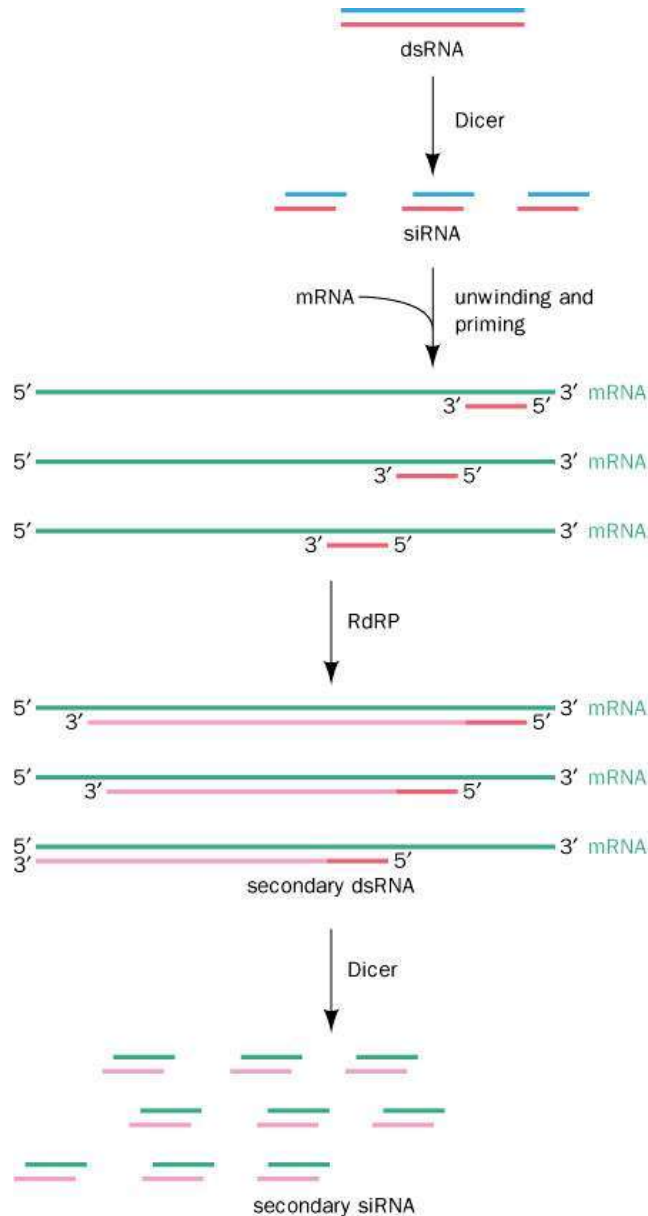
**For the discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation**

1.Lee RC, Feinbaum RL, Ambros V. The *C. elegans* heterochronic gene *lin-4* encodes small RNAs with antisense complementarity to *lin-14*. *Cell*. 1993;75(5):843-854. doi:10.1016/0092-8674(93)90529-y

2.Wightman B, Ha I, Ruvkun G. Posttranscriptional regulation of the heterochronic gene *lin14* by *lin-4* mediates temporal pattern formation in *C. elegans*. *Cell*. 1993;75(5):855-862. doi:10.1016/0092-8674(93)90530-4



# A model for transitive RNAi



1) siRNA resulting from the action of Dicer is unwound and binds to its target mRNA.

2) There it acts as a primer for RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRP).

3) 5'-3' extension.

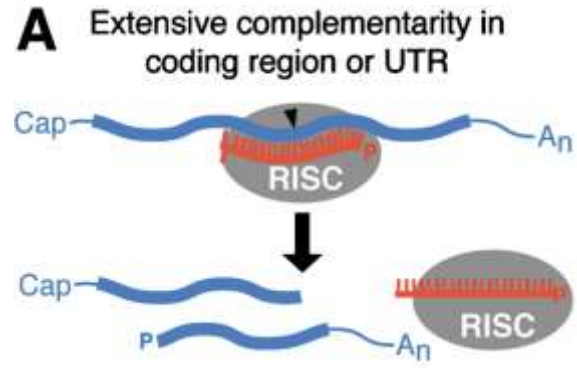
4) The resulting secondary dsRNA is then cleaved by Dicer to form secondary siRNAs.

→ amplification of the siRNA

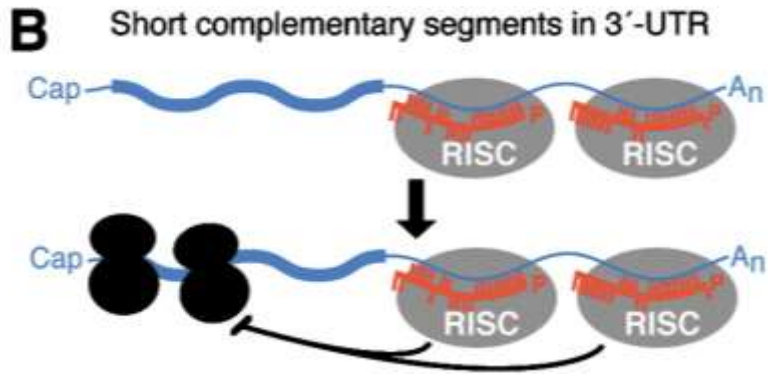
→ genes that are located 5' to the initial target gene may also be silenced.

The effect is limited to 300-500 nt 5' to the initial target site.

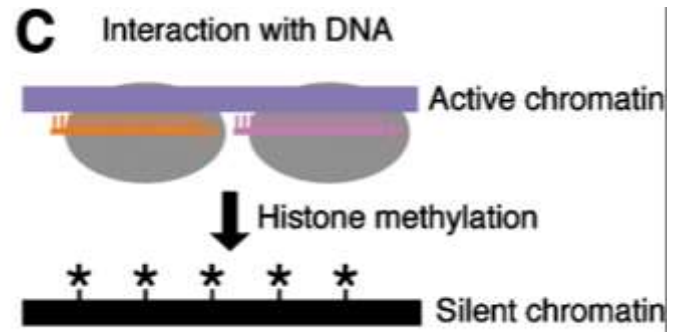
Post-transcriptional  
Cleavage of mRNA



Translational repression  
of the mRNA



Transcriptional  
silencing



# Designing siRNA

- The target sequence should be 50-100 bp downstream of start codon or in the 3' UTR
- Search for a 23nt long sequence
- Ensure that your target sequence is not homologous to any other genes
- Avoid more than three guanosines or three cytosines in a row
- avoid stretches of > 4 T's or A's
- secondary structure of the target mRNA does not appear to have a strong effect on silencing
- Designing several siRNA's helps to find a highly efficient one

# Example for siRNA's

## CEP

targeted region (cDNA): 5' AACTGGACTTCCAGAAGAACATC

sense siRNA: 5' CUGGACUUCCAGAAGAACA<sub>dt</sub>

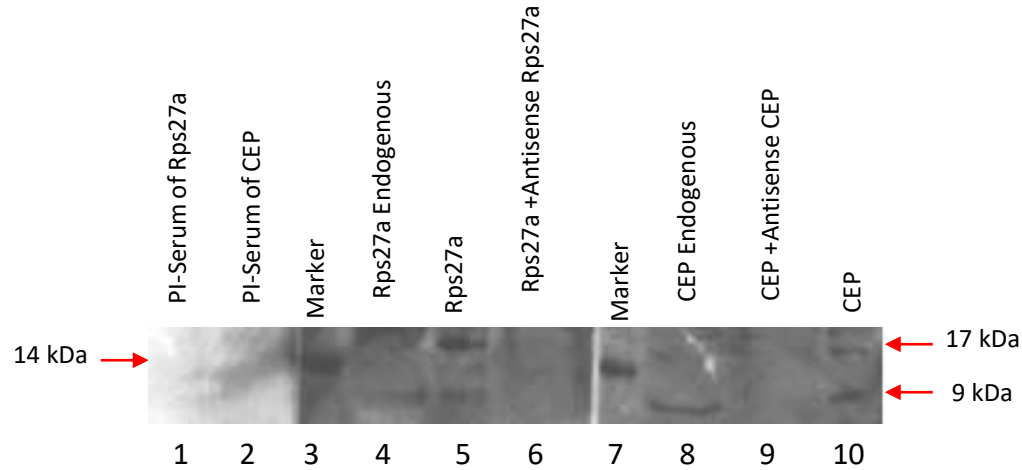
antisense siRNA: 5' UGUUCUUCUGGAAGUCCAG<sub>dt</sub>

## RPS27a

targeted region (cDNA): 5' AACGTACGCGGAATACTTCGATT

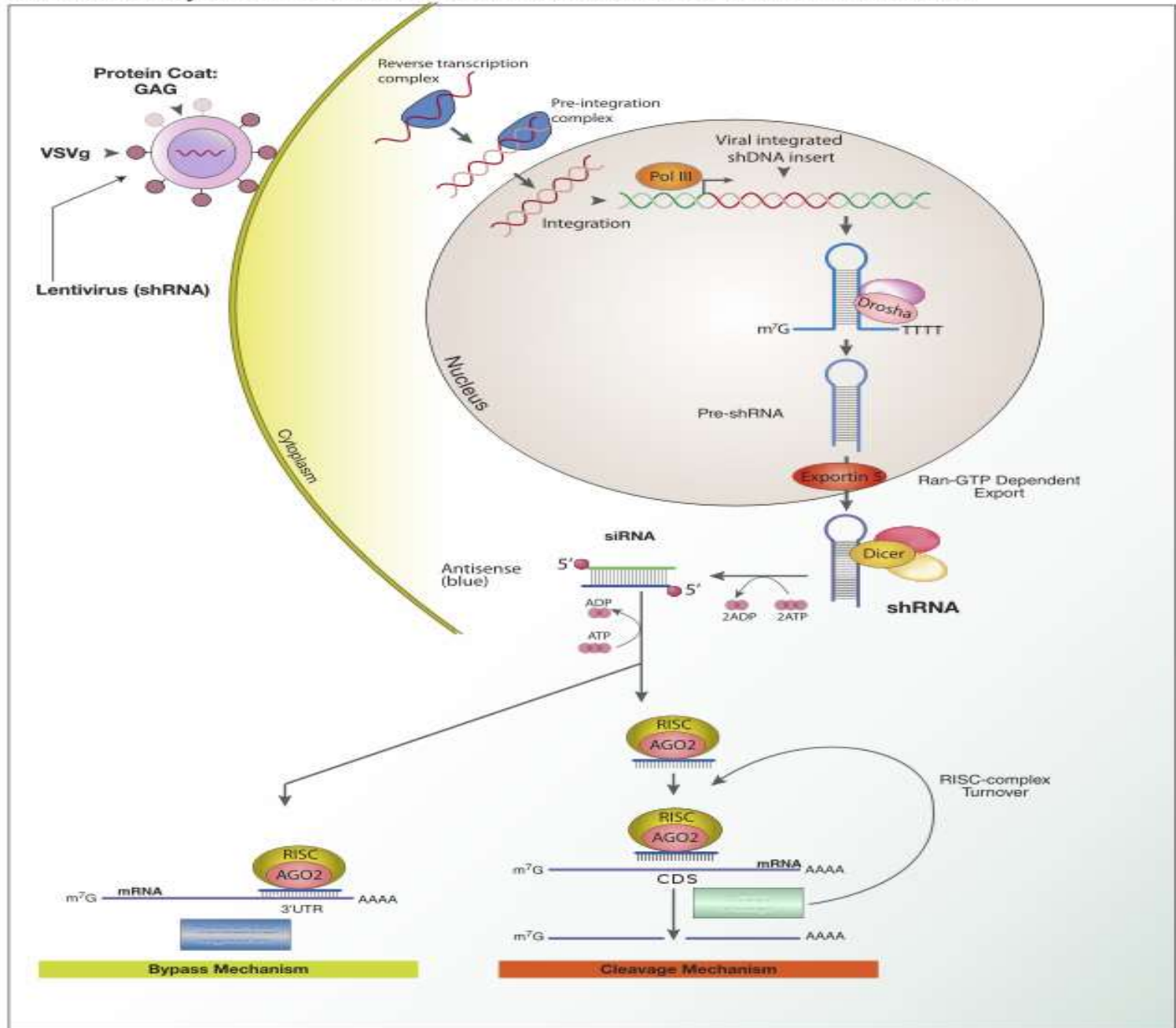
sense siRNA: 5' CGUACGCGGAAUACUUCGAdTdT

antisense siRNA: 5' UCGAAGUAUCCGCGUACGdTdT



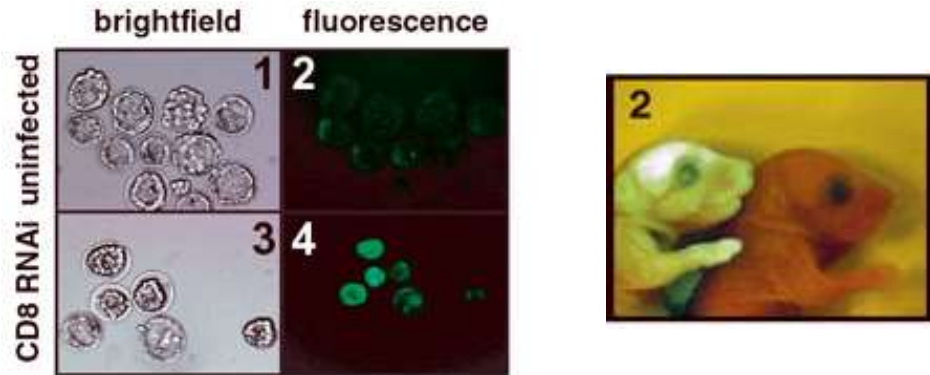
Detection of Rps27a and CEP expression in Huh7 cell lines. Total cells were lysed after 48hr posttransfection with Rps27a (lanes 5), anti-Rps27a (lanes 6), CEP (lanes 10) and anti-CEP (lanes 9).

# Lentiviral Delivery of shRNAs and the Mechanism of RNAi Interference in Mammalian Cells.



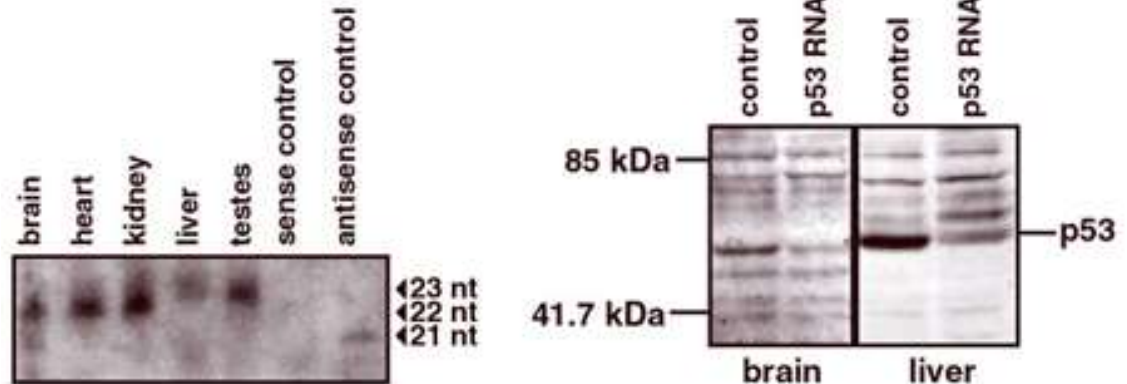
# Functional silencing of genes in mice by Lentivirus-infection

Generation of lentivirus infected zygotes



Silencing of p53:

Tissue was harvested from 8-wk-old mice



# Application of Antisense Oligonucleotides

## Functional Genomics and Target Validation:

Antisense oligonucleotides can be used to selectively manipulate the expression of chosen gene or genes. The process results in :

- A pharmacophore with a well-understood mechanism of action.
- Well characterized distribution and a safe side effect profile which could be used as a human therapeutic.



# Application of Antisense Oligonucleotides

## Potential Therapeutic Applications of Antisense Oligonucleotides

- A wide variety of potential therapeutic applications of antisense oligonucleotides has been reported in the last few years.

- Major areas of these therapeutic applications include:

- 2.1. Antiviral

- 2.2. Antibacterial

- 2.3. CNS Therapeutics: Antisense Oligonucleotides will address unmet medical needs for CNS diseases.

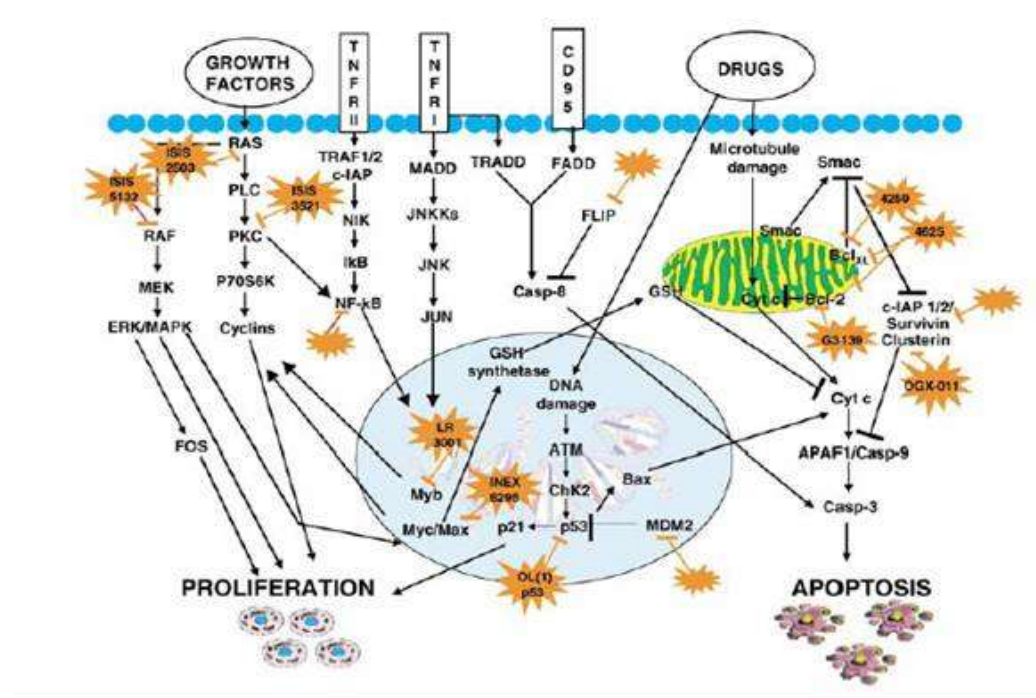
2.4. Inflammation Therapeutics: e.g. Colitis, Lupus, Lung inflammation, Skin inflammation, Transplantation rejection, Reperfusion injury, Rheumatoid Arthritis and Ocular disease.

2.5. Cardiovascular Therapeutics: e.g. prevention of restenosis, myocardial infarction, rejection in heart transplantation, hypertension and atherosclerosis.

2.6. Regulation of Apoptosis: which will address treatment of cancer, psoriasis, fibrosis, atherosclerosis, restenosis and others

## 2. Potential Therapeutic Applications of Antisense Oligonucleotides

### 2.7. Anticancer:



- The most recent antisense application as therapeutic tool is aimed to treat the **SARS** and **bird Flu**

# RNA interference in biotechnology

Engineering food plants.

For example, cotton seeds are rich in dietary protein but naturally contain the toxic terpenoid product gossypol, making them unsuitable for human consumption.

RNAi has been used to produce cotton stocks whose seeds contain reduced levels of delta-cadinene synthase, a key enzyme in gossypol production, without affecting the enzyme's production in other parts of the plant, where gossypol is important in preventing damage from plant pests.

Similar efforts have been directed toward the reduction of the cyanogenic natural product linamarin in cassava plants.

## Clinical Trials of Antisense Oligonucleotides

Table 4: Antisense Compounds Approved or in Clinical Trials (completion based on references 7,12,33,205 )

Product	Company	Sequence	Chemistry	Target	Disease	Route of Administration	Status (Phase)
Vitravene™	Isis/Novartis	GCGTTTGCTCTTCTTCTTGCG	PS	IE2	CMV Retinitis	Intravitreal	On Market
Affintak™	Isis/Lilly	GTTCTCGCTGGTGAGTTTCA	PS	PKC-α	Cancer-NSCLC, others	Parenteral	III
Alicaforsen™	Isis	GCCCAAGCTGGCATCCGTCA	PS	ICAM-1	Crohn's Disease	Parenteral	III
ISIS 2302	Isis	GCCCAAGCTGGCATCCGTCA	PS	ICAM-1	Topical Psoriasis	Topical	II
ISIS 2302	Isis	GCCCAAGCTGGCATCCGTCA	PS	ICAM-1	Ulcerative Colitis	Enema	II
ISIS 2503	Isis	TCCGTCATCGCTCCTCAGGG	PS	H-ras	Cancer-pancreatic, others	Parenteral	II
ISIS 14803	Isis/Elan	GTGCTCATGGTGCACGGTCT	PS-DNA	Antiviral	Hepatitis C	Parenteral	II
ISIS 104838	Isis/Elan	GCTGATTAGAGAGAGGTCCC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gen. Chimeric PS	TNF-α	Rheumatoid Arthritis	Parenteral/Oral	II
ISIS 104838	Isis	GCTGATTAGAGAGAGGTCCC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gen. Chimeric PS	TNF-α	Psoriasis	Topical	II
OGX-011	Isis	N/A	N/A	Clusterin	Cancer	Parenteral	I
Genasense™	Genta	TCTCCCAGCGTGCGCCAT	PS	Bcl-2	Cancer	Intravenous	II/III
E2F Decoy	Corgentech	N/A	N/A	E2F	Atherosclerosis	Ex-vivo	II/III

antisense oligonucleotide (**fomivirsen**) to treat Cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis

# Timeline

1990

cosuppression of purple color in plants

1998

dsRNA injection in worms

1999

short RNAs  
identified in plants

RNAi shown *in vitro*

2000

RISC activity partially purified

2001

siRNAs identified

Dicer identified

2002

RNAi used against HIV

genome-wide RNAi  
screens begin

**Thanks for your Attention**

## **Acknowledgement**

- ❖ The presentation is being used for educational and non-commercial purposes.
- ❖ Thanks are due to all the original contributors and entities whose pictures were used in the creation of this presentation.