

# Fish PGC cryopreservation: is it a realistic tool for fish conservation biology?

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5th Training School, Valencia

# Contents:



For what purpose should we cryopreserve PGCs?



PGC cryopreservation

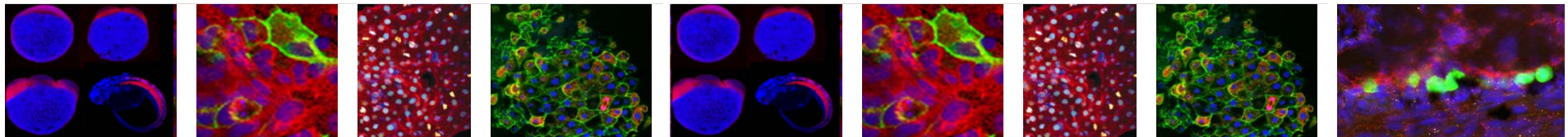
- PGC visualization

- Cryopreservation protocols

- How to evaluate the success of a PGC cryopreservation method?

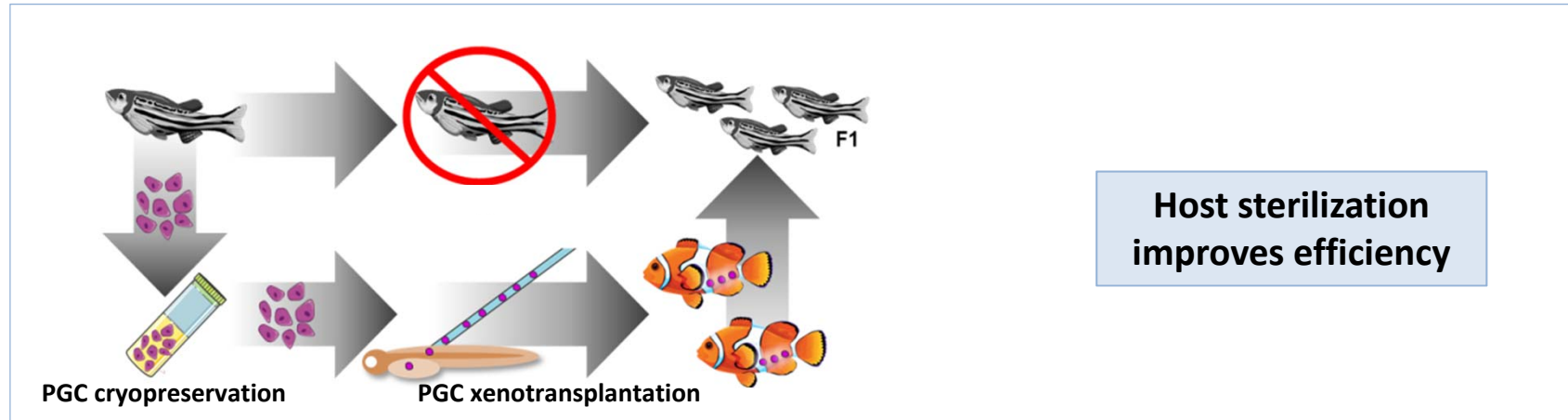


Limitations and future perspectives

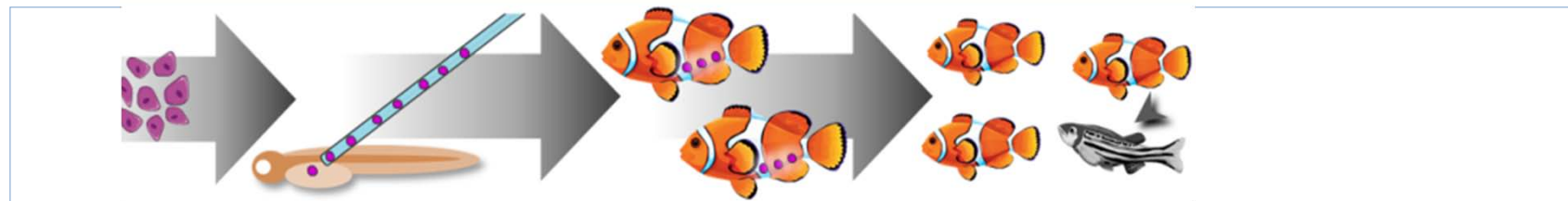


# Why and what for?

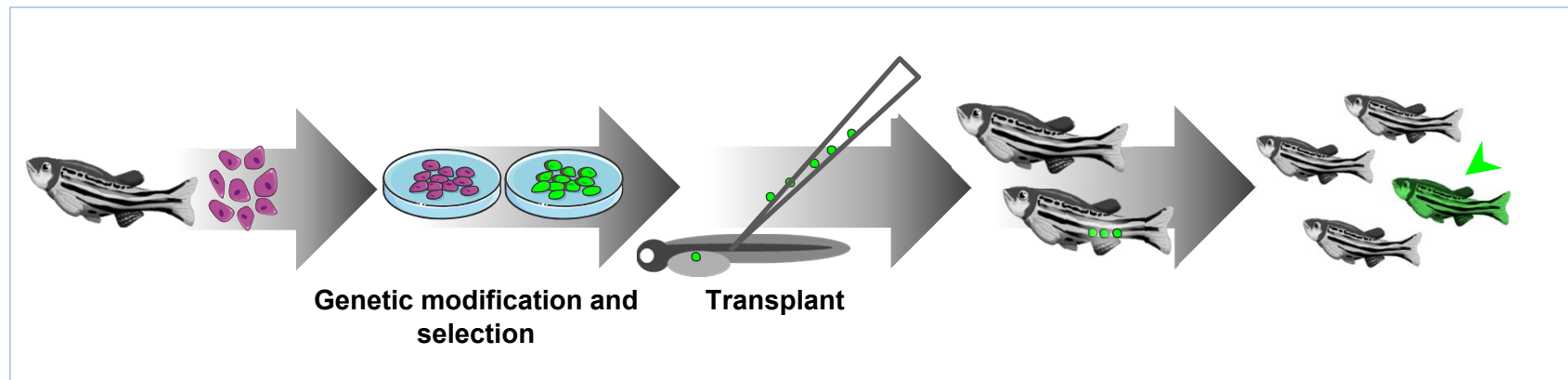
Conservation of endangered species



Surrogate production



Biotechnological applications



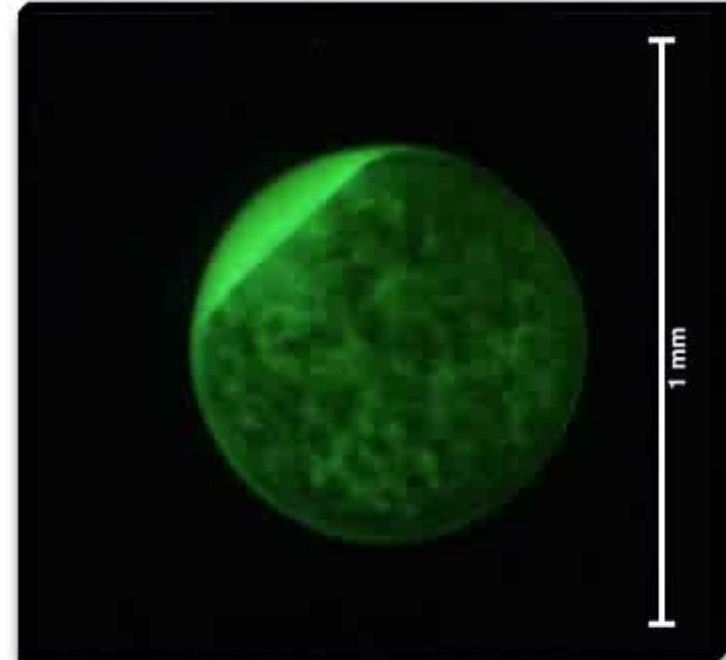
# PGC cryopreservation: tools for PGC visualization

## TIME LAPSE

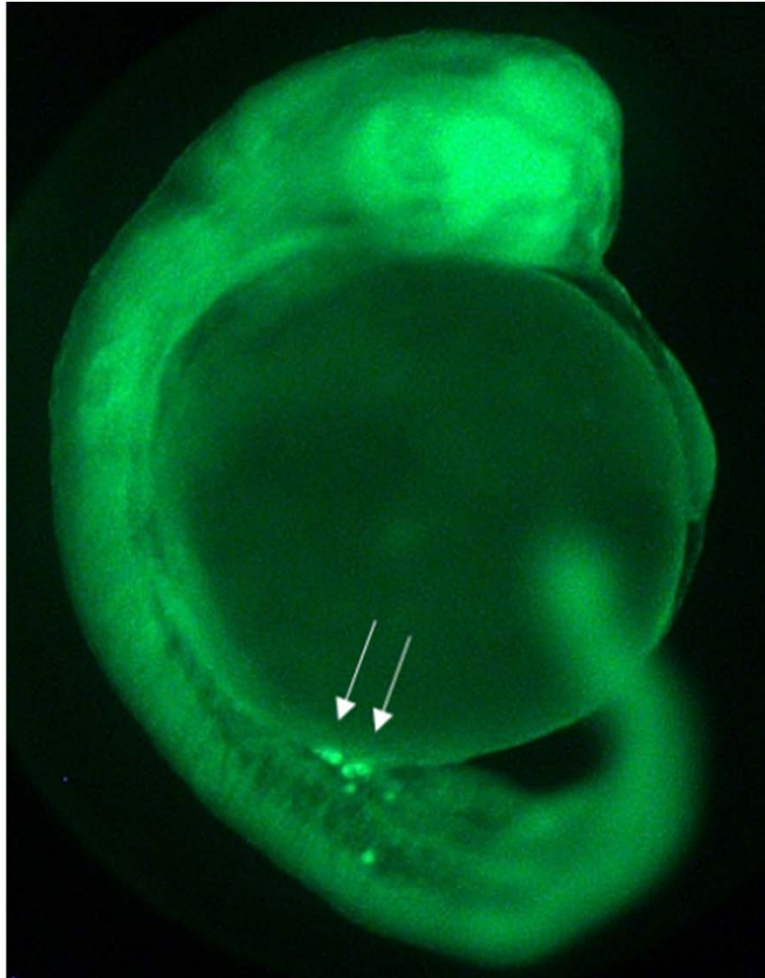
Bright field



Fluorescence field



## PGC cryopreservation: tools for PGC visualization



*Riesco and Robles 2015*

There are alternative non-transgenic methods

➤ GFP-nos 3'UTR mRNA

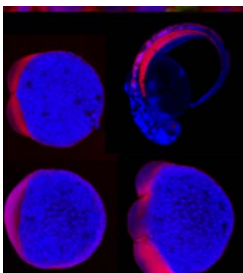
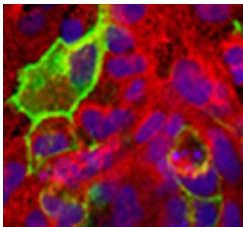
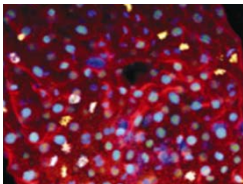
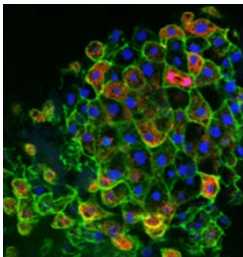
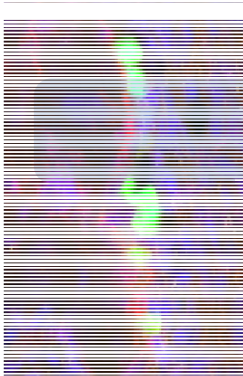
➤ FITC (for sturgeon) *Saito et al. 2014*



# PGC cryopreservation: protocols

Table of PGCs cryopreservation protocols in different teleost species

n.	SPECIES	BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE	PROTOCOL AND SURVIVAL EFFICIENCY				EVALUATION METHOD					
1	<i>Anguilla japonica</i>	Kawakami et al., 2012a YIE: Yolk-intact embryos YDE: Yolk-depleted embryos	Cryoprotectants		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue					
			PS: 1.5 M EG	VS: 3 M EG	Vitrification on a nylon mesh and stored into a cryogenic vial							
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)		Survival PGCs rate							
			1) 1/10	4) 1/20	7) 1/30	1	2	3	4	5	6	
			2) 5/10	5) 5/20	8) 5/30	YIE	-	-	-	-	-	
			3) 10/10	6) 10/20	9) 10/30	YDE	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	≈ 76%
							7	8	9			
						YIE	0%	0%	0%			
						YDE	0%	0%	0%			
2	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	Kawakami et al., 2012b YDE: Yolk-depleted embryos	Cryoprotectants		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue					
			EG	DMSO	Vitrification on a nylon mesh and stored into a cryogenic vial							
			PS: 1.5 M	VS: 3 M	PS: 1.5 M	VS: 3 M		Survival PGCs rate				
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)			EG		DMSO				
			1) 5/30	3) 20/30	5) 10/50	7) 30/50	1) ≈ 71%	5) ≈ 48%	1) ≈ 9%			
			2) 10/30	4) 30/30	6) 20/50		2) ≈ 77%	6) ≈ 38%	2) ≈ 44%			
							3) ≈ 74%	7) 0%	3) ≈ 54%			
							4) ≈ 48%					
3	<i>Danio rerio</i>	Higaki et al., 2010 EM: Embryos	Cryoprotectants (VS)		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue					
			PS	VS	Vitrification on a nylon mesh and stored into a cryogenic vial							
			A) 2 M	B) 3 M	No. Of membrane-intact PGCs per embryo							
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)			EG	1	2	3	4		
			1) 10/20	3) 10/30		A)	0	≈ 1.3	≈ 0.2	≈ 3.3		
			2) 20/20	4) 20/30		B)	≈ 0.3	≈ 3.5	≈ 3.7	≈ 4.2		
						DMSO	1	2	3	4		
						A)	0	≈ 0.2	0	≈ 1		
						B)	0	≈ 1.5	≈ 0.2	≈ 2		
4	Riesco et al., 2012	GR: Genital ridges EM: Embryos DC: Dissociated cells	Cryoprotectants		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue and pseudopoda emission					
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)		Survival PGCs rate							
			1) (EM) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP	2) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP	0.5 mL straw	1) ≈ 90%		2) ≈ 90%	3) ≈ 90%	4) ≈ 50%	5) -	
3) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP + 10 mg/mL AFP	4) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP + 20 mg/mL AFP	Cryovial	1) ≈ 75%	2) ≈ 75%	3) -	4) -	5) -					
5) (DC) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP		Microdrop	1) -	2) ≈ 95%	3) -	4) -	5) -					
						Microcapsule	1) -	2) -	3) -	4) -	5) ≈ 25%	
5	Higaki et al., 2013	YDE: Yolk-depleted embryos	Cryoprotectants		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue and pseudopoda emission					
			PS	VS	Vitrification on a nylon mesh and stored into a cryogenic vial							
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)		YDE (No. of membrane-intact PGCs per embryo)							
			A) 2 M EG + 1 M DMSO	A) 3 M EG + 2 M DMSO		A	B	C	D	E	F	
			B) 2 M EG + 1 M PG	B) 3 M EG + 2 M PG		1)	-	-	-	-	-	
			C) 2 M DMSO + 1 M EG	C) 3 M DMSO + 2 M EG		2)	≈ 9	≈ 6.5	≈ 8	≈ 6	≈ 5	-
			D) 2 M DMSO + 1 M PG	D) 3 M DMSO + 2 M PG		3)	≈ 9	≈ 6.5	≈ 7.5	≈ 7.5	≈ 7.5	≈ 6.5
			E) 2 M PG + 1 M DMSO	E) 3 M PG + 2 M DMSO		4)	≈ 7.5	≈ 3.5	≈ 3	-	-	-
			F) 2 M PG + 1 M EG	F) 3 M PG + 2 M EG		5)	≈ 9	≈ 6.5	≈ 7.5	≈ 6.5	≈ 7.5	≈ 4
						6)	≈ 9	≈ 7	≈ 7	≈ 5	≈ 7.5	≈ 8
6	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Kobayashi et al., 2007 GR: Genital ridges	Cryoprotectants		Loading containers and survival efficiency		EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue					
			Time ratio VS/PS (min)		Cryotubes (survival PGCs rate)							
			PBS-based medium 0.5% BSA + 5.5 mM D-glucose and:									
			1) 1.5 M DMSO	5) 1.2 M EG		1) 0%				5) ≈ 40%		
			2) 1.5 M Gly	6) 1.8 M EG		2) 0%				6) ≈ 40%		
			3) 1.5 M PG	7) 2.1 M EG		3) 0%				7) ≈ 40%		



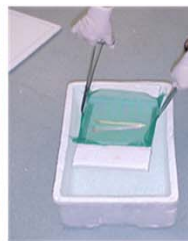
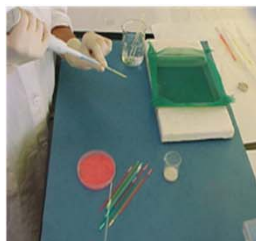
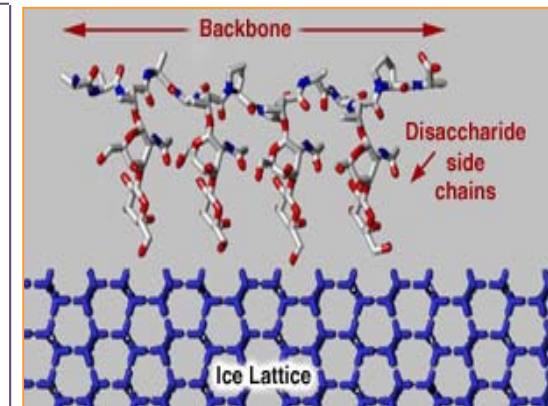
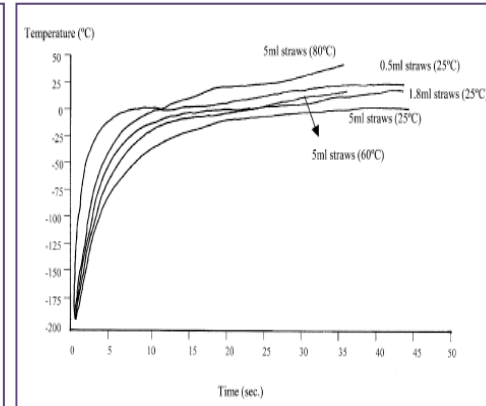
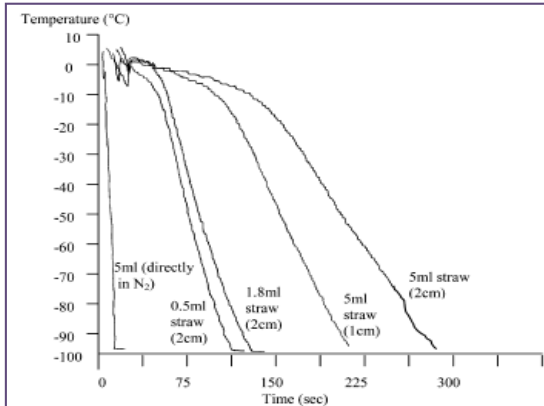
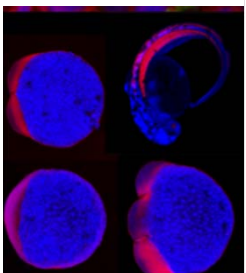
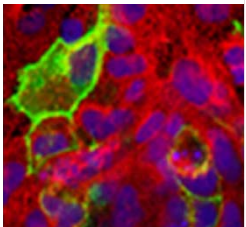
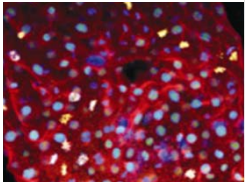
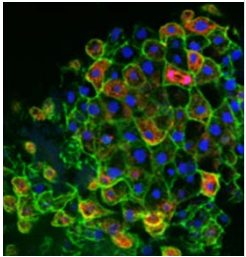
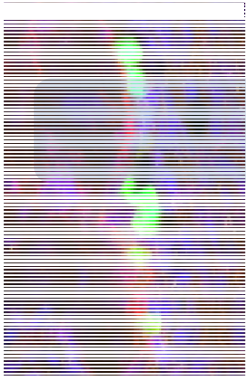
# PGC cryopreservation: protocols

GR: Genital ridges  
EM: Embryos  
DC: Dissociated cells

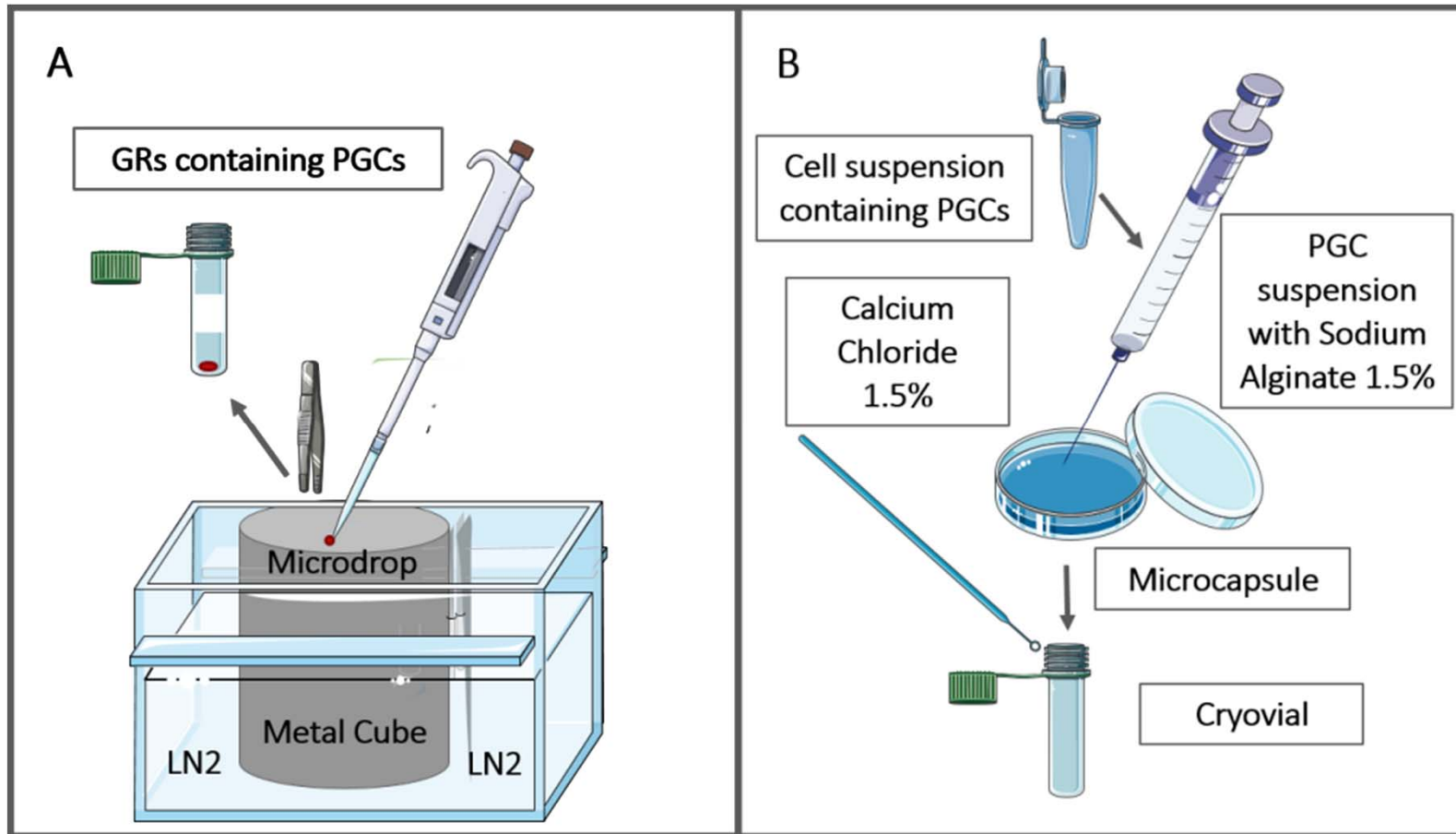
1) (EM) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP  
2) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP  
3) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP + 10 mg/mL AFP  
4) (GR) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP + 20 mg/mL AFP  
5) (DC) 5 M DMSO + 1 M EG + 4% PVP

	Survival PGCs rate					EGFP positive and negative cells for trypan blue and pseudopoda emission
0.5 mL straw	1) ≈ 90%	2) ≈ 90%	3) ≈ 90%	4) ≈ 50%	5) -	
Cryovial	1) ≈ 75%	2) ≈ 75%	3) -	4) -	5) -	
Microdrop	1) -	2) ≈ 95%	3) -	4) -	5) -	
Microcapsule	1) -	2) -	3) -	4) -	5) ≈ 25%	

**DMSO 2 M, EG 0,5 M  
(10 min)**  
**DMSO 5 M, EG 1M  
(2min)**  
**DMSO 5 M, EG 1 M, PVP 4 %  
(2min)**  
**(AFP 10mg/mL  
o AFP 20mg/mL)**



# PGC cryopreservation: protocols



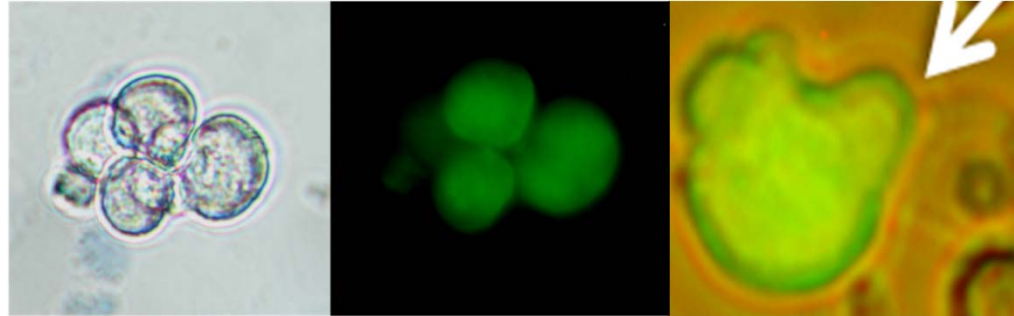
Riesco, Martínez-Pastor, Chereguini and Robles 2012. *Theriogenology* 77:122-130



## PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing

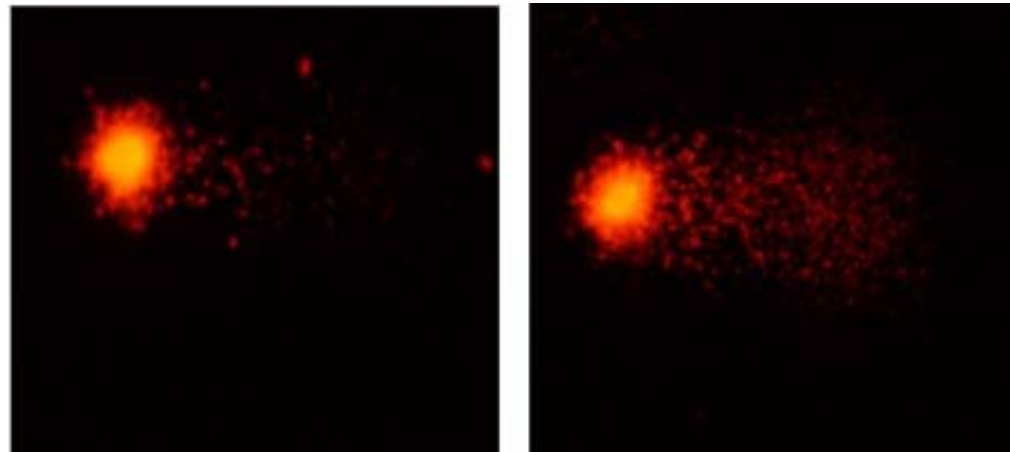
Viability  
Pseudopodial emission

90% survival

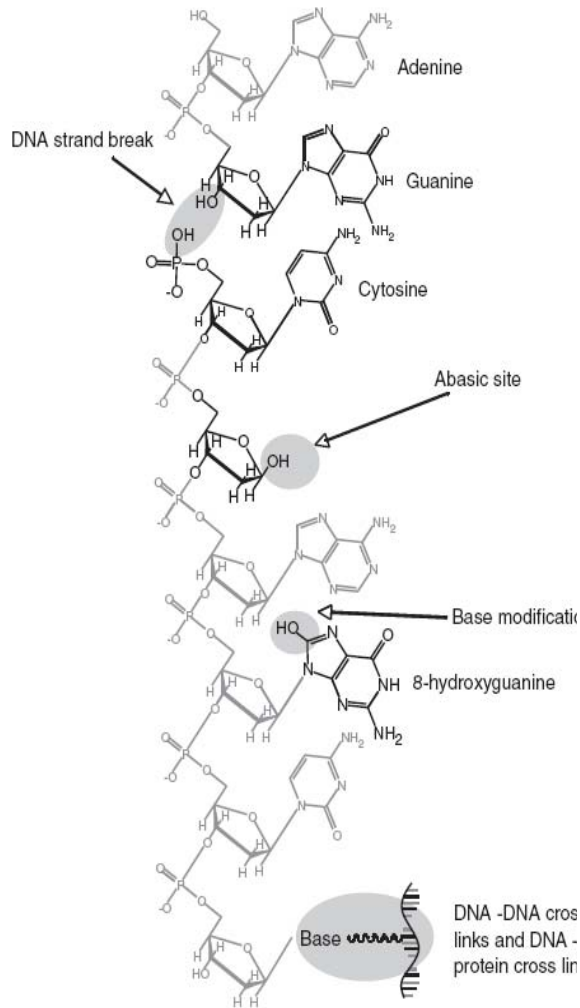


DNA integrity  
(Comet Assay)

<10% ( $\approx$  control)

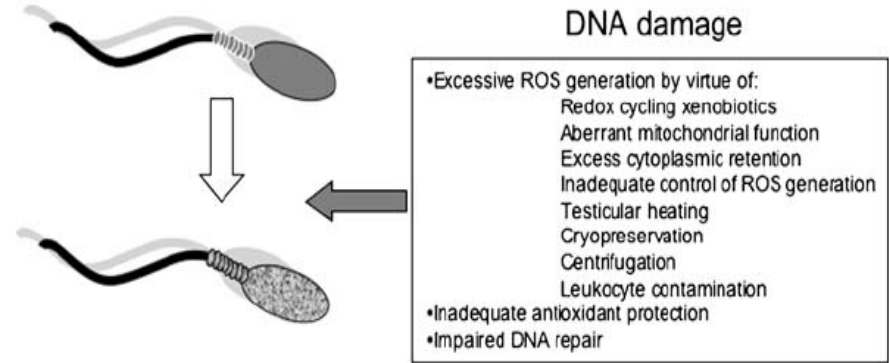


# PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing

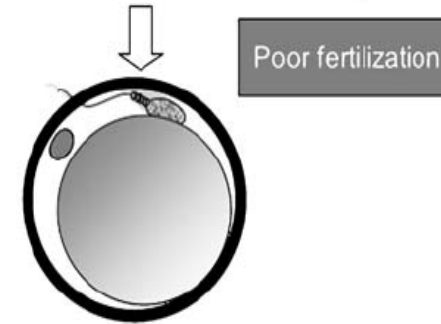


**Human spermatozoa are vulnerable to oxidative stress because:**

- They contain high concentrations of unsaturated fatty acids
- Possess nuclear DNA that is incompletely protaminated and poorly compacted.
- Cannot effect DNA repair
- Cannot undergo apoptosis
- Possess low levels of cytosolic antioxidant enzymes
- Can generate reactive oxygen species via their mitochondria, specialized free radical generating systems (NOX5) and the redox cycling of xenobiotics
- Must spend several days as isolated cells in both the male and female reproductive tracts.



**Lipid peroxidation and DNA damage**

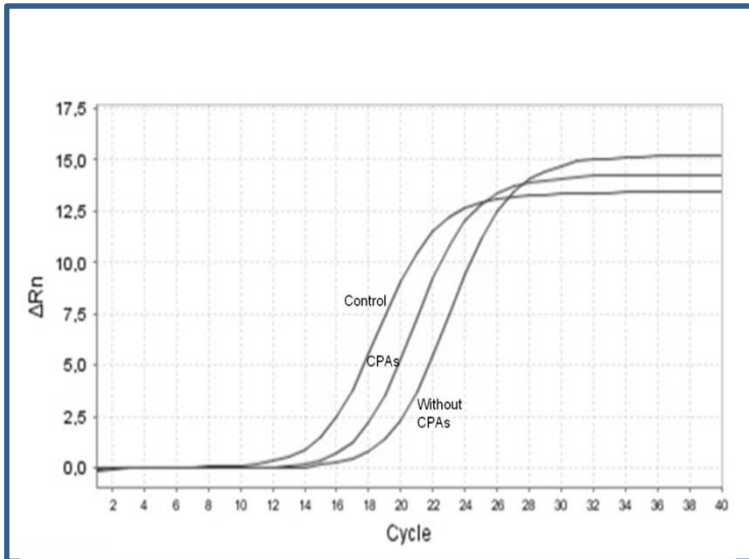


**Aberrant DNA repair in the fertilized oocyte/early embryo**



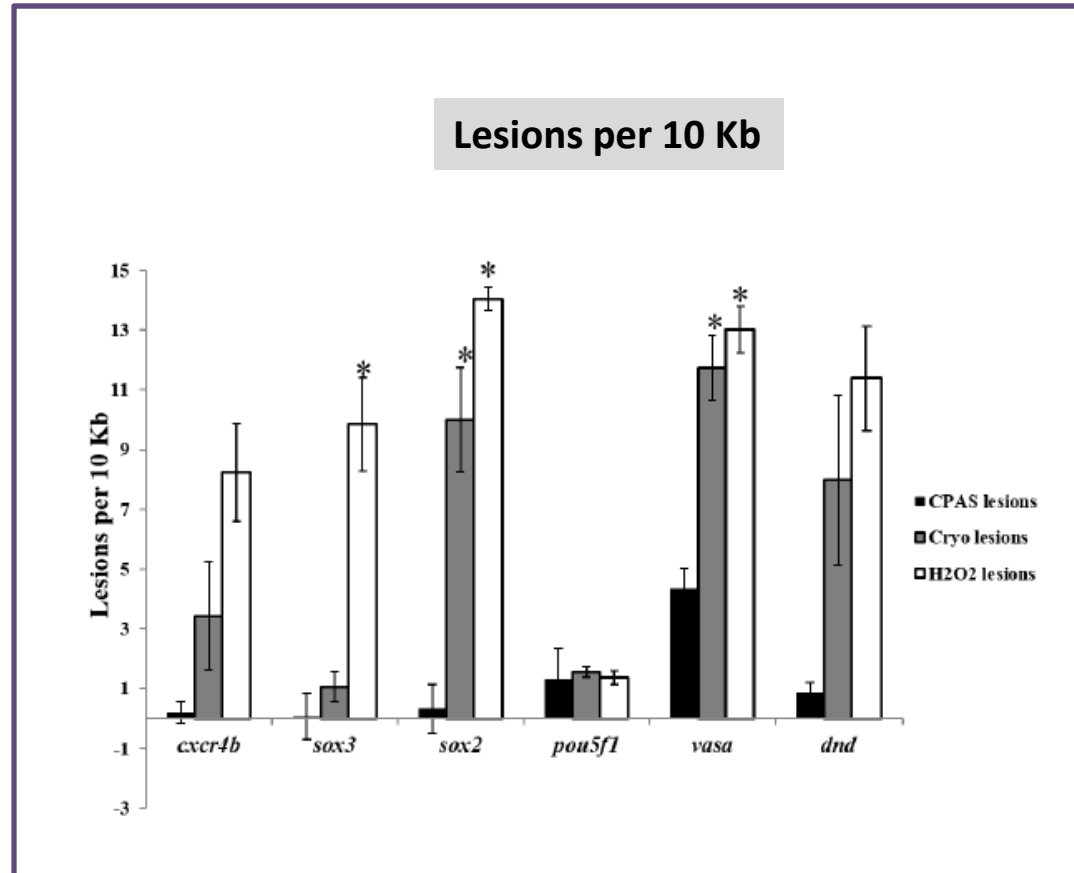
# PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing

Quantification of lesions in specific genes and genome regions



$$(1 - 2^{-(\Delta_{\text{long}} - \Delta_{\text{short}})}) \times \frac{10000 \text{ [bp]}}{\text{size of long fragment [bp]}}$$

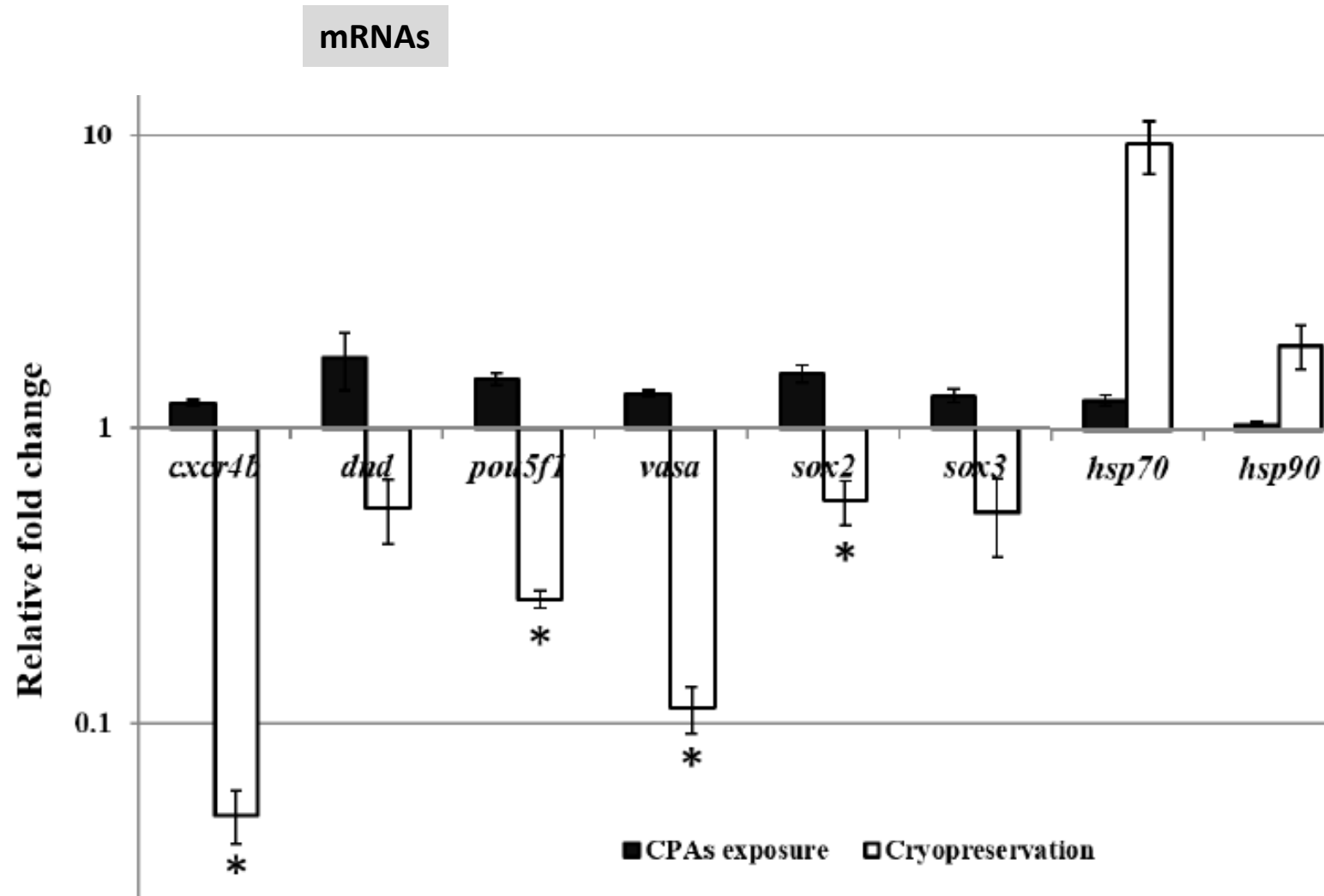
Rothfuss et al. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 2010



Riesco and Robles 2012 *J. Appl. Ichthyol.* 28 (2012), 925–929

Riesco and Robles 2012 *PLOS ONE* (2013)

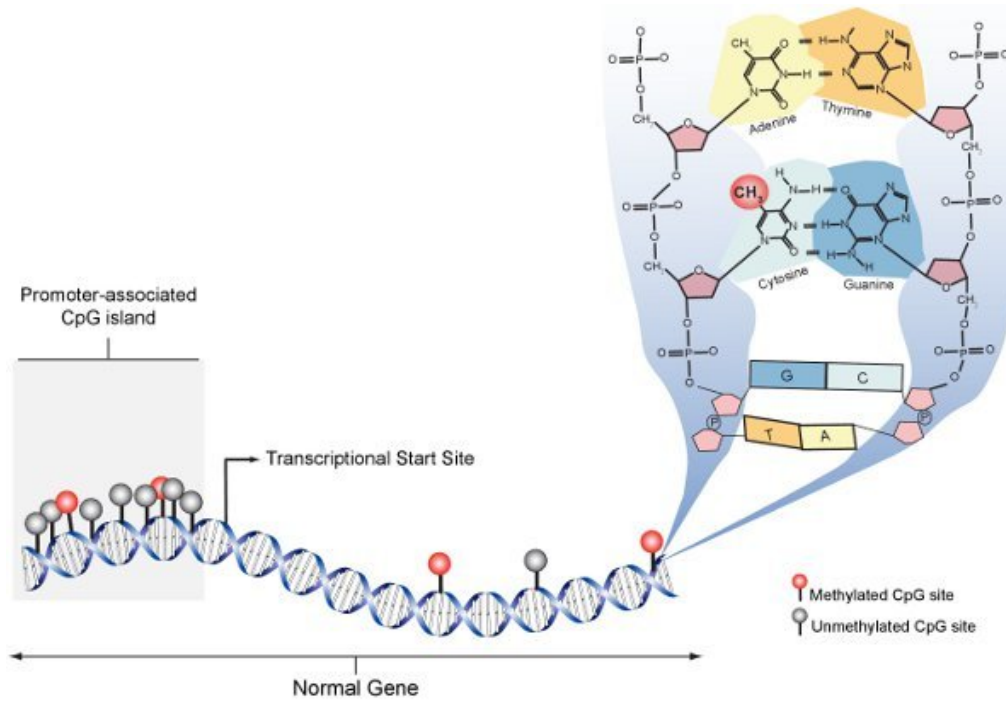
# PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing



Riesco and Robles PLOS ONE (2013)

# PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing

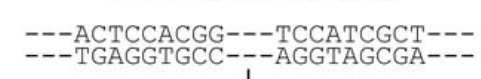
## Promoter methylation



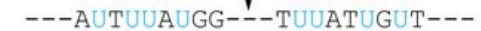
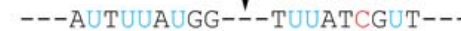
1 (methylated)



Allele 2 (unmethylated)



Bisulfite treatment  
Alkylation  
Spontaneous denaturation



Non-methylation-specific PCR  
Methylation-specific PCR

Differentiation of bisulfite-generated polymorphisms

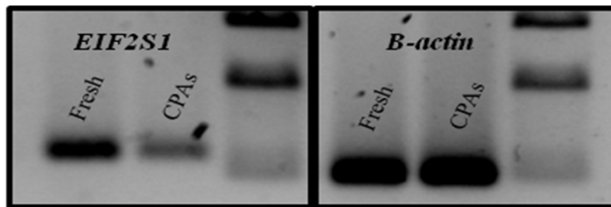
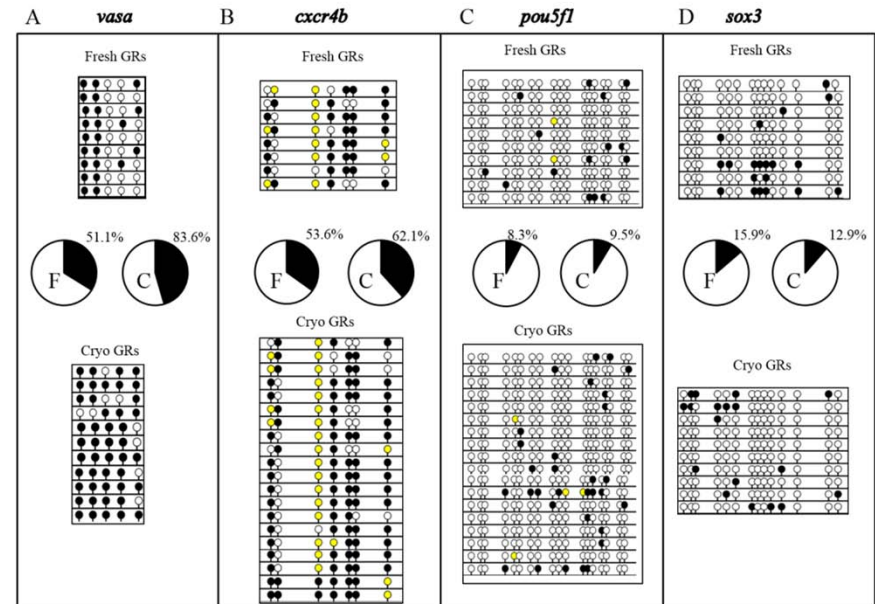
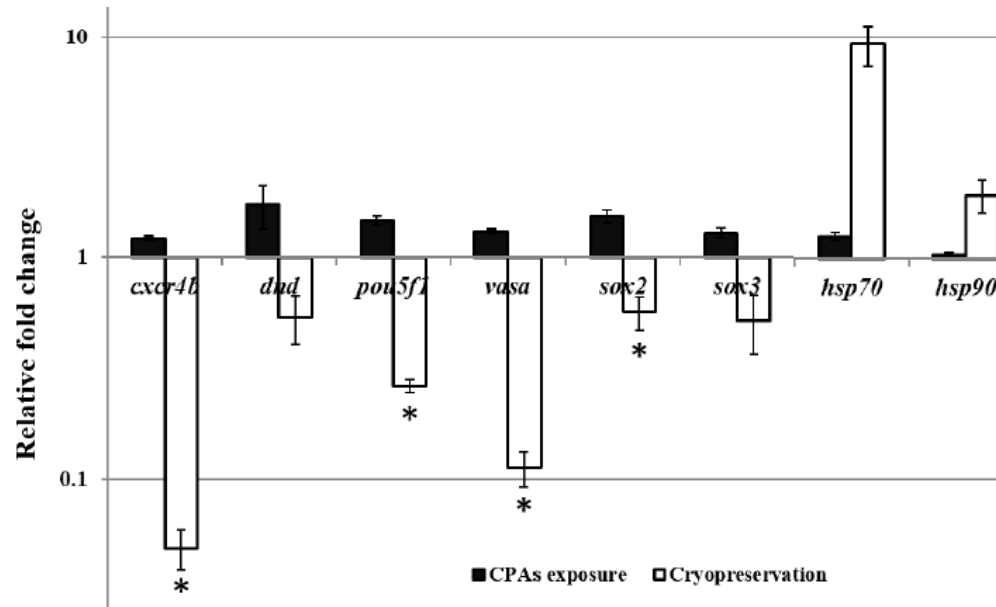
*Patterson et al. J Vis Exp. (2011)*



# PGC cryopreservation: evaluation after thawing

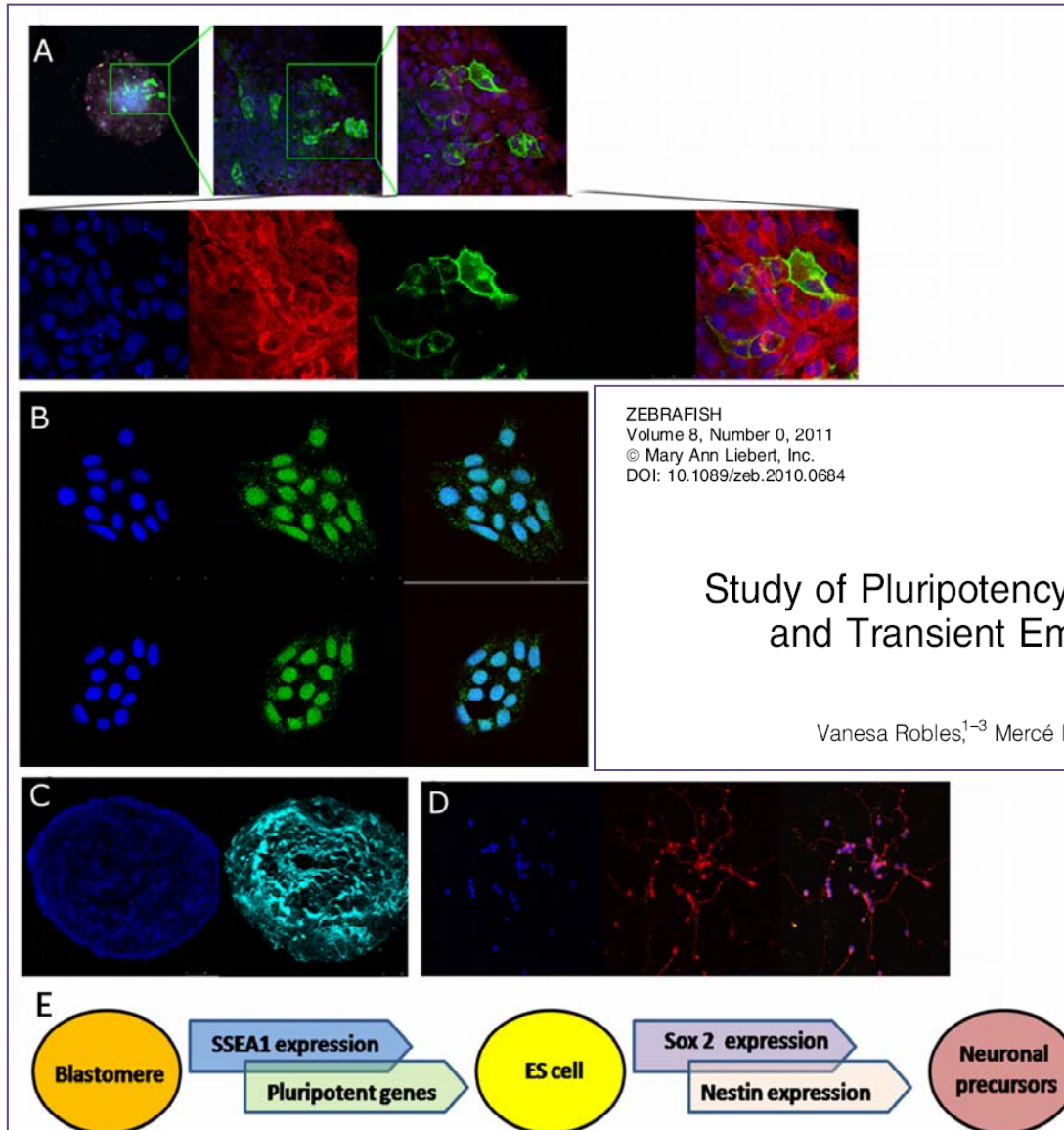
## mRNAs

## Promoter methylation



Riesco and Robles 2012 PLOS ONE (2013)

# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



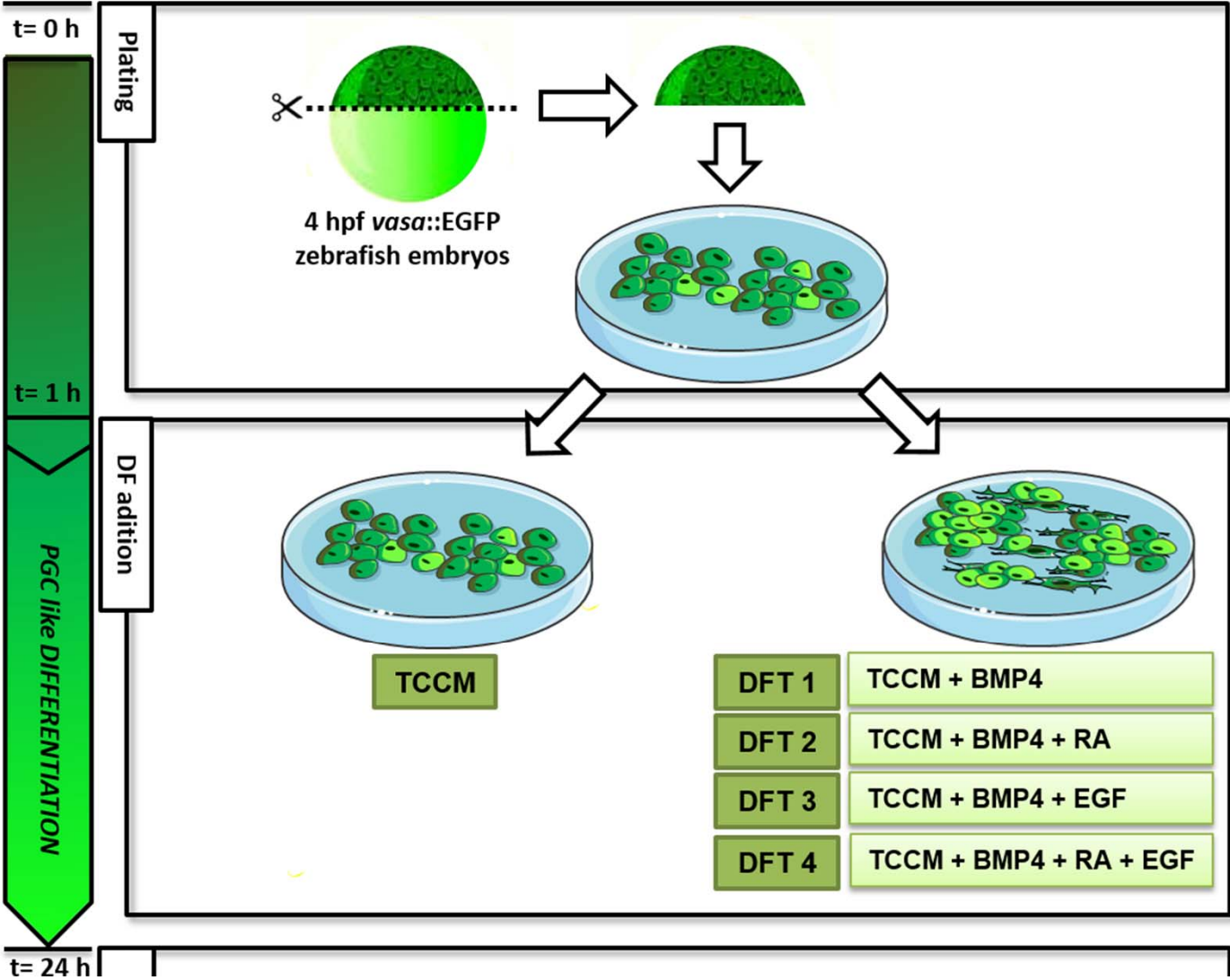
ZEBRAFISH  
Volume 8, Number 0, 2011  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/zeb.2010.0684

**Original Article**

## Study of Pluripotency Markers in Zebrafish Embryos and Transient Embryonic Stem Cell Cultures

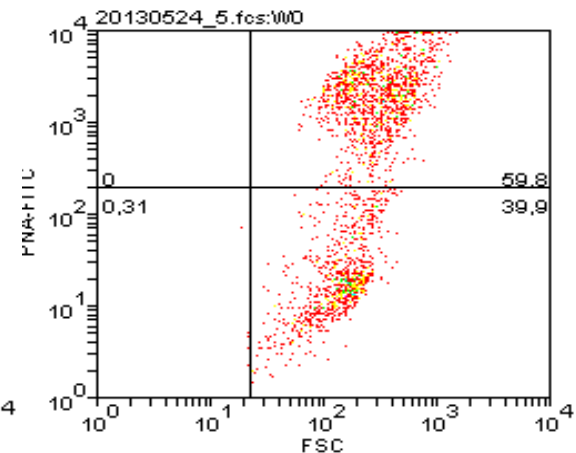
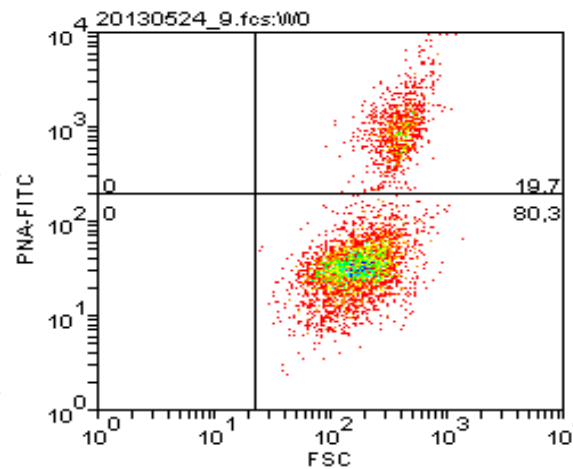
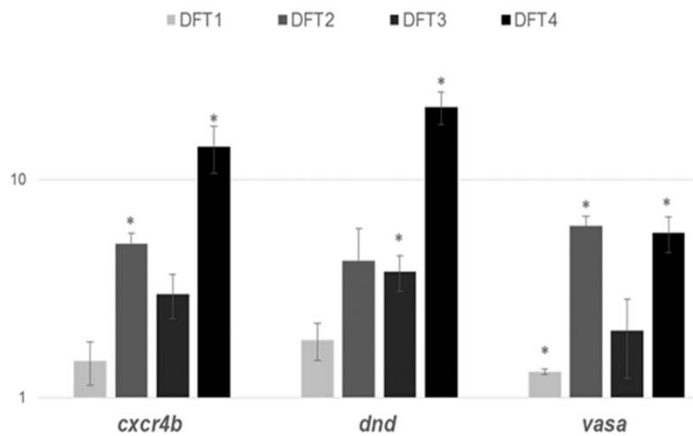
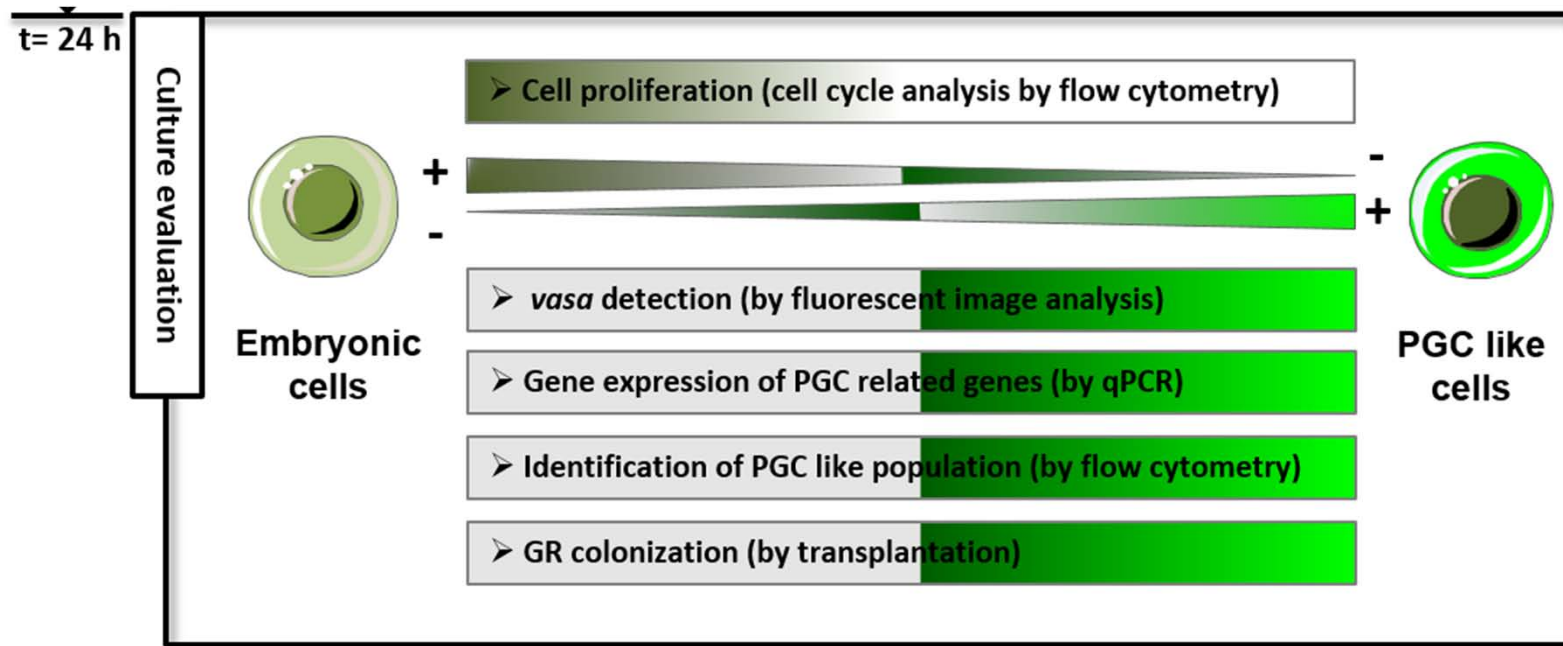
Vanesa Robles,<sup>1-3</sup> Mercé Martí,<sup>1</sup> and Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte<sup>1,4,5</sup>

# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



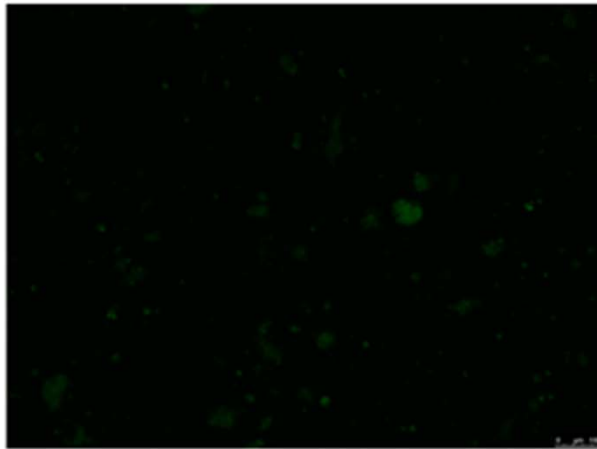
Riesco, Valcarce, Alfonso, Herráez, Robles (2014), *Biology of Reproduction* 91 (5):114, 1-11

# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation

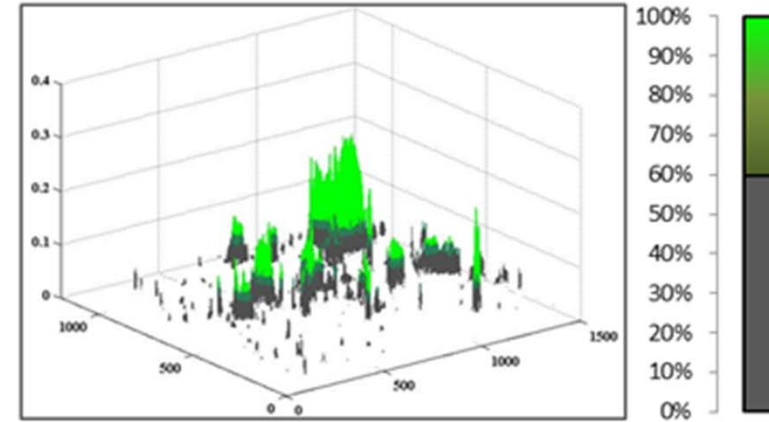
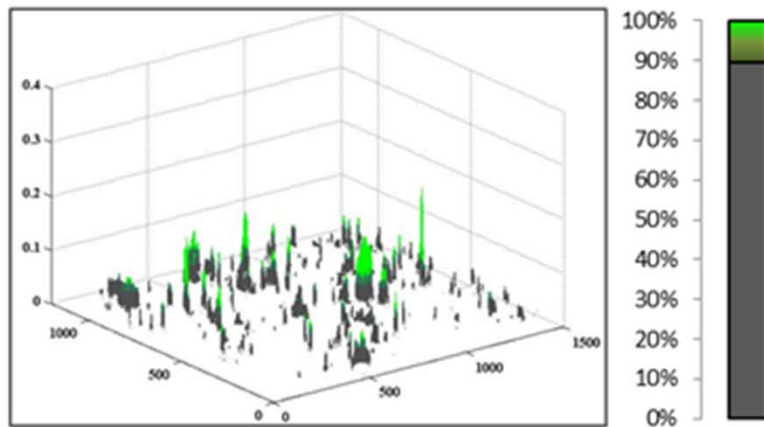
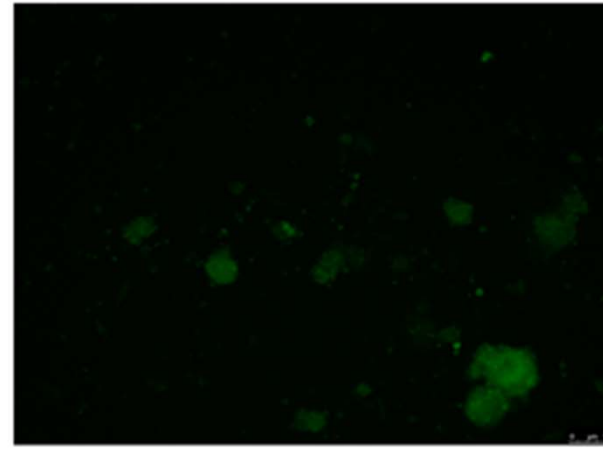


# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation

**A** PGC-like cells (TCCM)



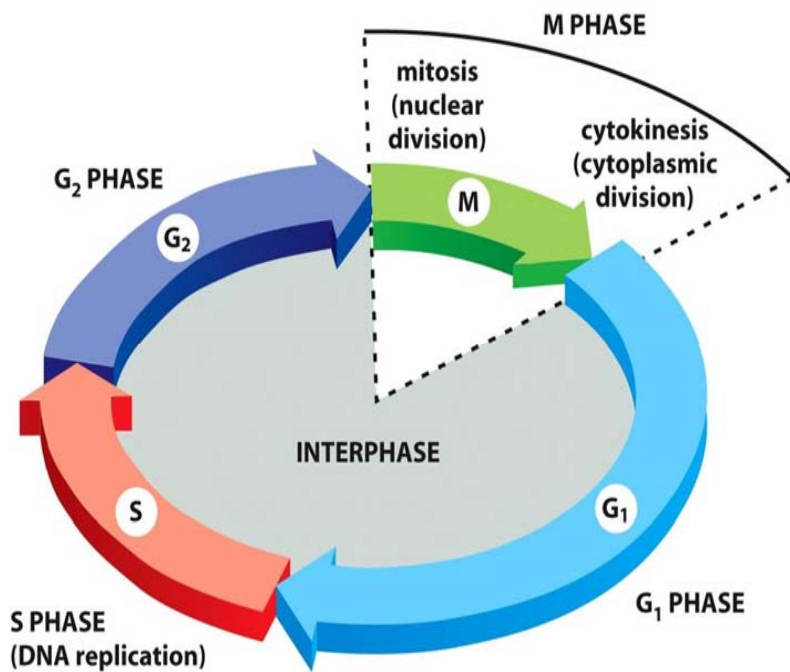
PGC-like cells (DFT 4)



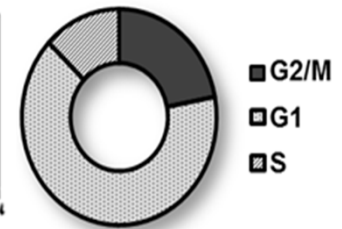
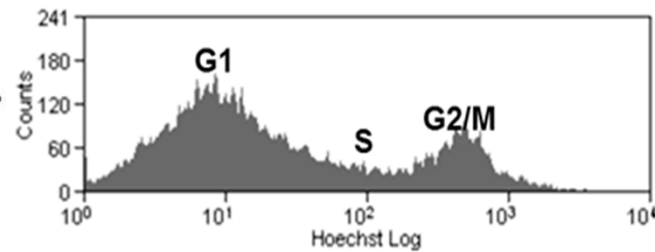
Riesco, Valcarce, Alfonso, Herrez, Robles (2014), *Biology of Reproduction* 91 (5):114, 1-11



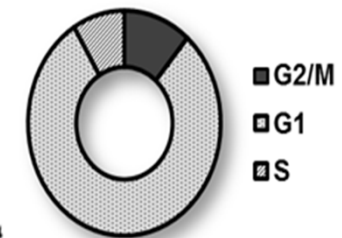
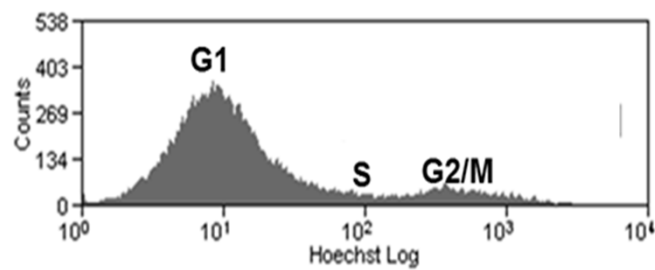
# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



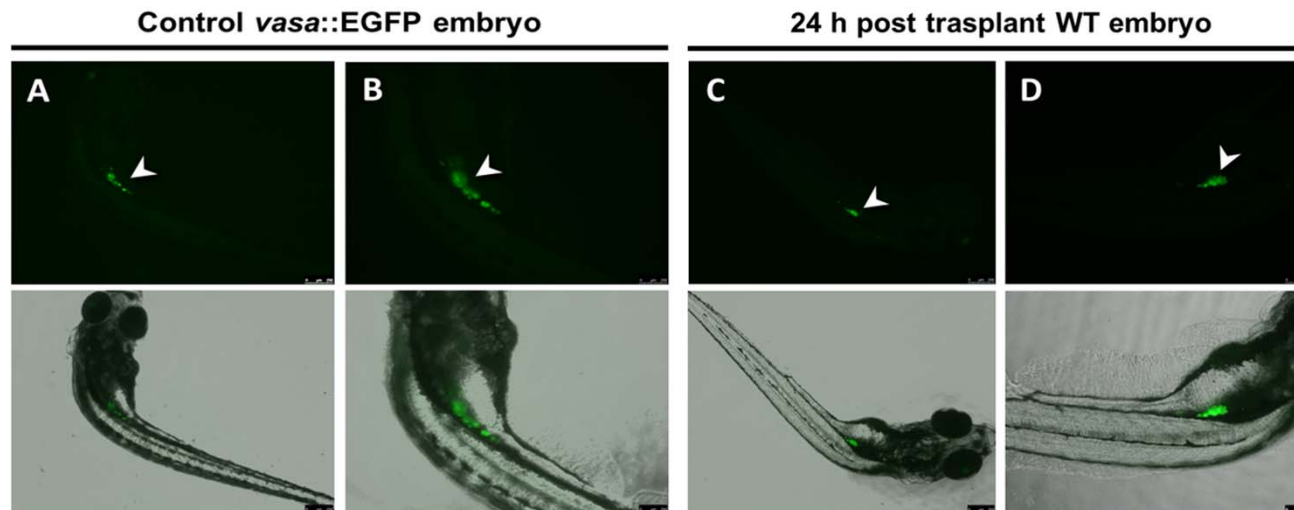
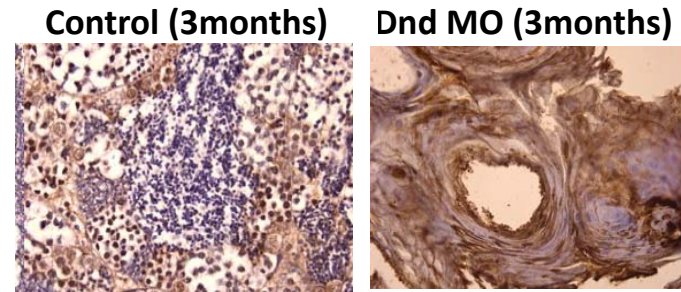
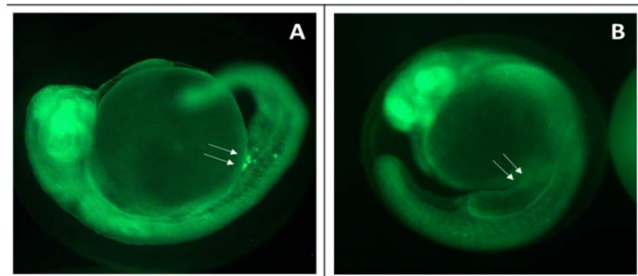
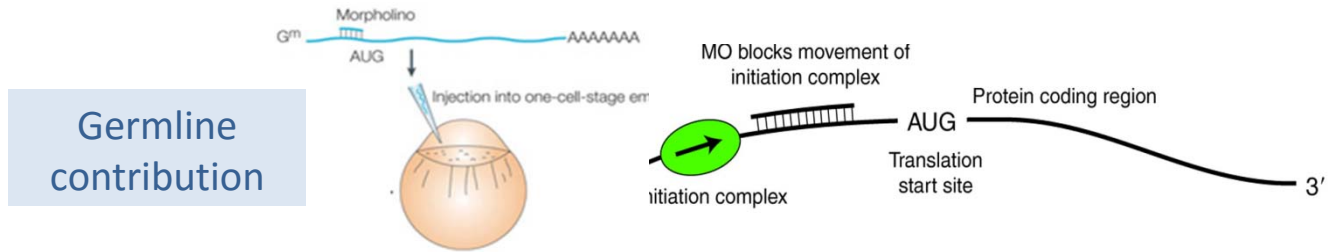
**TCCM**



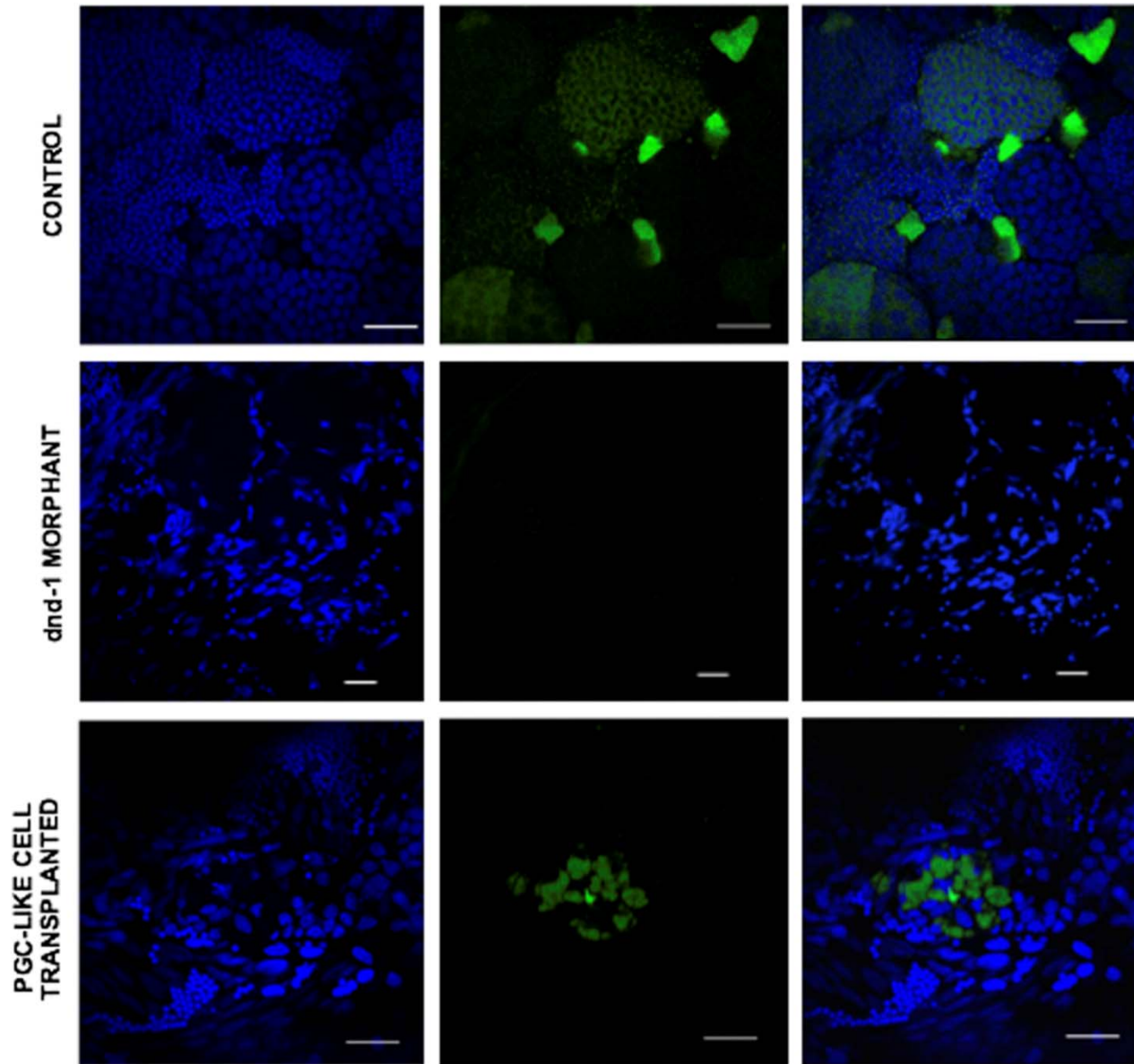
**DFT4**



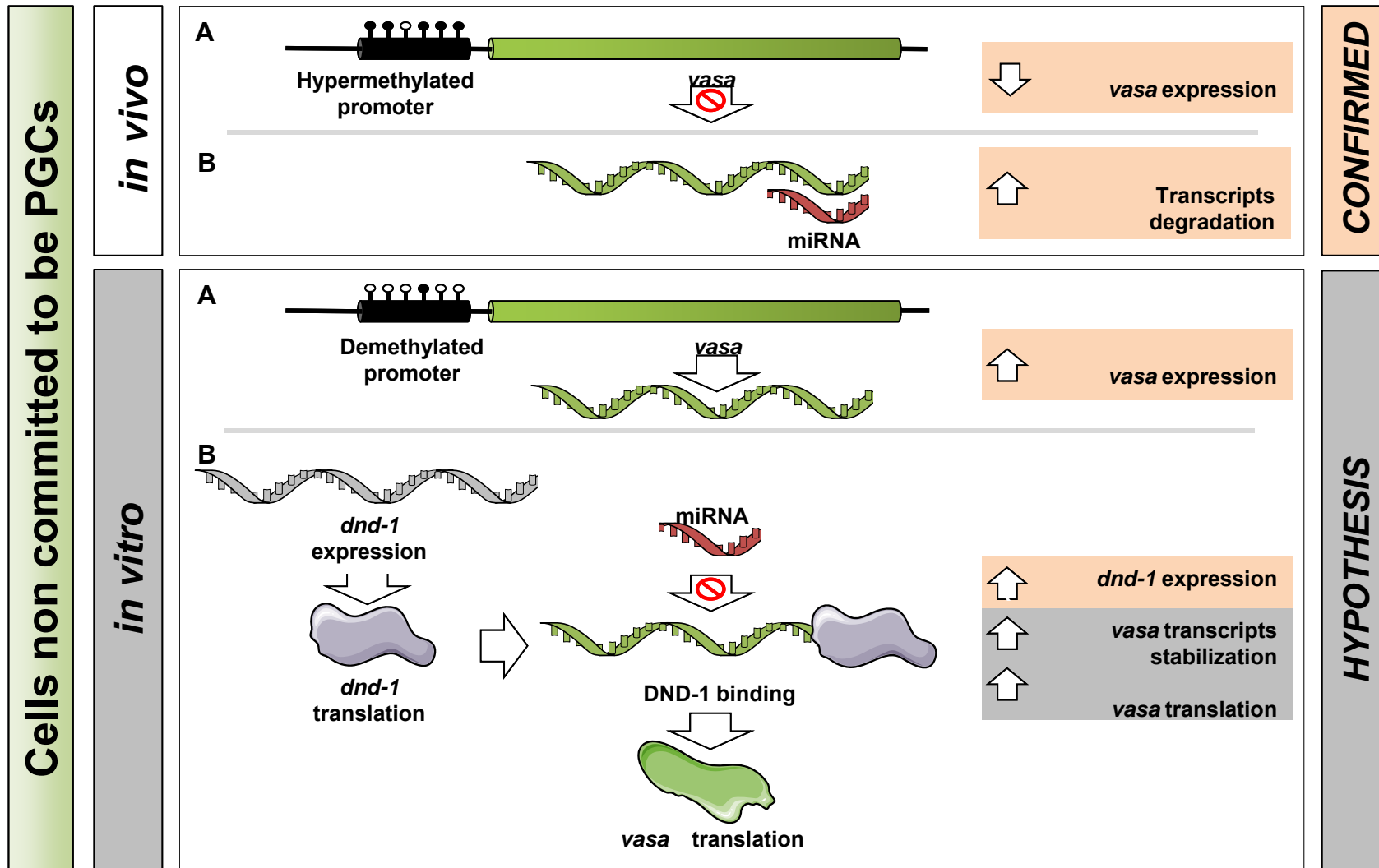
# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



# Limitations and future perspectives: PGC *in vitro* generation



## Conclusions



PGCs can be successfully cryopreserved and successfully transplanted into host sterile embryos



Molecular analysis after cryopreservation is crucial to guarantee the success of a cryopreservation protocol and avoid undesirable effects in fertilization and early embryo development.



PGCs can be generated *in vitro* from embryonic cells



# Thank you!



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