

Figure 22-99 *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

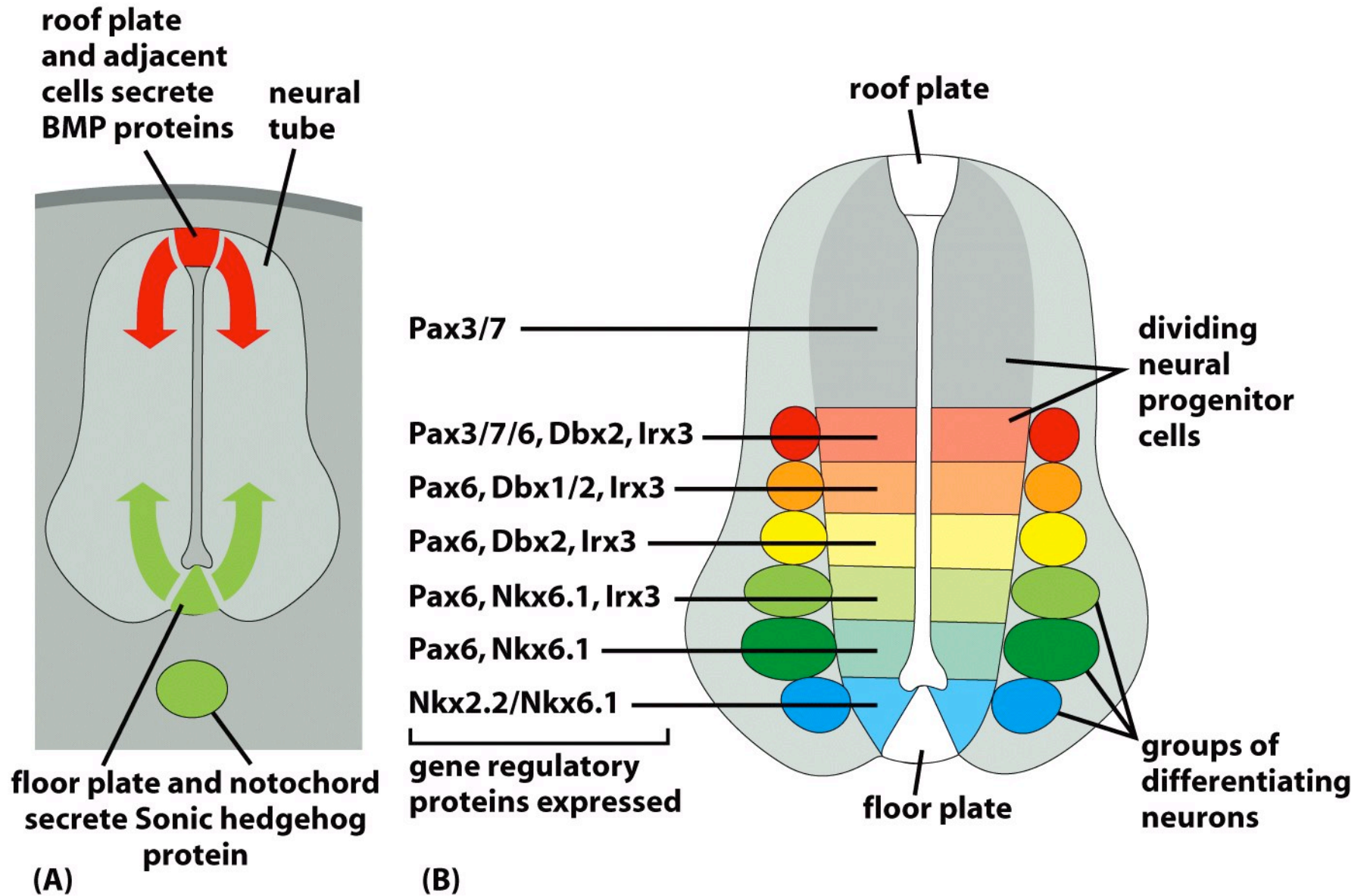


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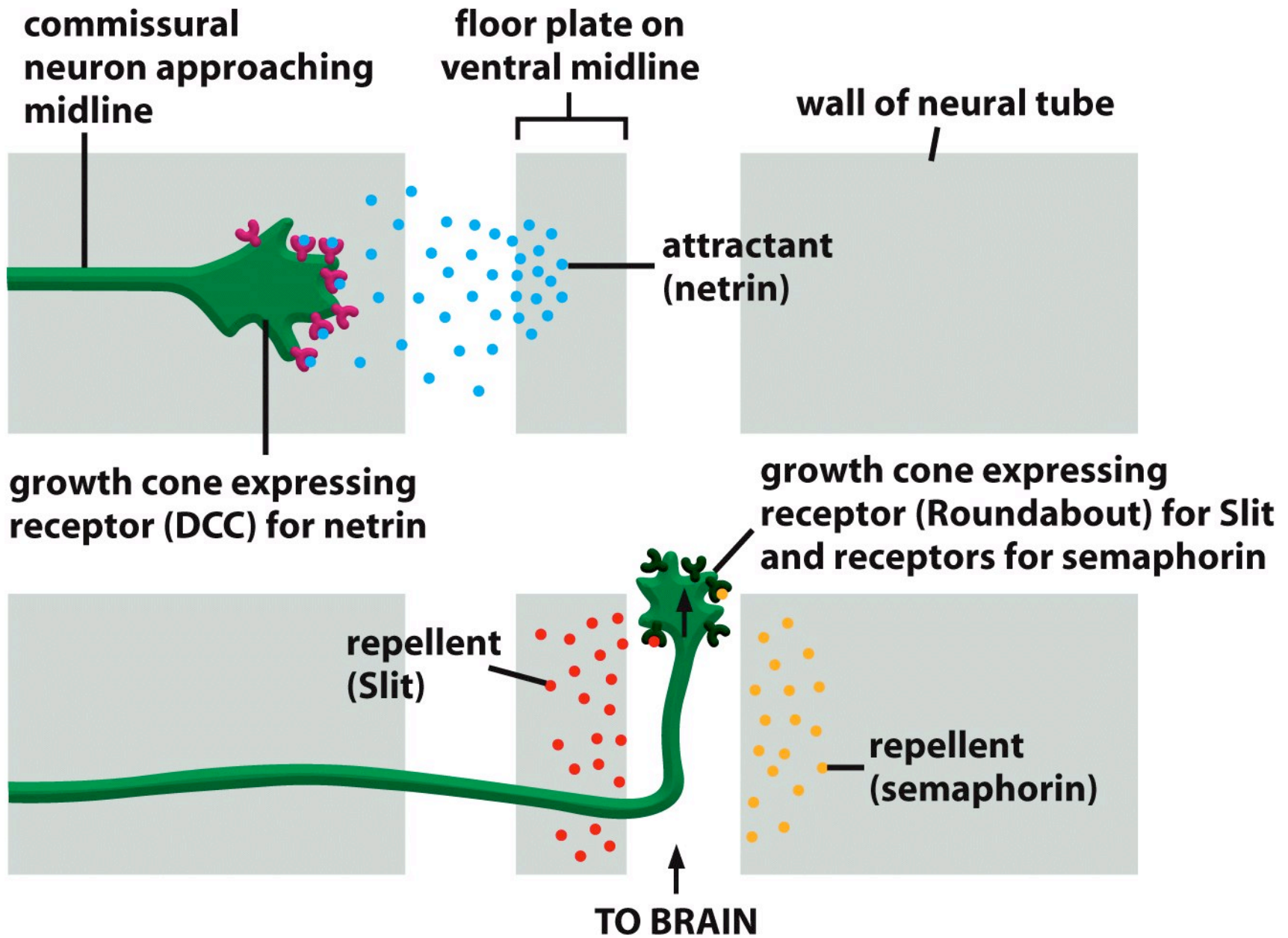


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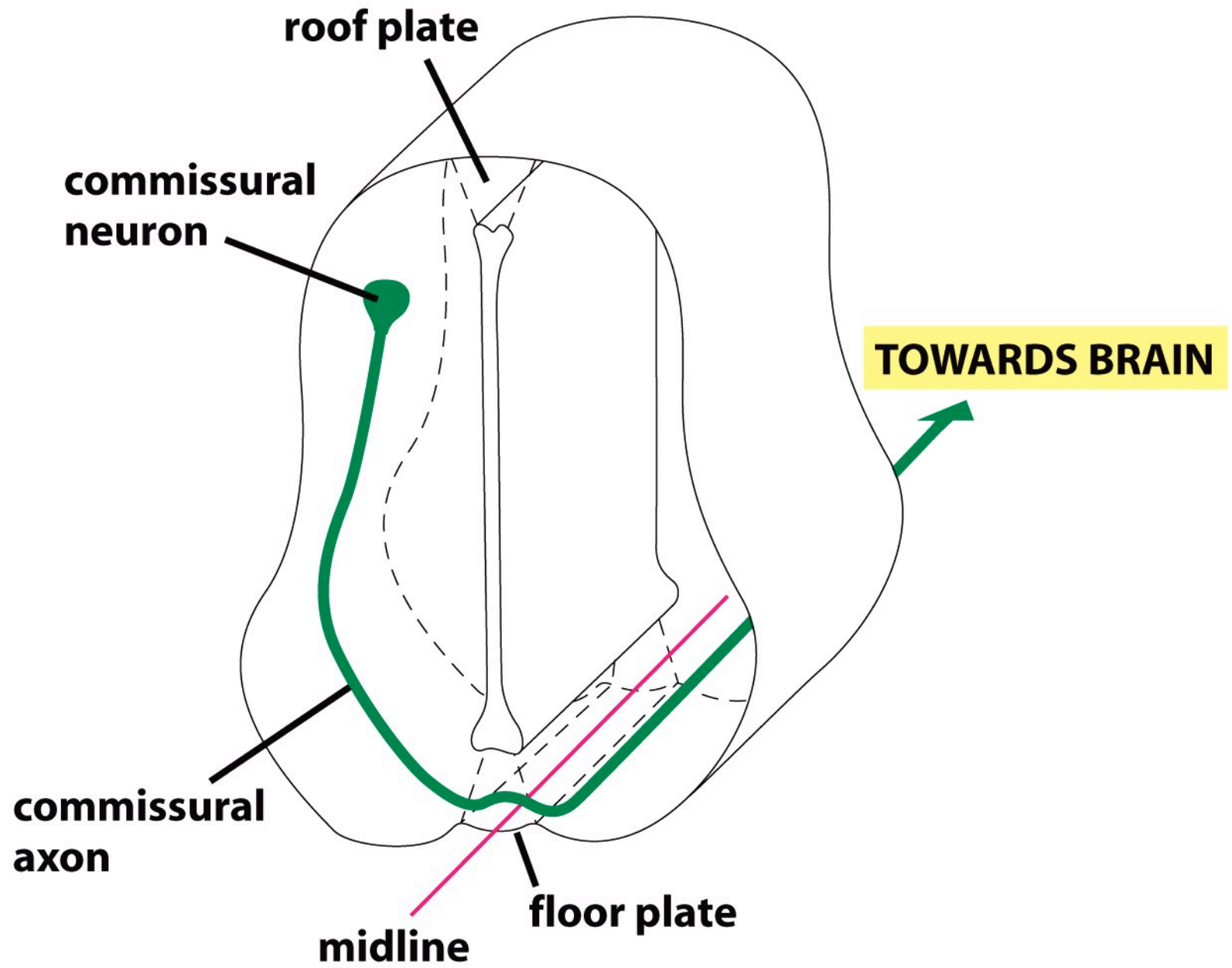
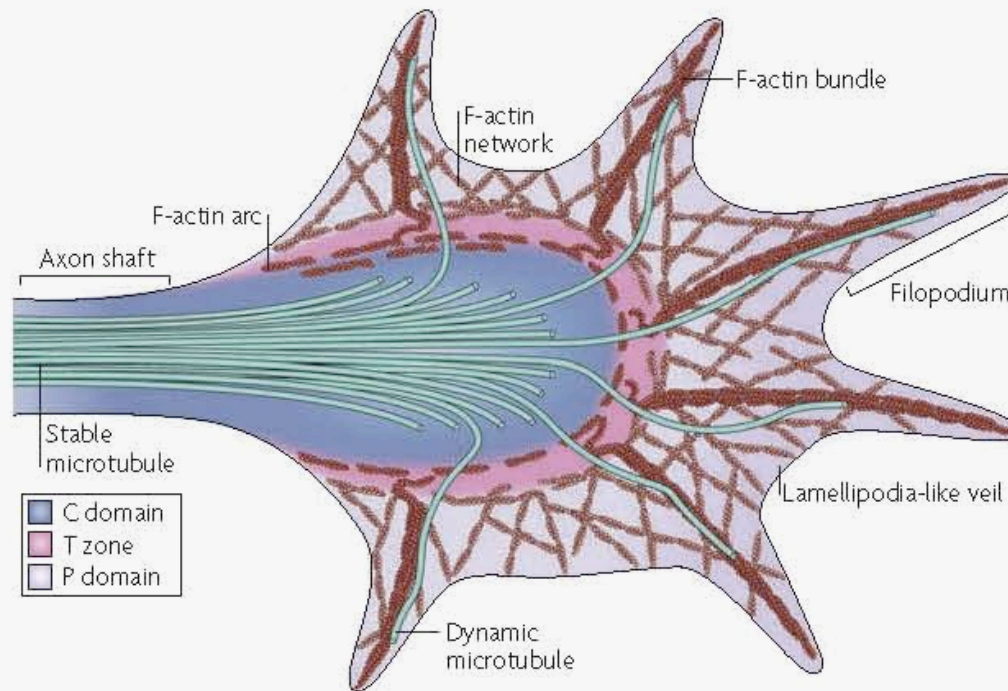


Figure 22-102a *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

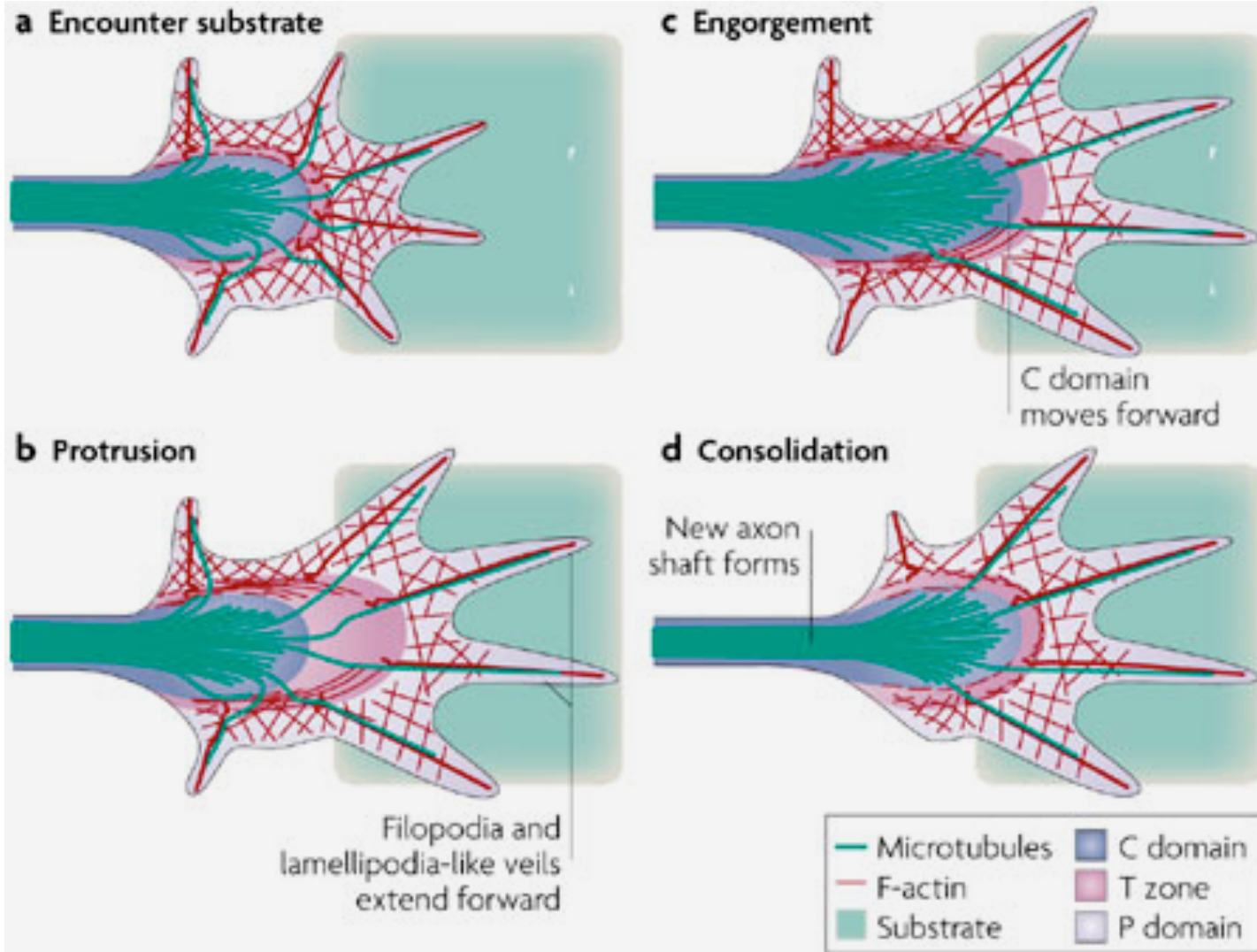
## Box 1 | The structure of the growth cone



The structure of the growth cone is fundamental to its function. The leading edge consists of dynamic, finger-like filopodia that explore the road ahead, separated by sheets of membrane between the filopodia called lamellipodia-like veils (see the figure). The cytoskeletal elements in the growth cone underlie its shape, and the growth cone can be separated into three domains based on cytoskeletal distribution<sup>14</sup>. The peripheral (P) domain contains long, bundled actin filaments (F-actin bundles), which form the filopodia, as well as mesh-like branched F-actin networks, which give structure to lamellipodia-like veils. Additionally, individual dynamic 'pioneer' microtubules (MTs) explore this region, usually along F-actin bundles. The central (C) domain encloses stable, bundled MTs that enter the growth cone from the axon shaft, in addition to numerous organelles, vesicles and central actin bundles. Finally, the transition (T) zone sits at the interface between the P and C domains, where actomyosin contractile structures (termed actin arcs) lie perpendicular to F-actin bundles and form a hemicircumferential ring<sup>33</sup>. The dynamics of these cytoskeletal components determine growth cone shape and movement on its journey during development.

# Growth cone

- Growth cone propulsion: protrusion, engorgement and consolidation
- Growth cone motility and protrusion of the leading edge membrane depend on the dynamic properties of actin

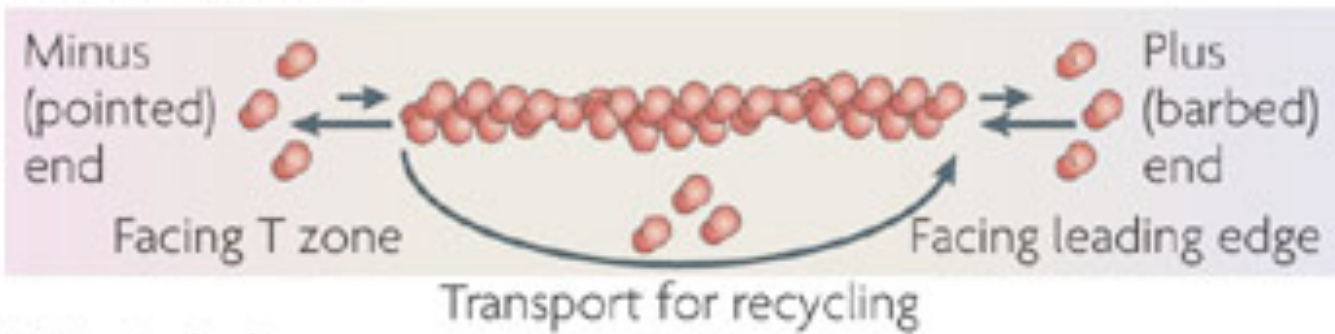


# Growth cone

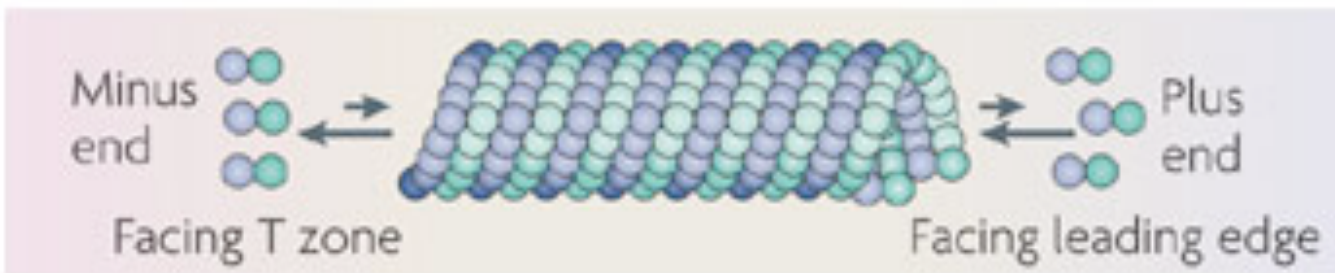
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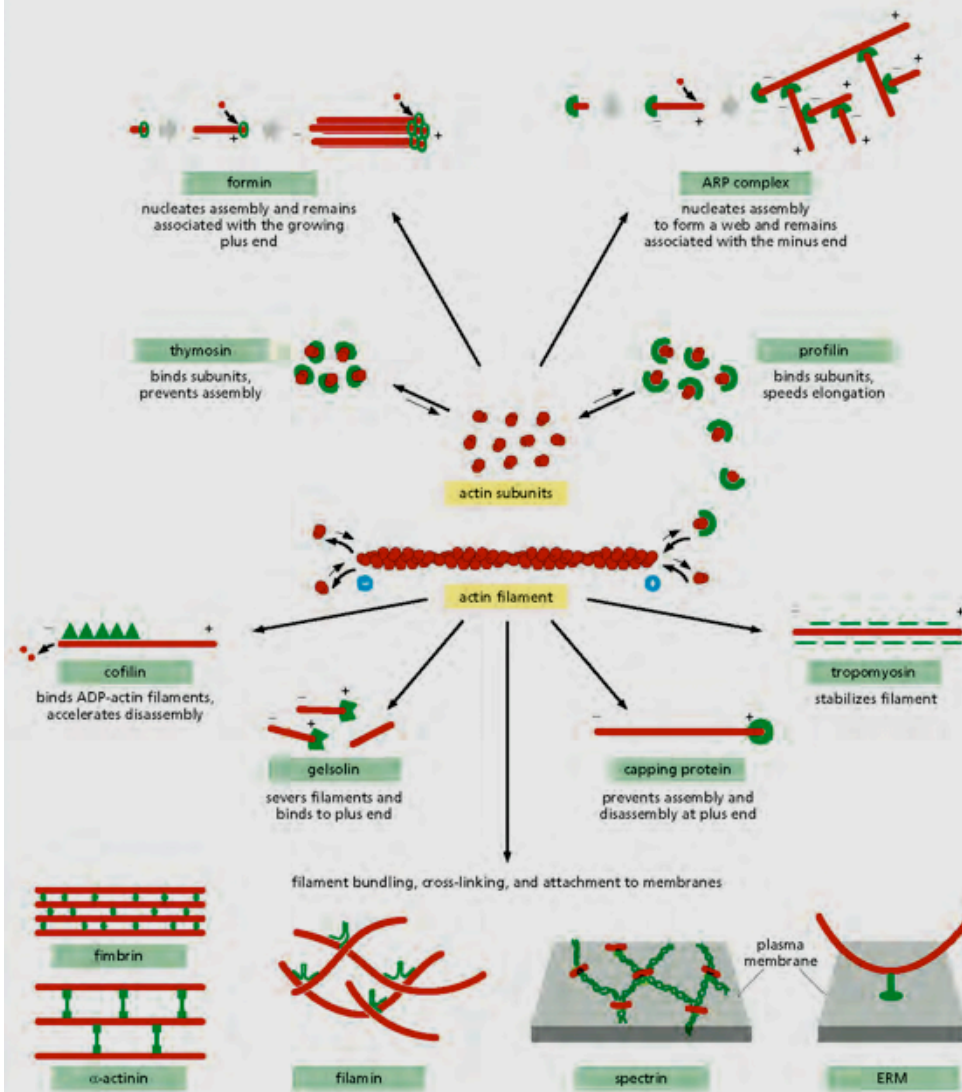
### Actin filaments



### Microtubules



## ACTIN FILAMENTS



Some of the major accessory proteins of the actin cytoskeleton. Except for the myosin motor proteins, to be discussed in a later section, an example of each major type is shown. Each of these is discussed in the text. However, most cells contain more than a hundred different actin-binding proteins, and it is likely that there are important types of actin-associated proteins that are not yet recognized.

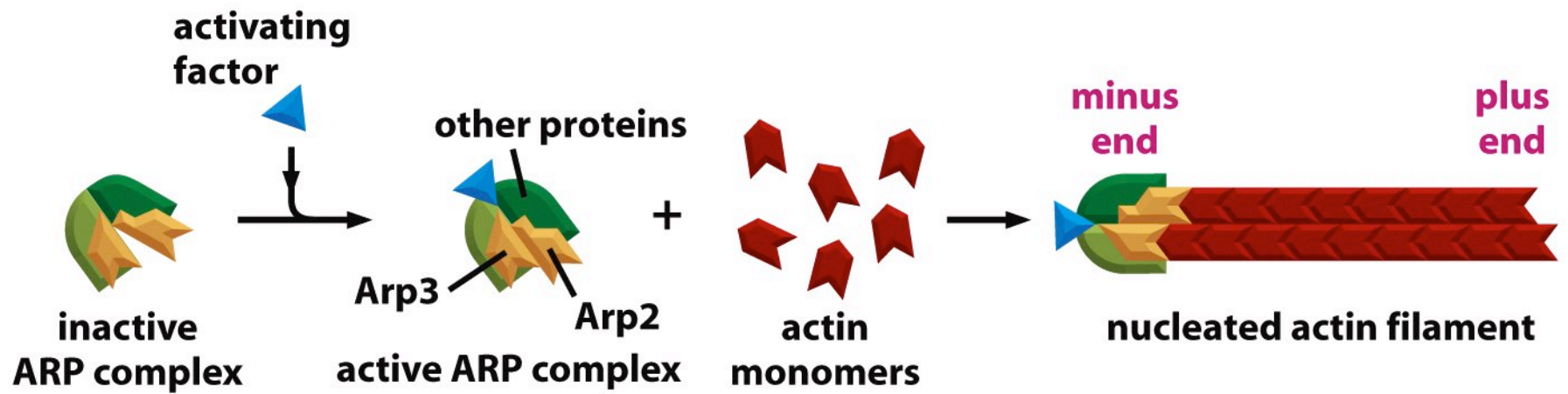


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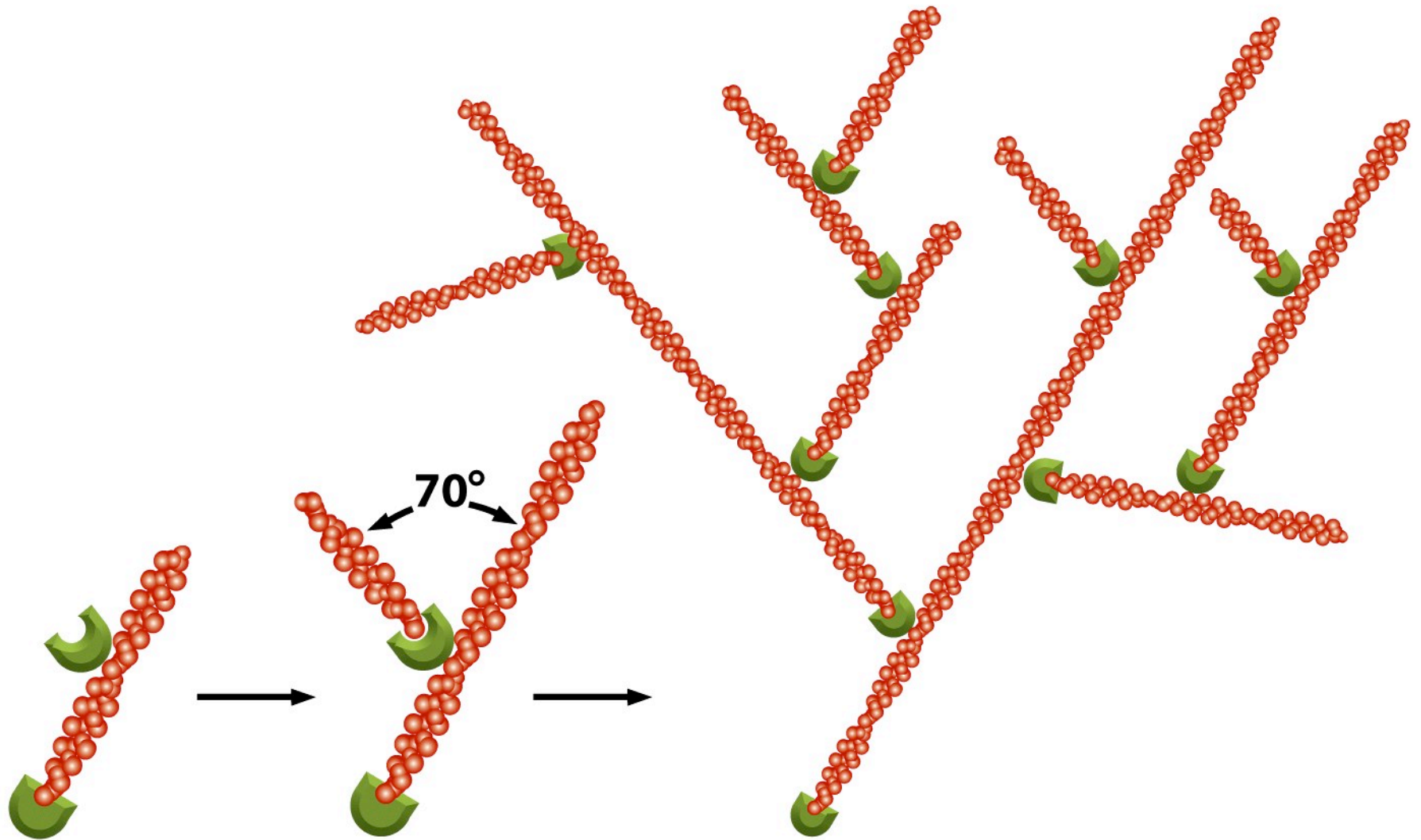
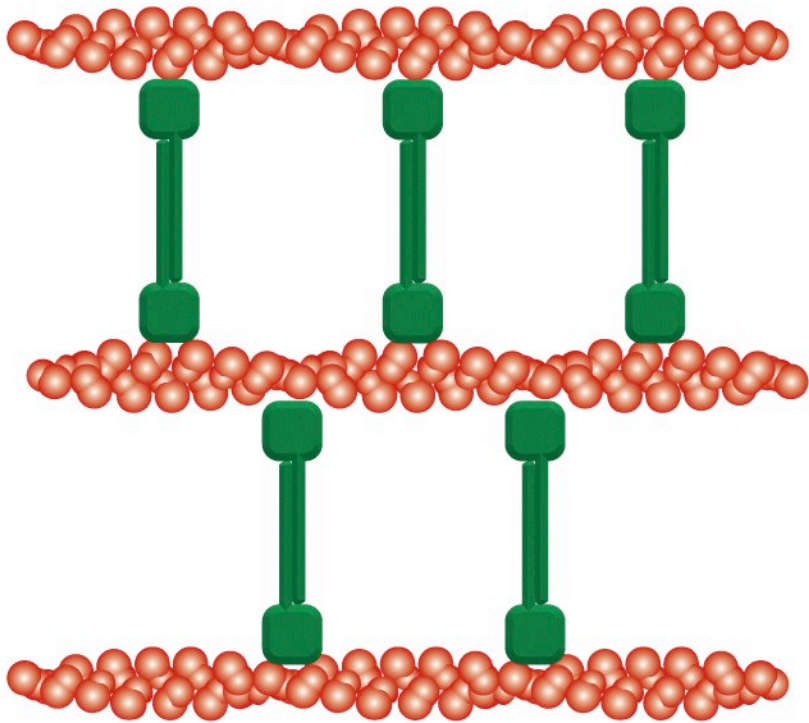
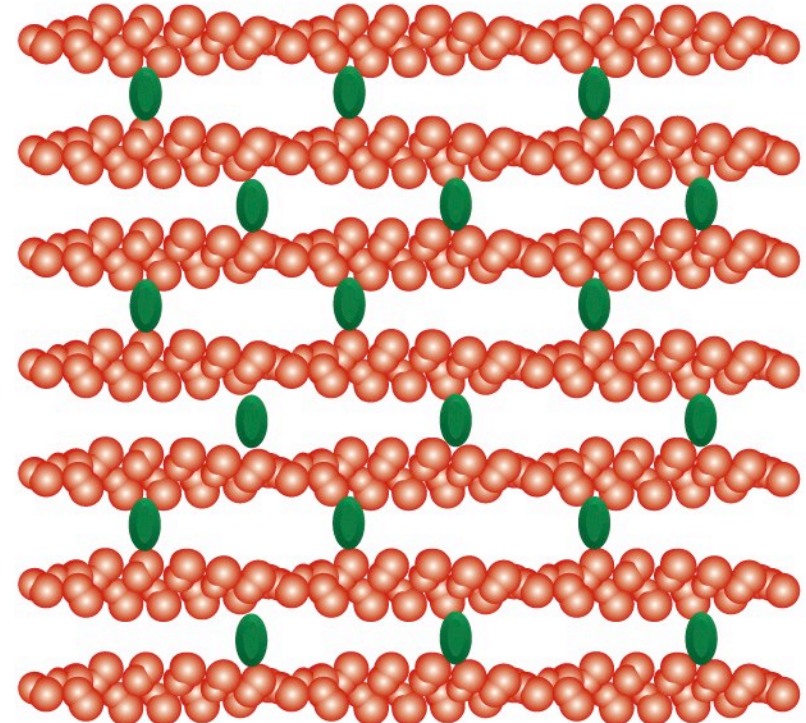


Figure 16-34c *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

**actin filaments and  
 $\alpha$ -actinin**



**actin filaments and  
fimbrin**



50 nm

**contractile bundle**

**loose packing allows myosin-II  
to enter bundle**

**parallel bundle**

**tight packing prevents myosin-II  
from entering bundle**

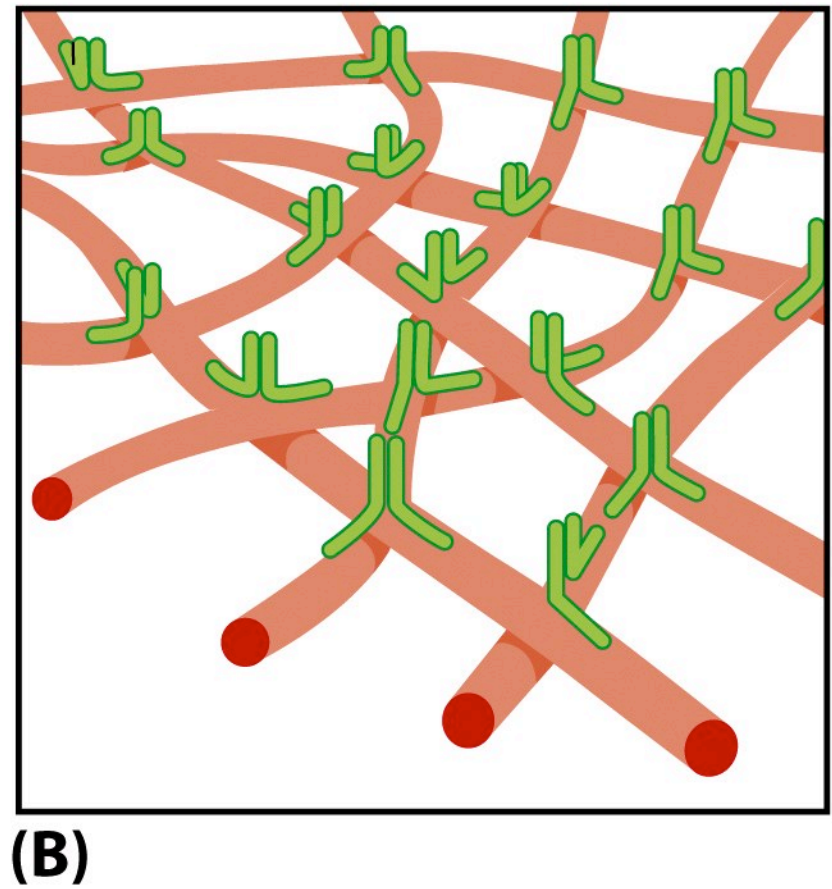
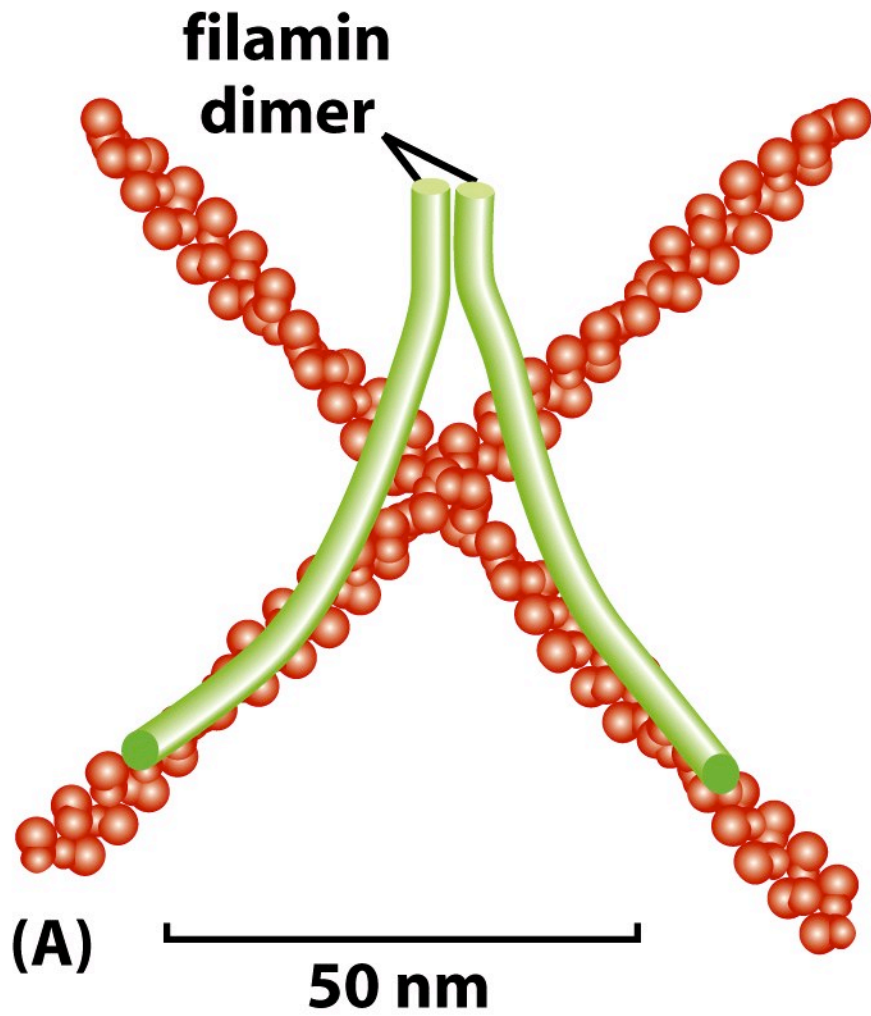
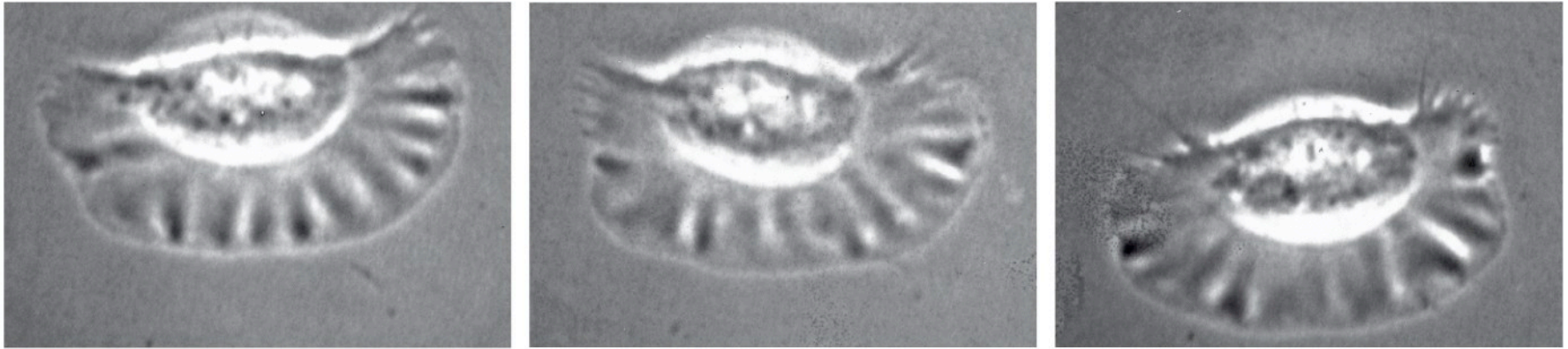
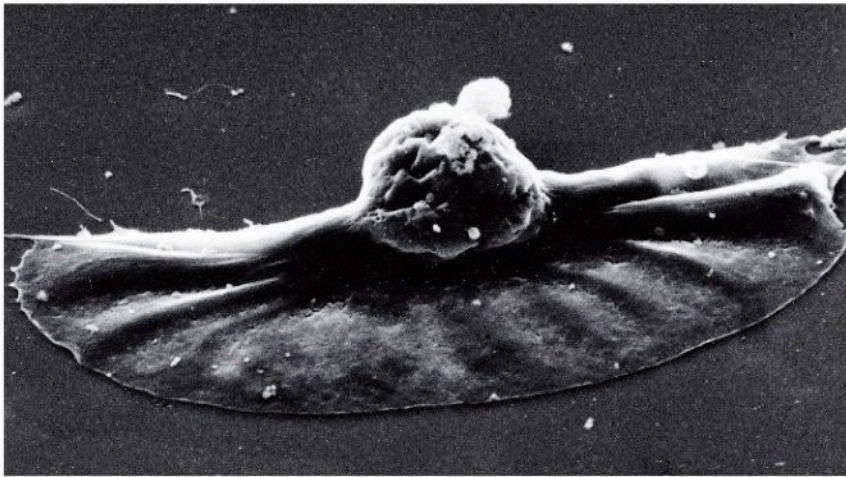


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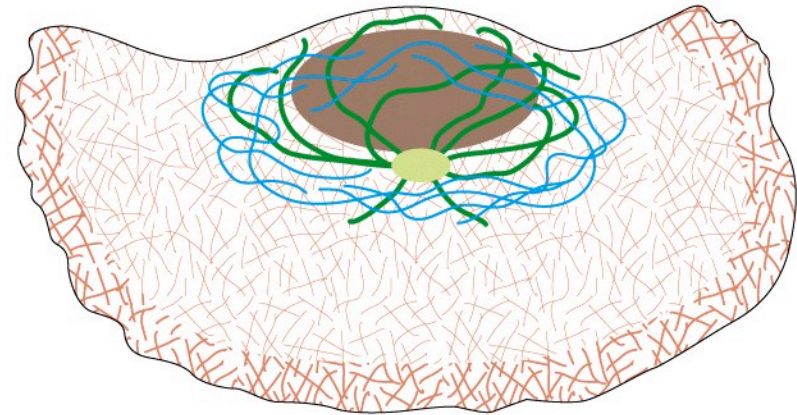


(A)



(B)

10  $\mu\text{m}$



(C)

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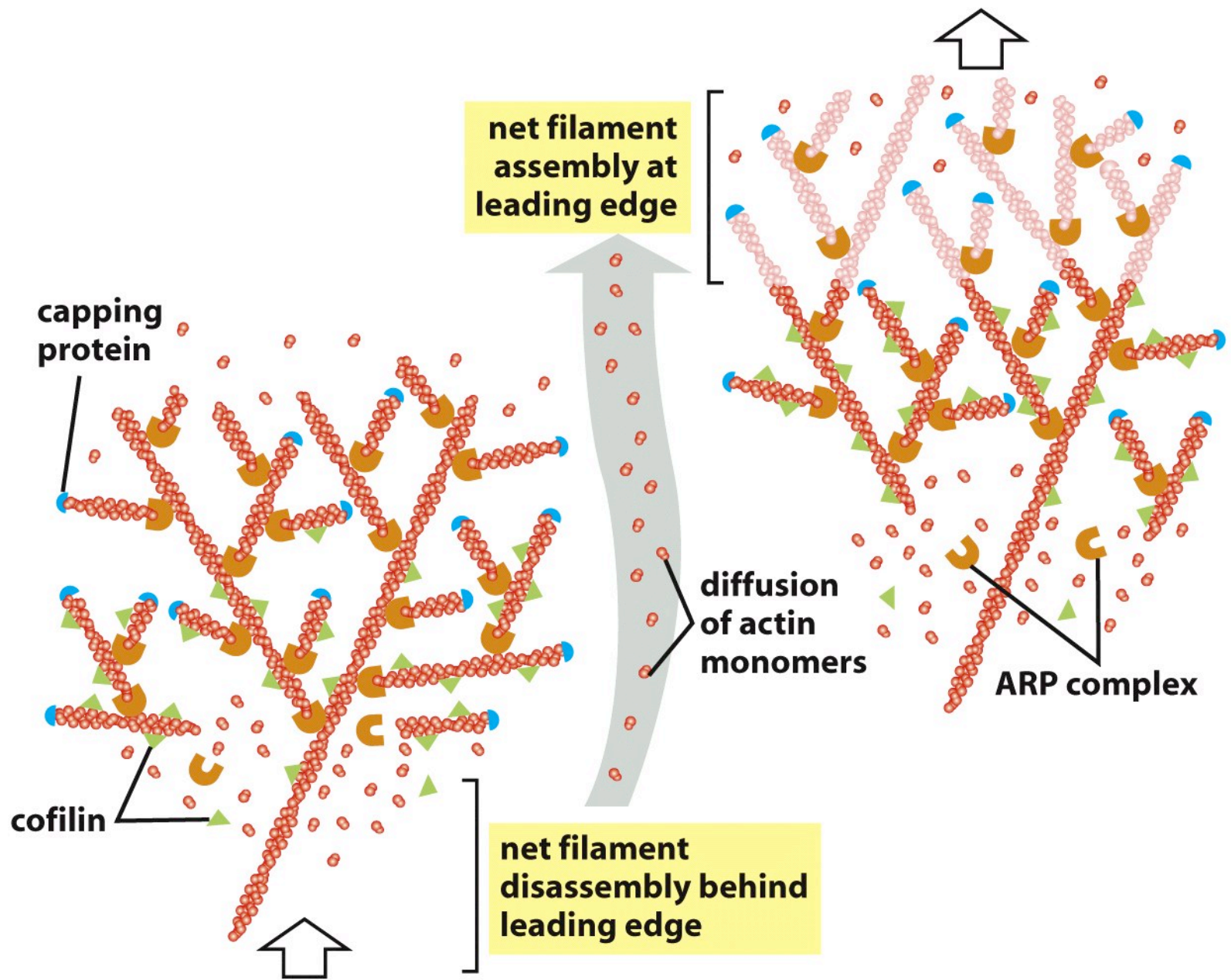


Figure 16-90 *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)



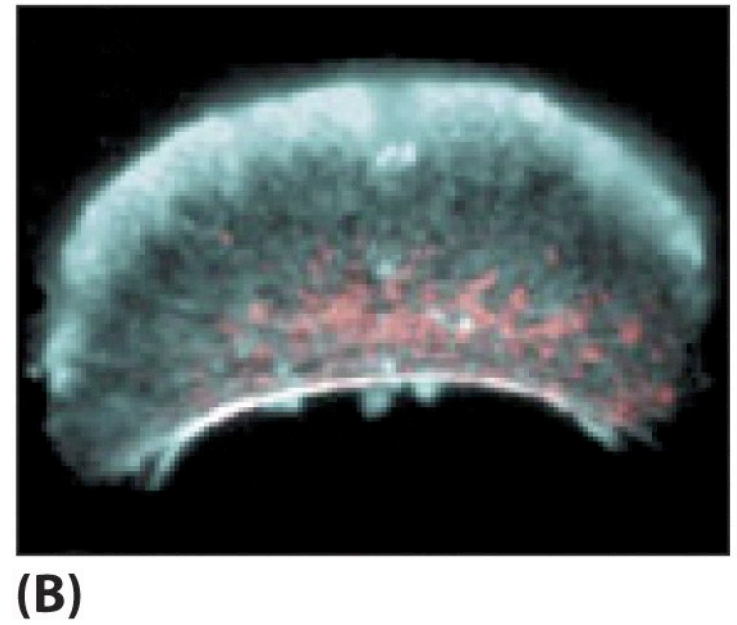
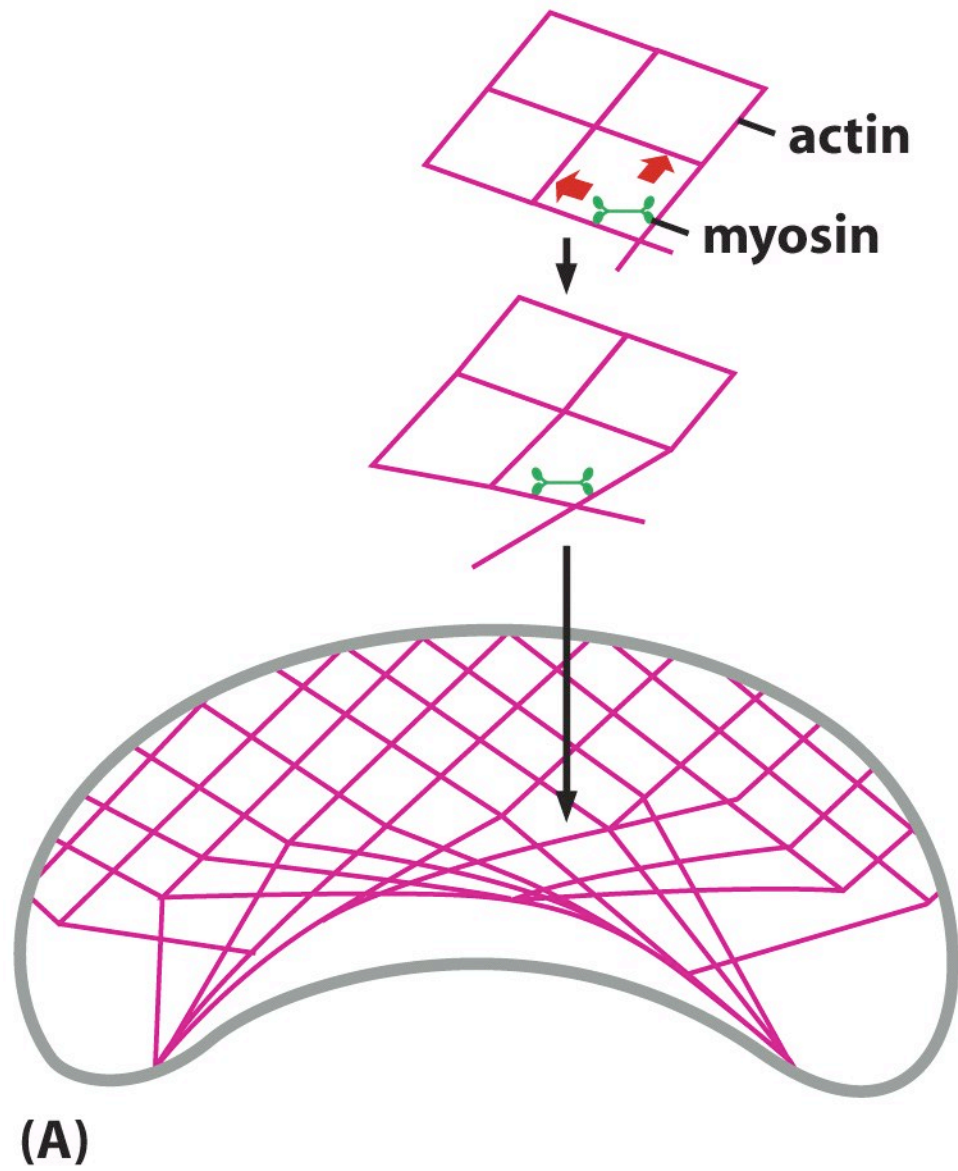


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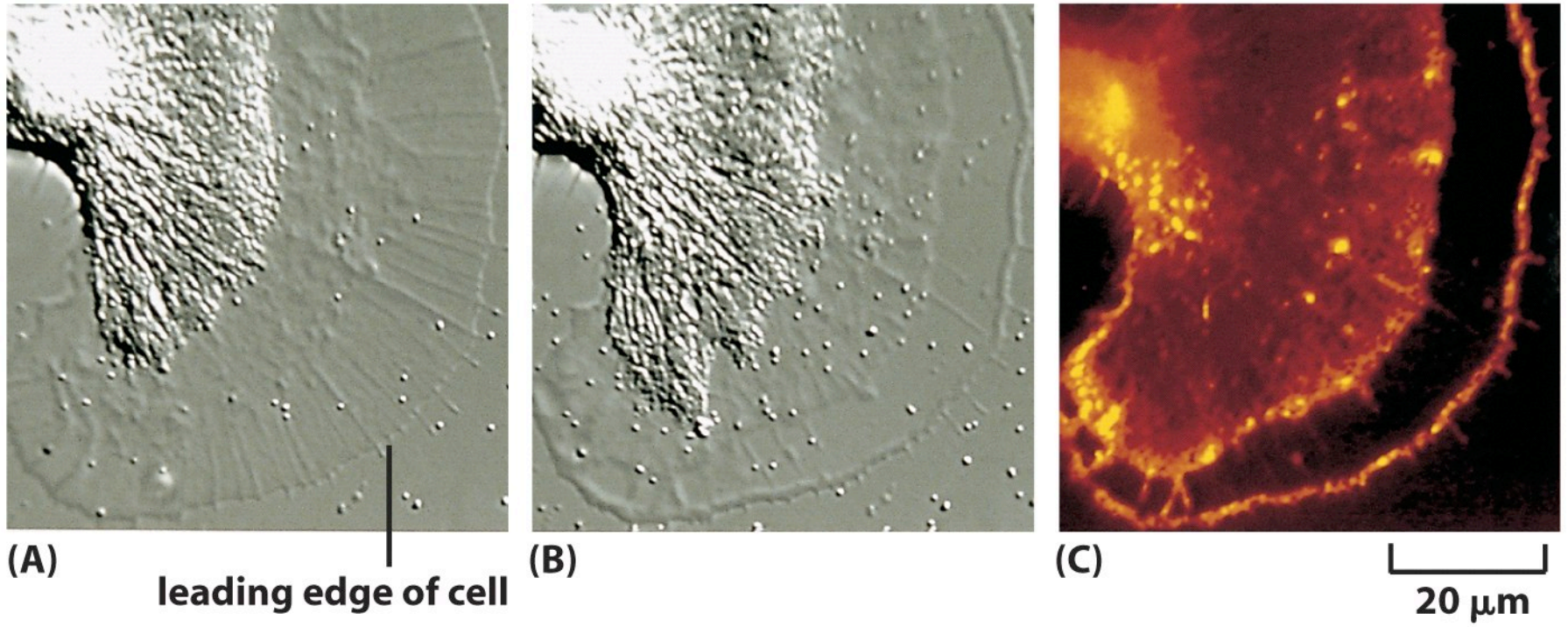


Figure 16-92a–c *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

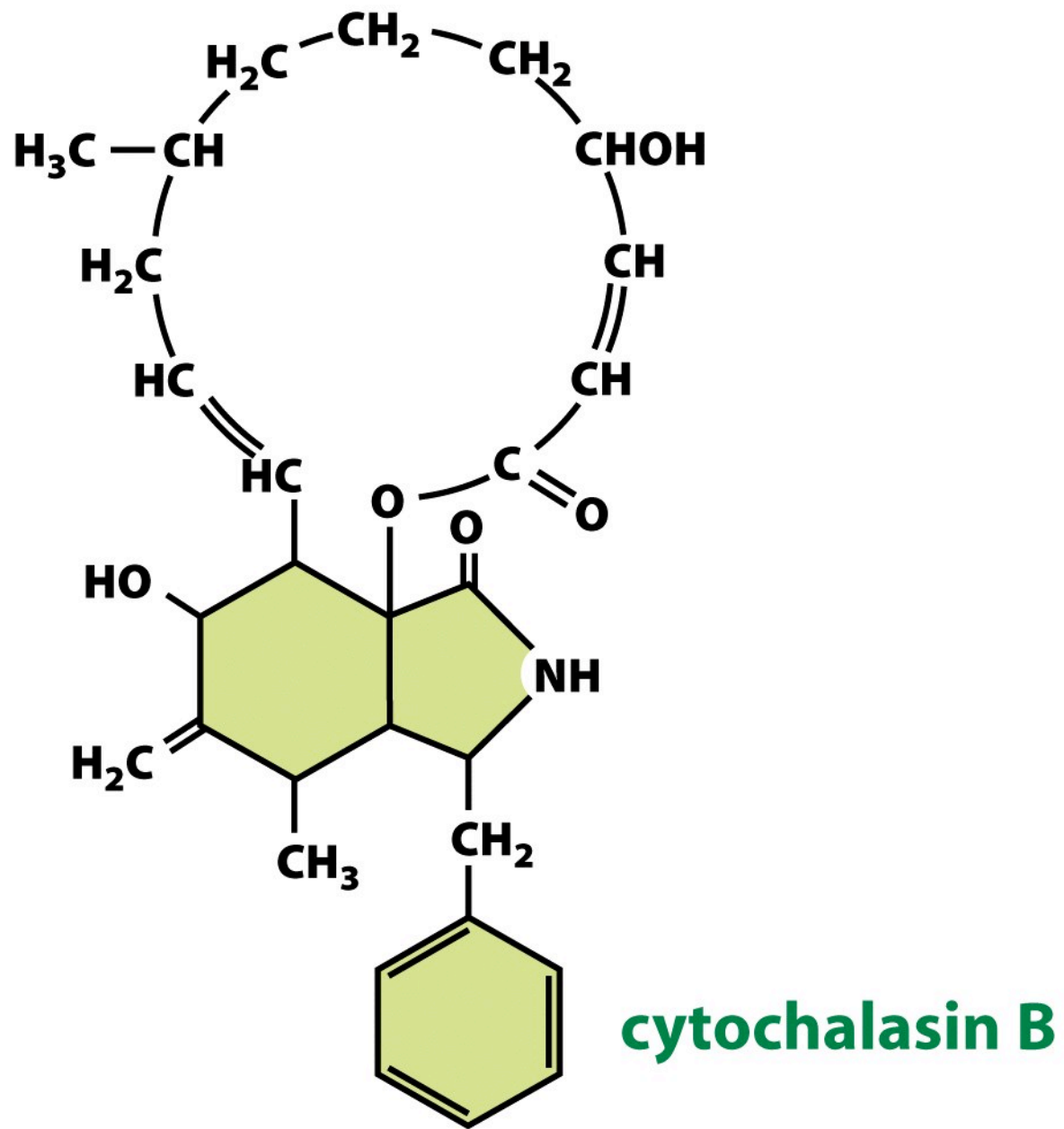
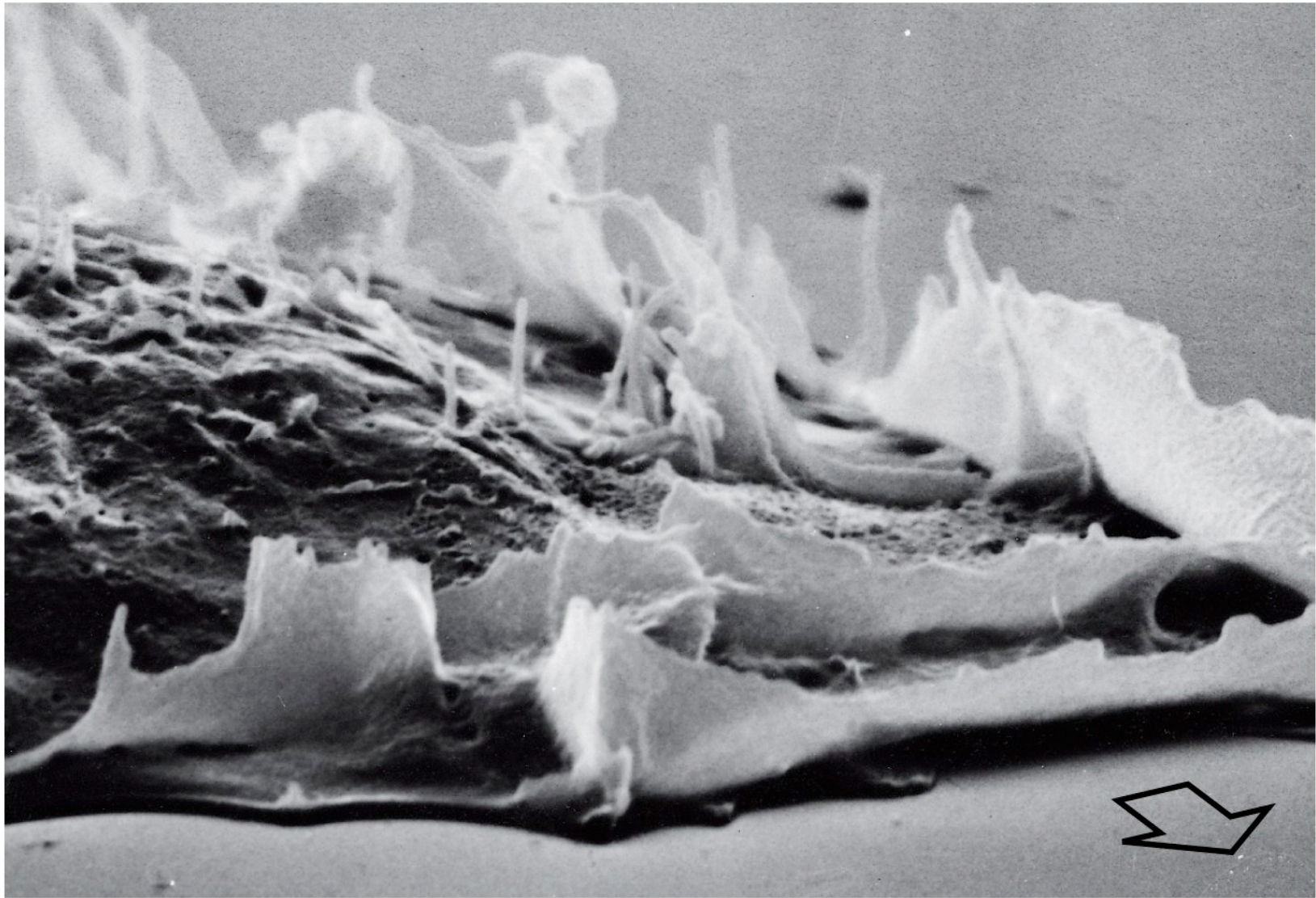


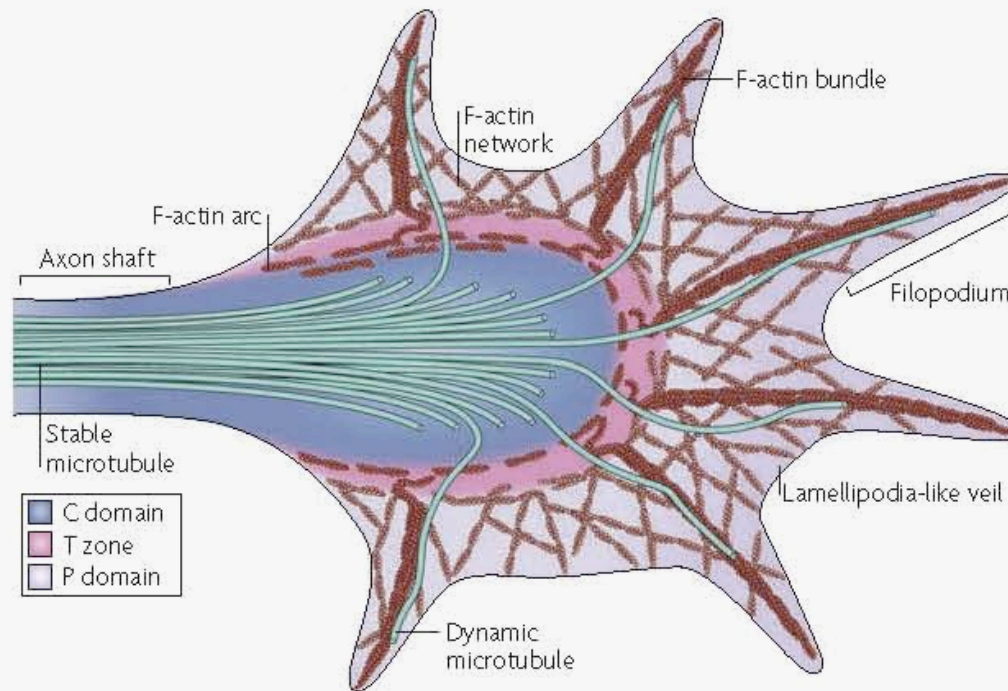
Figure 16-92d *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)



5  $\mu\text{m}$

Figure 16-93 *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

## Box 1 | The structure of the growth cone



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*Aplysia californica*

APCAM (NCAM)

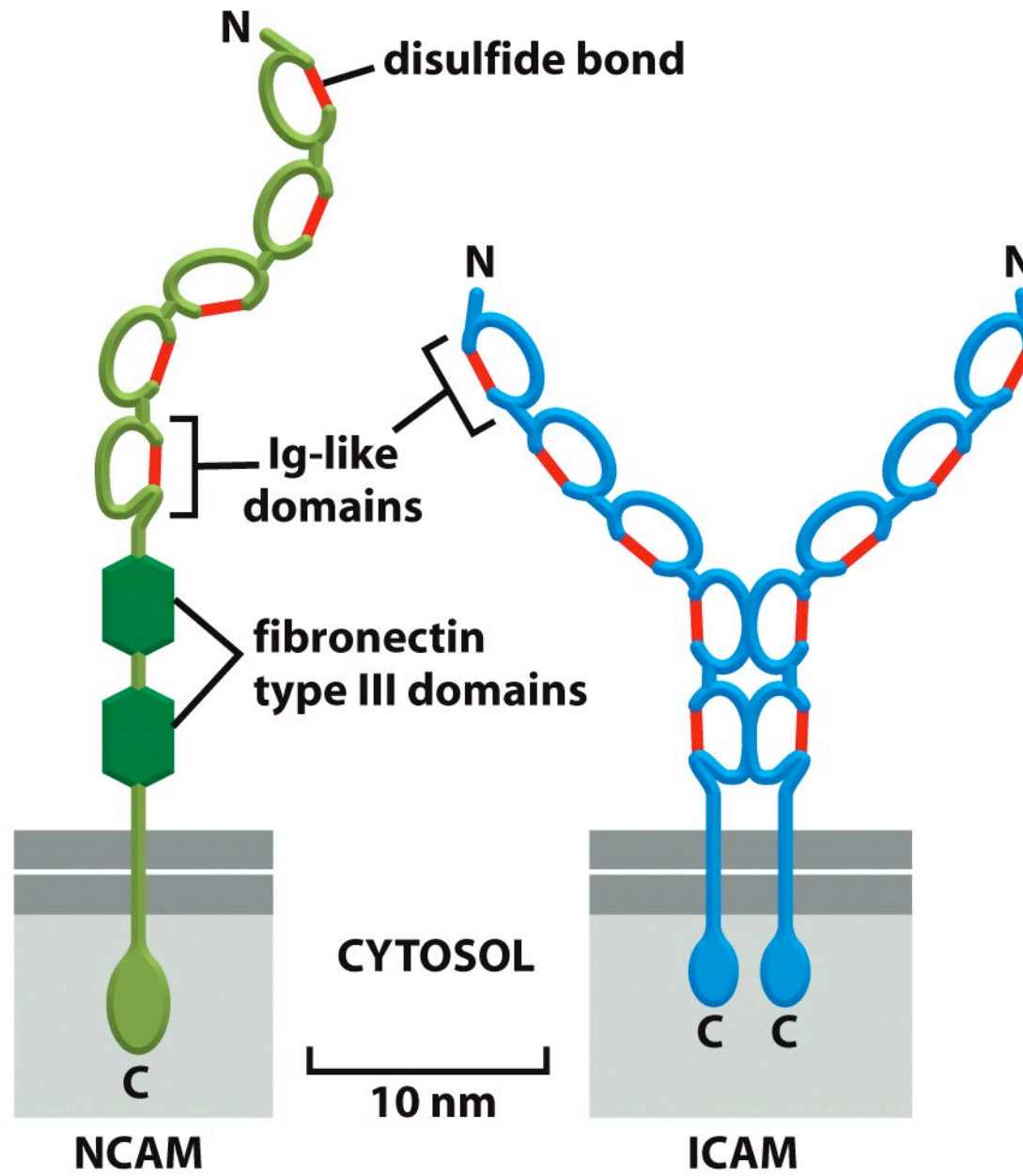


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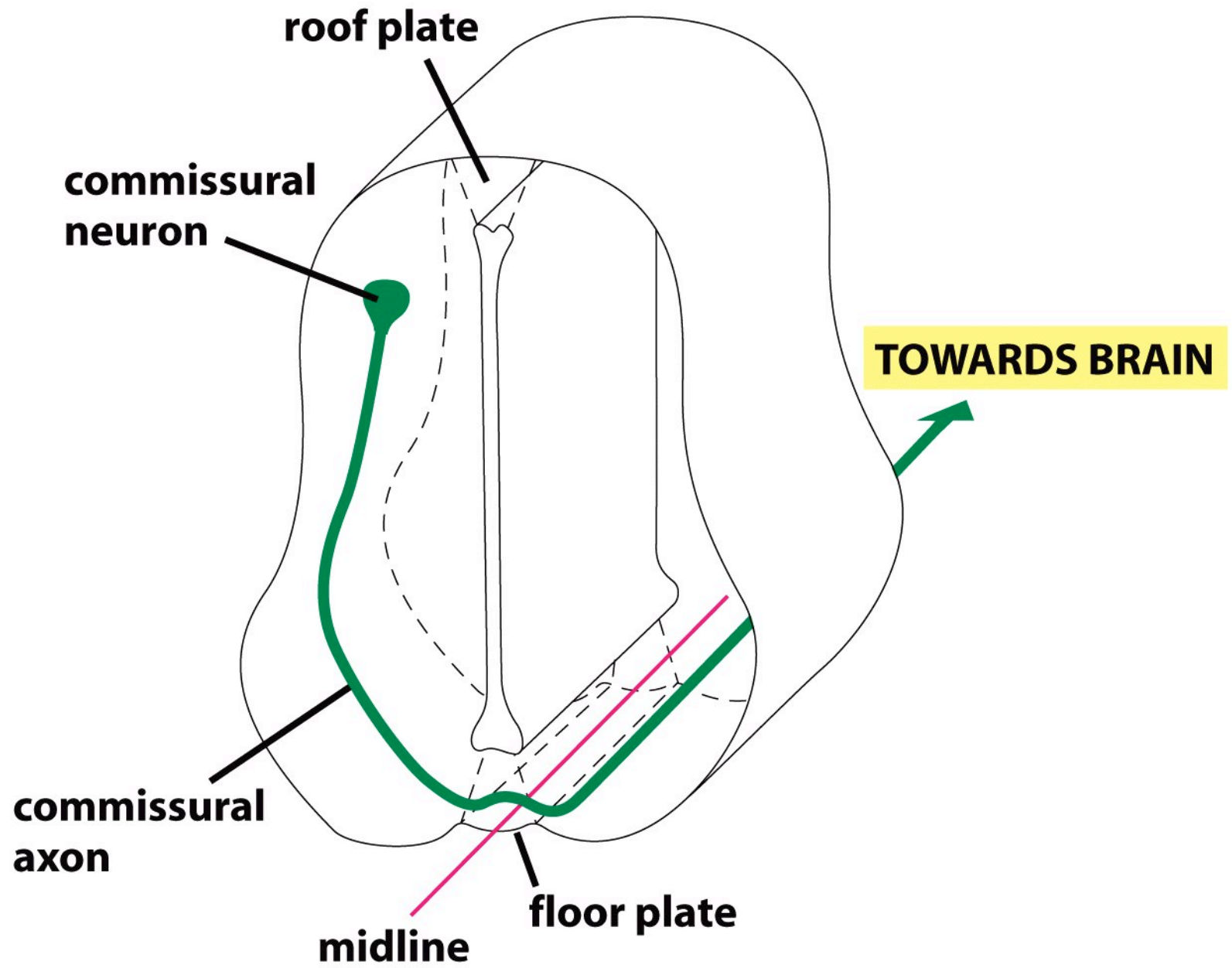


Figure 22-102a *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)



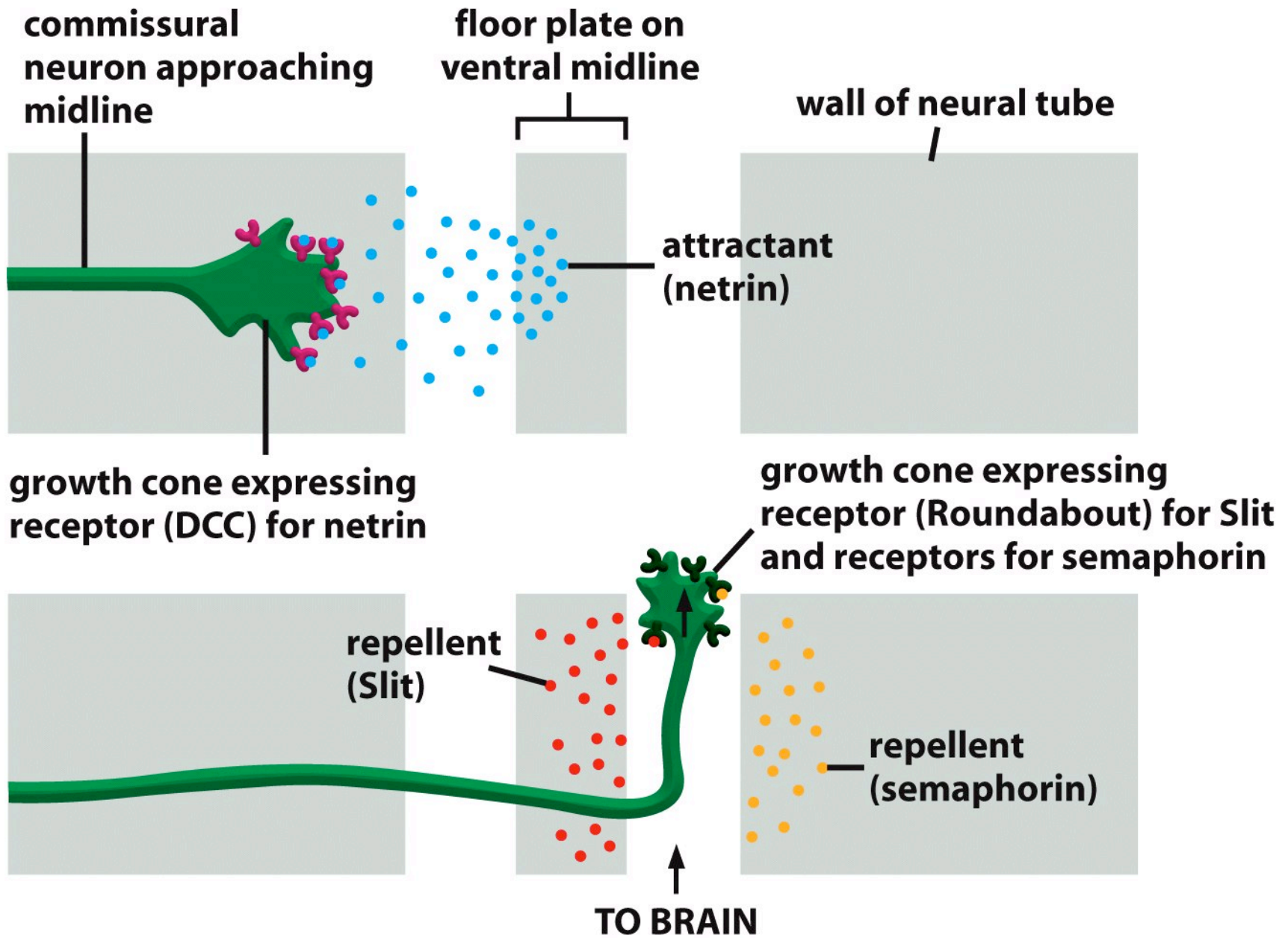
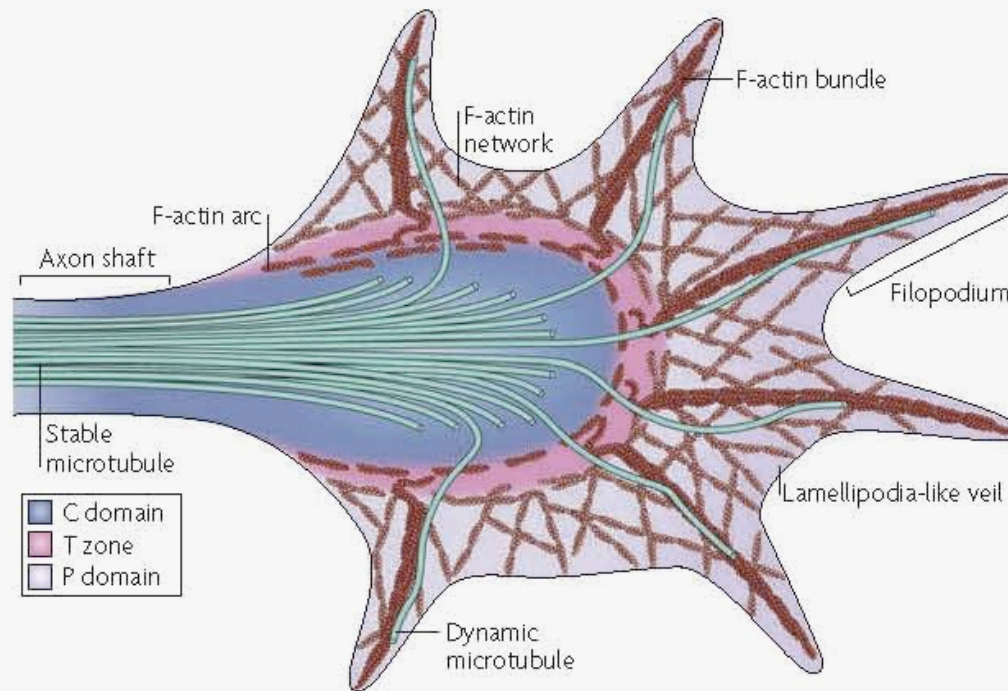


Figure 22-102b *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (© Garland Science 2008)

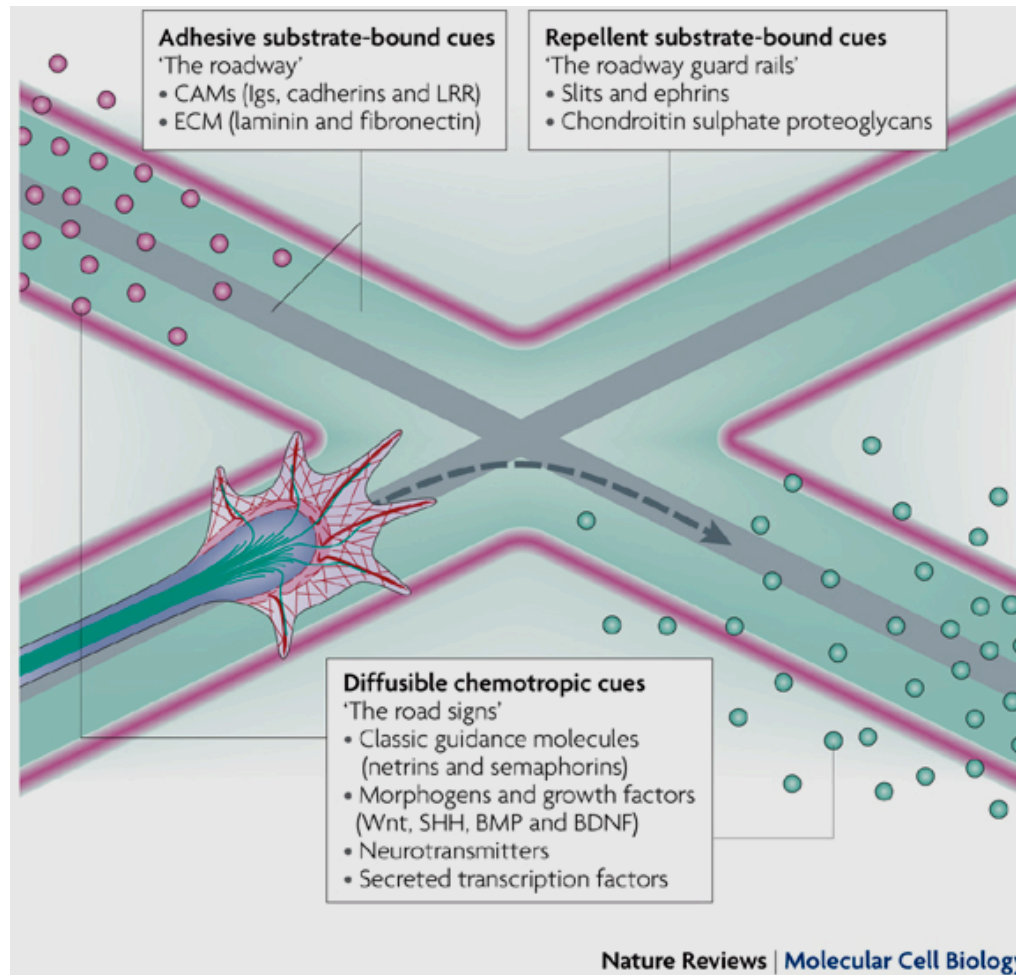
# Axonal guidance

- *Unc6*, codes for the homolog of netrin
- *Unc40*, codes for its transmembrane receptor – homolog DCC
- Localized activation of DCC by netrin leads to opening of a specialized class of ion channels (Ca<sup>++</sup>) in the plasma membrane – TRCP
- Noncommissural neurons in the neural tube, lacking DCC, are not attracted to the floor plate
- *Unc5 (Unc5H)*, a different netrin receptor actively repelled by the floor plate and send their axons instead toward the roof plate.

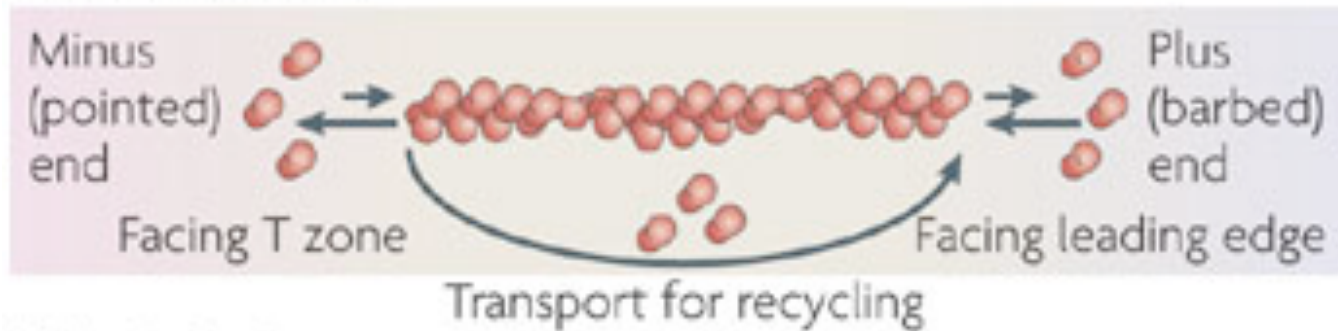
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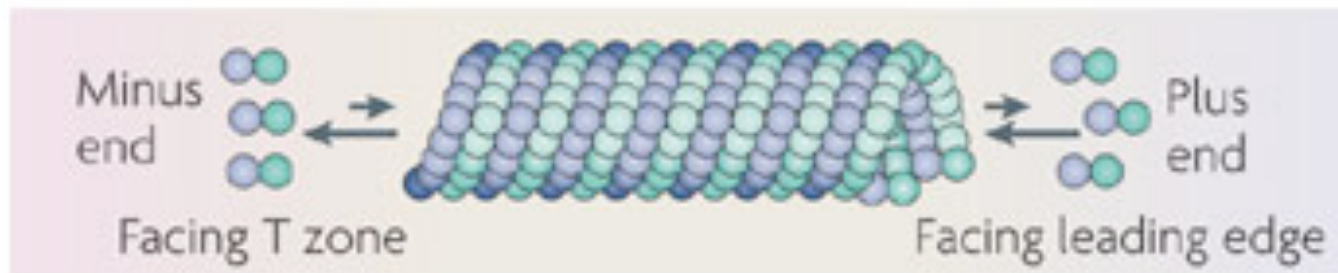
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## Actin filaments

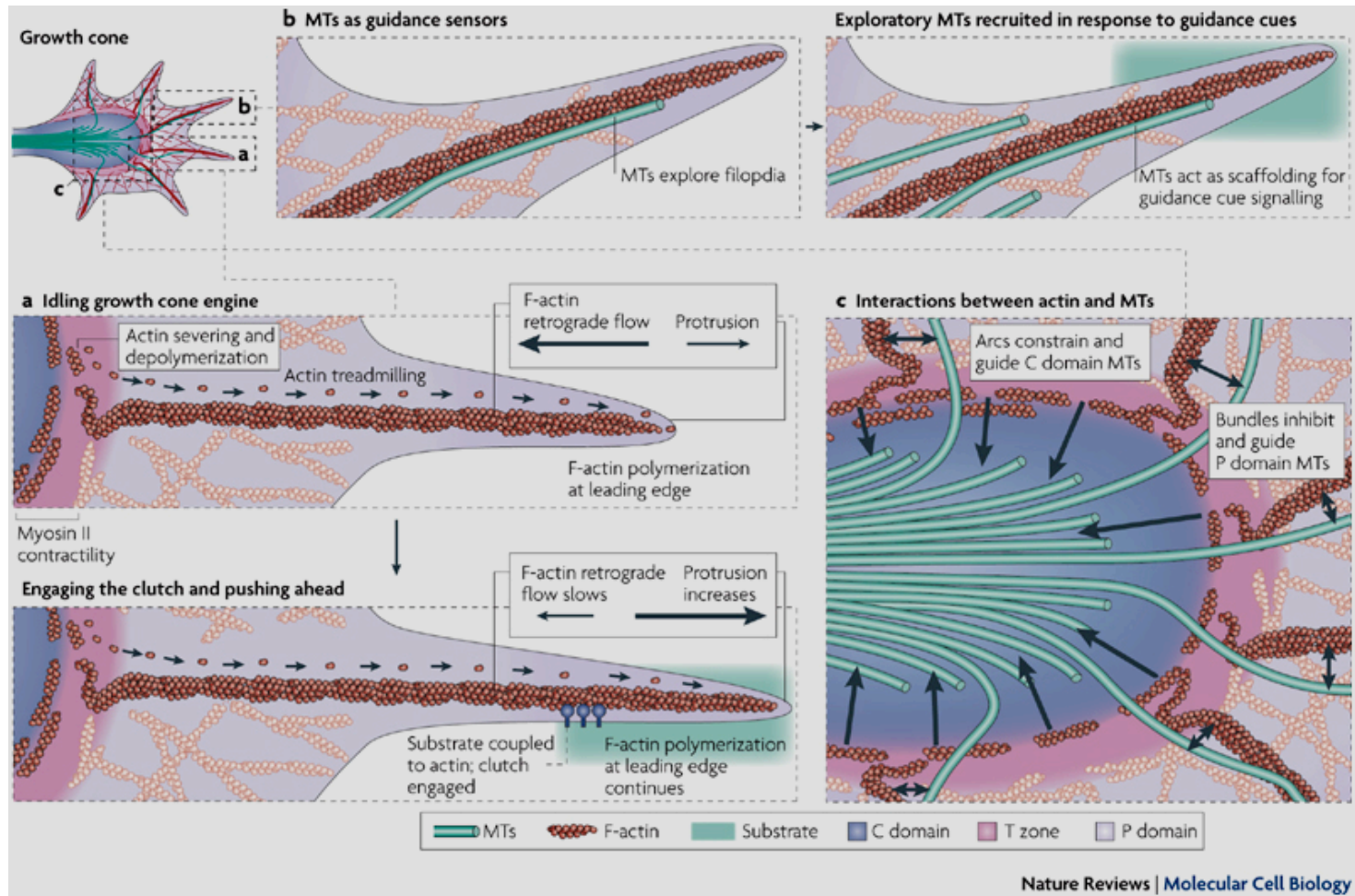


## Microtubules



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MTs involved in the localization of Src family of proteins



# Environmental cues the direct growth cone

- -Adhesive molecules like transmembrane cell adhesion molecules (CAMs)
- Complex extracellular matrix (ECM) like laminin and fibronectin.
- Anti-adhesive surface-bound molecules such as slits, ephrins and chondroitin sulphate proteoglycans
- Diffusible chemotropic cues such as netrins and semaphorins
- Morphogens such as Wnt, sonic hedgehog (SHH) and bone morphogenetic protein (BMP)
- Growth or neurotrophic factors such as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), and neurotransmitters

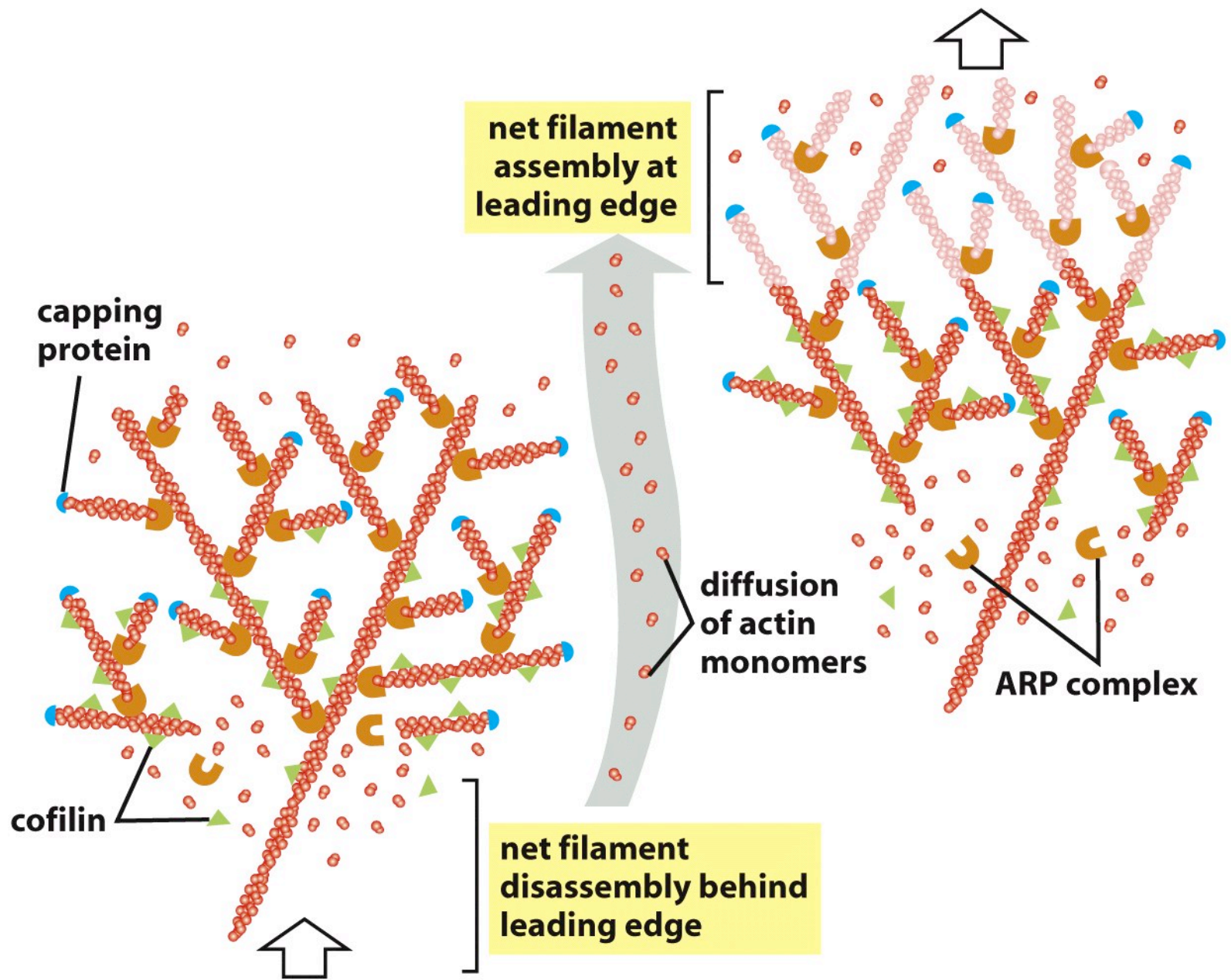


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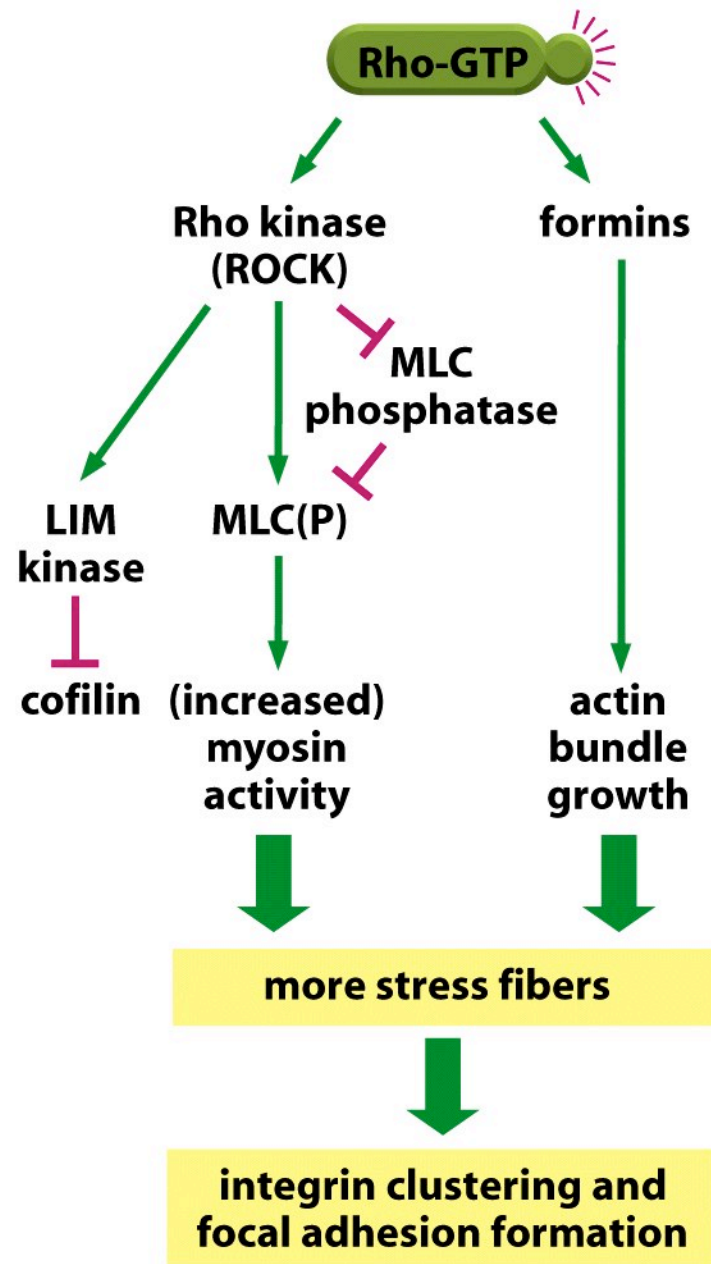
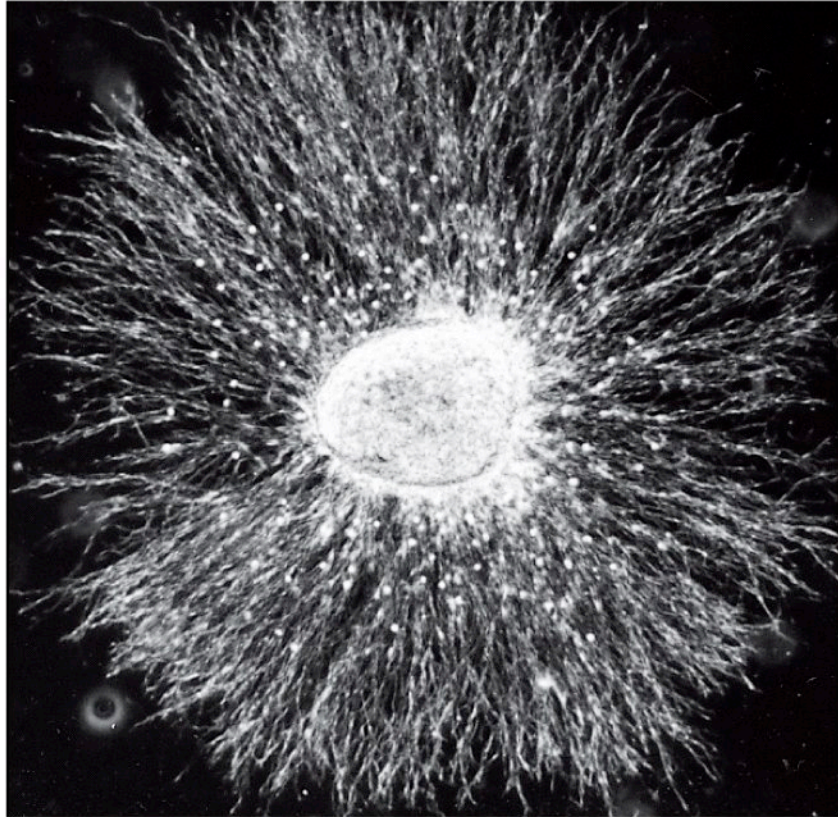
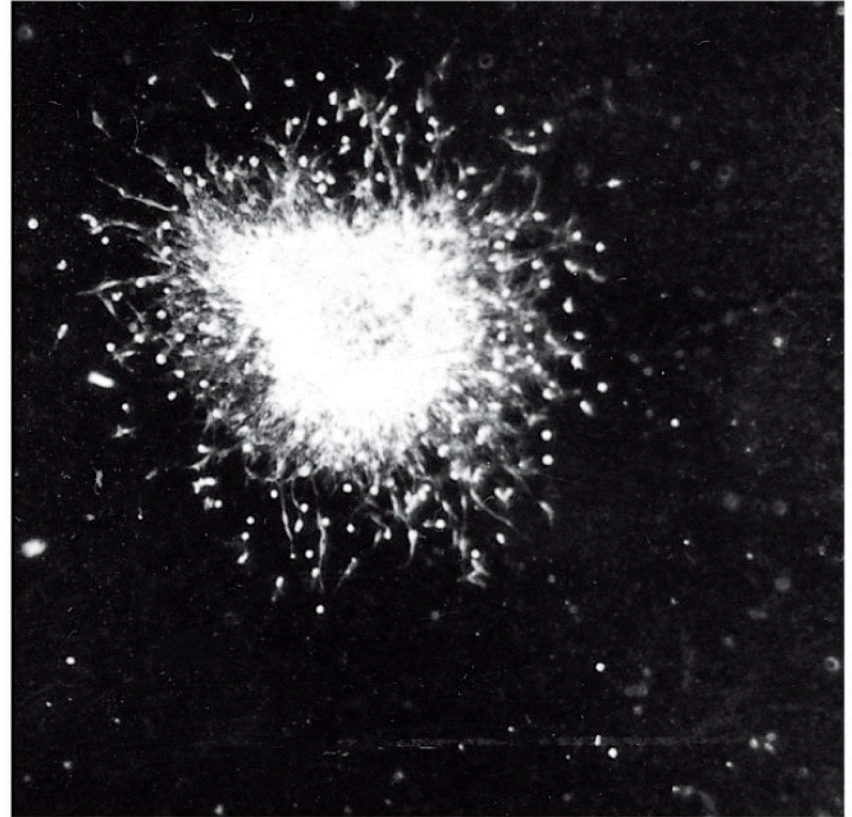


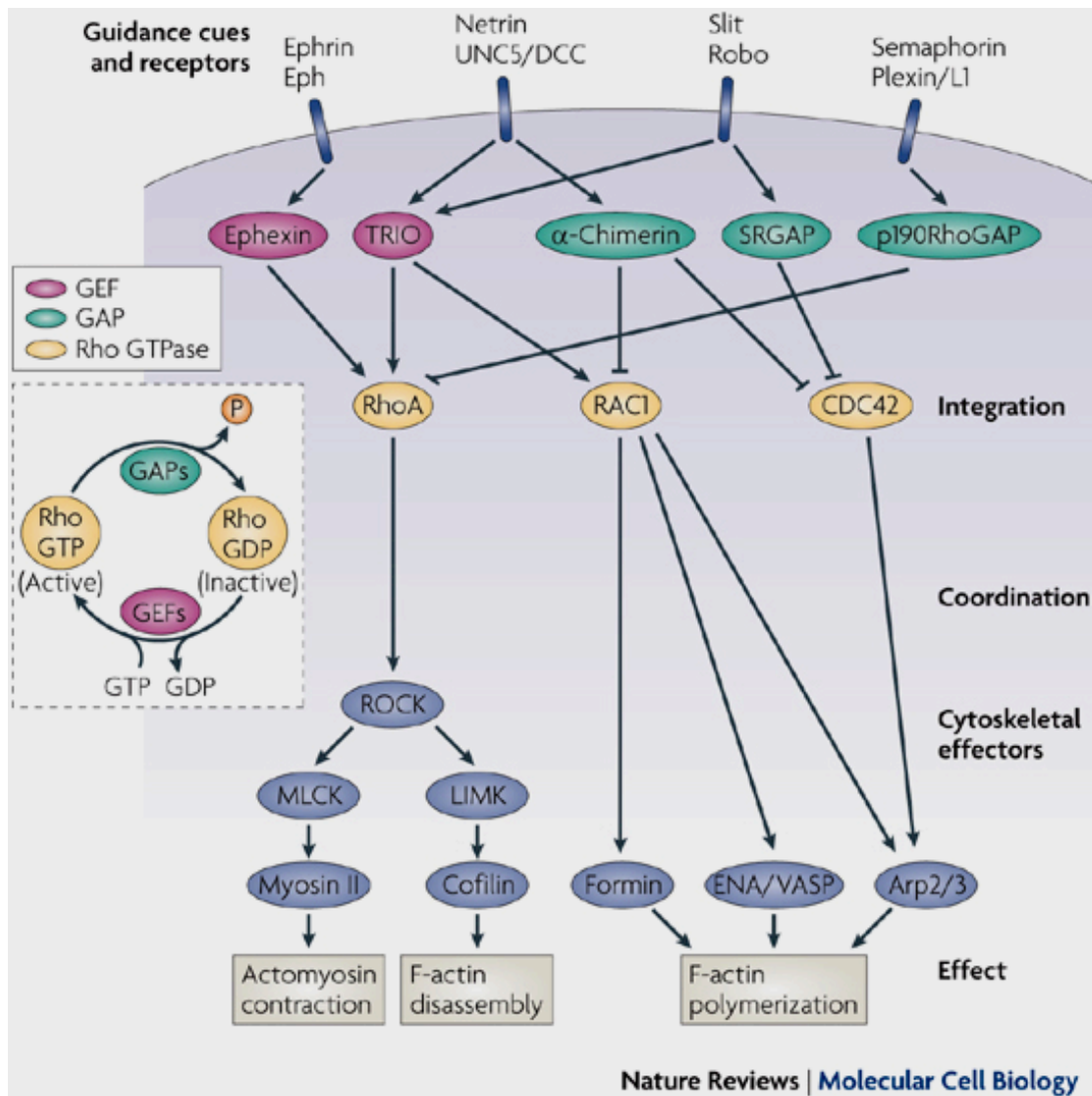
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**NGF**



**control**



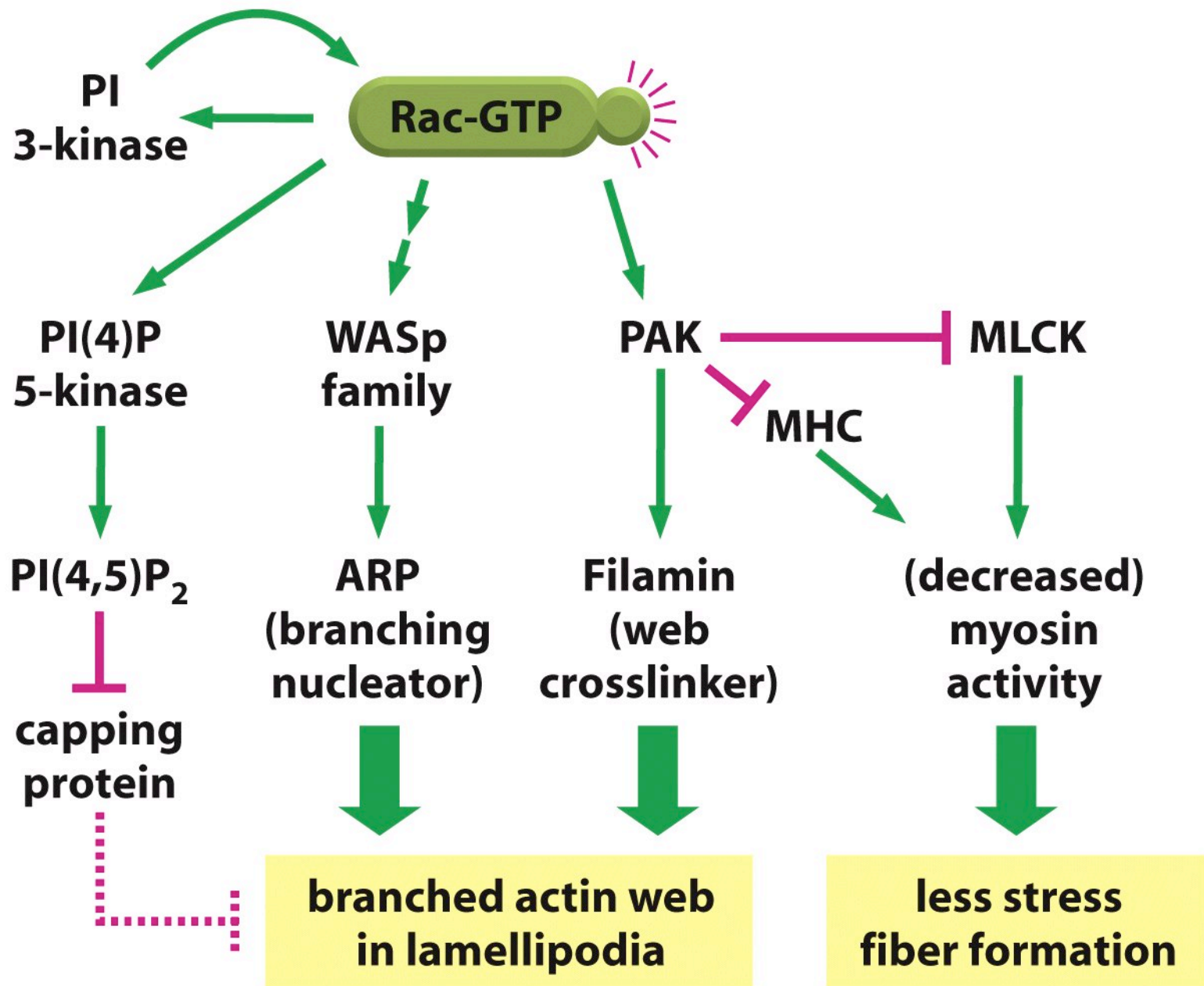


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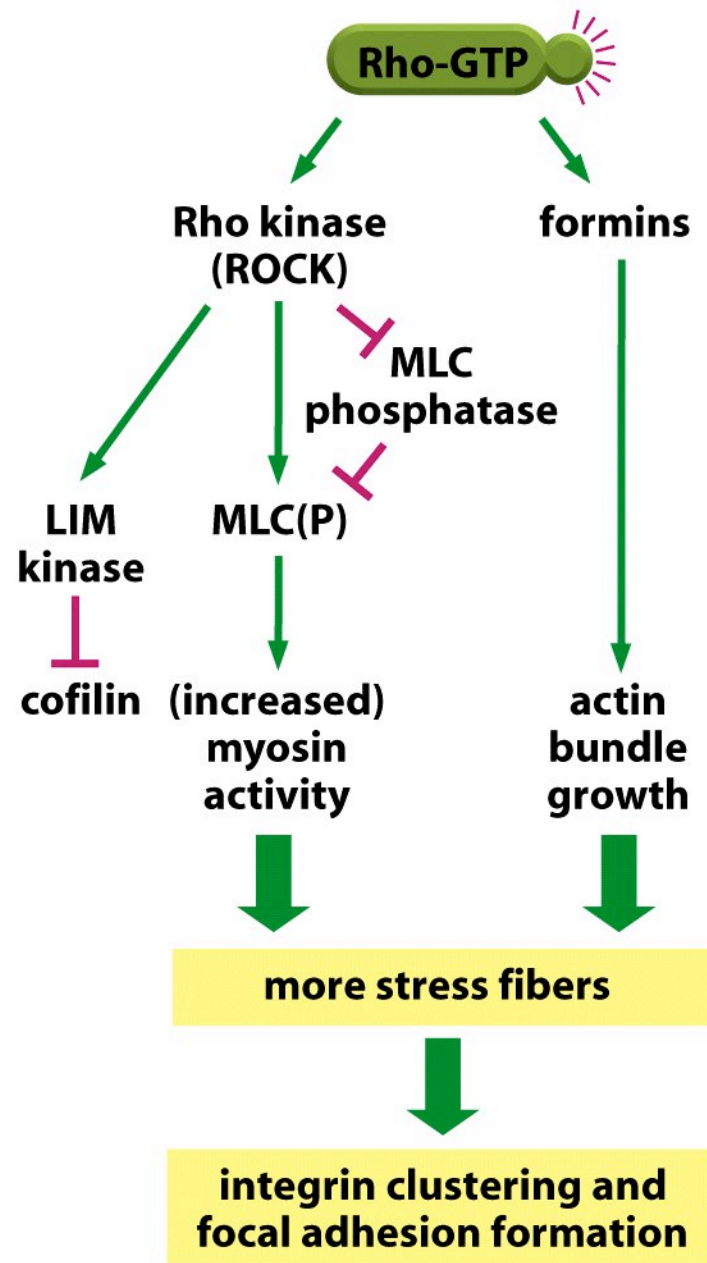


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