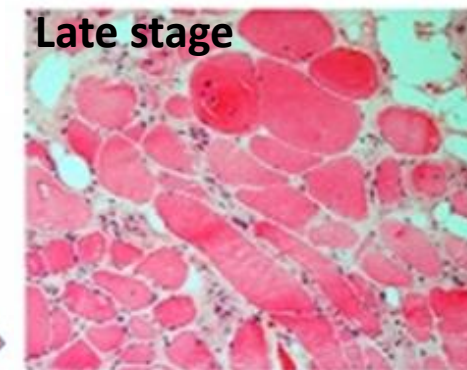
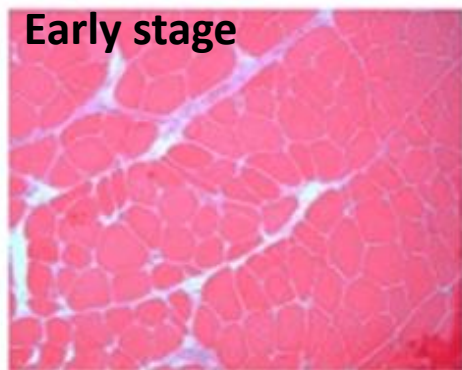
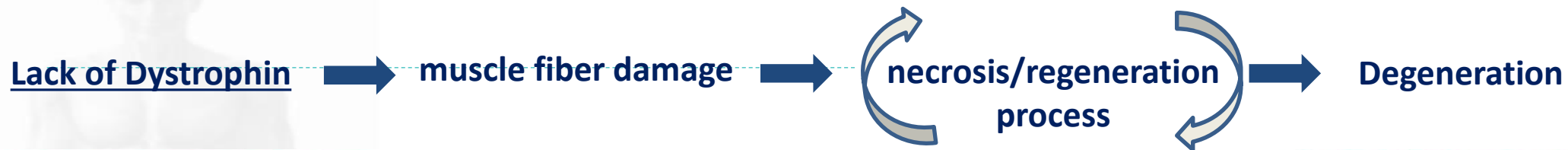


# AAV-microDystrophin and AAV-GDF5: A combined treatment to optimize DMD gene therapy ?

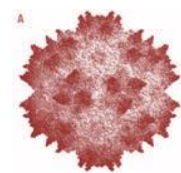
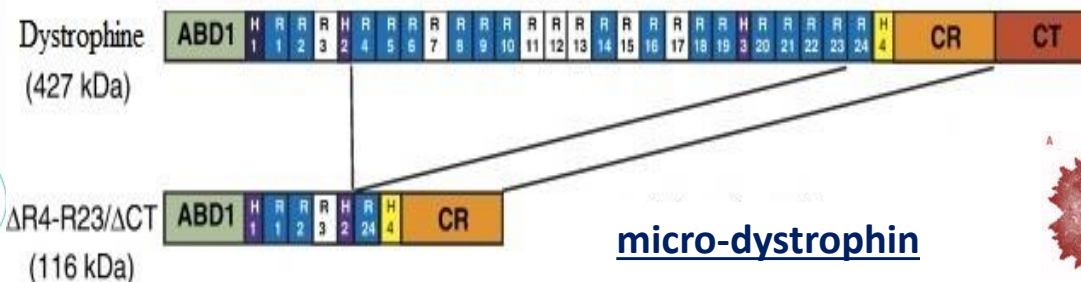
France Piétri-Rouxel



# Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy - DMD



Adapted from Gordova G et al, Front Genet. 2018



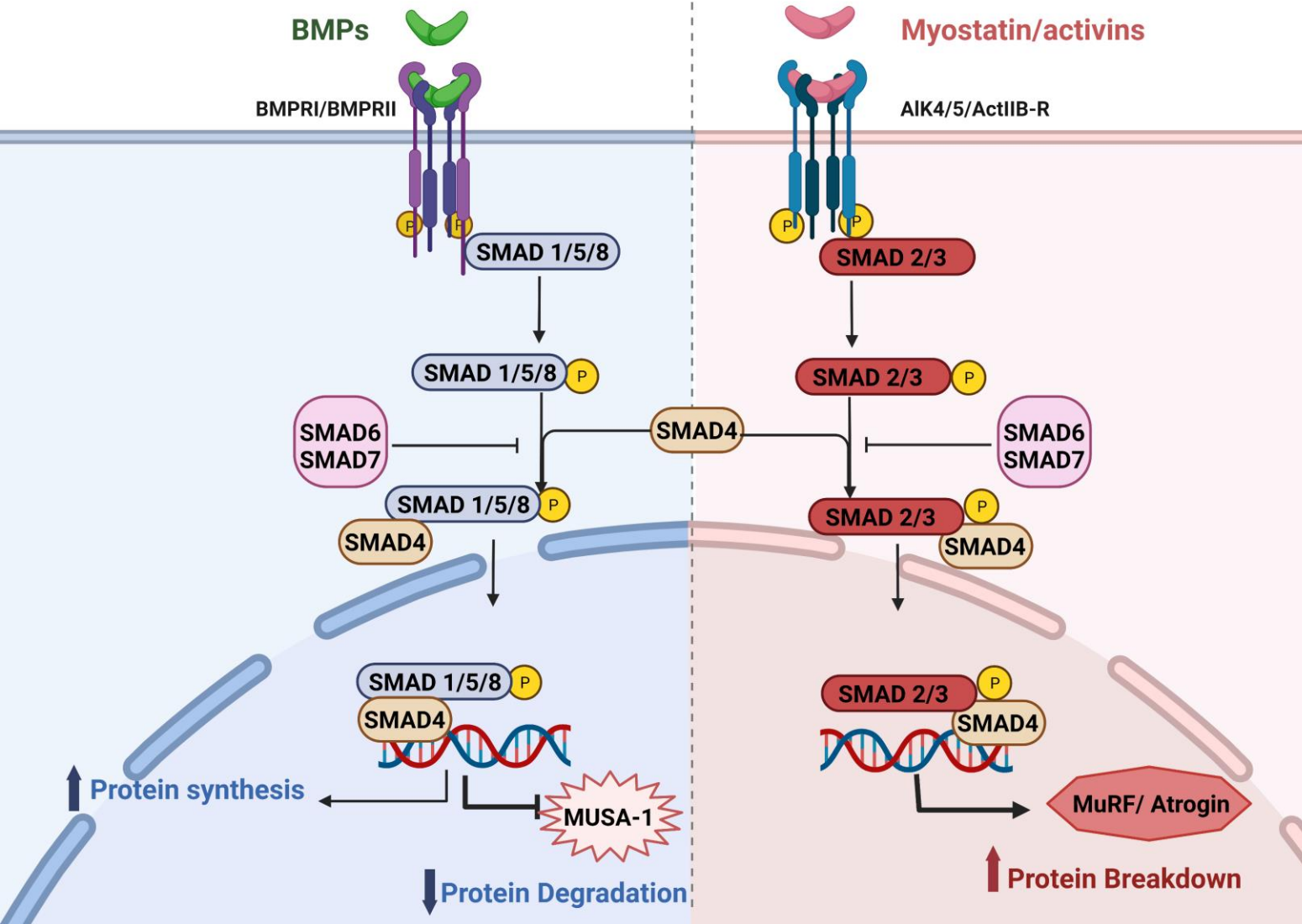
**Limitation for AAV gene therapy :  
loss of viral genome**

Need for a combined treatment to optimize dystrophin restoration

# Muscle mass homeostasis

## Muscle Atrophy Inhibition/Hypertrophy

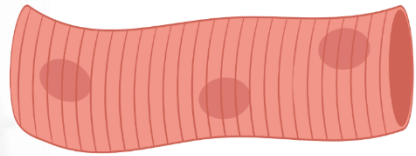
## Muscle Atrophy



# BMP14/GDF5: compensatory response to electrical activity impairment

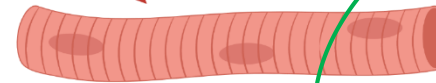
## Innervation

Healthy muscle



Activity impairment

Atrophied muscle



GDF5

**Compensatory response to limit muscle mass loss**

*Sartori et al, Nat Gen 2013*

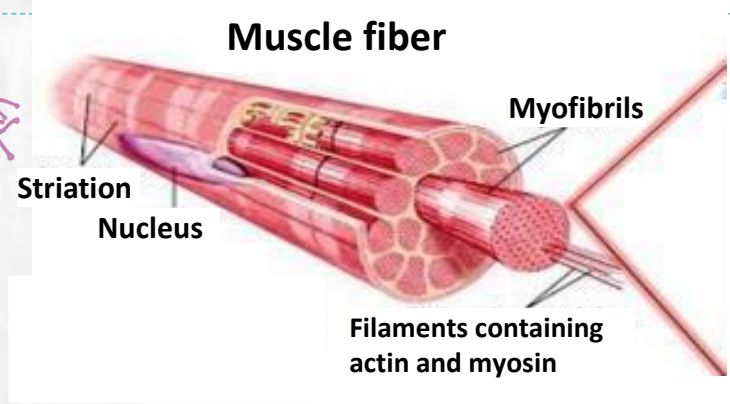
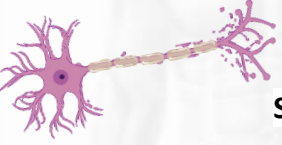
**TGF $\beta$  family member: Growth Differentiation Factor 5**

**Circulating factor** (*Storm et al. 1994*)

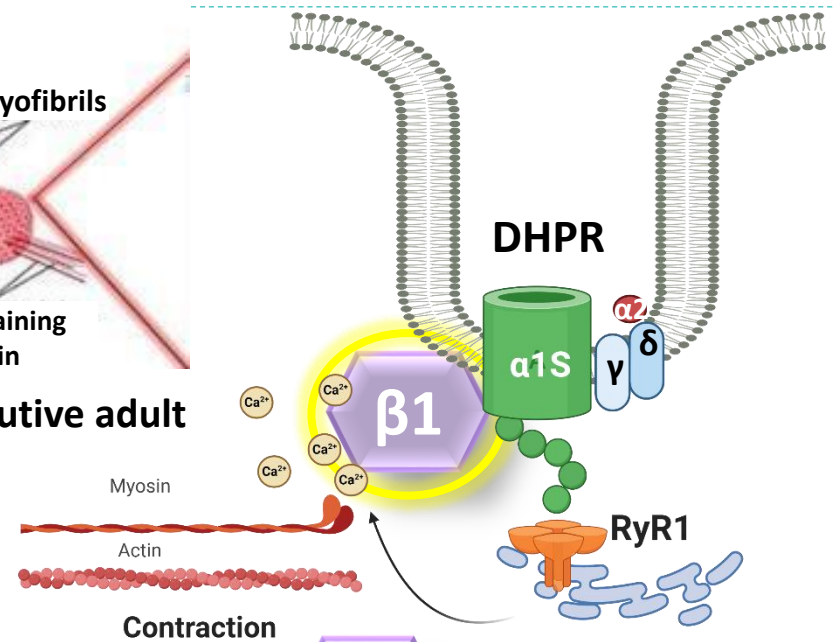
**Needed for re-innervation** (*MacPherson et al. 2005*)

# Link between electrical activity impairment and compensatory response?

**Nerve Damage**



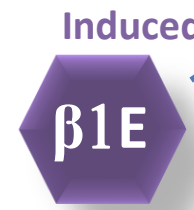
**Constitutive adult**



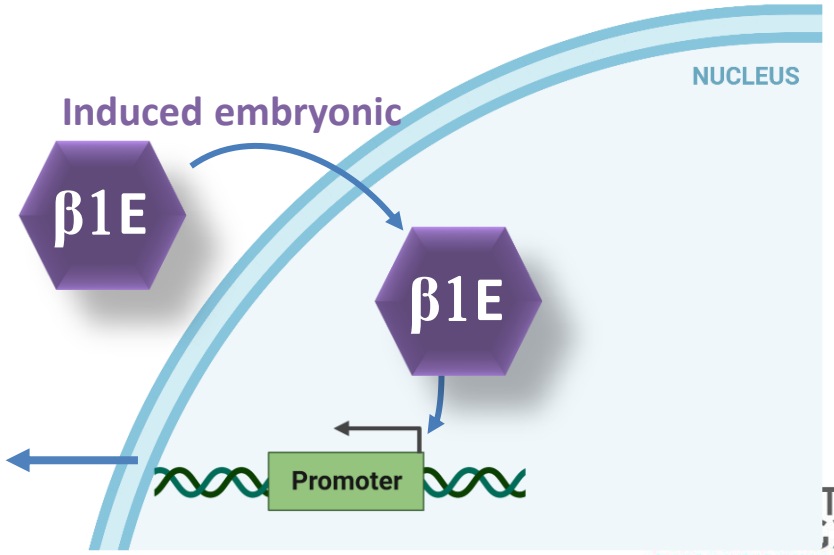
- Modulates α1S functions
- Transcription factor function in MPC



***Cacnb1* (CaVβ1 mRNA) alternative splicing CaVβ1D/CaVβ1E**



**Induced embryonic**



Science Translational Medicine

RESEARCH ARTICLE SARCOPENIA

**An embryonic CaVβ1 isoform promotes muscle mass maintenance via GDF5 signaling in adult mouse**

MASSIRÉ TRAOËRE, CHRISTEL GENTIL, CHIARA BENEDETTO, JEAN-YVES HOGREL, PIERRE DE LA GRANGE, BRUNO CADOT, SOPHIA BENKHELIFA-ZIYYAT, LAURA JULIEN, MÉGANE LEMAITRE, ANNAÏD FERRY, FRANCE PIÉTRI-ROUXEL, AND SESTINA FALCONE

fewer

frontiers | Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology

MINI REVIEW published: 04 April 2022 doi: 10.3389/fcell.2022.880441

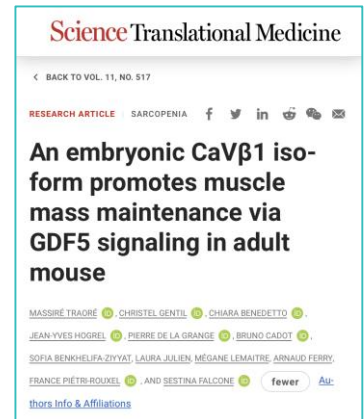
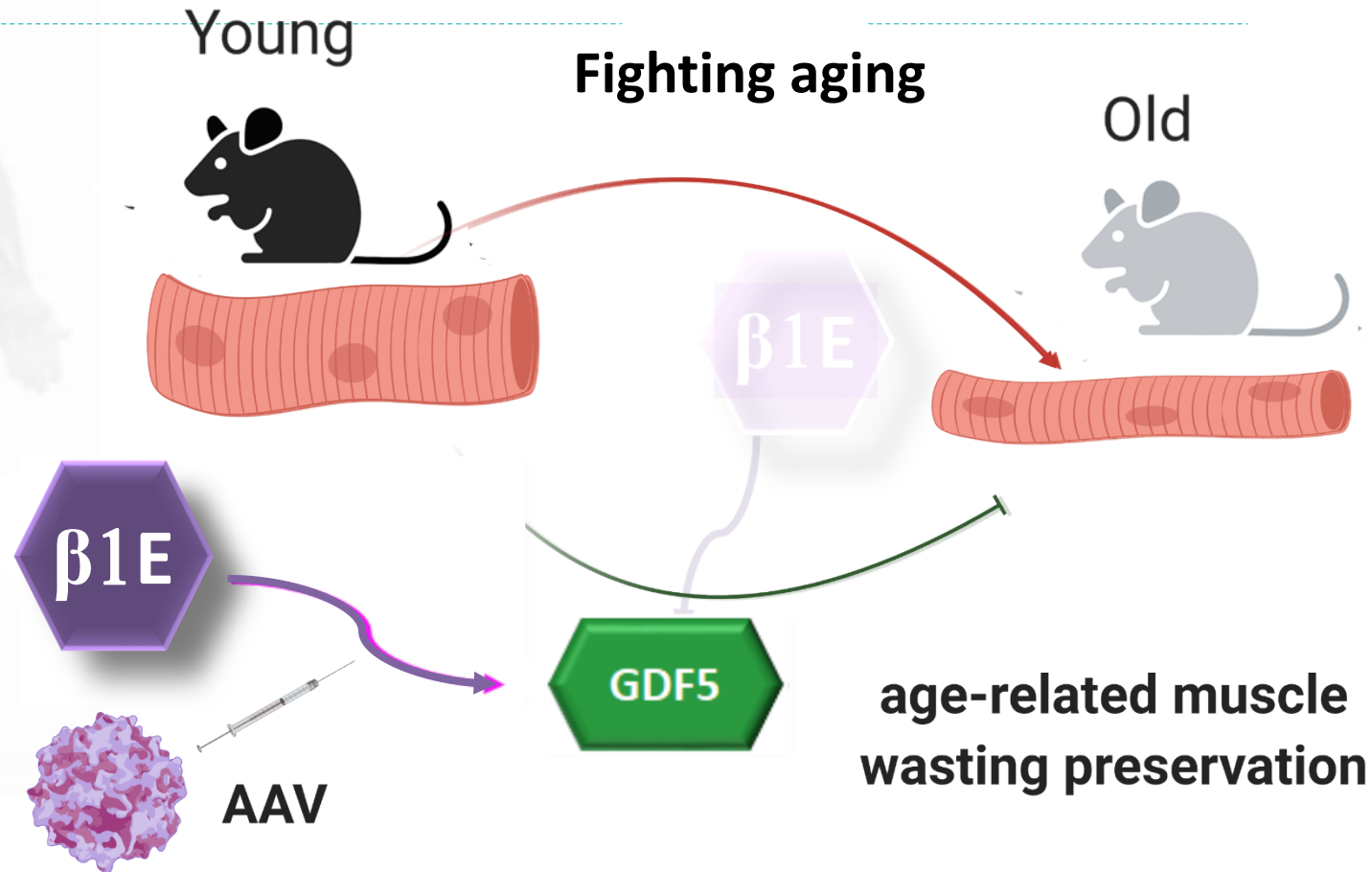
**New Insights in CaVβ Subunits: Role in the Regulation of Gene Expression and Cellular Homeostasis**

Amélie Vergnol, Massiré Traoré, France Pietri-Rouxel and Sestina Falcone\*

INSERM U1074, Center of Research in Myology-Sorbonne University, Paris, France



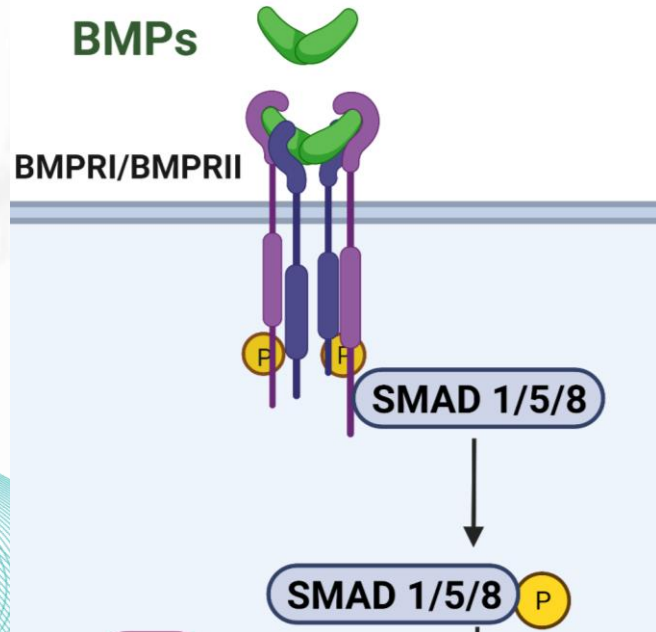
# Counterbalancing age-related muscle atrophy through novel identified molecular pathways



Poster #35. Therapeutic approach based on GDF5 to counteract age-related muscle wasting

# GDF5 in combined treatment to optimize gene therapy for DMD?

## BMP signaling and skeletal muscle regeneration



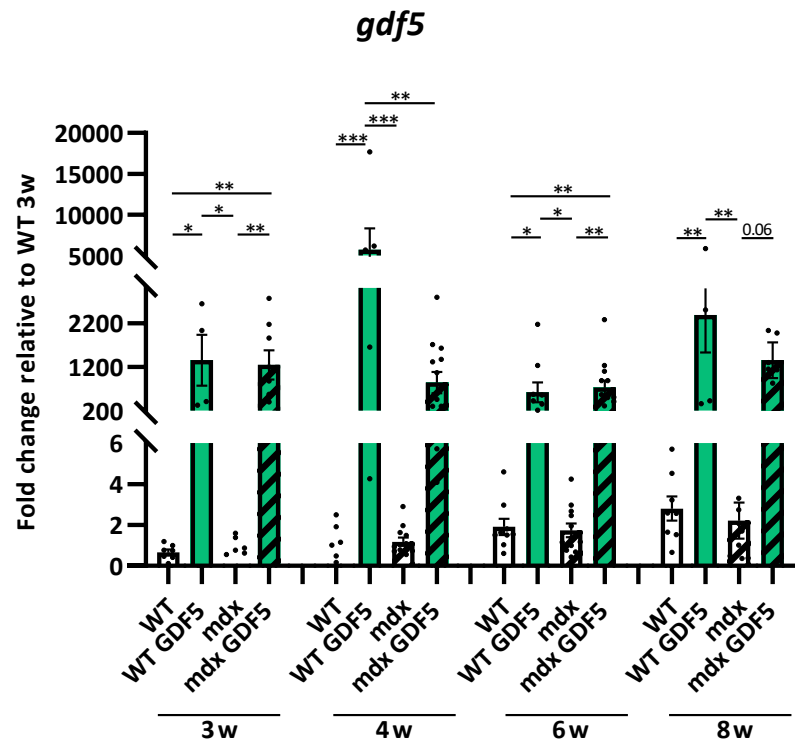
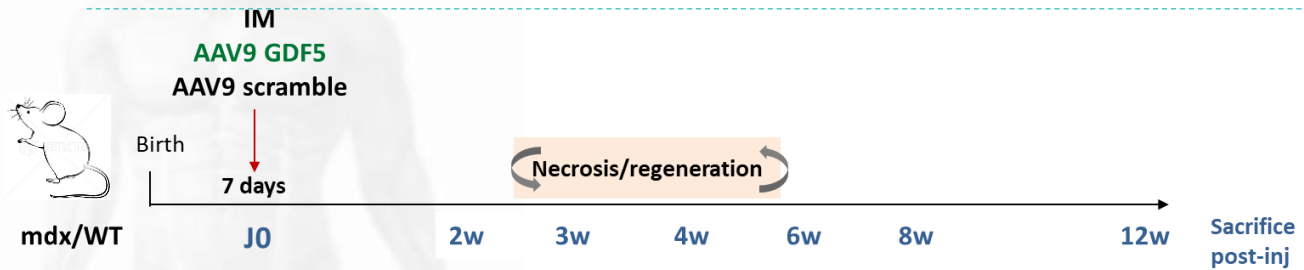
Balances proliferation and differentiation of satellite cell descendants (Friedrichs et al., 2011).

Regulates myogenic differentiation in muscle satellite cells (Ono et al., 2011).

Has a key role in adult muscle regeneration (Clever et al., 2010).

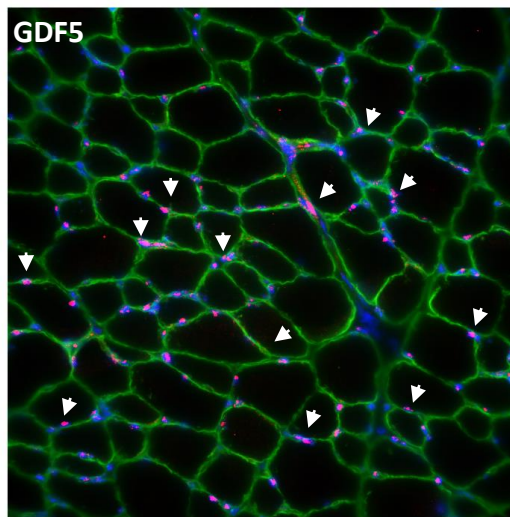
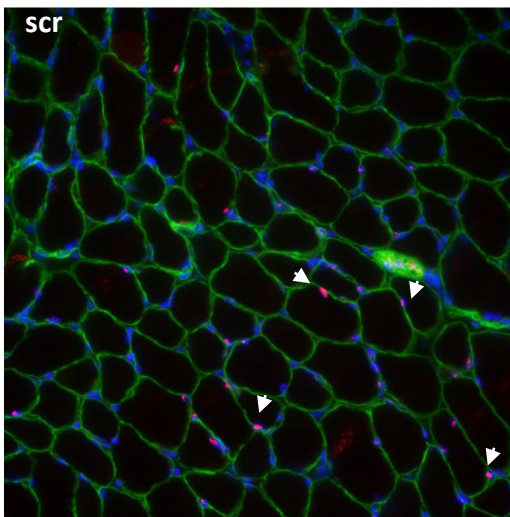
Inhibits intramuscular adipogenesis (Huang et al., 2014).

# GDF5 overexpression in DMD mouse model (mdx)

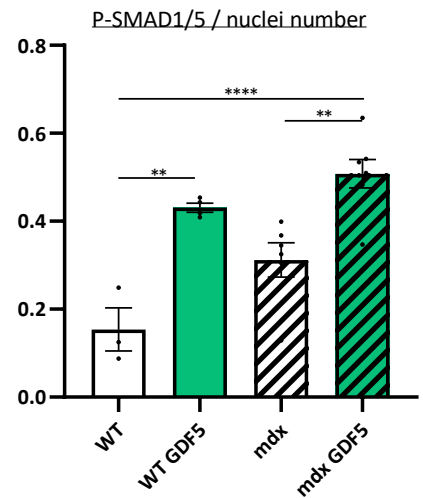


mdx

P-SMAD1/5 / laminin / DAPI



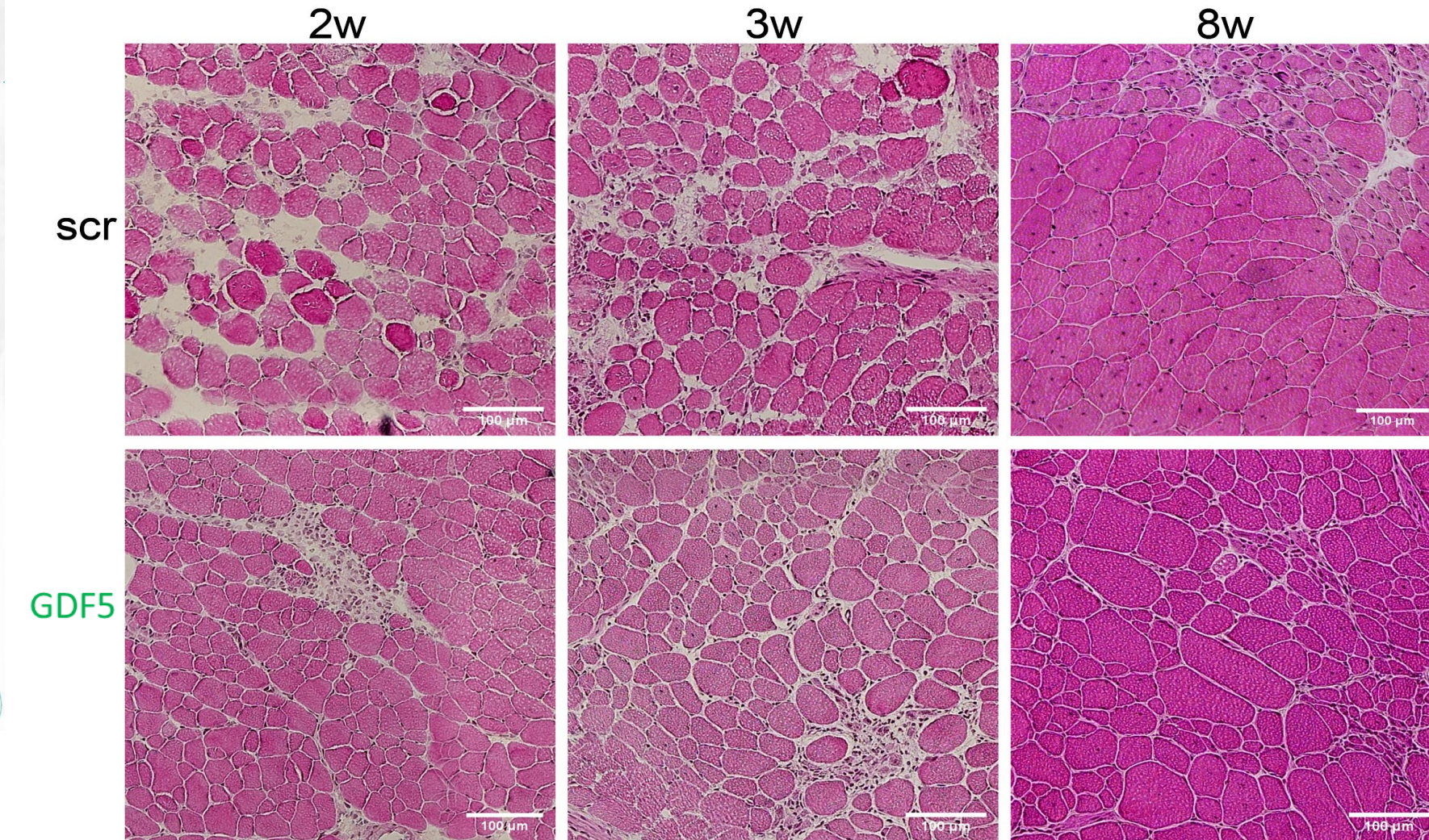
2w post-inj



Activation of GDF5 pathway



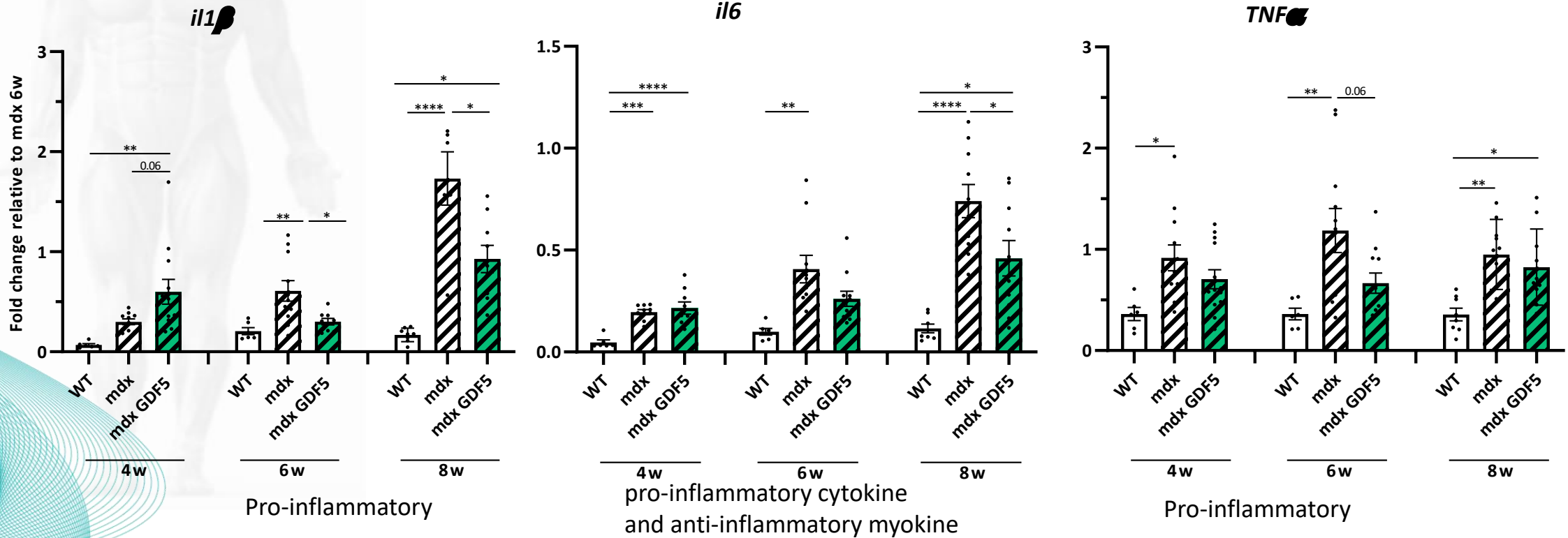
# Effect of GDF5 overexpression on DMD muscle



Improvement of DMD muscle histology



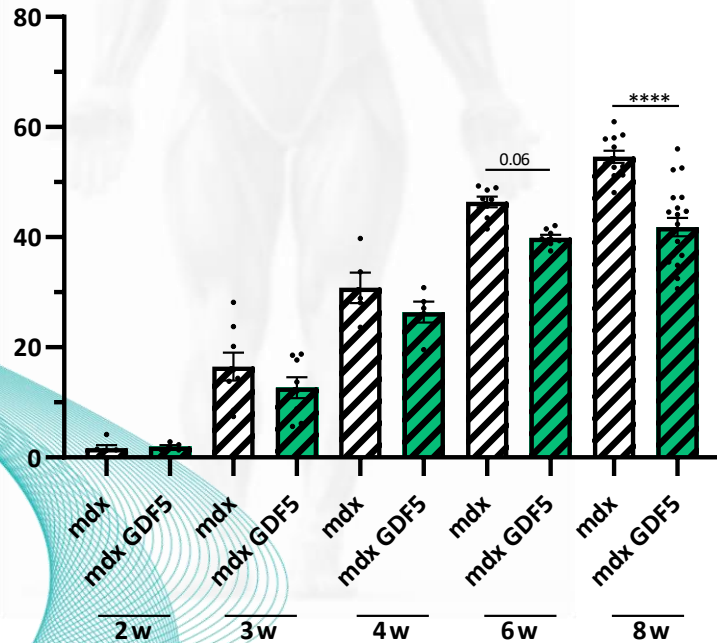
# GDF5 overexpression and inflammatory marker expression



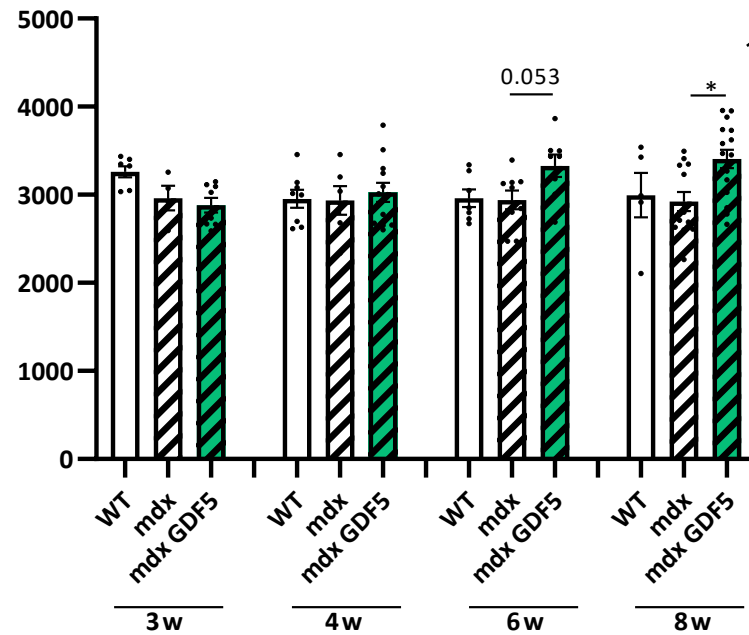
Decrease of pro-inflammatory markers at 6 and 8 weeks post-treatment

# GDF5 overexpression and differentiation / regeneration process

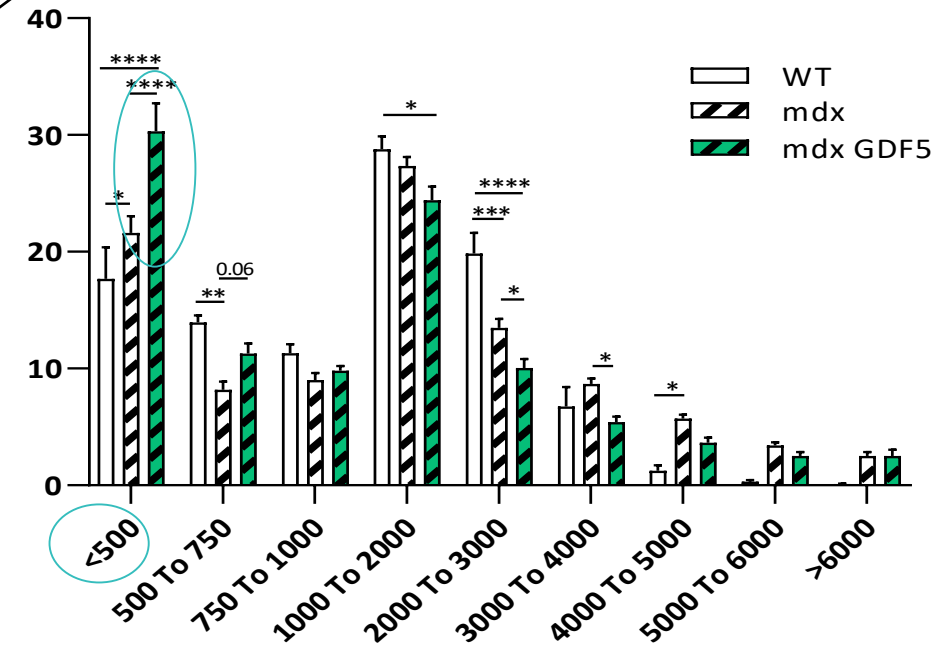
% Centrally nucleated fibers



Muscle fiber number



8w - CSA distribution (%)

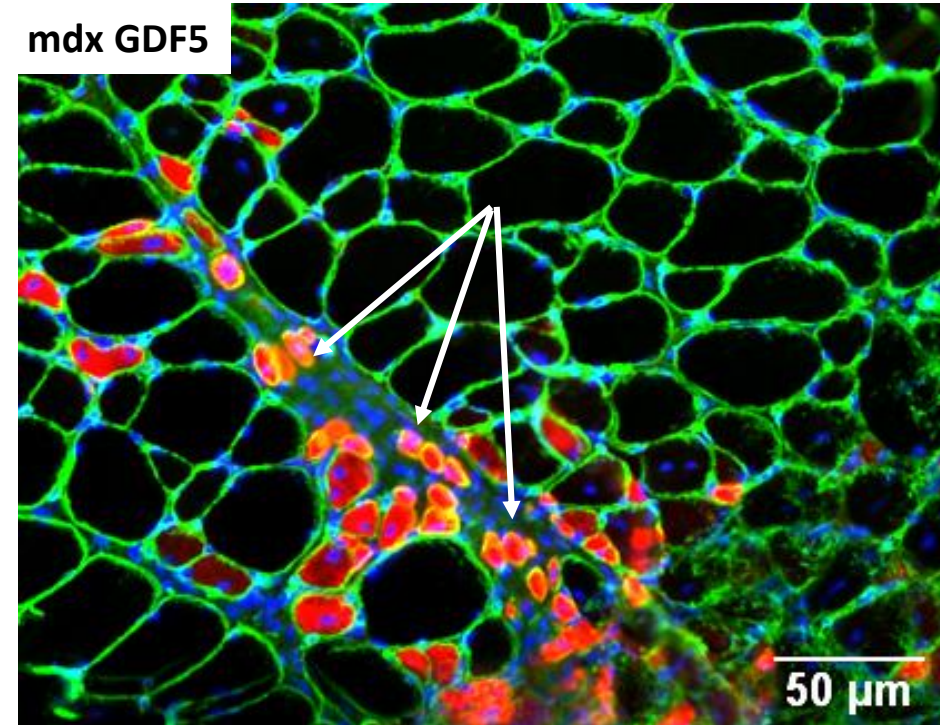
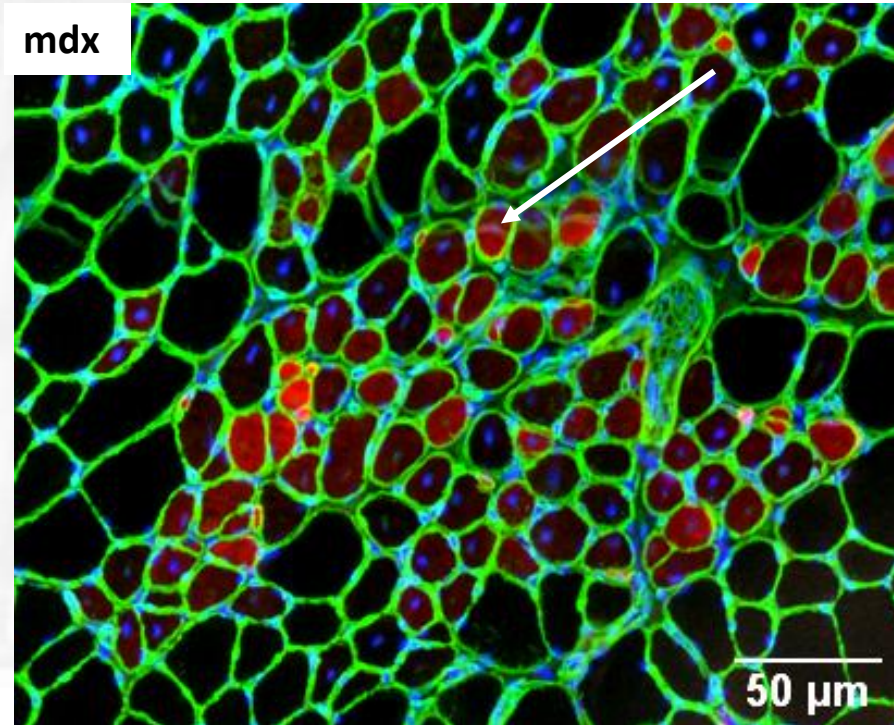


Decrease of centrally nucleated fibers  
-> modulation of regeneration

-> hyperplasia  
-> Increase of small fiber number

# GDF5 and hyperplasia

eMHC/laminin / DAPI



3w post-inj

Presence of new fibers in interstitial space  
GDF5 could regulate myogenic commitment of resident muscle cells

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## GDF5 overexpression effects in mdx muscle

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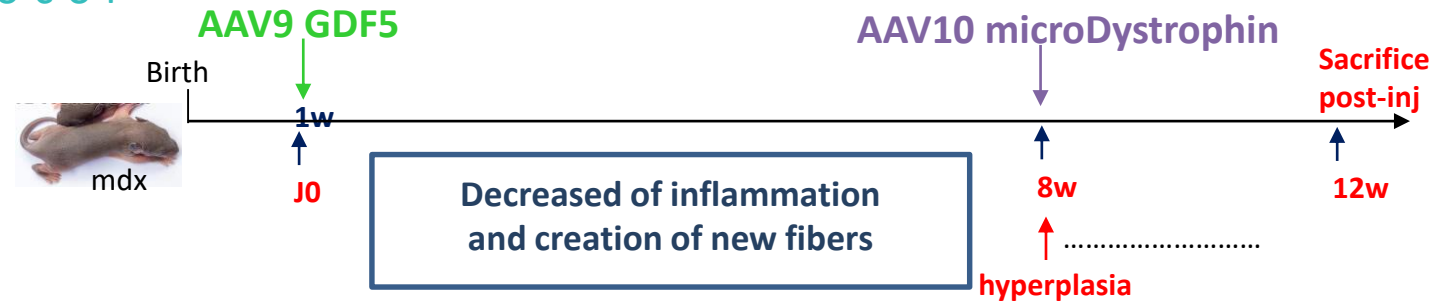
- ✓ Improvement of DMD muscle histology
- ✓ Modulation of inflammatory markers
- ✓ Increased of small fiber number
  - >hyperplasia
  - >appearance of new fibers in interstitial space

Could GDF5 promote long term and more microDystrophin + fibers ?

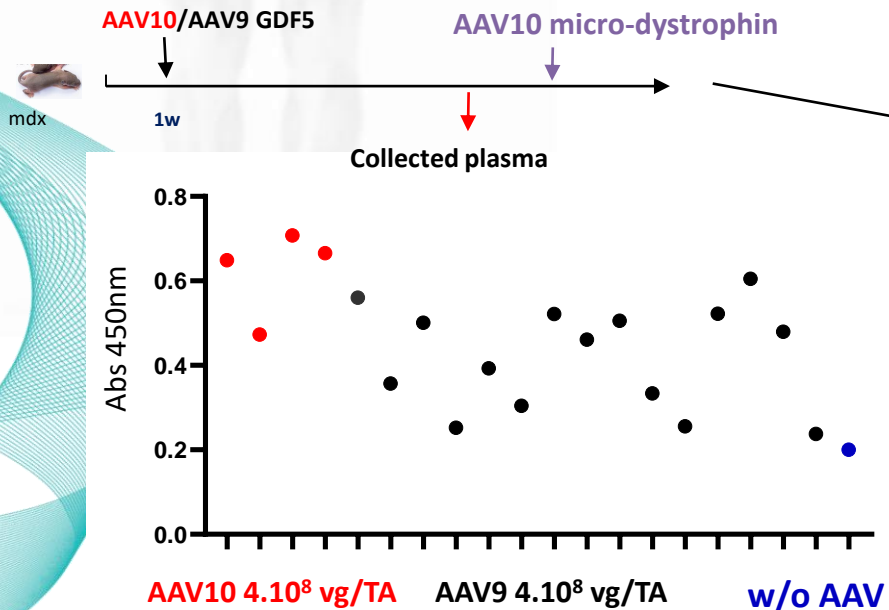


# A combined treatment to optimize DMD gene therapy AAV-GDF5 and AAV-microDystrophin

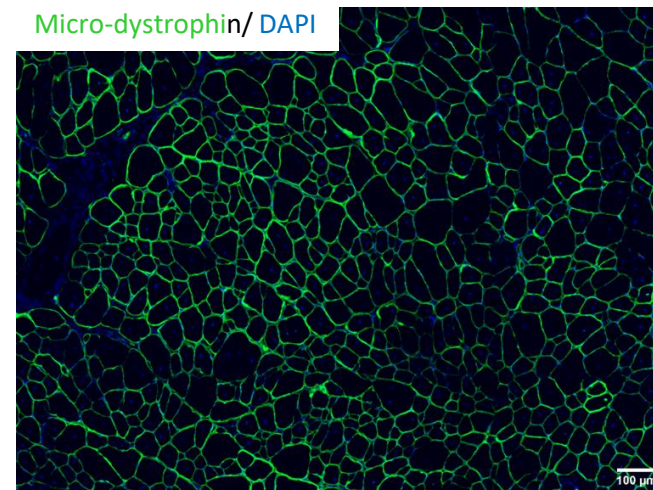
## An innovative protocol



## AAV10-Ab serology



## MicroDystrophin expression AAV9-GDF5 then AAV10-microDystrophin



## Perspectives

Evaluation of combined treatment benefits on

- > number of microDystrophin positive fibers
- > muscular function parameters

Characterization of muscle precursors responding to GDF5

- > in vitro study of myogenic commitment
- > spatial transcriptomic single cell (Collab L. Giordani)

Combined treatment to optimize DMD gene therapy

AAV-GDF5 and AAV-microDystrophin

- > optimization of the treatment in adult mice
- > in more severe DMD models

# AAV-microDystrophin and AAV-GDF5: A combined treatment to optimize DMD gene therapy ?



CENTRE DE  
RECHERCHE  
EN MYOLOGIE



C. Gentil, PhD



L. Saillard



C. Parry



A. Vergnol



S. Falcone, PhD



M. Traoré, PhD



C. Noviello, PhD



A. Forand, PhD



A. Bourguiba

## Collaborators

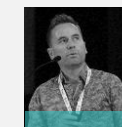
Lorenzo Giordani, PhD



Piera Smeriglio, PhD



Bruno Cadot, PhD



## Facilities

Force measurement

Mégane Lemaitre

Sorbonne Université, Inserm, phénotypage du petit animal



Imaging-Morphometric analysis

Zoehir Guesmia

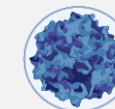
Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre de Recherche en Myologie,  
Institut de Myologie

AAV production

Sofia Benkhelifa Zyyat

Pierre Meunier

Sorbonne Université, Inserm, Centre de Recherche en Myologie, Institut de Myologie



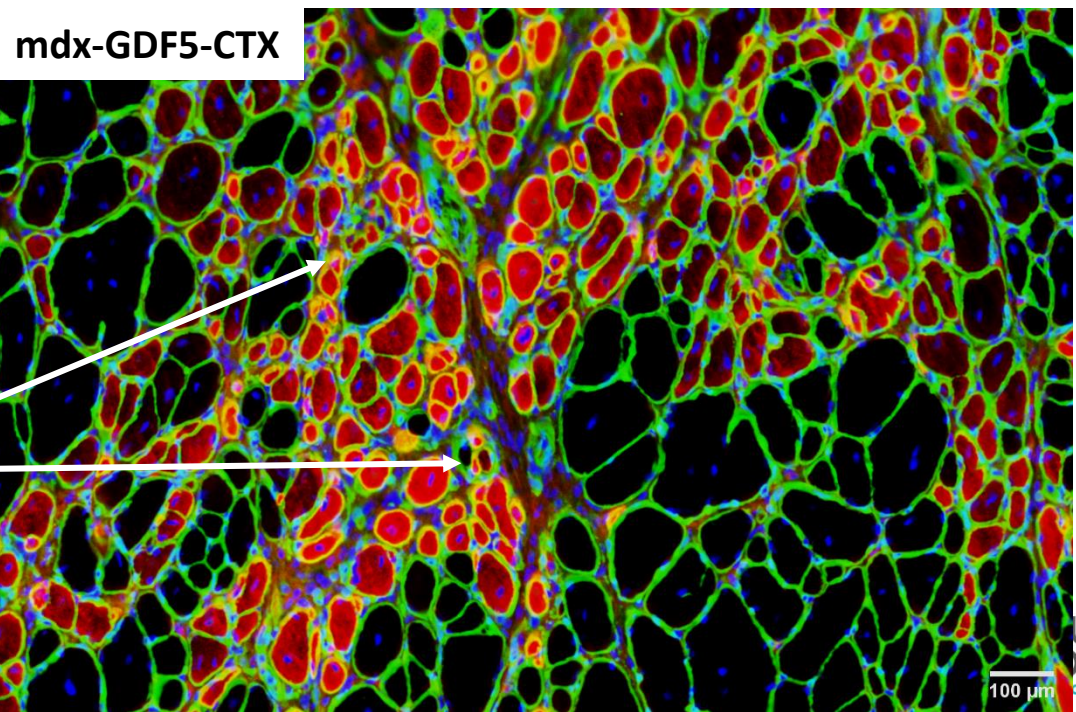
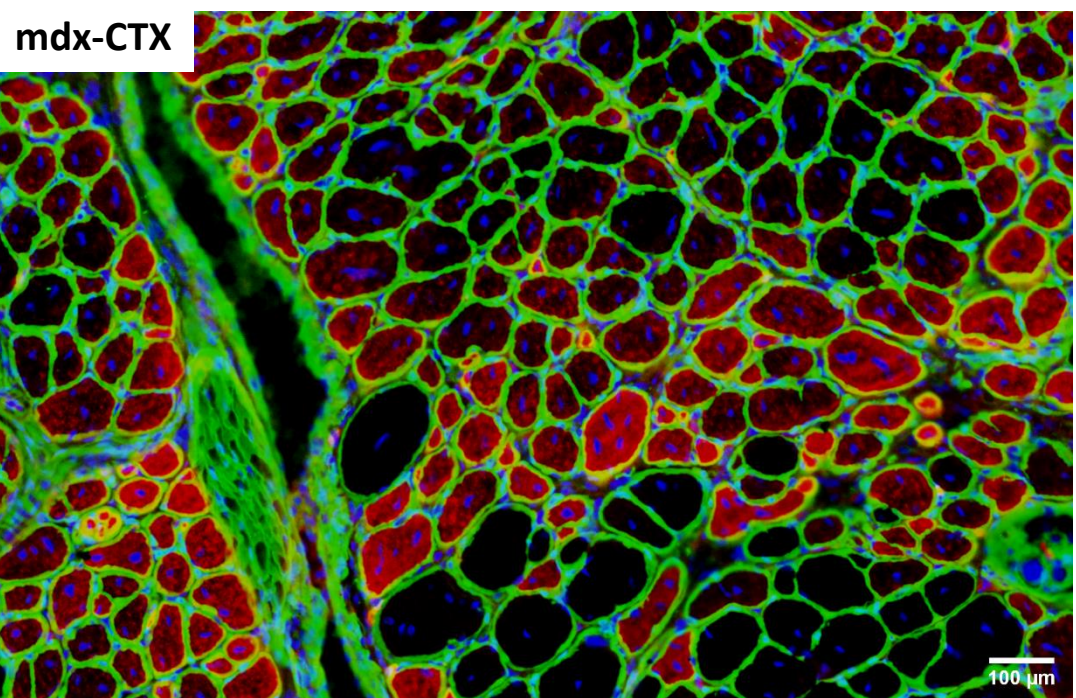
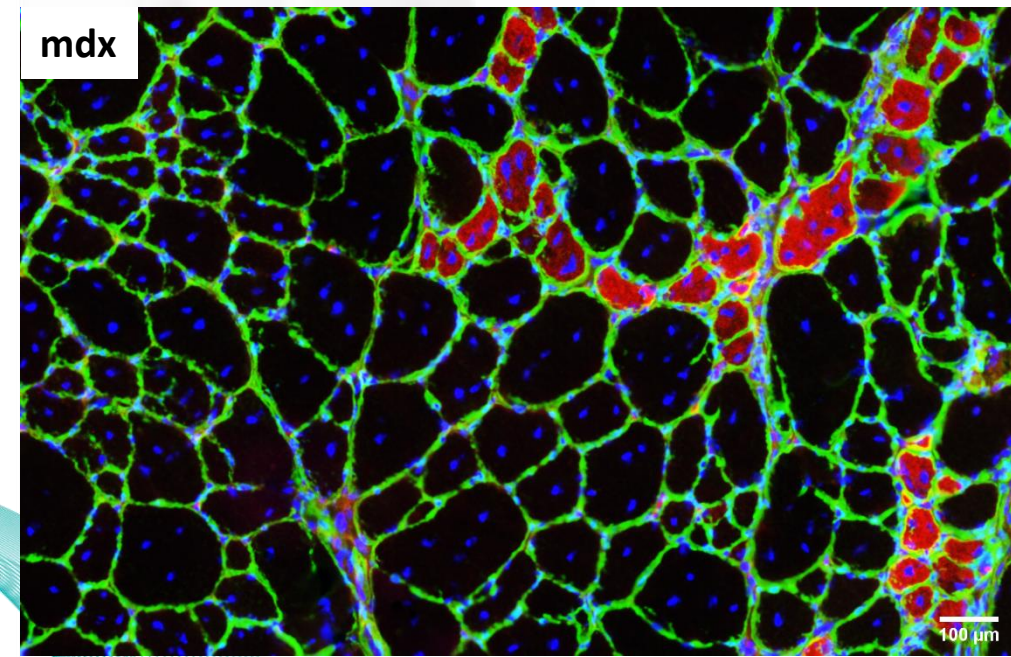




AAV9-GDF5  
↓  
5 weeks  
CTX 6μm  
↓  
1 week  
sacrifice

mdx adult  
2 months

eMHC / Laminin / DAPI

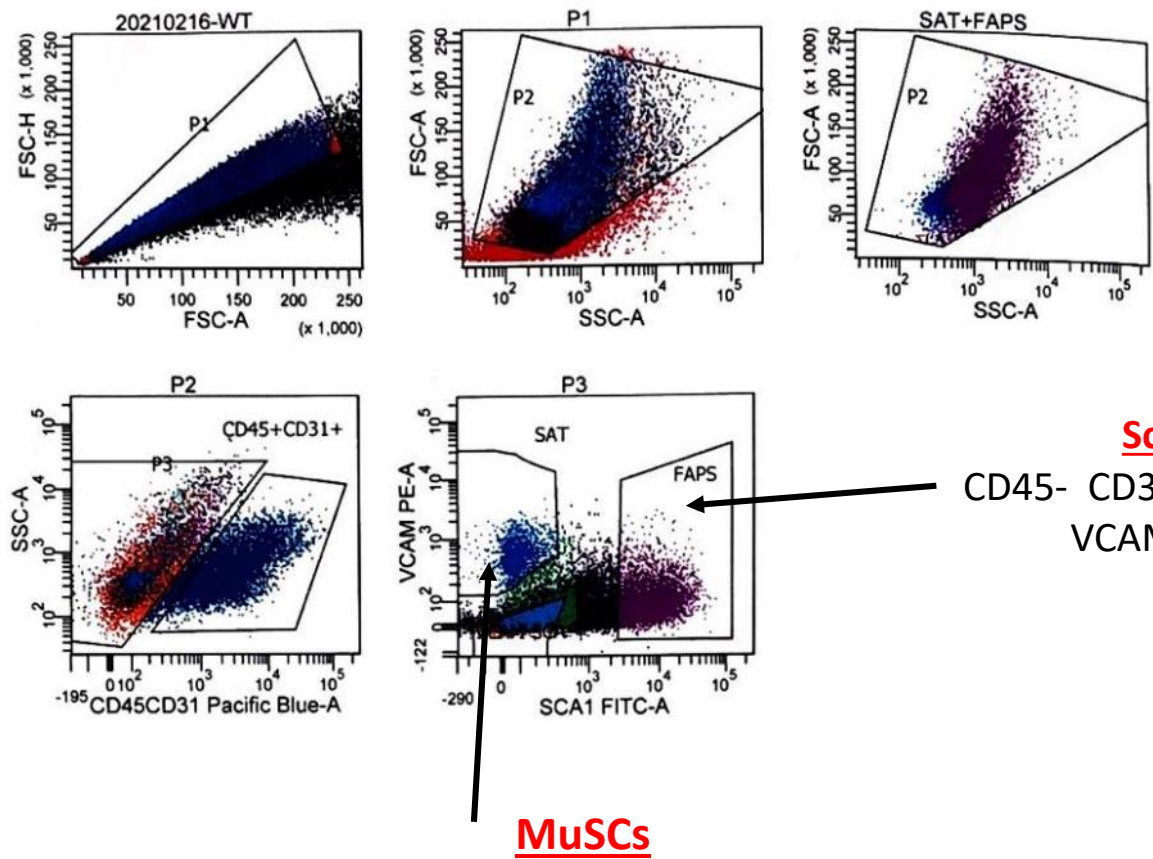


Small new fibers



**In vitro experiment**  
Isolation of **sca1+ cells**

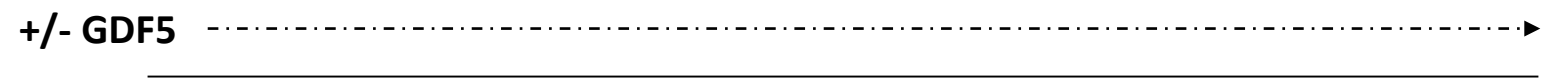
**Blk6 vs mdx**  
**3 week old mice**



**Sca1+ cells**  
CD45- CD31-  $\alpha 7$  integrin -/+  
VCAM1- Sca1+

**MuSCs**  
CD45- CD31- Sca1-  $\alpha 7$  integrin+ VCAM1+

Culture  
Sca1+ cells



3 days of proliferation

3 days of myogenic differentiation

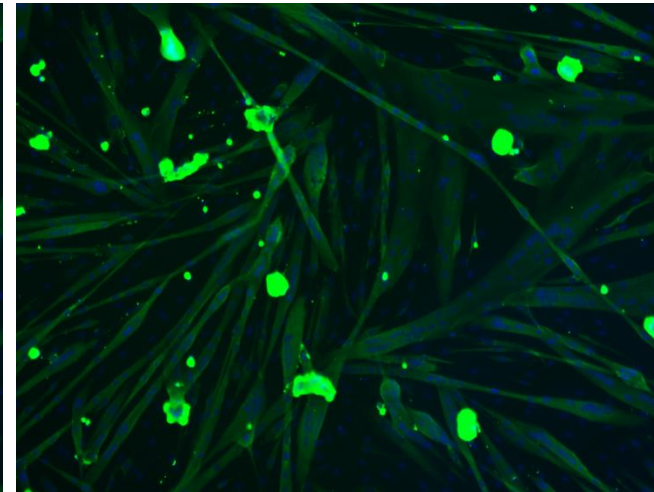
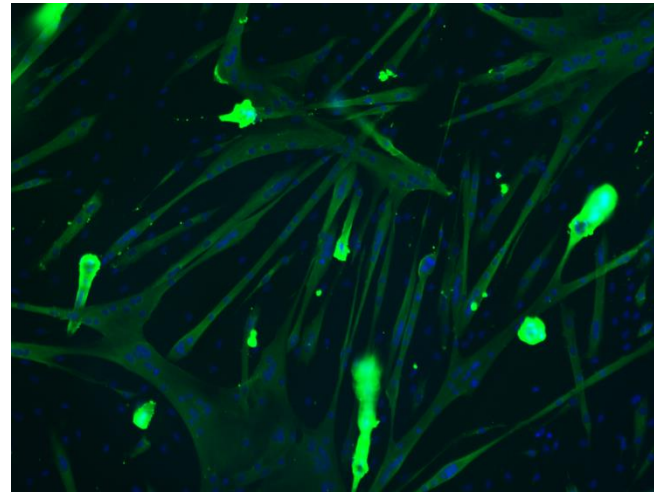
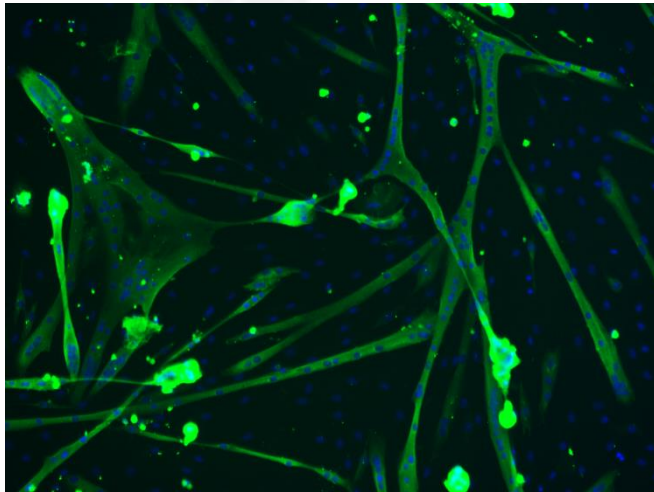
I (MF20)

cont

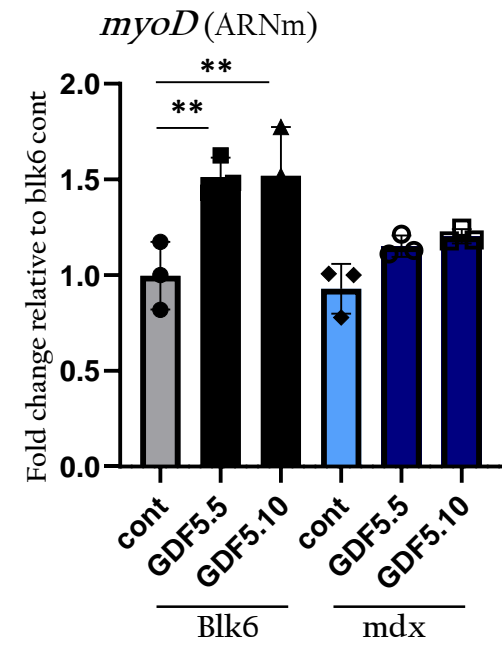
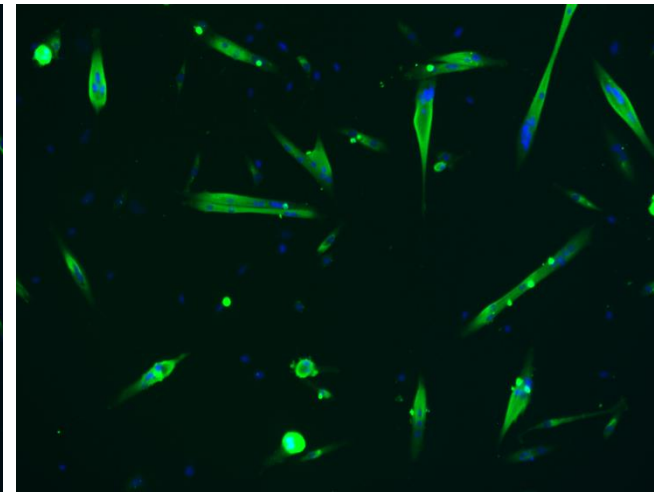
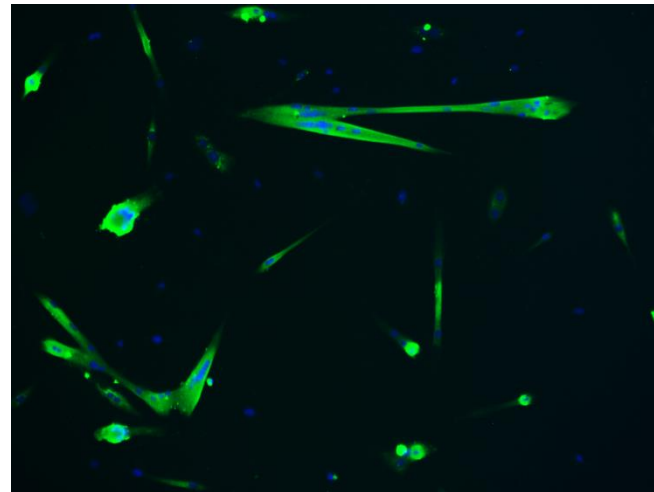
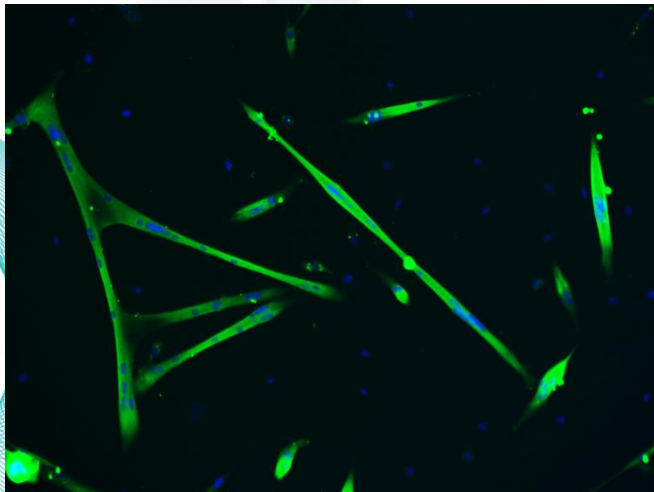
GDF5 (5ng/ml)

GDF5 (10ng/ml)

Blk6

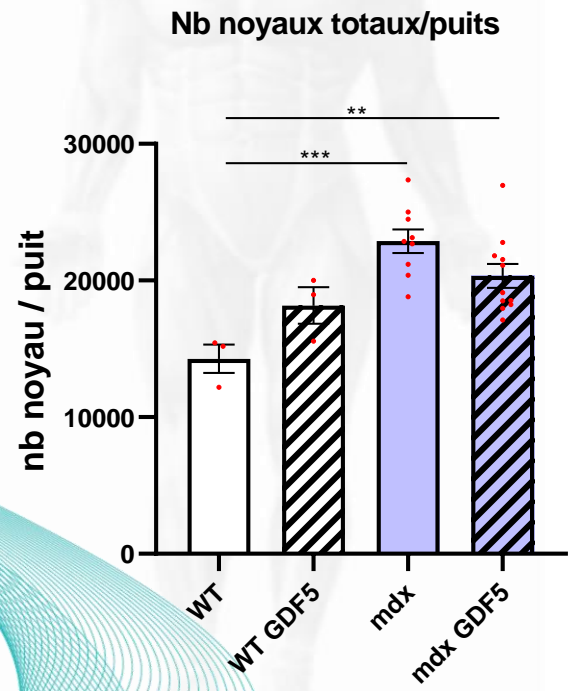


mdx



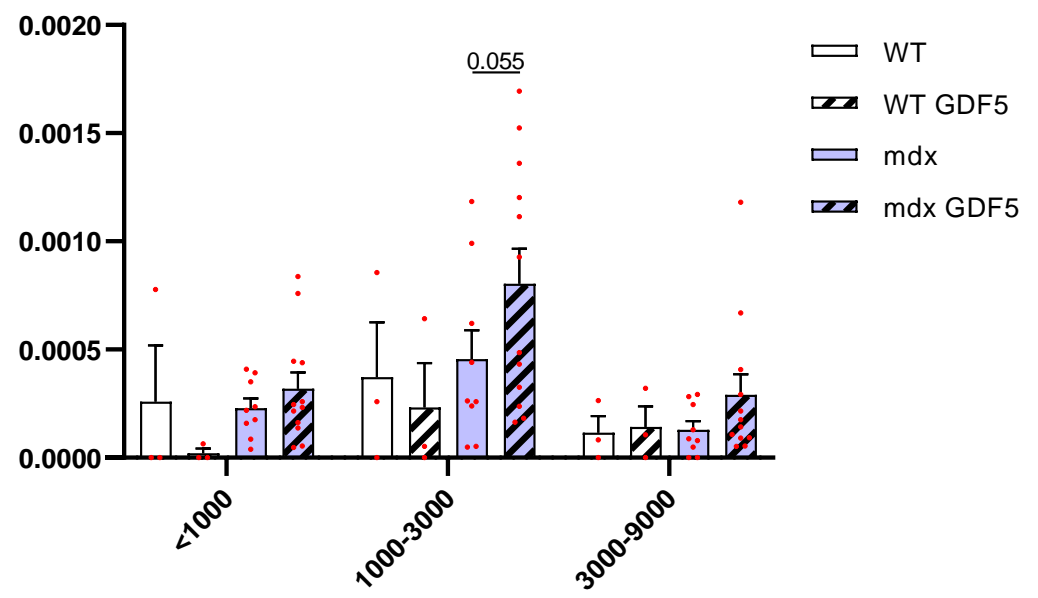
Blk6 : GDF5 promotes MuScs différenciation

*In vitro* experiment  
Isolation of sca1+ cells



More cells in mdx conditions  
No difference between mdx +/- GDF5

Distrib aire myo /nb de noyaux



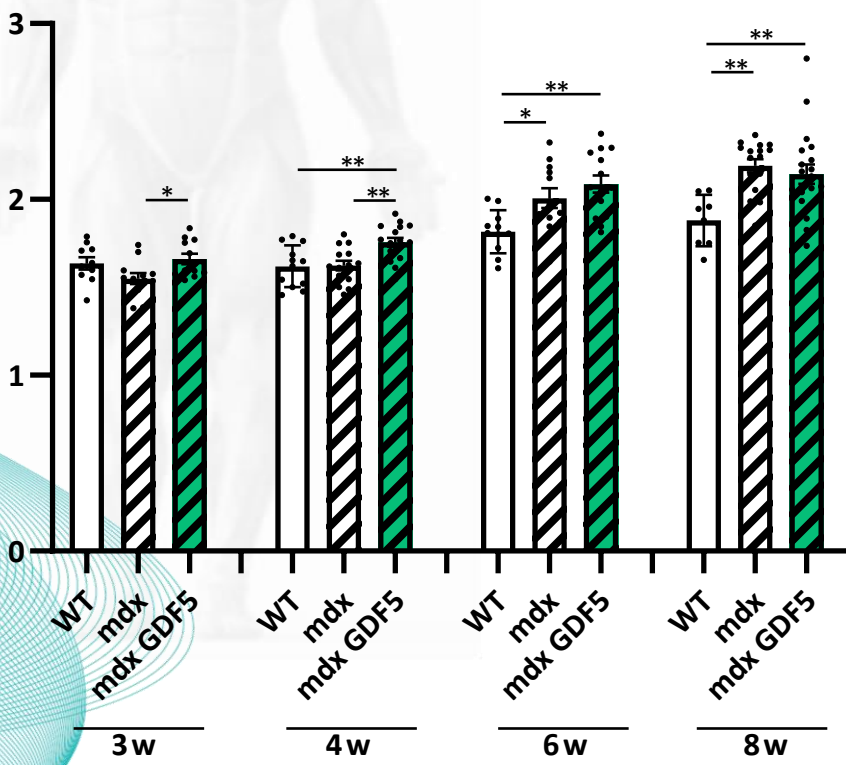
Higher proportion of large myotubes in mdx GDF5



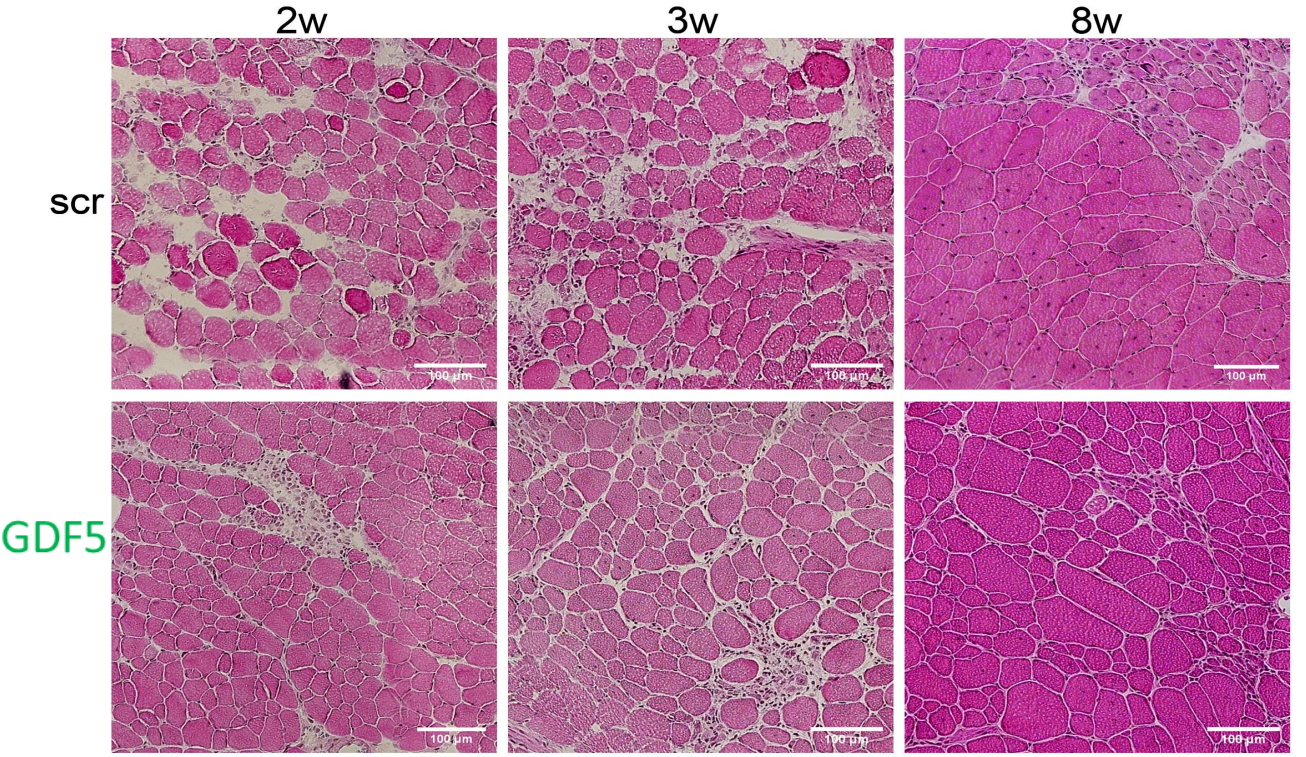


# Effects of GDF5 overexpression on DMD muscle pathophysiology

TA mass (mg) / body weight (g)



GDF5 OE increases TA mass up to 4 weeks



GDF5 OE improves histological features







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# Cardiotoxin

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YYYY/MM/DD

Title Firstname LASTNAME

Function, Entity

Tel/Email

[www.institut-myologie.org](http://www.institut-myologie.org)