





**CHILDREN'S
MEDICAL
RESEARCH
INSTITUTE**

The Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) conducts fundamental medical research to understand the genes important in health and development, and the underlying causes of disease.

www.cmri.com.au

Mouse embryo, 11.5 days old

Before you were born you looked a little like this mouse embryo. The blue pigment in this embryo indicates areas where the cells have an active copy of a gene important for normal development of the head, face and ribs.

Understanding the genes that control development is vital for discovering the causes of developmental diseases and birth defects.
Postcard number 4 in a series of 4.
Photo by Dr David Loebel of the CMRI.

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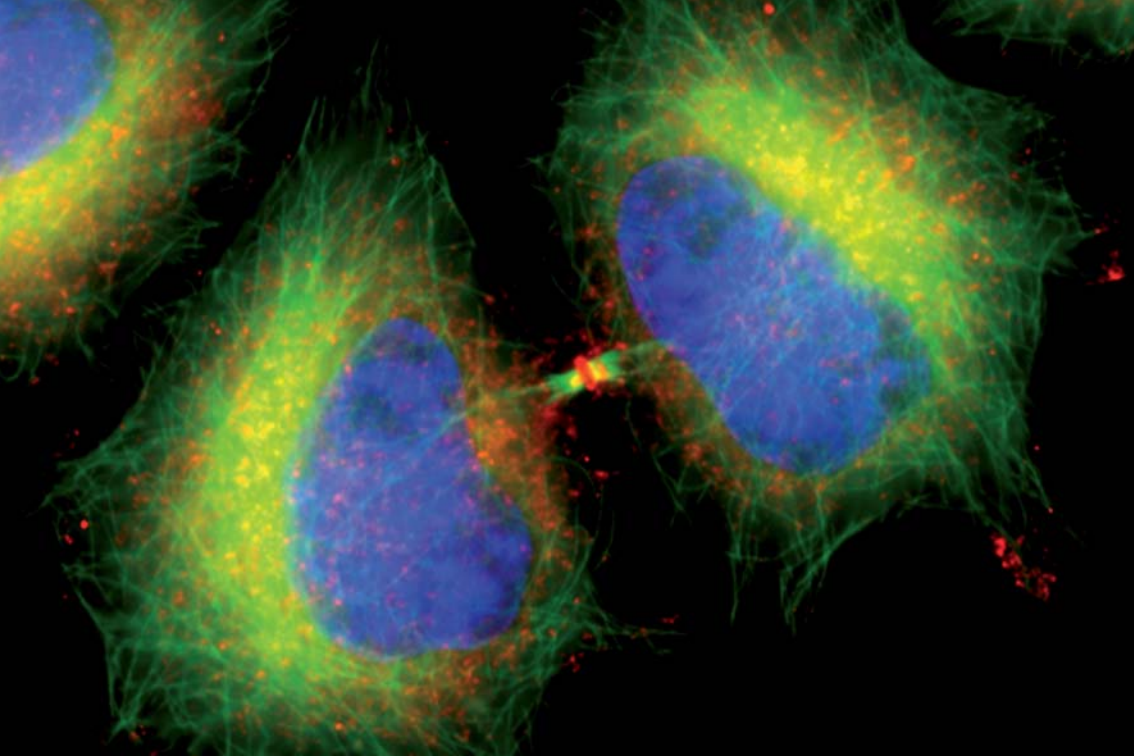


The Children's Medical Research Institute 1800 GENIES (436 437) info@cmri.com.au

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One cell dividing into two

Your body is made up of billions of cells, which divide and multiply. Here you can see a cell (green) with two nuclei (blue) in its final stage of division. It is being split into two daughter cells by a 'cutting' protein (small red line). Cancer cells divide rapidly and uncontrollably and scientists at the CMRI hope that by stopping this protein from performing its cutting role, they may effectively treat cancer.

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Photo by Dr Megan Fabbro of the CMRI.

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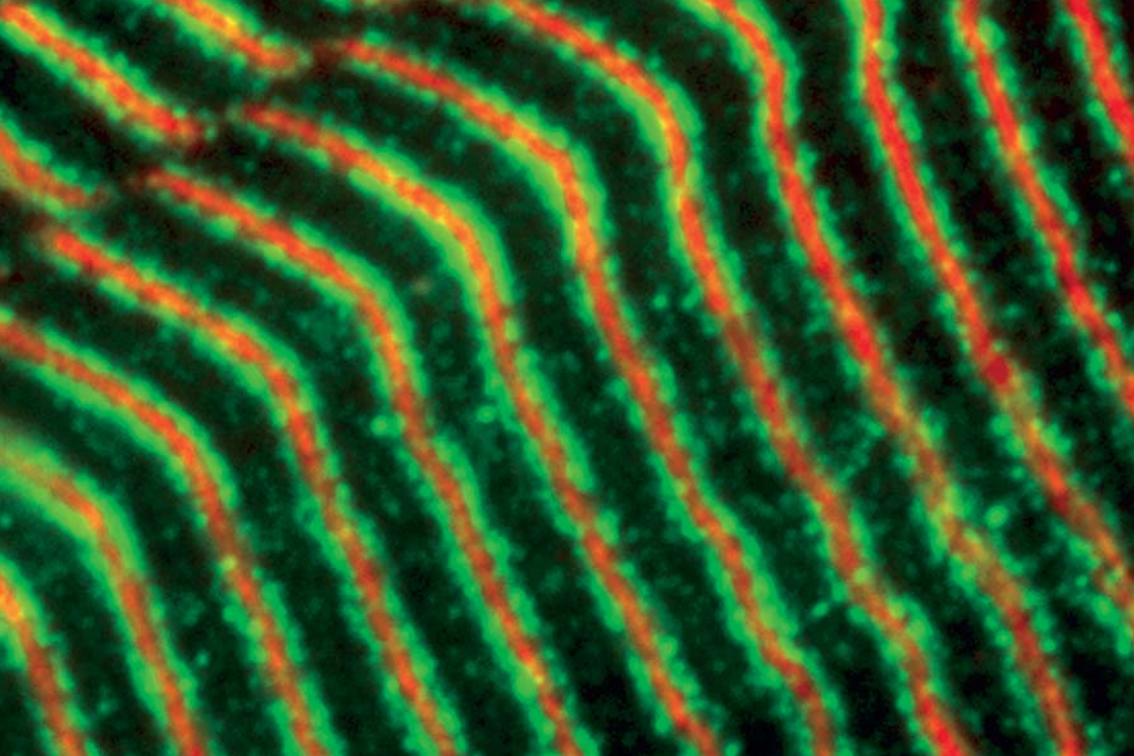


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Very thin section (0.7 mm) of a limb muscle

Muscle is a major part of your body and it allows you to move. It is made up of fused muscle cells, which contain lots of different muscle proteins. This photo shows two proteins, one green and one red, and the area where they overlap (yellow) in limb muscle. Scientists at the CMRI are studying how changes to the gene for this protein are involved in the way the muscles in your arms and legs function. They hope to use this information to develop new treatments to stop muscle disease.

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Photo by Nicole Vlahovich of the CMRI.

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Chromosomes contain your DNA

Every living thing has DNA, which you inherit from your parents in the form of chromosomes. Here you can see some chromosomes coloured blue, which have red dots at the ends called telomeres. When you grow and develop your cells divide and each time the telomeres get shorter. Normally the telomeres get too short for the cell to divide and it will die, but in cancer cells the telomeres do not shorten. Scientists at the CMRI are studying telomeres to develop new treatments to stop cancer.
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Photo by Axel Neumann of the CMRI.

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