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# The human lung and its susceptibility against combustion-generated and manmade nanoparticles

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University of Fribourg

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# Mentors

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Prof. em. Peter Gehr



Prof. em. Ewald Weibel



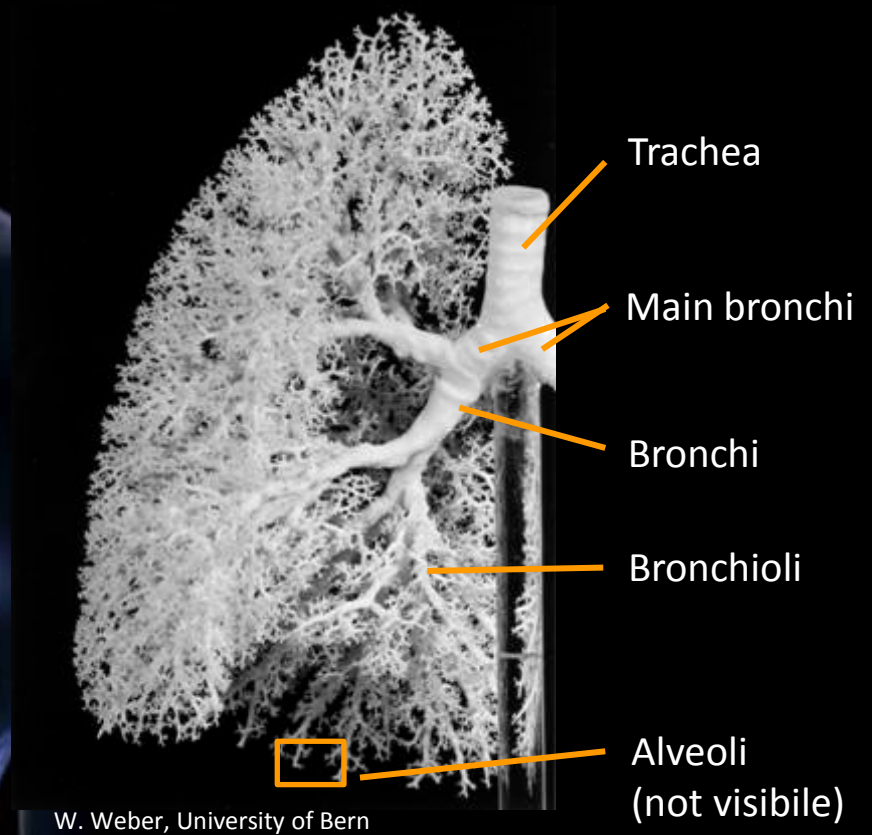
Prof. Matthias Ochs





# The human lung structure

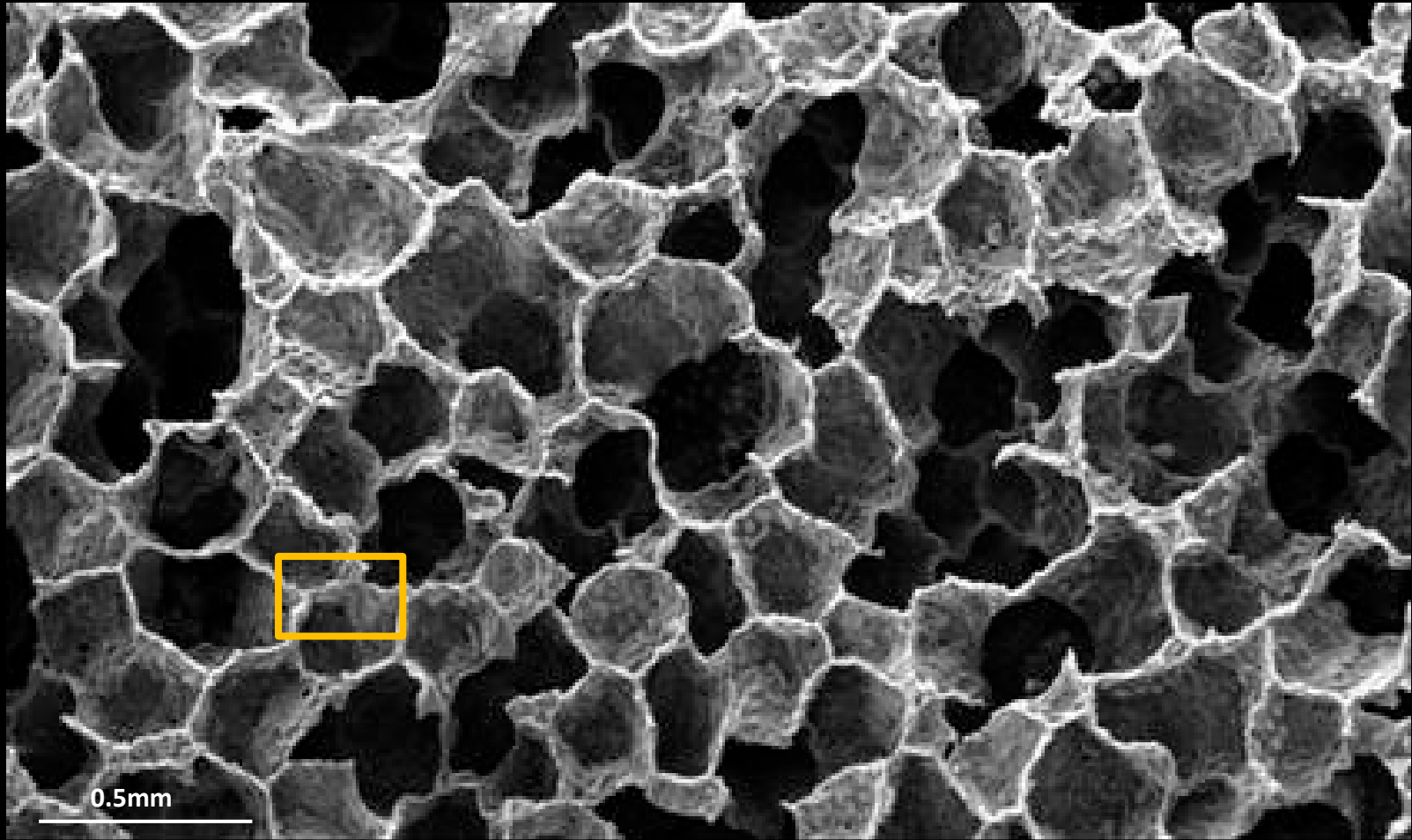
## Conducting airways





# The human lung structure

Interalveolar septa

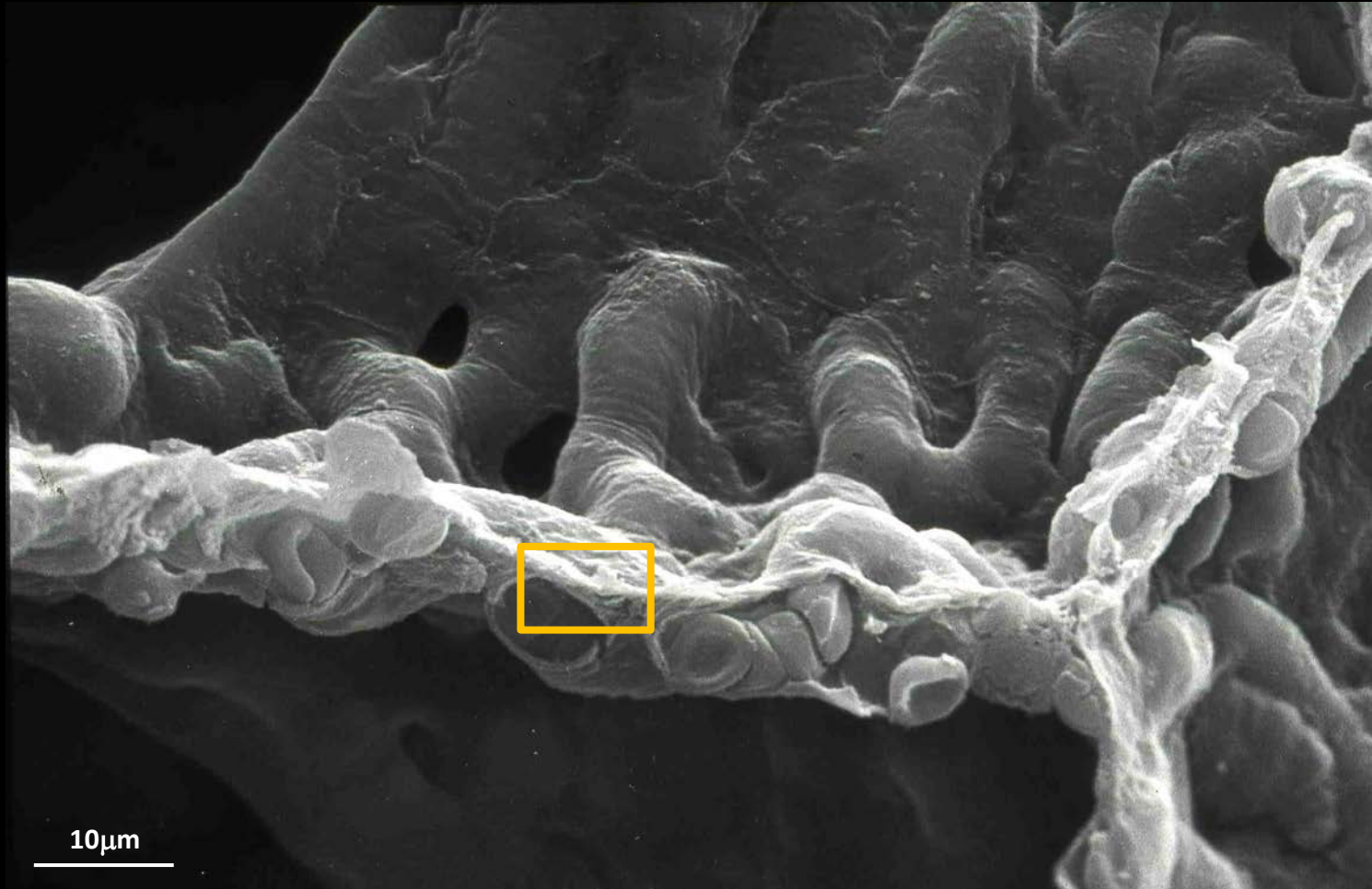


P. Gehr, University of Bern



# The human lung structure

## Interalveolar septa



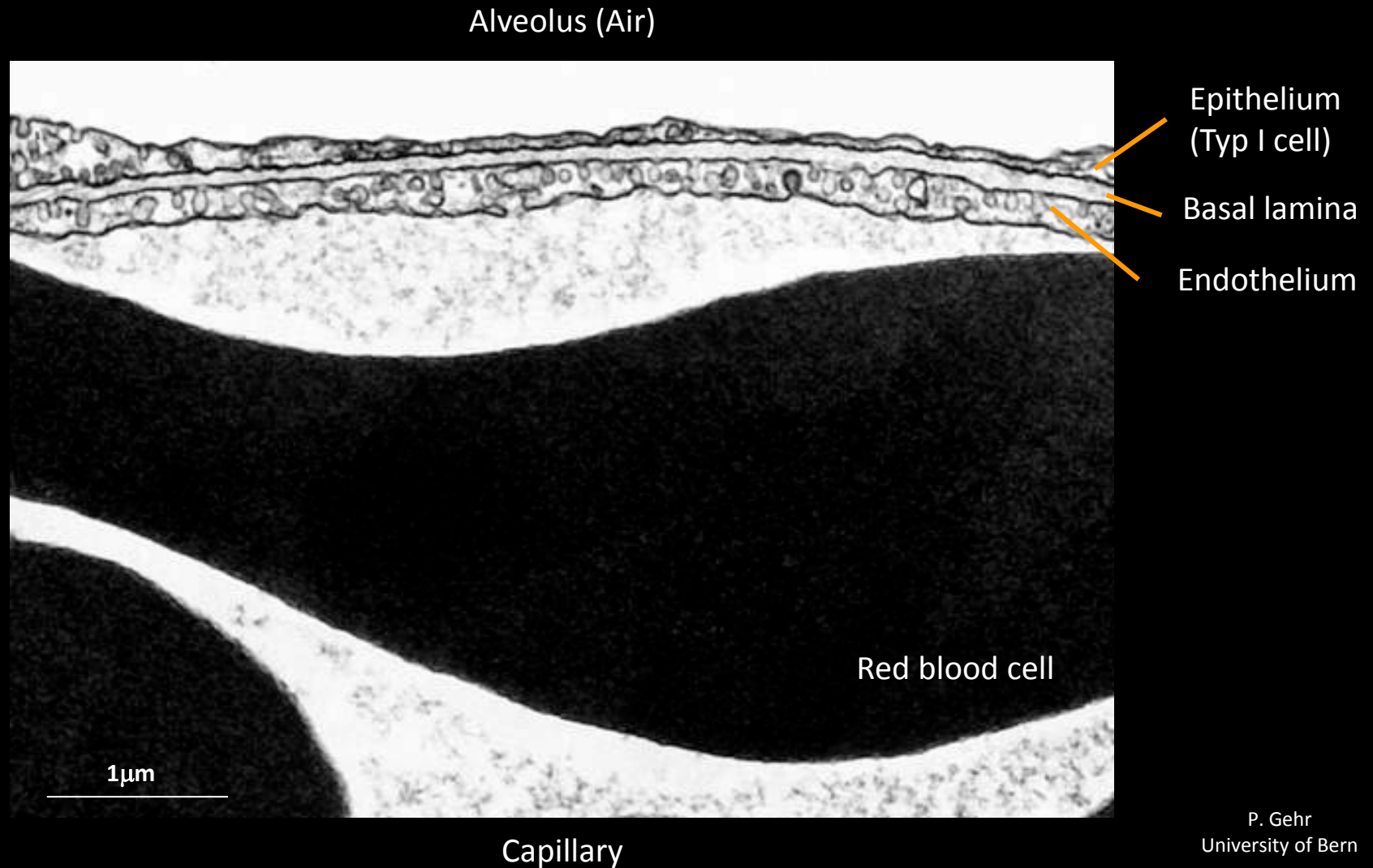
E. Weibel, University of Bern





# The human lung structure

## Air-blood tissue barrier



P. Gehr  
University of Bern



# The human lung structure

Some numbers

500 millions alveoli  
**Surface 140 m<sup>2</sup>**



Capillary volume  
**210cm<sup>3</sup>**



**Air-blood tissue barrier**  
Mean arithmetic  
thickness of 2.2  $\mu\text{m}$



Gehr et al. Resp Physiol (1978); Ochs and Weibel. Fishman's  
Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders, New York (2008)



# Inhalation of particles / aerosols



<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/2013/jan/27/diesel-engine-fumes-worse-petrol>



<http://www.stern.de/gesundheits/allergie/erkrankungen/>



<http://www.dguv.de/ifa/Fachinfos/Nanopartikel-am-Arbeitsplatz/>



<http://www.spiegel.de/gesundheits/diagnose/>



<http://www.netdoktor.de/Krankheiten/Asthma/Therapie/>



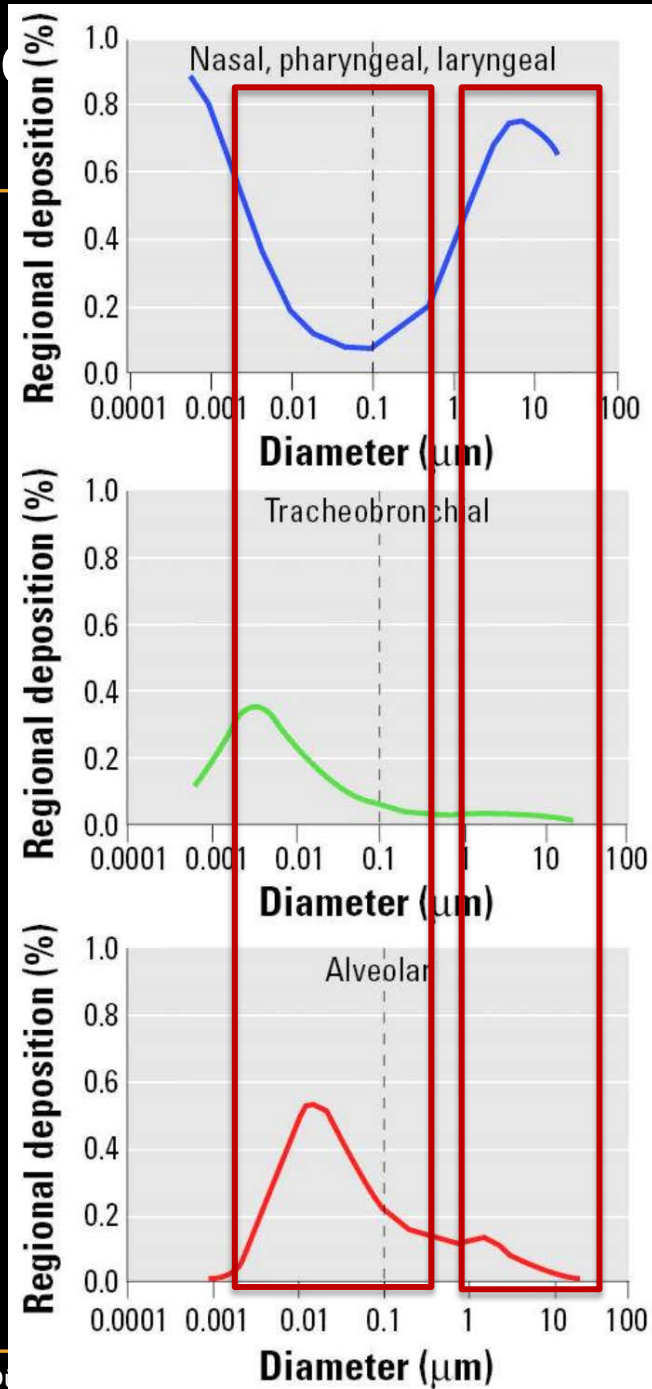


# Inhalation of particles / aerosols

## Predicted fractional deposition



Oberdörster et al.  
Environ Health Perspect (2005)





# Inhalation of particles / aerosols

Predicted fractional deposition

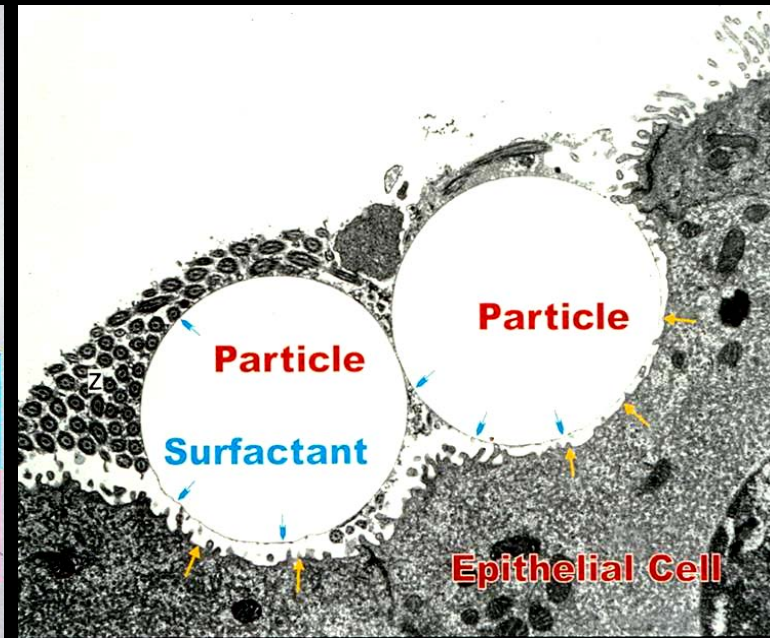
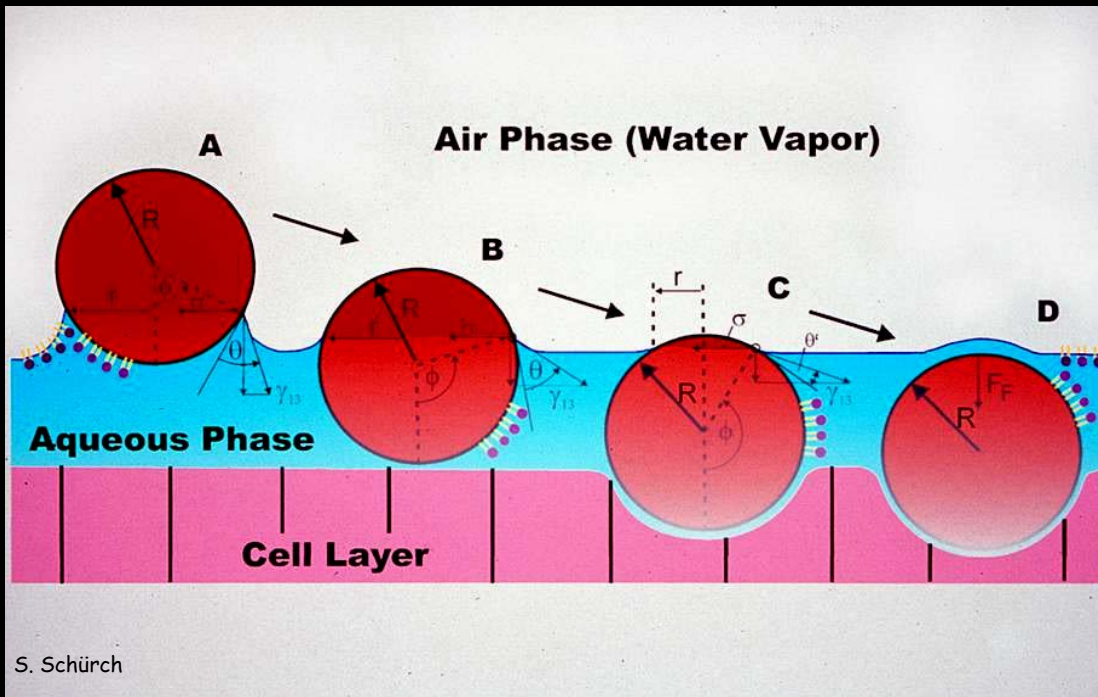






# Inhalation of particles / aerosols

Interaction with mucus and surfactant



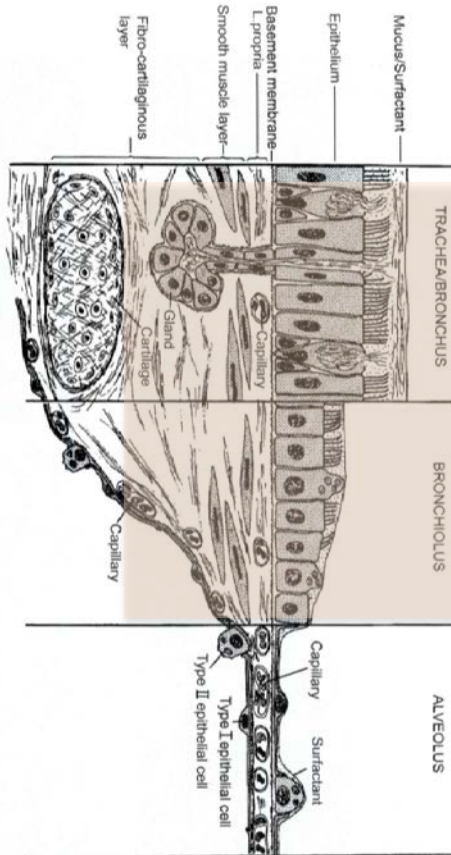
**Indentations**

P. Gehr, University Bern

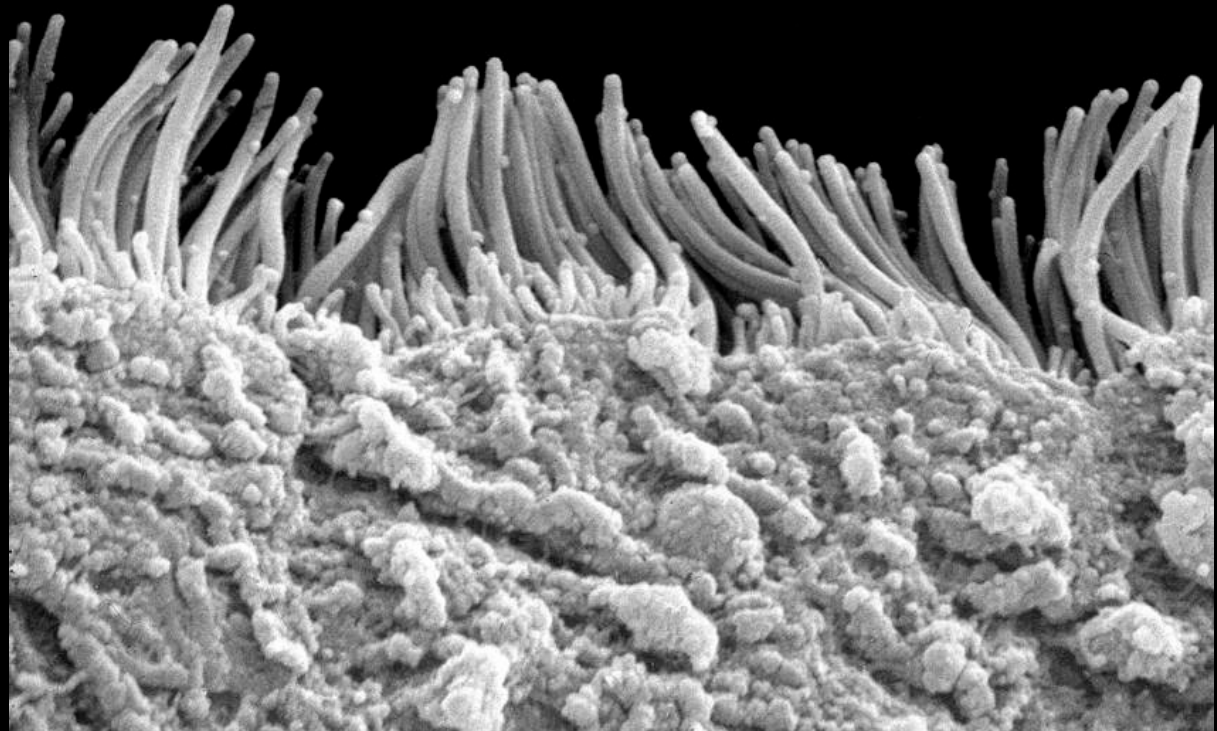


# The human lung structure

## Mucociliary clearance



Ochs and Weibel in Fishman's  
Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders,  
New York, 2008



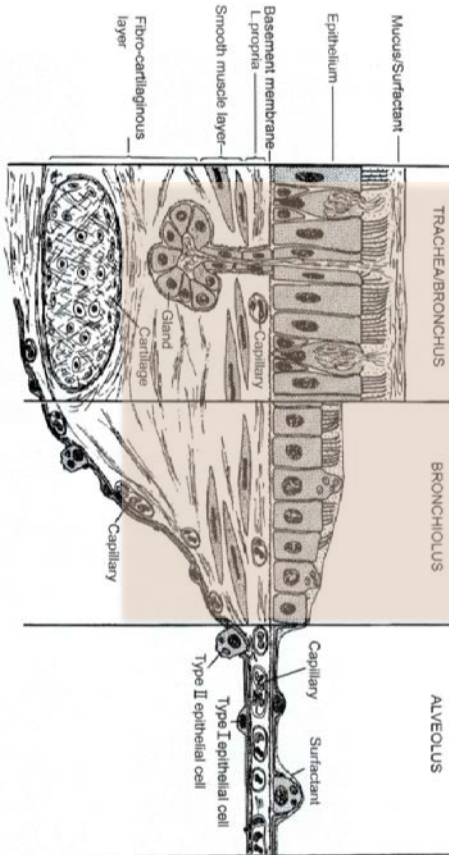
P. Gehr, University Bern



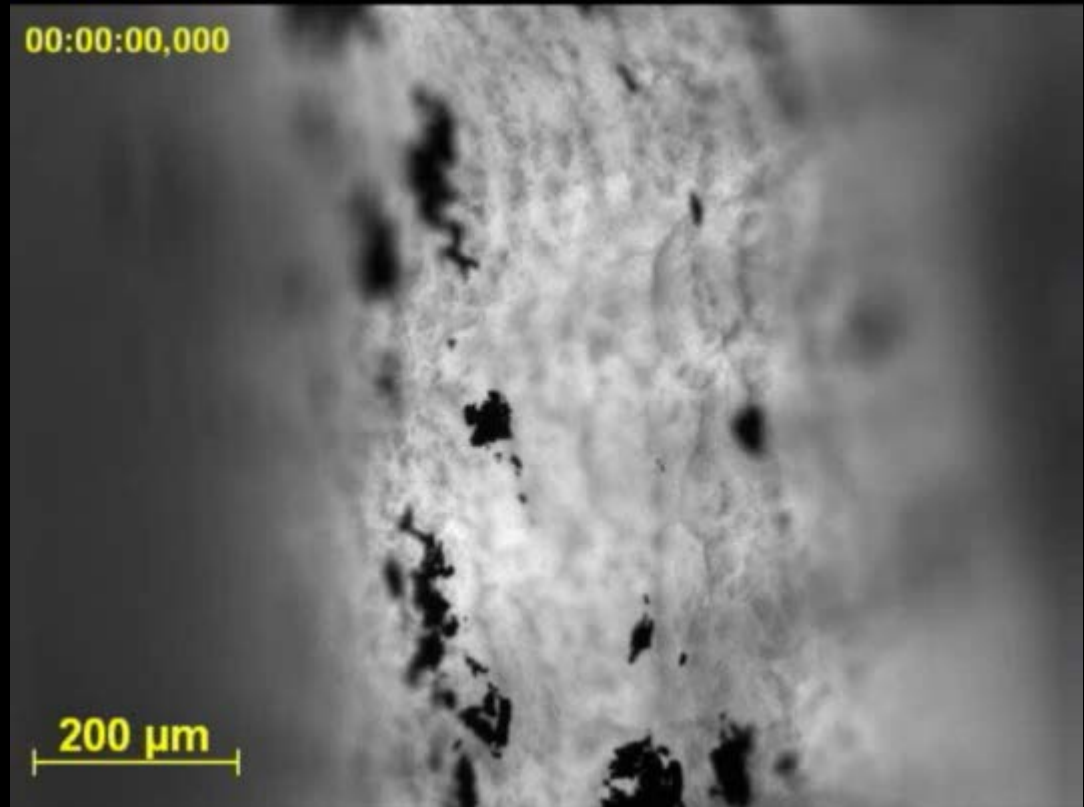
# The human lung structure

## Mucociliary clearance

### Embryonic Chicken Trachea – Mucociliary clearance of carbon particles



Ochs and Weibel. In Fishman's  
Pulmonary Diseases and Disorders,  
New York, 2008



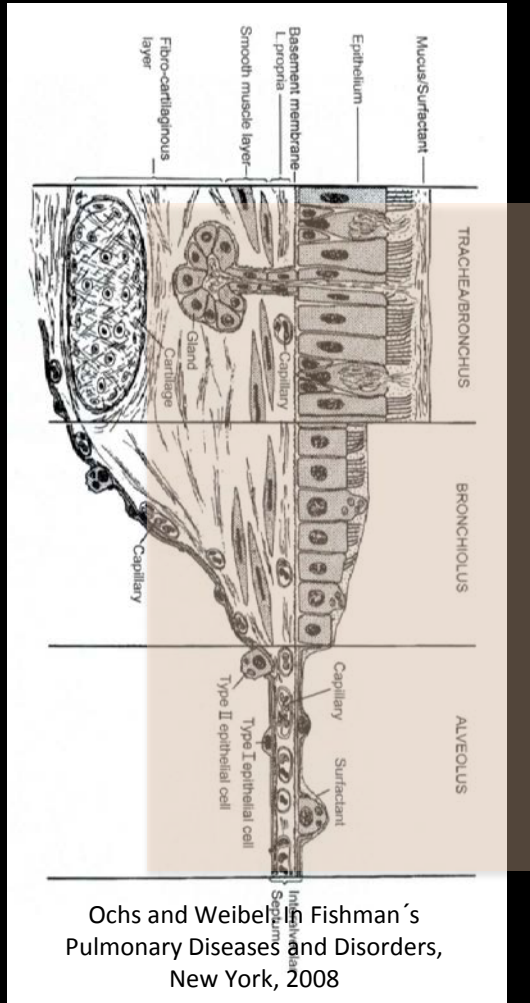
Henning et al. AAPS PharmSciTech (2008)



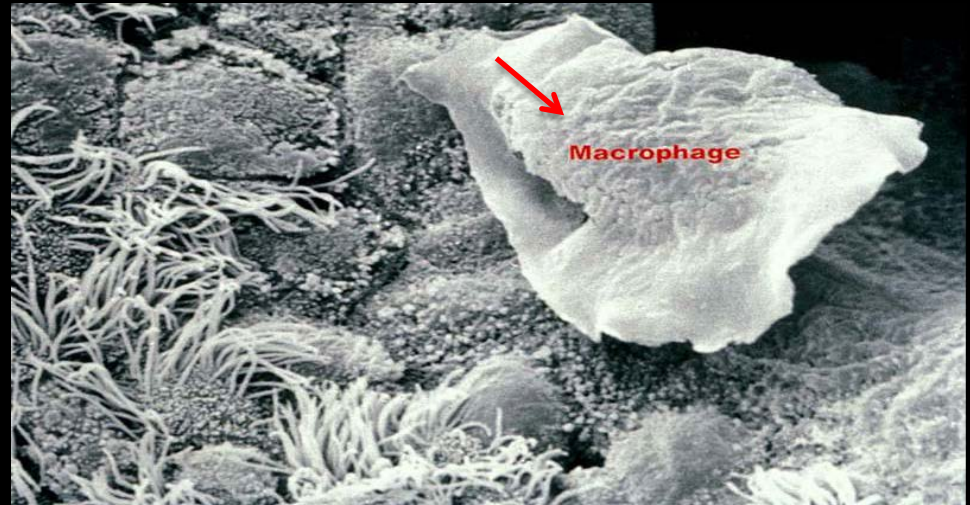


# The human lung structure

## Immune system in the lung

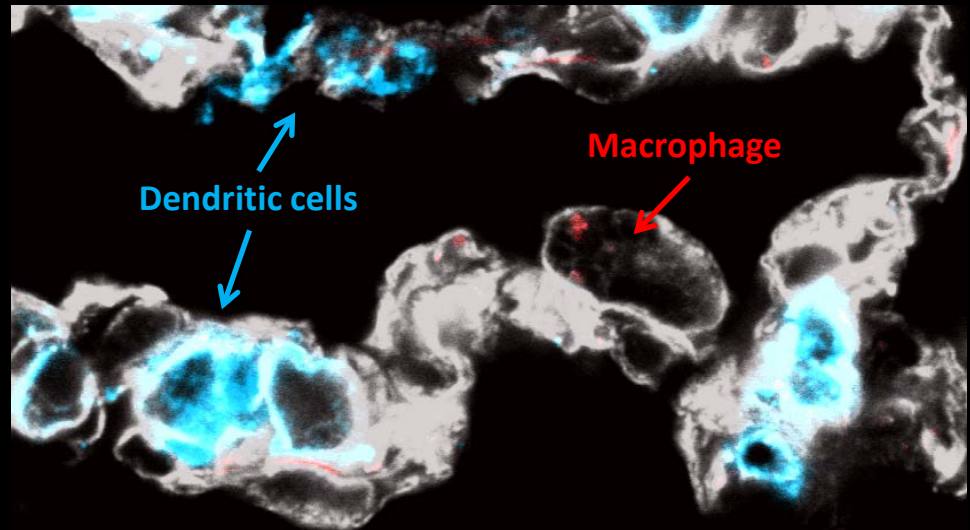


Human lung



P. Gehr, University of Bern

Mouse lung



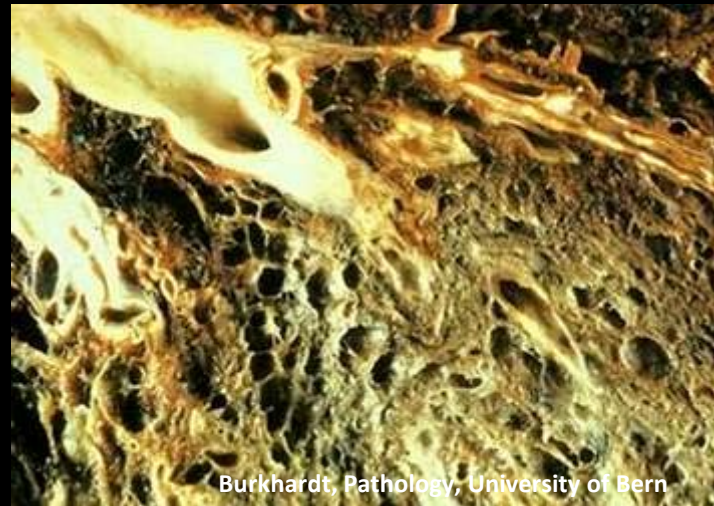
F. Blank, University of Bern



# The human lung structure

## Immune system in the lung

### Healthy and diseased lung



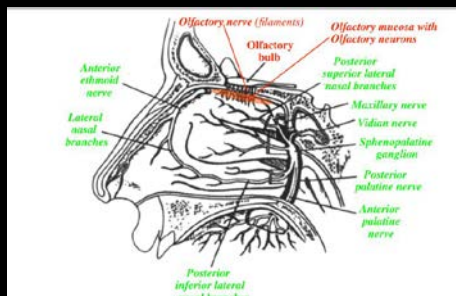




# Inhalation of particles

## Adverse effects

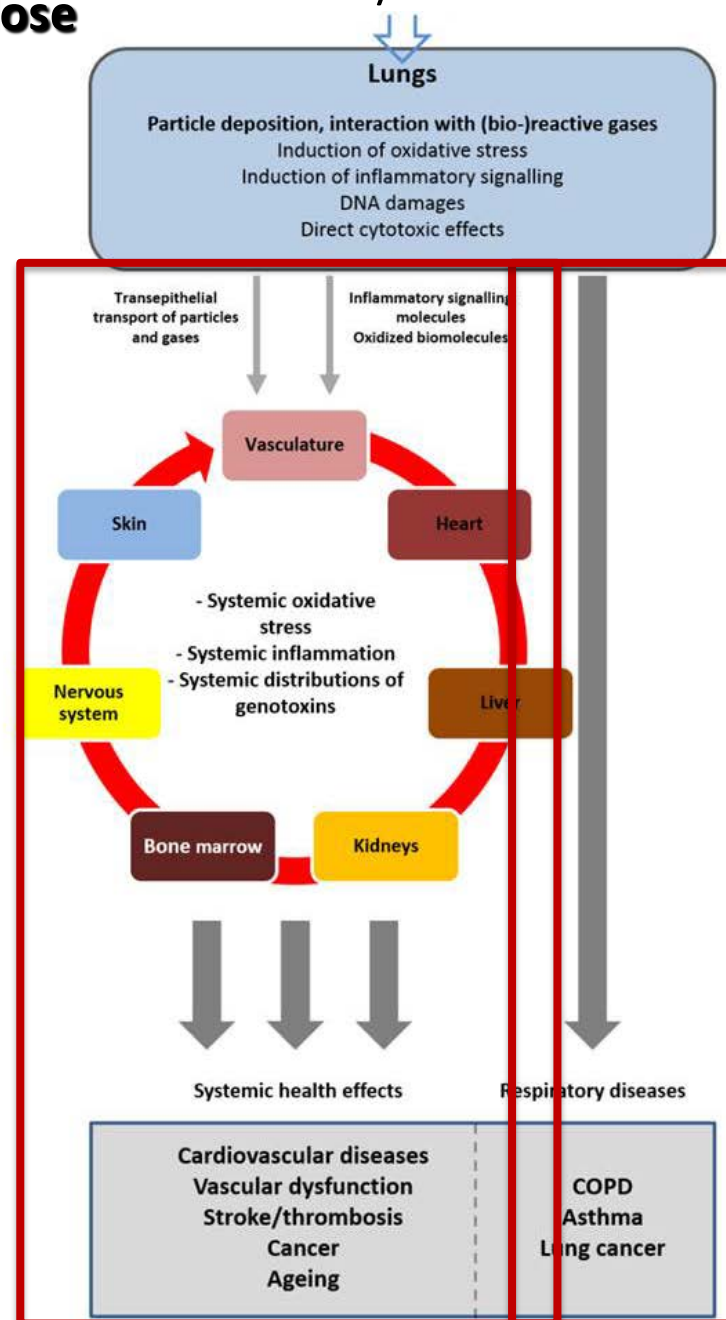
### Brain



Oberdörster et al.  
J Nanosci Nanotechnol 2009

### Nose

### Particles / Aerosols

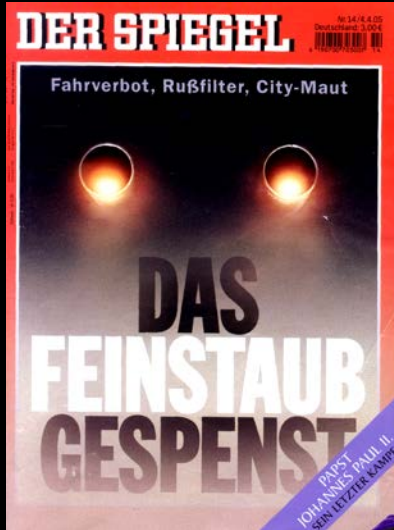


Steiner et al. Arch Tox 2016



# Adverse effects

Diesel exhaust



International Agency for Research on Cancer



World Health  
Organization

PRESS RELEASE  
N° 213

12 June 2012

## IARC: DIESEL ENGINE EXHAUST CARCINOGENIC

**Lyon, France, June 12, 2012** -- After a week-long meeting of international experts, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is part of the World Health Organization (WHO), today classified diesel engine exhaust as **carcinogenic to humans (Group 1)**, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer.



# Conclusions

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Particulate matter  $PM_{10}$  can **enter the lung**

Particles trapped in the mucus are cleared by **mucociliary clearance**

Particles cleared by the **immune system** remain in the tissue, or can be transported to lymph tissue

Particles can **translocate** into the **blood circulation**

Particles / mediators can induce **adverse effects** in the **lung tissue** and / or in **secondary organs**





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