

New insights on eggshell mineralization and how they can contribute to maintain shell quality

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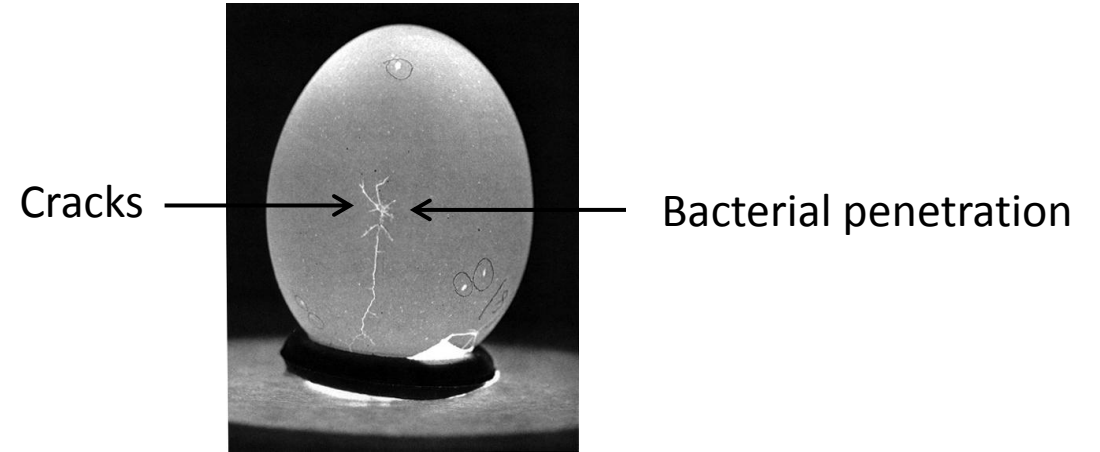
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The chicken eggshell

Natural envelope to ensure physical defence of egg

- *Protects the developing embryo*
- *Ensures that table eggs remains free of pathogens*



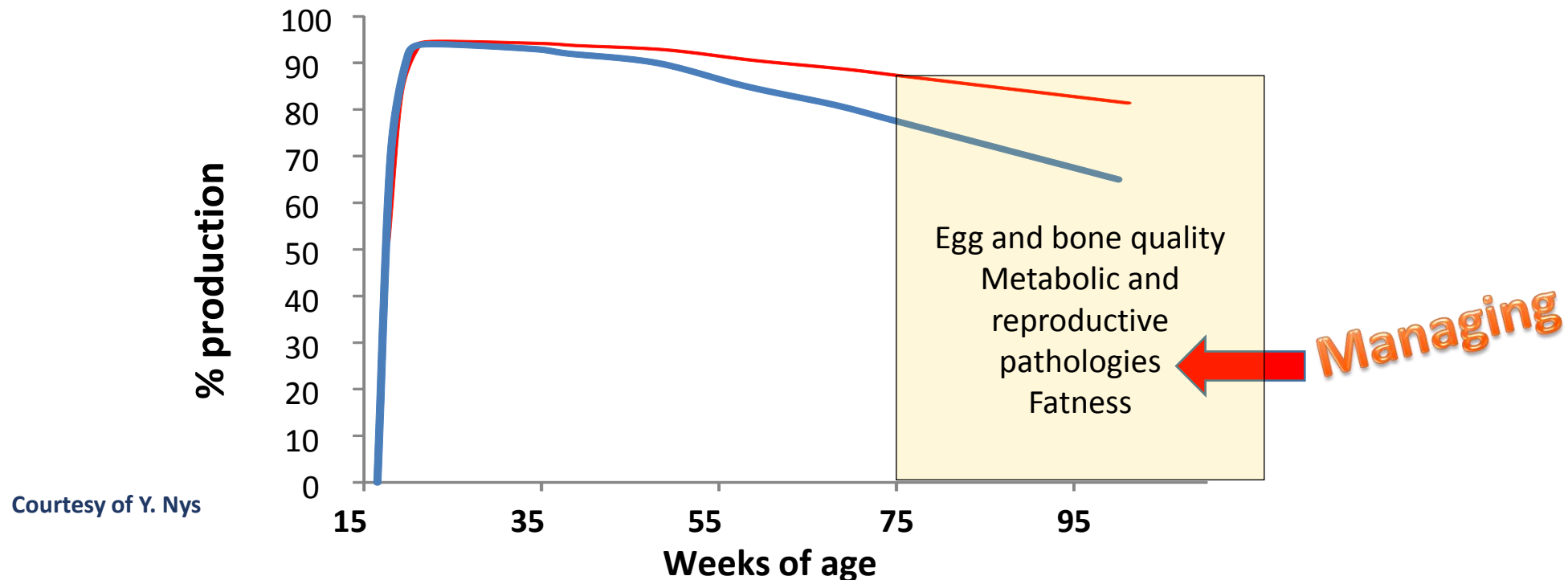
Shell quality depends on Numerous factors

- Genetic
- Hen physiology (age, mold)
- Environment of hens (lighting programs, temperature)
- Nutrition and management of hens
- “Insult”: rearing system, egg transport, egg sorting...

Genetic, optimal nutrition limit but do not eliminate breakage, notably for elderly birds

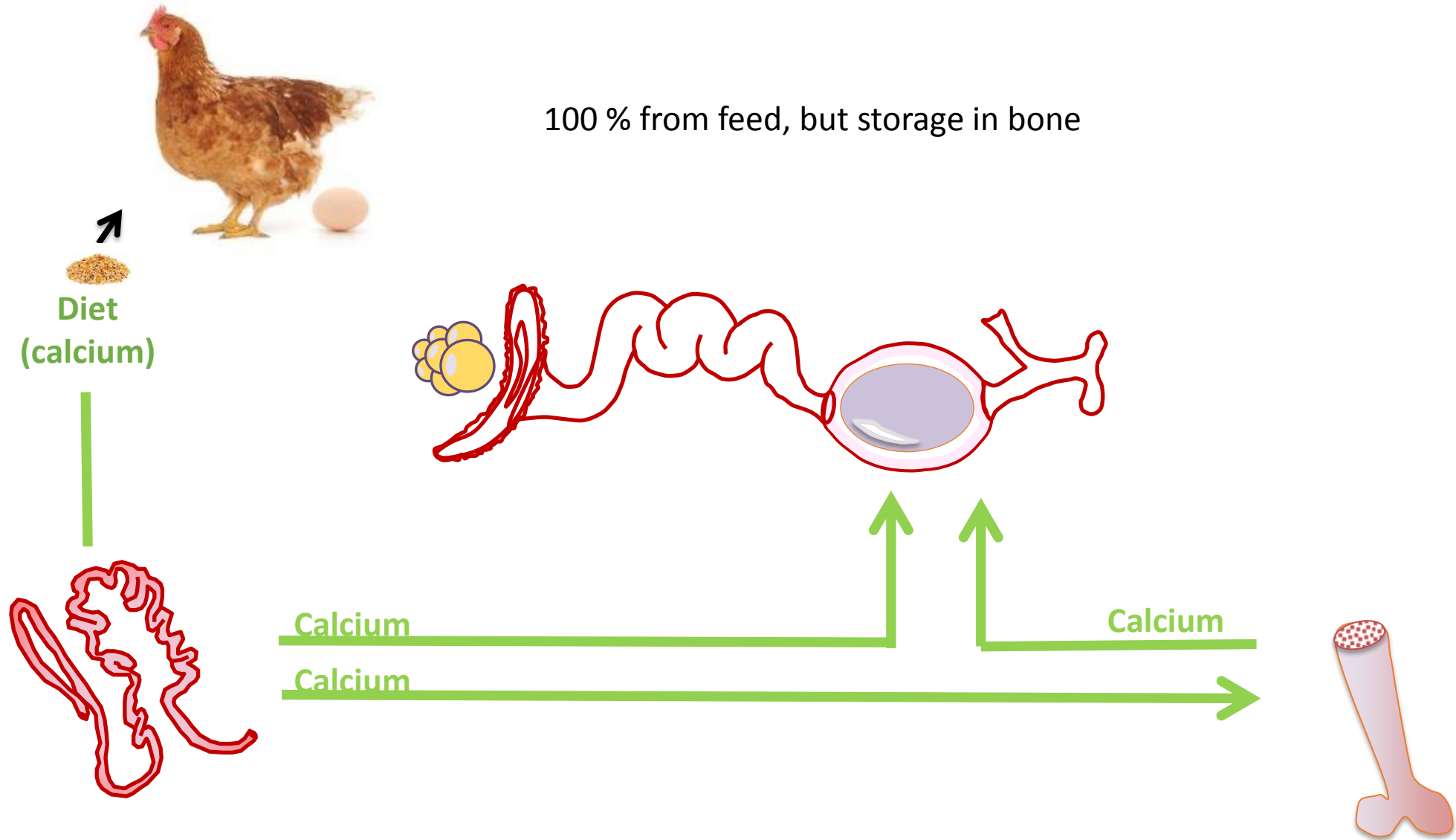
Extension of the Laying Period

The current genetic strategy is to improve persistency in lay and to extend the laying cycle of existing flocks (+ 40 days between 2000 and 2011; financial and environmental interest!)



Weekly decreased in egg quality between 70 and 90 weeks of age estimated to be quite linear: - 0.4 haught unit, - 0,02% for egg shell, + 0,05 cm² egg surface (European data, 2015, practical conditions)

Origin of the calcium deposited in the shell



Desynchronization between calcium intakes and requirements



Need for shell calcification

0

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Availability of calcium

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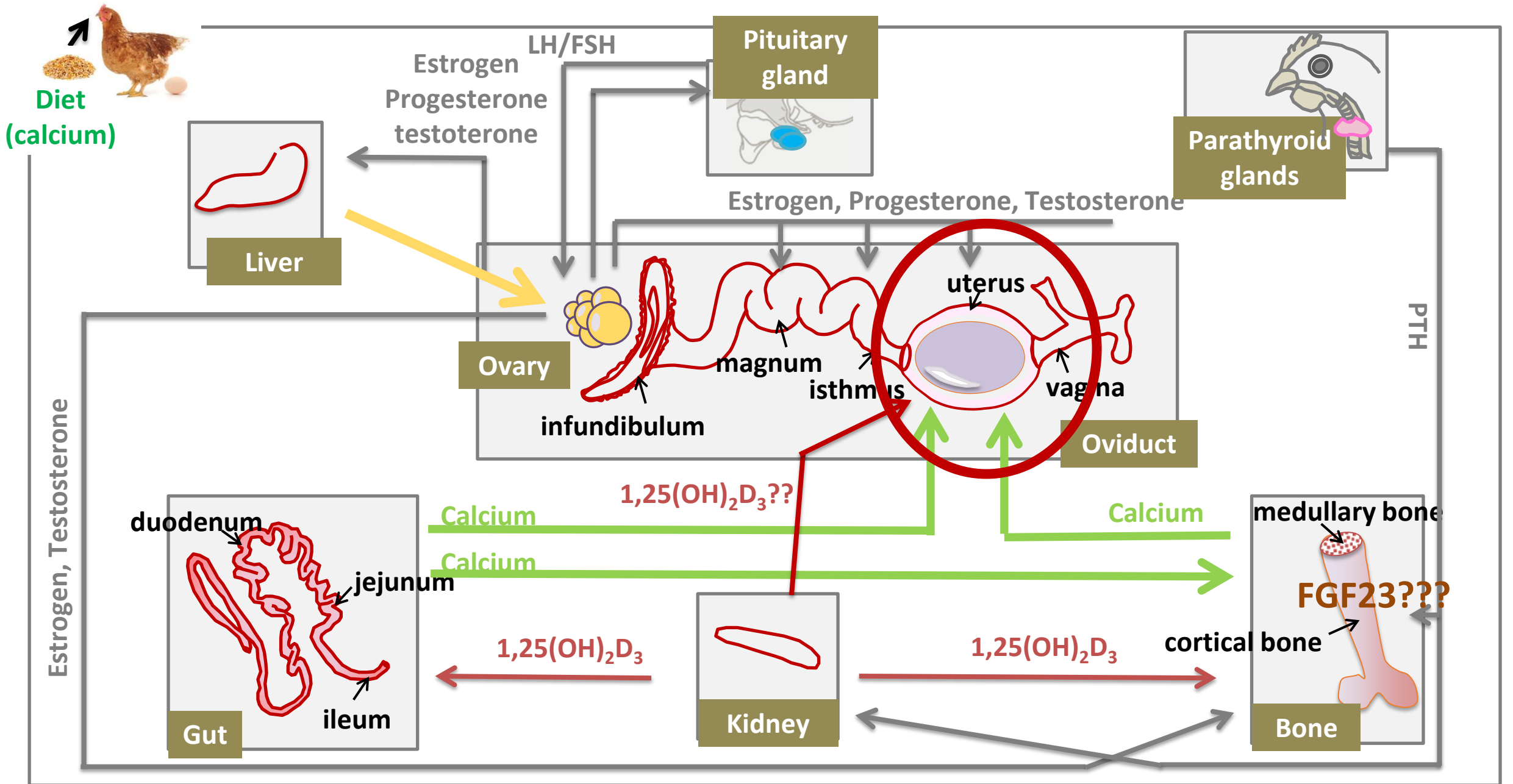
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Régulation of calcium metabolism in laying hens



Improve the eggshell quality



↓

Ultrastructure, Mechanical properties

✓ Quantity **About 60 %**

✓ Control of the mineralisation process **About 40%**

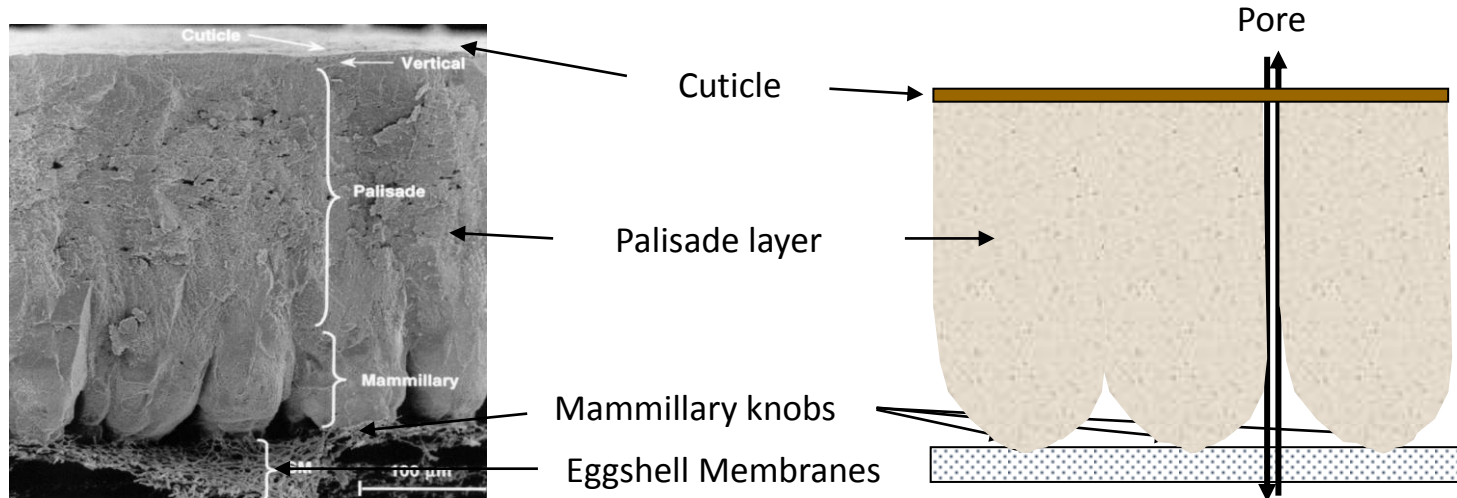
Mass or fabric

☞ **Mass : nutrition, génétic, environnement, lightning programs**

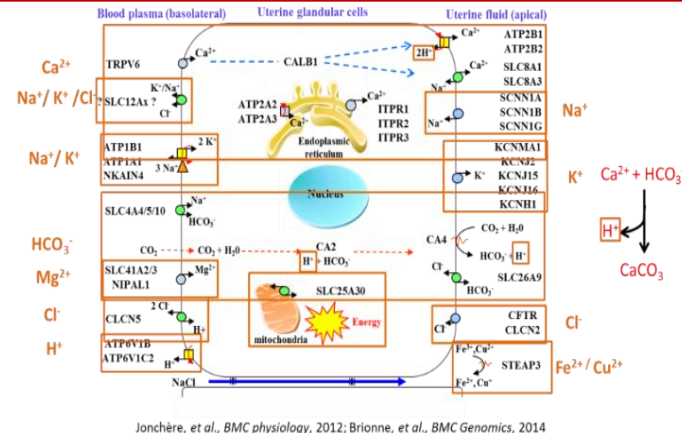
☞ **fabric : genetic (eggshell matrix proteins)**

The eggshell formation

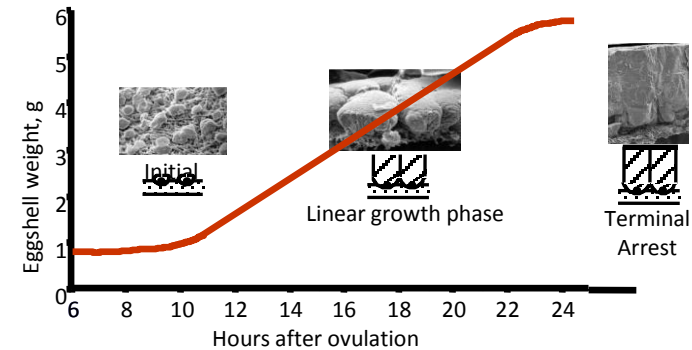
- ✓ Eggshell biomineralization in uterus (fast process)
- ✓ 5-6 g of mineral (calcium carbonate) are deposited within a 20 h period



Mineral supply



Biomineralization



3 Potential pathways

Mineral supply

Transcellular

- Carbonic Anhydrase 2
- Carbonic Anhydrase 4
- SLC4A4-A5-A10
- SLC26A9
- TRPV2-3
- Calbindin-1
- ATPA2/3
- ITPR1/2/3
- ATP2B1-B2
- SLC8A1-A3

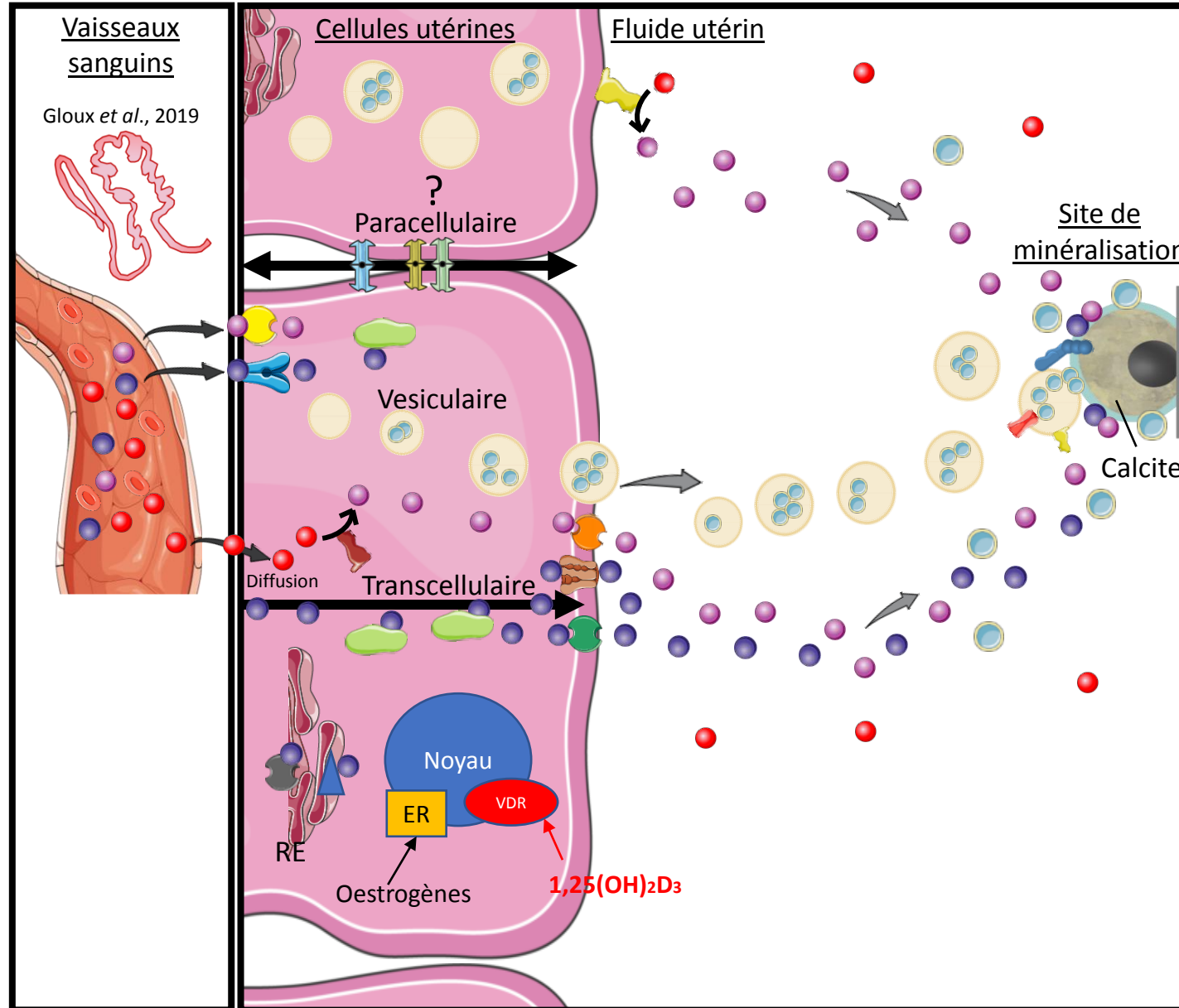
Vésiculaire

- Extra and intra cellular vesicles
- Annexines
- EDIL3/MFGE8

Paracellular ?

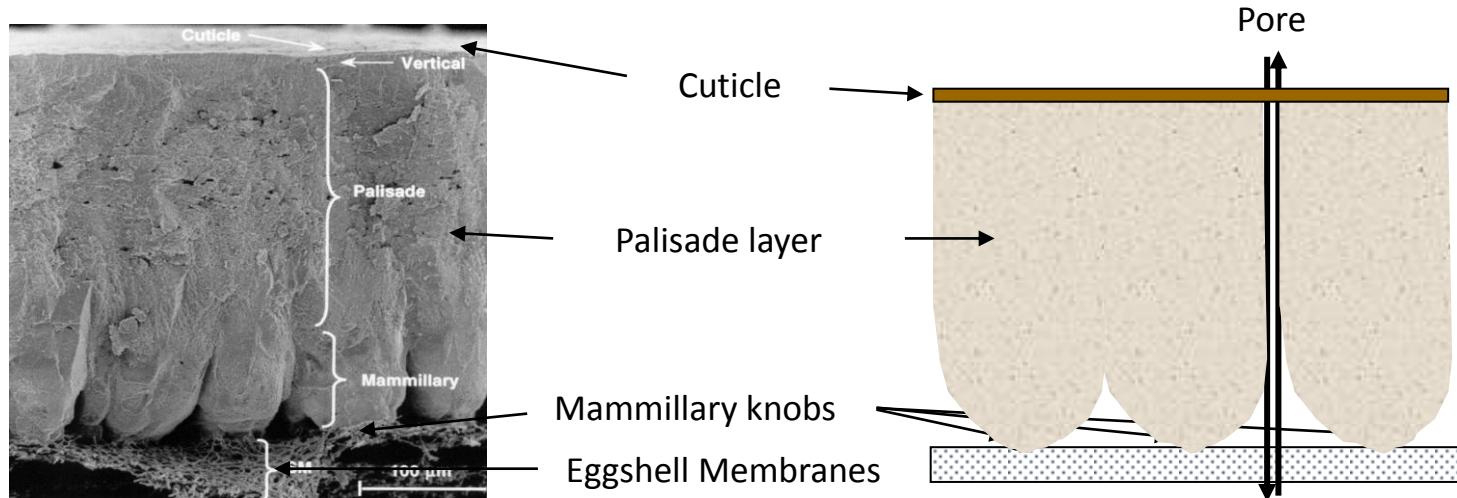
- Claudins
- JAM
- Occludin/TJP

- HCO_3^-
- Ca^{2+}
- CO_2
- ACC

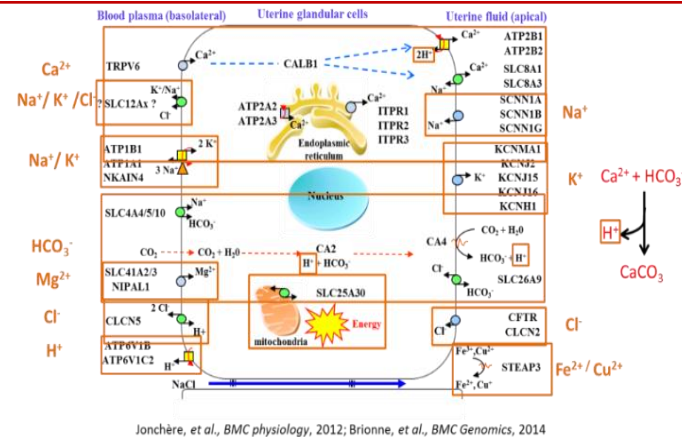


The eggshell formation

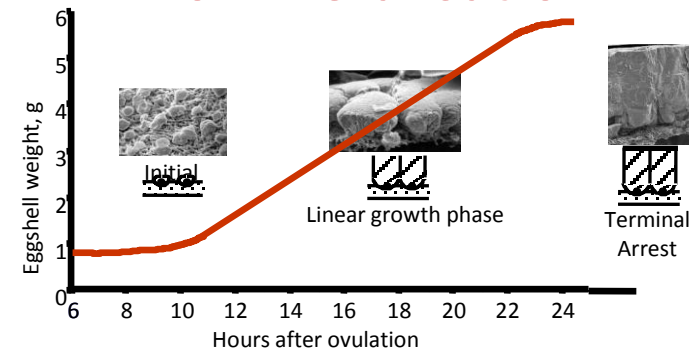
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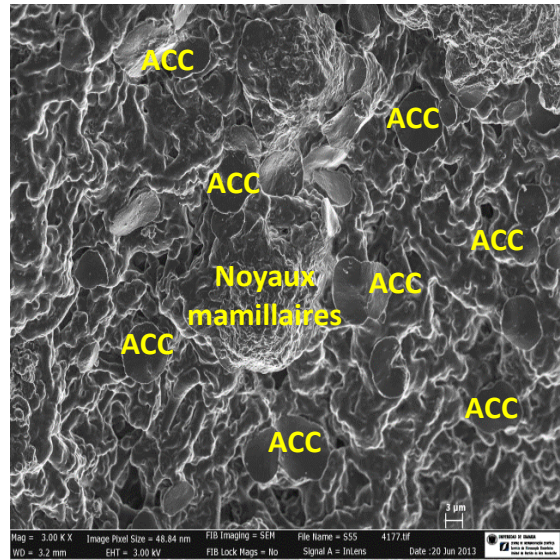
Apports de minéraux



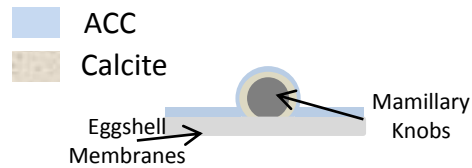
Biominéralisation



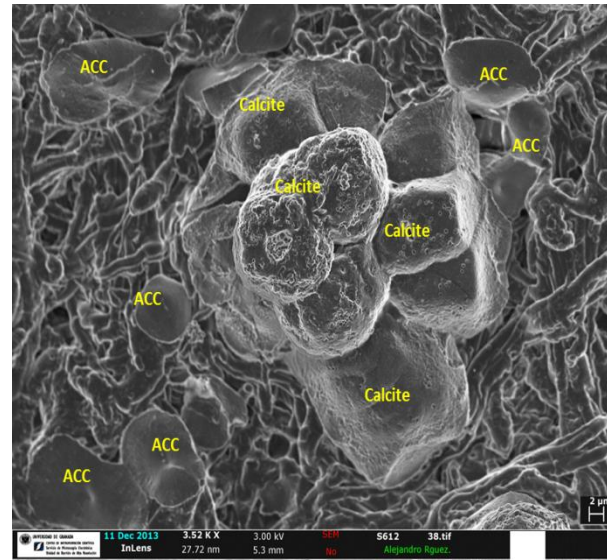
Eggshell biomineralization



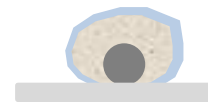
First events of nucléation



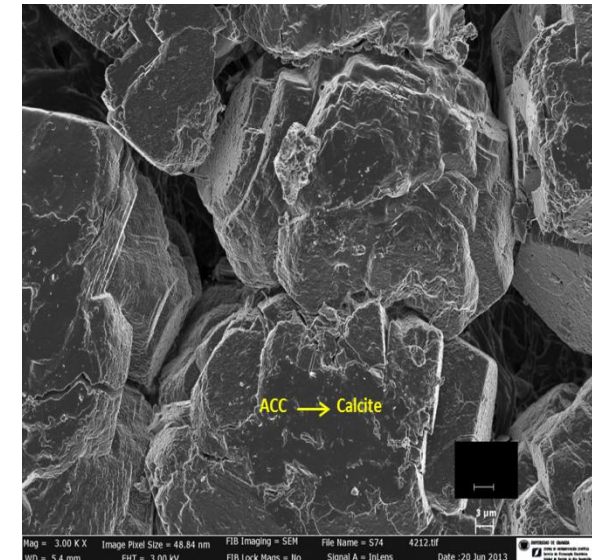
Time 1 (5-6 h Post ovulation):
ACC particles nucleate on the whole eggshell membranes.
Form massive deposits



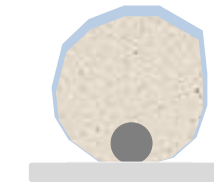
Calcite formation



Time 2 (6-7 h post ovulation):
Interface-coupled dissolution precipitation process
Direct transformation of ACC into calcite aggregates on mamillary knobs

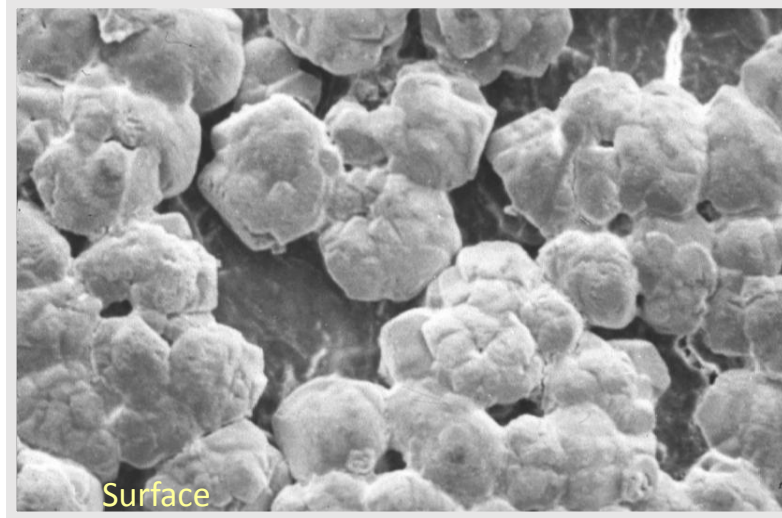
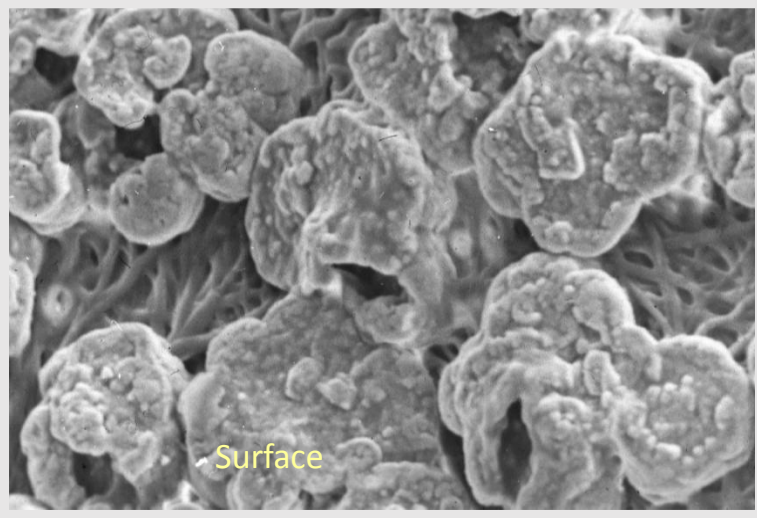


Larger calcite crystal units deposition

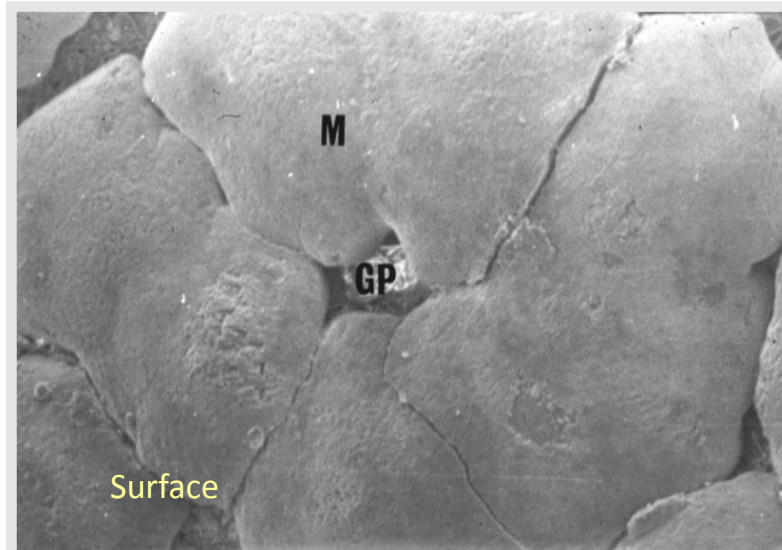
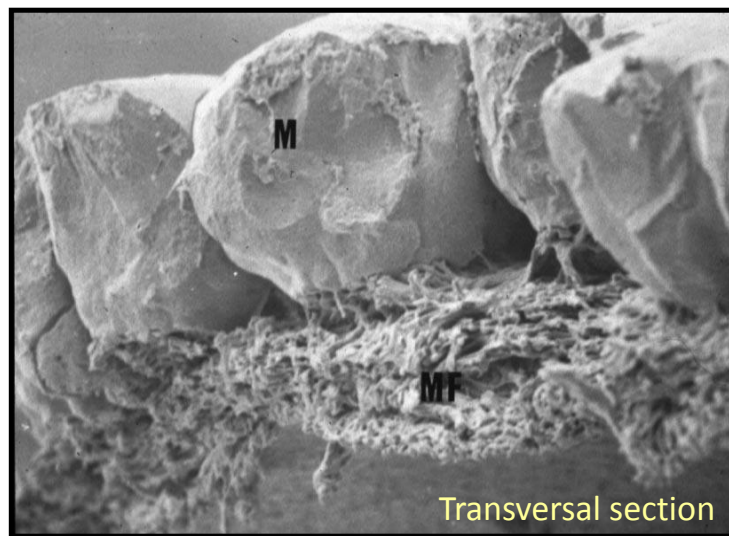


Time 3 (>7h post ovulation):
Additional cristallisation events on calcite template

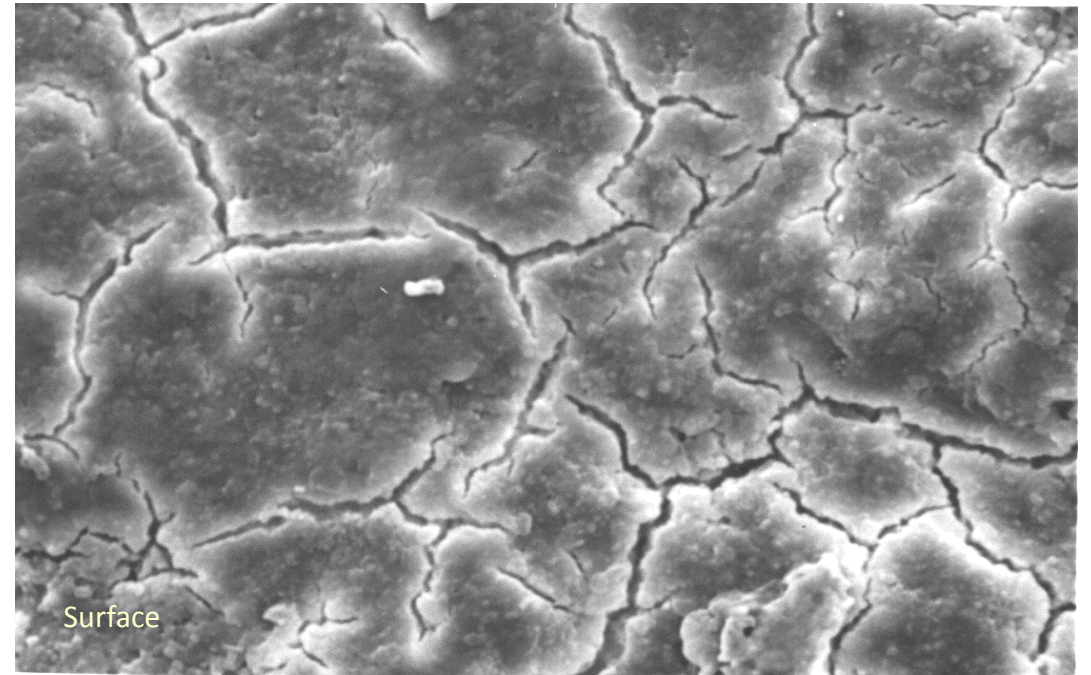
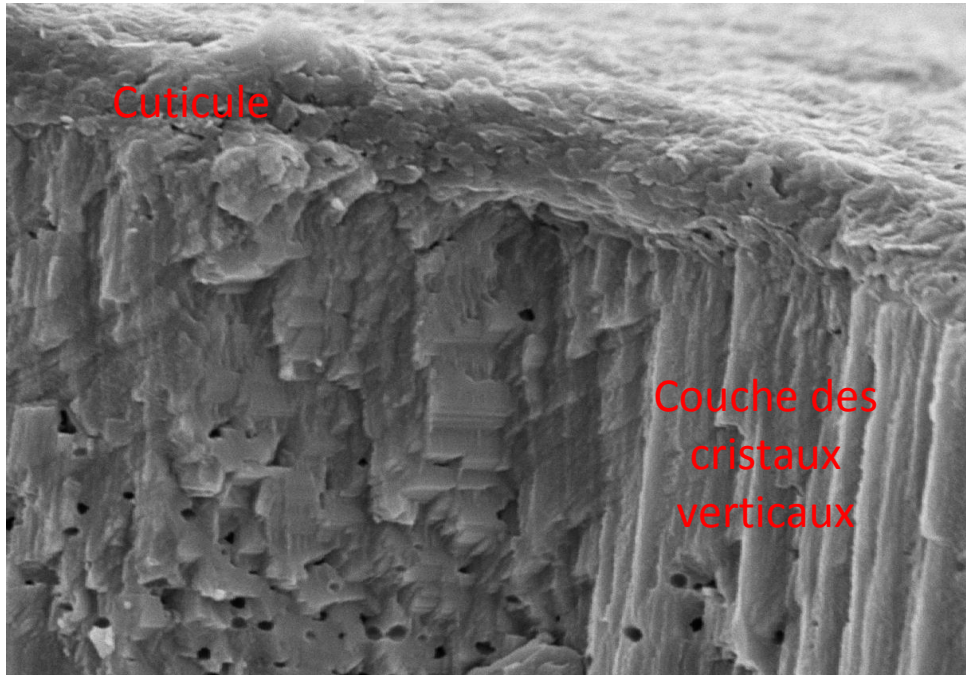
Eggshell biomineralization



Time 4 (7-10h post ovulation):
Calcite deposition and fusion
of adjacent cônes



Eggshell biomineralization



Time 5 (11 to Oviposition):

- Formation of palisade layer. Generation of a compact layer with crystals all oriented perpendicular to the surface
- Deposition of a thin layer of vertical structure
- Cuticle deposition
- Oviposition, drying and cracking of cuticle

Eggshell biomineralization

95 % of calcium carbonate
(calcite)

Interaction

3.5 % organic matrix
(protéines, protéoglycanes)

✓ Quantity

✓ Control of the mineralisation process

Ultrastructure, Mechanical properties
First events of shell mineralisation are crucial

Role of amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC)



Calcite direct formation



ACC is a transient phase

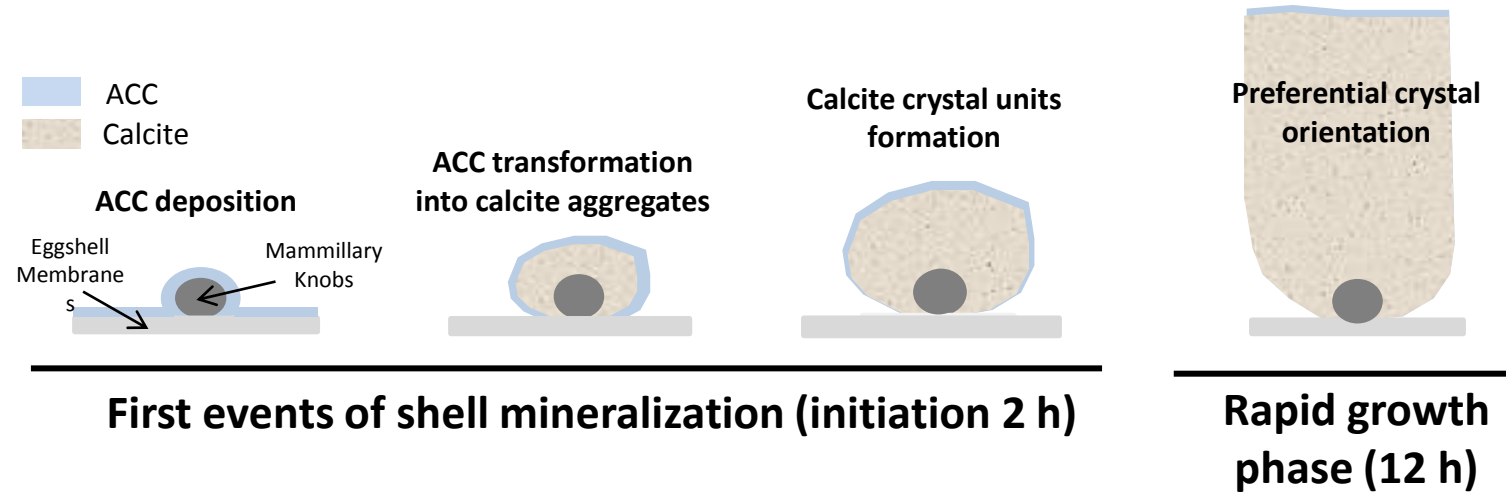
More soluble, more reactif,

Used as a source of temporary calcium storage

Rodriguez-Navarro et al., Journal
of structural Biology, 2015

Eggshell biomineralization

Pivotal stages of shell formation, crucial role of amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC)



Role of organic matrix proteins at pivotal events

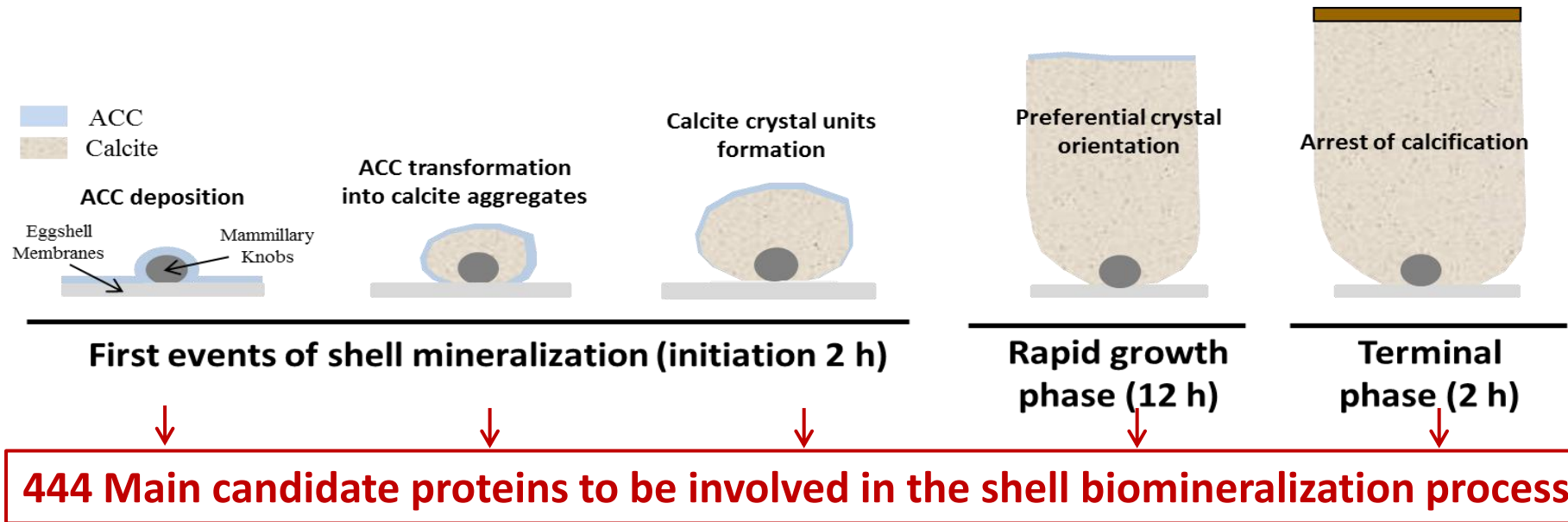
- ✓ *Stabilization of amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC)*
- ✓ *Polymorphs, morphology and size of crystals*



Impact
(2013-2017)

Eggshell texture and mechanical properties

Eggshell biomineralization



Predicted functional activities of the identified matrix proteins ?

(Marie et al., 2014, 2015a,b)

Classification in 3 different groups according to their potential functions

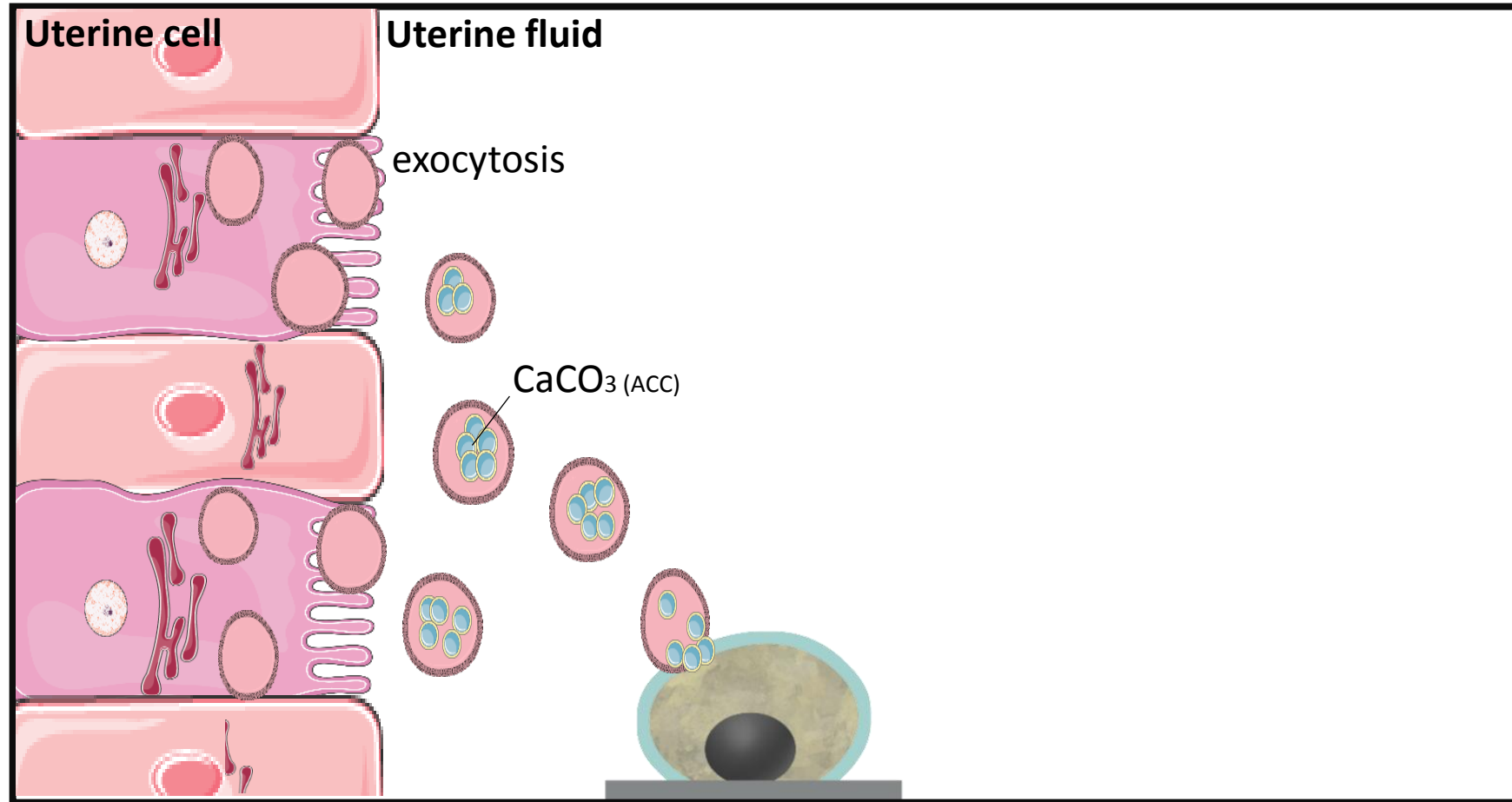
Associated to mineralization process

Involved in the regulation of activity of proteins

Antimicrobial and other proteins

Eggshell biomineralization

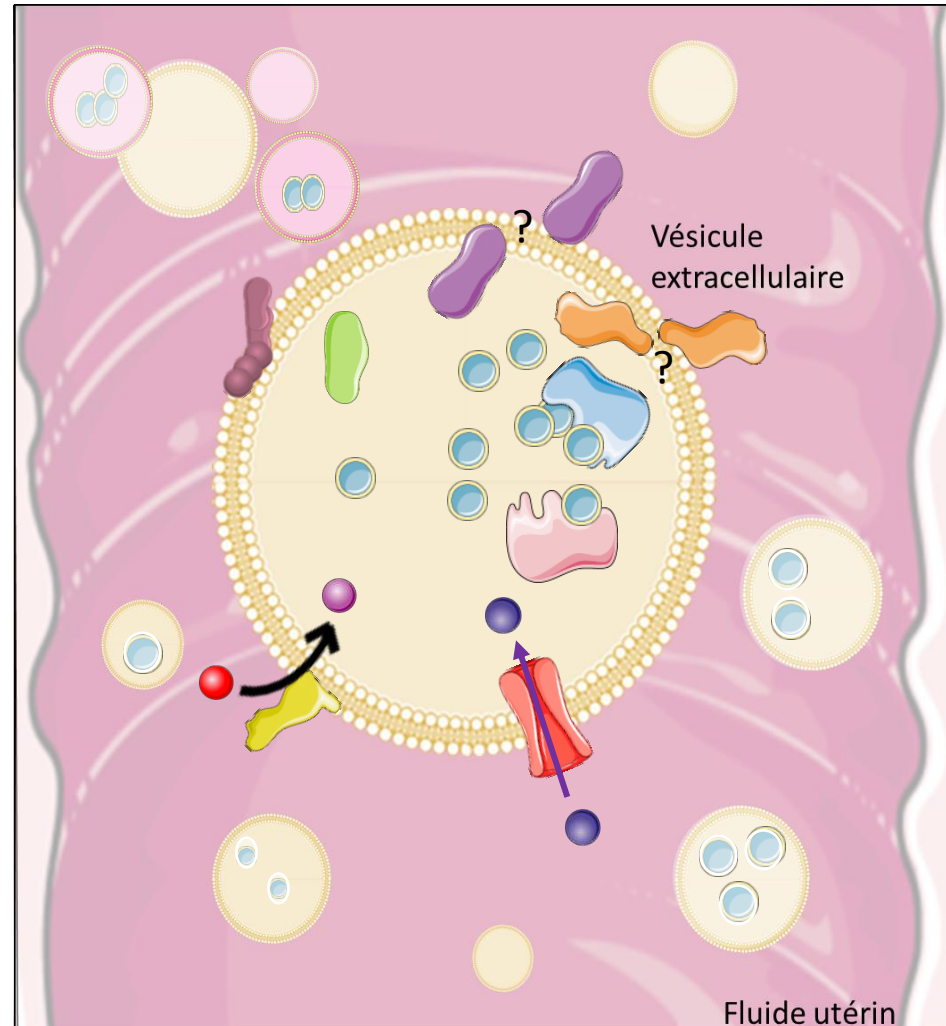
Involvement of vesicular system to transport and stabilize Amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC)



Eggshell biomineralization

Involvement of vesicular system to transport and stabilize Amorphous calcium carbonate (ACC)

- EDIL3
- ANXA1
- ANXA2
- ANXA8
- CA4
- PDCD6IP
- Syntenin-1
- Ovalbumin
- Ezrin
- Lysozyme



ANX supplied Ca^{2+} ?

CA4 supplied HCO_3^- ?

LYZ and OVA stabilized ACC ?
EDIL3 adress vésicles ?

- CO_2
- HCO_3^-
- Ca^{2+}
- ACC

Eggshell biomineralization



ACC deposition



ACC transformation
into calcite aggregates



Calcite crystal units
formation

First events of shell mineralization (initiation)



Preferential crystal
orientation

Rapid growth phase



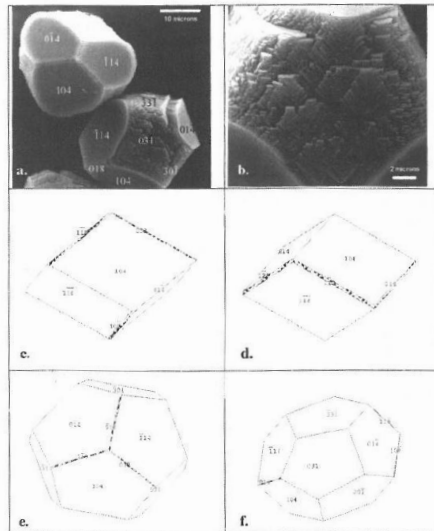
Arrest of calcification

Terminal phase

Eggshell biomineralization

❑ Proteins having a direct involvement in eggshell mineralization

✓ Proteins with established role in the **biomineralisation**



Ovotransferrin is a Matrix Protein of the Hen Eggshell Membranes and Basal Calcified Layer

J. GAUTRON^a, M.T. HINCKE^b, M. PANHELEUX^a, J.M. GARCIA-RUIZ^c, T. BOLDICKE^d and Y. NYS^{a,*}



LYZ
OVOT



ACC deposition



ACC transformation
into calcite aggregates



Calcite crystal units
formation

OVAL



Preferential crystal
orientation



Arrest of calcification

First events of shell mineralization (initiation)

Rapid growth phase

Terminal phase

Formation de l'œuf et biominéralisation

□ Proteins having a direct involvement in eggshell mineralization

✓ Proteins with established role in the **biomineralisation**

Freeman et al, 2010

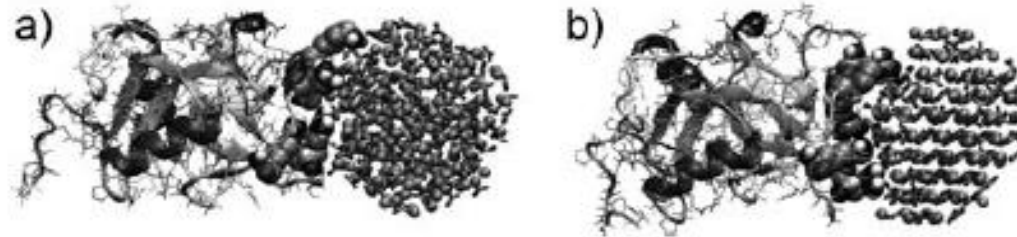


Figure 1. Ovocleidin-17 bound to an amorphous (a) and a crystallized (b) calcium carbonate nanoparticle containing 192 formula units. The



LYZ
OVOT



ACC deposition

OC-17



ACC transformation
into calcite aggregates

OVAL



Calcite crystal units
formation

First events of shell mineralization (initiation)



Preferential crystal
orientation

Rapid growth phase



Arrest of calcification

Terminal phase

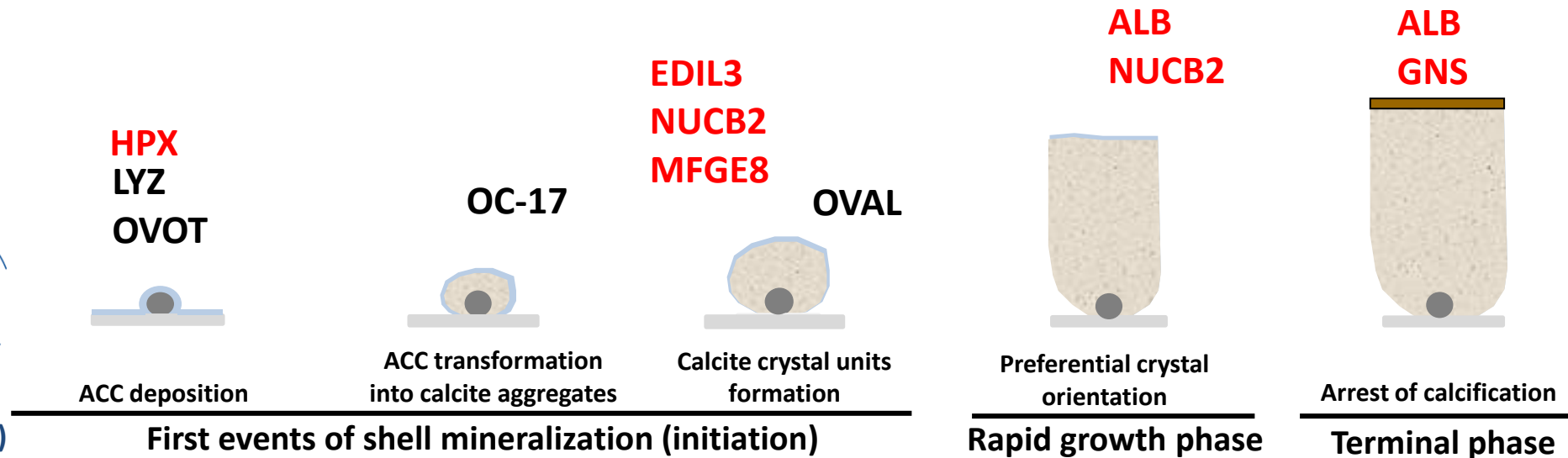
Eggshell biomineralization

□ Proteins having a direct involvement in eggshell mineralization

✓ Proteins with established role in the **biomineralisation**

✓ **Calcium binding proteins (CaBPs)** interacting with calcium, favoring crystal nucleation and driving the morphology of crystals

- *Proteins with EF-hand and EGF-like calcium binding domains*



Eggshell biomineralization

□ Proteins having a direct involvement in eggshell mineralization

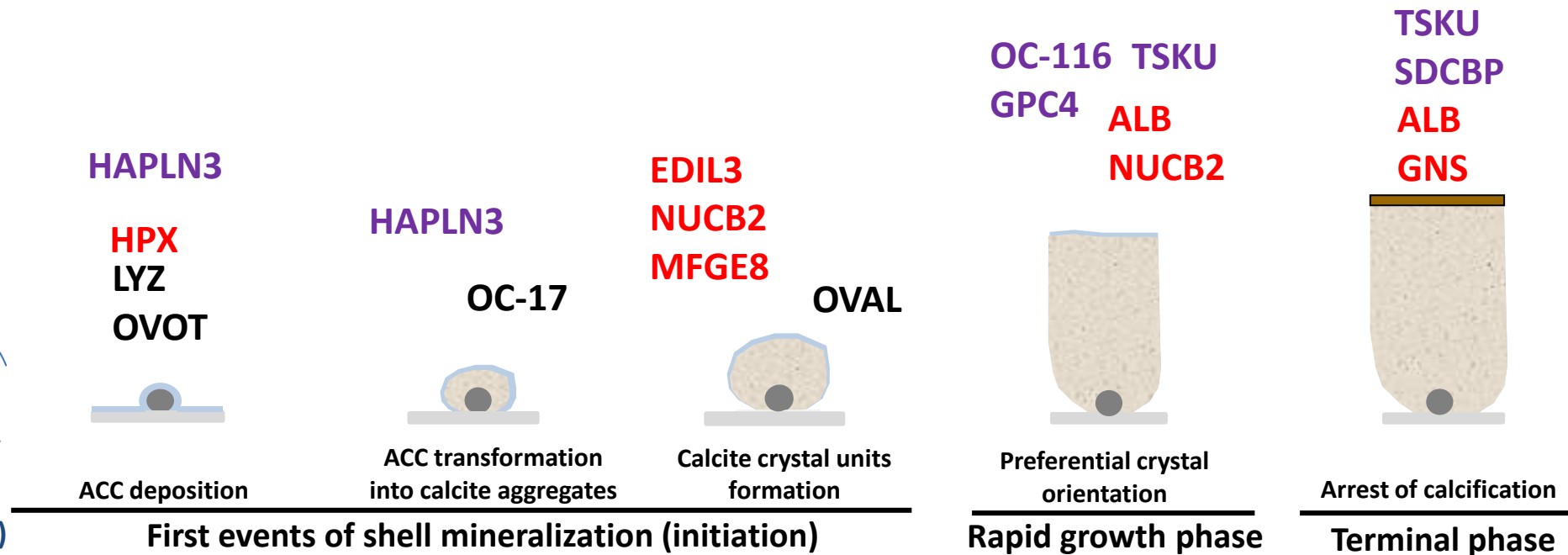
✓ Proteins with established role in the **biomineralisation**

✓ **Calcium binding proteins (CaBPs)** interacting with calcium, favoring crystal nucleation and driving the morphology of crystals

- *Proteins with EF-hand and EGF-like calcium binding domains*

✓ **Proteoglycans** and proteoglycan binding proteins

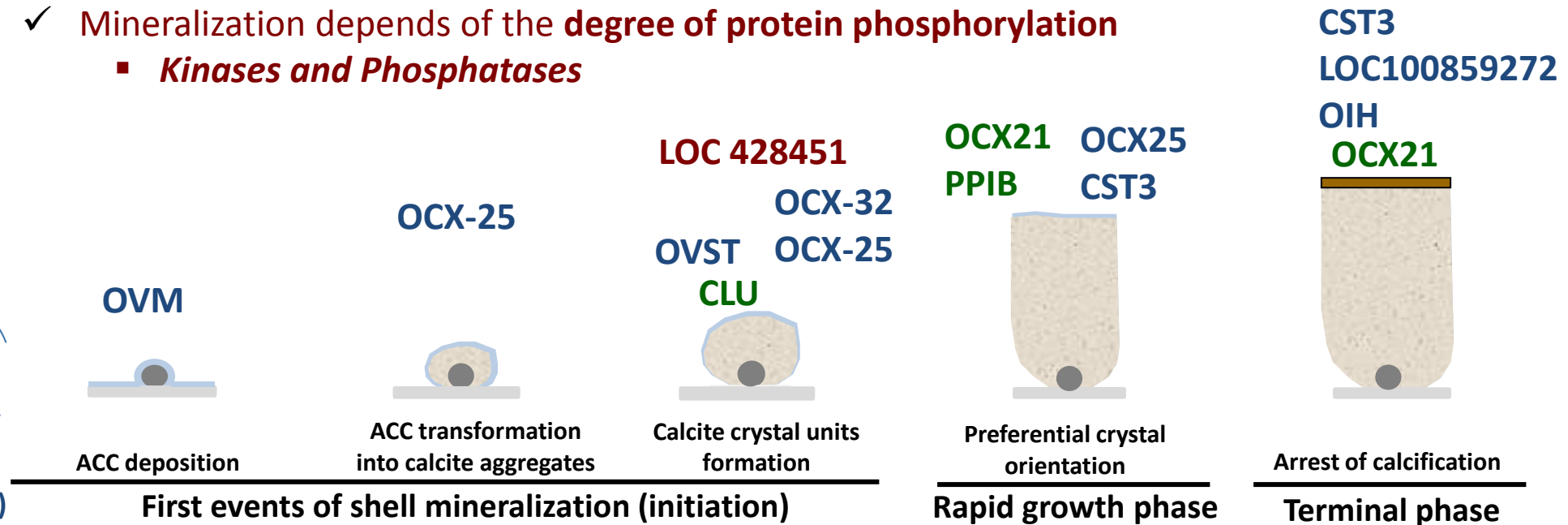
- proteoglycans have a negative charge to attract Ca^{2+} ions



Eggshell biomineralization

❑ Proteins involved in the regulation of proteins driving mineralization

- ✓ Proteins involved in the **proper folding of the eggshell matrix** to ensure calcium and mineral interactions and to ensure template to the mineralized structure
- ✓ Proteins **inhibiting or activating proteins present in the mineralization milieu (non cellular)**.
 - *Direct interaction with other proteins.*
 - *Molecular chaperone interact with proteins driving mineralization*
 - *Proteases and protease inhibitors (specific and controlled role during calcification process, either by degrading proteins or regulating processing of proteins into their mature forms)*
- ✓ Mineralization depends of the **degree of protein phosphorylation**
 - *Kinases and Phosphatases*



And now ? How to improve shell quality ?

- Mapping genes coding matrix proteins to detect polymorphisms and haplotype related to good quality shell



Physiology

Understand the mechanisms of shell manufacturing and determine the origin of its weaknesses



Genetics

Classical and genomic selection

Recent Developments and Future Prospects :

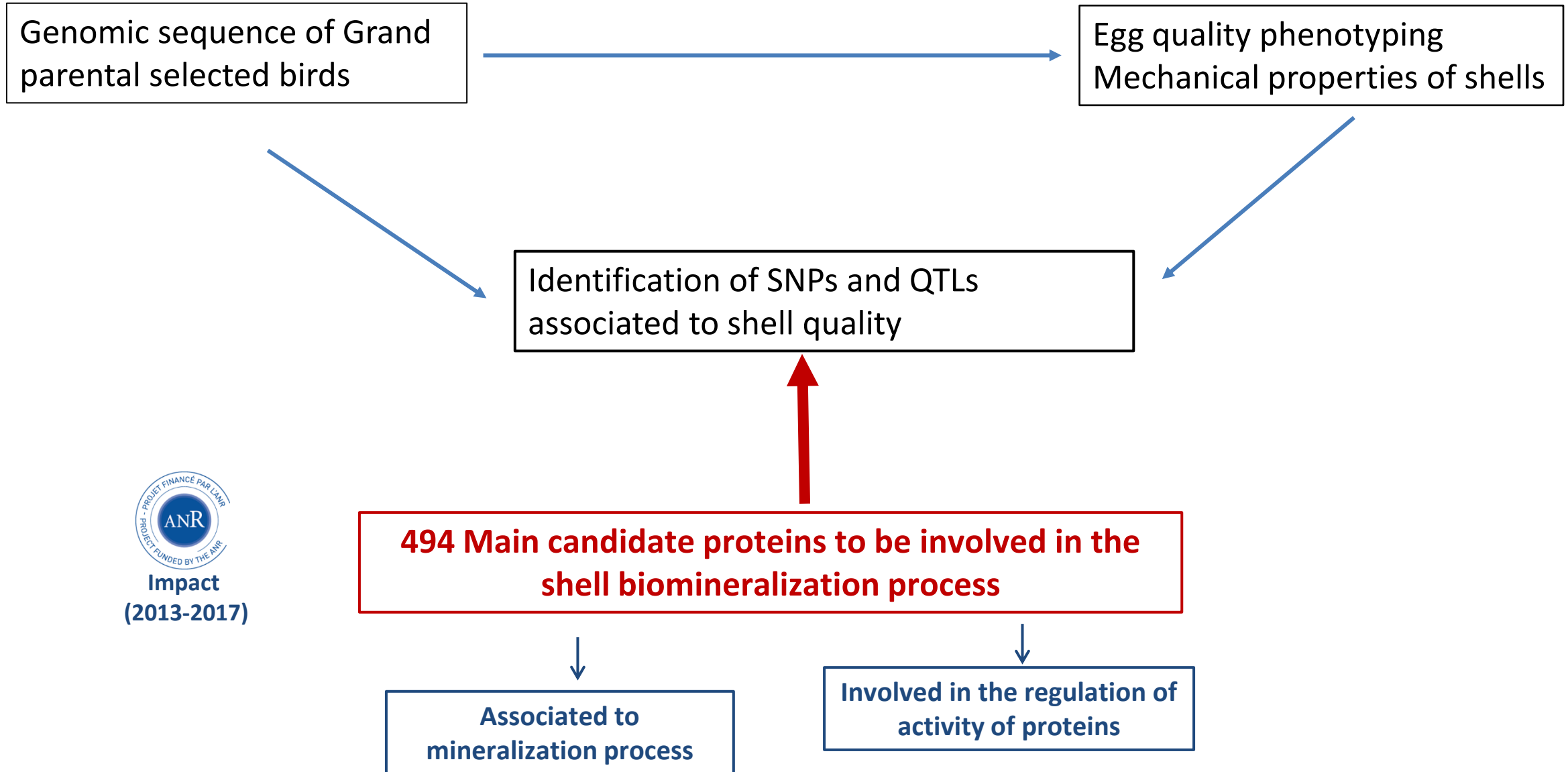
- ✓ Genomic selection (precision, taking into account the male effect)
- ✓ Taking into account scientific advances in the knowledge of mechanisms
 - ✓ Candidate gene approach



Candidate Genes of eggshell calcification in laying hens (CACAO)

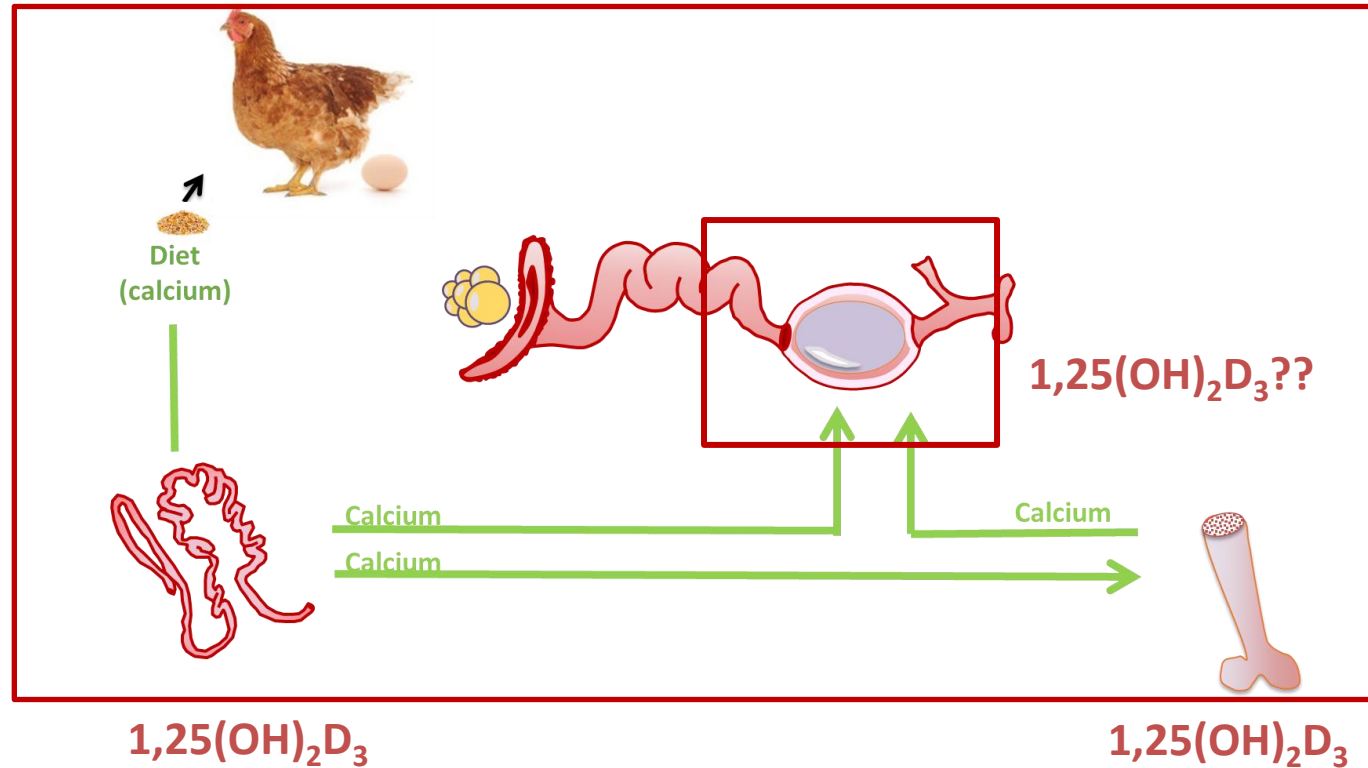
Eggshell Calcification Polymorphism Candidates (POLCACAO)

Complementarity of information between proteomics (candidate genes) and genomics results (QTL / Sequencing).

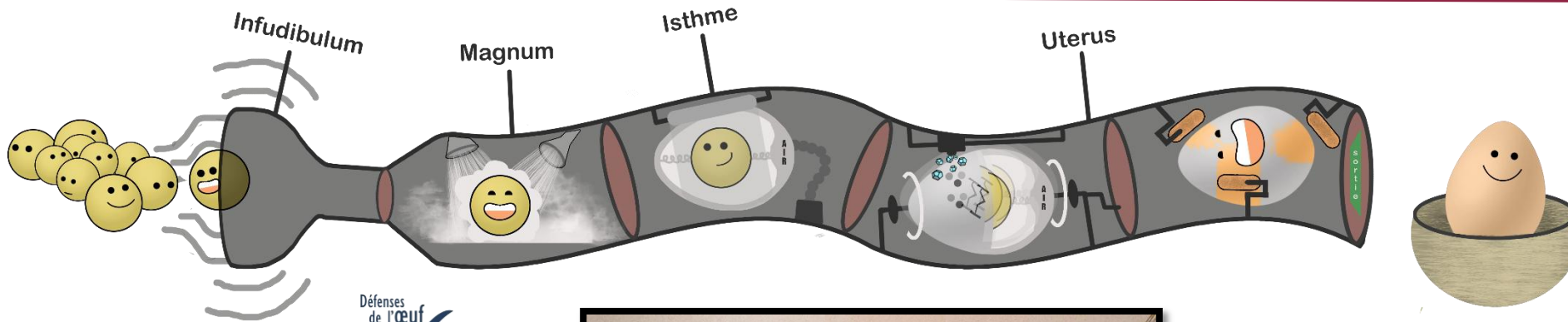


And then? How to improve shell quality ?

- Mapping genes coding proteins to detect polymorphisms and haplotype related to good quality shell
- Identification of early biological markers associated to shell calcification.
- Influence of Vit D status (form of Vit D)
 - Age effect



Thank you for your attention



- L'équipe DOVE
- Directeur de thèse: J. Gautron
- A. Rodriguez-Navarro
- N. Le Roy, J. Ezagal
- Y. Nys et M. Hincke
- P. Leroy, F. Heraud, C. Diot
- BOA
- PAIB2
- PEAT
- Pegase
- GeT-Genotoul
- Universidad de Granada



PEGASE
Au cœur de la recherche
et de la formation
en production animale

