



*Scientific Society Symposium*  
Firenze, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018



# Metformin and Endometrial function

*Session organized by the DGGEF - Dr. Amanda Machado Weber*

## OVERVIEW

- Metformin
- Mechanisms of Metformin
- Effect of Metformin in endometrial cells

# METFORMIN

- Derived from isoamylene guanidine – active substance of *Galega officinalis*;
  - Widely used in the treatment of T2DM;
  - Approval in 1958 UK and 1995 USA;
  - First-line therapy for T2DM patients;
  - $\approx$  120 million prescriptions per year worldwide;
  - Favorable benefit-risk profile:  $\emptyset$  hypoglycaemia or weight gain.



<https://gardenshop.telegraph.co.uk>

## METFORMIN

- Also suggested as:



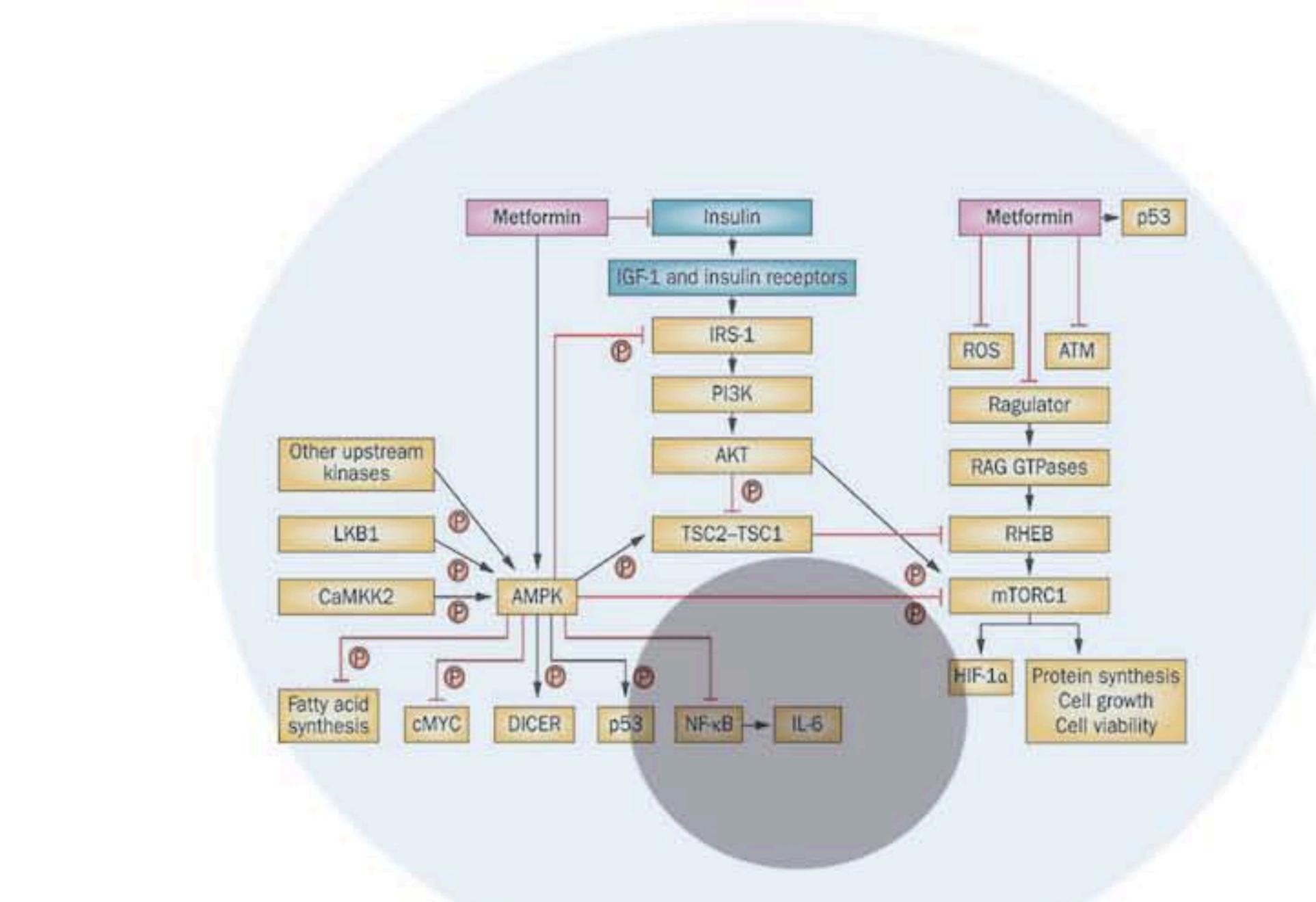
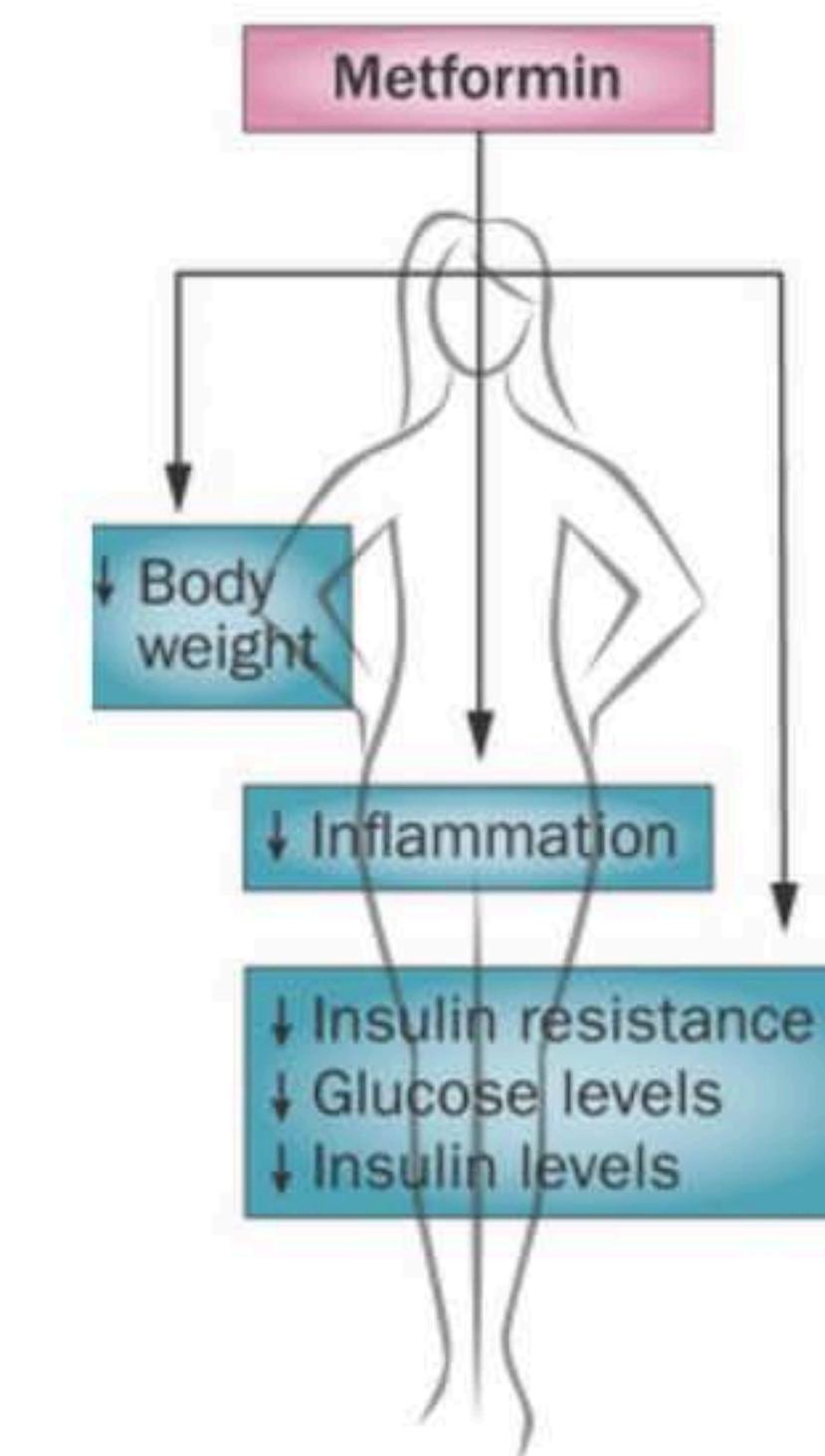
CARDIOVASCULAR PROTECTIVE

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY

NEUROPROTECTIVE

ANTICANCER

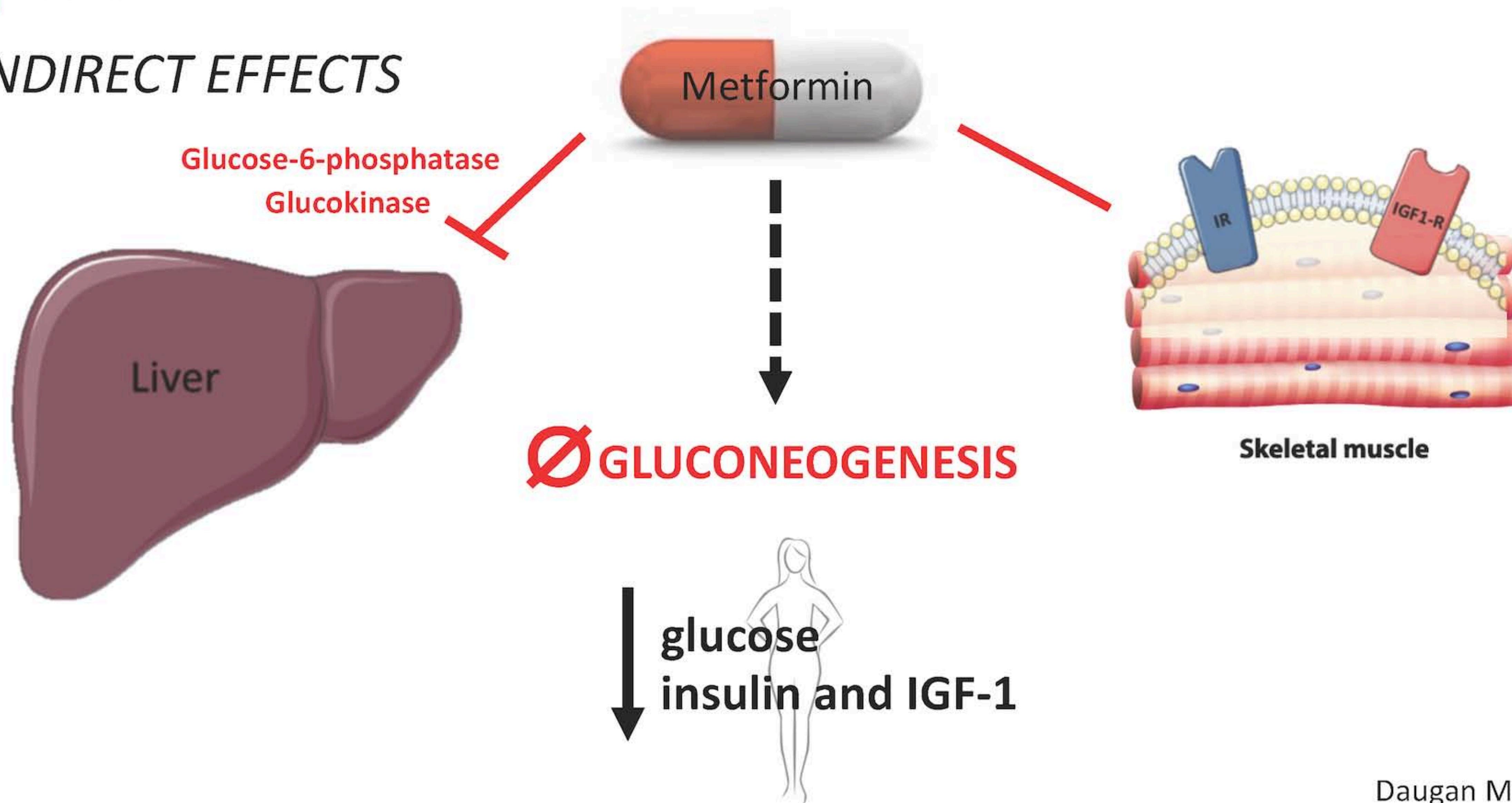
## MECHANISMS OF METFORMIN



Pernicova I. & Korbonits M., 2014

## Metformin and Endometrial function

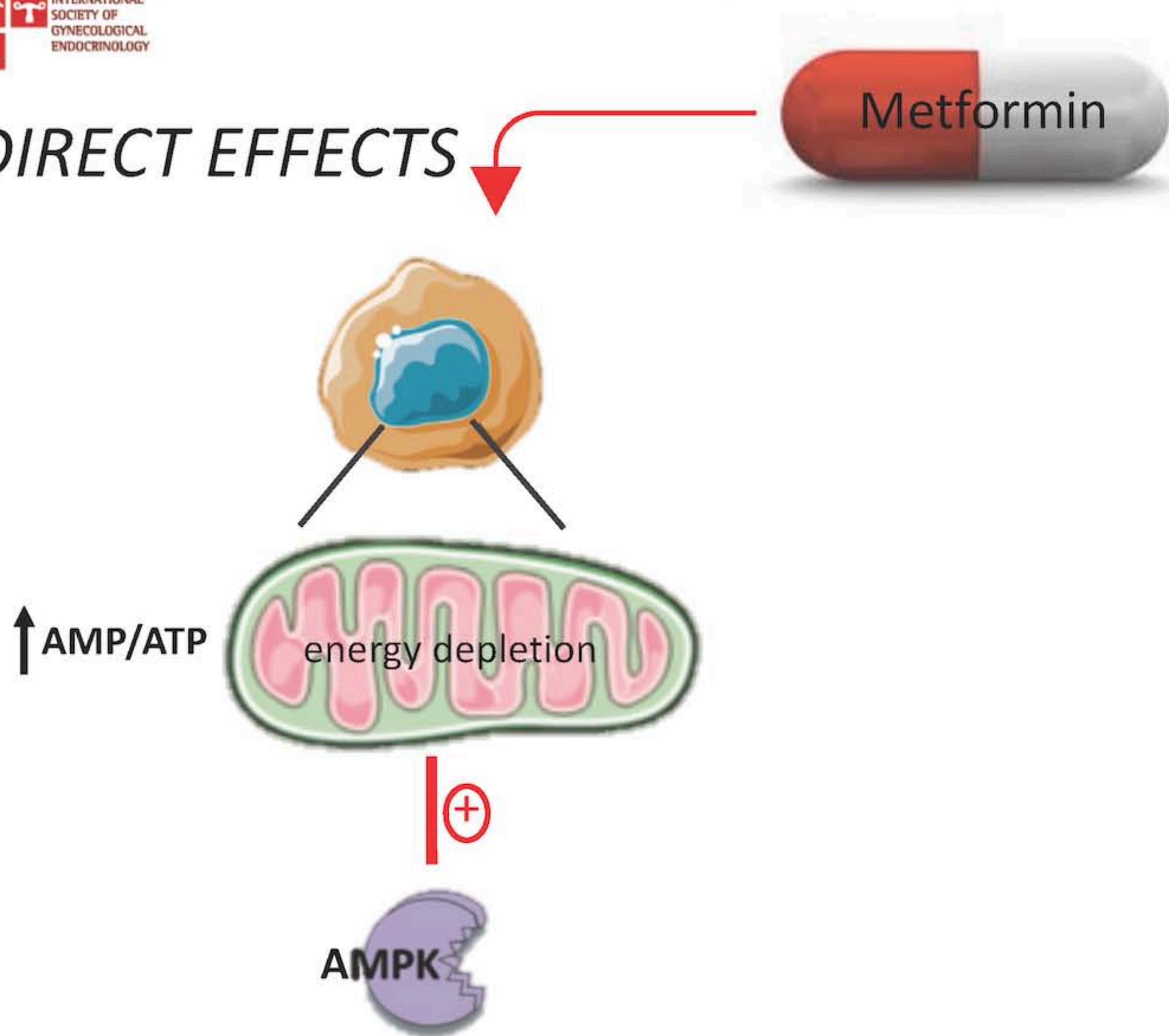
### INDIRECT EFFECTS



Daugan M. et al., 2016

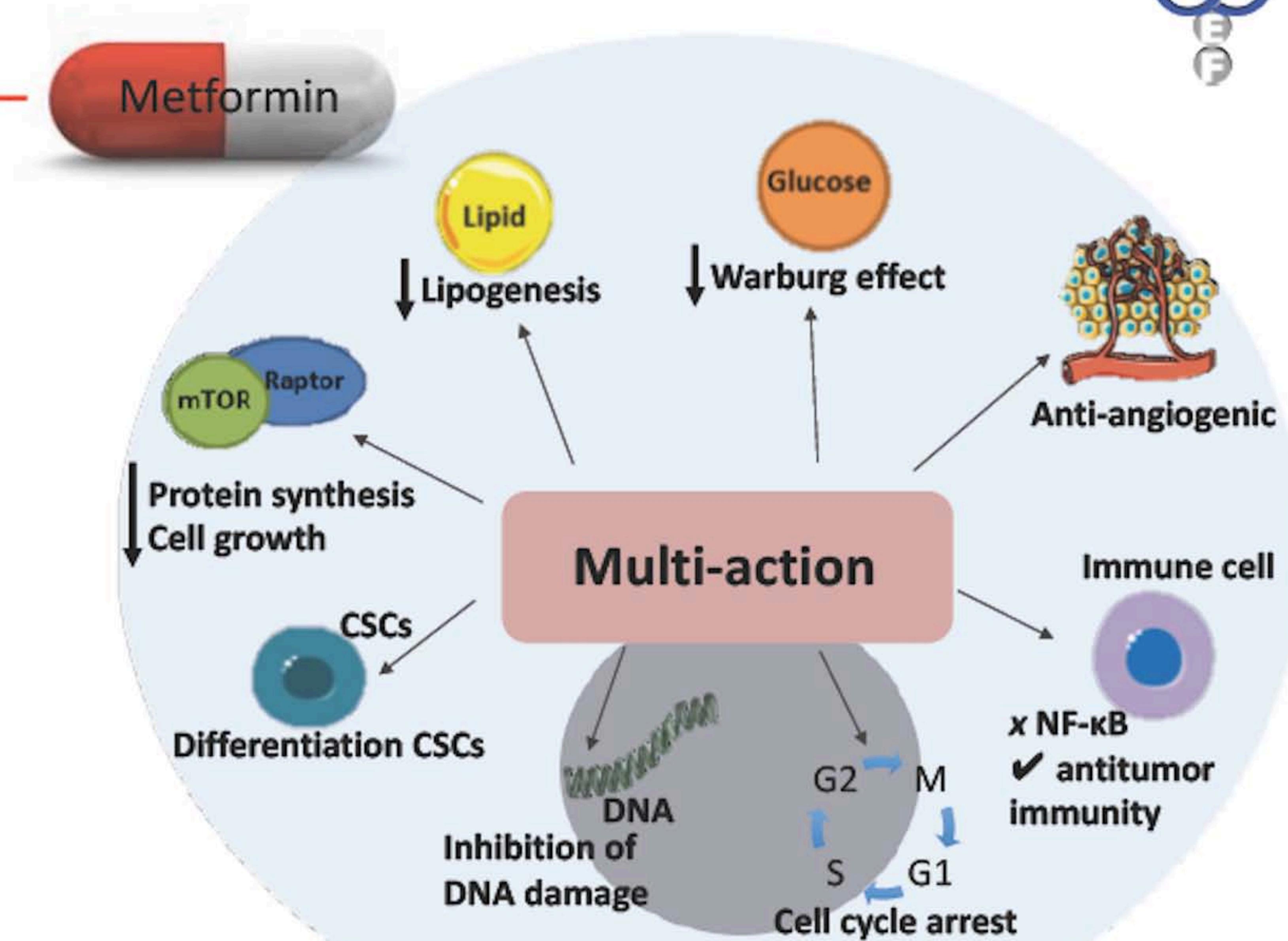
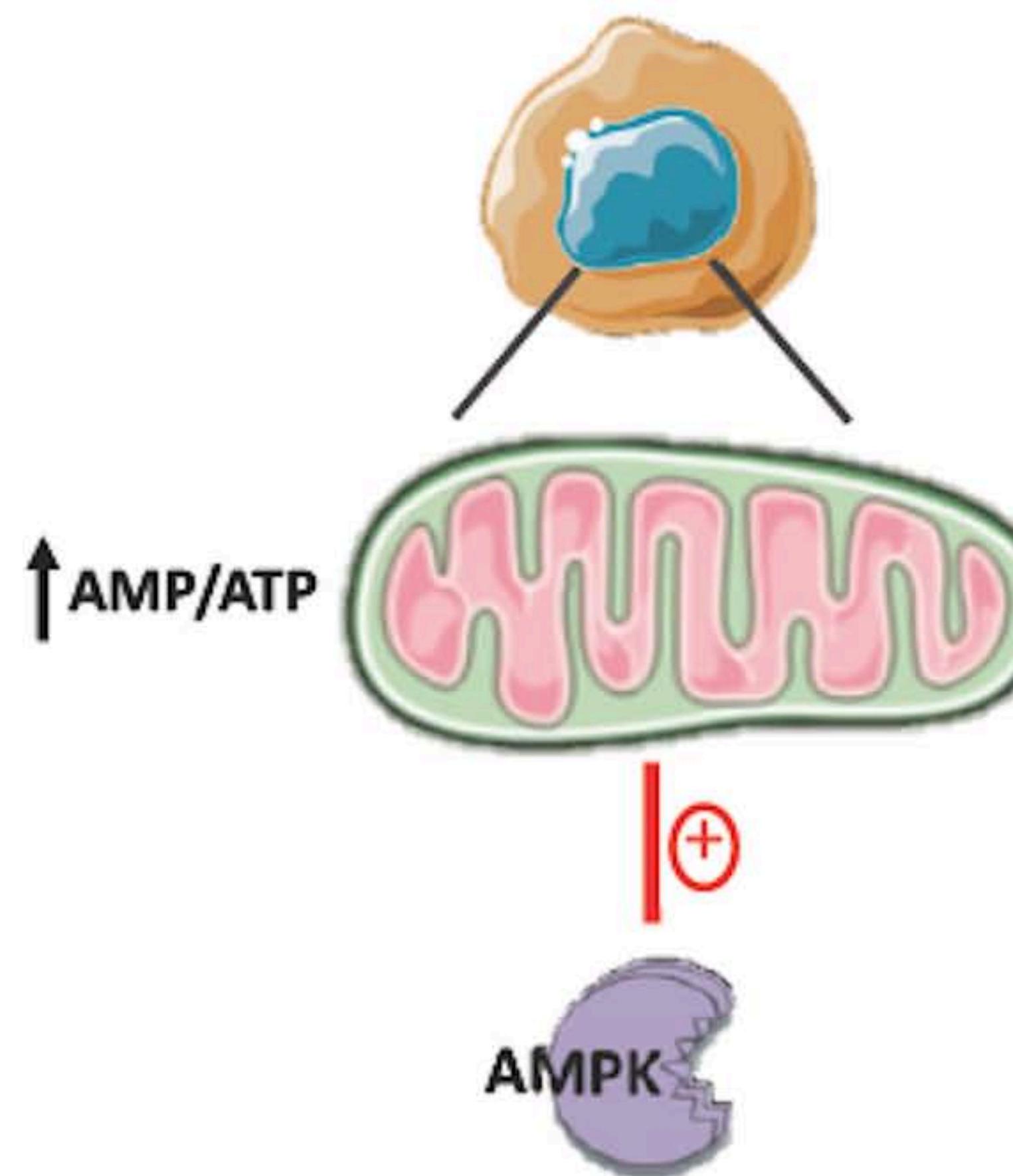
## *Metformin and Endometrial function*

**DIRECT EFFECTS**



## Metformin and Endometrial function

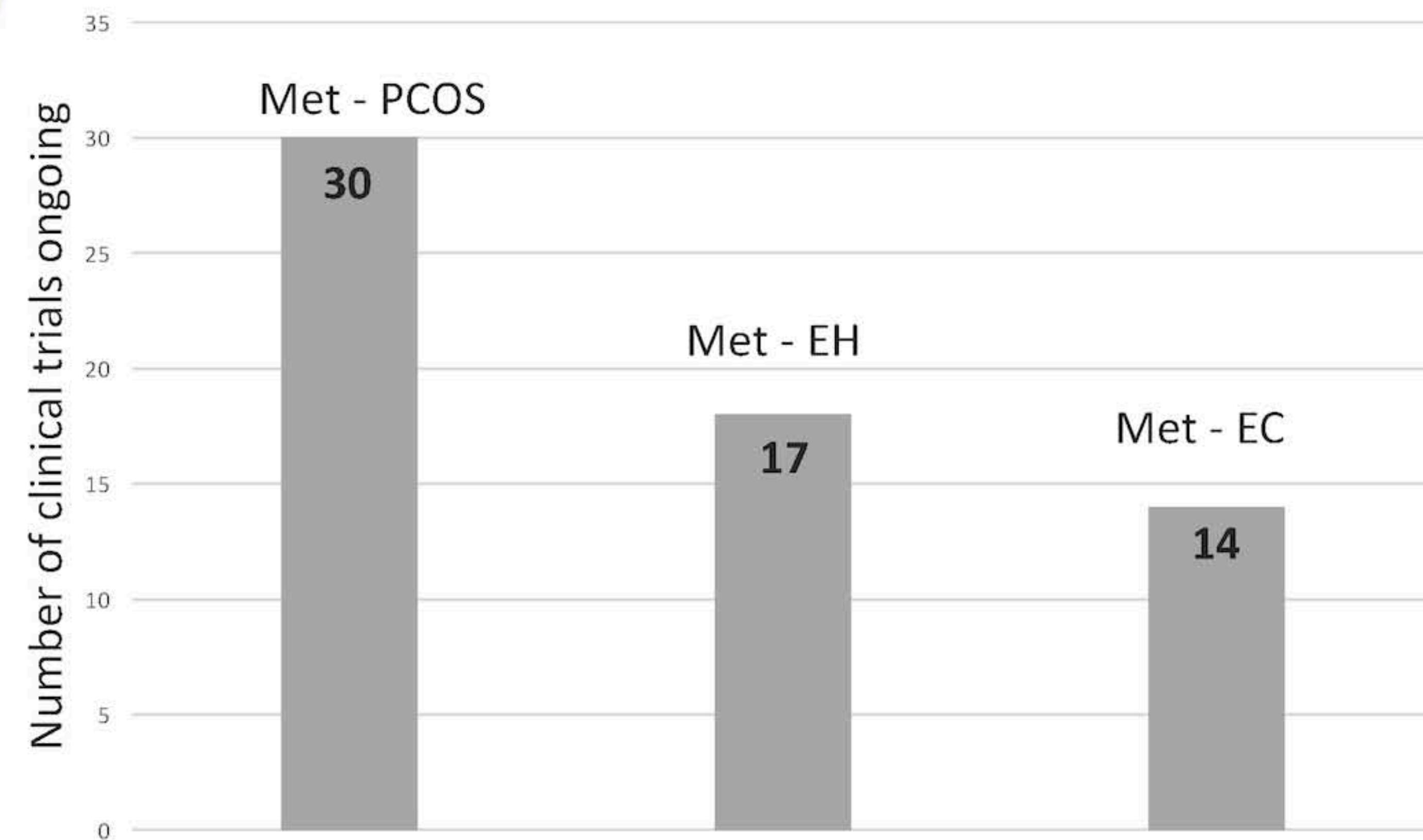
### DIRECT EFFECTS



## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

*ClinicalTrials.gov*

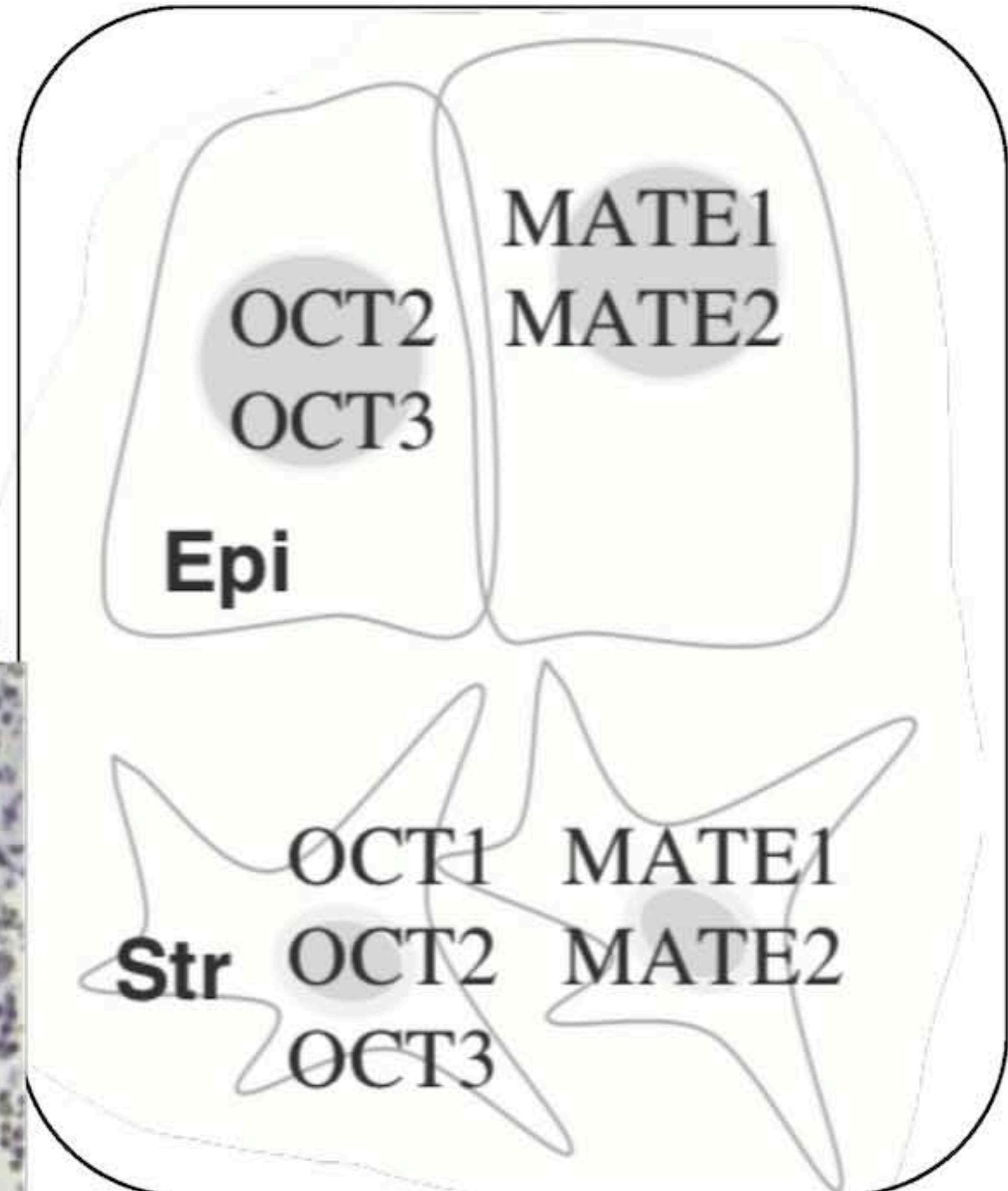
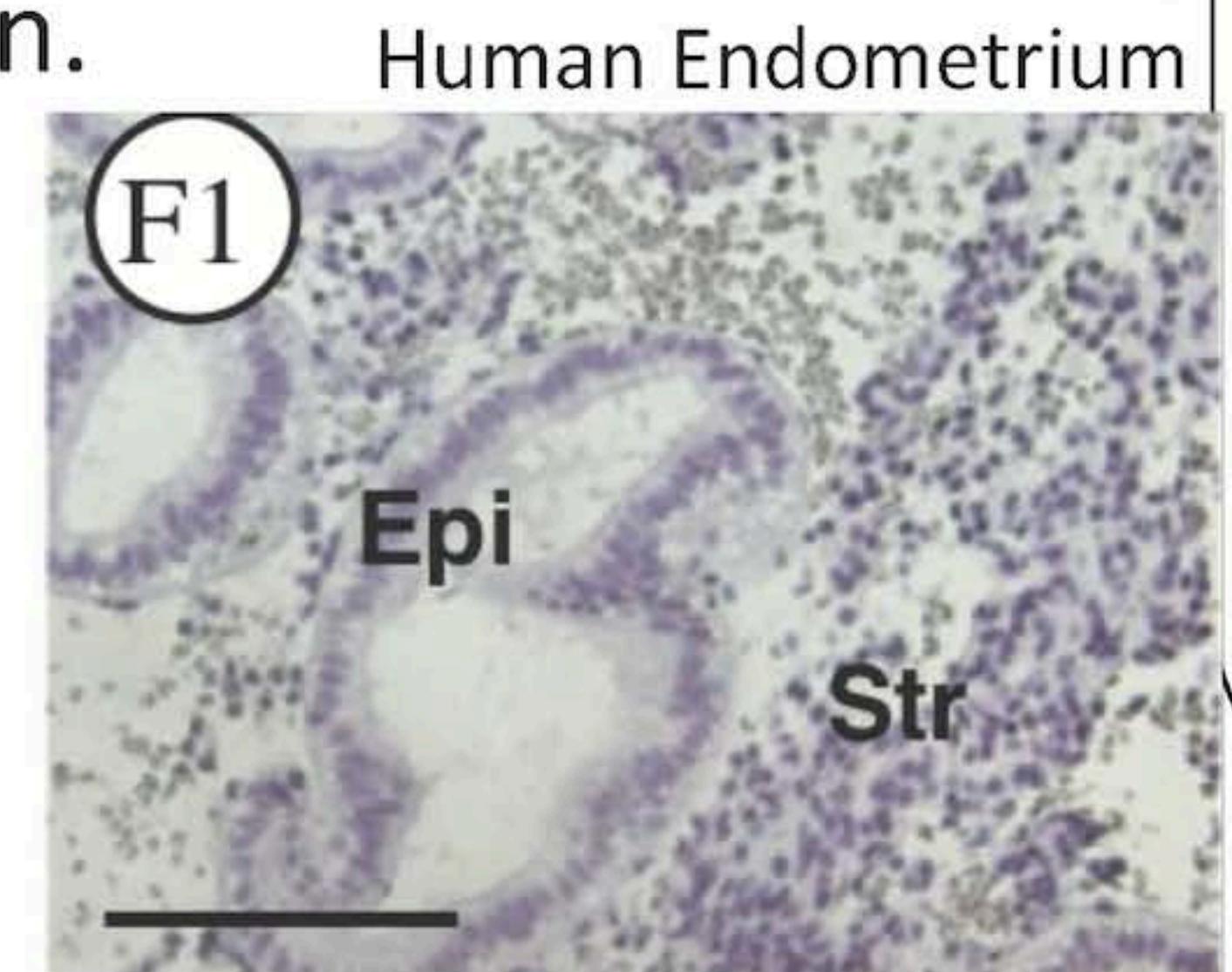


PCOS – Polycystic ovary syndrome; EH – Endometrial hyperplasia; EC- Endometrial cancer

## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

- Metformin is highly hydrophilic;
- OCTs transporter → cellular uptake;
- MATEs transporter → excretion.

Species and tissue specific  
↓  
Role in therapeutic efficiency



Shao et al., 2014

## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

### *Fertility*

- Metformin reestablish ovulatory cycles in PCOS (Lord et al., 2003)



Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

2017

**Insulin-sensitising drugs (metformin, rosiglitazone, pioglitazone, D-chiro-inositol) for women with polycystic ovary syndrome, oligo amenorrhoea and subfertility (Review)**

Morley LC, Tang T, Yasmin E, Norman RJ, Balen AH

→ no conclusive evidences about metformin treatment on implantation and live birth rates.

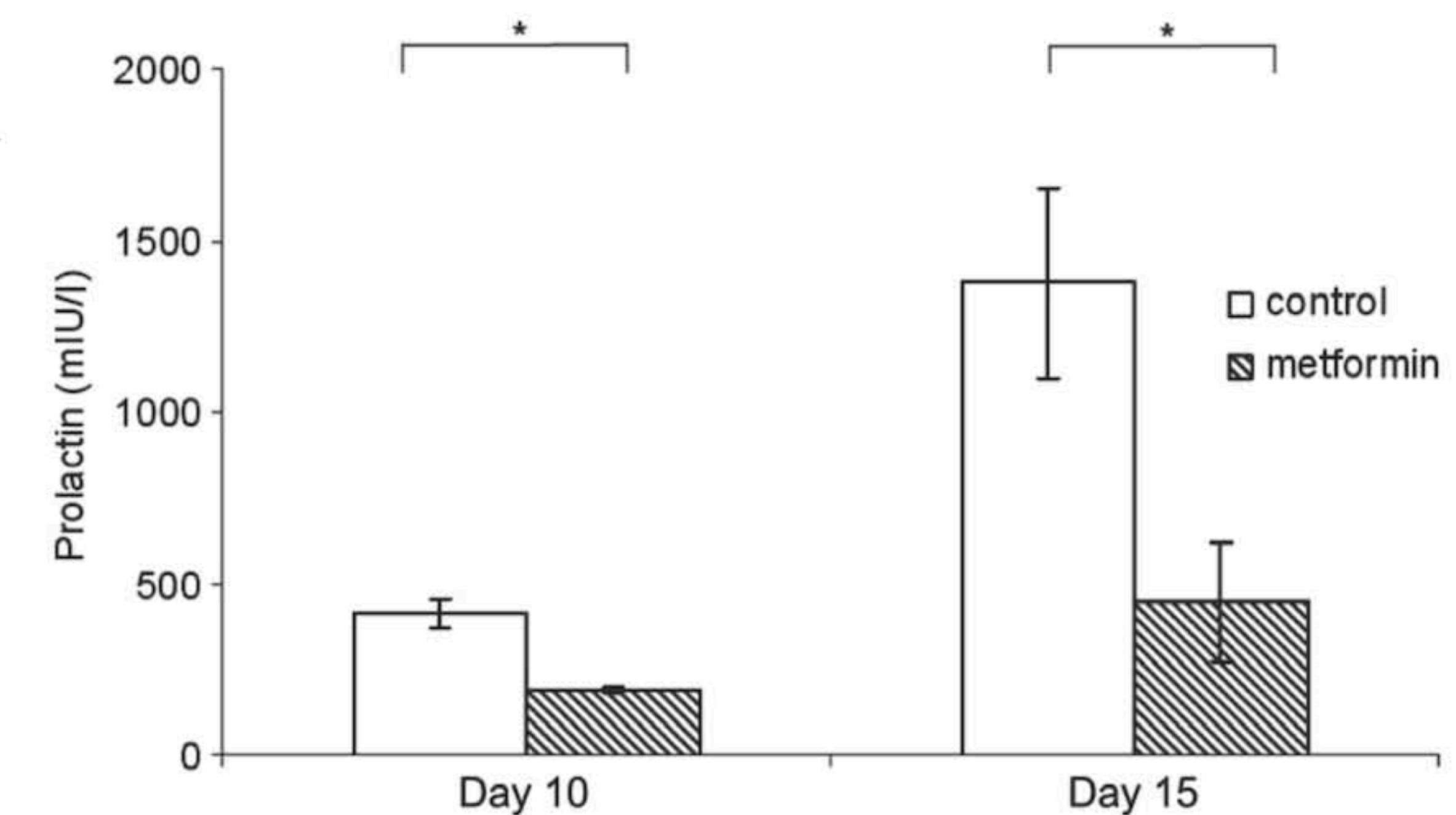
# EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

## *Fertility*

Germeyer *et al.*, 2011; Freis *et al.*, 2017



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↓ ESC decidualization

↑ IL-8 and IL-1 $\beta$  levels

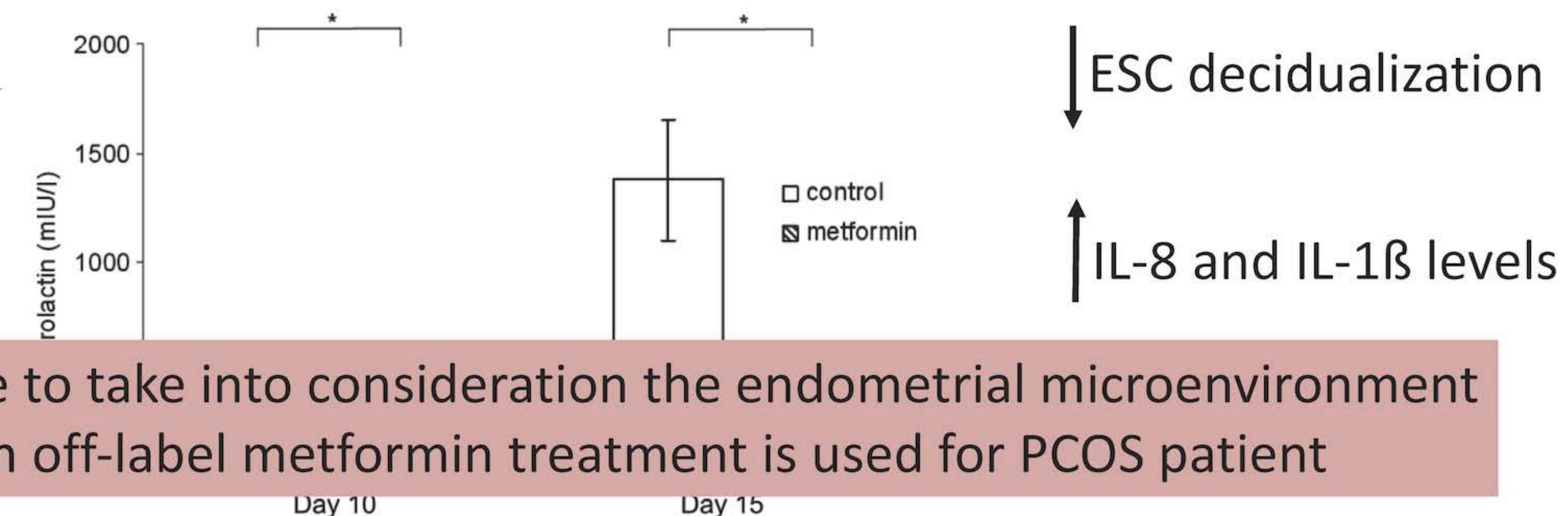
## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

### *Fertility*

Germeyer *et al.*, 2011; Freis *et al.*, 2017

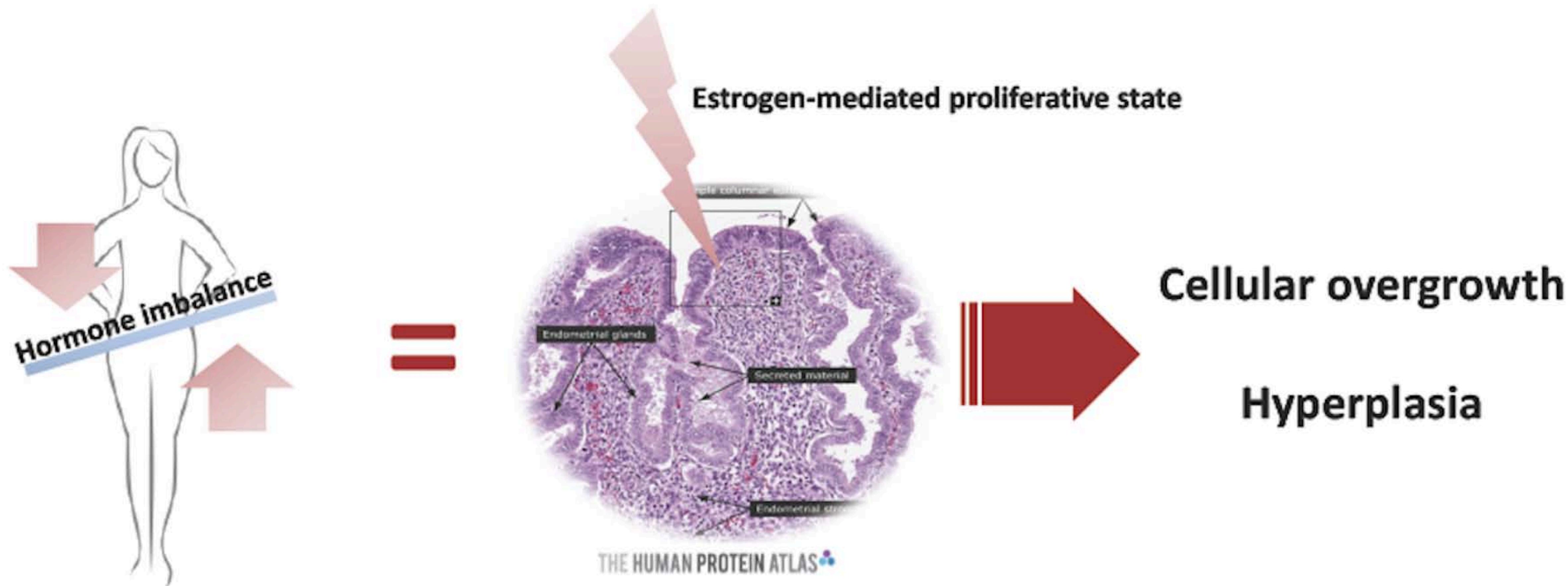


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Importance to take into consideration the endometrial microenvironment  
when off-label metformin treatment is used for PCOS patient

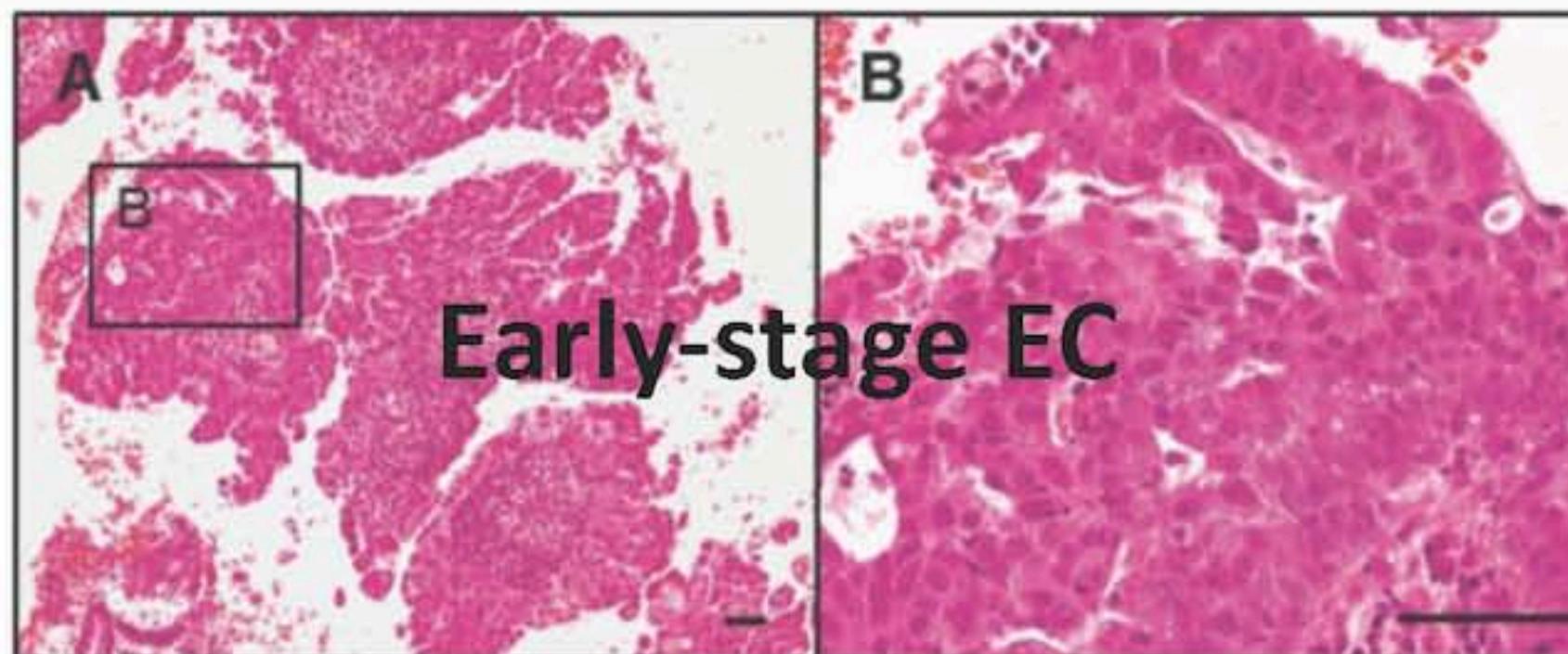
## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS



## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

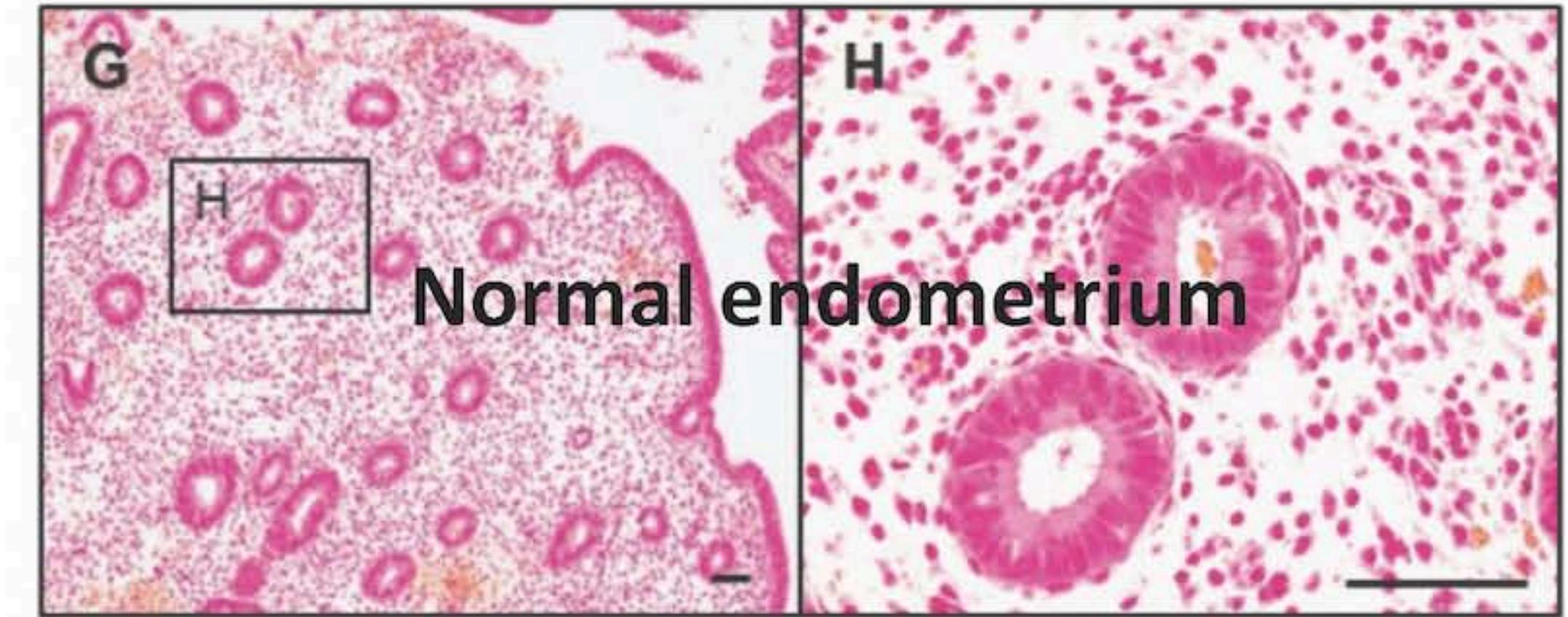
### Antiproliferative

PCOS-IR endometrium before treatment

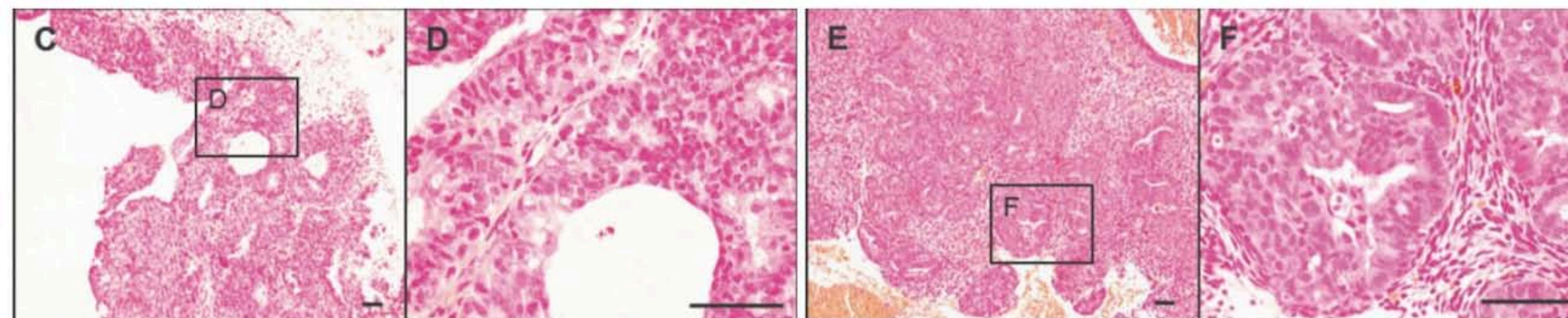


### Metformin + Oral Contraceptive

After 6 months treatment



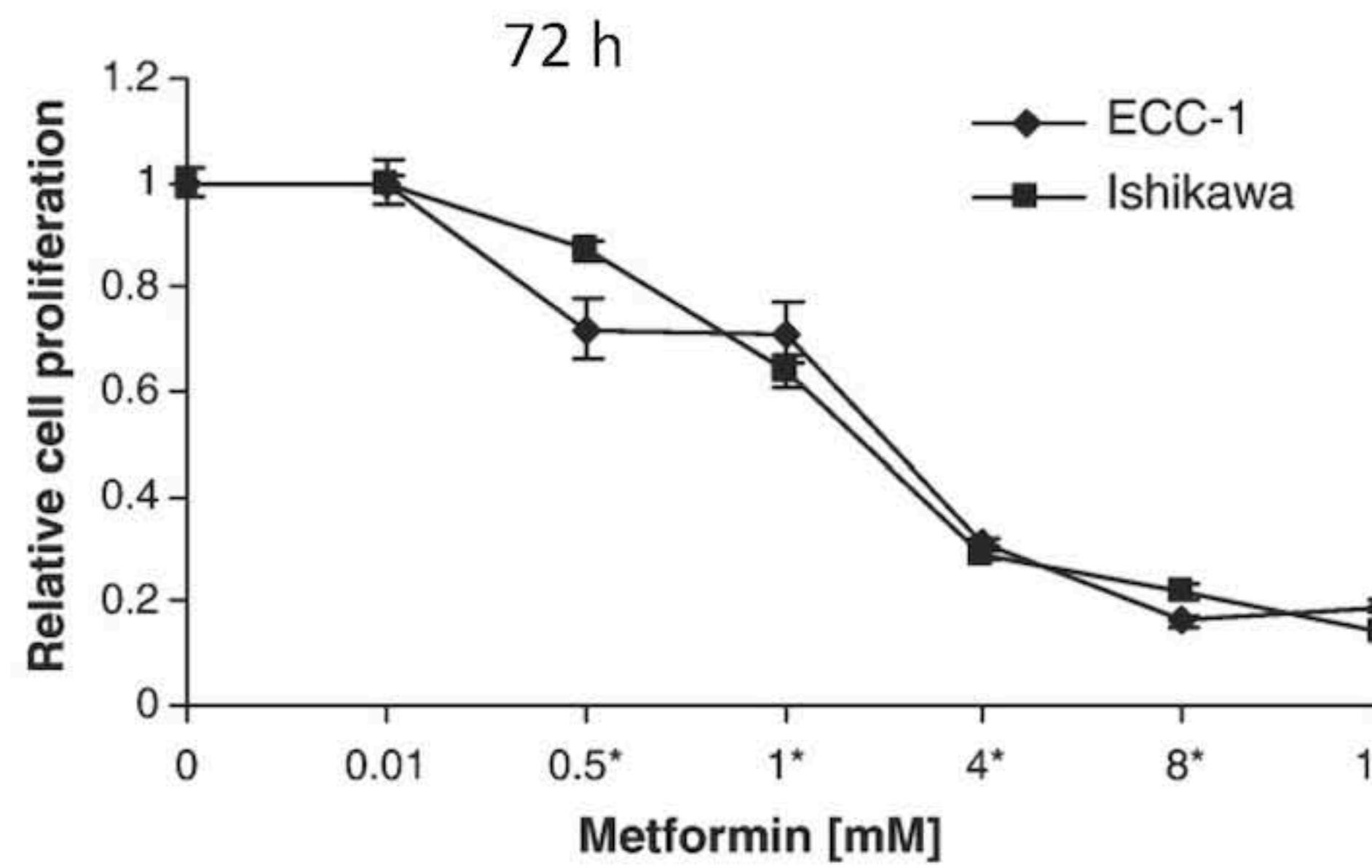
PCOS-IR endometrium during treatment



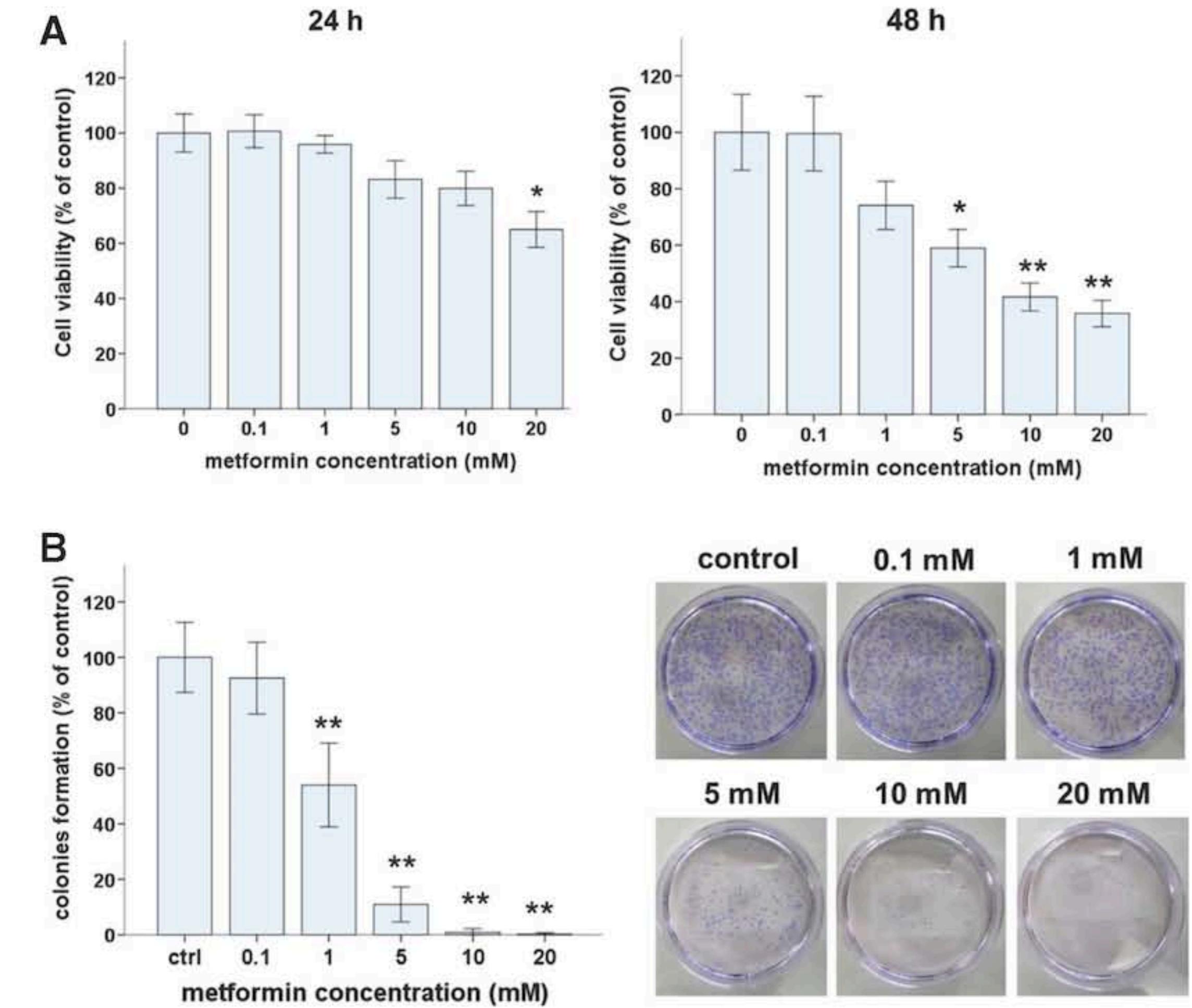
Shao et al., 2014

## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

### Antiproliferative



Cantrel *et al.*, 2010; Takahashi *et al.* 2014



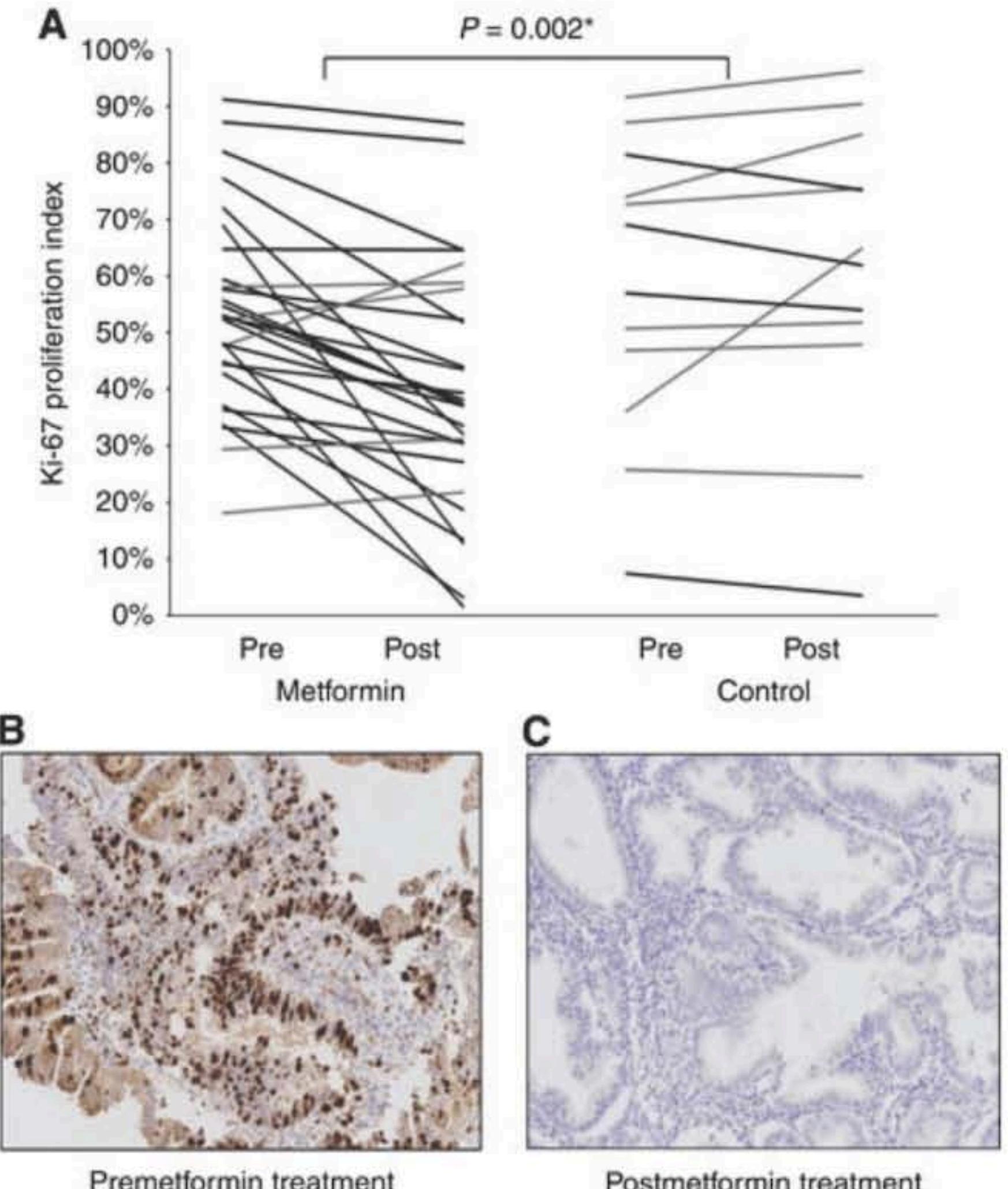
## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

### *Antiproliferative*

- AEH and EC patients; → presurgical window
- Metformin 850 mg twice daily up to 30 days;
- Non-treated patients;

Short-term presurgical antiproliferative effect of metformin

Sivalingam *et al*, 2016

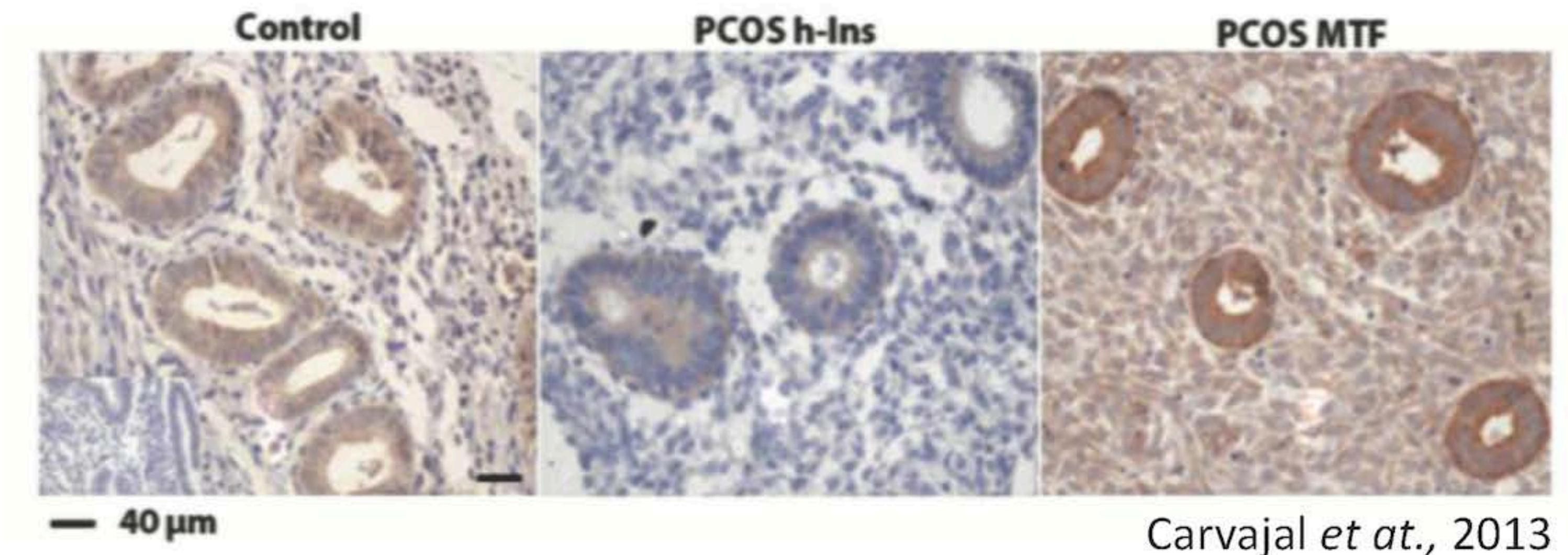
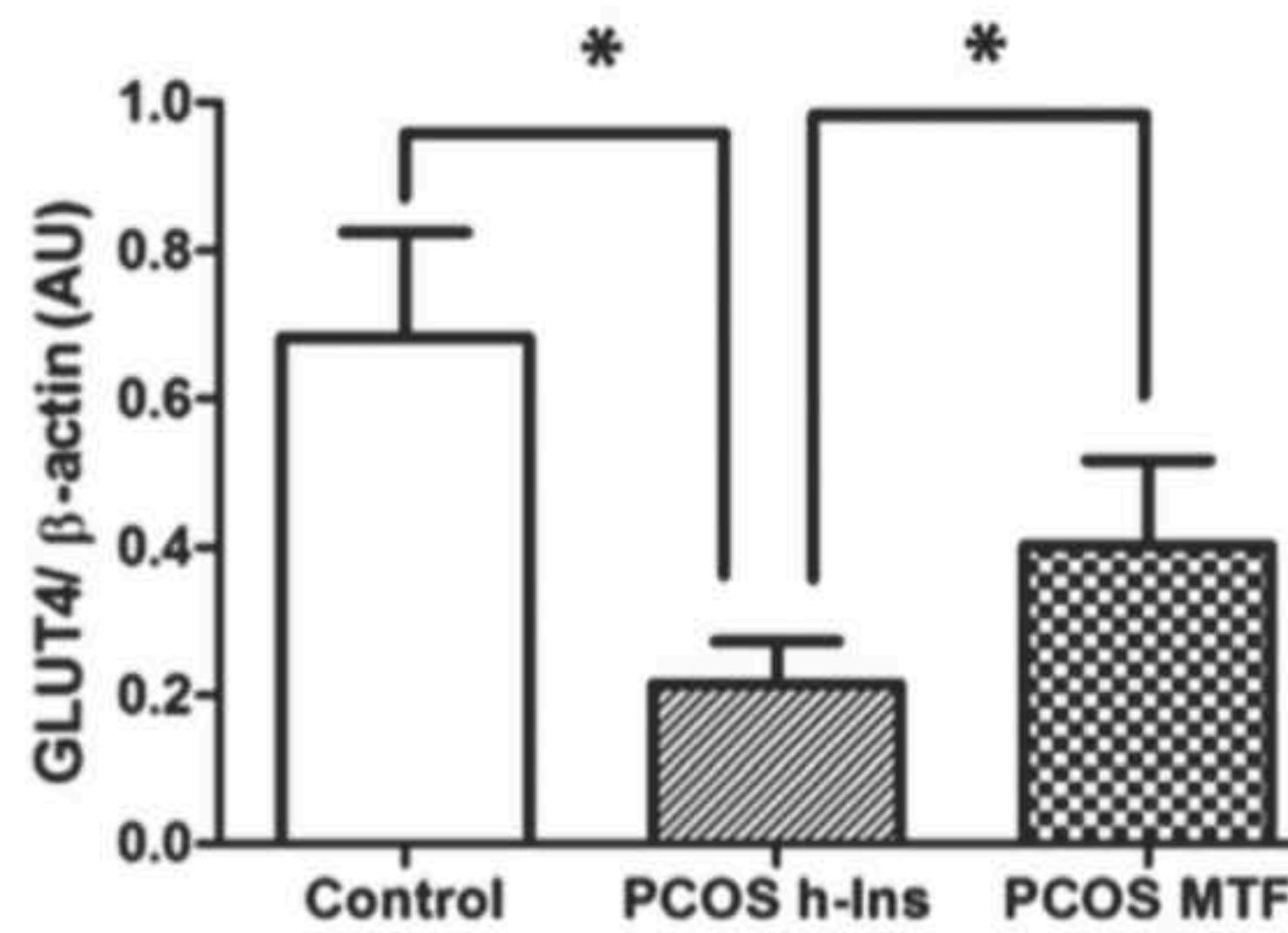


## Metformin and Endometrial function

### EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

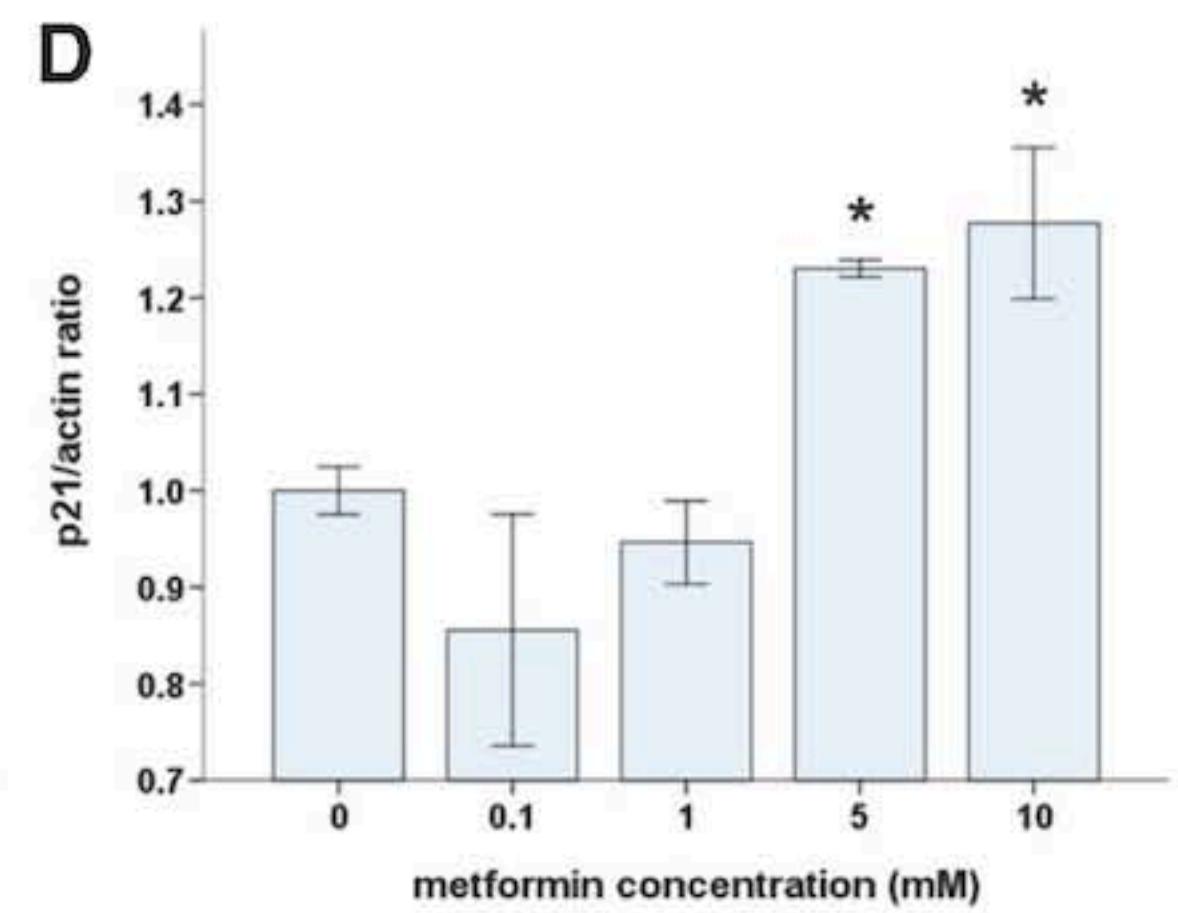
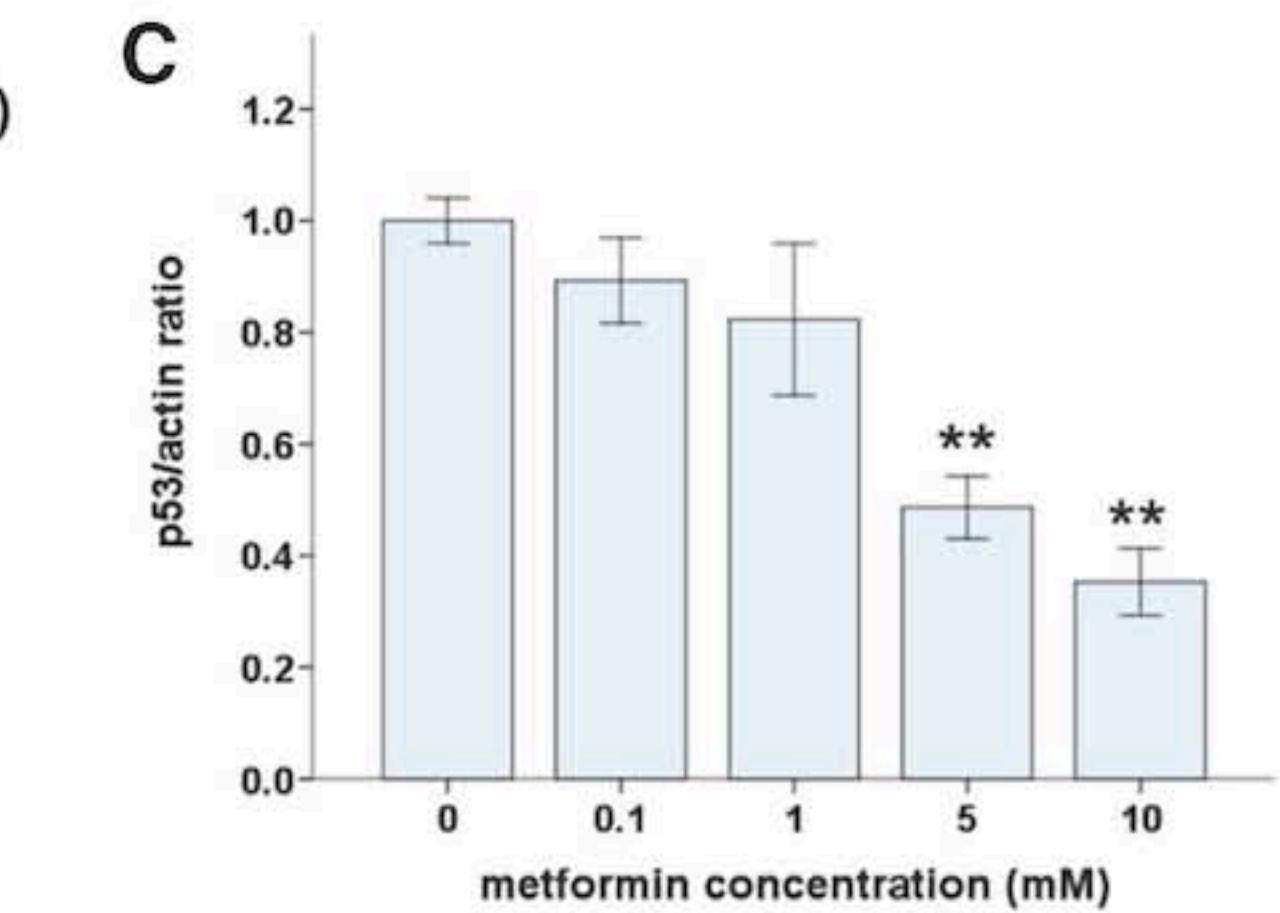
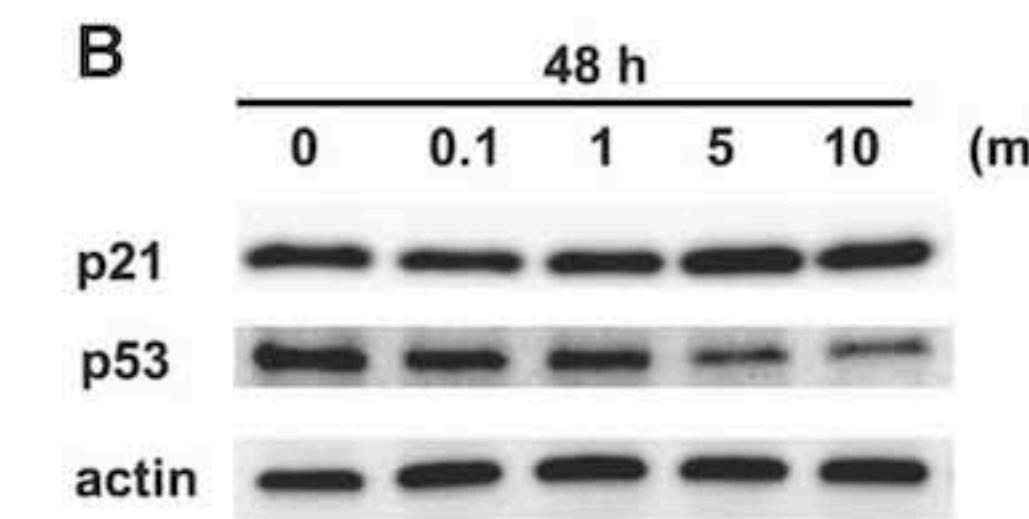
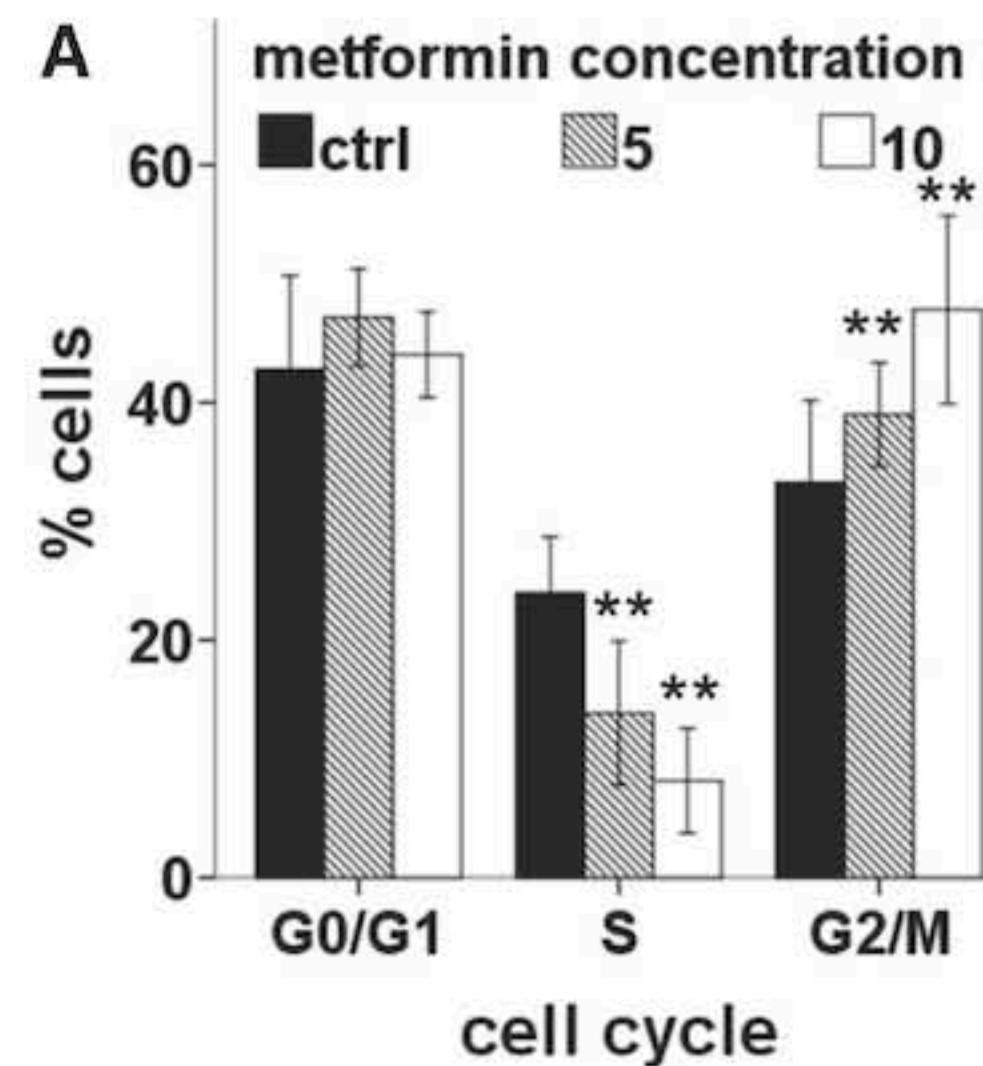
#### *Increases GLUT4 expression*

- Hyperinsulinemic patients have low GLUT4 endometrial expression;
- Act directly improving insulin resistance condition.



## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

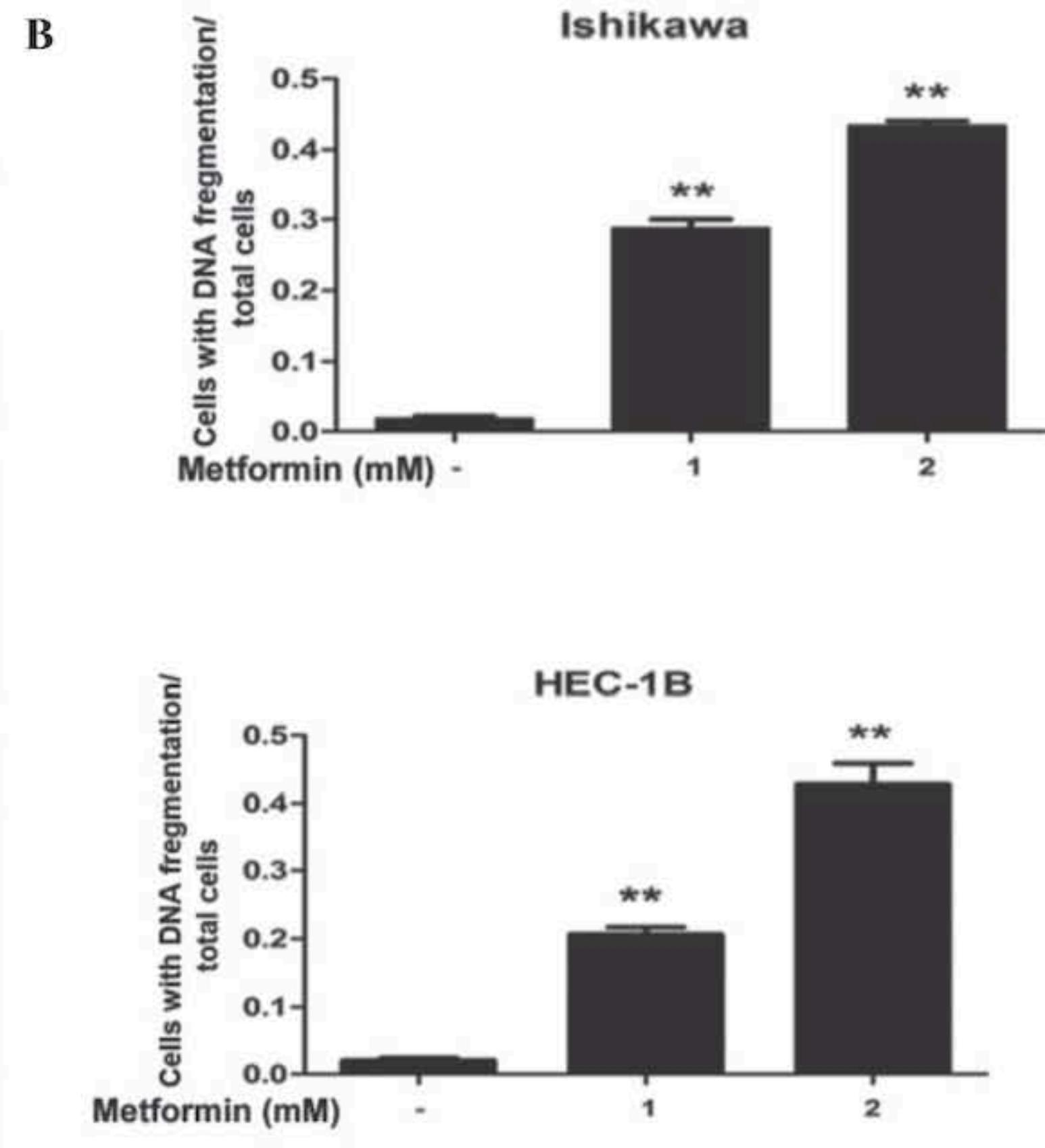
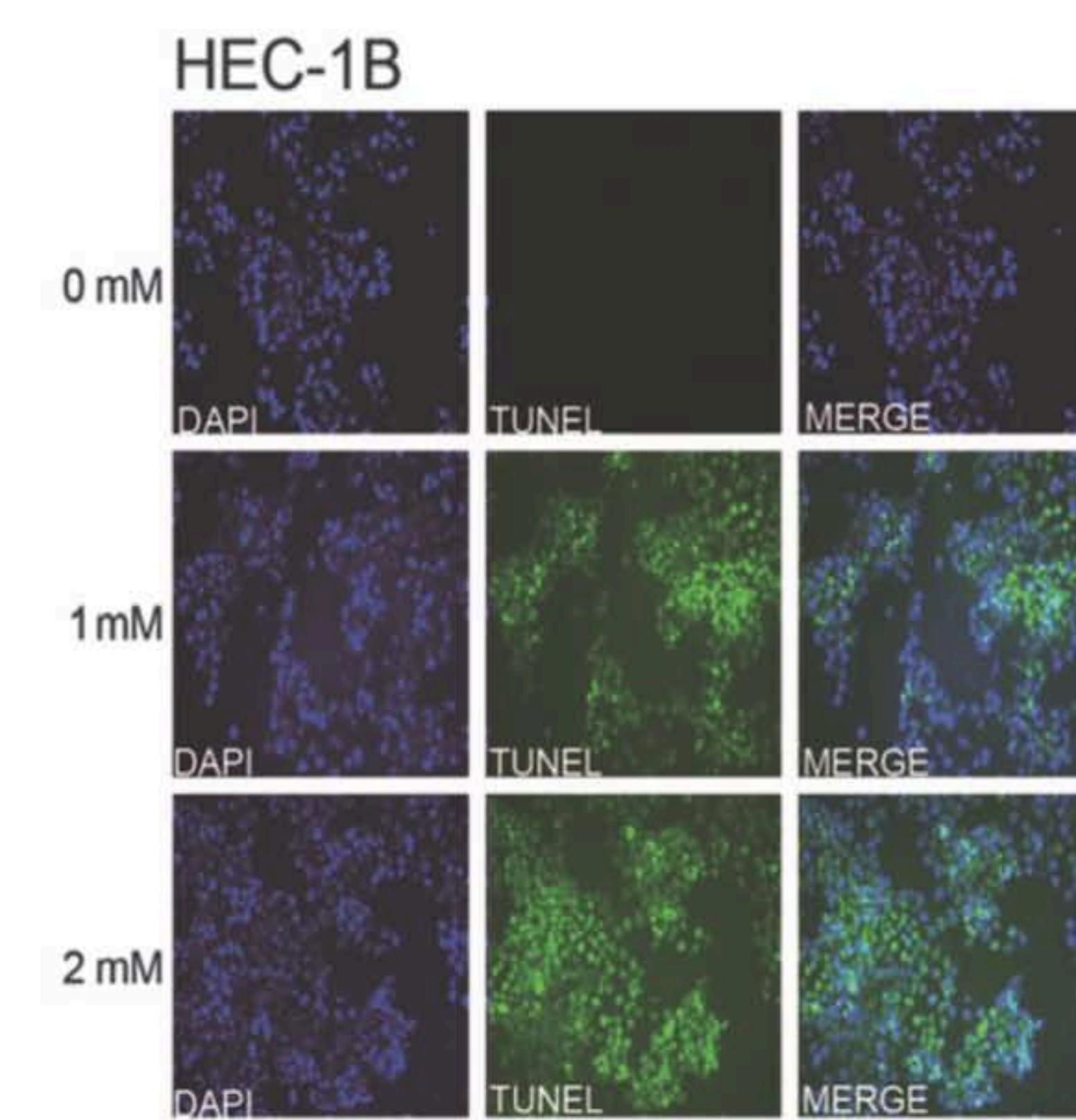
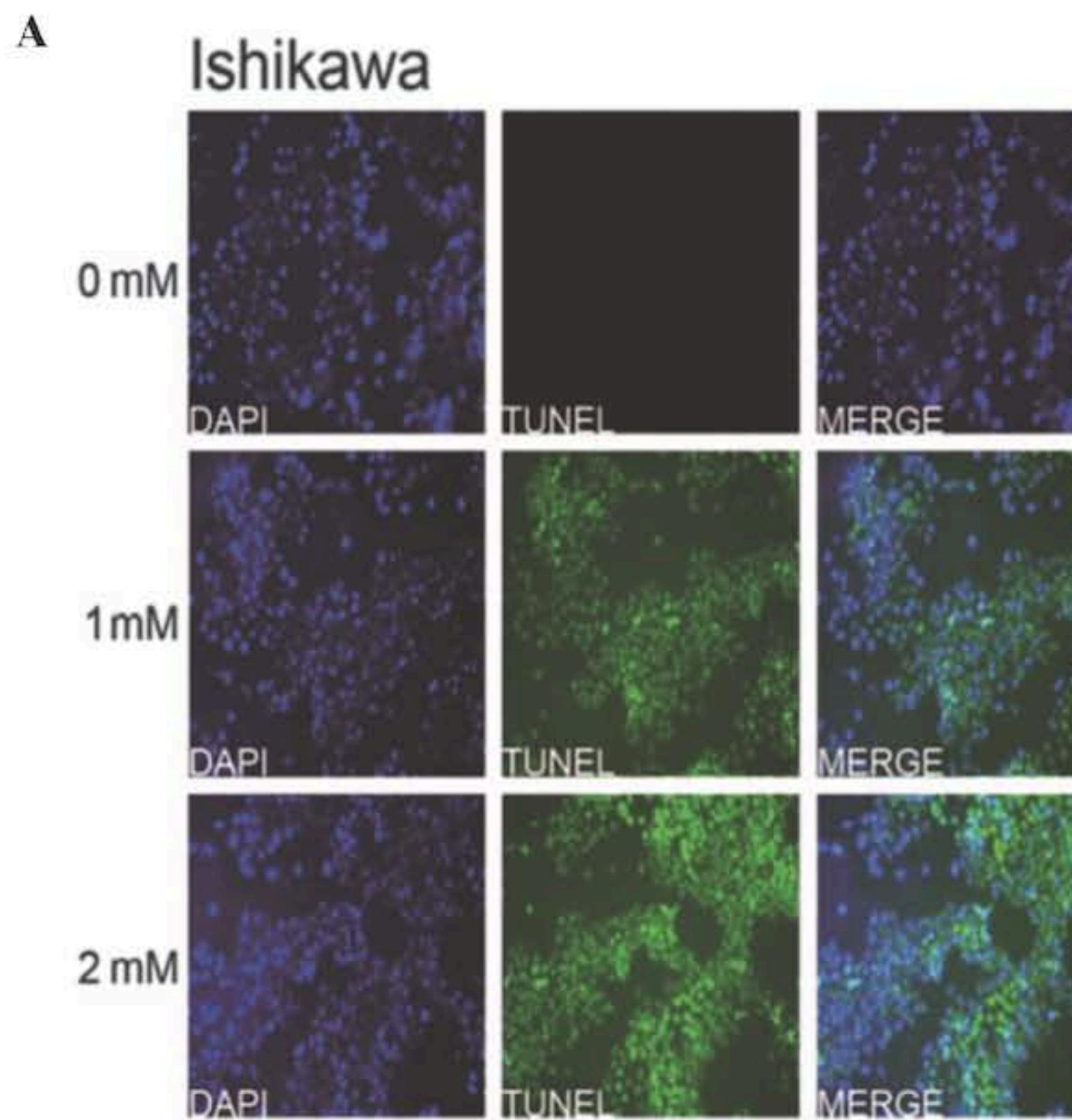
*Induce cell cycle arrest*



# Metformin and Endometrial function

## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

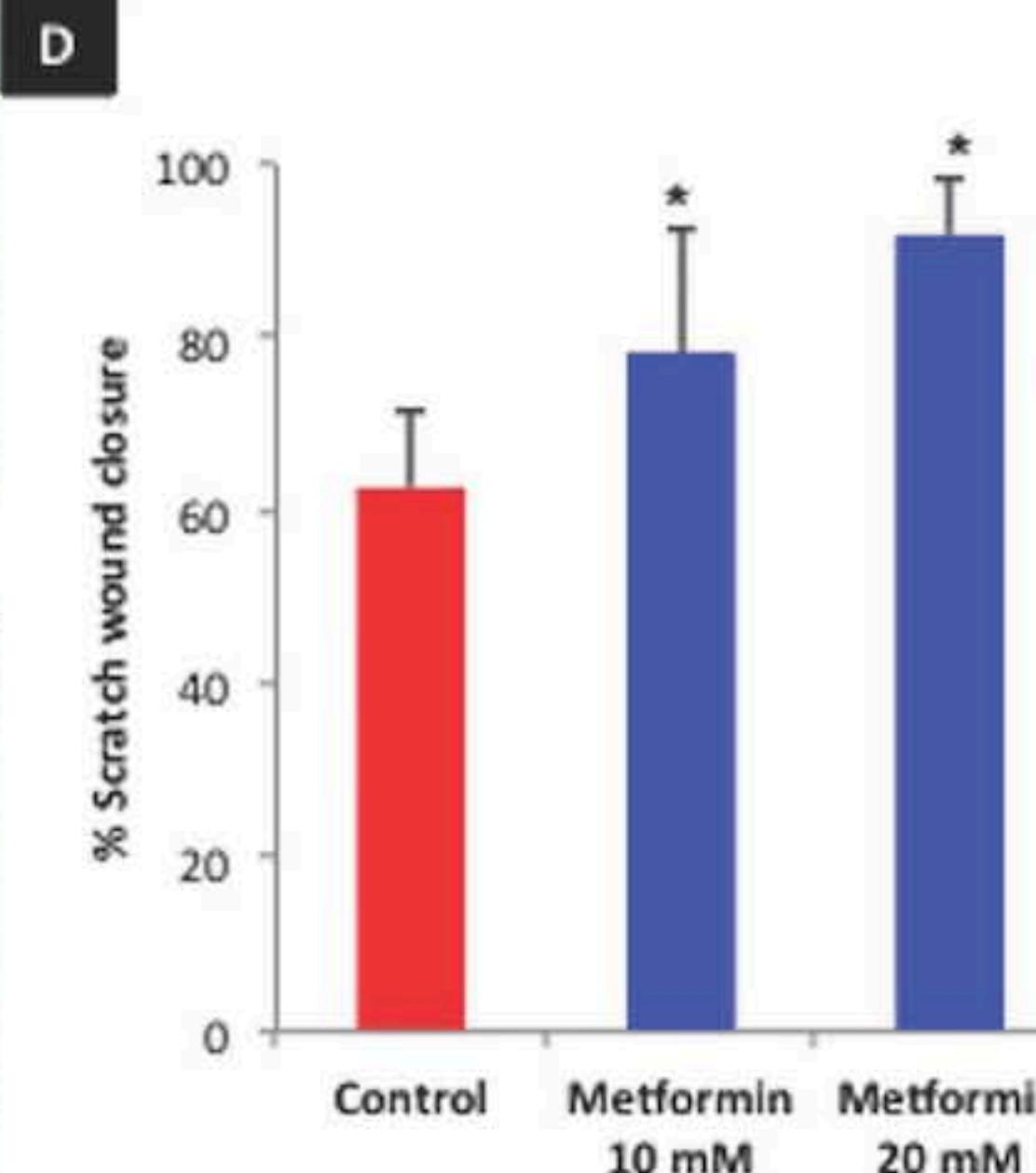
### *Induce apoptosis*



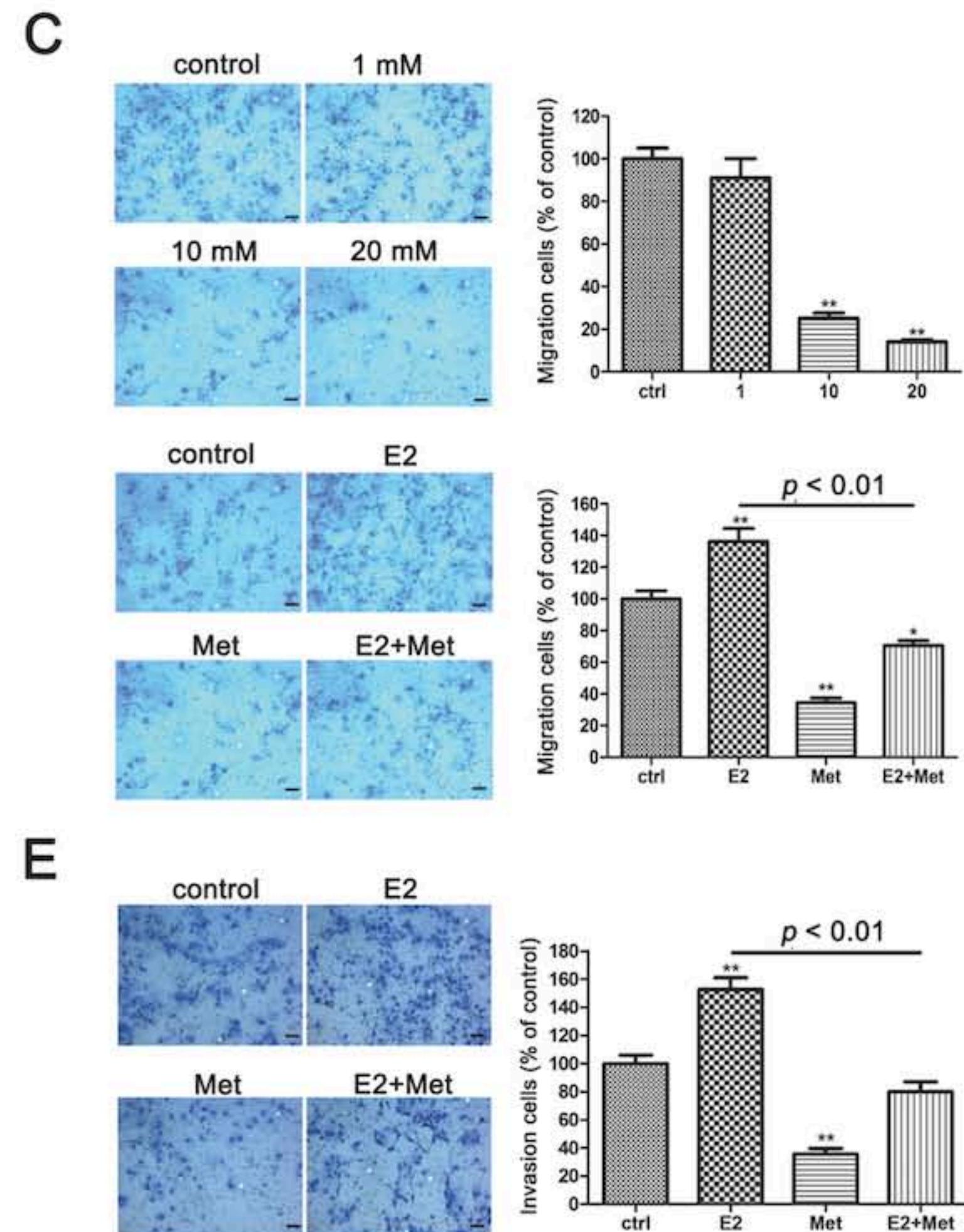
Xie et al., 2014

## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

### Antimetastatic



Liu et al., 2016; Wallbillich et al., 2017



## EFFECT OF METFORMIN IN ENDOMETRIAL CELLS

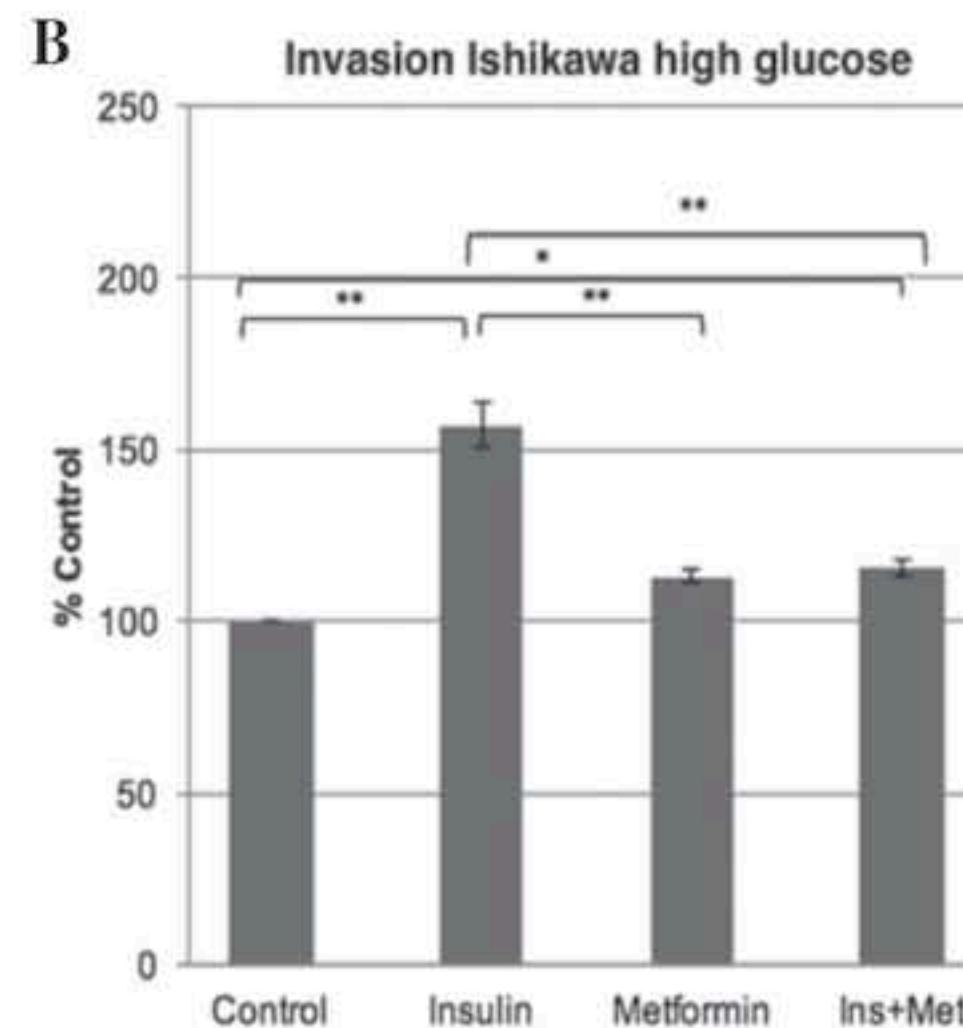
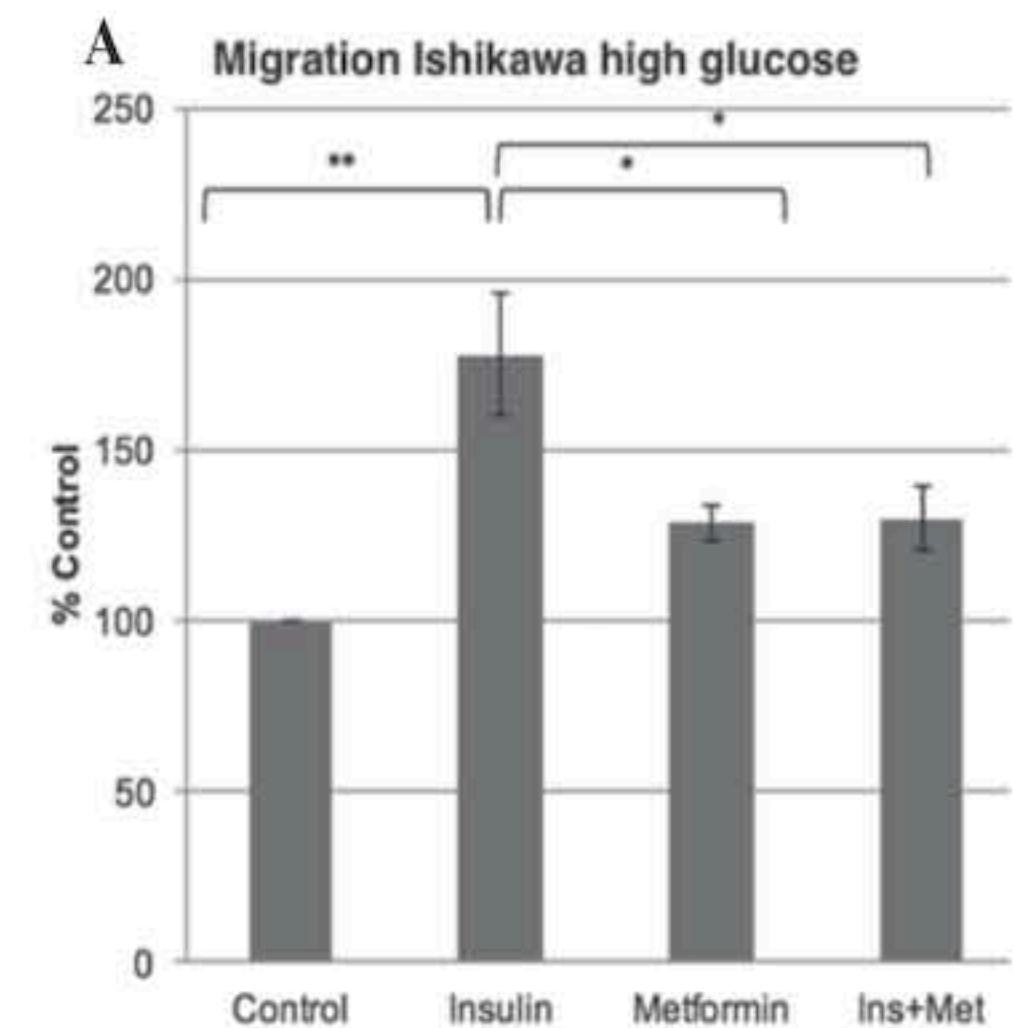
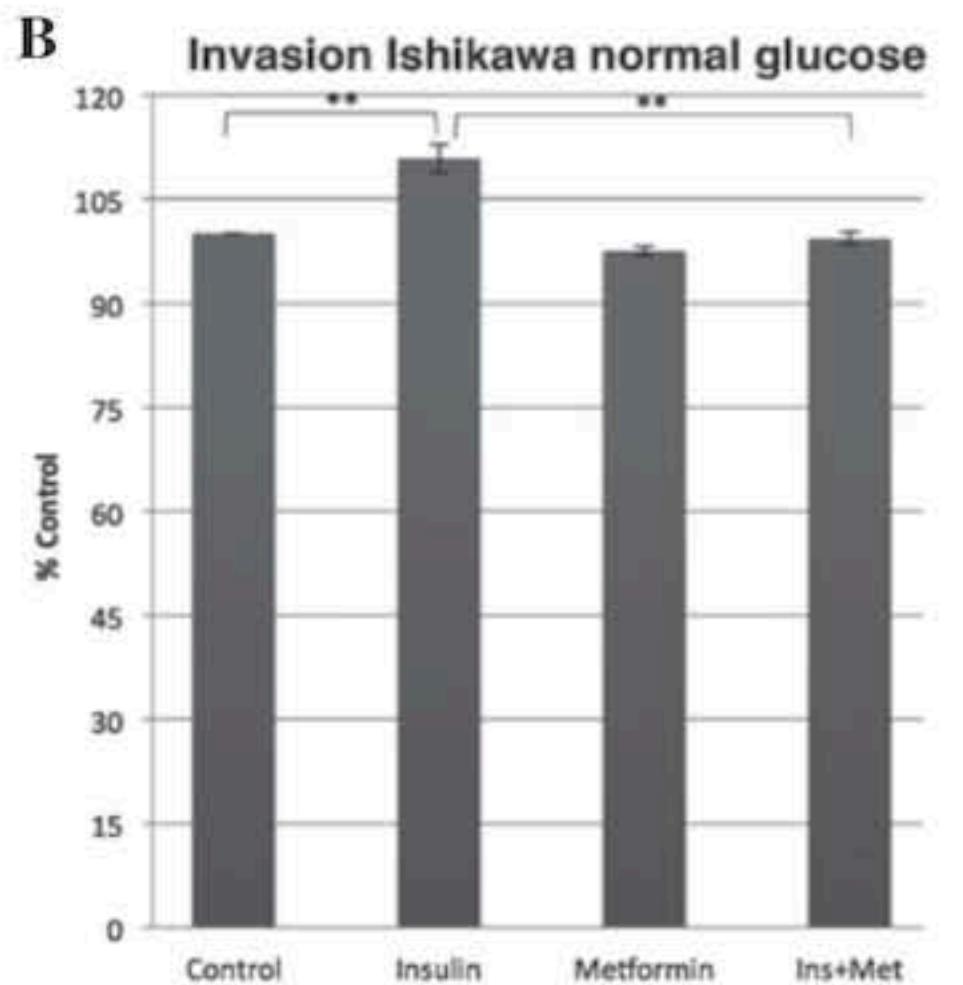
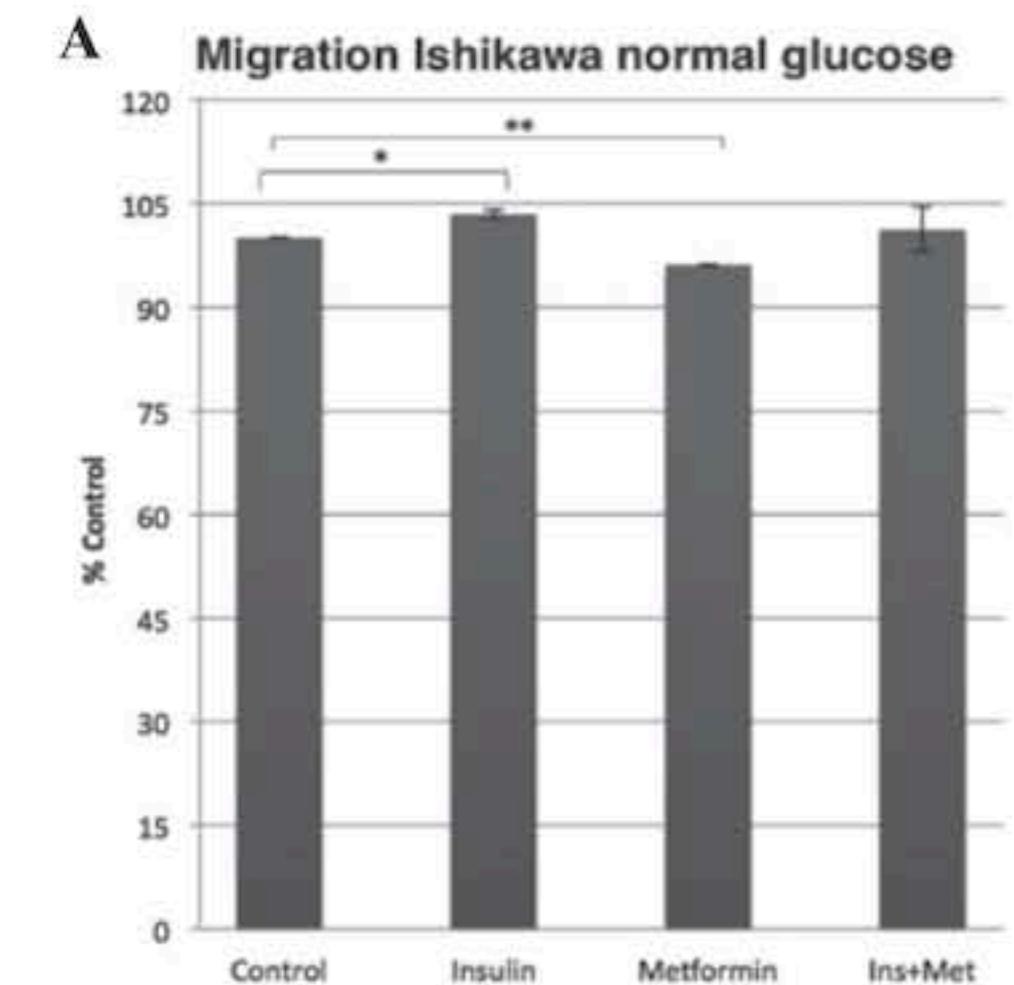
### *Antimetastatic*

de Barros Machado *et al.*, 2016

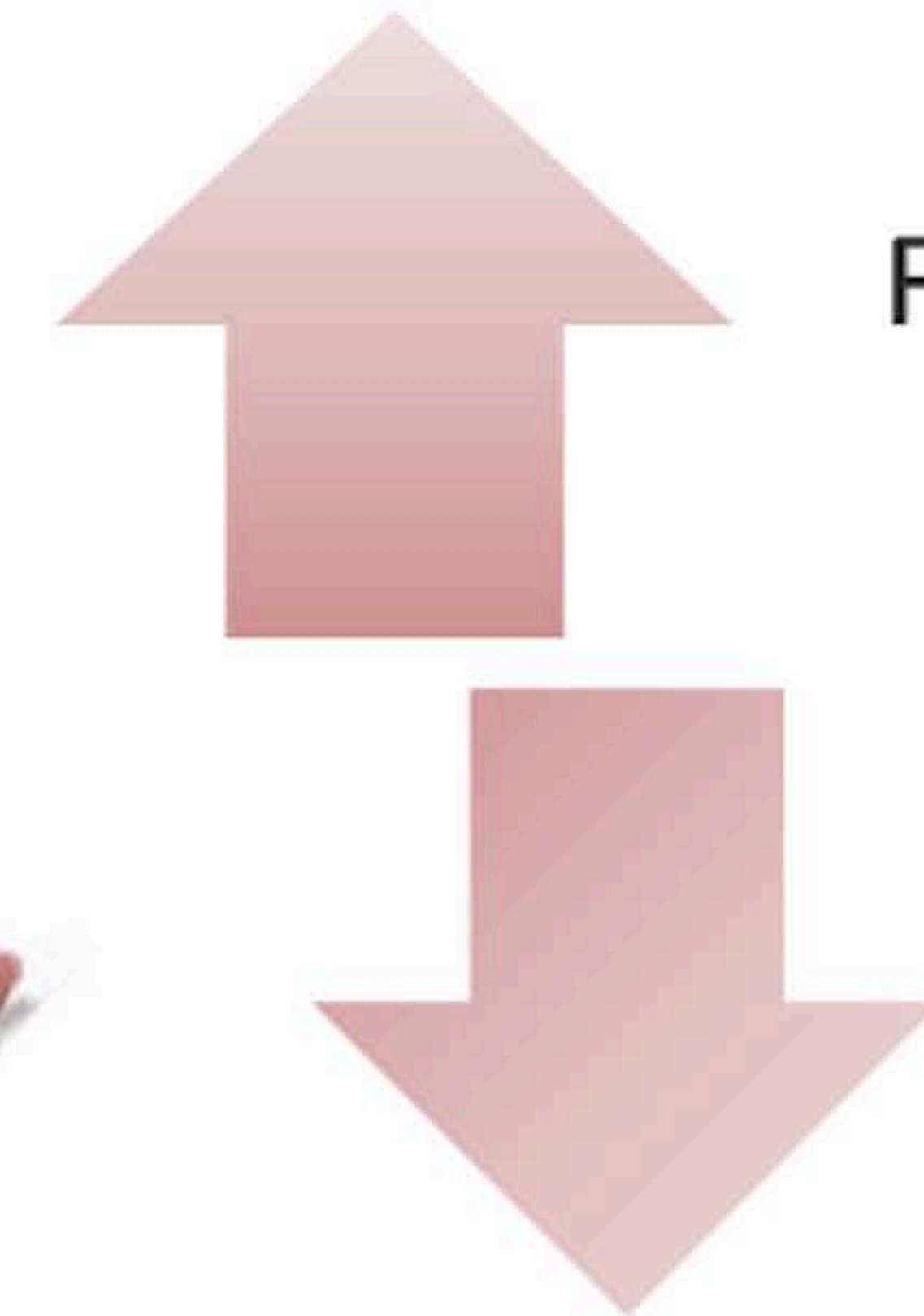
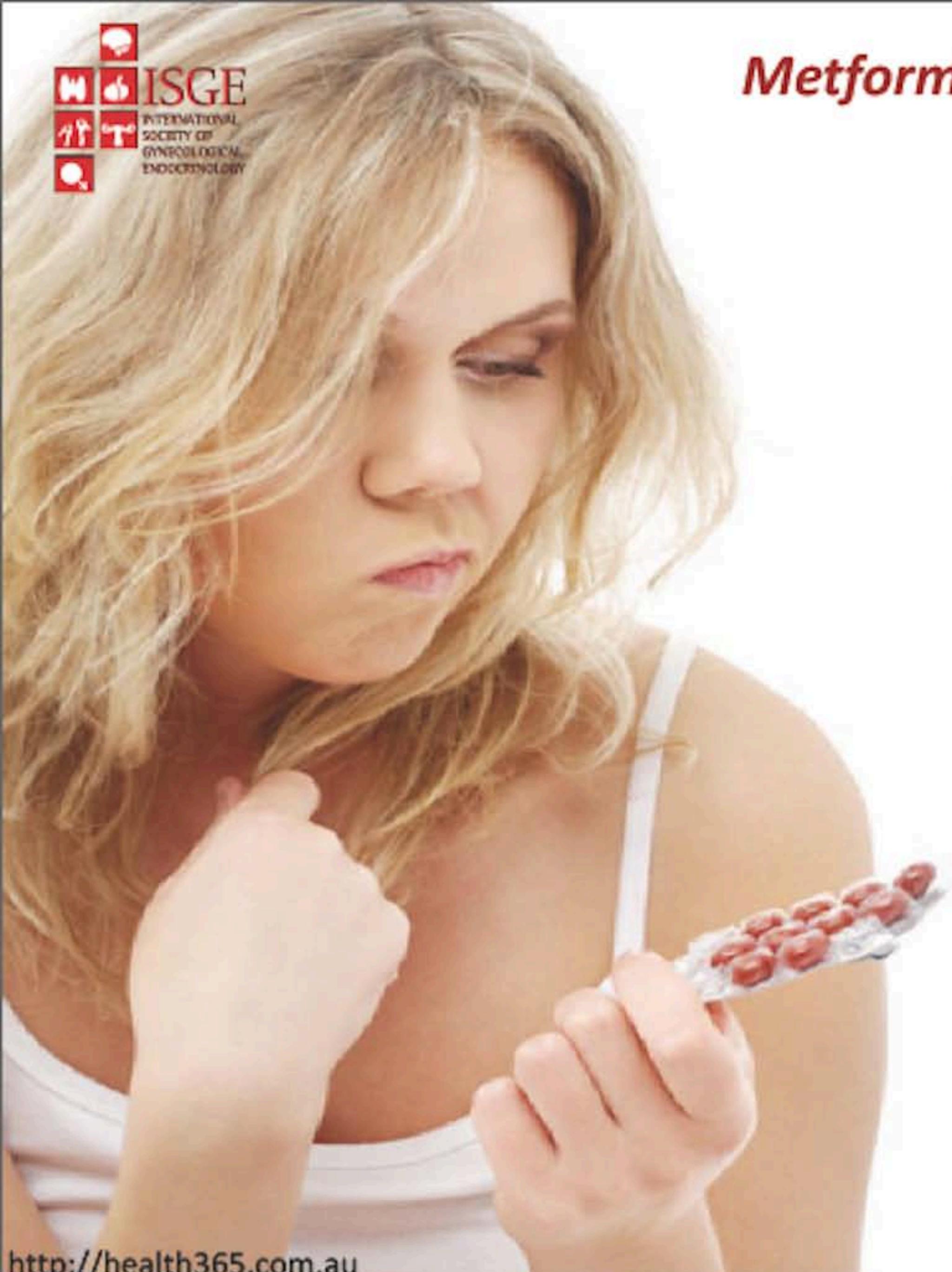


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- Inhibit insulin metastatic effect;
- EC cells show resistance to Met effect in high glucose environment.



## *Metformin and Endometrial function*



Fertility

Endometrial cancer



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