

**Author(s):** Matthew Velkey, 2009

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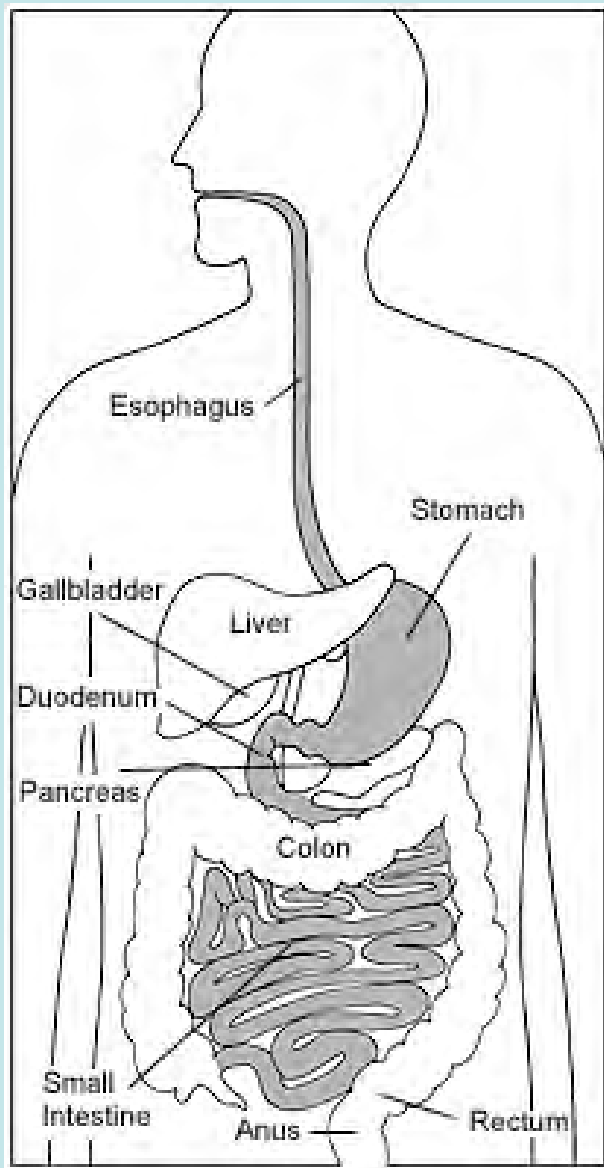


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# Tubular GI tract



Pharynx  
Esophagus  
Stomach  
.....  
Small Intestine  
Cecum and appendix  
Large intestine  
Rectum/Anus



National Digestive Diseases Information  
Clearinghouse [US Federal Government](http://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/)

Original: Fig 14.1 from Young & Heath, Wheater's  
Functional Histology, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p250

**J. Matthew Velkey**  
**M1 – GI Sequence**  
**Winter, 2009**



# Intestine - Functions

## Small Intestine

**Digestion**

**Absorption**

**Endocrine secretion**



**Duodenum**  
**Jejunum**  
**Ileum**

## Large Intestine

**Absorption of water [passive, follows sodium]**

**Formation and propulsion of feces**

# How to get the most out of your intestine

**Start with a long tube**

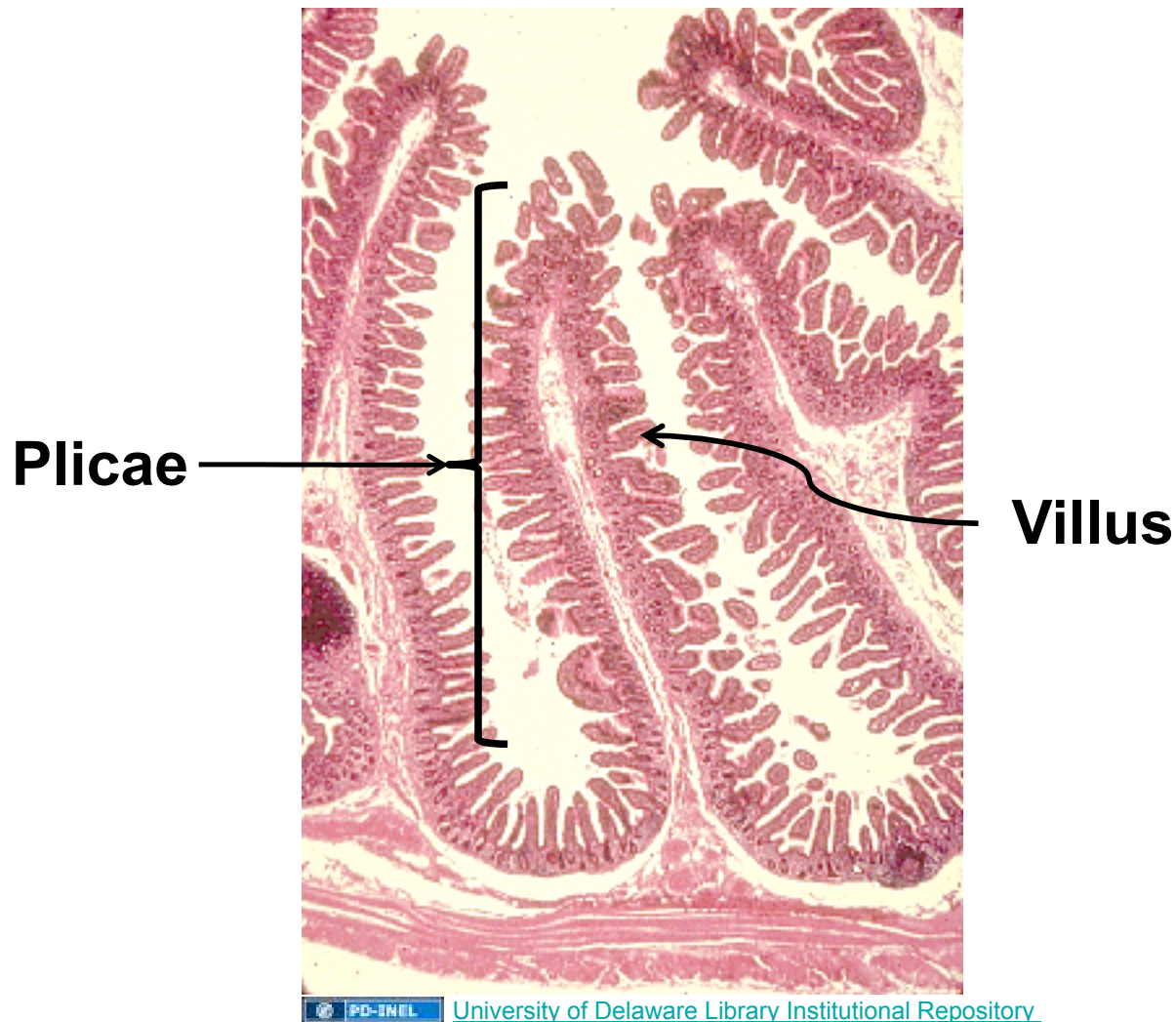


**Convolute the absorptive surface of the tube**

**Add enzymes that break down luminal contents**

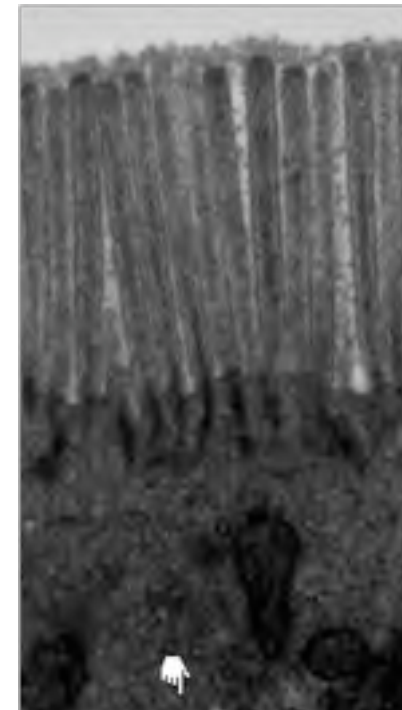
**Keep the tube moving, mix contents**

# Multiple strategies for convolution of small intestinal absorptive surface



Original: Fig 14.16 from Young & Heath, Wheater's *Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p262

## Microvilli



PD-INEL Louisa Howard and Katherine Connolly

Original: Fig 14.16 from Young & Heath, Wheater's *Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p262



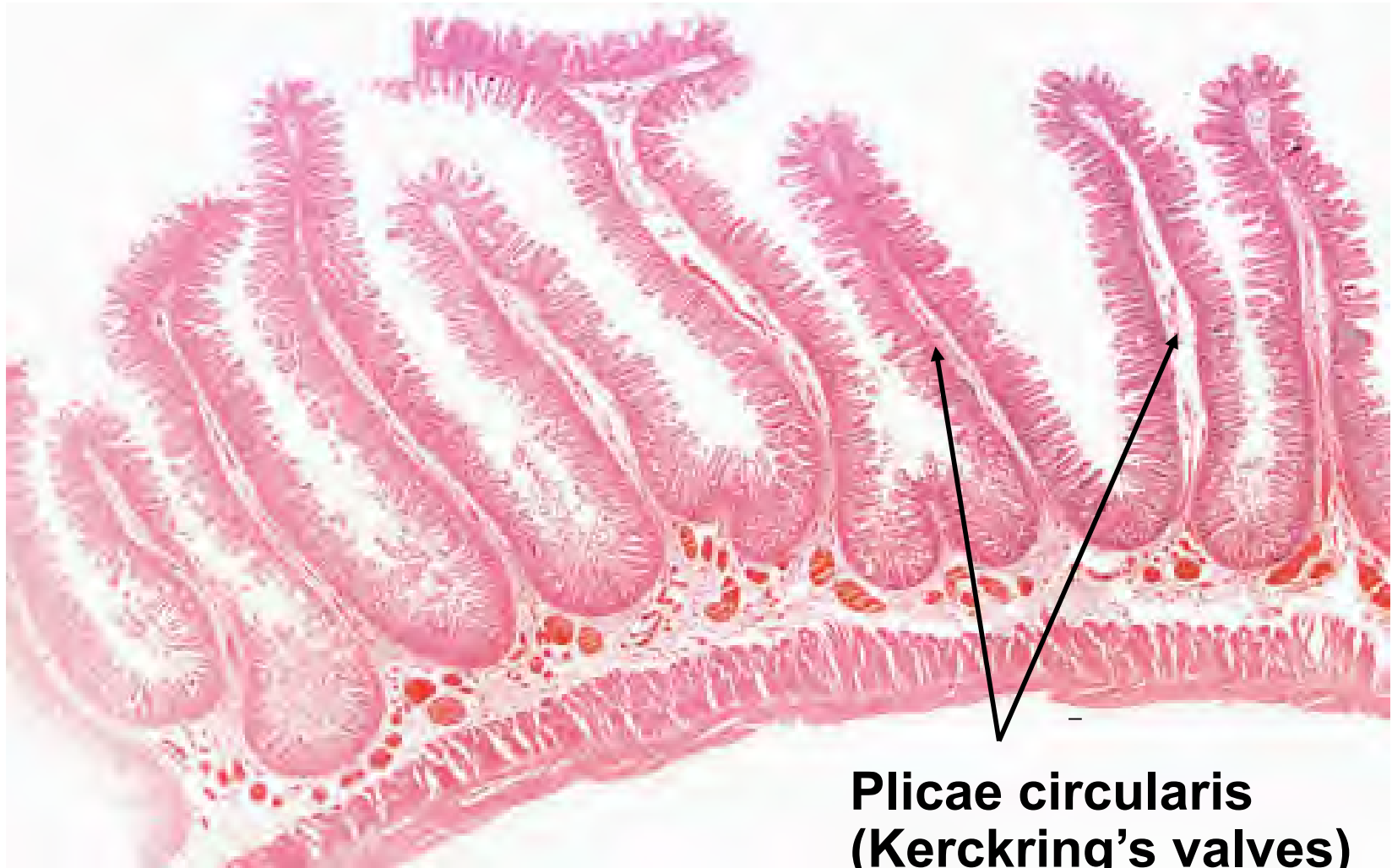
# Convolute the surface of the tube



 Ross and Pawlina, *Histology: A Text and Atlas*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (2006), p535 Fig 17.17

**Plicae circulares (circular folds) – aka valves of Kerckring:** permanent transverse folds of mucosa with submucosal connective tissue core; extend halfway to two-thirds around circumference of lumen; function to slow movement of chyme & increase surface area.

# Convolute the surface of the tube



**Plicae circularis  
(Kerckring's valves)**

PD-INEL

Source Undetermined

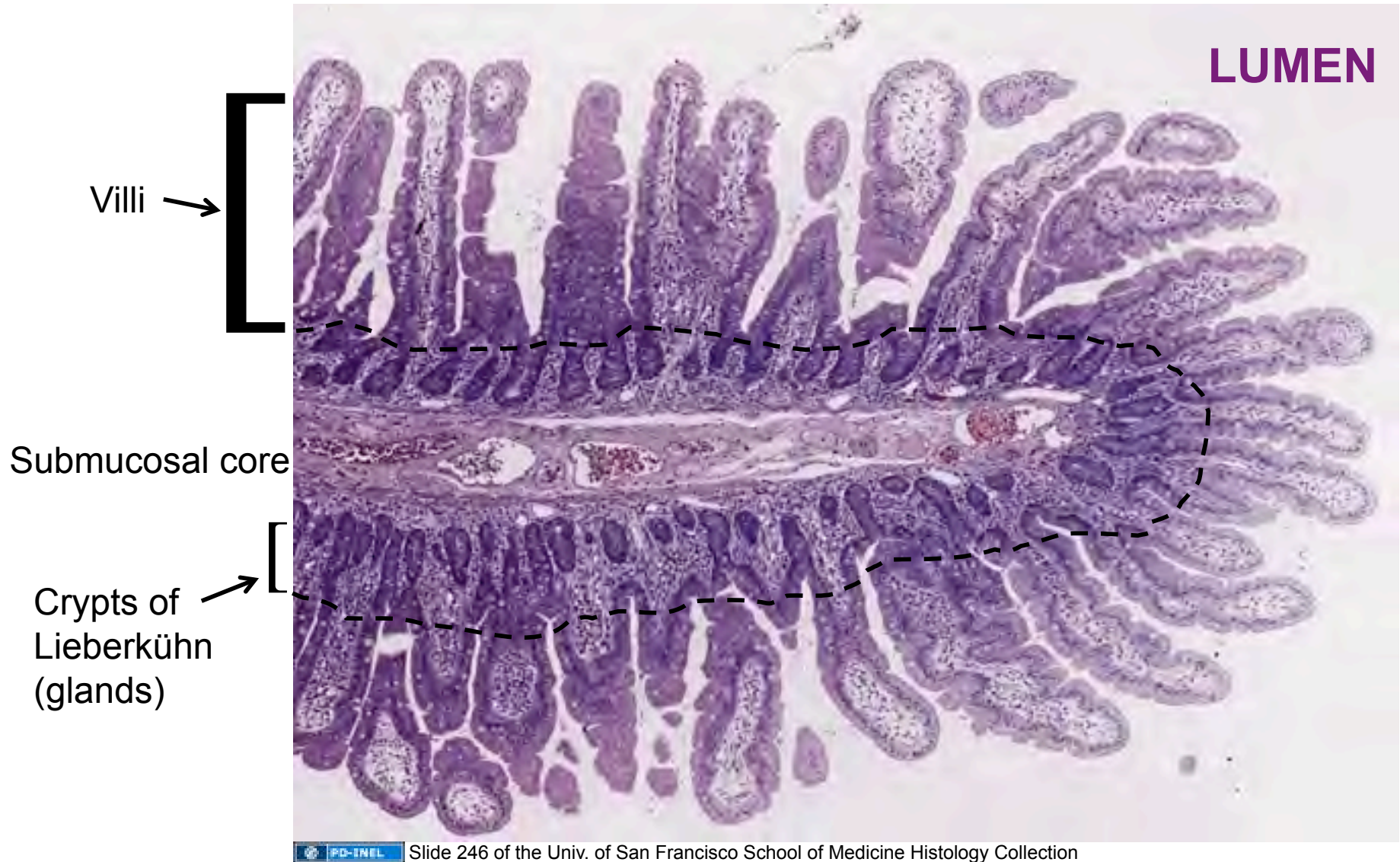
***Primarily found in jejunum***



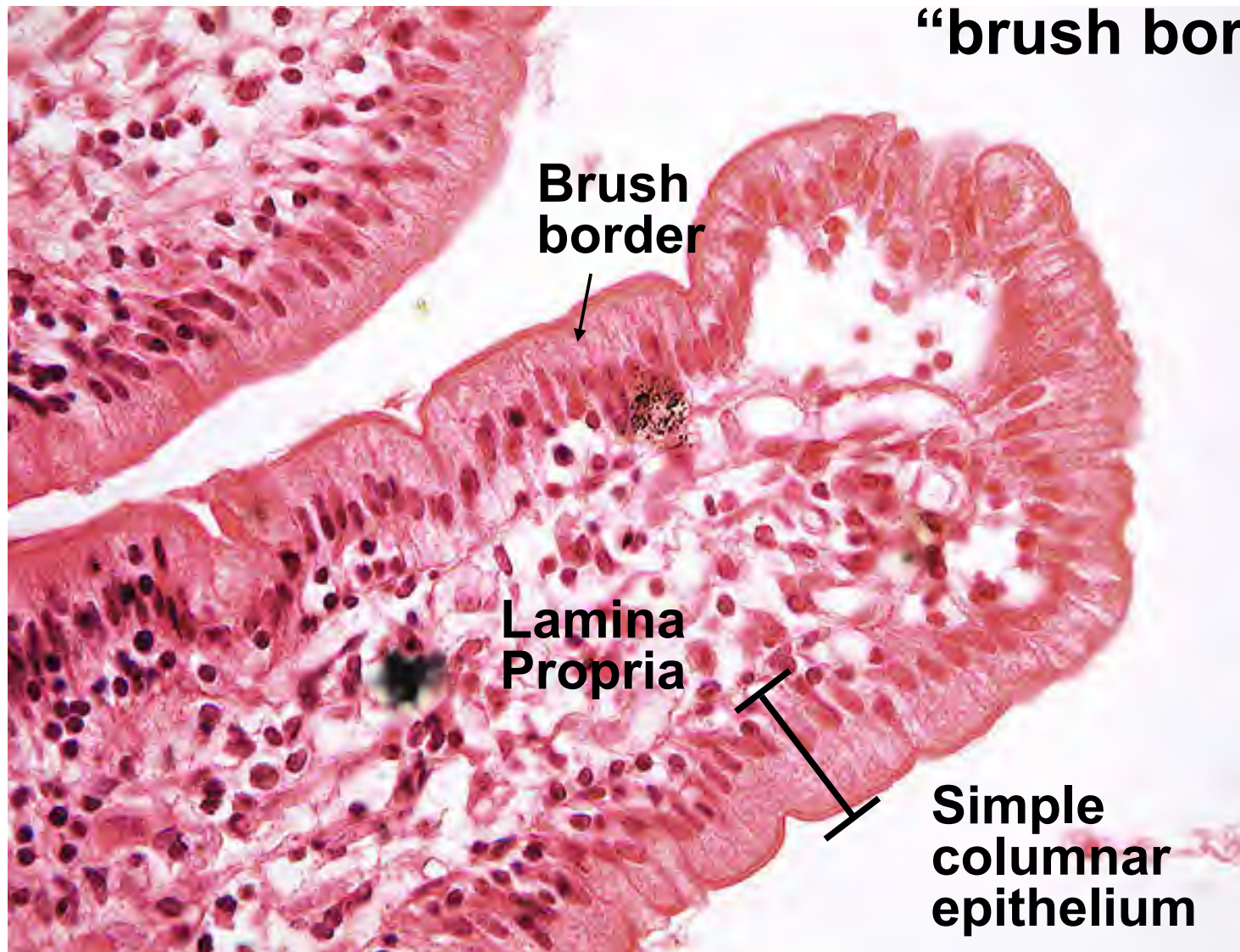
**Plicae are covered with villi,  
fingerlike projections of mucosa.....**

Drawing of intestinal  
plicae removed.  
Original: is Fig 16-32  
from Kelly et al.  
*Bailey's Textbook of  
Histology, 18<sup>th</sup> ed.*  
(1984), p543.

**Plicae are covered with villi,  
fingerlike projections of mucosa.....**



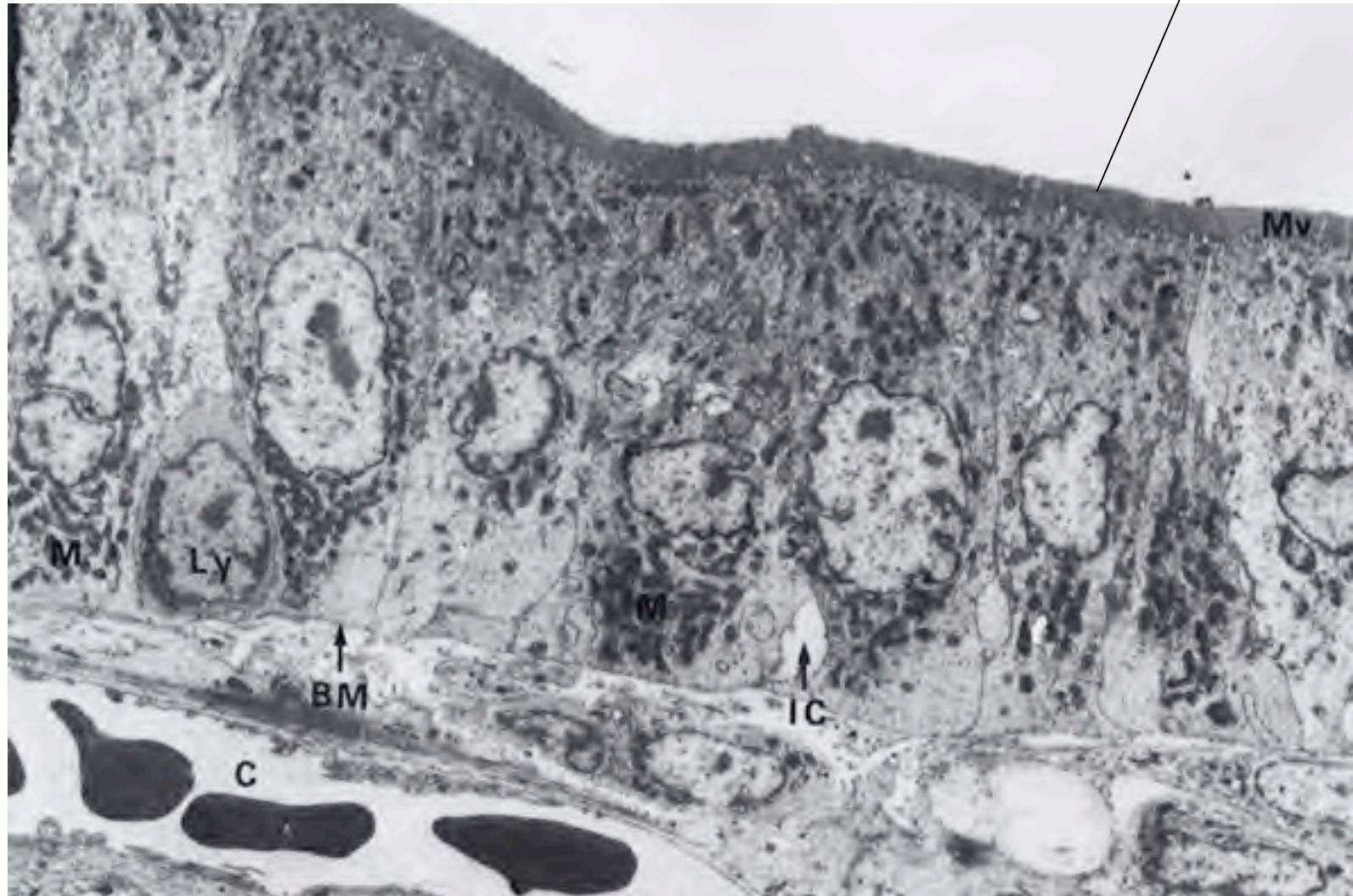
**Villus cells have a  
“brush border”**



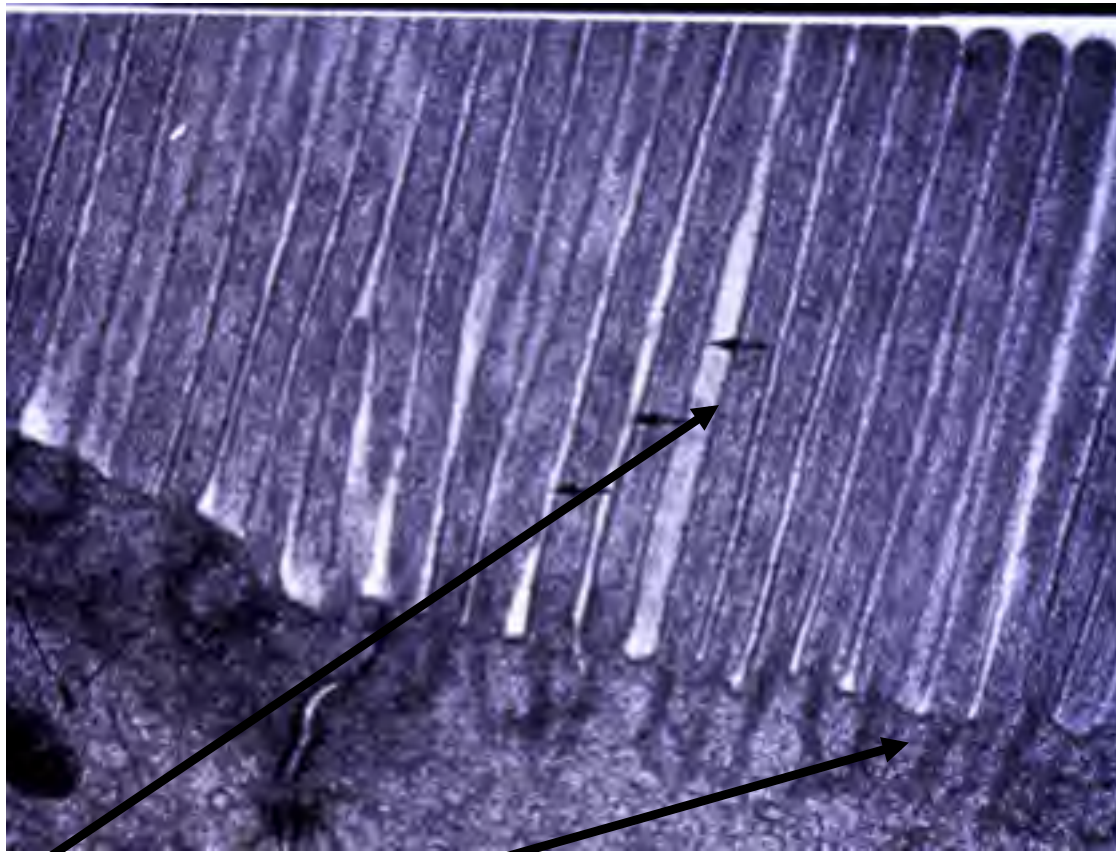
Core of each villus contains  
lamina propria



# The Brush border is composed of microvilli



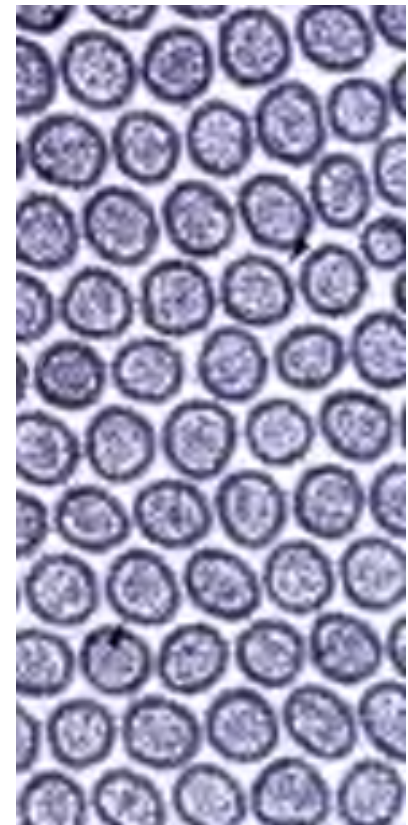
# Electron microscopic view of the brush border Apical surface (luminal surface) of absorptive cells



**Microvilli**

**Terminal web**

**Microvilli,  
cross section**



***~3000 microvilli/cell !!!***

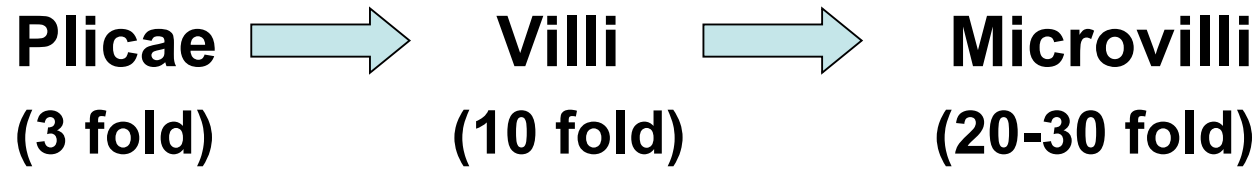


The microvilli have a well-developed surface glycocalyx

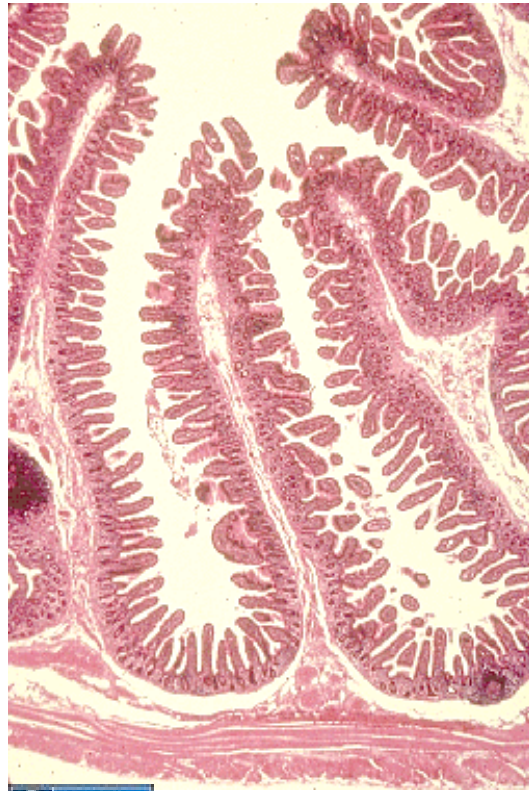




# Intestinal tube = 20 ft long

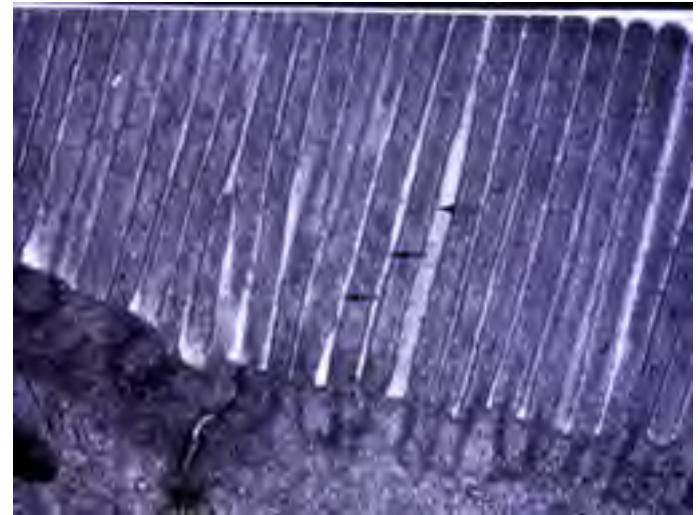


**Total: 600-900 fold  
(area 200 m<sup>2</sup>) !**



PD-INEL

[University of Delaware Library Institutional Repository](#)



PD-INEL

Source Undetermined

Original: Fig 14.16 from Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*,  
4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p262

# How to get the most out of your intestine

Start with a long tube

Convolute the absorptive surface of the tube

**Add enzymes that break down luminal contents**

**Keep the tube moving, mix contents**

# Enzymes/bile digest luminal contents:

“Chyme” enters from stomach, stimulates intestinal enteroendocrine cells in intestine to secrete:

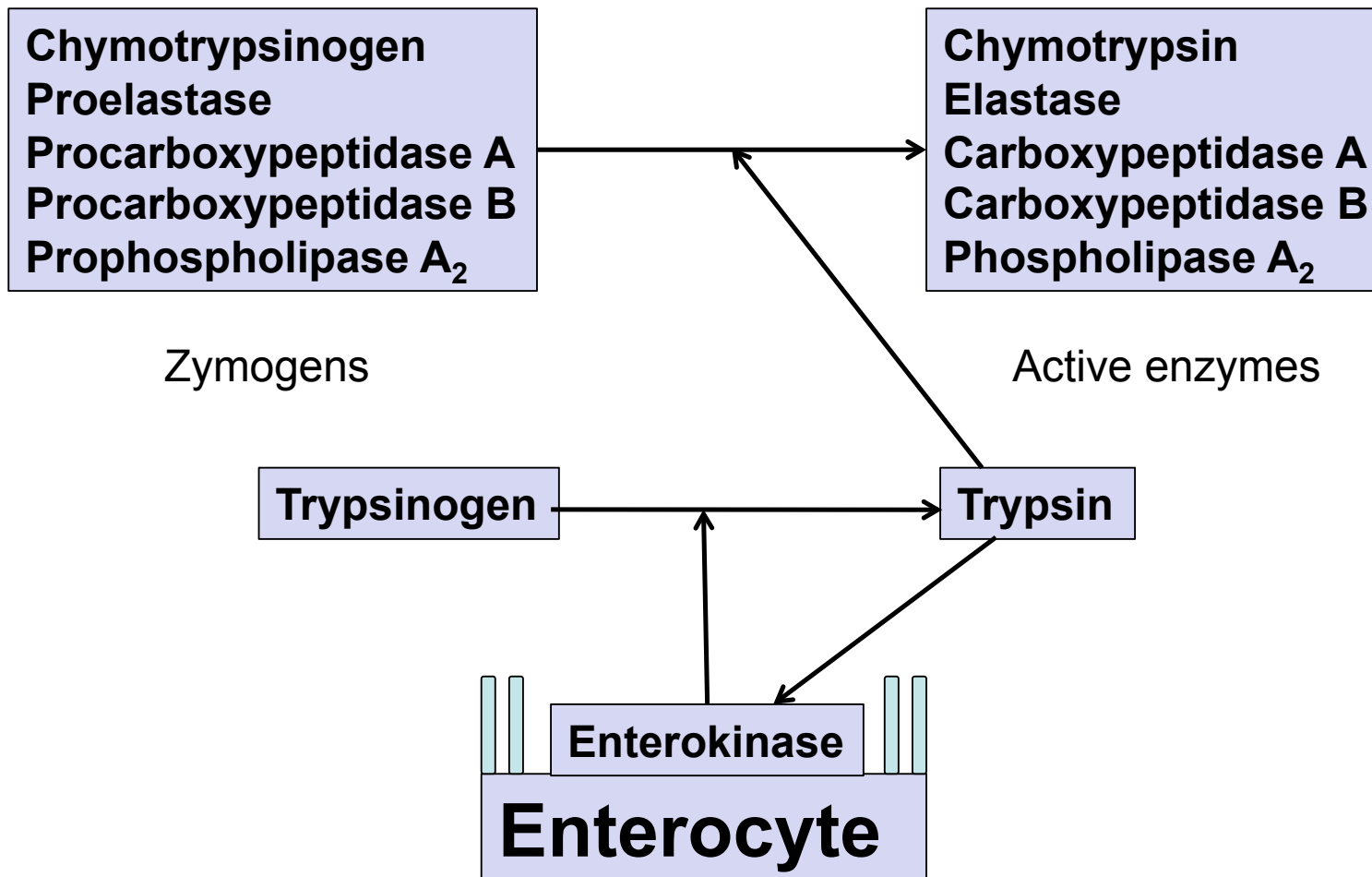
Secretin	————→	pancreatic secretion
CCK (cholecystokinin)	→	pancreatic secretion
	↘	gall bladder contraction

**Ampulla of Vater:** intestinal segment of the common duct that delivers secretions to duodenum  
from pancreas (trypsin\*, chymotrypsin\*, amylase, lipase)  
from liver *via* gall bladder (bile-emulsifies fat)

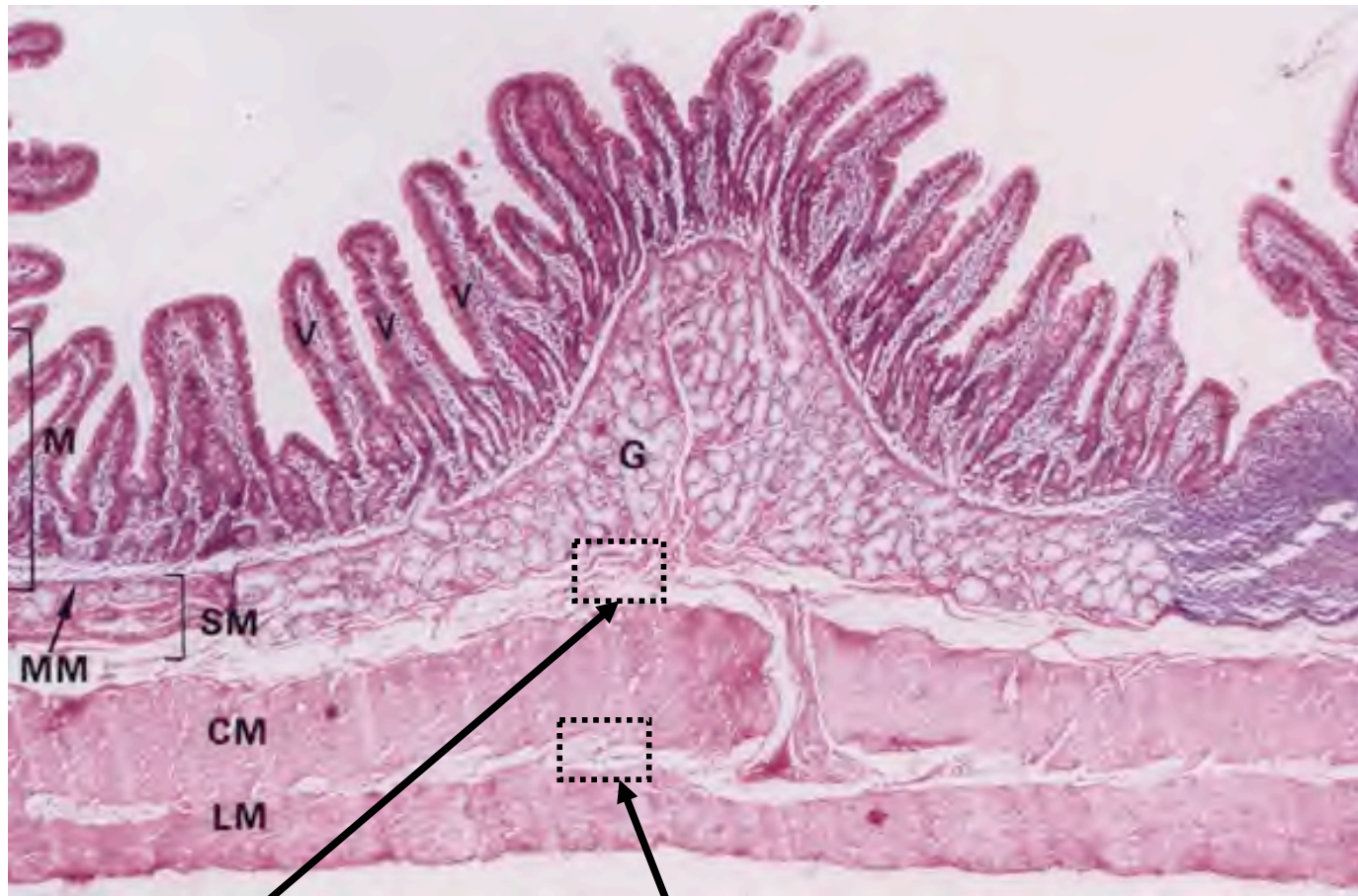
Enzymes in small intestinal absorptive cell (enterocyte) membrane complete the process of digestion and absorb the breakdown products

\*Secreted as inactive forms, activated by enterokinase cleavage (enterokinase produced in duodenum)

# Enzymes/bile digest luminal contents: activation of zymogens via enterokinase/trypsin



# Keep the tube moving, mix contents

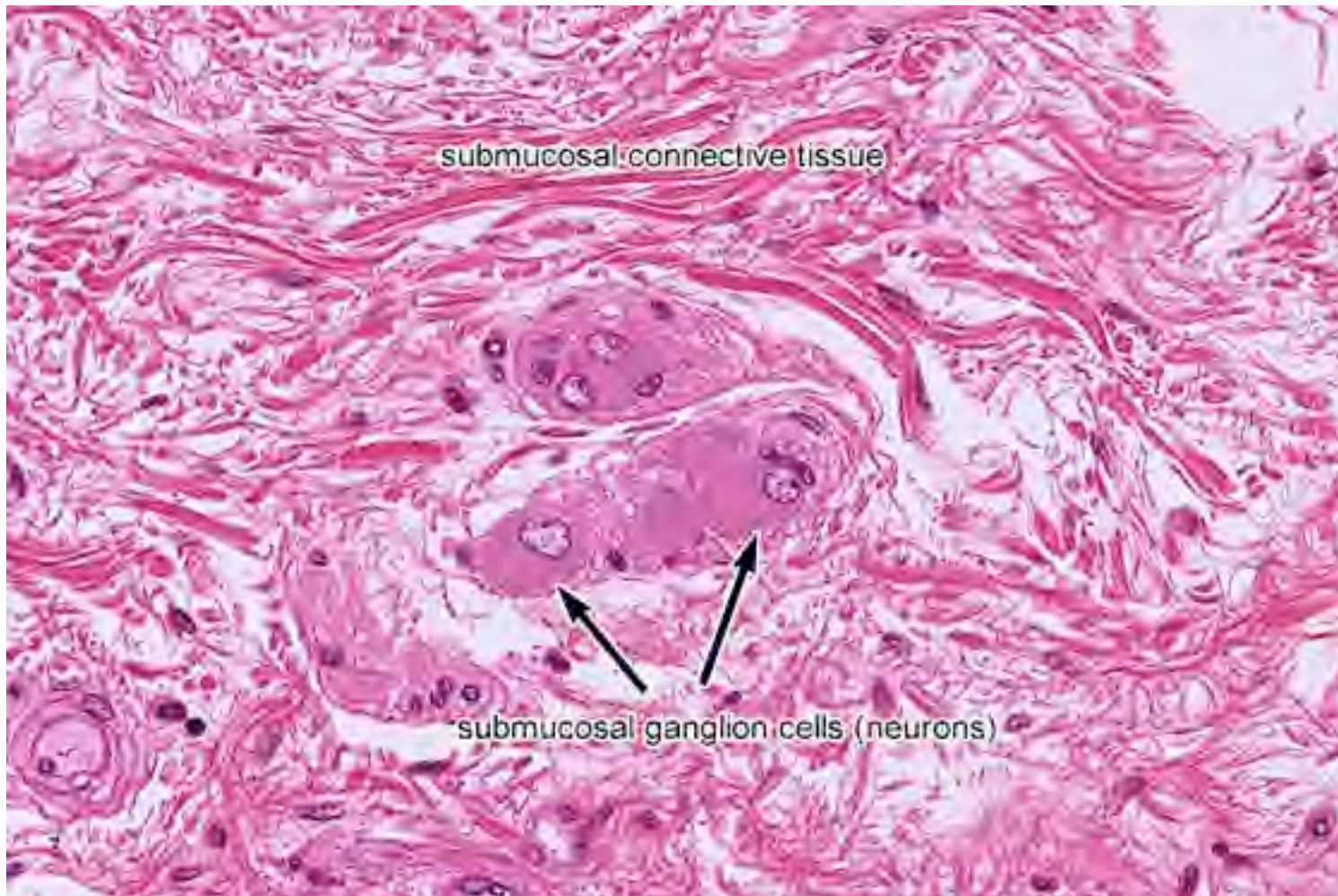


Location of Meissner's plexus  
(Submucosal plexus)

Location of Auerbach's plexus  
(myenteric plexus)



## Submucosal plexus (Meissner's plexus)



 Matt Velkey Slide 169 of the University of Michigan Histology Collection

**Controls contraction of muscularis mucosae, submucosal vascular tone, and secretory activity of mucosal epithelium**



# Keep the tube moving, mix contents



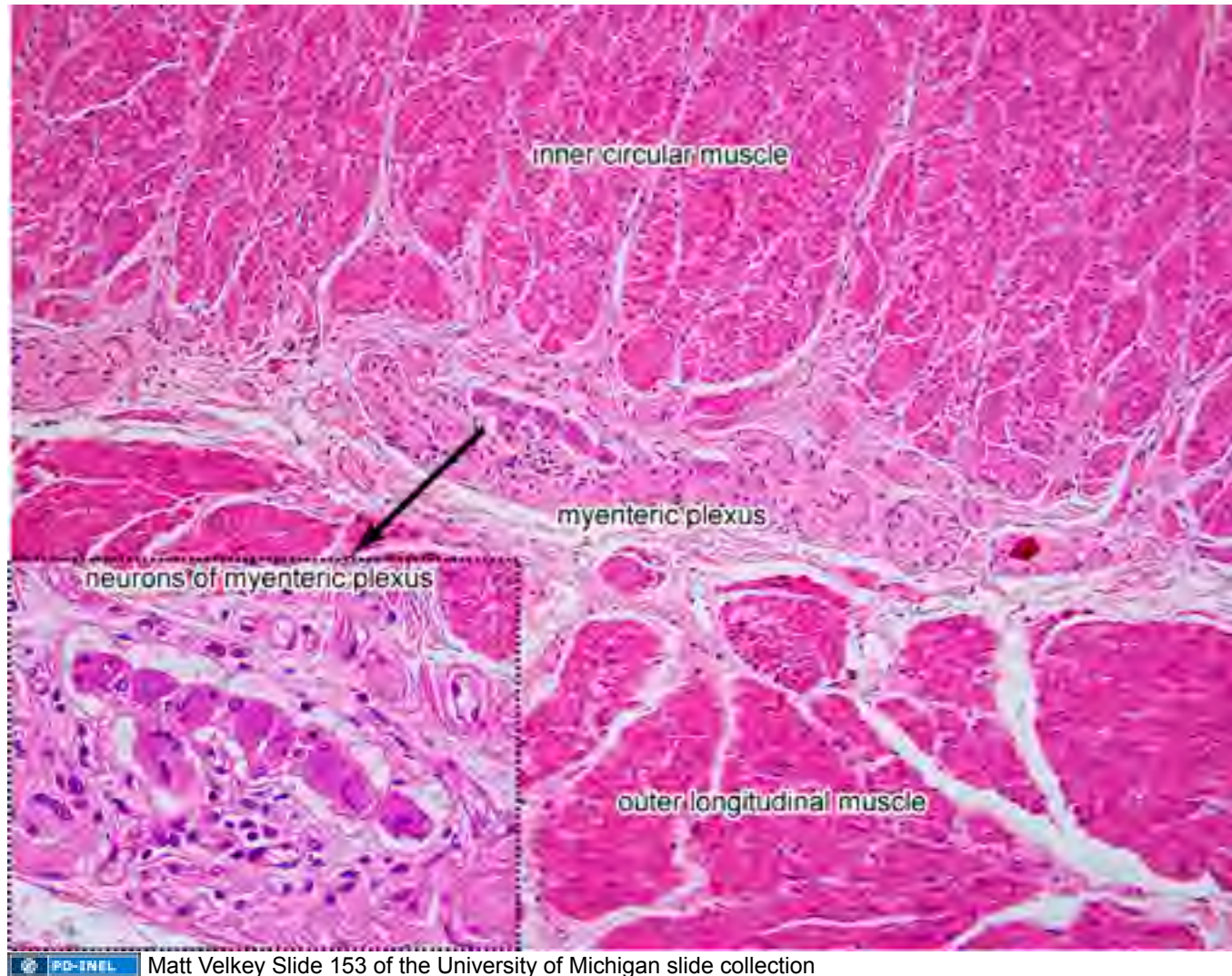
**Location of Meissner's plexus  
(Submucosal plexus)**

**Location of Auerbach's plexus  
(myenteric plexus)**



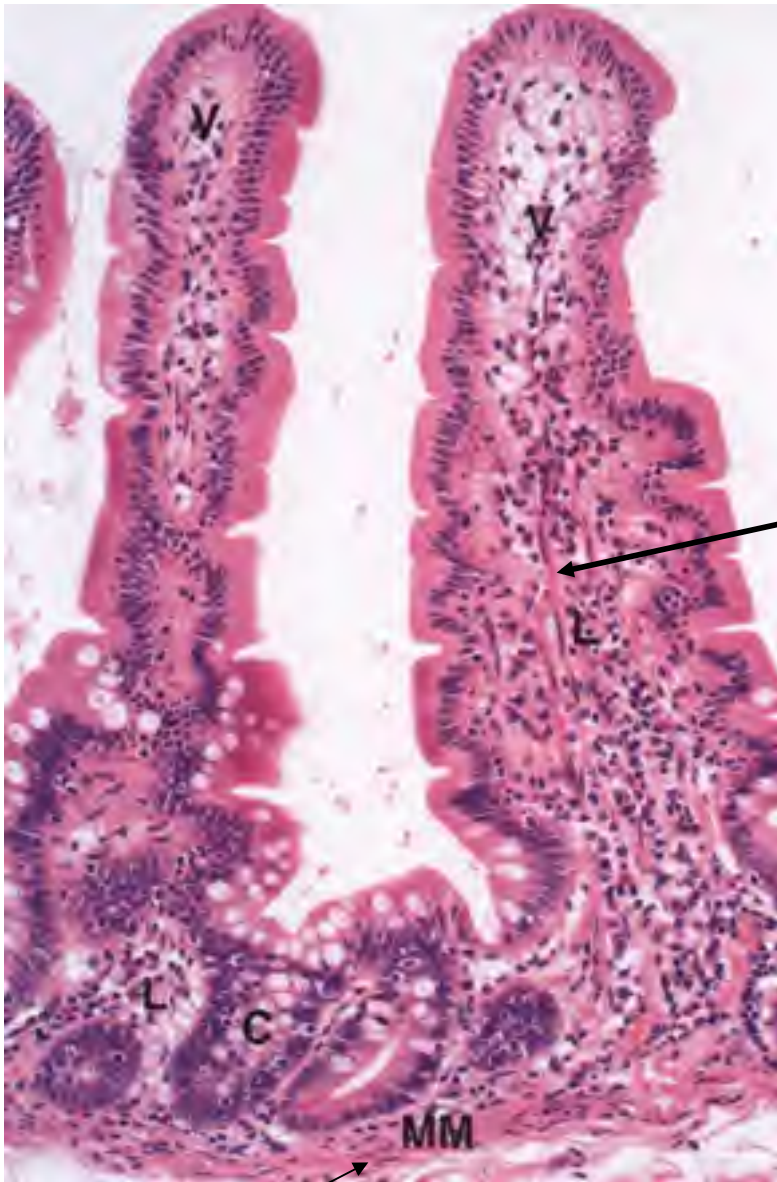
Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*,  
4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p261. Fig 14.15a

## Muscularis externa & Myenteric plexus (Auerbach's plexus)



**Controls contraction of muscularis externa; wave-like contractions that move contents = peristalsis**





**Keep the tube moving,  
mix contents**

**Smooth muscle cells run  
vertically from muscularis  
mucosae (MM) up the villi**

**Contraction pumps villi;  
propels lymph, blood  
from core of villi**

**L = lamina propria  
V = villi  
C = crypt**

# Epithelial cell types: Small intestine

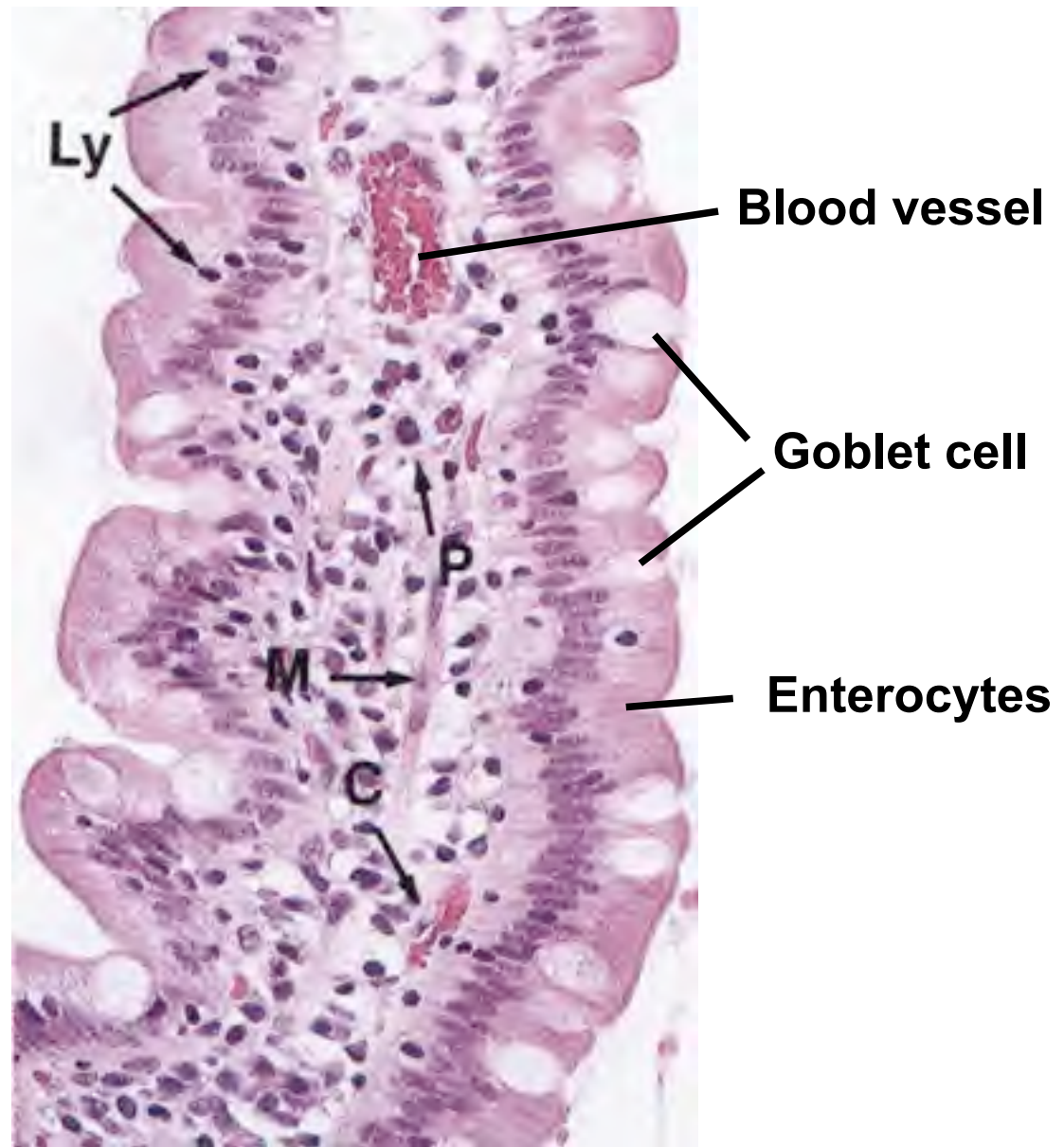
**Enterocytes** (majority of cells): Absorption (and secretion, e.g. enterokinase)

**Goblet Cells:** Increase in number as you descend the GI tract. Produce acid glycoproteins (mucins). Lubrication. Stain with Alcian Blue or PAS.

**Enteroendocrine cells:** Part of the “diffuse neuroendocrine system”. Produce CCK, glucagon, secretin, motilin, etc. Hormone secretion.

**Paneth cells:** Located at base of crypts. Exocrine cells. Secrete lysozyme and  $\alpha$ -defensins; Antibacterial activity.

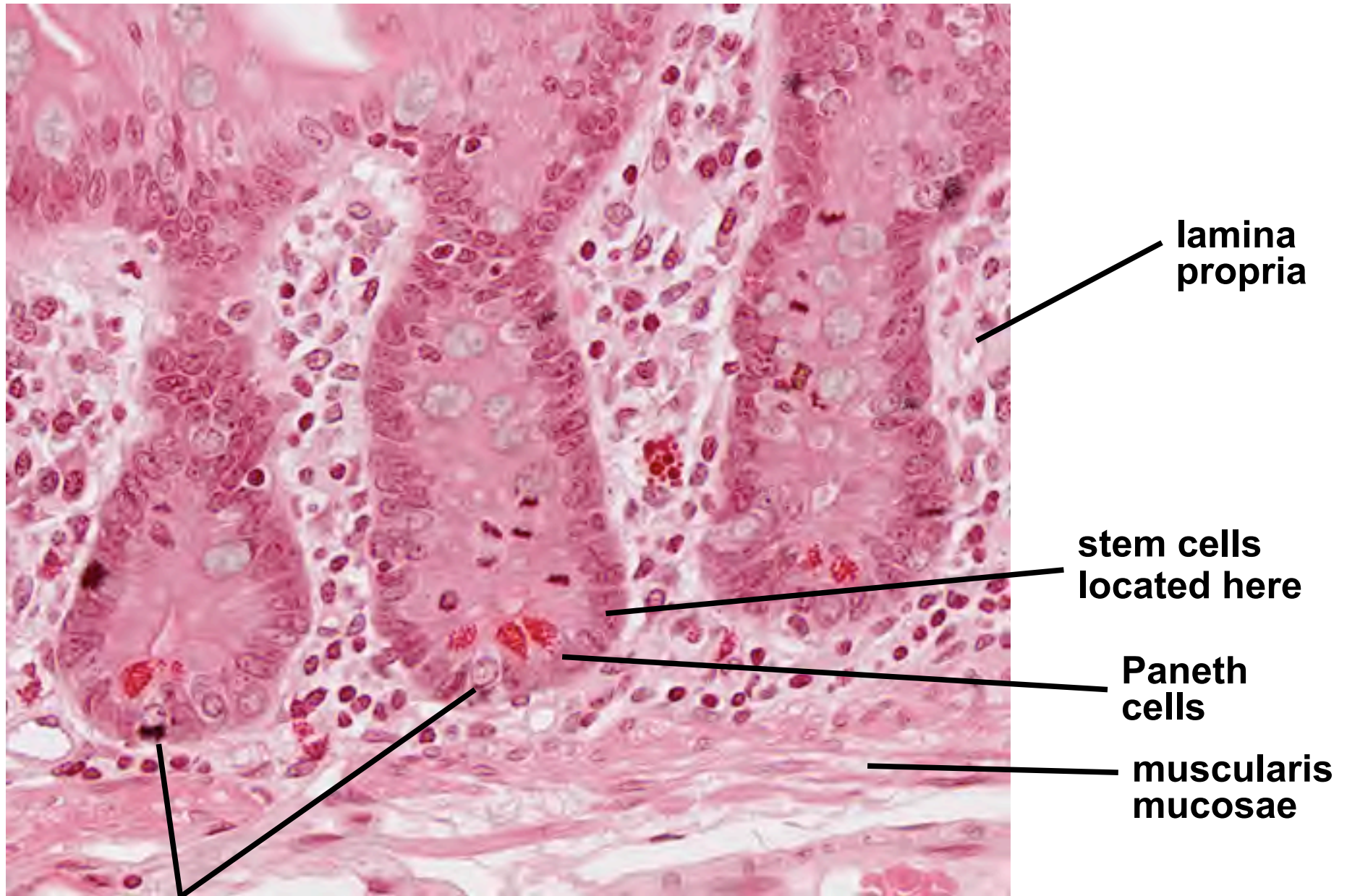
# Villus tip



**Ly = Lymphocyte**  
**P = Plasma cell**  
**M = Muscle**  
**C = Capillary**



## Crypt region (H&E+Argentaffin stain)



Slide 247 of the University of San Francisco digital slide collection (UCSF247\_40x.svs)

**enteroendocrine cells**



# Villi & Crypts - Scanning electron microscopy



Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p264 Fig 14.18a

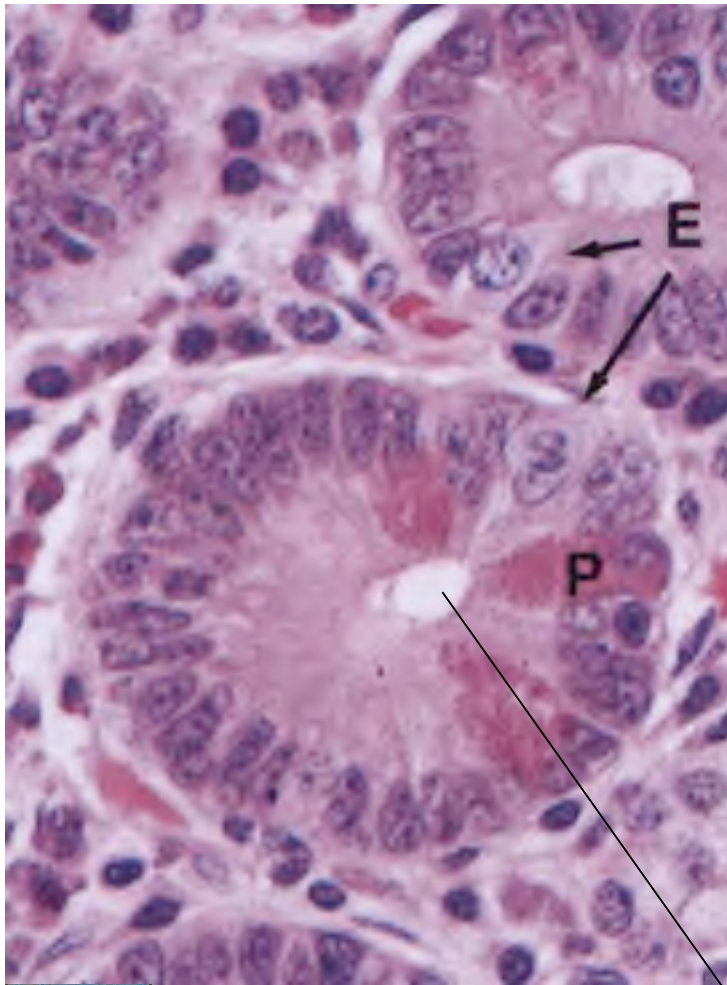
**Villi project into the lumen**


**Crypts (glands) invaginate into underlying lamina propria.**



Cormack, *Ham's Histology* 9<sup>th</sup> ed. (1987) p505 Fig 18-29


# Interpretation of cross-sections



 Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.19a

**Crypts**



 Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.20b

**Intestinal lumen**

**Villi**

## *The entire villus epithelium turns over every 3-4 days!!*



PD-INEL Cormack, *Ham's Histology 9<sup>th</sup> ed.* (1987) p505 Fig 18-29

**Cells at the apex slough off into the lumen**



**Cells differentiate as they migrate out of the crypts and up the sides of the villi.**



**Stem cells (1-4/crypt) in crypt base give rise to four cell lineages**

Note: villi and crypts are arranged such that each crypt contributes cells to a small stripe on multiple villi



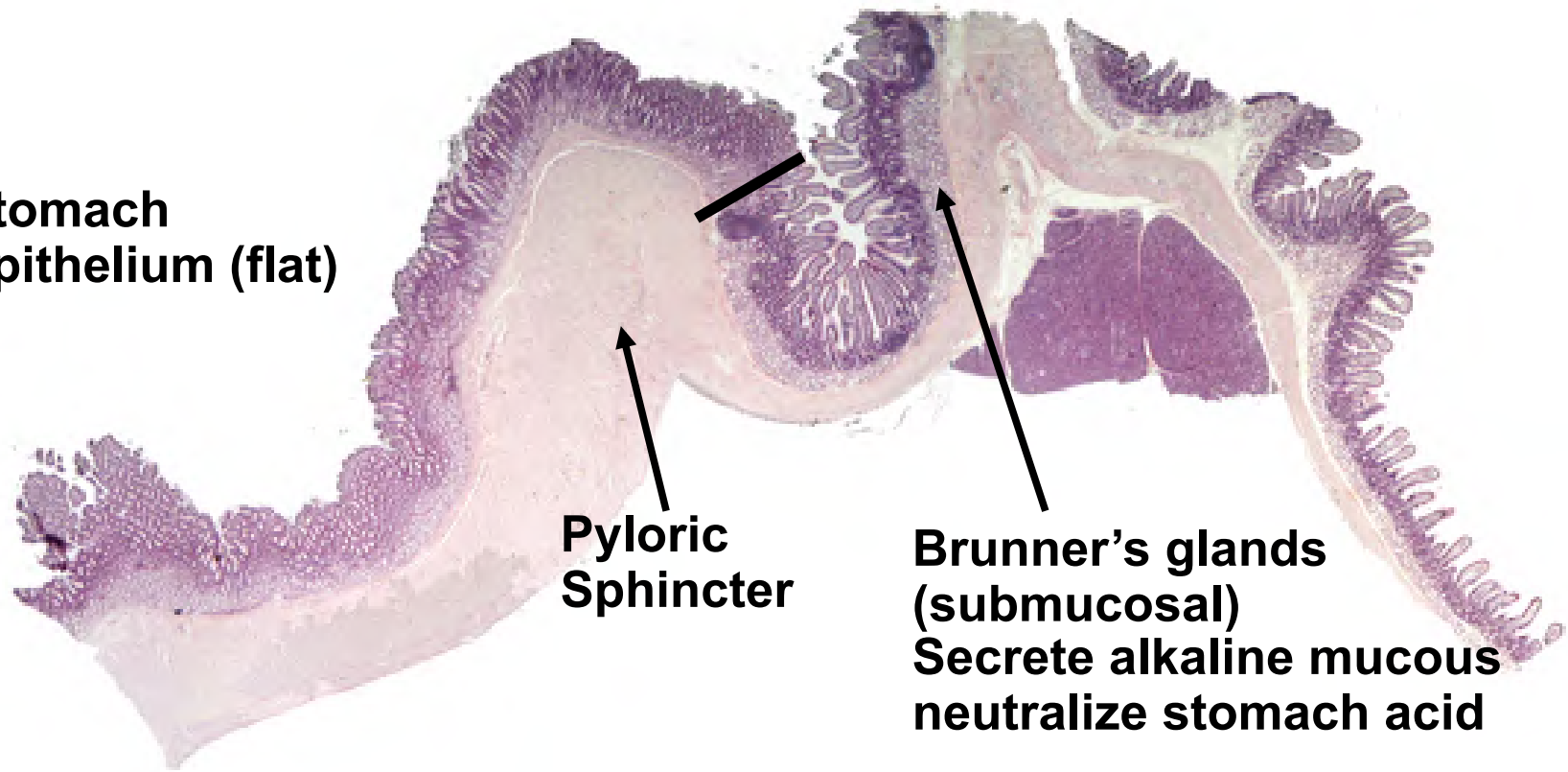
# Regional Morphology: Pyloric junction

**Duodenum (villus epithelium)**

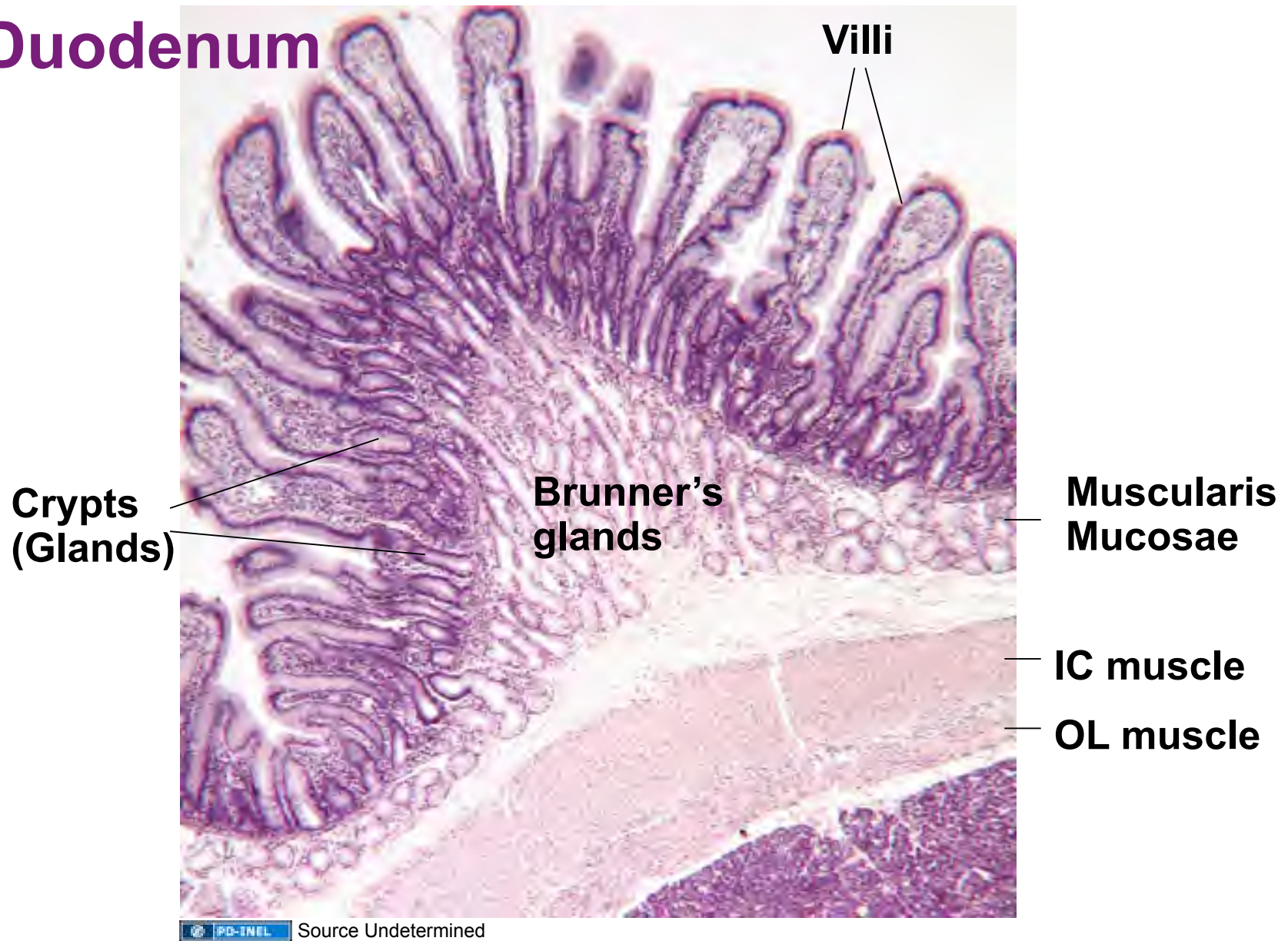
**Stomach  
Epithelium (flat)**

**Pyloric  
Sphincter**

**Brunner's glands  
(submucosal)  
Secrete alkaline mucous  
neutralize stomach acid**



# Duodenum



*(Brunner's glands are diagnostic for duodenum....)*

## Surface of villi

Enterocyte

Epithelium

Goblet Cell

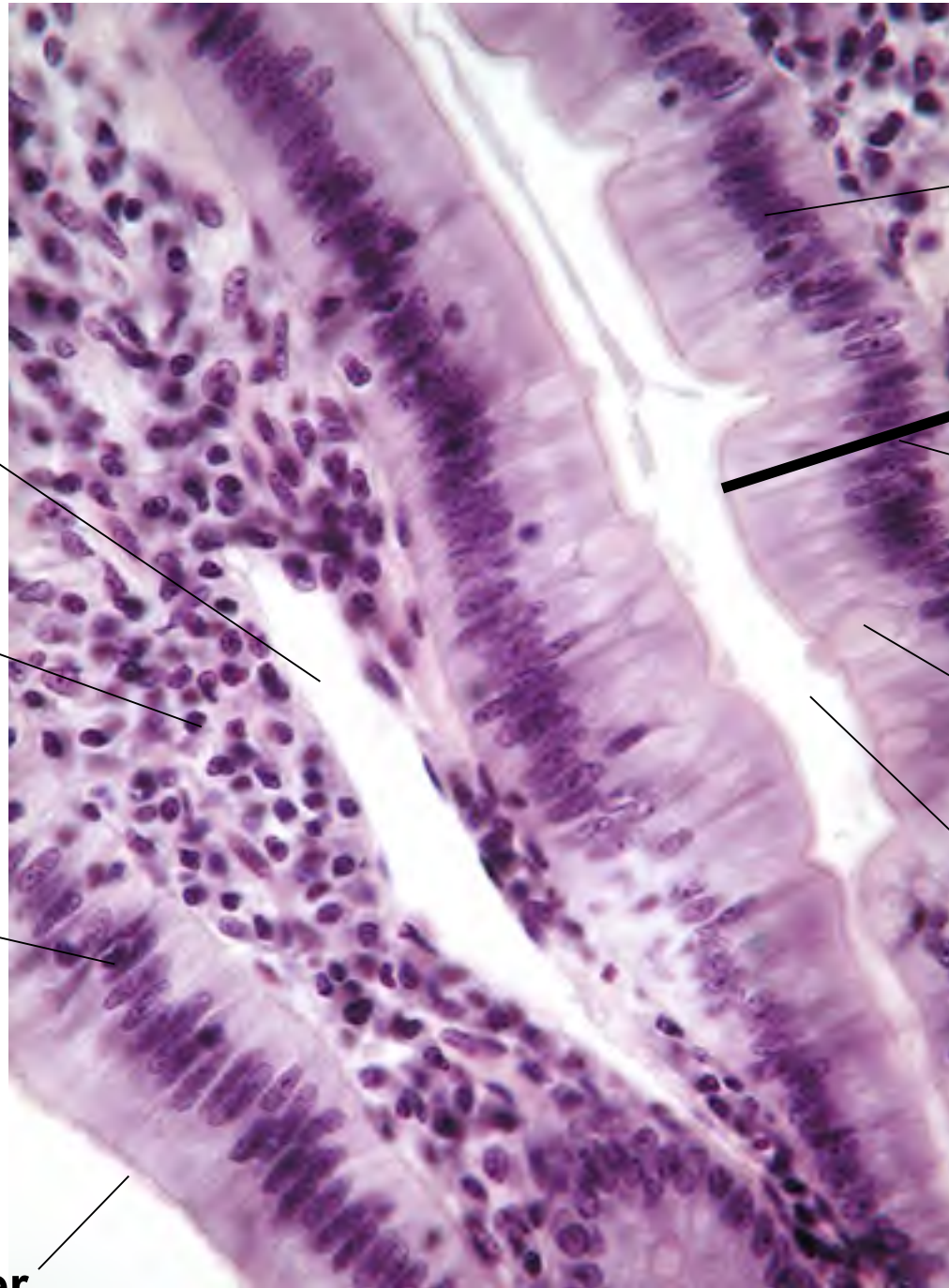
Luminal Space

Central Lacteal

Lamina Propria

Intraepithelial Lymphocyte

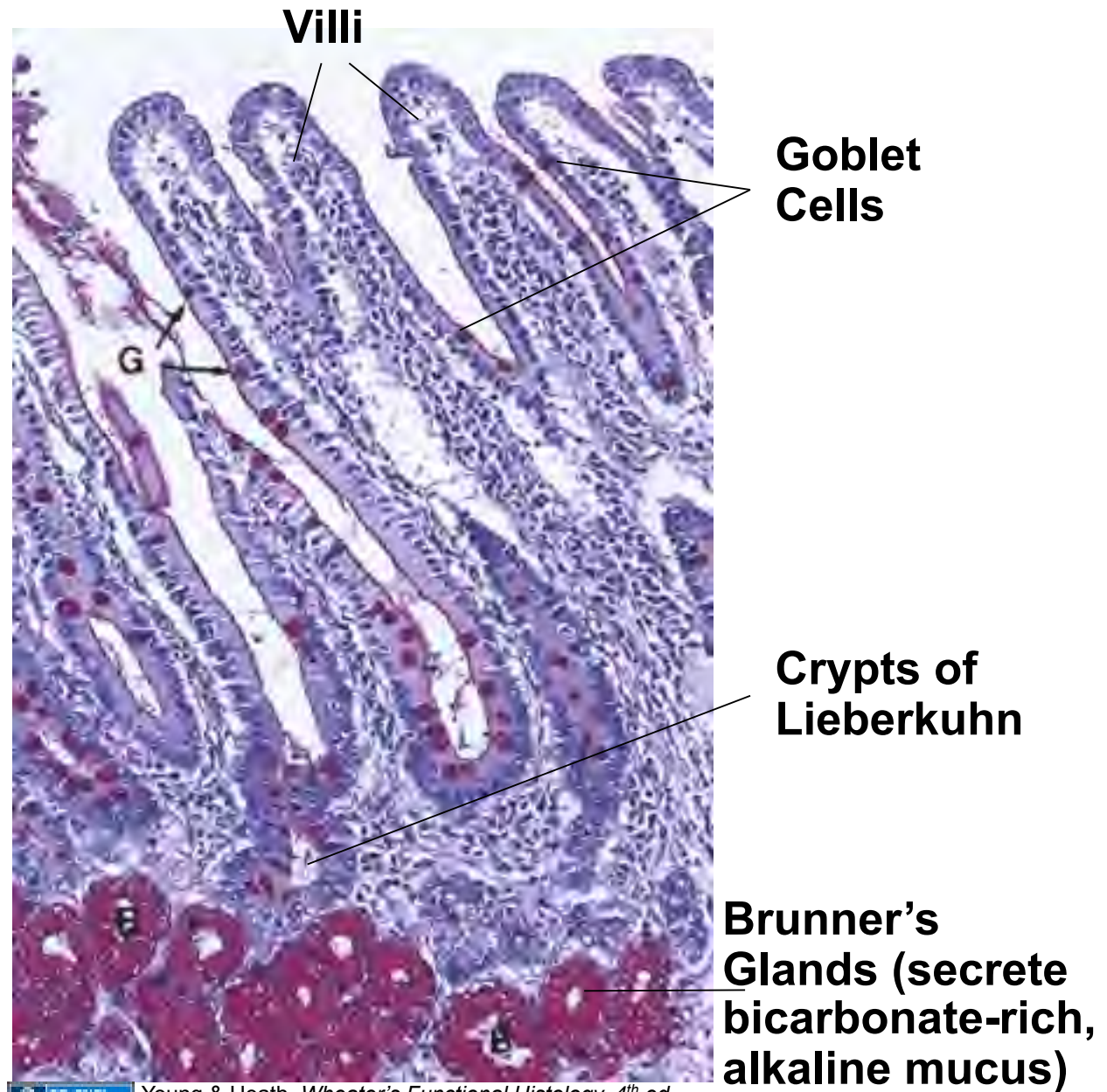
Brush border





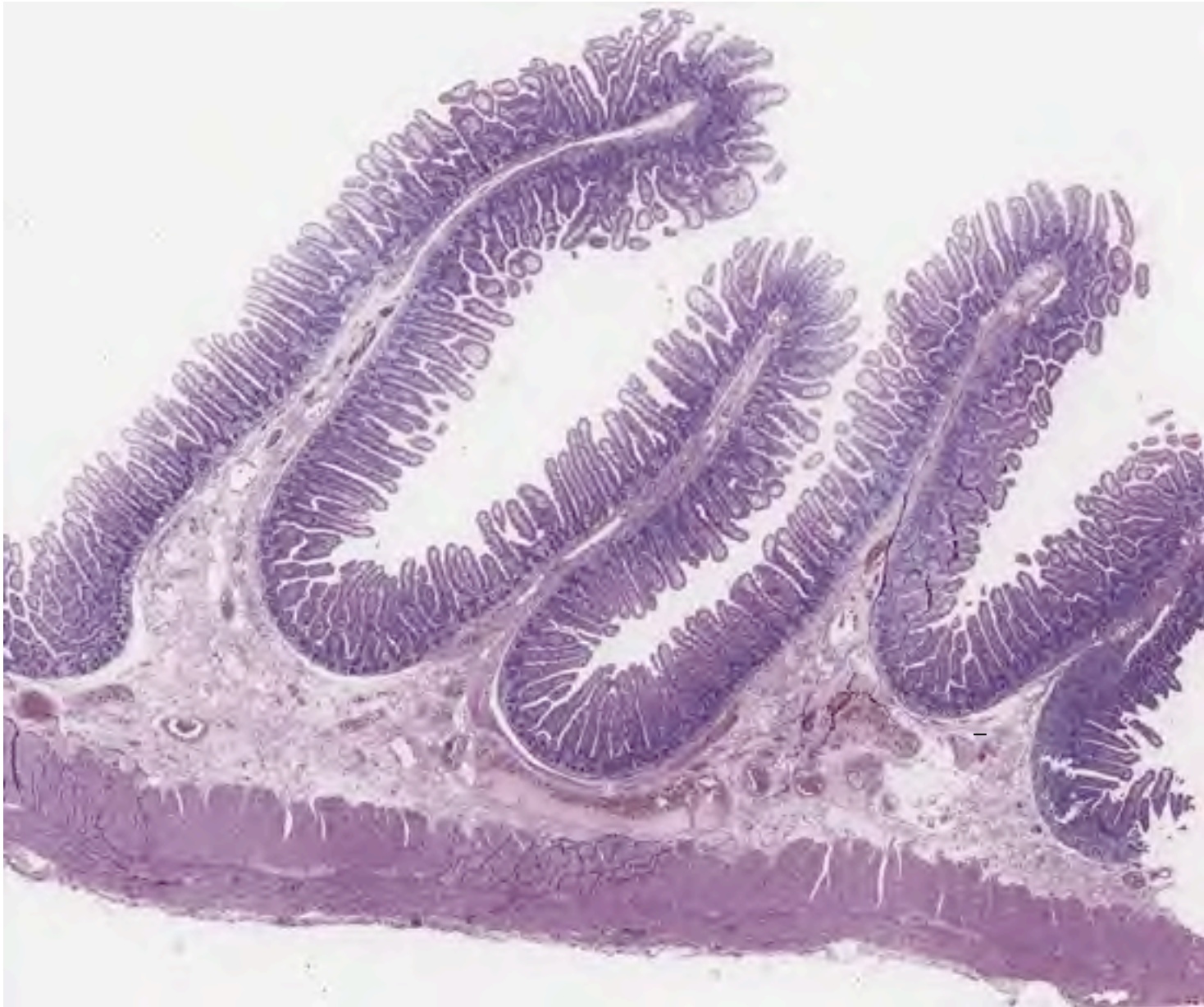
# Duodenum: Periodic Acid Schiff Stain (PAS)

Stains complex  
carbohydrates  
(mucins) and  
negative charges  
strong magenta



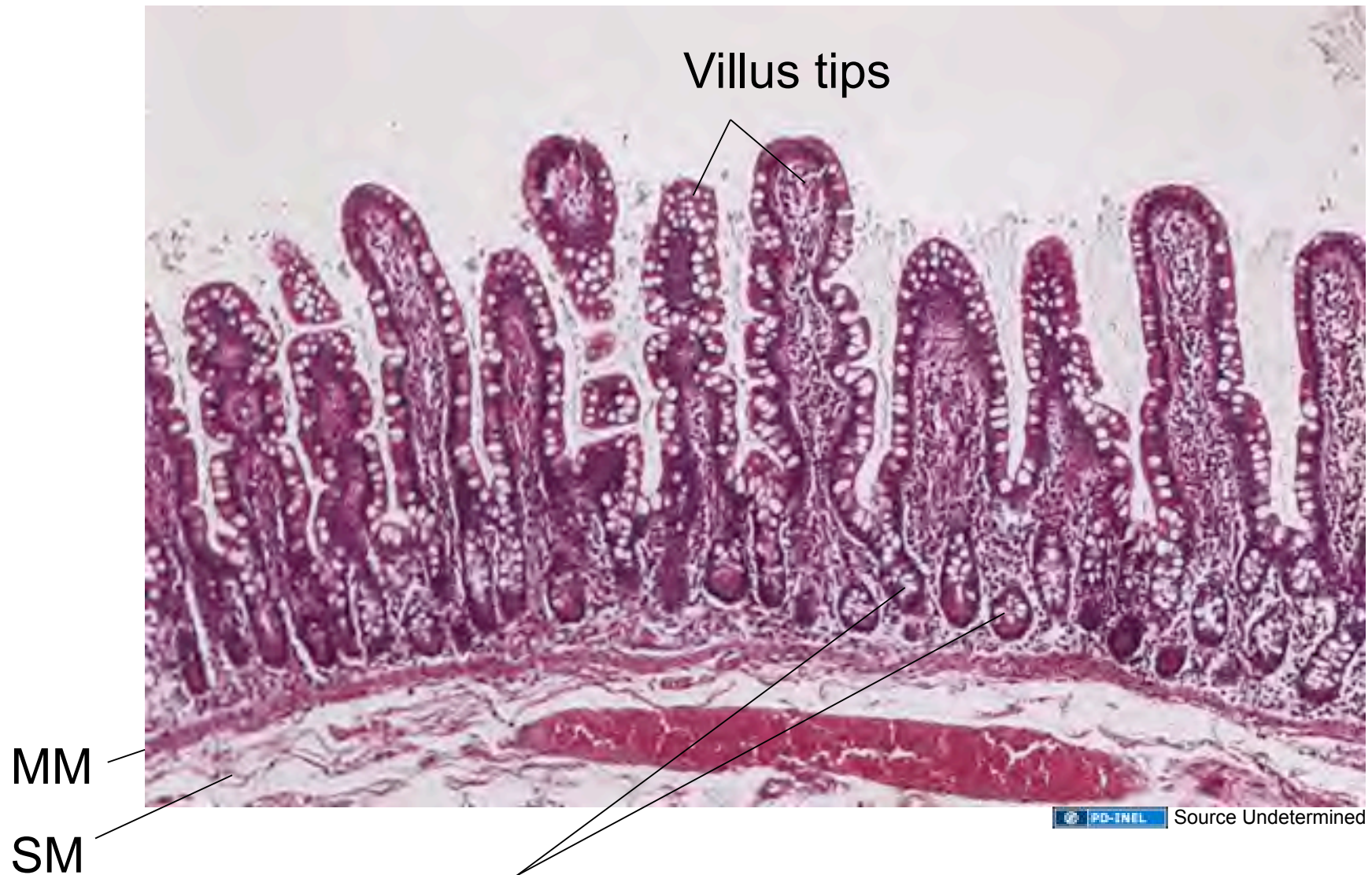
# Jejunum/ileum

Jejunum, Ileum: no Brunner's glands  
Jejunum has pronounced plicae circularis





# Jejunum/ileum





# Jejunum/ileum

lymphoid  
follicles



**Sr = Serosa**

# GALT: Gut Associated Lymphoid Tissue

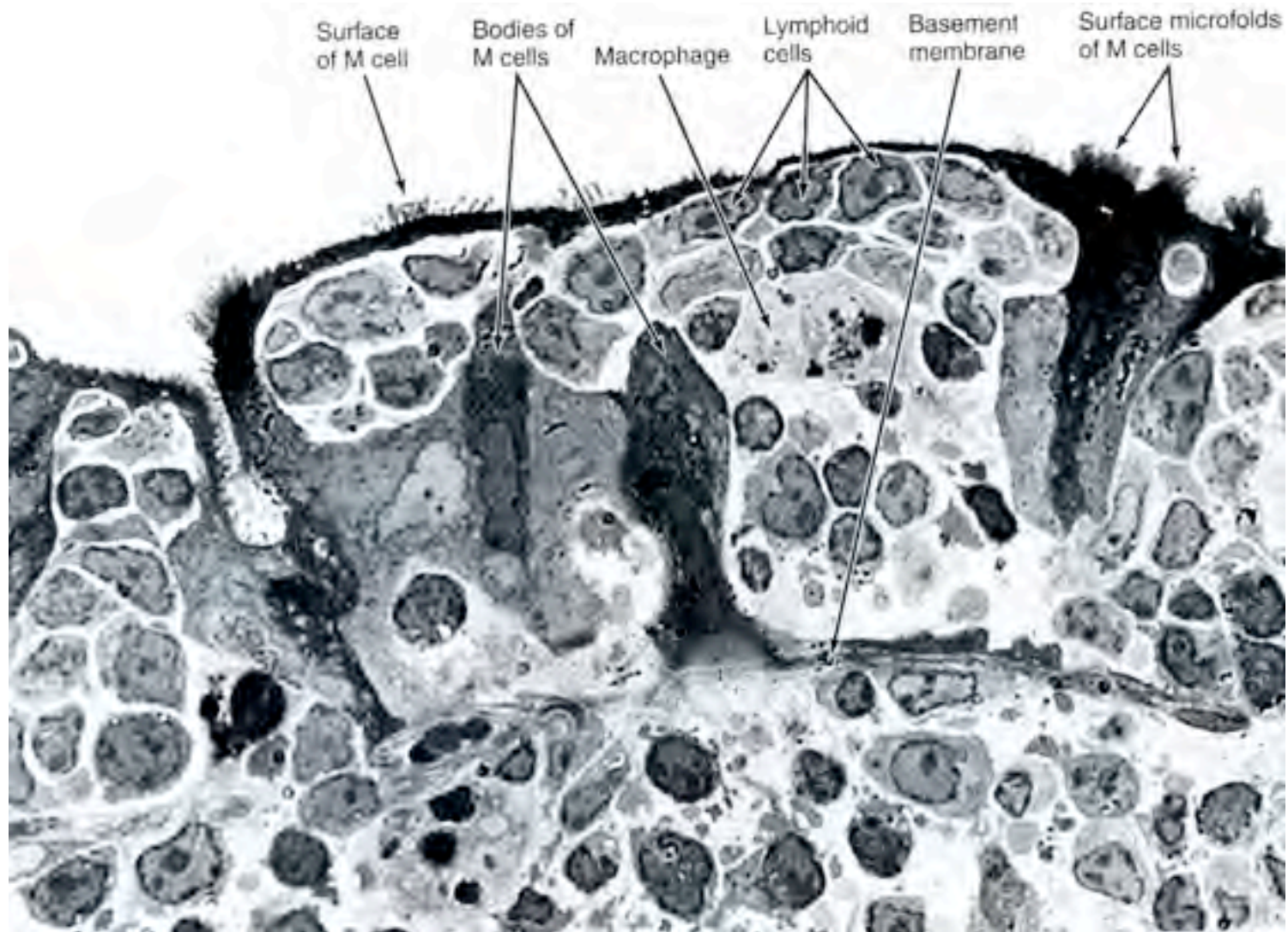
*(approximately 1/4 of mucosa)*

- Plasma cells, macrophages, lymphocytes located in lamina propria and submucosa
- Also “intraepithelial” lymphocytes – specialized T cells found between columnar epithelial cells
- Lymph nodules (or follicles): aggregations of lymphocytes usually in lamina propria, sometimes extending into submucosa
  - activated leukocytes go to nearby lymph nodes, activate T+B cells, which “home” to GI mucosa.
  - plasma cells develop from activated B cells in follicles and migrate into lamina propria to secrete antibodies (secretory IgA, which can be selectively transported across enterocytes into the gut lumen)
- “Peyer’s patches:” large aggregates of nodules (technically this term applies to aggregates found in ileum)
  - covered by M cells (specialized for uptake & presentation of antigen to underlying macrophages and lymphoid cells)

Similar large aggregates also found in the APPENDIX




# Peyer's patch histology - TEM





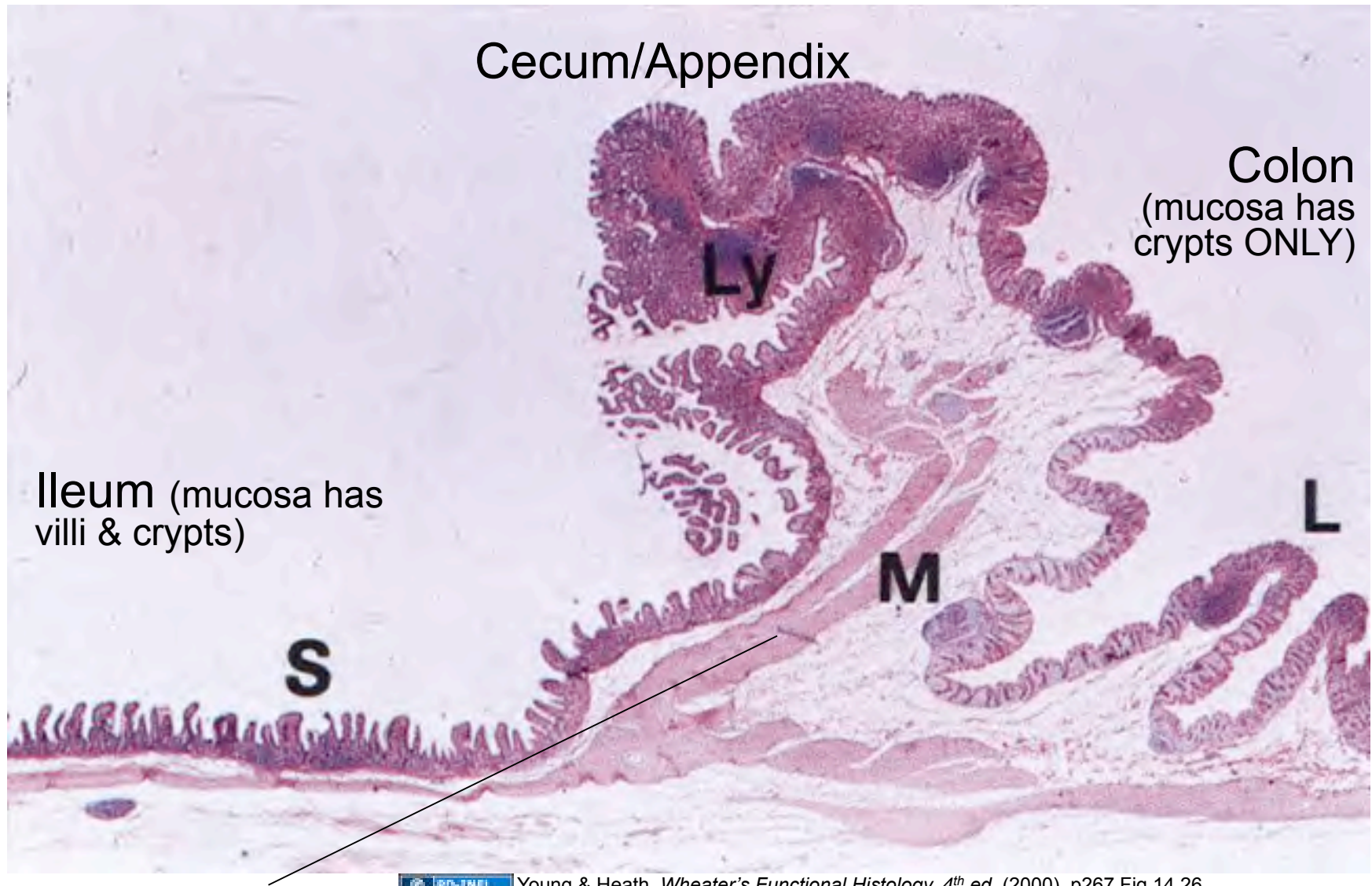
**Sprue:** Immune reactivity to gliadin (a protein in most wheat cereals). Pathology primarily in jejunum. Diagnostic biopsy.



 Source Undetermined

***Therapy: Gluten-free diet***

# Ileo-cecal junction (SI/LI)



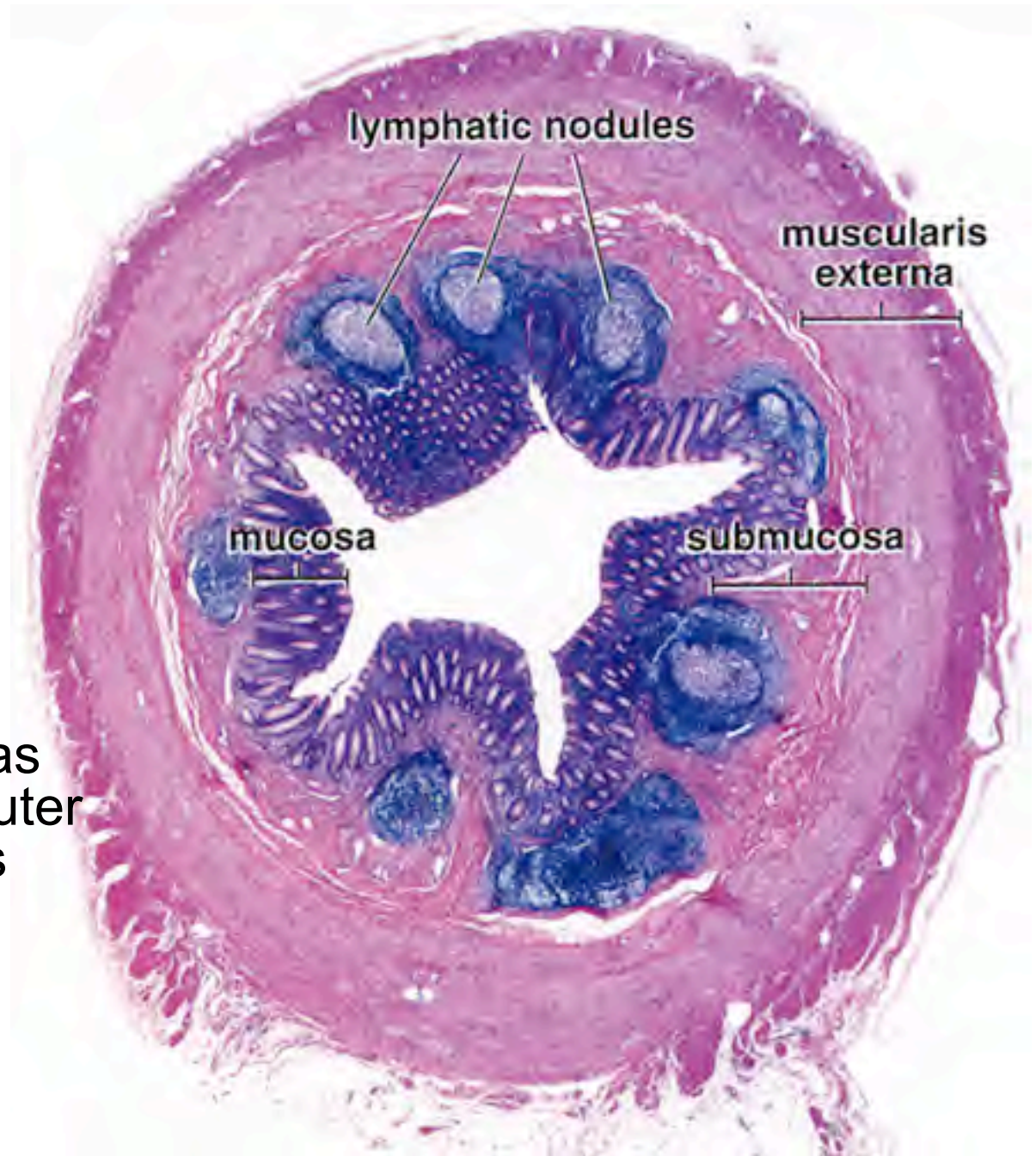
Ileo-Cecal Valve  
(extension of muscularis mucosae)



# Appendix

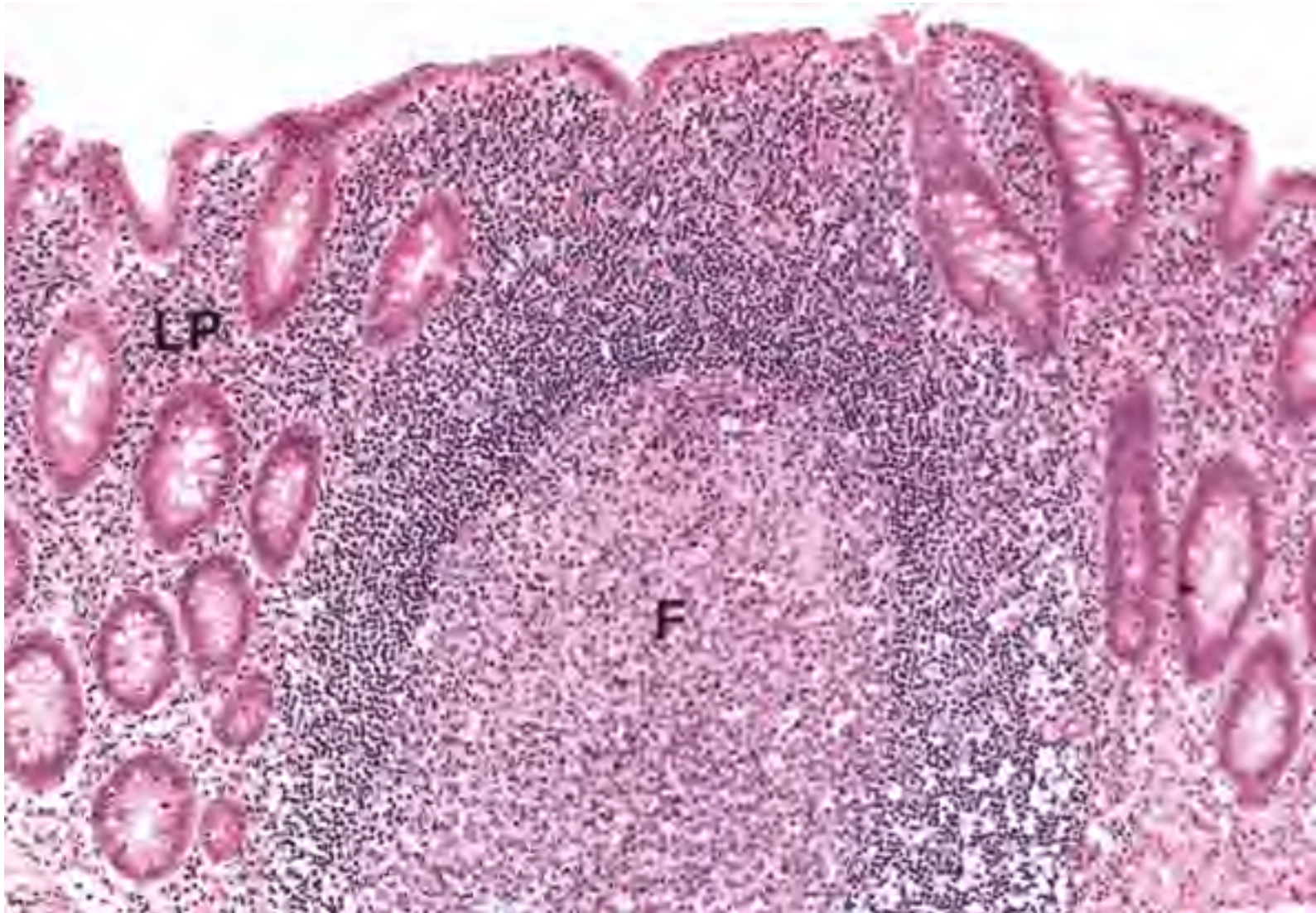
Blind sac extending from the caecum

- “Colonic” mucosa (crypts only)
- Note **prominent lymphoid infiltrate** in lamina propria (LP) and submucosa (SM)
- Muscularis externa has complete inner and outer smooth muscle layers (outer layer interrupted in colon)





# Appendix - Lymphoid nodule/follicle



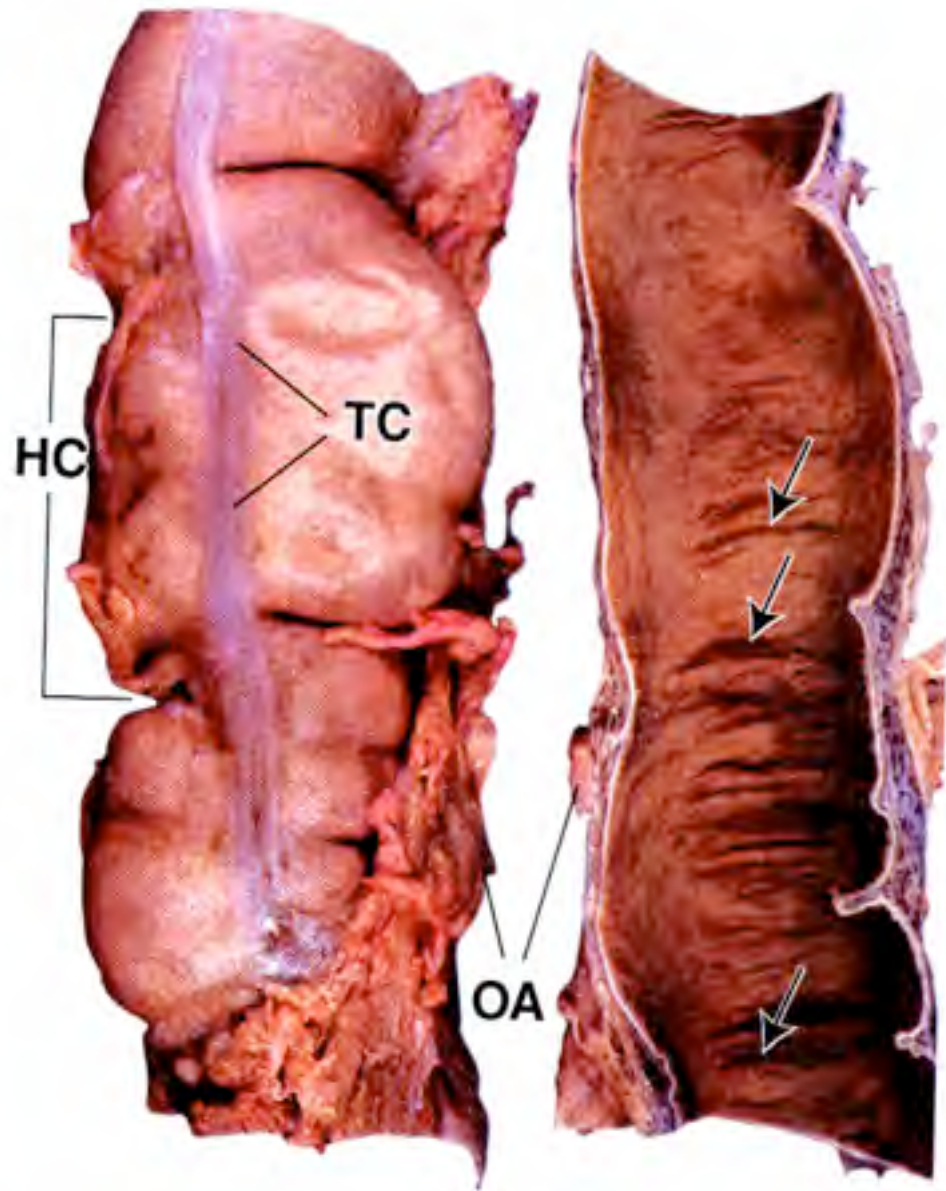
# Colon - whole mount

**Outer longitudinal muscle:  
three discontinuous bands  
(Teniae coli, TC)**

**Semilunar folds (arrows)  
caused by contraction of  
TC**

**Sacculations of external  
surface = Haustra coli (HC)**

**Small fatty projections  
of the serosa = omental  
appendices (OA)**





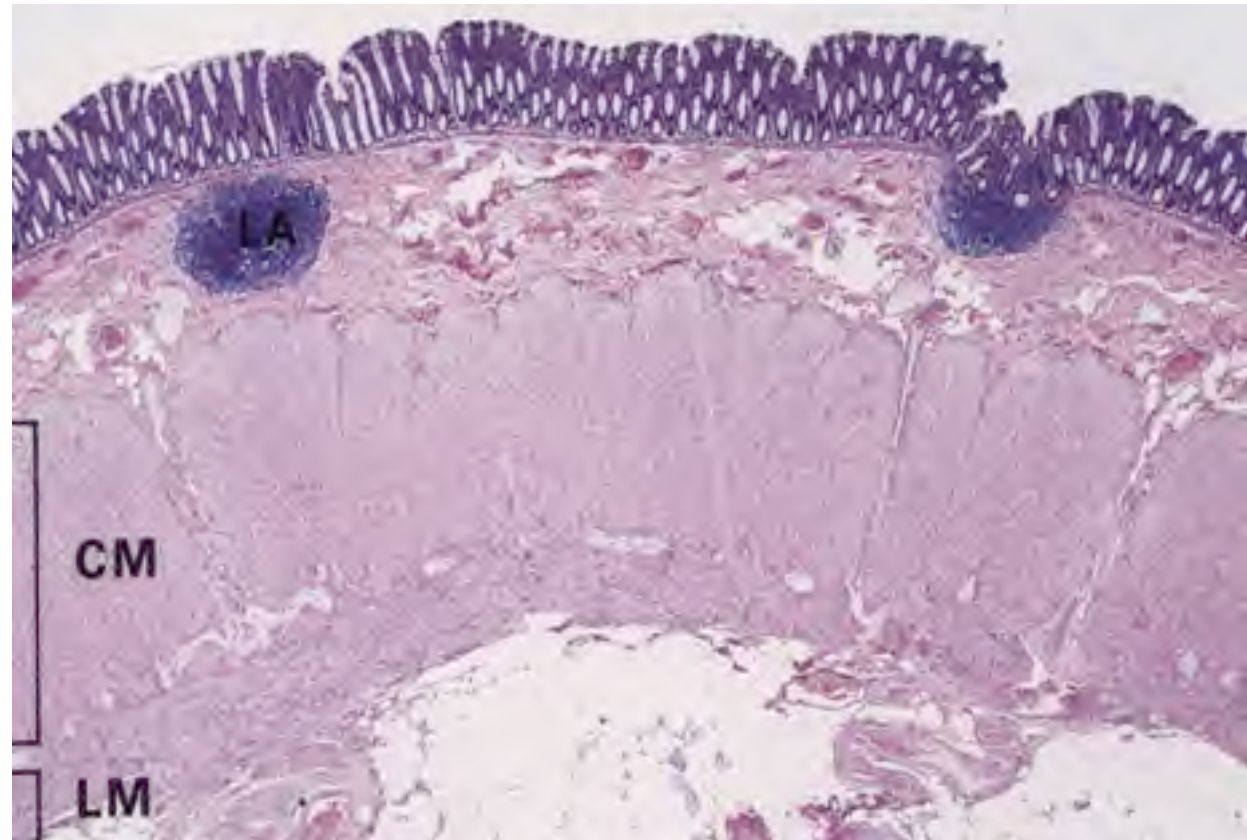
# Colon

Flat epithelium  
(no villi)

Thick muscularis  
mucosae

Thick inner circular  
muscle

Three bands of  
longitudinal muscle  
(discontinuous) =  
*teniae coli*

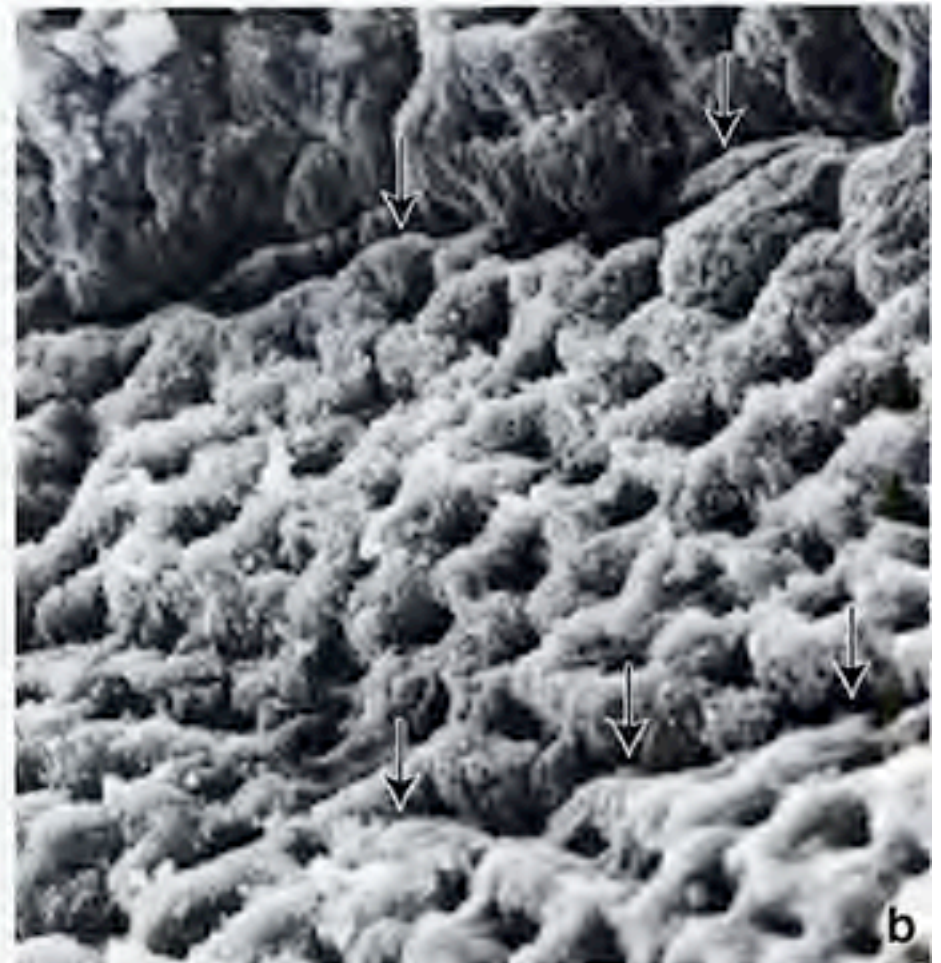


Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p270. Fig14.28a

Two types of muscle contraction by muscularis externa:  
Segmentation: local contraction, mixes contents  
Peristalsis: moves feces down the tube



# Colonic epithelium

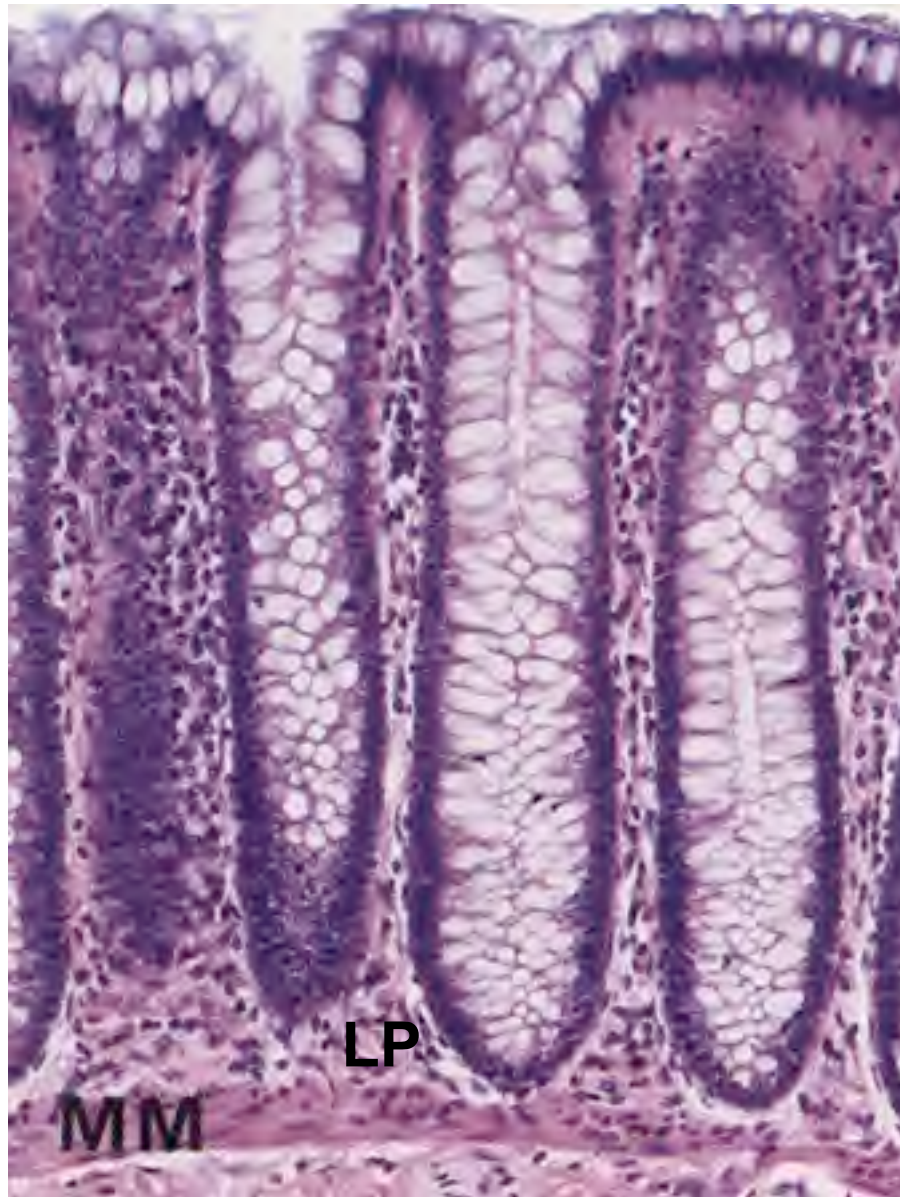


 Ross and Pawlina, *Histology: A Text and Atlas*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (2006), p548. Fig 17.33 (Both Images)

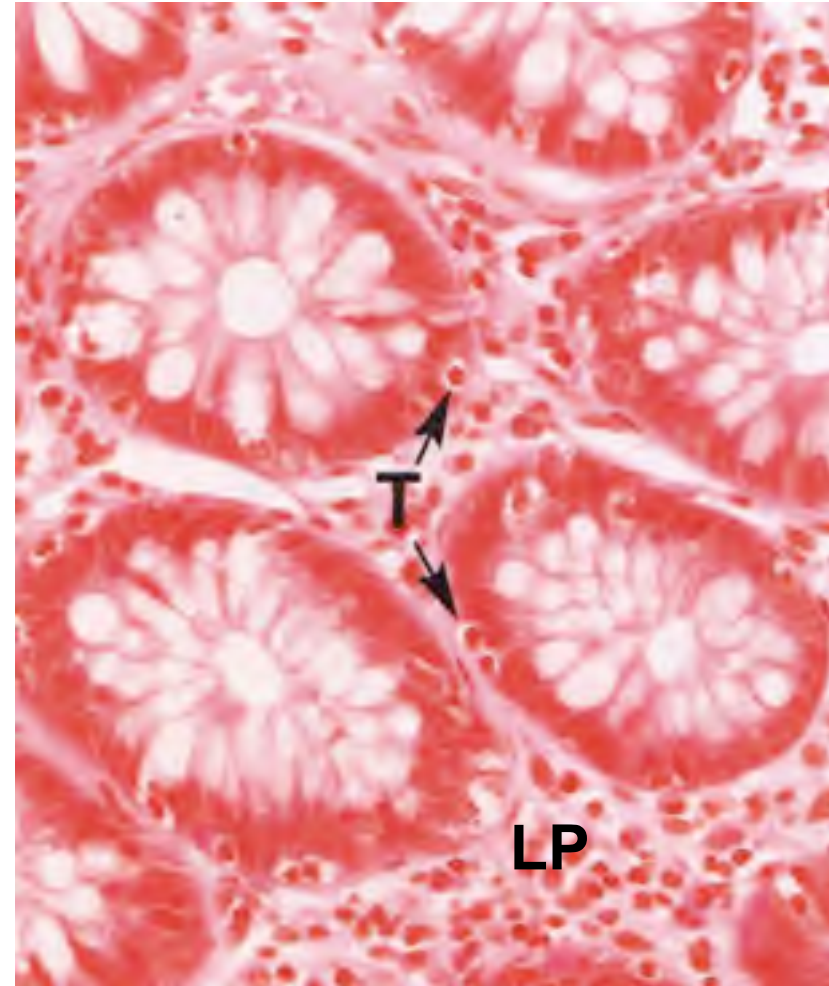
**Rich in goblet cells; no villi (flat surface); tightly packed glands; stem cells at base of glands (arrows).**



# Colonic epithelium



PD-INEL Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p261. Fig 14.28b



PD-INEL Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2000), p261. Fig 14.28e

**T = intraepithelial T lymphocytes**  
**LP = Lamina Propria**

# **Susceptibility to disease is regional in the small and large intestine**

***Predominant location of pathology:***

**Sprue - jejunum**

**Crohn's disease - ileum**

**Ulcerative colitis - colon/rectum**

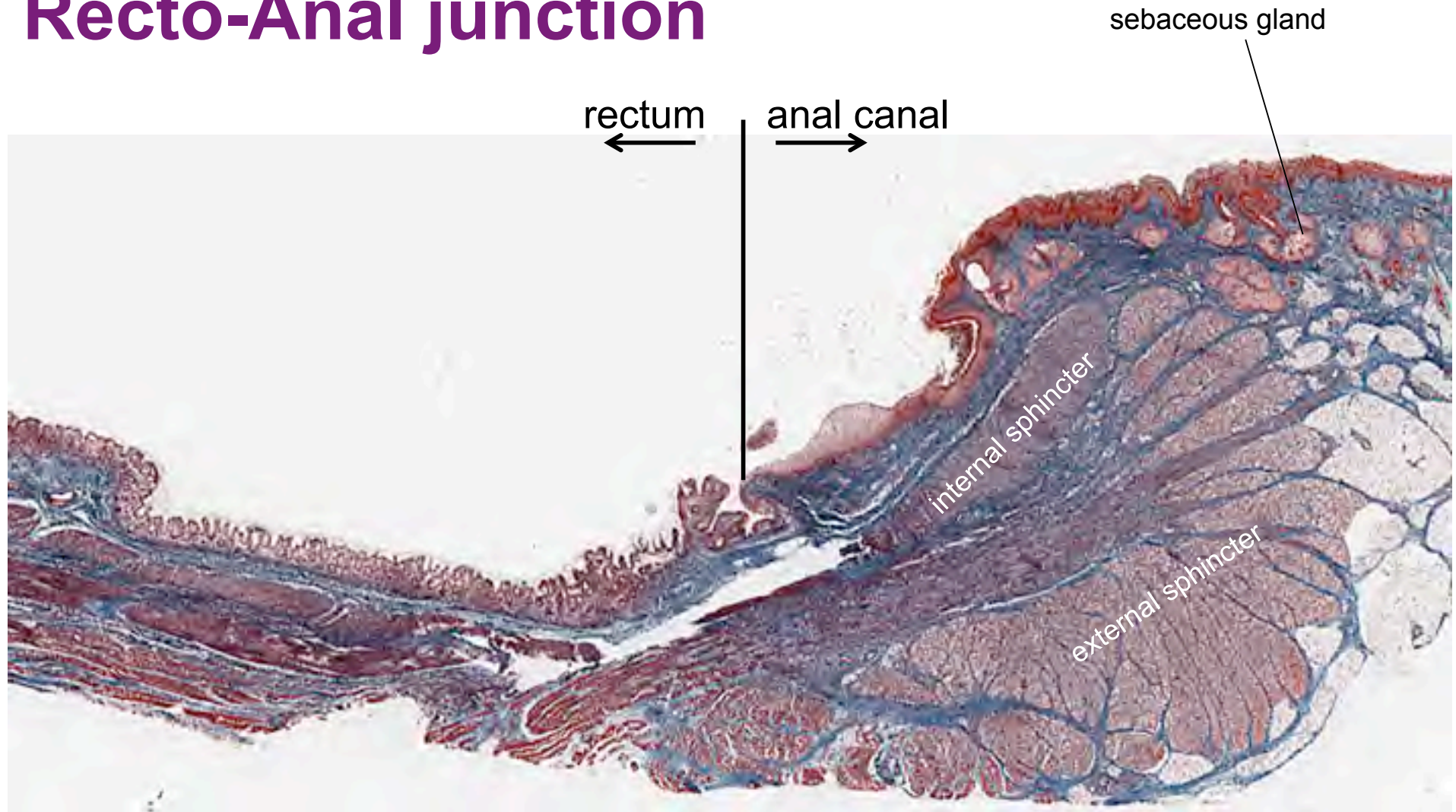
**Hirschprung's disease -colon**

**Bacterial colitis - SI and/or LI**

***Cancer is a disease of the large bowel  
and is rarely seen in the small intestine***



# Recto-Anal junction



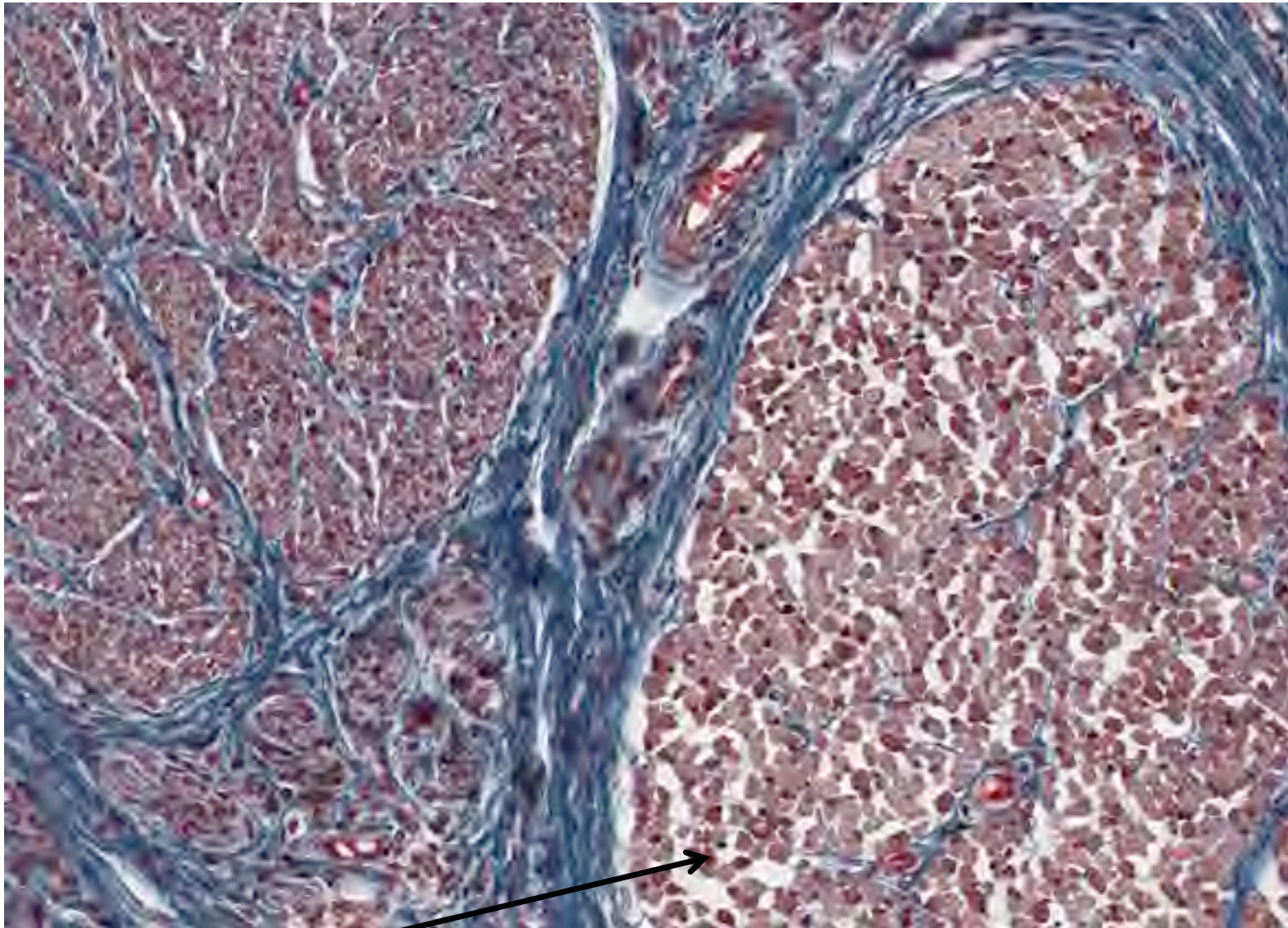
Slide 177-2 of the University of Michigan Digital Slide Collection (177-2\_HISTO\_20X.svs).

- Transition from columnar epithelium to stratified squamous epithelium (stratified epithelium is non-keratinized proximal, keratinized distal)
- Internal and external anal sphincters: smooth and skeletal m., respectively
- Note also dermal sebaceous glands and adipose tissue in wall of anal canal



# Recto-Anal Junction: anal sphincters

internal: smooth muscle



Slide 177-2 of the University of Michigan Digital Slide Collection (177-2\_HISTO\_20X.svs).

external: skeletal muscle

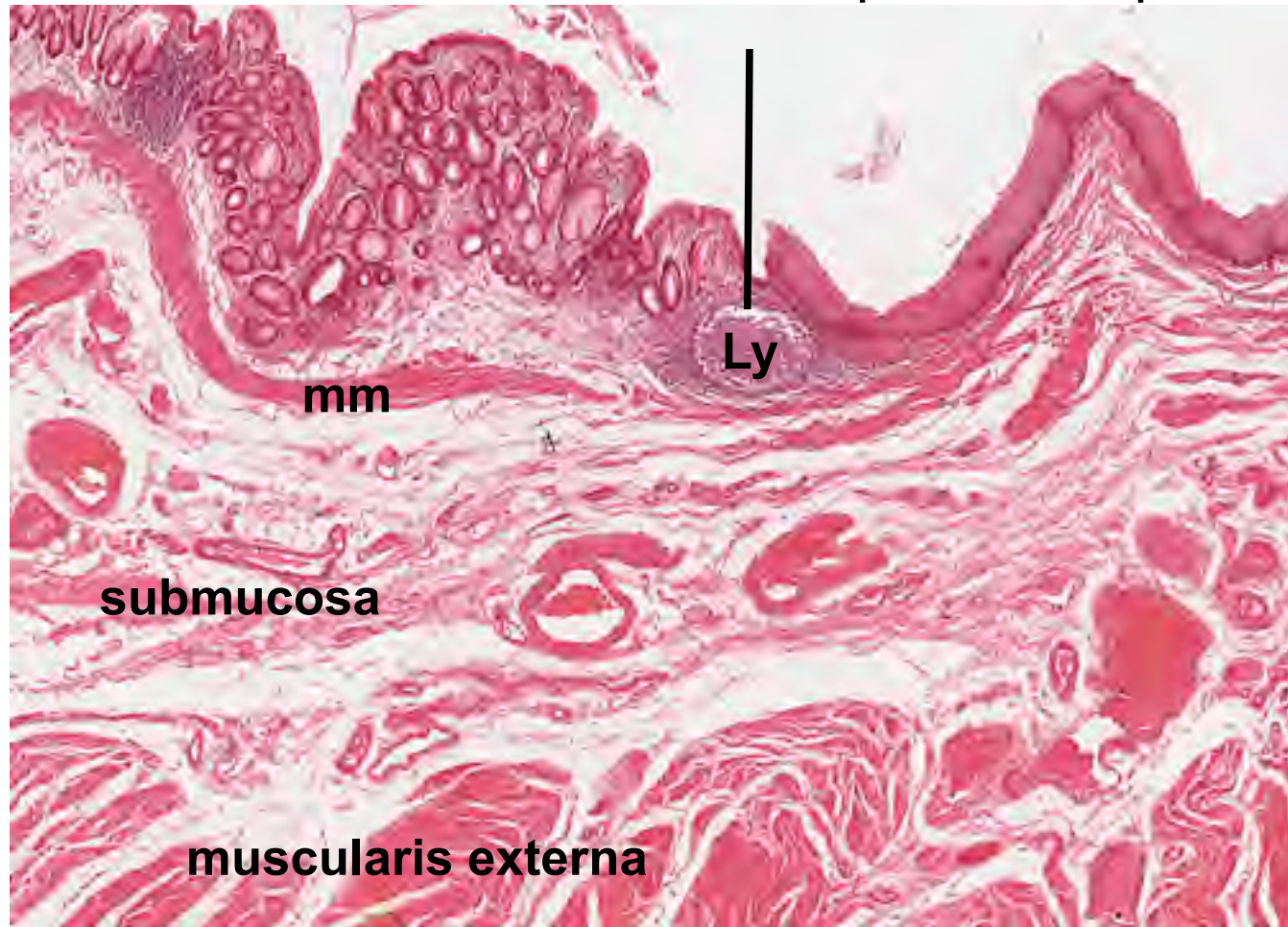


# Recto-Anal junction

Rectal mucosa -  
Columnar epithelium

Anal canal - stratified  
squamous epithelium

*mm=muscularis  
mucosae;  
Ly=lymph nodule*



177-3 of the University of Michigan Digital Slide Collection (177-3\_HISTO\_20X.svs).

dilated submucosal vessels = “internal” rectal hemorrhoids



# Recto-Anal junction



# Learning Objectives

- Be able to identify and describe the function of the layers AND COMPONENT CELLS/TISSUES in the wall of the digestive tract (mucosa, submucosa, muscularis externa and adventitia/serosa), and be aware of how the layers may differ in the small and large intestine.
- Be able to identify and know the general functions of the following regions of the GI tract:
  - Duodenum
  - Jejunum/ileum
  - Colon
  - Appendix
  - Rectum
  - Anal canal

# Additional Source Information

for more information see: <http://open.umich.edu/wiki/CitationPolicy>

- Slide 3: US Federal Government; Replaced: Fig 14.1 from Young & Heath, Wheater's Functional Histology, 4th ed. (2000), p250
- Slide 6: University of Delaware Library Institutional Repository, <http://dspace.udel.edu:8080/dspace/handle/19716/2169>; Replaced: Fig 14.16 from Young & Heath, Wheater's Functional Histology, 4th ed. (2000), p262
- Slide 7: Ross and Pawlina, Histology: A Text and Atlas, 5th ed. (2006), p535 Fig 17.17
- Slide 8: Source Undetermined
- Slide 9: Original: is Fig 16-32 from Kelly et al. Bailey's Textbook of Histology, 18th ed. (1984), p543.
- Slide 10: Slide 246 of the Univ. of San Francisco School of Medicine Histology Collection
- Slide 11: Source Undetermined
- Slide 12: Source Undetermined
- Slide 13: Sources Undetermined (All Images)
- Slide 14: Source: Fig 26-6 from Fawcett and Raviola, Bloom and Fawcett, a Textbook of Histology, 12th ed. (1994), p622
- Slide 15: University of Delaware Library Institutional Repository, <http://dspace.udel.edu:8080/dspace/handle/19716/2169>; Replaced: Fig 14.16 from Young & Heath, Wheater's Functional Histology, 4th ed. (2000), p262
- Slide 18: Regents of the University of Michigan Replaced: Image is Fig 17.29 from Ross and Paulina, Histology: A Text and Atlas, 5th ed. (2006), p546.
- Slide 19: Young & Heath, Wheater's Functional Histology, 4th ed. (2000), p261 Fig 14.15a
- Slide 20: Matt Velkey Slide 169 of the University of Michigan Histology Collection
- Slide 21: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p261. Fig 14.15a
- Slide 22: Matt Velkey Slide 153 of the University of Michigan slide collection
- Slide 23: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p264 Fig 14.18b
- Slide 25: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.20a
- Slide 26: Slide 247 of the University of San Francisco digital slide collection (UCSF247\_40x.svs)
- Slide 27: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p264 Fig 14.18a; Cormack, *Ham's Histology 9th ed.* (1987) p505 Fig 18-29
- Slide 28: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.19a; Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.20b
- Slide 29: Cormack, *Ham's Histology 9th ed.* (1987) p505 Fig 18-29
- Slide 26: Slide 247 of the University of San Francisco digital slide collection (UCSF247\_40x.svs)
- Slide 27: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p264 Fig 14.18a; Cormack, *Ham's Histology 9th ed.* (1987) p505 Fig 18-29



Slide 28: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.19a; Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p265 Fig 14.20b

Slide 29: Cormack, *Ham's Histology* 9th ed. (1987) p505 Fig 18-29

Slide 30: Source Undetermined

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Slide 32: Source Undetermined

Slide 33: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p263 Fig 14.17b

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Slide 36: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p261 Fig 14.15b

Slide 38: Junquiera and Carneiro. *Basic Histology*, 10th ed. (2003), p317 Fig 15-31

Slide 39: Source Undetermined

Slide 40: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p267 Fig 14.26

Slide 41: Ross and Pawlina, *Histology: A Text and Atlas*, 5th ed. (2006), p550. Fig 17.35

Slide 42: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p271.14.29b

Slide 43: Ross and Pawlina, *Histology: A Text and Atlas*, 5th ed. (2006), p548.

Slide 44: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p270. Fig14.28a

Slide 45: Ross and Pawlina, *Histology: A Text and Atlas*, 5th ed. (2006), p548. Fig 17.33 (Both Images)

Slide 46: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p261. Fig 14.28b and Fig 14.28e

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Slide 50: 177-3 of the University of Michigan Digital Slide Collection (177-3\_HISTO\_20X.svs).

Slide 51: Young & Heath, *Wheater's Functional Histology*, 4th ed. (2000), p271. Fig14.31h