# Bio& 241 Unit 1 / Lecture 4



# **Connective Tissue**

Consists of two basic elements:

Cells and Extra-cellular matrix

# **True Connective Tissue Cells**

<u>Fibroblasts</u>: Secrete both fibers and ground substance of the matrix (wandering)
<u>Macrophages</u>: Phagocytes that develop from Monocytes (wandering or fixed)
<u>Plasma Cells</u>: Antibody secreting cells that develop from B Lymphocytes (wandering)
<u>Mast Cells</u>: Produce histamine that help dilate small blood vessels in reaction to injury (wandering)
<u>Adipocytes</u>: Fat cells that store triglycerides, support, protect and insulate (fixed)



# **Matrix Fibers**

- <u>Collagen Fibers</u>: Large fibers made of the protein collagen and are typically the most abundant fibers. Promote tissue flexibility.
- <u>Elastic Fibers</u>: Intermediate fibers made of the protein elastin. Branching fibers that allow for stretch and recoil
- <u>Reticular Fibers</u>: Small delicate, branched fibers that have same chemical composition of collagen. Forms structural framework for organs such as spleen and lymph nodes.



# **Matrix Ground Substance**

<u>Hyaluronic Acid</u>: Complex combination of polysaccharides and proteins found in "true" or proper connective tissue.

<u>Chondroitin sulfate</u>: Jellylike ground substance of cartilage, bone, skin and blood vessels.

**Other ground Substances:** 

Dermatin sulfate, keratin sulfate, and adhesion proteins

### **TYPES OF CONNECTIVE TISSUE**

- 1. True Connective Tissue
  - a. Loose Connective Tissue
  - b. Dense Connective Tissue
- 2. Supportive Connective Tissue
  - a. Cartilage
  - b. Bone
- 5. Liquid Connective Tissue
  - a. Blood

# **True or Proper Connective Tissue**

#### 1. Loose Connective Tissue:

#### a. Areolar tissue

Widely distributed under epithelia

#### b. Adipose tissue

Hypodermis, within abdomen, breasts

#### c. Reticular connective tissue

Lymphoid organs such as lymph nodes

### LOOSE Connective Tissue:

#### 1. Areolar CT

- consists of all 3 types of fibers, several types of cells, and semi-fluid ground substance
- found in subcutaneous layer and mucous membranes, and around blood vessels, nerves and organs
- function = strength, support and elasticity

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#### Histology Lab Part 3: Slide 8

### **LOOSE Connective Tissue:**

#### 2. Adipose tissue

- consists of adipocytes; "signet ring" appearing fat cells. They store energy in the form of triglycerides (lipids).
- found in subcutaneous layer, around organs and in the yellow marrow of long bones
- function = supports, protects and insulates, and serves as an energy reserve

# Histology Lab Part 3: Slide 11





### LOOSE Connective Tissue:

### 3. Reticular CT

- Consists of fine interlacing reticular fibers and reticular cells
- Found in liver, spleen and lymph nodes
- Function = forms the framework (stroma) of organs and binds together smooth muscle tissue cells



20 µm



# **True or Proper Connective Tissue**

2. Dense Connective Tissue:

### a. Dense regular connective tissue

**Tendons and ligaments** 

b. Dense irregular connective tissue

Dermis of skin, submucosa of digestive tract

### **Dense Connective Tissue:**

# • contains more numerous and thicker fibers and far fewer cells than loose CT

#### 1. dense regular Connective Tissue

- consists of bundles of collagen fibers and fibroblasts
- forms tendons, ligaments and aponeuroses
- Function = provide strong attachment between various structures



#### Histology Lab Part 3: Slide 15



### **Dense Connective Tissue:**

#### 2. Dense Irregular CT

- consists of randomly-arranged collagen fibers and a few fibroblasts
- Found in fasciae, dermis of skin, joint capsules, and heart valves
- Function = provide strength



### **Supportive Connective Tissue:**

#### CARTILAGE:

- Jelly-like matrix (chondroitin sulfate) containing collagen and elastic fibers and chondrocytes surrounded by a membrane called the perichondrium.
- Unlike other CT, cartilage has NO blood vessels or nerves except in the perichondrium.
- The strength of cartilage is due to collagen fibers and the resilience is due to the presence of chondroitin sulfate.
- Chondrocytes occur within spaces in the matrix called lacunae.

# **Supportive Connective Tissue**

- 1. Hyaline cartilage
- 2. Fibrocartilage
- 3. Elastic cartilage

#### Supportive Connective Tissue:

# 1. Hyaline Cartilage (most abundant type)

- fine collagen fibers embedded in a gel-type matrix. Occasional chondrocytes inside lacunae.
- Found in embryonic skeleton, at the ends of long bones, in the nose and in respiratory structures.
- Function= flexible, provides support, allows movement at joints





### Supportive Connective Tissue:

### 2. Fibrocartilage

- contains bundles of collagen in the matrix that are usually more visible under microscopy.
- Found in the pubic symphysis, intervertebral discs, and menisci of the knee.
- Function = support and fusion, and absorbs shocks.



0.2 mm

20 µm



Histology Lab Part 9: Slide 38



### Supportive Connective Tissue:

### 3. Elastic Cartilage

- threadlike network of elastic fibers within the matrix.
- found in external ear, auditory tubes, epiglottis.
- function = gives support, maintains shape, allows flexibility





100 µm

# **BODY MEMBRANES**

• Epithelial Membranes = epithelial layer of cells plus the underlying connective tissue.

Three Types:

- 1. Mucous membranes
- 2. Serous membranes
- 3. Cutaneous membranes

# **BODY MEMBRANES**

- 1. Mucous membrane = mucosa; it lines cavities that open to the exterior, such as the GI tract.
  - The epithelial layer of the mucous membrane acts as a barrier to disease organisms.
  - The connective tissue layer of the mucous membrane is called the lamina propria.
  - Found as the lining of the mouth, vagina, and nasal passage.

### **BODY MEMBRANES**

- 2. Serous membrane = serosa, membrane lines a body cavity that does NOT open to the exterior and it covers the organs that lie within the cavity.
  - **a.** pleura = lungs
  - b. pericardium = heart
  - c. peritoneum = abdomen
  - The serous membrane has two portions:
    - 1. parietal portion = lining outside the cavity.
      - 2. visceral portion = covers the organ.

## **BODY MEMBRANES**

Serous membranes epithelial layer secretes a lubricating SEROUS FLUID, that reduces friction between organs and the walls of the cavities in which they are located.

- The serous fluid is named by location:
- Pleural fluid is found between the parietal and visceral pleura of the lungs.
- Pericardial fluid is found between the parietal and visceral pericardium of the heart.
- Peritoneal fluid is found between the parietal and visceral peritoneum of the abdomen.



# **BODY MEMBRANES**



# **BODY MEMBRANES**

