

## Tissue culture

Tissue culture as a technique was first used almost 100 years ago to elucidate some of the most basic questions in developmental biology.

Ross Harrison at the Rockefeller Institute, in an attempt to observe living, developing nerve fibers, cultured frog embryo tissues in plasma clots for 1 to 4 weeks (Harrison, 1907). He was able to observe the development and outgrowth of nerve fibers in these cultures. In 1912, Alexis Carrel, also at the Rockefeller Institute, attempted to improve the state of the art of animal cell culture with experiments on the culture of chick embryo tissue.

The next important advance in the conceptualization and technology of cell culture was the demonstration by Katherine Sanford and co-workers (1948) that single cells could be grown in culture. This, along with Harry Eagle's (1955) demonstration that the complex tissue extracts, clots, and so forth previously used to grow cells could be replaced by ". . . an arbitrary mixture of amino acids, vitamins, co-factors, carbohydrates, and salts, supplemented with a small amount of serum protein . . ." opened up a new area of cell culture.

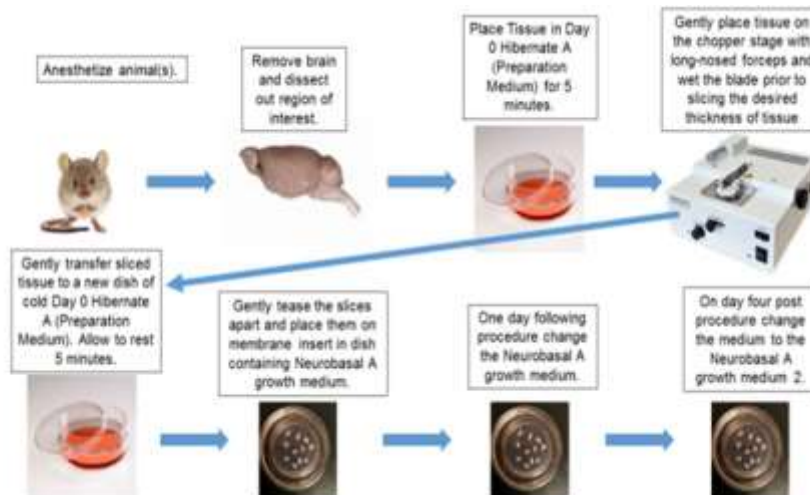
**Defination** - it is the activity to Facilitating the growth of tissue or cells in an artificial medium separate from the organism.

This is typically facilitated via use of liquid,semi-solid or solid growth medium such as broth or agar.

The term tissue culture is coined by American pathologist **Montrose Thomas burrows**.

### The Various types of tissue culture :-

1. **Organ culture** : slice of organ can be maintained in vitro for days weeks so that it mimics the actual morphology of the tissue and it's function . Organ culture is useful for viruses which are highly specialized parasites of certain organs Ex:- Tracheal ring organ culture is used for the isolation of coronavirus, a respiratory pathogen.



2. **Explant culture:** Fragments of minced (very small pieces) can be grown as explants embedded in plasma clots. They may also be cultivated in suspension. Adenoid tissue explants culture were used for the isolation of adenovirus.

There are two basic methods for obtaining primary culture:

1. **Explant cultures:**

- Small pieces of tissue are attached (using plasma clots or fibrinogen) to a glass or treated plastic culture vessel and immersed in culture medium
- After a few days individual cells will move from the tissue explant out onto the culture vessel surface or substrate where they will begin to divide and grow



3. **Cell culture:** It is widely used for growing viruses. Tissues are dissociated into the component cells by the action of enzyme and mechanical shaking. The cells are washed, counted and suspended in a growth medium. The growth medium consists of essential amino acids, glucose, vitamins, salts and a buffer. Antibiotics are added to prevent bacterial contamination. The cell suspension is put into bottles, tubes and petri dishes. The cells adhere to the glass or plastic surface, divide and form a confluent monolayer sheet within a week. Cell culture is further classified on the basis of origin, chromosomal characteristics and the number of generations through which they can be maintained. It is of three types- primary cell culture, diploid cell strain and continuous cell lines.

**The cell culture is further classified on the basis of origin, chromosomal characteristic and number of generation through which they can be maintained.:-**

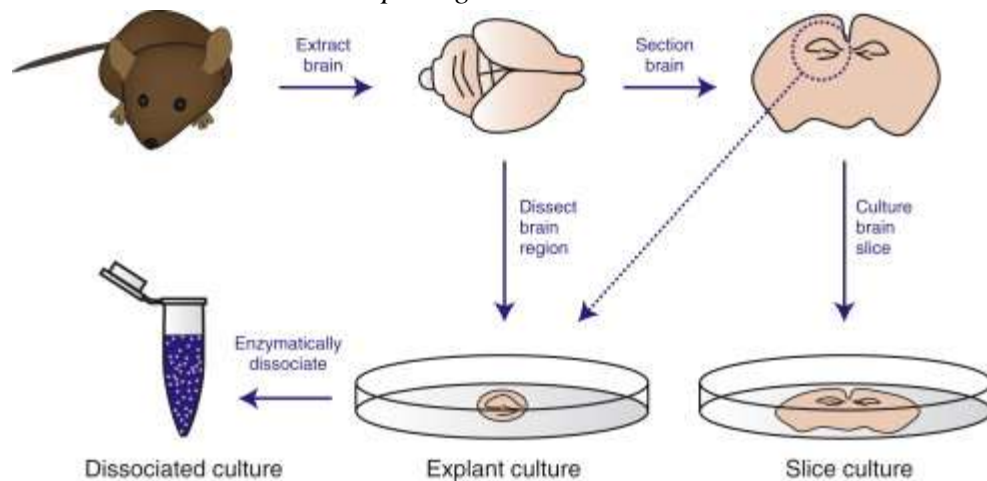
- **Primary cell culture**
- **Diploid cell strain**
- **Continuous cell culture**

**Primary cell culture** are normal cells freshly taken from the body and cultured. They are capable of only limited growth in culture. They cannot be maintained in serial culture. Example :- monkey kidney, human embryo kidney and chick embryo cell culture.

**Primary Cultures** Primary cultures are derived directly from excised, normal animal tissue and cultures either as an explant culture or following dissociation into a single cell suspension by enzyme digestion.

Such cultures are initially heterogeneous but later become dominated by fibroblasts. The preparation of primary cultures is labour intensive and they can be maintained *in vitro* only for a limited period of time.

During their relatively limited lifespan primary cells usually retain many of the differentiated characteristics of the cell *in vivo*. Important Note: Primary cultures by definition have not been passaged, as soon as they are passaged they become a cell line and are no longer primary. 'Primary' cells sourced from most suppliers are in fact low-passage cell lines.



**Diploid cell** strains are cells of a single type that retain the original diploid chromosome number and karyotype during serial subcultivations for a limited number of times. After about fifteen serial passages, they undergo 'senescence'. Diploid strain developed from human fibroblast are a good example.

**Continuous cell lines** are cells of a single type, usually derived from cancer cells. They are capable of continuous serial cultivation indefinitely.

Hela cells are derived from carcinoma of cervix. Cell culture is used for the isolation of viruses and their cultivation for vaccines production.

Continuous cultures are comprised of a single cell type that can be serially propagated in culture either for a limited number of cell divisions (approximately thirty) or otherwise indefinitely.

Cell lines of a finite life are usually diploid and maintain some degree of differentiation. The fact that such cell lines senesce after approximately thirty cycles of division means it is essential to establish a system of Master and Working banks in order to maintain such lines for long periods. Continuous cell lines that can be propagated indefinitely generally have this ability because they have been transformed into tumour cells.

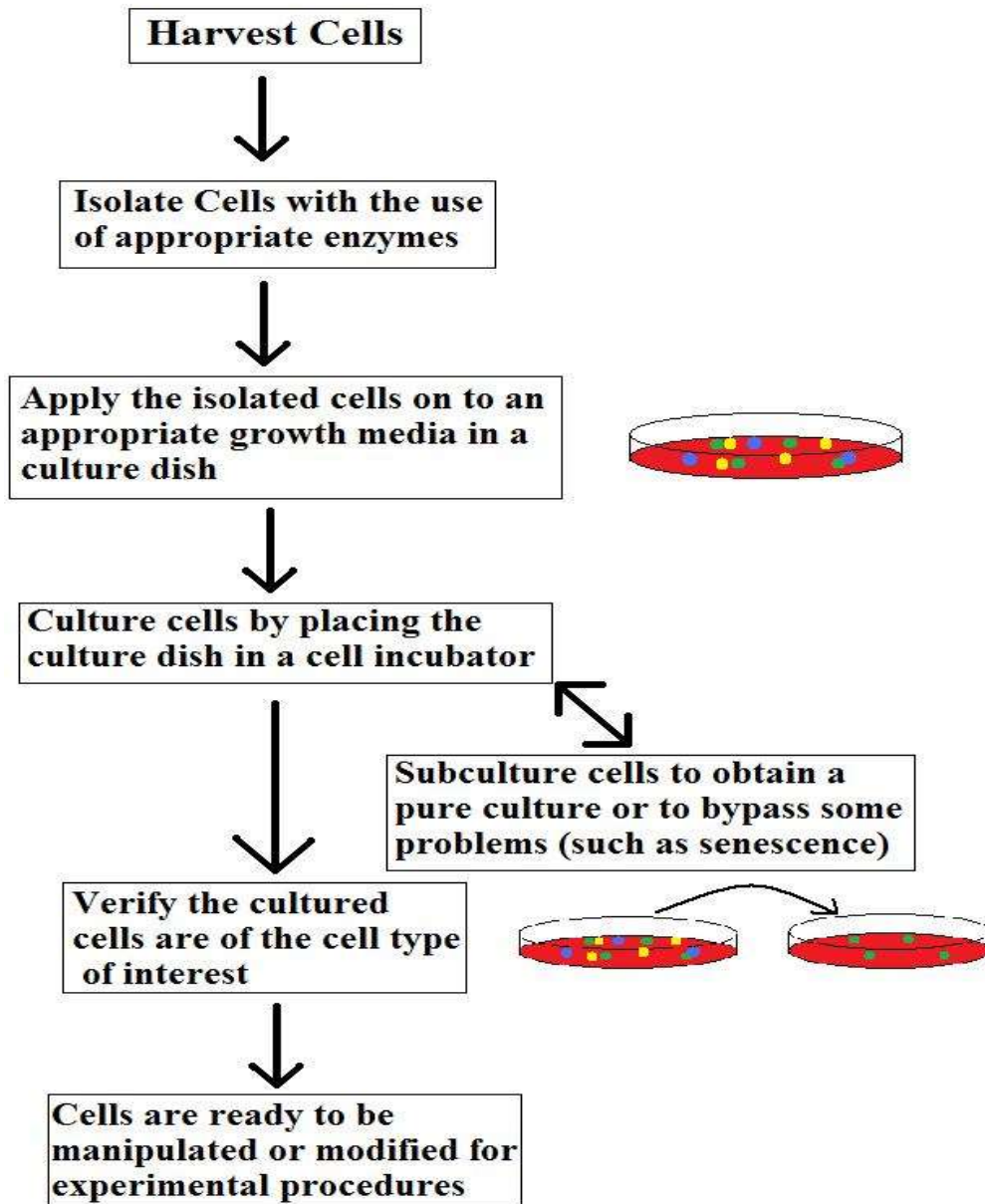
*Tumour cell lines are often derived from actual clinical tumours, but transformation may also be induced using viral oncogenes or by chemical treatments.*

*Transformed cell lines present the advantage of almost limitless availability, but the disadvantage of having retained very little of the original in vivo characteristics.*

### **Application-**

1. Microbial detection in mammalian cell culture system.
2. Facilitated progress in therapeutics and regenerative medicines.
3. Cell lines are used as model for drug studies.
4. Drug screening in cancer cell lines.
5. Cell culture model for drug Permeability studies.

# The Process To Culture Cells



The cell lines most commonly ordered from ECACC are listed

**Table 1.** Commonly used cell lines of each culture type

<b>Attached Cell Lines</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Species and tissue of origin</b>	<b>Morphology</b>
MRC-5	Human lung	Fibroblast
HeLa	Human cervix	Epithelial
Vero	African Green Monkey Kidney	Epithelial
NIH 3T3	Mouse embryo	Fibroblast
L929	Mouse connective tissue	Fibroblast
CHO	Chinese Hamster Ovary	Fibroblast
BHK-21	Syrian Hamster Kidney	Fibroblast
HEK 293	Human Kidney	Epithelial
Hep G2	Human Liver	Epithelial
BAE-1	Bovine aorta	Endothelial
SH-SY5Y	Human neuroblastoma	Neuroblast
<b>Suspension Cell Lines</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Species and tissue of origin</b>	<b>Morphology</b>
NS0	Mouse myeloma	Lymphoblastoid
U937	Human Histiocytic Lymphoma	Lymphoblastoid
Namalwa	Human Lymphoma	Lymphoblastoid
HL60	Human Leukaemia	Lymphoblastoid
WEHI 231	Mouse B-cell Lymphoma	Lymphoblastoid
YAC 1	Mouse Lymphoma	Lymphoblastoid
U 266B1	Human Myeloma	Lymphoblastoid