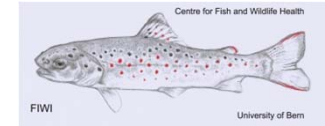


**u<sup>b</sup>**

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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**



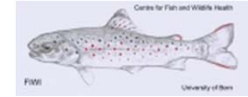
# Factors influencing the fish health: The example of temperature and Proliferative Kidney Disease

Heike Schmidt-Posthaus, Thomas Wahli, Nicole Strepparava

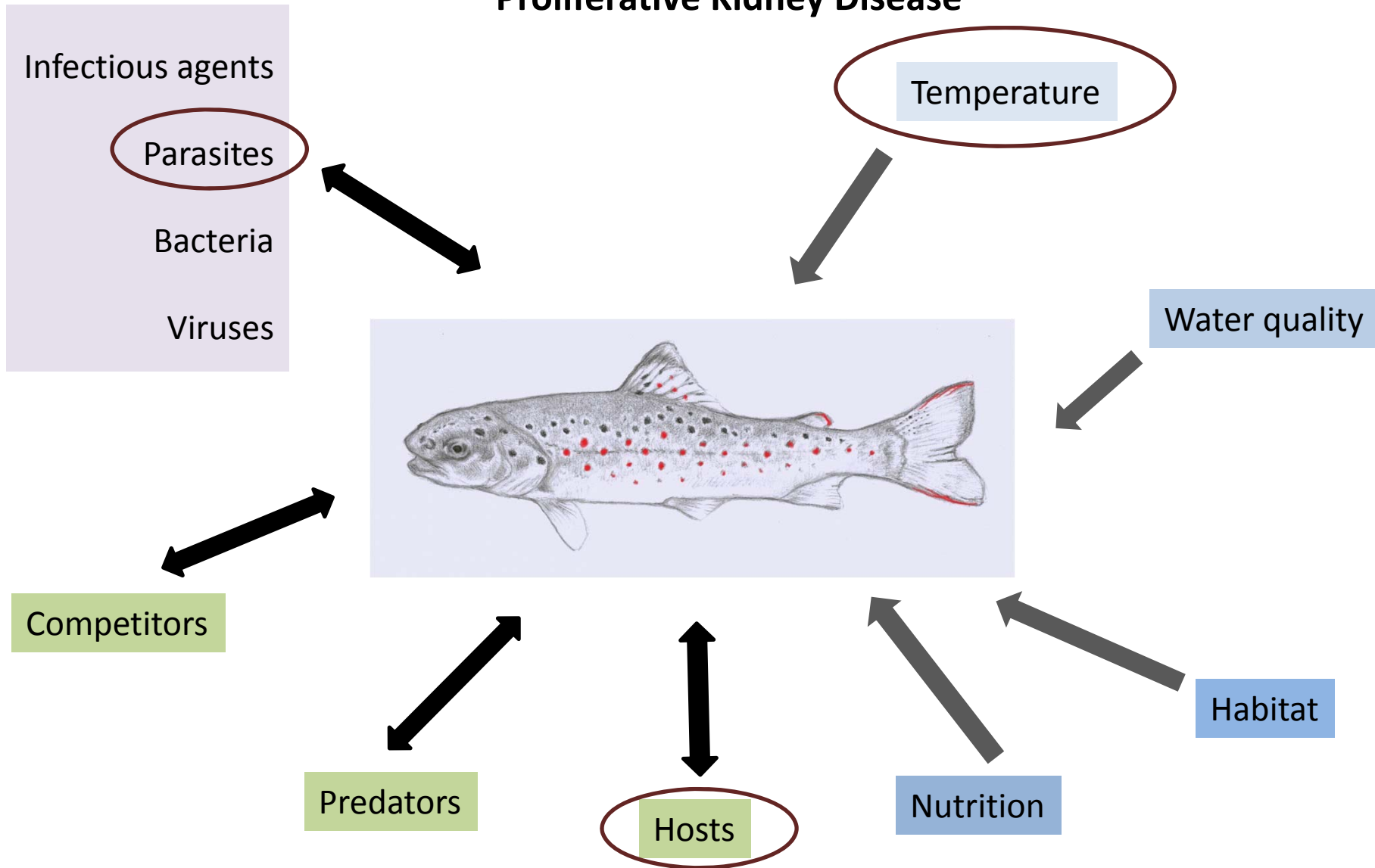
Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health



# Fish health and influencing factors

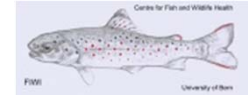


## Proliferative Kidney Disease





# Proliferative Kidney Disease (PKD)



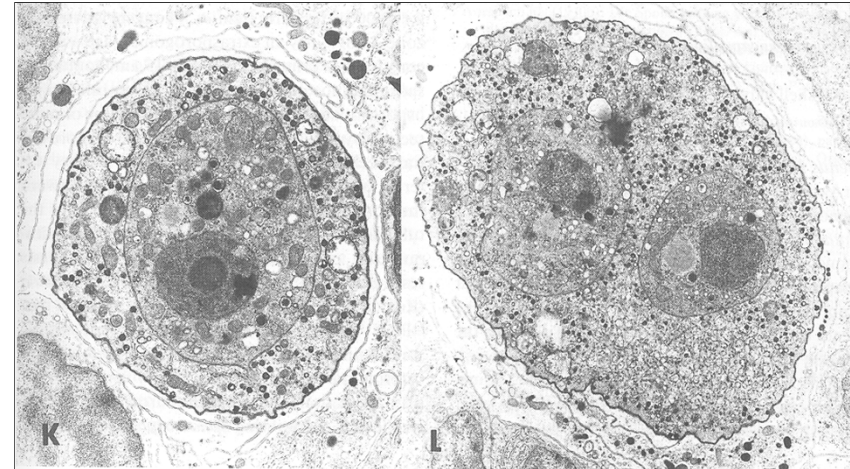
Etiology: *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*, Malacospora (myxozoa)

Multicellular obligate endoparasite (metazoa)

Now classified as Cnideria

Life-cycle includes vertebrate and invertebrate hosts

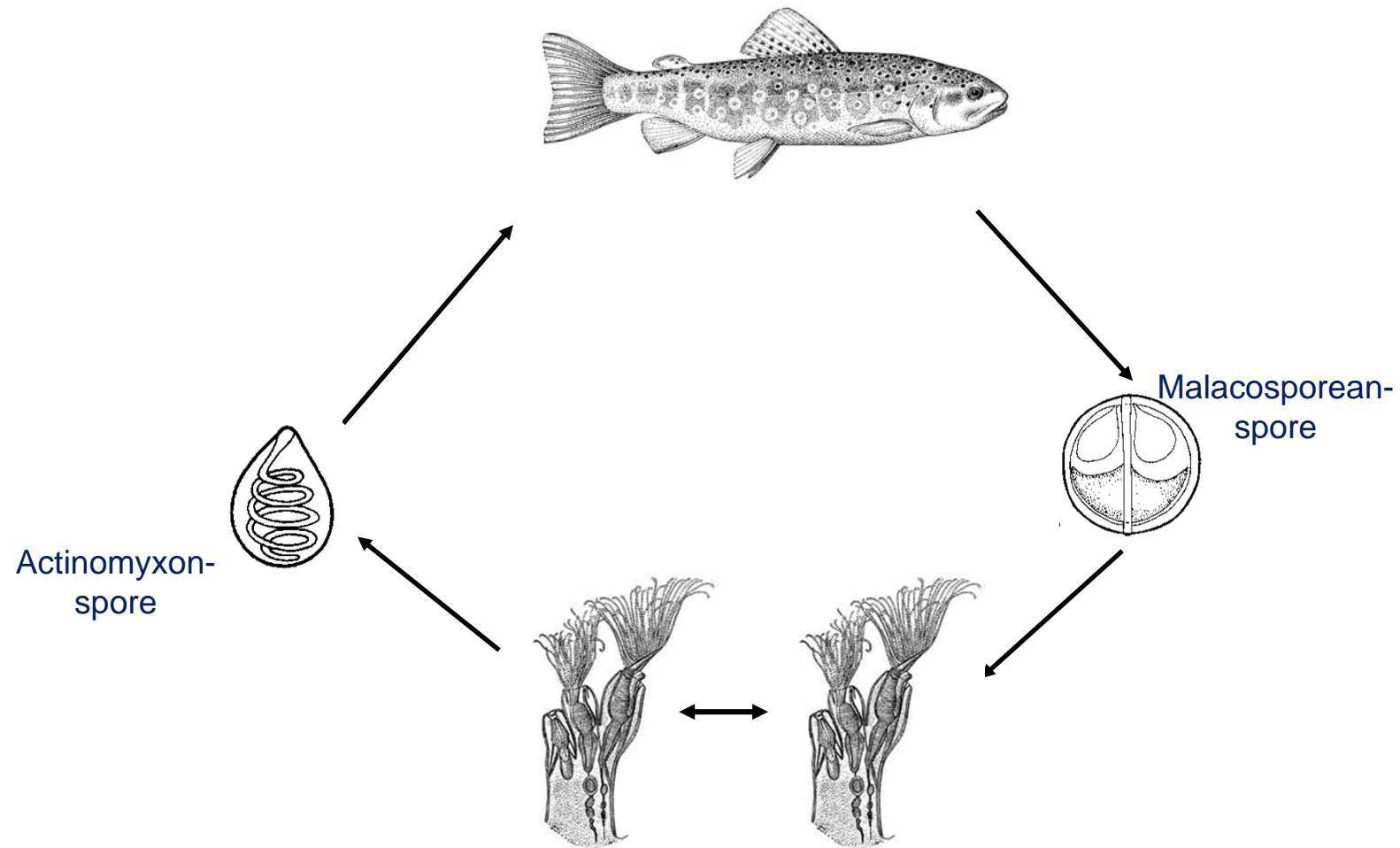
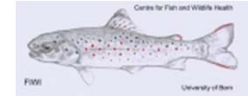
Mortality in fish host up to 100%



From: Lom & Dykova,  
Protozoen parasites of fishes



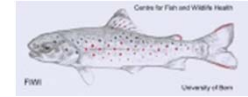
# Parasite cycle



Okamura et al. (2011)



# Vertebrate and invertebrate hosts



Salmonids (brown trout, rainbow trout, Atlantic salmon, charr, grayling)

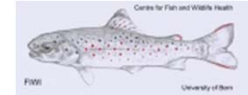


Bryozoa, different species



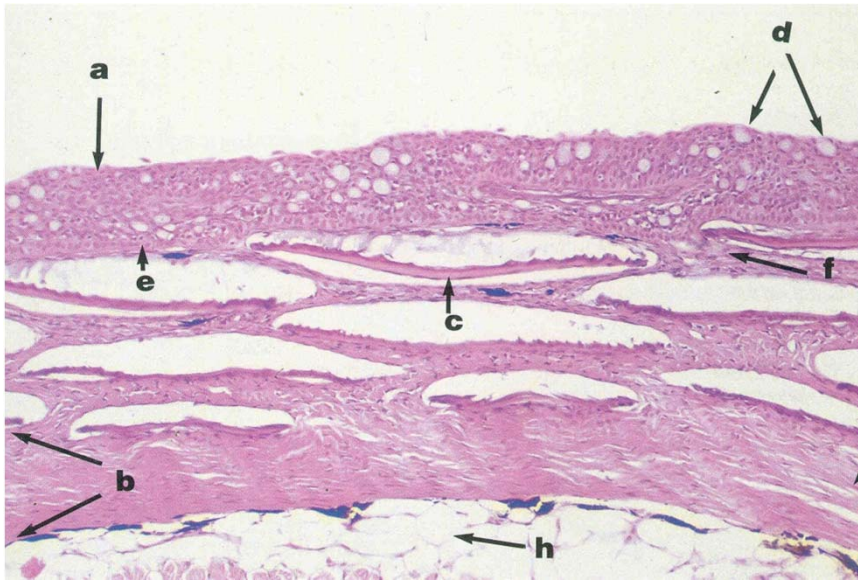


# Infection pathway



Possible entry ports:

→ Gills are a major pathogen entry site

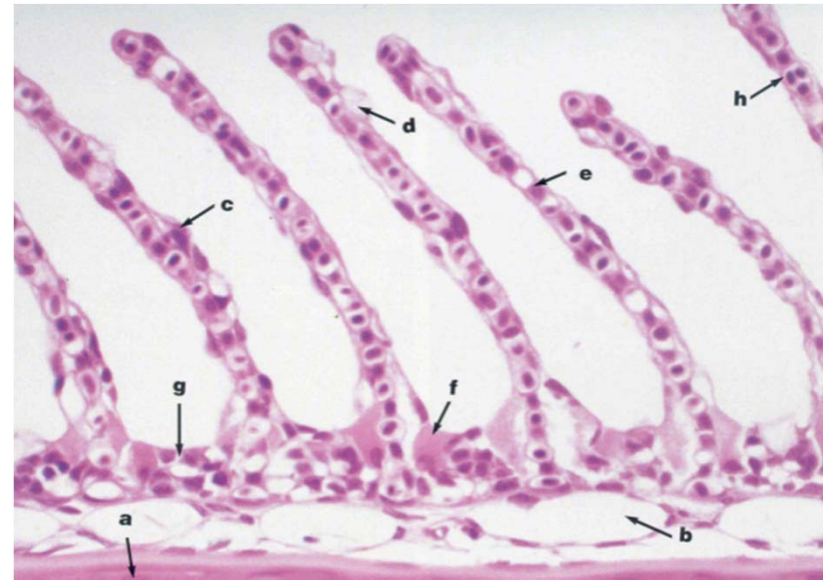


## Skin:

Multiple cell layers

Barrier composed of mucus, mucopolysaccharides, immunoglobulins, etc

Goblet cells, eosinophilic granular cells, lymphocytes, macrophages



## Gills:

Single epithelial cell-layer

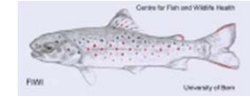
Mucus/immune barrier less prominent

High ventilation rate

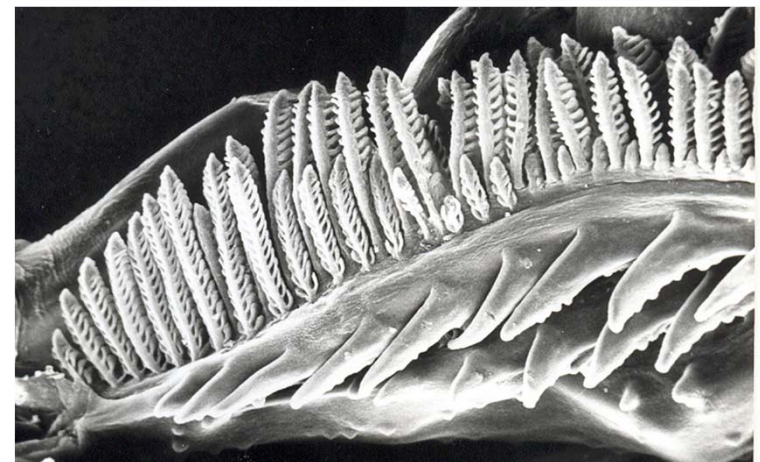
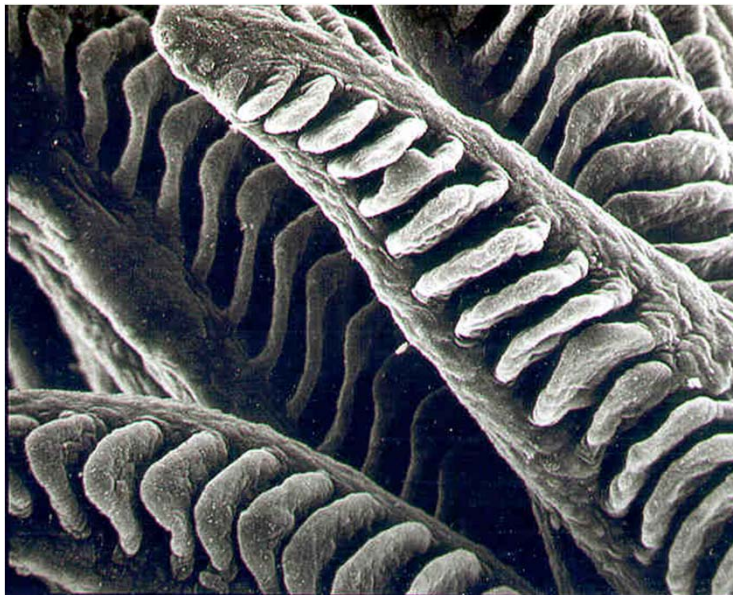
Large surface (up to 60x body surface)



# Anatomy of organs - Gills

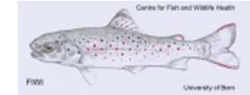


4 holobranches at each side of pharynx  
Each holobranch consists of 2 hemibranches  
Rows of filaments with two semilunar folds of lamellae





# Respiration in fish compared to mammals



## Water compared to air

lower  $O_2$  partial pressure

(30x less compared to air)

Dependent on water temperature

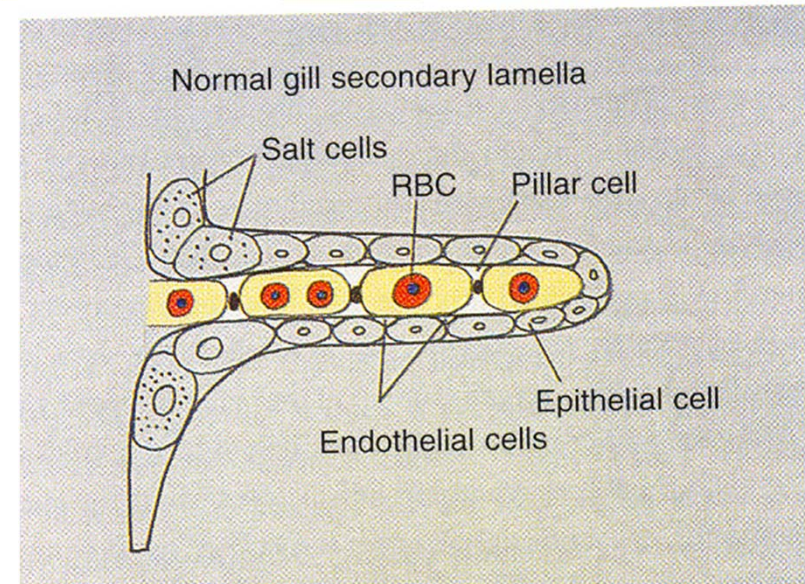
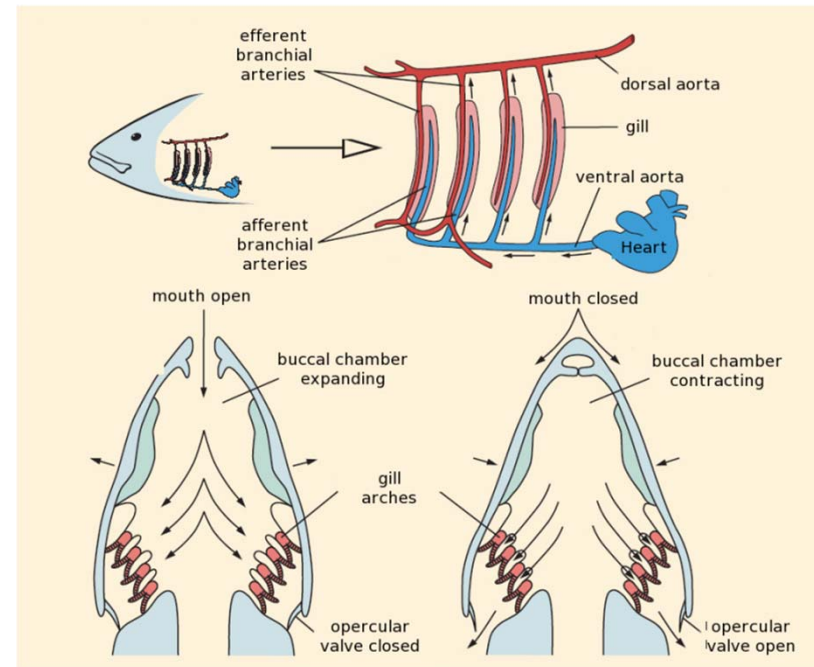
Respiratory system is very efficient

## Respiration in fish is based on diffusion

## Function

Uptake of  $O_2$  only in dissolved form

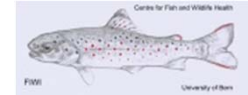
Gas exchange, removal of nitrogenous waste, electrolyte exchange ( $Cl^-/Ca^{2+}$  via chloride cells,  $Na^+$  via pavement cell)



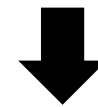
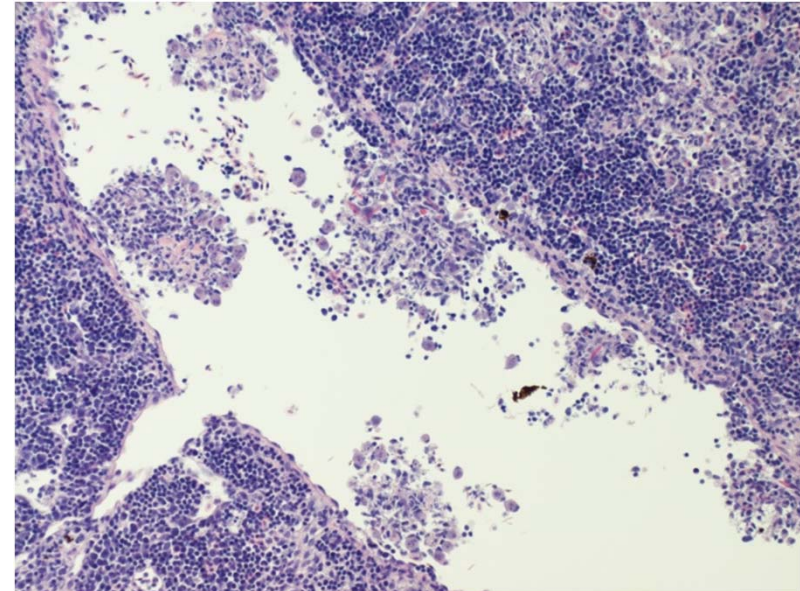
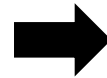
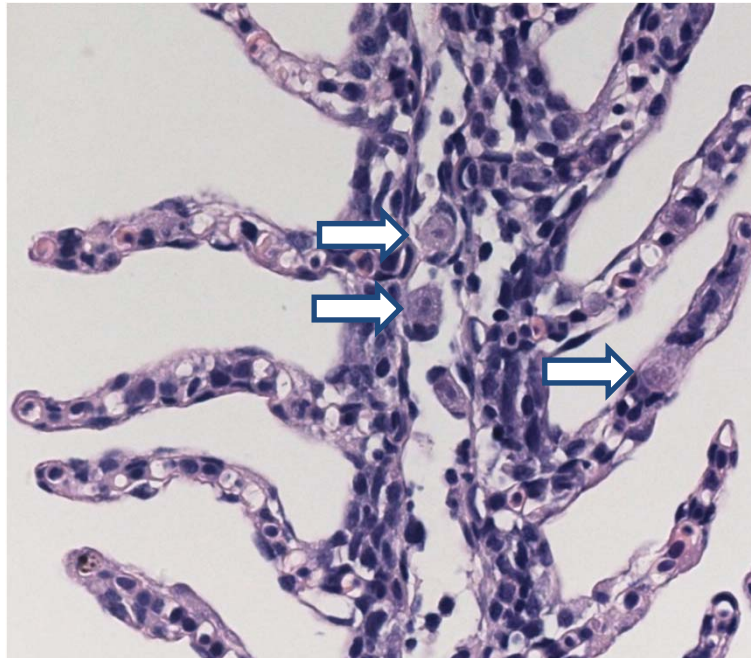




# Infection pathway



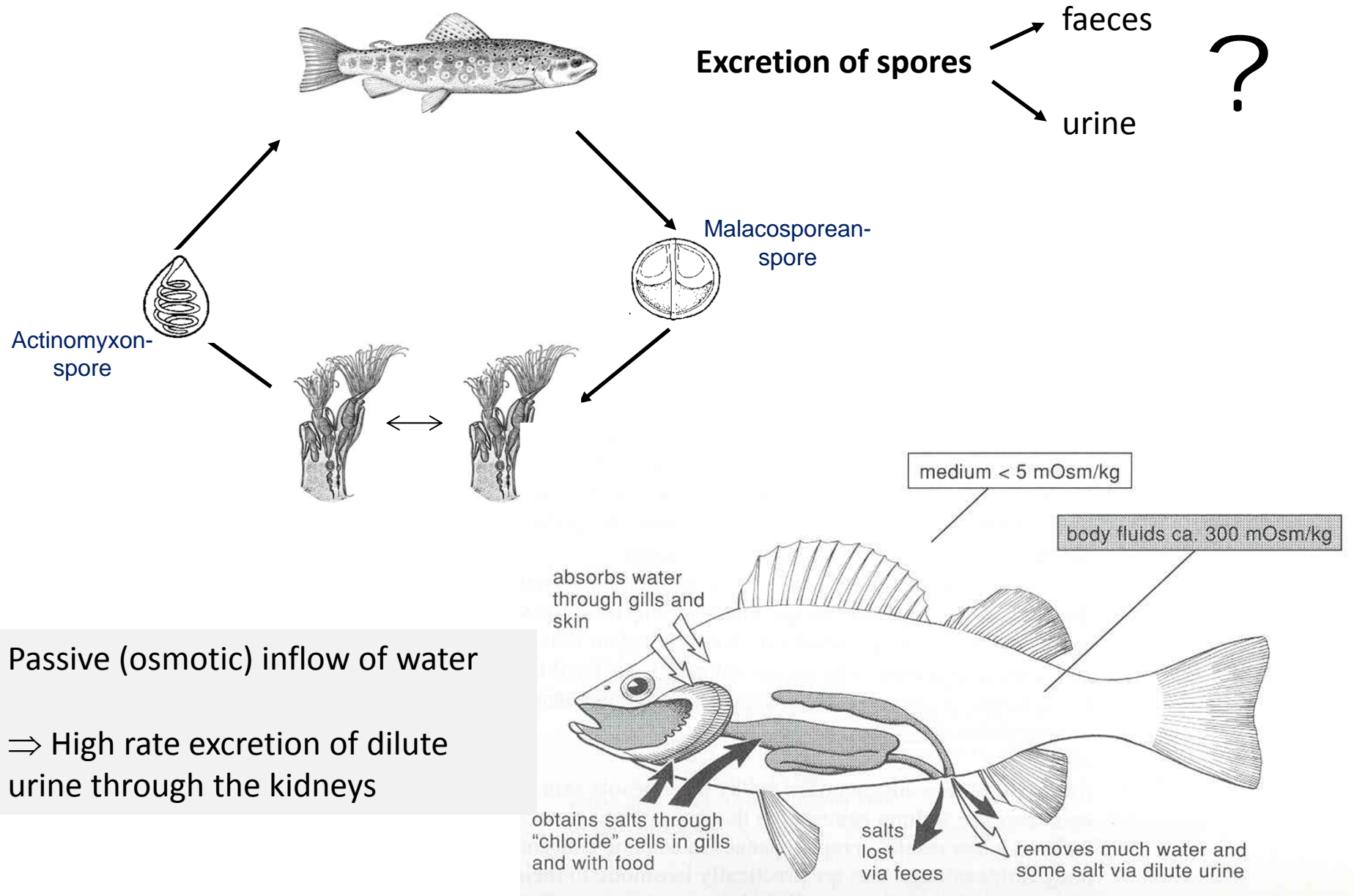
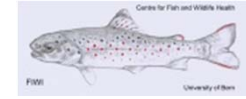
Entering through the gills → into the blood system → and then ?



?

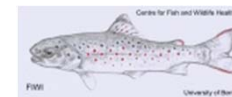


# Which organ may be a good target organ ?



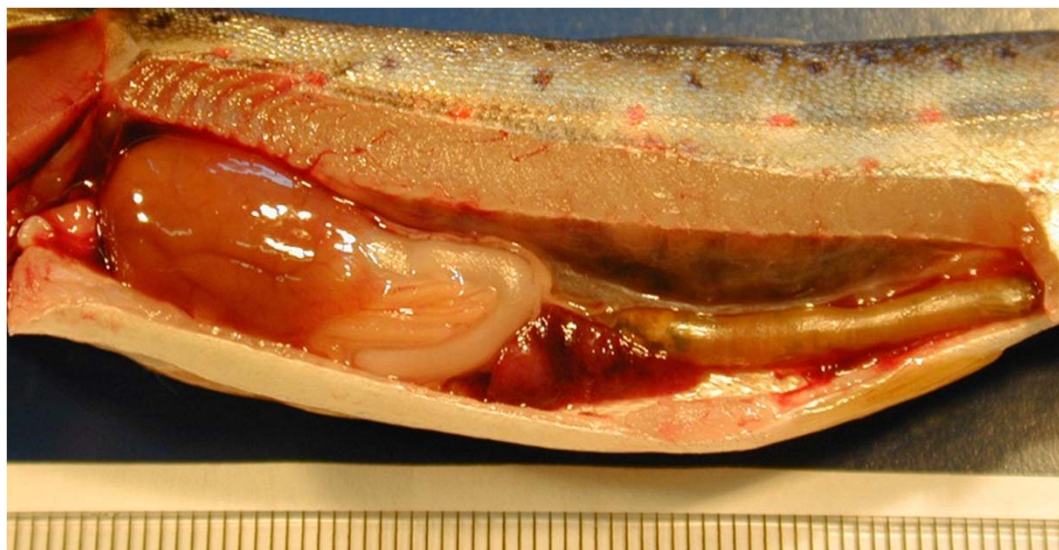


# Infection pathway



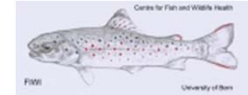
Once the parasite has entered the fish through the gills, it heads for the kidneys, as this is a perfect site for spore release

Main internal target organ = kidney





# Anatomy of the trout kidney



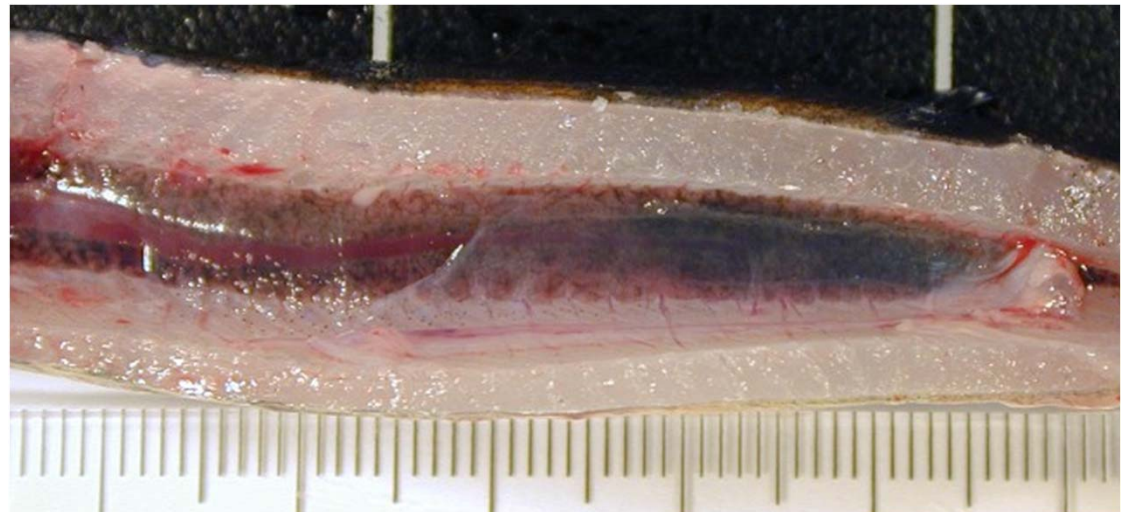
Location: Retroperitoneally ventral of spine

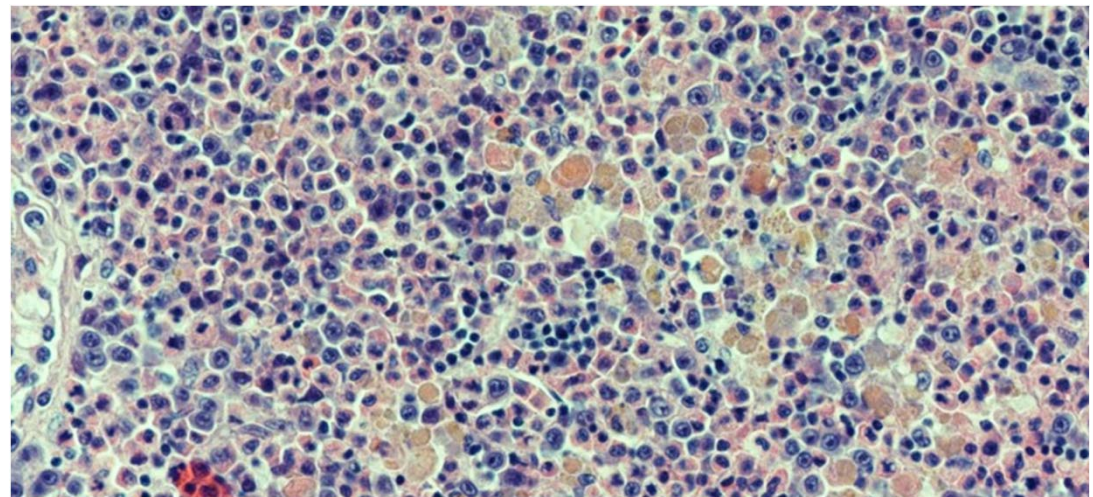
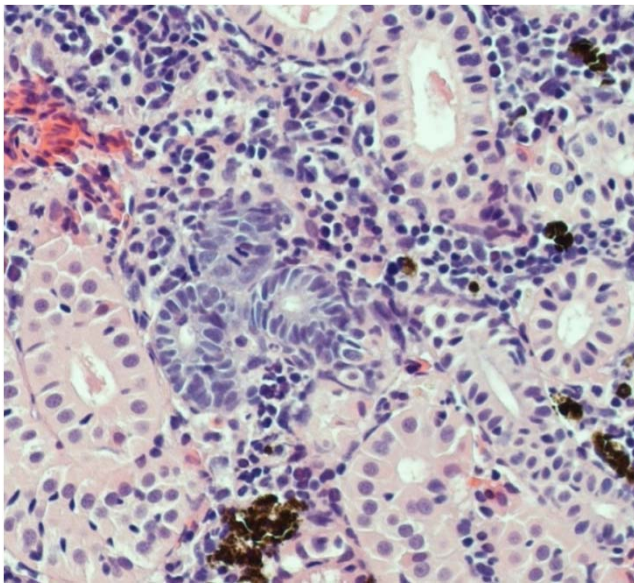
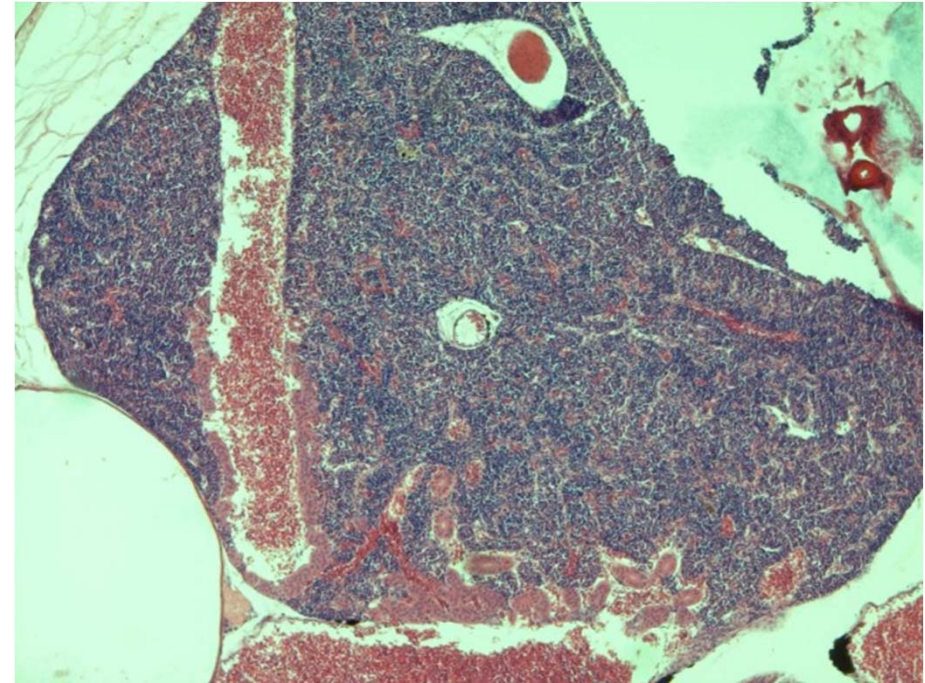
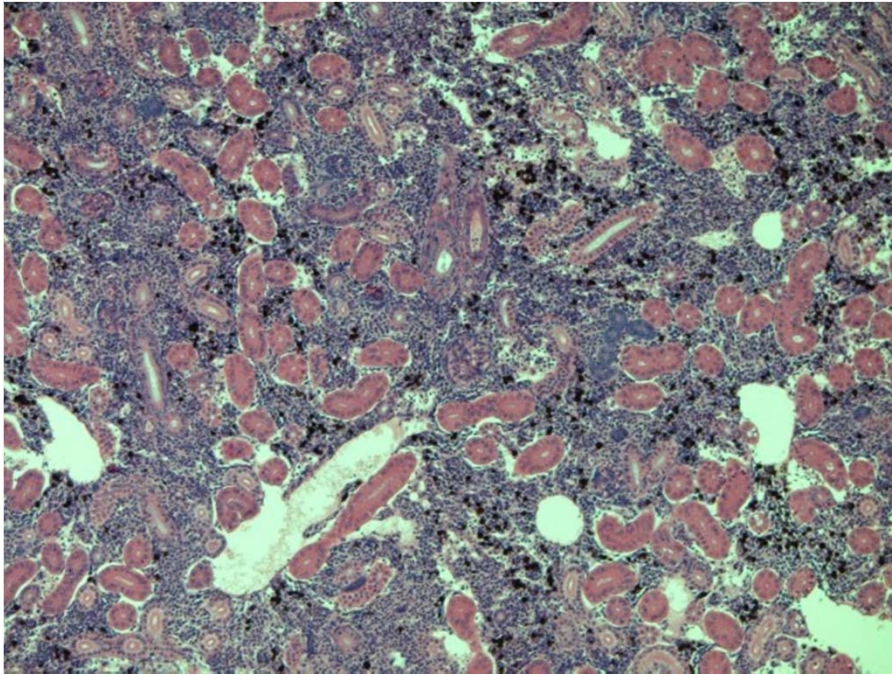
Maybe divided transversely (head and trunk kidney): 2 functions:

Head kidney: haematopoietic tissue (pronephros)

Trunk kidney: haematopoietic tissue and excretory elements  
(metanephros)

Function of excretory part: primarily water regulation (nitrogenous waste mainly excreted through gills)



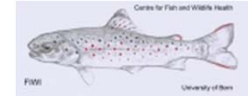


Tubuloneogenesis

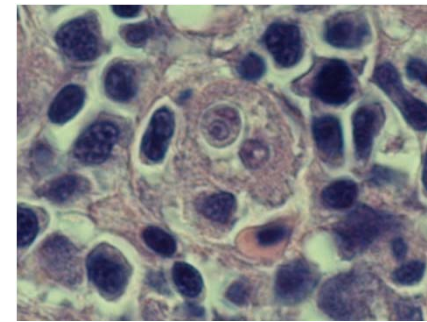
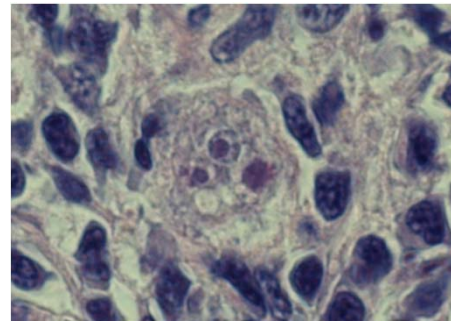
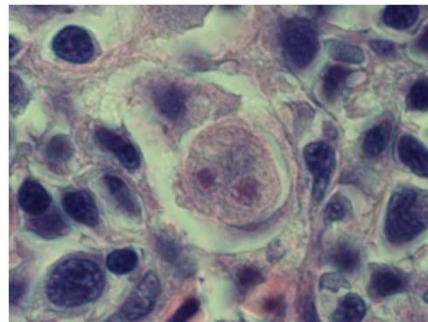
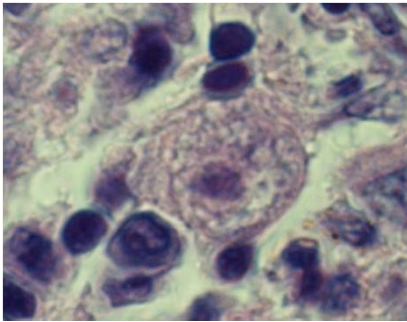
Melanomacrophage centres in different organs containing melanin, haemosiderin, ceroid, lipofuscin



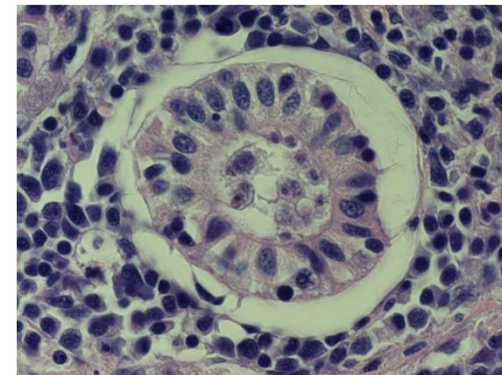
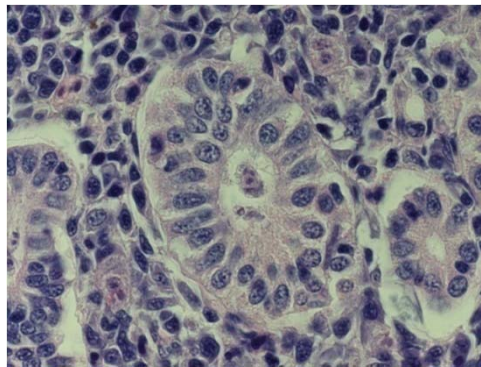
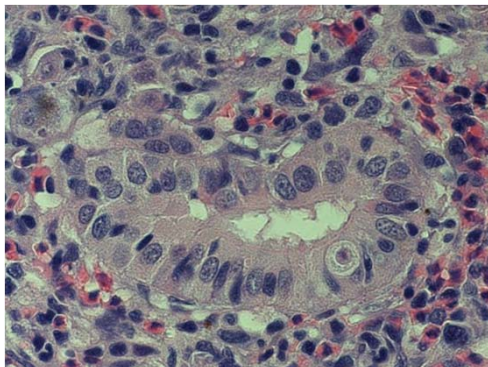
# Parasite development in the kidney



**Exosporogonic form** (15  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter) from unicellular to multicellular stage  
Development in the haematopoietic tissue

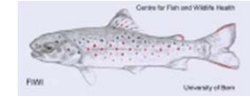


**Sporogonic form**, production of soft-shelled spores and excretion  $\rightarrow$   
hyperregulation!





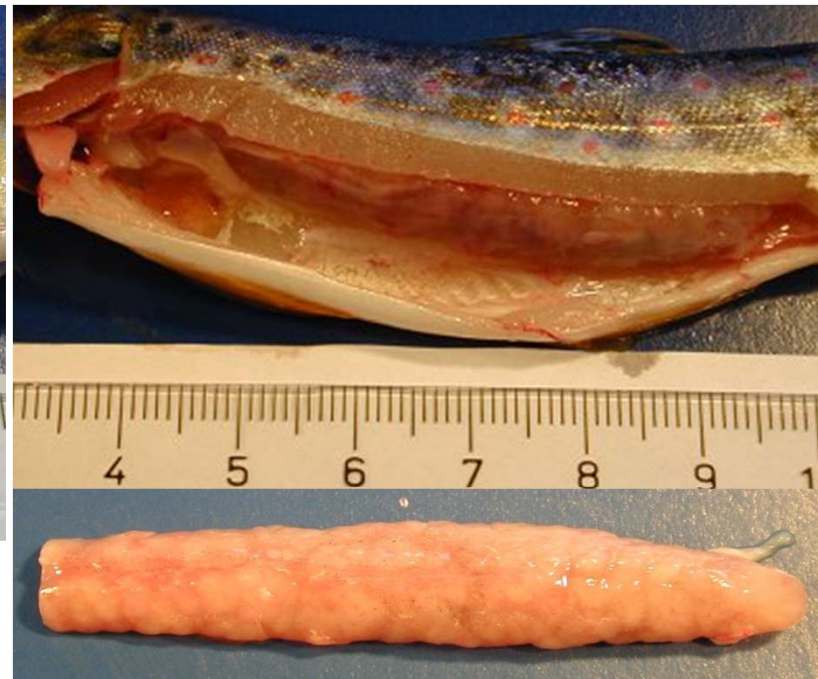
# Clinical findings



Dark coloration, exophthalmia

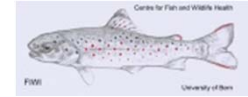
Ascites, pale gills

Proliferative and granulomatous nephritis,  
numerous greyish areas, splenomegaly,  
granulomatous splenitis and hepatitis



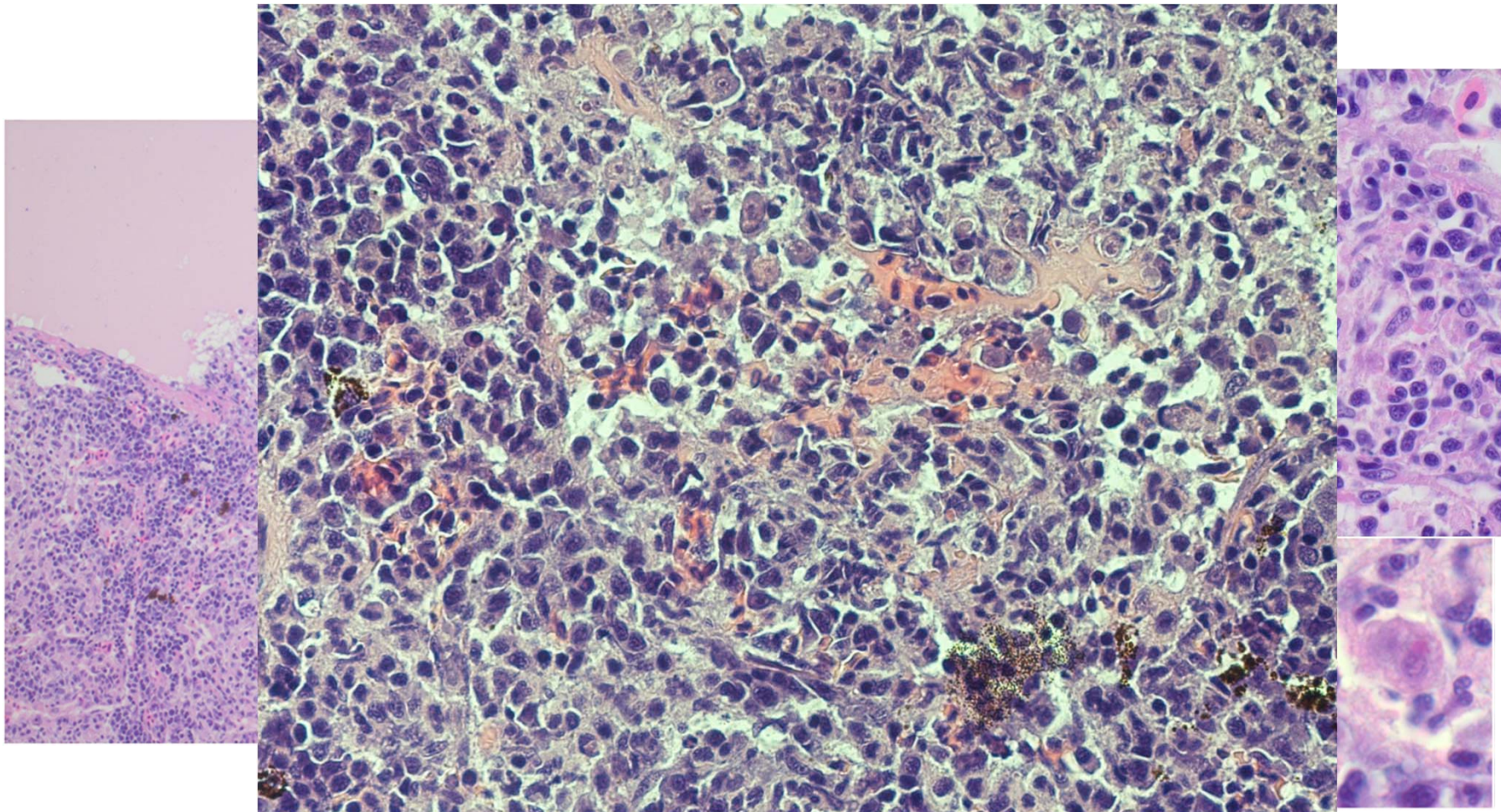


# Histological kidney lesions



Vasculitis, widespread necrosis

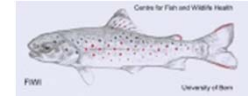
Proliferative and granulomatous interstitial nephritis





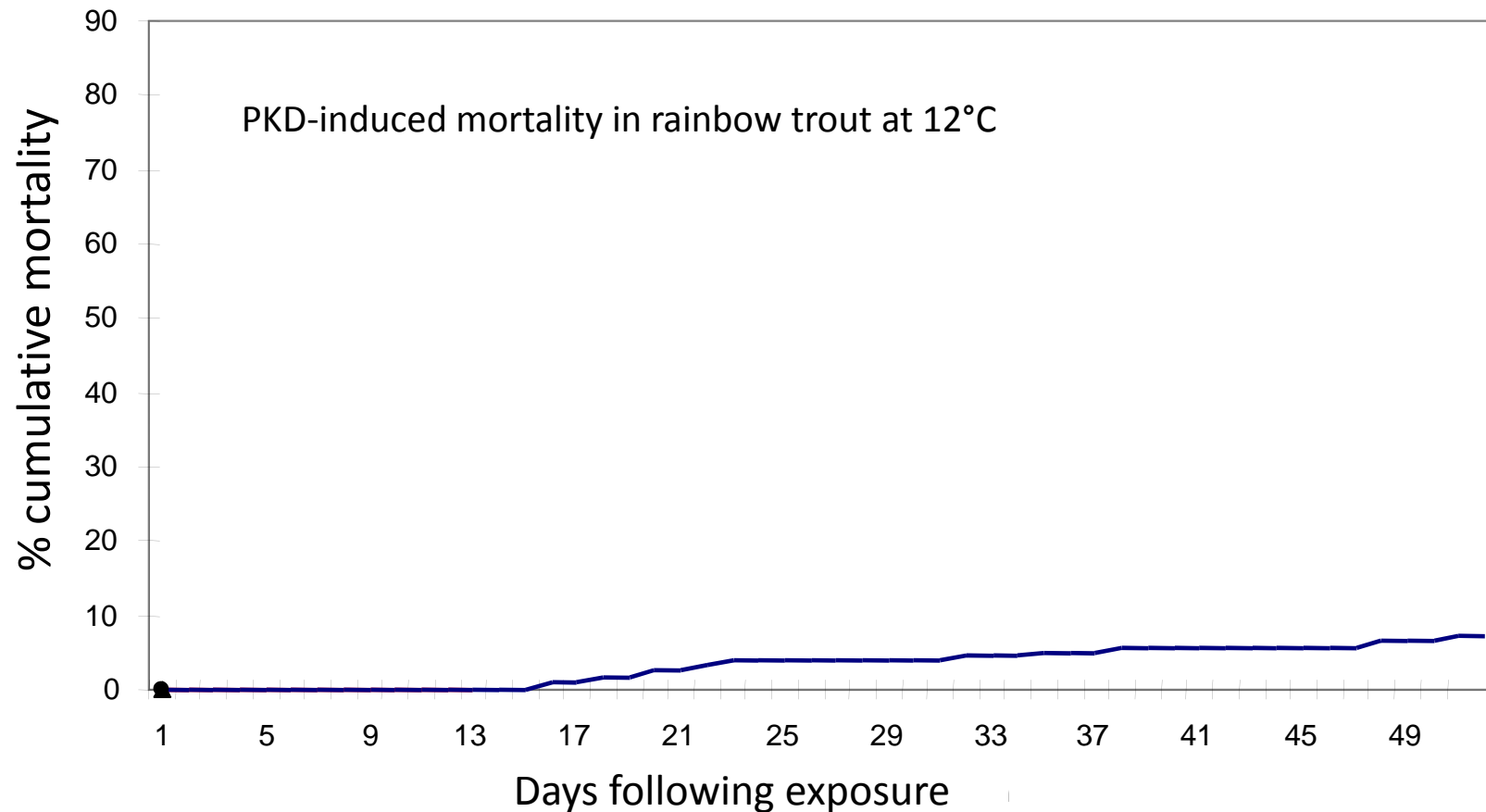


# Is PKD causing massive fish mortalities?



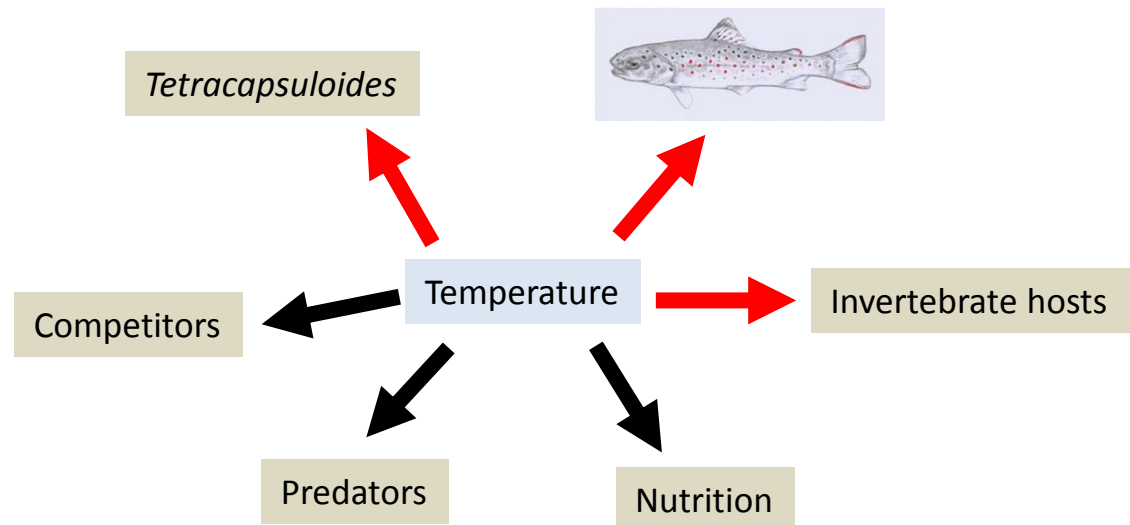
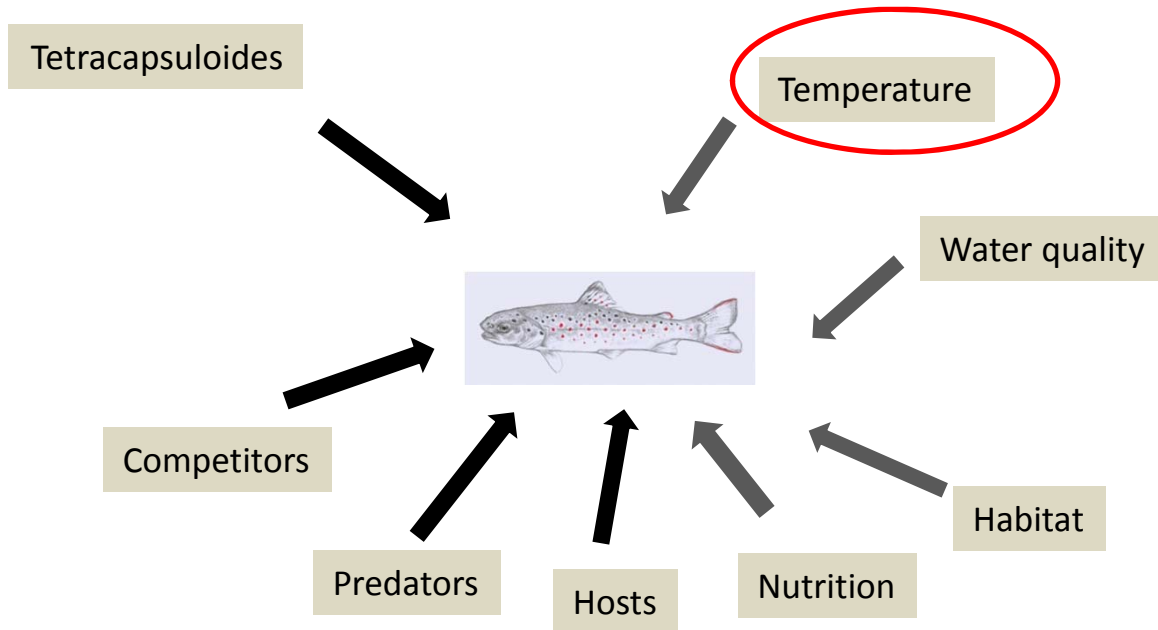
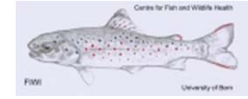
NO  
Why»no»?

Co-Evolution can lead to stable host-parasite systems



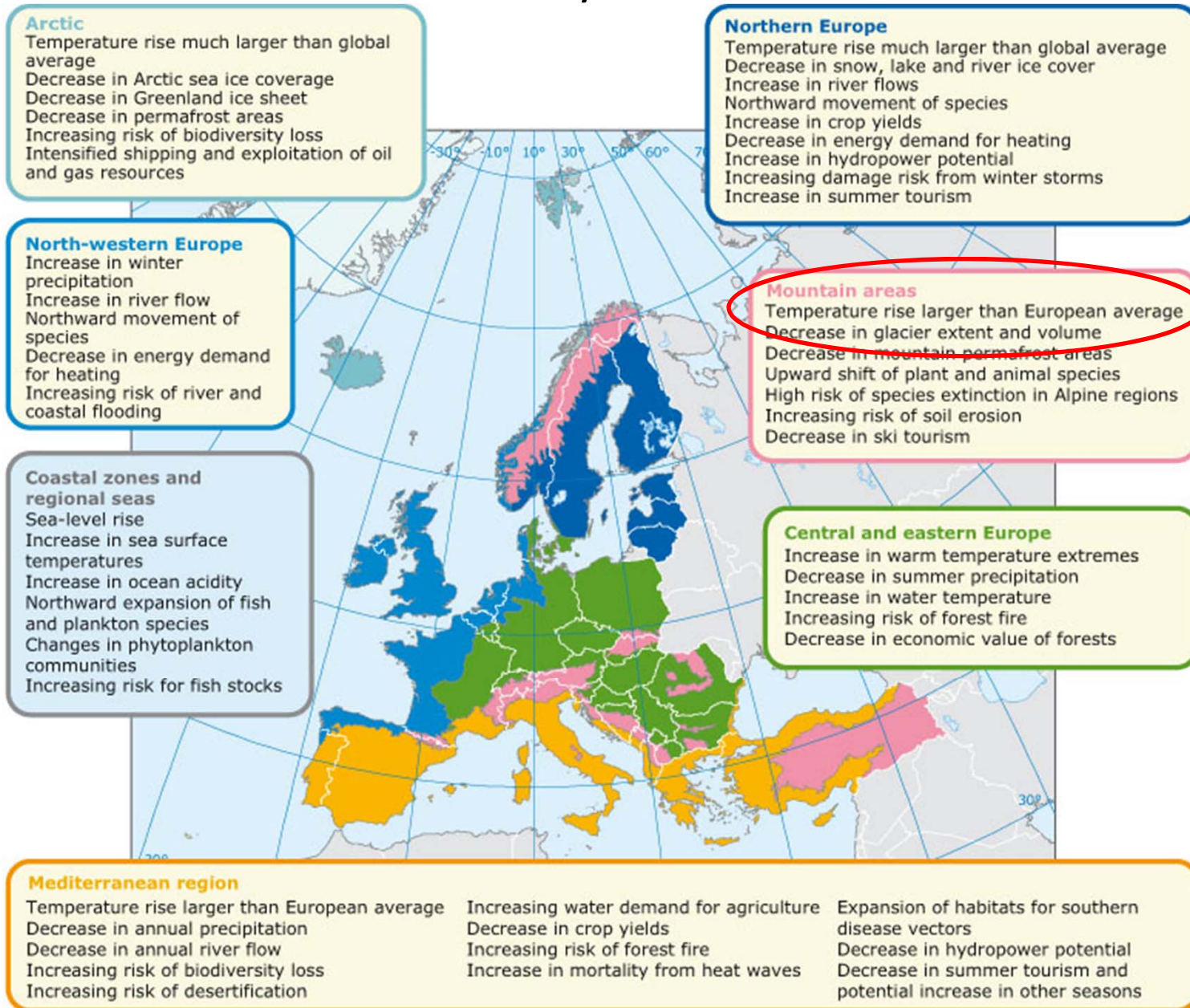
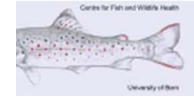


# Which other factors may influence PKD?



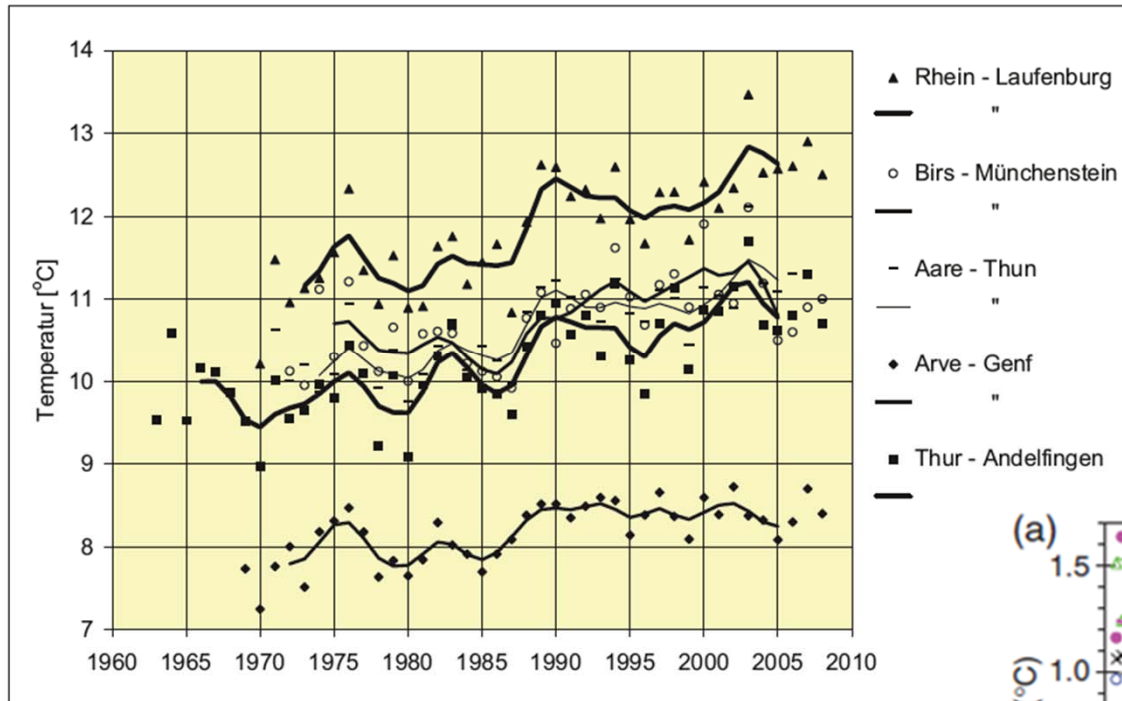
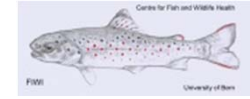


# Climate change as a major threat to freshwater ecosystems

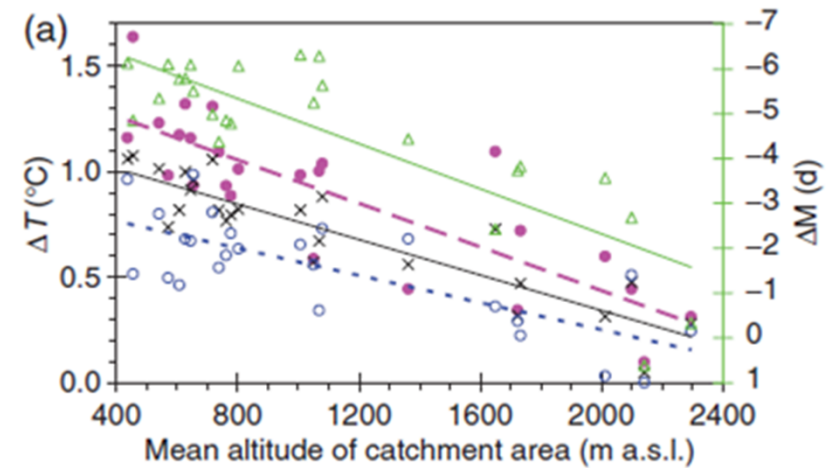




# Are water temperatures of Swiss rivers rising?



**Mean annual temperatures**  
⇒ More extreme changes in  
min-max temperatures

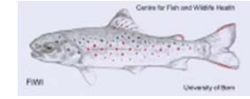


Hari et al. 2006

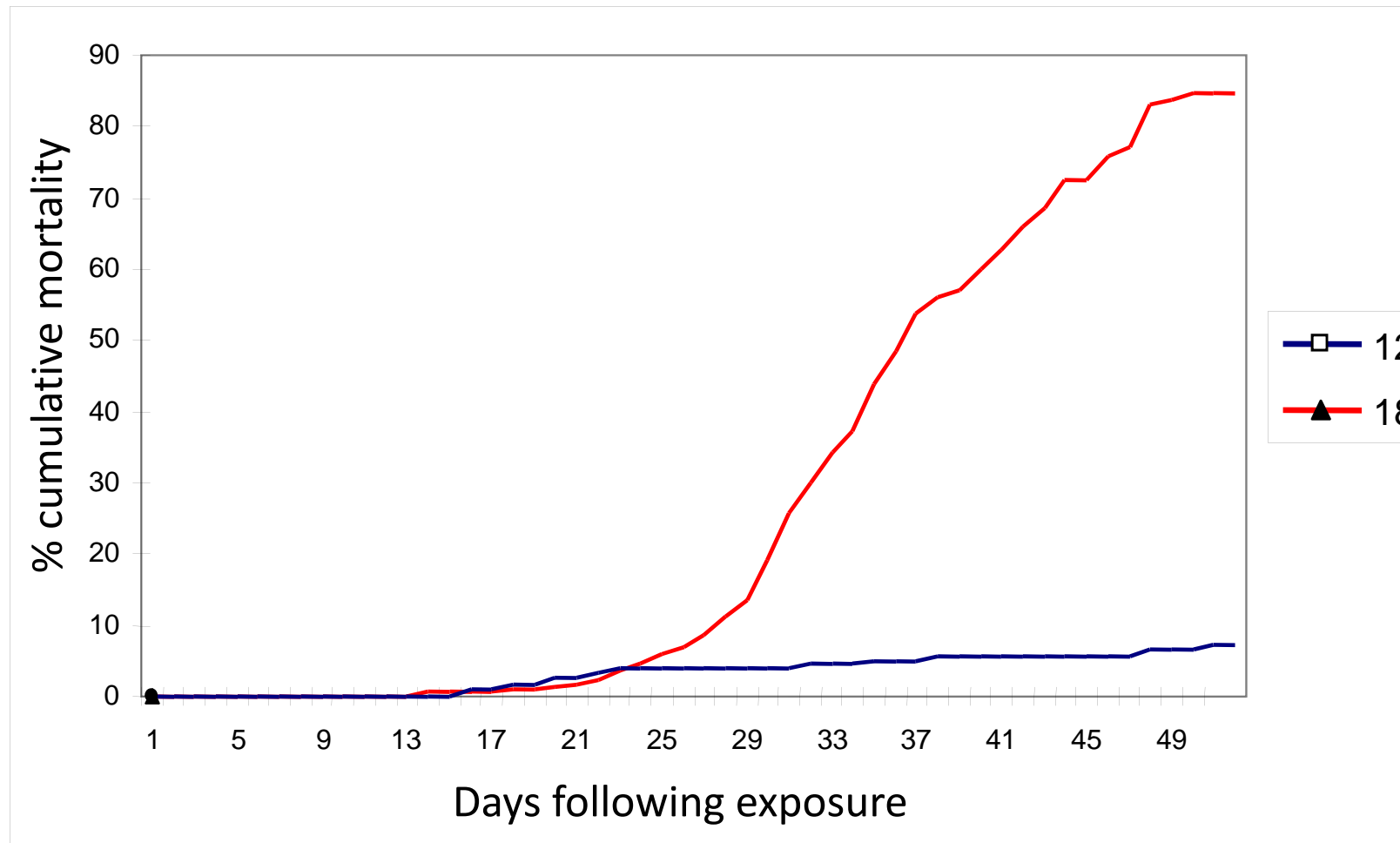
Yes, there is a significant temperature increase over the last decades



# Water temperature effects on PKD



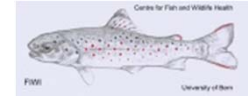
If water temperature increases, what does this mean for PKD-induced fish mortality?





# Causes for differences in mortality

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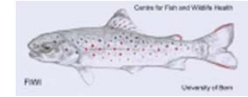
Why higher mortality at higher water temperature?

## Hypotheses

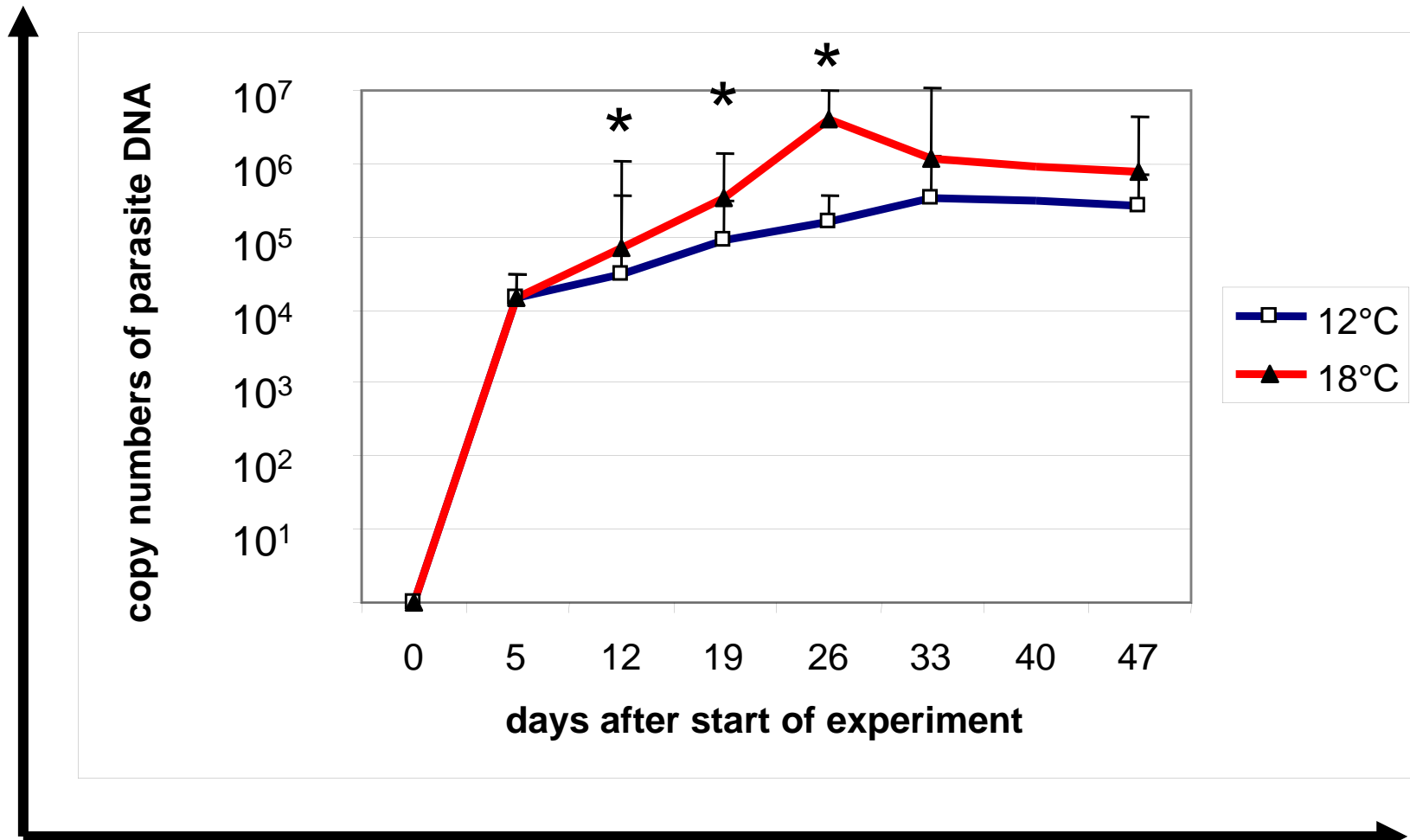
- Temperature promotes parasite proliferation?
- Temperature enhances tissue pathology
- Temperature impairs immunocapacity of fish host?



# Influence of temperature on parasite proliferation



After infection until clinical phase



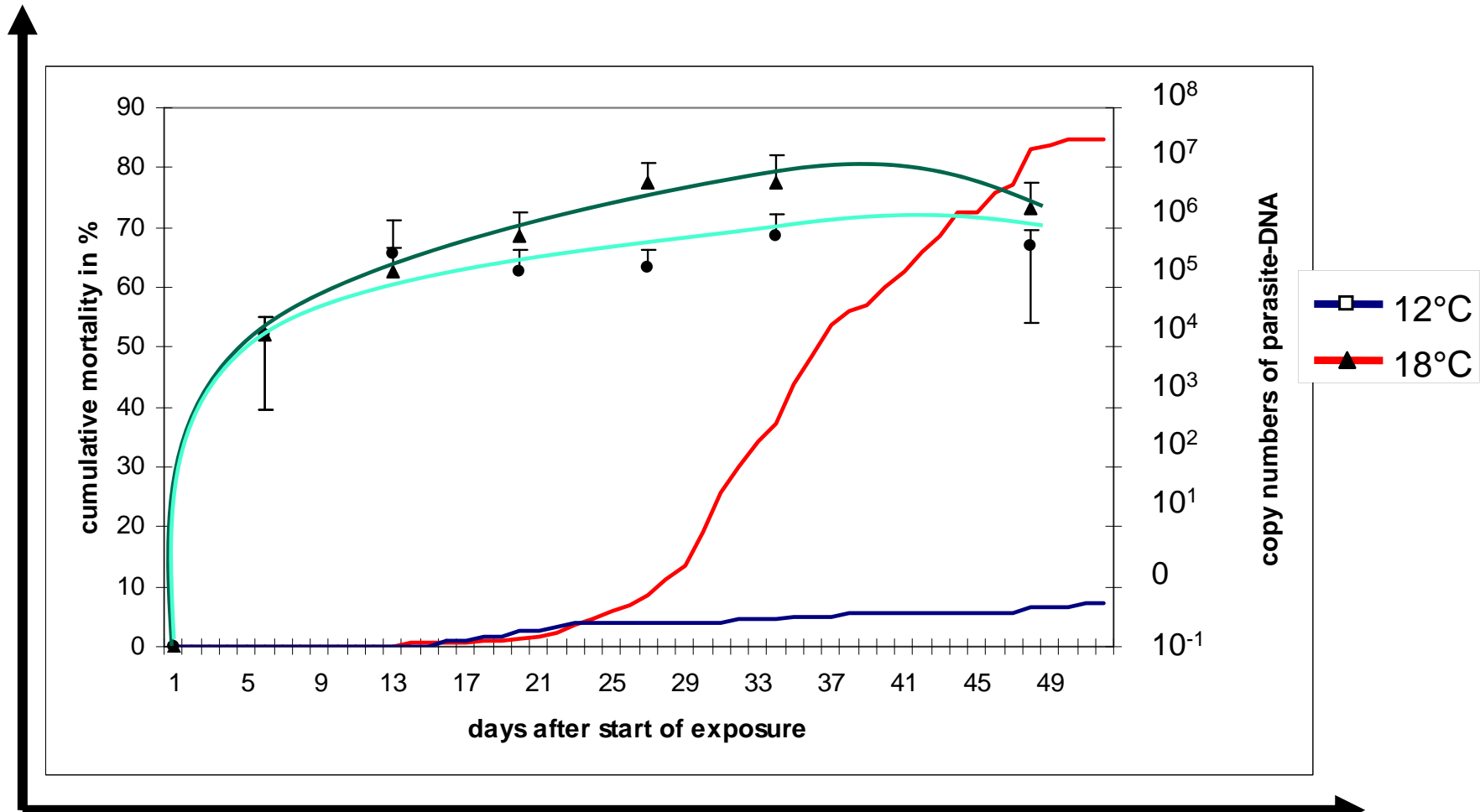
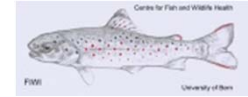
preclinical phase

clinical phase





# Influence of temperature on parasite proliferation



preclinical phase

clinical phase

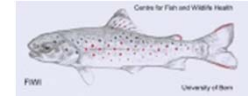


Minor difference in parasite proliferation not explaining difference in mortality



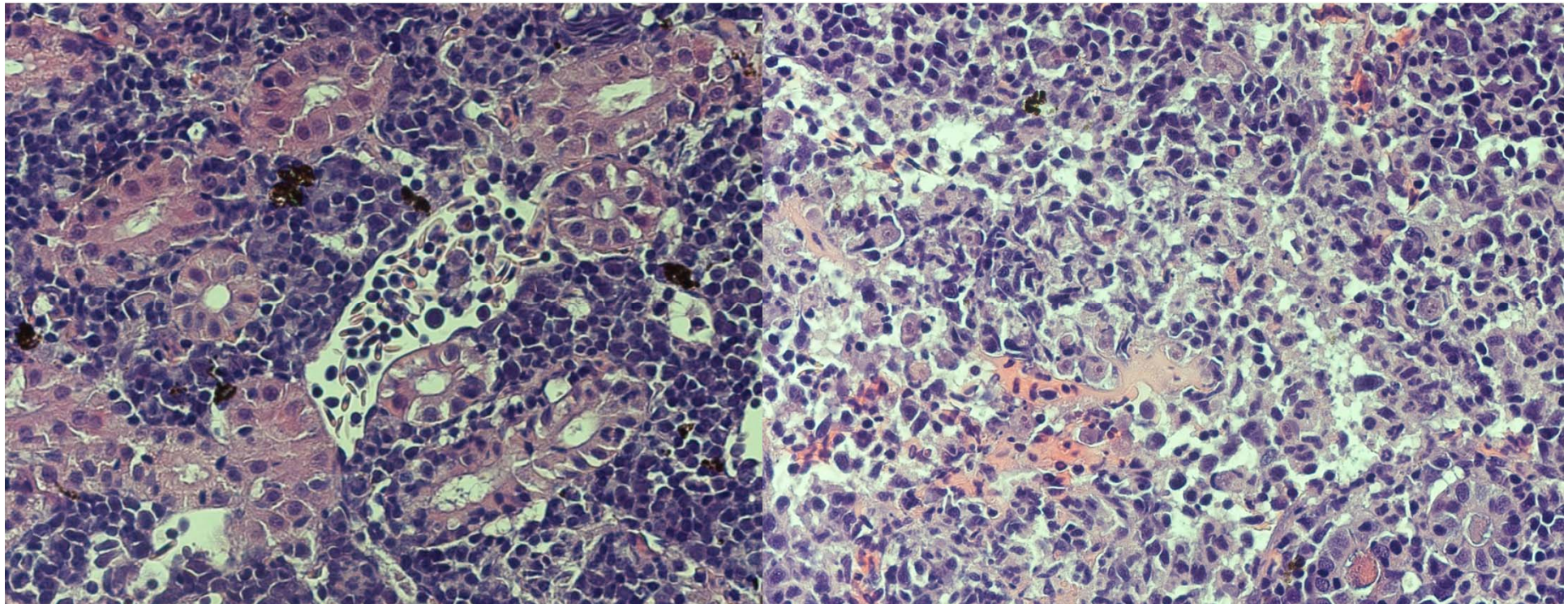


# Influence of temperature on pathology



12°C

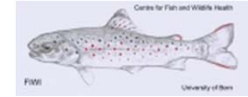
18°C



Preclinical phase

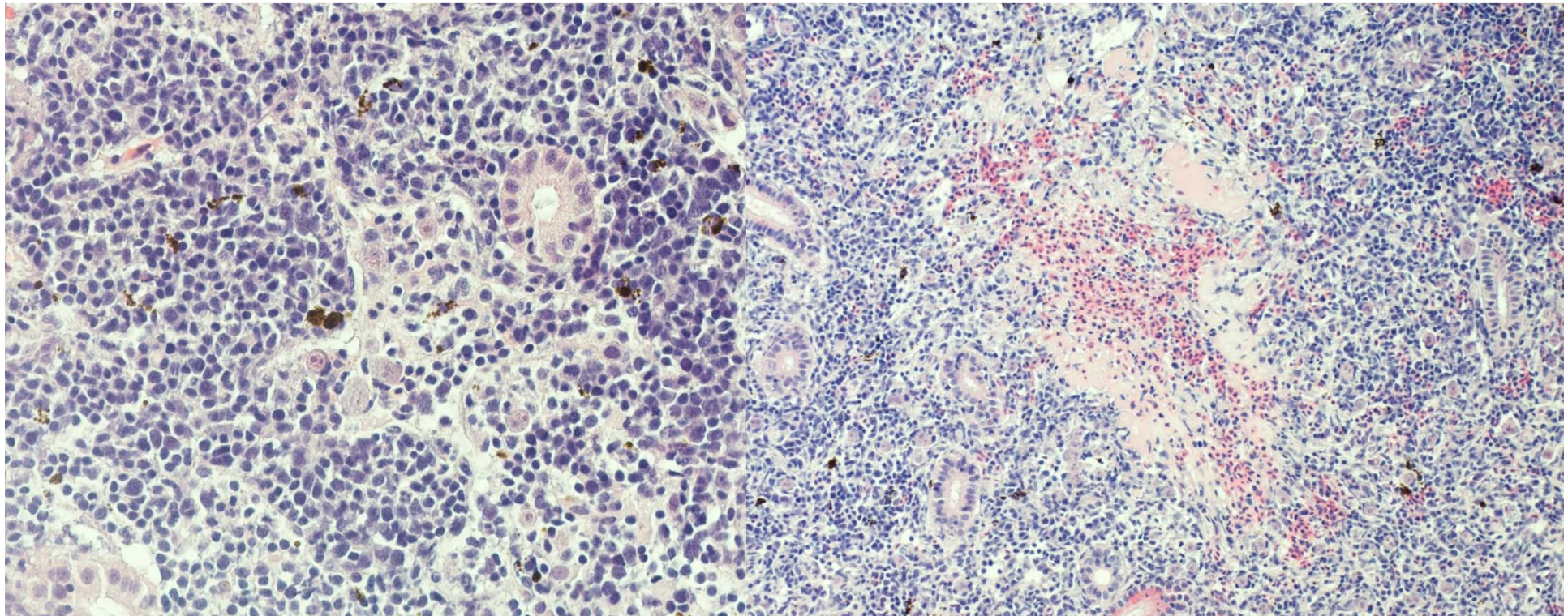


# Influence of temperature on pathology



12°C

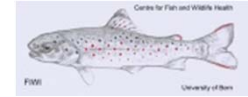
18°C



Clinical phase

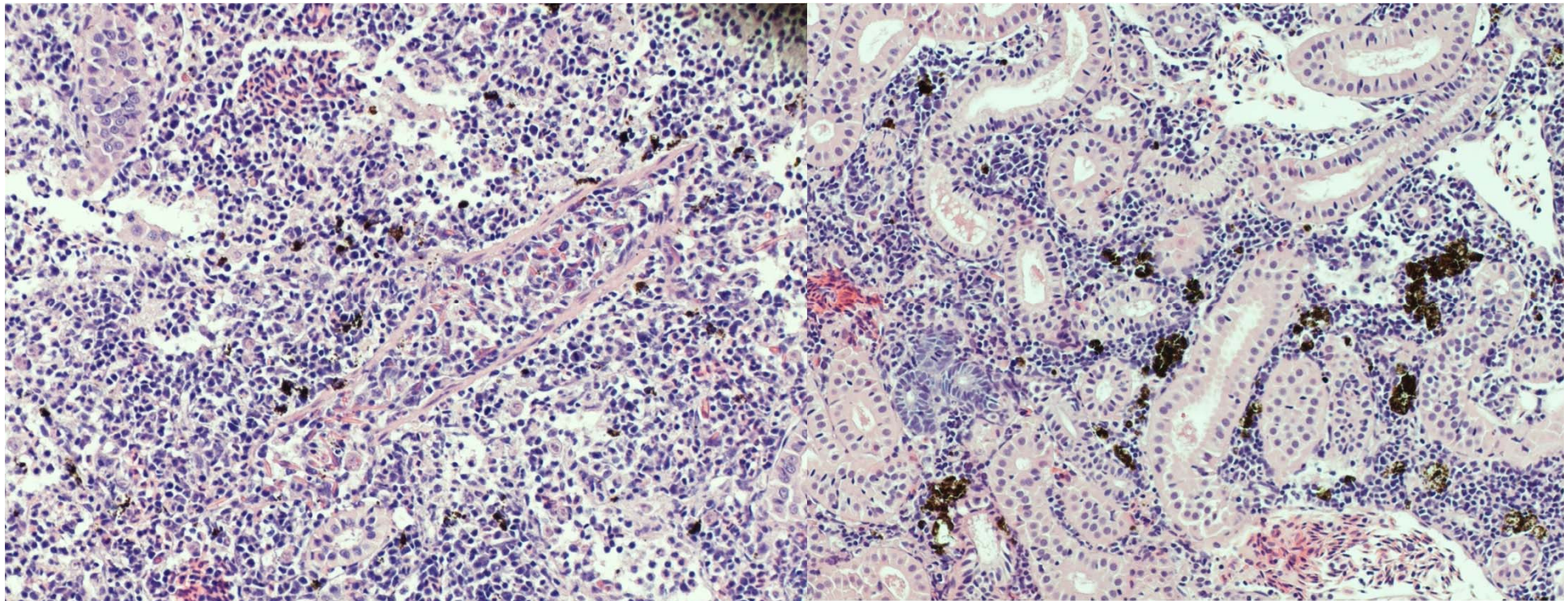


# Influence of temperature on pathology



12°C

18°C

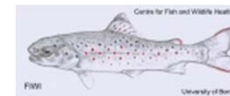


Postclinical phase

Minor differences in pathology not explaining difference in mortality

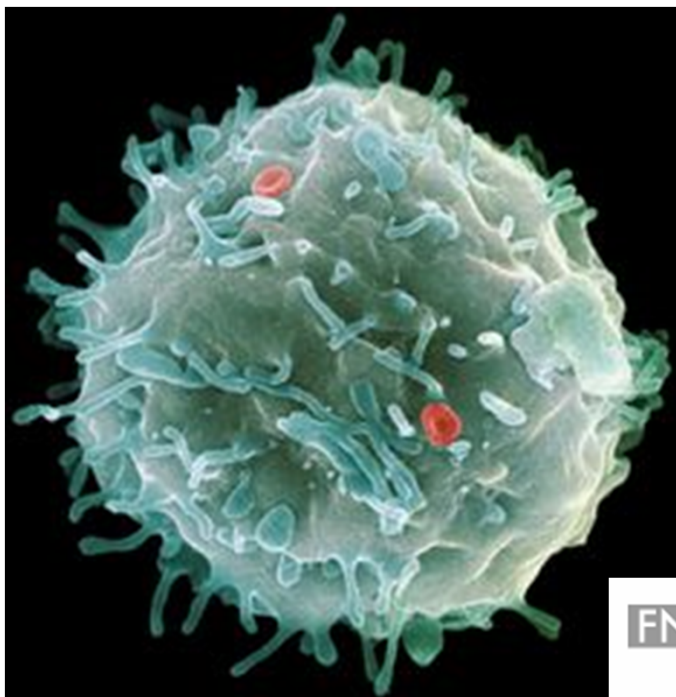


# Influence of temperature on immune response



The influence of temperature on immune response:  
Does temperature modulate the immune response  
of trout to PKD?

Christyn Bailey



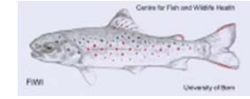
<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinning.c>

FNSNF

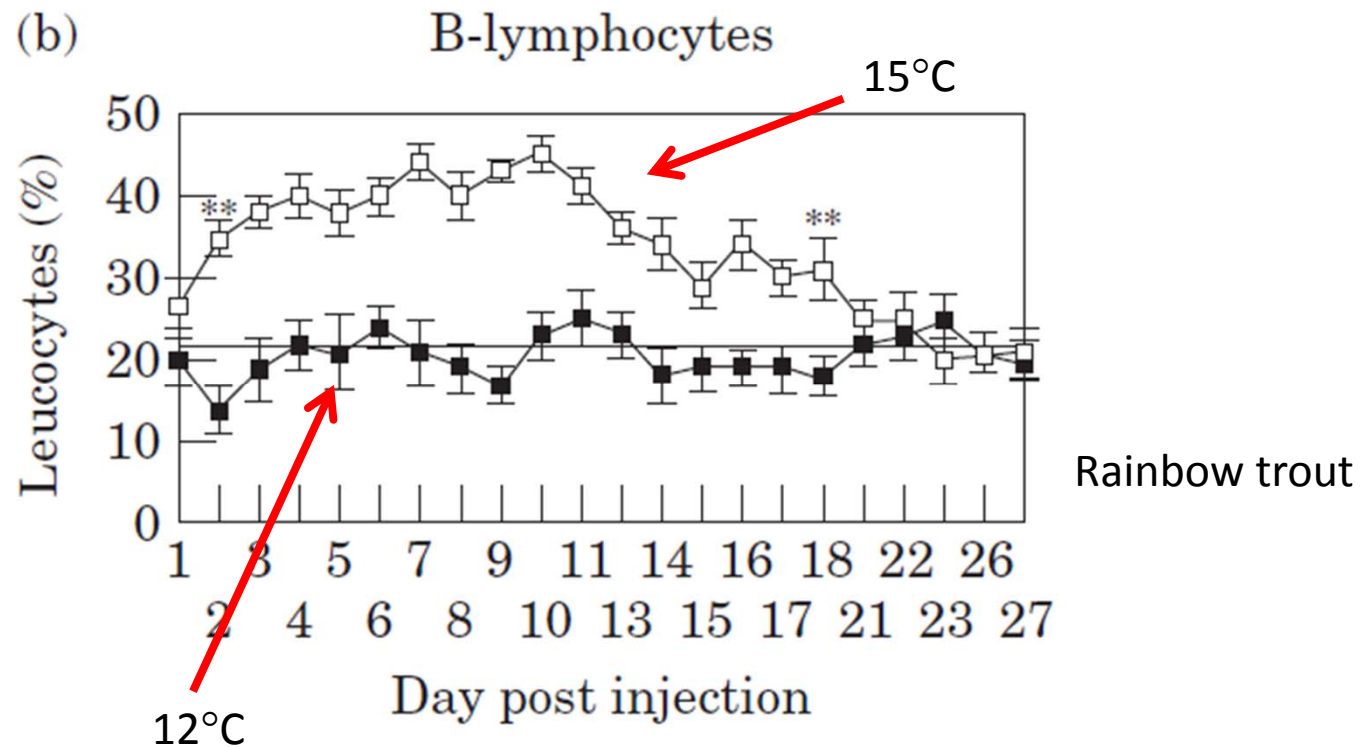
SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG



# Why temperature?

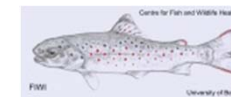


- The immune system of fish is influenced by temperature owing to the poikilothermic nature of fish (mechanisms include temperature effect on biochemical rates, or on energy metabolism)
- In many cases, low environmental temperatures are immunosuppressive for teleosts especially on the humoral responses





# Why temperature?

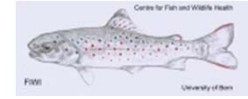


- Further evidence for an influence of temperature on the immune system of fish

| Fish                       | Response to high temperature  | Response to low temperature   | Reference                 |
|----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> | At 15-17°C prominent activation of blood and spleen leukocytes in fish infected with <i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> | At 10-12°C weak to no reaction in blood and spleen in fish infected with <i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> | Köllner & Kotterba 2002   |
| <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> | At 15-20°C lytic activity of both total and alternative pathways increased  | At 5-10°C respiratory burst opsonization capacity of plasma delayed                                   | Nikosskelainen et al 2004 |
| <i>Oncorhynchus Mykiss</i> | Production of macrophage activating factor (MAF) secretion and respiratory burst activity increased               | Inhibition of macrophage activating factor (MAF) secretion  | Hardie et al 1994         |



# Does temperature modulate the immune response of trout to PKD?



To explore the (cellular) immune response of trout towards *T. bryosalmonae* at different temperatures, the following hypothesis was formulated

1. Temperature modulates immune response
2. The altered immune response reduces resistance towards the parasite

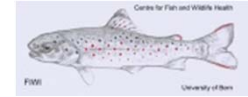
## *Experiment design*

- All experiments carried out at 12°C and 15°C analysing head kidney (HK) and trunk kidney (TK) over the infection cycle
- qRT-PCR of immune genes attributed to functional pathway(s) or cell lineage(s) and FACS analysis of immune cells

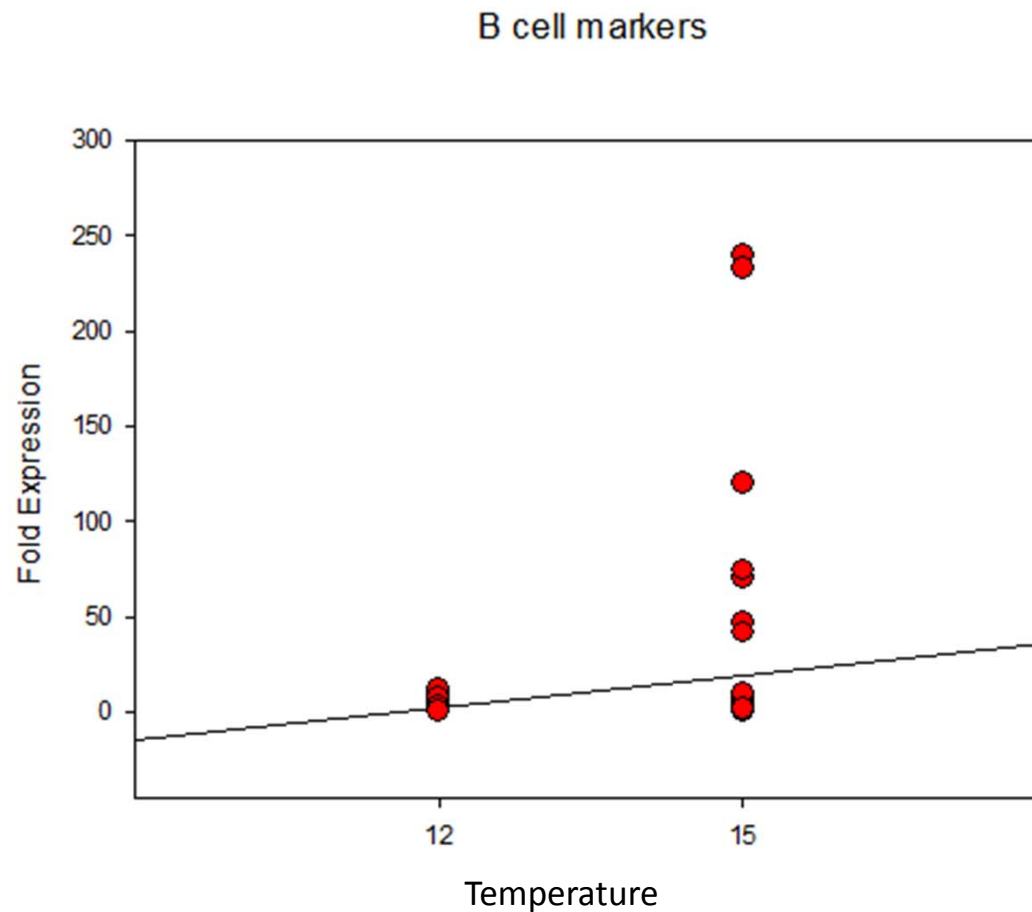




# Temperature effect on immune response



Measurement of B cell markers in *T. bryosalmonae* infected fish at different temperatures

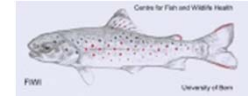






# Temperature effect on immune response

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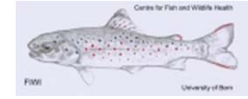
## Conclusion

- At higher temperatures immune response not inhibited but in contrary increased
- Temperature related differences in immune response not sufficient to explain differences in mortality



# Influence of temperature on physiology

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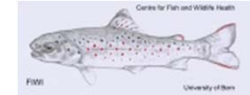
## What else?

Higher water temperature affects fish physiology

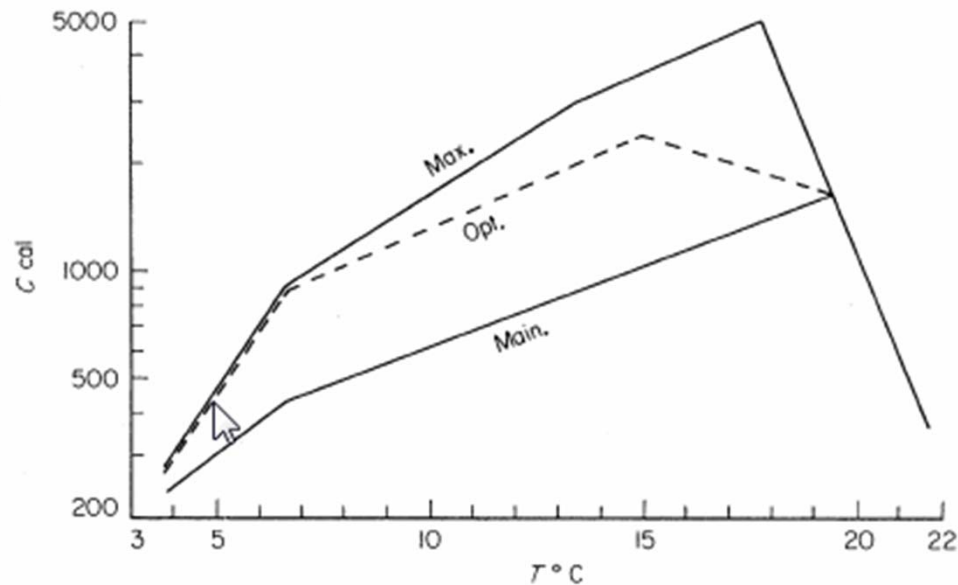
- Increased metabolism
- Increased osmotic demand → increased water excretion
- Increased oxygen demand
- Stress by suboptimal temperature range



# Metabolism



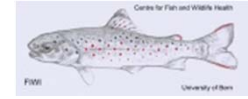
- Metabolism influenced by water temperature



Relationship between the maximum, optimum and maintenance energy intake (C cal day<sup>-1</sup>) for trout of 50 g initial weight at different temperatures (Elliot 1976)

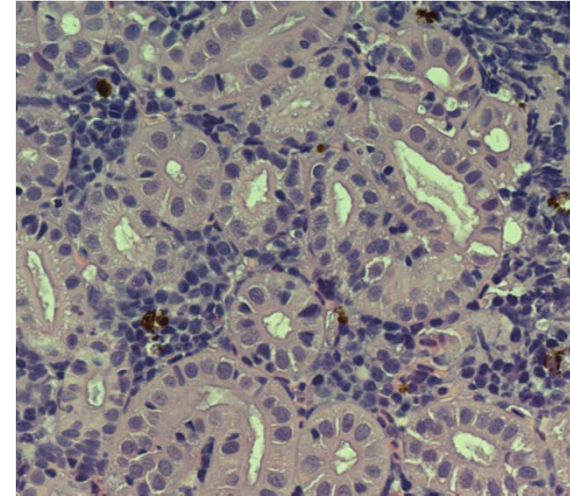


# Different functions of the kidney in fish



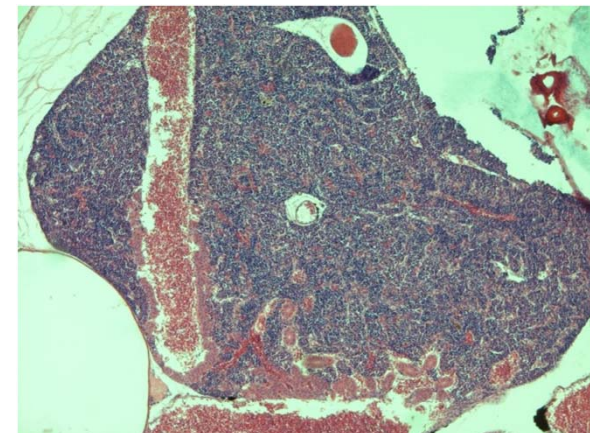
## Osmoregulatory function

enhanced demand at higher temperatures  
due to elevated need for urine excretion



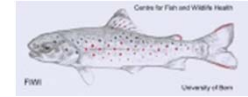
## Haematopoietic function

enhanced need for erythropoiesis at higher water temperatures





# Excretion function



- Excretion function influenced by water temperature

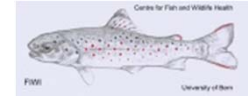
Urine flow rates (UFR) in rainbow trout

| Temperature (°C) | UFR<br>(ml/kg per day) | Reference                |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7                | 33.6                   | Hoffmann and Butler 1979 |
| 10               | 52.8                   | Lloyd and Orr 1969       |
| 20               | 100.8                  | Lloyd and Orr 1969       |

Calculation of  $Q_{10}$  from these data: approx. **2** (Hunn 1982)



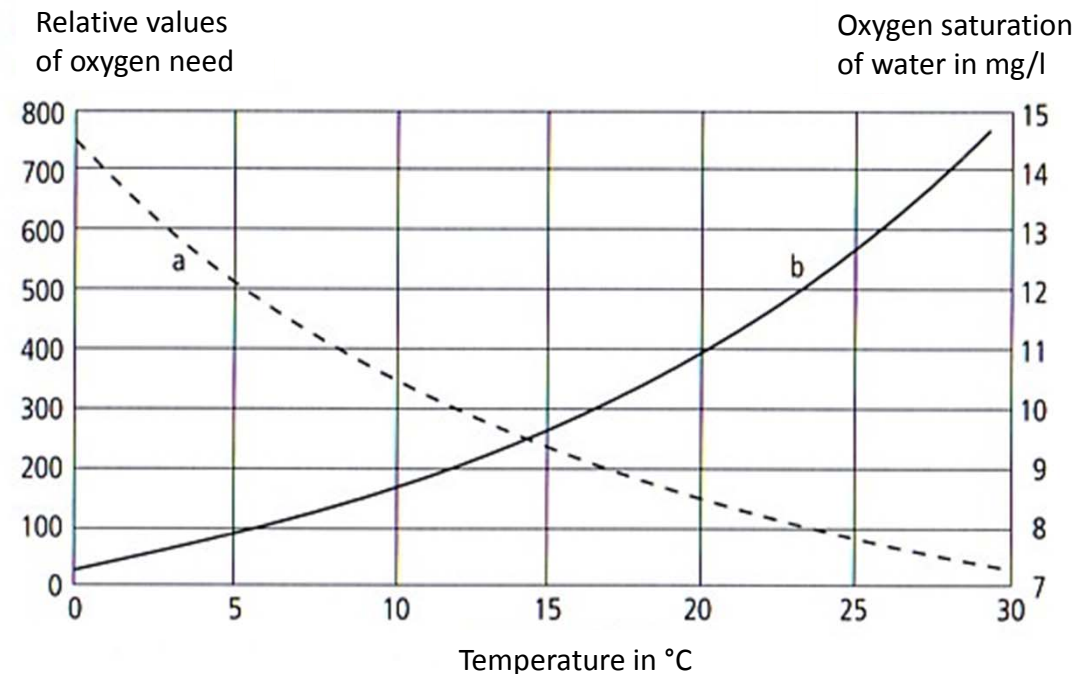
# Oxygen demand



- Oxygen consumption of salmonids affected by temperature, fish size, physical and physiological activity
- Increase in water temperature results in increase in oxygen demand and decrease in oxygen carrying capacity of water
- Oxygen partial pressure (saturation level) determines diffusion through gills and saturation level of hemoglobin

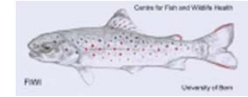
Saturation level of water:

0°C = 14.5 mg/l  
10°C = 11.1 mg/l  
20°C = 8.9 mg/l  
30°C = 7.2 mg/l

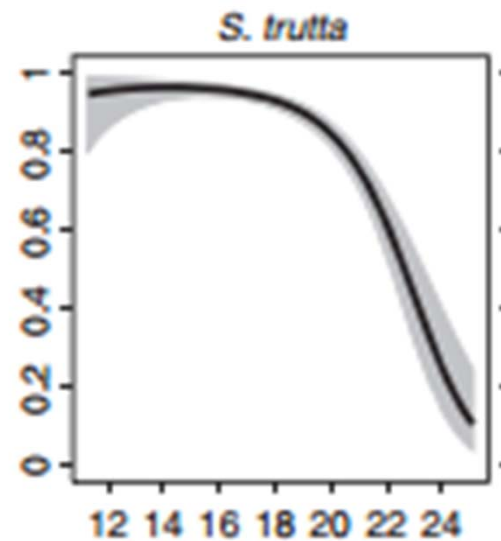




# Species specific temperature tolerance



Fish are poikilothermic animals, with a particular range of suitable temperatures



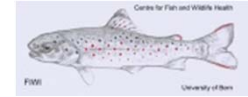
| Species       | Optimal temp. |
|---------------|---------------|
| Brown trout   | 4-19          |
| Rainbow trout | 10-22         |

Elliot 1981

Temperature range of of brown trout (*Salmon trutta*)

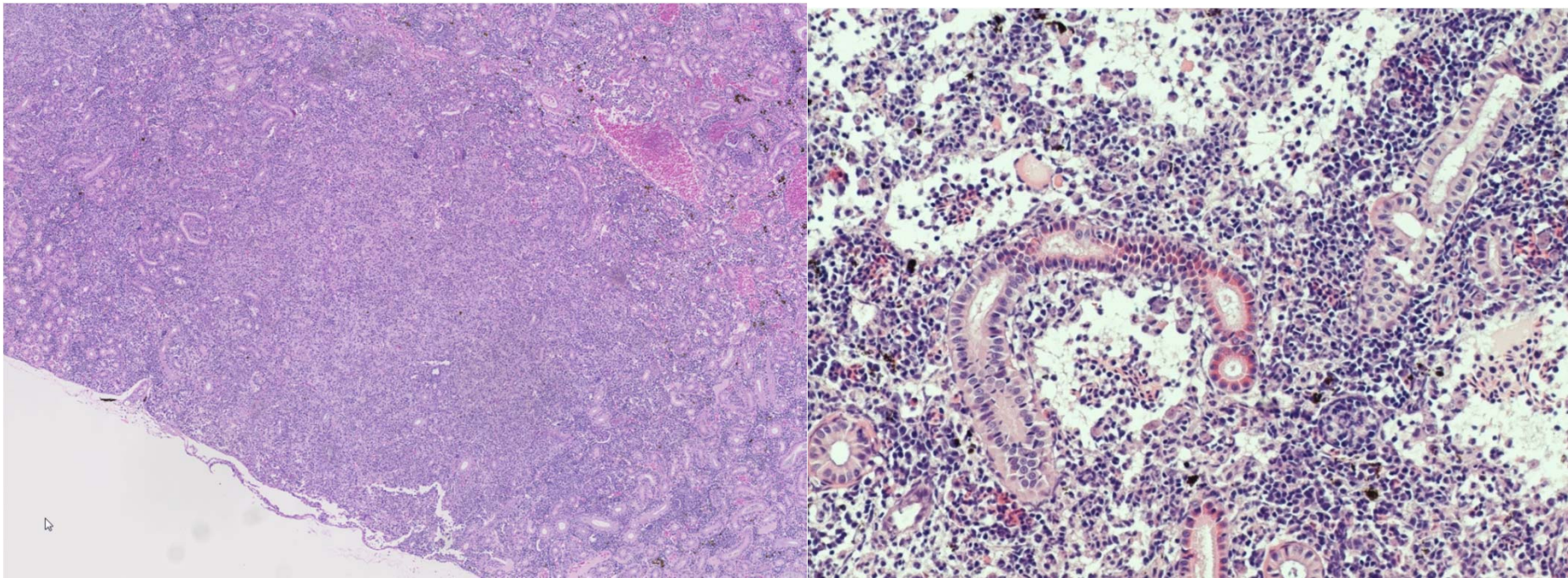


# Increased demand on kidney functions



Effect of infection:

- Effect on excretory compartments
- Replacement and necrosis of haematopoietic tissue



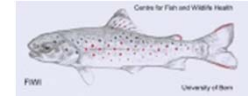
Imbalance between increased demand and altered kidney structure and function + general stress





# Influence of temperature on physiology

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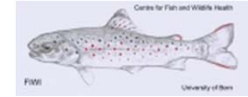
## Conclusion

→ Temperature related alteration of physiology appear to be the main factor for increased mortality of PKD affected trout at higher water temperatures



# Epidemiology of PKD

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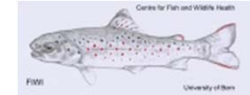
Geographic distribution of PKD:

Which factors have to be considered?

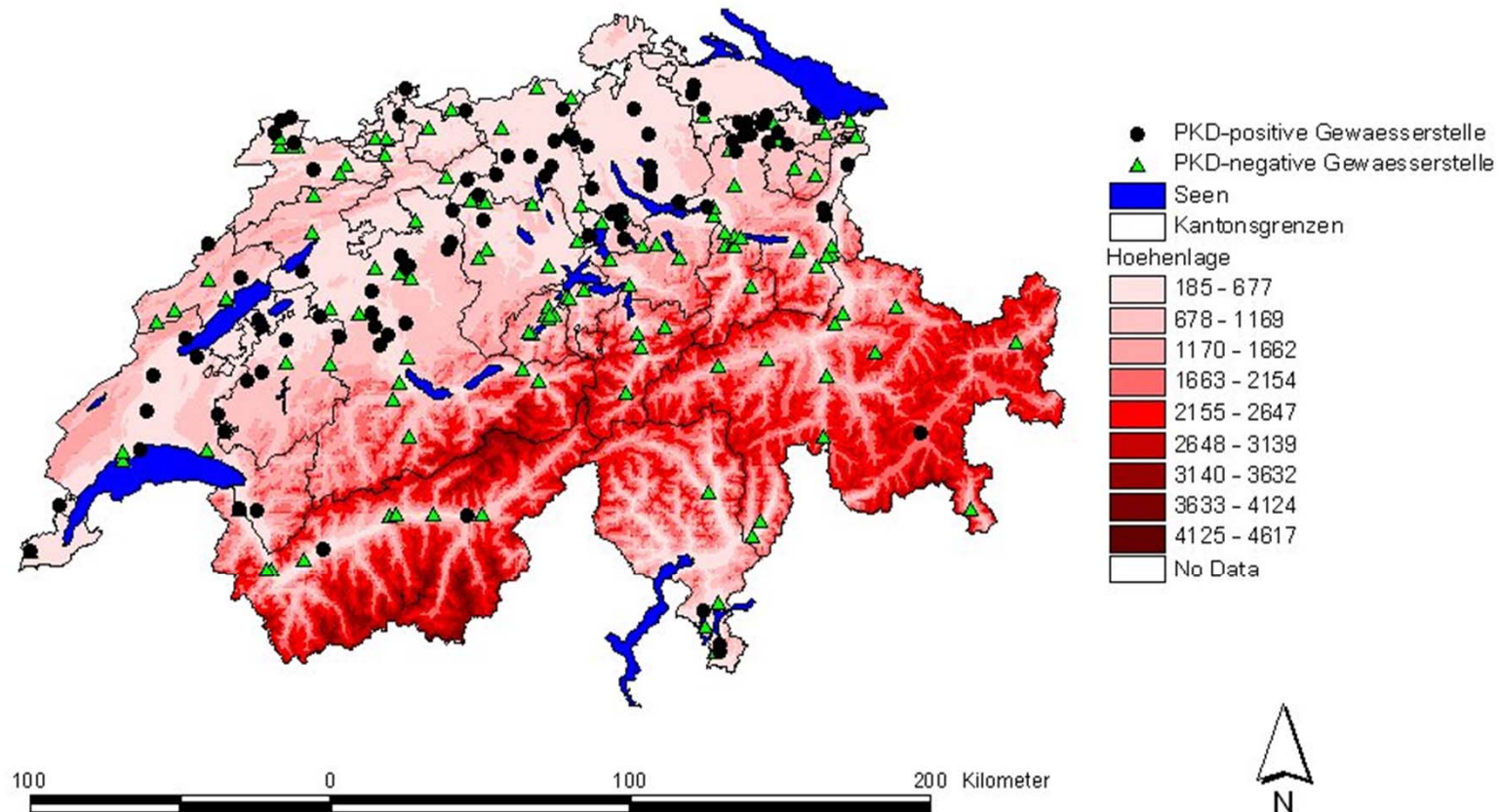
- Catchment (catchment-specific?)
- Habitat structures
- Ecological requirements of host
- Ecological requirements of invertebrate host



# Disease distribution



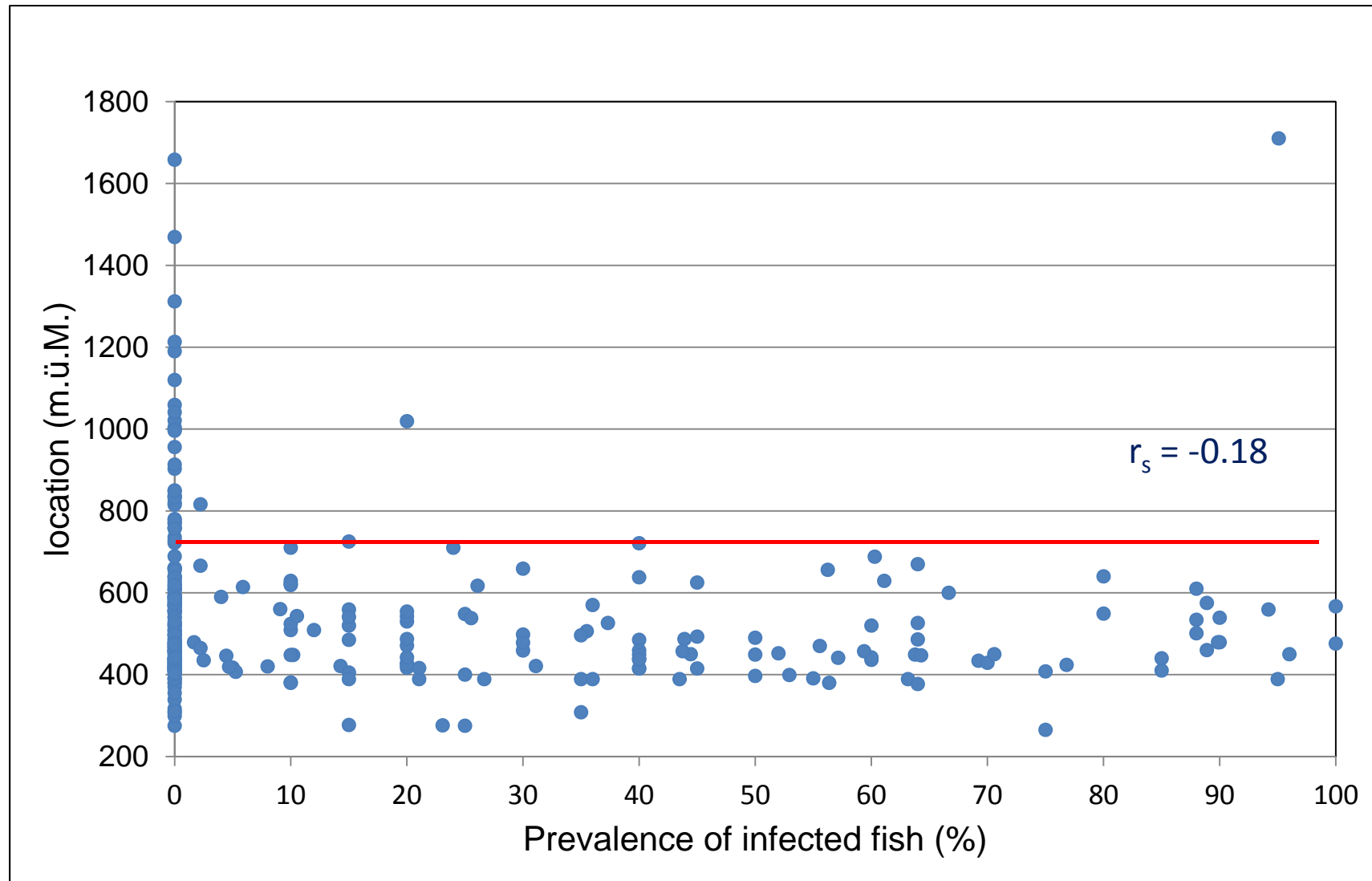
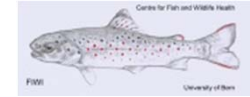
Mainly in Swiss midlands and in larger valley areas



Wahli et al. (2008) Role of altitude and water temperature as regulating factors for the geographical distribution of *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae* infected fish in Switzerland. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 73: 2184-2197



# Temperature influence on disease distribution

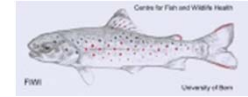


Wahli et al. (2008) Role of altitude and water temperature as regulating factors for the geographical distribution of *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae* infected fish in Switzerland. *Journal of Fish Biology*, 73: 2184-2197



# Temperature influence on disease distribution

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## Conclusions:

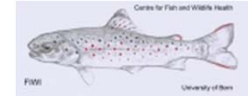
- Almost all PKD-positive fish below 800 m.a.s.l.
- Above 800 m.a.s.l. only 3 sites with infected fish



- Evidence for “ON / OFF” effect driven by altitude and accordingly temperature
- Effect possible on both, parasites in bryozoa and parasites in fish



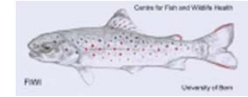
# Effect of PKD in the future



No more fishing for brown trout in future?



# Temperature influence on disease



Temperature impacts disease distribution, how?

- Affecting the trout
- Affecting the parasite
- Affecting the bryozoan
- By changing the surrounding environment

**Temperature driven emergence of Proliferative Kidney Disease in salmonid fish – role of ecology, evolution and immunology for aquatic diseases in riverine landscapes**

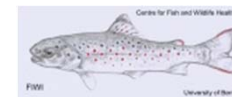
(Sinergia-Project CRSII3 147649 1)



SCHWEIZERISCHER NATIONALFONDS  
ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN FORSCHUNG



# Project Aims



Understand maintenance and transmission dynamics of *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae* causing PKD with a particular focus on temperature changing environments (global warming)

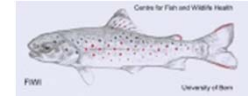
- **Disease maintenance**  
parasite transmission rate, factors involved in spore production modulation
- **Disease spread**  
modeling and evaluation of infection timing, seasonal variability, genetics affecting disease susceptibility
- **Disease Emergence**  
how future rise of temperature will impact PKD emergence





# What's a Sinergia Project?

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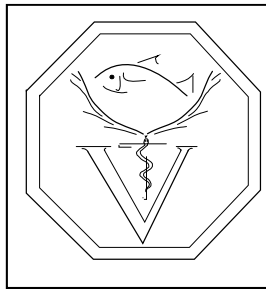
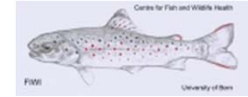


## Sinergia ...

is a project where different Universities with different approaches to the same topic working together, sharing material and information to gather the most accurate scenario on that topic.



# Sinergia Project Actors

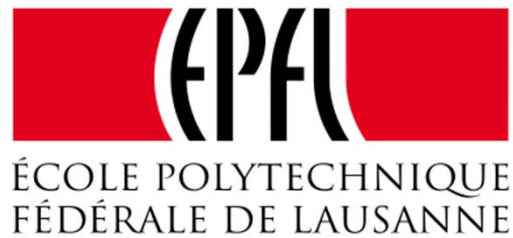
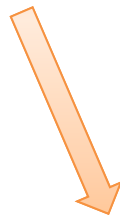


Vertebrate host:  
Brown Trout

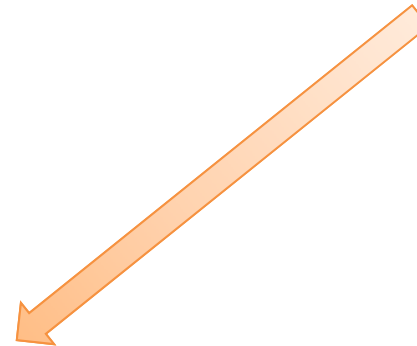


**eawag**  
aquatic research 000

Invertebrate host:  
Bryozoan



Disease modeling in river systems



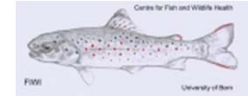
Host-parasite immunological interaction







# Laboratory experiment



## 1. Temperature experiment:

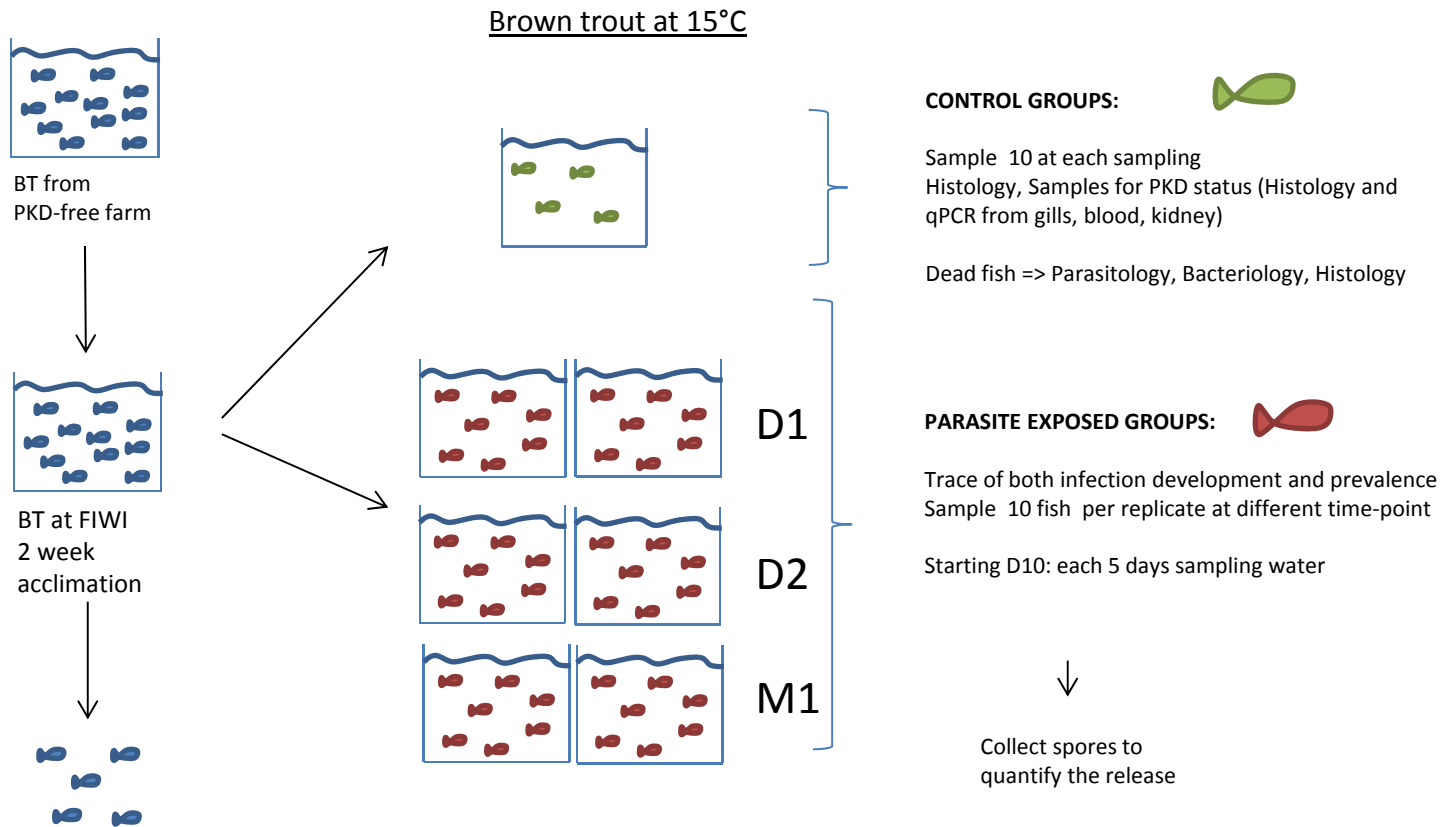
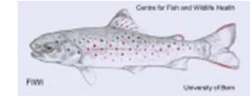
- i. Is there any infection prevalence difference between temperatures?
- ii. Which factors trigger the spore release?
- iii. Is there any difference among release of the parasite at different temperatures?

## 2. Density experiment

- i. How infection develops in the fish exposed to different parasite spores densities?
- ii. Is there any difference in the number of spores produced/released by the fish with respect to initial parasite density infection?



# Experimental Design



10 BT screened for presence of PKD and other diseases (Parasitology, Bacteriology)

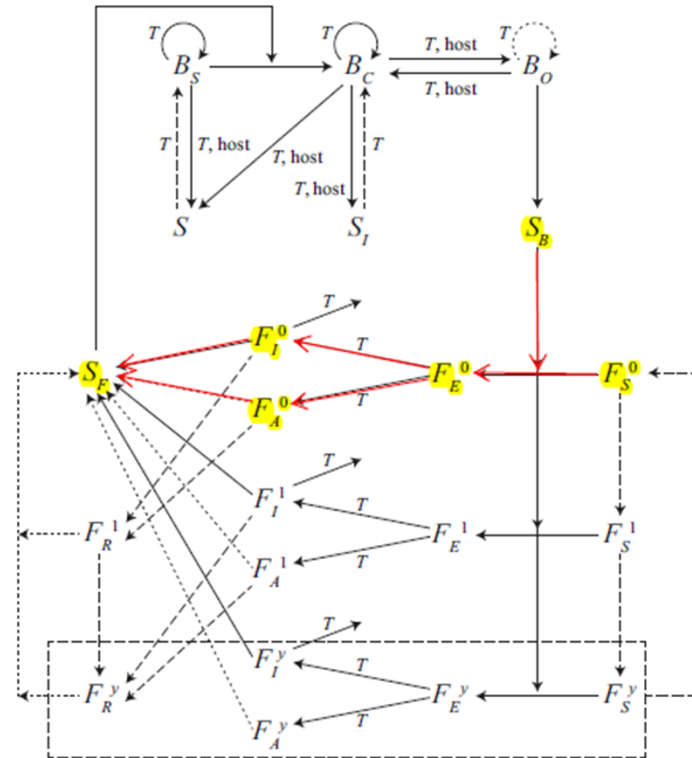
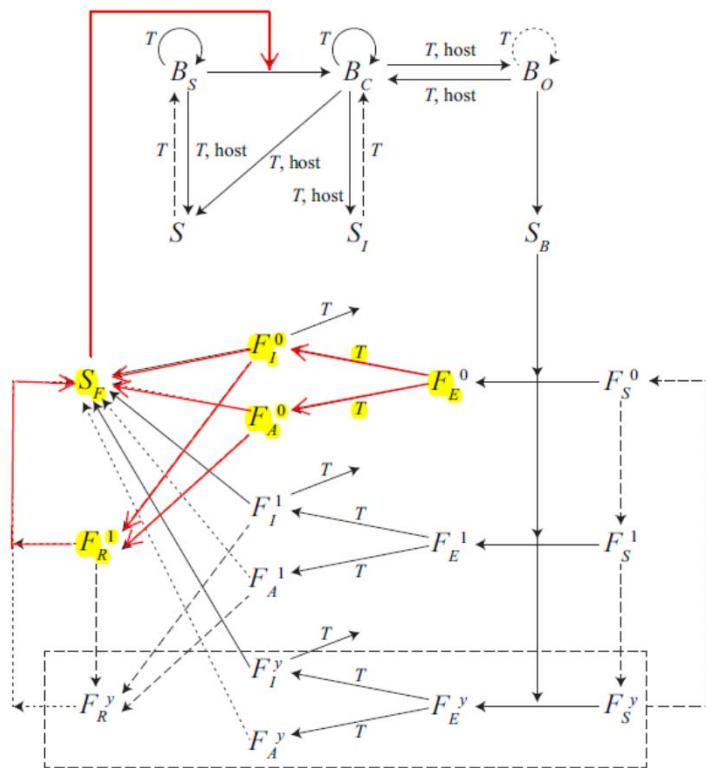
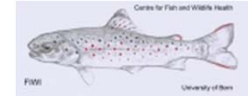
D1 = 1x dose parasite density

D2 = 100x dose parasite density

M1 = multiple times 1x dose parasite density

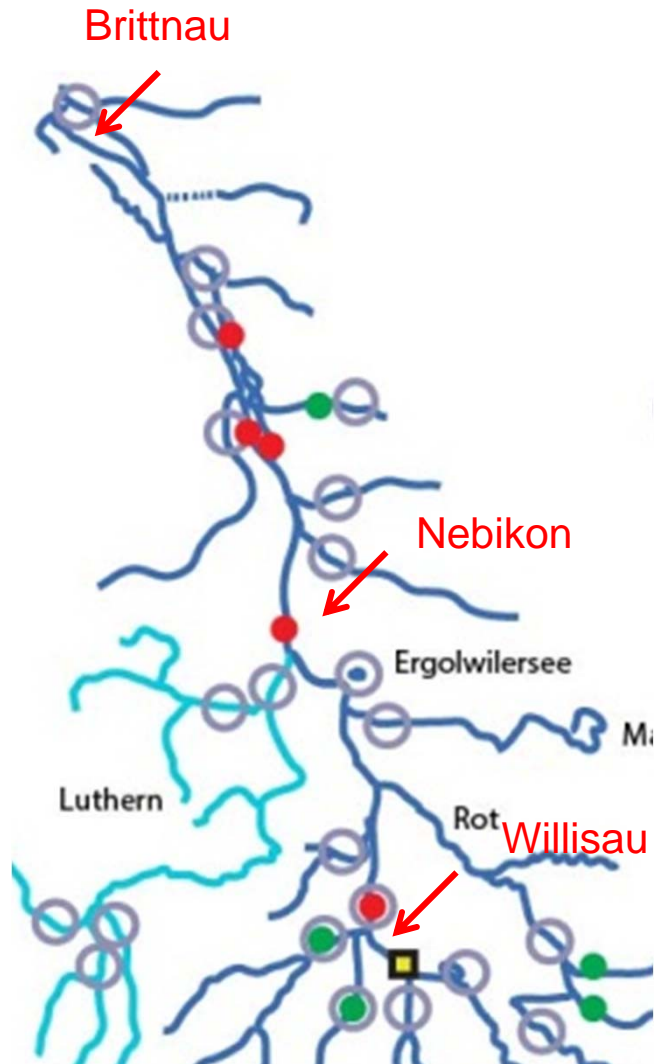
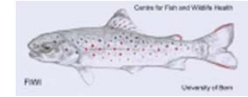


# Building the model





# Field PKD monitoring





# Questions?

