



# BLOCK RRS-209

## Respiratory - Renal System

### Lecture

### Respiratory System

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# Learning objectives

After this lecture, students should be able to:

Know the different classifications of the respiratory tract: - Conducting and respiratory portions.

- Correlate functions of the conducting && respiratory portions with histological structure.

- Discriminate the type of the lining epithelium of the respiratory system

- Compare between the histological structure of the trachea, bronchi, bronchioles, alveoli and discriminate the type of their lining epithelium.
- Describe the histological structure of Clara (club) cell and identify its function

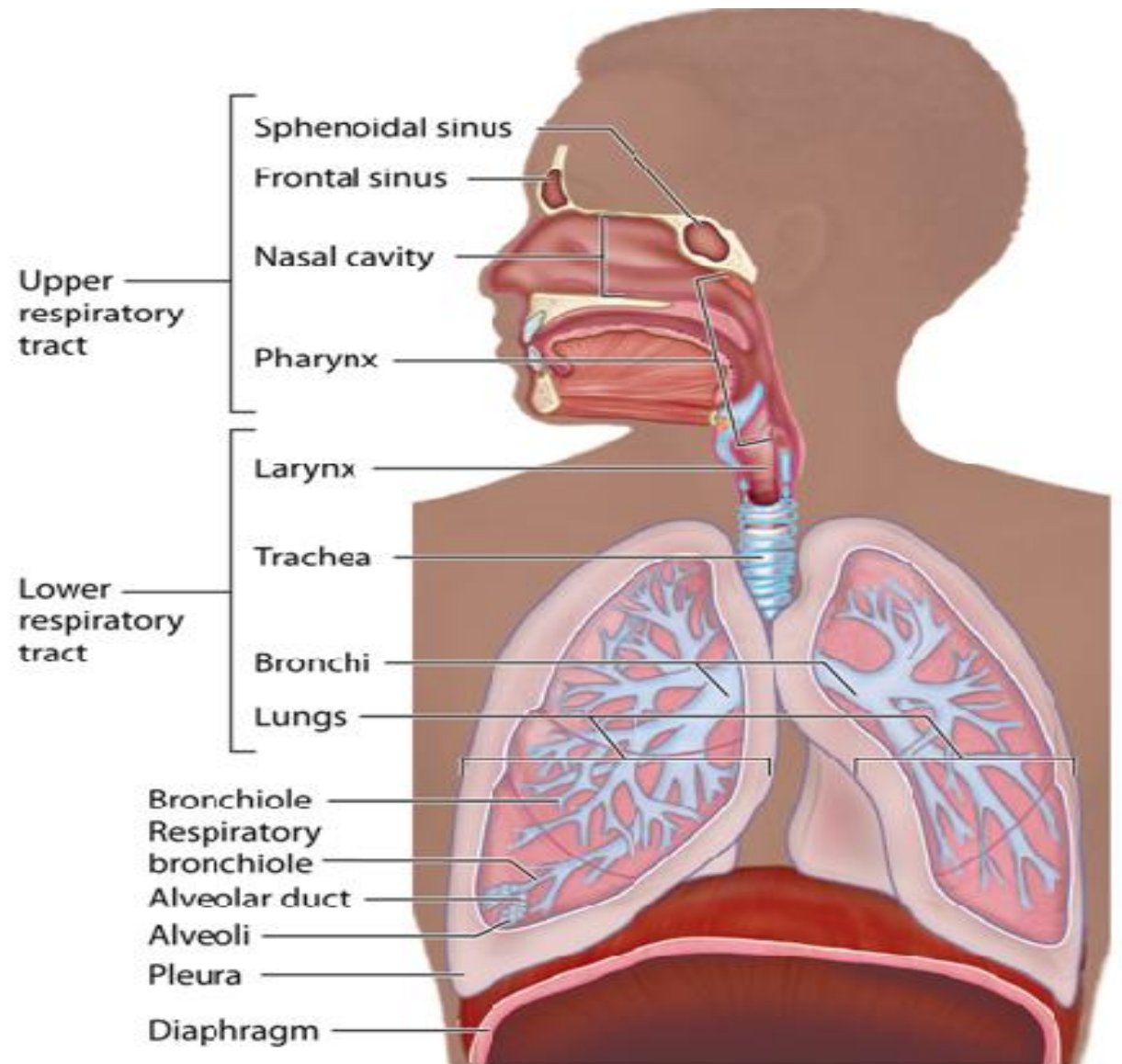
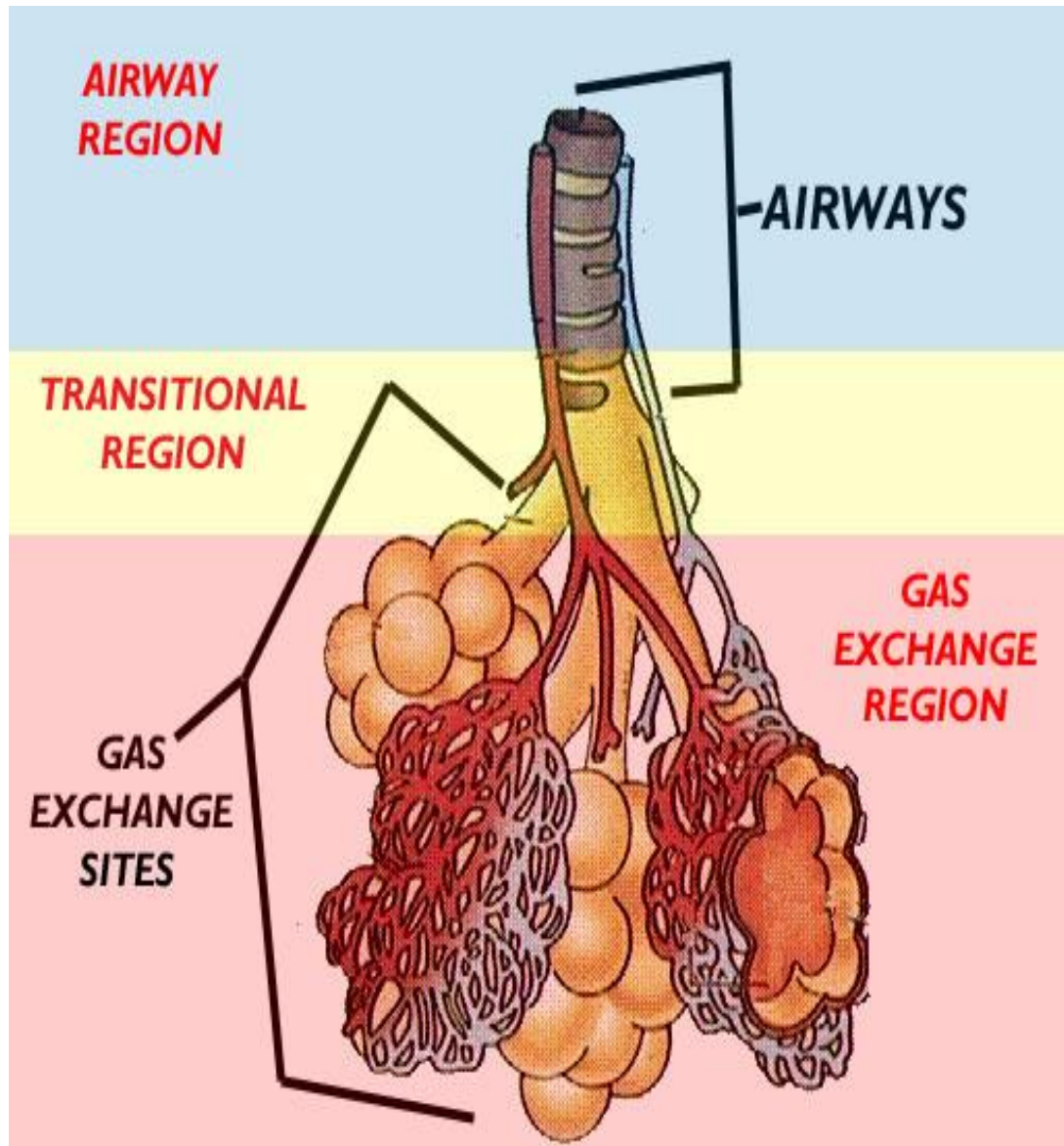
# Conducting & respiratory portions of the Respiratory+ tract

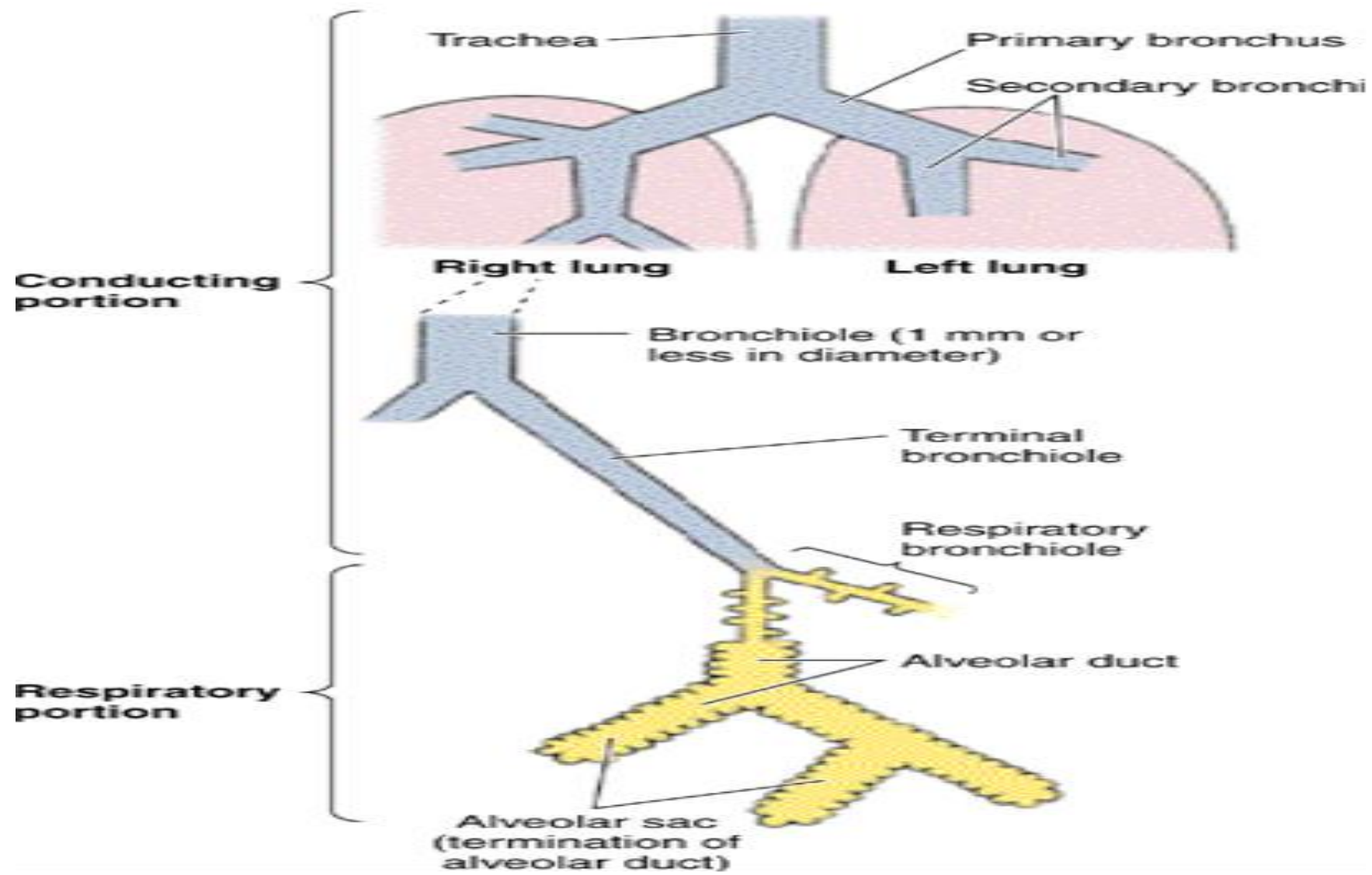
- **The conducting portion:**  
{does not participate in gas exchange} consists of nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, nasopharynx, larynx, trachea, bronchi and bronchioles that further divide into terminal bronchioles.

**The respiratory portion:**  
(Lung parenchyma),  
participates in gas exchange  
consists of respiratory  
bronchioles, alveolar ducts,  
alveolar sacs and alveoli.

	Conducting portion	Respiratory portion
Functions	<p><b>Warm, humidify and filter air.</b>  {The activity of the <u>cilia</u> and the mucous secretion of <u>goblet cells</u> make up the “<b>mucociliary escalator</b>”, which is important in removing the inhaled particles}.</p>	<p><b>Gas exchange.</b>  {The lungs are the only place in our body where blood capillaries come into direct contact with the outside air, as a result of the fusion of the <b>type I alveolar cells with the pulmonary capillary endothelium</b>}.</p>



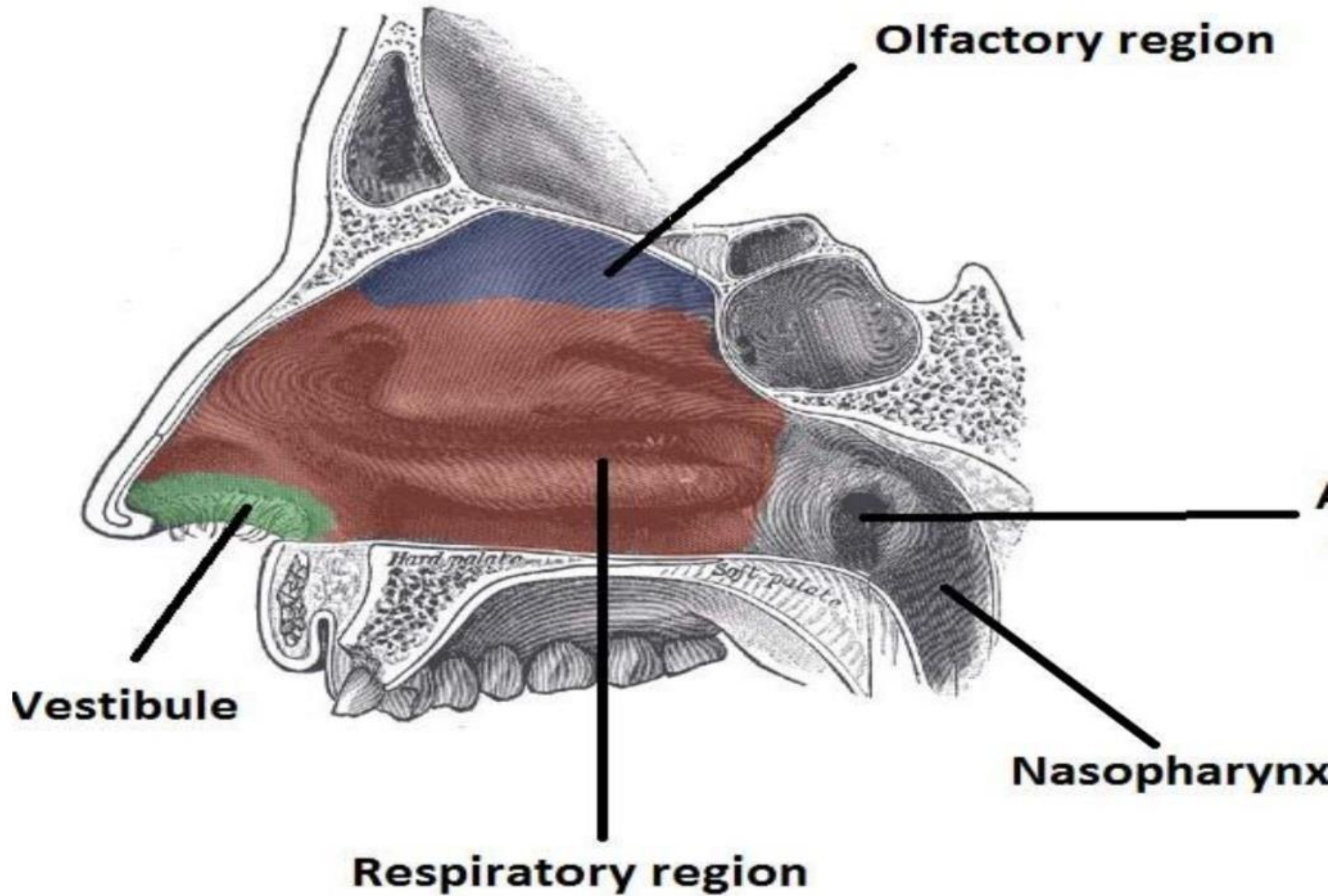




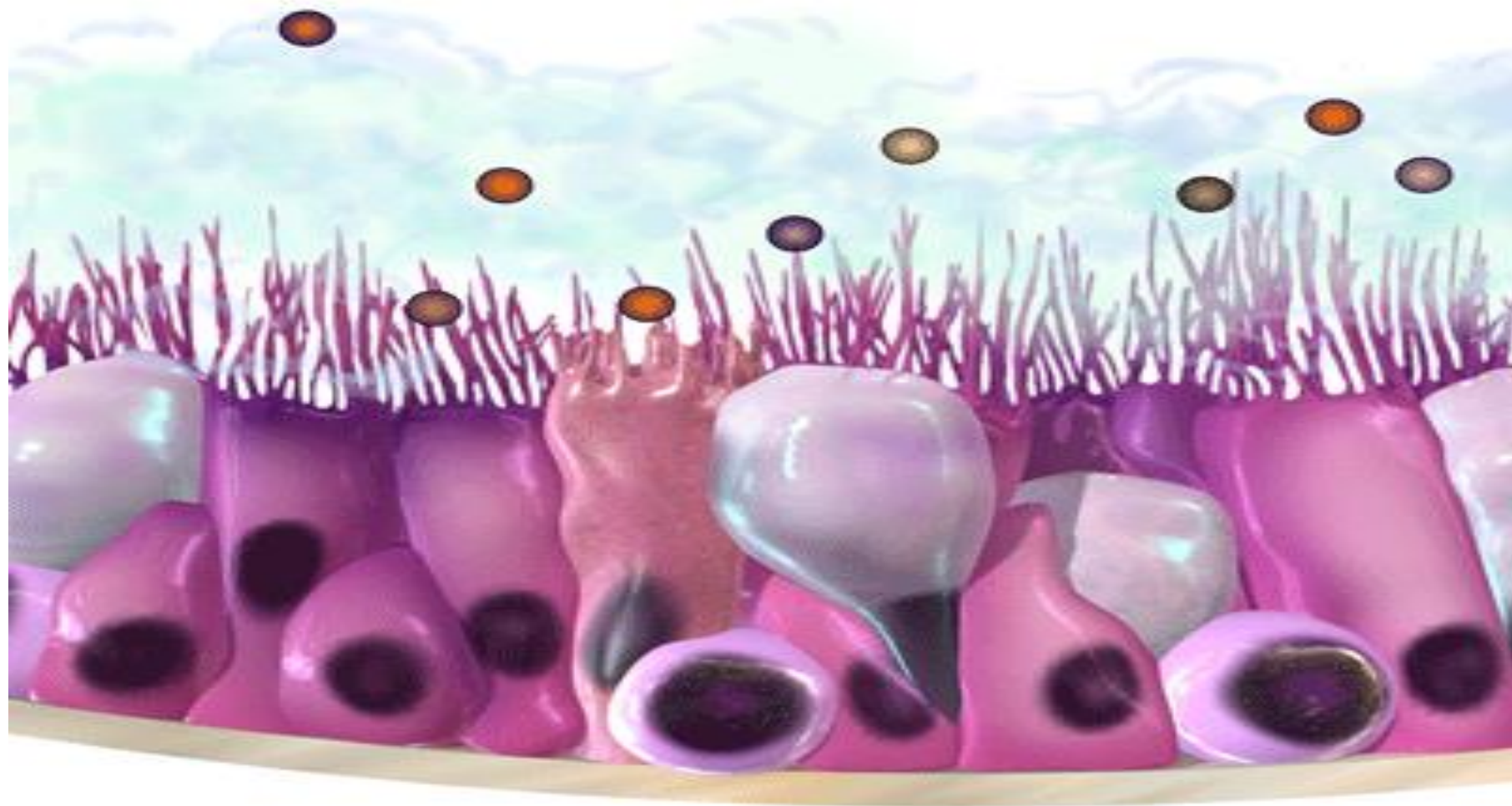
# Nasal Cavity

- The nose **moistens, warms inhaled air & preventing particulate** matter from entering the airways. It is playing an important role in the **sense of smell**.
- • The left and right nasal cavities each have two components: **the external dilated vestibule** and the **internal nasal cavity**.
- Air enters the nose through the **anterior nares (nostrils)**, passing the 3 anterior nasal hairs (**vibrissae**); these trap and prevent inhalation of larger foreign particles.
- **The epithelial lining** changes shortly after entering the nose **from keratinized to respiratory epithelium**.
- • **Olfactory epithelium**, possess receptors that bind **specific odorants**, is found in the **upper regions of the nasal airway** above the superior conchae and is specialized for **the detection of smell**







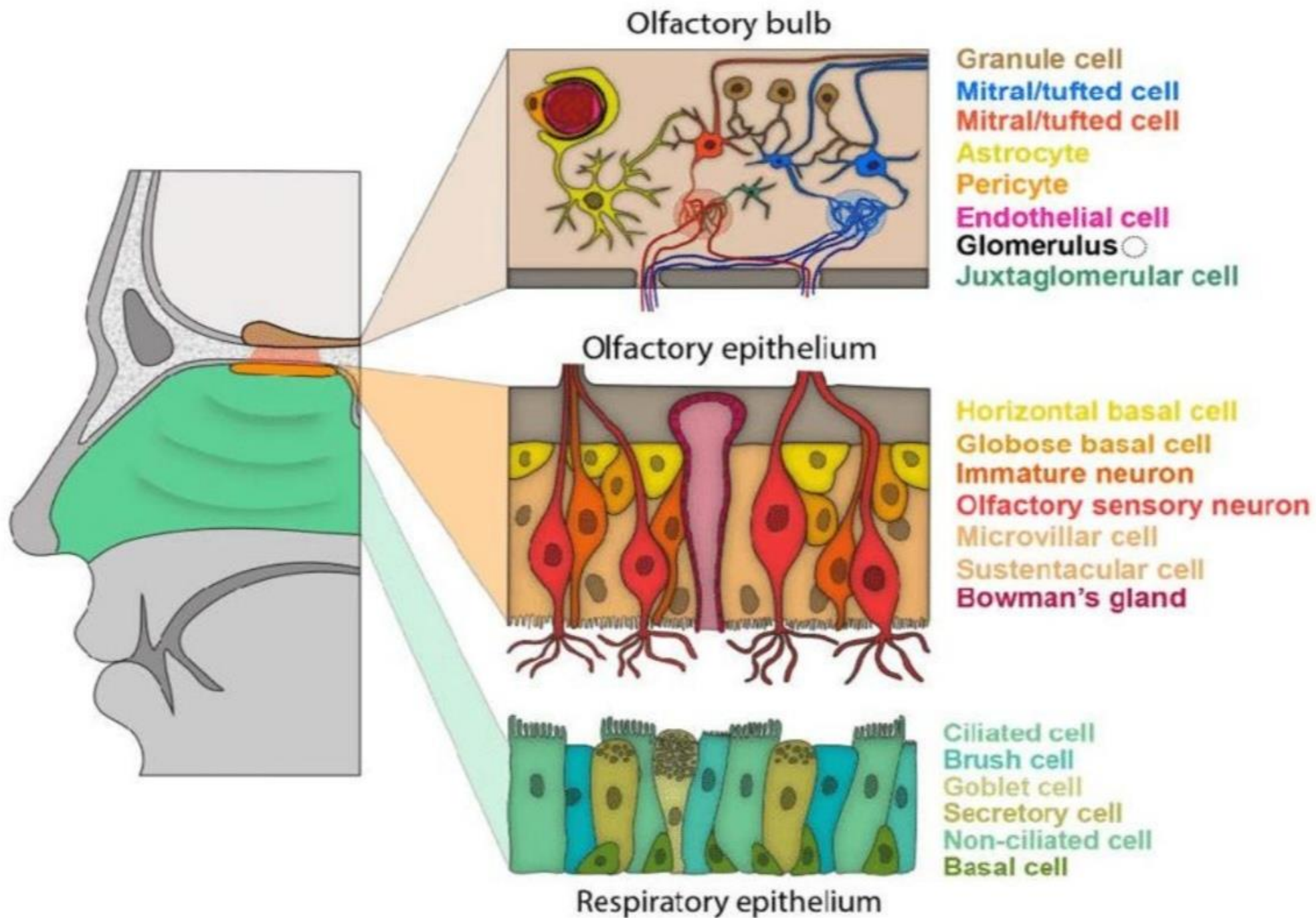


# 1- NASAL CAVITY

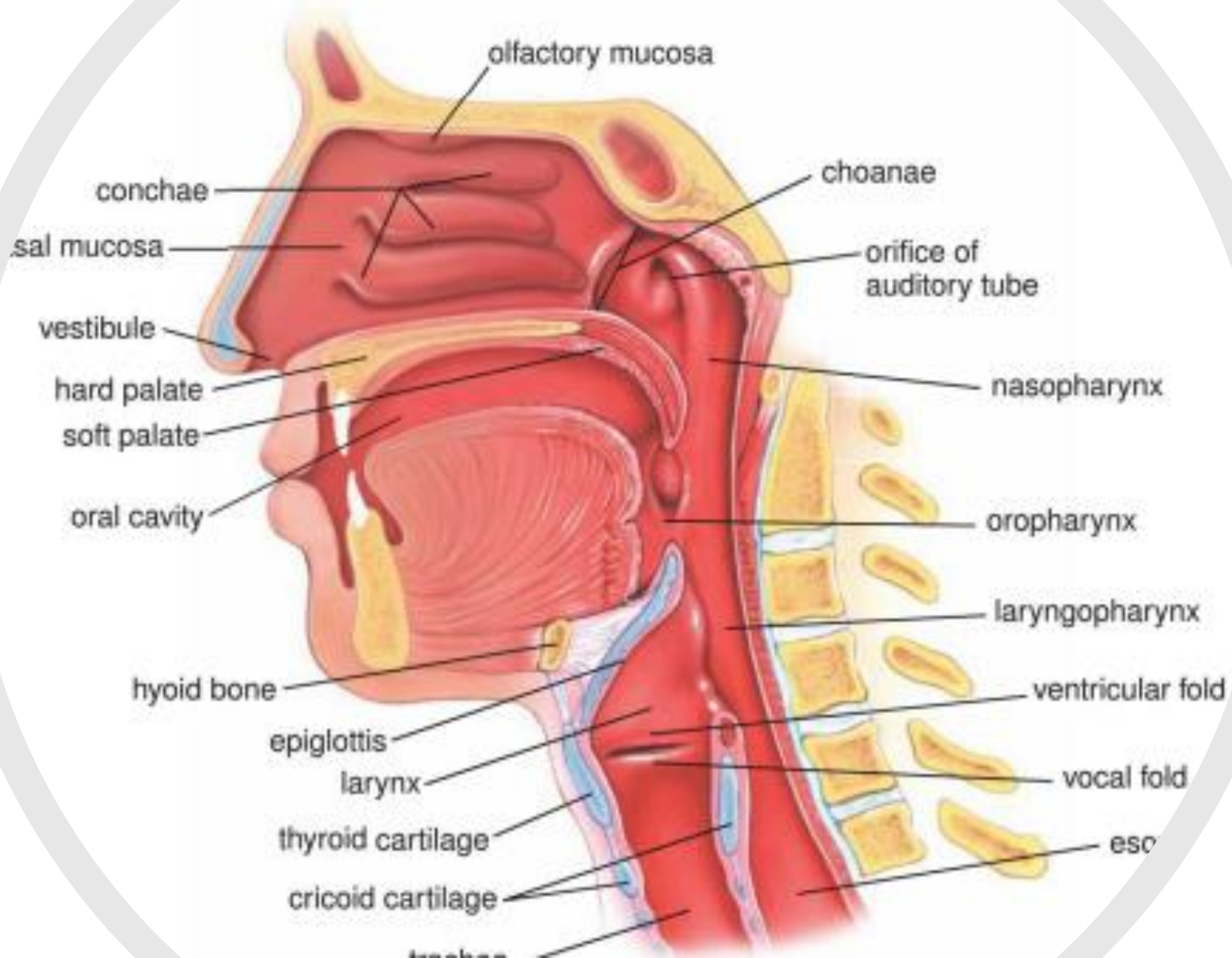
- Anterior portion of the nasal cavity (vestibule):

The vestibule is **lined with skin** and has **vibrissae**; short stiff hairs that prevent larger particles from entering the nasal cavity. The dermis contains **numerous sebaceous and sweat glands**.

- Posterior portion of the nasal cavity:
  - Except for the vestibule and olfactory region, the nasal cavity is lined by pseudostratified ciliated columnar epithelium, frequently called respiratory epithelium.









- The **subepithelial C.T.** (Lamina propria) is richly **vascularized**. It has many **seromucous glands** and abundant lymphoid elements, including occasional **lymphoid nodules**.
- **Olfactory region of the nasal cavity:**
- **Site:** it is located in the **roof of the nasal cavity**, the superior aspect of the nasal septum and the superior conchae.
- **Olfactory epithelium:**
- It is **yellow** in the living person (due to the presence of pigment in the epithelium) and **responsible for perception of odours**.
- Olfactory epithelium is composed of **3 types of cells:** **olfactory, sustentacular and basal cells**.

# Olfactory epithelium:

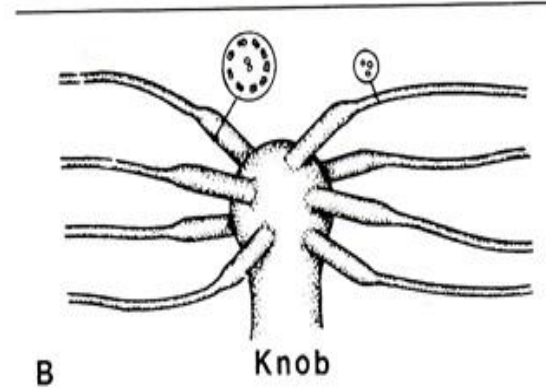
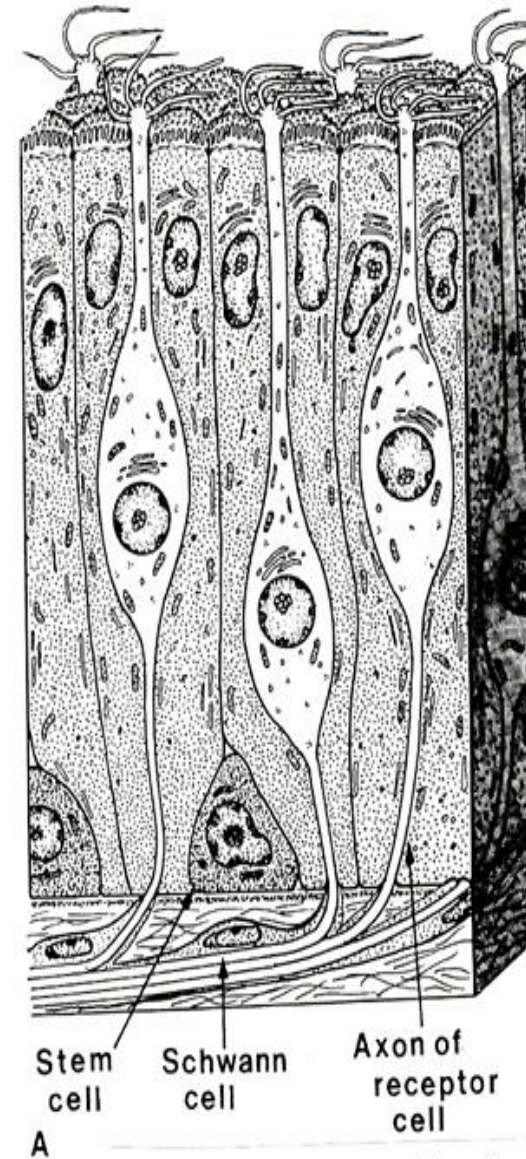
## • Supporting cells:

- **LM**: They are **tall columnar** cells with fine **yellowish granules** in their cytoplasm that responsible for the yellowish color of the mucosa.
- The **nucleus** is oval and situated at the superficial portion of cytoplasm.
- Their free cell surface presents **microvilli** that covered with a thin film of **serous fluid** produced from the Bowman's glands.
- They joined with adjacent olfactory cells by **junctional complexes** to prevent separation of the cells and access of secretion.
- They have a **supporting and nourishment function** for olfactory cells.

## • b. Olfactory (chemoreceptor) cells

- They are **bipolar neurons** which lie in-between the supporting cells.
- They have **oval or rounded cell body** contain spherical nucleus, apical **dendrite** and basal **unmyelinated axons** directed to the olfactory bulb.
- **The nucleus** is roundish and present in the widest part of the body.
- The **cytoplasm** is more electron lucent than that of the other types of cells, and contains moderate **RER**, and moderate **supra-nuclear Golgi**.
- Most of **organelles** are close to the nucleus. The apical **dendrite** is modified to form a roundish **olfactory vesicle** projecting above the surface of sustentacular cells.

- Long, **non motile** (lacking the dynein) olfactory cilia (6-8 cilia) extend from the **olfactory vesicles** which act as receptors.
- They are stimulated by **odoriferous substance** dissolved in serous secretions bathing olfactory cilia.
- The **axon of olfactory cells** penetrates the basal lamina and join together to form bundles of nerve fibers.
- The **nerve fibers** penetrate the **cribriform plate** of ethmoid in the roof of the nasal cavity to synapse



*Olfactory mucosa showing the 3 cell types.  
A: basal cells, B: supporting cells, C: olfactory cell*

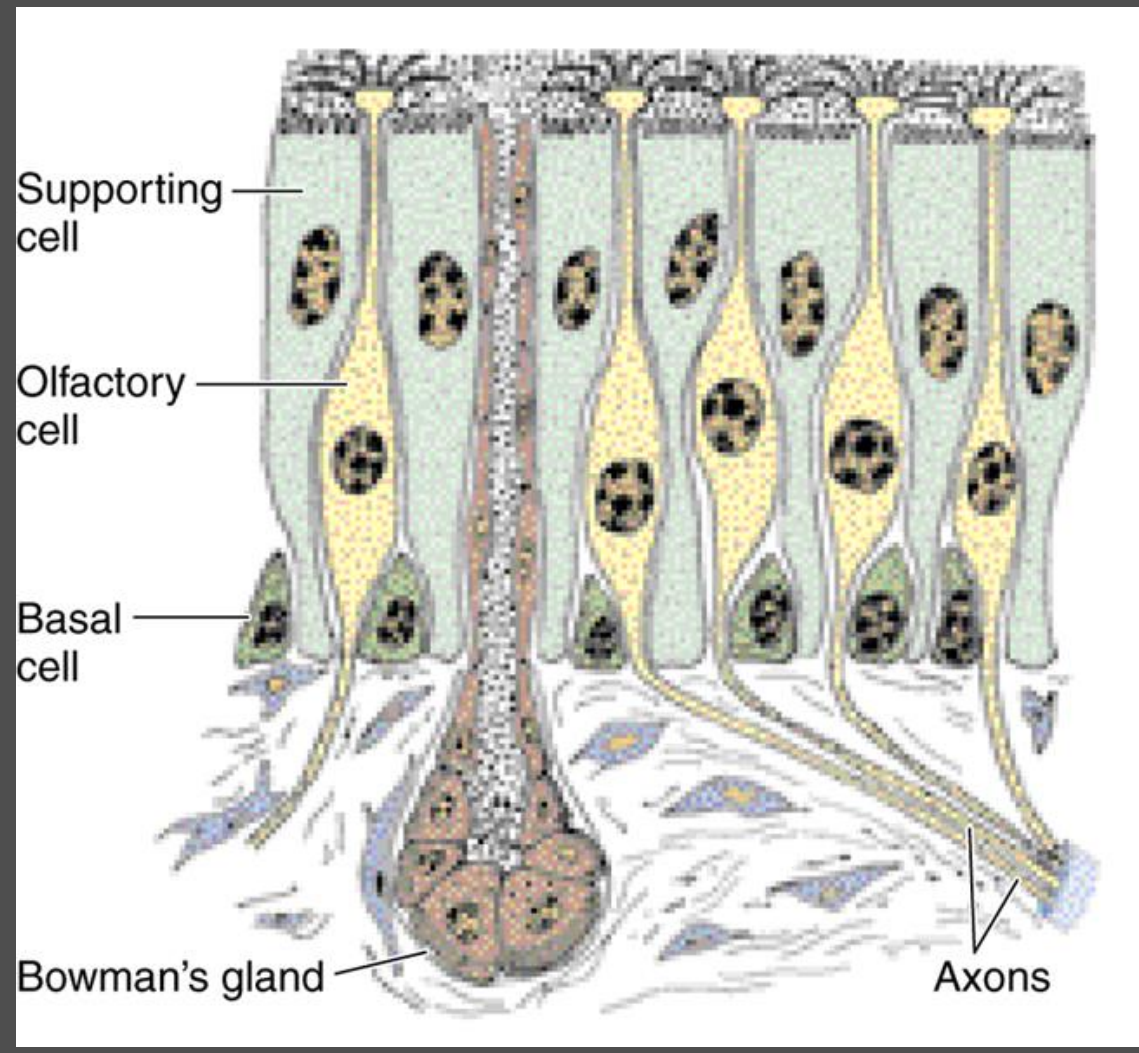
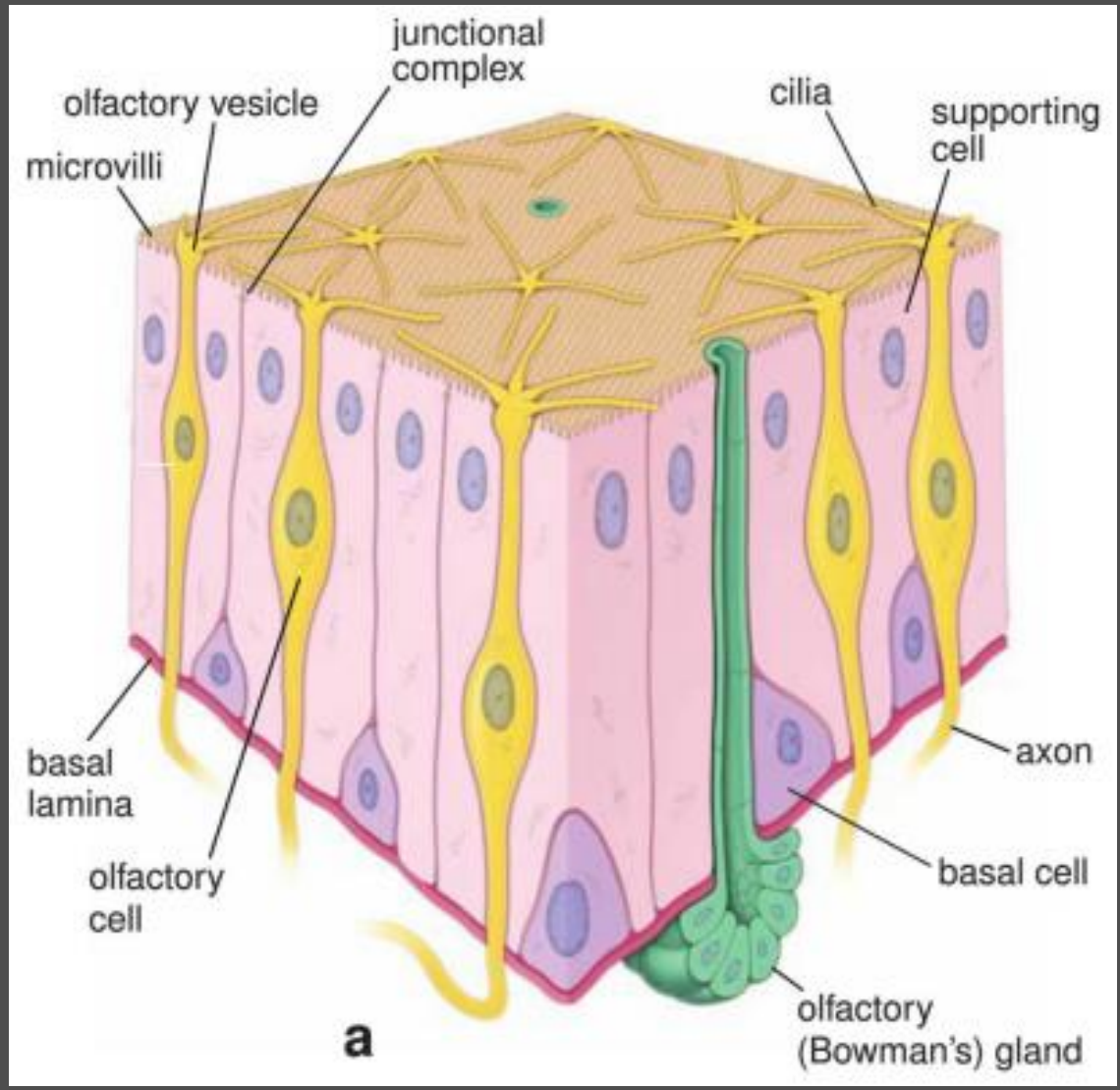


### c. Basal (reserve or stem) cells

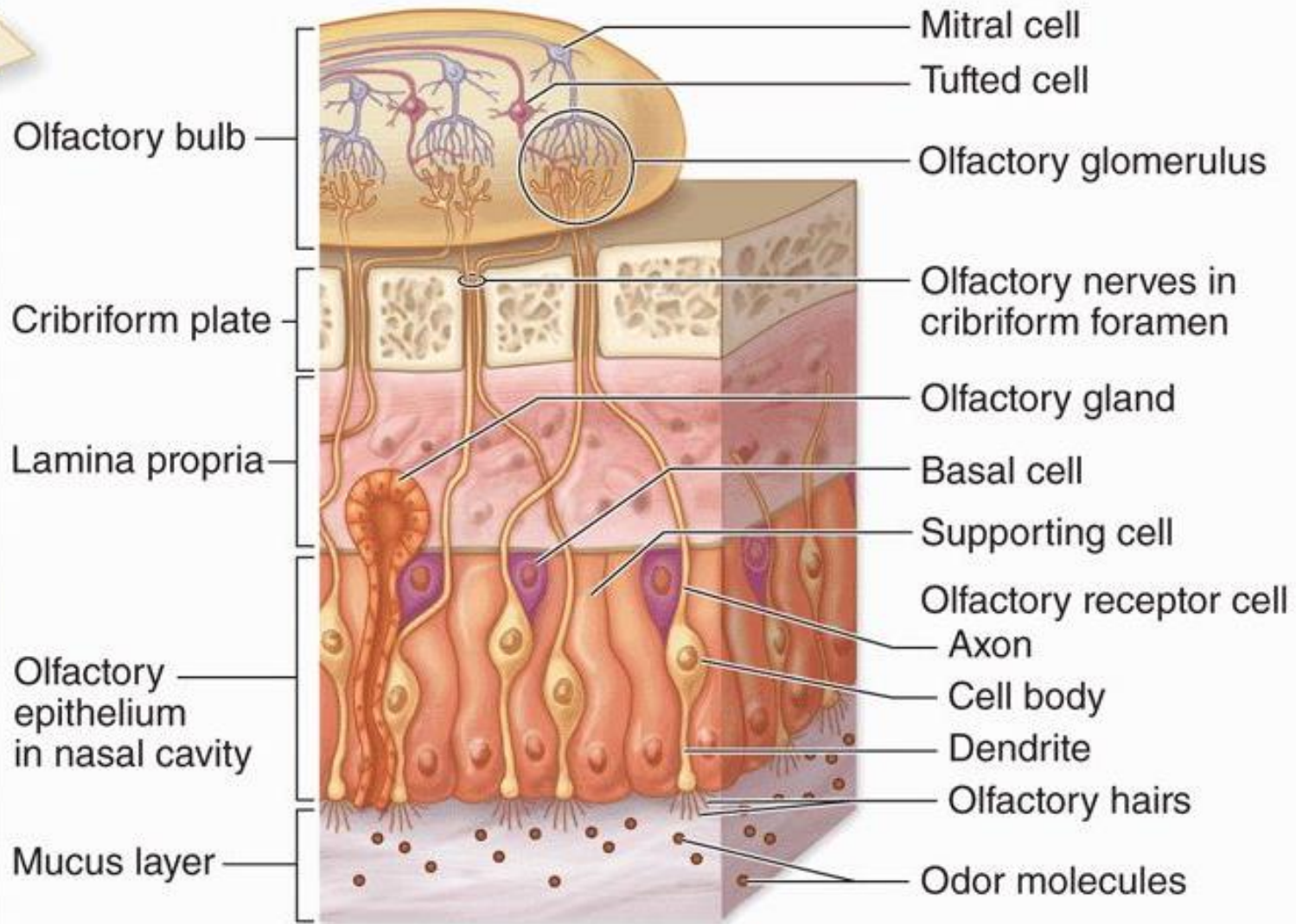
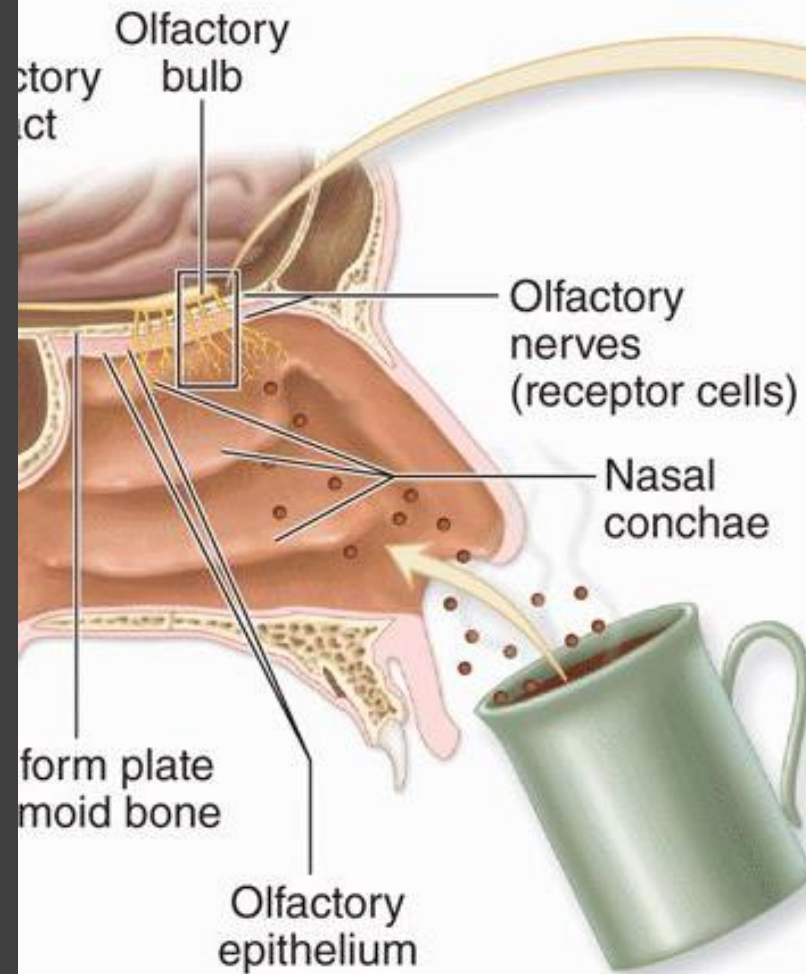
- They are **small rounded cells** located close to the basal lamina.
- Their **nuclei** are small darkly stained frequently invaginated.
- It lie **on the basement membrane** forming a **single layer** at the base of the epithelium.
- The **cytoplasm** contains **few organelles**, a feature consistent with their role as reserve cell.
- They can be **differentiated to form olfactory or sustentacular cells** (during prenatal life).
- The **neurons are not replaced at postnatal life**.

#### • b. **Lamina propria:**

- ► Formed of **dense fibro-elastic connective tissue** that contains serous glands (**Bowman's glands**).
- Their secretion covers **the olfactory cilia to clear them** and thus allow perception of new odorous substances.



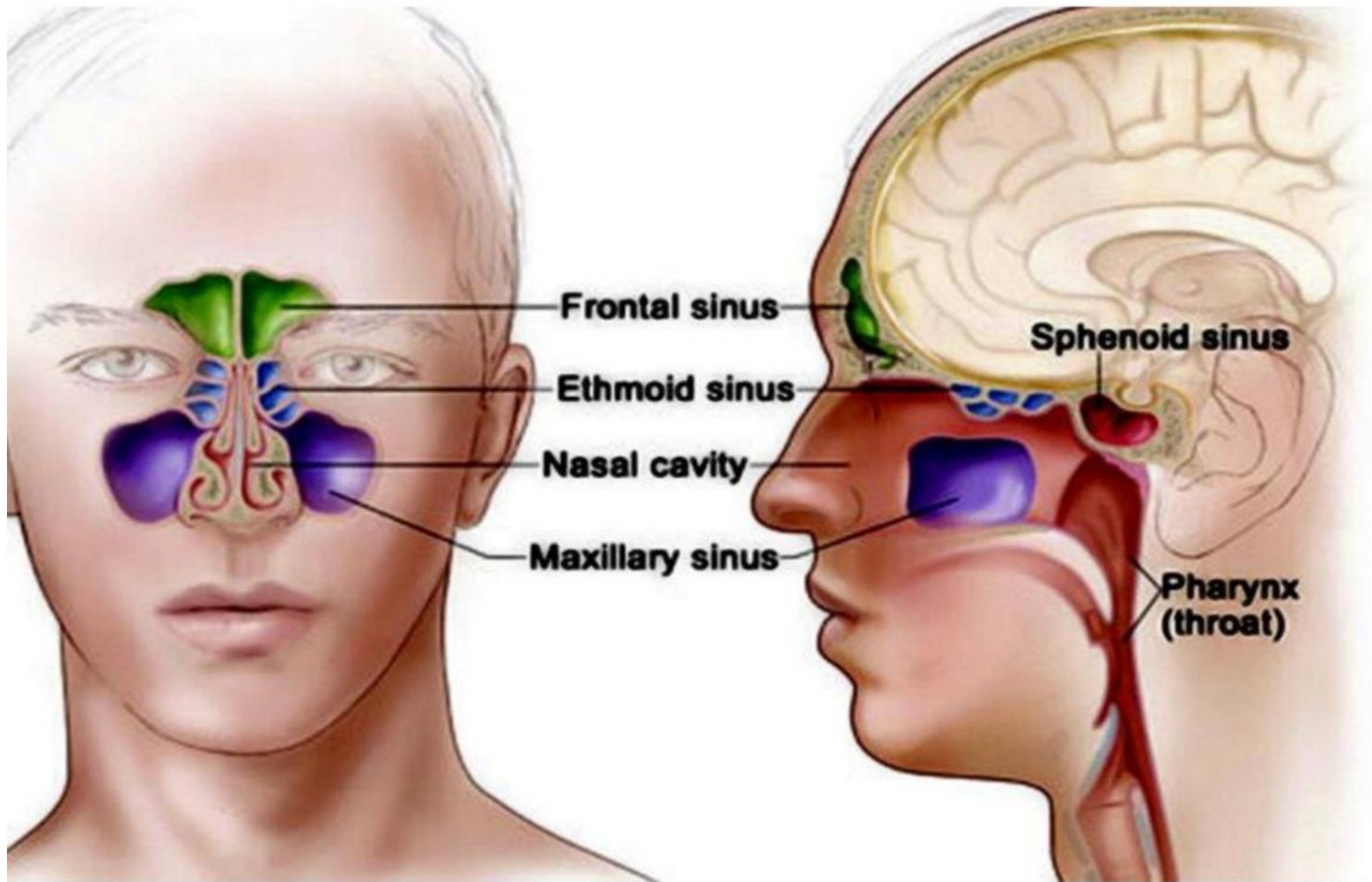




# PARANASAL SINUSES

- Ethmoid, sphenoid, frontal and maxillary bones of the skull contain large **paranasal sinuses** which **communicate with the nasal cavity**.
- They are **lined with a thin mucous membrane**, the epithelium of which is **pseudostratified columnar ciliated epithelium with goblet cells**.
- The **cilia sweep** the mucous layer toward the nasal cavity.






# 3- NASOPHARYNX

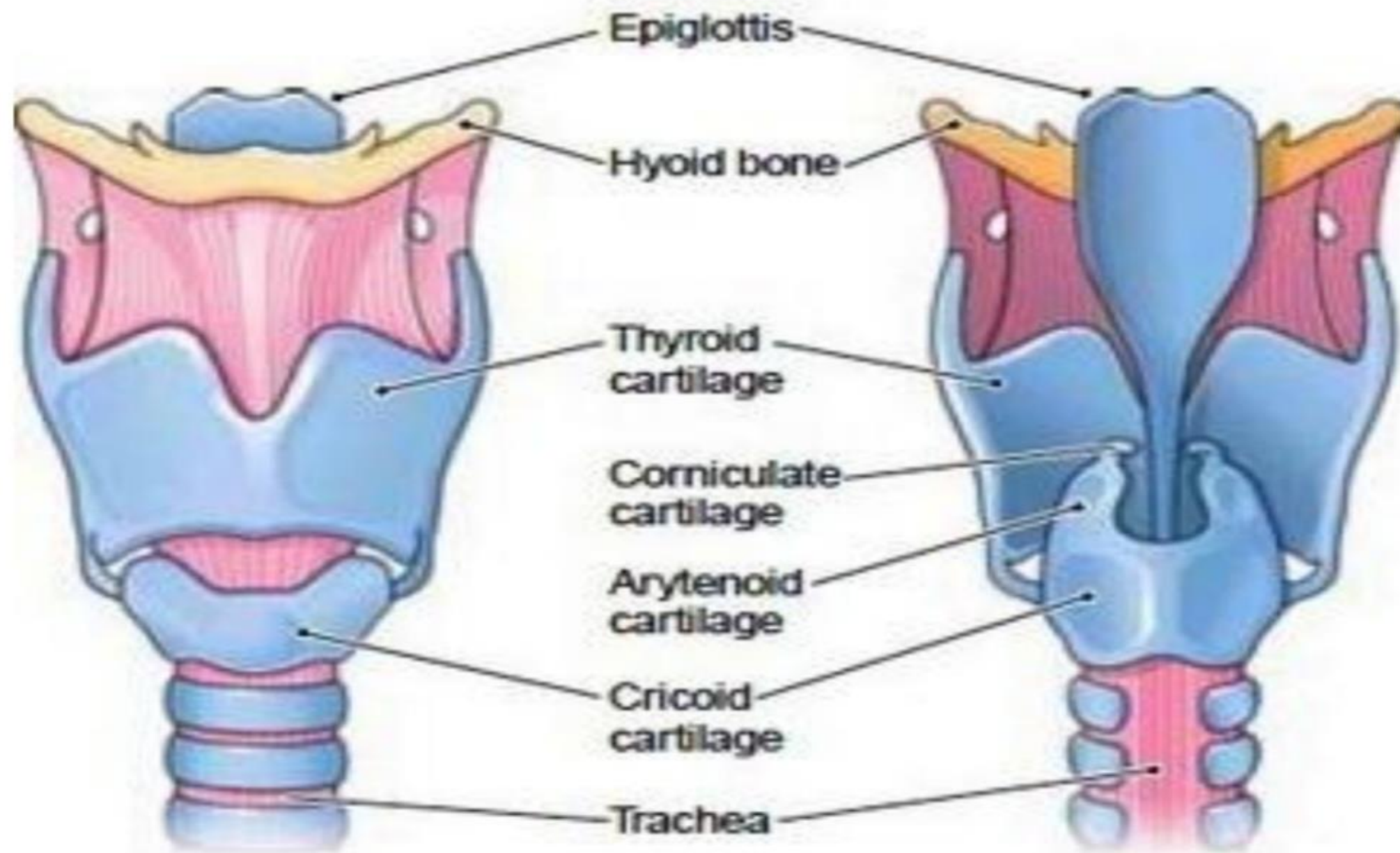
- The nasopharynx is **the area behind the nose** and above the soft palate.
- Its **nasal side** is **lined by a respiratory epithelium**.
- Its **oral surface** is lined with **stratified squamous epithelium**.
- It is protected from the regurgitation of food during swallowing by the soft palate rising upwards and closing it off from the rest of the pharynx.
- **The lamina propria** of the posterior aspect of the nasopharynx contains the pharyngeal tonsils.
- **The pharyngeal tonsil** (a collection of lymphoid tissue commonly known as the adenoids) is found in **the posterior wall and roof** of the nasopharynx.
- **The eustachian tube**, a **conduit with the middle ear**, enters at the level of the floor of the nose on the lateral walls. This explains the common concurrence of throat and middle ear infections.

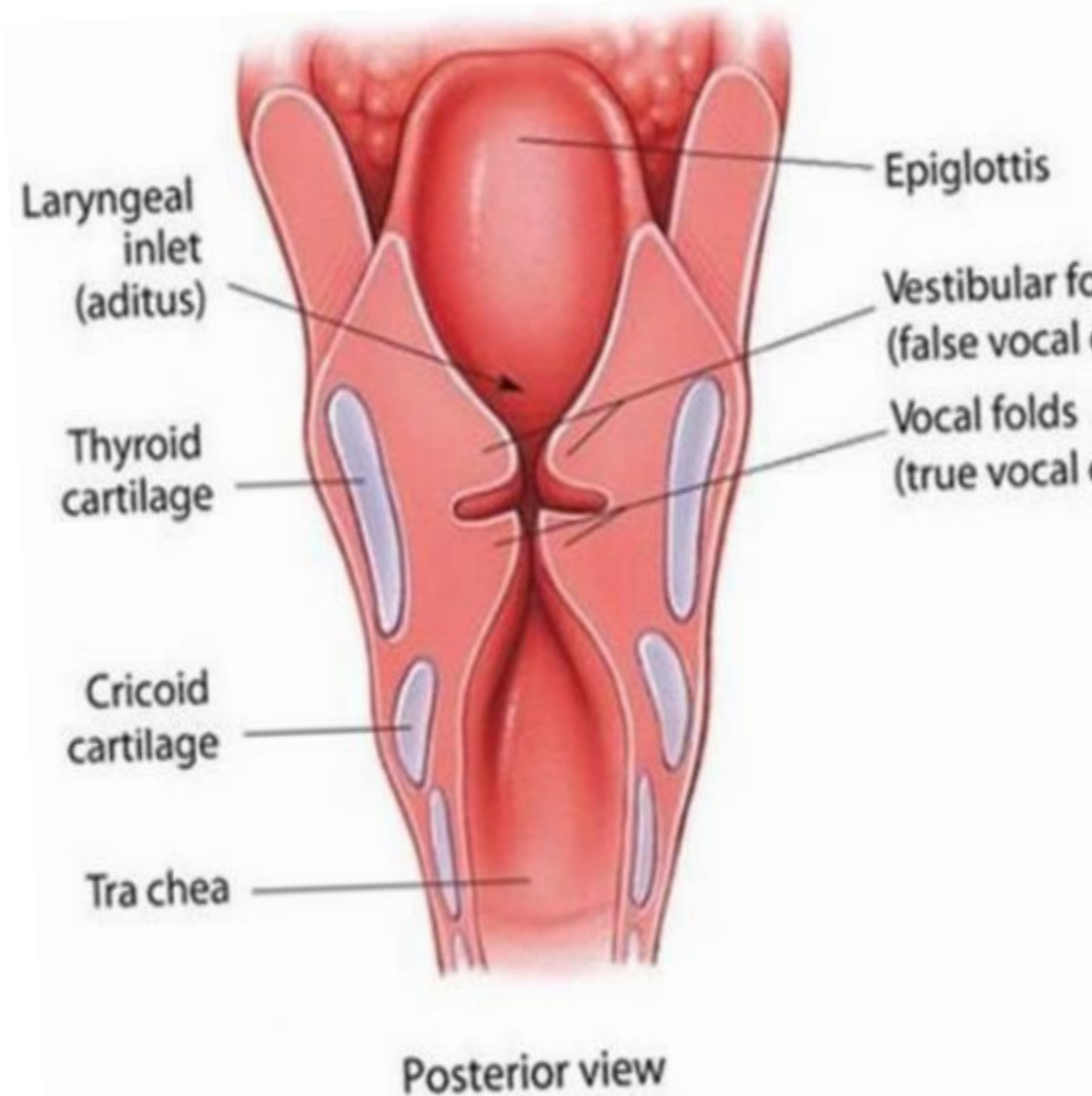
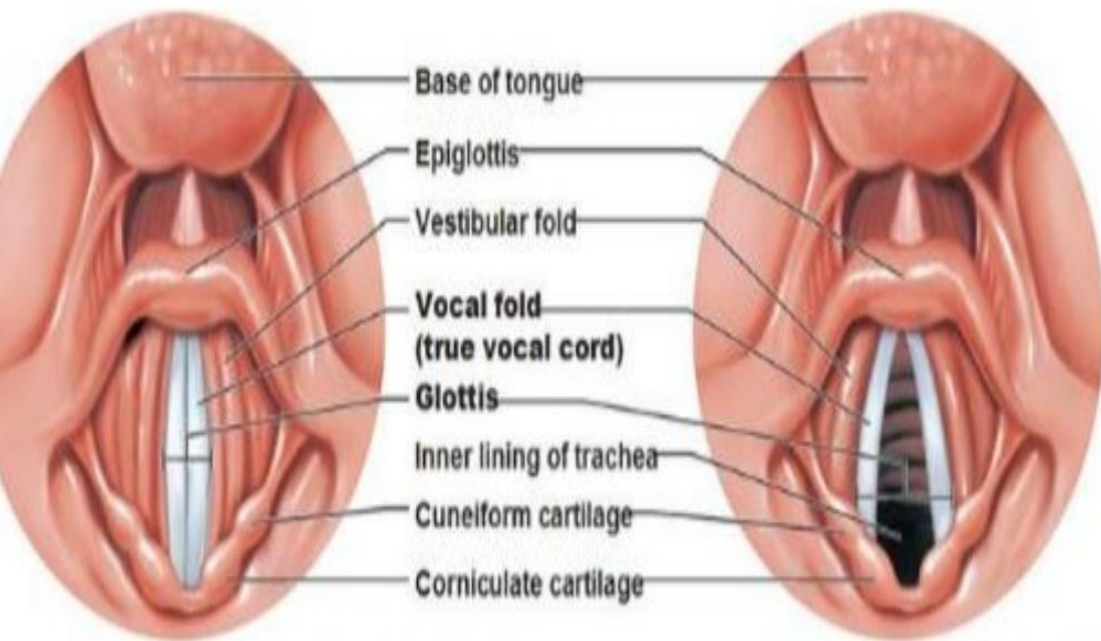
# 4- LARYNX

- It is a **musculocartilaginous** structure situated between the pharynx and the trachea, acts as an airway sphincter during swallowing and contains **the vocal cords** which are responsible for sound (vocalization).
- The laryngeal **wall is composed of** a mucosa, cartilages and striated muscle fibers in C.T. sheath.
- Its wall is **reinforced by cartilages** (thyroid, cricoids, epiglottis, and paired corniculate and cuneiform arytenoids) with **ligaments and muscles** that regulate the size of the laryngeal inlet.

- 
- **The thyroid, cricoid and lower parts** of arytenoids are **hyaline cartilages**.
  - The epiglottis, corniculate, cuneiform and vocal processes of arytenoids are **elastic cartilages**
  - **The epiglottis** is an elastic flap of cartilage, which lies behind the tongue and forms the entrance to the larynx. It serves to **prevent** swallowed food or fluid from entering that passage.
  - **The mucosa of the anterior surface of epiglottis & vocal cords** is nonkeratinized stratified squamous epithelium while the rest of the larynx is lined with









# Trachea

**The trachea** is a tube that lies between the larynx and main bronchi of the lungs. It has a series of **20 C-shaped hyaline cartilage** rings that keep the tracheal lumen open with a **band of smooth muscle** (trachealis muscle) over the cartilage-deficient area **posteriorly** (i.e. against the esophagus).

**The trachea is lined with** respiratory epithelium, which acts as an escalator, wafting particulate matter in the mucus upwards, away from the lower airways. **The elastic fibers** in the lamina propria prevent excessive distention of the lumen. **The lamina propria contains** numerous seromucous (mixed) glands.



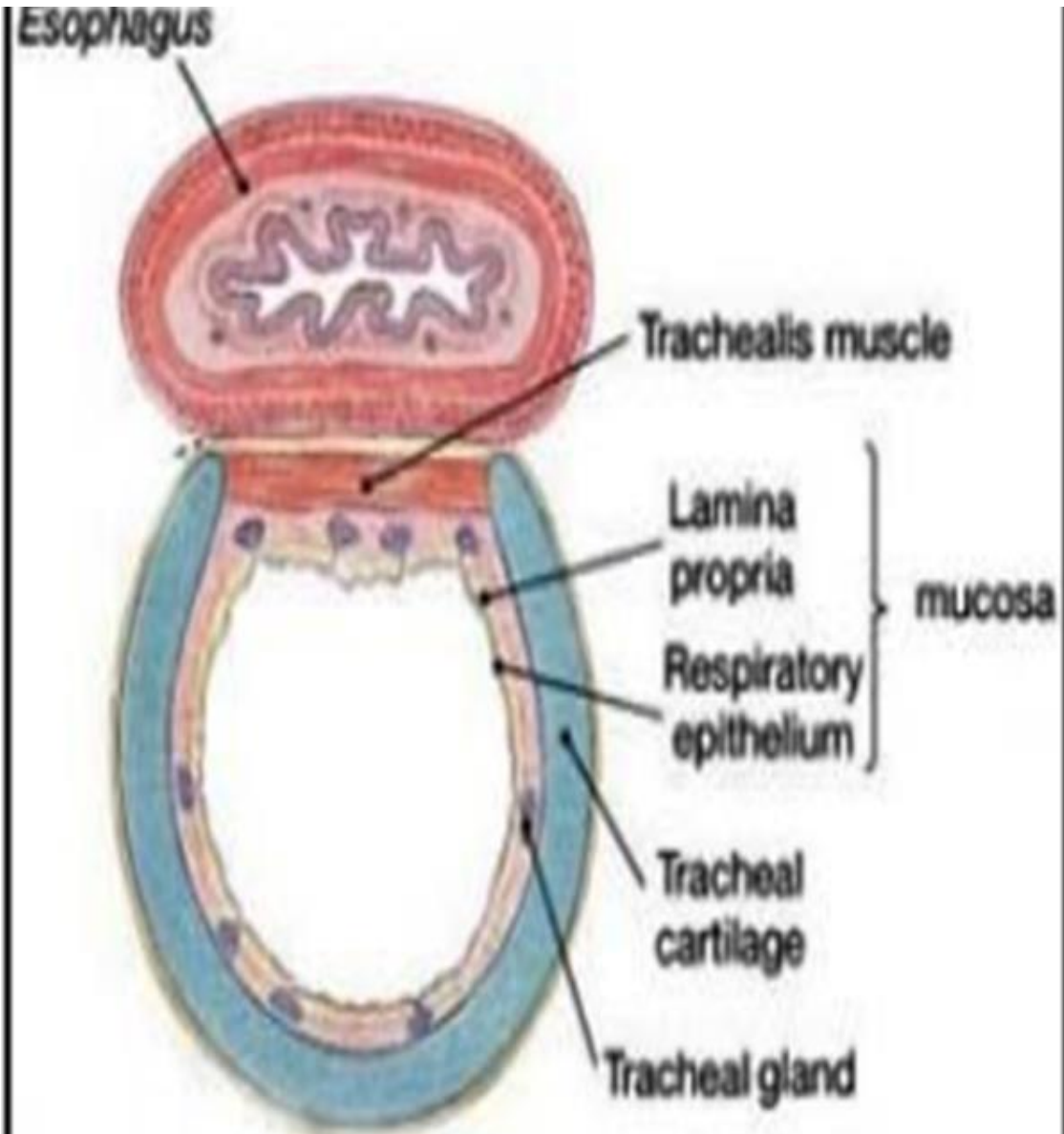


Figure 330. Cross section through the trachea of the cat; stained with hematoxylin and eosin.





- The wall of the trachea consists of 3 definable layers:

- **1. Mucosa:**

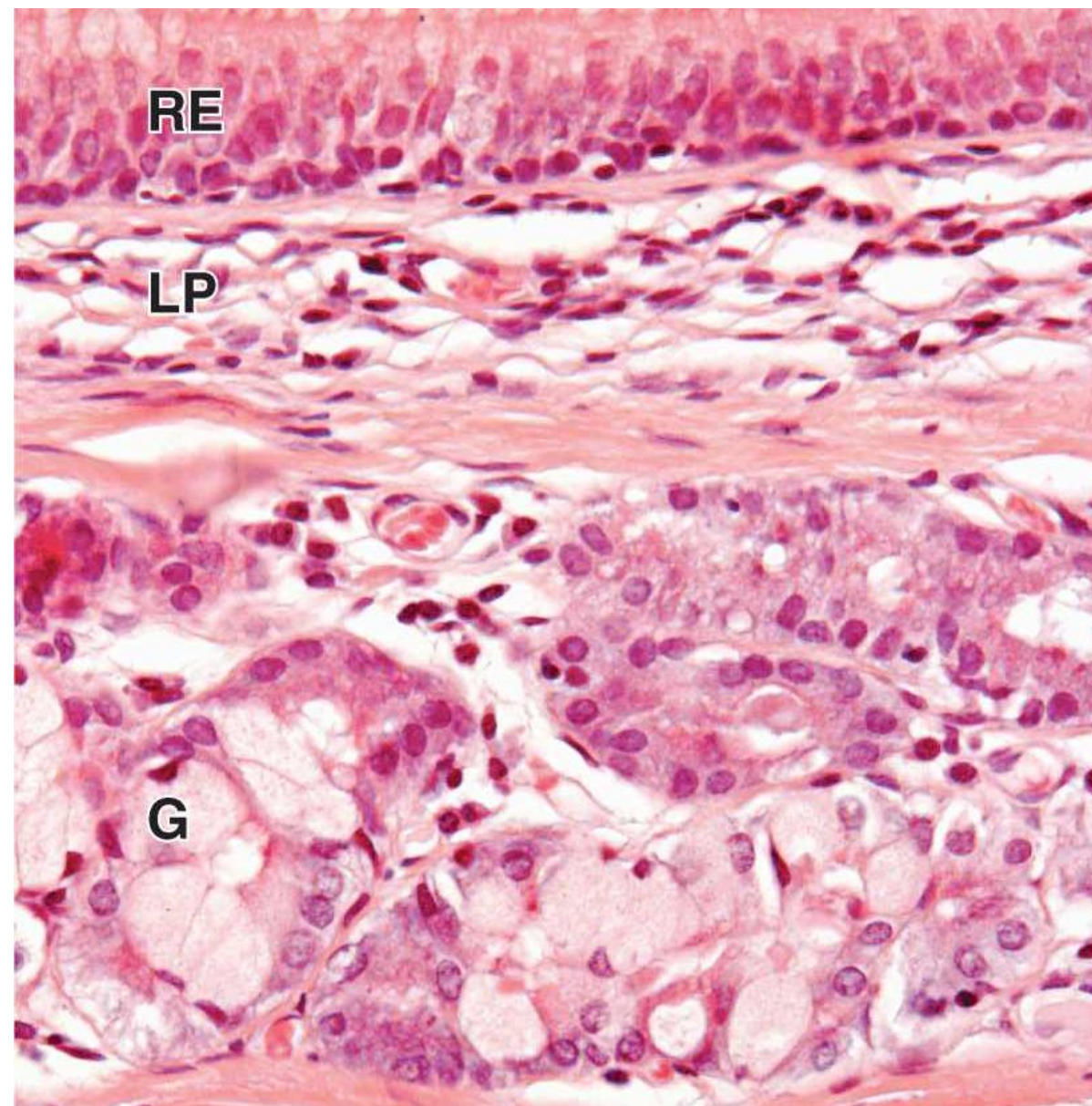
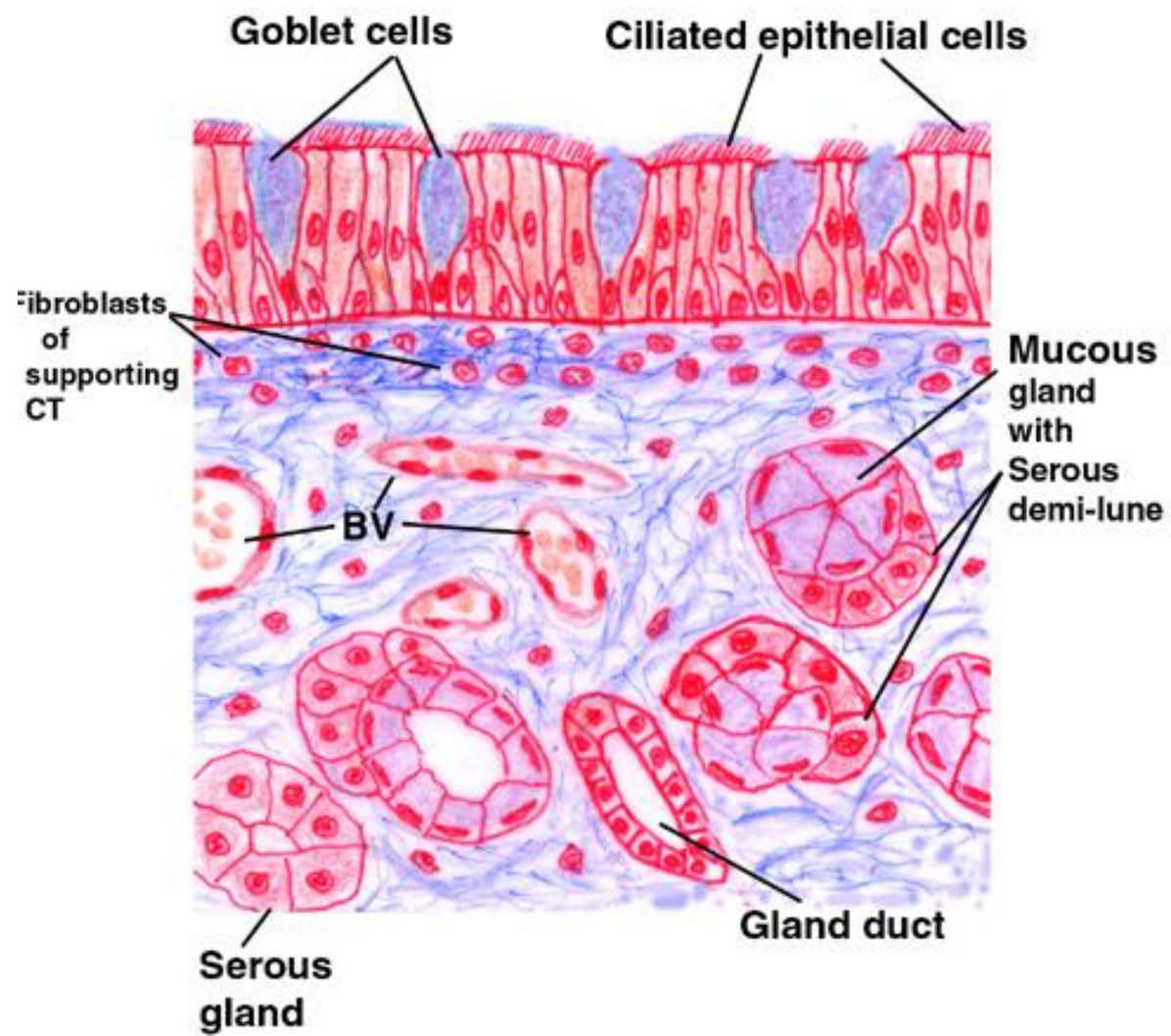
**A- Epithelium:** **Respiratory epithelium** (pseudostratified columnar ciliated with goblet cells). **six types of cells** could be recognized: ciliated columnar cells, goblet cells, basal cells, brush cells, serous cells and kulchitsky (K) or small granule cells.

**B- The lamina propria:** **Loose fibroelastic CT** rich in elastic fibers, lymphocytes, and lymphatic nodules.

**C. Lamina elastic interna:** The elastic fibers are condensed to form an **elastic membrane** separating the lamina propria from the submucosa. It is responsible for **elastic recoil of the trachea after expiration**.

- **2. Sub-mucosa:** CT layer which contains **mixed glands**. Their **ducts** pass through the elastic membrane to open onto the surface.

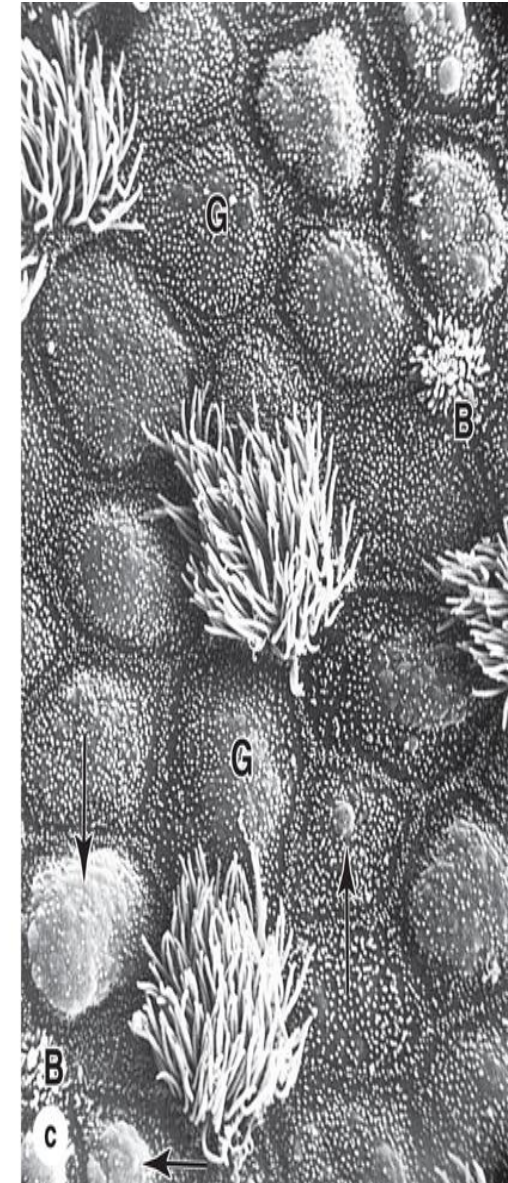
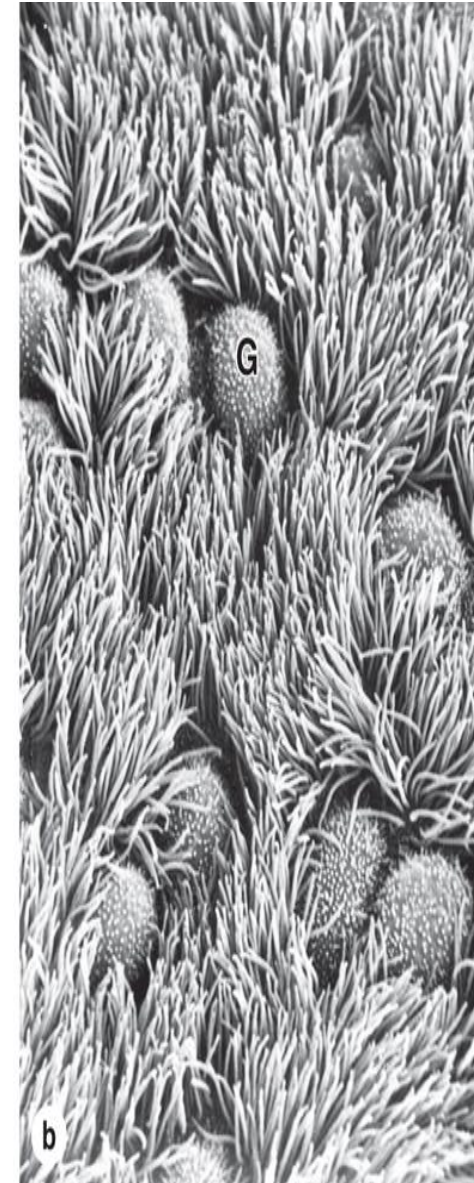
- **3- Fibro-cartilagenous layer:** Fibroelastic CT containing **20 C-shaped hyaline cartilaginous rings** located anteriorly and laterally, but incomplete posteriorly. **Posteriorly**, the wall of the trachea contains a thick band of transversely arranged bundles **of smooth muscles**.





# Respiratory epithelium

- It is characteristically **pseudostratified columnar ciliated with goblet cells.**
- • This epithelium has **five major cell types**:
  - 1- Ciliated columnar cells.
  - 2- Goblet cells.
  - 3- Basal cells.
  - 4- Brush cells.
  - 5- Pulmonary neuroendocrine cells



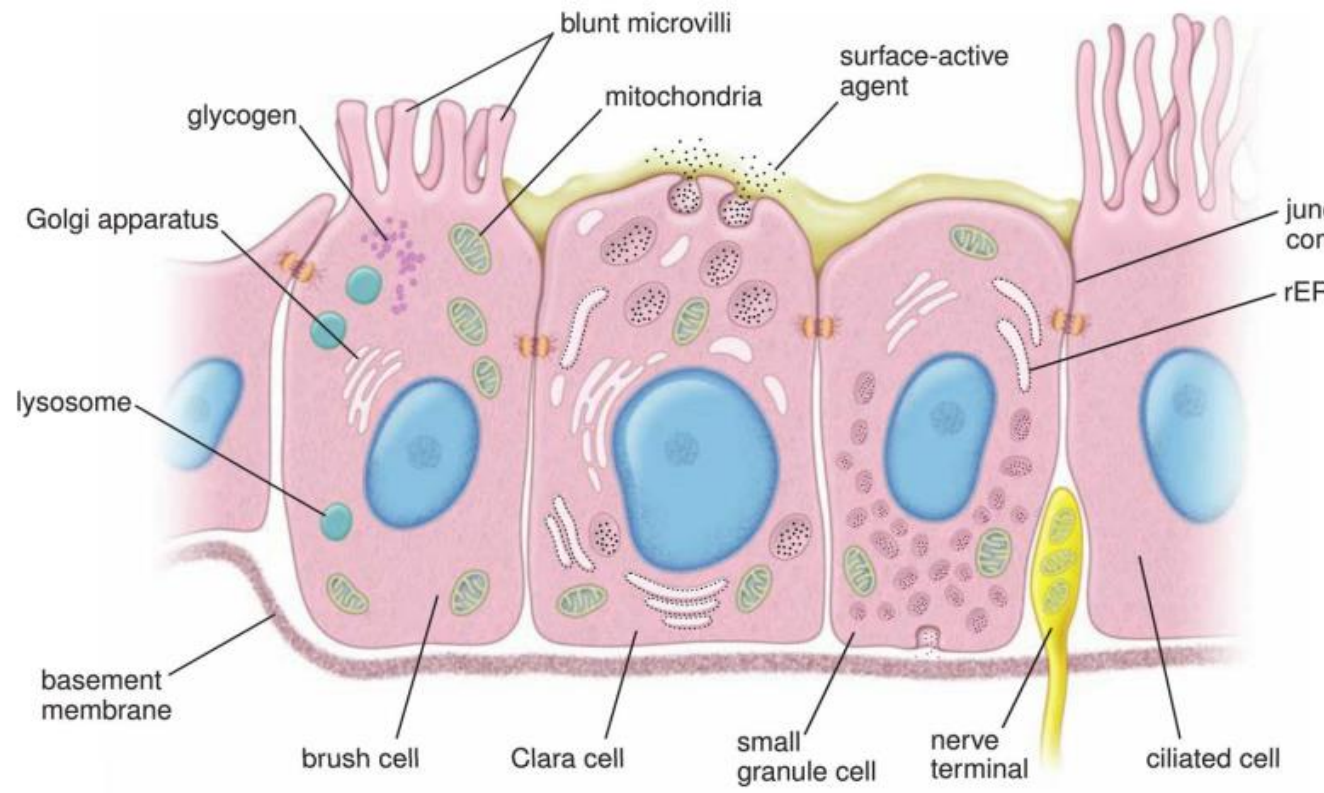
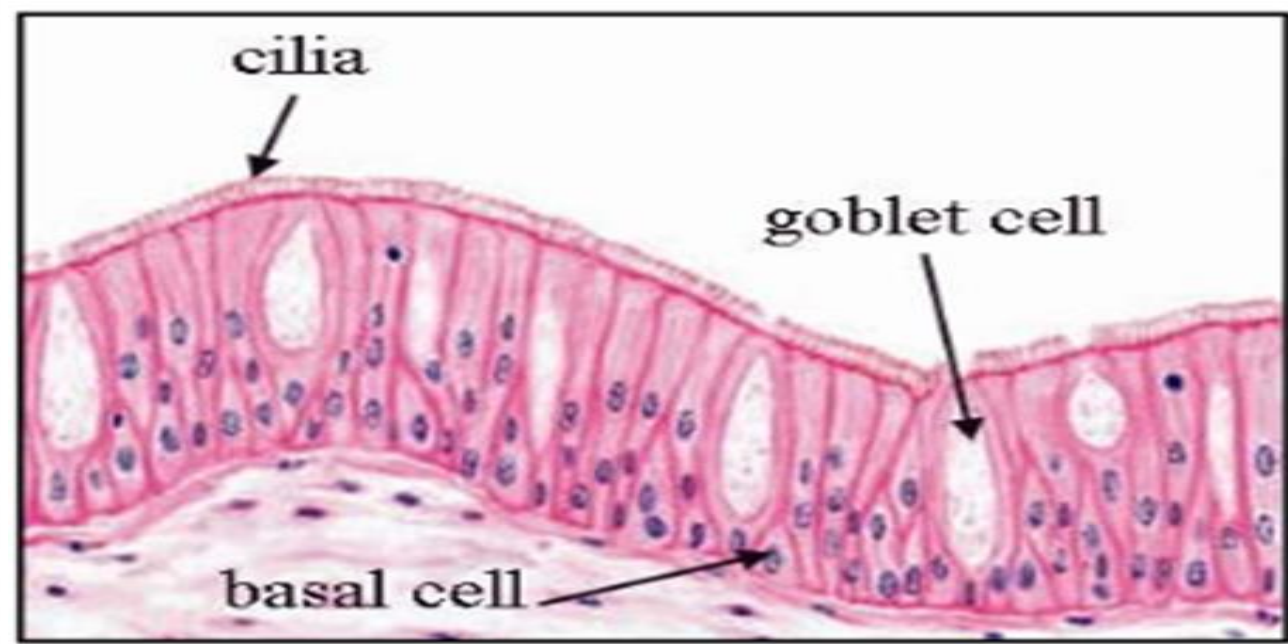
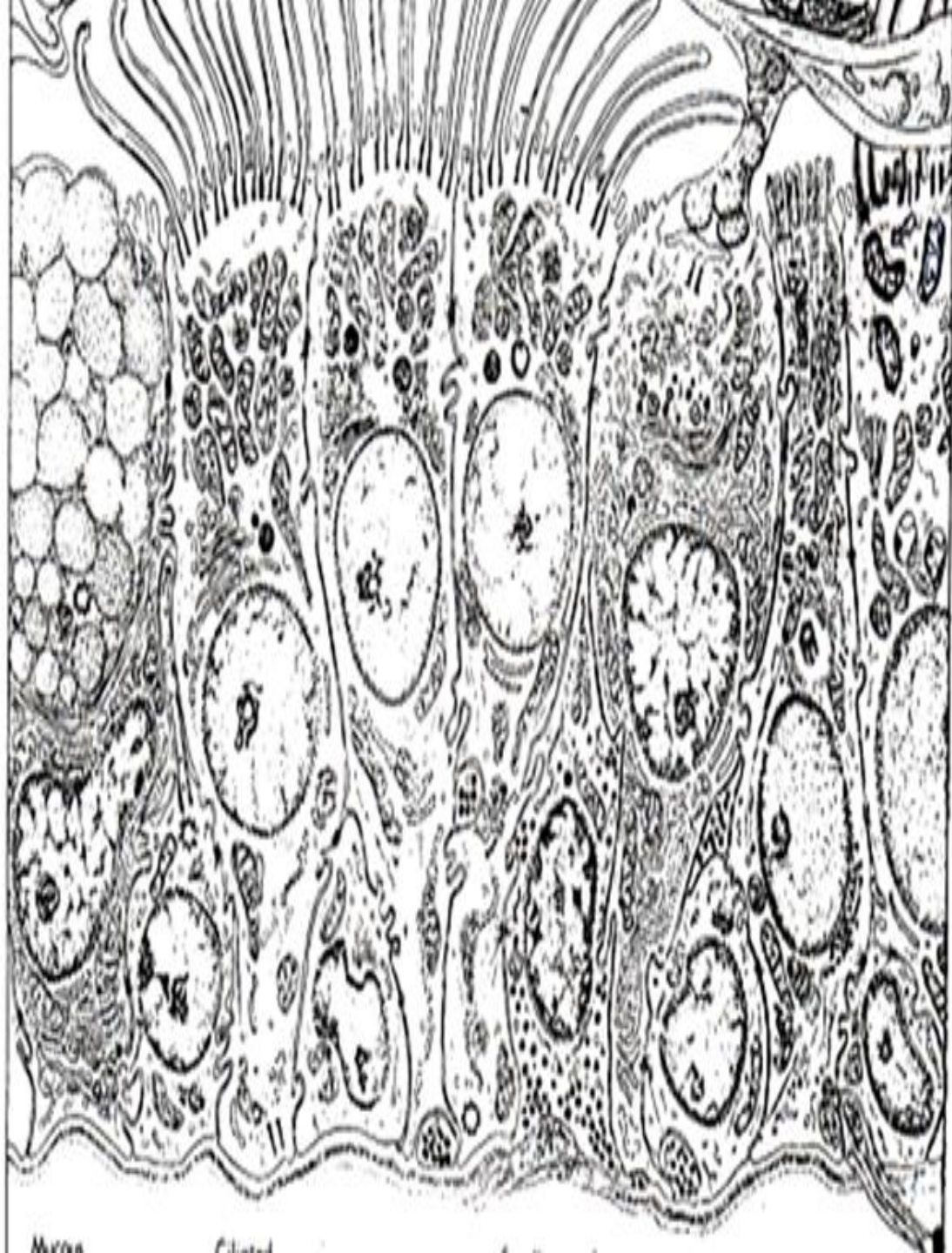
# Respiratory System

- **Ciliated columnar cells and Goblet cells** The beating motion of the cilia and the mucous secretion of the goblet cells make up the “**mucociliary escalator**” which is important in removing the inhaled particles. This is an



## Pulmonary neuroendocrine cells (PNECs) or Kulchitsky (K) or small granule cells

- They are **argentaﬃnlike** cells, resemble the **enteroendocrine cells** of GIT.
- They have **neuro-endocrine function**, secrete peptides and endocrine factors that may play role in **sensing low tissue oxygen and inducing lung growth and repair**.
- **PNEC hyperplasia** lead to small cell lung cancer, is thought to be induced **by nicotine**.









**REFERENCES:**



**JUNQUEIRA'S BASIC  
HISTOLOGY (TEXT AND ATLAS)  
(2018) 15 TH EDITION.**



**ELSEVIER'S INTEGRATED  
HISTOLOGY (2007) 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION.**



# QUIZ

## Choose the correct answer

**1- T.S. of the trachea reveals:**

- a. Multiple plates of cartilage.
- b. No cartilage.
- c. C-shaped elastic cartilage rings.
- d. Compact bone.
- e. C-shaped hyaline cartilage rings.

**2- The smooth muscle fibers of the trachea are present:**

- a. In the submucosa.
- b. Between the cartilage ends.
- c. In the mucosa.
- d. Over the cartilage-deficient area anteriorly.
- e. Around the lumen