

# HISTORY OF MICROBIOLOGY

Dr. Bincy Joseph

Assistant professor

PGIVER, Jaipur

# MICROBIOLOGY



- The development of microbiology as a scientific discipline has depended on the availability of the microscope and the ability to isolate and grow pure cultures of microorganisms
- The development of these techniques in large part grew out of studies
- disproving the Theory of Spontaneous Generation
- establishing that microorganisms can cause disease

# Microbiology

# Microbiology

## Definition

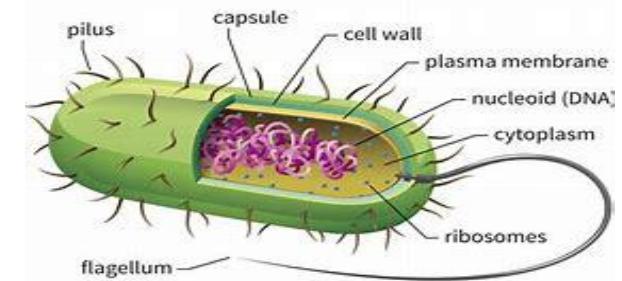


- Microbiology often has been defined as the study of organisms and agents too small to be seen clearly by the unaided eye—that is, the study of microorganisms

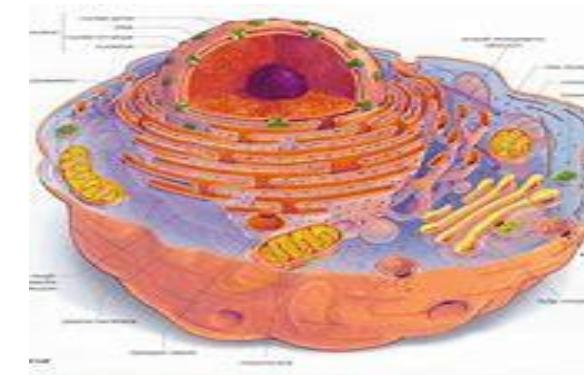
Thiomargarita and Epulopiscium are the two bacteria which can be seen by naked eye



- Prokaryotic cells [Greek pro, before, and karyon, nut or kernel; organisms with a primordial nucleus] have a much simpler morphology than eukaryotic cells
- Lack a true membrane-delimited nucleus

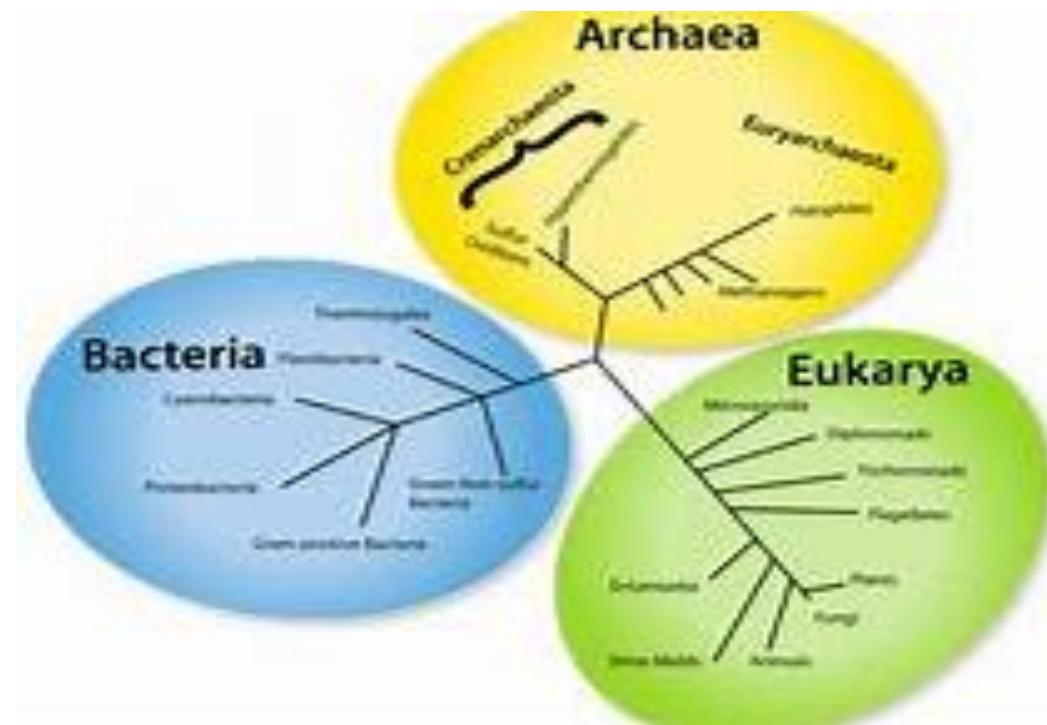


- In contrast, eucaryotic cells [Greek, eu, true, and karyon, nut or kernel] have a membrane-enclosed nucleus
- They are more complex morphologically and are usually larger than prokaryotes



# THREE DOMAINS OF LIFE

- Carl Woese in 1970
- Based on the difference in Ribosomal RNA (rRNA) sequence



# 3 domains of life

## Bacteria

- Bacteria are prokaryotes
- usually single-celled organisms.
- Most have cell walls that contain the structural molecule peptidoglycan
- They are abundant in soil, water, and air and are also major inhabitants of our skin, mouth, and intestines.
- Some bacteria live in environments that have extreme temperatures,

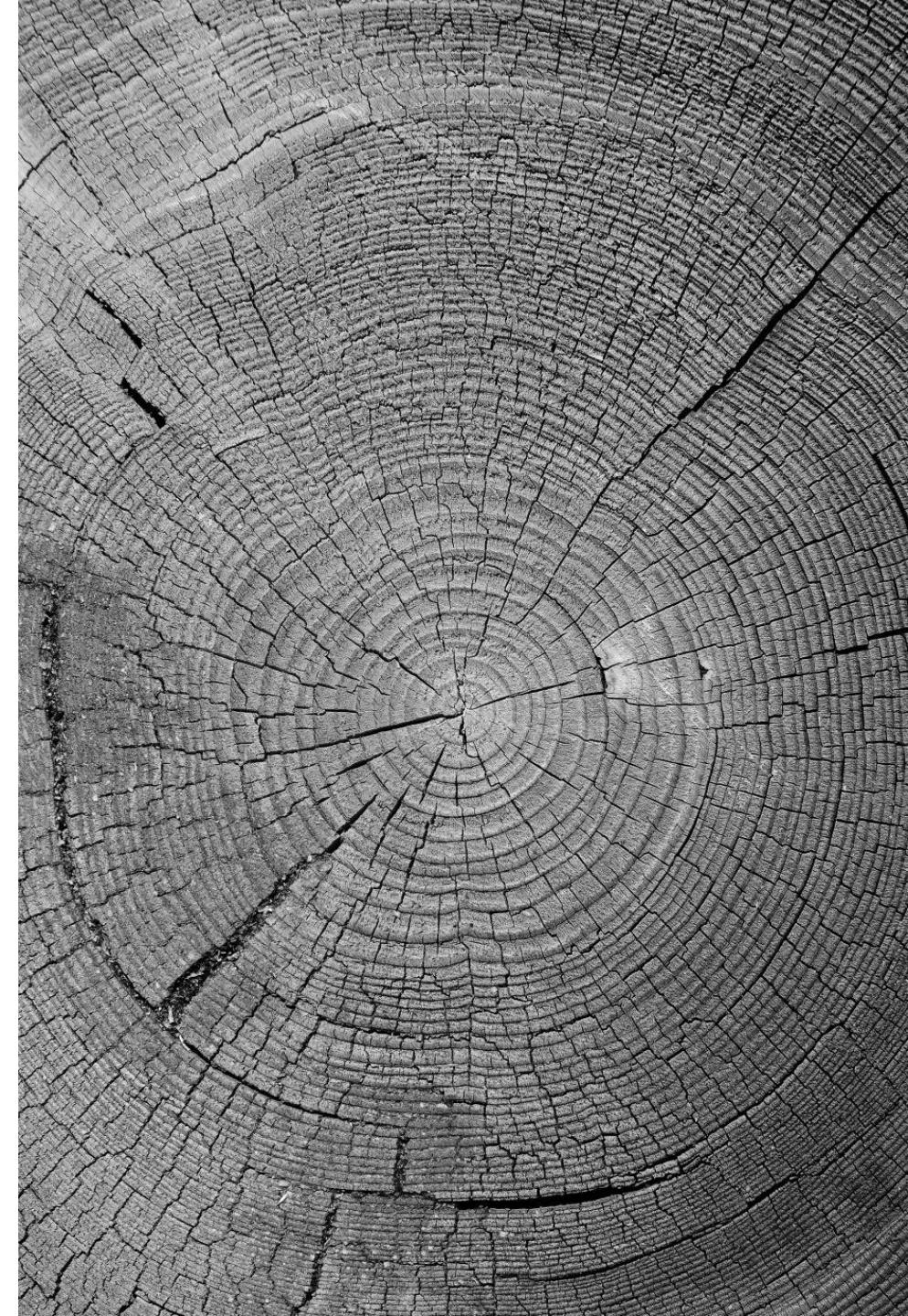
## Archae

- Archaea are prokaryotes
- most notably their unique ribosomal RNA sequences.
- They also lack peptidoglycan in their cell walls
- Have unique membrane lipids
- Some have unusual metabolic characteristics, such as the methanogens, which generate methane gas. Many archaea are found in extreme environments. Pathogenic archaea have not yet been identified

# Eukarya

- Domain Eukarya includes microorganisms classified as protists or Fungi.
- Protists are generally larger than prokaryotes and include unicellular algae, protozoa, slime molds, and water molds.
- Algae are photosynthetic protists that together with the cyanobacteria produce about 75% of the planet's oxygen

# History of microbiology



# Theories of spontaneous generations

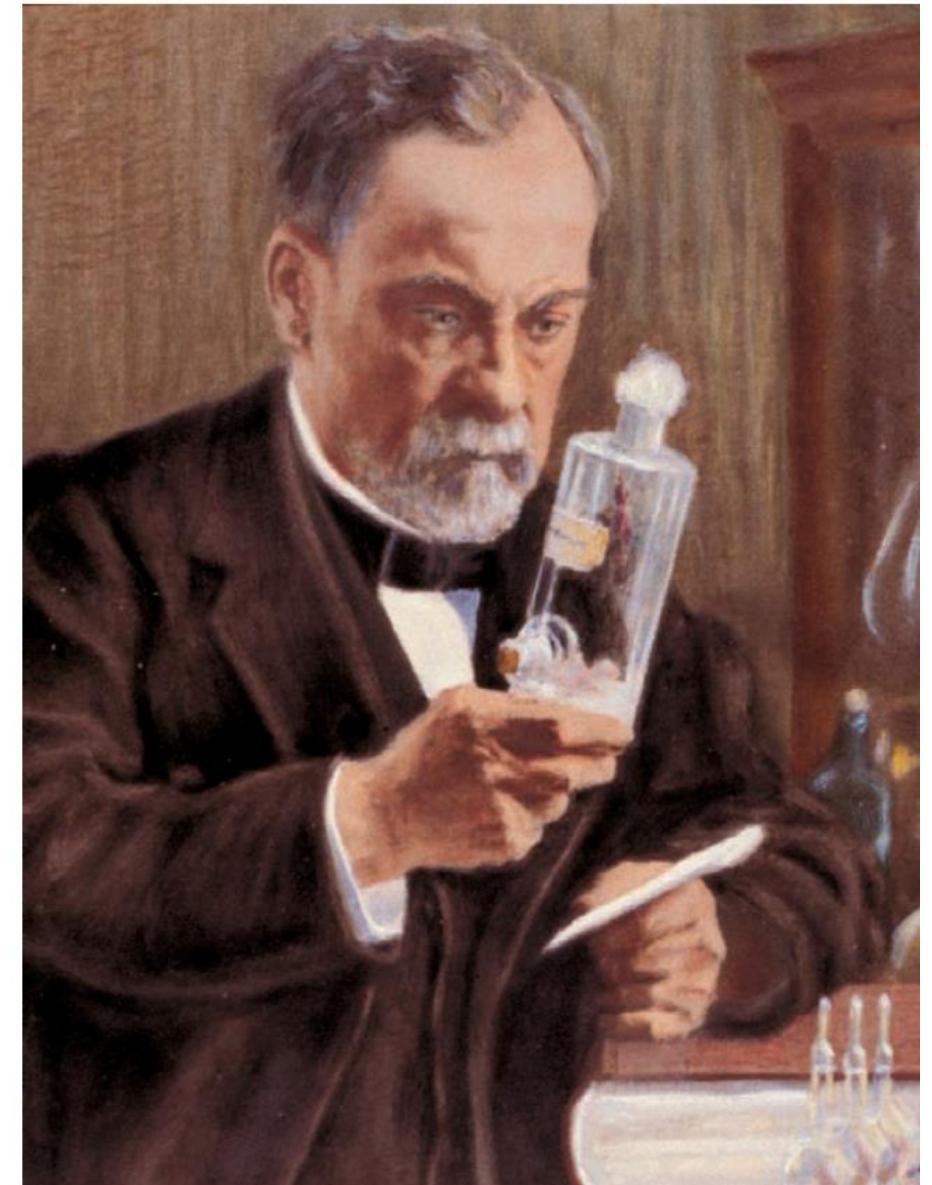
- Spontaneous generation—that living organisms could develop from non living matter.
- Even Aristotle (384–322 B.C.) thought some of the simpler invertebrates could arise by spontaneous generation.
- This view finally was challenged by the Italian physician Francesco Redi (1626–1697), who carried out a series of experiments on decaying meat and its ability to produce maggots spontaneously
- English priest John Needham (1713–1781) reported the results of his experiments on spontaneous generation.
- Lazzaro Spallanzani (1729–1799) improved on Needham's experimental design by first sealing glass flasks that contained water and seeds. If the sealed flasks were placed in boiling water for 3/4 of an hour, no growth took place as long as the flasks remained sealed

# Theories of spontaneous generation

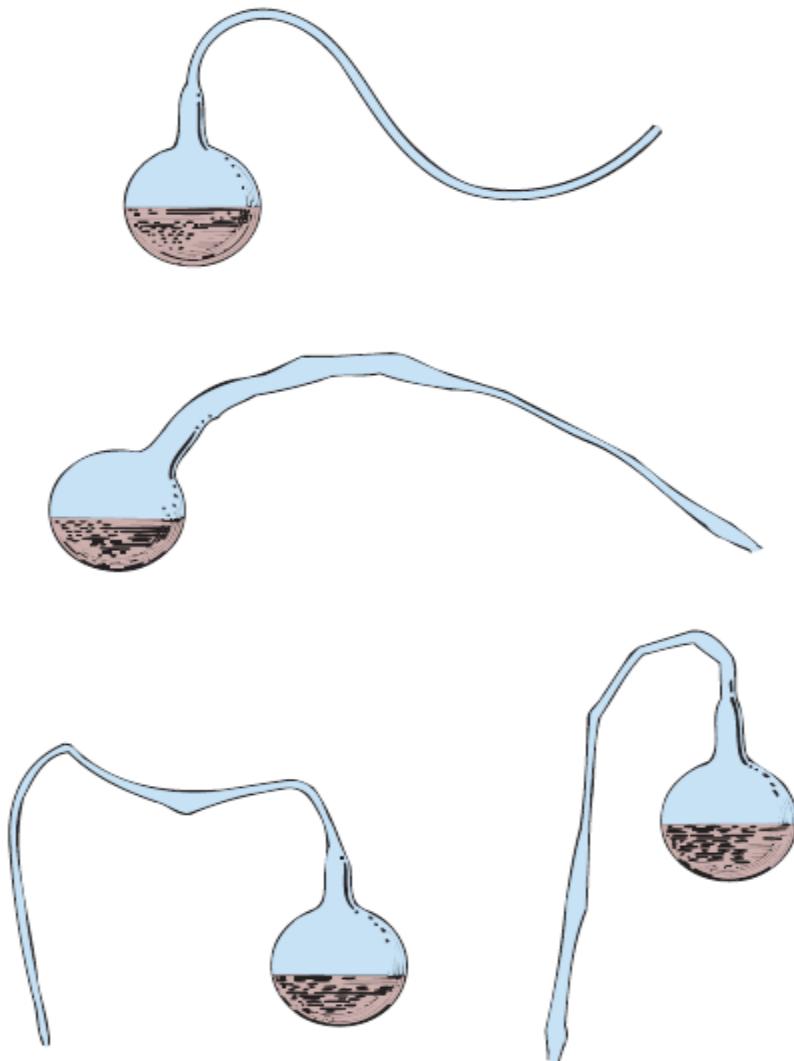
- Theodore Schwann (1810–1882) allowed air to enter a flask containing a sterile nutrient solution after the air had passed through a red-hot tube. The flask remained sterile.
- Georg Friedrich Schroder and Theodor von Dusch allowed air to enter a flask of heat-sterilized medium after it had passed through sterile cotton wool.
- No growth occurred in the medium even though the air had not been heated.

## Swan neck flask experiments- Louis Pasteur

- Pasteur , first filtered air through cotton and found that objects resembling plant spores had been trapped.
- If a piece of the cotton was placed in sterile medium after air had been filtered through it, microbial growth occurred. Next he placed nutrient solutions in flasks, heated their necks in a flame, and drew them out into a variety of curves, while keeping the ends of the necks open to the atmosphere
- The English physicist John Tyndall (1820–1893) dealt a final blow to spontaneous generation in 1877
- **Ferdinand Cohn** (1828–1898) discovered the existence of heat-resistant bacterial endospores



**Figure 1.4 Louis Pasteur.** Pasteur (1822–1895) working in his laboratory.

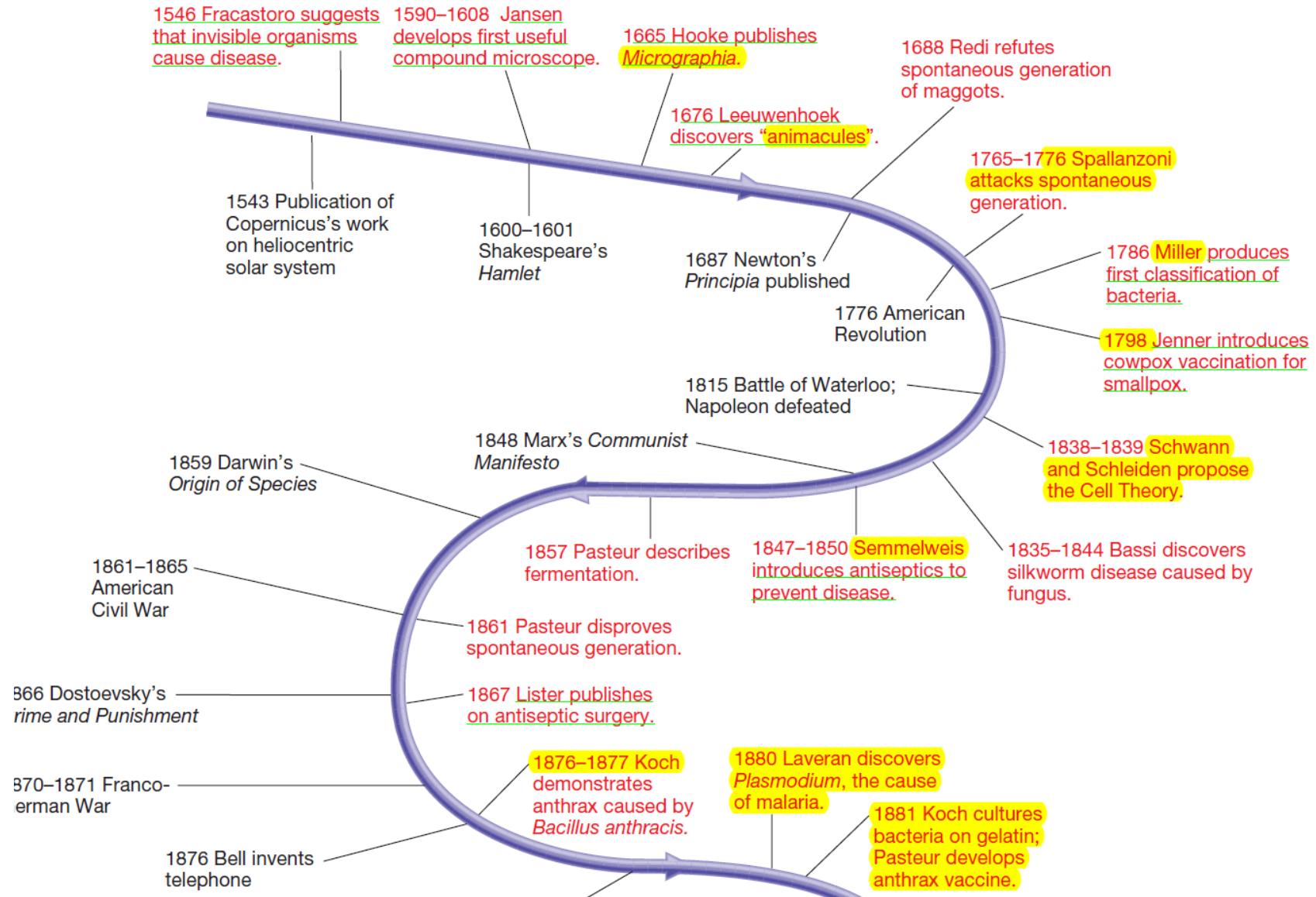


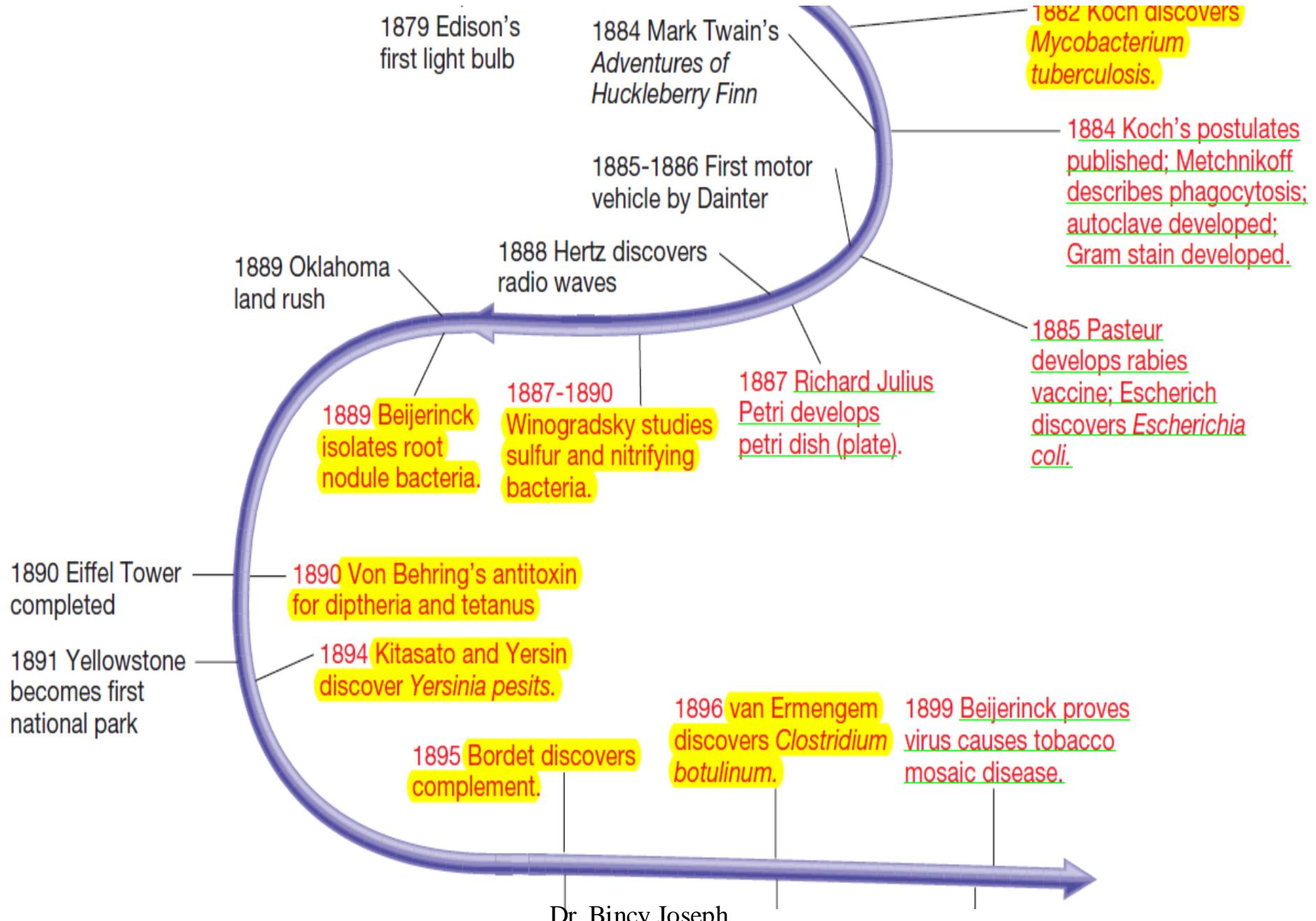
**Figure 1.5 The Spontaneous Generation Experiment.**  
Pasteur's swan neck flasks used in his experiments on the spontaneous generation of microorganisms. *Source: Annales Dr. Bincy Joseph*

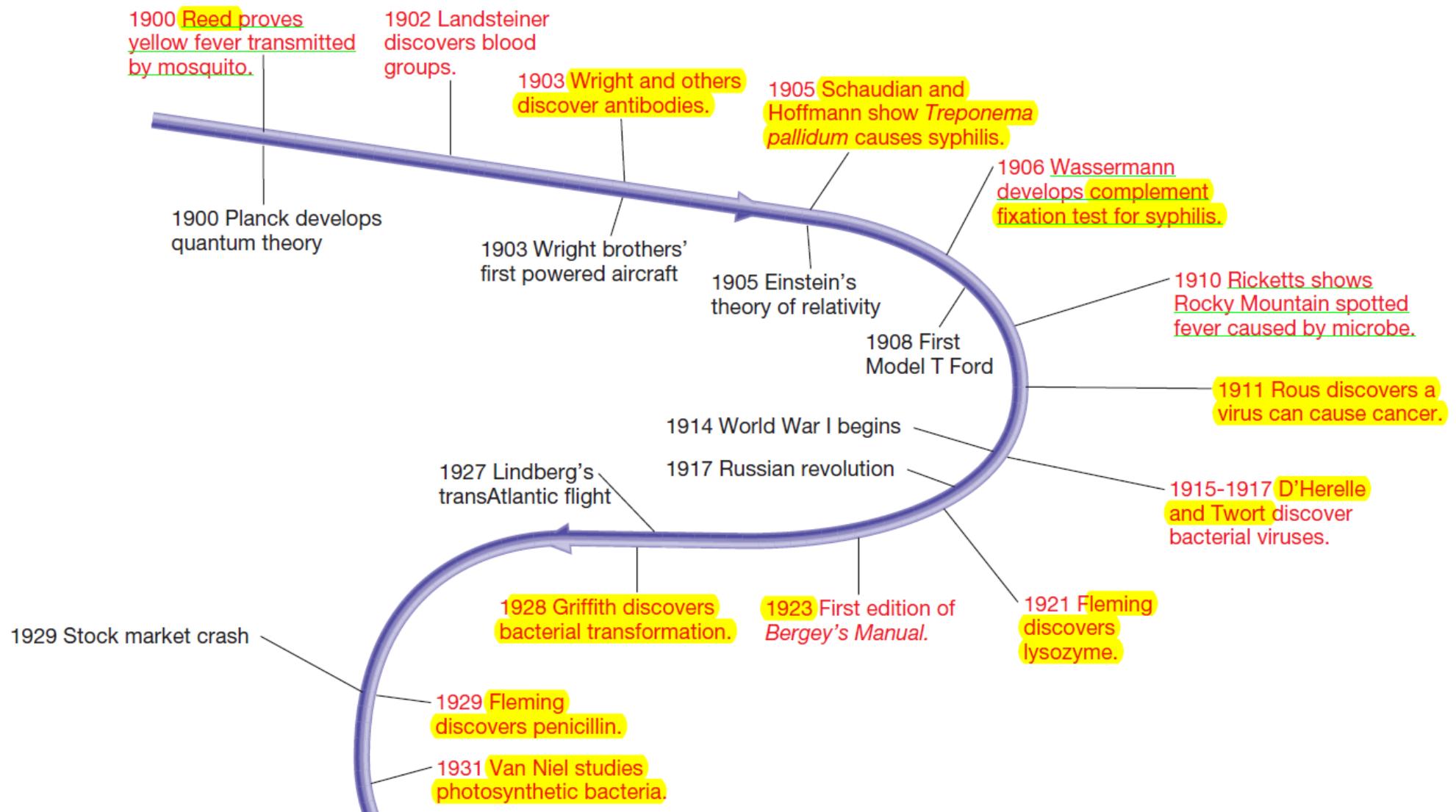


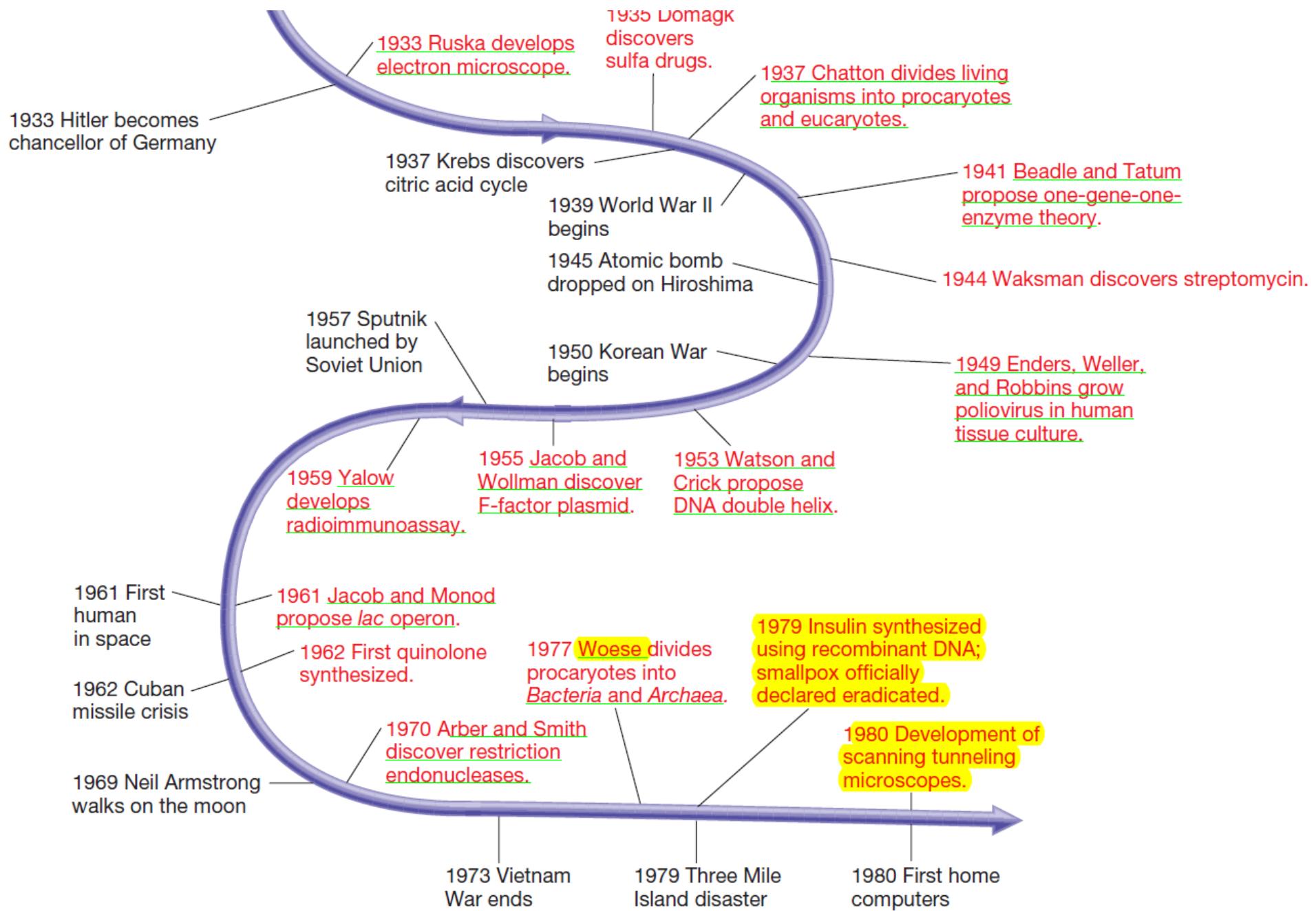
# The golden age of microbiology

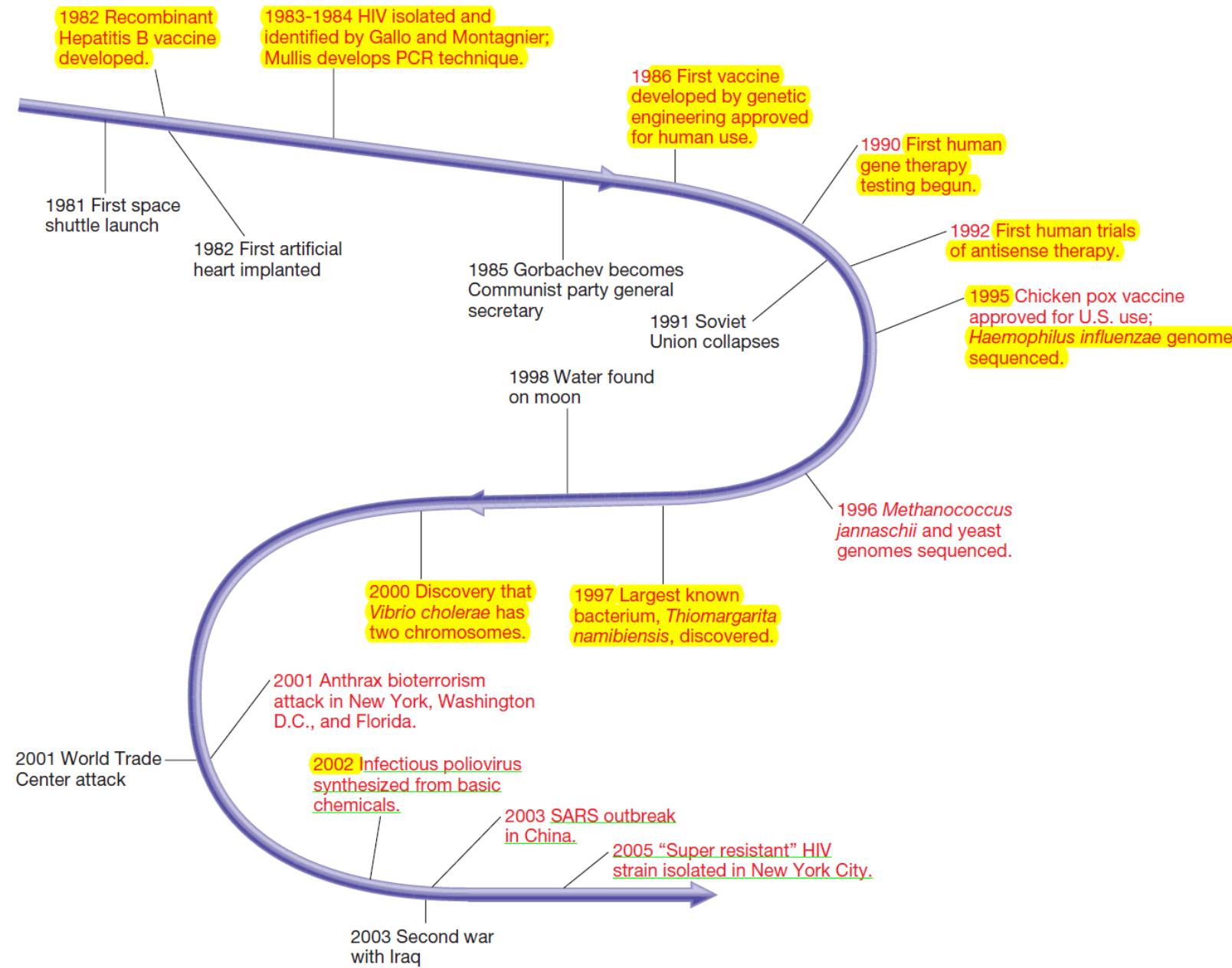
1857-1914











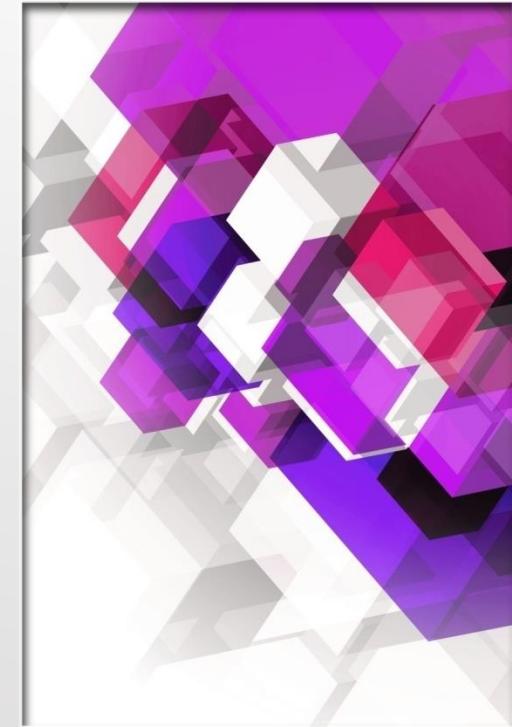
# Germ theory of disease

Microorganism causes disease

Agostino Bassi (1773–1856) first showed a microorganism could cause disease when he demonstrated in 1835 that a silkworm disease was due to a fungal infection.

In 1845, M. J. Berkeley proved that the great Potato Blight of Ireland was caused by a water mold

in 1853, Heinrich de Bary showed that smut and rust fungi caused cereal crop diseases.



- Joseph Lister (1827–1912) developed a system of antiseptic surgery heat sterilized, and phenol was used on surgical dressings and at times sprayed over the surgical area



# Robert Koch

First demonstrated the role of bacteria causing disease

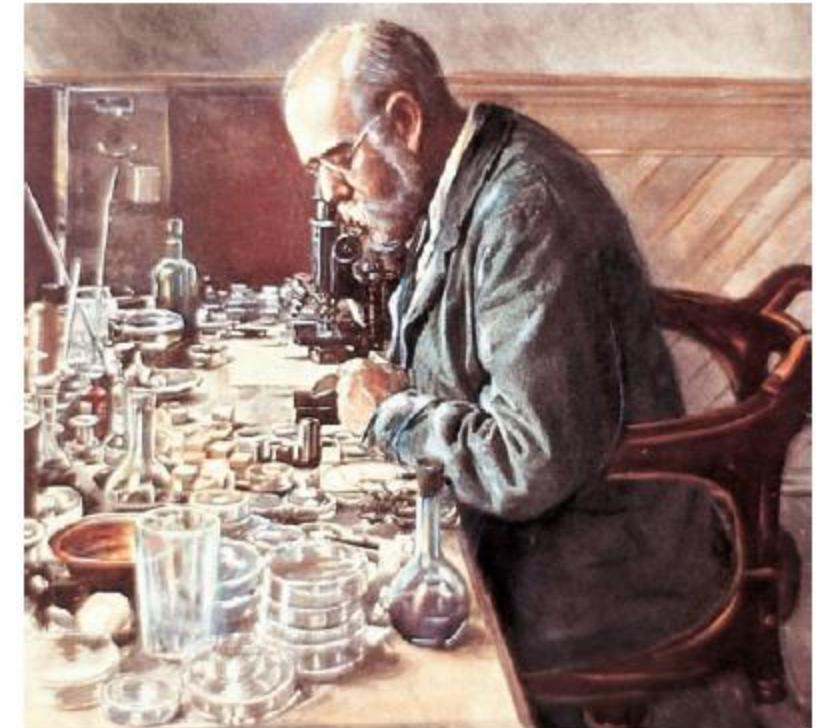
He isolated the organism *Bacillus anthracis*, the causative agent of anthrax

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* also discovered

Pure culture techniques introduced

He cultured organism on sterile cut surfaces of boiled potatoes

He first tried the use of gelatin as a solidifying agent for the medium, it is not an ideal solidifying agent as it can be digested by many bacteria and also melts at 28°C



## KOCH POSTULATES

1. Microorganism must be present in every case of disease but absent from healthy organisms
2. The suspected microorganism must be isolated and grown in pure culture
3. The same disease must result when the isolated microorganism is inoculated into healthy host
4. The same microorganism must be isolated again from the diseased host

## Other discoveries

Charles Chamberland constructed bacterial porcelain filter

Dimitri Ivanovsky and Marinus Beijerinck- Tobacco mosaic virus

## Louis Pasteur

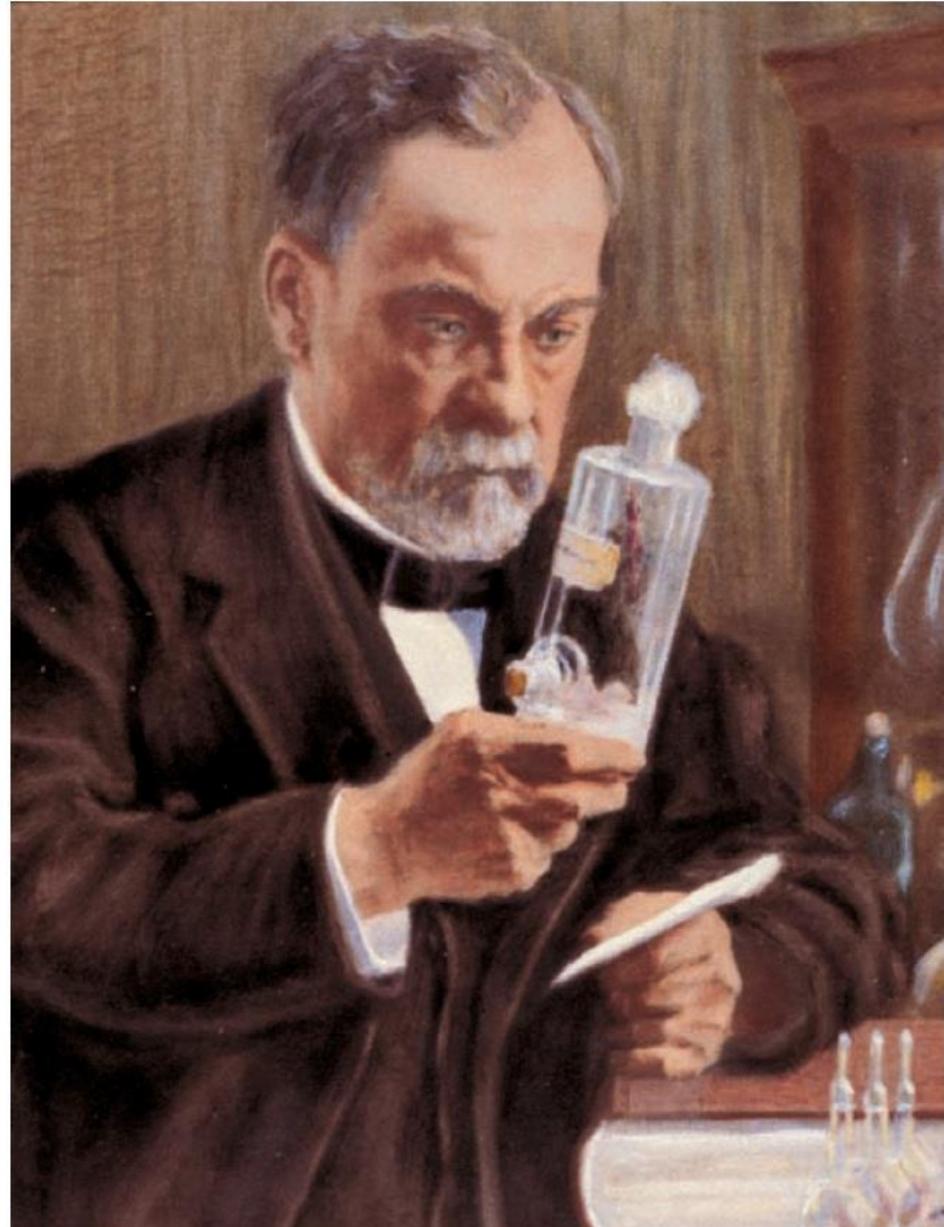
Pasteur and Rox discovered that incubating the culture for long intervals between transfers will attenuate the bacteria, that is they lost their ability to cause disease

He called this attenuated culture as vaccine

Louis Pasteur developed the term vaccine to give respect to Edward Jenner , who used cow pox lesions to protect from small pox

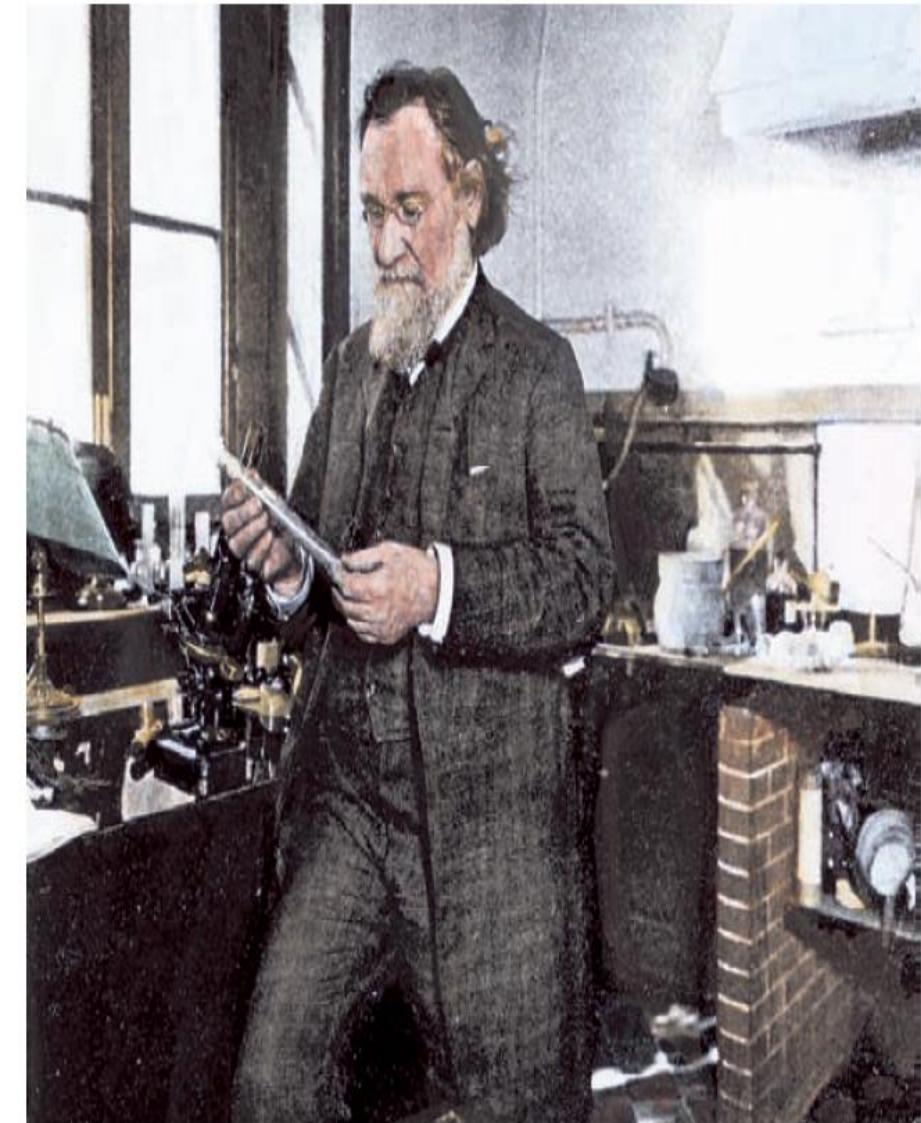
Pasteur and Chamberland developed an attenuated anthrax vaccine in two ways: by treating the with Potassium bichromate and by incubating bacteria at 42°C to 43°C

Pasteur prepared Rabies vaccine by inoculating into Heterologous host Rabbit in which virulent rabies virus and then , once the animal dies, its brain and spinal cord dried and used as vaccine



Emil von Behring and Shibasaburo Kitasato, developed anti toxin

Elie Metchnikoff discovered phagocytes and phagocytosis



# Thank you