SPECIAL

SPONGE CELLS AND ENZYMES FOR INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS

SPECIAL project consortium[1]

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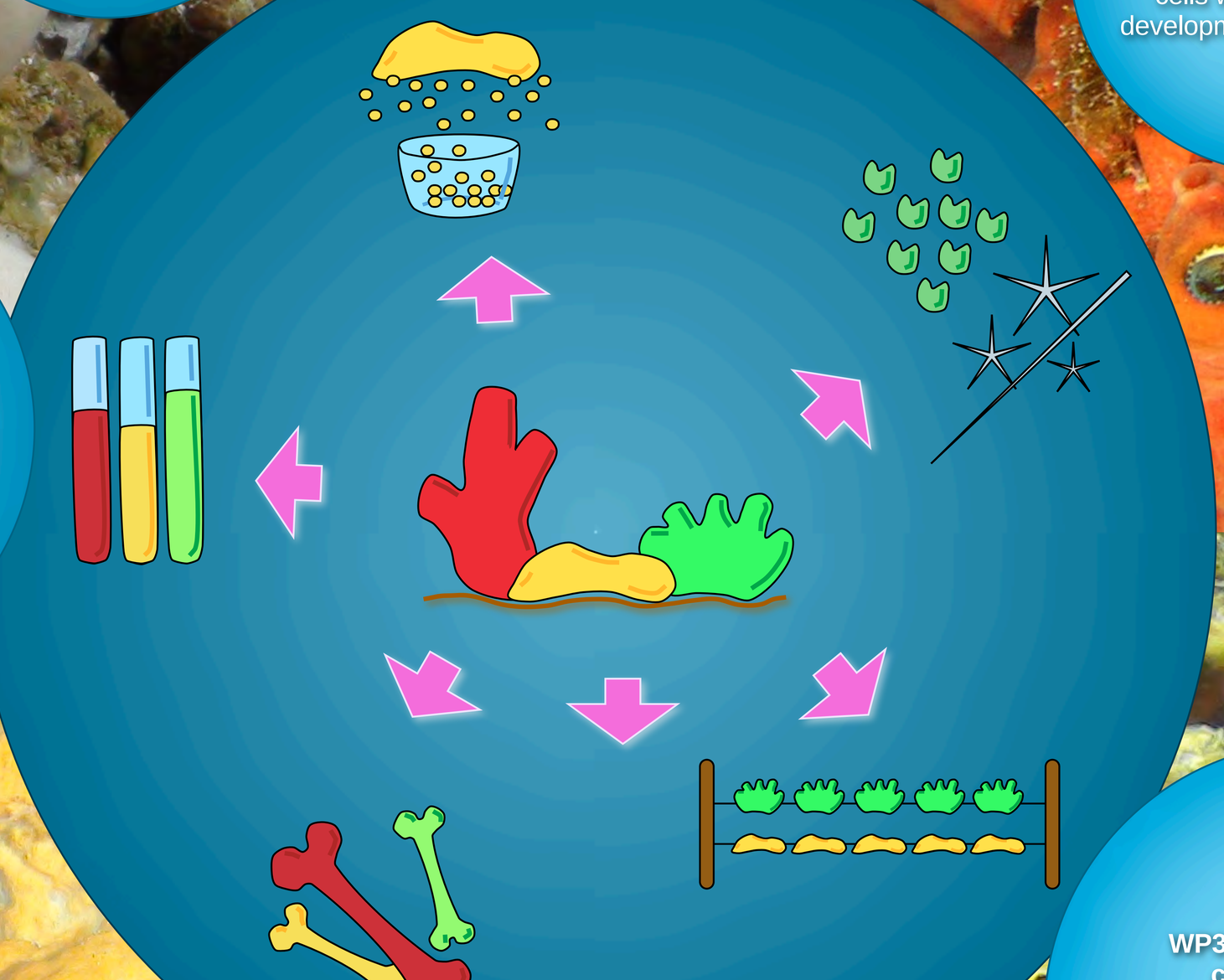
WP1. Collection of biological materials - sponges
Many species have been collected and characterized from the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, Azores and Caribbean Sea...

WP2. Sponge Proliferation Application
Protocols that apply to several species have been developed

WP5. Biosintering for biosilica production
The in-vitro culture of sponge cells with a primmorph development state has been obtained

WP6. Antitumor drug discovery and development
... and then extracted. Extracts and fractions have been screened for anti-tumor activity to identify promising candidate leads (obtained)



WP3. Sponge mariculture - collagen production
The successful mariculture of two species of sponges has been achieved...

WP8. Dissemination and exploitation
The SPECIAL newsletters are available via the project website...

...while a series of videos dedicated to Blue Biotech are available via the dedicated YouTube channel...

...and visuals related to various SPECIAL open days may be reached via both

WP7. Development of biomedical and industrial applications
The collagen native structure of several sponge species has been developed into nature-made scaffolds for applications in tissue engineering

... the extraction and characterization of collagen from one of them has been completed...

WP4. Enzymatic production of collagen
... and the genes regulating collagen expression in sponges have been deciphered

SPECIAL has received funding from the European Community´s 7FP (FP7/2007-2013) under Grant Agreement n. 266033