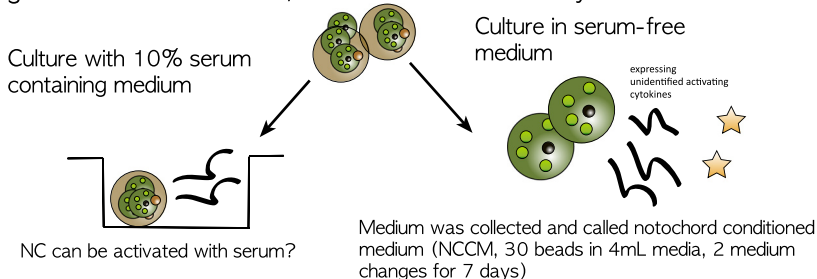
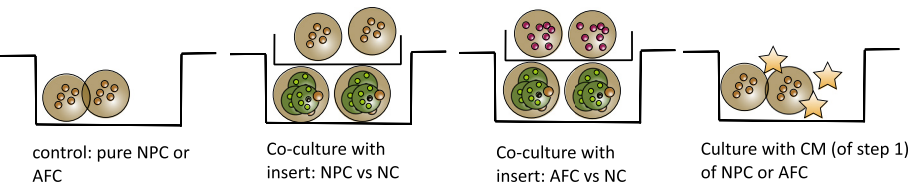


Step 1 Isolation of notochordal cells from porcine tails (NC) and seeding into alginate beads at $4 \times 10^6/\text{mL}$ and culture for 7 days



Step 2 Start of co-culture with nucleus pulposus or annulus fibrosus cells from a single bovine tail and culture for 14 days



All cultures set-up in normoxia ($\sim 20\%$) and hypoxia (2%), no cell-cell contact, cells are separated by polyethylene terephthalate (PET) high density membrane, pore size $4\mu\text{m}$.