# Histology: The study of tissues

Tissues are groups of **cells** with similar structure and function



# Epithelial Tissue

## EPitheLial Tissue Structure

Free surface

Basal surface

## Characteristics of epithelial tissues:

- Cover and line body surfaces
- Often form sheets with one free surface (apical) surface and an anchored (basal) surface resting on the basement membrane
- Avascular (no blood supply)
- Regenerate easily if well nourished

Basement membrane

### EPitheLial Tissue Structure



#### **Locations:**

- Body coverings
- Body linings
- Glandular tissue

#### **Functions:**

- Protection
- Absorption
- Filtration
- Secretion

### EPitheLial Tissue Structure



Classification of Epithelial Tissue:

- Number of cell layers
  - Simple—one layer
  - Stratified—more than one layer
- Shape of cells
  - Squamous—flattened
  - Cuboidal—cube-shaped
  - Columnar—shaped like columns

#### simple squamous epithelium



- •Structure: Single, flat layer of cells; Thin and permeable
- •Function: Rapid diffusion and filtration of materials
- Location: Air sacs of lung tissue; Lining of heart and blood vessels

#### Simple Cuboidal epithelium



Structure: Single layer of cube-shaped cells
Function: Secretion & Absorption
Location: Tissues of the kidney

#### simple columnar epithelium



- Structure: Single layer of tall, closely packed cells; May have cilia and goblet cells, which secrete mucus
- Function: Secretion of mucus for protection; Secretion of digestive enzymes
- Location: Lining of the digestive tract; Ducts of small glands

#### Stratified Squamous epithelium



- •Structure: Several layers of cells with flattened surface cells
- •Function: Provide protection for the underlying layers
- Location: Epidermal layer of the skin; Lining of mouth and esophagus

#### Stratified CUboidal epithelium



- •Structure: Often 2 or more layers of cuboidal cells
- Rare in the body
- Location: Salivary & mammary glands

#### Stratified Columnar epithelium



- •Structure: Many layers with columnar cells on the free surface
- Rare in the body
- Location: Larynx and the male urethra

#### Pseudo-stratified epithelium



- •Structure: Cell nuclei are found at different levels, so it appears stratified
- •Function: Secretion and propulsion of mucus
- Location: Most of the upper respiratory tract

#### Transitional epithelium



- Structure: Free surface cells vary in appearance, based on the stretching of the tissue
- "Transition" = change shape with elasticity
- Location: Lining of the urinary bladder and ureters