

## Formation of the theca cell layer (1, 2)

## Follicular growth and atresia (2-4)

### 1. GC → SC (preTC)

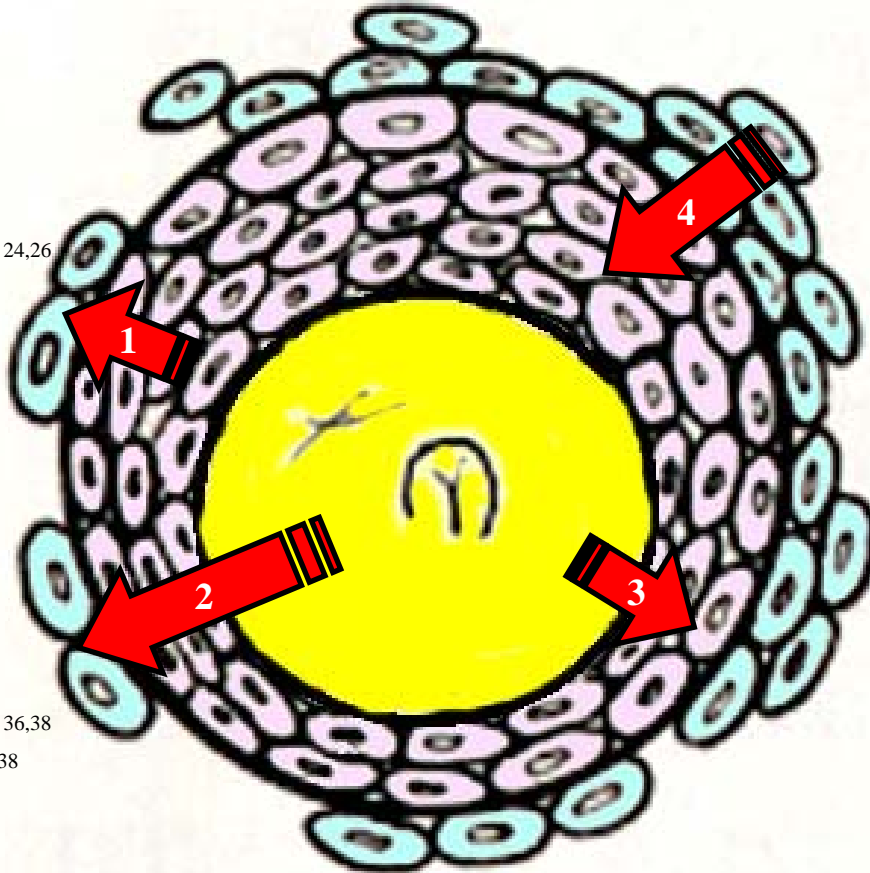
IGF, KL<sup>26</sup>

- SC proliferation ↑<sup>27</sup>
- TC recruitment ↑<sup>24</sup>
- androgen production ↑<sup>24,26</sup>
- CYP17A1 mRNA ↑<sup>26</sup>
- LHR mRNA ↑<sup>24,26</sup>

### 2. Oocyte → TC

GDF-9<sup>34</sup>

- TC proliferation ↑<sup>37</sup>
- TC differentiation ↑<sup>35</sup>
- androgen production ↑<sup>36,38</sup>
- CYP17A1 mRNA ↑<sup>34,38</sup>



### 4. TC → GC

androgens<sup>17,19,59</sup>

- EGF, TGF- $\alpha$ , KGF, HGF, BMP-7<sup>27,67-71</sup>
- GC proliferation ↑<sup>17,19,22</sup>
  - GC apoptosis ↓<sup>12</sup>
  - FSHR mRNA ↑, FSH action ↑<sup>18,47,60,61</sup>

### 3. Oocyte → GC

GDF-9<sup>43</sup>

- GC proliferation ↑<sup>44</sup>
- GC apoptosis ↓<sup>9,45</sup>
- FSHR mRNA ↑<sup>9</sup>