

Revisiting the ovarian stroma: More than a holding zone for the follicle

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A more comprehensive understanding of the role of the ovarian stroma is needed to explain the divergent behaviors of the resting and growing follicle pools during development and aging. This presentation will consider and elaborate on the role of somatic multipotent progenitor cells during the formation and maintenance of primordial follicles and the differentiation of the various cell types comprising follicles prior to and following the acquisition of gonadotropin responsiveness. The role of biomechanics and the cytoskeleton in signaling within the stromal niche will be reviewed in the context of species diversity and the adoption of reproductive strategies.