Motility and contraction assays

Fibroblast or tumor cell motility was monitored by culturing $5 \times 10^4$ cells atop collagen gels within a cloning cylinder. After 24 h, the cylinder was removed and complete medium with 10% autologous serum was added with or without PDGF. The distance migrated by the advancing front of cells (i.e., three or more cells) from the confluent area initially delimited by the cylinder was measured in five randomly selected fields at a magnification of 10.

Contraction of collagen gels by mice skin fibroblasts was monitored by culturing $1 \times 10^5$ cells atop collagen gels in the presence of PDGF in 10% heat-inactivated in 24-well plates. After 2 d, the collagen gels were detached from the wells and allowed to contract at 37°C for 24 h. The diameters of the contracted gels were measured, and the contraction was calculated as the change in surface area.