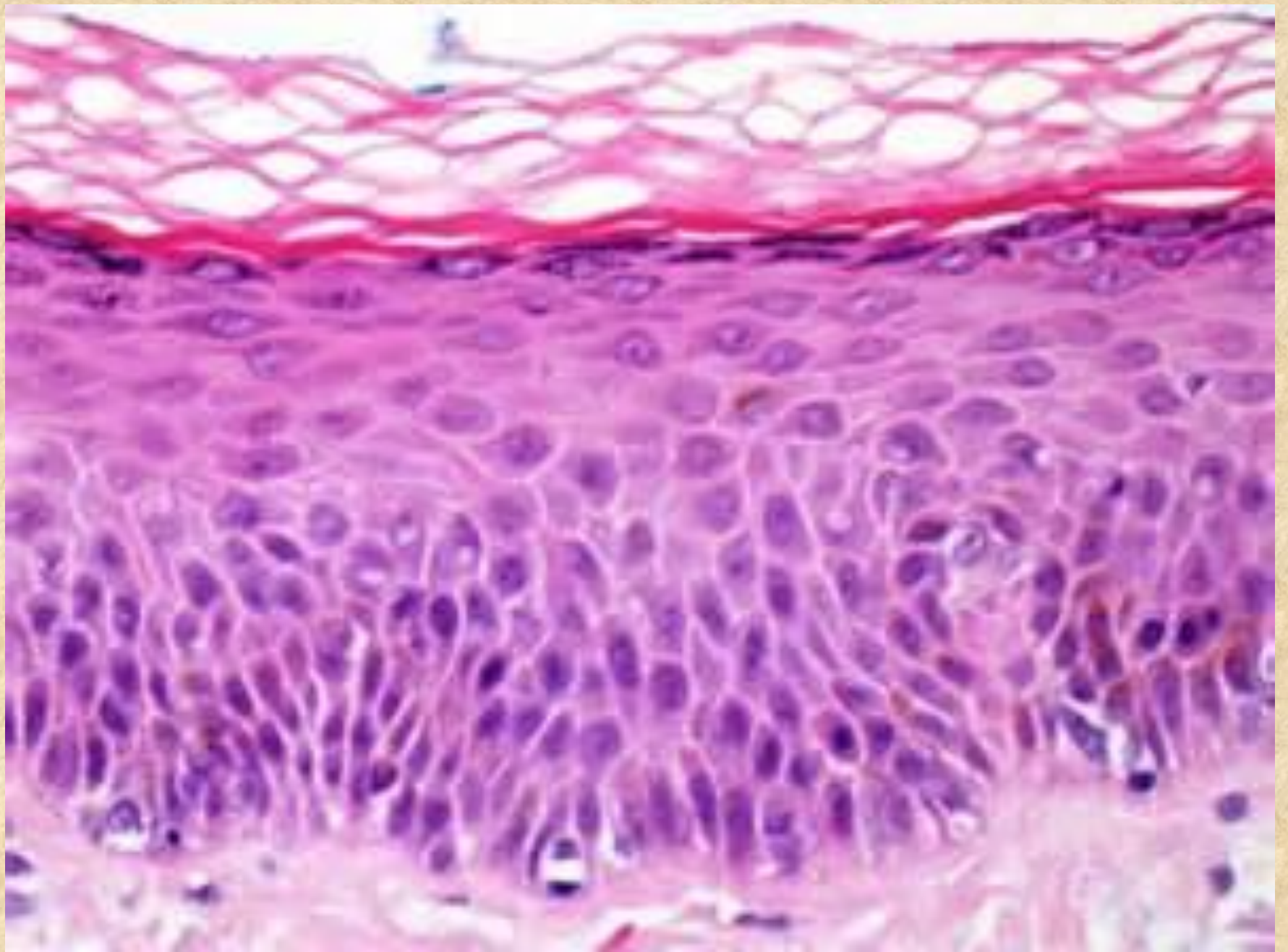
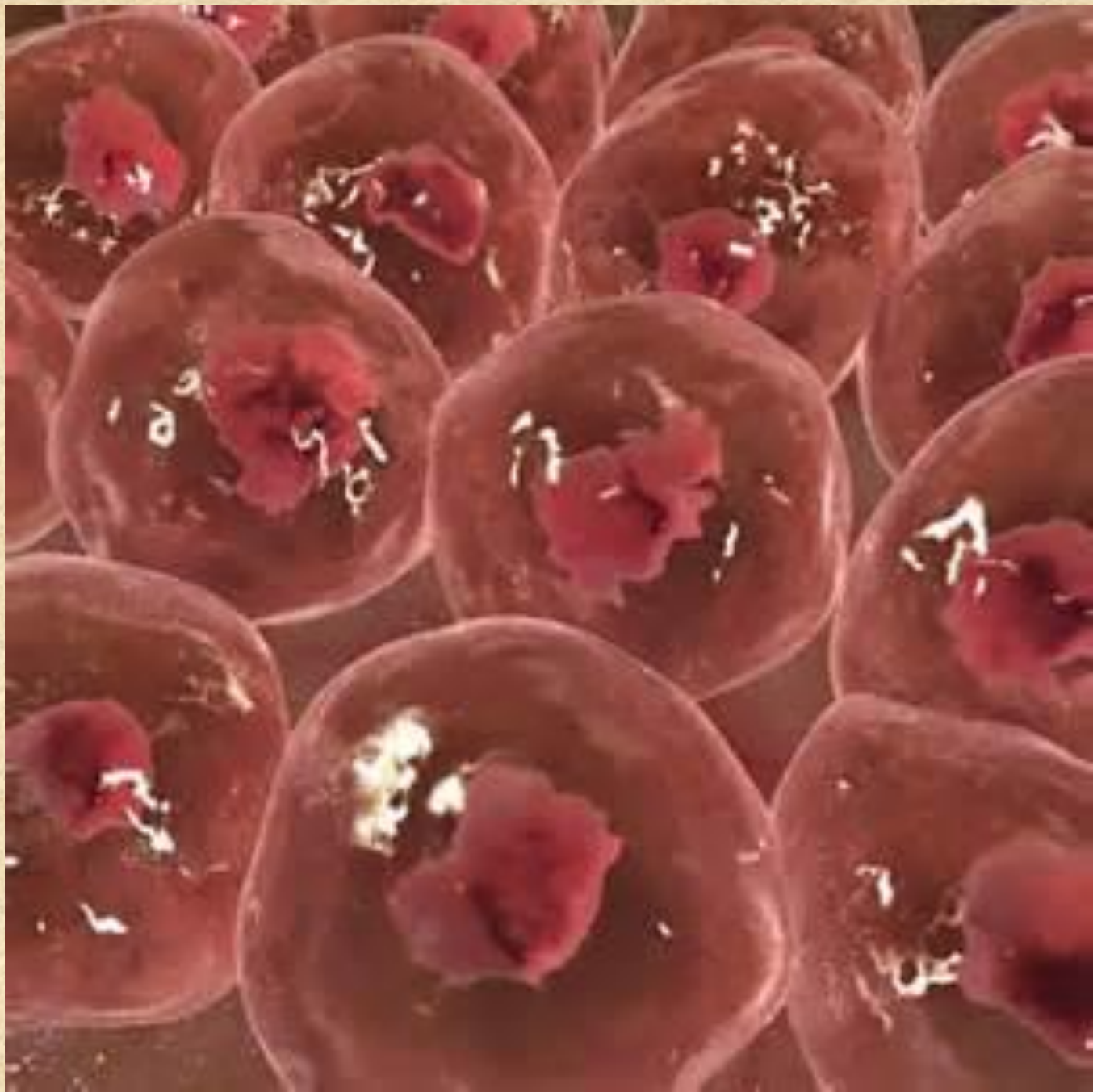
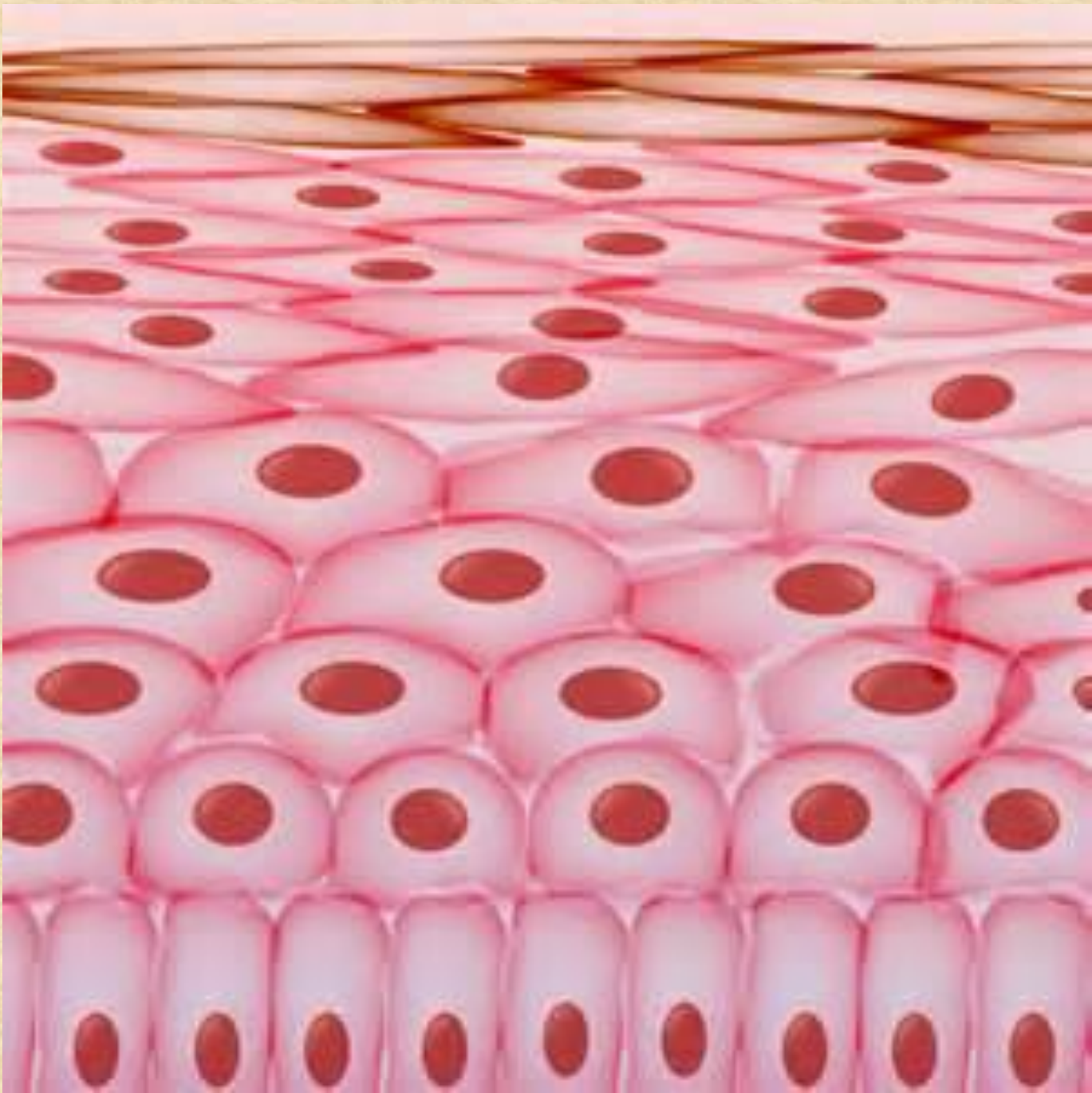


SHIM









What is it, then, this seamless body stocking, two yards square, our casing, our façade, that flushes, pales, perspires, glistens, tingles, crawls, itches, pleasures and pains us all our days, at once keepers of our organs within, and sensitive probe, adventurer into the world outside? *Richard Selzer*

No one but kings and princes should have the itch, for the sensation of scratching is so delightful!

King James 1 of England

Skin provides a recognizable image.
VISIBILITY

God wants me to be **VISIBLE**

* I am seen by those who have **no**
faith by which to **see** **God**.

Someone will say “You have faith. I have deeds.” SHOW ME your faith without deeds [IMPOSSIBLE!] I will SHOW YOU my faith by what I do.

(James 2:18)

Skin is both soft and tough.
ADAPTABILITY

God equips me to be **FLEXIBLE**.

* I provide a **surface** by which the outsider can grasp hold of **God's reality**.

I make myself a slave to everyone [adapt] to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law ... to those not having the law ... to the weak ... in order to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I may save some. I do this all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. *(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)*

Skin **confronts** the external world.
And it **regulates** the internal world.

PROTECTION

God asks me to be **FEARLESS**.

* I am the watchdog who can **deflect** Satan's darts, **dissipate** the heat of conflict, and **shield** the vulnerable.

Warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. (*1 Thessalonians 5:14*)

Skin provides appearance, but it is designed for relating, for touching.

PROXIMITY

“Touch” is my most precious diagnostic tool. *Paul Brand (surgeon)*

God expects me to be **PERSONAL**.

* I am love **brought close** and
available. I can touch!

Be merciful to those who doubt.
Snatch others from the fire and
save them. (*Jude 23*)

SHIM