

A.4.1. The Muscle Cell - Glossary

Skeletal muscle	A striated muscle that is connected to the skeleton
Cardiac muscle	A striated muscle that forms the major tissue of the heart
Smooth muscle	Non-striated muscle that forms the major tissue in several organs such as the stomach, the intestines, and the uterus.
Anisotropy	Pattern of striation visible under the microscope that some type of muscles, such as skeletal and cardiac muscle shows. This pattern is due to the regular pattern of the major molecules, actin and myosin, as they are arranged in the sarcomeres.
Actin	Thin long molecules involved in the contraction of a sarcomere, the contraction unit in a muscle cell. Actin molecules are attached to the Z-discs.
Myosin	Thick long molecules involved in the contraction of a sarcomere, the contraction unit in muscle cells. Myosin molecules are not connected to the Z-discs but are located in parallel between the actin molecules