



Figure 8. Link between Germ-Line Development and Pluripotency

The oocyte and zygote are totipotent (the oocyte has restrictions imposed by parental imprinting) and so are morula cells up to a certain stage. Pluripotent cells can be derived into culture from the inner cell mass (ICM) cells, primordial germ cells (PGCs), and spermatogonia stem (SS) cells in the neonatal and adult testis. There is thus an intimate link between germ-line cells throughout their development, and pluripotency.