A fenestrated view into the world of the hepatocyte

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Hepatocytes, the parenchymal cells that proliferate in the fetal liver, constitute 80% of the liver and are an integral part of liver function, shape, and size. This is an immunofluorescence stain showing the composition of liver tissue: the teal reveals the nuclei of hepatocytes, red is the outline of the cell membrane, and the dark blue shows the nuclei of non-hepatocyte cells. This image, just like a stained glass window, tells a story. A story so complex and fascinating of how the liver works to detoxify your system, control metabolism, and keep you alive. These relatively large cells, invisible to the naked eye, are paramount during the first pass effect, where the liver metabolizes xenobiotics to protect the rest of the body. Without hepatocytes, medications and food normally consumed will not be broken down into the smaller components that your body is able to use. Hepatocytes are windows to your soul... and survival.