

## Male Reproductive System and its Hormonal Control : (486)

- forms 8 weeks into pregnancy **if** testosterone is released within the fetus
- becomes functional during puberty (12-13 yrs old), spermatogenesis begins and continues until death
- exterior parts :
  - Penis -  
transfers sperm cells into the female
  - Testes -  
bundles of coiled up seminiferous tubules ( almost 250 m !!!), the site of meiosis and spermatogenesis. Contains Sertoli cells which care for the developing sperm. Mature sperm move from here to be stored in the epididymis.
  - Scrotum -  
holds the testes outside the body so they are several degrees cooler than internal body temp.....better sperm health and motility
- Interior parts :

**Seminal vesicles** make a lubricating mucus that also contains fructose to supply sperm mitochondria with energy

**Prostate and Cowper's glands** secrete a basic fluid to counteract the acidity of the female system

(Semen is a combination of sperm cells, and fluids from all three glands)

When sexually aroused, blood flow to penile tissue produces an erection, and stimulation of the male nervous system ( sympathetic and parasympathetic) leads to ejaculation

Sperm cells travel from the epididymis inside each teste, through the **vas deferens** ( or sperm duct ) around each side of the bladder, combine with fluid from the **seminal vesicle**, then the **prostate**, and out through the male's **urethra**...leaving the body