Corrections and Clarifications
• Desquamate- shed, peel, or come off in layers
  ◦ When they desquamate, the glycogen is released and then metabolized to lactic acid
• More superficial cells (the flat squamous ones) implies more estrogen.
• More intermediate cells implies
  ◦ Decreased Estrogen
  ◦ OR
  ◦ Increased Estrogen and Progesterone (net increased of progesterone which antagonizes estrogen)

• **This relationship applies to both the VAGINA and EXOCERVIX**
What does Progesterone do?

- Progesterone is sometimes called the "hormone of pregnancy", and it has many roles relating to the development of the fetus:
- Progesterone converts the endometrium to its secretory stage to prepare the uterus for implantation. At the same time progesterone affects the vaginal epithelium and cervical mucus, making the mucus thick and impermeable to sperm. If pregnancy does not occur, progesterone levels will decrease, leading, in the human, to menstruation. Normal menstrual bleeding is progesterone withdrawal bleeding.
- During implantation and gestation, progesterone appears to decrease the maternal immune response to allow for the acceptance of the pregnancy.
- Progesterone decreases contractility of the uterine smooth muscle.
- In addition progesterone inhibits lactation during pregnancy. The fall in progesterone levels following delivery is one of the triggers for milk production.
- A drop in progesterone levels is possibly one step that facilitates the onset of labor.
Granulosa Cells

Where does inhibin come from?