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Pivotal endocrine event in making a male: testosterone production by the fetal Leydig cells. Image shows an embryonic day 21.5 rat fetal testis immunostained for 3B-HSD (red) to mark the steroidogenic fetal Leydig cells, smooth muscle actin (blue) to mark the boundaries of the seminiferous cords and blood vessels and COUP-TFII (green) to mark undifferentiated mesenchymal cells. Tiled confocal laser scanning microscopy image compiled of 40× tiles.

Credit: Dr Sander van den Driesche and Prof Richard Sharpe, MRC/UoE Centre for Reproductive Health, The Queen’s Medical Research Institute, Edinburgh, UK

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