

Type IV

*** 90% of the collagen in the body is in types I, II, III, and IV. Type I is associated with (*bONE*). Type II is associated with cartilage (*carTWOilage*). Type III is associated with reticular fibers (*reTHREEicular*). Type IV is associated with the floor (*FOUR*) or the basement membrane.

The **basement membrane** is a thin, acellular structure always located between any form of epithelium and its underlying connective tissue. The basement membrane consists of two layers:

- The **basal lamina** (*produced by the epithelial cells*): superficial portion of the basement membrane. Consists of two layers microscopically:
 - The **lamina lucida**: clear layer, closer to the epithelium
 - The **lamina densa**: dense layer, closer to the connective tissue
- The **reticular lamina**: this layer is a thin layer composed of **type III collagen** (*which is unique to basement membranes*) **fibers** as well as reticular fibers produced and secreted by the underlying connective tissue.

Attachment mechanisms are also part of the basement membrane. These involve **hemidesmosomes** with their attachment plaque, **tonofilaments** from the epithelium, and the **anchoring collagen fibers** from the connective tissue.