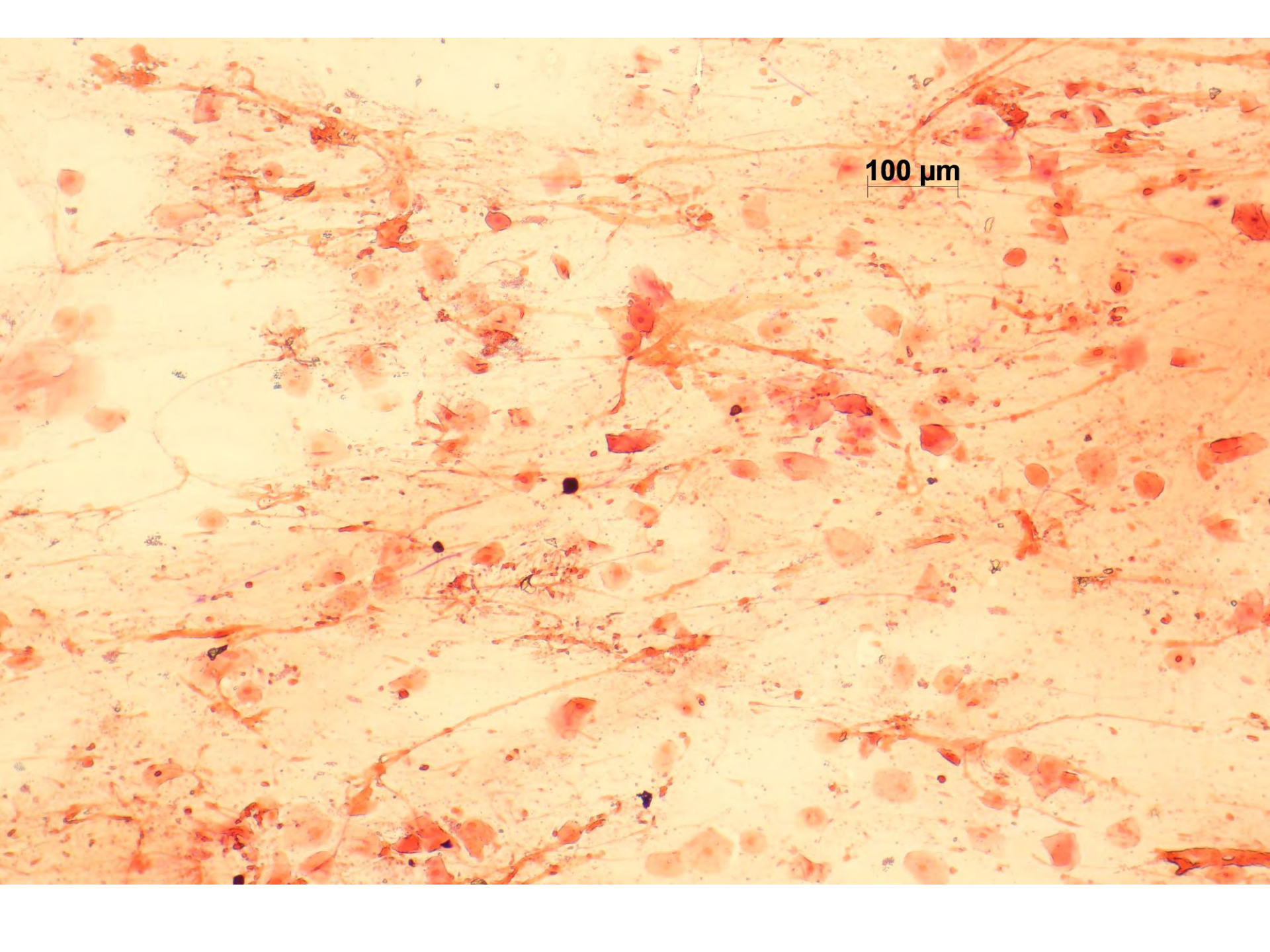


# Evaluate the general nature of the smear under low power (1)

- **Observe for stain crystals**
  - If an excess of precipitated stain is observed, decolorize and restain slide. Alternatively, prepare another Gram-stained smear
  - If precipitate continues, use freshly filtered crystal violet or counter-stain in a clean container
- **Determine if smear has been properly decolorized**
  - Depending on the source of the specimen, the background should be generally clear or Gram negative
  - If WBCs are present, they should appear completely Gram negative
  - If slide is overdecolorized, completely decolorize and restain slide, or prepare another Gram-stained smear

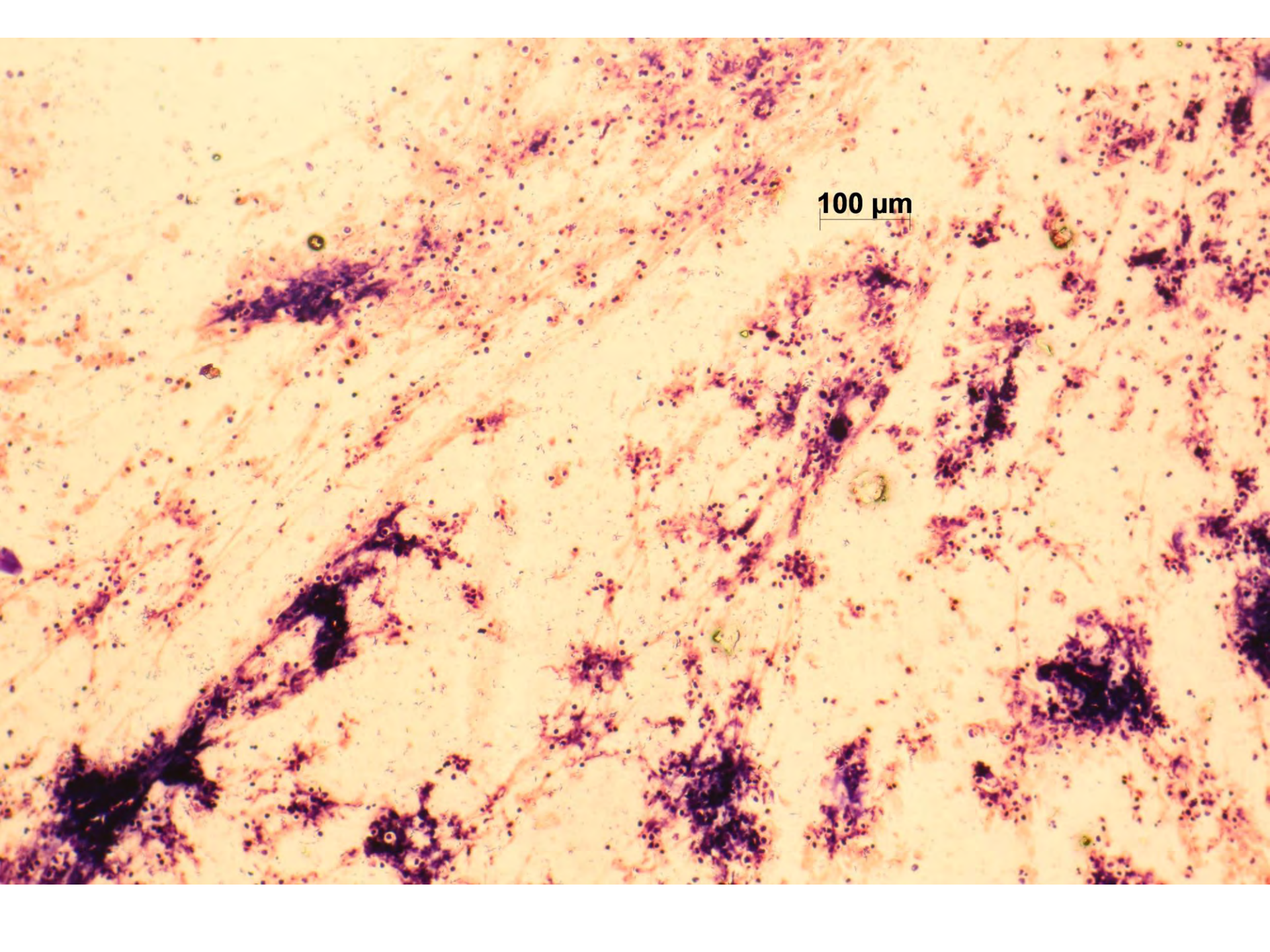
# Evaluate the general nature of the smear under low power (2)

- **Determine if thickness of smear is appropriate**
  - For proper interpretation, areas must be no more than one cell thick, with no overlapping of cells
  - Prepare new slide if unreadable
- **Examine several fields (10 for urine and 20 to 40 for other specimens) under low power for evidence of inflammation**
  - Observe distribution of organisms and cells.
  - Determine areas representative of inflammation or purulence and areas of apparent contamination with squamous epithelial cells (SECs). If no purulence is seen, choose areas of apparent necrosis, inflammatory cell debris, and mucus.



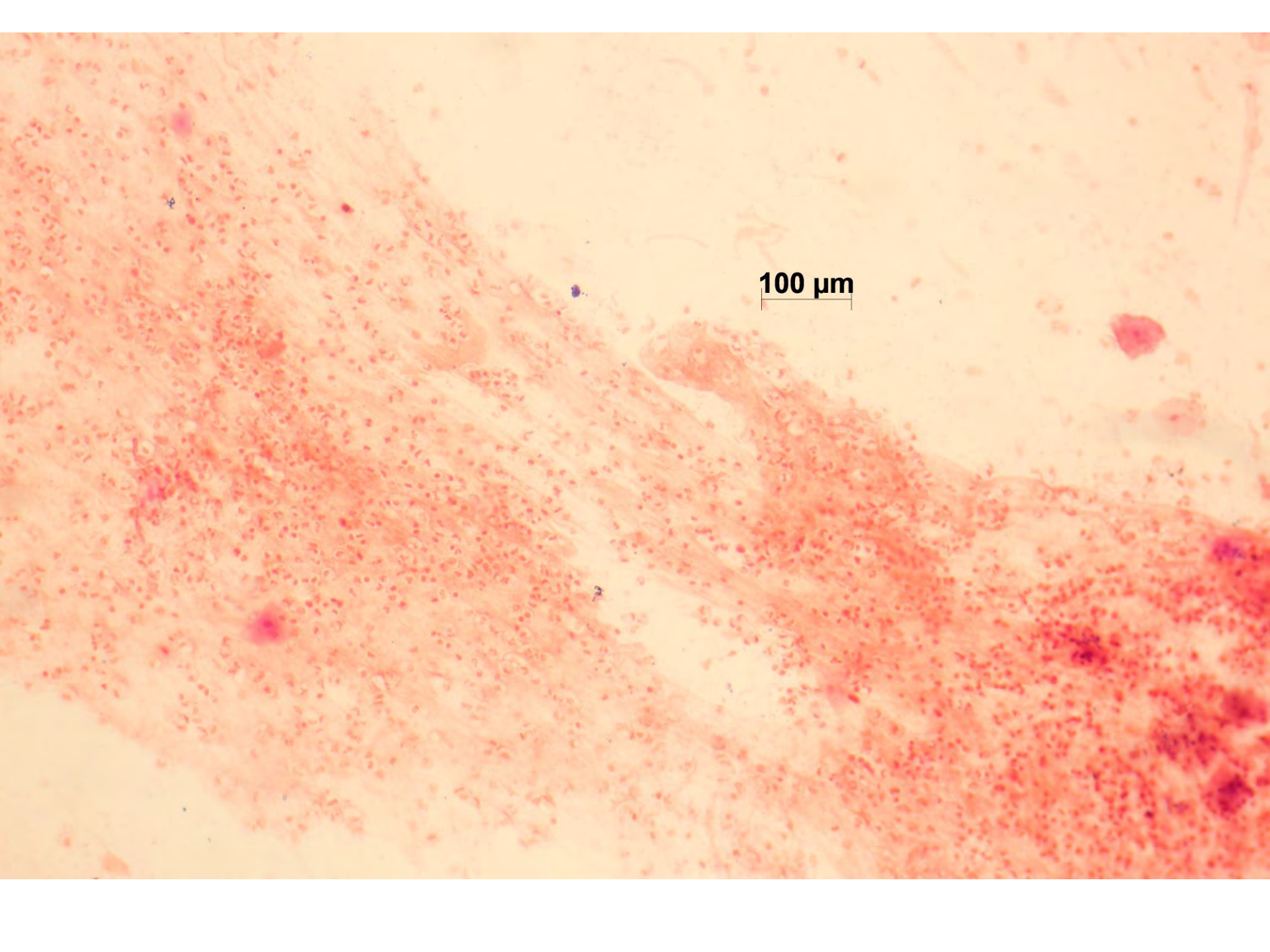
100  $\mu\text{m}$





100 μm

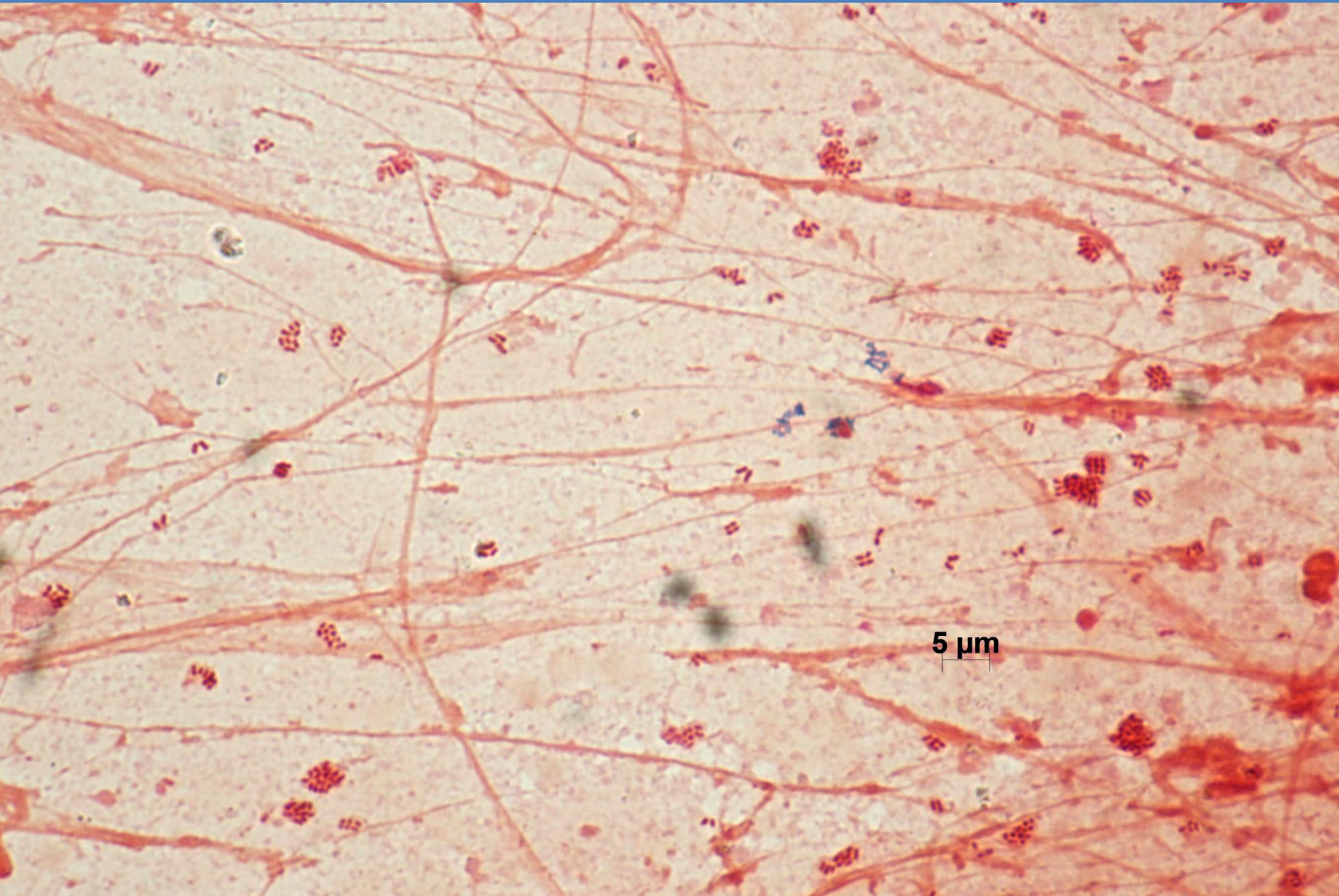




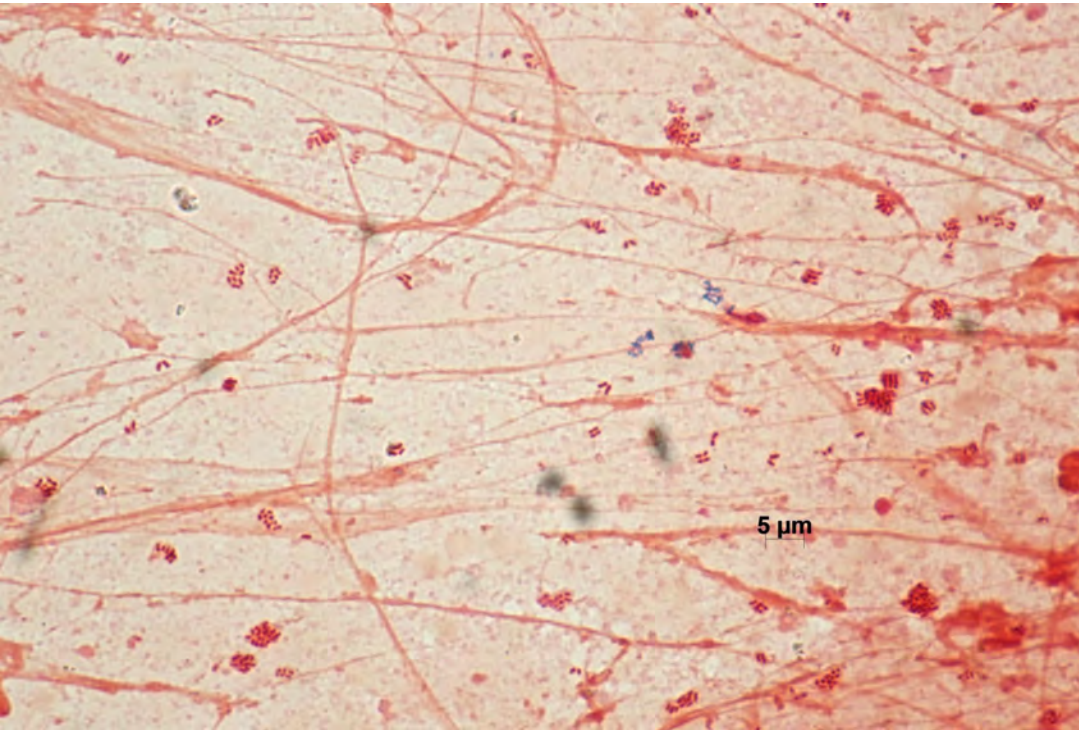
100 μm



# Organisms: shape, arrangement, abundance



# What should it be?



- A. Enteric GNR**
- B. Glucose-nonfermenters**
- C. *Acinetobacter***
- D. *B. pseudomallei***
- E. None of the above**



# Do not forget morphology

