Concanavalin A staining of *Drosophila* embryos

(As in Papoulas, et al. (2005) Nature Cell Biology 7(6): 612-618.)

1) Staged embryos were dechorionated in 50% bleach and fixed in Vic's fix for 15-30 min, with NO DETERGENTS.

2) Fixative was removed and embryos were hand devitellinized in 1X PBS (with NO DETERGENTS).

3) Embryos were transferred in 1X PBS using a siliconized glass pipette to siliconized or "low binding plastic" 1.5 ml tubes and rinsed with 1X PBS (with NO DETERGENTS).

4) Embryos were stained in 300 μl concanavalin A-AlexaFluor 488 (Molecular Probes) solution (25 μg/ml in 1X PBS + 0.02% sodium azide, pre-spun in microcentrifuge, with NO DETERGENTS) for 15 min at room temperature (shield from light).

5) Embryos were washed 4 times (quick rinses) in 1X PBS (with NO DETERGENTS) and resuspended in Vectashield (Vector labs) for mounting.

NOTES:
We tried ConA at 0.2 mg/ml and found that it labeled membrane beyond junctions and labeled internal membranes such as nuclear envelope.
We also tried wheat germ agglutinin AlexaFluor 488 (Molecular Probes) at 25μg/ml and 0.2mg/ml and found staining of primarily the yolky interior and the nuclear envelope.