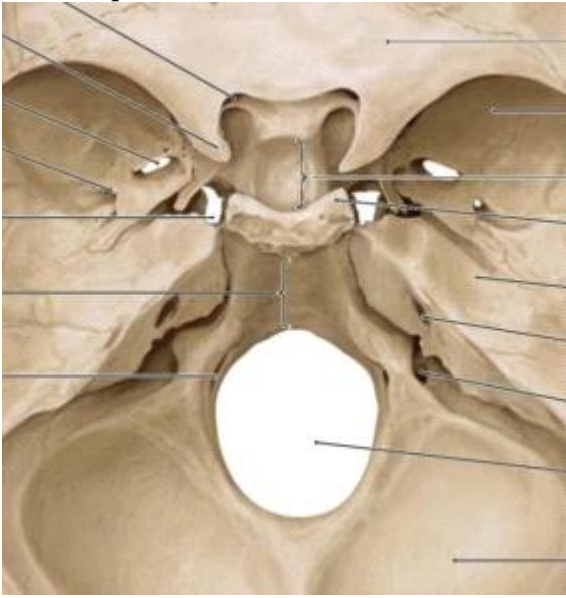
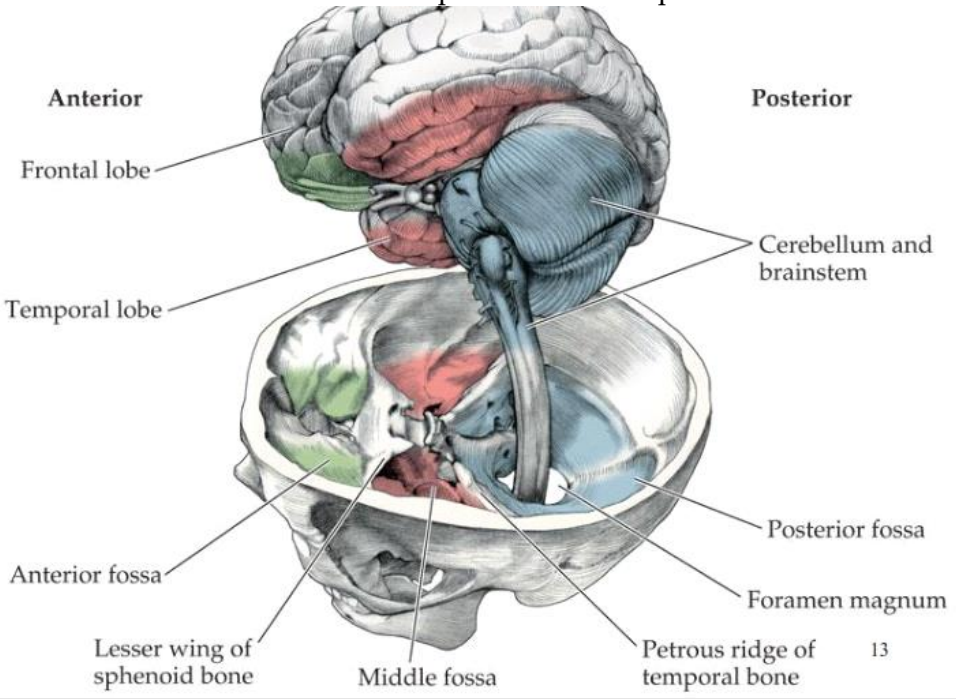


# 0. Introduction to Neuroanatomy

	<p>We do not need to memorize every label in the Atlas Anatomy</p> <p>Understanding is more important than tiny anatomical details</p>
<p><b>Why the soft brain is not damaged by its pointy skull?</b></p>	<p><b>Foramen magnum</b> - Entrance to Spinal cord, nerves, meninges, blood vessels</p> <p>Brain has a very soft texture - It would get damaged by the pointy skull if it was not protected</p> 
<p><b>What is the part of the skull that touches:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Frontal lobe</li> <li>b) Temporal lobe</li> <li>c) Cerebellum</li> </ul>	<p>The brain and skull have a 1 to 1 spatial relationship</p> 

**What is the difference between dorsal/ventral and superior/inferior?**

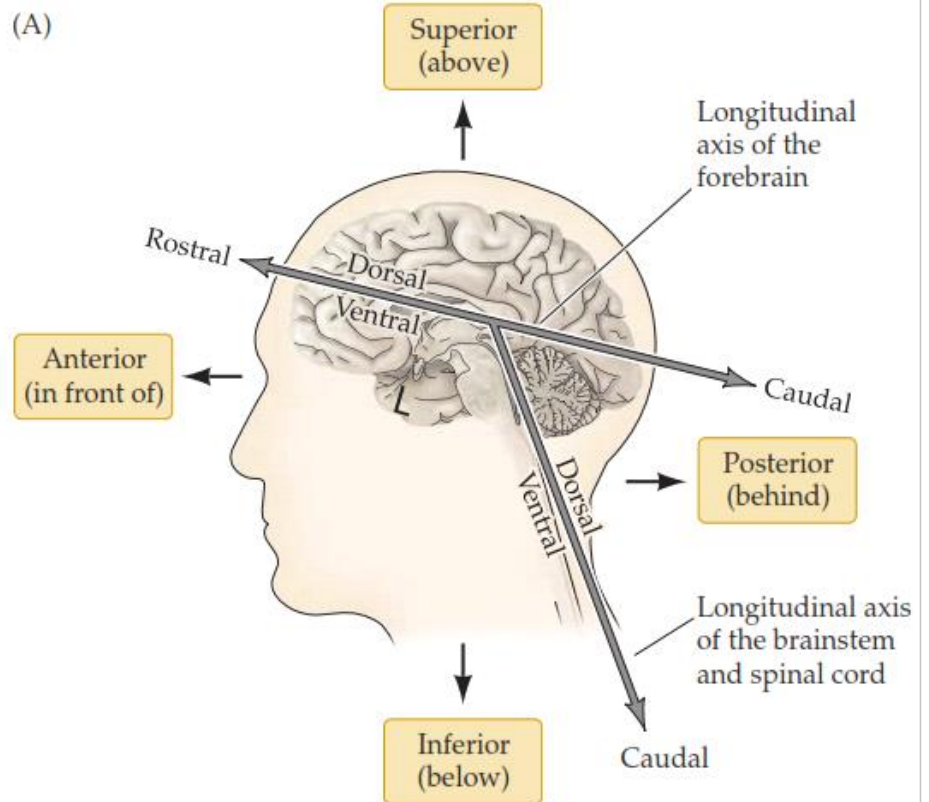
Planes of the head

**Dorsal/ventral** - Top and lower side (in humans, brain and spinal cord are in different plane because we are bipedal)

**Superior and Inferior** - Up and Down (absolute position)

**Rostral and caudal** - Nose and tail side

**Anterior and posterior** - Front and Back (absolute position)

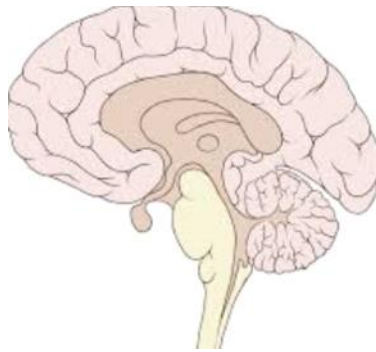


**Medial and lateral** - From the middle to the side

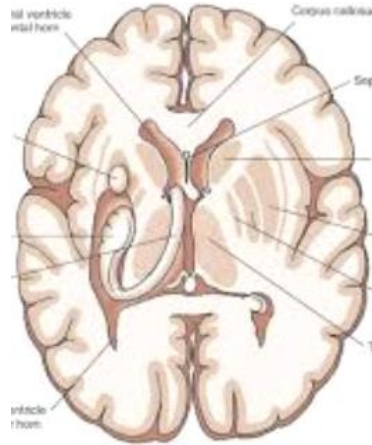
**Coronal**



**Sagittal** - Mid or parasagittal



**Horizontal/axial**



**What are the three protective layers of the brain?**

Protective layers of the brain

**Dura Matter**

- Meningeal layer
- Periosteal layer

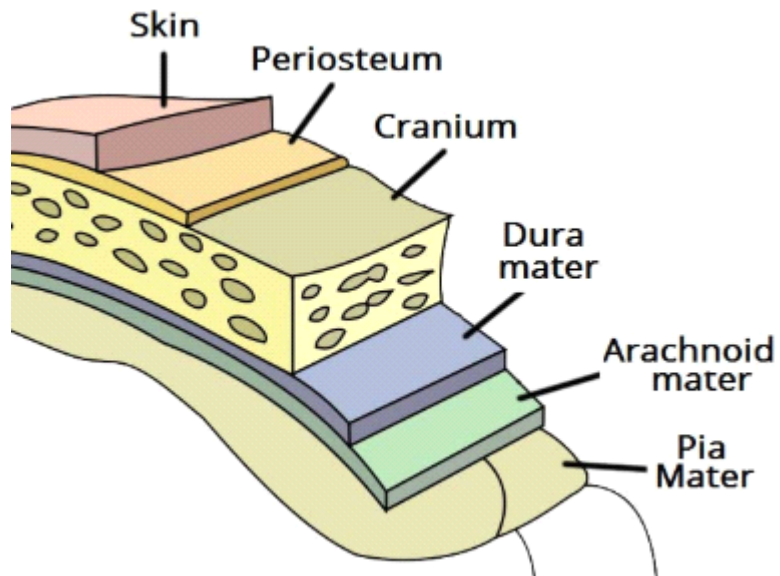
**Arachnoid** - Attached to the skull

**Bridging vein** - Cross the arachnoid and Dura Matter

Subdural hemorrhage - People get older, their brains shrink, bridging veins are more likely to rupture

**Pia Mater** - Fibrous layer impermeable to fluid

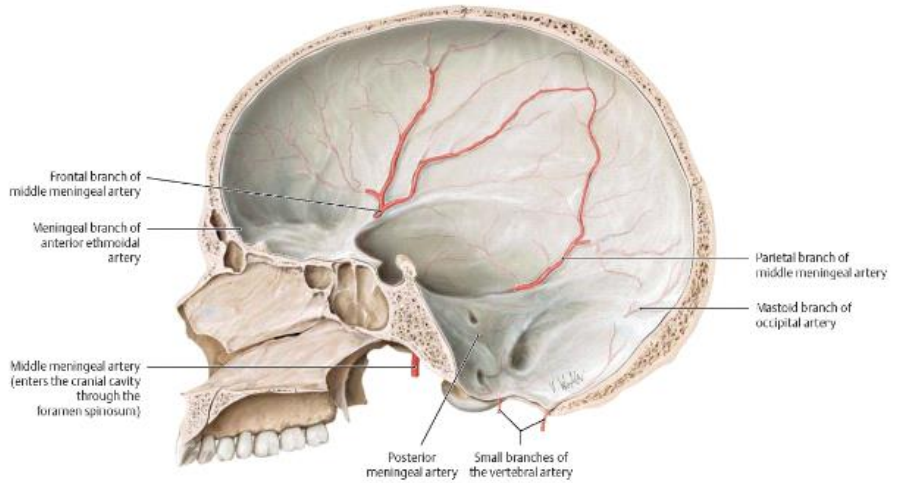
Maintains CSF inside the brain



These three also cover the spinal cord

What is the 'biker's artery' and why does it have this name?

Skull is very thin at the temporal bone - Prone to hematoma  
Frontal branch of the **middle meningeal artery** - Bikers artery (prone to injury)

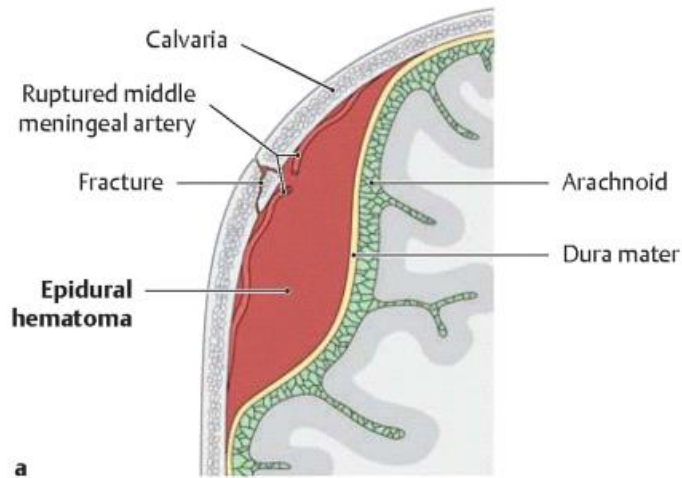


What are the possible causes to a subdural hemorrhage?

What are the possible causes to a subarachnoid hemorrhage?

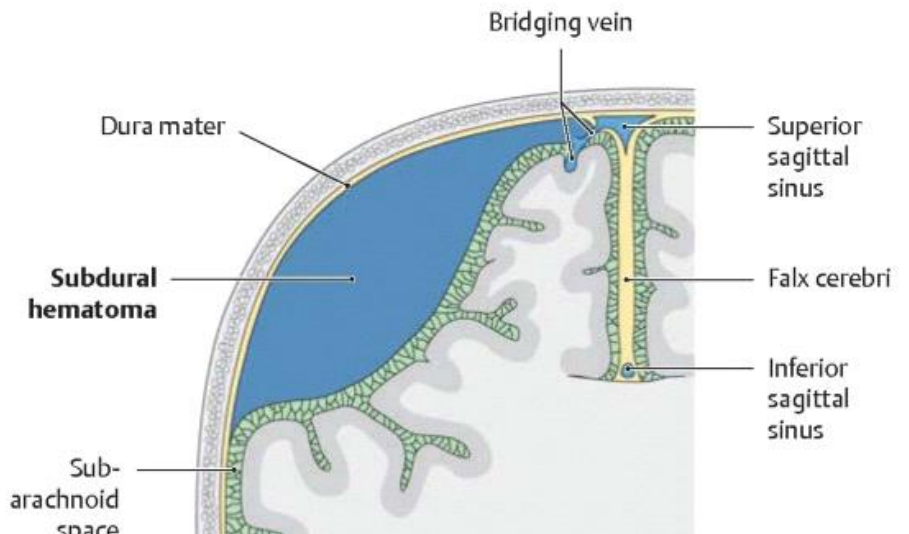
What is the most likely cause to an intracerebral hemorrhage?

**Epidural hematoma** - High pressure



**Subdural hemorrhage** - Low pressure

Rupture bridging vein (shaking a baby/getting older)

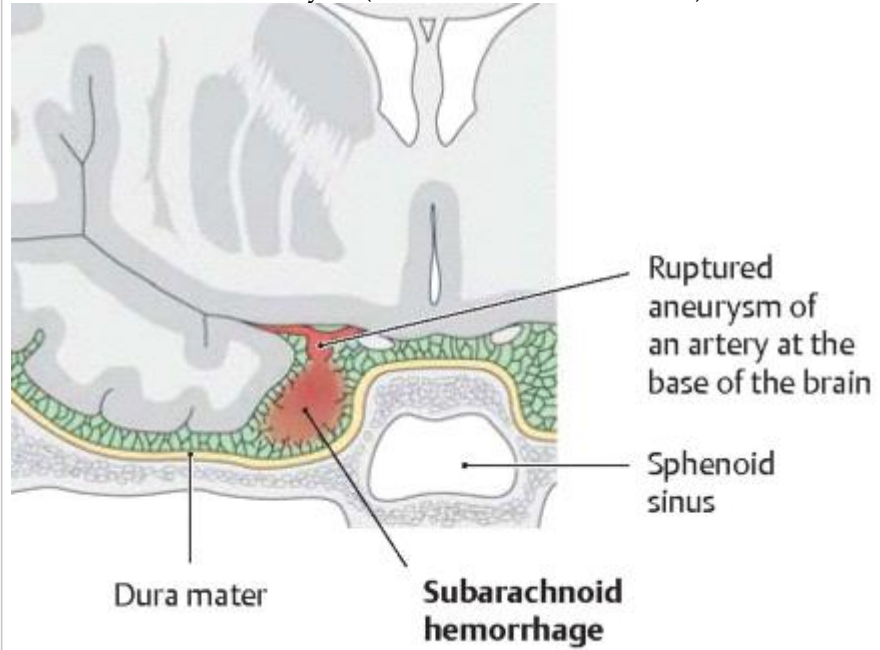




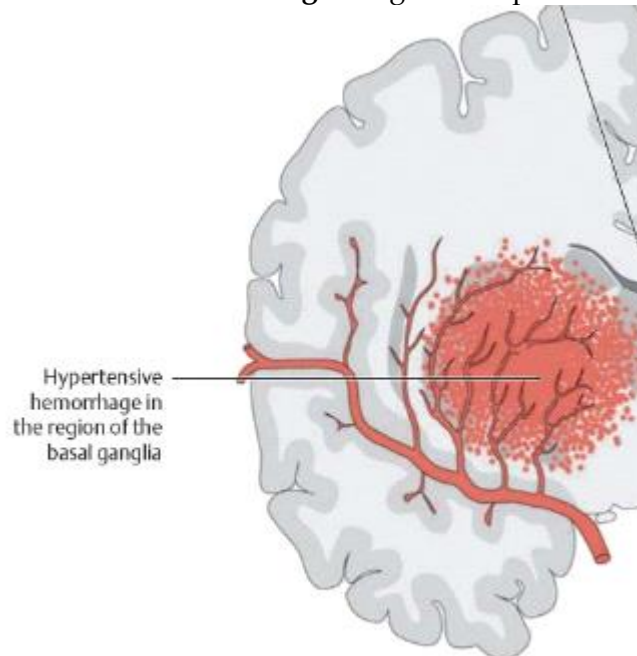


b

**Subarachnoid** - Aneurysm(dilation of a blood vessel)/trauma



**Intracerebral hemorrhage** - High blood pressure



CE

**Define Herniation**

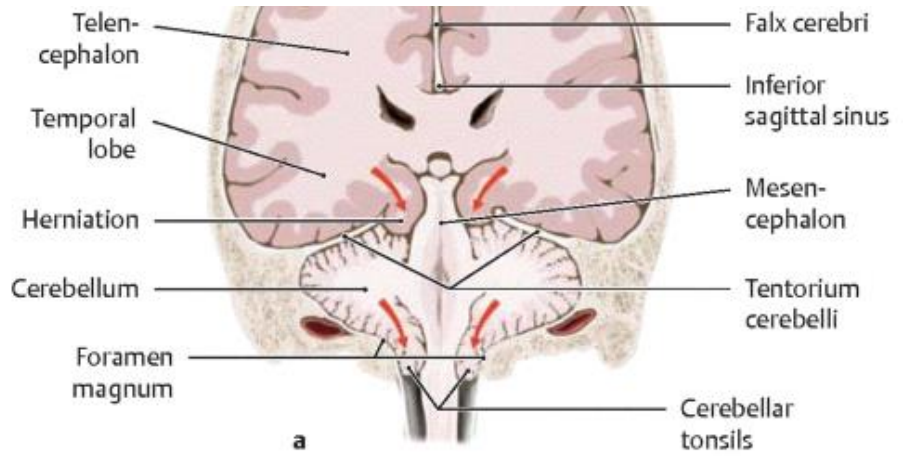
**What happens to a brain with the increased pressure of an epidural**

**Herniation** - Brain can be pushed downward into its cavities  
Worst symptoms come from pressure at the midbrain

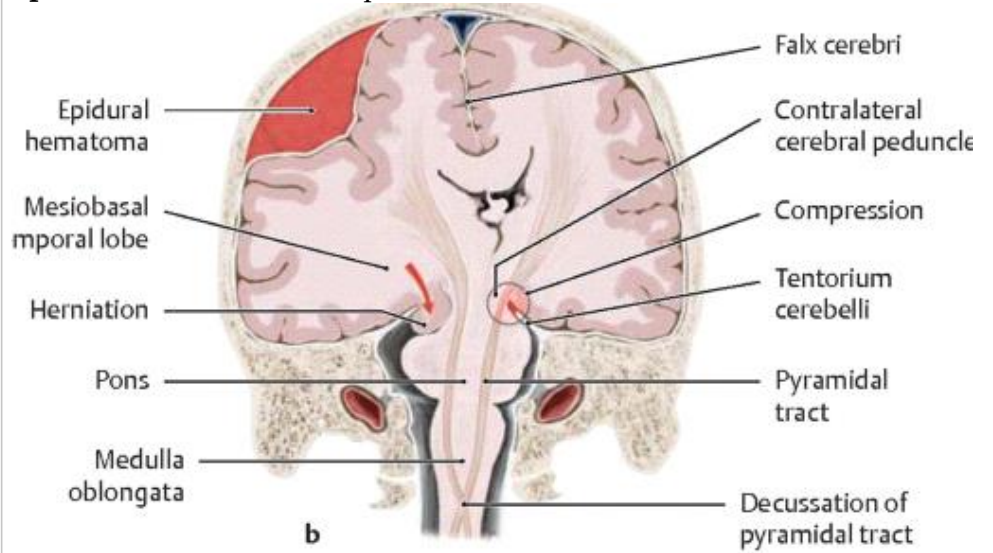
Superior sagittal sinus



hematoma?



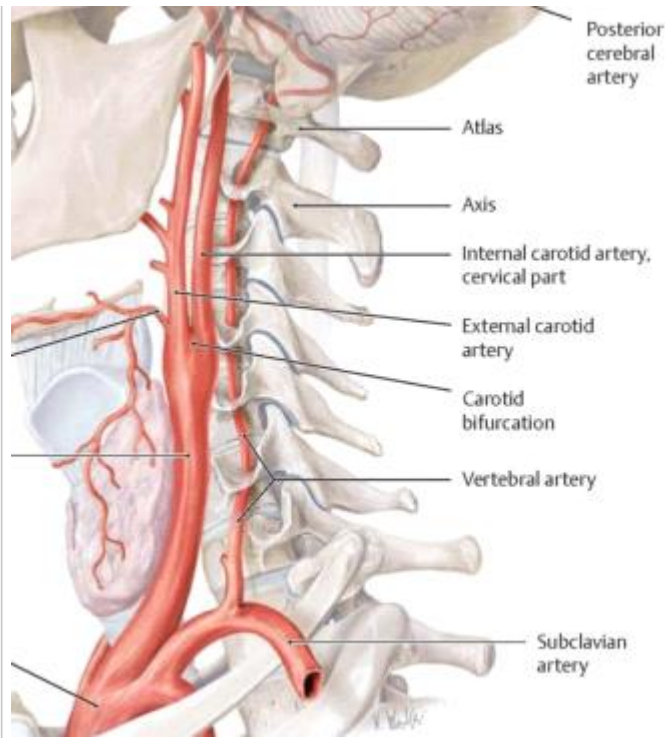
**Epidural hematoma** - Compression in one side, herniation at the other



Where does the vertebral artery enter the brain?

**Vertebral artery** - Enters via foramen magnum with the spinal cord

**Common carotid** - Internal carotid, external carotid



What are the three main cerebral arteries?

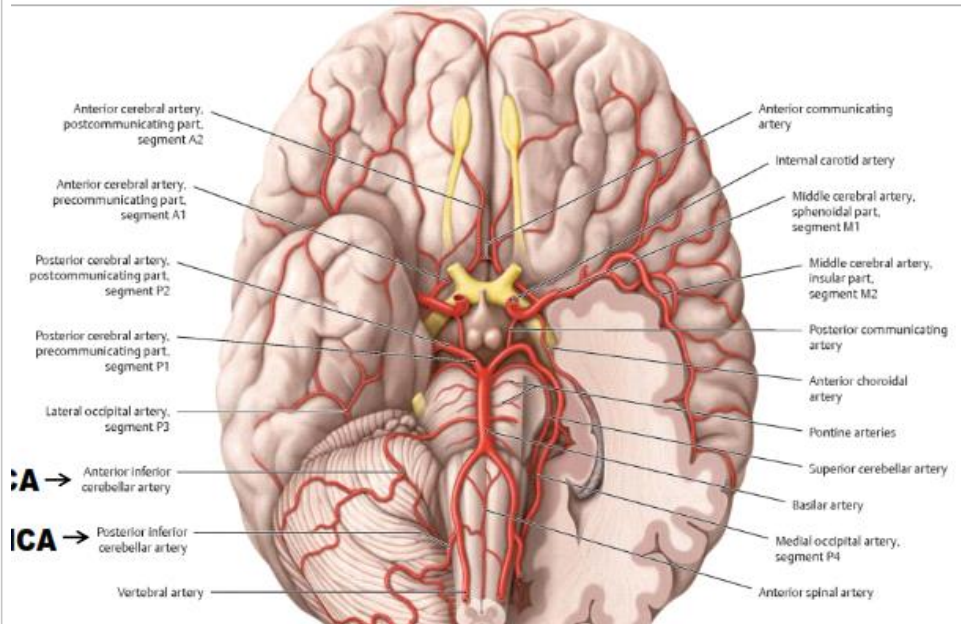
What are the two main cerebellar arteries?

Major arteries:

**Anterior cerebral artery**

**Middle cerebral artery**

**Posterior cerebral artery**



To the cerebellum:

**AICA - Anterior inferior cerebellar artery**

**PICA - Posterior inferior cerebellar artery**

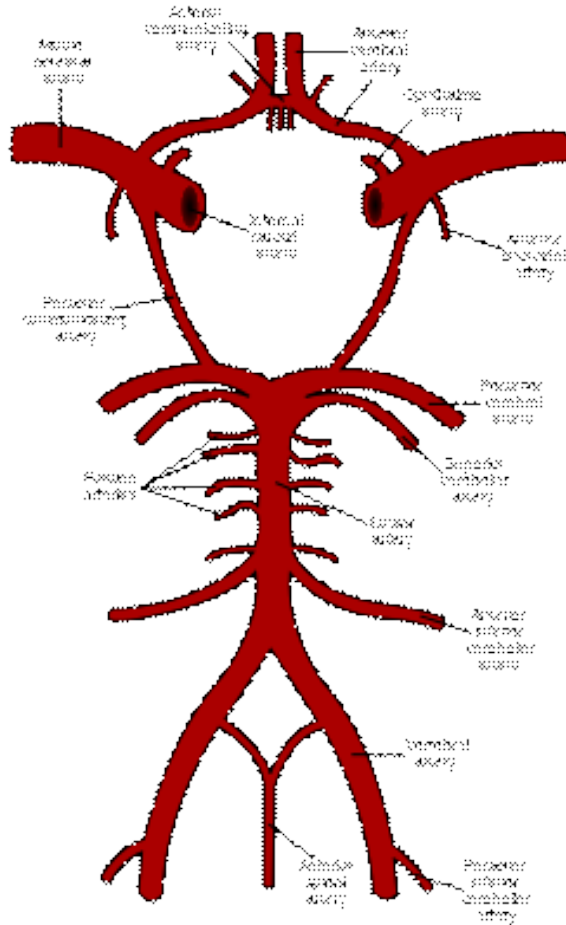
Is the Circle of Willis present in every human brain? Is there an advantage to its

Posterior communicating artery + Anterior communicating artery = **Circle of Willis**

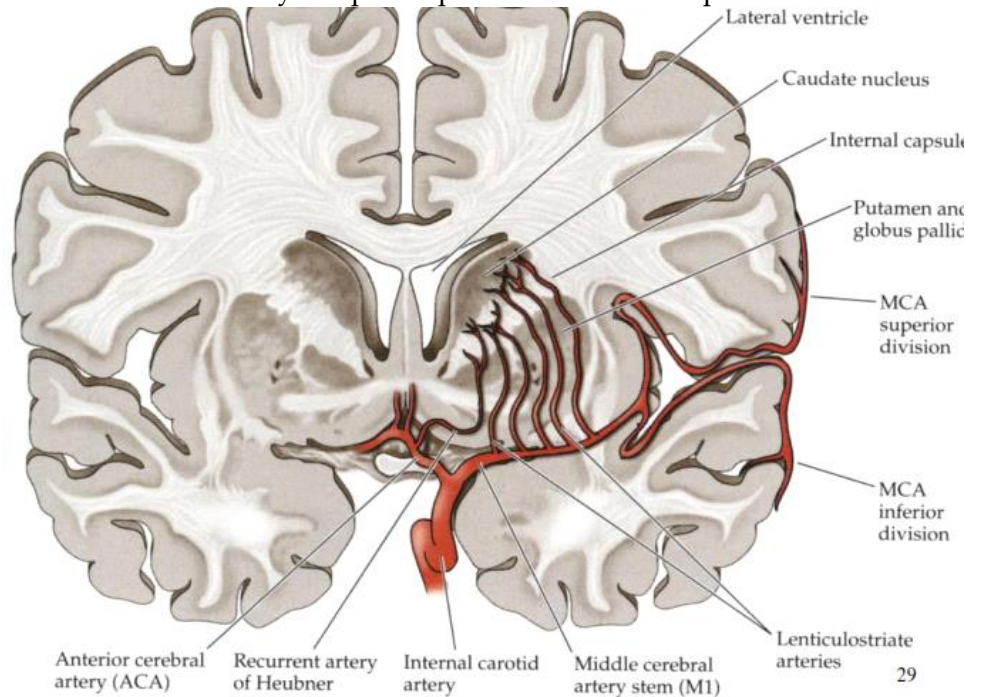
The brain has a complete circle - If one part is damaged, other parts can provide blood flow

presence?

Anastomoses = Connections between separate veins



Middle cerebral artery - Superior portion and inferior portion



Which brain part has two different cerebral arteries

Areas covered by cerebral artery  
Damage to a particular artery relates to damage to a particular brain



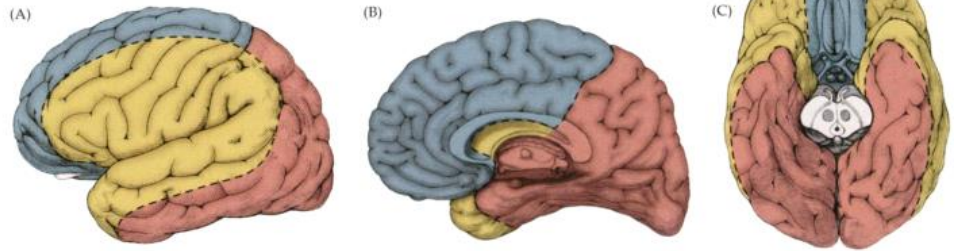
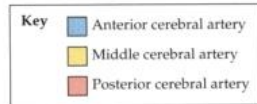
as input?

Which area is covered by the anterior cerebral artery?

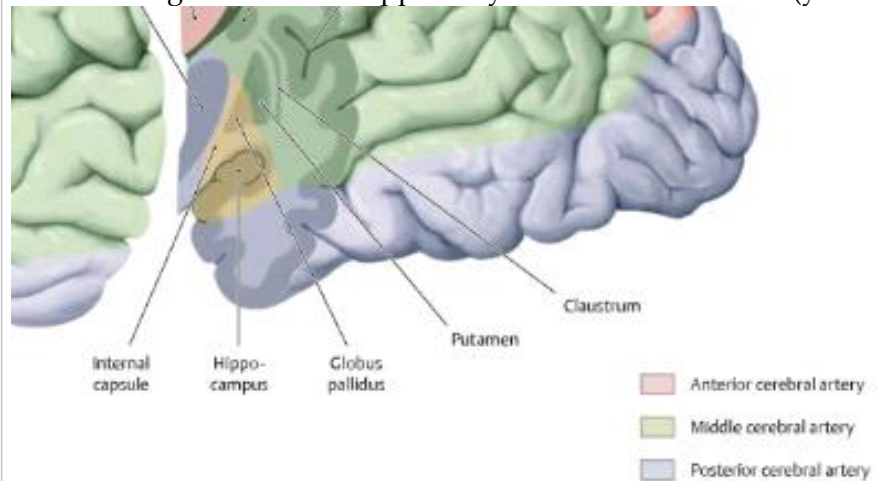
Which area is covered by the middle cerebral artery?

Which area is covered by the posterior cerebral artery?

region

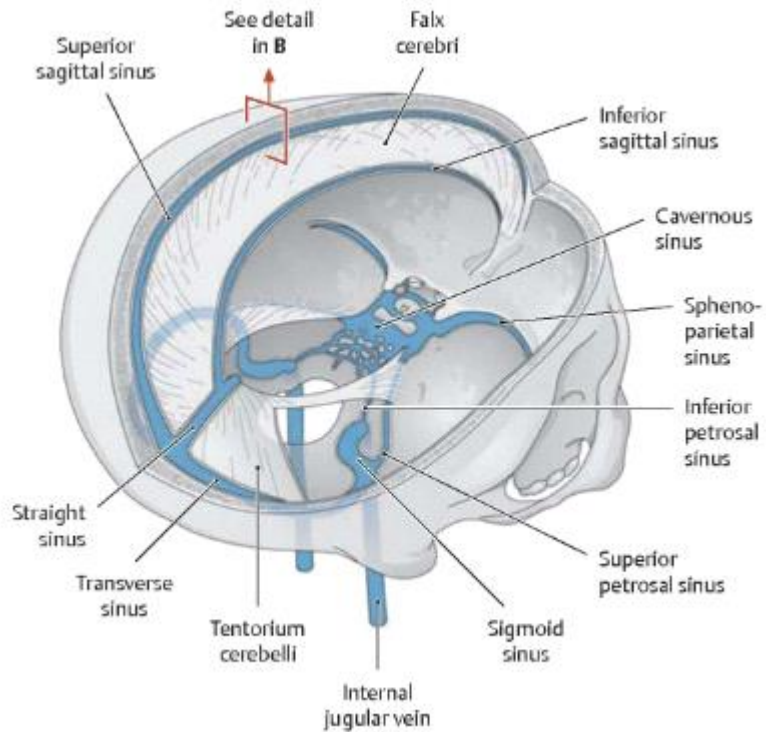


There are regions that are supplied by two different arteries (yellow)



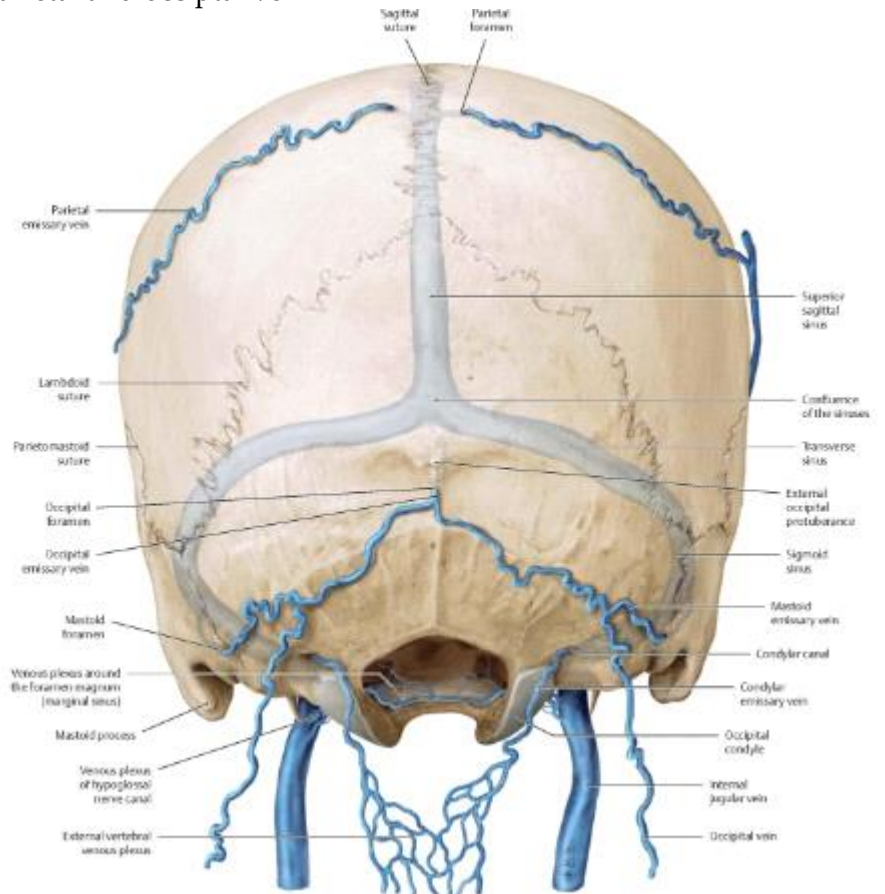
What is the function of a sinus?

Sinus - Deoxygenated blood is transported out of the skull  
Collects in the jugular vein



**What is an emissary vein? In which skull bones are they present?**

Some of those vein exit the skull = **Emissary vein**  
Parietal and occipital vein



If there is trauma and the blood flow is reversed - Problem because it does not have the blood brain barrier

**What is the apparent weight of a brain due to the CSF buoyancy?**

**Cerebrospinal Fluid**

Produced by choroid plexus  
Absorbed by Arachnoid granulations (cauliflower)  
Increase brain buoyancy

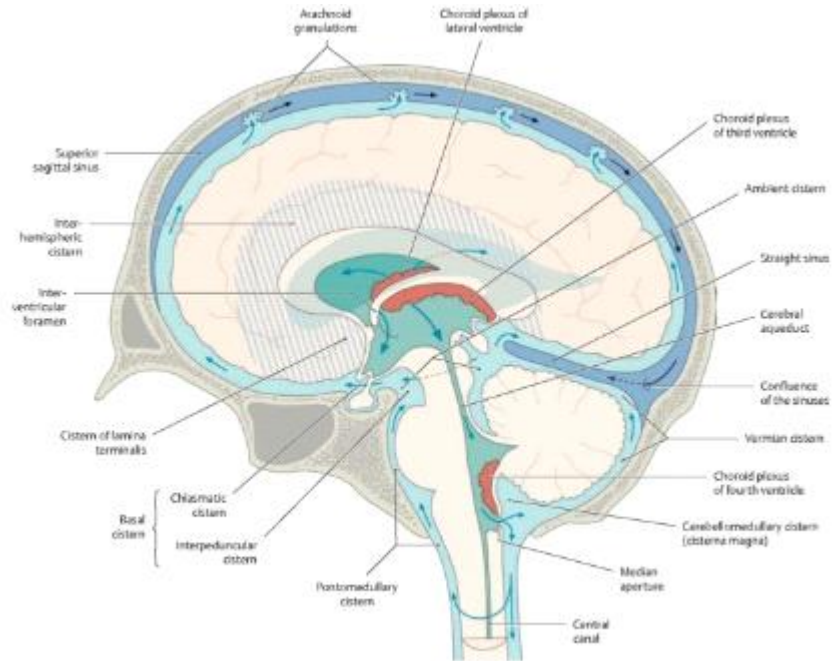
**What is the structure that produces CSF? And which structure absorbs it?**

Bouyancy generated by the CSF makes the brain float - Seemingly weigh 50 g instead of 1500 g

**How many milliliters of CSF are present in a**

Red zone - Produces  
Blue - Absorbs

human brain?



This generates flow

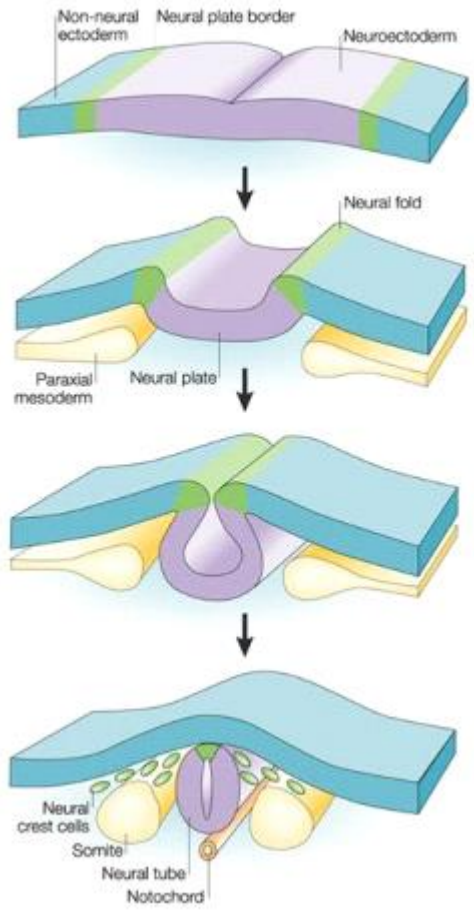
125 ml in a human brain = renewed constantly

**Blood Brain Barrier**

20% of the oxygen  
600 km in capillaries

Development of the brain - Very soon after conception

Start as a plate  
Becomes a tube



**What are the three divisions of the neural tube? What are the five structures they generate?**

**What is the ventricle associate with the telencephalon?**

**What is the ventricle associate with the diencephalon?**

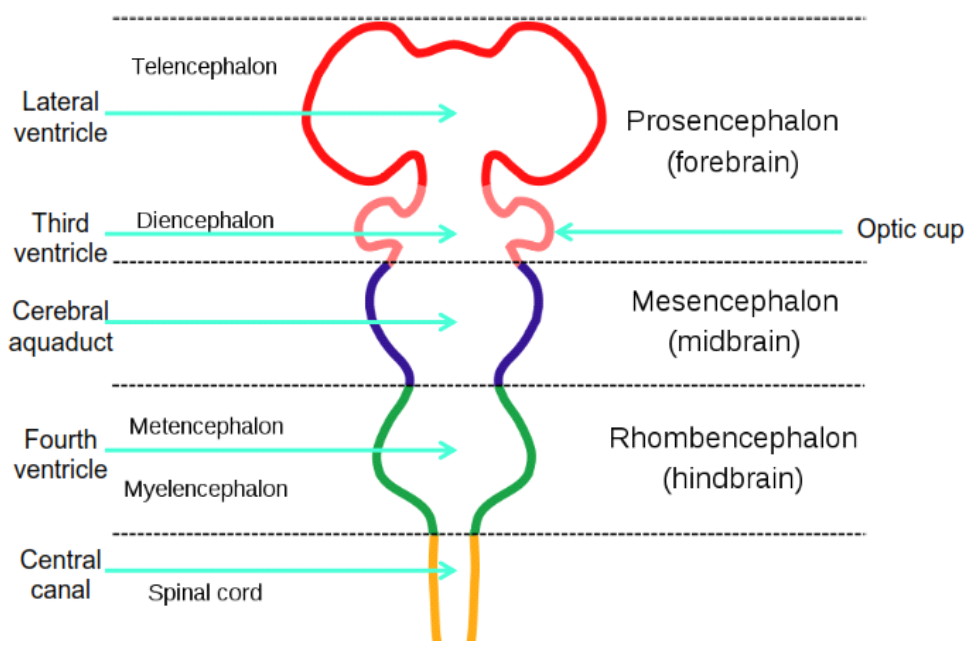
**What is the ventricle associate with the mesencephalon?**

**What is the ventricle associate with the rhombencephalon?**

**What is the ventricle associate with the spinal**

Forebrain - Telencephalon and diencephalon  
 Midbrain - Mesencephalon  
 Hindbrain - Metencephalon and myelencephalon

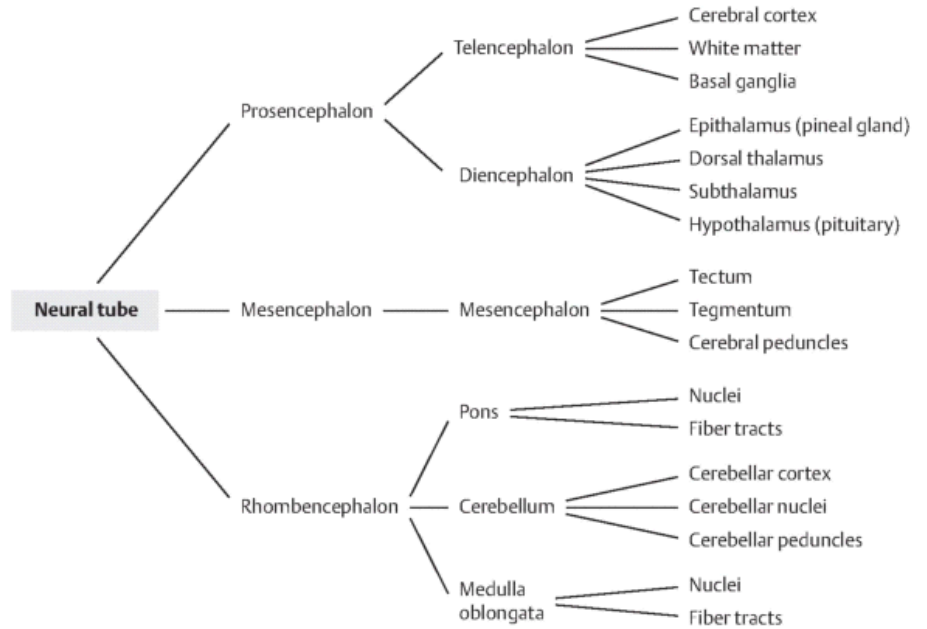
What the tube will become?



Brain vesicles and their derivatives



cord?



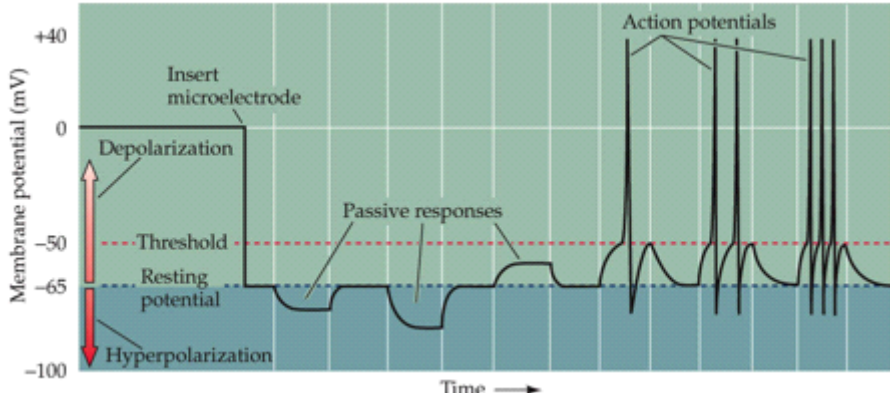
**Why doesn't the ventricular system look like a normal tube?**

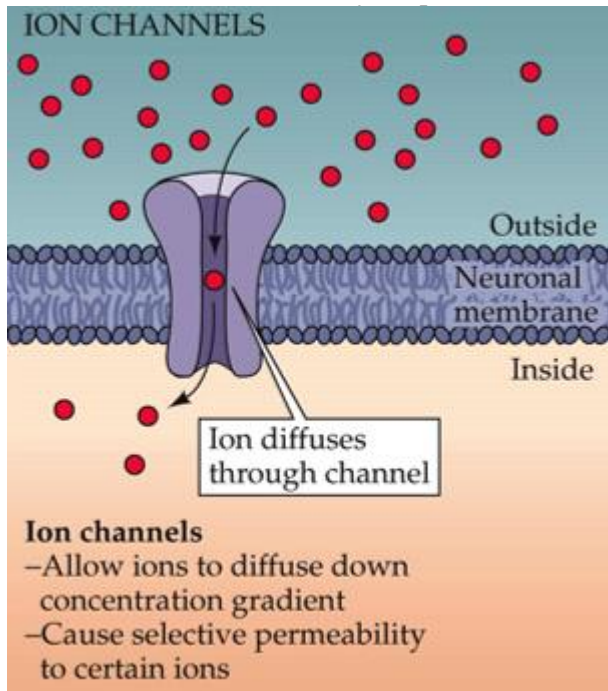
Ventricular system - Does not look like a tube

Different flexures

- 1) Cephalic (grows quicker than the other parts)
- 2) Cervical
- 3) Pontine

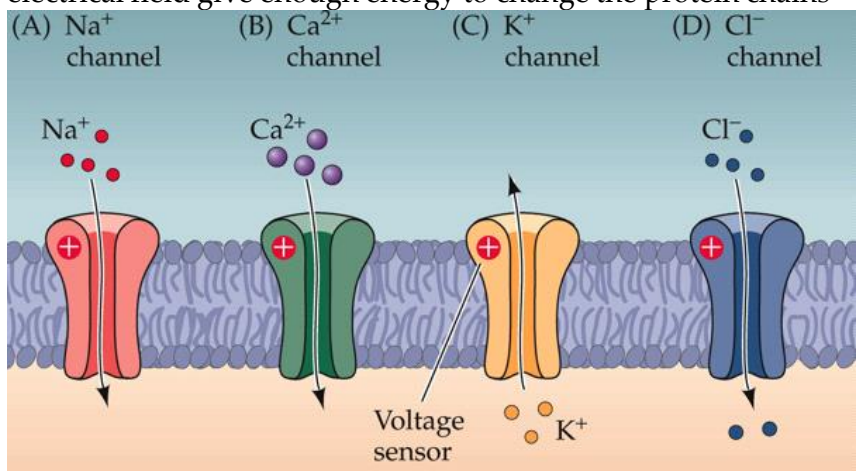
# 1. Neurophysiology - Ions channels & Resting membrane potential

<p><b>What do neurons have in common?</b></p> <p><b>What is the functional advantage to use electricity instead of chemical communication?</b></p>	<p>Brain has the most diverse cell types in the body</p> <p>What neurons have in common: - Resting membrane potential and use electricity to communicate</p> <p><b>What is the advantage of electrical signalling?</b> Electricity is used because it is faster than chemical communication</p>
<p><b>What is a neuronal threshold?</b></p>	<p>Resting membrane potential = <b>-65 mV</b> Threshold = <b>-50 mV</b></p>  <p>Below threshold - Passive responses Above threshold - Active responses</p>
<p><b>Define the cellular function of ion channels and their two main different types.</b></p>	<p><b>Ion channels</b> - Proteins that allow ions to move towards their concentration gradient</p> <p>Ions cannot pass the membrane because they are hydrophilic and the cell membrane is hydrophobic</p>



**Ligand-gated** - Need a chemical ligand to change the protein chains

**Voltage-gated** - No chemical ligand, only changes in the electrical field give enough energy to change the protein chains



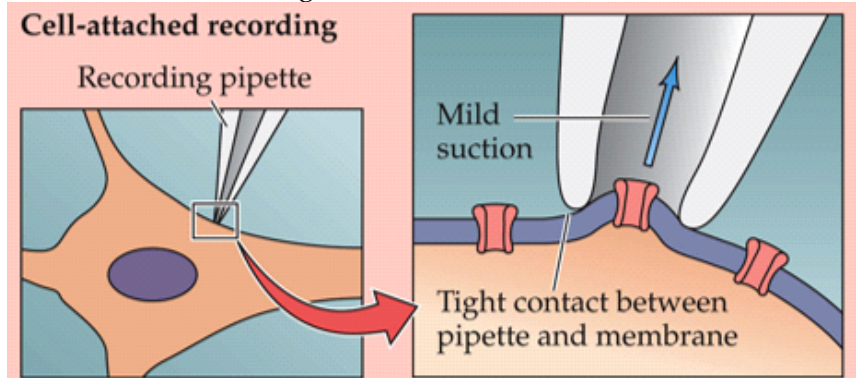
Na, Ca, K, Cl channels

What is the technique of patch clamp? How does it work?

What it means to say that channels are stochastic?

**Patch clamp** - Nobel prize in 1991

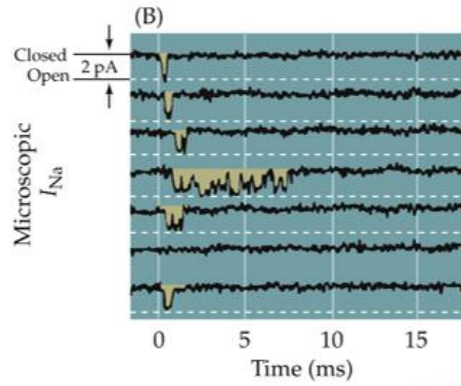
Cell-attached recording



Closed channel - No signal

Open channel - Baseline signal (total current equals the sum of

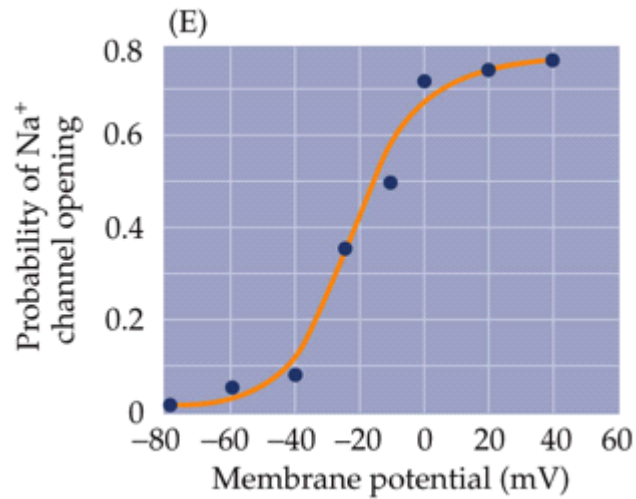
millions of tiny channels)



**Na channel** - Closes very quickly

**K channel** - Open for a longer period of time

Channels are stochastic - There is a chance of being either open or closed at all times



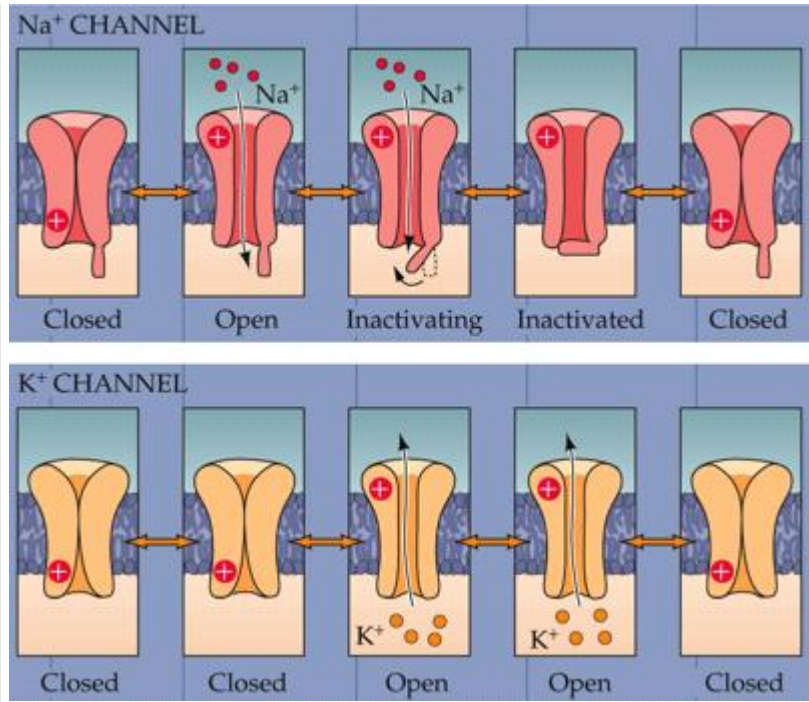
Probability of a channel opening is voltage dependent

**Define 'inactivation site' present in sodium**

Na channel - Has a **inactivation site** (in a different place than the part that regulates open/closed state)



channels.

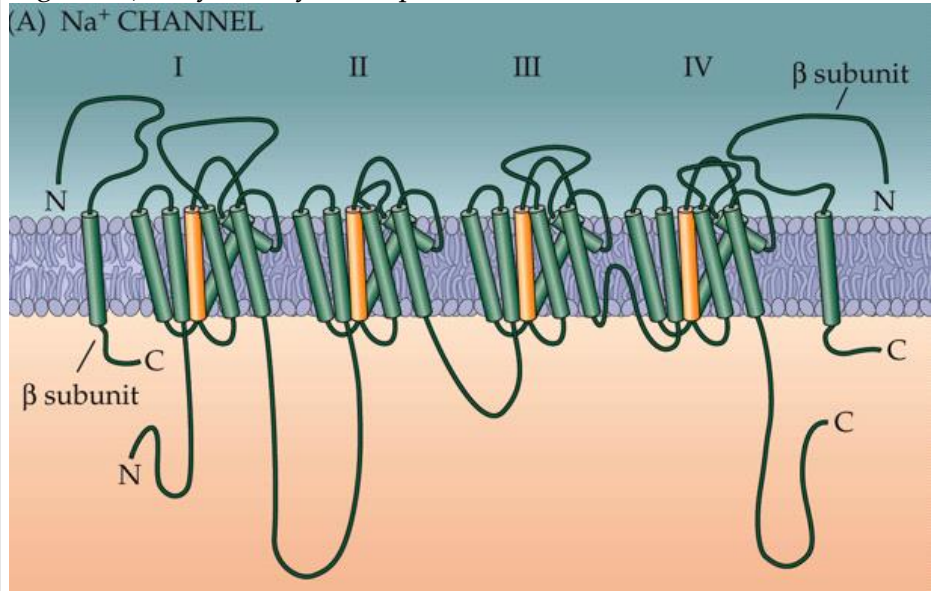


*Sodium channels may be open but inactive - Sodium ions cannot flow*

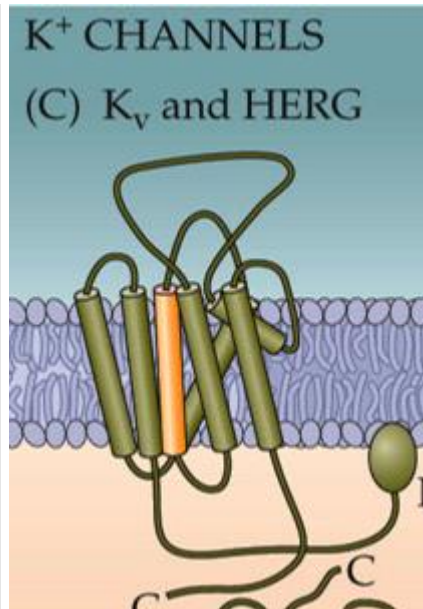
Na channels open fast  
K channels open slower

**What is the structural difference between sodium and potassium channels?**

Na channel - Alpha subunit (**four** domains with **six** transmembranes segments), may or may not express beta subunits



K channels - **Four separate** subunits (**six** transmembrane segments) come together to form a channel

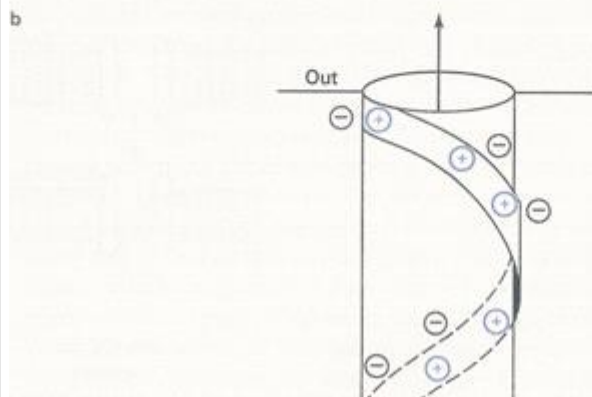


**Define the important of the S4 domain from the potassium channel and its molecular underpinings.**

Voltage dependence - Voltage sensor causes change of conformation of the channel

Gating of **S4 domain** - Every third aminoacid has a positive charge

Sodium I	Val-Ser-Ala-Leu-Arg-Thr-Phe-Arg-Val-Leu-Arg-Ala-Leu-Lys-Thr-Ile-Ser-Val-Ile-
Sodium II	Leu-Ser-Val-Leu-Arg-Ser-Phe-Arg-Leu-Leu-Arg-Val-Phe-Lys-Leu-Ala-Lys-Ser-Trp-
Calcium I	Val-Lys-Ala-Leu-Arg-Ala-Phe-Arg-Val-Leu-Arg-Pro-Leu-Arg-Leu-Val-Ser-Gly-Val-
Calcium II	Ile-Ser-Val-Leu-Arg-Cys-Ile-Arg-Leu-Leu-Arg-Leu-Phe-Lys-Ile-Thr-Lys-Tyr-Trp-
Shaker	Leu-Arg-Val-Ile-Arg-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Phe-Arg-Ile-Phe-Lys-Leu-Ser-Arg-His-Ser-
Rat Kv1.1	Leu-Arg-Val-Ile-Arg-Leu-Val-Arg-Val-Phe-Arg-Ile-Phe-Lys-Leu-Ser-Arg-His-Ser-

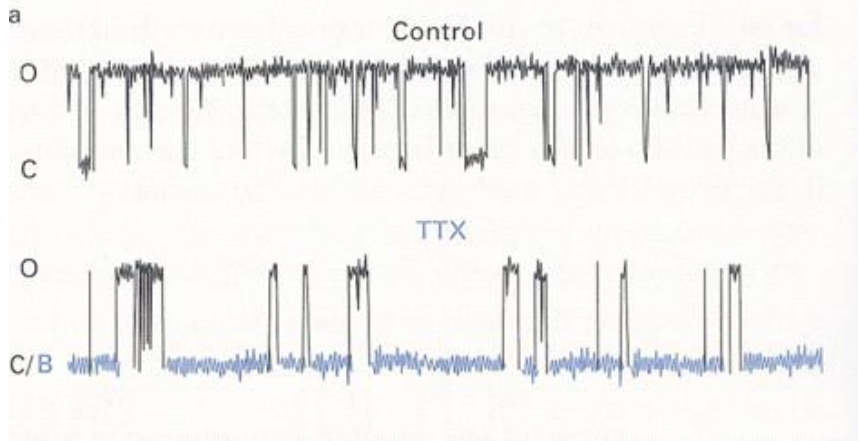


Change in this domain cause the voltage-gated channels to move

**How can toxins be used to study ion channels?**

**Ion selectivity** - Certain aminoacids interact only with certain ions (physical barrier against larger ions)

Toxins - Evolutionary target ion channels very specifically  
Tetradotoxin (from pufferfish) blocks sodium channels



Conotoxin (from snail) blocks potassium channels

How can a single aminoacid mutation cause a disease like cystic fibrosis?

What is a probable cause for migraines?

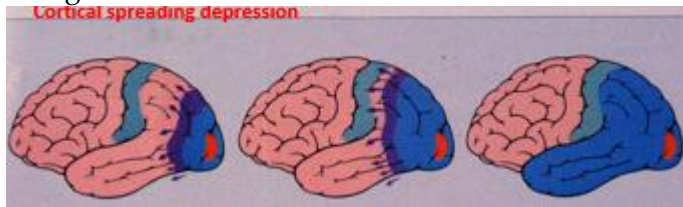
**Ion channels and disease**

Cystic fibrosis - Chloride channel

Epilepsy - Potassium channel

Migraine - Calcium channel

Cortical spreading depression - Wave of depolarization that goes across the cortex



Activate pain regions around the brain (the brain itself does not have nociceptors)

Obesity - TRP (calcium) channel

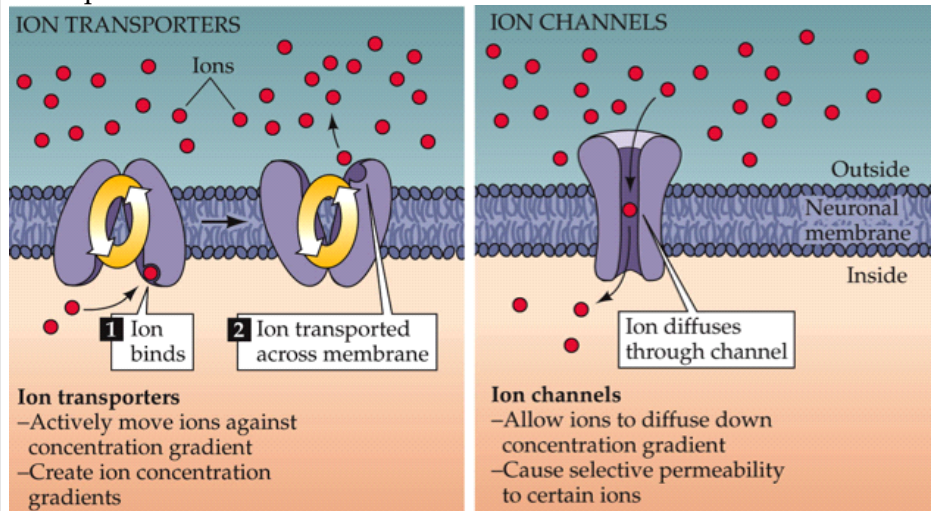
How can positive ion cause a resting negative membrane potential?

Neurons spend a lot of energy to maintain a negative membrane potential

Positive ions can cause depolarization or hyperpolarization - It depends on **the direction in which they are flowing**

What is the functional difference between transporters and channels?

Transporters and channels move ions across neuronal membranes



**Ion transporters**  
 - Actively move ions against concentration gradient  
 - Create ion concentration gradients

**Ion channels**  
 - Allow ions to diffuse down concentration gradient  
 - Cause selective permeability to certain ions

**Transporters** - Actively move ions against their concentration

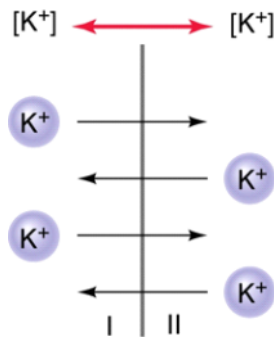
gradient

**Channels** - Passively move ions towards their concentration gradient

Need the concentration difference generated by the transporters

What does it mean that a cell is at 'equilibrium' between electrical potential and concentration gradient?

**Equilibrium** - The amount of movement among compartments is equal (there is movement!)



**Concentration gradient** - Chemical driving force

Electrical potential & concentration gradient - Electrical and chemical driving force

Membrane potential determines ion flux

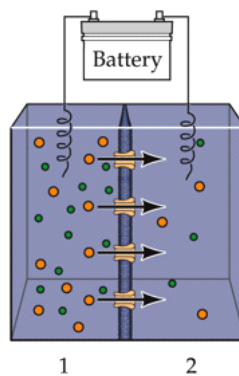
Battery off - Chemical driving force wins

Battery on - Electrical force balances out chemical driving force

If the electrical potential is big enough, ions may move against their concentration gradient

### Membrane potential determines ion flux

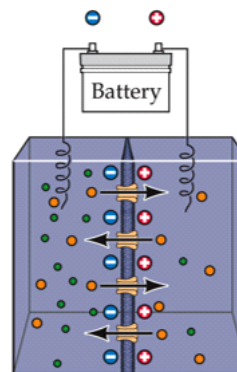
(A) Battery off  
 $V_{1-2} = 0 \text{ mV}$



10 mM KCl 1 mM KCl

Net flux of  $K^+$   
from 1 to 2

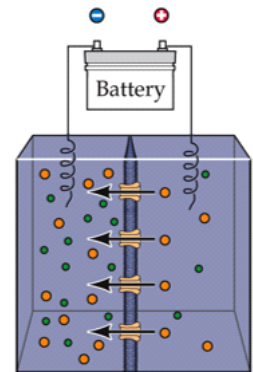
Battery on  
 $V_{1-2} = -58 \text{ mV}$



10 mM KCl 1 mM KCl

No net flux  
of  $K^+$

Battery on  
 $V_{1-2} = -116 \text{ mV}$



10 mM KCl 1 mM KCl

Net flux of  $K^+$   
from 2 to 1



CNCR 51N

Describe the difference between Nerst and Goldman's equation.

**Nerst equation** - Describe how ions move

$$E_x = \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{[X^+]_o}{[X^+]_i}$$



Why is calcium concentration so low in the intracellular space?

What is the equilibrium potential for the four main ions?

$$zF \ln \frac{[X^+]_o}{[X^+]_i}$$

In mammal temperatures and using 10-base log: 58

$$58 \log_{10} \frac{[X^+]_o}{[X^+]_i}$$

**Goldman equation** - Includes the permeability of the membrane for different ions

$$V_m = \frac{RT}{zF} \ln \frac{P_K K_o + P_{Na} Na_o + P_{Cl} Cl_i}{P_K K_i + P_{Na} Na_i + P_{Cl} Cl_o}$$

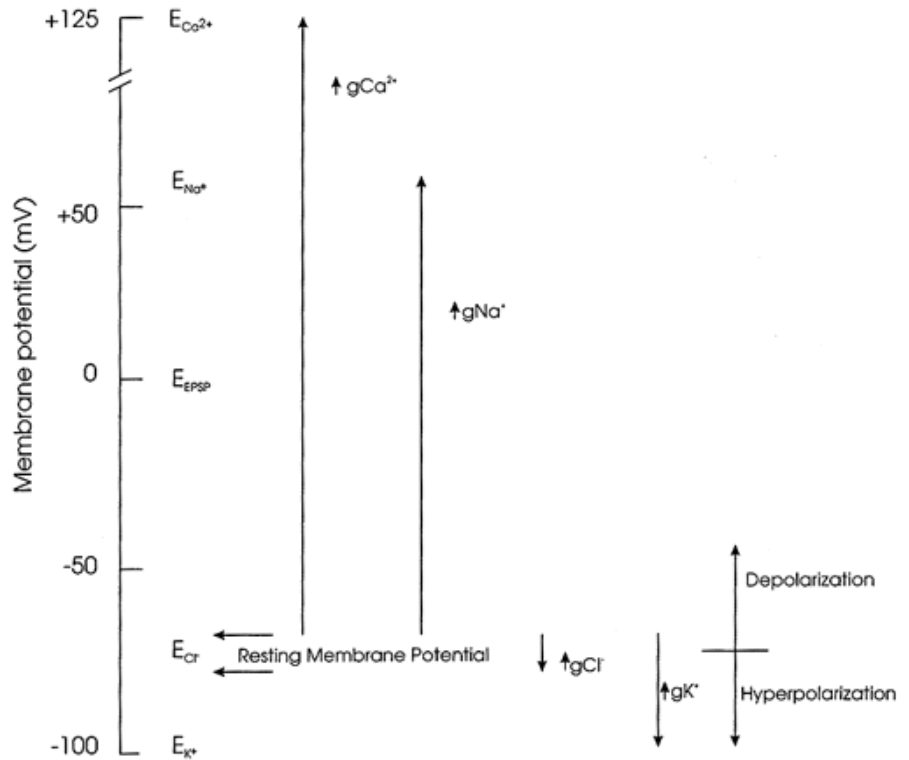
Table - Extracellular and intracellular neuron concentration

**TABLE 2.1** Extracellular and Intracellular Ion Concentrations

Ion	Concentration (mM)	
	Intracellular	Extracellular
<b>Squid neuron</b>		
Potassium (K <sup>+</sup> )	400	20
Sodium (Na <sup>+</sup> )	50	440
Chloride (Cl <sup>-</sup> )	40–150	560
Calcium (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	0.0001	10
<b>Mammalian neuron</b>		
Potassium (K <sup>+</sup> )	140	5
Sodium (Na <sup>+</sup> )	5–15	145
Chloride (Cl <sup>-</sup> )	4–30	110
Calcium (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	0.0001	1–2

**Calcium** needs to be low because it is a **finely regulated** second messenger

Equilibrium potential of **sodium and calcium** are very positive  
EP of **chloride and potassium** are very negative



EpSP - Excitatory post-synaptic neuron (both sodium and potassium are going through - net = 0)

Describe the change in permeability of sodium and potassium during an action potential.

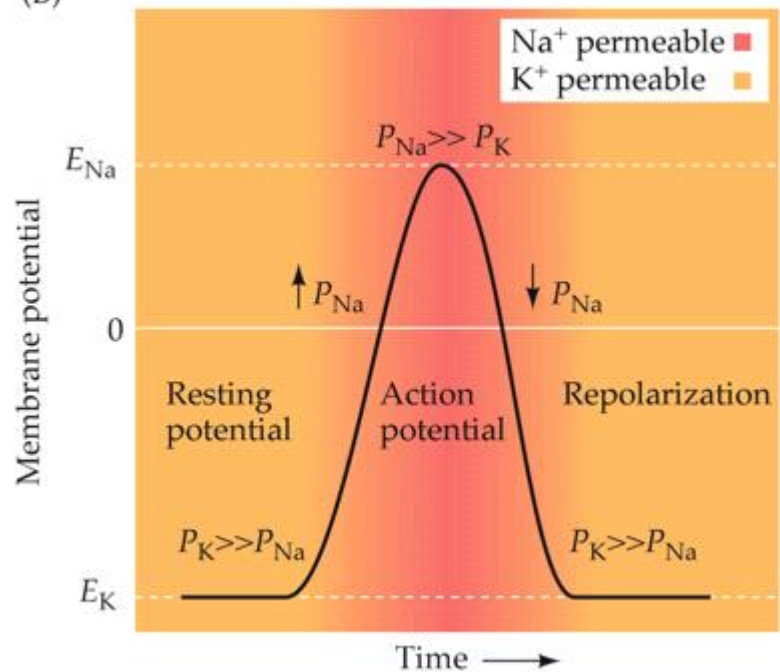
Why is sodium not so important to determine the resting membrane potential?

Why is GABA an excitatory neurotransmitter before birth? How is that explained at a molecular level?

Permeability of the membrane **changes during action potentials**

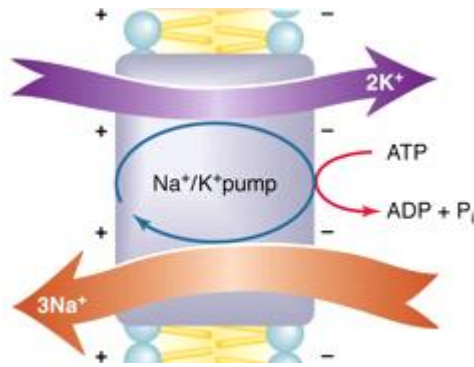
At the peak - Very high permeability for sodium, very low for potassium

(B)



Ion pumps maintain membrane potential at rest

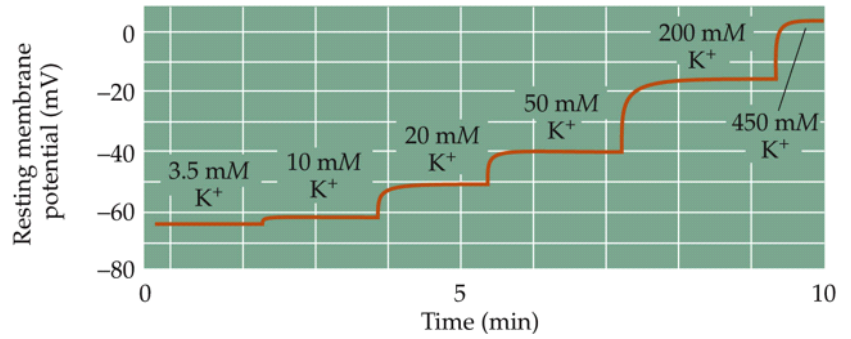
Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> pump - High potassium and low sodium inside the cell  
**3 sodium, 2 potassium**



Potassium leaves the cell - Inside becomes negative!

Na channels are closed - The membrane at rest is not very permeable to sodium

Resting membrane potential is determined by K+ gradient

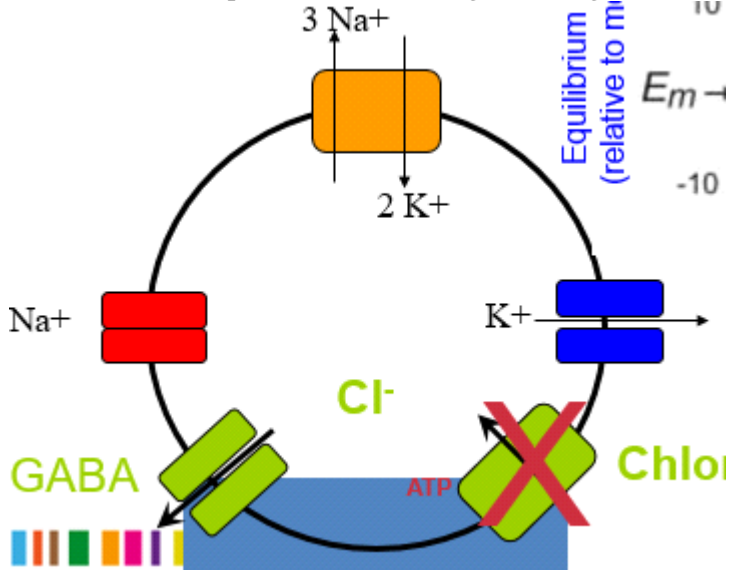


Chloride concentration is very different before and after birth

GABA is an excitatory neurotransmitter because there is more chloride

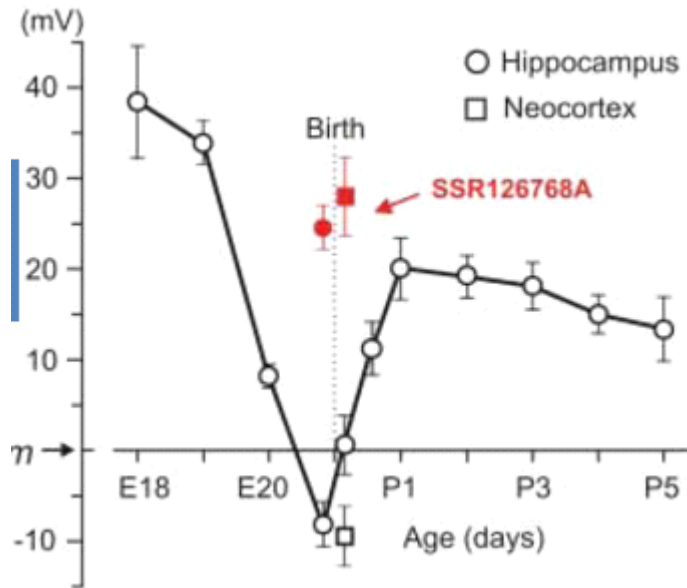
The fetus brain needs mechanism to prevent oxygen shortages

GABA causes depolarization in neighbouring cells



After birth - Oxytocin close chloride pump

SSR126768A - Oxytocin blocker



Why was the giant squid used as the model for studying action potentials?

Active properties of neurons

Squid giant axon - Nobel prize in 1963 (ionic mechanisms of action potentials)

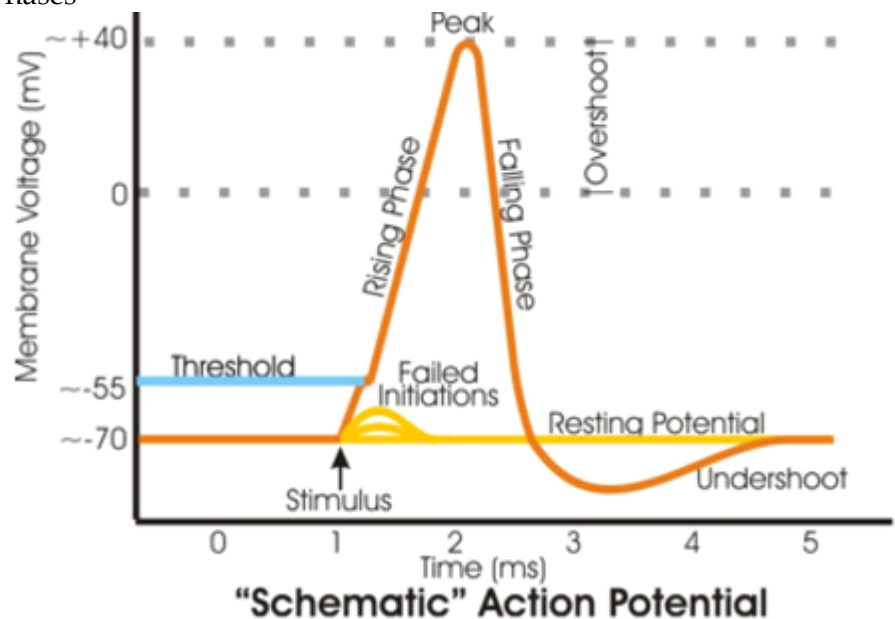
Squid evolved to be able to flee extremely quickly - Must have a large neuron to propagate the signal very quickly

Schematic action potential was discovered

Describe all the phases of an action potential in terms of the permeability of sodium and potassium.

Phases

Why is the sodium cycle a positive feedback and the potassium cycle a negative feedback loop?



**Resting phase** - Na channels closed, K channels open

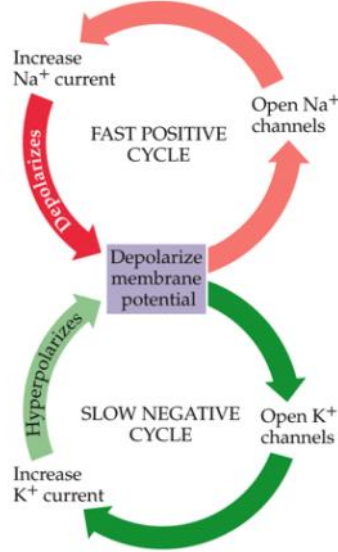
**Rising phase** - Occurs after a certain threshold has been passed, which cascades openings of sodium channels

Threshold changes overtime - You need a fast depolarization

**Peak** - No net flux (instant equilibrium)

**Falling phase** - Na channels closing, K channels opening  
**Undershoot phase** - More potassium going out of the cell than during the resting phase

**Feedback cycles**

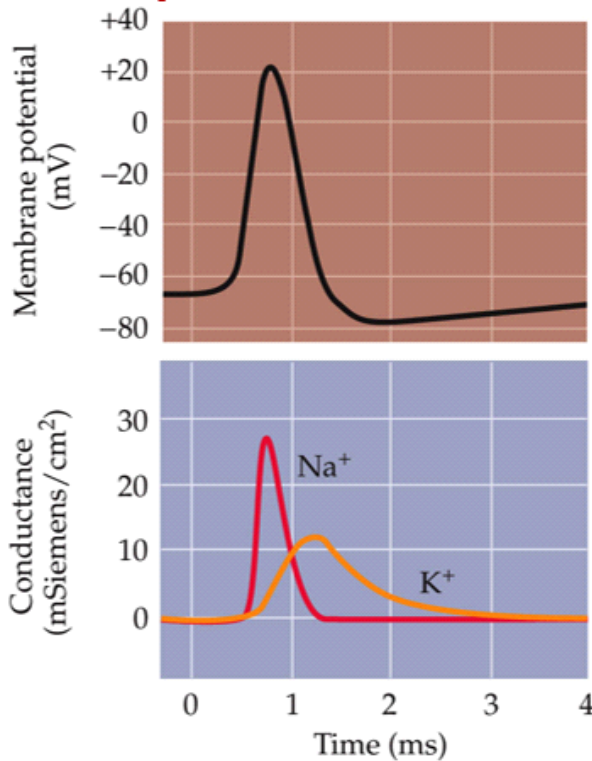


Sodium is positive feedback cycle and opens very quickly  
 Potassium is a negative feedback cycle and opens more slowly

**What would happen if potassium channels had the same response time as sodium channels?**

Membrane conductances during action potential

Sodium peaks first  
 Potassium peaks later



During resting conditions - Sodium permeability is extremely low  
 During action potentials - Sodium permeability increases many orders

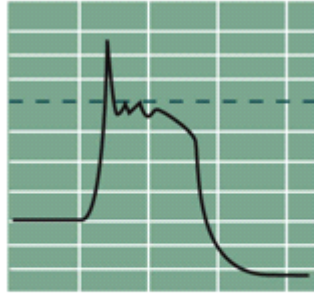


of magnitude

**Why there are such a variability in action potential shapes?**

There are many shapes of action potential - It varies accordingly to the different ion channels expressed

D) Calcium channels are expressed in pacemaker (in heart muscle cells) - Curve become bulgy



0 10 20 30 40  
Time (ms)

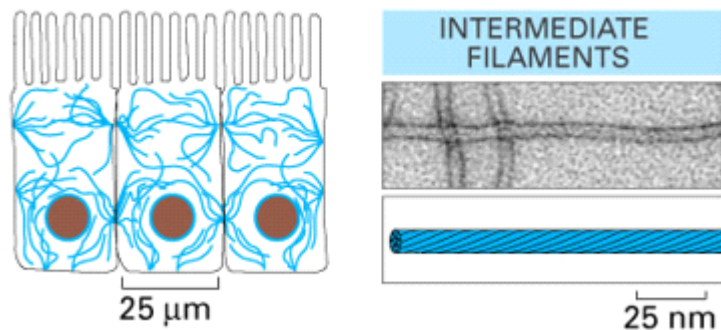
## 2. Cytoskeleton (chap 17)

**What are the three main components of the cytoskeleton? What length is their respective diameter?**

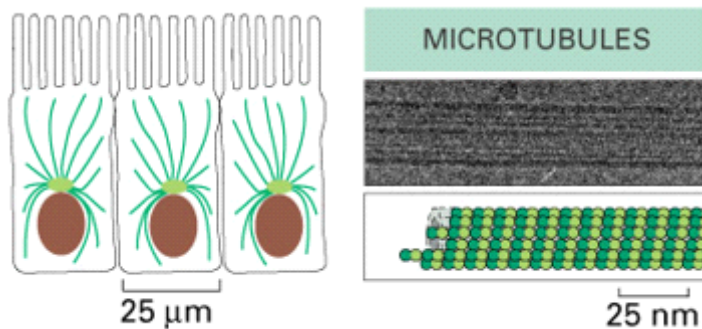
Things are kept in place by the cytoskeleton

### Components of the cytoskeleton

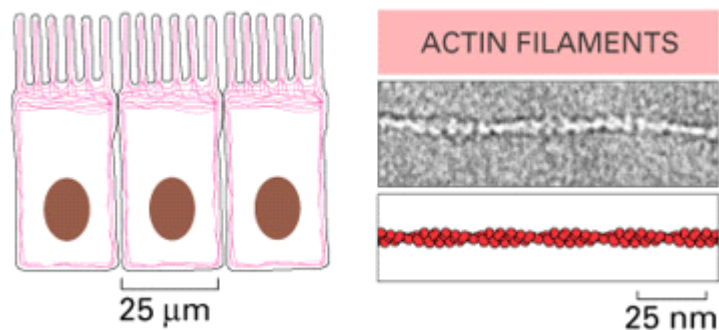
**Intermediary filaments** - Joins cells together (do not cross cells/not continuous); diameter of approximately 10 nm



**Microtubules** - Have nucleation points (centrosomes), has a spider-like look; diameter of 25 nm



**Actin filaments** - Aligned along the cell membrane (cortex of the cell); diameter of 7 nm



**How are intermediary filaments formed?**

### Intermediary filaments

Build from very simple structures - Monomers

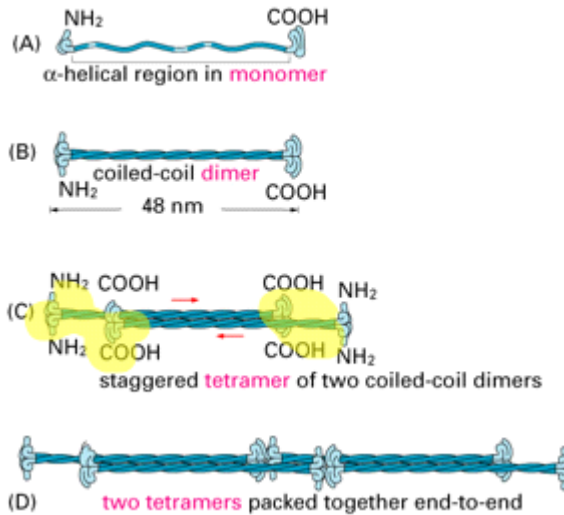
Superstructures - Coiled-coil dimers that keeps packing

Generates a rope-like structure - The fact that they are not

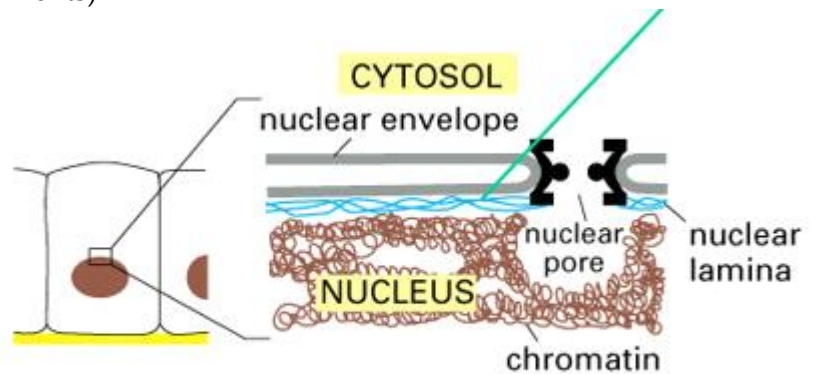
**What is the main**

function of intermediary filaments?

aligned means that they have more binding sites to other structures



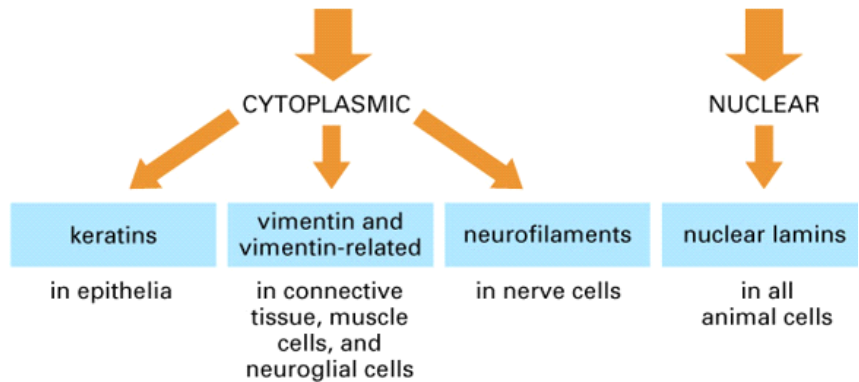
They **prevent cell rupture** - Give strength to the cell membrane and nuclear membrane (nuclear pores = no intermediary filaments)



(A)

Nuclear intermediary filaments is stretched all the time - Pressure from the chromatin DNA

Found in cytoplasm (name varies depending on the location/encoded by different genes) and in the nucleus



Metaphor:

Membrane - Glass and curtains

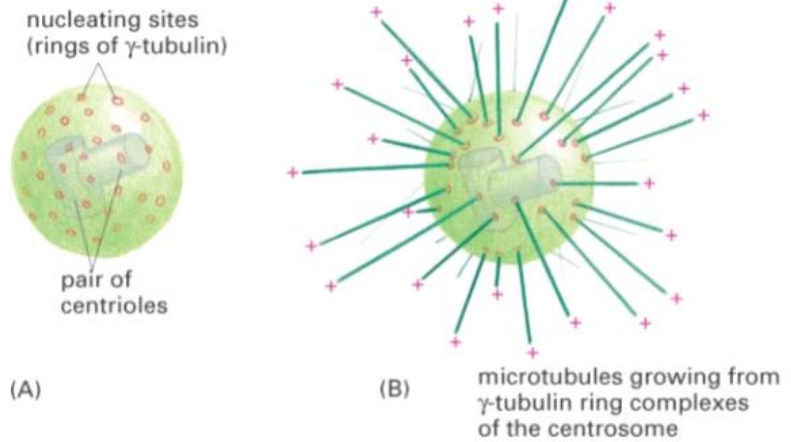
Cytoskeleton - Concrete that makes the building

There are parts of the DNA that are always bound to intermediary filaments - Needs to be organized in a particular way

Describe how microtubules grow are what are their main components.

**Microtubules**

Grow from centrosomes



**Basal body** = Centrosomes in ciliated cells

Organized from two proteins -alpha and beta

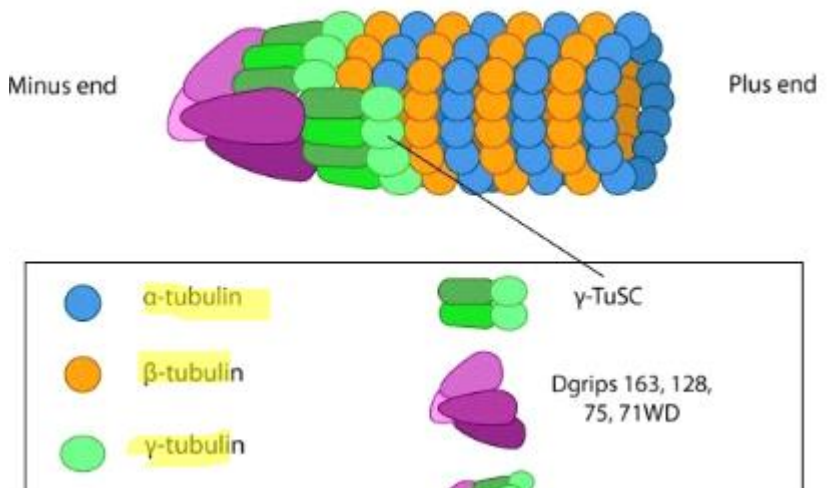
Forms a heterodimers with a hollow tube superstructure

Plus end - Part of the filament that grows

Alpha-tubulin - Minus end; connects to the centrosome

Beta-tubulin - Plus end; grows

Gamma-tubulin - Center of nucleation



Gamma-tubulin - Starting points to cell division

Microtubules grow independently

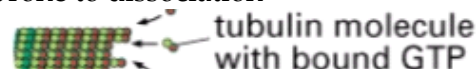
The process of microtubule growth is essentially stochastic. But how is directed in some way by the cell?

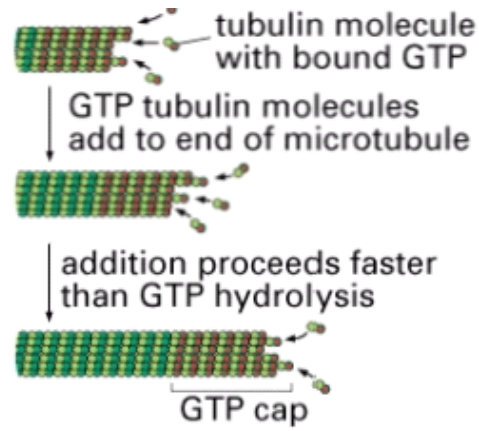
How do they grow?

Tubulin binds with GTP

GTP is present in the microtubule structure

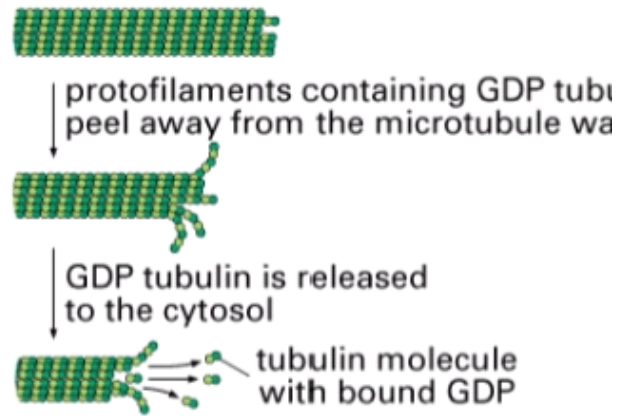
GTP is hydrolysed into GDP - Microtubules becomes less stable and prone to dissociation





GTP  
tubu  
dest

### GROWING MICROTUBULE



### SHRINKING MICROTUBULE

This process takes a lot of energy

**Selective stabilization of microtubules** - Capping proteins protect the end of microtubules

Growth cannot be controlled (they are randomly growing), but can be directed

**What is the function of kinesin and dynein?**

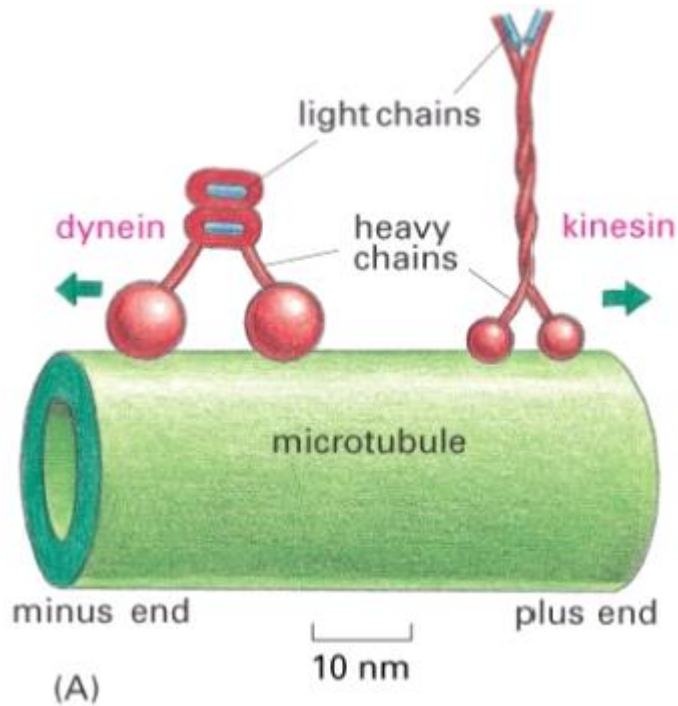
**Motor proteins** - Drive transport in a neuron

Movement occurs along the microtubules - Retrograde and anterograde transport

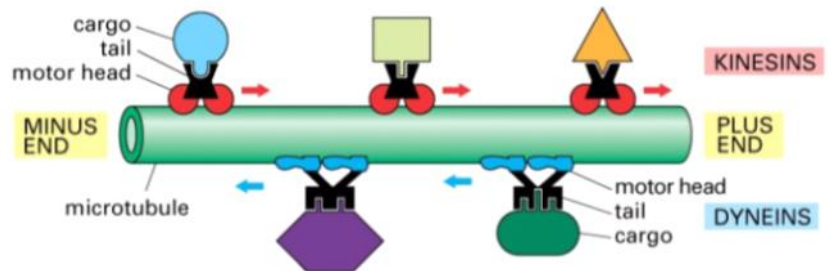


What is the function of the light chain and the heavy chain in motor proteins?

If kinesin always goes to the plus end of the microtubule and dynein always goes to the minus end, how come the cell doesn't accumulate these proteins at each extremity?



Motor proteins walk on microtubules - Two connection points



E.g. Kinesin (go to plus end) and dynein (go to minus end)  
Built with two polypeptide chains

**Light chain** - Binds to cargo

**Heavy chain** - Motor head binds to microtubule

Spends ATP to detach the motor head, not for the movement itself

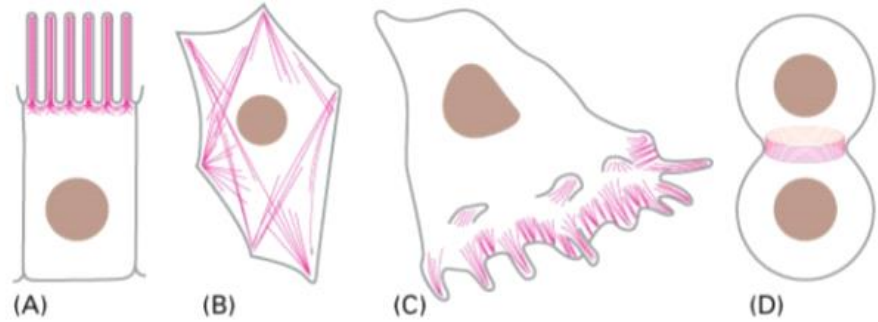
All motor proteins need a adaptive protein to carry cargo

Why do kinesins not accumulate at the plus end and dyneins at the minus end?

Kinesins becomes cargo to dyneins to go back to the minus end

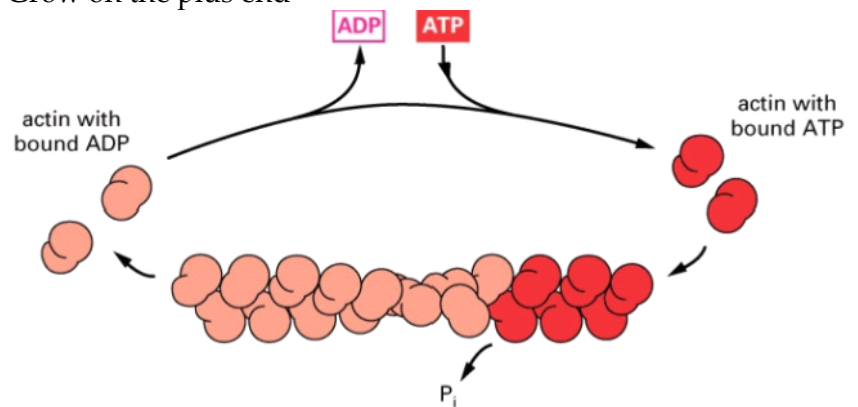
Dyneins becomes cargo to kinesins to go back to the plus end

**Actin filaments** - Dynamic regulated in the brain; important in cellular motility and cytokinesis.



Often found close to the cell membrane  
 Makes cells pinch off during cell division

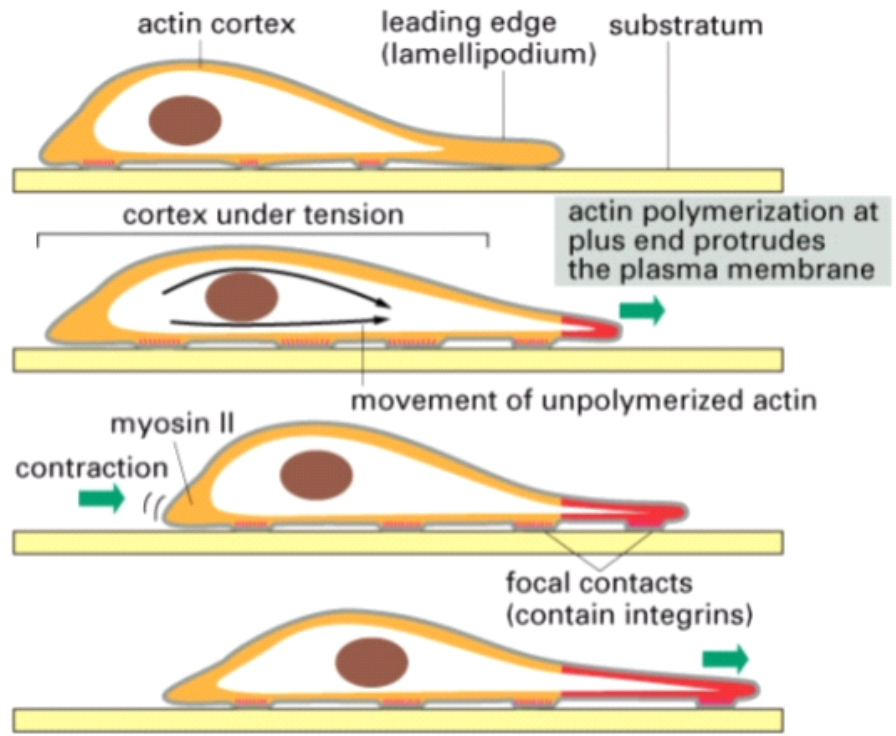
Built from monomers  
 Grow on the plus end



Actin stabilized by bound ATP - But there is no dynamic instability (once ATP leaves, the molecule does not break down)

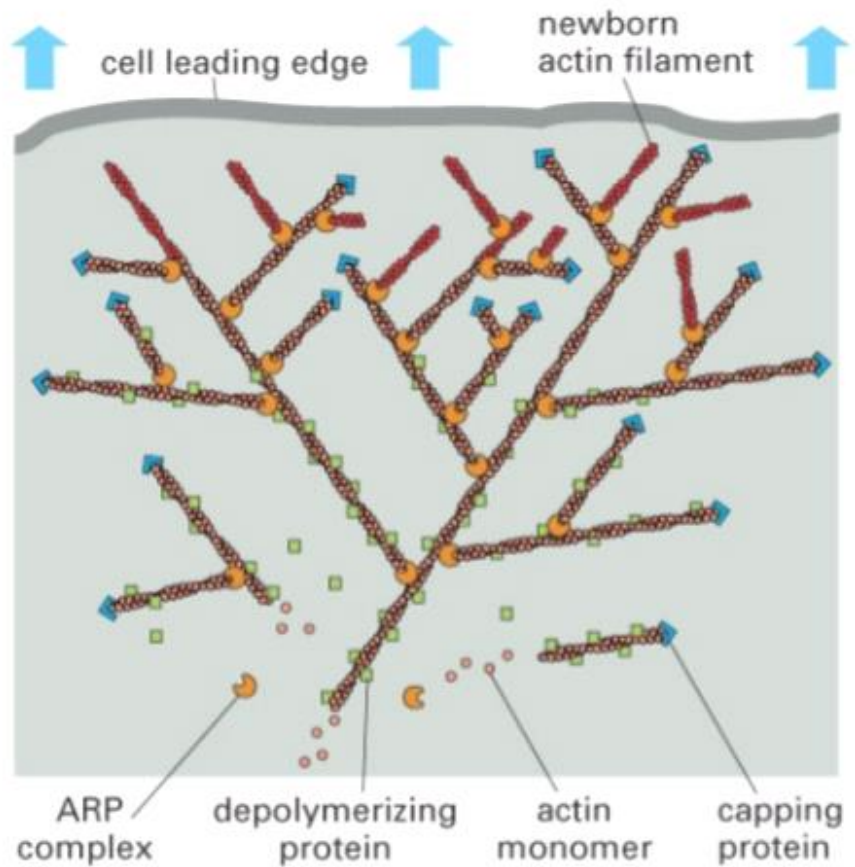
Many different proteins regulate the actin cytoskeleton  
 Capping and nucleating protein  
 Severing/bundling

Important role in movement - Actin pushes cells to a particular direction due to tension



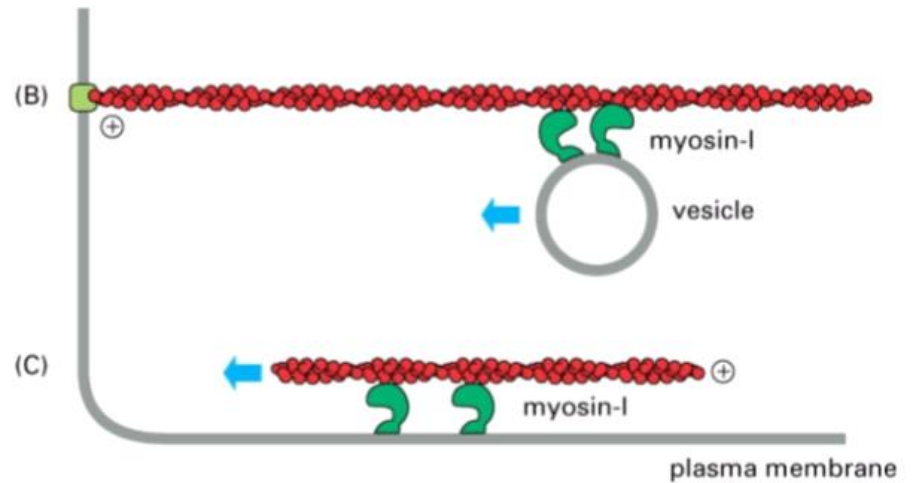
Motor proteins bind to the substrate (extracellular matrix)

Cell growth - Essentially random until it finds the extracellular matrix of a neighbouring cell



Depolymerizing - Actin monomers will be reused at the new cell edge

Myosin (monomeric dimer)- Motor protein involved in transport along actin filaments

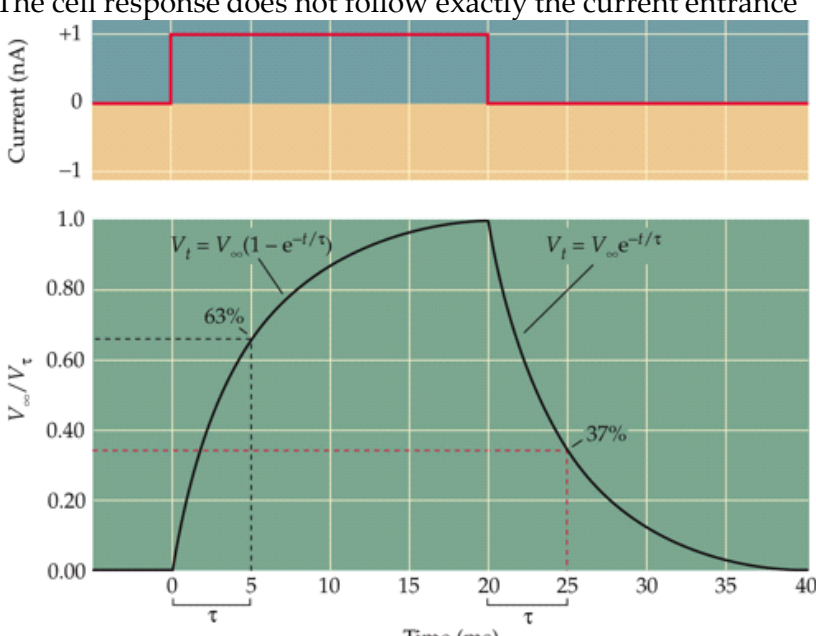


Vesicle - Lipids that fuse with the cell membrane  
Transport requires two myosin molecules

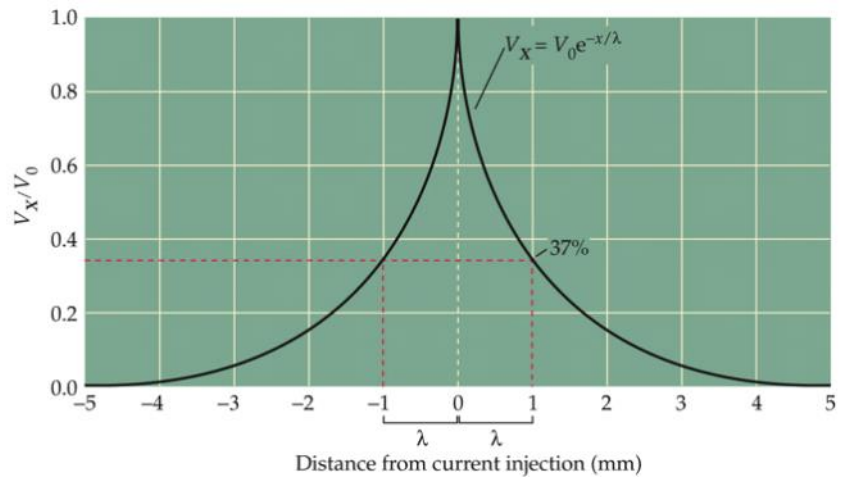
### Summary

- The 3 main components of the cytoskeleton and their function in cellular structure, transport and motility
- Mechanisms of assembly and disassembly of the Cytoskeleton
- Proteins involved in regulation of the cytoskeleton
- The different types of motor proteins and their function

## 2b. Action potential propagation

<p><b>Why doesn't the cell response follow exactly the current entrance? Which property of the cell could you modify to change this curve shape?</b></p>	<p>Passive properties: Input resistance</p> <p>The cell response does not follow exactly the current entrance</p>  <p>Ohm's law - Membrane potential = current injected * resistance</p>
<p><b>What does the time constant describe in the cell?</b></p>	<p>Lipid core - Behaves as a <b>capacitor</b></p> <p>Some ion charge up the cell membrane - It becomes easier for other ions to go through ion channels than to the cell membrane (explains curve)</p> <p>Ion channel - Behaves as a <b>resistor</b> (only a few ions can go through at one time)</p> <p>If there were only ion channels, the cell response would be equal to the current</p> <p>Time constant (tau)- Time it takes the membrane potential to reach <b>63%</b> of the new membrane potential (positive or negative)</p>
<p><b>What happens to the time constant when you increase cell size? And when you increase the amount of ion channels?</b></p>	<p>Membrane capacitance <b>prolongs</b> time course</p> $\tau = R_m * C_m$ <p>Time constant = Membrane resistance (amount of ion channels) * Capacitance of the cell (bigger if the cell is larger)</p>
<p><b>What is the role of passive spread in action potentials? When do they occur?</b></p>	<p><b>Passive spread</b> - Occurs when the membrane potential does not reach the threshold</p> <p>Fast decay of electrical signal</p> <p>Length constant (lambda) - length it takes for the membrane potential to reach 63% of the new value</p>

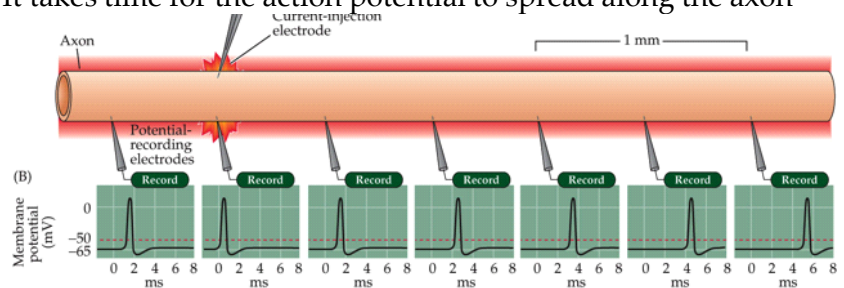




**Active spread** - Occurs when the membrane potential reaches the threshold

Amplitude of the injection does not change

It takes time for the action potential to spread along the axon

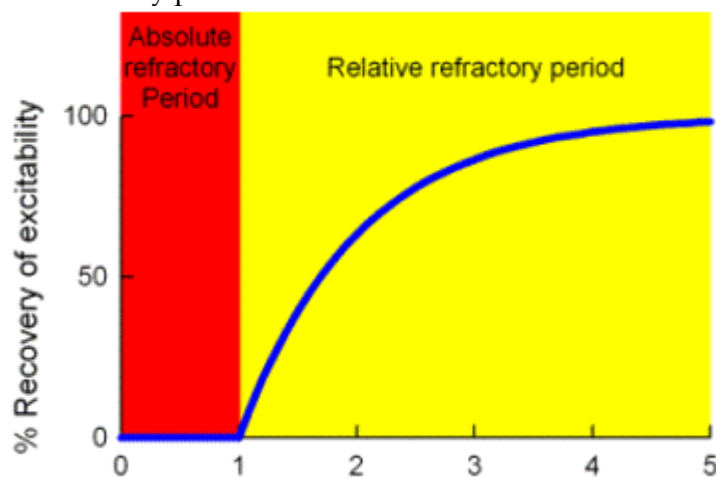


Main difference between active and passive spread: Openness of sodium channels

Action potential spreading requires **passive and active properties**

**What is the explanation at a molecular level of absolute refractory periods and relative refractory periods of sodium channel openings?**

Direction of propagation - Moves in only one direction because there is a refractory period of sodium channels



**Absolute refractory period** - Cannot generate action potential

**Relative refractory period** - Generates a small action potential (some sodium channels have recovered)

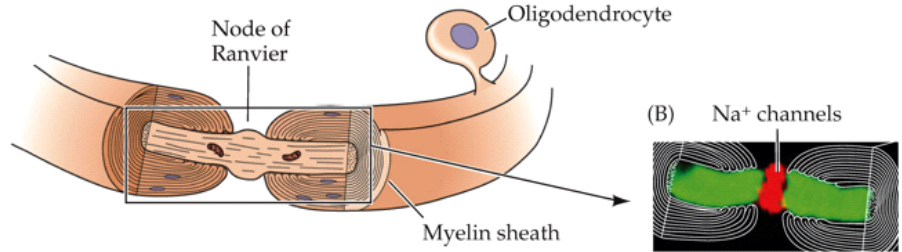
Speed of action potentials can be regulated

The larger the axon, the longer the length constant (reaches

longer)  
The smaller the axon, the shorter the length constant

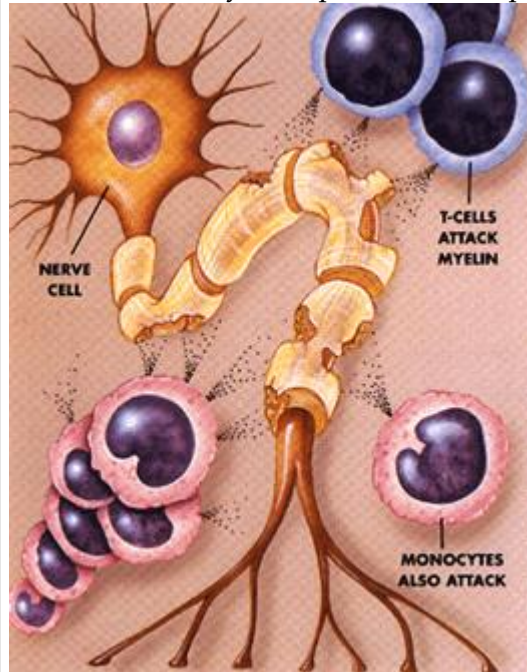
In mammals, there is myelination - Changes the resistance of the membrane

(A) Myelinated axon



Produced by glial cells - Oligodendrocytes/Schwann cells  
High concentration of sodium channels at Nodes of Ranvier  
**Saltatory action potential** - There are only influxes of Na at certain points of the neuron

Multiple Sclerosis - Own immune system attacks myelin sheets, reduces efficiency and speed of action potentials



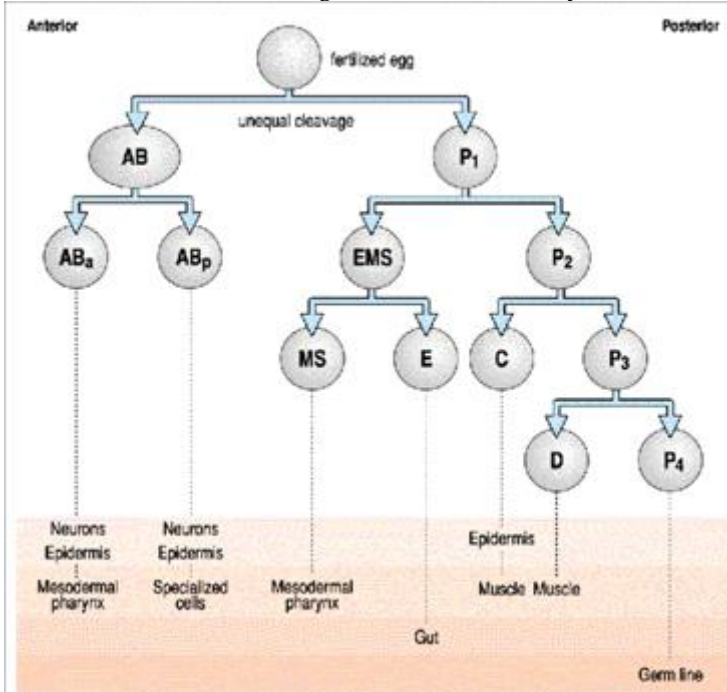
## 2c. Invertebrate model organisms

	<p>Yeast model system Cell communication is the same as neurons</p> <p>Drosophila - Nervous system with enough complexity (e.g. it can fly)</p> <p>C. Elegans - Simply built nervous system</p> <p>There are many other animal models - Snails for synaptic plasticity, zebra fish for developmental neurobiology(transparent), finch for plasticity (learning new birdsongs), humans (non-invasive methods, tissue studies)</p>
<b>How many genes do C. elegans have? How does it compare to humans?</b>	<p>Homo sapiens - 3.2 Gb, estimated gene number of 27 thousand</p> <p>C. elegans - 100 Mb, 23 thousand genes</p>
<b>How many cells do C. elegans have? How many are nervous cells?</b>	<p>C. elegans - Nematode worm</p> <p>1.5 mm in length - Lives in the soil, feeds on bacteria, no economic importance</p> <p>959 cells - One third of that are neurons (302)</p> <p>All individuals have the same number of cells</p>
<b>Why is C. elegans a model organism?</b>	<p>Why is C. elegans a model organism?</p> <p>Small, easy to maintain</p> <p>Short generation time(3-days) and self-fertilizing</p> <p>Cell lineage is constant and mapped</p> <p>Transparent body</p> <p>Sequenced genome - wormbase.org</p>
<b>What percentage of C. elegans is male? What is the role of males in the population?</b>	<p>They are hermaphrodites, but can also reproduce sexually (only 1% of offspring made by cross-fertilization)</p> <p>Male offspring is really rare - 5%</p> <p>Females can reproduce by themselves</p>
	<p>C elegans life cycle</p> <p>Has an embryonic development of 12 hours (fertilized egg to larvae)</p> <p>Complete life cycle in three days (from egg to adult)</p> <p>Dauer larva - 'Hibernation', occurs when organism does not find food or when the temperature is too cold (lives four months)</p> <p>It does not make sense to complete development when the environment is not favorable</p> <p>Can be kept in a freezer in oil (avoid ice crystals)</p>
<b>How many chromosomes does C. elegans have?</b>	<p>C. elegans genome</p> <p>6 chromosomes - 5 autosomes and 1 X chromosome</p>

Around 100 million base pairs  
 20470 genes - 40% of which have human equivalents

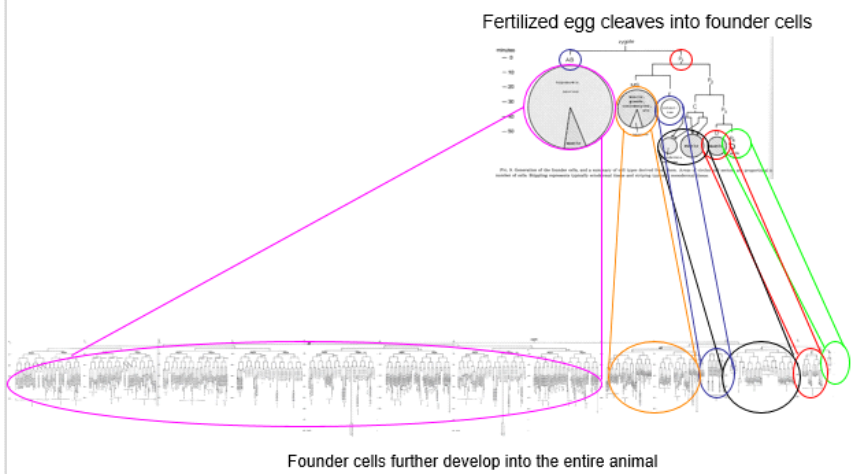
Embryonic lineage of *C. elegans*

You can see which cells give rise to which systems



Nervous system is formed really early on

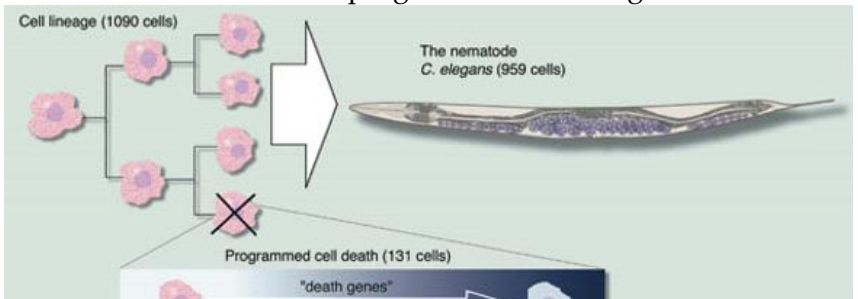
You can do this for the entire development



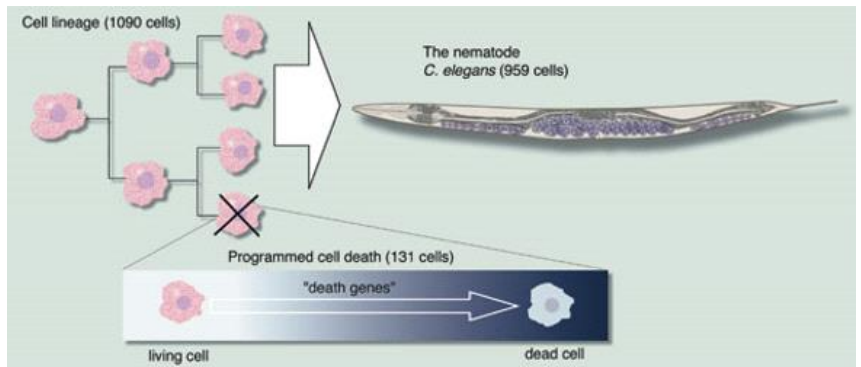
Some cells keep dividing a bit longer than others

Why does the organism have 959 cells (an uneven number)?

Some of the cells are programmed to die right after division







Nobel Prize in 2002

Simple nervous system (302 neurons)

Similar neurotransmitter as humans (Acetylcholine, GABA, dopamine, serotonin)

Sophisticated behaviour - Moving backwards and forwards, respond to odors, chemicals, temperature differences, associative learning and habituation

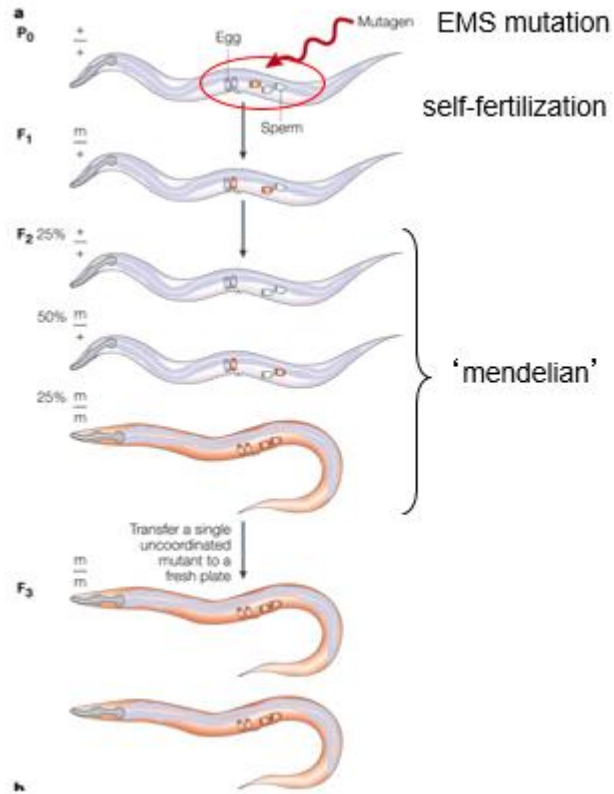
**What are the techniques related to forward genetics?**

Genetic experiments

**Forward genetics** - Mutations occur, breeding takes place, mutant offspring is isolated and the gene is mapped (observing phenotype first)

- 1) Random Mutagenesis - Generate small mutations (chemicals)
- 2) Transposons - DNA elements (Tc1) that jump around genome, may inactivate a gene

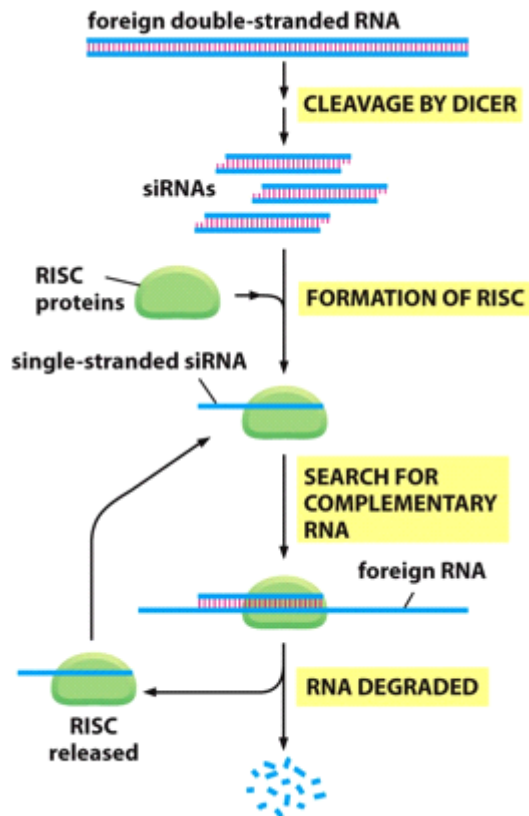
Induced mutation - Self-fertilization - full phenotype! (double mutation)

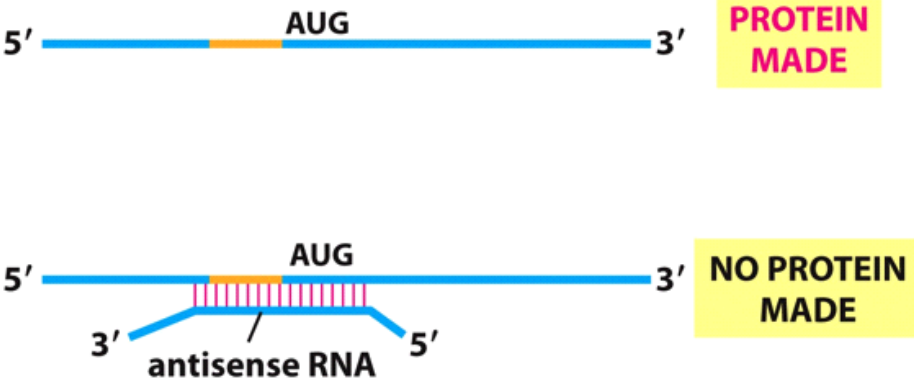
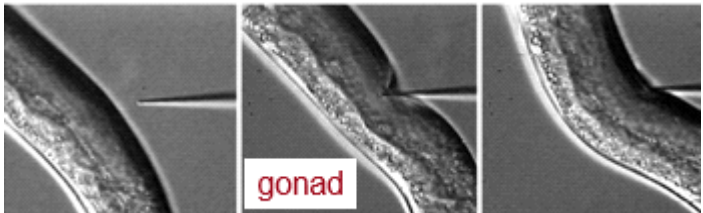


What are the techniques related to reverse genetics?

**Reverse Genetics** - Knockout of a particular gene and observe its effects on phenotypes

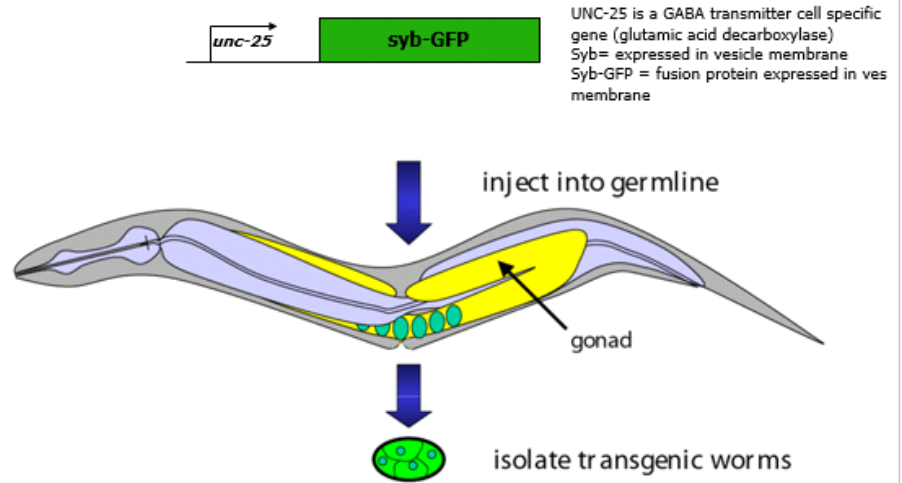
1) RNAi - Small RNA molecule (antisense RNA) makes a double strand with target RNA and prevent protein production



	<p>RNAi can be feed to C. elegans in bacterial! Easier to do than inject RNA in the gonads of the animal</p> <p>Does not generate a full knockout, only a partial knockout This is advantage, because most full knockouts in C. elegans are lethal - Allows more interesting observations than 'This is an essential gene'</p> <p>RNAi has been done to knockdown all C. elegans genome</p> <p>2) PCR identification of rearrangements</p>
<p><b>What are the two molecular functions that Antisense RNA has in a cell?</b></p>	<p>Antisense RNA - Complementary to the normal mRNA</p>  <p>Physically blocks translation Induces RNA degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RISC complex - Breaks down double stranded RNA in organisms (innate protection against virus)</li> </ul> <p>Small RNA molecules (siRNAs) - Also is broken down by RISC complex</p>
<p><b>What are the three ways to get dsRNA into C. elegans?</b></p>	<p>3 ways to interfere using double stranded RNA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injection of dsRNA in gonads</li> <li>Soaking animals in dsRNA</li> <li>Feeding animals with bacteria producing dsRNA</li> </ul> <p>Produces a transient knockdown - Gives interesting phenotypes when the full KO is lethal</p>
<p><b>What are possible research purposes of injecting extrachromosomal DNA into C. elegans gonads?</b></p>	<p>Getting DNA into c. Elegans DNA is injected into the cytoplasm of the gonads The DNA can pass through the germline in the form of extrachromosomal DNA</p>  <p>Purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of genes by rescuing a mutant phenotype - Insert a copy of gene and see if it changes the phenotype</li> <li>Expression pattern using the gene of interest with reporter - GFP</li> <li>Interference of a biological process by overexpression of WT or</li> </ol>

mutated gene - RNA interference

How can a fluorescent marker like GFP be inserted specifically into specific types of neurons, such as GABAergic neurons?



Syb - Synaptobrevin

Every vesicle becomes a green vesicle

Unc-25 - GABA transmitter cell specific gene (glutamic acid decarboxylase)

Mutant offspring will express GFP in all GABAergic neurons



Fluorescence measurement - Screening for drug that inhibit a target promoter

How can *C. elegans* be useful in biomedical research for diseases such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's, if the nematodes do not have higher cognitive behaviour?

*C. Elegans* as a model in biomedical research

CNS - Depression, psychosis, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, pain

Metabolic - Type II diabetes, obesity

Other - Cardiovascular, oncology, muscle disease

Many conserved molecular pathways

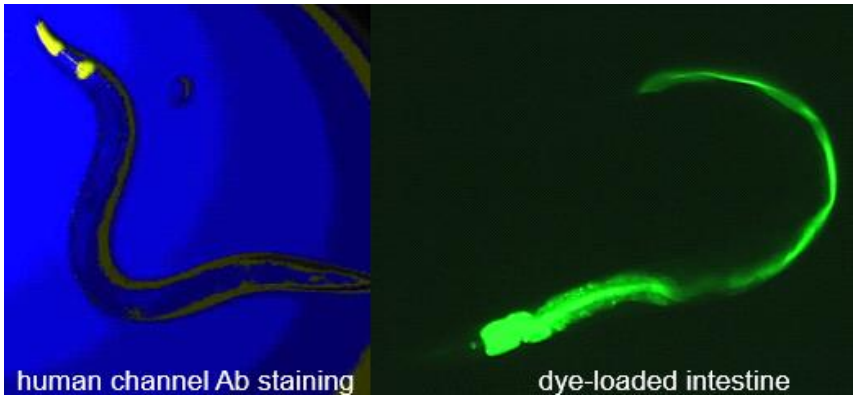
Worms do not express the same higher cognitive behavior as humans - Research in this area is important for pharmacological/cell biology breakthroughs

How can human channels be used in *C. elegans* in a high-throughput assay?

Pharyngeal pumping depends on voltage-gated channels

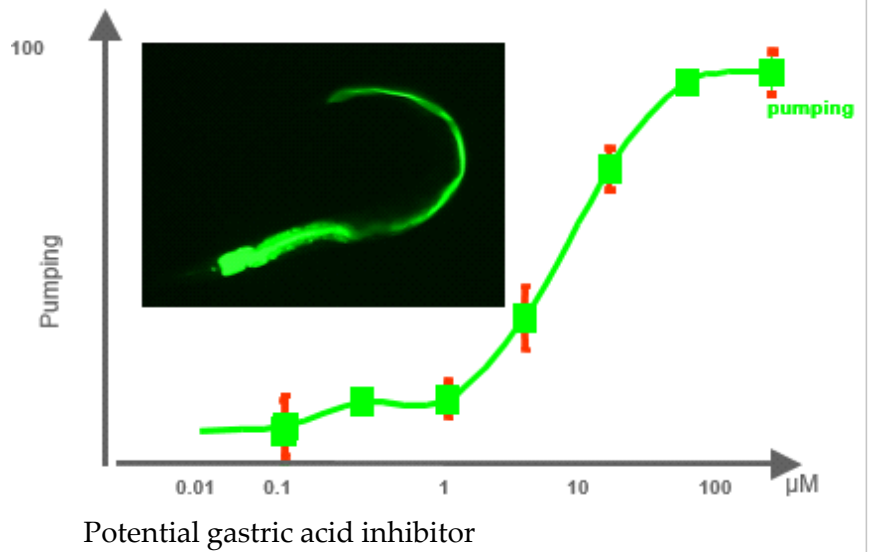
Express human ion channel after knocking down the endogenous channel present in the pharynx

If human channels are able to replace them, the system would work again



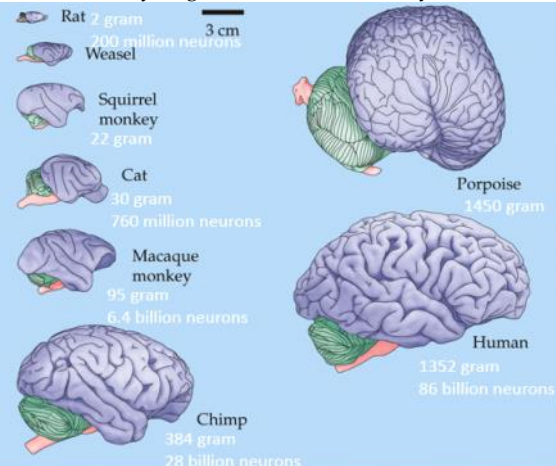
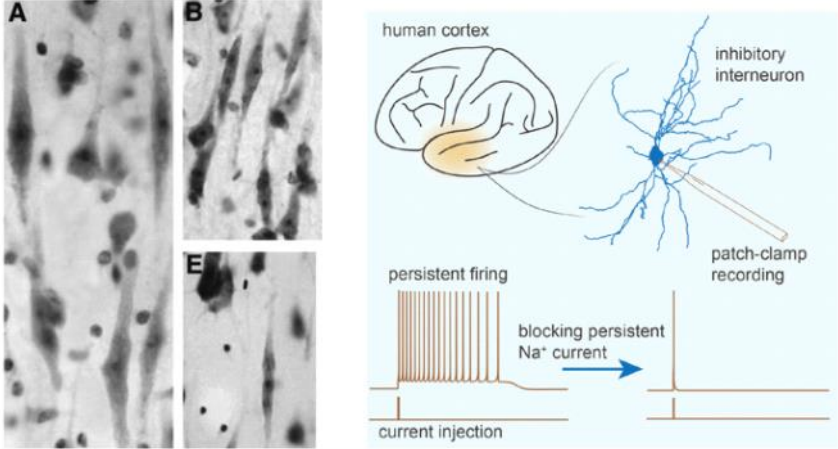

Feed the animals with dye - If the pharynx works, the worm will become fluorescent

High-throughput assay - Test thousands of compounds for inhibition of the human channel

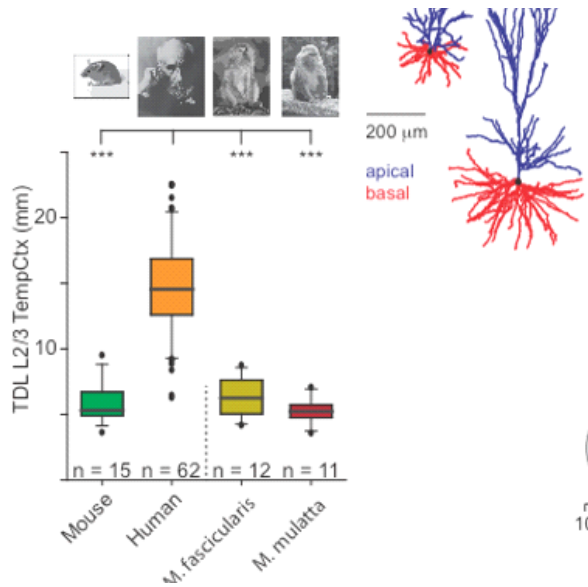




## 2d. Function of neurons and synapses in the human brain

<p><b>What is the weight of a human brain? How many neurons does it have?</b></p>	<p>Chimp brain - 384 gram, 28 billion neurons Human brain - 1352 grams, 86 billion neurons</p> <p>Humans have a very large brain relative to body size</p>  <p>Humans do not have a unexpectedly large frontal cortex Number of neurons in the human cerebral cortex is also not unexpectedly large</p> <p>Are human neurons and synapses different? Cellular properties relate to mental ability?</p>
<p><b>Why there are very few papers on human neuronal function?</b></p>	<p>Very few papers have been published about human neuron function - The majority of them are from epileptic patients They already need to have implants to assess areas that initiate seizures</p>
<p><b>What are some unique cell types that only humans have?</b></p>	<p>Unique neocortical neurons in primates <b>Von Economo neurons</b> - Social behaviour <b>Persistently activated neurons</b></p>  <p><b>Von Economo Neurons (VEN)</b> Nimchinsky et al., PNAS 1999</p> <p><b>Persistently Activated Neurons (PAN)</b> Wang et al., Cell reports 2015</p>
<p><b>Why most studies conducted with human tissues have been done with epilepsy patients? Does that mean that the information obtained</b></p>	<p>Human brain tissue in the lab - From epileptic patients or tumor patients Centimeters of tissue Human neurons have much larger dendrites than other mammals Human neurons have more synapses</p> 

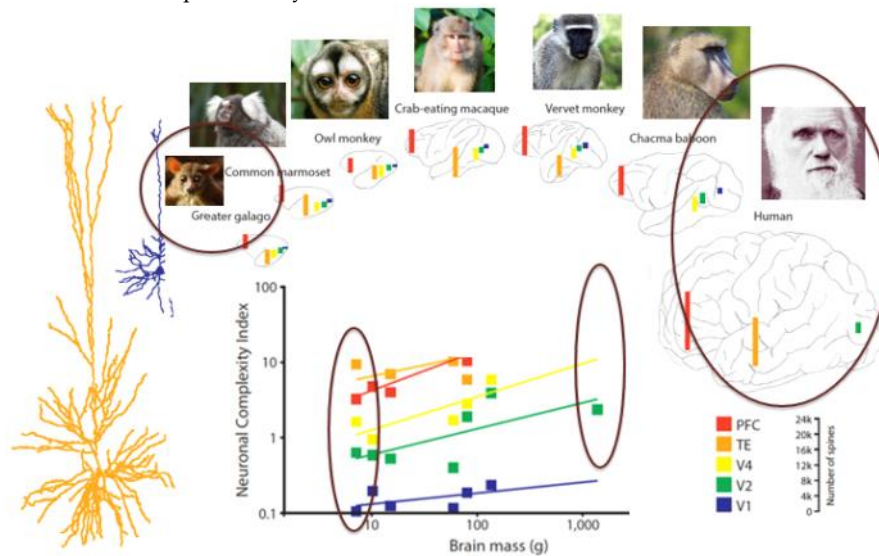
cannot be generalized among the whole population?



If the patients are sick, how can the information be generalized to all humans?  
 Non-pathological samples - Not present in the disease (tumor or epilepsy center)  
 Correlations with disease history

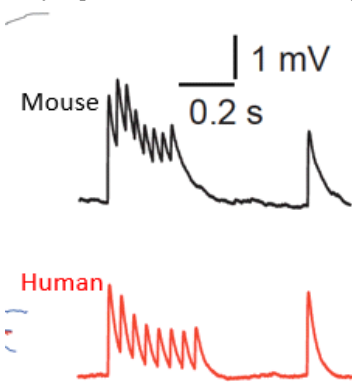
Do humans have unexpectedly more complex neurons across different brain areas?

Humans have more complex neurons across brain areas  
 Larger, more dendrites and receive more synapses  
 Linear relationship with body size



What does it mean that 'human neurons recover faster from depression'?

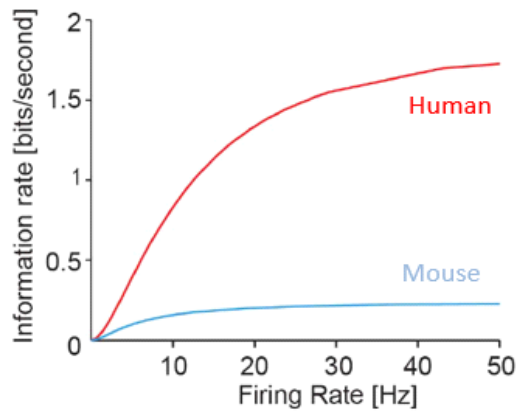
Human synapses recover faster from depression



Time constant of recovery - Less than 200 ms  
 This is **not age-dependent**

Human synapses transfer 10 times more information

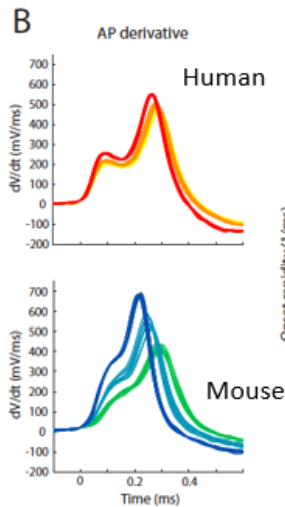
Based on the post-synaptic response quality



What is the underlying mechanism that allows human neurons to respond to repeated firing?

Human neurons reliability respond - Noise + sine wave  
 Allows a known change in frequency  
 Humans can distinguish 1000 Hz frequency

Mechanism: Humans have fast action potential **even during repeated firing**



How can mental ability be measure? What are some correlations between physiological and anatomical features of the human brain and mental ability?

How do neurons give rise to mental ability?

Testing cognitive ability

- Attention
- Language
- Spatial orientation
- IQ(WAIS-III) - Average = 100
- Short and long-term memory

Correlations

- Brain size and IQ:** The larger the brain, the larger the IQ  
 Albert Einstein had a brain weight of 1.23 kg
- Temporal cortex gray matter thickness and IQ:** The thicker, the larger the IQ  
 Bigger pyramidal neurons - bigger dendrites and more information processing
- Dendrite length and complexity** also correlates positively with IQ

Larger neurons have faster action potentials

People with high IQ have faster action potentials

Small differences become huge - The brain has 86 billion neurons and one thousand times the number of synapses

Why large scale neuroscience is

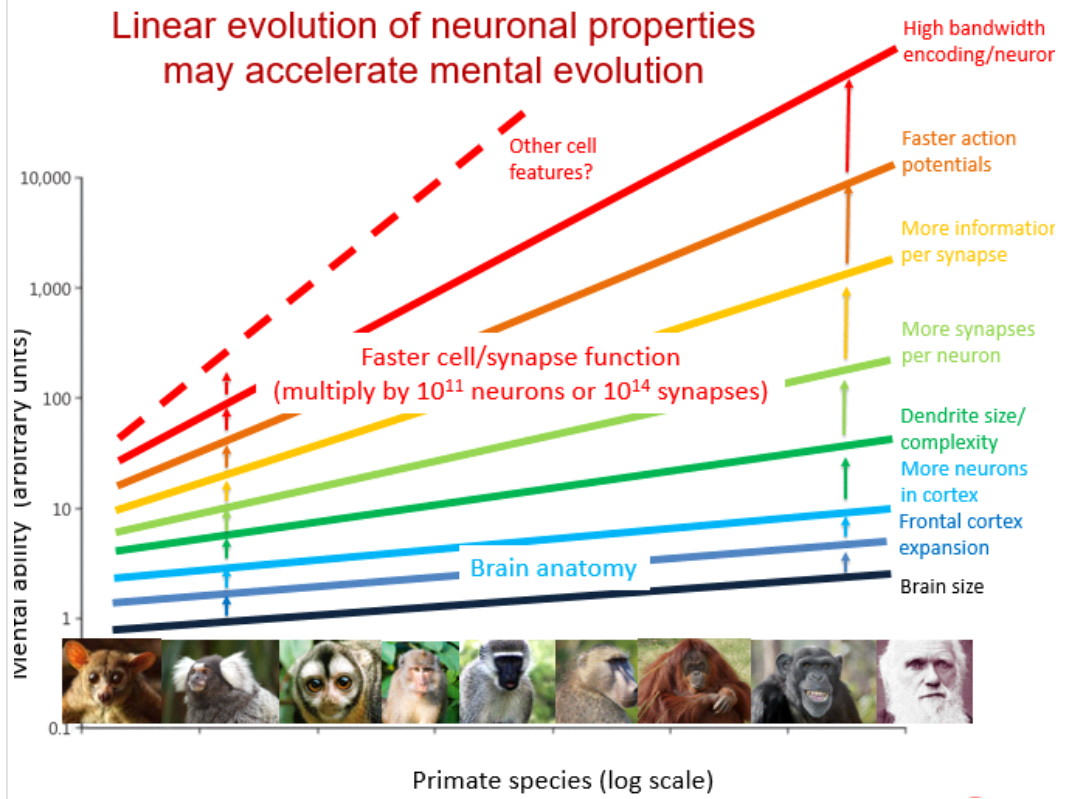
Publications on the brain - 100000 publications per year, **very little understanding**  
 Large scale neuroscience - More than one billion euros/dollars project

important?

- Allen Institute (2003)
- Human connectome project (2009)
- EU human brain project (2013) - ICT based brain research; Mining data from Hospitals

Review: Neuron (2016 in November) - Global Neuroscience

**Summary** - Small differences in many neuronal properties may reflect the big differences observed between humans and other primates

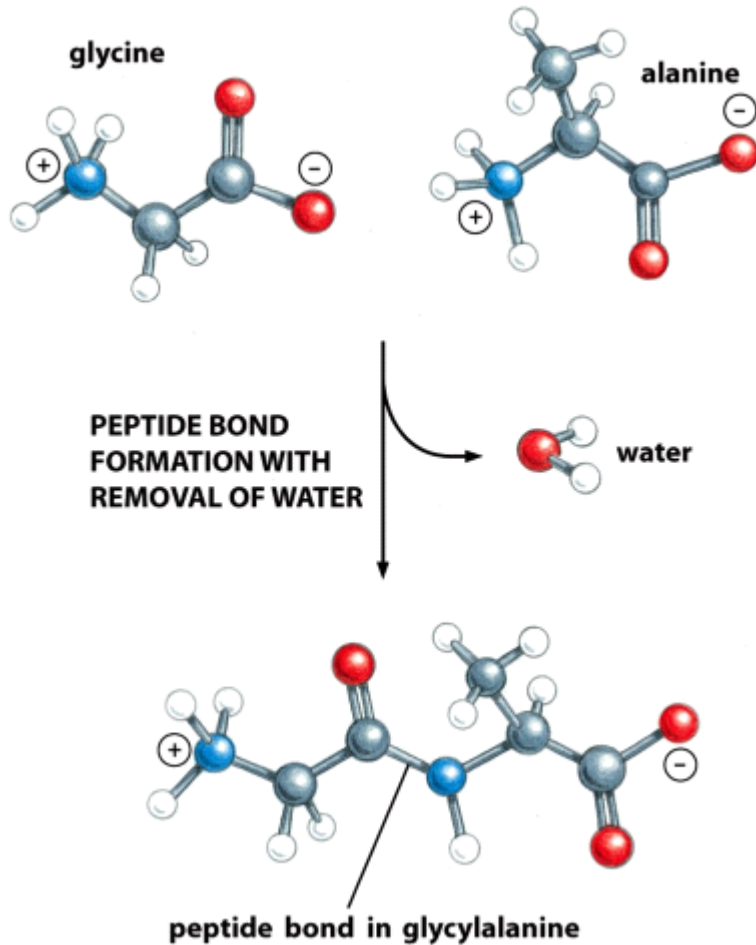


### 3. Building the Basics - Protein structure and function (ECB 4)

What does the water come from during the formation of a peptide bond?

Proteins - Amino acids connected by **peptide bonds** (catalysed by enzymes)

Release a water molecule



Proteins are different because of their side chains - Dictated by the gene information in DNA

What does it mean to say that an amino acid is polar but uncharged?

The side chain dictates the behaviour of the protein - Nonpolar and polar side chains behave differently

**Hydrophilic** (uneven electron distribution)/**Hydrophobic** (even electron distribution)

**Uncharged polar** - Net charge equals 0, but the electron distribution is uneven

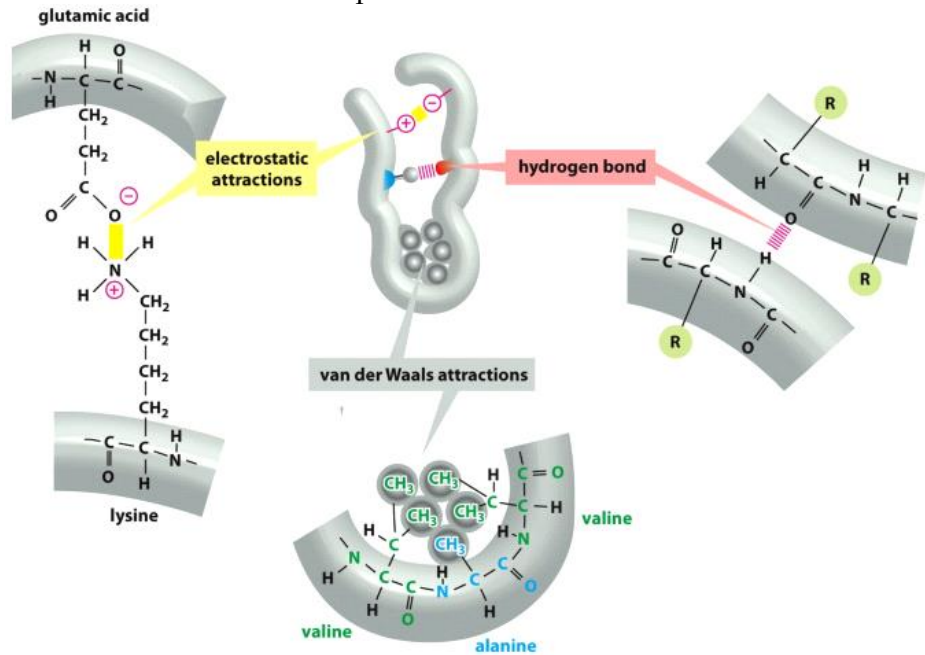


POLAR AMINO ACIDS (hydrophilic)				NONPOLAR AMINO ACIDS (hydrophobic)			
AMINO ACID	3-Letter Code	1-Letter Code	SIDE CHAIN	AMINO ACID	3-Letter Code	1-Letter Code	SIDE CHAIN
Aspartic acid	Asp	D	negative	Alanine	Ala	A	nonpolar
Glutamic acid	Glu	E	negative	Glycine	Gly	G	nonpolar
Arginine	Arg	R	positive	Valine	Val	V	nonpolar
Lysine	Lys	K	positive	Leucine	Leu	L	nonpolar
Histidine	His	H	positive	Isoleucine	Ile	I	nonpolar
Asparagine	Asn	N	uncharged polar	Proline	Pro	P	nonpolar
Glutamine	Gln	Q	uncharged polar	Phenylalanine	Phe	F	nonpolar
Serine	Ser	S	uncharged polar	Methionine	Met	M	nonpolar
Threonine	Thr	T	uncharged polar	Tryptophan	Trp	W	nonpolar
Tyrosine	Tyr	Y	uncharged polar	Cysteine	Cys	C	nonpolar

Mutations causes variations on amino acids - Proteins do not work the same way

Which are the four forces contribute to protein conformation?

Which forces contribute to protein conformation?



- **Electrostatic attractions** (between positive and negatively charges aminoacids)

In solution, the protein interactions compete between other interactions in the solution (egg denatures in acid)

- **Hydrogen bonds**

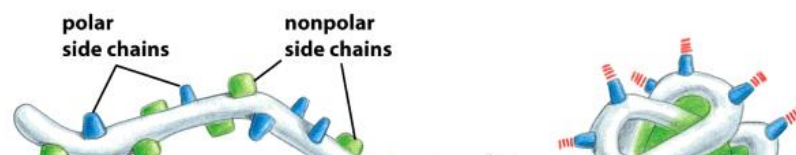
- **Van der Waals attractions** - Small fluctuation of eletronic distribution

- **Covalent bonds** - Protein backbones and between cysteins (disulfide bonds)

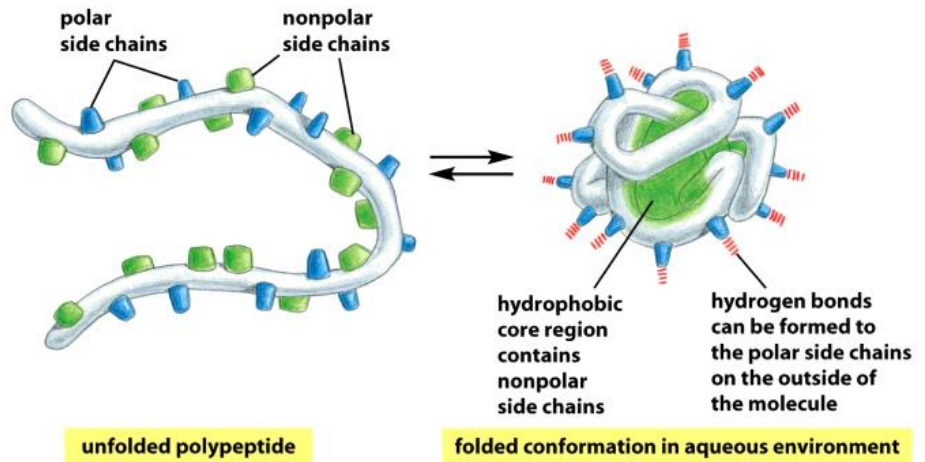
These interactions occur between backbone to backbone, sidechain to backbone and sidechain to sidechain

Why mutations in nucleotides that code hydrophobic amino acids tend to be more severe than those in hydrophilic amino acids?

Hydrophobic side chains do not like water - They tend to be hidden in the middle



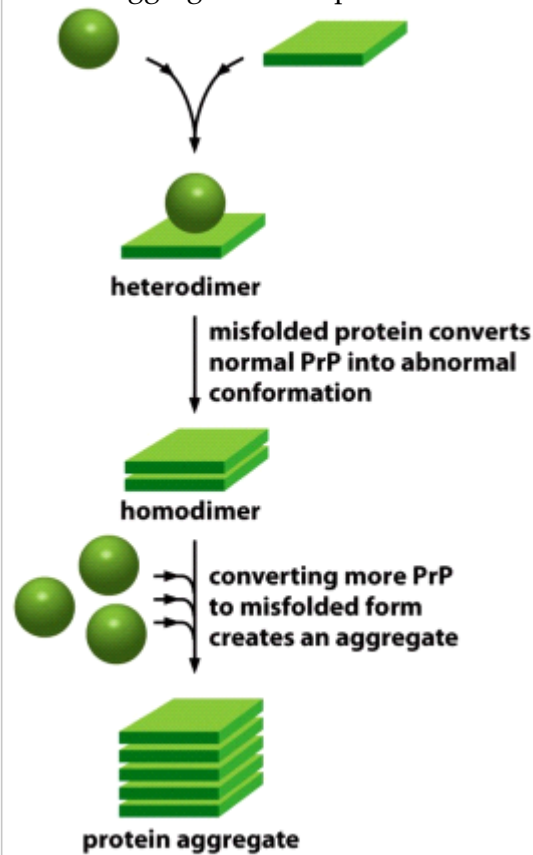
hydrophobic amino acids tend to be more severe than those in hydrophilic amino acids?



Hydrophilic side chains stick out of the protein  
 Mutations on hydrophobic side chains tend to be more serious -  
 Changes the conformation of the **entire** protein

Why some proteins are not able to come back to their normal configuration after being denatured?

Protein aggregates - The proteins are no longer able to refold

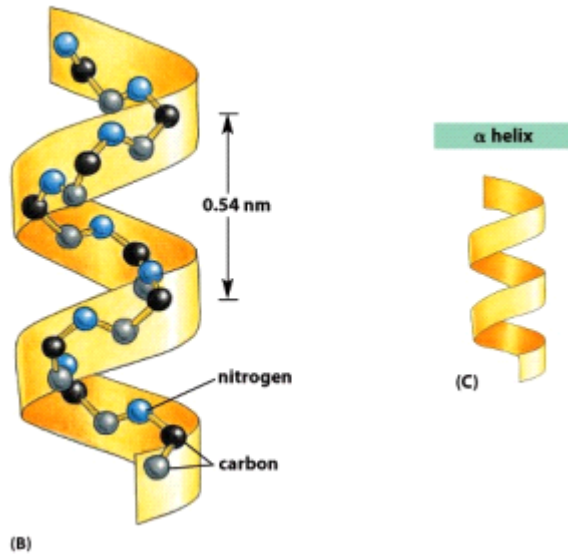


What are the most common tertiary structures?

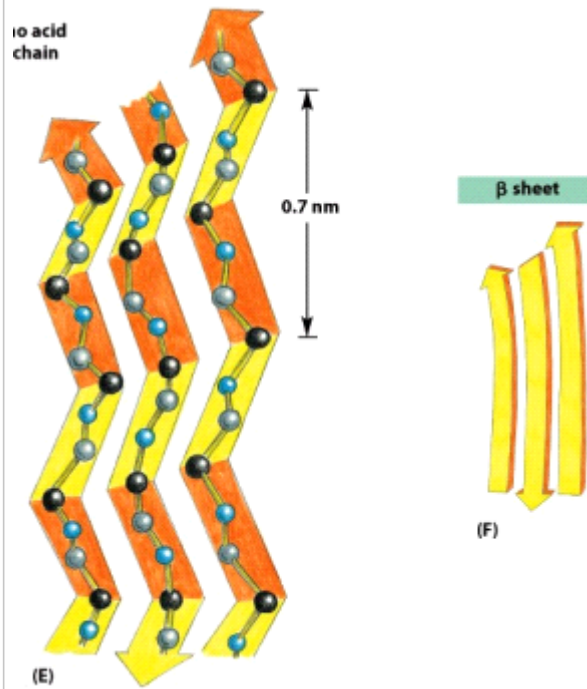
Backbone structures

Alpha-helix - Fixed distance of 0.54 nm

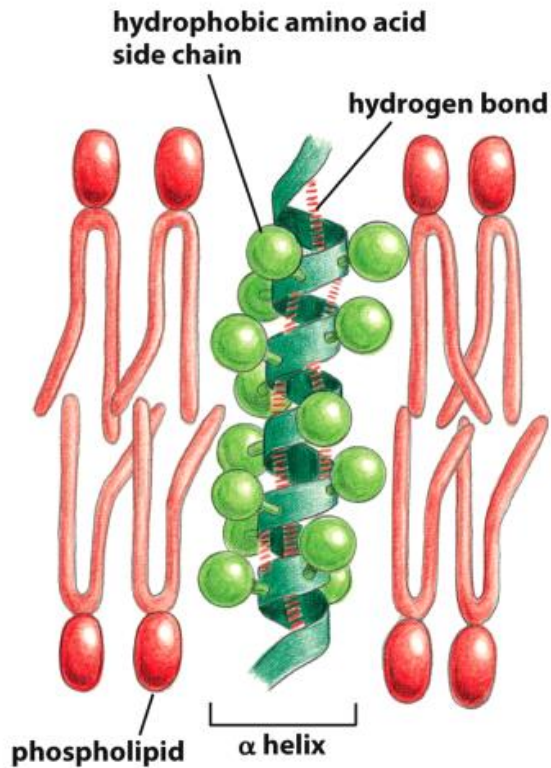
Only with a few side chains - Mutations can cause the alpha-helix not to be formed



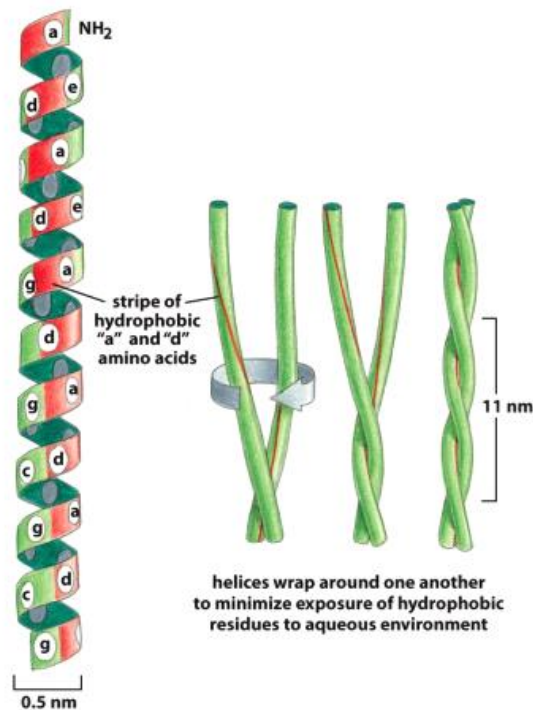
**Beta-sheets - Fixed structure of 0.7 nm**



Alpha helix with hydrophobic side chains - Where a protein sits in the cell membrane



Alpha helix with polar and non-polar side chains - Helices wrap around one another to minimize exposure to the aqueous environment (coiled coil)

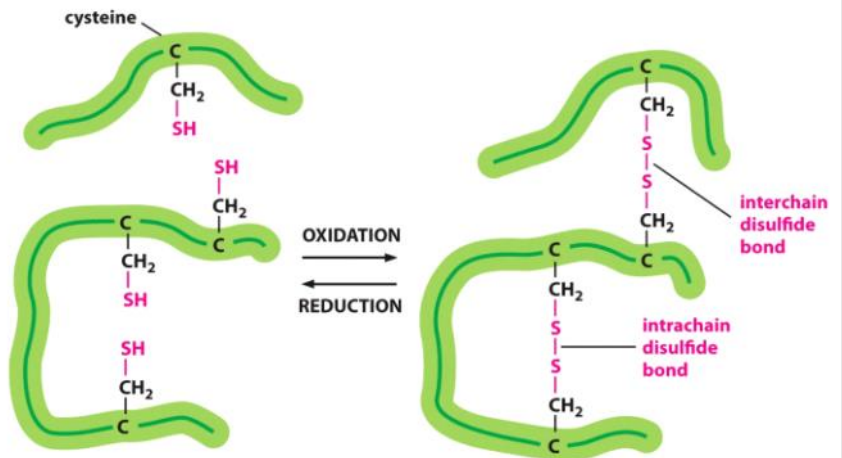


Define primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary protein structures.

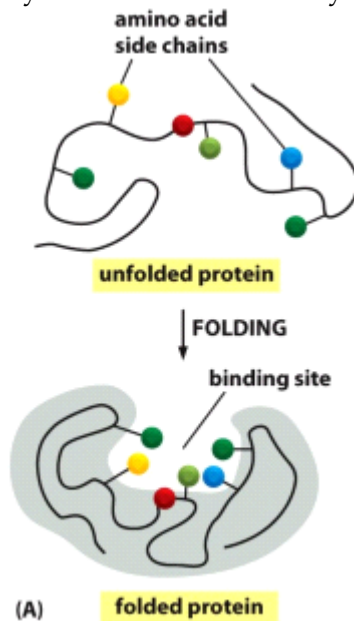
**Primary structure** - Sequence of amino acids  
**Secondary structure** - Three-dimensional forms of local protein segments (alpha-helix and beta-sheets)  
**Tertiary structure** - Spatial distribution of the protein

**Quaternary structure** - Connections between two or more proteins (dimers, tetramers)

E.g. Disulfide bonds between different proteins, cysteine mutations are usually very problematic



Amino acids in very different positions in the primary structure, but may be close in the tertiary structure



Denatured protein does not work because it does not have its original tertiary structure

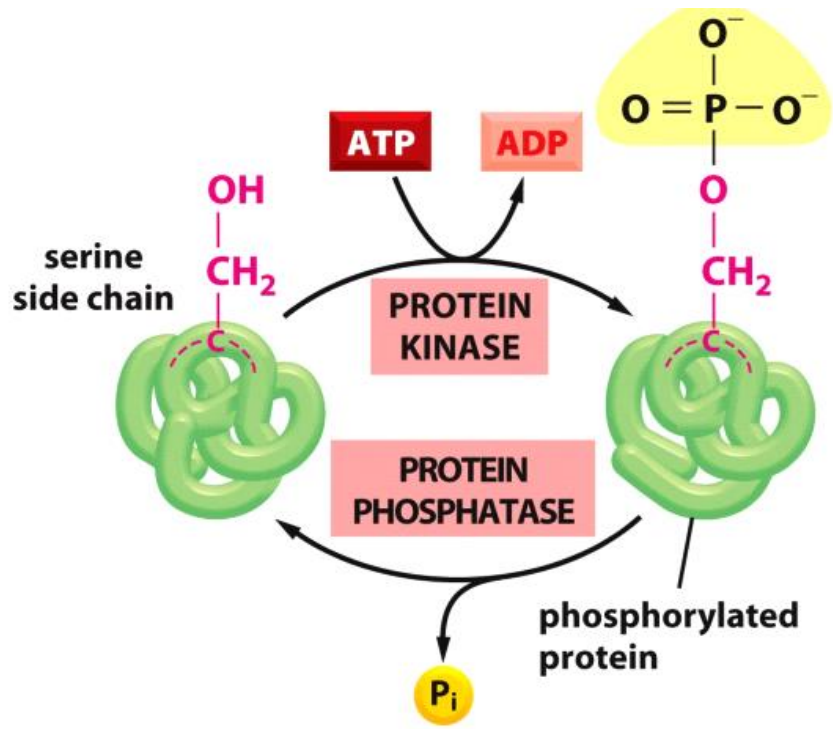
**Phosphatases and kinase usually act upon which amino acid side chains?**

Enzymes can be regulated with simpler compounds - Either activating or deactivating it

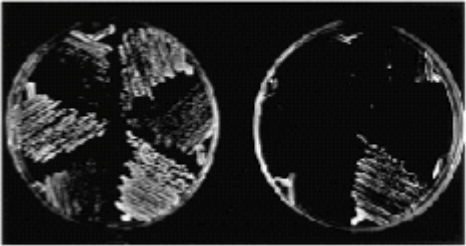
Covalent interactions - Some side chains can be regulated with kinases and phosphatases

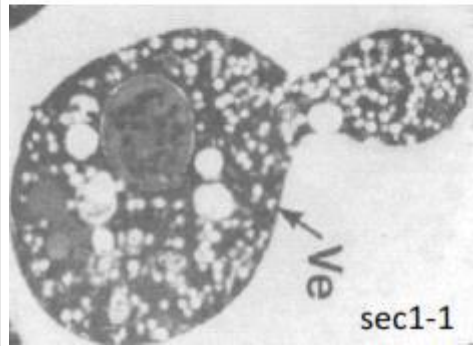
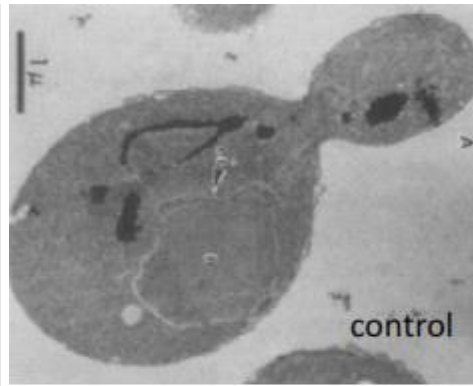
**Serine chain** - Kinase puts a phosphate, phosphatase removes a phosphate





## 3b. Model Organism in Neurogenomics: Yeast

<p><b>Why is yeast used as a model in the context of Neuroscience?</b></p>	<p><b>6000 genes</b> - 25% essential, 75% non-essential Generation time: <b>20 minutes</b> <b>Eukaryotic cell</b> - Have organelles and vesicle secretion</p> <p><i>Genes are not a predictor of complexity: Nematodes have the same amount of genes as humans</i></p> <p>Yeast has many similar proteins - Vesicle proteins It is useful to study molecular processes In Science, you should answer your questions with <b>the simplest organism possible</b></p>
<p><b>Explain Randy Schekman experiments with yeast.</b></p>	<p>Randy Schekman - Won a Nobel Prize studying yeast (check online lectures <a href="https://wn.com/randy_schekman_univ_calif_berkeley_part_1_biochemical_reconstitution_of_transport_vesicle_budding">https://wn.com/randy_schekman_univ_calif_berkeley_part_1_biochemical_reconstitution_of_transport_vesicle_budding</a>)</p> <p><b>Random mutagenesis</b> - Carcinogens inserted into yeast Mutations in proteins do not cause problems at 23 degrees, but cause problems at 38 degree - Temperature sensitive mutation</p> <p><b>23°C</b>                      <b>38°C</b></p>  <p>- You can use these yeast in the lab at lower temperatures - Sec-1 - Vacuoles filled with enzymes that are secreted in a normal yeast cell</p>

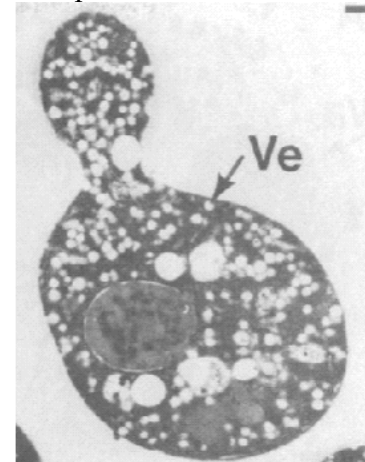
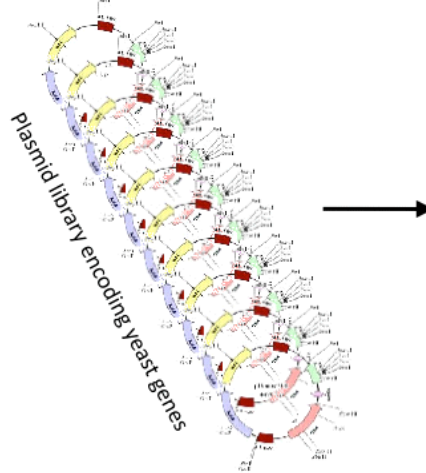


Buoyancy - Mutant yeast with vesicles are **more buoyant** than control cells (easy to collect with centrifuging)

Put human genes in plasmid - Also works in yeast cells!

How to find out which gene was mutated?

Plasmid library encoding yeast genes - Random collection of genes in plasmids and put it in the cell; if the vesicle function comes back, you know the gene is in the plasmid



Sec1 mutant

**Why the collection of sec wasn't complete for a long time?**

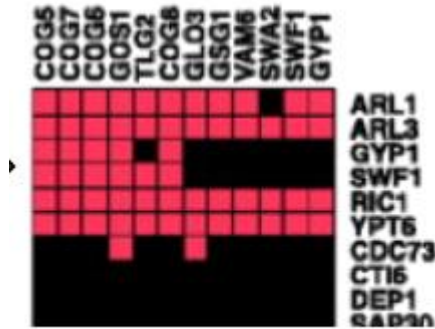
Collection of sec genes is not complete

-For some genes, that are two proteins made by two different genes that make the same thing

- o **Robustness** - An organism tolerates mutations due to redundancy; this is present in complex organisms, since it prevents a single mutation to kill the organism

- o E.g. Sec4 overexpression rescues Sec1 mutant
- To determine two redundant genes, you need more advanced technology: Synthetic Lethality

## Synthetic Lethality

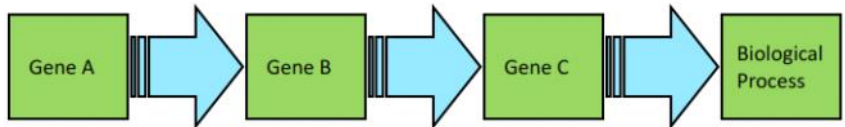


The middle squares, in which the combination of two mutations causes the cell to die, probably represents two redundant genes for the same function

**Why an overexpression of one gene may compensate for the absence of another gene?**

**Epistasis** - The effect of one gene depends on one or more modifier genes

All genes have a residual activity, even when they are not activated (stochastic nature)

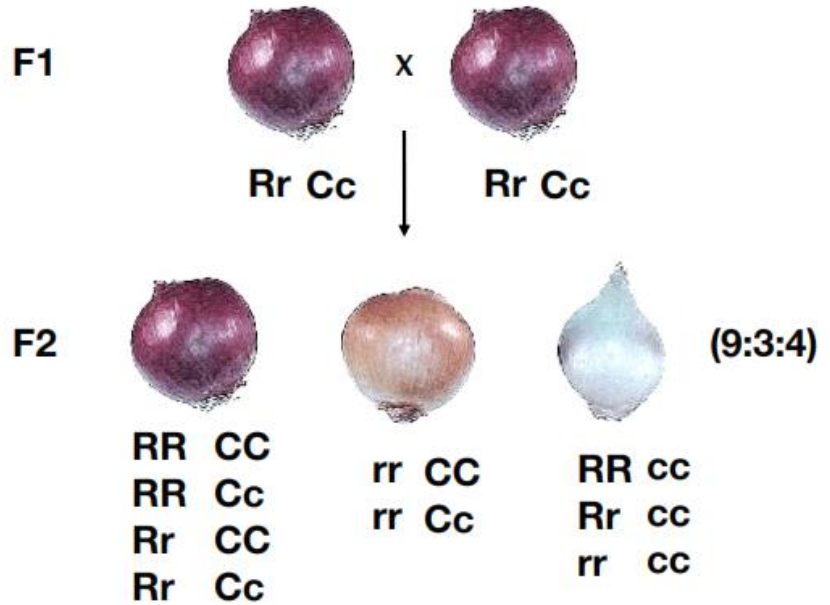


If you overexpress gene B, even if it is gene A mutant, the process might still work

**Where does the ratio 9:3:4 come from?**

Onions - Red is dominant, white is recessive

Epistasis - Ratio of 9:3:4 (C gene needs to produce something that the R gene can act upon)



Colorless → Yellow → Red

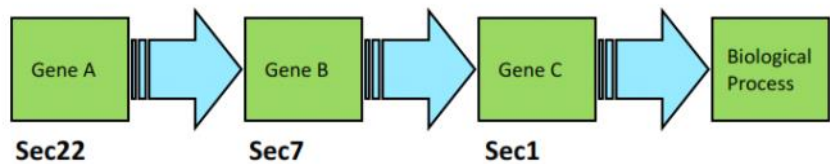


“c genetically interacts with r”  
 “allele c enhances the phenotype of allele r”  
 “c is epistatic to r”



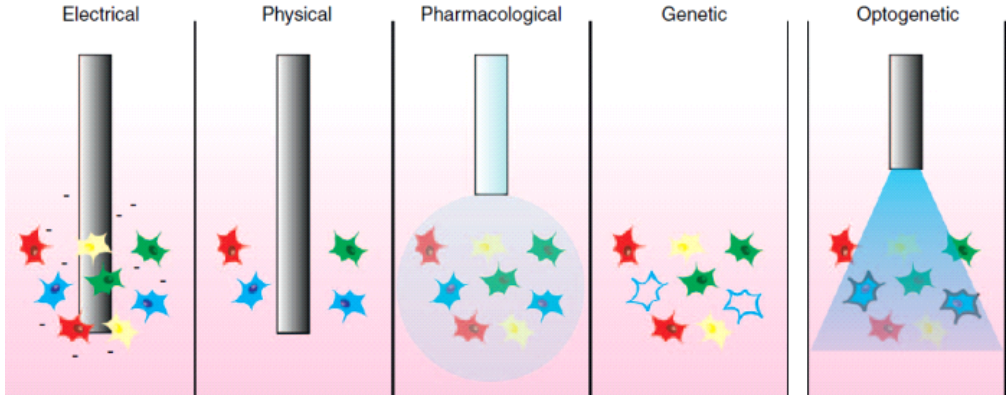
You cross a plant with a gene mutation A with another plant with a gene mutation B and the offspring only presents the mutant A phenotype. What is a possible explanation for this?

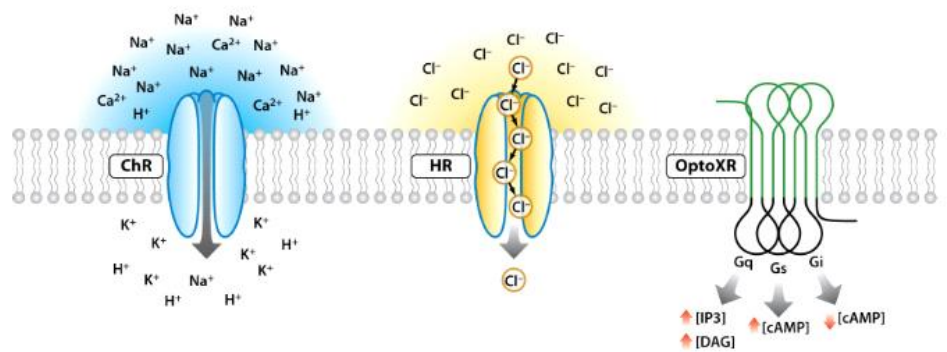
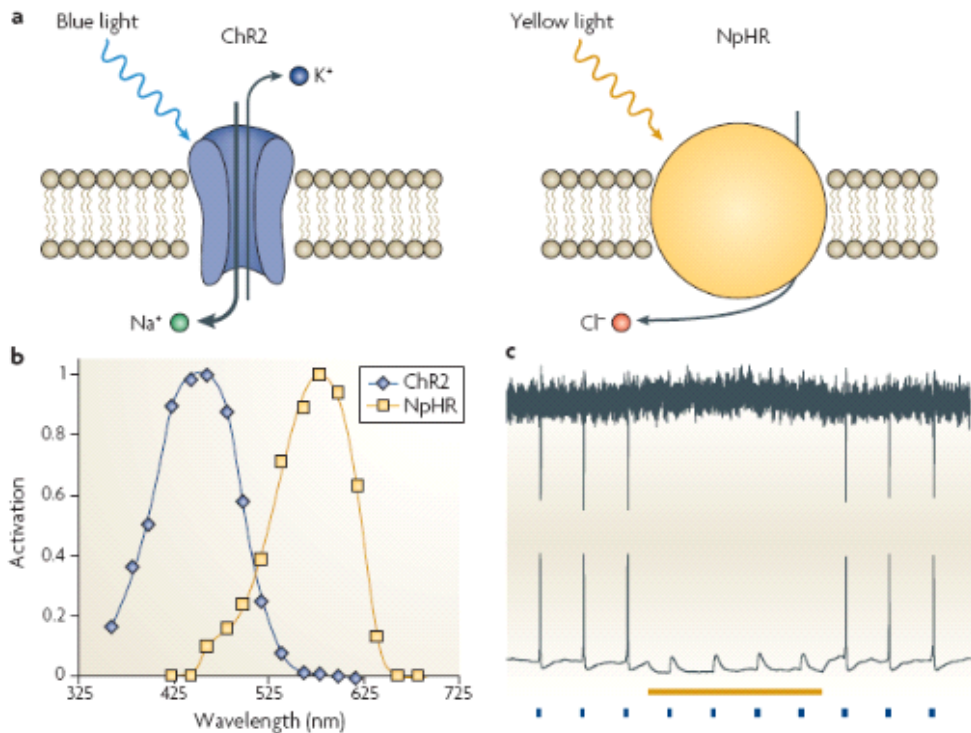
Upstream/Downstream epistasis - Determined by crossing mutants  
 Sec22 + Sec7 = Sec22 (it means that Sec 22 is upstream)  
 Sec22 + Sec1 = Sec22 (it means that Sec 22 is upstream)  
 Sec7 + Sec1 = Sec7 (it means that Sec7 is upstream)



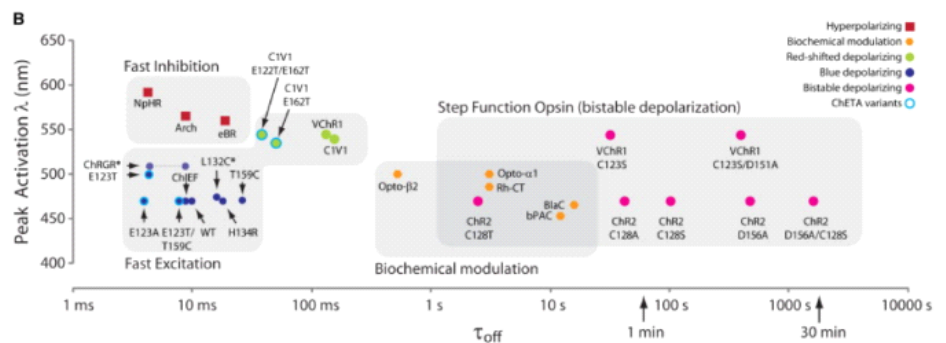


# 4. Optogenetics

<p><b>Describe which approaches have been used to try to assess causal relationships between brain regions and behaviour. What are their main limitations?</b></p>	<p>Traditional approaches to have a causal understanding of brain areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lesions - Mechanical and chemical             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Irreversible</b></li> <li>o HM - Both hippocampi lesioned - Short-term memory loss</li> <li>o Phineas Gage - Prefrontal cortex lesion - Personality change/ impulsivity</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Pharmacological - Receptor agonists and antagonists             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Reversible</li> <li>o <b>Not very spatially precise</b> - A drug acts on the entire brain at once; not selective to cell types, many receptors are expressed in many brain cell types</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Deep brain stimulation             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fast - Electrical stimulation</li> <li>o <b>Not very precise as well</b> - Many neurons in the vicinity will be activated along with the desired area</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Genetic intervention - Full/partial knock out of genes             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>Bad temporal resolution</b> - Takes a long time</li> </ul> </li> </ul> 
<p><b>What are the main advantages of optogenetics?</b></p>	<p>Optogenetics - Activation of cells using light</p> <p>Gene sensitivity to light can be <b>selectively expressed</b></p> <p><b>Very high temporal resolution</b> - Use of light!</p> <p><b>Reversible</b> - Light can be turned off</p> <p>Can induce <b>any firing frequency</b>, even <b>silence neuronal activation</b></p> <p>Integration of genetics, neurophysiology, neuroanatomy and behaviour</p>
	<p>Optogenetics tools</p> <p>Bacteria, fungi and animals express light-sensitive ion channels and pumps</p> <p>- E.g. Discovery and use of GFP (jellyfish)</p>
<p><b>What are the two most common opsin genes used in optogenetics? What is their effect in the neuron?</b></p>	<p>Opsin genes</p> <p>Channelrhodopsin (ChR2) - Sensitive to blue light</p> <p>Potassium and sodium flows through - Cells will be depolarized</p> <p>Halorhodopsin (eNpHR3.0) - Sensitive to yellow light</p> <p>Chloride flows through - Hyperpolarizes the cell</p>



Many variations were created - Sensitivity to the whole visible light spectrum, many different types of channels (adrenaline, glutamate, adenylyl cyclases)

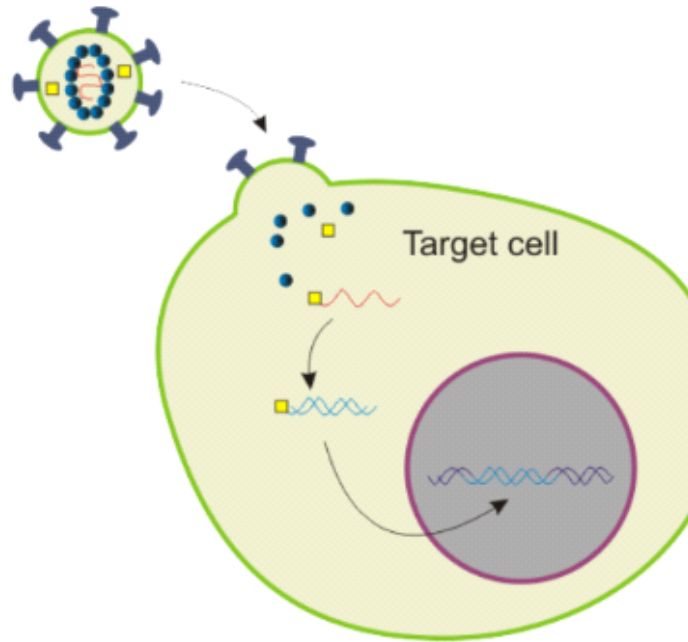


**Why lentivirus are used in animal models to transfect cells with target genes?**

Virus-mediated transfection

- Virus are very efficient machine of injecting DNA into cells
- AAV (adeno associated virus)/ Lentivirus
- Can be used in living organisms

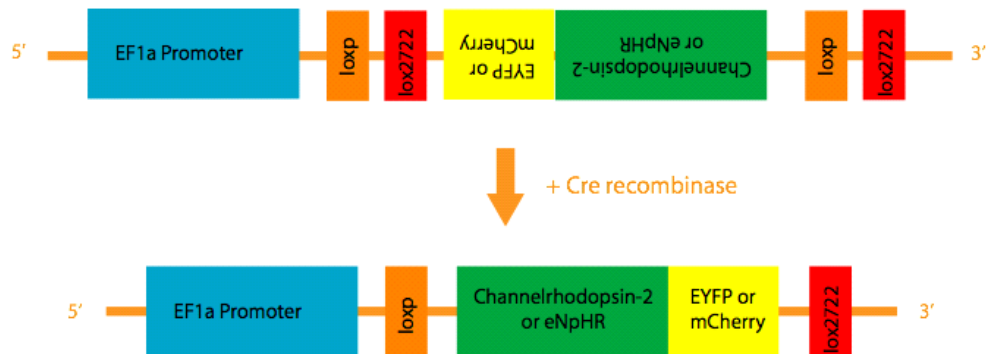
How can gene delivery be specific if virus infect cells indiscriminately?



How to make sure the virus only affect target areas?

Neuron subtype specific promoters

Expression of Cre recombinase



E.g. CAMKII - Excitatory channel only expressed in the forebrain

**LoxP site** - Recognized by Cre recombinase - Flips around DNA into the right order

**eYFP** - Used to visualize in which cells this process was successful

**ChR2 expression** is uncoupled from promoter expression

By using special strains of transgenic mice that only express Cre recombinase under the control of specific promoters such as TH or ChAT, expression of the light sensitive channels and reporters are constrained to cells that express TH or ChAT.

It is possible not only to get cell type specificity, but also projection specificity

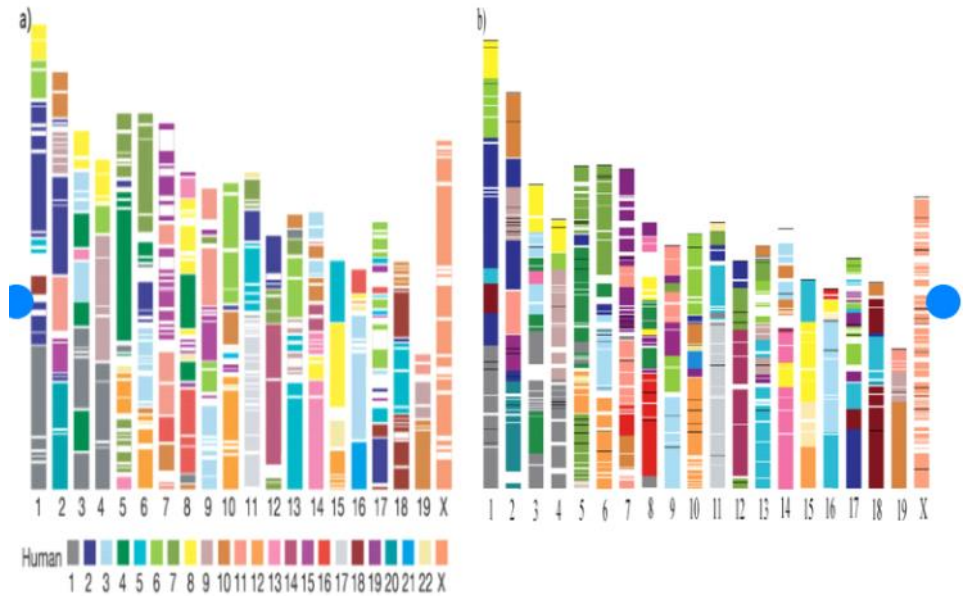
*Parvalbumin* - Weak promoter, present in interneurons

**Why mice are most commonly used to assess in vivo modulation of behaviour?**

In vivo modulation - Chronic implantation of optic fiber in brain region of interest  
Deisseroth paper - Activation of motor cortex

## 5B. Models and methodologies - Mutant mice

<p><b>How humans compare with other organisms in terms of gene-rich areas, mRNA splicing and repeated sequences?</b></p>	<p>How humans compare with other organisms?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humans have seemingly random gene-rich areas, while the genome of other animals is more evenly distributed and predictable</li> <li>• Humans have mRNA splicing occur more intensely than in other animals - multiple different proteins can be derived from the same gene</li> <li>• Humans have most of the same protein families as in other model animals, but with a greater variety of family members</li> <li>• Humans have more repeated sequences than other model animals</li> </ul>																																																								
<p><b>What does the forced swim test reveal about mice as model organisms?</b></p>	<p>Forced swim test (with pigment so that the mouse cannot see the platform)</p> <p>Mice do not like to swim - Once they find the platform, they are happy</p> <p>After a few trials, mice learn where the platform is, it goes straight to it (uses cues in the environment to navigate - complex behaviour, simpler organisms cannot do this)</p>																																																								
<p><b>Why are mice better than rats in terms of genetic manipulation?</b></p>	<p>Mice compared to other organisms</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="634 874 1588 1357"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>man</th> <th>monkey</th> <th>rat</th> <th>mouse</th> <th>fly</th> <th>worm</th> <th>yeast</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Behaviour</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓/X</td> <td>✓/X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electro-physiology</td> <td>X</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neuro-anatomy</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neuronal biochemistry</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓/X</td> <td>✓/X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neuronal Cell biology</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Genetic manipulation</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>✓/X</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Men and chimpanzees - Problematic for ethical reasons</p>		man	monkey	rat	mouse	fly	worm	yeast	Behaviour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	X	Electro-physiology	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	Neuro-anatomy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	Neuronal biochemistry	X	X	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	X	Neuronal Cell biology	X	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	Genetic manipulation	X	X	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓
	man	monkey	rat	mouse	fly	worm	yeast																																																		
Behaviour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓/X	✓/X	X																																																		
Electro-physiology	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X																																																		
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Genetic manipulation	X	X	✓/X	✓	✓	✓	✓																																																		
<p><b>What is synteny?</b></p> <p><b>What is the difference between construct validity and face validity?</b></p>	<p><b>Mice</b></p> <p>Similar chromosomes</p> <p>Similar genes - Few exceptions of genes present in humans that are not present in mice</p> <p><b>Synteny - Physical colocation of genetic loci between different species</b></p> <p>Color code - Same genes that mice have in common with humans</p> 																																																								



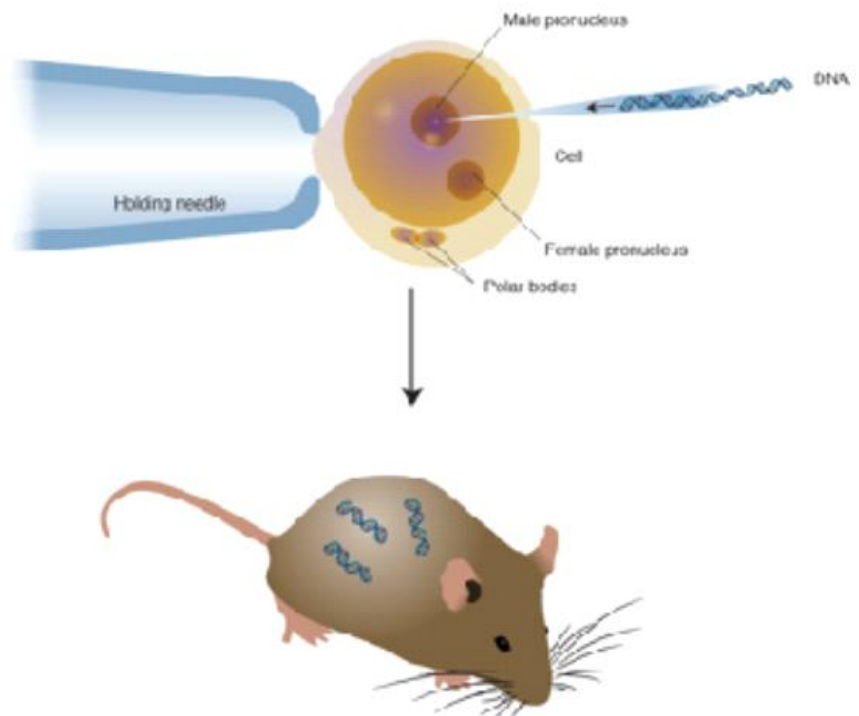
Means that we can have construct validity - Model human disease in mice  
 Trisomy of the 21 chromosome - mice present the same symptoms  
 Does not mean that it has **face validity** (you have not proved that there are no differences between mice and humans)

**What is the process for transgenesis?**

Principles for producing mutant mice

**Transgenesis (random insertion)**

- Happens naturally all the time - Virus insert DNA
- Occurs more frequently with open DNA (active being transcribed)
- You take a gene with its promoter (maybe a reporter gene such as GFP or channelrhodopsin), insert it in a fertilized egg



- Test of offspring - PCR/Western Blot
  - Measure protein or RNA expression to be sure that the transgenesis was successful



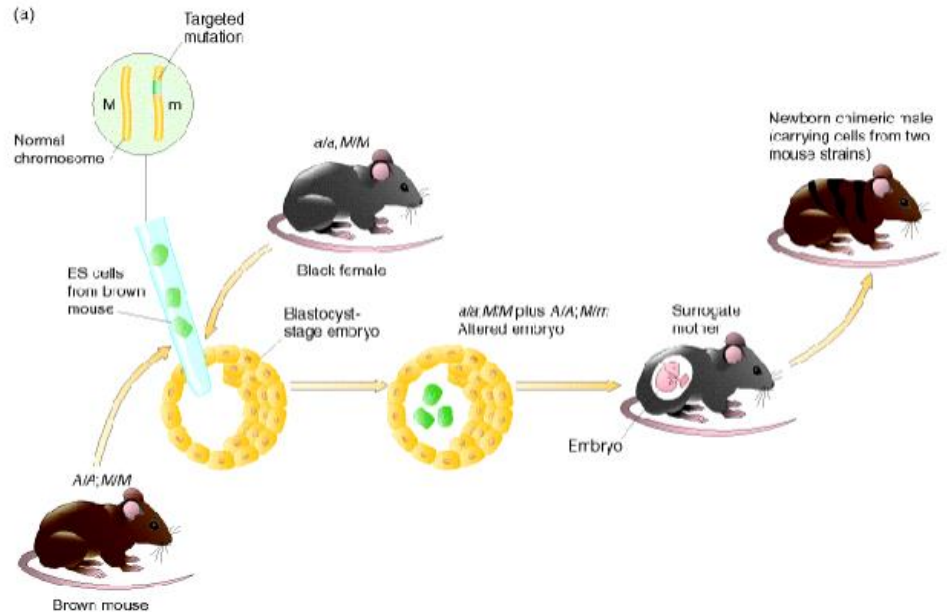
- Cheaper and faster - There are many limitations
  - You cannot be sure how much protein is expressed and where exactly

Describe the process of homologous recombination. What is its main advantage over transgenesis?

**Homologous recombination (targeted modification)**

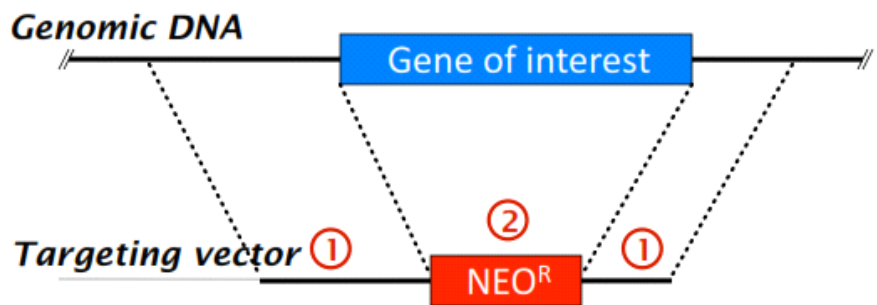
Two main goals: **Knockout a particular gene** (block gene expression - normally this does not occur in humans), **single nucleotide mutation** (normally occurs naturally)

Done with stem cells: Inserted in blastocyst-stage embryo (all cells are omnipotent)



- Omnipotent cells remain with their potency and divide (millions of cells are necessary) - Offspring become a mosaic
- Fur colour is an indication of how much the green cells contributed to the organism (Aguti/Brown is dominant over black fur)
- The green cells need to contribute to the reproductive system, so that the process can be repeated

Describe how homologous recombination occurs. What is the important of Neomycin resistance gene?



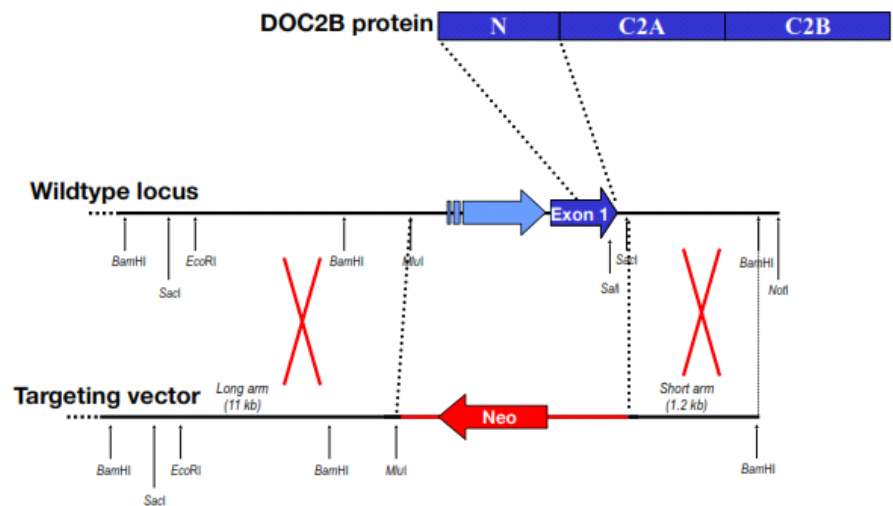
- Gene of interest (in the organism, you want to knockout)
- Black portion (arms for homologous recombination) - High affinity to the opposite strand
- 1 to 7 kb in size
- Targeting vector - NEO<sup>R</sup> (replaces gene of interest in dividing cells)
- Does not hybridize well



Selectable marker - Neomycin (confers resistance against G418)

Why the neomycin gene is often reversed in the process of homologous recombination?

DOC2B protein



BamHI to MluI - Long arm

MluI to SacI - Replaces gene of interest

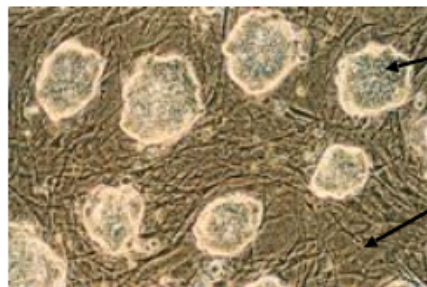
Reversed gene to make sure that it integrated with DNA

SacI to Bam - Short arm

What is the importance of leukemia inhibiting factor in stem cell colonies?

Embryonic stem cell colony

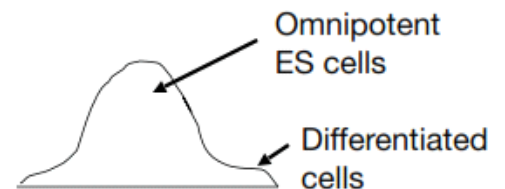
LIF - Leukemia inhibiting factor



ES cell colony

Mouse Embryonic Fibroblasts

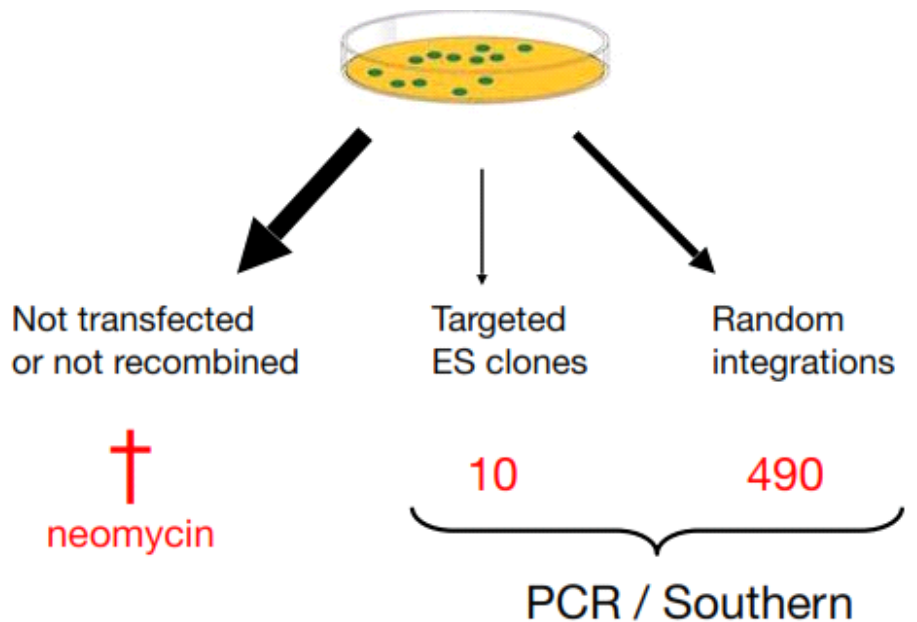
Medium contains LIF (Leukemia Inhibiting factor)



Base - Differentiated cells

Apex - Omnipotent ES cells

How can you differentiate homologous recombination and random insertion in terms of neomycin expression?



Cells without neomycin - Die

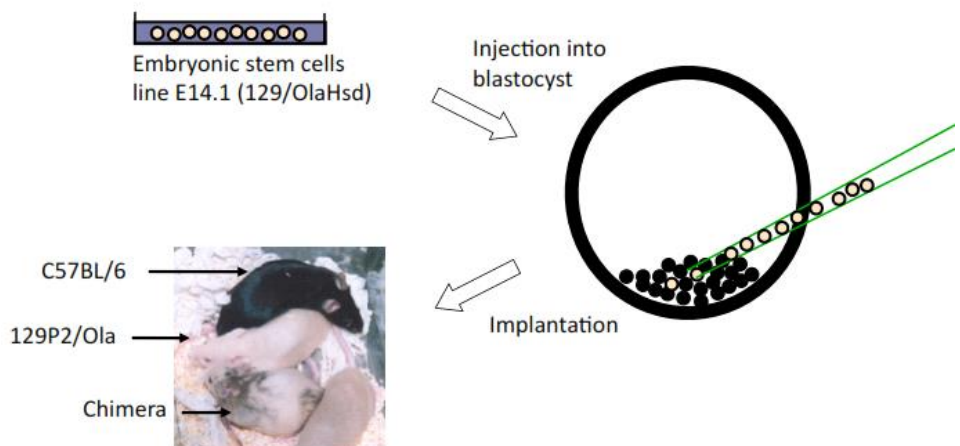
Random integrations (the knockout happens in the genome, but not in the locus of interest) - Express neomycin (do not die)

Homologous recombination - Express neomycin (do not die)  
Need PCR/Southern blot to differentiate

Why can't you generate a double knockout mouse with homologous recombination?

### Chimeric mice

A lot of the fur derived from aguti mice, some black fur



Use the most chimeric mice to reproduce again

The next generation, a complete mutant mice is available

Nicotinic acetylcholine receptor B2 subunits in the medial prefrontal cortex control attention

B-gal - Acetylcholine receptor

DTA - Diphtheria toxin-A (cells that express this will die)

Random insertions will die

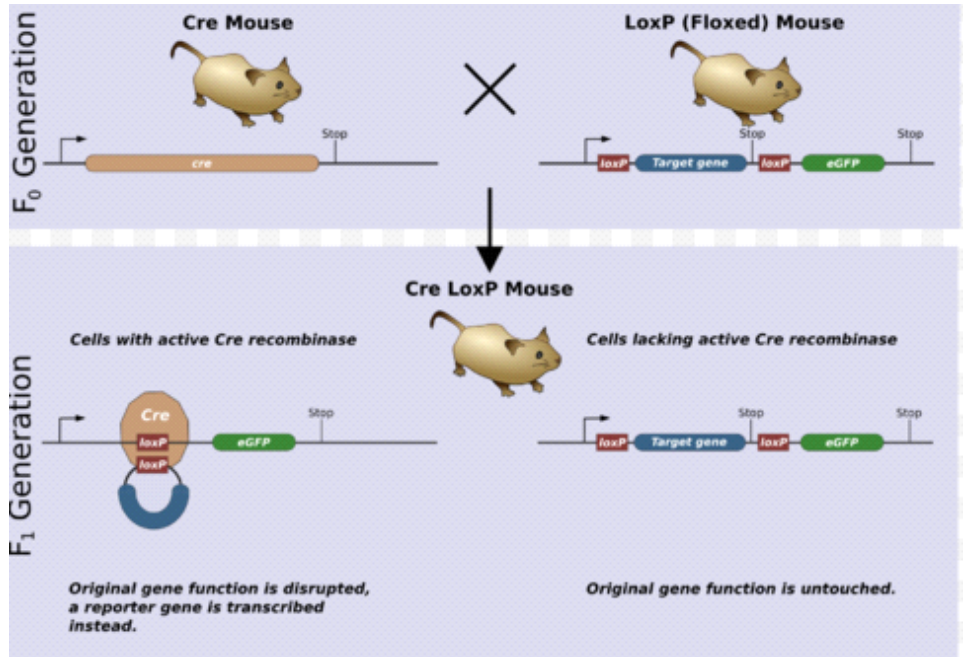
Homologous recombination will live

How can LoxP and Cre be useful to create

Conditional Knock-out using Cre

Insertion of a LoxP site - Insert a specific mutation

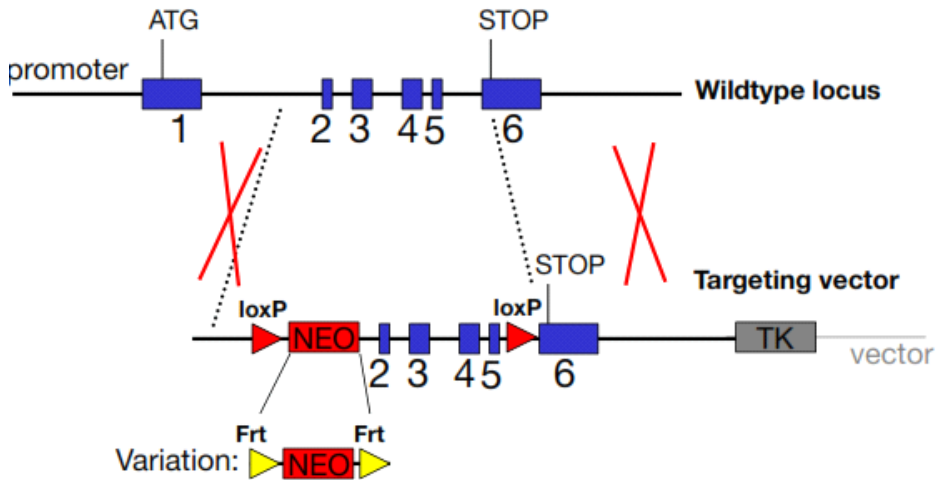
mutant mice?



Produced by bacteriophages (virus) - Chops up its own genome to amplify it

Guarantee that the knockout happened in only a specific cell type (that expressed LoxP) - in all other cells, gene expression remains normal

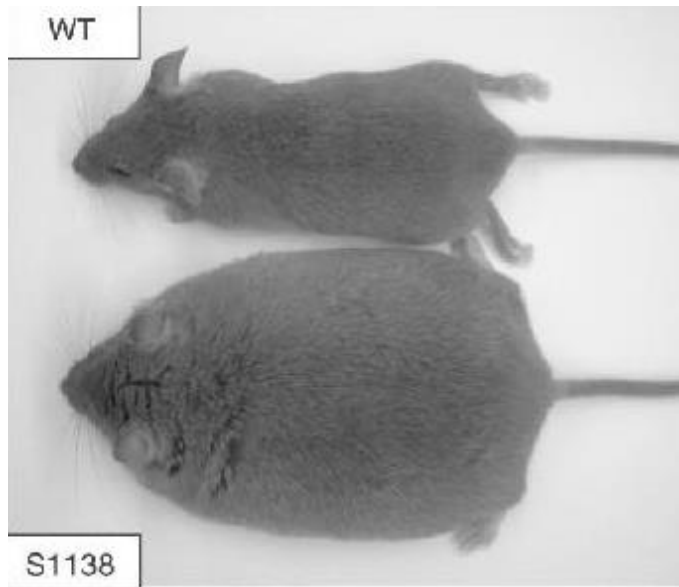
Flank gene + Neomycin - Homologous recombination replaces it  
Replaces entire gene by the same gene + neomycin



When you cross this organism with another mouse that expresses CRE - there will be a mutation in the offspring  
CRE can be selectively expressed in tissues

Variation with Frt - **LoxP site to remove Frt cassette** (remove neomycin)  
Neomycin is used to select, but then **removed** for behavioural studies

Knock-in study to leptin signalling  
ERK(P)- Leptin gene  
STAT3(P) - Activation of transcription factor



STAT(3) - Important in leptin signalling

#### Review

Homologous recombination - Insertion of foreign DNA molecule into the genome

The inserted DNA is double helix - Each recombines with their respective DNA sisters

Why is the gene reversed?

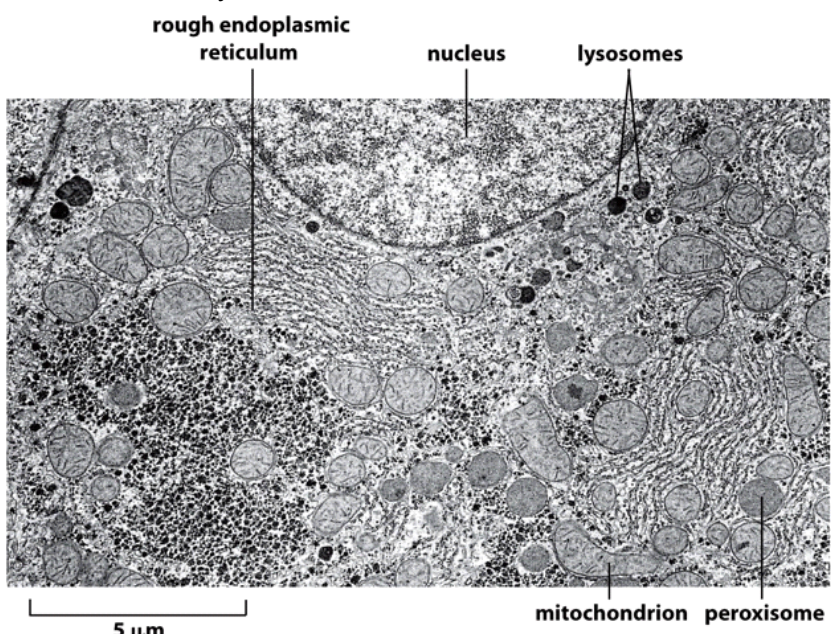
So that the gene of interest is not combined with introns of the opposite strand

Neomycin is an antibiotic - All cells die, except the ones that express the gene

It can also be inserted into a random part of the genome

How to differentiate that? PCR that amplify a select segment of primer + gene of interest

## 6. Intracellular compartments and transport (chap 15)

<p><b>How can an organelle visually be observed in an electronic microscope?</b></p>	<p>Organelles - Defined by membrane structure</p>  <p>The image is a transmission electron micrograph (TEM) of a cell. It shows a large nucleus with a dense nucleolus and chromatin. Surrounding the nucleus is the rough endoplasmic reticulum, characterized by flattened sacs studded with ribosomes. Numerous mitochondria with distinct internal folds (cristae) are visible. There are also smaller, membrane-bound organelles like lysosomes and peroxisomes. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates a length of 5 micrometers.</p>																											
<p><b>Define the rough functionality of every organelles in the eukaryotic cell.</b></p>	<p>Function of organelles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cytosol - Contains metabolic pathways</li> <li>Nucleus - Contains genome, DNA and RNA synthesis</li> <li>Endoplasmic reticulum - Synthesis of proteins and lipids</li> <li>Golgi apparatus - Modification and secretion of proteins (railway station)</li> <li>Lysosomes - Intracellular degradation</li> <li>Endosomes - Sorting of endocytosed material (from outside)</li> <li>Mitochondria - ATP synthesis by oxidative phosphorylation</li> <li>Peroxisomes - Oxidation of toxic molecules</li> </ul>																											
<p><b>What are the four largest cell structures by percentage of cell volume? And the four largest by amount per cell?</b></p>	<p>Size of organelles in the cell</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="665 1470 1469 1942"> <thead> <tr> <th>Structure</th> <th>Percentage of cell volume</th> <th>Number per cell</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cytosol</td> <td>54</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mitochondria</td> <td>22</td> <td>1700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ER</td> <td>12</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nucleus</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golgi</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peroxisomes</td> <td>1</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lysosomes</td> <td>1</td> <td>300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Endosomes</td> <td>1</td> <td>200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Structure	Percentage of cell volume	Number per cell	Cytosol	54	1	Mitochondria	22	1700	ER	12	1	Nucleus	6	1	Golgi	3	1	Peroxisomes	1	400	Lysosomes	1	300	Endosomes	1	200
Structure	Percentage of cell volume	Number per cell																										
Cytosol	54	1																										
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Lysosomes	1	300																										
Endosomes	1	200																										



What are the three types of transport that occur in an eukaryotic cell?

**Types of transport**  
 Through nuclear pores  
 Across membranes  
 Via vesicles

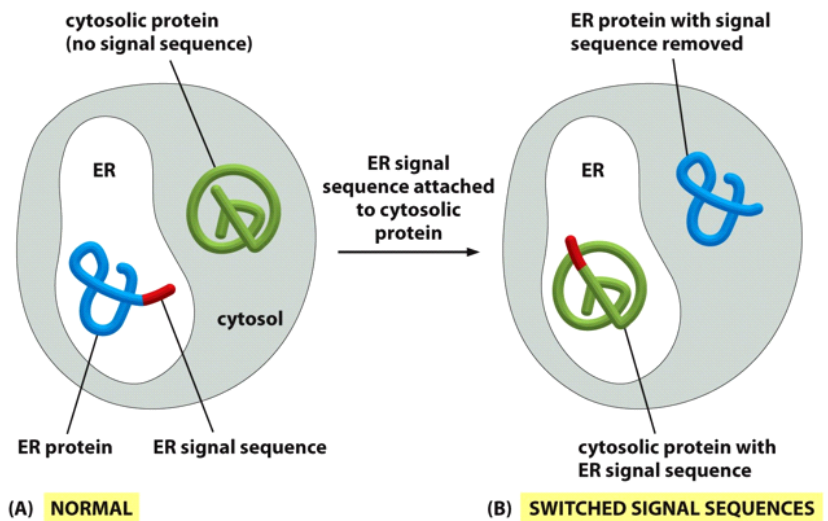
What are signal sequences? Describe the experiment that discovered their existence.

**Chemical signaling** - Some sequences of amino acids indicate where the proteins need to go

FUNCTION OF SIGNAL	EXAMPLE OF SIGNAL SEQUENCE
Import into ER	<sup>+</sup> H <sub>3</sub> N-Met-Met-Ser-Phe-Val-Ser-Leu-Leu-Leu-Val-Gly-Ile-Leu-Phe-Trp-Ala-Thr-Glu-Ala-Glu-Gln-Leu-Thr-Lys-Cys-Glu-Val-Phe-Gln-
Retention in lumen of ER	-Lys-Asp-Glu-Leu-COO <sup>-</sup>
Import into mitochondria	<sup>+</sup> H <sub>3</sub> N-Met-Leu-Ser-Leu-Arg-Gln-Ser-Ile-Arg-Phe-Phe-Lys-Pro-Ala-Thr-Arg-Thr-Leu-Cys-Ser-Ser-Arg-Tyr-Leu-Leu-
Import into nucleus	-Pro-Pro-Lys-Lys-Lys-Arg-Lys-Val-
Import into peroxisomes	-Ser-Lys-Leu-

Positively charged amino acids are shown in red, and negatively charged amino acids in blue. An extended block of hydrophobic amino acids is shown in green. <sup>+</sup>H<sub>3</sub>N indicates the N-terminus of a protein; COO<sup>-</sup> indicates the C-terminus. The ER retention signal is commonly referred to by its single-letter amino acid abbreviation, KDEL.

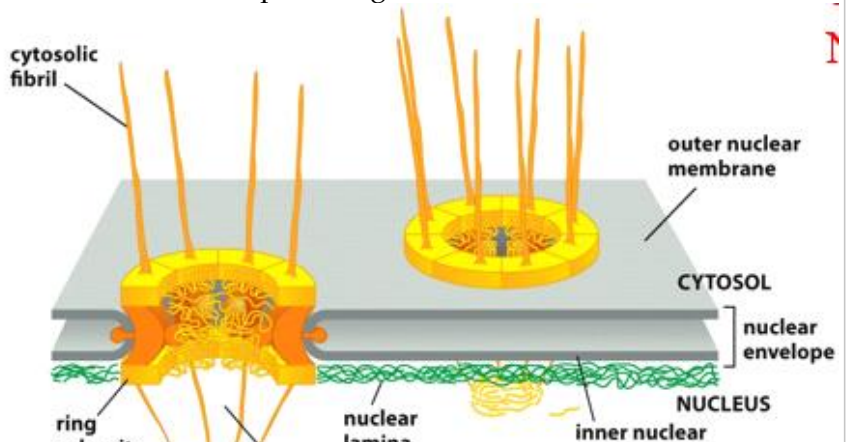
Signal sequences - If you add these sequences to other proteins, they switch places



Describe how nuclear transport works. What is the role of GTP in the process?

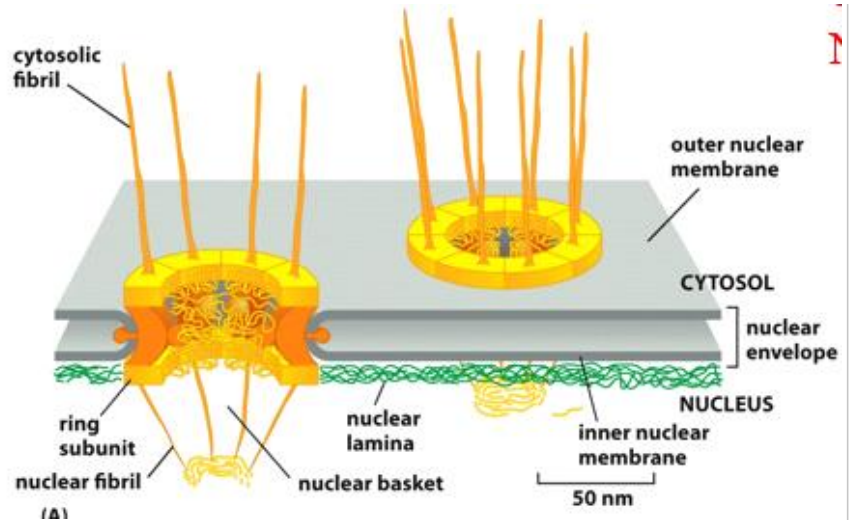
**Transport into the nucleus**

Occur in the nuclear pore - Eight transmembrane sections





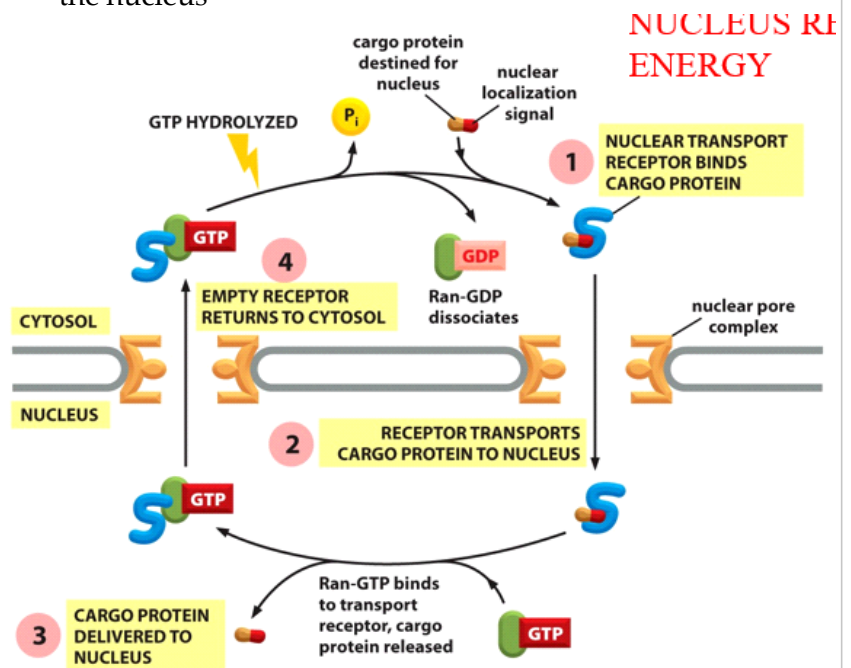
the role of GTP in the process?



Nuclear transport receptors - Recognize nuclear localization signal

Needs to release protein inside the nucleus and go into the cytosol again - Depends on energy (GTP)

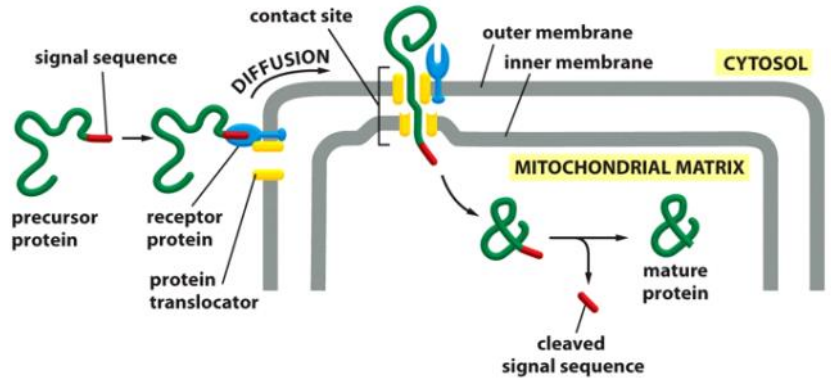
GTP can move in and out of the nucleus - It is a very small peptide and it is produced in the ER, which is very close to the nucleus



How transport into the mitochondria differs from nuclear transport?

**Transport into mitochondria**

Similar mechanism - The receptor protein is anchored by one transmembrane domain; pore opens in the inner and outer membrane; protein goes through  
The signal sequence is then cleaved - The mature protein is available inside the nucleus

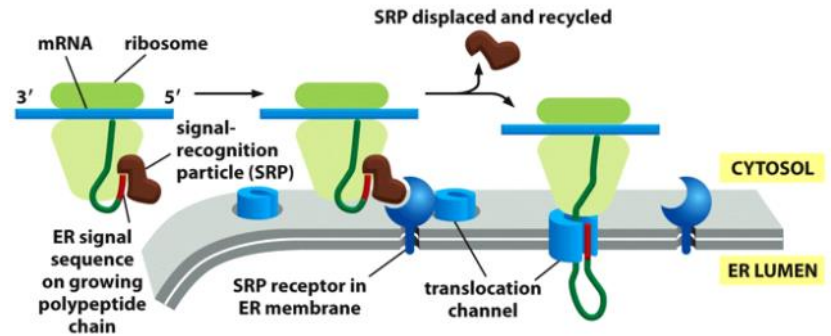


What is unusual about transport into the endoplasmic reticulum?

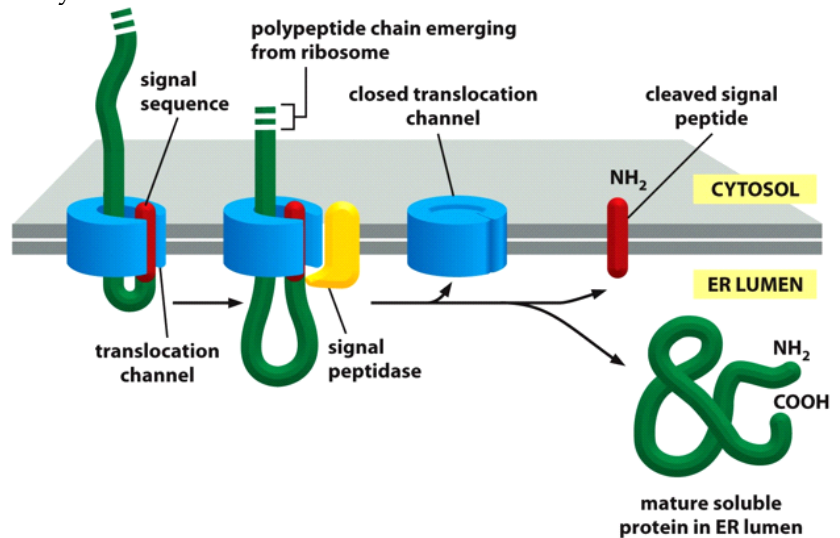
How does the production of cytosolic proteins and transmembrane proteins differ?

### Transport into ER

Proteins produced in the ER are synthesized inside the ER  
 Ribosome + Protein is recognized the ER lumen  
 Protein is synthesized already docked in the ER membrane

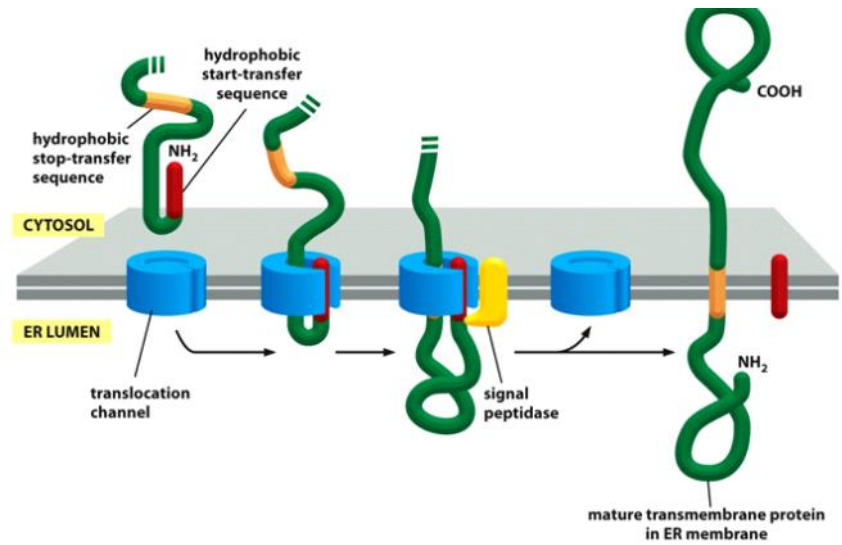


At the end, the signal sequence needs to be cleaved - there are enzymes inside the ER membrane



Transmembrane proteins have internal hydrophobic sequences that do not go through the membrane - High affinity  
 They are always attached to the membrane and are transported with the membrane (e.g. glutamate receptor in neurons)

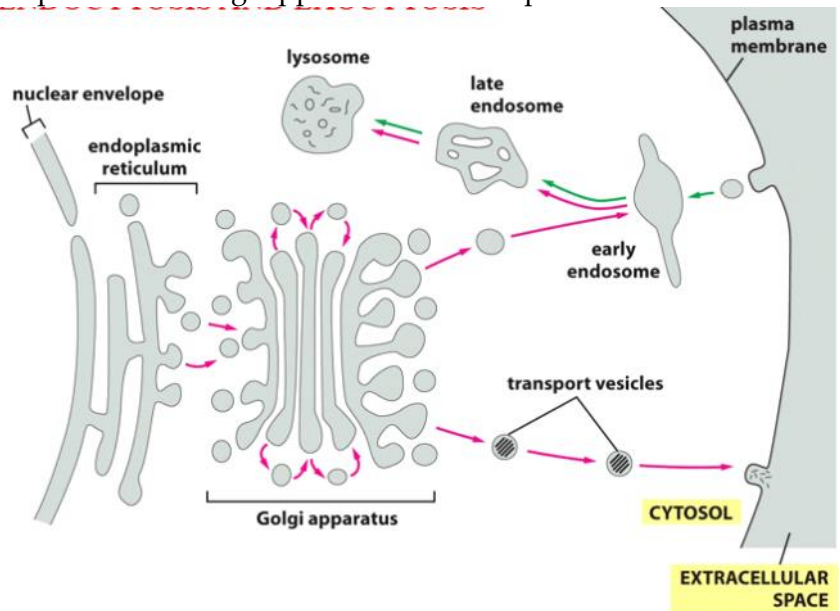




What is the difference between cytosolic and transmembrane proteins in terms of transport between the ER and the extracellular space?

### Endocytosis and exocytosis

All proteins that are secreted need to be produced in the ER, adapted in the Golgi apparatus and transported via vesicles

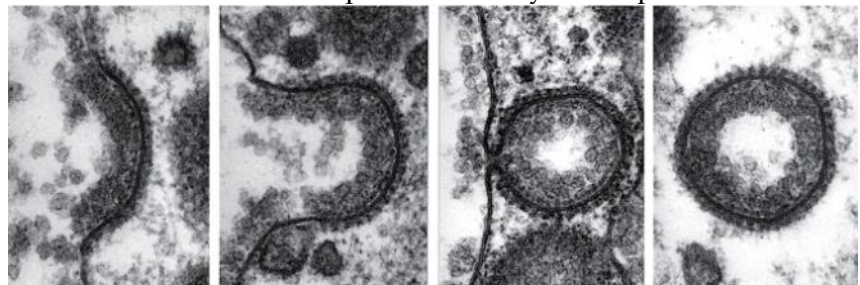


Vesicles that bud off and fuse again in the golgi apparatus -  
 Small protein modifications  
 Entry of compounds via endocytosis

Describe the roles of clathrin, adaptin and dynamin in the process of endocytosis.

### Endocytosis

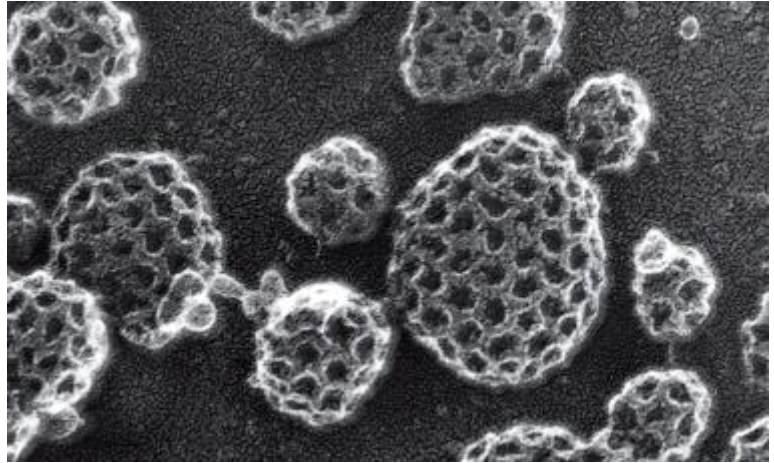
Contains both membrane proteins and cytosolic proteins



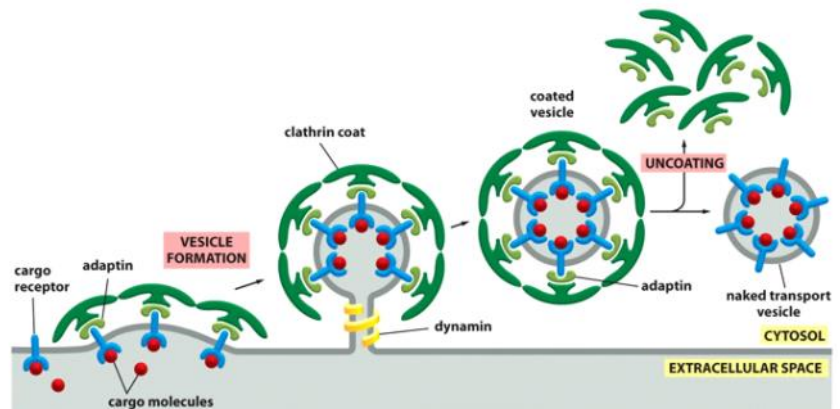
Network structure on the outside - Comes from proteins that are

sitting outside the membrane (clathrin)

Vesicles that contain clathrin come from the outside



Dynamin - Helps the vesicle pinch off



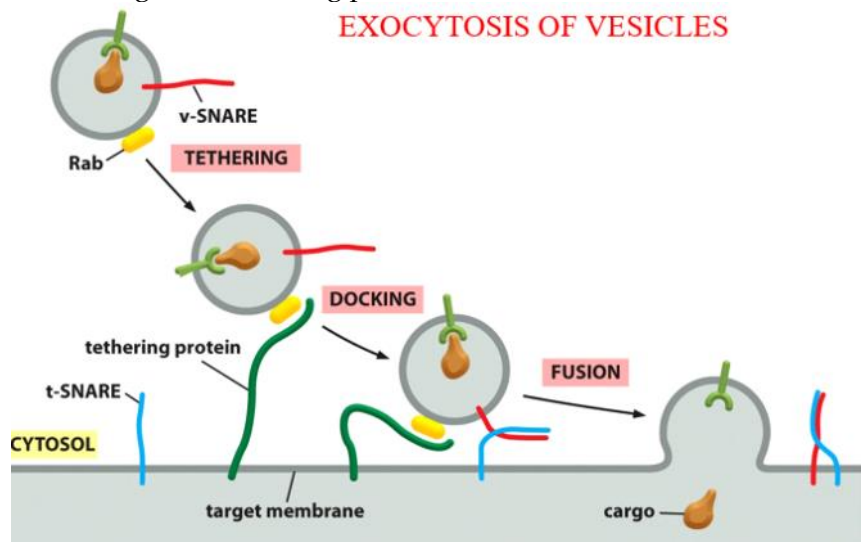
Describe the importance of SNARE proteins and RAB in the process of exocytosis.

Exocytosis of vesicles

Guided by proteins - v-SNARE + t-SNARE (membrane coalesces)

RAB recognizes tethering protein

**EXOCYTOSIS OF VESICLES**



Where does glycosilation

Glycosilation of proteins in ER



of transmembrane proteins happen in the cell?

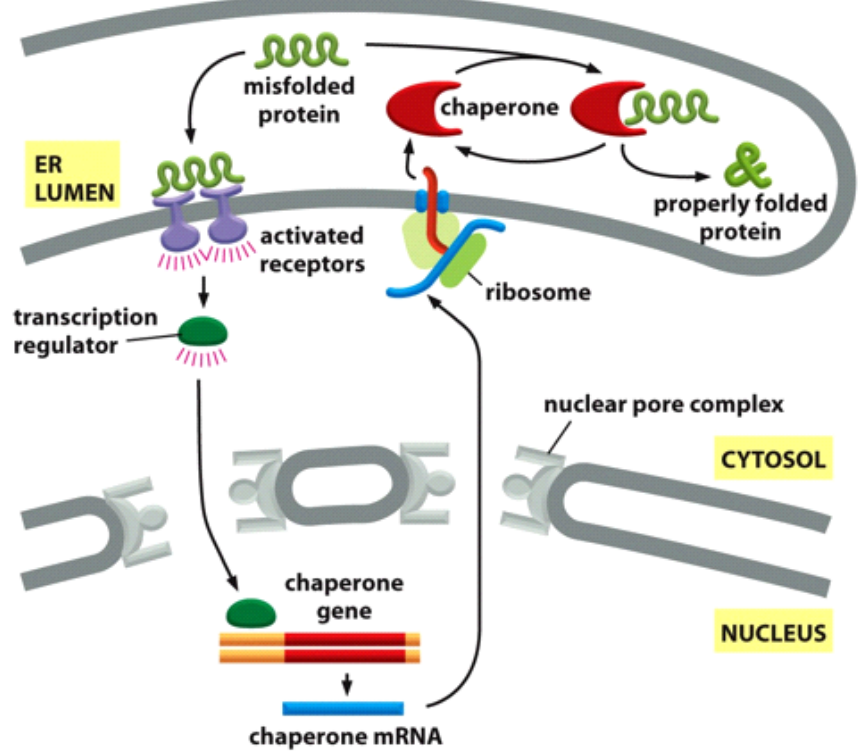
What is the importance of chaperone in protein folding?

Modifications on the inside of the ER will be sticking outside of the cell

**Chaperones govern folding of proteins**

Make sure that the protein folds in the right shape - Shields off binding site with neighbouring proteins

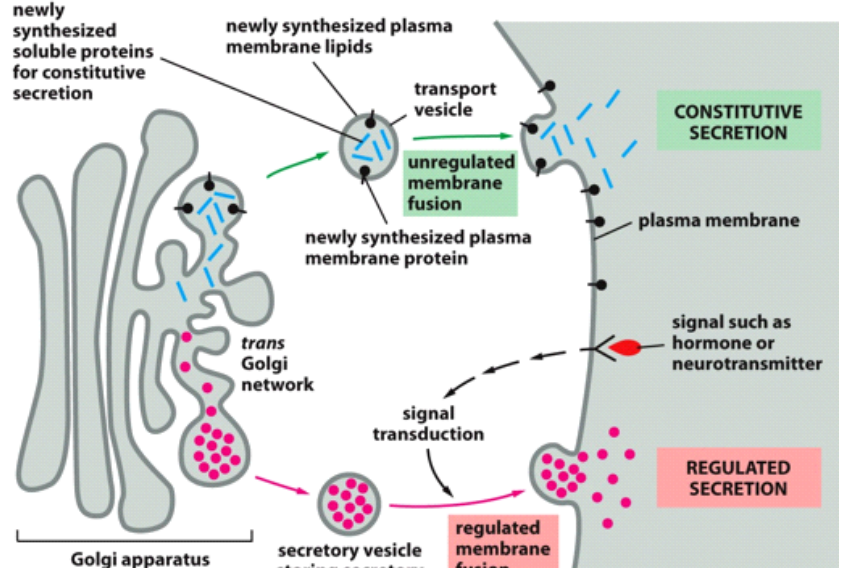
There is no one-to-one ratio between chaperone and proteins  
Chaperones are not being actively produced all the time -  
Their expression is induced by misfolding

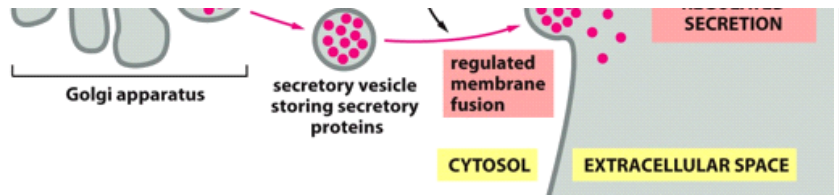


What is the difference between protein secretion and lipid secretion from the Golgi apparatus?

**Golgi apparatus**

Secretion of proteins and lipids in vesicles (transported in microtubules)





Protein - Regulated secretion (signaling required)  
 Lipid - Constitutive secretion (no-signaling required)

Protein sorting by the endosome  
 Some protein enter the cell and need to go out - E.g. LDL (lipid) cannot be transported in the aqueous environment of the cytosol

**Why doesn't the proteins in the lysosome destroy the cell?**

**Lysozomes serve degradation**  
 Creates building blocks for the cell - Nucleotides, amino acids

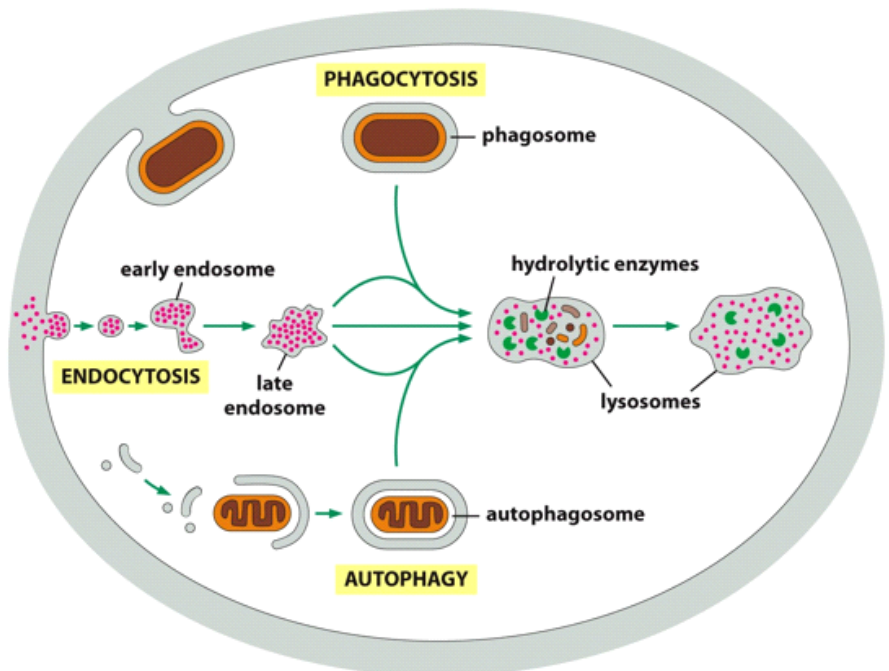
Enzymes - Active in pH 5.0 (hydrogen pumps)

- Nuclease
- Protease
- Glycosidase
- Lipase
- Phosphatase
- Sulfatase
- Phospholipase

These enzymes are *inactivated* in the cytosol - This is why the cell does not destroy itself from lysosome protein activity

**Describe the difference between phagocytosis, endocytosis, pynocytosis and autophagy.**

**Different inputs**



- Phagocytosis - Solid structures
- Pynocytosis - Liquid structures
- Endocytosis - Absorbtion of extracelullar material from the cell
- Autophagy - Breakdown of cells own organelles

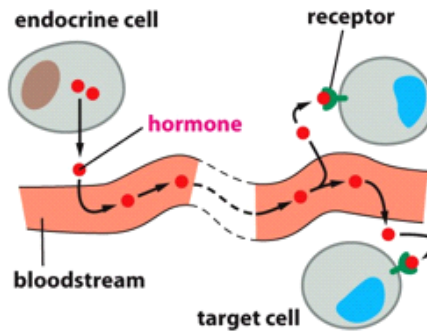


# 6b. Cell communication (ECB chap 16 + Purves chap 7)

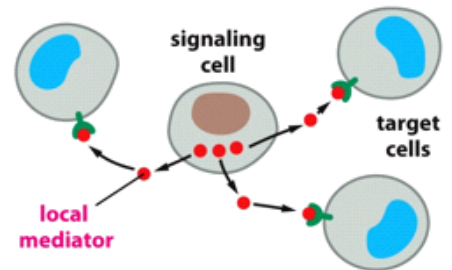
Describe four different types of cell signaling.

## Different modes of signaling

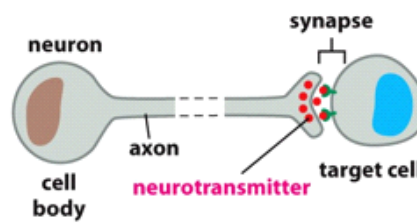
### (A) ENDOCRINE



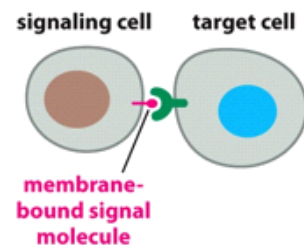
### (B) PARACRINE



### (C) NEURONAL



### (D) CONTACT-DEPENDENT



**Endocrine** - Target and release cells are far apart (transport via blood stream)

**Paracrine** - Target and release cells are close (transport in the extracellular medium)

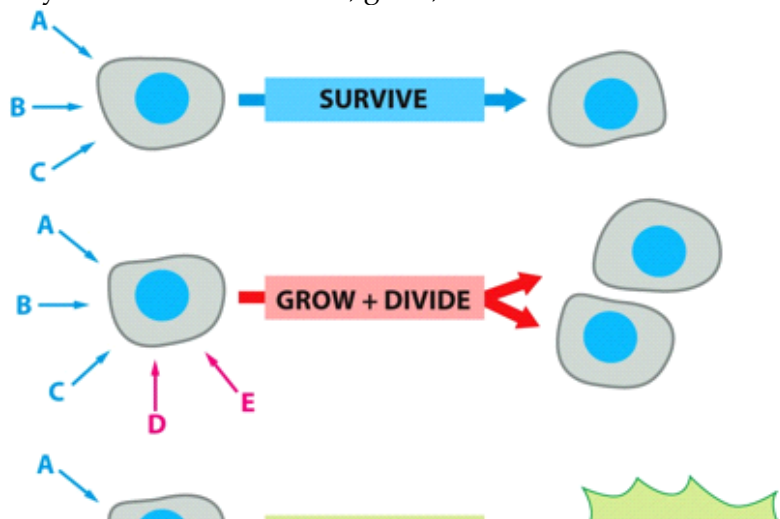
**Neuronal** - Specific type of paracrine (cells are essentially adjacent)

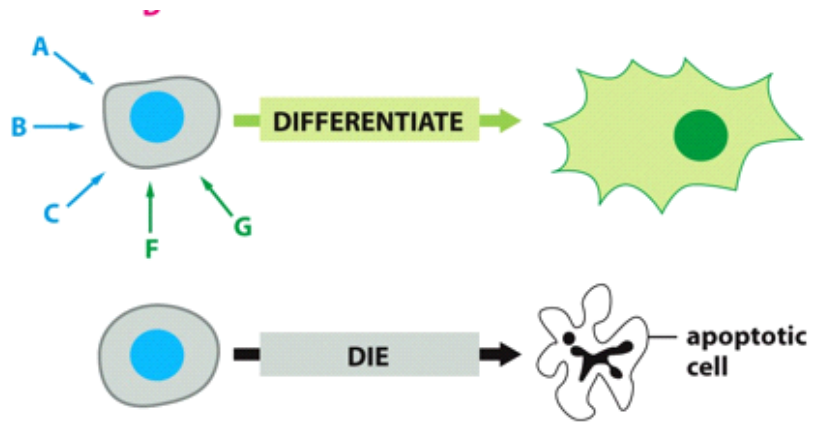
**Contact dependant** - Via transmembrane proteins are receptors (molecule is not released)

Why does the lack of signal triggers apoptosis?

## Signaling pathways integrate information into a unique output

May induce differentiation, grow, survive



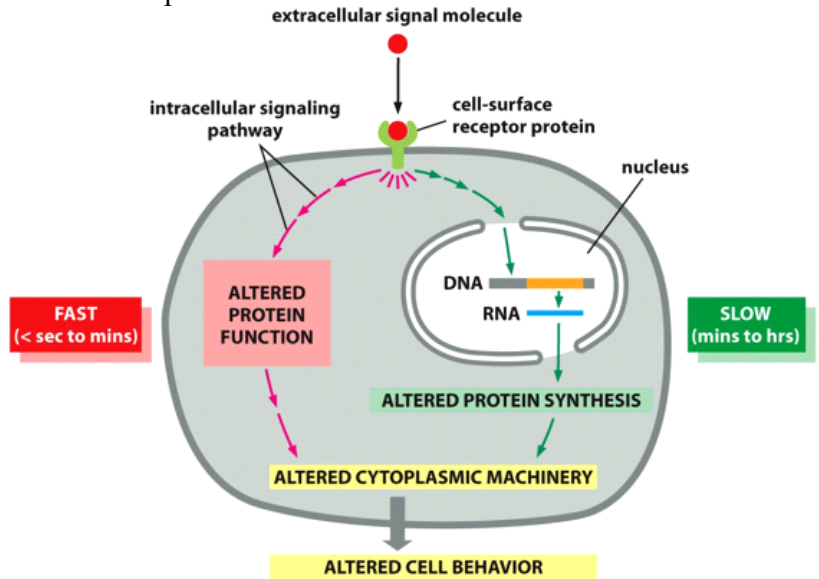


No signal = triggers apoptosis

Which signaling process takes longer - modifying protein function or gene function? Why?

**Signaling occurs at different time scales**

Direct altered protein functions = seconds to minutes



Gene expression modification = hours

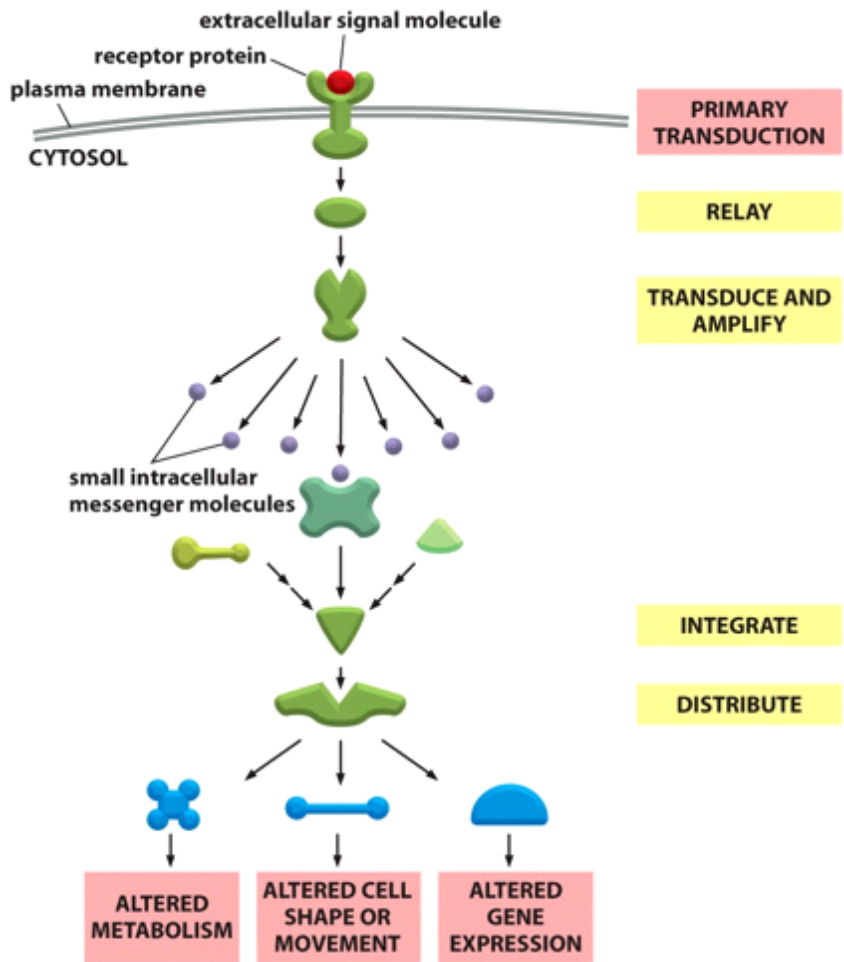
What is the overall structure of a signaling cascade. What is the main advantage of having many steps in the signaling?

**Signaling cascade**

- Signaling cell
- Signal
- Receptor
- Target molecule
- Response

In neurons, signaling cell is presynaptic, rest is postsynaptic

This structure allows convergence and divergence- The signal is amplified to be perceived and integrated to trigger a specific signal

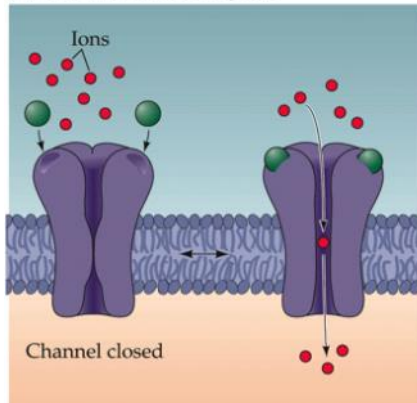


Describe the four different types of signaling receptors and how they differ at a molecular level.

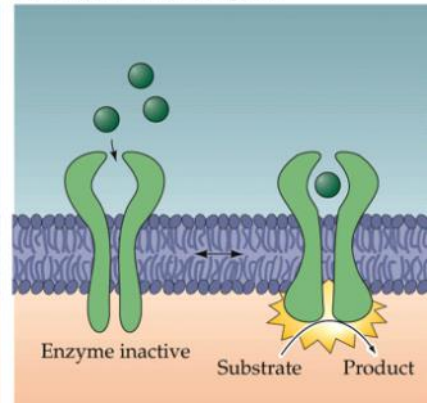
### Different receptors

Channel-linked receptors - Link between inside and outside  
 Enzyme-linked receptors - Binding promote a change in the intracellular conformation of receptor (no link between inside and outside)

(A) Channel-linked receptors

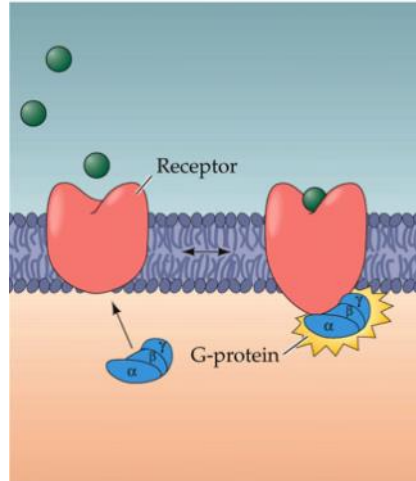


(B) Enzyme-linked receptors

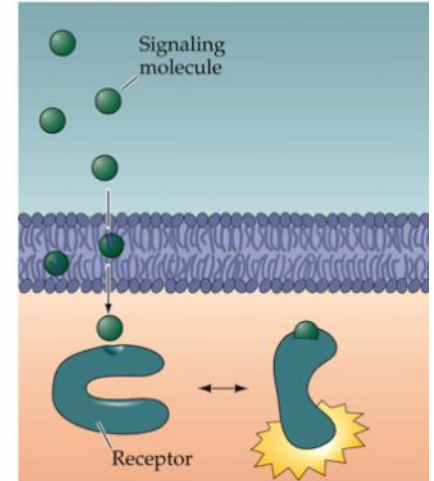


G-protein-coupled receptors  
 Intracellular receptors

(C) G-protein-coupled receptors



(D) Intracellular receptors



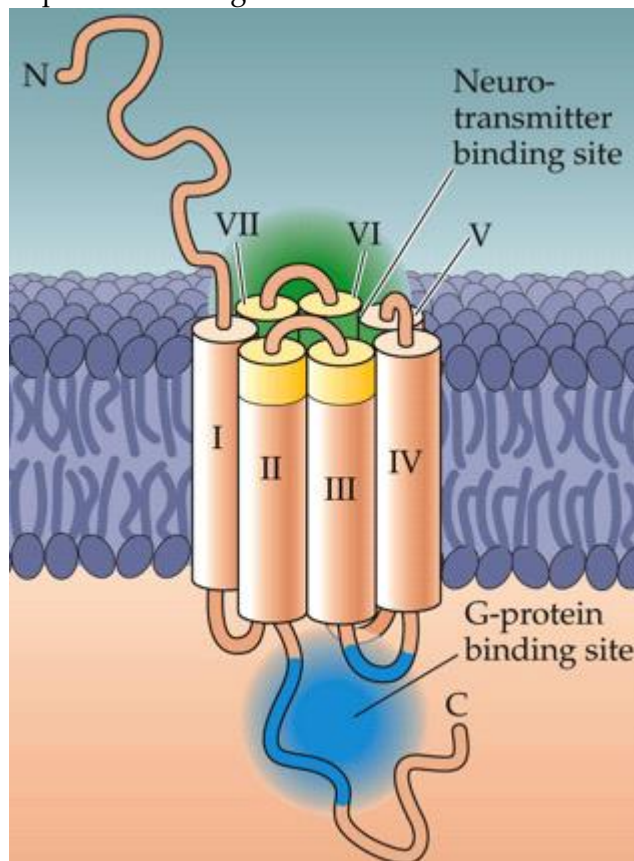
Different drugs act on different regions of receptors (allosteric modulation)

**Describe the structure of a GPCR. Why is it a receptor, not a channel?**

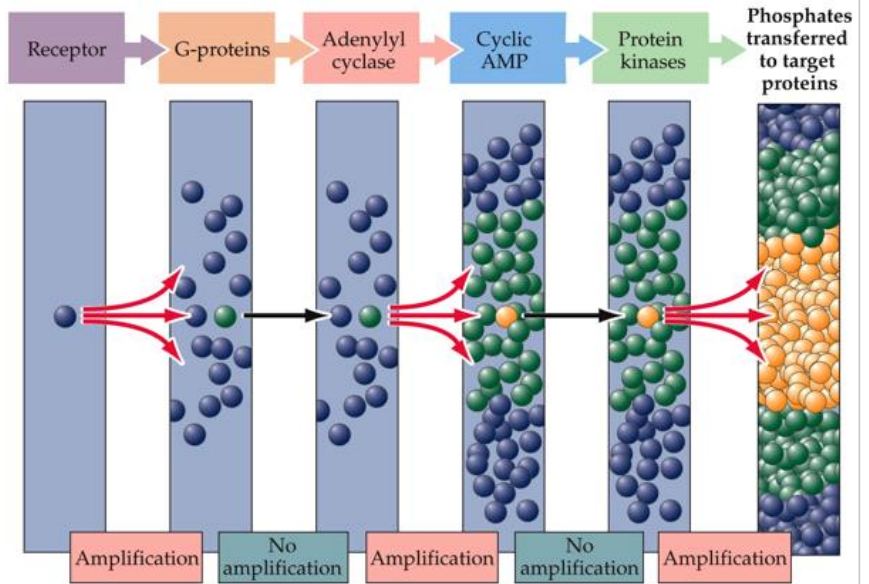
**GPCR - Seven transmembranes**

Do not form a pore, but change conformation when a ligand is bound

G-protein binding site is revealed



Amplification of signal occurs in many points in the GPCR signaling



Which sense is involved in almost half of all GPCR subtypes?

### Types of GPCR

Receptor class	Glutamate	GABA <sub>B</sub>	Dopamine	NE, Epi	Histamine	Serotonin	Purines	Muscarinic
Class I		GABA <sub>B</sub> R1	D1 <sub>A</sub>	α1	H1	5-HT 1	A type	M1
mGlu R1		GABA <sub>B</sub> R2	D1 <sub>B</sub>	α2	H2	5-HT 2	A1	M2
mGlu R5			D2	β1	H3	5-HT 3	A2a	M3
Class II			D3	β2		5-HT 4	A2b	M4
mGlu R2			D4	β3		5-HT 5	A3	M5
mGlu R3						5-HT 6	P type	
Class III						5-HT 7	P2x	
mGlu R4							P2y	
mGlu R6							P2z	
mGlu R7							P2t	
mGlu R8							P2u	

Half of GPCR (150 out of 300) - Olfactory

Describe the full cycle of GPCR signaling.

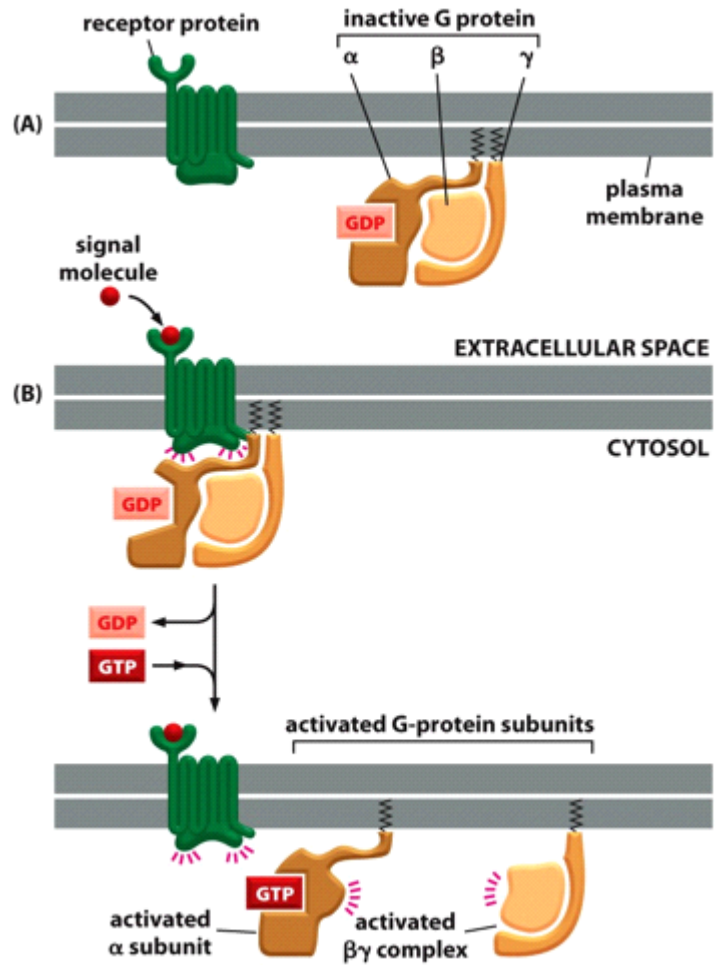
### Steps in GPCR signaling

Signaling molecule - change protein conformation

G-protein interact with the membrane - Increases likelihood of binding with the receptor

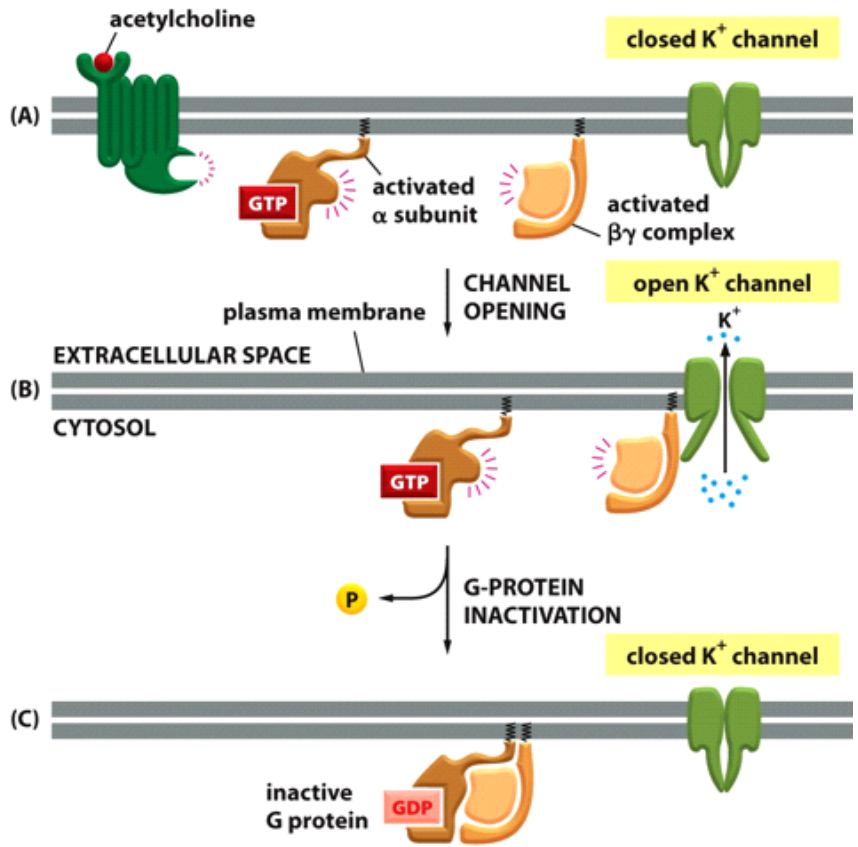
Alpha subunit of G-protein binds to GPCR - Releases GDP

Release an activated GTP-alpha and beta-gamma complex



Activated beta-gamma activates another channel  
 Activated GTP-alpha subunit is autophosphorylated after some time - GTP becomes GDP and unbinds from alpha subunit  
 Alpha subunit binds again to beta-gamma subunit





What are the three different GPCR effector pathways? What is their effect on the cell?

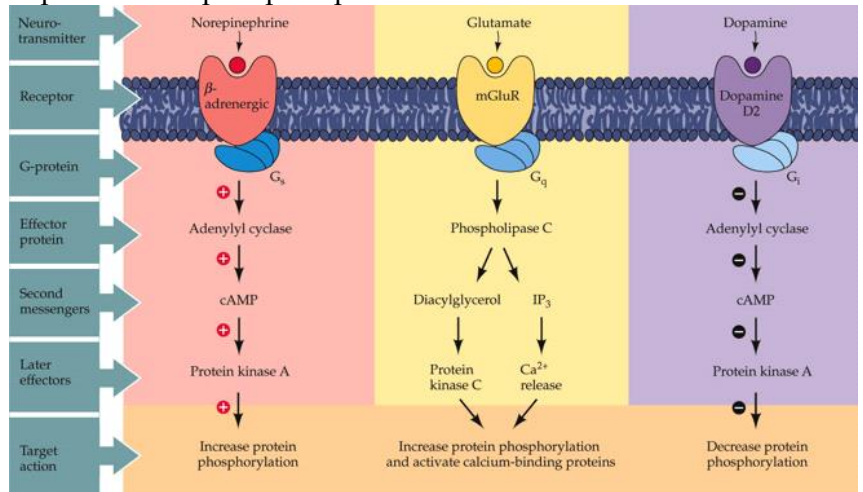
**Effector pathways associated with GPCRs**

Gs (stimulating) - Activates Adenylyl cyclase

Gi (inhibitor) - Inhibits adenylyl cyclase

They usually act together in neurons

Gq - Activates phospholipase C

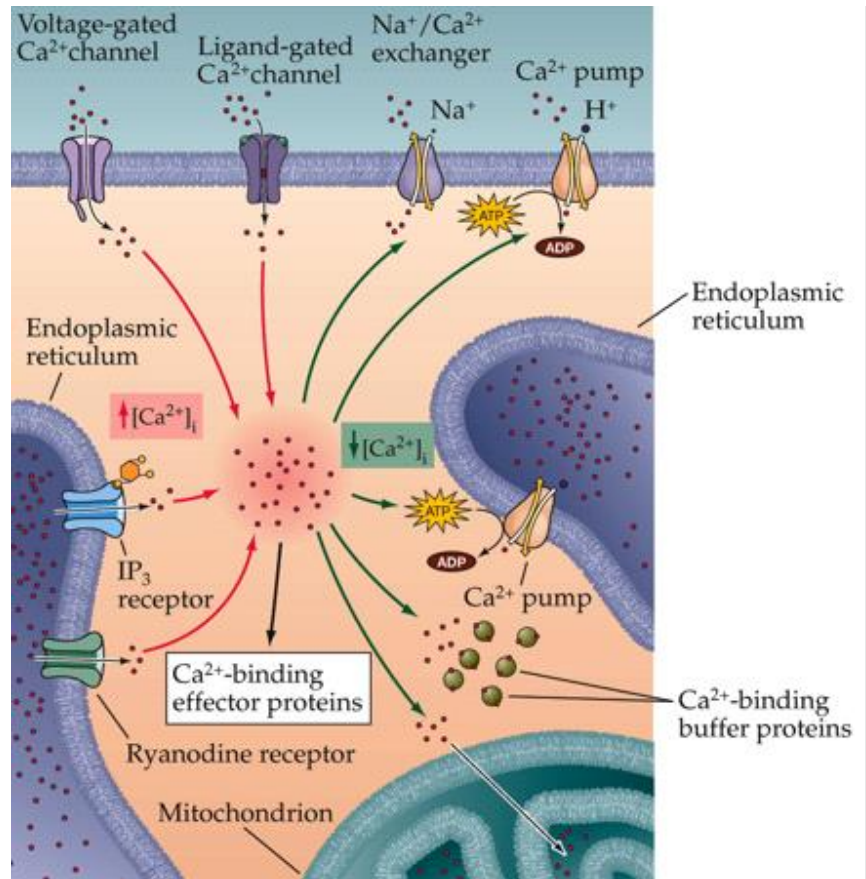


Describe how Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels are regulated in the cell (both from membrane channels and

**Neuronal second messenger**

Calcium - Has a double charge (2+), can bind to two proteins at the same time or at two regions of the same protein (changing its conformation)

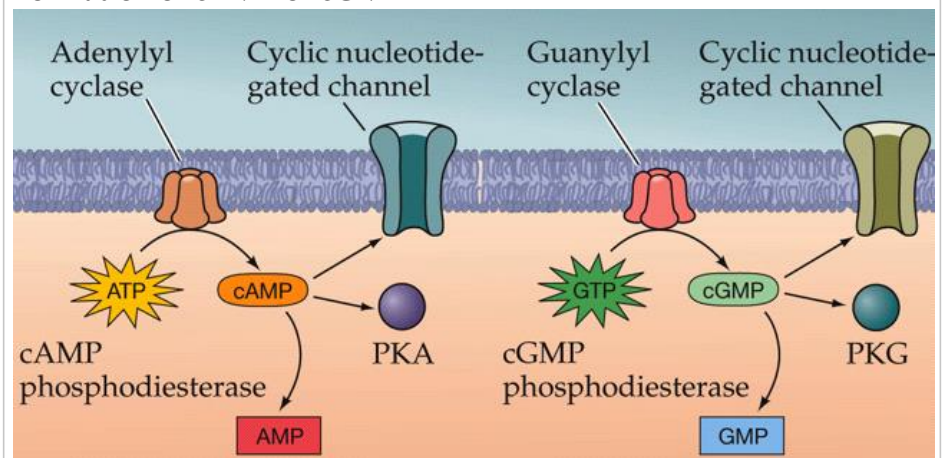
intracellular channels).



- Calcium is actively pumped into organelles (Endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondrion)
- Calcium is actively pumped out of the cell (pumps and Na/Ca exchangers)
- Ligand-gated Ca channels let calcium passively come into the cell (NMDA)
- Voltage-gated Ca channels let calcium passively com into the cell
- $IP_3$  receptor - Ligand-gated Ca channel in the ER

What is the role of phosphodiesterases in the cell?

### Formation of cAMP or cGMP



Adenylyl cyclase - breaks down ATP into cAMP, which can activate PKA

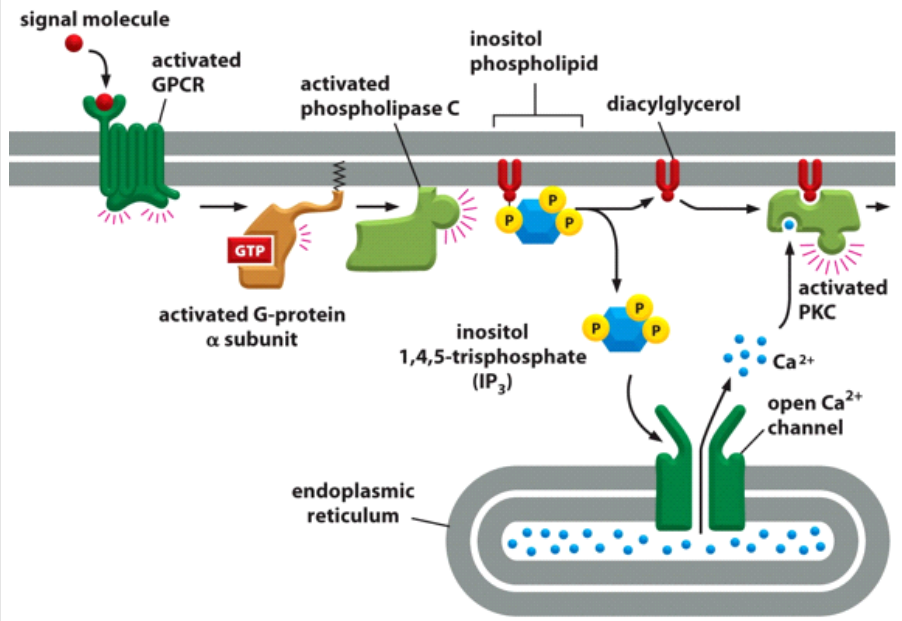
cAMP phosphodiesterase are readily available in the cytosol - Maintains cAMP concentration low

Guanylyl cyclase = breaks down GTP into cGMP, which can

activate PKG  
 cGMP phosphodiesterase - Maintains cGMP concentration low

How is phospholipase C activated upon the activation of a Gq GPCR?

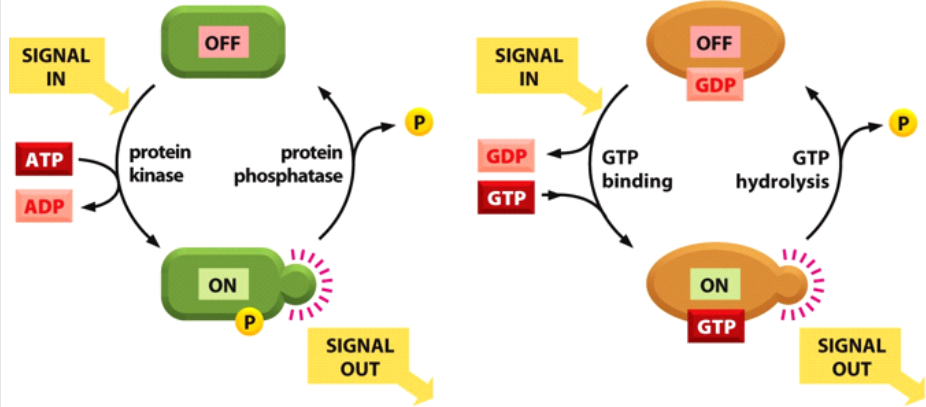
**Activation of phospholipase C**



Alpha-GTP activates phospholipase C - Breaks down Inositol phospholip into inositol triphosphate (IP<sub>3</sub>, a sugar group) and diacylglycerol  
 IP<sub>3</sub> activates calcium channels in ER  
 Calcium activates PKC

How ATP and GTP differ in their signaling roles in the cell?

**Phosphorylation is an important signal**

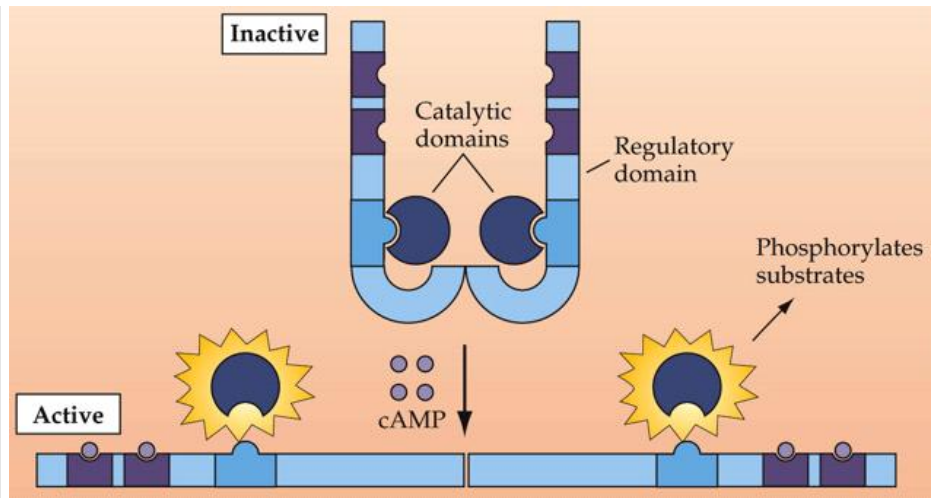


Phosphate group - Comes from ATP -> ADP breakdown  
 Protein-protein interactions are facilitated by binding of phosphate group  
 GTP is not broken down into GDP - The GDP group leaves the molecule, the GTP group attaches

Describe how protein

**Mechanism of protein kinase A activation**

kinase A is activated.



PKA inactive - Has two regulatory domains bound to catalytic domains

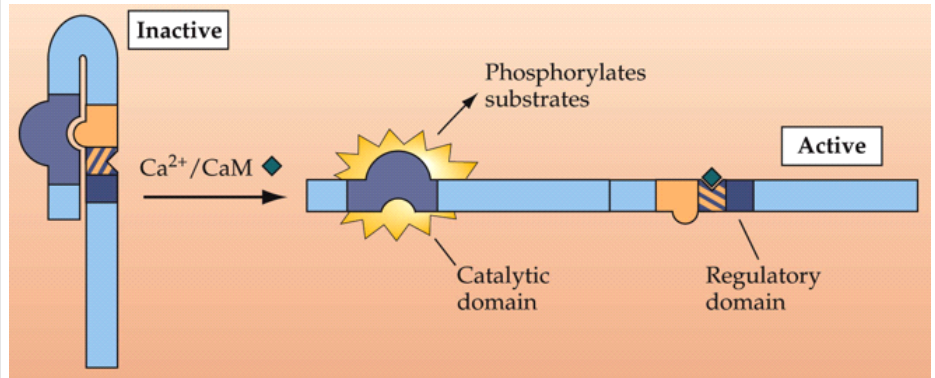
PKA active - Bound to cAMP, the regulatory domain changes conformation, the catalytic domains is free to act in the cell

Example of action - Regulate transcription factors(5% of transcription factors are activated by PKA)

Involved in learning (activation of 'learning' genes in neurons)

Describe the process of CAM-kinase activation.

**Mechanism of CAM-kinase activation**

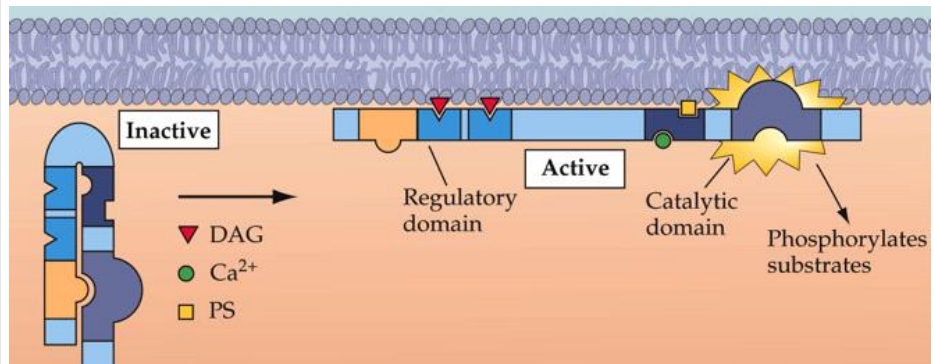


Inactive state - Catalytic domain is silenced by regulatory domain - Same protein

Calmodulin, when activated by calcium, binds to regulatory domain - Changes protein conformation

Describe the process of PKC activation.

**Mechanism of PKC activation**



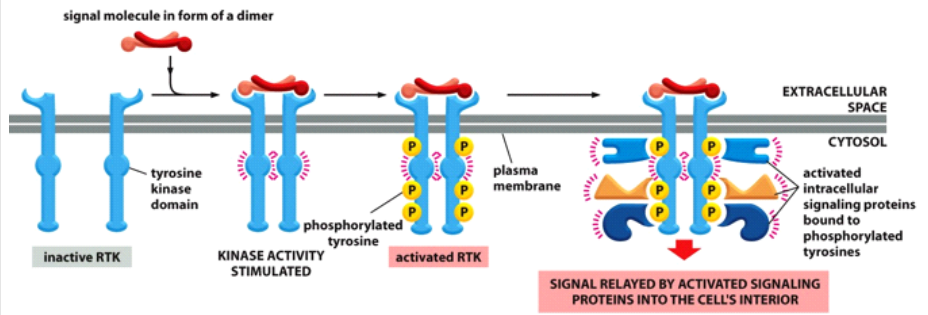
Combination of DAG (diacylglycerol), calcium and



PS(pseudosubstrate) change the conformation of the protein

Describe the process of RTK activation.

### Mechanism of tyrosine kinase receptor activation

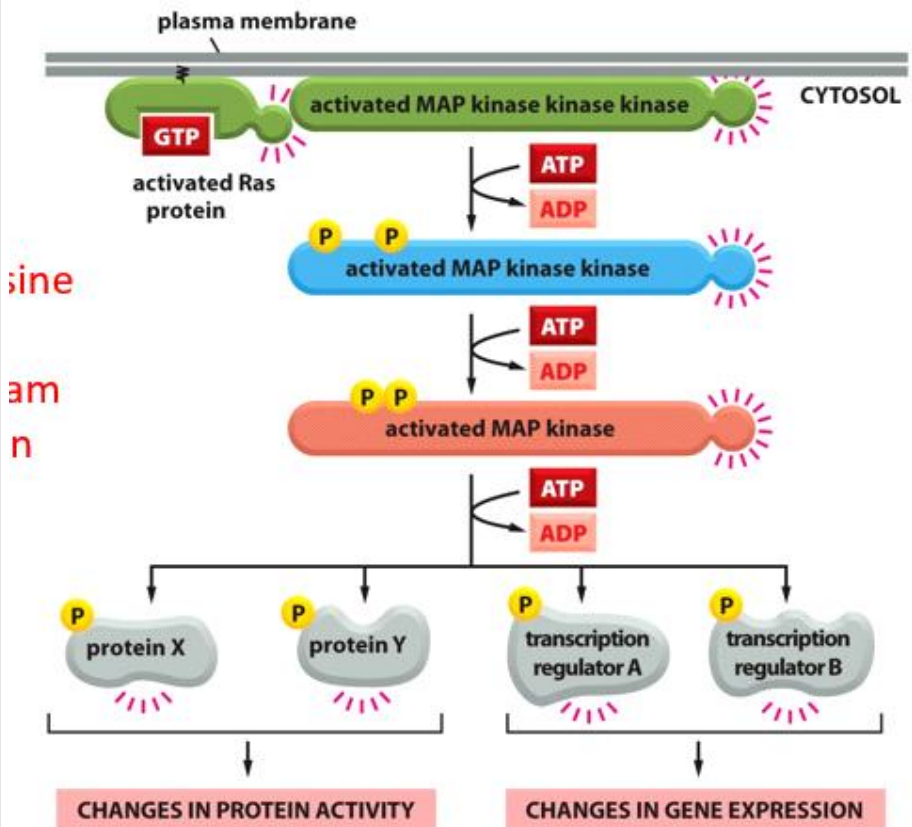


Transmembrane proteins - Separated when inactive  
 Signal molecule (e.g. growth factors) - Couple protein, activate catalytic domains -> phosphorylation at tyrosine amino acids  
 Attracts proteins and promotes a protein-protein interaction

Adaptor protein -> Ras-activating protein  
 Ras protein - Active when GTP is bound

Describe the general structure of the Ras pathway.

### Ras pathway

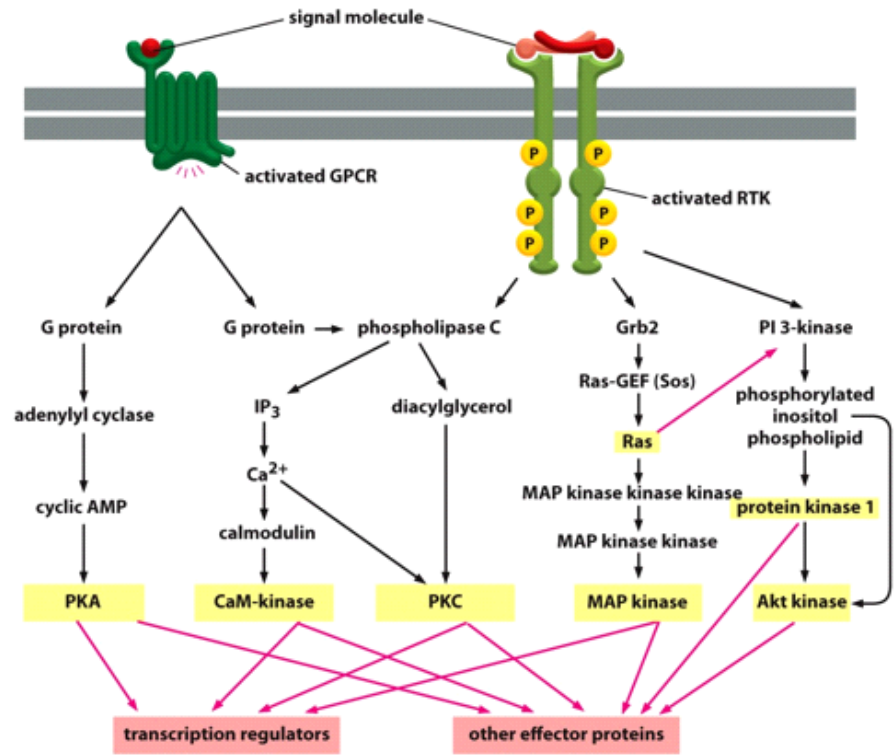


MAPKKK  
 MAPKK  
 MAPK  
 Activation of proteins and transcription factors



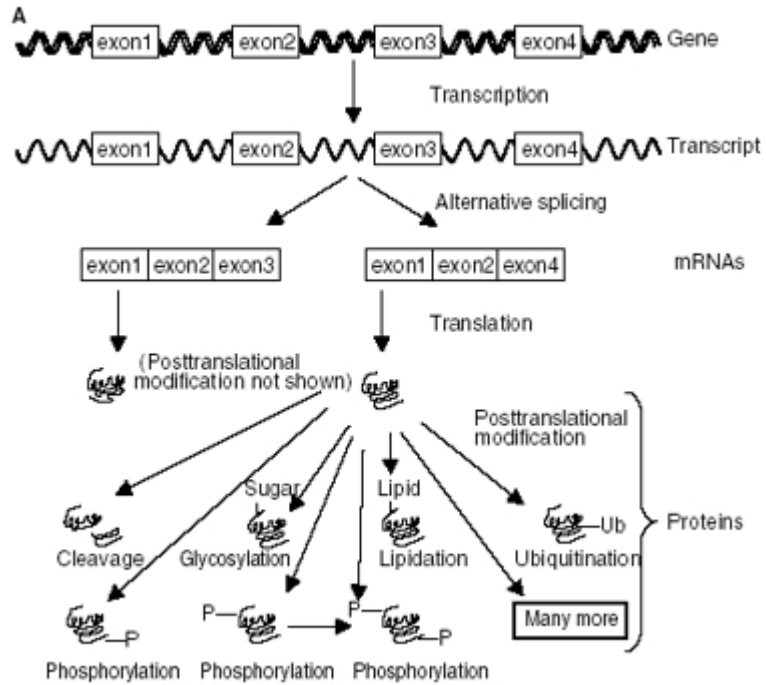
Promotes high divergence of signaling  
Mutations in this pathway is associated with certain types of cancer

### Integration of information in intracellular signaling



## 7. Proteomics - Methods to identify proteins and to understand their function

<p><b>What is a proteome?</b></p>	<p><b>What is a proteome?</b>          Catalog of all proteins expressed throughout life and under all conditions</p> <p>Sub-proteomes - Of cells or organelles          - Expressed at a given time and under specific conditions</p>
<p><b>What are the aims of proteomics and their practical applications?</b></p>	<p><b>Aims of proteomics</b>          Provide a catalog of all proteins present          Quantitative data - How much protein is expressed          To understand protein functions          How proteins interact and what they interact with (interactome)</p> <p><b>Practical applications</b>          Variance in protein expression between healthy and disease cells          Likely to reveal new drug targets - Clinical trials become more efficient</p>
<p><b>What is the main reason that proteomics is more difficult to study than transcriptomics?</b></p>	<p><b>Transcriptomics vs Proteomics</b>          Proteomics require 1000 - 3000 cells, transcriptomics require 1 cell          Transcriptomics has amplification steps - PCR!</p>
<p><b>What are the challenges of proteomics?</b></p>	<p><b>Challenges of proteomics</b>          Transcript splice variants create many different proteins - 25000 genes create 200.000 proteins</p> <p>Protein expression varies with age, health, tissue and stimuli from the environment</p> <p>Proteomics requires a broader range of technologies than transcriptomics</p>
<p><b>Why is the proteome complex?</b></p>	<p>Complexity of proteome - Splicing, post-translational modifications, phosphorylation changes protein function</p>



E.g. Calcitonin gene produces two different proteins through splicing; Insulin cleavage

**What are the three most important types of protein chemical modifications?**

**Types of chemical modifications**

- Phosphorylation - Activation
- Glycosylation - Cell-cell recognition, signaling
- Ubiquitination - Destruction signal

**How can proteins be separated from one another?**

**Separation of proteins**

Proteins have different physical properties - Size, charge (average of basic and acidic amino acids) and hydrophobicity

**Describe how a one-dimensional SDS-PAGE works.**

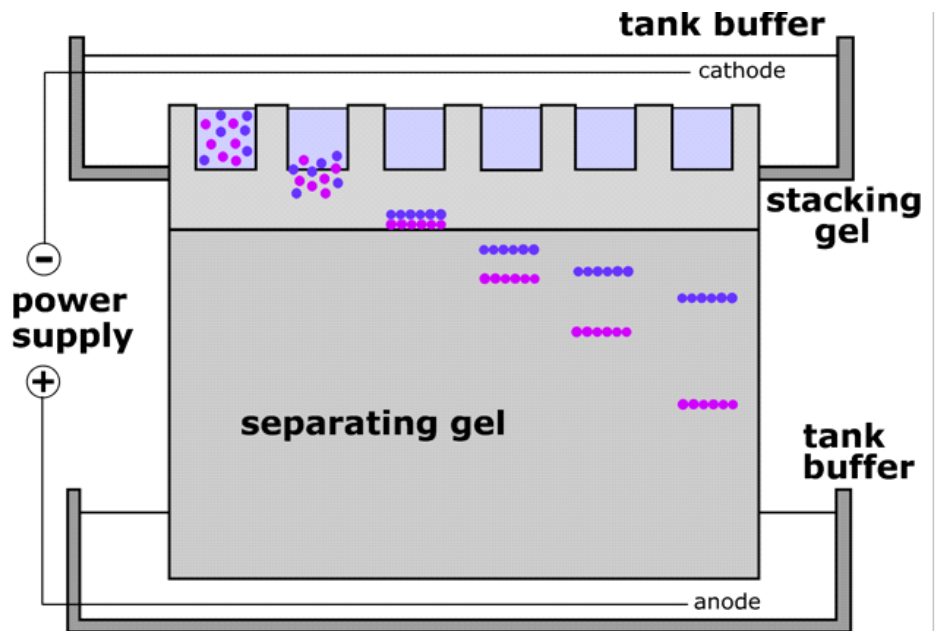
**Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis (PAGE)**

- Electrode - Proteins travel to the plus end (anode) of the electrode
- Porous gel - Small proteins travel faster than larger proteins

Gravity plays almost no role - Proteins move according to thermodynamic forces

Process:

- Denaturation - Unfolding is necessary because some proteins are more folded than others
- Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate (SDS) - Soap, binds and confers negative charge to proteins (charge becomes proportional to mass)
- You always run the gel with a known reference



Staining is proportional to the amount of protein quantity

**What is the difference between PAGE and protein electrophoresis?**

**Protein electrophoresis (non-denaturing conditions)**

No pretreatment of proteins before electrophoresis  
 Proteins retain their shape and charge - Separation is dependant on charge, size and shape of natural proteins

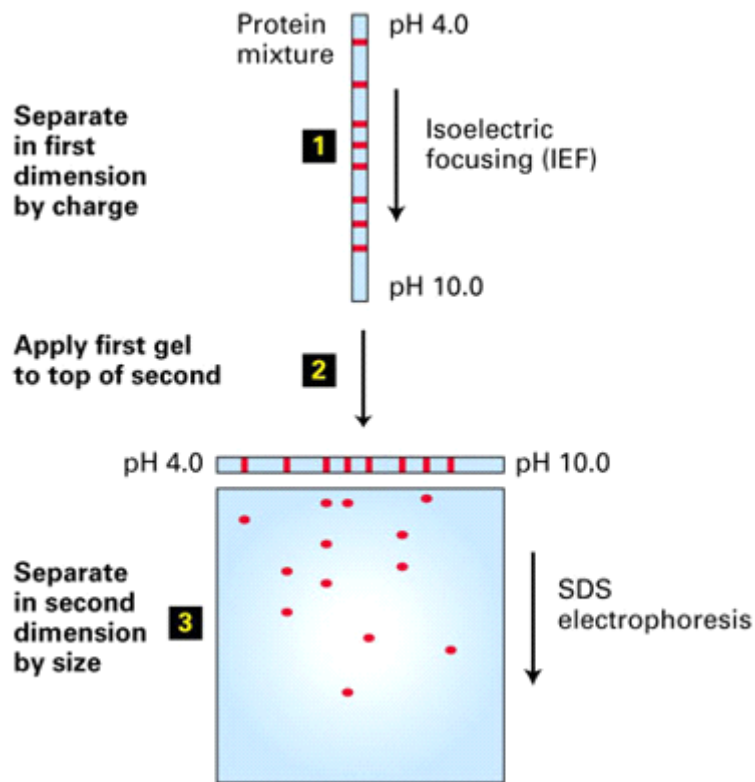
**Describe how a two dimensional SDS-PAGE works.**

**Two-dimensional PAGE**

Separates proteins from charge (number of protons changes according to pH) and mass

Process:

- Separate in first dimension by charge (pH difference)
- Apply first gel on top of second (soaked in SDS)
- Separate in second dimension by size (normal SDS electrophoresis)



Isoelectric focusing (IEF) - Proteins sit at the point of the gel in which the sum of its charge is zero

The more positive amino acids, the more negative in the gel it will go

Phosphorylation state - Proteins of same size but different charges (more phosphorylation, more to the right)



Left - Acidic

Right - Basic

Quantification by densitometry - Spot intensity (measured by pixel intensity)

Most proteins do not change expression - House keeping gene

Problems with 2D gels - Poor performance to large proteins, very small proteins, less abundant proteins, membrane-bound proteins (stay at a lipid environment - they bind with each other in an aqueous environment)

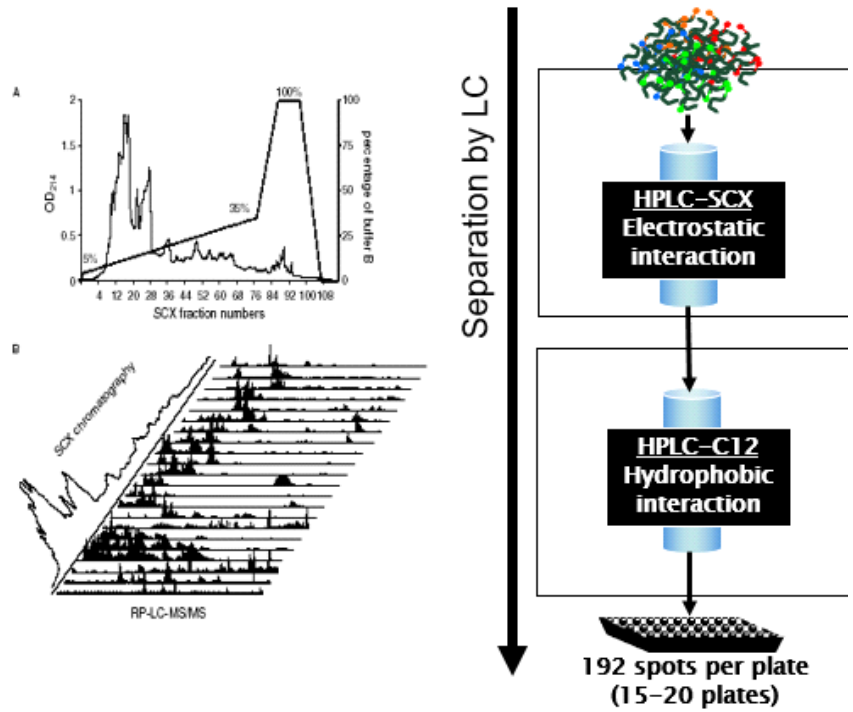
**Describe how 2D liquid chromatography works.**

**2D Liquid Chromatography**

First phase - Charge

Second phase - Hydrophobicity





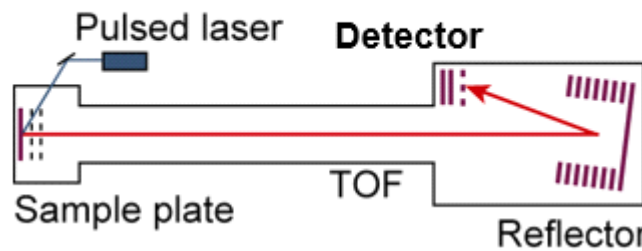
Matrix material in column - Proteins stick to the column at different rates, fluid change the environment  
 Fraction numbers - Different tubes that collect different peaks  
 Each tube is then separated by hydrophobicity

**Describe how a mass spectrometer works.**

**Detection and Identification of Proteins**

Mass spectrometry - Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2002  
 - Measures mass-to-charge ration  
 Components - Ion source, mass analyser, ion detector

Time of flight (TOF)  
*Time of Flight*



- Time for accelerated ion to reach detector indicates mass-to-charge ratio (the larger the protein, the longer it takes to reach the detector)
- Proteins are ionized - They only get one electron (native protein charges does not matter in vacuum)
- Vacuum - Prevents colisions of proteins with air molecules
- At a second step - A little nitrogen can be inserted into the tube of the mass spectrometer, so that the protein is broken into its peptides

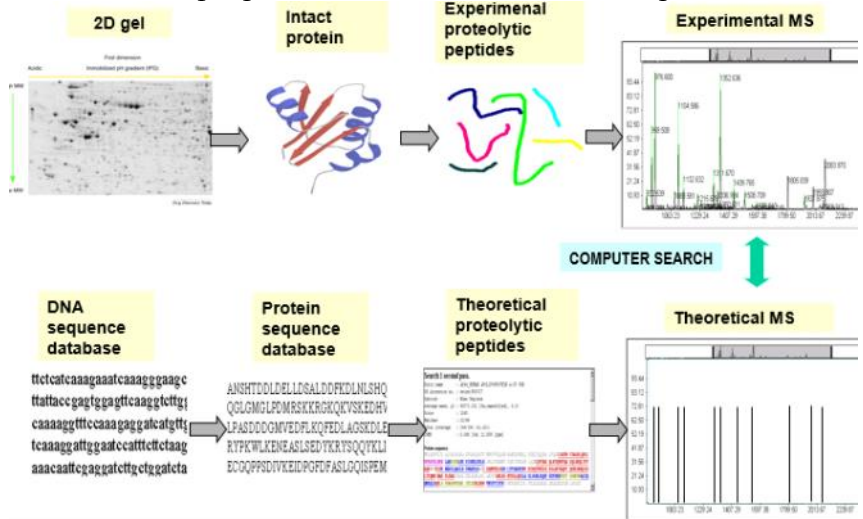
Peaks of different intensities

The peptides are not charged in the same way  
 Mass spectrometer is not useful for quantification

**How can you identify a protein if you know its mass?**

**How to identify proteins from their mass?**

Protein size is proportional to their amino acid sequence



You can predict the amino acid sequence from the DNA sequence - Theoretical proteolytic peptides  
 K or R - Cleavage of tripsin

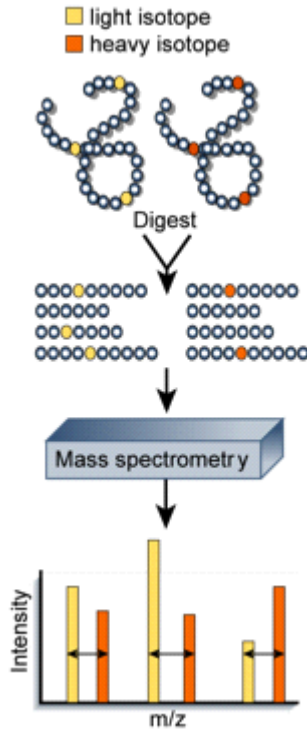
**Describe how stable isotope protein labeling works. What is its main shortcoming?**

**How to solve the problem of quantification?**

Labeling methods - Enzymatic, metabolic, via chemical reaction  
 Detect the relative abundance of labeled and non-labeled proteins measures in mass spectrum

Mass spectrometer does not detect light, only mass!  
 Create a system with small variation in mass

Stable isotope protein labeling  
 E.g. Carbon 12, 14 - Creates a double peak in the reading



The peptide is identical, the only change is the weight of carbon -> The ionization will be the same -> Allows the quantification of the signal of the same peptide

This experiment is problematic because you need to feed cells/animals C14 for a long time

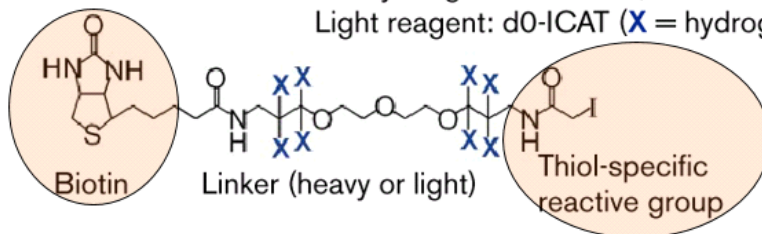
**Describe how isotope coded affinity tag works.**

Isotope Coded Affinity Tag (ICAT)

Label cysteine residues with light/heavy ICAT

**ICAT Reagents**

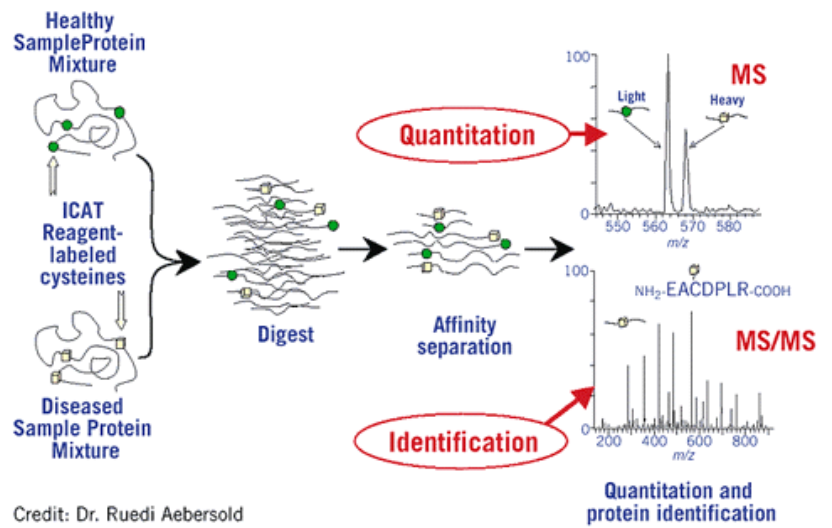
Heavy reagent: d8-ICAT (X = deuterium)  
 Light reagent: d0-ICAT (X = hydrogen)



Biotin - Binds to avidin protein (used to separate which proteins have the ICAT construct)

Thiol-specific reactive group - Binds to cysteine

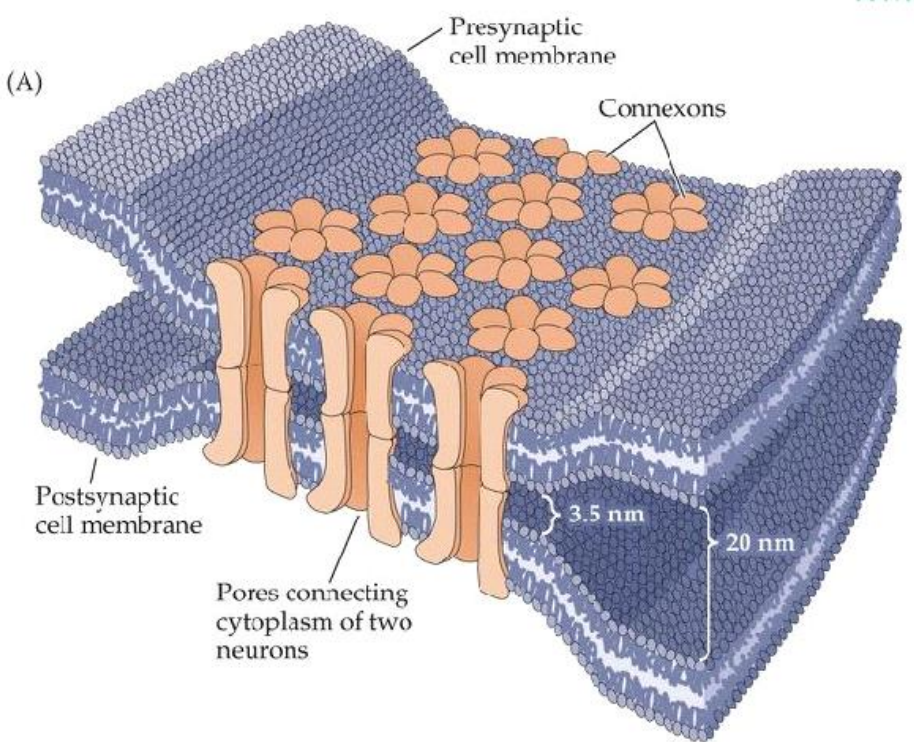
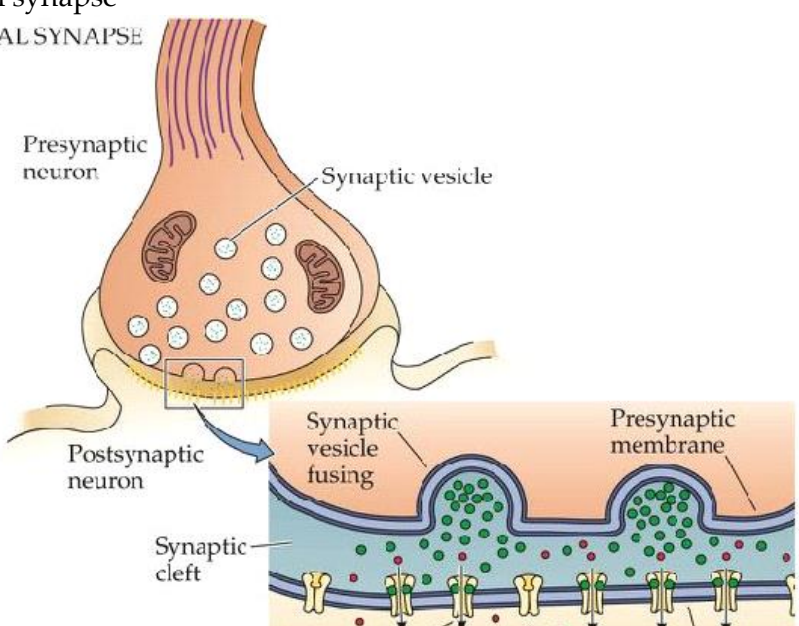
Linking chain - Can be light or heavy



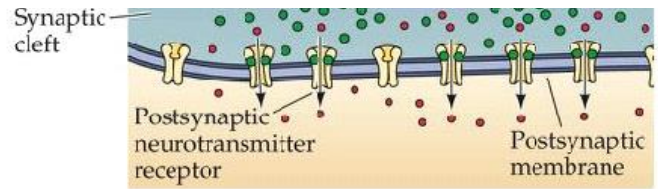
Digest proteins  
 Isolate ICAT containing peptides  
 Liquid chromatography separation  
 Mass spectrometry

Double peaks - Reagent with light heavy chain

## 8. Synapses (chap 5 Purves)

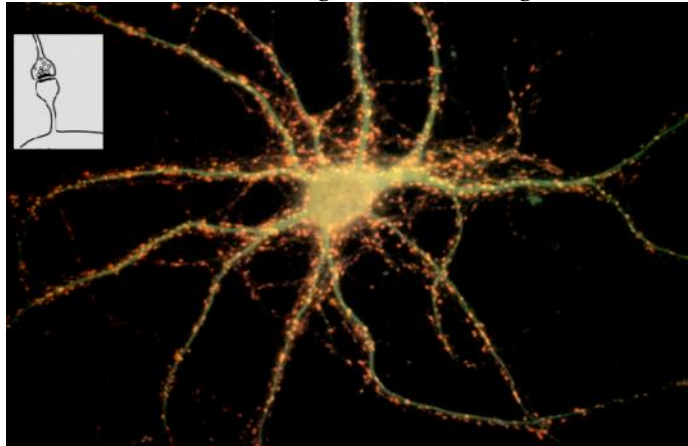
<p><b>Why are synapses important in the brain?</b></p>	<p>Synapses are involved in storing, retrieving and processing information from the outside world</p>
<p><b>What are gap junctions?</b></p> <p><b>Which protein is involved in gap junctions and how do they work?</b></p>	<p>Electrical synapse</p>  <p>(A)</p> <p>Presynaptic cell membrane</p> <p>Connexons</p> <p>Postsynaptic cell membrane</p> <p>Pores connecting cytoplasm of two neurons</p> <p>3.5 nm</p> <p>20 nm</p> <p>Gap junctions Connexons are channels, made by six connexins No modulation - A depolarization of presynaptic cells causes a depolarization of postsynaptic cells</p>
<p><b>What is the main difference between chemical and electrical synapses?</b></p>	<p>Chemical synapse</p> <p>CHEMICAL SYNAPSE</p>  <p>Presynaptic neuron</p> <p>Synaptic vesicle</p> <p>Postsynaptic neuron</p> <p>Synaptic vesicle fusing</p> <p>Presynaptic membrane</p> <p>Synaptic cleft</p>





Cells are not touching, they are separated by a space  
 Molecules are transmitted from presynaptic (fusing vesicles),  
 change conformation of receptors, open sodium channels, new  
 action potentials are made

Activation of a neuron depends on thousands of synaptic  
 transmissions (activating and deactivating the cell)



Describe how Pavlov's  
 dog experiment can be  
 described in a quantal  
 system?

Synaptic computation

Turn on and off - Quantal difference



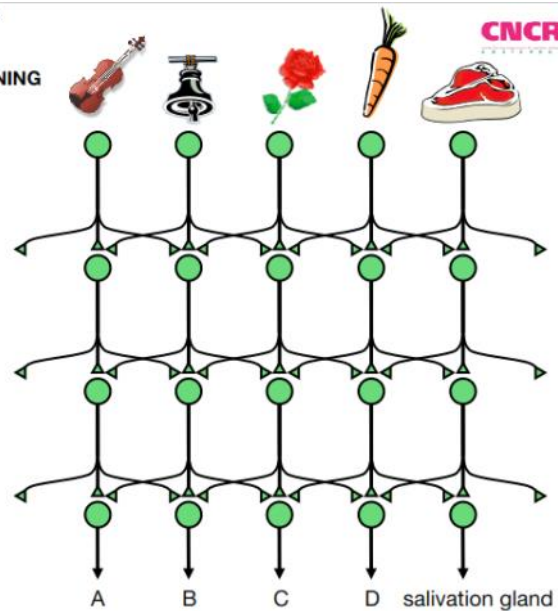
CLASSICAL CONDITIONING



Ivan Petrovich Pavlov



Pavlov's dog



Example: Pavlov's dog - Classical conditioning

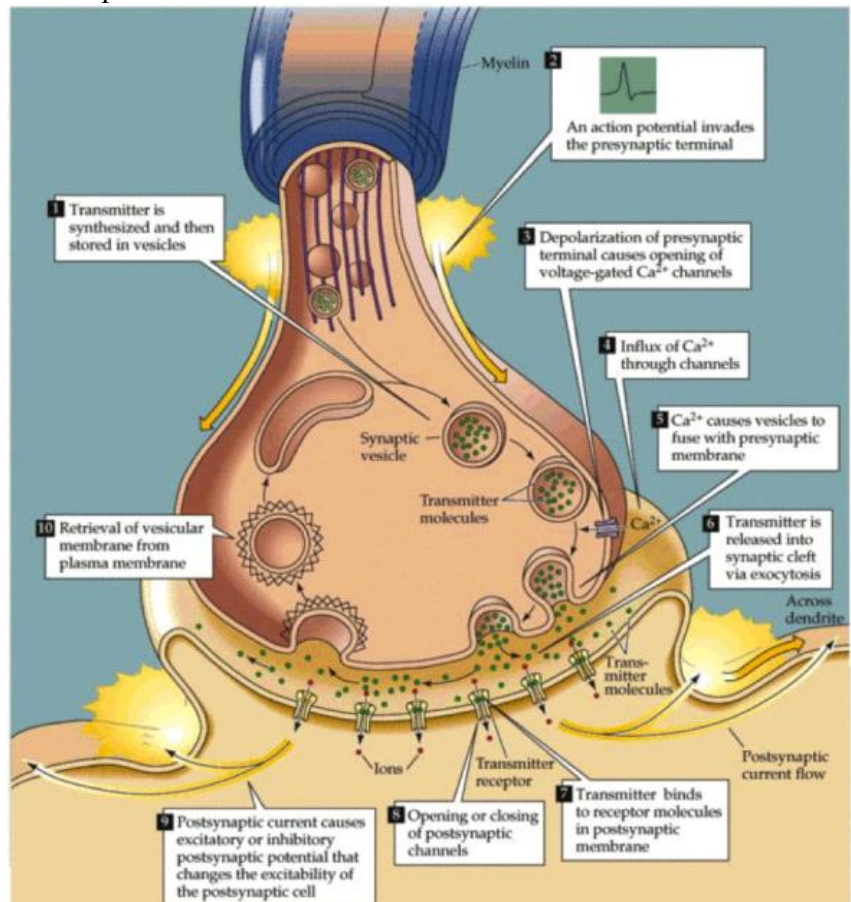
- Smells of food triggers salivation
- After conditioning, bell ring triggers salivation - Not in the genetic code
- Coincidence detection - Time is an important factor (a neuron needs to be active to associate memories)

- Underlying memory strengthening (?)

*Behaviour is overcoming inhibition*

**Describe the ten steps of how chemical synapses work.**

How do chemical synapses work?  
Neurotransmitter release  
Receptor binding  
Ion channels open or close  
Conductance change causes current flow (inhibition or excitation)  
Postsynaptic potential changes  
Postsynaptic cells excited or inhibited  
Action potential occurs or not

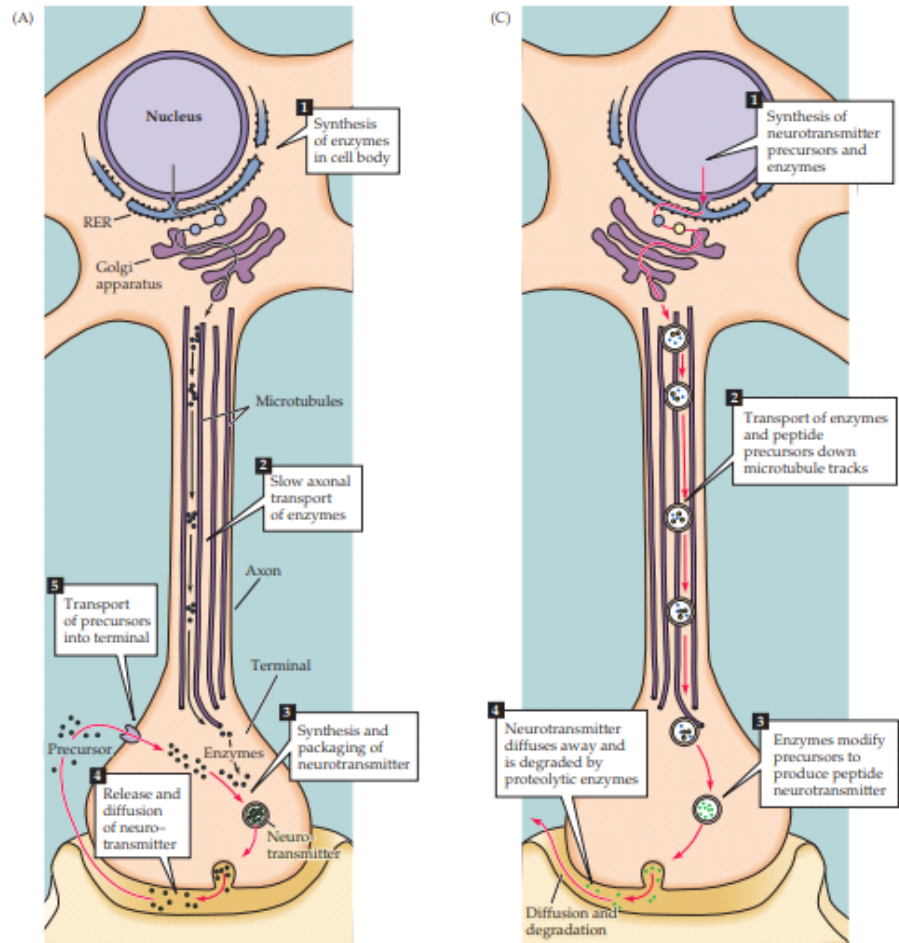


Memorize steps 1-10 for exam

4. Calcium is a universal signal for vesicle binding (influx of calcium occurs before cell depolarization)

10. Clathrin coats

What is the difference between small chemical transmitter and peptide transmitters in the process of transport?

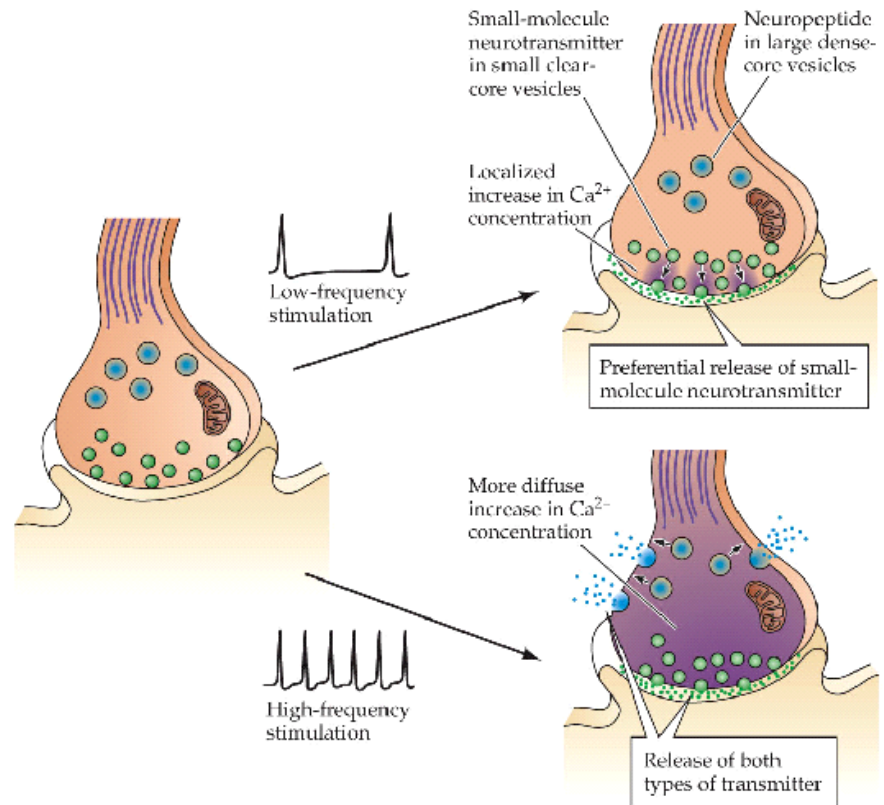


Small molecule transmitter - The axon is really far away from the soma; there is a local cycle of chemicals

Peptide transmitter - Does not have a local cycle, it is produced in the soma and transported to the axons

Dense core vesicles

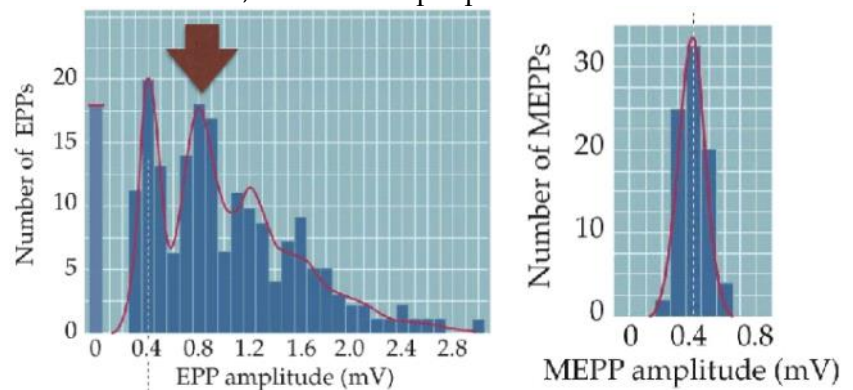
**What is the difference between small chemical transmitter and peptide transmitters in terms of calcium activation?**



Low frequency stimulation -> Small molecule neurotransmitter release  
 Increase in calcium remains localized  
 High frequency stimulation -> Small molecule and peptide neurotransmitter release  
 The entire terminal fills with calcium  
 This is the basis for LTP and LTD - The more often used, the more calcium a synapse will have

**How was a vesicle transmittion hypothesized even before the invention of microscopy?**

Electrode at a receiving cell (muscle fiber)  
 There are sub-threshold events - Suggested quantal neurotransmission, even before people saw a vesicle



Fourier transform - The amplitude of the signal suggests signal events over baseline  
 Bar chart of amplitude frequencies -> Does not look like a normal distribution  
 Peaks at 0.4, 0.8, 1.2 - Suggests that there was a quantal release of chemical signals  
 How can there be a 0.6 signal? Mix of different vesicle



release/the size of the vesicle is not the same all the time/Modulatory signals may alter the muscle excitation

What happens to the curve when the receiving muscle cell becomes more sensitive?

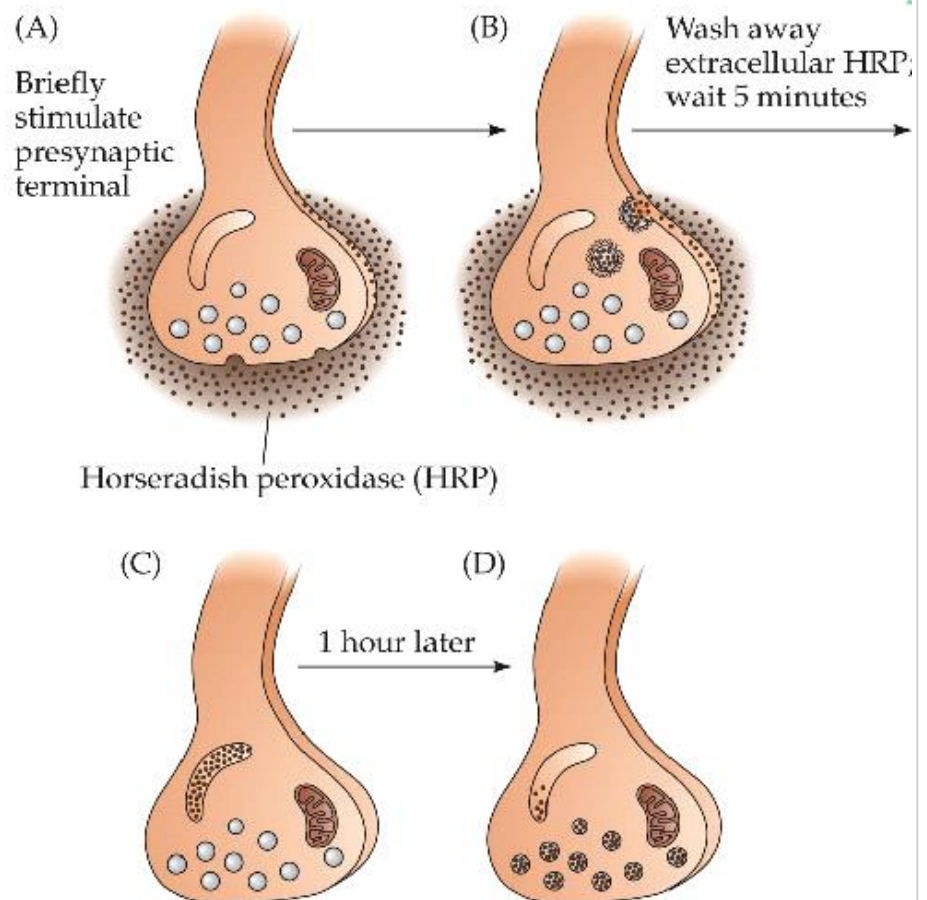
- Curve is maintained over a wider range of amplitude
- There is still a skew to the right, since this is a property of the presynaptic cell

What happens to the curve if the presynaptic side becomes more efficient?

- 0 events decreases
- Higher peaks in 0.4 multiples (because there are more vesicles being released)

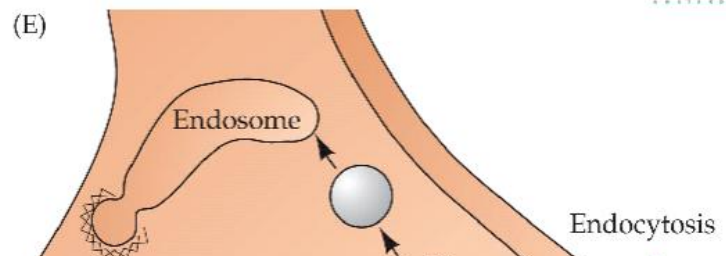
**What was the experiment that describe endocytosis?**

Horseradish peroxidase (HRP) - extracellular marker is taken into the cell and can be observed after washing



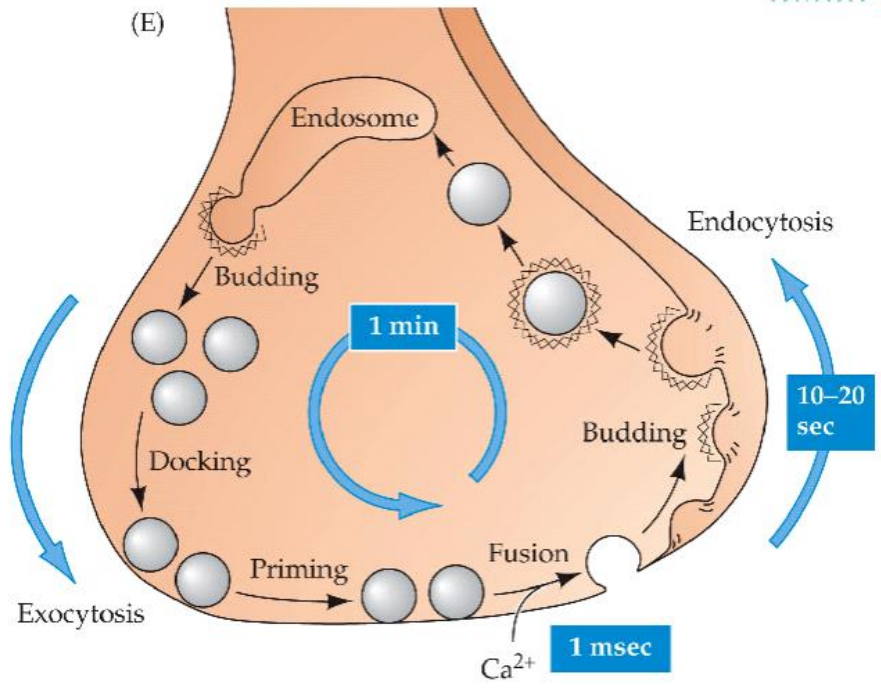
**In chemical synapses, which processes are faster and which are slower?**

Different cycles - some take minutes, some take milliseconds



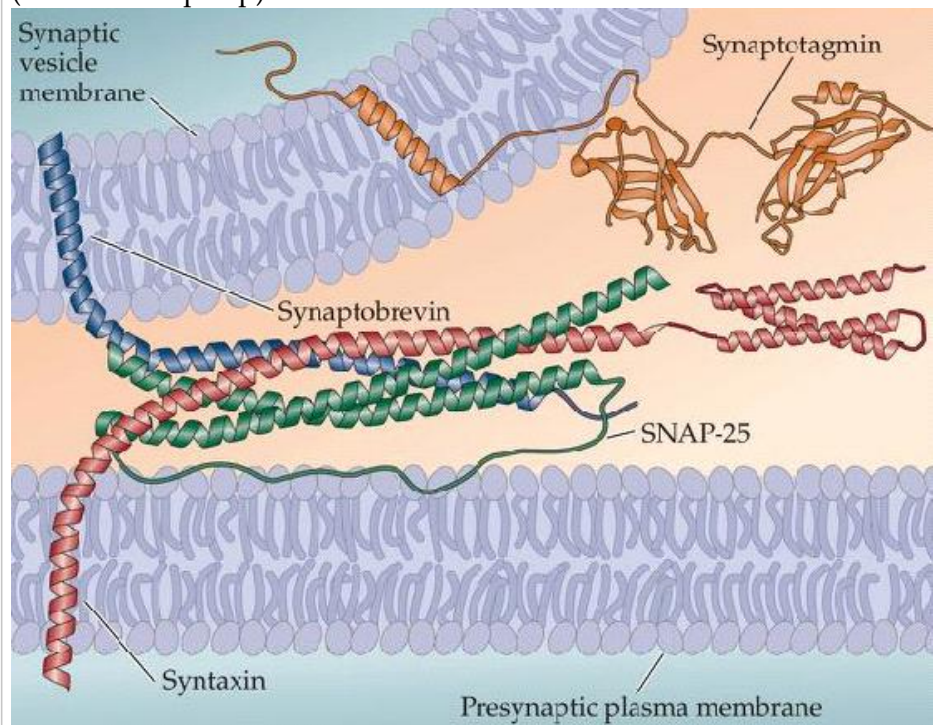


which processes are faster and which are slower?



Describe which main proteins are involved in the process of vesicle docking.

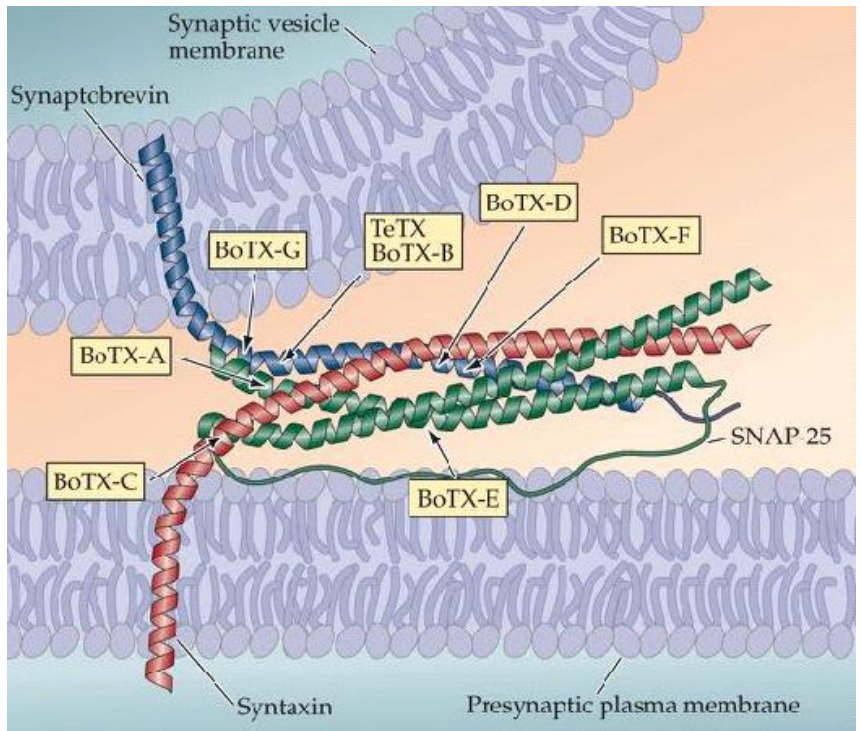
Synaptic fusion - Hydrophobic amino acids interact with each other (coiled coil zips up)



- Syntaxin (through the membrane)
- Synaptobrevin (through the vesicle)
- SNAP-25 (at the membrane)
- Synaptotagmin - Calcium sensor that triggers fusion

4 helices are involved in the fusion

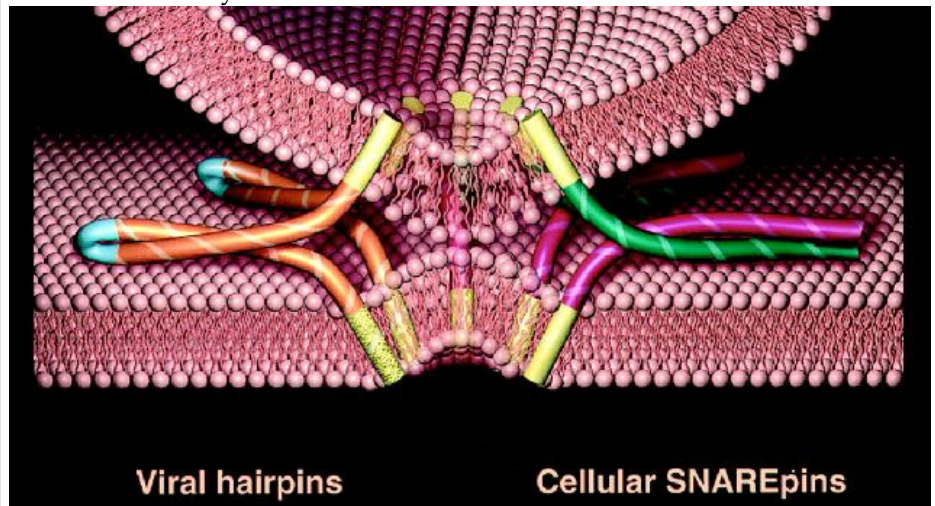
How do we know it? Botulin toxin acts in different parts of the process (inhibits chemical transmission)



BoTX-C - Botox

**What does the similarity between viral hairpins and mammalian SNARE pins imply?**

Virus has a single molecule that binds and pulls it through the membrane - Very similar to the mammalian mechanism



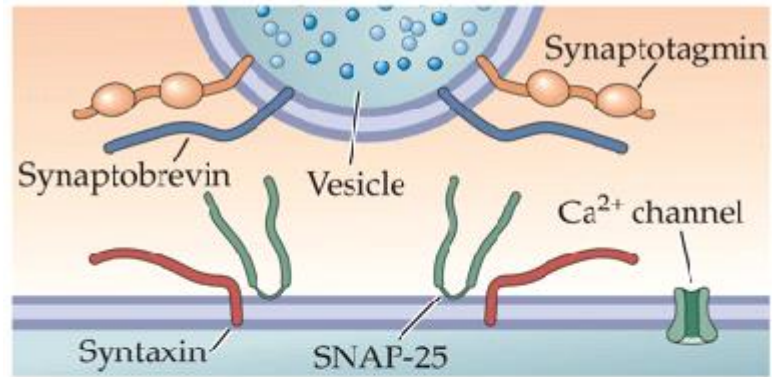
Deletion probably happen in the mammalian DNA -> mammalian mechanism has two separate proteins

**Describe the process by which vesicles bind to**

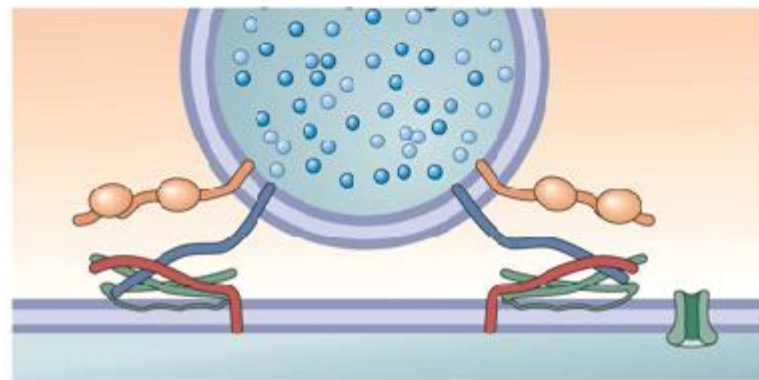
1. Vesicle docks
2. SNARE complex - Zipper

the neuronal membrane.

(1) Vesicle docks



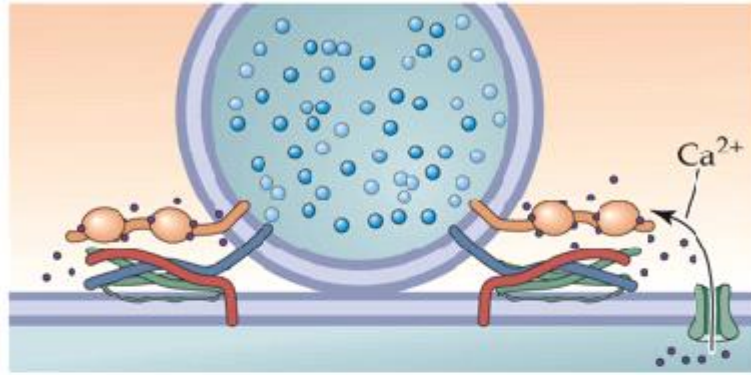
(2) SNARE complexes form to pull membranes together



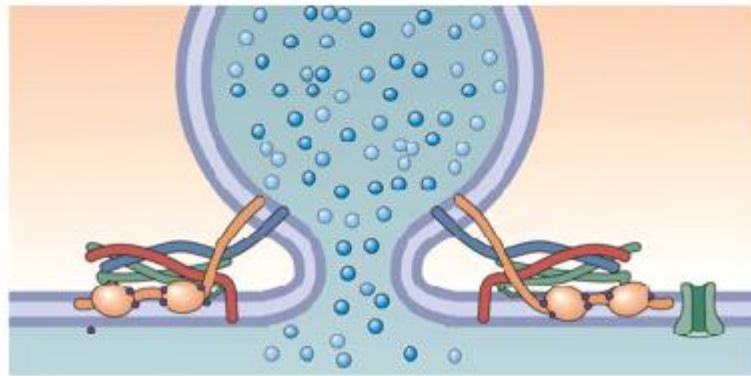
3. Calcium binds to synaptotagmin, which buries itself in the membrane (higher affinity for lipids -> hydrophobic amino acids are revealed)



(3) Entering  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  binds to synaptotagmin



(4)  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -bound synaptotagmin catalyzes membrane fusion

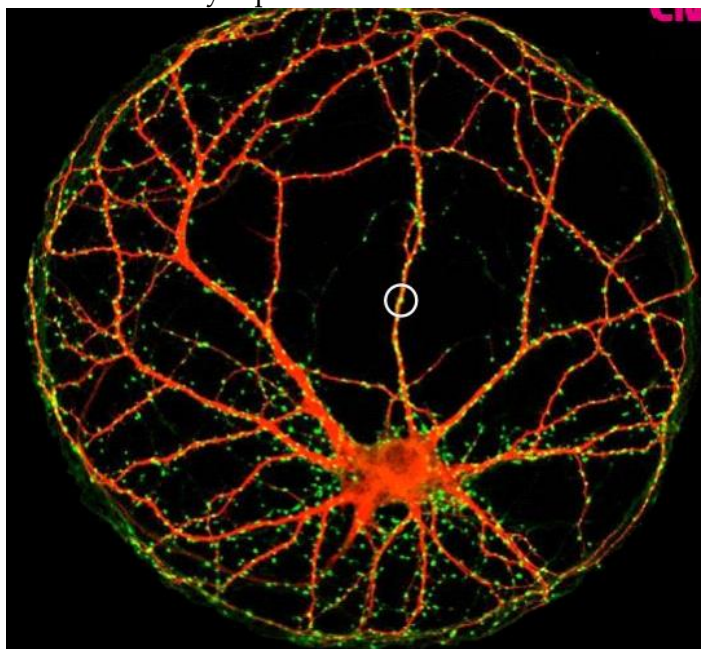


**What is an autaptic neuron?**

Main models to study secretion

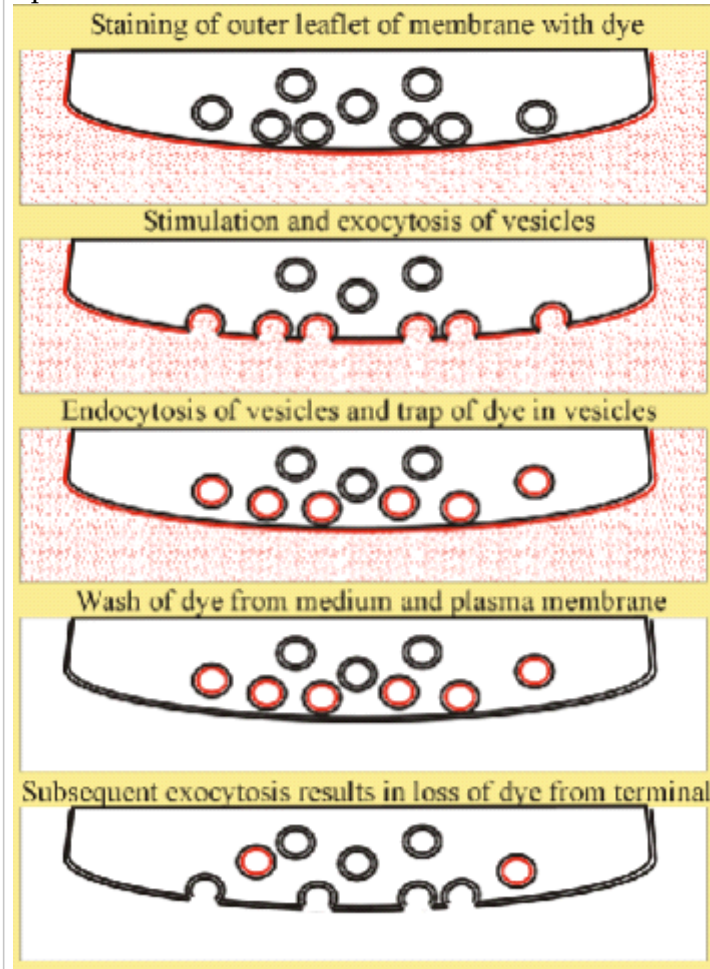
Cultured neurons (mouse or humans) - Only dissection materials from a surgery can be used for culture

Autaptic neurons - Single neuron grown with glial cells, and that synapse with itself



**How does an FM dye work?**

FM dyes - Lipophilic molecules that become red when they are in lipids



**How does calcium caging work?**

Calyx of Held - Presynaptic neuron encapsulates the post synaptic neuron

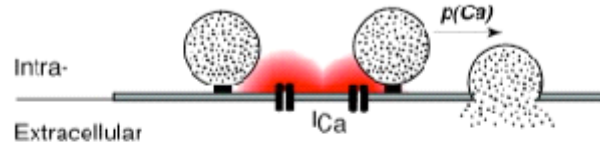
Allow many release sites to be made

Calcium is bound to cage - Inactive

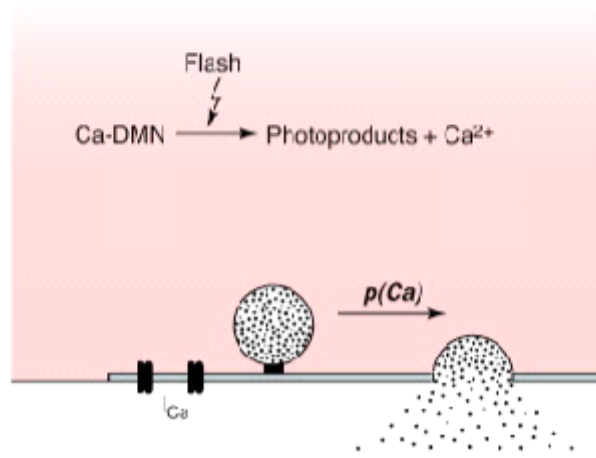
When you flash a light, cage releases calcium -> Induces vesicle binding



(a) 'Local'  $[Ca^{2+}]$ , signal:



(b)  $Ca^{2+}$  uncaging:

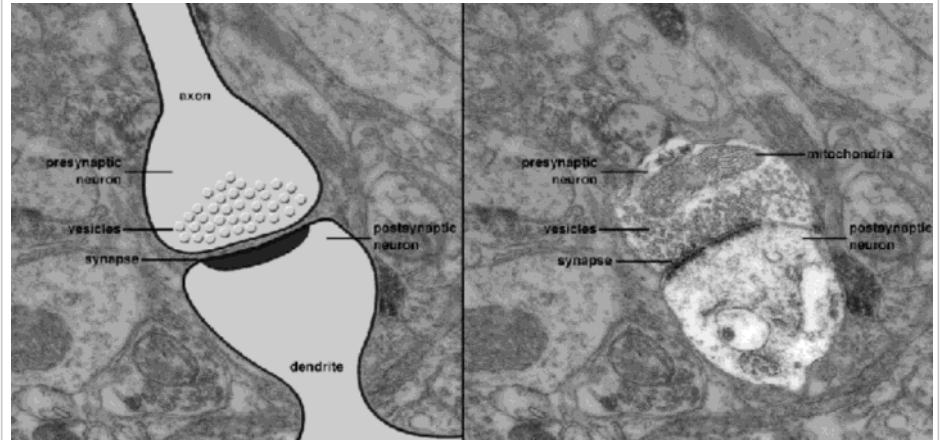


Bypasses a lot of the uncertainty of the process

## 8b. SynBio2: Chemical synapses

**Why is it often difficult to observe a synapse under the microscope?**

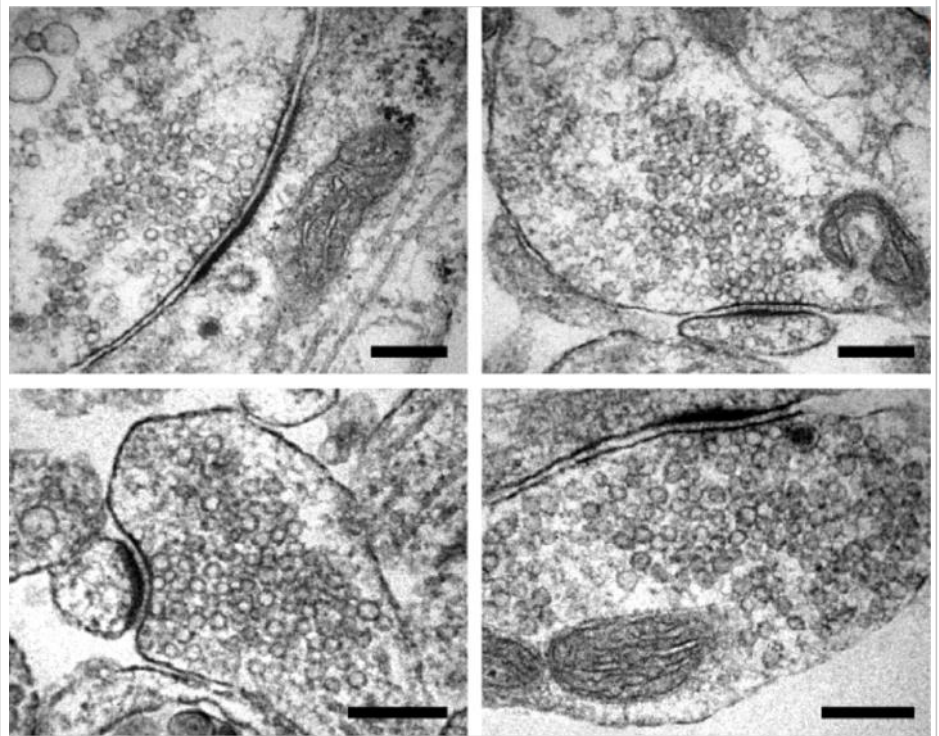
Real reference

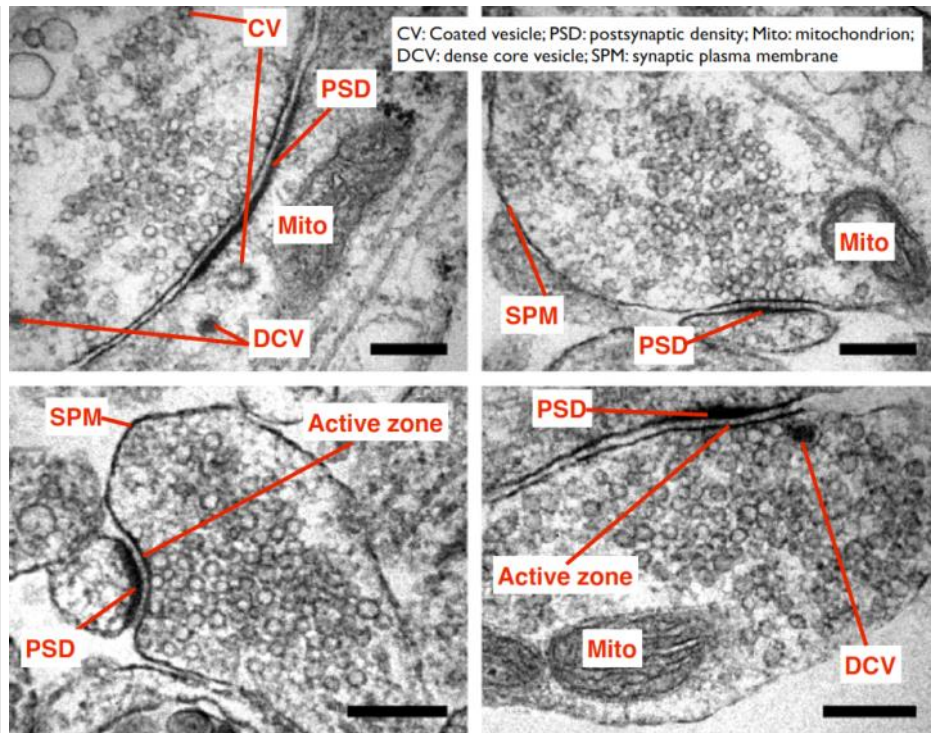


Normally this is more difficult to observe - Nerves are normally not oriented with the cut that was made

Test yourself with the following image. Try to identify

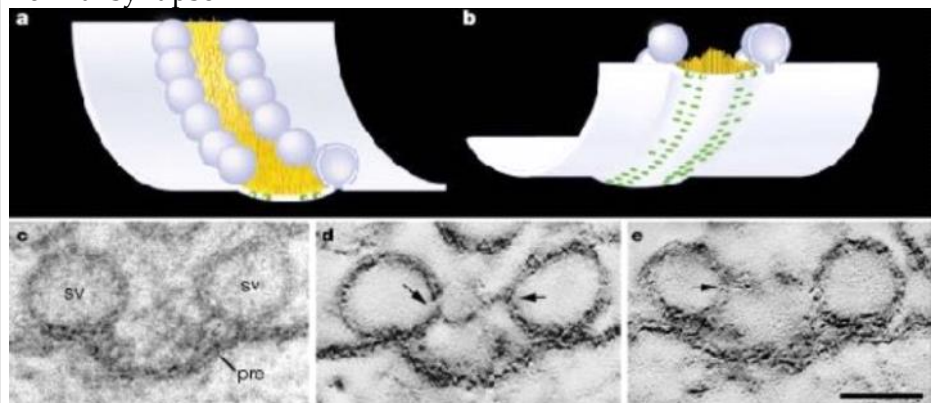
- CV - coated vesicle
- PSD - Post synaptic density
- DCV - Dense core vesicle
- SPM - Plasma membrane





**Why is a neuromuscular junction more reliable than interneurons in the CNS? Why is that important?**

Neuromuscular junction - Organization is more complex than a normal synapse



Multiple release sites - Often more than 20

Element of robustness - If one or two vesicles do not fuse, the muscle is still able to contract

This occurs because signals for muscle contraction need to be reliable 100% of the time - for the animal's survival!

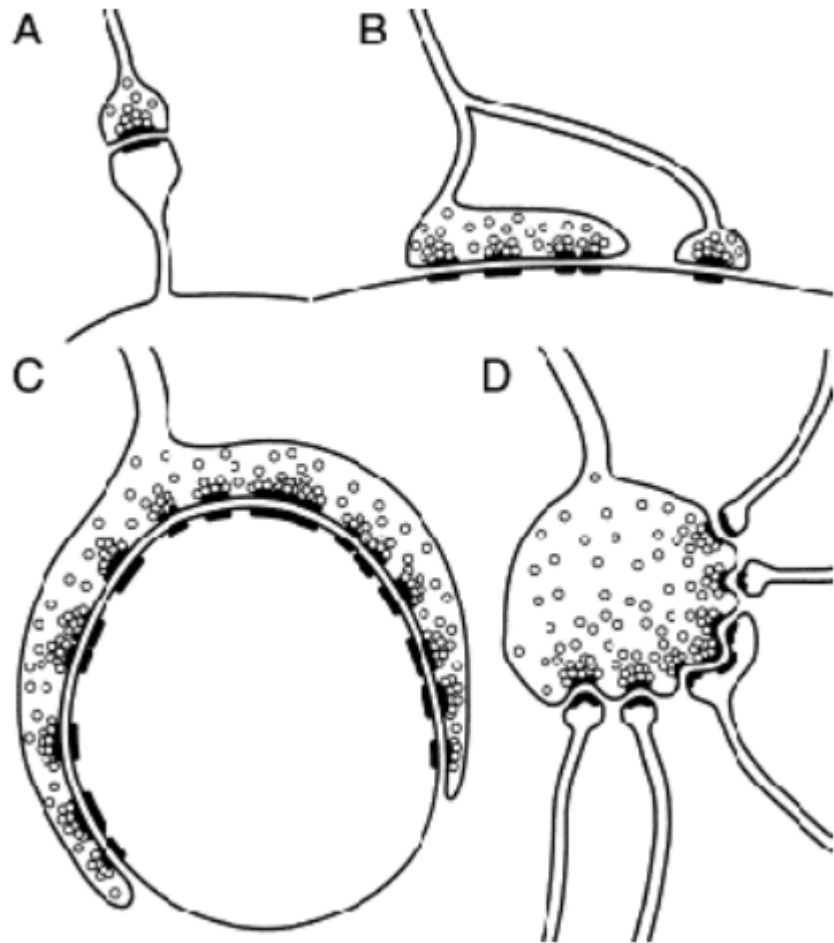
Endosome - Vesicles bud off from here

There are six clathrin molecules per vesicle

**Describe four different types of neurons and define how much they**

Differences in release probability of different synapses play an important role of the brain's ability to process information and retrieve it

are reliable?

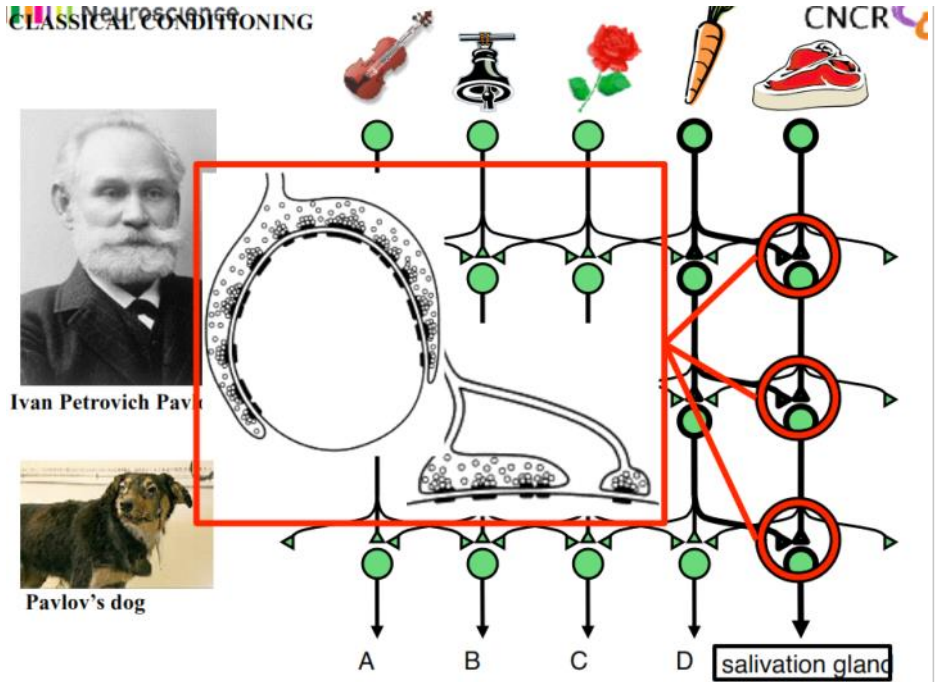


More reliable - C>B>D>A

- The more release sites, the more reliable
- Often related to genetically sent and evolutionary important behaviour
- The less reliable, the lesser probability of vesicle release after action potential

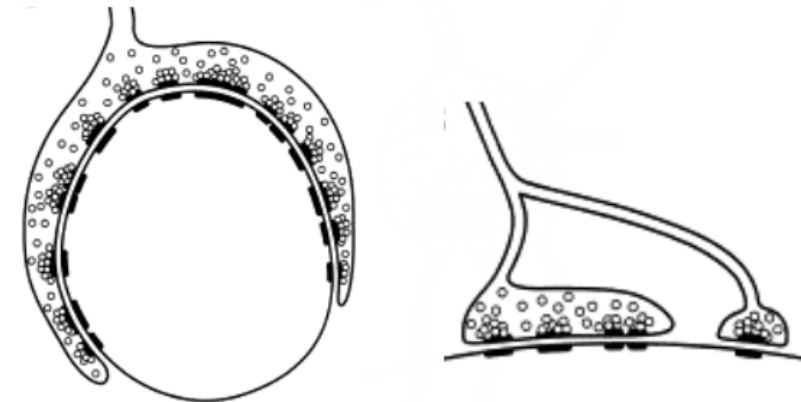
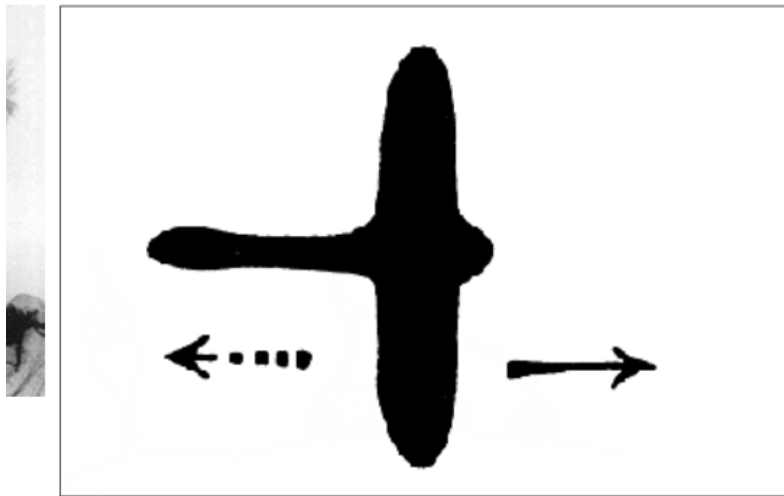
**Which type of synapse would a genetically encoded signal have?**

Certain connections are inherited -> Encoded by DNA  
A dog will salivate from the smell of food - Synapses are reliable ones (calix of Held and neuromuscular junctions)



Dutch Nobel Prize - Baby geese behaviour in feeding and danger

- Baby geese open their mouth when they see their mothers
- Drawings were enough to trigger a response
- Left to right -> Looks like mother (long neck) -> Feeding response
- Right to left -> Looks like predator (short neck) -> Fear response
- o Humans also have many hard wired behaviour

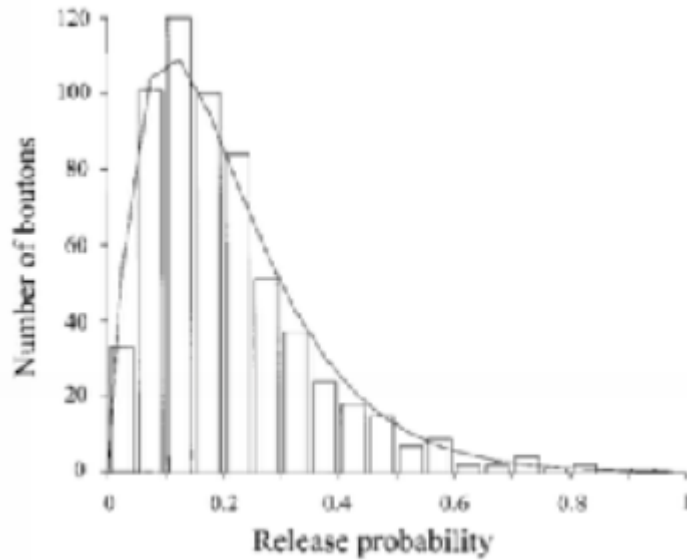




**Why is the synapse 'unreliable'?**

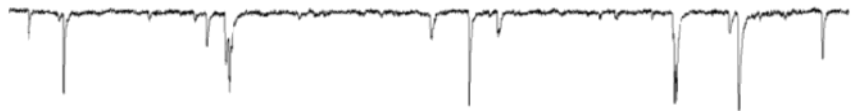
The unreliable synapse

Synapses have a stochastic release probability - Only one in five (0.2) action potential will cause a release of neurotransmitters



Small synapses have very few vesicles docked and ready to be released

In the absence of stimulation, there is also a basal level of activation

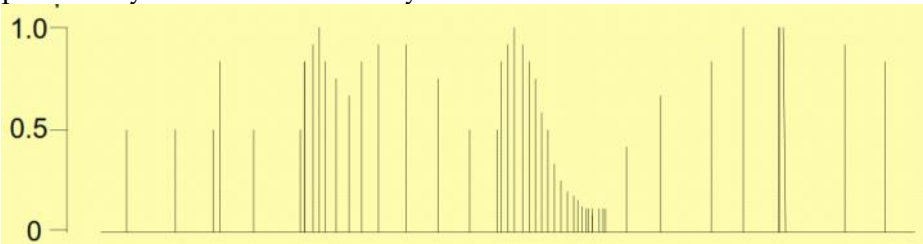


The neurons are always receiving excitatory and inhibitory inputs -> The postsynaptic neurons do not necessarily fire when the presynaptic neuron is activated!

Muscle activation is more reliable than CNS interneurons!

**Describe what happens to the presynaptic neurons if two action potentials occur in close succession.**

If two action potentials occurs in close succession, the release probability increases immensely



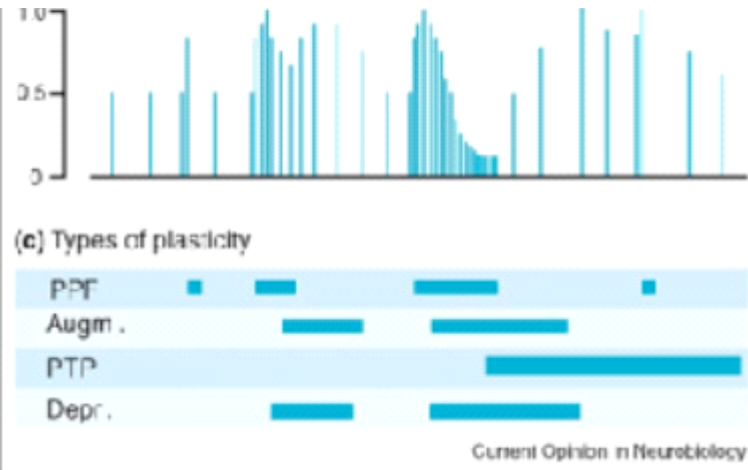
If the constant stimulation persists, the release probability goes down - due to the limited supply of vesicles  
 If you excite the neuron again after this overstimulation, the release probability increases again - vesicle recruitment  
 Post-titanic potentiation - Short term potentiation, takes milliseconds

**Describe a) Paired pulse facilitation**

Types of plasticity (presynaptic)

(b) Release probability  
 p

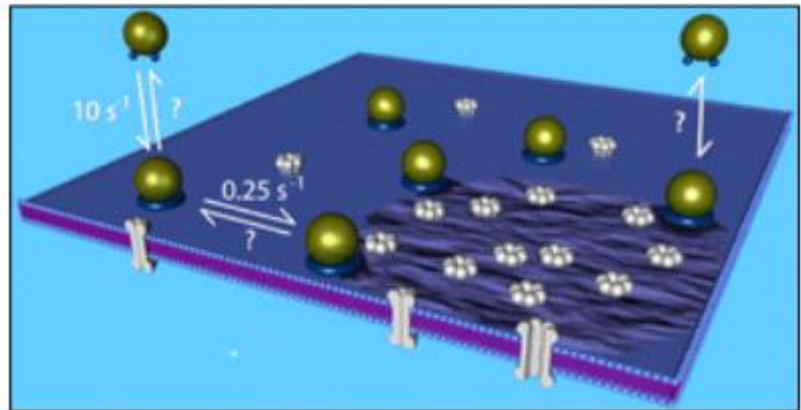
- b) Augmentation
- c) Post-titanic potentiation
- d) Depression



Paired pulse facilitation - Two concurrent stimuli cause a higher release probability  
 Augmentation - Shorter lasting than PTP, the release probability goes down faster  
 PTP - Post-titanic potentiation - After intense activation, a long change in release probability happens  
 Depression - Due to the lack of vesicle release

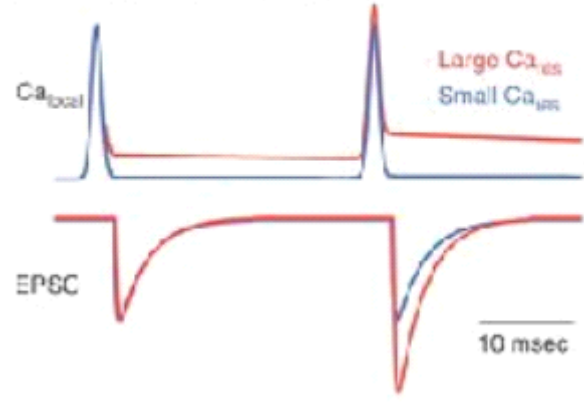
**What is the molecular process that underlies paired pulse facilitation?**

Paired pulse facilitation  
 Vesicle with calcium ions are close to the membrane  
 Calcium channels are not randomly distributed - they are localized in the presynaptic membrane





The calcium is diffused in the synapse when it is not activated  
 When two pulses occurs at the same time - The local calcium concentration is higher for a longer period of time - increased chance of binding to synaptotagmin and vesicle release

**A** Residual calcium hypothesis

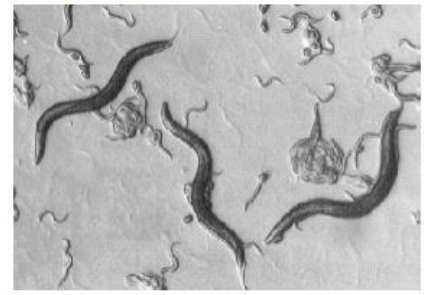


# 9b. Models and Methodologies - Drosophila

	<p>Flybase: Genome of Drosophila is fully mapped and available online</p> <p>Two Nobel prizes: Principles of translocation (1925) - Certain traits are more likely to occur together (unit: morgan)</p>															
<p><b>What are transposons?</b></p> <p><b>How can transposons be used as a genetic tool?</b></p>	<p>Transposons as a tool</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Transposon: <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span></p> <p><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span></p> <p>↓</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>ACGATCACGATATATTTTCAGATCA <b>ATGCA</b> TCGAGTACATATCATTTCGCATA</p> <p>TGCTAGTGCATATATAAAGTCTAGT <b>TACGT</b> AGCTCATGTATAGTAAAAGCGTAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Target site <span style="float: right;">Host DNA</span></p> </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">ATCAT</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>ATGCA</b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>ATGCA</b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">ATCGA</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">TAGTA</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>TACGT</b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span></td> <td style="padding: 2px;"><b>TACGT</b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">TAGCT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Target repeat</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Inverted repeat</td> <td style="padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Inverted repeat</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">Target repeat</td> </tr> </table> </div> <p>Small piece of DNA that codes a single gene Can insert itself into host DNA</p> <p>Less commonly successful in eukaryotes - DNA is not accessible (histones)</p> <p>Transposase protein:          Binds to transposon DNA          Excises transposon from host genome (precise/imprecise)              Can cause problems if it loses 1 or 2 nucleotides (changes reading frame)          Induces integration into novel site</p> </div>	ATCAT	<b>ATGCA</b>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span>	<b>ATGCA</b>	ATCGA	TAGTA	<b>TACGT</b>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span>	<b>TACGT</b>	TAGCT	Target repeat	Inverted repeat		Inverted repeat	Target repeat
ATCAT	<b>ATGCA</b>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span>	<b>ATGCA</b>	ATCGA												
TAGTA	<b>TACGT</b>	<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">123456789-transposase gene-987654321</span>	<b>TACGT</b>	TAGCT												
Target repeat	Inverted repeat		Inverted repeat	Target repeat												
<p><b>What is the important of transposons in evolution?</b></p>	<p>Transposons cause greater variability in the genetic material Explains the immense variability and our fast evolution (random mutations are too slow to explain it) A lot of our own genome can be recognized as transposons</p>															
<p><b>How can transposon be used in genetic screening?</b></p>	<p>Transposons as tools - Insert transposons into Drosophila genome</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Transposons as a tool</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>															

used in genetic screening?

### Transposons as a tool



Amp resistance gene

Origin of replication

Behavioural screens - See which genes are important for particular behaviour

A transposon will land itself in important genome regions - disrupting their functions

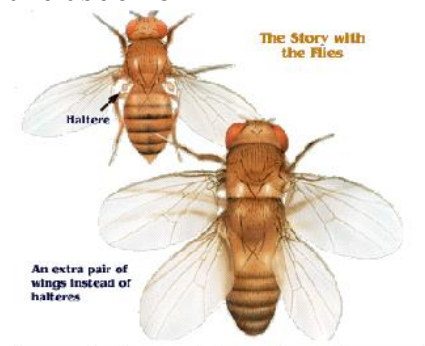
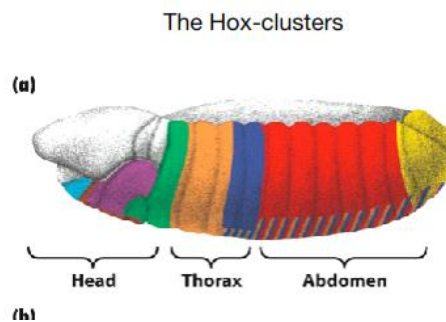
Transposase gene can be inactivated

Origin of replication - Bacterial replication that express a specific part of fly genome

Today it is cheaper to map the entire genome of the fly instead of using bacteria to produce enough DNA  
Ampiciline - Resistance marker

What are hox genes?

Hox-cluster - Division of head, thorax and abdomen



Give three examples of traits discovered in Forward behavioural screenings in fruitflies.

Forward behavioural screens

Period - Loss of sense of time

The gene encodes a transcription factor that periodically transcribes other genes

Fruitless - Loss of copulation impetus

Gene only expressed in males and involved in sexual differentiation

Dunce - Loss of odor discrimination

General enzyme present in every cell of the body



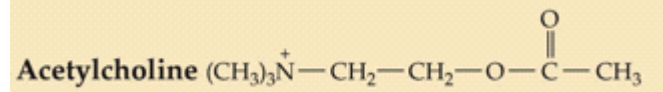
# 10. Neurotransmitters and their receptors (Chapter 6 Purves)

Why neurotransmitters tend to be small?

What are six examples of small molecule neurotransmitters?

Small molecule transmitters

Acetylcholine



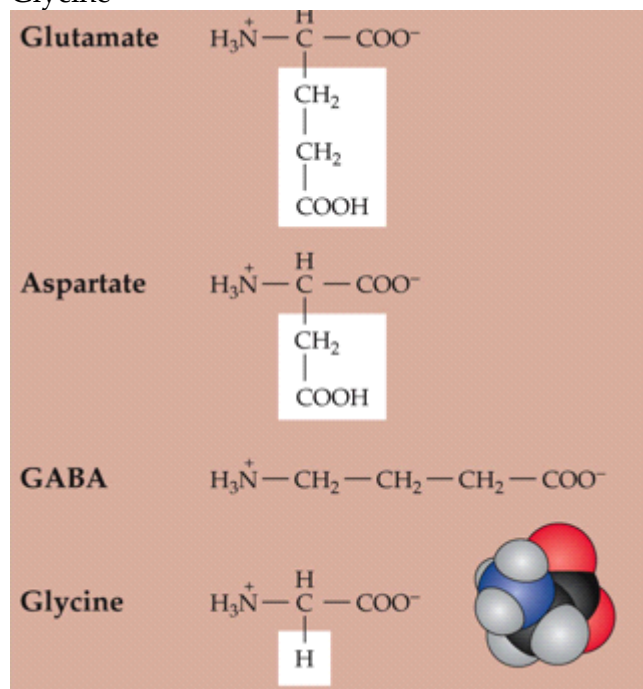
Amino acids:

Glutamate

Aspartate

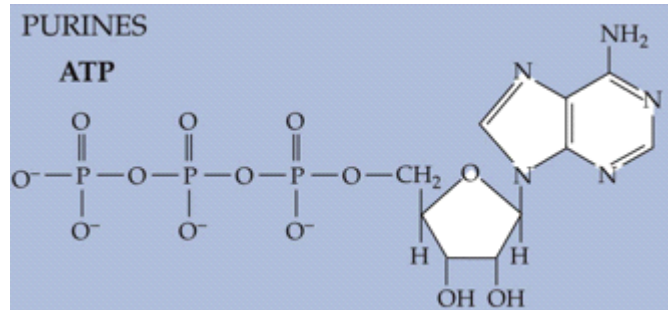
GABA (derivative of an amino acid)

Glycine



Nucleic acids:

ATP



Catecholamine

Dopamine

Norepinephrine

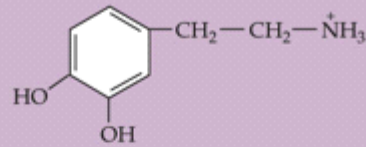
Epinephrine

**CATECHOLAMINES**

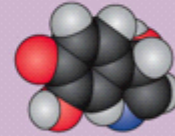
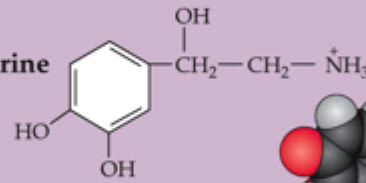


CATECHOLAMINES

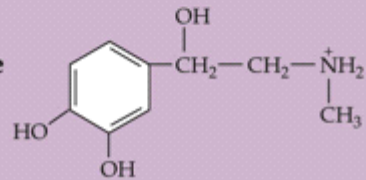
Dopamine



Norepinephrine



Epinephrine



Indoleamine - Derived from tryptophan  
Serotonin

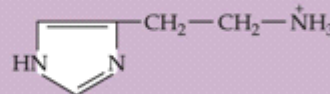
INDOLEAMINE



Imidazoleamine - Derived from histidine  
Histamine

IMIDAZOLEAMINE

Histamine



*Nucleic acids and acetylcholine came later in evolutionary history - since amino acids are already a building block of an organism*

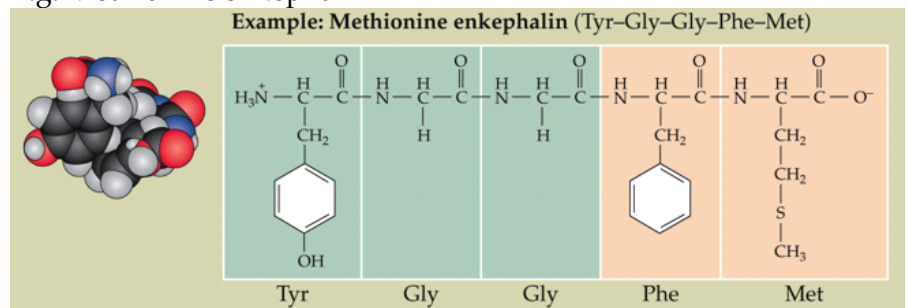
*Why small molecules?*

*Large molecules diffuse less; that is why neurotransmitters tend to be small - because they transmit information very fast!*

**What is the relationship between peptide neurotransmitter and evolutionary history of an organism?**

Peptide neurotransmitter - More than 100 peptides, usually 3-36 amino acids long

E.g. Methionine enkephalin

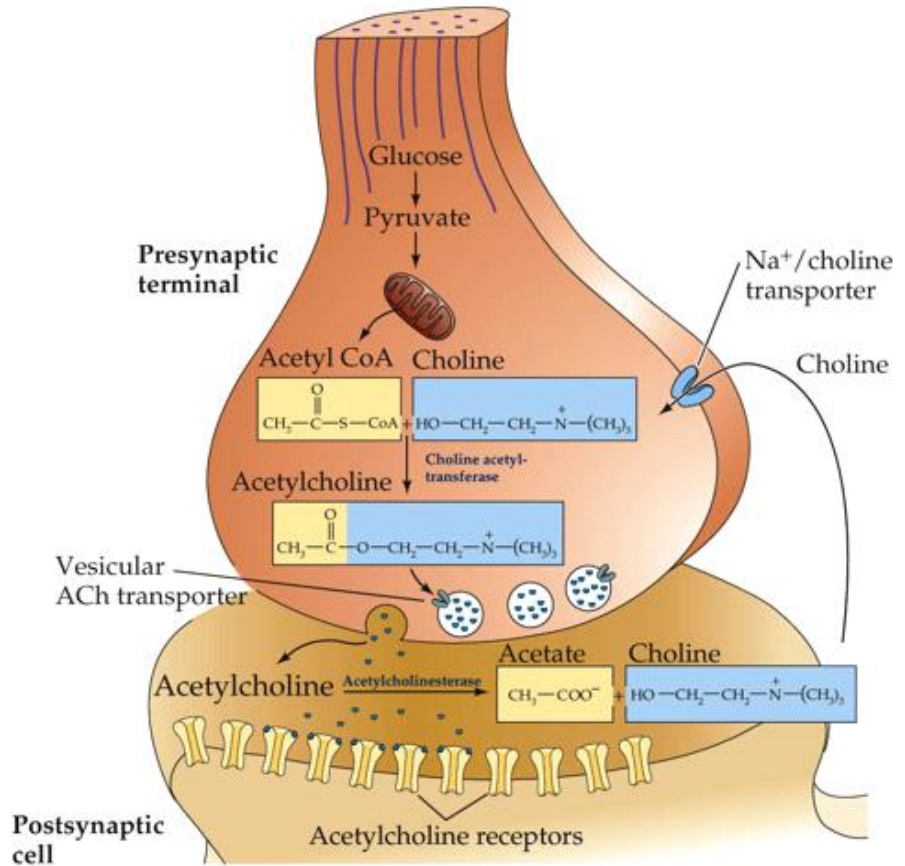


The simpler the organism, the more peptide neurotransmitters they have!

Which molecule is used to produce acetylcholine? Which organelle does it come from?

Which enzyme breaks down Ach in the synaptic terminal?

Acetylcholine metabolism in cholinergic nerve terminals



Acetyl-CoA - Derived from a metabolic byproduct in mitochondrias

Choline -> Acethylcholine via choline acetyl-transferase

Acethylcholine -> Acetate + choline in the synapse (breakdown is very fast, since you need to contract and relax your muscles very fast)

Acethylcholine is inactive but choline can act upon certain types of Ach receptors

Reuptake on choline by Na/choline transporter

Organic phosphates - Block acethylcholinesterase -> muscle cells cannot relax

Thousands of people die of organic phosphate poisoning

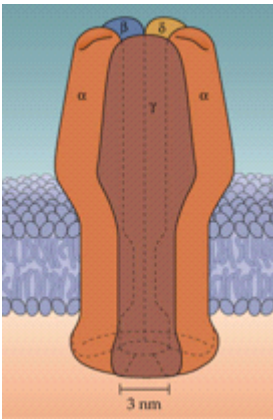
**Small chemical transmitter are always produced locally**

How many subunits does a Ach receptor have?

**Structure of Ach receptor**

5 subunits - Extracellular portion binds to acethylcholine (2 molecules need to bind to alpha subunits) -> allows passive diffusion of ions when it is active





What is the physiological advantages of having many different types of subunits for channels?

General architecture of ligand-gated receptors

Different combination of subunits have different kinetics and can allow different ions to go through

Different cell types express different receptor types

Receptor	AMPA	NMDA	Kainate	GABA	Glycine	nACh	Serotonin	Purines
Subunits (combination of 4 or 5 required for each receptor type)	Glu R1	NR1	Glu R5	$\alpha_{1-7}$	$\alpha 1$	$\alpha_{2-9}$	5-HT <sub>3</sub>	P <sub>2X1</sub>
	Glu R2	NR2A	Glu R6	$\beta_{1-4}$	$\alpha 2$	$\beta_{1-4}$		P <sub>2X2</sub>
	Glu R3	NR2B	Glu R7	$\gamma_{1-4}$	$\alpha 3$	$\gamma$		P <sub>2X3</sub>
	Glu R4	NR2C	KA1	$\delta$	$\alpha 4$	$\delta$		P <sub>2X4</sub>
		NR2D	KA2	$\epsilon$	$\beta$			P <sub>2X5</sub>
				$\rho_{1-3}$				P <sub>2X6</sub>
								P <sub>2X7</sub>

AMPA, NMDA, Kainate - 4 subunits

GABA, glycine, acetylcholine, serotonin - 5 subunits

How many subunits does a metabotropic receptor have?

Metabotropic receptors - 7 transmembrane subunits

Great variety also - 5-HT 3 is a mistake in Purves

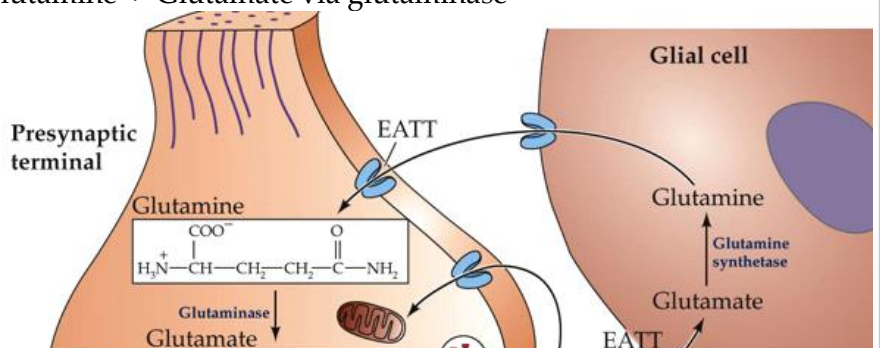
Receptor class	Glutamate	GABA <sub>B</sub>	Dopamine	NE, Epi	Histamine	Serotonin	Purines	Muscarinic
Receptor subtype	Class I	GABA <sub>B</sub> R1	D1 <sub>A</sub>	$\alpha 1$	H1	5-HT 1	A type	M1
	mGlu R1	GABA <sub>B</sub> R2	D1 <sub>B</sub>	$\alpha 2$	H2	5-HT 2	A1	M2
	mGlu R5		D2	$\beta 1$	H3	5-HT 3	A2a	M3
	Class II		D3	$\beta 2$		5-HT 4	A2b	M4
	mGlu R2		D4	$\beta 3$		5-HT 5	A3	M5
	mGlu R3					5-HT 6	P type	
	Class III					5-HT 7	P2x	
	mGlu R4						P2y	
	mGlu R6						P2z	
	mGlu R7						P2t	
	mGlu R8						P2u	

Dopamine has no ligand-gated ion channels in the mammalian brain

Which molecule is converted into glutamate? Which enzyme does that process?

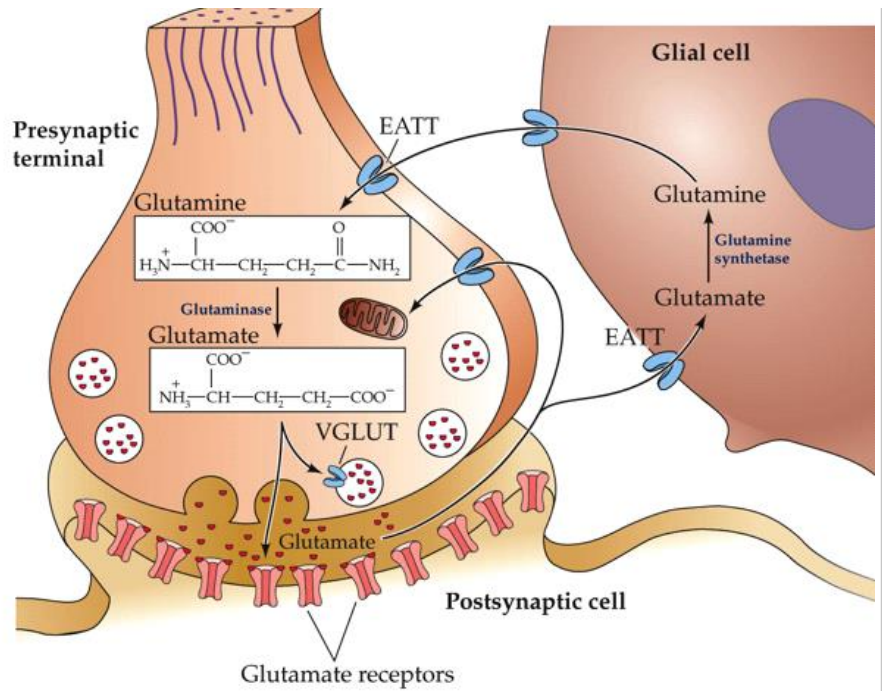
Glutamate synthesis and cycling between neurons and glia

Glutamine → Glutamate via glutaminase





glutamate? Which enzyme does that process?



VGLUT - vesicle binding of glutamate

EATT (excitatory amino acid transporters) - reuptake of glutamate/glutamine in glial cells and neurons

Astrocytes around synapses (trifactor: presynaptic neuron, postsynaptic neuron and glial cell)- Control the amount of neurotransmitter in the synapse

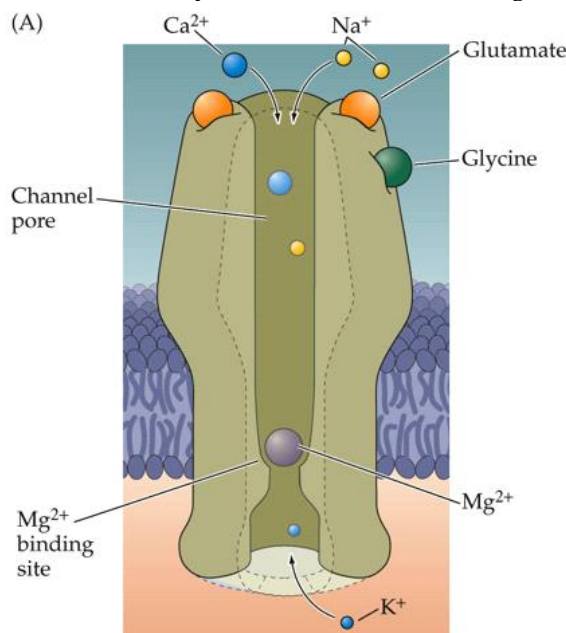
Mutations in EATT - Hyperexcitation -> migraines/epilepsy

What is the main characteristics of NMDA and AMPA receptors?

NMDA/AMPA/Kainate receptors - Carry different ions depending on the subunit compositions

NMDA - Blocked by magnesium, usually allow calcium to go through

AMPA - Usually allows sodium ions to go through

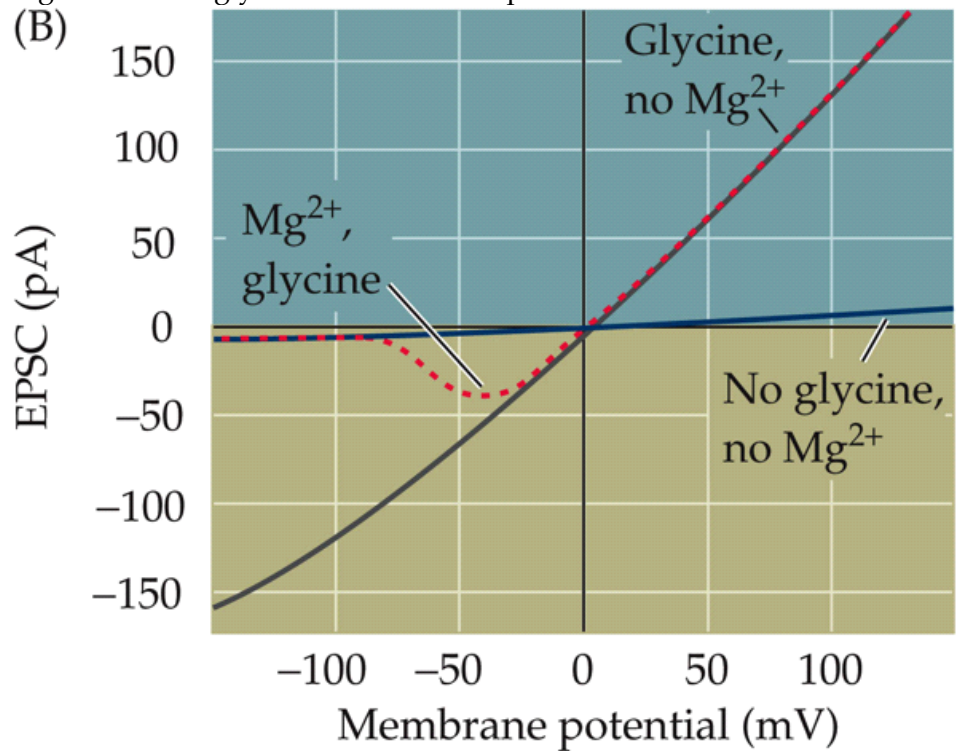


Allosteric binding - Glycine and Glutamate



What is the relationship between magnesium and glycine in a NMDA receptor?

Magnesium and glycine in NMDA receptor



No glycine, no magnesium - No excitation

Glycine, no magnesium - Straight line

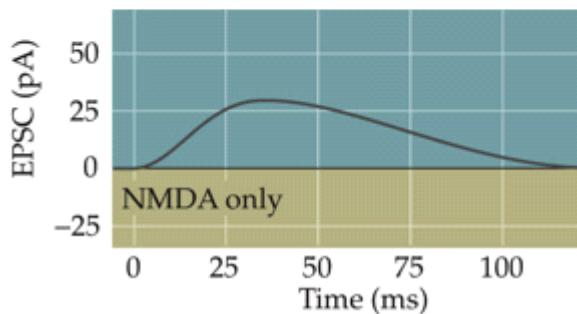
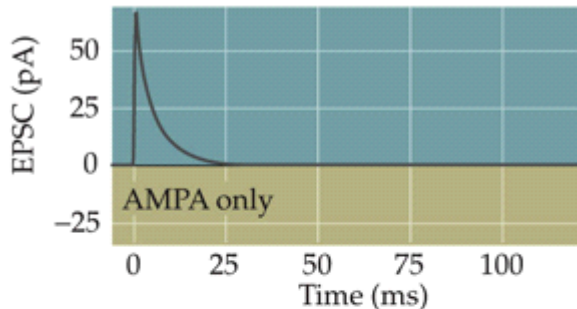
Glycine, magnesium - Negative membrane potential -> Positive magnesium ions are bound, therefore there is no conductance

Describe the EPSC of a neuron which expresses both AMPA and NMDA receptors.

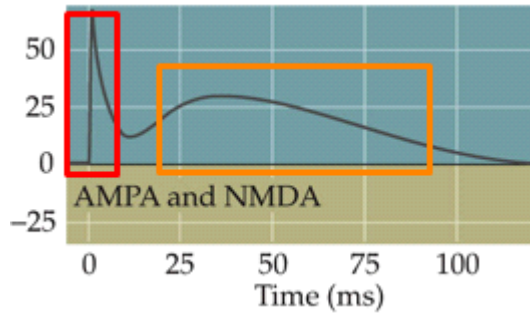
AMPA and NMDA kinetics

AMPA opens really quickly

NMDA are slower



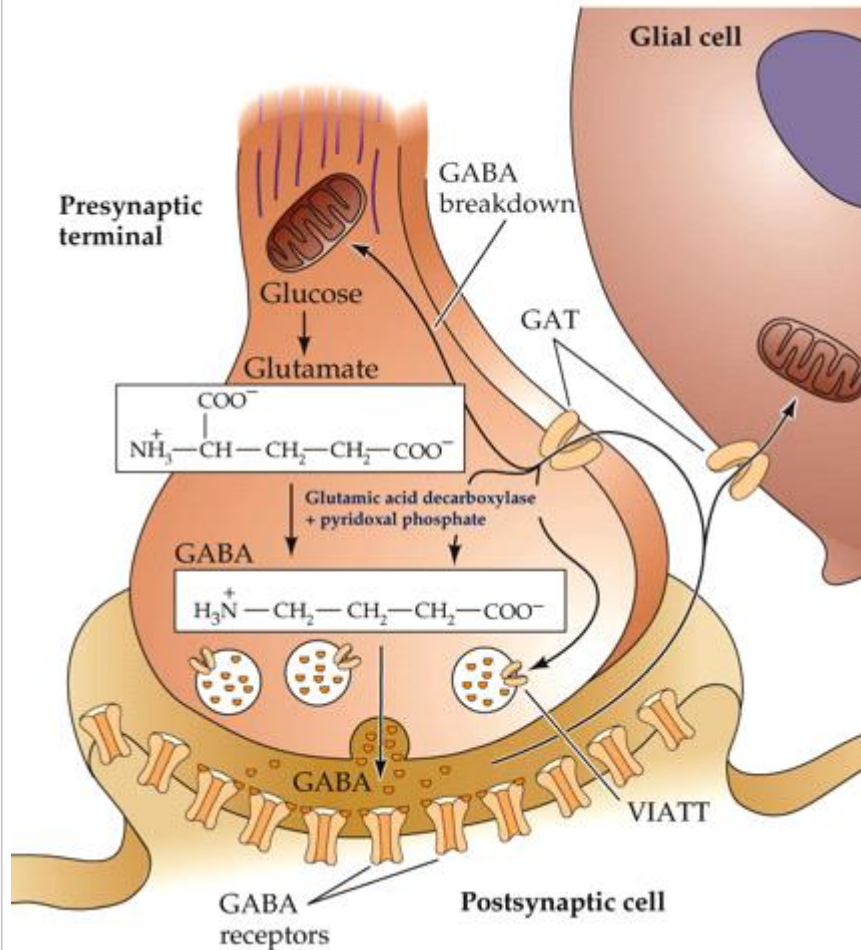
Compound EPSCs - Left curve in red = sodium only, right curve in orange = sodium and calcium



Calcium has more time to flow in the neuron

Which molecule is converted into GABA?

GABA



Derivative of glutamate - If the neuron is excitatory or inhibitory depends on the enzyme present in the neuronal terminal

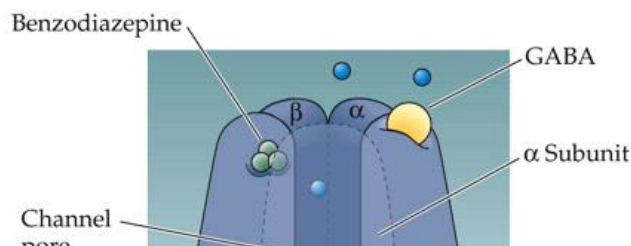
Transmitter phenotype is always kept - A GABAergic neuron does not change to glutamatergic neurons

VIATT - vesicle binding of GABA

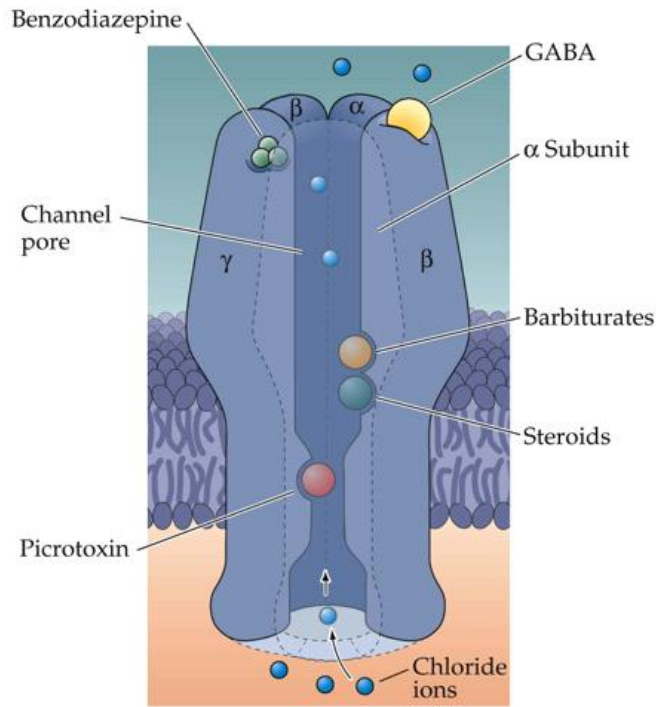
GAT (excitatory amino acid transporters) - reuptake of GABA

Which ions generally go through GABA channels?

Ionotropic GABA channels



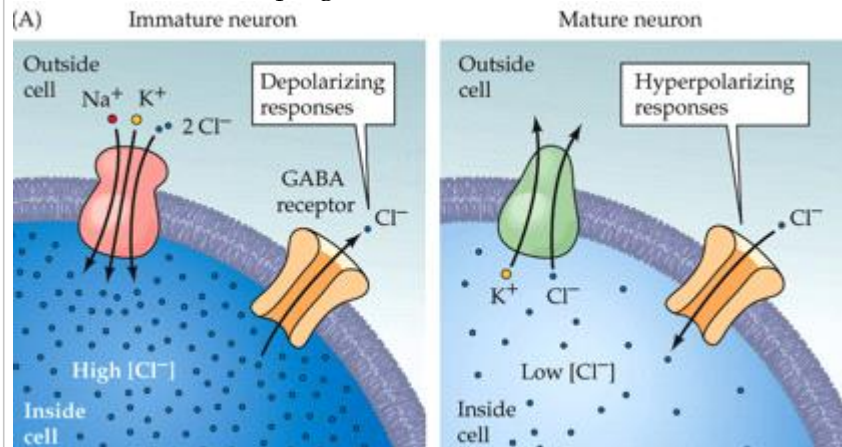
through GABA channels?



Allosteric ligands - Benzodiazepine, barbiturates, steroids, picrotoxin  
Chloride ions go through

Why GABA is different in an immature neuron and a mature one?

GABA in the developing brain



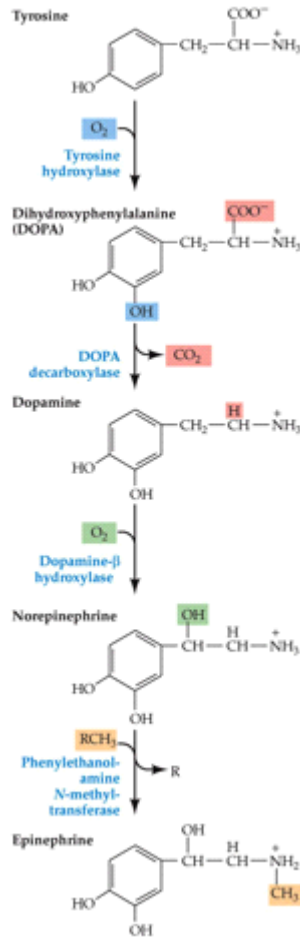
In immature neurons - GABA is excitatory  
There are transporters that are only expressed in immature neurons -> Na<sup>+</sup>K<sup>+</sup>Cl<sup>-</sup> cotransporters  
High chloride inside, low outside -> Promotes depolarizing responses  
In mature neurons - GABA is inhibitory  
Low chloride inside, high outside -> Promotes hyperpolarization

In which regions are catecholamine neurotransmitters produced?

Biosynthetic pathway for catecholamine neurotransmitters



catecholamine neurotransmitters produced?



Tyrosine (normal amino acid)

DOPA

Dopamine

Norepinephrine

Epinephrine

Depending on the enzyme expression in this pathway, the neuron will produce different transmitters

These are produced in basal brain areas - Indicates an old evolutionary history

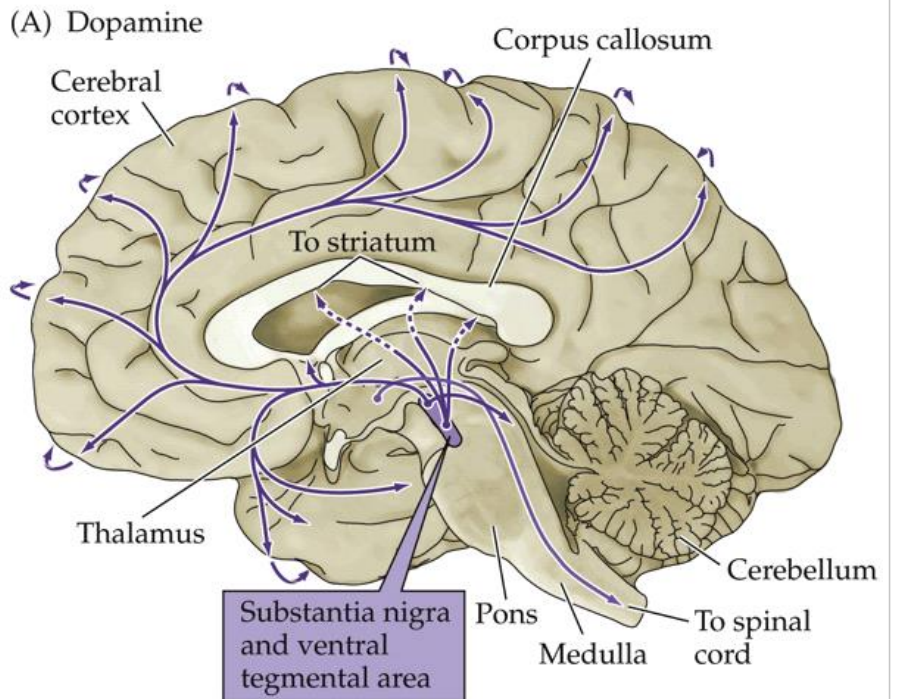
Which brain regions produce dopamine?

Dopamine is produced by very localized neurons

Substantia nigra

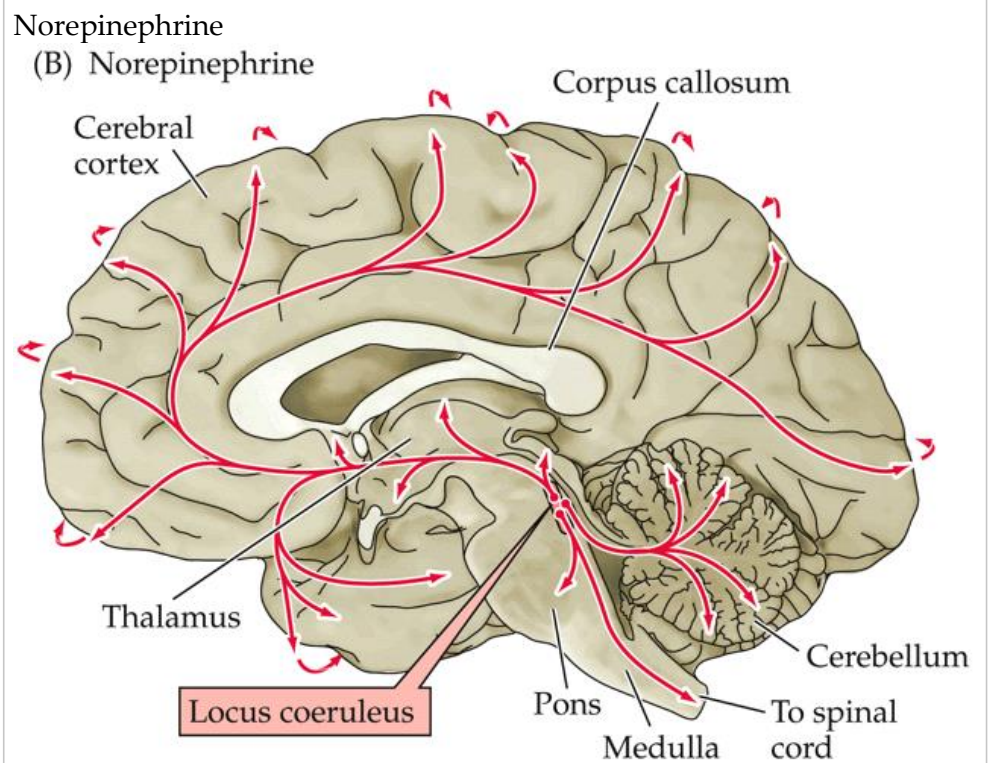
Ventral tegmental area





Dopamine is used as a modulator - Changes synaptic transmission by modulating GPCR, not ion channels

Which brain regions produce norepinephrine?



Locus coeruleus - 20000 cells produces all norepinephrine in the brain

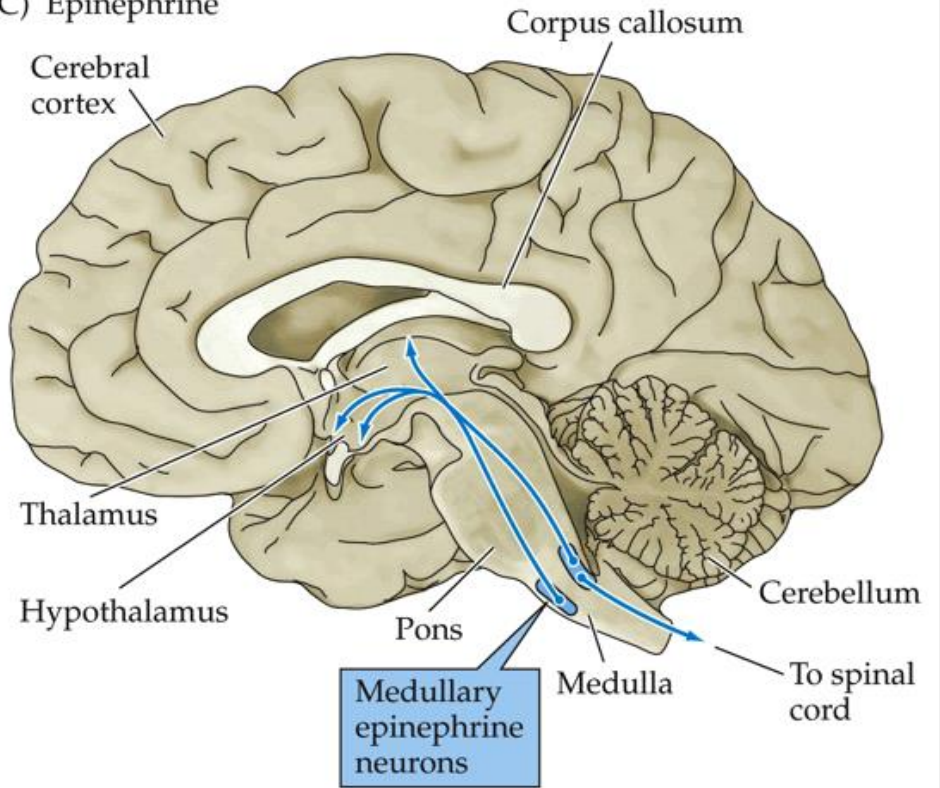
Which brain regions

Epinephrine



produce epinephrine?

(C) Epinephrine

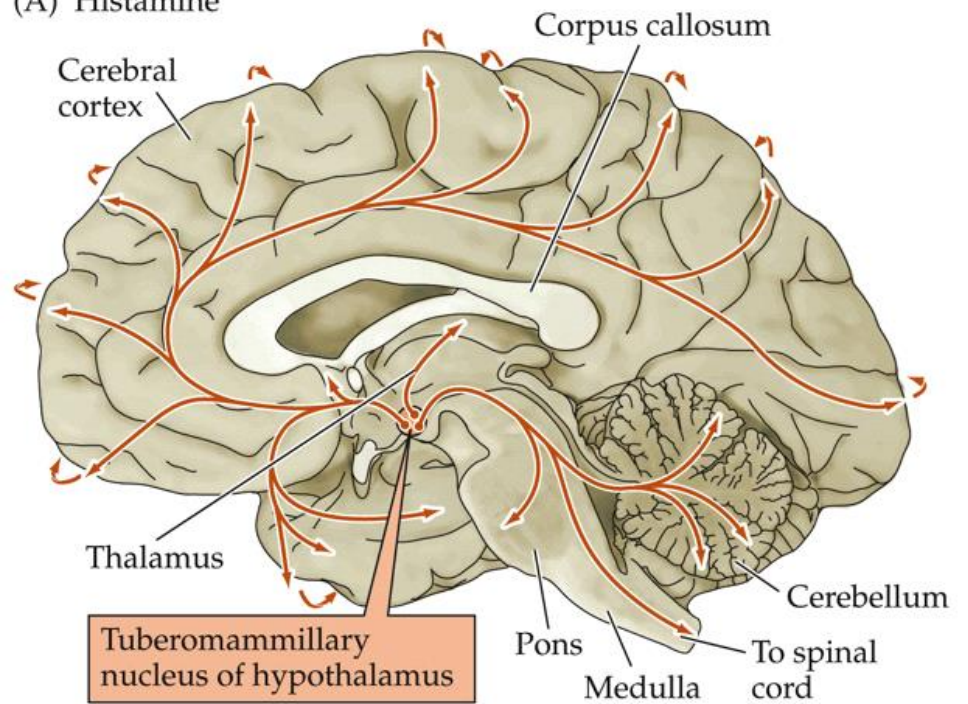


Medullary epinephrine neurons

Which brain regions produce histamine?

Histamine

(A) Histamine

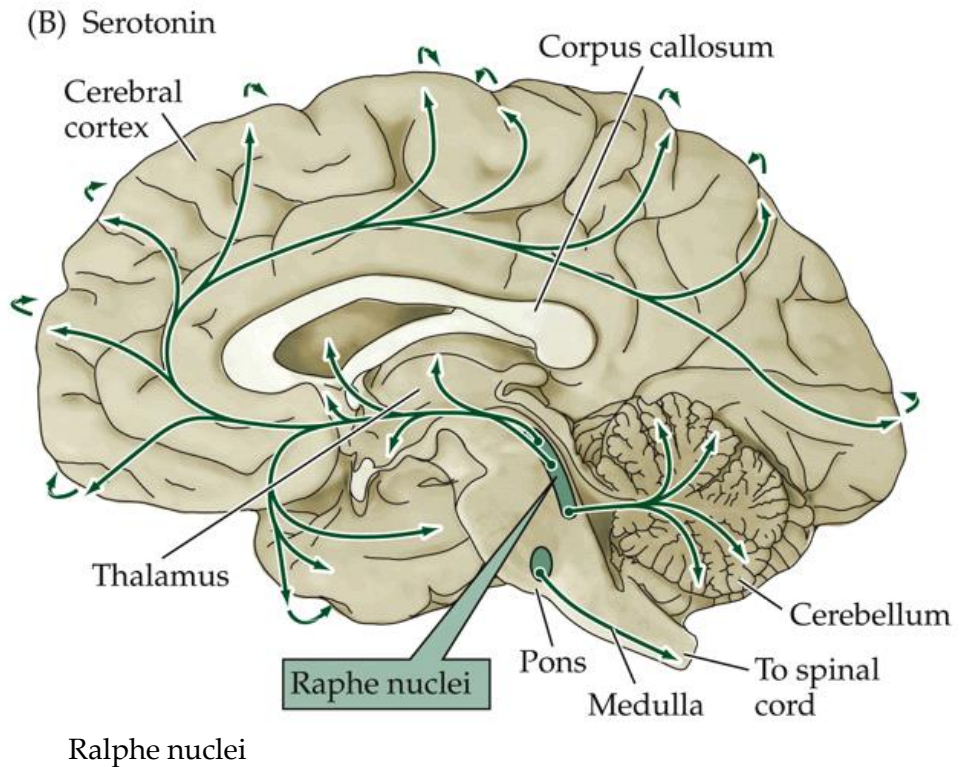


Tuberomammillary nucleus of hypothalamus

Which brain regions

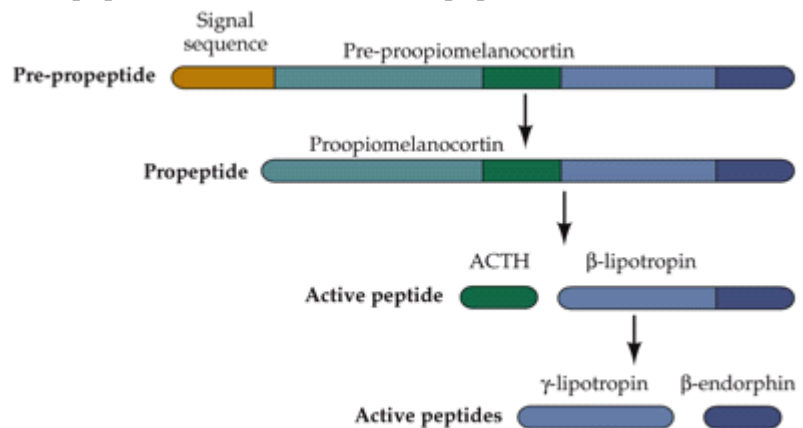
Serotonin

produce serotonin?



What is the difference between pre-propeptide, propeptide, and an active peptide form?

Proteolytic processing of pre-propeptides  
 Pre-propeptide form - Signal sequence  
 Propeptide - Only one sequence  
 Active peptide - Cleaved and small peptide



Which are two endogenous ligands for cannabinoid receptors?

THC - Tetrahydrocannabinol  
 Binds to putamen, substantia nigra, hippocampus and cerebellum

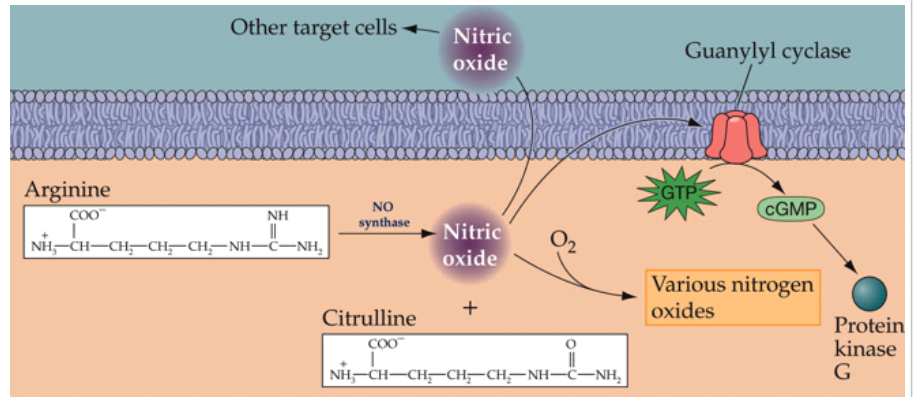
Binds to cannabinoid receptors - Most commonly found GPCR in the brain

Endogenous ligands - Anandamide + 2-AG (arachidonylglycerol)  
 Not released in vesicles -> they are hydrophobic, can go through the membrane

Which molecule is the substrate to produce nitric oxide?

Synthesis, release and termination of NO  
 Produced from arginine + NO synthase  
 Binds to guanylyl cyclase -> Increase cGMP -> acts on protein kinase

G



Very small molecule -> Can pass through the membrane, was used as an anesthetic

# 10b. Synaptic Plasticity (Chapter 8 Purves)

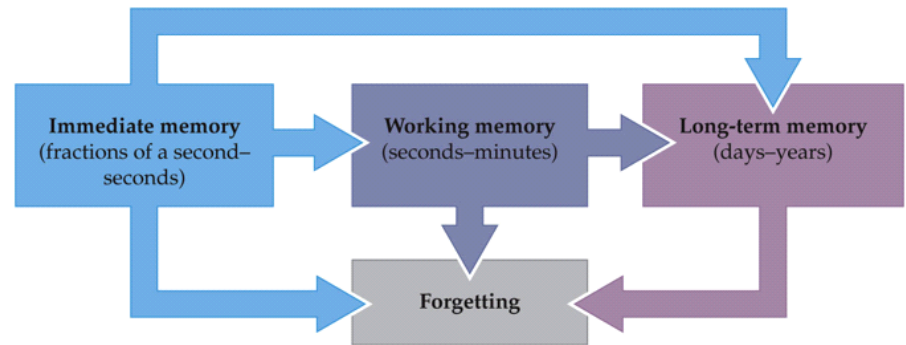
**What are the three different types of memory?**

Major temporal categories of human memory

Immediate memory - Seconds

Working memory - Seconds/minutes

Long-term memory - days/years



**What is one of the current theories about information flow from the hippocampus to the cortex?**

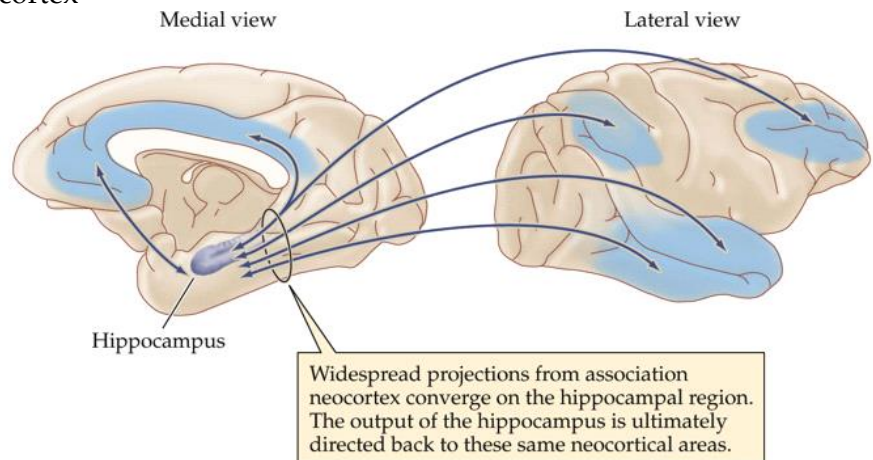
Areas related to memory formation

Amygdala - Emotional memory

Hippocampus - Spatial memory; Relay station to the neocortex

Thalamus - Sensory input from all over the body

The information from the hippocampus goes to different areas in the cortex



Associated with already existing information

Cortical information is built after some time (requires hours)

After some time, the information is not found in the hippocampus anymore

The information goes from cortex also -> Memory retrieval goes back to the hippocampus -> Memory is actively reassembled (you build a new memory every time you recall it)

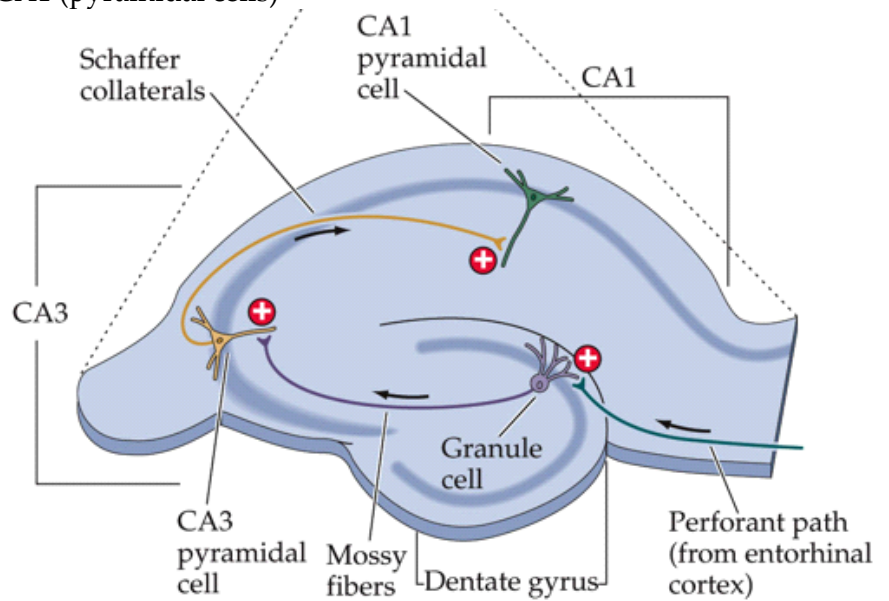


- Treatment of PTSD - Memory is recalled and then stored in a different way

**Describe the neuronal pathway that happens in the hippocampus.**

Hippocampal data processing

- Incoming information (e.g. entorhinal cortex)
- Dentate gyrus (granule cells)
- CA3 (pyramidal cells)
- CA1 (pyramidal cells)



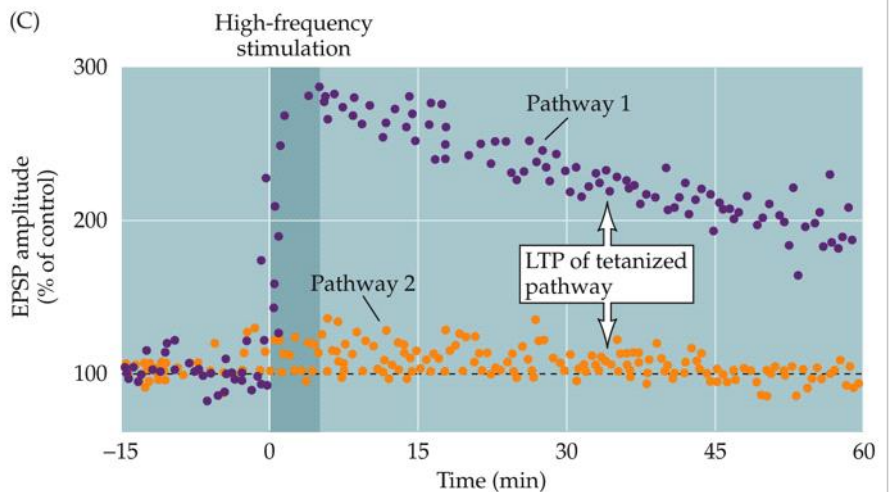
There are also other direct pathways

**How is LTP observed in terms of EPSP?**

Schaffer collaterals - Connection between CA3 and CA1

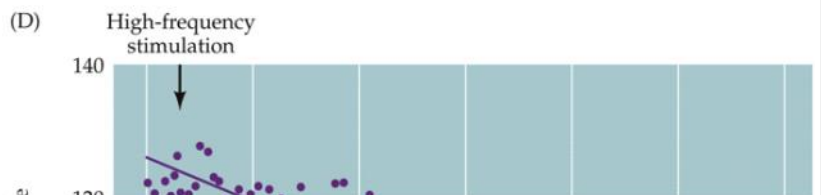
CA3 - Glutamatergic neurons

**How long can a LTP event be maintained in a neuronal circuitry?**

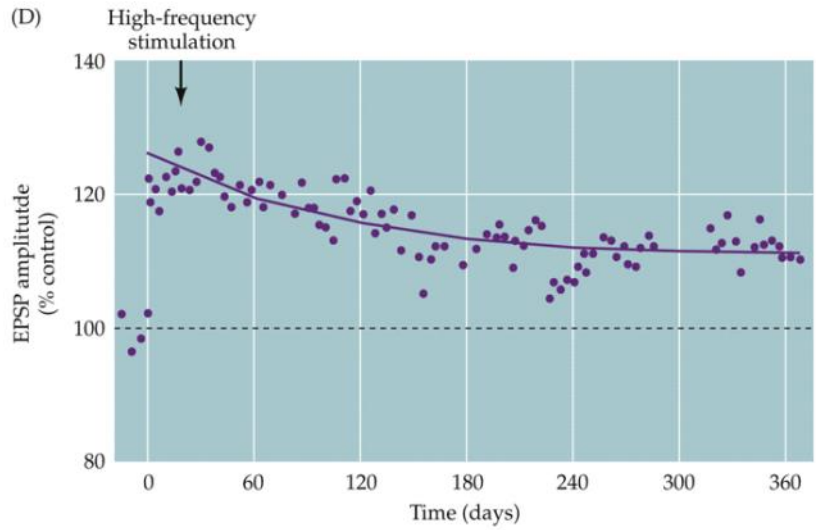


Long-term potentiation of CA1

Activation of high frequency - Post synaptic response EPSP increases immensely over time (tetanus in pathway 1)  
Both pathway LTP occur independent of each other (pathway 2 was not stimulated at a high frequency)



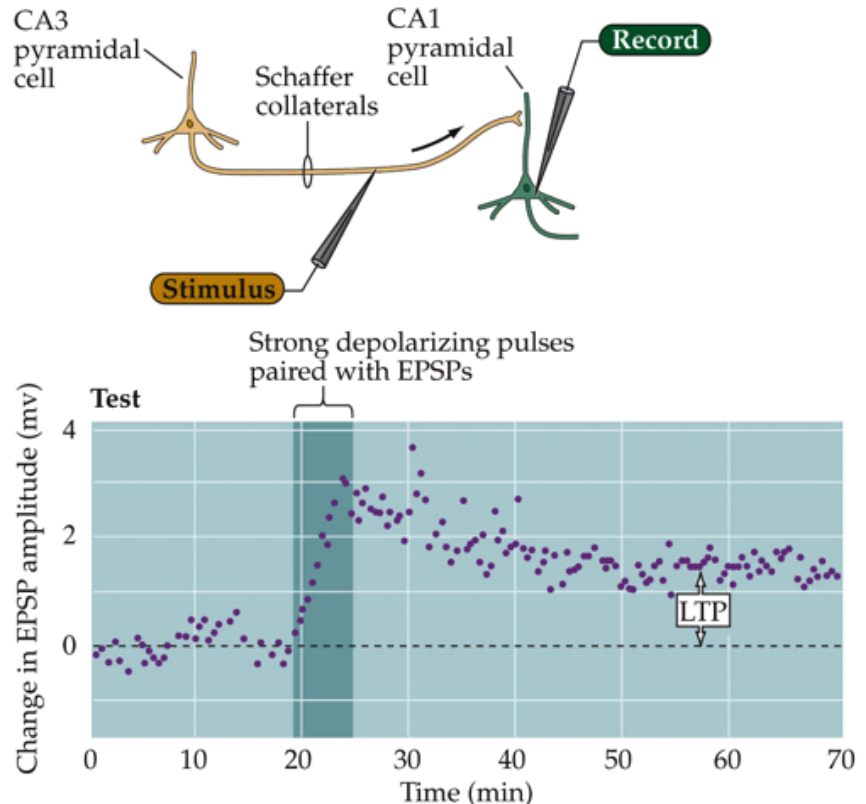




This increase in EPSP is maintained for many days/months over time

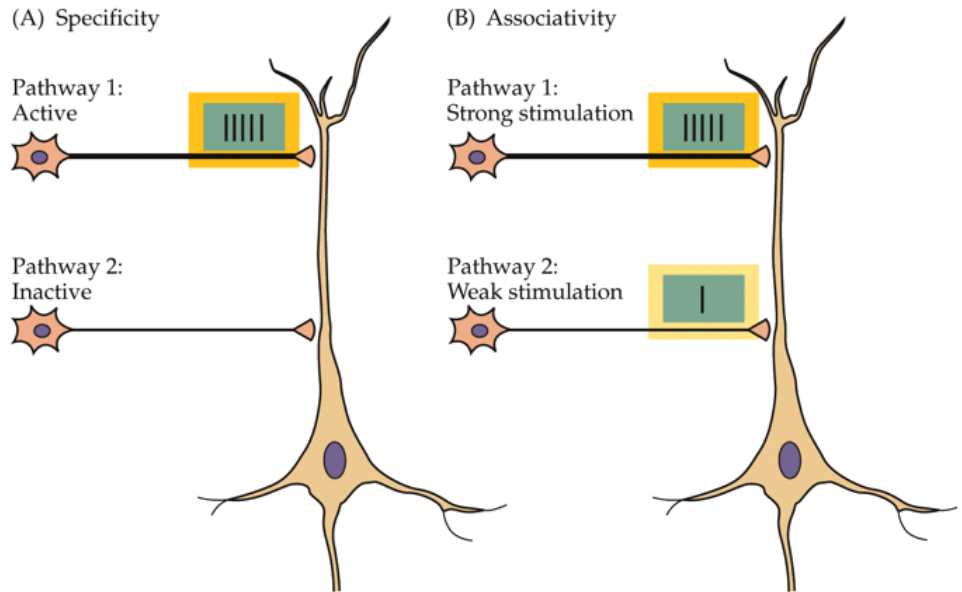
If LTP is maintained even with the post synaptic cell depolarized, what does that mean in terms of specificity?

Post synaptic cell (CA1) is always depolarized  
Strong depolarizing pulses with EPSPs



- Results in the same result - Even with a depolarized post-synaptic cell, indicates that the LTP is synaptic specific
- If two inputs come at the same time - they are paired in the post-synaptic cell (memories become coupled)

**What is specificity and associativity?**

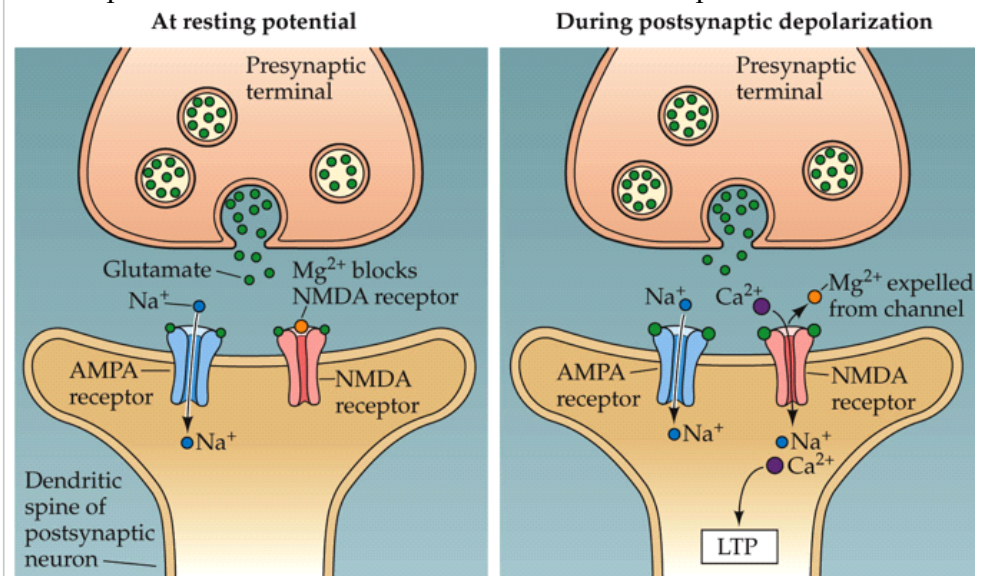


Specificity - Inactivated cells are not strengthened

Associativity - Weakly active cells are strengthened by strongly active ones

**What is the basic mechanism by which LTP is mediated by AMPA and NMDA receptors?**

LTP depends on coaction of AMPA and NMDA receptors



AMPA receptors - Depolarized by sodium

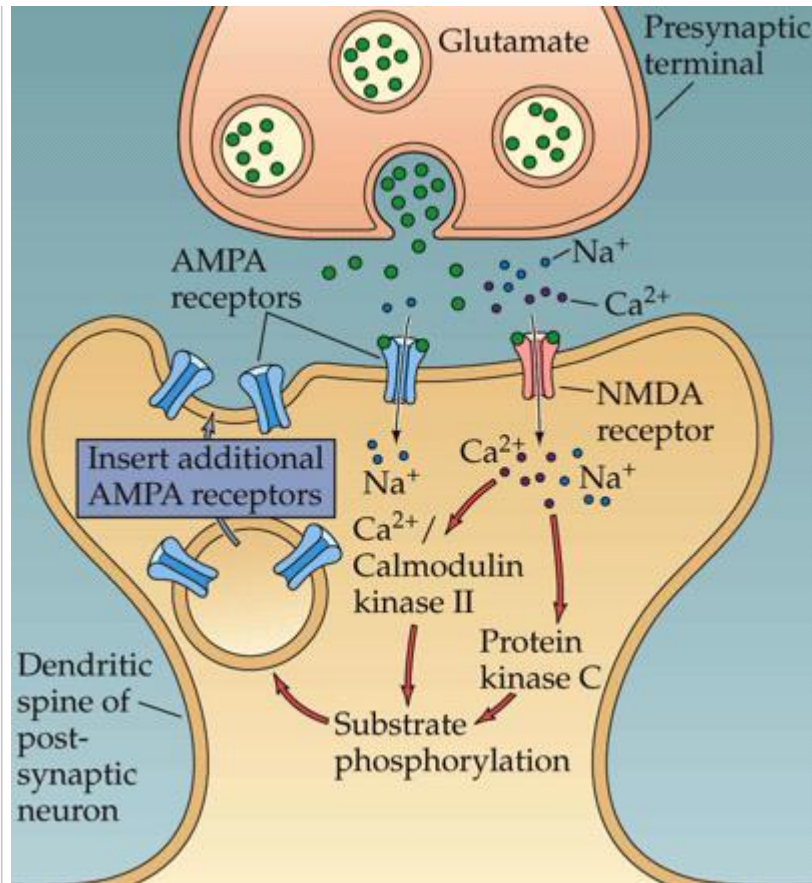
NMDA loses magnesium - Depolarized by calcium

If the circuit is not used -> NMDA is blocked by magnesium

**What is the short-term**

Signaling mechanism underlying LTP

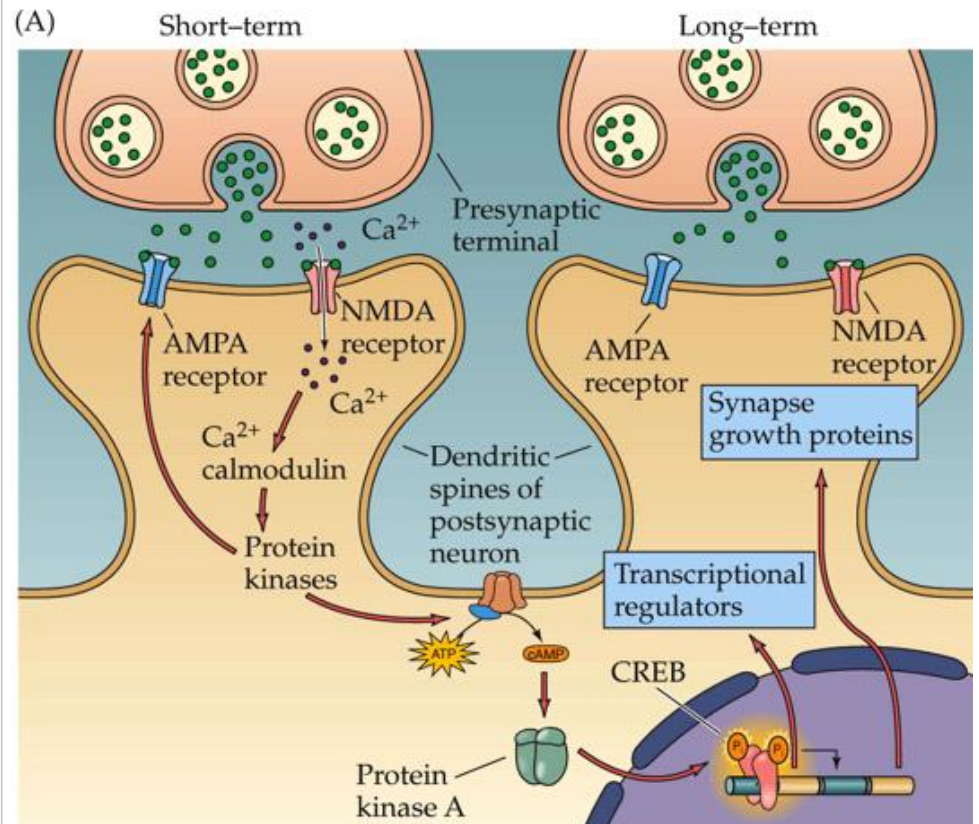
consequence of LTP?



Calcium  $\rightarrow$  Activates CaMKII and Protein kinase C  $\rightarrow$  phosphorylate proteins  $\rightarrow$  Vesicles that contain AMPA receptors are added to the membrane (are already present in the cell)

What is the long-term change that LTP causes?

Long-term changes in synaptic transmission during LTP



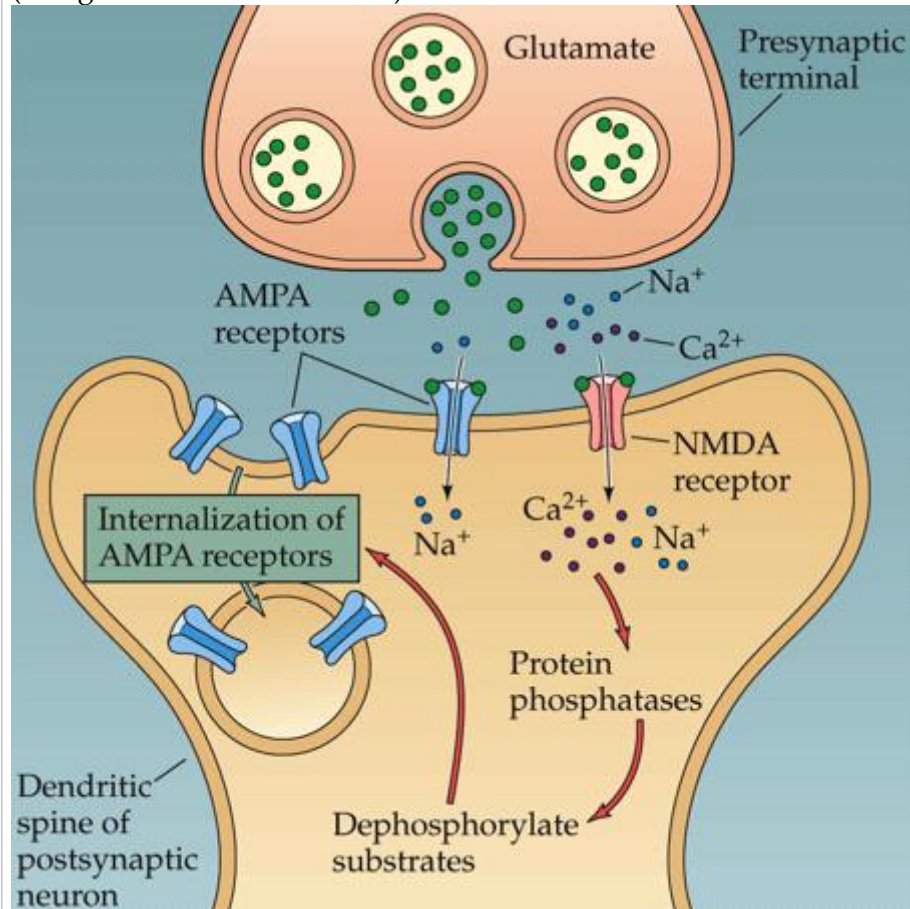


Phosphorylation-> Protein kinase A -> Activates CREB and other transcription factors -> Active genes in the nucleus -> More AMPA/NMDA receptors -> Bigger synapses

This takes a lot of time -> Memories become stronger (days/months)  
 If you block gene expression hours after an event -> The memory is not stored

**What is the difference between LTD and LTP?**

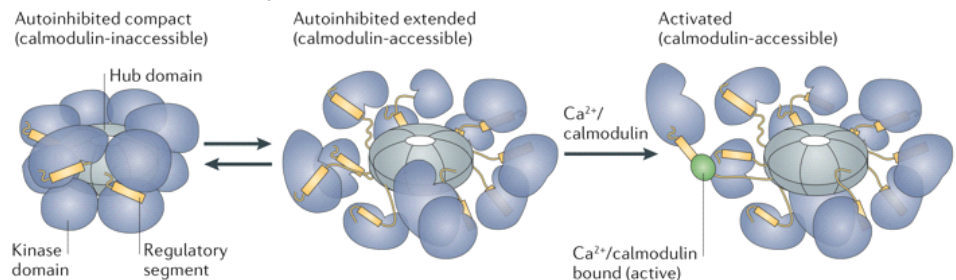
Long term depression (LTD) - Happens due to low frequency stimulation (low glutamate concentration)



Calcium in a lower level  
 Activation of protein phosphatases  
 Dephosphorylate substrates  
 Internalization of AMPA receptors

**How does calmodulin and calcium mediate the kinetics of CaMKII?**

CaMKII activation by calmodulin



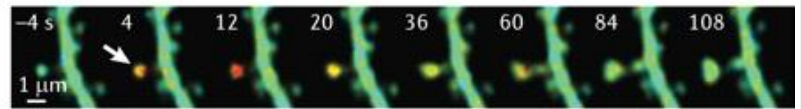
Kinase domain is inaccessible in a state  
 You need enough calcium to maintain the open the structure of CaMKII

What happens to CaMKII in the neuron over time during the event of LTP?

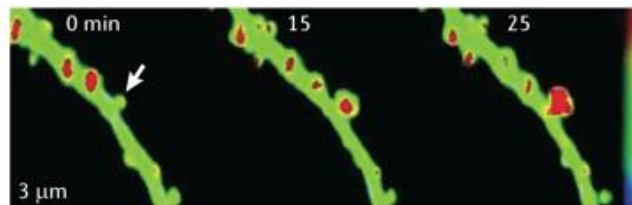
Features of synaptic activation

Calcium influx is localized in one synapse

c CaMKII activation



d CaMKII translocation



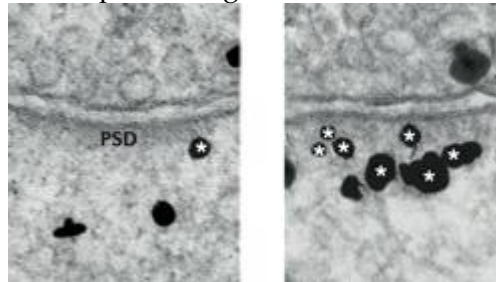
CaMKII becomes more active with calcium

CaMKII moves between different synapses

What experiments have been done to demonstrate the relationship between CaMKII and NMDA receptors?

CaMKII recruits to the postsynaptic neuron

Black spots - Large ones CaMKII; small ones NMDA receptors

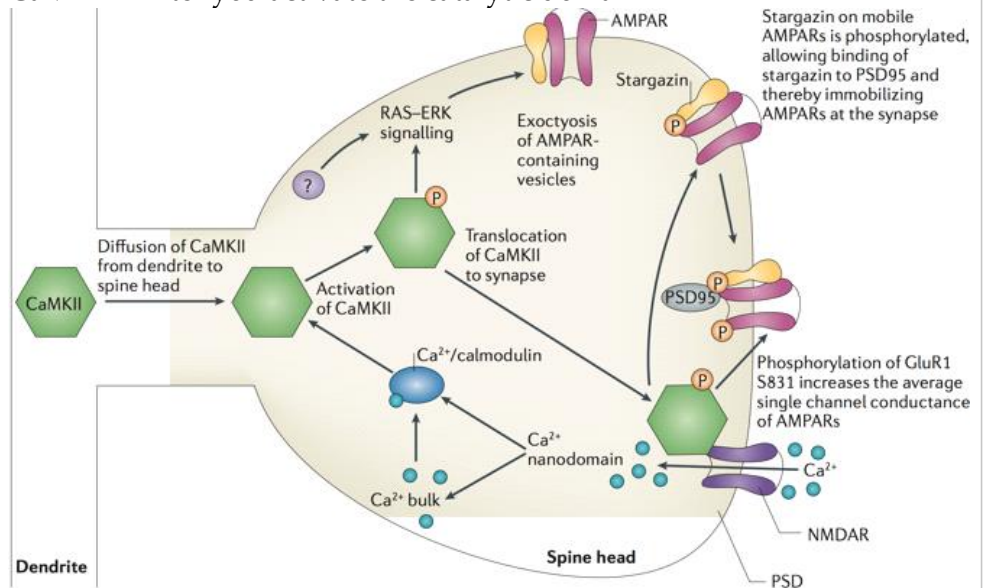


NMDA receptors without intracellular tail - No place where CaMKII can bind -> no LTP is observed

Blocking the site where CaMKII is bound -> no LTP is observed also

How can the effect of LTP be sustained over a longer period of time, even if the high frequency stimulation stops?

CaMKII - After you activate the catalytic domain



Phosphorylation in CaMKII - It autophosphorylates itself (it stays active for a long time)

Even if the input stops -> CaMKII still is active for quite some

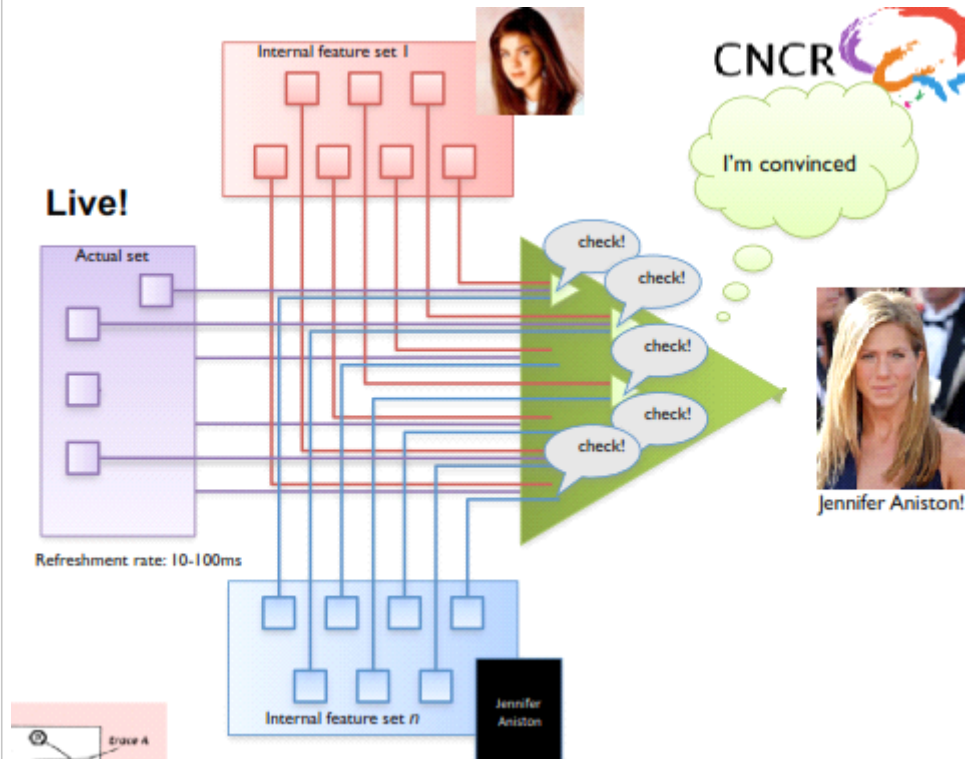


time, increasing conductance of AMPA receptors

# 11. Synbio8: Short term plasticity

How can different sensory inputs - an image of Jennifer Aniston and the words 'Jennifer Aniston' elicit the the same response in the brain?

Live information received by sensory organs  
Comparisons to internal feature sets - Engrams are distributed in the brain



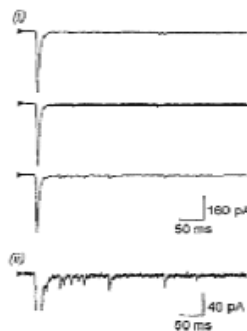
This comparison needs to happen in a very short time scale  
When these neurons fire together - more calcium available, higher probability of postsynaptic firing

If a synapse is unreliable, why does every stimulation produce a synaptic response?

Why does every stimulation produce a synaptic response?  
*200 synapses with a low release probability -> Still yields a very likely results of activation*

$1 - 0.2^{(synapses)}$  - The more synapses you have, the more reliable the activation pattern is

Voltage clamp - Electrode in the postsynaptic cell



Fixed voltage, measures current

Net influx of positive ions (sodium)

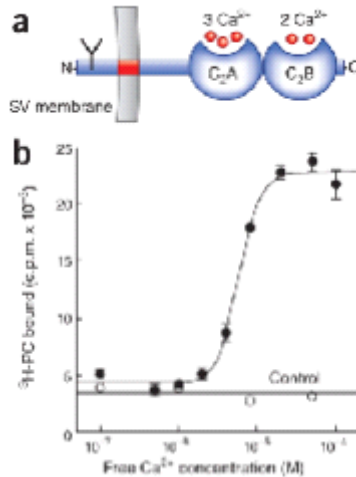
Downward deflection - The amount of current the amplifier

needed to maintain the potential of the cell

**Why is the affinity of synaptotagmin sensor not very high?**

Synaptotagmin knockout  
Synchronous fusion is lost  
Asynchronous fusion increases

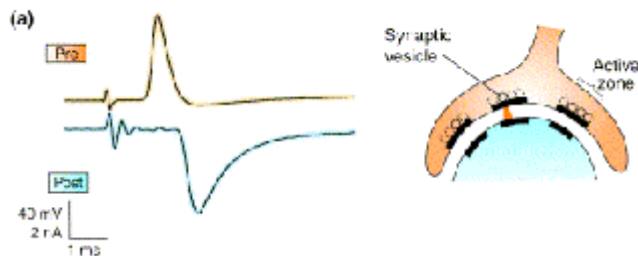
Affinity of synaptotagmin sensor is not very high -> Otherwise, the offrate is very low, creates an irreversible system; The binding only happens when there is a lot of calcium -> synaptic transmission is really brief



Resting calcium concentration in synapses -  $10e-5$  is necessary to promote vesicle binding

**Where is the calyx of Held present in the nervous system?**

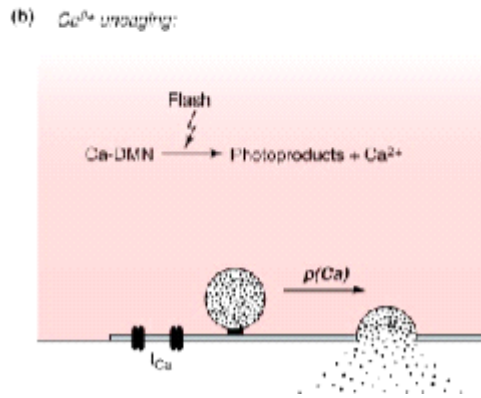
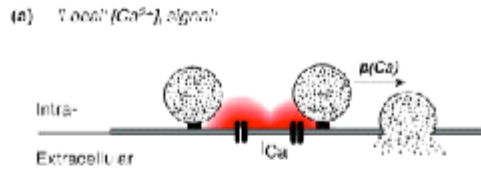
Calyx of Held - Thin layer of presynaptic structure, many release sites  
Unusual structure (incredibly reliable, but high energy cost) -  
Present in very localized and important systems. e.g. Auditory response (fight or flight)



Current clamp - Fixed current, measure voltage  
Voltage is proportional to the number of vesicles  
B - Voltage is reduced because there are not enough vesicles

**Describe the advantage of using calcium gating.**

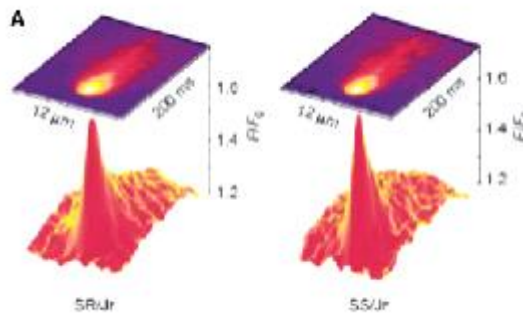
Ca-DMN - Photoproducts + calcium - Reliable measure of calcium release throughout the entire cell - you can vary the wavelength of light or the time of pulses  
Normally, increase in calcium is very localized



Relation between synaptic transmission and calcium  
A little more calcium gives a massive effect on the release rate

Why doesn't the increase of calcium always promote vesicle release?

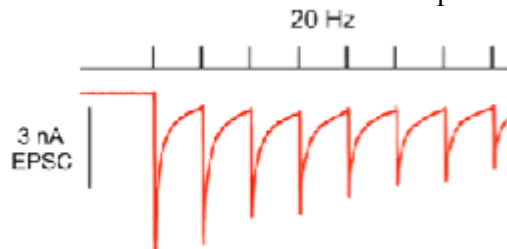
Relation between calcium transients and release probability  
Calcium transients are local



If the vesicle is away from the channel, it does not bind -> Calcium channel coupling determines probability

What happens when you give a neuron a low excitation frequency (e.g. 20hz)? Why?

Hard evidence  
- 20 hz - Decreases due to vesicle depletion - Depression



What happens when you give a neuron a high excitation frequency (e.g. 200 hz)? Why?

- 200 hz - More release initially (increased synaptotagmin binding to channels due to increased calcium concentration) - PTP (sufficient to overcome depression initially due to the immense calcium increase)

Describe the processes involved in short-term plasticity.

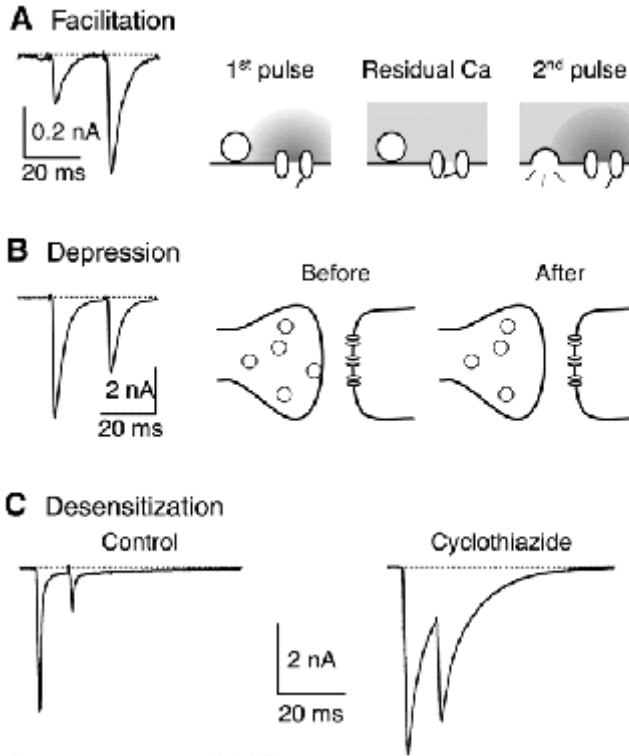
Short term plasticity: Facilitation & Depression

Facilitation - Second pulse has an increased release probability (increased probability of vesicle binding)

- a) Facilitation
- b) Depression

Depression - Second pulse has a decreased release probability (lack of vesicles)

c) Desensitization



The same neurons have these two processes occurring at the same time in different synapses/different extracellular calcium concentrations

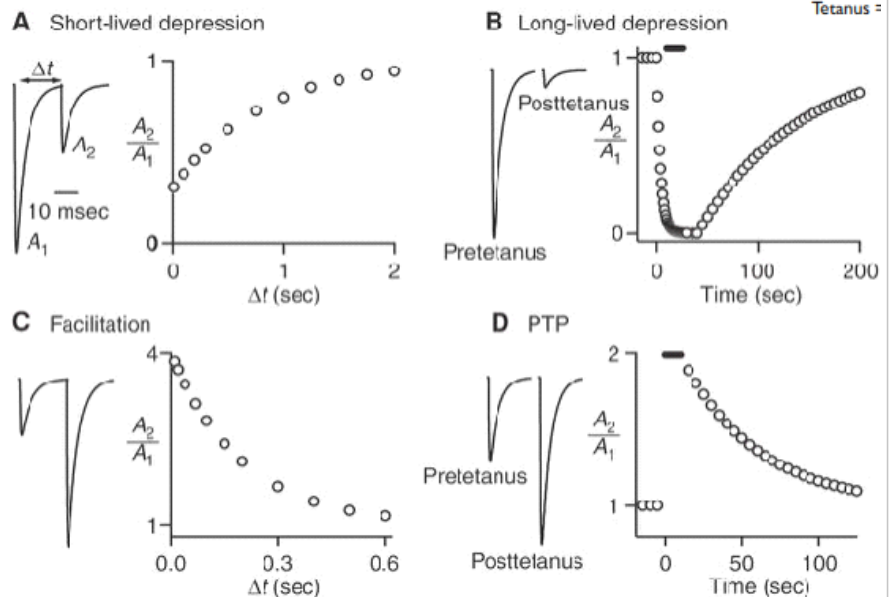
On the other synapse: Desensitization

Depression due to diminished response of receptors (not the vesicles!)

What does A2/A1 graph measure?

Short-term, use-dependent plasticity on two timescales

A2/A1 - Second pulse divide over first pulse



Measures the replacement of vesicles

Takes two seconds to replace the vesicles to a naïve level

Different synapses have different kinetics

In electronic circuits,

Electronic circuits have similar behaviors

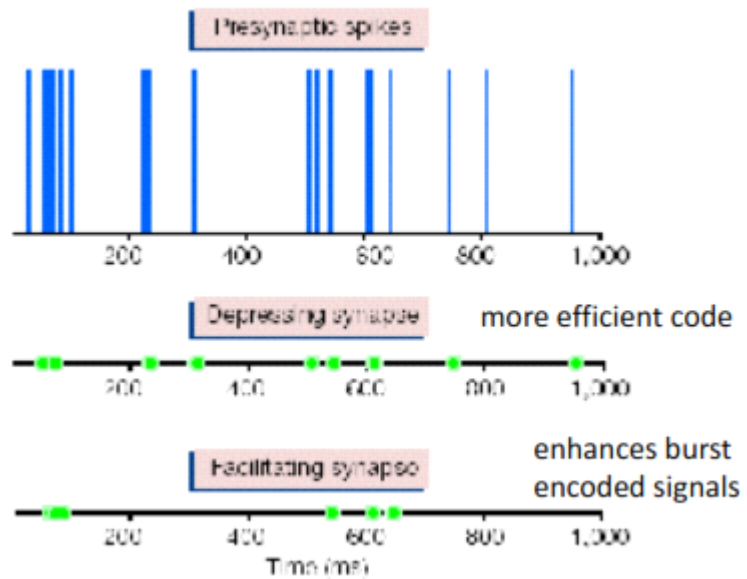


what is the equivalent of

- a) Depressing synapses
- b) Facilitating synapses

Low pass - Amount of total activity

High pass - Counter



In synapses - Depressing synapses acts as a low pass filter (good at detecting events, not good at integrating information), facilitating synapses acts as high pass filter (not good at detecting events, good at integrating)

Two different types of synapses -> Detect different types of information

# 12. Dissecting protein interactions

How much information increases from the human genome all the way to protein interactions?

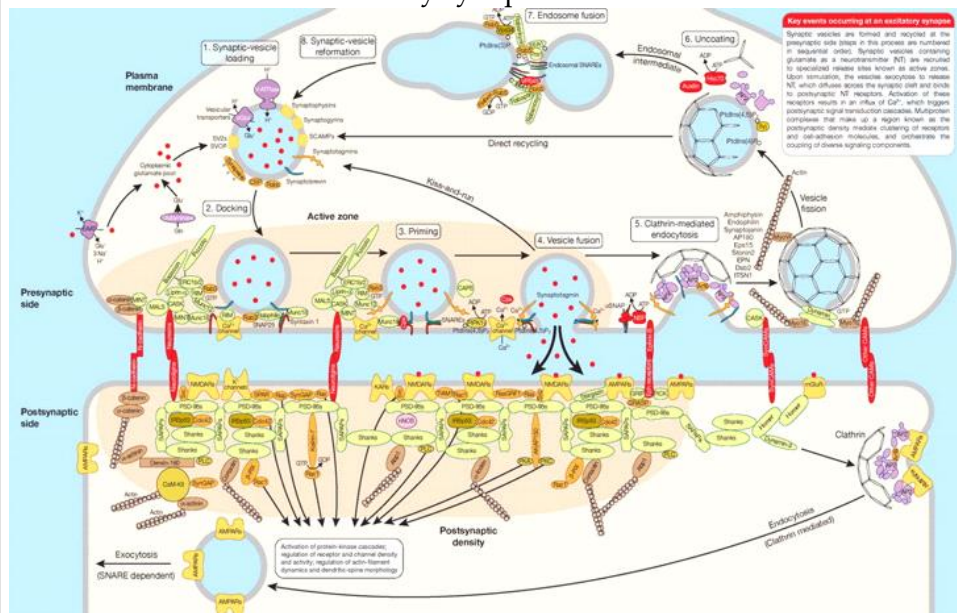
Dimensions of information complexity

Genome: 25,000 genes

Transcriptome: 100,000 mRNAs

Proteome: 400,000 proteins -> millions of interactions

The Architecture of an excitatory synapse

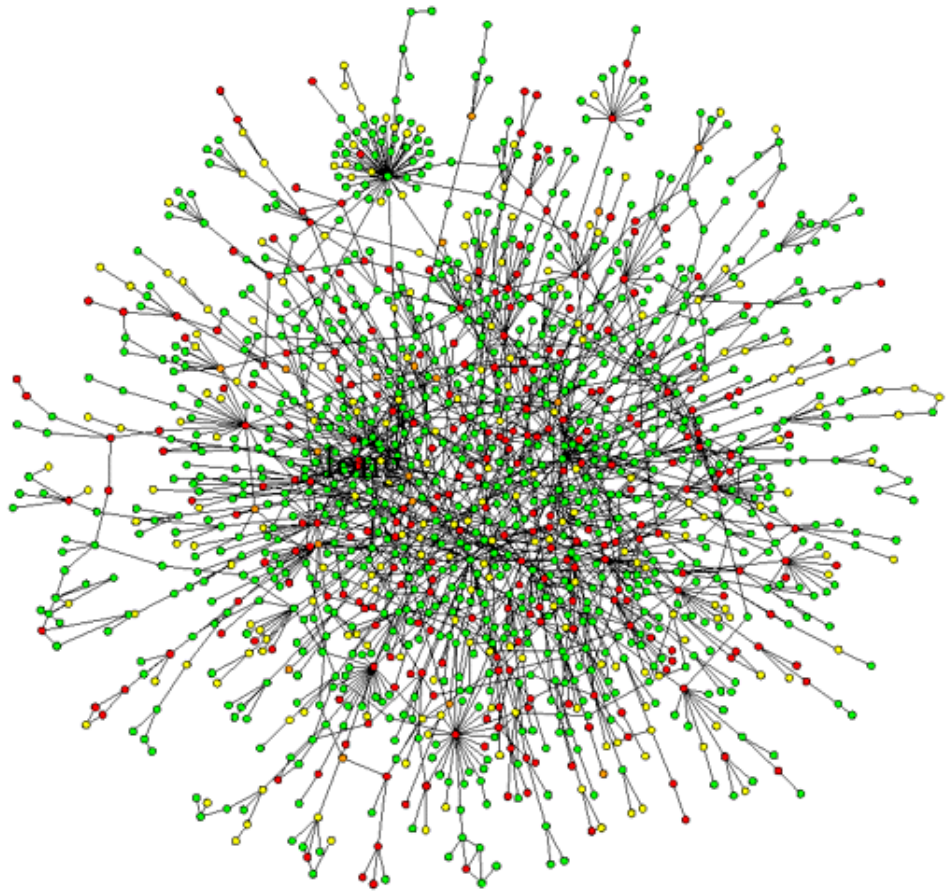


Alignment of presynaptic release sites with post synaptic receptors

Describe this figure.

Interactions in the yeast proteome

What does it mean?



Some proteins only have one known interaction, others have dozens of known interactions

What are the four methods and tools for investigating protein interactions?

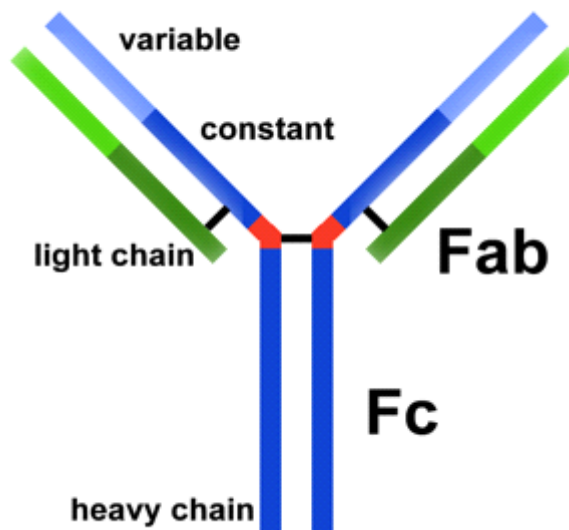
Methods and tools for investigating protein interactions  
Antibodies  
Immunoprecipitation  
Pull-down assay  
Yeast two-hybrid system

Describe the general structure of an antibody.

Antibodies

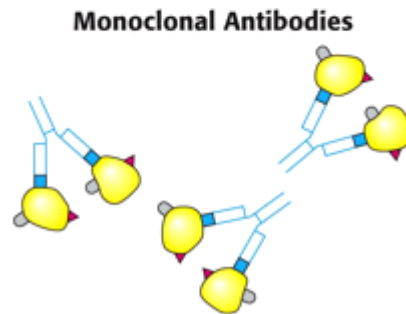
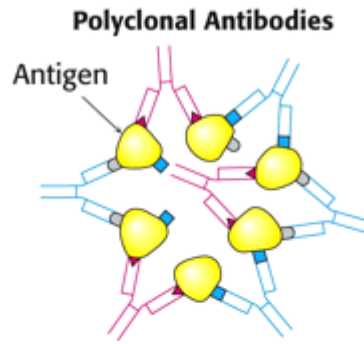
What is the difference between polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies?

Which techniques to study protein interactions use antibodies?



General structure - Heavy chain (blue), light chain (green), variable

region at the end (binds to amino acid, highly selective and high affinity)



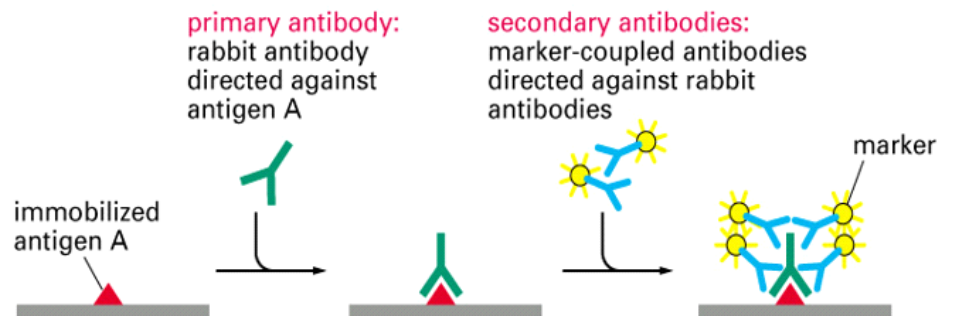
Polyclonal (different antibodies made by different cells) -  
Clump together -> can be separated by centrifuging  
Monoclonal antibodies - More selective  
Epitopes - Antigen part recognized by the antibody

Analytical techniques that use antibodies:

- Flow cytometry (sorting cells)
- Gel electrophoresis (immunoprecipitation, immunoblotting)
- Microscopy - Immunofluorescence, electron microscopy
- ELISA - Using antibodies to quantify proteins

**Describe how immunodetection works.**

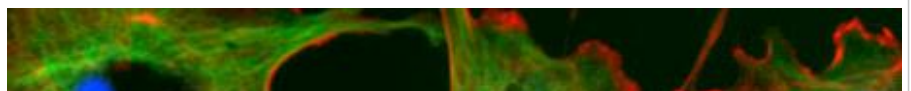
Immunodetection - The antibody detects the protein

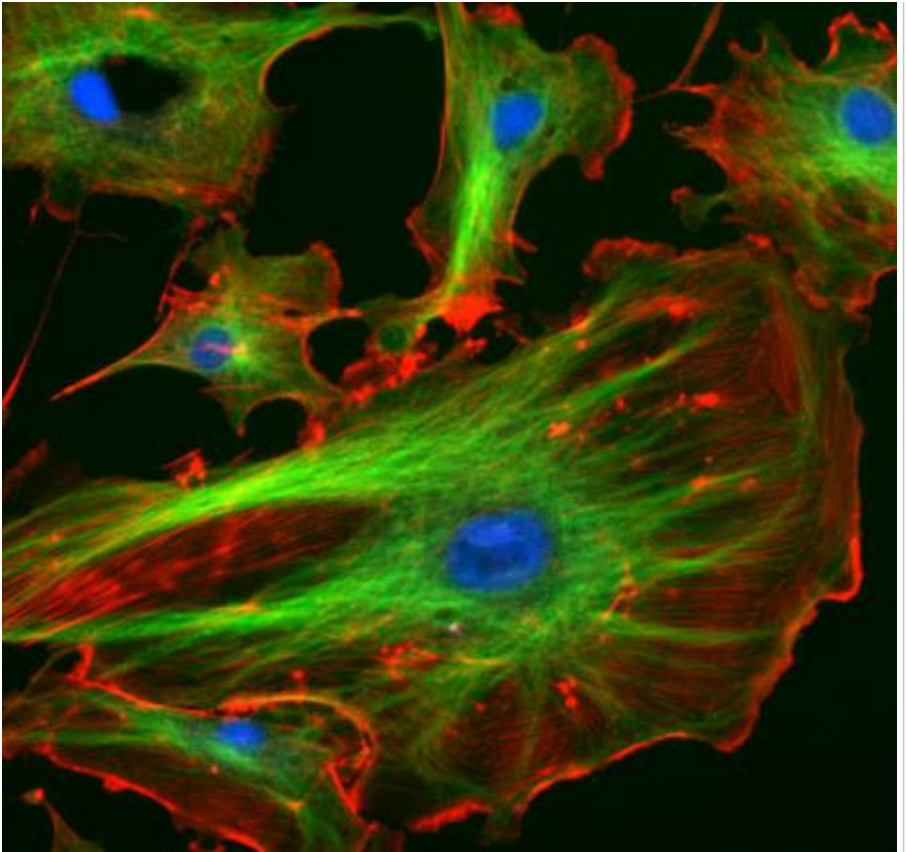


Primary antibody - Binds to antigen

Secondary antibody - Binds to primary antibody, has some marker (GFP)

Recognizes antibodies from particular species

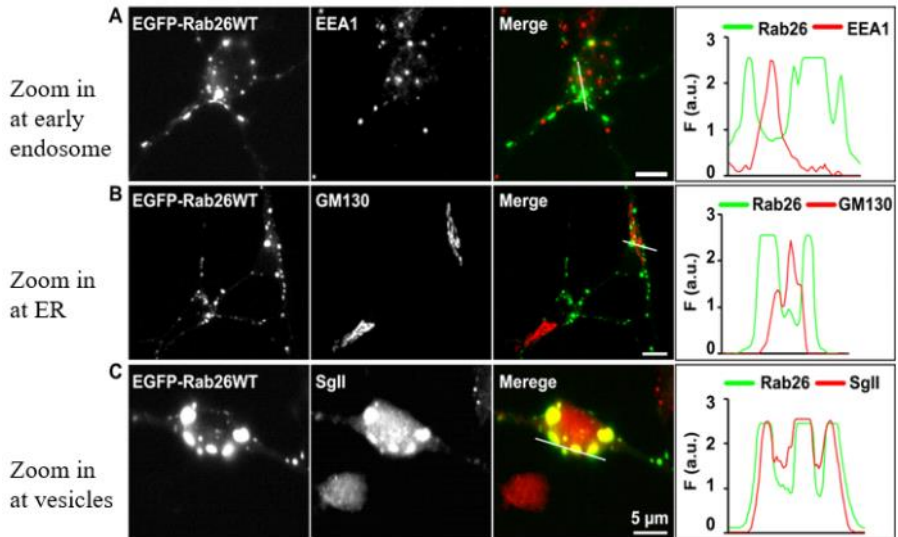




Example: Detection of 3 cytoskeletal proteins (requires 3 different primary antibodies and 3 different secondary antibodies)

If you would like to investigate protein expression using immunodetection in three different organelles on the same cell, how many different primary antibodies and secondary antibodies would you need?

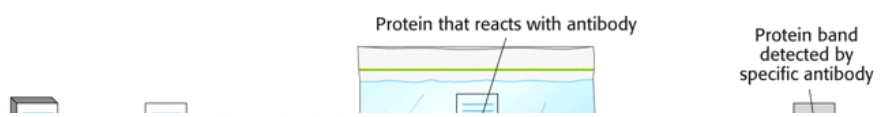
Colocalization of proteins to understanding their role in the cell  
 Rab26 - Protein of interest (labeled in green)  
 EEA1/GM130/SgII - Proteins specific to the organelle



Y-axis - Intensity of fluorescence  
 X-axis - Distance (white line in the image)

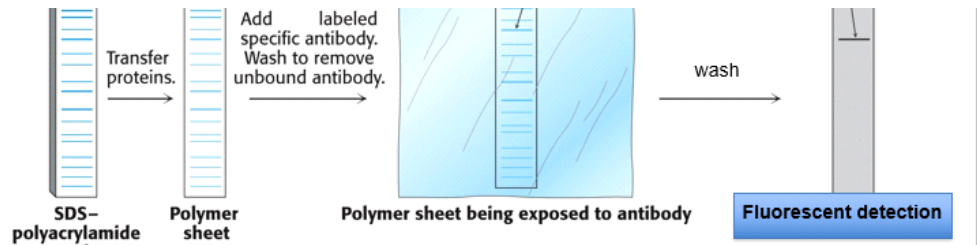
Describe how immunoblotting works.  
  
 What difference you would expect if you

Immunoblotting (Western Blot) - Immunodetect specific proteins (e.g. separated by size via SDS-PAGE)





used polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies for a Western Blot?



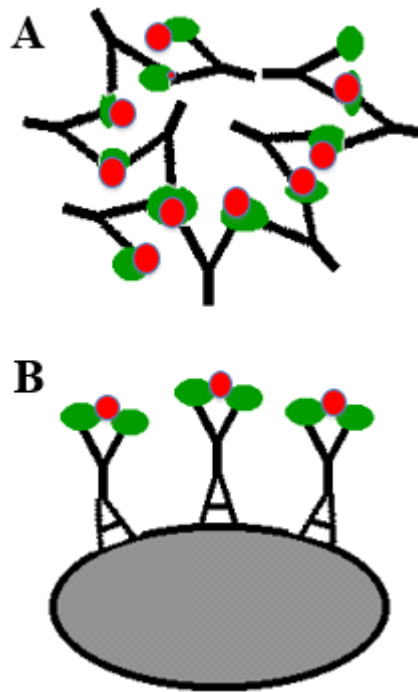
Polymer sheet exposed to antibody  
 Fluorescence/Enzymatic detection -> Enzyme converts substrate into product (which is colored or fluorescent)

Polyclonal antibodies -> often show multiple bands  
 Monoclonal antibodies -> often show only one band

Describe how immunoprecipitation works.

What is the difference in using polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies in an immunoprecipitation essay?

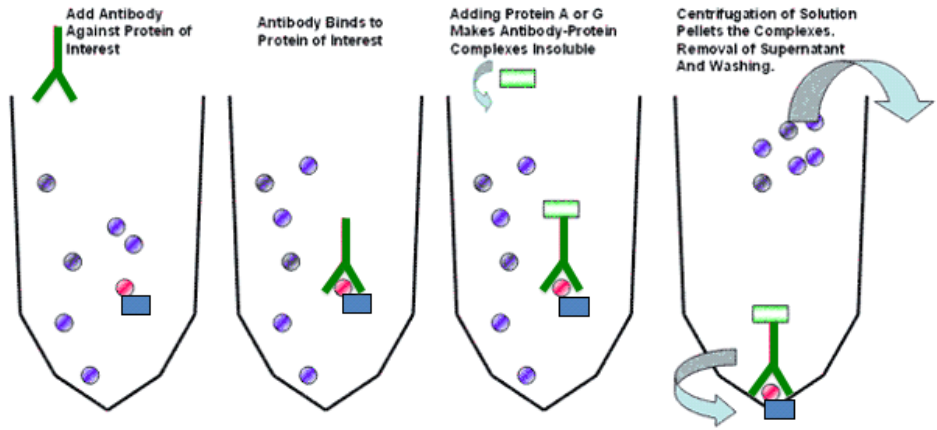
Immunoprecipitation - Affinity purification based on complexes of proteins A + proteins B



A - Polyclonal antibodies (separation by centrifuging)  
 B - Monoclonal antibodies (binds to a bead via the heavy chain -> separation by centrifuging)

Describe a typical immunoprecipitation essay.

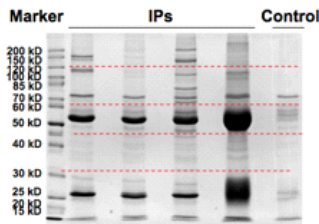
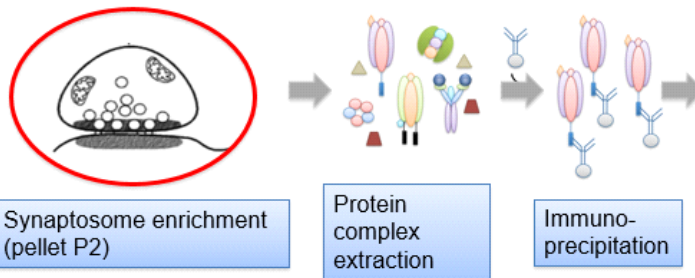
- Typical immunoprecipitation protocol
1. Solubilize protein - Non-denaturing
  2. Mix extract and antibody
  3. Add bead-Ab
  4. Wash
  5. Elute with sample buffer (detergent)
  6. SDS-PAGE
  7. Detection - Protein staining (e.g. Comassi blue) or immuno-detection



Validation requires controls - Only beads, antibodies and no beads

How could immunoprecipitation be used to study proteomics of an entire synapse?

IP interactome proteomics analysis



SDS PAGE



Tryptic digest

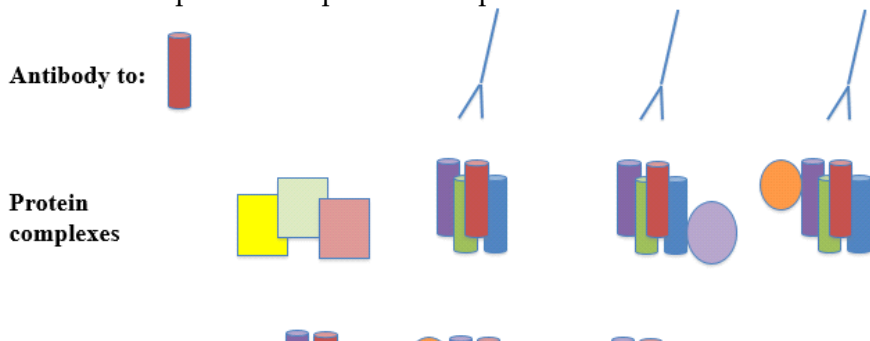


HPLC (liquid chromatography) MS analysis

Proteins for an entire synapse  
 Immunoprecipitation  
 SDS-PAGE  
 Tryptic digest  
 HPLC and Mass spectrometry -> List of all the components, but does not tell you the composition of individual protein complexes  
 Solution: BlueNative-PAGE

What is the difference between a BlueNative-PAGE and a SDS-PAGE?

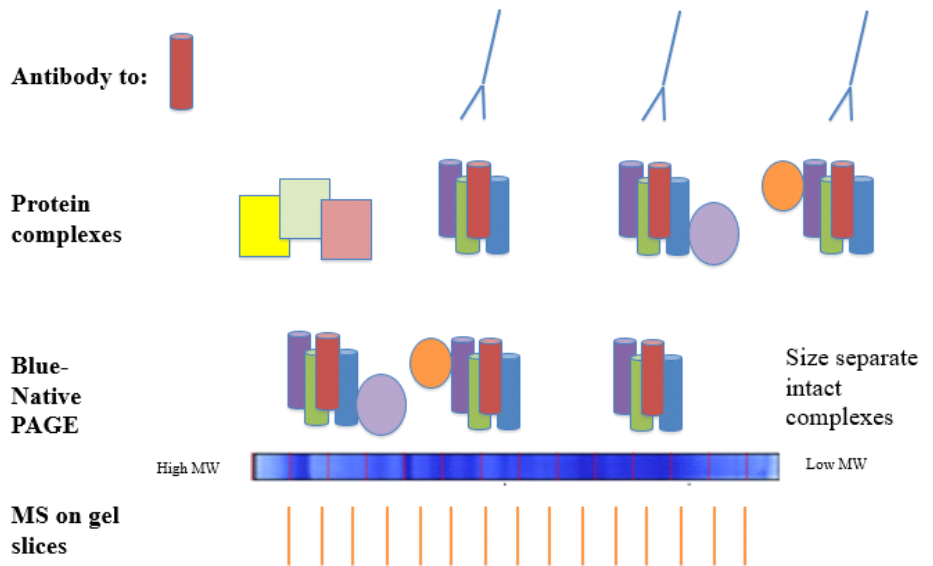
Individual composition of protein complex - BlueNative-PAGE



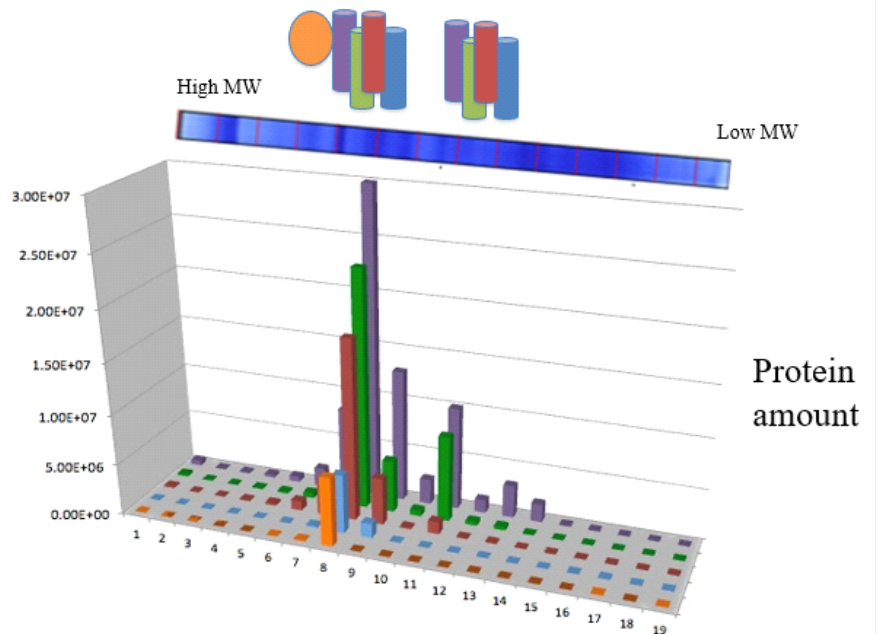
What do you do after the BlueNative-PAGE gel is complete?

between a BlueNative-PAGE and a SDS-PAGE?

What do you do after the BlueNative-PAGE gel is complete?



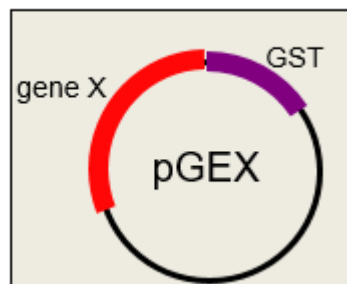
No SDS - Proteins are functional  
 Separation of intact protein complexes  
 Slice the gel for the different bands and perform mass spectrometry for each one



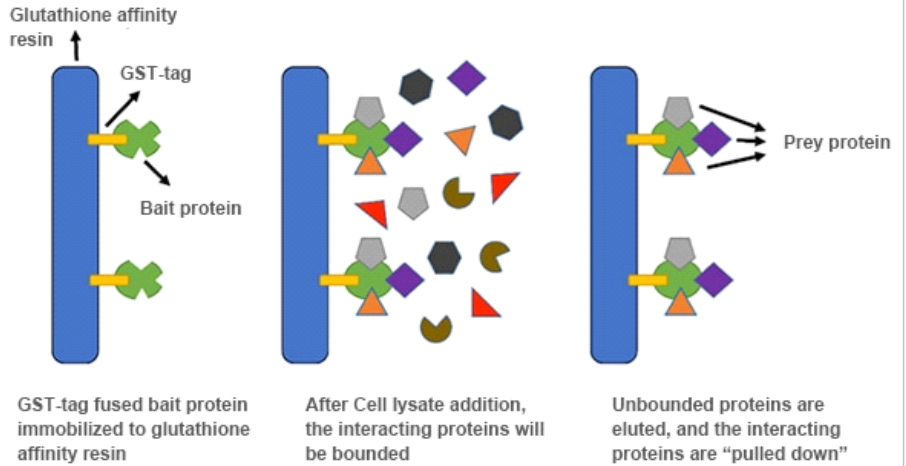
Describe how a pull-down assay works.

Pull-down

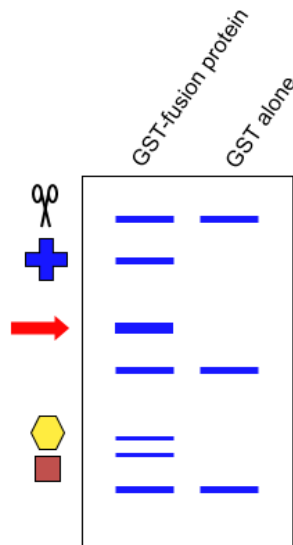
Plasmid - Express protein of interest fused with GST (binds to bead/known column protein)



Protein of interest binds to endogenous partner  
 Pull down in a column - Only proteins with GST will bind



Then separate - pH or enzymatic reaction  
 BlueNative-PAGE



Can be used to identify protein interactions in vivo - Allows identification of individual interactions

**What are the advantages and disadvantages of immunoprecipitation and pull-down?**

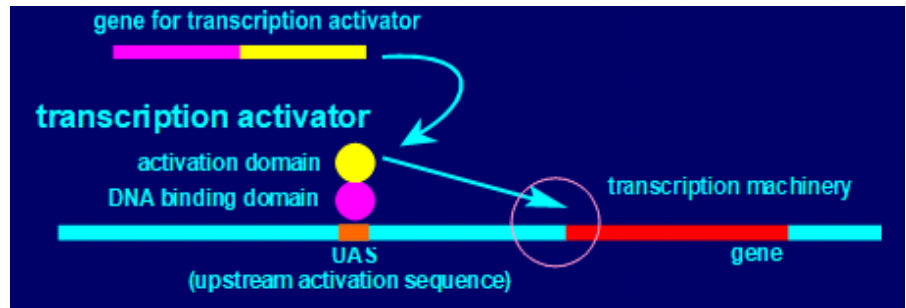
IP and pull-down  
 - Identify protein complexes  
 Disadvantage  
 - Low-affinity interactions cannot be identified -> alternative is yeast two-hybrid

**How the yeast two hybrid method takes advantage of the ways genes are expressed in**

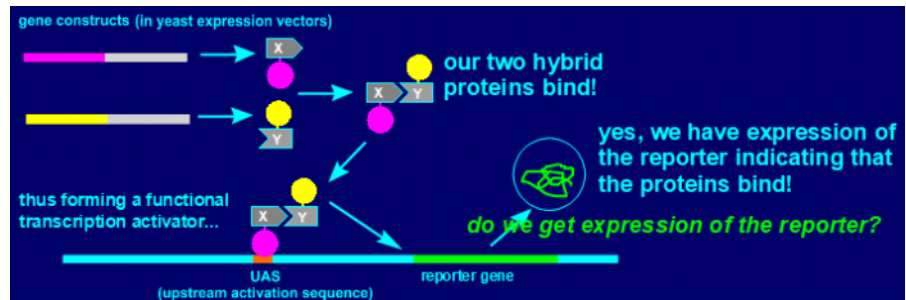
Yeast two hybrid - Can identify one-to-one interactions, including low affinity  
 How gene expression works in yeast - Transcription factor has an activation binding domain + DNA binding domain

yeast?

Describe how the yeast two hybrid method works?



Separate DNA binding and transcription factor domains -> You can then add proteins of interest  
Formation of a hybrid protein complex that can activate the gene



Fuse protein X to DNA binding domain in a plasmid -> Perform transfection

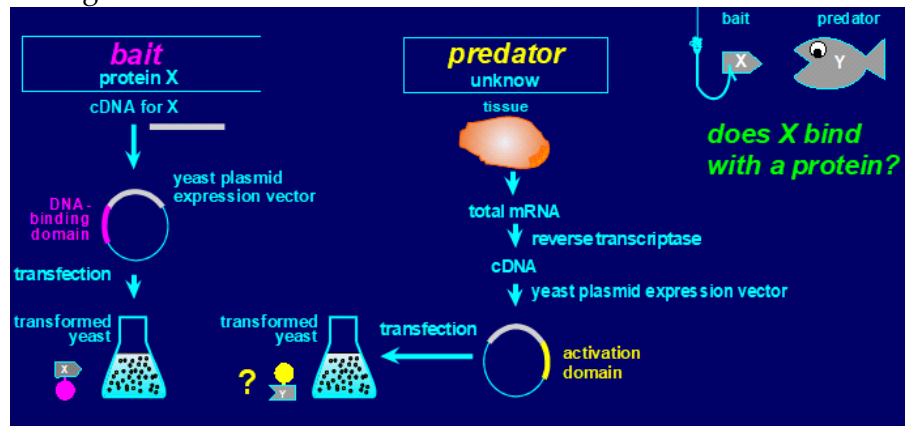
Unknown protein fused to activation domain -> Transfection in other yeast cell group

Mate two yeast cells -> Retransformed yeast

If reporter gene is active, then X and Y are present and are binding -> Yeast are able to grow

Isolate plasmid from colonies and sequence it

X-Y binding can be quantified by the rate of growth in the yeast colony - The lesser the affinity, the longer they take to grow



What is the main disadvantage of the yeast two hybrid method?

Yeast two hybrid need validation - May provide false data (proteins that never interact in the endogenous cell environment)  
E.g. IP, immunocytochemistry -> X and Y should always be together!  
If they are separated, the result is a false positive