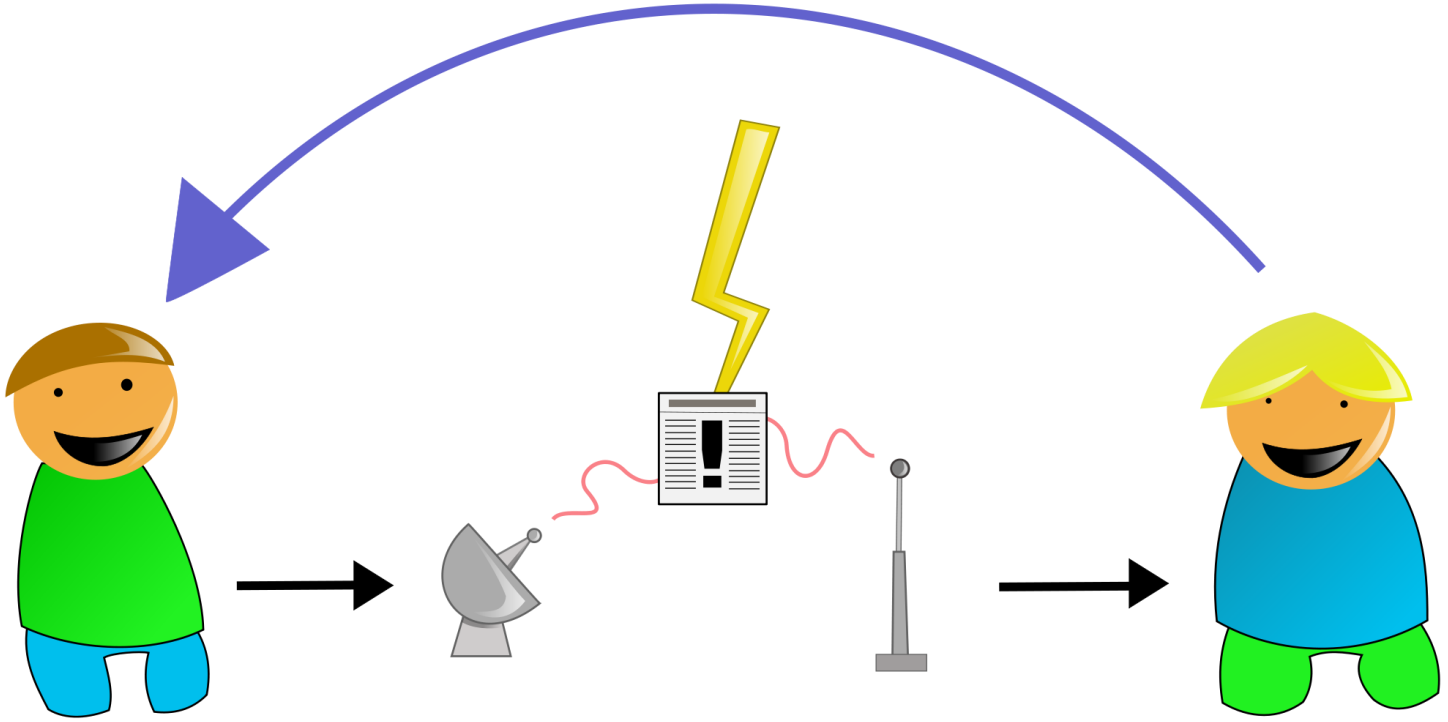
Domain 6: Communication

6.1: Cell communication processes share common features that reflect a shared evolutionary history.

1. INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION.

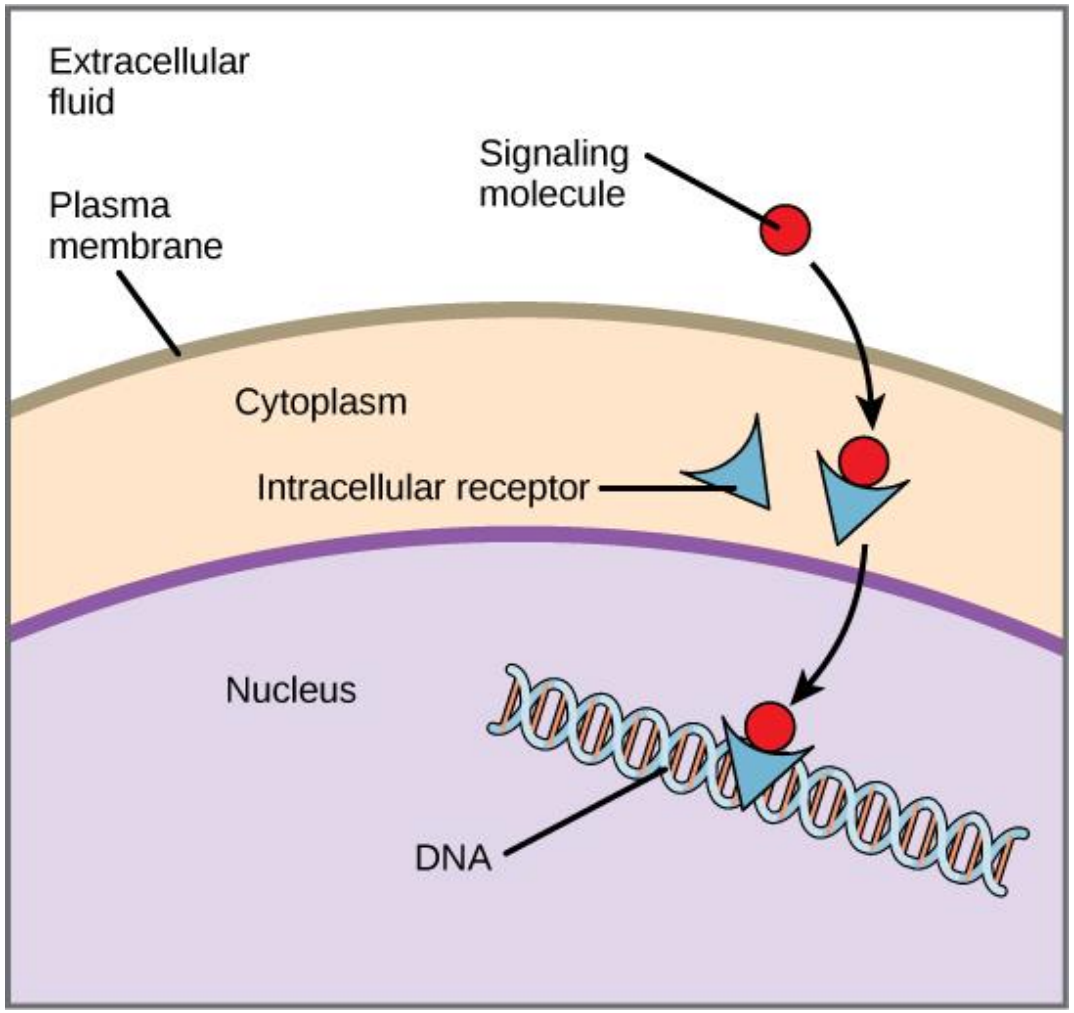
How Does Communication Happen?

Communication requires the generation, transmission, and reception of a signal.



In cellular systems, signals are generally chemical molecules (e.g. **hormones**), but can also include direct detection of environmental conditions (e.g. light).

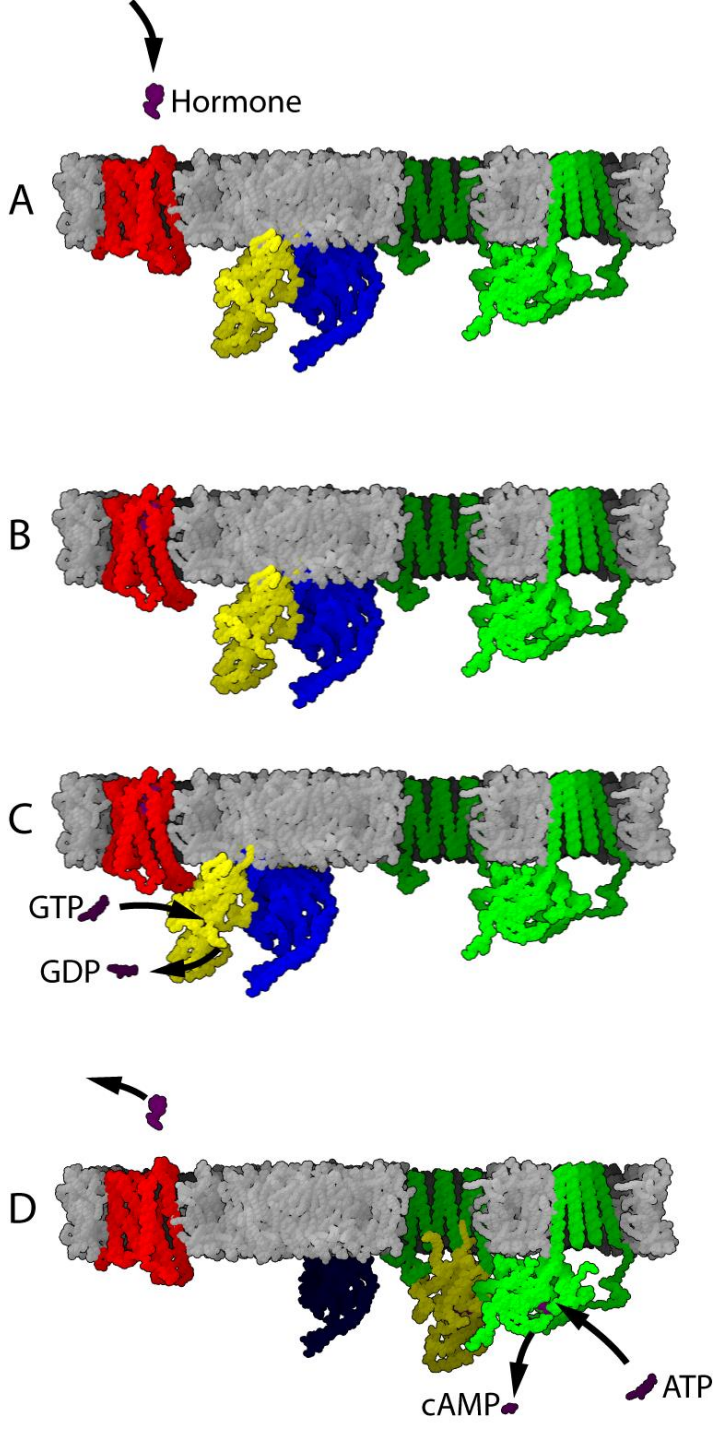
Pathways involved in communication are called "**signal transduction pathways**".



Signal Transduction is Universal

All organisms have signal transduction pathways.

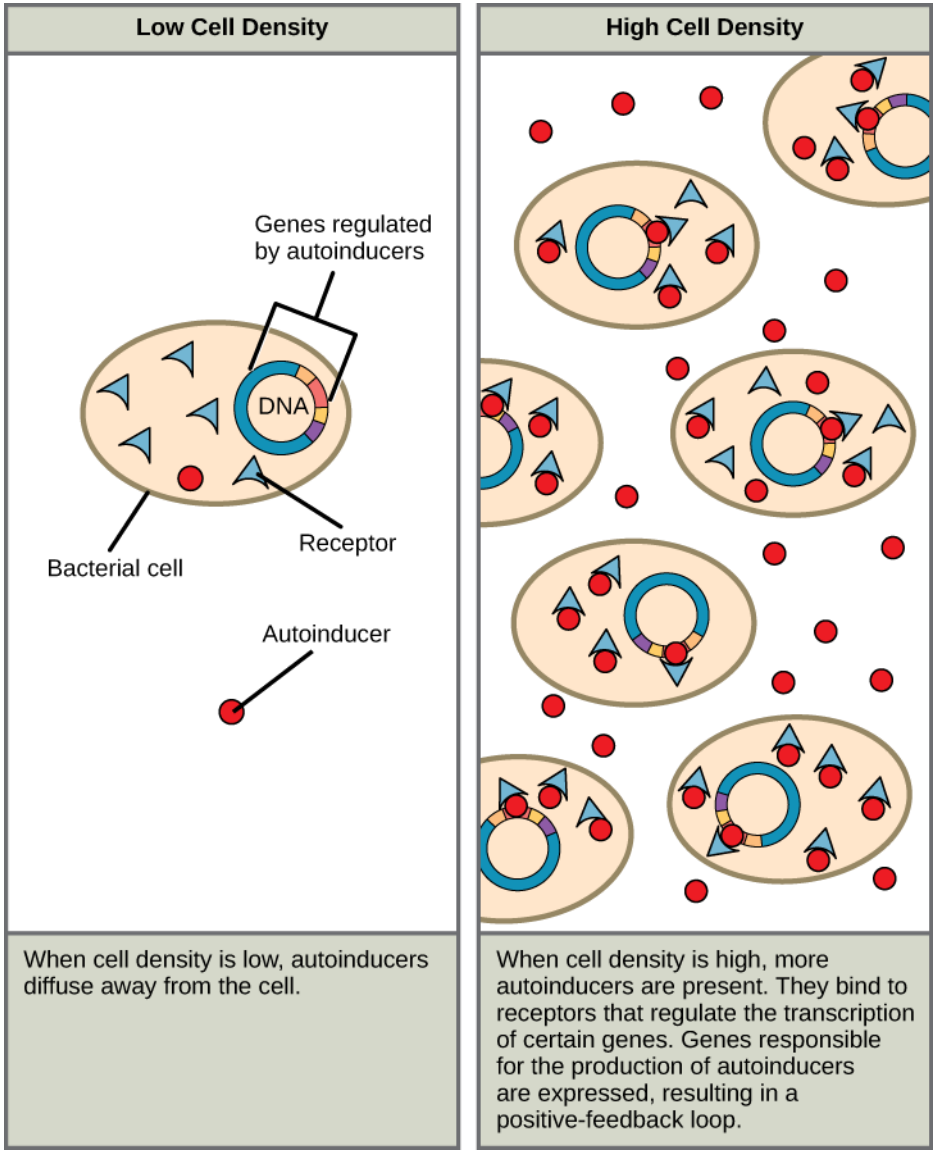
The protein-based nature of signal transduction, along with its adaptive significance makes signal transduction a major area of evolution.



Unicellular Signaling Pathways

Signaling pathways allow unicellular organisms to receive information from the environment and respond to that information.

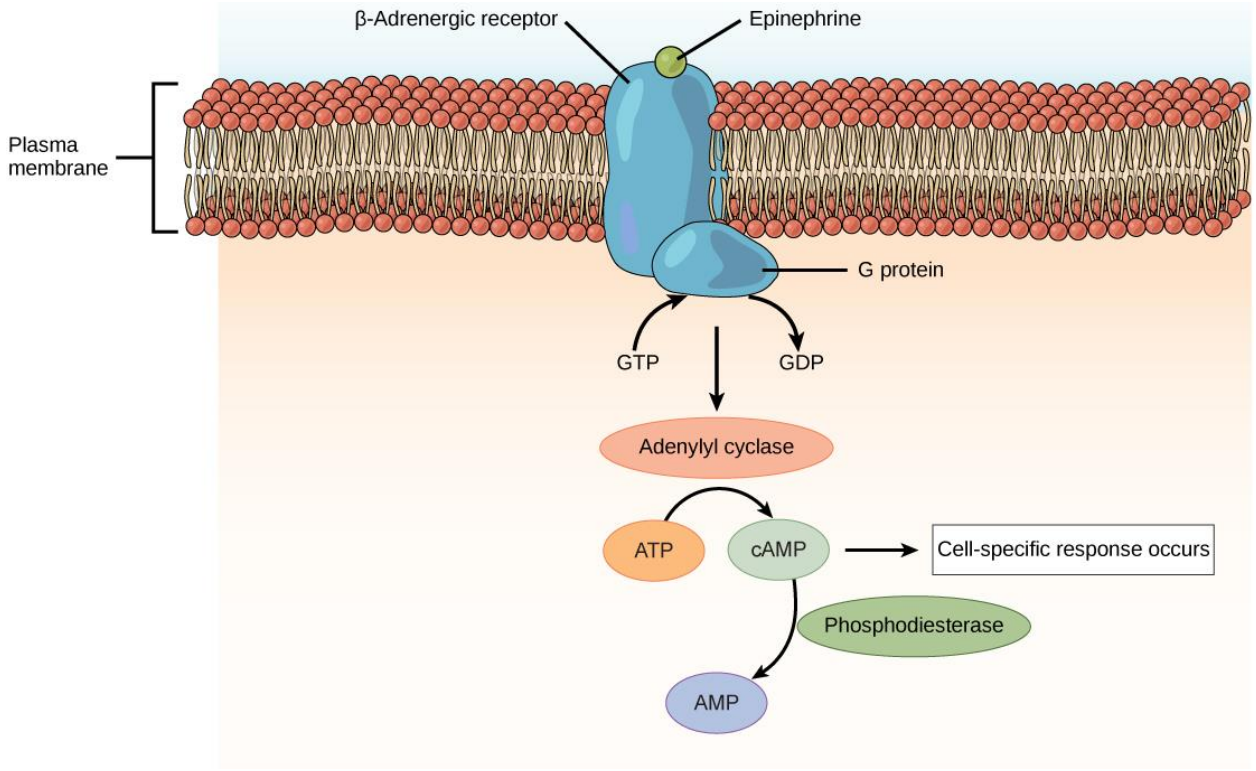
Ex. Quorum Sensing



Multicellular Signaling Pathways

Signaling pathways allow multicellular organisms to receive information, and coordinate all of the cells of the organism in responding to that information

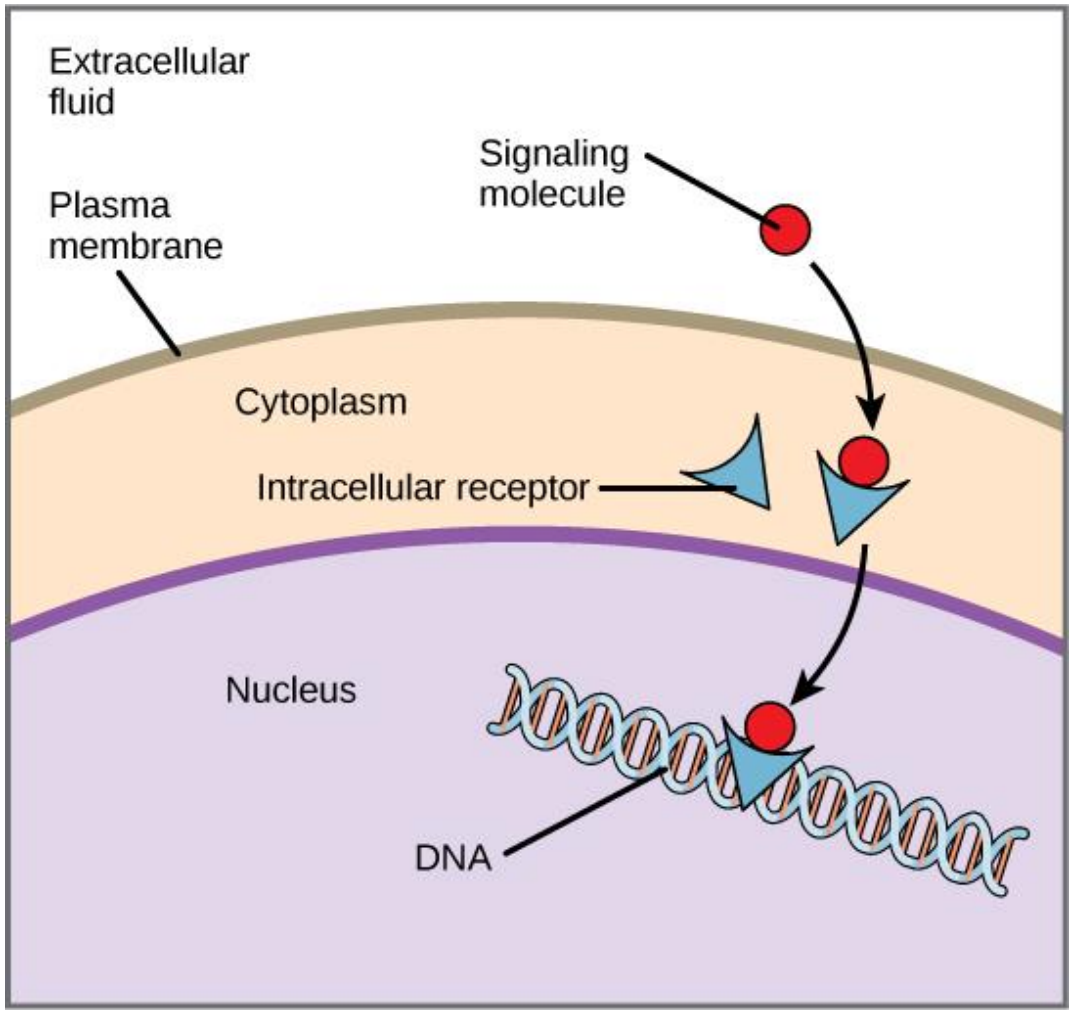
Ex. Epinephrine Signaling



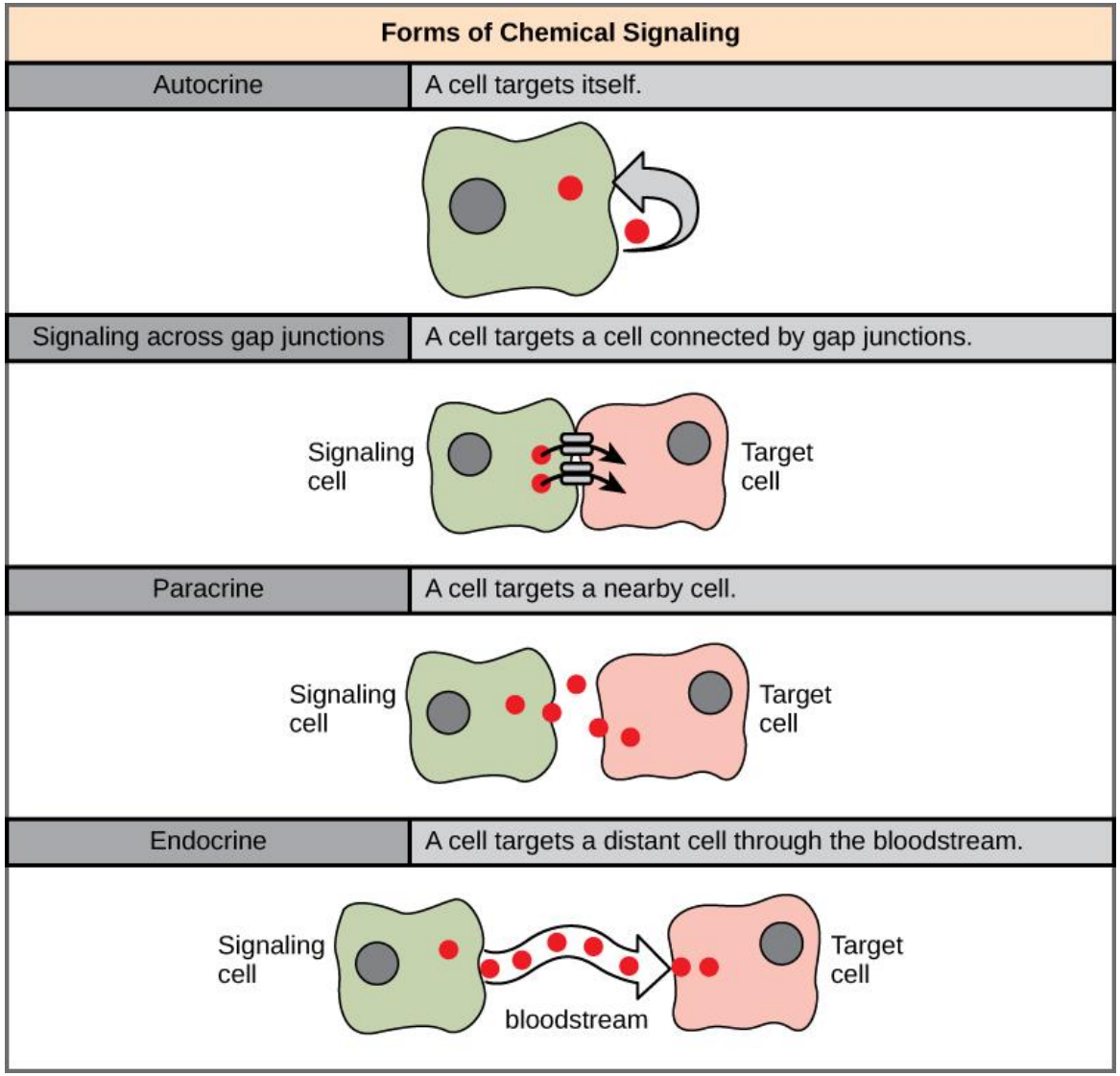
6.2: Cells communicate with each other through direct contact with other cells or from a distance via chemical signaling

1. TYPES OF CELLULAR SIGNALS

Cellular Communication always involves the production, exchange, and receipt of chemical messages (“**ligands**”)



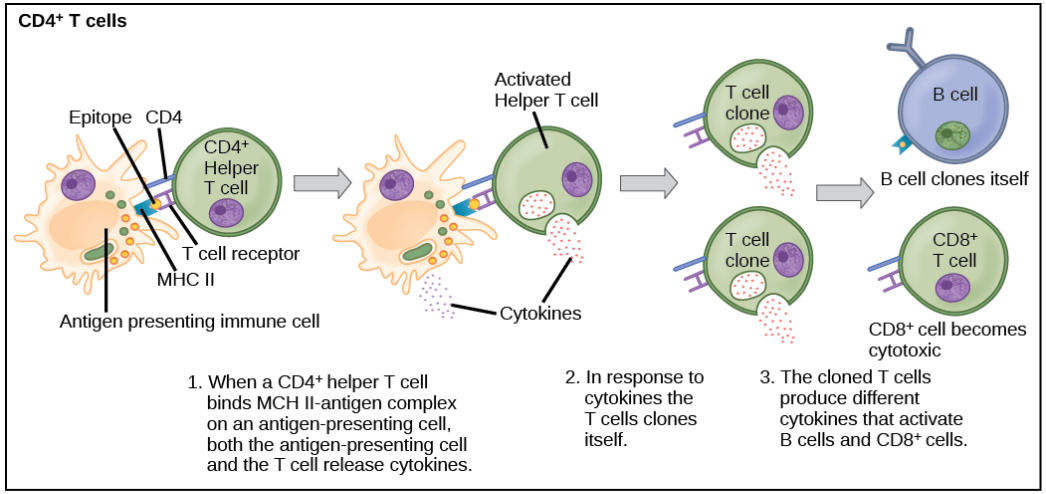
There are a variety of ways that ligands can be exchanged between cells

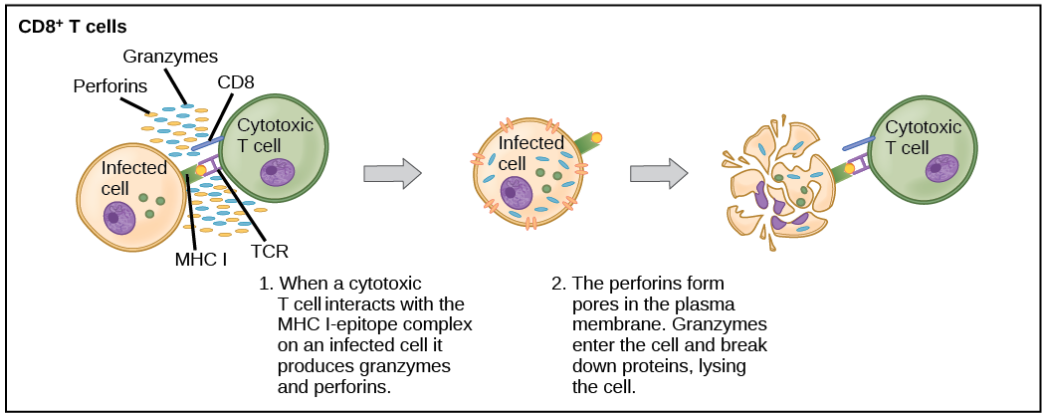


Cell-Cell Contact

Exactly what it sounds like.

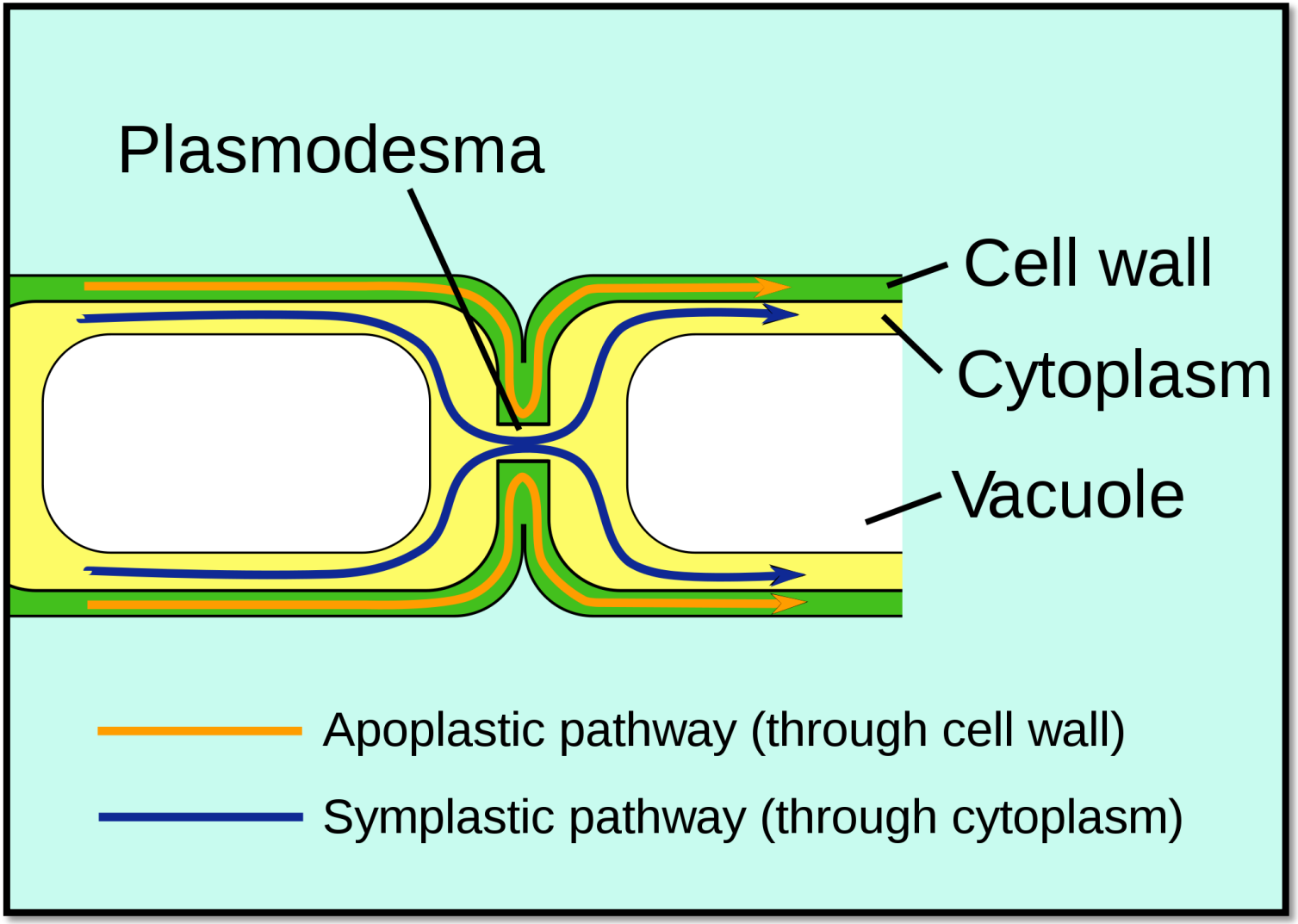
Ex. Lymphocyte Communication





Cell-Cell Contact

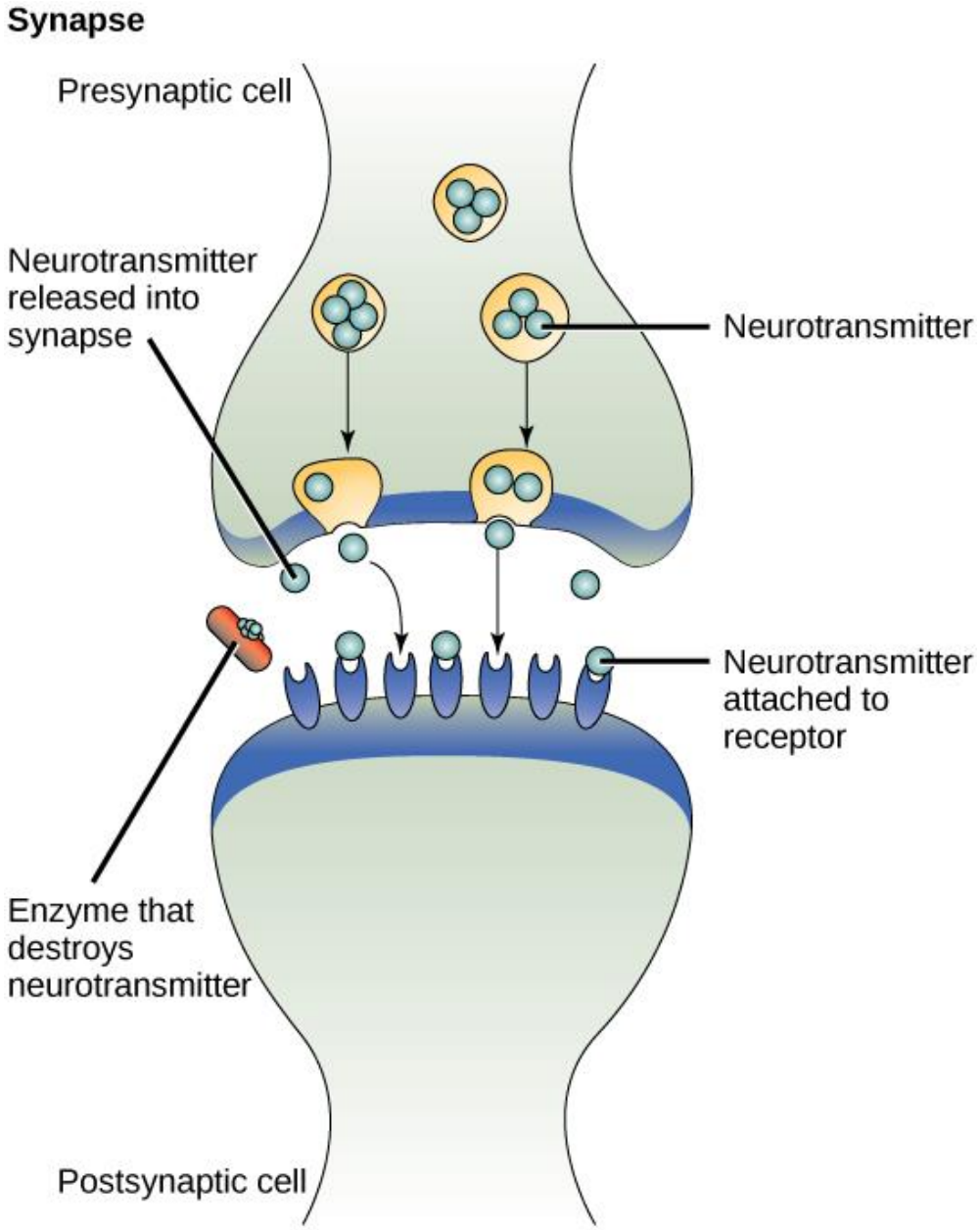
Ex. Communication via Plasmodesmata



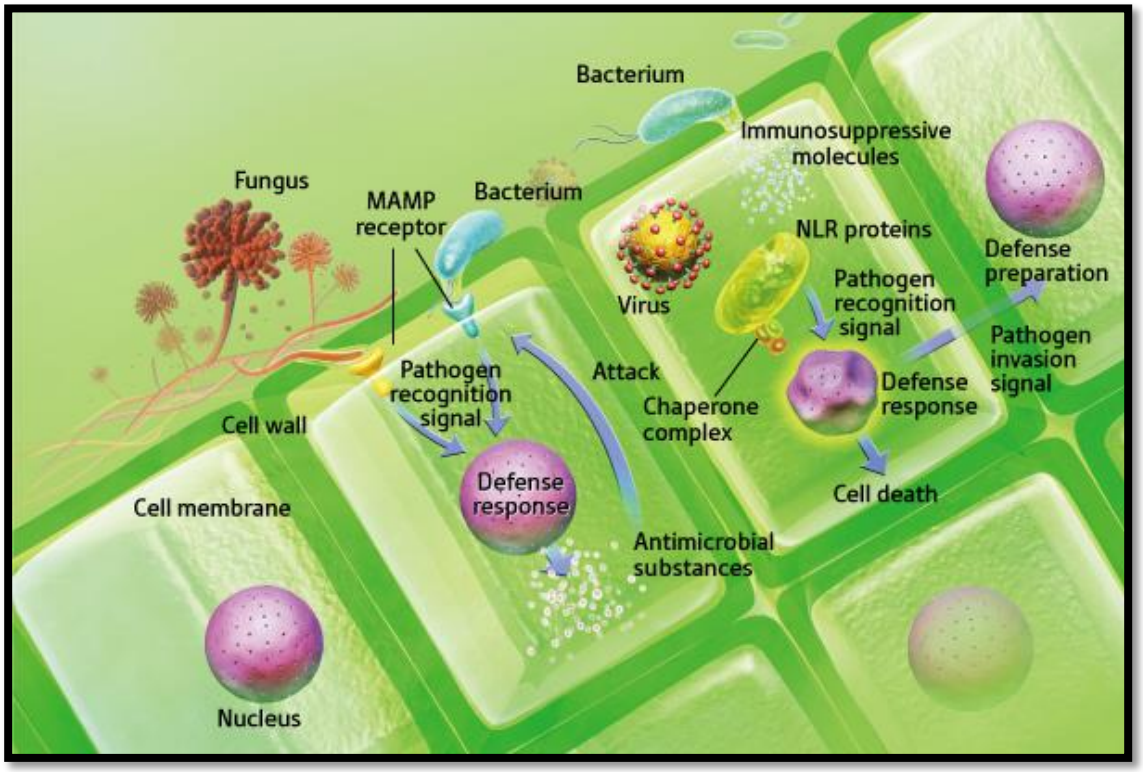
Local Signaling

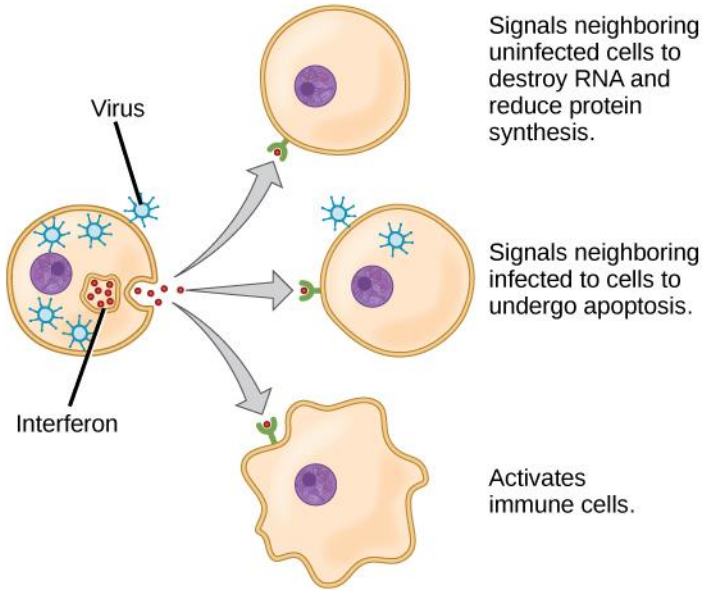
Ligands are produced by cells and diffuse to local target cell populations.

Ex. Neurotransmitters



Ex. Immune System Signaling

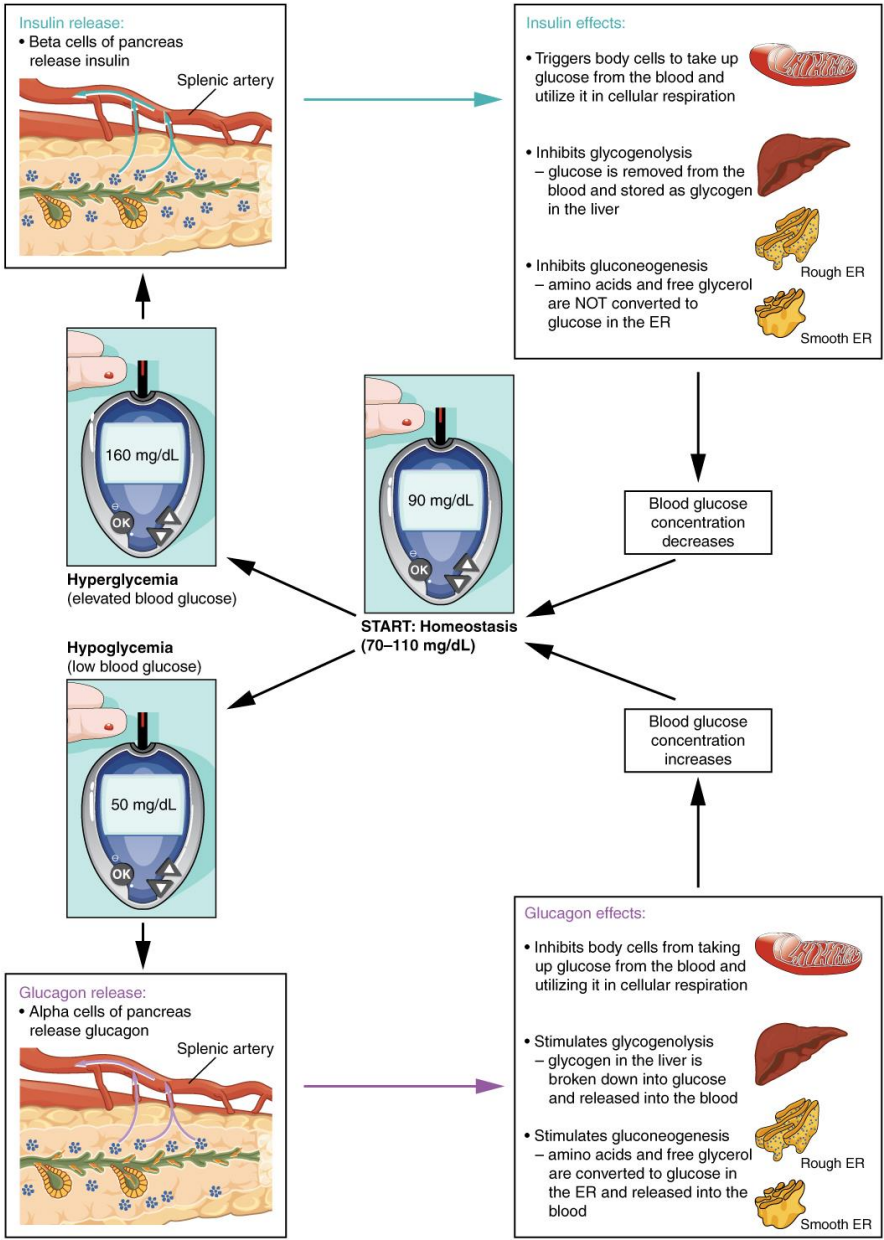




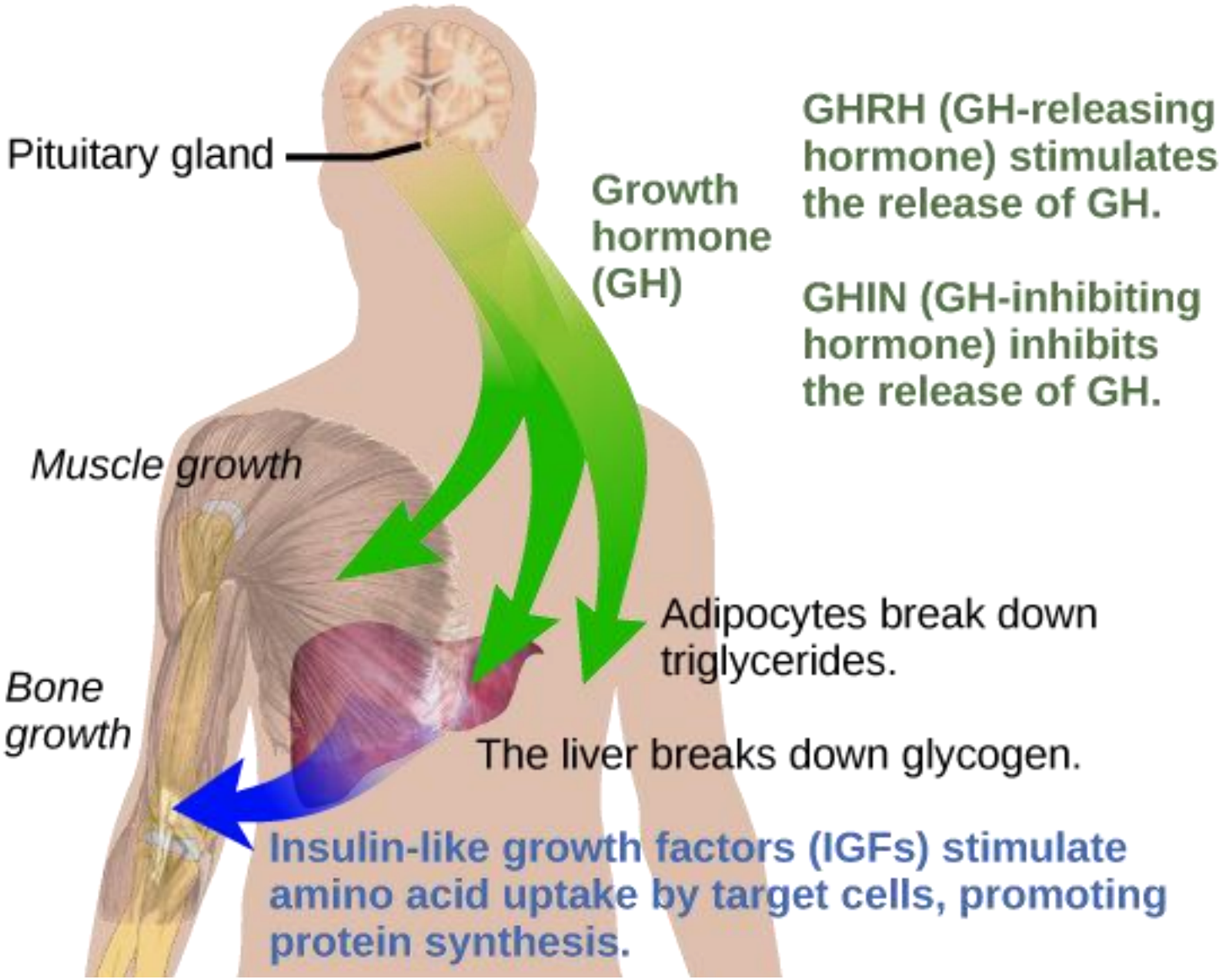
Distance Signaling

Endocrine system: The production of hormones by glands, which travel through the circulatory system to reach target cells.

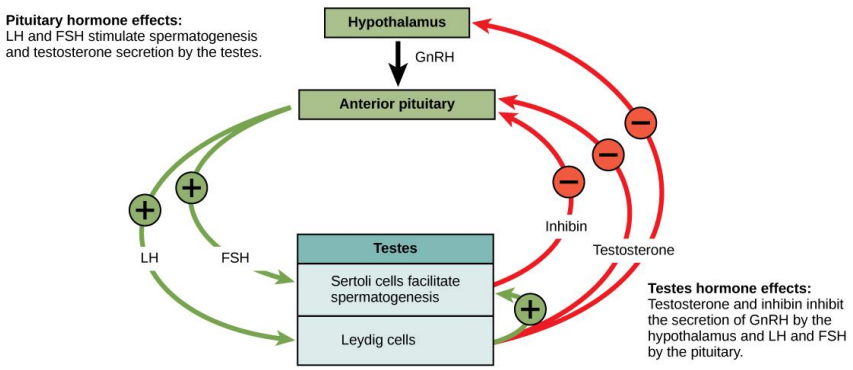
Ex. Insulin/Glucagon

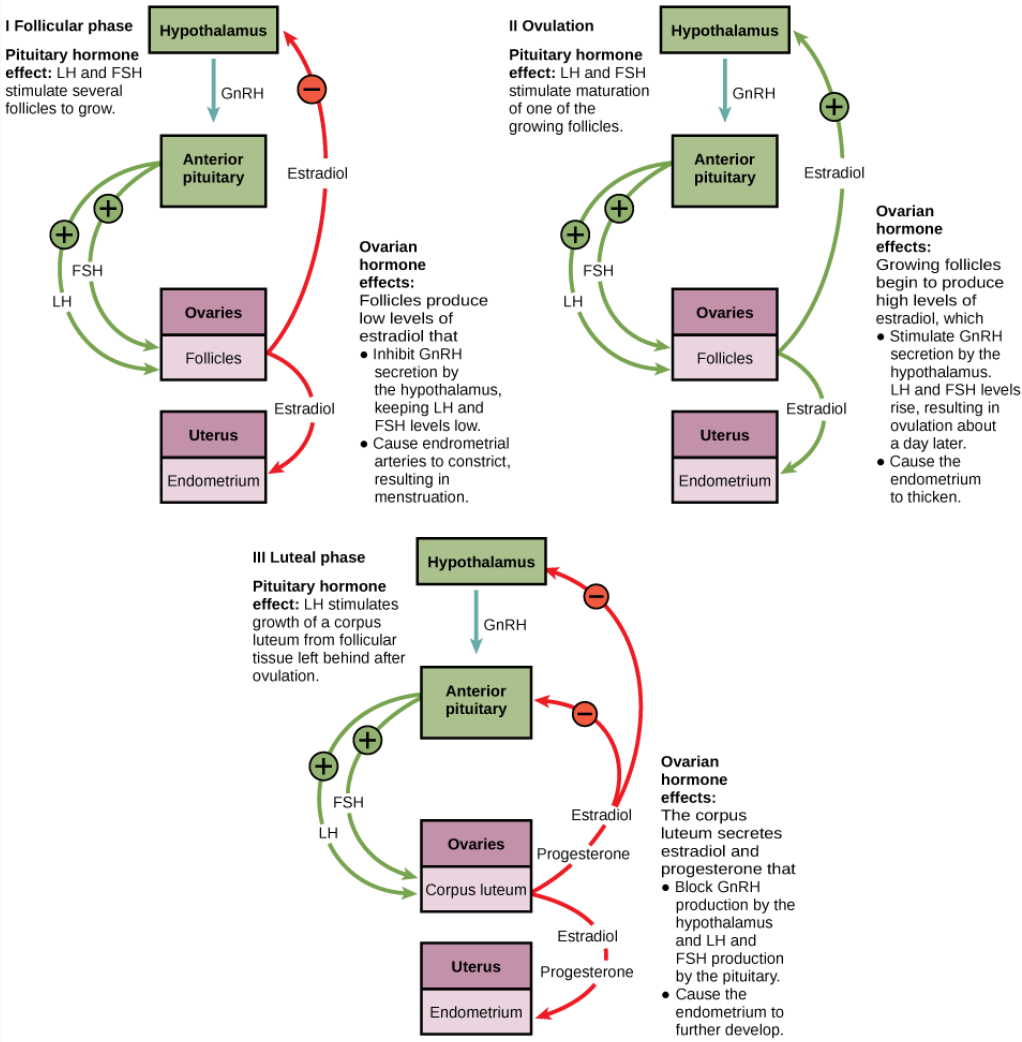


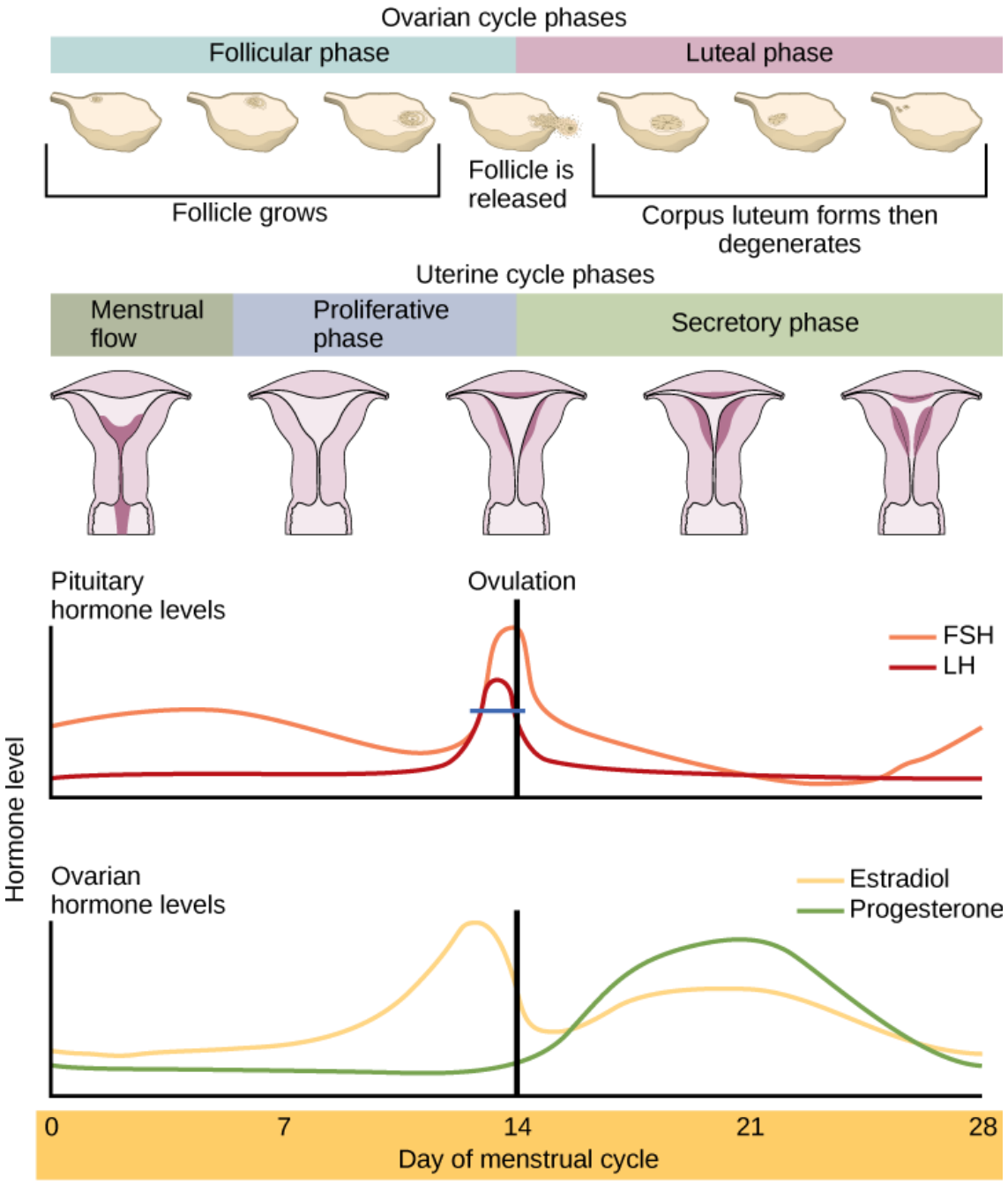
Ex. Human Growth hormone



Ex. Sex Hormones






Ovarian cycle phases
Follicular phase
Luteal phase
Follicle grows
Follicle is released
Corpus luteum forms then degenerates
Uterine cycle phases
Menstrual flow
Proliferative phase
Secretory phase
Pituitary hormone levels
Ovulation
FSH
LH
Hormone level
Ovarian hormone levels
Estradiol
Progesterone
0
7
14
21
28
Day of menstrual cycle

6.3: Signal transduction pathways link signal reception with cellular response.

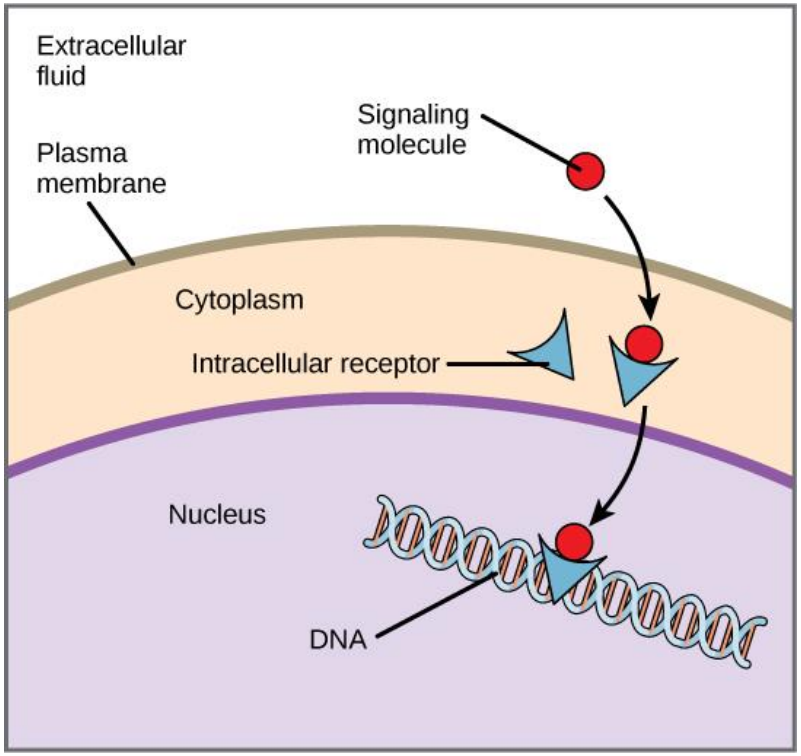
SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION PATHWAYS

Overview

Signal Transduction pathways differ in specific details, but have certain, unifying characteristics.

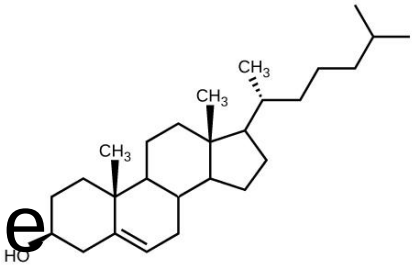
All pathways follow a sequence:

Reception → Transduction → Response

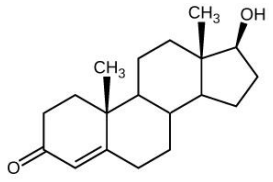


Ligand Chemistry

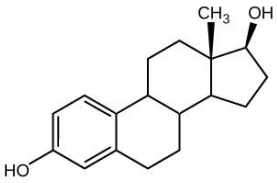
The chemistry of the ligand determines if it will be received at the cell membrane (proteins and amines) or intracellularly (steroid hormones)



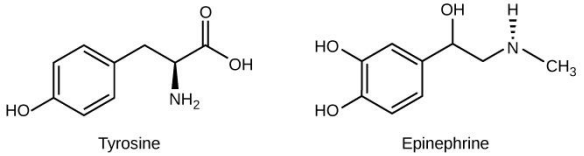
(a) Cholesterol



(b) Testosterone

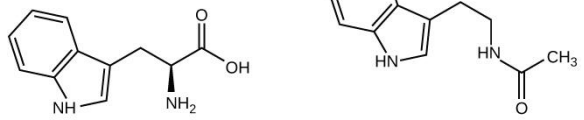


(c) Estradiol



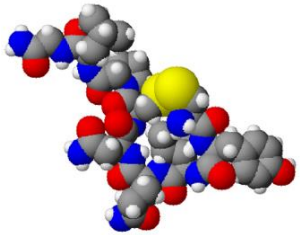
Tyrosine Epinephrine

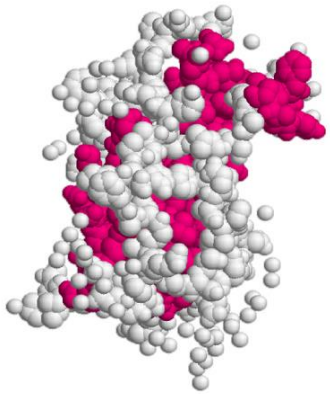
(a)

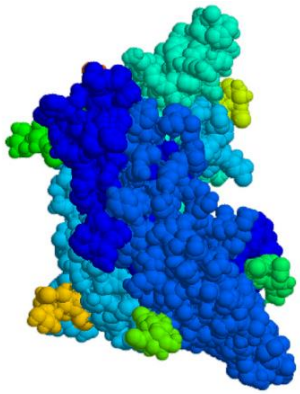


Tryptophan Melatonin

(b)


(a)

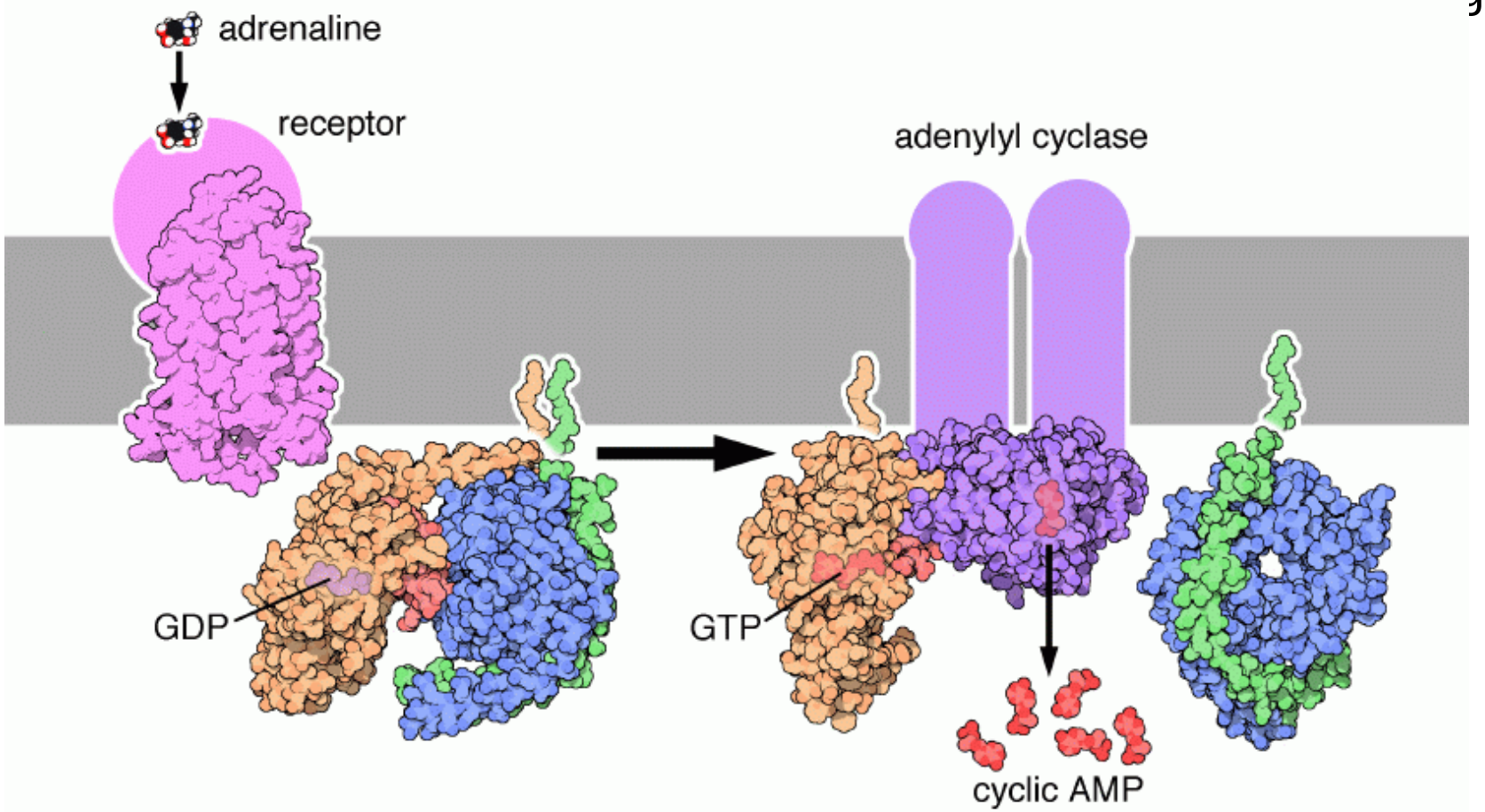

(b)


(c)

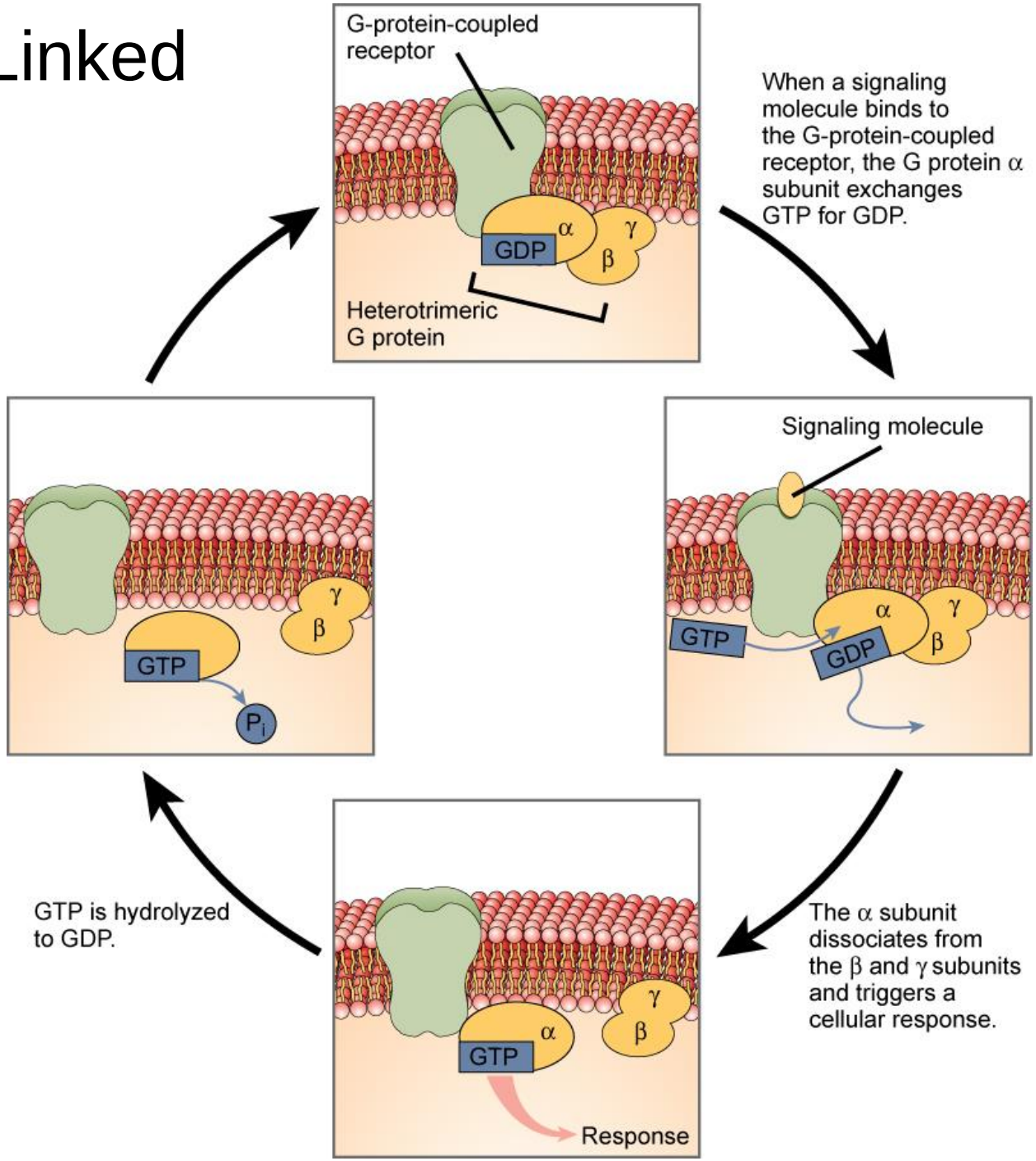
Receptor Proteins

Receptor proteins have a diversity of structures, but there are some general features:

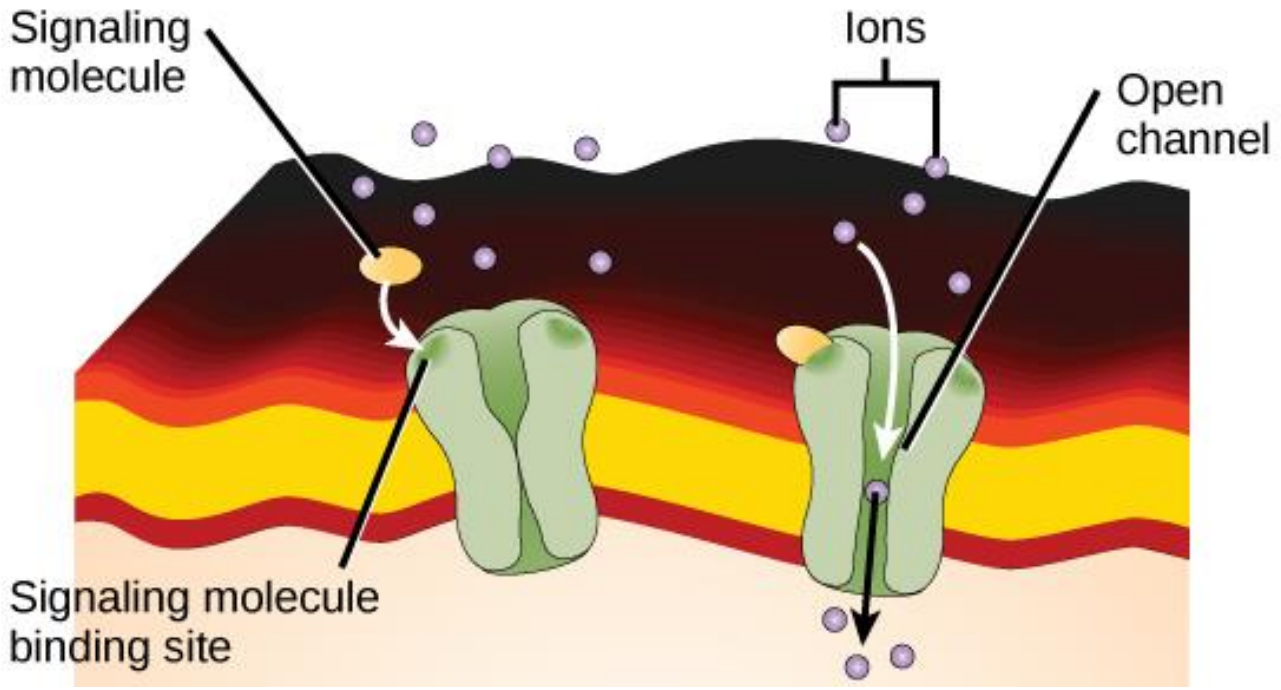
- An area of the protein that interacts with the ligand
- An area of the protein that transmits the signal to another protein.
- Signal transmission is accomplished through conformational change.



Ex. G-Protein Linked Receptor



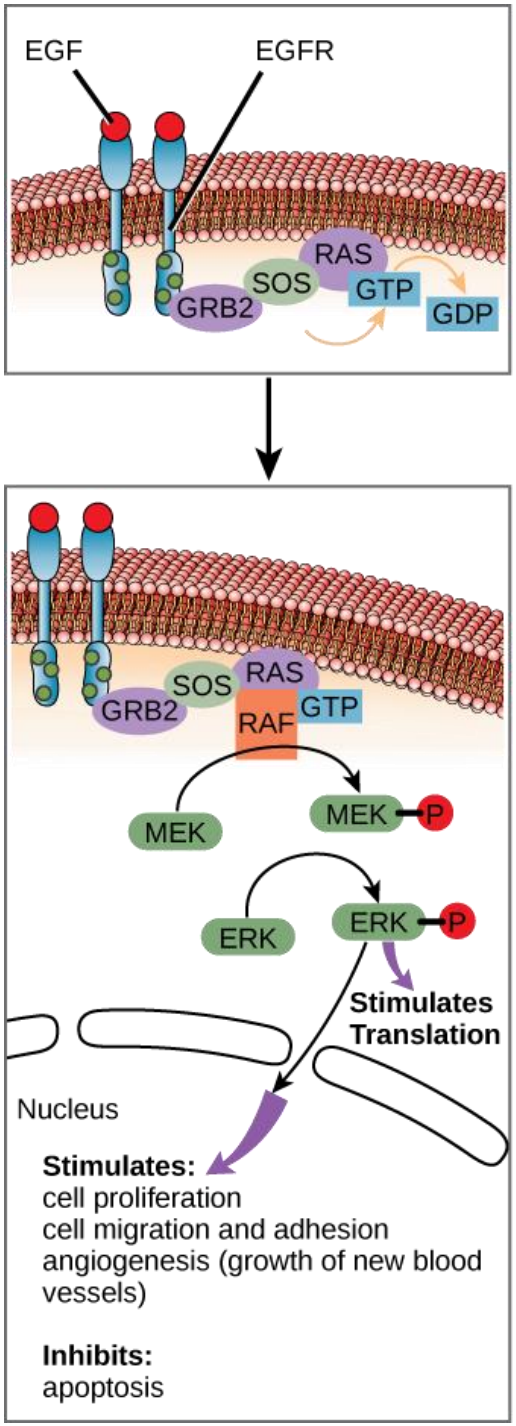
Ex. Ligand Gated Ion Channels



Transduction

Transduction converts signal reception in to cellular response.

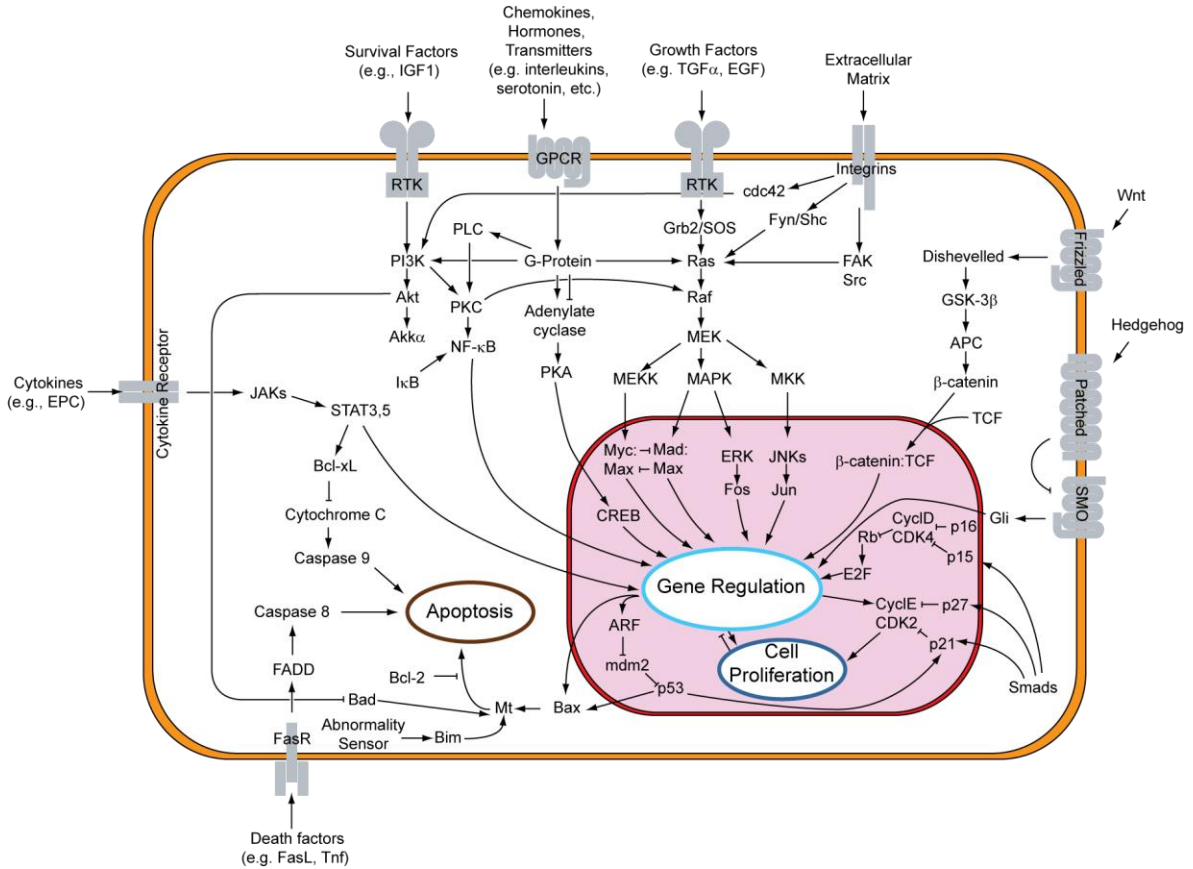
Accomplished via activation of proteins through **phosphorylation**, or a change in intracellular conditions.



Amplification & Complexity

The signal of one ligand can be exponentially amplified during transduction.

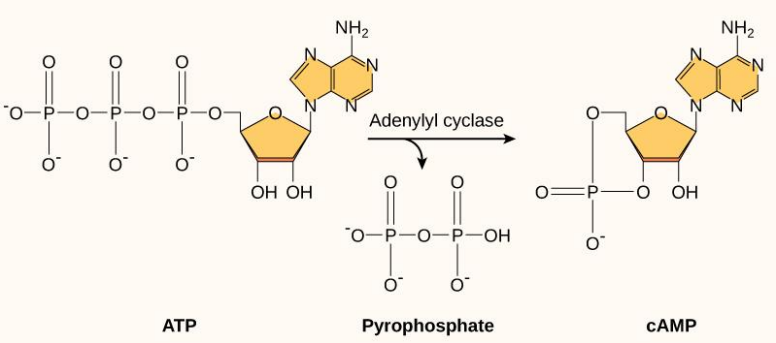
The interconnected network of cellular signaling pathways leads can generate very complex cellular responses.

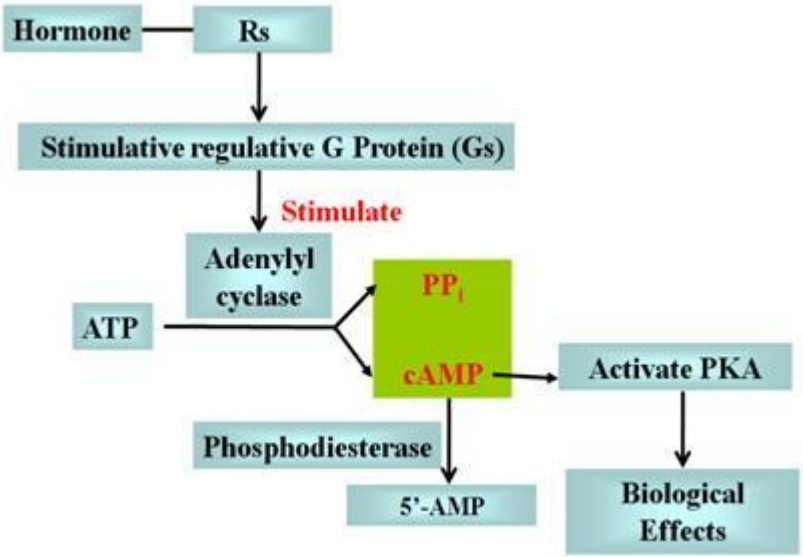


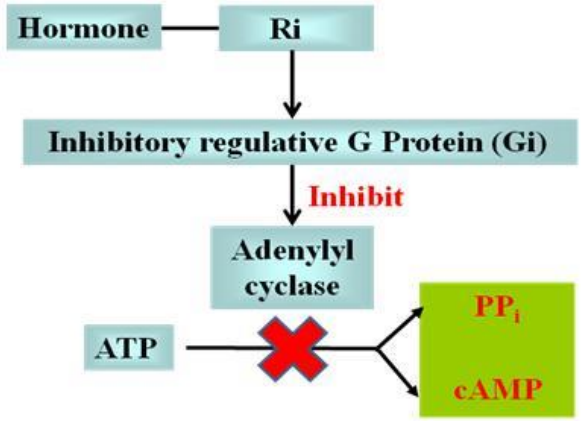
Second Messengers

Internal signaling molecules, often activated by multiple external signals.

Ex. Cyclic AMP

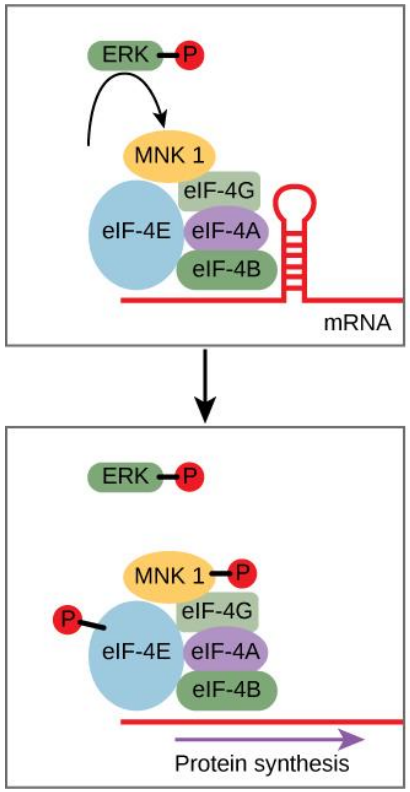




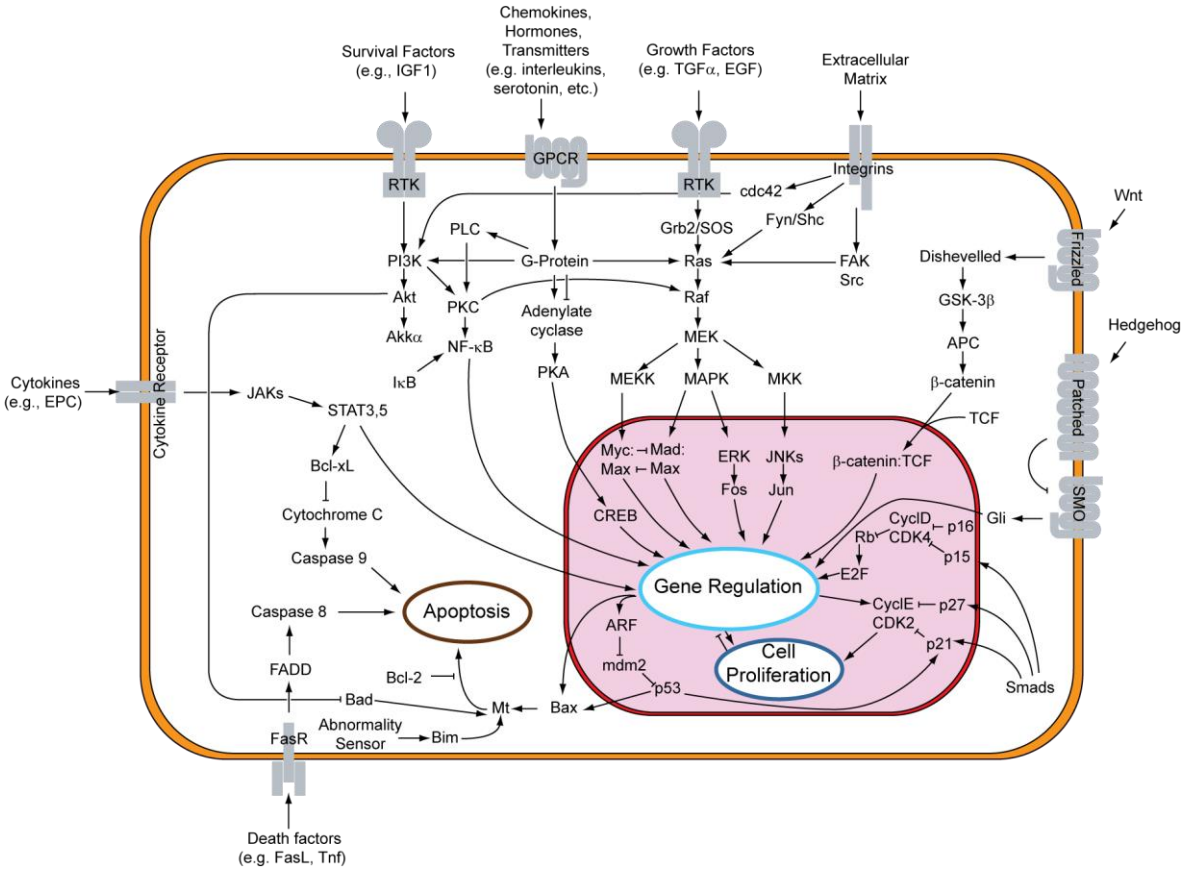


Response

Cellular responses involve changes in gene expression, and the activation of already synthesized, inactive proteins.



The MAP kinase ERK phosphorylates MNK1. MNK1 in turn phosphorylates eIF-4E, which is associated with mRNA. The mRNA unfolds and protein sythesis begins.

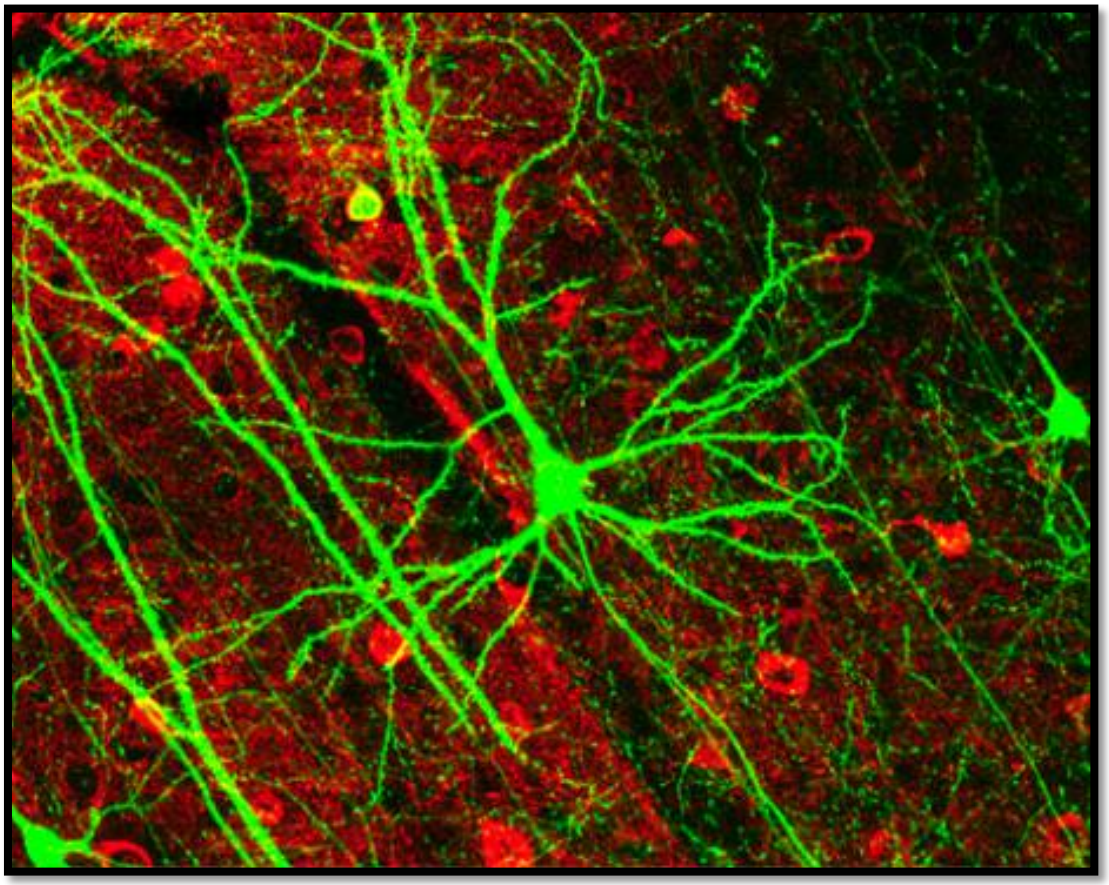


6.6: Animals have nervous systems that detect external and internal signals, transmit and integrate information, and produce responses.

1. NEURONS

All About Neurons

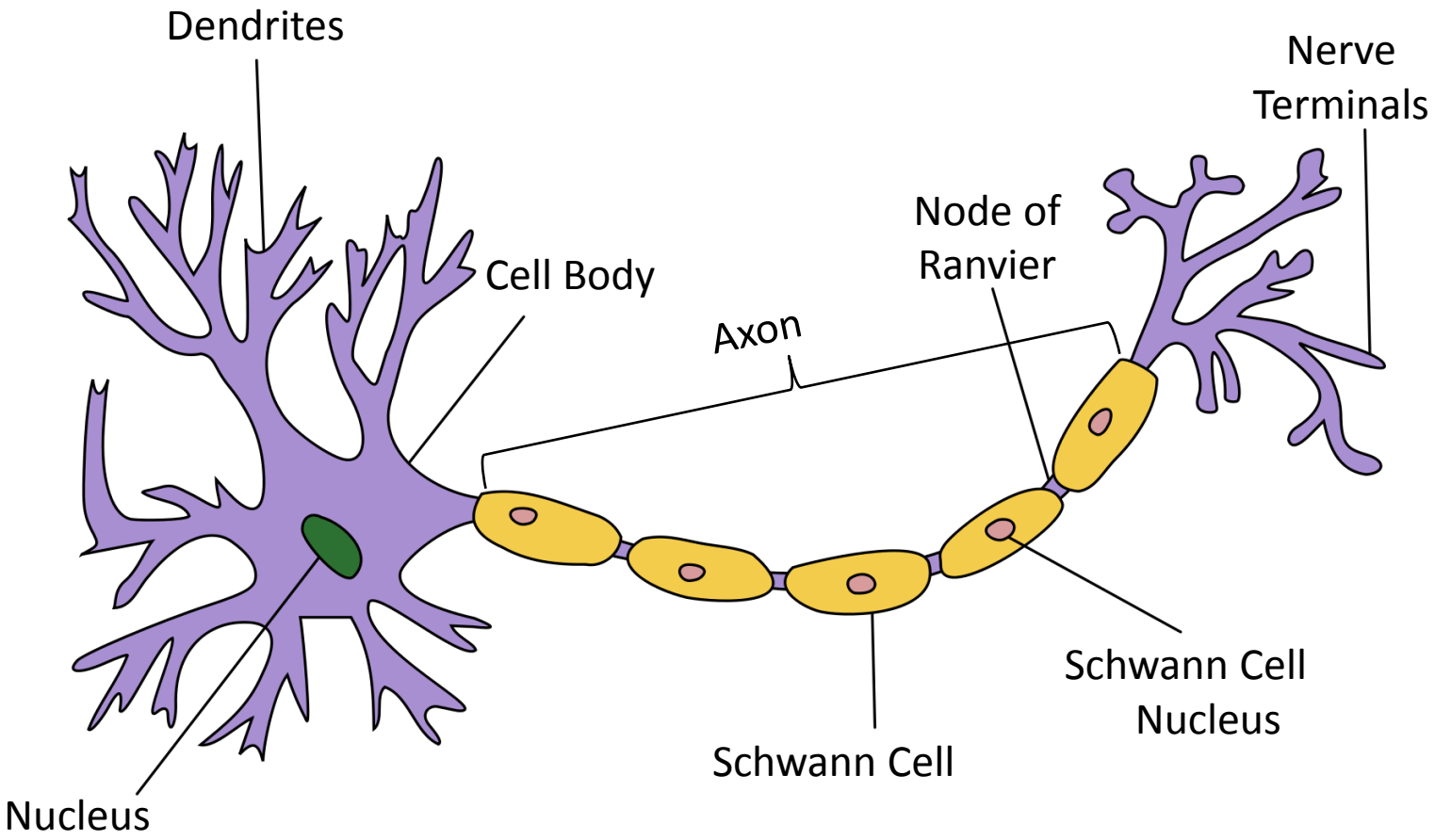
Neurons are highly-specialized cells used by the nervous system to detect signals and transmit them to other neurons or response **effectors** (muscles or glands)



Neuron Anatomy

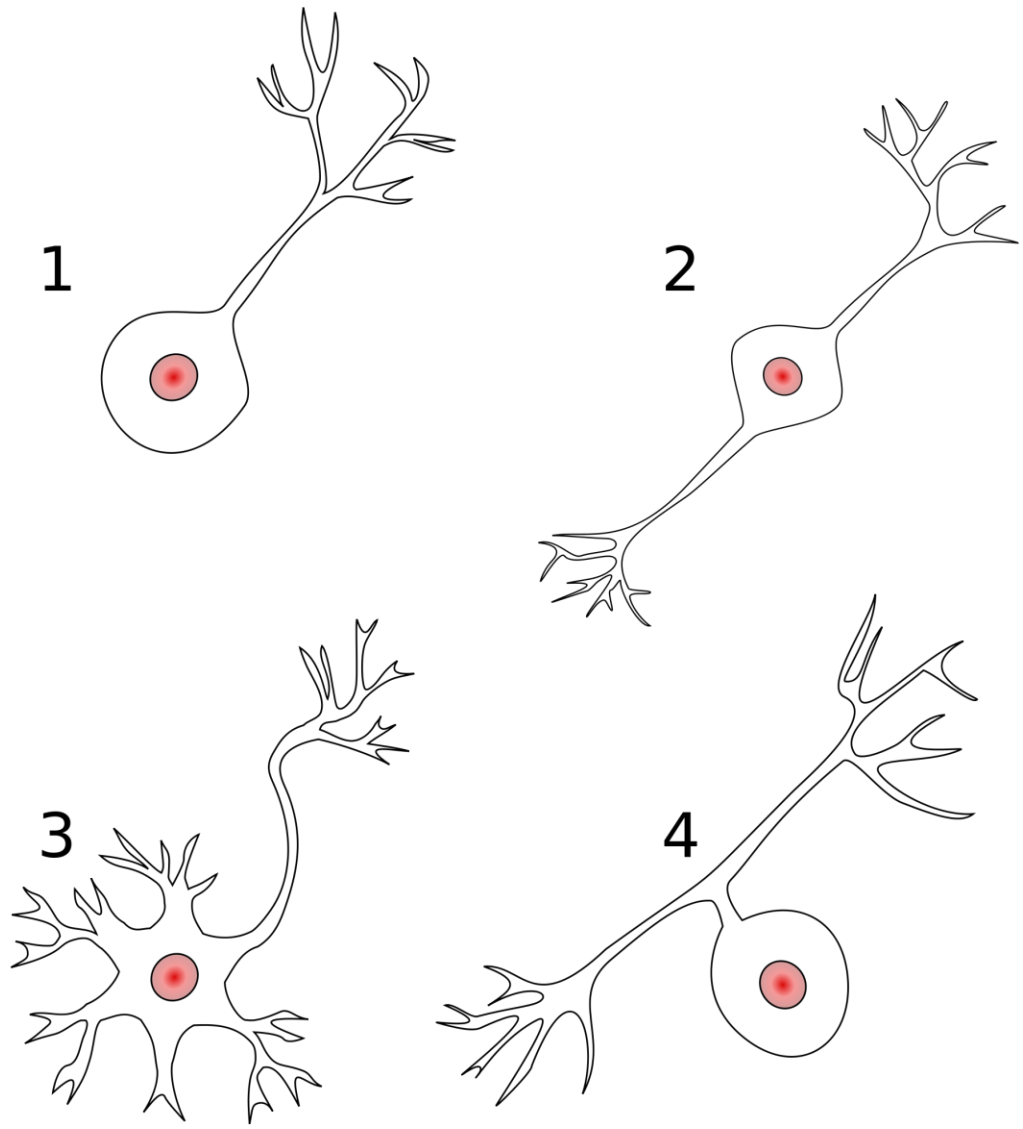
Neurons allow for signals to generated, detected, transmitted and integrated by animals.

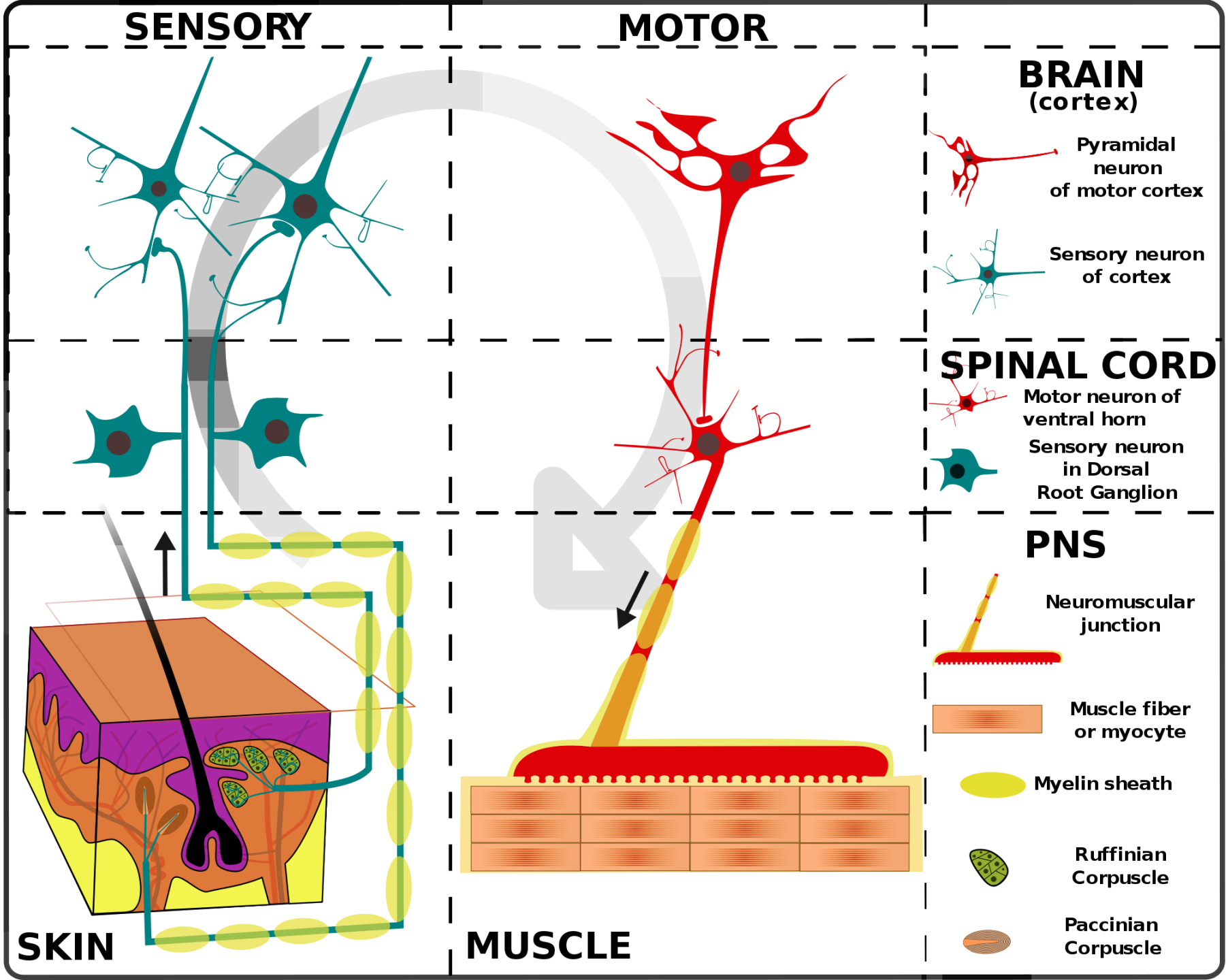
Neuron signals move from **dendrites** to **axon** to **nerve terminals**.



Neuron Diversity

Neuron structure varies depending on the role of the neuron in the nervous system.




SENSORY
MOTOR
BRAIN
(cortex)
Pyramidal neuron of motor cortex
Sensory neuron of cortex
SPINAL CORD
Motor neuron of ventral horn
Sensory neuron in Dorsal Root Ganglion
PNS
Neuromuscular junction
Muscle fiber or myocyte
Myelin sheath
Ruffinian Corpuscle
Paccinian Corpuscle
SKIN
MUSCLE

Action Potentials

Neuron signals are electrochemical "**action potentials**".

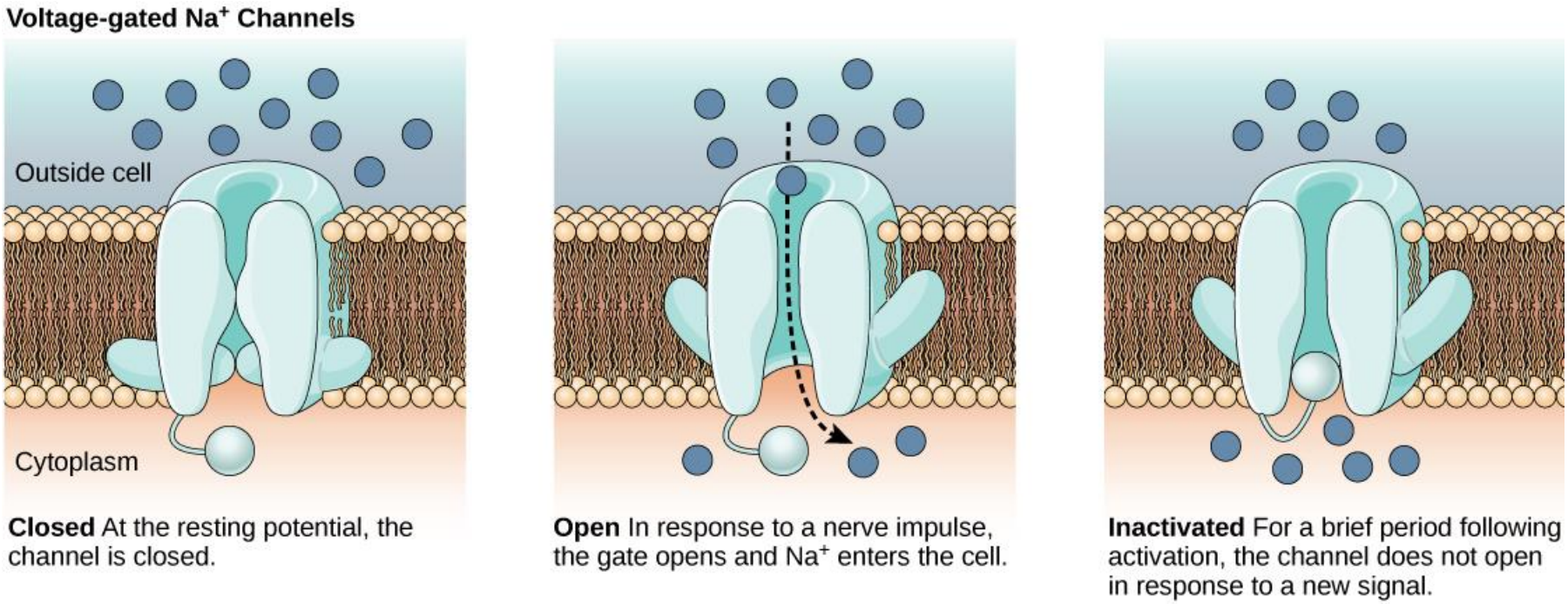
At rest, the membrane of a neuron is **polarized**, with active maintenance of different concentrations of ions inside and outside of the cell (the "**resting potential**").

Na^+ is at a higher concentration outside the cell.

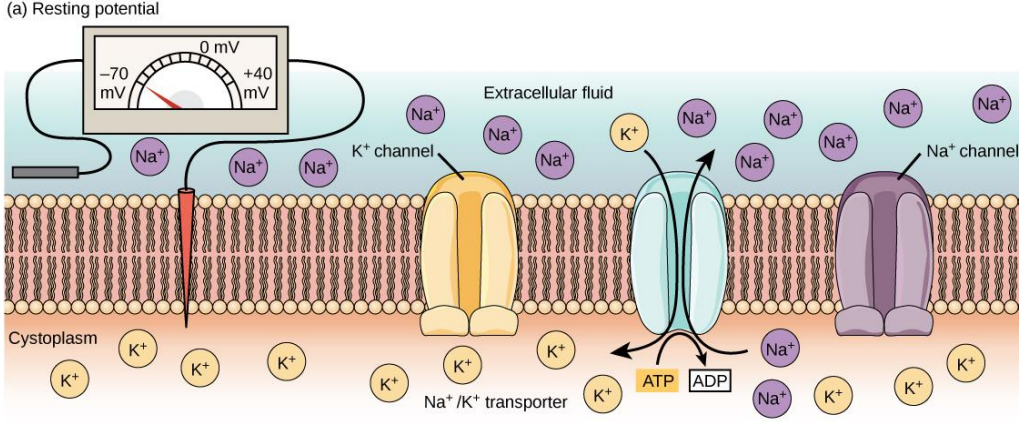
K^+ is at a higher concentration inside the cell.

An action potential results from the depolarization of a neuronal membrane's resting potential.

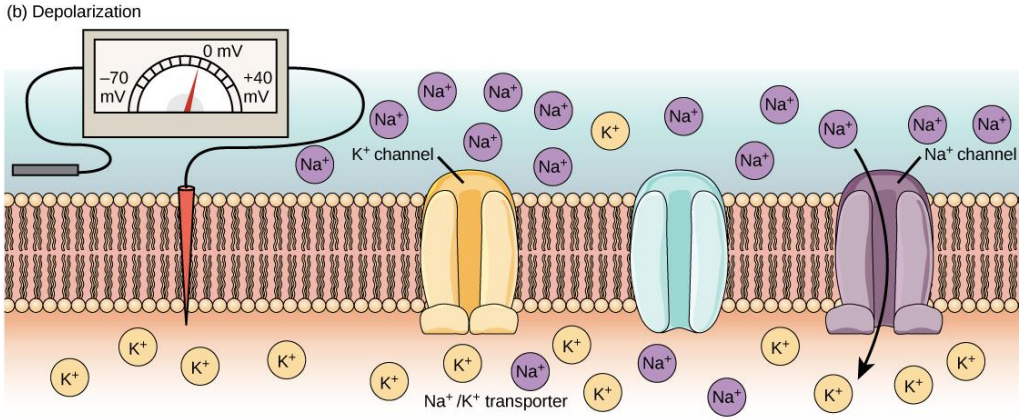
When the membrane is depolarized to a "**threshold potential**", voltage gated channels in the axon open, and a rapid exchange of ions occurs:



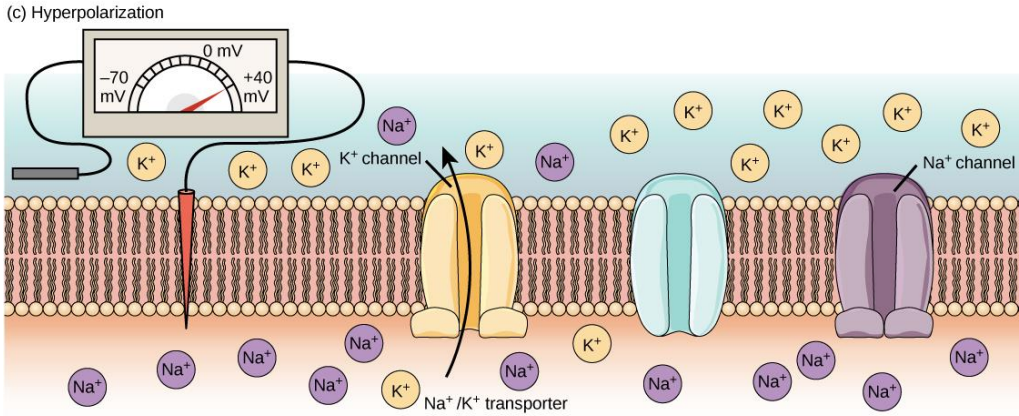
1. At threshold, **Na^+ moves in** to the cell, triggering a massive depolarization.
2. At peak depolarization, K^+ ion channels also open**, K^+ ions to move out** of the cell.
3. Peak depolarization triggers the closing of the Na^+ channels, K^+ ion channels remain open. As K^+ continues to move out of the cell, the membrane becomes hyperpolarized.
4. The action of **Na^+/K^+ pump proteins** restores the polarization of the membrane back to the resting potential.
5. Once the resting potential is restored, the neuron can send another action potential.



At the resting potential, all voltage-gated Na^+ channels and most voltage-gated K^+ channels are closed. The Na^+/K^+ transporter pumps K^+ ions into the cell and Na^+ ions out.



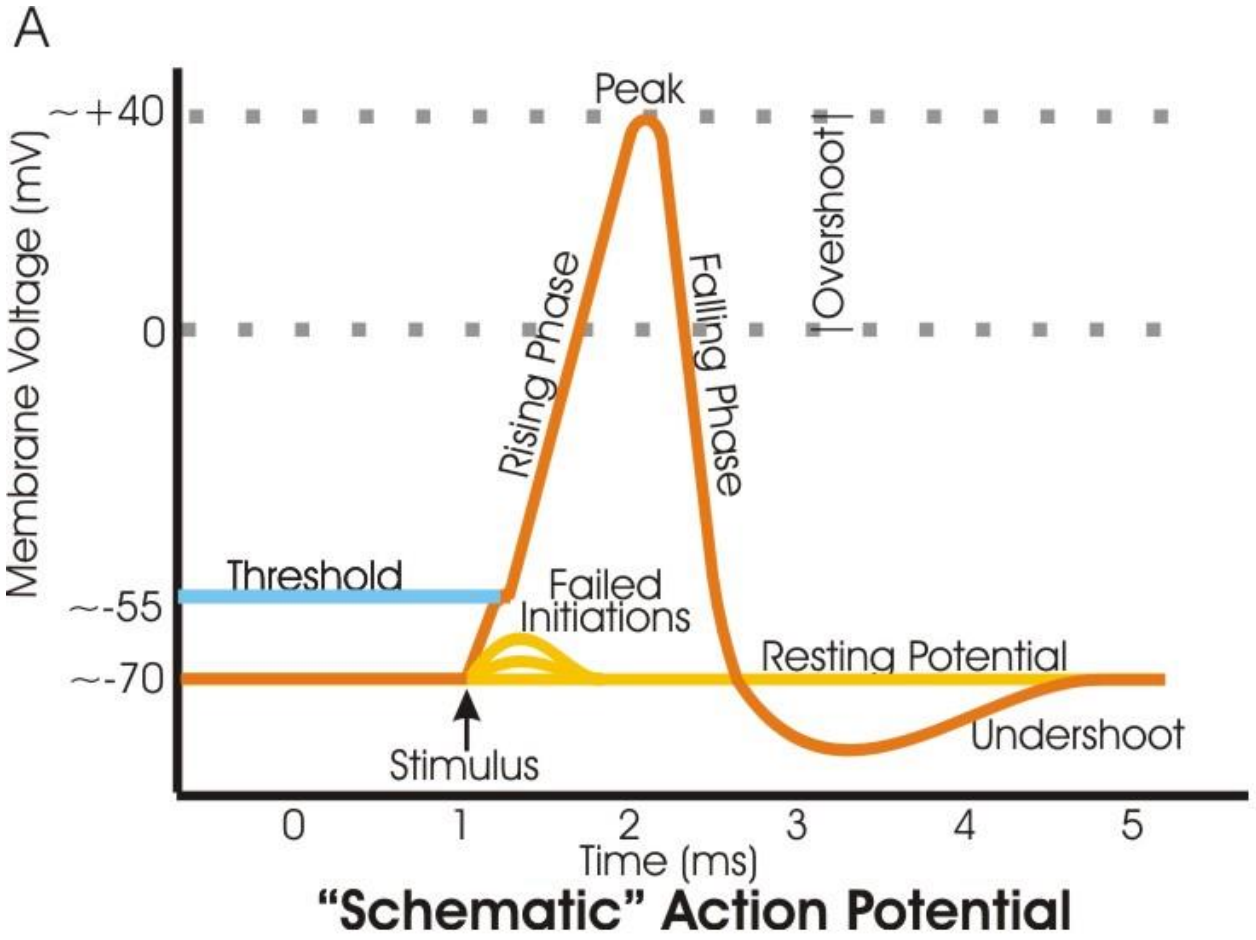
In response to a depolarization, some Na^+ channels open, allowing Na^+ ions to enter the cell. The membrane starts to depolarize (the charge across the membrane lessens). If the threshold of excitation is reached, all the Na^+ channels open.



At the peak action potential, Na^+ channels close while K^+ channels open. K^+ leaves the cell, and the membrane eventually becomes hyperpolarized.

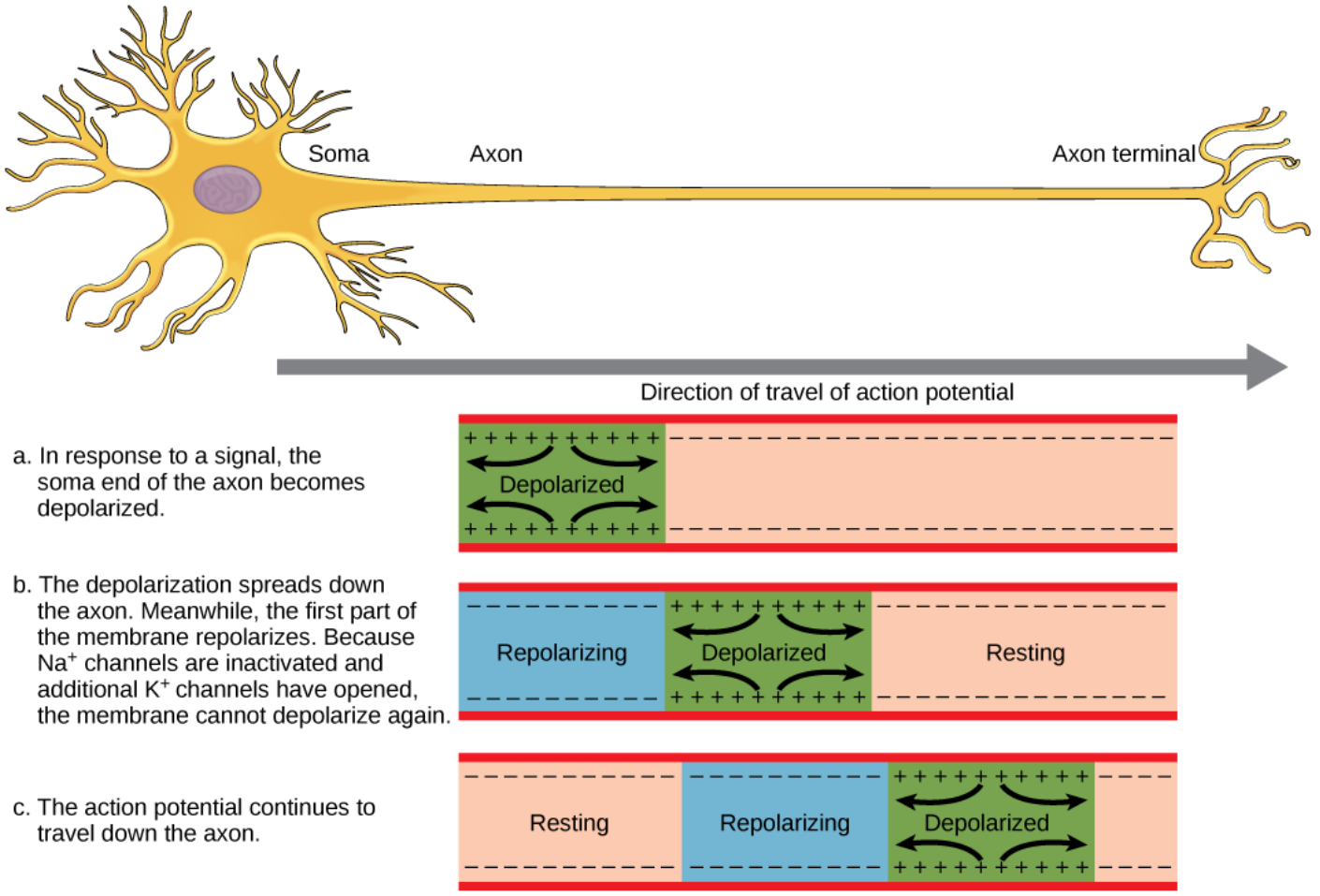
Action potentials are:

- binary (“all or nothing”)
- self-propagating
- unidirectional

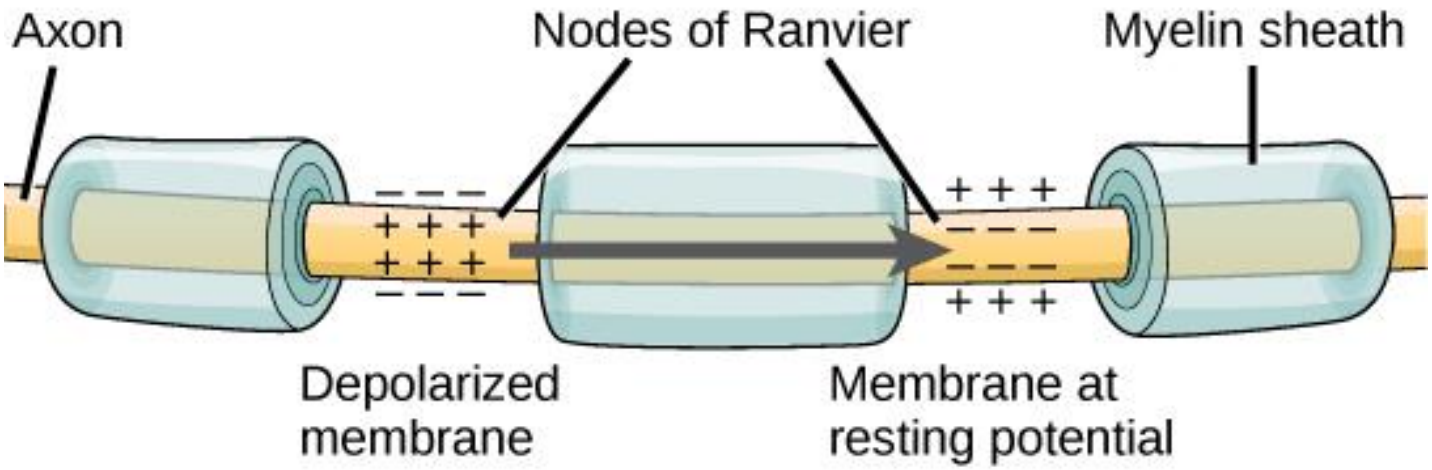


“Schematic” Action Potential

The initial depolarization of the membrane triggers the depolarization of the next area of the membrane. The hyperpolarization following an action potential prevents the action potential from moving backwards along the axon.



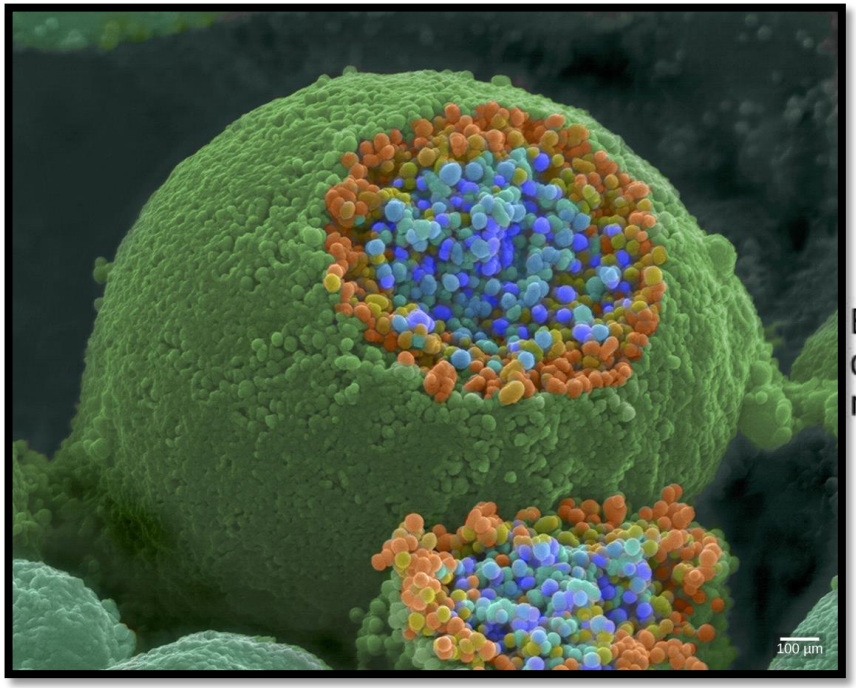
Myelination greatly decreases the speed of action potential transmission, as the signal moves along nodes ("**saltatory conduction**").

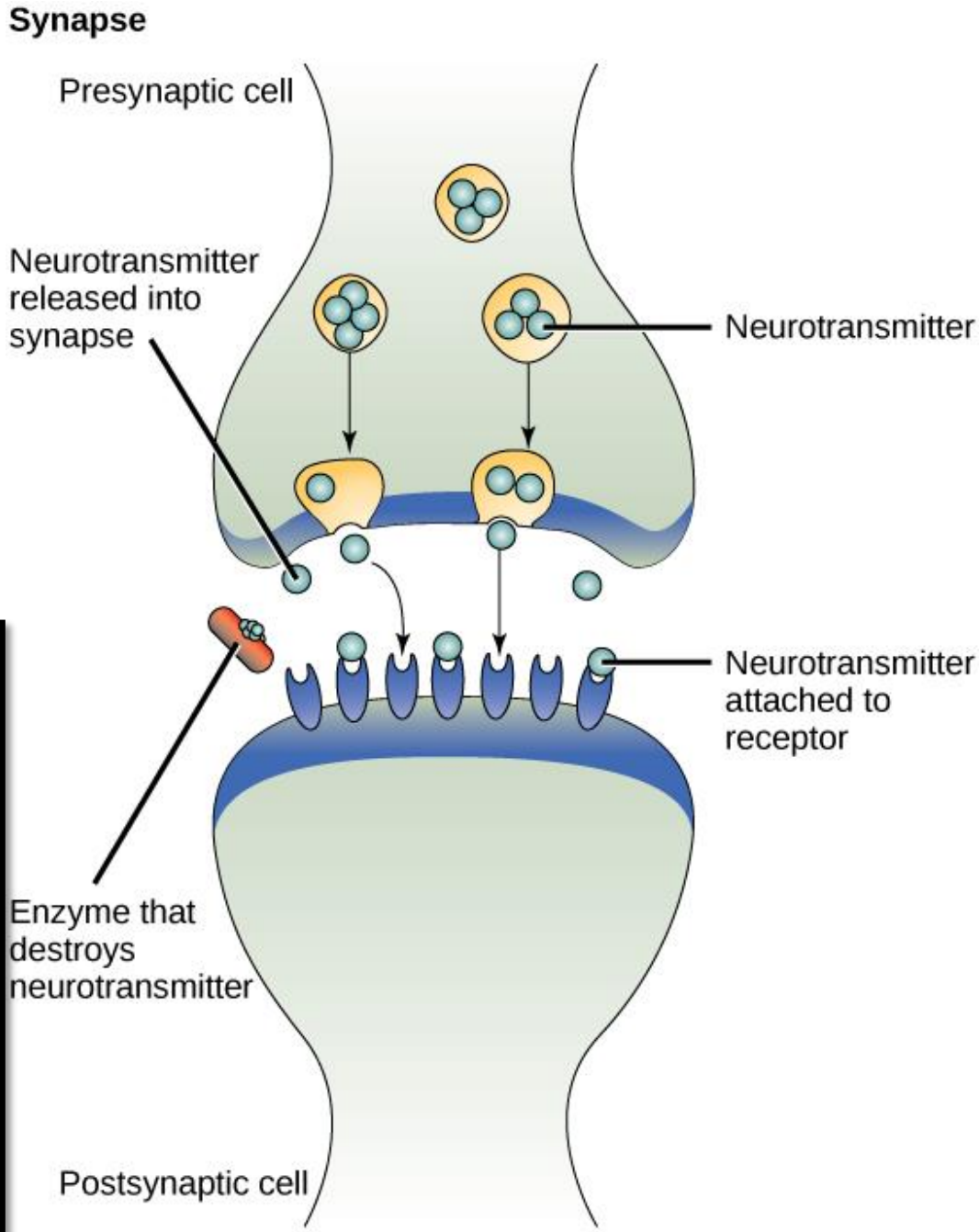


Synapses

Junctions between neurons.

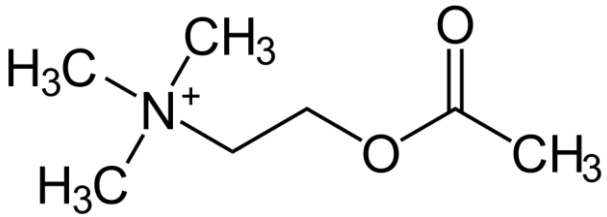
Signals are transmitted as chemicals ("**Neurotransmitters**").



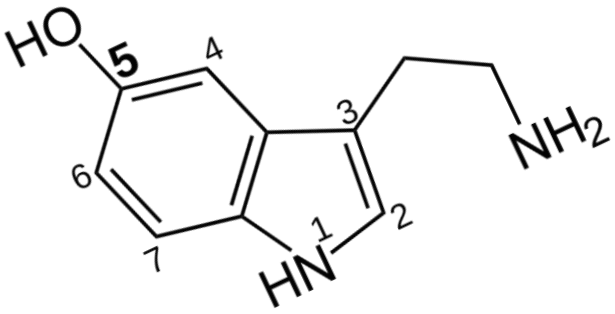


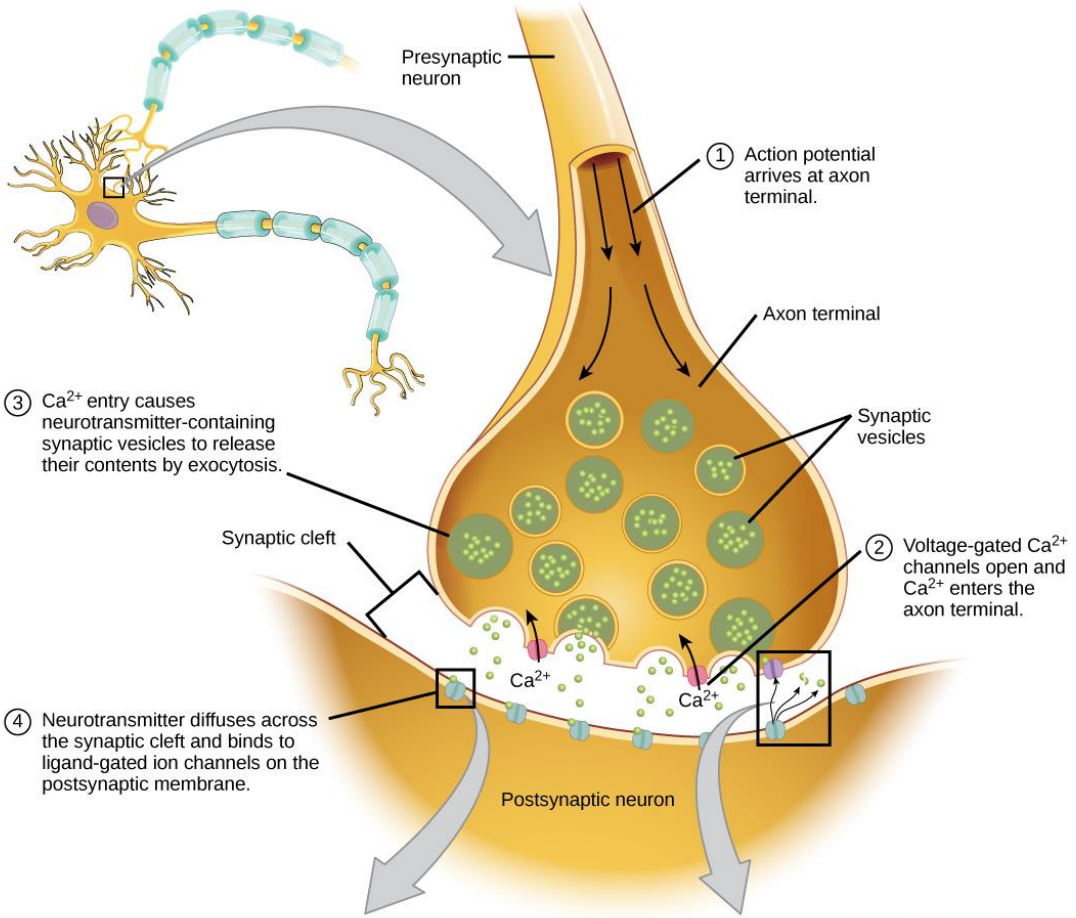
Different neurotransmitters have different uses in the nervous system.

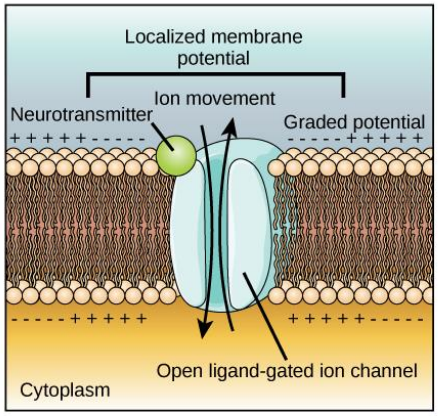
Ex. Acetylcholine: released by motor neurons at the neuromuscular junction.



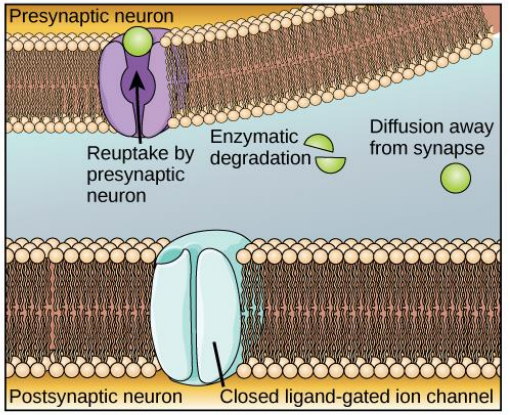
Serotonin: Released by neurons in the brain involved in emotional responses.







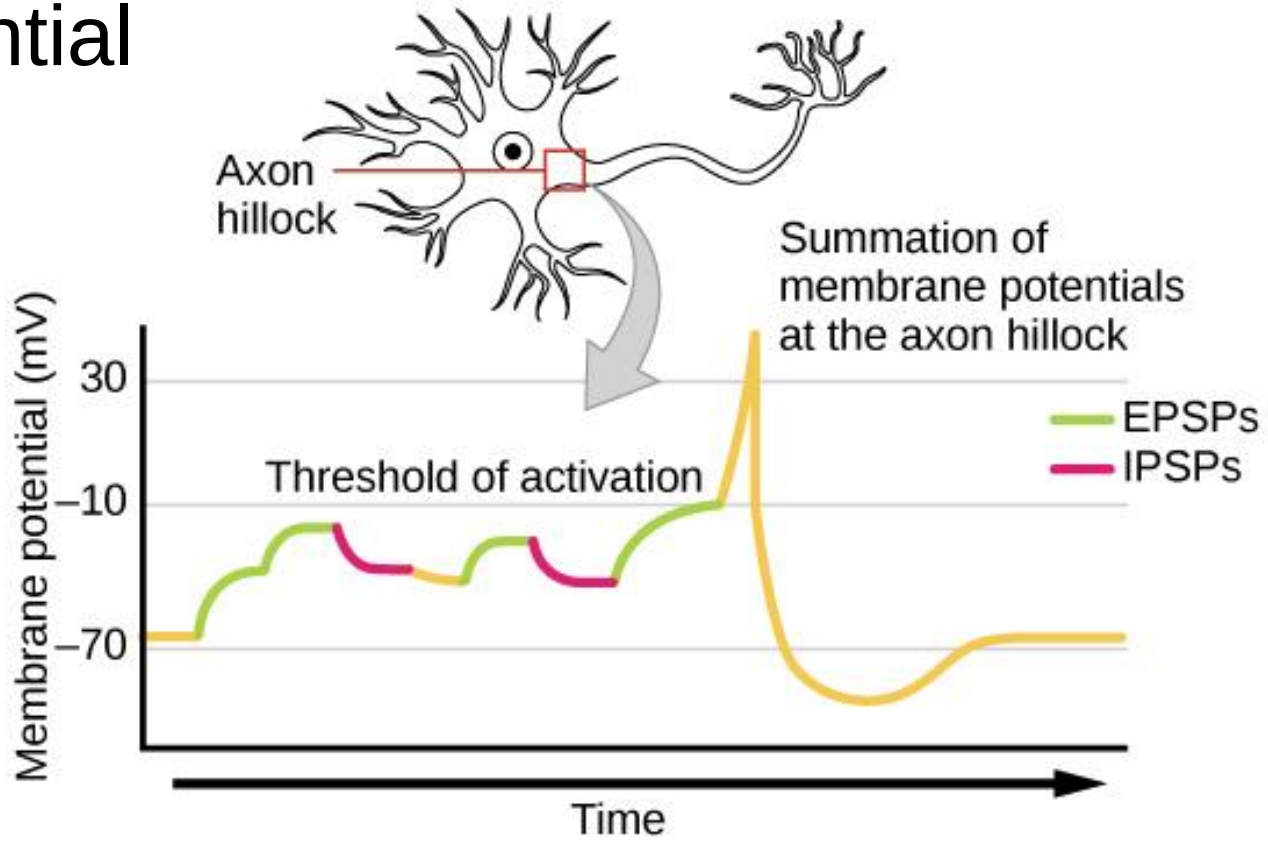
5 Binding of neurotransmitter opens ligand-gated ion channels, resulting in graded potentials.



6 Reuptake by the presynapic neuron, enzymatic degradation, and diffusion reduce neurotransmitter levels, terminating the signal.

Signal Summation

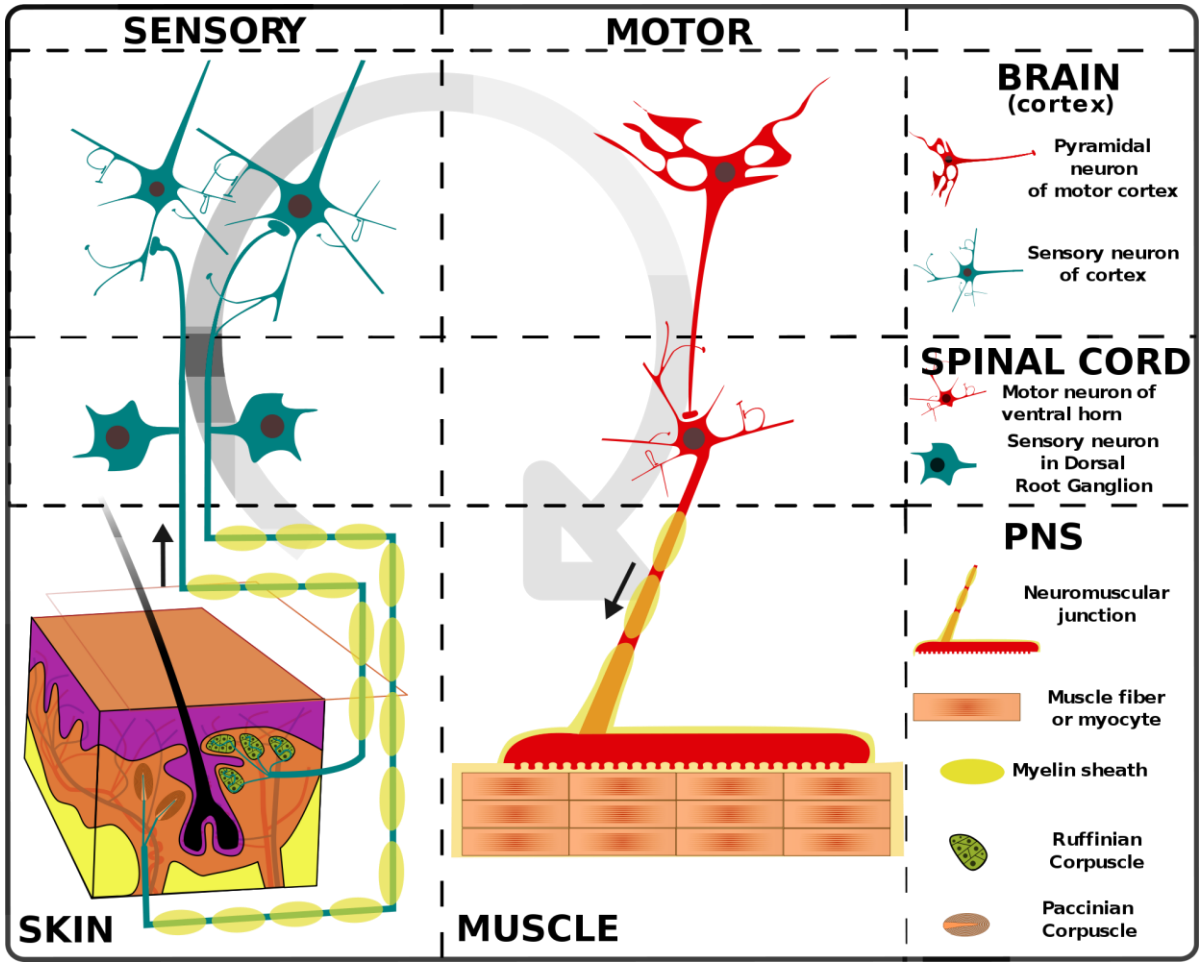
Incoming signals will be **excitatory** or **inhibitory**. The summation of all of the incoming signals will trigger a neuron to send an action potential or not.



Integration and Response

Integration: The spatial and temporal pattern of incoming action potentials will be interpreted by the nervous system as a **sensation**.

Response: the operation of muscles, or the secretion of hormones are the major ways that responses are effected.



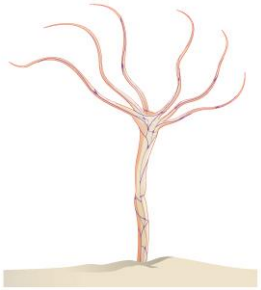
6.6: Animals have nervous systems that detect external and internal signals, transmit and integrate information, and produce responses.

2. NERVOUS SYSTEMS

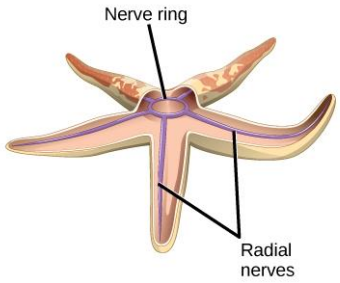
Nervous Systems

Animal Nervous Systems have varying levels of complexity.

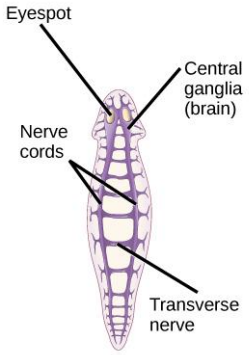
Evolutionary trends towards centralization and "**cephalization**" are demonstrated.



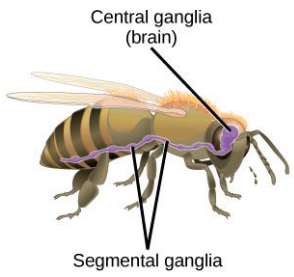
(a) Cnidarian (hydra)



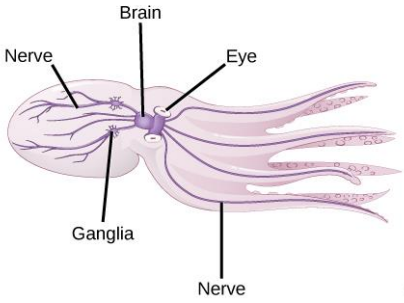
(b) Echinoderm (sea star)



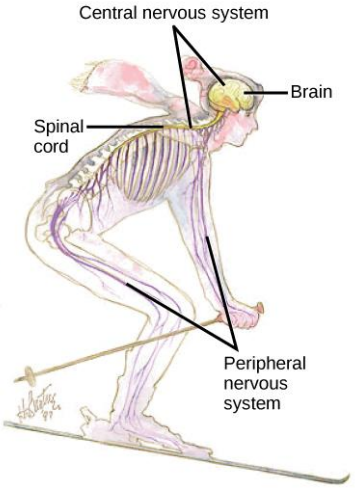
(c) Planarian (flatworm)



(d) Arthropod (bee)

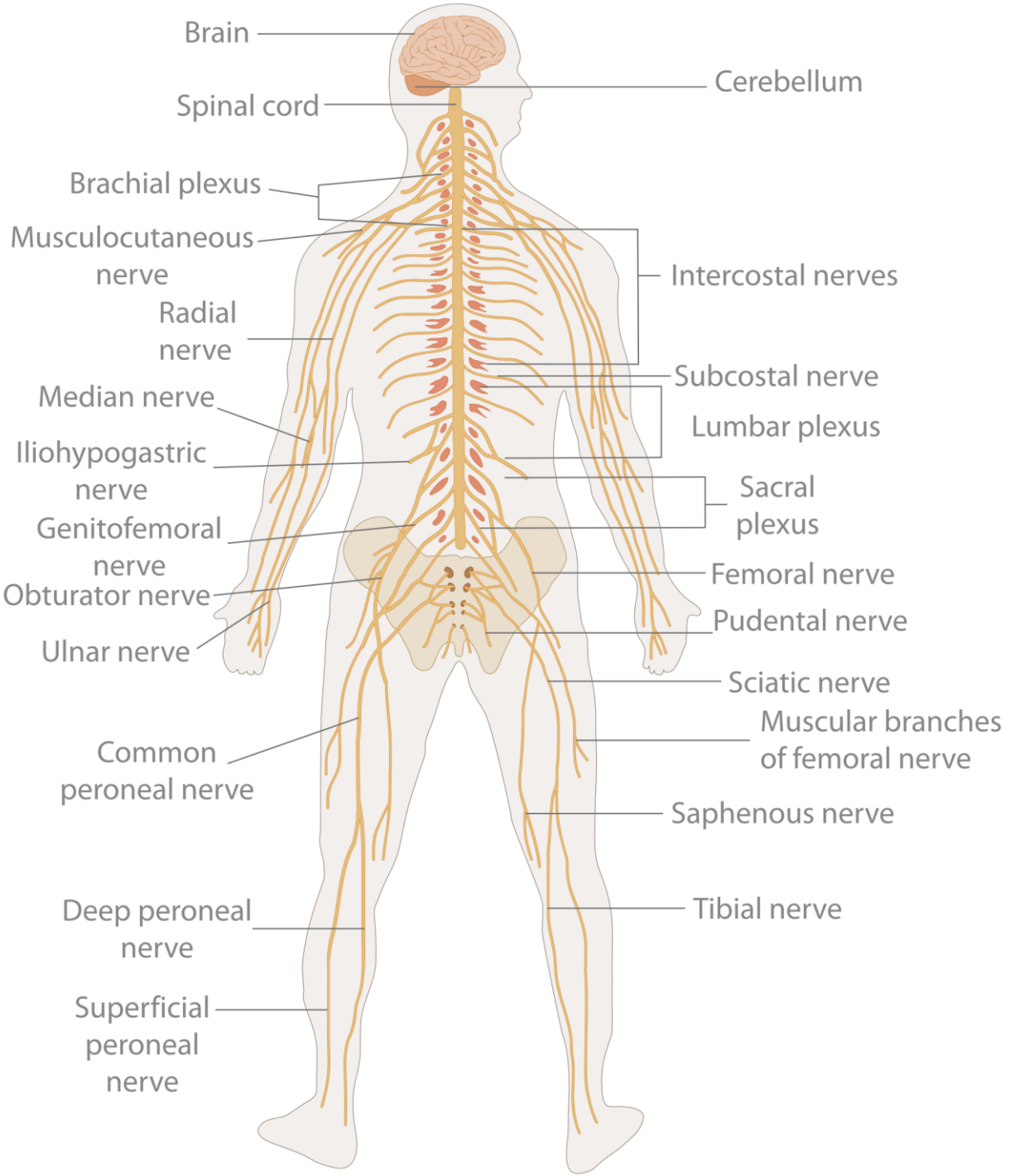


(e) Mollusk (octopus)

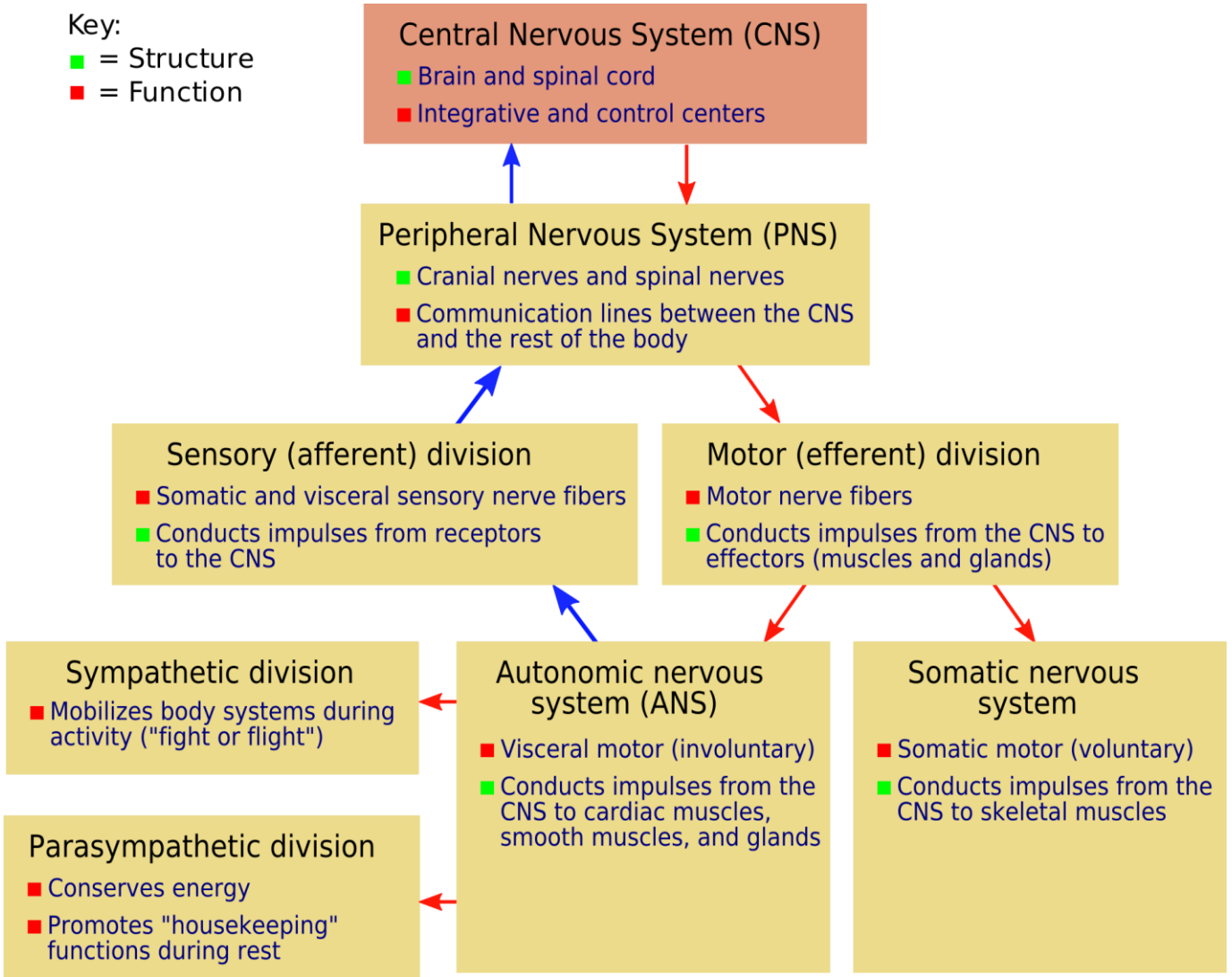


(f) Vertebrate (human)

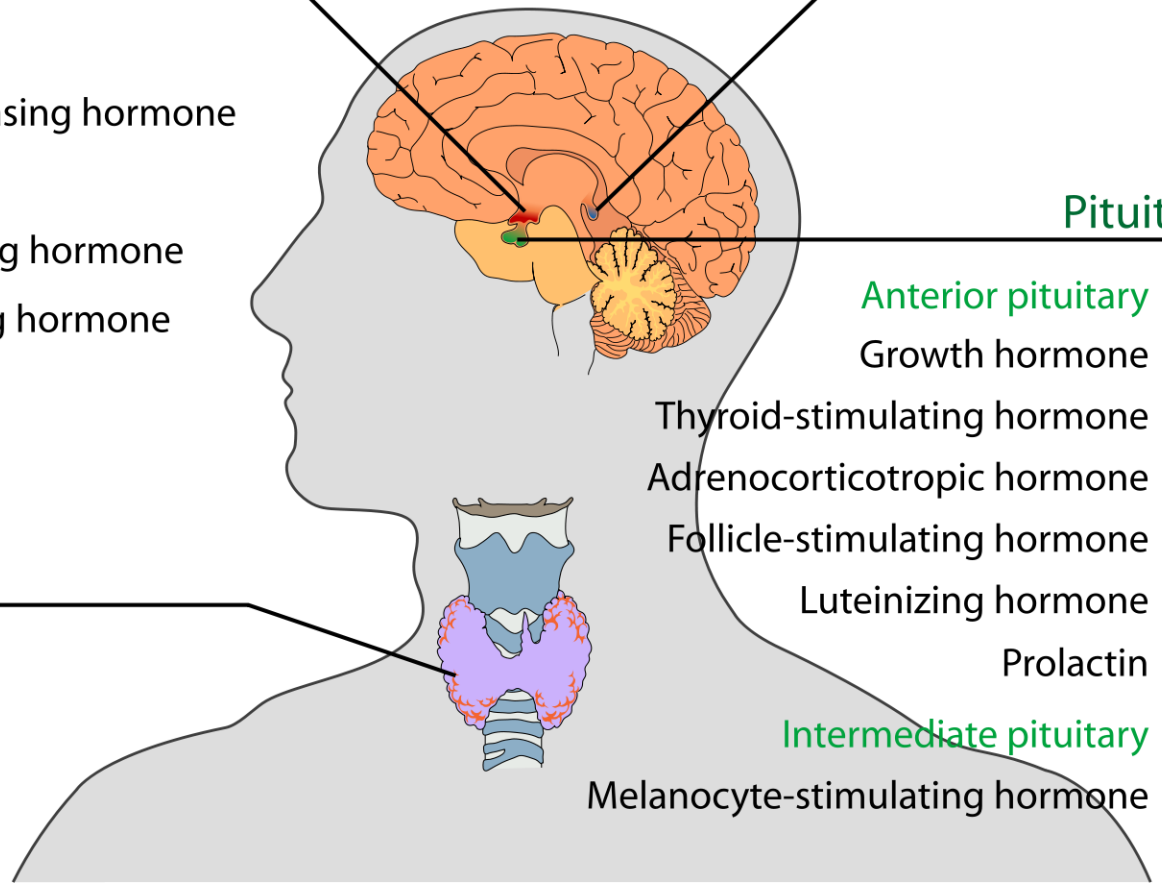
In Vertebrates, the **brain** is the central unit for integrating nervous system information and coordinating responses.



The brain is part of the **central nervous system**, which integrates information from the **peripheral nervous system**.



The brain is also the master regulator for the endocrine system.



Hypothalamus

Thyrotropin-releasing hormone

Dopamine

Growth hormone-releasing hormone

Somatostatin

Gonadotropin-releasing hormone

Corticotropin-releasing hormone

Oxytocin

Vasopressin

Thyroid

Triiodothyronine

Thyroxine

Pineal gland

Melatonin

Pituitary Gland

Anterior pituitary

Growth hormone

Thyroid-stimulating hormone

Adrenocorticotropic hormone

Follicle-stimulating hormone

Luteinizing hormone

Prolactin

Intermediate pituitary

Melanocyte-stimulating hormone

Posterior pituitary

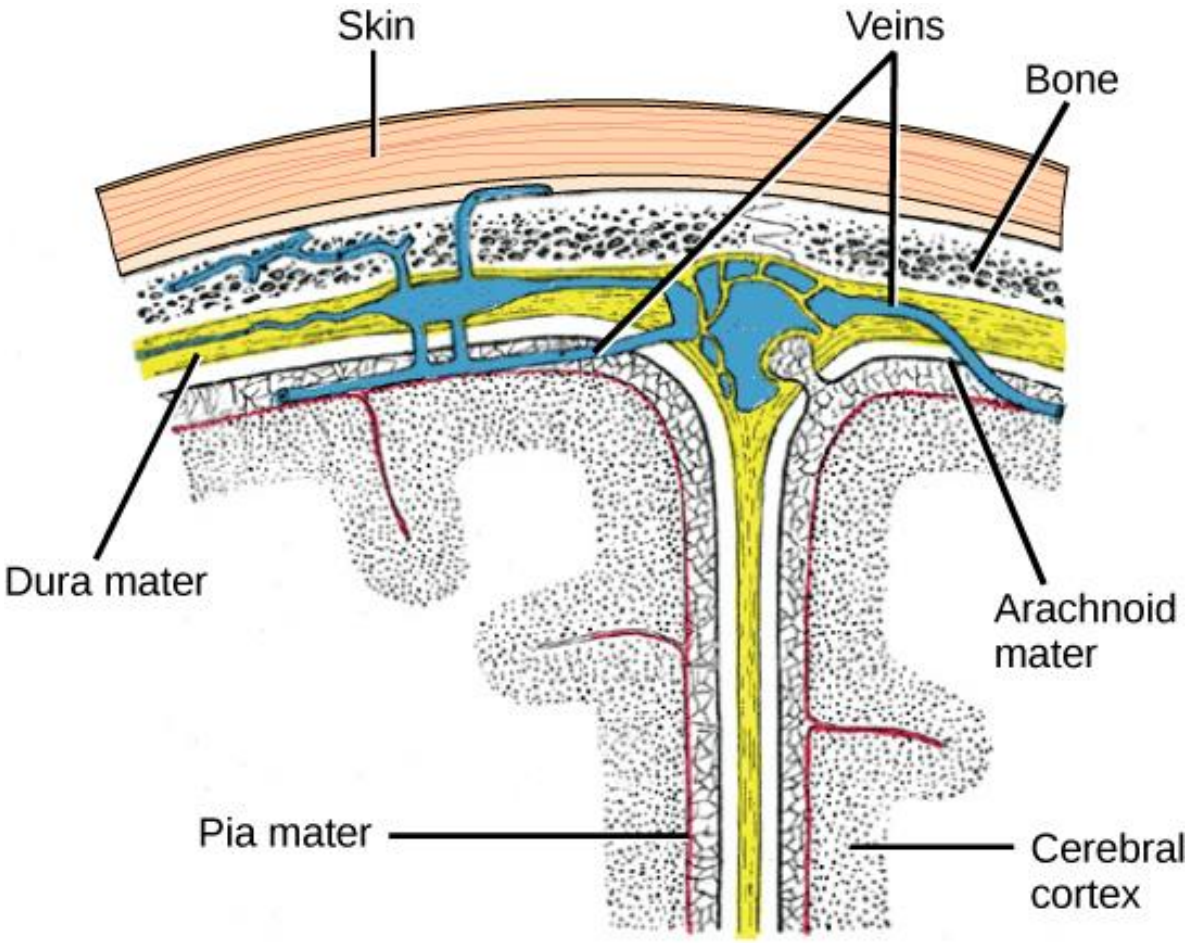
Oxytocin

Vasopressin

Oxytocin (stored)

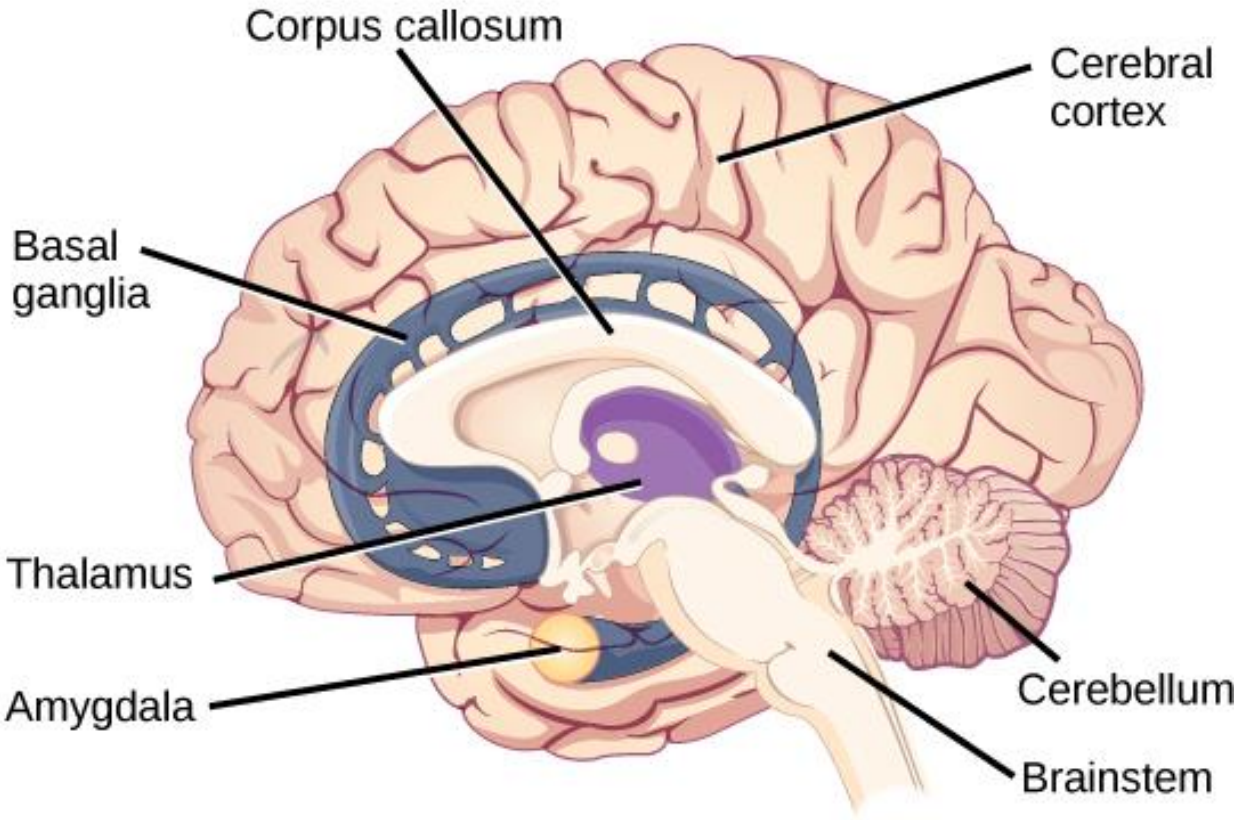
Anti-diuretic hormone (stored)

The brain is adapted to maximize connections between neurons.

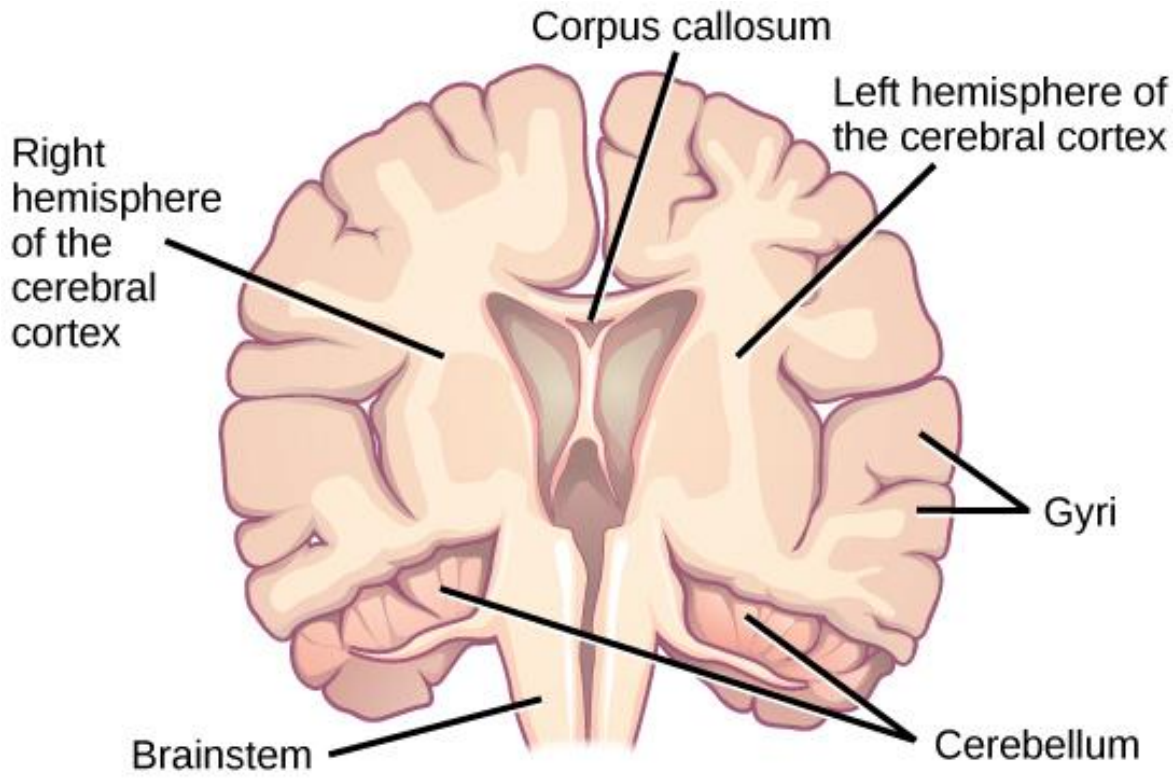


Different regions of the brain have different functions and work together to coordinate the behavior of the organism.

Ex. Medulla/Cerebellum/Cerebrum

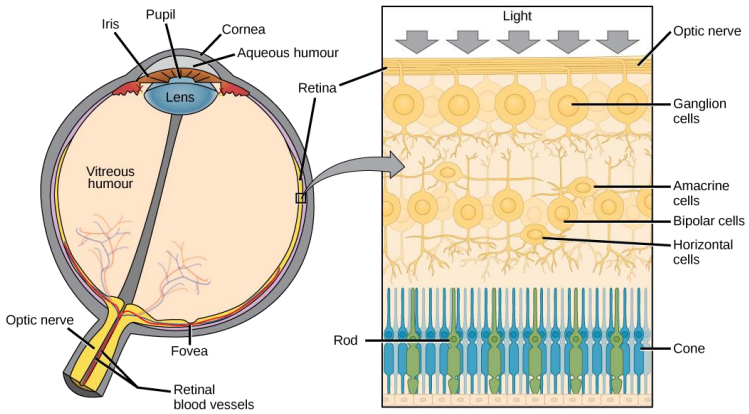


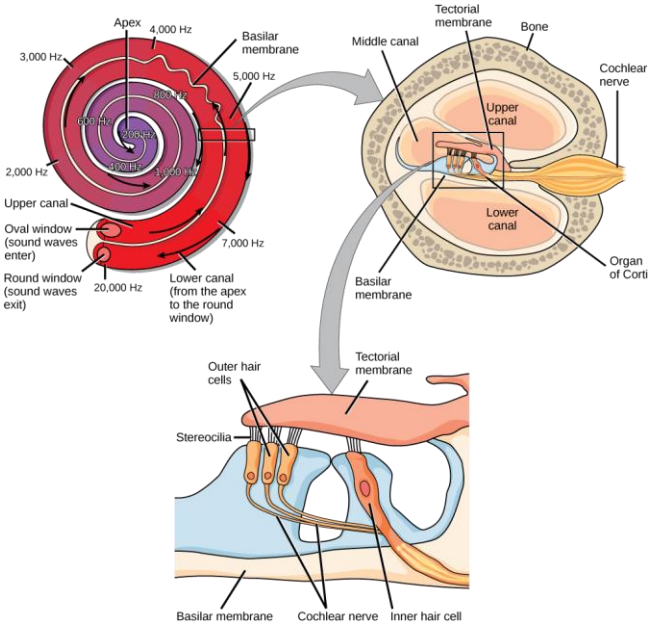
Ex. Right hemisphere/left hemisphere separation.

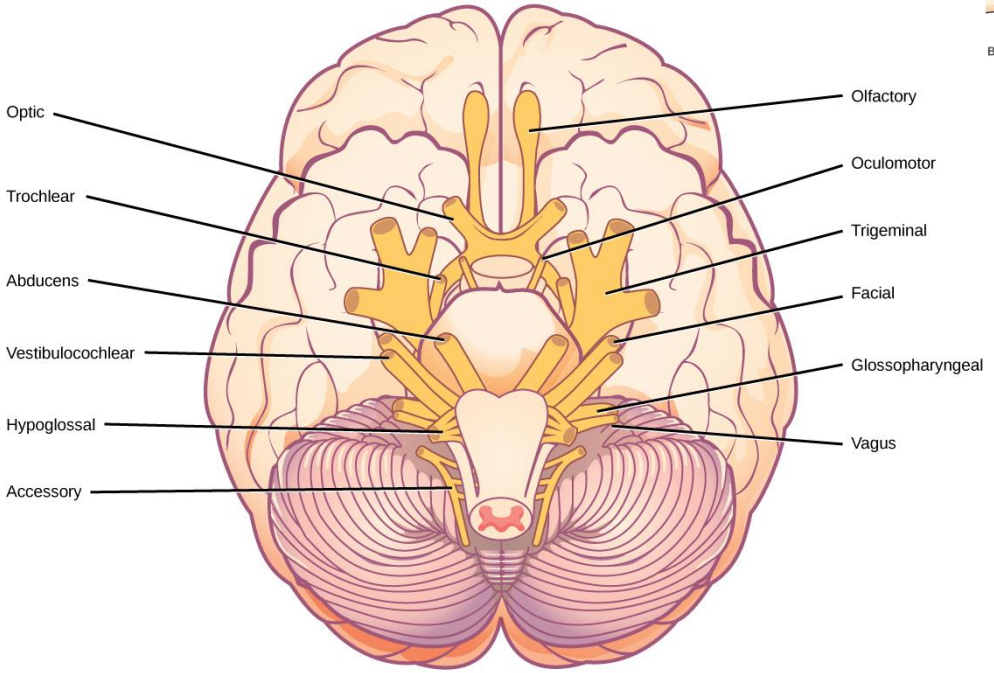


(a) Coronal section

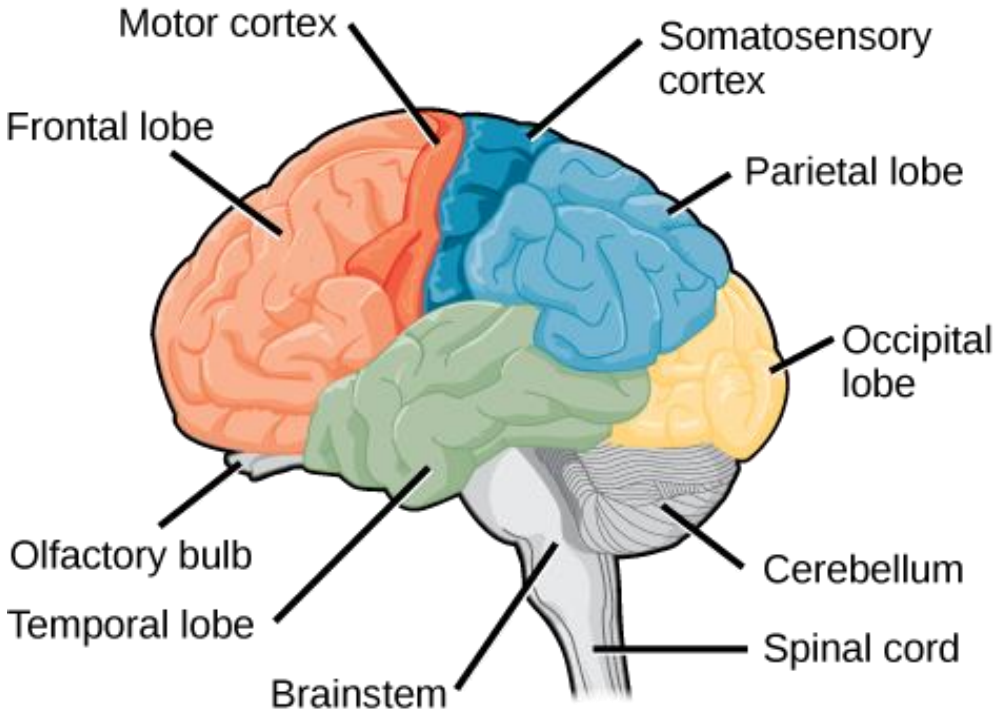
Ex. Vision and Hearing Centers

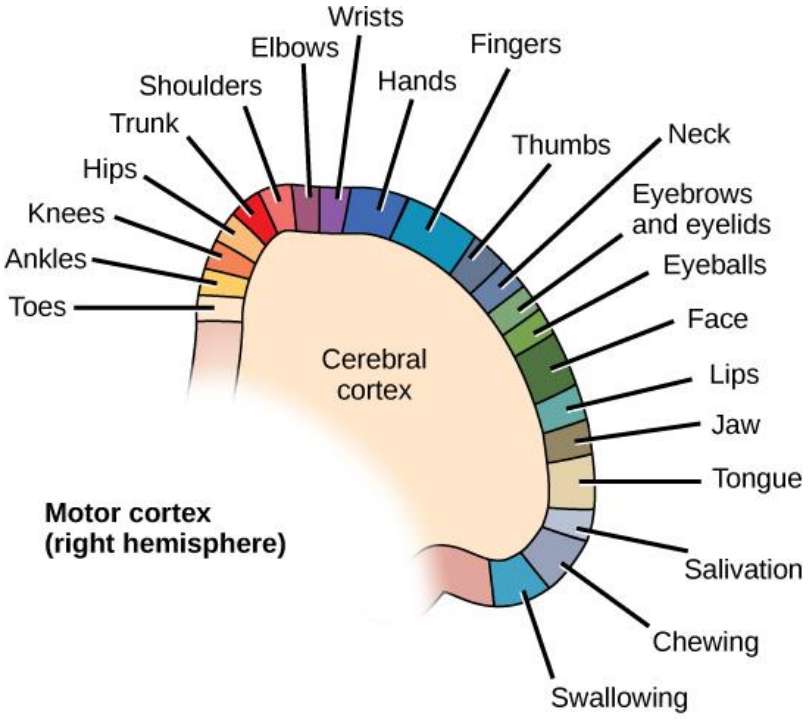






Ex. Cerebrum Functions





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