

# CAMPBELL BIOLOGY IN FOCUS

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## 5

### Membrane Transport and Cell Signaling

Lecture Presentations by  
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# Overview: Life at the Edge

- The plasma membrane separates the living cell from its surroundings
- The plasma membrane exhibits **selective permeability**, allowing some substances to cross it more easily than others

# Video: Membrane and Aquaporin

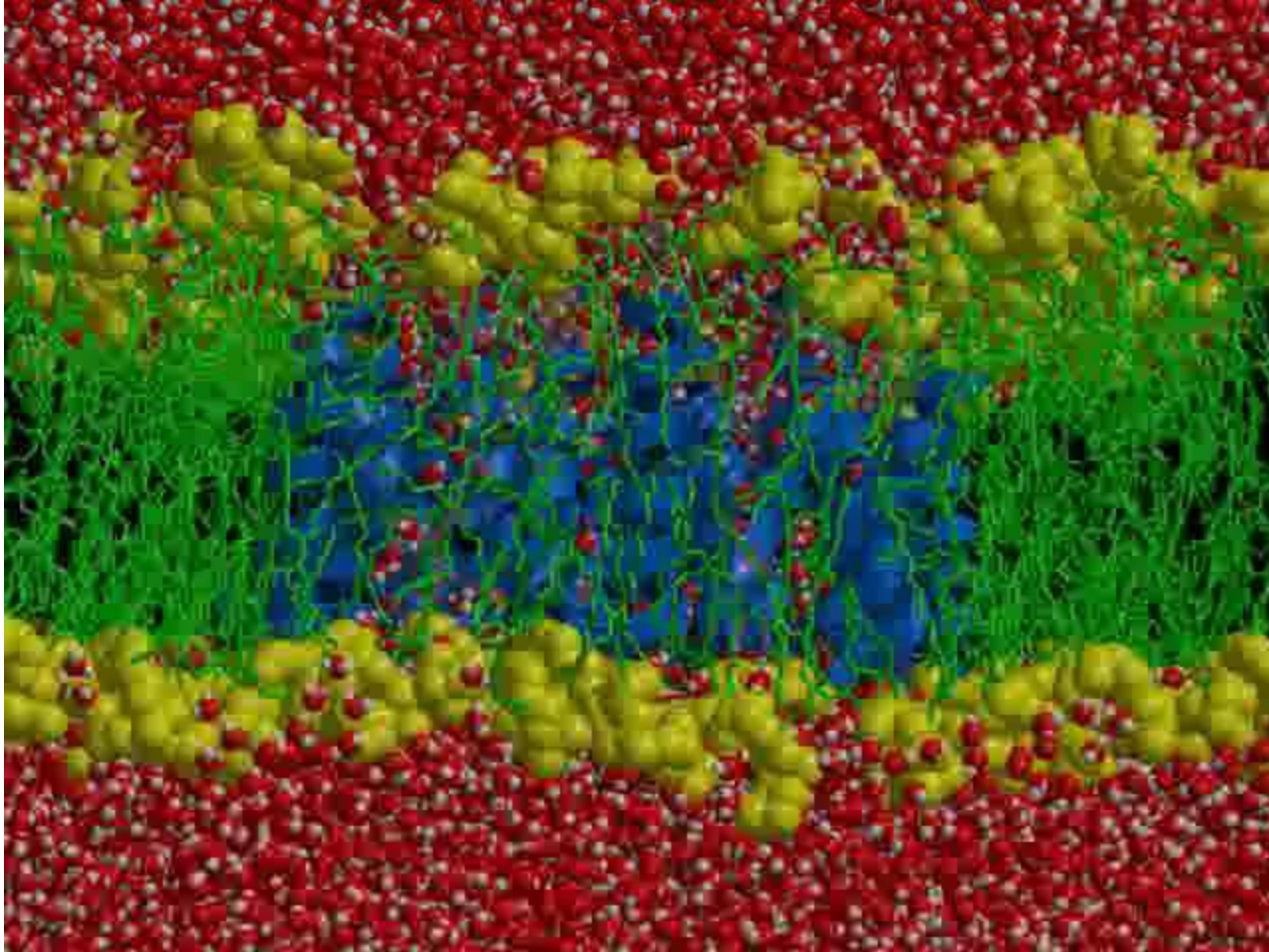
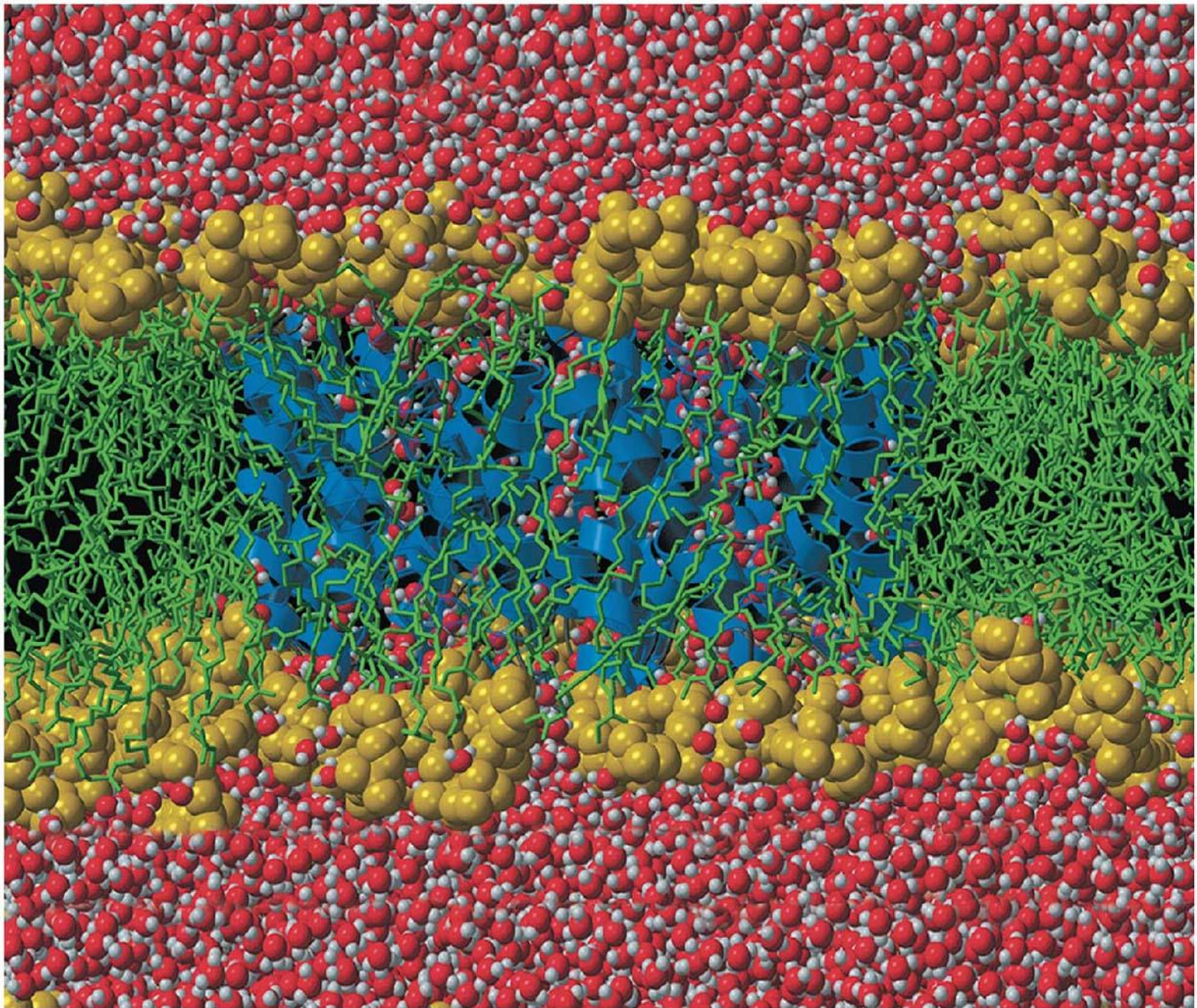


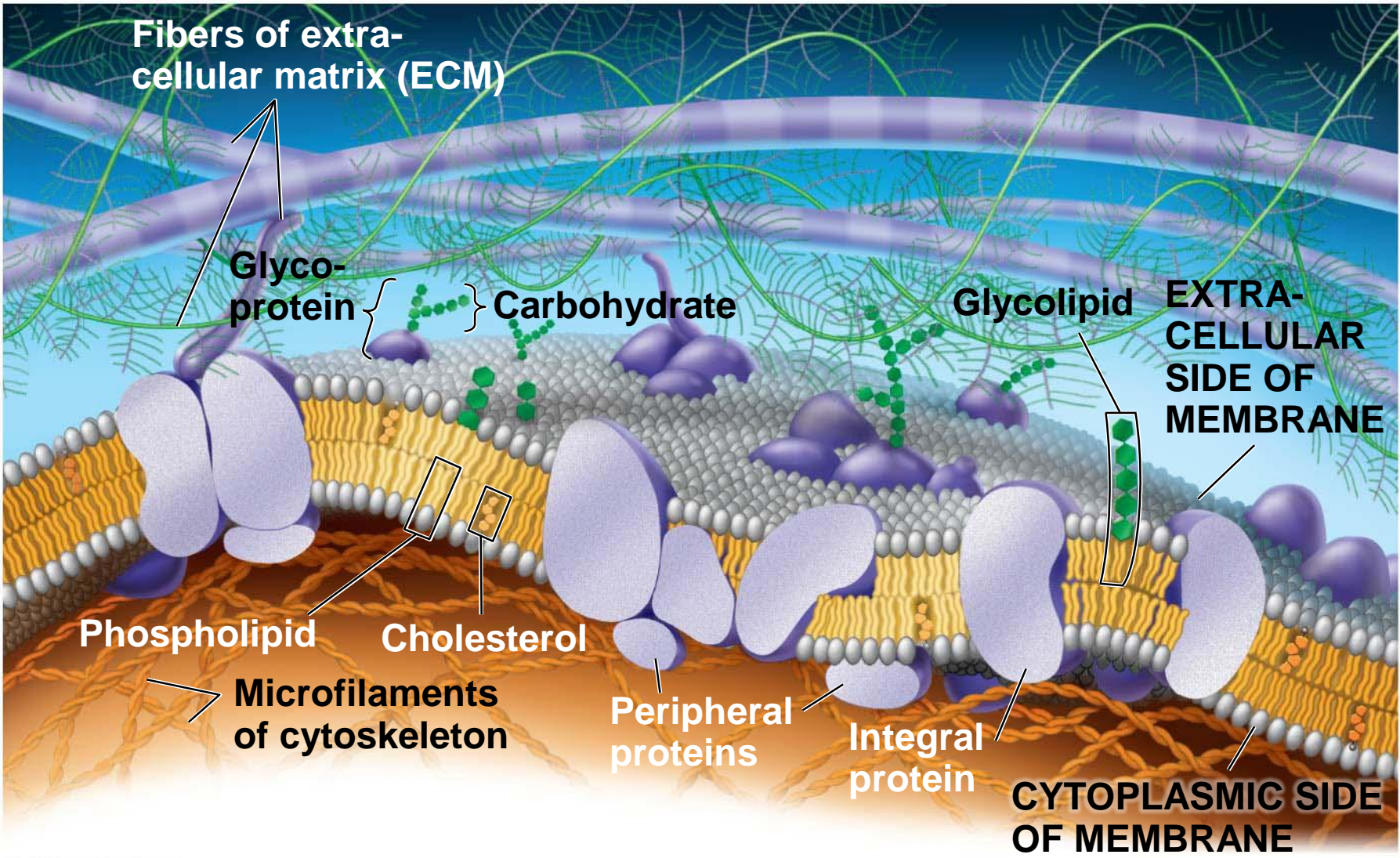
Figure 5.1



# Concept 5.1: Cellular membranes are fluid mosaics of lipids and proteins

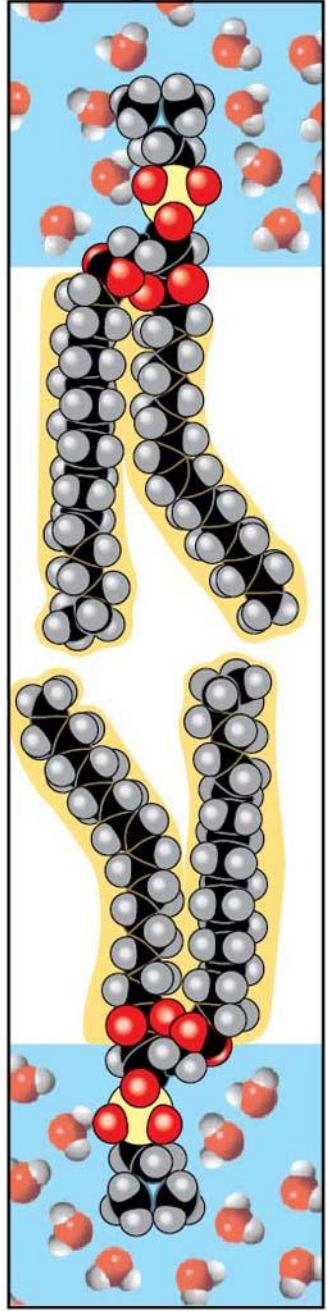
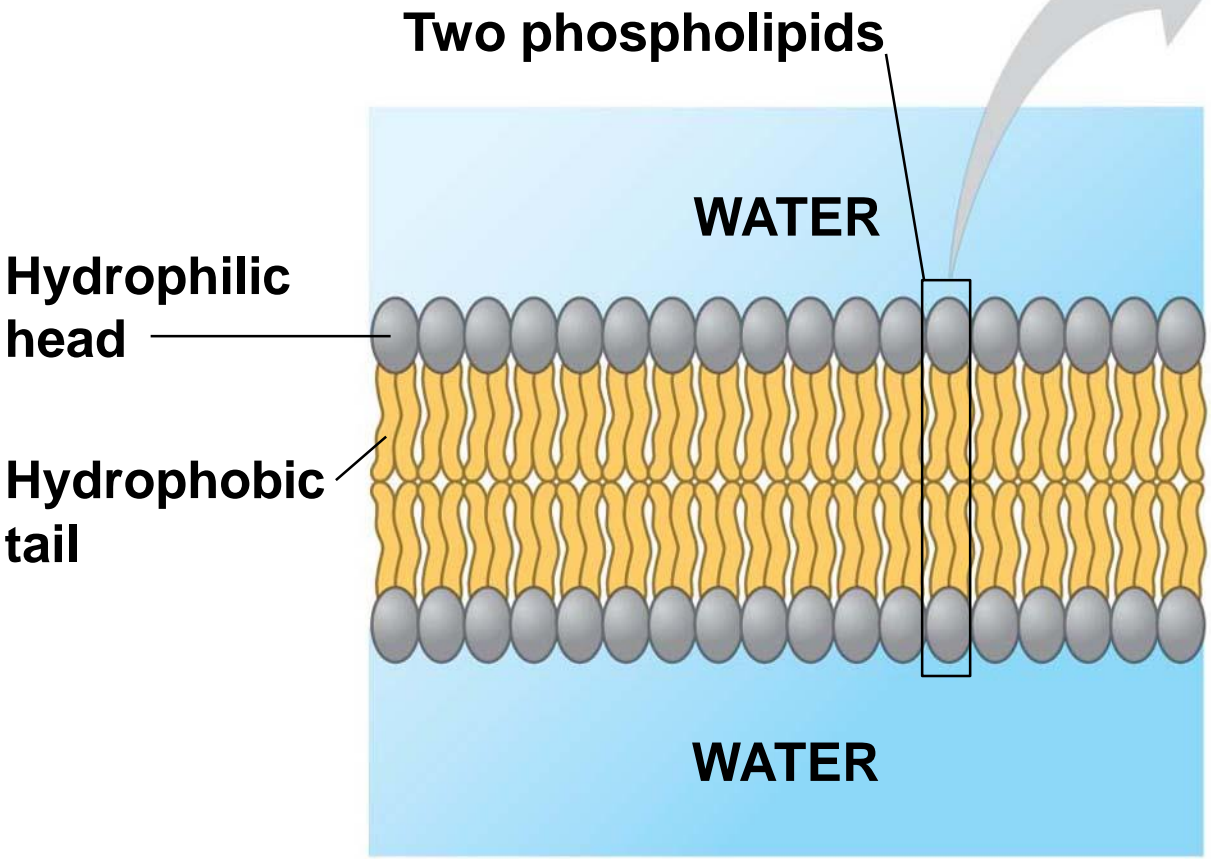
- Phospholipids are the most abundant lipid in most membranes
- Phospholipids are **amphipathic** molecules, containing hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions
- A phospholipid bilayer can exist as a stable boundary between two aqueous compartments

Figure 5.2



- Most membrane proteins are also amphipathic and reside in the bilayer with their hydrophilic portions protruding
- The **fluid mosaic model** states that the membrane is a mosaic of protein molecules bobbing in a fluid bilayer of phospholipids
- Groups of certain proteins or certain lipids may associate in long-lasting, specialized patches

Figure 5.3

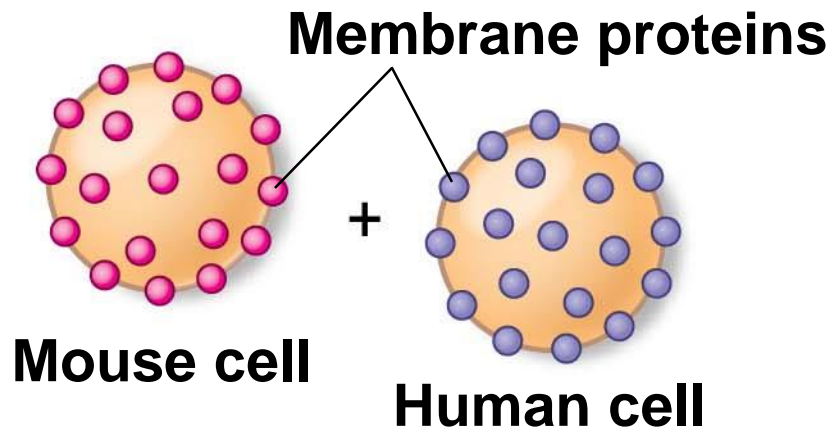




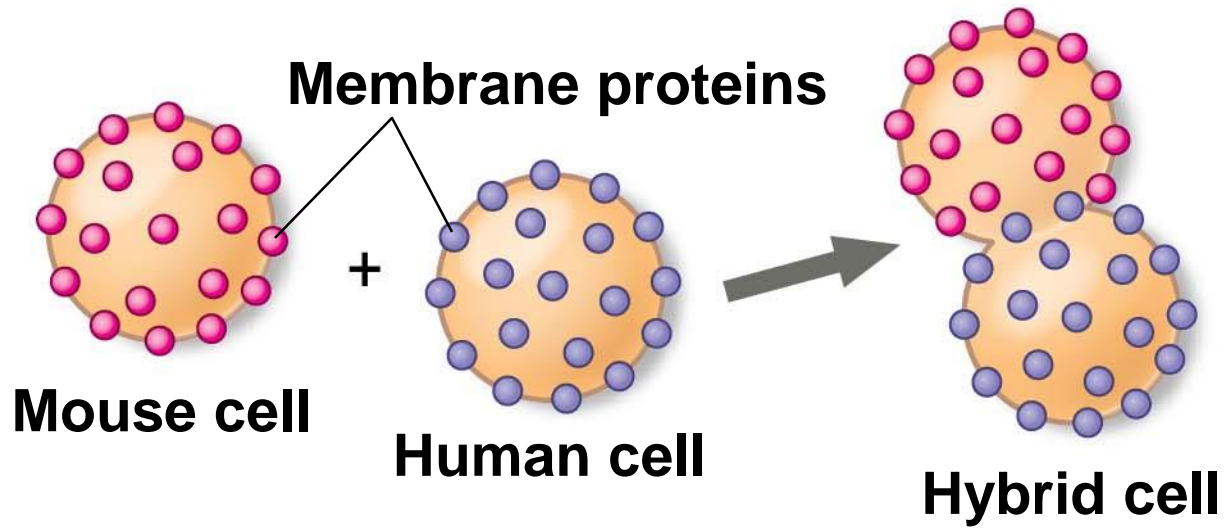
# The Fluidity of Membranes

- Most of the lipids and some proteins in a membrane can shift about laterally
- The lateral movement of phospholipids is rapid; proteins move more slowly
- Some proteins move in a directed manner; others seem to be anchored in place

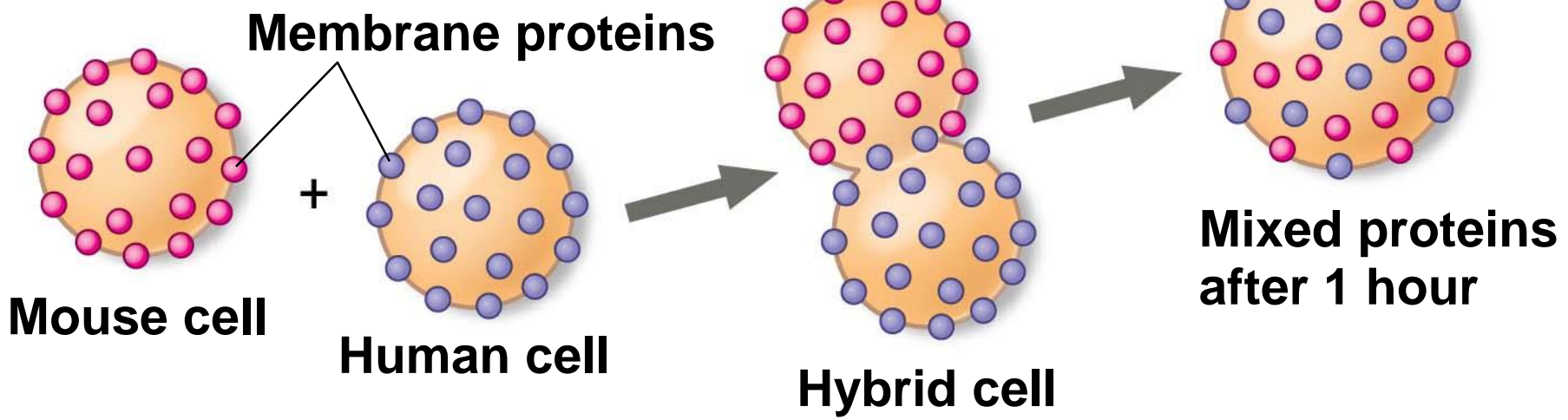
## Results



## Results



# Results

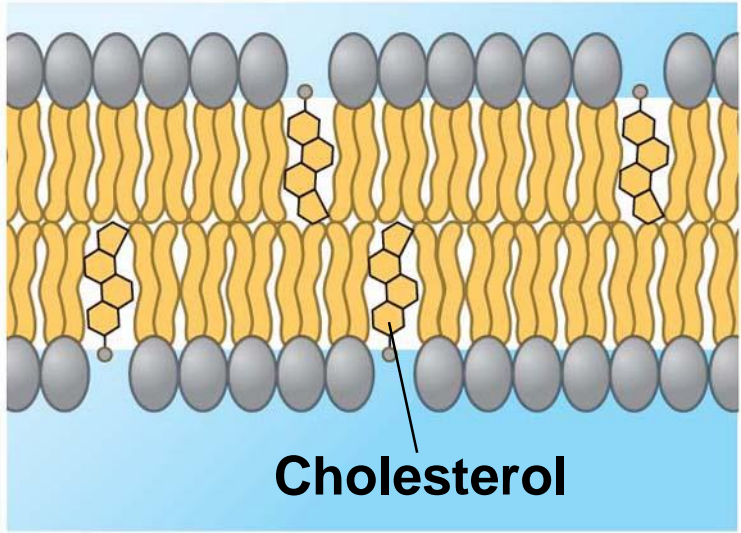
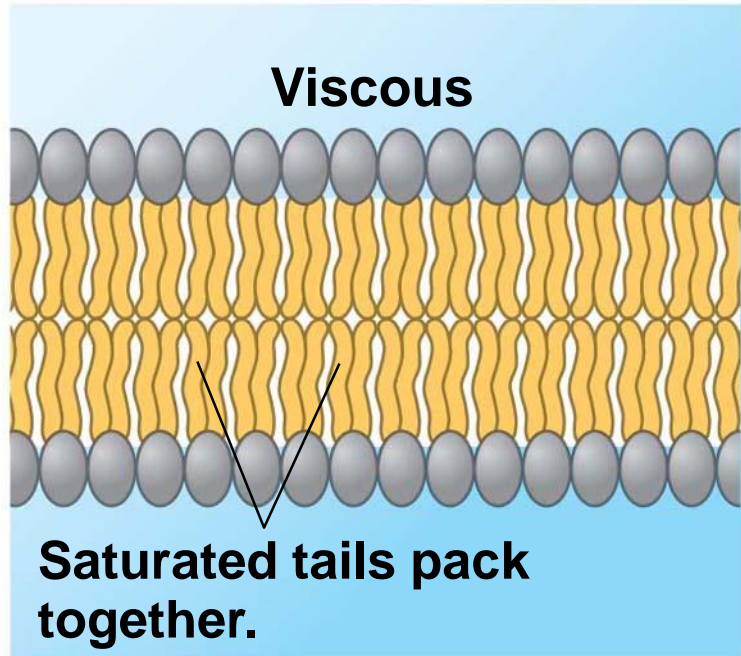
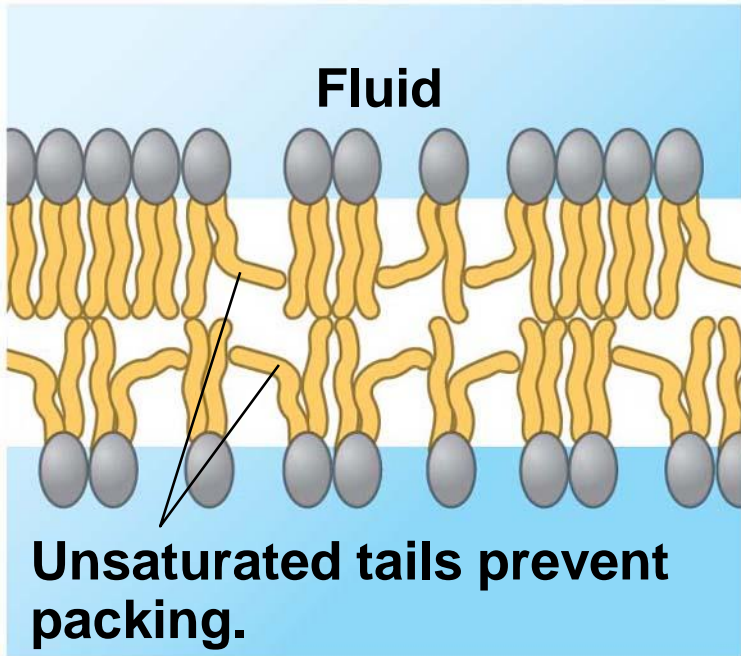


- As temperatures cool, membranes switch from a fluid state to a solid state
- The temperature at which a membrane solidifies depends on the types of lipids
- A membrane remains fluid to a lower temperature if it is rich in phospholipids with unsaturated hydrocarbon tails
- Membranes must be fluid to work properly; they are usually about as fluid as salad oil

- The steroid cholesterol has different effects on membrane fluidity at different temperatures
- At warm temperatures (such as 37°C), cholesterol restrains movement of phospholipids
- At cool temperatures, it maintains fluidity by preventing tight packing

Figure 5.5

**(a) Unsaturated versus saturated hydrocarbon tails.**



**(b) Cholesterol reduces membrane fluidity at moderate temperatures, but at low temperatures hinders solidification.**

# Evolution of Differences in Membrane Lipid Composition

- Variations in lipid composition of cell membranes of many species appear to be adaptations to specific environmental conditions
- Ability to change the lipid compositions in response to temperature changes has evolved in organisms that live where temperatures vary

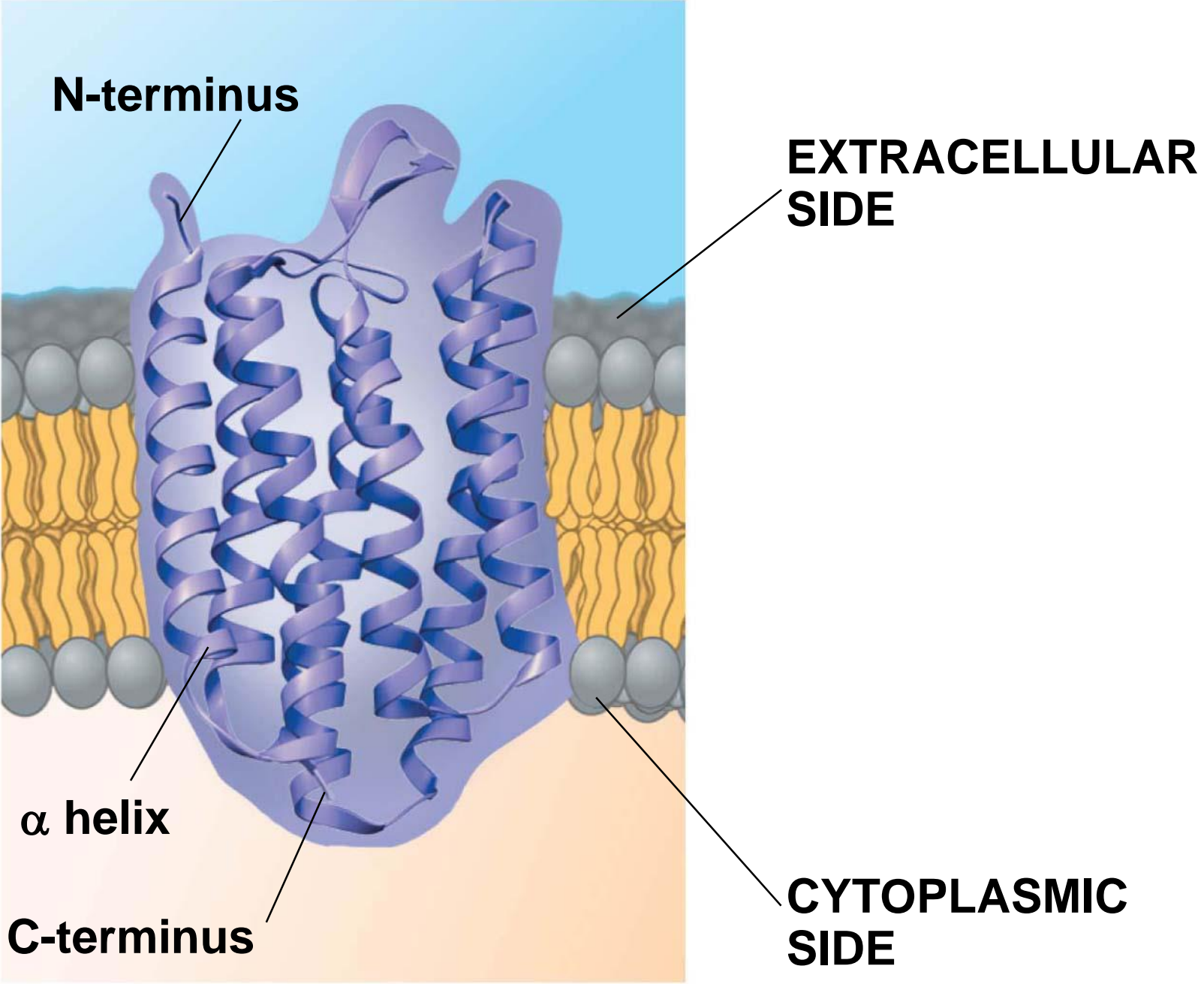


# Membrane Proteins and Their Functions

- A membrane is a collage of different proteins embedded in the fluid matrix of the lipid bilayer
- Proteins determine most of the membrane's specific functions

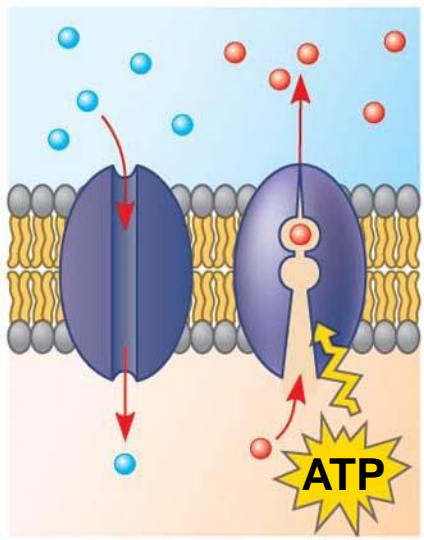
- **Integral proteins** penetrate the hydrophobic interior of the lipid bilayer
- Integral proteins that span the membrane are called transmembrane proteins
- The hydrophobic regions of an integral protein consist of one or more stretches of nonpolar amino acids, often coiled into  $\alpha$  helices
- **Peripheral proteins** are loosely bound to the surface of the membrane

Figure 5.6

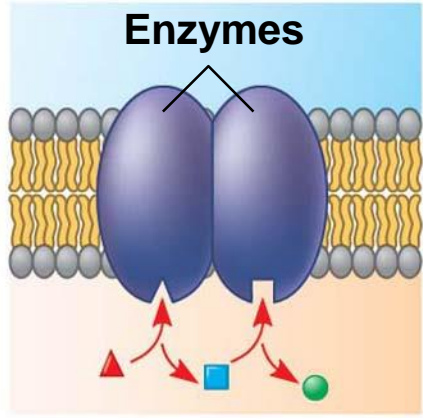


- Six major functions of membrane proteins
  - Transport
  - Enzymatic activity
  - Signal transduction
  - Cell-cell recognition
  - Intercellular joining
  - Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix (ECM)

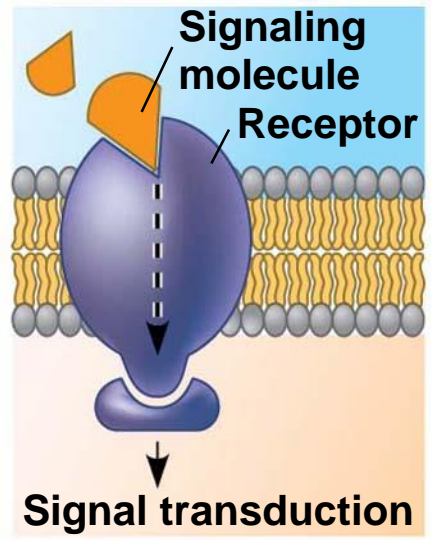
Figure 5.7



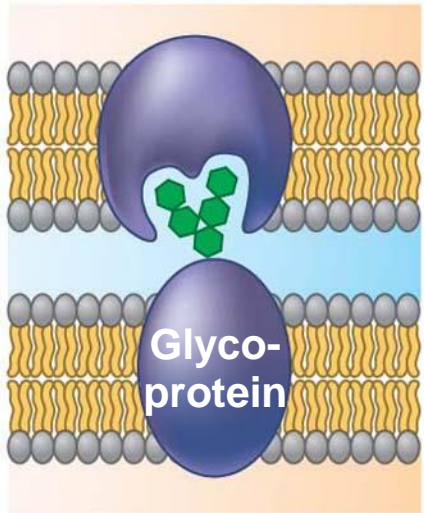
(a) Transport



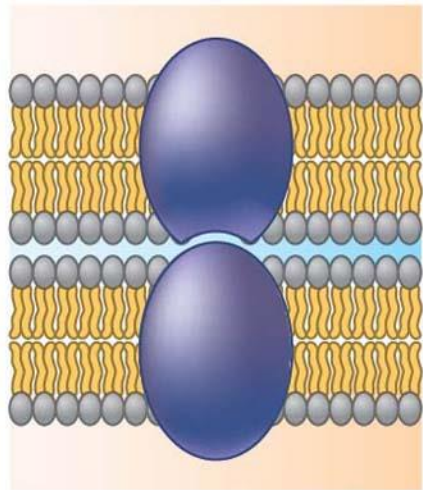
(b) Enzymatic activity



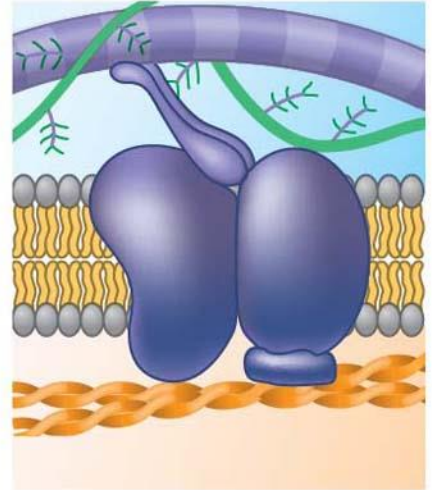
(c) Signal transduction



(d) Cell-cell recognition

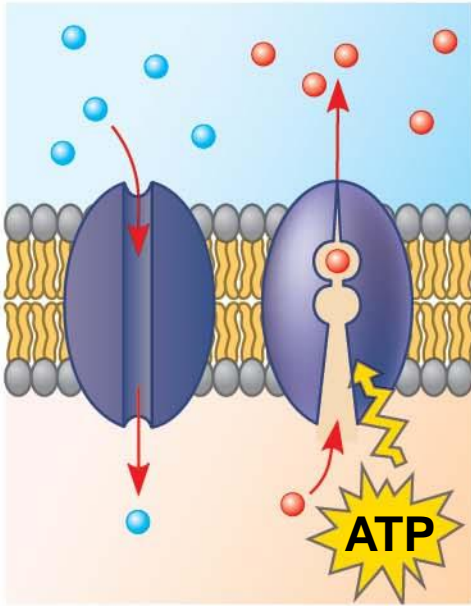


(e) Intercellular joining

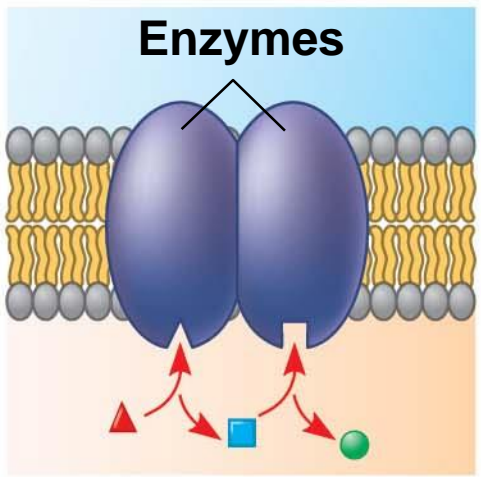


(f) Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extra-cellular matrix (ECM)

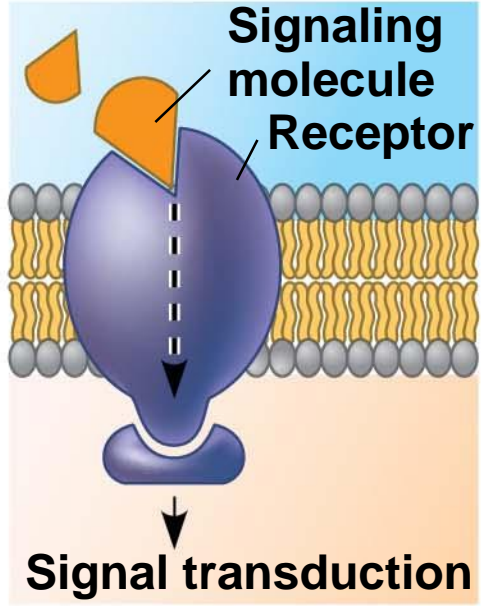
Figure 5.7-1



(a) Transport

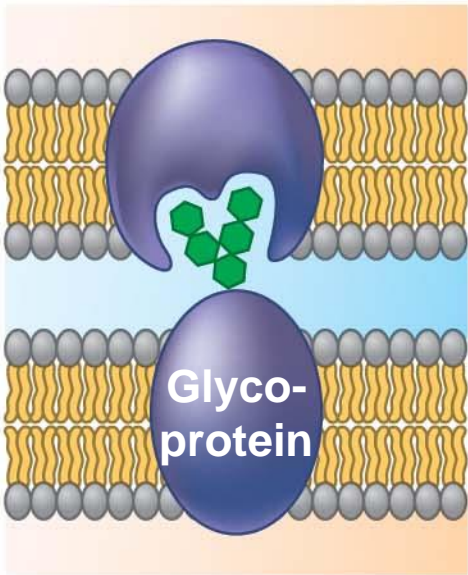


(b) Enzymatic activity

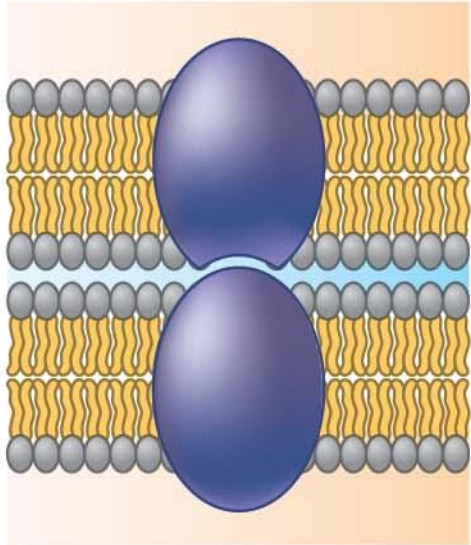


(c) Signal transduction

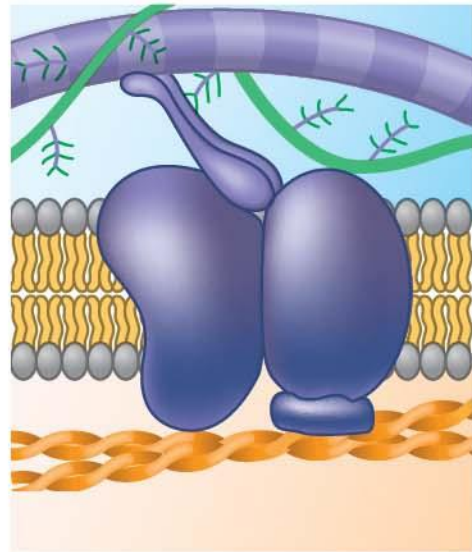
Figure 5.7-2



**(d) Cell-cell recognition**



**(e) Intercellular joining**



**(f) Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extra-cellular matrix (ECM)**

# The Role of Membrane Carbohydrates in Cell-Cell Recognition

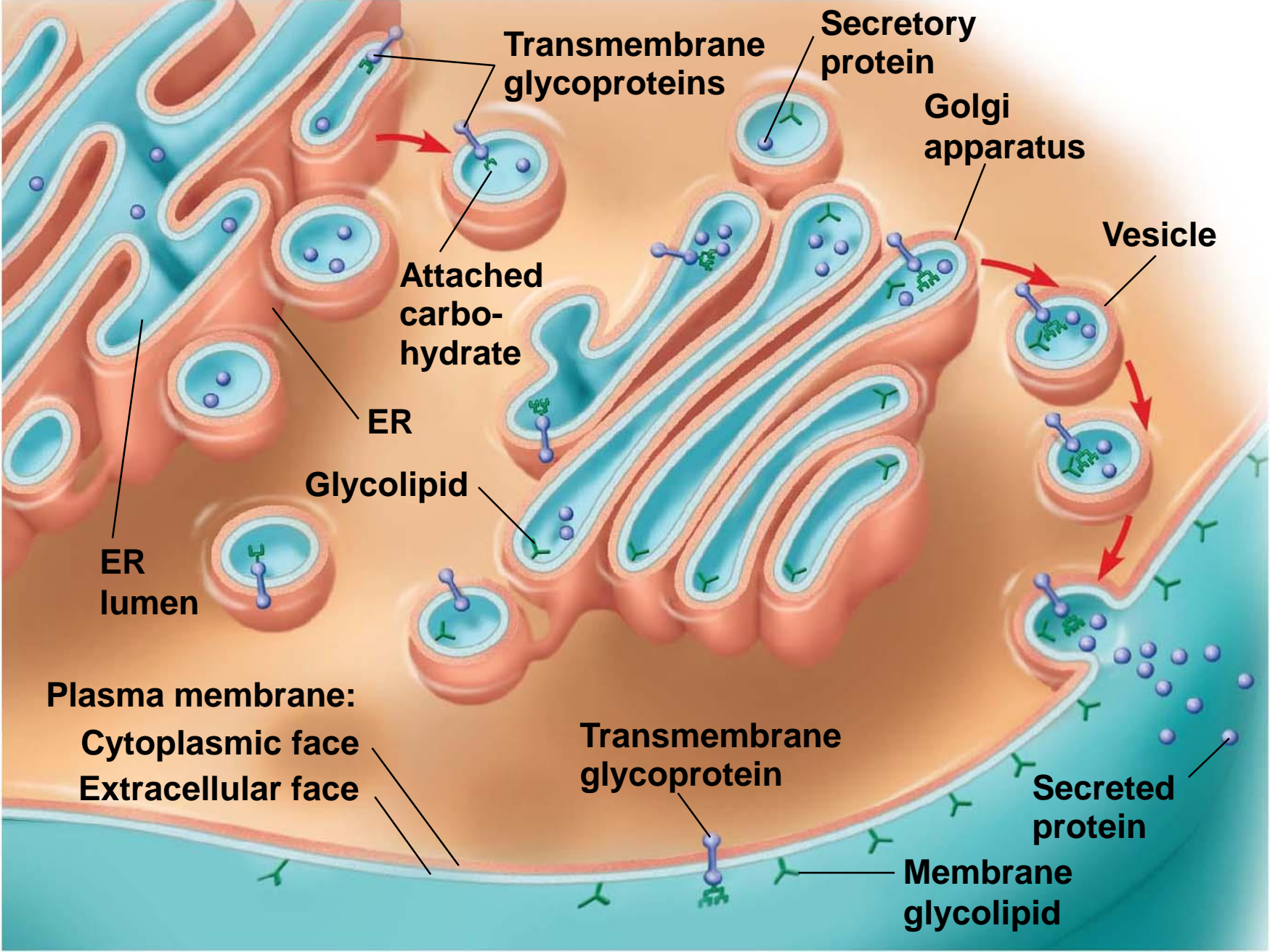
- Cells recognize each other by binding to surface molecules, often containing carbohydrates, on the extracellular surface of the plasma membrane
- Membrane carbohydrates may be covalently bonded to lipids (forming **glycolipids**) or, more commonly, to proteins (forming **glycoproteins**)
- Carbohydrates on the external side of the plasma membrane vary among species, individuals, and even cell types in an individual



# Synthesis and Sidedness of Membranes

- Membranes have distinct inside and outside faces
- The asymmetrical arrangement of proteins, lipids, and associated carbohydrates in the plasma membrane is determined as the membrane is built by the ER and Golgi apparatus

Figure 5.8



## **Concept 5.2: Membrane structure results in selective permeability**

- A cell must regulate transport of substances across cellular boundaries
- Plasma membranes are selectively permeable, regulating the cell's molecular traffic

# The Permeability of the Lipid Bilayer

- Hydrophobic (nonpolar) molecules, such as hydrocarbons, can dissolve in the lipid bilayer of the membrane and cross it easily
- Polar molecules, such as sugars, do not cross the membrane easily

# Transport Proteins

- **Transport proteins** allow passage of hydrophilic substances across the membrane
- Some transport proteins, called channel proteins, have a hydrophilic channel that certain molecules or ions can use as a tunnel
- Channel proteins called **aquaporins** facilitate the passage of water

- Other transport proteins, called carrier proteins, bind to molecules and change shape to shuttle them across the membrane
- A transport protein is specific for the substance it moves

## Concept 5.3: Passive transport is diffusion of a substance across a membrane with no energy investment

- **Diffusion** is the tendency for molecules to spread out evenly into the available space
- Although each molecule moves randomly, diffusion of a population of molecules may be directional
- At dynamic equilibrium, as many molecules cross the membrane in one direction as in the other

# Animation: Diffusion

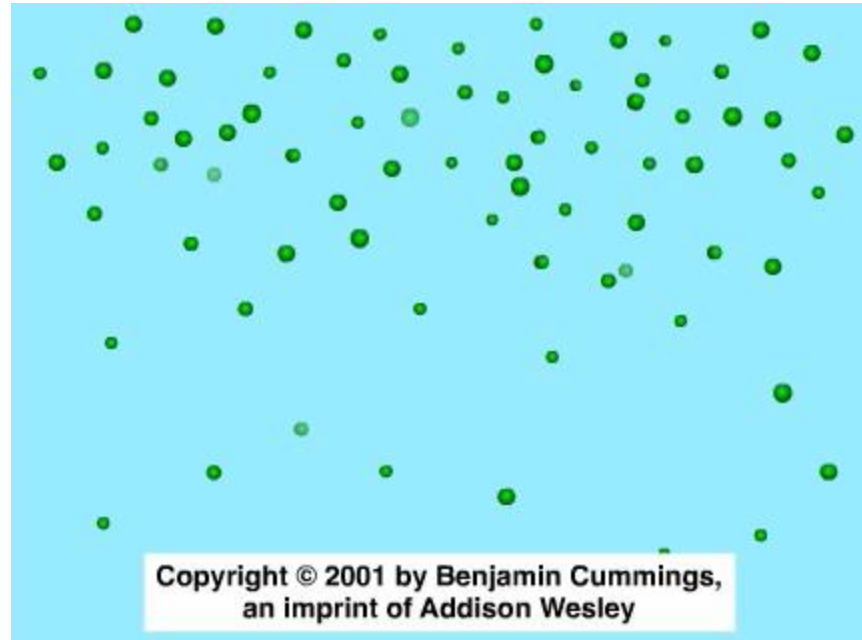
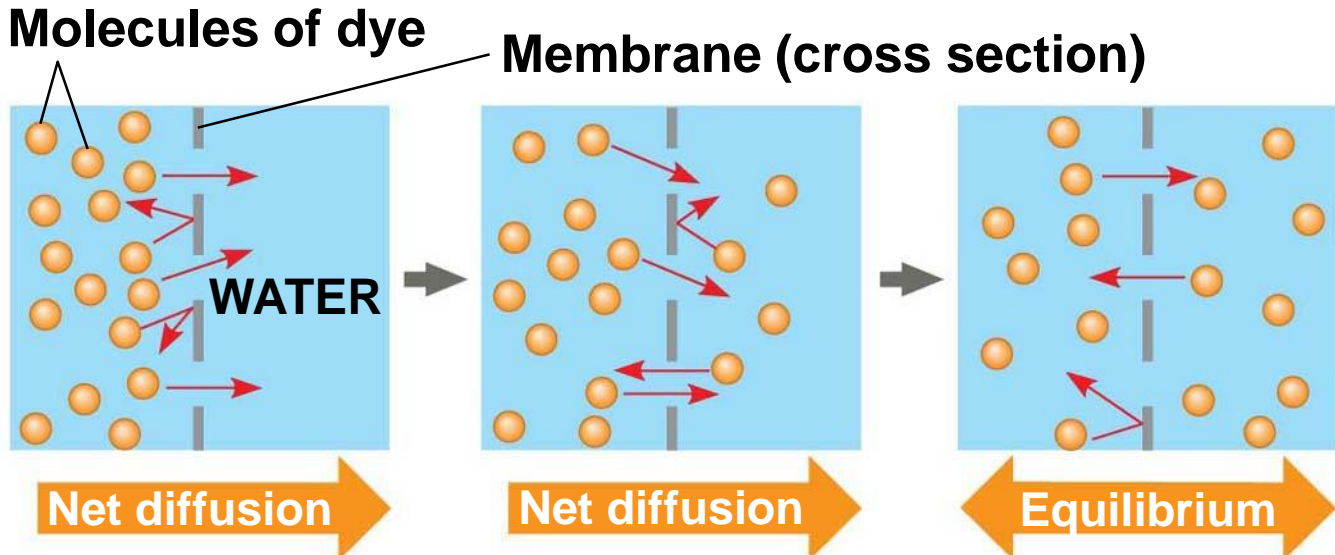
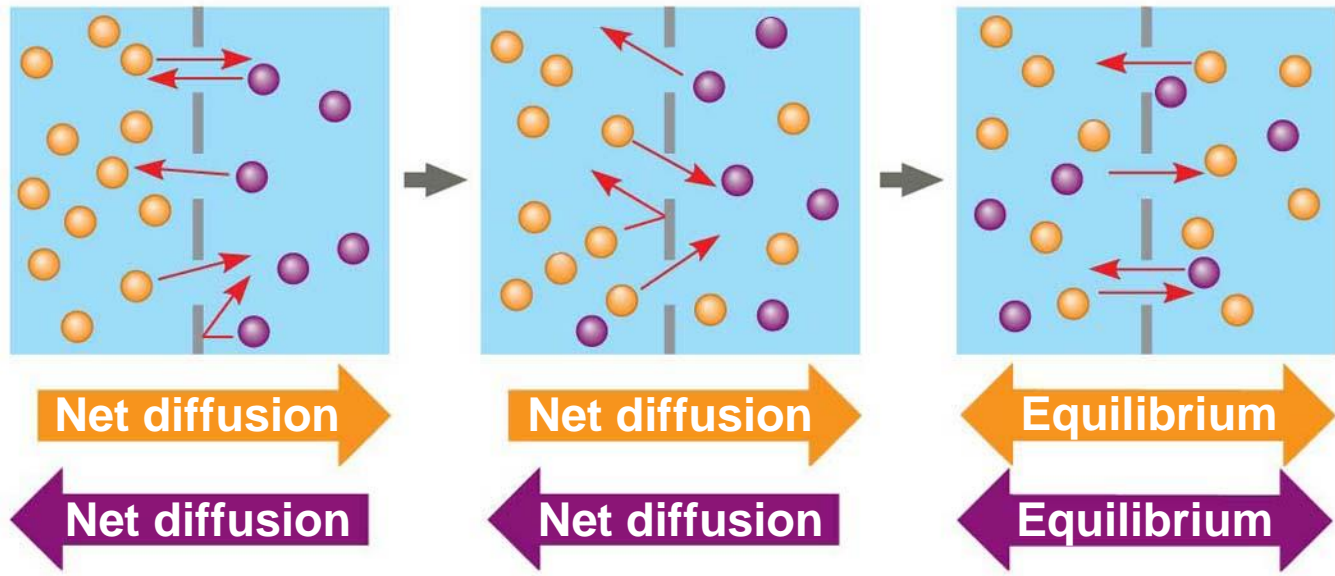




Figure 5.9



**(a) Diffusion of one solute**



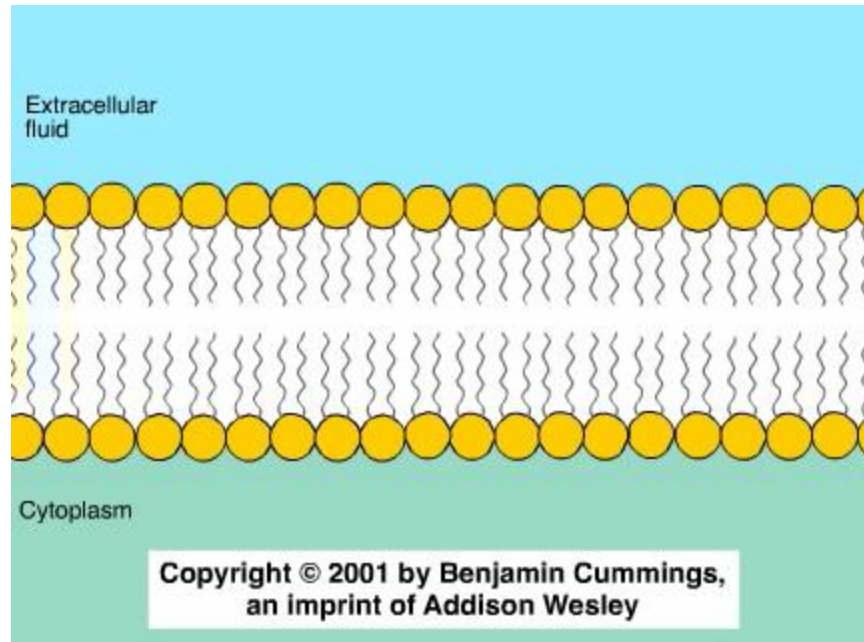
**(b) Diffusion of two solutes**

- Substances diffuse down their **concentration gradient**, from where it is more concentrated to where it is less concentrated
- No work must be done to move substances down the concentration gradient
- The diffusion of a substance across a biological membrane is **passive transport** because no energy is expended by the cell to make it happen

# Effects of Osmosis on Water Balance

- **Osmosis** is the diffusion of free water across a selectively permeable membrane
- Water diffuses across a membrane from the region of lower solute concentration to the region of higher solute concentration until the solute concentration is equal on both sides

# Animation: Membrane Selectivity



# Animation: Osmosis

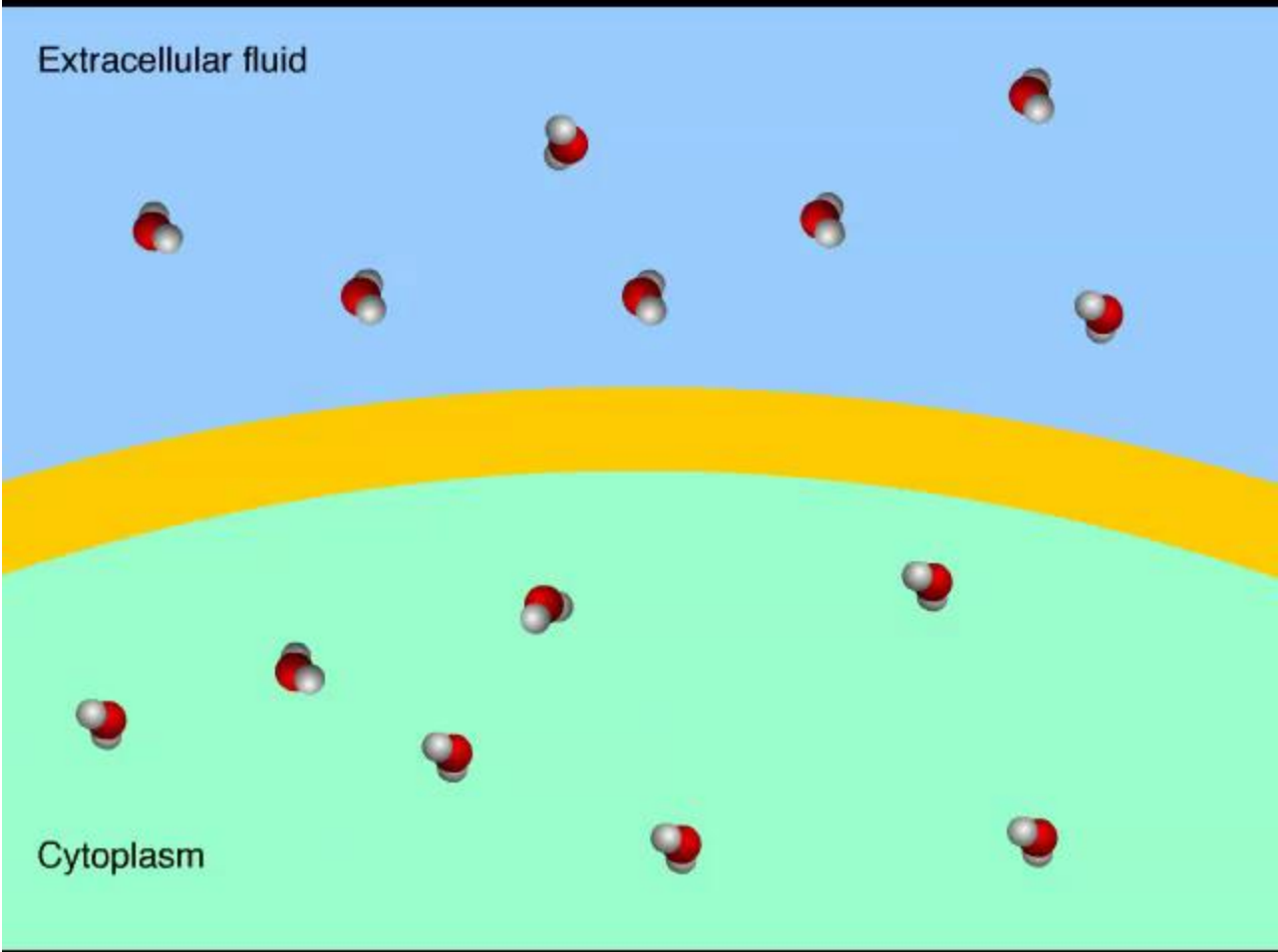


Figure 5.10

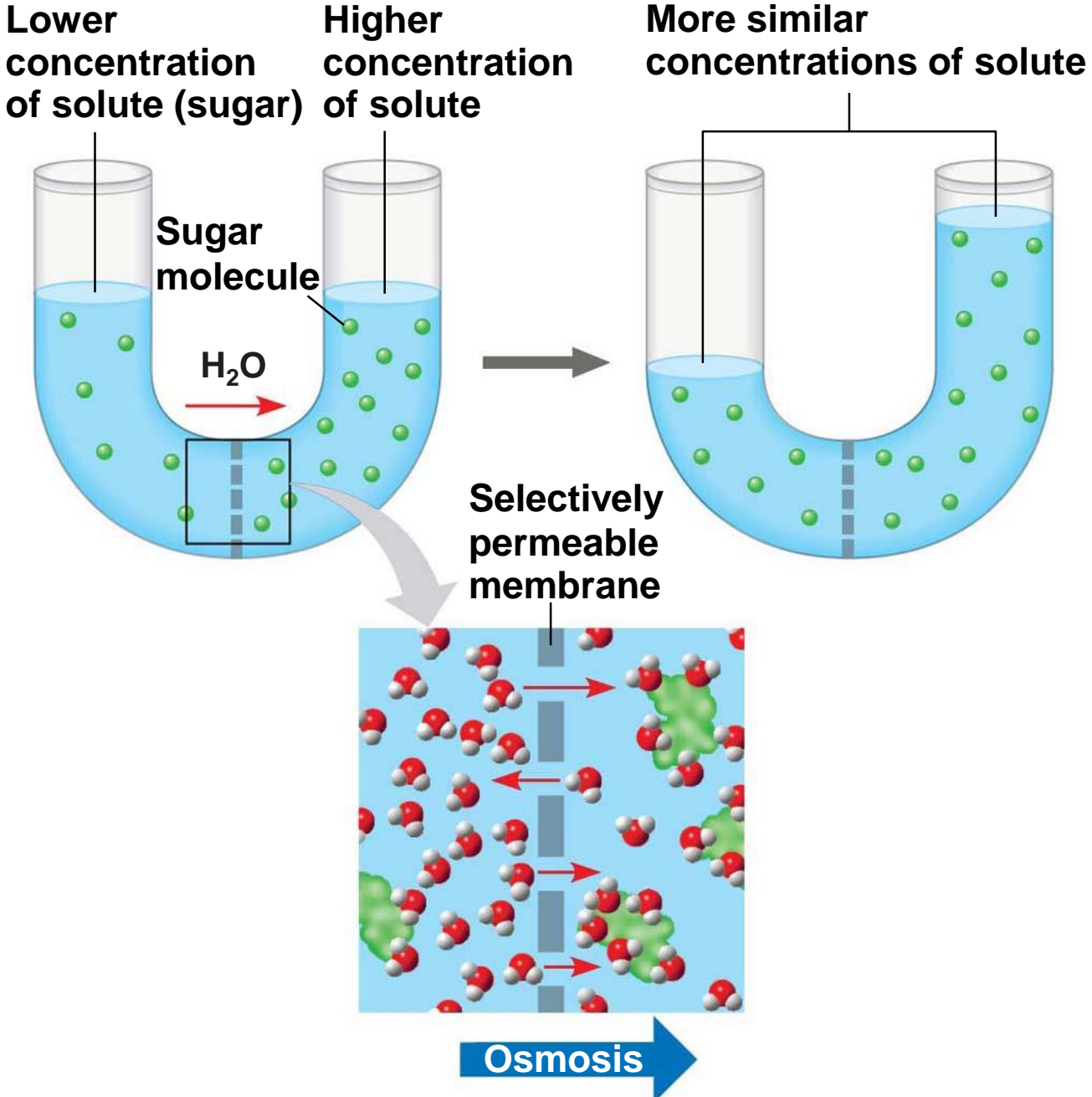


Figure 5.10-1

**Lower concentration of solute (sugar)**

**Higher concentration of solute**

**More similar concentrations of solute**

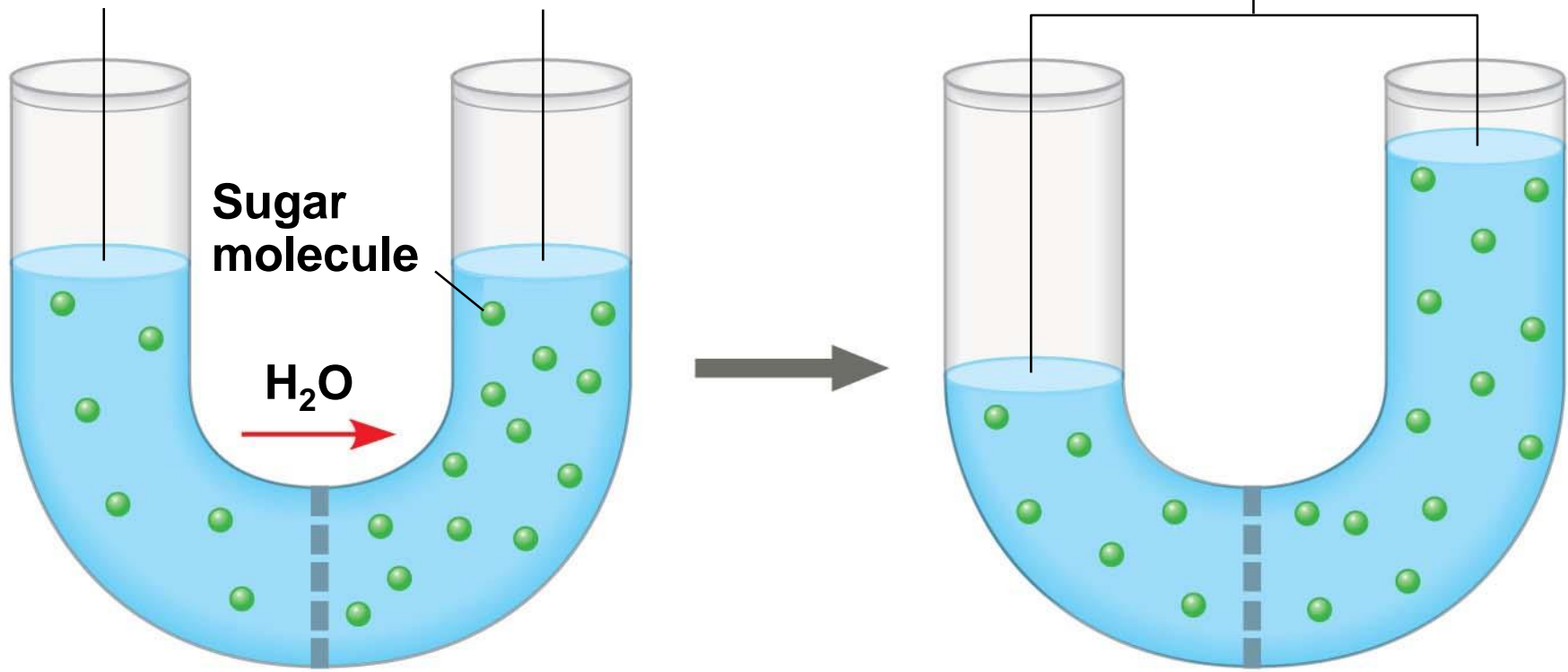
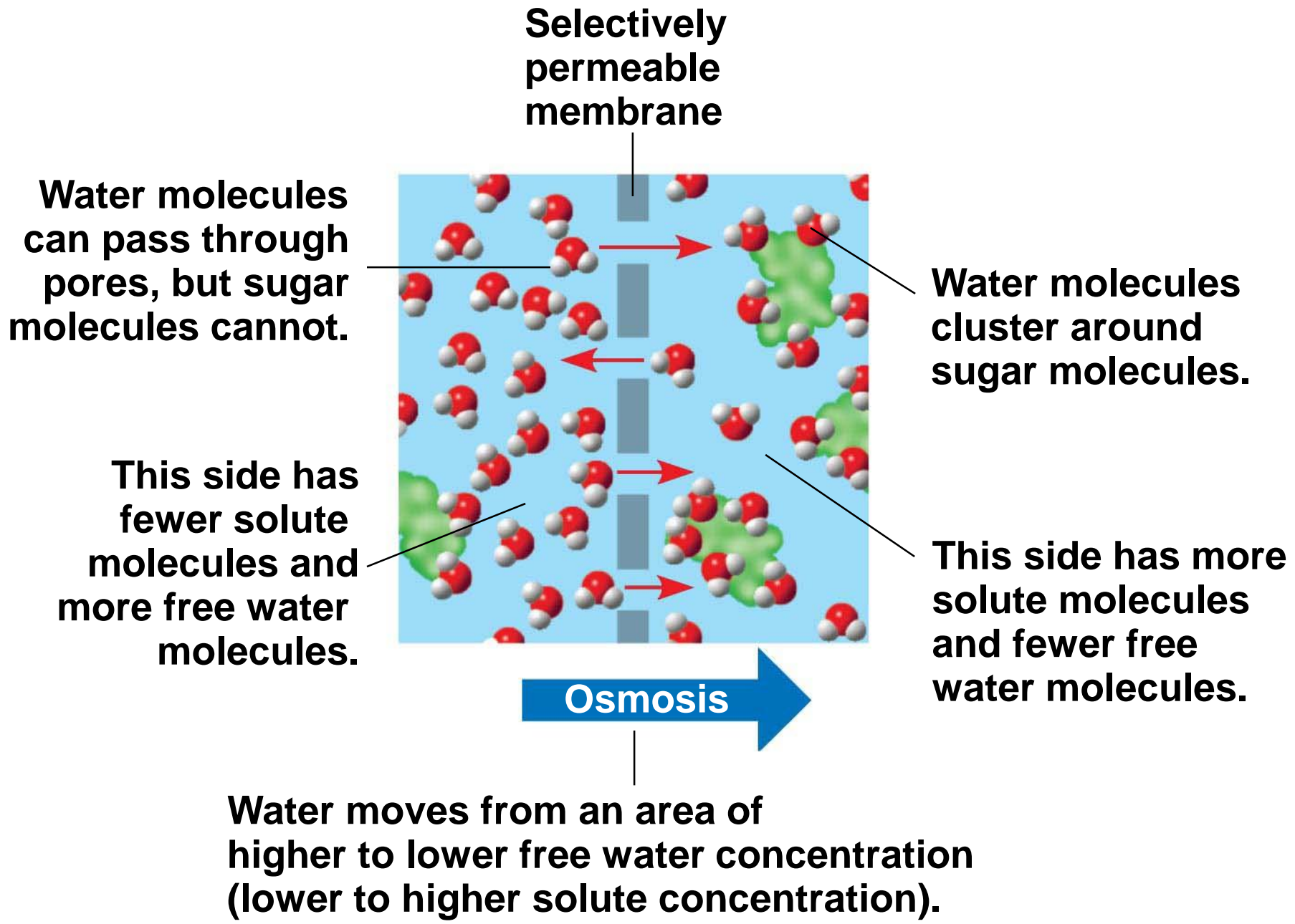


Figure 5.10-2





# *Water Balance of Cells Without Walls*

- **Tonicity** is the ability of a surrounding solution to cause a cell to gain or lose water
- **Isotonic** solution: Solute concentration is the same as inside the cell; no net water movement across the plasma membrane
- **Hypertonic** solution: Solute concentration is greater than that inside the cell; cell loses water
- **Hypotonic** solution: Solute concentration is less than that inside the cell; cell gains water

# Video: Turgid *Elodea*

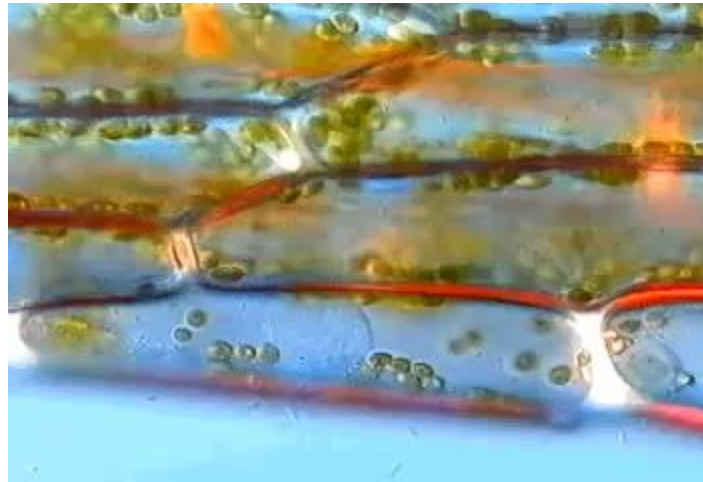
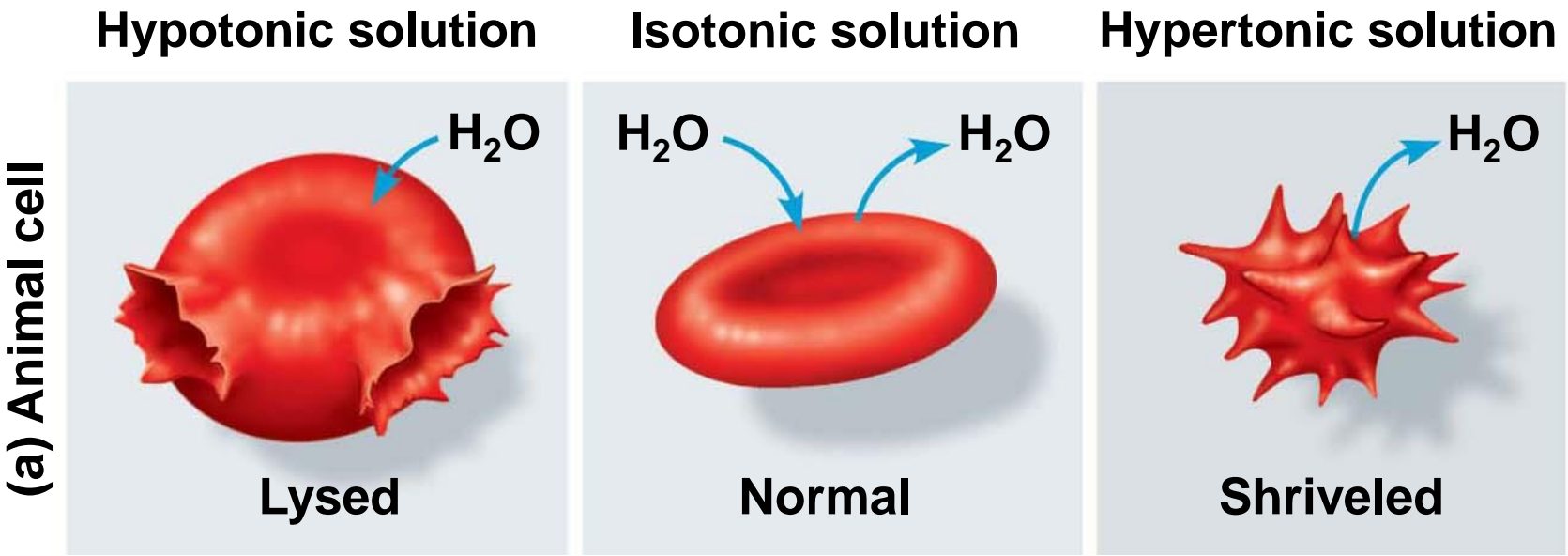


Figure 5.11a



- Hypertonic or hypotonic environments create osmotic problems for organisms
- **Osmoregulation**, the control of solute concentrations and water balance, is a necessary adaptation for life in such environments
- The protist *Paramecium caudatum*, which is hypertonic to its pondwater environment, has a contractile vacuole that can pump excess water out of the cell

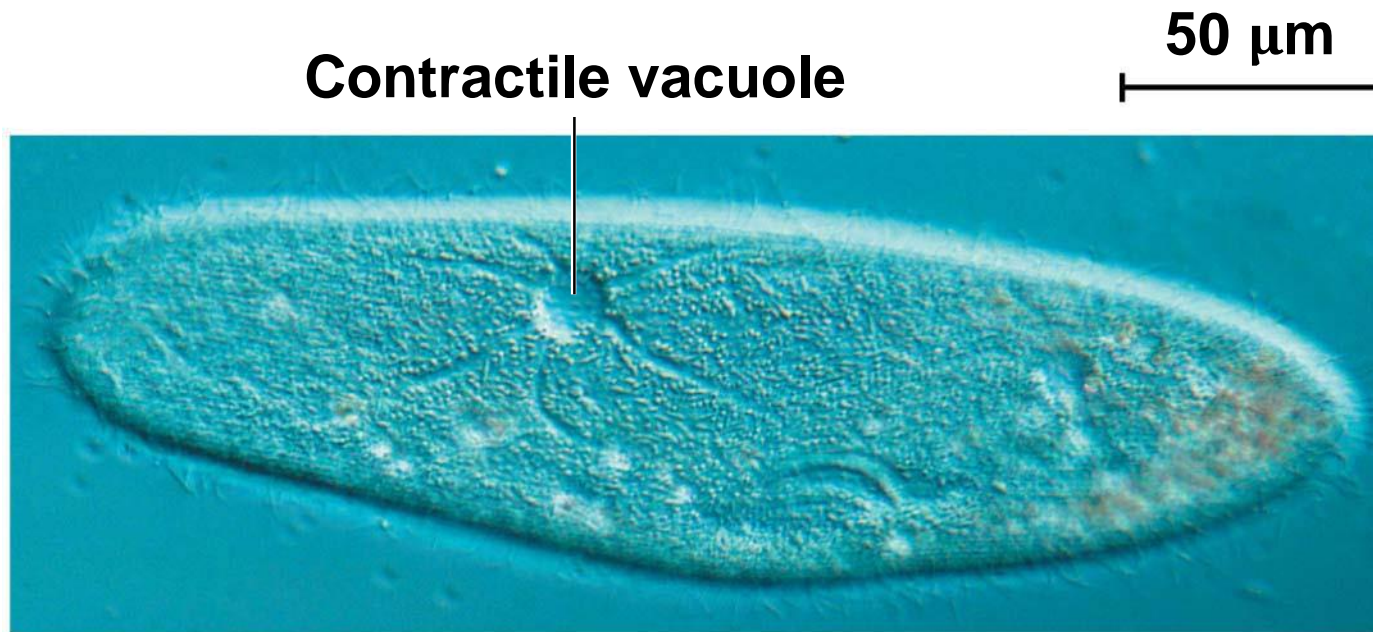
# Video: *Chlamydomonas*



# Video: *Paramecium* Vacuole



Figure 5.12

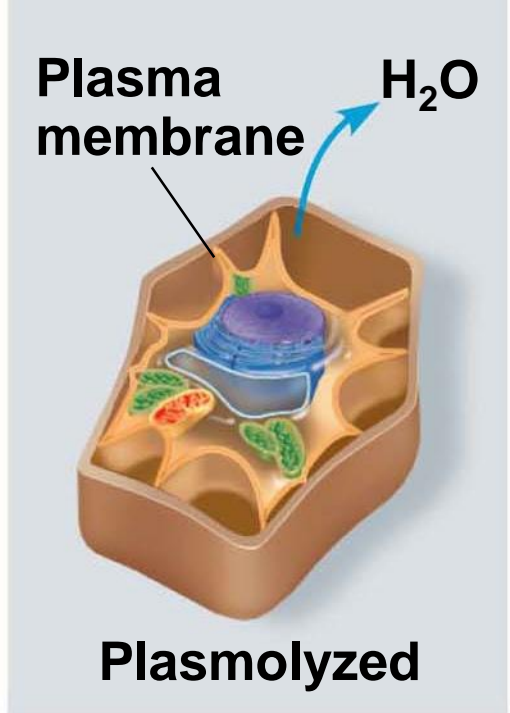
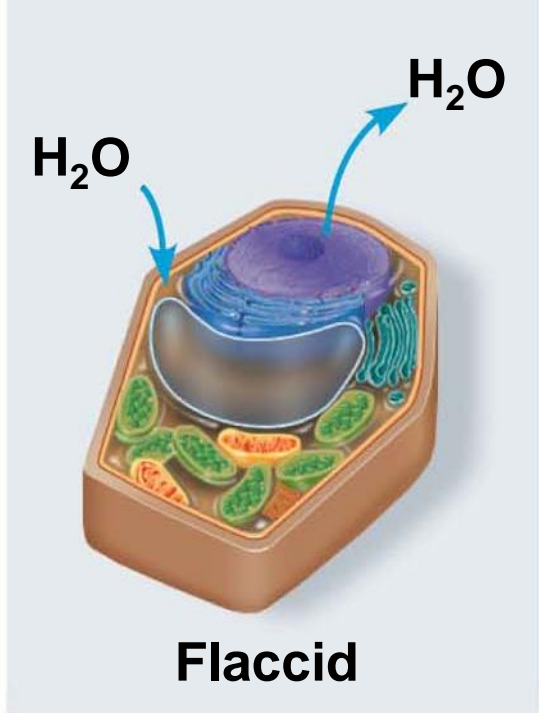
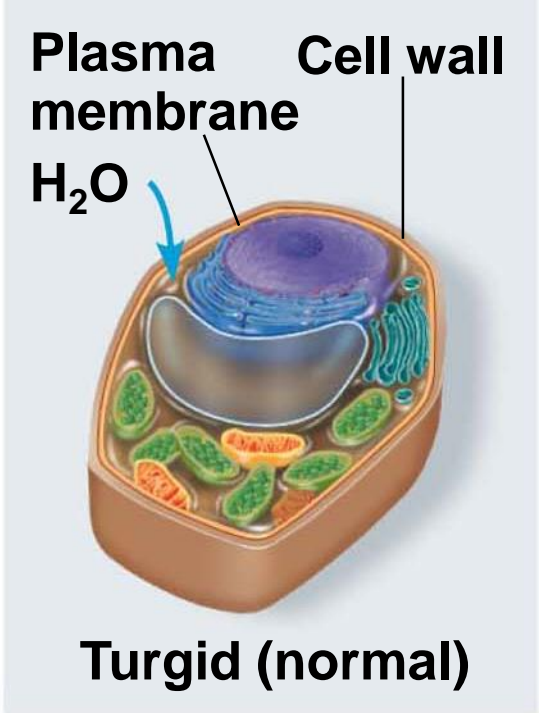


# *Water Balance of Cells with Walls*

- Cell walls help maintain water balance
- A plant cell in a hypotonic solution swells until the wall opposes uptake; the cell is now **turgid** (very firm)
- If a plant cell and its surroundings are isotonic, there is no net movement of water into the cell; the cell becomes **flaccid** (limp), and the plant may wilt
- In a hypertonic environment, plant cells lose water; eventually, the membrane pulls away from the wall, a usually lethal effect called **plasmolysis**



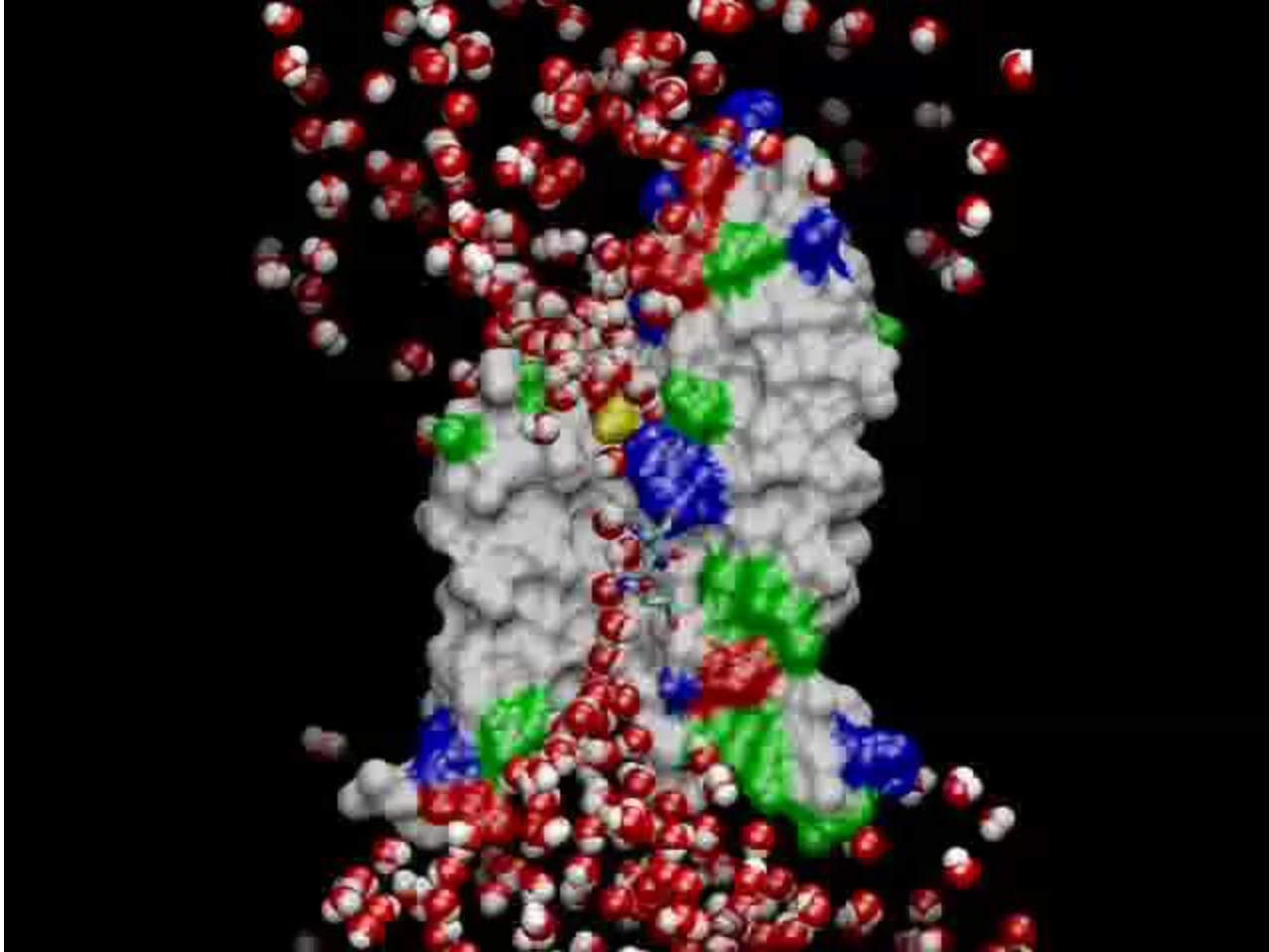
**(b) Plant cell**



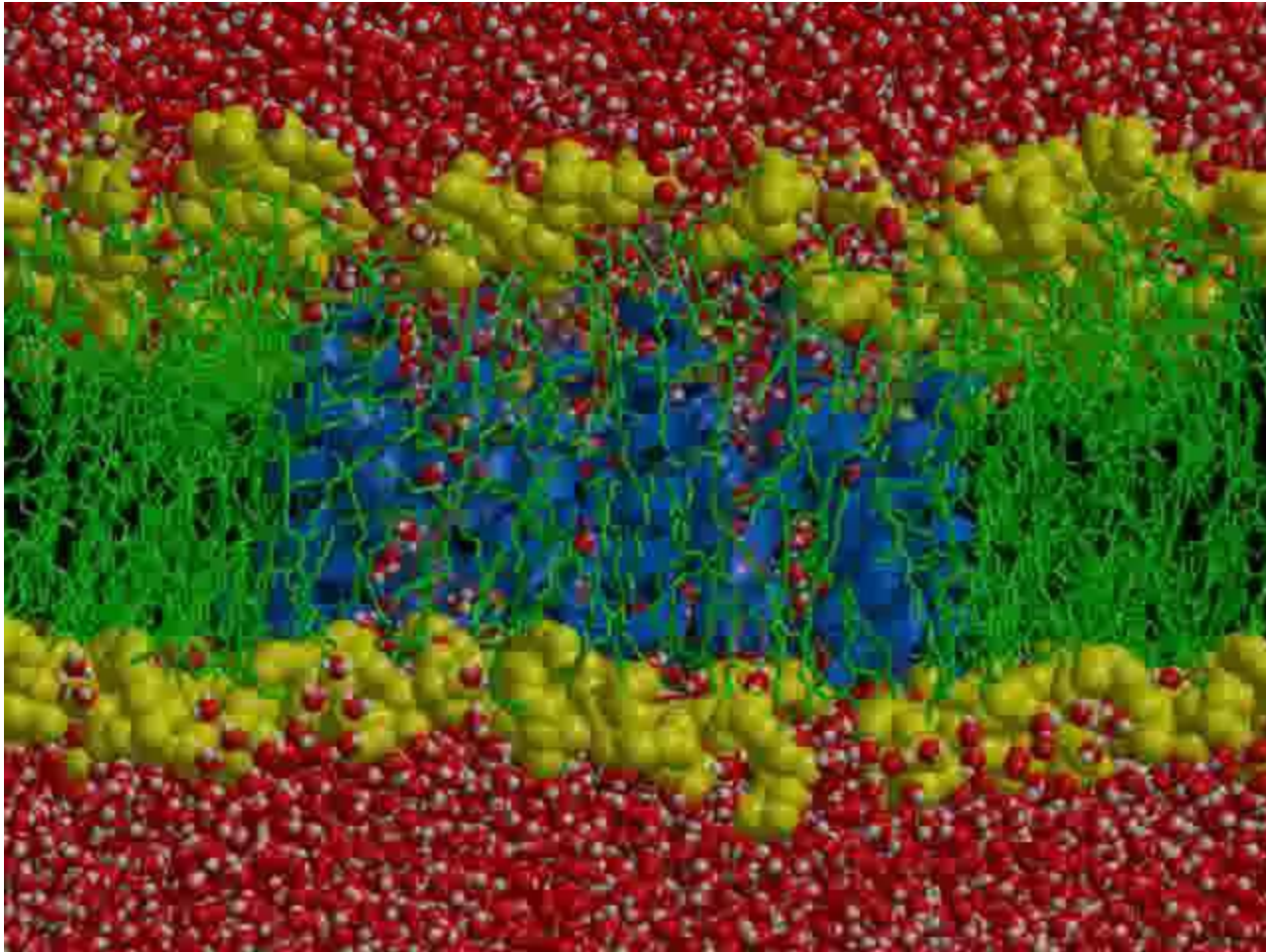
# Facilitated Diffusion: Passive Transport Aided by Proteins

- In **facilitated diffusion**, transport proteins speed the passive movement of molecules across the plasma membrane
- Channel proteins provide corridors that allow a specific molecule or ion to cross the membrane
- Channel proteins include
  - Aquaporins, for facilitated diffusion of water
  - **ion channels** that open or close in response to a stimulus (**gated channels**)

# Video: Aquaporins

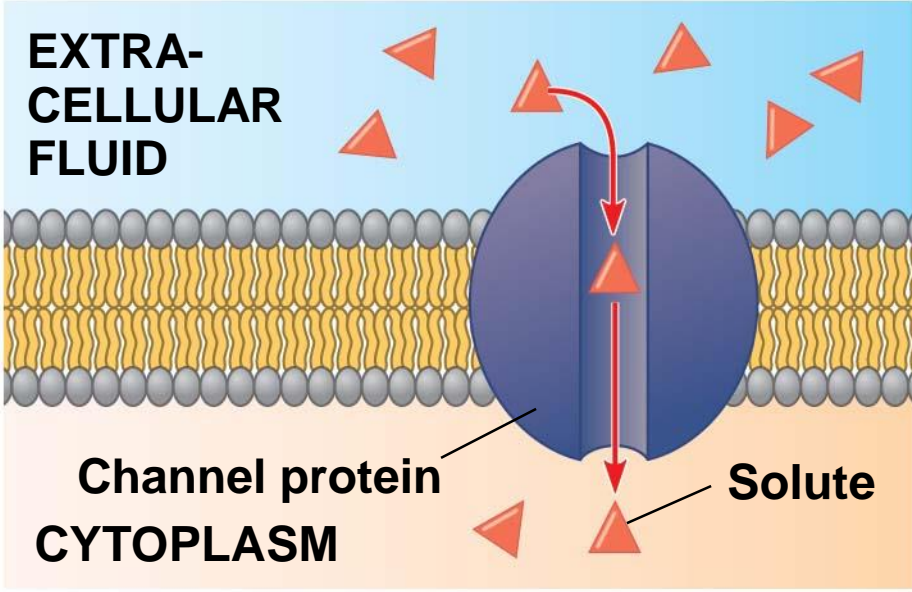


# Video: Membrane and Aquaporin

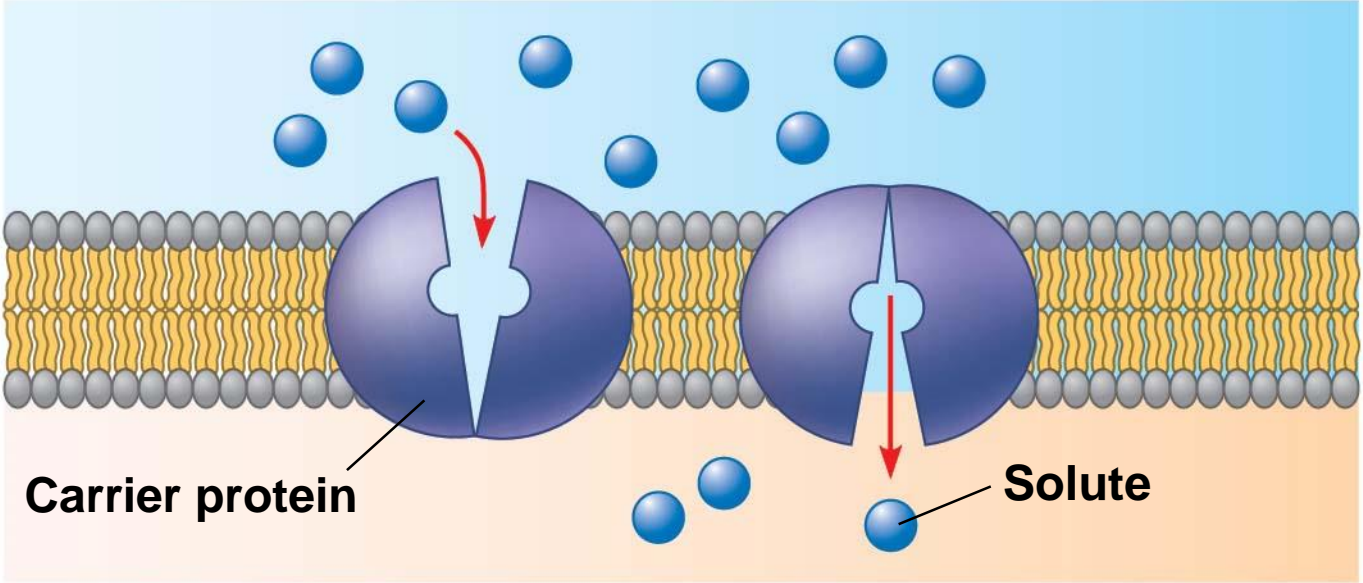


- Carrier proteins undergo a subtle change in shape that translocates the solute-binding site across the membrane
- The shape change may be triggered by binding and release of the transported molecule
- No net energy input is required

Figure 5.13



**(a) A channel protein**



**(b) A carrier protein**

## **Concept 5.4: Active transport uses energy to move solutes against their gradients**

- Facilitated diffusion speeds transport of a solute by providing efficient passage through the membrane but does not alter the direction of transport
- Some transport proteins, however, can move solutes against their concentration gradients

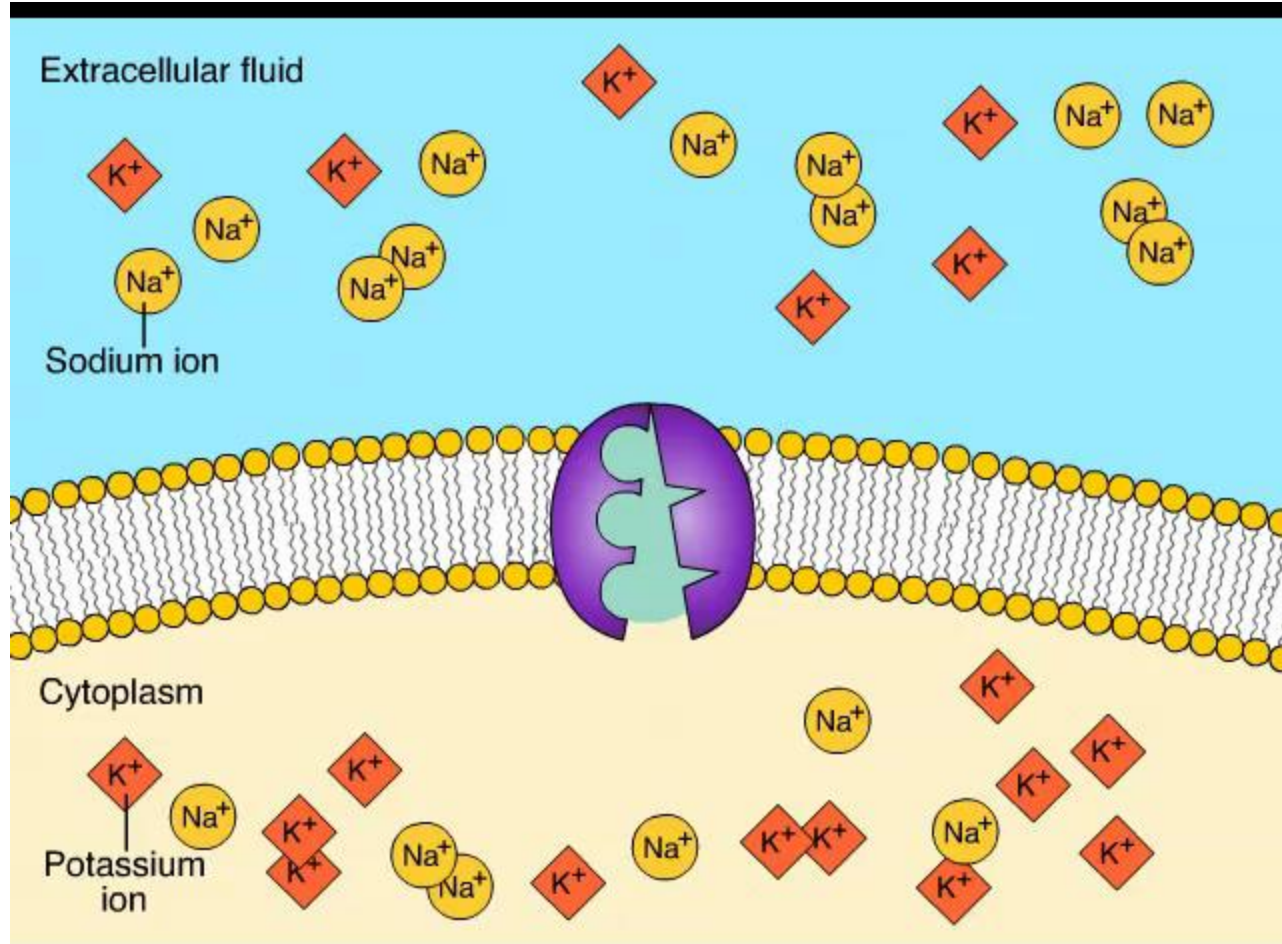
# The Need for Energy in Active Transport

- **Active transport** moves substances against their concentration gradients
- Active transport requires energy, usually in the form of ATP

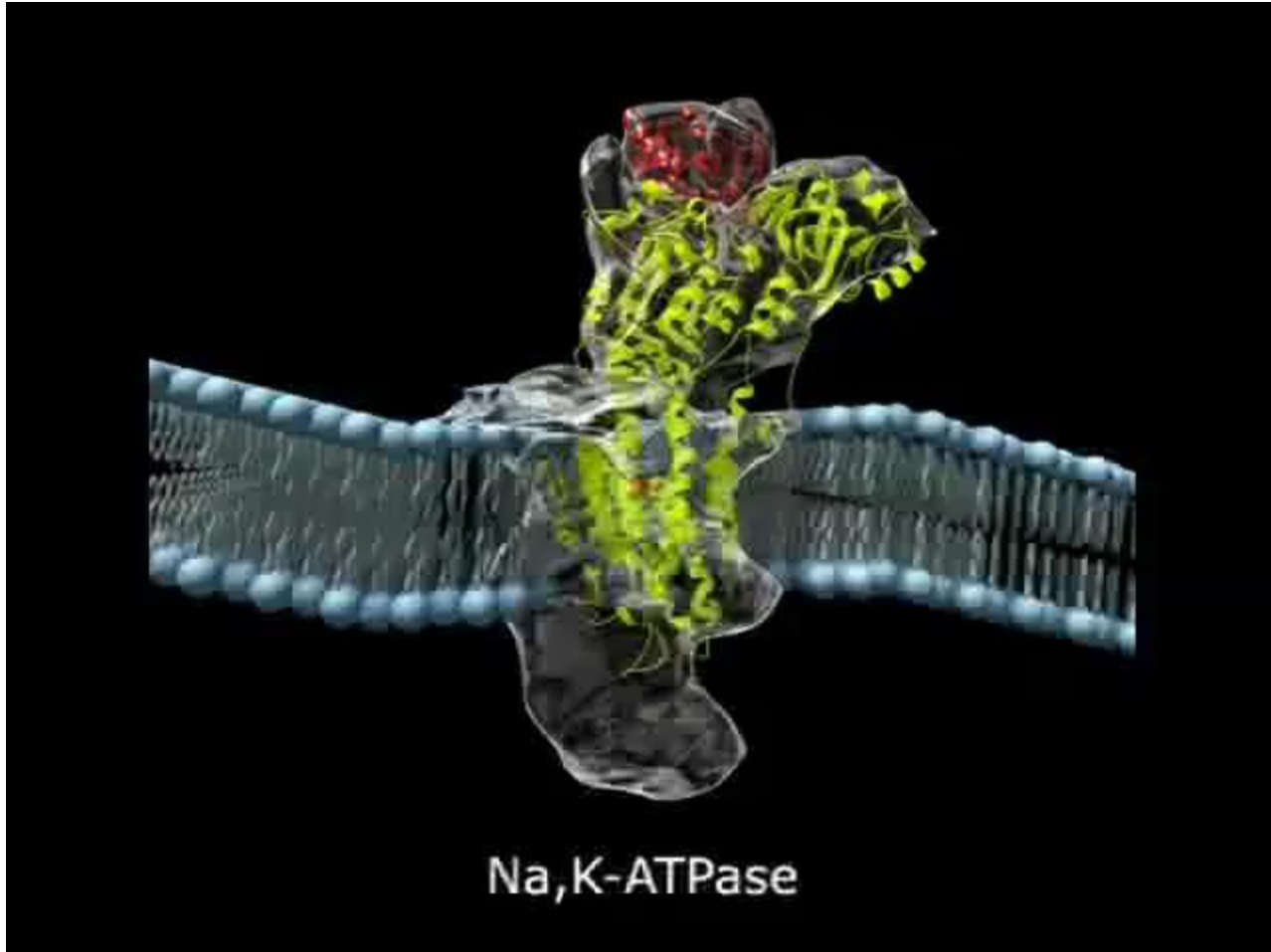


- Active transport allows cells to maintain concentration gradients that differ from their surroundings
- The **sodium-potassium pump** is one type of active transport system

# Animation: Active Transport



# Video: Sodium-Potassium Pump



# Video: Membrane Transport

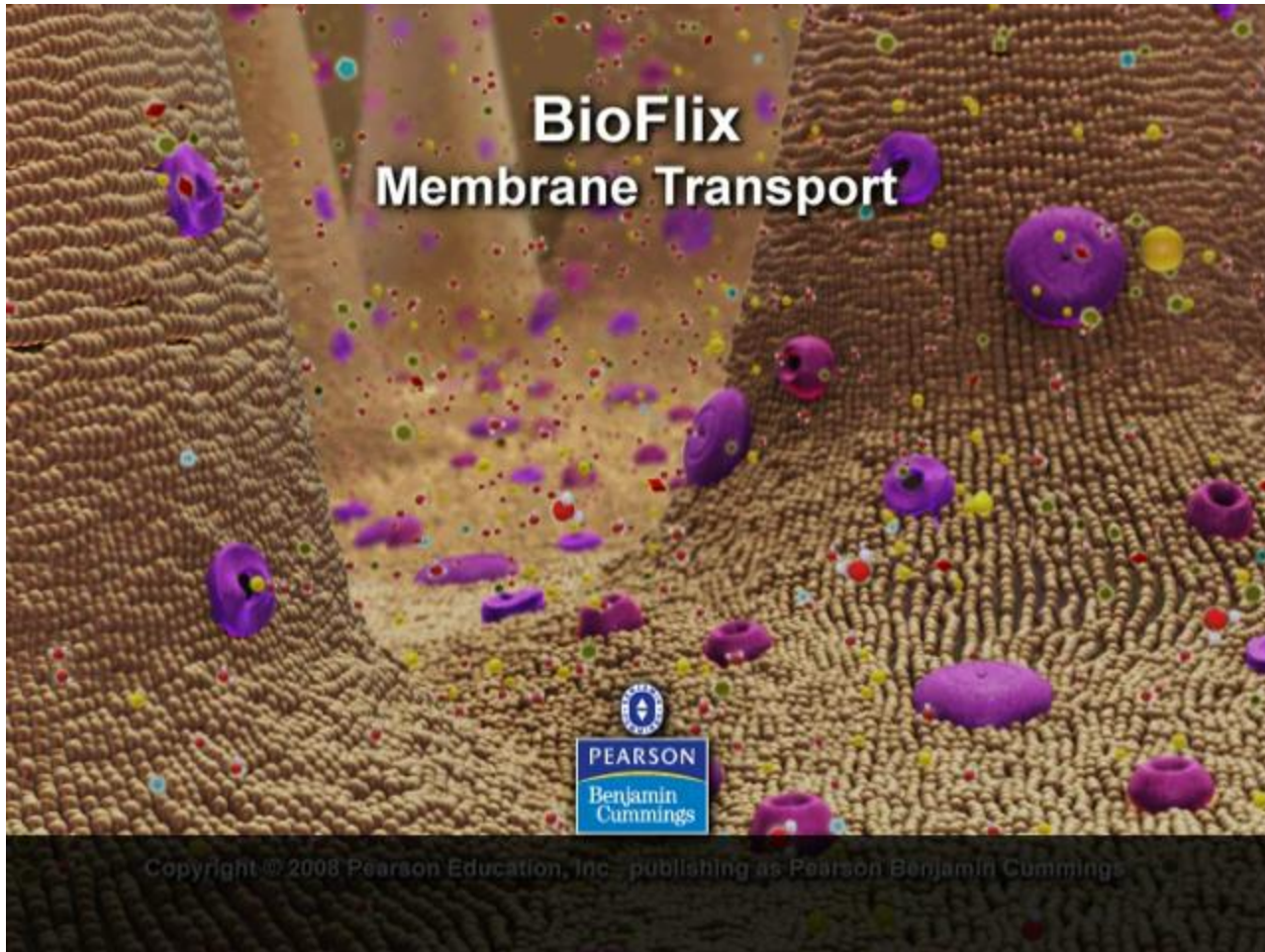


Figure 5.14

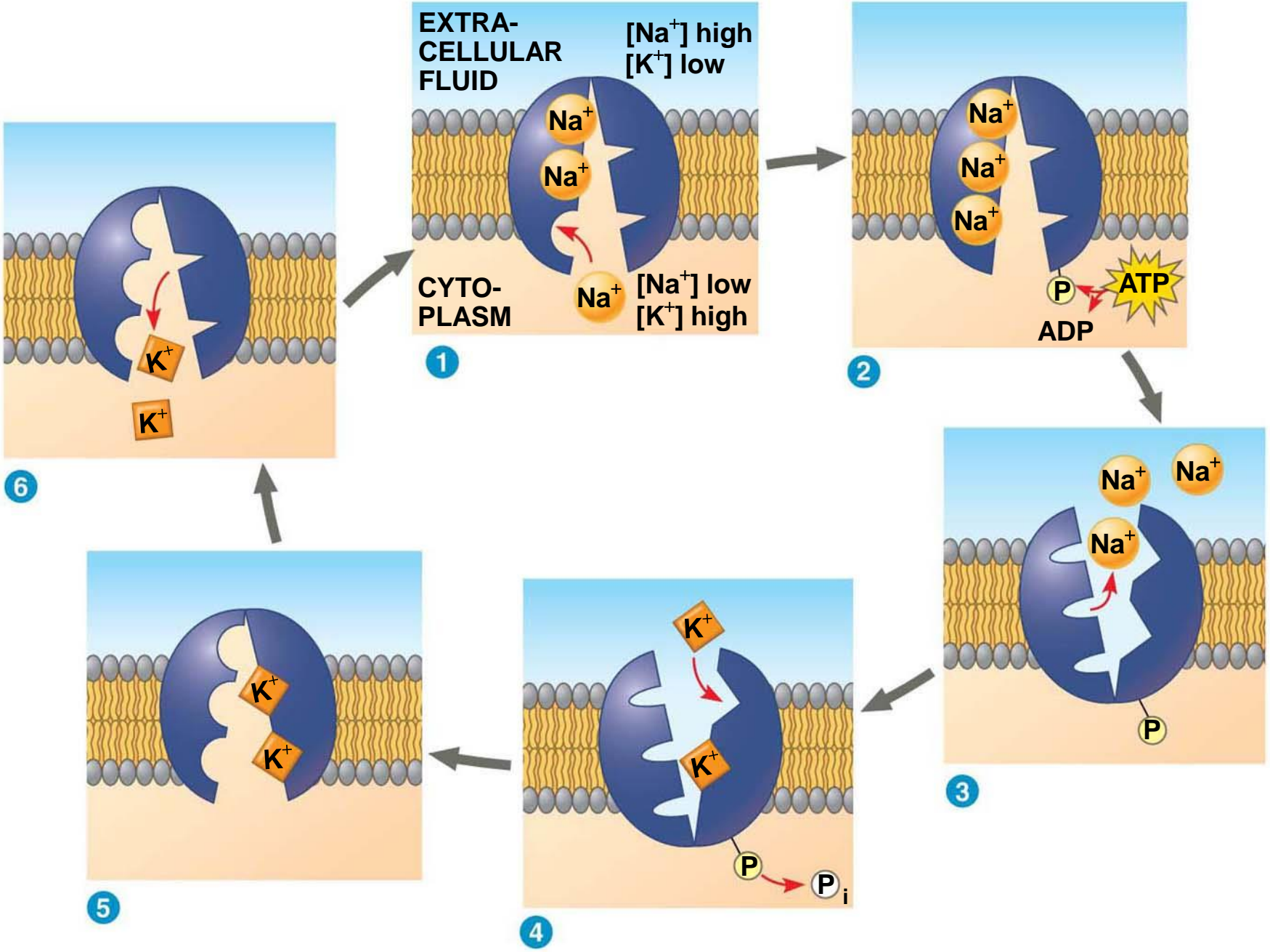
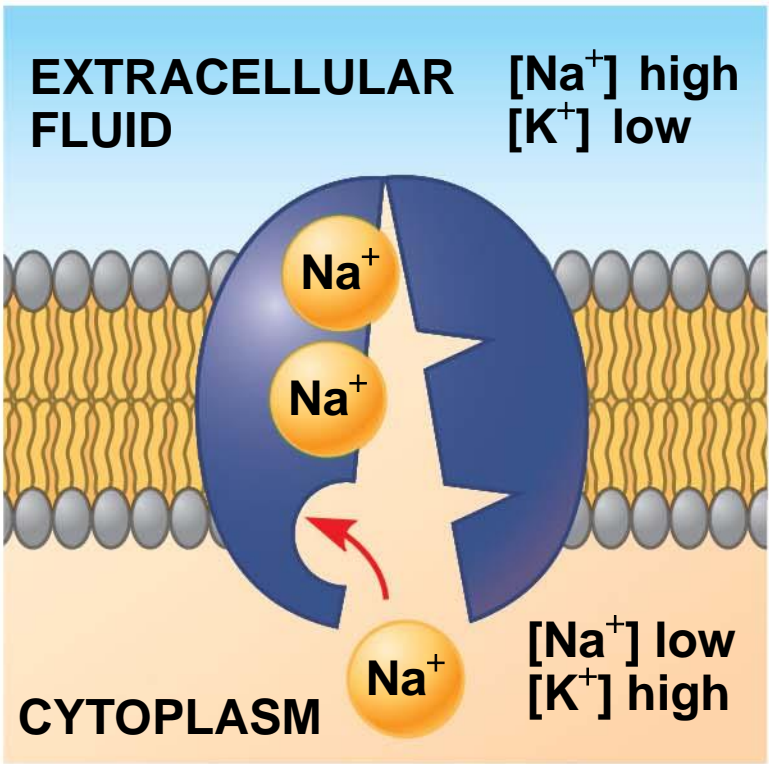
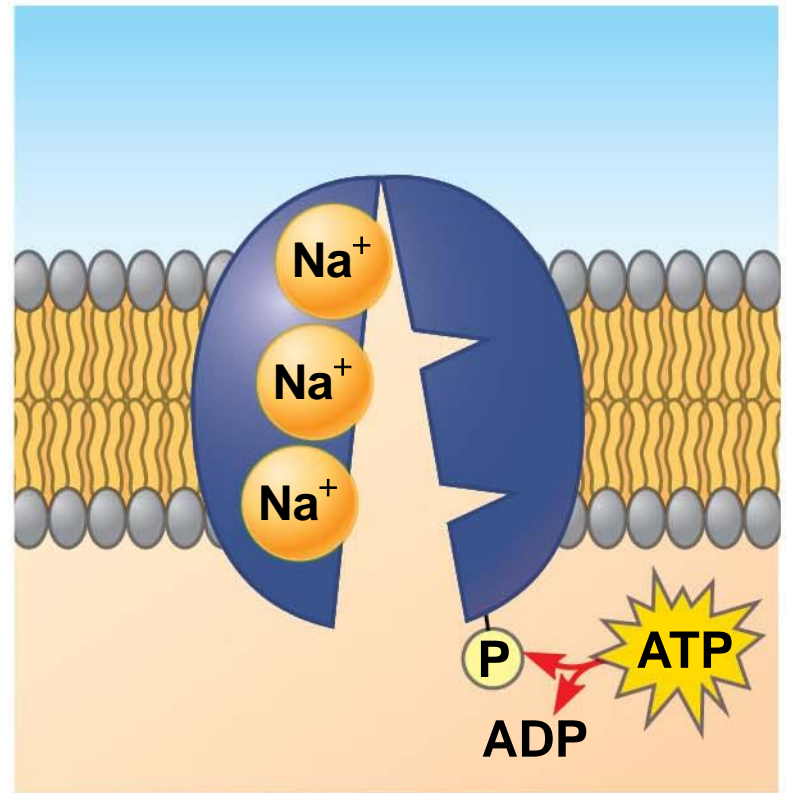


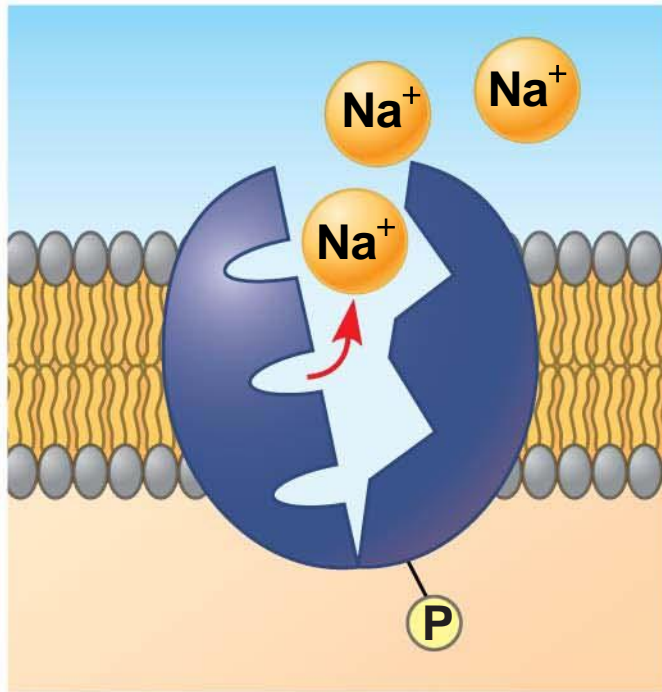
Figure 5.14-1



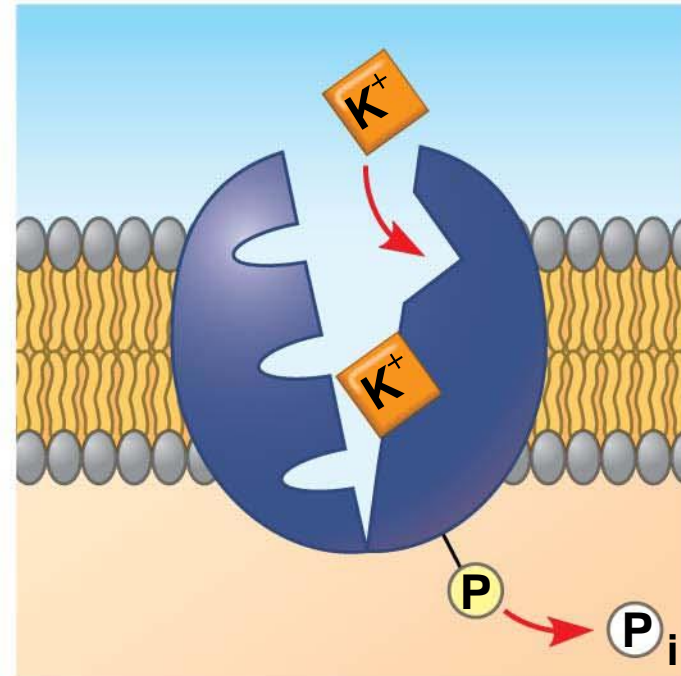
**1** Cytoplasmic Na<sup>+</sup> binds to the sodium-potassium pump. The affinity for Na<sup>+</sup> is high when the protein has this shape.



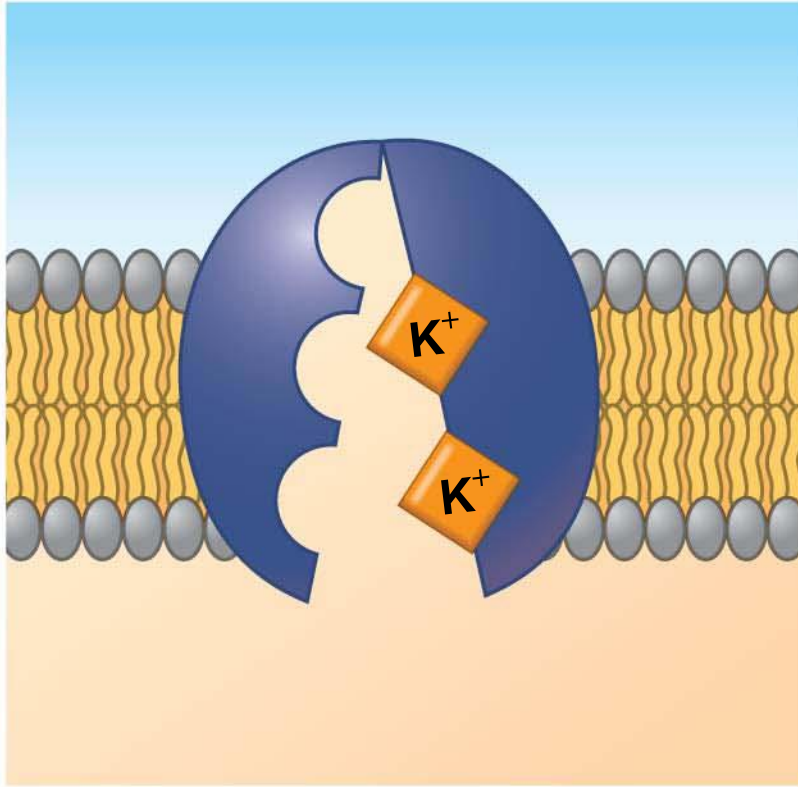
**2** Na<sup>+</sup> binding stimulates phosphorylation by ATP.



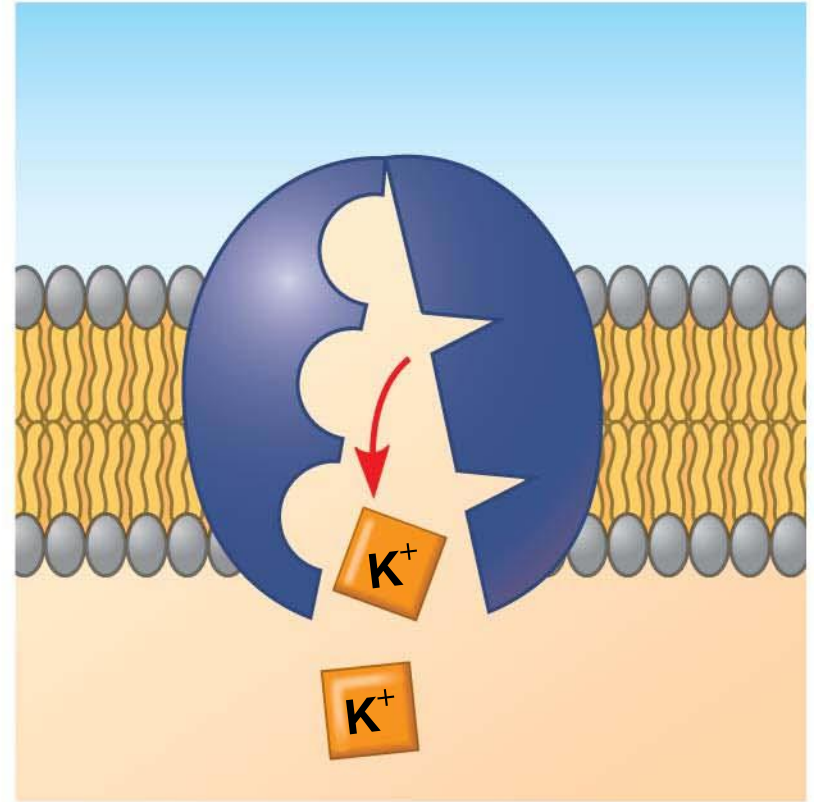
**3** Phosphorylation leads to a change in protein shape, reducing its affinity for  $\text{Na}^+$ , which is released outside.



**4** The new shape has a high affinity for  $\text{K}^+$ , which binds on the intracellular side and triggers release of the phosphate group.



**5** Loss of the phosphate group restores the protein's original shape, which has a lower affinity for K<sup>+</sup>.

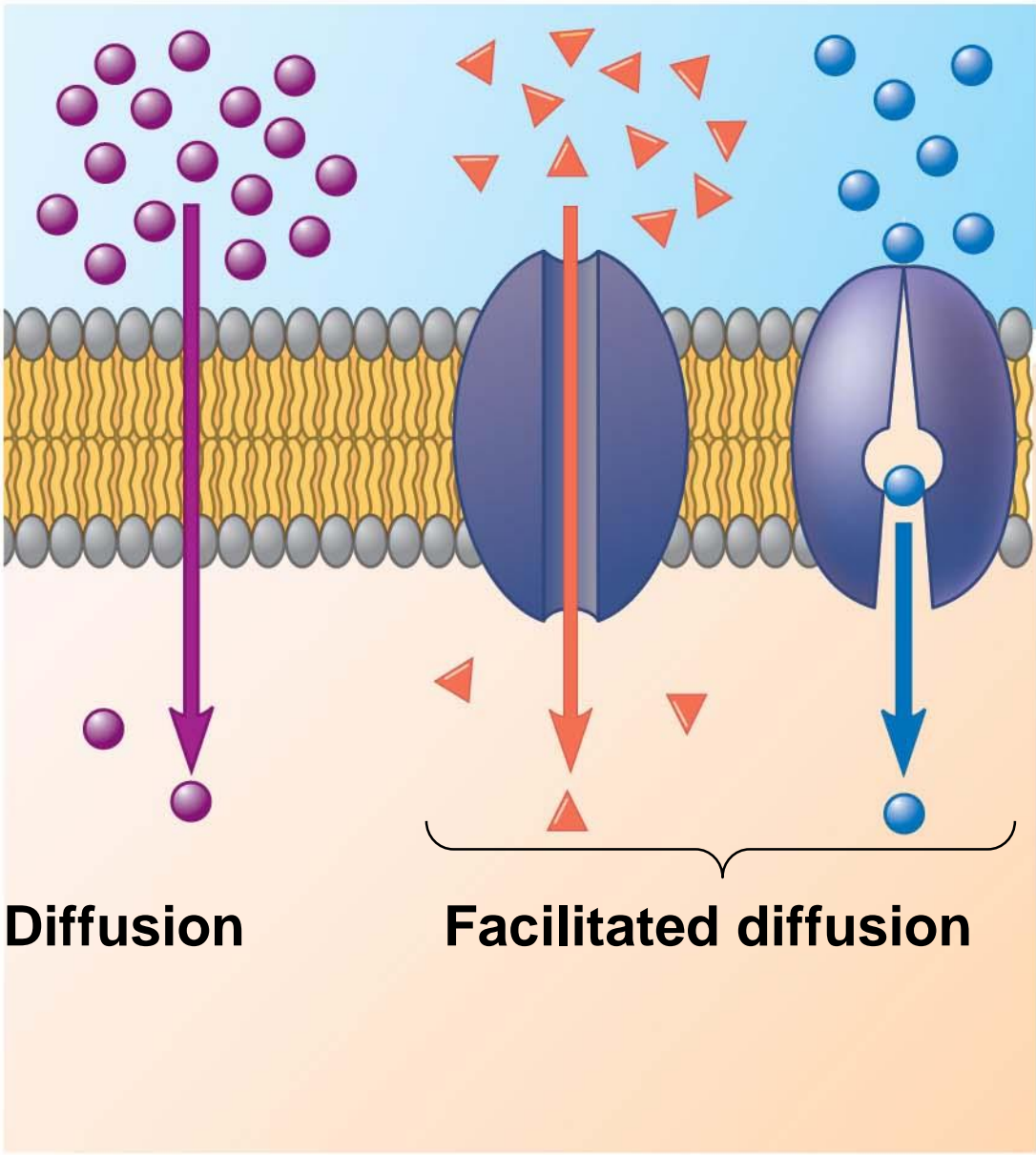


**6** K<sup>+</sup> is released; affinity for Na<sup>+</sup> is high again, and the cycle repeats.

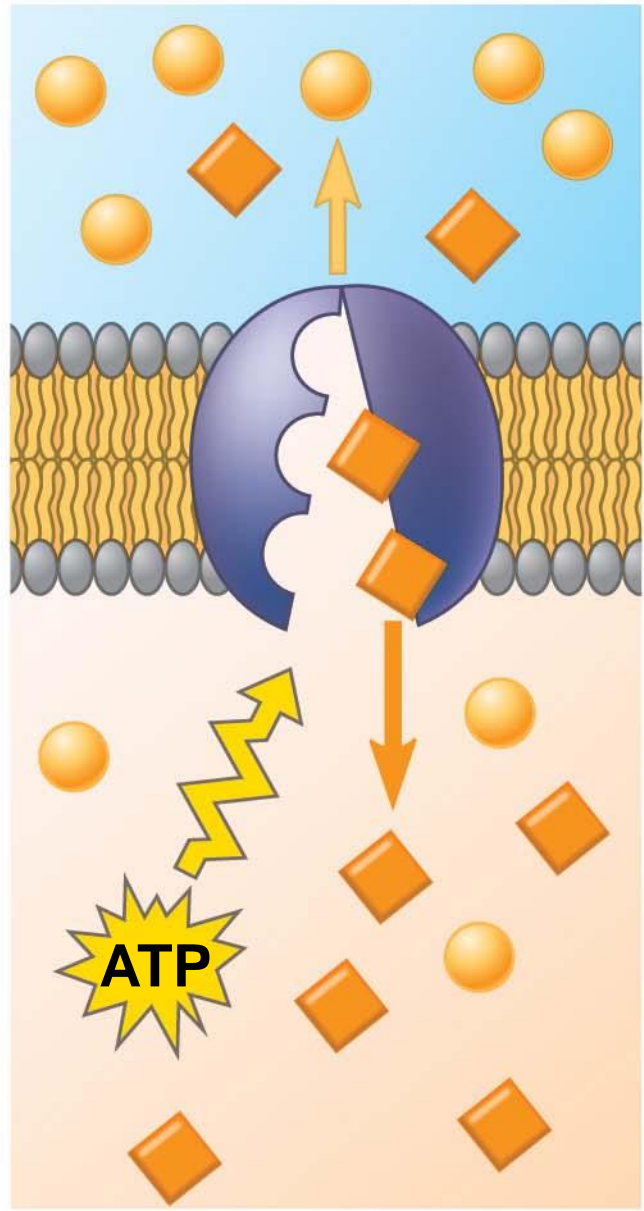


Figure 5.15

# Passive transport



# Active transport



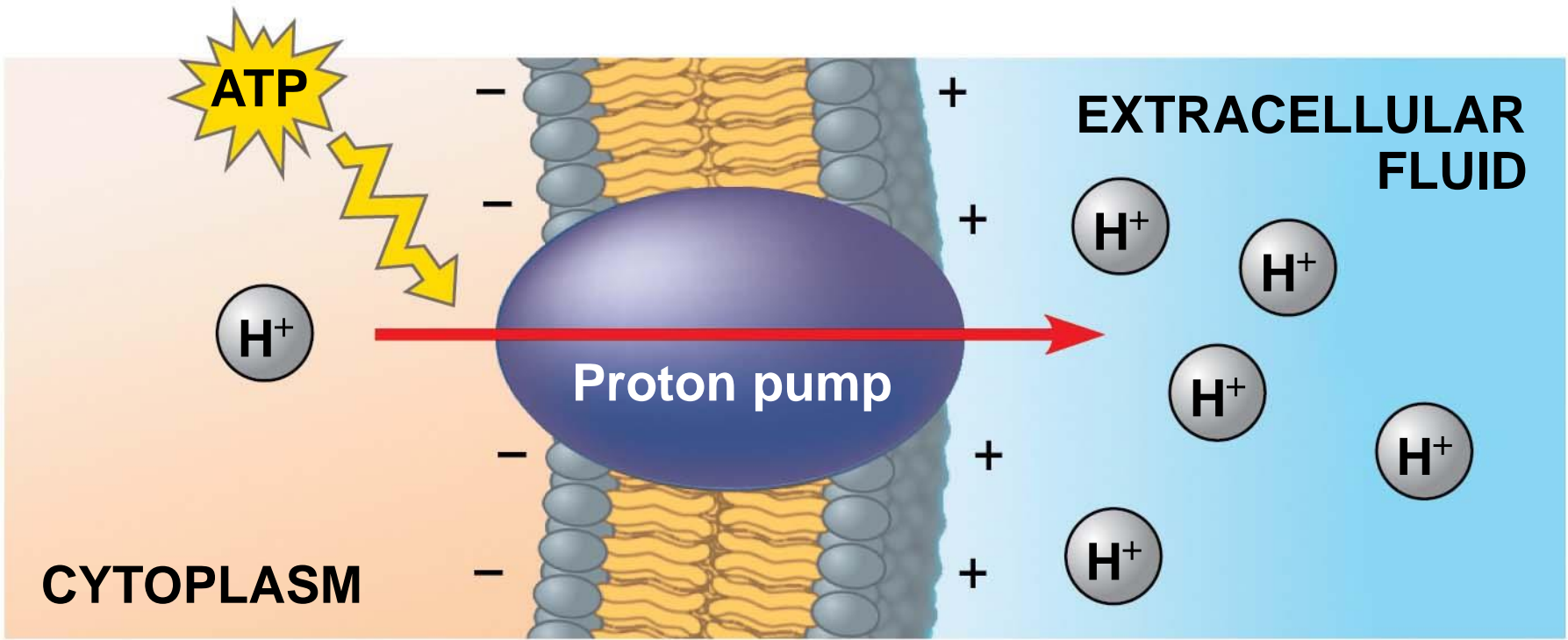
# How Ion Pumps Maintain Membrane Potential

- **Membrane potential** is the voltage across a membrane
- Voltage is created by differences in the distribution of positive and negative ions across a membrane

- Two combined forces, collectively called the **electrochemical gradient**, drive the diffusion of ions across a membrane
  - A chemical force (the ion's concentration gradient)
  - An electrical force (the effect of the membrane potential on the ion's movement)

- An **electrogenic pump** is a transport protein that generates voltage across a membrane
- The sodium-potassium pump is the major electrogenic pump of animal cells
- The main electrogenic pump of plants, fungi, and bacteria is a **proton pump**
- Electrogenic pumps help store energy that can be used for cellular work

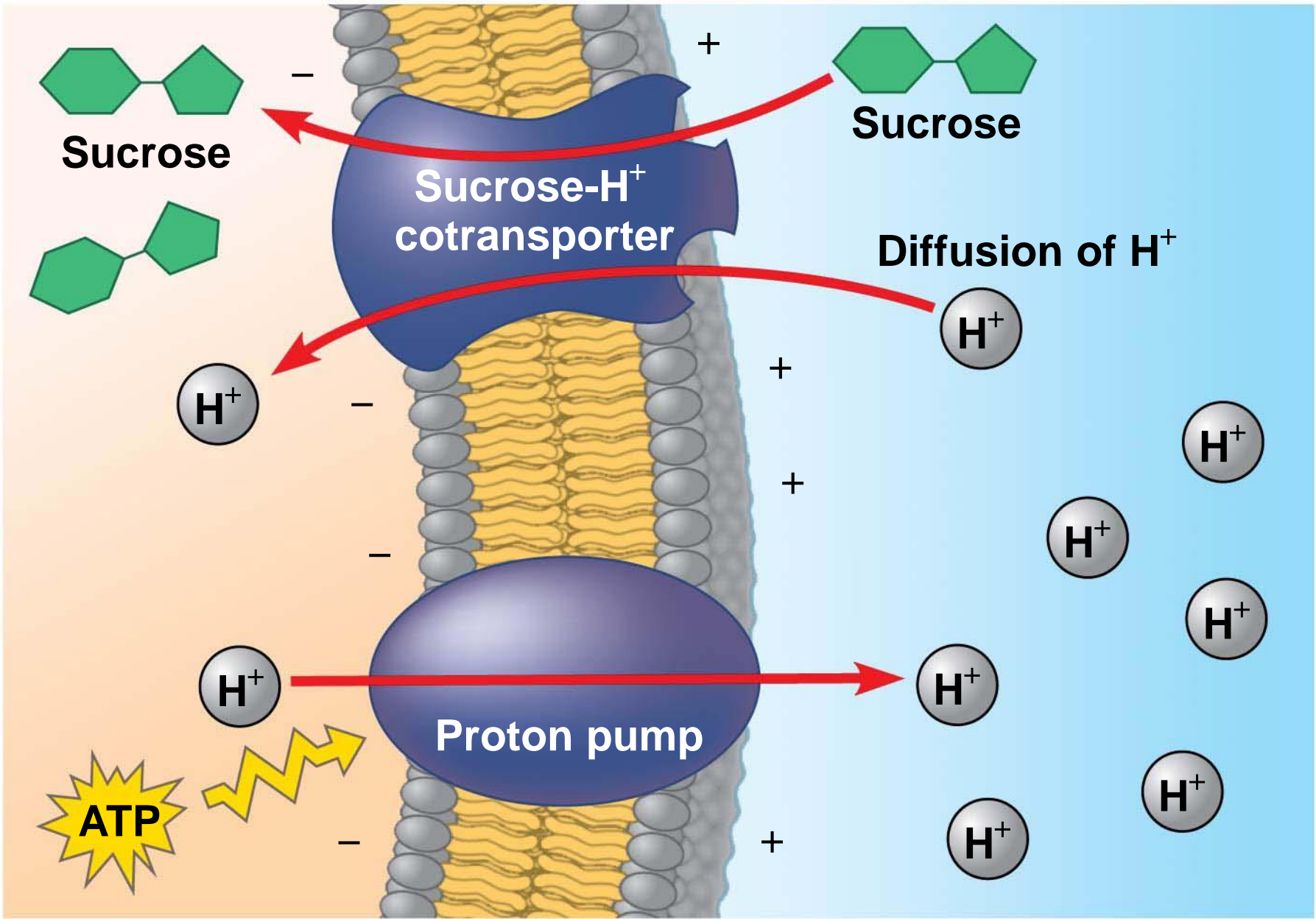
Figure 5.16



# Cotransport: Coupled Transport by a Membrane Protein

- **Cotransport** occurs when active transport of a solute indirectly drives transport of other solutes
- Plant cells use the gradient of hydrogen ions generated by proton pumps to drive active transport of nutrients into the cell

Figure 5.17



## **Concept 5.5: Bulk transport across the plasma membrane occurs by exocytosis and endocytosis**

- Water and small solutes enter or leave the cell through the lipid bilayer or by means of transport proteins
- Large molecules, such as polysaccharides and proteins, cross the membrane in bulk by means of vesicles
- Bulk transport requires energy



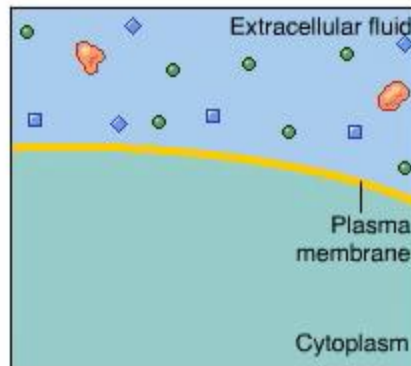
# Exocytosis

- In **exocytosis**, transport vesicles migrate to the membrane, fuse with it, and release their contents
- Many secretory cells use exocytosis to export products

# Endocytosis

- In **endocytosis**, the cell takes in molecules and particulate matter by forming new vesicles from the plasma membrane
- Endocytosis is a reversal of exocytosis, involving different proteins
- There are three types of endocytosis
  - Phagocytosis (“cellular eating”)
  - Pinocytosis (“cellular drinking”)
  - Receptor-mediated endocytosis

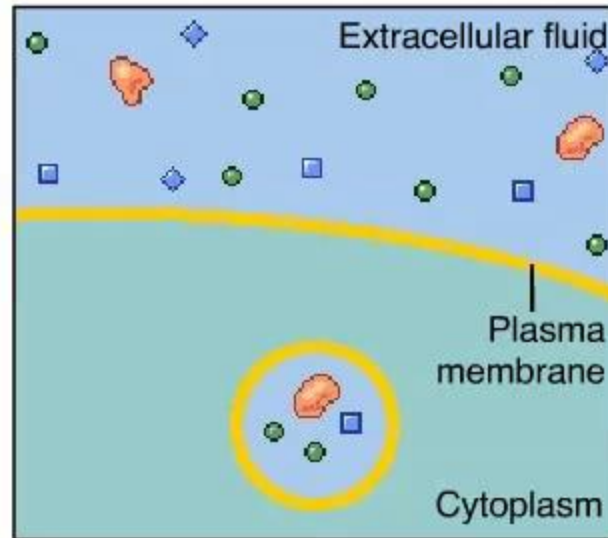
# Animation: Exocytosis Endocytosis Introduction



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# Animation: Exocytosis

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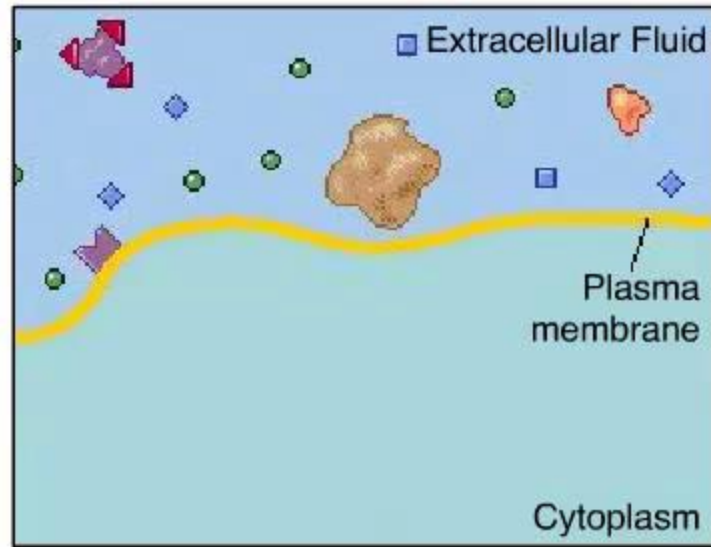


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# Animation: Phagocytosis

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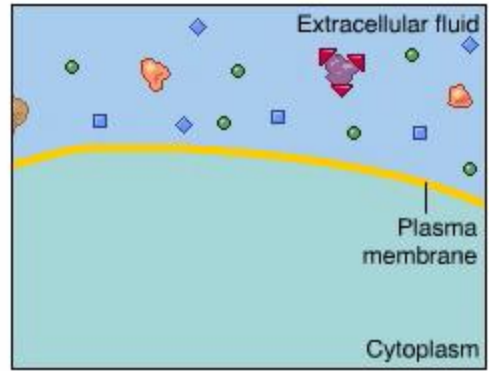
# Video: Phagocytosis

## Coronin in Phagocytosis

© 1995 by Cell Press

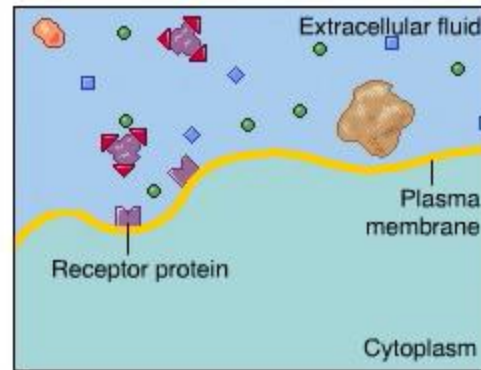
Maniak et al. Cell 83,  
915-924, 1995

# Animation: Pinocytosis



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# Animation: Receptor-Mediated Endocytosis

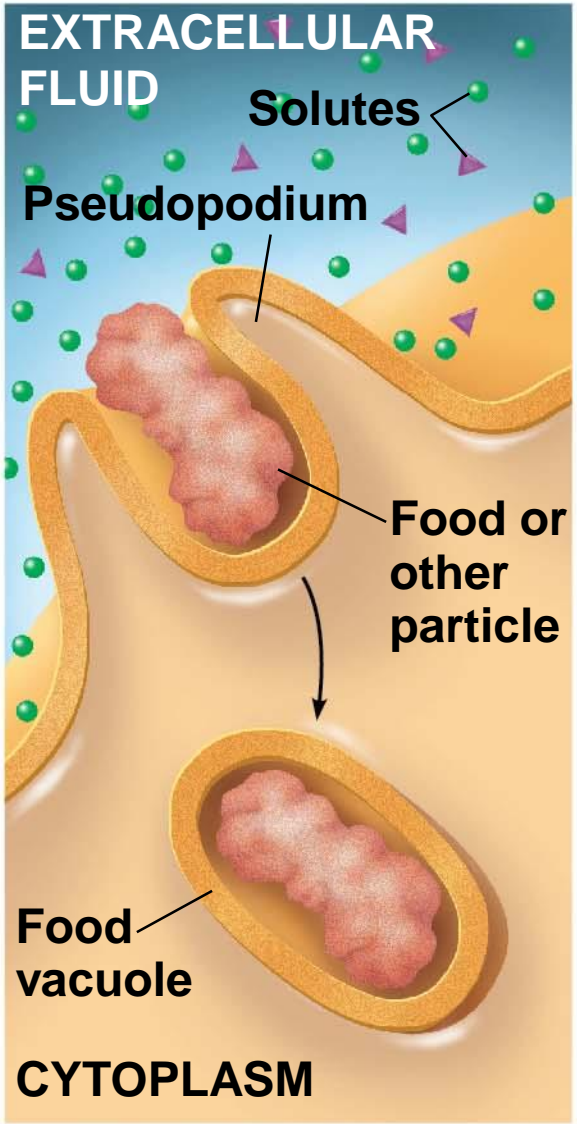


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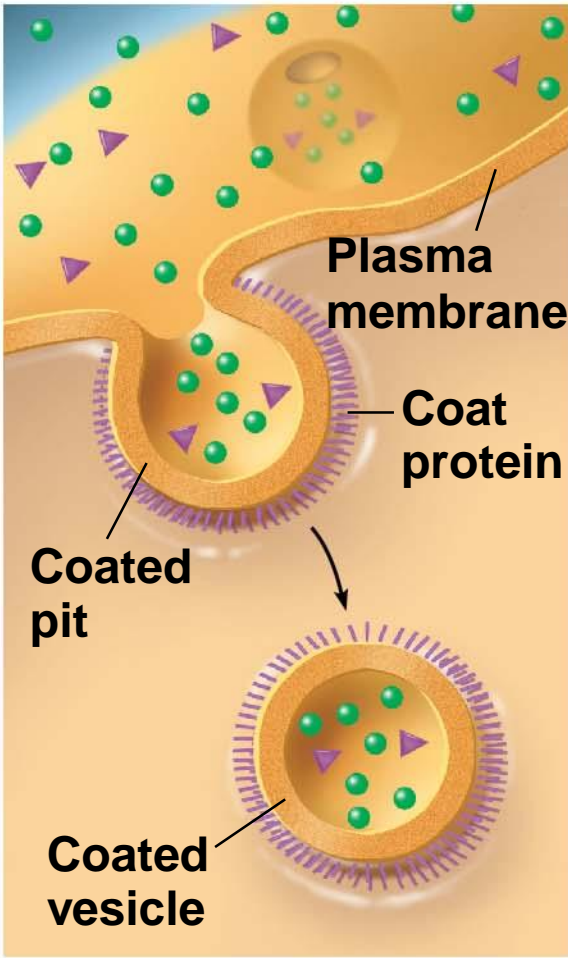


Figure 5.18

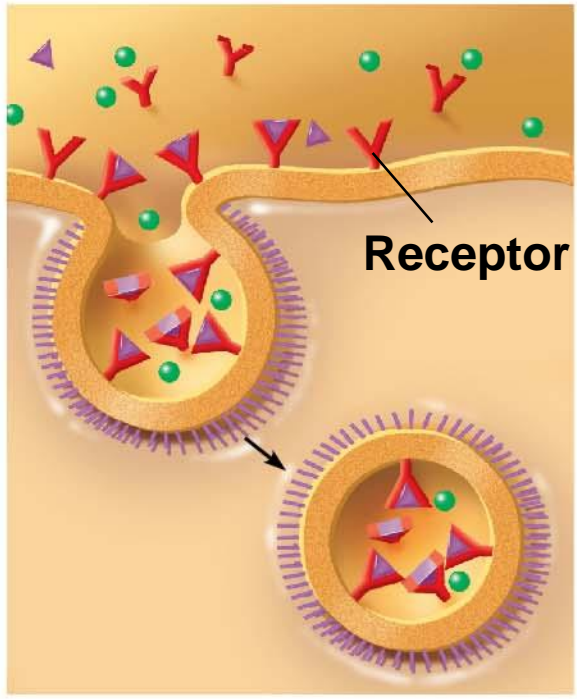
### Phagocytosis



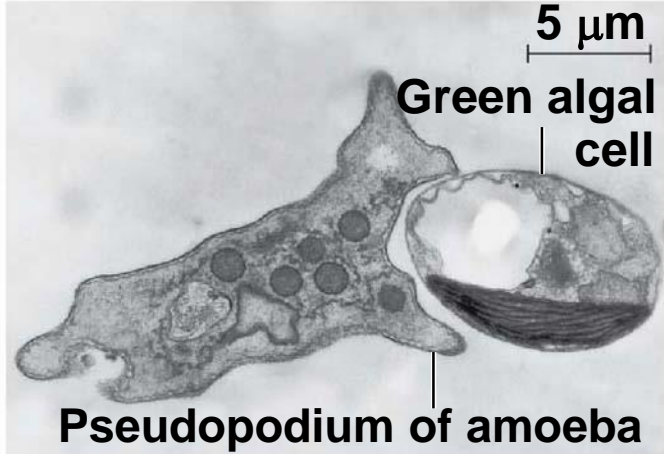
### Pinocytosis



### Receptor-Mediated Endocytosis



# Phagocytosis



An amoeba engulfing a green algal cell via phagocytosis (TEM)

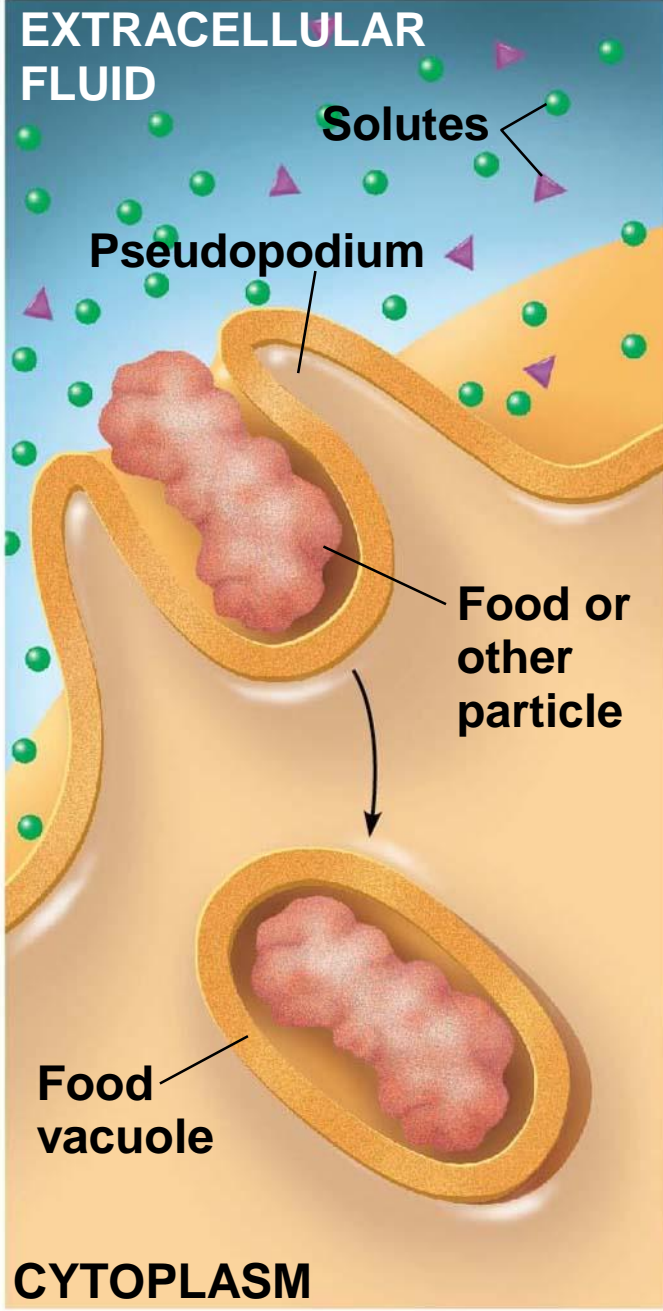
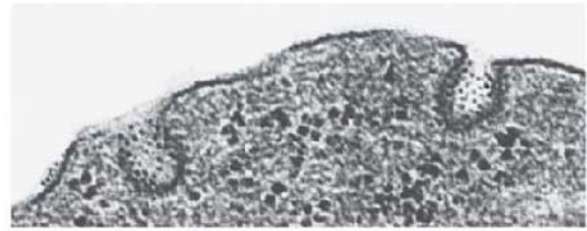
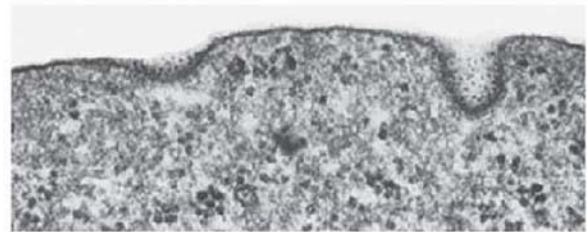


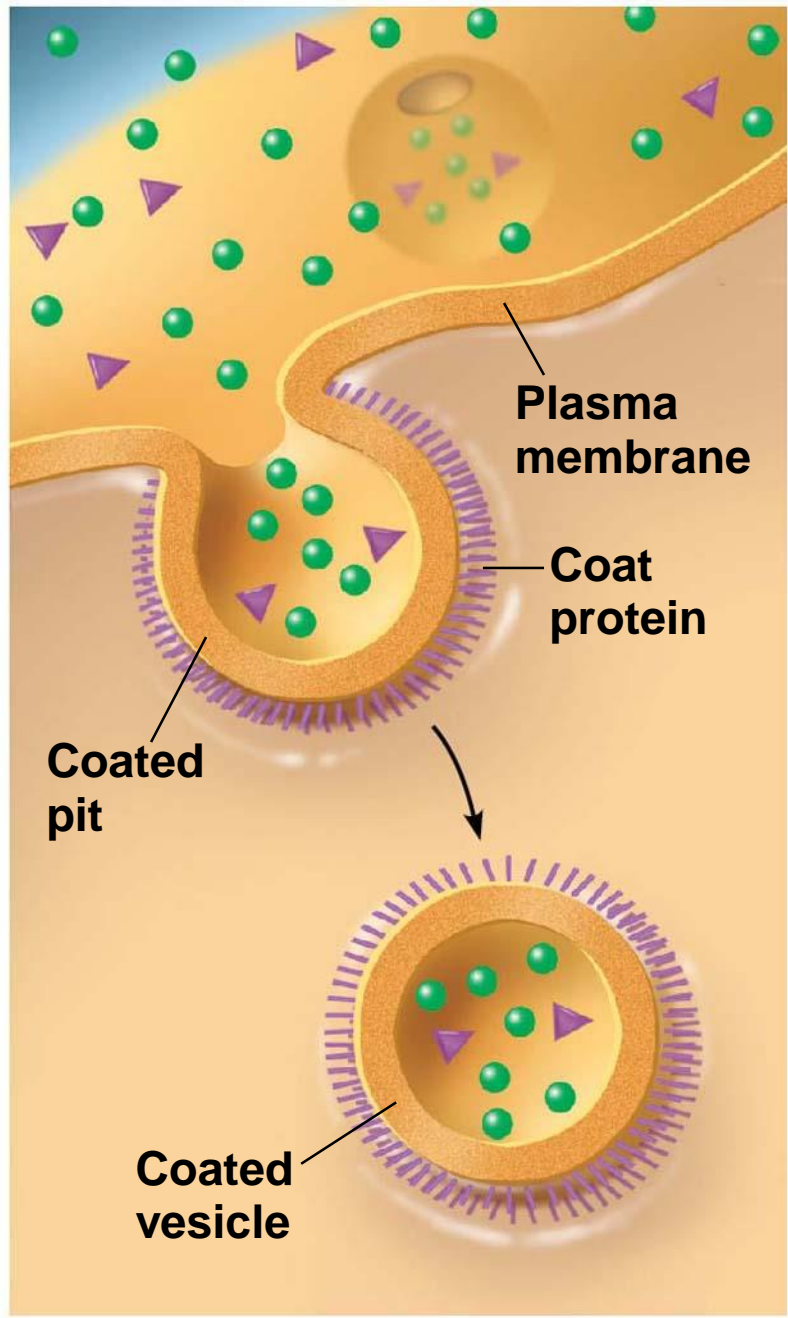
Figure 5.18-2

# Pinocytosis

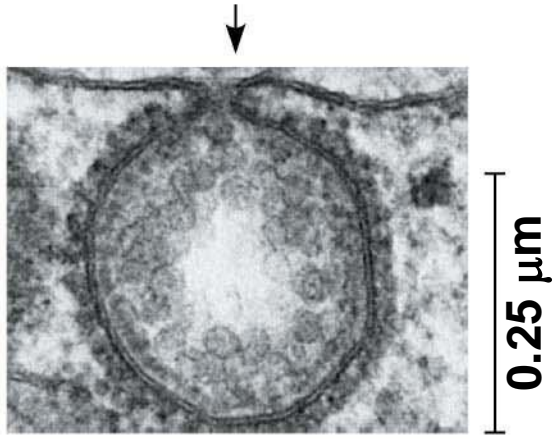
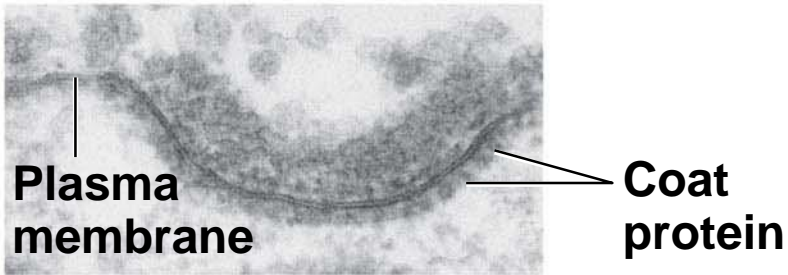


0.25  $\mu\text{m}$

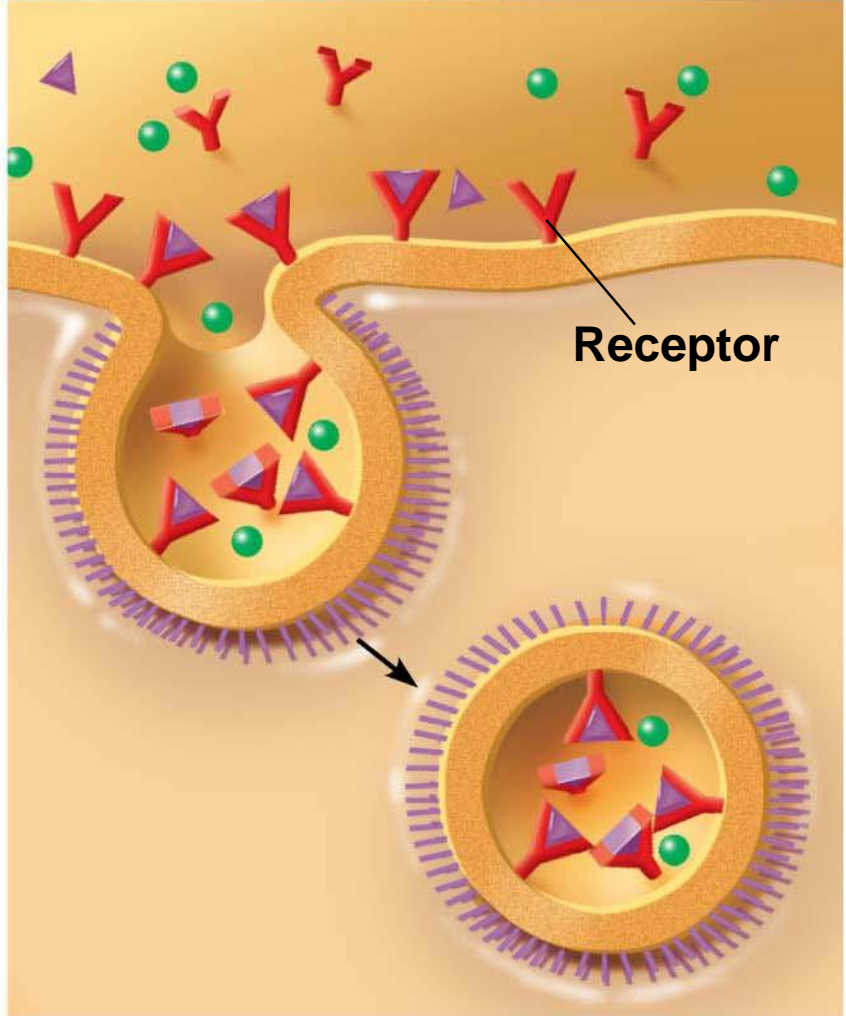
Pinocytotic vesicles forming (TEMs)

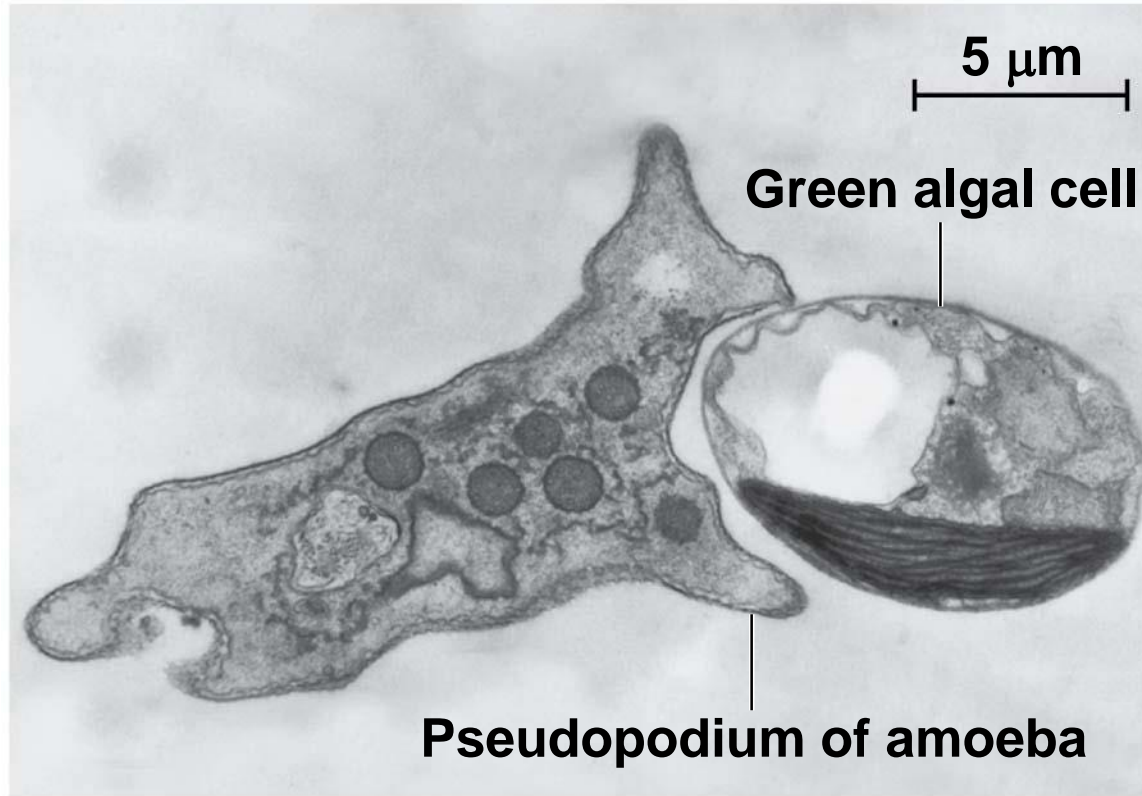


# Receptor-Mediated Endocytosis



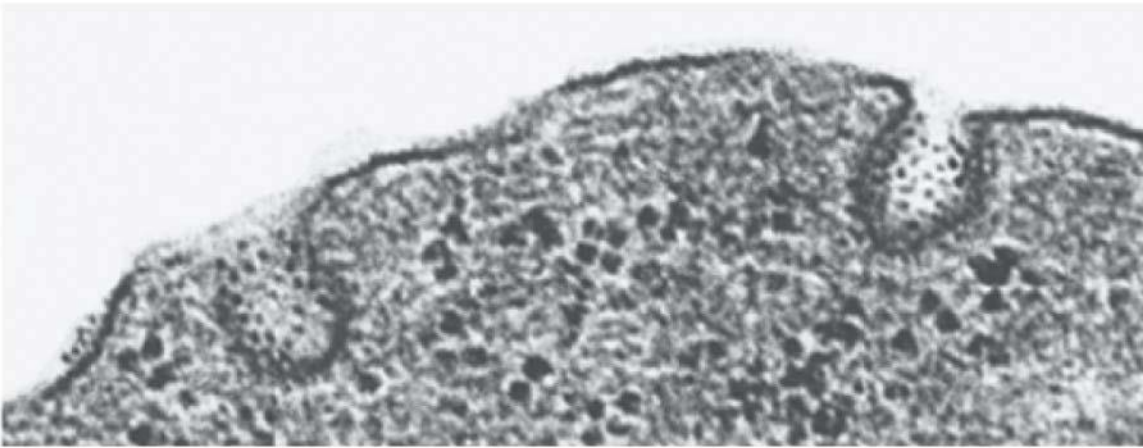
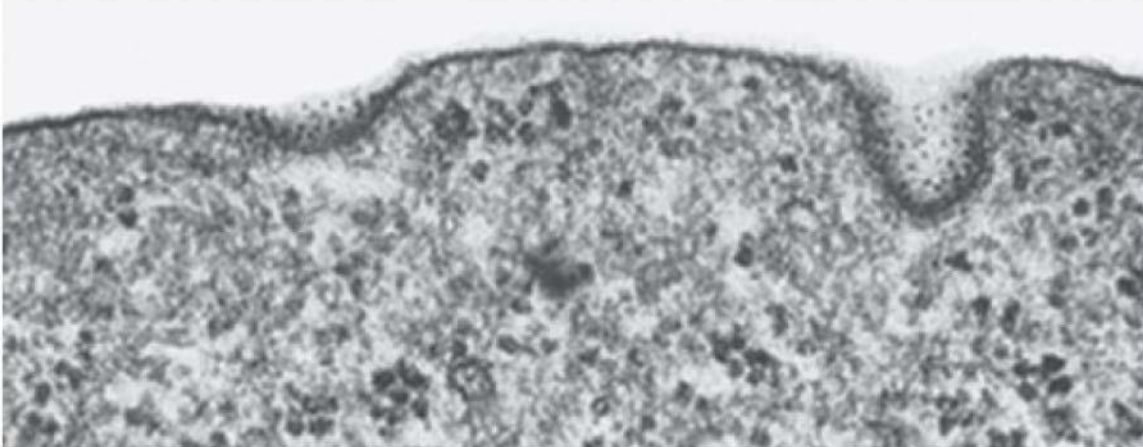
**Top: A coated pit**  
**Bottom: A coated vesicle forming during receptor-mediated endocytosis (TEMs)**





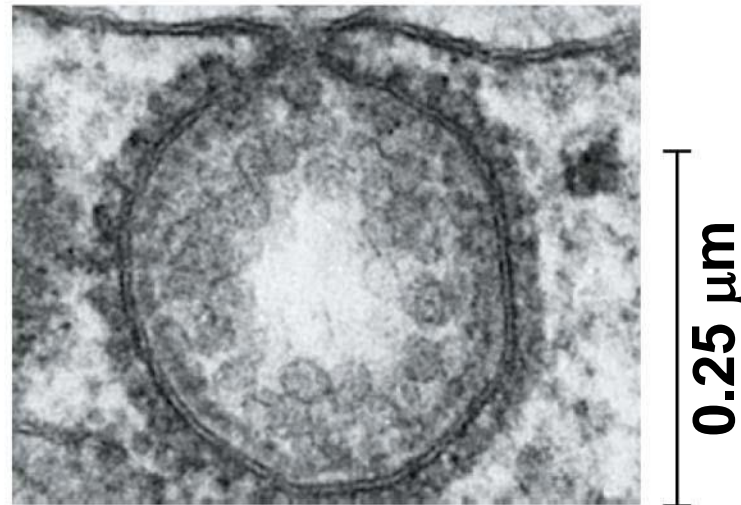
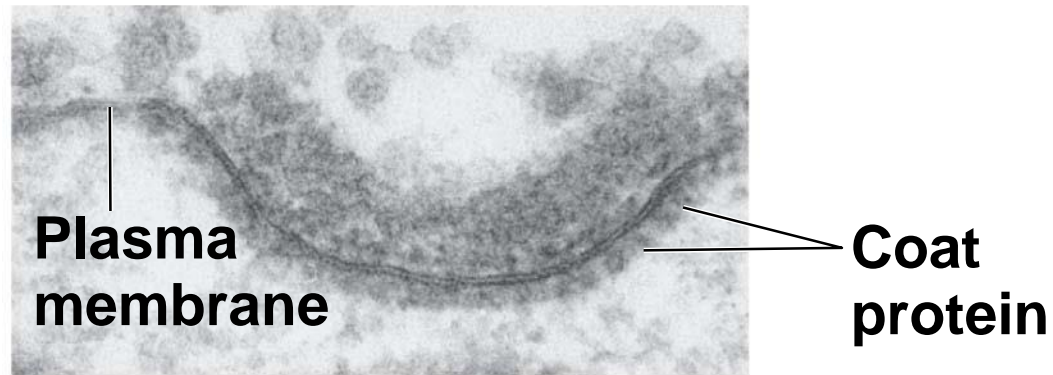
**An amoeba engulfing a green algal cell  
via phagocytosis (TEM)**

Figure 5.18-5



0.25  $\mu\text{m}$

**Pinocytotic vesicles forming (TEMs)**



**Top: A coated pit**  
**Bottom: A coated vesicle forming during receptor-mediated endocytosis (TEMs)**

## **Concept 5.6: The plasma membrane plays a key role in most cell signaling**

- In multicellular organisms, cell-to-cell communication allows the cells of the body to coordinate their activities
- Communication between cells is also essential for many unicellular organisms

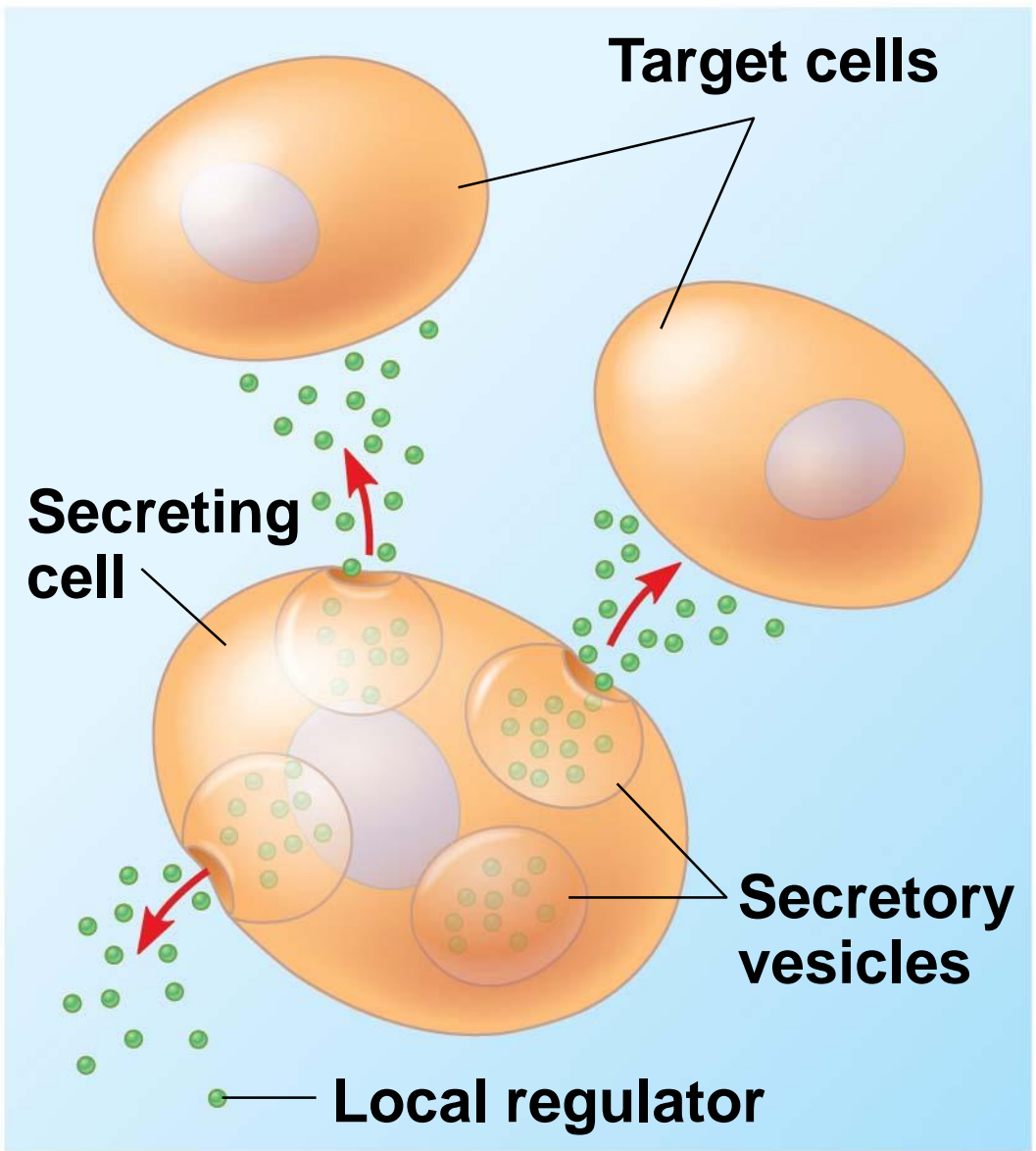


# Local and Long-Distance Signaling

- Eukaryotic cells may communicate by direct contact
- Animal and plant cells have junctions that directly connect the cytoplasm of adjacent cells
- These are called gap junctions (animal cells) and plasmodesmata (plant cells)
- The free passage of substances in the cytosol from one cell to another is a type of local signaling

- In many other cases of local signaling, messenger molecules are secreted by a signaling cell
- These messenger molecules, called local regulators, travel only short distances
- One class of these, growth factors, stimulates nearby cells to grow and divide
- This type of local signaling in animal cells is called paracrine signaling

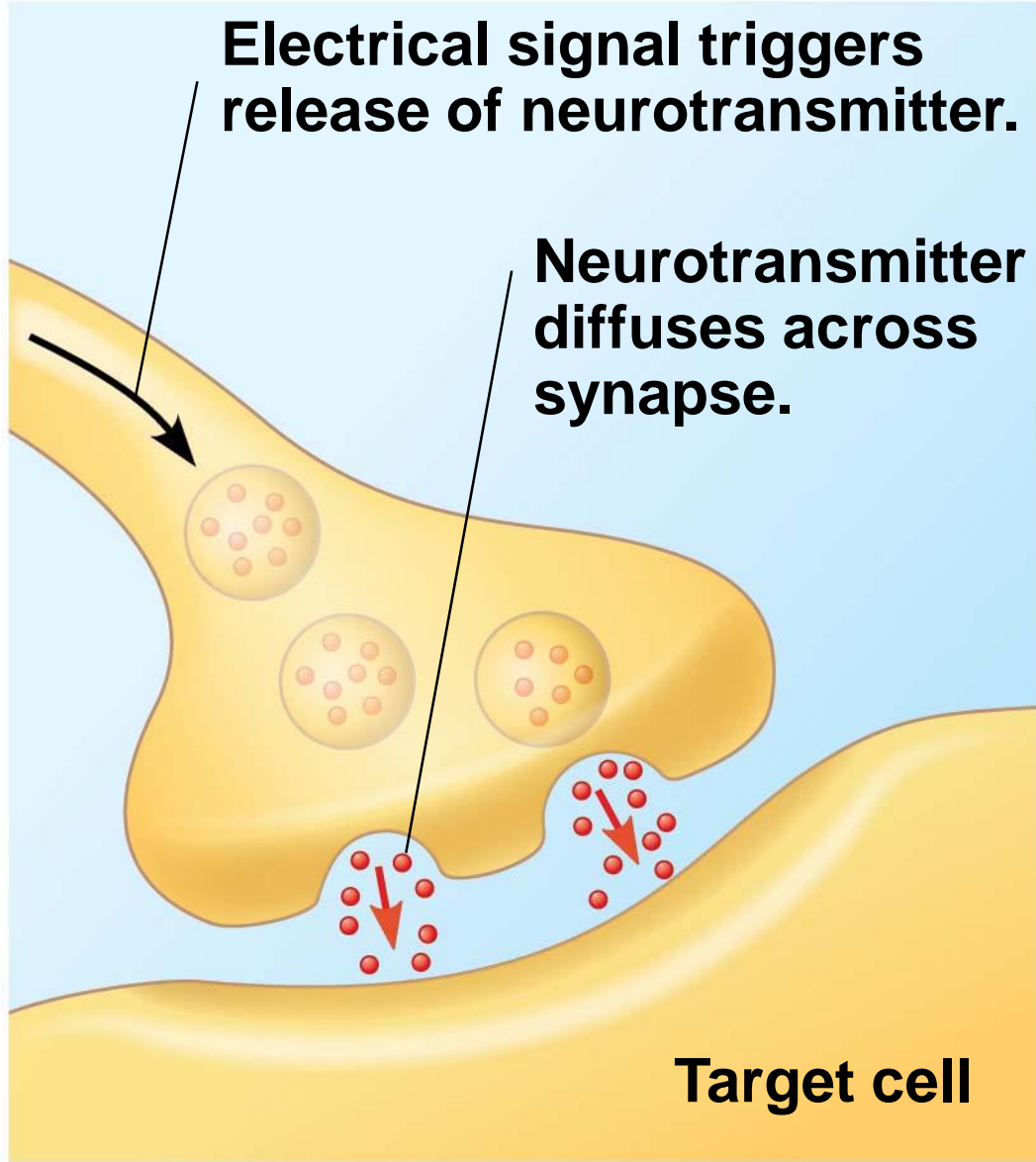
# Local signaling



**(a) Paracrine signaling**

- Another more specialized type of local signaling occurs in the animal nervous system
- This synaptic signaling consists of an electrical signal moving along a nerve cell that triggers secretion of neurotransmitter molecules
- These diffuse across the space between the nerve cell and its target, triggering a response in the target cell

# Local signaling

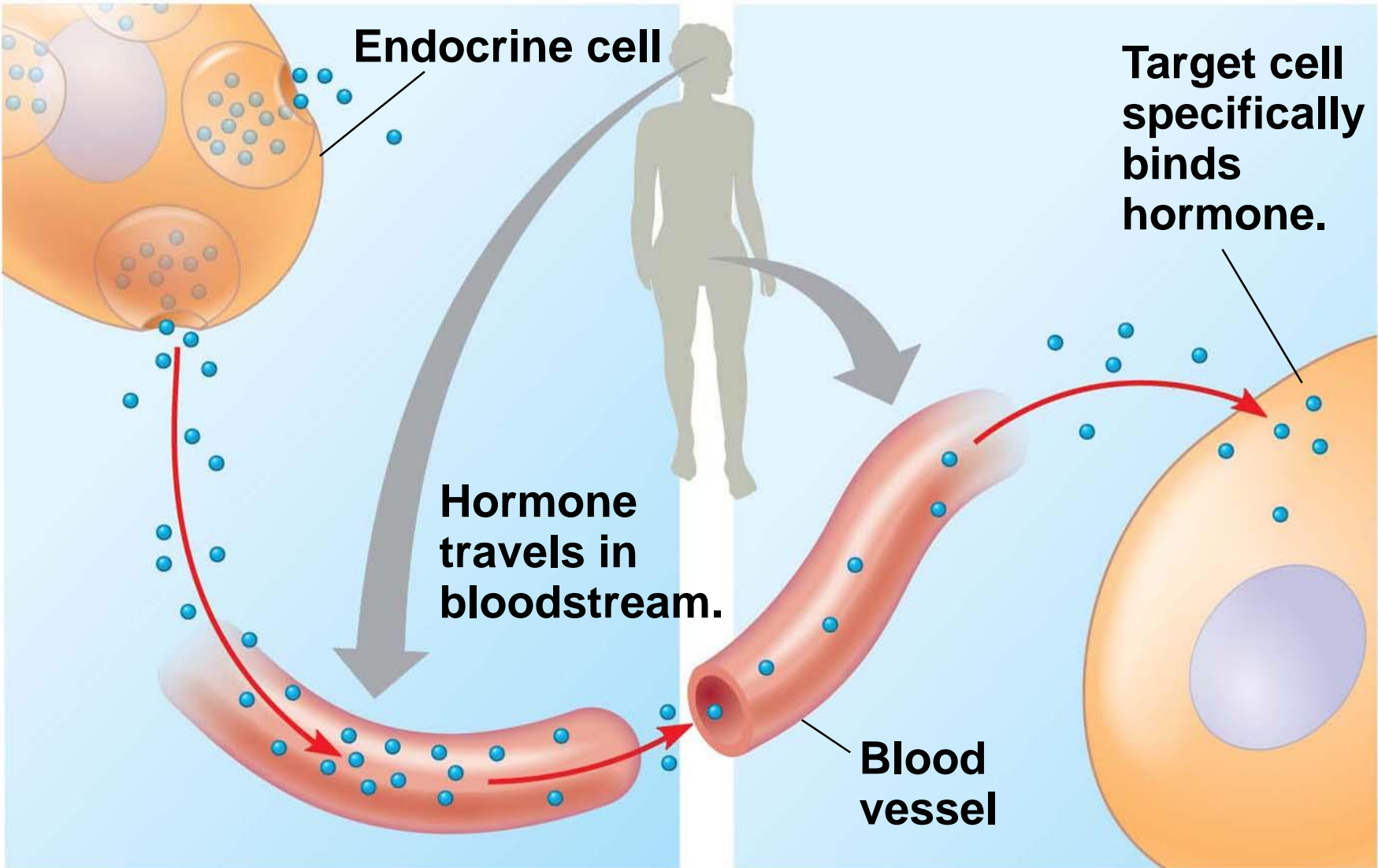


**(b) Synaptic signaling**

- In long-distance signaling, plants and animals use chemicals called **hormones**
- In hormonal signaling in animals (called endocrine signaling), specialized cells release hormone molecules that travel via the circulatory system
- Hormones vary widely in size and shape

Figure 5.19-3

# Long-distance signaling



**(c) Endocrine (hormonal) signaling**

# The Three Stages of Cell Signaling: *A Preview*

- Earl W. Sutherland discovered how the hormone epinephrine acts on cells
- Sutherland suggested that cells receiving signals undergo three processes
  - **Reception**
  - **Transduction**
  - **Response**



# Animation: Signaling Overview

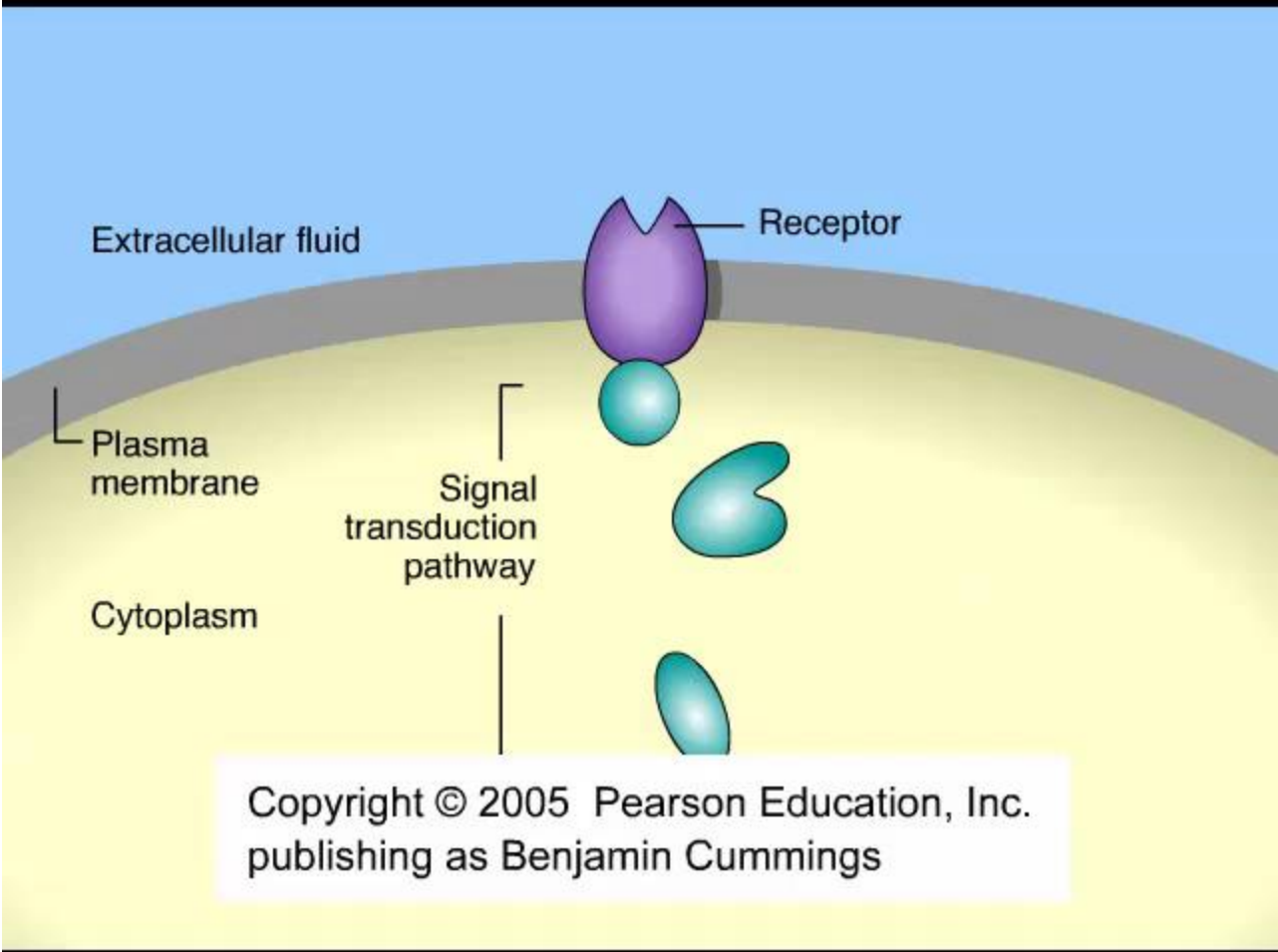


Figure 5.20-s1

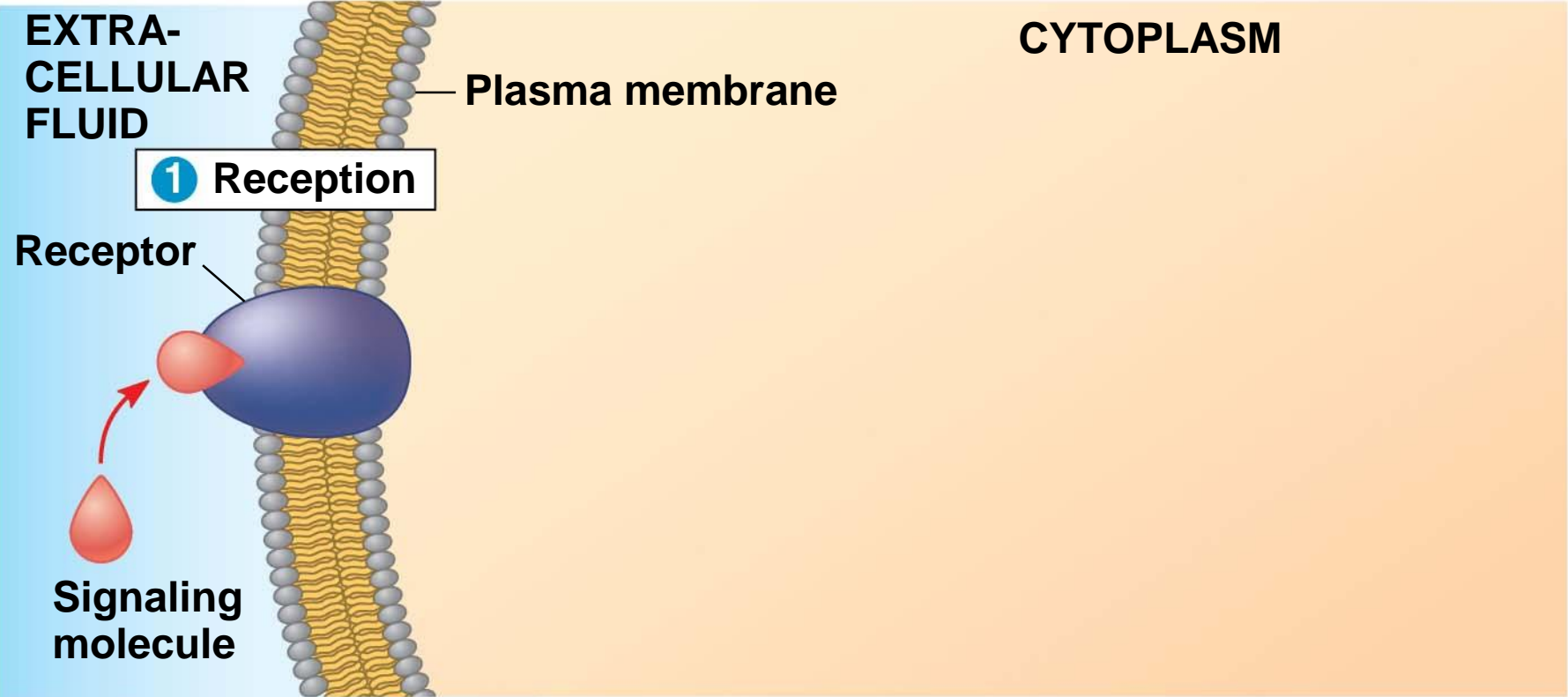


Figure 5.20-s2

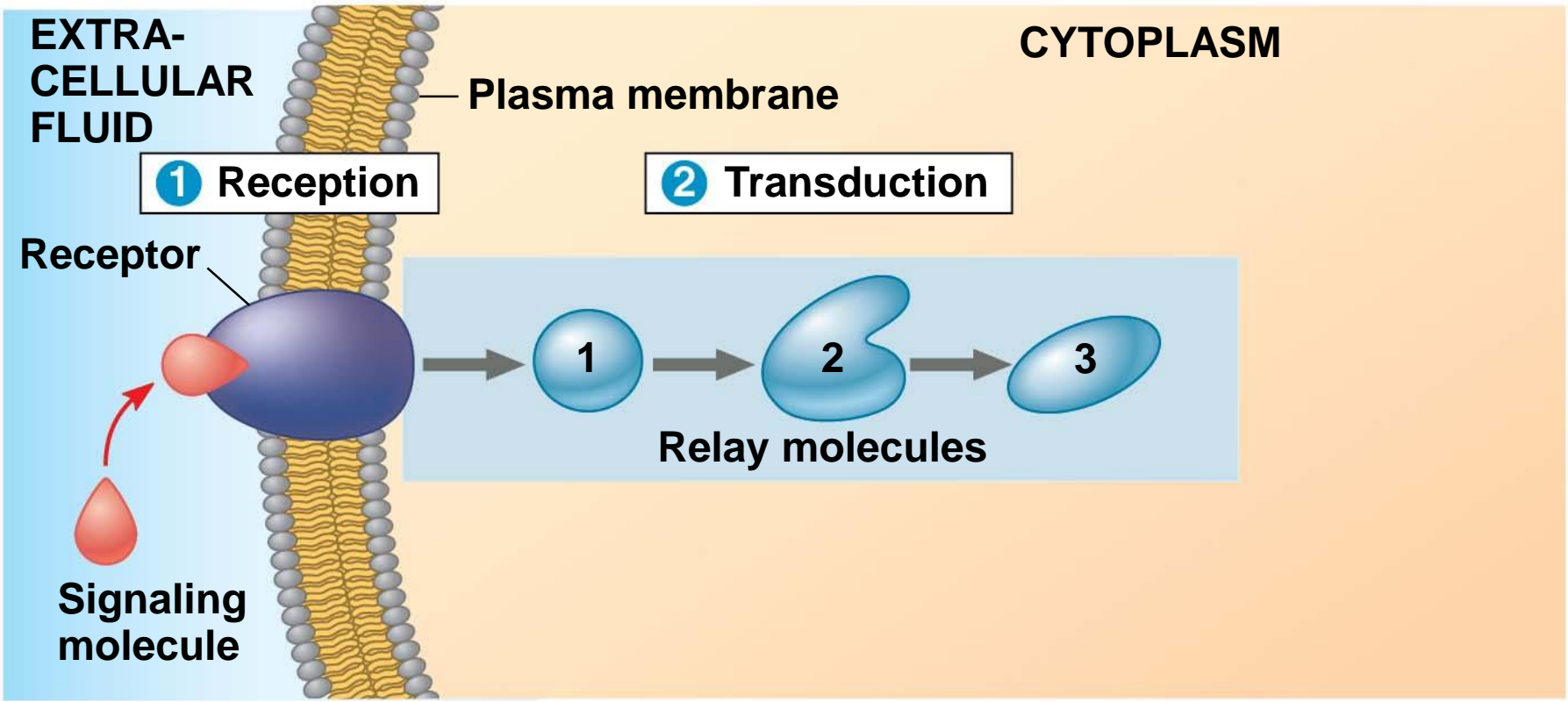
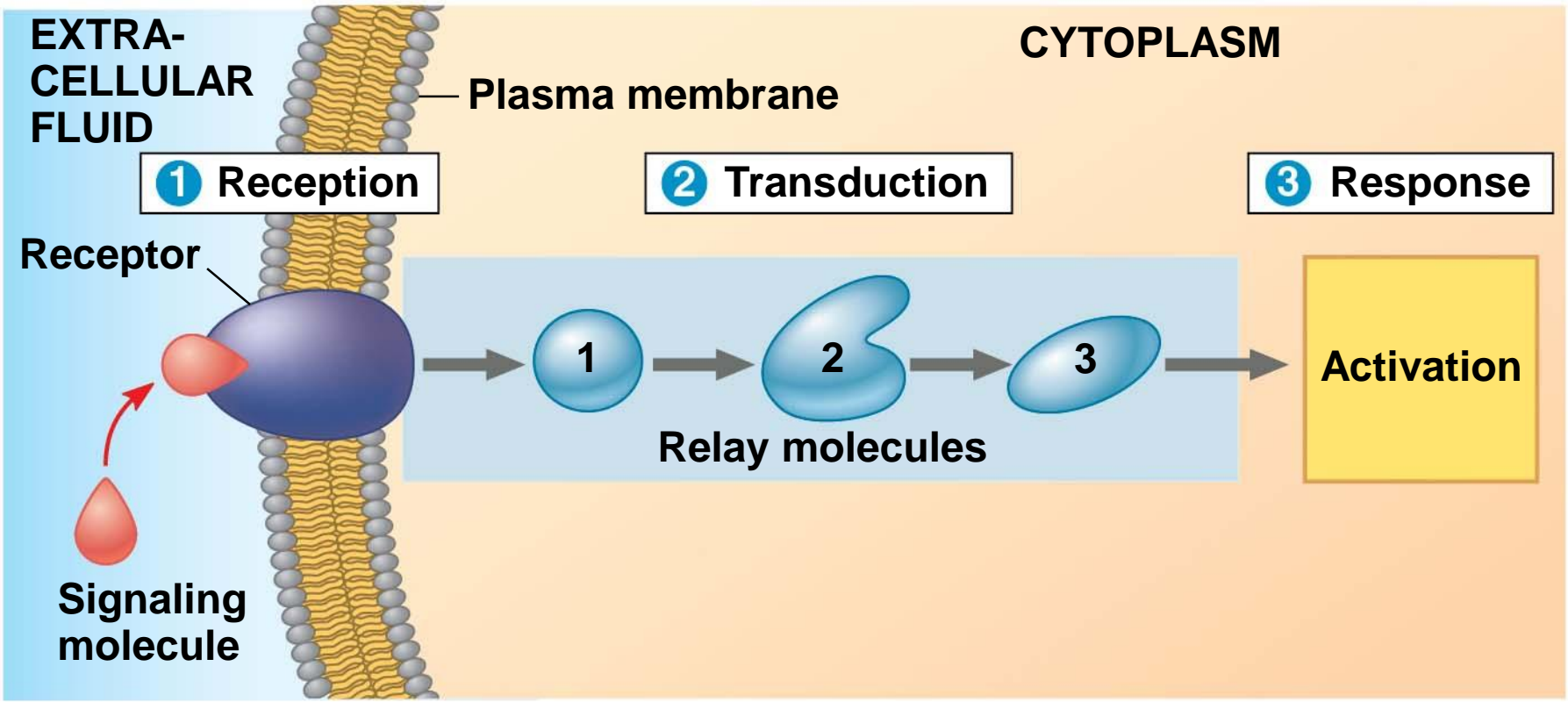


Figure 5.20-s3



# Reception, the Binding of a Signaling Molecule to a Receptor Protein

- The binding between a signal molecule (**ligand**) and receptor is highly specific
- Ligand binding generally causes a shape change in the receptor
- Many receptors are directly activated by this shape change
- Most signal receptors are plasma membrane proteins

# *Receptors in the Plasma Membrane*

- Most water-soluble signal molecules bind to specific sites on receptor proteins that span the plasma membrane
- There are two main types of membrane receptors
  - G protein-coupled receptors
  - Ligand-gated ion channels

- **G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs)** are plasma membrane receptors that work with the help of a **G protein**
- G proteins bind to the energy-rich molecule GTP
- Many G proteins are very similar in structure
- GPCR pathways are extremely diverse in function

Figure 5.21-s1

1

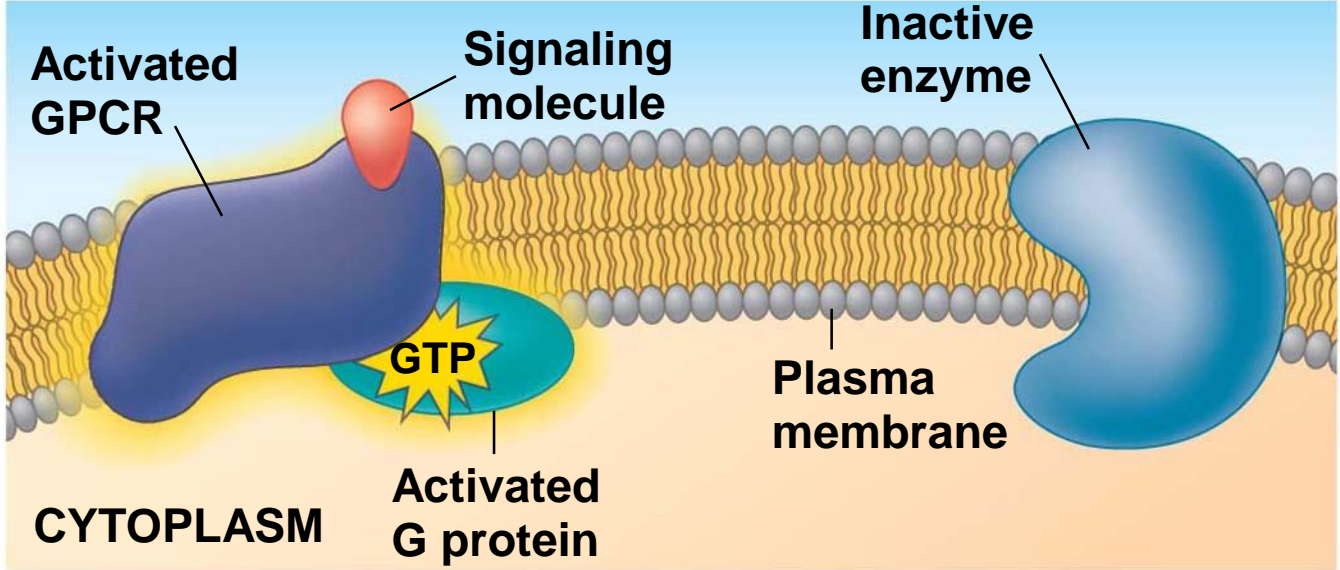
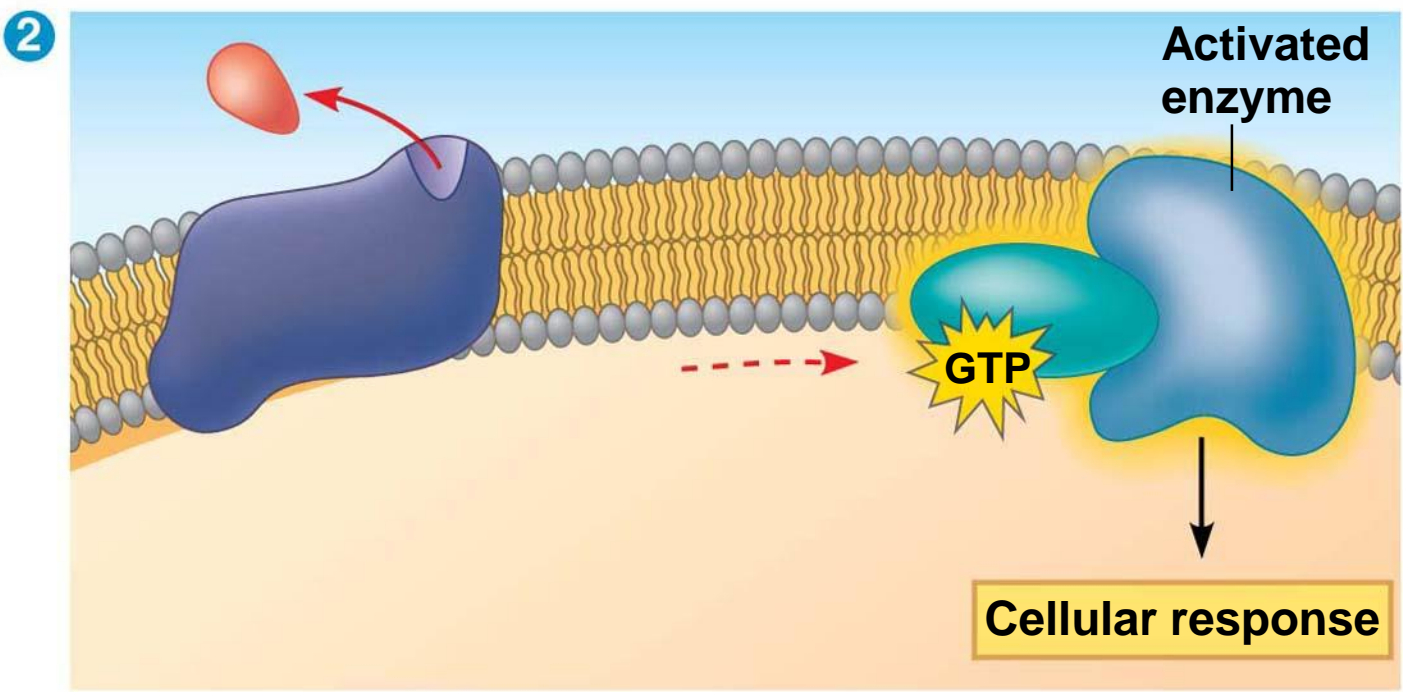
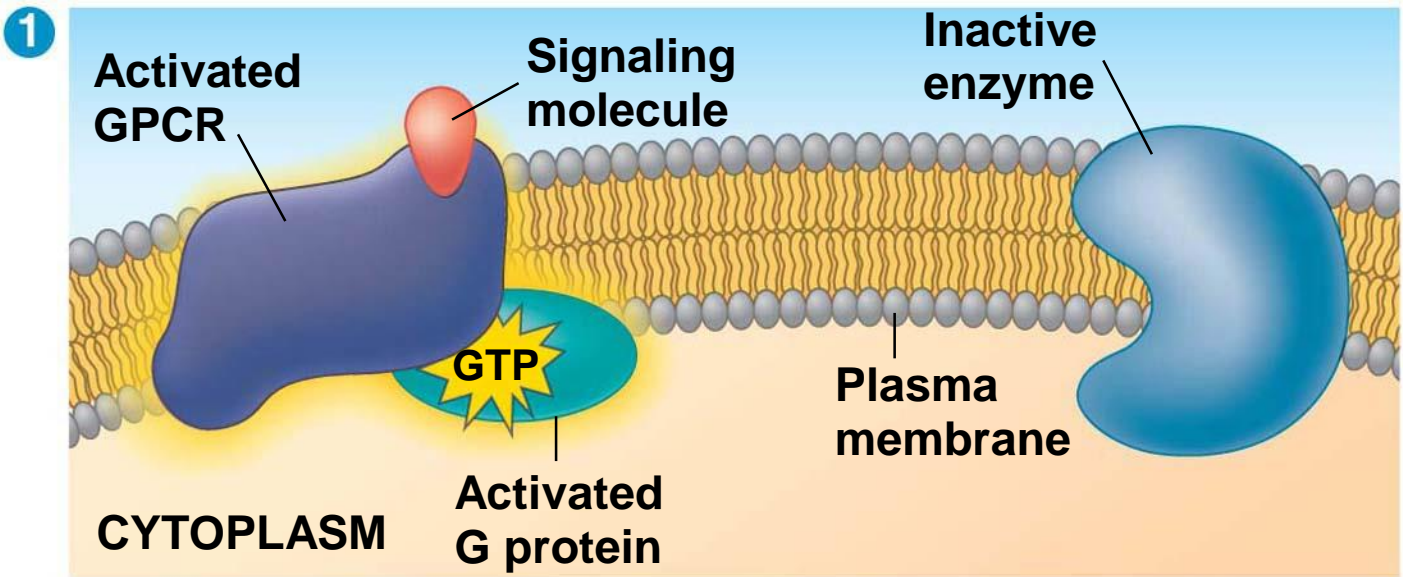




Figure 5.21-s2



- A **ligand-gated ion channel** receptor acts as a “gate” for ions when the receptor changes shape
- When a signal molecule binds as a ligand to the receptor, the gate allows specific ions, such as  $\text{Na}^+$  or  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ , through a channel in the receptor
- Ligand-gated ion channels are very important in the nervous system
- The diffusion of ions through open channels may trigger an electric signal

Figure 5.22-s1

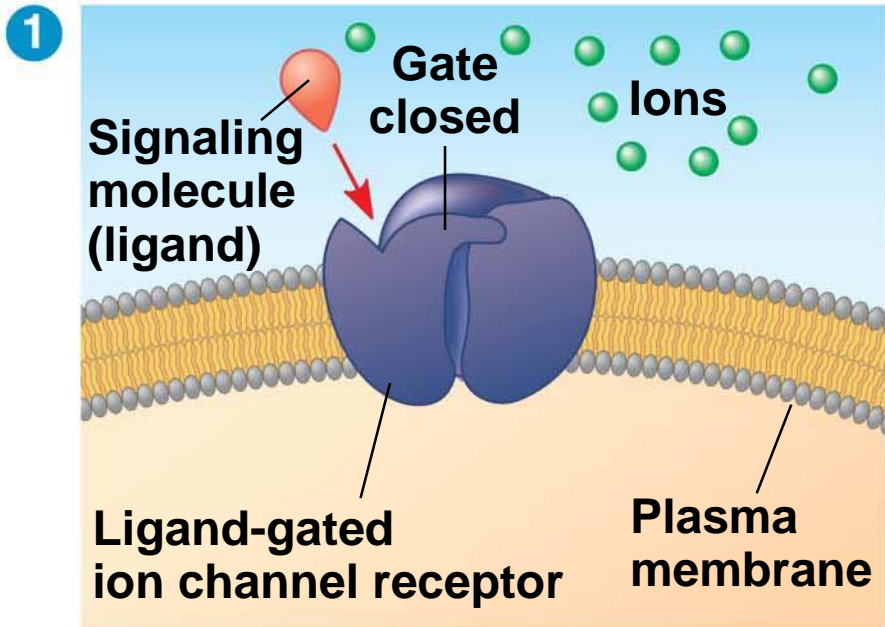


Figure 5.22-s2

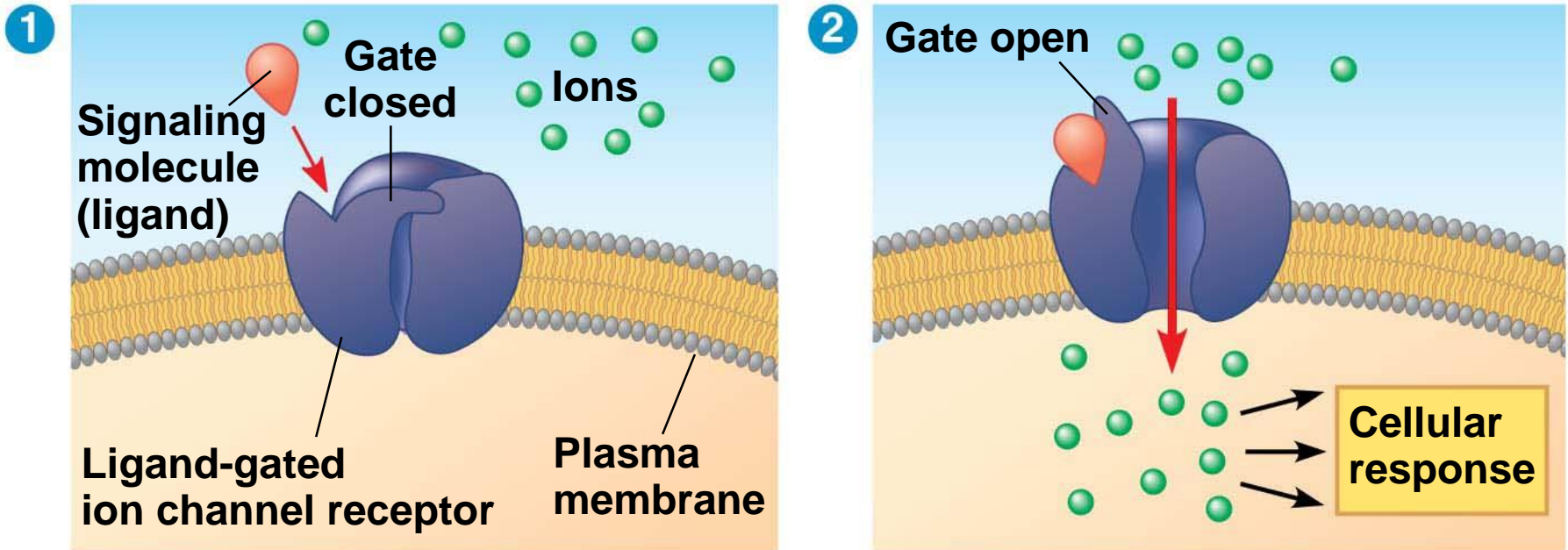
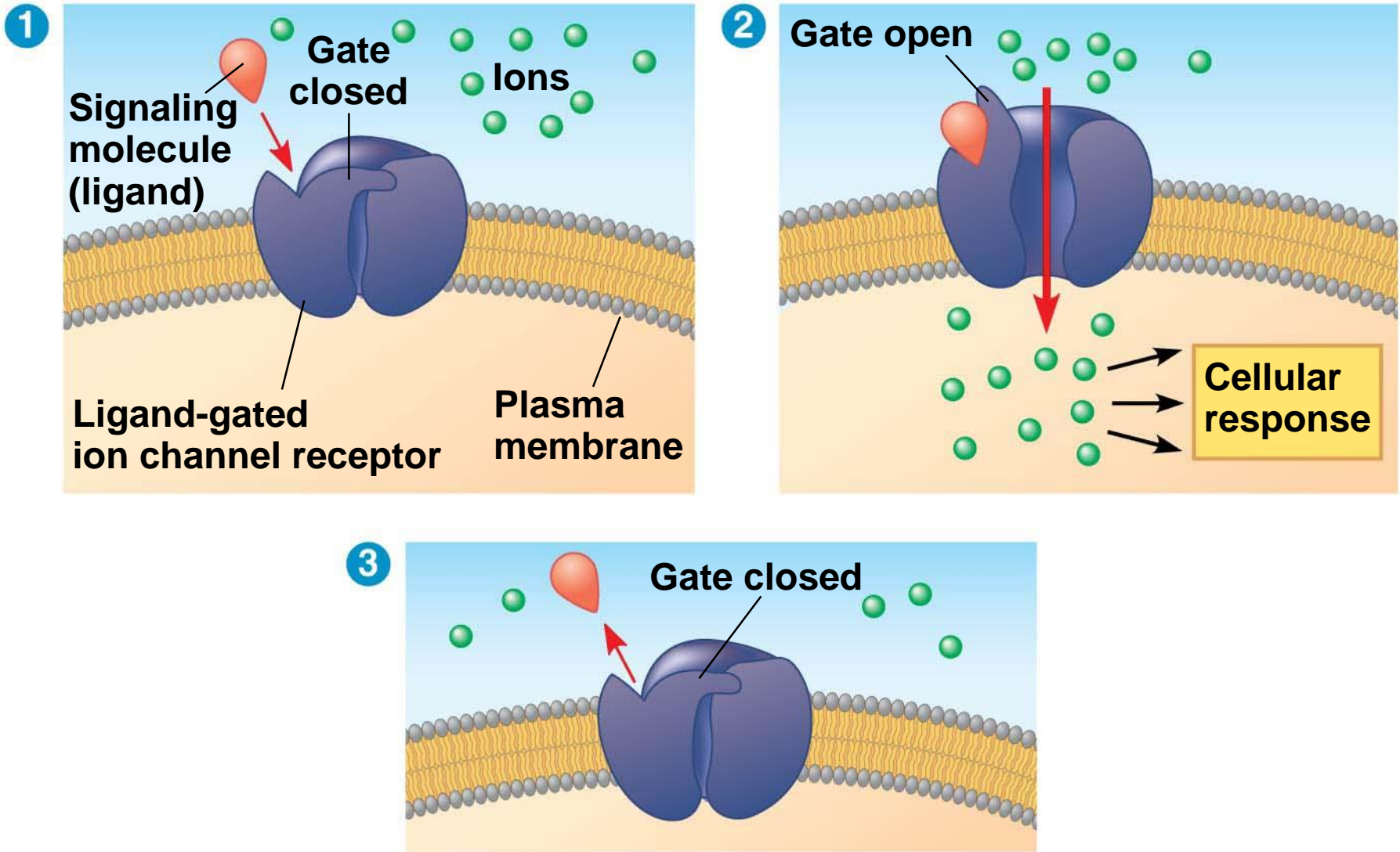


Figure 5.22-s3

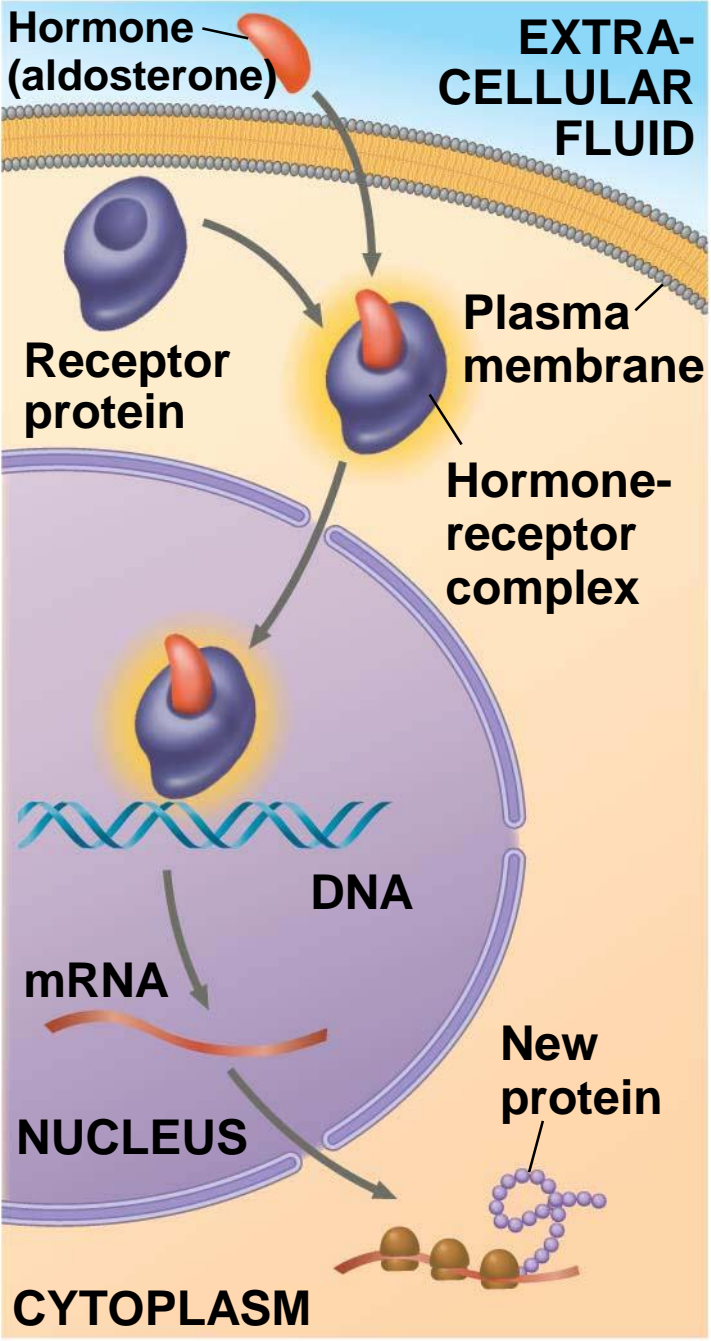


# *Intracellular Receptors*

- Intracellular receptor proteins are found in the cytosol or nucleus of target cells
- Small or hydrophobic chemical messengers can readily cross the membrane and activate receptors
- Examples of hydrophobic messengers are the steroid and thyroid hormones of animals and nitric oxide (NO) in both plants and animals

- Aldosterone behaves similarly to other steroid hormones
- It is secreted by cells of the adrenal gland and enters cells all over the body, but only kidney cells contain receptor cells for aldosterone
- The hormone binds the receptor protein and activates it
- The active form of the receptor enters the nucleus, acts as a transcription factor, and activates genes that control water and sodium flow

Figure 5.23





# Transduction by Cascades of Molecular Interactions

- Signal transduction usually involves multiple steps
- Multistep pathways can amplify a signal: A few molecules can produce a large cellular response
- Multistep pathways provide more opportunities for coordination and regulation of the cellular response than simpler systems do

- The molecules that relay a signal from receptor to response are often proteins
- Like falling dominoes, the activated receptor activates another protein, which activates another, and so on, until the protein producing the response is activated
- At each step, the signal is transduced into a different form, commonly a shape change in a protein

# *Protein Phosphorylation and Dephosphorylation*

- Phosphorylation and dephosphorylation are a widespread cellular mechanism for regulating protein activity
- **Protein kinases** transfer phosphates from ATP to protein, a process called phosphorylation
- A signaling pathway involving phosphorylation and dephosphorylation can be referred to as a **phosphorylation cascade**
- The addition of phosphate groups often changes the form of a protein from inactive to active

Figure 5.24

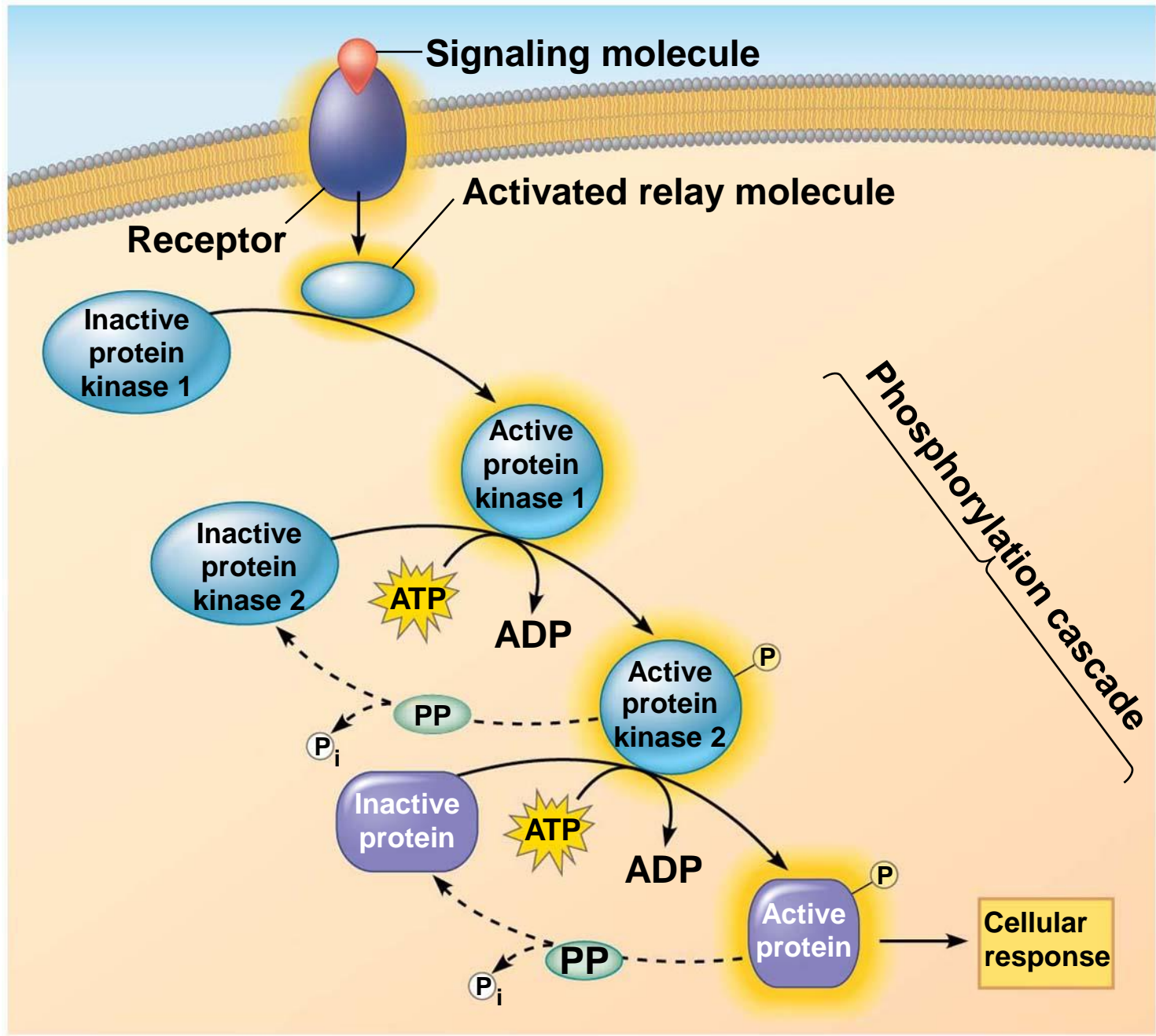


Figure 5.24-1

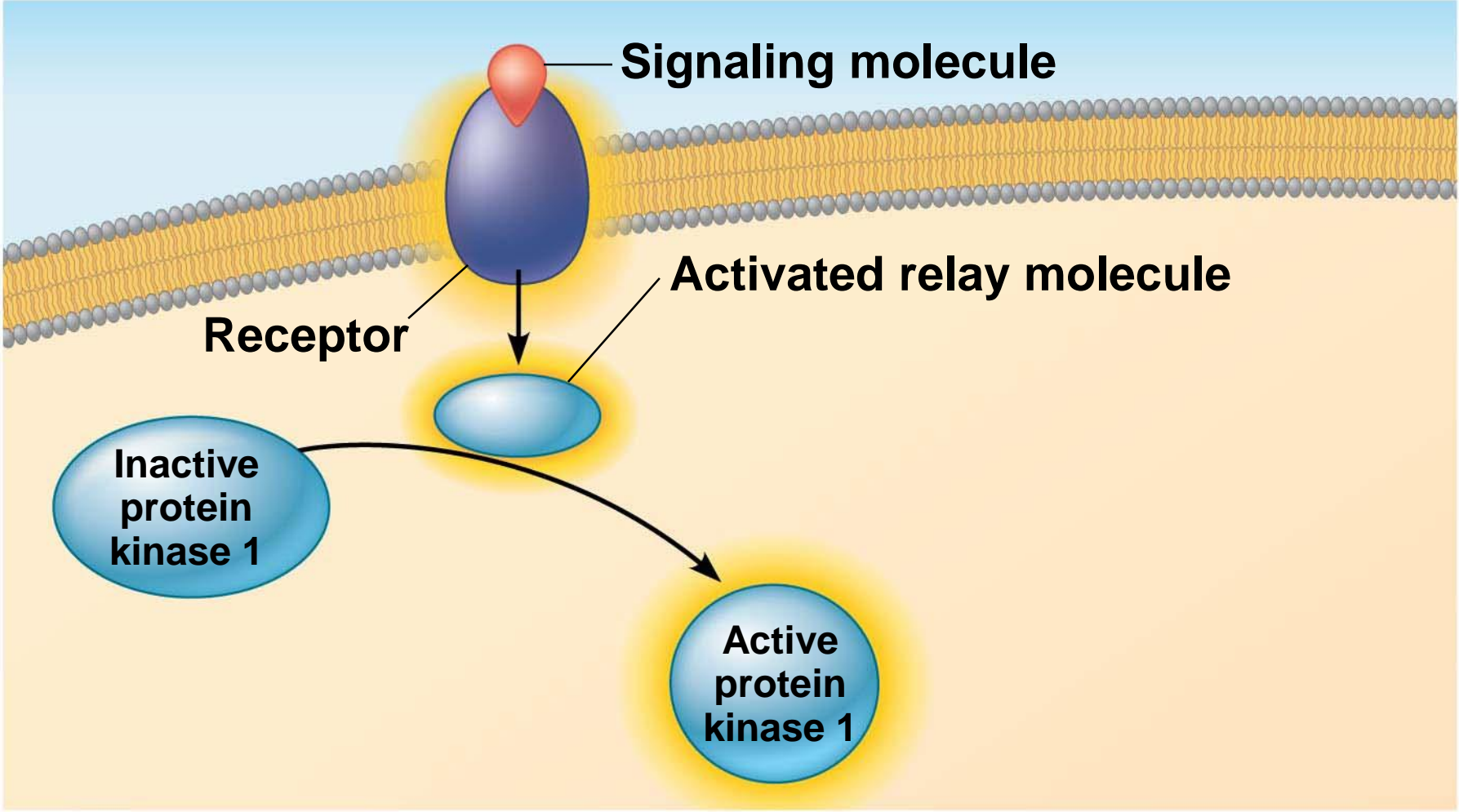


Figure 5.24-2

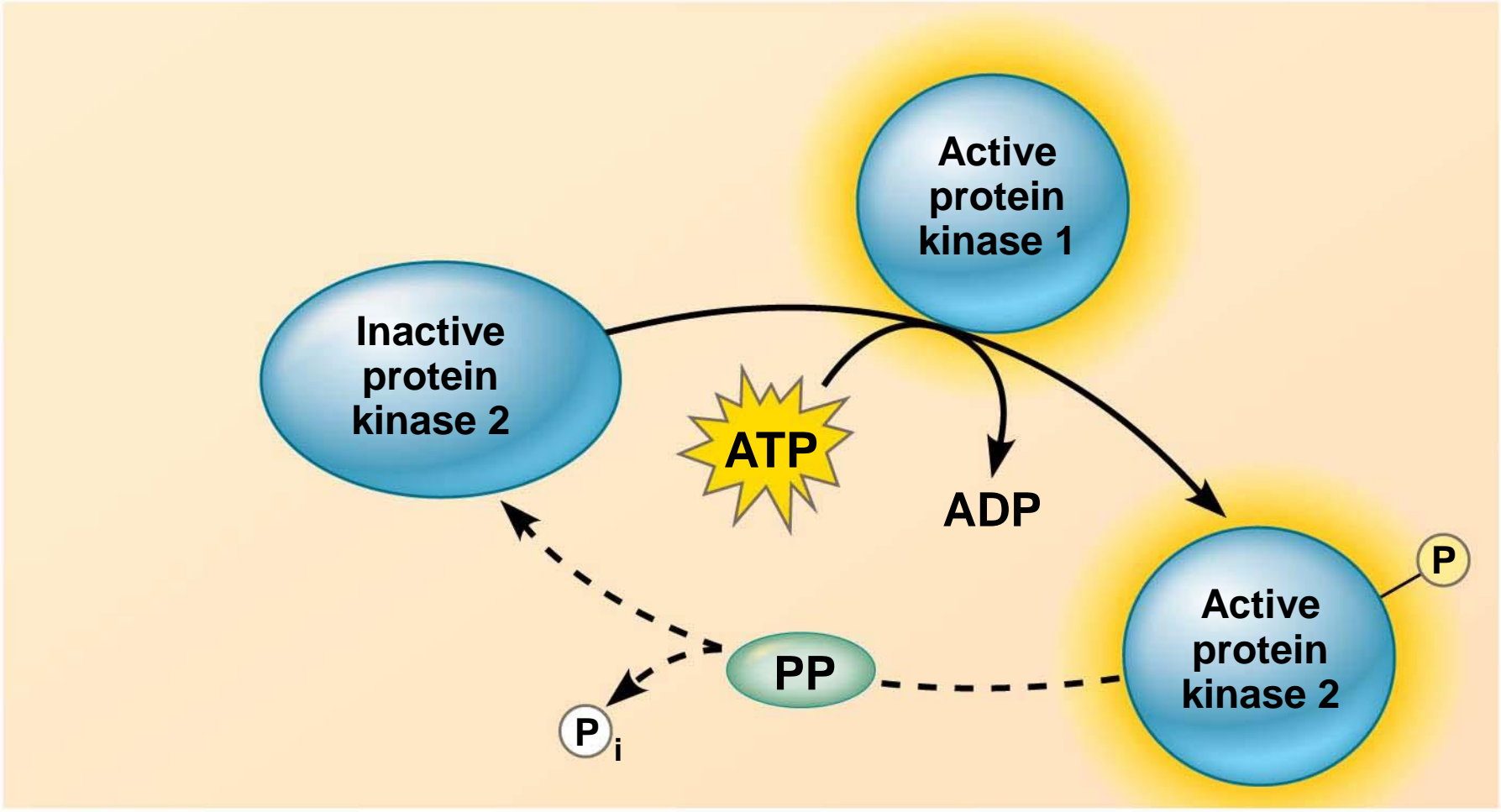
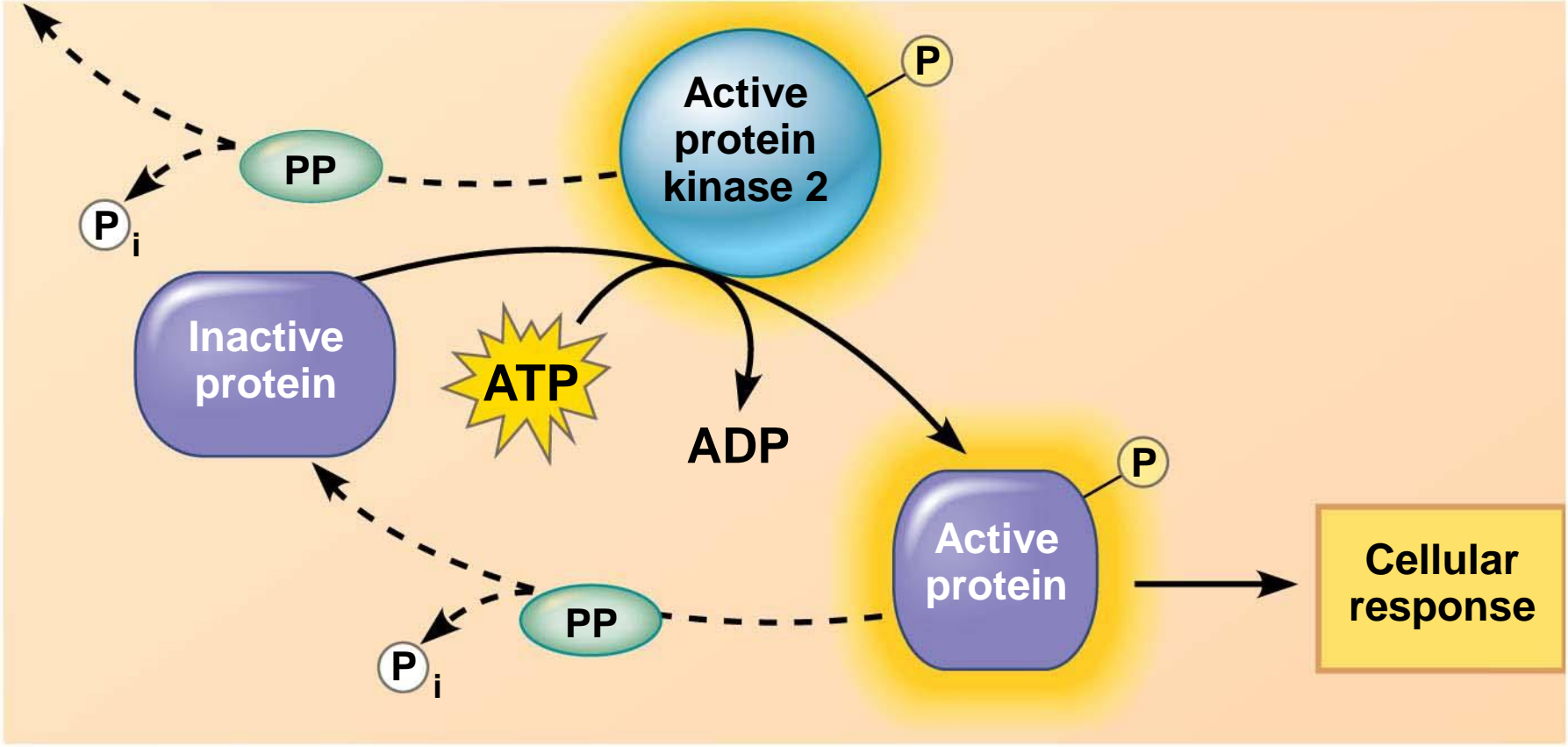


Figure 5.24-3



- **Protein phosphatases** remove the phosphates from proteins, a process called dephosphorylation
- Phosphatases provide a mechanism for turning off the signal transduction pathway
- They also make protein kinases available for reuse, enabling the cell to respond to the signal again

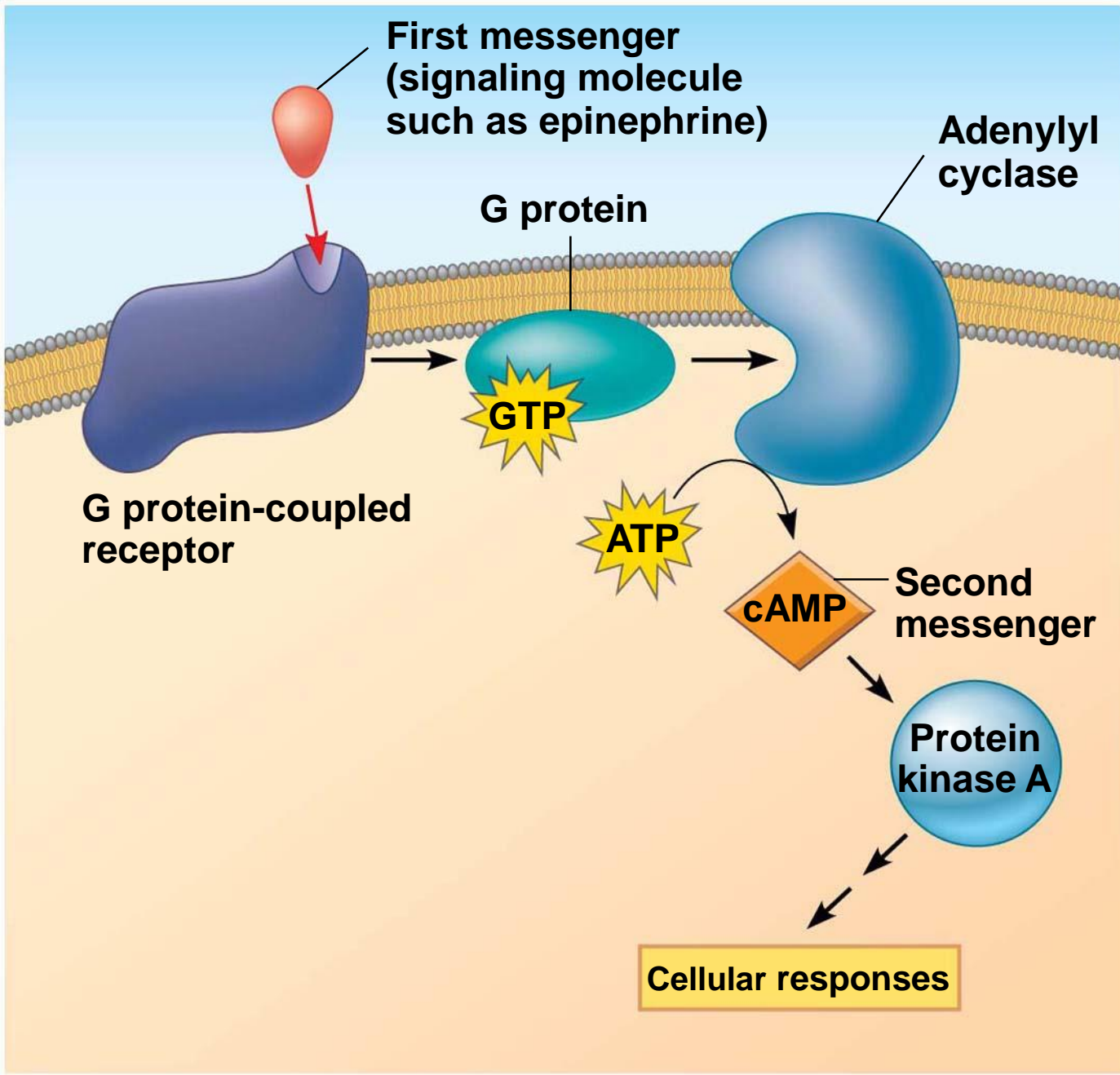


# *Small Molecules and Ions as Second Messengers*

- The extracellular signal molecule (ligand) that binds to the receptor is a pathway's "first messenger"
- **Second messengers** are small, nonprotein, water-soluble molecules or ions that spread throughout a cell by diffusion
- Cyclic AMP and calcium ions are common second messengers

- **Cyclic AMP (cAMP)** is one of the most widely used second messengers
- Adenylyl cyclase, an enzyme in the plasma membrane, rapidly converts ATP to cAMP in response to a number of extracellular signals
- The immediate effect of cAMP is usually the activation of protein kinase A, which then phosphorylates a variety of other proteins

Figure 5.25



# Response: Regulation of Transcription or Cytoplasmic Activities

- Ultimately, a signal transduction pathway leads to regulation of one or more cellular activities
- The response may occur in the cytoplasm or in the nucleus
- Many signaling pathways regulate the synthesis of enzymes or other proteins, usually by turning genes on or off in the nucleus
- The final activated molecule in the signaling pathway may function as a transcription factor

Figure 5.26

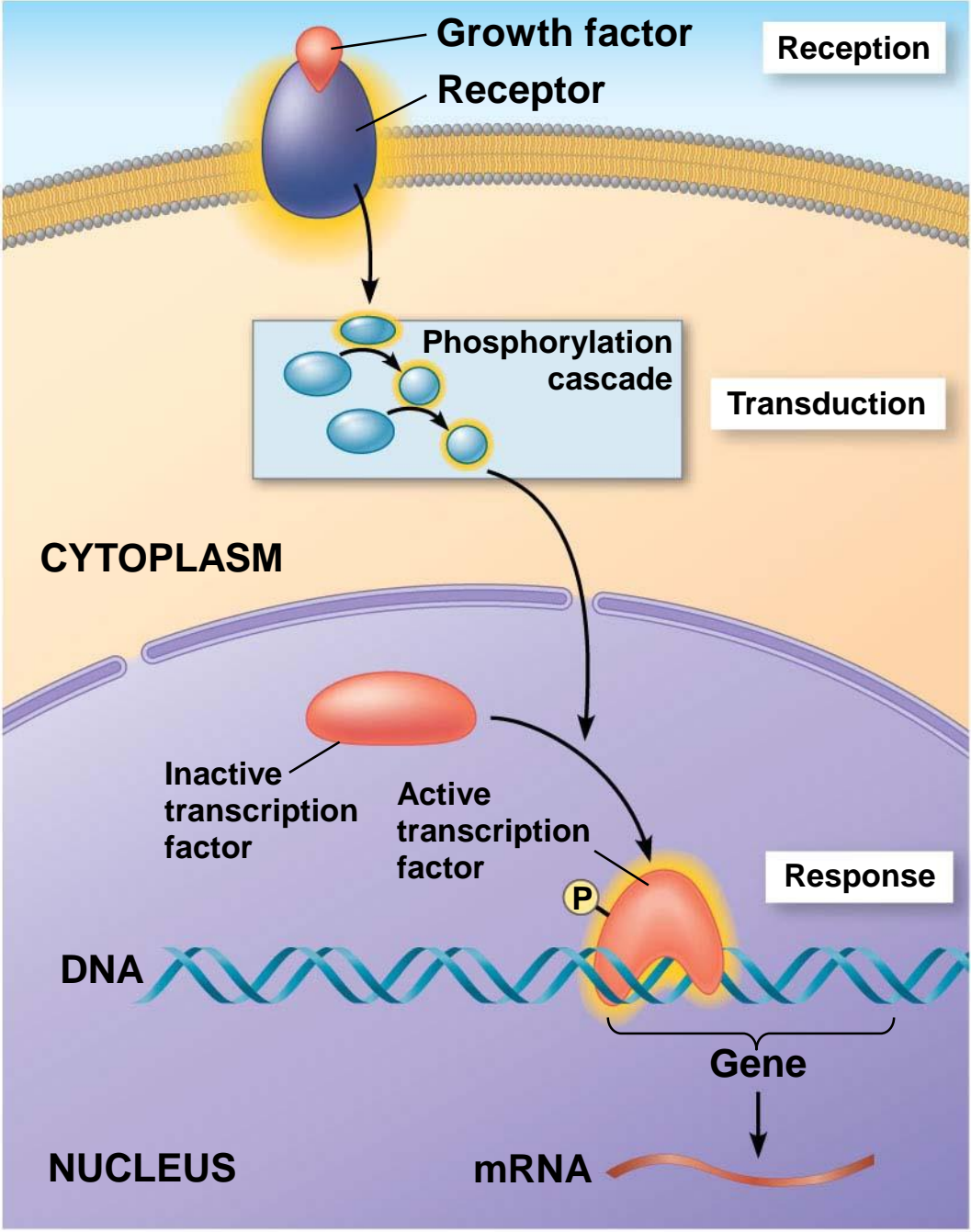


Figure 5.26-1

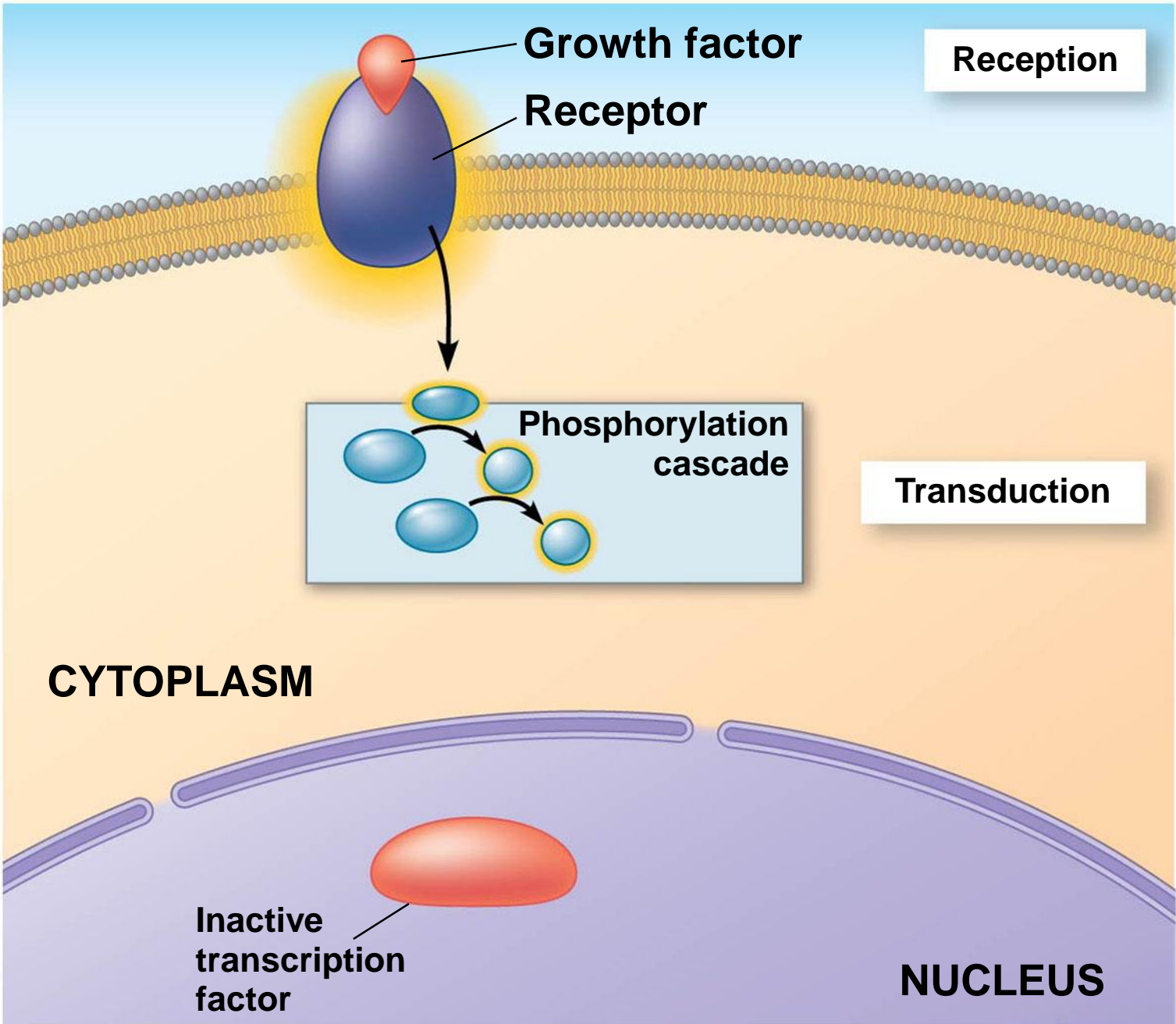
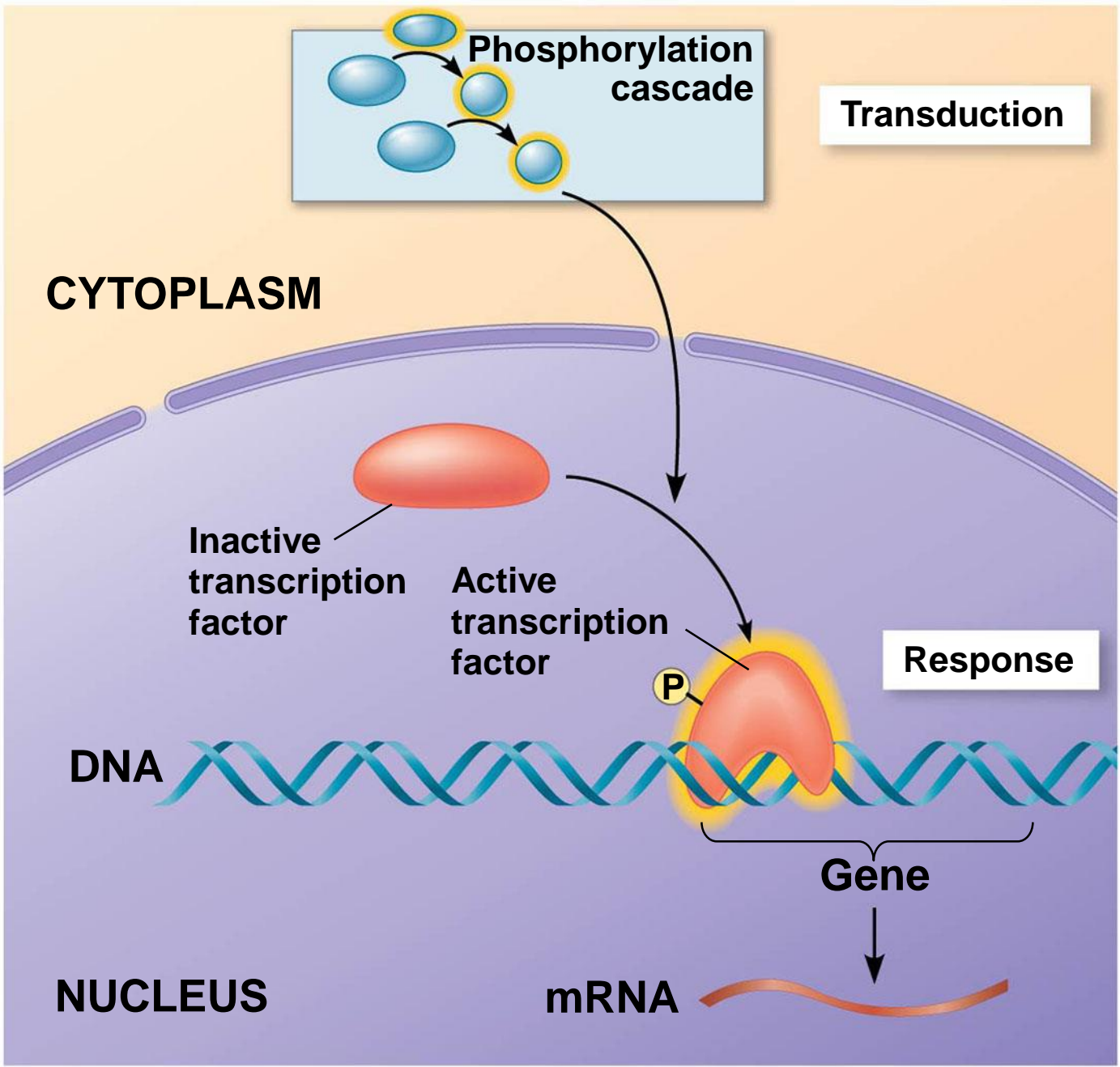


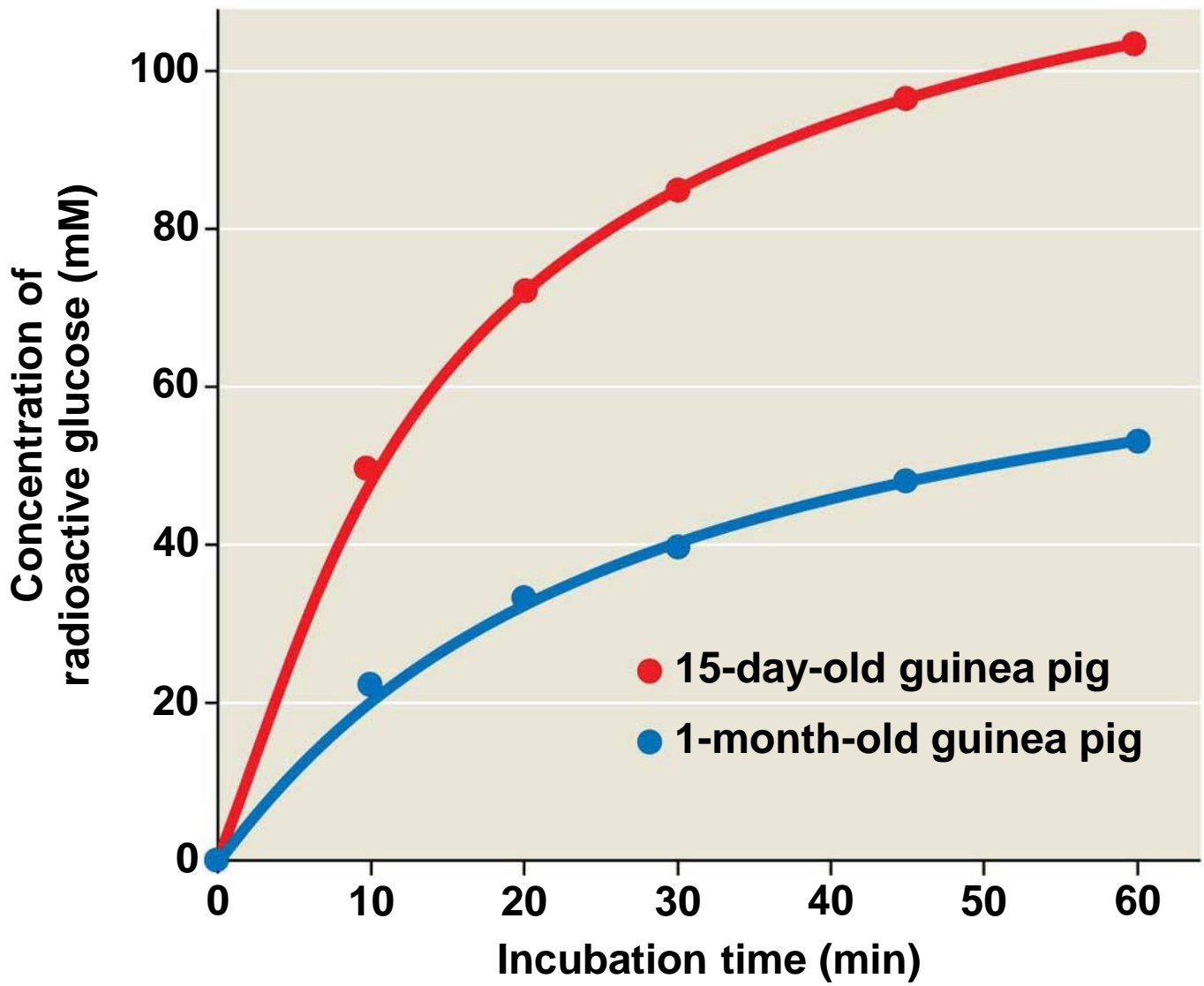
Figure 5.26-2



- Other pathways regulate the activity of enzymes rather than their synthesis, such as the opening of an ion channel or a change in cell metabolism



### Glucose Uptake over Time in Guinea Pig Red Blood Cells



Data from T. Kondo and E. Beutler, Developmental changes in glucose transport of guinea pig erythrocytes, *Journal of Clinical Investigation* 65:1-4 (1980).



**15-day-old and  
1-month-old  
guinea pigs**

Figure 5.UN02

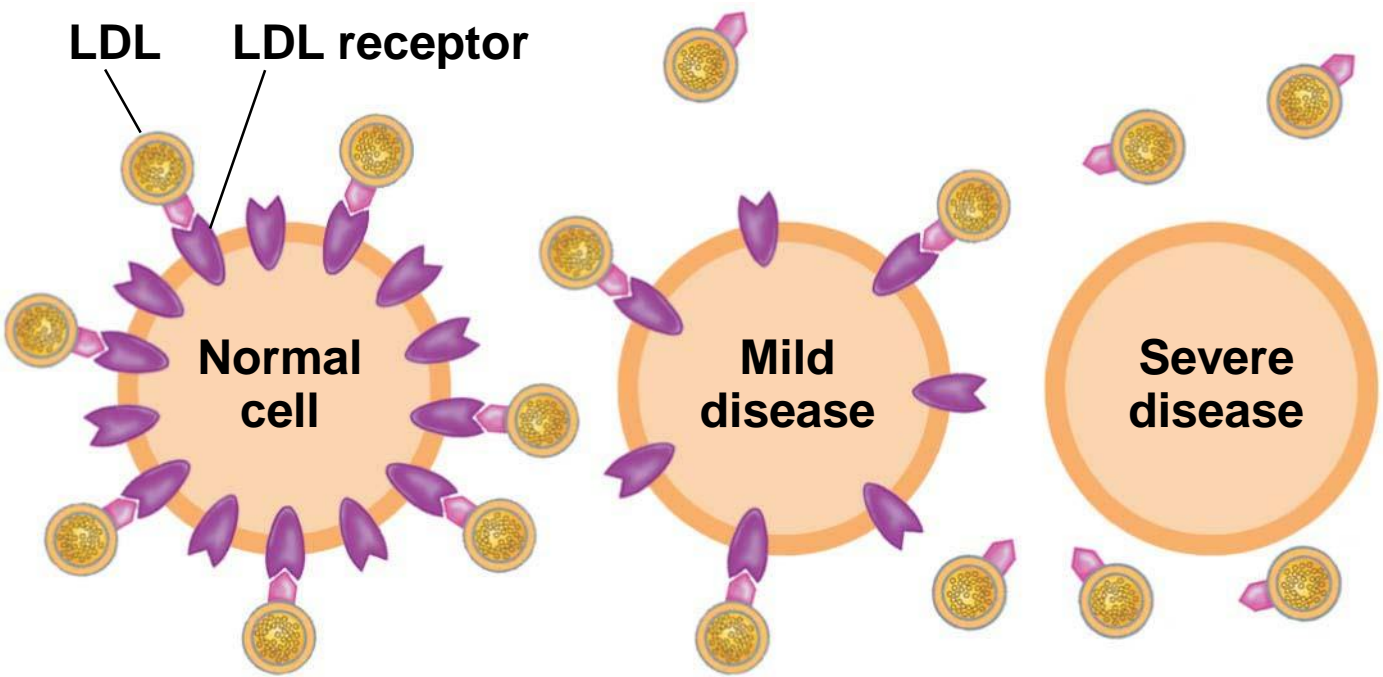
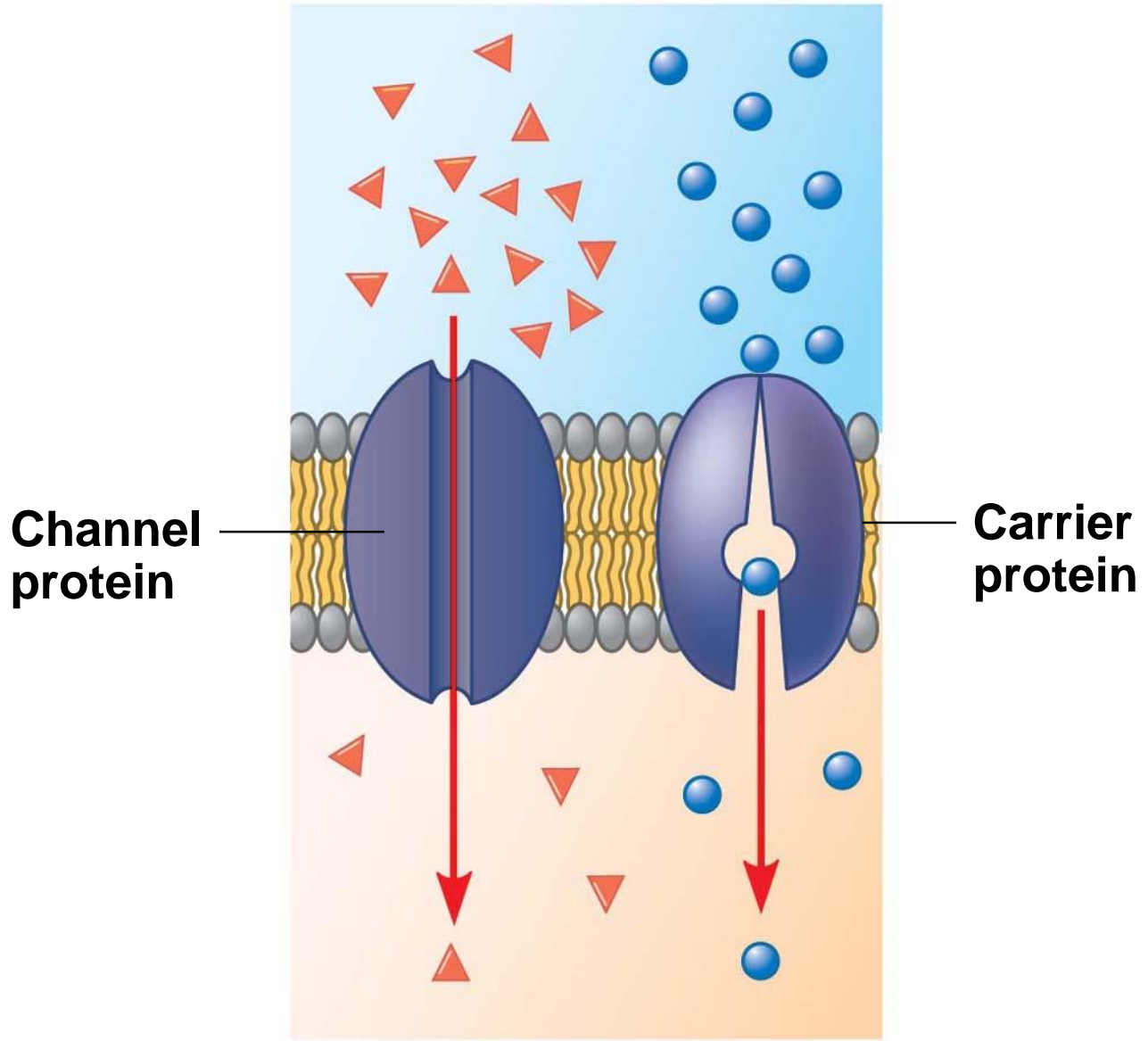


Figure 5.UN03



# Passive transport: Facilitated diffusion



# Active transport

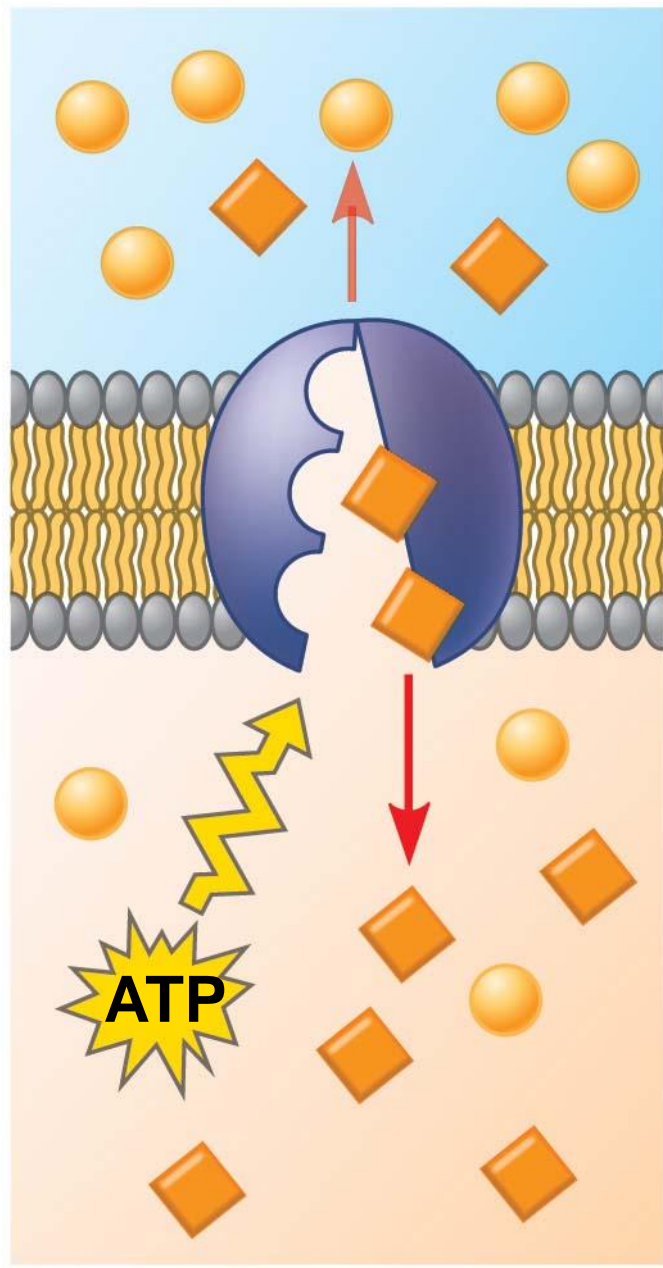


Figure 5.UN06

