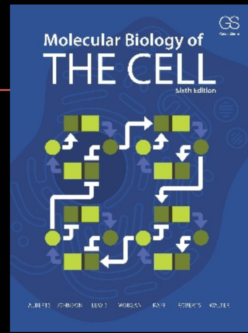
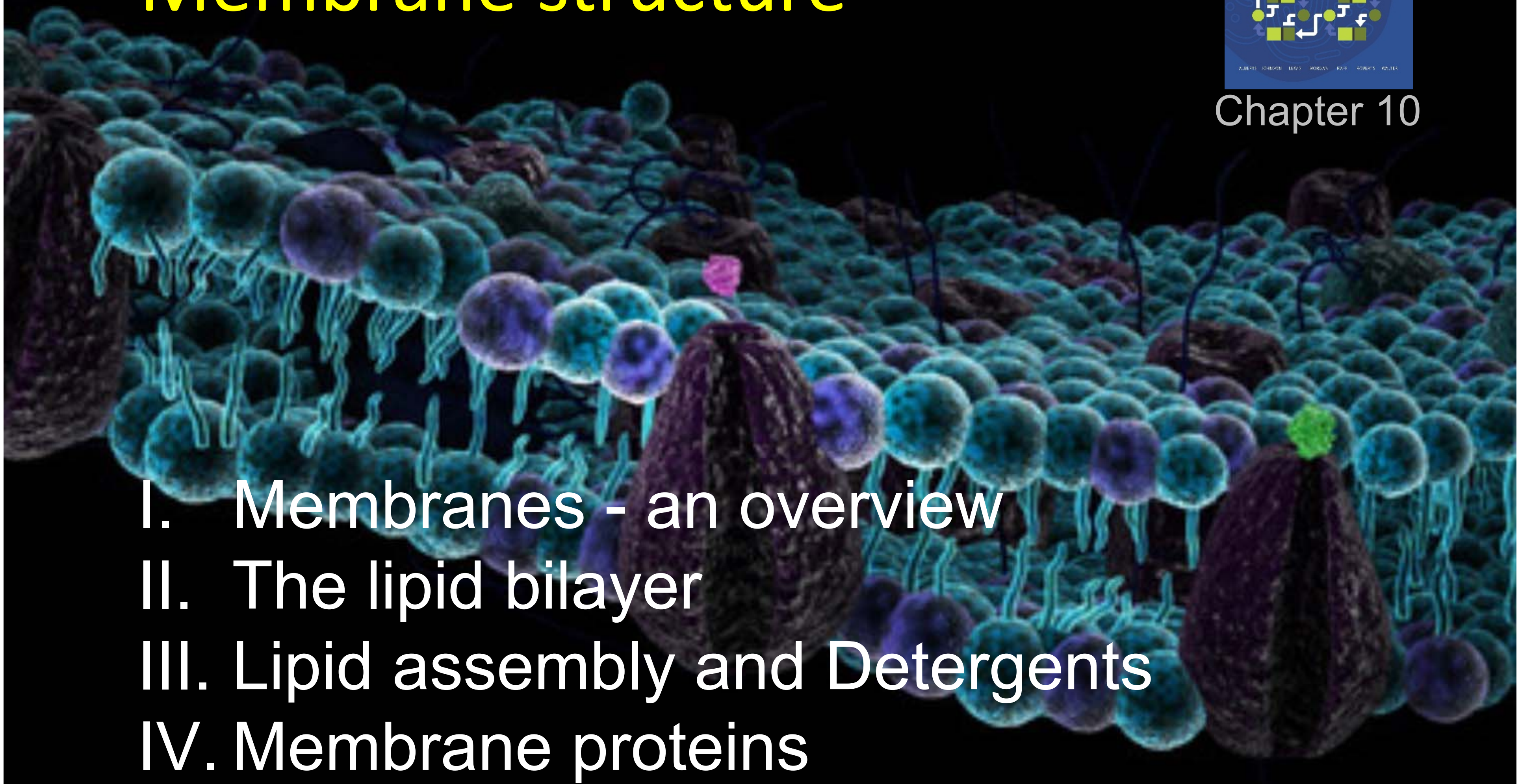
Lecture 4

Membrane structure



Chapter 10



I. Membranes - an overview
II. The lipid bilayer
III. Lipid assembly and Detergents
IV. Membrane proteins

1. General function of membranes

Membranes separate substances.

The limiting membrane of the cell is the plasma membrane (PM)

The PM separates the content of the cellfrom the environment

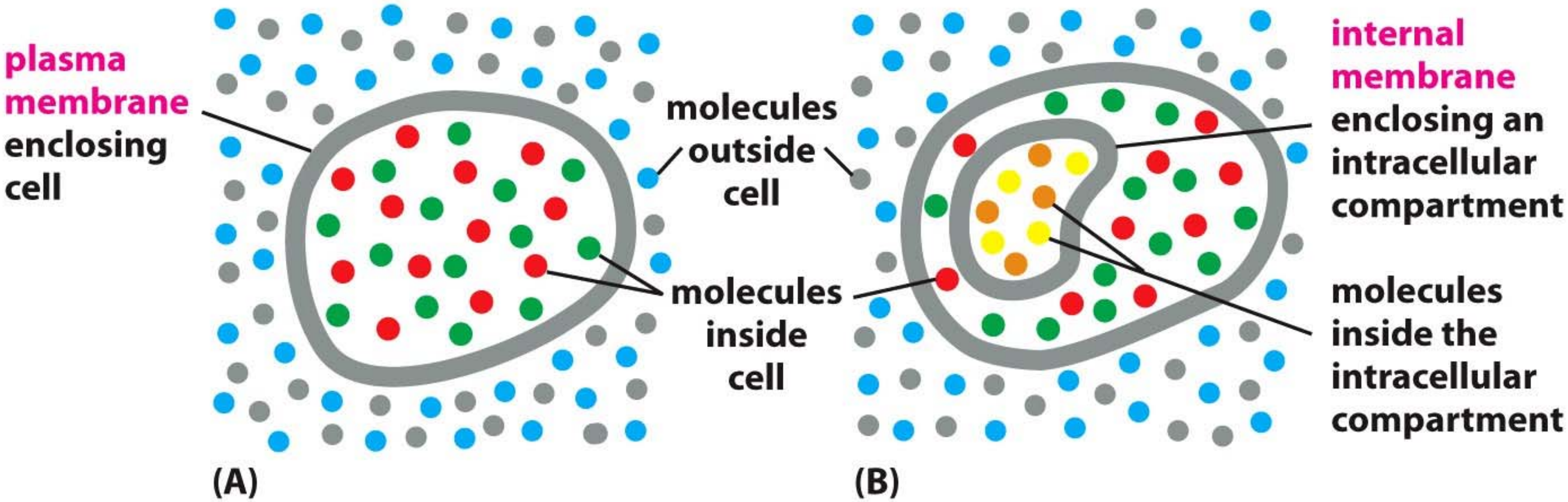


Figure 11-1 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

Selective barriers allow the separation of content…..

Membranes of cells are different

Membranes are not always the same

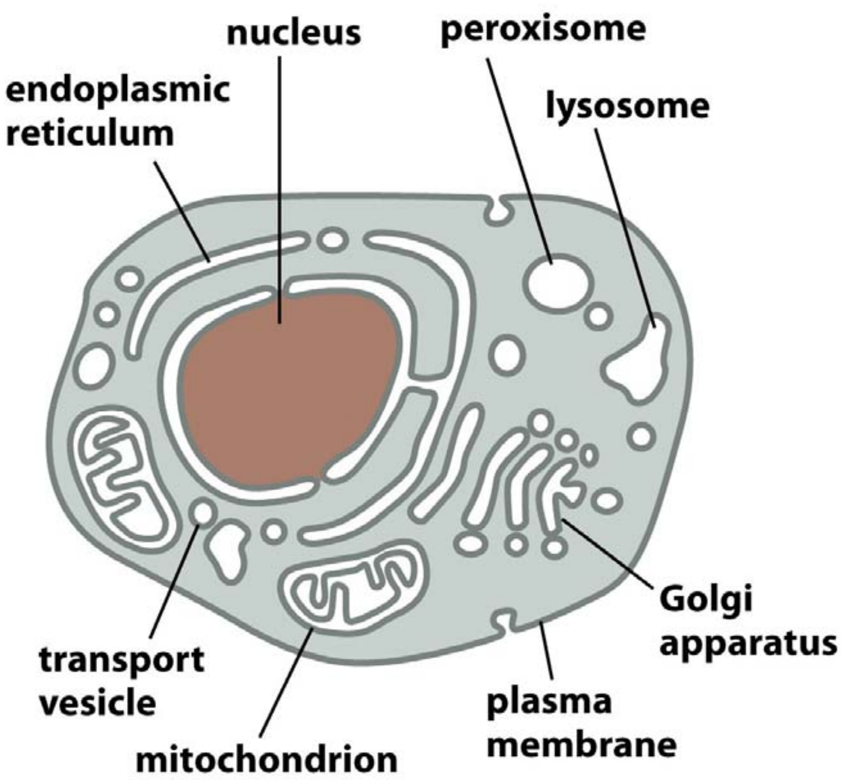


Figure 11-3 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

- nucleus
  (double membrane)
- mitochondria
  (double membrane)
- Plastids (chloroplasts, etc.)
  (double membrane)

- endoplasmic reticulum
  (single membrane)
- Golgi apparatus
  (single membrane)
- peroxisome, lysosomes, endosomes, vesicles…
  (single membrane)

The plasma membrane has many functions

Features & function:

- Relatively impermeable barrier
- Fluid, dynamic
- Composed of protein and lipid

Functions of plasma membrane include:

- Compartmentalization (relatively impermeable barrier)
- Scaffolding (transmembrane protein connect extracellular matrix or adjacent cells to cytoskeleton)
- Gatekeeper, highly selective (selectively let some materials in and secret others out)
- Senses outside signals (receptors on the membrane signal to other proteins inside the cell)
- Energy transduction (establish ion gradients to drive ATP synthesis , or produce and transmit electric signals)

Membranes are lipid **bilayers**, they consist of **lipid and protein**

Membrane surrounds cells and
membranes surrounds organelles within the cell

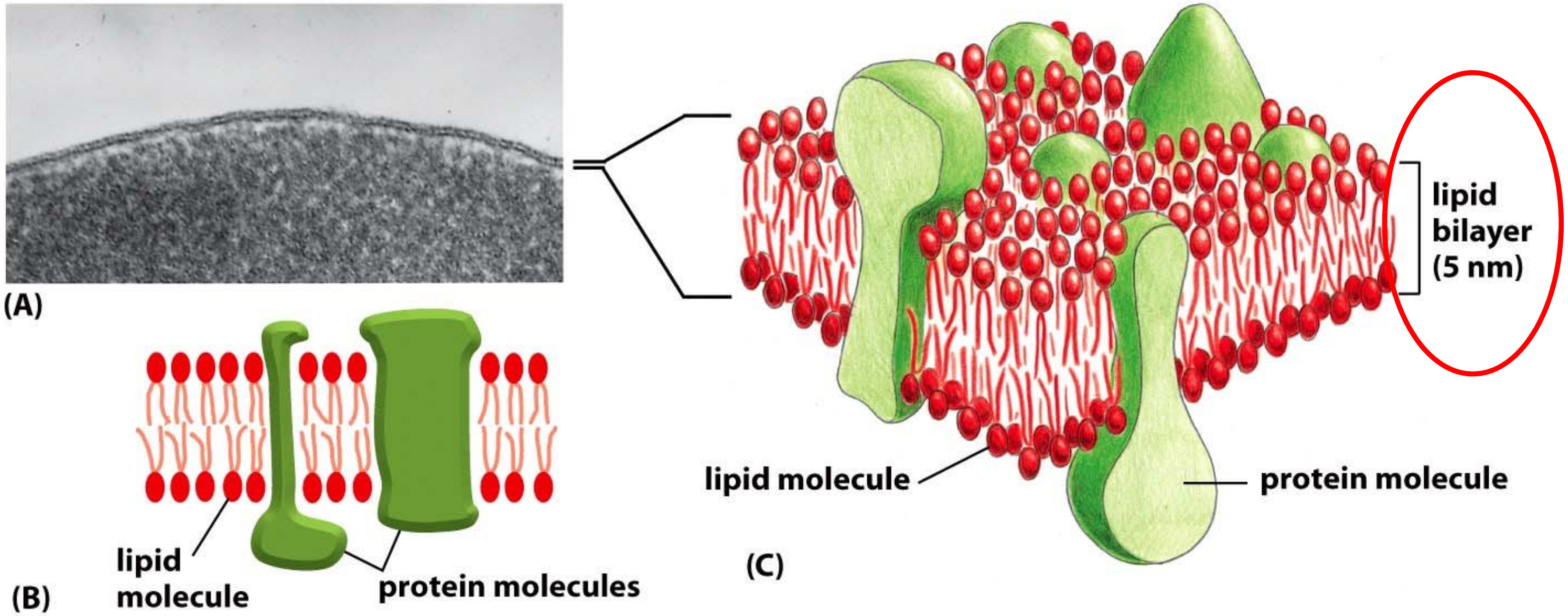


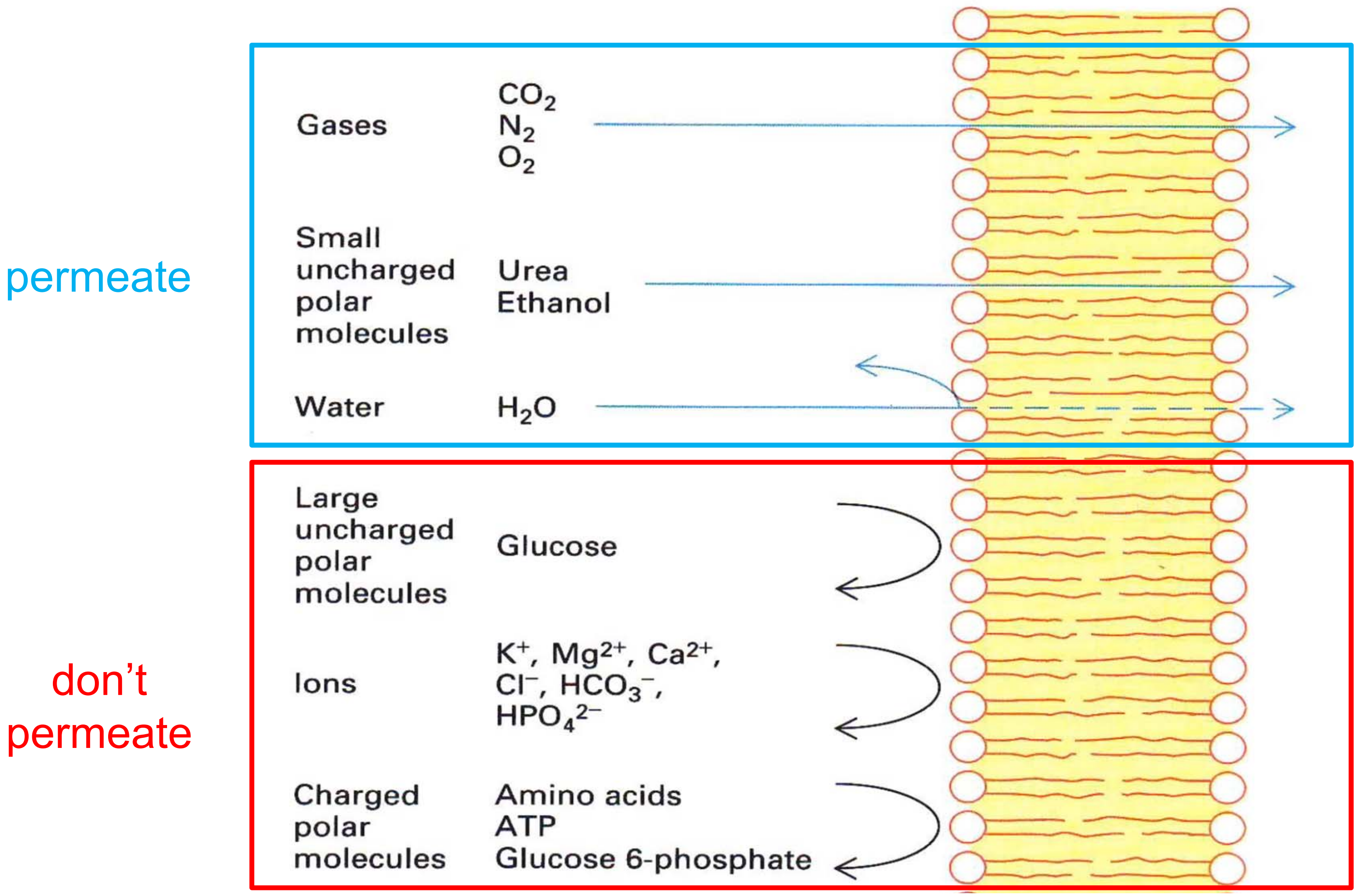
Figure 11-4 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

A: electron microscopic image of a red blood cell membrane
B: 2-D image of membrane
C: 3-D image of membrane

Lipid bilayer is about 5nm thick !!!

The permeability of membranes

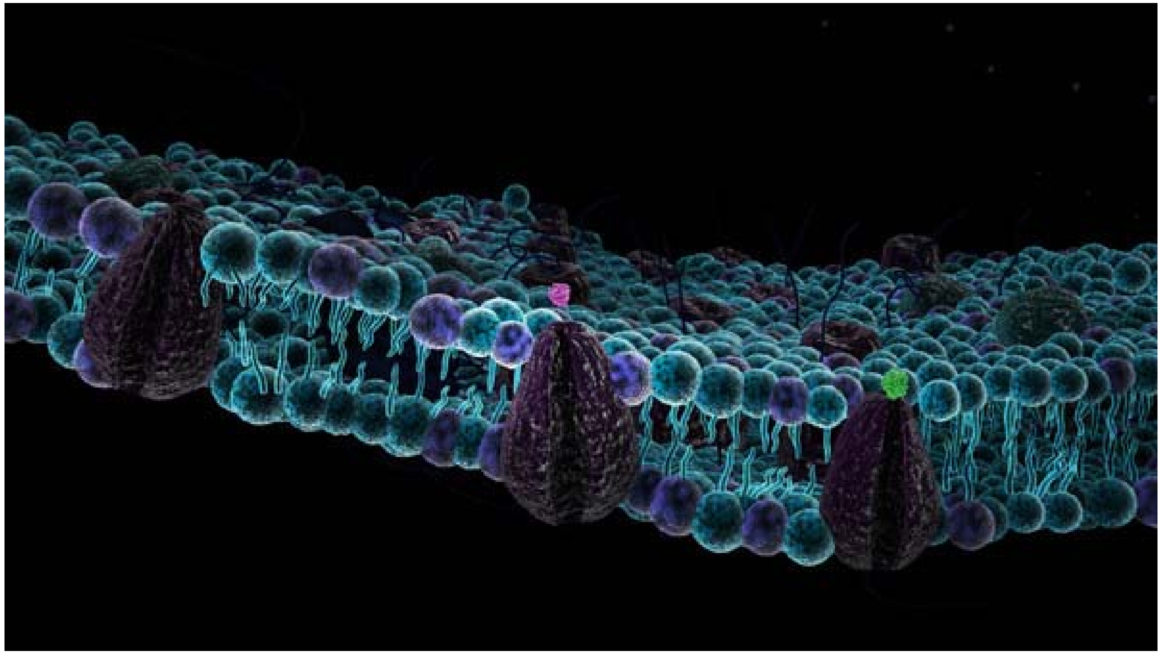
Permeability greatly differs for different substances:



Which molecules can pass and which molecules can#t?

Surface of membrane is not smooth and flat…

- Various lipids, detergents, metals, and proteins can induce membrane curvature



2. The lipid bilayer

A. Lipid composition of membranes
   - Phospholipids
   - Sterols
   - Glycolipids

B. Asymmetric distribution of lipids between lipid leaflets of a membrane

C. Concept of “lipid raft” domains

D. Motions of lipid molecules

E. Phase transition

F. Lipid storage in cells

A. Lipid composition: Lipids? What is a lipid?

Lipids are amphipathic molecules

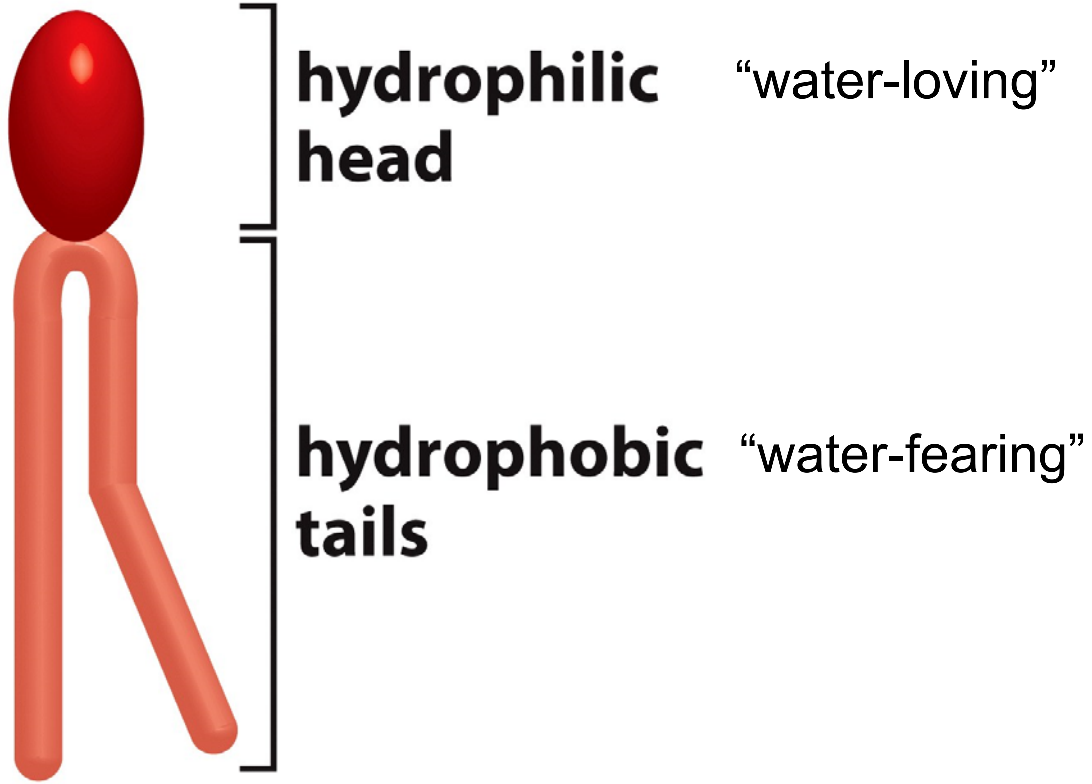


Figure 11-5 Essential Cell Biology 3/e (© Garland Science 2010)

Major types of lipids

Membranes contain different types of lipids

There are **three major types of** lipids:

- **Phospholipids** (main components)
- **Sterols**
- **Glycolipids**

Table 10–1 Approximate Lipid Compositions of Different Cell Membranes

Phospholipids

LIPID	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LIPID BY WEIGHT					
	LIVER CELL PLASMA MEMBRANE	RED BLOOD CELL PLASMA MEMBRANE	MYELIN	MITOCHONDRION (INNER AND OUTER MEMBRANES)	ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM	*E. COLI* BACTERIUM
Cholesterol	17	23	22	3	6	0
Phosphatidylethanolamine	7	18	15	28	17	70
Phosphatidylserine	4	7	9	2	5	trace
Phosphatidylcholine	24	17	10	44	40	0
Sphingomyelin	19	18	8	0	5	0
Glycolipids	7	3	28	trace	trace	0
Others	22	13	8	23	27	30

Eukaryotic cells contain various combination of lipids,
~500-1000 different lipid species, but prokaryotic cells contain much less.

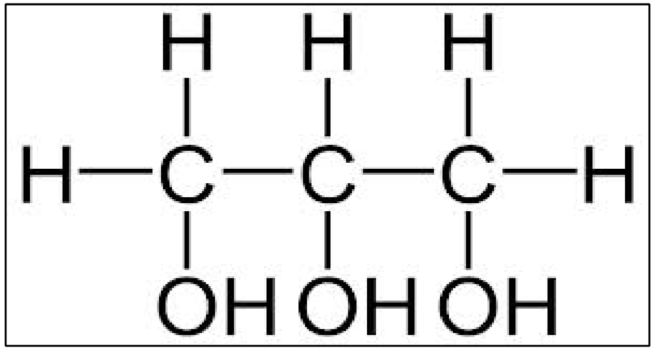
Lipid composition defines the properties of membranes (viscosity, curvature…)

Phospholipids:

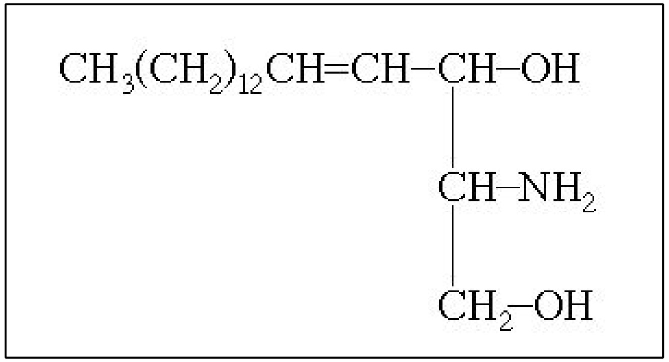
Two major groups of phospholipids, based on the backbone:

1. Phosphoglycerides: **glycerol** as backbone; main phospholipids
2. Sphingomyelins: **sphingosine** as backbone

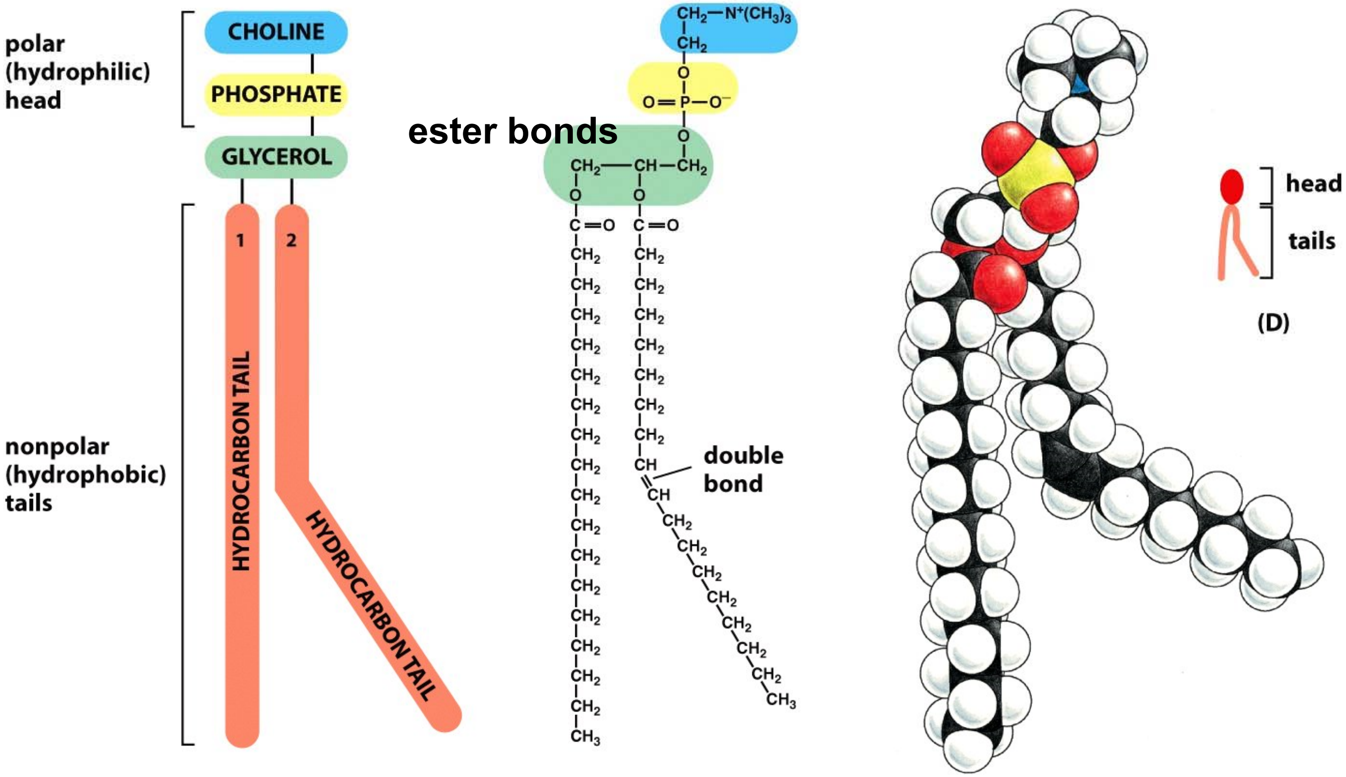
Glycerol



Sphingosine

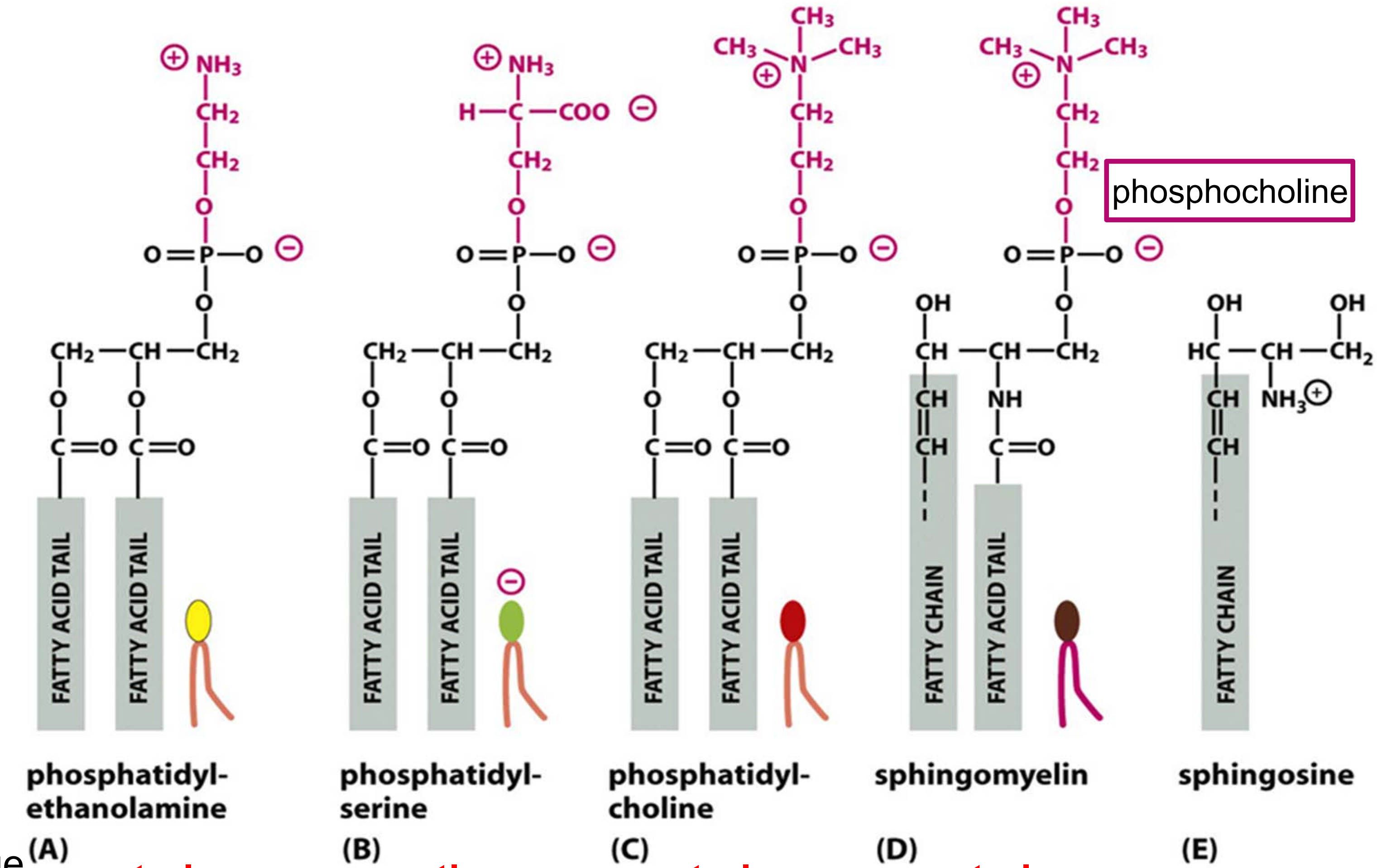


The phosphoglyceride molecule



1) **Two fatty acids** linked by **ester bonds** with **glycerol**,
   differ in length **14-24** carbon atoms
2) Usually **one fatty acid tail** contains **one or more *cis*-double bonds** (unsaturated), while the other tail is saturated
3) The ***cis*-double bonds** create **kinks** in the tail, and **make the lipid more fluid**.

Four major types of phospholipids of the PM



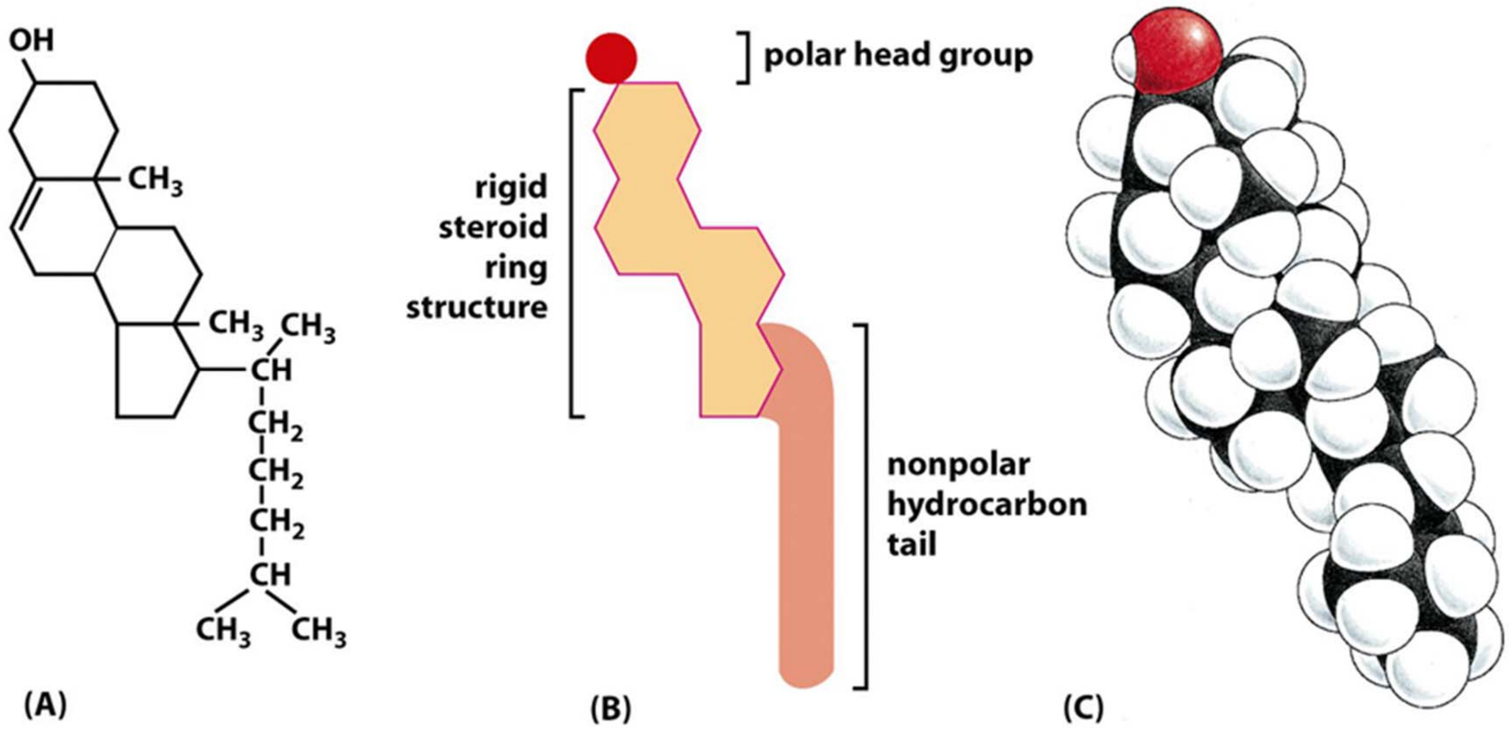
Charge state : neutral negative neutral neutral

Phosphatidyethanolamine, phosphatidylserine, phosphatidylcholine and sphingomyelin make up to 50% of the mass of all lipids in a mammalian cell!

Sterols

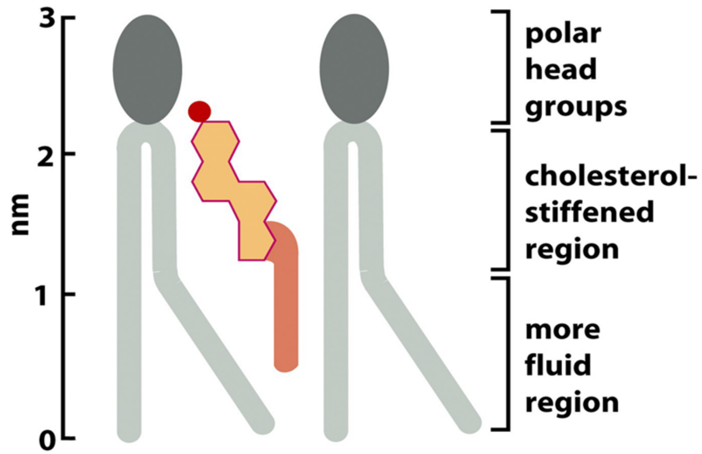
In animals: cholesterol
In plants: phytosterol
In fungi: ergosterol

All sterols have the similar 4-ring isoprenoid structure



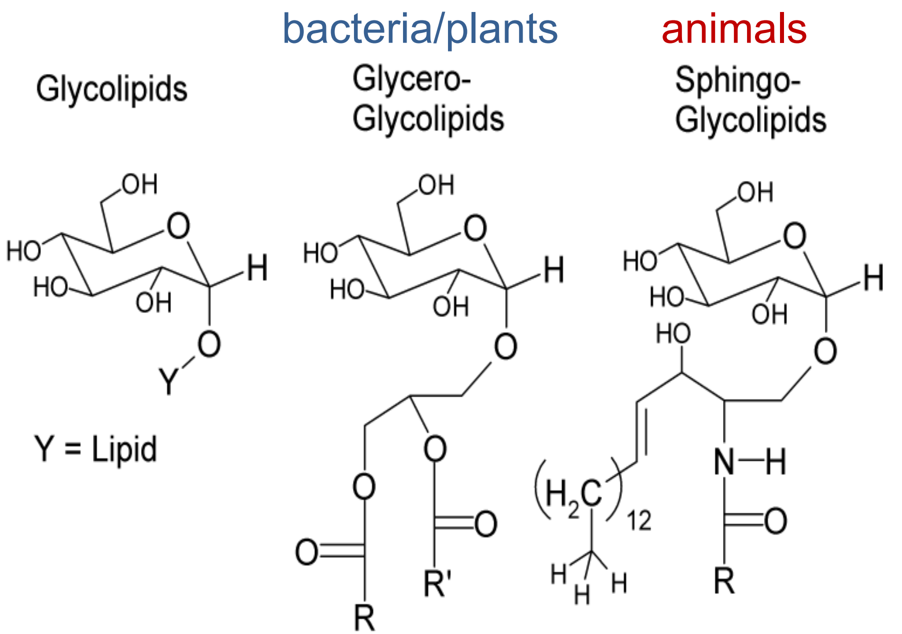
Cholesterol - regulates membrane fluidity !!!

1) The animal plasma membrane contains large amounts of cholesterol.
2) It has a rigid ring structure.
3) It has specific orientation in the membrane:
   - the **hydroxyl group** close to **polar head** of **adjacent** phospholipid.
4) Cholesterol **concentration affects fluidity** of membranes:
   - At **high** concentrations: makes membranes **stiff**:
     the rigid ring makes membrane less flexible and
     its long hydrocarbon tail make lipids pack more tightly,
   - but at **low** concentration: it makes membranes **more fluid**
5) The **temperature** change affects cholesterol action too:
   - At **higher** temperature:
     it **reduces membrane fluidity**,
     but not at lower temperature
   - At **lower** temperature:
     it **prevents the tightening**
     of the membrane.

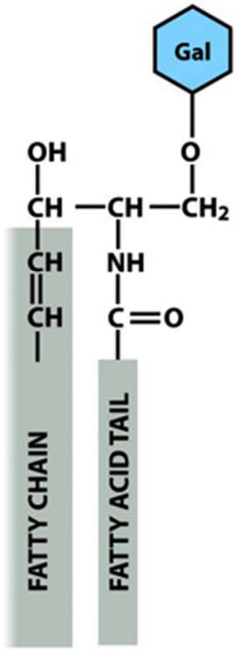


Glycolipids: sugar-containing lipids

- Present in relatively small amounts (less than 5%)
- Occur mainly in nerve cells.
- They are present on the **surface** of all **plasma membranes** (PM)
- They locate **in the outer** -non-cytosolic **monolayer** of the PM
- Sugar part projects **always outside** on the cell surface
  (Can you imagine why?)

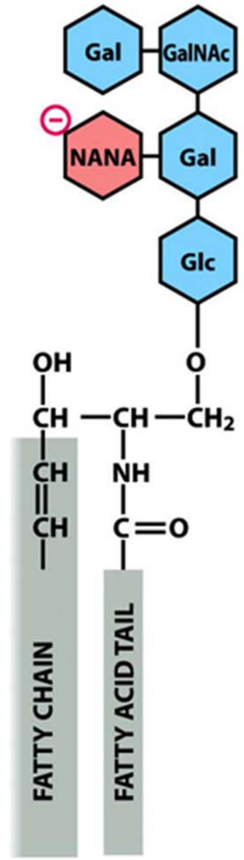


Glycolipids: sugar-containing lipids



(A) galactocerebroside

neutral

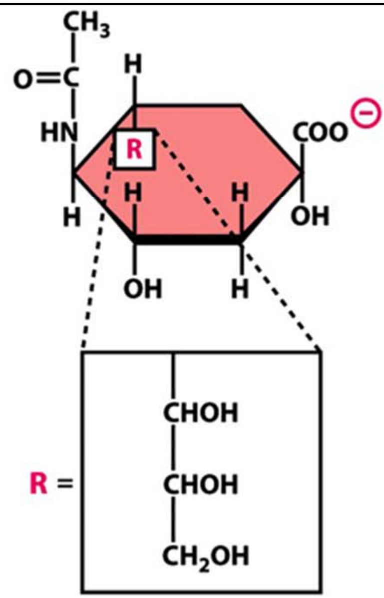


(B) G_{M1} ganglioside

negative charge

Gangliosides

- negatively charged N-acetylneuraminic acid (NANA)



(C) sialic acid (NANA)

negative charge

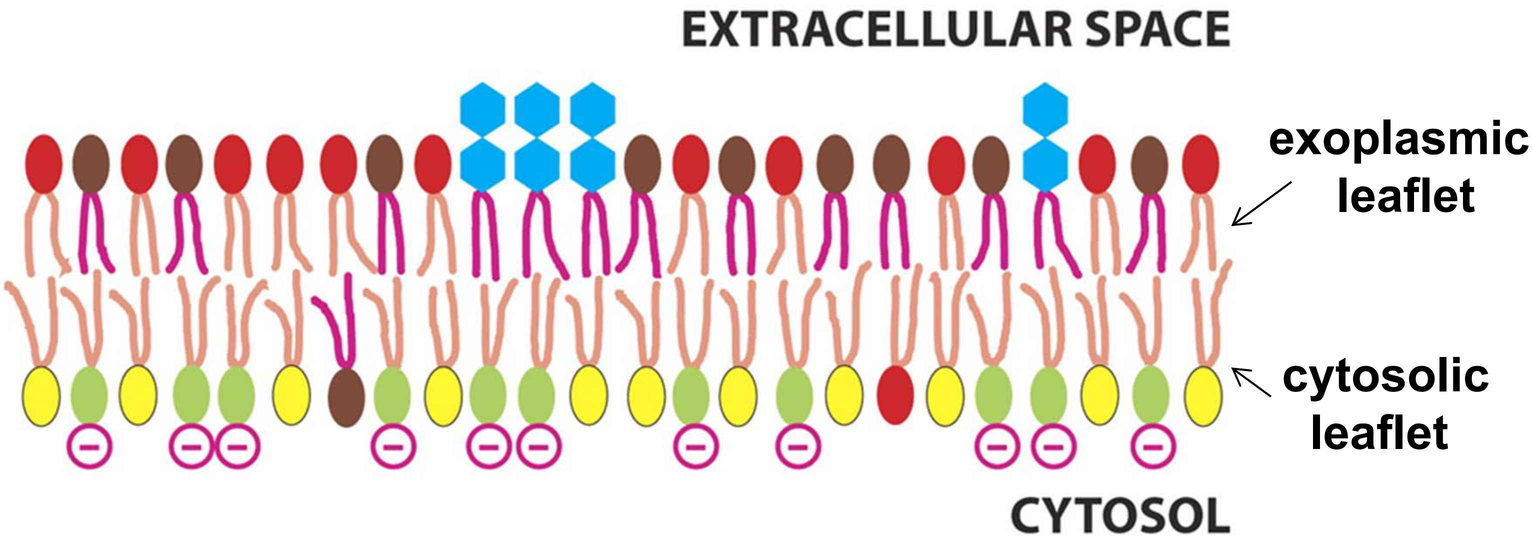
Glycolipids: Function in the cell

- Help to **protect** the cell surface/membrane against harsh conditions (pH, proteolytic enzymes)
- Function in cell **recognition** processes
- Charged glycolipids (Gangliosides) influence **electrical field** of the membrane
- Provide **entry points for toxins**:
    - Cholera toxin binds to and enters **only cells** that **have G_{m1}** on their surface (e.g. intestinal epithelial cells)
    - Cholera toxin causes **prolonged increase** of **cyclic AMP (cAMP)**, which causes efflux of **Na^{+}** and **water into the intestine**

Always remember function/effects of drugs and toxins !!!

B. Asymmetric lipid distribution in membrane leaflets

1. Phosphatidylserine (PS) (negative): almost **all** cytoplasmic (inner)
2. **Phosphatidylcholine** (PC) (neutral): on **both** sides, **mostly exoplasmic**
3. **Phosphatidylethanolamine** (PE) (neutral): found on **both** sides
4. Phosphatidylinositol (PI) (negative): almost all cytoplasmic (inner)
5. **Sphingomyelin** (neutral): **mostly exoplasmic**
6. **Cholesterol equal** on both leaflets
7. **Glycolipids**: **mostly** on **exoplasmic**



Knowledge about the distribution of lipids is crucial to understand cellular functions !!!

Asymmetrical distribution of inositol phospholipids

Why is the asymmetrical distribution of phospholipids important?

The **phosphoinositides at the inner leaflet** are **important** for **signal transduction** processes:

They are **modified** (phosphorylated/dephosphorylated/cleaved) in the course of signal transduction either by a **kinases** <u>or</u> by **lipases**:

Option 1: **Phosphorylation** by a **kinase** creates binding sites for other proteins that relay the signal

Option 2: **Cleavage** by **lipase** results signaling molecules which relay the signal

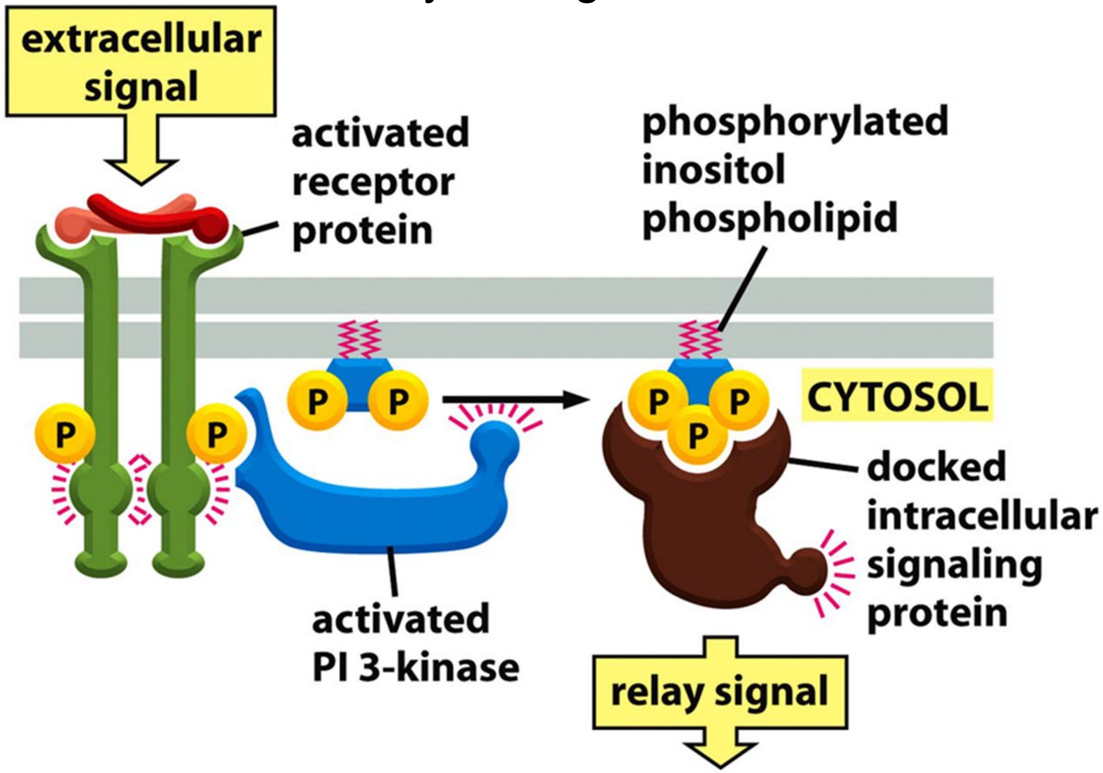
How does it work?

PRINCIPLE: Phosphorylation of PI creates membrane binding sites for other proteins

Asymmetrical distribution of phospholipids: PI

Phosphatidyl**i**nositol (**PI**) at the **inner/cytosolic** leaflet

Option 1: Phosphorylation of PI by **P**hospho**i**nositide **3**-**k**inase (**PI3K**) creates PI3P that binds other proteins that relay the signal…..

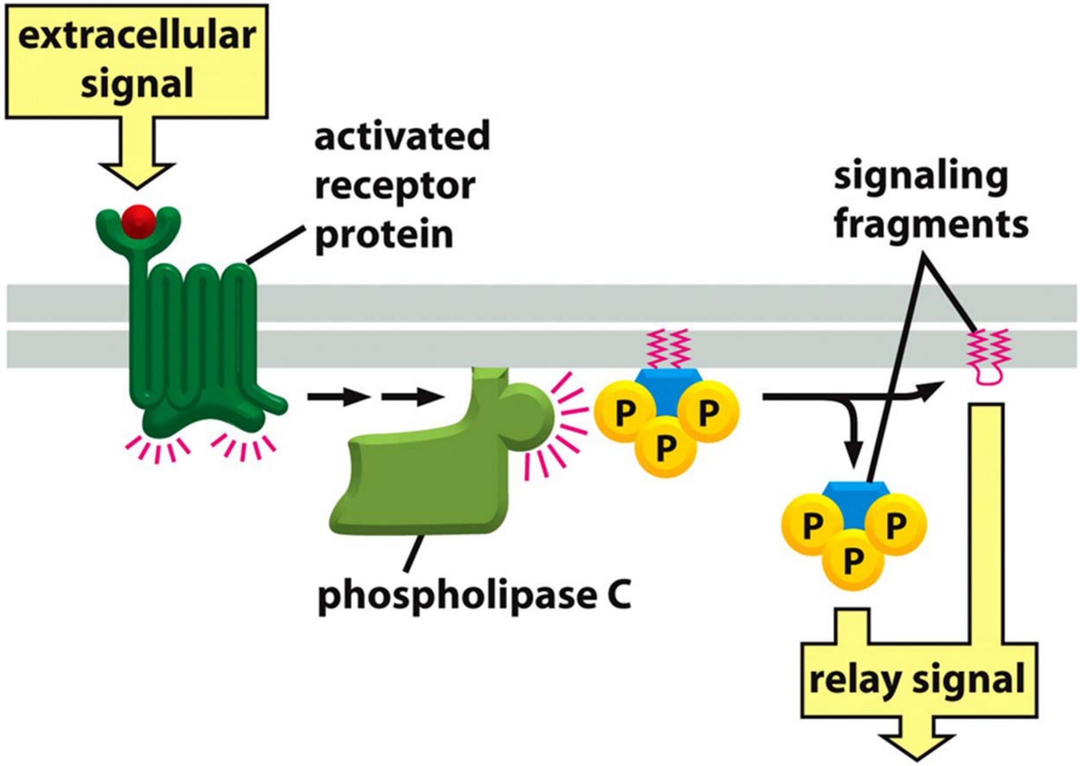


PRINCIPLE: Phosphorylation of PI creates membrane binding sites for other proteins that relay the signal…. Can also induce curvature and induce transport events…

Asymmetrical distribution of phospholipids: PI

Phosphatidyl**i**nositol (**PI**) at the **inner/cytosolic** leaflet

Option 2: **Cleavage** by **lipase** results in signaling molecules that relay the signal

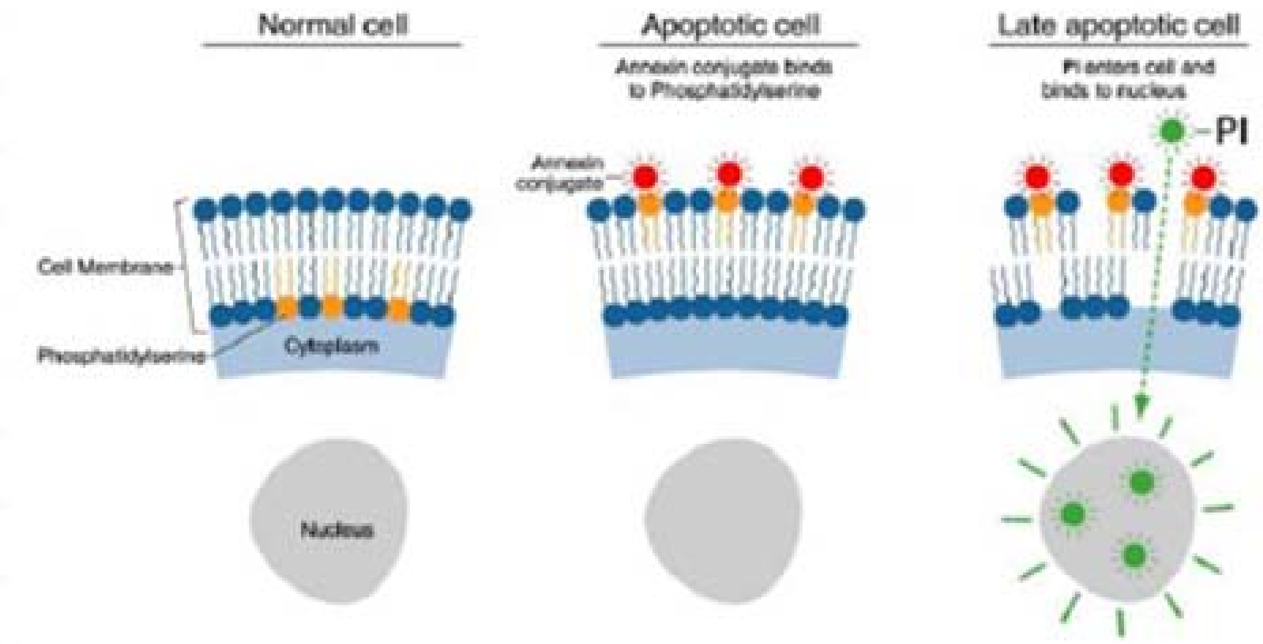


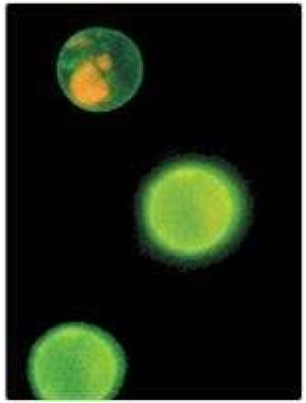
PRINCIPLE: An activated receptor recruits phospholipase C to the membrane, which cleaves phosphoinsoitides and cleaved (free) phosphoinositides relay the signal….

Asymmetrical distribution of phospholipids: PS

Phosphatidyl**s**erine (**PS**)at the inner leaflet of the PM

- Phosphatidylserine (PS) locates only on the cytosolic leaflet **but** when cells undergo programmed cell death (apoptosis), it is **translocated** to the **exoplasmic sideThere, it** can be detected by Annexin V labeling

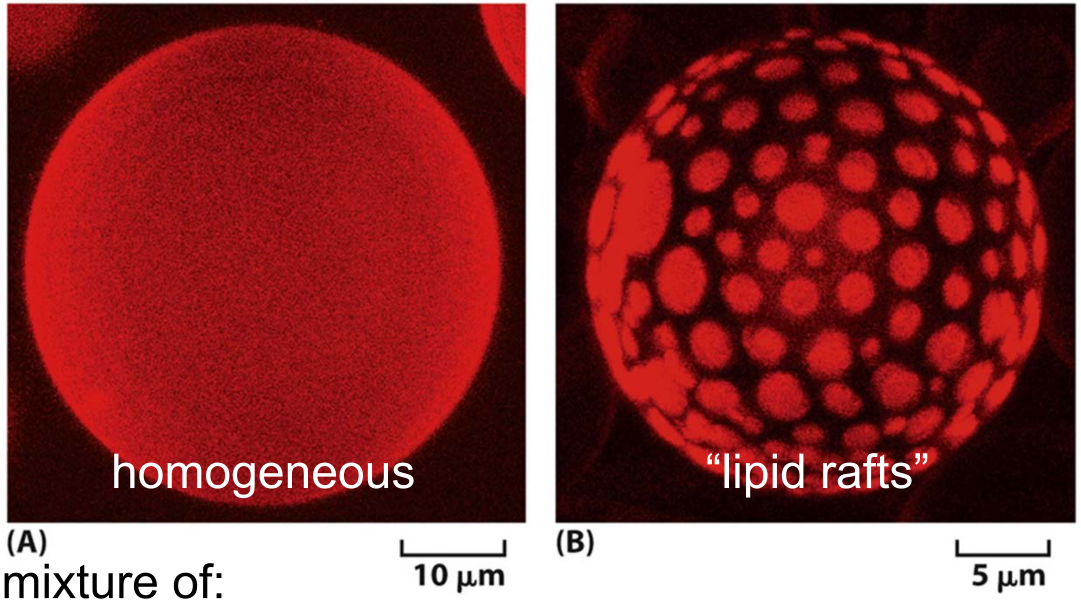




Method to identify early stages of programmed cell death (apoptosis)

C. Membranes can possess different domains: “lipid rafts”

- Lipids are **not always** homogeneously distributed
- “Lipid rafts” mainly consists od a mixture of **sphingomyelin** and **cholesterol, they are** thought to also **concentrate specific membrane proteins**



Liposome with mixture of:

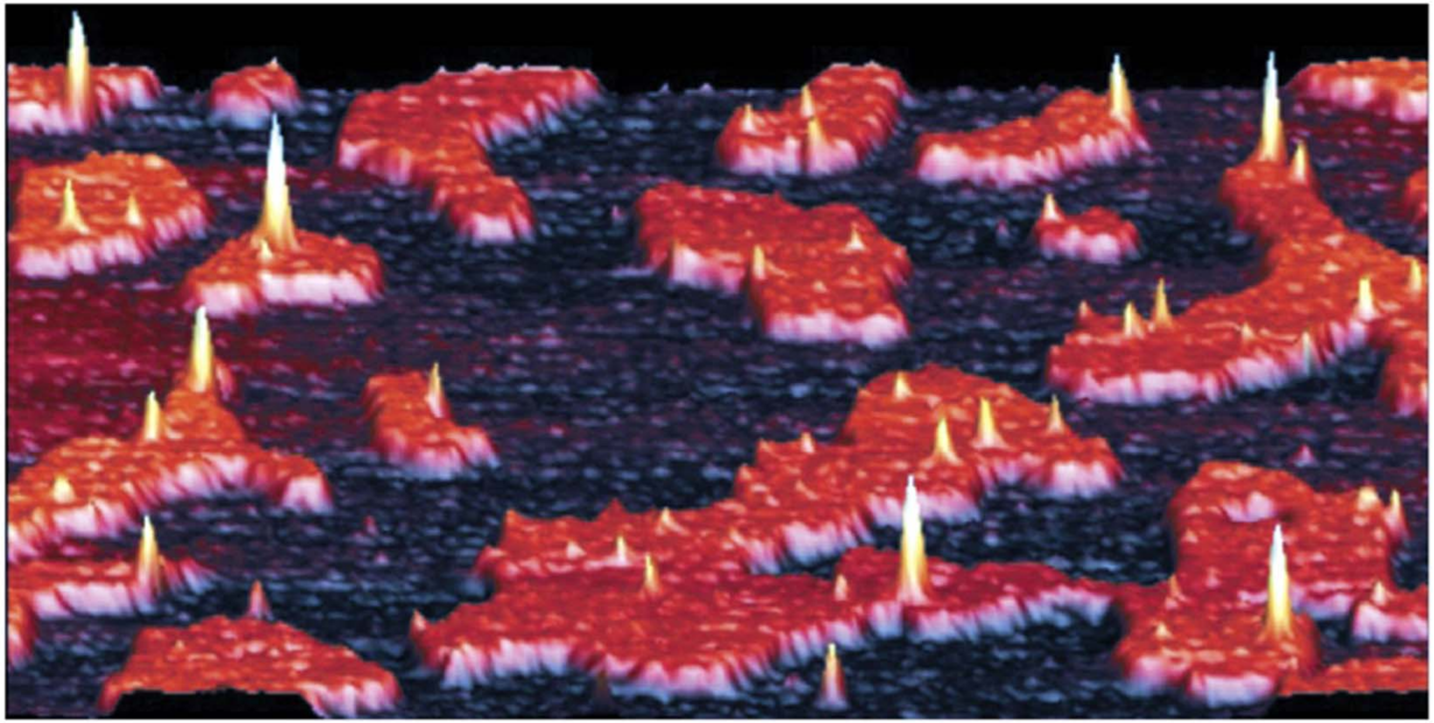
sphingomyelin: **phosphatidylcholine**
1: 1

cholesterol:sphingomyelin:phosphatidylcholin
1: 1 :1

This is an artificial bilayer....

Membrane protein locates in the lipid rafts

Lipid rafts can concentrate specific membrane domains



Atomic force microscopy of artificial membrane

500 nm

Yellow: membrane proteins
Red: "lipid rafts" (sphingomyelin and cholesterol)

Which lipids form "lipid rafts"?

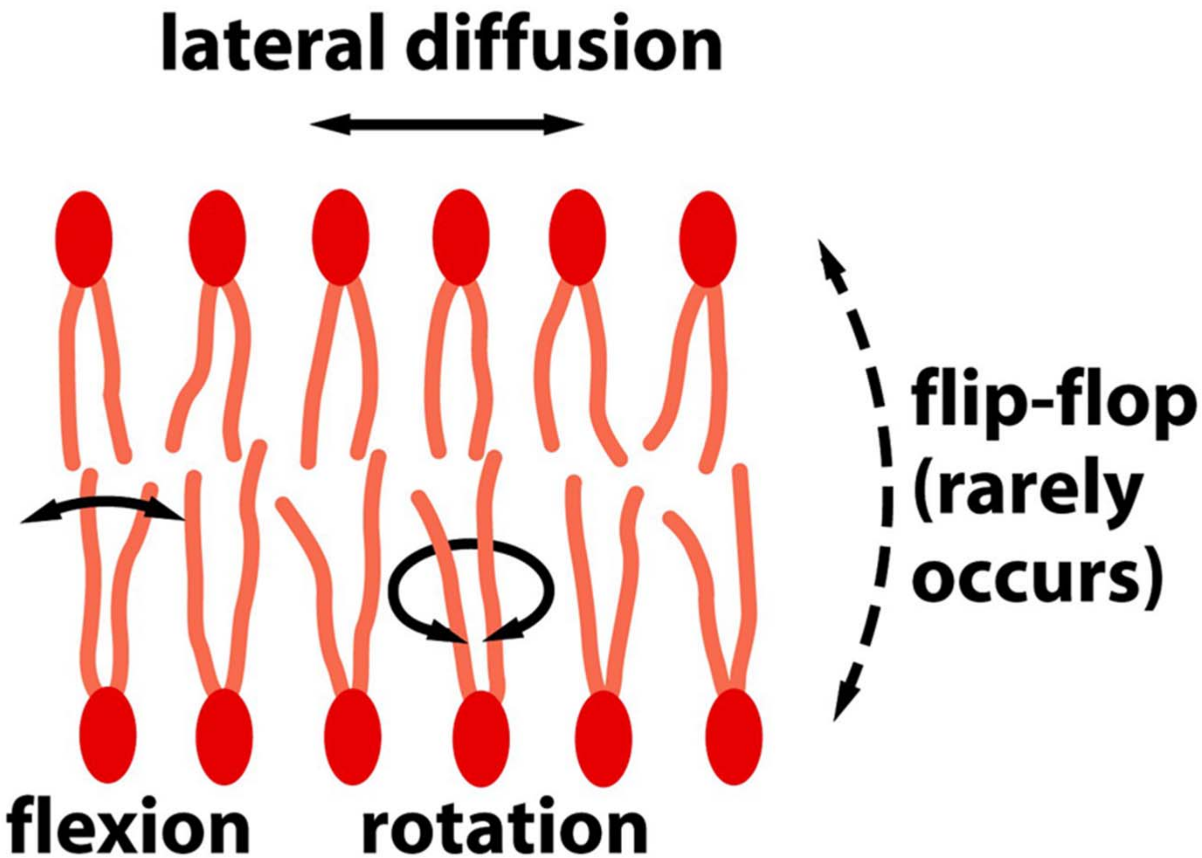
D. Motion of the lipid molecules

Lipids are highly dynamic

- **Rapidly** change their **lateral position** in the leaflet (analyzed by using FRAP)
- **Rotate** very **rapidly** along their long axis
- **Hydrophobic** tail is highly **flexible**
- **Flip-flop** (moving from one leaflet to the other leaflet) only in **very rarely**
- Flip-flop requires a special enzyme on membrane: **Phospholipid translocators** can **catalyze** the **rapid flip-flop**

What is FRAP ?

Modes and directions of motion for lipid molecules



The two-dimensional lipid bilayer is a fluid

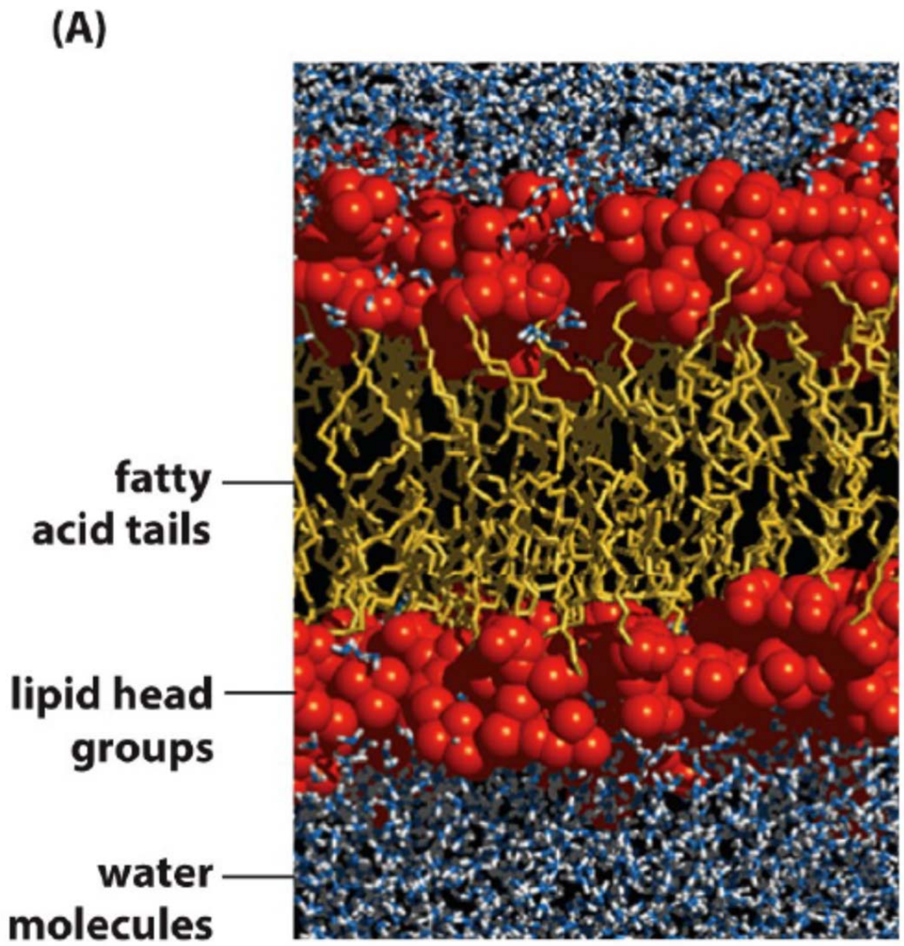


Figure 10-10 Molecular Biology of the Cell 6e (© Garland Science 2015)

The fluidity of a lipid bilayer…

… depends on its composition and temperature

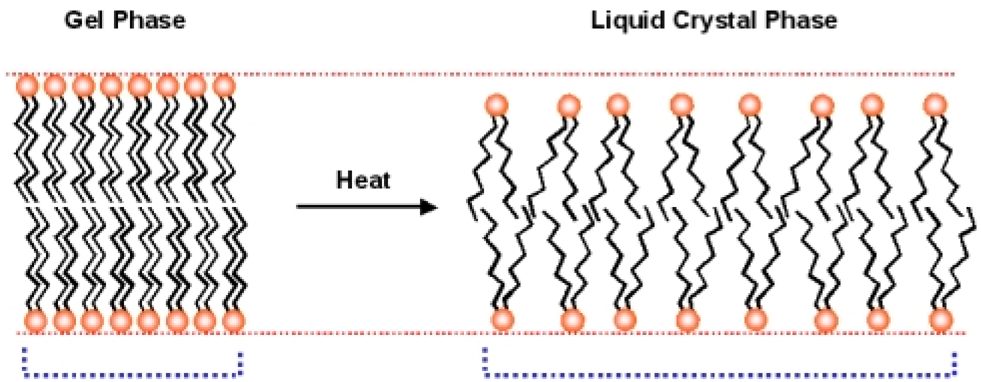
- **Short** hydrocarbon chains and **double** bonds **lower Tm**.
- Lower organisms can adjust lipid composition to keep membrane fluid at different environmental temperatures.
- **Cholesterol modulates** the property of membrane in two ways:
  - At **lower temperature/lower concentration**:
    it inserts into lipid molecules and prevents the tightening.
  - At **higher temperature/higher concentration**:
    it tightens the packing of the lipids

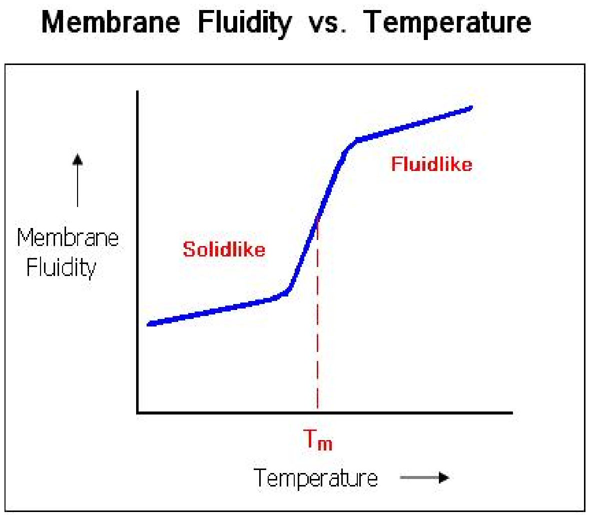
E. Phase transition of lipid membrane

Membranes exist in different phases, dependent on the temperature

gel phase

lipid crystal phase

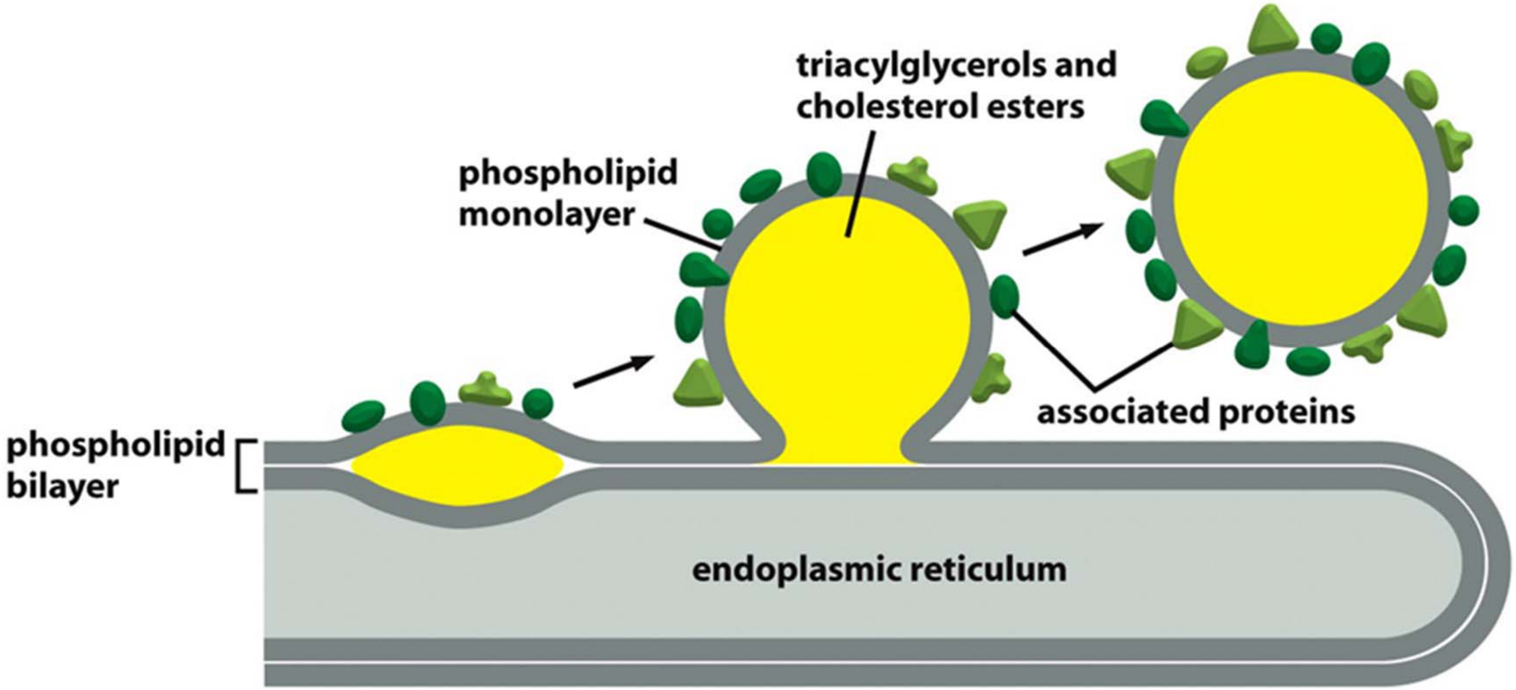




With an increase in temperature, the sharp transition is made from a more rigid membrane to a more fluid one.

F. Adipocyte-specialized cell for lipid storage

Lipid droplets are surrounded by a **lipid monolayer**

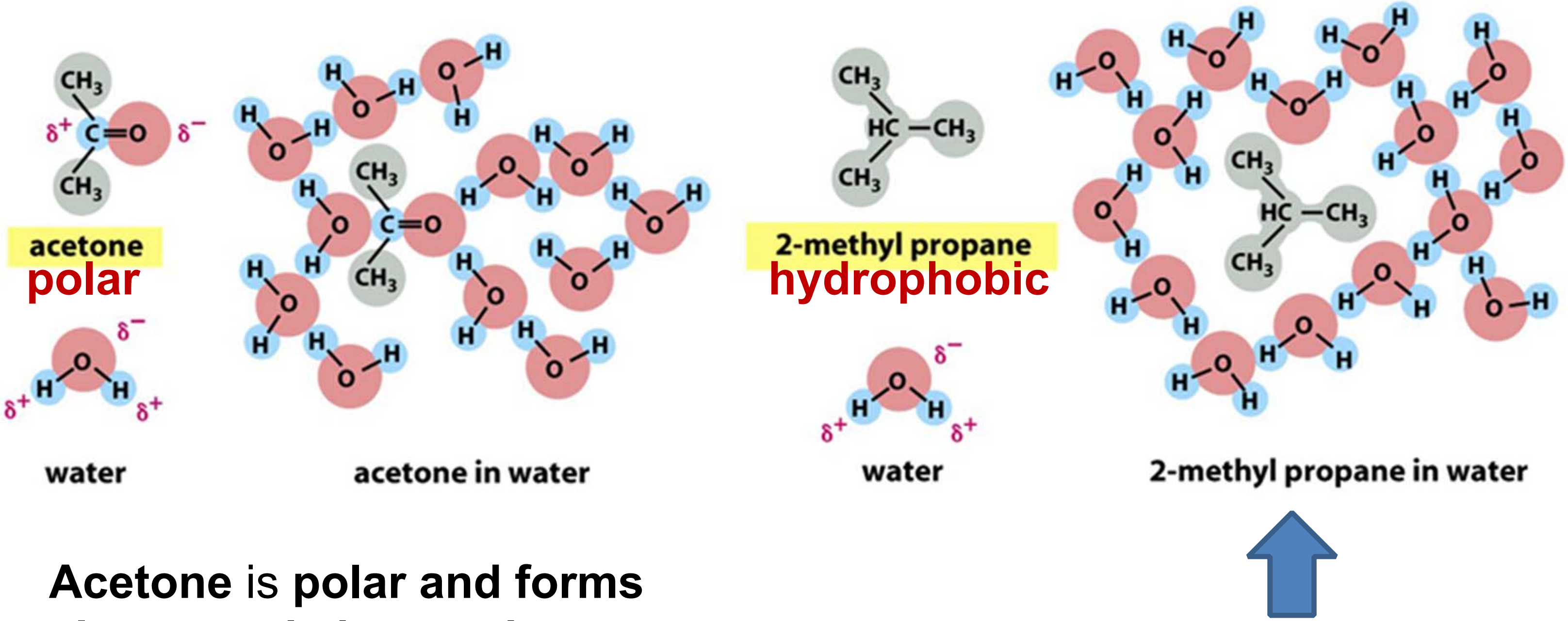


Lipid droplets:

- store neutral **triacylglycerides** and **cholesterol esters**
- They are surrounded by **monolayer** of phospholipids and a variety of proteins
- some are important for lipid metabolism.

III. Lipid assembly

Why do hydrophobic molecules stay together?

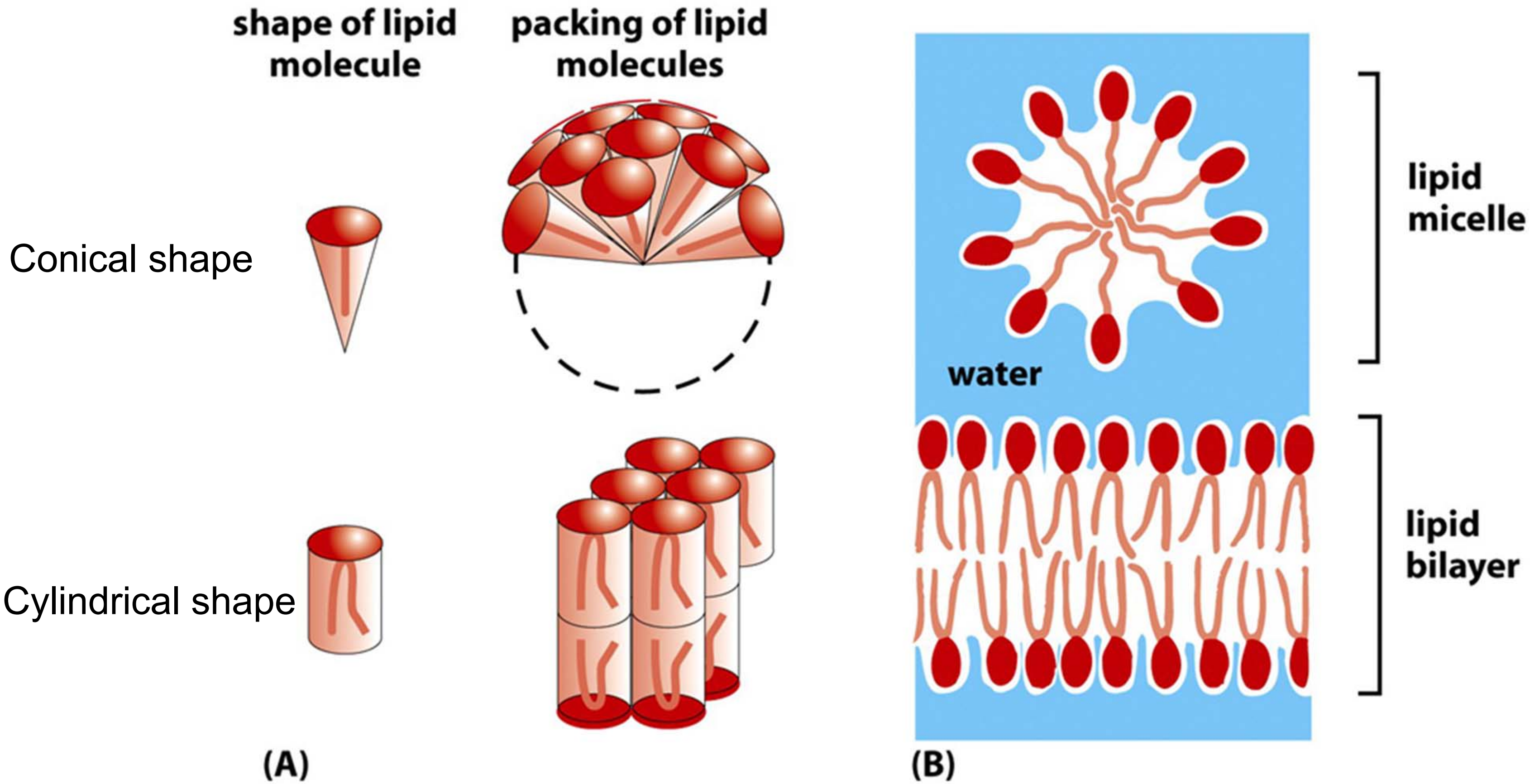


Acetone is **polar and forms electrostatic interactions**

Forces water into ice-like cages:
This causes increase in order, so multiple hydrophobic molecules stay together to minimized the increase in free energy

Formation of micelles and lipid bilayers

Micelles or lipid bilayer form spontaneously in aqueous solution



Micelle or bilayer depends on the shape of the molecule: conical versus cylindrical…

Detergents in membrane studies

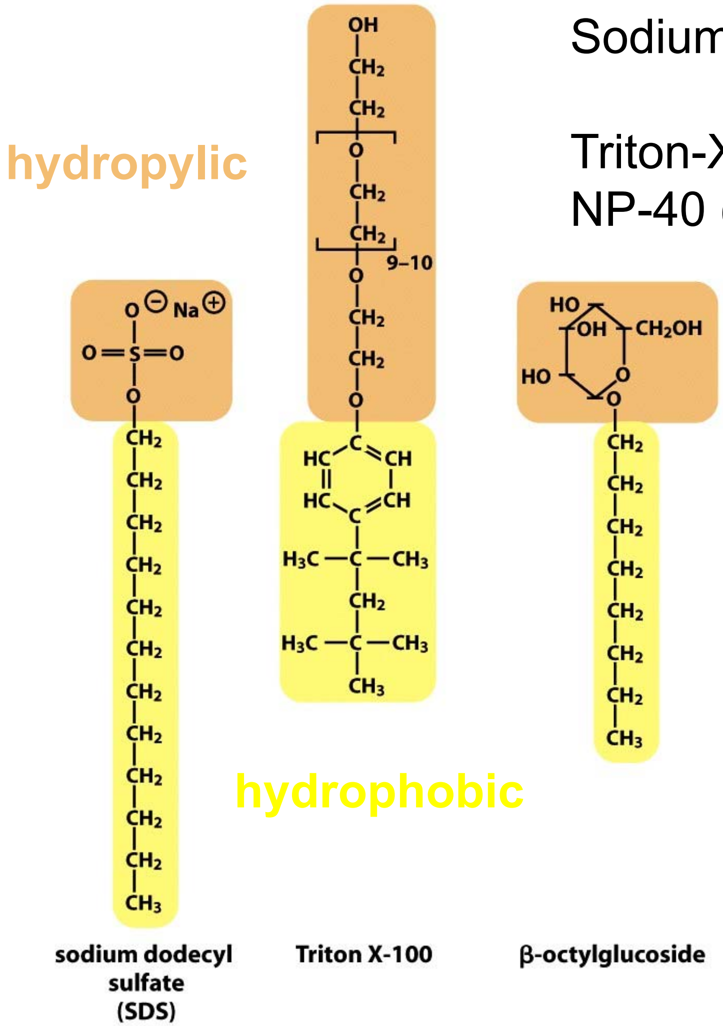
Features of detergents:

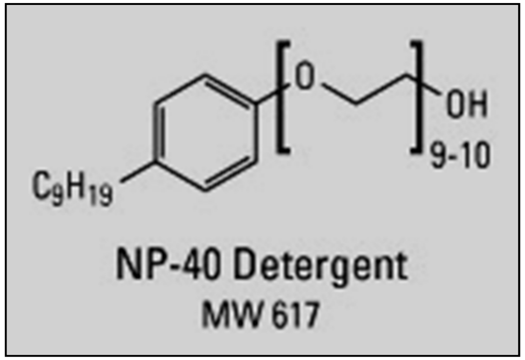
- Small **amphiphilic** molecules of **variable** structure.
- **Better soluble** in water than lipids.
- Divided into **two** major groups:
  - **ionic** detergents
  - **non-ionic** detergents.
- The **hydrophobic part intercalate** into **hydrophobic parts** of **lipids** and of **transmembrane proteins**.
- The **polar group** brings **lipids or proteins into aqueous face** and make them soluble.

The structure of some common detergents

Sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) (**ionic detergent**)

Triton-X-100 (**non-ionic** detergent)
NP-40 (nonidet-P-40) (**non-inonic** detergent)

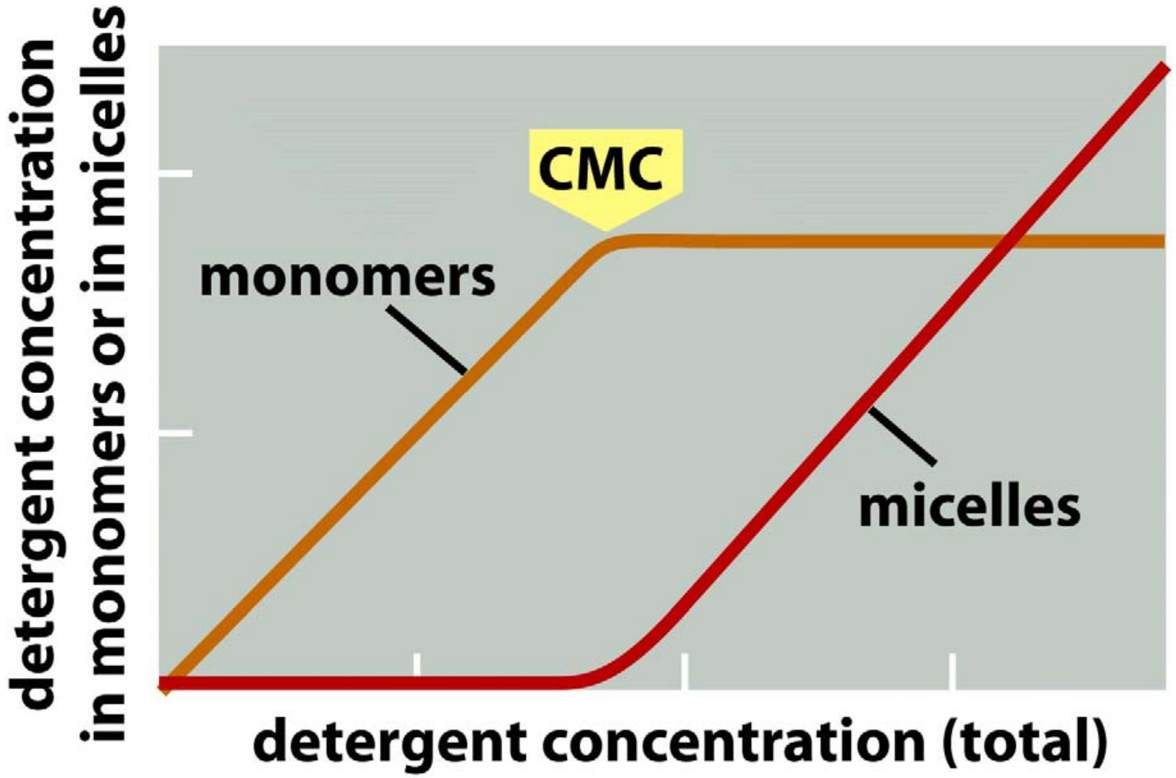




Detergents are essential to solubilize membrane proteins

Detergents form micelles

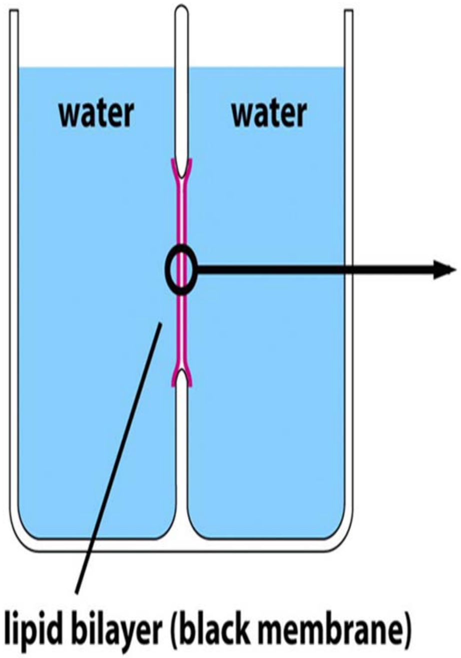
Critical **m**icelle **c**oncentration (**CMC**) is the cncentrations at which detergents aggregate to **form micelles**

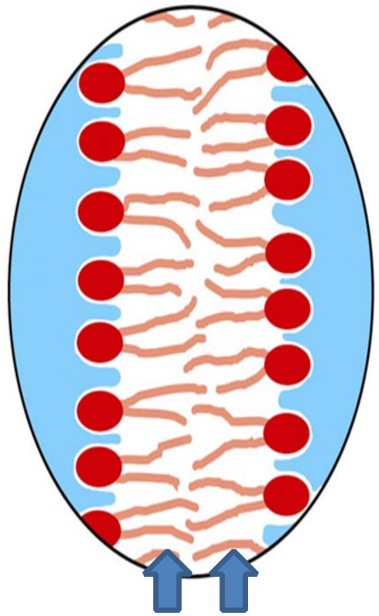


Black membranes and liposomes

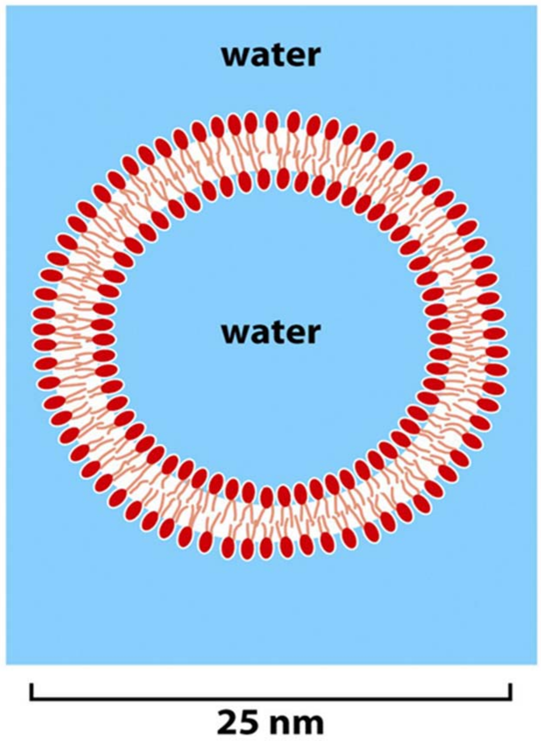
Black membranes are **planar lipid bilayers** (they appear black when they separate two aqueous compartments)

Liposomes are **spherical lipid bilayers**





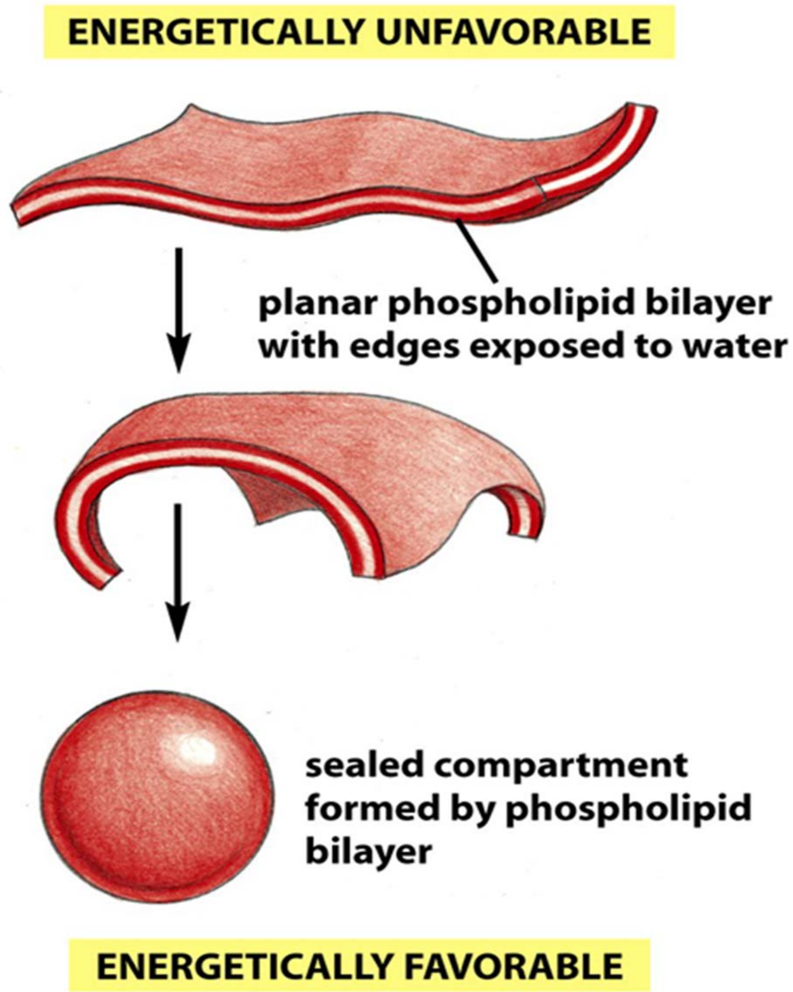
Each monolayer is a leaflet



WHAT is the difference between a liposome and a micelle?

How does a spherical lipid bilayer form?

Spontaneously



Edges are hydrophobic, what do hydrophobic domains in an aquaeous environment?