Cellular Biology

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- The Lipid Bilayer
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Chapter 10: The Cell Membrane

- 1. The Lipid Bilayer
- 2. Membrane Proteins

The Lipid Bilayer

Phosphoglycerides, Sphingolipids, and Sterols Are the Major Lipids in Cell Membranes

- Plasma membrane: the part of the cell that separates the exterior and the interior of a cell with a semipermeable lipid bilayer. The plasma membrane regulates import and export of materials for the cell and includes various proteins that interact with other cells.
- Lipid bilayer:
- Amphiphilic
- Hydrophobic
- Hydrophilic
- Phospholipids
- Phosphoglycerides
- Cholesterol

The Lipid Bilayer Is a Two-dimensional Fluid

- Liposomes

Despite Their Fluidity, Lipid Bilayers Can Form Domains of Different Compositions

Lipid raft

Lipid Droplets Are Surrounded by a Phospholipid Monolayer

- Lipid droplets

The Asymmetry of the Lipid Bilayer Is Functionally Important

Glycolipids Are Found on the Surface of All Eukaryotic Plasma Membranes

- Glycolipids
- Gangliosides

The Lipid Bilayer: Summary

Biological membranes consist of a continuous double layer of lipid molecules in which membrane proteins are embedded. This lipid bilayer is fluid, with individual lipid molecules able to diffuse rapidly within their own monolayer. The membrane lipid molecules are amphiphilic. When placed in water, they assemble spontaneously into bilayers, which form sealed compartments. Although cell membranes can contain hundreds of different lipid species, the plasma membrane in animal cells contains three major classes—phospholipids, cholesterol, and glycolipids. Because of their different backbone structure, phospholipids fall into two subclasses—phosphoglycerides and sphingolipids. The lipid compositions of the inner and outer monolayers are different, reflecting the different functions of the two faces of a cell membrane. Different mixtures of lipids are found in the membranes of cells of different types, as well as in the various membranes of a single eukaryotic cell. Inositol phospholipids are a minor class of phospholipids, which in the cytosolic leaflet of the plasma membrane lipid bilayer play an important part in cell signaling: in response to extracellular signals, specific lipid kinases phosphorylate the head groups of these lipids to form docking sites for cytosolic signaling proteins, whereas specific phospholipases cleave certain inositol phospholipids to generate small intracellular signaling molecules.

Membrane Proteins

Membrane Proteins Can Be Associated with the Lipid Bilayer in Various Ways

- Transmembrane protein
- Glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor
- Membrane-associated proteins

Lipid Anchors Control the Membrane Localization of Some Signaling Proteins

In Most Transmembrane Proteins, the Polypeptide Chain Crosses the Lipid Bilayer in an α -Helical Conformation

- Single pass transmembrane proteins
- Multi-pass transmembrane proteins

Transmembrane α Helices Often Interact with One Another

Some β Barrels Form Large Channels

- Lumen

Many Membrane Proteins Are Glycosylated

- Carbohydrate layer
- Lectins

Membrane Proteins Can Be Solubilized and Purified in Detergents

- Detergents

Bacteriorhodopsin Is a Light-driven Proton H^+ Pump That Traverses the Lipid Bilayer as Seven α Helices

- Bacteriorhodopsin

Some β Barrels Form Large Channels The Cortical Cytoskeleton Gives Membranes Mechanical Strength and Restricts Membrane Protein Diffusion

- Spectrin
- Cortex

Membrane-bending Proteins Deform Bilayers

- Membrane bending proteins