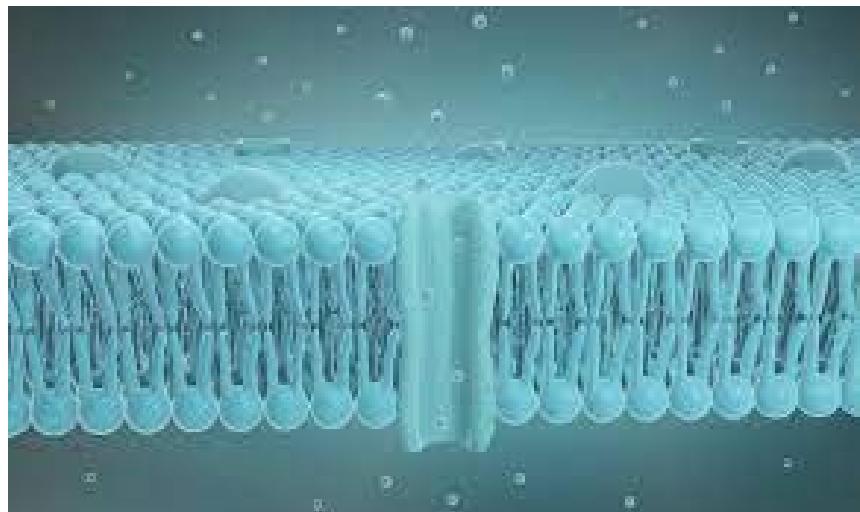


## Lecture 7: - Pentose phosphate pathway - Lipid & biological membranes

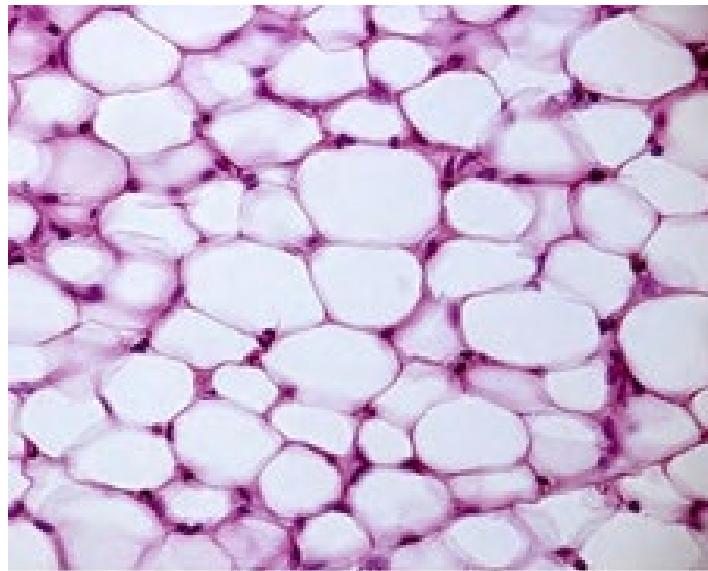
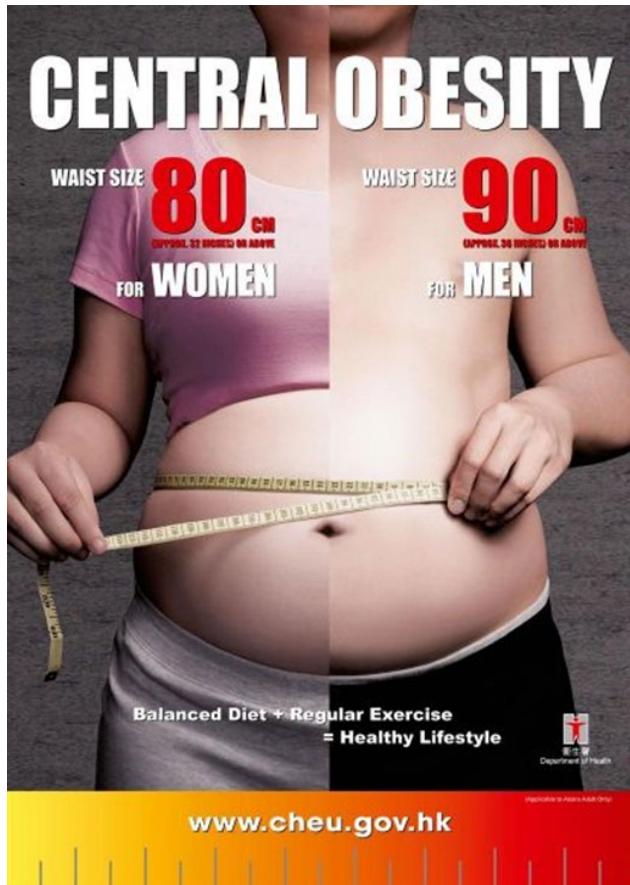


Kwok-On LAI  
Department of Neuroscience

# Learning outcomes

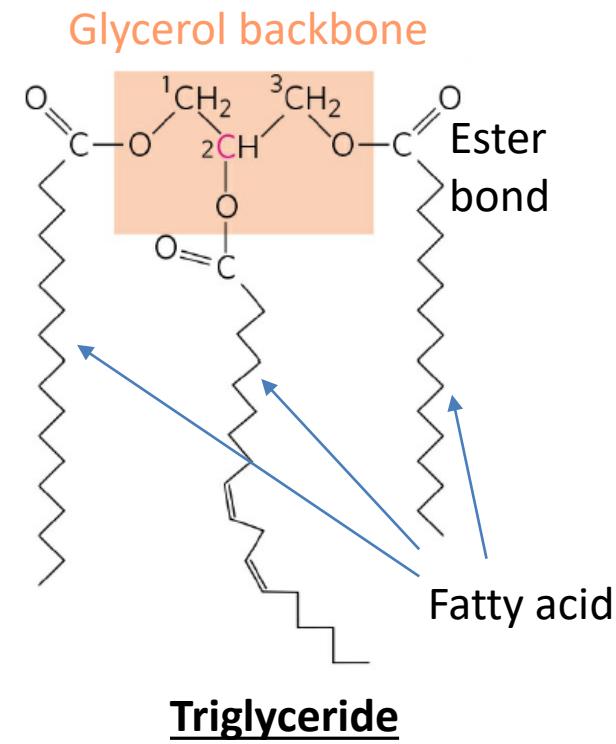
- Describe **pentose pathway**, its importance and relation to disease
- Define the different types of lipids and their diverse functions in the body
- Describe the architecture of biological membranes (lipids and proteins)
- Recognize the curvature and dynamic of biological membranes and the proteins that underlie these properties

# Lipid



# Lipids in diet

- Most of the fat found in food is in the form of triglycerides, cholesterol, and phospholipids
- Certain essential fatty acids must be obtained from diet; e.g. omega-3-fatty acid (Foods high in Omega-3 include fish, vegetable oils, nuts, flax seeds, flaxseed oil, and leafy vegetable)



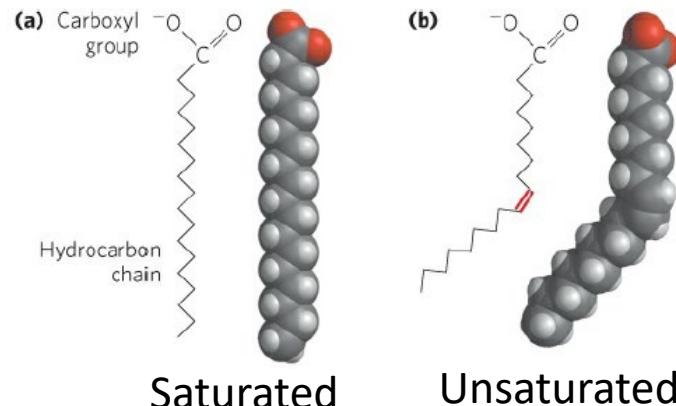
Flax seeds 亞麻子

# Types of fat in diet

- Classified based on whether the fatty acids contain double-bonds; affect their melting temperatures (solid or liquid at room temp.)

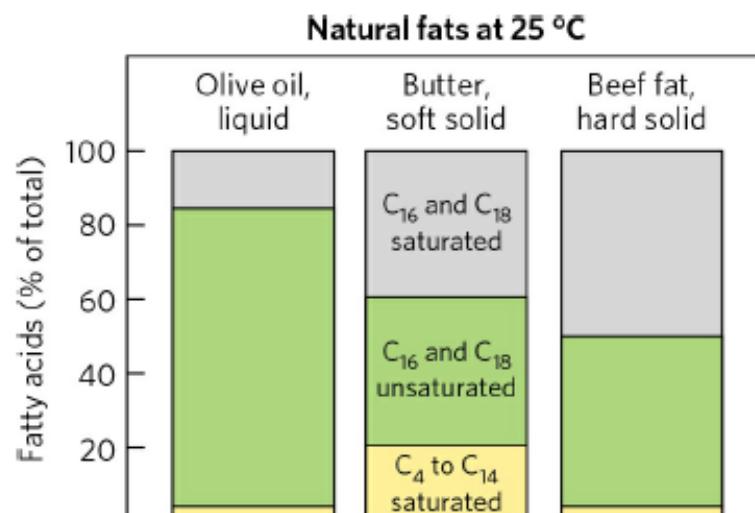
- **Saturated fats**

- Diets rich in saturated fats increase risk of coronary artery disease and atherosclerosis*



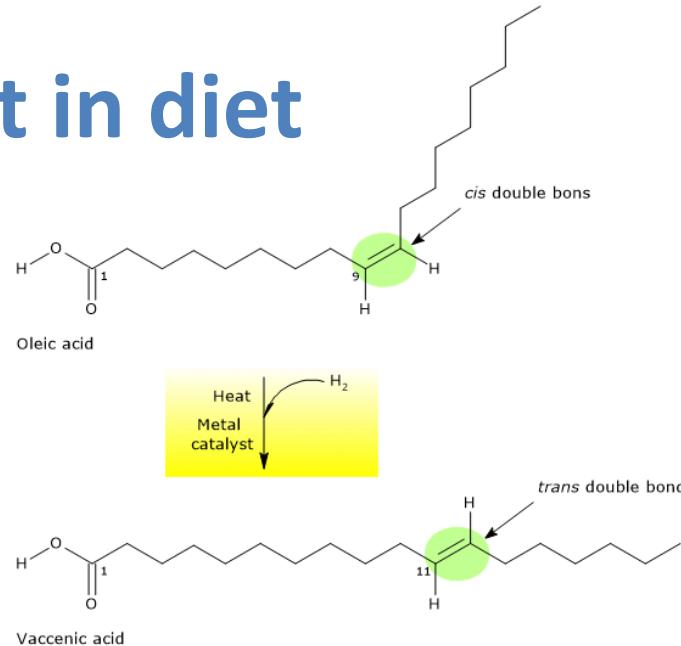
- **Unsaturated fats**

- The healthiest fat sources in the diet*
- Polyunsaturated fats will lower both your LDL & HDL*

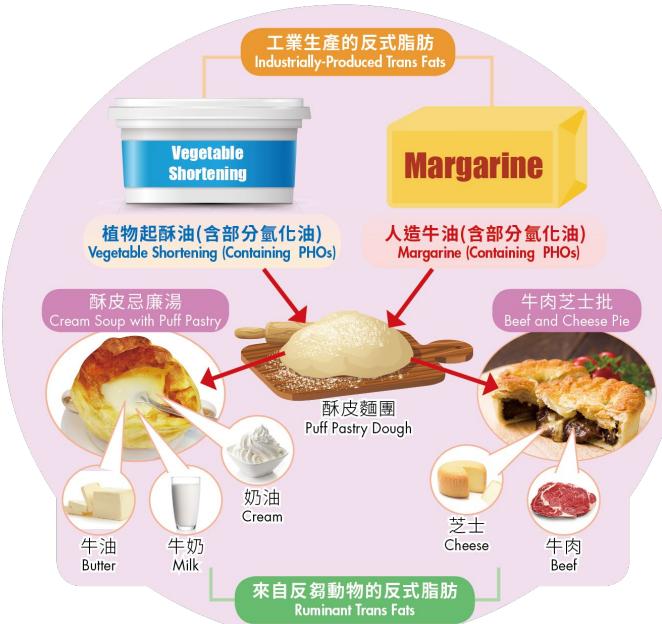


# Types of fat in diet

- **Trans fat (unsaturated fat with trans isomer fatty acids)**
  - *Created in an industrial process to make oil more stable by hydrogenation*
  - *increases level of LDL and decreases level of HDL; diets rich in trans fat increase risk of coronary heart disease*
  - WHO 2003: *trans fat <1% of overall energy intake*



<https://www.tuscany-diet.net/2014/06/27/trans-fatty-acids/>



# Function of lipids

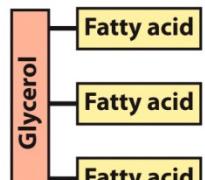
- Lipids serve as structural components of cell membranes and in signaling pathway
- Rich energy source & storage (1g fat yields 9 Calorie, as compared to 4 Calorie of carbohydrate and protein)
- Cushion and protect the major organs
- Insulator, preserving body heat, and protecting against excessive cold
- Fat carries fat-soluble vitamins (Vitamins A, D, E, K)

# Classification of lipids

1

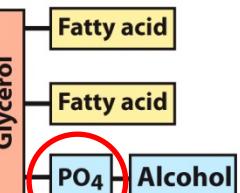
**Storage  
lipids  
(neutral)**

Triacylglycerols

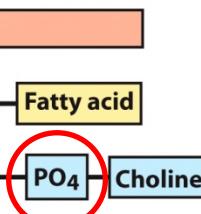


2 **Phospholipids**

Glycerophospholipids



Sphingolipids



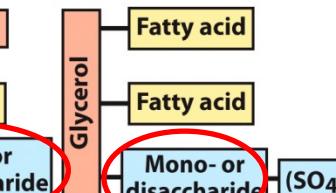
**Membrane lipids (polar)**

3 **Glycolipids**

Sphingolipids

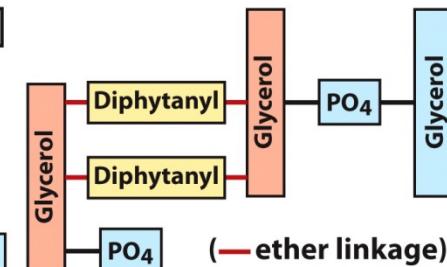


Galactolipids (sulfolipids)



Mostly in plants

Archaeabacterial ether lipids



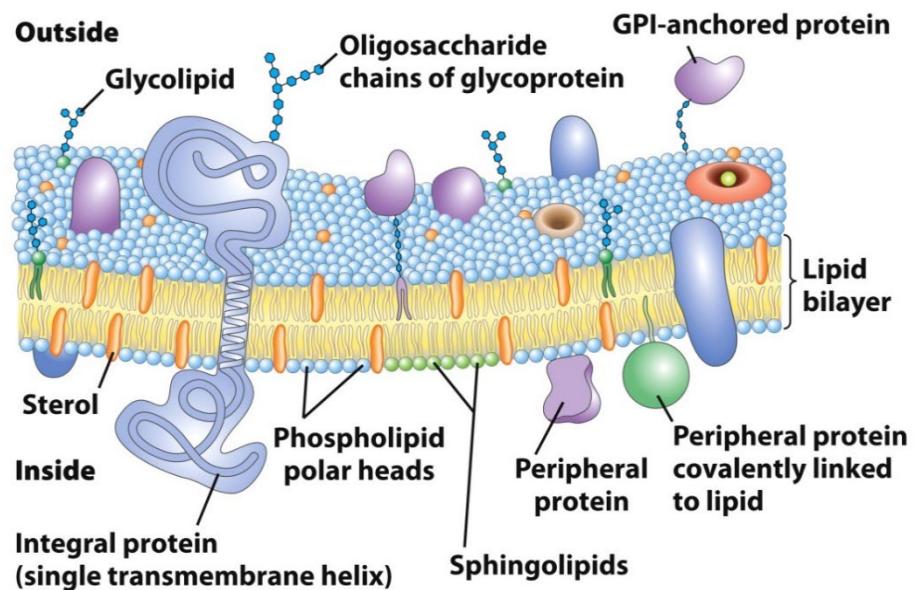
Phosphate group

Sugar group (mono or  
oligosaccharide)

Rare form present in  
Archaea

# What are biological membranes?

- Forms: plasma membrane (cell membrane), organelle membranes
- Key components: lipids (sterols, glycerophospholipids, sphingolipids, glycolipids) and proteins (glycoproteins, proteins linked to lipids)
- Functions: cell integrity, formation of cellular compartments, signal transduction, barrier and uptake for specific substances, storage ...
- Properties: flexible, dynamics, selectively permeable



# Membrane architecture

# Key membrane lipids

Glycerophospholipids: Glycerol as backbone; derivate named by X head group: “Phosphatidyl-” + X group; two fatty acid chains: one saturated one unsaturated.

Saturated fatty acid (e.g., palmitic acid)		Glycerol	Head-group substituent
Unsaturated fatty acid (e.g., linoleic acid)		Fatty acids	
Name of glycerophospholipid	Name of X—O	Formula of X	Net charge (at pH 7)
Phosphatidic acid	—	—H	-2
Phosphatidylethanolamine	Ethanolamine		0
Phosphatidylcholine	Choline		0
Phosphatidylserine	Serine		-1
Phosphatidylglycerol	Glycerol		-1
Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-bisphosphate	myo-Inositol 4,5-bisphosphate		-4*
Cardiolipin	Phosphatidyl-glycerol		-2

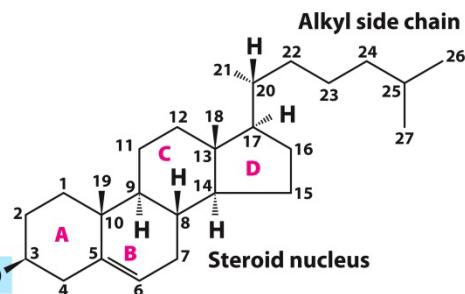
Sphingolipids: sphingosine as backbone; one fatty acid chain connected through an amid linkage; also classified by X group.

Sphingosine		
Fatty acid		Head-group substituent
Name of sphingolipid	Name of X—O	Formula of X
Ceramide	—	—H
Sphingomyelin	Phosphocholine	
Neutral glycolipids Glucosylceramide	Glucose	
Lactosylceramide (a globoside)	Di-, tri-, or tetrasaccharide	
Ganglioside GM2	Complex oligosaccharide	

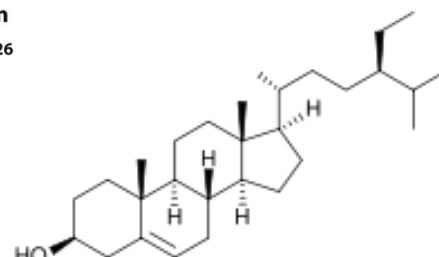
# Sterols

- Has a steroid nucleus , 4 fused rings rigid structure, and a hydroxyl group
- The sterol in animal membrane is cholesterol; Sterols in other species have similar nucleus structure but different alkyl side chains

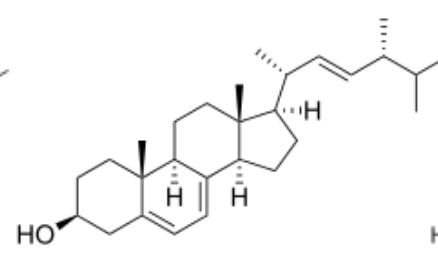
Cholesterol



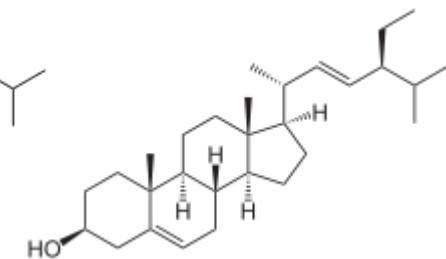
Sitosterol



Ergosterol



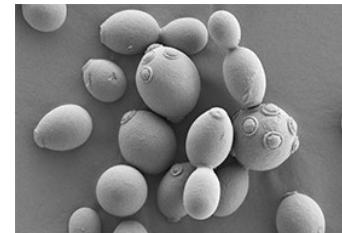
Stigmasterol



Animal



Plant



Fungi



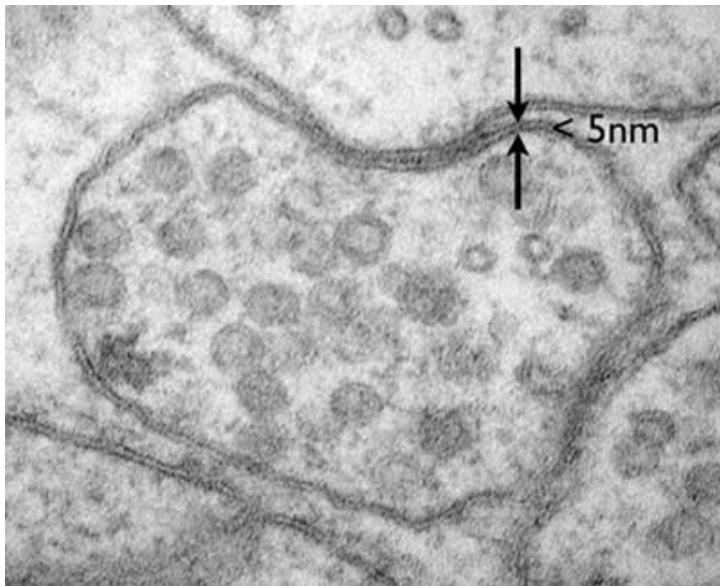
Protist

# Key features of membrane architecture

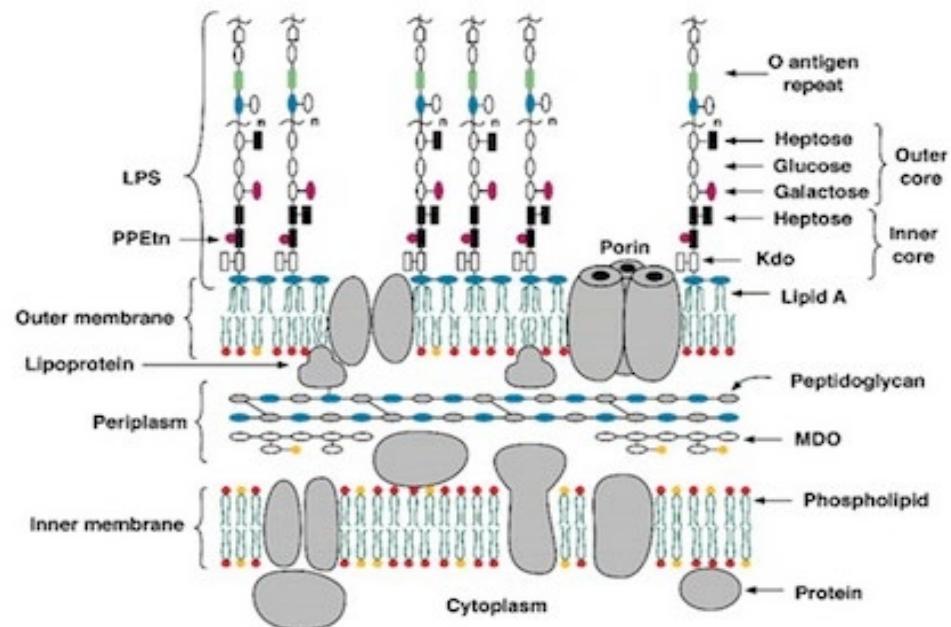
## 1. Bilayer structure

Trilaminar appearance (three layered structure) under electron microscope.  
Typical thickness: 5 to 8 nm.

A neuromuscular junction in *C. elegans*.  
Electron microscope

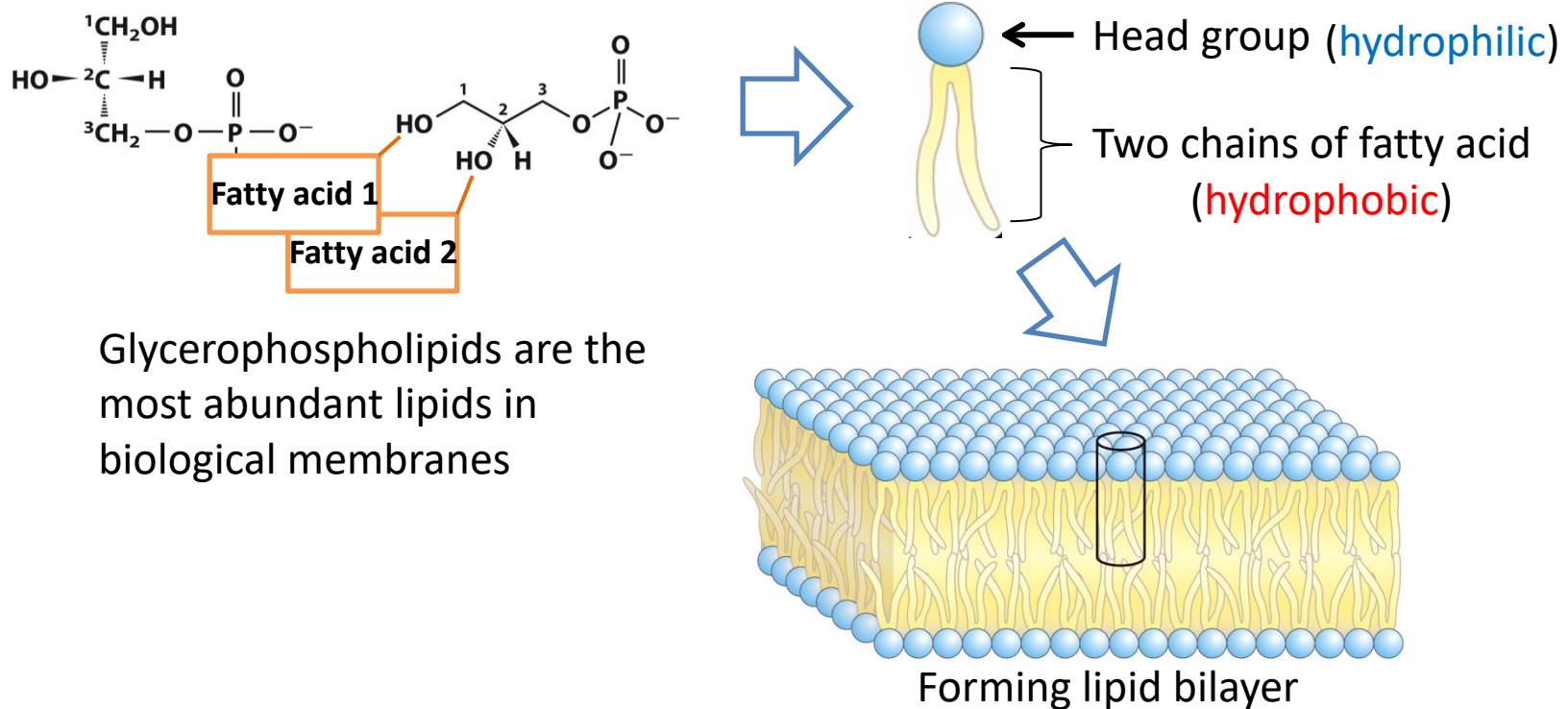


Schematic for *E. coli* membrane



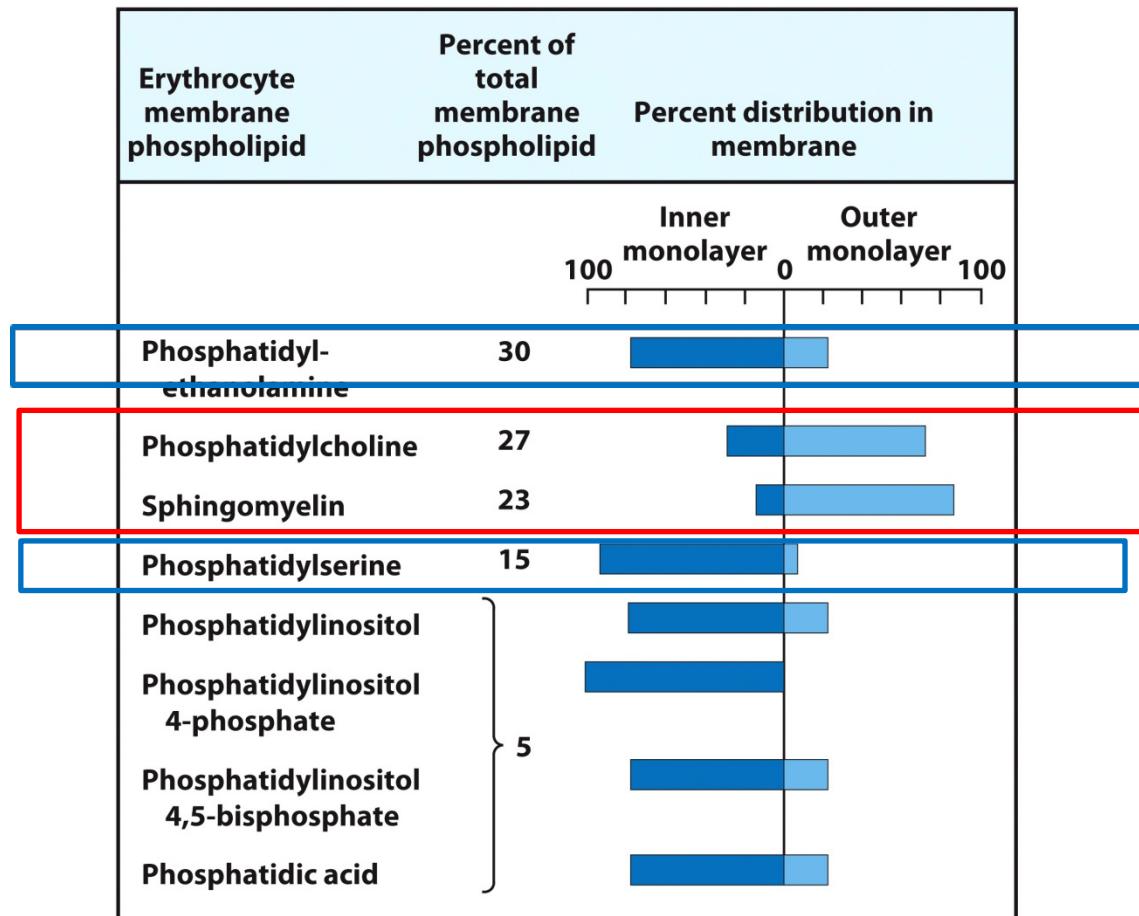
# The basic structure of membrane lipid

- Membrane lipids are amphipathic: one end of the molecule is **hydrophobic**, the other **hydrophilic**
- Their hydrophobic interactions with each other and their hydrophilic interactions with water direct their packing into sheets (membrane bilayer)



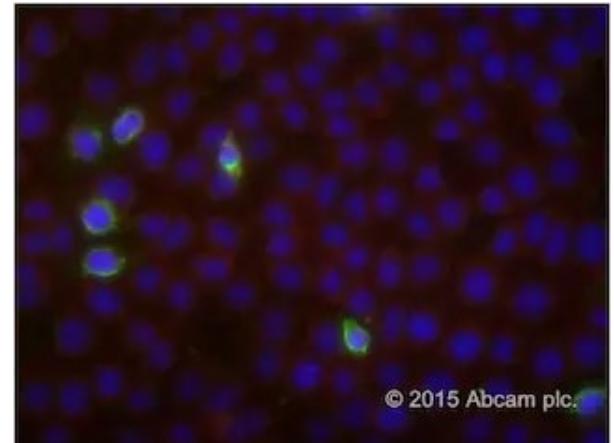
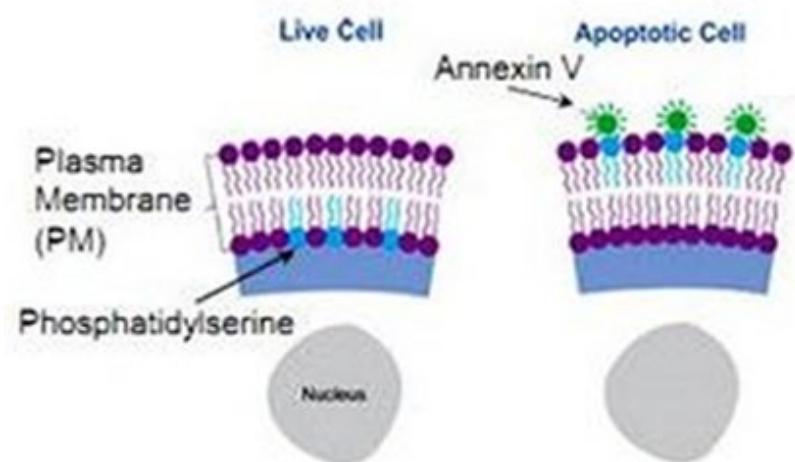
# Key features of membrane architecture

## 2. Asymmetrical distribution of lipids between the inner and out membranes



# Inner membrane lipid as a marker for programmed cell death (apoptosis)

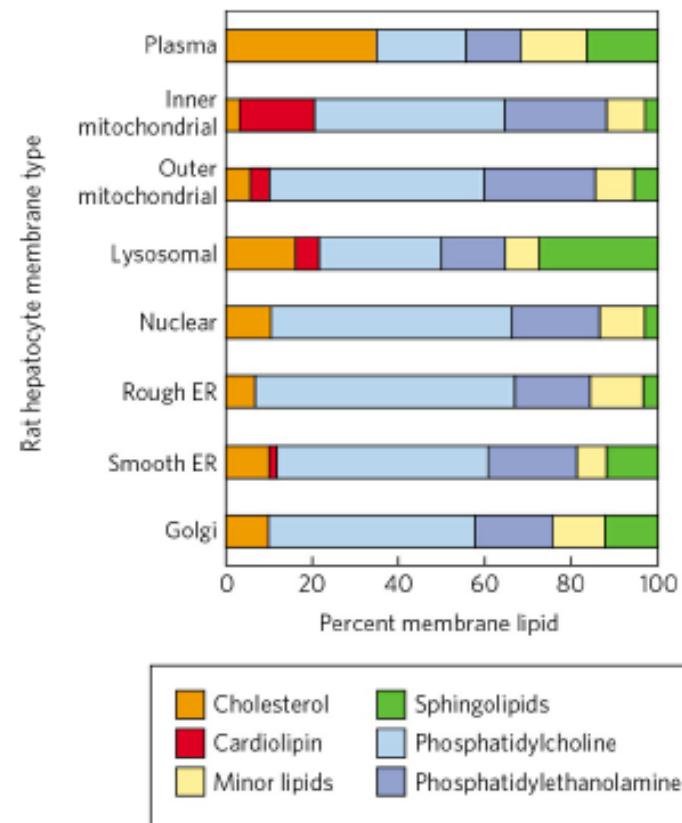
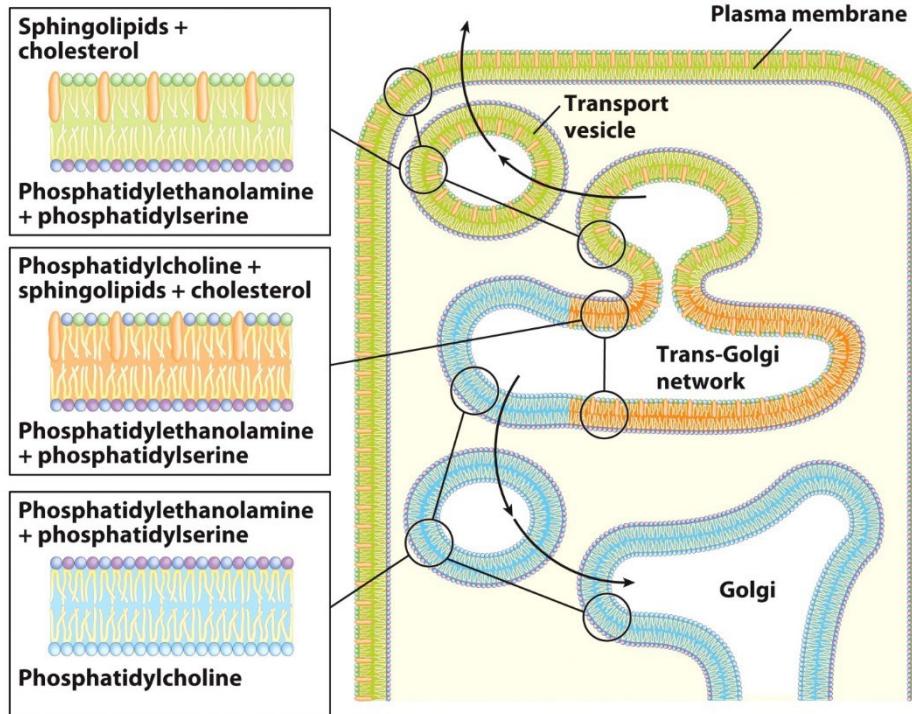
- In the intermediate stage of apoptosis, phosphatidylserine is translocated from the inner to the outer leaflet of the membrane and becomes external to cellular environment
- Annexin V can bind to phosphatidylserine in the presence of  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$
- Fluorescent labeled Annexin V can be used to quantity the number of cells with exposed phosphatidylserine, detected by fluorescent microscope



© 2015 Abcam plc.

# Key features of biological membranes

## 3. Each membrane has its own characteristic composition



# Change of membrane composition at different temperatures

- Presumably to maintain a constant fluidity under various growth conditions (temperature affects the physical property of lipid)
  - Saturated lipids: more organized and less fluid
  - Unsaturated lipids: less organized and more fluid

**TABLE 11-2 Fatty Acid Composition of *E. coli* Cells Cultured at Different Temperatures**

	Percentage of total fatty acids*			
	10 °C	20 °C	30 °C	40 °C
Myristic acid (14:0)	4	4	4	8
Palmitic acid (16:0)	18	25	29	48
Palmitoleic acid (16:1)	26	24	23	9
Oleic acid (18:1)	38	34	30	12
Hydroxymyristic acid	13	10	10	8
Ratio of unsaturated to saturated <sup>†</sup>	2.9	2.0	1.6	0.38

Source: Data from Marr, A.G. & Ingraham, J.L. (1962) Effect of temperature on the composition of fatty acids in *Escherichia coli*. *J. Bacteriol.* 84, 1260.

\*The exact fatty acid composition depends not only on growth temperature but on growth stage and growth medium composition.

<sup>†</sup>Ratios calculated as the total percentage of 16:1 plus 18:1 divided by the total percentage of 14:0 plus 16:0. Hydroxymyristic acid was omitted from this calculation.

Table 11-2

*Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry*, Sixth Edition

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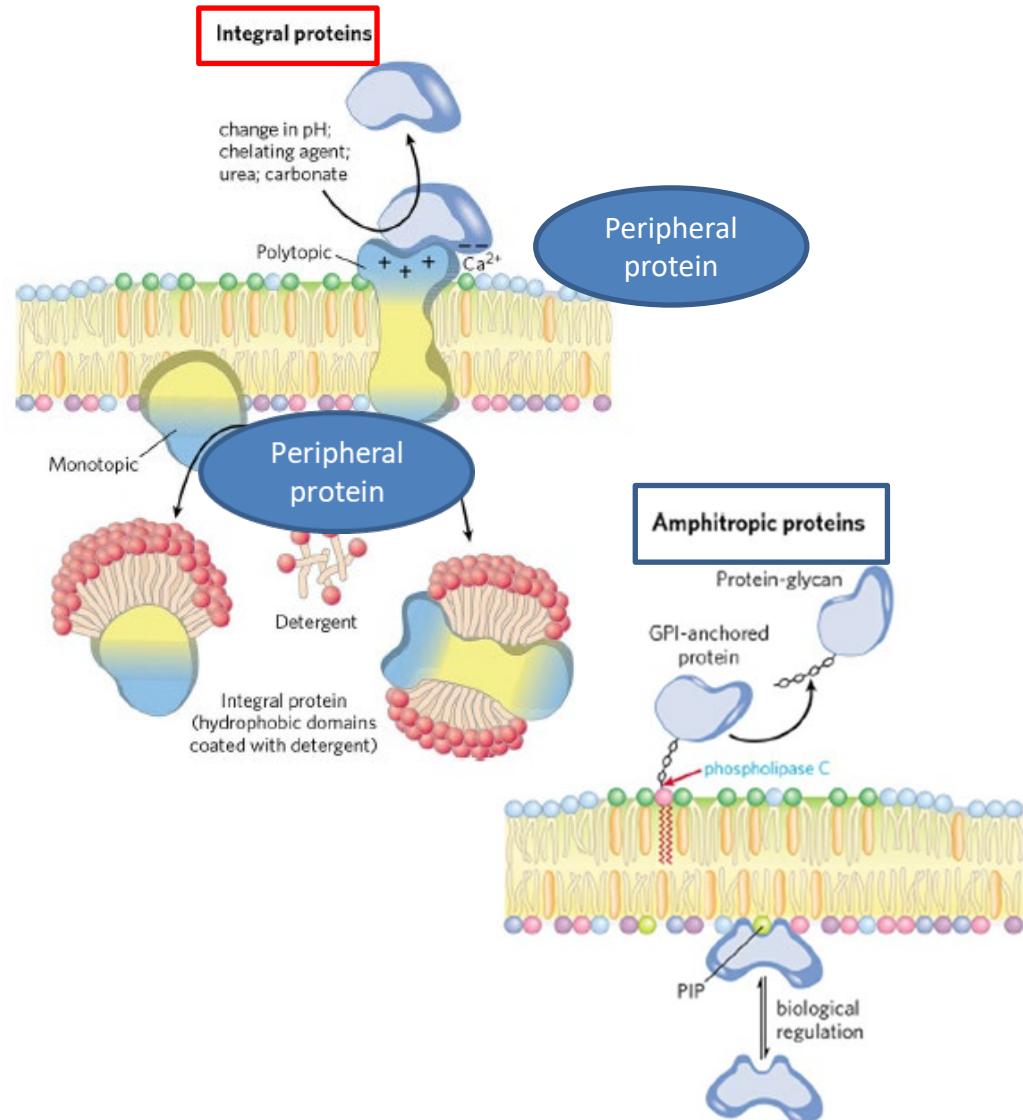
Saturated lipids

Unsaturated lipids

# Key features of biological membranes

## 4. Presence of variety of proteins

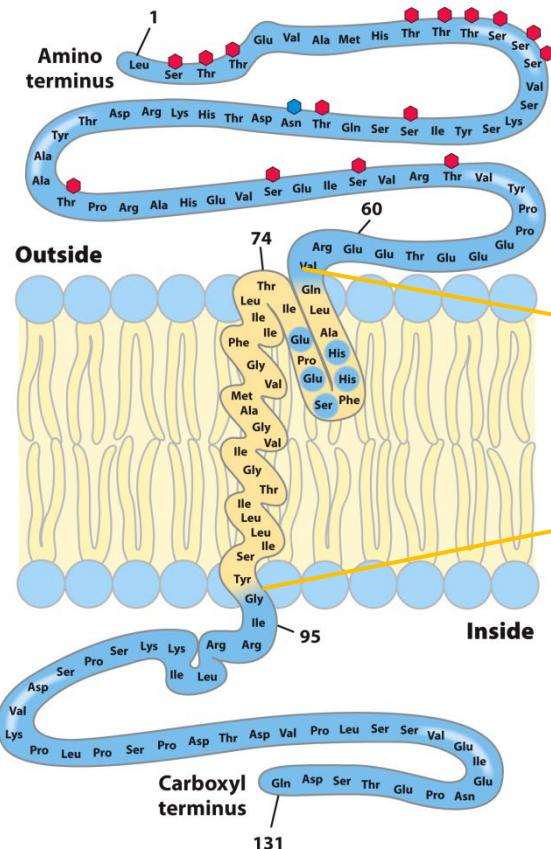
- **Integral**
  - Embedded within the lipid bilayer
- **Peripheral**
  - Associate with membrane through electrostatic interactions and hydrogen bonding
- **Amphitropic**
  - Associate reversibly with membranes and are found both in the membrane and in the cytosol



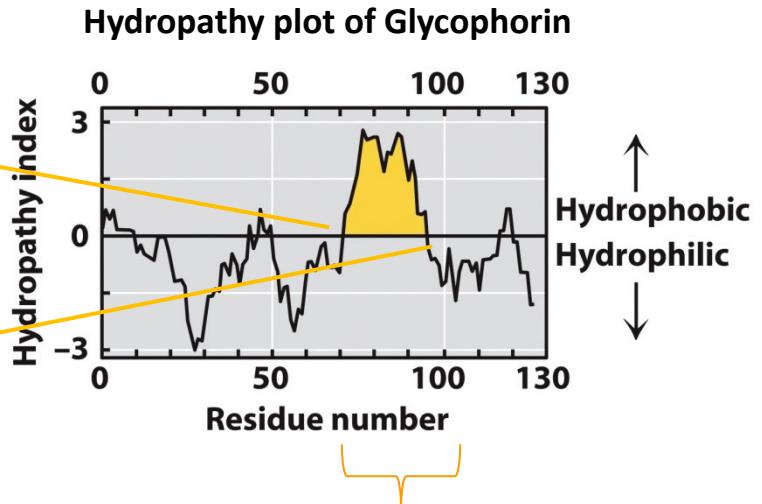
# Transmembrane-spanning region of integral membrane proteins

- e.g. Glycophorin, a segment of 19 hydrophobic residues form a transmembrane  $\alpha$  helix.

The diagram illustrates a membrane protein embedded in a phospholipid bilayer. The bilayer consists of two rows of phospholipids, each with a yellow circular head and two wavy black tails. A central blue zigzagging protein chain spans the bilayer. On the left, the protein is attached to the heads of four phospholipids. On the right, it is attached to the heads of five phospholipids. At the top, the protein extends upwards into the 'Extracellular Region', where several wavy lines represent other proteins or molecules. At the bottom, it extends downwards into the 'Cytoplasmic Region', where a wavy line represents an intracellular component.



- Hydrophobic region can be predicted from its sequence by “Hydropathy plot”.
  - Tools to calculate hydropathy profile:  
<http://web.expasy.org/protscale/>

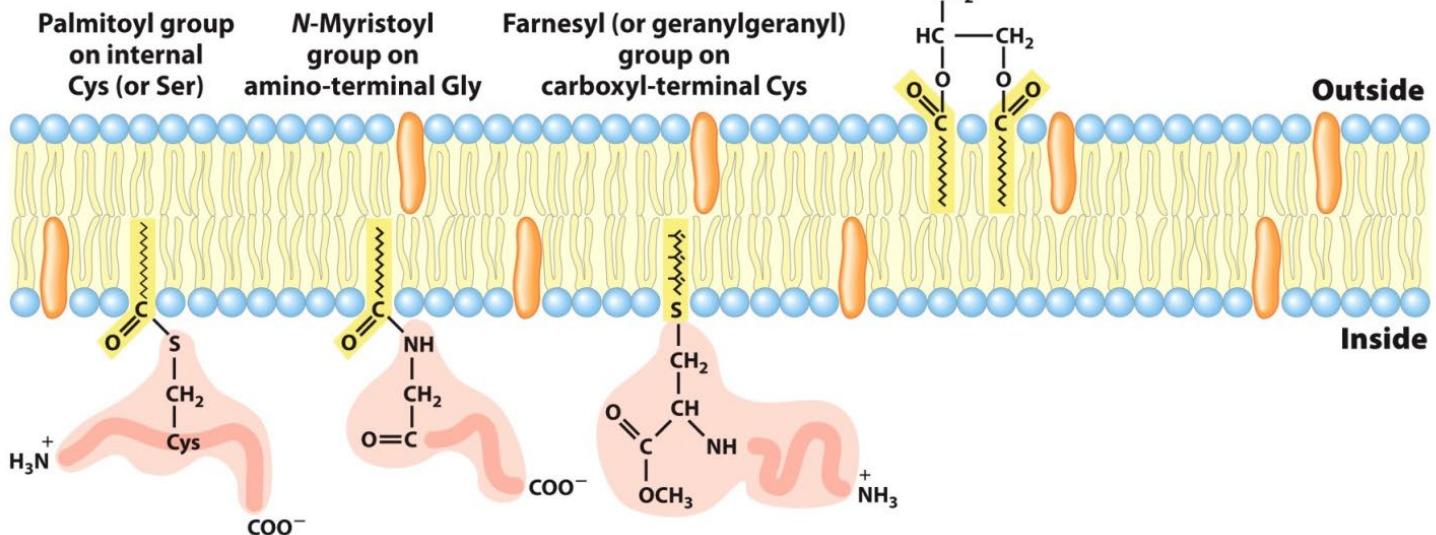
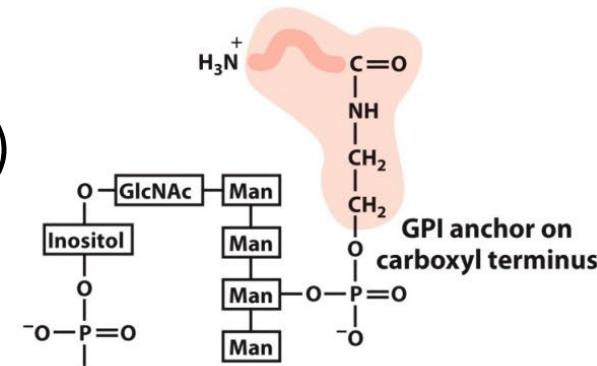


**Putative transmembrane domain (~ 20 amino acids)**

# Covalent binding of membrane proteins

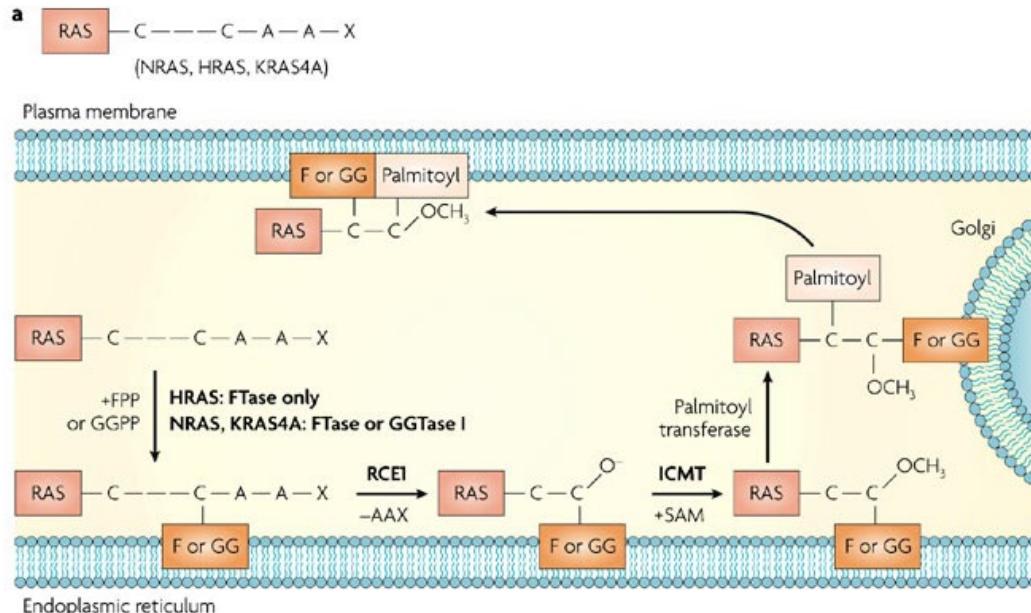
- Besides non-covalent interactions (electrostatic, hydrogen bonds, hydrophobic interactions), certain proteins can also be covalently linked to lipids of the membrane through Cys, Ser or Gly

- There are also glycosyl phosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchored proteins, which are exclusive on the outer face; The process of adding hydrophobic molecules to proteins is called **prenylation**



# Prenylation of the Ras proto-oncogene

- Ras, a small GTPase, is a proto-oncogene: mutations in *Ras* genes lead to the activation of Ras signaling pathway resulting in overproduction of genes involved in cell growth, differentiation and survival
- Ras goes through several steps of modification including prenylation of adding farnesyl (F) or geranylgeranyl (GG) groups which are required for its anchoring to the membrane



- Farnesyltransferase inhibitors have been investigated for cancer therapy but did not work out due to side effects and the redundant functions of F and GG.

FPP, farnesyl pyrophosphate  
FTase, farnesyltransferase  
GGPP, geranylgeranyl pyrophosphate;  
GGTase I, geranylgeranyltransferase I  
SAM, S-adenosyl methionine.

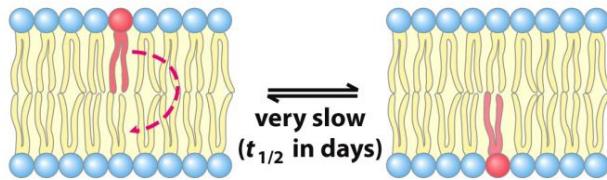
# Membrane dynamics and flexibility



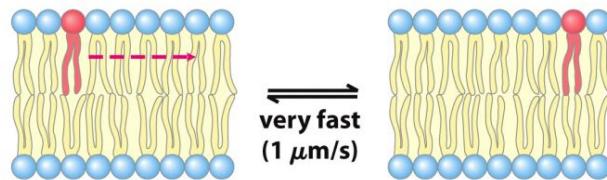
Membrane forms a fluid mosaic

# Movement within biological membranes

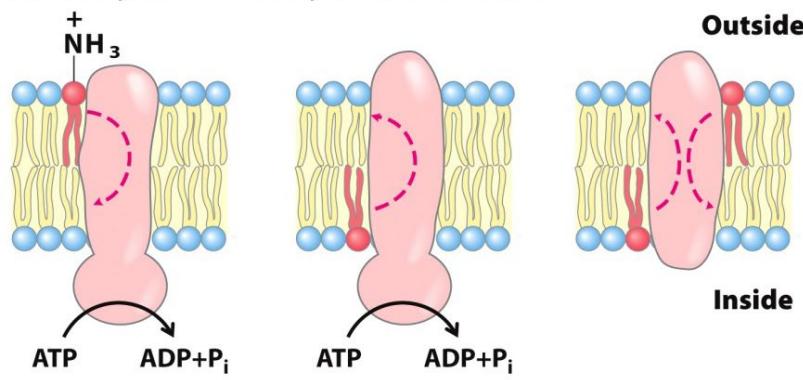
(a) Uncatalyzed transbilayer (“flip-flop”) diffusion



(b) Uncatalyzed lateral diffusion



(c) Catalyzed transbilayer translocations



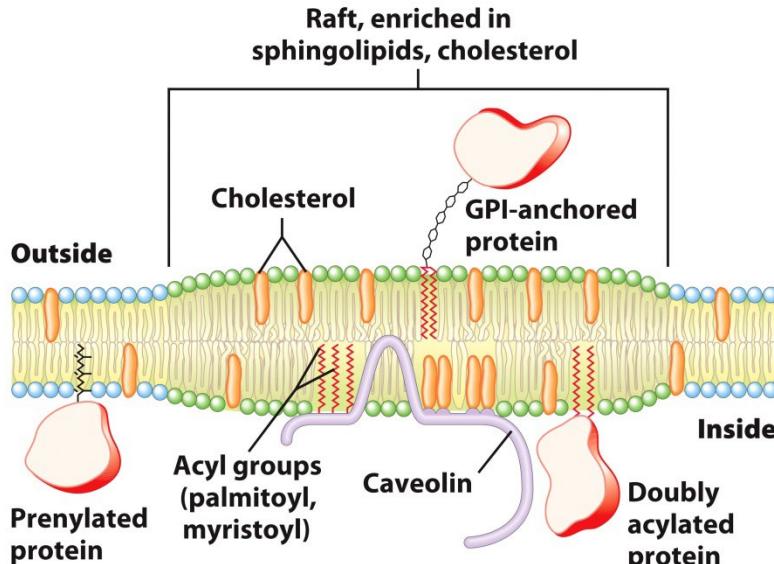
**Flippase**  
(P-type ATPase)  
moves PE and PS  
from outer to  
cytosolic leaflet

**Floppase**  
(ABC transporter)  
moves phospholipids  
from cytosolic to  
outer leaflet

**Scramblase**  
moves lipids in  
either direction,  
toward equilibrium

- Lipids and proteins can rapidly diffuse laterally in the bilayer
- Transbilayer movement of lipids requires catalysis by **flippase**, **floppase** and **scramblase**. These enzymes contribute to the asymmetrical distribution of lipids in the two layers

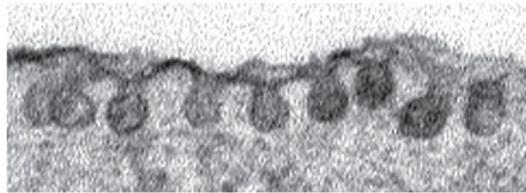
# Sphingolipids and cholesterol cluster together in membrane rafts



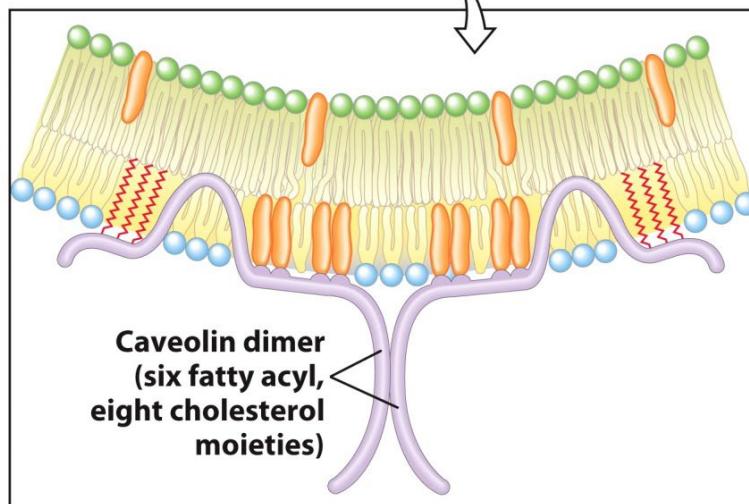
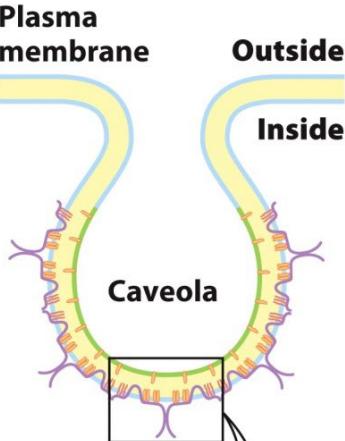
- Sphingolipids (contain long chains of saturated acyl groups) form stable association (thicker and more ordered conformation) with cholesterol. Like “**rafts**” moving in a “sea” of membrane
- Those “**rafts**” are enriched in
  1. proteins covalently linked to two chains of lipid through Cys residue
  2. GPI-anchored proteins
- “**Rafts**”, as functional domains, facilitate biochemical processes, e.g. protein interactions and signal transduction

# Caveolin and BAR domain proteins in shaping the membranes

(a)



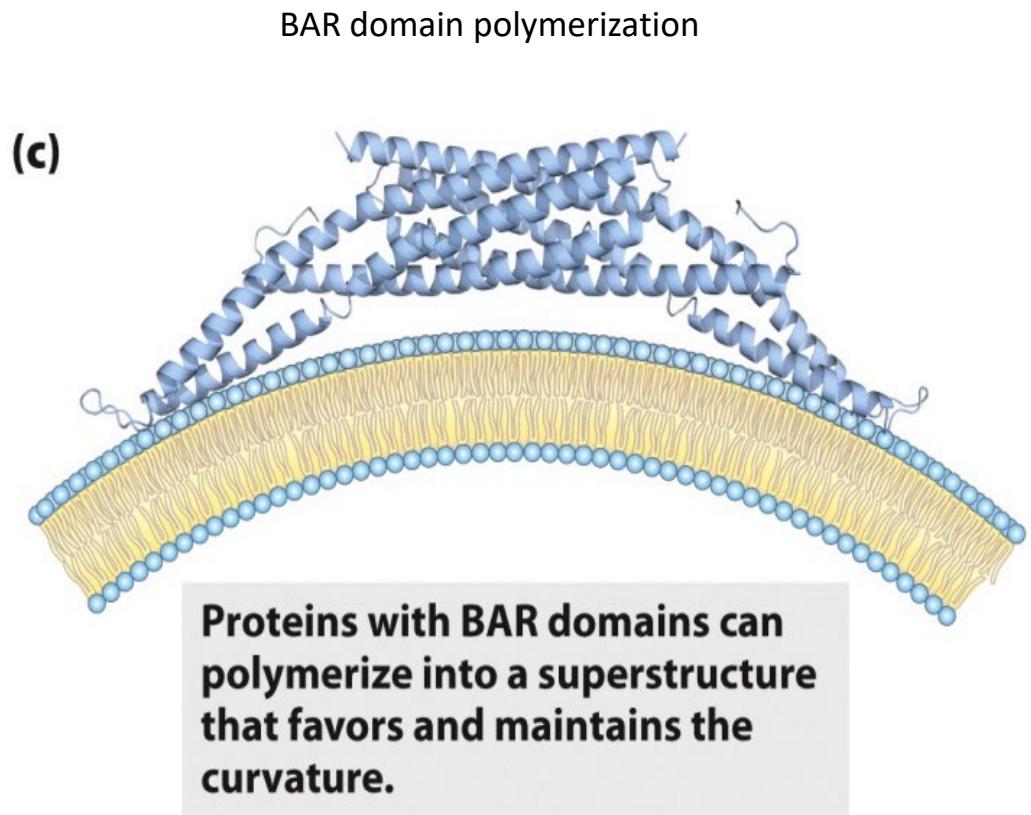
(b)



- Curvature is essential for maintaining membrane continuity and important for the processes of vesicle budding and membrane fusion
- Caveolin, an integral membrane protein located in the inner layer of membranes, forms dimers to force the formation of inward curvature of a membrane

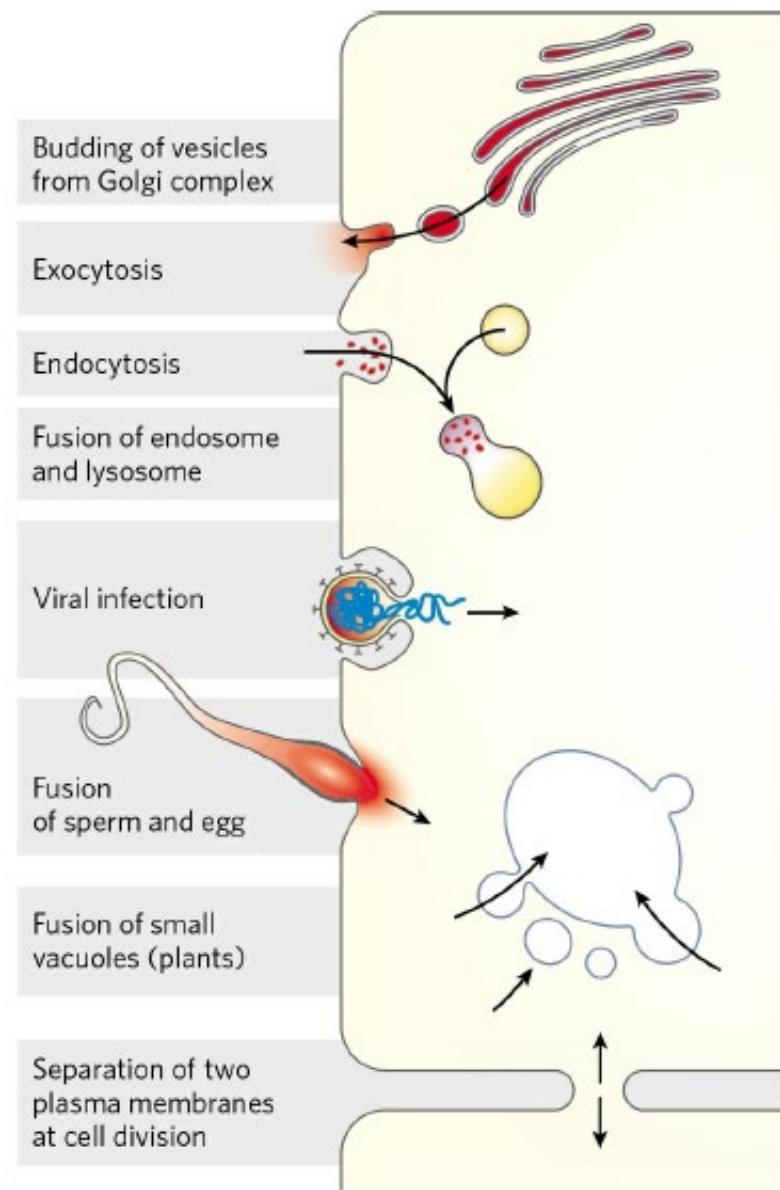
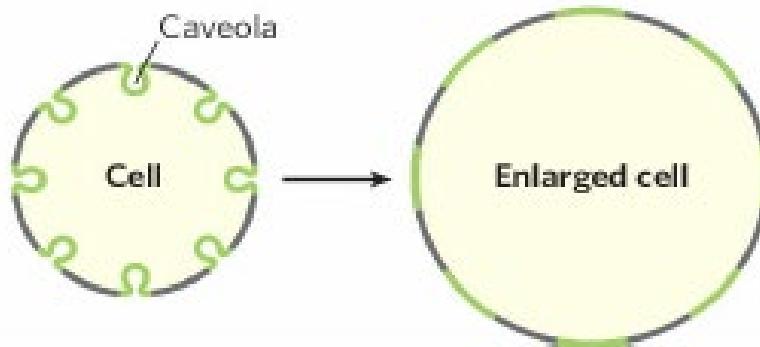
# Caveolin and BAR-domain proteins in shaping the membranes

- Proteins containing BAR domains can assemble into a crescent-shaped scaffold that binds to the membrane surface and forces curvature

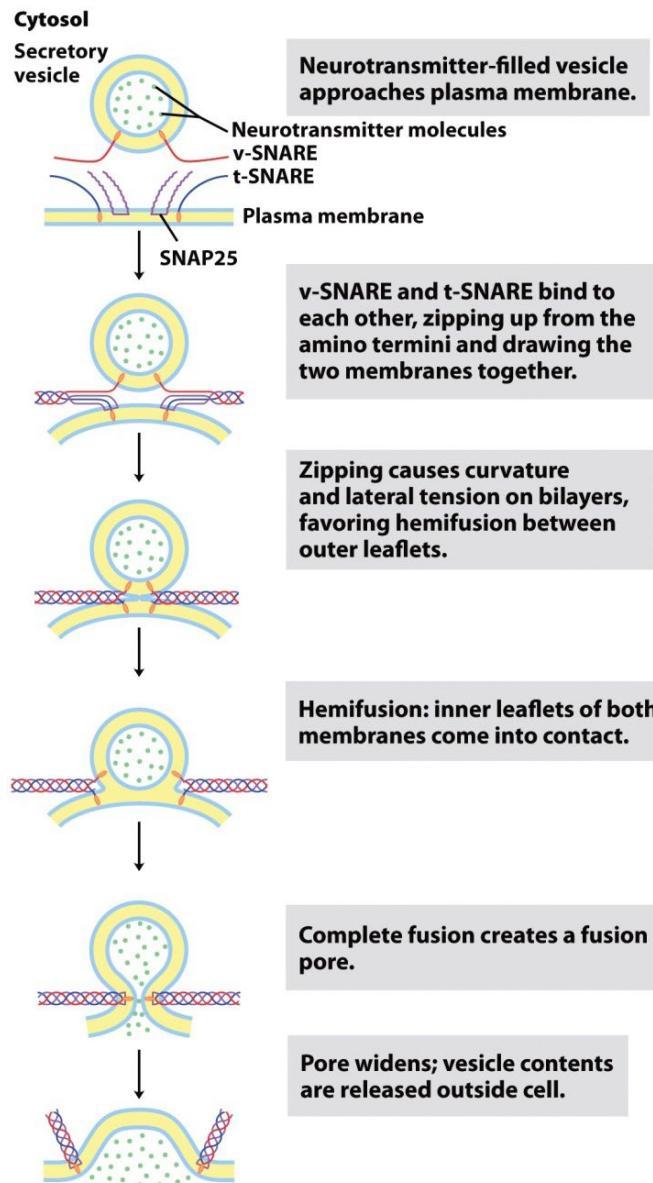


# Inducing membrane curvature is important

- Membrane trafficking underlies many important events
- Addition of membranes to expand the cell

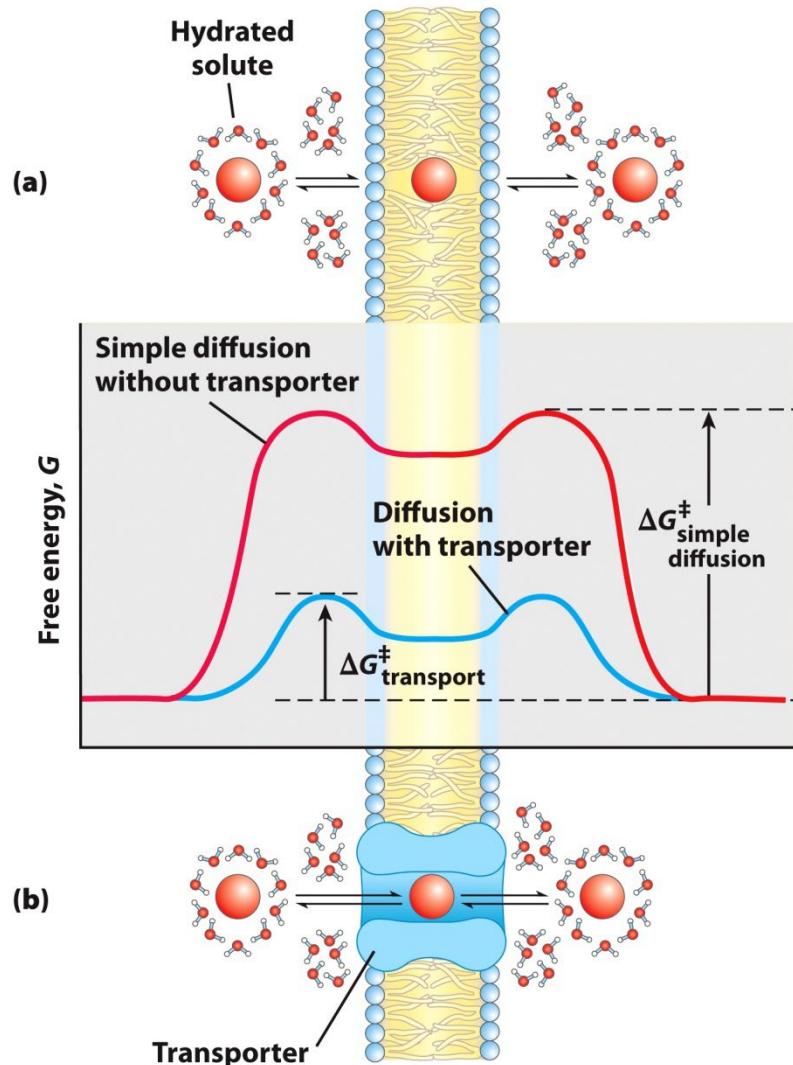


# Fusion of membranes are mediated by cell surface proteins



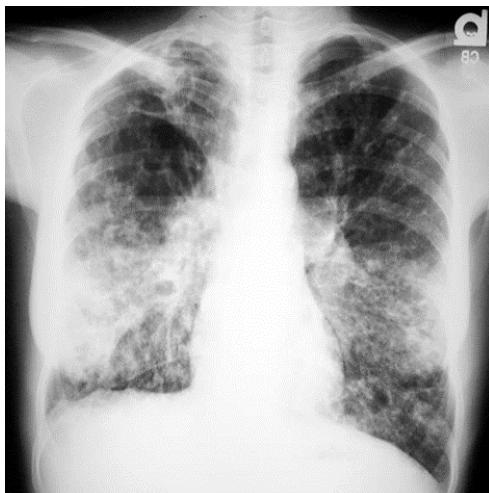
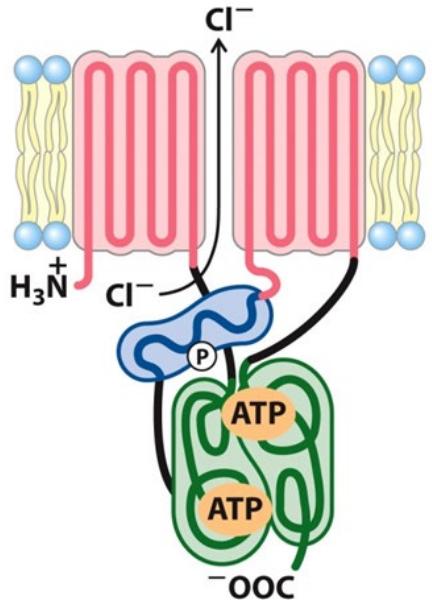
- At neuronal synapses, neurotransmitters are released through **exocytosis**: fusion of - containing vesicles with plasma membranes involves **SNARE** proteins
- v-SNAREs (on vesicles), t-SNAREs (on plasma membrane) and two SNARE25 form a bundle of long and thin rods made up of helices in a zipping-like action (facilitates the membrane fusion)

# Membrane transport of solutes



- The energy ( $\Delta G$ ) required for a solute to go through the bilayer is very high
- Transporters and channels (all formed by integral membrane proteins) dramatically reduce the energy ( $\Delta G$ ) for transmembrane diffusion
- Could follow ([passive transporter](#)) or against ([active transporter](#)) the concentration gradient of the solute
- Active transporter: requires hydrolysis of ATP

# ABC Transporters



- ATP-binding cassette transporters (ABC transporters) constitute a large family of ATP-dependent transporters that pump amino acids, peptides, proteins, metal ions, various lipids, bile salts and many hydrophobic compounds including drugs
- CFTR gene is an ABC transporter and an ion channel pumping out  $\text{Cl}^-$
- Mutation affecting CFTR causes cystic fibrosis; severe obstruction of the gastrointestinal and respiratory tracts; mucus of internal surfaces of lung is abnormally thick

# Summary (II)

## Different types of lipids

- saturated vs unsaturated vs Trans fats; triglycerides, phospholipids, glycolipids, sphingolipids

## Membrane functions and properties

- Asymmetrical distribution of lipids between the inner and out membranes
- Each membrane has its own characteristic composition; can be influenced by various environmental and growth conditions

## Membrane proteins

- integral membrane proteins are held in the membrane by hydrophobic interactions
- proteins can be covalently linked to lipids

# Summary (II)

## Membrane dynamics

- Transbilayer movement; lipid raft; curvature formation; membrane fusion (exocytosis)

## Membrane transport

- Transporters on the lipid bilayer for the transport of polar molecules and ions
- Active transport vs passive diffusion
- ABC transport; CFTR as example and its deficient function in cystic fibrosis

# Study questions

1. Explain why cystic fibrosis may cause obstruction of respiratory and intestinal tracts
2. If the pancreatic duct is blocked by the CFTR mutation, how may it damage the pancreas?

# Glucose utilization pathways

- Energy storage:  
Glycogen, starch,  
sucrose.
- Functional polymer:  
Polysaccharides (eg.  
glycoproteins, lipid  
polysaccharides).
- Energy generation:  
Glycolysis or pentose  
phosphate pathway.

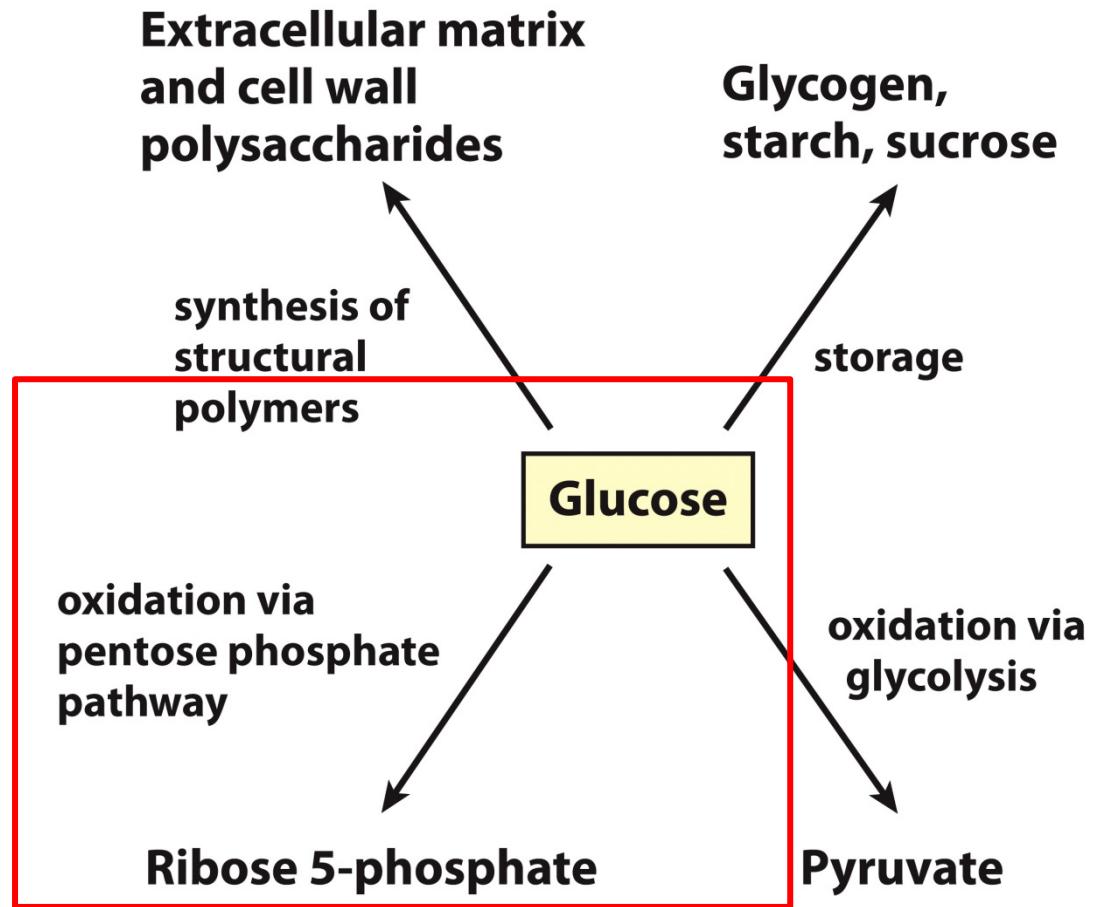


Figure 14-1  
Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Sixth Edition  
© 2013 W. H. Freeman and Company

# Pentose phosphate pathway

- **What?**

- The process serves to generate NADPH and 5-carbon sugar (pentose ribose 5-phosphate) from glucose 6-phosphate
- Also called phosphogluconate pathway or the hexose monophosphate pathway

- **Why?**

- Produce precursors (ribose 5-phosphate) for DNA, RNA and coenzymes such as ATP, NADH, FADH<sub>2</sub> and coenzyme A
- Provide electron donor NADPH for reductive biosynthesis or countering damaging effects of oxygen radicals.

- **Where?**

1. Rapid dividing cells: cells in bone marrow (stem cells and progenitor cells of blood cell lineage), skin, intestinal mucosa and tumor cells
2. Tissues that carry out extensive synthesis of fatty acid (liver, adipose, lactating mammary gland) cholesterol and steroid hormones synthesis (liver, adrenal glands, gonads)
3. Cells that are exposed to oxygen (such as?)

# Overview of the pentose phosphate pathway

- The **oxidative phase**:
  - Oxidation of glucose-6-phosphate to ribose 5-phosphate
  - NADPH is generated
- The **nonoxidative phase**:
  - Interconversion of three-, four-, five-, six-, and seven-carbon sugars
  - Recycle excess five-carbon sugars back to glucose 6-phosphate
- All these reactions take place in the **cytosol**

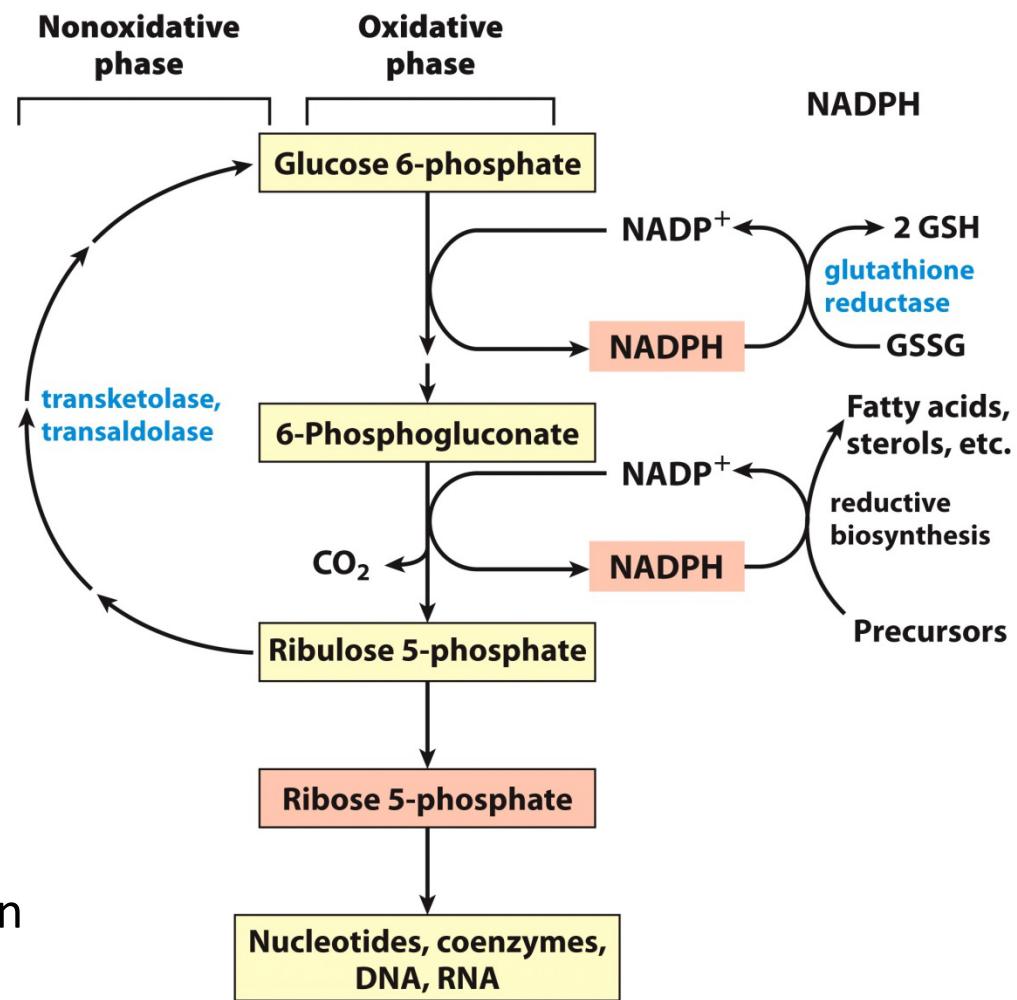
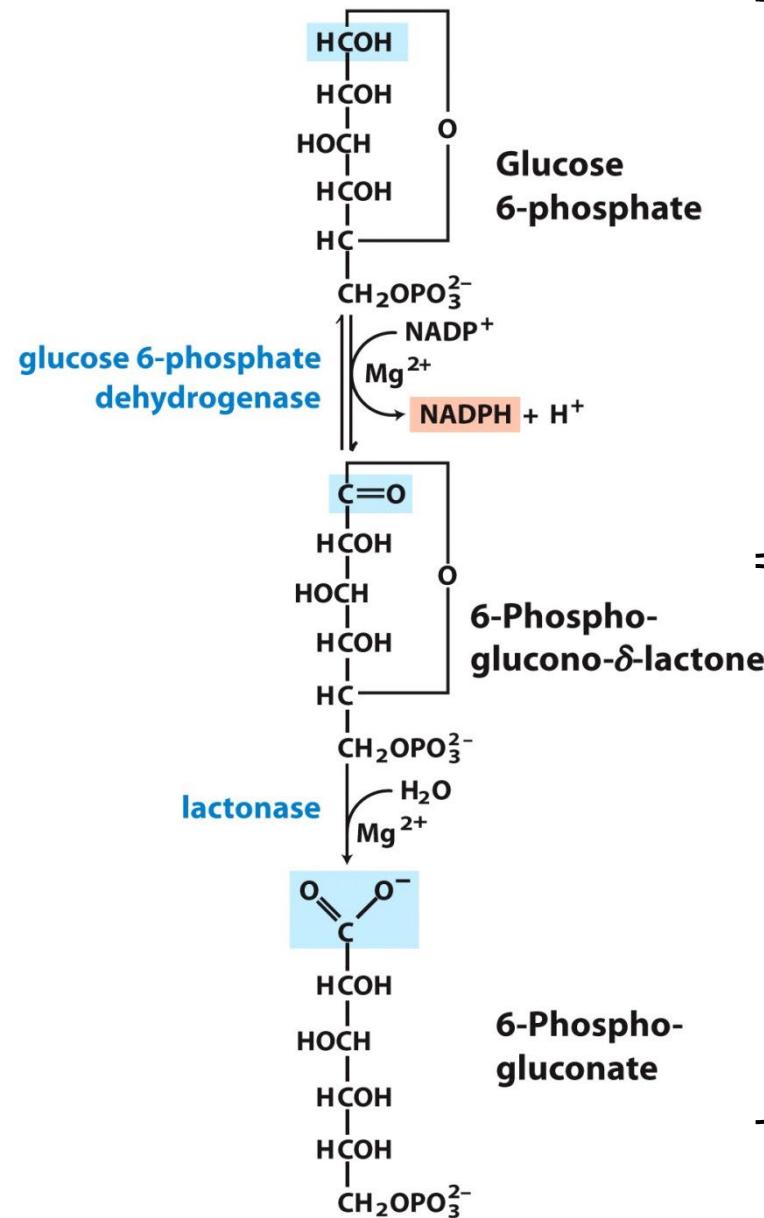


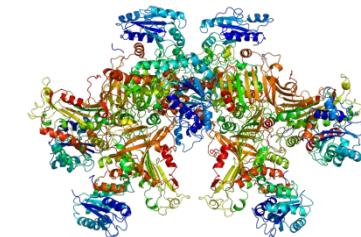
Figure 14-21  
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# The oxidative phase



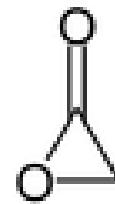
## Step 1: Glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase

- Generates the first NADPH
- The product is **6-Phospho-glucono-δ-lactone**. Lactone is a cyclic ester, which is formed from the condensation between a carboxylic acid (-COOH) and an alcohol (-OH).

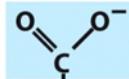


## Step 2: Lactonase

- Lactone is hydrolyzed by lactonase to produce a linear molecule: **6-Phosphogluconate**.

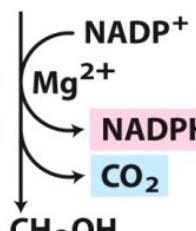


α-acetolactone



**6-Phospho-gluconate**

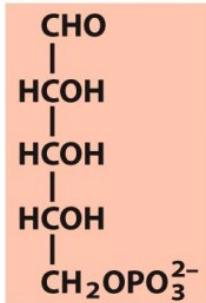
**6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase**



### Step 3: 6-Phosphogluconate dehydrogenase

- Generates the second NADPH and one  $\text{CO}_2$
- Produces ketopentose ribulose 5-phosphate

**phosphopentose isomerase**



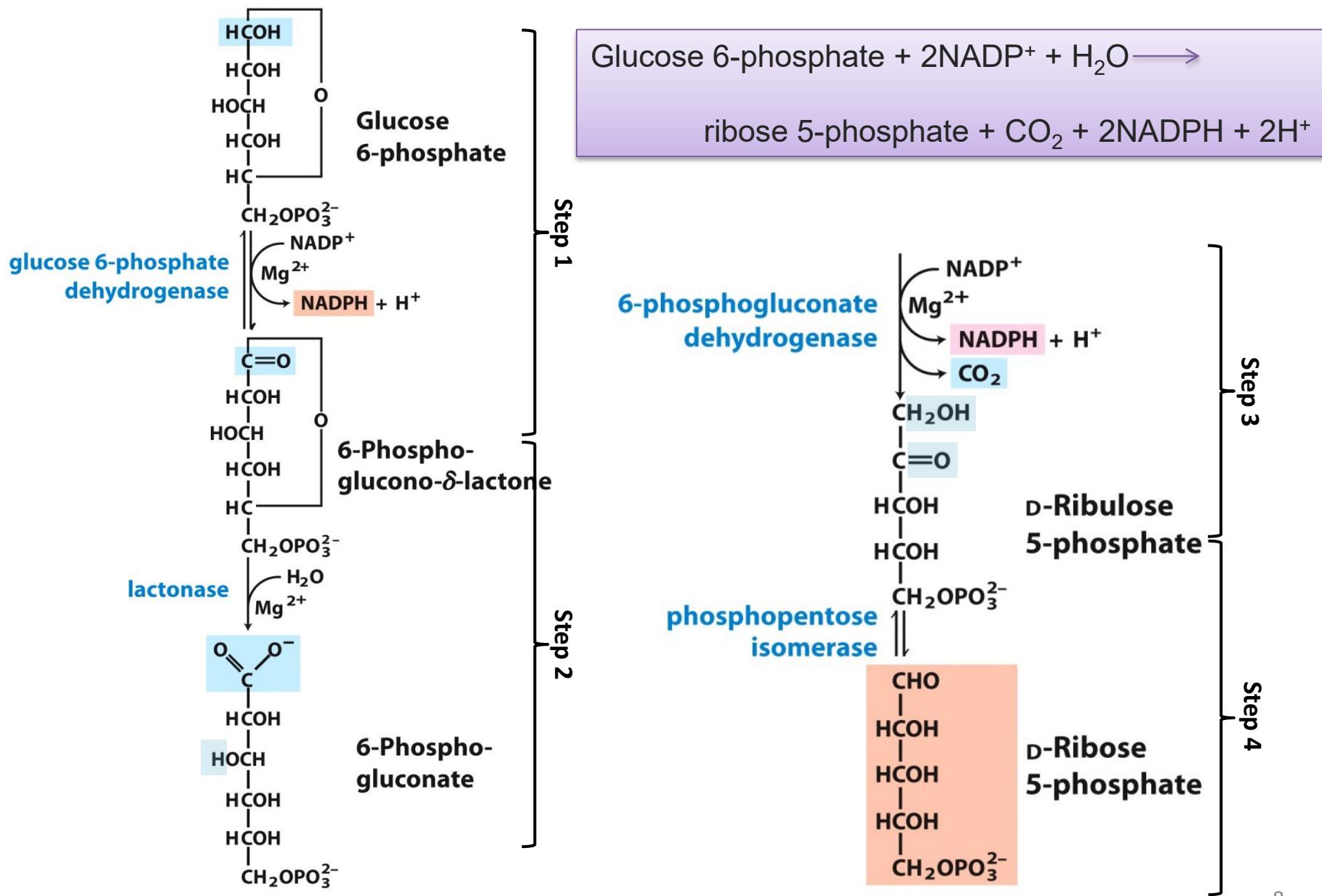
**D-Ribulose 5-phosphate**

### Step 4: Phosphopentose isomerase

- Produces pentose ribose 5-phosphate

**Step 4**

# The oxidative phase complete reaction

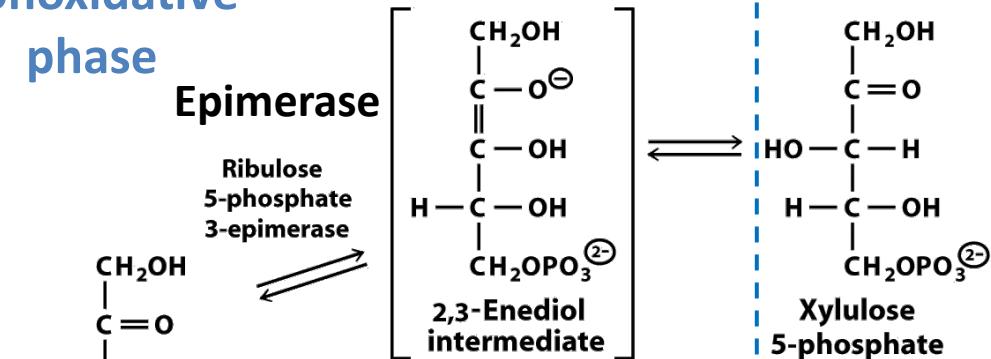


# The different fates of ribulose 5-phosphate

Nonoxidative phase

**Epimerase**

Ribulose 5-phosphate 3-epimerase



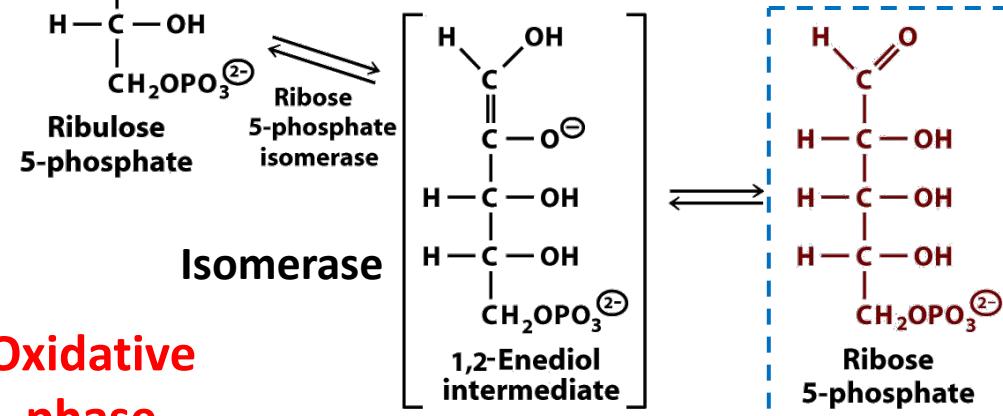
In some cases, more NADPH than ribose 5-phosphate is needed:

- most of pentose phosphates are converted back to glucose 6-phosphate

Oxidative phase

**Isomerase**

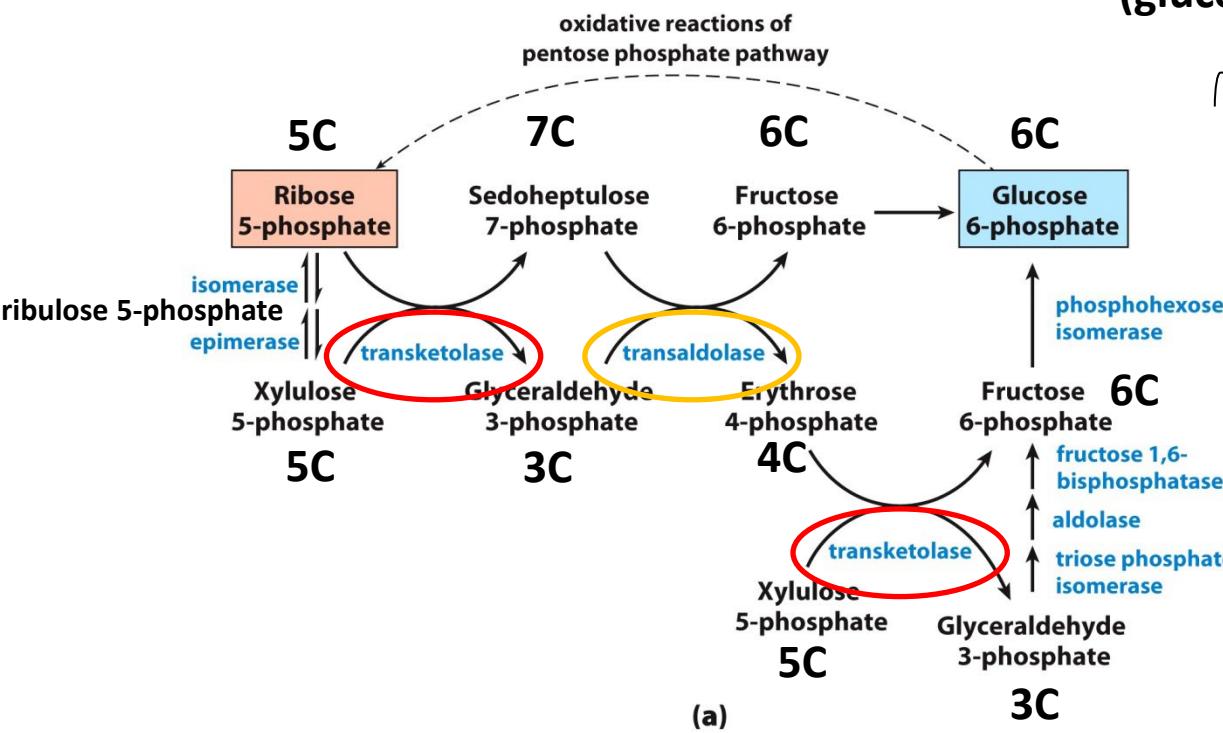
Ribose 5-phosphate isomerase



If both NADPH and nucleotides are required (e.g. in rapidly dividing cells):

- all ribulose 5-phosphate is isomerized to ribose 5-phosphate and the pathway is completed at this stage

# The nonoxidative reactions pathway



Schematic for generating **5 hexoses** (glucose 6-phosphate) from **6 pentoses**

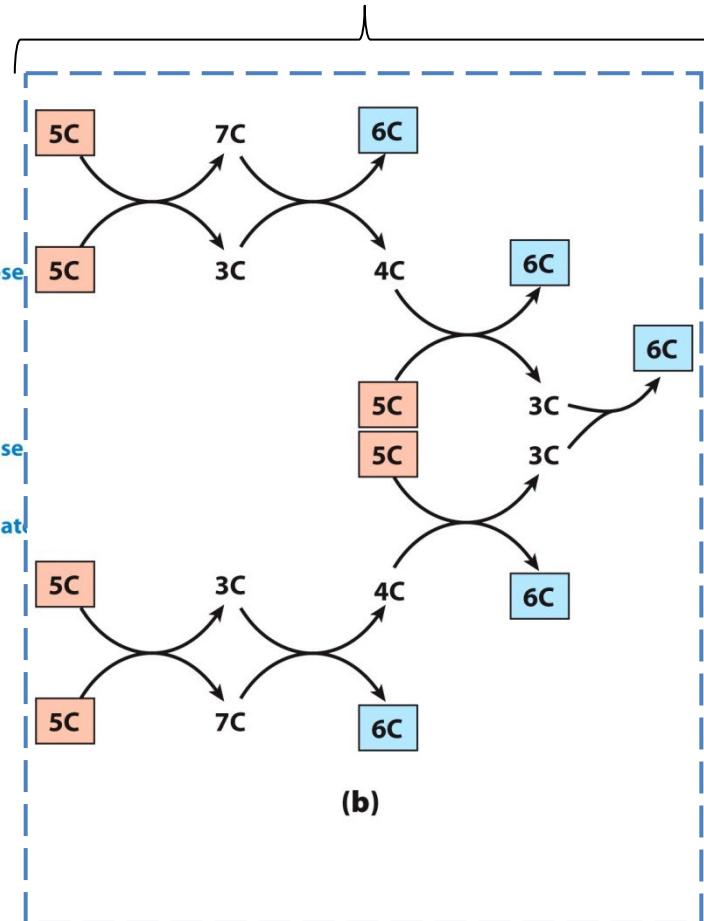


Figure 14-23

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The nonoxidative reactions involve the enzymes **Transketolase** and **Transaldolase**

# The nonoxidative phase complete reaction

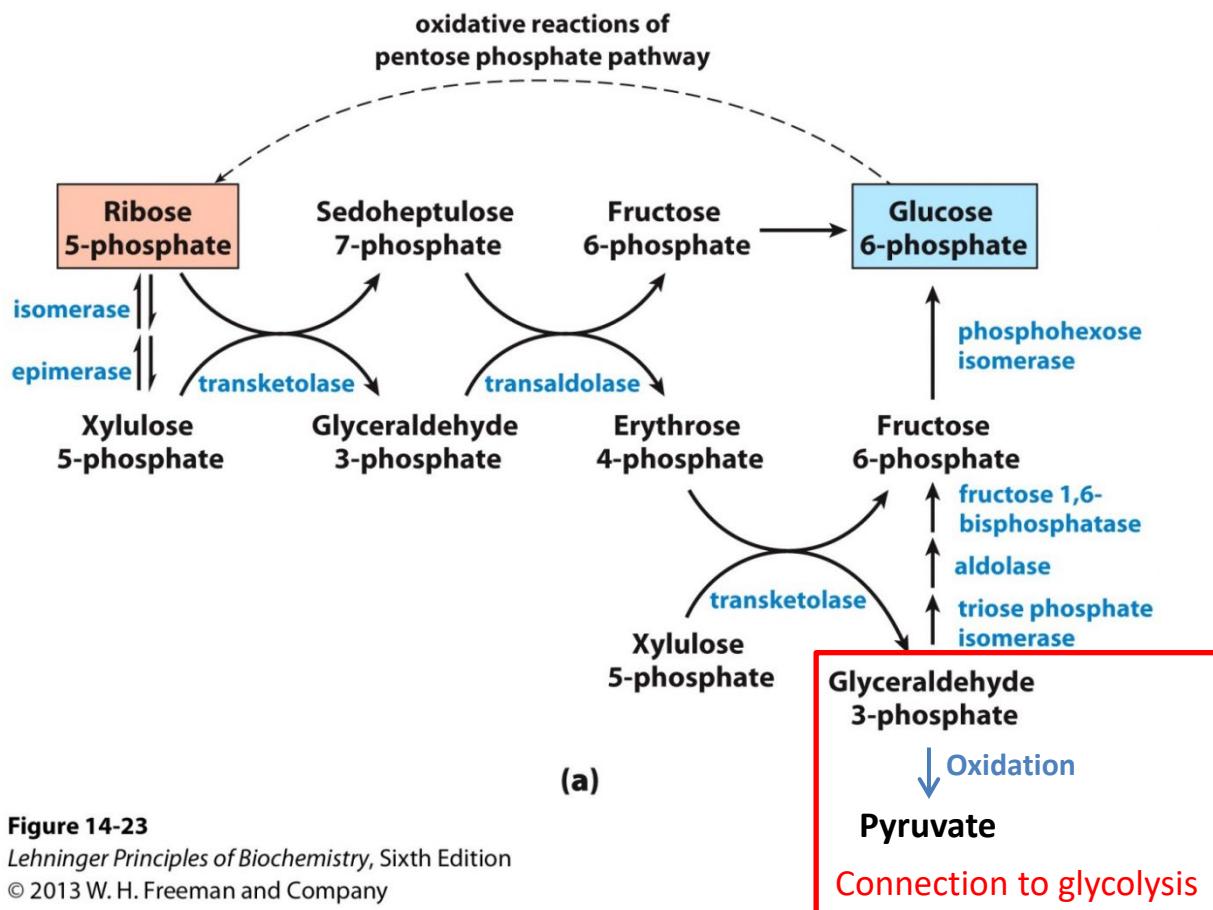
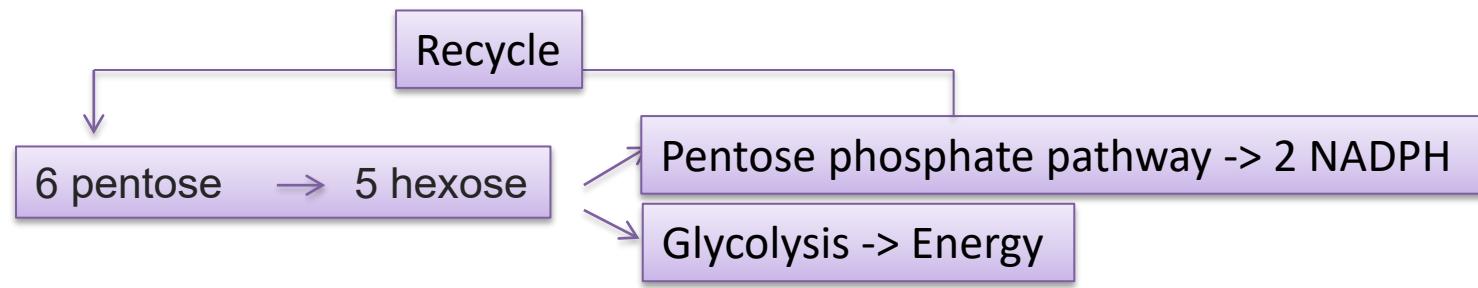


Figure 14-23

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# Regulation of pentose phosphate pathway

- The entering of pentose phosphate pathway is controlled by the level of NADP<sup>+</sup>.

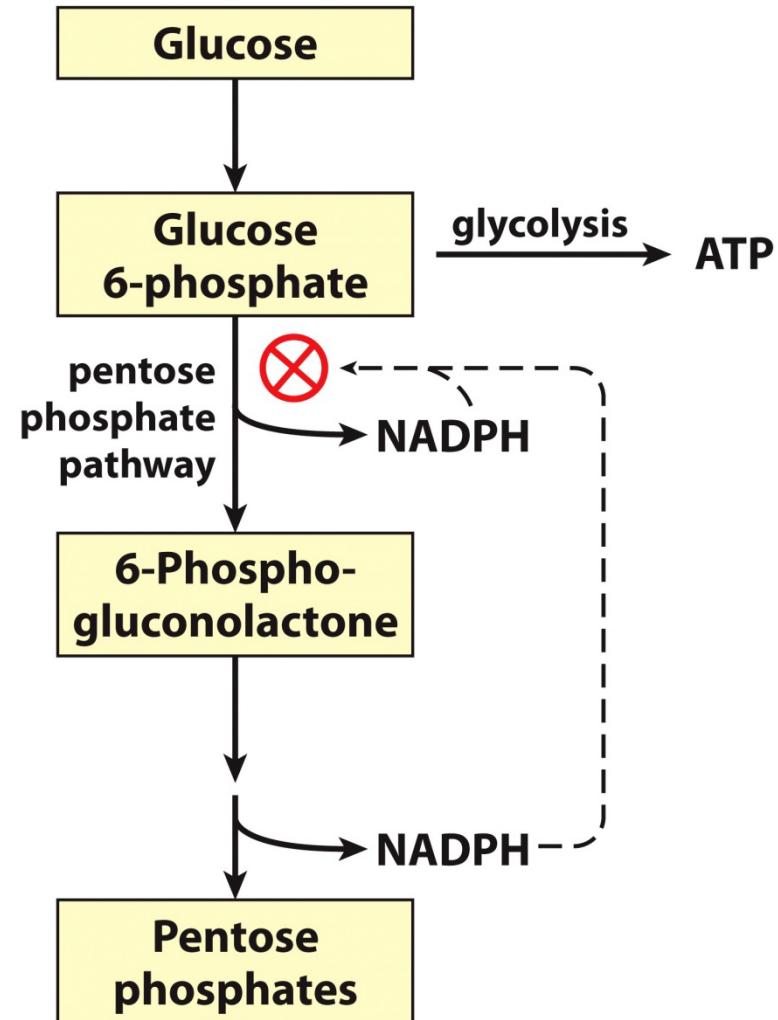
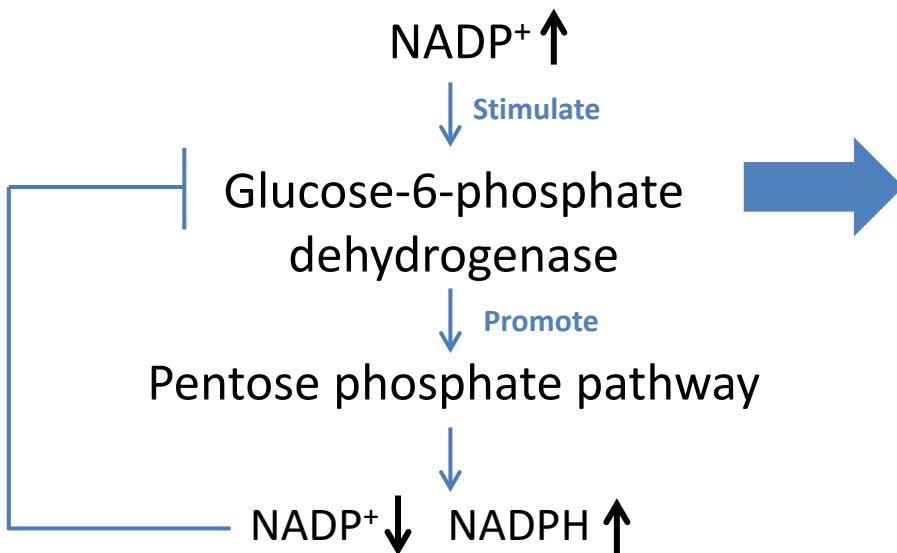
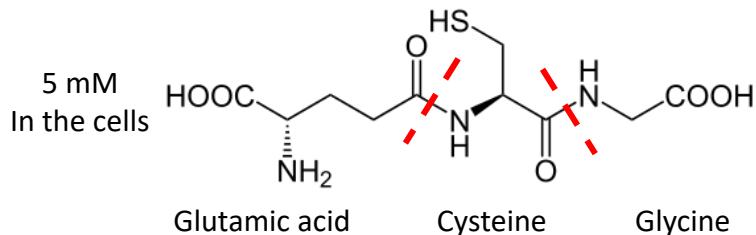


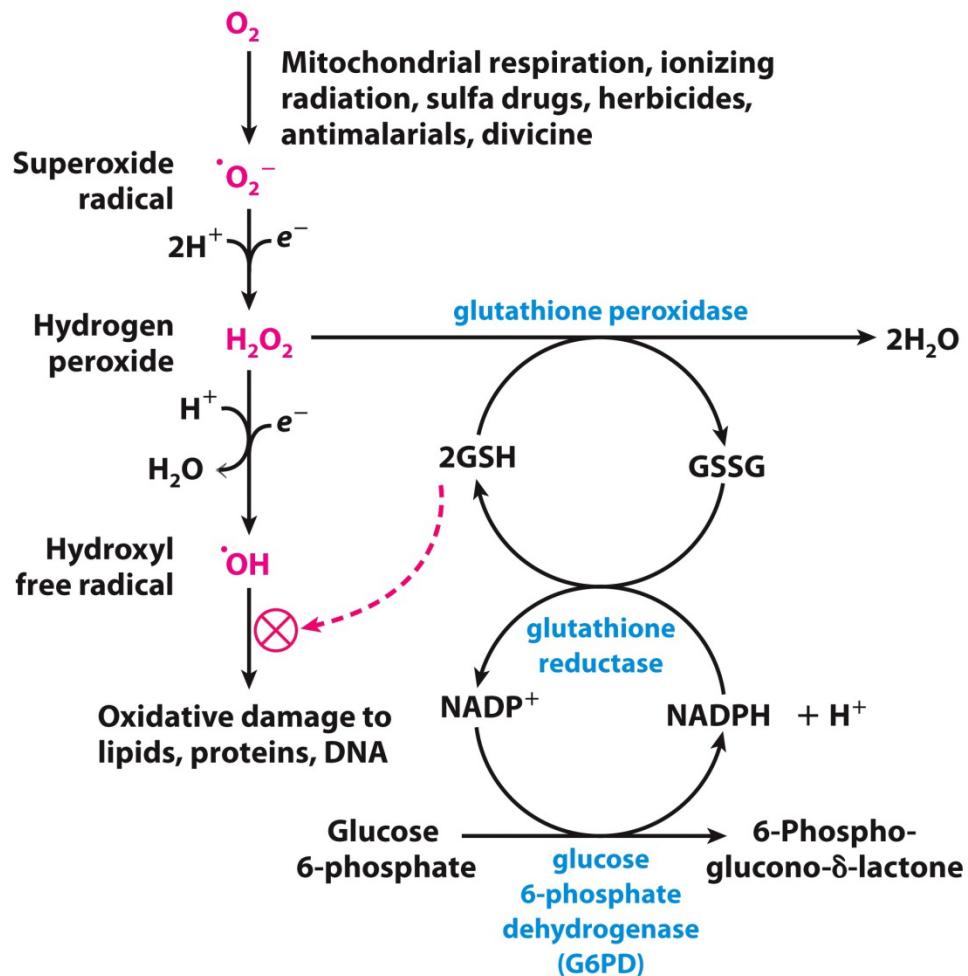
Figure 14-28  
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# NADPH and glutathione in oxidative stress

- Glutathione (GSH) is a short peptide composing of cysteine, glutamate and glycine

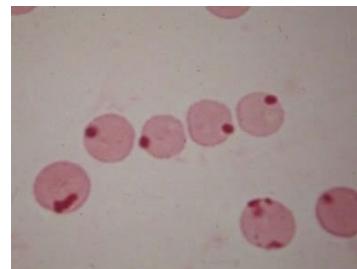
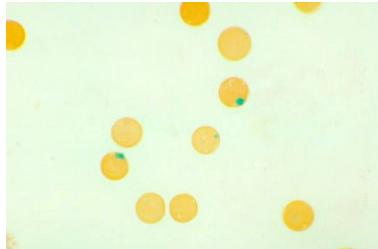


- Detoxification of hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ), which produces hydroxyl free radical ( $\cdot OH$ ), needs glutathione, glutathione peroxidase, glutathione reductase and NADPH



Box 14-4 figure 1  
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# Hereditary anemia and Heinz body

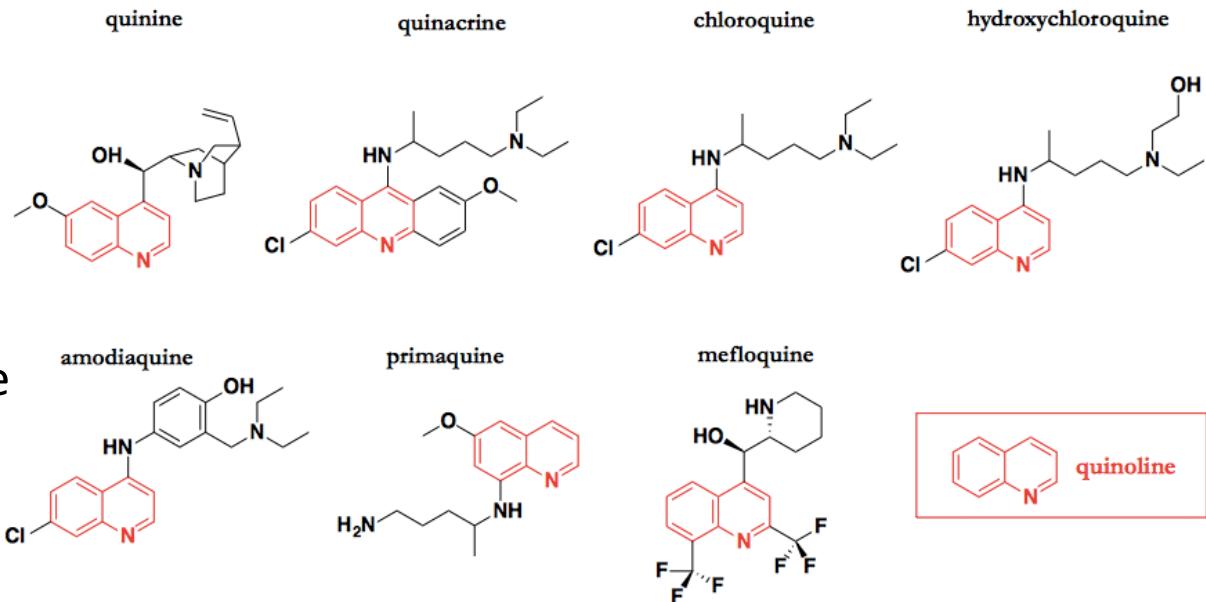


- G6PD deficiency person mostly asymptomatic but is more prone to oxidative damage induced by stresses and eating fava beans
- Red blood cells use lots of  $O_2$  for the generation of ATPs; need NADPH to protect them from oxidative stresses
- Without G6PD and NADPH, free radicals attract the globins which become denatured and forms a little ball (the “Heinz body”)
- The gene for G6PD is on the X chromosome (thus males are much more likely to have full expression of the disease); the disease is more common in African Americans

# Oxidative stress and malaria

- G6PD deficiency population have an advantage of resistance to parasite malaria infection because of higher level of oxidative stress in erythrocytes

- Quinoline derivatives stem from quinine (top left), a natural product isolated from the bark of the Andean cinchona tree



## CDC warns against using form of chloroquine that killed man, sickened his wife

An Arizona couple, both in their 60s, became deadly ill after they ingested fish food that contained chloroquine phosphate.



- Pharmaceutical **chloroquine** phosphate and hydroxychloroquine sulfate are approved by the FDA to treat malaria
- Treatment for COVID-19 not proven

# Summary (I)

- The pentose phosphate pathway
  - generates two NADPH and a pentose ribose 5-phosphate from glucose 6-phosphate
  - contains an oxidative phase and a nonoxidative phase
- Importance:
  - for rapid dividing cells which use ribose 5-phosphate for the synthesis of DNA, RNA and coenzymes
  - for tissues that need NADPH for reductive biosynthesis or countering damaging effects of oxygen radicals
- Nonoxidative phase recycles ribose 5-phosphate (produces 5 hexoses from 6 pentoses)
- NADPH is required for the antioxidant function of glutathione
  - G6PD deficiency population is less resistant to oxidative damage but more resistant to malaria