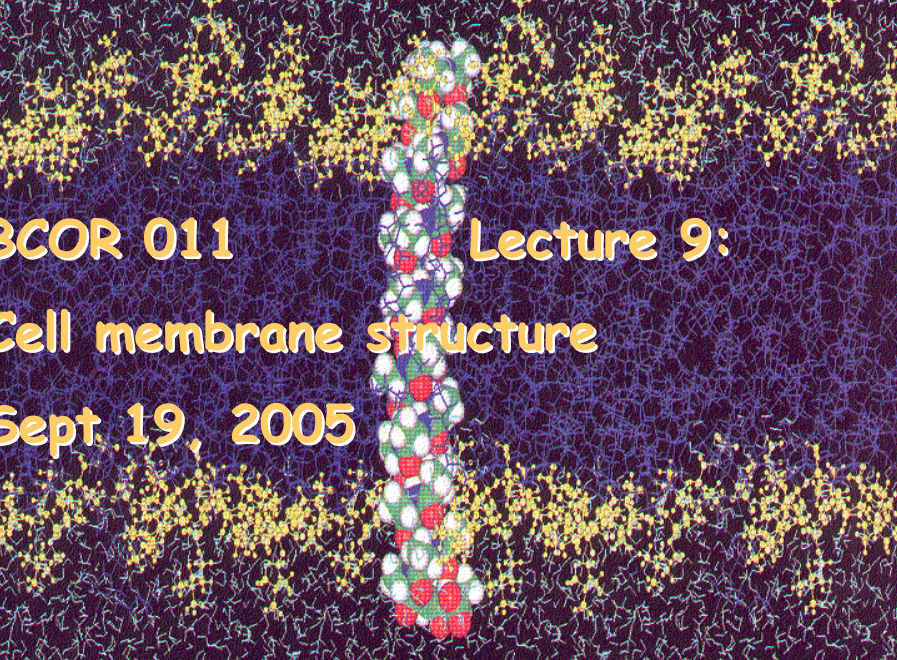


BCOR 011

Lecture 9:

Cell membrane structure

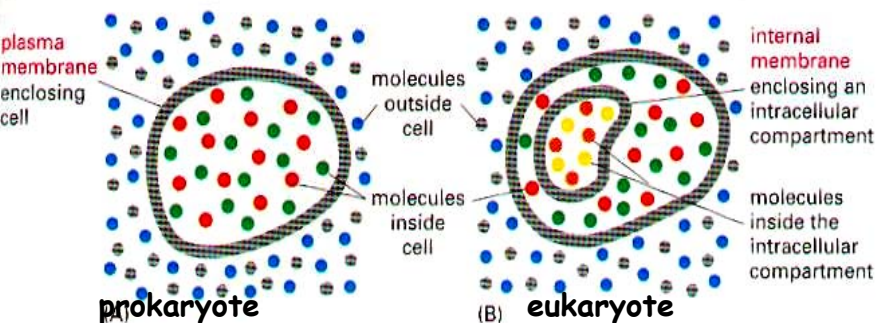
Sept 19, 2005



Cell membranes

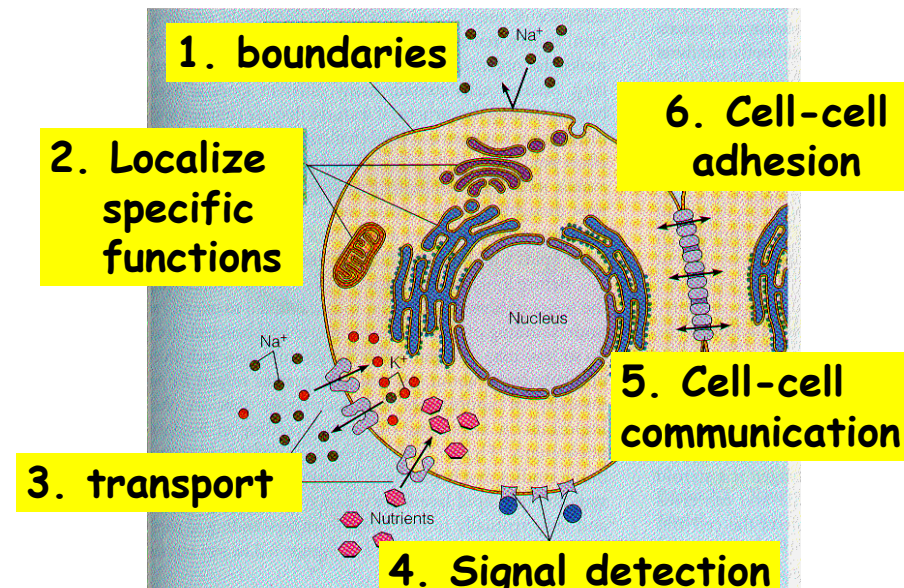
1. What are the functions of cell membranes?
2. What is the current model of membrane structure?
3. Evidence supporting the fluid mosaic model
4. How appropriate fluidity is maintained

Membrane: organized arrangement of lipids and proteins that encloses and separates the cell from its surroundings



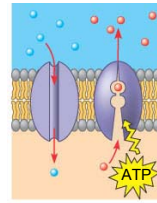
Membranes define spaces with distinctive character and function

Membrane Functions

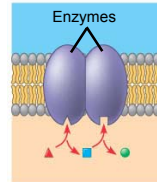


Major Functions of Membrane Proteins

- (a) **Transport.** (left) A protein that spans the membrane may provide a hydrophilic channel across the membrane. (right) A protein may actively transport substances across the membrane. Some of these proteins hydrolyze ATP as an energy source to actively pump substances across the membrane.



- (b) **2. Localize specific functions**



- (c) **4. Signal detection**

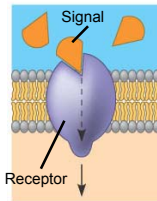


Figure 7.9

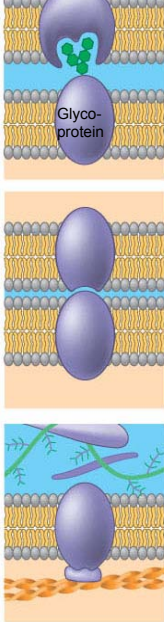
5. Cell-cell communication

- (e) **Intercellular joining.** Membrane proteins of adjacent cells may hook together in various kinds of junctions, such as gap junctions or tight junctions (see Figure 6.31).

6. Cell-cell adhesion

- (f) **Attachment to the cytoskeleton and extracellular matrix (ECM).** Microfilaments or other elements of the cytoskeleton may be bonded to membrane proteins, which stabilizes the cell. (right) Membrane proteins that are attached to the extracellular matrix stabilize intracellular changes (see Figure 6.29).

Figure 7.9



Transport - Lect 10
materials across membranes

Cell Signaling - Lect 11
external signals trigger internal events

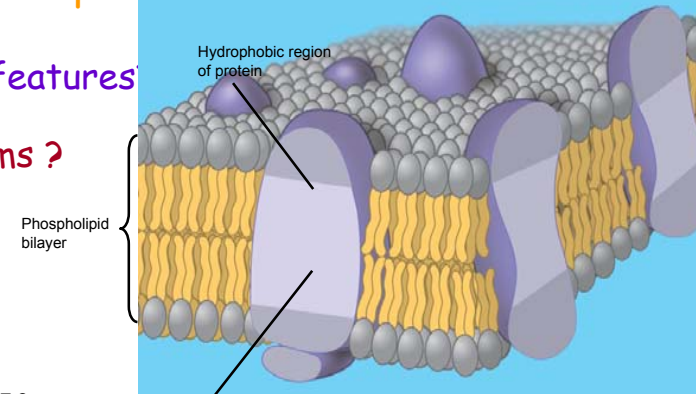
Biochemical functions - Lects 16-19
Oxidative Phosphor, Photosynthesis
Importance of Membranes in biochemical Rxns

Current Understanding of Membrane Structure: Fluid Mosaic Model 1972 Singer & Nicholson

Proteins embedded and floating in a sea of phospholipids

Familiar features

Problems ?



Integral membrane proteins
Span the phospholipid bilayer - usually α -helices

Why do proteins cross membranes as α -helices?

Must present
hydrophobic
surface

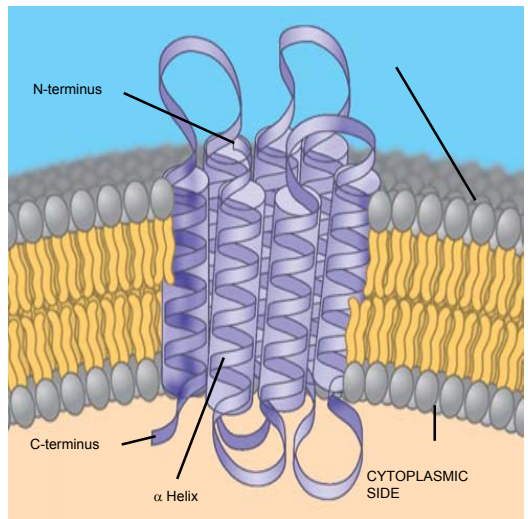
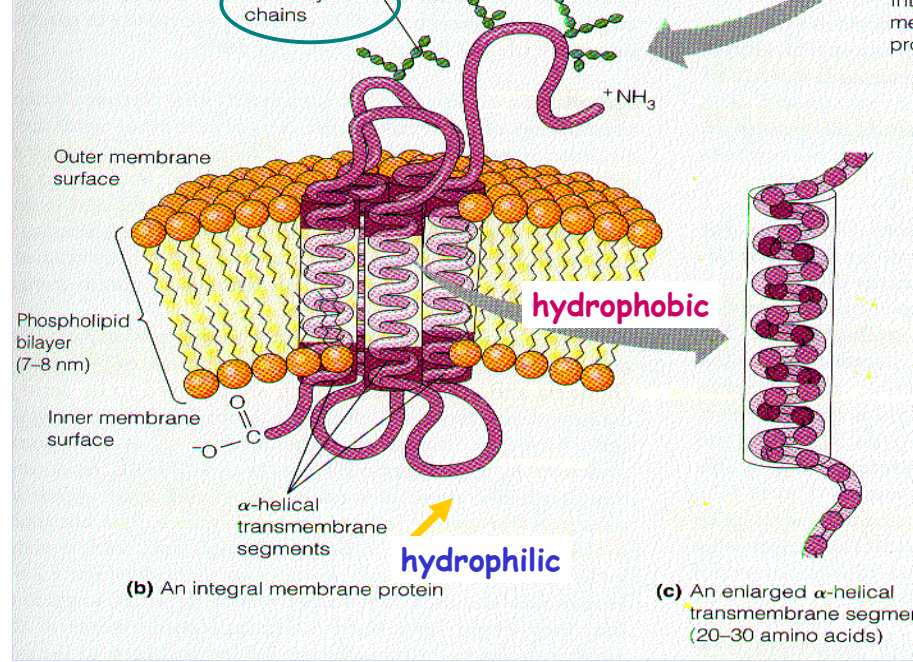
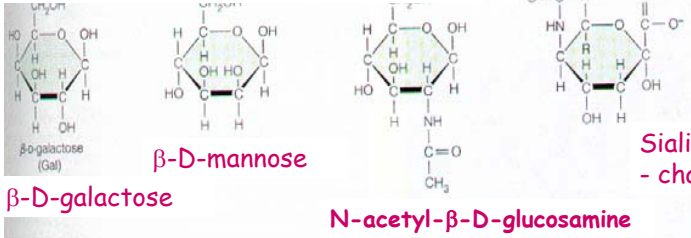


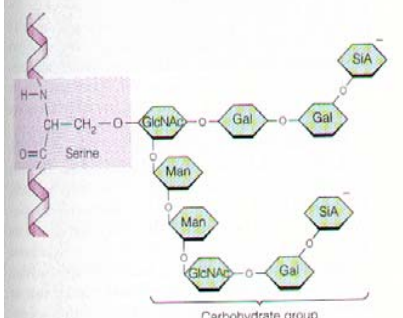
Figure 7.8



Sugars commonly found on glycoproteins

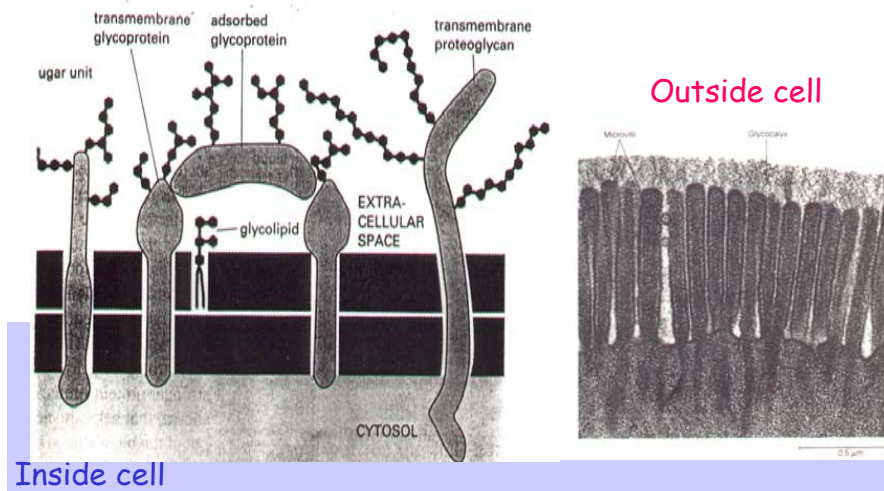


(a) Common sugars found in glycoproteins



c. Carbohydrates -
small amts often
linked to proteins or
lipids

Glycocalyx: "sugar coat"



Membrane proteins and lipids

- Are synthesized in the ER and Golgi apparatus

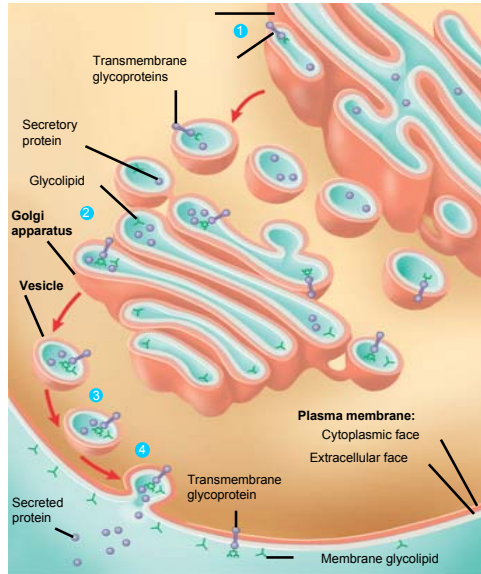
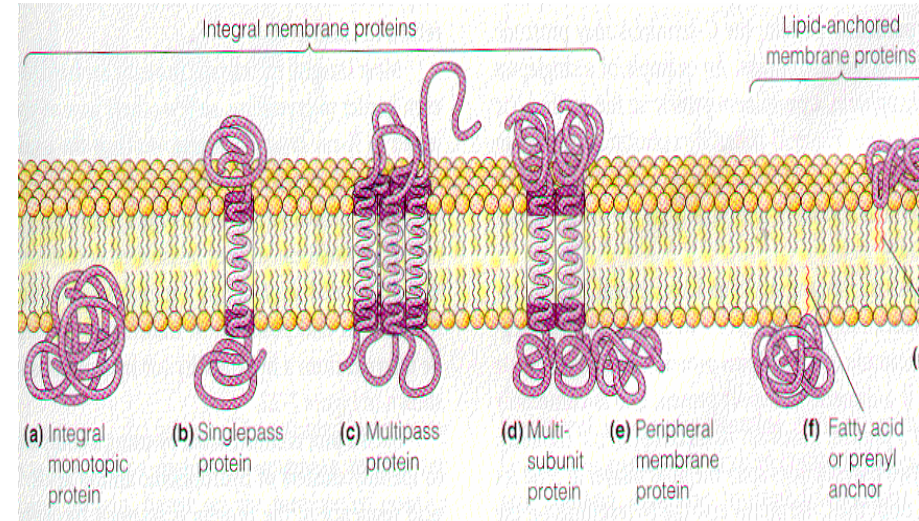


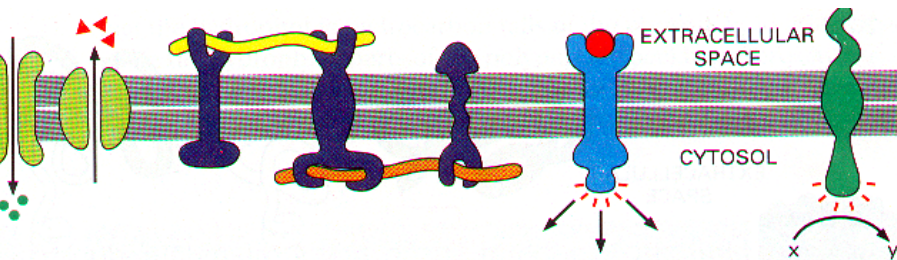
Figure 7.10

Membrane proteins

- Integral proteins
- Peripheral proteins
- Lipid-anchored



Roles of membrane proteins?

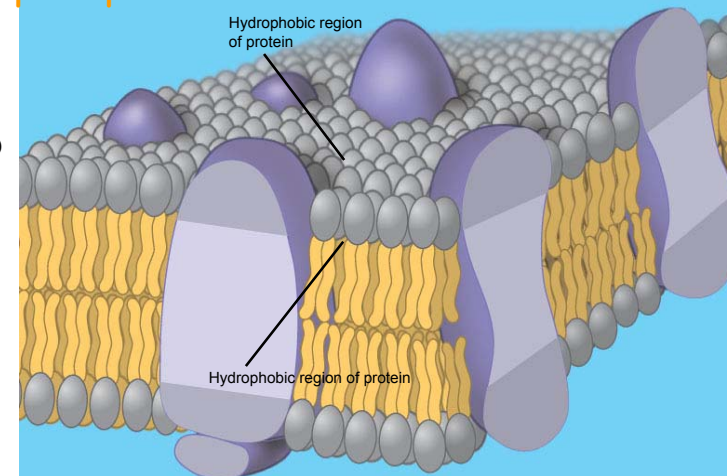


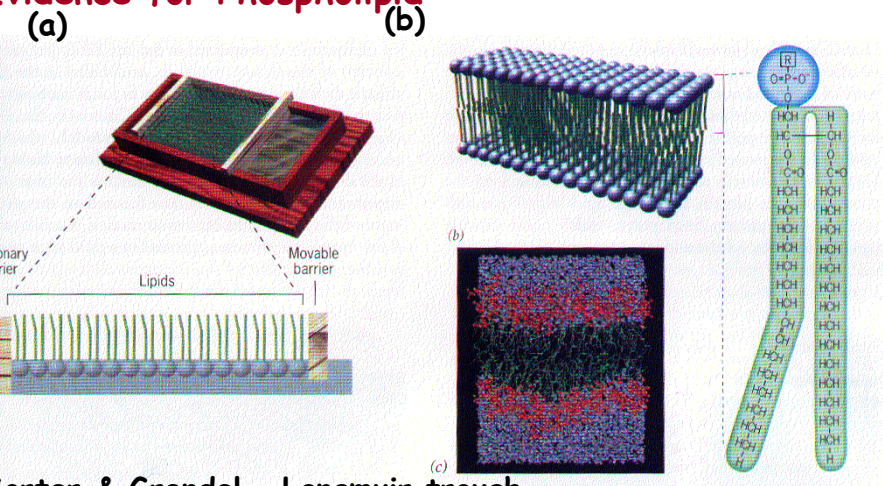
- Transport - channels and pumps
- Links to structural proteins
- Receptors - doorbells
- Enzymes - localized biochemical rxns
- Energy Generation - utilize gradient

Fluid Mosaic Model

Proteins embedded and floating in a sea of phospholipids

Evidence?

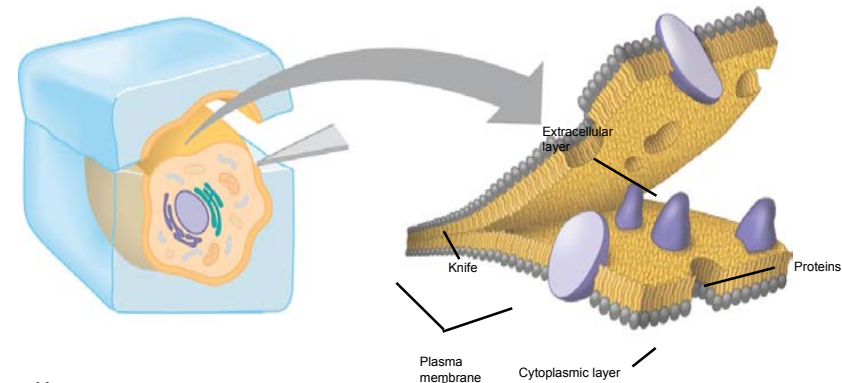




Porter & Grendel - Langmuir trough
 dried blood cells had enough lipid to twice cover their surface

conclude lipid is a bilayer - hydrophilic heads faced
 aqueous environment

Evidence for Membranes and Proteins: Freeze-Fracture Electron Microscopy



Illustrates: asymmetry of membrane components

External Leaflet

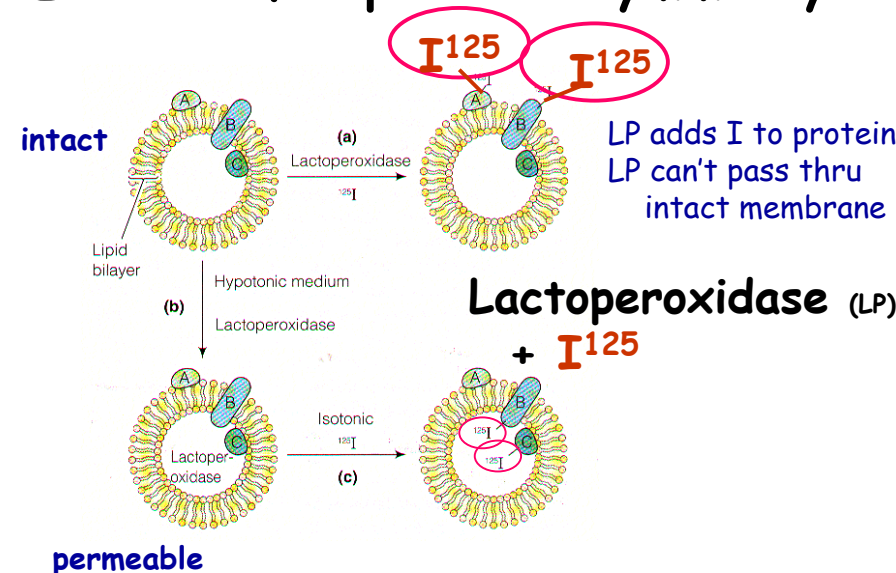
Cytoplasmic Leaflet

Fluid Mosaic Model predicts:

**A. Membranes are fluid: lipids & proteins
 move in the plane of the bilayer**

**B. Proteins and lipids are asymmetrically
 distributed in the bilayers**

Evidence for protein asymmetry



Evidence for lipid asymmetry?
 Cut off head groups off of exposed lipids
 Digested them with phospholipase

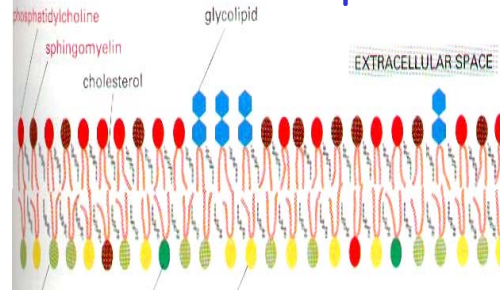
Intact red blood cells → SM, PC
 Broken red blood cells → PE, PS
 SM & PC

Results: *isolated different types of phospholipids suggesting lipids were distributed differently in the inner and out parts of the bilayer*

SM, sphingomyelin; PC, phosphatidylcholine;
 PE, phosphatidylethanolamine; PS phosphatidylserine

Mosaic: Lipids are asymmetrically distributed

Extracellular space



Cytosol

- phosphatidylcholine
- sphingomyelin
- glycolipid
- cholesterol
- phosphatidylinositol
- phosphatidylserine
- phosphatidylethanolamine

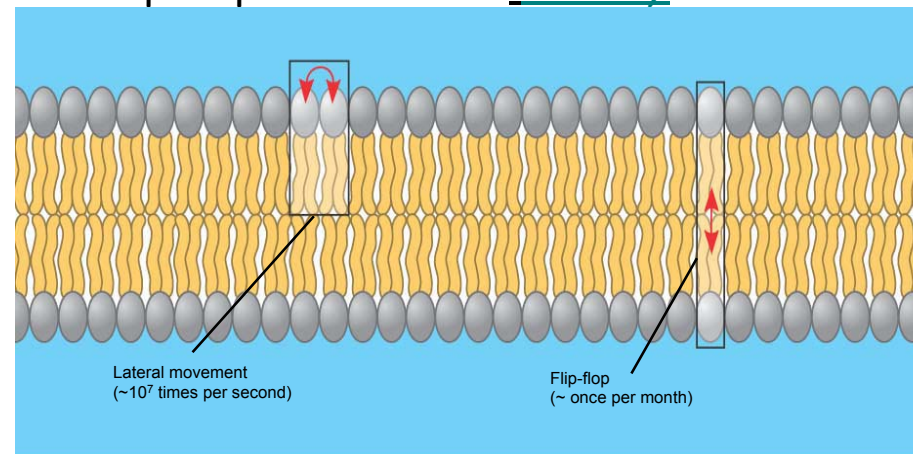
Fluid Mosaic Model predicts:

A. Membranes are fluid: lipids & proteins move in the plane of the bilayer

B. Proteins and lipids are asymmetrically distributed in the bilayers

The Fluidity of Membranes

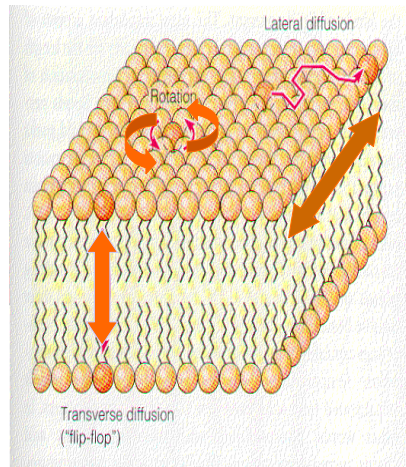
- Phospholipids can move laterally within the



(a) Movement of phospholipids

Movement of membrane phospholipids

1. Rotation about long axis

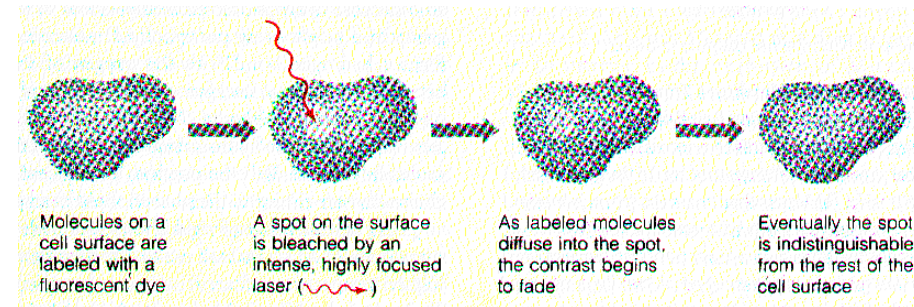


2. Lateral exchanges
 1×10^7 times/sec.
 moves several $\mu\text{m}/\text{sec}$

3. Flip-flop - *rare*
 < 1 time/wk to 1
 time/few hrs

"*flippases*"

Evidence for lipid fluidity: Photobleaching



Evidence for membrane protein fluidity? Cell fusion: 1970 D. Frye & M. Edidin

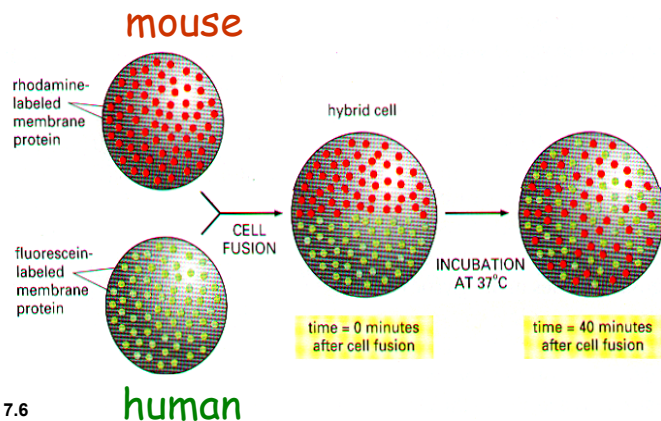
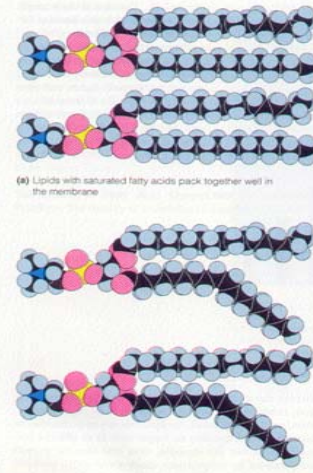


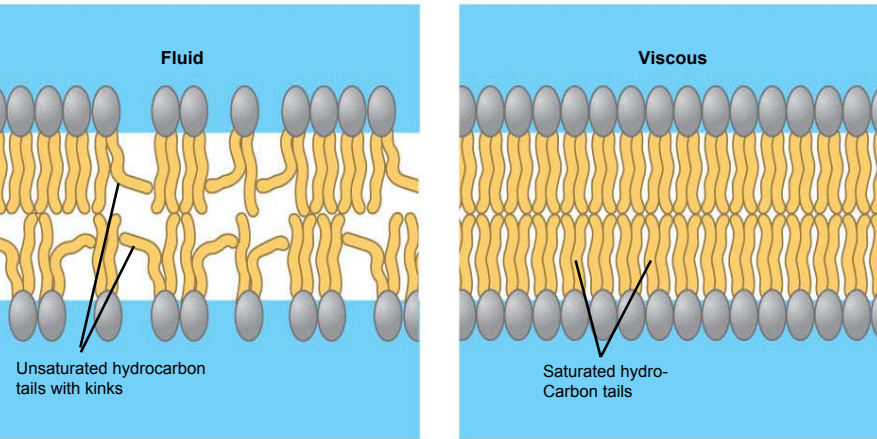
Figure 7.6

Lipids: critical role in maintaining membrane fluidity

- Saturated fatty acids stack nicely stiffer
- Unsaturated fatty acids - more fluid; double bond causes kinks More fluid
 Stacks poorly
- Shorter chains - stack poorly; More movement



Length & saturation of hydrocarbon tails affect packing & membrane fluidity



(b) Membrane fluidity

Figure 7.5 B

cholesterol

- At high temperature has a loosening effect
- At low temperature has a stiffening effect

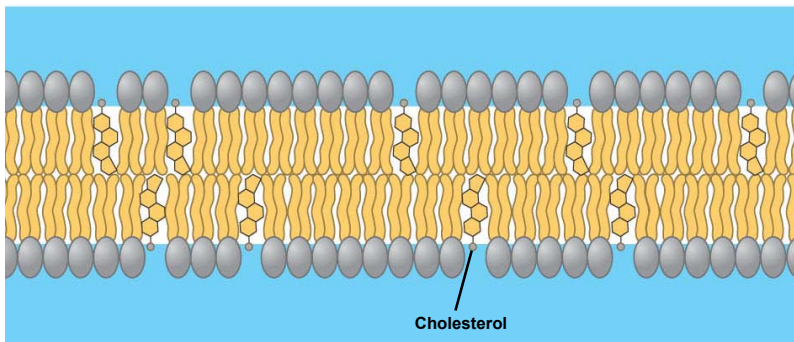


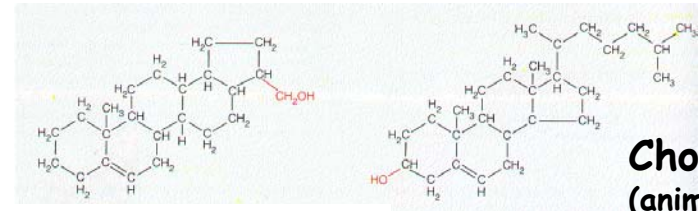
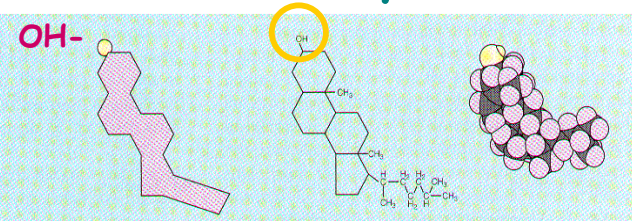
Figure 7.5 (c) Cholesterol within the animal cell membrane

Sterols -

affect membrane fluidity

(c) STEROLS

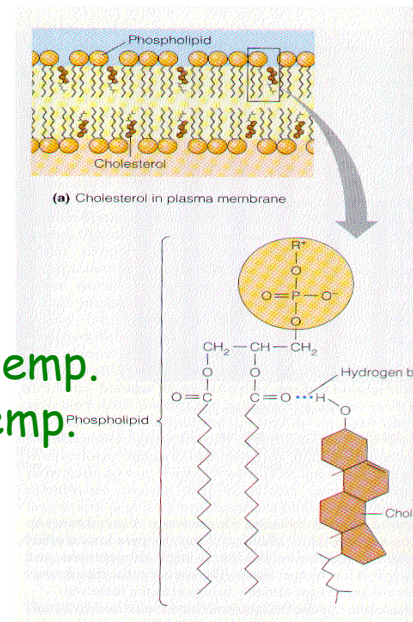
Cholesterol (shown)
Campesterol
Sitosterol
Stigmasterol



Hopanoid (prokaryotes)

Cholesterol
(animal)

Cholesterol is common in animal cells



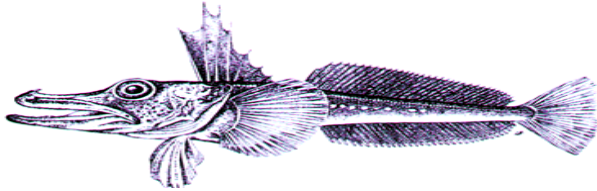
Paradox:

a) ↓ fluidity at high temp.

b) ↑ fluidity at low temp.

Most organisms regulate membrane fluidity

"Homeoviscous adaptation"



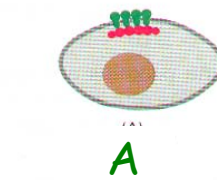
Fish, plants

0-20°C
Polyunsaturated F.A.
Shorter chains
Cholesterol

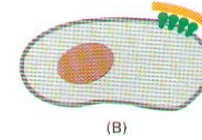
Mammals, palm trees

30-37°C
Saturated F.A.
Longer chains
cholesterol

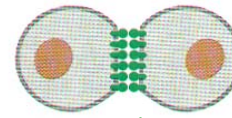
Restricting movement of membrane proteins -> Membrane Domains



A



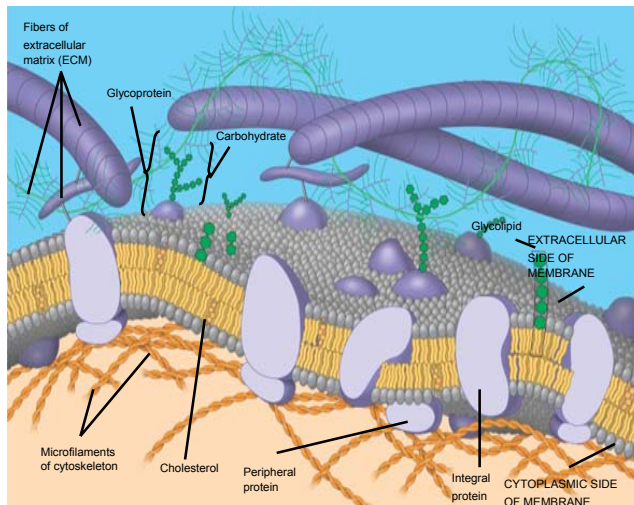
B



C

(A) Cell cortex
(B) Extracellular matrix
(C) Cell/cell junctions

tethering of membrane proteins to the Extracellular Matrix or the Cytoskeleton



Summary: Membranes

- Fluid Mosaic Model:** fluid nature & asymmetric distribution of components
- Components:**
 - Lipids - phospholipids, sterols, glycolipids
 - Fluidity
 - Proteins - integral, peripheral, lipid-linked
 - transport, receptors, enzymes, structural support, electron transport, specialized functional domains
 - Carbohydrates - as glycolipids & glycoproteins external glycocalyx