



Centrum pro výzkum  
toxických látek  
v prostředí

# BIOMARKERS AND TOXICITY MECHANISMS

## 05 – Mechanisms - DNA

Luděk Bláha, PŘF MU, RECETOX  
[www.recetox.cz](http://www.recetox.cz)

Tento projekt je spolufinancován Evropským sociálním fondem a státním rozpočtem České republiky.



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

# DNA

- principal molecule for life
- structure and function carefully checked
- changes rapidly repaired
- irreversible changes → cell death  
(*physiologically by apoptosis*)

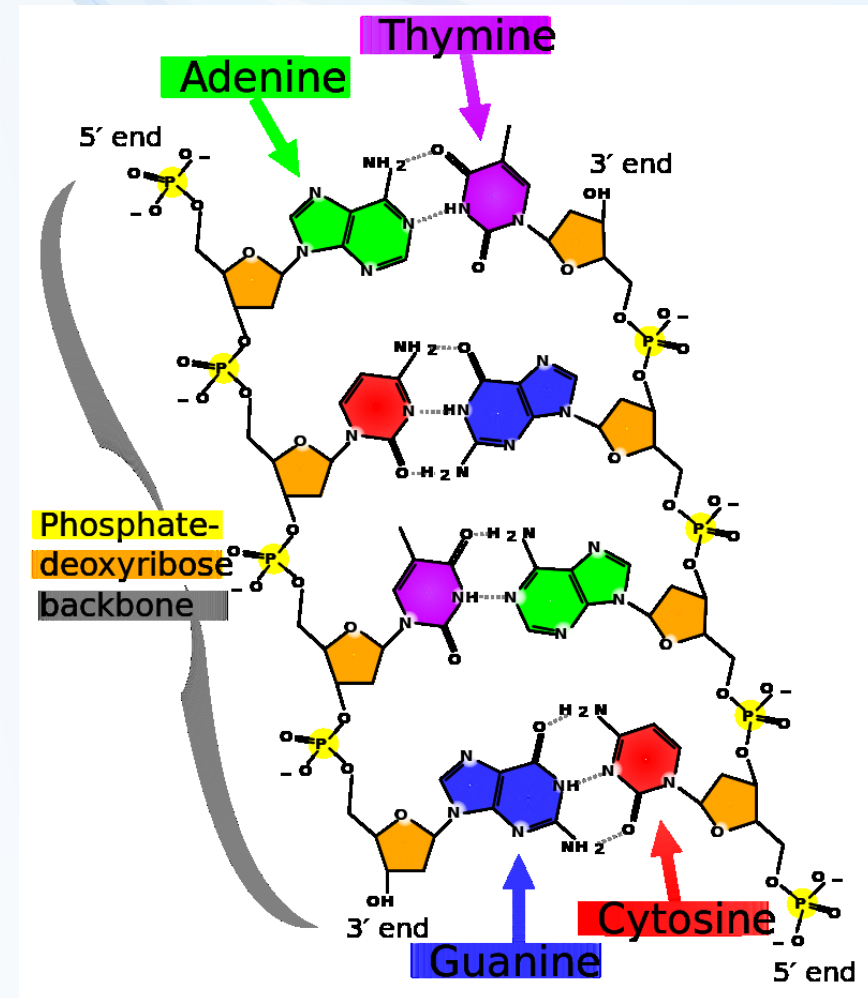
## Mutagenesis → MUTATIONS

→ variability and evolution  
or → damage to DNA  
(structure or coding)

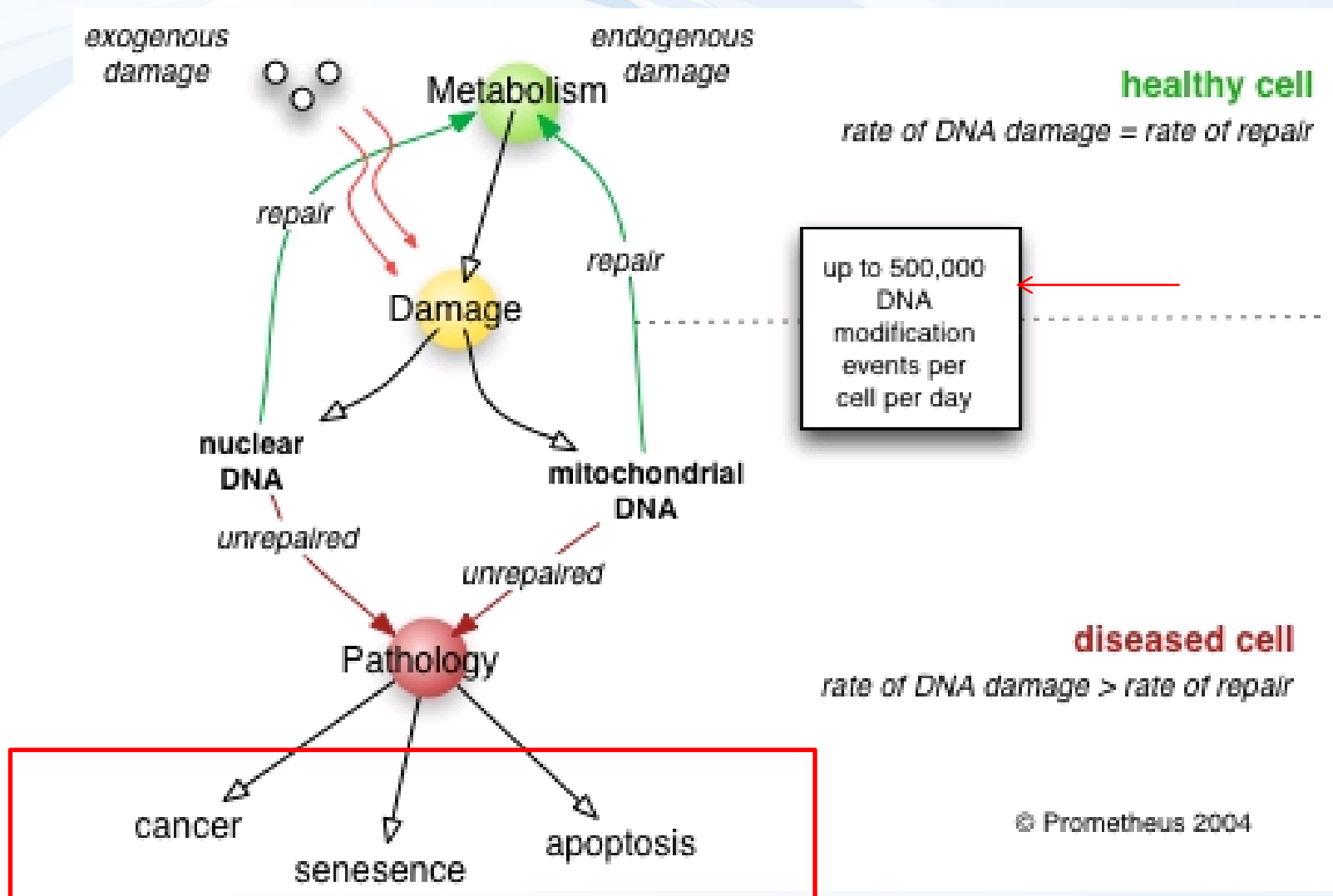
... naturally

billions of nucleotides/day  
→ most are repaired

... stress-induced → toxicity



# DNA damage and its effects



# DNA repair

Damage of DNA is carefully controlled  
**constitutively** expressed repair systems

Sudden changes in DNA

→ **induction** of additional repair enzymes  
(e.g. "SOS-repair" in bacteria - biomarker of DNA damage)



# Various types of molecular changes in DNA ... and corresponding repair systems

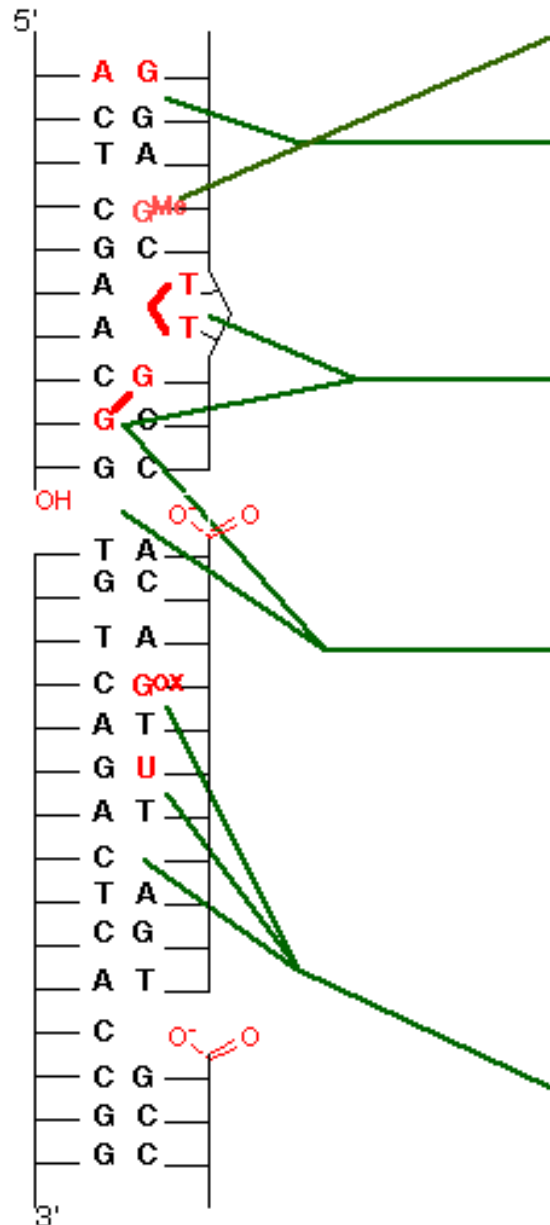
## Note!

- Not all nucleotides are affected in the same rate

*(mutations occur only at specific sites due to physicochemical properties)*

- G is commonly affected
- T=T at the same strand
- G=G crosslinks

## DNA DAMAGE



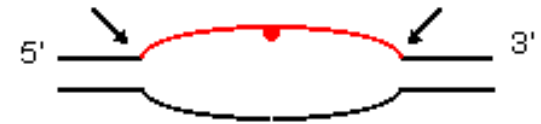
## DNA REPAIR SYSTEM

### DIRECT REVERSAL

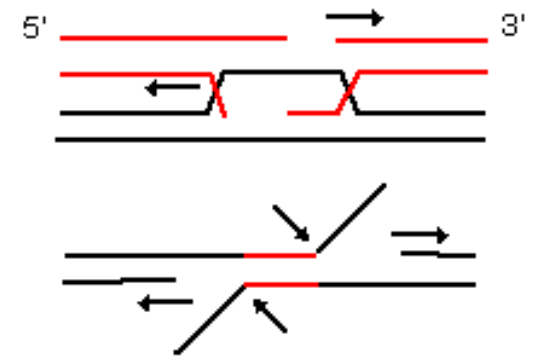
### MISMATCH REPAIR



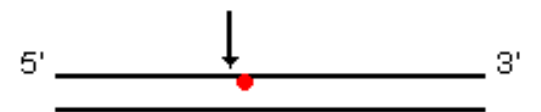
### NUCLEOTIDE EXCISION REPAIR



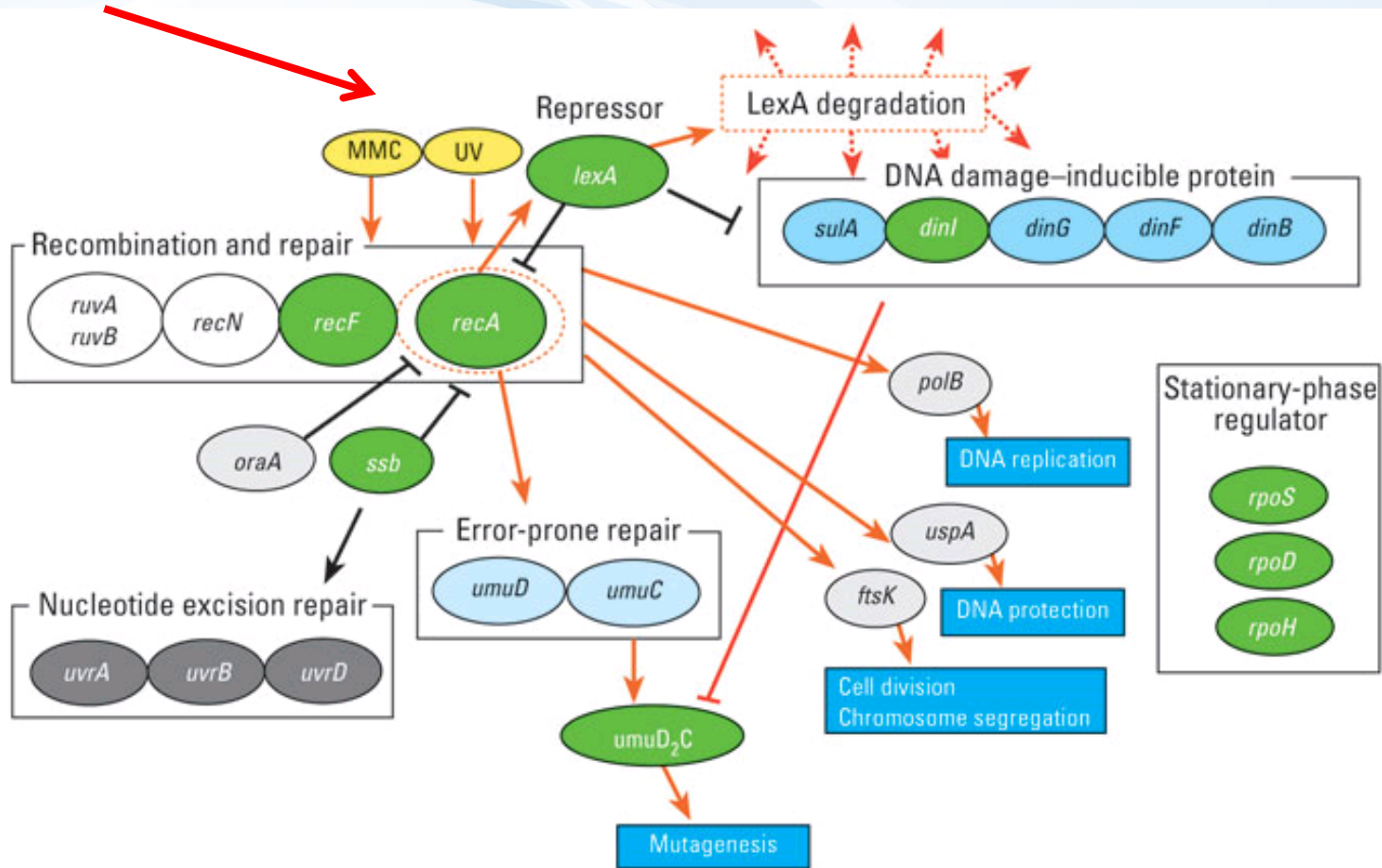
### RECOMBINATIONAL REPAIR



### BASE EXCISION REPAIR



# Complex system of SOS repair proteins induced in *E. coli* by DNA damage



**Figure 3.** A literature-based linkage map between genes in the SOS response in *E. coli*. The map represents inducible genes/proteins in the SOS response for repair from DNA damage. Black lines indicate pathways in the normal repair process and red lines with arrows activation/induction due to an exposure to damaging agents. Recombination and repair, DNA damage-inducible protein, nucleotide excision repair, error-prone repair, and stationary-phase regulator have family molecules in each box. Green circles are genes used for the analysis.



# TYPES of mutations

## **POINT mutations**

Base exchanges

Deletions / Insertions

→ *Impacts of point mutations*

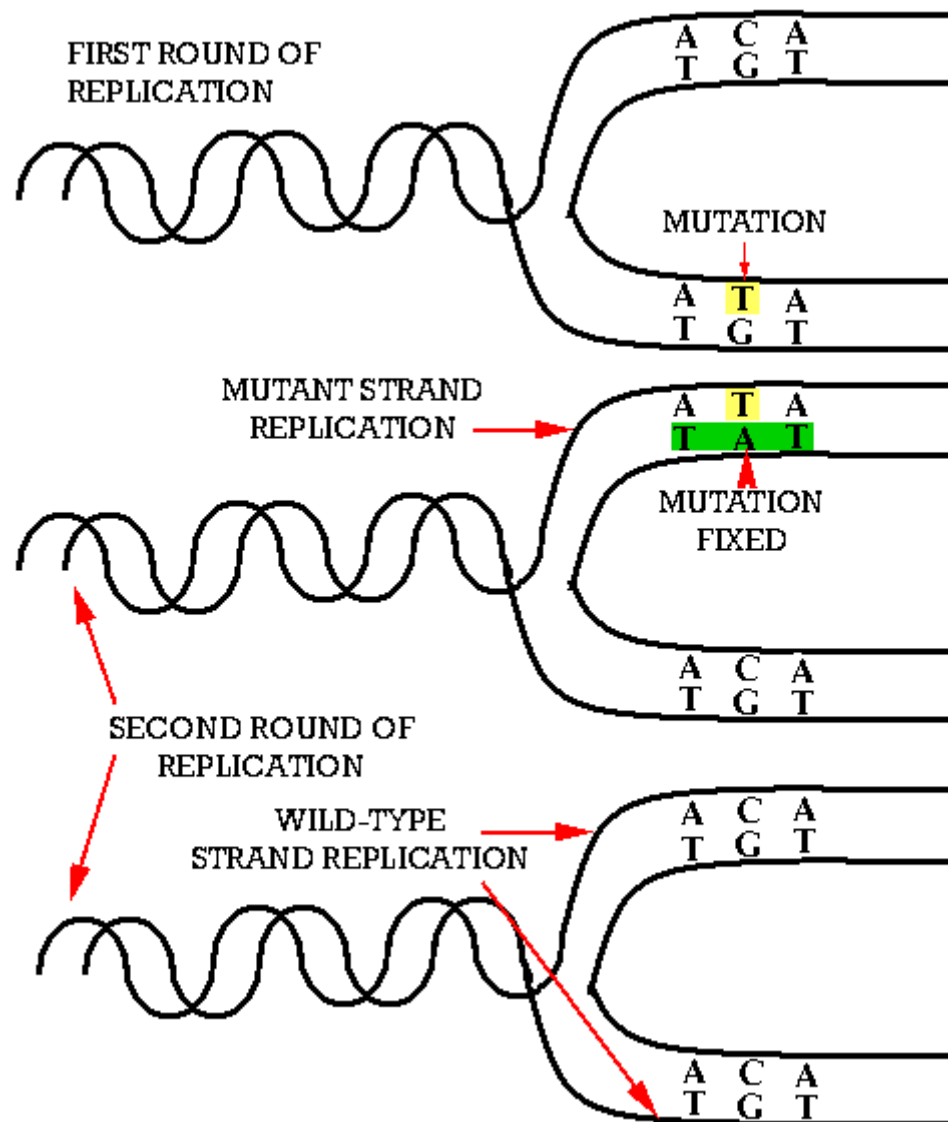
*(a) silent, (b) missense, (c) nonsense, (d) frameshift*

## **CHROMOSOMAL mutations**

→ *large scale impact*



# BASE - EXCHANGE





# INSERTION DELETION

*Reading frame shift*

## Insertion

5'	<b>AUG</b>	<b>CGA</b>	<b>UUA</b>	<b>UAC</b>	<b>GGG</b>		3'
	Met	Arg	Leu	Tyr	Gly		

↓

5'	<b>AUG</b>	<b>CGA</b>	<b>UUA</b>	<b>UUA</b>	<b>CGG</b>	<b>G</b>	3'
	Met	Arg	Leu	Leu	Arg		

## Deletion

5'	<b>AUG</b>	<b>CGA</b>	<b>UUA</b>	<b>UAC</b>	<b>GGG</b>	<b>AAA</b>	3'
	Met	Arg	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Lys	

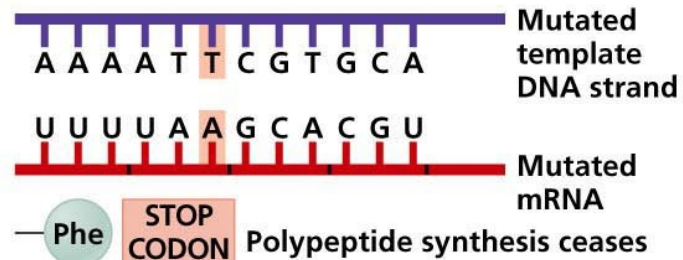
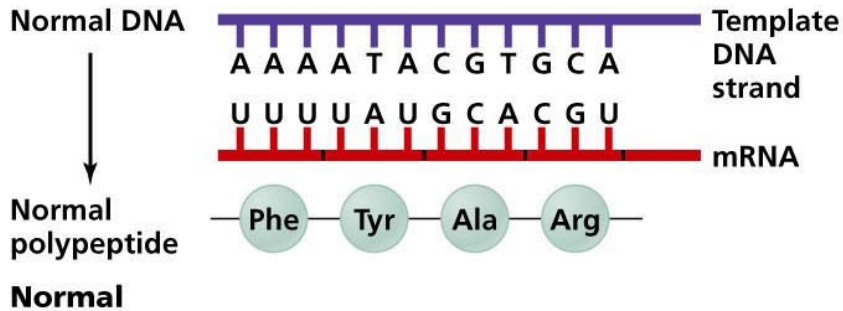
↓

5'	<b>AUG</b>	<b>CGA</b>	<b>UUA</b>	<b>UAG</b>	<b>GGA</b>	<b>AA</b>	3'
	Met	Arg	Leu	Stop			

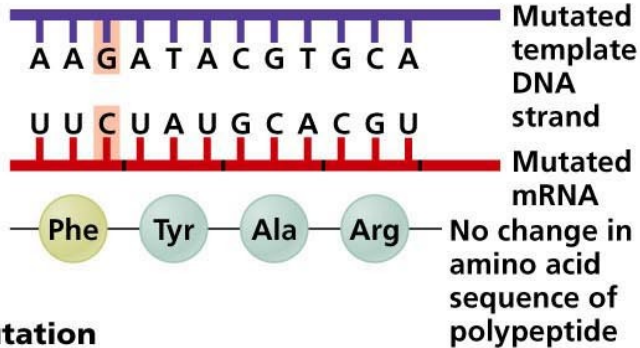


# Impacts of point mutations

→ (a) silent, (b) missense, (c) nonsense, (d) frameshift



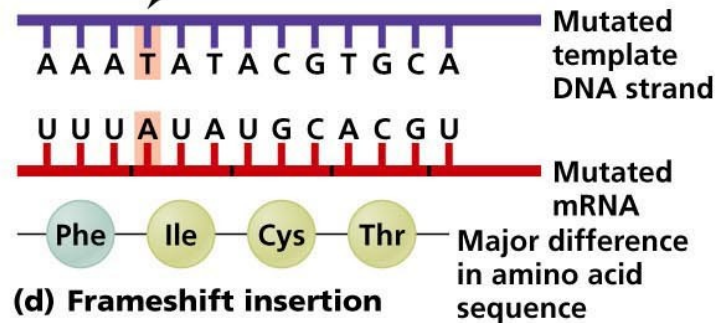
**(c) Nonsense mutation**



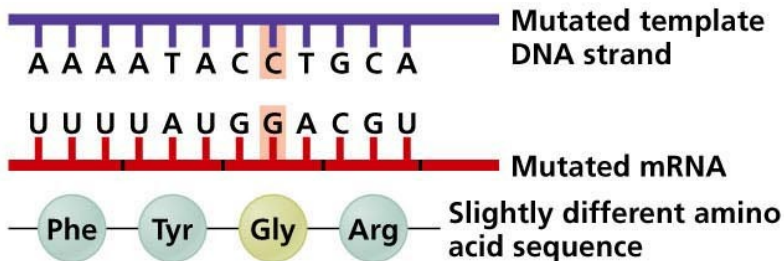
**(a) Silent mutation**

Frameshift mutations

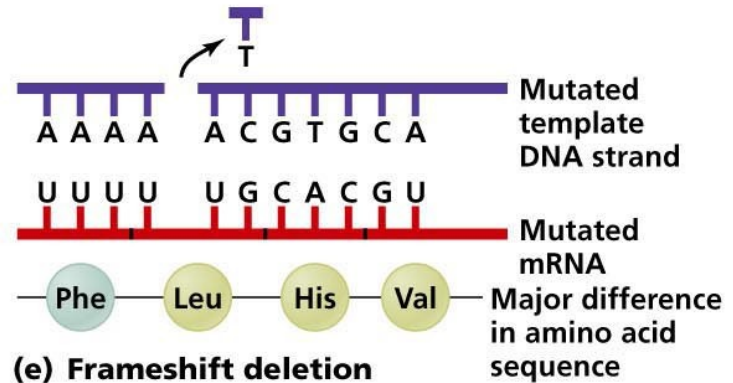
Insertion



**(d) Frameshift insertion**



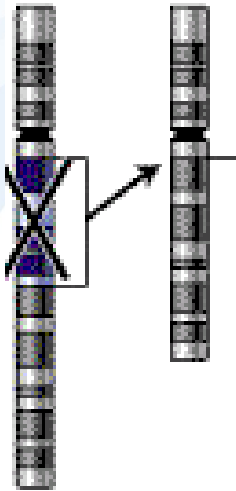
**(b) Missense mutation**



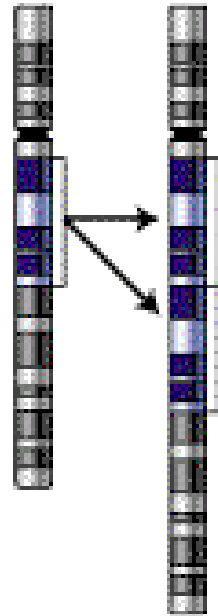
**(e) Frameshift deletion**

# Large – chromosomal mutations

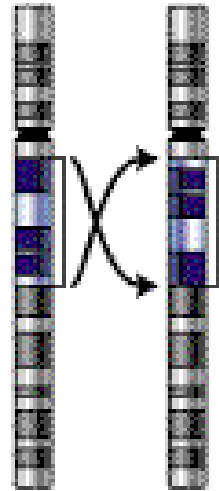
## Deletion



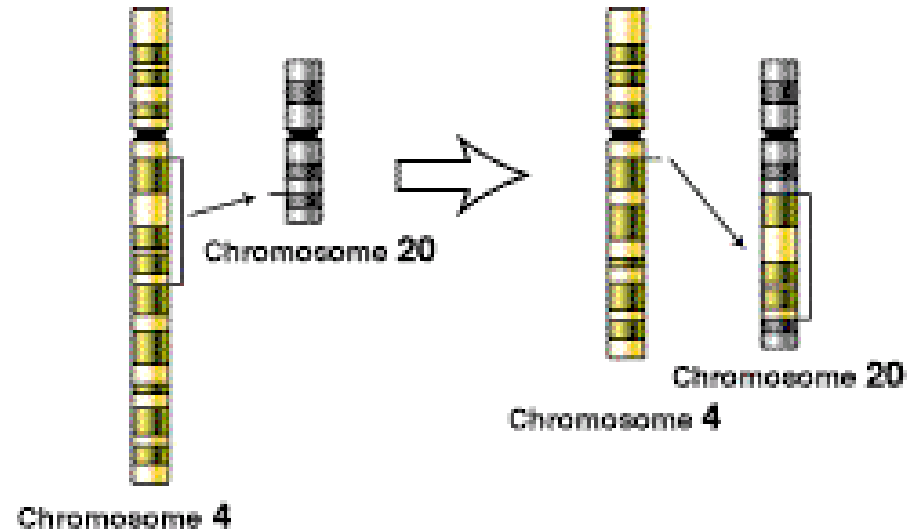
## Duplication



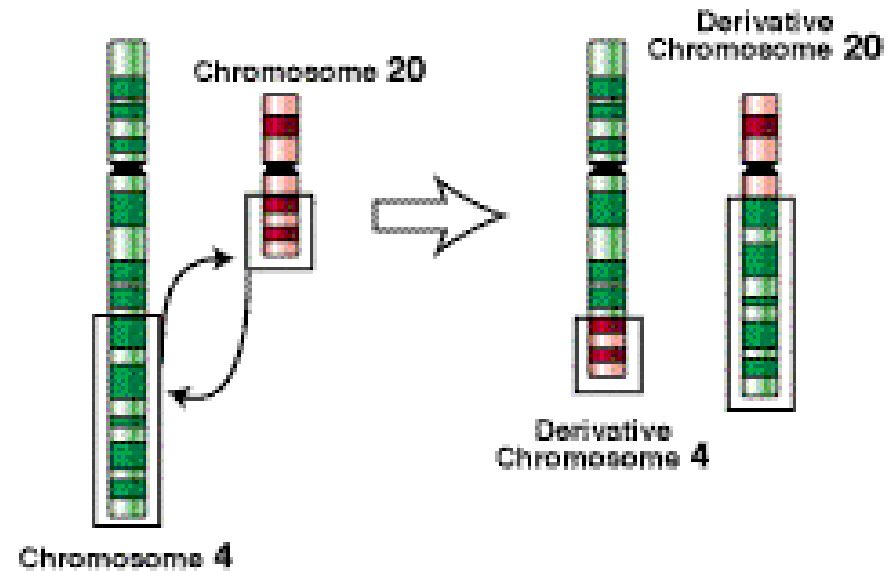
## Inversion



## Insertion



## Translocation



# What are the agents inducing mutations? MUTAGENS

## PHYSICAL FACTORS

### Ionizing radiation

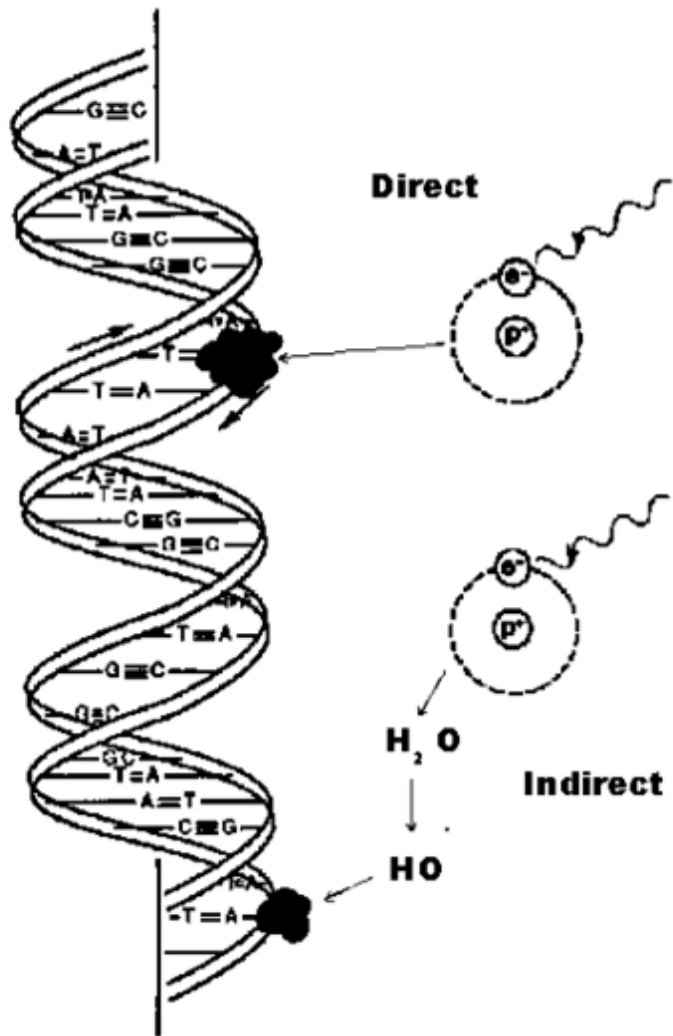
- direct interactions with NA
- interactions with water
  - formation of OH\*
  - (and other oxygen radical species – ROS)

→ *Various impacts on bases and strands*

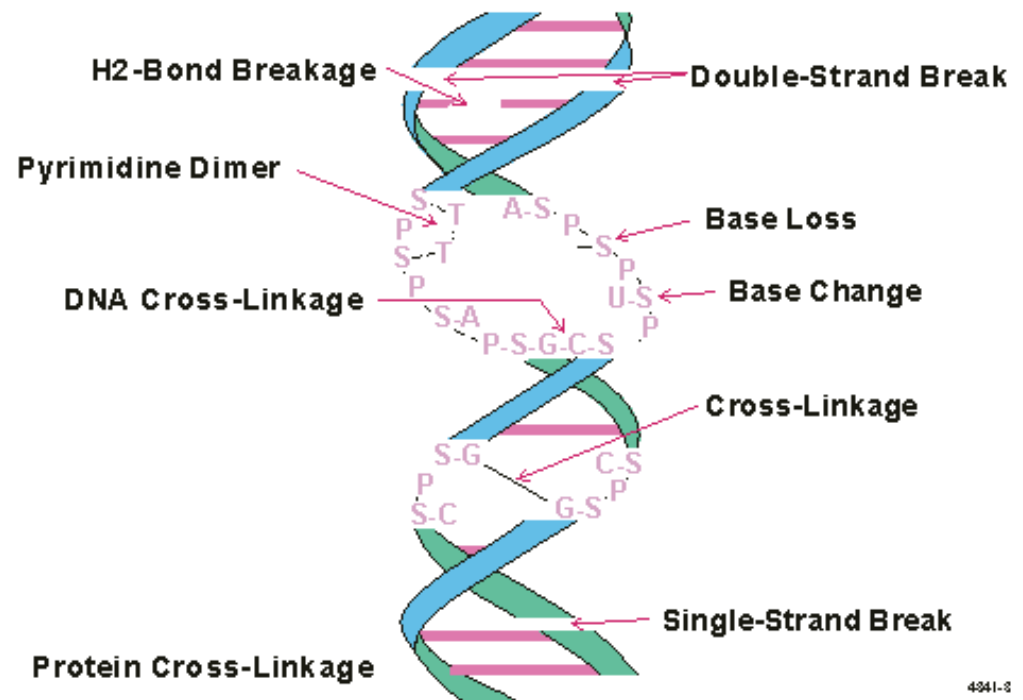
### UV radiation

- interaction with aromatic cycles (bases)
  - base dimerization (T=T)

# Ionizing radiation effects on DNA



## RADIATION DAMAGE TO DNA



4341-2



# What are the agents inducing mutations? MUTAGENS

## CHEMICALS

### 1) Small electrophilic molecules

(attracted by nucleophilic/basic sites ... e.g. in DNA)

### 2) Other reactive molecules

- \* alkylating and arylating agents – covalent adducts
- \* specifically intercalating agents

### 3) Base analogs

inserted during replication instead of nucleotides

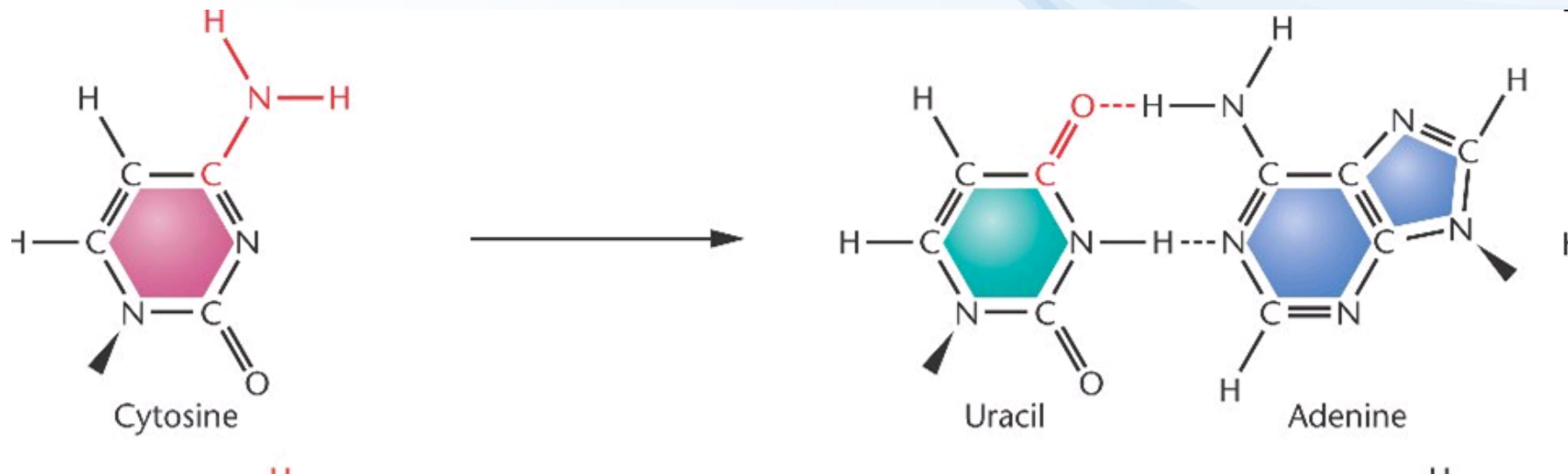
*Some compounds may require “**activation**” by metabolism  
pro-mutagen (pro-carcinogen) → mutagen (carcinogen)*



# Small molecules → deamination of bases

$\text{HNO}_2$ ,  $\text{HSO}_3^-$  Hydroxylamine ( $\text{HO-NH}_2$ ), Methoxyamine ( $\text{CH}_3\text{-O-NH}_2$ )

Example: *deamination leading to GC → AT shift*

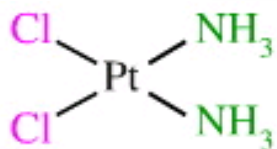


# ALKYLating compounds

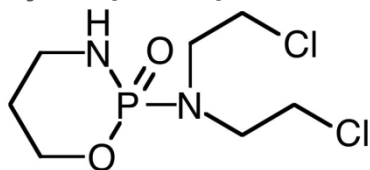
Covalent binding to NA (alkylation of bases, crosslinks in dsDNA)

Alkylsulphates, Nitro-urea, N-nitroso-alkyles, cis-platinum

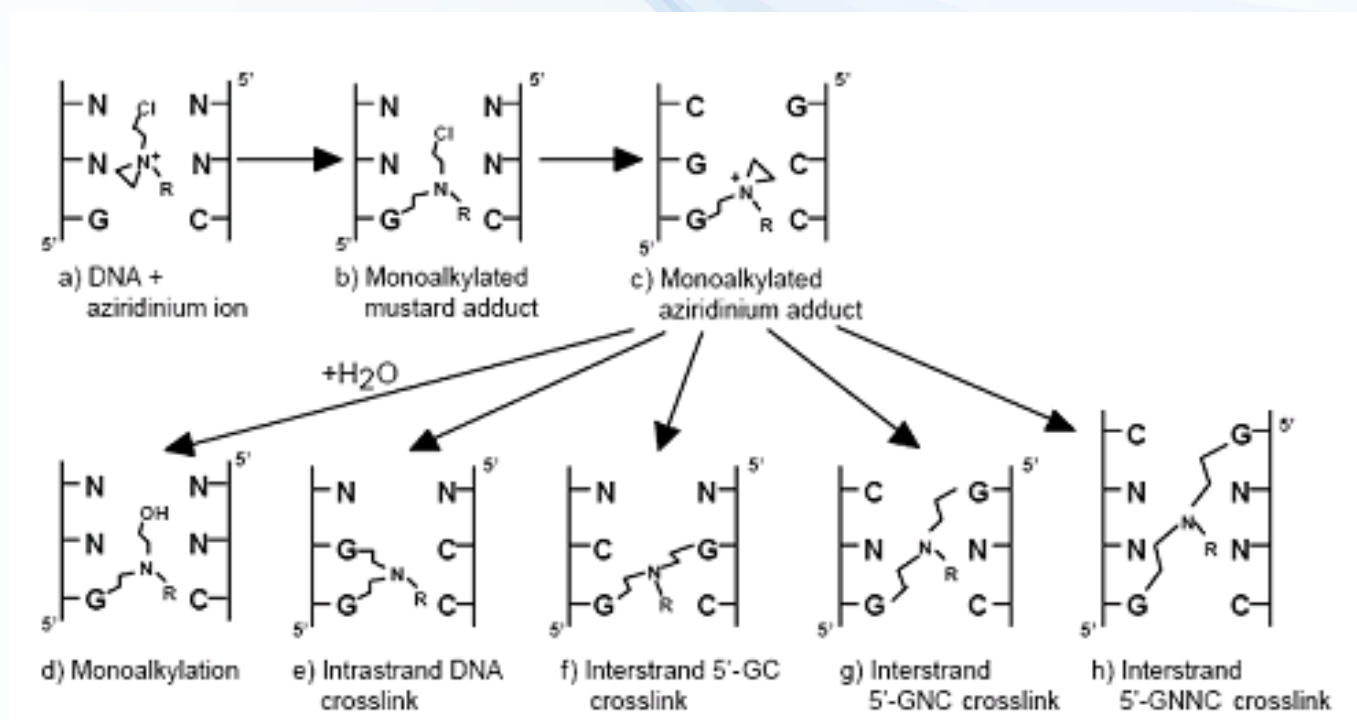
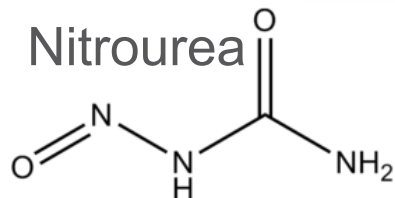
cisplatin



cyclophosphamide



Nitrourea





# ARYLating compounds

**Covalent binding, aromatic „adducts“ with bases**  
(see also discussion at biomarkers)

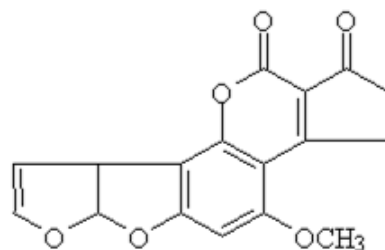
**Mycotoxins (Aflatoxins)** – requires activation

**PAHs (benzo[a]pyrene)** – requires activation

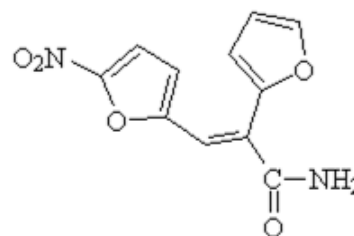
**PAH derivatives**

- **2-AA, 2-AF** (grill products)
- **NQO** – model mutagen in experiments

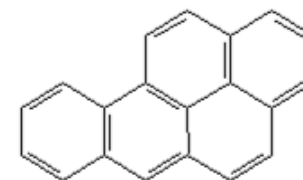
... many others



Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub> 312.27



AF-2 (furylfuramide) 248.19



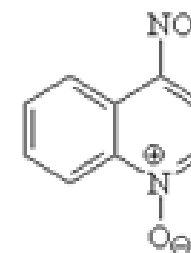
benzo[a]pyrene  
(B[a]P) 252.31



2-aminoanthracene  
(2-AA) 193.24



2-aminofluorene  
(2-AF) 181.23

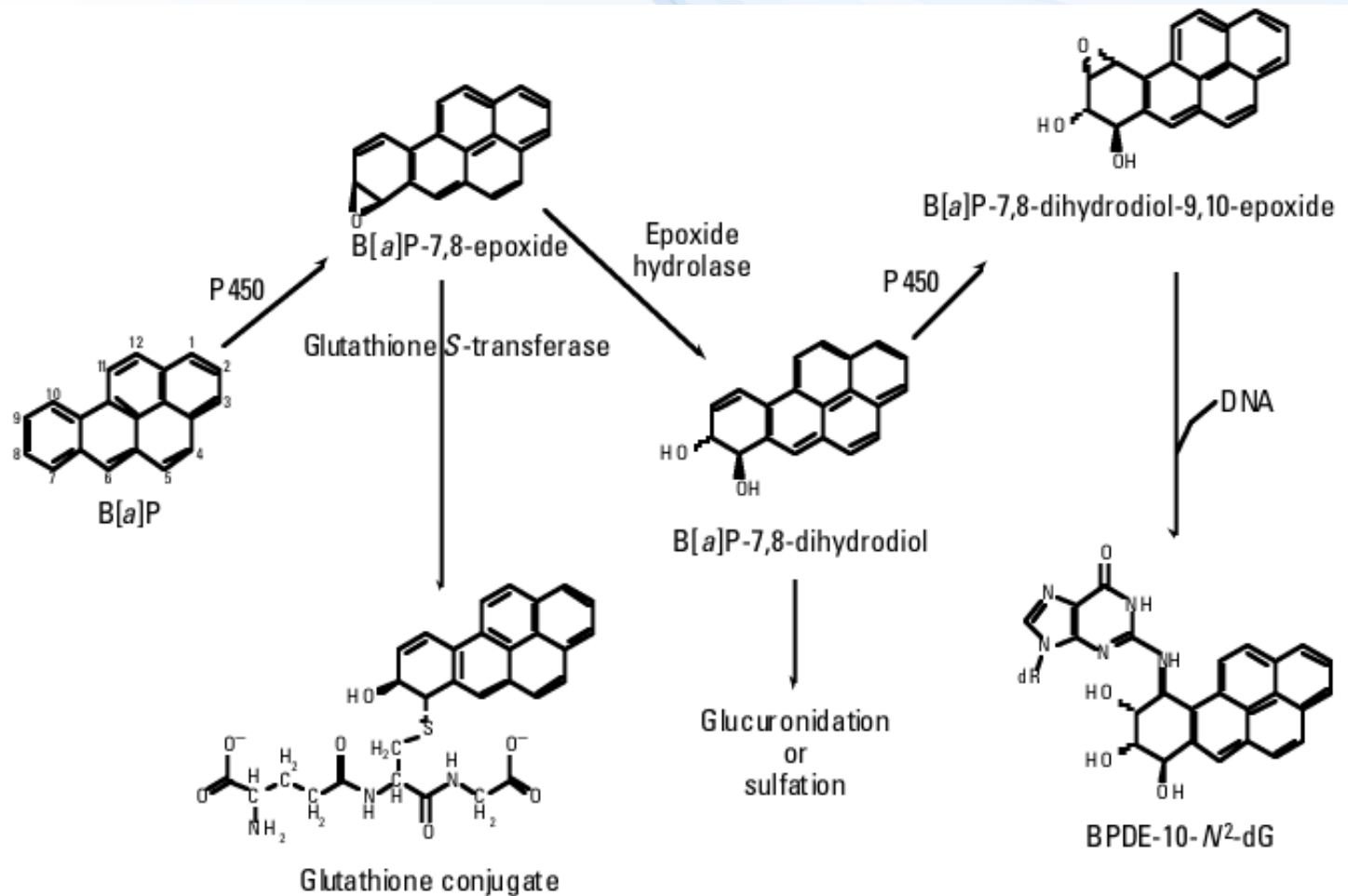


4-nitroquinoline-1-oxide  
(NQO) 190.15



# Bioactivation of benzo[a]pyrene → genotoxicity

BaP is oxidized to epoxides and OH-derivatives during detoxification (CYP450)  
→ increased reactivity (including binding to bases ... primarily G or A)  
(*Similar bioactivation e.g. at aflatoxin*)



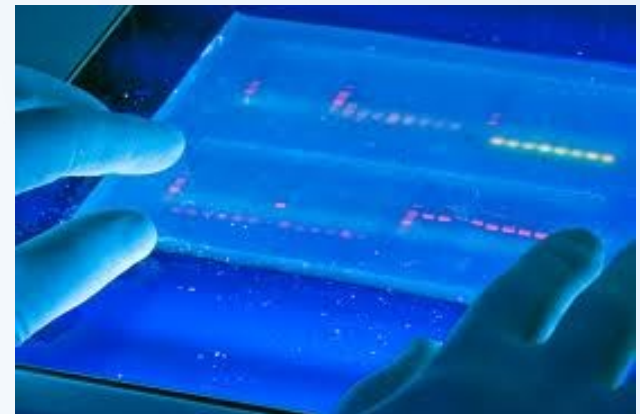
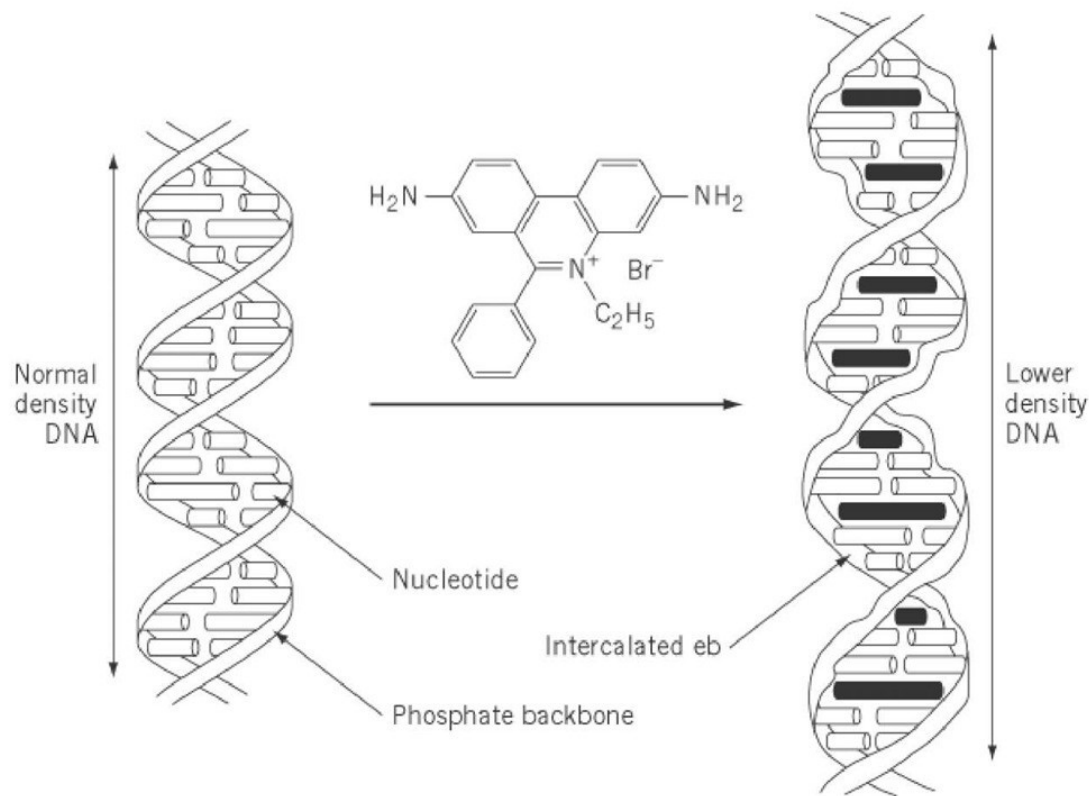
# Intercalating agents

Compounds with characteristic structures “fitting” into DNA

→ both noncovalent and covalent intercalation

## Example 1 – ETHIDIUMBROMIDE

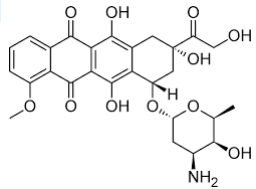
- experimental dye – visualization of DNA
- intercalation → sharing of electrons with bases → high fluorescence



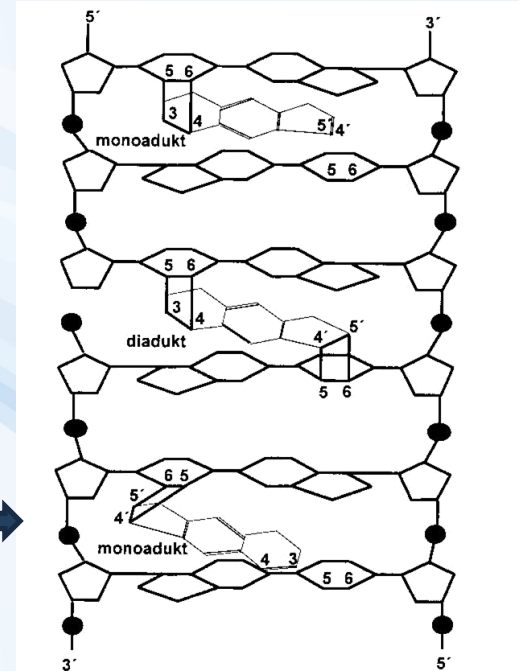
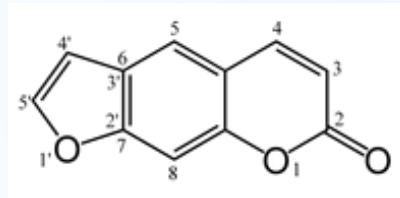
# Intercalating agents

## Other examples

-Anticancer drug - doxorubicin



- Psoriasis treatment – psoralen →



-Experimental research compnds (e.g. acriflavine) →

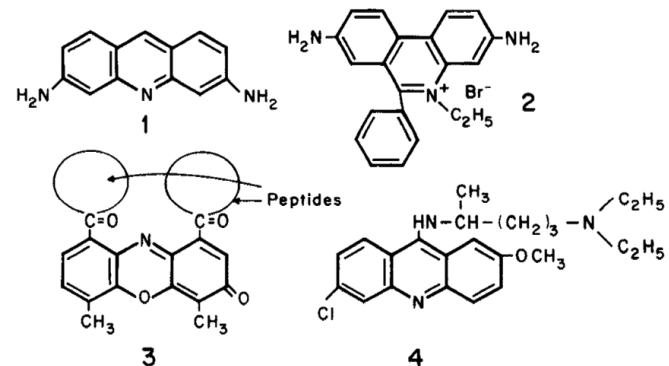


Chart 5.8. Examples of intercalating agents. Key: 1, acriflavine; 2, ethidium bromide; 3, actinomycin; 4, quinacrine.

# Base analogs

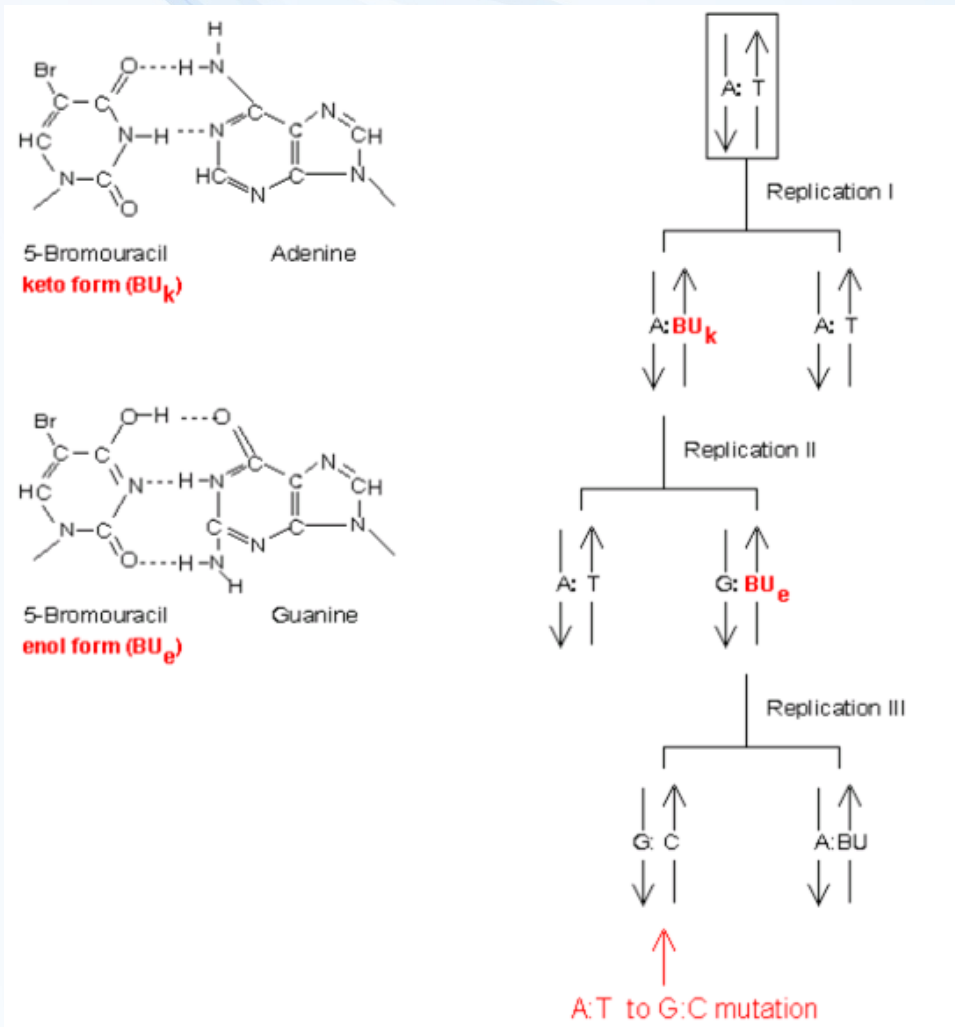
## Structure similarity with natural bases

- Incorporation into DNA during replication
- Base exchange mutations

### Example

#### 5-Br-Uracil (anticancer drug)

AT → GC shift



# Mutations (alleles) and evolution

