



Centrum pro výzkum  
toxických látek  
v prostředí

# BIOMARKERS AND TOXICITY MECHANISMS

## 03 – Mechanisms @proteins

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[www.recetox.cz](http://www.recetox.cz)

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



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

## Major mechanisms (modes of action) to be discussed in detail

- **Proteins** and inhibition of enzymatic activities
- Mitotic poisons & microtubule toxicity
- Ligand competition – receptor mediated toxicity
- **Membrane** nonspecific toxicity (narcosis)
- Toxicity to membrane gradients
- **DNA** toxicity (genotoxicity)
- **Complex** mechanisms
  - Oxidative stress – redox toxicity
  - Defence processes as toxicity mechanisms and biomarkers - detoxification and stress protein induction
  - Toxicity to signal transduction

# Proteins and enzyme inhibitions → toxicity mechanisms



# Proteins as targets to toxicants

## Structure

- primary (sequence of aminoacids, AA),
- secondary, tertiary, quaternary (folding – important for functions)

**Proteins - large/long – key target for number of toxicants!**

= polypeptides - tens to thousands of AA

**Peptides** (small, “πεπτός, "digested“, 2x AA to e.g. 20x AA)

may have various functions (e.g. protective - glutathione)

## Key functions of proteins

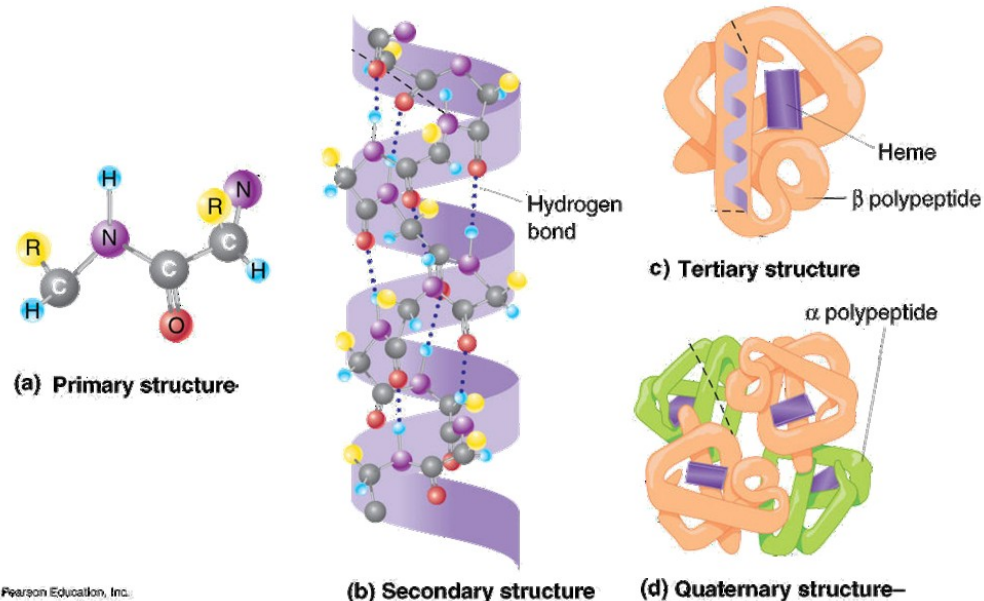
STRUCTURE and PROTECTION

CATALYSIS (enzymes)

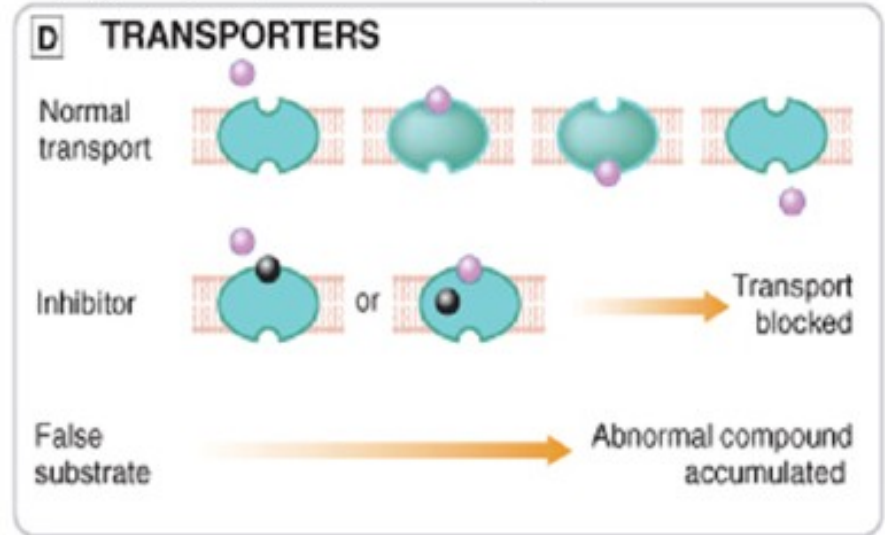
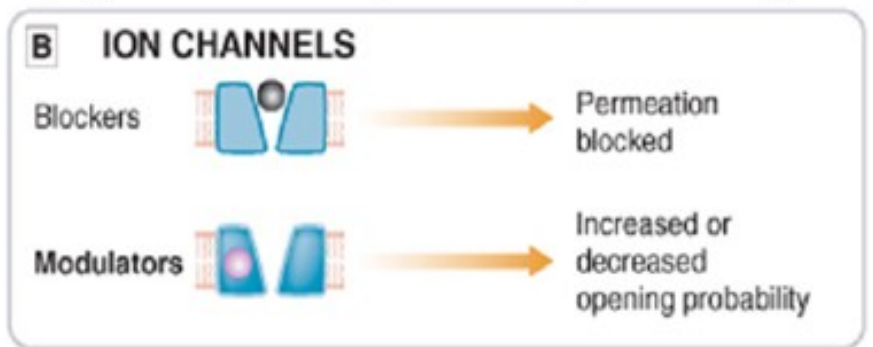
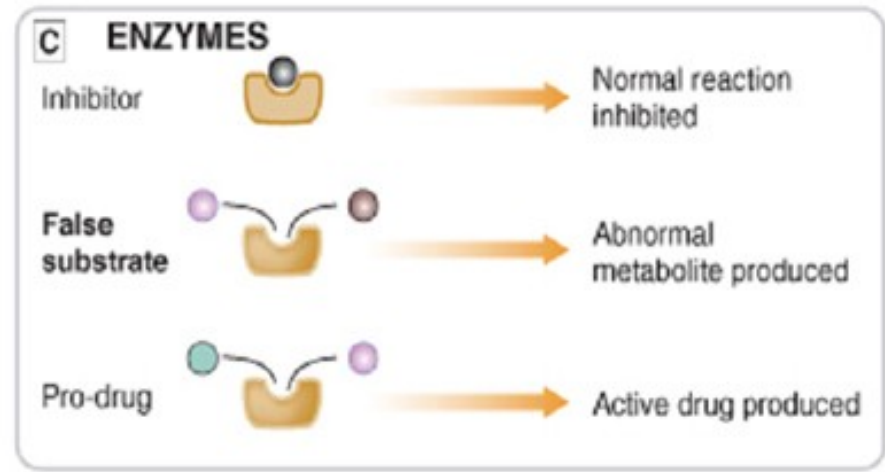
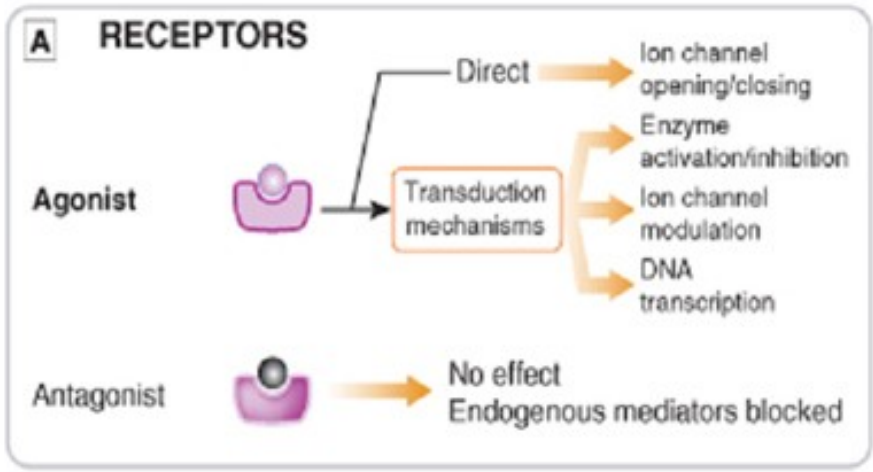
TRANSFER (information and mass)

- receptors, channels, transporters

... student should know examples..



# Overview - interactions of small molecules with proteins



- Agonist/normal substrate
- Antagonist/inhibitor
- Abnormal product
- Pro-drug

(eg fluoxetine, omeprazole)

Note – a few drugs target DNA rather than proteins (eg mitomycin C).

# CATALYTICAL PROTEINS = Enzymes

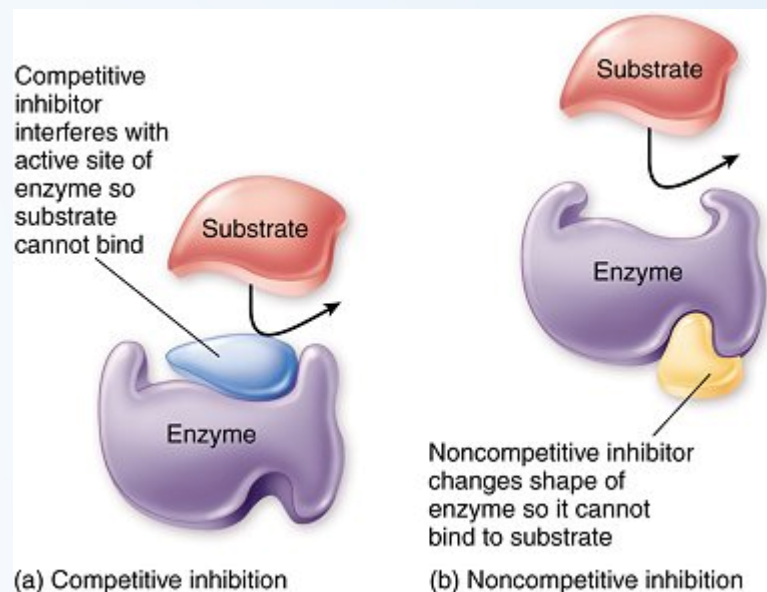
- Catalysis - what is it?  
... student should know
- Thousands of enzymes (vs. millions of compounds)
  - present in body fluids, membranes, cytoplasm, organelles..  
... student should know key examples
- Enzymology – science of enzymes
  - includes also **interactions** of enzymes with small molecules (xenobiotics)





# Enzymes vs toxicants

- **Interactions** that make a chemical compound an enzyme (or protein) inhibitor
  - Competitive vs. non-competitive
    - active site vs. side domains
  - Specific vs nonspecific
    - affinity of the inhibition .... is determined by the effective concentration (lower the effective concentrations → higher the affinity)
  - Nonspecific inhibitions
    - **Most of the chemical toxicants (!)**
    - Compound interacts with functional groups on the surface of the protein (reactive toxicity) or affects the environment (high osmolarity, changing pH)



# Non-specific interactions & denaturation

## Most common interactions (and some examples)

**Hydrogen bond disruption**

**Ion bonds**

**S-S bonds**

alcohols, amines

acids (COOH), alkalic compounds (amines)

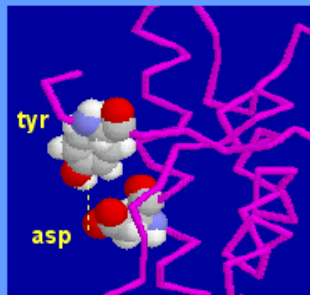
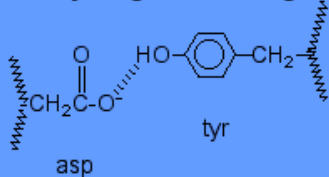
toxic metals  $\text{Hg}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Pb}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Cd}^{+2}$ ,  $\text{Ag}^{+1}$   $\text{Tl}^{+1}$ ,

carbonyls

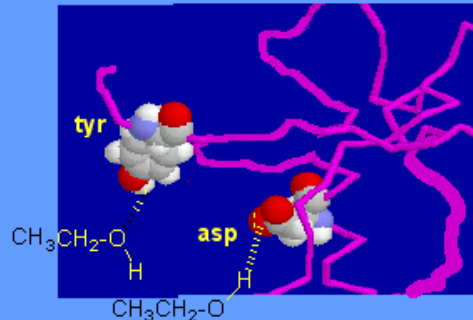
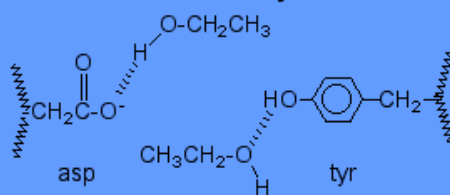
toxic metals

See also <http://www.elmhurst.edu/~chm/vchembook/568denaturation.html>

### Tertiary Structure - Hydrogen Bonding

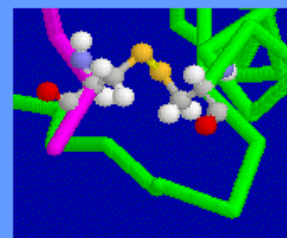
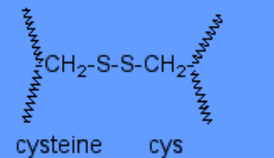


### Denaturation by Alcohol



C. Ophardt, c. 2003

### Tertiary Structure - Disulfide Bonds

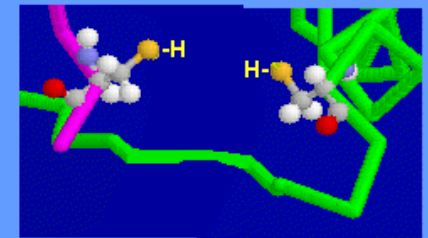


Join two chains

C. Ophardt, c. 2003

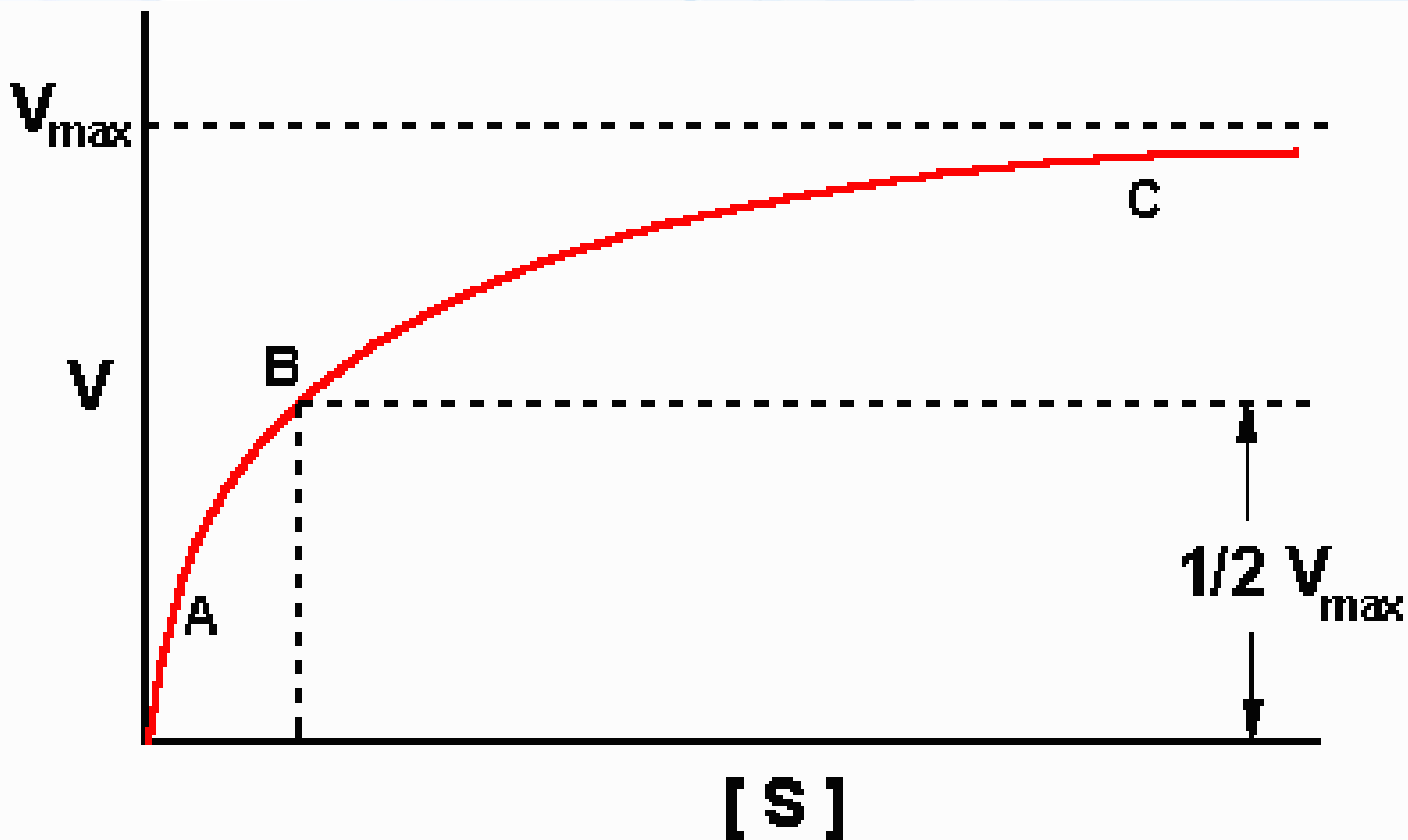
### Denaturation by Reducing Agents

+ (2 H)  
reducing  
agent



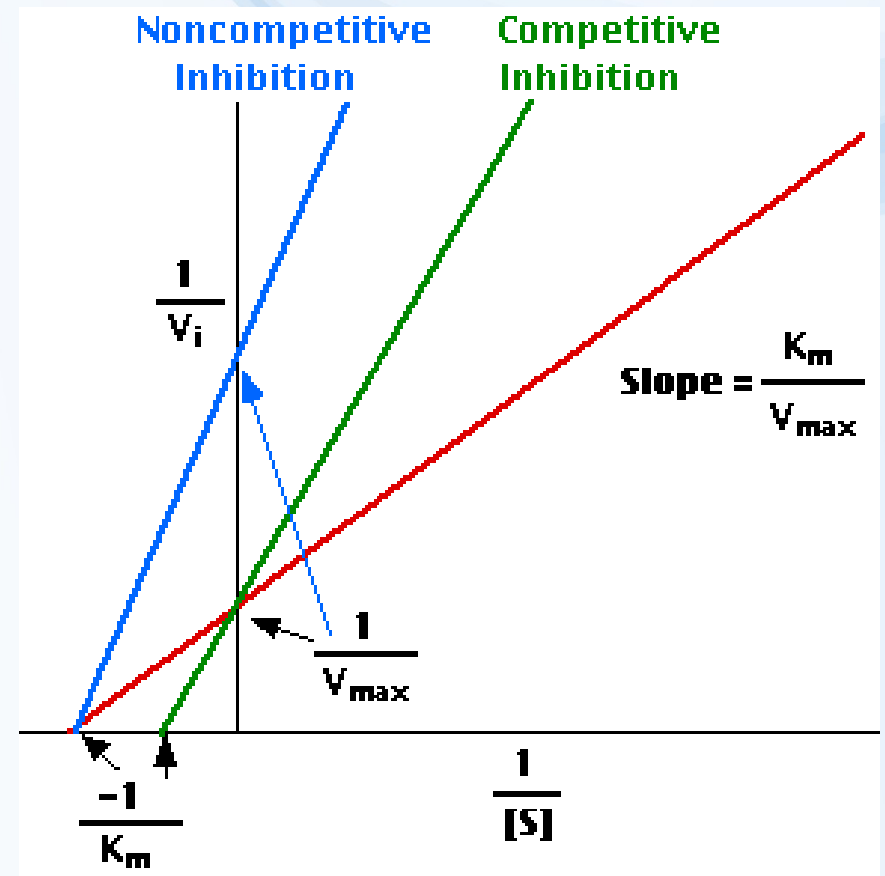
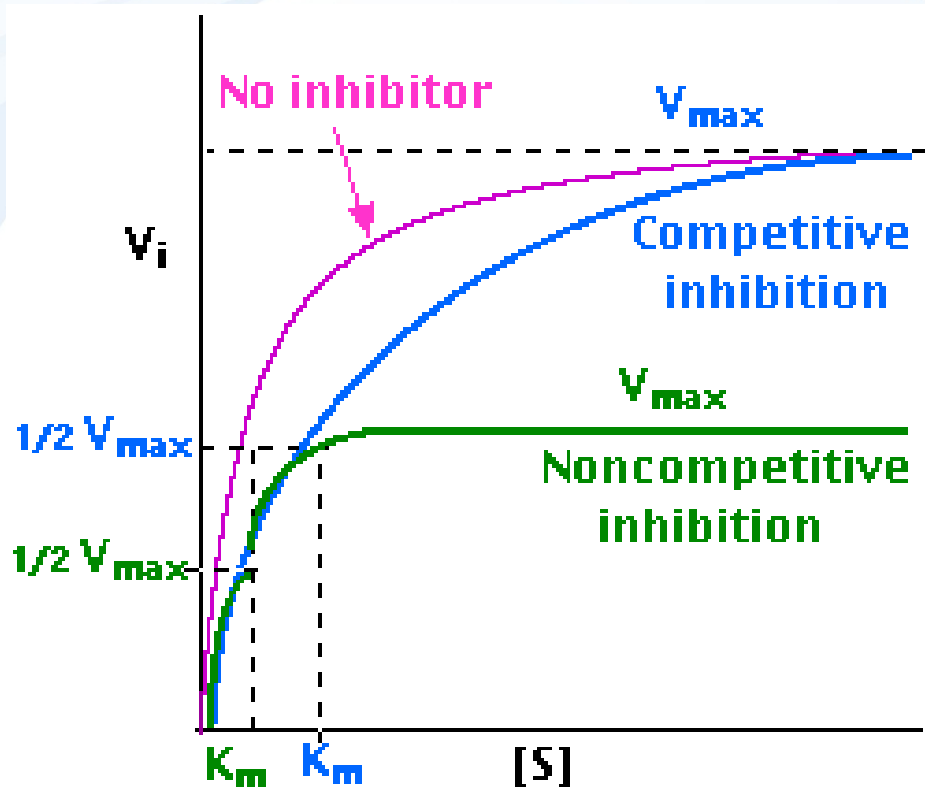


# Kinetics of the enzyme reaction (Michaelis Menten)



# Michaelis Menten INHIBITIONS

The kinetics informs about the nature of the interaction !



# Enzyme inhibitions by toxicants – overview of key examples

**Acetylcholinesterase** (organophosphate pesticides)

**Microsomal Ca<sup>2+</sup>-ATPase** (DDE)

**Inhibition of hemes – respiratory chains** (cyanides)

**d-Aminolevulinic Acid Dehydratase (ALAD) inhibition**  
(lead - Pb)

**Inhibition of proteinphosphatases** (*microcystins*)

**Glyphosate (roundup) action**

*Enzyme inhibitions are beyond many other mechanisms*  
→ see e.g. *CELL REGULATIONS* etc.

# Acetylcholinesterase inhibition by organophosphates

Acetylcholine signaling at synapse



- Acetylcholine (ACh)
- U ACh Receptor
- ⚡ Signal transmission

ACh Esterase STOPS signaling process

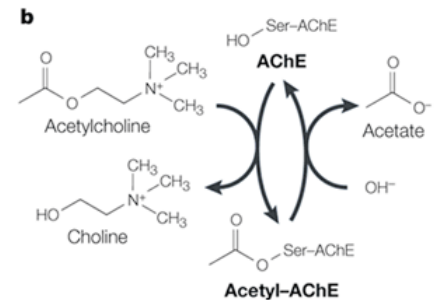
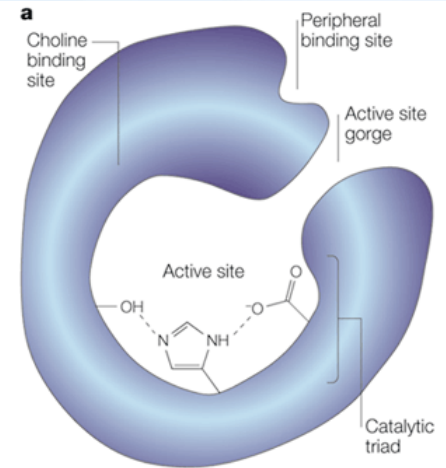


- ACh
- U ACh Receptor
- ⚡ Signal transmission
- ★ ACh Esterase

OP's inhibit ACh Esterase

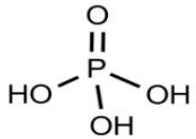


- ACh
- U ACh Receptor
- ⚡ Signal transmission
- ★ ACh Esterase
- ▶ Organophosphate pesticide (OP)

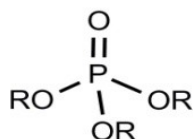


# Acetylcholinesterase inhibition by organophosphates (and carbamates)

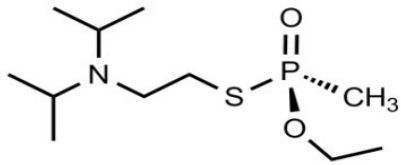
## Nerve gases



Phosphoric acid



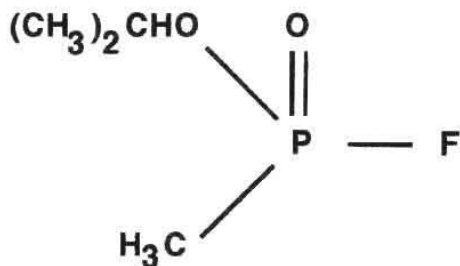
'Organophosphate'



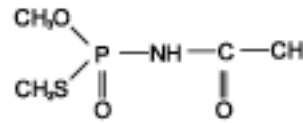
VX

## SARIN / GB NERVE AGENT

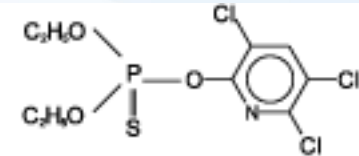
### Isopropoxymethylphosphoryl Fluoride



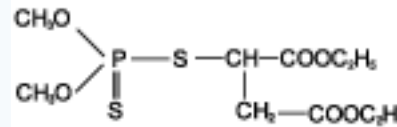
## Insecticides - OPs



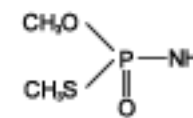
Accphate



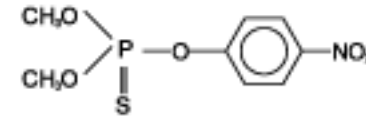
Chlorpyrifos



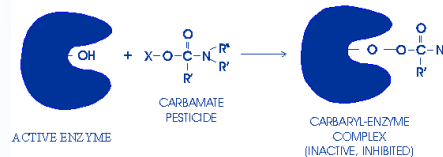
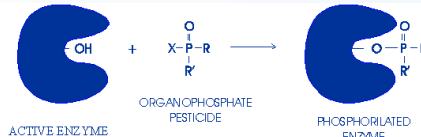
Malathion



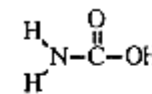
Methamidophos



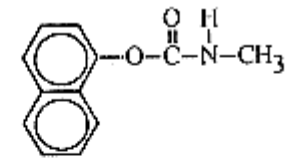
Parathion-methyl



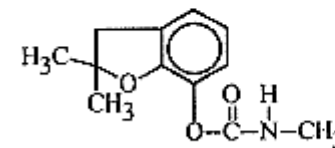
## Insecticides - Carbamates



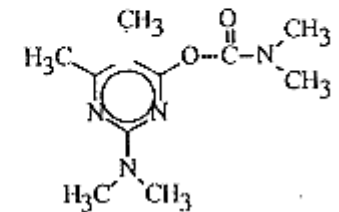
Carbamic acid



Carbaryl



Carbofuran



Pirimicarb

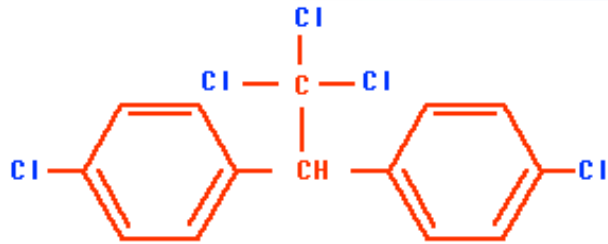
# Inhibition of $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase by DDE

## $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ in cells

- \* general signalling molecule (see later)
- \* stored in (endo-/sarcoplasmic reticulum)
- \* assures contractility of muscles
- \* concentrations regulated by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ -ATPase

## DDE

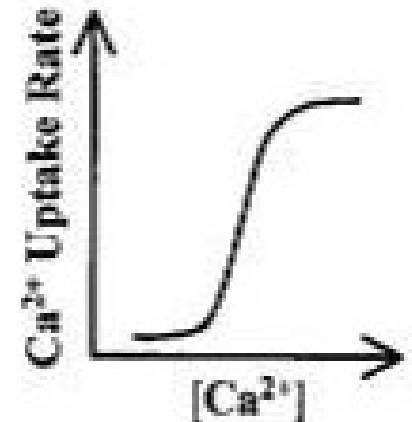
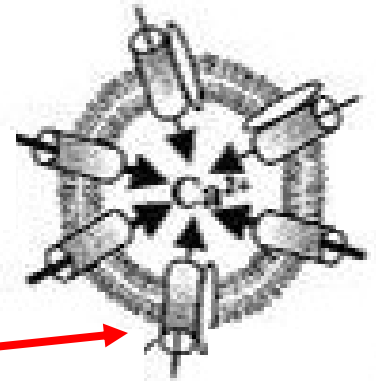
- calcium metabolism in bird eggs
- egg shell thinning



DDT (dichloro, diphenyl, trichloroethane)

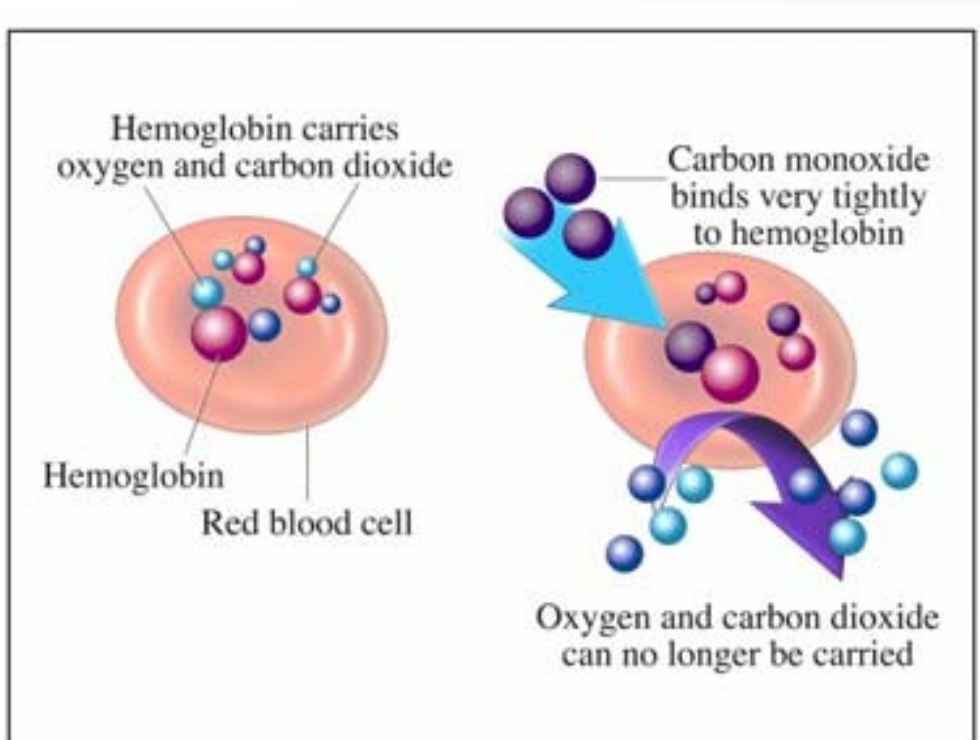
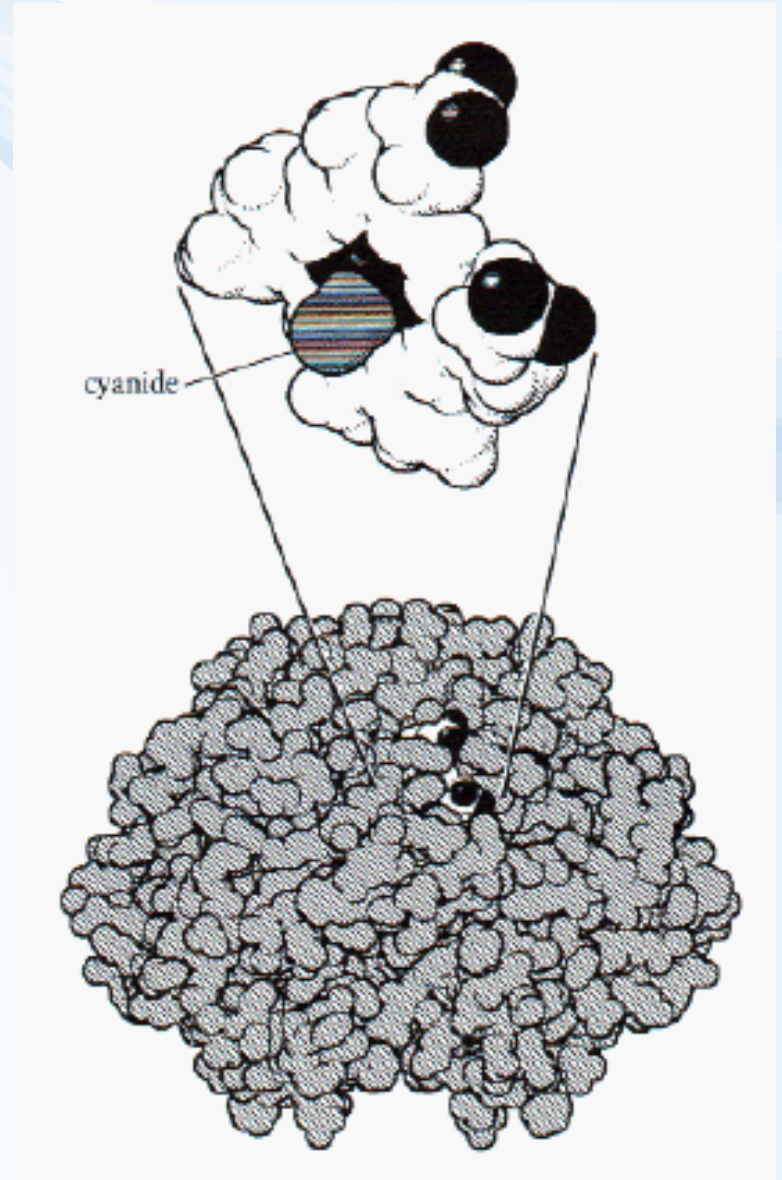
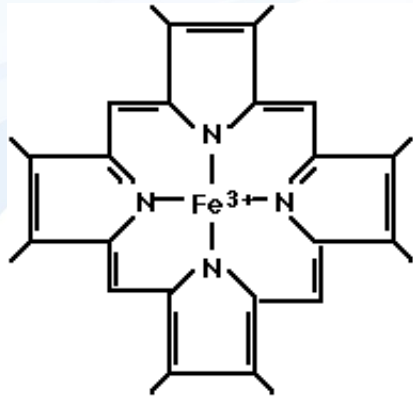


DDE





Inhibition of hemes – e.g. Haemoglobin, Mitchochondria, CYP450 etc.  
(cyanide HCN, carbon monoxide – CO)



# ALAD inhibition by lead (Pb)

## Lead exposure

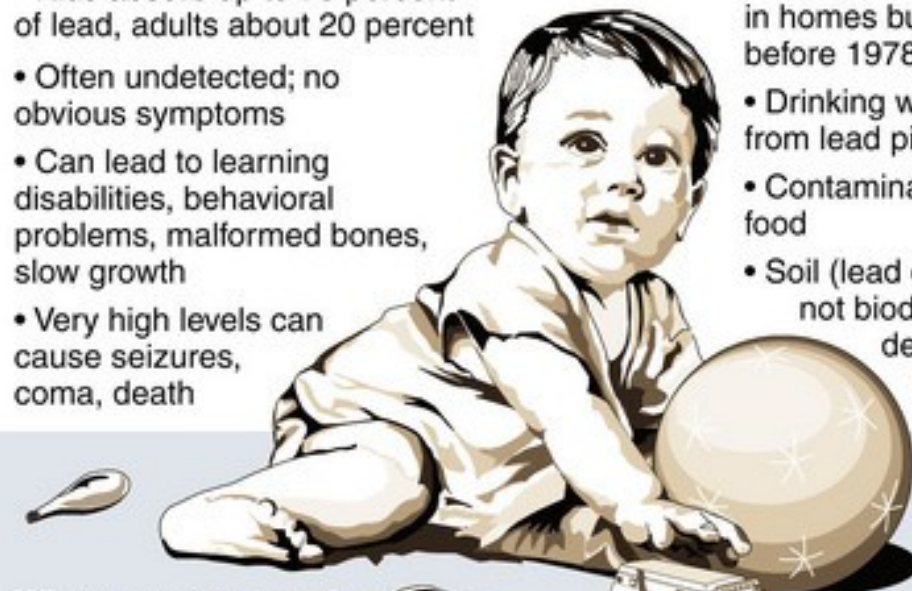
About 310,000 U.S. children ages 1 to 5 have elevated blood lead levels, which can accumulate over months and years and cause serious health problems.

### Effects on children

- Kids absorb up to 70 percent of lead, adults about 20 percent
- Often undetected; no obvious symptoms
- Can lead to learning disabilities, behavioral problems, malformed bones, slow growth
- Very high levels can cause seizures, coma, death

### Sources

- Lead-based paint, contaminated dust in homes built before 1978
- Drinking water from lead pipes
- Contaminated food
- Soil (lead does not biodegrade, decay)
- Toys\*



### What parents can do

- Have child screened if there is concern of lead exposure
- Frequently wash child's hands, toys, pacifiers
- Only use cold tap water for drinking, cooking
- Test paint, dust in home if it was built before 1978

\*Old toys with lead paint a known risk, but new toys from China now have come under scrutiny

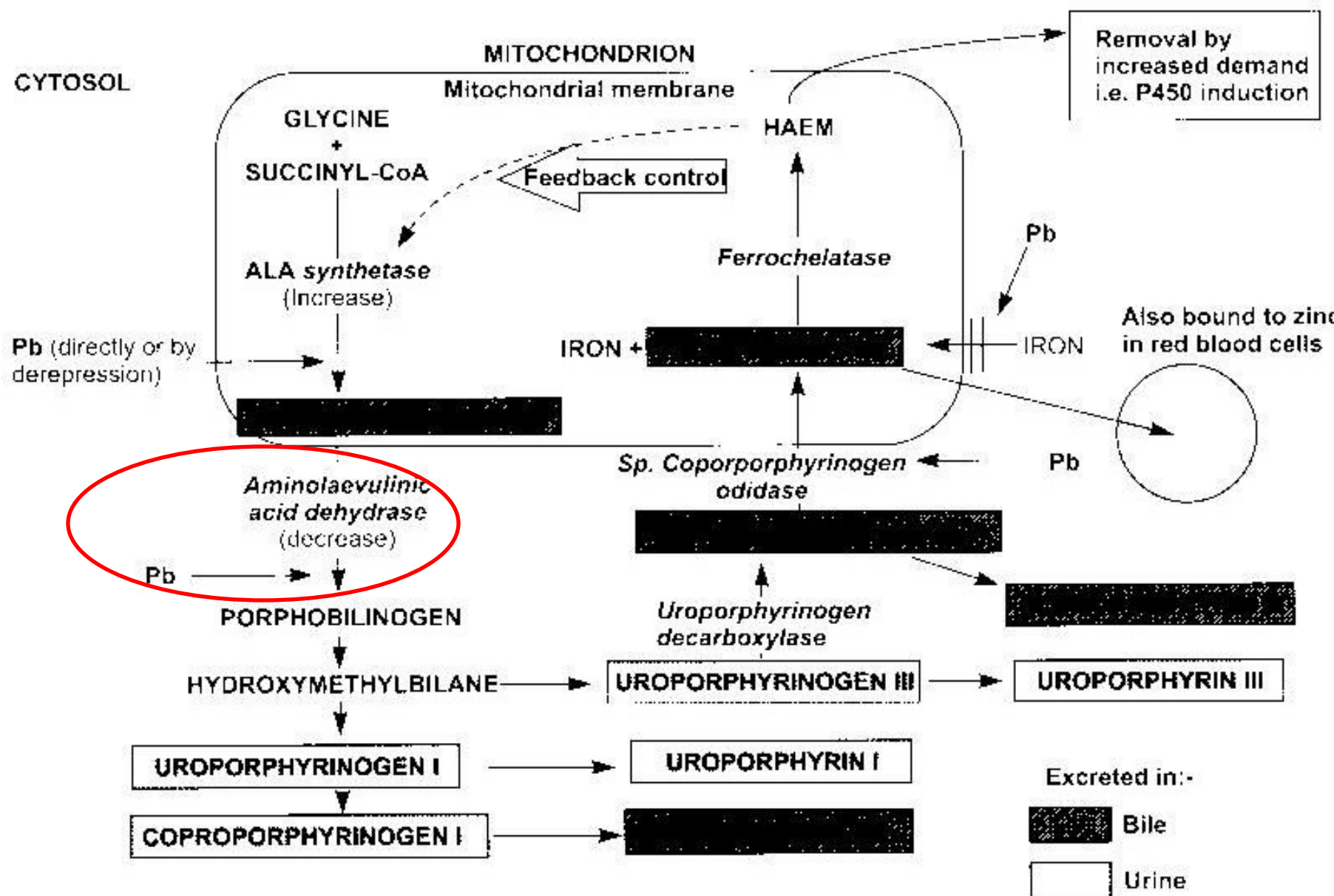
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

© 2007 MCT

Problem mostly in the USA

Ban of Pb-containing petrols

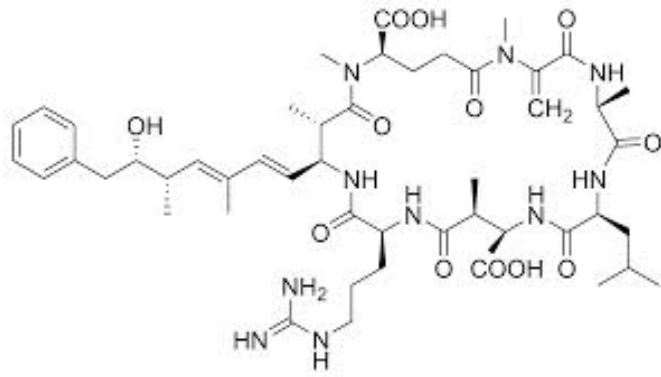
# ALAD inhibition by lead (Pb) – inhibition of HAEM (!) synthesis



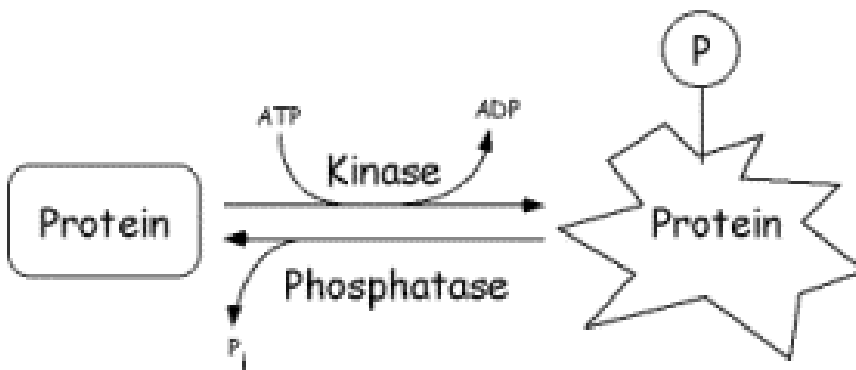
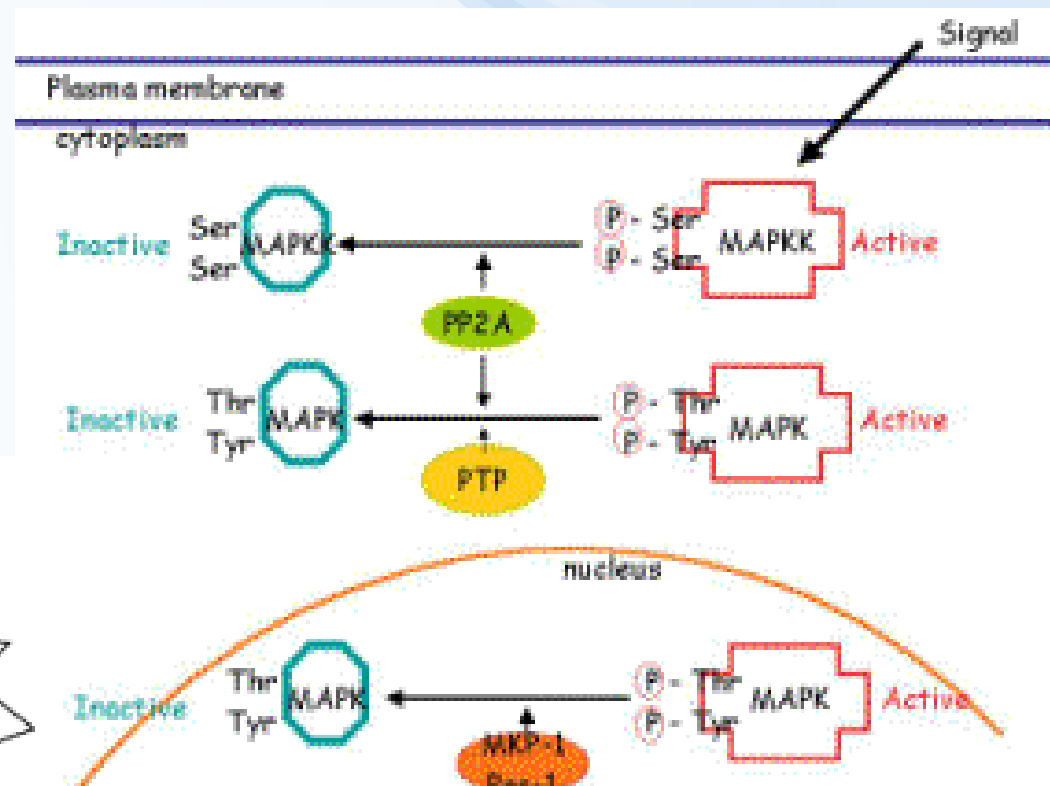
# Inhibitions of PROTEINPHOSPHATASES by microcystins

## Microcystins (7x AA – heptapeptides)

Cyanobacterial toxins produced in eutrophied waters (water blooms) up to tons/reservoir

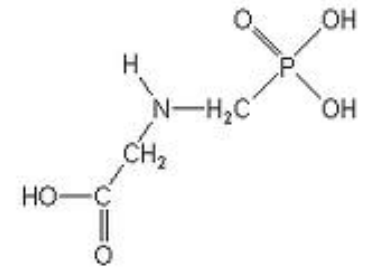


## PPases – signalling enzymes (see further)





# Glyphosate action



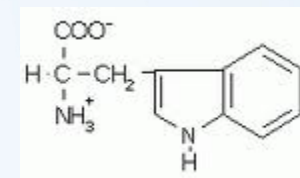
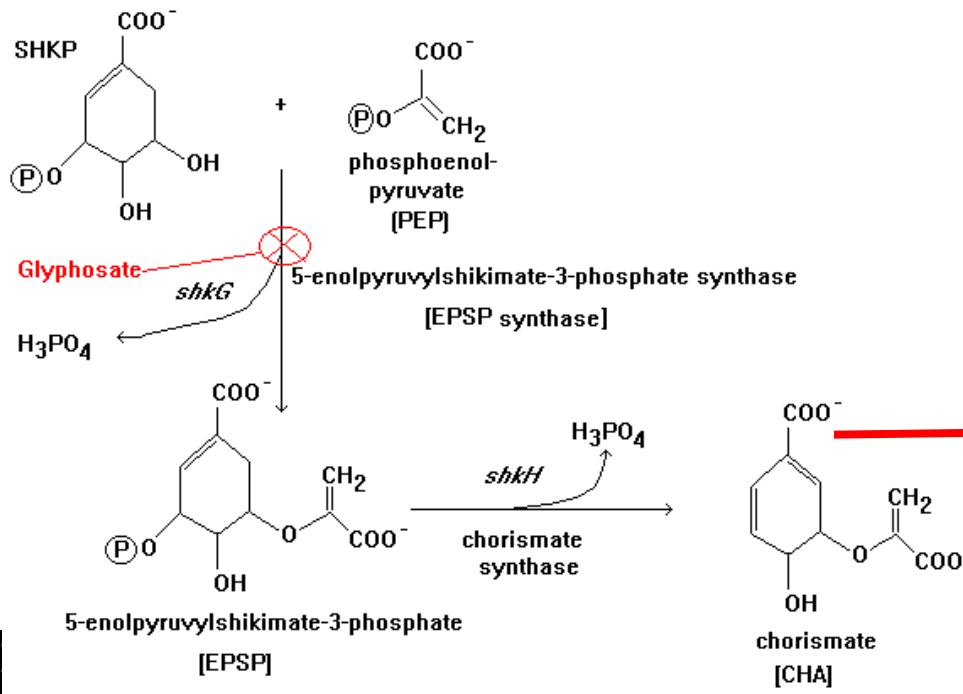
*N*-(phosphonomethyl)glycine

Broad-spectrum herbicide („**RoundUp**“)

Selective inhibition of ESPs 5-*enol*pyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase;  
(synthesis of aromatic AAs – Tyr, Trp, Phe)

Uptake via leaves - only to growing plants

„Non-toxic“ to other organisms (no ESPs in animals, AA-like chemical - rapid degradation)



# Structural proteins (CYTOSKELETON) as target for toxicants

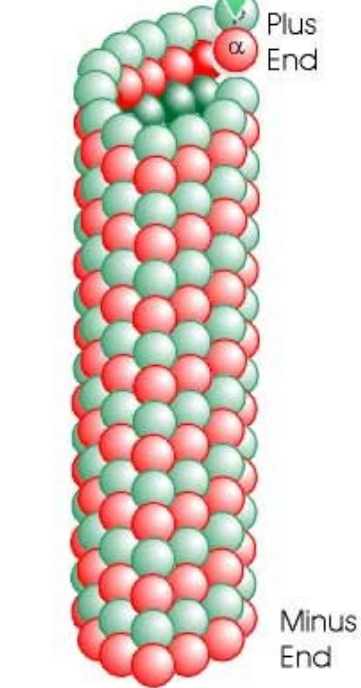
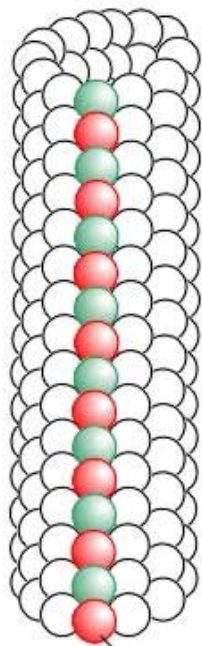
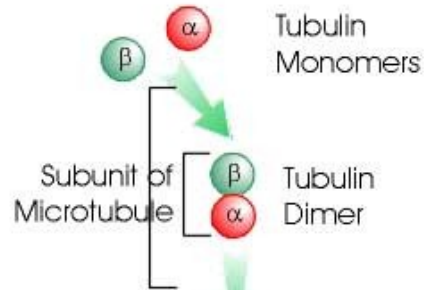
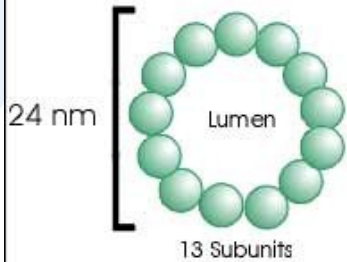




# Structures of microtubules – dynamic de/polymerization

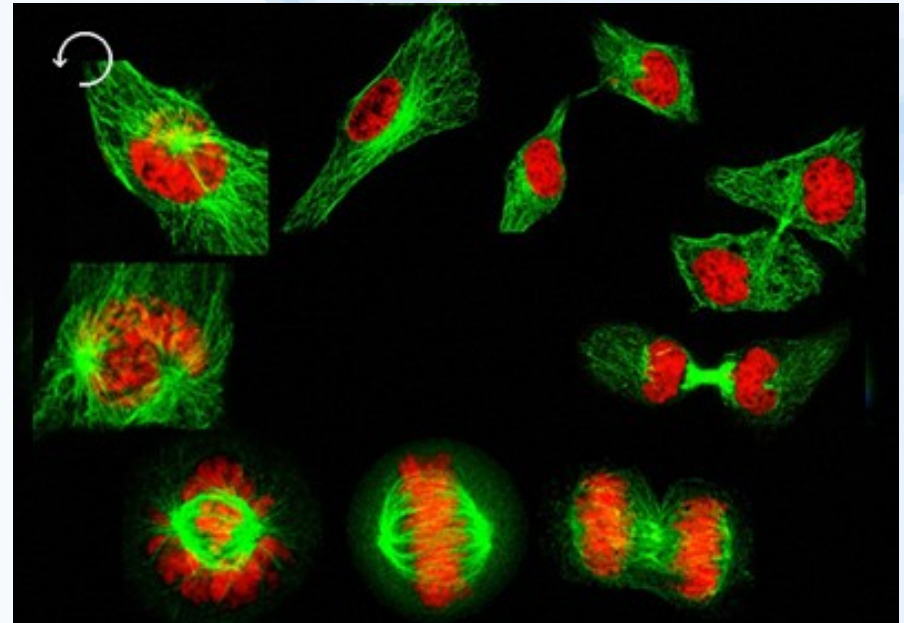
## Microtubule Structure

Microtubule-End View

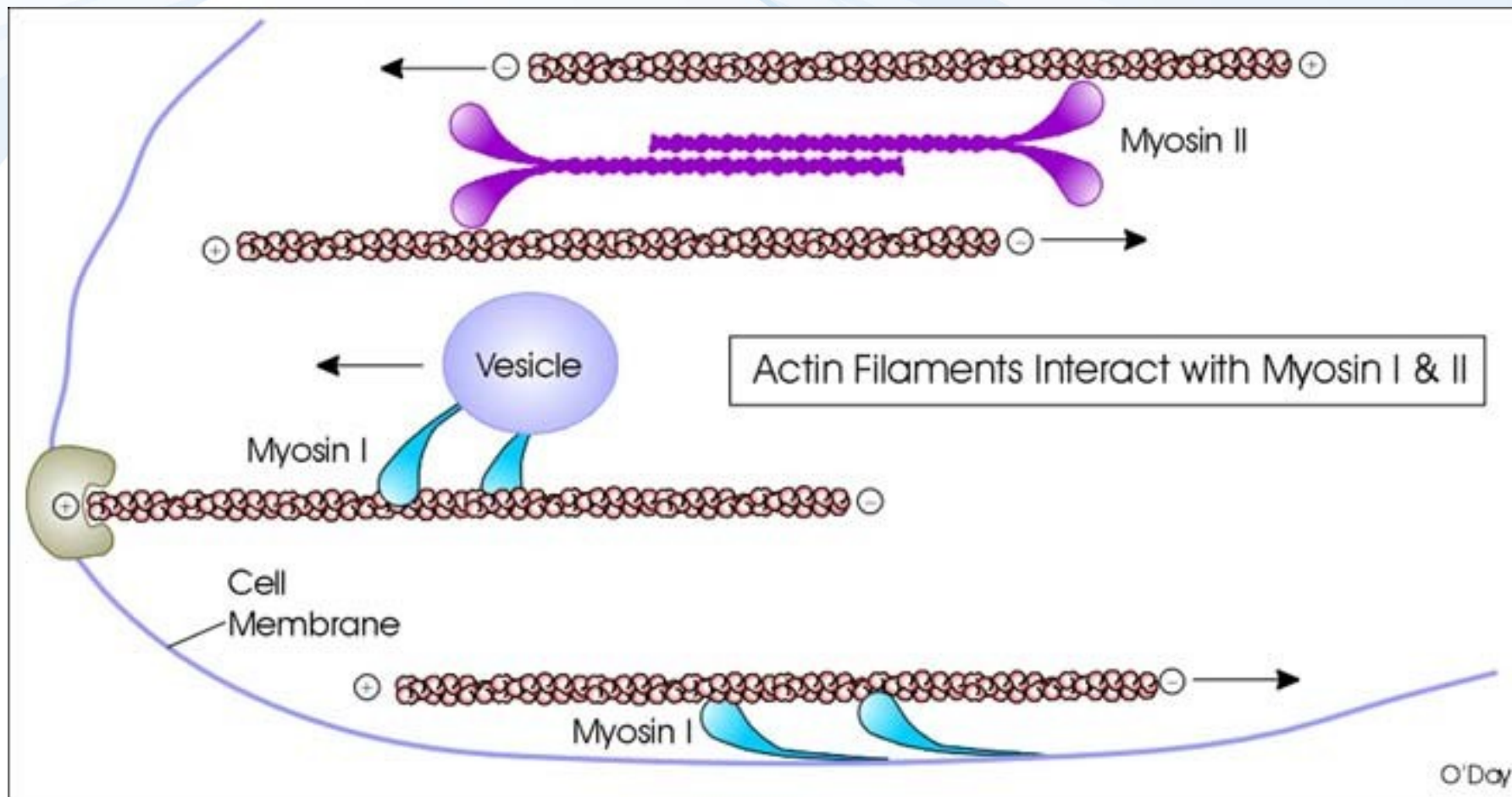


Microtubule-Side View

Visualization of microtubules during cell division – separation of chromosomes

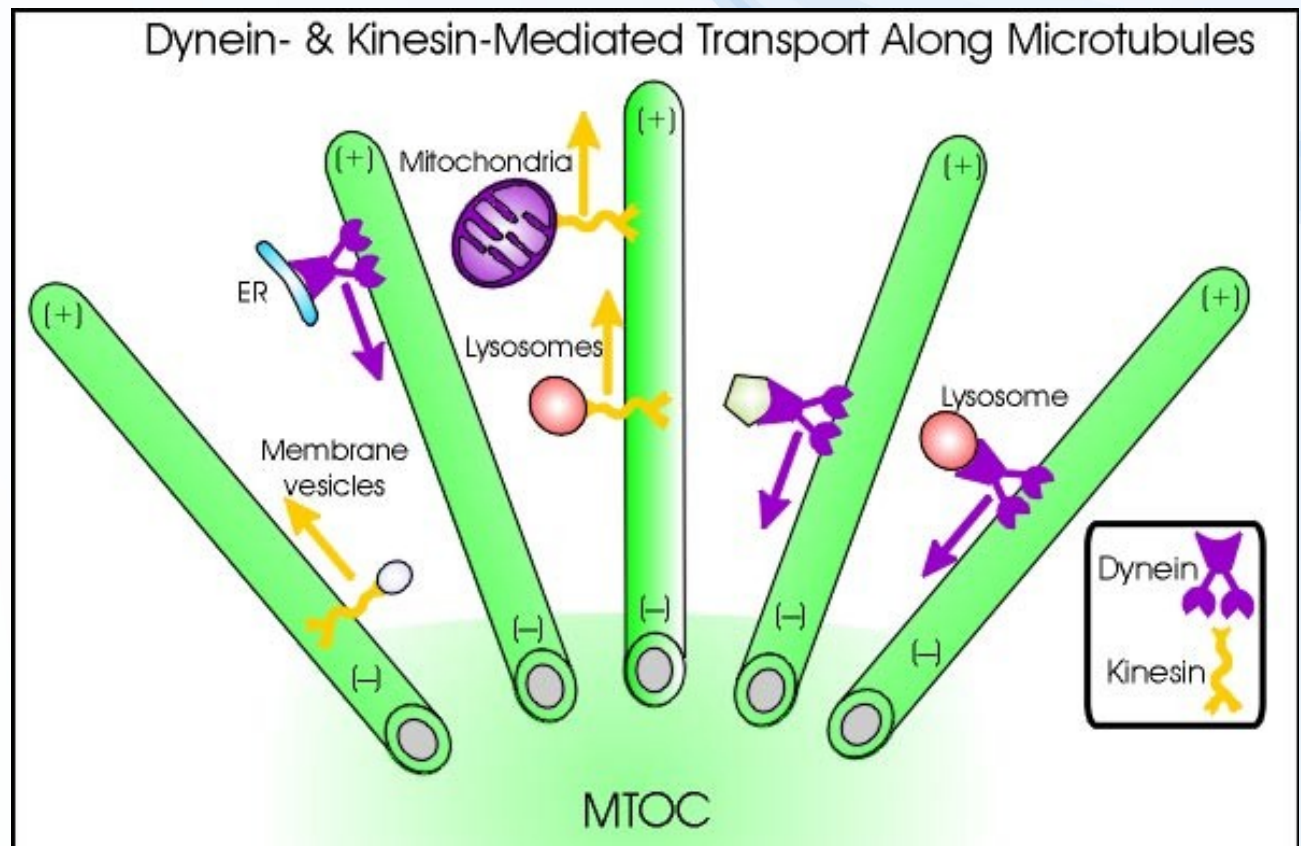


# Structure of actin-myosin system



# Cytoskeleton – functions

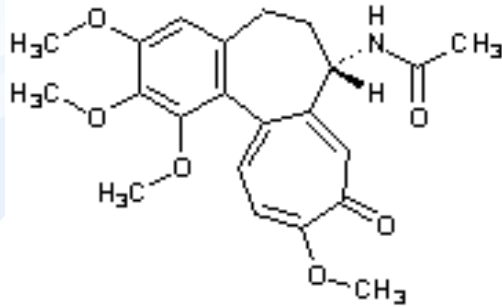
- intracellular transport
- cell replication and division (mitosis:chromosomes)
- muscle movement
- membrane (vesicles) fusion



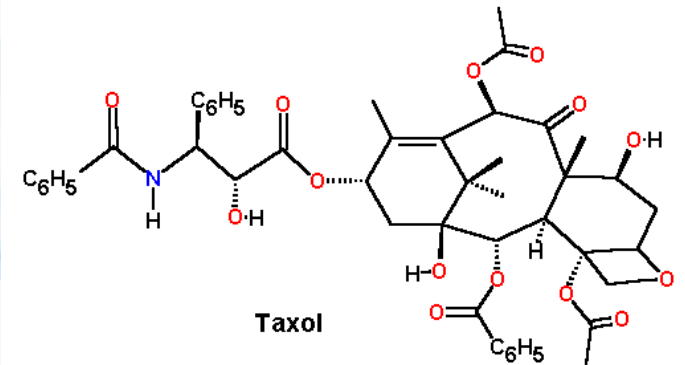




# TUBULIN – toxin effects on (DE)POLYMERIZATION



Colchicine

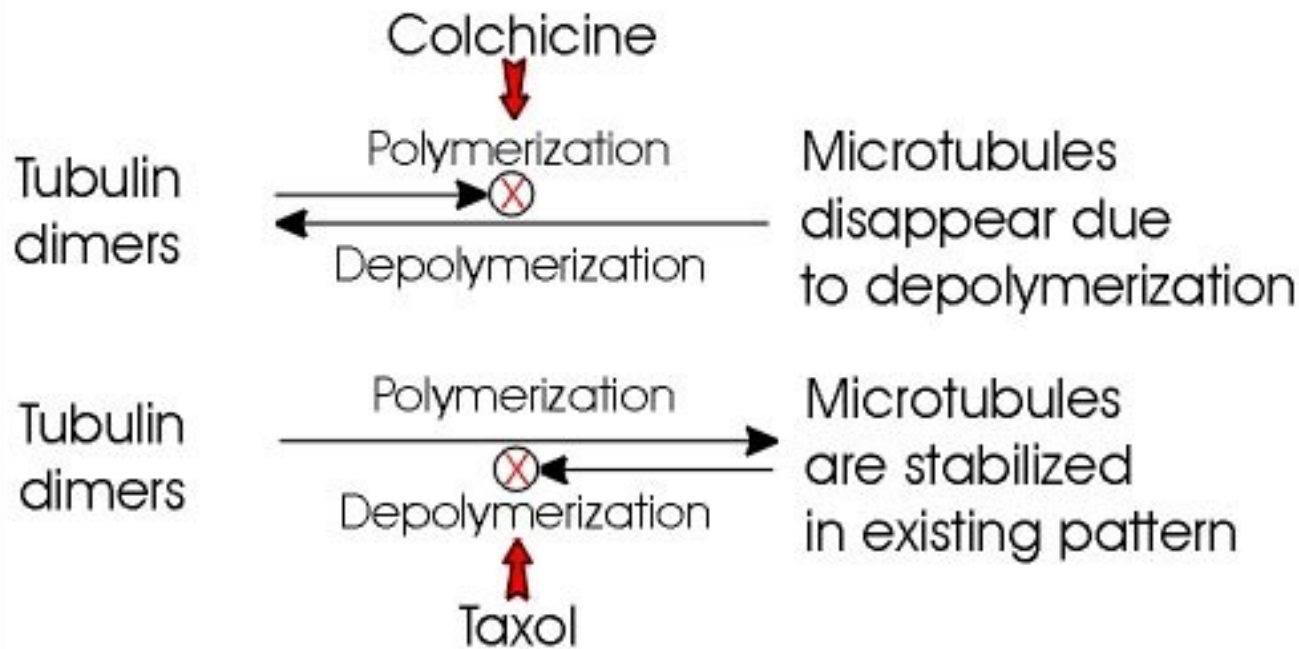


Taxol

taxol



## Effects of Inhibitors on Microtubules



# Toxicity to RECEPTORs (key-lock)

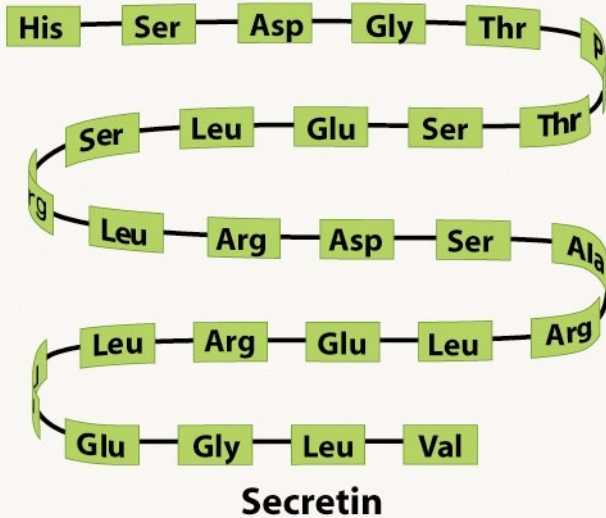
*discussed later during the lectures: see  
„signalling“*



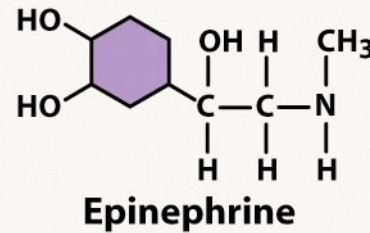
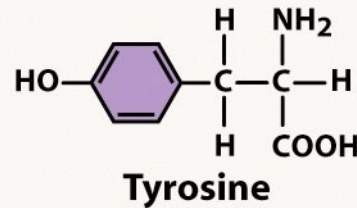


# Various signalling types ... now focus on nuclear receptors

## Polypeptides



## Amino Acid Derivatives



## Steroids

