

## Block A: Membrane Biology & Biochemistry

Lipid signaling and sphingolipid function

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# Signal transduction from GPCRs to effector proteins

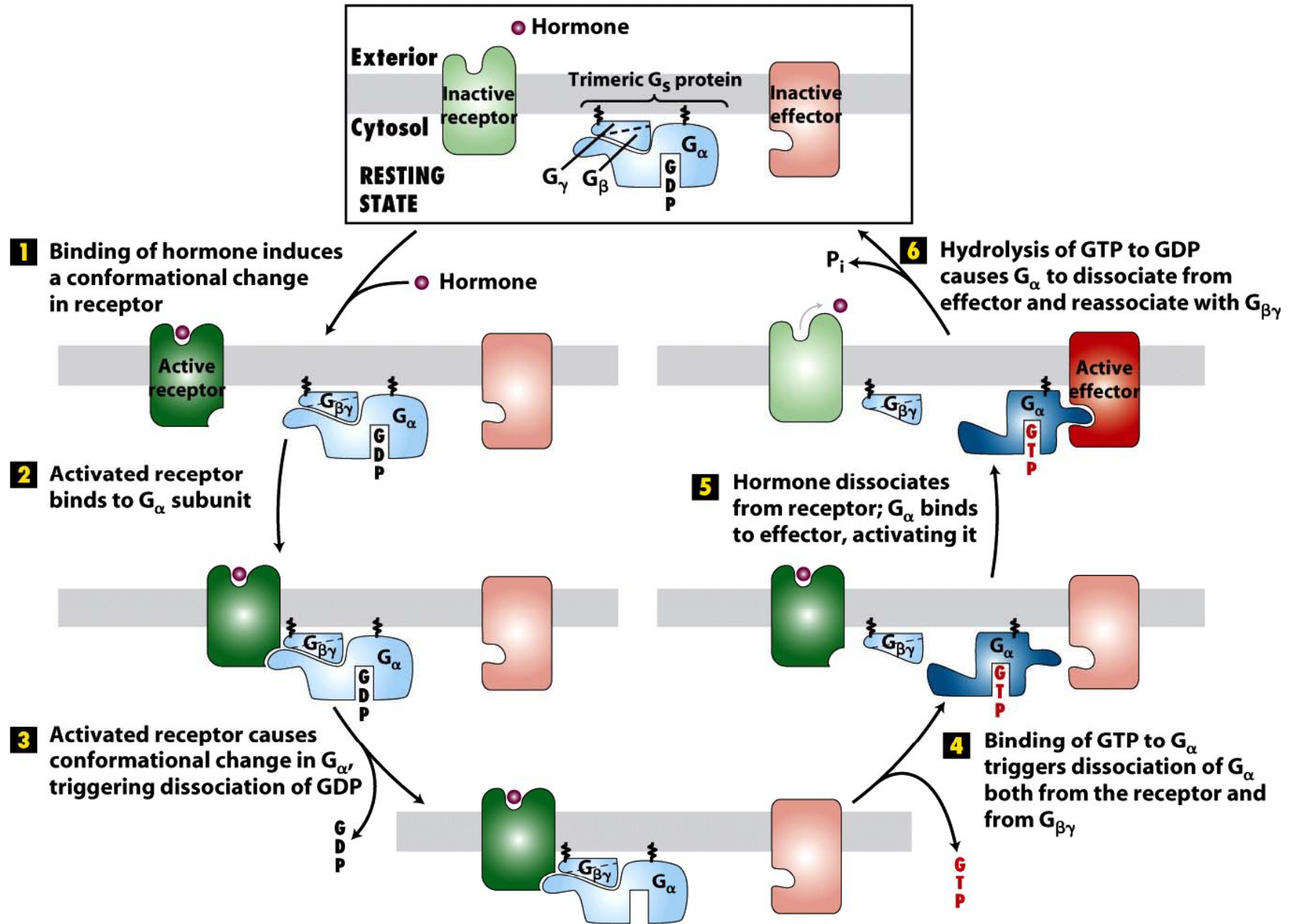
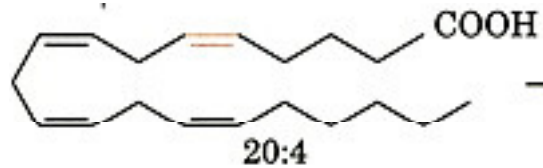


Figure 15-13  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
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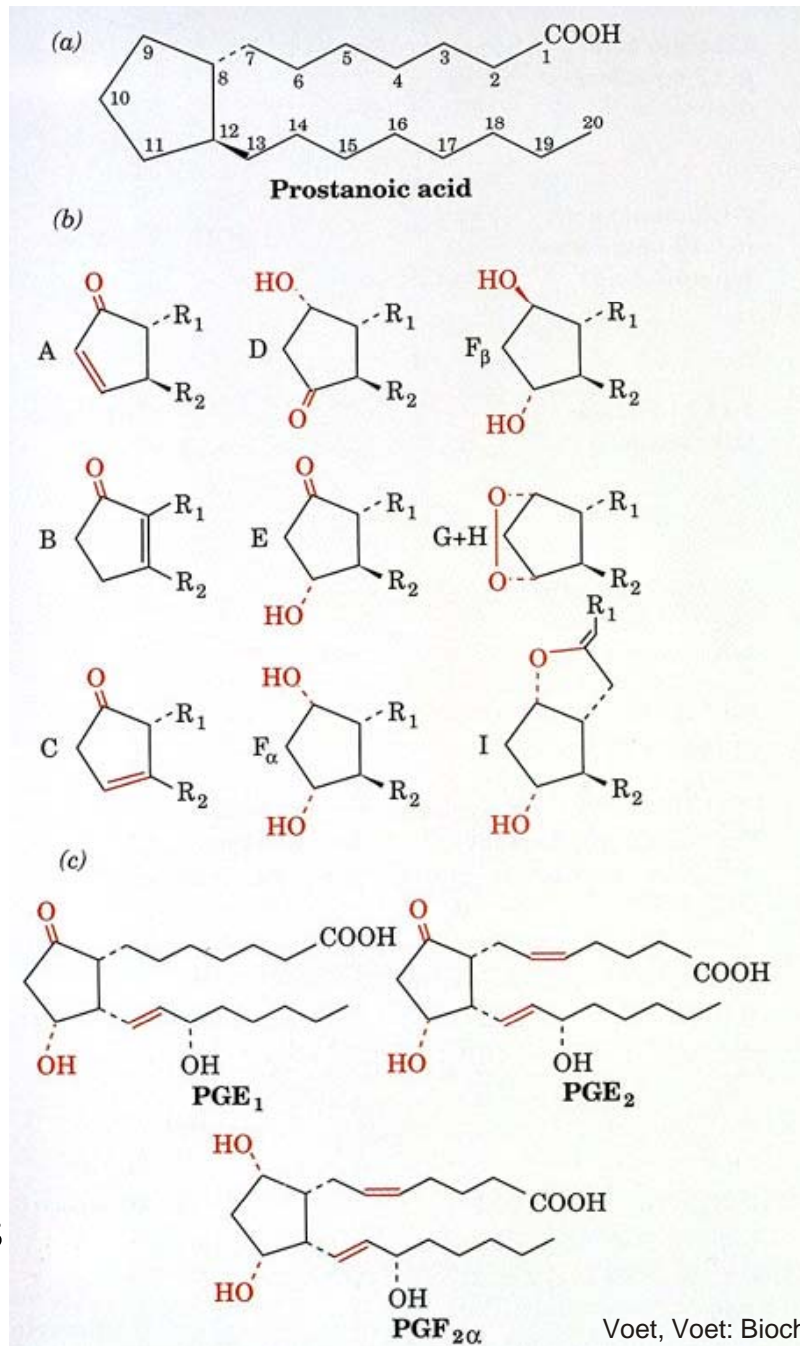
Arachidonic acid

**Prostaglandines:  
derivatives of the hypothetic  
prostanoic acid**

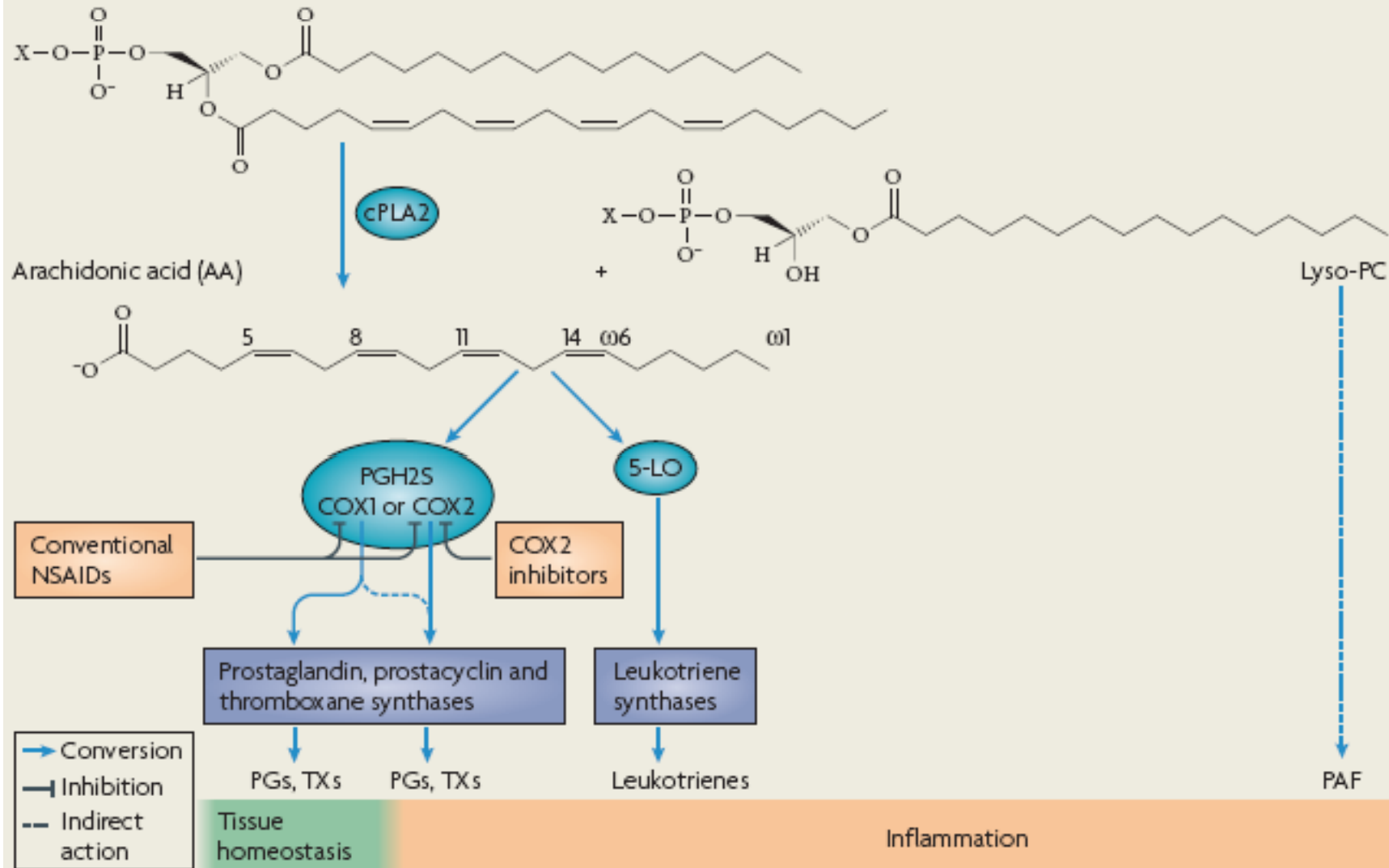
Ulf von Euler, 1930  
(in human seminal fluid)

Regulate physiological processes:

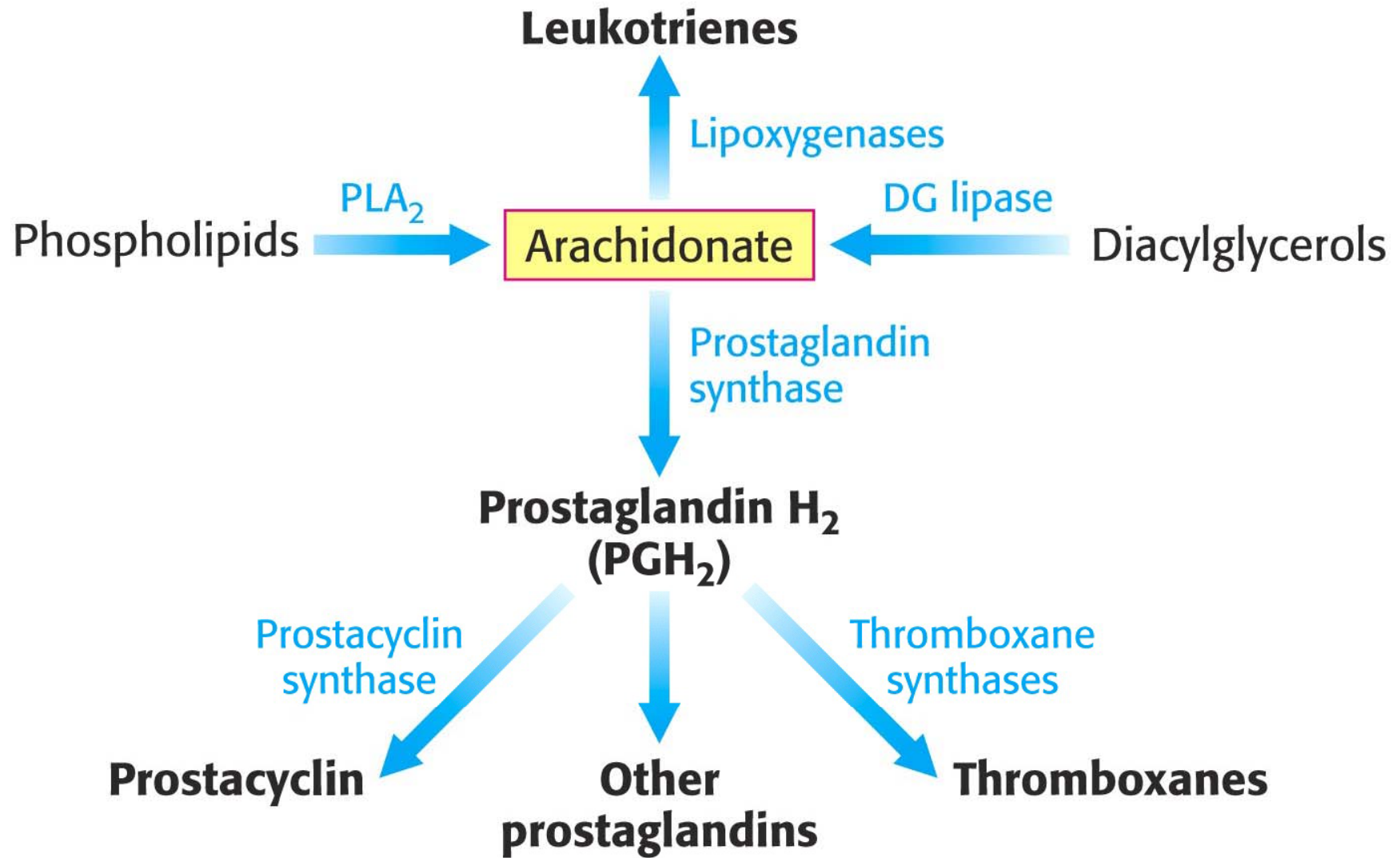
- platelet aggregation
- uterine contractions
- pain, pyrexia (fever)
- inflammation
- secretion of mucins that protect the gastric mucosa from acid and proteases in the stomach



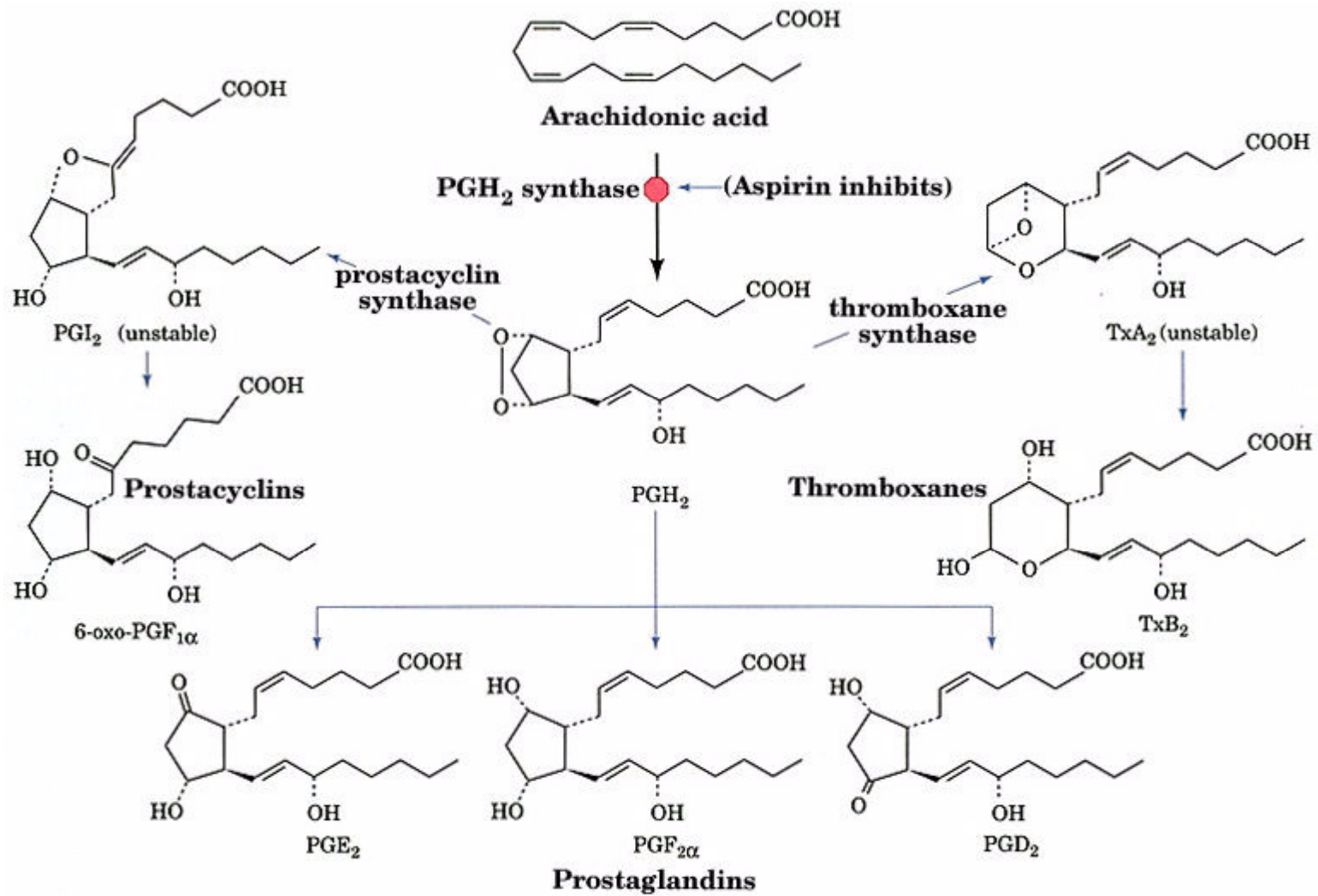
## Box 1 | From phospholipids to eicosanoid signalling



# Metabolism of arachidonic acid



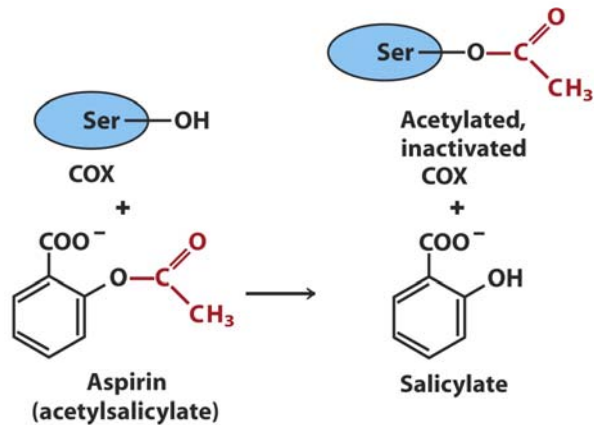
# The cyclic fate of arachidonic acid





PGH<sub>2</sub>-Synthase has  
2 catalytic activities:

### Cyclooxygenase (COX)



The various effects of Aspirin are based on the inhibition of COX activity

### Peroxidase

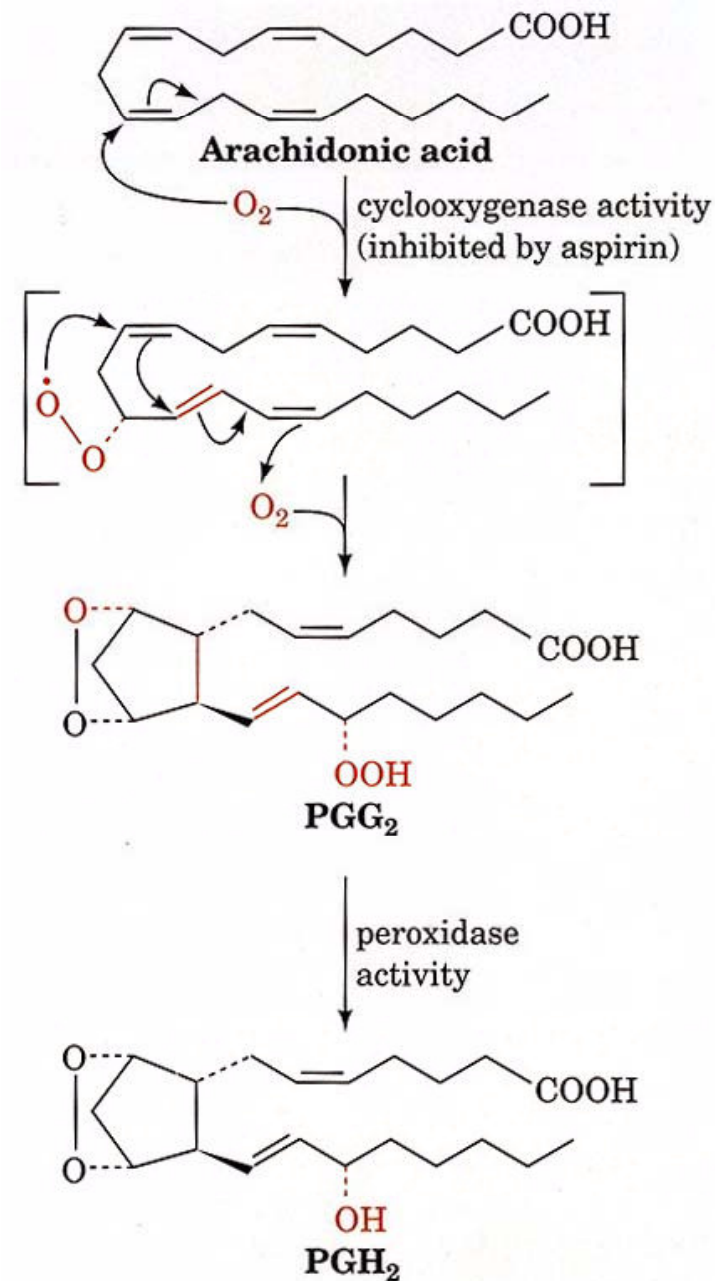
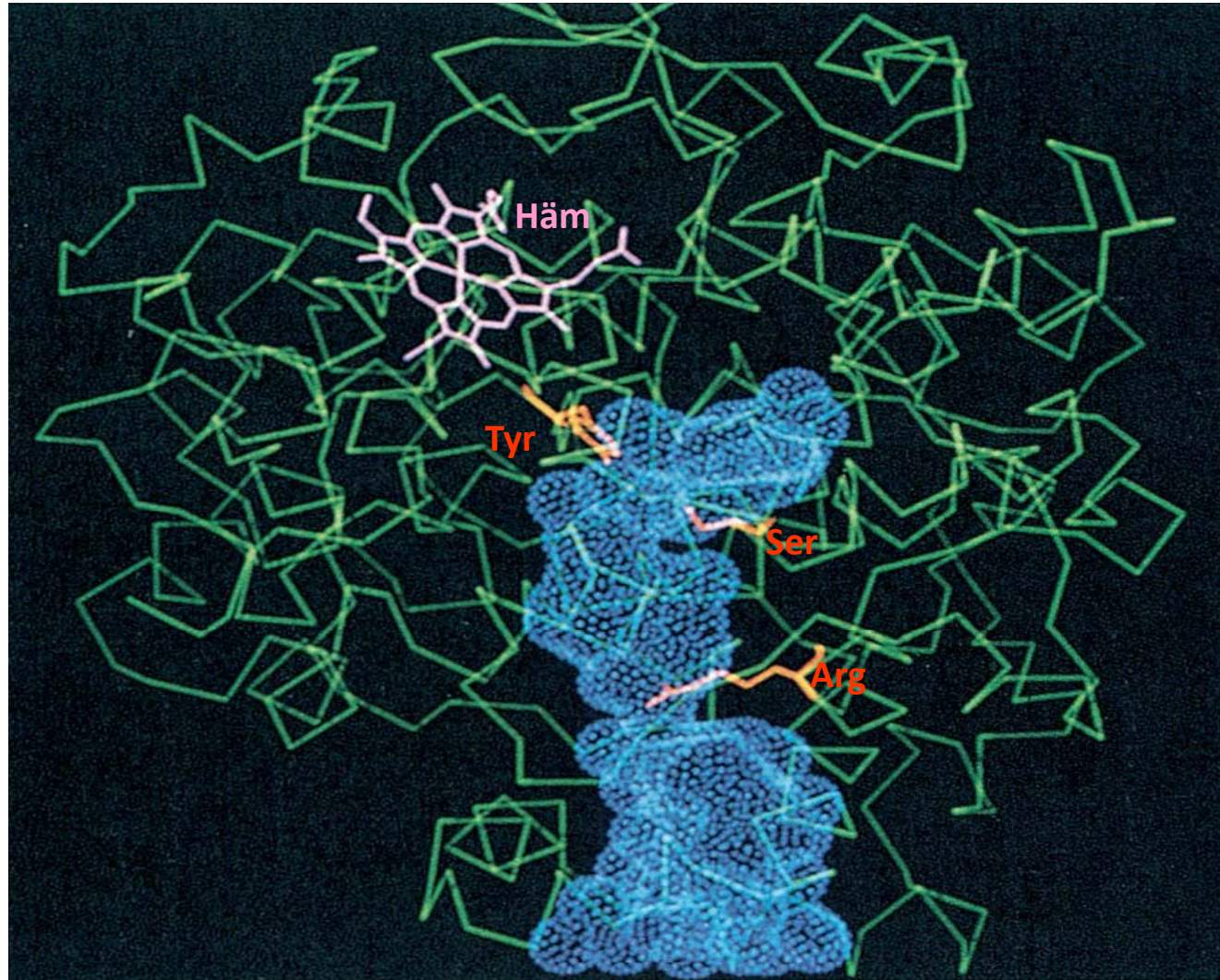
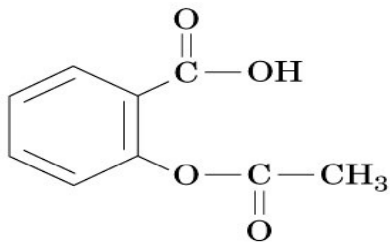


Diagram of one PGHS subunit (*green*).  
van der Waals surface of active site channel

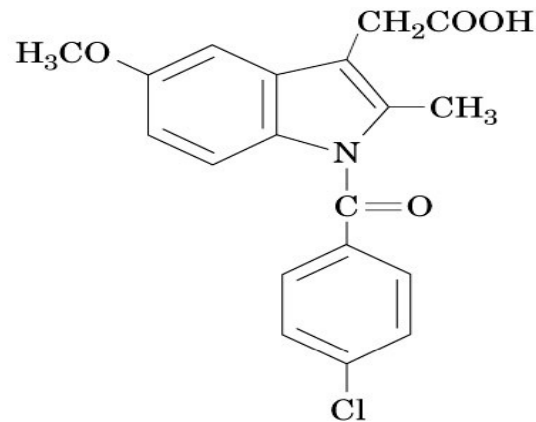




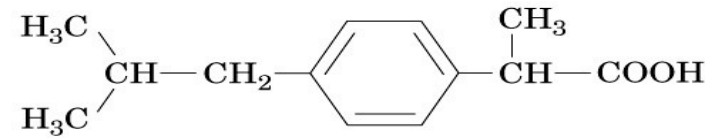
Some nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).  
(side effects due to inhibition of both isoenzymes of COX)



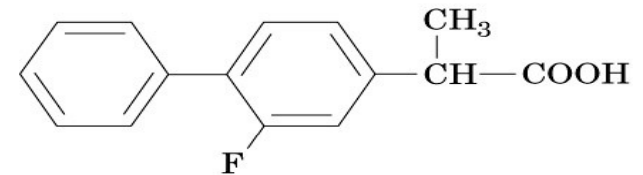
**Aspirin**  
(acetylsalicylic acid)



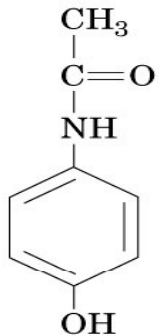
**Indomethacin**



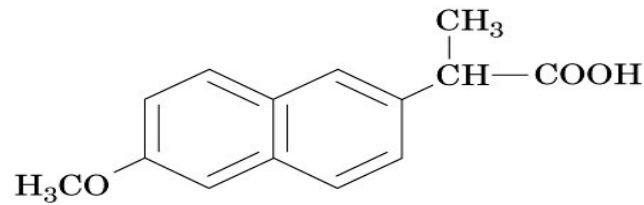
**Ibuprofen**



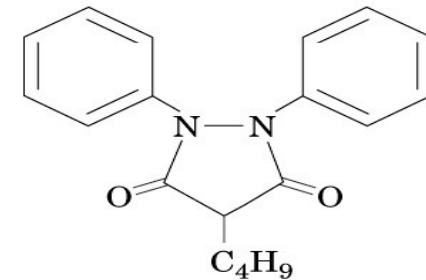
**Flurbiprofen**



**Acetaminophen**

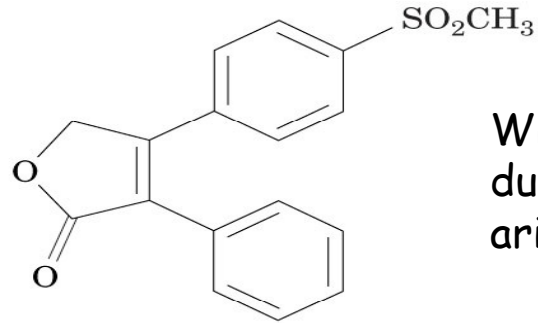


**Naproxen**



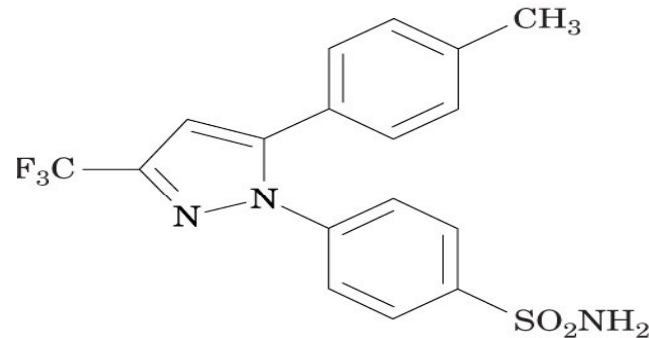
**Phenylbutazone**

## Selective COX-2 inhibitors (coxibs).



**Rofecoxib (Vioxx)**

Withdrawn from pharmaceutical market due to unanticipated cardiac side effects arising from attenuation of PGI<sub>2</sub> formation!



**Celecoxib (Celebrex)**

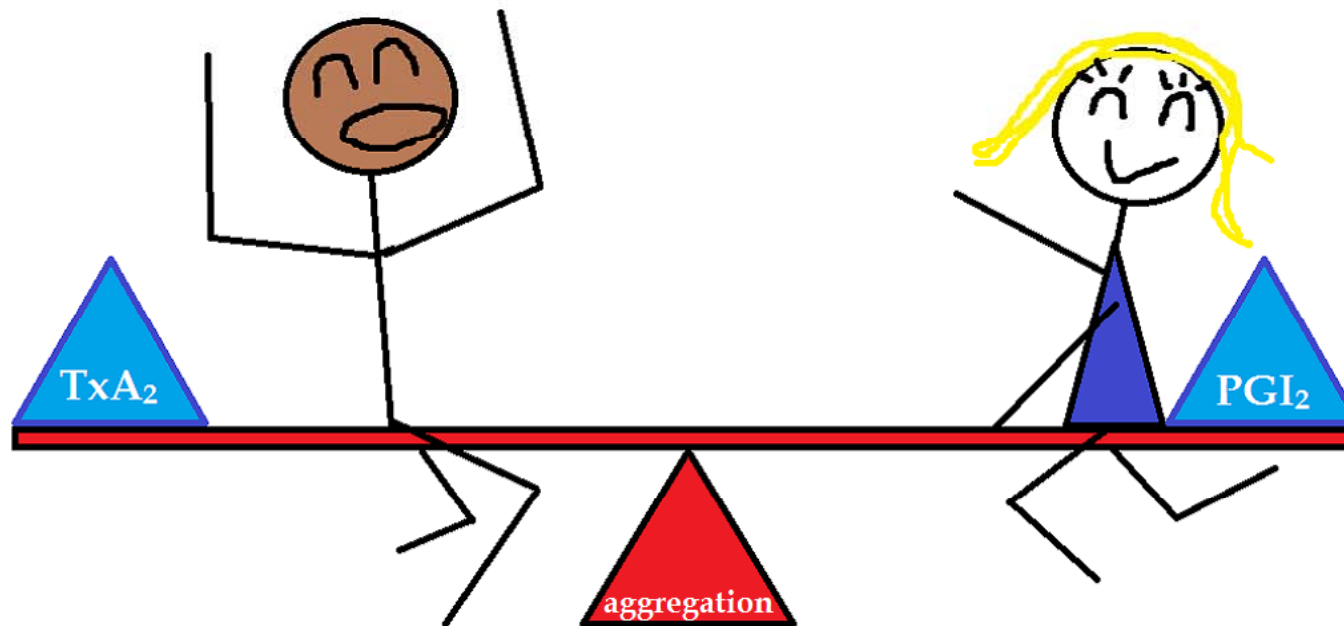
(too large to enter COX-1 active site channel, that is 20 % smaller in volume than that of COX-2)

**The effects of cyclic endoperoxidases (facilitated by COX1 and COX2)**

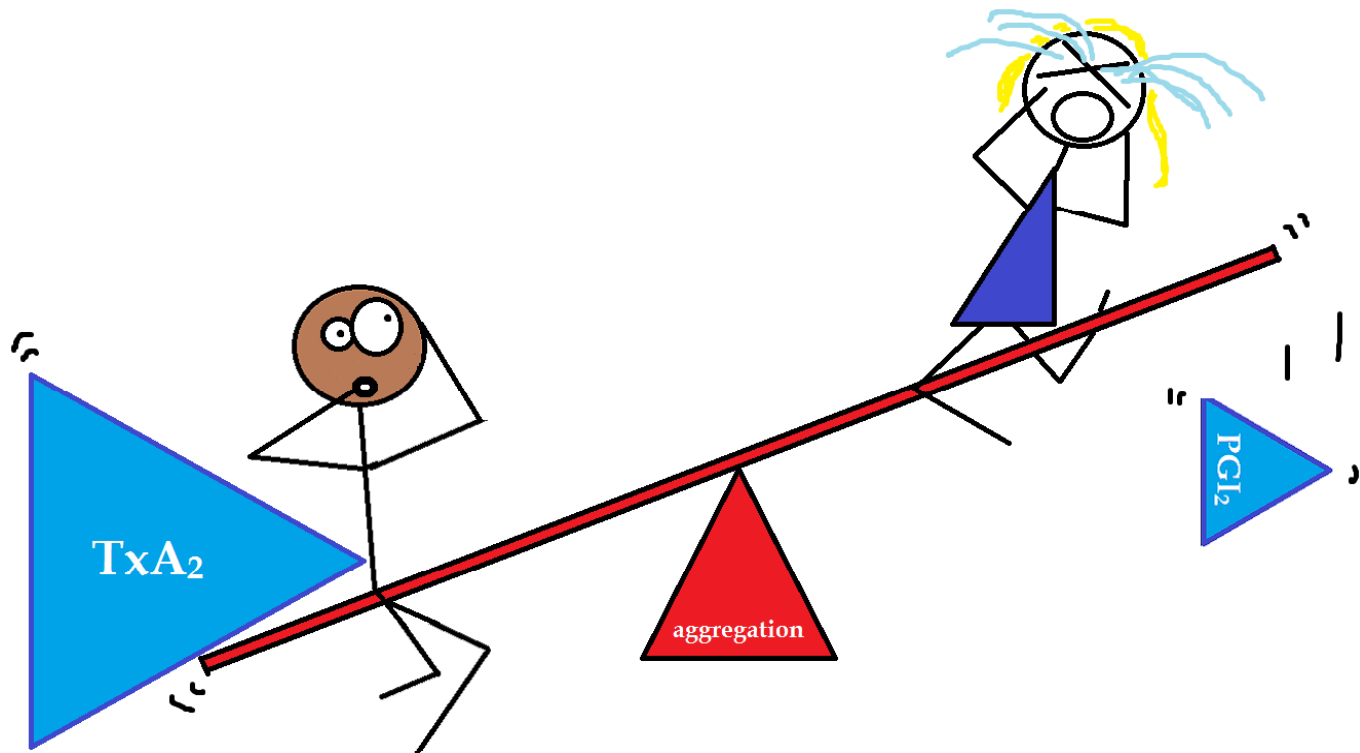
<b>COX 1</b>	<b>Stomach (PGE<sub>1</sub>)</b>	Mucous membrane production	↑	Acid production	↓
	<b>Kidney (PGE<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Perfusion	↑	Water excretion	↑
	<b>Thrombocytes (TxA<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Aggregation	↑	Vasoconstriction	

<b>COX 2</b>	<b>Uterus</b>	Tone (labor pains, period pain)	↑		
	<b>Vessels (PGI<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Vasodilation		Permeability	↑
	<b>Thrombocytes (PGI<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Aggregation	↓		
	<b>Nociceptors</b>	Sensitivity	↑		
	<b>Fever (PGE<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Thermoregulation hypothalamus			

What is the problem of selective COX2 inhibitors? ...







Inhibition of COX2 facilitated prostacyclin biosynthesis and no interference with thromboxan A<sub>2</sub> biosynthesis leads to:

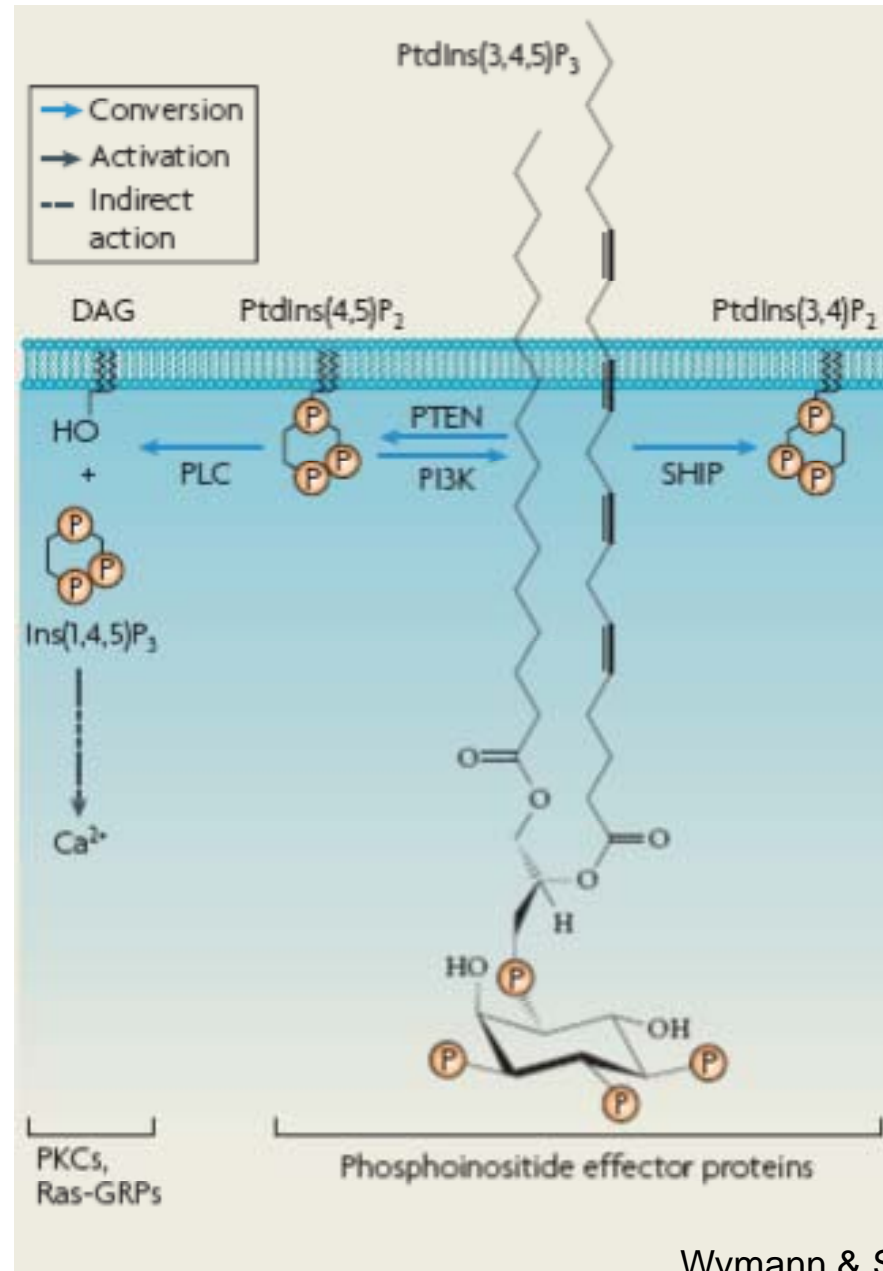
- Higher thrombocyte aggregation → thrombosis  
→ myocardial infarction

**... They kill you. And make cute girls cry.**

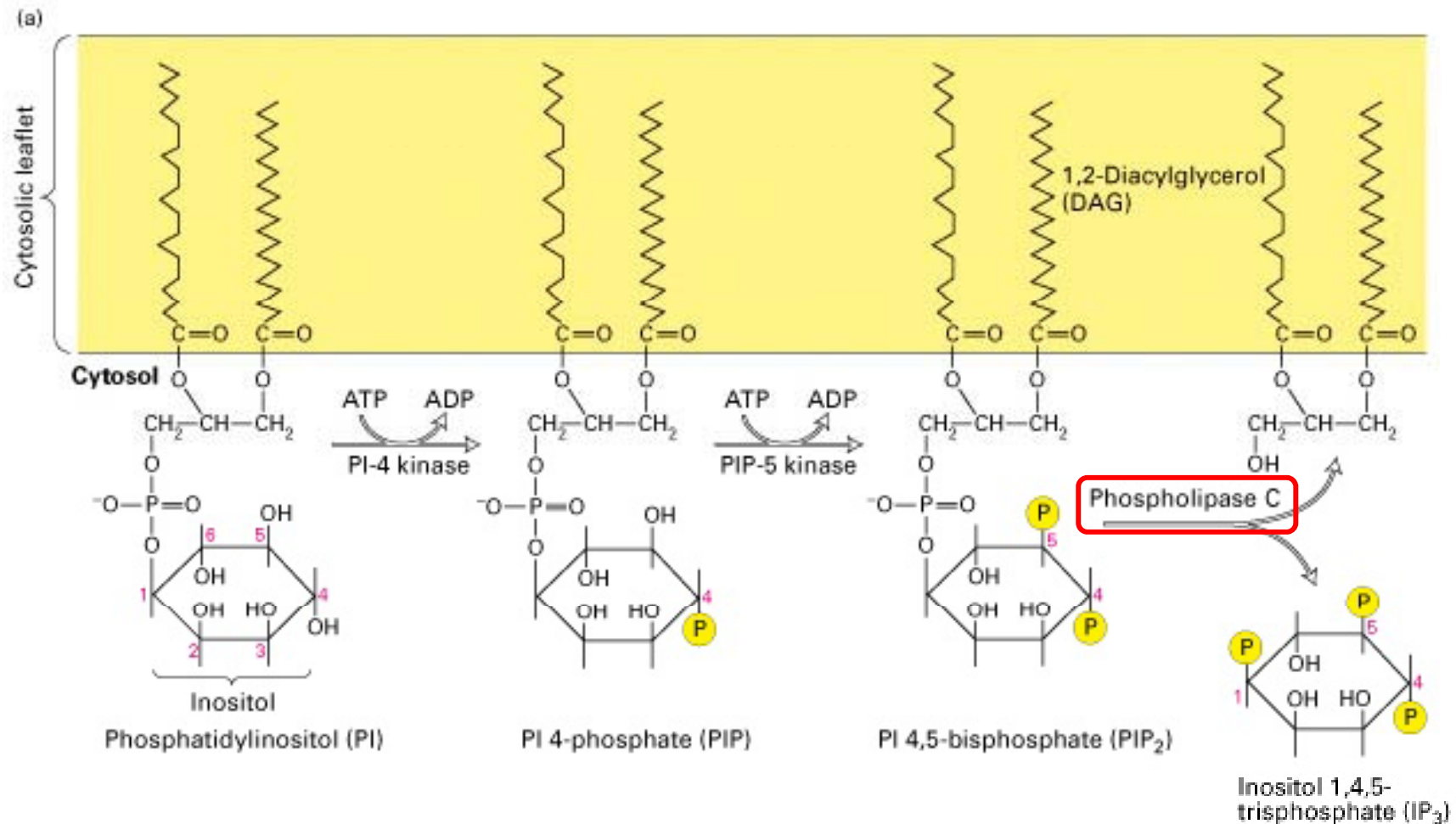
## Phosphoinositides as Signal Transducers

- Phospholipase C: different isoforms are activated by different signals that bind either GPCR or RTK
- PI-3 kinase pathway

# Intracellular signalling by phosphoinositids

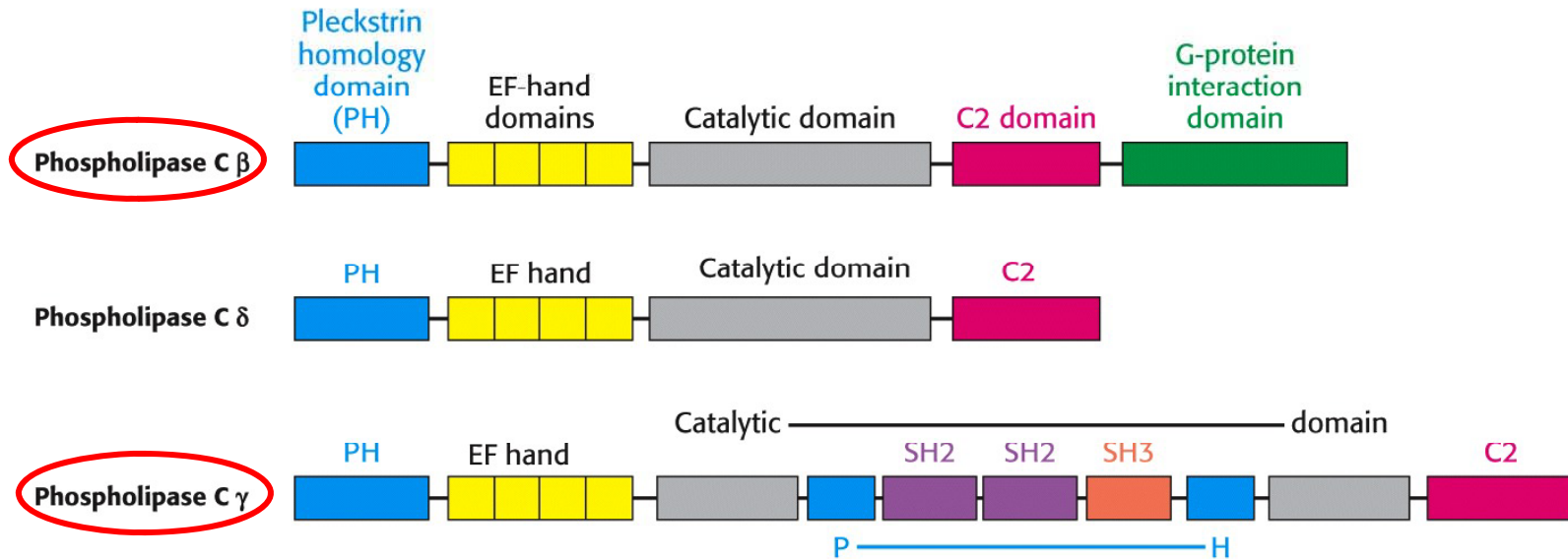
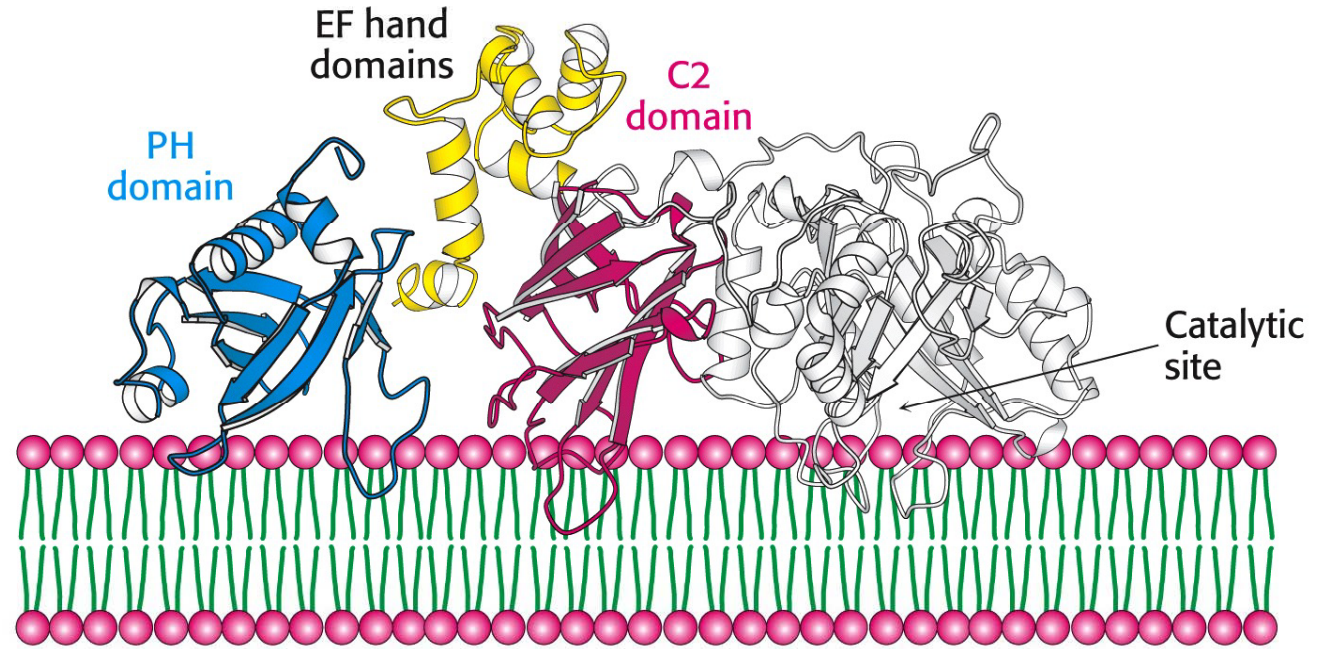
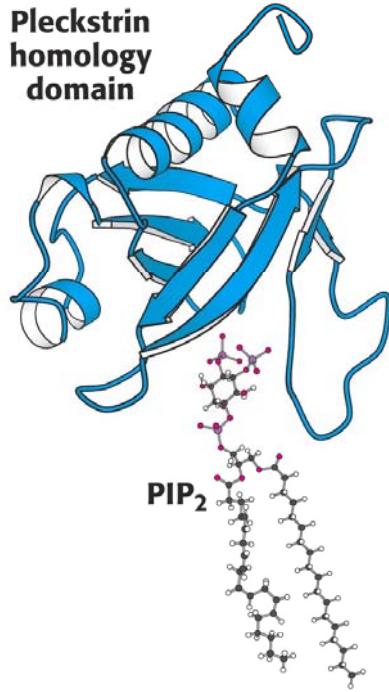


# Modification of a common phospholipid precursor generates several second messengers: synthesis of DAG and IP<sub>3</sub>

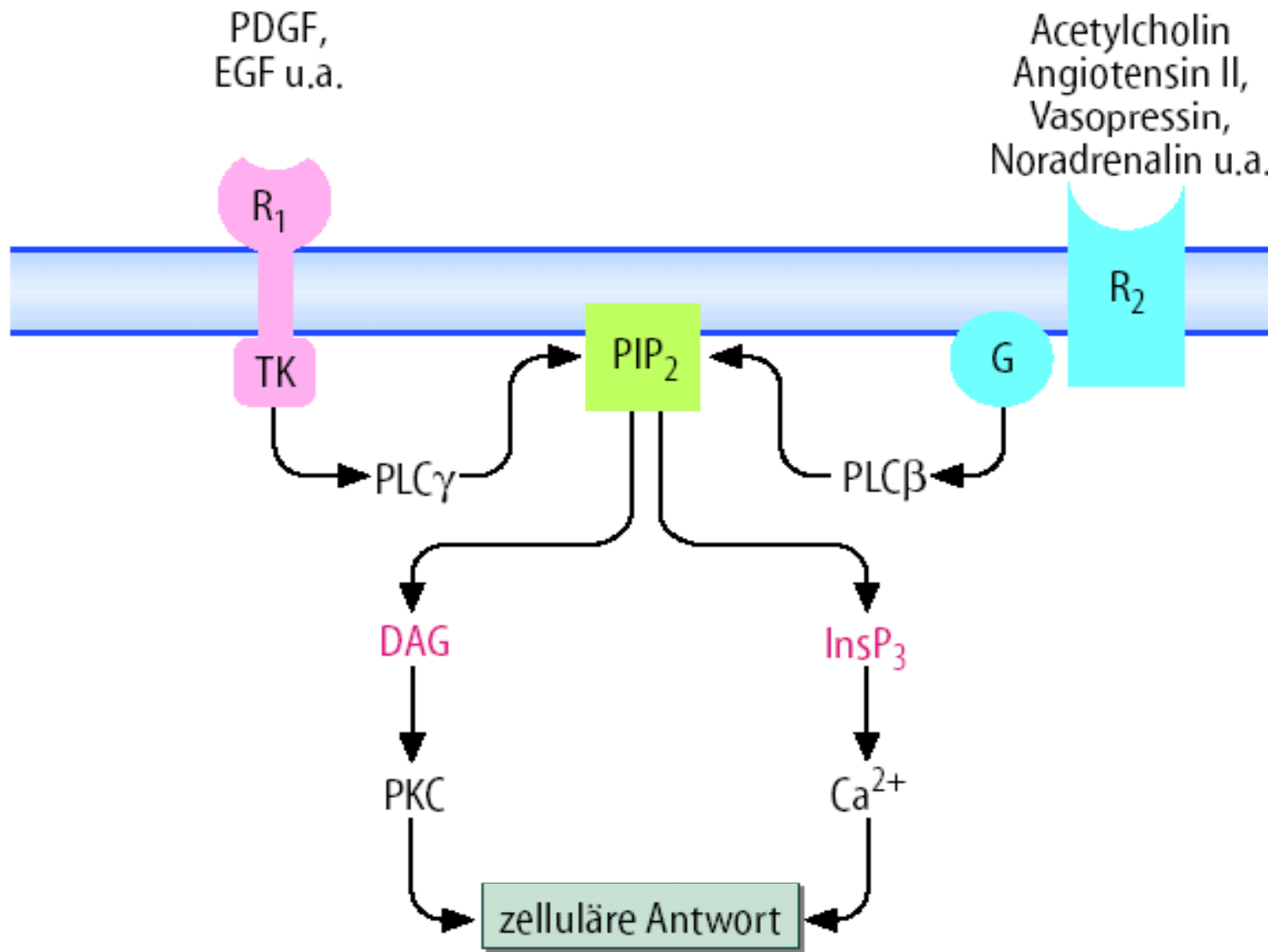




# Phospholipase C Isoforms



# PLC-induced release of $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ from the ER is mediated by $\text{IP}_3$



# PLC $\beta$ is an effector targeted by GPCRs

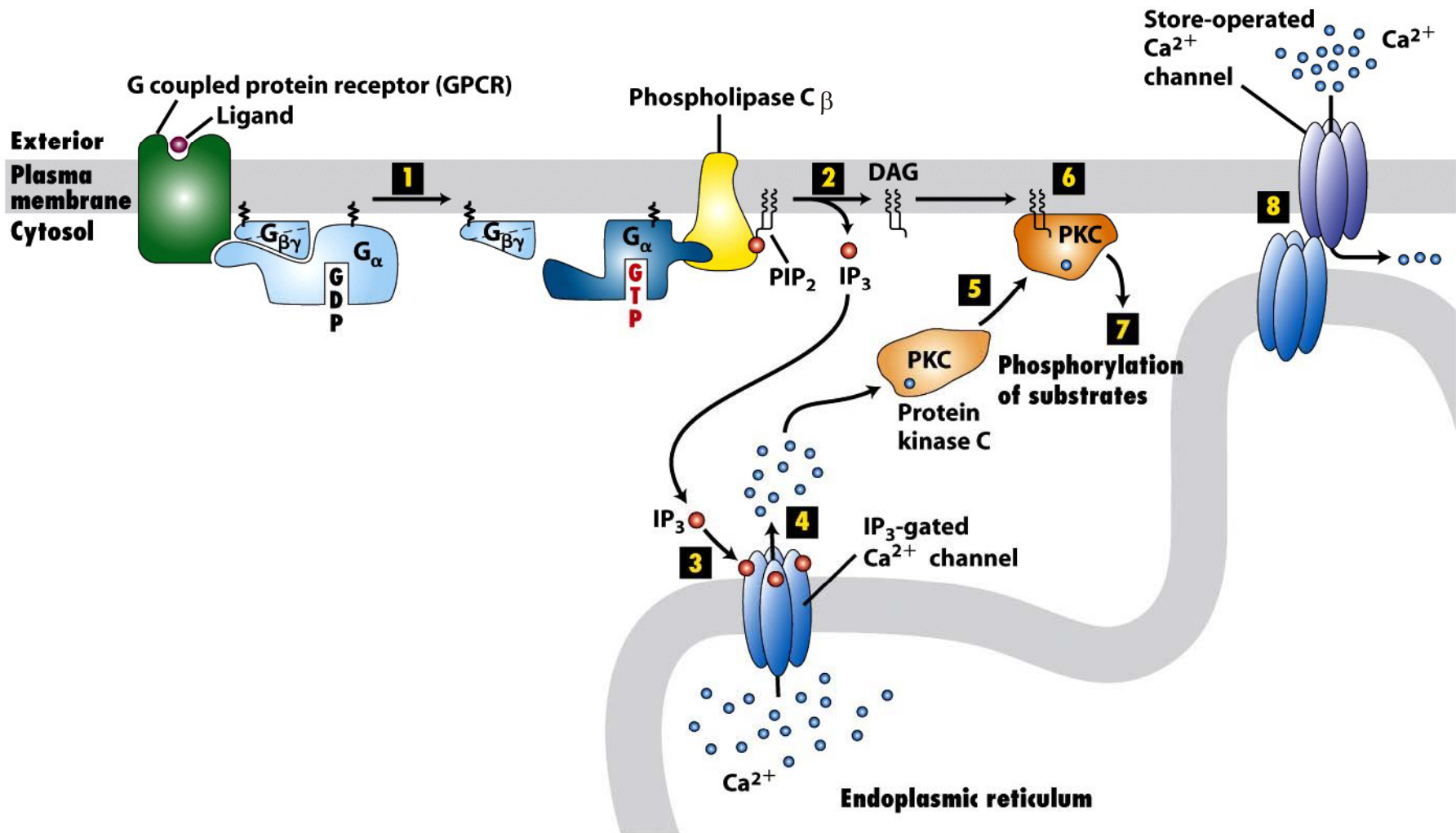
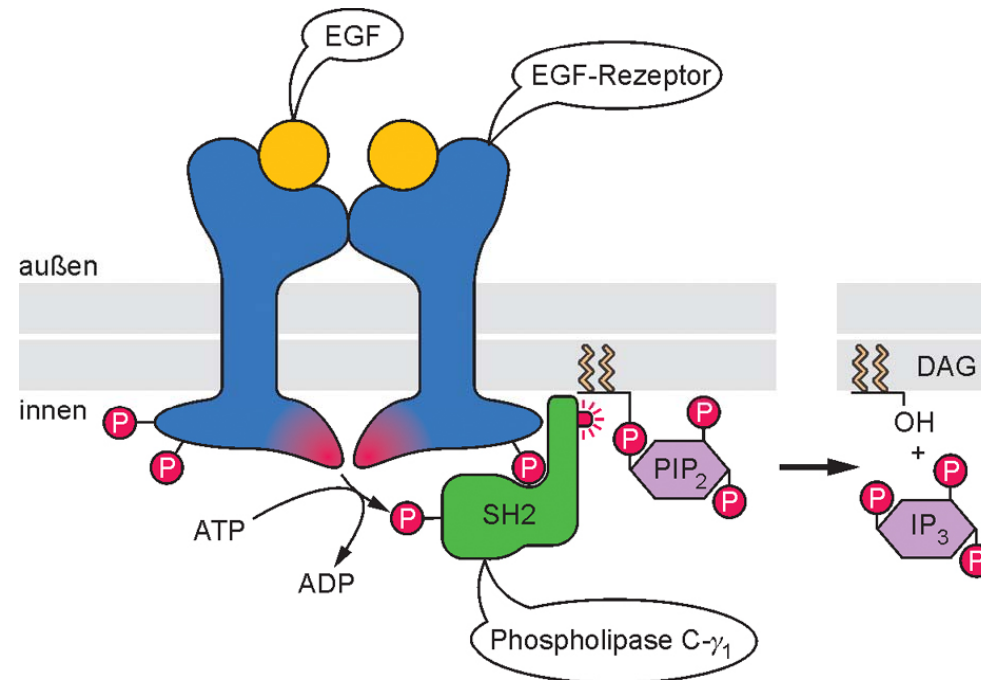


Figure 15-30  
*Molecular Cell Biology, Sixth Edition*  
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Short term effects on cell metabolism and movement  
Long term effects on gene expression

## PLC $\gamma_1$ is an effector targeted by RTKs



Aus Müller-Esterl, *Biochemie*, © 2004 Elsevier GmbH

The activated EGF-receptor recruits the cytosolic phospholipase C- $\gamma_1$  (substrate PIP<sub>2</sub>) via its **SH2-domain** and activates the enzyme by phosphorylation.

Phosphatases terminate this process.



# PI 3-phosphates recruit and activate protein kinase B (PKB)

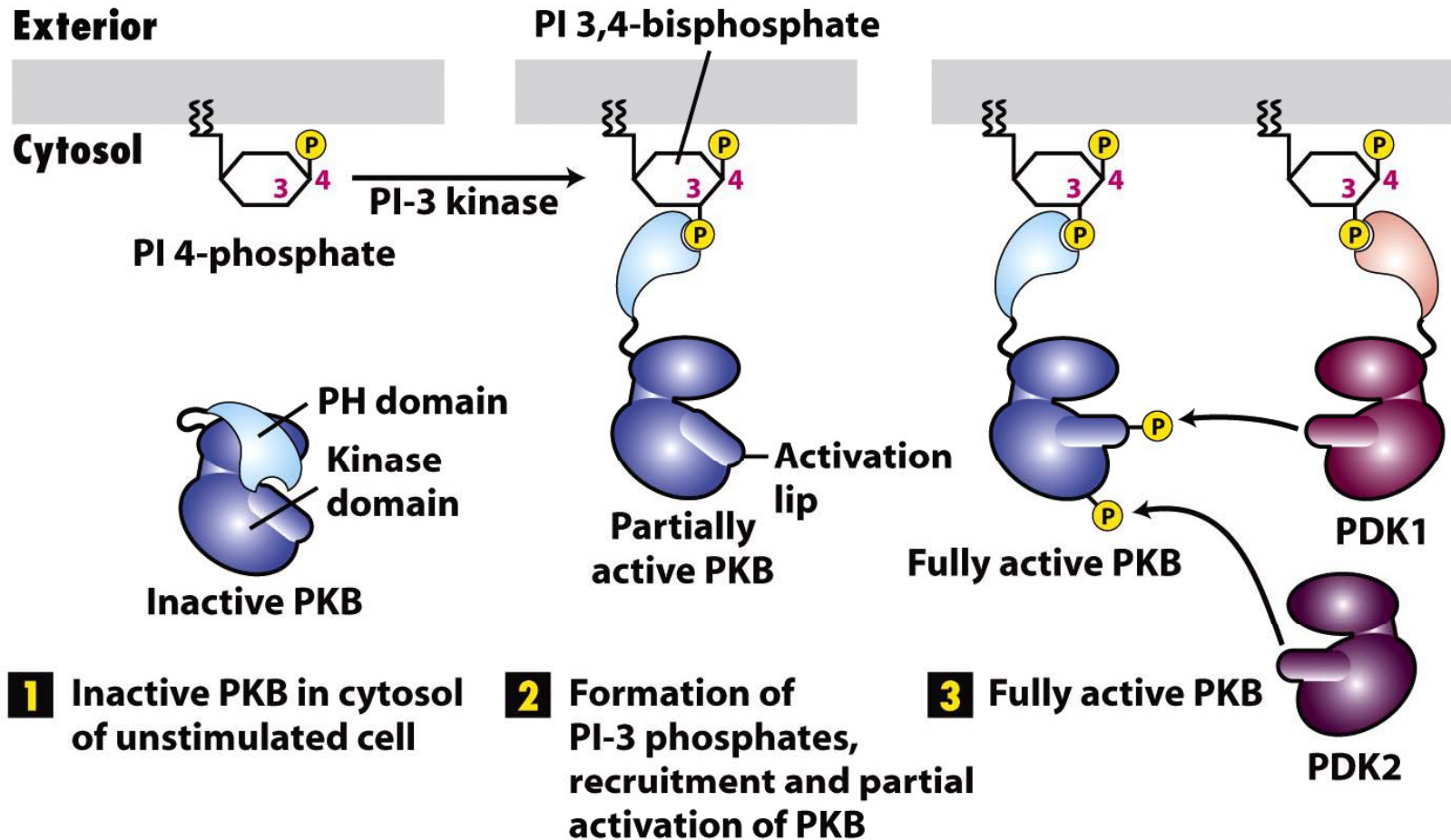


Figure 16-30  
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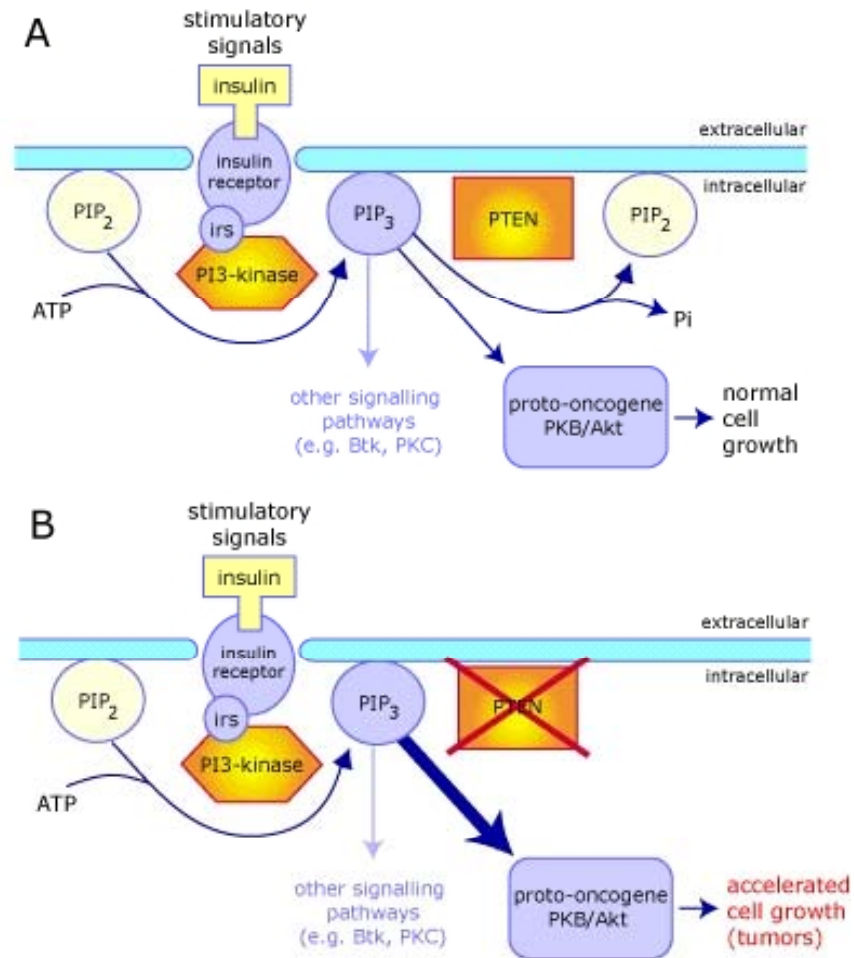
PH: pleckstrin homology  
 PDK: PI-dependant kinase

# PTEN: the first tumour suppressor with phosphatase activity

PTEN phosphatase has a broad specificity but its major function in cells is to reverse the PI-3 kinase catalyzed reaction.

PTEN is deleted or mutated in multiple types of human cancer (glioblastoma, prostate cancer, endometrial tumour).

Overexpression of PTEN promotes apoptosis in cultured mammalian cells.



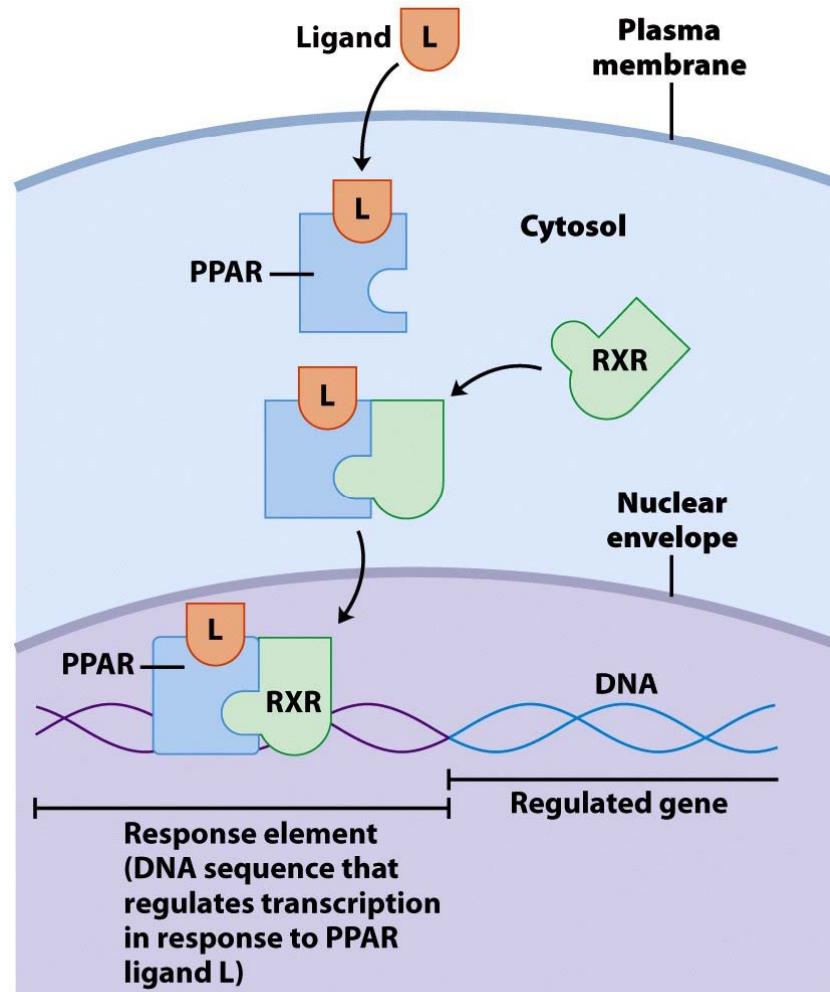
# Mode of action of the nuclear receptor superfamily PPAR

L: fatty acids and derivatives

PPAR: peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor

RXR: retinoid X receptor

PPAR $\alpha$ , hepatocytes, turns on genes for FA  $\beta$ -oxidation and ketone body formation during fasting.



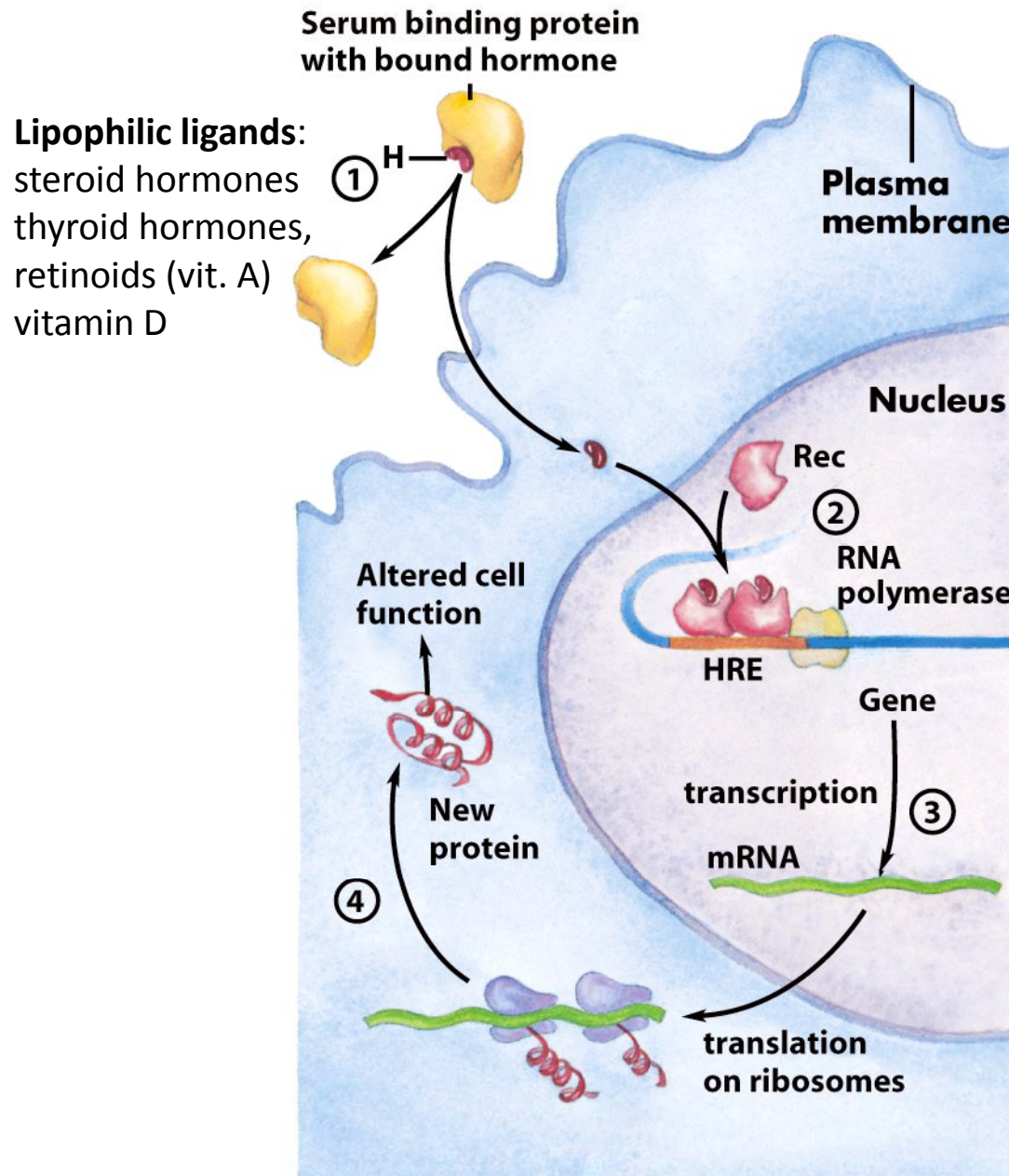
PPAR $\gamma$ , liver & adipose tissue, turns on genes for lipid synthesis, differentiation of fibroblasts into adipocytes.

PPAR $\delta$ , liver & muscle tissue, turns on genes for  $\beta$ -oxidation and for energy dissipation through uncoupling of mitochondria (prevents obesity).

Figure 23-41  
Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Fifth Edition  
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Diet regulates the expression of genes central to maintaining body mass

## General mechanism by which lipophilic compounds regulate gene expression



- ① Hormone (H), carried to the target tissue on serum binding proteins, diffuses across the plasma membrane and binds to its specific receptor protein (Rec) in the nucleus.
- ② Hormone binding changes the conformation of Rec; it forms homo- or heterodimers with other hormone-receptor complexes and binds to specific regulatory regions called hormone response elements (HREs) in the DNA adjacent to specific genes.
- ③ Binding regulates transcription of the adjacent gene(s), increasing or decreasing the rate of mRNA formation.
- ④ Altered levels of the hormone-regulated gene product produce the cellular response to the hormone.