

Signaling Hierarchy

Mammary Epithelial Cells

Mammary Epithelial *Signaling Hierarchy*

- Stages operational during pregnancy (just before the onset of lactation to completion of lactation)
- Epithelial cells - ECM are the tissue level players
- Construction and destruction of steps with various 'go' checkpoints to the next step

Signaling Hierarchy

- Flow of information between cells and tissues are integrated into a signaling hierarchy that is :
a) constructed and then b) dismantled in a cyclical manner
- First tier of hierarchy involves mechanical signals : cell rounding that trigger lactoferrin gene expression
- Rounded cells deposit ECM and initiate a laminin mediated hierarchy leading to biochemical signal transduction and activation of a wide range of genes

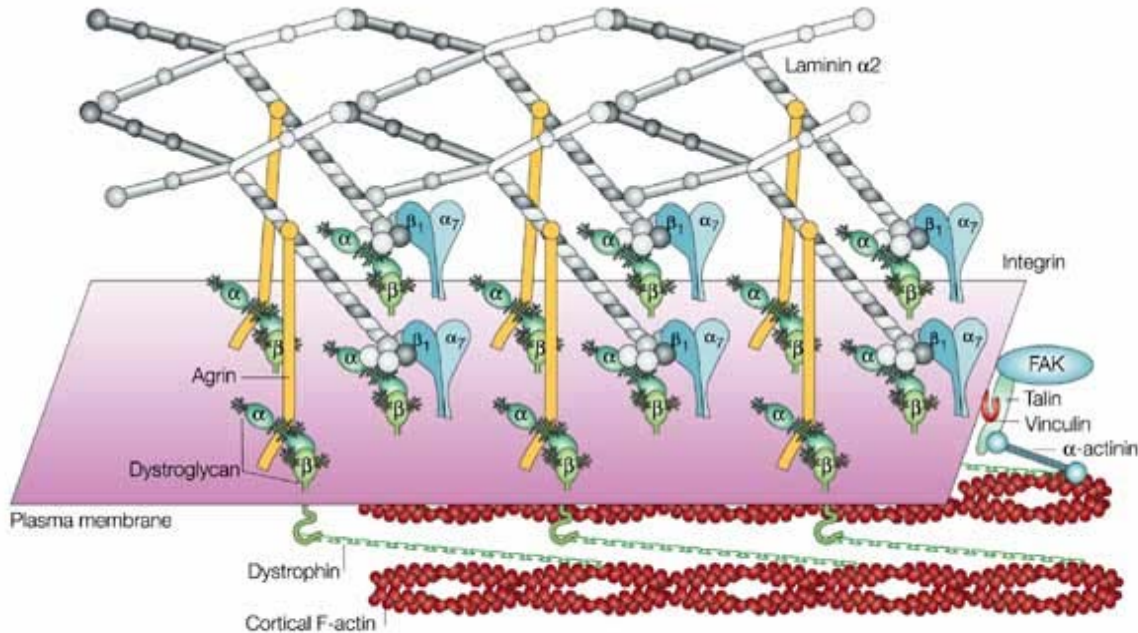
Signaling Hierarchy

- The third tier of hierarchy signaling relies on the ECM morphogenesis, wherein presence of ECM directs cell polarity, formation of central lumen and expression of WAP.
- WAP is expressed late in pregnancy and just before the onset of lactation.
- Dismantling of this hierarchy begins at weaning is mediated by ECM-degrading enzymes, which act in a development stage manner to induce programmed cell death.

Architecture

- Composition of ECM is important: e.g. myoblast proliferate (Fn) or form tubes (In)
- Decreased adhesion to rigid substratum: *mechanical in nature*
- Increased cell rounding
- Reorganization of cytoskeleton (markers)

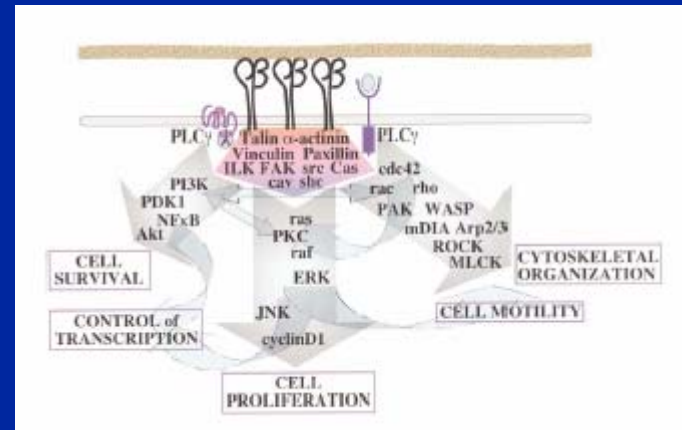
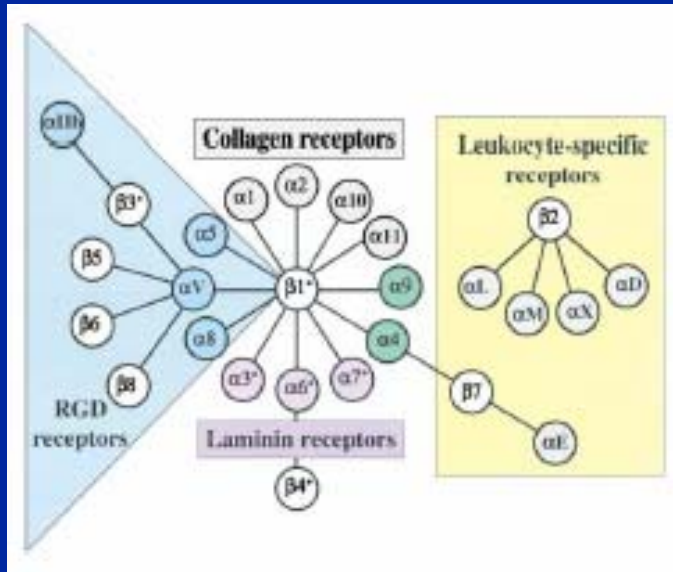
Laminin Signaling



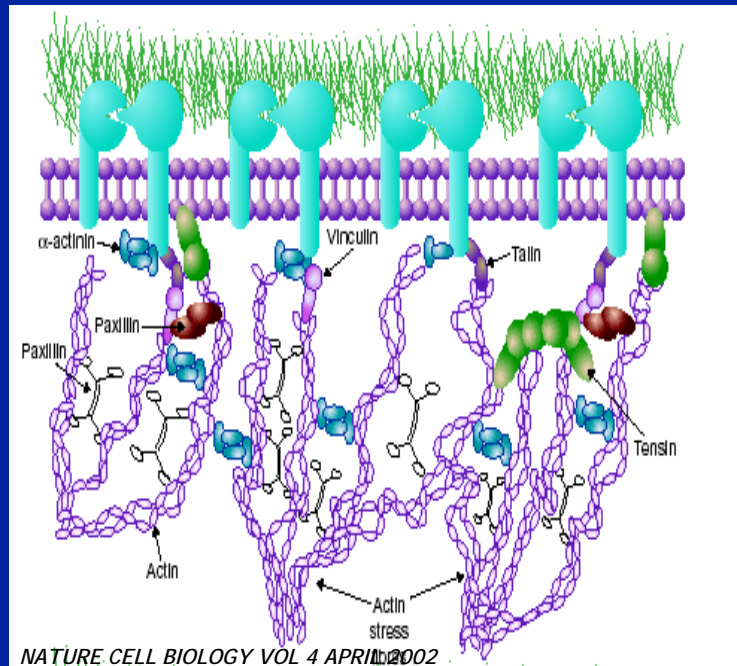
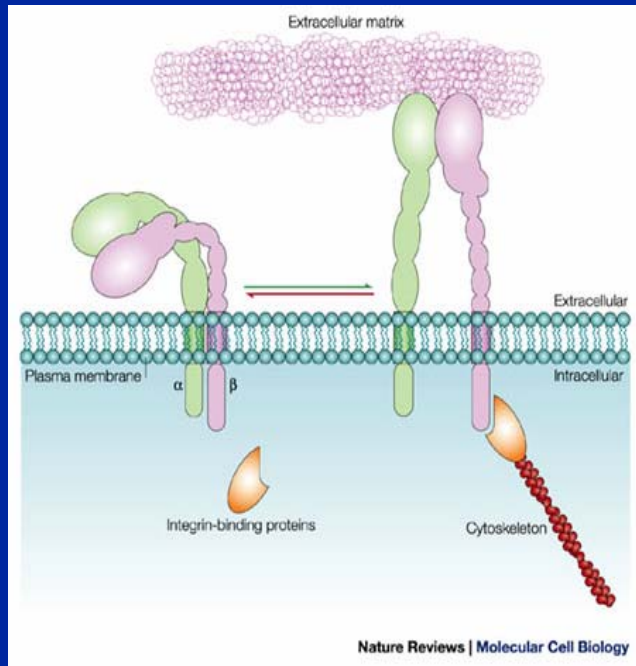
Integrin link
very important
signaling:
inside-out and
outside-in

Laminin-
specific
integrin
clustering and
activation -
laminin based
cytoskeleton
reorganization

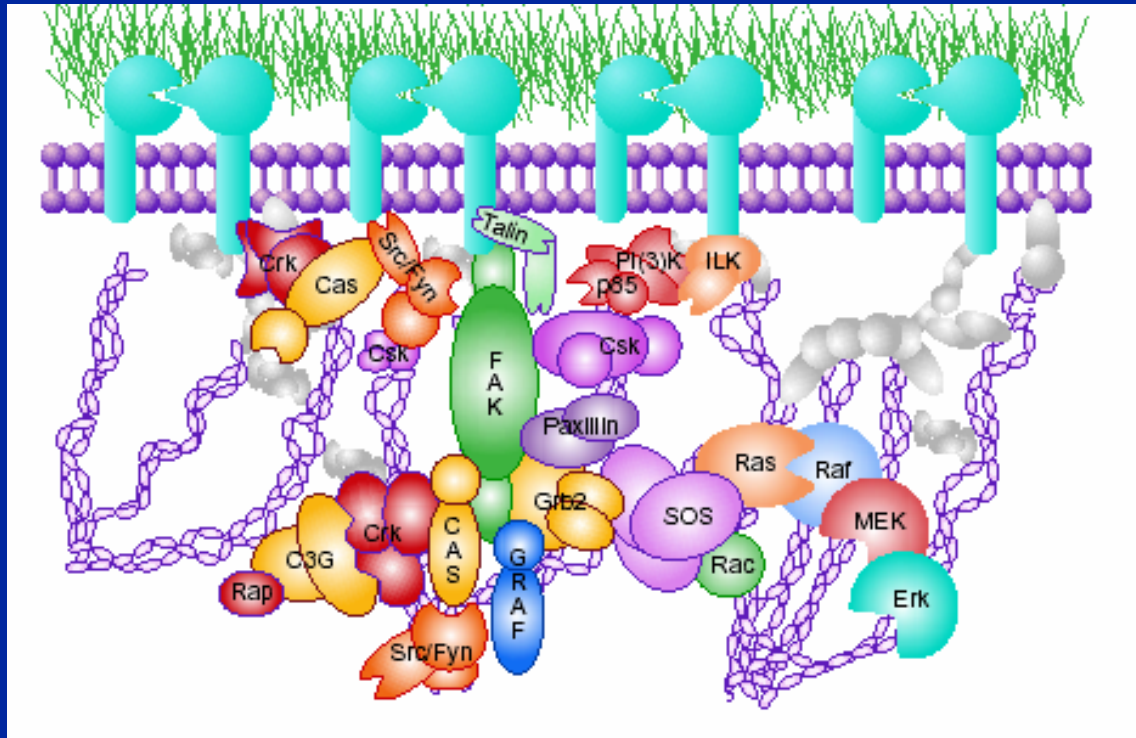
Integrin Family & Signaling



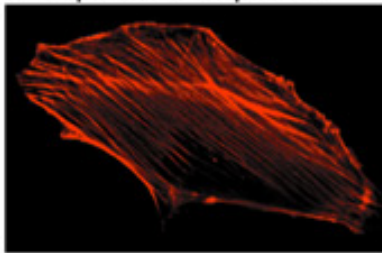
Integrin Signaling



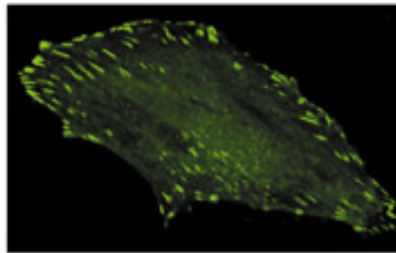
Cytoskeleton & Integrin signaling



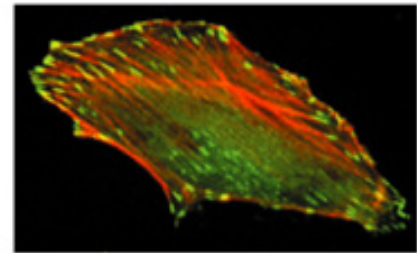
Actin/Vinculin Complex



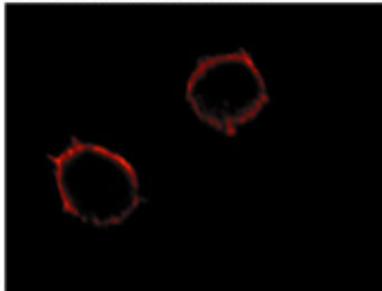
Actin



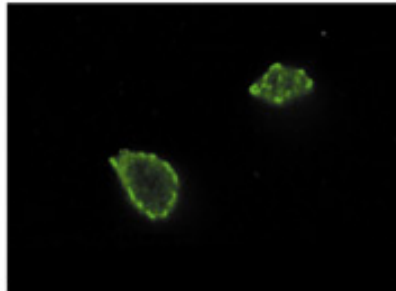
Vinculin



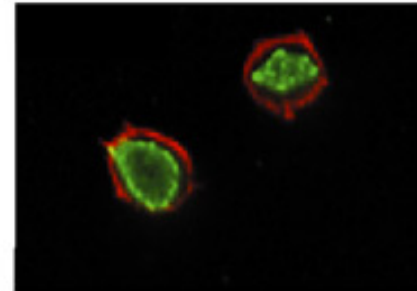
Merged



Actin



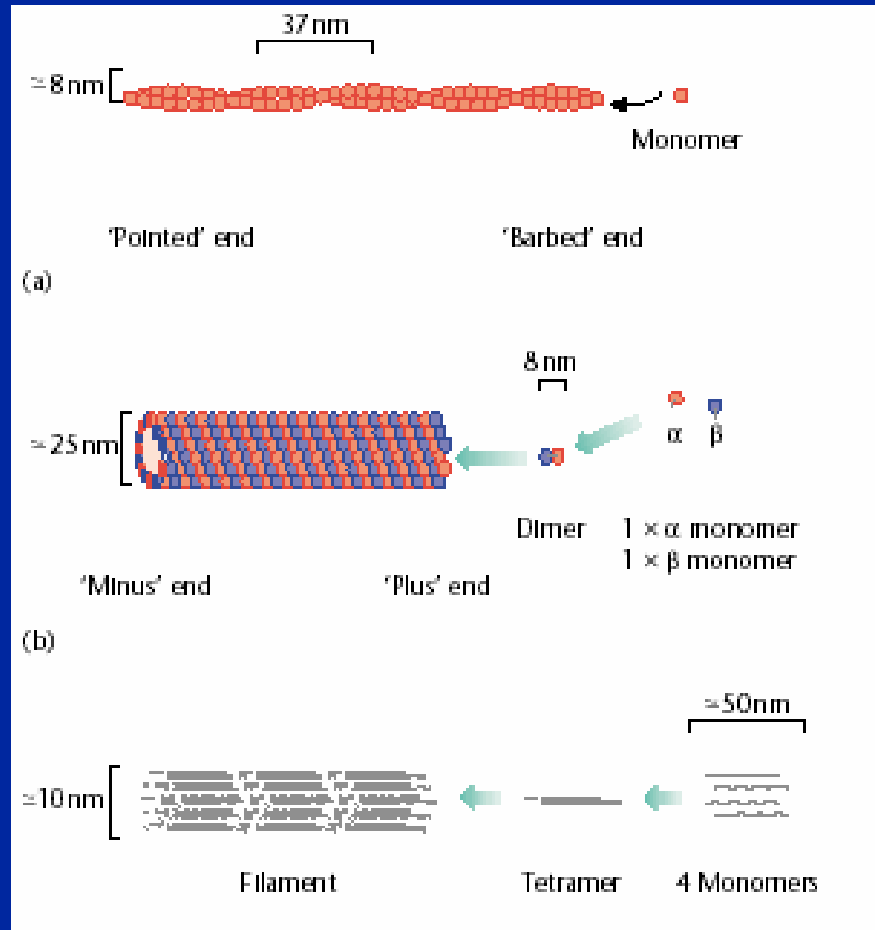
Vinculin



Merged

Cytoskeleton

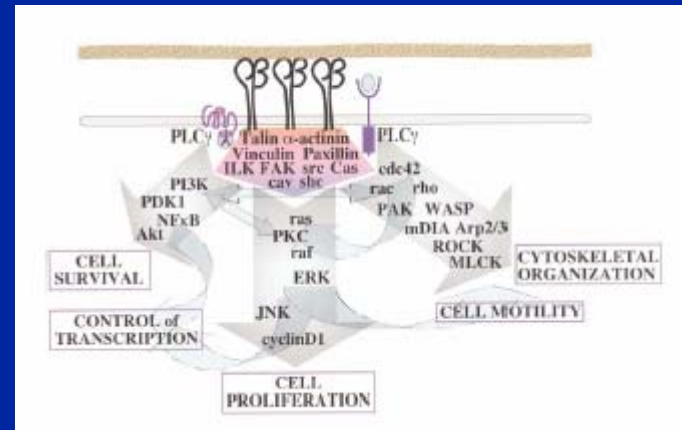
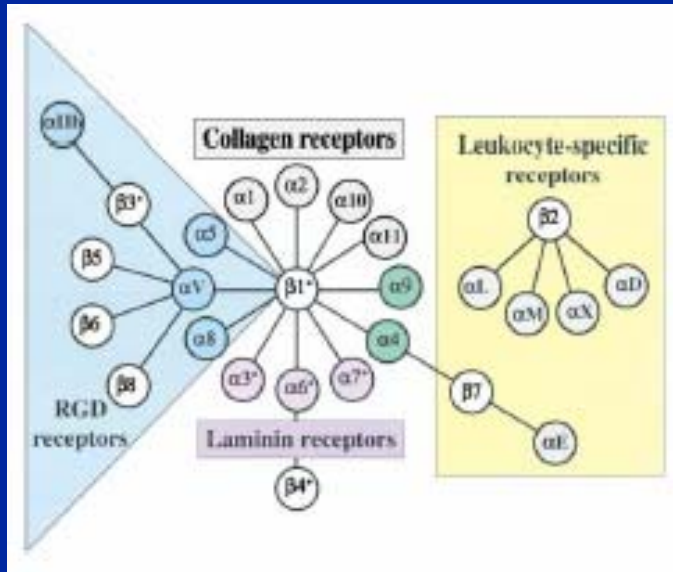
- Microfilaments [actin monomers]
- Microtubules [α and β - tubulin]
- Intermediate filaments [various different types of monomers]



Cell-ECM contact

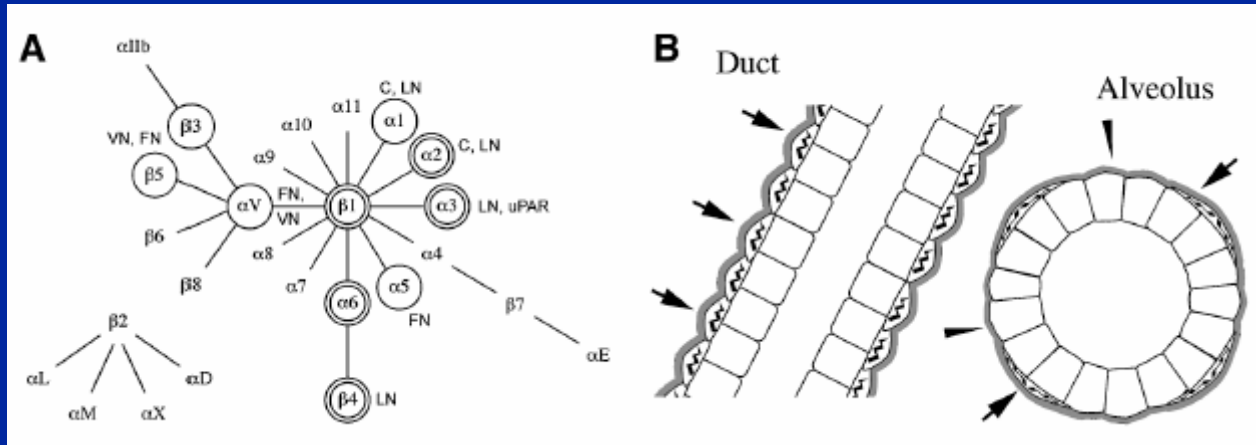
- Cell shape is a set point for proliferation *versus* differentiation
- Integrin signaling - Cross talk to make sure that differentiation signaling is different from proliferation
- Cessation of proliferation - exit cell cycle
- Decreased AP1 transcription factor activity

Integrin Family & Signaling

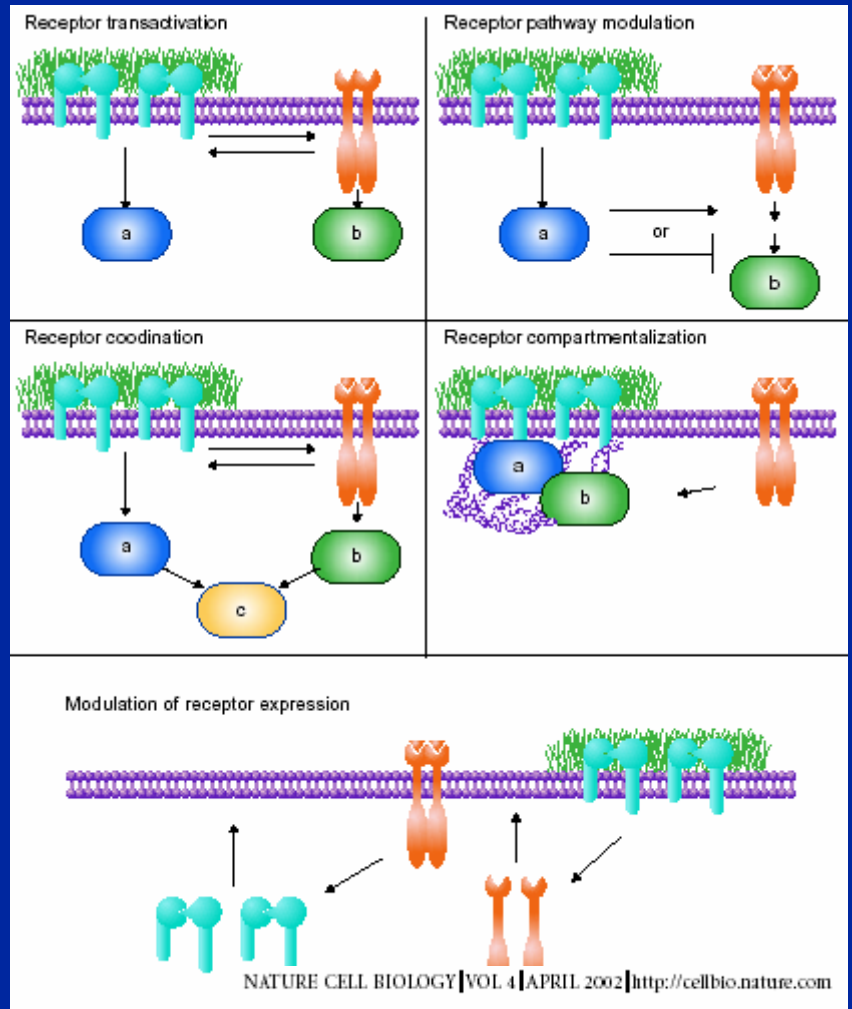


Integrins

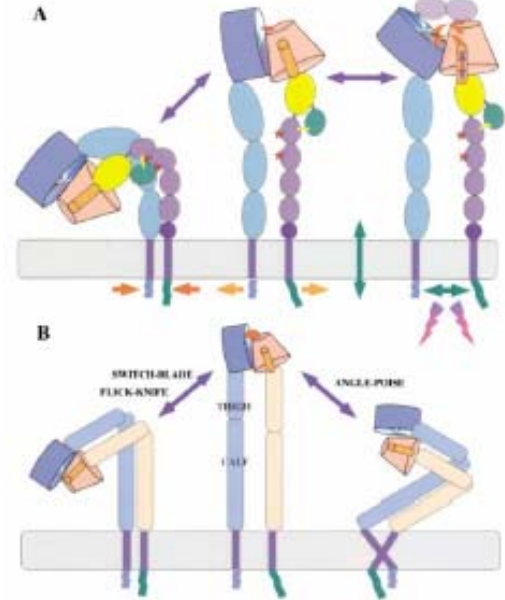
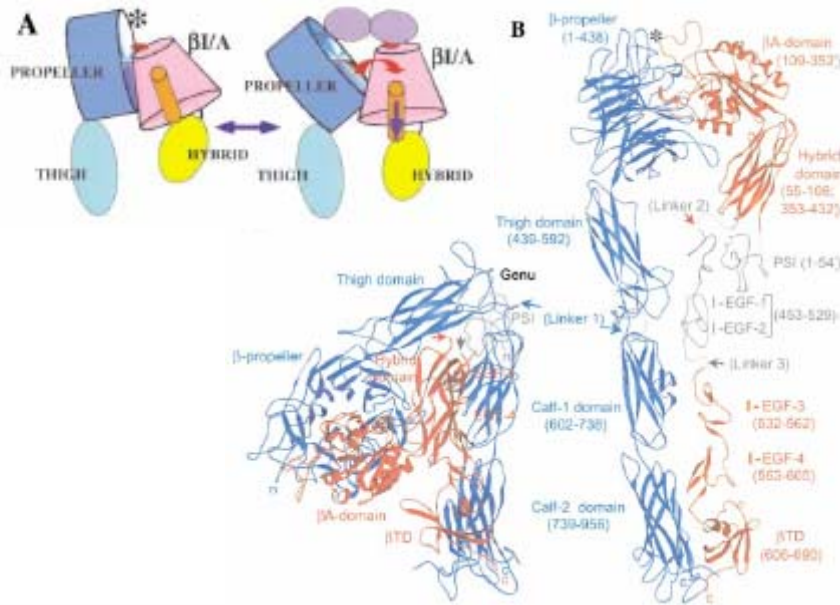
Mammary Gland Development



Integrin Signaling Diversity



Integrin Signaling I

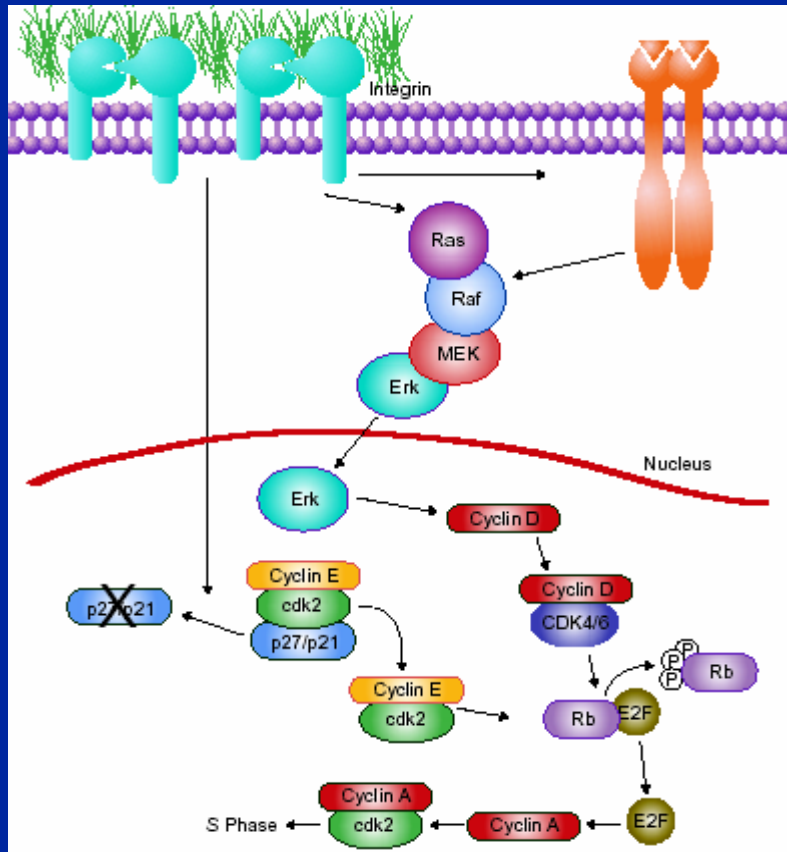


Integrin Signaling II

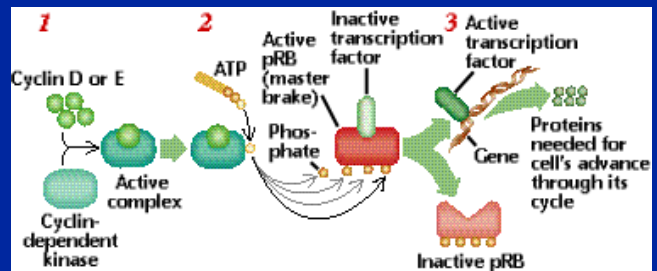
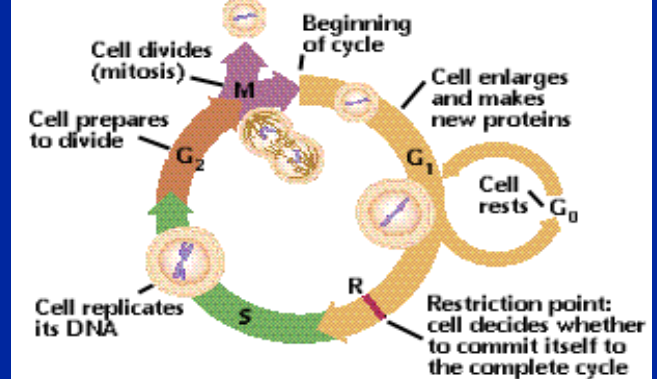
- **Cross talk** to make sure that differentiation signaling is different from proliferation
- Modulation of insulin signal transduction pathway **MAP kinase pathway**
- coupled with growth factor signaling: kinetic activation of transcription factors is modulated



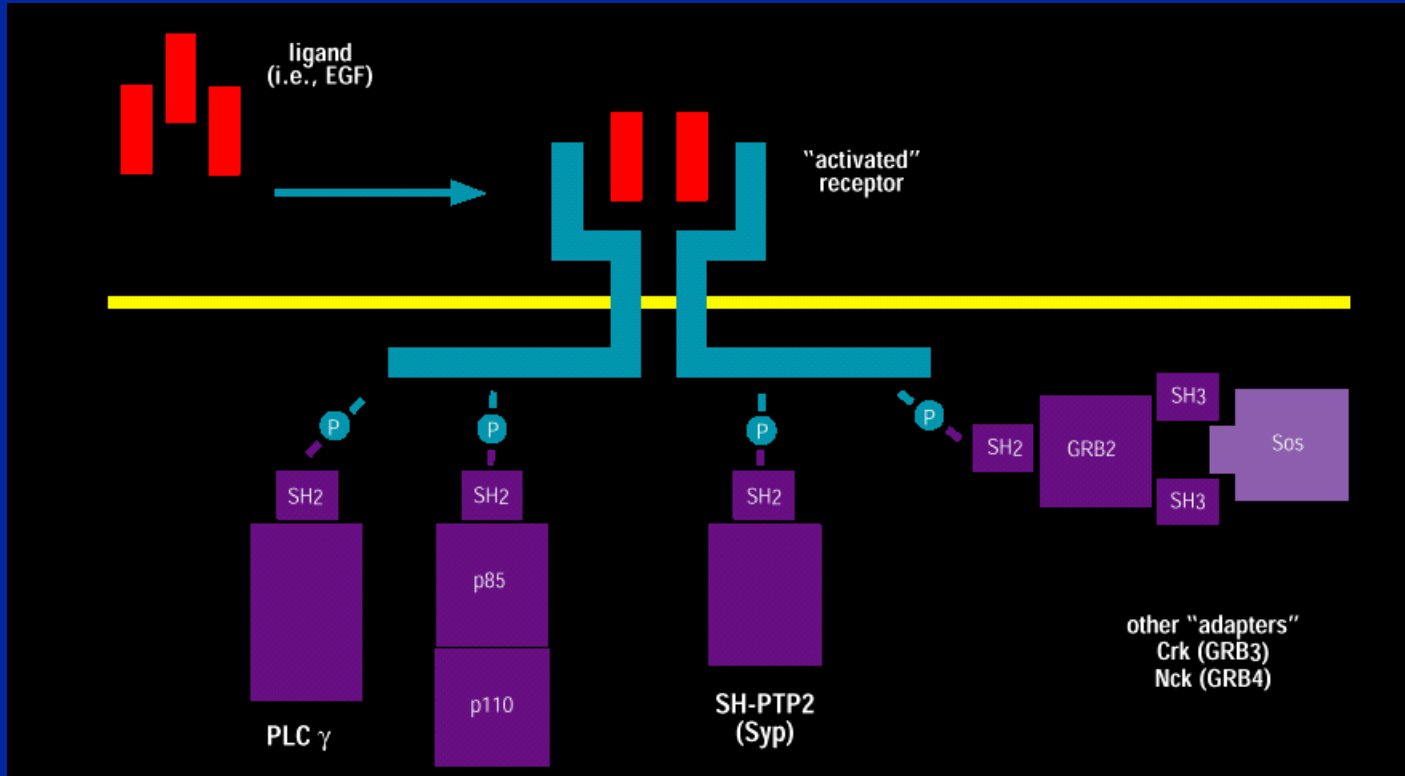
Integrin Coupled with growth factor Signaling: Cell Cycle *in* or *out*



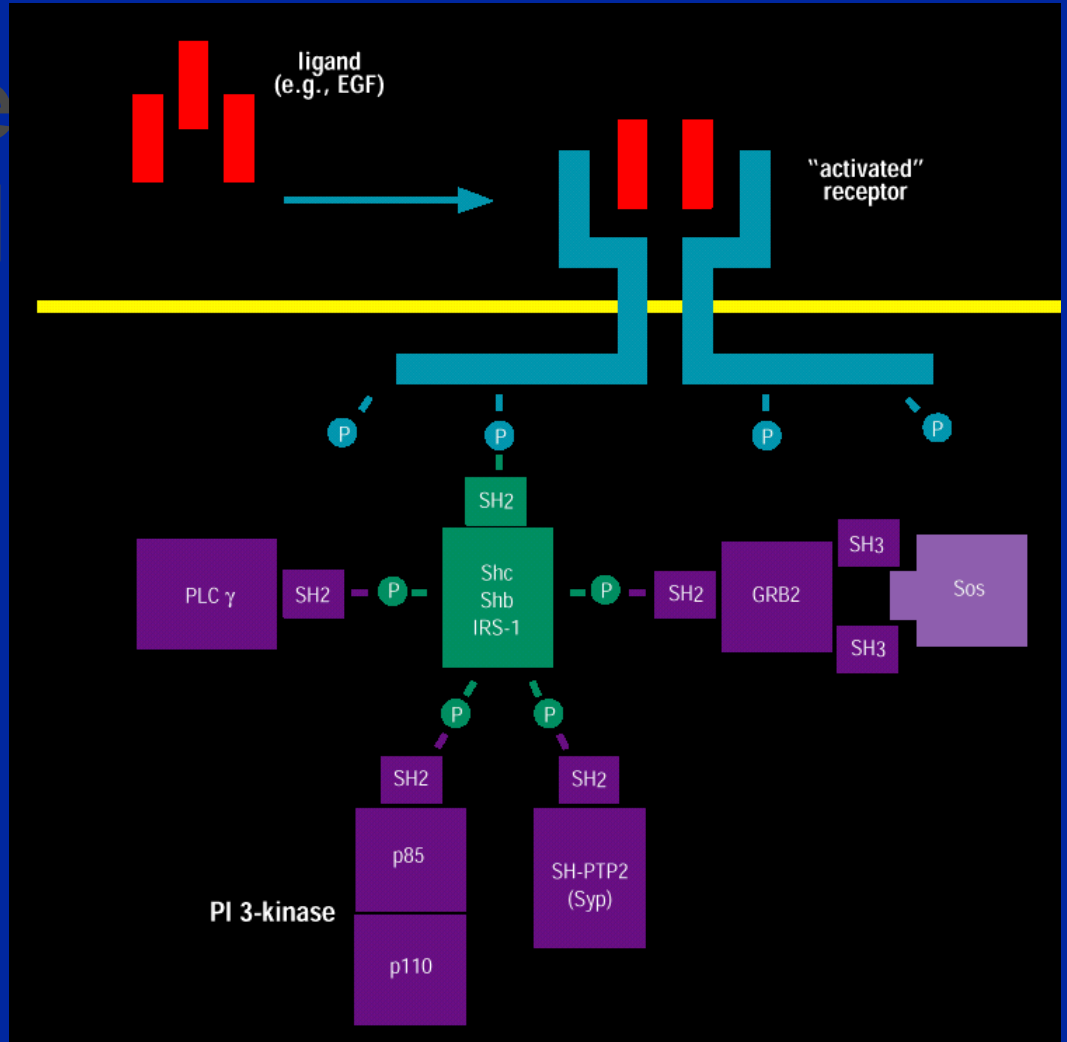
THE CELL CYCLE



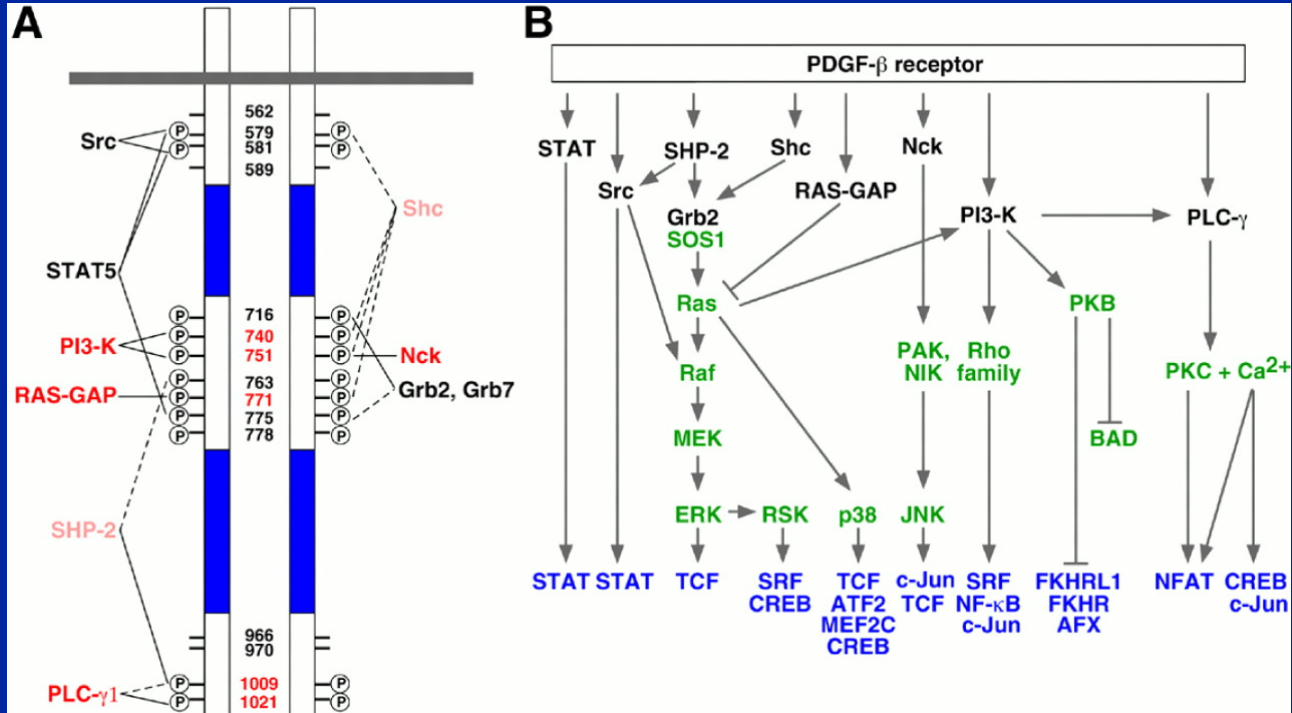
Growth Factor Signaling



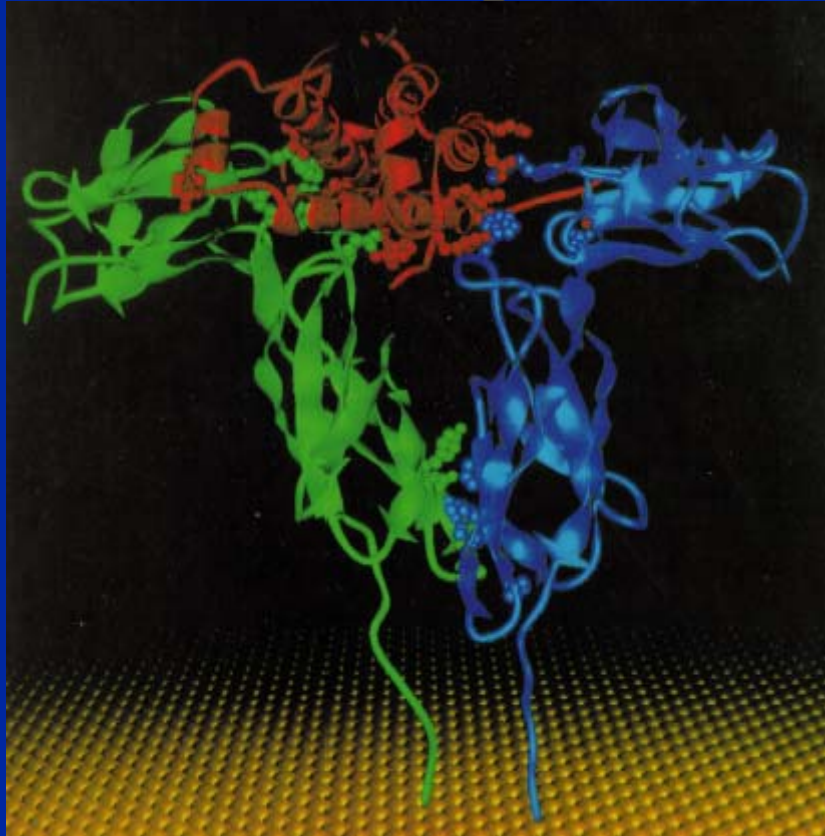
Substrate Mediated Signaling



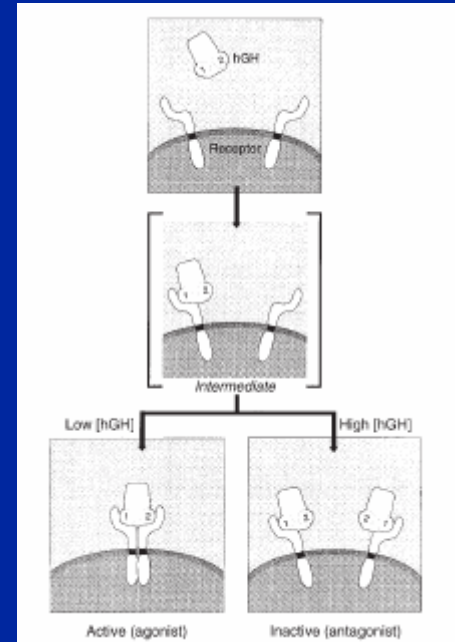
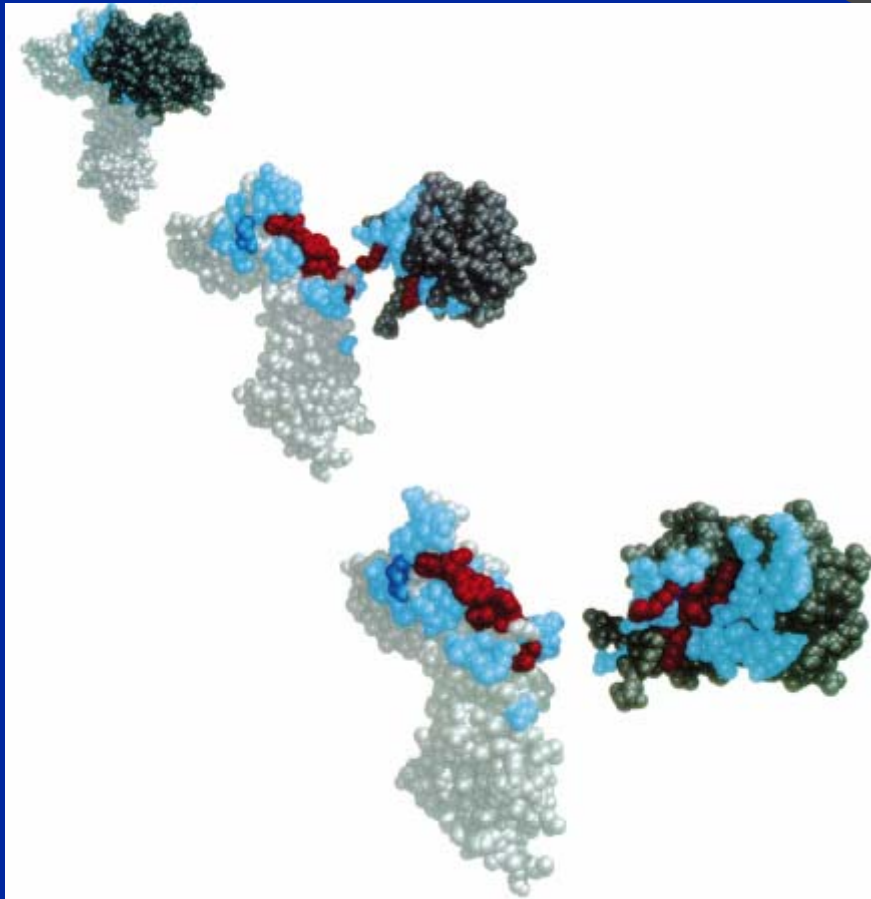
Growth Factor Signaling



Hormone Binding

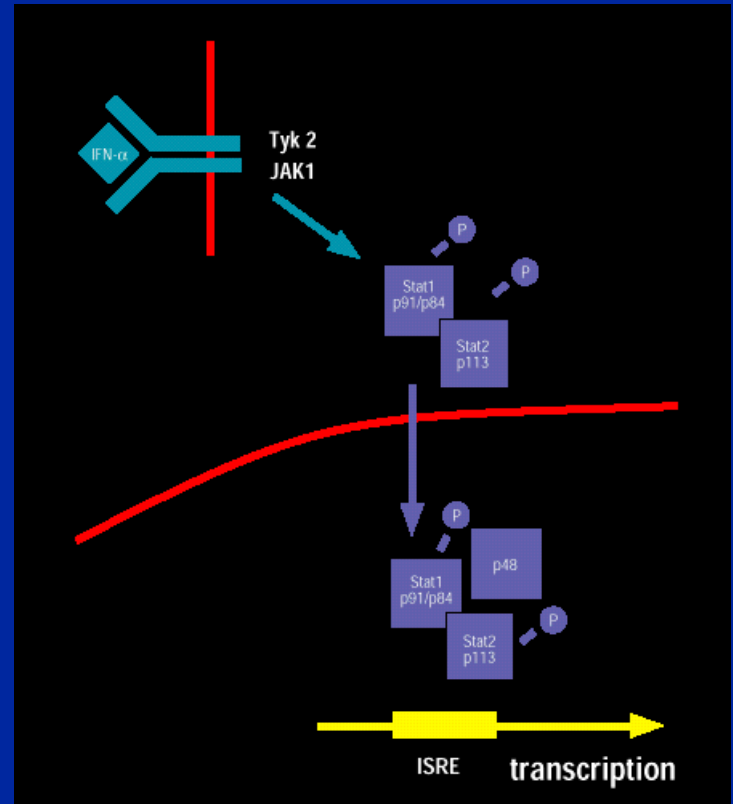


Hormone Binding

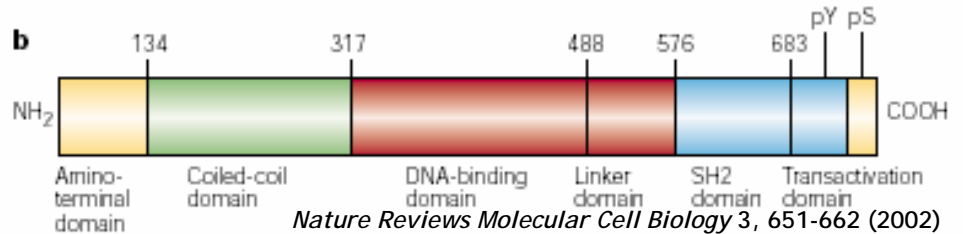
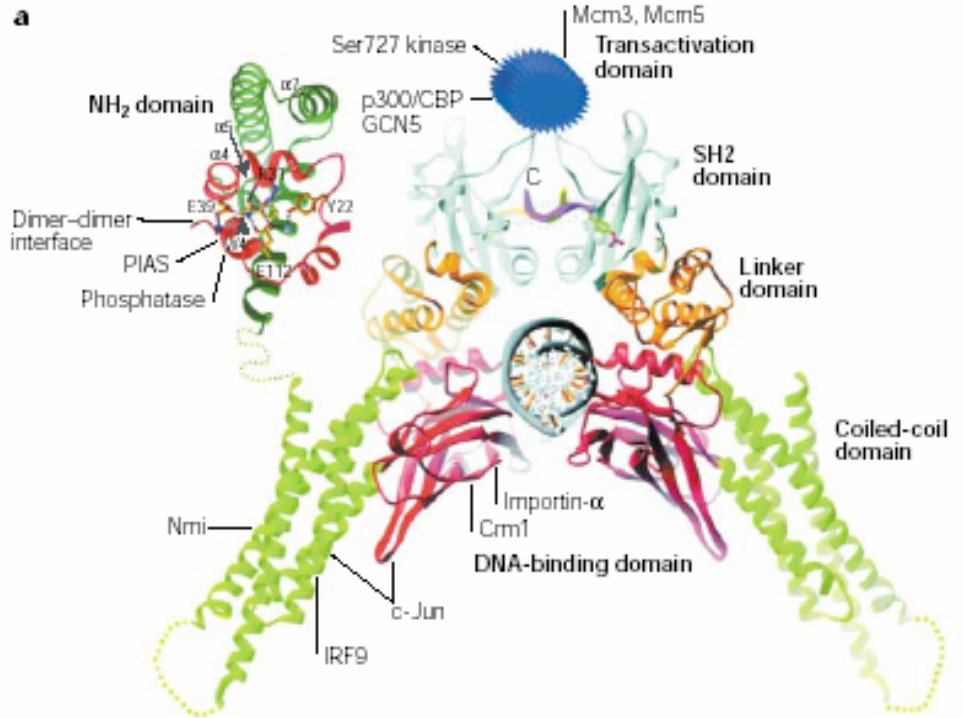


Differentiation Specific Effects

- STAT-5 interacts with activated prolactin receptor: gets **P**, and becomes a transcription factor
- BCE-1 contains STAT-5 binding sites
- beta-casein expression is **on**

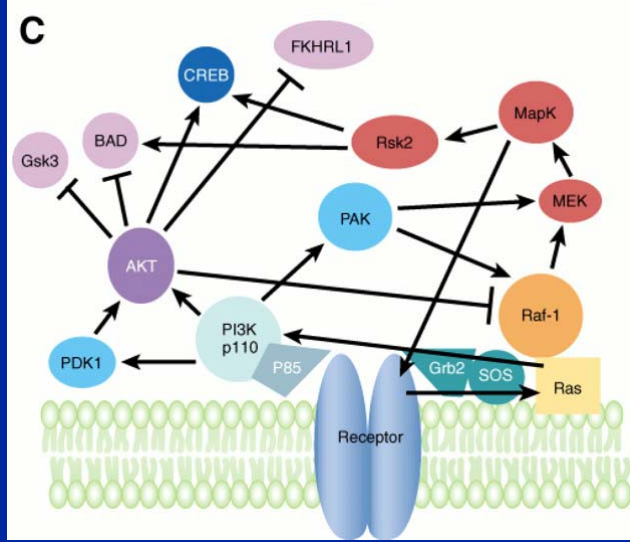
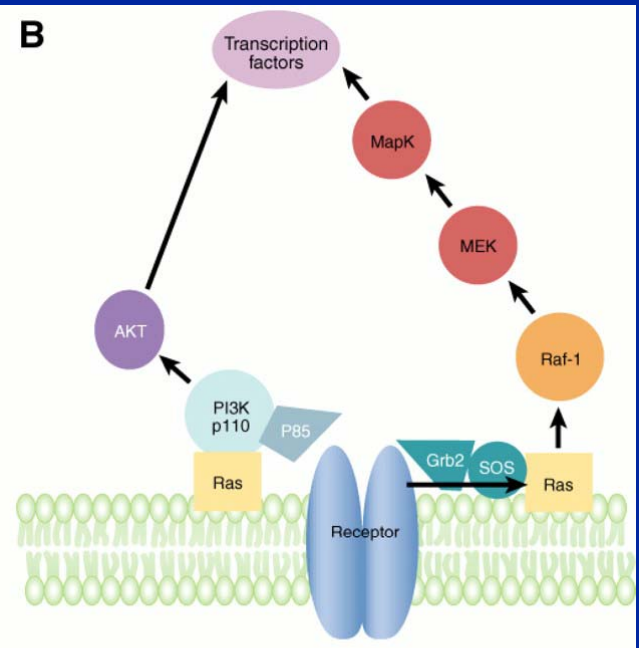
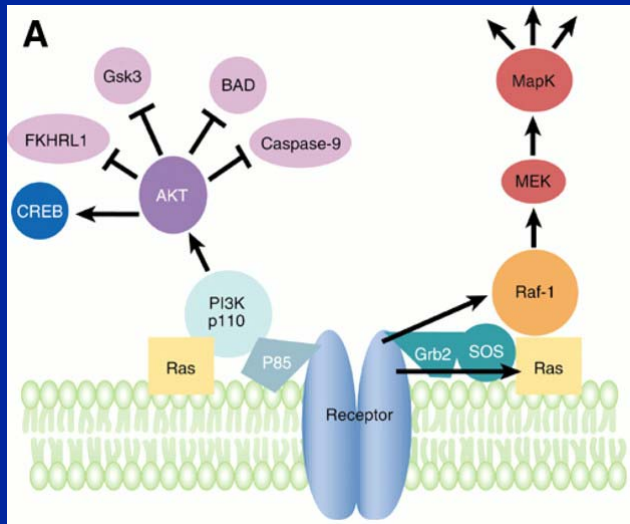


STATs



Laminin Signaling

- **Differentiation** specific elements are activated (*BEC-1 which contains C/EBP binding: ECM responsive elements*)
- Right ECM for the **proper loading** of the transcription factors: appropriate histone organization
- BEC-1 leads to **prolactin based activation** of STAT-5 leading to beta-casein expression

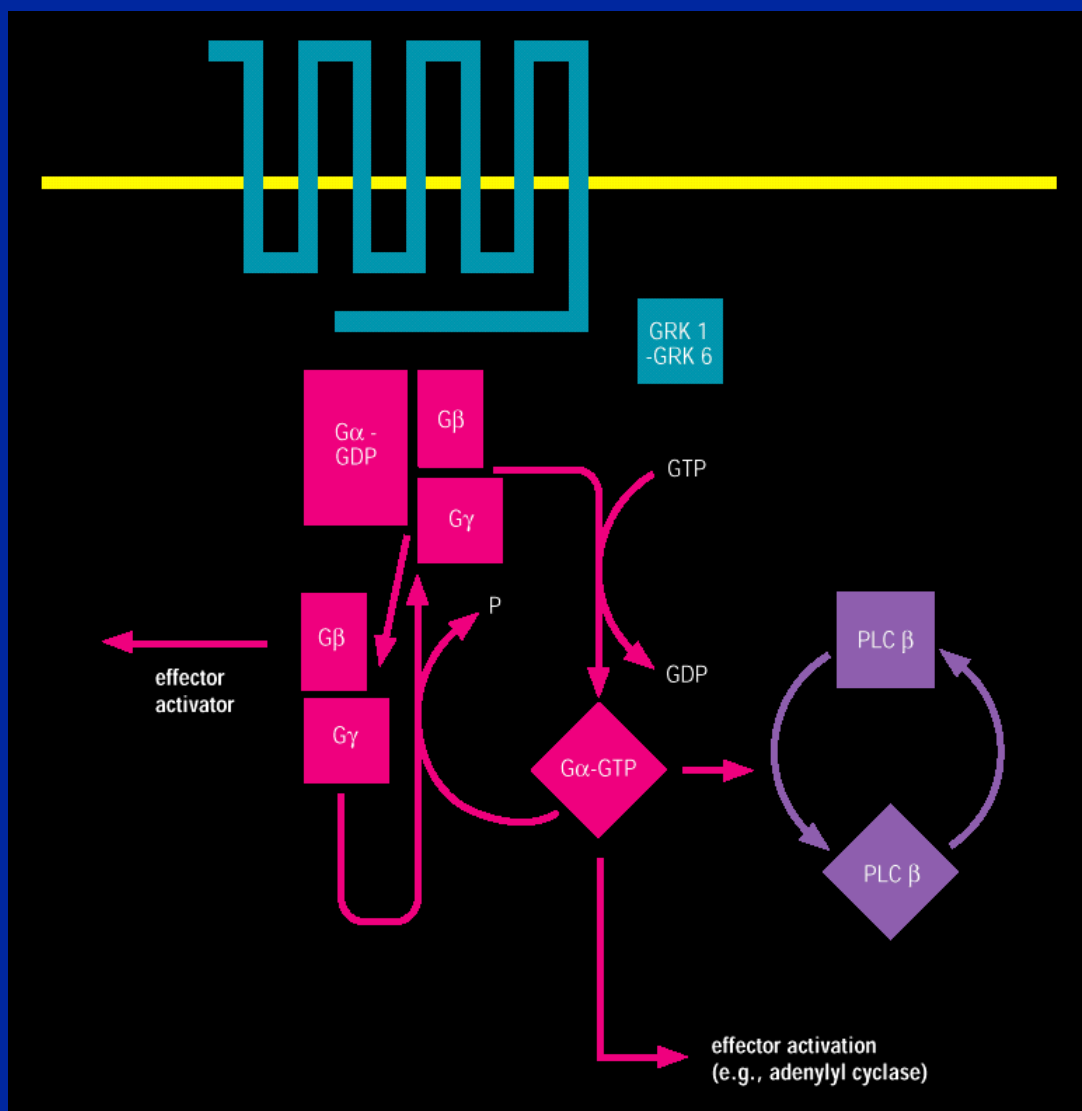


Diverse signaling pathways activated by growth factor receptors induce broadly overlapping, rather than independent, sets of genes.

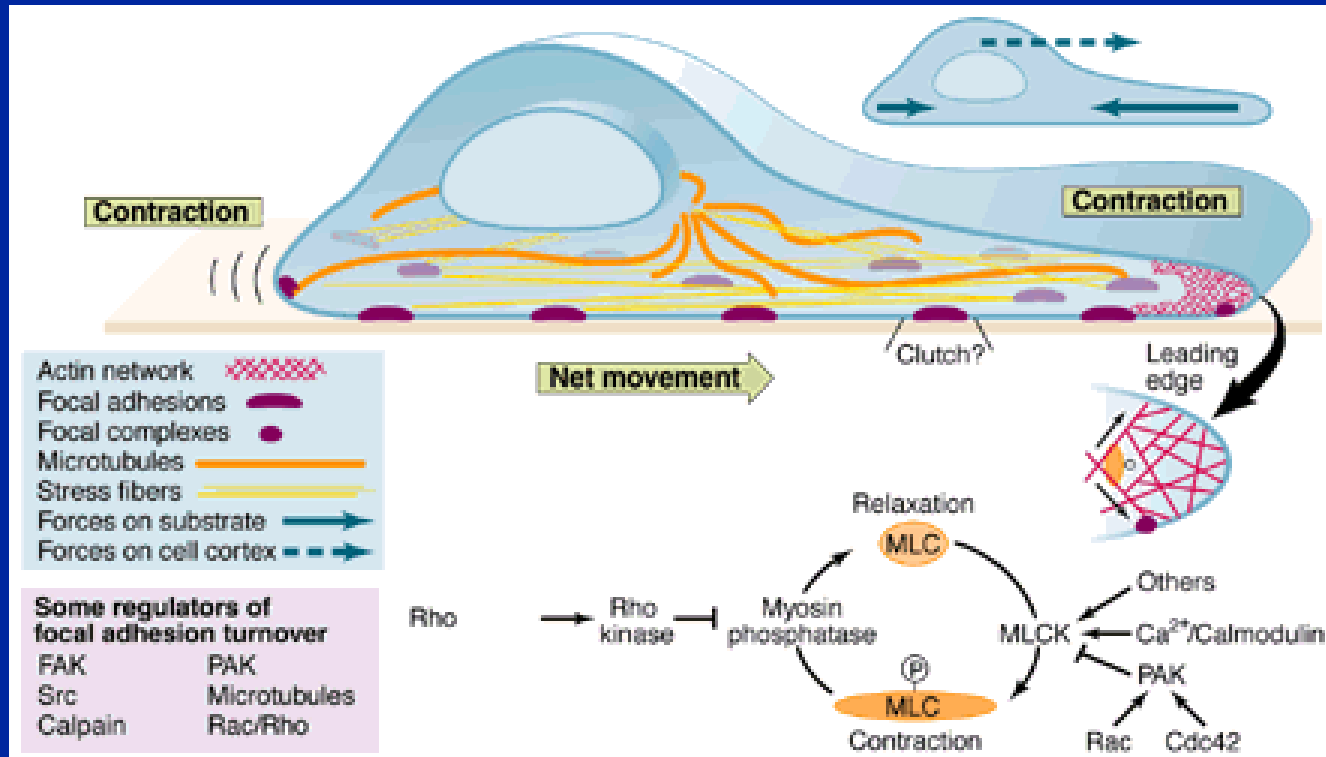
Ready for Third tier

- **Reciprocal** cell-mediated changes in ECM composition
- *rigid substratum results in flattening, de-differentiation and beta-casein production off*
- The next signal is for the cells to migrate and this requires a change in the FAK based signaling as well as ECM-integrin-cell interactions
- Cell spreading on ECM - actin stress fibers

G-protein coupled receptor activation

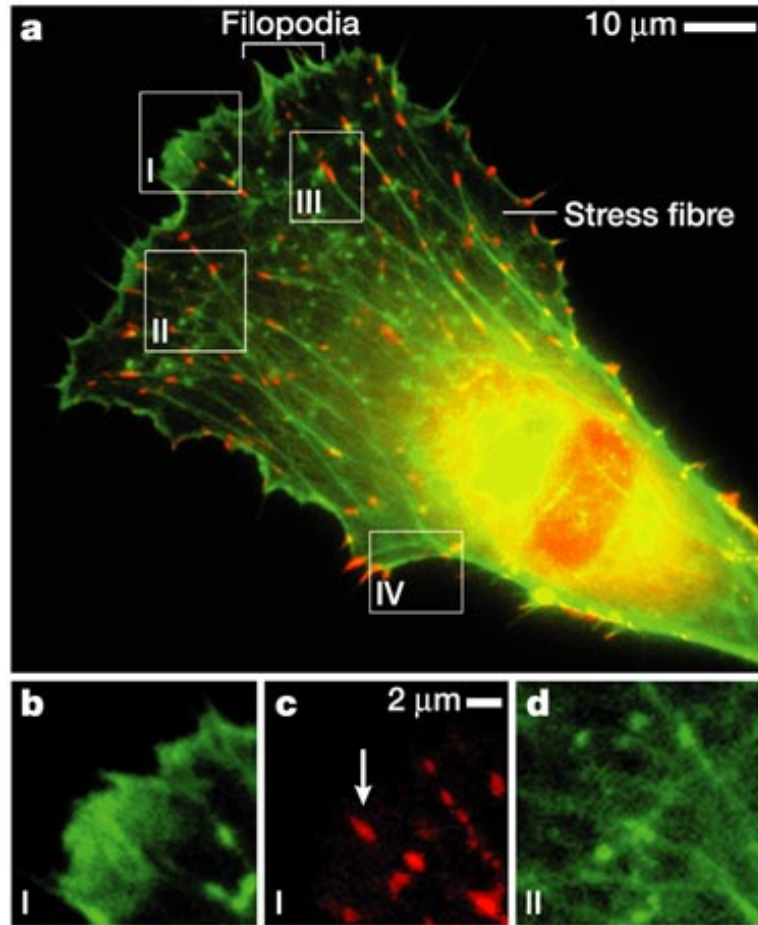


Migration



Migrating cells

- Entire complex
- FA and migration
- Migration



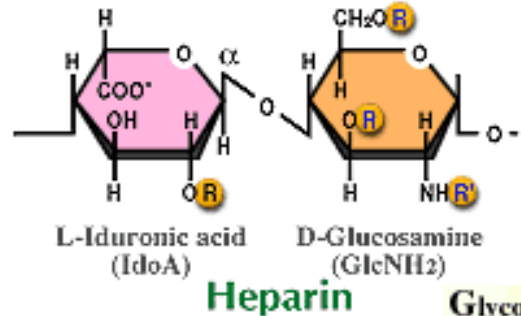
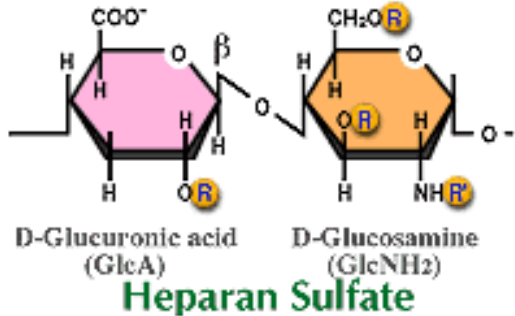
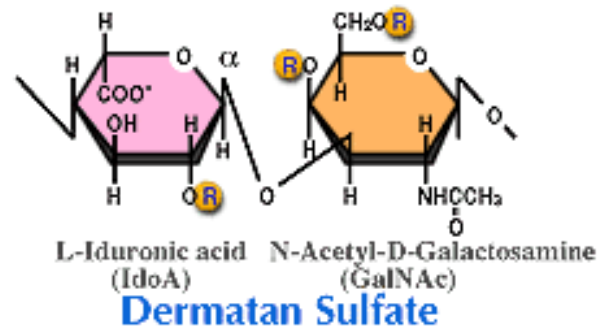
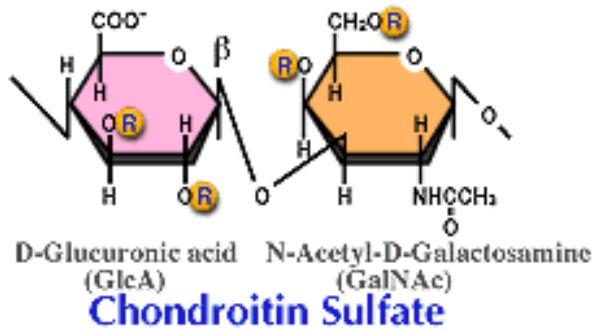
Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology 3, 957-964 (2002)

Nature Reviews | Molecular Cell Biology

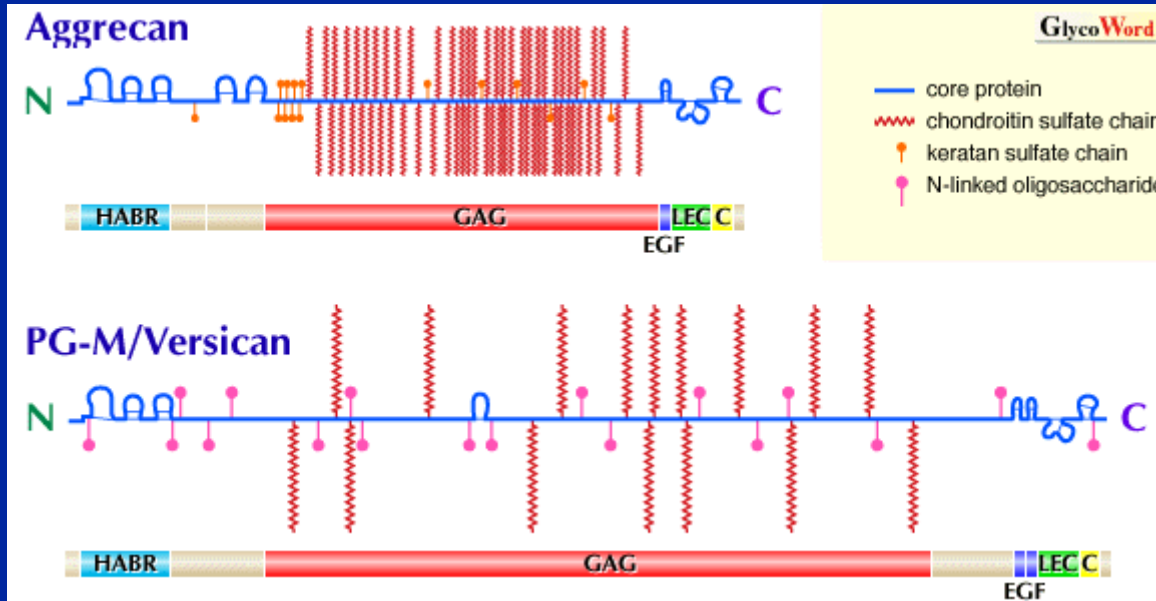
Migration, proliferation & differentiation

- Growth factors in the ECM become key for sending proliferative signals: FGF
- Polarization of the cells leads to self-assembly and the formation of alveoli like structures: **morphogenesis (HGF)**
- Production and deposition of **new** ECM
- Down regulation of TGF- β

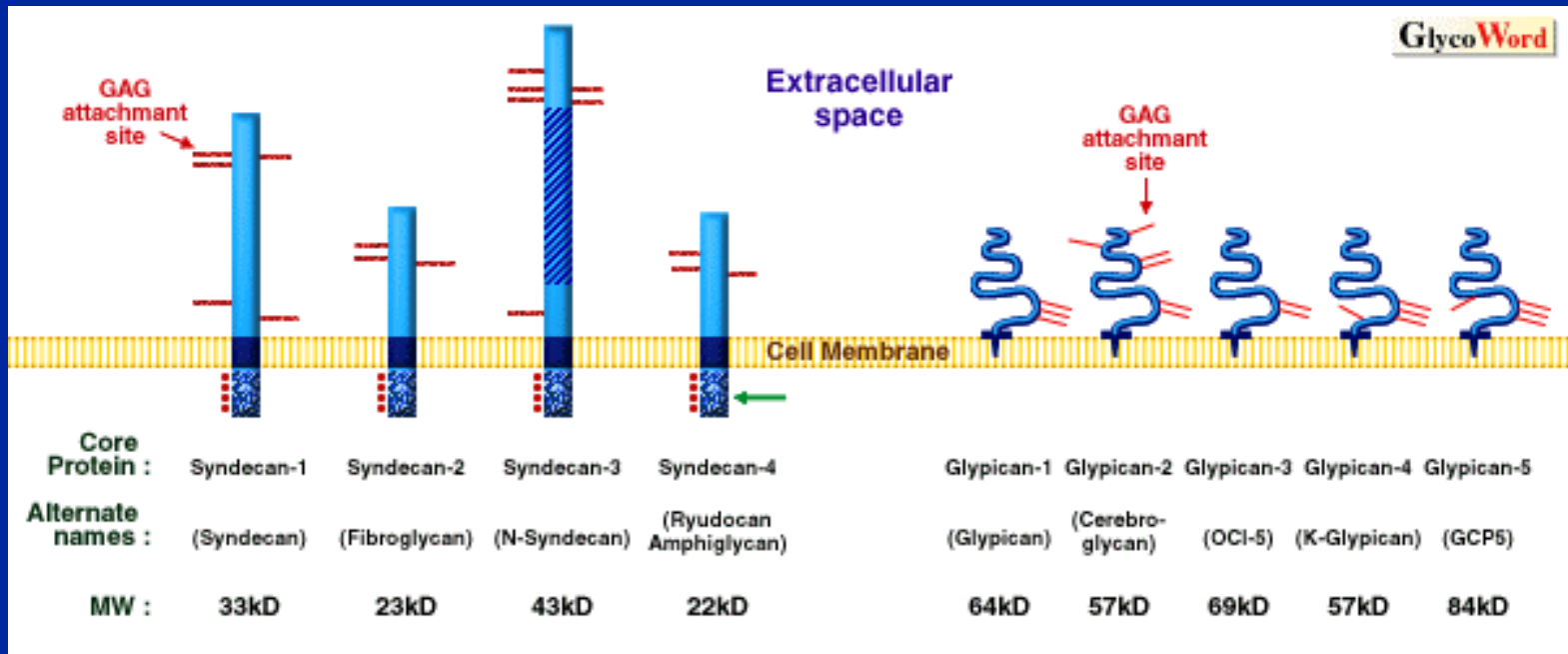
Glycosaminoglycans



Core: ECM CS

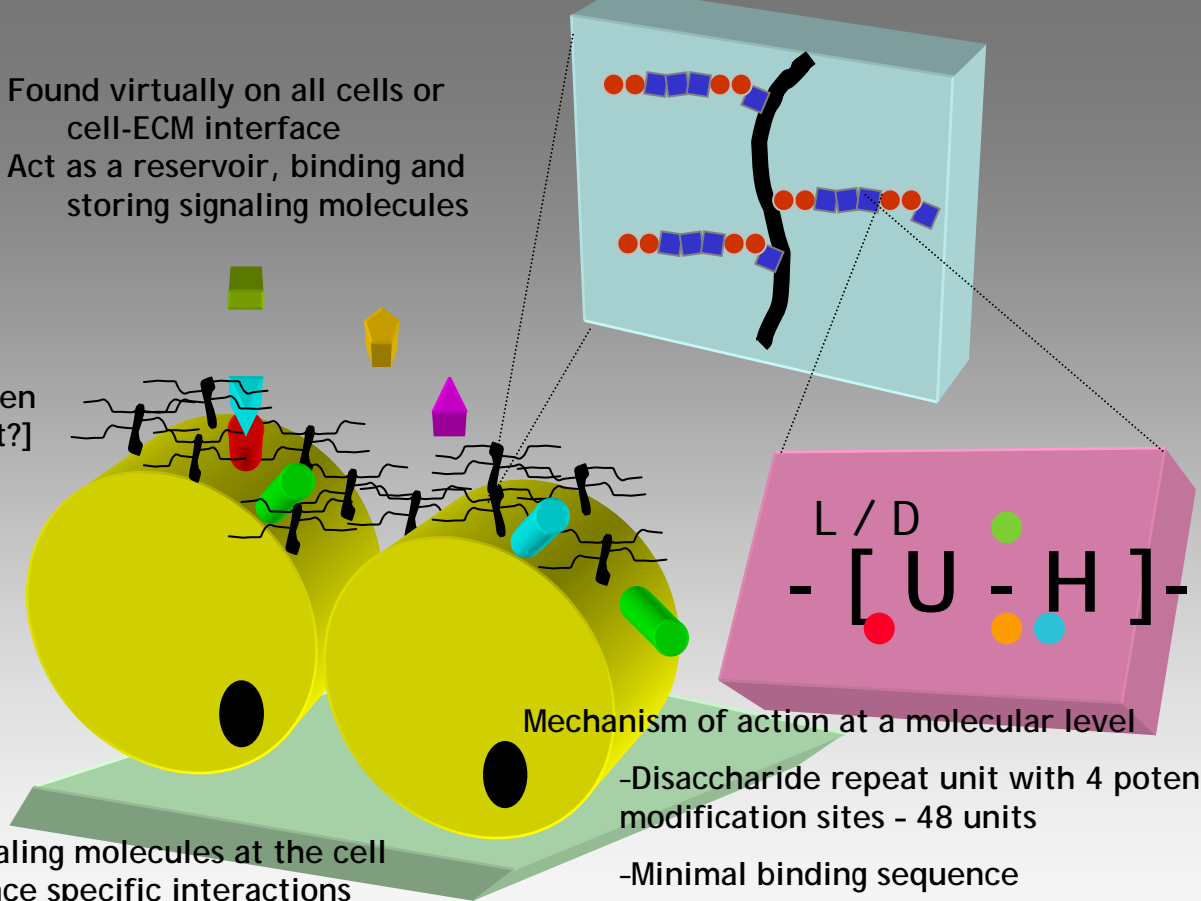


Core: Cell Surface HSGAG



Found virtually on all cells or cell-ECM interface
Act as a reservoir, binding and storing signaling molecules

GAGs influence diffusion of signaling molecules - morphogen movements [gradient?]



Mechanism of action at a molecular level

Modulating of signaling molecules at the cell surface via sequence specific interactions

- Platform for ligand-receptor interactions
- Specificity for ligand-receptor complex [FGF-FGFRs]

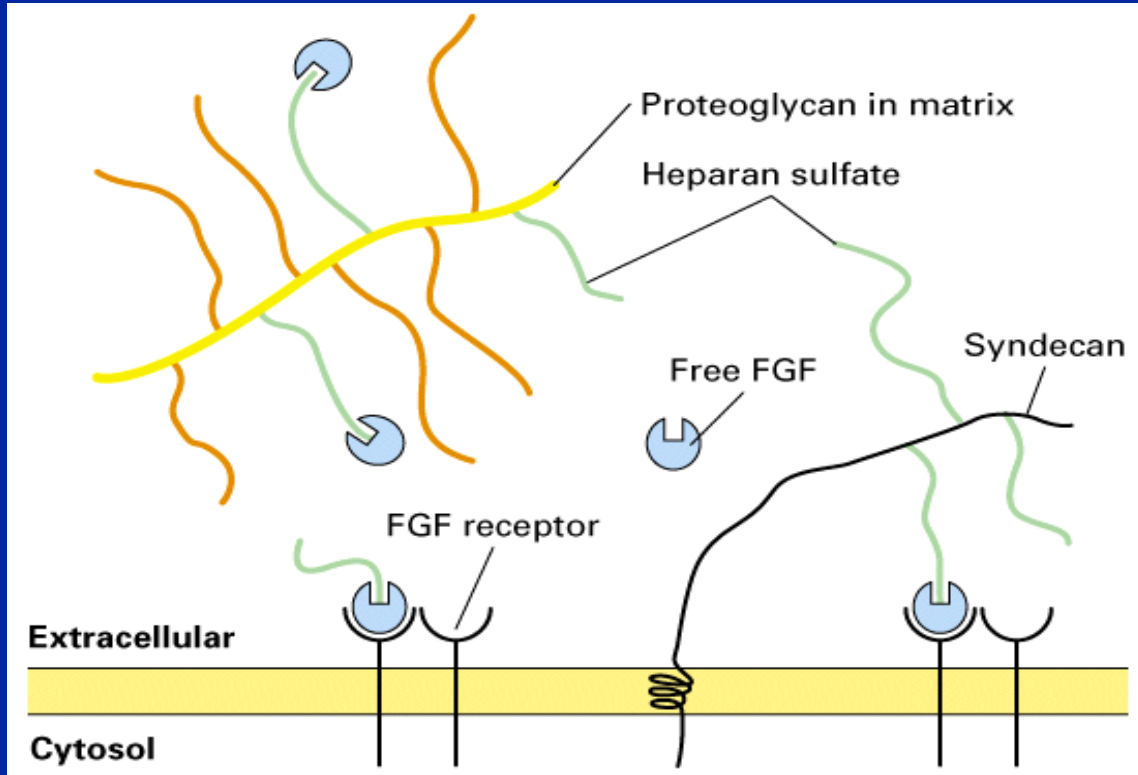
-Disaccharide repeat unit with 4 potential modification sites - 48 units

-Minimal binding sequence

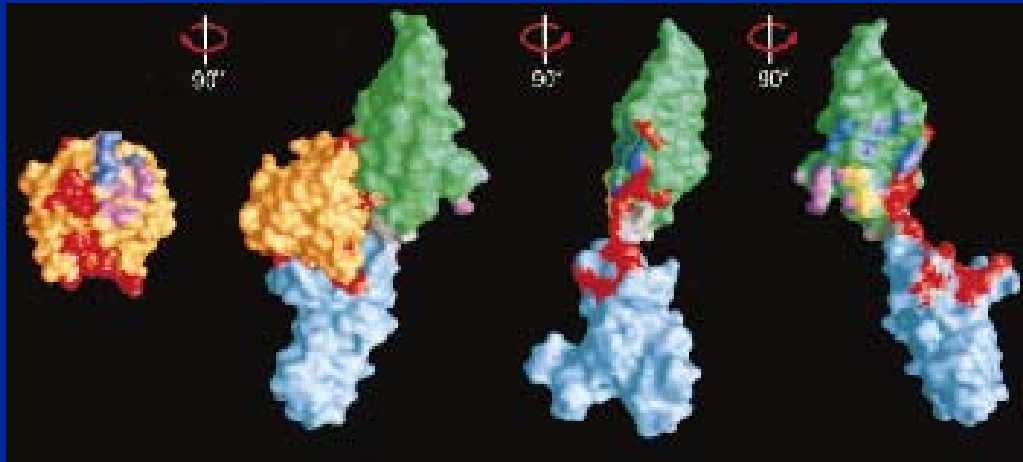
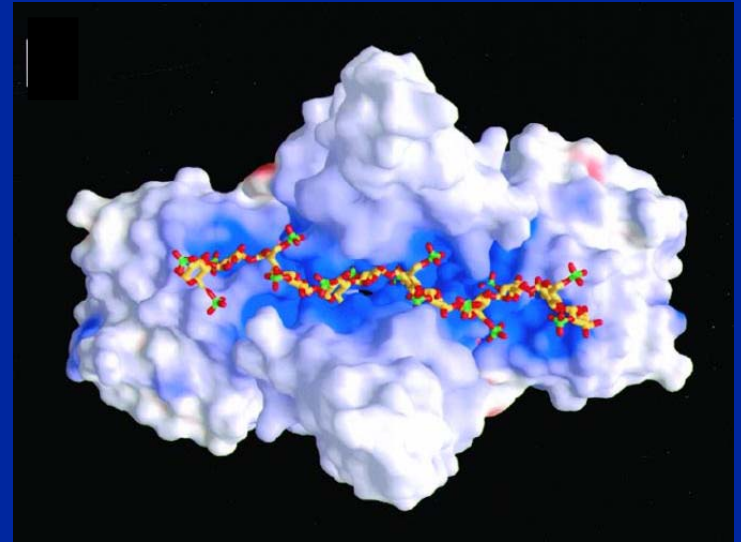
-I conformation modulate helix [kink] to make maximum contact with protein surface

-Specificity may arise from spacing of binding sites

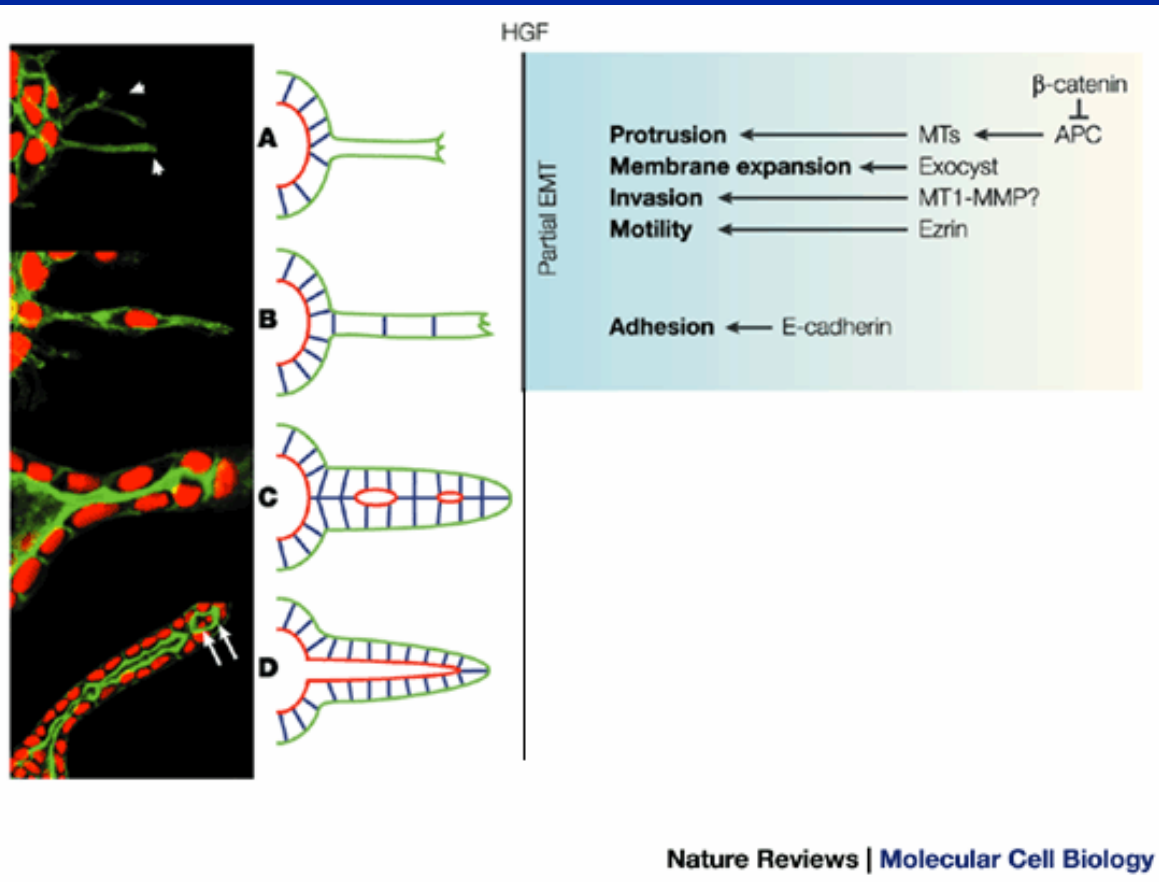
ECM and Growth Factor



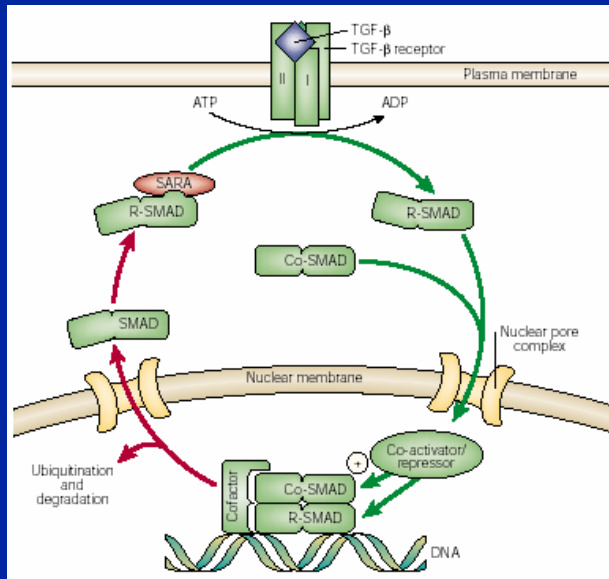
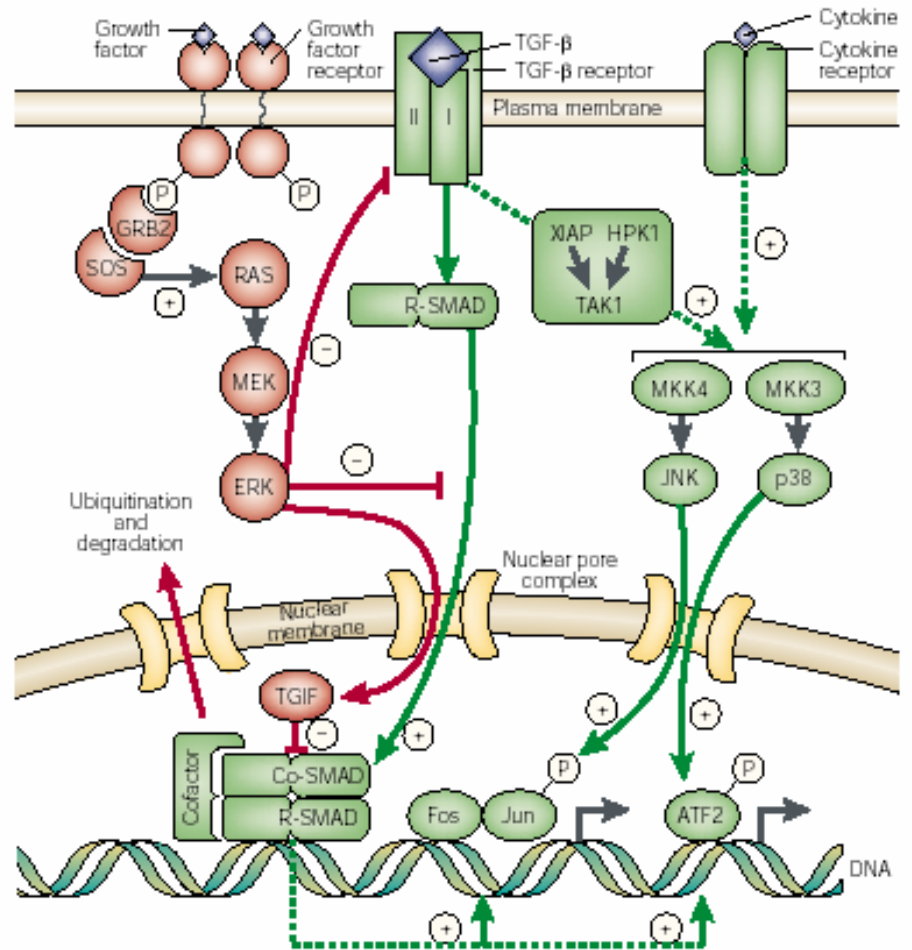
FGF-FGFR complex



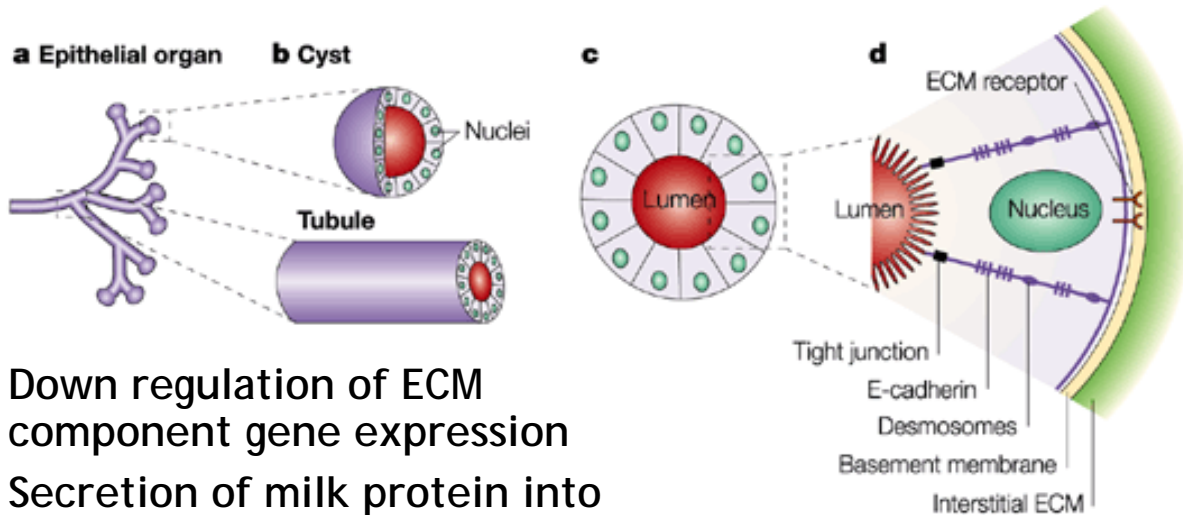
Tube formation



TGF-beta



Morphogenesis

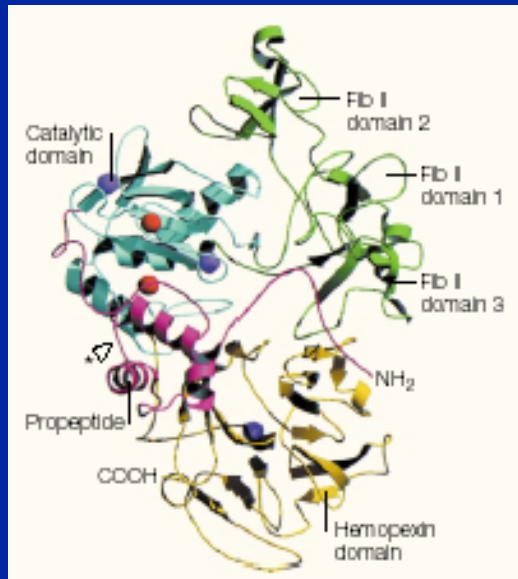


- Down regulation of ECM component gene expression
- Secretion of milk protein into central lumen
- Expression of Whey protein

Destruction & Involution

- Inhibition of milk protein expression
- Increased Matrix Metalloprotease production
- Decreased production of MM inhibitors
- Basement membrane destruction and Enactin fragmentation and increase tenascin production
- Loss of cell function
- ICE dependent apoptosis

MMPs



Int. collagenase (MMP-1)
 PMN collagenase (MMP-8)
 Collagenase-3 (MMP-13)

Stromelysin-1 (MMP-3)
 Stromelysin-2 (MMP-10)



Matrilysin (MMP-7)
 MMP-26
 Metalloelastase (MMP-12)
 Enamelysin (MMP-20)
 Epilysin (MMP-26)
 MMP-19
 MMP-27



Stromelysin-3 (MMP-11)
 CA-MMP (MMP-23)



MT1-MMP (MMP-14)
 MT2-MMP (MMP-15)
 MT3-MMP (MMP-16)
 MT5-MMP (MMP-24)



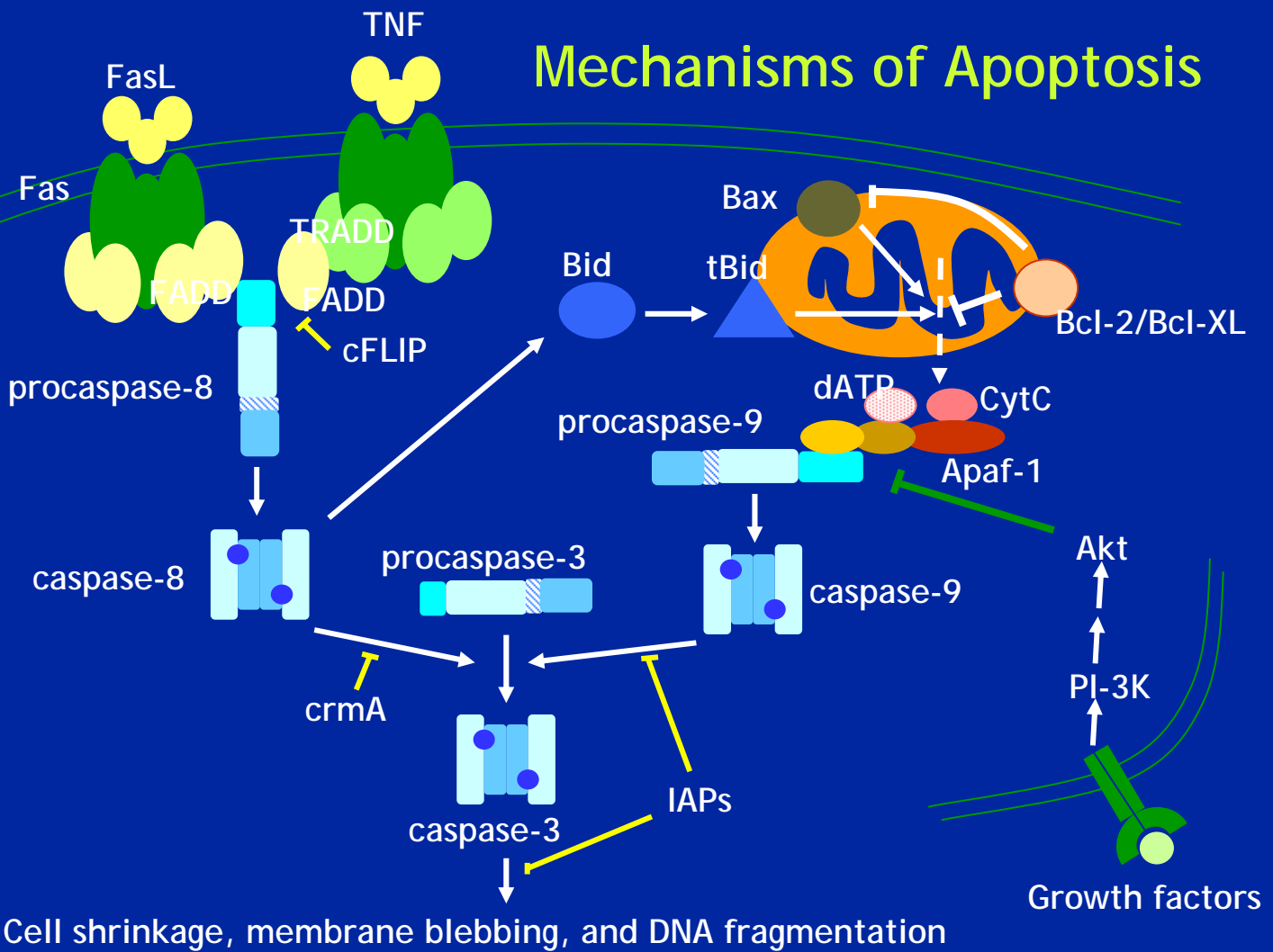
MT4-MMP (MMP-17)
 MT6-MMP (MMP-25)



Gelatinase A (MMP-2)
 Gelatinase B (MMP-9)



Mechanisms of Apoptosis



Key Points: I

- Flow of information between cells and tissues are integrated into a signaling hierarchy that is :
a) constructed and then b) dismantled in a cyclical manner
- **First tier** of hierarchy involves mechanical signals : cell rounding that trigger lactoferrin gene expression
- **Second tier**: Rounded cells deposit ECM and initiate a laminin mediated hierarchy leading to biochemical signal transduction and activation of a wide range of genes

Key Points: II

- The **third tier** of hierarchy signaling relies on the ECM morphogenesis, wherein presence of ECM directs cell polarity, formation of central lumen and expression of WAP.

WAP is expressed late in pregnancy and just before the onset of lactation.

- **Fourth tier**: Dismantling of this hierarchy begins at weaning is mediated by ECM-degrading enzymes, which act in a development stage manner to induce programmed cell death.

Summary

- Signaling hierarchy emerges as a universal integrator of function for a given physiology
- Fundamental cellular processes modulated by biochemical signals- cycles of growth, differentiation, morphogenesis and apoptosis
- Molecular (biochemical, mechanical, physical interactions) - cellular - tissue - organ system