

# PHARMACODYNAMICS-I

## DRUG RECEPTORS & SIGNALING MECHANISMS

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*By the end of this lecture Student should be able to :*

➤ **Define the drug receptor, types, location and**

**mechanism of receptor regulation.**

➤ **Enlist the transmembrane signaling**

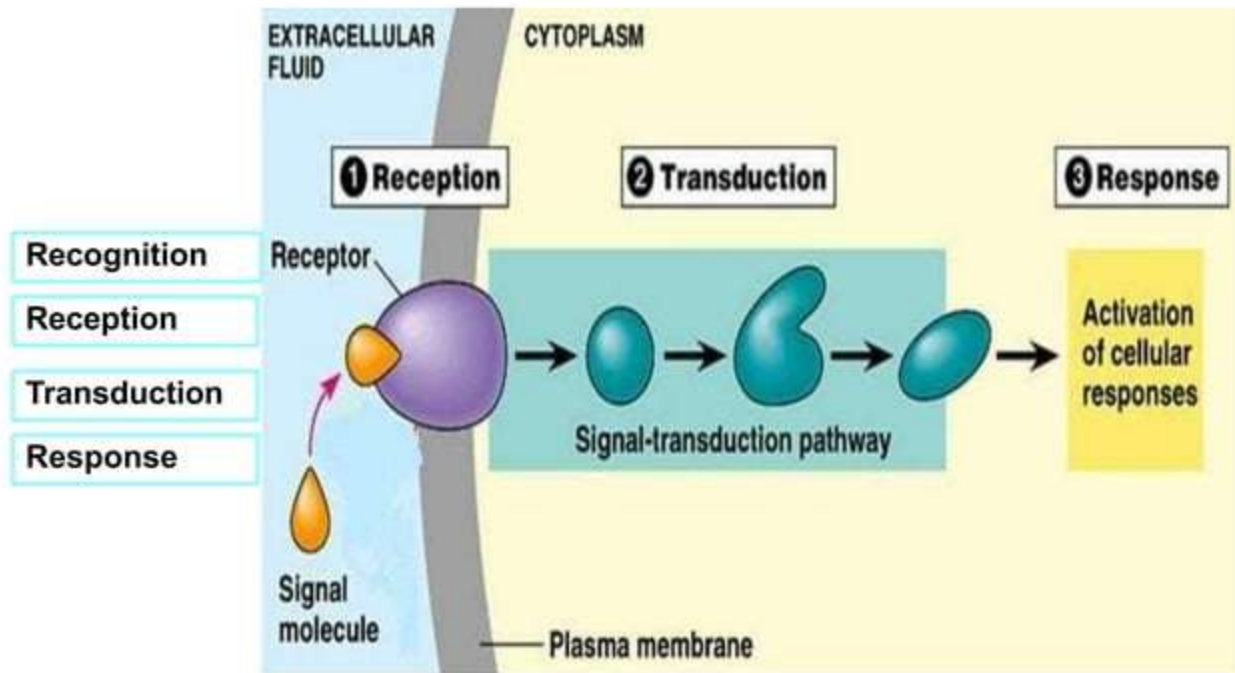
**methods by which drug receptor**

**interactions exert their effects.**

## What is Pharmacodynamics ?

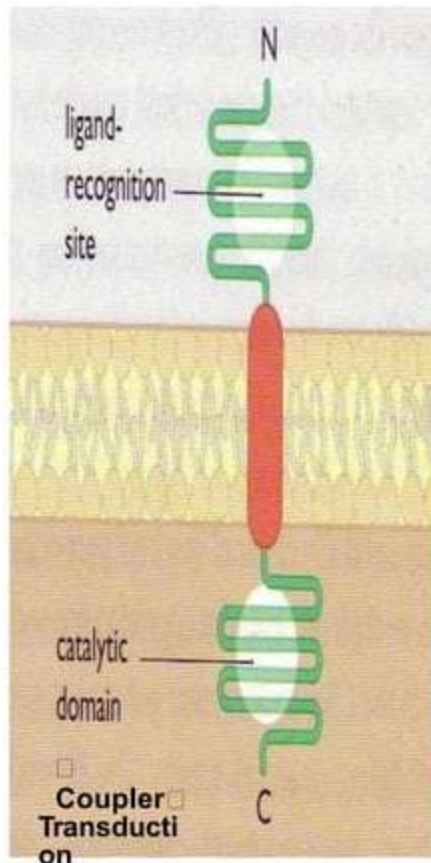
**Pharmacodynamics** is a branch of pharmacology that deals with the study of the biochemical and physiological effects of drugs and their mechanisms of action.

# A RECEPTOR



## A RECEPTOR structure

- Ligand recognition site
- Inner catalytic domain



# RECEPTOR FAMILIES

**Type I** (Ion Channel-Linked receptors)

**Type II** (G-Protein coupled receptors)

**Type III** (Enzyme-Linked receptors)

**Type IV** (Receptors linked to gene transcription)

# RECEPTOR FAMILIES

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Location	Membrane	Membrane	Membrane	Nucleus
Coupling	Direct	G-Protein	Direct	Via DNA
Synaptic transmission	Very Fast	fast	slow	Very slow
Response	milliseconds	Seconds	minutes	Hours or days
Examples	Nicotinic receptors	Muscarinic receptors <b>Adrenergic receptors</b>	Insulin receptors	Estrogen Steroid receptors
Effectors	channels	Channels/ enzymes	Enzymes	DNA

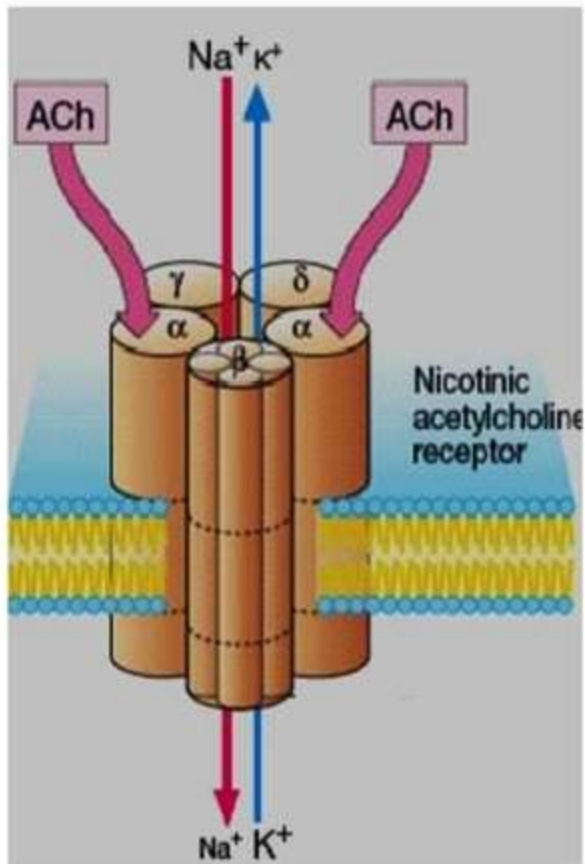
**TYPE I : Ion Channel-Linked  
receptors Ligand gated  
ion channels Ionotropic  
receptors**

- **Located at cell membrane**
- **Directly activated by ligand binding**
- **Directly related to ion channels.**
- **Involved in very fast synaptic transmission.**
- **Response occurs in milliseconds.**



1 Channel-Linked  
Ionotropic  
Receptor Ligand-  
Gated-Ion Channel

e.g. **nicotinic receptors**  
that are activated by  
occupancy of a ligand  
as **acetylcholine**.

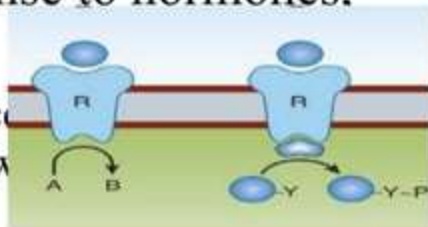


## **Type II: G-Protein coupled receptors Metabotropic Receptor**

- The largest family that accounts for many known drug targets
- Located at cell membrane
- Coupled to intracellular effectors via **G-protein**
- Response through ion channels or enzymes.
- Involved in rapid transduction
- Response occurs in seconds.
- **E.g. Muscarinic receptors of Ach**

**Type III (Enzyme-Linked receptors)**  
**(Tyrosine Kinase-linked receptor)**

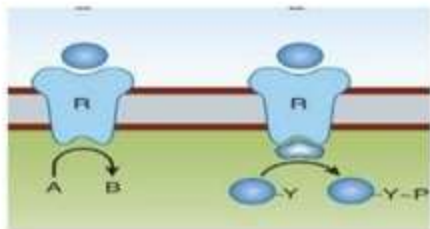
- Located at cell membrane
- Linked to enzyme (with intrinsic enzymatic activity)
- Response occurs in minutes to hours.
- Involved in response to hormones, growth factors.
- They control many cell metabolism and growth



## Type III (Enzyme-Linked receptors) (Tyrosine Kinase-linked receptor)

- Activation of Type III receptors results in
  - Activation of kinases as **tyrosine kinase** with **phosphorylation of tyrosine residue** on their substrates and activation of many intracellular signaling pathways in the cell.

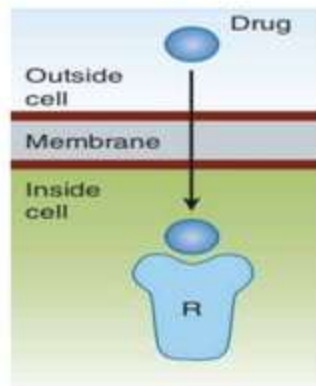
E.g. Insulin receptors



**Type IV: Nuclear  
Gene transcription**

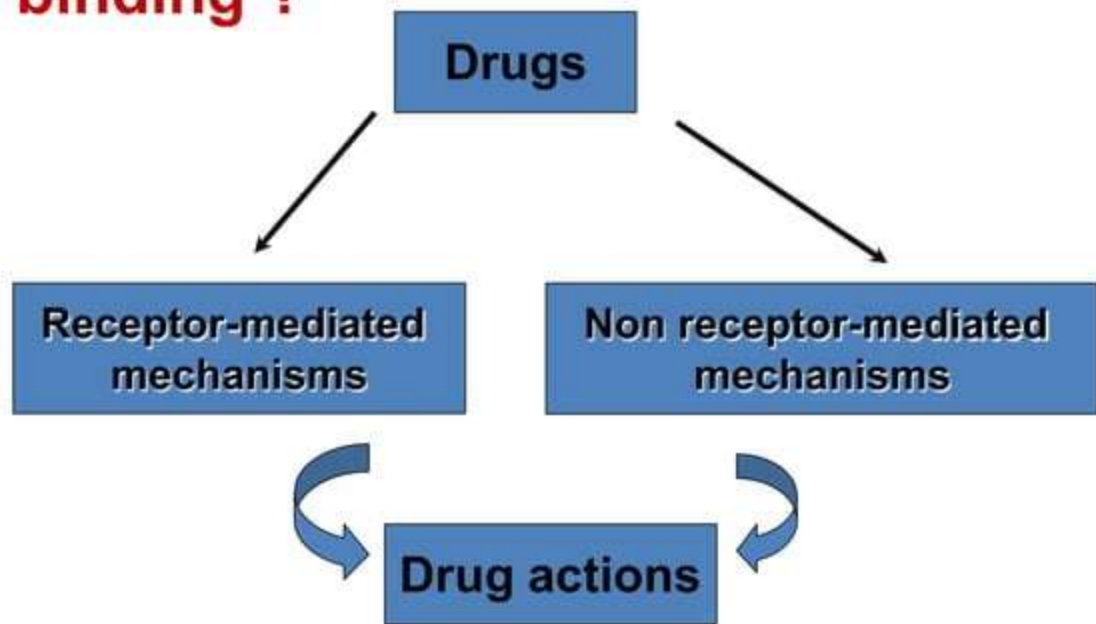
**receptors** intracellularly

- Directly related to DNA (Gene transcription).
- Activation of receptors either increase or decrease protein synthesis
- Response occurs in hours or days and persists longer.
- Their natural **ligands** are lipophylic hormones; steroids, thyroids, estrogen.



What are the mechanisms of drug action?

# How drugs produce action? What are targets for drug binding ?



# What are the mechanisms of drug action?

**Drugs can produce their actions by one of the following mechanisms:**

## **1) Receptor-mediated mechanisms (Binding with biomolecules):**

- Receptors = Biomolecules = Targets
- Targets are mostly **protein in nature**.

## **1) Non receptor-mediated mechanisms**

Physiochemical properties of drugs.



# Non receptor-mediated mechanisms

## Drugs can produce actions by:

### Chemical action

- Neutralization of gastric acidity by antacids.

### Physical action

- Osmotic diuretics.
- Purgatives used in treatment of constipation e.g. MgSO<sub>4</sub>

# Receptor-mediated mechanisms

**Drugs can produce actions by binding with biomolecules (Protein Targets)**

## Protein targets for drug binding

- Structural protein
- Regulatory proteins
  - Physiological receptors
  - Enzymes
  - Ion channels
  - Carriers

TARGETS

>Proteins

STRUCTUR  
AL

REGULATOR  
Y

ENZYM  
E

CARRIE  
R  
MOLECU  
LE

ION  
CHANN  
EL

RECEPTO  
R

## Recepto

rs

Is a special target macromolecule that binds the drug and mediates its pharmacological actions.

## Where are receptors located?

- Cell membrane.
- Cytoplasm.
- Nucleus.

## Enzymes

- The drug competes with the natural endogenous substrate for the enzyme.
- E.g. Anticholinesterases inhibit acetylcholinesterase thus producing cholinomimetic action.
- **Neostigmine reversibly** compete with **ACH** for acetyl cholinesterase enzyme at motor end plate (neuromuscular junction).
- **Organophosphates irreversibly** competes with **ACH** for acetyl cholinesterase enzyme.

## Ion channels

- Drugs bind to alter channel function **(by opening or blockade)**.
- Channels are responsible for influx or outflux of ions through cell membranes.
- They are activated by alteration in action potential.

# Ion channels

## e.g. local anesthetics:

act by blocking sodium ( $\text{Na}^+$ ) influx through Na channel in nerve fibers (**Na channel blockers**).

TARGETS



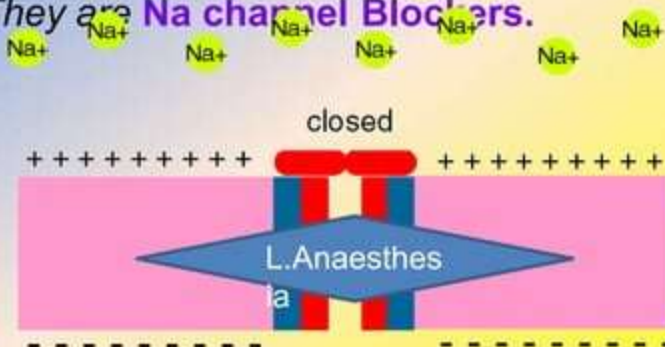
>Proteins

REGULATORY

RY

ION  
CHANNEL

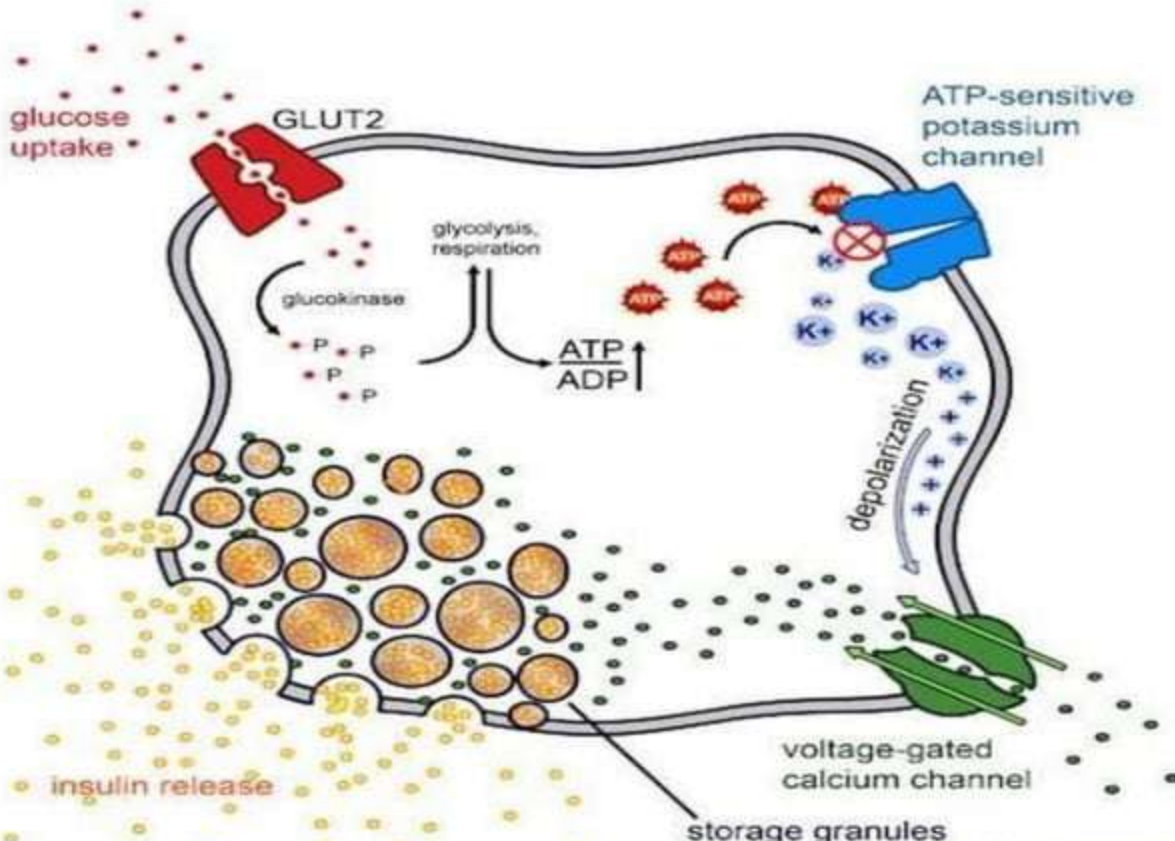
Local Anesthetics block Na influx through Na channel in nerve fibers. They are Na channel Blockers.





## Ion channels

- **e.g. Sulfonylurea drugs (antidiabetic drugs):**  
block potassium channels in pancreatic beta cells  
resulting in depolarization and opening of calcium  
channels and insulin secretion.



## Carrier molecules

- Drugs bind to such molecules to alter their transport ability.
- Responsible for transport of ions and small organic molecules between intracellular compartments, through cell membranes or in extracellular fluids.
- e.g. **Na pump** ( $\text{Na}^+/\text{K}^+$  ATPase) blocked by digoxin.
- e.g. **dopamine transporter** blocked by cocaine.

## Carrier molecules

### Digoxin:

blocks Na efflux via **Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup> pump** or **sodium- potassium pump (Na<sup>+</sup>/K<sup>+</sup>-ATPase)**; used in the treatment of heart failure.

### Cocaine:

- blocks transport or reuptake of (**catecholamines** **mainly dopamine**) at synaptic cleft.
- The dopamine transporter can no longer perform its reuptake function, and thus

## What are the binding Forces between drugs and receptors?

- Ionic bond.
- Van-Dar-Waal.
- Hydrogen bond.
- Covalent bond.

## Affinity

Ability of a drug to combine with the receptor.



## Efficacy (Intrinsic Activity)

- Capacity of a drug receptor complex (D-R) to produce an action.
- is the maximal response produced by a drug (**E max**).

# SIGNALING MECHANISMS

**A** Ligand-gated ion channels

Example:

Cholinergic nicotinic receptors

**B** G protein-coupled receptors

Example:

$\alpha$  and  $\beta$  adrenoreceptors

**C** Enzyme-linked receptors

Example:

Insulin receptors

**D** Intracellular receptors

Example:

Steroid receptors



Changes in membrane potential or ionic concentration within cell



Protein phosphorylation



Protein and receptor phosphorylation



Protein phosphorylation and altered gene expression

**INTRACELLULAR EFFECTS**

**What is Agonist?**

**What is full Agonist?**

**What is Partial Agonist?**

**What is Antagonist?**

**What are the types of Antagonist?**



## References:

1. B G Katzung. Basic and clinical pharmacology, 14<sup>th</sup> edition pp20-40
2. Lippincott illustrated reviews pharmacology, 7<sup>th</sup> edition pp23-36
3. Katzung and Trevor's pharmacology examination and board review pp 16-25

# Thank you

*Adapt it with your needs and it will capture all the audience attention.*

