Centrum pro výzkum toxických látek v prostředí

BIOMARKERS AND TOXICITY MECHANISMS

09 –Intercellular communication & regulation

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www.recetox.cz

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

EVROPSKÁ UNIE esf

MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ, MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

OP Vzdělávání pro konkurenceschopnost

UNIVERSITAS MASARYKIANA BRUNENSIS

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Cell communication & regulation: a target for toxicants

… especially sensitively regulated processes are highly susceptible to toxicants

→ toxicity to REGULATIONS & SIGNALLING

Hierarchy in signalling

- **systems**: neuronal ←→ endocrine

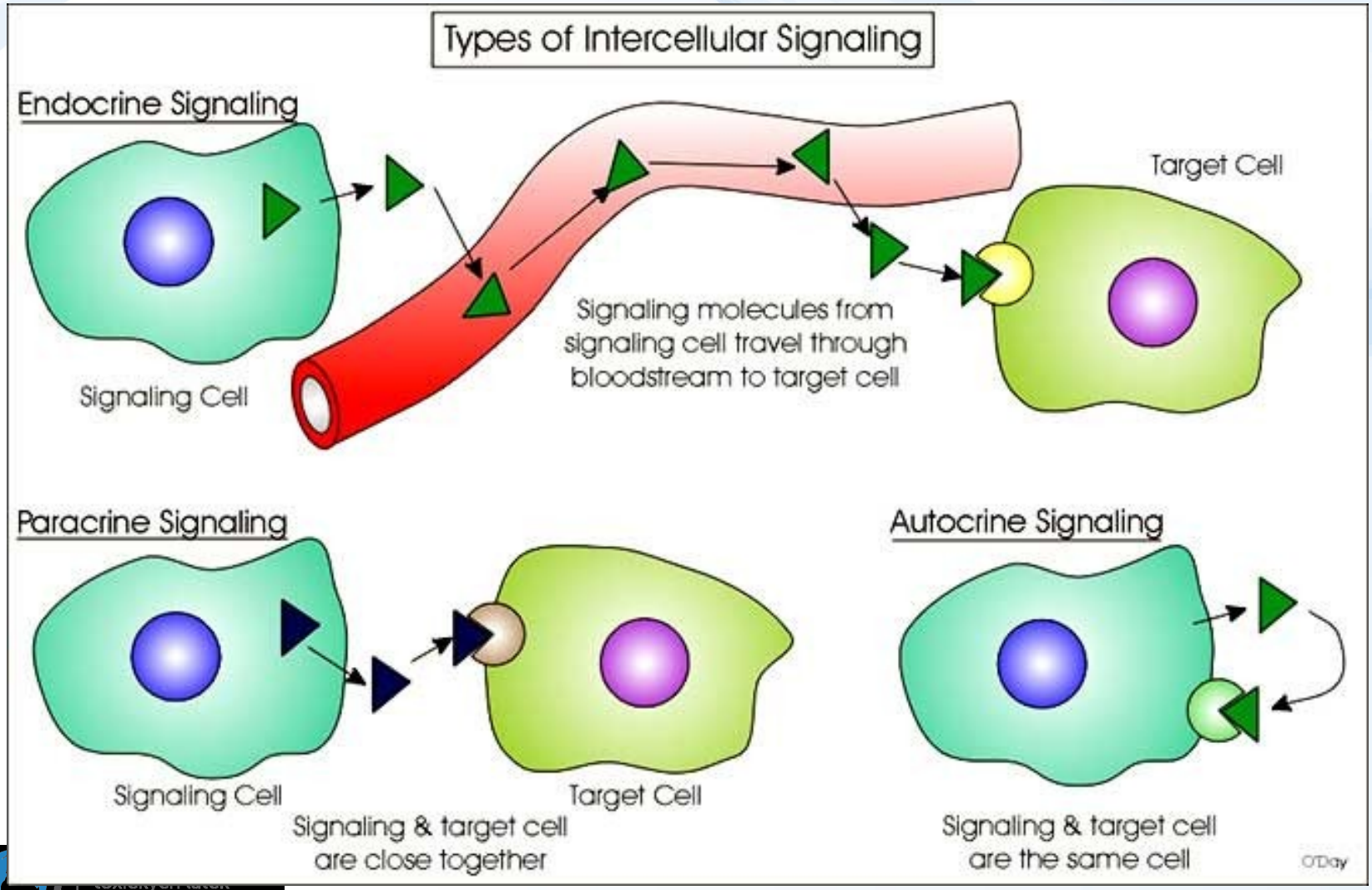
- **cell-to-cell**
  hormonal & neuronal signal transmission
  contact channels

- **intracellular** signal transduction

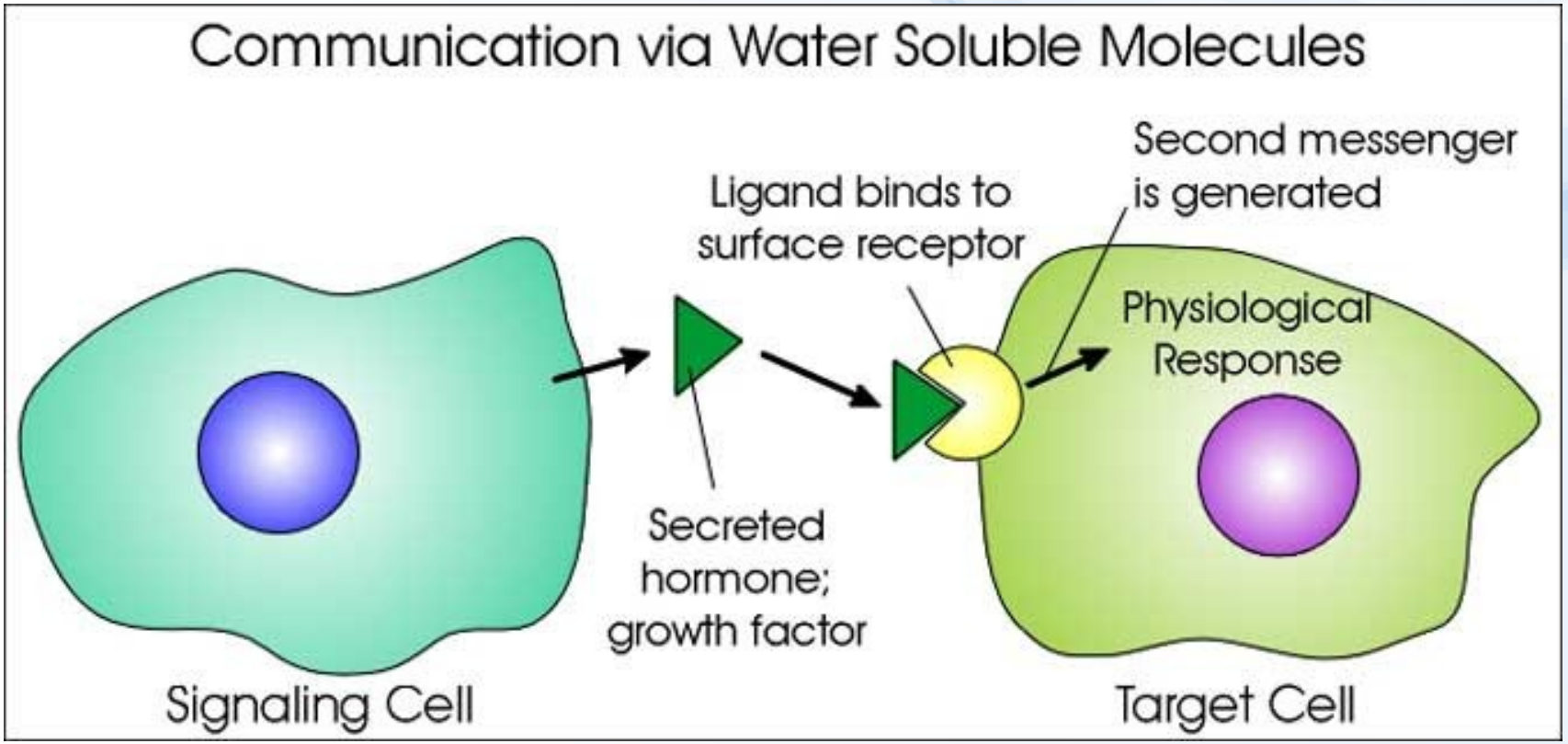
INTER-cellular signals

Overview

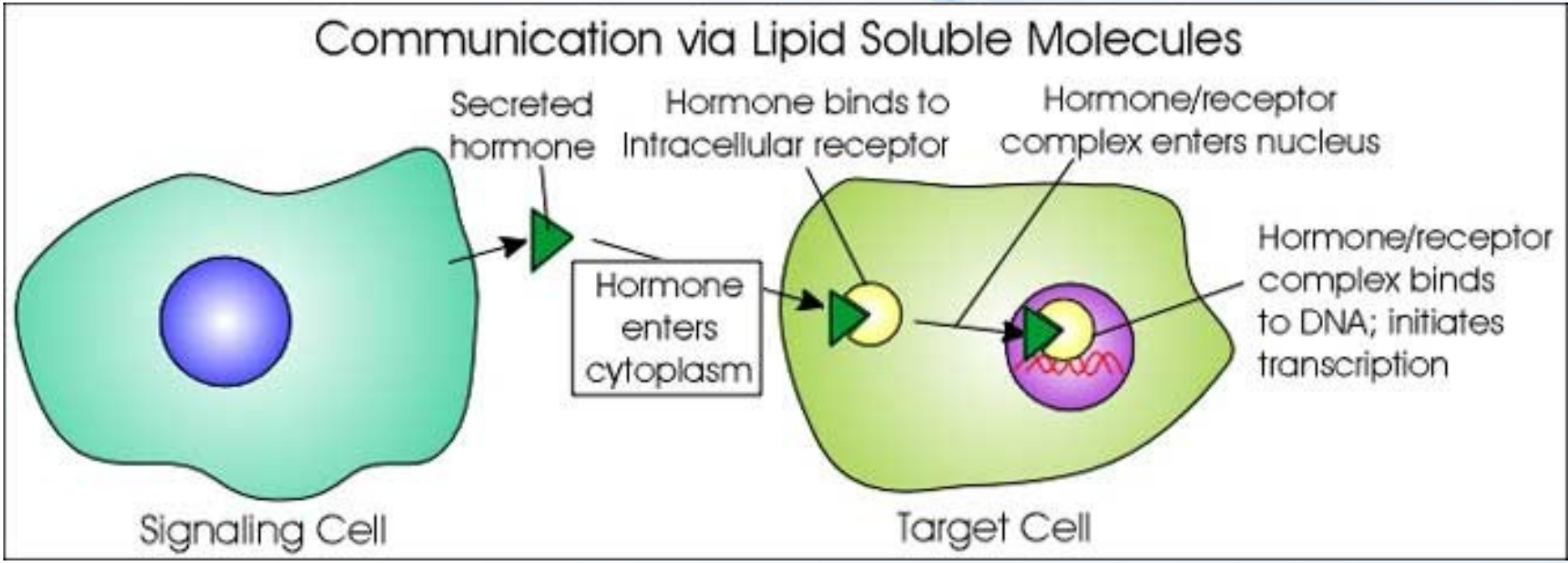
Cell to cell communication & regulation: a target for toxicants



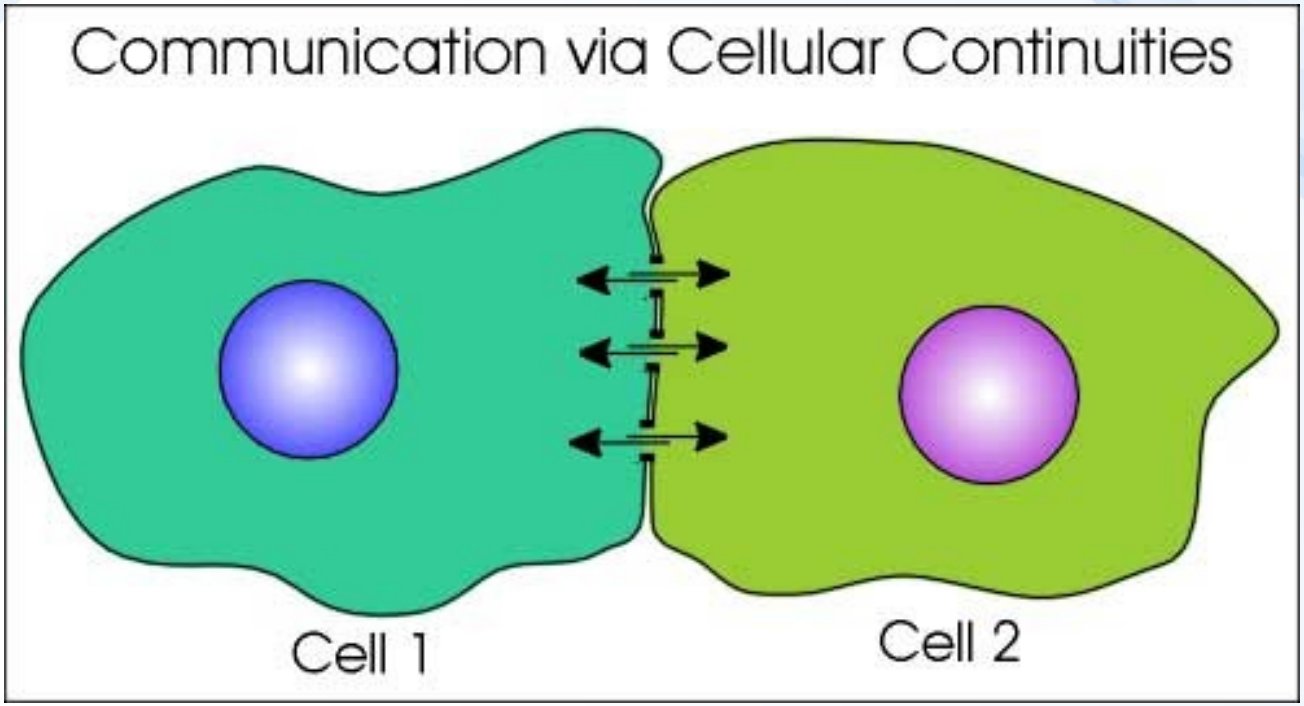
Cell to cell communication (1)

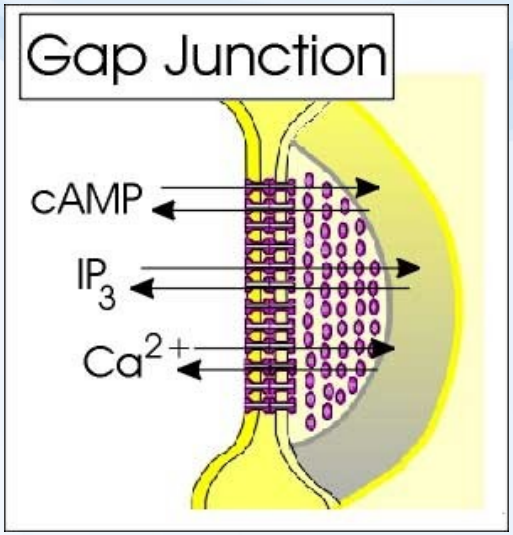


Cell to cell communication (2)



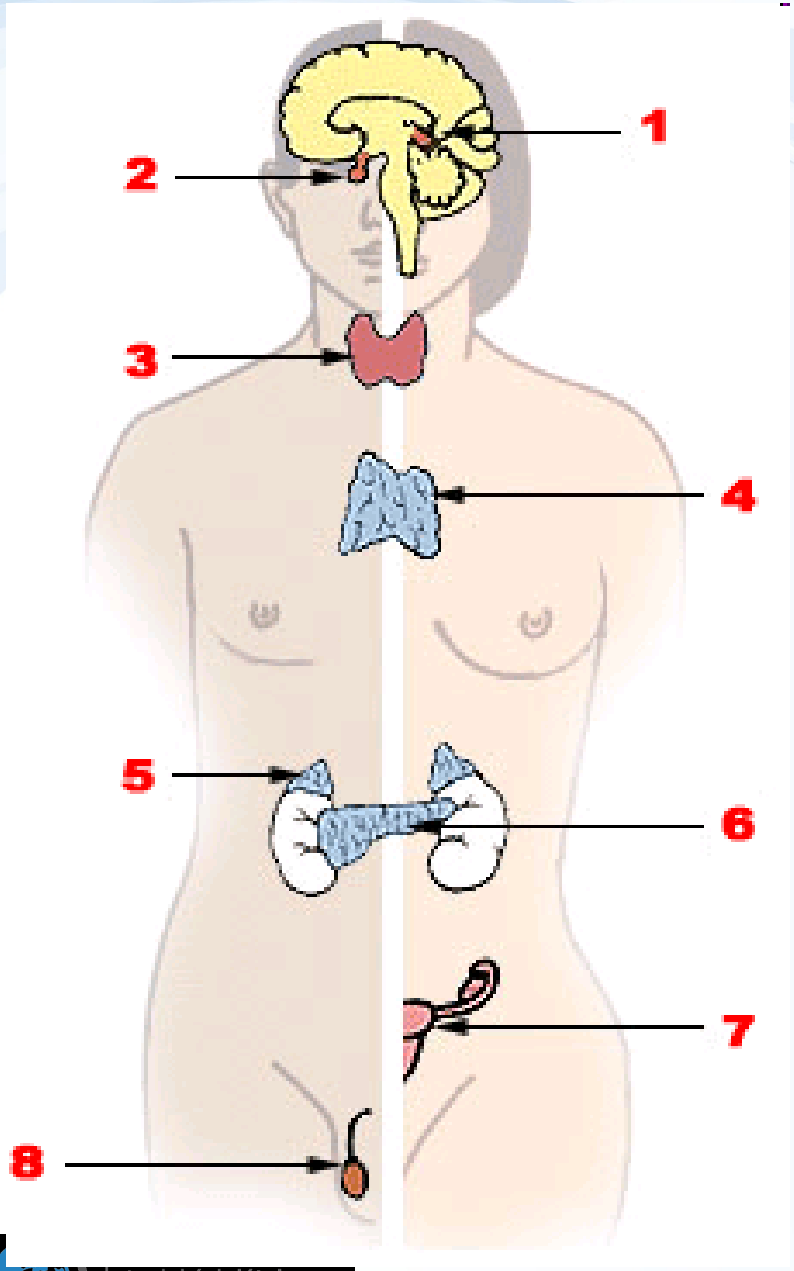
Cell to cell communication (3)





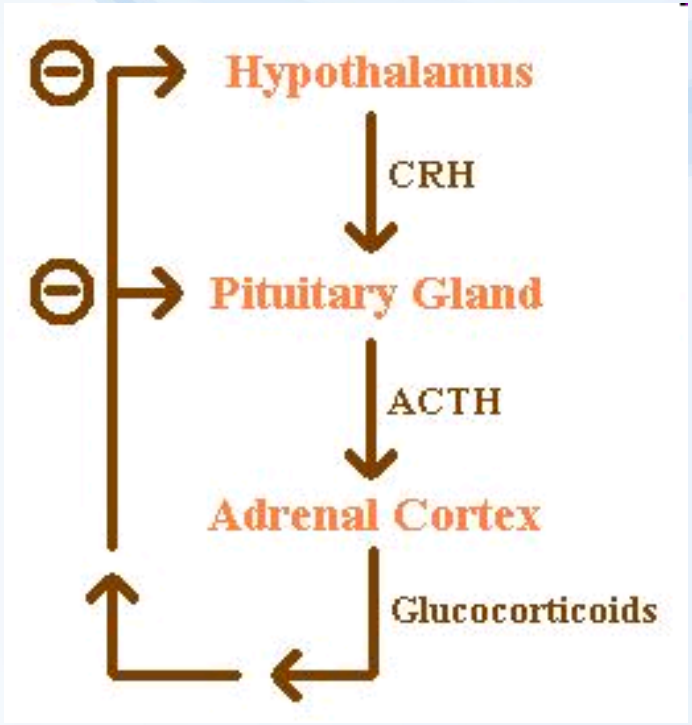
INTER-cellular signals

Hormones



Endocrine system:

1. Pineal gland, 2. Pituitary gland, 3. Thyroid gland, 4. Thymus, 5. Adrenal gland, 6. Pancreas, 7. Ovary, 8.Testis



Example: feedback loop

FUNCTIONS OF HORMONES

* stimulation or inhibition of growth
* mood swings
* induction or suppression of apoptosis
  (programmed cell death)
* activation or inhibition of the immune system
* regulation of metabolism
* preparation for fighting, fleeing, mating …
* preparation for a new phase of life
  (puberty, caring for offspring, and menopause)
* control of the reproductive cycle
  …. etc.

Chemicals interfering with various hormonal functions
→ **diverse impacts (effects)**

FATE OF HORMONES: target for toxicants

Toxic compounds can affect “hormone signalling” at various levels (**highligted**):

1. **Biosynthesis** of a particular hormone in a particular tissue

2. Storage and **secretion** of the hormone

3. **Transport** of the hormone to the target cell(s)

4. **Recognition of the hormone** by an associated cell membrane or intracellular receptor protein.

5. Relay and **amplification of the received hormonal signal** via a signal transduction process -> cellular response.

6. The reaction of the target cells is recognized by the original hormone-producing cells (**negative feedback loop**)

7. **Degradation and metabolism** of the hormone

More details will be discussed in the lectures dedicated to nuclear receptors

Toxicity to hormone regulation = ENDOCRINE DISRUPTION

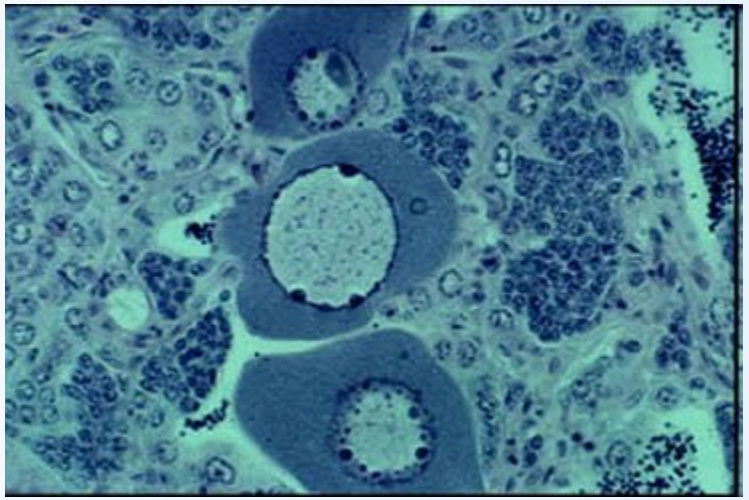
ED & EDCs (endocrine disrupting compounds)
= major problem in environmental toxicology

Effects at **all levels of hormonal action** have been demonstrated
→ *synthesis, transport, site of action ….*

- **Multiple effects** due to ED (! Not only „xenoestrogenicity“ & feminization)
→ *immunotoxicity, developmental toxicity*

(ED - WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER)

Example of ED - Intersex roach testis
containing both oocytes and spermatozoa,
caused by exposure to environmental oestrogens



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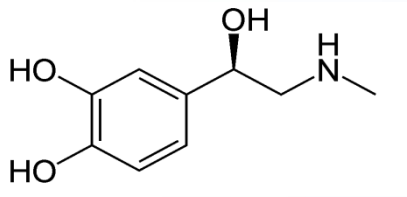
Types of hormones in vertebrates

Amine-derived hormones

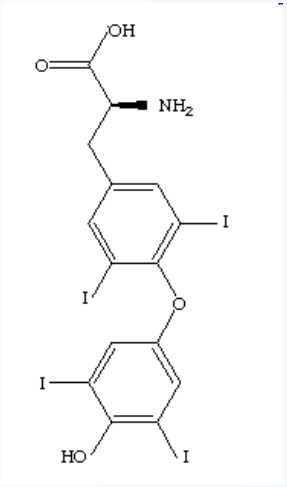
structure: derivatives of the amino acids tyrosine and tryptophan.
Examples - catecholamines and thyroxine.

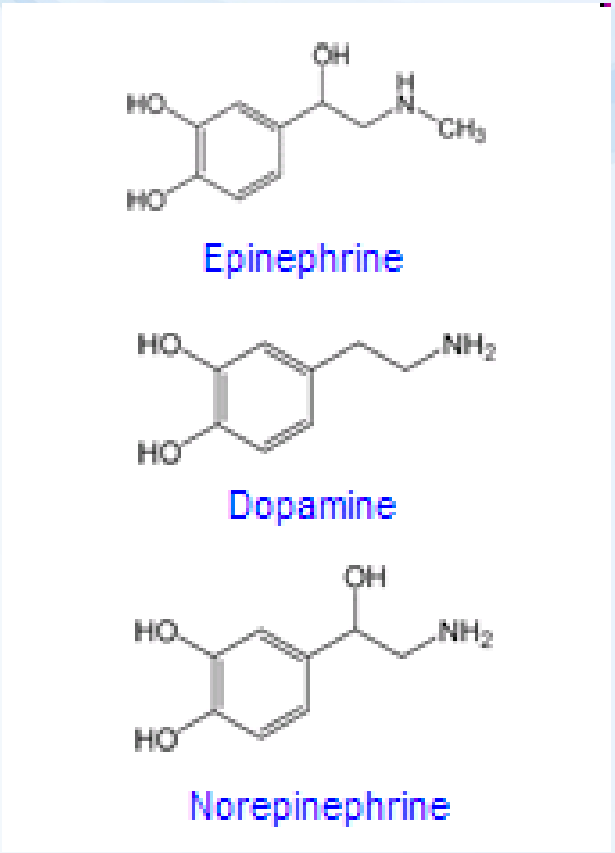
(small molecules - similar to organic toxicants → TOXIC EFFECTS)

Adrenalin



Thyroxin





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Types of hormones in vertebrates

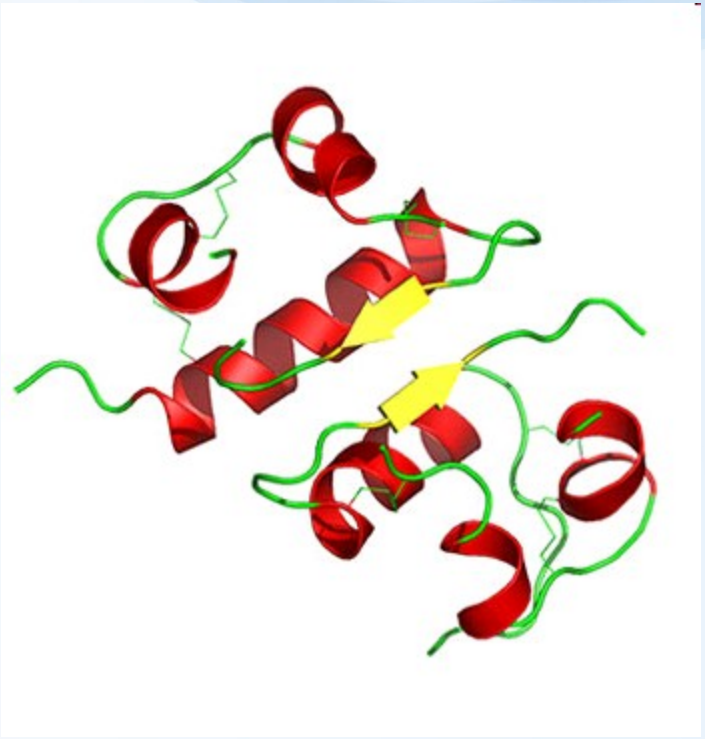
Peptide hormones

structure: chains of amino acids.

- small peptides: TRH and vasopressin;
- large proteins: insulin, growth hormone, luteinizing hormone, follicle-stimulating hormone and thyroid-stimulating hormone etc.

Large molecules;
receptors on surfaces of the cells
*(Interactions with toxic chemicals **less likely**)*

Example - insulin



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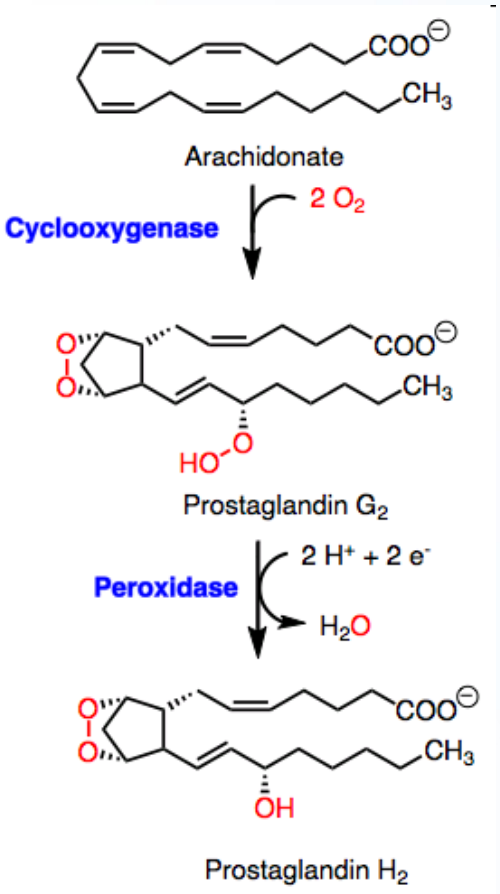
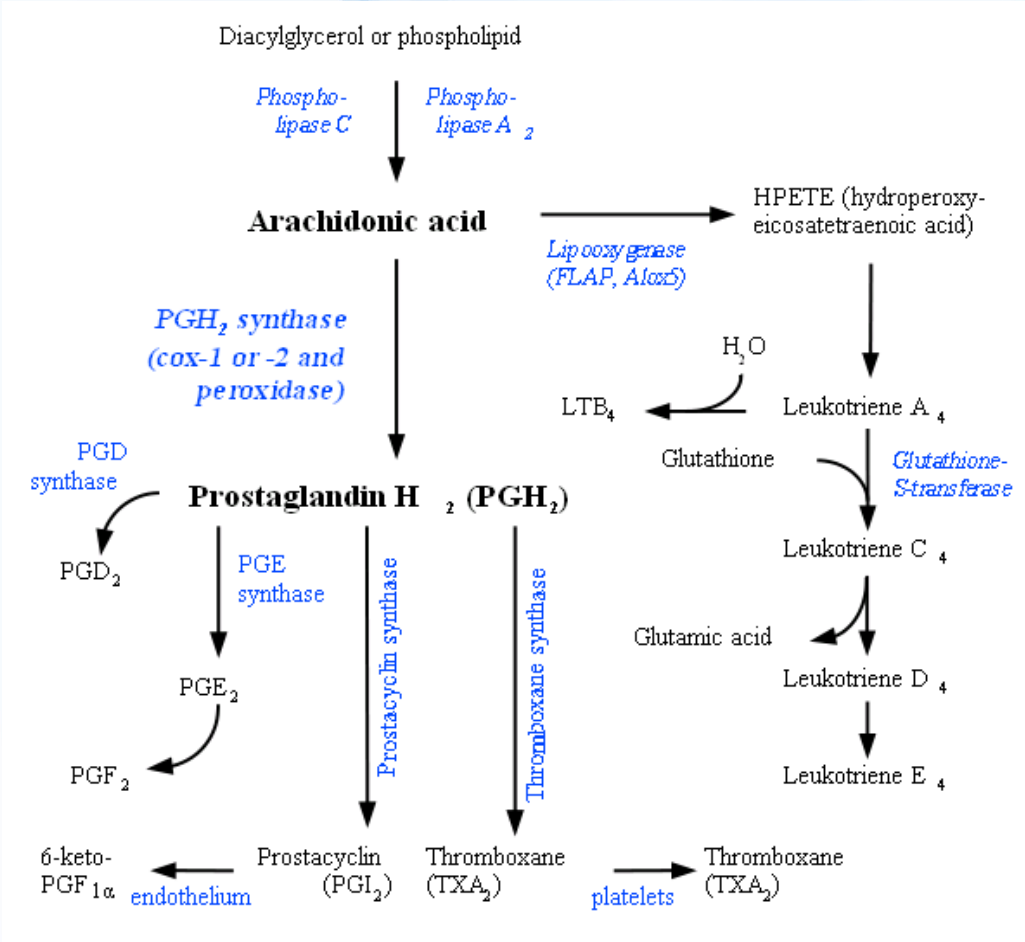
Types of hormones (signal molecules) in vertebrates

Lipid derived "hormones" (1) - from linoleic acid, arachidonic acid **- prostaglandins**





v prostředí

Types of hormones in vertebrates

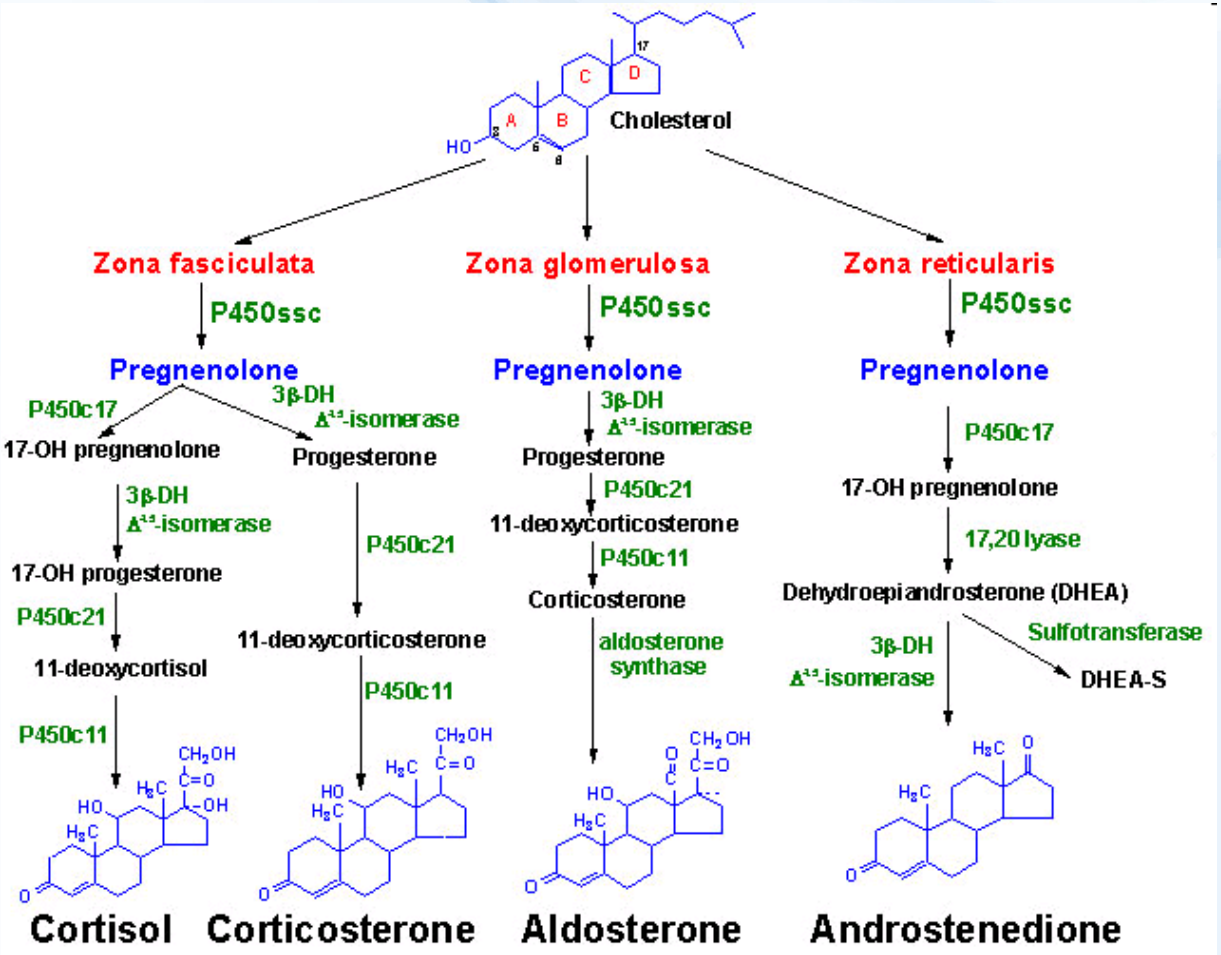
Lipid derived hormones 2 - steroid hormones

* Small molecules - similar to organic toxicants:

→ several compounds **interfere with steroid hormones → toxicity !!!**

Derived
from cholesterol

Examples:
testosterone,
cortisol,
estradiol …



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