

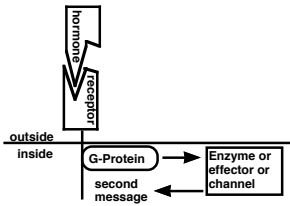
7-TM or G-Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCR)

3 major families: rhodopsin, calcitonin, and metabotropic.
β-adrenergic receptor and rhodopsin 1st purified and characterized.

Major Drug Targets for Pharmaceutical Industry

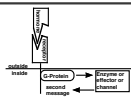
➤50% of all modern drugs (~20% of the top 50 best-selling drugs) are targeted at GPCRs (including adrenergic, histaminergic, dopaminergic, serotonergic, opiate, cholinergic, etc.) for pain, asthma, inflammation, obesity, cancer, and cardiovascular, metabolic, gastrointestinal and CNS diseases (e.g., Claritin, Zyprexa, Zantac and Cozaar).

Focus on G-Protein Coupling
(there are others)



Adenylate Cyclase System
Hydrophilic hormone/Surface Receptor
ATP->cAMP
Altered cellular metabolism
Some hormones induce, some suppress cyclase

How do we know what we know?

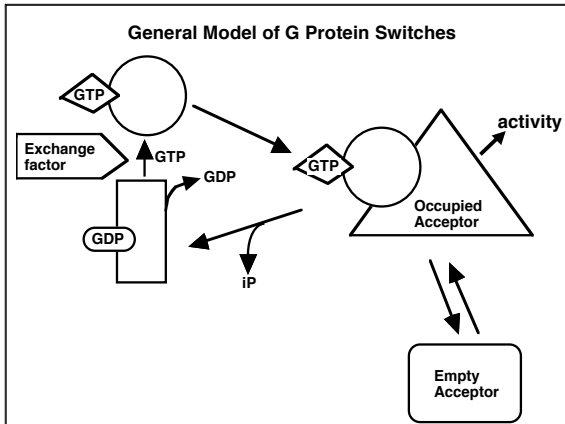


We will start from the point at which it was clear that there were distinct adrenergic receptors (β,α) and glucagon receptors, and an adenylate cyclase activity that was activated by glucagon & β adrenergic receptors and inhibited by α adrenergic receptors.

1971 Nobel Prize to Earl Sutherland for second message cAMP

1994 Nobel Prize: Al Gilman & Martin Rodbell (1971) for discovering and working out G-protein mechanism

"In World War II [Rodbell] had been in radio communications, typing out Morse code relayed to him through earphones. Little did he know then the importance that signal transduction would play in his life!" L. Birnbaumer. <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/283/5408/1656>

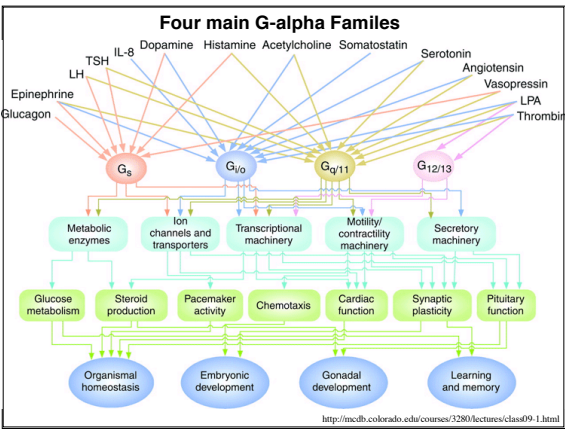


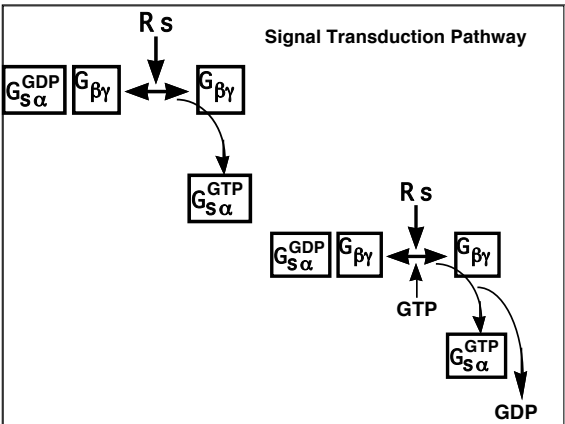
- Experimental findings which have lead to the current model:**
1. GTP enhanced hormone activation of cyclase and reduction of hormone (glucagon) binding to receptors in membrane preps. (Rodbell, 1960s) - contaminant of ATP!
 2. GTP reduces agonist, but not antagonist binding to receptors (coupling important)
 3. Nonhydrolyzable GTP analogues (GPPNP) work: (hydrolysis not required)
 4. Nonhydrolyzable GTP analogues give permanent activation (a GTPase turns off signal)
 5. β -adrenergic receptor-dependent slow GTPase (evidence for direct role of GTP)
 6. GTP binding protein purified via detergents by GTP affinity column away from cyclase, reconstitutes agonist-dependent cyclase in S49 cyc^c membranes (receptors and cyclase, but not coupled) and GPPNP-dependent cyclase activity (separate subunits) - this is first direct evidence of 3 components

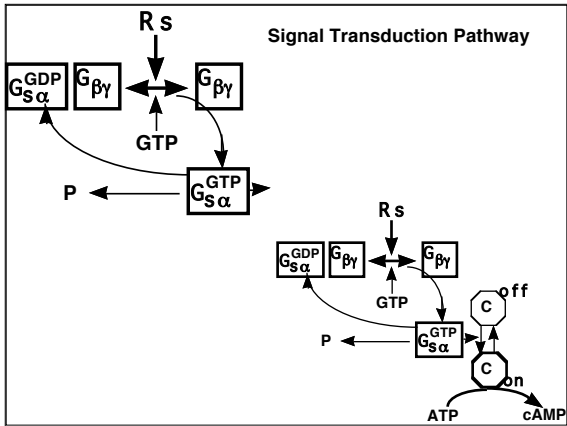
7. Identification of GTP-binding subunit by [³²P]GTP-derived affinity label and by cholera toxin (which activates system)-catalyzed [³²P]ADP-ribosylation of GTP-binding subunit.
8. Purification of receptor and cyclase came after G protein (why?), but finally all reconstituted into liposomes, fully hormone-sensitive cyclase system requires lipid bilayer.
9. Agonist-dependent release of [³H]GDP and binding of [³⁵S]GTP γ S (agonist-bound receptor opens up G-binding site allowing exchange of GDP and GTP); Kds for various GTPases are 10⁻¹¹-10⁻⁷ M! very tight binding relative to ambient conc. [GTP]>10⁻⁴, [GDP]>10⁻⁵M; thus, not engineered to respond to GNP levels, not regulated by ratio of GTP:GDP
10. Kinetics of receptor/G interaction are cyclase independent (R/G & G/C independent).

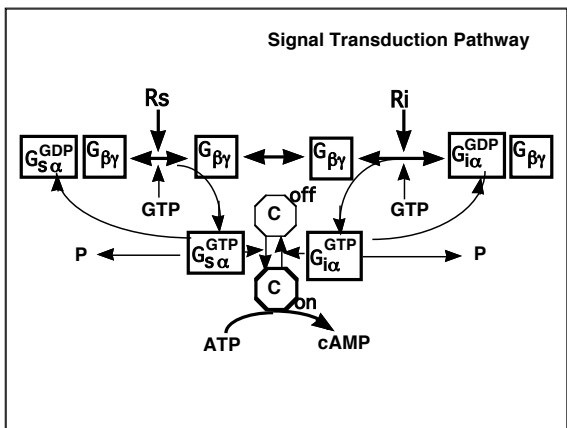
Table 1 | Examples of heterotrimeric G-protein effector:

G-protein subunits	Effectors
G_{α_s} $G_{\alpha_{olf}}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑Adenylyl cyclase RGS-PX1 (GAP, sorting nexin) Calcium channels c-Src tyrosine kinases
G_{α_i} (transducin) $G_{\alpha_{gsal}}$ (gustducin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑cGMP phosphodiesterase Phosphodiesterase (bitter, sweet taste)
$G_{\alpha_{1,2,3}}$ G_{α_o} G_{α_z}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓Adenylyl cyclase, ↑c-Src tyrosine kinases Rap1GAP1
G_{α_q} , $G_{\alpha_{11}}$, $G_{\alpha_{14,15,16}}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↑Phospholipase C LARG RhoGEF
$G_{\alpha_{12}}$, $G_{\alpha_{13}}$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> p115 RhoGEF, PDZ-RhoGEF, LARG RhoGEF (Rho activation, stress-fibre formation) E-Cadherin (β-catenin release)
$G\beta\gamma$	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KIR3.1–3.4 (GIRK K^+ channels) GPRs ↑Adenylyl cyclases (ACII, ACIV) ↑Phospholipases (PLC β1, β2, β3) PI3Kγ







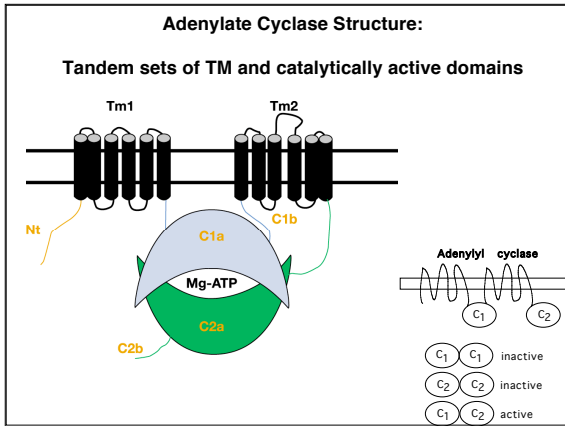


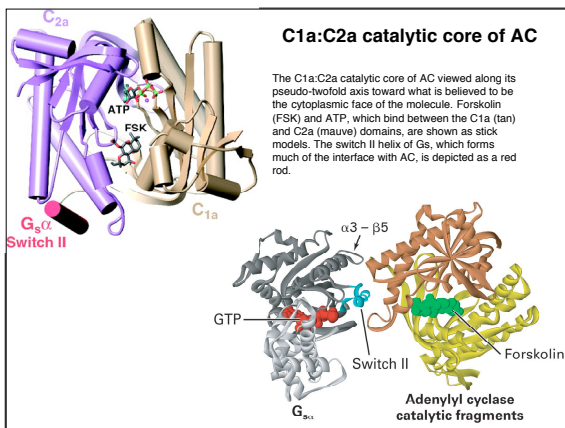
G_{α} is GTP binding protein and GTPase G Protein's
 GTP hydrolysis used as a timing device Features
 For β -AR: H:R ($t_{1/2} > 1$ sec), G_{α}^{GTP} $t_{1/2} \sim 10$ sec

$k_{catGTPase}$ (for G_{α}) $\sim 2-4$ /min-slow!, but much faster than ras:
 $k_{catGTPase}$ (ras) ~ 0.02 /min, almost off.....
 thus, ras needs GTPase Activating Protein: GAP

$k_{dissGDP}$ (ras) ~ 0.008 /min - about the same as $k_{dissGDP}$ ($G_{\alpha}\beta$
 complex) ~ 0.01 /min; both need GNRP (G nucleotide releasing
 protein), more commonly called GEF (exchange factor).

$\beta\gamma$ subunits:
 GDP dissociation from $G_{\alpha}\beta$ complex is 100x slower than for
 α subunit alone.....
 thus, $\beta\gamma$ keeps system inactive until hormone hits the
 receptor
 $\beta\gamma$ required for G_{α} interaction with the receptor and for other
 regulatory steps
 $G_{\alpha}GDP$ can be thought of as inhibitor of $\beta\gamma$





Multiple adenylate cyclases:

Adenylyl Cyclase I-IX, (all G_sα stimulated)

Type I: Ca/calmodulin-sensitive, α_s stimulates, βγ inhibits indirectly in presence of α_s

Type II: Ca/CalM insensitive, α_s stimulates, βγ + α_s stimulates!, PK-C regulated

Type III: little sensitivity to βγ

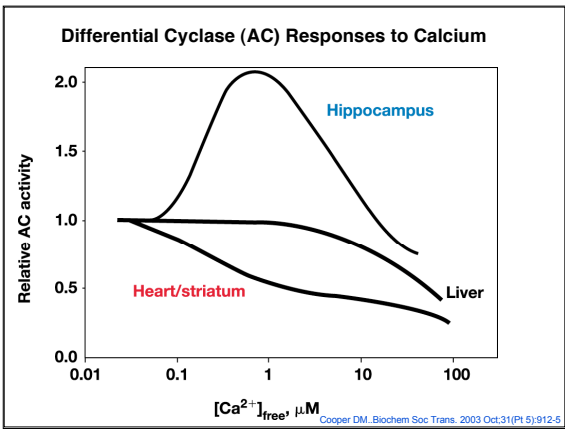
Type IV: similar to type II

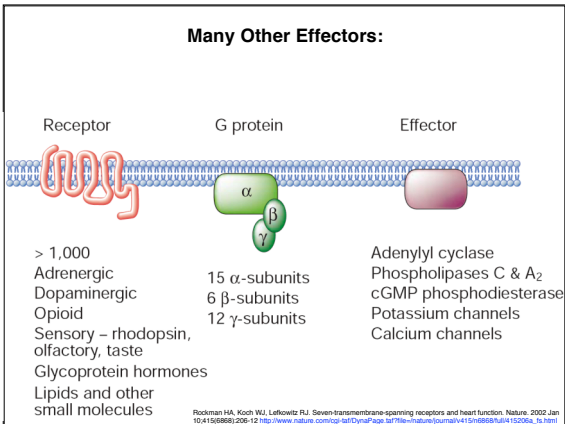
Type V, VI: not regulated by βγ

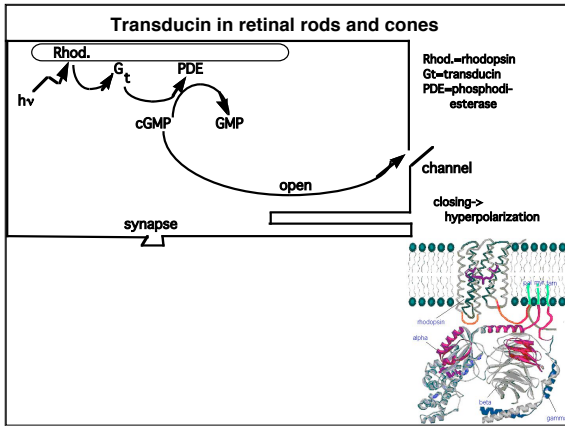
Type VII: shares sequence with II&IV& βARK etc. associated with βγ regulation

Non-classical, cytoplasmic (not integral membrane) bicarbonate-activated AC

Cyclase regulation (AC1-AC9)
Gs α All are stimulated
Gi α Gi, Gz, Go inhibit calmodulin- and FSK-stimulated AC1 activity; Gi inhibits AC5 & AC6; No effect on AC2
G $\beta\gamma$ AC2, AC4, & AC7 stimulated; AC1 inhibited; AC5 & AC6 maybe inhibited by the $\beta_1\gamma_2$
FSK All except AC9 are stimulated
PKA AC5 & AC6 are inhibited
PKC Stimulates AC1, AC2, AC3 & AC7; also AC5 by PKC- α & - ζ
Calcium
Inhibits: all cyclases at high concentration; AC5 & AC6 at micromolar; AC1 via calmodulin kinase(CaMK) IV, AC3 via CaMK II; AC9 via calcineurin
Stimulates: AC1 & AC8 via calmodulin; AC5 via PKC- α , AC2 & AC7 via PKC
 No effect on AC2, AC4, and AC7
FSK, forskolin; PKA, protein kinase A; PKC, protein kinase C



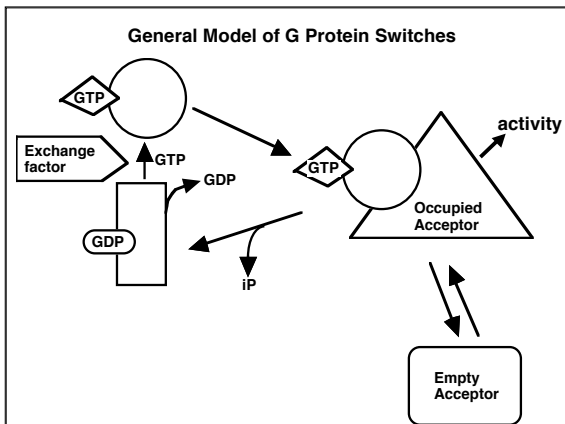




Other classes of "G" protein

GTPase functions:
 Protein synthesis (EF-tu),
 Signaling (GPCR, heterotrimeric)
 ER-translocation (SRP, SRP-R)
 Differentiation and proliferation (ras)
 Vesicular traffic (rabs)
 Cytoskeleton (rac and rho)

Not identical:
 G α =350-400 amino acids
 ras-like = 200 aa
 EF-Tu 400-900 aa



Methods used to study G systems:

** **Cholera toxin** ADP-ribosylates arginine (from NAD+) Gs -, inhibits GTPase activity

** **Pertussis toxin** ADP-ribosylates cys near C-terminus of Gi [whooping cough] inactivates, blocks Gi interaction with receptors

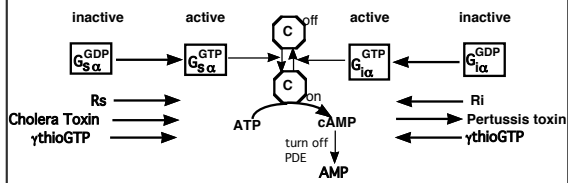
ARF: ADP-ribosylating factor required for toxin activities,

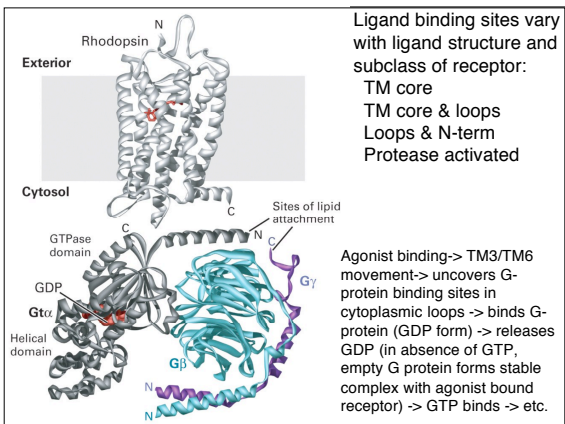
** **Forskolin** directly activates cyclase

** **γthio-GTP**, non-hydrolyzable analogue, activates

** **E₄AI**, with GDP mimic γ- phosphate group of GTP-trimeric

Methods used to study G systems:





Ligand binding sites vary with ligand structure and subclass of receptor:
 TM core
 TM core & loops
 Loops & N-term
 Protease activated

Agonist binding-> TM3/TM6 movement-> uncovers G-protein binding sites in cytoplasmic loops -> binds G-protein (GDP form) -> releases GDP (in absence of GTP, empty G protein forms stable complex with agonist bound receptor) -> GTP binds -> etc.

REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

Desensitization: tendency of biological responses to wane over time despite continuous presence of stimulus of constant intensity.

Homologous desensitization : Receptor ligand induces the loss of that receptor's activity (but not the activity of other receptors)

Heterologous desensitization: Stimulation of one receptor induces the loss of a different receptor's activity.

Phosphorylation on 5-6 loop and C-terminus

Activity Switching

Receptor Homo- and Heterodimerization

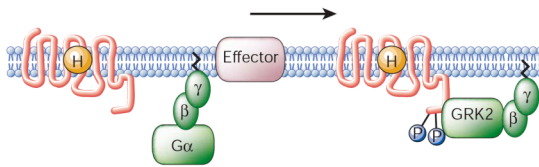
REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

G Protein Coupled Receptor Kinases (GRKs)

Identified first for Rhodopsin (GRK1), then β ARK (β adrenergic receptor kinase, GRK2)

Only 7 mammalian GRKs (GRKs 2, 3, 5 & 6 ubiquitous) for ~1000 GPCRs!

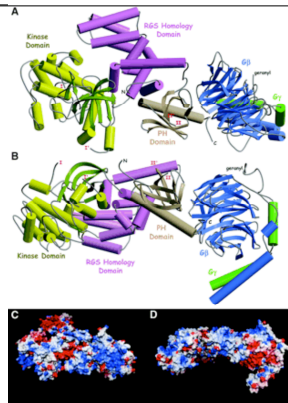
Phosphorylate Ser/Thr of ligand-bound receptor



GRK2 has three domains:

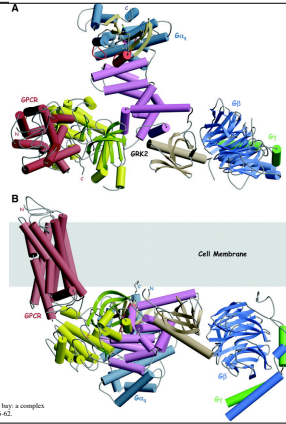
1. a predominantly N-terminal RGS (regulator of G protein signaling) homology (RH) domain
2. a central protein kinase domain, &
3. a C-terminal pleckstrin homology (PH) domain

The RH and kinase domains are common to all GRKs, whereas the PH domain is unique to GRK2 and GRK3. Other GRKs have different domains at their C termini that are similarly involved in membrane targeting.



From: Ludovicki DT, Fisher JA, Capel WD, Lolkovitz RJ, Tomer JJ. Keeping G proteins at bay: a complex between G protein-coupled receptor kinase 2 and Gβγ. Science. 2003 May 22;300(5671):1256-62.

GPCR, GRK & G protein Complex



REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

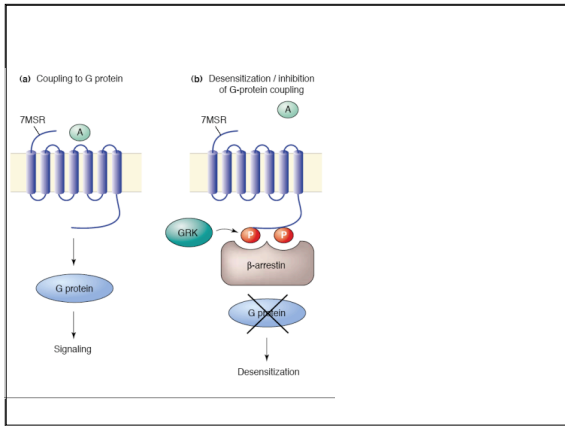
Regulators of G-protein signaling (RGS)

Identified in yeast and worms first
GTPase activating proteins (GAPs) for Gα's
~100-fold increase in GTPase rate (lower activation energy)
controlled by 14-3-3 proteins (P-ser/thr binding proteins)

REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

Arrestins

Identified first for Rhodopsin (retinal arrestin),
then β Adrenergic Receptor (βarrestin-1, βarrestin-2)
Only 3 mammalian arrestins for ~1000 GPCRs!
(retinal arrestin, βarrestin-1, βarrestin-2)
Bind to Phosphorylated GPCRs
Mediate multiple activities



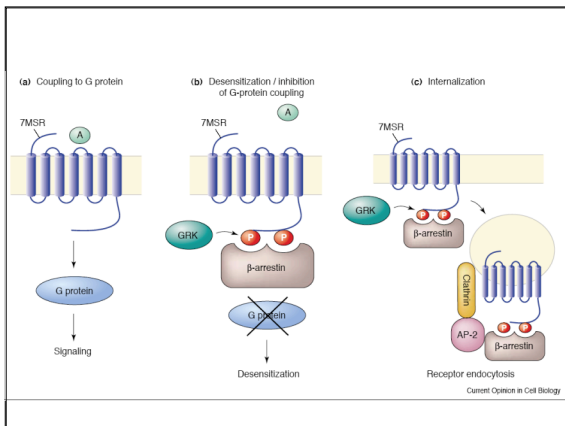
REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

β Arrestins

Block Receptor/G Protein Interaction (desensitize)

Agonist-dependent Adaptor proteins:

Endocytosis (Clathrin, AP2, ARF6, ARNO, NSF), arrestin ubiquitination for endocytosis



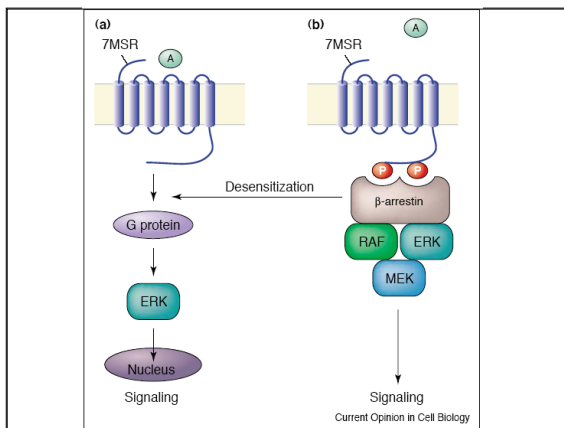
REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

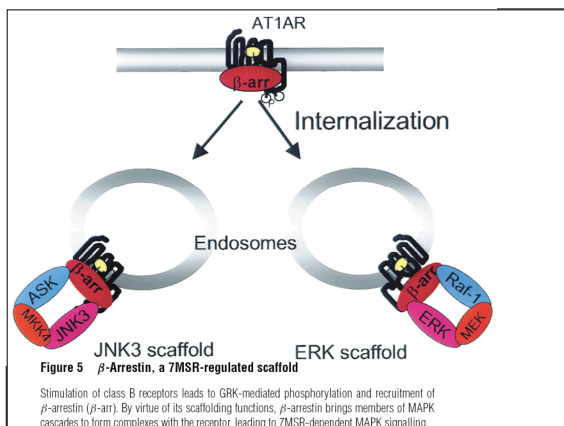
β Arrestins

Block Receptor/G Protein Interaction (desensitize)

Agonist-dependent Adaptor proteins:

**Endocytosis (Clathrin, AP2, ARF6, ARNO, NSF),
arrestin ubiquitination for endocytosis
Multiple kinase pathways (MAPK, src, RTKs),
scaffold function for assembly of complexes
(src, MAPK, P38, JNK, AKT, etc.)**





REGULATION OF ACTIVITY

β Arrestins

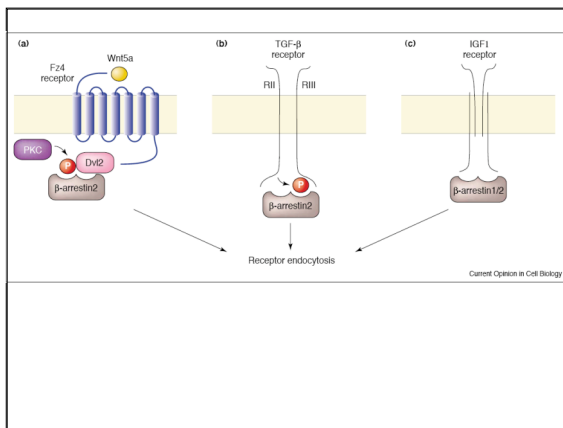
Block Receptor/G Protein Interaction (desensitize)

Agonist-dependent Adaptor proteins:

**Endocytosis (Clathrin, AP2, ARF6, ARNO, NSF),
arrestin ubiquitination for endocytosis
Multiple kinase pathways (MAPK, src, RTKs),
scaffold function for assembly of complexes**

Activate cAMP Phosphodiesterase (desensitization)

Non-GPCR receptor/channel modulation



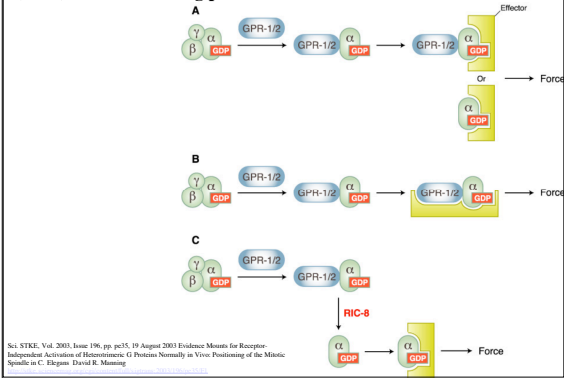
Binding protein	β -Arrestin isoform	Functional consequence
<i>Trafficking proteins</i>		
Clathrin	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Endocytosis
AP2	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Endocytosis
NSF	β -Arrestin 1	Endocytosis; recycling
<i>Small G/GEFs</i>		
ARF6	β -Arrestin 2 >> 1	Endocytosis
ARNO	β -Arrestin 2	Endocytosis
Ral-GDS	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Ral-mediated cytoskeletal changes
RhoA	β -Arrestin 1	Angiotensin II-dependent stress fiber formation
<i>Signaling proteins</i>		
MAPK cascade components		
ASK1	β -Arrestin 1, 2	JNK3 and p38 activation
c-Raf-1	β -Arrestin 1, 2	ERK activation
JNK3	β -Arrestin 2 >> 1	Stabilization of pJNK on endosomes
ERK2	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Stabilization of pERK on endosomes
Nonreceptor tyrosine kinases		
c-Src	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Endocytosis, ERK activation
Yes	β -Arrestin 1	G α q activation and GLUT4 transport
Hck	β -Arrestin 1	Exocytosis of granules in neutrophils
Fgr	β -Arrestin 1	Exocytosis of granules in neutrophils
Others		
Mdm2	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Ubiquitination, endocytosis
I κ B α	β -Arrestin 1, 2	Stabilization of I κ B α upon β 2AR and TNFR stimulation
PDE4D family	β -Arrestin 1, 2	cAMP degradation
Dishevelled	β -Arrestin 1	Increase in TCF/LEF transcription
Dishevelled	β -Arrestin 2	Endocytosis of Frizzled4
PP2A	β -Arrestin 1	Ser ¹¹² dephosphorylation

Table 1. A list of β -arrestin-interacting proteins.

ARF, ADP ribosylation factor; ARNO, ARF nucleotide exchange factor; I κ B α , inhibitor of nuclear factor κ B; PDE4D, phosphodiesterase 4D; PP2A, protein phosphatase 2A; Ral, members of the Ras superfamily of small guanosine triphosphatases (GTPases); Ral-GDS, Ral guanine diphosphate (GDP) dissociation stimulator; RhoA, a small GTPase; small G/GEFs, small GTPase and guanine nucleotide exchange factors.

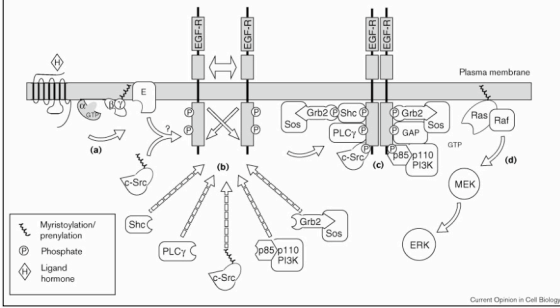
Luftowitz RJ, Shewey SK. Transduction of receptor signals by beta-arrestins. Science. 2005 Apr 22;308(5721):512-7.

Activators of G protein signaling (AGS) or G protein regulatory (GPR) motif containing proteins



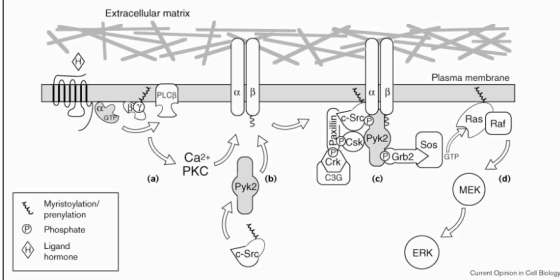
Molecular Cross-Talk in Signaling of GPCR with Tyrosine Kinases

Luttrell LM, Daaka Y, Lefkowitz RJ. Regulation of tyrosine kinase cascades by G-protein-coupled receptors. *Curr Opin Cell Biol.* 11(2):177-183. (1999)



Molecular Cross-Talk in Signaling of GPCR with Tyrosine Kinases

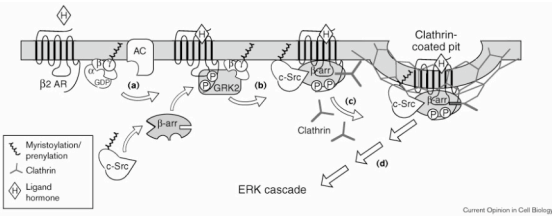
Luttrell LM, Daaka Y, Lefkowitz RJ. Regulation of tyrosine kinase cascades by G-protein-coupled receptors. *Curr Opin Cell Biol.* 11(2):177-183. (1999)



ERK activation mediated by Pyk2 recruitment to focal adhesions

Molecular Cross-Talk in Signaling of GPCR with Tyrosine Kinases

Luttrell LM, Daaka Y, Lefkowitz RJ. Regulation of tyrosine kinase cascades by G-protein-coupled receptors. *Curr Opin Cell Biol.* 11(2):177-183. (1999)



β-arrestin-dependent formation of a Src signaling complex with β2 adrenergic receptor

Diseases and G Proteins: Both loss of function and gain of function mutations

- Pseudohypoparathyroidism type Ia (PHP-Ia) has 30-50% Gs activity, appears to be autosomal-dominant, primary defect not always certain
- Cholera (salt secretion) and whooping cough
- Lithium at therapeutic concentrations (0.6 mM) blocks coupling of muscarinic and β- adrenergic receptors to G proteins, may be basis of some of Li⁺ effects in manic depression, although PIP₂ effect may be far more important
- Growth hormone-secreting pituitary tumors with somatic mutations in Gs, Gαs activated by mutation inhibiting GTPase, same defect in 3/11 adrenal cortex and 3/10 ovarian endocrine tumors in Gi2 chain and in autonomously functioning thyroid adenoma

Diseases and G Proteins: Both loss of function and gain of function mutations

- Acromegaly-hypersecretion of growth hormone by somatotrophs in pituitary, very small tumors, two classes of tumors, one is a G_{sα} defect -> Growth hormone constitutively secreted, adenylate cyclase only needs GTP, GHRH independent cAMP, Gln 227 and Arg 201 mutations
- Chemokine receptor CCR5, co-receptor fo HIV, mutation prevents binding of HIV to target cells; homozygotes protected from HIV
- Combined testotoxicosis and pseudohypoparathyroidism type Ia (PHP-Ia) - rare

Hir T, Herzmark P, Nakamoto JM, van Dop C, Bourne HR Rapid GDP release from Gs alpha in patients with gain and loss of endocrine function. *Nature* 1994 Sep 8;371(6493):164-168

Other Second Message Systems:

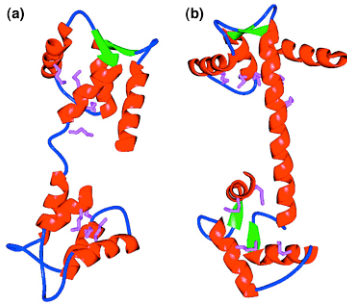
Ca²⁺: intracellular [Ca²⁺] usually 10⁻⁷->10⁻⁵M

Transient increases (sparks, waves)-quickly pumped out or binding proteins sequester. Some effectors bind Ca²⁺ directly (PK-C). Many use intermediates: troponin C (muscle), S100 family, recoverin, frequenin, and best understood...

Calmodulin (17kD,4 binding sites, K_d for 2 carboxy-term= 10⁻⁷ M, for 2 N-term=2.4x10⁻⁶)

Ca²⁺ Binding exposes hydrophobic side chains:

Structure of Calmodulin (CaM):

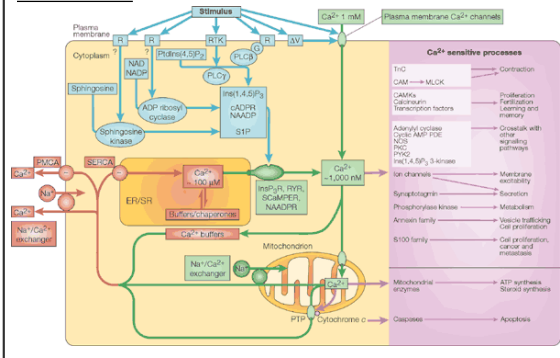


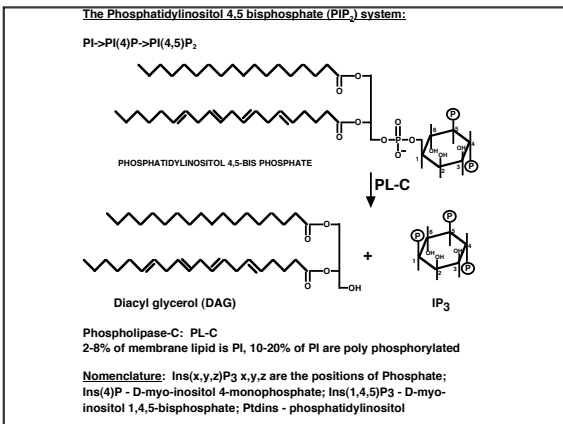
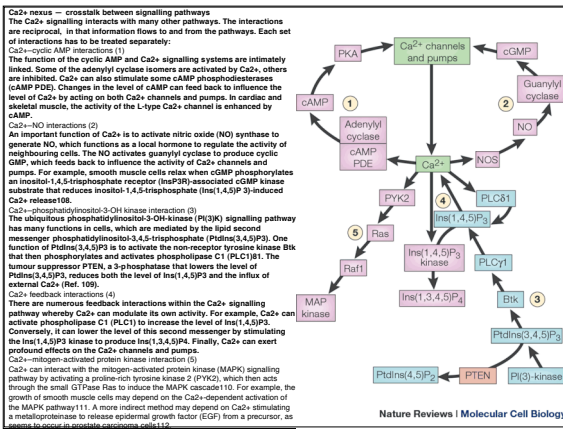
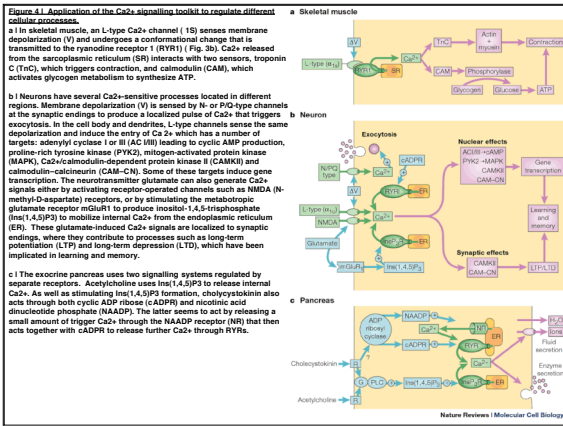
Ca²⁺ enters cytosol from extracellular fluid or from ER

Source, frequency and amplitude of spikes in conc. influence effects of the signal!

a) Ca²⁺ -free (apoCaM)
b) 4xCa²⁺ -CaM

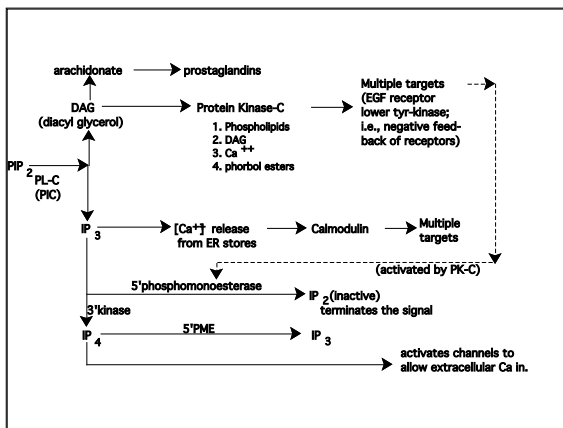
Nature Reviews Molecular Cell Biology 1: 11-21 (2000)
THE VERSATILITY AND UNIVERSALITY OF CALCIUM SIGNALLING





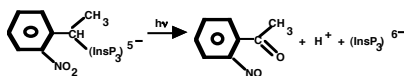
Experimental findings which have lead to the current model:

1. In 1950's cholinergic stimulation of enzyme secretion by pigeon pancreas slices increased incorporation of $[^{32}\text{P}]$ into "RNA fraction", which was later shown to be phospholipids, muscarinic antagonist atropine blocked.
2. In 1958 shown that incorporation was into PI and $[^3\text{H}]$ myoinositol incorporation was stimulated.
3. In 1981, polyphosphoinositide breakdown was shown to be a very early event after hormone treatment;
4. Use of lithium to inhibit hydrolysis of IP_1 to $\text{myoI} + \text{P}$ provided more sensitive assay for accumulation of phosphorylated inositols,
5. Careful kinetics showed IP_3 release with PIP_2 loss; finally, permeabilized cell and cell injection systems shown that IP_3 (micromolar) releases Ca from nonmitochondrial store in permeabilized pancreatic acinar cells and DAG can both act as messages.



Methods:

Systems studied: add IP_3 to permeabilized cells or inject
 nonhydrolyzable analogue: inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphorothioate
 Ca-sensitive dyes for temporospatial monitoring
 Lithium inhibits IP phosphatase ($\text{IP} \rightarrow \text{myoI} + \text{P}$)
 manic depression and development (teratogenic, dorsal-ventral axis); 4-phosphatase enriched in the brain
 Ca via ionophors (e.g. A23187) or PK-C via phorbol esters
 Photolabile "caged" precursor (2-nitrophenylethyl phosphate esters)



Protein Kinase C (PKC)

single chain of 77 kD

***Discovered by Nishizuka and colleagues 1977

***cytoplasmic-inactive // translocated to plasma membrane on binding DAG-active

***DAG induces translocation to membrane and increases affinity for Ca²⁺ to normal physiologic levels, DAG binds stoichiometrically and stereospecifically (sn12, not sn2,3)

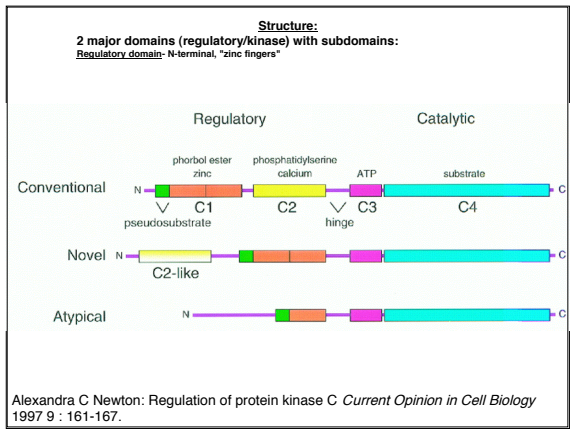
***Requires acidic phospholipid (probably PS), 4-10 per enzyme

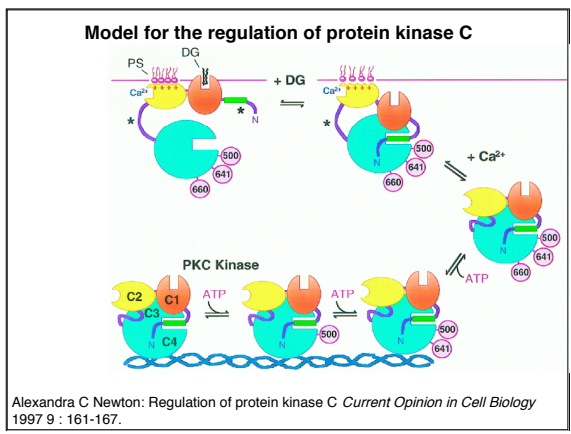
***multiple isozymes -11 identified by cDNA screening,

***phorbol esters and other tumor promoters bind at diglyceride site and activate PK-C, more potent than DAG and not readily metabolized

inhibitors: cationic amphipathic, e.g., chlorpromazine, trifluoperazine and sphingosine

Multiple Isoforms of PL-C: 56.6 kD (PLC- α), 138.2 kD (PLC- β), 148.4 kD (PLC- γ) 85.8 kD (PLC- δ)





****pseudosubstrate site in aa19-36 (R¹⁹-F-A-R-K-G-A²⁵-L-R-G-K-N-V-H-D-V-K-N³⁶) peptide is antagonist (K_i=147 nM, inhibits, substitution of A25 for Ser gives good substrate)**
****removed by Ca-dependent protease (Calpain I) in presence of TPA, DAG etc. -> 51 kD (constitutively active, unstable) and 26 kD (regulatory) fragments**

experimental trick: treat cells with high levels of TPA, short term increase in PK-C activity, but overnight functionally PK-C depleted

NOTE COMMON REGULATORY MECHANISM:

Built-in inhibitor is released on activation

PK-C (covalently associated inhibitory domain)-pseudosubstrate

cAMP-dependent PK (regulatory subunits released by cAMP binding) also inhibitor protein which contains pseudosubstrate
R-R-N-A-I; substrate is R-R-X-Ser(P)-X

cGMP-PDE of ROS (γ inhibitory subunit released by T α of transducin)

myosin light chain kinase (substrate-like inhibitory tail, calmodulin binds to release)

Ca/Calmodulin-dependent protein kinase: hexamer, internal pseudosubstrate inhibits, Ca/calmodulin binding allows autophosphorylation and Ca/Calmodulin independence

end

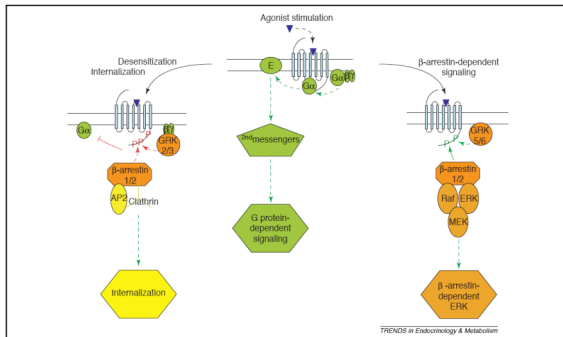


Figure 1 Functional specialization of the different GRKs a model. Upon agonist stimulation, GRK2 and -3 are recruited to the plasma membrane by interacting with G $\beta\gamma$ subunits. They have a predominant role in receptor phosphorylation, β -arrestin recruitment to the activated receptor, desensitization and internalization. GRK5 and -6 are constitutively associated with the plasma membrane. They are both required for β -arrestin-dependent ERK activation, although the locus of their action might be at the receptor or downstream. In some systems, GRK5 and -6 can also mediate desensitization and internalization. Green dotted arrows: activation; red dotted arrows and red lines: inhibition. Abbreviation: E, second messenger-generating enzyme.

Reiter E, LeRoith RJ. GRKs and beta-arrestins: roles in receptor silencing, trafficking and signaling. *Trends Endocrinol Metab.* 2006 May-Jun;17(4):159-65.

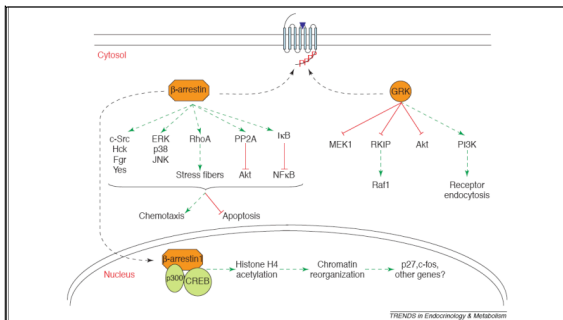


Figure 2 An overview of the current GRK and β -arrestin-mediated signaling functions and biological activities. Upon agonist stimulation of a 7TMR, β -arrestins and GRKs are recruited and activated. They subsequently activate (green dotted arrows) or inhibit (red plain lines) various signaling pathways. β -arrestin signaling is important for chemotaxis and apoptosis. In addition, β -arrestin 1 can translocate to the nucleus and regulate the expression of various genes through reorganization of chromatin. Abbreviations: c-Src, proto-oncogene SRC; RhoA, sarcoma; Rac, non-receptor tyrosine protein kinase; FAK, Fgr, Gardner-Rasheed feline sarcoma viral oncogene homolog; Yes, non-receptor protein tyrosine kinase; ERK, extracellular signal regulated kinase; p38, p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase; JNK, c-Jun N-terminal kinase; RhoA, Ras homolog gene family member A; PPA, protein phosphatase 2A; Akt, protein kinase B; NF- κ B, nuclear factor kappa B; I κ B, nuclear factor kappa B inhibitor; MEK1, mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 1; RSK1, Raf kinase inhibitor protein; Raf1, mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase 1; PI3K, phosphoinositide 3-kinase. Green dotted arrows: activation; black dotted arrows: translocation; red lines: inhibition.

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Box 1. Impact of β -arrestin-dependent signaling on pharmacological screening

Pharmacological agents acting via 7TMRs have traditionally been discovered through the screening of numerous chemical structures in biological systems. Clearly, the type of receptor screen employed to detect biologically active molecules will greatly define the types of molecules detected. For many years, these functional high-throughput assays have employed second messenger generation, thus G protein activation, as the read-out. The drugs detected by such screens have been agonists, partial agonists, antagonists or inverse agonists for G protein activation. However, the recent demonstration that specific ligands are able to activate β -arrestin-dependent, G protein-independent signaling implies that multiple discrete 'active' receptor conformations coexist [48,50,54,68]. It is now possible to develop assays to screen compound libraries systematically using β -arrestin recruitment (e.g. confocal microscopy, fluorescence resonance energy transfer- or bioluminescence resonance energy transfer-based assays) or β -arrestin-mediated signaling (e.g. activation of a specific gene reporter) as read-outs for 7TMR activation. This new generation of high throughput screens will potentially lead to the identification of new pathway-selective drugs that might have valuable therapeutic properties.

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