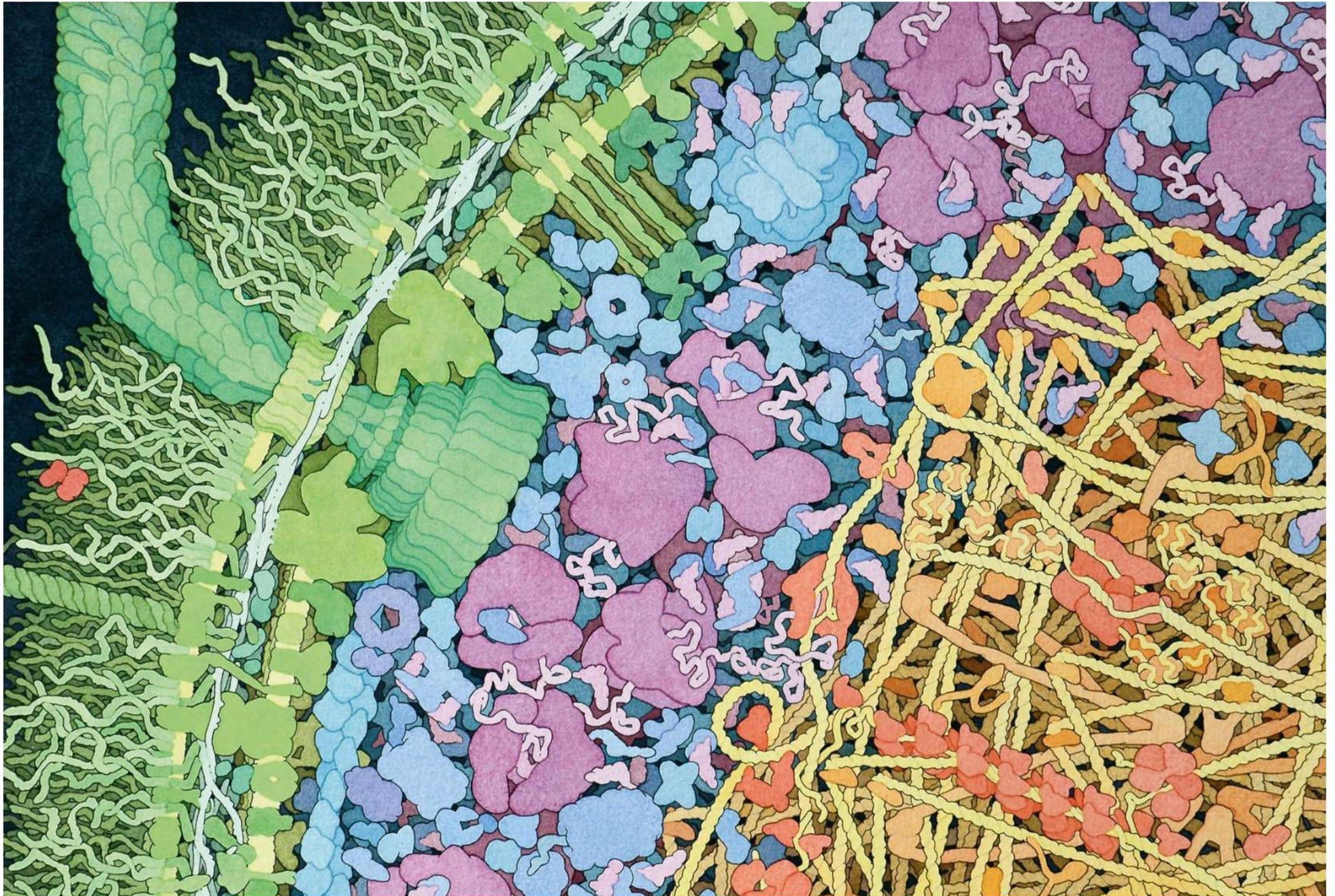


**212 SM L02b**



# Understanding structure and function, II

David S. Goodsell



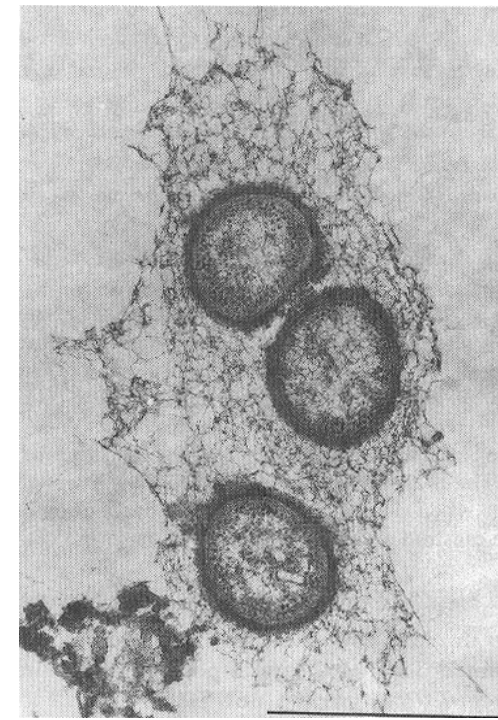
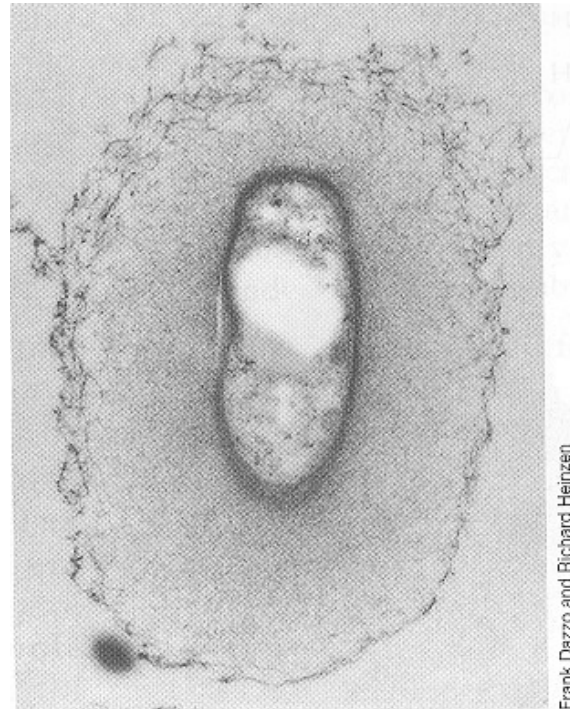
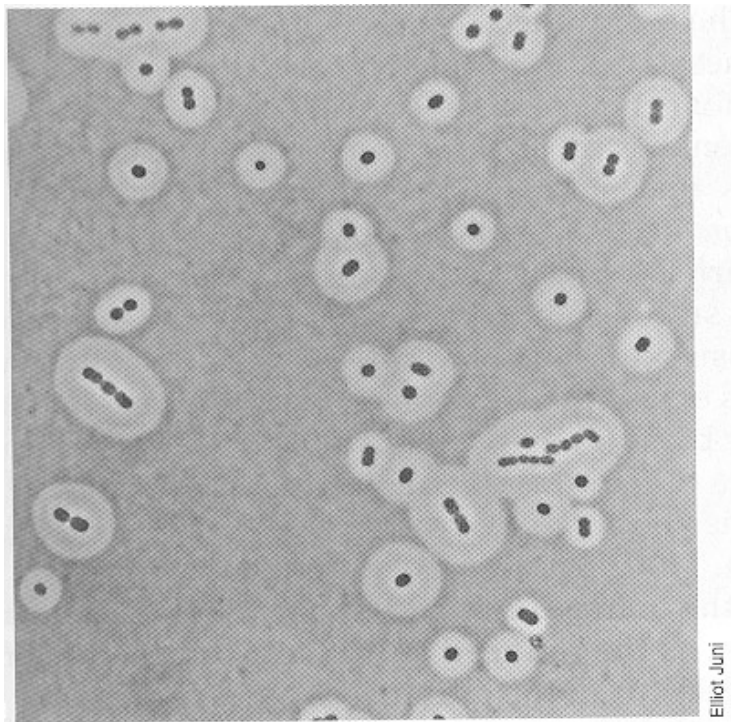


# How do microbes interact with the environment and other microbes?

Interaction with the environment at the microscale

- Carbon sources
- Energy sources
- Defence and Offence

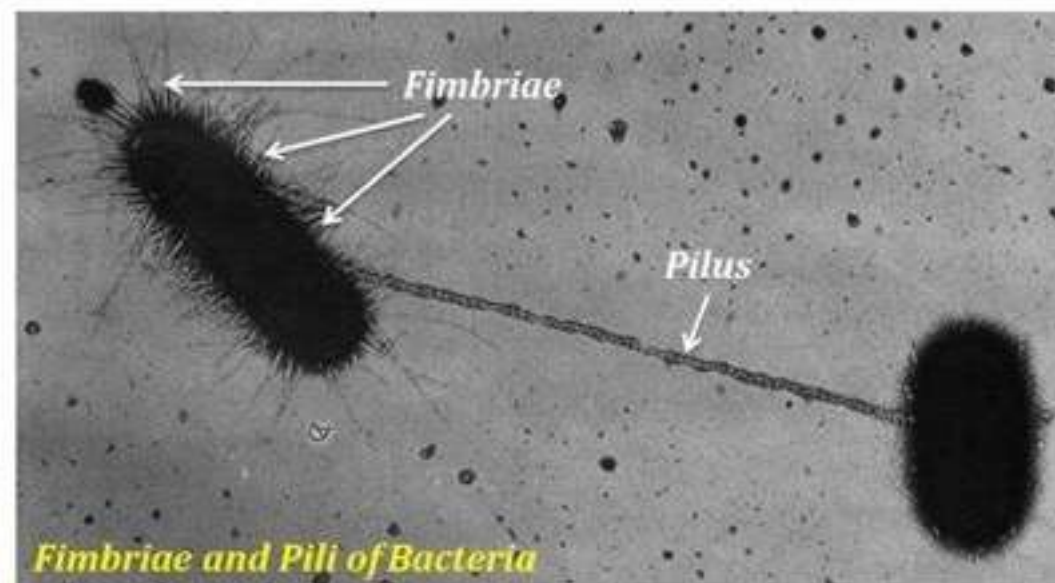
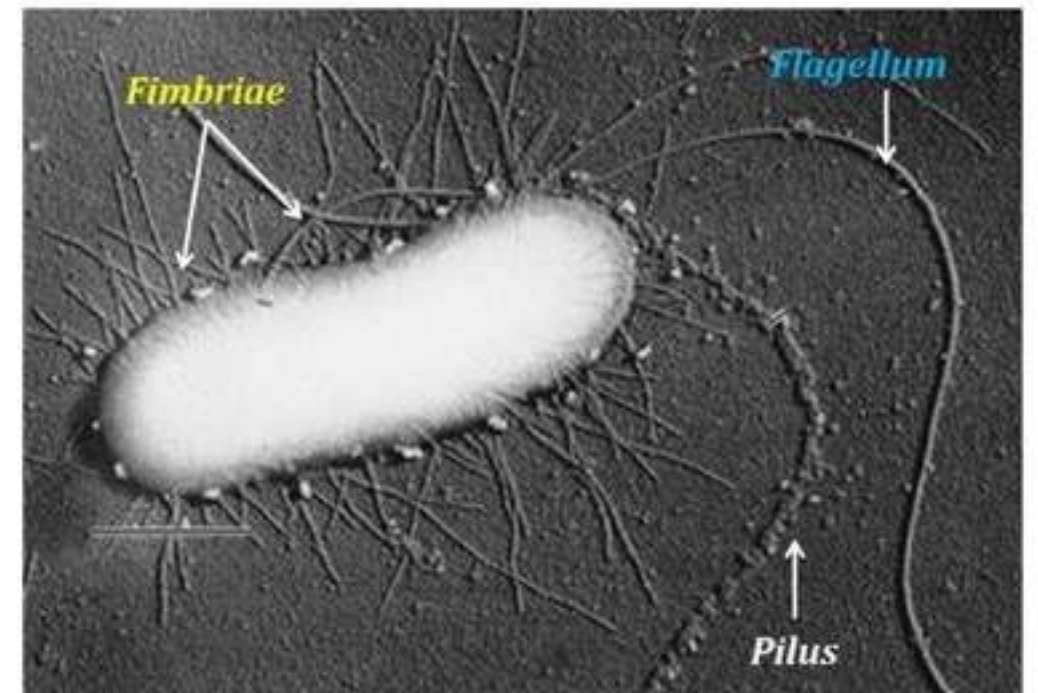
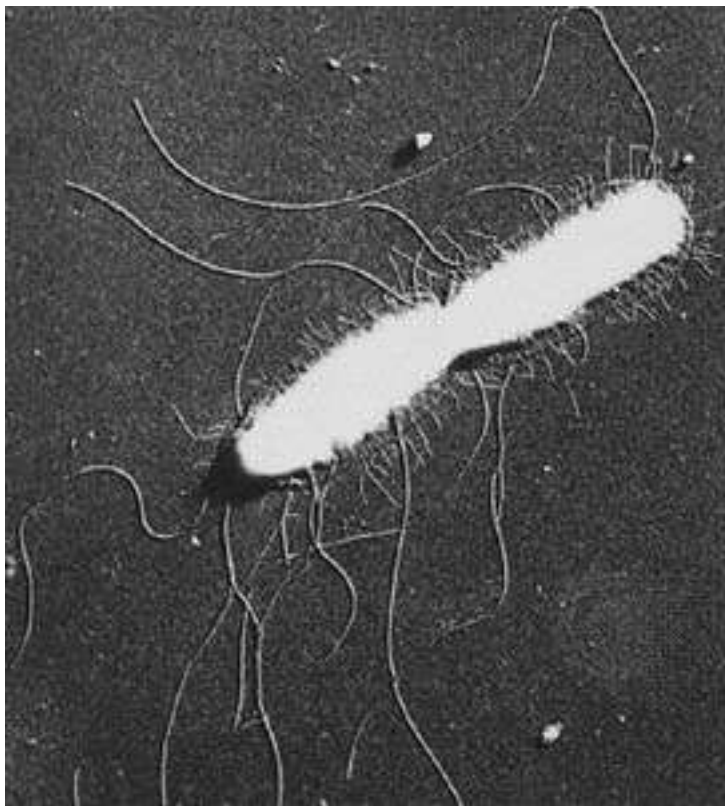
# Capsules and Slime Layers



- Polysaccharide and glycoproteins outside the wall and outer membrane (different charge)
- Capsule poly-CHO extremely diverse in composition and structure (*E. coli* strains ~80)
- Can greatly increase effective cell volume
- May hold hydrolytic enzymes and scavenge metals and radionuclides
- May help attachment to surfaces; biofouling
- Defense against protozoa and viruses

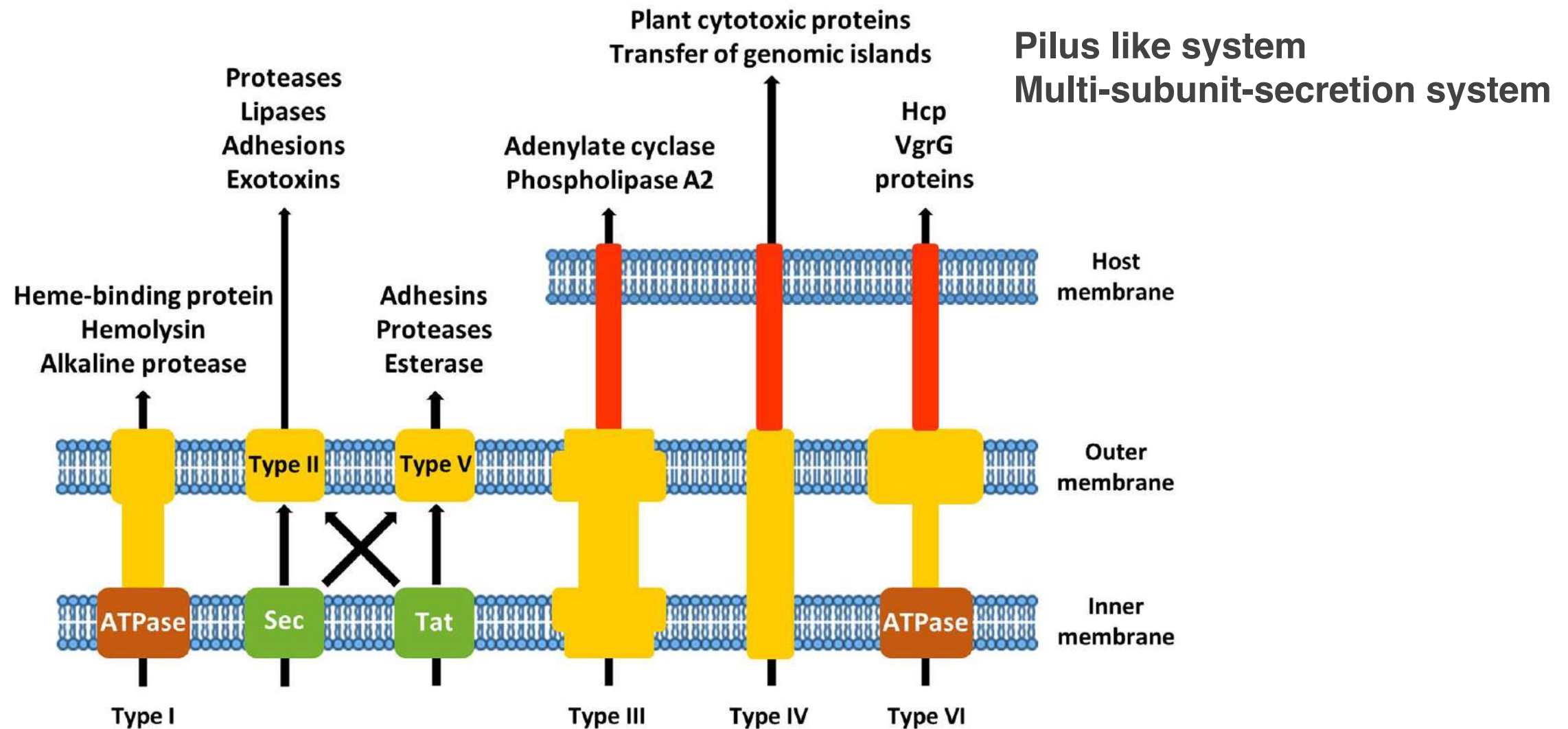
# Pili & Fimbriae

Pili & Fimbriae are thin (2-10 nm in diameter) filamentous structures made of proteins, pilin, that extend from cell surface



# Secretion systems, I

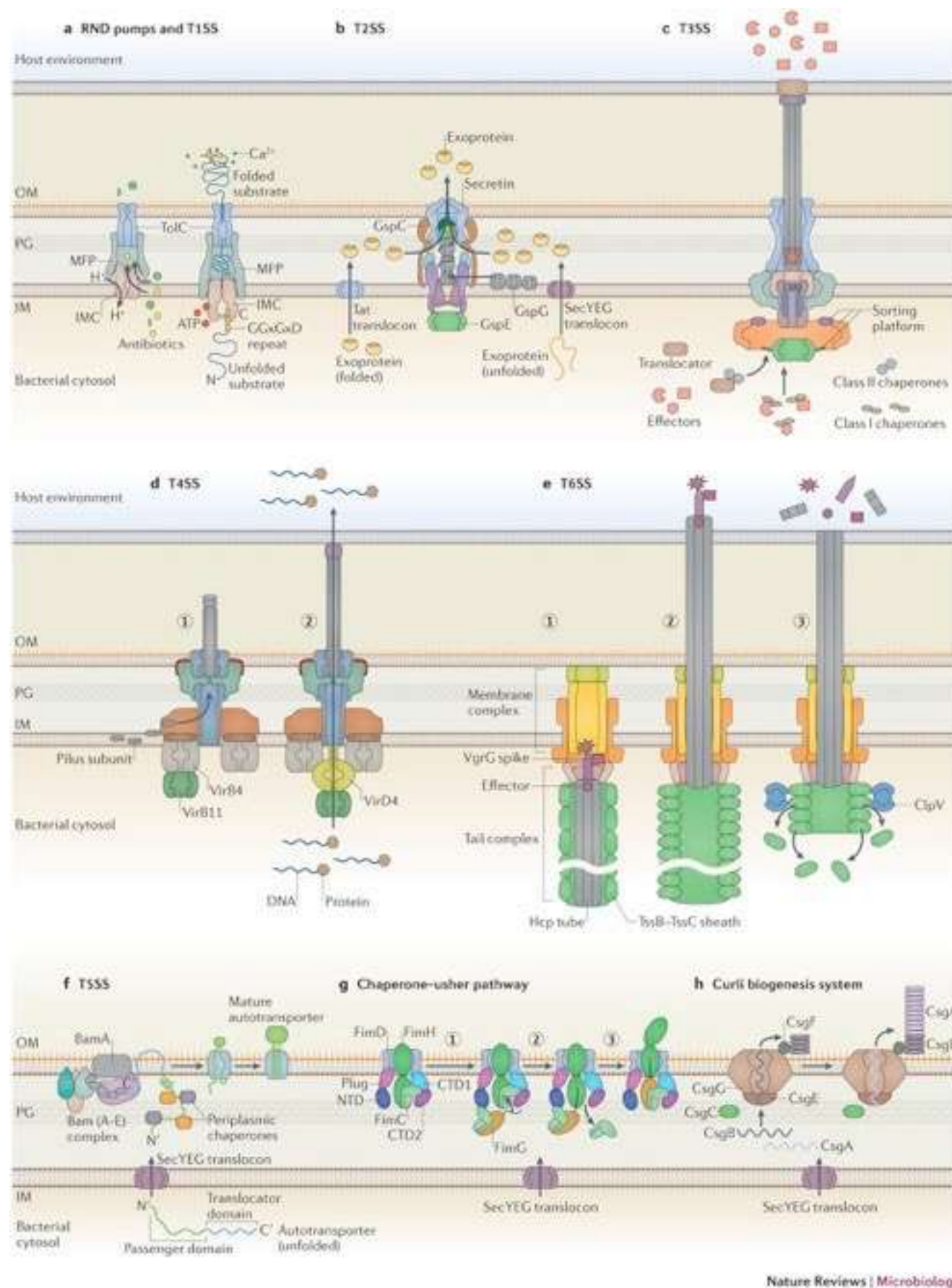
Depluvere et al., 2016



- Bacterial secretion is the process by which bacteria **release substances** to their **surroundings**, including **other cells**
- Bacteria achieve this using dedicated secretion systems that **transport molecules**
- Such as factors involved in **bacterial pathogenesis**, so called **effectors**
- Specialized macromolecular nanomachines that secrete a wide range of substrates, **including small molecules, proteins and DNA**, important in **host cell adherence** as an initial step in **colonization and pathogenesis**



# Secretion systems, II

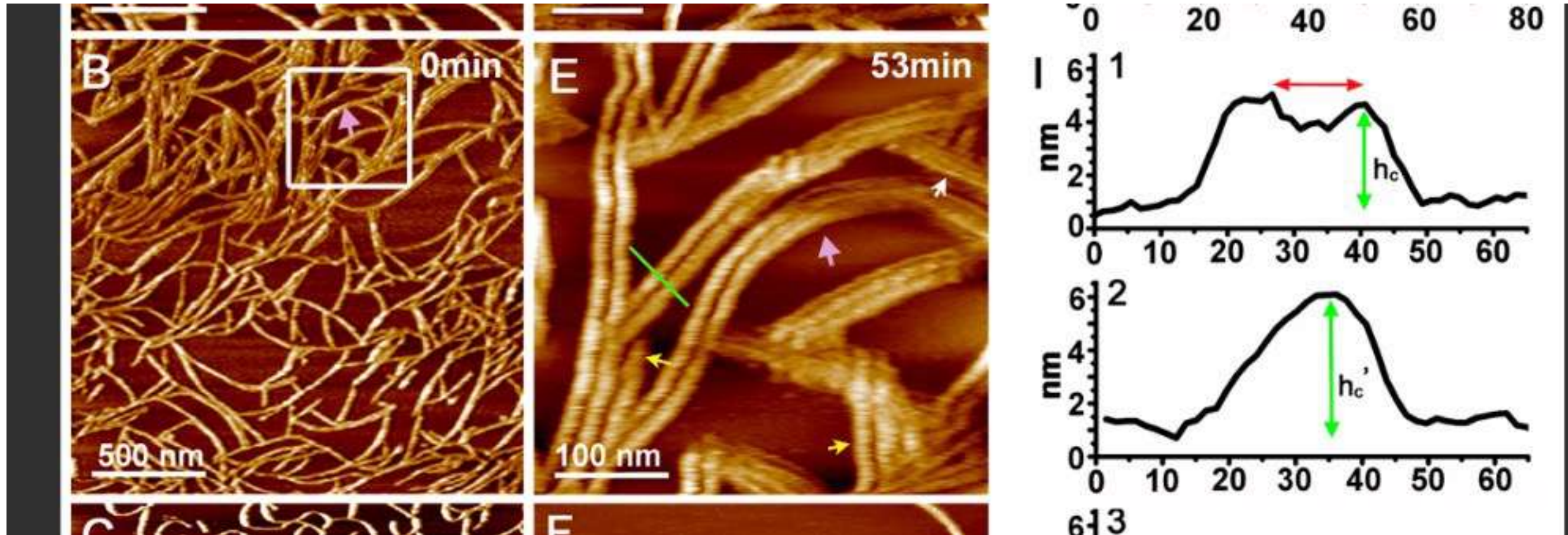


**Curli** Extracellular amyloid-like protein fibers produced by some bacteria, which are involved in adhesion, biofilm formation and surface colonization

**Amyloids** A class of thread-like protein aggregates that self-assemble into insoluble toxic nano fibers

In bacteria, the accumulation of **curli** fibers promotes the formation of a protective **biofilm**, whereas in **humans** they are involved in **neurodegenerative diseases**

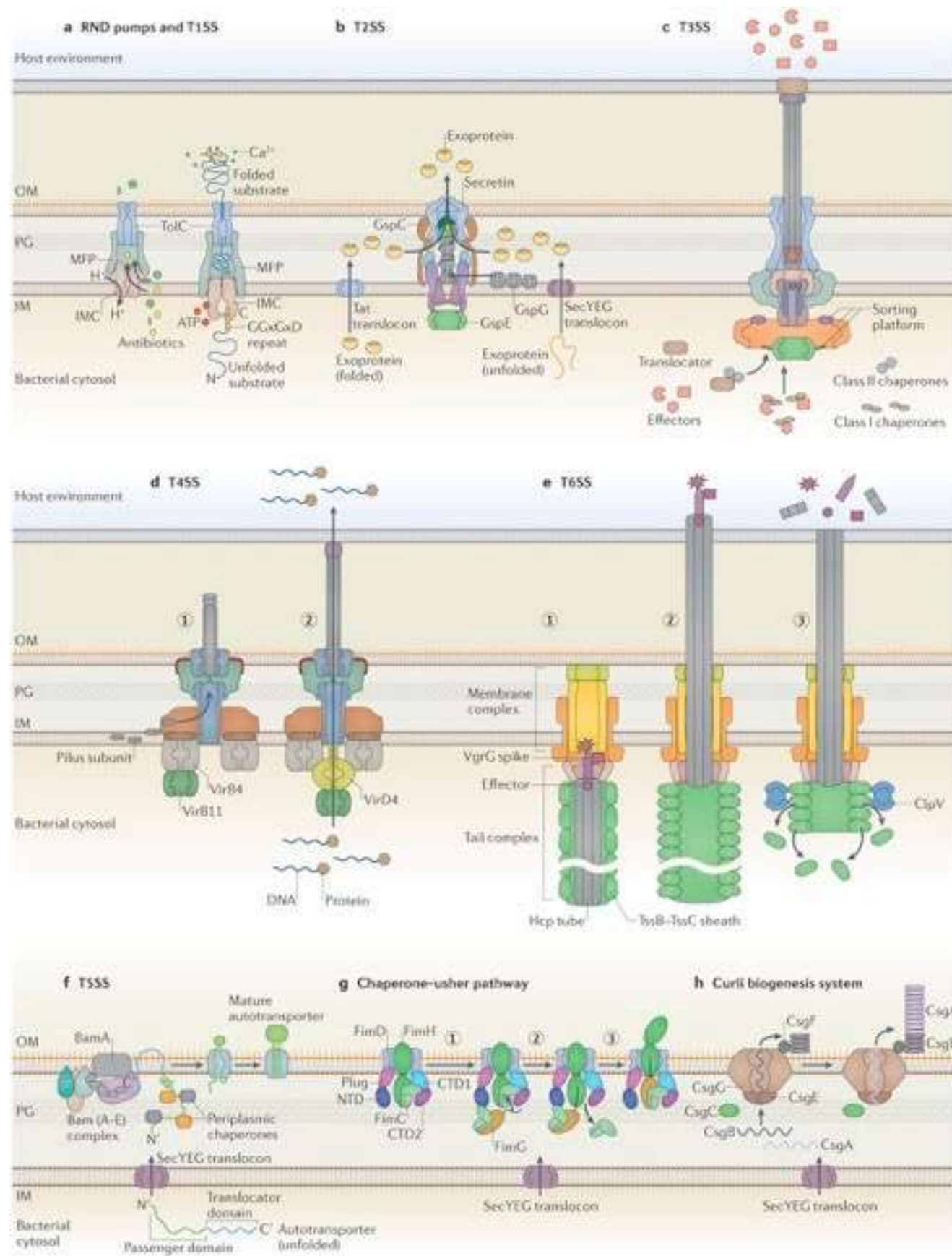
# Self-assembling curli, by AFM



**Amyloids** A class of thread-like protein aggregates that self-assemble into insoluble toxic nanofibers. In bacteria, the accumulation of such fibers promotes the formation of a protective biofilm, whereas in humans they are involved in neurodegenerative diseases



# Secretion systems, III



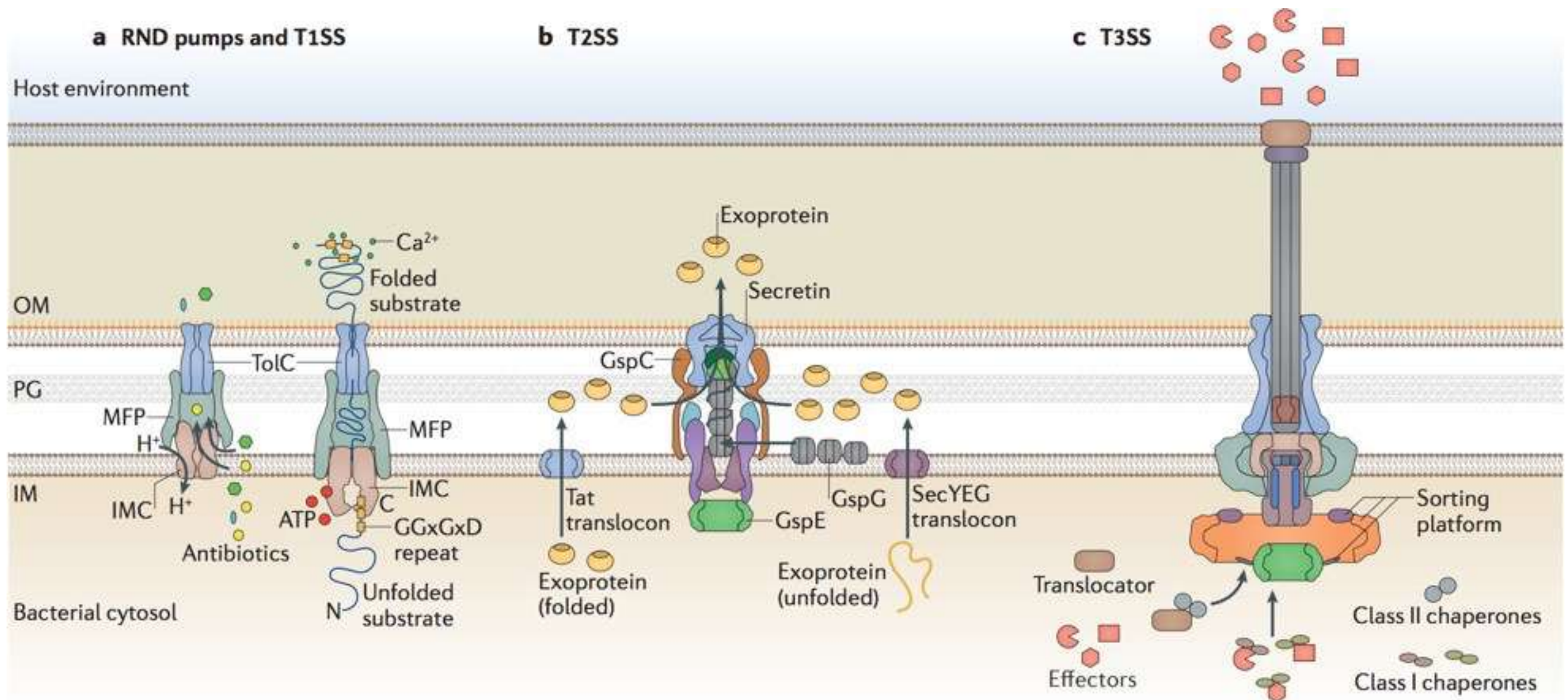
All double-membrane-spanning secretion systems (T1SS, T3SS, T4SS and T6SS) use a one-step mechanism, such that substrates are transported directly from the bacterial cytoplasm into the extracellular space or into a target cell

T2SS, T5SS, Chaperon-usher and curli two-step translocases because they depend on either the Sec or Tat system

T7SS, *Mycobacterium*

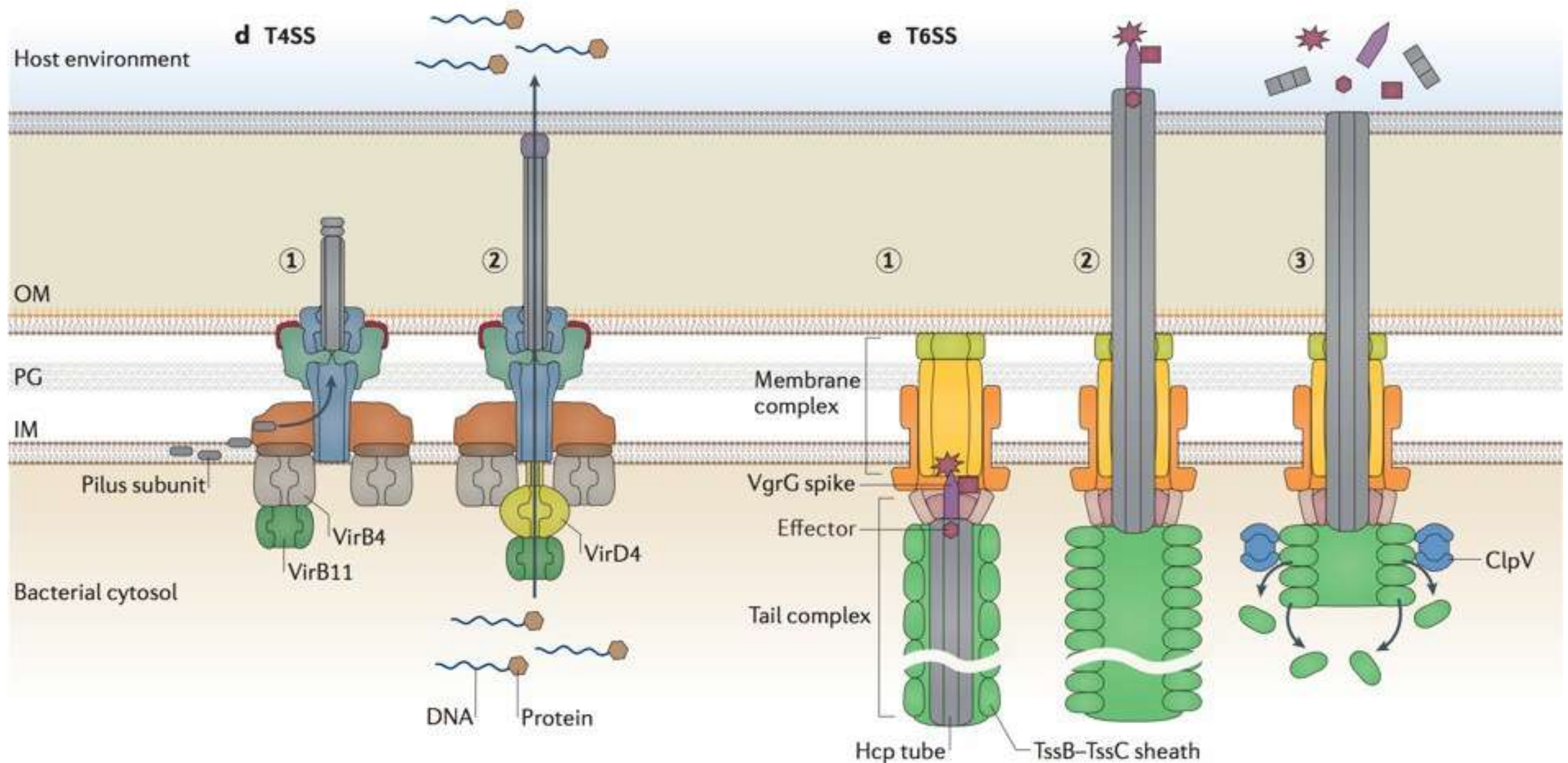
None secretion systems is constitutively active

**Hyp.:** secretion may be triggered by the recognition of host receptors by specialized adhesion molecules called adhesins

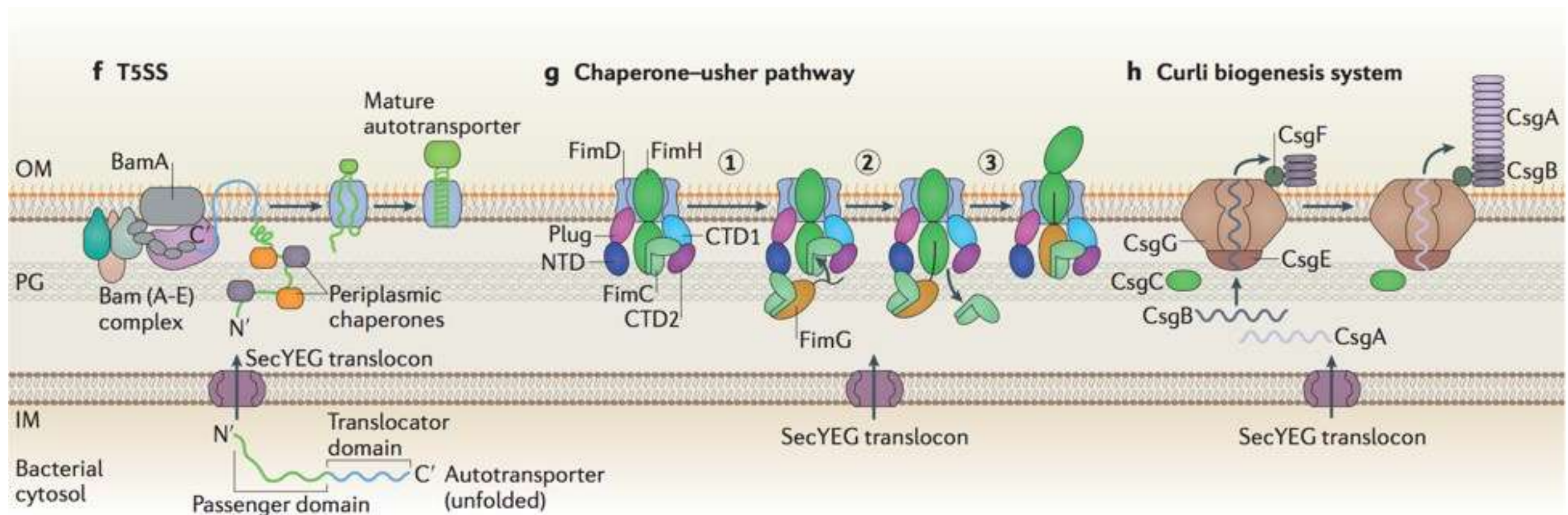


- Resistance–nodulation–division (RND) pumps, antibiotics and small exogenous compounds
- Type I secretion system (T1SS), ATPase (nutrient acquisition and virulence)
- Type 2 secretion system (T2SS), Tat and Sec (folded and unfolded), ATPase (enzyme, toxins)
- Type 3 secretion system (T3SS), effectors, form a pore in host, proteins to help the process
- effectors modulate or subvert specific host cell functions, thereby promoting bacterial invasion and colonization





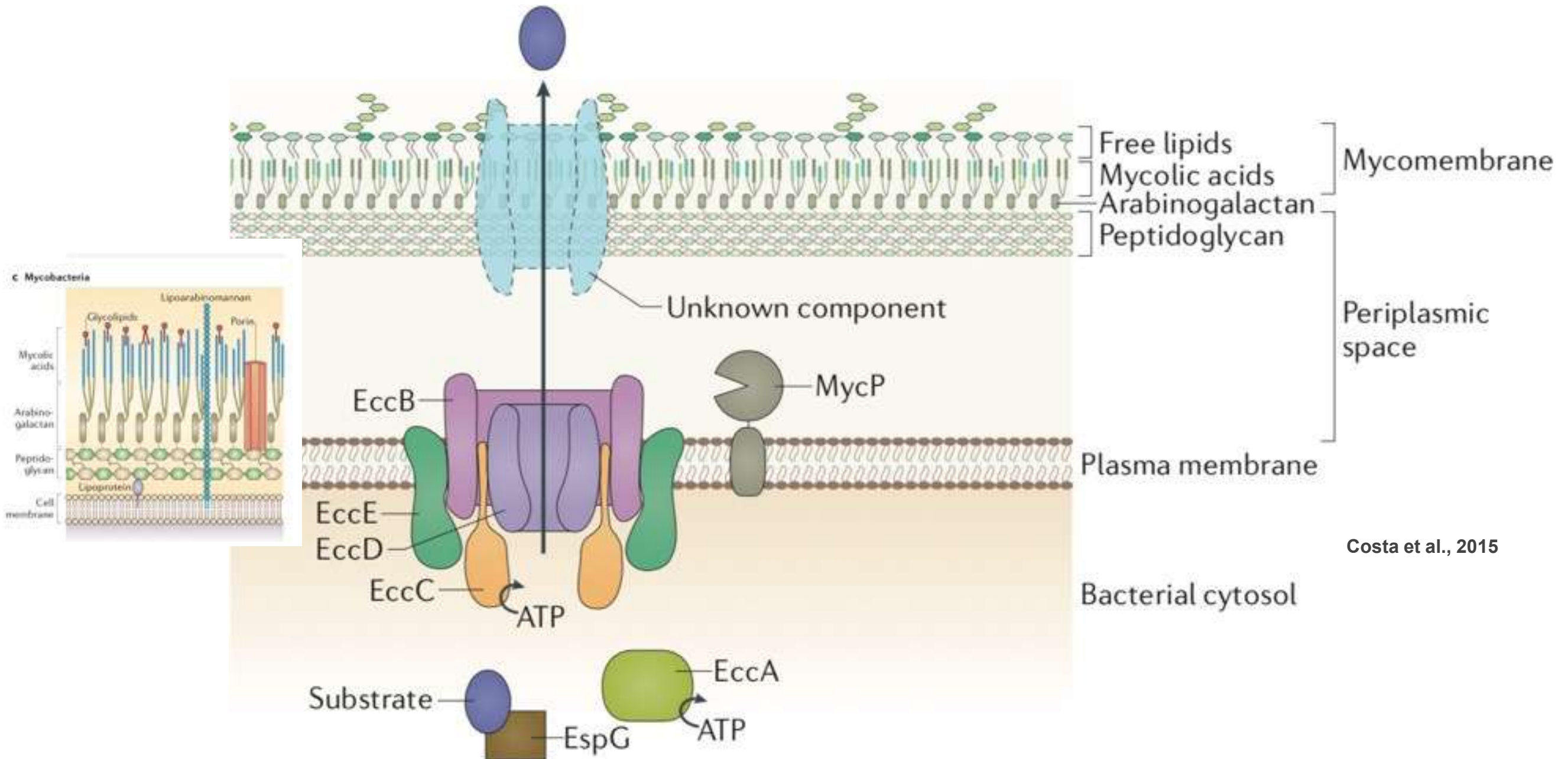
- Type 4 secretion system (T4SS) mediates the translocation of DNA and proteins into bacterial or eukaryotic target cells
- T4SS in Bacteria and Archaea, conjugation of plasmid DNA, ATP based
- Type 6 secretion system (T6SS) cell envelopes panning machine that translocates toxic effector proteins into eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells
- T6SS, injection mechanisms similar to phage



- Type 5 secretion system (T5SS), chaperone-usher and curli OM only
- Sec traslocase mediates proteins into periplasmic space
- T5SS, substrate and its secretion pore are fused to form a single polypeptide → a single polypeptide can drive its own secretion (autotransporter)
- Chaperone-usher, used to assemble and secrete multisubunit appendages pili or fimbriae, → mediate host cell recognition and attachment pathogenicity and biofilm formation
- Curli biogenesis system, Curli are extracellular protein fibres, are functional amyloid
- Curli protect bacteria from hostile environments by contributing to biofilm formation and facilitating interactions with the host immune system



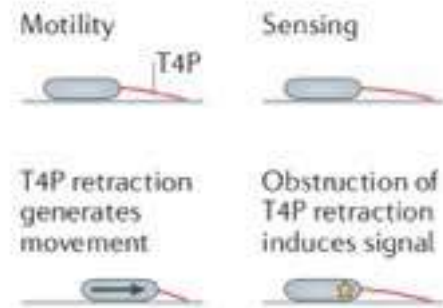
# T7SS, *Mycobacterium*



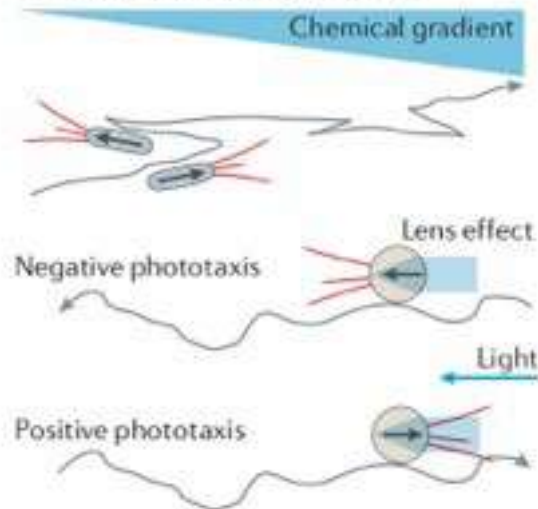
*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* perforates the phagosomal membrane shortly after being taken up by macrophages using T7SS

# Type IV pili in Gram negative & positive

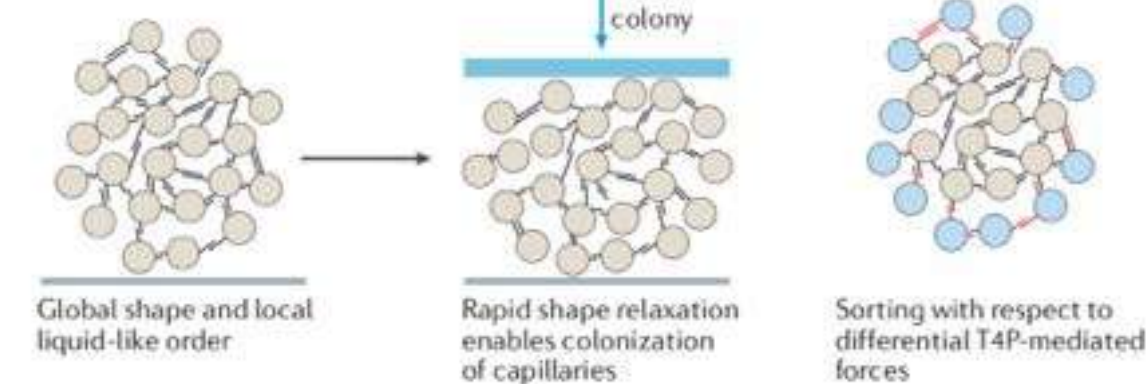
## a Motility and signalling



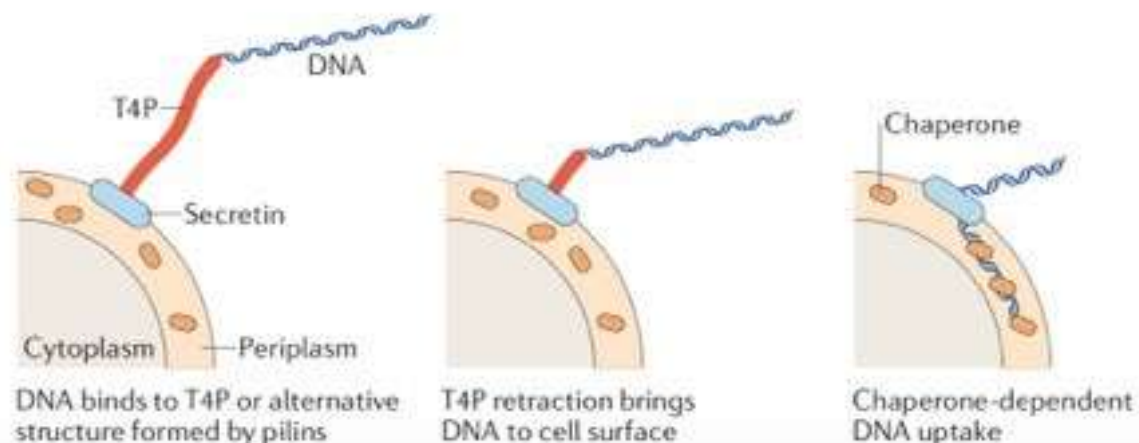
## b Chemotaxis and phototaxis



## c Self-organization of microcolonies



## d DNA uptake during transformation



Type IV pili are **dynamic**: filaments polymerize and depolymerize, leading to rapid cycles of extension and retraction that generate considerable mechanical force

## Type IV pili

1. Pull adherent bacteria along mucosal surfaces into close association with host cells and other bacteria
2. Exert forces on host cells
3. Pull bound substrates like DNA and bacteriophages into the periplasm
4. Export exoproteins across the outer membrane

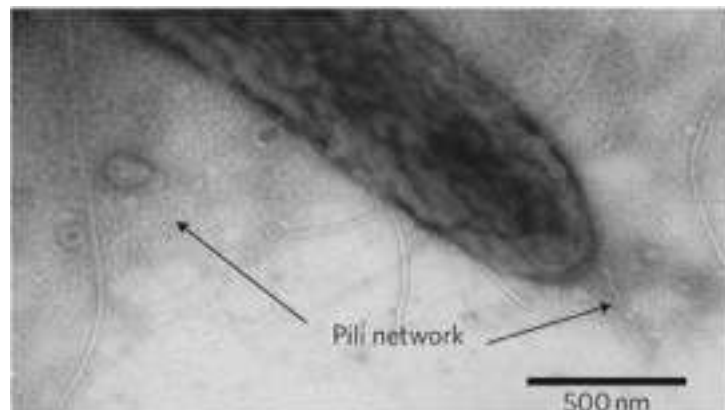
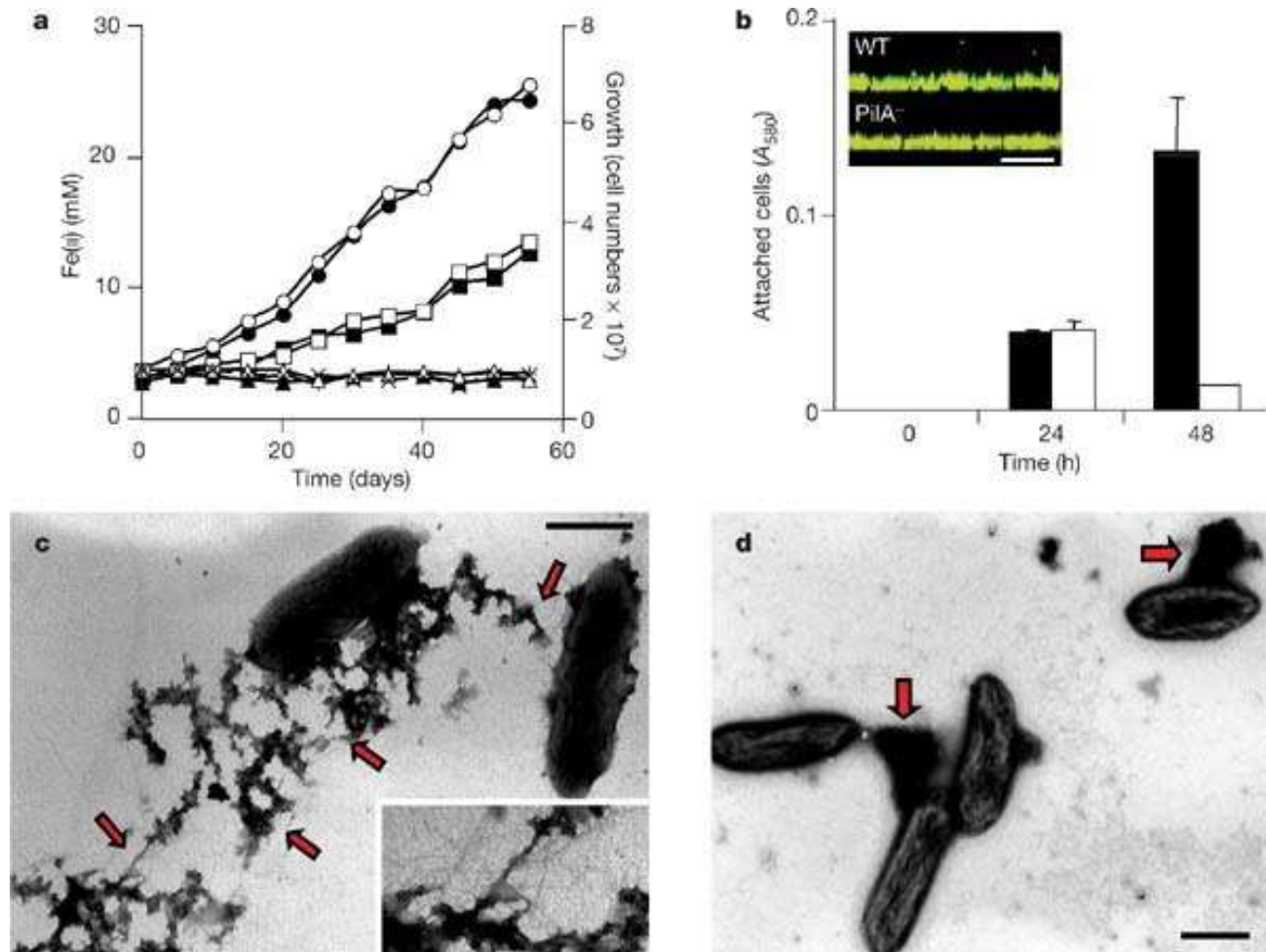
Type IV pili extend and retract at rates of  $\sim 1,000$  subunits per second, requiring a complex protein machinery that spans both membranes of Gram-

Craig et al., 2019



# Pili as conducting nanowires

## *Geobacter sulfurreducens*

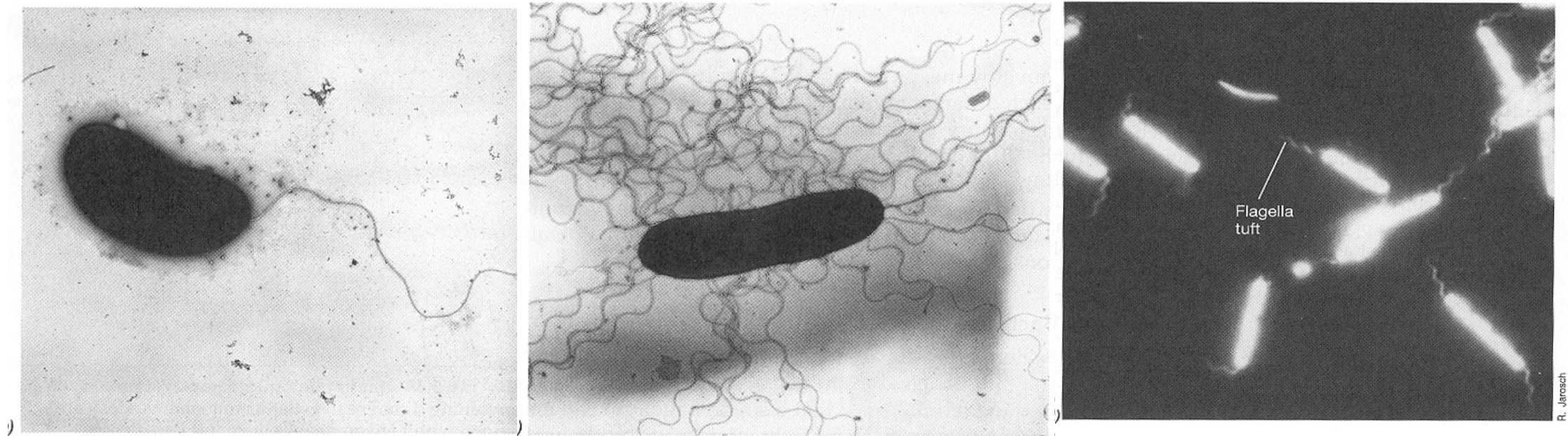


## *Shewanella oneidensis*

Reguera et al., 2005  
Malvankar et al., 2011  
Gorby et al., 2006

- Pili are made of proteins
- Pili form networks
- $\gamma$ -Proteobacteria, Cyanobacteria, Methanogens
- Reduction of ferric oxide by touching via pili
- Cytochromes are involved in electron conduction
- **Strictly anaerobic conditions/ low  $O_2$ :**
  - A.** growth medium supplemented with fumarate (40 mM) as the electron acceptor and with acetate (10 mM) as the electron donor for G.s.
  - B.** Fe(III) citrate (50 mM) as the electron acceptor and lactate (20 mM) as the electron donor

# Bacteria Flagella (gross structure)



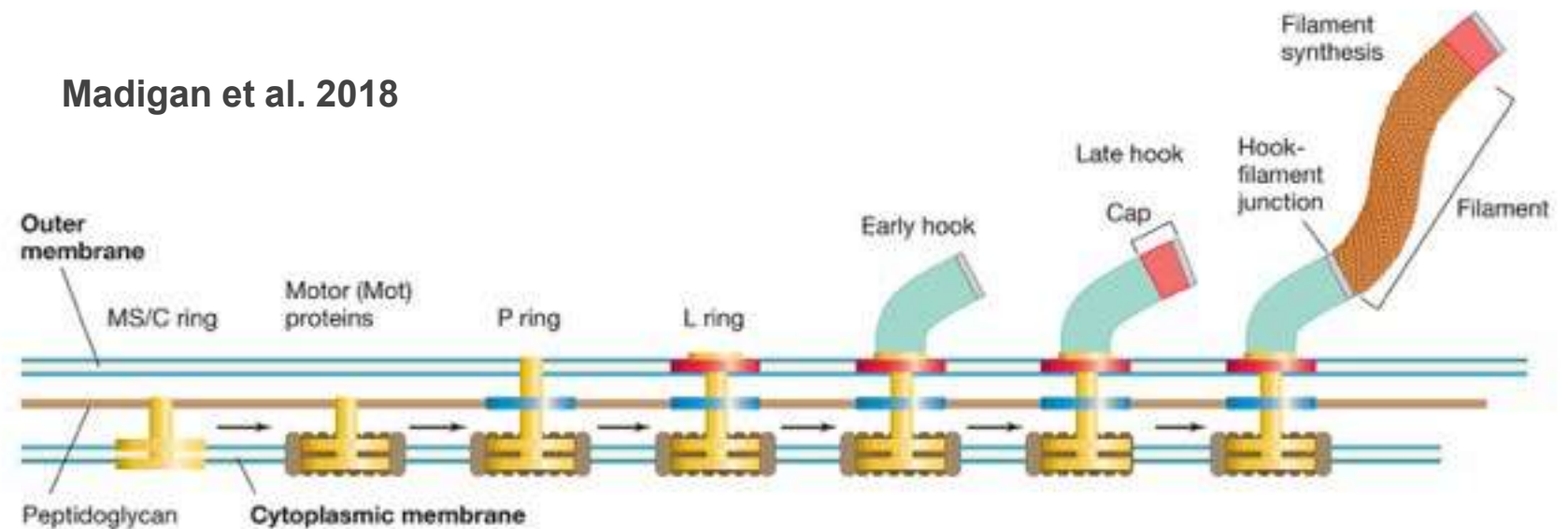
- For motility; Not always present
- 20 nm, hollow, very long (10-20 body lengths)
- Single protein, flagellin
- If broken they can regenerate
- Flagellar arrangement; polar, peritrichous
- Wavy; wavelength constant for a species
- Rigid, do not make wave-like motion like sperm



# Bacteria Flagella (gross structure)

Madigan et al. 2018

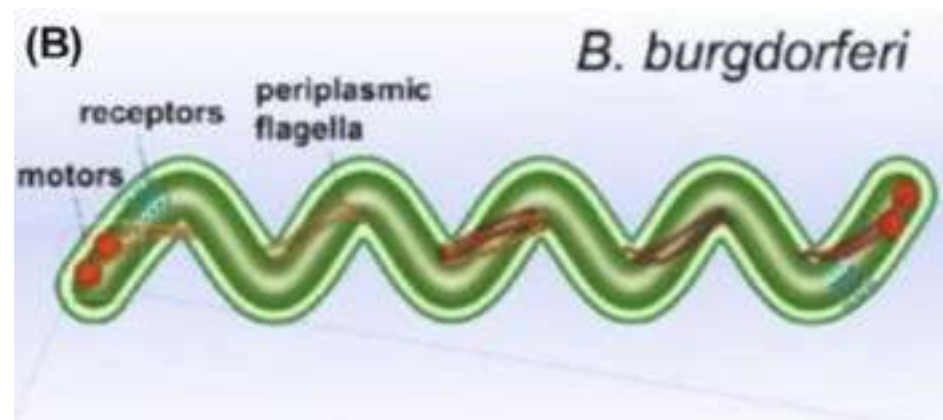
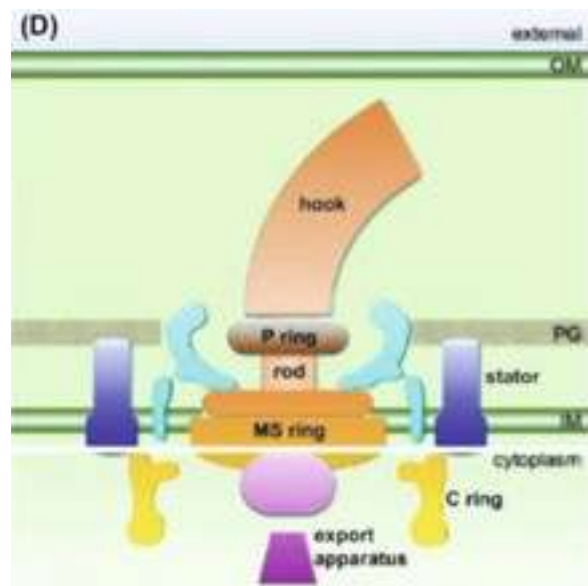
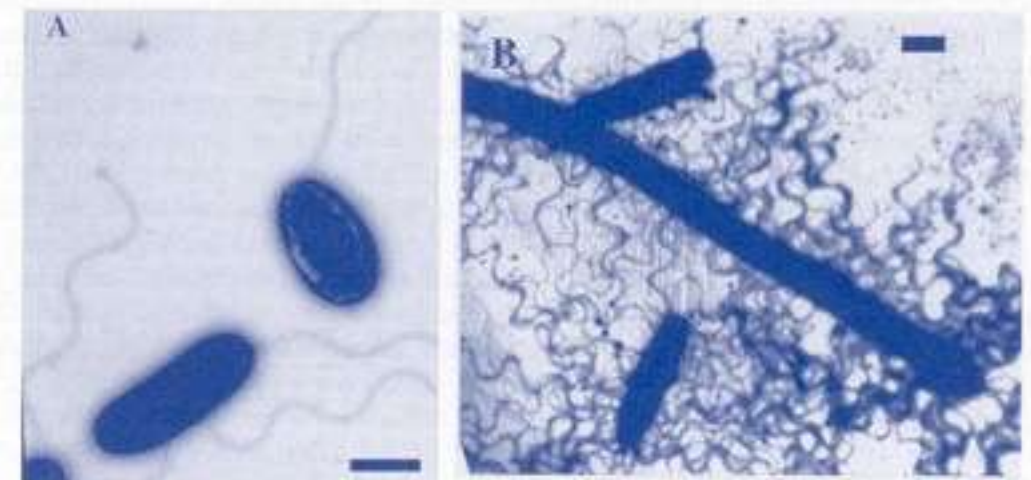
- Grow at free end
- Self assembly from transported flagellin



Low viscosity

High viscosity

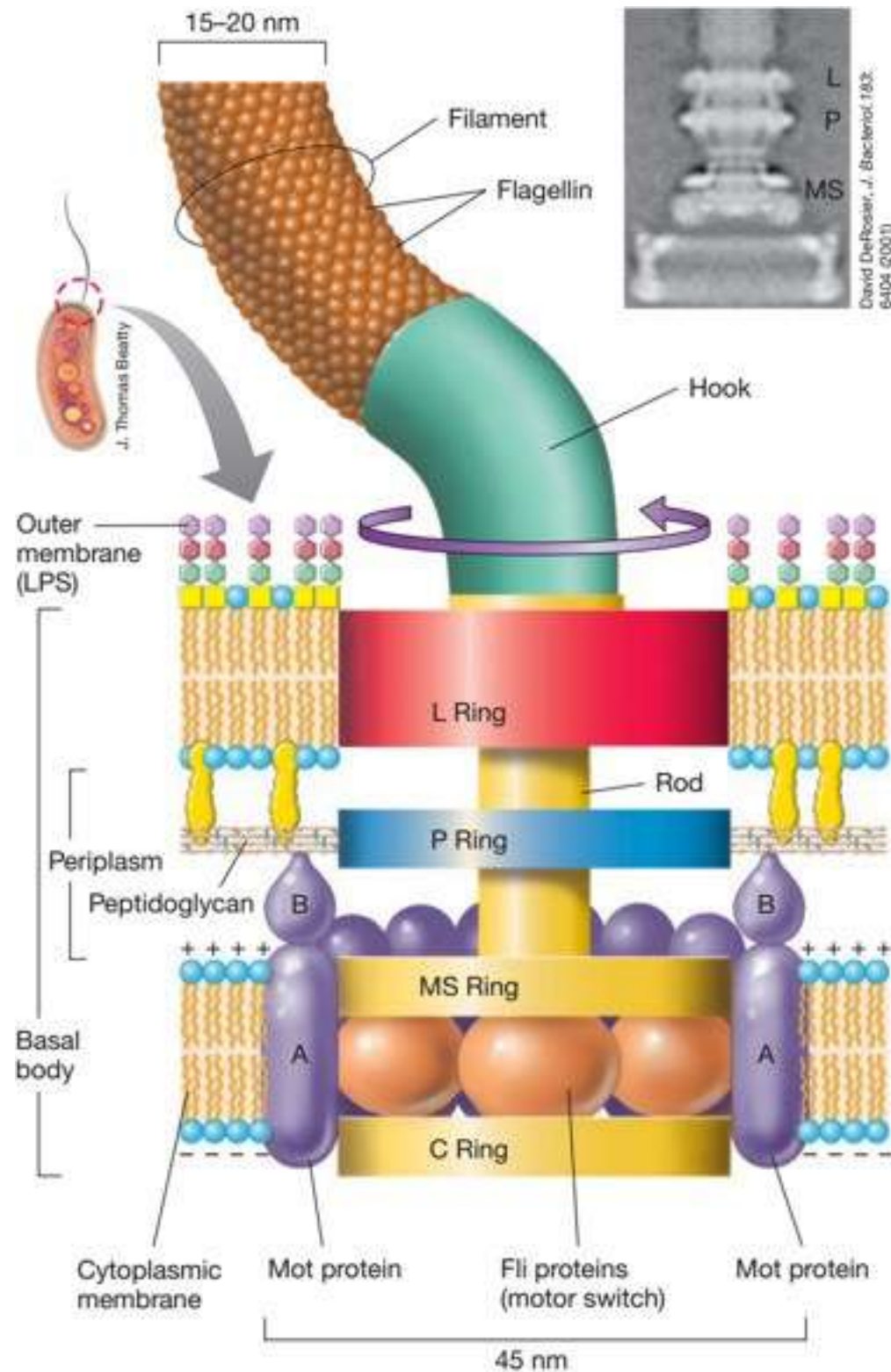
- Microenvironment viscosity modulate expression of swarmer cells (many lateral flagella)
- *Vibrios* have sheathed polar flagellum



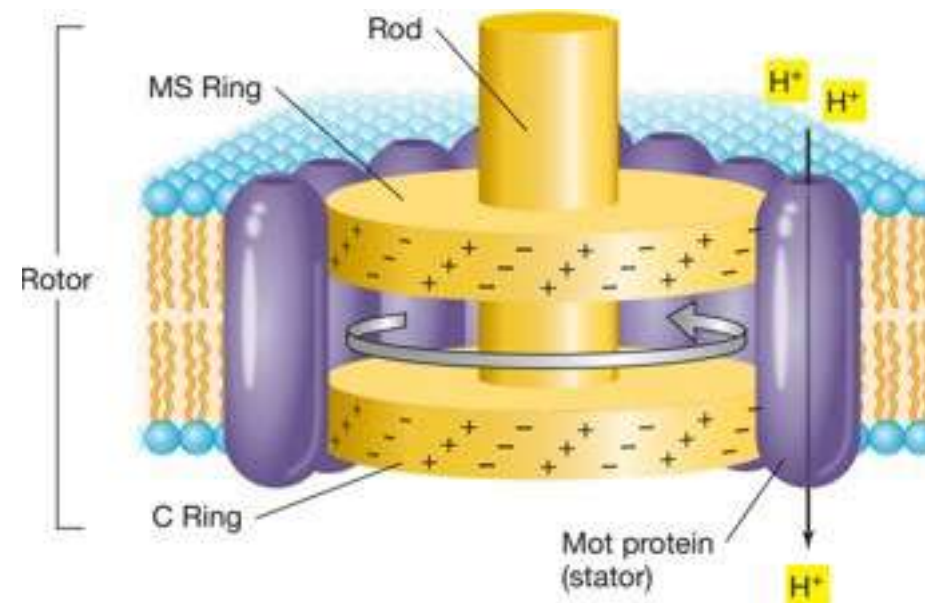
- Periplasmic flagella in *Borrelia burgdorferi*

Kim et al. 2017

# Bacteria Flagella (ultra-structure and function)



- Filament
  - Hook
  - Basal body (rod and rings)
- Filament rotates at base like propeller
  - Basal body acts like a motor
  - Most studied marine bacteria have  $H^+/Na^+$  driven flagella motors
  - 1700 rps/400  $\mu m$  s<sup>-1</sup>

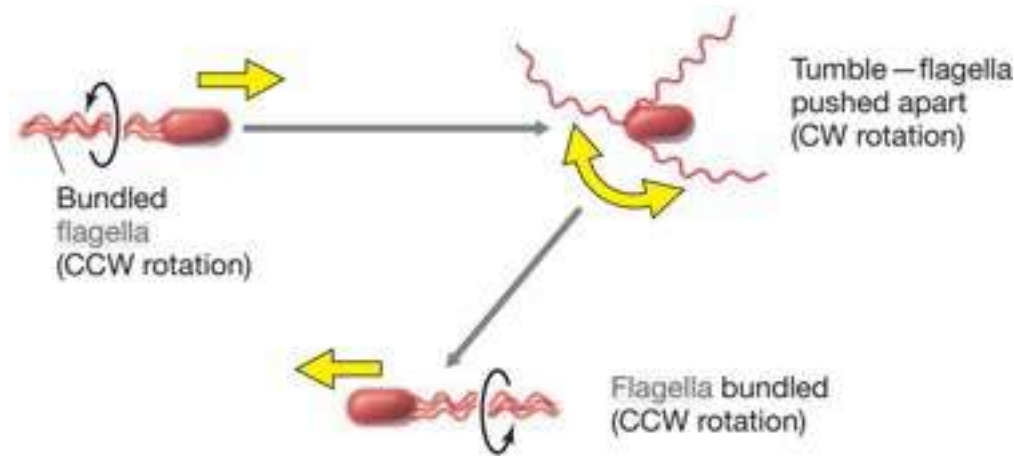


Proton turbine model of flagella movement

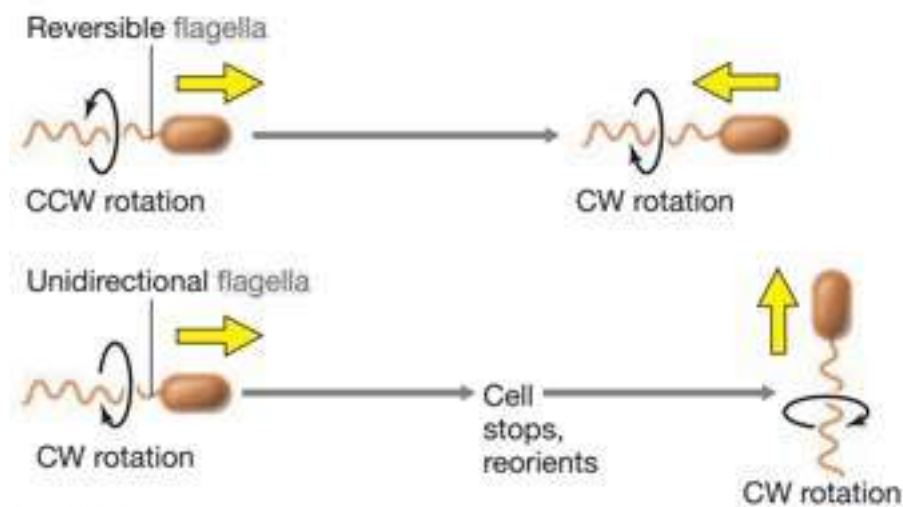


# Bacteria decision-making system for motility

Bacteria integrate environmental signal

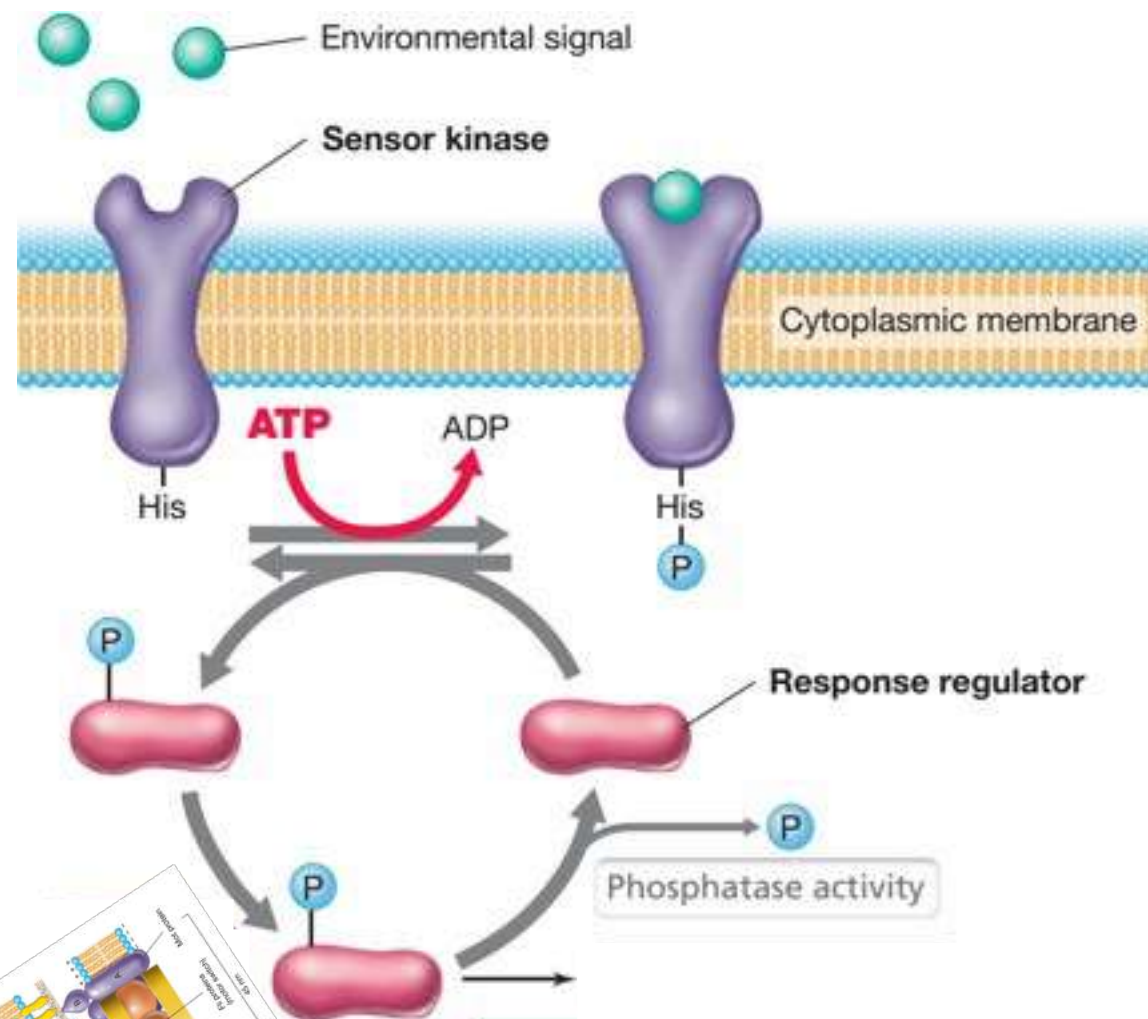


(a) Peritrichous



(b) Polar

Two-component regulatory system send message to flagellum machinery to move either CCW or CW

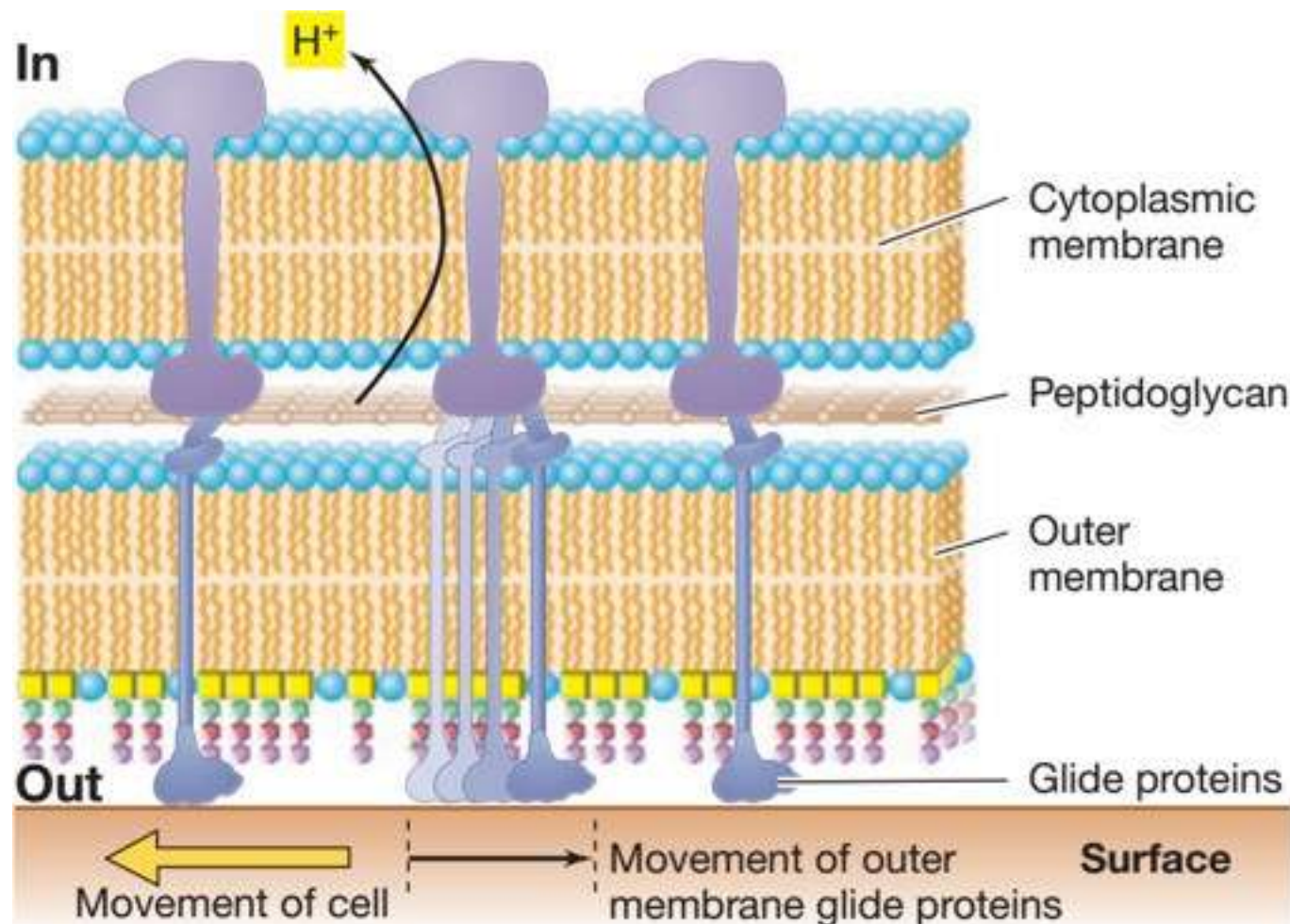


P-response regulator binds to flagellar switch (FliN proteins)

# Gliding Motility

- Movement of cytoplasmic membrane proteins (gliding protein) is driven by proton motive force
- This somehow transmits energy to move to outer membrane proteins
- This (hypothetically) pulls the cell against a **solid surface**
- 10  $\mu\text{m}/\text{sec}$

Madigan et al. 2018

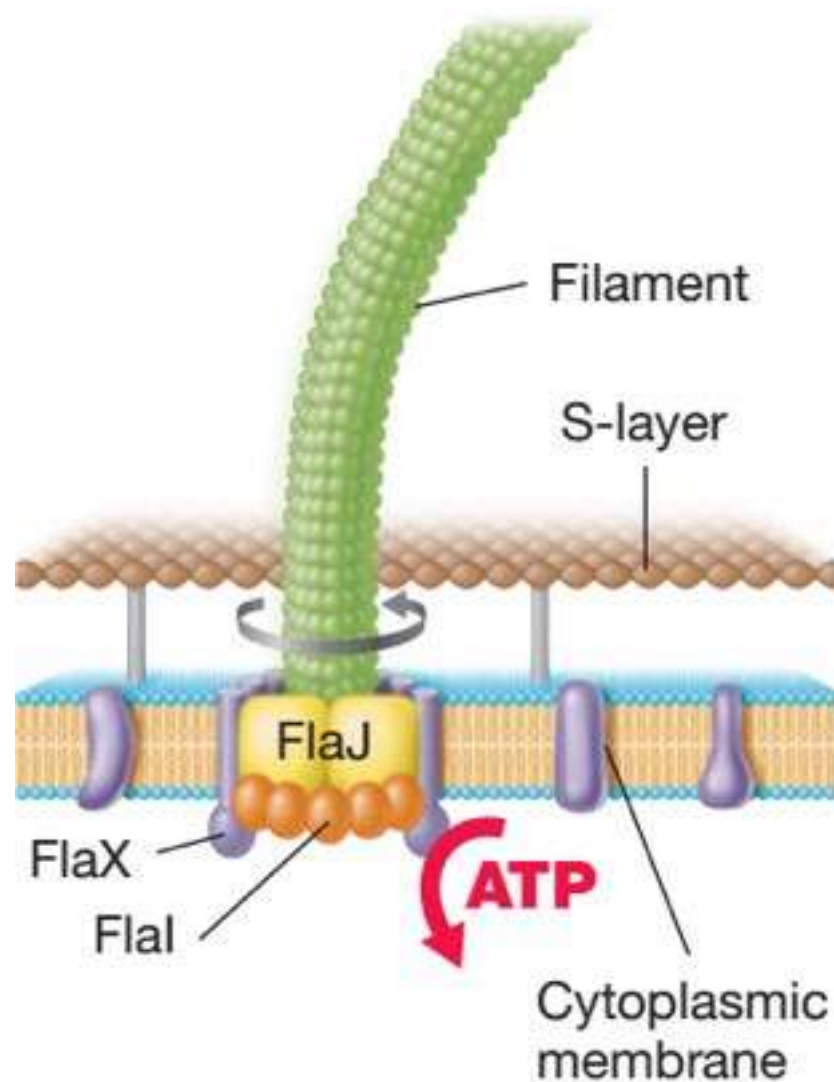


Motility	Appendages
Swarming	Rotating polar flagellum or multiple (often elongated) flagella
Twitching	Extending and retracting type IV pili (TFP)
Gliding	Surface protein complexes to enable turning propulsion
Sliding	No appendages that confer sliding

Mattingly et al., 2018



# Archaea Flagella (ultra-structure and function)



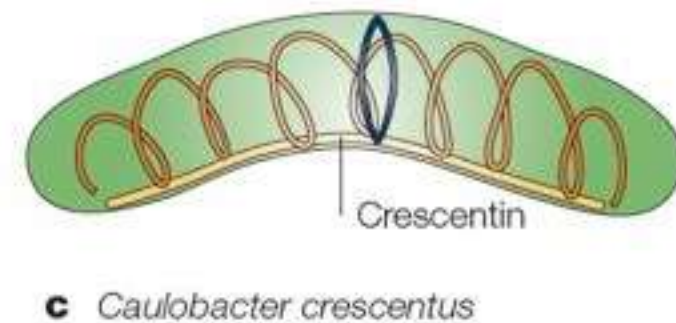
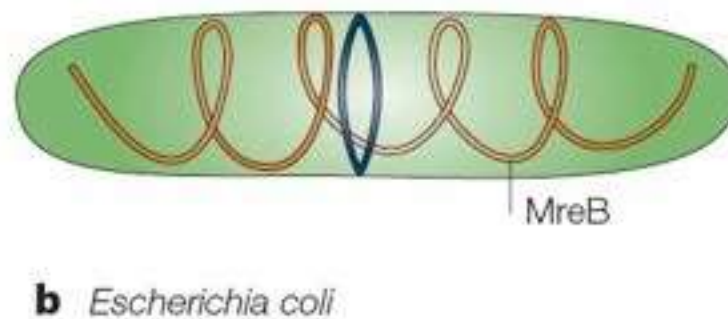
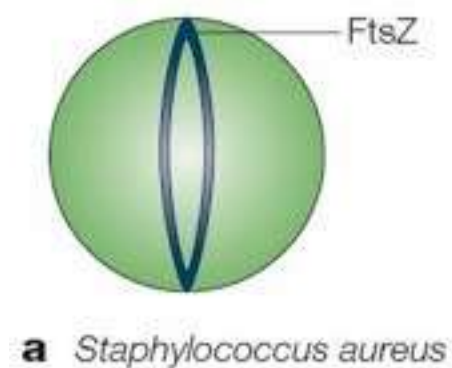
- ~ half the diameter of flagella, measuring about 10-13 nm in width
- Archaelium can be considered a rotating type IV pilus capable of both CW and CCW rotation
- **In flagellum**, whose energy requirement is met by **dissipation of the proton motive force**, **archaelium's** rotation is driven by **ATP hydrolysis**
- In Bacteria a single type of protein makes up the filament
- In Archaea several different filament proteins

# Prokaryotic cytoskeleton

- Similar to eukaryotic cytoskeletal actin, tubulin and intermediate filaments
- Cytoskeletal proteins may dictate shape during peptidoglycan synthesis

## Proteins involved

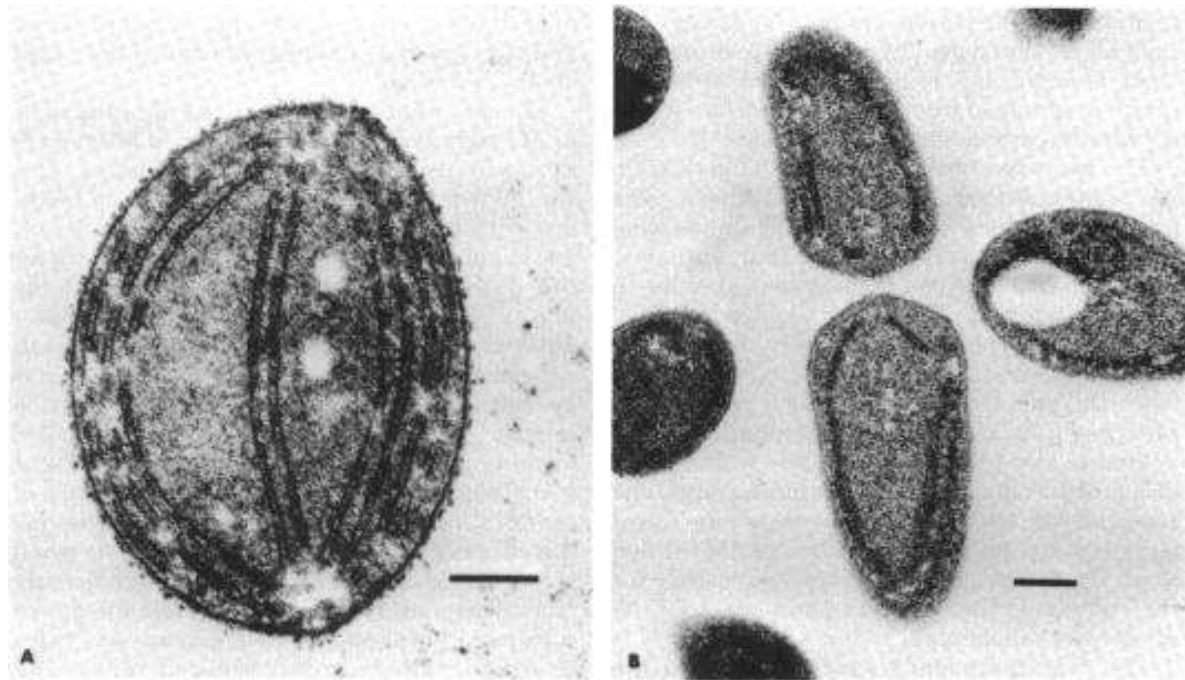
1. *FtsZ*: Cell division protein; related to tubulin; assembles as ring at cell division site, recruits other proteins to form contractile septal ring constricting cell during cell division
  2. *MreB*: Member of actin superfamily; in rod-shape, filamentous and helical bacteria; encircles cell as spiral under cell membrane along longitudinal axis contributing to shape of non-spherical bacteria
- *Crescentin*: In *Caulobacter crescentus*; gives vibroid shape; helical filament along cell membrane
  - *Spiroplasma*: Move in viscous media; single protein ribbon, stretch & release by conformational change
  - *Mycoplasma*: Some motile on solid surface; internal cytoskeletal fibers for movement and attachment





# Intracytoplasmic membrane (ICM) I

*Methylobacterium organophilum*



Patt & Hanson 1978

Nitrifk et al., 2004

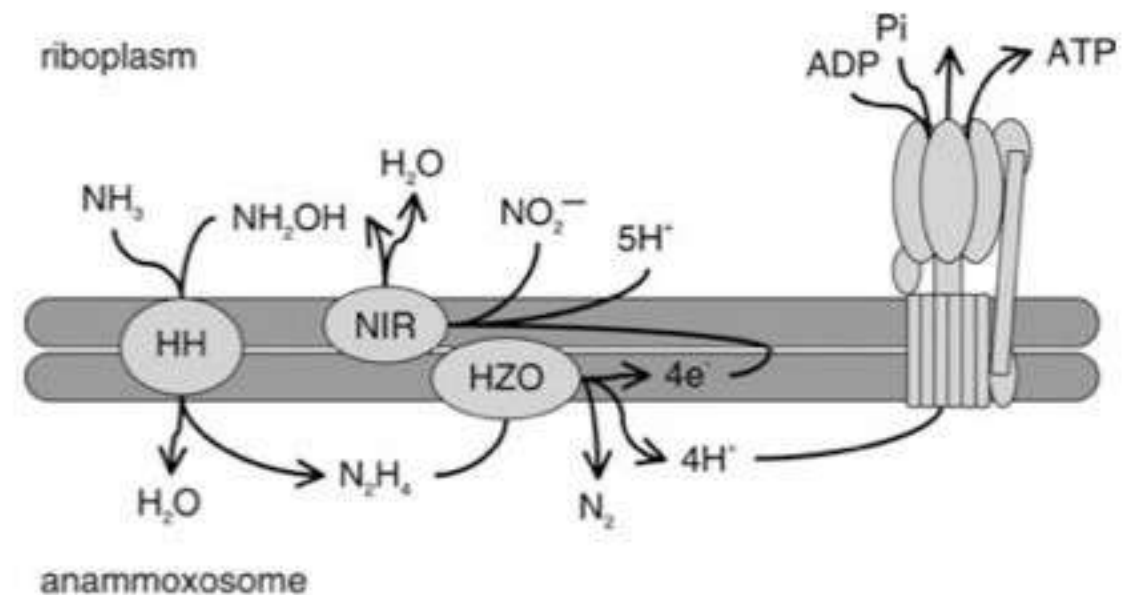


Fig. 4. Postulated anaerobic ammonium oxidation coupled to the anammoxosome membrane in anammox bacteria resulting in a proton motive force and subsequent ATP synthesis via membrane-bound ATPases. HH: hydrazine hydrolase; the hydrazine-forming enzyme, HZO: hydrazine-oxidizing enzyme, NIR: nitrite-reducing enzyme.

ICM present in methanotrophs,  $\text{N}_2$  fixers, nitrifiers and phototrophs

(see also: magnetosomes, gas vacuole, minicompartment, anammoxosome)

- *Methanotrophs*: ICM is the site of methane oxidation
- *$\text{N}_2$  fixers*: Increases respiratory activity to provide ATP for  $\text{N}_2$  fixation and remove  $\text{O}_2$  near nitrogenase
- *Nitrifiers*: Site of enzymes catalyzing ammonia and nitrate oxidation
- *Phototrophs*: Site of photosynthetic apparatus

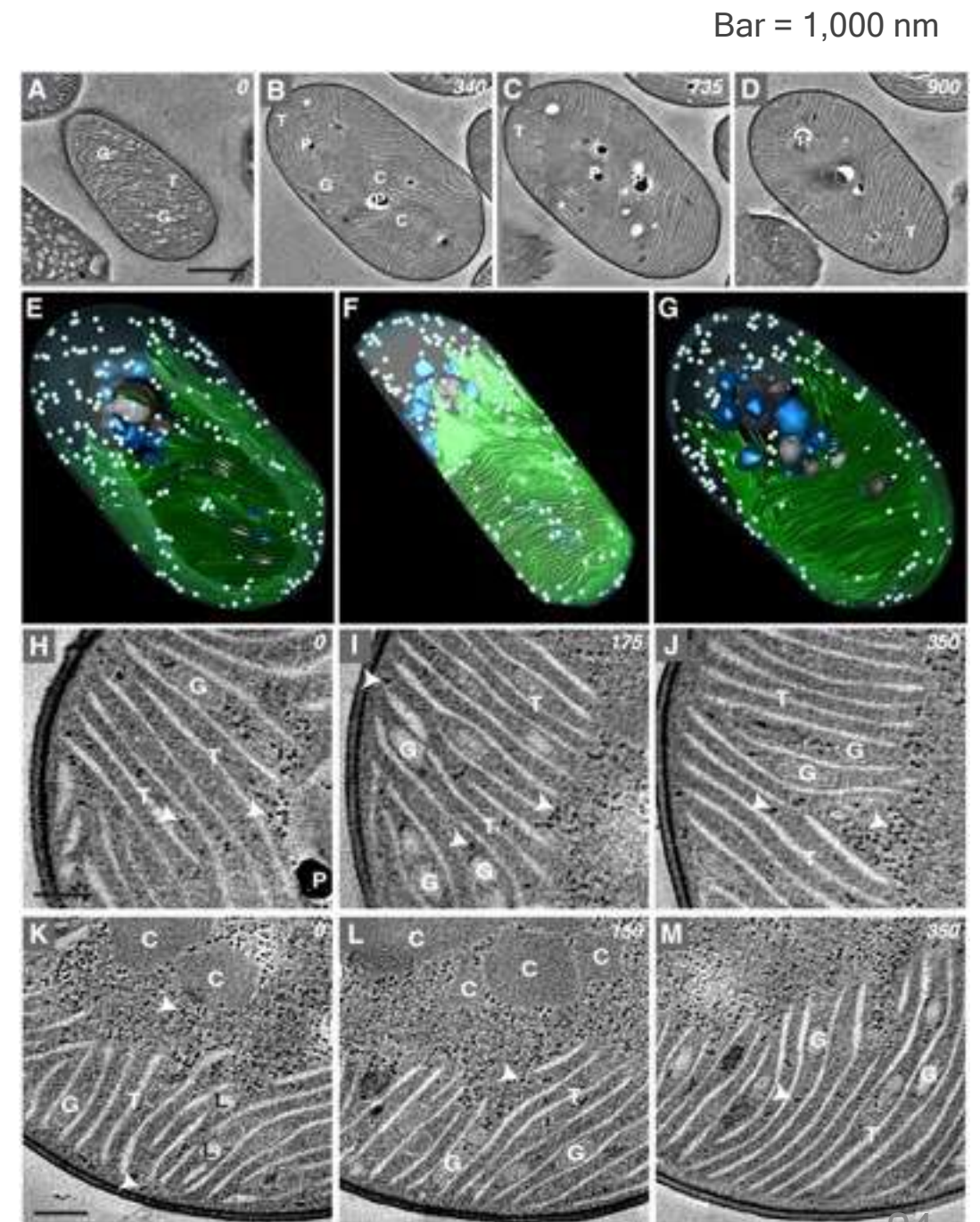
# Intracytoplasmic membrane (ICM) II

- ICM as a strategy to **concentrate** and **stabilize** functions within the cell
- ICM promote more **efficient reactions**
- ICM is a solution to the fight for **diffusion**
- **Phototrophs: site of photosynthetic apparatus**

Tomographic reconstruction of a *Cyanothece* 51142 cell

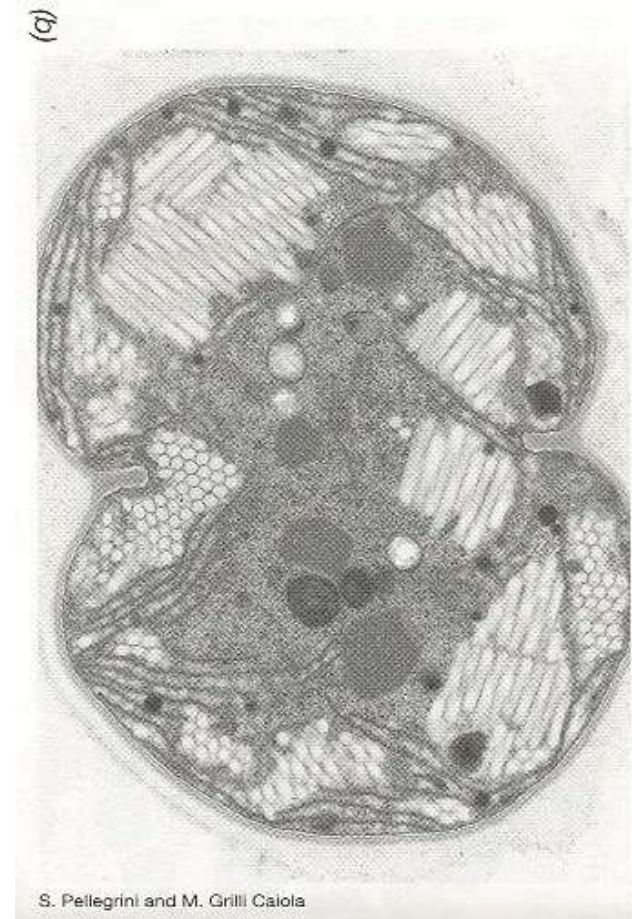
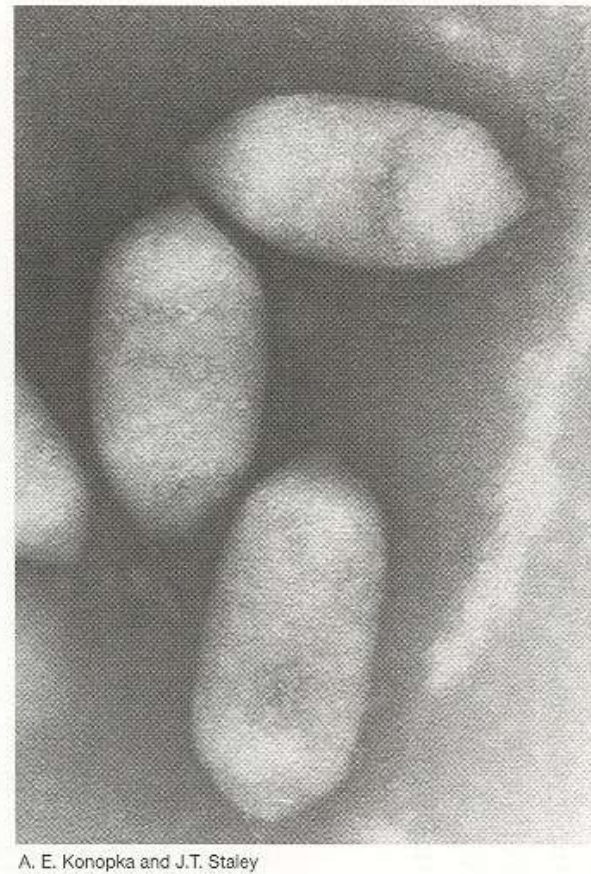
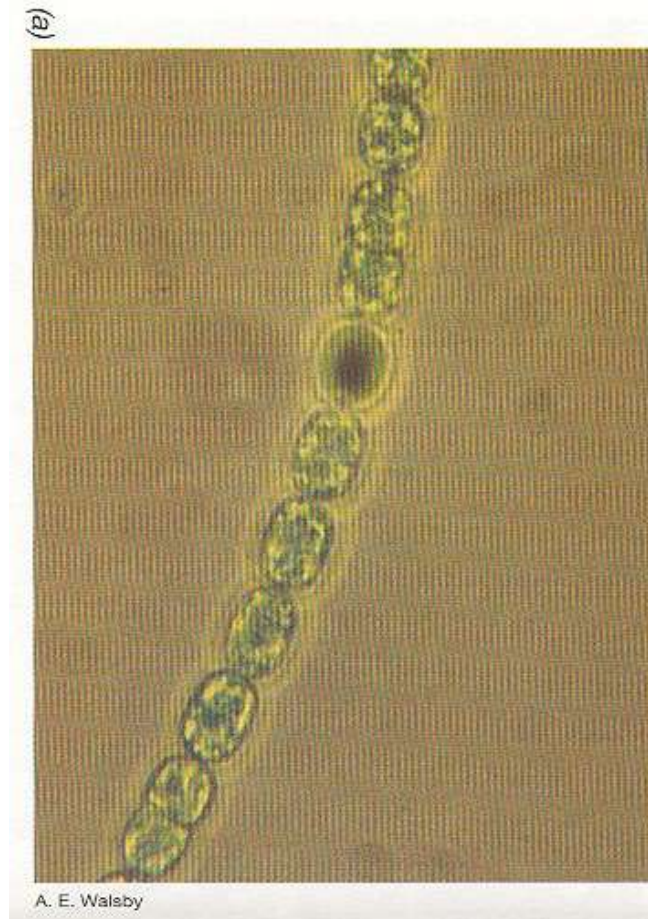
T, Thylakoid membrane; C, carboxysome; G, glycogen granule; P, polyphosphate body

Thylakoids in the lower approximately one-half of the cell are shown modeled. Blue gray, Plasma membrane (rendered partially transparent for clarity); white, lipid bodies; blue, carboxysomes; green, thylakoid membranes; gray, polyphosphate bodies





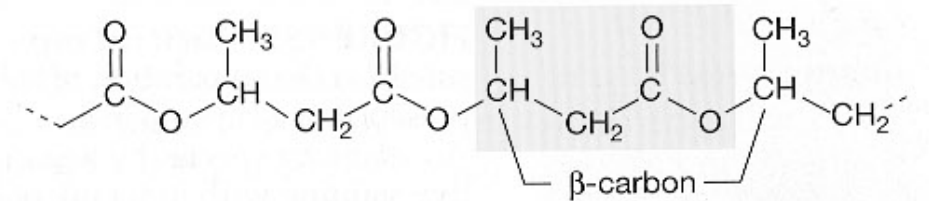
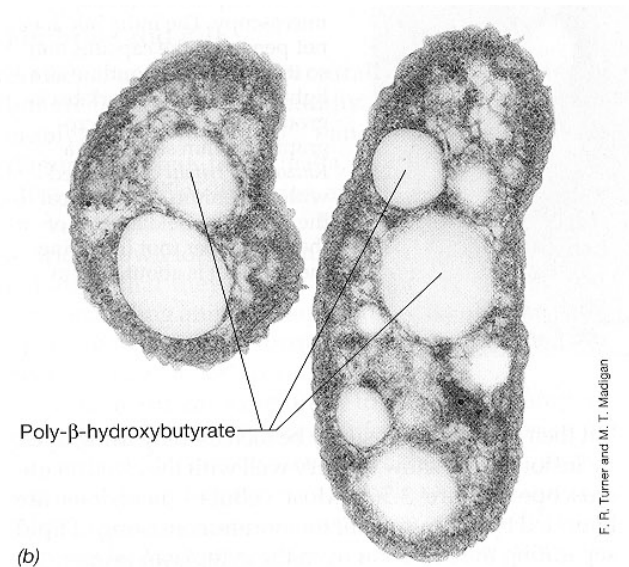
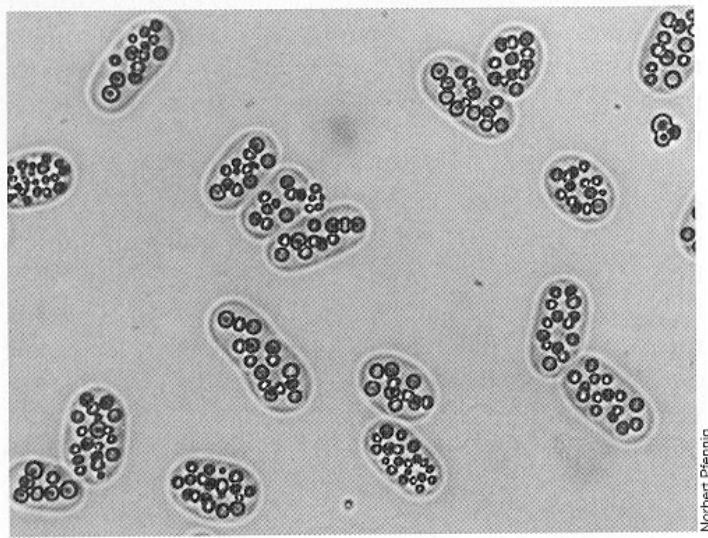
# Gas Vacuoles



Madigan et al. 2018

- In aquatic bacteria; for buoyancy
- Means of motility (float up and down)
- In Cyanobacteria, some purple and green phototrophic bacteria, some Archaea
- Spindle shaped hollow, rigid, 300-1000 nm, few to hundreds per cell
- Membrane only protein (rigid), 2 nm thick, impermeable to water, permeable to gases
- Gases same in and out; vesicle density 5-25% of cell density

# Storage products

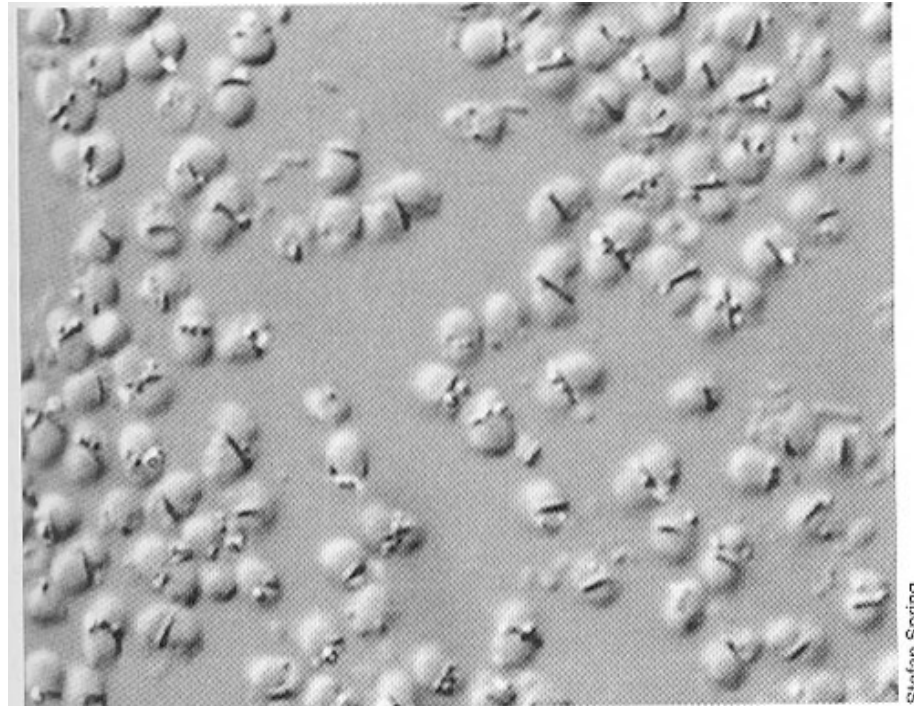
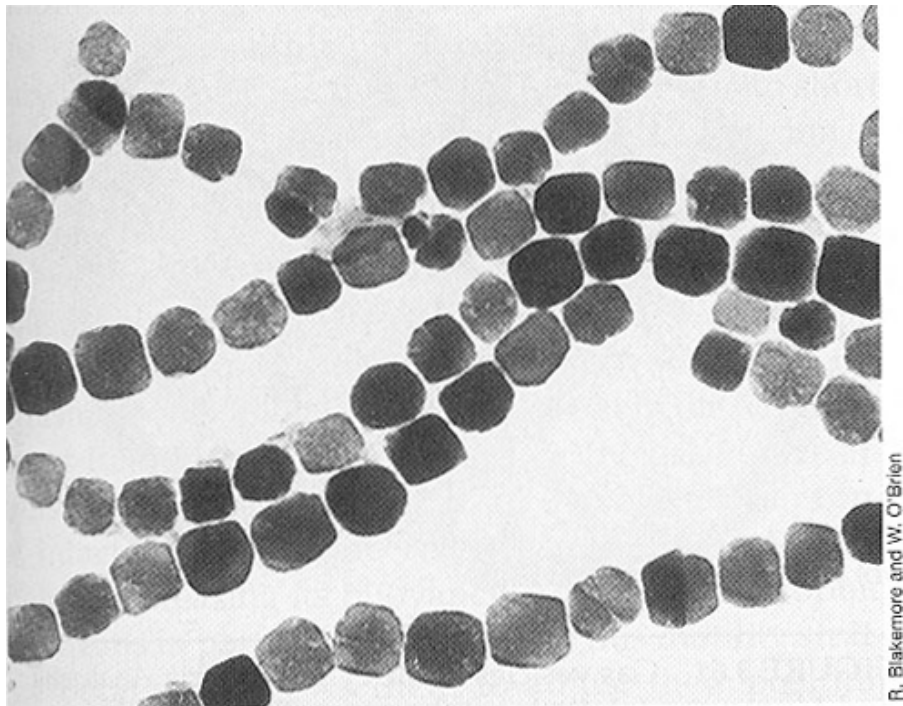


Common storage products- enclosed in thin lipid layer, also in periplasm:

- Poly-β-hydroxybutyrate (PHB); sulfur globules in S oxidizing bacteria and archaea
- Glycogen
- Polyphosphate
- Nitrogen store?
- Carboxysomes (RuBP carboxylase in cyanobacteria); crystal-like, 120 nm; membrane bound
- Mobilized when needed
- Advantageous in nutritionally fluctuating environments



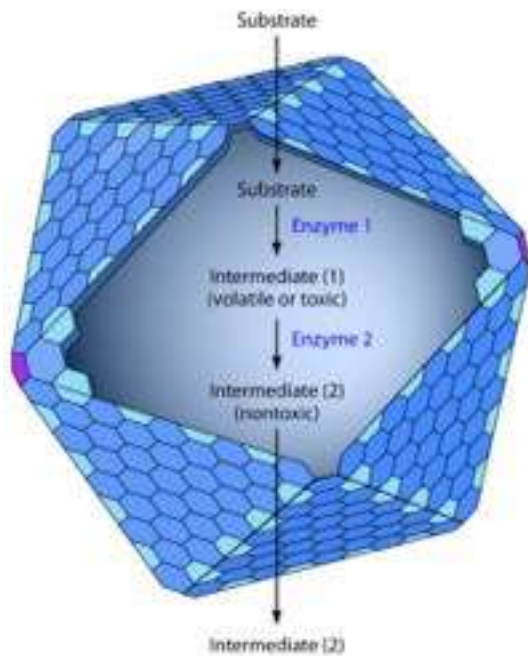
# Magnetosomes



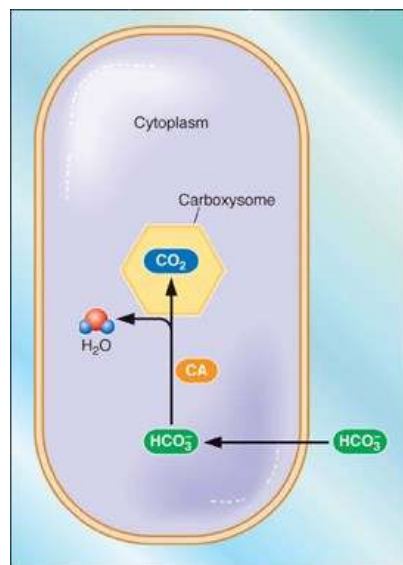
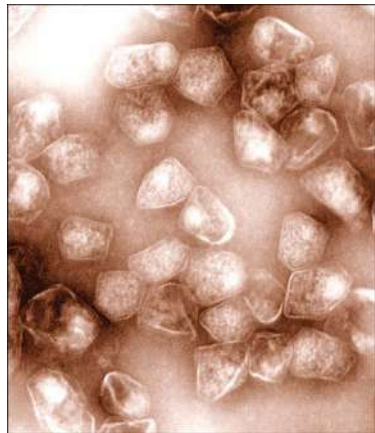
Madigan et al. 2018  
Ueber and Schueler, 2016

- **Cytoplasmic membranes** forms an internal invagination and **recruit proteins for Fe precipitation**
- Magnetotactic bacteria usually mineralize either **iron oxide** magnetosomes, which contain crystals of magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ), or **iron sulphide** magnetosomes, which contain crystals of greigite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$ )
- Mainly in aquatic bacteria; some algae
- Morphology species-specific
- **Permanent magnetic dipole to the cell, for N-S orientation** in environment (“**magnetotaxis-aerotaxis**”) efficient swimming, passive cell alignment to geomagnetic field lines
- Microaerophilic bacteria may use them to **stay in low oxygen at oxic/anoxic interface**
- Magnetosome  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  and  $\text{Fe}_3\text{S}_4$  crystals are typically **35–120 nm long**

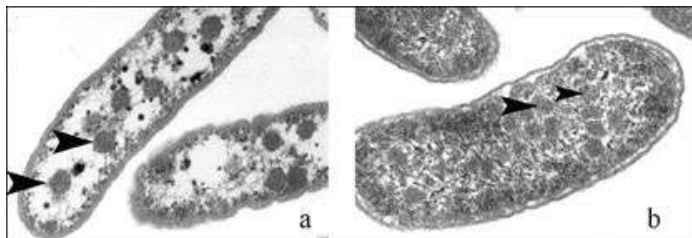
# Bacterial microcompartments



Bobik, 2007  
Chowdhury et al., 2014



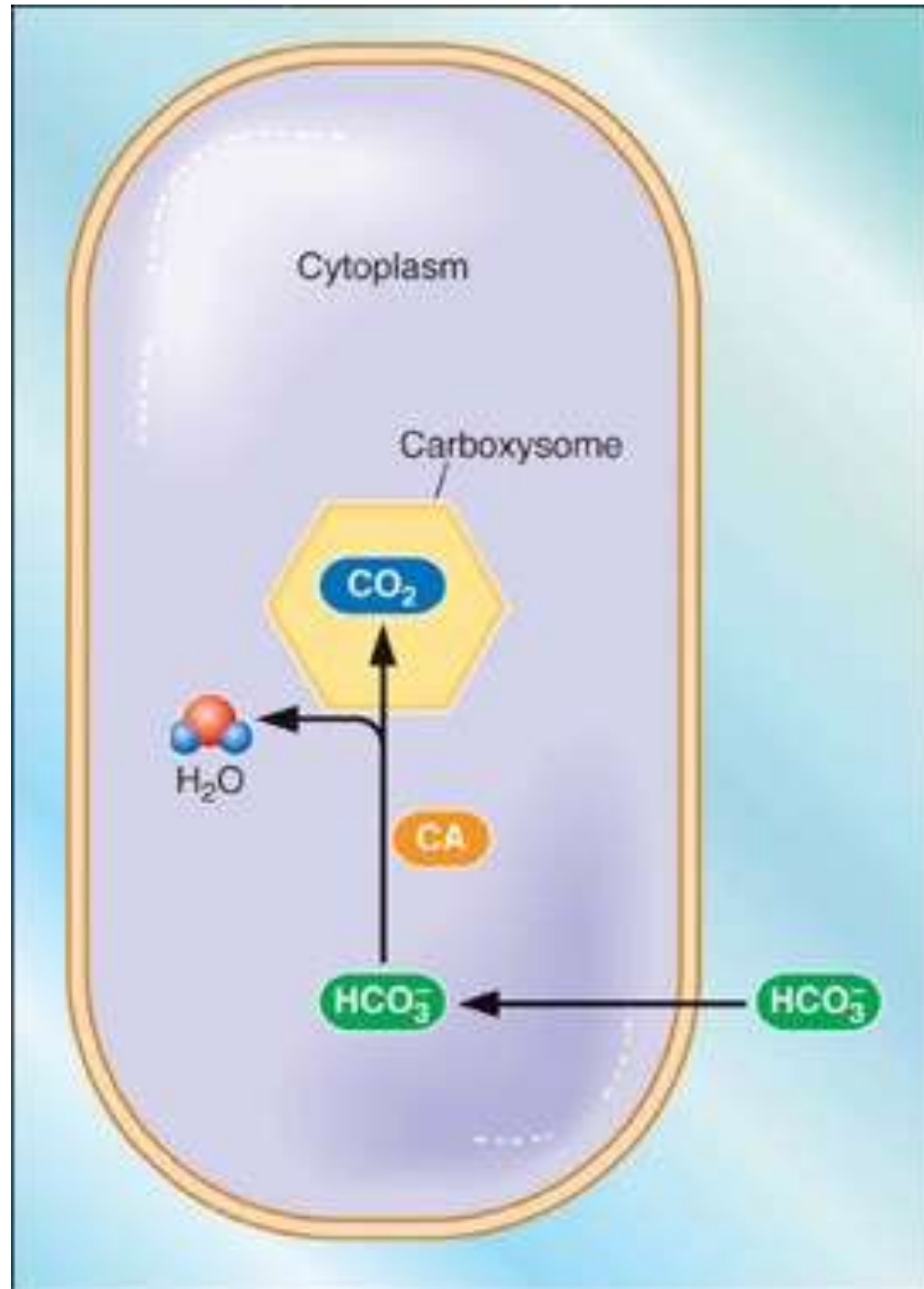
- Sophisticated **protein-based organelles** used to optimize specific **metabolic pathways**
- Metabolic enzymes encapsulated within a protein shell, **increase specificity and yield**
- **Widely distributed and functionally diverse**
- Compartmentalization creates an ideal environment for **catalysis** and **facilitates the channeling of toxic/volatile intermediates to downstream enzymes**
- Structurally resemble **viral capsids**
- Carboxysome channels  $CO_2$
- Pdu microcompartment channels propionaldehyde, *Salmonella enterica*
- Eut microcompartment channels acetaldehyde





# Carboxysome:

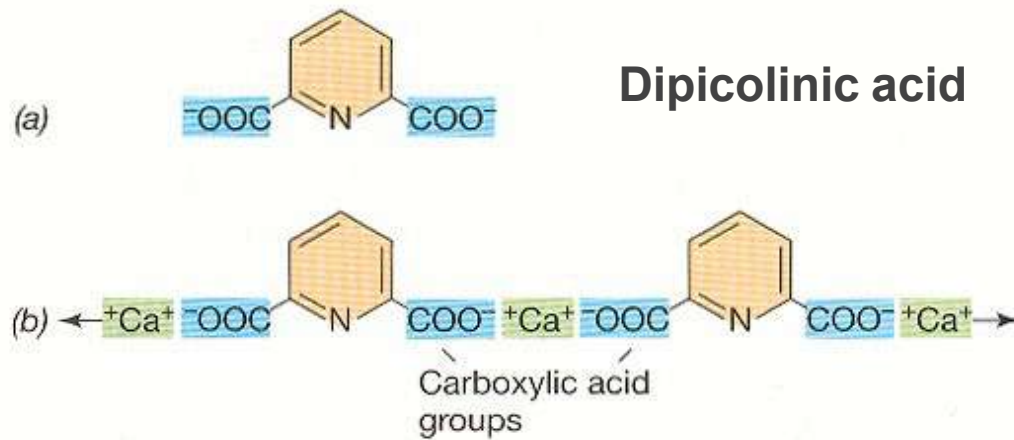
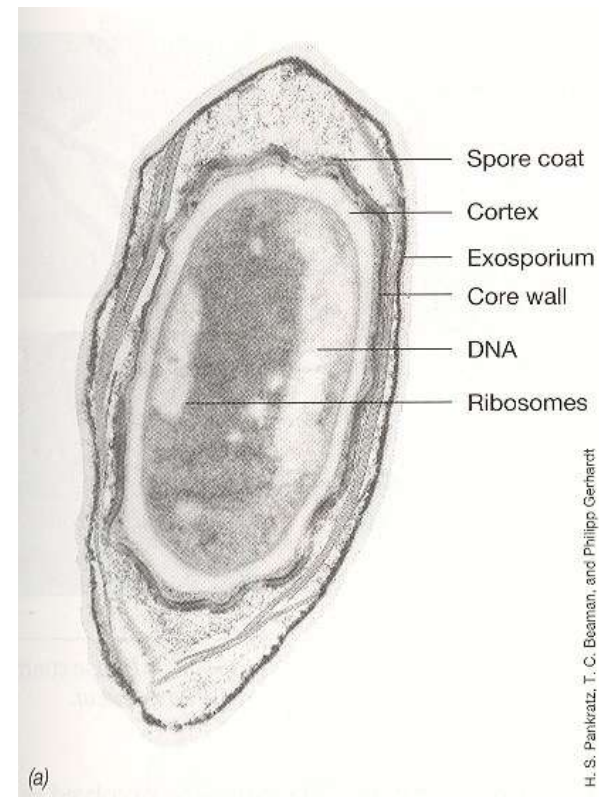
## RuBisCO is the $\text{CO}_2$ -fixing enzyme of the Calvin-Benson-Basshan cycle



- RuBisCO catalyses the conversion of  $\text{CO}_2$  and ribulose biphosphate into two **3-phosphoglycerate**
- RuBisCO reacts with  $\text{O}_2$  in a nonproductive process known as **photorespiration** → drain away up to 50% C fixed
- In Calvin-Benson-Basshan cycle → **competition** with carboxylation and photorespiration
- The carboxysome is essential part of a **carbon dioxide concentrating mechanism (CCM)** that improves efficiency of  $\text{CO}_2$  fixation by RuBisCO
- CCM starts with **concentration of  $\text{HCO}_3^-$**  in cytoplasm by active transport
- **Equilibrium** with  $\text{CO}_2$  is **not reached** due to a lack of carbonic anhydrase (CA)
- **Carboxysomal CA converts  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  to  $\text{CO}_2$**  and releases it within the microcompartment
- **Protein** shell of microcompartment **impedes  $\text{CO}_2$  diffusion**
- $\text{CO}_2$  is concentrated in immediate vicinity of RuBisCO
- Increase in  $\text{CO}_2$  fixation and suppression of photorespiration

# Spores

Madigan et al. 2018

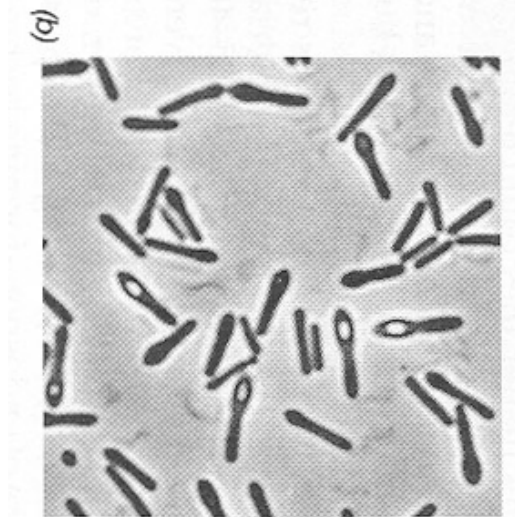


## Ca<sup>2+</sup> crosslinking dipicolinic acid

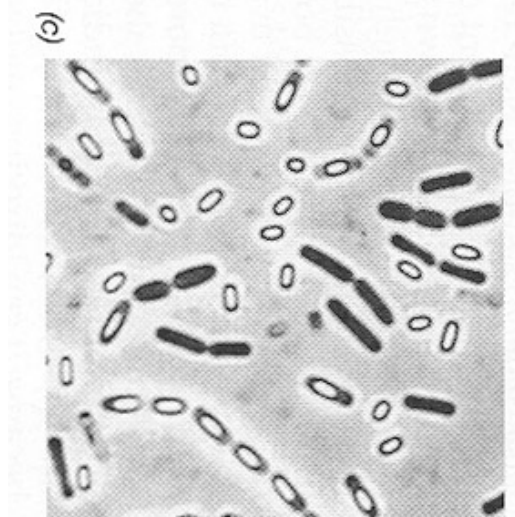
- Differentiated cells within bacteria (endo-)
- Very resistant (heat, desiccation, chemicals); persist long
- Gram Positive (e.g. Bacillus, Clostridium)
- LM: Seen as refractile bodies; TEM structure, very different from vegetative cell:
- Many layers: thin (protein) exosporium; spore coat (protein) cortex (PG), core (protoplast)
- Characteristic: Dipicolinic acid (in core); high Ca<sup>2+</sup> (most in Ca-DPA) ~10 w/w endospore
- Core: 10-30% water; Ca-DPA; cytoplasm is a gel; enzyme inactive; lower pH;  
SASPs (small Acid soluble proteins)- bind and protect DNA & C/e source during outgrowth



H. Hippe



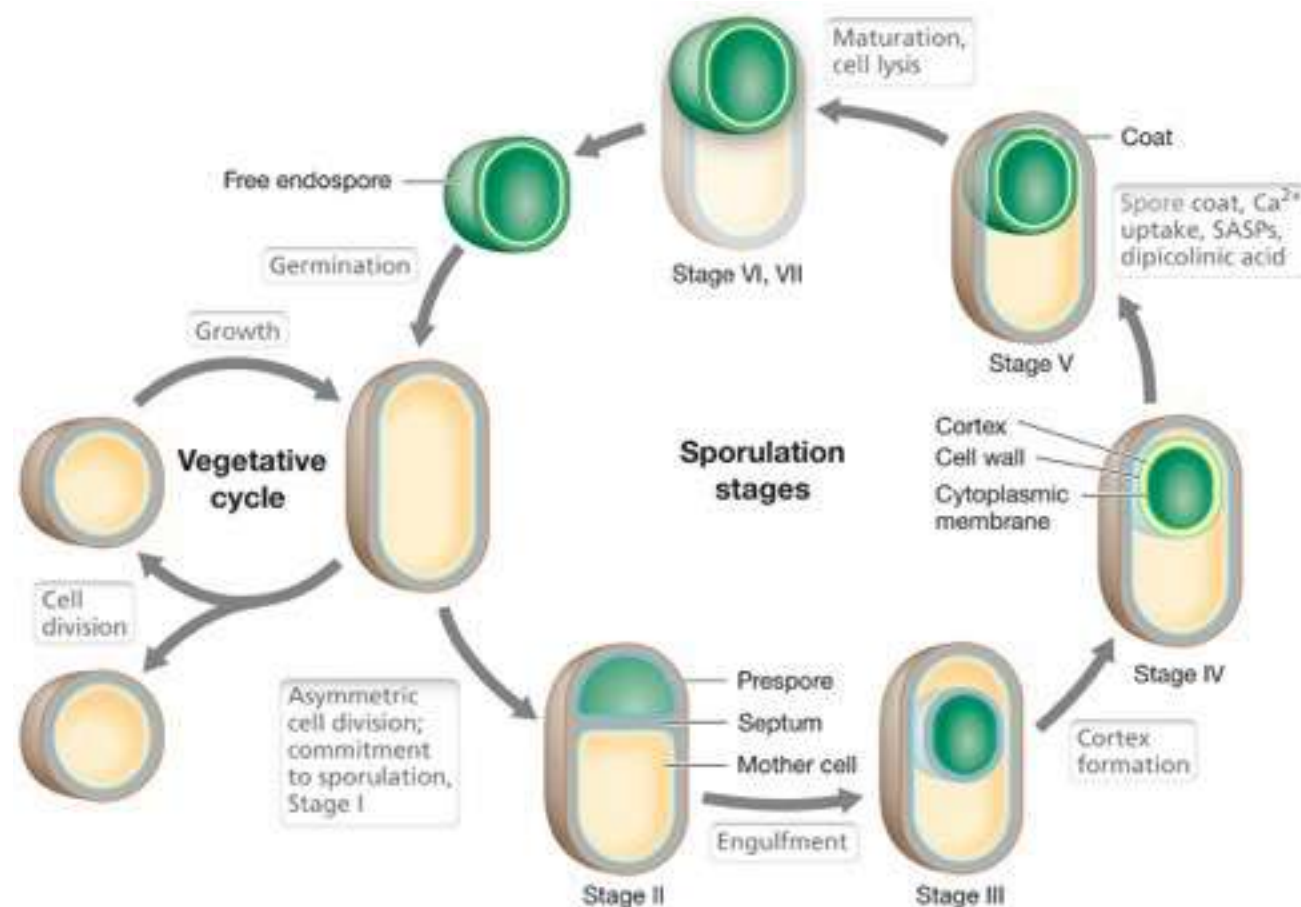
H. Hippe



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# Endospore formation

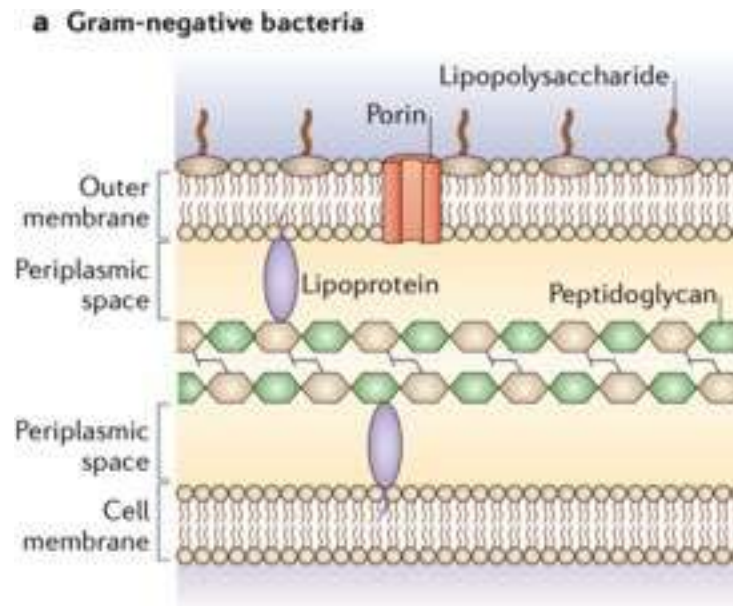
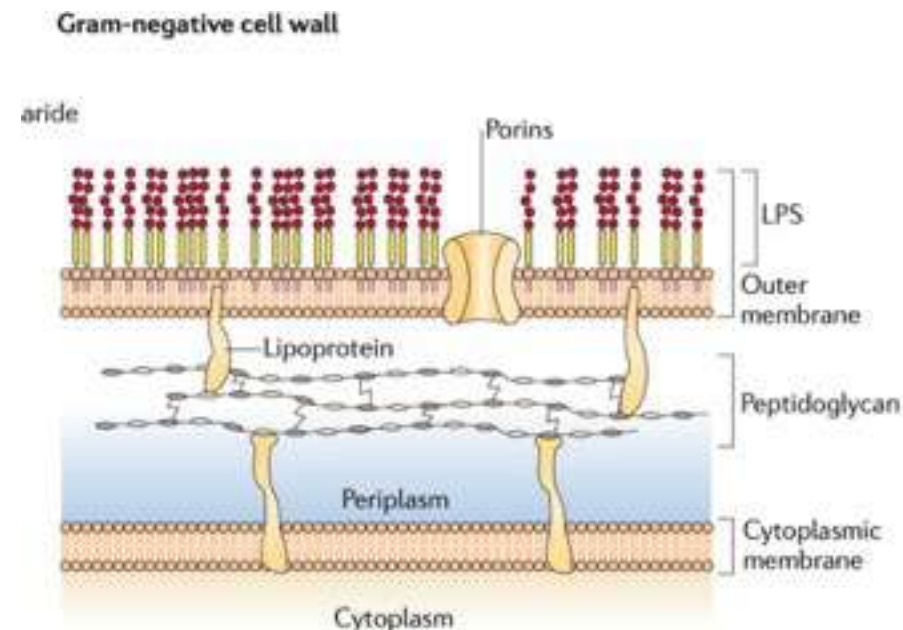


**TABLE 2.2 Differences between endospores and vegetative cells**

Characteristic	Vegetative cell	Endospore
Microscopic appearance	Nonrefractile	Refractile
Calcium content	Low	High
Dipicolinic acid	Absent	Present
Enzymatic activity	High	Low
Respiration rate	High	Low or absent
Macromolecular synthesis	Present	Absent
Heat resistance	Low	High
Radiation resistance	Low	High
Resistance to chemicals	Low	High
Lysozyme	Sensitive	Resistant
Water content	High, 80–90%	Low, 10–25% in core
Small acid-soluble spore proteins	Absent	Present

- Initiated in response to nutrient stress
- Many steps; in *B. subtilis* 8h; ~200 genes
- Activation of a number of spore specific genes (spo, ssp; encoding SASPs)
- Germination: Activation, germination, outgrowth
- Ca-DPA and cortex lost; SASPs degraded; spore swells (takes in water); new RNA, protein, DNA synthesis; cell emerges from the broken coat

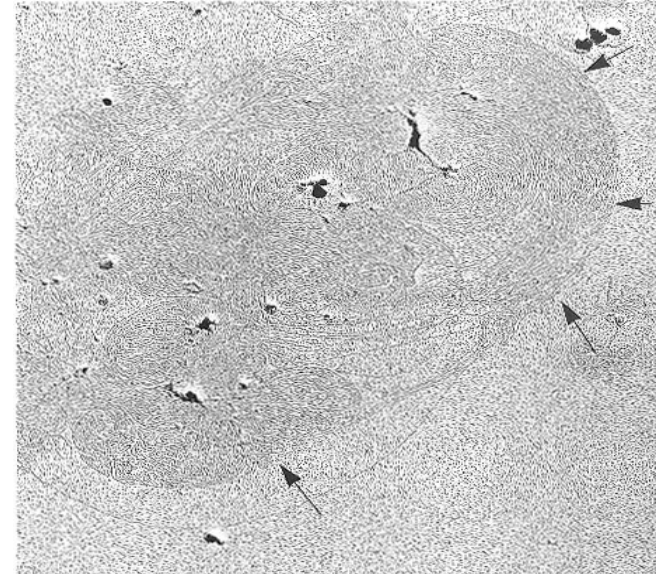
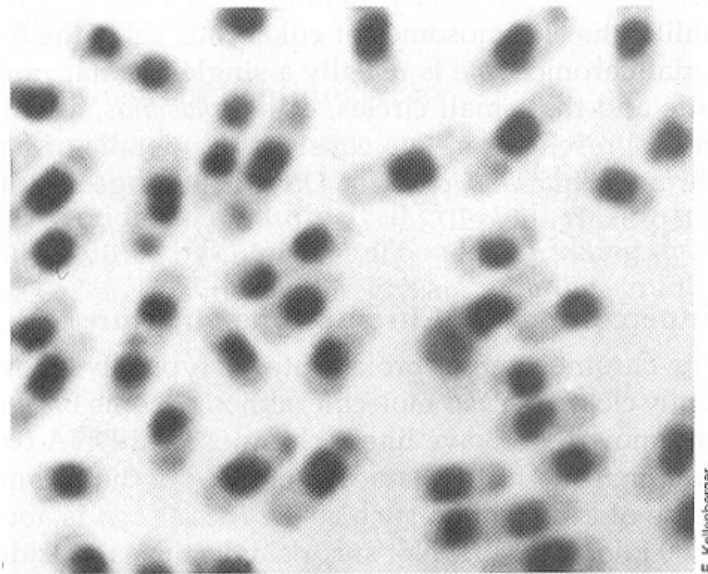
# Periplasm or periplasmic space



- Active metabolic site (reduced in Gram-positive)
- Very viscous —> high concentration of extracellular proteins (via cytoplasmatic protein-exporting system)
- Outer membrane is impermeable to proteins and very large molecules—> prevents extracellular proteins from diffusing away from the cell
- Width of periplasmic space 15 nm
- Major periplasmic proteins:
  - Hydrolytic enzymes (degradation of polymeric substances)
  - Binding proteins (transporting substrates)
  - Chemoreceptors (Chemotaxis response)
  - Structural proteins (peptidoglycan, outer & cytosolic membrane)



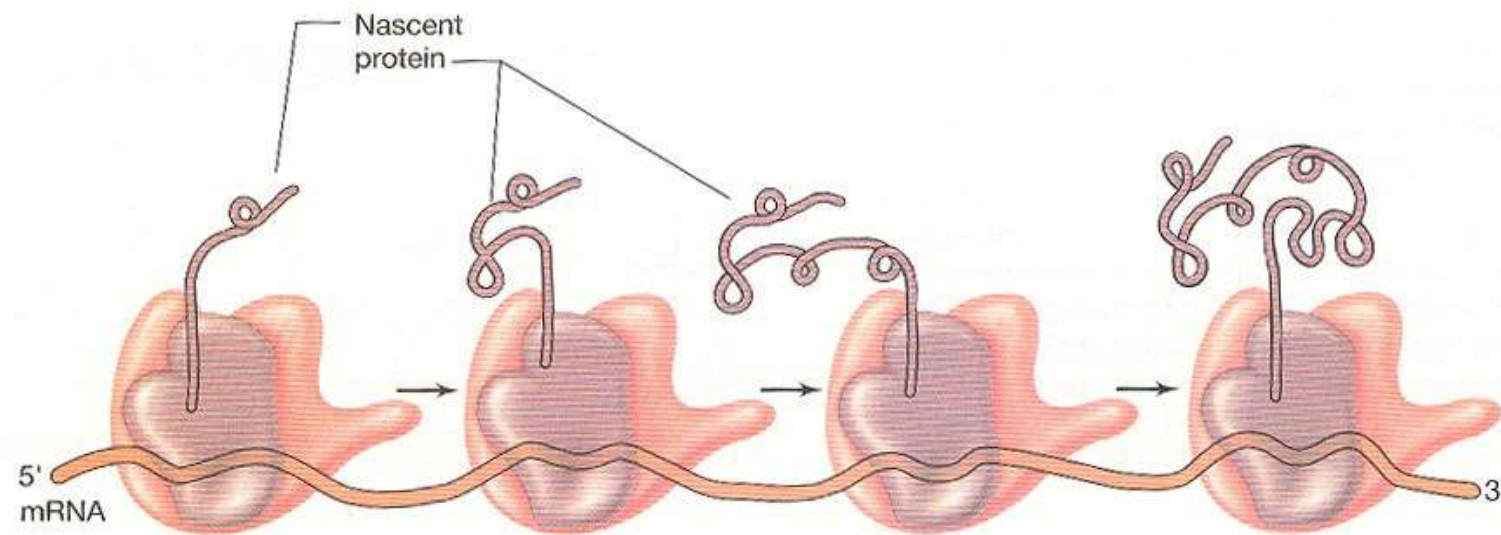
# Nucleoid



Madigan et al. 2018

- No nuclear membrane
- Naked DNA
- Generally  $2 - 4 \times 10^9$  Daltons (but Vibrios--2 chromosomes; Myxobacteria)
- One mm long (1000 - 5000 body lengths) supercoiled (histone-like proteins)
- Plasmid, common carrier of antibiotic resistance and metal resistance genes
- *E. coli* nucleoid occupies  $0.07 \mu\text{m}^3$
- In diverse environments the degree of supercoiling is different and coupled with surface/volume ratio

# Ribosomes



Madigan et al. 2018

- Fill cytoplasm in fast growing cells (20 000 cell<sup>-1</sup> in rapidly growing *E.coli*)
- Number depends on the physiological state of the cell
- 0.02 µm diameter
- Site of protein synthesis
- Simpler body plan of procaryotes allows simultaneous transcription and translation as well as fine regulation of protein synthesis
- Perhaps only 20 -100 ribosomes in marine bacteria with growth rate <1 d



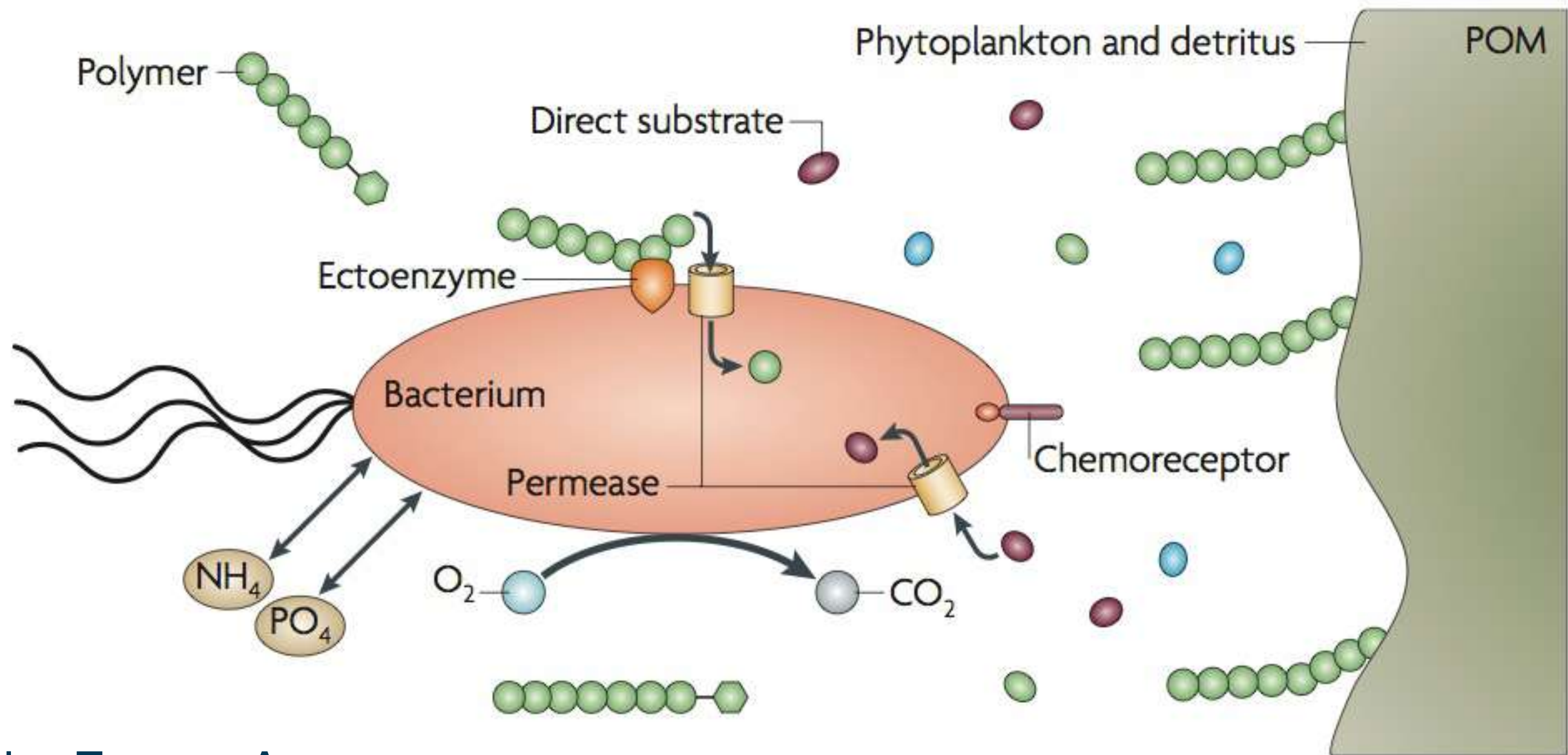
# Protein

- 55% of dry weight in *E. coli* and in marine bacteria
- Together with DNA makes the cytoplasm a thick gel
- Occupies 13% of the cell volume in *E. coli*, but up to 50% in marine bacteria

# Water

- ~90% of the cell volume in *E. coli*
- ~50-90% of cell volume in marine/aquatic bacteria depending on the cell size
- Dryness may be an adaptation for rapid response to nutrient supply
- Just add water to become bigger

# Adaptive strategies of Bacteria for nutrient uptake



by Farooq Azam

Azam and Malfatti, 2007 Nature Reviews Microbiology 10:782

- Motility, environmental sensing, permeases and cell-surface hydrolases
- Adapted fine biochemical strategies to interact with organic matter natural and human-created



# Transport Mechanisms (for nutrients and monomers)

Small molecules have higher permeabilities than larger molecules

Neutral compounds can cross the membrane many orders of magnitude faster than similar charged compounds

Negative (anionic) compounds tend to have much higher permeabilities than positive (cationic) compounds

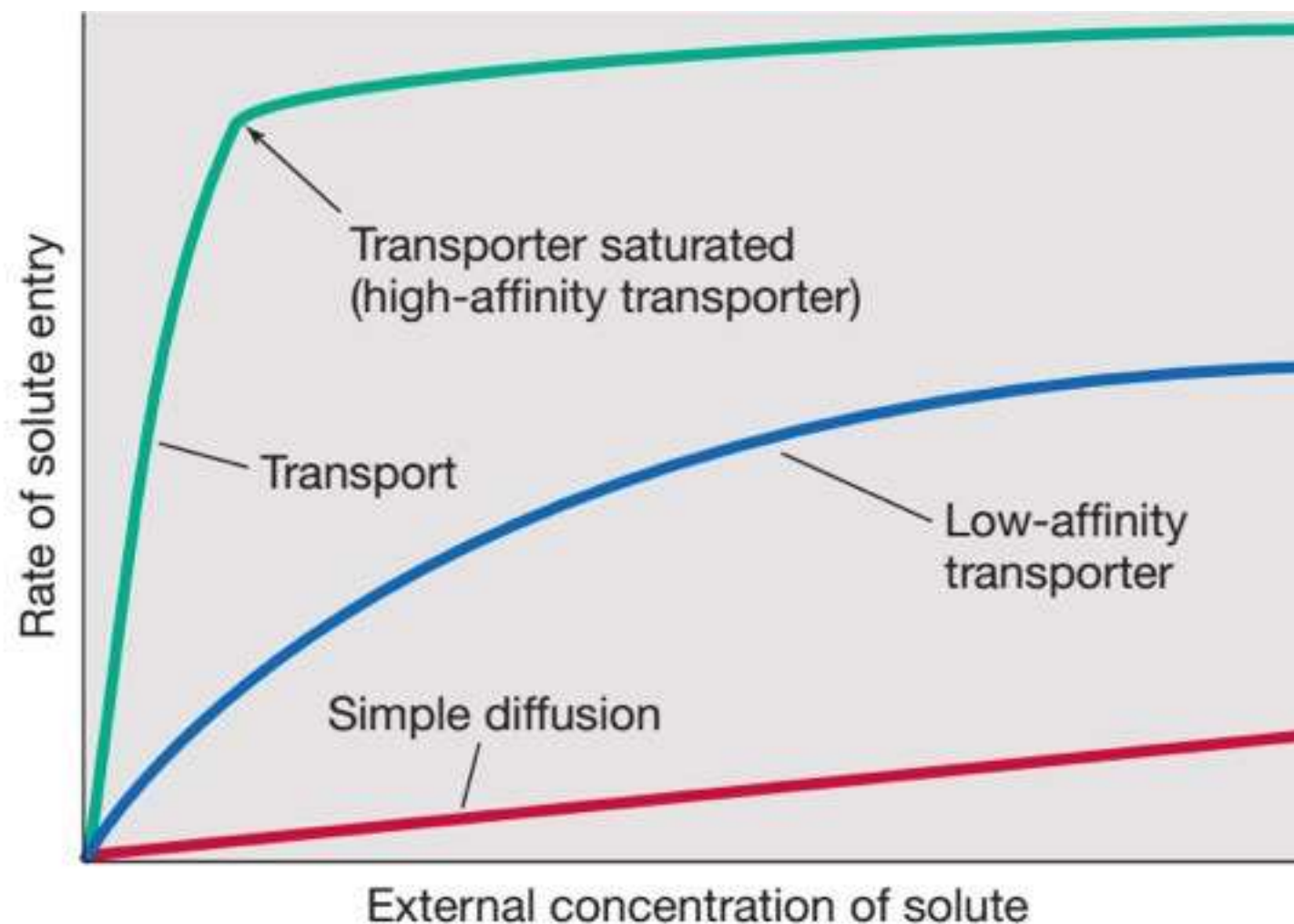
- **Passive diffusion**

## **Facilitated diffusion**

- **Active transport**
  - **Energy coupling for active transport**
  - **Primary and secondary active transport**
- **Binding protein dependent active transport**
- **Group translocation**

# Microbial adaptations to increase uptake of molecules

Microbial interfaces, the membranes as hotspots of activities

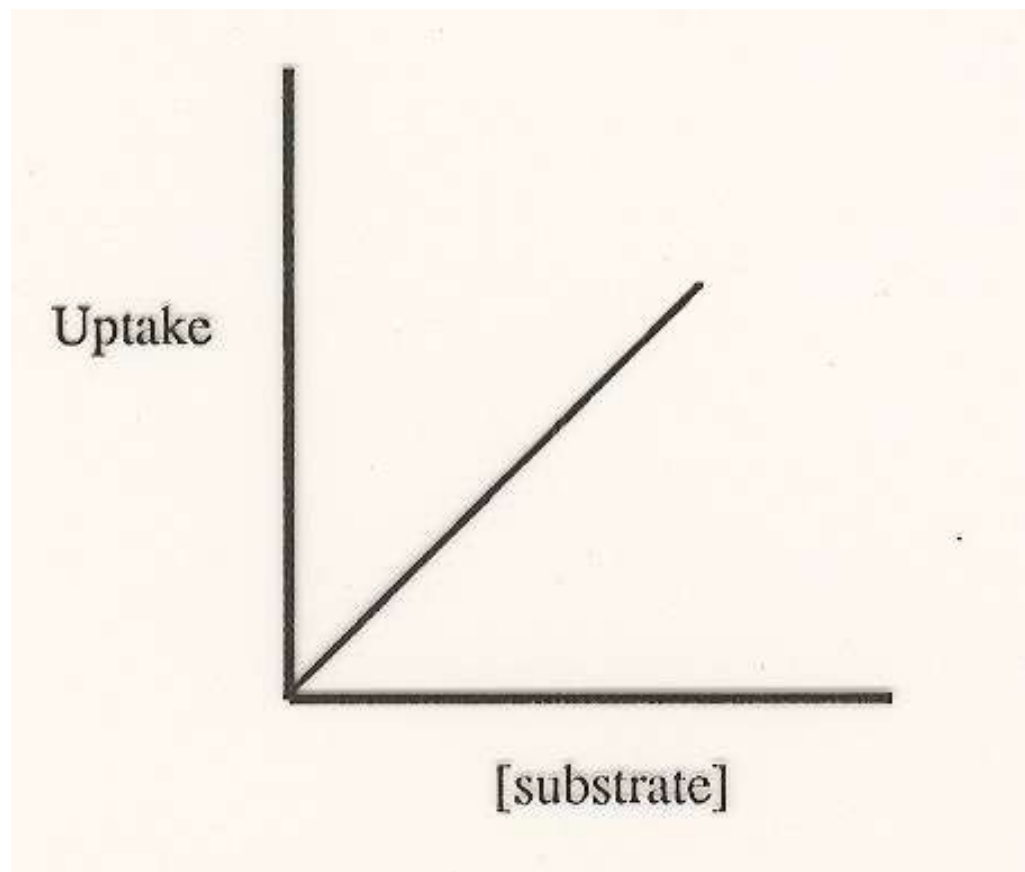


**Figure 2.8** The importance of transport in membrane function. In transport, the uptake rate shows saturation at relatively low external concentrations. Both high-affinity and low-affinity transport systems are depicted.



# Passive Diffusion

Neidhardt et al 1990

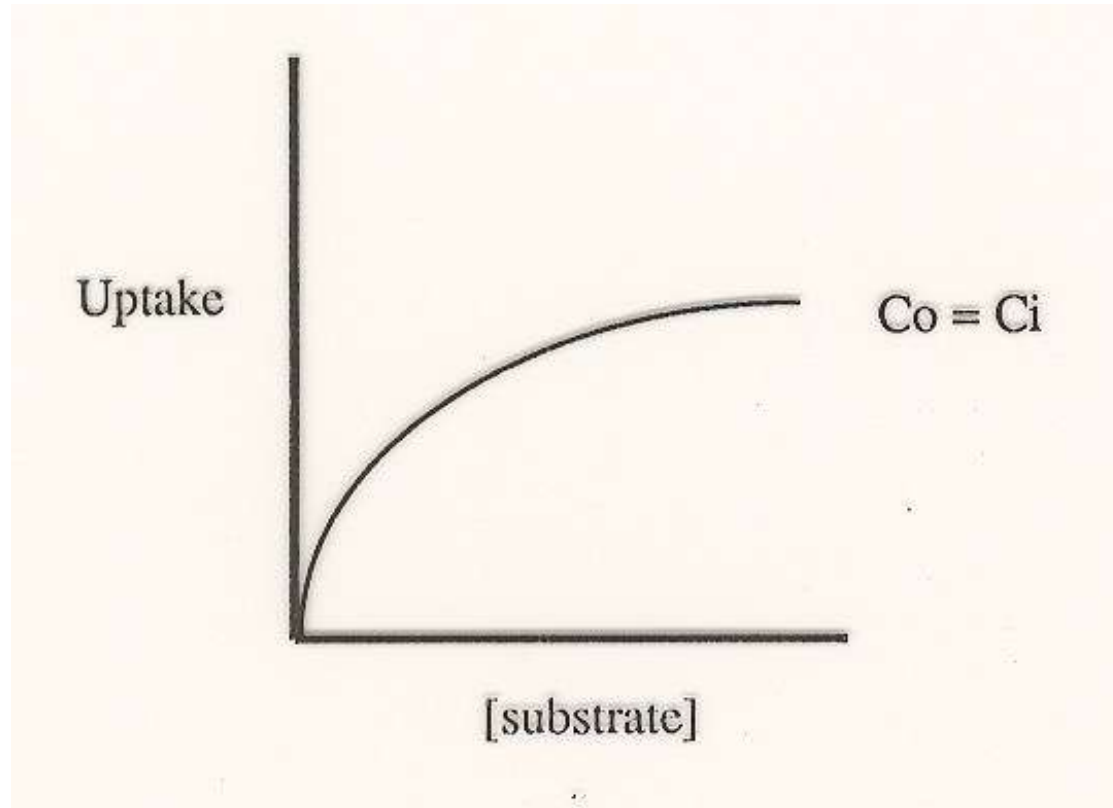


**Concentration dependence of uptake by passive diffusion**

- Net flux only until  $C_{\text{inside}} = C_{\text{outside}}$  (no accumulation)
- No metabolic energy required
- No specific interaction with cell membrane component
- If environment,  $C_{\text{outside}} \ll C_{\text{inside}}$ , not useful for nutrient uptake
- Used for the uptake of  $\text{O}_2$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Through the phospholipid bilayers, small and non-polar

# Facilitated Diffusion

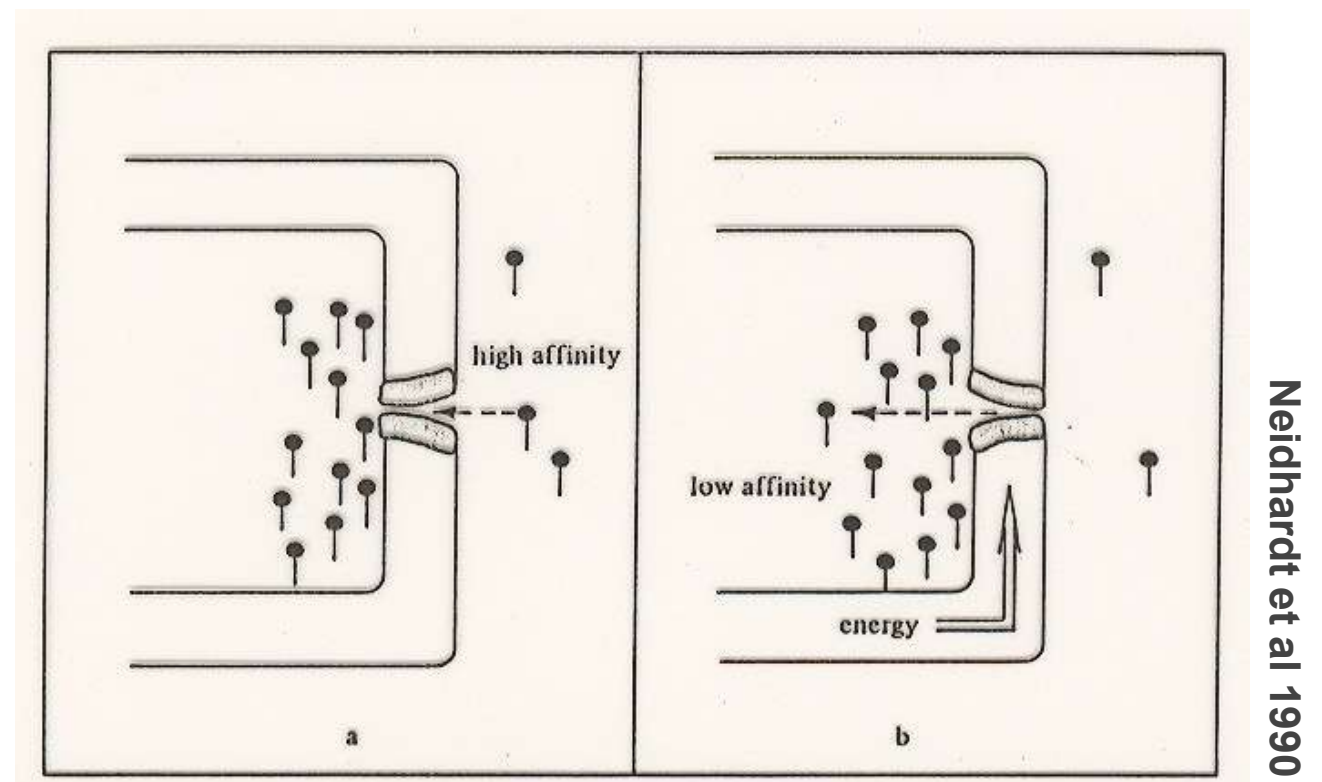
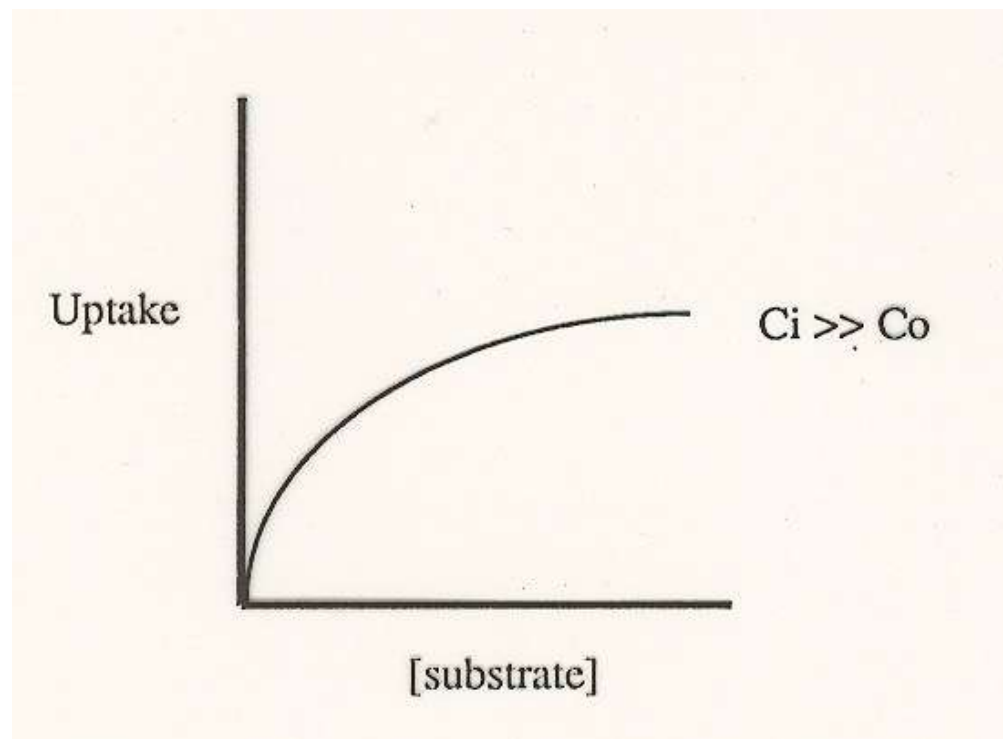
Neidhardt et al 1990



- Large or polar molecules
- No metabolic energy required
- Substrate specific interaction with a membrane permease or carrier
- Stereospecific (D and L amino acids completely discriminated)
- Substrate binds to carrier outside cell and is released inside the cell
- Not effective in dilute solutions unless  $C_i$  is kept low by utilization

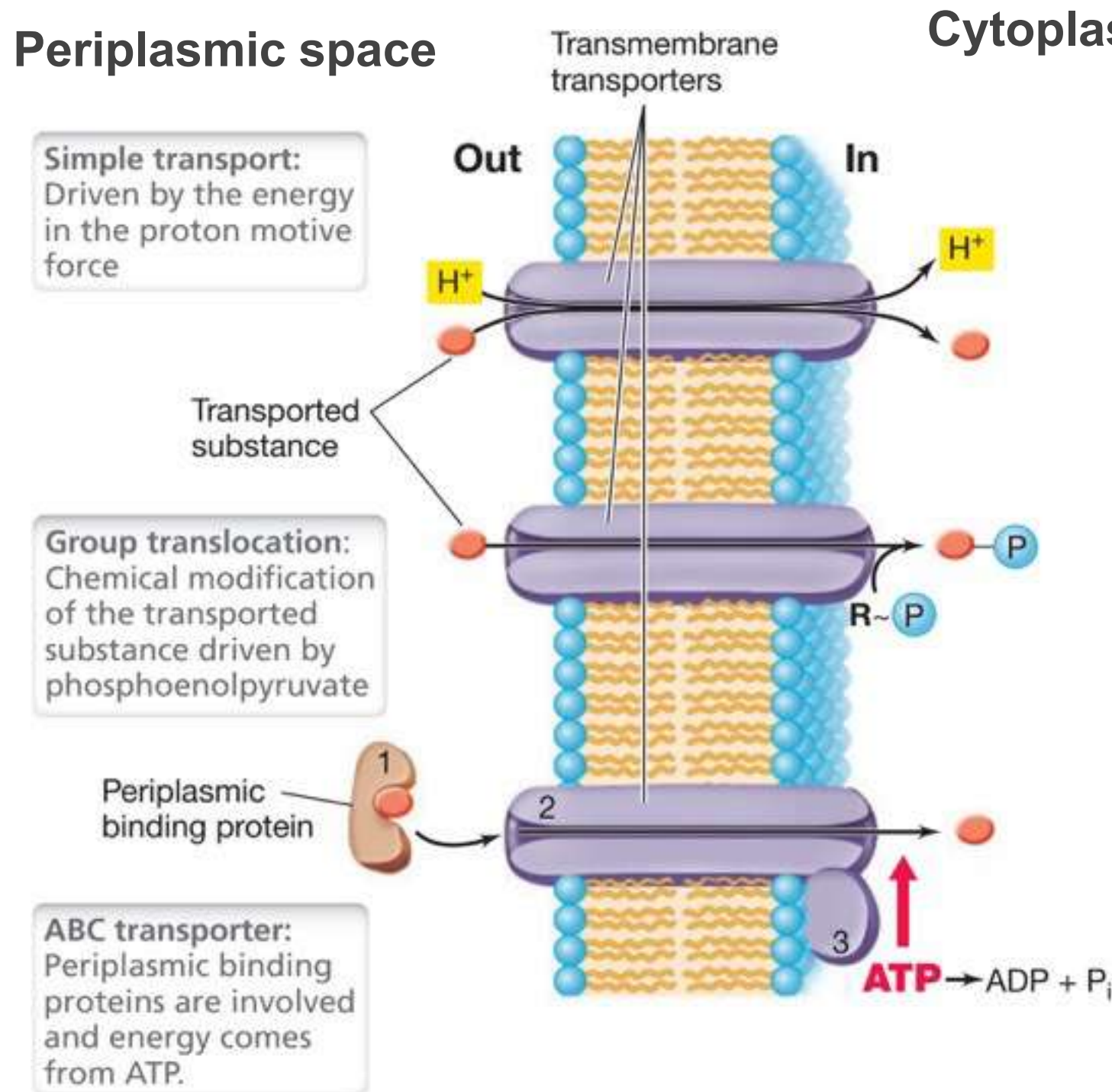


# Active Transport



- Accumulation against a concentration gradient
- Requires metabolic energy
- Carrier-substrate complex formed outside of the membrane
- Structural specificity and stereospecificity
- Substrate is released into the cell unmodified (unlike PTS)

# Uniporters, symporters and antiporters

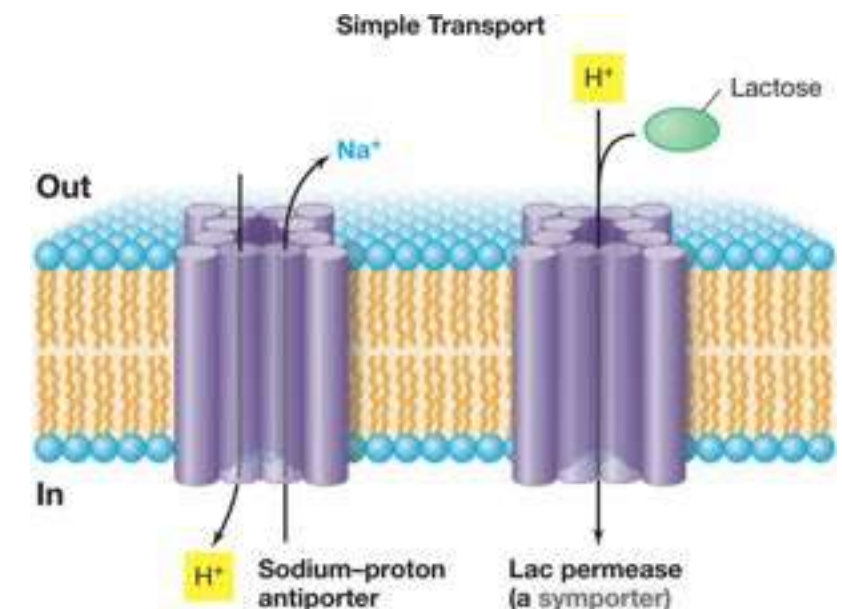


**Uniporter:** Cause unidirectional transport (through membrane spanning protein)

**Symporter:** Transport substrate along with H<sup>+</sup> (or Na<sup>+</sup>)

**Antiporter:** Substrate and H<sup>+</sup> (or Na<sup>+</sup>) transported in opposite directions

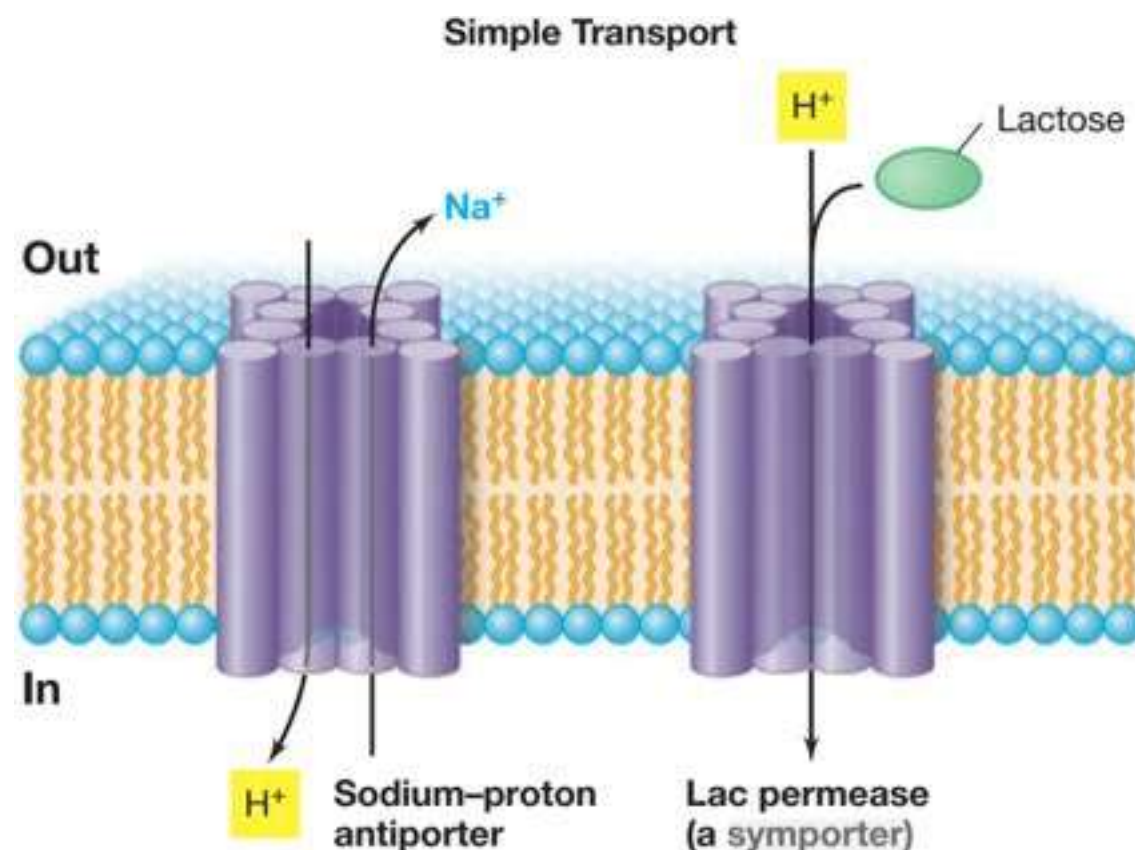
[Require PMF, Proton Motive Force]





# Simple Transport

## Periplasmic space



## Cytoplasm

Transport is linked to dissipation of the proton motive force (PMF)

$\text{H}^+$  goes into cell

Same or opposite direction

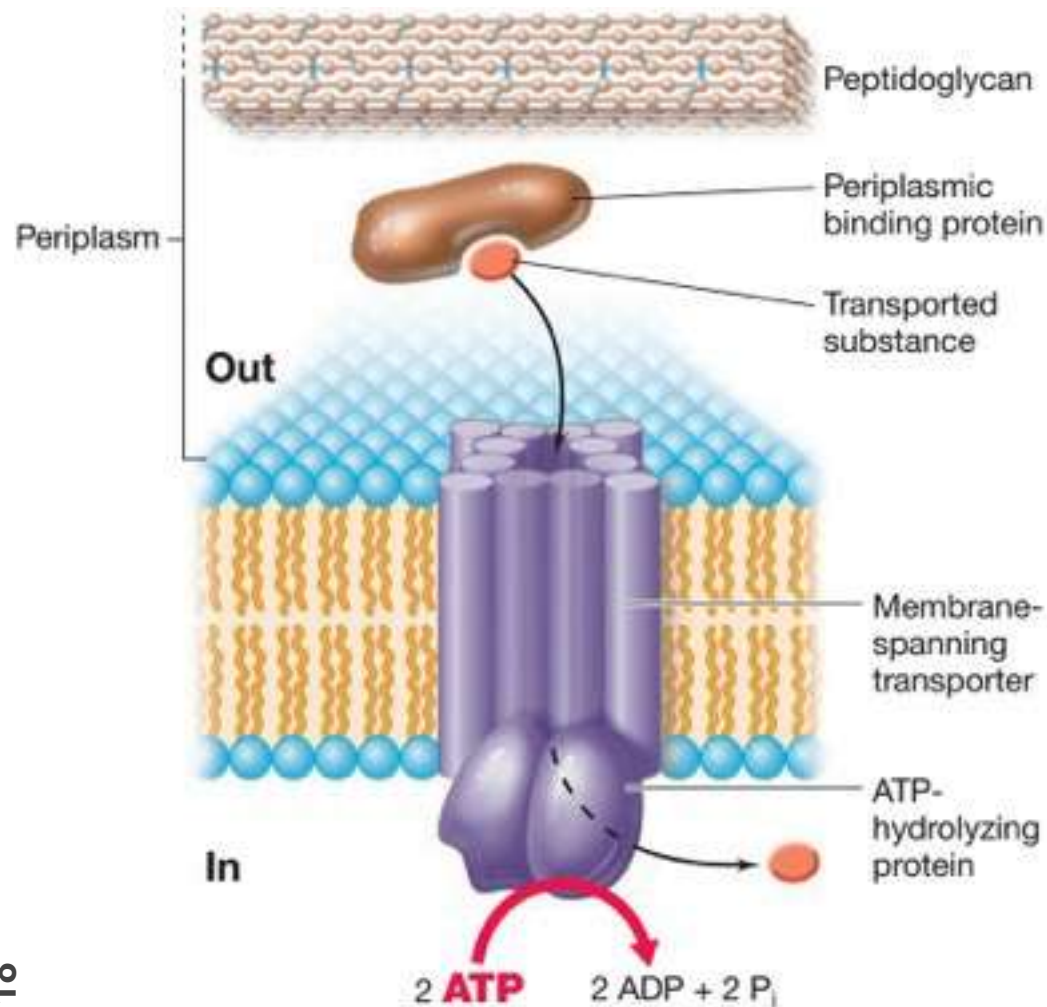
Transmembrane transporters are composed of a polypeptide that forms 12  $\alpha$ -helices  $\rightarrow$  a channel

PMF is generated by e-transport,  $\text{H}^+$  ions are extruded to the outer surface of the membrane

Inside of cell has net - charge and outside net +

# ABC Transporters

Periplasmic space



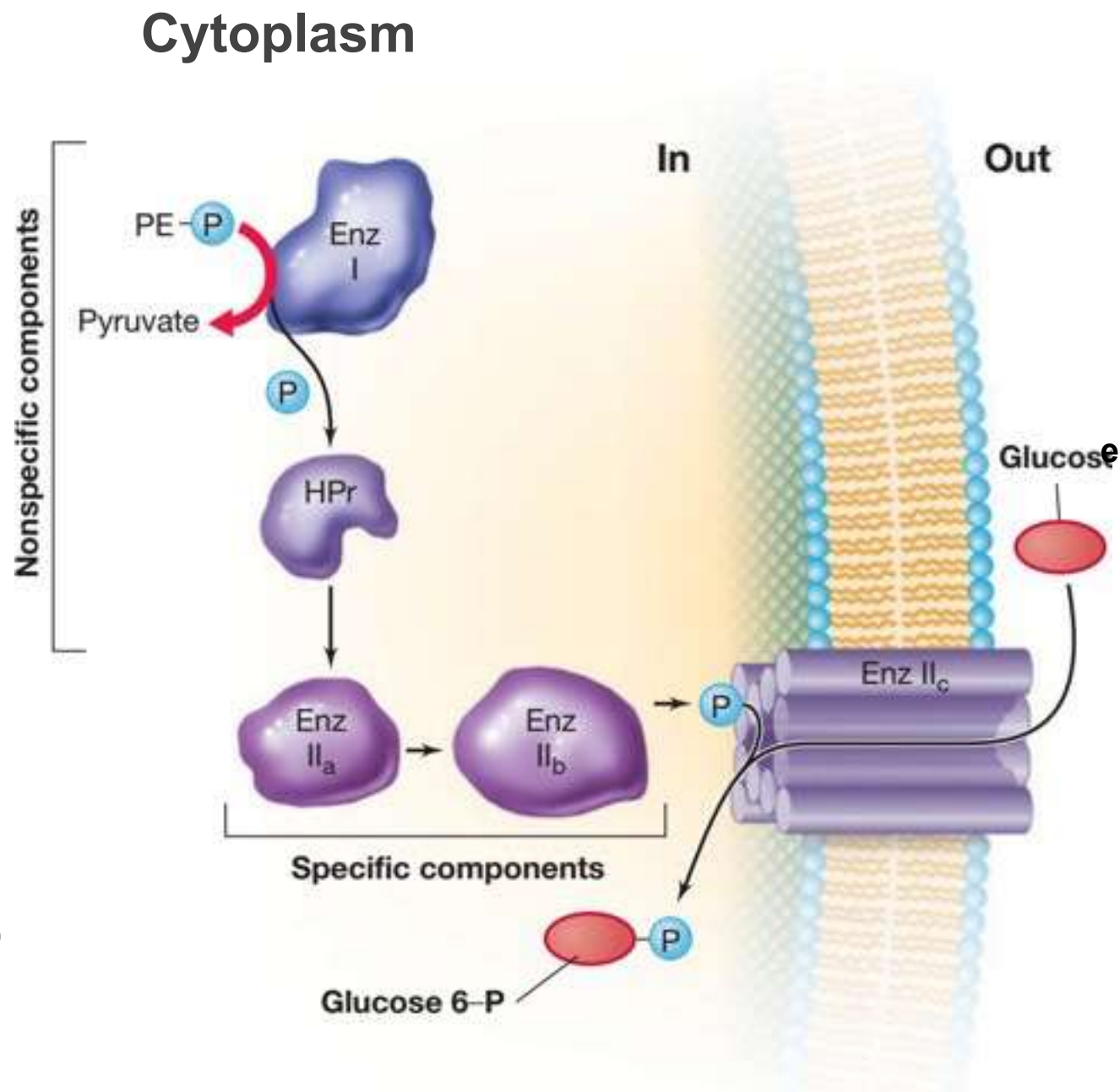
Cytoplasm

- ABC (ATP Binding Cassette) systems: Gram- (periplasm); G<sup>+</sup> & Archaea BP membrane-anchored
- Used for some amino acids, peptides, sugars, organic acids, sulfate, other ions
- Requires metabolic energy as ATP (*not PMF*)
- Mechanism:
  - Substrate binds to a high-affinity binding protein in periplasm
  - Complex interacts with a membrane-embedded multimeric carrier
  - ATP hydrolysis changes subunit interactions; creates a transport channel
- Multiple systems w/different  $K_m$ ,  $V_{max}$  (3 for glucose in *E. coli*; scavenging system)



# Group Translocation

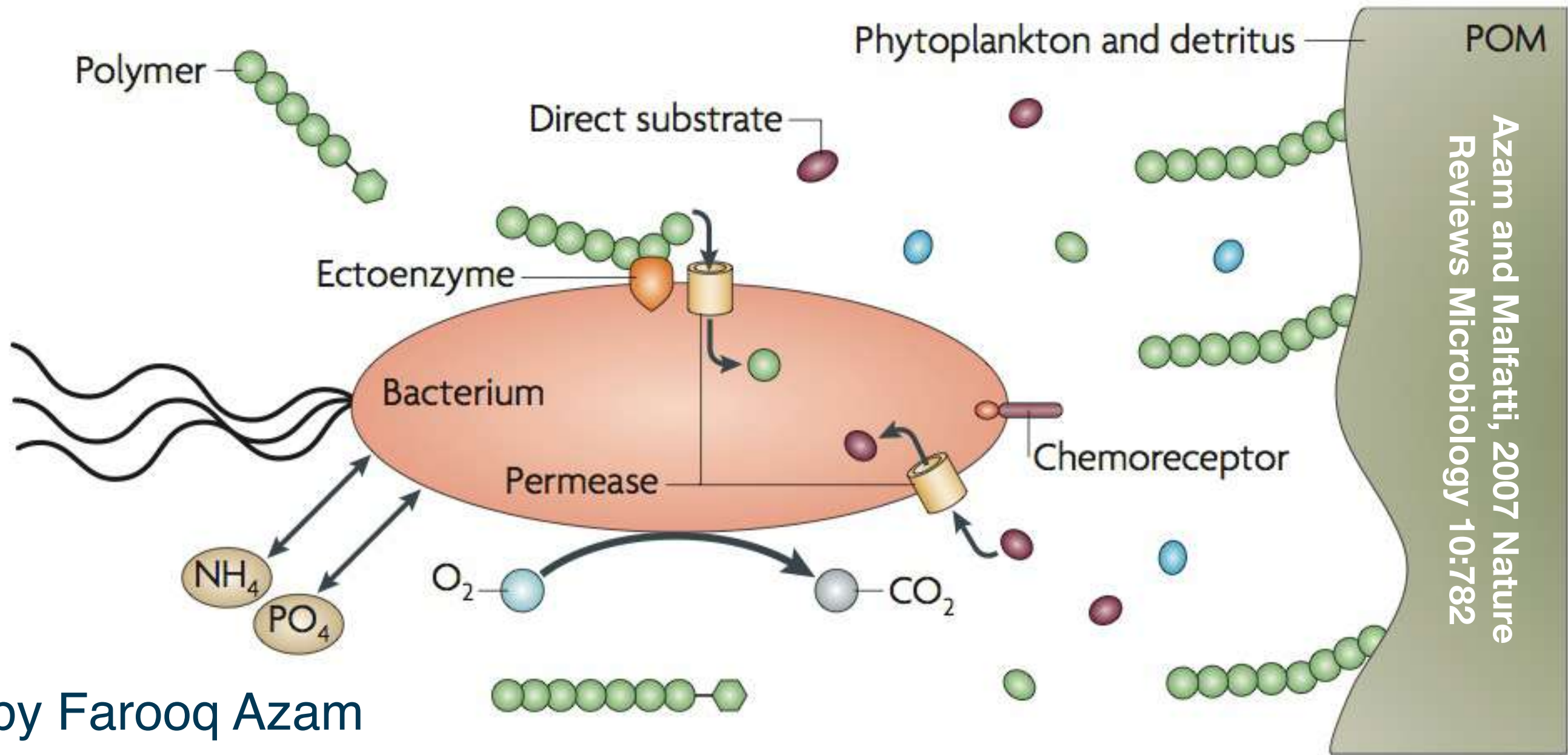
(e.g. Phosphoenolpyruvate-PEP- phosphotransferase system)



Periplasmic space

- Substrate modified during transport; generally phosphorylated
- Energy derived from metabolic compound PEP (glycolysis)
- PEP donates  $\sim P$  for phosphorylation (PEP PTS system)
- Sugar-phosphate is 'trapped' (membrane is impermeable to it)
- Conserves energy. Transport and phosphorylation with a single  $\sim P$
- EII are sugar specific; EII<sub>b</sub> lies @inner membrane face; EII<sub>c</sub>: integral
- Examples: sugars (glucose, fructose, mannose), NAG
- Generally found in facultative anaerobes and anaerobes

# Hydrolysis-uptake coupling



by Farooq Azam

- Cell-surface enzymes or free-enzymes
- High specificity in ectoenzymes and exoenzymes
- Not every bacterium can degrade every substrate