



# NOTES

## AUTONOMIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

- Part of peripheral nervous system (PNS); regulates basic visceral processes necessary to homeostasis
- Autonomic nervous system (ANS) affects visceral organs, glands, involuntary muscles → regulates heart rate, respiration rate, digestion, urination, salivation, sexual arousal, etc.
- Divided into two systems
  - **Sympathetic, parasympathetic**
- Unlike somatic nervous system, in ANS
  - Neurotransmitters synthesized, stored, released in varicosities (analogous to presynaptic nerve terminals in somatic nervous system)
  - Target organ's tissue can be innervated by multiple postganglionic neurons
  - Postsynaptic receptors widely scattered on target organ

### NEURONS

- Two neuron types in both sympathetic, parasympathetic systems
  - Preganglionic, postganglionic

- Preganglionic neurons → preganglionic fibers → synapse with autonomic ganglia (postganglionic neurons) → postganglionic fibers → target organ

### Preganglionic neurons

- General visceral efferent (GVE) neurons
- Located in central nervous system (CNS) (spinal cord)
- **Release acetylcholine (ACh)**

### Postganglionic neurons

- GVE, general visceral afferent (GVA) neurons
- Located outside central nervous system
- **Release acetylcholine/norepinephrine/neuropeptides**

### Autonomic ganglia

- Contain neuron **cell body** clusters (**postganglionic neurons**)
- **Synapse** points between preganglionic fibers, postganglionic fibers

# SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

[osms.it/sympathetic-nervous-system](https://osms.it/sympathetic-nervous-system)

- ANS component; controls visceral functions requiring fast response (i.e. **"fight or flight"**)
- Ganglia close to spinal cord → **short preganglionic fibers, long postganglionic fibers**

### Preganglionic neurons

- **Located:** thoracolumbar spinal cord's intermediate horn (**T1–L2**)
- **Cholinergic** neurons → release ACh

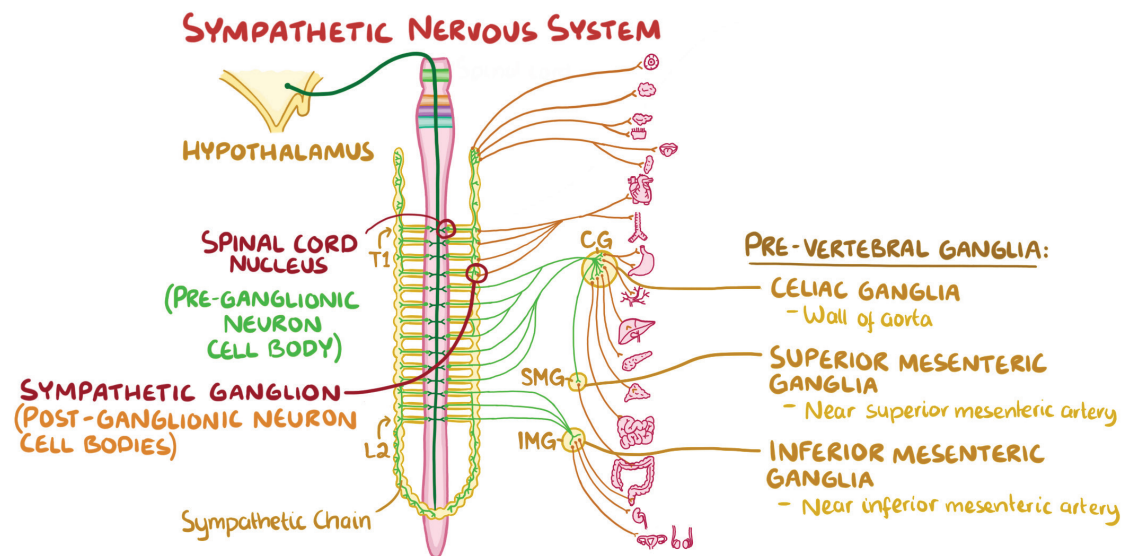
### Postganglionic neurons

- Located close to spinal cord
  - Paravertebral ganglia (cervical, thoracic, rostral lumbar, caudal lumbar, pelvic ganglia)
  - Prevertebral ganglia (celiac, aorticorenal, superior mesenteric, inferior mesenteric ganglion)
  - Chromaffin cells of adrenal medulla (modified sympathetic ganglion)

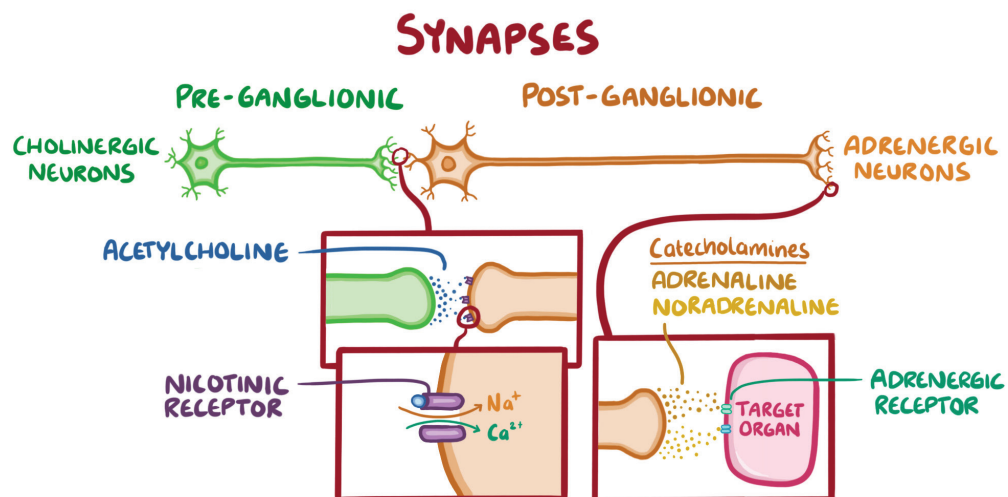
- Either **adrenergic/cholinergic**
  - Adrenergic neurons → release norepinephrine/epinephrine (adrenal medulla)
  - Cholinergic → release ACh
- Effector organ receptors:  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$

### Sympathetic nervous system effects

- **Cardiovascular:** ↑ heart rate, ↑ cardiac output, vasoconstriction
- **Respiratory:** bronchodilation
- **Gastrointestinal:** ↓ motility, ↓ secretions
- **Genitourinary:** ↓ bladder's detrusor muscle activity, ejaculation
- **Metabolic:** ↑ gluconeogenesis
- **Glands:** ↓ salivation, ↑ sweating
- **Pupils:** mydriasis



**Figure 51.1** Neurons originating in the hypothalamus synapse with sympathetic pre-ganglionic cells bodies in spinal cord nuclei. Some pre-ganglionic neurons synapse in the paravertebral ganglia of the sympathetic chain; others synapse in the pre-vertebral ganglia.



**Figure 51.2** Sympathetic preganglionic neurons release acetylcholine, which bind to nicotinic receptors on postganglionic neurons. Postganglionic neurons release catecholamines, which are received by adrenergic receptors on target organs.

# PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM

osms.it/parasympathetic-nervous-system

- ANS component controls visceral functions not requiring fast response (i.e. “rest and digest”)
- Ganglia close to target organ → long preganglionic fibers, short postganglionic fibers

## Preganglionic neurons

- Located in brainstem (nuclei of cranial nerves II, VII, IX, X), sacral spinal cord (S2–S4)
- Cholinergic neurons → release ACh

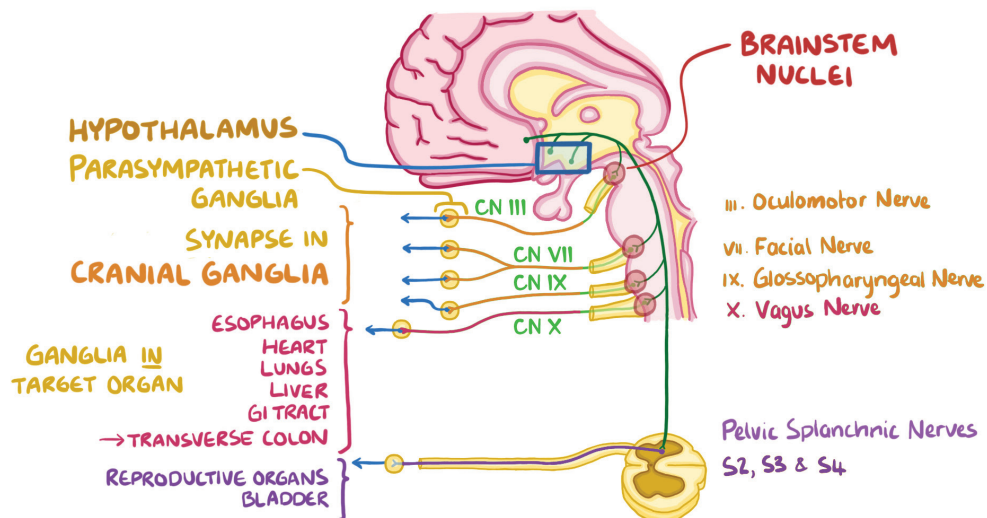
## Postganglionic neurons

- Located close to target organs
  - Ciliary ganglion (cranial nerve III)
  - Submandibular ganglion (cranial nerve VII)
  - Otic ganglion (cranial nerve IX)
  - Near/inside target organ (cranial nerve X, sacral nerves)

- Mostly cholinergic, but some non-adrenergic, non-cholinergic → release neuropeptides
- Effector organ receptors are muscarinic

## Parasympathetic nervous system effects

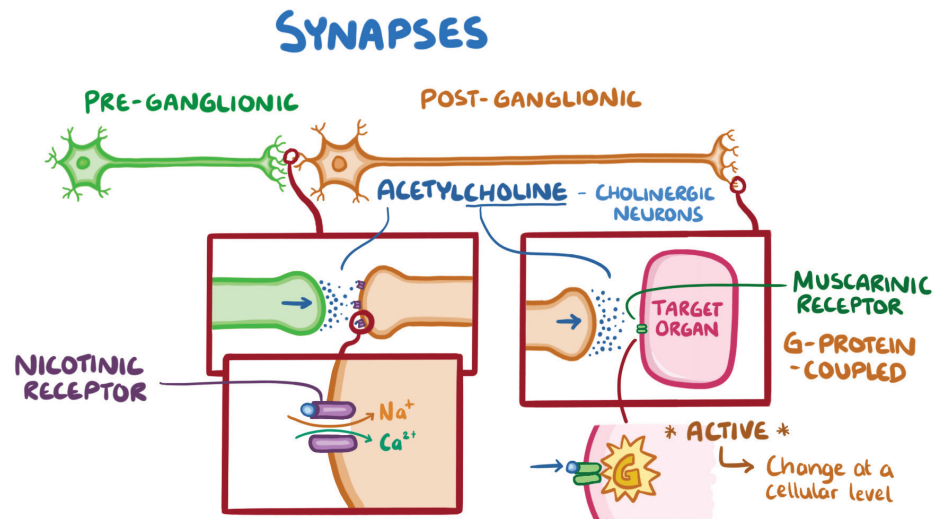
- Cardiovascular: ↓ heart rate, ↓ cardiac output
- Respiratory: bronchoconstriction
- Gastrointestinal: ↑ motility, ↑ secretions
- Genitourinary: ↑ bladder's detrusor muscle activity, erection
- Metabolic: ↓ glycogenesis
- Glands: ↑ salivation
- Pupils: miosis



**Figure 51.3** Neurons originating in the hypothalamus synapse with parasympathetic pre-ganglionic cells bodies in brainstem, spinal cord at levels S2, S3, and S4. Pre-ganglionic neurons synapse in cranial ganglia and near/in target organ.

| NERVE                  | GANGLIA                  | LOCATION                                              | INNERVATION                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| OCULOMOTOR NERVE       | CILIARY GANGLIA          | BEHIND EYE                                            | PUPIL                                      |
| FACIAL NERVE           | PTERYGOPALATINE GANGLION | PTERYGOPALATINE FOSSA, BEHIND MAXILLA                 | SUBLINGUAL & SUBMANDIBULAR SALIVARY GLANDS |
|                        | SUBMANDIBULAR GANGLION   | ABOVE SUBMANDIBULAR SALIVARY GLANDS, in NASAL CAVITY  | LACRIMAL GLANDS<br>GLANDS in NASAL CAVITY  |
| GLOSSOPHARYNGEAL NERVE | OTIC GANGLIA             | INFRATEMPORAL FOSSA, BELOW & MEDIAL TO ZYGOMATIC ARCH | PAROTID SALIVARY GLAND                     |

**Figure 51.4** Summary of parasympathetic components of cranial nerves III (oculomotor), VII (facial), and IX (glossopharyngeal).



**Figure 51.5** Parasympathetic preganglionic neurons release acetylcholine, which binds to nicotinic receptors on the post-ganglionic neuron. The post-ganglionic neuron also releases acetylcholine, which binds to muscarinic (G-protein coupled) receptors on target organs.

## SYMPATHETIC & PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

|                                | NEURONS        | FIBER LENGTH | NEURO-TRANSMITTERS                  | RECEPTORS                                                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM     | Preganglionic  | Short        | ACh                                 | Muscarinic                                                     |
|                                | Postganglionic | Long         | Norepinephrine, ATP, neuropeptide Y | Adrenergic ( $\alpha_1$ , $\alpha_2$ , $\beta_1$ , $\beta_2$ ) |
| PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM | Preganglionic  | Long         | ACh                                 | Nicotinic (Nn, Nm)                                             |
|                                | Postganglionic | Short        | ACh                                 | Muscarinic (M1, M2, M3, M4, M5)                                |

## SYMPATHETIC VS. PARASYMPATHETIC: EFFECTS ON EFFECTORS

| EFFECTOR        | SYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM |                                                      | PARASYMPATHETIC NERVOUS SYSTEM  |                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | RECEPTOR                   | EFFECT                                               | RECEPTOR                        | EFFECT                                               |
| PUPILS          | $\alpha_1$                 | Dilation                                             | M <sub>3</sub>                  | Constriction                                         |
| HEART           | $\beta_1$                  | Positive inotropic, chronotropic, dromotropic effect | M <sub>2</sub>                  | Negative inotropic, chronotropic, dromotropic effect |
| LUNGS           | $\beta_2$                  | Bronchodilation                                      | M <sub>3</sub>                  | Bronchoconstriction, ↑ gland secretion               |
| GI TRACT        | $\alpha_1$                 | Vasoconstriction, sphincter contraction              | M <sub>3</sub>                  | ↑ motility, sphincter relaxation, ↑ gland secretion  |
| URINARY TRACT   | $\alpha_1$ , $\beta_1$     | Bladder sphincter contraction, ↑ renin secretion     | M <sub>3</sub>                  | Bladder sphincter relaxation                         |
| SKELETAL MUSCLE | $\beta_2$                  | Vasodilatation                                       | -                               | None                                                 |
| SKIN            | $\alpha_1$                 | Vasoconstriction                                     | -                               | None                                                 |
| GLANDS          | $\alpha_1$                 | ↑ sweating, ↓ pancreatic activity                    | M <sub>1</sub> , M <sub>3</sub> | ↑ salivation, ↑ lacrimation, ↑ pancreatic activity   |

# ADRENERGIC RECEPTORS

osms.it/adrenergic-receptors

- Metabotropic receptors: **respond to catecholamines** (norepinephrine, epinephrine)
- Located on sympathetic effector organs → stimulated → sympathetic/sympathomimetic response
- Types
  - **$\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  adrenergic receptors:**  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\beta_1$ ,  $\beta_2$ ,  $\beta_3$

## $\alpha_1$ Adrenergic receptors (stimulatory effect)

- Gastrointestinal tract blood vessels, skin blood vessels → vasoconstriction
- Bladder, gastrointestinal (GI) tract sphincters → contraction
- Radial (dilator) muscle of iris → contraction
- Pancreas → ↓ secretion
- Liver → ↑ glycogenolysis

## $\alpha_2$ Adrenergic receptors (inhibitory effect)

- Presynaptic nerve terminals (autoreceptors) → presynaptic inhibition of neurotransmitter release
- Postganglionic parasympathetic nerve terminals in GI tract (heteroreceptors) → ↓ insulin secretion
- ↓ platelet aggregation

## $\beta_1$ Adrenergic receptors (stimulatory effect)

- Heart
  - Sinoatrial (SA) node → ↑ heart rate (positive chronotropic effect)
  - Atrioventricular (AV) node → ↑ conduction (positive dromotropic effect)
  - Ventricular muscle → ↑ contractility (positive inotropic effect)
- Salivary glands → ↓ salivation
- Adipose tissue → lipolysis
- Kidney → ↑ renin secretion

## $\beta_2$ adrenergic receptors (stimulatory effect)

- Skeletal muscle blood vessels → vasodilation
- Bronchioles → relaxation
- Pancreas → ↑ secretion
- Liver → ↑ glycogenolysis, ↑ gluconeogenesis

## $\beta_3$ adrenergic receptors (stimulatory effects)

- Adipose tissue → lipolysis, thermogenesis
- Detrusor muscle → relaxation

## Adrenergic receptor mechanism

- Catecholamines binding →  $G_q$  (stimulatory) or  $G_i$  (inhibitory) protein activation → second messenger cascade → ↑ phospholipase C or ↓ adenylate cyclase → effect
- $\alpha_1$  adrenergic receptors
  - **$G_q$  protein activation** → second messenger cascade → ↑ phospholipase C → ↑  $IP_3$ , DAG,  $Ca^{2+}$  → **stimulatory effect**
- $\alpha_2$  adrenergic receptors
  - **$G_i$  protein activation** → ↓ adenylate cyclase → ↓ cAMP → **inhibitory effect**
- $\beta_1$  adrenergic receptors
  - **$G_s$  protein activation** → ↑ adenylate cyclase → ↑ cAMP → **stimulatory effect**
- $\beta_2$  adrenergic receptors
  - **$G_s$  protein activation** → ↑ adenylate cyclase → ↑ cAMP → **stimulatory effect**

## CATECHOLAMINES

- Neurotransmitters synthesized, released by adrenergic neurons
- Include **epinephrine** (adrenaline), **norepinephrine** (noradrenaline), **dopamine**



**Synthesis**

- Tyrosine → L-dopa; catalyzed by tyrosine hydroxylase
- L-dopa → dopamine; catalyzed by dopa decarboxylase
- Dopamine → norepinephrine; catalyzed by  $\beta$  hydroxylase
- Norepinephrine → epinephrine; catalyzed by phenylethanolamine-N-methyltransferase (PNMT); only in adrenal medulla

**Degradation**

- All catecholamines can be degraded by deamination by monoamine oxidase (MAO)/methylation by catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT)/both
- Norepinephrine
  - MAO: dihydroxymandelic acid
  - COMT: normetanephrine
  - Both: 3-methoxy-4-hydroxymandelic acid (VMA)

## ▪ Epinephrine

- MAO: dihydroxymandelic acid
- COMT: metanephrine
- Both: 3-methoxy-4-hydroxymandelic acid (VMA)

## ▪ Dopamine

- MAO: dihydroxyphenylacetic acid
- COMT: 3-methoxytyramine
- Both: homovanillic acid (HVA)

**Adrenergic transmission**

- Present in
  - Most postganglionic sympathetic neurons (norepinephrine)
  - Adrenal medulla's chromaffin cells (epinephrine)
  - Ventral tegmental area, substantia nigra (dopamine)

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>ALPHA 1</b>                                                                      | <b>ALPHA 2</b>                                                                      | <b>BETA 1</b>                                                                       | <b>BETA 2</b>                                                                       | <b>BETA 3</b>                                                                         |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>G<sub>q</sub></b>                                                                | <b>G<sub>i</sub></b>                                                                | <b>G<sub>s</sub></b>                                                                | <b>G<sub>s</sub></b>                                                                | <b>G<sub>s</sub></b>                                                                  |
|  |  |  |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
| <b>NORADRENALINE (NOREPINEPHRINE)</b>                                               |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>ADRENALINE (EPINEPHRINE)</b>                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |

CELLS OF EACH TARGET ORGAN MAY HAVE 1 OR MORE OF THESE RECEPTORS.

**Figure 51.6** Types of adrenergic receptors, the G-proteins with which they can be coupled, and the catecholamines that bind with them.

# CHOLINERGIC RECEPTORS

osms.it/cholinergic-receptors

- Receptors **respond to** neurotransmitter **acetylcholine**
- Located on parasympathetic effector organs, CNS → stimulated → **parasympathetic/parasympathomimetic response**

## Nicotinic receptors

- Ionotropic receptors
- **Type:** location
  - **Nm:** neuromuscular junction (non autonomic)
  - **Nn:** autonomic ganglia and adrenal medulla
- Mechanism
  - Acetylcholine binding →  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$  diffusion → depolarization → voltage  $\text{Na}^+$  channel activation → action potential → stimulatory effect

## Muscarinic receptors

- Metabotropic receptors (**G-protein coupled receptors**)
- Located in CNS, all parasympathetic effector organs, some sympathetic effector organs
- **Type:** location
  - $M_1$ : autonomic ganglia, exocrine glands, CNS
  - $M_2$ : heart, sweat glands, CNS
  - $M_3$ : smooth muscle (blood vessels, lungs), glands, eyes, CNS
  - $M_4$ : CNS, sweat glands
  - $M_5$ : CNS

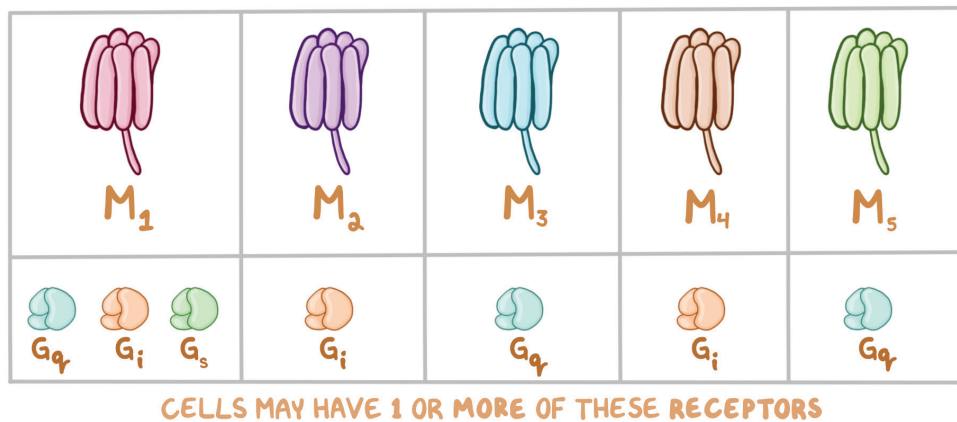
## Mechanism

- Acetylcholine binding →  $G_q$  (stimulatory) or  $G_i$  (inhibitory) protein activation → second messenger cascade → ↑ phospholipase C/↓ adenylate cyclase → stimulatory/inhibitory effect
- $M_1, M_3, M_5$  →  $G_q$  protein activation → ↑ phospholipase C → ↑  $\text{IP}_3$ , DAG,  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  → stimulatory effect
- $M_4$  →  $G_i$  protein activation → ↓ adenylate cyclase → ↓ cAMP → inhibitory effect
- $M_2$  →  $G_i$  protein activation →  $\text{K}^+$  channel activation → inhibitory effect

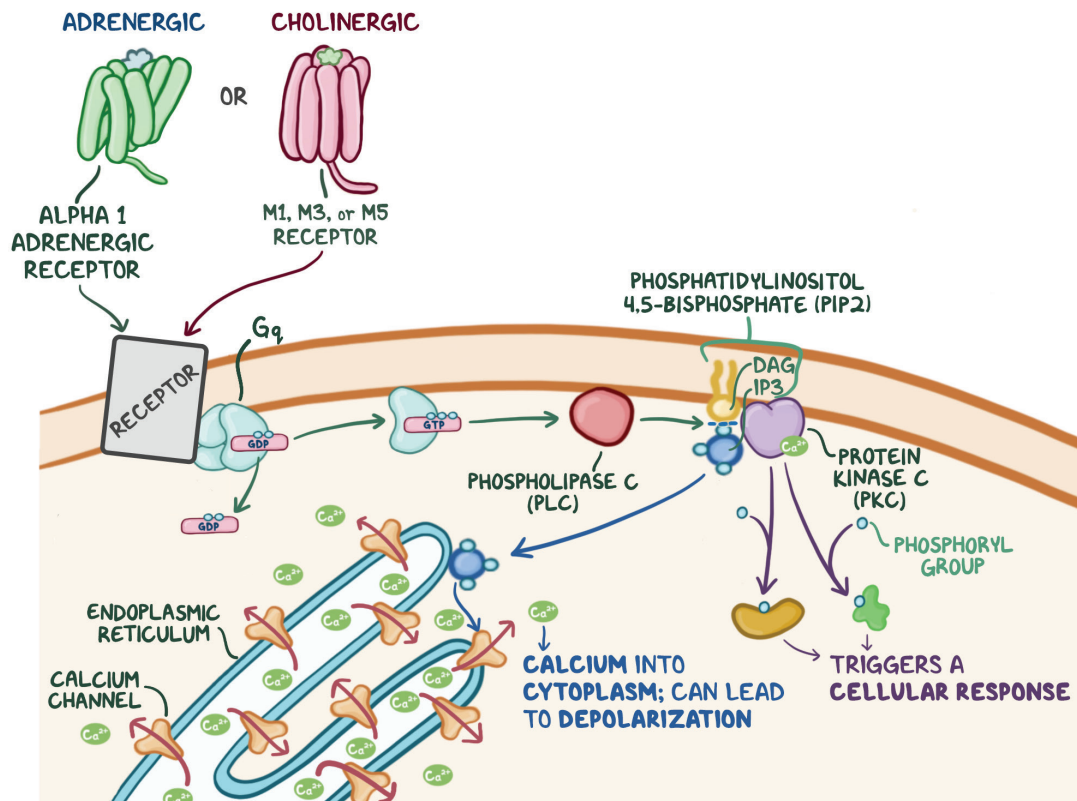
## ACETYLCHOLINE (ACh)

- Neurotransmitter synthesized, released by cholinergic neurons
- Synthesis
  - **Acetyl CoA + choline** → acetylcholine; catalyzed by choline acetyltransferase
- Degradation
  - Acetylcholine → acetylcholine CoA + choline; catalyzed by cholinesterase
- Cholinergic transmission is present in
  - Basal ganglia, hippocampus, cerebral cortex
  - All neuromuscular junctions
  - All preganglionic neurons (both parasympathetic, sympathetic neurons)
  - All postganglionic parasympathetic neurons
  - Some postganglionic sympathetic neurons (sweat glands)

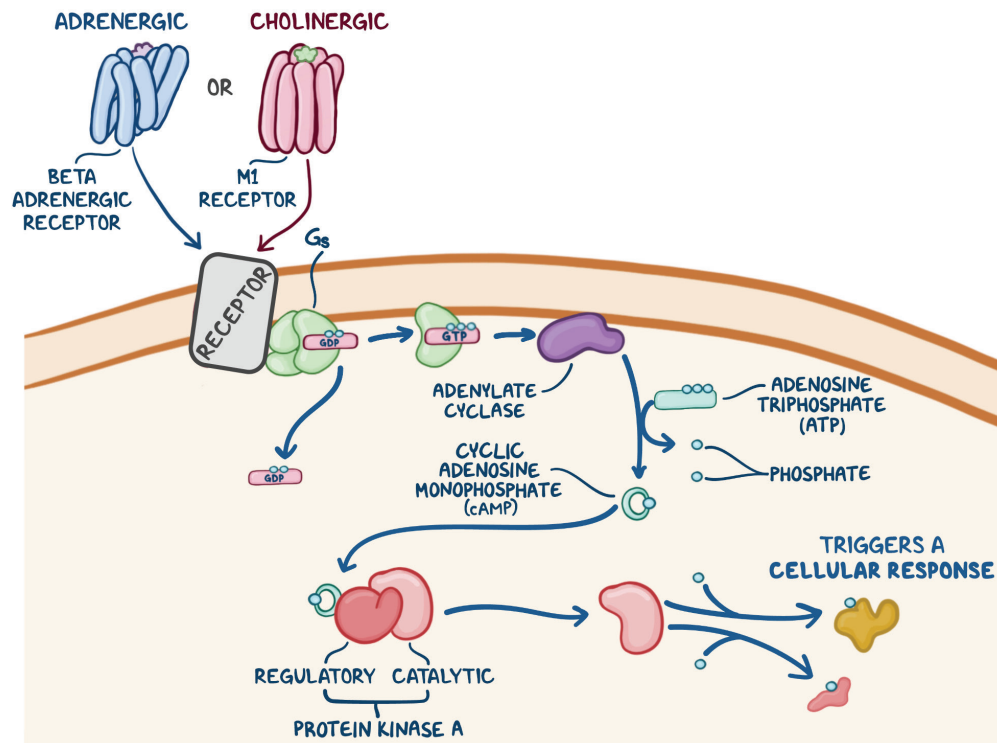




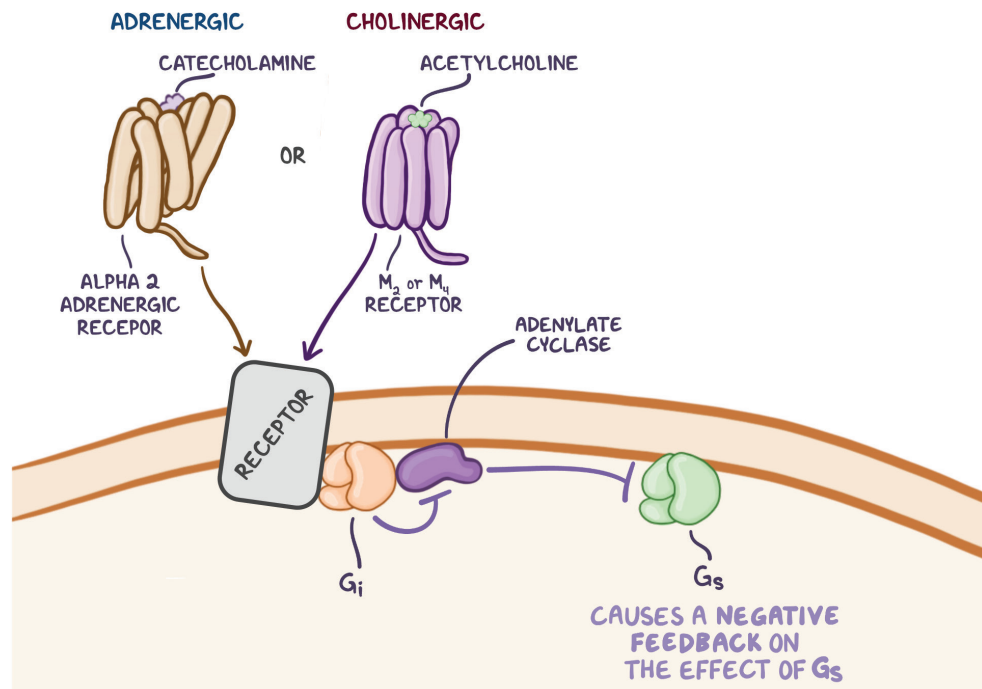
**Figure 51.7** Types of muscarinic receptors and the G-proteins with which they can be coupled.



**Figure 51.8** Mechanism of action of receptors coupled with  $G_q$  protein. The type of adrenergic receptor that couples with  $G_q$  protein is the alpha 1 receptor. The types of cholinergic muscarinic receptors that couple with  $G_q$  protein are the  $M_1$ ,  $M_3$ , and  $M_5$  receptors.



**Figure 51.9** Mechanism of action of receptors coupled with  $G_s$  protein. The type of adrenergic receptor that couples with  $G_s$  protein is the beta receptor. The type of cholinergic muscarinic receptor that couples with  $G_s$  protein is the  $M_3$  receptor.



**Figure 51.10** Mechanism of action of receptors coupled with  $G_i$  protein. The type of adrenergic receptor that couples with  $G_i$  protein is the alpha 2 receptor. The types of cholinergic muscarinic receptors that couple with  $G_i$  protein are the  $M_2$  and  $M_4$  receptors.