

# Regulation of gene expression in eukaryotes

Major principle: Activation of gene activity

Positive Control of Gene expression

General Chromatin structure

Wide domain regulators

Gene-specific Regulators

Coregulators

Modification of regulators

## Translation - Eukaryotes

### Start Codon

mRNA 5'-CAP.....AUG

### Influences:

### Surrounding of AUG!!!

### Kozak Consensus

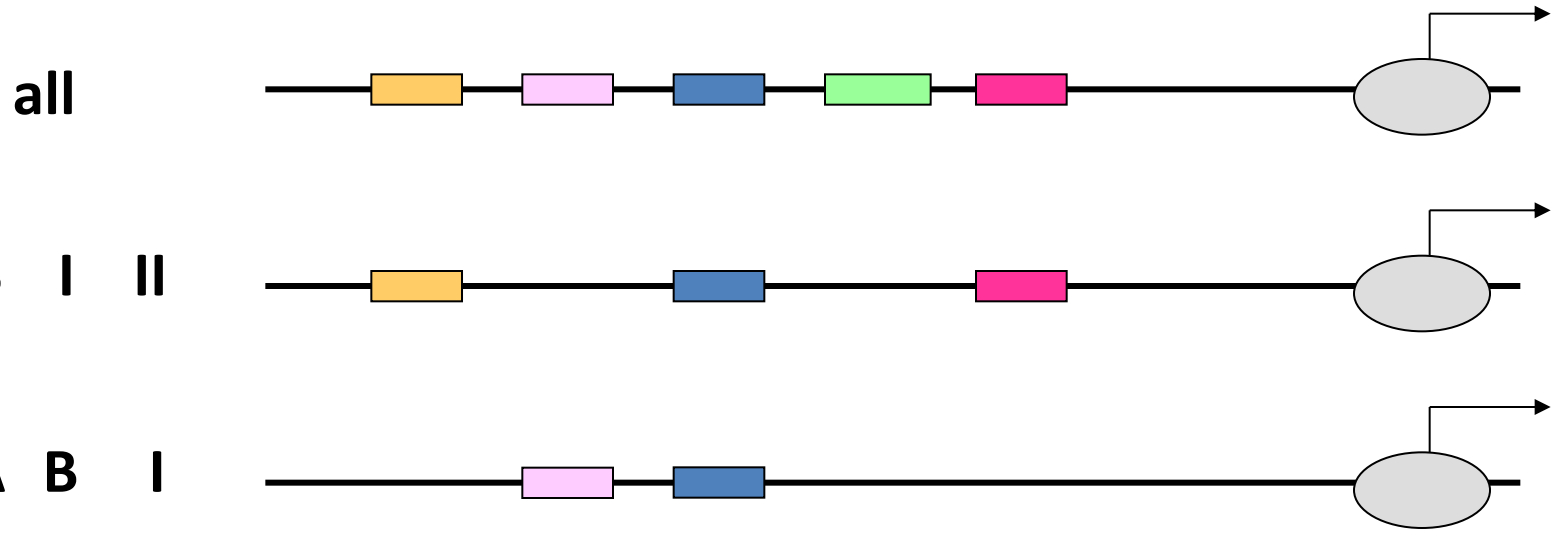
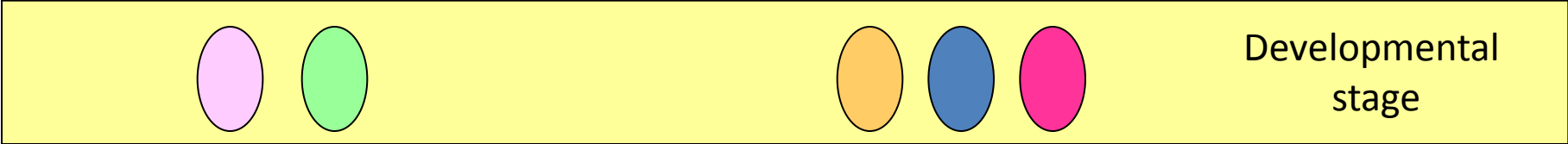
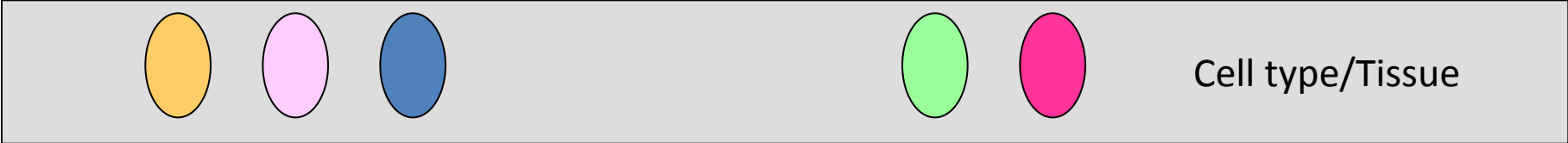
.....CC<sup>A</sup>/<sub>G</sub>CCAUGG..... mammalian

.....<sup>A</sup>/<sub>T</sub>A<sup>A</sup>/<sub>C</sub>A<sup>A</sup>/<sub>C</sub>AUGTC<sup>T</sup>/<sub>C</sub>..... Yeast

..... gccgcc(A/G)ccAUGG ..... Wikipedia

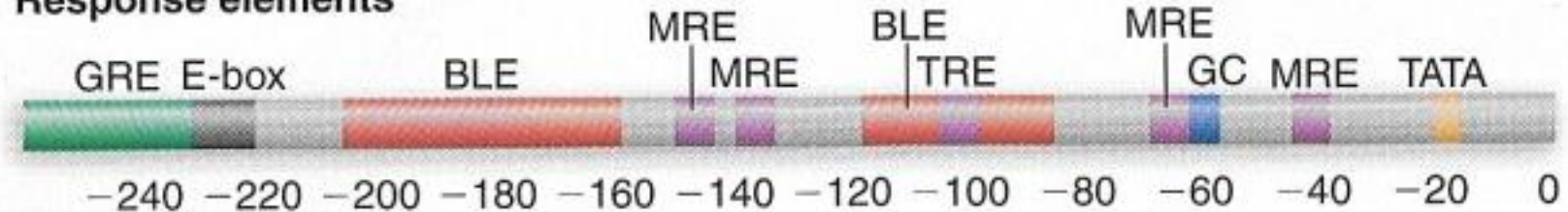
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# Combinatorial Principle

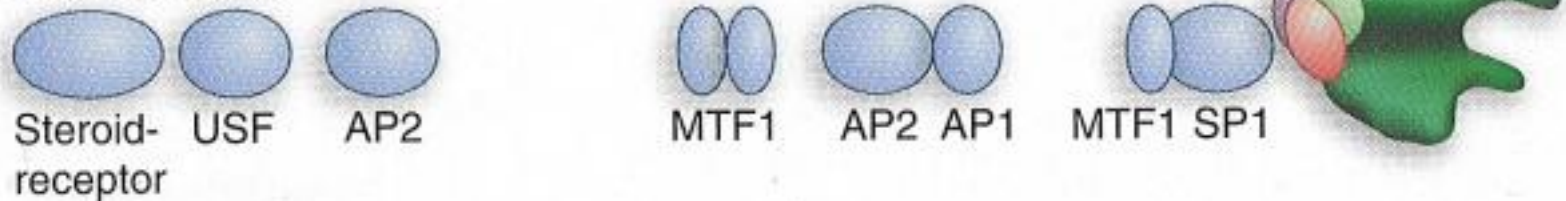


## Many response elements are found in the MT gene

### Response elements



### Protein binding



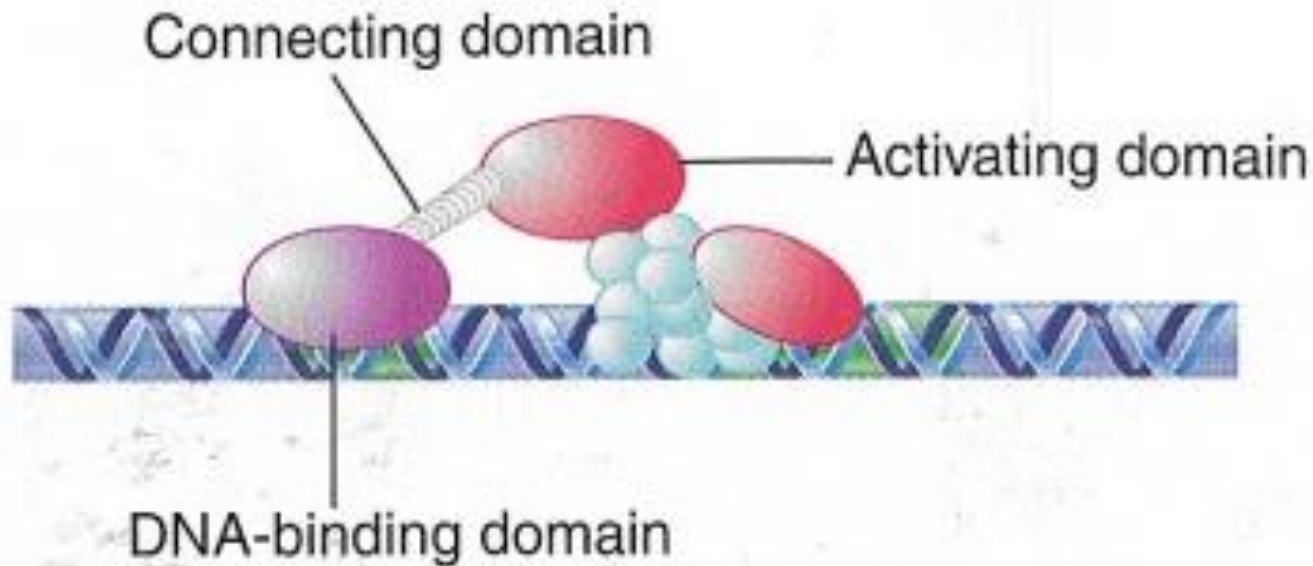
BLE = basal level element

GRE = glucocorticoid response element

MRE = metal response element

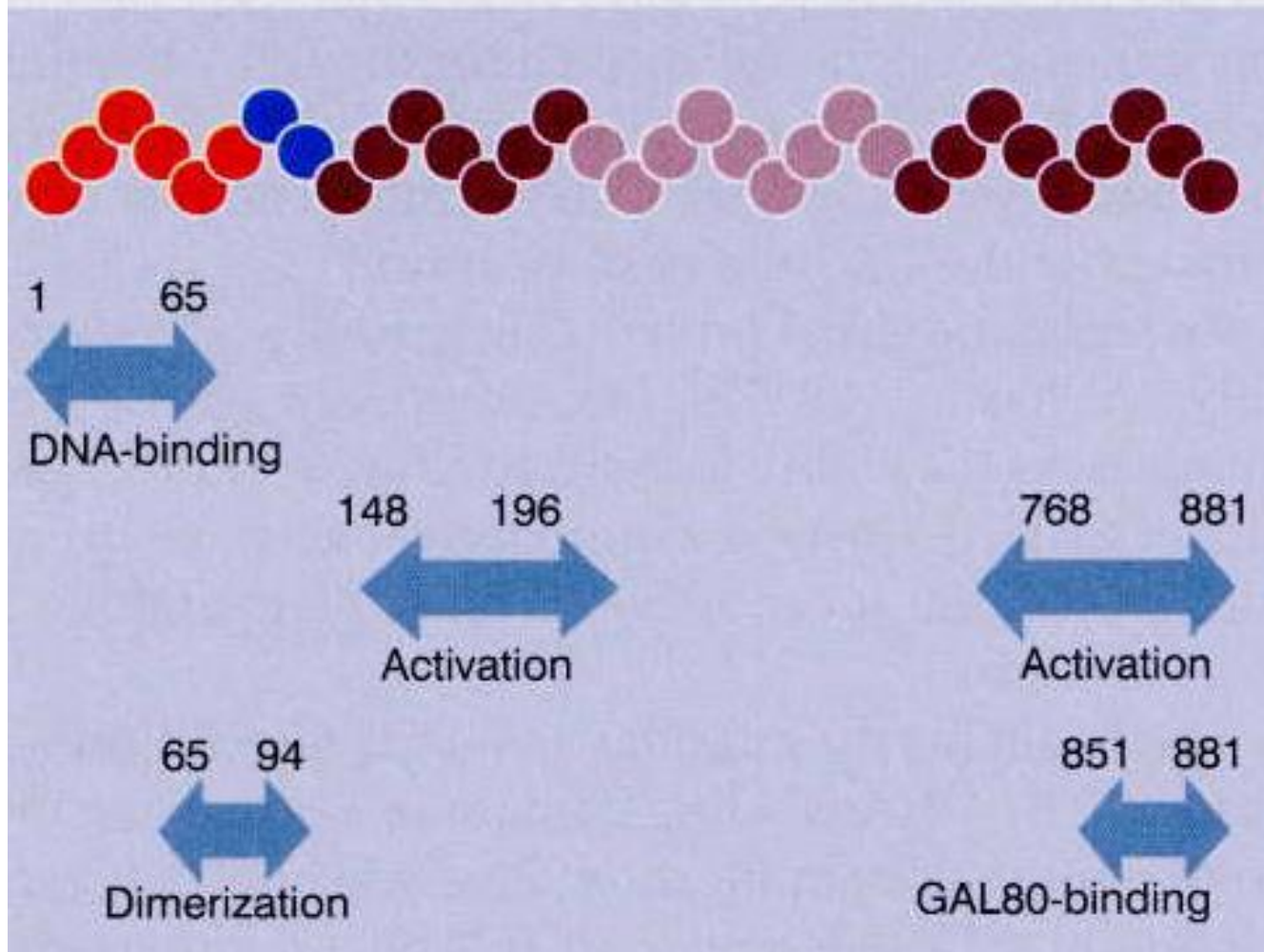
TRE = TPA response element

**Figure 25.7** The regulatory region of a human metallothionein gene contains regulator elements in both its promoter and enhancer. The promoter has elements for metal induction; an enhancer has an element for response to glucocorticoid. Promoter elements are shown above the map, and proteins that bind them are indicated below.

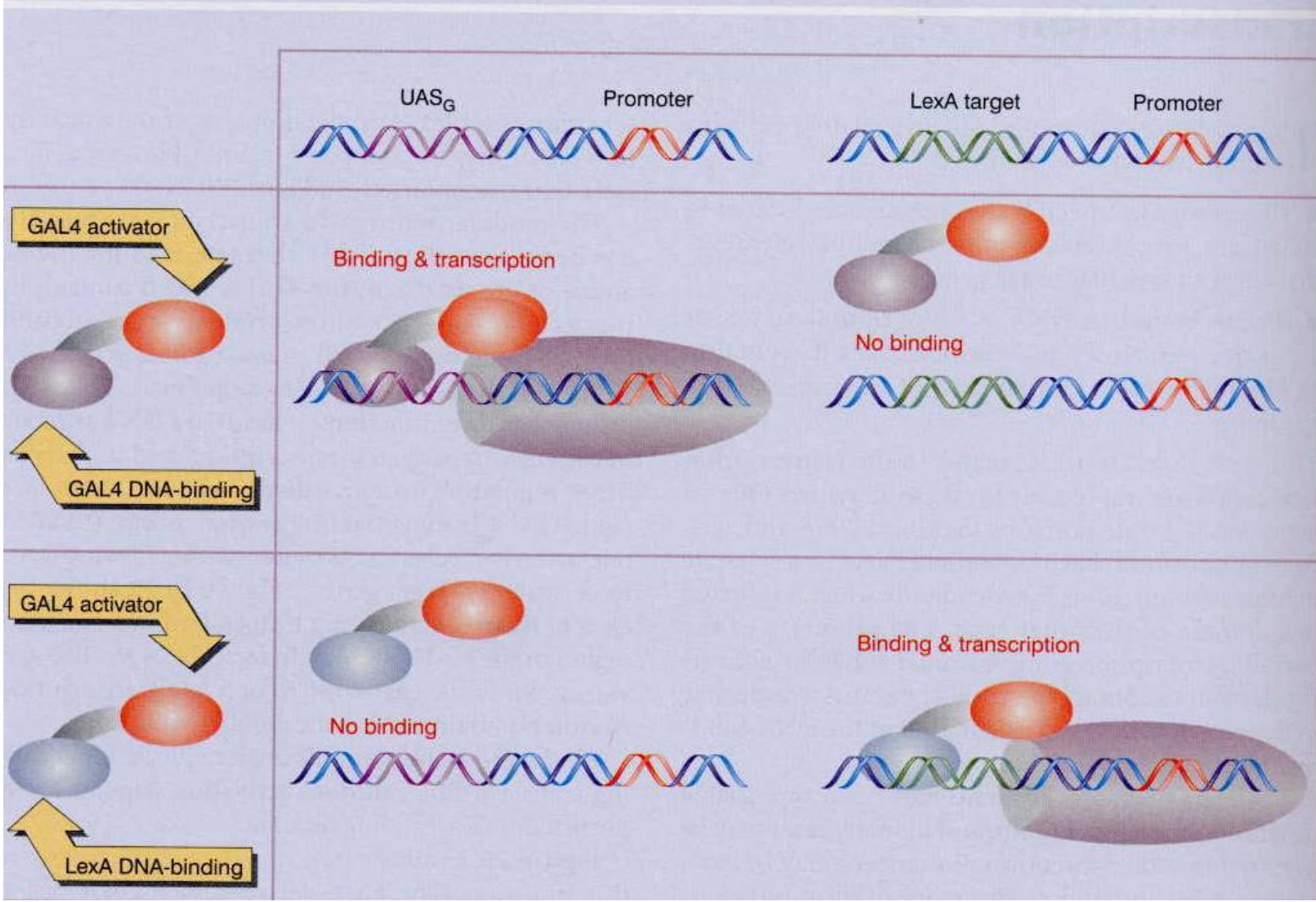


**FIGURE 28.6** DNA-binding and activating functions in a transcription factor may comprise independent domains of the protein.

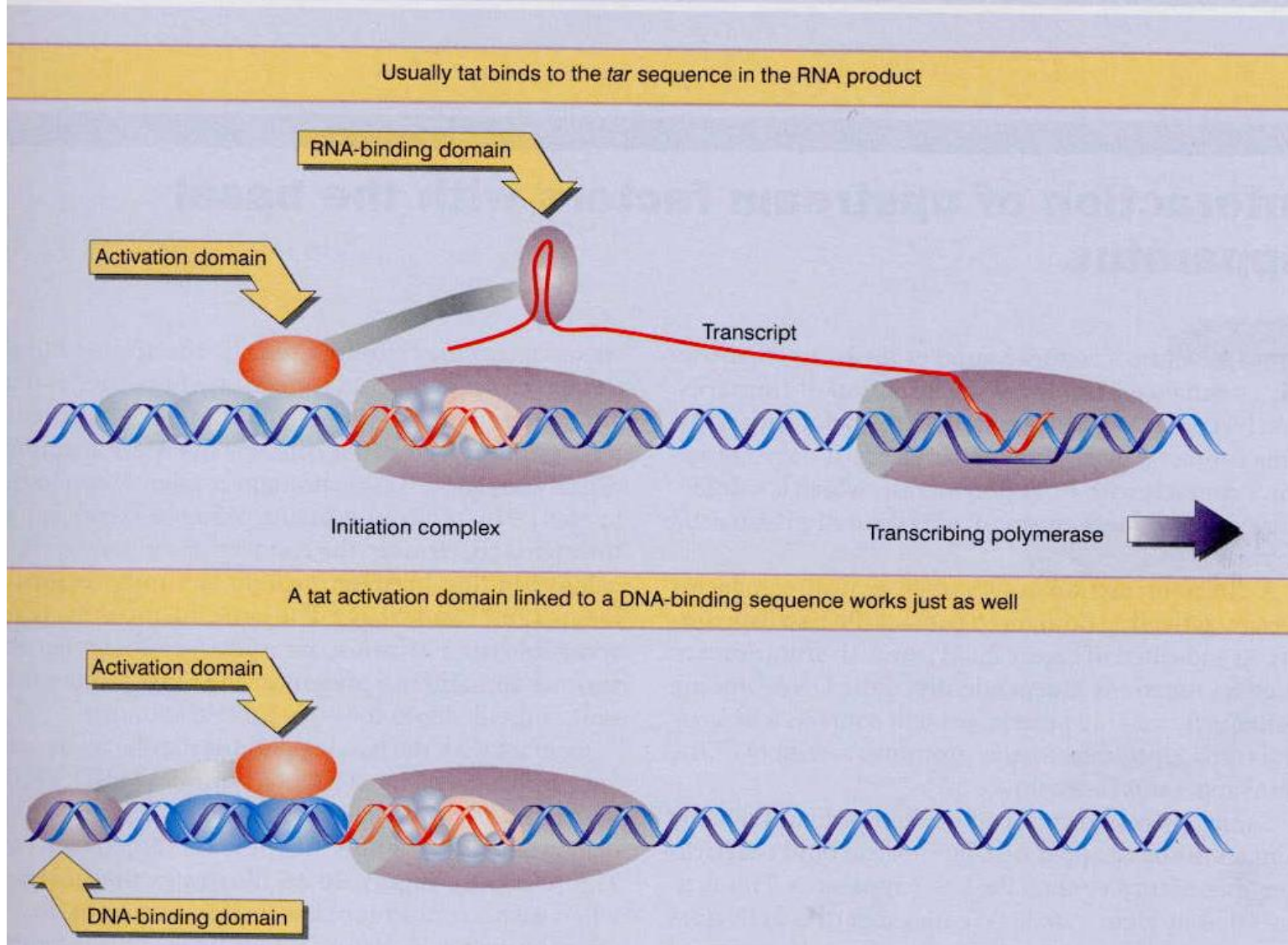
**Figure 20.22** The GAL4 protein has independent regions that bind DNA, activate transcription (2 regions), dimerize, and bind the regulator GAL80.



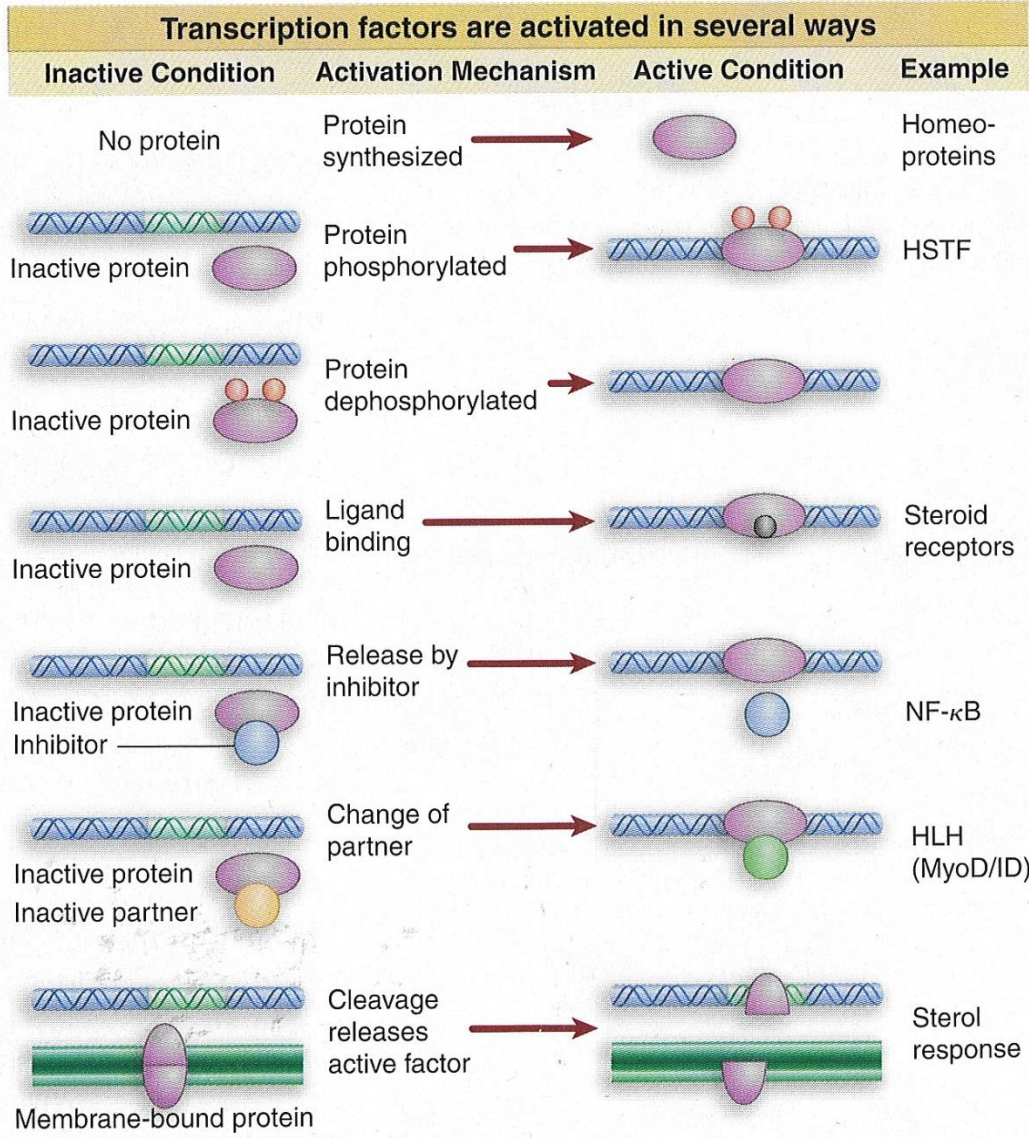
**Figure 20.23** The ability of GAL4 to activate transcription is independent of its specificity for binding DNA. When the GAL4 DNA-binding domain is replaced by the LexA DNA-binding domain, the hybrid protein can activate transcription when a LexA operator is placed near a promoter.



**Figure 20.24** The activating domain of the tat protein of HIV can stimulate initiation if it is tethered in the vicinity by binding to the RNA product of a previous round of transcription. Activation is independent of the means of tethering, as shown by the substitution of a DNA-binding domain for the RNA-binding domain.







**Figure 25.8** The activity of a regulatory transcription factor may be controlled by synthesis of protein, covalent modification of protein, ligand binding, or binding of inhibitors that sequester the protein or affect its ability to bind to DNA.

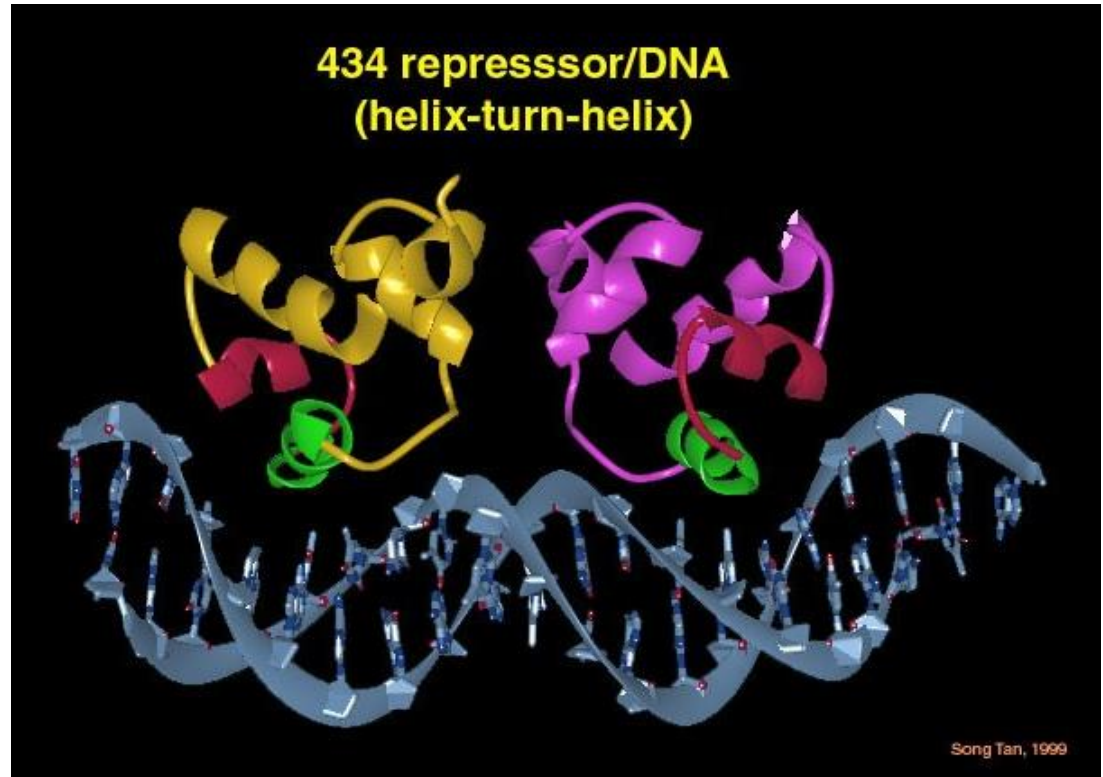
Taken from: B. Lewin, *Essential Genes*, Pearson Ed. International

# DNA Binding Proteins - motifs

## Helix –Turn – Helix Proteins

The Helix-Turn-Helix motif consists of two  $\alpha$  helices and a short extended amino acid chain between them. The more carboxyl-terminal helix can fit into the major groove of DNA. This motif is found in hundreds of DNA-binding proteins, including  **$\lambda$ - repressor**, **tryptophan repressor**, **catabolite activator protein (CAP)**, **octamer transcription factor 1 (Oct-1)** and **heat shock factor (HSF)**.

Source: <http://www.web-books.com/MoBio/Free/Ch4F4.htm>

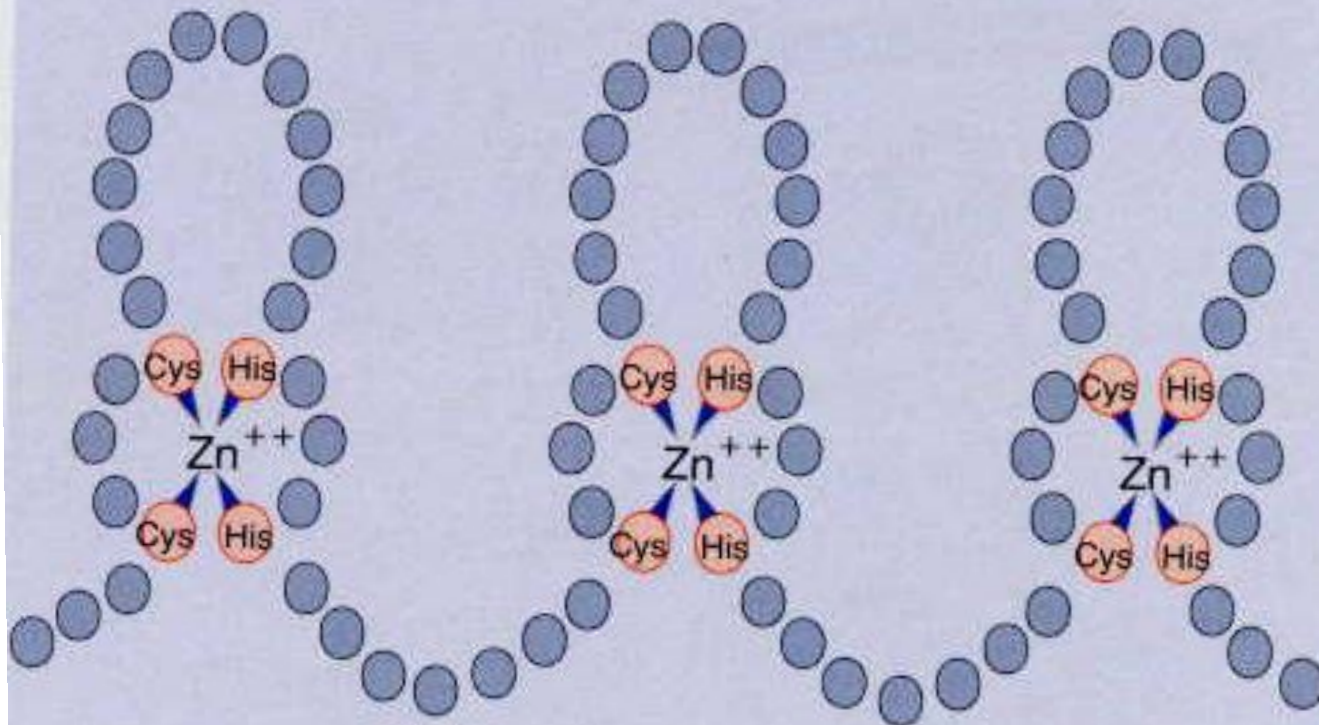


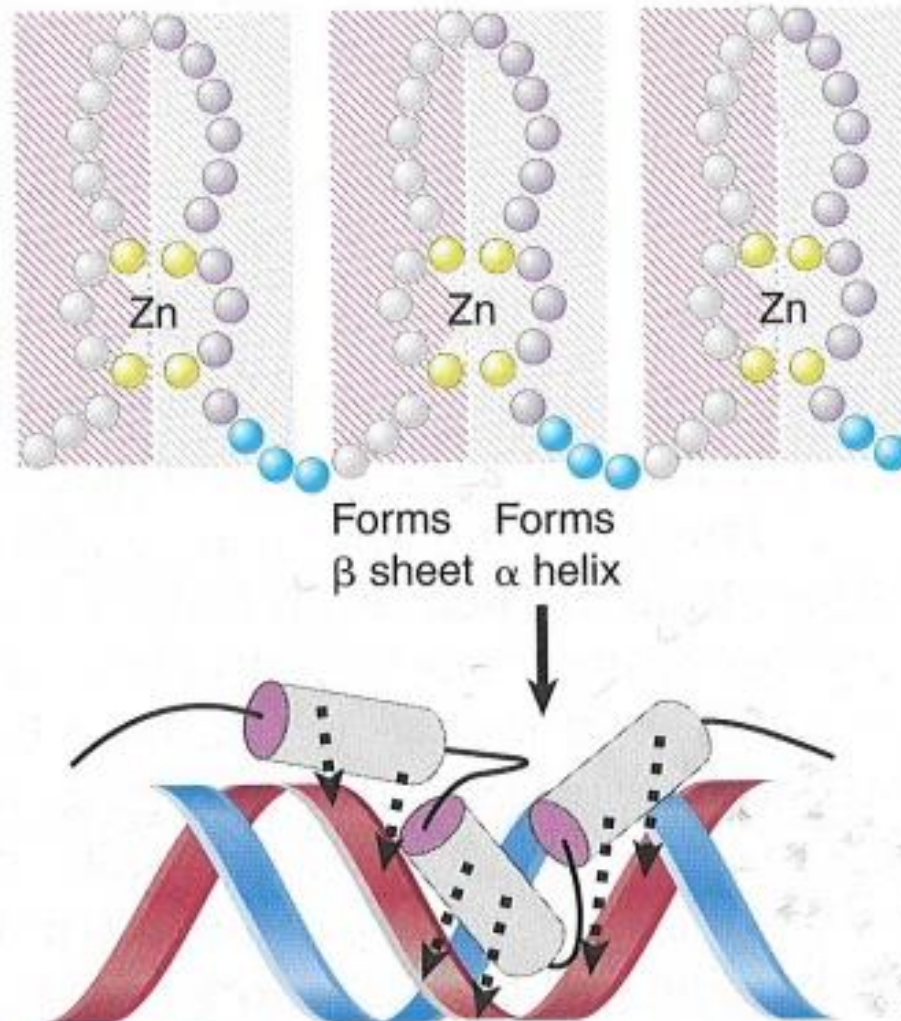
Source: <http://www.bmb.psu.edu/faculty/tan/lab/gallery/434reprdna.jpg>

See also: [http://www.proteopedia.org/wiki/index.php/Helix-turn-helix\\_motif](http://www.proteopedia.org/wiki/index.php/Helix-turn-helix_motif)

# Zink-Finger Proteins

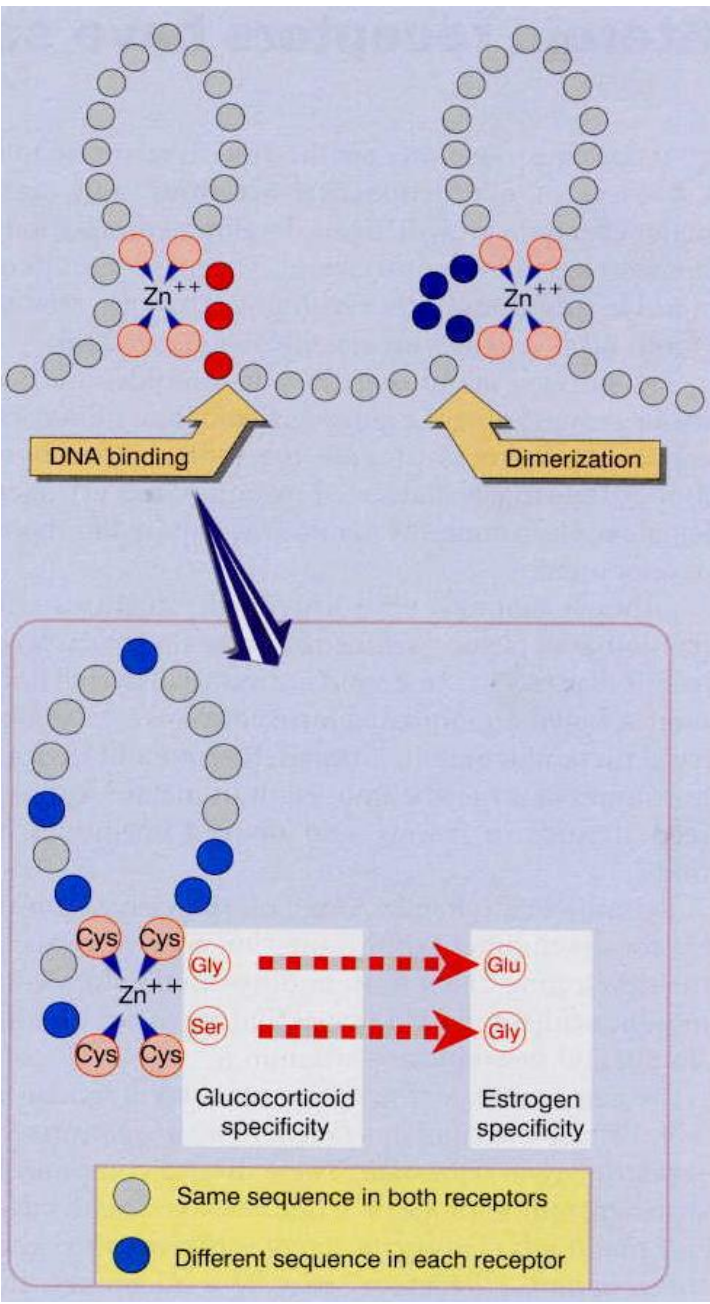
**Figure 21.3** Transcription factor SP1 has a series of three zinc fingers, each with a characteristic pattern of cysteine and histidine residues that constitute the zinc-binding site.





**FIGURE 28.12** Zinc fingers may form  $\alpha$  helices that insert into the major groove, which is associated with  $\beta$  sheets on the other side.

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI“; Jones&Bartlett Learning



**Figure 21.5** The first finger of a steroid receptor controls specificity of DNA-binding (positions shown in red); the second finger controls specificity of dimerization (positions shown in blue). The expanded view of the first finger shows that discrimination between GRE and ERE target sequences rests on two amino acids at the base.

## Ligand-gated receptors share structural features

DNA binding and transcriptional activation  
(identity varies from 94–42%)

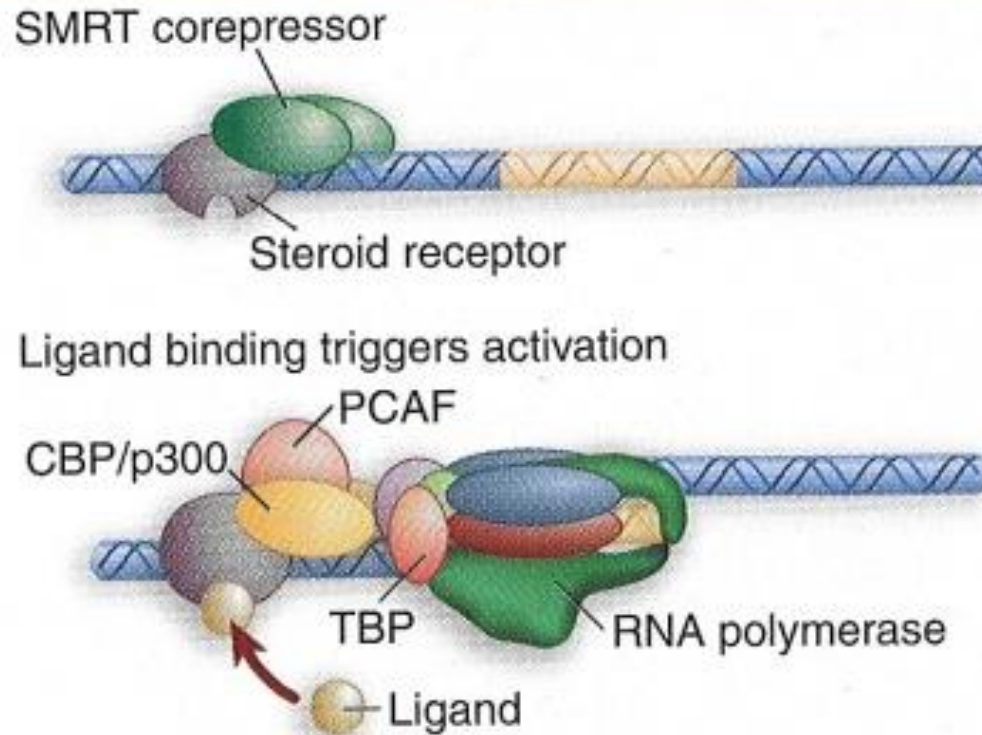
N-terminal regions have <15% identities  
(needed to activate transcription)

Hormone-binding regions and dimerization  
(identity varies from 57–15%)

				Glucocorticoid
		94	57	Mineralocorticoid
		90	55	Progesterone
		76	50	Androgen
		52	30	Estrogen
		47	17	Triiodothyronine
		42	<15	Vitamin D
		45	15	Retinoic acid

**Figure 25.12** Receptors for many steroid and thyroid hormones have a similar organization, with an individual N-terminal region, conserved DNA-binding region, and a C-terminal hormone-binding region. Identities are relative to GR.

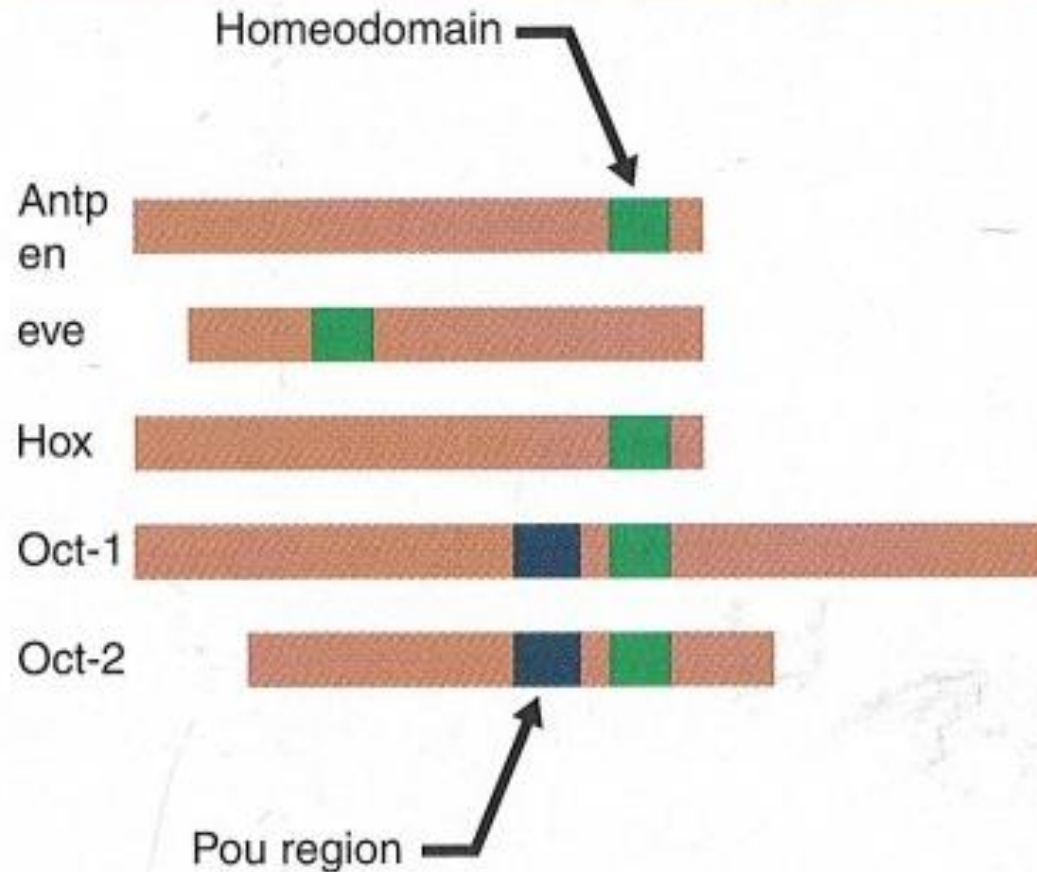
## Repression prevails in absence of ligand



**Figure 25.17** The steroid receptors TR and RAR bind the SMRT corepressor in the absence of ligand. The promoter is not expressed. When SMRT is displaced by binding of ligand, the receptor binds a coactivator complex. This leads to activation of transcription by the basal apparatus.



## The homeodomain is a discrete module



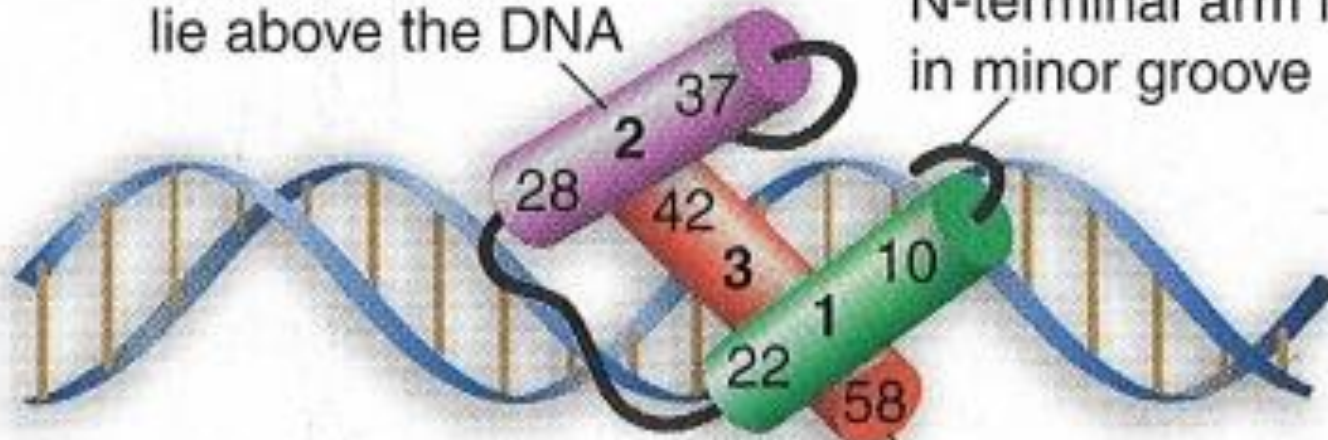
**Figure 25.18** The homeodomain may be the sole DNA-binding motif in a transcriptional regulator or may be combined with other motifs. It represents a discrete (60 residue) part of the protein.



## The homeodomain has 3 $\alpha$ -helices

Helices 1 and 2  
lie above the DNA

N-terminal arm lies  
in minor groove



Helix 3 lies in the major groove

**Figure 25.20** Helix 3 of the homeodomain binds in the major groove of DNA, with helices 1 and 2 lying outside the double helix. Helix 3 contacts both the phosphate backbone and specific bases. The N-terminal arm lies in the minor groove, and makes additional contacts.

## HLH proteins have two helical regions

MyoD Ala Asp Arg Arg Lys Ala Ala Thr Met Arg Gln Arg Arg Arg  
 Id Arg Leu Pro Ala Leu Leu Asp Gln Glu Glu Val Asn Val Leu

### Basic region

6 conserved residues  
are absent from Id

MyoD Leu Ser Lys Val Asn Gln Ala Phe Gln Thr Leu Lys Arg Cys Thr  
 Id Leu Tyr Asp Met Asn Gly Cys Tyr Ser Arg Leu Lys Gln Leu Val

### Helix 1

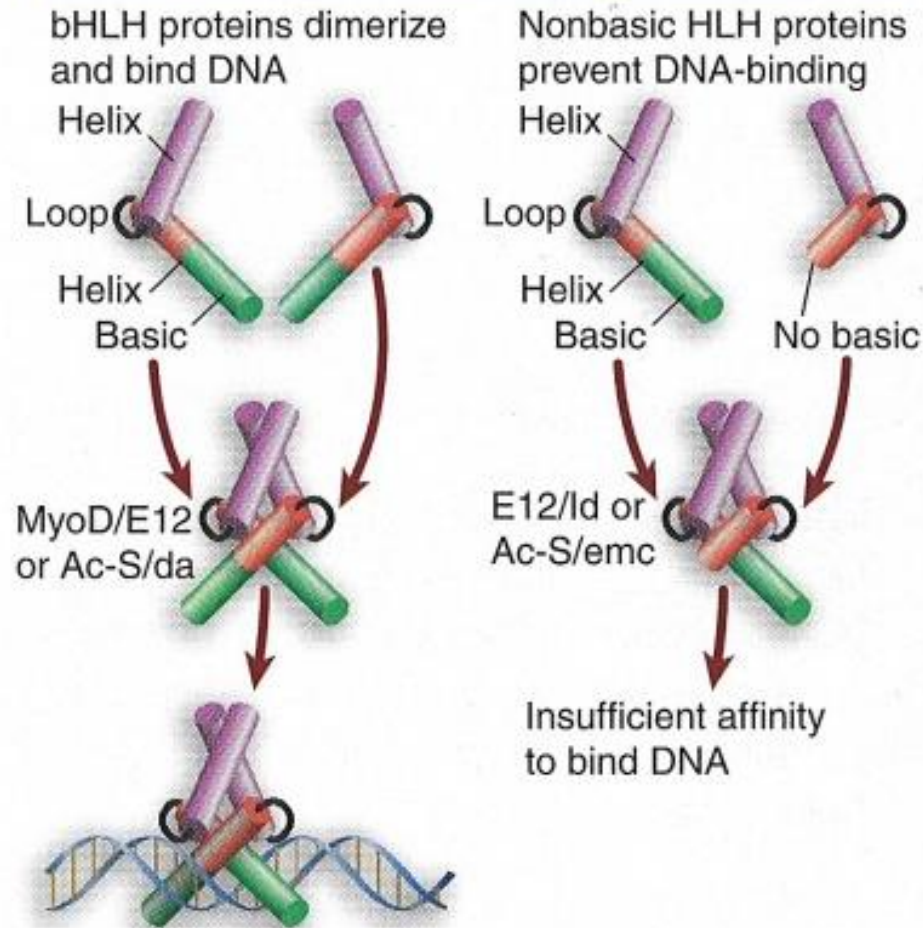
Conserved residues are  
found in both MyoD and Id

MyoD Lys Val Gln Ile Leu Arg Asn Ala Ile Arg Tyr Ile Gln Gly Leu Glu  
 Id Lys Val Gln Ile Leu Glu His Val Ile Asp Tyr Ile Arg Asp Leu Glu

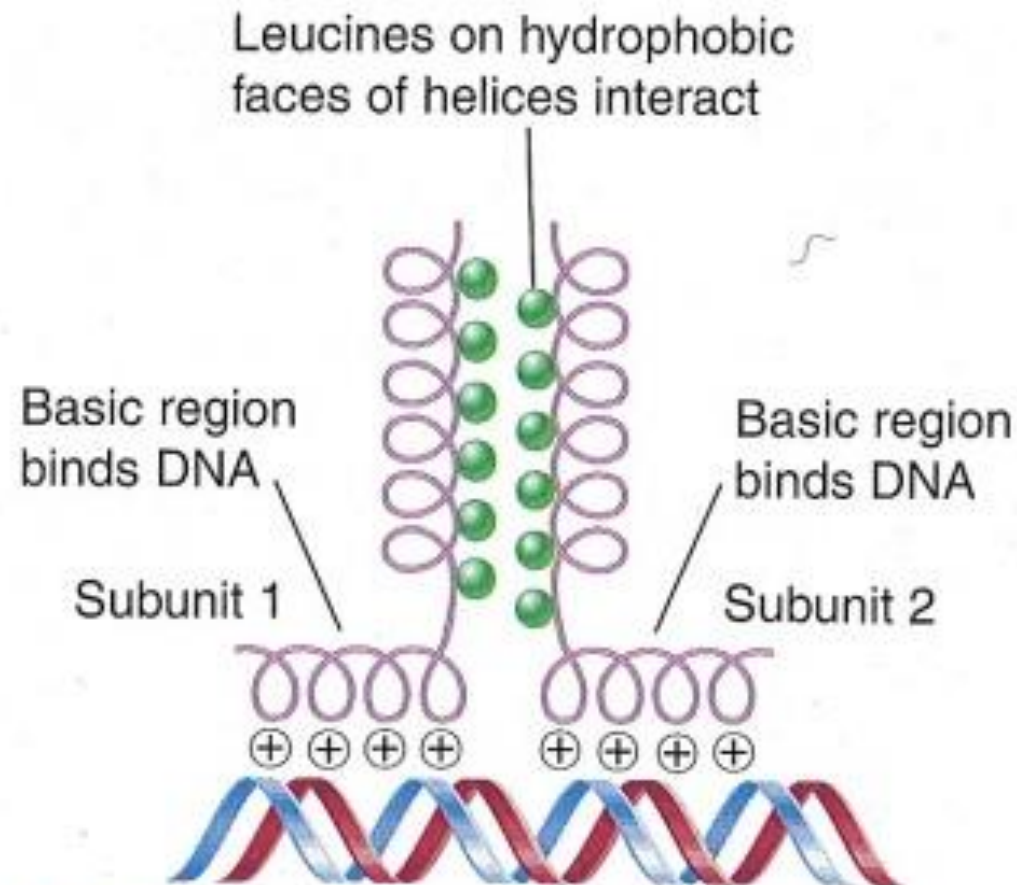
### Helix 2

**Figure 25.21** All HLH proteins have regions corresponding to helix 1 and helix 2, separated by a loop of 10–24 residues. Basic HLH proteins have a region with conserved positive charges immediately adjacent to helix 1.

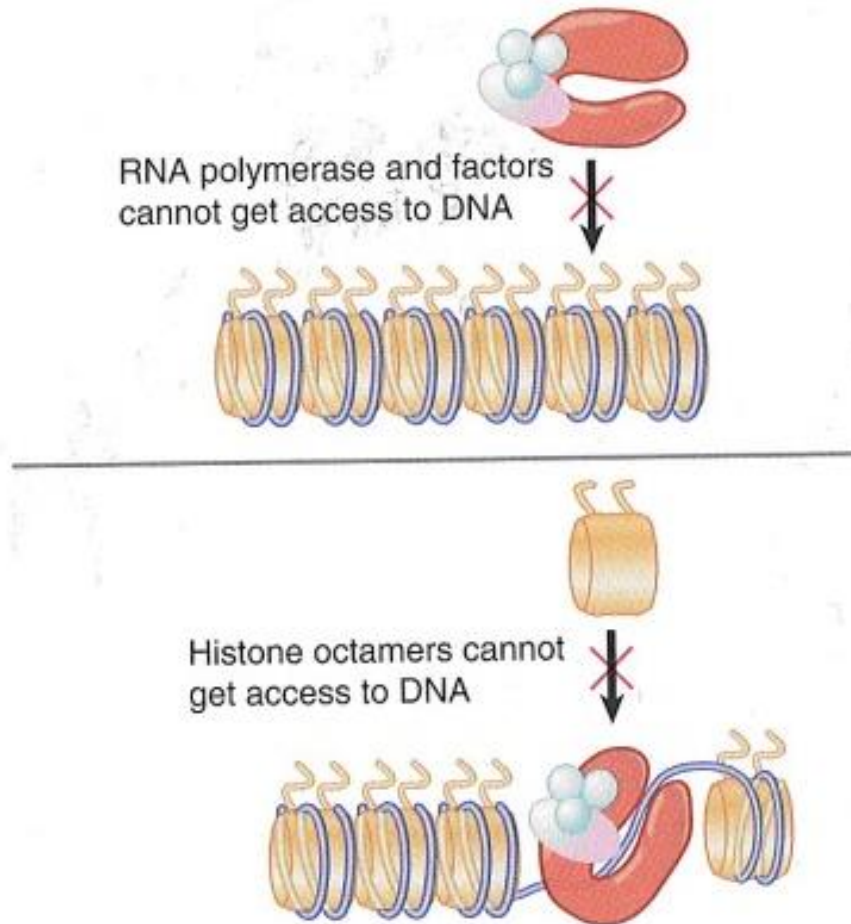
## HLH proteins form two sorts of dimers



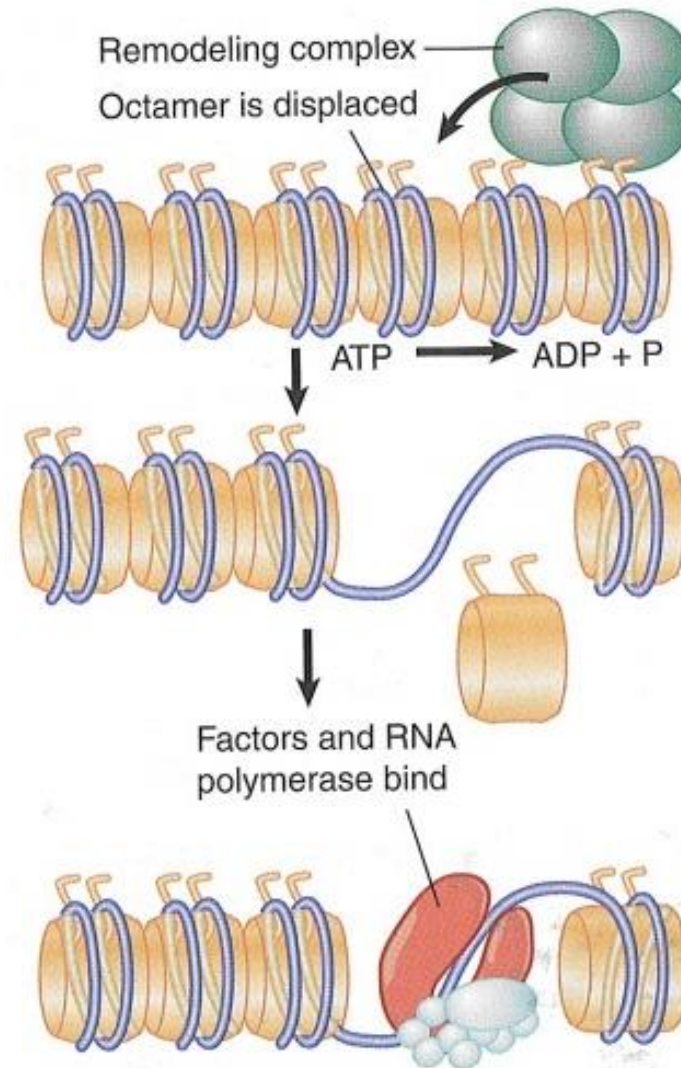
**Figure 25.22** An HLH dimer in which both subunits are of the bHLH type can bind DNA, but a dimer in which one subunit lacks the basic region cannot bind DNA.



**FIGURE 28.16** The basic regions of the bZIP motif are held together by the dimerization at the adjacent zipper region when the hydrophobic faces of two leucine zippers interact in parallel orientation.



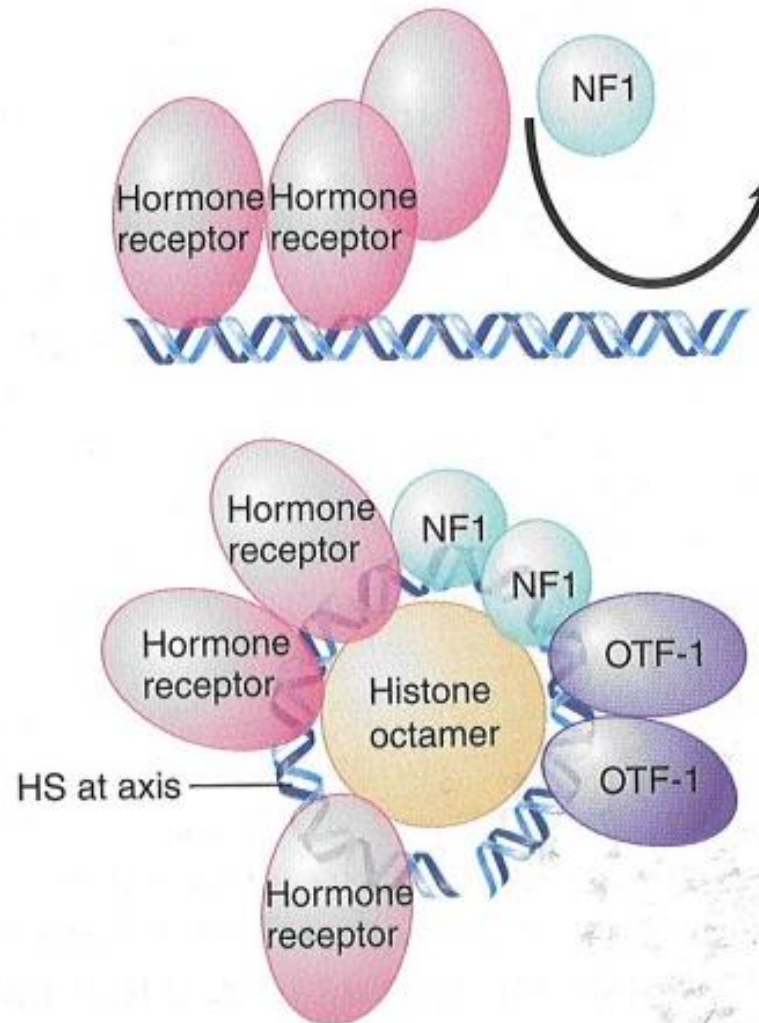
**FIGURE 28.17** If nucleosomes form at a promoter, transcription factors (and RNA polymerase) cannot bind. If transcription factors (and RNA polymerase) bind to the promoter to establish a stable complex for initiation, histones are excluded.



**FIGURE 28.18** The dynamic model for transcription of chromatin relies upon factors that can use energy provided by hydrolysis of ATP to displace nucleosomes from specific DNA sequences.

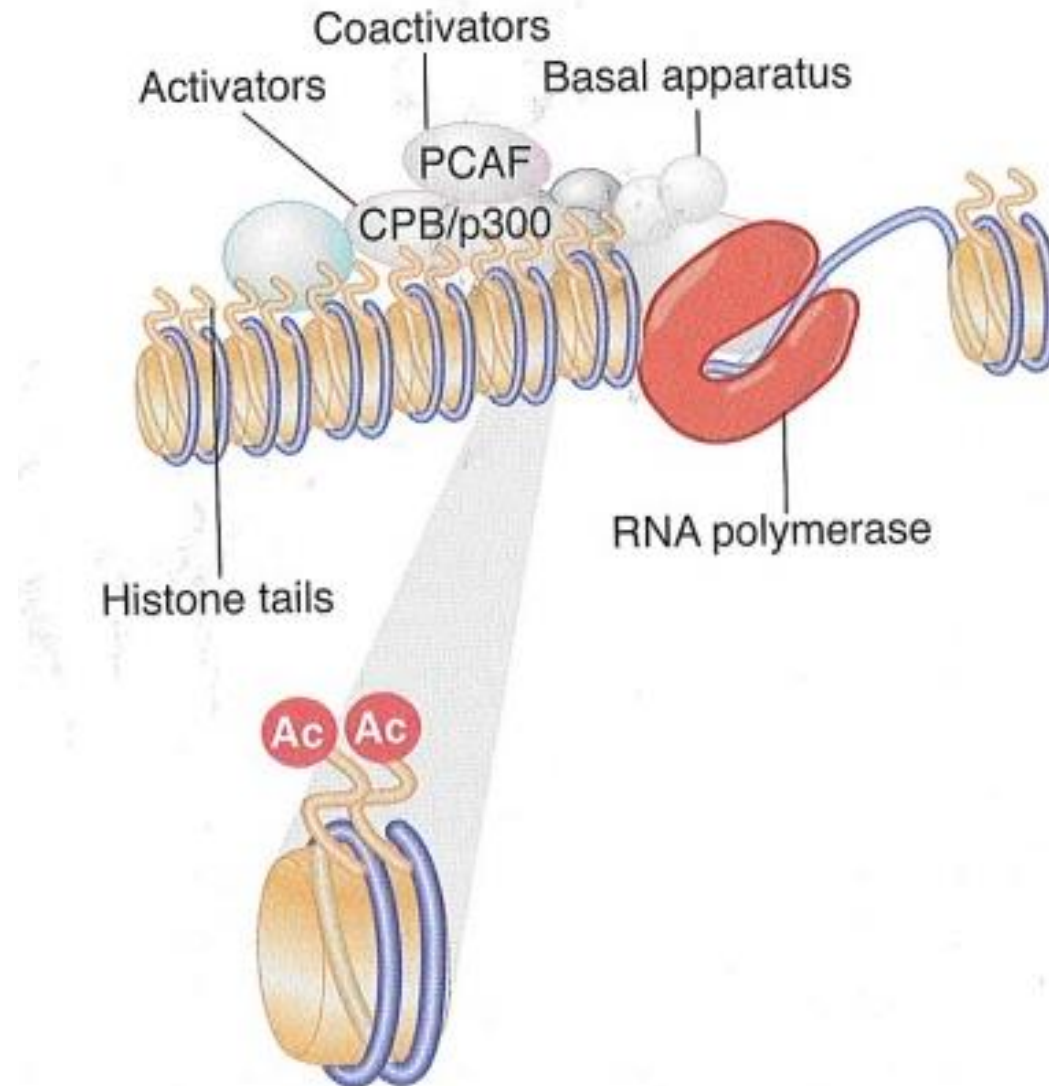
Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI“; Jones&Bartlett Learning





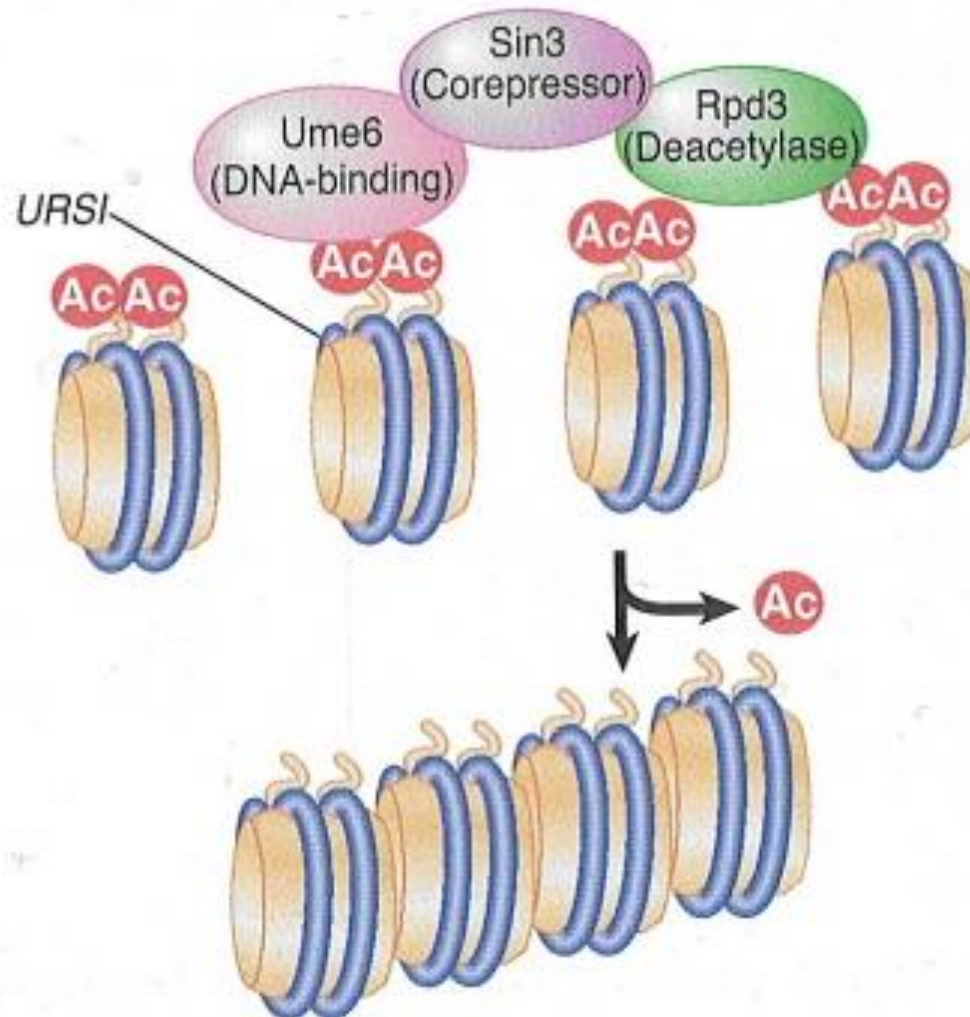
**FIGURE 28.23** Hormone receptor and NF1 cannot bind simultaneously to the MMTV promoter in the form of linear DNA, but can bind when the DNA is presented on a nucleosomal surface.

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI“; Jones&Bartlett Learning



**FIGURE 28.24** Coactivators may have HAT activities that acetylate the tails of nucleosomal histones.

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin´s Genes XI“; Jones&Bartlett Learning



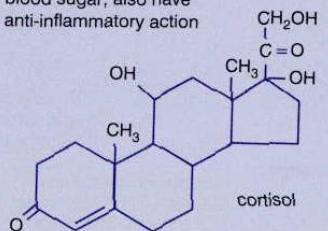
**FIGURE 28.26** A repressor complex contains three components: a DNA-binding subunit, a corepressor, and a histone deacetylase.

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI“; Jones&Bartlett Learning

**Figure 21.6** Several types of hydrophobic small molecules activate transcription factors. Corticoids and steroid sex hormones are synthesized from cholesterol, vitamin D is a steroid, thyroid hormones are synthesized from tyrosine, and retinoic acid is synthesized from isoprene (in fish liver).

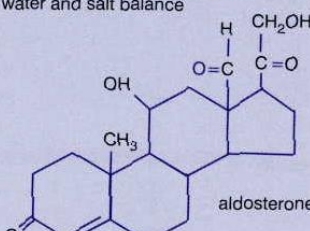
**Corticoids (adrenal steroids)**

Glucocorticoids increase blood sugar; also have anti-inflammatory action



cortisol

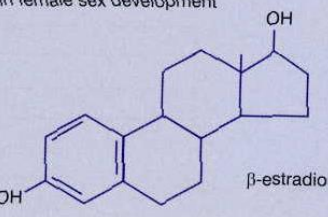
Mineralocorticoids maintain water and salt balance



aldosterone

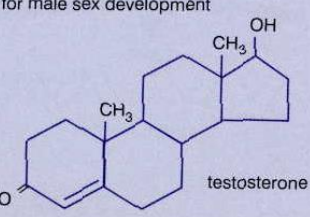
**Steroid sex hormones**

Estrogens are involved in female sex development



$\beta$ -estradiol

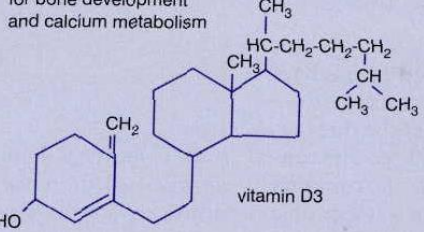
Androgens are required for male sex development



testosterone

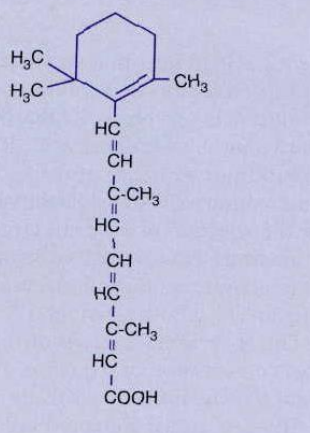
**Development and morphogenesis**

Vitamin D is required for bone development and calcium metabolism



vitamin D3

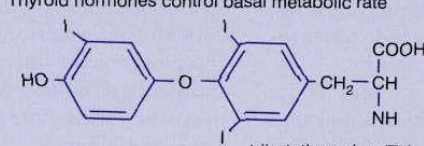
Retinoic acid is a morphogen



(*trans*) retinoic acid

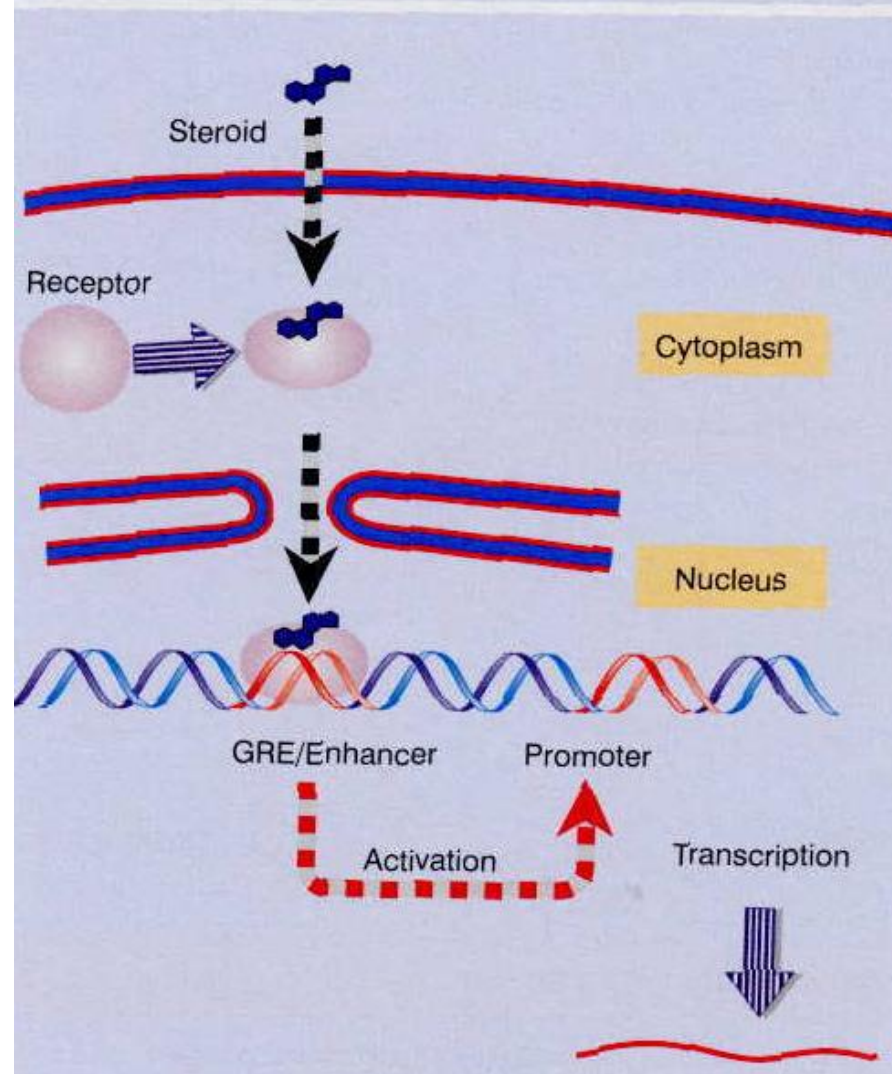
**Thyroid hormones**

Thyroid hormones control basal metabolic rate



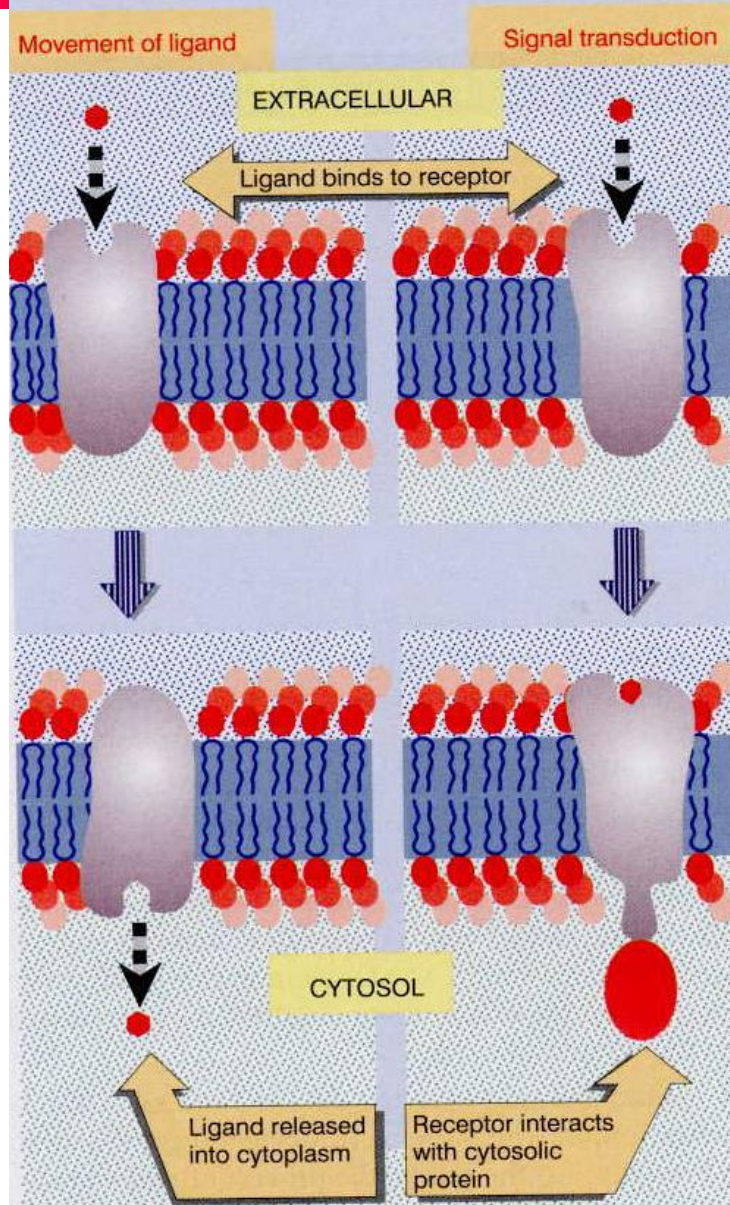
triiodothyronine (T3)

**Figure 21.7** Glucocorticoids regulate gene transcription by causing their receptor to bind to an enhancer whose action is needed for promoter function.



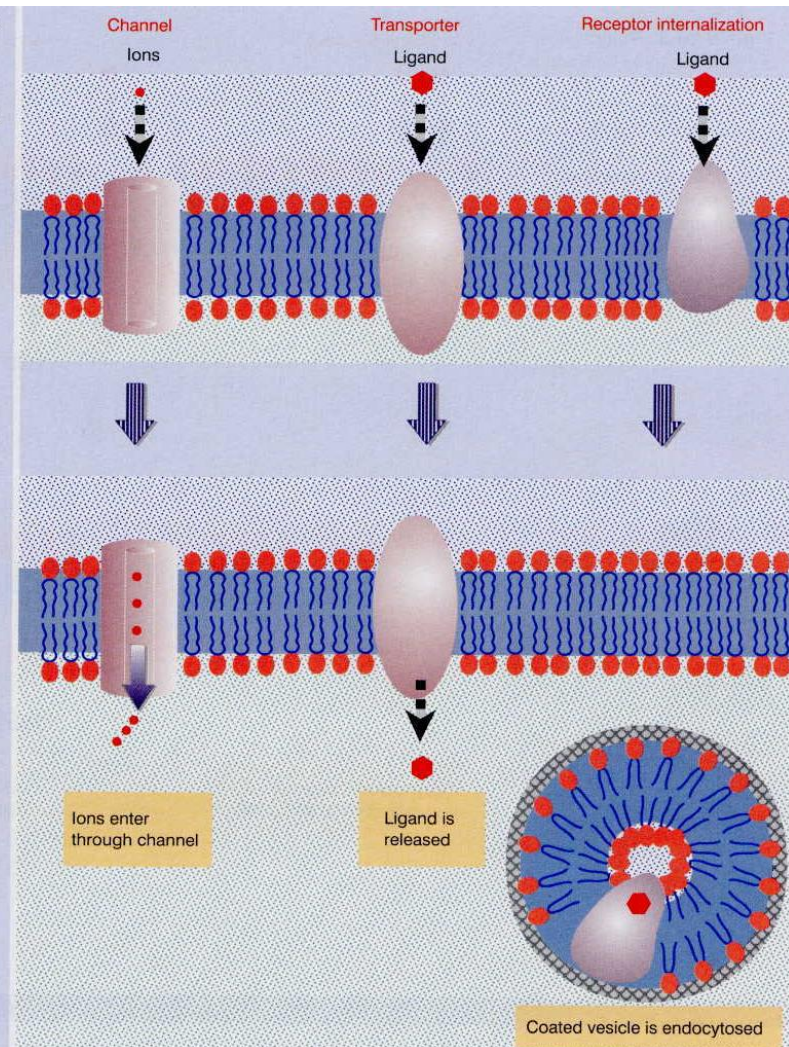
**Figure 26.1** Overview: information may be transmitted from the exterior to the interior of the cell by movement of a ligand or by signal transduction.

30

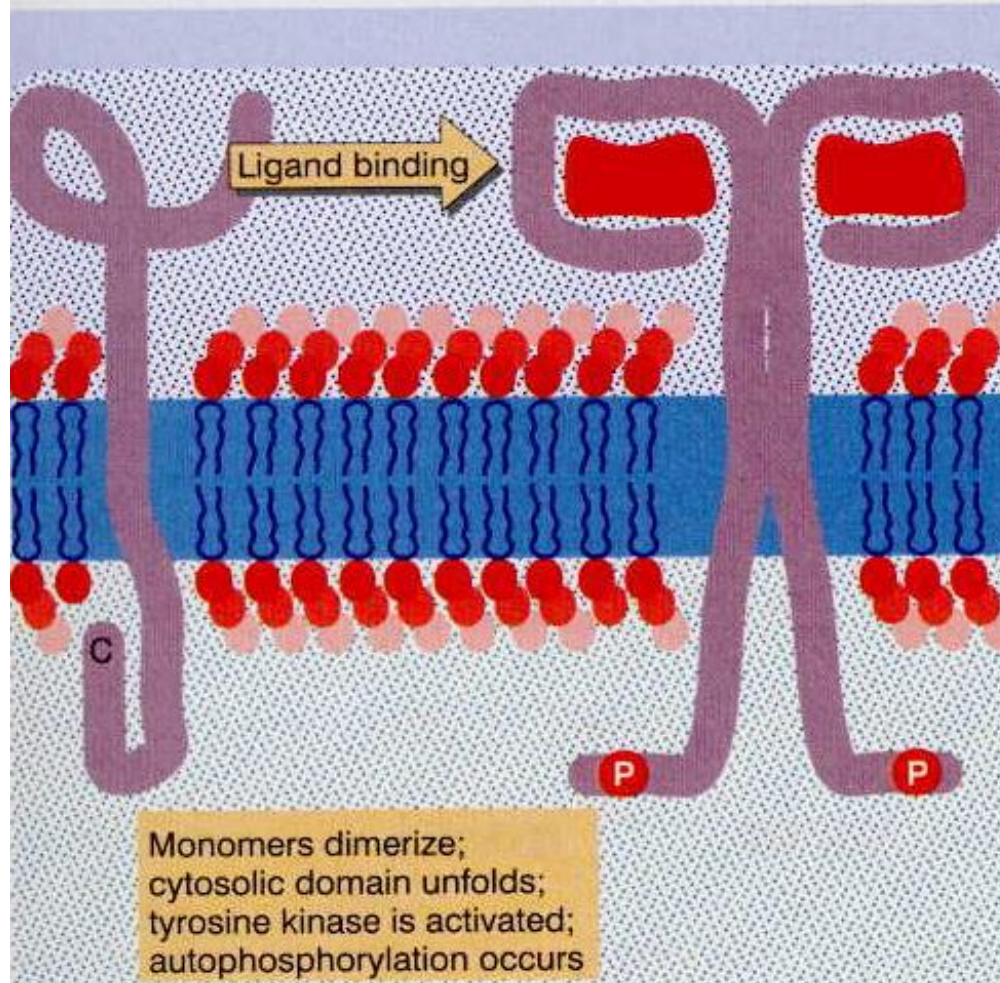


## Signal transduction





**Figure 26.2** Three means for transferring material of various sizes into the cell are provided by ion channels, receptor-mediated ligand transport, and receptor internalization.



**Figure 26.13** The principle underlying signal transduction by a tyrosine kinase receptor is that ligand binding to the extracellular domain triggers dimerization; this causes a conformational change in the cytoplasmic domain that activates the tyrosine kinase catalytic activity.

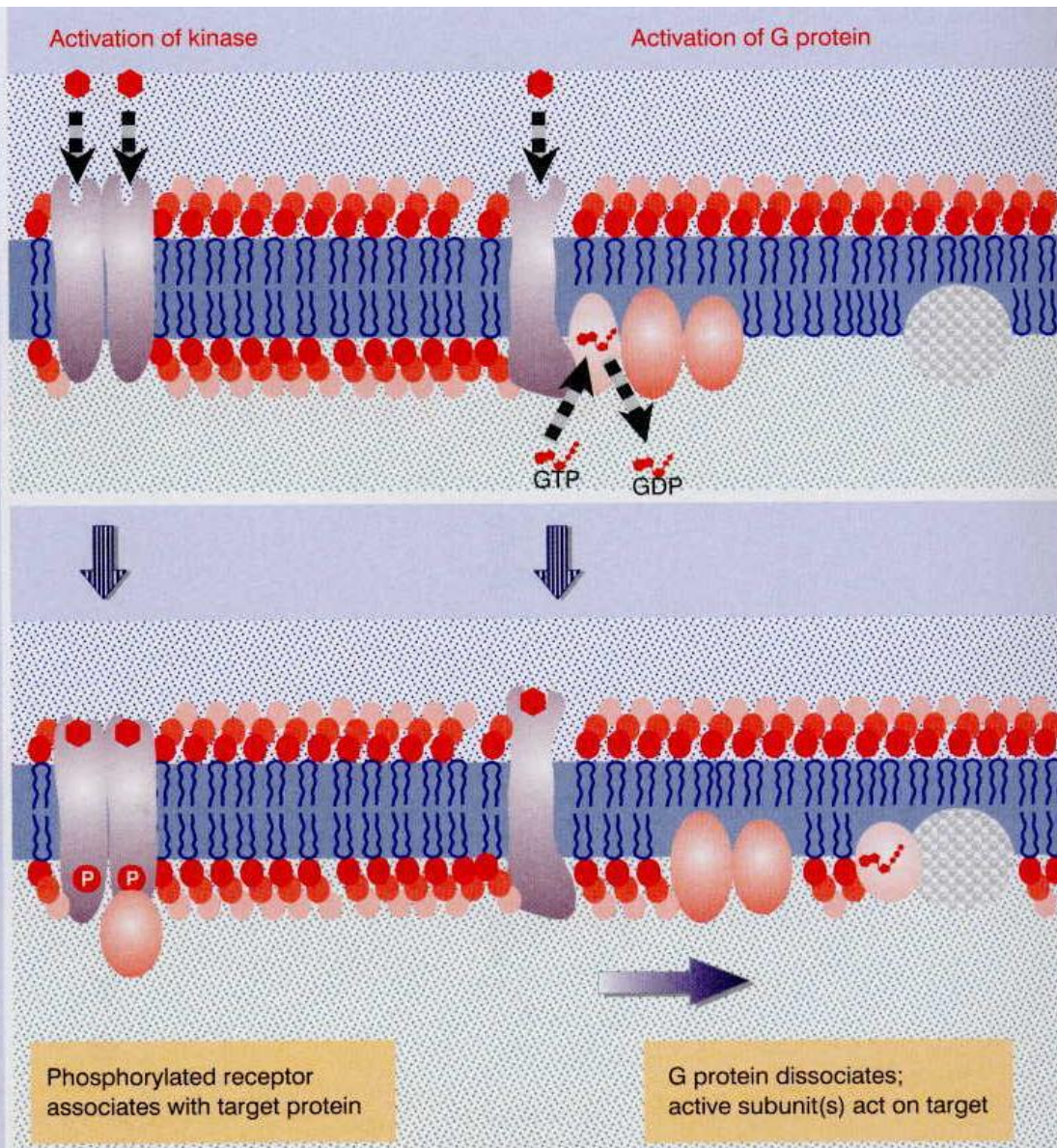


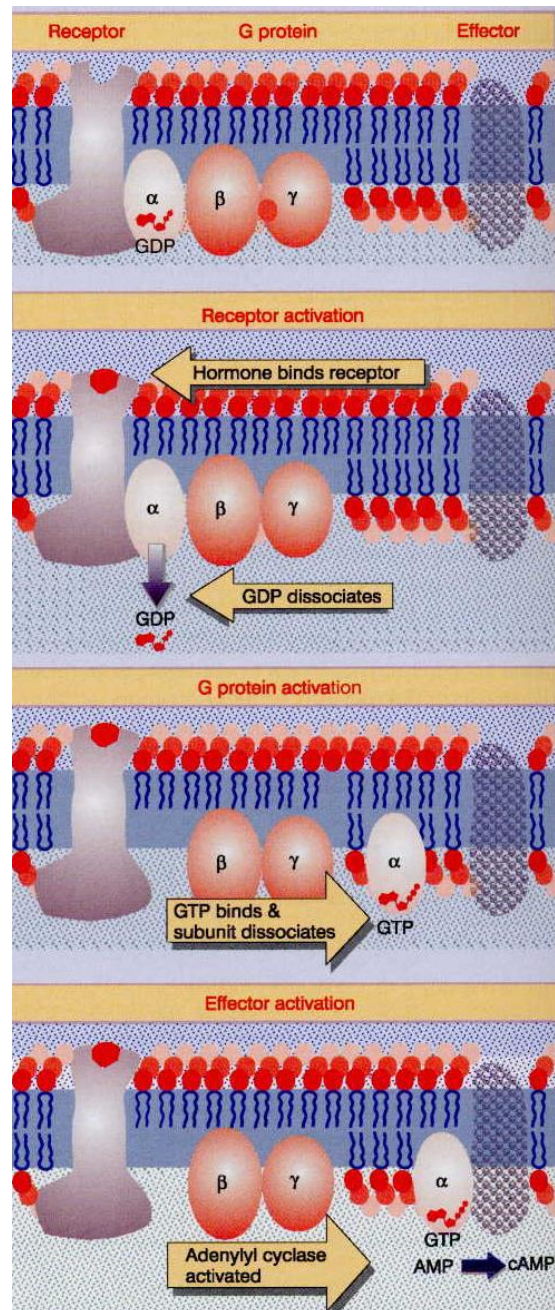
**Figure 26.12** Effectors for receptor tyrosine kinases include phospholipases and kinases that act on lipids to generate second messengers.

Effector	Substrate	Products
PLC (phospholipase C) (3 families, PLC $\alpha$ , $\beta$ , $\gamma$ )	PIP2 (phosphatidylinositol 4,5-diphosphate)	DAG (diacylglycerol) + IP3 (inositol 1,4,5-triphosphate)  DAG activates protein kinase C IP3 mobilizes Ca <sup>2+</sup>
PLA2 (phospholipase A2)	Phospholipids (phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidylinositol)	 Arachidonic acid Converted to prostaglandins & leukotrienes
PI3 kinase (phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase)	Phosphatidyl inositol	 PI3 (phosphatidyl inositol-3 phosphate)
PI4 kinase (phosphatidylinositol-4 kinase)	Phosphatidyl inositol	 PI4 (phosphatidyl inositol-4 phosphate) Converted to PIP2 (phosphatidyl diphosphate)



**Figure 26.3** A signal may be transduced by activating the kinase activity of the cytoplasmic domain of a transmembrane receptor or by dissociating a G protein into subunits that act on target proteins on the membrane.



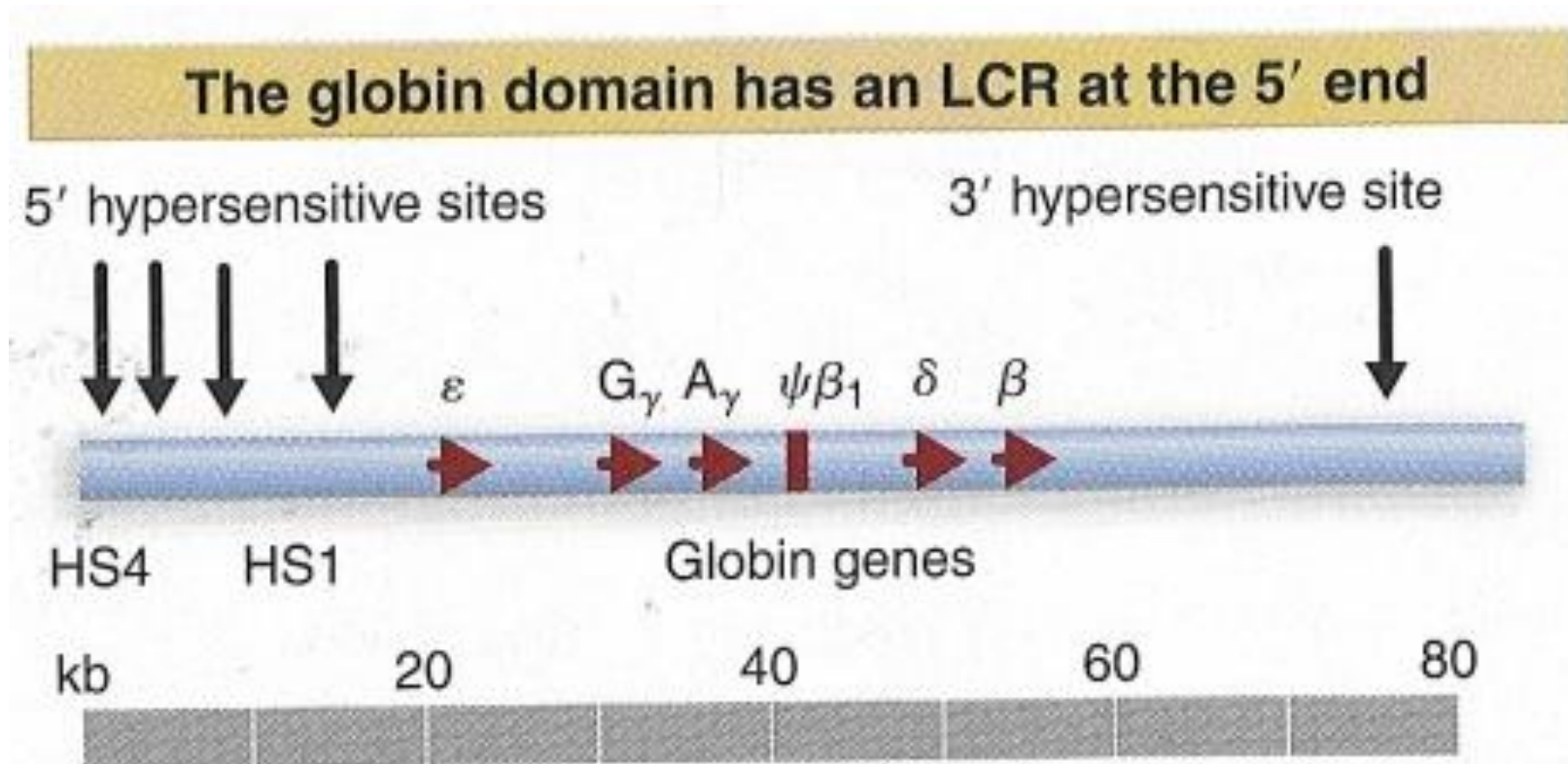


**Figure 26.11** When a receptor is activated by hormone binding, it causes GTP to replace GDP on a  $G\alpha$  subunit. The  $G\alpha$  subunit dissociates from the  $\beta\gamma$  dimer, and activates an effector such as adenylyl cyclase.

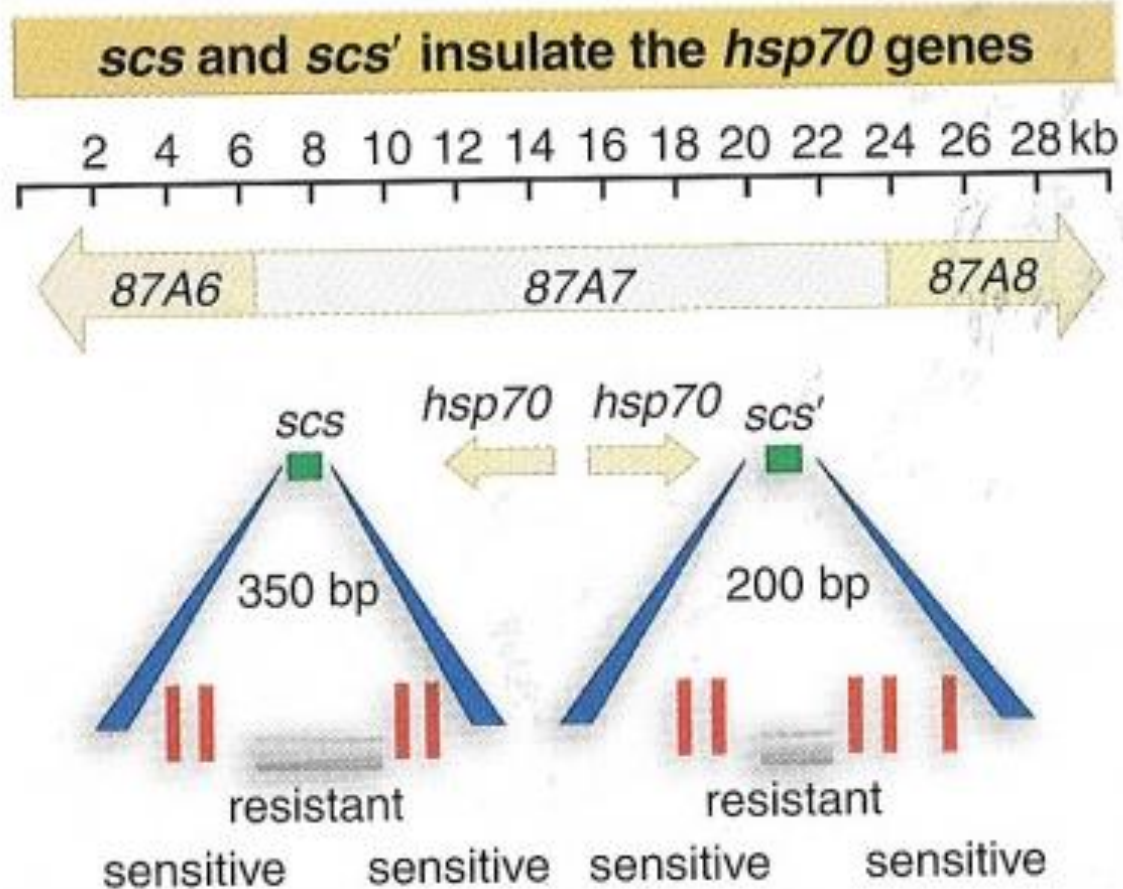
**Figure 26.10** Classes of G proteins are distinguished by their effectors and are activated by a variety of transmembrane receptors.

G protein	Effector function	Second messenger	Example of receptor
s	Stimulates adenylyl cyclase	↑ cAMP	β-adrenergic
olf	Stimulates adenylyl cyclase	↑ cAMP	Odorant
i	Inhibits adenylate cyclase	↓ cAMP	Somatostatin
	Opens K <sup>+</sup> channels	↑ Membrane potential	Somatostatin
o	Closes Ca <sup>2+</sup> channels	↓ Membrane potential	m2 acetylcholine
t (transducin)	Stimulates cGMP phosphodiesterase	↓ cGMP	Rhodopsin
q	Activates phospholipase C $\beta$	↑ InsP3, DAG	m1 acetylcholine

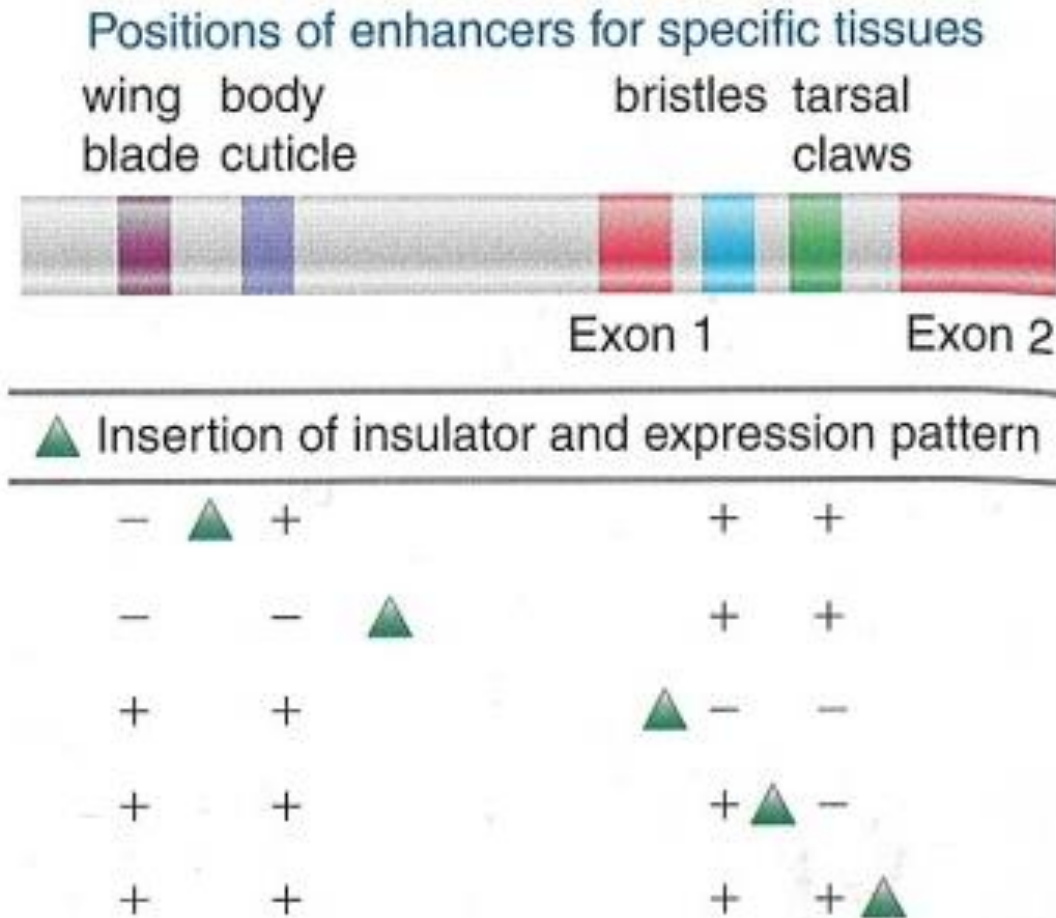
## Locus control region - LCR



**Figure 29.41** A globin domain is marked by hypersensitive sites at either end. The group of sites at the 5' side constitutes the LCR and is essential for the function of all genes in the cluster.

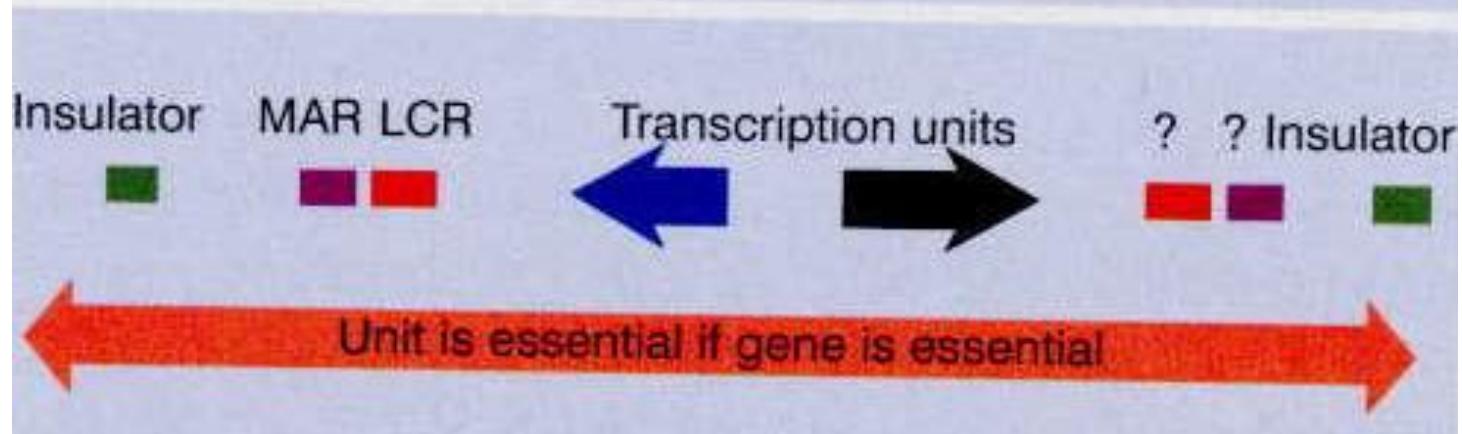


**Figure 29.39** Specialized chromatin structures that include hypersensitive sites mark the ends of a domain in the *D. melanogaster* genome and insulate genes between them from the effects of surrounding sequences.



**FIGURE 10.54** The insulator of the *gypsy* transposon blocks the action of an enhancer when it is placed between the enhancer and the promoter.

**Figure 21.27** Domains may possess three types of sites: insulators to prevent effects from spreading between domains; MARs to attach the domain to the nuclear matrix; and LCRs that are required for initiation of transcription.

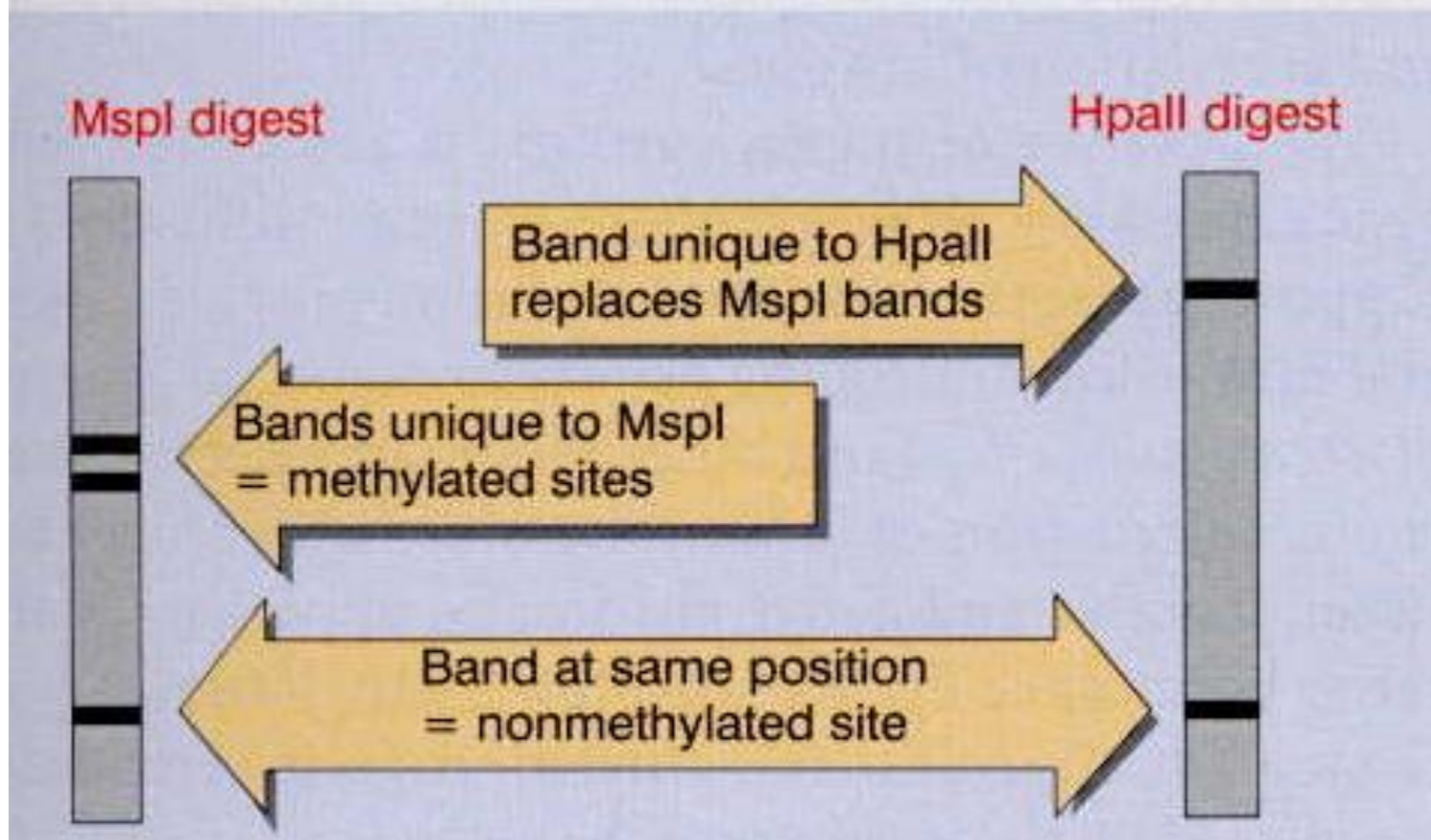


MAR: Matrix attachment site

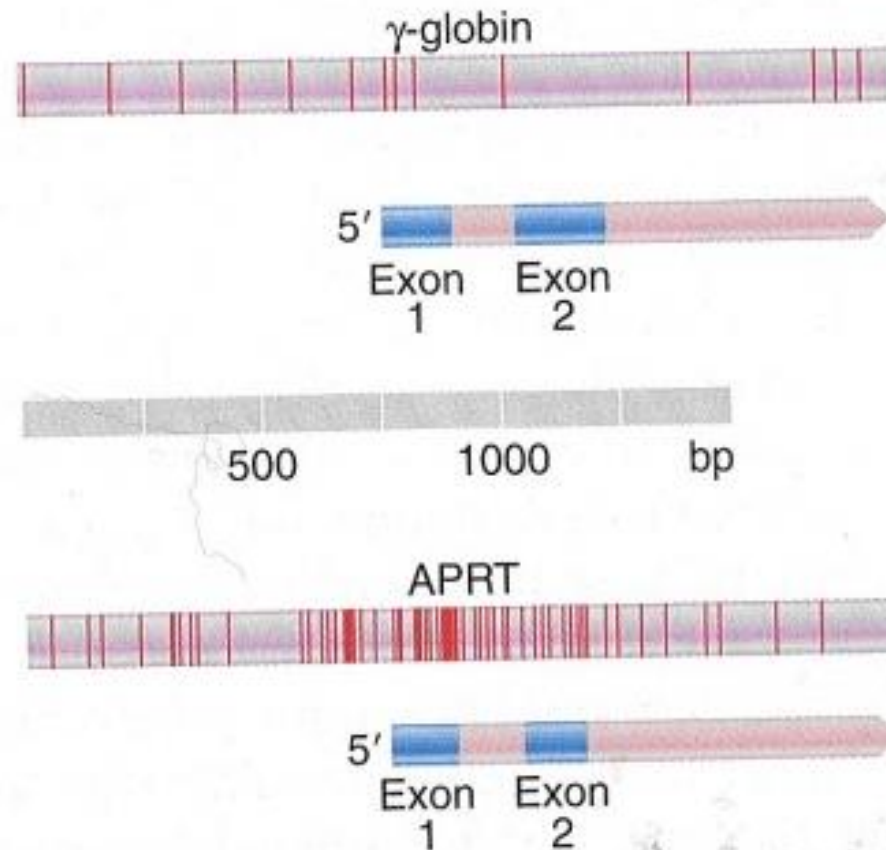
LCR: Locus control region

Insulator: prevents influence from surrounding regions

**Figure 21.29** The results of MspI and HpaII cleavage are compared by gel electrophoresis of the fragments.







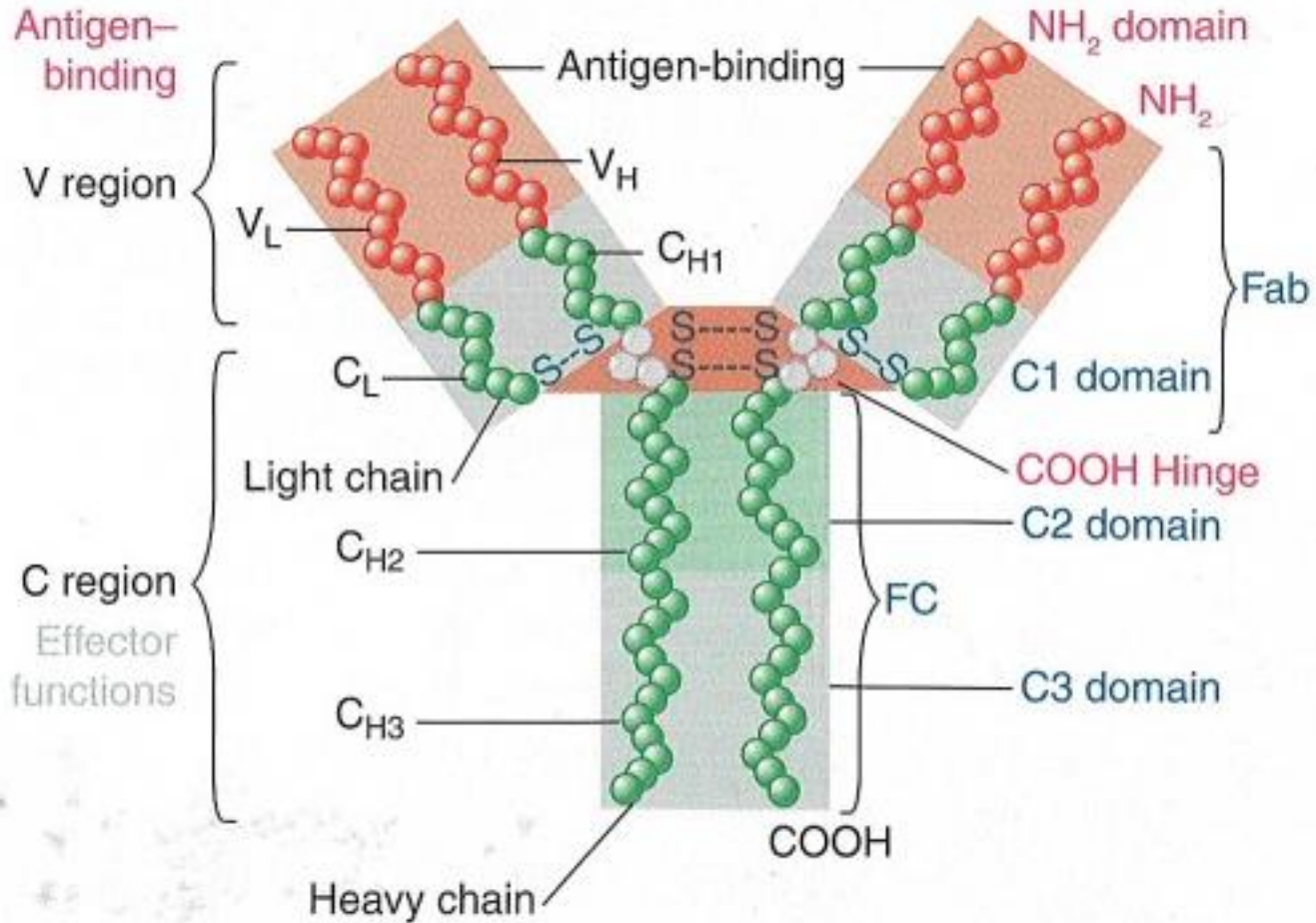
**FIGURE 20.18** The typical density of CpG doublets in mammalian DNA is  $\sim 1/100$  bp, as seen for a  $\gamma$ -globin gene. In a CpG-rich island, the density is increased to  $>10$  doublets/100 bp. The island in the APRT gene starts  $\sim 100$  bp upstream of the promoter and extends  $\sim 400$  bp into the gene. Each vertical line represents a CpG doublet.

15.12.15

# Determination of Gene Function by DNA Rearrangements

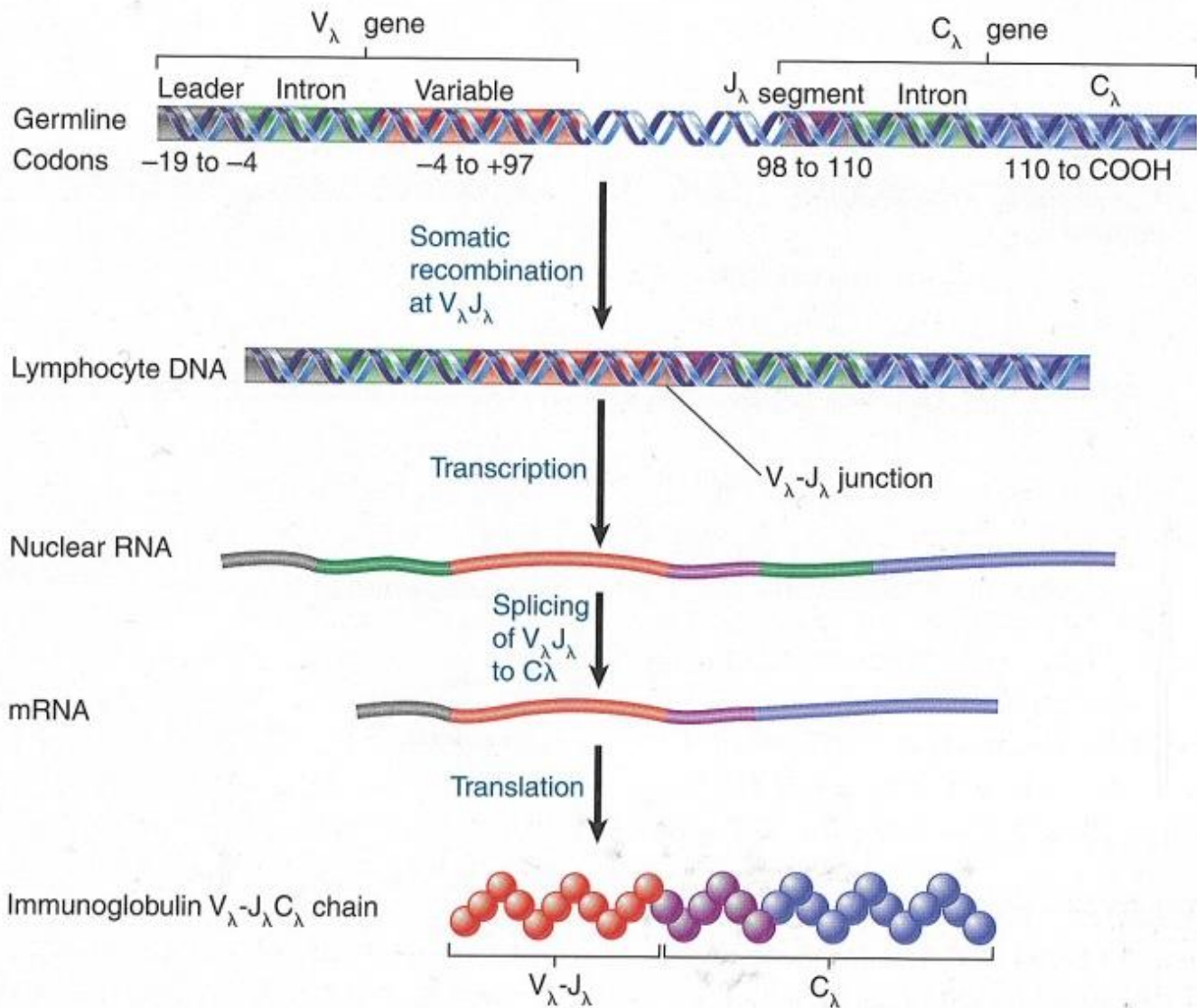
**Figure 24.17** Immunoglobulin type and function is determined by the heavy chain. J is a 'joining protein' in IgM; all other Ig types exist as tetramers.

Type	IgM	IgD	IgG	IgA	IgE
Heavy chain	$\mu$	$\delta$	$\gamma$	$\alpha$	$\epsilon$
Structure	$(\mu_2L_2)_5J$	$\delta_2L_2$	$\gamma_2L_2$	$(\alpha_2L_2)_2J$	$\epsilon_2L_2$
Proportion	5%	1%	80%	14%	<1%
Effector function	Activates complement	Development of tolerance (?)	Activates complement	Found in secretions	Allergic response



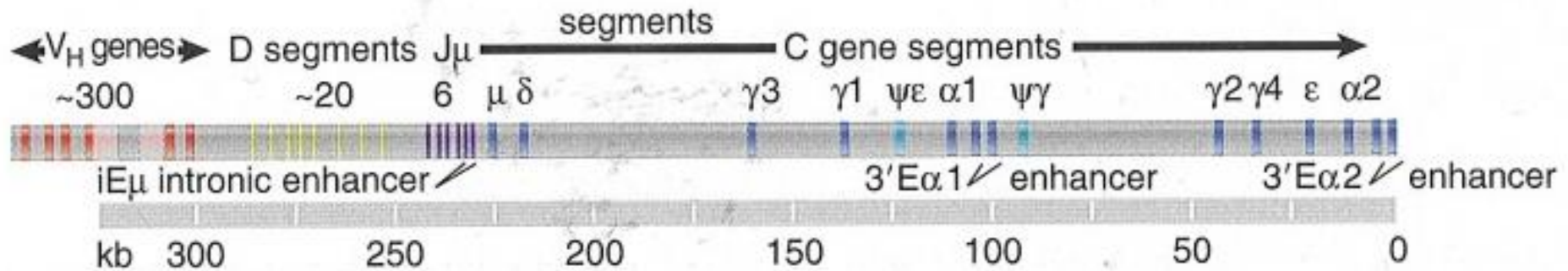
**FIGURE 18.7** An antibody (immunoglobulin, or Ig) molecule is a heterodimer consisting of two identical heavy chains and two identical light chains. Schematized here is an IgG1, which comprises an N-terminal variable (V) region and a C-terminal constant (C) region.

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI”; Jones&Bartlett Learning



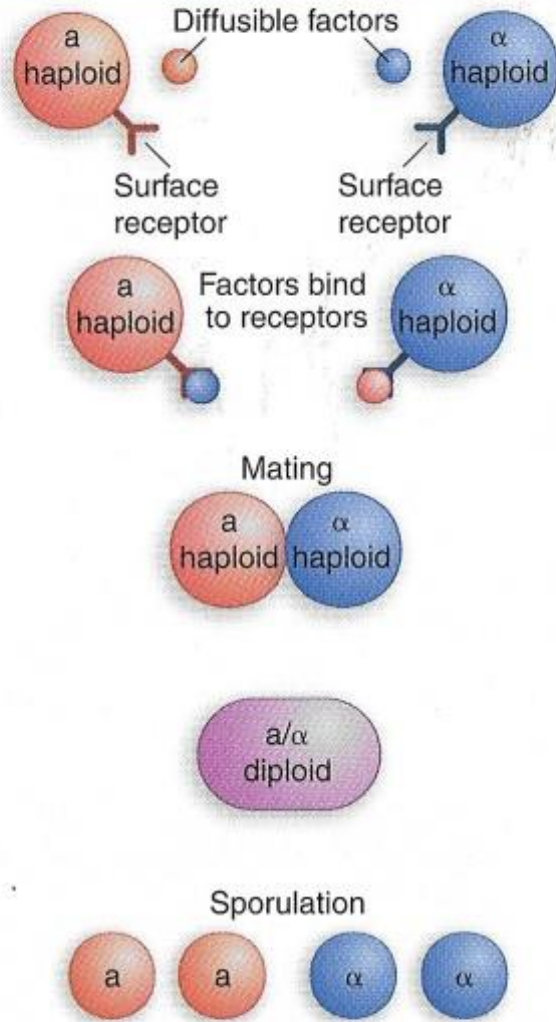
**FIGURE 18.8** The  $C_\lambda$  gene segment is preceded by a  $J_\lambda$  segment, so that  $V_\lambda$ - $J_\lambda$  recombination generates a productive  $V_\lambda$ - $J_\lambda$  $C_\lambda$ .

Taken from: J.E. Krebs, E.S. Goldstein, S.T. Kilpatrick; „Lewin’s Genes XI”; Jones&Bartlett Learning



**FIGURE 18.13** A single gene cluster in humans contains all the information for the IgH chain. Depicted is a schematic map of the human IgH chain locus.

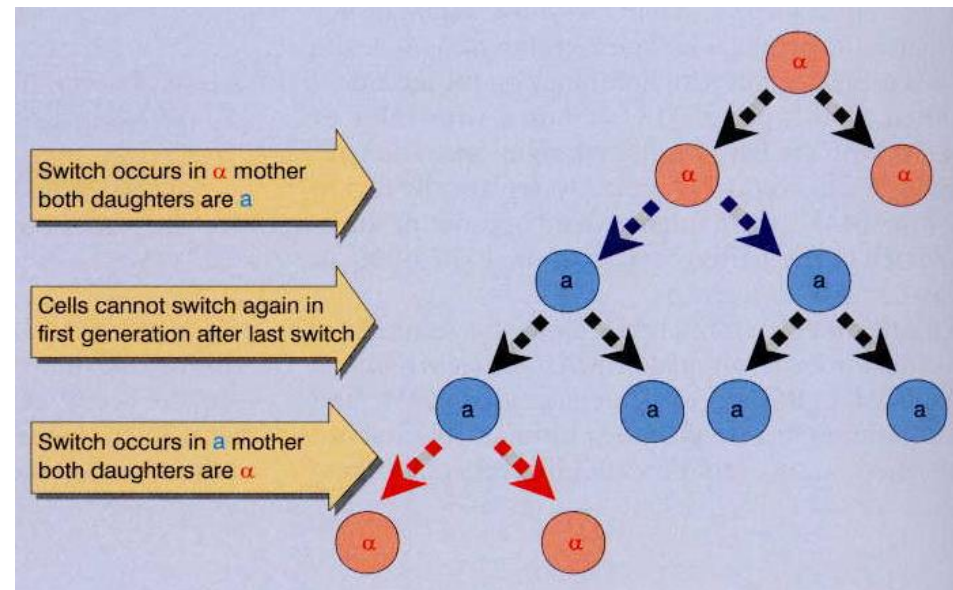
Haploids mate to give diploids



**Figure 19.21** The yeast life cycle proceeds through mating of *MAT<sub>a</sub>* and *MAT<sub>α</sub>* haploids to give heterozygous diploids that sporulate to generate haploid spores.

Regulation of expression by DNA rearrangements

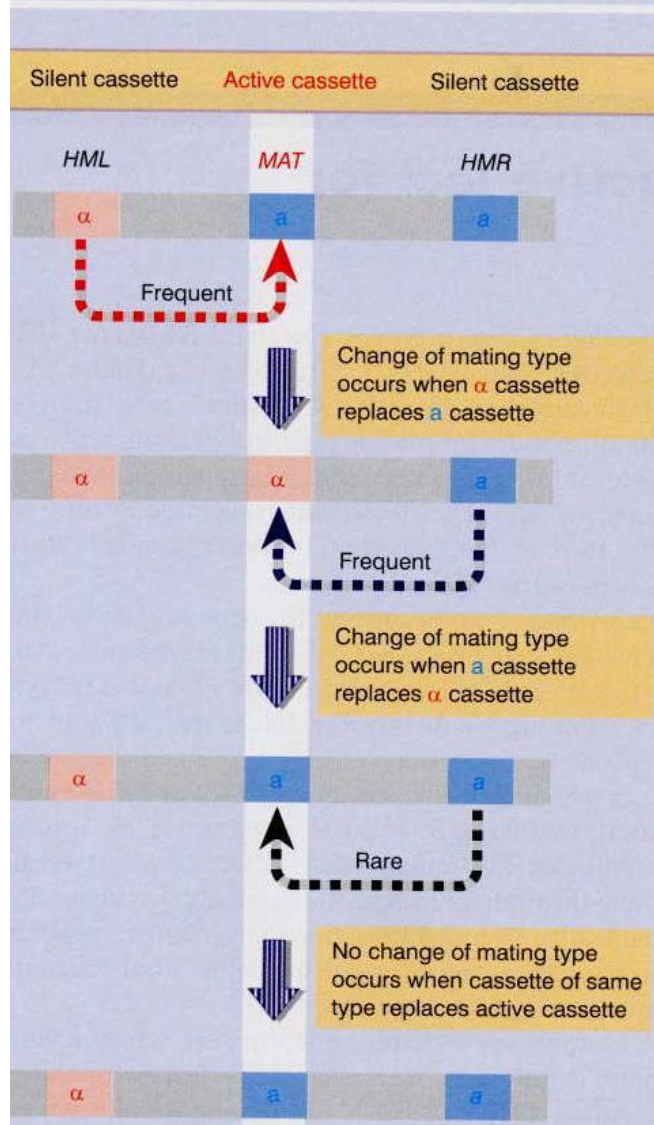
Yeast mating type switching



**Figure 17.11** Switching occurs only in mother cells; both daughter cells have the new mating type. A daughter cell must pass through an entire cycle before it becomes a mother cell that is able to switch again.

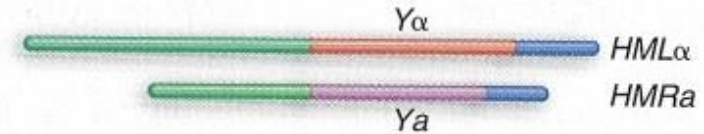


**Figure 17.5** Changes of mating type occur when silent cassettes replace active cassettes of opposite genotype; when transpositions occur between cassettes of the same type, the mating type remains unaltered.

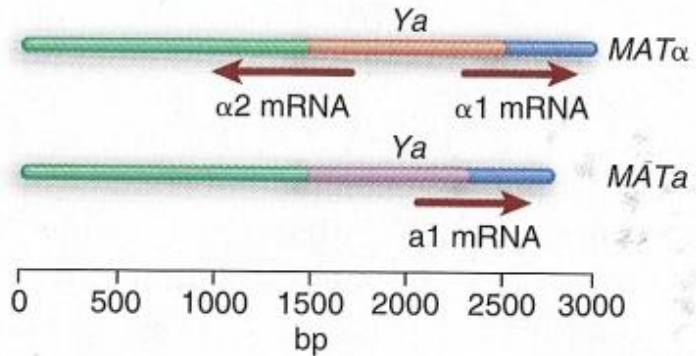


### All cassettes have similar sequences

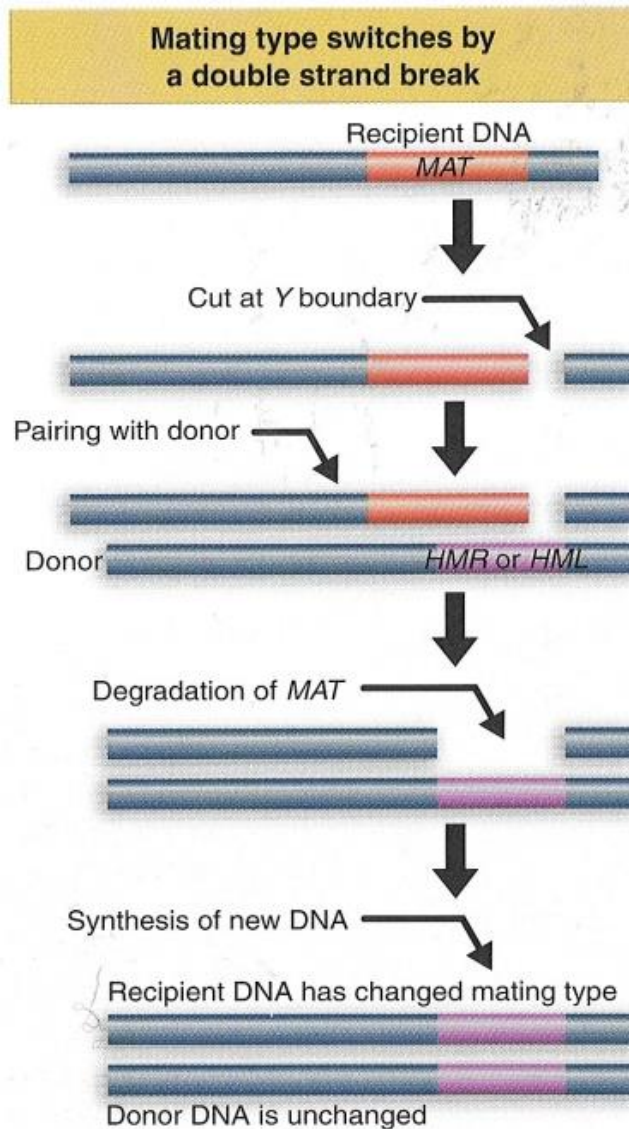
Inactive cassettes do not synthesize RNA



Active cassettes synthesize mating-type-specific products



**Figure 19.23** Silent cassettes have the same sequences as the corresponding active cassettes, except for the absence of the extreme flanking sequences in  $HMRa$ . Only the  $Y$  region changes between  $a$  and  $\alpha$  types.



**Figure 19.25** Cassette substitution is initiated by a double-strand break in the recipient (*MAT*) locus, and may involve pairing on either side of the *Y* region with the donor (*HMR* or *HML*) locus.

**HO endonuclease cleaves a 24 bp target**

*Y* region

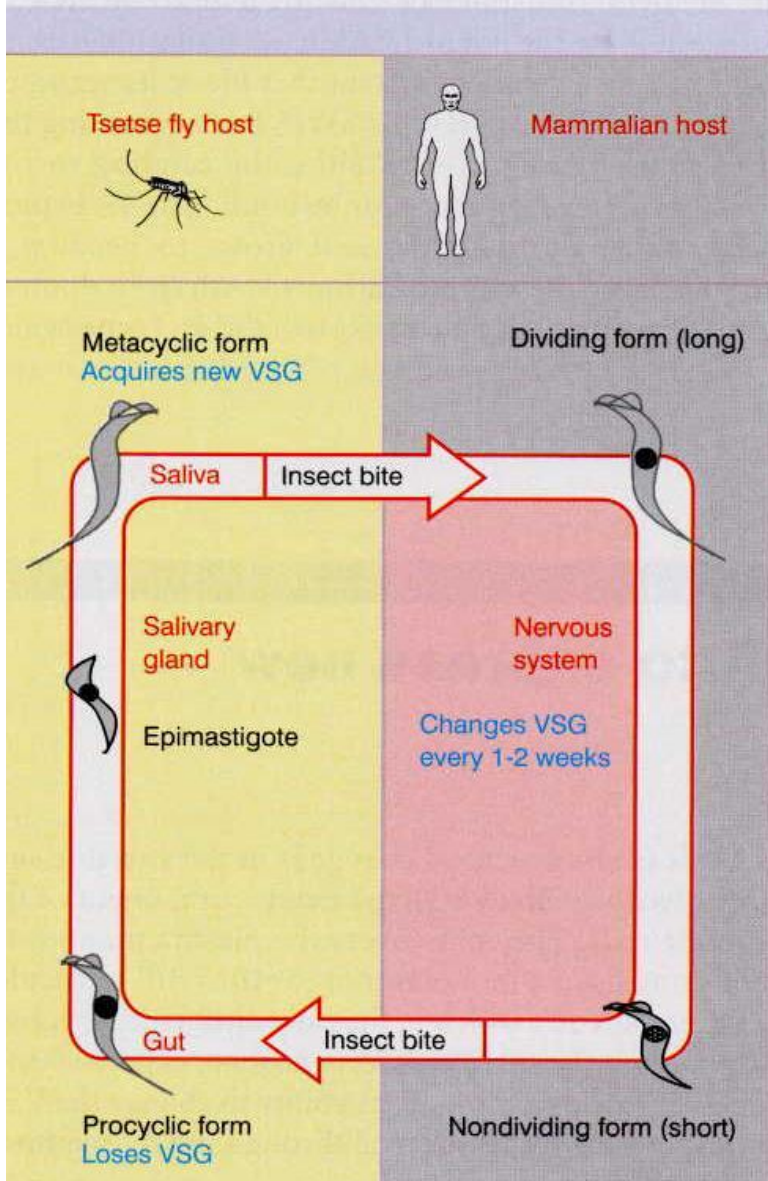
TTTCAGCTTTCCGCAACAGTATA  
AAAGTCGAAAGGCGTTGTCATAT

HO endonuclease

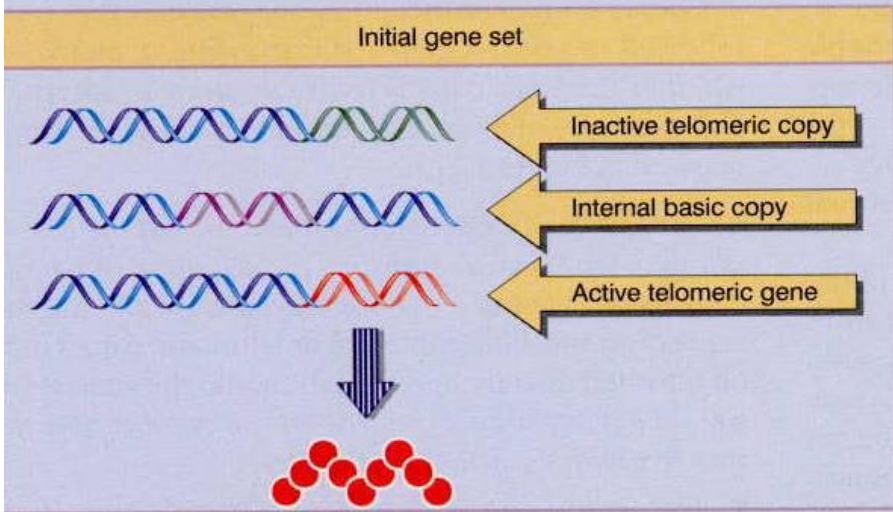
TTTCAGCTTTCCGCAACA GTATA  
AAAGTCGAAAGGCG TTGTCATAT

**Figure 19.24** HO endonuclease cleaves *MAT* just to the right of the *Y* region, generating sticky ends with a 4-base overhang.

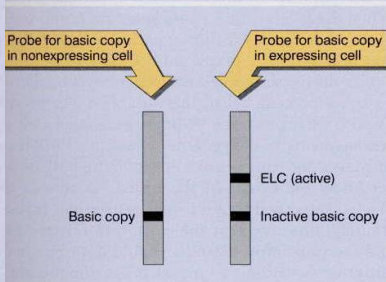
**Figure 17.13** Overview: a trypanosome passes through several morphological forms when its life cycle alternates between a tsetse fly and mammalian host.



**Figure 17.15** VSG genes may be created by duplicative transfer from an internal or telomeric basic copy into an expression site, or by activating a telomeric copy that is already present at a potential expression site.



**Figure 17.16** Internal basic copies can be activated only by generating a duplication of the gene at an expression-linked site.



**Figure 17.17** Telomeric basic copies can be activated *in situ*; the size of the restriction fragment may change (slightly) when the telomere is extended.

