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Perspective

# Impact of Bioenergetics in Signal Transduction

**Cong Chen***

*Department of Energy Science and Energy Technology, Qingdao Institute of Bio Energy and Bioprocess Technology, Qingdao, China*

## DESCRIPTION

By a series of biochemical reactions, most typically protein phosphorylation catalyzed by protein kinases, a chemical or physical signal is transmitted through a cell and eventually results in a physiological response. Signal transduction is the term for this action. Although the term "sensor" is sometimes used, receptors are the general name for the proteins that sense stimuli. The modifications brought about by ligand binding (or signal detecting) at a receptor start a signaling route, which is a set of biochemical activities known as a biochemical cascade.

By combinatorial signaling events, signaling channels regularly interact with one another to form networks that facilitate the coordination of cellular responses. These reactions include adjustments to gene transcription or translation, post-translational changes to protein structure, and adjustments to proteins' molecular localization. The fundamental mechanisms governing cell growth, metabolism, and a variety of other functions are these molecular occurrences. In multicellular organisms, signal transduction pathways regulate cell communication in a variety of ways.

The function that each component (or node) of a signaling pathway carries out in respect to the original stimulus determines which category it falls under. Primary effectors are activated by signal transducers called receptors, which in turn are first messengers called ligands. These mainly protein-based effectors are typically linked to second messengers, which in turn can activate further effectors. According to the concept of "signal gain," a signal can be amplified depending on how well the nodes function, enabling a single signaling molecule to trigger a reaction involving hundreds to millions of molecules. The function that each component (or node) of a signaling pathway carries out in respect to the original stimulus determines which category it falls under. Primary effectors are activated by signal transducers called receptors, which in turn are first messengers called ligands. These mainly protein-based effectors are typically linked to second messengers, which in turn can activate further effectors. According to the concept of "signal gain," a signal can be amplified depending on how well the nodes function, enabling a single signaling molecule to trigger a reaction involving hundreds to millions of molecules.

The hydrophobic membrane of a target cell can be crossed by hydrophobic chemical effector molecules, such as steroid hormones, to attach to an intracellular receptor and start a reaction. Large effector molecules, such as protein hormones, or extremely polar hormones, such as adrenalin, cannot pass the cell membrane once they have reached a target cell. On the surface of cells, they instead bind to transmembrane protein receptors. A conformational alteration in the receptor's extracellular domain leads to additional allosteric changes in the cytoplasmic domain. Signal transduction is the process by which information received from the external effector is transformed into intracellular information through a sequential set of molecular activities.

GTP-binding proteins (G-Proteins) transduce extracellular signals by promoting the creation of second messenger molecules in the cells. This is known as G-Protein Mediated Signal Transduction by PKA (Protein Kinase A). An allosteric shift in the receptor's cytoplasmic domain increases the cytoplasmic domain's affinity for G proteins on the inner plasma membrane surface when hormones or other effector (signal) molecules bind to their membrane receptors. G proteins are embedded in the cytoplasmic surface of sensitive cell membranes as trimers made up of α, β, γ, and subunits. The seven steps depicted on the next page serve as an illustration of G-protein-mediated signal transduction.

When a receptor binds an effector signal molecule, the receptor changes shape. The receptor identifies and binds to the G-protein trimer on the cytoplasmic surface of the plasma membrane in this configuration. GTP replaces GDP on the G subunit protein's upon the trimer's interaction to the receptor.

**Correspondence to:** Cong Chen, Department of Energy Science and Energy Technology, Qingdao Institute of Bio Energy and Bioprocess Technology, Qingdao, China, E-mail: chencong@gmail.com

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