

# The lipid classes and fatty acids as principal components: an overview of structures, functions and the main physiological /pathological roles

*Carla Ferreri, Senior Researcher CNR, Bologna*

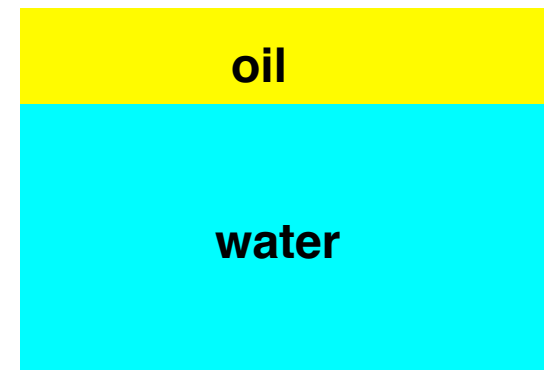
*Seminar for*

REP-eat

Horizon 2020 MSCA-COFUND  
Rep-Eat - G.A. n. 713714

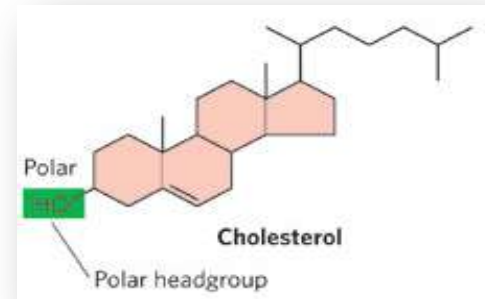
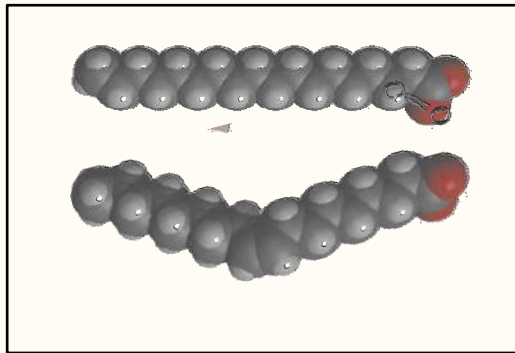
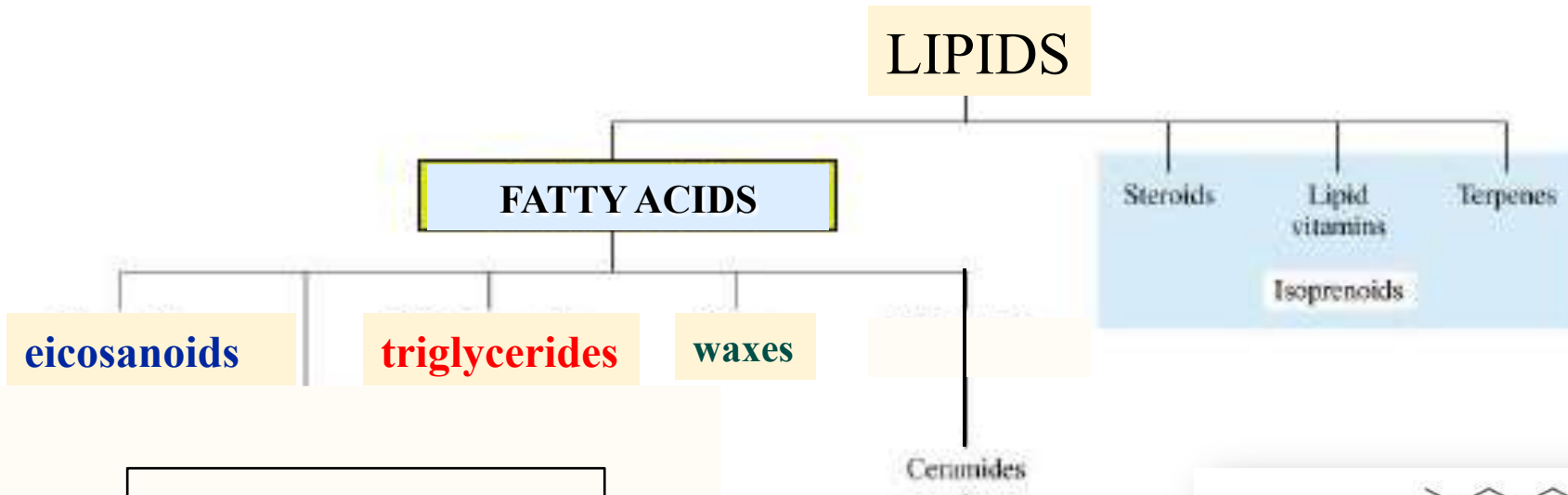
# Lipids: definition

*Lipids are chemical structures with biological roles in living organisms that are classified together due to their **water insolubility***

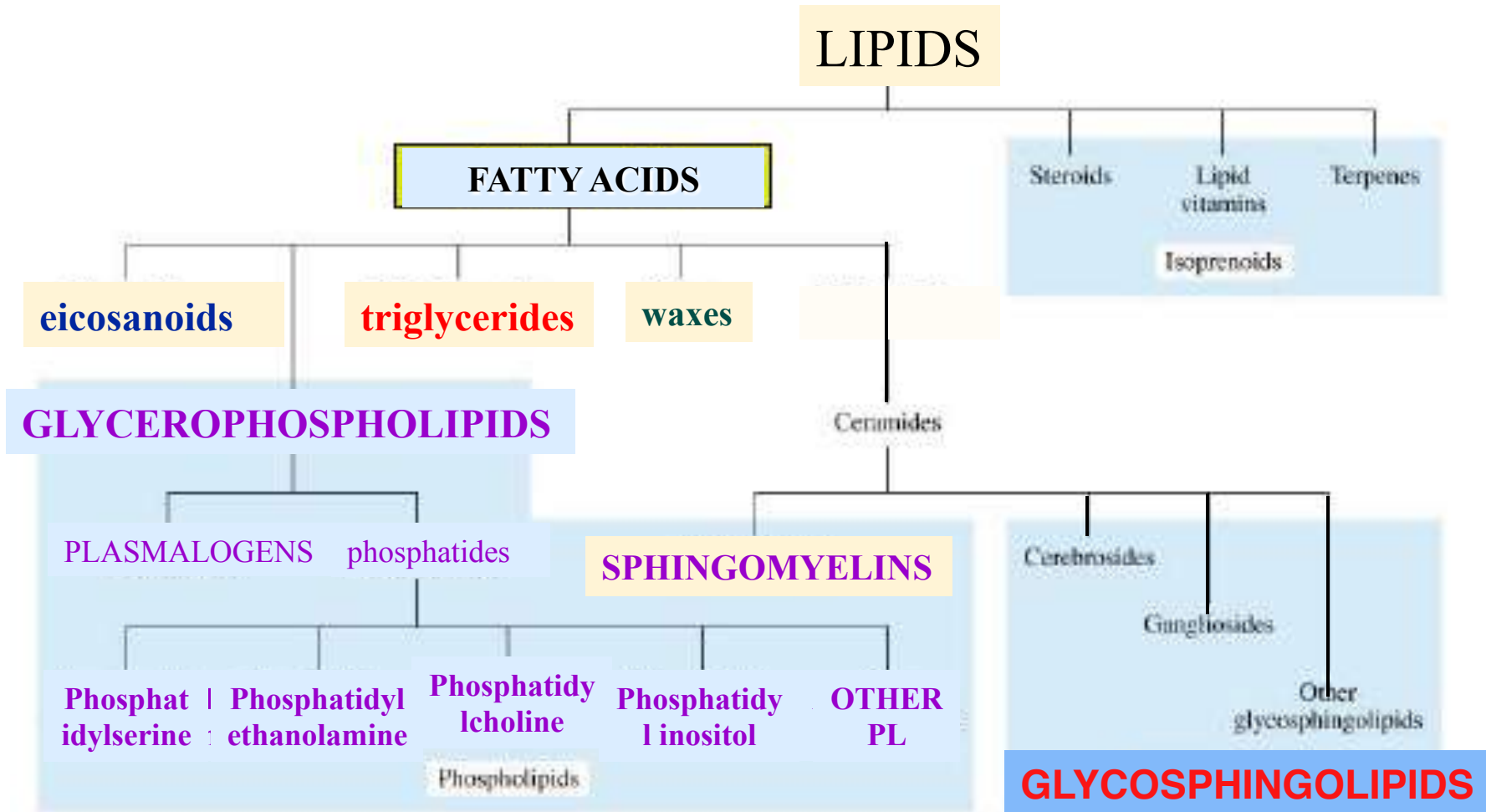


***From the Greek word LIPOS***

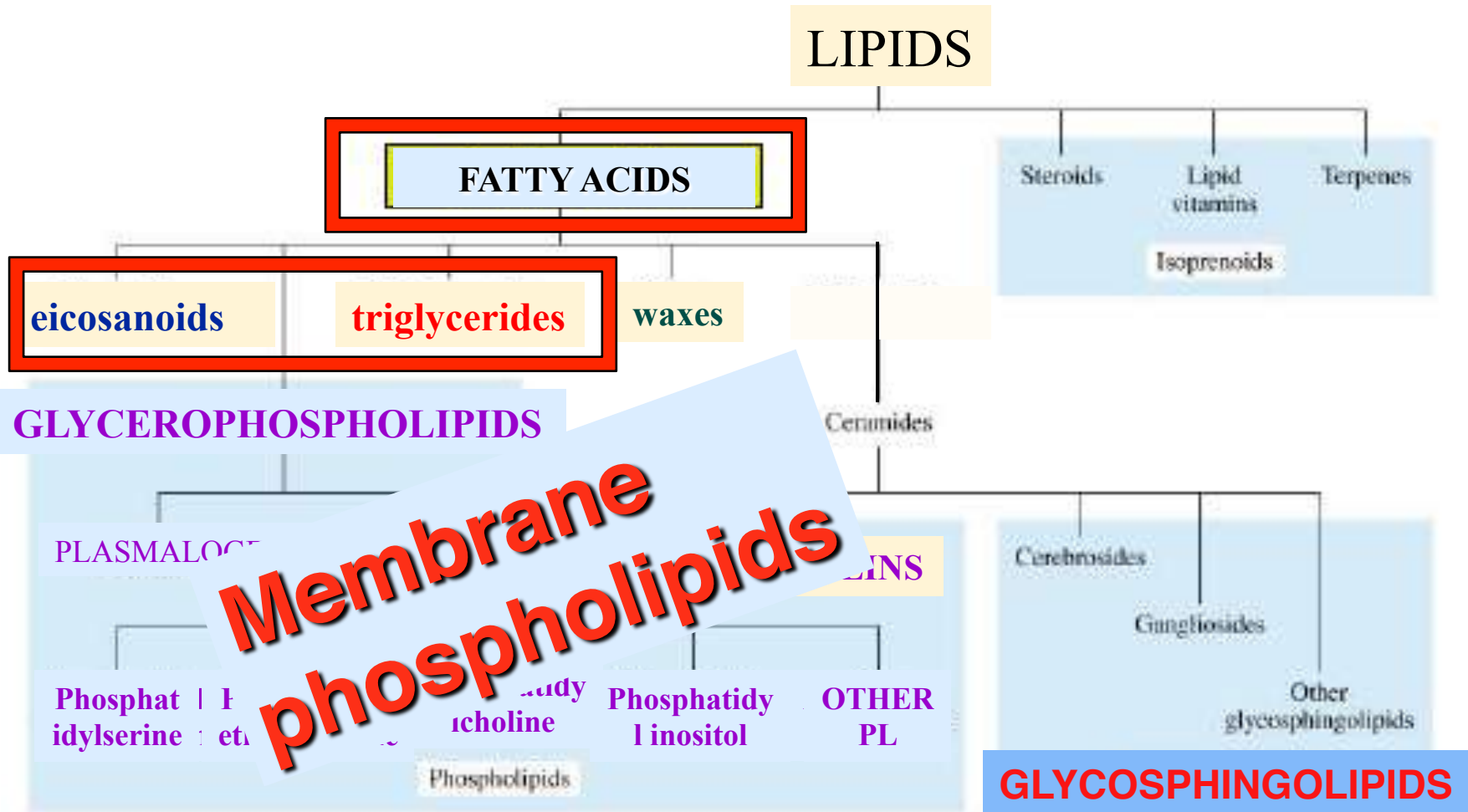
# Lipid classes



# Lipid classes



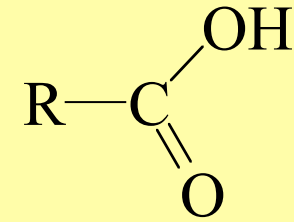
# Lipid classes



# Summary

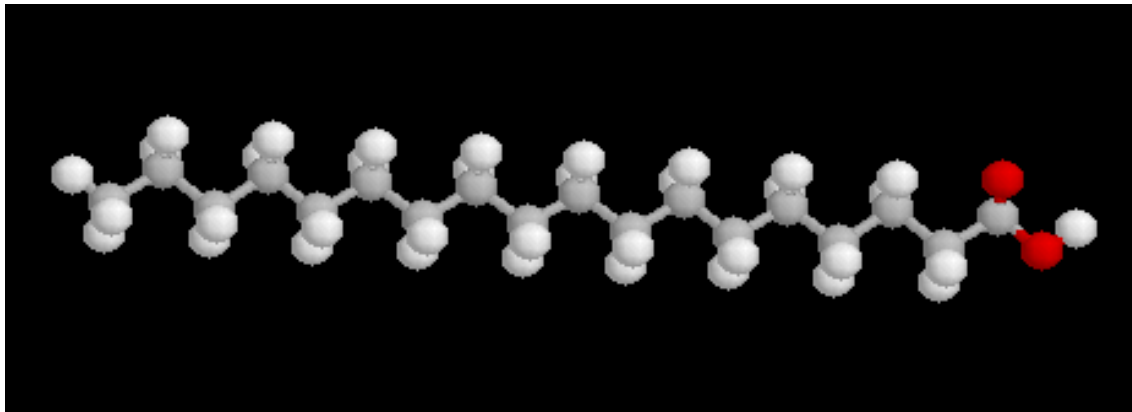
- Fatty acid structures
- From triglycerides to phospholipids: lipid metabolism for life
- Membrane formation and organization

# Fatty acids

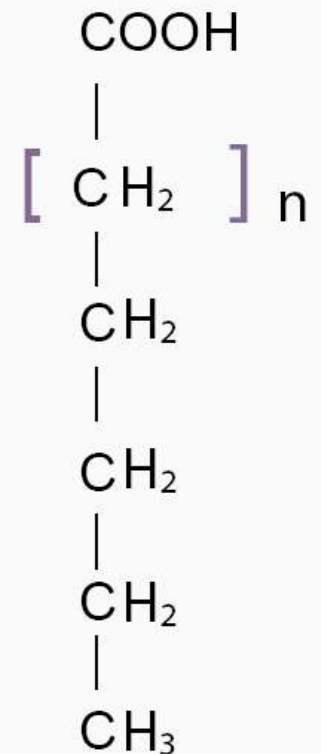


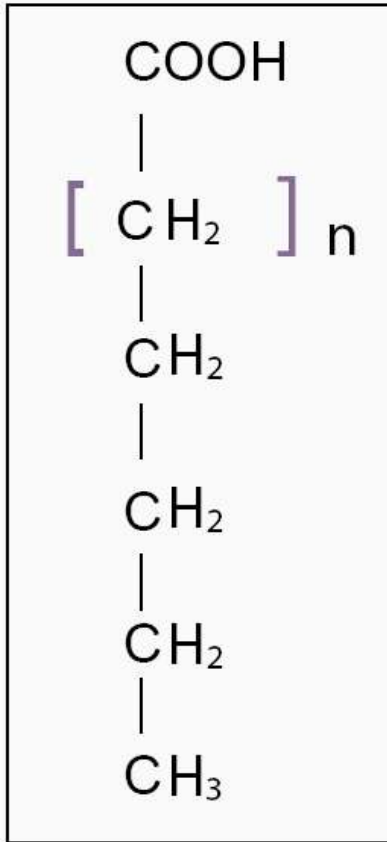
Carboxylic group (H<sup>+</sup>)

## Basic molecular structure to build up LIPIDS

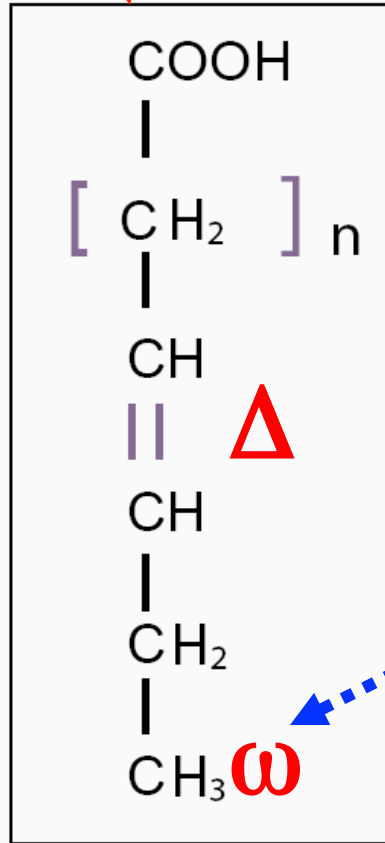


2-carbon atom structure repeated several times: **EVEN** number





**SATURATED  
FATTY ACIDS  
SFA**



**UNSATURATED  
FATTY ACIDS  
UFA**

**CARBOXYLIC GROUP – start**

**define the position of the unsaturation  
 $\Delta$  of the unsaturated fats**

**METHYL GROUP - Chain end  
(define the position of the end -  
The  $\omega$  of the unsaturated fats)**



# Nomenclature of fatty acids

n. Of C atoms/  
n. double bonds

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SFA

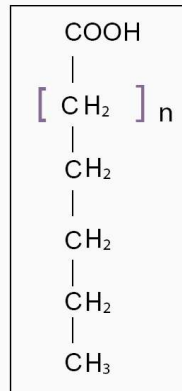
12:0

14:0

16:0

18:0

20:0



MUFA

16:1

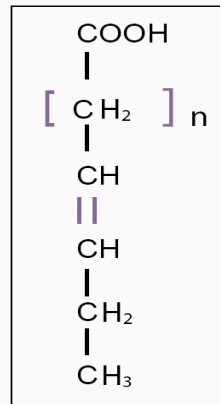
18:1

PUFA

18:2

18:3

20:4



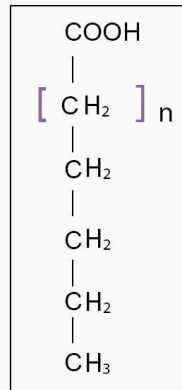
# Nomenclature of fatty acids

n. Of C atoms/  
n. double bonds

Common name

SFA

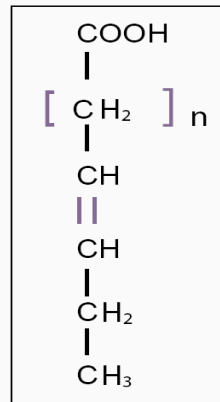
12:0  
14:0  
16:0  
18:0  
20:0



lauric acid  
miristic acid  
palmitic acid  
stearic acid  
arachidic acid

MUFA  
PUFA

16:1  
18:1  
18:2  
18:3  
20:4



palmitoleic acid  
oleic acid  
linoleic acid  
linolenic acid  
arachidonic acid

# Nomenclature of fatty acids

	n. Of C atoms/ n. double bonds		Common name	melting point (°C)
SFA	12:0	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{COOH} \\    \\  [ \text{CH}_2 ]_n \\    \\  \text{CH}_2 \\    \\  \text{CH}_2 \\    \\  \text{CH}_2 \\    \\  \text{CH}_3  \end{array}  $	lauric acid	44
	14:0		miristic acid	58
	16:0		palmitic acid	63
	18:0		stearic acid	70
	20:0		arachidic acid	77
MUFA	16:1	$  \begin{array}{c}  \text{COOH} \\    \\  [ \text{CH}_2 ]_n \\    \\  \text{CH} \\     \\  \text{CH} \\    \\  \text{CH}_2 \\    \\  \text{CH}_3  \end{array}  $	palmitoleic acid	32
18:1	oleic acid		16	
PUFA	18:2		linoleic acid	- 5
18:3	linolenic acid		- 11	
20:4	arachidonic acid		- 49	

# Fatty acid structures

Palmitic acid 16:0



Oleic acid 18:1



**SATURATED**

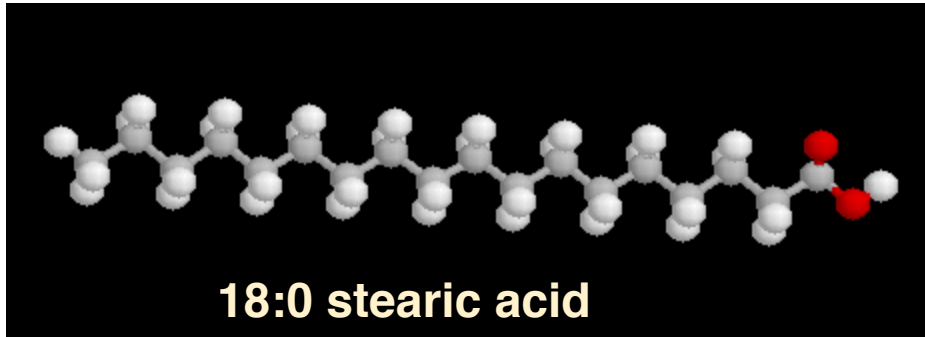
Effects of physical  
properties on  
biological  
properties



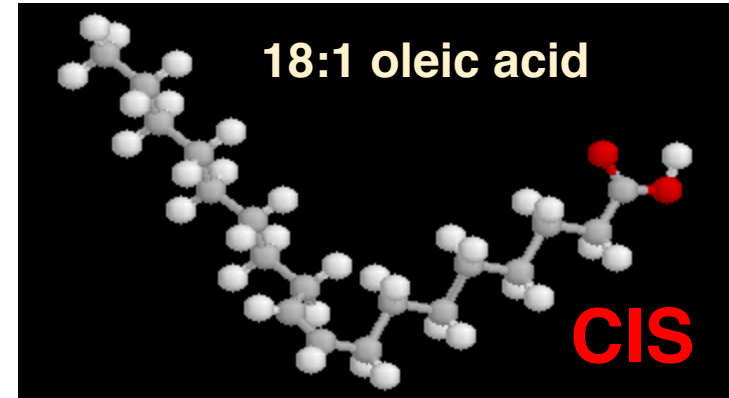
**UNSATURATED**

**CIS**

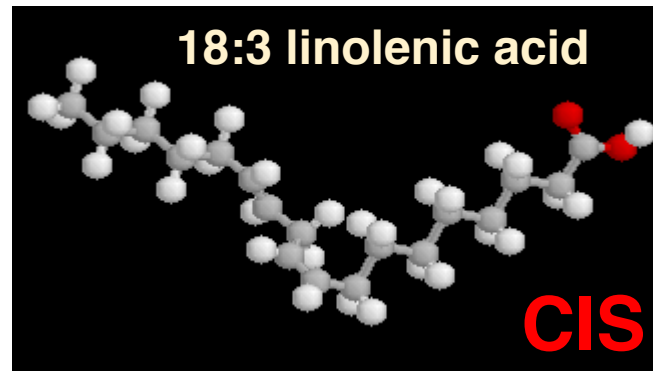
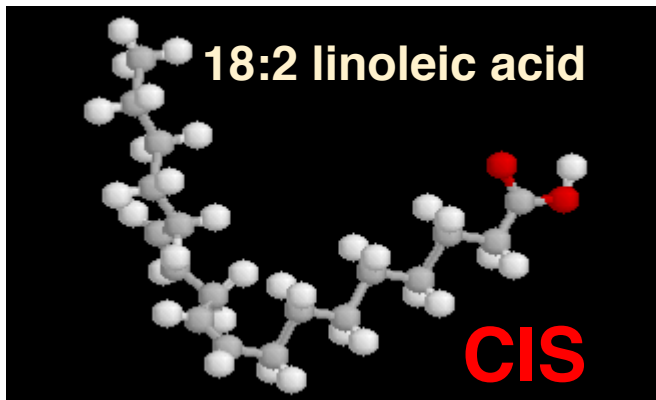
# Fatty acid structures



**SATURATED**



**MONO UNSATURATED, MUFA**

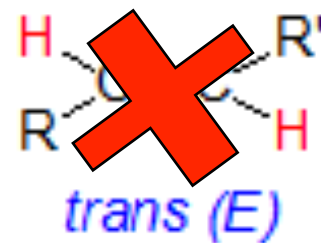
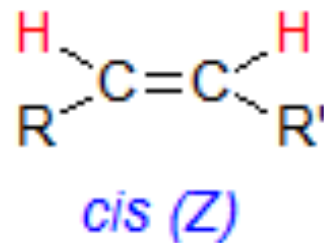
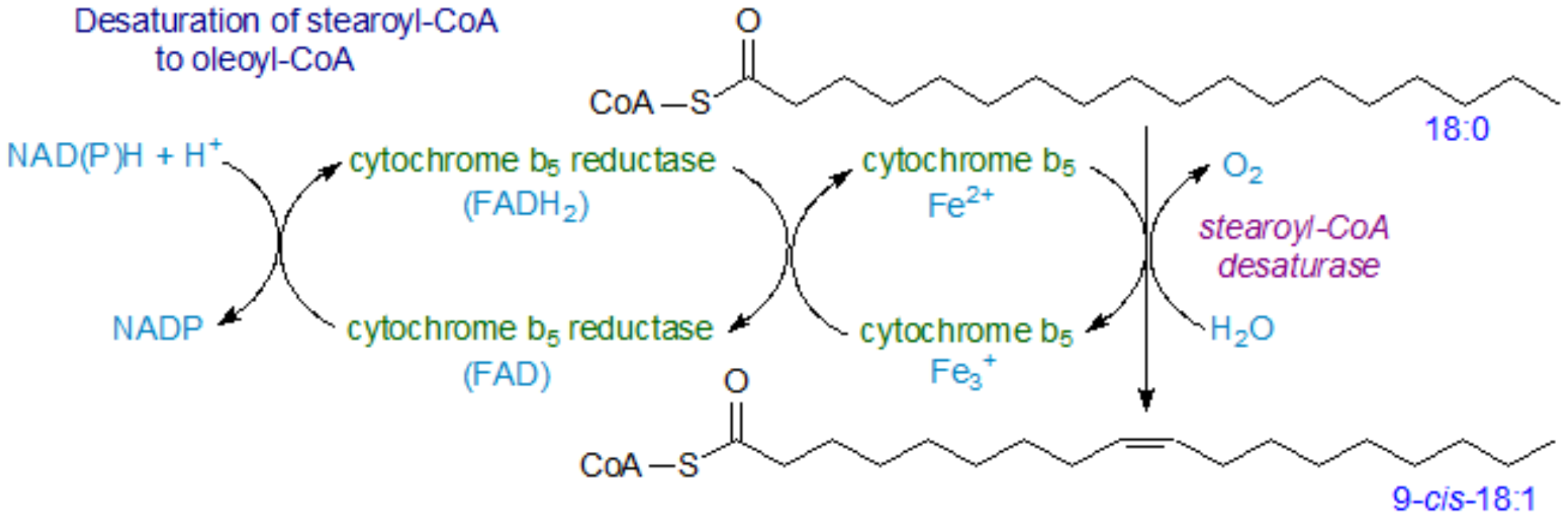


**POLYUNSATURATED  
PUFA**

**ALL NATURAL UNSATURATED FATTY ACIDS ARE CIS ISOMERS**

# Desaturase mechanism

Desaturation of stearoyl-CoA  
to oleoyl-CoA



STEREOSPECIFICITY

REGIOSPECIFICITY

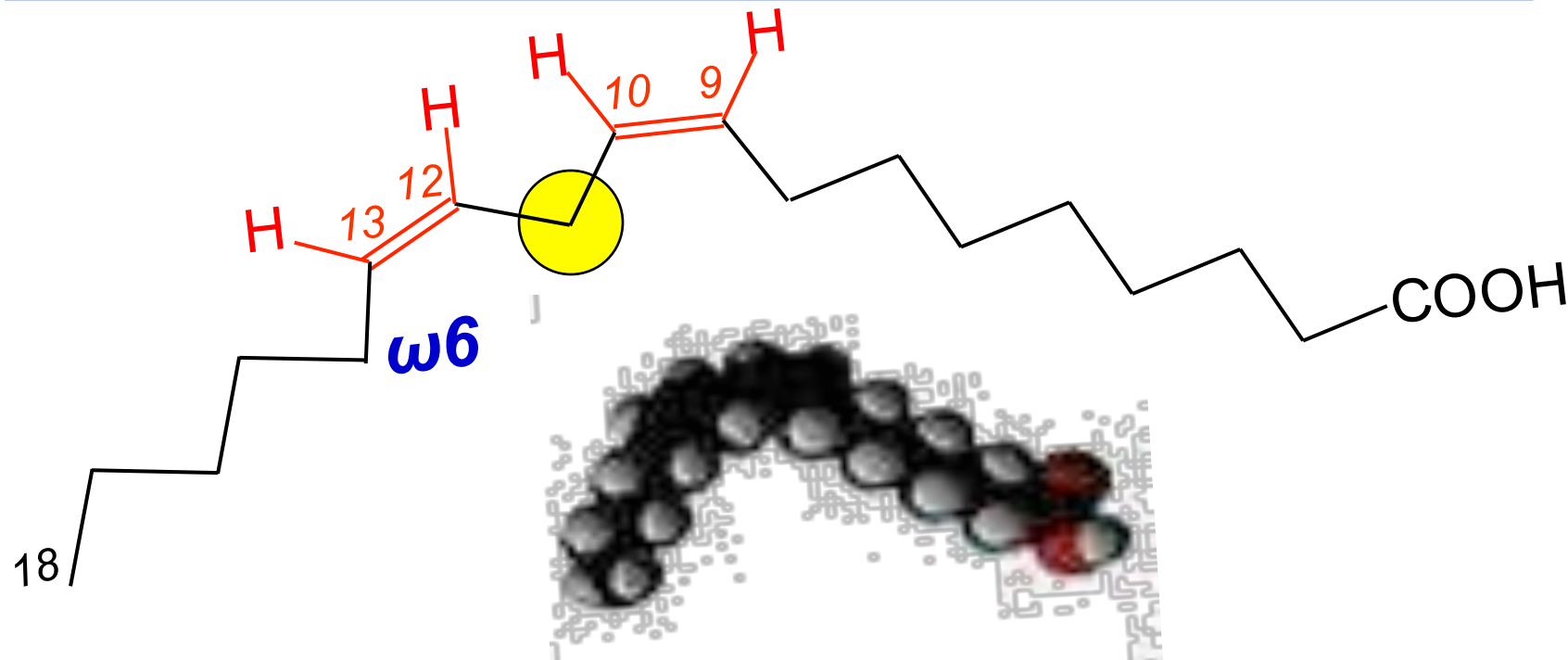
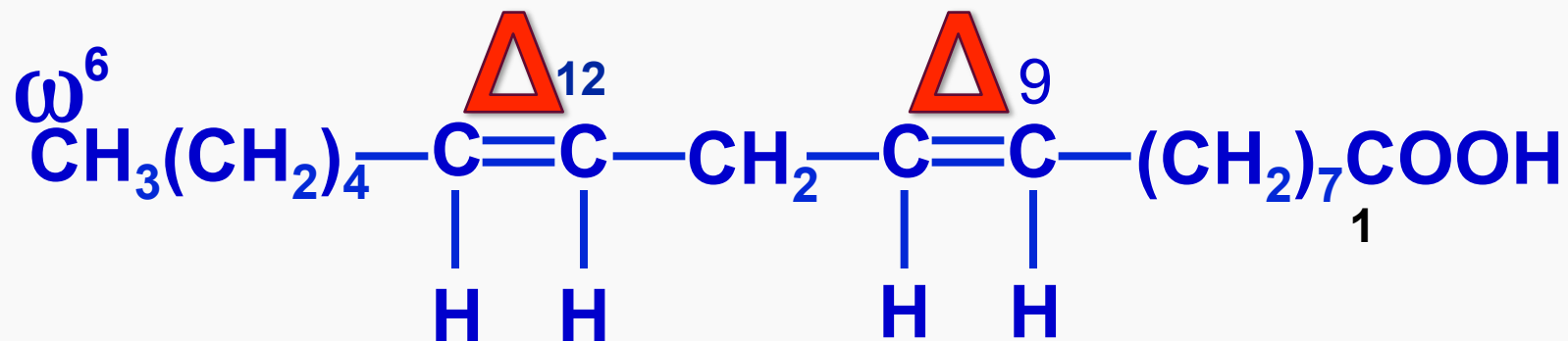
# Polyunsaturated fatty acids

## PUFA

With more than one double bond  
separated by one  
methylene group  $\text{CH}_2$

Linoleic acid ( $18:2^{9,12}$  -  $18:2, \omega-6$ )

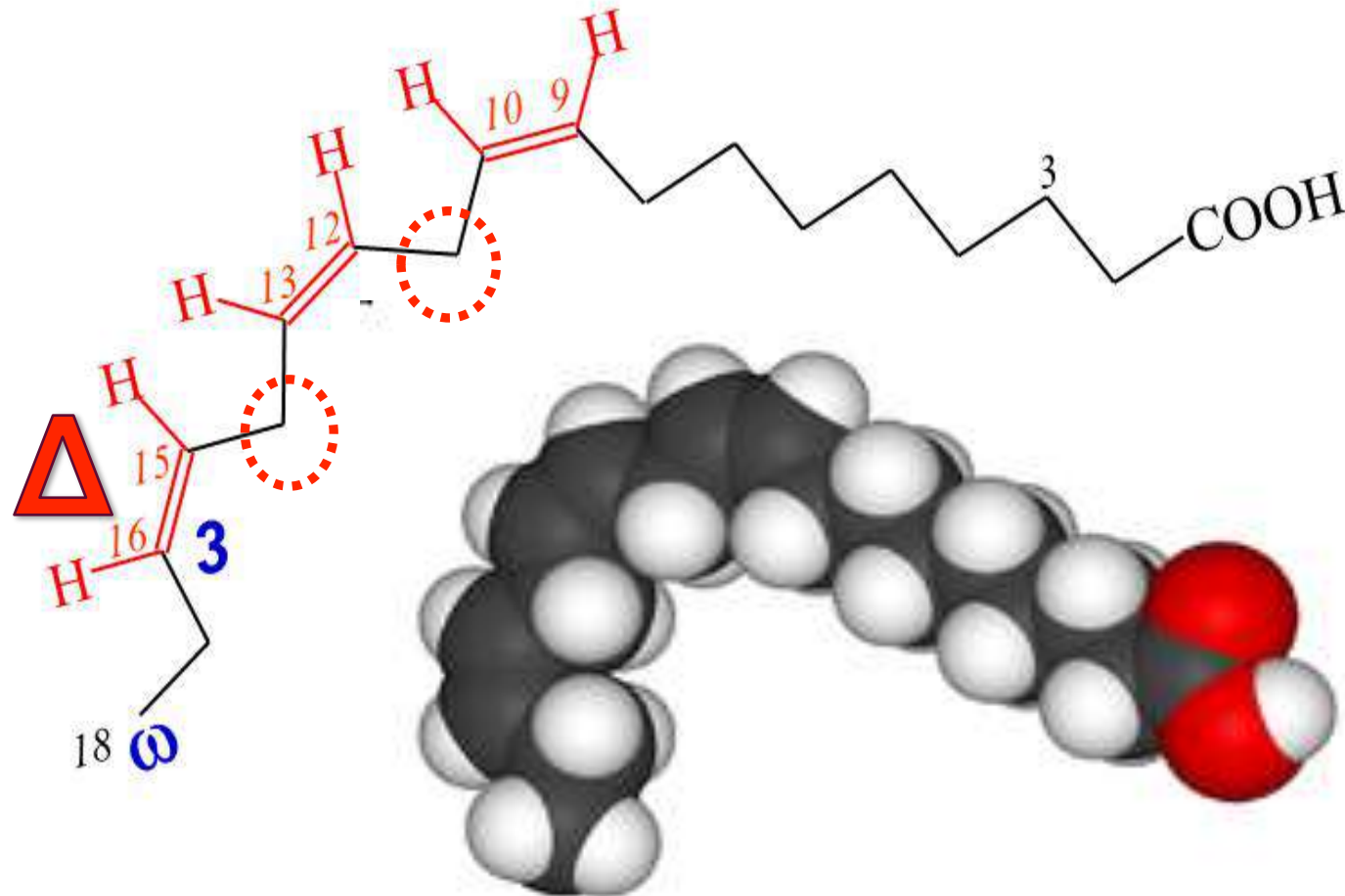
*all cis- $\Delta^9,12$ -octadecadienoic acid*





# Alpha-Linolenic acid $18:3^{9,12,15}$ - $18:3, \omega-3$ )

*all cis- $\Delta^{9,12,15}$  -octadecatrienoic acid*

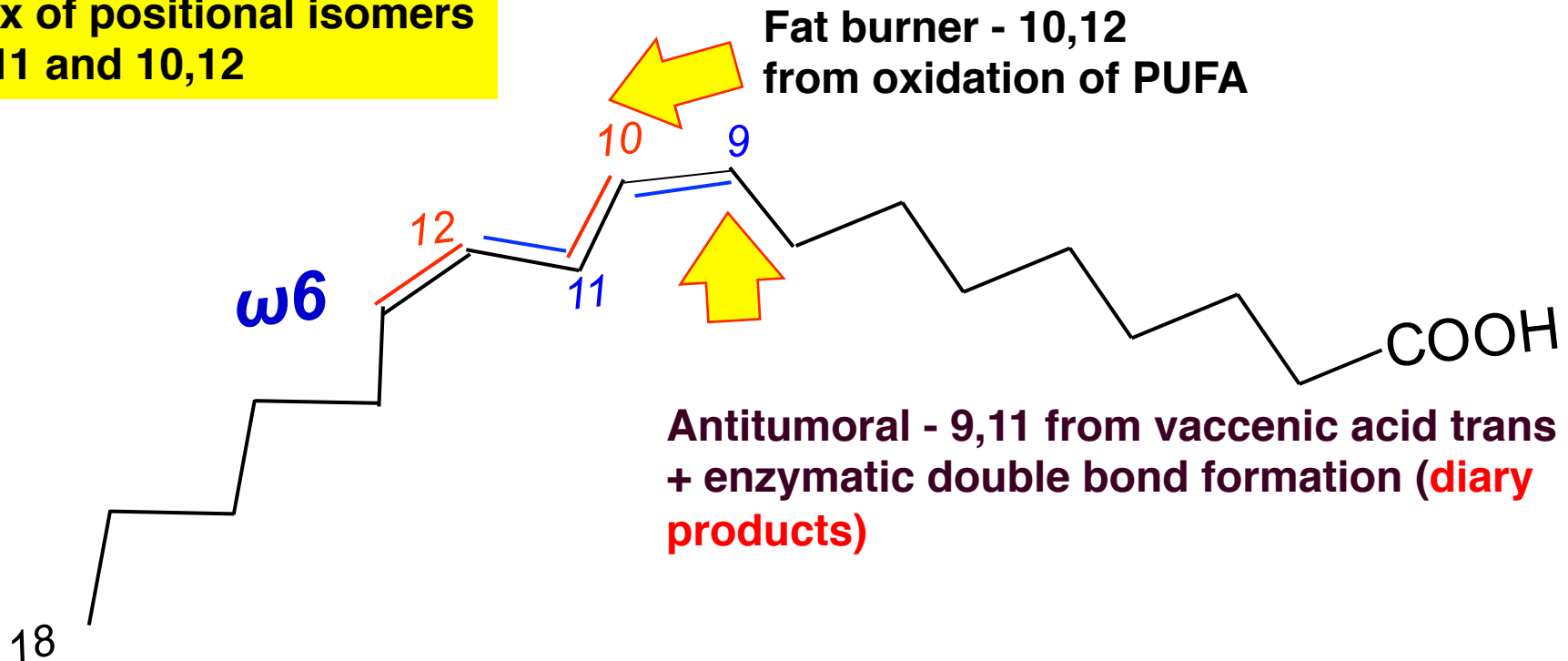


# Conjugated fatty acids

## *Two consecutive double bonds*

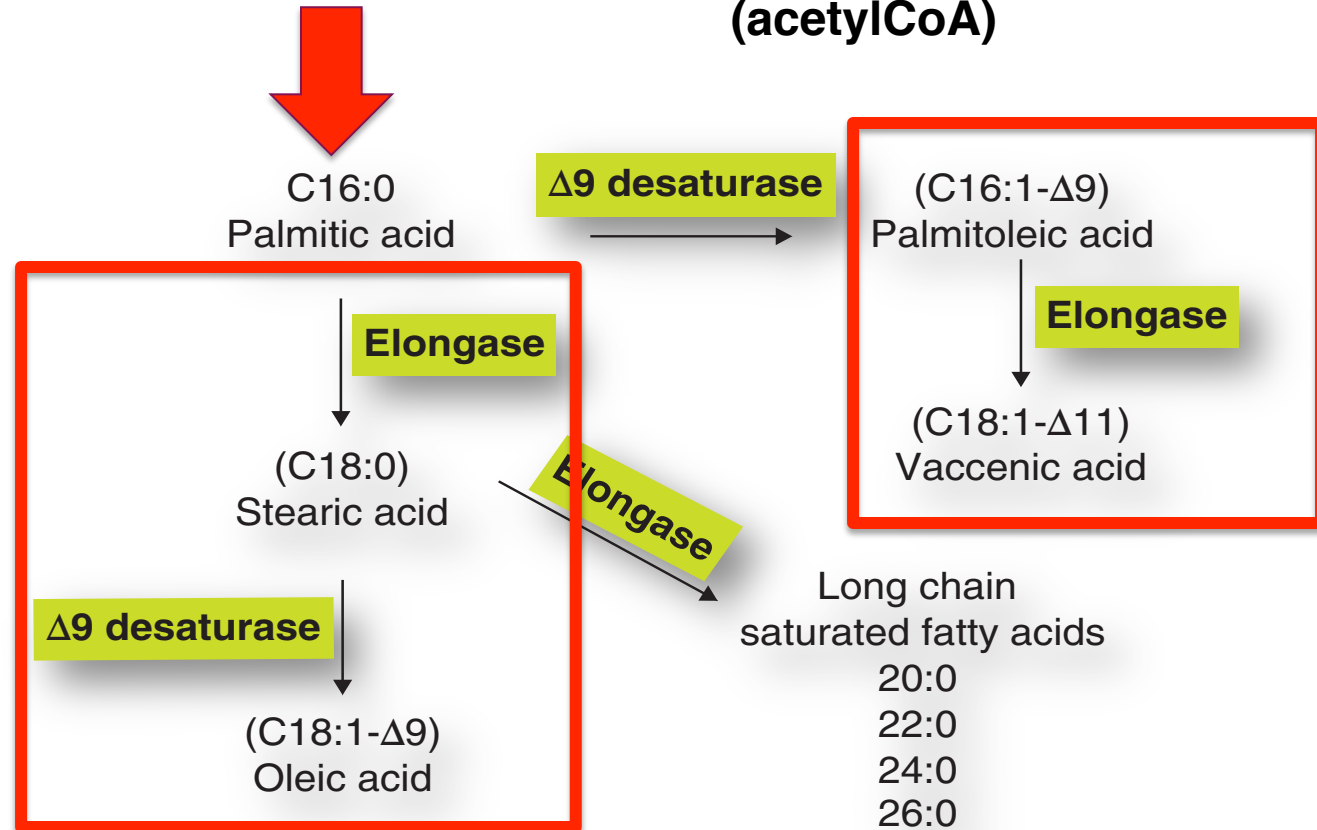
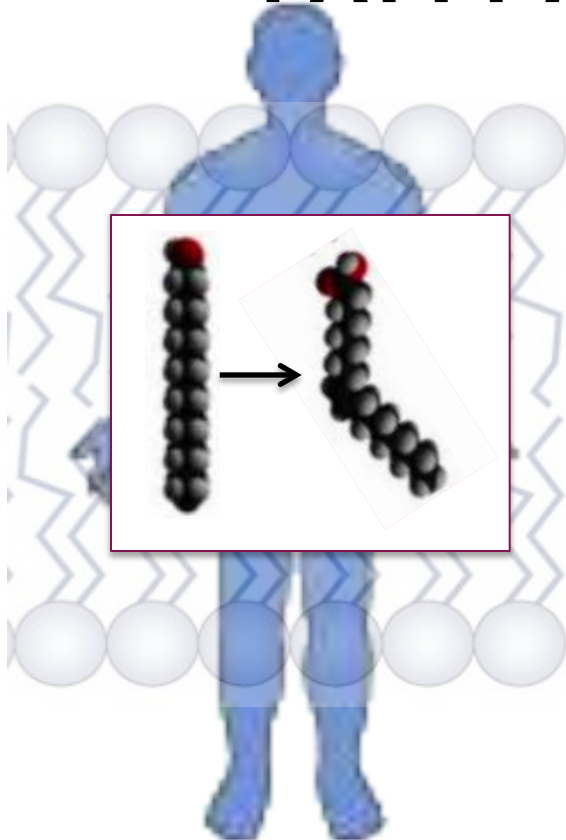
Conjugated linoleic acid ( $18:2^{10,12}$  -  $18:2, \omega-6$ )

Mix of positional isomers  
9,11 and 10,12



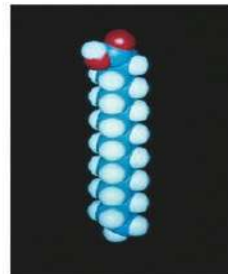
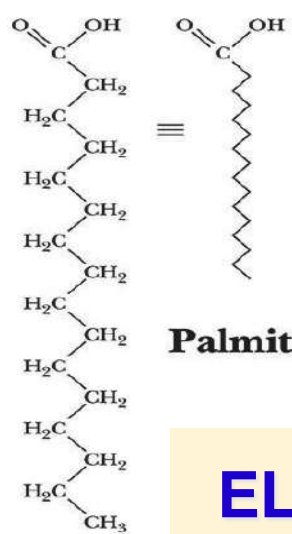
# SFA-MUFA pathway

**FATTY ACID Synthase** ( $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{O})\text{SCoA}$ )  
(acetylCoA)



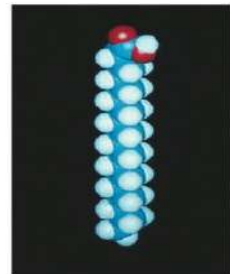
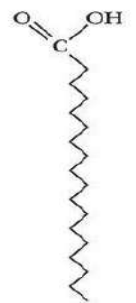
**Fatty acid synthase FAS**

2+2+2.....



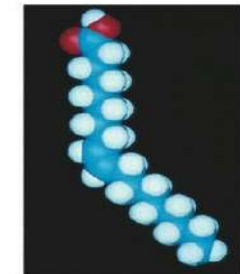
**Palmitic acid 16:0**

**Elongase**



**Stearic acid 18:0**

**Desaturase**



**Oleic acid 18:1**

**BENT STRUCTURES**

**Δ<sup>9</sup> Enzyme (SCD-1)**

**ELONGASE** adds two carbon units

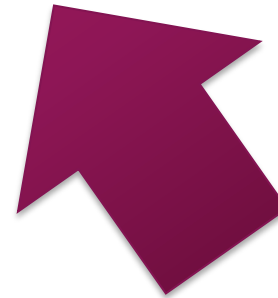
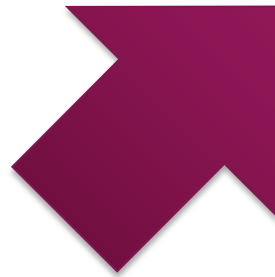
**DESATURASE** forms **CIS** double bonds  
regio- and stereospecific enzymes

**SFA**

**Excess!!**



- Too much from the diet
- Not good post-transformation by desaturase



**DIET**

**SATURATED FATS  
CARBOHYDRATES  
(glycemic index)**

**BIOSYNTHESIS**

**Fatty acid  
synthase**

# Fundamental transformation

**SFA**

C16:0 palmitic acid mp 63 °C



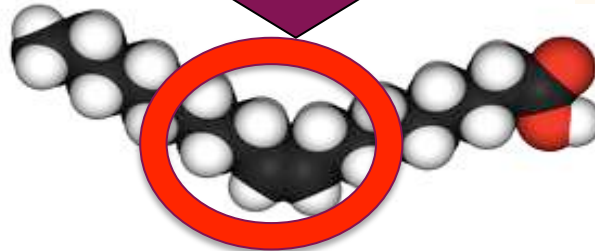
C18:0 stearic acid mp 70 °C

Delta9 desaturase

DESATURASE: control mechanism for saturated fats accumulation



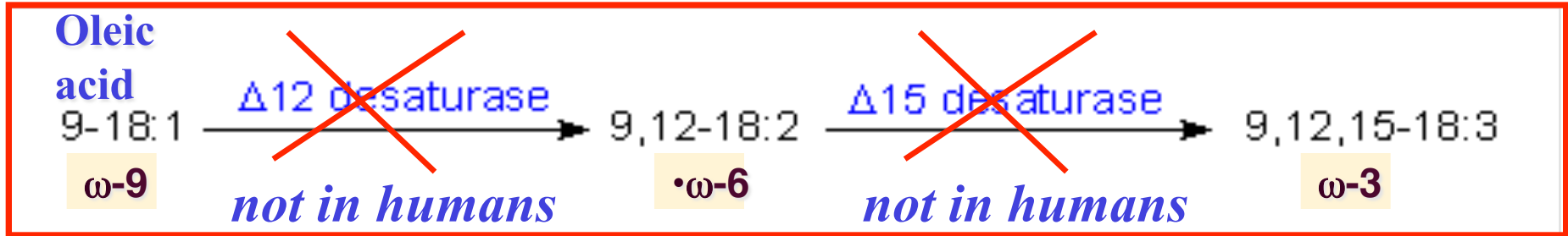
C16:1 palmitoleic acid mp 32 °C



C18:1 oleic acid mp 16 °C

**MUFA**

# Essential PUFA



**Omega-6**

$\omega$ -6  
n-6



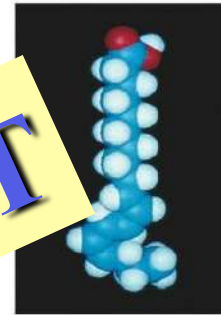
Linoleic acid



**DIET**



$\alpha$ -Linolenic acid



**Omega-3**

$\omega$ -3  
n-3



**Eczema, allergies, hair loss  
arthritis, high pressure,  
high cholesterol  
8-12 g/d LA assumption**

**Omega-6**

**Omega-3**

**Allergy, Alzheimer, CV risk,  
immune deficiency,  
INFLAMMATION  
1.1 g/d ALA  
EPA-DHA (250 mg/d)**

**EFSA**

**WHO**

**FAO**

**Omega-6/omega-3 nutritional ratio  
4:1 – 1:1**



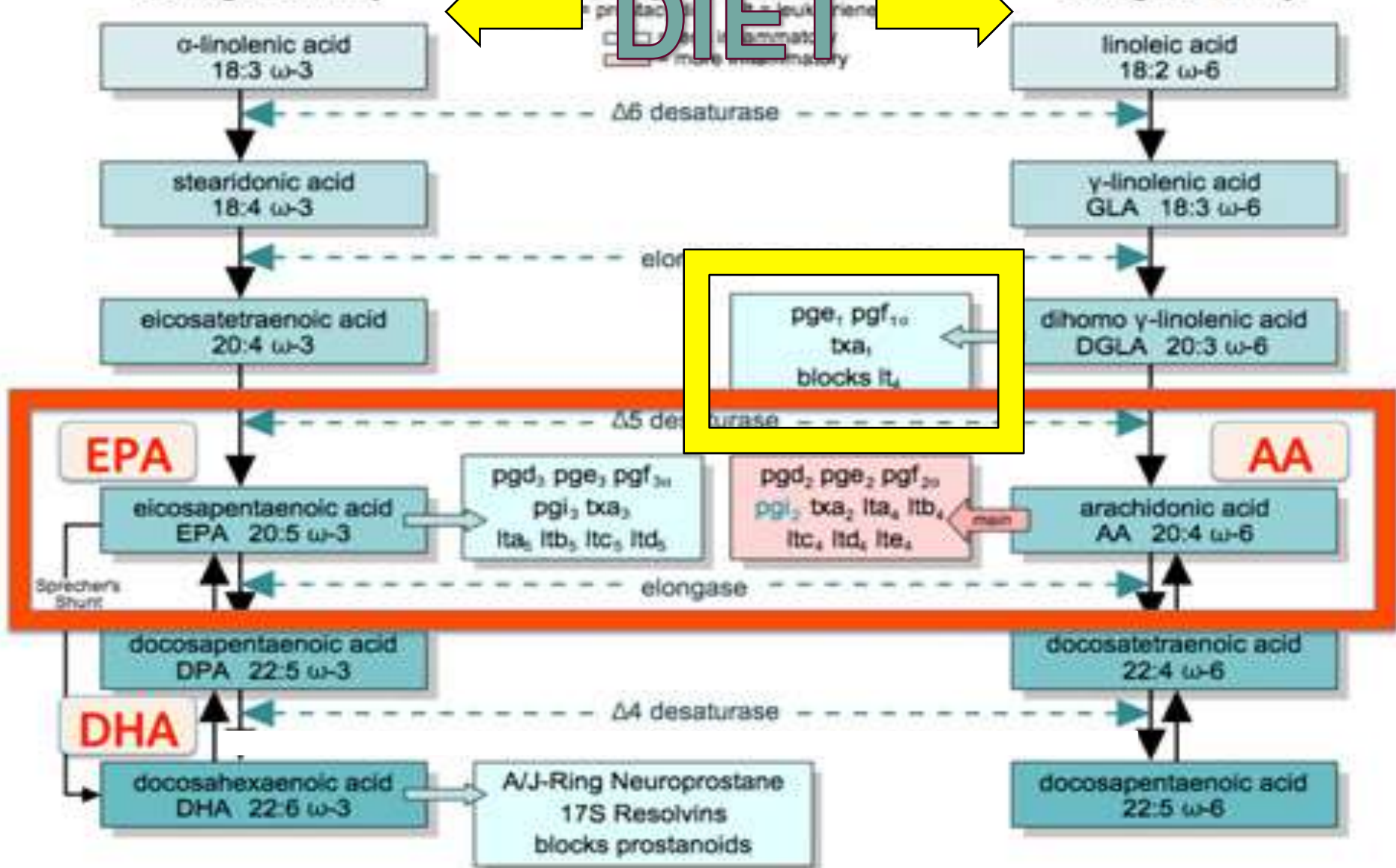
# PUFA transformations

## Eicosanoids

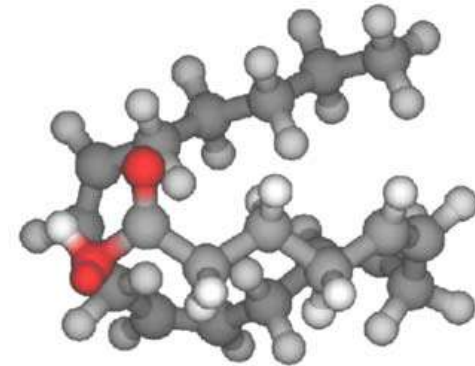
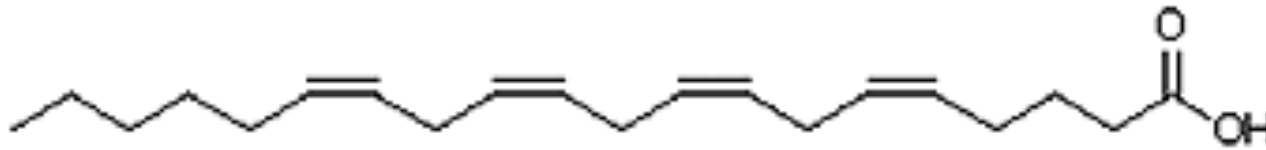
**DIET**

### Omega-3 family

### Omega-6 family



# Eicosanoids

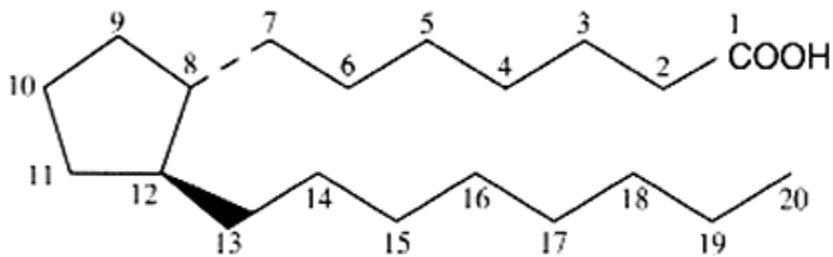


**Arachidonic acid**



**Structures with 20 carbon atoms**

**Bergstrom, Samuelsson, Vane  
1982 Nobel prize**



**Prostanoic acid: scaffold**

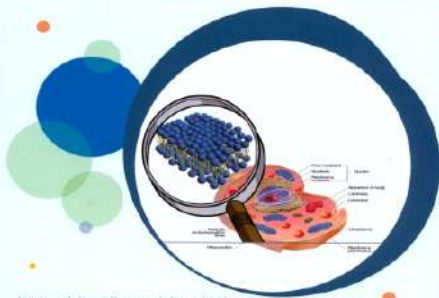
**Prostaglandins, leukotriens, etc...**

# What is LIPIDOMICS

Carla Ferreri  
Chryssostomos Chatgililoglu

membrana cellulare  
e lipidomica

La salute dalla medicina molecolare



Istituto per la Sintesi Organica e la Fotochimica  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche | Bologna

Medizioni  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche

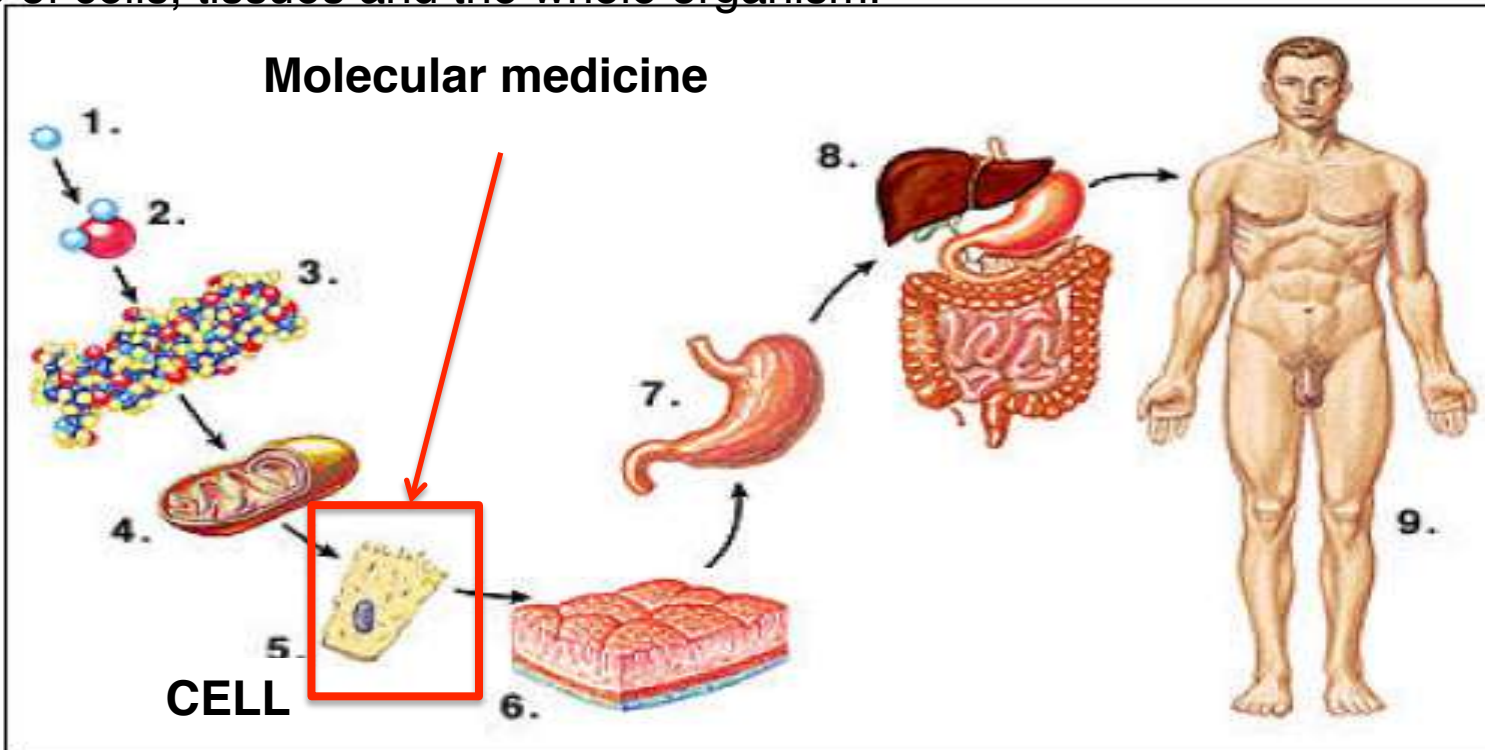
Lipidomics studies LIPIDS in a DYNAMIC CONTEXT of transformations under physiological and pathological conditions, evaluating the balance between nutrition and metabolism. It is part of metabolomics when the processes belongs to metabolic pathways, whereas LIPIDOMICS of CELL MEMBRANE belongs to cell regulatory systems which decide the fate of cells, tissues and the whole organism.

Carla Ferreri · Chryssostomos Chatgililoglu

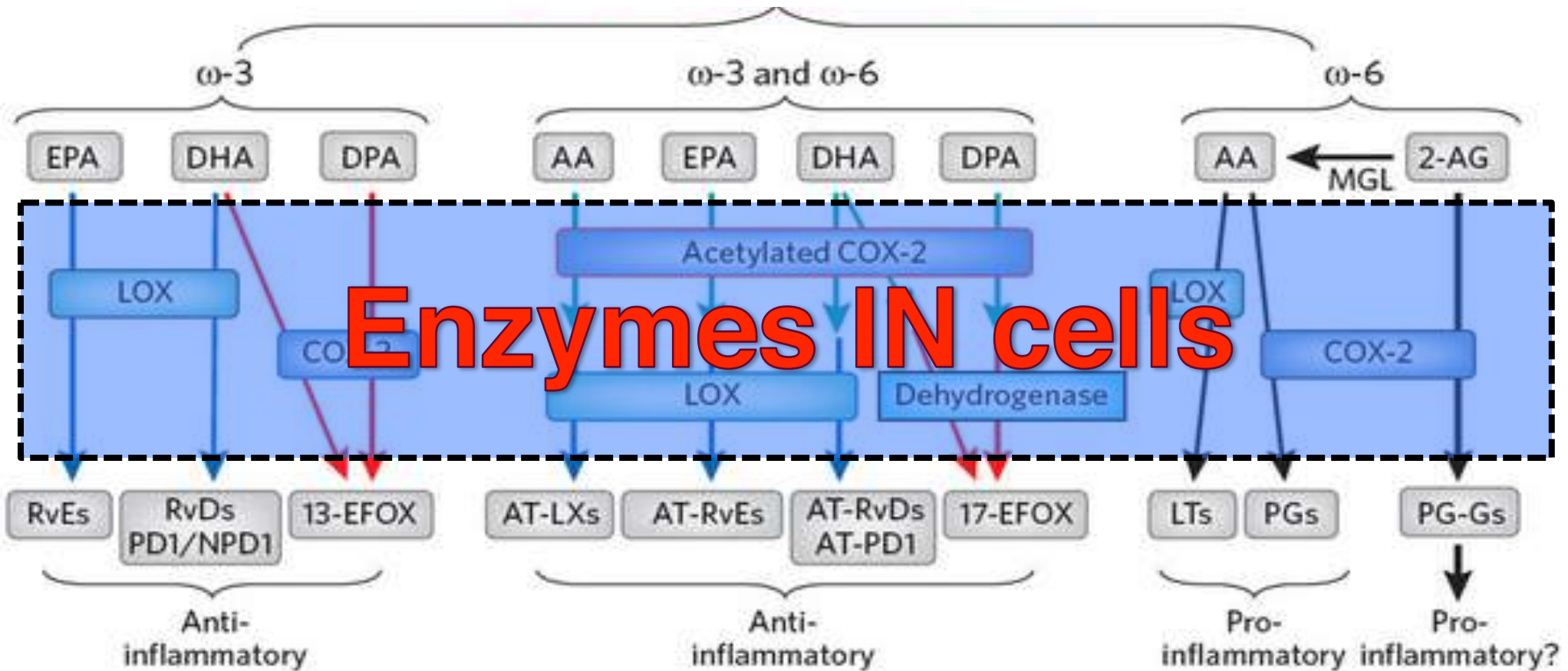
MEMBRANE  
LIPIDOMICS  
FOR  
PERSONALIZED  
HEALTH

WILEY

## Molecular medicine



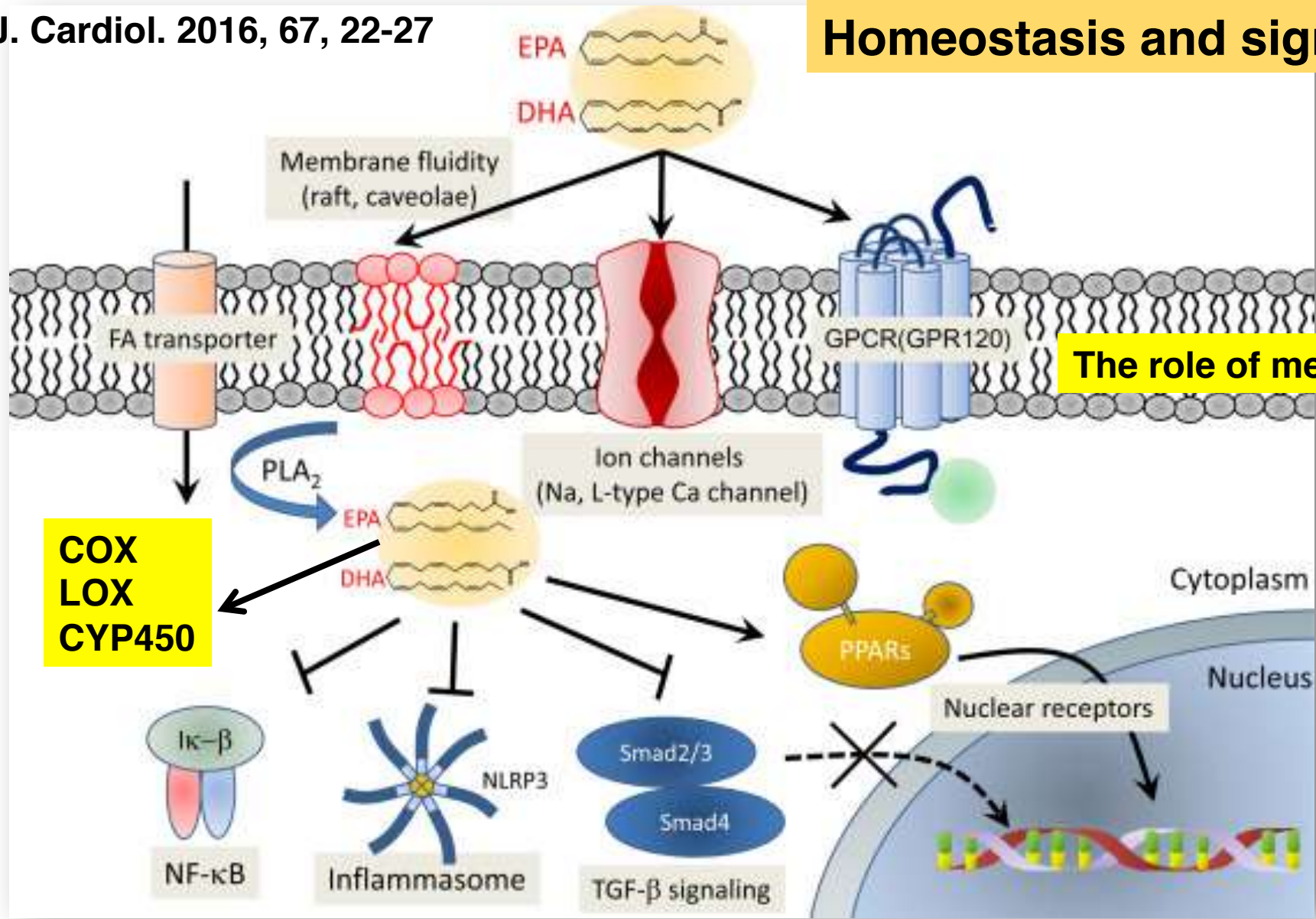
# From MEMBRANES: release of LIPID MEDIATORS



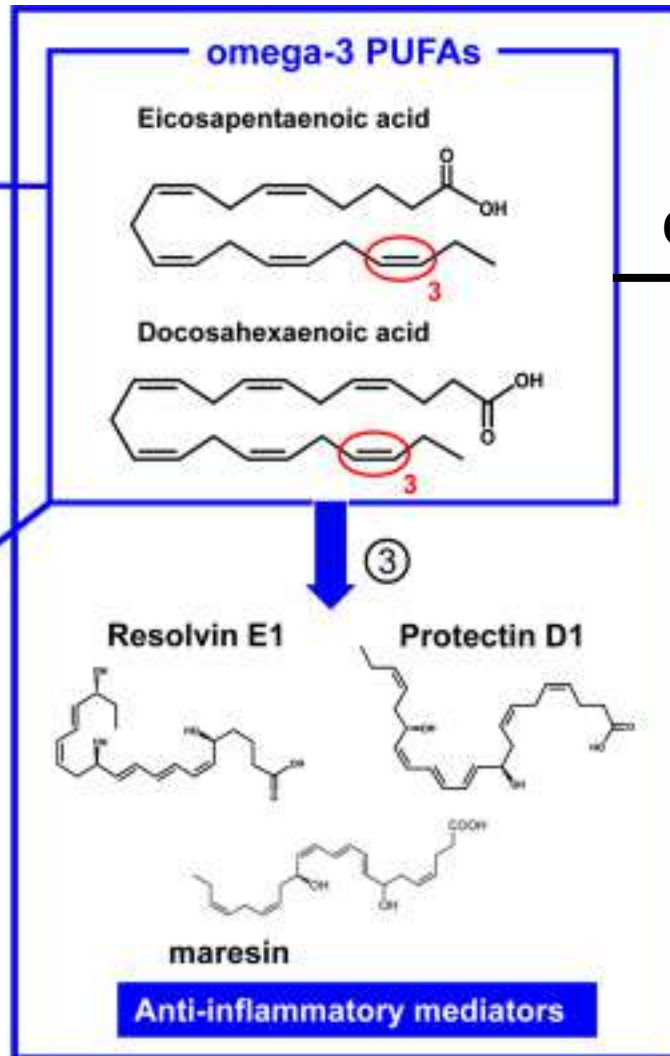
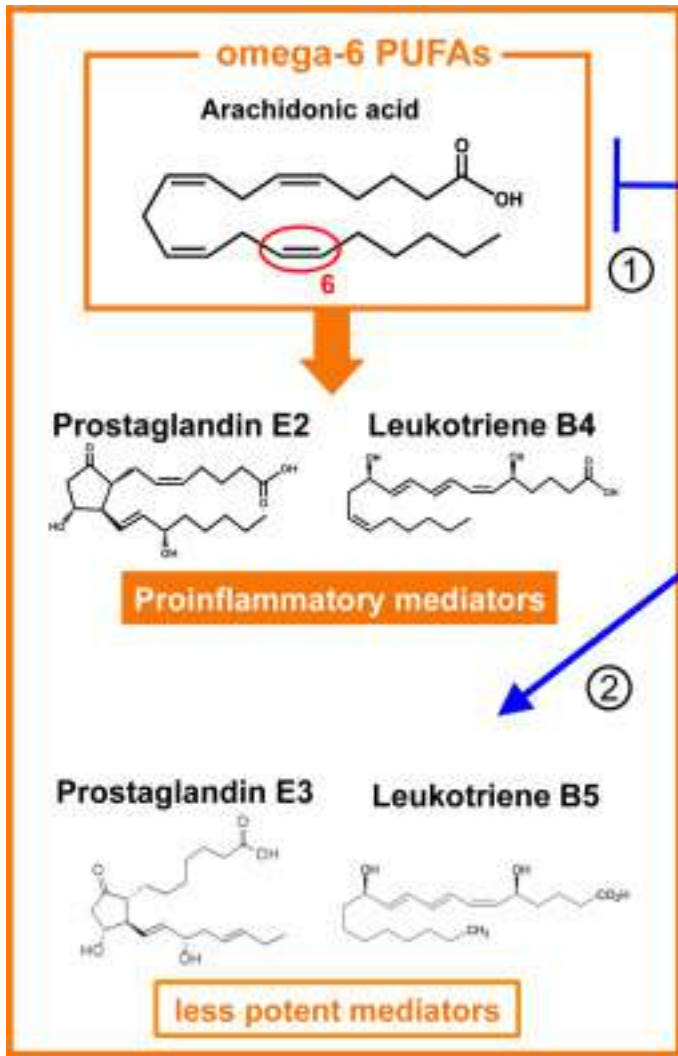
# Functional & membrane lipidomics

J. Cardiol. 2016, 67, 22-27

Homeostasis and signaling



The role of membrane

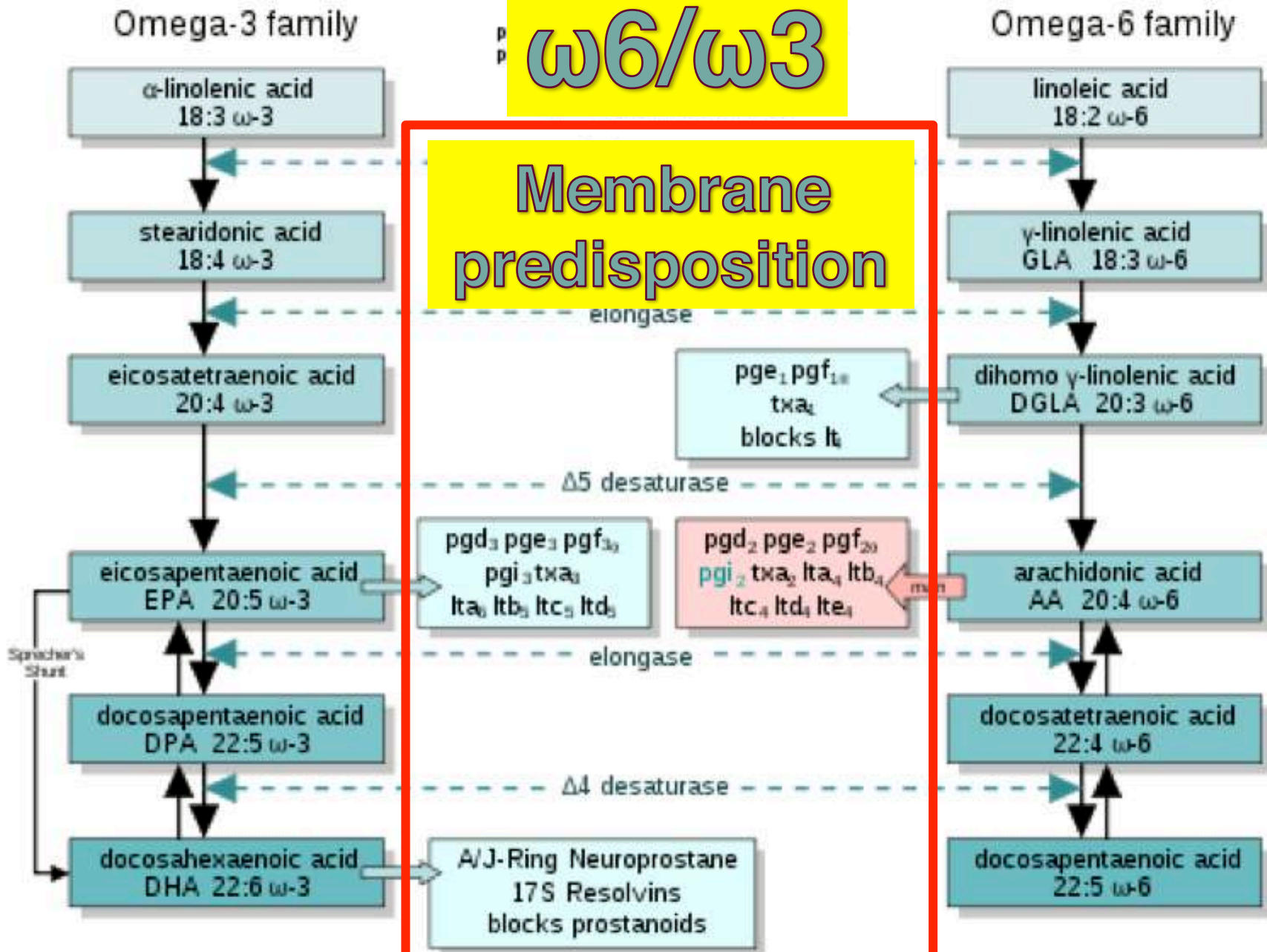


CYP450

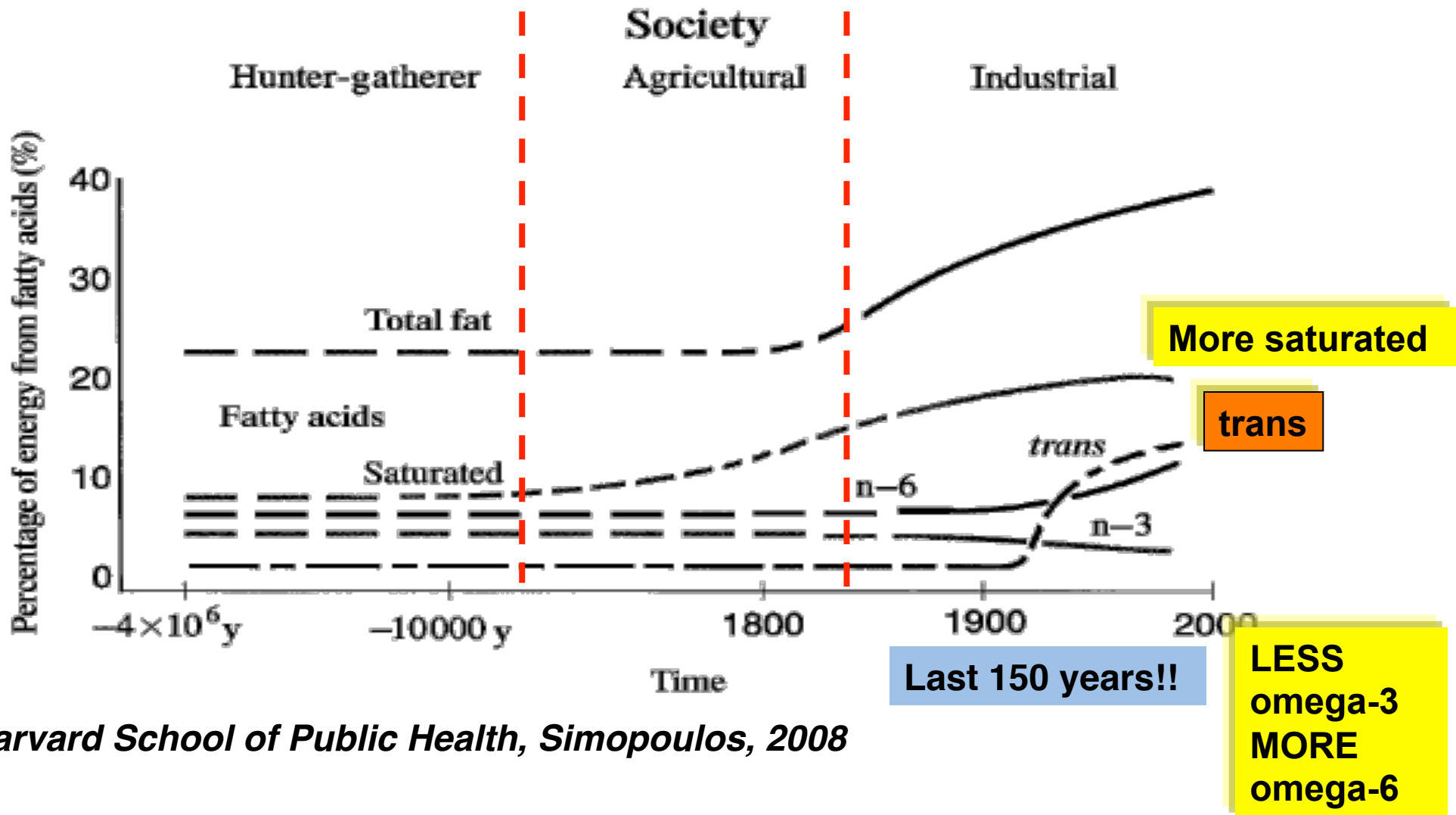
**EET  
Epoxy  
fatty acids**

J. Cardiol. 2016, 67, 22-27

# $\omega 6/\omega 3$



# How we can influence membrane predisposition by the diet



Harvard School of Public Health, Simopoulos, 2008

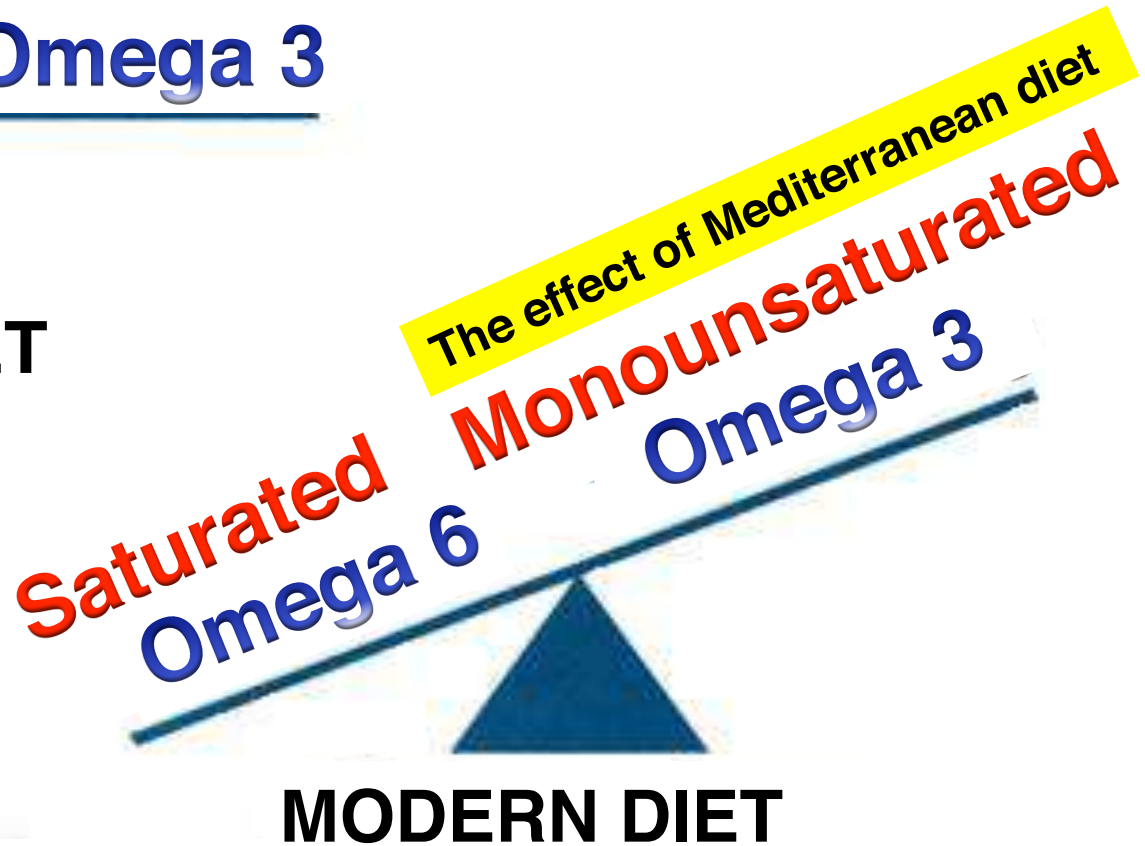


# Unbalance

Saturated  
Omega 6

Monounsaturated  
Omega 3

ARCAIC DIET



Time period	$\omega 3$ : $\omega 6$
Paleolithic	1.3:1
Greece prior to 1960	1:1.5
Current Japan	1:5
Current India, rural	1.5-1:6
Current UK / EU	1:15
Current United States	1:17
Current India, urban	1:38-50



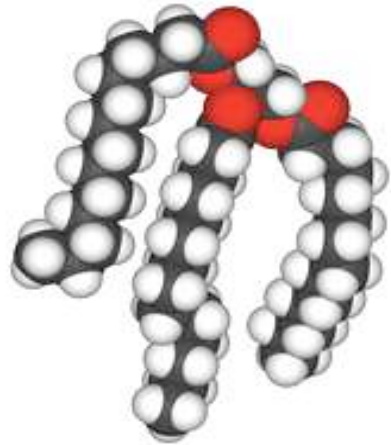
# What about pets?



# Summary

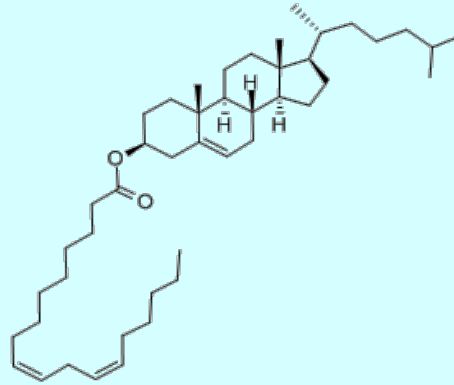
- Fatty acid structures
- From triglycerides to phospholipids: lipid metabolism for life
- Membrane formation and organization

# Fatty acid-containing lipids

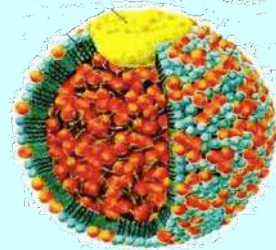


TRIGLICERIDES

*Transport  
and deposit*

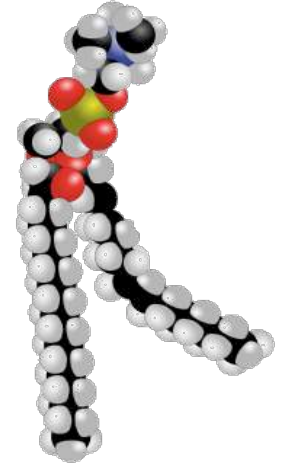


CHOLESTERYL ESTERS



LIPOPROTEINS  
TG + phospholipids +  
Chol.esters + cholesterol

*Transport and exchange*

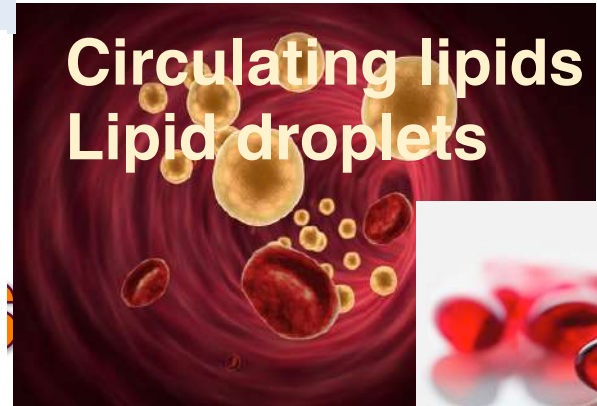
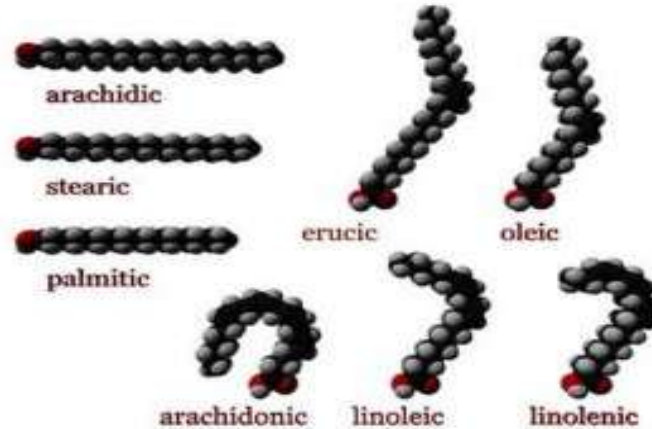
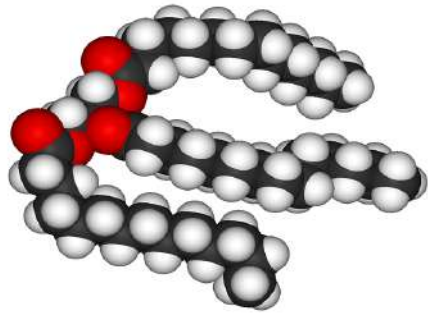


PHOSPHOLIPIDS

*Cell membrane  
STRUCTURE*

# Nutrition and Metabolism

## Quality of fatty acids



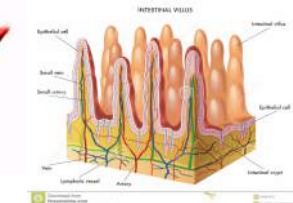
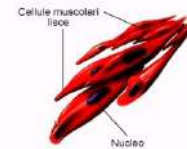
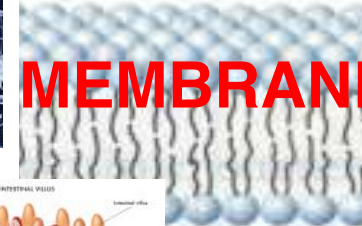
**NUTRACEUTICALS**



**Active forms**

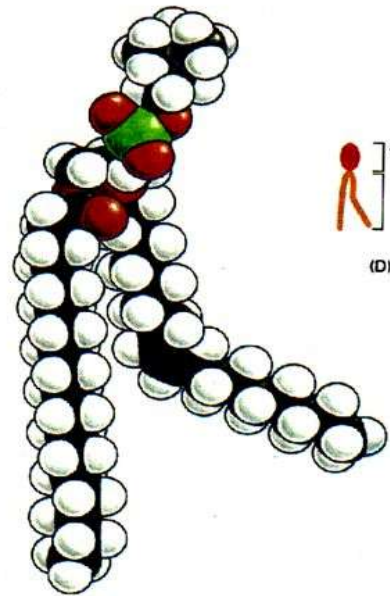


**MEMBRANE**



**phospholipids**

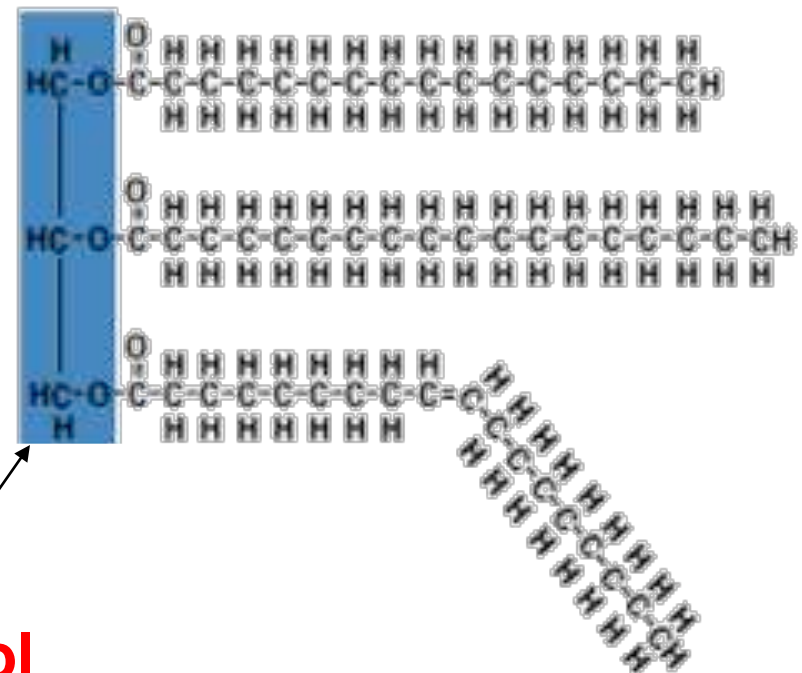
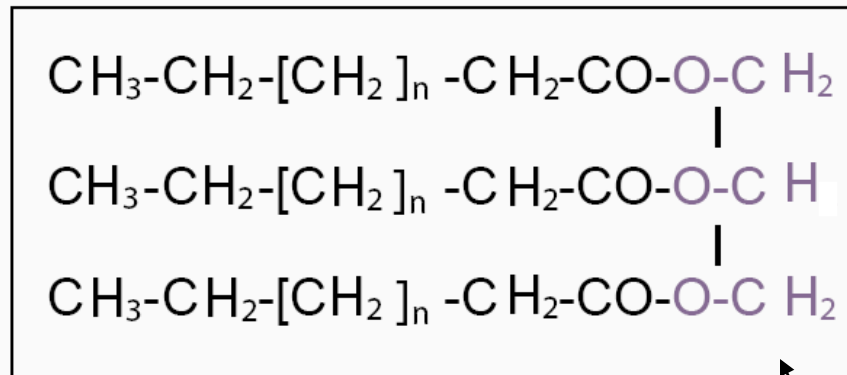
**With saturated and  
unsaturated fats**



# Triglycerides

Triglycerides are the main components of fats and oils and the most abundant lipids in Nature. FATS are solids/semisolds, OILS are liquids.

**3 fatty acid units (hydrophobic) of different composition**



**L-glycerol**

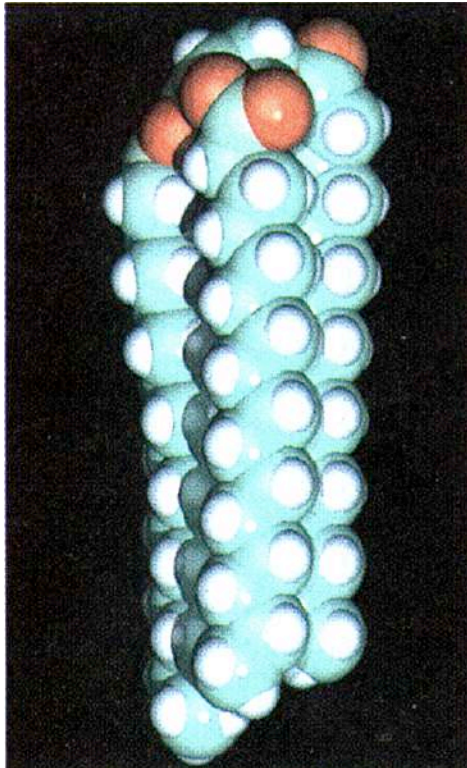
# Oil compositions

%	SATURATED		MUFA	Omega-6	Omega-3
	16:0	18:0	18:1	18:2n6	18:3n3
Olive	12	2	72	11	1
Palm	42	4	43	8	0
Linseed	<b>12</b>	1	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>55</b> ALA
Sunflower	6	6	33	LA 53	0
Salmon*	19	4	23	1	<b>20-35%</b> EPA + DHA

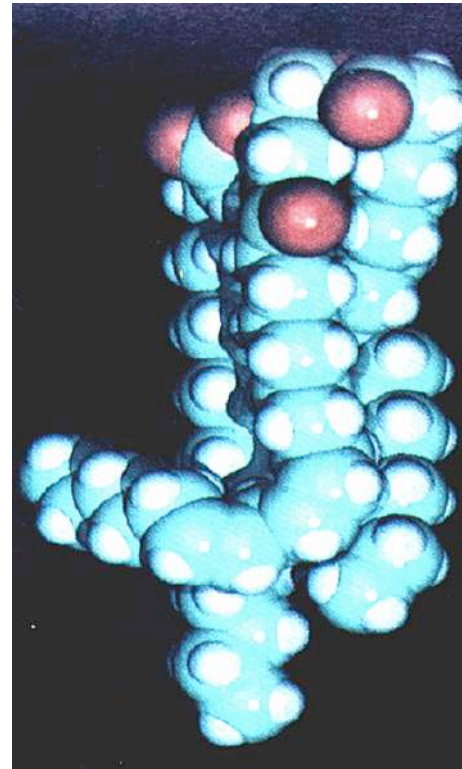
Quality of the oils for essential fat intakes

# Physical status= molecular status

**Saturated  
triglycerides  
SOLID**



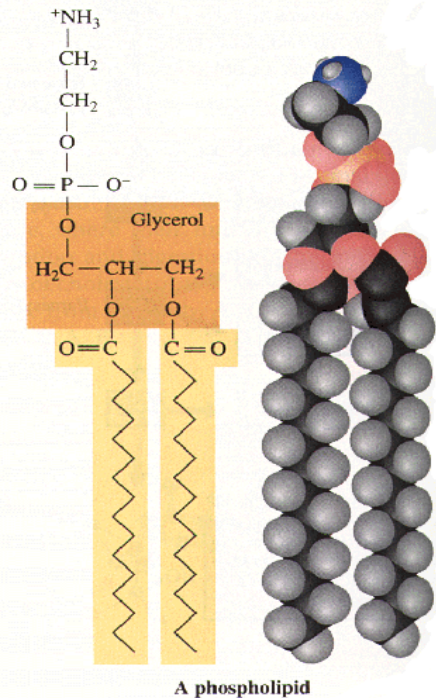
**Unsaturated  
triglycerides  
LIQUID**



**FLUIDITY**  
For the unsaturation



- **Lecithins** are rich of phospholipids
  - Used as emulsifying agents
  - Contains several types of fatty acids ready to be incorporated in the body (not hydrolysed by lipases)\ the most used are not rich in omega-3



### SOY LECITHIN

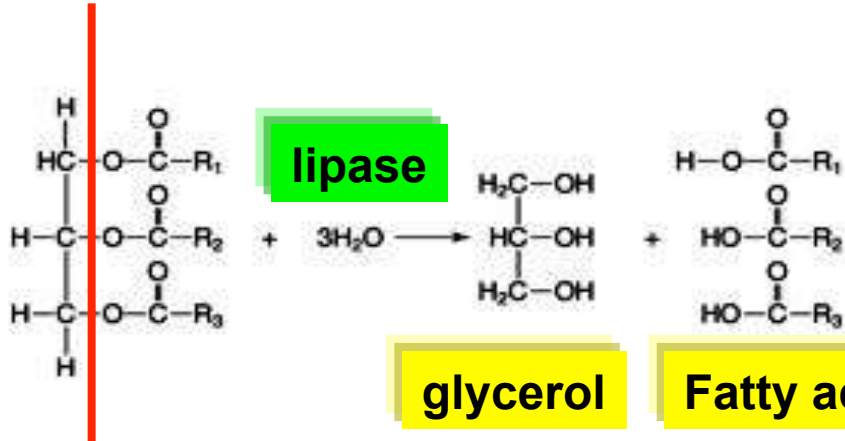
Palmitic	14.5%
Stearic	3.8%
Oleic	11.9%
Vaccenic	1.3%
Linoleic	63.5%
$\gamma$ -Linolenic	6.3%

### EGG LECITHINS

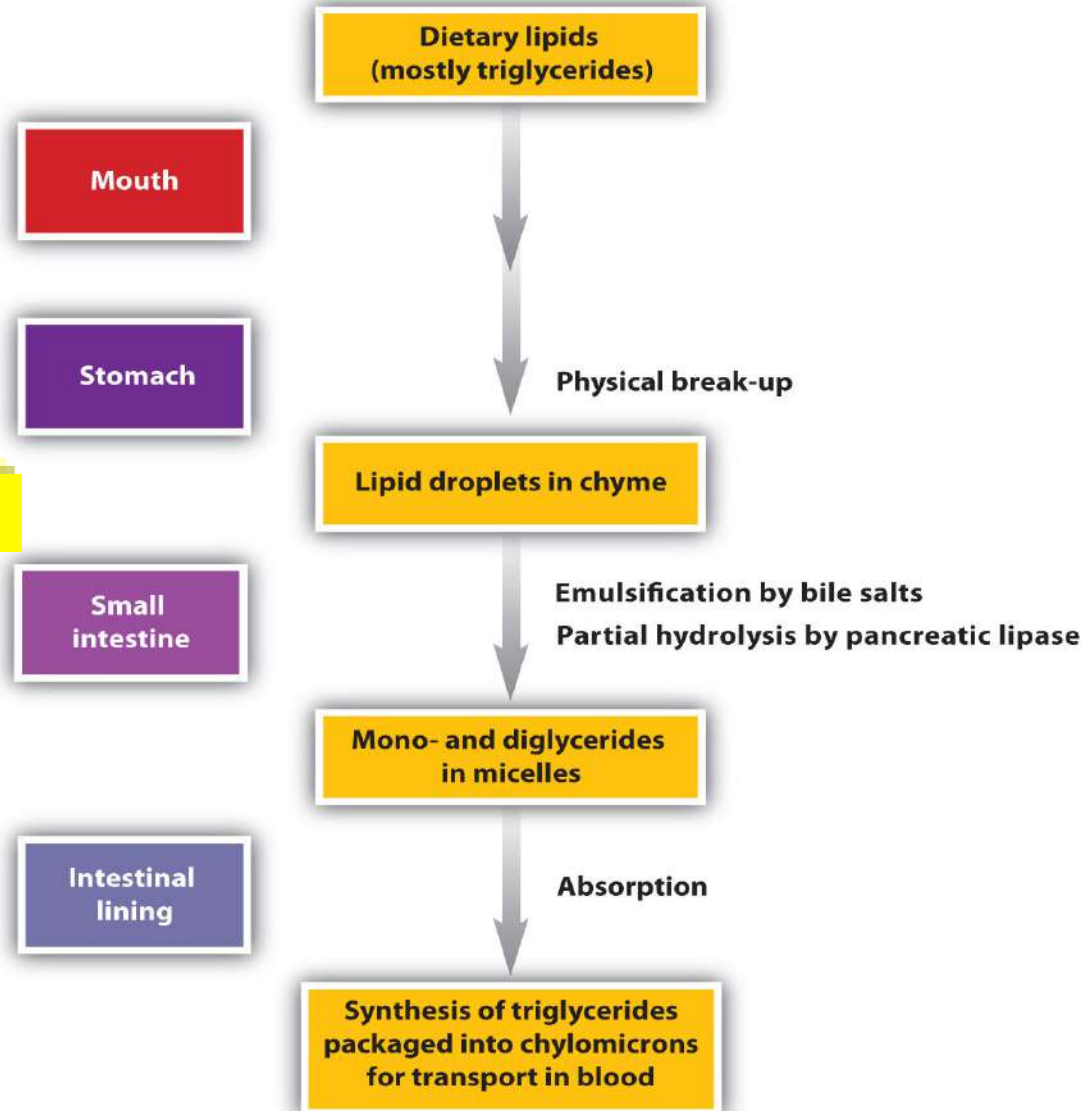
Palmitic	32.0%
Stearic	14.1%
Oleic	27.0%
Vaccenic	1.2%
Linoleic	20.0%
<b>Arachidonic</b>	<b>4.8%</b>

# Use of triglycerides

triglycerides

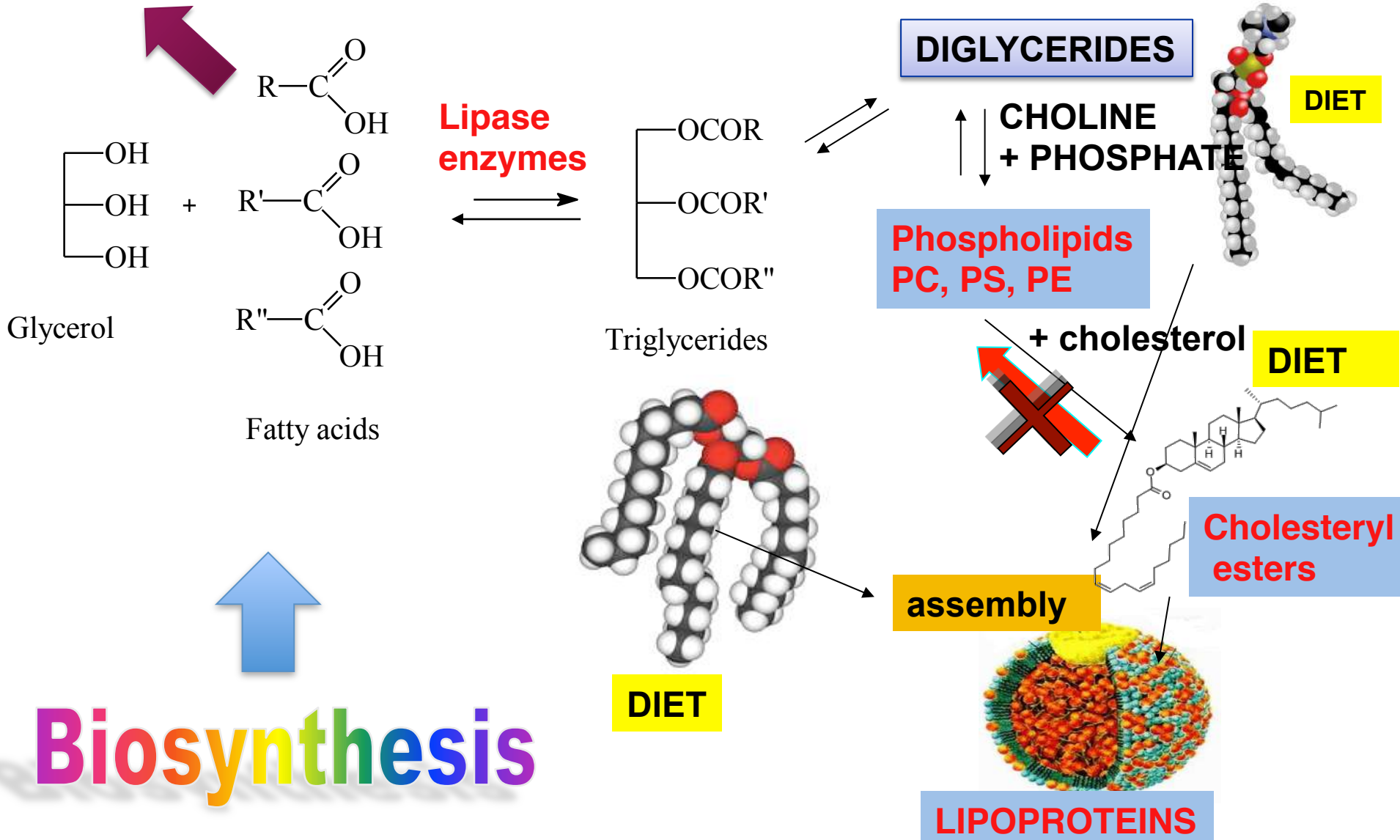


Attention to the fatty acid's quality and quantity that enters the body through food



# All fatty acid-cont. lipids

- degradation (acetyl groups)
- building block for lipids

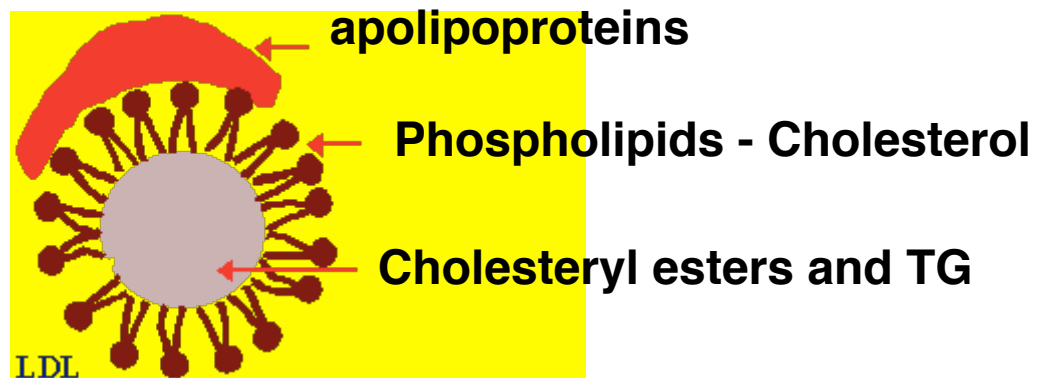
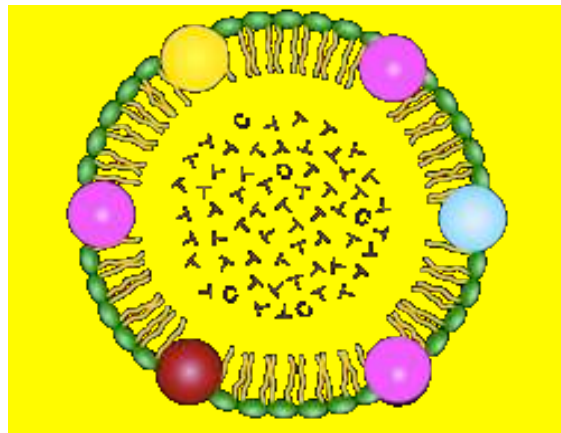


# Lipid transport in blood

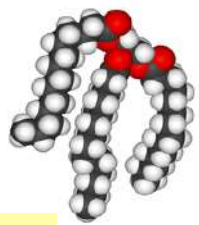


Albumin complex with fatty acids (protection from oxidations)

**LIPOPROTEINS: accurate choice of fatty acid types; preference for UNSATURATED lipids. Regulation of fatty acid availability. BBA Biomembranes 2017**



**Fats from the diet**

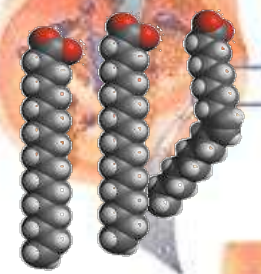


**Gall bladder**

**intestine**

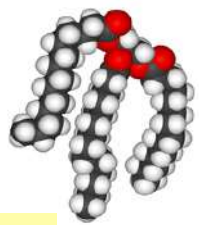
**BILE salts  
emulsification**

**LIPASE**



**Formation of chylomicrons  
for fat absorption and  
entering in the blood  
circulation**

# Fats from the diet



Gall bladder



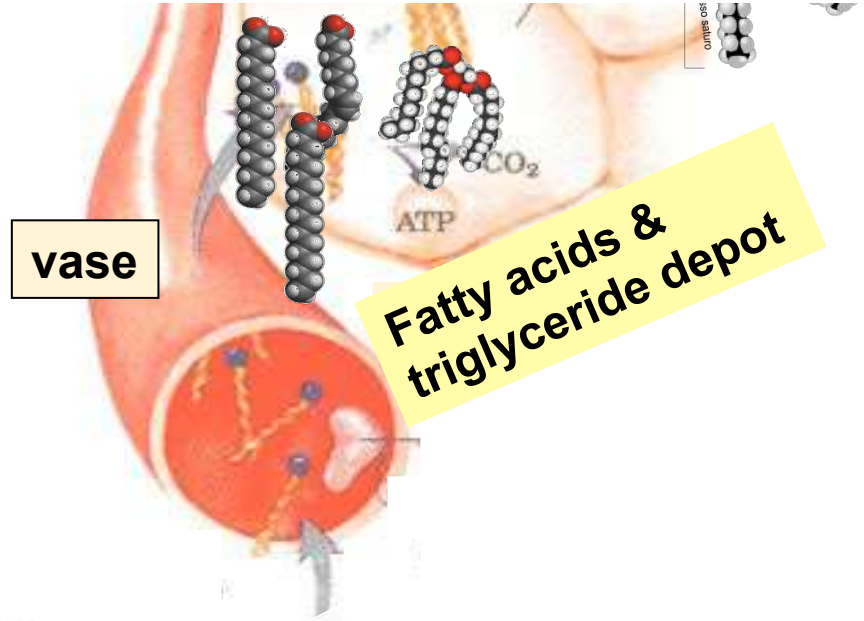
intestine

BILE salts

emulsification

LIPASE

Formation of chylomicrons for fat absorption and entering in the blood circulation



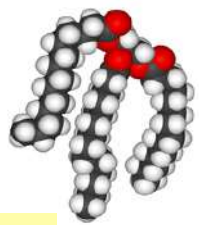
vase

Fatty acids & triglyceride depot

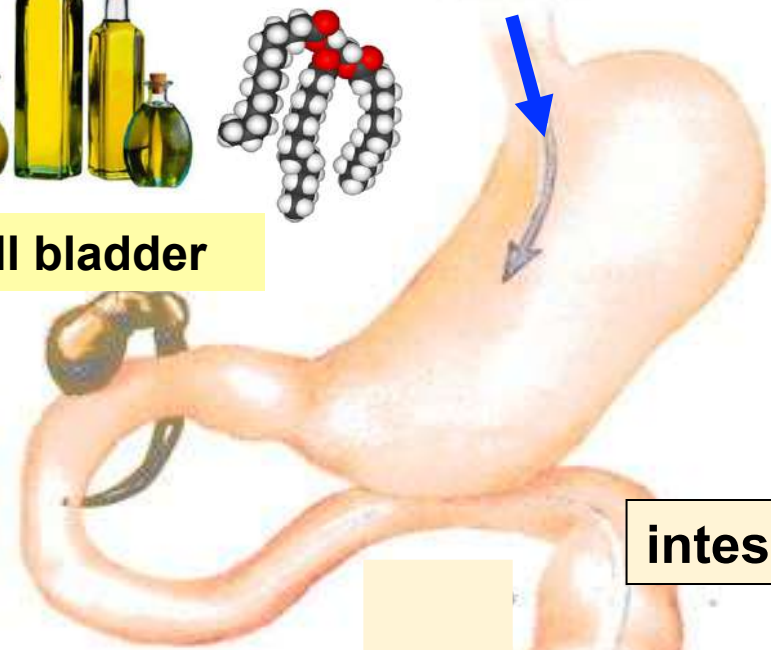


LIPOPROTEINS  
Transport and release to tissues

# Fats from the diet



Gall bladder



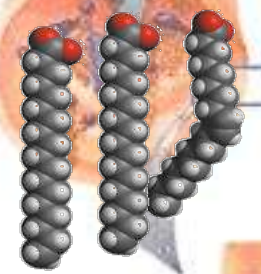
intestine

BILE salts

emulsification

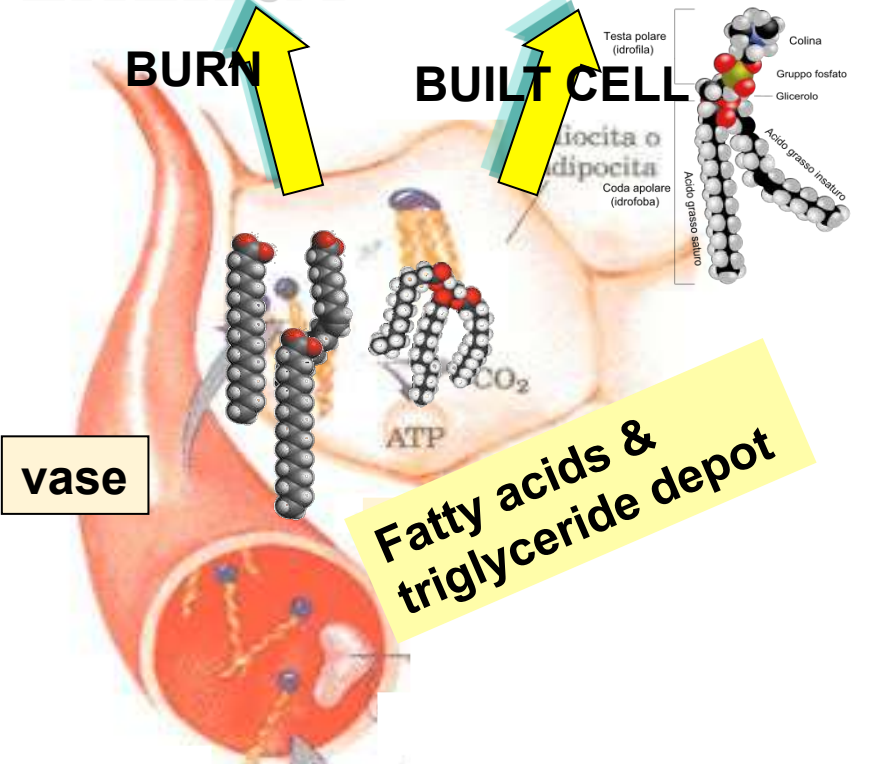
LIPASE

Formation of chylomicrons for fat absorption and entering in the blood circulation



# ENERGY

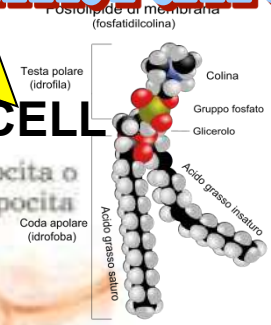
# membrane



vase

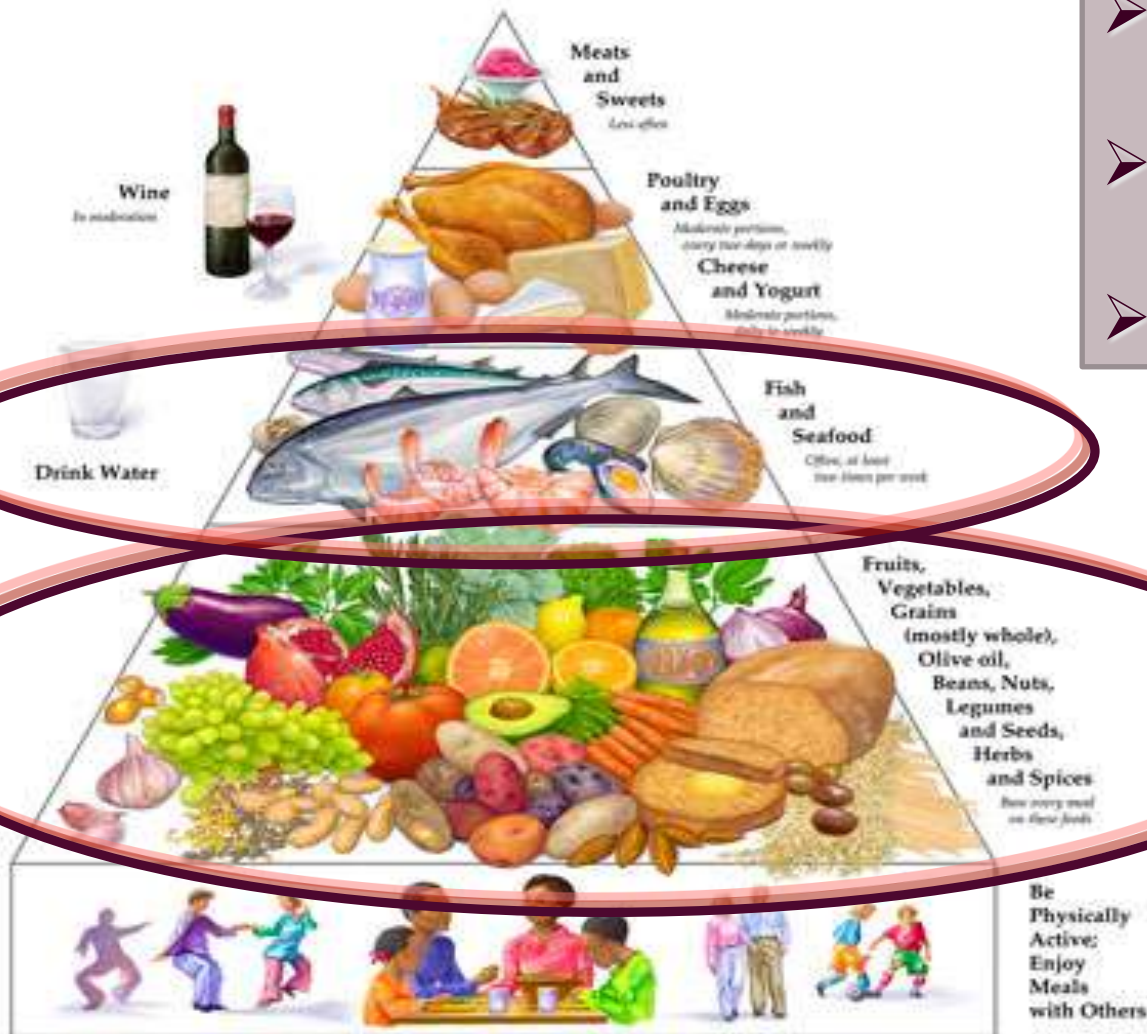
Fatty acids & triglyceride depot

LIPOPROTEINS  
Transport and release to tissues



# Mediterranean Diet Pyramid

*A contemporary approach to delicious, healthy eating*

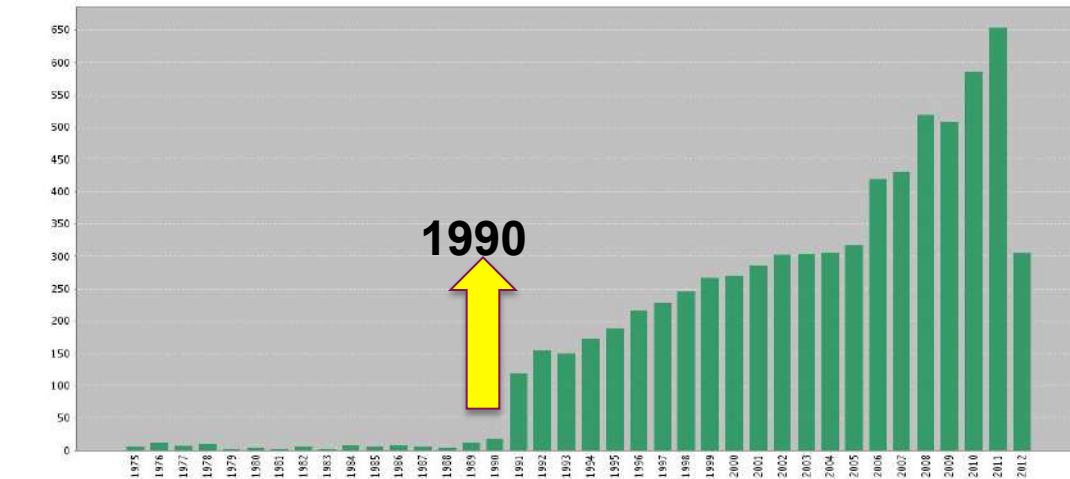


- **OLIVE OIL** : rich in MUFA and antioxidants
- **Cereals and whole grains** rich in omega-6 & omega-3
- **Fish** rich in omega-3

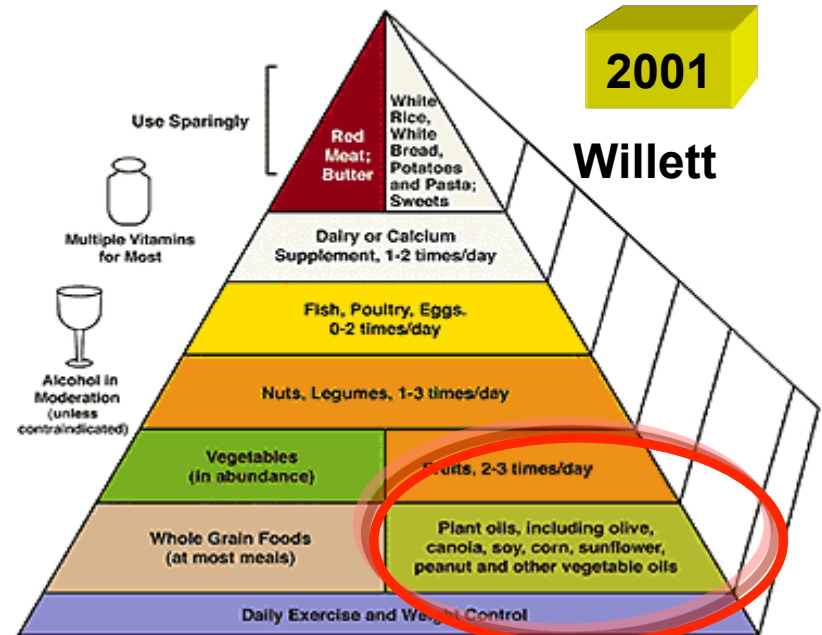




# REVISION of the FOOD PYRAMIDS



## Healthy Eating Pyramid



### CHAPTER 26

## Omega 3 Fatty Acids and Bioactive Foods: From Biotechnology to Health Promotion

C. Ferreri  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Bologna, Italy

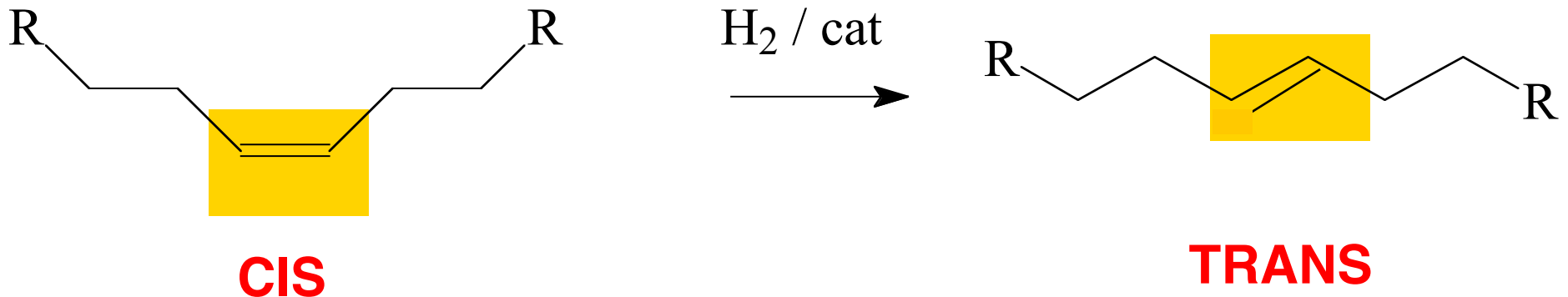
Harvard School of Public Health

# Alteration of the double bonds

**EXOGENOUS INTAKE of TRANS FATTY ACIDS**

**DETECTION OF TRANS FATTY ACIDS IN OMEGA-3 SUPPLEMENTS**

**(Chem. Res. Toxicol. 2018) due to the DEODORIZATION PROCESS for FISH OILS**



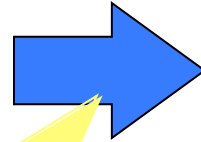
# Summary

- Fatty acid structures
- From triglycerides to phospholipids: lipid metabolism for life
- **Membrane formation and organization**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=LKN5sq5dtW4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKN5sq5dtW4)

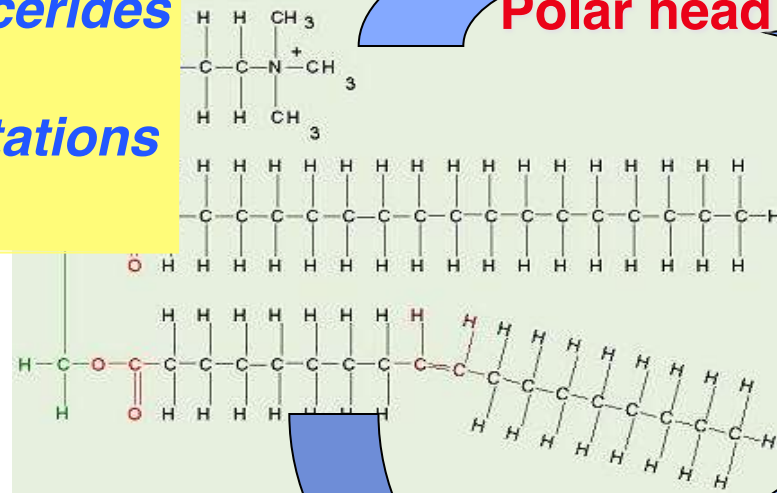
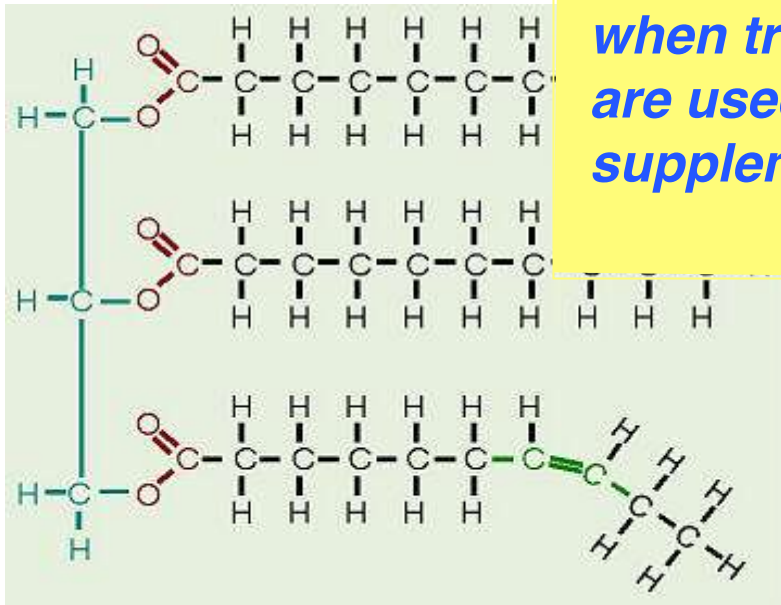
# Phospholipid biosynthesis

**Glycerides**



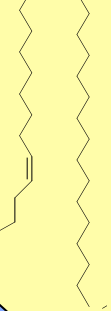
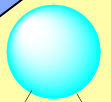
**phospholipids**

*Crucial step also  
when triglycerides  
are used in  
supplementations*

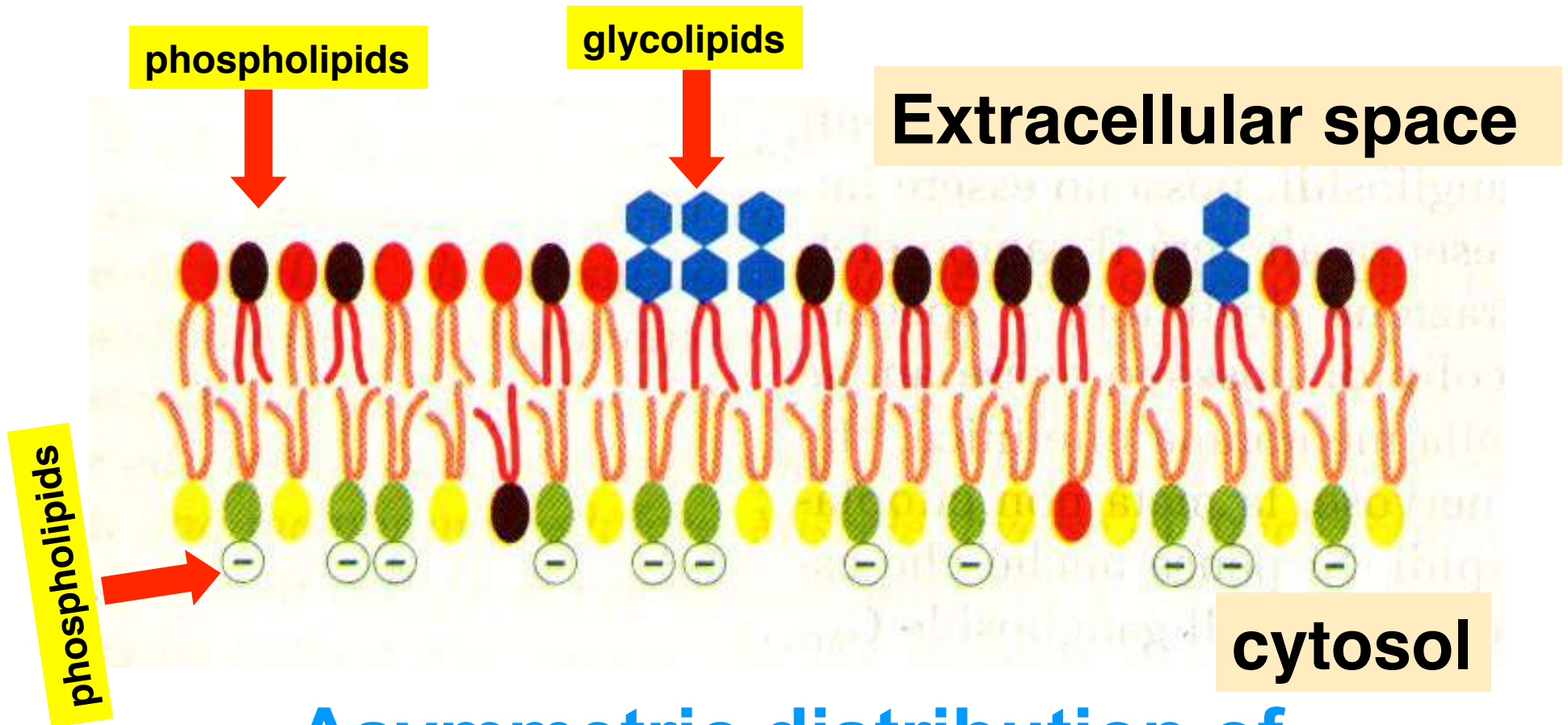


**Polar head**

**Hydrophobic tails**

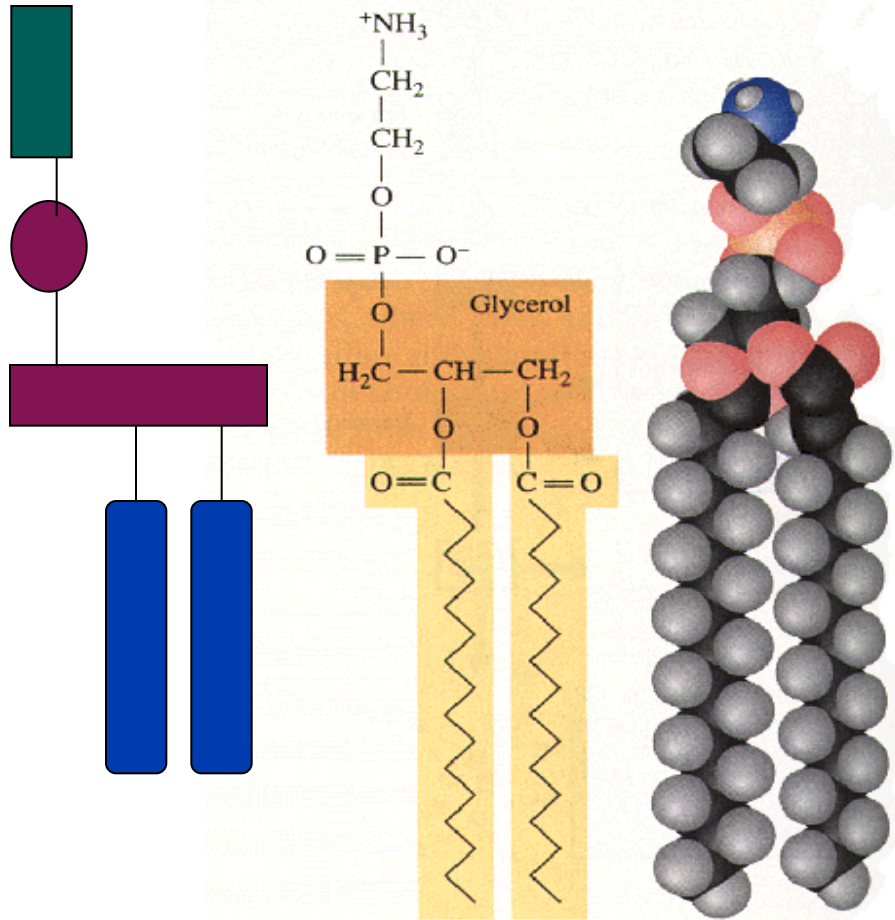


# Molecular organization



**Asymmetric distribution of phospholipids**

# Amphipatic structure



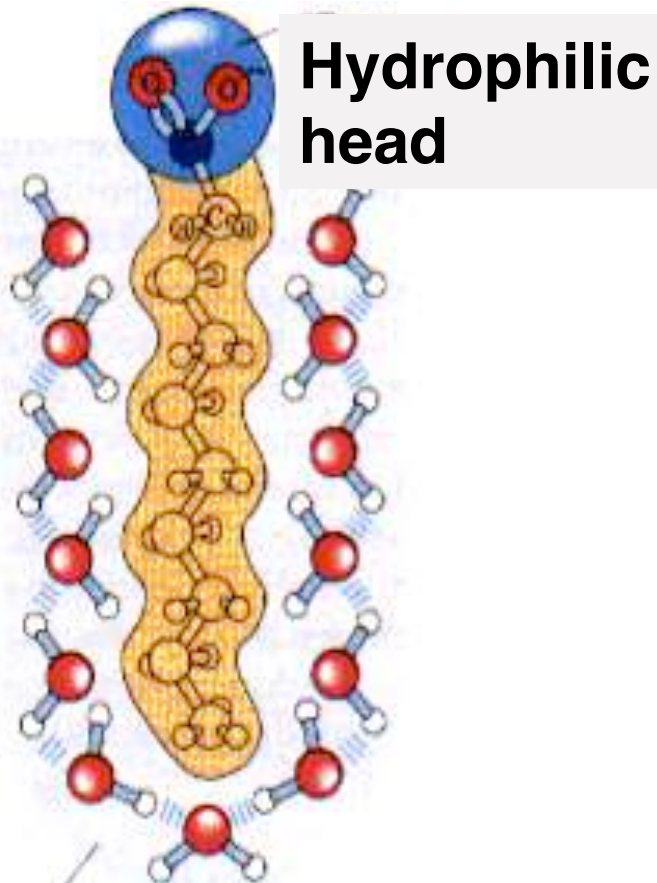
**Polar head**

**Apolar tails  
Fatty acids**

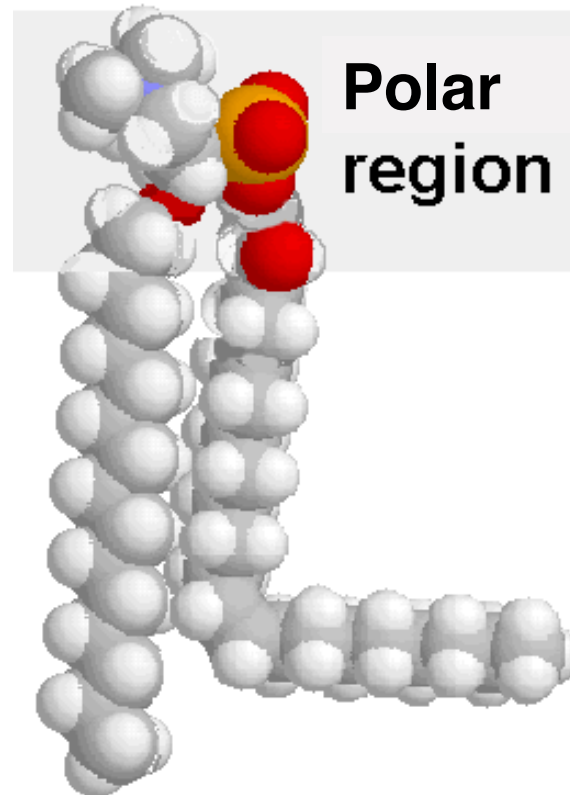
**Glycerophospholipids**

# Lipid aggregation

Fatty acids



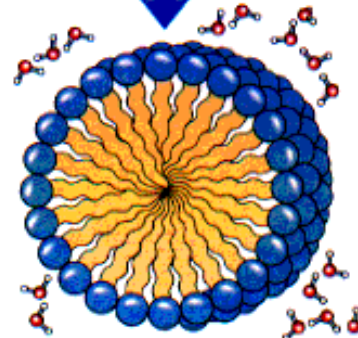
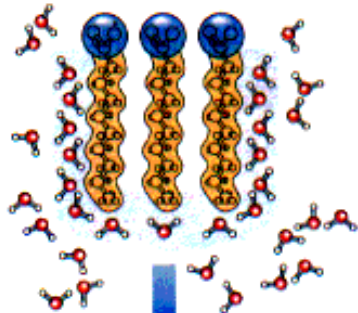
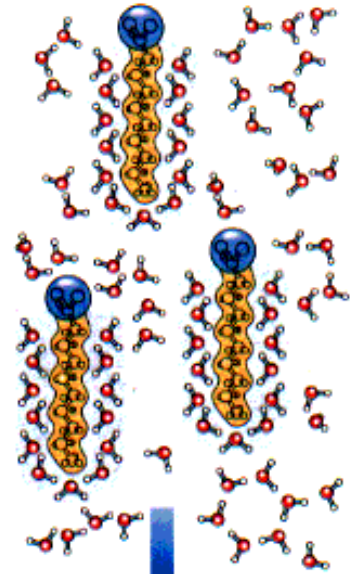
phospholipids







**CONICAL  
SHAPE**

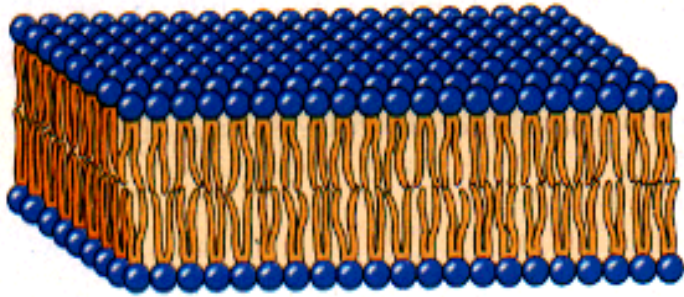


**Fatty acid  
aggregation**

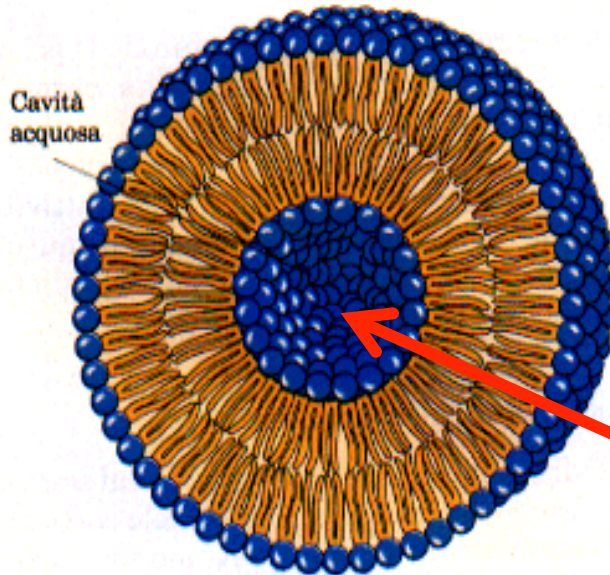
**MICELLES**



Le singole unità hanno una forma cilindrica (la sezione trasversale della testa è uguale a quella delle catene idrocarburiche)



(b)



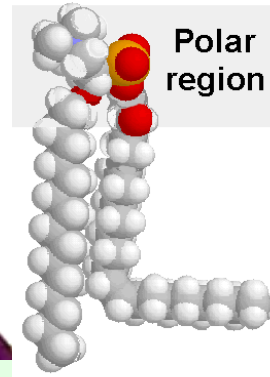
(c)

**Phospholipid aggregation**

**Double layer  
LIPOSOME  
(vesicles)**

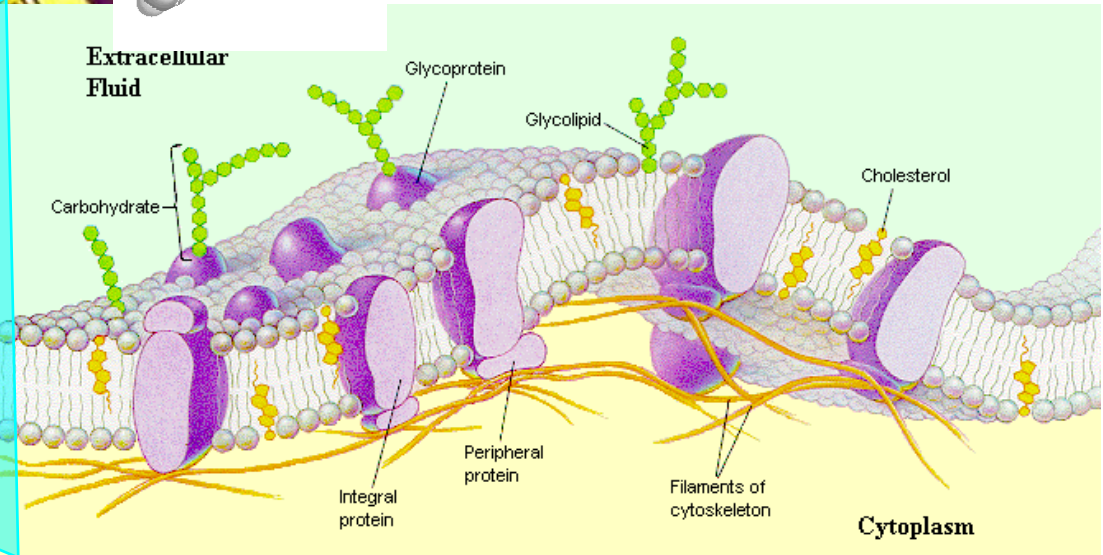
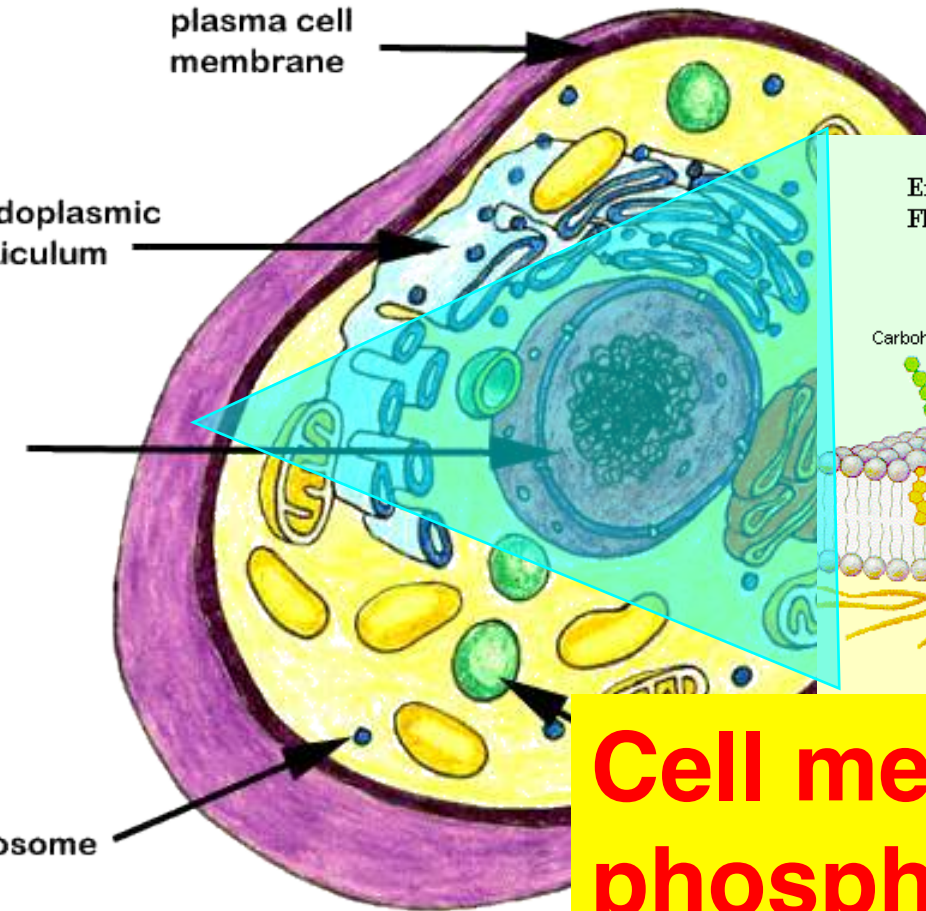
**Internal aqueous compartment**

# The formation of the protocell



## Saturated and unsaturated lipids

- Cis and trans MUFA for bacteria
- Cis MUFA and **PUFA** for higher organisms



**Cell membranes  
phosphoLIPIDS + PROTEINS**