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## **Tyrosine kinase-linked receptors**

Their ligands

Receptor activation

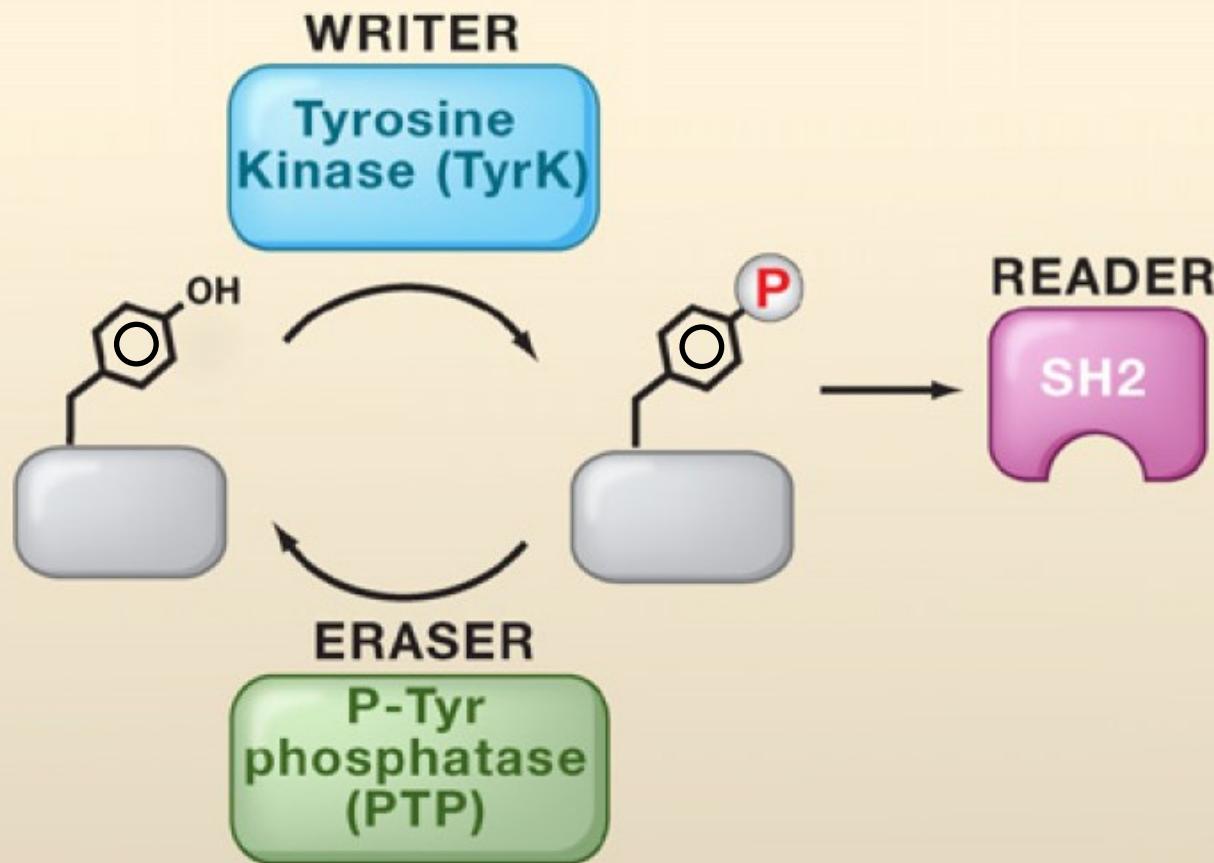
Signalling cascades

Regulation

Applications

# Phospho-tyrosine signalling : The common motif

Writer/reader/eraser modules form a system for P-Tyr signaling



## Writers:

- Receptor TyrK's : activity is ligand-dependent

## Erasers:

- PTP's : activity is often constitutive

## Readers :

- proteins with SH2 or PTB domains

# Receptor-mediated tyrosine phosphorylation

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Highly relevant, in biology:

÷ Growth & differentiation

- metabolism
- gene expression
- cell growth
- cell differentiation
- tissue development
- cancer
- cell death

# Receptor tyrosine kinases

Large proteins: > 1000 amino acids

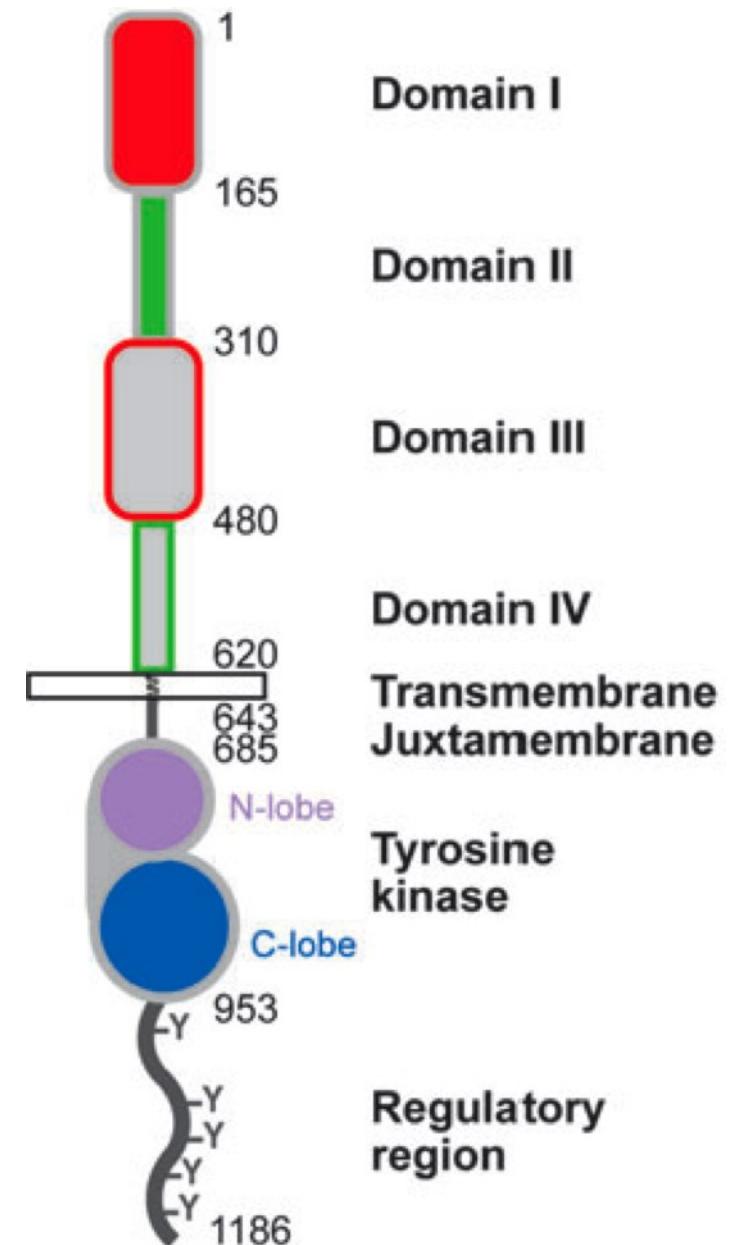
E.g.: Epidermal growth factor receptor **EGF-R**

Domains I & III

Ligand-binding

Domain II & IV

Auto-inhibition  
Dimerisation



Ferguson Ann Rev Biophys 2008

# The ligands are proteins

**Growth factors** (GF): very diverse group of about 50 proteins with diverging “organisations”

- **monomers** , e.g.

- Epidermal growth factor (EGF), about 5 kDa

- Erythropoietin (EPO), about 30 kDa

- **homo- or hetero-dimers** , e.g.

- Platelet-derived GF (PGDF), about 30 kDa

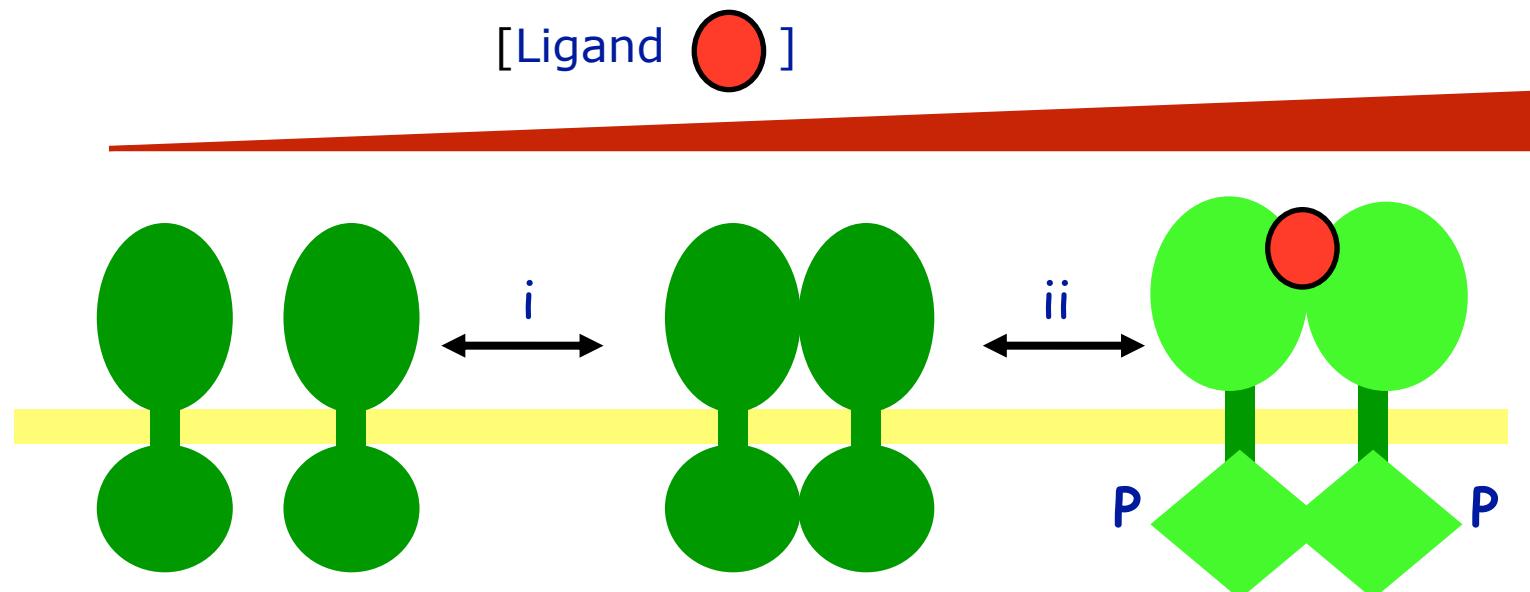
- **“aggregate”** , e.g.

- Fibroblast growth factor (FGF), about 30 kDa

- **cell-attached proteins**

- => Ephrins (Eph), involved in cell adhesion

# RTK activation : Ligand binding enhances dimerisation



i) Ligand binding leads to dimerisation  
or, stabilises the dimer in an  
active conformation



ii) Kinase domains trans-phosphorylate  
each other



- Enhanced Tyr-kinase activity
- Docking of other proteins  
containing SH2 or PTB domains

# Ligand-binding enhanced receptor dimerisation

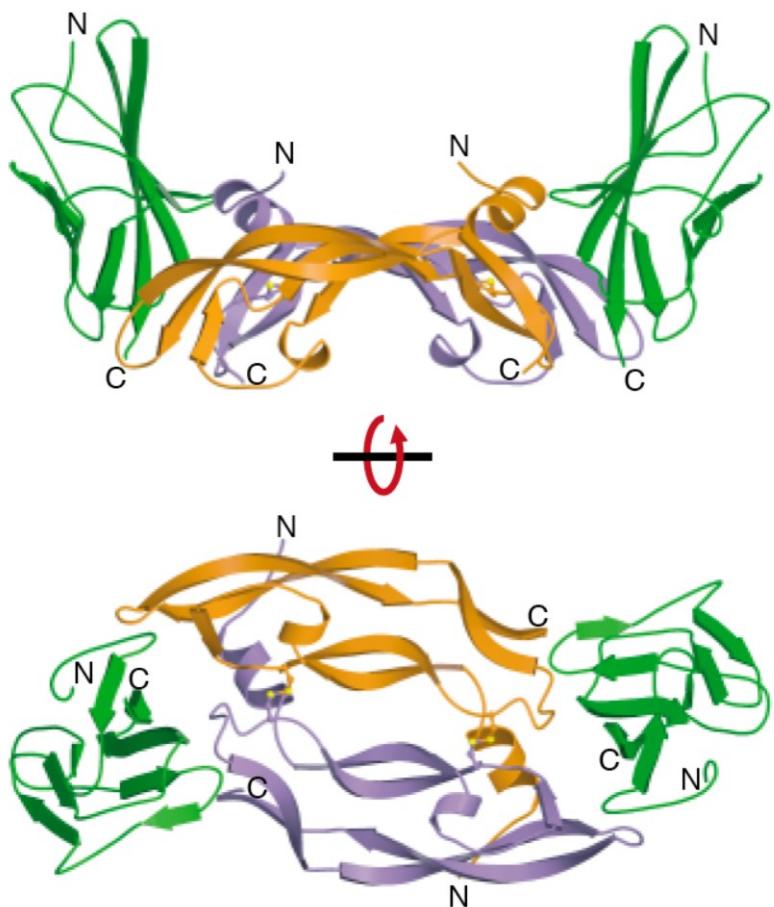
Different arrangements “modes” observed:

- Two ligands bind to 2 receptors e.g. EGF

# Ligand binding induces receptor dimerisation

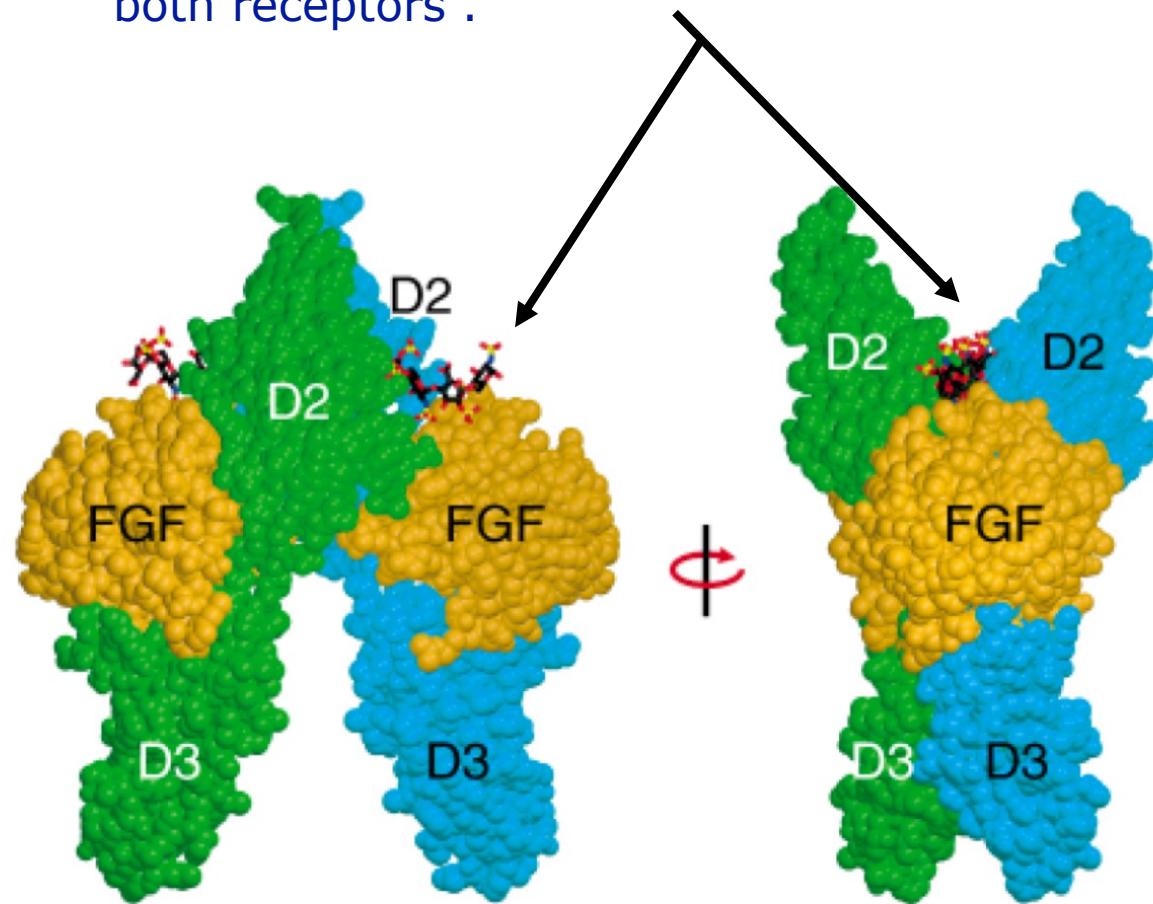
Mode A: Dimer of ligands

One covalent VEGF dimer (purple&orange) bind with to both receptors in dimer (green)



Mode B: Monomers bind to HSPG

Two FGF molecules (yellow) bind each to one receptor. The heparin HSPG (sticks) binds to both receptors .



Structure of extracellular ligand-binding domains with bound ligands

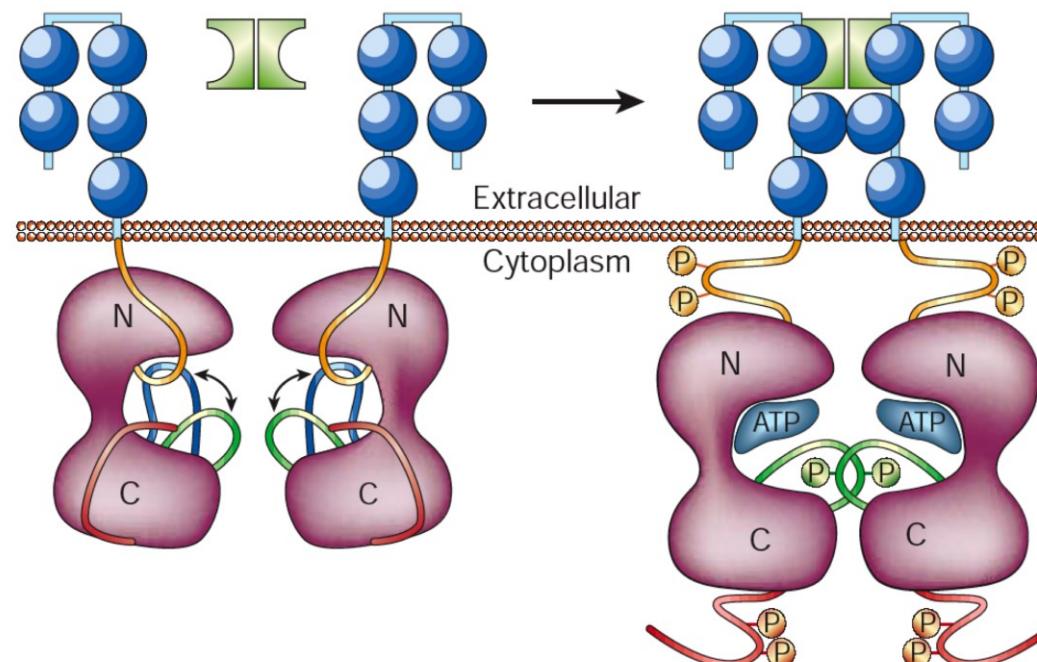
# RTK activation : Kinase domain conformation

The kinase domain:

- Substrate access is regulated by the conformation of the “**activation loop**”:
  - this loop has high  $\beta$ -factors in crystal structures

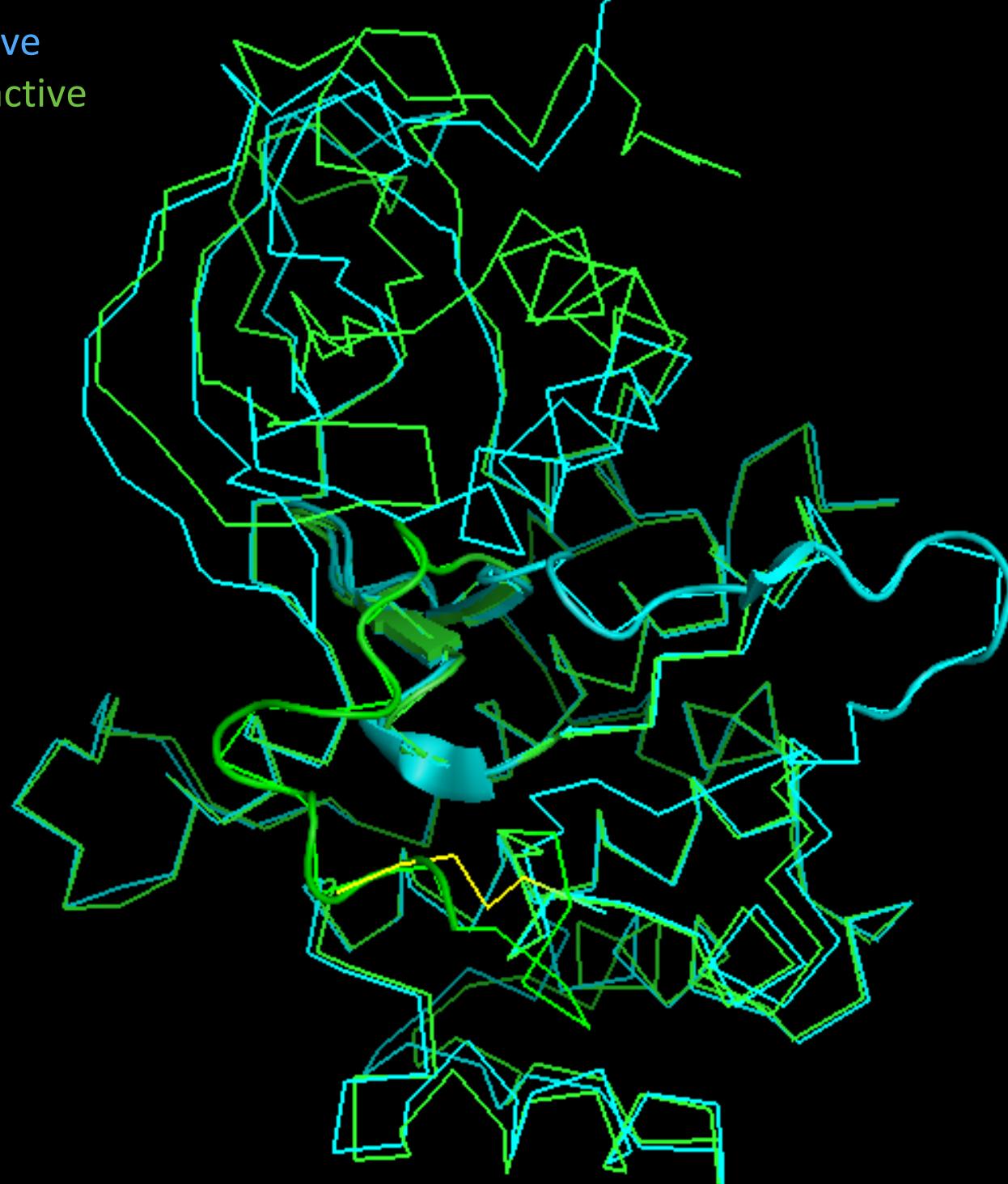
# RTK activation loop : Trans-Tyr-phosphorylation

- Ligand-binding induced dimerisation renders trans-Tyr phosphorylation of activation loop probable
- => locks loop in the green conformation ==> releases auto-inhibition
- > full catalytic activity



1IR3 : active

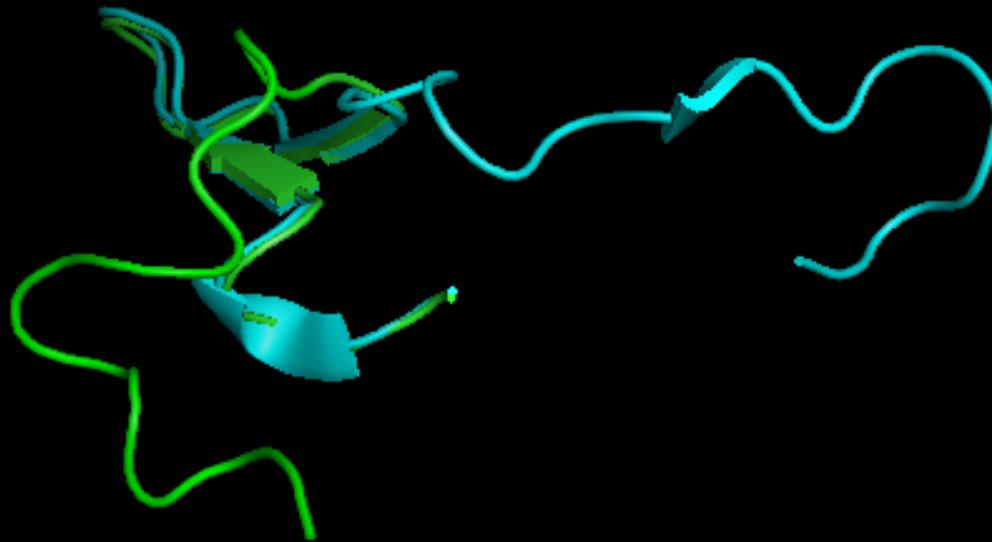
1IRK : in-active



Structure of kinase domain of insulin receptor

1IR3 : active

1IRK : in-active



The activation loop

1IR3 : active

1IRK : in-active



The activated loop points outwards

1IRK : in-active  
H-bond



The inactive loop stabilised by H-bond

1IR3 : active

H-bond

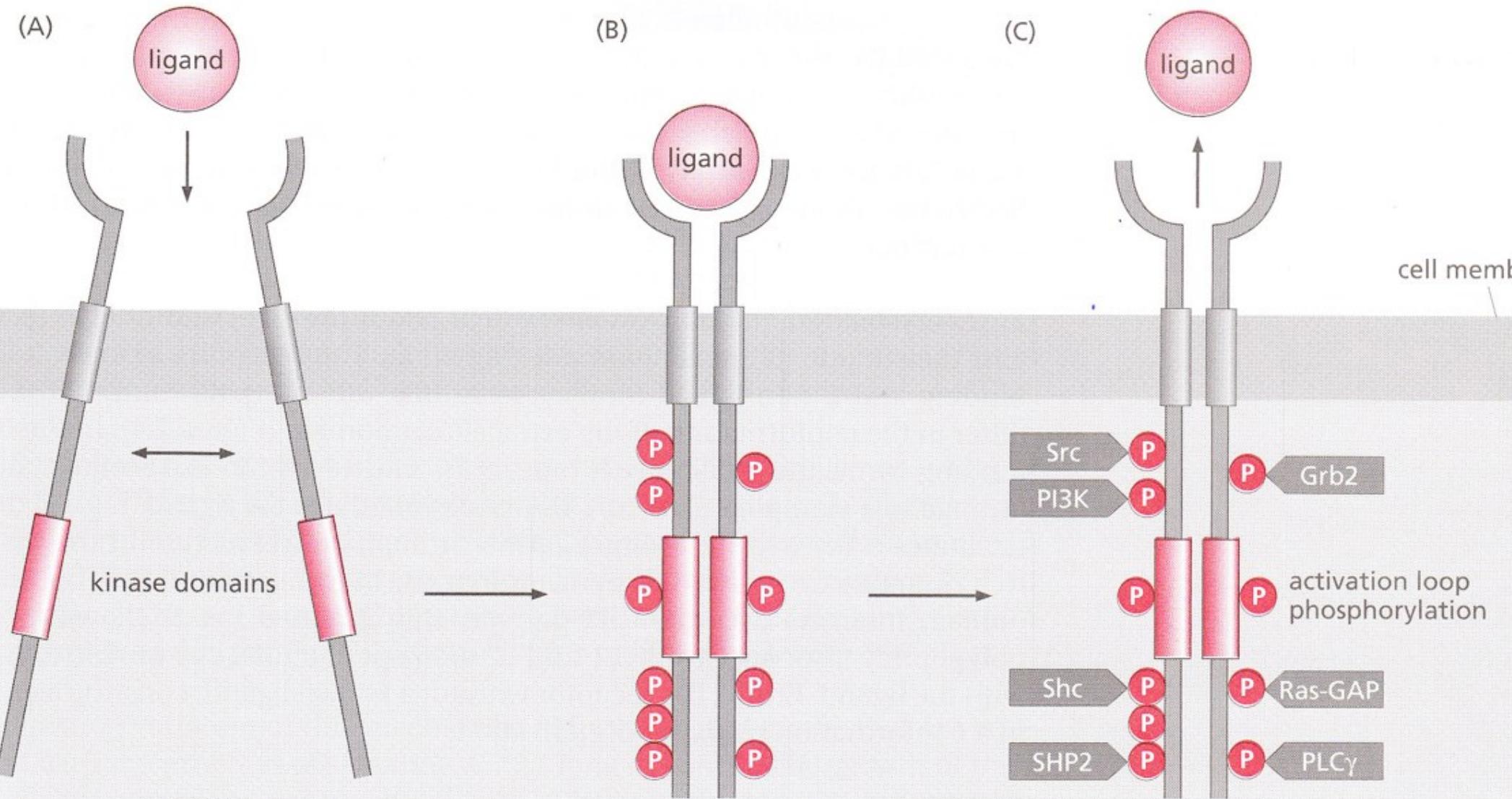
Substrate

ATP-analogue



The activated kinase domain with both substrates

# Propagation of RTK activation through recruitment

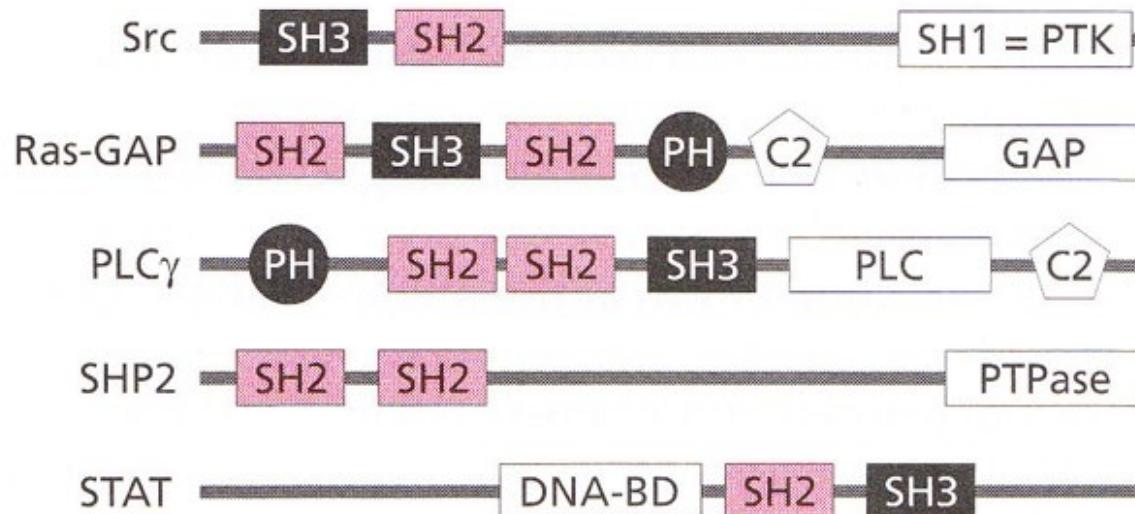


SH2 or PTB domains

- Signalling cascades

# Propagation of RTK activation through recruitment

- Enzymes with p-Tyr recognising domains:

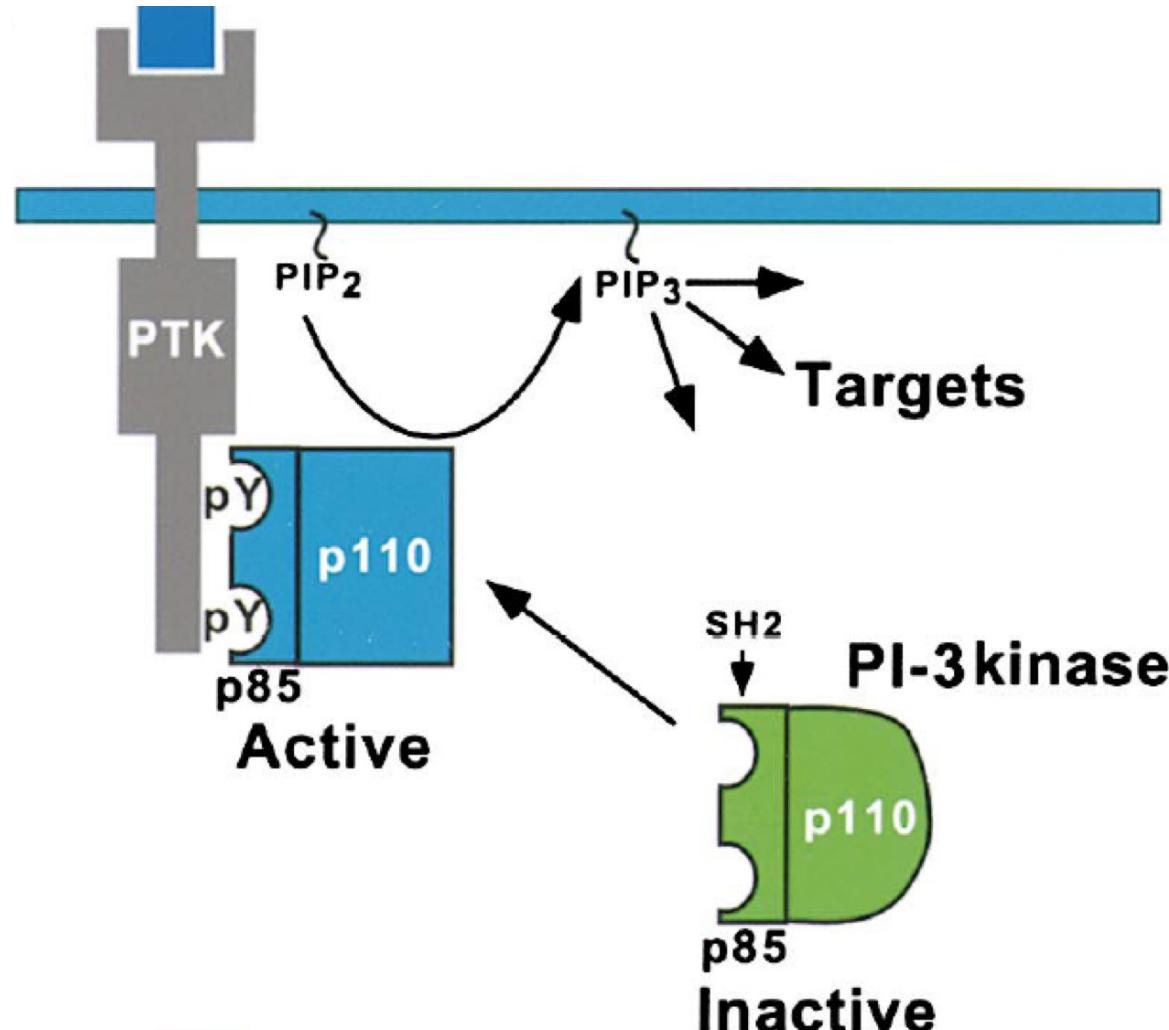


# Propagation of RTK activation through recruitment

Translocation & Conformational change upon binding to RTK : PI-3 Kinase

Binding of SH2 domain of PI-3K changes conformation upon docking

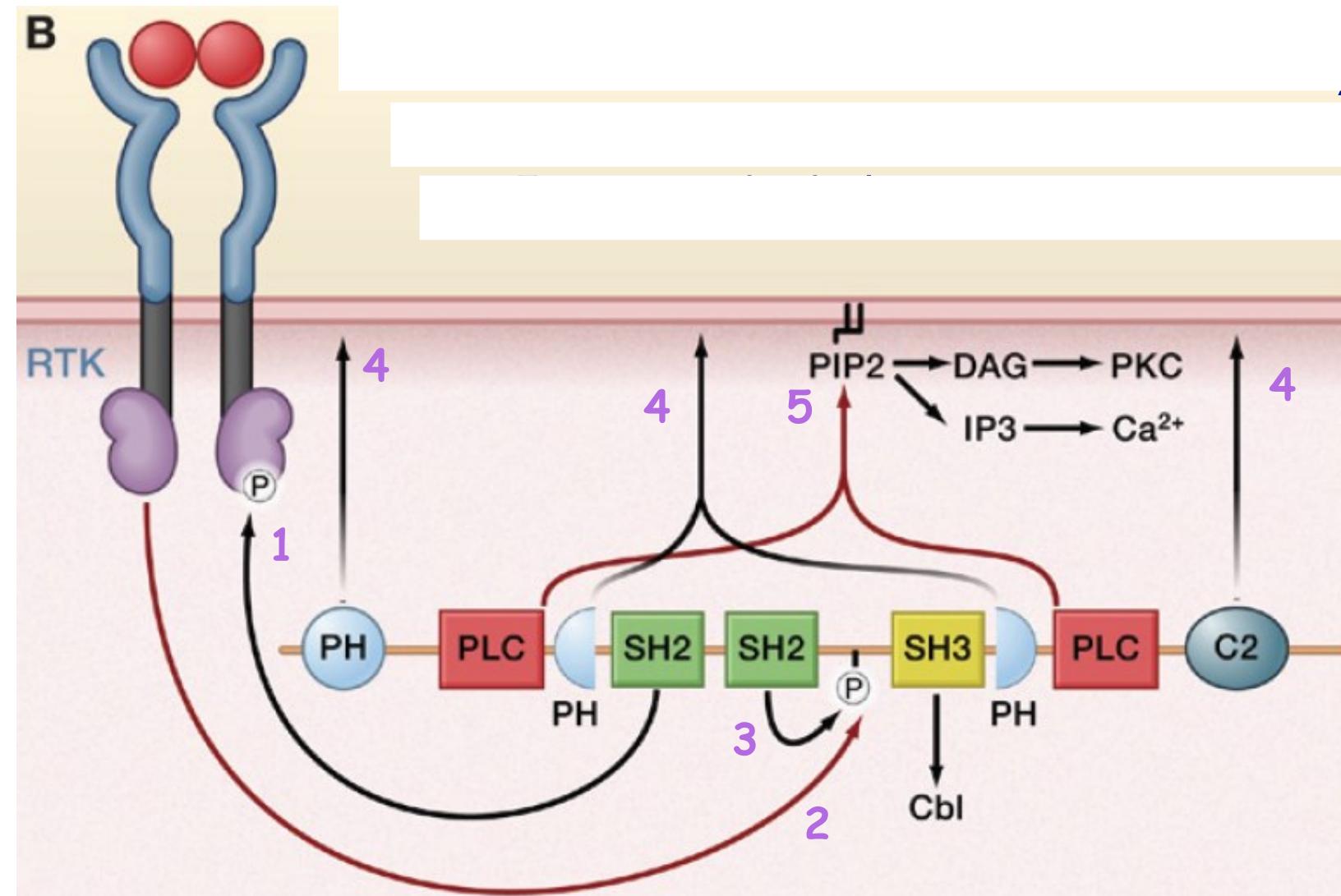
=> activation of PI-3K in close proximity of its substrate PIP<sub>2</sub> => [PIP<sub>3</sub>]



Schlesinger Cell 2000 p211

# Propagation of RTK activation through recruitment

## B - Translocation & activation by Tyr-phosphorylation : Phospholipase-C $\gamma$



Lemon (2010 Cell 141, 1117)

# RTK and diseases

Disfunction through several mechanisms:

-

- Regulation

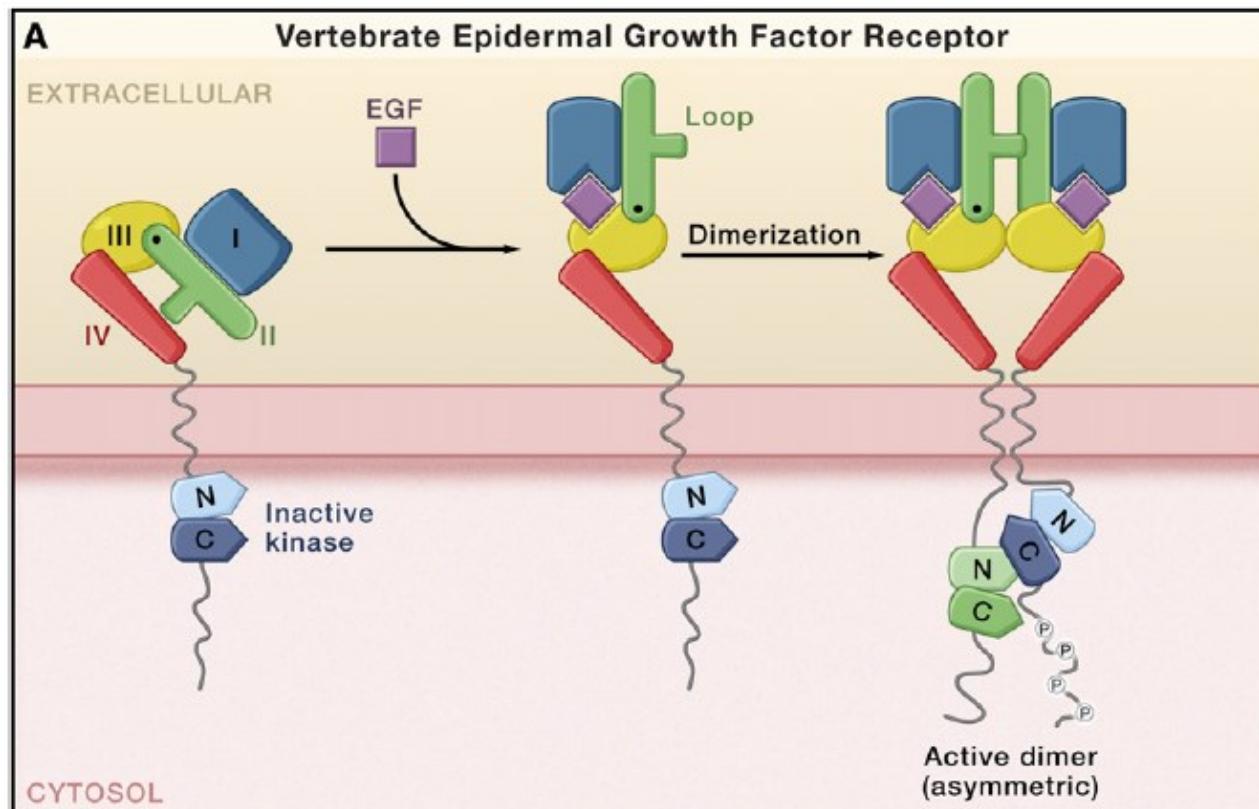
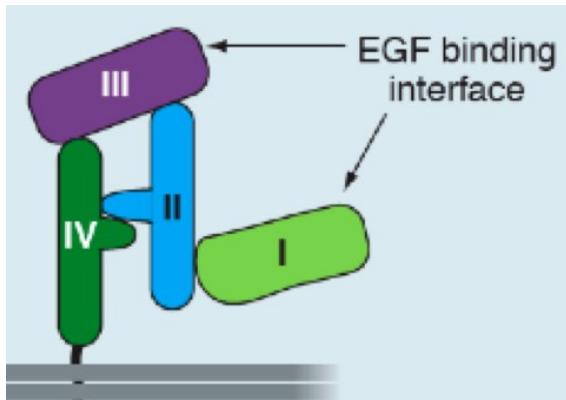
# Auto-inhibition : Ligand-binding domain

- e.g. EGF-receptor

Two mechanisms :

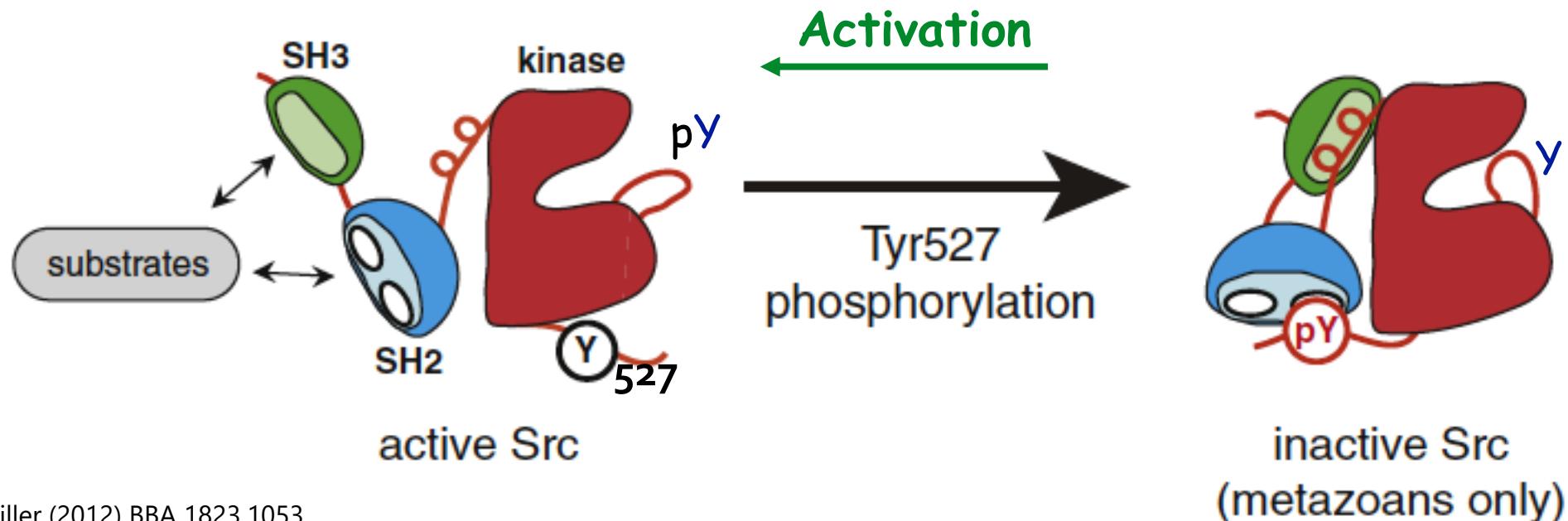
i) Vertebrates

“Disrupted” binding site



# Auto-inhibition : Kinase domain of Src kinase

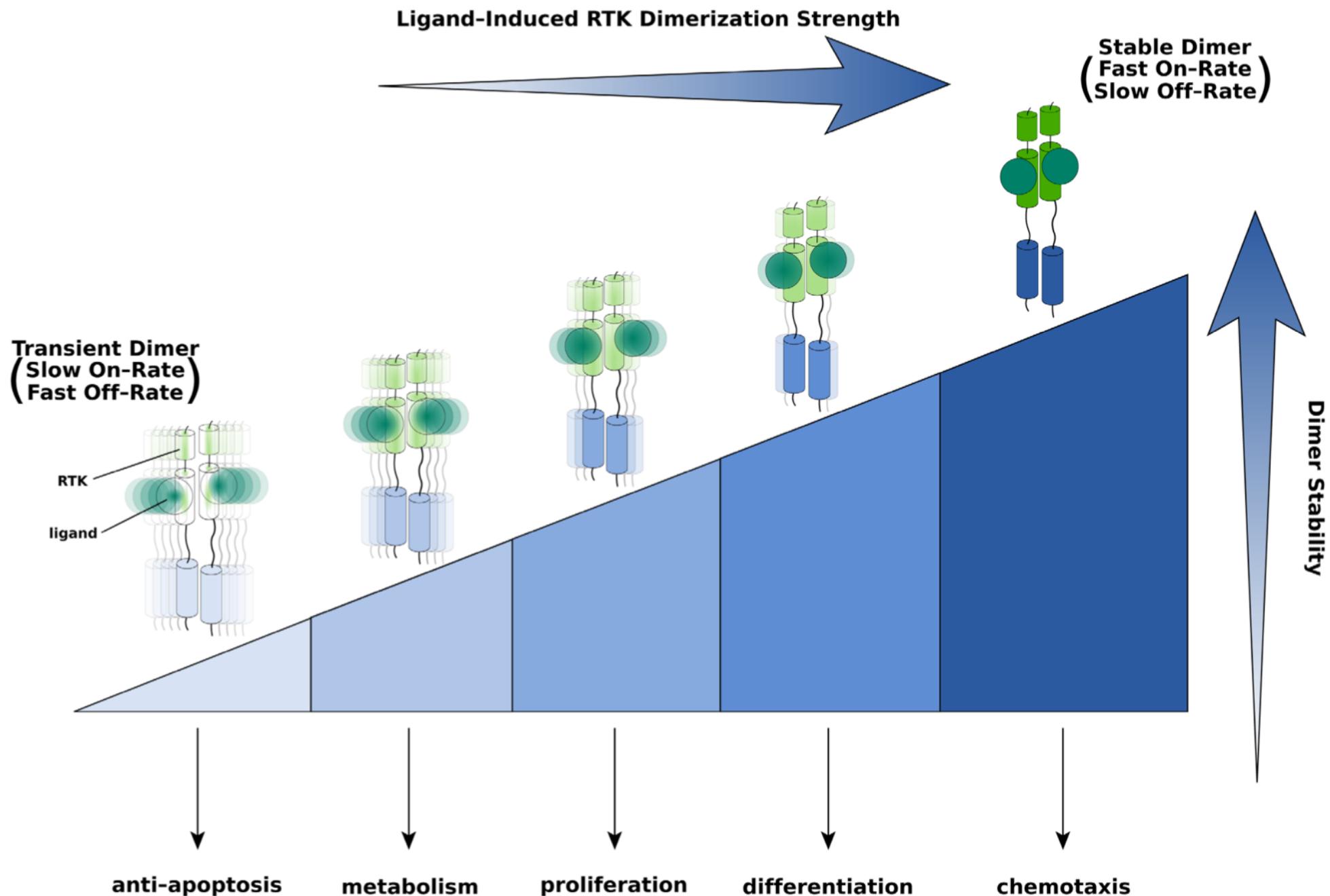
- e.g. Src kinase : Activation is regulated by coincidence of 4 conditions



Miller (2012) BBA 1823,1053

- ÷ Binding of substrate with PRO-rich sequence to SH3
- ÷ Binding of substrate with p-Y to SH2
- ÷ Phosphorylation of activation loop
- ÷ De-phosphorylation of Y-527

# Dimer potency & processes



# RTK : Big bu\$ine\$\$ !

PRESS RELEASE

...see all

## MARKET FOR KINASE INHIBITORS TO TREAT CANCER WILL REACH \$31.16BN IN 2019, ACCORDING TO NEW VISIONGAIN DATA

In 2014, the Bcr-Abl tyrosine-kinase inhibitor submarket formed the most lucrative part of that industry, accounting for 43.2% of the overall world market. However, the study shows that segment will shift in market share over the forecast period and that other kinase inhibitor sectors will overtake it by the end of the forecast period. That shift will be due to demand for innovative targeted **therapies** and expiry of patent protection on Bcr-Abl kinase drugs.

### Pharmaceutical approaches:

- Antibodies against ligands
- Antibodies against receptor extracellular domains
- Receptor extra-cellular domains
- Kinase-domain inhibitors

# RTK : Numbers getting smaller

Pharmaceutical approaches :

- several patents are running out soon
- public pressure to generics

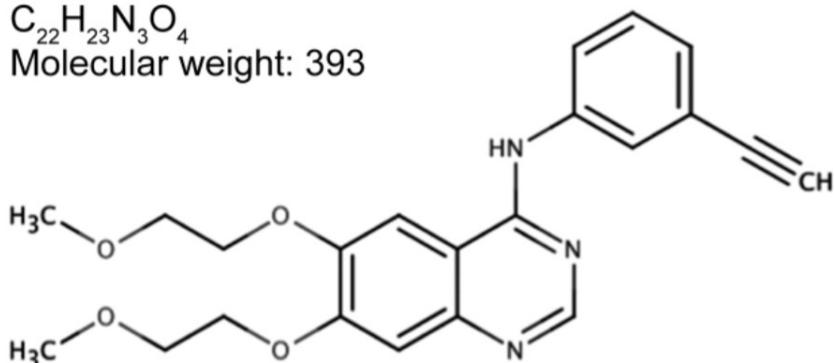
**Conclusions:** Mass generic production of several TKIs could achieve treatment prices in the range of \$128–\$4020 per person-year, versus current US prices of \$75161–\$139 138. Generic TKIs could allow significant savings and scaling-up of treatment globally, for over 1 million eligible patients.

Erlotinib as example

Erlotinib

$C_{22}H_{23}N_3O_4$

Molecular weight: 393



# Tyrosine kinase-linked receptors

TRK's - general importance for development

Their ligands - growth factors

Receptor activation - ligand binding

- dimerization
- (trans-)phosphorylation

Signalling cascades - binders & adaptors  
- activation, translocation  
- co-incidence

Regulation - auto-inhibition  
- p-Tyr-phosphatases

# Receptor tyrosine kinases

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Further reading:

Alberts: The Cell

Lemmon : “Cell Signalling by Receptor Tyrosine Kinases”

Cell 2010

Zinkle & Mohammadi : “A threshold model for RTK...”

F1000Research

# RTK - Abbreviations

RTK	Receptor tyrosine kinase
IL	Interleukins
INF	Interferons
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
GF	Growth Factor
EGF	Epidermal Growth Factor
FGF	Fibroblast Growth Factor
PDGF	Platelet-Derived Growth Factor
Eph	ephrins
EPO	Erythropoietin
HSGP	Heparin Sulfate ProteoGlycan
VEGF	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
IRK	Insulin Receptor Kinase domain