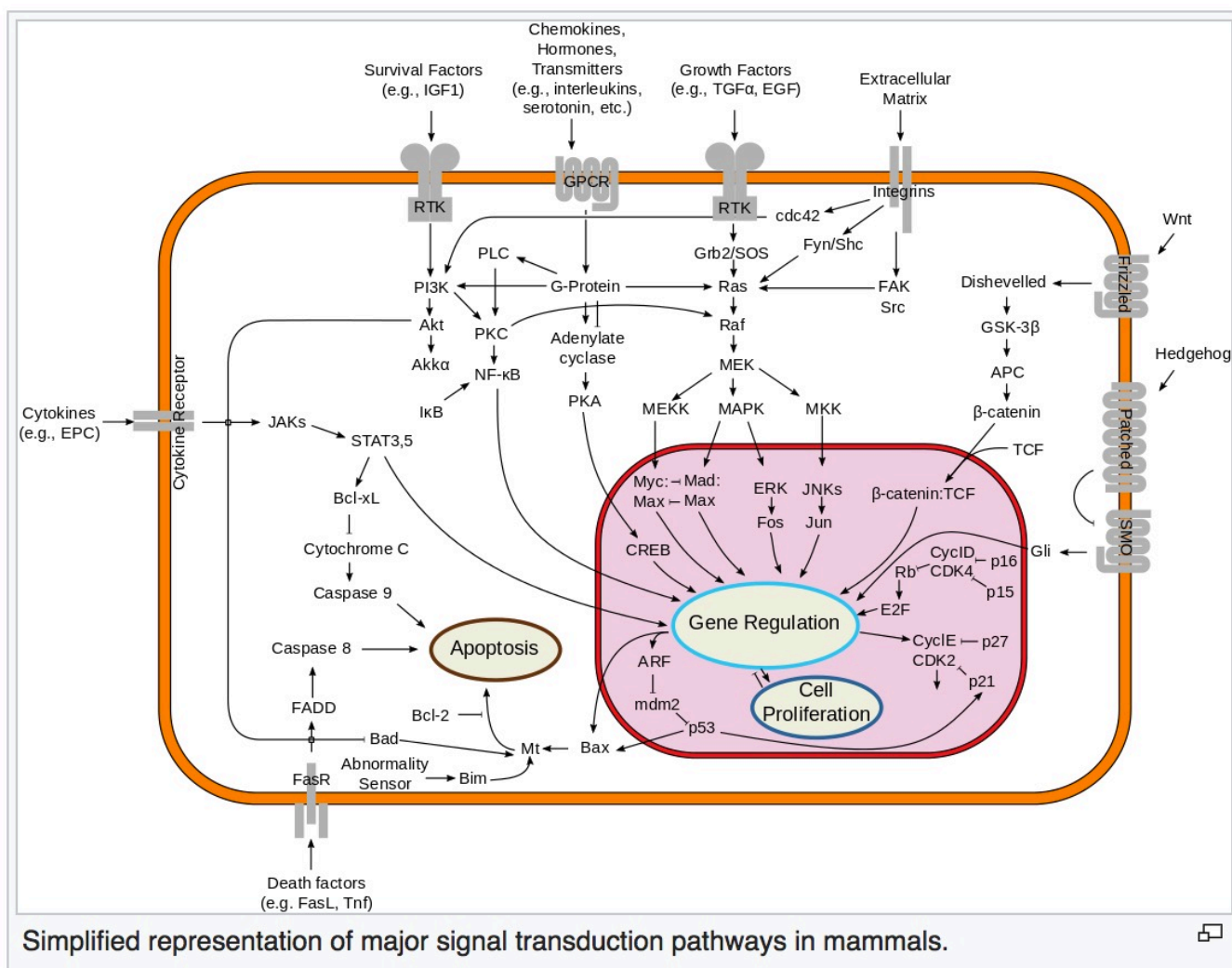


BAX

Apoptosis regulator BAX, also known as **bcl2**-like protein 4, is a protein that in humans is encoded by the BAX gene. BAX is a member of the **Bcl2** gene family. BCL2 family members form hetero- or homodimers and act as anti- or pro-apoptotic regulators that are involved in a wide variety of cellular activities.

This protein forms a heterodimer with **BCL2**, and functions as an apoptotic activator. This protein is reported to interact with, and increase the opening of, the mitochondrial voltage-dependent anion channel (VDAC), which leads to the loss in membrane potential and the release of **cytochrome c**. The expression of this gene is regulated by the tumor suppressor **P53** and has been shown to be involved in P53-mediated apoptosis.



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