

A signaling **molecule** is a type of molecule that transmits a **signal** from one cell to another, leading to changes in cellular **behavior**, **gene expression**, or **metabolism**. These signaling molecules can be **peptides**, **hormones**, **neurotransmitters**, **growth factors**, or **cytokines** and can play a critical role in physiological processes such as growth and development, **homeostasis**, and the response to stress or injury. The **signal transduction** pathways initiated by signaling molecules typically involve the activation of specific receptors on the target cell, leading to changes in the activity of intracellular signaling proteins and ultimately leading to a cellular response.

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