

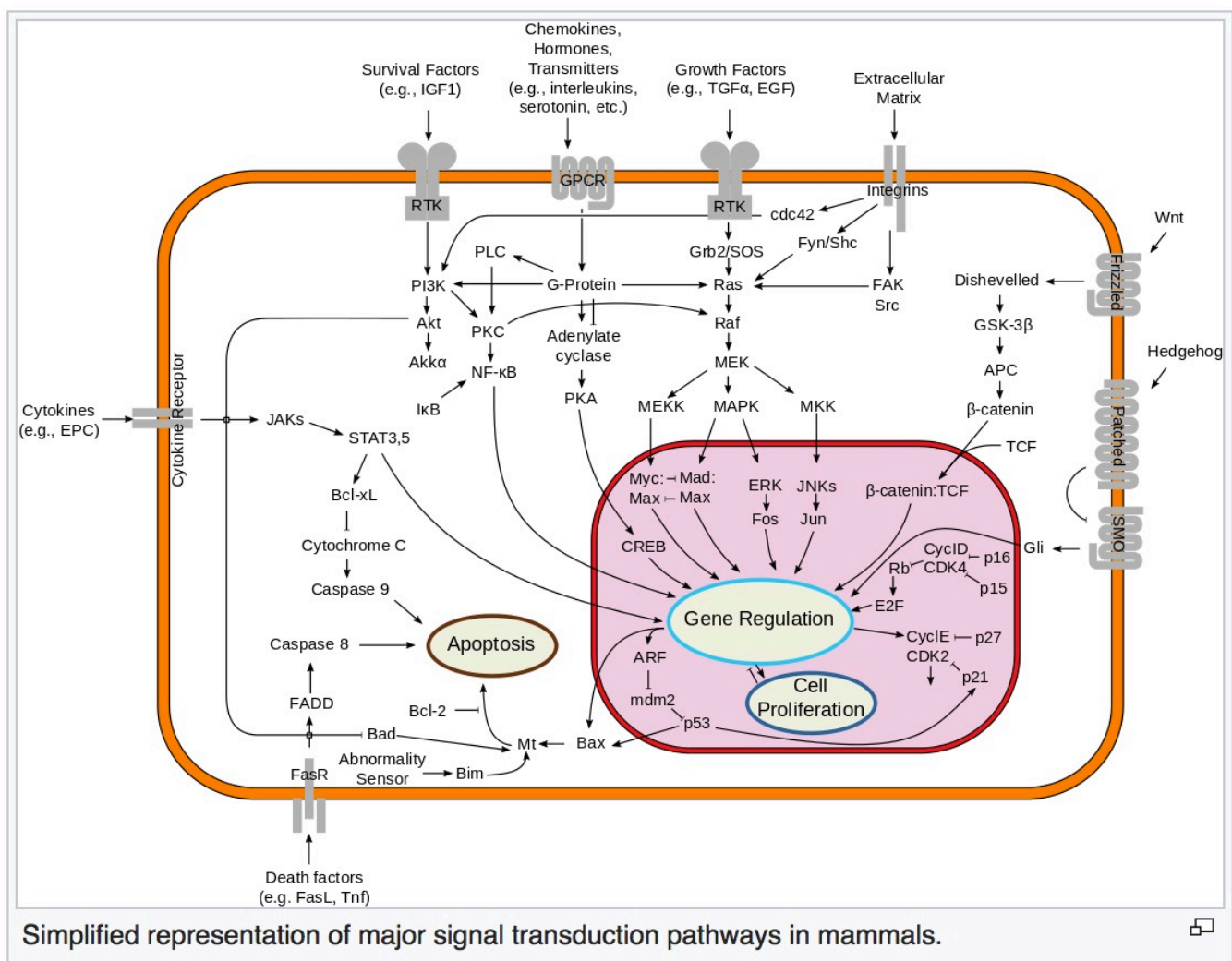
Sonic hedgehog pathway

Protein that is encoded by the **SHH** ("sonic hedgehog") gene.

Both the **gene** and the **protein** may also be found notated alternatively as "Shh".

Sonic hedgehog is one of three proteins in the mammalian signaling pathway family called **hedgehog**, the others being desert hedgehog (DHH) and Indian hedgehog (IHH). SHH is the best studied ligand of the hedgehog signaling pathway. It plays a key role in regulating vertebrate organogenesis, such as in the growth of digits on limbs and organization of the brain. Sonic hedgehog is the best established example of a morphogen as defined by Lewis Wolpert's French flag model—a molecule that diffuses to form a concentration gradient and has different effects on the cells of the developing embryo depending on its concentration. SHH remains important in the adult.

The **sonic hedgehog signaling pathway** has also been linked to the formation of specific kinds of cancerous tumors.



Sonic hedgehog medulloblastoma

see [Sonic hedgehog medulloblastoma](#)

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:48**

