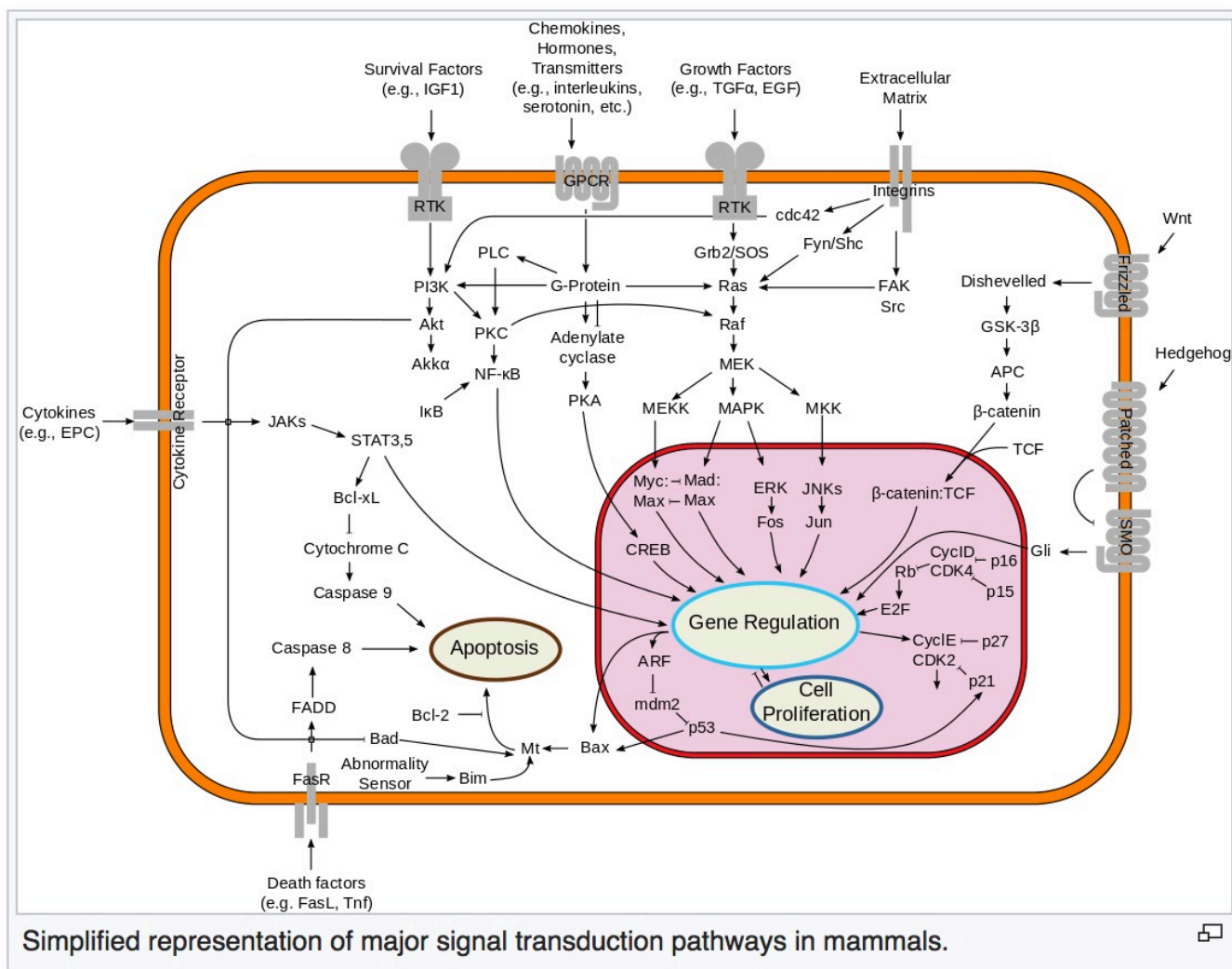


Transforming growth factor

Transforming **growth factor** (sometimes referred to as Tumor growth factor, or TGF) is used to describe two classes of **polypeptide growth factors**, **Transforming growth factor Alpha** (TGF α) and **Transforming growth factor Beta** (TGF β).

The name "Transforming Growth Factor" is somewhat arbitrary, since the two classes of TGFs are not structurally or genetically related to one another, and they act through different receptor mechanisms. Furthermore, they do not always induce cellular transformation, and are not the only growth factors that induce cellular transformation.



These proteins were originally characterized by their capacity to induce oncogenic transformation in a specific cell culture system, rat kidney fibroblasts. Application of the transforming growth factors to normal rat kidney fibroblasts induces the cultured cells to proliferate and overgrow, no longer subject to the normal inhibition caused by contact between cells.

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