

Slide : 2-Immunoglobulins

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Sections : .....

■ Slide □ Sheet



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# Immunoglobulins

# Defense lines (specific vs. non-specific)

- The immune system plays a major role in the body's defense mechanisms

Non-specific (innate)		Specific (acquired)
➤ First line	➤ Second line	➤ Third line
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Barriers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ physical: skin, hair, mucous membranes</li><li>✓ chemical: sweat, tears, saliva, stomach acid, urine</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Phagocytic WBCs</li><li>✓ Antimicrobial proteins</li><li>✓ Inflammatory response</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Lymphocytes</li><li>✓ <b>Antibodies</b></li></ul>

# Innate vs. Acquired Immunity

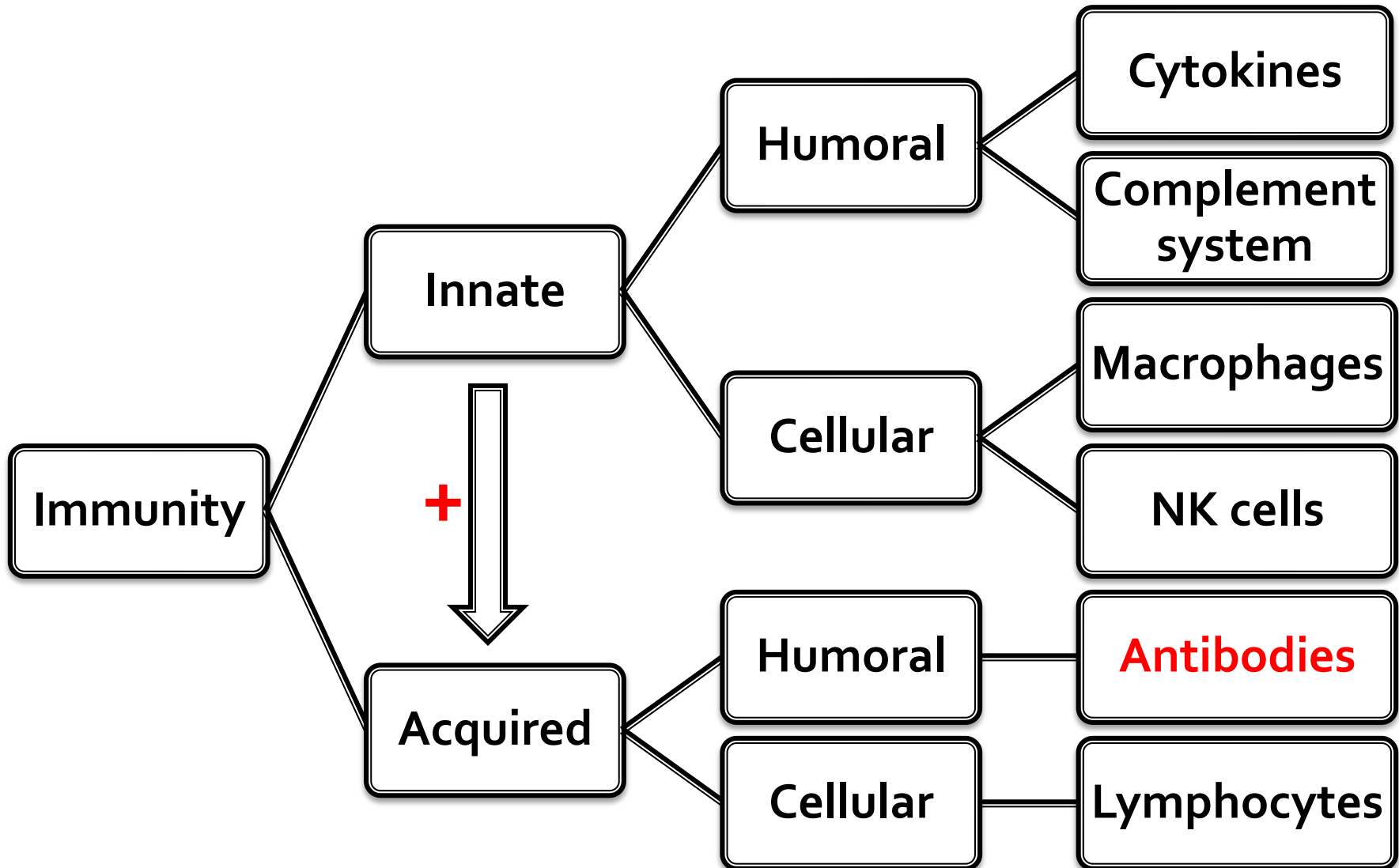
## ➤ Innate:

- Natural or native immunity
- Cellular & biochemical defense mechanisms (non-specific)
- Non-adaptive upon repeated infections
- Only recognize microbial agents

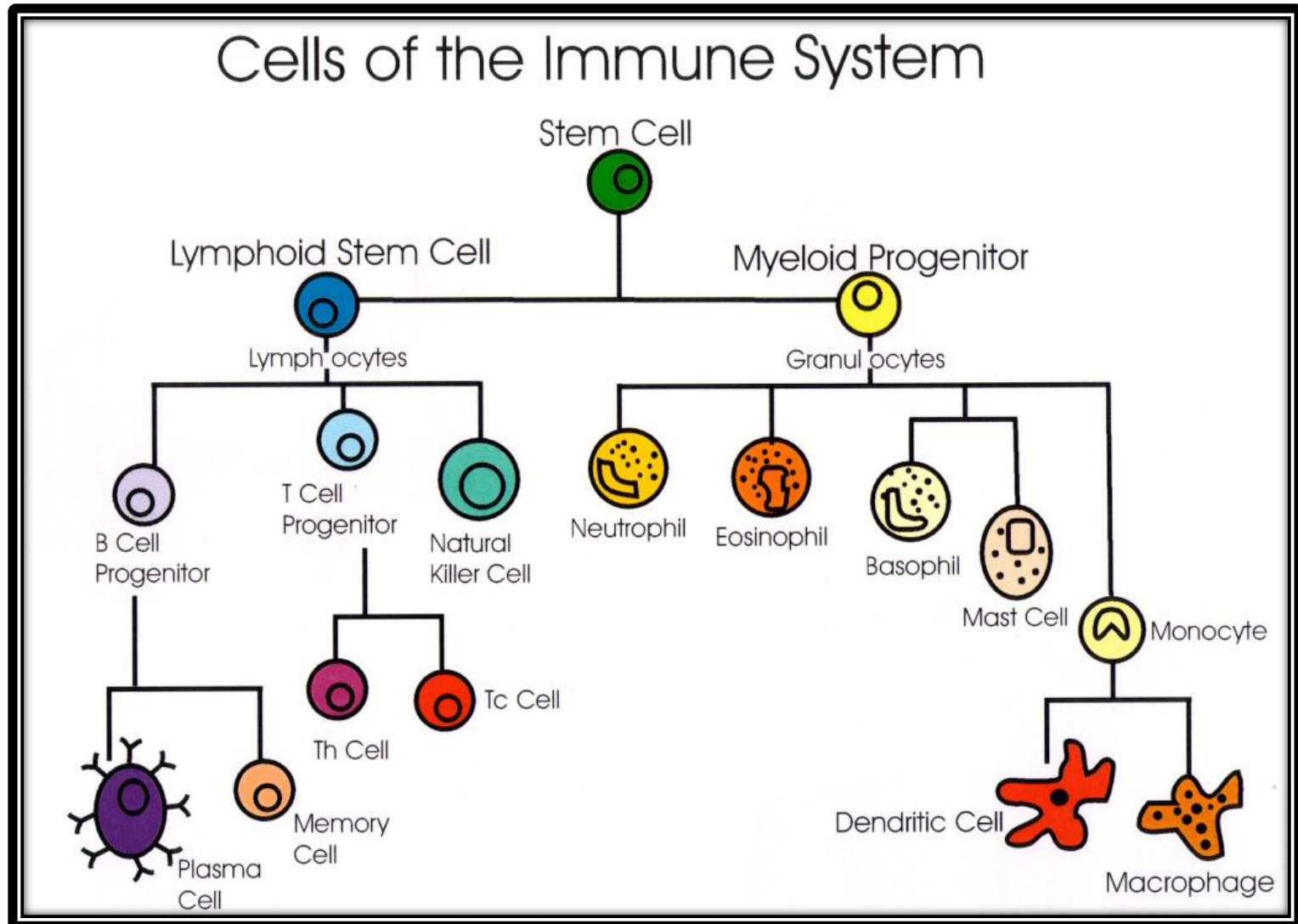
## ➤ Acquired:

- Develops as a response to infection & adapts to the infection
- Increase in magnitude & defensive capabilities with each successive exposure to a particular microbe
- High specificity & memory for distinct molecules
- Recognize & react to microbial & non-microbial substances

# Innate vs. Acquired Immunity



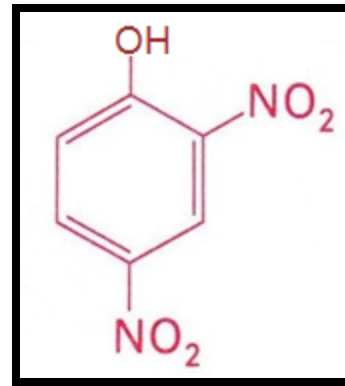
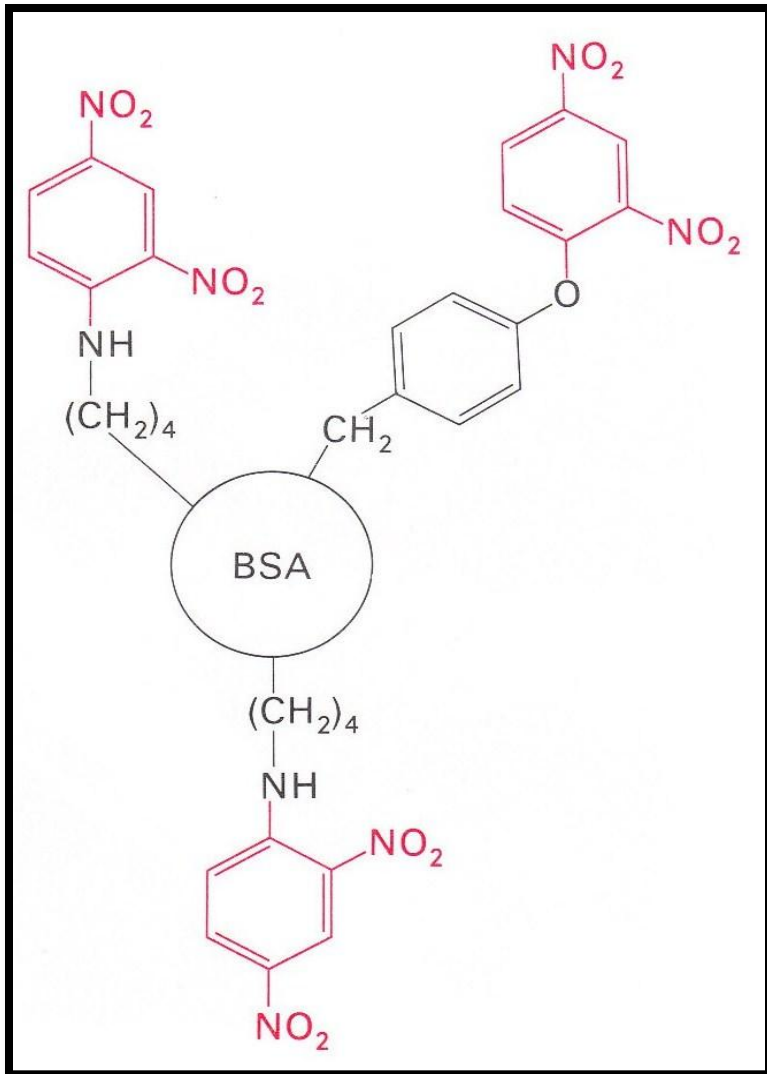
# Immune system cells



# Immunoglobulins & antigens

- **Antibodies: “glycoproteins” synthesized by plasma cells & able to bind foreign molecules even if not encountered before**
  - ✓ High specificity & high affinity
  - ✓ Huge number of different kinds ( $\sim 10^8$ )
  - ✓ Synthesis is stimulated by having an immunogen
  - ✓ Induces the “effector functions”: Inactivation, degradation, lysis
- **Antigen: Foreign molecules to which Igs bind**
  - ✓ Can elicit antibody formation (immunogen)
  - ✓ Macromolecule; Protein, polysaccharide, nucleic acid
  - ✓ Epitope (Antigenic determinant): each epitope is recognized by a different antibody
  - ✓ Hapten: small molecule, antigen if attached to a macromolecule

# Hapten-immunogenic response



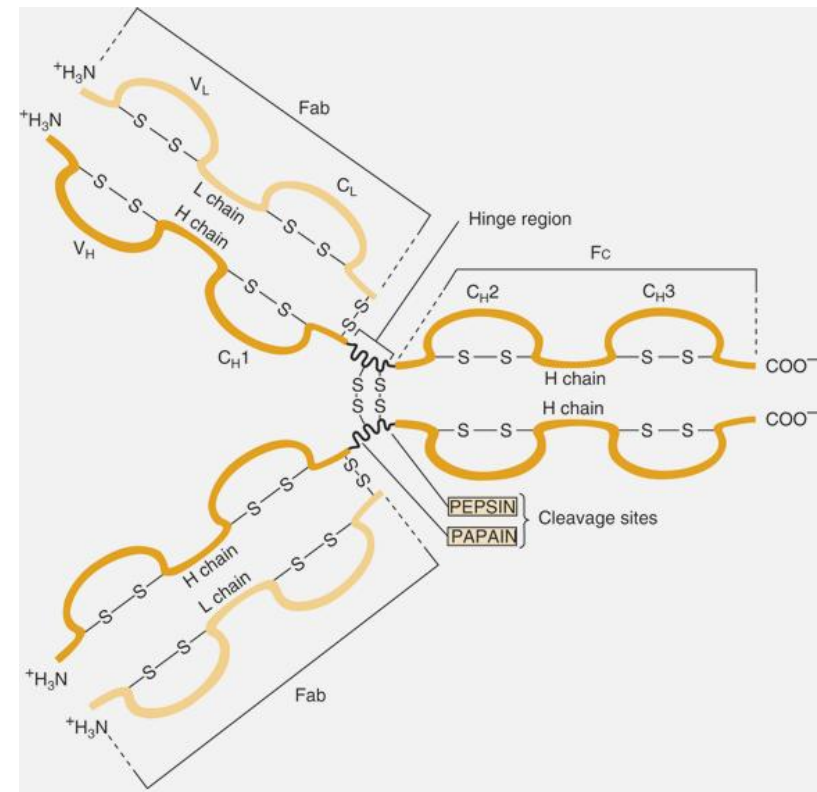
→ No response

→ Response



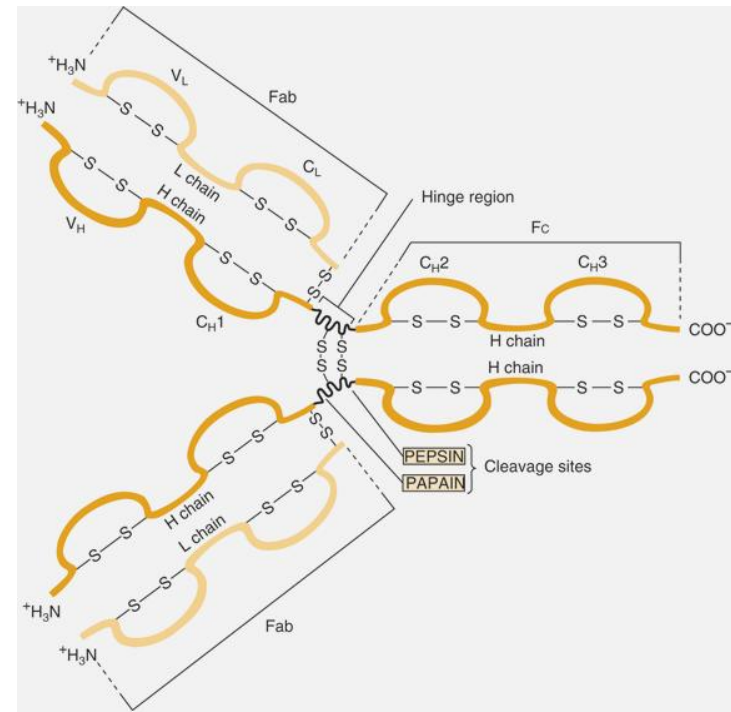
# Immunoglobulins - structure

- All contain a minimum of 2 identical light chains (25 kDa) & 2 identical heavy chains (50 kDa)
- Held together by disulfide bonds
- Y-shaped: binding of antigen at both tips
- Each chain has specific domains
- L chain: amino half ( $V_L$ ), carboxylic half ( $C_L$ )
- H chain:  $\frac{1}{4}$  amino ( $V_H$ ),  $\frac{3}{4}$  carboxylic ( $C_{H1}$ ,  $C_{H2}$ ,  $C_{H3}$ )



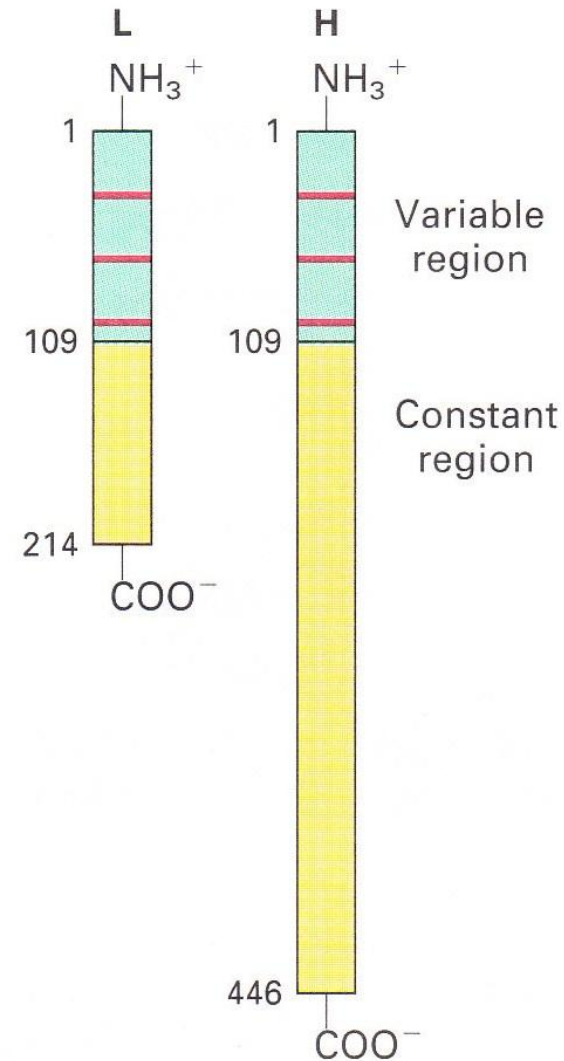
# Immunoglobulins - structure

- Antigen binds  $V_H$  &  $V_L$  domains
- Hinge region:
  - $C_H1$  &  $C_H2$
  - Flexibility
  - Independent movement
- $F_c$  & hinge regions differ in the different classes of antibodies
- Papain: 2 antigen-binding fragments ( $F_{ab}$ ) & one crystallizable fragment ( $F_c$ )
- Pepsin: one  $(F_{ab})_2$  fragment & one crystallizable fragment ( $F_c$ )



# Immunoglobulins - structure

- 2 L chains 25 kDa 214 AA
- 2 H chains 50 kDa 446 AA
- Light chain:
  - ✓ 1- 110 variable, 111 – 214 similar
- Heavy chain:
  - ✓ 1- 113 variable, 114 – 446 similar
- 3 stretches (7-12 amino acids)  
“hypervariable”

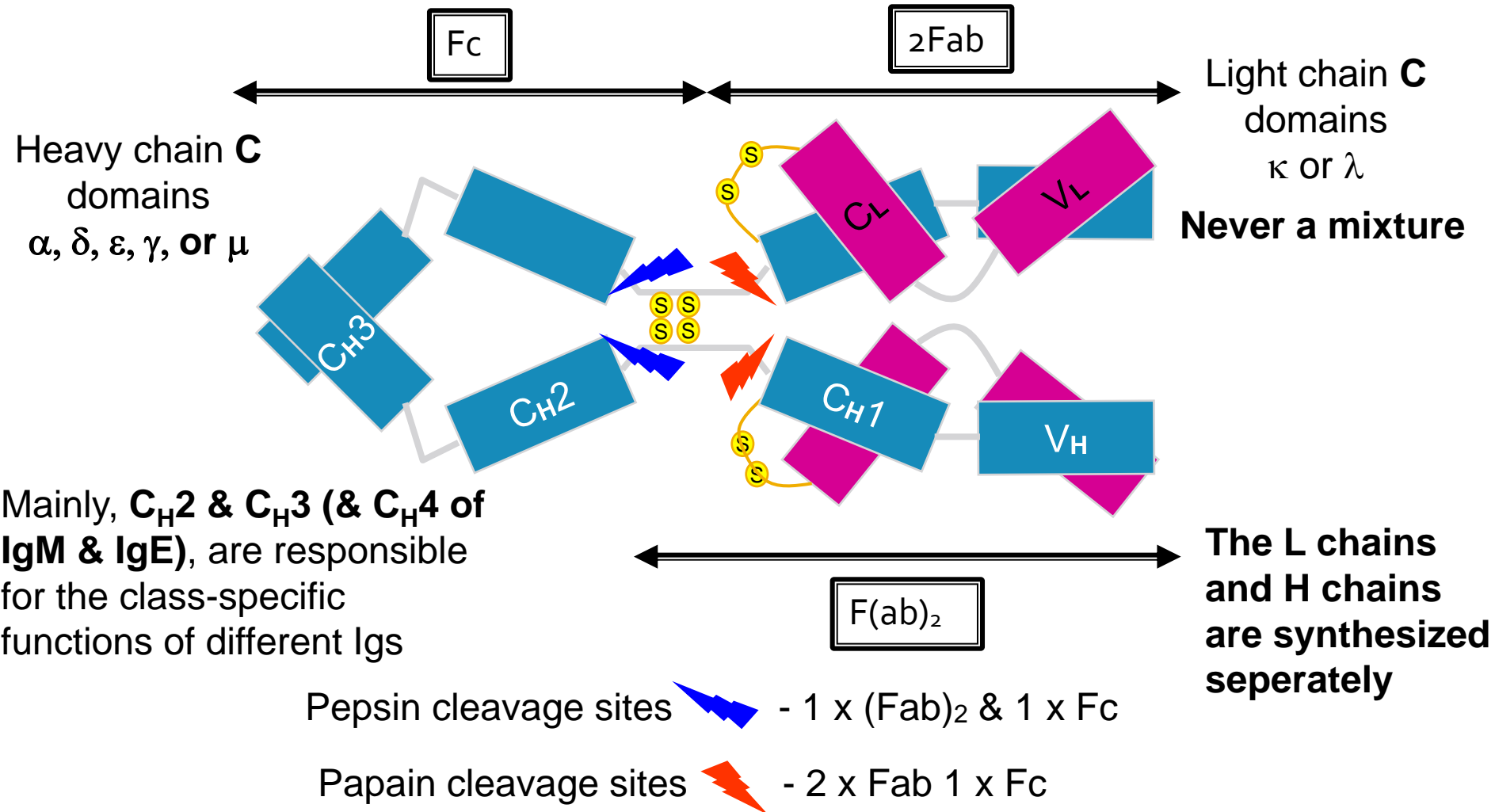


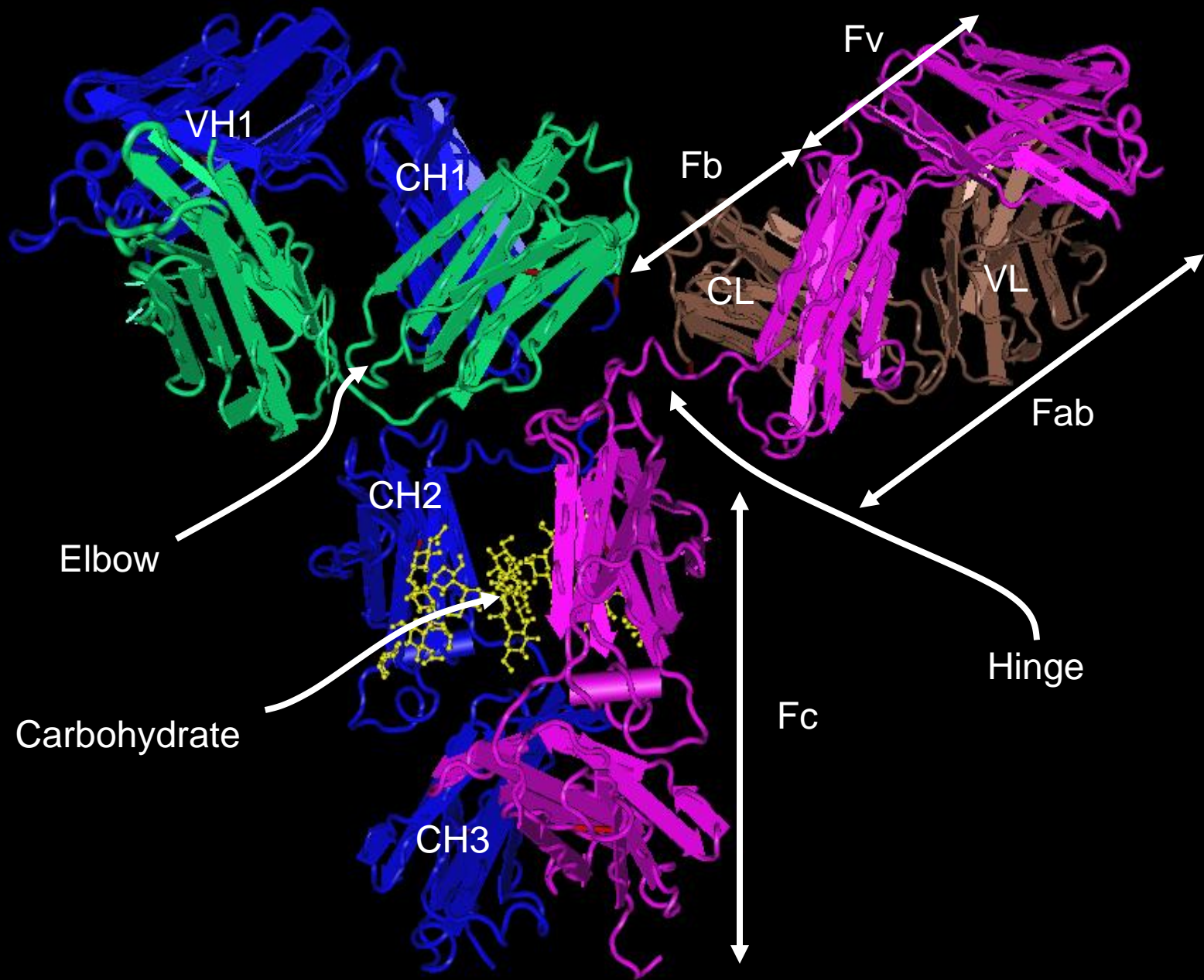
# Immunoglobulin - Interactions

- **With antigen (infinite):**
  - ✓ **Electrostatic, Hydrogen, Van der Waal's, Hydrophobic**
  - **The (F<sub>ab</sub>)<sub>2</sub> fragment CAN:**
    - ✓ **Detect & bind the antigen**
    - ✓ **Block the active sites of toxins**
    - ✓ **Block interactions between host & pathogen**
- **With other cells and molecules through the Fc portion (finite)**
  - **The (F<sub>ab</sub>)<sub>2</sub> fragment CANNOT activate:**
    - ✓ **Inflammatory functions associated with cells**
    - ✓ **Inflammatory functions of complement proteins**
    - ✓ **Intracellular cell signaling molecules**

# Domain Structural variation of Immunoglobulins – constant region

Domains are folded, compact, protease resistant structures





# The Immunoglobulin Fold

The characteristic structural motif of all Ig domains

A  $\beta$  barrel of 7 ( $C_L$ ) or 8 ( $V_L$ ) polypeptide strands connected by loops and arranged to enclose a hydrophobic interior

A barrel

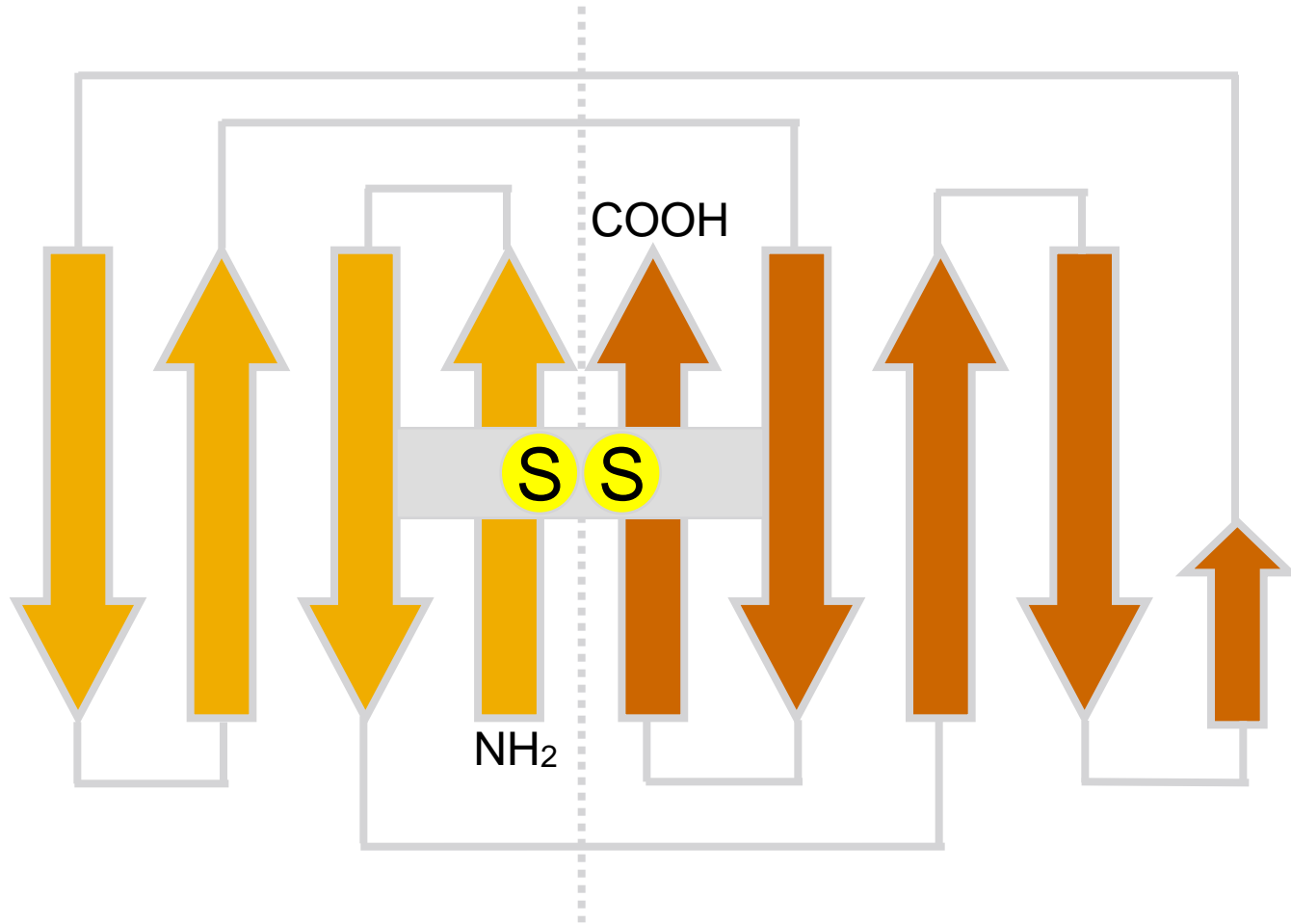


Barrel under construction



Single  $V_L$  domain

# The Immunoglobulin Fold



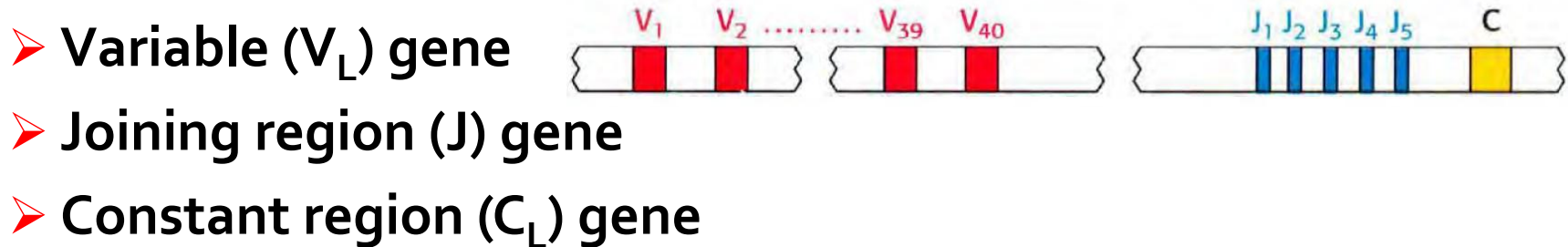
Unfolded  $V_L$  region showing 8 antiparallel  $\beta$ -pleated sheets connected by loops



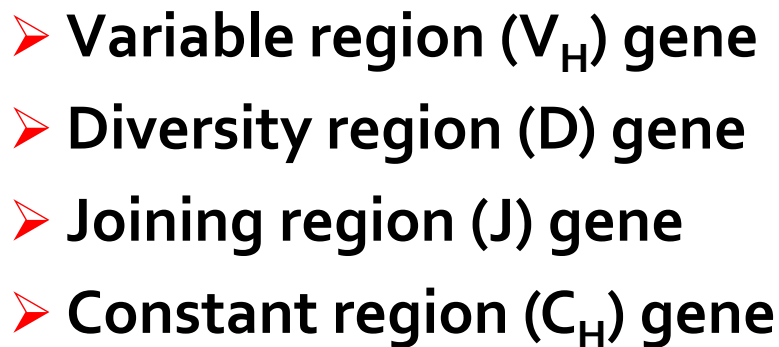
# Genes involved

The "one gene, one protein" concept is not valid

➤ Light chain is a product of at least 3 genes:



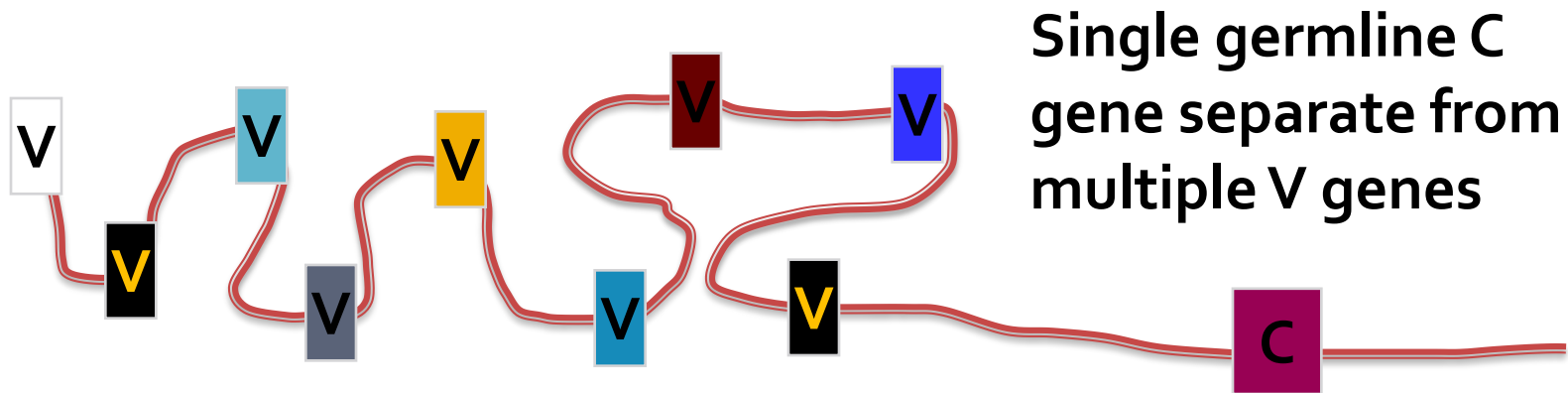
➤ Heavy chain is a product of at least 4 genes :



# Combinatorial diversity: How does diversity occur?

## Dreyer - Bennett hypothesis

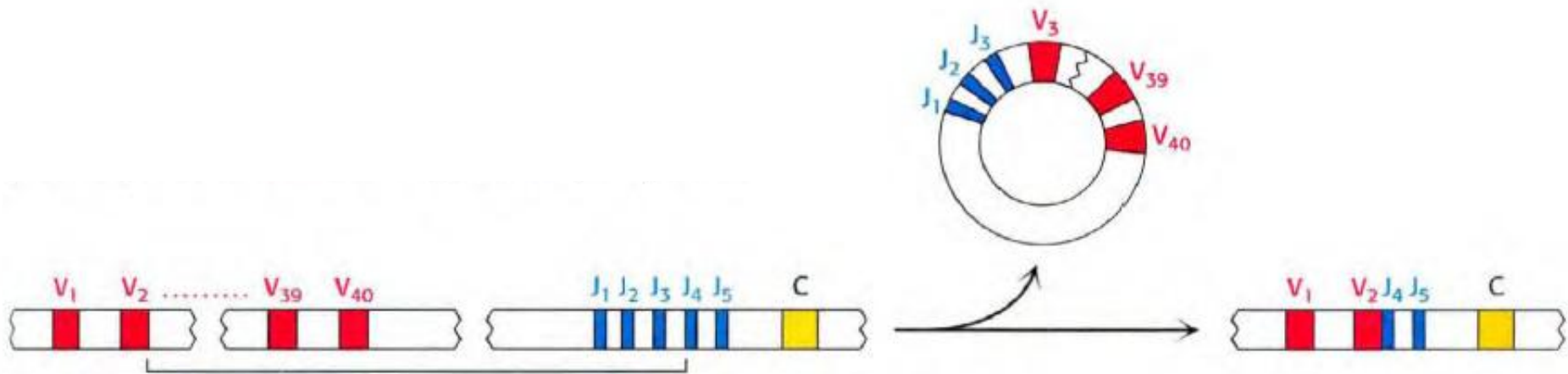
- Immune system can generate  $> 10^8$  antibodies
- Human genome contains  $\sim 40,000$  genes !



# How does diversity occur?

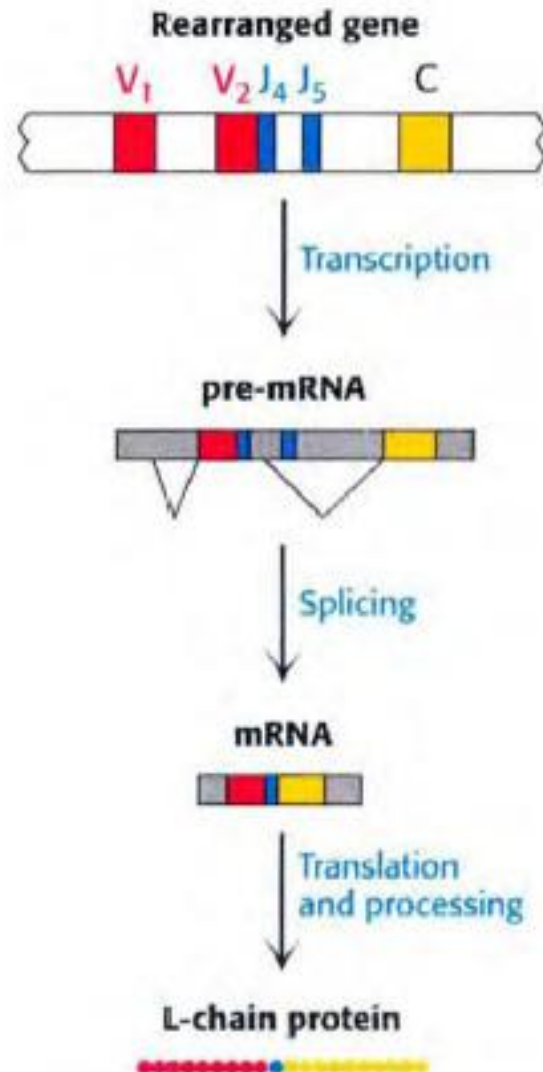
## Rearrangement & splicing (L chain)

- V genes encode the first 97 amino acids
- J genes encode the last 13 amino acids
- Possible combinations (kappa,  $\kappa$ ) =  $40 * 5 = 200$
- Possible combinations (lambda,  $\lambda$ ) =  $30 * 4 = 120$



# How does diversity occur?

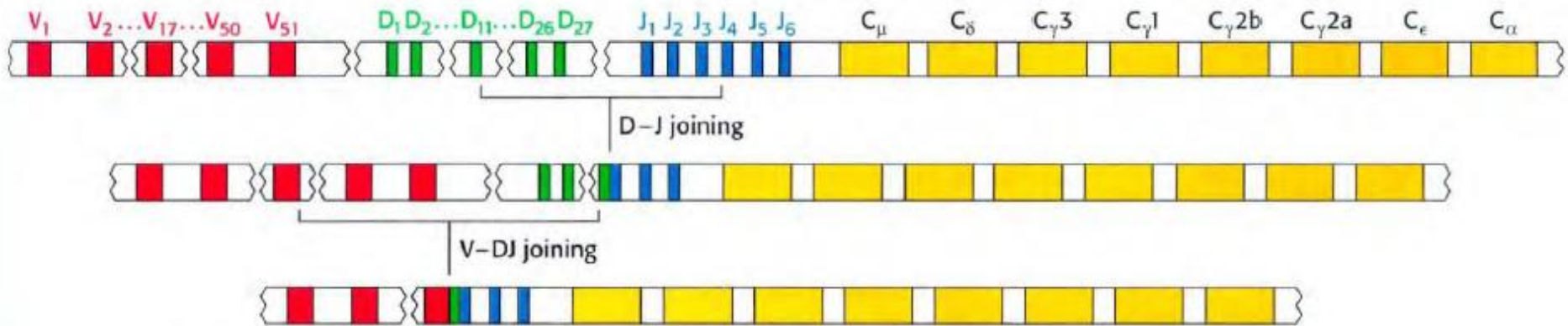
## Rearrangement & splicing



# How does diversity occur?

## Rearrangement & splicing (H chain)

➤ Possible combinations =  $51 * 27 * 6 = 8262$



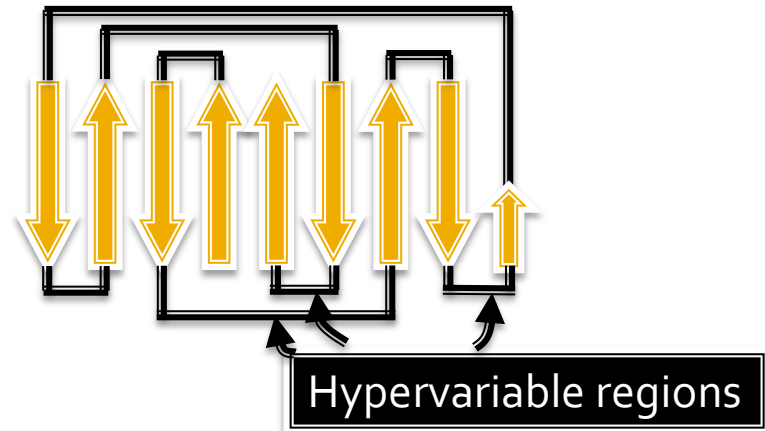
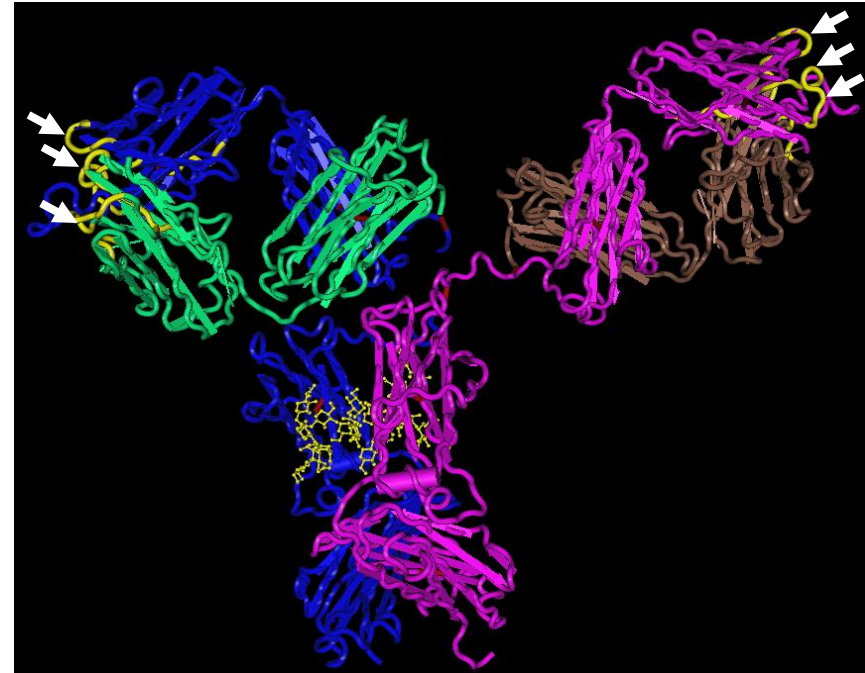
➤ All possible combinations (L&H) =  $(200 + 120) * 8262 =$

$$2.6 * 10^6$$

➤ Somatic mutations increases the diversity

# Variable Regions

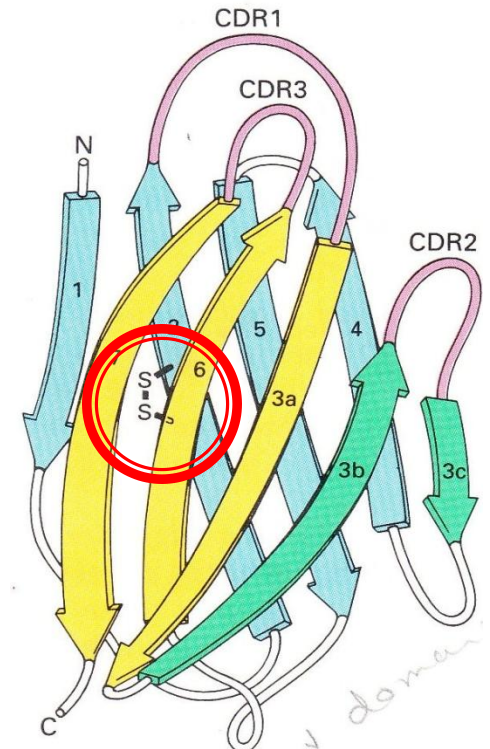
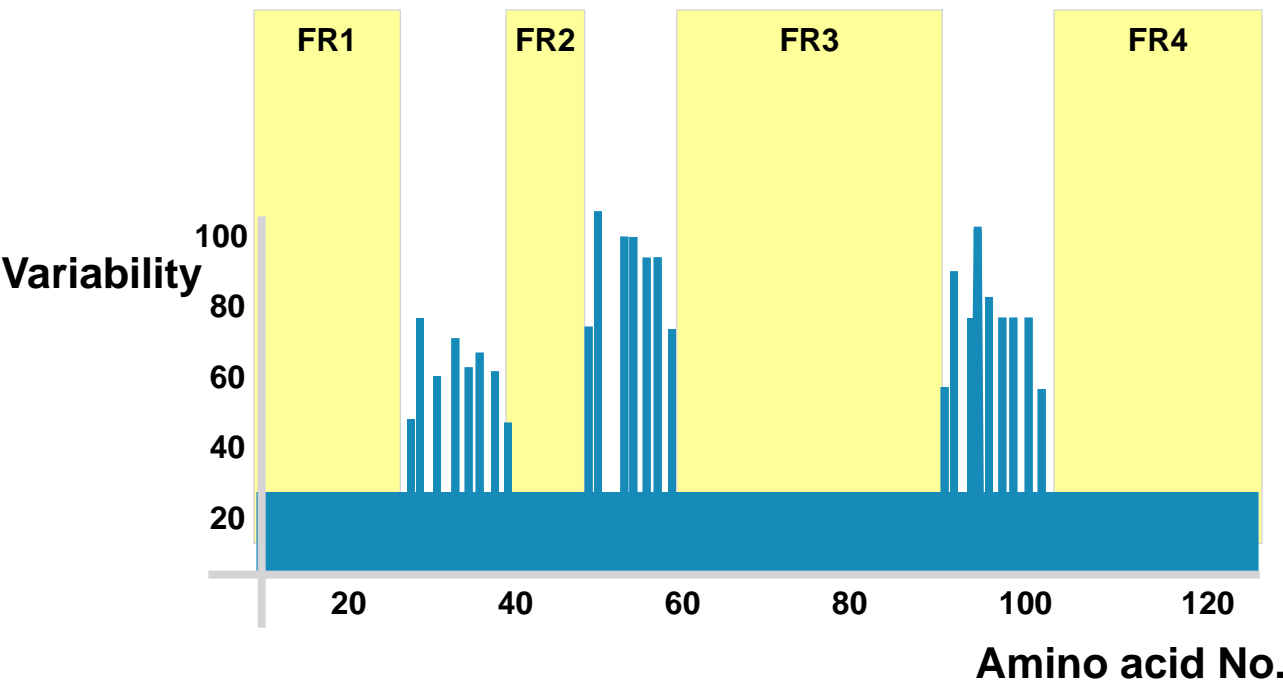
- No two variable regions in different humans are identical
- Relatively invariable regions & other hypervariable regions
- L chains have 3 hypervariable regions (in  $V_L$ ) & H chains have 4 (in  $V_H$ )
- These hypervariable regions comprise the antigen-binding site
- Dictate the amazing specificity of antibodies



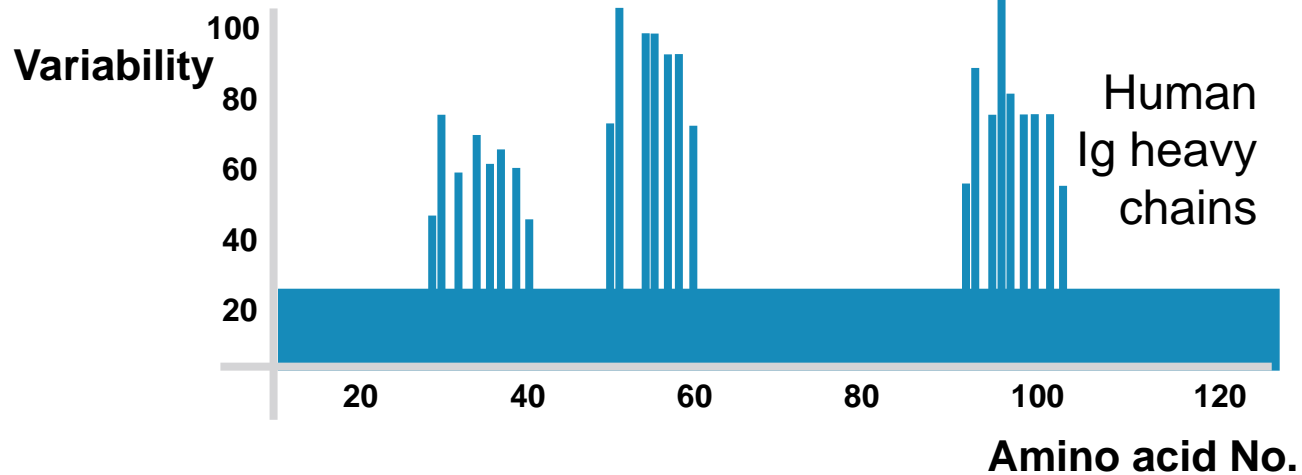
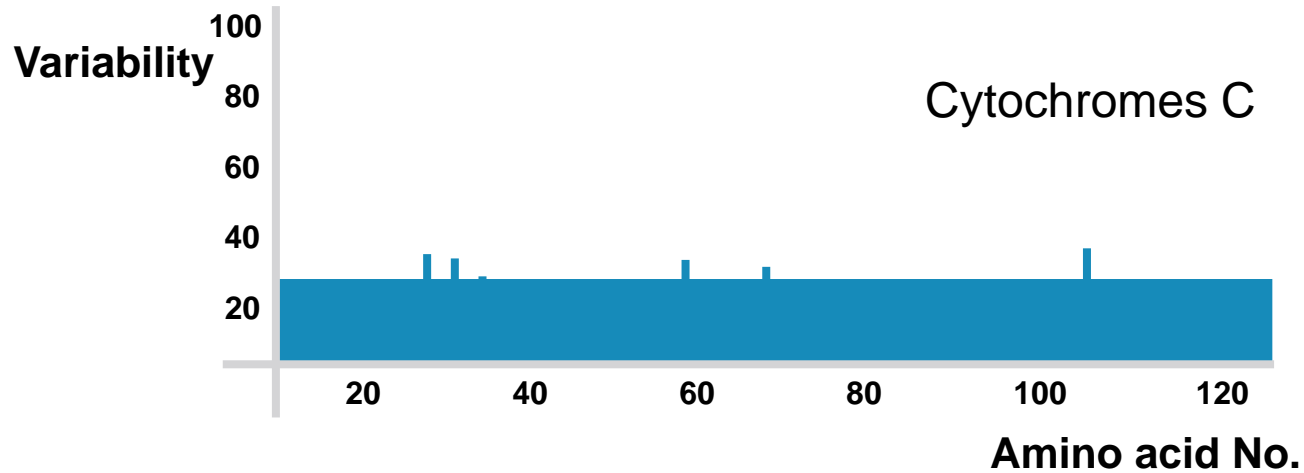
# Hypervariable regions

## Complementarity-determining regions (CDRs)

- About 7-12 amino acids in each one that contribute to the antigen-binding site
- CDRs are located on small loops of the variable domains
- Framework regions: the surrounding polypeptide regions among the hypervariable regions



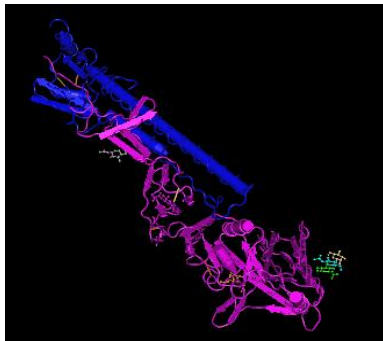
# Variability in other proteins



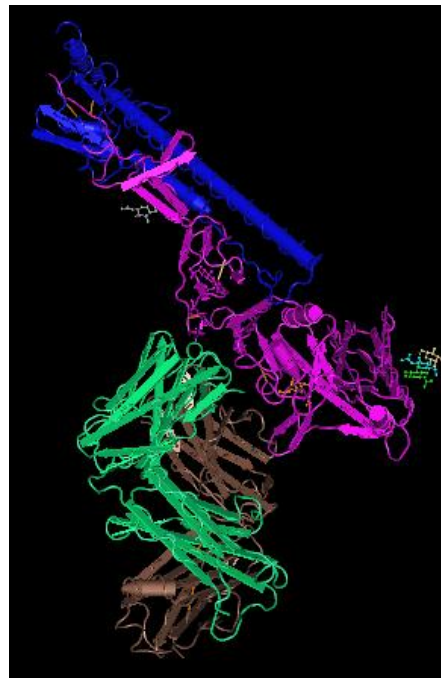


# CDRs interaction with antigens

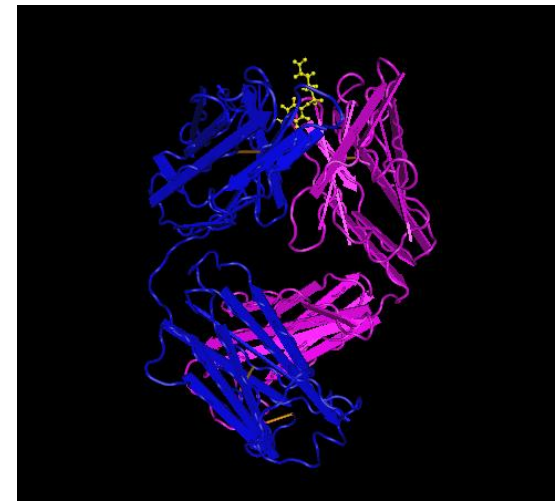
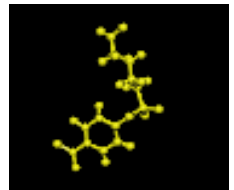
- Antigen-antibody interactions is based on mutual complementarity between surfaces
- Large antigens: interact with all of the CDRs of an antibody
- Small antigens: interact with only one or a few CDRs that form a pocket or groove in the antibody molecule



**Protein:**  
Influenza  
haemagglutinin



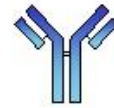
**Haptent:** 5-(para-nitrophenyl phosphonate)-pentanoic acid



# Immunoglobulin classes - overview

- Igs are classified based on the nature of their heavy chain

IgG



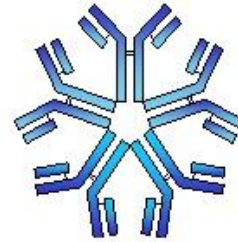
IgE



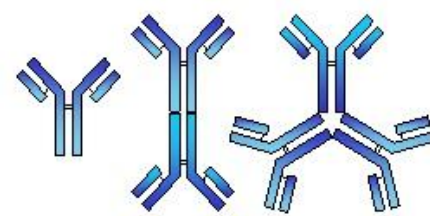
IgD



IgM

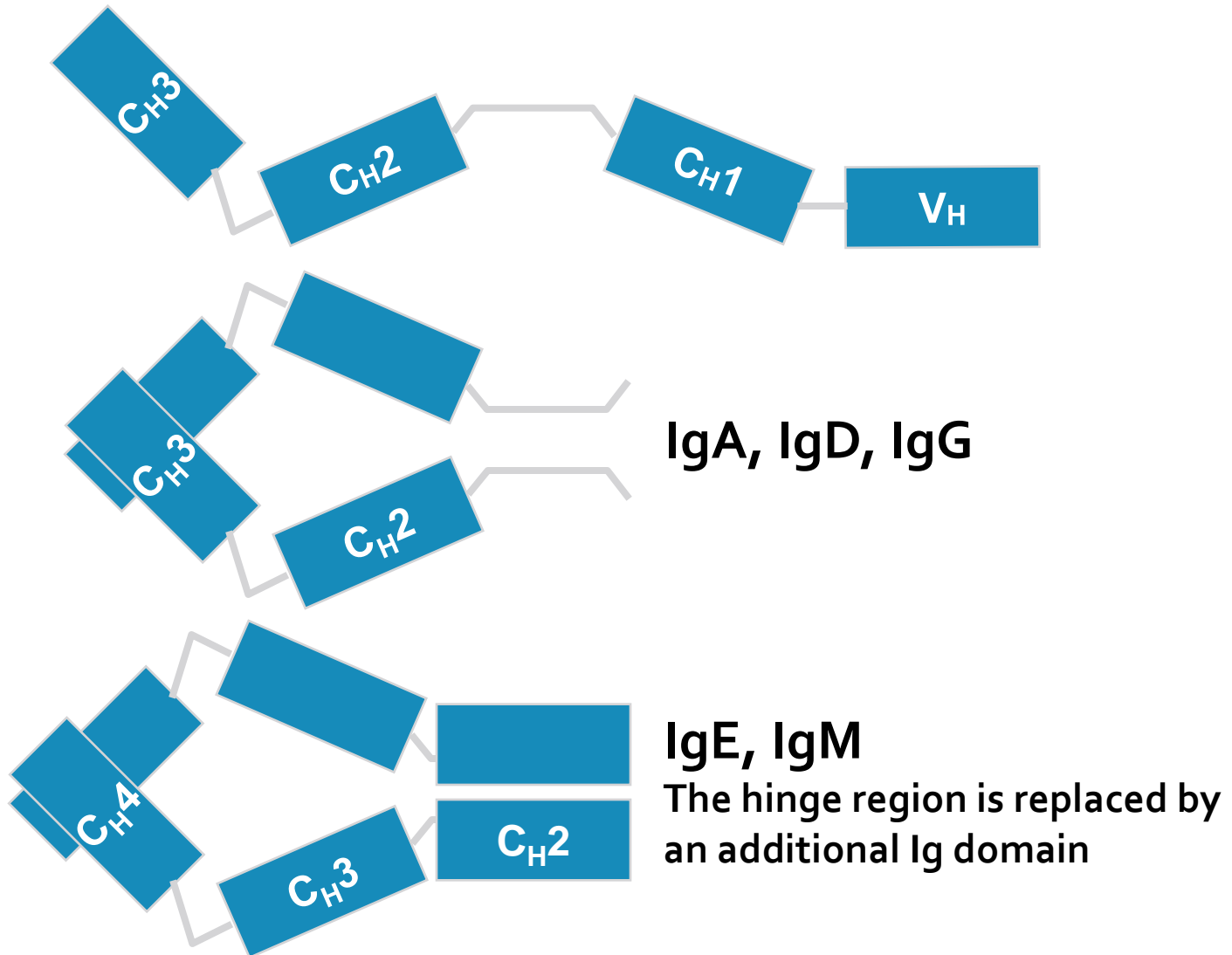


IgA



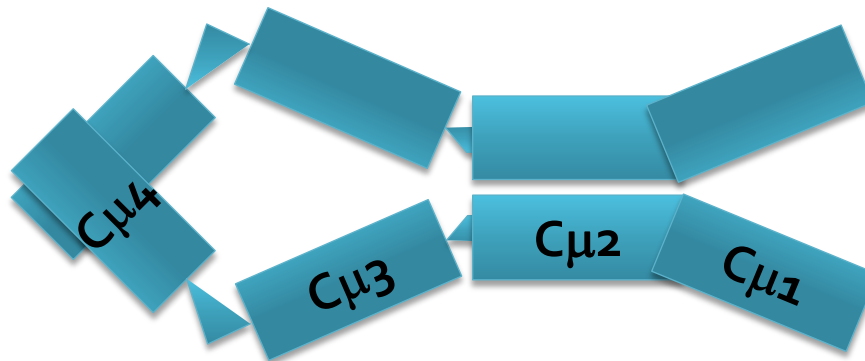
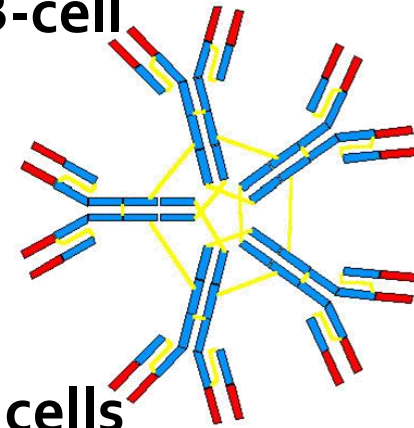
Class	Heavy chain	Chains structure	% in serum	T <sub>1/2</sub> (days)	Comp. fixation	Placental crossing
IgM	μ	Mono-, penta-, & hexa	5-10	5-10	++++	No
IgG	γ	Monomer	80	23	++	Yes
IgA	α	Mono-, di-, or tri	10-15	6	-	No
IgD	δ	Monomer	0.2-1	3	-	No
IgE	ε	Monomer	0.002	2	-	No

# Domains in different classes (H-chain)

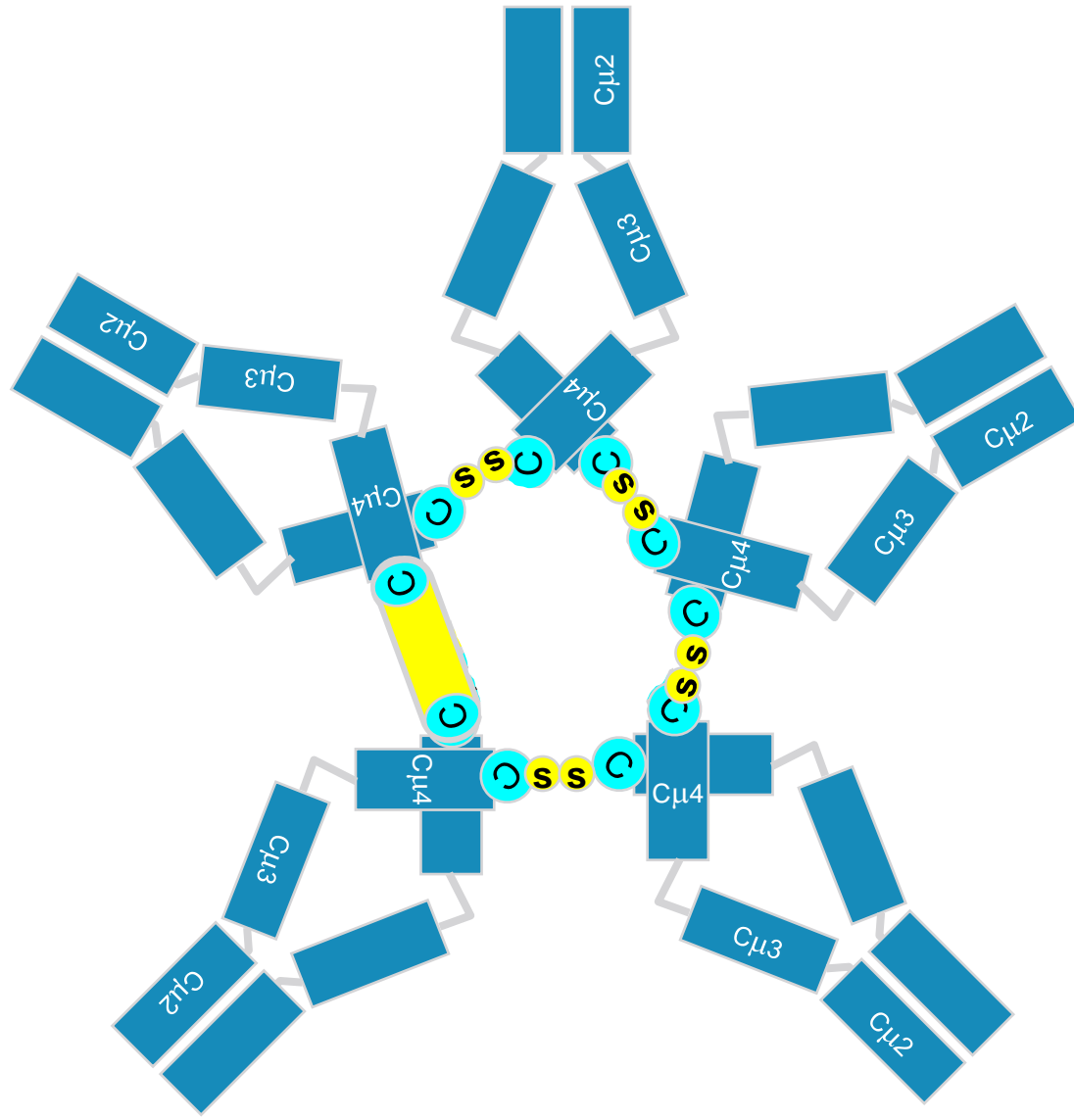


# IgM Class

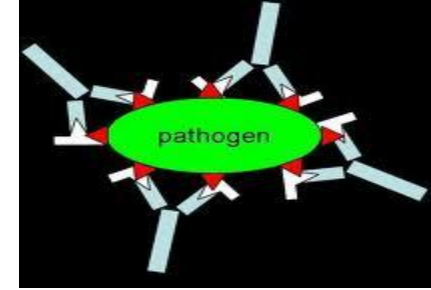
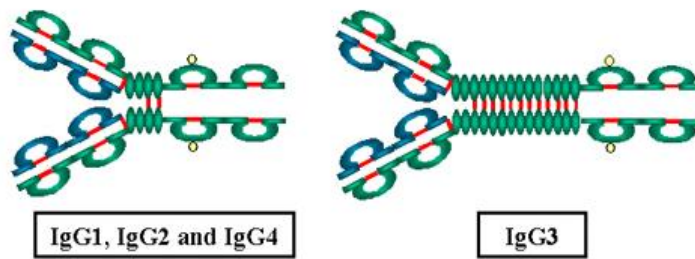
- Location: Mainly intravascular (blood & lymph), B-cell surface (monomer)
- Known Functions:
  - ✓ Primary immune response (1<sup>st</sup> produced)
- IgM only exists as a monomer on the surface of B cells
- Monomeric IgM has a very low affinity for antigen
- A J-chain is involved in the process of multimerization
- C $\mu$ 4 mediates multimerization (C $\mu$ 3 may also be involved)



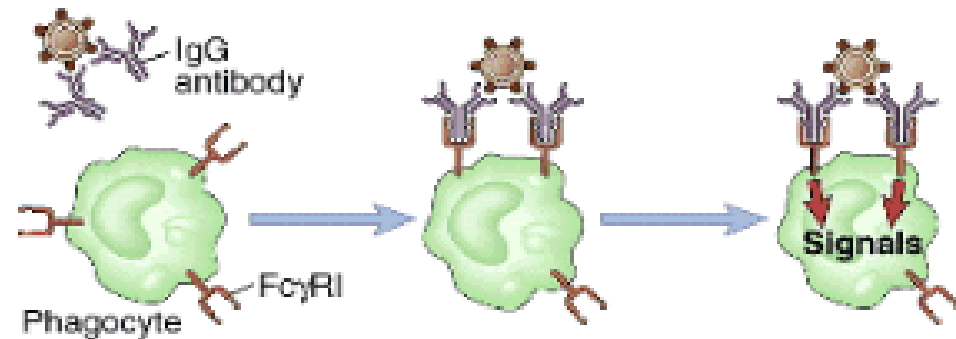
# The process of IgM Multimerisation



# IgG Class



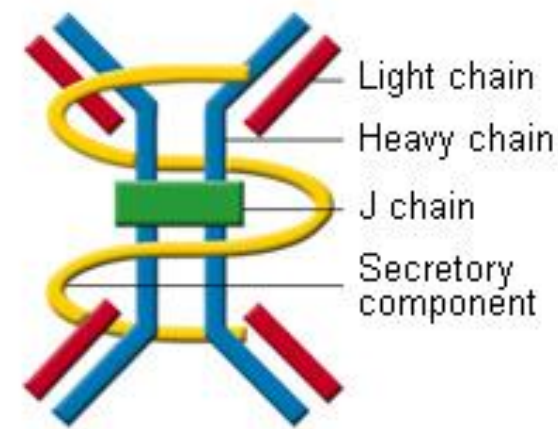
- Location: Blood, lymph, intestine
- Produced in response to a wide variety of antigens, (ex. bacteria, viruses)



## ➤ Known Functions

- ✓ The predominant antibody produced in the 2<sup>o</sup> immune response
- ✓ Provides the major line of defense for the fetus & during first few weeks of newborns
- ✓ Coats organisms to enhance phagocytosis by neutrophils & macrophages (opsonization)

# IgA class



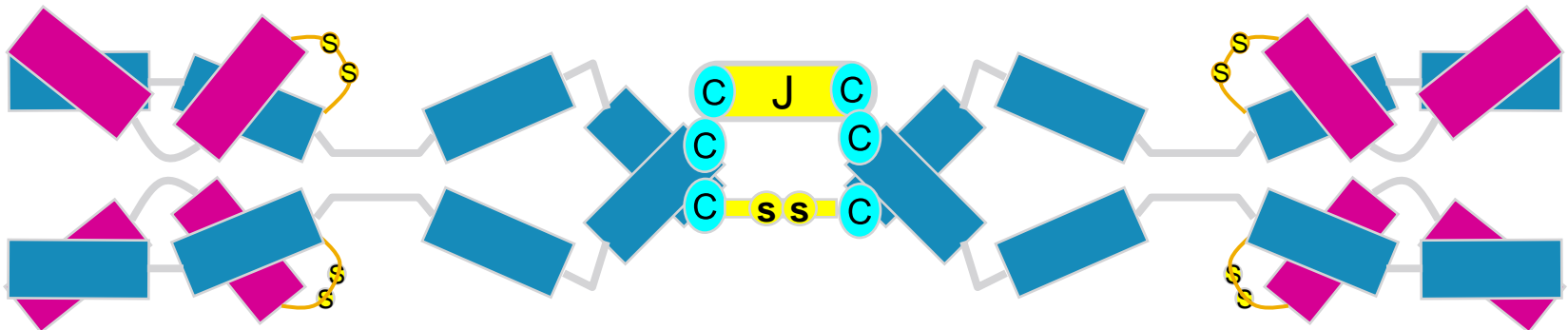
## ➤ Structure & location:

- ✓ Plasma → monomer, dimer, or trimer
- ✓ Secretions (tears, saliva, intestines, milk, bronchial secretion, urine)  
→ dimer attached to “secretory component”

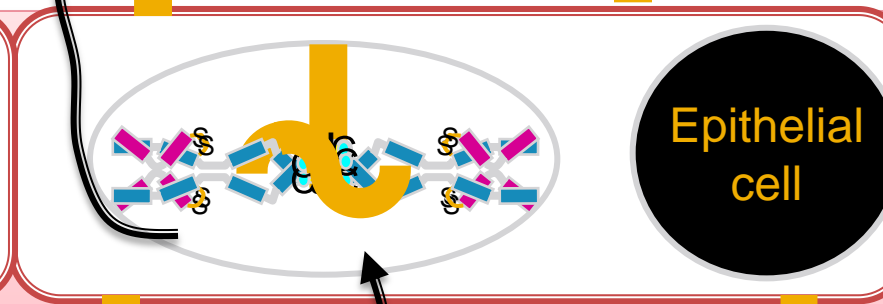
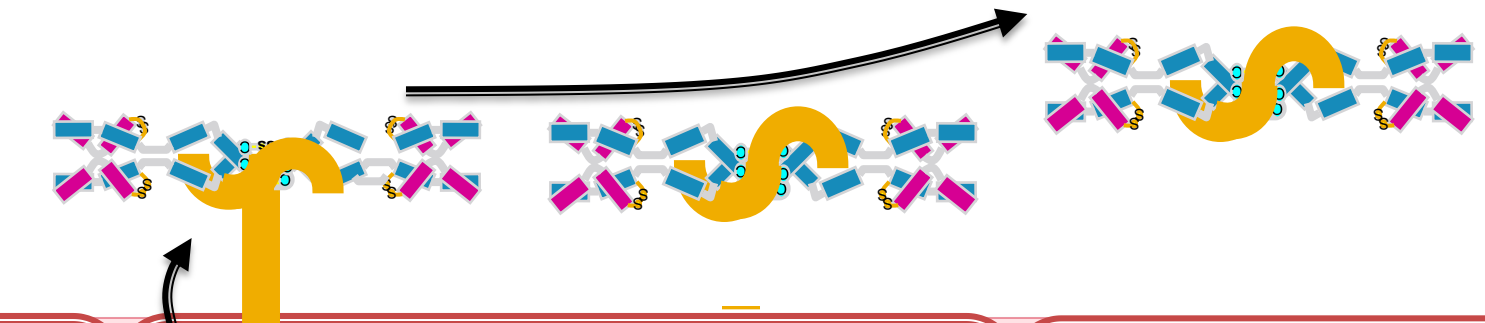
## ➤ Known Functions:

- Localized protection (respiratory & urinary tracts & bowel infections)
- Provides immunity to infant’s digestive tract & body (translocated)

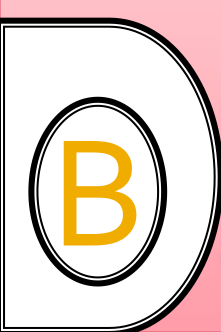
## ➤ The process of dimerization



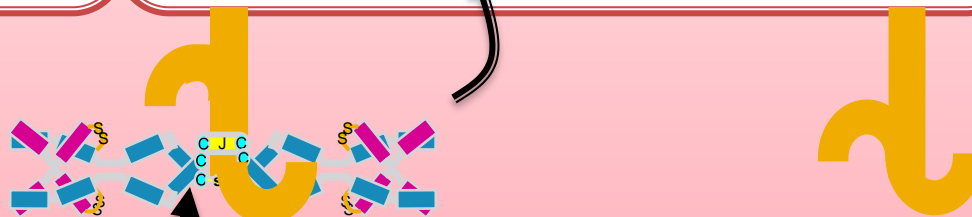
# IgA & transcytosis



➤ The secretory component is produced by the cells lining the mucous membranes & protect against digestive enzymes in secretions



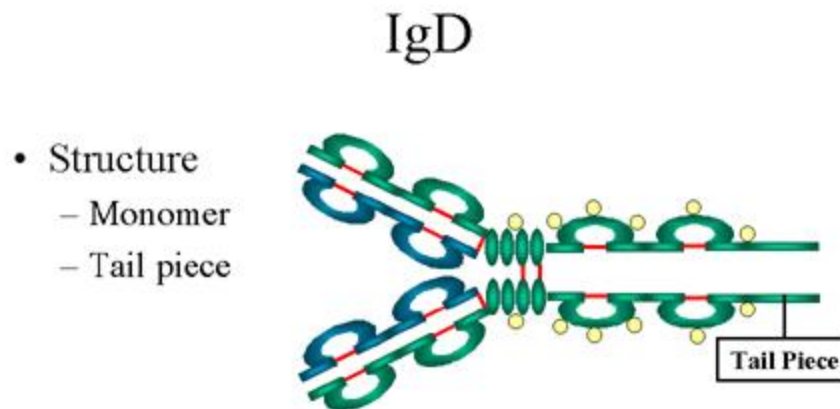
B cells located in the submucosa produce dimeric IgA





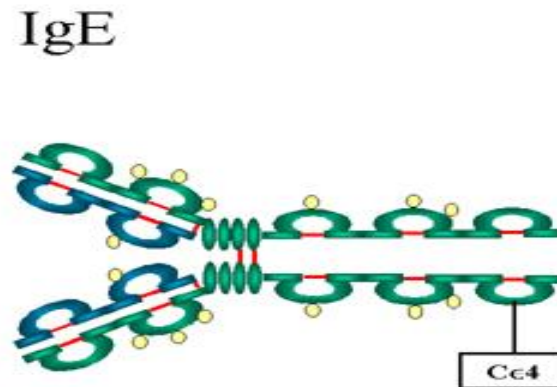
# IgD class

- Location: B-cell surface (primarily), blood, & lymph
- Known Functions:
  - ✓ In serum: function is unknown
  - ✓ On B cell surface: initiate immune response

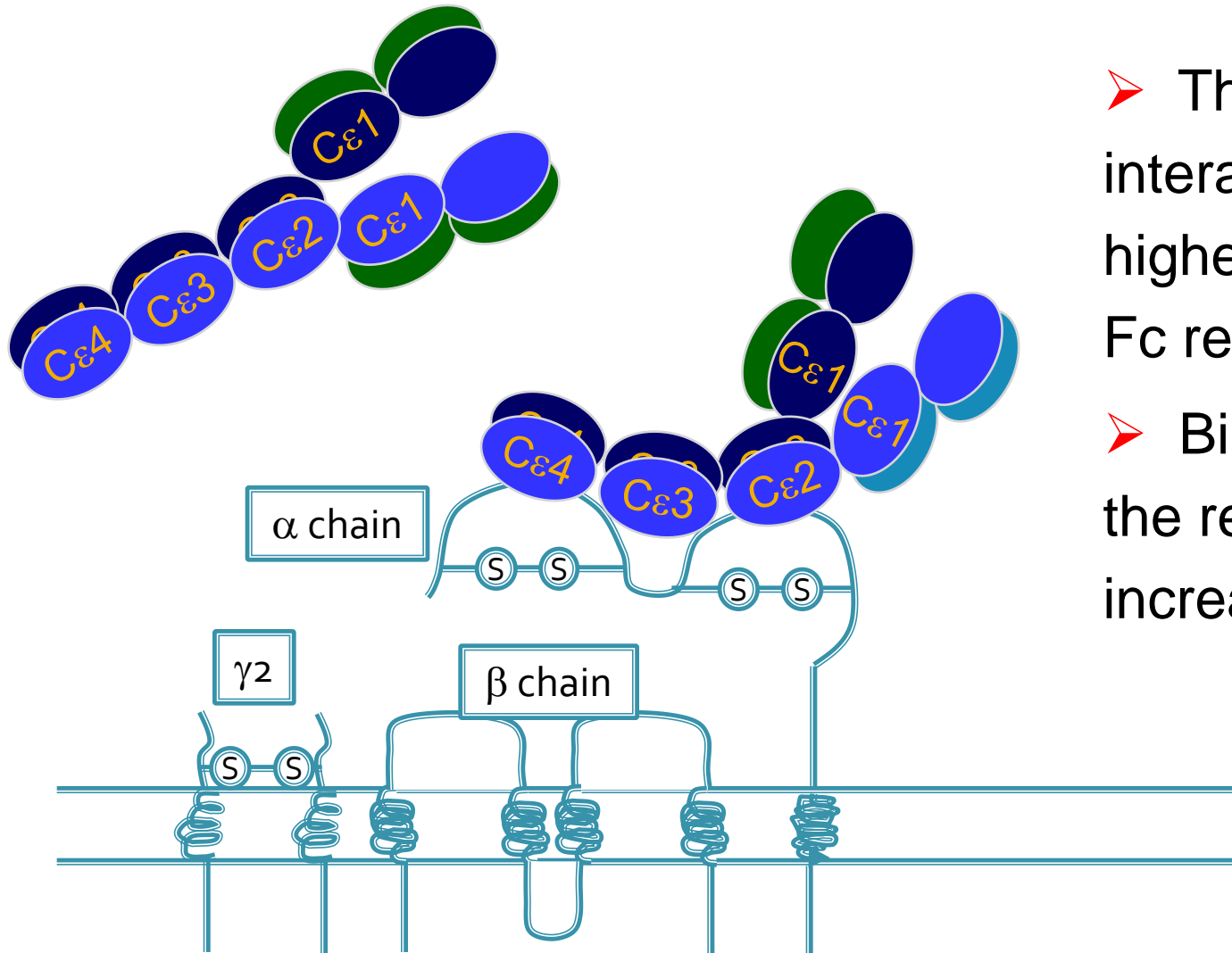


# IgE class

- Location: Blood & bound to mast cells & basophils throughout body
- Known Functions:
  - Allergic reactions (histamines & heparin): increased vascular permeability, skin rashes, respiratory tract constriction (wheezing), & increased secretions from epithelium (watery eyes, runny nose)
  - Possibly lysis of worms

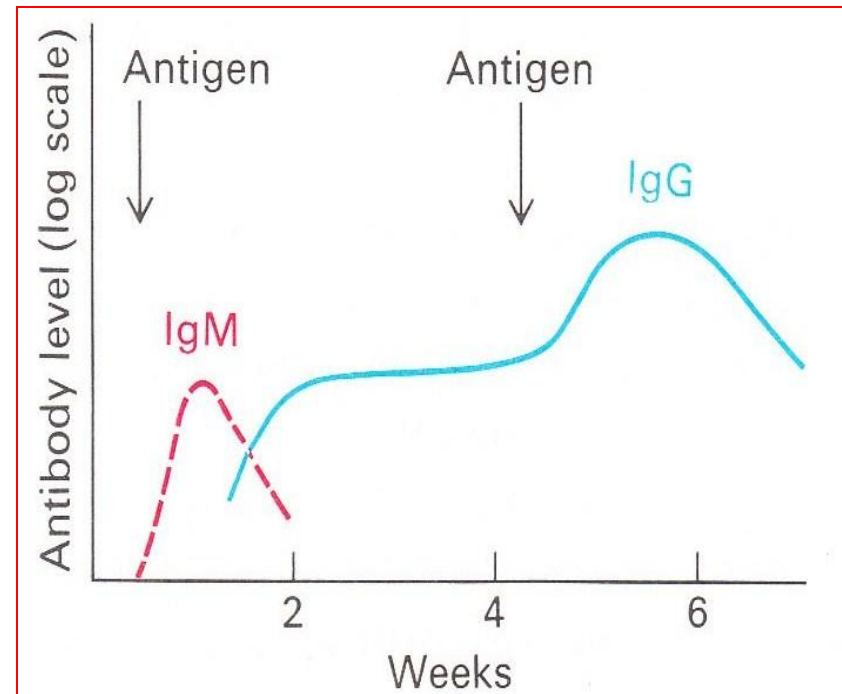
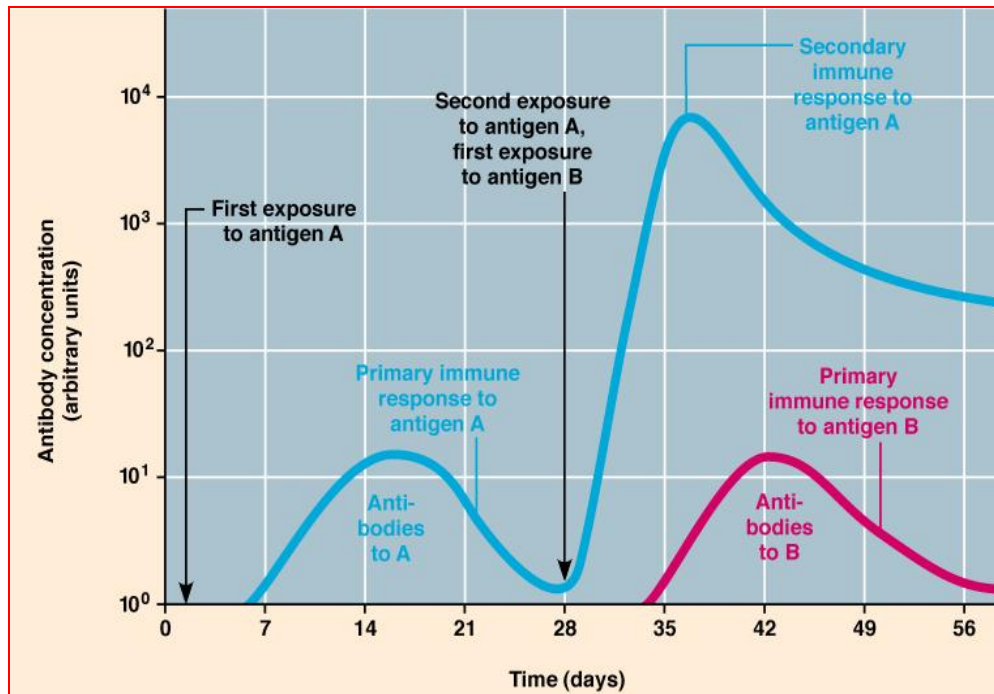


# IgE-receptor affinity



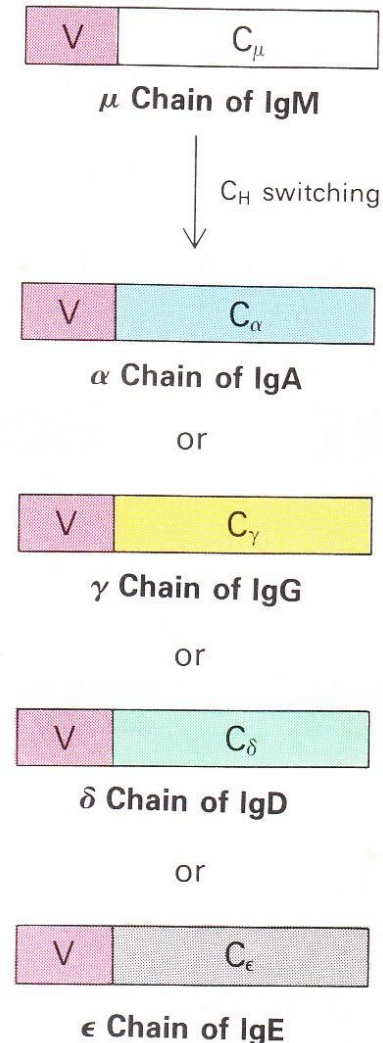
- The IgE–receptor interaction is the highest affinity of any Fc receptor
- Binding of IgE to the receptor increases the half life

# Immunological Memory



# Class (Isotype) Switching

- Antibodies with identical specificity but of different classes
- Generated in a chronologic order in response to the antigen
- Gene rearrangement: movement of VDJ from a site near one C gene to a site near another C gene



# Diseases

- Myelomas: increased production
- Multiple myeloma: a neoplastic condition, increase in one class, or a particular light chain (Bence Jones protein)
- Decreased production may be restricted to a single class or may involve underproduction of all classes (ex. agammaglobulinemia)

