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ISSN: 2278-6848 | Volume: 11 Issue: 04 | October - December 2020
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General principles of cell communication

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Abstract

Cell-to-cell communication networks play crucial roles in the coordination of a variety of activities that occur inside an organism, such as the growth of tissues or the response of immune cells. Cell-to-cell communication networks, on the other hand, have a far worse understanding of both its function and the engineering concepts that underlie it, in comparison to intracellular signal transduction networks. The regulation of individual cells by intricate intracellular signaling networks, the heterogeneity of individual cells, and the fact that the output of any one cell might recursively become an extra input signal to other cells are three of the major complexities involved. In this study, we make use of a concept that considers intracellular signal transduction networks to be "black boxes" that have input-to-output response linkages that have been defined. In our research on basic cell-to-cell communication circuit motifs, we look for the circumstances that lead to the generation of bimodal responses in time. Additionally, we look for the mechanisms that allow for the separate regulation of synchronization and delay in the responses of cell populations. We use our modeling technique to explain data on cytokine secretion start timings in T cells, which would otherwise seem to be inexplicable. Our method may be used to anticipate the topology of communication networks by making use of input-to-output measurements that are empirically accessible and doing so without having in-depth knowledge of the intermediary phases.

Keywords: Cellular Signal Transduction Pathway; Receptors;

Introduction

It is essential for the survival and growth of all organisms, whether unicellular or multicellular, for them to be able to adapt to the constantly changing conditions of their surroundings. “These kinds of reactions are controlled by the capacity of cells to detect physical changes and chemical stimuli taking place in their immediate environment. Many people refer to the act of perceiving and responding to external signals as cellular communication; however, scientists also use terminology such as'signal transduction' and'signalling' to describe this phenomenon. The external signals that cells react to include chemical messengers (such as hormones, growth

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factors, and neurotransmitters), electrical impulses, mechanical forces, pH, heat, and light. Other extrinsic signals include light, heat, and mechanical forces.

You will investigate the most prevalent model for cellular communication, which is the detection of extrinsic stimuli by receptors located on the surface of cells, as part of this free online course titled General principles of cellular communication. In this course, you will learn about cellular communication. The contact between an external stimulus and its receptor on the cell surface is given a lot of attention since it is thought to be the primary factor in the activation of particular internal signaling pathways, which ultimately results in the production of cellular responses. This series of occurrences will be investigated with the help of well-described examples drawn from both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells.

1 Diversity and evolution of cell signalling pathways

Extrinsic signals, intracellular signaling pathways, and cellular responses are all components of cellular communication. Cellular communication comprises a wide variety of these components. In point of fact, no two different kinds of cells will ever express the same complete set of signaling components. Instead, cells are equipped with signaling systems that are tailored to their specific physiological functions. The primary emphasis of this area of study is the communication between cells that takes place as a result of the binding of extrinsic stimuli to receptors located on the cells that are to be affected. Even while the activation of receptors is not necessary for all forms of cellular communication, it is by far the most prevalent method via which cells perceive their surroundings or interact with one another. The primary mode of signaling that will be investigated during the duration of this class is shown here. Figure 1.

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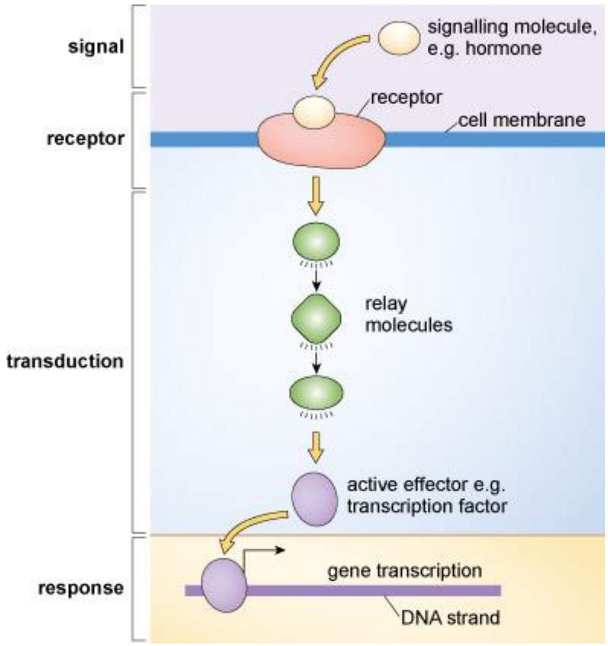

Figure 1 Speculative steps in the chain of cellular communication An intracellular transduction process is stimulated when an extracellular signaling molecule binds to a particular receptor. This activation of the intracellular transduction process results in the activation of effector molecules, which in turn leads to a cellular response. There is a wide variety of potential forms that cellular responses might take; for the sake of this example, the effector molecule is a transcription factor, which encourages the transcription of certain genes. Extrinsic signals may modify the behavior of cells by first activating receptors, which then triggers actions that convey information inside the cell and finally causes the cell to change its behavior. It is essential to keep in mind that receptors are very selective for the particular (cognate) external stimuli that they are designed to respond to. In the vast majority of instances, a certain sort of receptor will only be triggered by one particular kind of external stimuli. It's common for activated receptors to have pleiotropic effects. That is to say, they influence the activity of a wide variety of cellular processes all at the same time. These processes can involve the transcription of DNA, the creation of proteins, or changes in the activity of metabolic pathways. The change in cellular behavior that results from turning on or off individual processes is determined by the total impact of these manipulations. These cellular communication systems are of the utmost significance to both the cell and the organism as a whole, hence it is essential that they be faithful, accurate, and appropriate. It is well knowledge that abnormal cellular communication is a contributing factor in the development of illnesses

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including cancer, diabetes, heart failure, and neurological problems. Cells are subjected to an onslaught of various extrinsic signals at the same time, and in response, they activate certain signaling pathways in order to interpret the information contained within these incoming signals.

Figure 2 depicts some of the numerous signaling systems that are expressed in a normal mammalian cell. However, this only represents a small subset of these systems. The most important thing for you to take away from this example is that specific responses are triggered by cellular communication, which does this by recruiting specific signalling pathways. The activation of receptors after ligand binding is conveyed into a cell by a cascade of signalling proteins or messengers. Take note that each route has the potential to produce a plethora of reactions, despite the fact that only one example has been shown for each of the paths.

in Figure 2

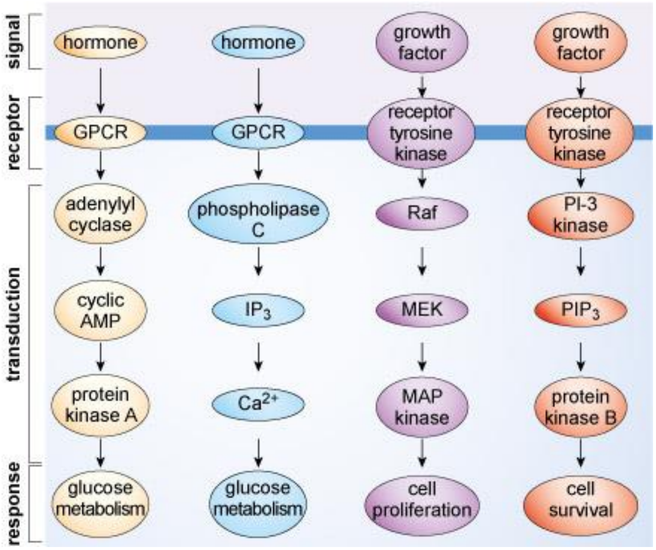

Figure 2 Some of the cellular signaling pathways that are mediated by cell surface receptors and that are active in eukaryotic cells, as well as some of the responses that these pathways elicit. Key: IP3, inositol 1,4,5-trisphosphate; PIP3, phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate GPCR, G-protein coupled receptor; PIP3, phosphatidylinositol 3,4,5-trisphosphate

Even for researchers with a significant amount of expertise studying cellular communication, it may be difficult to accurately forecast how a cell will react to a stimulus that comes from the outside of the cell. The input signals that a cell receives have a role in determining the response that the cell gives, but there are also numerous elements that are intrinsic to the cell that play a role in determining the response. For instance, the age of a cell, where it is located in the cell

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cycle, and its metabolic condition all have the potential to influence how a cell reacts to a variety of external stimuli. A cell may be able to receive an external signal under certain circumstances, such as when it is located in an environment that is rich in nutrients. This signal may then stimulate anabolic processes and cell division. Catabolism and cell death might be triggered by the same signal at a later point in time, when nutrition reserves are running low.

In spite of the fact that the paths for cellular signaling are many and detailed, there are really only a small number of pathways as compared to the variety of cell types and the complexity of their respective chemical processes. For instance, the development of multicellular animals is almost entirely dependent on only seven different signaling pathways. These pathways are commonly referred to as hedgehog, wingless-related, transforming growth factor-, receptor tyrosine kinases, Notch, JAK/STAT, and nuclear hormone receptors (names that variously identify a key component, signal, receptor type or function). During an animal's development, these seven routes are utilized to determine its size, shape, and other traits in addition to its overall appearance. How can such a small number of routes do so much? The explanation for this phenomenon is that many signaling pathways might collaborate in order to create results that are distinct from those produced by individual routes functioning in isolation. Because of the combinatorial activity of pathways, it's possible that hundreds of distinct signaling–response combinations are possible.

1.1 Bacterial quorum sensing

The phenomenon known as quorum sensing is an example of early cellular communication and a precursor to the process of signaling in multicellular animals. It is widely accepted that the development of cellular communication networks occurred extremely early in the annals of the history of life on Earth. Primordial cells would have been in a far better position to adapt to their surroundings and replicate if they had been able to detect their surroundings and communicate with one another. Quorum sensing is an example of an ancient cellular communication system. This system can be found in both bacteria and archaea, and as a result, it is believed to have originated approximately three billion years ago. This is a significant amount of time prior to the time when prokaryotic and eukaryotic life began to diverge.

Within a bacterial colony, the behavior of the bacteria is coordinated via a process called quorum sensing. In particular, quorum sensing is essential for managing the expression of bacterial genes and ensuring the continued survival of bacterial colonies. When specific circumstances are met, bacteria are able to emit peptides into their environment that are known

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as autoinducers; the concentration of autoinducer will grow proportionately with the population density of the bacteria. If the concentration of autoinducer reaches a high enough level, it has the potential to stimulate the transcription of certain genes inside each and every cell that makes up a bacterial colony, causing those cells to work together (Figure 3). Therefore, when they reach a particular density, planktonic (single-celled, free-swimming) bacteria are able to acquire group behaviors thanks to a process called quorum sensing. The amount of autoinducer that bacteria produce does not have a direct proportionate connection to the number of bacterial cells present in the environment. Instead, at a certain level of population, there is a significant rise in the amount of autoinducer that is released (dashed vertical line in Figure 3). This spike in autoinducer release is the underlying mechanism that underpins the coordinated transition from planktonic to group behavior. In the presence of a threshold, cellular signaling systems often exhibit sudden shifts in their levels of activity. Because of this, cellular functions may either be turned on or off with just a moderate shift in the input they get.

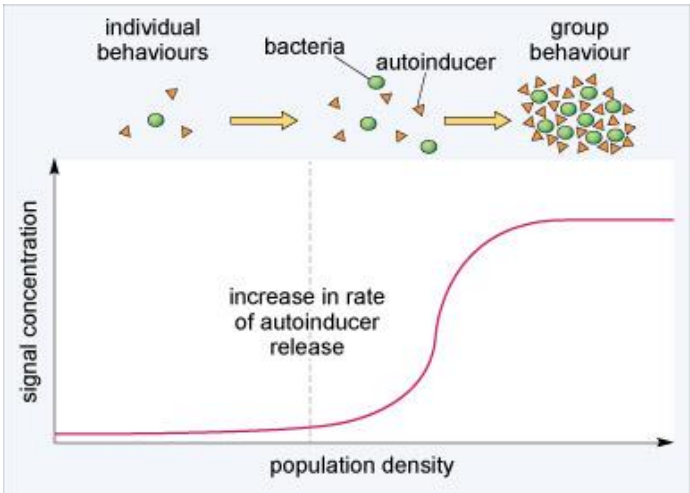

Figure 3

In bacteria, the process of quorum sensing is dependent on the emission of signal molecules known as autoinducers. Autoinducers are substances that are secreted by bacteria into their extracellular environment. The higher the population density of the bacteria, the more likely it is that the synthesis of autoinducer will skyrocket, which will ultimately result in the induction of group behaviors.

Autoinducers are able to ensure the continued existence of bacterial colonies by causing changes in the expression of certain genes. In most cases, autoinducers work to boost the transcription of genes that contribute to the formation of biofilms in addition to genes that code for antibiotic resistance. A biofilm is a bacterial habitat that forms when bacteria aggregate inside a polysaccharide matrix that they have secreted. This process results in the formation of a biofilm. The bacteria that live inside a biofilm are about one thousand times less vulnerable to antibiotics than the bacteria that live in plankton, therefore it is difficult to eradicate them with disinfectants. Biofilms may be found in a variety of locations, such as on teeth, lungs, and intestines, in addition to water distribution pipelines.

Review of literature

(Lim et al. 2017) studied Cell Signaling: Principles and Mechanisms discovered this and The area of signal transduction is a very complex one. It is possible to argue, from one point of view, that it ought to only be taught to students at the advanced undergraduate or graduate level who have considerable prior knowledge in biochemistry or molecular biology. Because signal transduction is at the core of all of biology, one might make the case for teaching it earlier in the course of study. If one were to wait to teach it, then the most interesting, relevant, and exciting aspect of biology would be postponed until a later date. We (HVJ, an instructor, and KS, a student) would highly recommend the book Cell Signaling: Principles and Mechanisms by Lim, Mayer, and Pawson if you are looking for a book to teach and learn about signal transduction from either perspective.

(Kotob 2021) studied Review Article: An Overview of Cellular Signal Transduction Pathway discovered this and In the prior conception, signal transduction may be traced all the way back to 1855. Several different pieces of study referred to concepts such as signal transmission and sensory transduction. The process of cell signaling is an essential component of living organisms. It enables cells to manage and adapt to their surroundings, which in turn may improve development, growth, and immunological response, among other things. Understanding the communication (signaling) that occurs between cells is an essential component of comprehending the operations of both cells and systems.

(Karp 2007) studied Cell Signaling and Signal Transduction: Communication Between Cells discovered that and The English poet John Donne articulated his view in the interdependence of humanity in the statement No man is an island. The same can be said of the cells that make up a complex multi-cellular organism; they are all interdependent on one another. Because cell signaling may have an effect on practically every element of a cell's structure and function, this chapter is placed at the end of the book. This is one of the key reasons for this placement. On the one hand, knowledge of the many different forms of cellular activity is necessary for an understanding of cell signaling. On the other hand, new understandings of how cells send and receive signals may link together a number of processes that at first glance seem to be operating independently.

(Thurley, Wu, and Altschuler 2018) studied Modeling Cell-to-Cell Communication Networks Using Response-Time Distributions shown that cell-to-cell communication networks play important roles in the coordination of several organismal processes, such as the formation of tissues or the response of immune cells. However, compared with intracellular signal transduction networks, the function and engineering principles of cell-to-cell communication networks are significantly less known. This is due to the fact that researchers have focused on studying intracellular signal transduction networks. Major challenges include the fact that individual cells are heterogeneous, that cells as a whole are governed by intricate intracellular signaling networks, and that the output of any one cell might recursively become an extra input signal to other cells. In this study, we make use of a concept that considers intracellular signal transduction networks to be black boxes that have input-to-output response linkages that have been defined.

Conclusion

You have been given an introduction to some of the general principles of cellular communication in this free online course titled General principles of cellular communication. These general principles explain how extrinsic stimuli are detected by receptors on the surface of cells and how this detection can elicit a response in those cells through the activation of specific intracellular signaling pathways. Scientists are able to grasp the flow of information and transmission when they have a thorough knowledge of the systems that regulate these pathways. This paves the way for humans to be able to cure illnesses and build tissues. There are many distinct channels via which individual cells may interact with one another and with the surrounding environment. Analysis of signaling pathways and networks has been a key tool for understanding cellular functioning and illness since the advent of computational biology.

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