

- hydrolysis of ATP causes a conformational change in the protein pump
 - solute molecule is consequently translocated across the membrane (against the gradient) and released
- axons of nerve cells transmit electrical impulses by translocating ions to create a voltage difference across the membrane
 - at rest, the sodium-potassium pump expels sodium ions from the nerve cell, while potassium ions (move into cell)
 - when the neuron fires, these ions swap locations via facilitated diffusion via sodium and potassium channels

Sodium Potassium Pump

- an integral protein that exchanges 3 sodium ions (moves out of cell) with two potassium ions (move into cell)
- process of ion exchange against the gradient is energy-dependent and involves a number of key steps:
 - 3 sodium ions bind to intracellular sites on the sodium-potassium pump
 - phosphate group is transferred to the pump via the hydrolysis of ATP
 - pump undergoes a conformational change, translocating sodium across the membrane
 - conformational change exposes 2 potassium binding sites on the extracellular surface of the pump
 - phosphate group is released which causes the pump to return to its original conformation
 - translocates the potassium across the membrane, completing the ion exchange

Vesicular Transport

- materials destined for secretion are transported around the cell in membranous containers called vesicles

Endoplasmic Reticulum

- ER is a membranous network that is responsible for synthesizing secretory materials
 - rough ER embedded with ribosomes and synthesizes proteins destined for extracellular use
 - smooth ER is involved in lipid synthesis and also plays a role in carbohydrate metabolism
- materials transported from ER when membrane bulges and then buds to create a vesicle surrounding the material

Golgi Apparatus

- vesicle is then transported to the Golgi apparatus and fuses to its internal face of complex
 - materials move via vesicles from the internal cis face of the Golgi to the externally oriented trans face
 - while within the Golgi apparatus, materials may be structurally modified

Plasma Membrane

- vesicles containing materials destined for extracellular use will be transported to the plasma membrane
- vesicle will fuse with the cell membrane and its materials will be expelled into the extracellular fluid
- materials sorted by Golgi apparatus may be either:
 - released immediately into the extracellular fluid
 - stored within an intracellular vesicles for a delayed release in response to a cellular signal

Bulk Transport

- membrane is principally held together by weak hydrophobic associations between the fatty acid tails of phospholipids
- weak association allows for membrane fluidity and flexibility, as the phospholipids can move around to some extent
- allows for spontaneous breaking and reforming of the bilayer, allowing larger materials to enter or leave the cell without having to cross membrane (active transport and requires ATP hydrolysis)

Endocytosis

- process by which large substances (or bulk amounts of smaller substance) enter the cell without crossing the membrane
 - the invagination of the membrane forms a flask-like depression which envelopes the extracellular material
 - invagination is then sealed off to form an intracellular vesicle containing the material
- two main types of endocytosis:
 - phagocytosis
 - process by which solid substances are ingested
 - transported to lysosome
 - pinocytosis