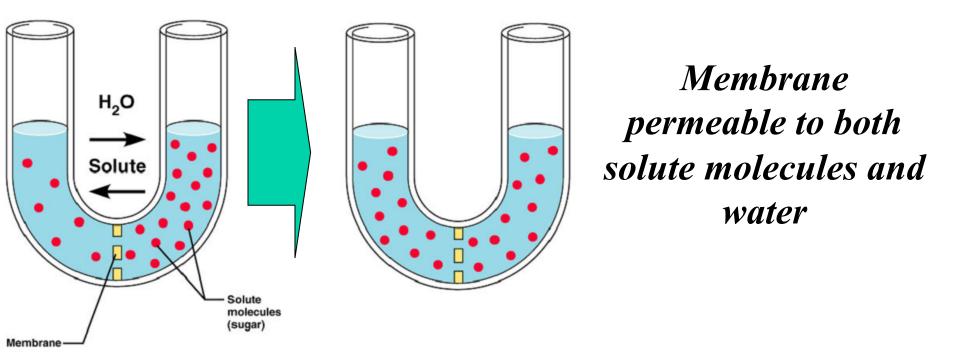
# Osmosis

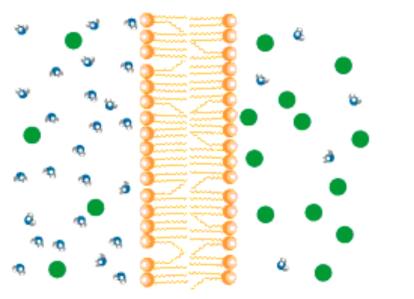


Osmosis can be thought of as the driving force for particle motions along a gradient.

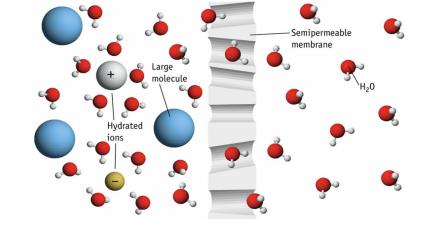
# This is an entropic "force" that tends to make the concentration uniform in any region of space.



#### A semi-permeable membrane.

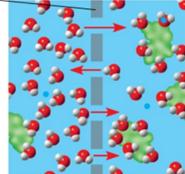


# Osmotic pressure: force required to prevent osmosis.



Lower concentration of solute (sugar) H<sub>2</sub>O H<sub>2</sub>O Selectively

permeable membrane: sugar molecules cannot pass through pores, but water molecules can



Osmotically active = solutes which can't diffuse through the semipermeable membrane.

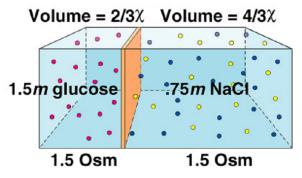
Way to measure osmolality:

Each Osm (of any solute) lowers the freezing point of water by ~ 2° C

The osmolarity of a solution is equal to the molarity of the particles dissolved in it.

- **1.** 10 mmoles/liter of glucose = 10 mosmoles/liter.
- **2.** 10 mmoles/liter of NaCl = 20 mosmoles/liter.
- **3.** 10 mmoles/liter of  $CaCl_2 = ???$

In a simple solutions the effect is additive.



**Chemical Potential of Water** 

$$\mu_w = \mu_w^0 + RT \ln X_w + PV_w$$

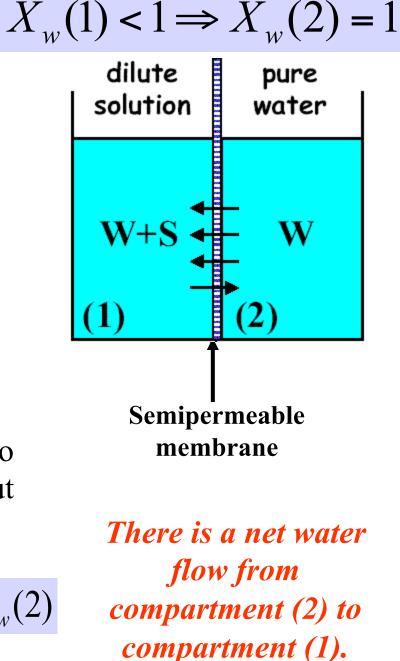
 $\mu_w^{0}$  – standard chemical potential of water  $X_w$  – molar fraction of water P – pressure

V<sub>w</sub> – molar volume of water

#### Solutes Decrease the Chemical Potential of Water

Addition of an impermeable solute to one compartment drives the system out of equilibrium.

$$RT\ln X_w(1) < RT\ln X_w(2) \Rightarrow \mu_w(1) < \mu_w(2)$$

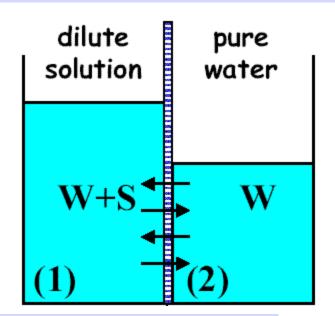


#### **Osmotic Equilibrium**

At the equilibrium the chemical potential of any species is the same at every point in the system.

$$\mu_w(1) = \mu_w(2)$$

$$X_w(1) < 1 \Longrightarrow X_w(2) = 1$$



$$\mu_{w}^{0}(1) + RT \ln X_{w}(1) + P(1)V_{w} = \mu_{w}^{0}(2) + RT \ln X_{w}(2) + P(2)V_{w}$$
  

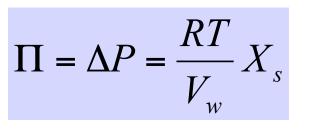
$$RT \ln X_{w}(1) + P(1)V_{w} = P(2)V_{w} \quad V_{w}\Delta P = -RT \ln X_{w}(1)$$
  

$$X_{w} + X_{s} = 1 \quad \ln X_{w} = \ln(1 - X_{s}) \cong -X_{s} \quad V_{w}\Delta P = RTX_{s}$$

Solute molar fraction in physiological (dilute) solutions is much smaller than water molar fraction.  $X_s << 1$ 

$$\Pi = \Delta P = \frac{RT}{V_w} X_s$$

Osmotic pressure



Solute concentration (~0.1M) in physiological (dilute) solutions is much smaller than water concentration (55M).  $n_s \ll n_w$ 

$$X_s = \frac{n_s}{n_s + n_w} \approx \frac{n_s}{n_w} = \frac{n_s}{n_w} \frac{V_w}{V_w} = \frac{n_s}{V_{tot}} V_w = C_s V_w$$

vant'Hoff's law

(the osmotic pressure)

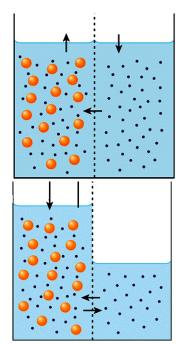
$$\Pi = \Delta P = \frac{RT}{V_w} C_s V_w = RTC_s$$

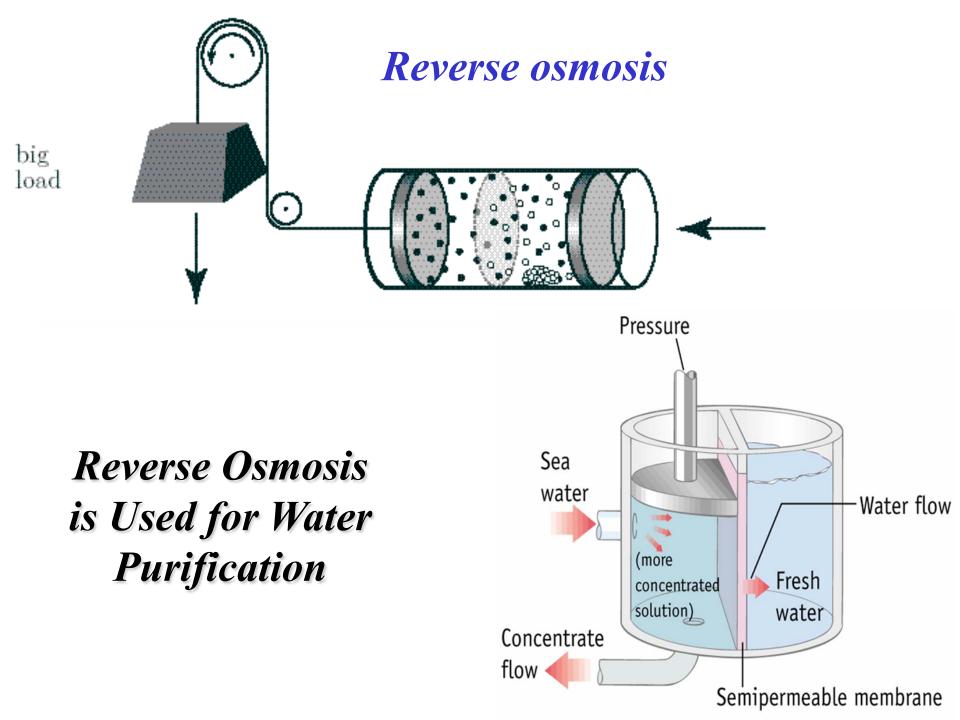
#### **Osmotic Flow**

Water flows from the solution with a low osmotic pressure to the solution with a high osmotic pressure.

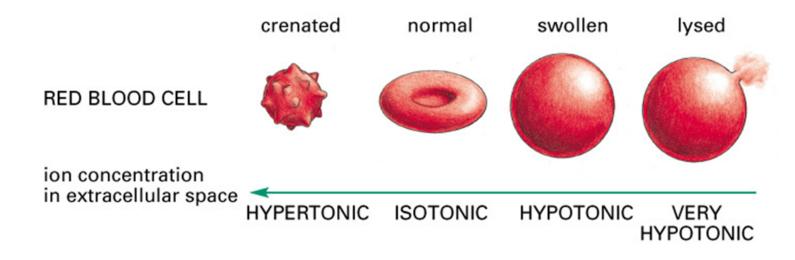
At equilibrium  $\Delta P - \Delta \Pi = 0$ 

 $\Delta \Pi = \Delta P = RT\Delta C_s$ 





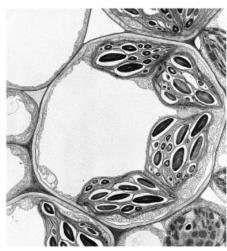
## What osmotic pressure difference can do to cells? Plasma: 0.3 Osm (or 300 mOsm)



Turgor

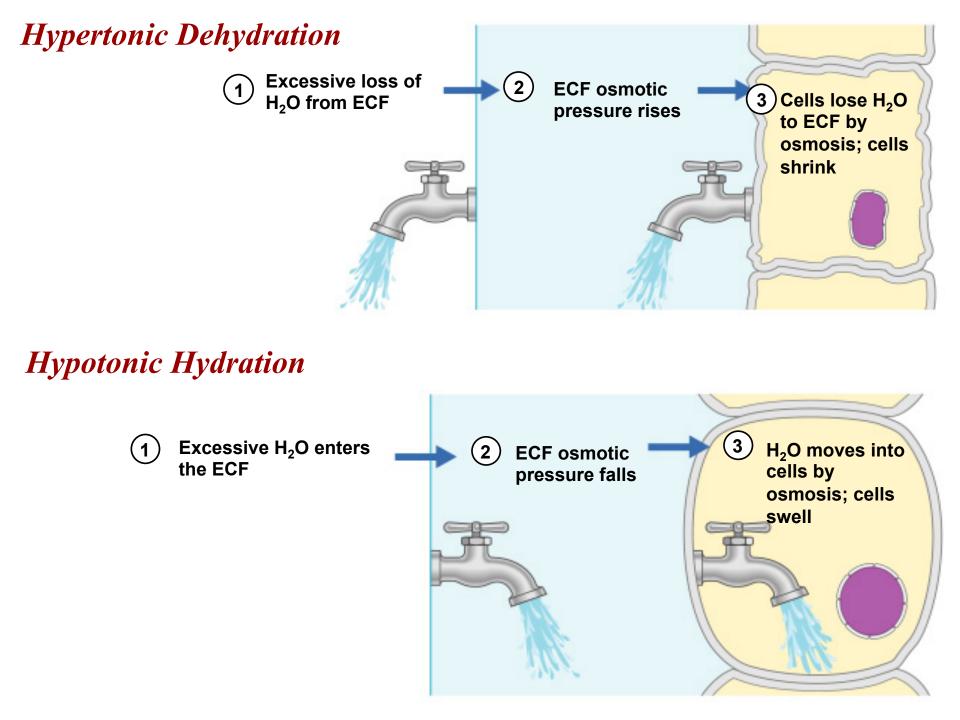


Cell wall Mitochondrion H2O Turgor pressure Turgor Cytosol Turgor Cytosol Cytosol Cytosol Cytosol Cytosol Curce toroplast (vacuole membrane)



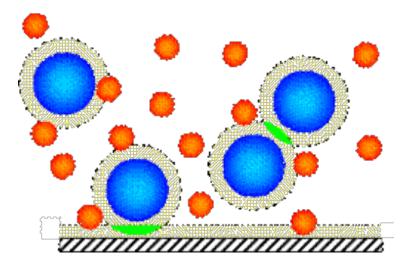
# Osmotic regulation is an advantage of multicellularity

- individual cells in solution are vulnerable to changes in their environment
- multicellular organisms control the environment in which their cells live
- cells in multicellular organisms flourish in a constant environment of body fluids, which invariably differ from the environment in which the organism lives

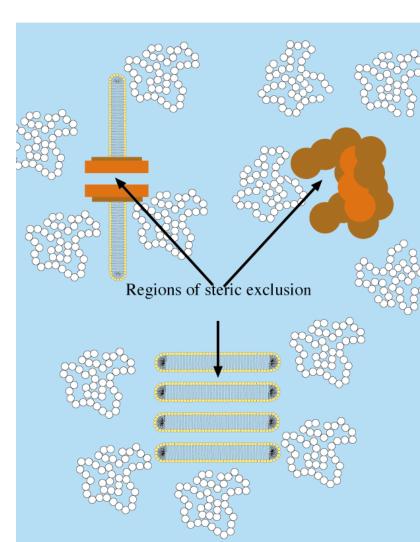


## **Entropy driven aggregation**

 $\geq$  Each of the large objects is surrounded by a depletion zone of thickness equal to the radius a of the small particles.

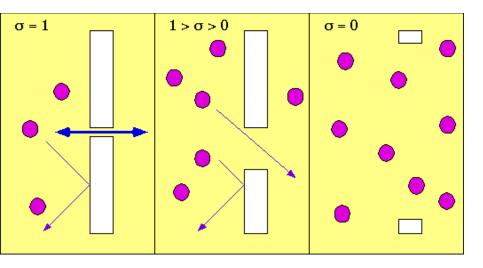


➤ The depletion zone reduces the volume available to the small particles – *eliminating it would increase their entropy and hence lower their free energy*.



The osmotic pressure  $\Pi = gRTC$ 

# σ – selectivity/reflection coefficient It is a measure of the probability of the molecule crossing the membrane.



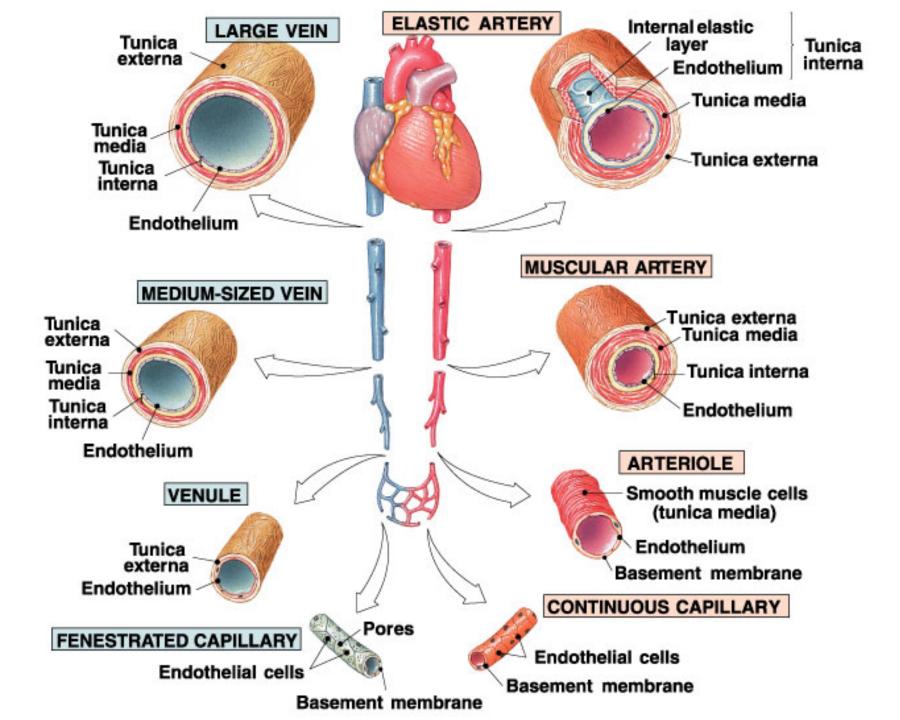
semipermeable membrane

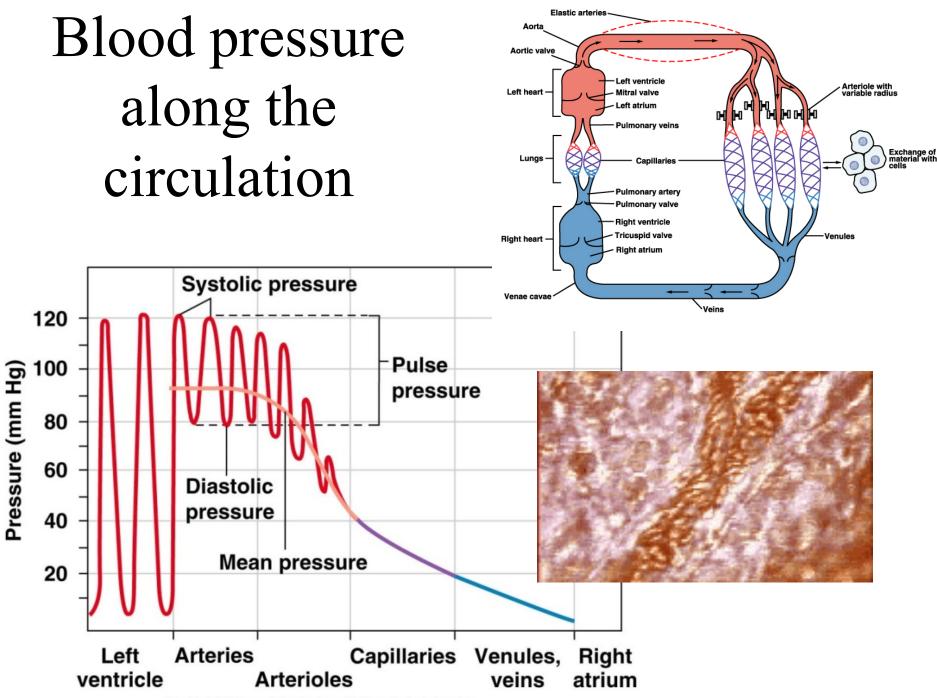
non-selective membrane The effective osmotic pressure depends on the reflection coefficient:

 $\Pi_{eff} = \sigma \Pi = \sigma g R T C$ 

Bulk flow of water through barrier

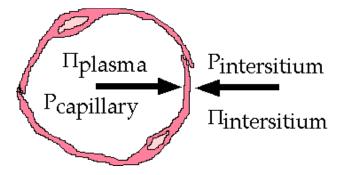
 $J_{V} = L_{P} (\Delta P - \sigma \Delta \Pi)$ 





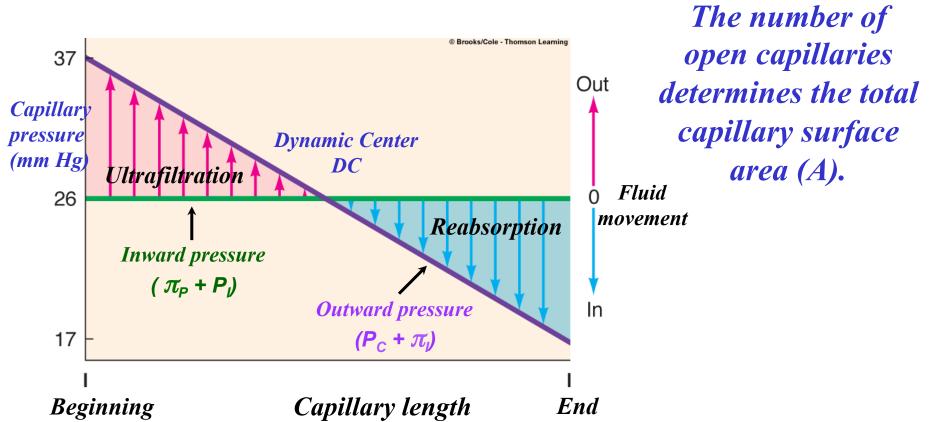
Copyright © 2007 Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Benjamin Cummings.

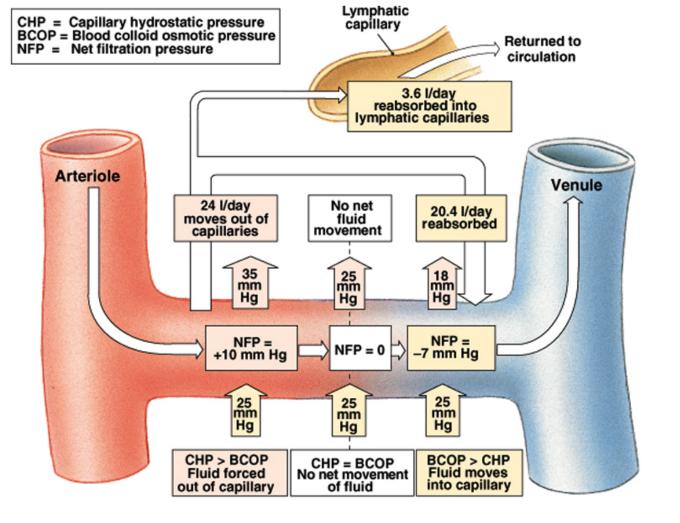
$$J_{V} = L_{P} A \left[ \left( P_{p} - P_{i} \right) - \sigma \left( \Pi_{p} - \Pi_{i} \right) \right]$$
$$K_{f} = L_{P} A$$



 $L_p$  – hydraulic Conductivity, indicates the leakiness of the capillary wall.

 $K_f$  – Capillary Filtration Coefficient, the hydraulic conductance per unit surface area for exchange.





Capillary Exchange

Blood velocity ~ 100 to 1000 μm/s The interstitial fluid velocity ~ 0.1 μm/s Fluid velocity in the lymphatic capillaries ~ 1 to 10 μm/s

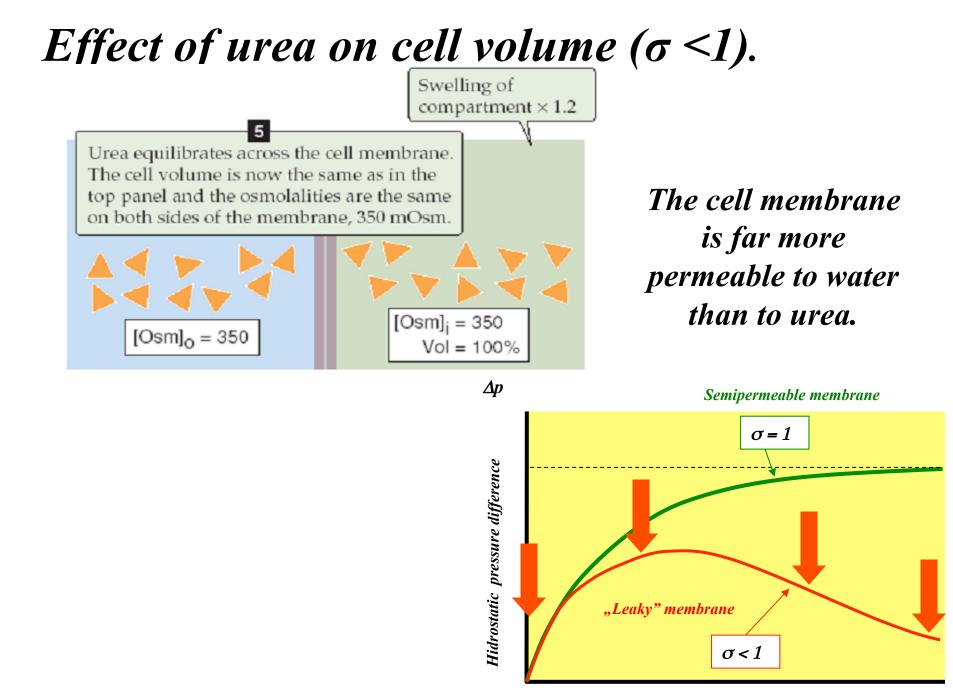
# Edema

Due to disruption of capillary exchange

2 major causes:

- 1. Blockage of lymph drainage
  - Cancer & fibrotic growth
  - Pathogens
  - Pregnancy
- 2. Capillary filtration > absorption
  - Venous pressure <sup>↑</sup> due to right / left heart failure, backs up in to capillaries
  - Plasma protein concentration ↓ due to liver failure or severe malnutrition (Kwashiorkor) reduces colloid osmotic pressure
  - † in interstitial protein



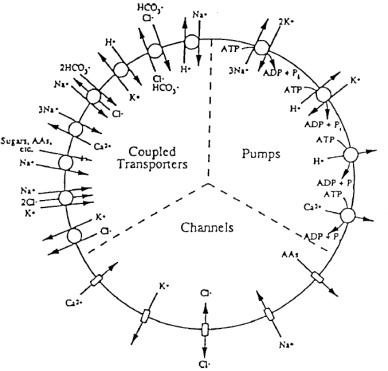


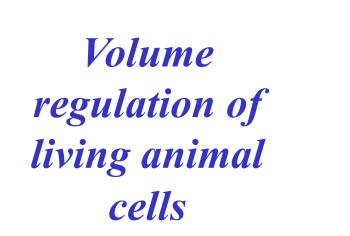
## Important summary points about osmosis

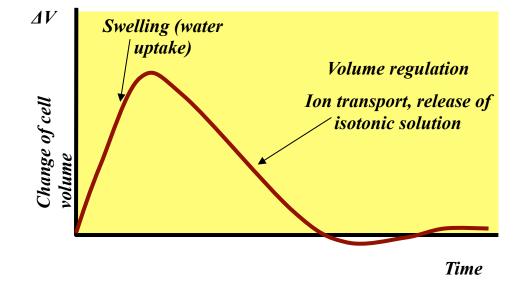
**1.** The steady-state volume of the cell is determined by the concentrations of impermeant ions.

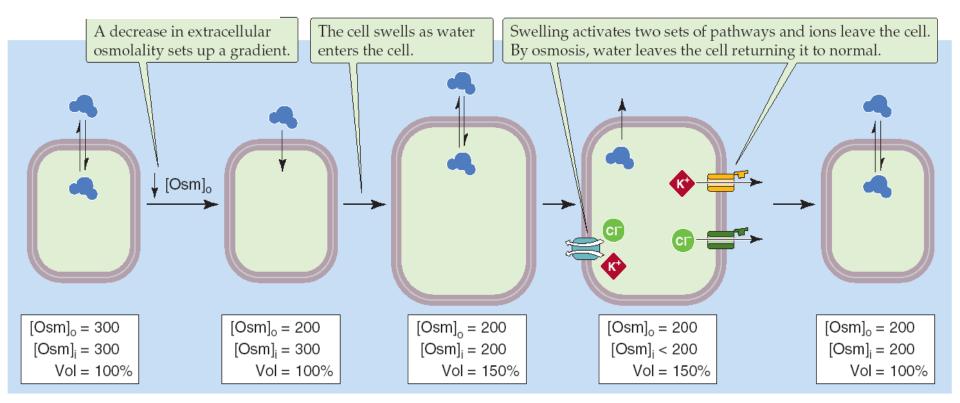
2. Permeant solutes redistribute according to the rules of electrodiffusion, and hence affect only the transient volume of the cell.

**3.** The more permeant the solute, the more transient its effects on volume.



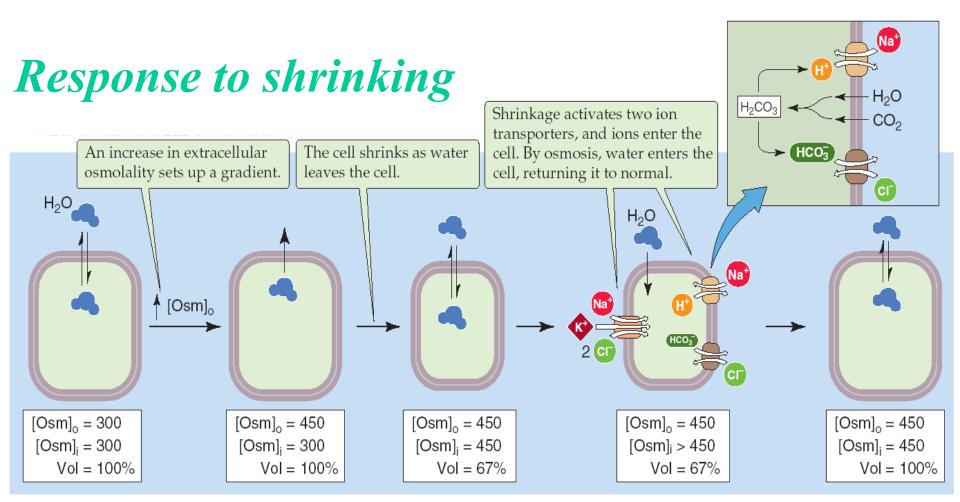






*Osmoconformers* – animals, like sea slugs, that allow the osmolarity of their internal environment to change with that of the external environment.

*Osmoregulators* – animals that do not allow the osmolarity of their internal environment to change.



The activation energy  $(E_a)$  required for water diffusion in an entirely aqueous environment – 5 *kcal/mol*.

The activation energy  $(E_a)$  required for water diffusion through the lipid bilayer – *10-20 kcal/mol*.

## Water Transport Across Cell Membrane always passive; bidirectional; osmosis-driven

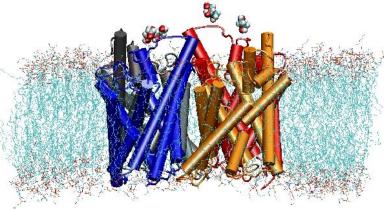
#### **Diffusion through lipid bilayers**

slow, but enough for many purposes

#### **Channel-mediated**

♣ Fast adjustment of water concentration is necessary (RBC, brain, lung).

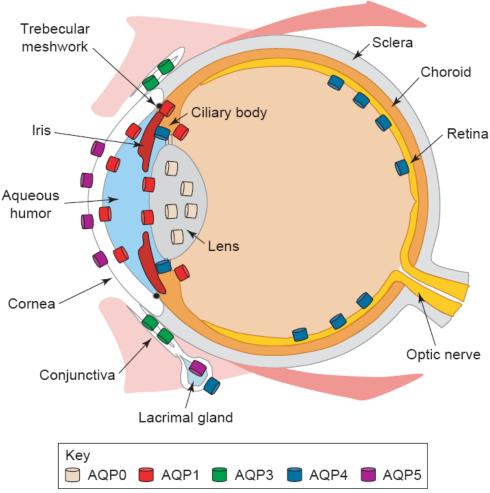
Large volumes of water needed to be transported (kidneys).



#### Aquaporins perform a variety of physiological functions.

- concentrate urine in the kidney,
- are integral to fat metabolism and obesity,
- maintain lens transparency in the eye,
- maintain water homeostasis within the brain,
- extrude sweat from the skin,
- are implicated in cell migration during tumor growth,
- help suspend fish eggs in seawater,
- facilitate a rapid response to osmotic shock in yeast,
- tightly regulate cell osmolarity within plants.

#### Distribution of aquaporins in human eye.



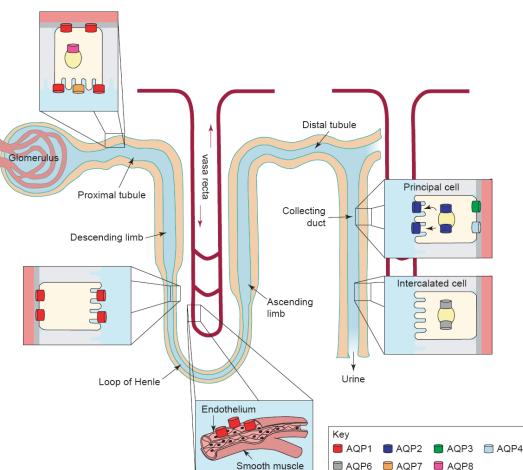
#### Aquaporins in the Kidney

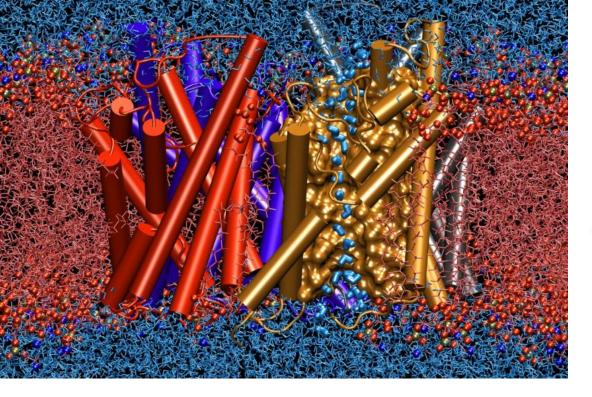
It filters and eliminates toxic substances from the blood.

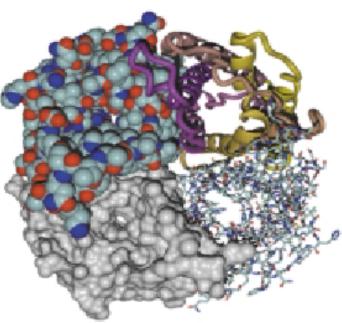
This is achieved by the filtration of blood in nephrons, which have important functions in the reabsorption of water, active solute transport and acid-base balance.

• Adult human kidneys filter >150 l of blood each day.

• To maintain water balance, > 99% of water is reabsorbed before it leaves the kidney as urine.

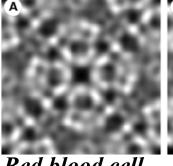


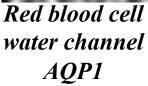


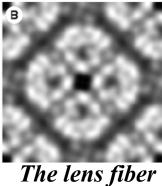


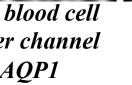
#### The AQP1 tetramer

Cryo-electron microscopy maps of water channel proteins (viewed from cytoplasmic side).







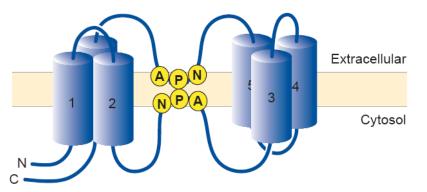


water channel MIP or AQP0

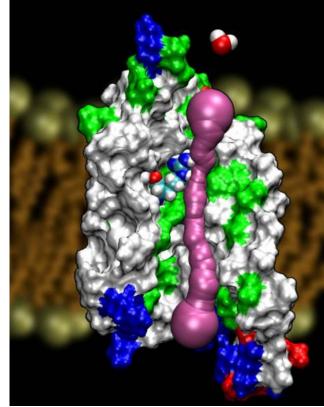
The bacterial water channel AqpZ

Protein	Cell Type	Function?
AQP-0	Eye lens cells	Water balance in lens
AQP-1	Red blood cells	Osmotic protection
AQP-1	Kidney tubules	Concentration of urine
AQP-1	Brain	Production of CSF
AQP-2	Kidney collecting ducts	Mediates action of ADH
AQP-4	Lungs	Bronchial fluid secretion
AQP-5	Salivary glands	Production of saliva
AQP-5	Lacrimal glands	Production of tears

## Topology of aquaporins

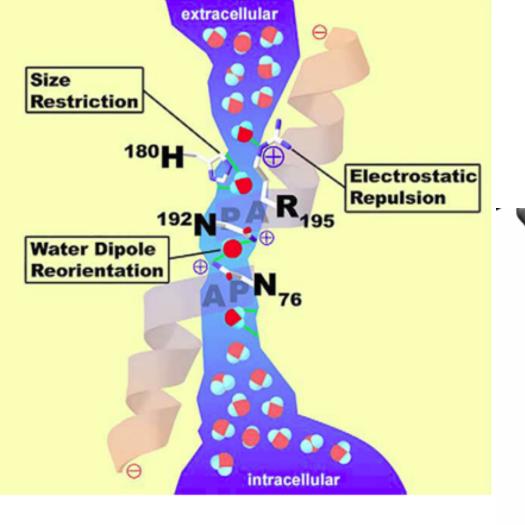


Six transmembrane domains and the conserved NPA-containing loops that form the selectivity filter of the water-conducting pore.



AQP1 comprises cone-shaped water-filled extracellular and intracellular vestibules that are separated by a 20 Å long channel ~2.8 Å at its narrowest point.

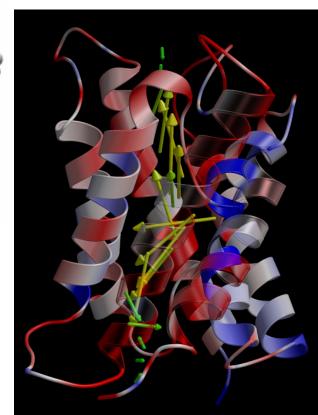
Hydrogen bonding between water molecules occurs within the AQP pore, except at its narrowest point.

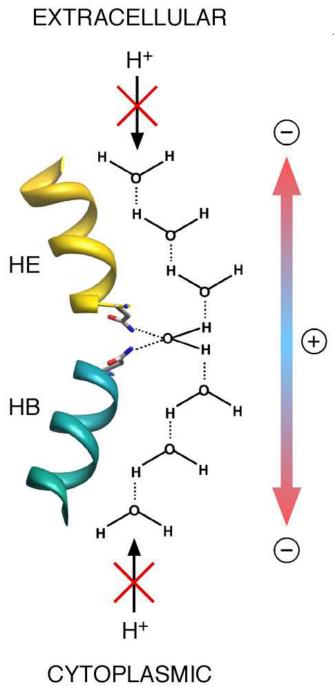


Water-water interactions are distorted with respect to bulk .

Peter Agre, David Kozono, FEBS Letters 555 (2003) 72-78

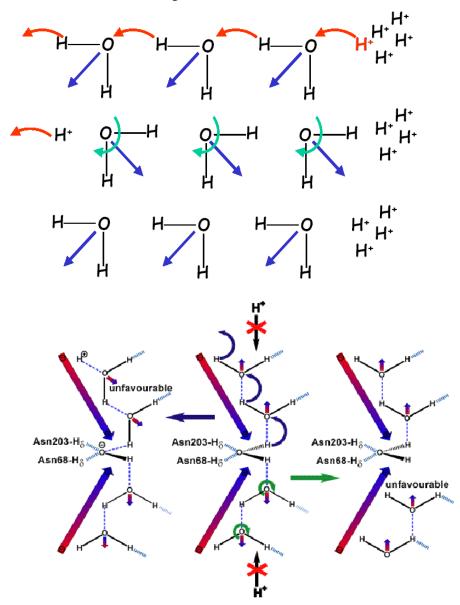
Water molecules rotate by about 180° during passage.



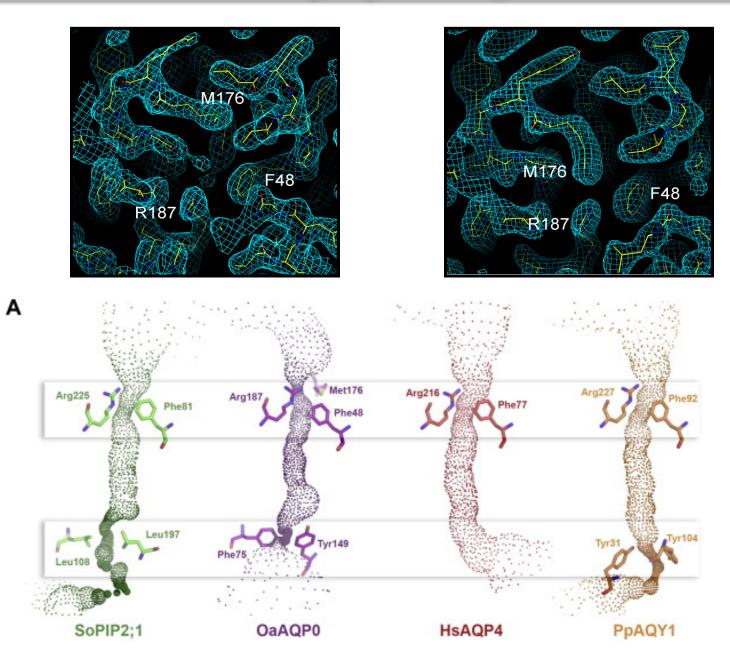


#### Impermeability for protons

Proton transfer in bulk water



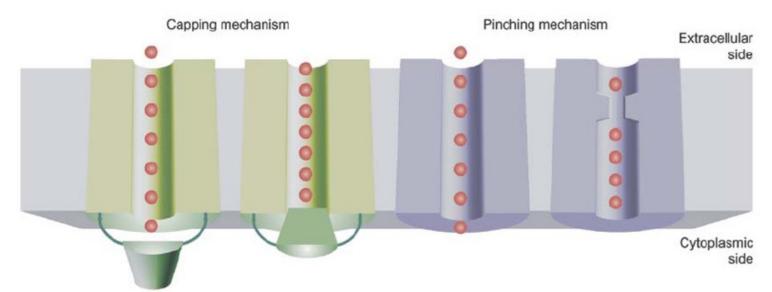
#### An aquaporins gate



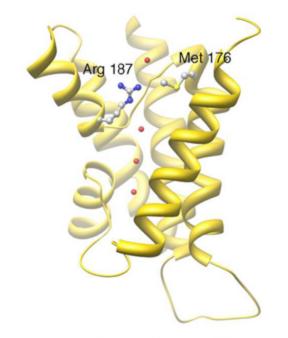
Eukaryotic aquaporins are frequently regulated by phosphorylation, pH, divalent cations, interactions with other proteins and osmolarity.

Aquaporin regulation at the protein level includes induced targeting of aquaporins to different membranes as well as direct gating of the aquaporins in situ in the membrane.

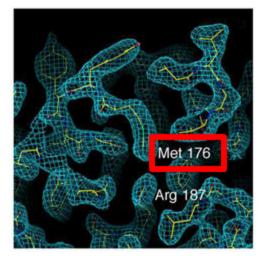
The capping (SoPIP2;1) and pinching (AQP0 and AQPZ) mechanisms of aquaporin gating.

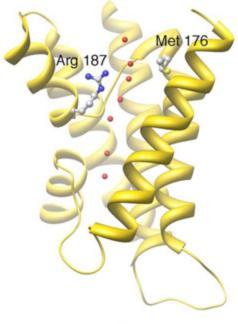


#### **Open and closed conformations of the AQP0 water pore**

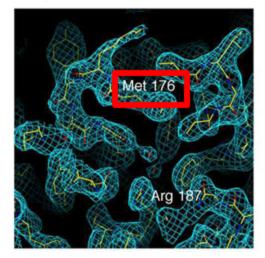


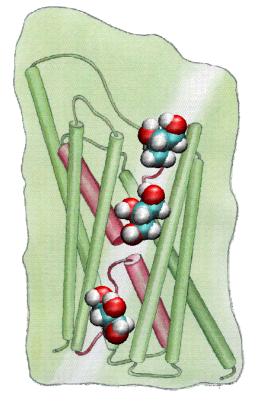
#### closed conformation





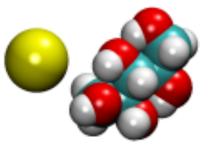
#### open conformation





#### The E. coli Glycerol Facilitator (GlpF)

It is an aquaporin with an extra feature – *it allows small, linear sugars such as glycerol and ribitol, but not ions, to pass.* 



# A sodium ion and ribitol molecule.

Phe200

 $\bigcirc$ 

02

Arg206

NE

The Selectivity Filter

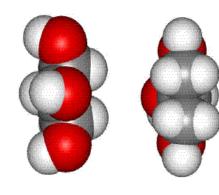
C2

Glycerol

Phe200

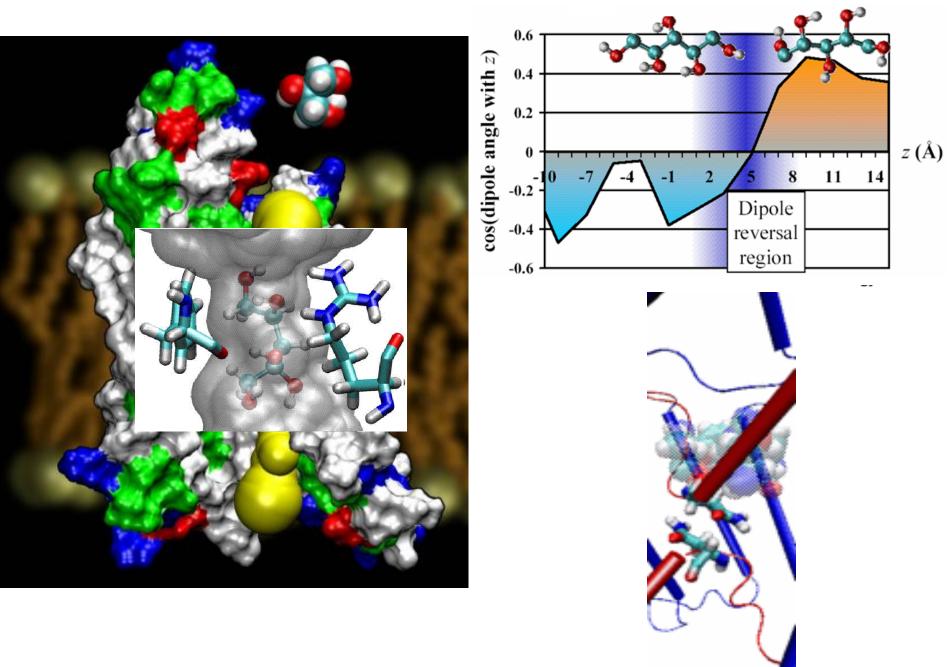
Trp48

## Complementarity



glycerol molecule ⇔ channel

#### The role of the selectivity filter



# Cellular Volume Homeostasis

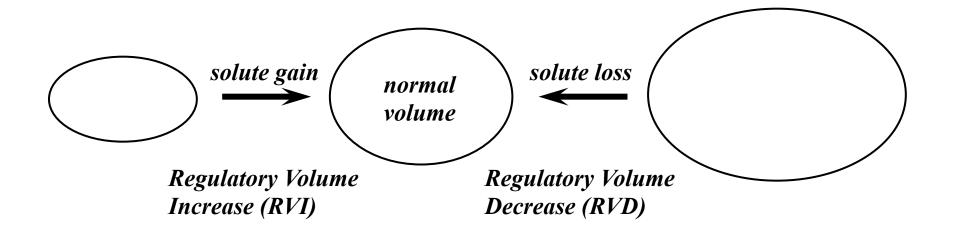
## Physiology and pathophysiology of cell volume change

- *Physiology: all cells are exposed to isosmotic volume perturbations*
- Physiology: organisms and cells that live in osmotically unstable environments

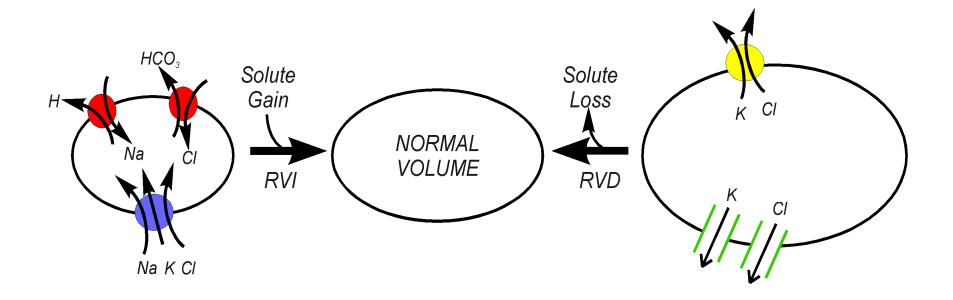
>intertidal zone >gut >kidney

• Pathophysiology: e.g., systemic osmolality disturbances, anoxia and ischemia, reperfusion injury, diabetes, sickle cell crisis

## Cell volume is regulated by the gain and loss of osmotically active solutes



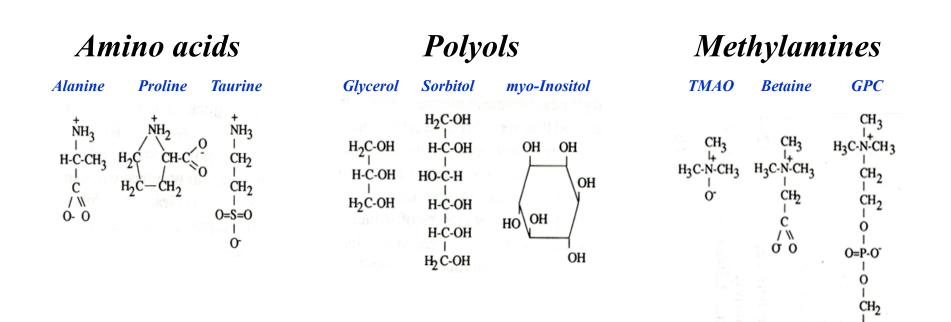
### Volume regulatory electrolyte gain and loss are mediated by rapid changes in membrane transport



- Advantages: allows cell to rapidly correct their volume by activating preexisting transport pathways
- Disadvantages: disruption of intracellular ion concentrations and cytoplasmic ionic strength

## Organic osmolytes allow cells to maintain long-term stability of cytoplasmic ionic strength

### Three major classes of organic osmolytes:



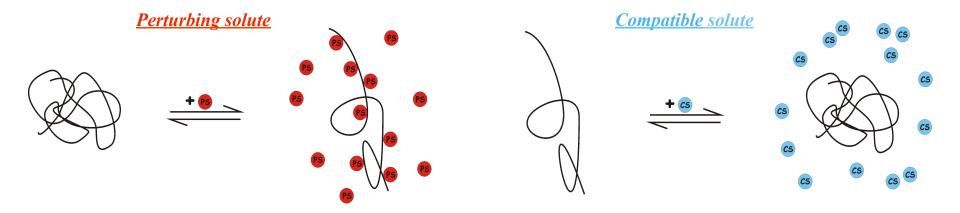
H-C-OH

H<sub>2</sub>C-OH

## Organic osmolytes are "compatible" or "non-perturbing" solutes

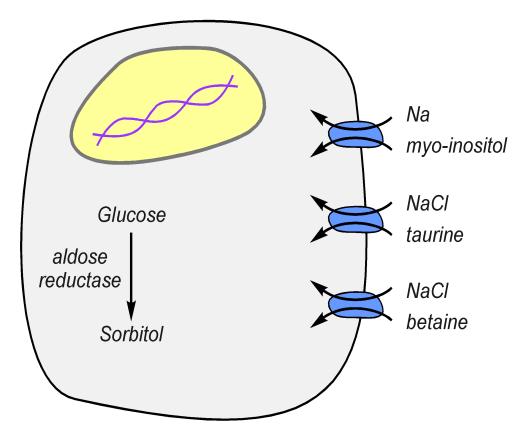
- Compatible solutes are an ubiquitous solution to osmotic stress; used by all organisms for cellular osmoregulation
- *High water solubility: accumulated to cytoplasmic concentrations of 10s to 100s of millimolar*
- Compatible solutes do not perturb macromolecular structure or function when present at high concentrations

# Compatible solutes are excluded from the surface of macromolecules



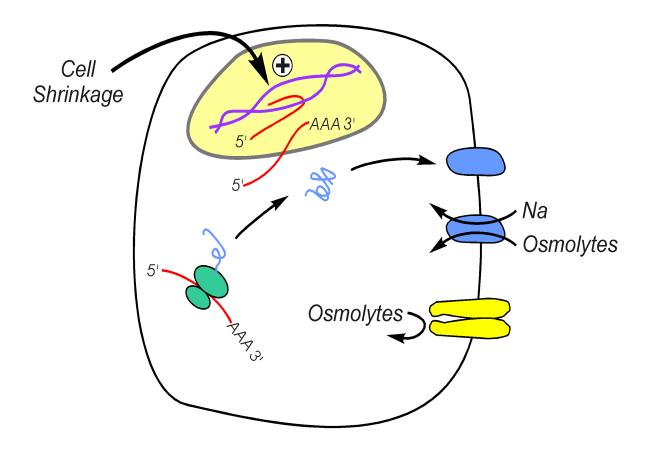
- No net charge at physiological pH
- Lack strongly hydrophobic regions
- Steric properties

# Organic osmolyte accumulation occurs by changes in synthesis or membrane transport



• Metabolically expensive: organic osmolytes are accumulated against concentration gradients of up to 10<sup>7</sup>-fold

# Organic osmolyte accumulation requires increased gene expression

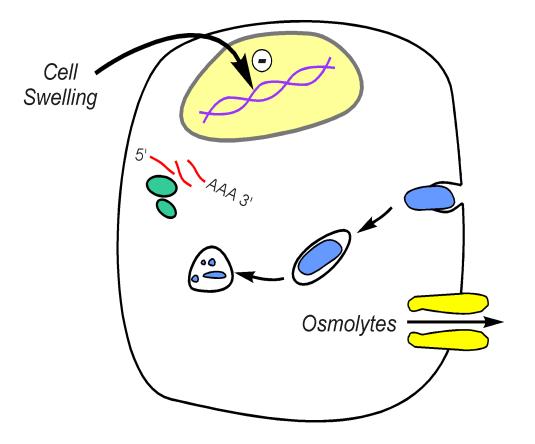


• Slow: requires many hours of exposure to osmotic stress

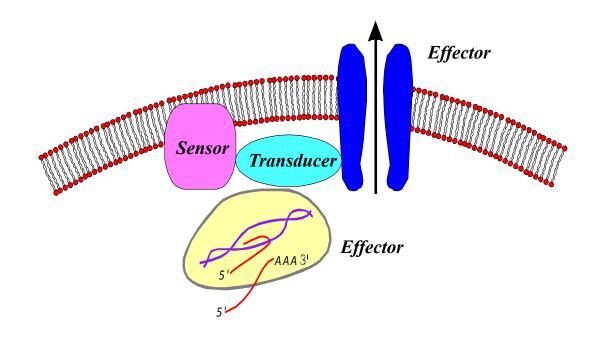
### Organic osmolyte loss is mediated by:

**1.Decreases in gene expression: rapid and slow** components

2. Increase in passive efflux: rapid



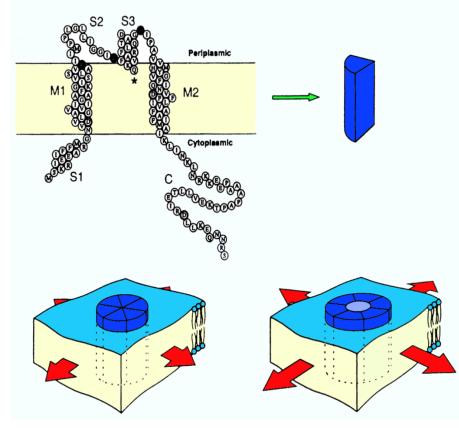
## How do cells detect volume changes?



- Signals: mechanical stress; dilution and concentration of cytoplasmic constituents
- Signal transduction: kinases and phosphatases

# Mechanical stress (bilayer model): force transduction via the lipid bilayer

#### E. coli MscL channel



From Sukharev et al. Ann. Rev. Physiol. 59:633-657, 1997

#### MscL channel

- swelling/stretch-activated
- cloned protein activated by bilayer stretch

#### **ProP transporter**

- shrinkage-activated
- cloned protein activated by liposome shrinkage

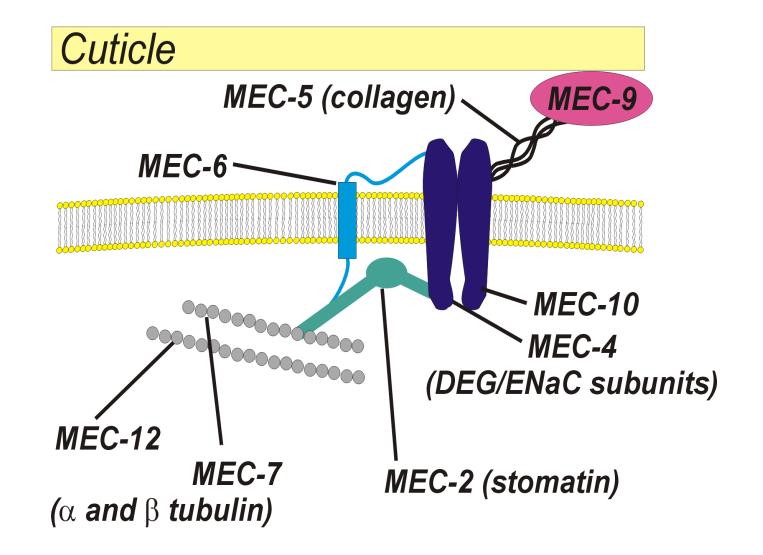
#### Membrane-bound enzymes

- $PLA_2$
- GTPases

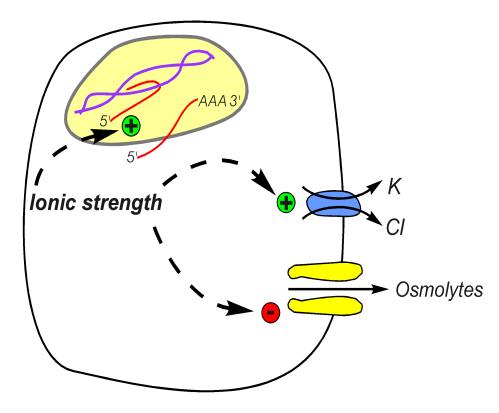
#### Model channels

- alamethicin
- gramicidin

### Mechanical stress (tethered model): force transduction via cytoskeletal/extracellular proteins

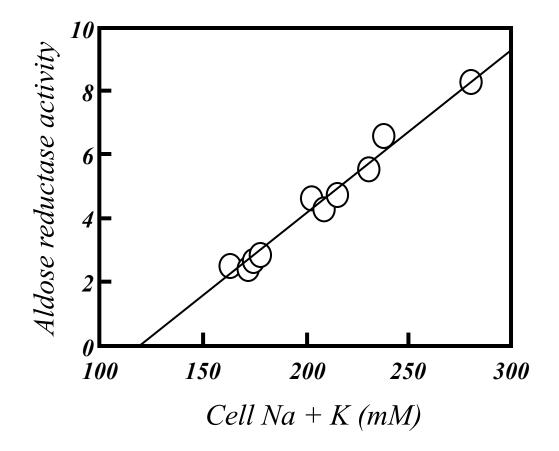


### Cytoplasmic dilution/concentration of small solutes



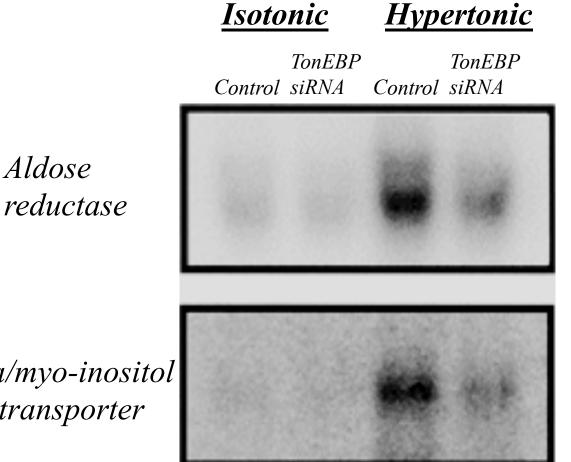
- Intracellular ionic strength
- Specific ions (e.g., K<sup>+</sup>)
- Other solutes??

## Increased cell ionic strength increases expression of organic osmolyte transporters and synthesis enzymes



Uchida et al., Am. J. Physiol. 256:C614-C620, 1989

### The transcriptional activator TonEBP regulates hypertonicity-induced gene expression



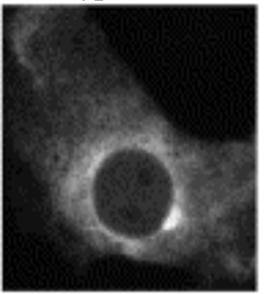
reductase

*Na/myo-inositol* cotransporter

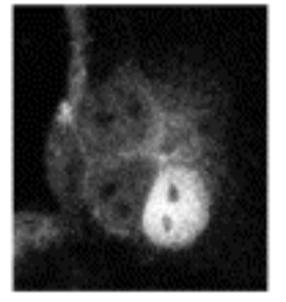
Young et al., J. Am. Soc. Nephrol. 14:283-288, 2003

# TonEBP translocates into the cell nucleus in response to hypertonic stress

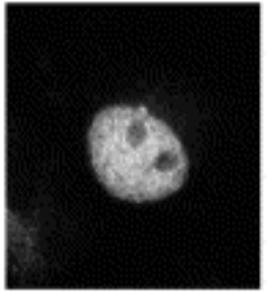
Hypotonic



Isotonic

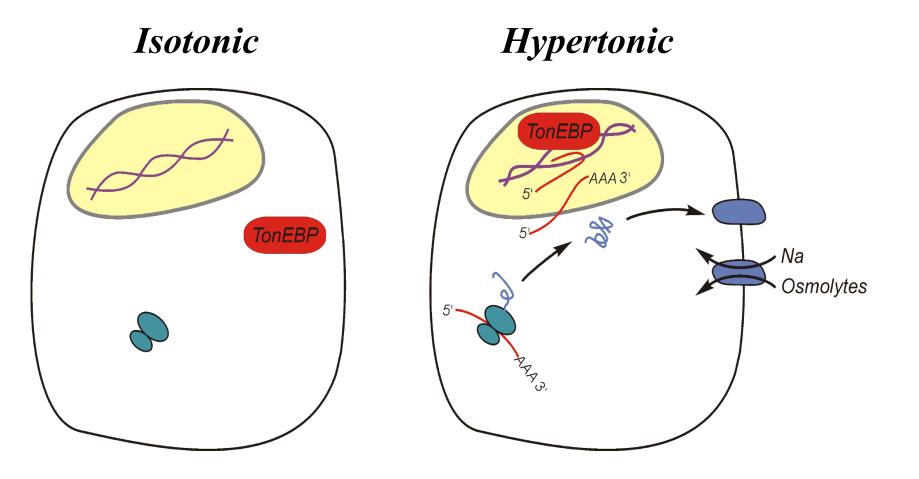


#### Hypertonic

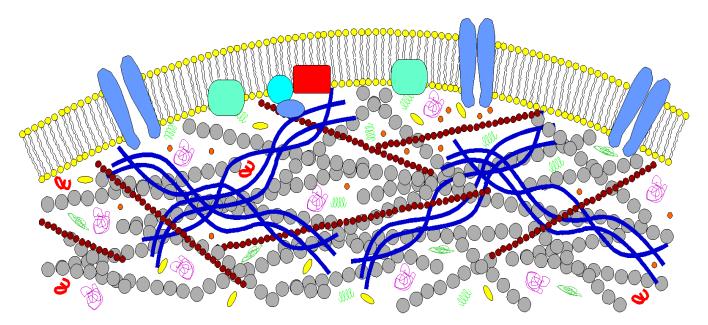


Lee et al., Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm. 294:968-975, 2002

## Regulation of gene expression by TonEBP

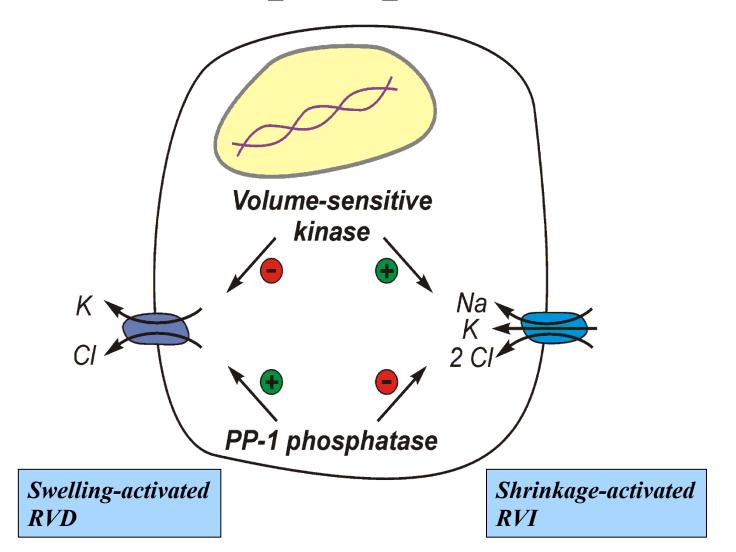


## Cytoplasmic dilution/concentration: macromolecular crowding and confinement

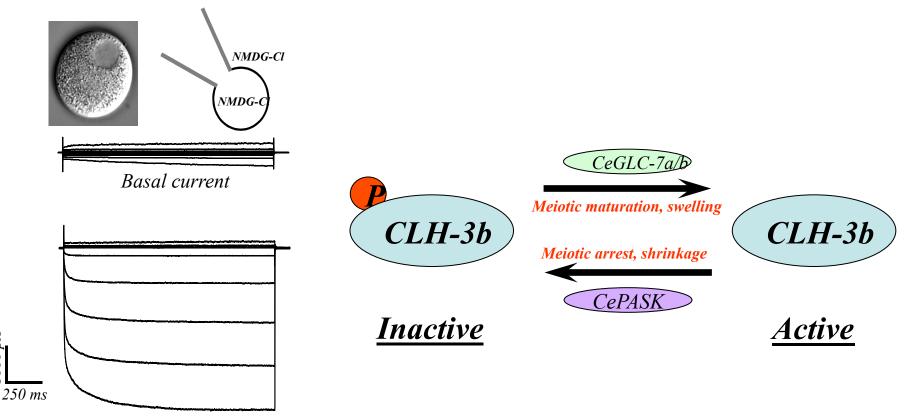


- Crowding and confinement alter macromolecule thermodynamic activity, structure and interactions
- Small changes in crowding and confinement can lead to large changes in the activity of signaling pathways, gene transcription, channel/transporter activity, etc.

# Signal transduction: the case for kinases and phosphatases



## **CePASK regulates the C. elegans** volume-sensitive ClC channel CLH-3b



Swelling- or meiotic maturation-induced current

000 pA

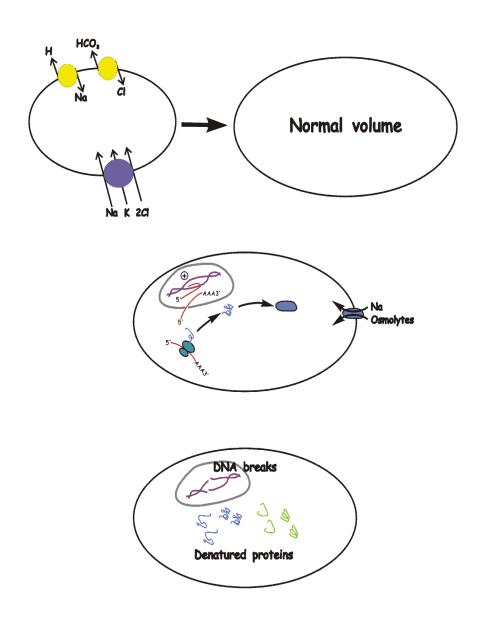
Denton, Rutledge, Nehrke, Strange

## How cell volume is perturbed matters

## Cells sense:

- Extent of volume change
- Rate of volume change
- Mechanism of volume change (anisosmotic vs. isosmotic)

## The cellular osmotic stress response



#### Volume recovery

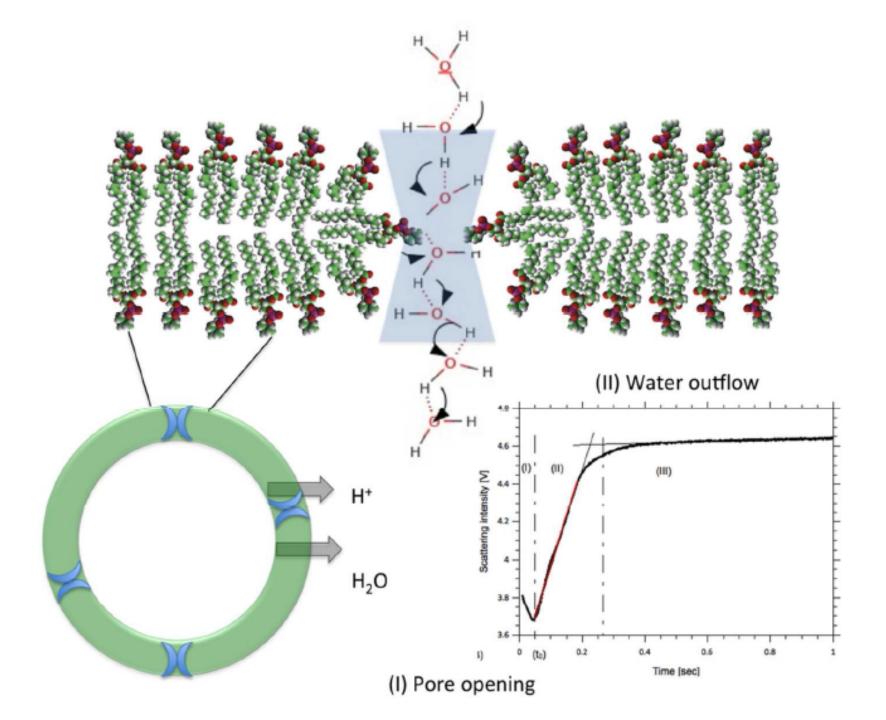
• Rapid electrolyte accumulation/loss

### **Organic osmolyte homeostasis**

- Slow accumulation
- Rapid efflux/loss

#### **Damage detection/repair**

- Detection
- Cell cycle arrest
- Repair or apoptosis

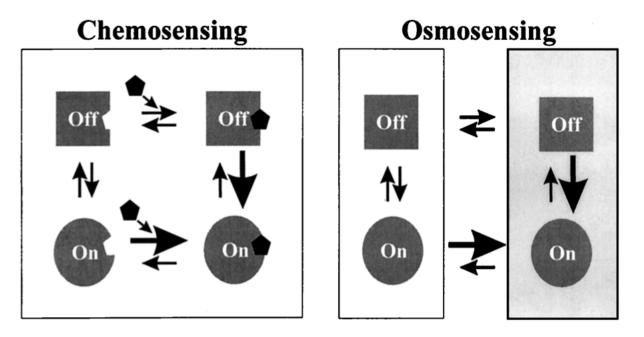


Phase	Structural Change	Approximate Duration	Physiological Change	
ш	Cell Wall and Nucleoid Remodeled DNA/Protein Synthesis Resume Cell Growth and Division Resume Co-solvent Composition Adjusted	1 or more hours	Osmoresponsive Genes Expressed (e.g. <i>proP</i> , <i>proU</i> , <i>kdpFABC</i> , <i>betT</i> ) Compatible Solute Uptake/Efflux Cycle Established	
II	Nucleic Acid Counterions Replaced Rehydration Begins	20 to 60 minutes	Putrescine Extruded $K^+$ Glutamate and Compatible Solutes Accumulate Respiration Resumed (Reduced Rate) $\Delta \widetilde{\mu}_{H^+}$ Restored ATP Level Restored	
Ι	Cell Dehydrates, Shrinks Cytoplasmic a <sub>w</sub> Decreased Cytoplasmic Crowding Increased Wall/Membrane Strain Altered	1 to 2 minutes	Respiration and Most Transport Cease; Trk/ProP Activate ΔpH Increased Transiently ATP Level Increased Transiently	
Shift	Upshift: $\Delta \Pi$ decreased, $\Delta \Pi < \Delta P$ , $\Delta \mu_w < 0$ $\uparrow$ Time 0: $\Delta \Pi = \Delta P$ , $\Delta \mu_w = 0$			
	<b>Downshift:</b> $\Delta\Pi$ increased, $\Delta\Pi > \Delta P$ , $\Delta\mu_w > 0$			
I	Cell Hydrates, Swells Cytoplasmic a <sub>w</sub> Elevated Cytoplasmic Crowding Decreased Wall/Membrane Strain Is Altered	< 1 minute	Channels Open	
II	Cell Shrinks Cytoplasmic Crowding Increased	1 to 2 minutes	Co-solvents and Water Extruded $\Delta \widetilde{\mu}_{H^+}$ Collapsed?	
Ш	?	10 to 20 minutes	Channels Close Δμ̃ <sub>H+</sub> Restored Co-solvents Re-accumulate	

Phases of the osmotic stress response for E. coli K-12.

Structural and physiological responses triggered by osmotic shifts (up or down) imposed at time zero proceed in parallel along the *indicated, approximate* timescales.

#### Chemosensing versus osmosensing.



**Chemosensors** detect the biochemistry of cellular environments, including changes in nutrient supplies and signals with biological origins.

**Osmosensors** detect changes in extracellular water activity (direct osmosensing) or resulting changes in cell composition or structure (indirect osmosensing).

	Compartment sampled	Stimulus detected, change in <sup>b</sup> :
Potential stimuli for membrane- or nucleoid-based	Periplasm Cytoplasmic	Thickness Turgor pressure Concn of a specific cosolvent (e.g., glucan) Macromolecular crowding Osmolality Ionic strength
osmosensors	membrane	Osmolality gradient Lateral pressure Bilayer curvature Head group charge density Head group hydrogen bonding Head group hydration Thickness Lateral phospholipid distribution Intermonolayer phospholipid distribution
	Cytoplasm	Osmolality Ionic strength Concn of kosmotropes Concn of a specific cosolvent (e.g., K glutamate) Macromolecular crowding or confinement
	Nucleoid	Turgor pressure Counterion composition Protein composition Macromolecular crowding DNA topology

