

MEMBRANES (part 3)

(the "Fluid Mosaic Model")

The phospholipid bilayer membrane is a busy place. Not only does it have many channels and pumps, it also has lots of gadgets for sending and receiving messages. Also present are "ID tags" called MHC 1. Every cell in the body has these MHC 1 tags on them so that immune system cells know they belong to the body.

This model is called "fluid" because everything can move around. The word "mosaic" is an art term used to describe a picture made from many small colored tiles. Recent research has revealed that some things in the membrane stay in place more than expected, but this model still seems to be valid, nonetheless.

Vocab to know:

- 1) **Integral membrane proteins** are attached to the membrane. They can be on one side, or all the way through.
- 2) **Transmembrane proteins** go all the way through from one side to the other.
- 3) There are two words that both means "sugar." **Glyco** is from Greek, and **sacchar** is from Latin.
- 4) **Oligo** means "few."