Chapter 3

Procaryotic Cell Structure and Function

1

An Overview of Procaryotic Cell Structure

- a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and cellular aggregation patterns
- simpler than eucaryotic cell structure
- unique structures not observed in eucaryotes

2

Size, Shape, and Arrangement

- cocci (s., coccus) – spheres
  - diplococci (s., diplococcus) – pairs
  - streptococci – chains
  - staphylococci – grape-like clusters
  - tetrads – 4 cocci in a square
  - sarcinae – cubic configuration of 8 cocci

3

Size, Shape, and Arrangement

- bacilli (s., bacillus) – rods
  - coccobacilli – very short rods
  - vibrios – curved rods
- mycelium – network of long, multinucleate filaments

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Size, Shape, and Arrangement

- spirilla (s., spirillum) – rigid helices
- spirochetes – flexible helices
- pleomorphic – organisms that are variable in shape

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•largest – ≥50 µm in diameter

• smallest – 0.3 µm in diameter

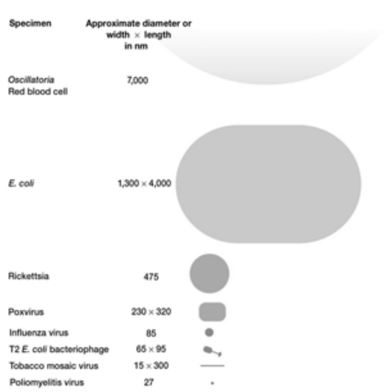

Figure 3.3

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Procaryotic Cell Organization

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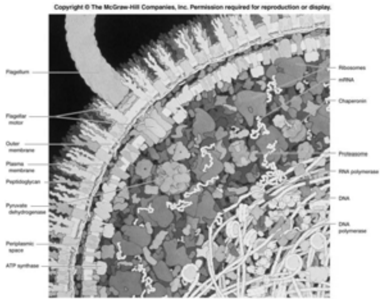

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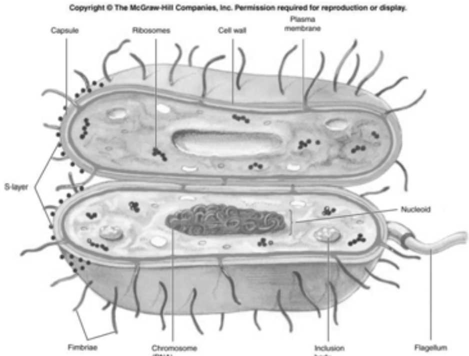

Figure 3.4

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Table 3.1	Functions of Procaryotic Structures
Plasma membrane	Selectively permeable barrier, mechanical boundary of cell, nutrient and waste transport, location of many metabolic processes (respiration, photosynthesis), detection of environmental cues for chemotaxis
Gas vacuole	Buoyancy for floating in aquatic environments
Ribosomes	Protein synthesis
Inclusion bodies	Storage of carbon, phosphate, and other substances
Nucleoid	Localization of genetic material (DNA)
Periplasmic space	Contains hydrolytic enzymes and binding proteins for nutrient processing and uptake
Cell wall	Gives bacteria shape and protection from lysis in dilute solutions
Capsules and slime layers	Resistance to phagocytosis, adherence to surfaces
Fimbriae and pili	Attachment to surfaces, bacterial mating
Flagella	Movement
Endospore	Survival under harsh environmental conditions

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Procaryotic Cell Membranes

- **membranes are an absolute requirement for all living organisms**
- **plasma membrane encompasses the cytoplasm**
- **some procaryotes also have internal membrane systems**

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The Plasma Membrane

- **contains lipids and proteins**
  - **lipids usually form a bilayer**
  - **proteins are embedded in or associated with lipids**
- **highly organized, asymmetric, flexible, and dynamic**

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The asymmetry of most membrane lipids

- **polar ends**
  - **interact with water**
  - **hydrophilic**
- **nonpolar ends**
  - **insoluble in water**
  - **hydrophobic**

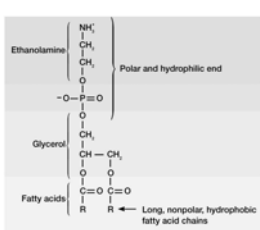

Figure 3.5

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Other membrane lipids

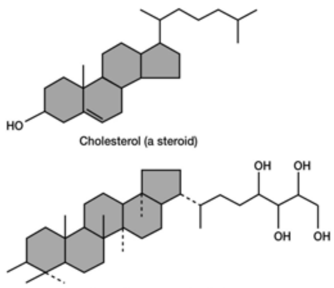

Figure 3.6

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Membrane proteins

- **peripheral proteins**
  - **loosely associated with the membrane and easily removed**
- **integral proteins**
  - **embedded within the membrane and not easily removed**

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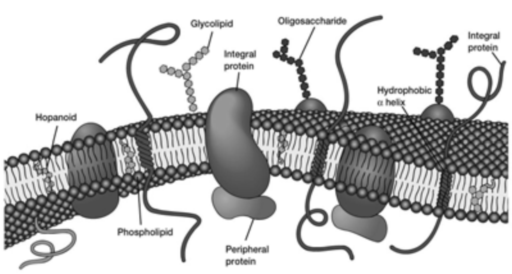

Figure 3.7 Fluid mosaic model of membrane structure

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Archaeal membranes

- composed of unique lipids
- some have a monolayer structure instead of a bilayer structure

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Functions of the plasma membrane

- separation of cell from its environment
- selectively permeable barrier
  - some molecules are allowed to pass into or out of the cell
  - transport systems aid in movement of molecules

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More functions…

- location of crucial metabolic processes
- detection of and response to chemicals in surroundings with the aid of special receptor molecules in the membrane

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Internal Membrane Systems

- **mesosomes**
  - **may be invaginations of the plasma membrane**
    - **possible roles**
      - **cell wall formation during cell division**
      - **chromosome replication and distribution**
      - **secretory processes**
  - **may be artifacts of chemical fixation process**

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Other internal membrane systems

- **complex in-foldings of the plasma membrane**
  - **observed in many photosynthetic bacteria and in procaryotes with high respiratory activity**
  - **may be aggregates of spherical vesicles, flattened vesicles, or tubular membranes**

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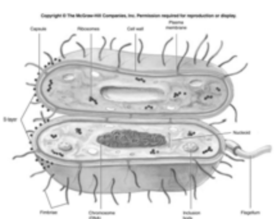
The Cytoplasmic Matrix

- **substance between membrane and nucleoid**
- **packed with ribosomes and inclusion bodies**
- **highly organized with respect to protein location**



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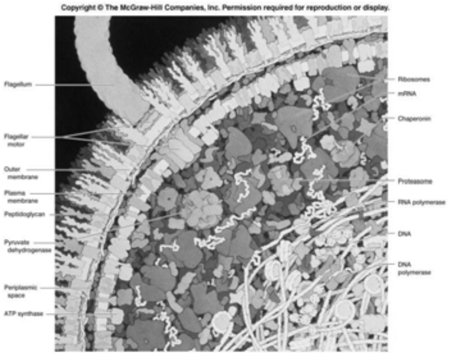

Figure 3.10

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Inclusion Bodies

- granules of organic or inorganic material that are stockpiled by the cell for future use
- some are enclosed by a single-layered membrane
  - membranes vary in composition
  - some made of proteins; others contain lipids

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Organic inclusion bodies

- glycogen
  - polymer of glucose units
- poly-β-hydroxybutyrate (PHB)
  - polymers of β-hydroxybutyrate

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Organic inclusion bodies

- **cyanophycin granules**
  - **large polypeptides containing about equal quantities of arginine and aspartic acid**
- **carboxysomes**
  - **contain the enzyme ribulose-1,5,-bisphosphate carboxylase**

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Organic inclusion bodies

- **gas vacuoles**
  - **found in cyanobacteria and some other aquatic procaryotes**
  - **provide buoyancy**
  - **aggregates of hollow cylindrical structures called gas vesicles**

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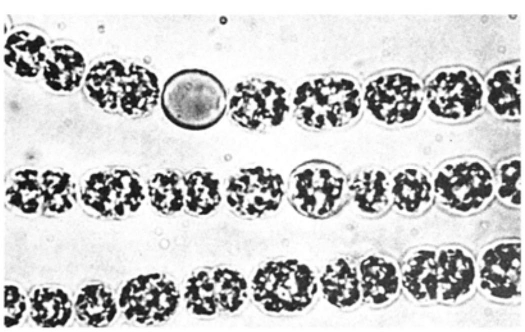

Figure 3.12a

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Figure 3.12b

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Inorganic inclusion bodies

- **polyphosphate granules**
  - **also called volutin granules and metachromatic granules**
  - **linear polymers of phosphates**
- **sulfur granules**
- **magnetosomes**
  - **contain iron in the form of magnetite**
  - **used to orient cells in magnetic fields**

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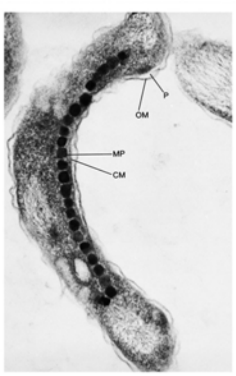

Box 3.2a

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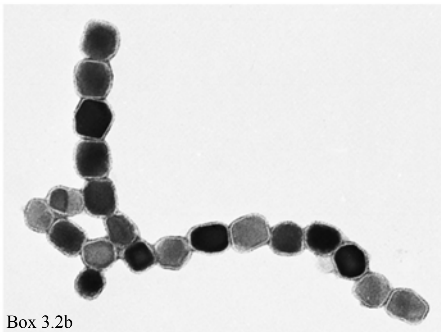

Box 3.2b

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Box3.2c

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Ribosomes

- **complex structures consisting of protein and RNA**
- **sites of protein synthesis**
- **smaller than eucaryotic ribosomes**
  - **procaryotic ribosomes ⇒ 70S**
  - **eucaryotic ribosomes ⇒ 80S**
    - **S = Svedburg unit**

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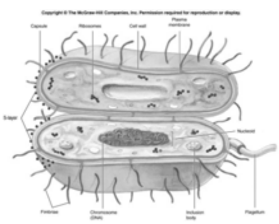
The Nucleoid

- irregularly shaped region
- location of chromosome
  - usually 1/cell
- not membrane-bound



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In actively growing cells, the nucleoid has projections; these probably contain DNA being actively transcribed

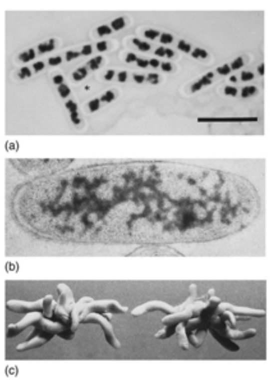

Figure 3.14

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The procaryotic chromosome

- a closed circular, double-stranded DNA molecule
- looped and coiled extensively
- nucleoid proteins probably aid in folding
  - nucleoid proteins differ from histones

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Unusual nucleoids

- some procaryotes have > 1 chromosome
- some procaryotes have chromosomes composed of linear double-stranded DNA
- a few genera have membrane-delimited nucleoids

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Plasmids

- usually small, closed circular DNA molecules
- exist and replicate independently of chromosome
- not required for growth and reproduction
- may carry genes that confer selective advantage (e.g., drug resistance)

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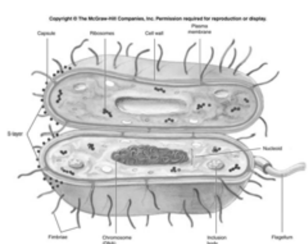
The Procaryotic Cell Wall

- rigid structure that lies just outside the plasma membrane



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Functions of cell wall

- **provides characteristic shape to cell**
- **protects the cell from osmotic lysis**
- **may also contribute to pathogenicity**
- **may also protect cell from toxic substances**

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Cell walls of Bacteria

- **Bacteria are divided into two major groups based on the response to Gram-stain procedure.**
  - **gram-positive bacteria stain purple**
  - **gram-negative bacteria stain pink**
- **staining reaction due to cell wall structure**

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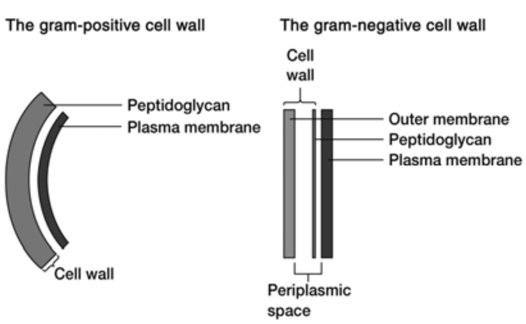

Figure 3.15

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Periplasmic space

- gap between plasma membrane and cell wall (gram-positive bacteria) or between plasma membrane and outer membrane (gram-negative bacteria)
- periplasm
  - substance that occupies periplasmic space

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Periplasmic enzymes

- found in periplasm of gram-negative bacteria
- some of their functions
  - nutrient acquisition
  - electron transport
  - peptidoglycan synthesis
  - modification of toxic compounds

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Exoenzymes

- secreted by gram-positive bacteria
- perform many of the same functions that periplasmic enzymes do for gram-negative bacteria

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Peptidoglycan Structure

- important component of both gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria
- polysaccharide formed from peptidoglycan subunits
- two alternating sugars form backbone
  - *N*-acetylglucosamine
  - *N*-acetylmuramic acid

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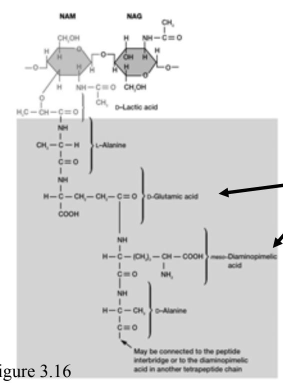

some amino acids are not observed in proteins

Figure 3.16

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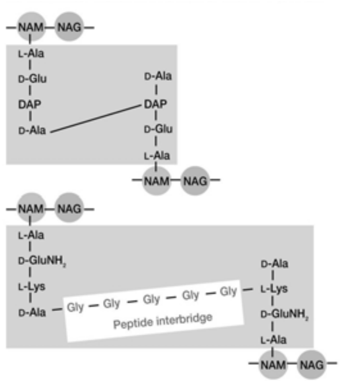

Figure 3.18

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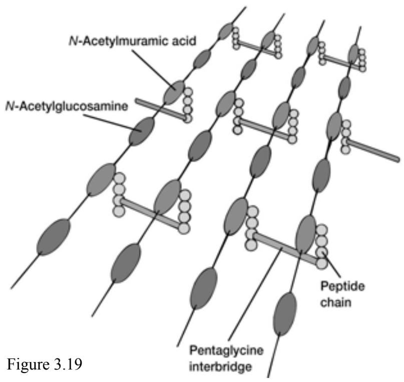

Figure 3.19

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Gram-Positive Cell Walls

- **composed primarily of peptidoglycan**
- **may also contain large amounts of teichoic acids**
- **some gram-positive bacteria have layer of proteins on surface of peptidoglycan**

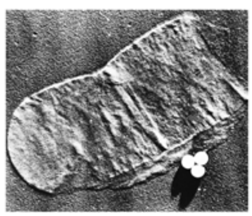

Figure 3.20

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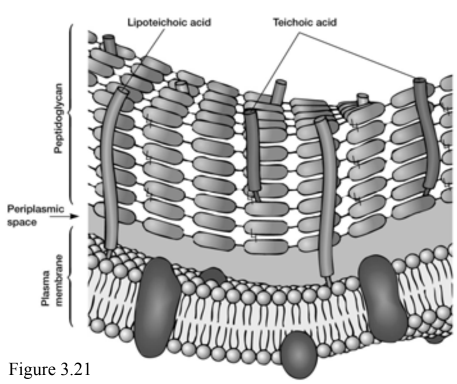

Figure 3.21

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teichoic acids

• polymers of glycerol or ribitol joined by phosphate groups

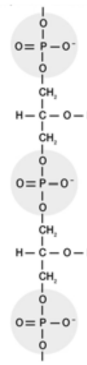

Figure 3.22

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Gram-Negative Cell Walls

- **consist of a thin layer of peptidoglycan surrounded by an outer membrane**
- **outer membrane composed of lipids, lipoproteins, and lipopolysaccharide (LPS)**
- **no teichoic acids**

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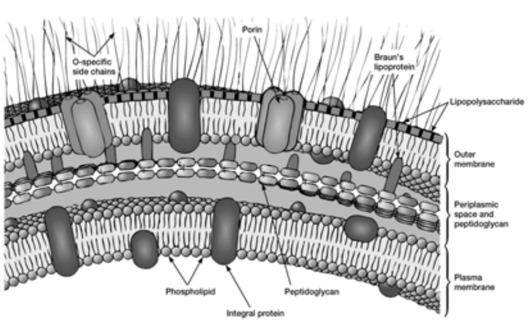

Figure 3.23

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Important connections

- Braun's lipoproteins connect outer membrane to peptidoglycan
- Adhesion sites
  - sites of direct contact (possibly true membrane fusions) between plasma membrane and outer membrane
  - substances may move directly into cell through adhesion sites

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Lipopolysaccharides (LPSs)

- consist of three parts
  - lipid A
  - core polysaccharide
  - O side chain (O antigen)

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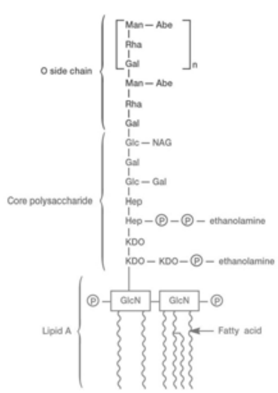

Figure 3.25

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Importance of LPS

- protection from host defenses (O antigen)
- contributes to negative charge on cell surface (core polysaccharide)
- helps stabilize outer membrane structure (lipid A)
- can act as an exotoxin (lipid A)

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Other characteristics of outer membrane

- more permeable than plasma membrane due to presence of porin proteins and transporter proteins
  - porin proteins form channels through which small molecules (600-700 daltons) can pass

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The Mechanism of Gram Staining

- thought to involve constriction of the thick peptidoglycan layer of gram-positive cells
  - constriction prevents loss of crystal violet during decolorization step
- thinner peptidoglycan layer of gram-negative bacteria does not prevent loss of crystal violet

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The Cell Wall and Osmotic Protection

- osmosis
  - movement of water across selectively permeable membrane from dilute solutions to more concentrated solutions
- cells are often in hypotonic solutions

  $[\text{solute}]_{\text{outside cell}} < [\text{solute}]_{\text{inside cell}}$

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The Cell Wall and Osmotic Protection

- osmotic lysis
  - can occur when cells are in hypotonic solutions
  - movement of water into cell causes swelling and lysis due to osmotic pressure
- cell wall protects against osmotic lysis

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Cell walls do not protect against plasmolysis

- plasmolysis
  - occurs when cells are in hypertonic solutions

    $[\text{solute}]_{\text{outside cell}} > [\text{solute}]_{\text{inside cell}}$
  - water moves out of cell causing cytoplasm to shrivel and pull away from cell wall

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Practical importance of plasmolysis and osmotic lysis

- **plasmolysis**
  - **useful in food preservation**
  - **e.g., dried foods and jellies**
- **osmotic lysis**
  - **basis of lysozyme and penicillin action**

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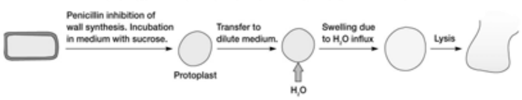

Figure 3.26

•protoplast – cell completely lacking cell wall

•spheroplast – cell with some cell wall remaining

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Archaeal cell walls

- **lack peptidoglycan**
- **can be composed of proteins, glycoproteins, or polysaccharides**

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Protein Secretion in Procaryotes

- numerous protein secretion pathways have been identified
- four major pathways are:
  - Sec-dependent pathway
  - type II pathway
  - type I (ABC) protein secretion pathway
  - type III protein secretion pathway

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Sec-Dependent Pathway

- also called general secretion pathway
- translocates proteins from cytoplasm across or into plasma membrane
- secreted proteins synthesized as preproteins having amino-terminal signal peptide
  - signal peptide delays protein folding
  - chaperone proteins keep preproteins unfolded
- translocon transfers protein and removes signal peptide

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Sec-Dependent Pathway

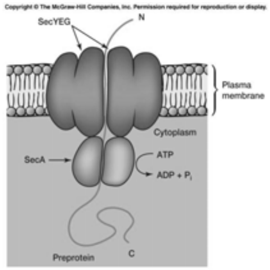

Figure 3.27a

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Type II Protein Secretion Pathway

- transports proteins from periplasmic across outer membrane
- observed in some gram-negative bacteria, including some pathogens
- complex systems consisting of up to 12-14 proteins
  - most are integral membrane proteins

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Type I Protein Secretion Pathway

- also called ABC protein secretion pathway
- transports proteins from cytoplasm across both plasma membrane and outer membrane
- secreted proteins have C-terminal secretion signals
- proteins that comprise type I systems form channels through membranes
- translocation driven by both ATP hydrolysis and proton motive force

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Type I Protein Secretion Pathway

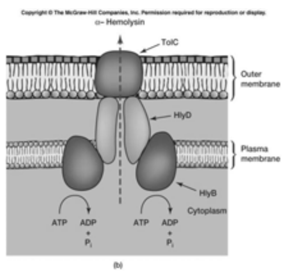

Figure 3.27b

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Type III Protein Secretion Pathway

- secretes virulence factors of gram-negative bacteria from cytoplasm, across both plasma membrane and outer membrane, and into host cell
- some type III secretion machinery is needle-shaped
  - secreted proteins thought to move through a translocation channel

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Type III Protein Secretion Pathway

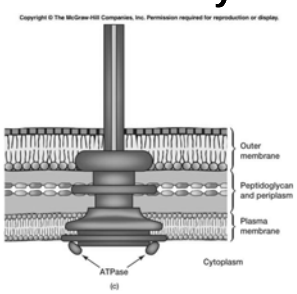

Figure 3.27 c

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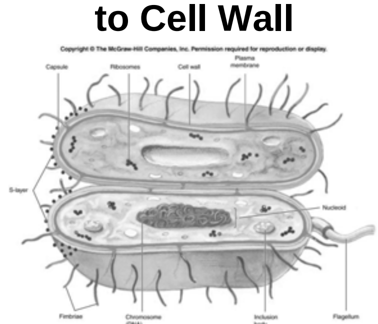
Components External to Cell Wall



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Capsules, Slime Layers, and S-Layers

- **layers of material lying outside the cell wall**
  - **capsules**
    - **usually composed of polysaccharides**
    - **well organized and not easily removed from cell**
  - **slime layers**
    - **similar to capsules except diffuse, unorganized and easily removed**

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Capsules, Slime Layers, and S-Layers

- **glycocalyx**
  - **network of polysaccharides extending from the surface of the cell**
  - **a capsule or slime layer composed of polysaccharides can also be referred to as a glycocalyx**

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Capsules, Slime Layers, and S-Layers

- **S-layers**
  - **regularly structured layers of protein or glycoprotein**
  - **common among Archaea, where they may be the only structure outside the plasma membrane**

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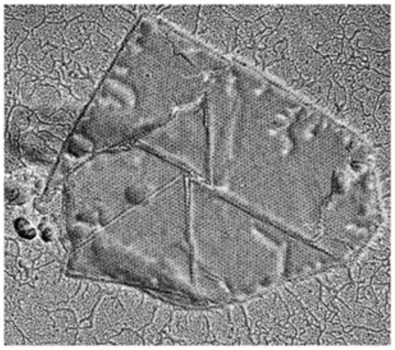

Figure 3.30

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Functions of capsules, slime layers, and S-layers

- **protection from host defenses (e.g., phagocytosis)**
- **protection from harsh environmental conditions (e.g., desiccation)**
- **attachment to surfaces**

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More functions…

- **protection from viral infection or predation by bacteria**
- **protection from chemicals in environment (e.g., detergents)**
- **motility of gliding bacteria**
- **protection against osmotic stress**

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Pili and Fimbriae

- fimbriae (s., fimbria)
  - short, thin, hairlike, proteinaceous appendages
    - up to 1,000/cell
  - mediate attachment to surfaces
  - some (type IV fimbriae) required for twitching motility or gliding motility that occurs in some bacteria
- sex pili (s., pilus)
  - similar to fimbriae except longer, thicker, and less numerous (1-10/cell)
  - required for mating

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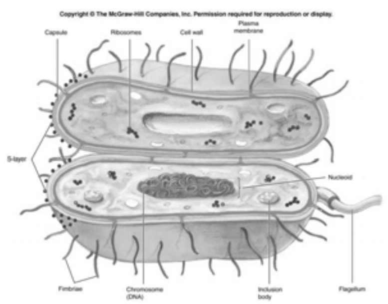
Flagella and Motility



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Patterns of arrangement

- monotrichous – one flagellum
- polar flagellum – flagellum at end of cell
- amphitrichous – one flagellum at each end of cell
- lophotrichous – cluster of flagella at one or both ends
- peritrichous – spread over entire surface of cell

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Flagellar Ultrastructure

- 3 parts
  - filament
  - basal body
  - hook

Figure 3.33a

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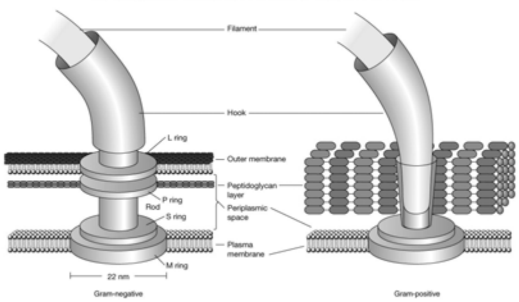

Figure 3.34

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The filament

- hollow, rigid cylinder
- composed of the protein flagellin
- some procaryotes have a sheath around filament

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The hook and basal body

- **hook**
  - **links filament to basal body**
- **basal body**
  - **series of rings that drive flagellar motor**

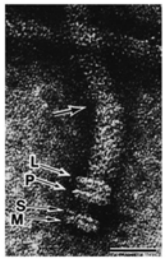

Figure 3.33b

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Flagellar Synthesis

- **an example of self-assembly**
- **complex process involving many genes and gene products**
- **new molecules of flagellin are transported through the hollow filament**
- **growth is from tip, not base**

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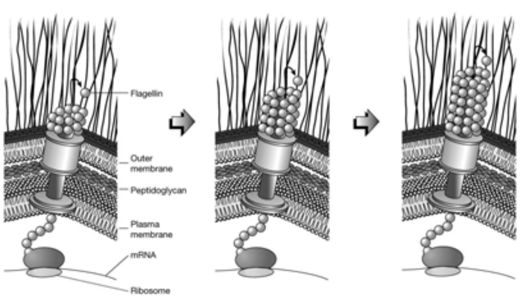

Figure 3.35

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The Mechanism of Flagellar Movement

- **flagellum rotates like a propeller**
  - **in general, counterclockwise rotation causes forward motion (run)**
  - **in general, clockwise rotation disrupts run causing a tumble (twiddle)**

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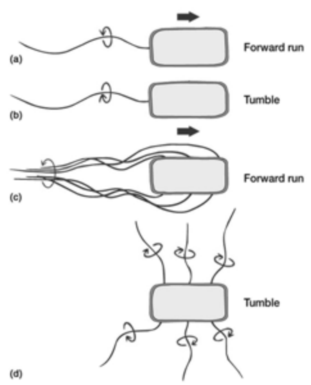

Figure 3.36

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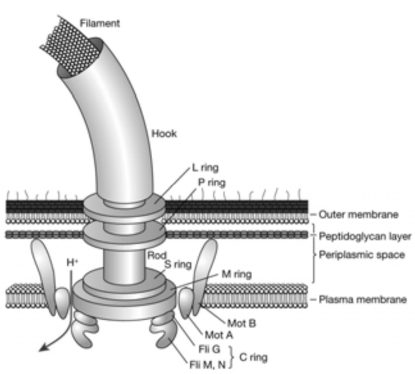

Figure 3.37

93

Other types of motility

- spirochetes
  - axial filaments cause flexing and spinning movement
- gliding motility
  - cells coast along solid surfaces
  - no visible motility structure has been identified

94

Chemotaxis

- movement towards a chemical attractant or away from a chemical repellant
- concentrations of chemoattractants and chemorepellants detected by chemoreceptors on surfaces of cells

95

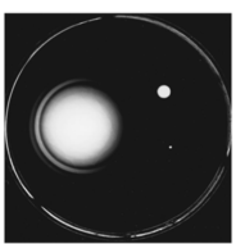

Figure 3.38

Figure 3.39

96

Travel towards attractant

- caused by lowering the frequency of tumbles
- biased random walk

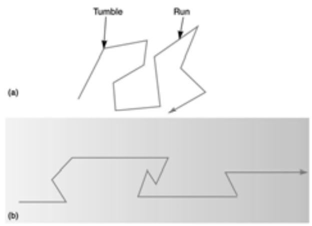

Figure 3.40

97

Travel away from repellant

- involves similar but opposite responses

98

Mechanism of chemotaxis

- complex but rapid
  - responses occur in less than 20 milliseconds
- involves conformational changes in proteins
- also involves methylation or phosphorylation of proteins

99

The Bacterial Endospore

- formed by some bacteria
- dormant
- resistant to numerous environmental conditions
  - heat
  - radiation
  - chemicals
  - desiccation

100

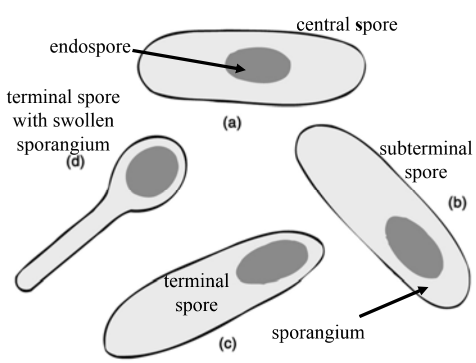

Figure 3.40

101

Figure 3.42

102

What makes an endospore so resistant?

- calcium (complexed with dipicolinic acid)
- acid-soluble, DNA-binding proteins
- dehydrated core
- spore coat
- DNA repair enzymes

Sporogenesis

- normally commences when growth ceases because of lack of nutrients
- complex multistage process

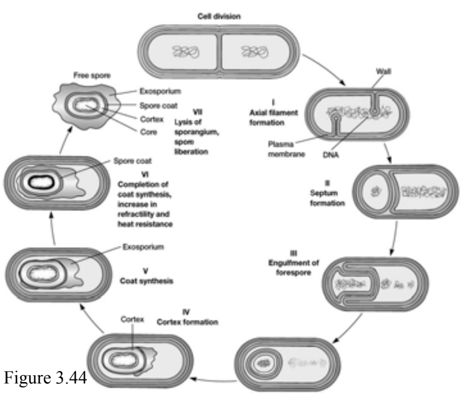

Figure 3.44

Transformation of endospore into vegetative cell

- **complex, multistage process**

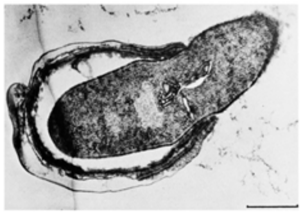

Figure 3.45

106

Stages in transformation

- **activation**
  - **prepares spores for germination**
  - **often results from treatments like heating**
- **germination**
  - **spore swelling**
  - **rupture of absorption of spore coat**
  - **loss of resistance**
  - **increased metabolic activity**
- **outgrowth**
  - **emergence of vegetative cell**

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