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Lipid

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Lipid*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C616.

A class of hydrocarbon-containing organic compounds. Lipids are insoluble in water but soluble in nonpolar solvents and play important roles in living organisms: these roles include functioning as energy storage molecules, serving as structural components of cell membranes, and constituting important signaling molecules. Lipids can be subdivided into 2 groups: fatty acids and glycerides.