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Receptor

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Receptor*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C18106.

A protein located on the cell surface, or in the cytoplasm, that binds to a specific signaling factor, such as a hormone, antigen, or neurotransmitter, causing a conformational and functional change in the receptor molecule. The ligand-bound receptor then alters its interaction with target molecules, which leads to changes in cellular physiology through modification of the activity of one or more signal transduction pathways.