

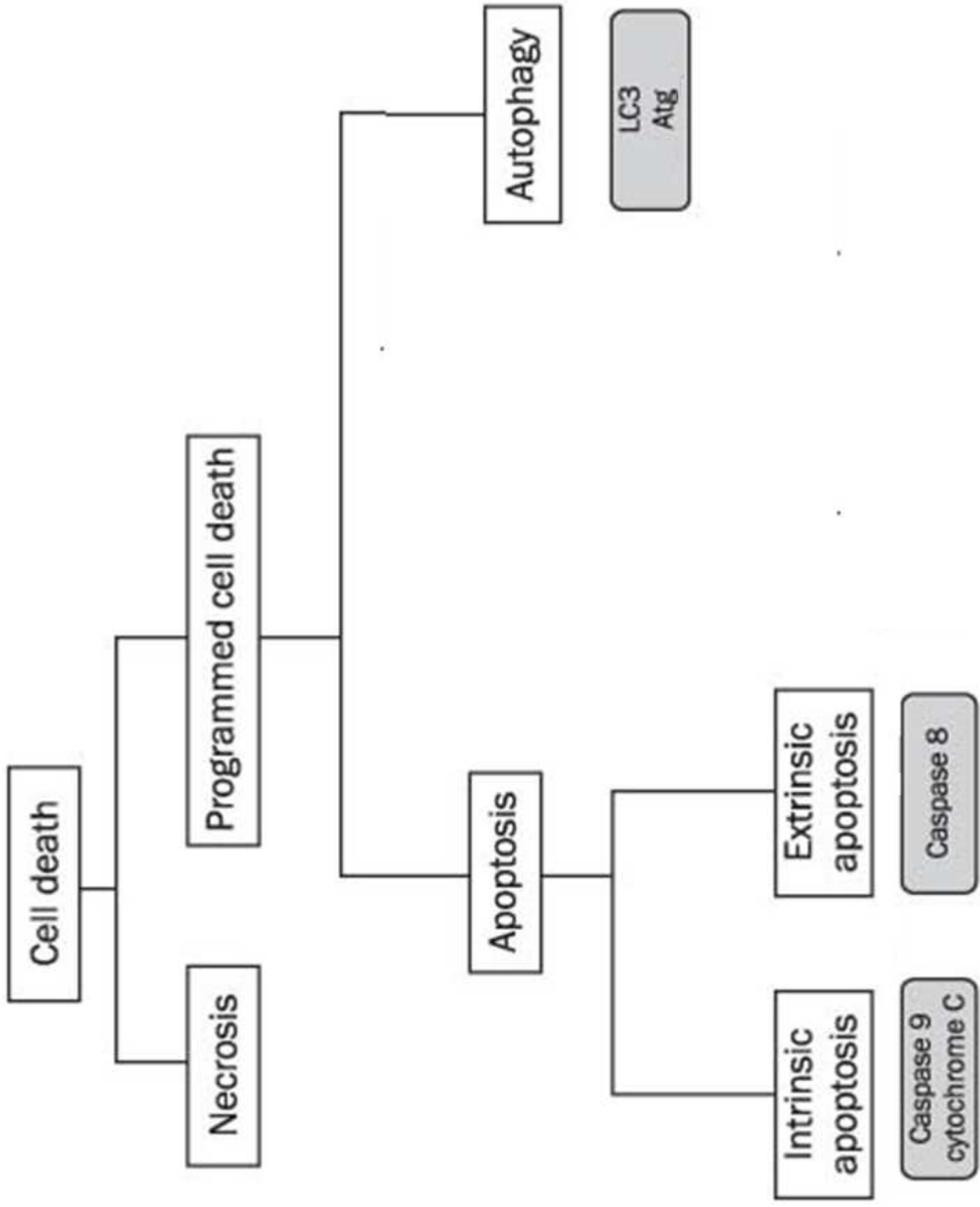
Necrosis	Apoptosis
Morphological features	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of membrane integrity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Membrane blebbing, but no loss of integrity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begins with swelling of cytoplasm and mitochondria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aggregation of chromatin at the nuclear membrane
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ends with total cell lysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Begins with shrinking of cytoplasm and condensation of nucleus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No vesicle formation, complete lysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ends with fragmentation of cell into smaller bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Disintegration (swelling) of organelles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formation of membrane bound vesicles (apoptotic bodies)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mitochondria become leaky due to pore formation involving proteins of the bcl-2 family.

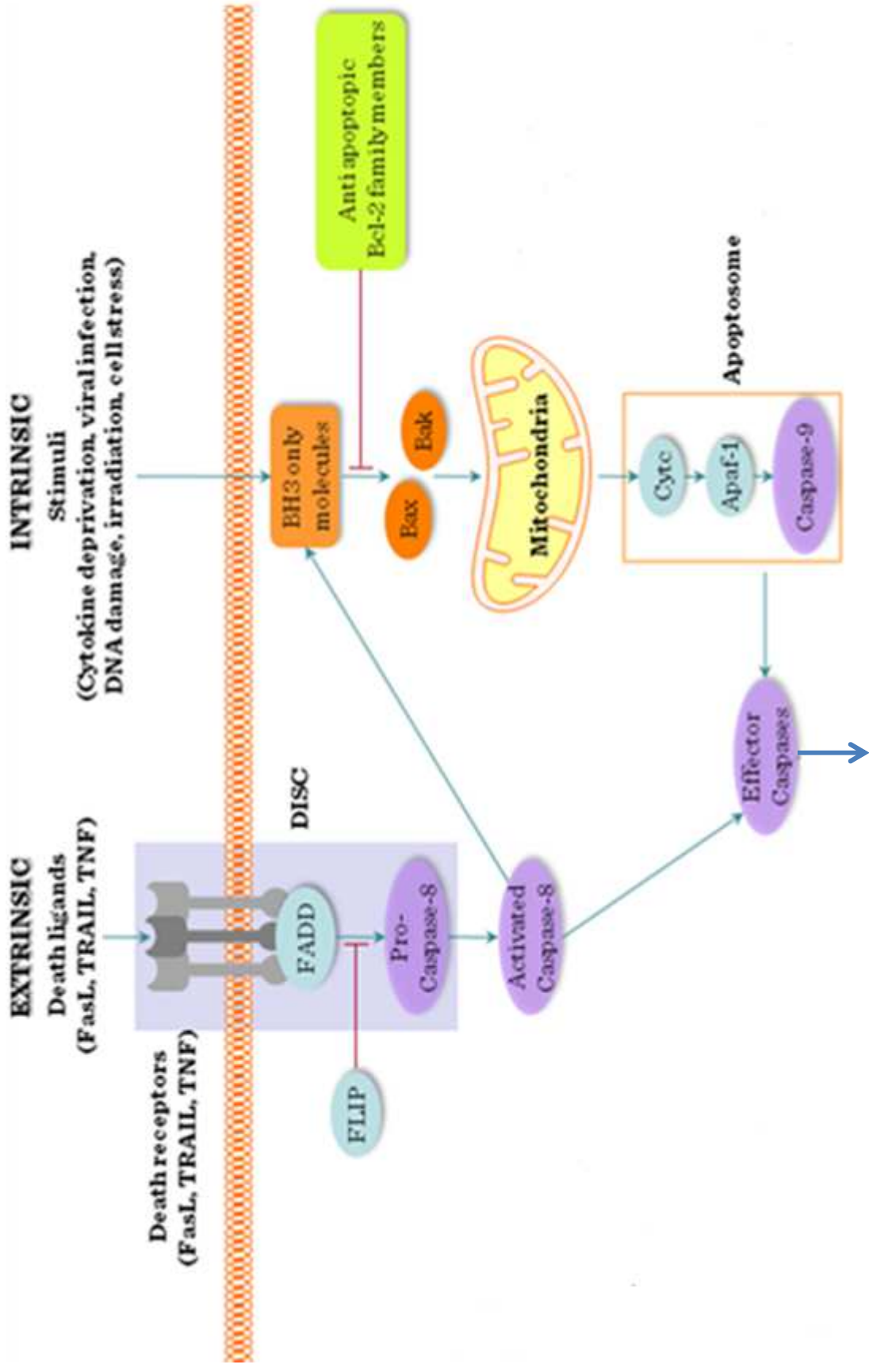
Biochemical features

- Loss of regulation of ion homeostasis
- No energy requirement (passive process, also occurs at 4°C)
- Random digestion of DNA (smear of DNA after agarose gel electrophoresis)
- Postlytic DNA fragmentation (= late event of death)
- Prelytic DNA fragmentation
- Release of various factors (cytochrome C, AIF) into cytoplasm by mitochondria
- Activation of caspase cascade
- Alterations in membrane asymmetry (i.e., translocation of phosphatidylserine from the cytoplasmic to the extracellular side of the membrane)
- Tightly regulated process involving activation and enzymatic steps
- Energy (ATP)-dependent (active process, does not occur at 4°C)
- Non-random mono- and oligonucleosomal length fragmentation of DNA (Ladder pattern after agarose gel electrophoresis)

Physiological significance

- Affects groups of contiguous cells
- Evoked by non-physiological disturbances (complement attack, lytic viruses, hypothermia, hypoxia, ischemia, metabolic poisons)
- Affects individual cells
- Induced by physiological stimuli (lack of growth factors, changes in hormonal environment)
- Phagocytosis by macrophages
- Phagocytosis by adjacent cells or macrophages
- Significant inflammatory response
- No inflammatory response





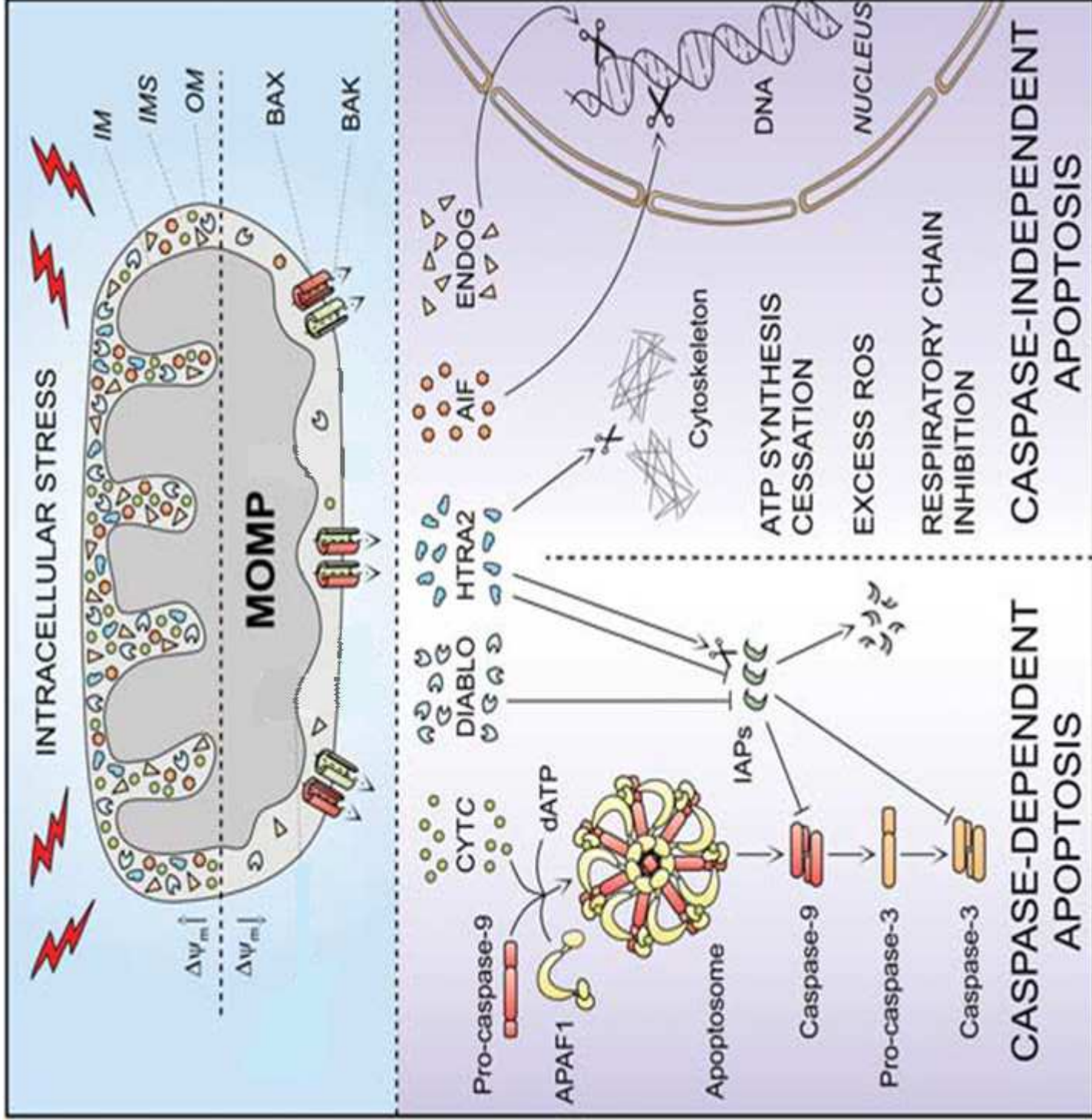
endonuclease activation → degradation of chromosomal DNA

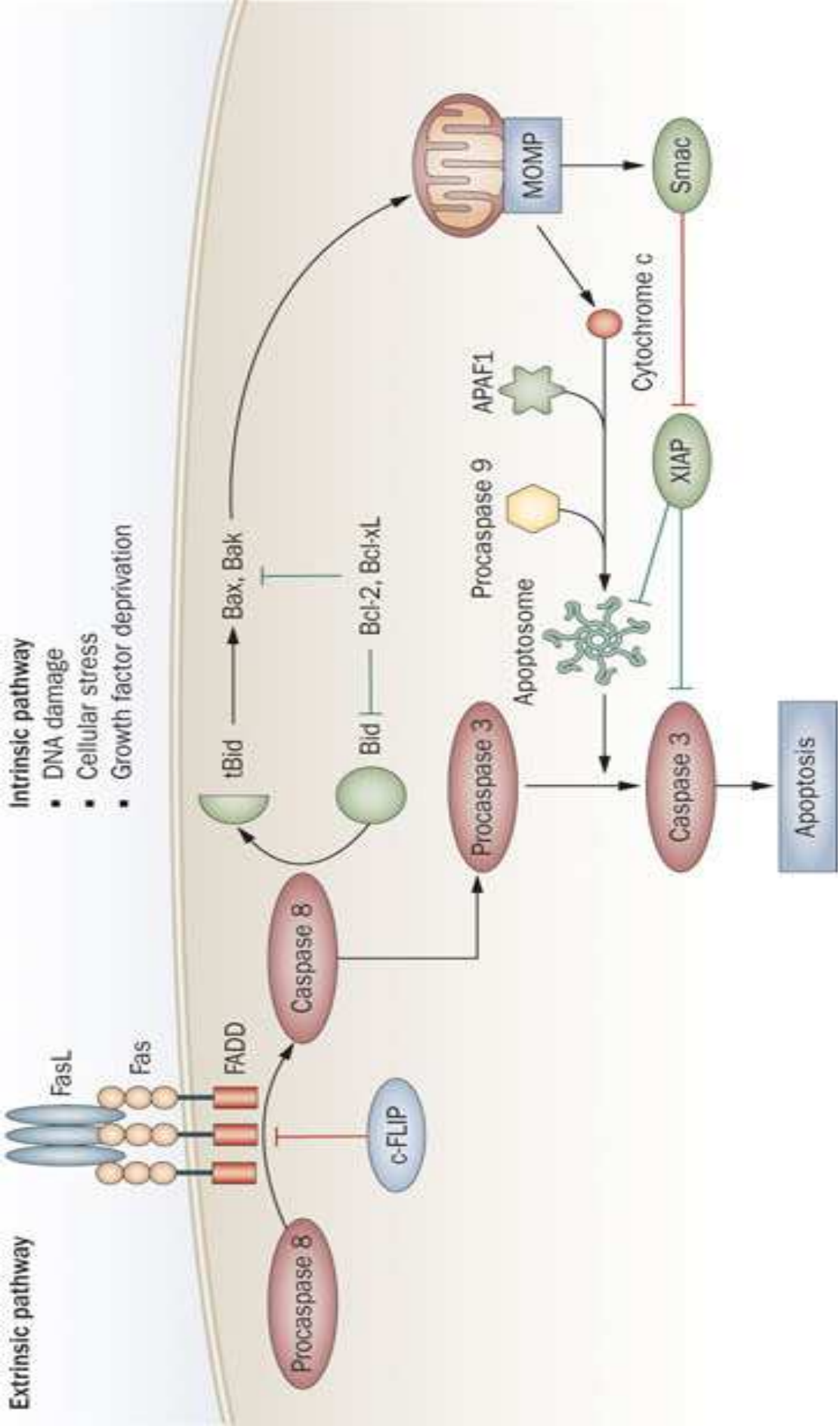
protease activation → degradation of nuclear and cytoskeletal proteins → cytoskeletal reorganization

↓
cytomorphological changes:

chromatin and cytoplasmic condensation, nuclear fragmentation, etc.

↓
formation of apoptotic bodies

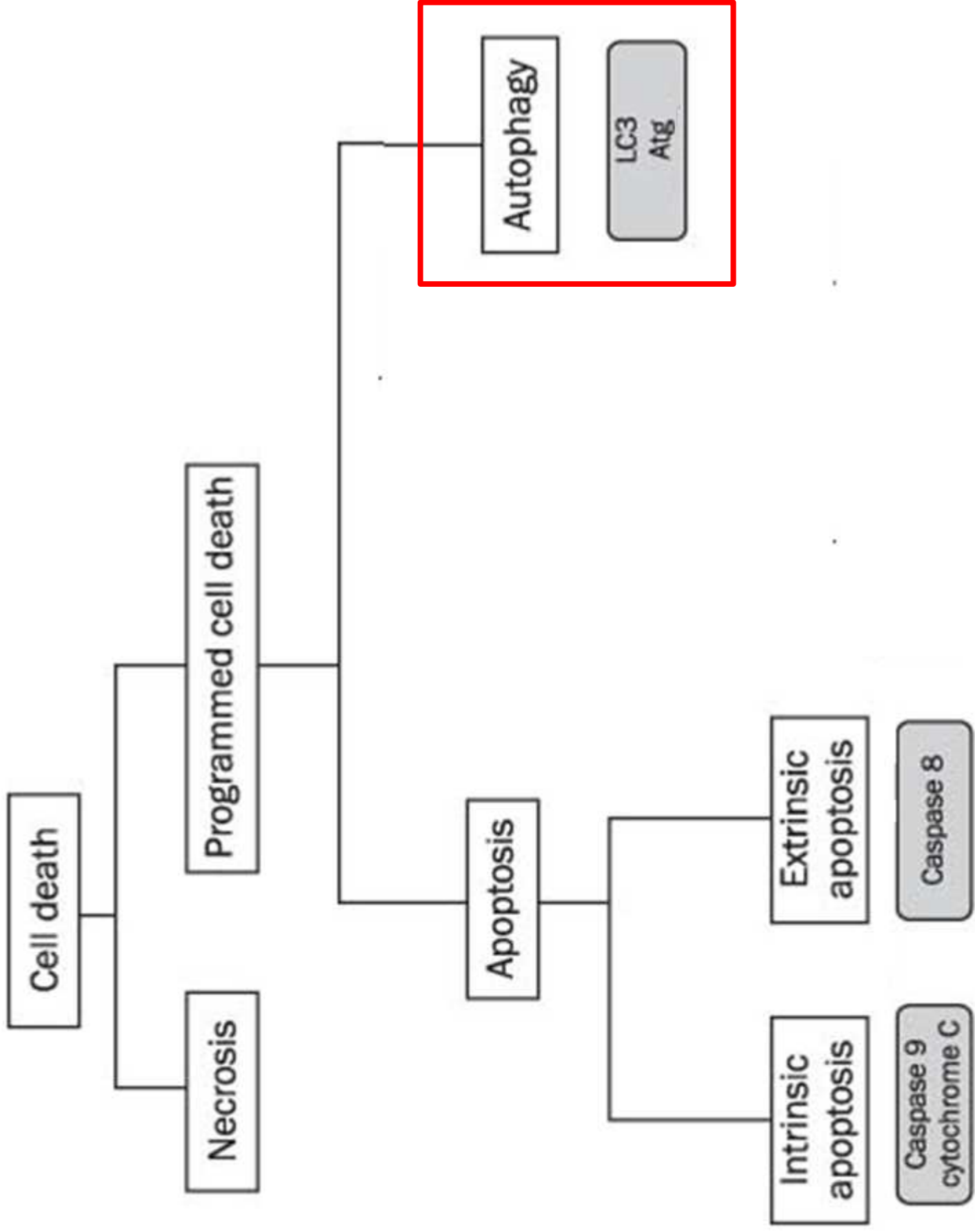




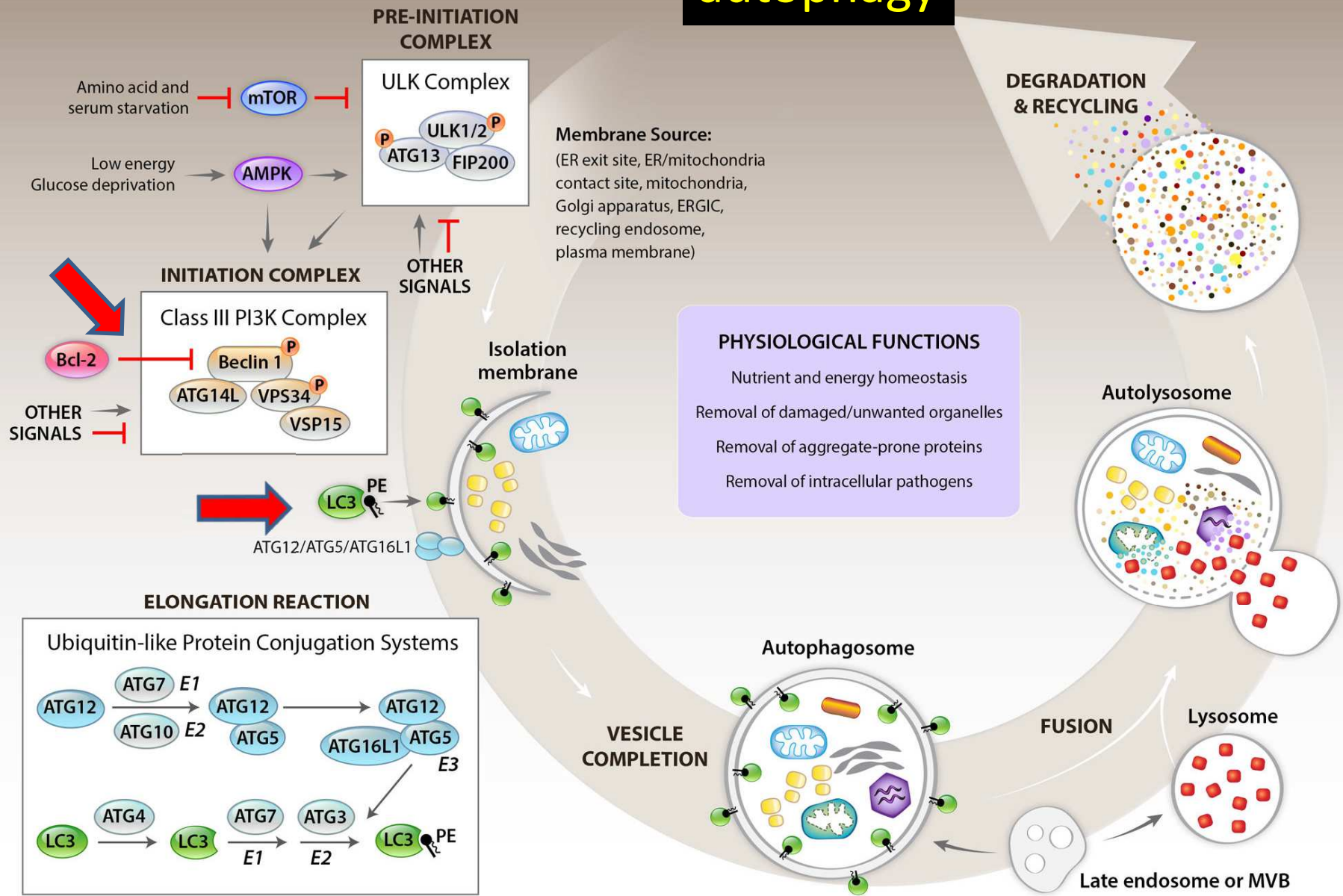
- Intrinsic pathway**
- DNA damage
 - Cellular stress
 - Growth factor deprivation

Extrinsic pathway

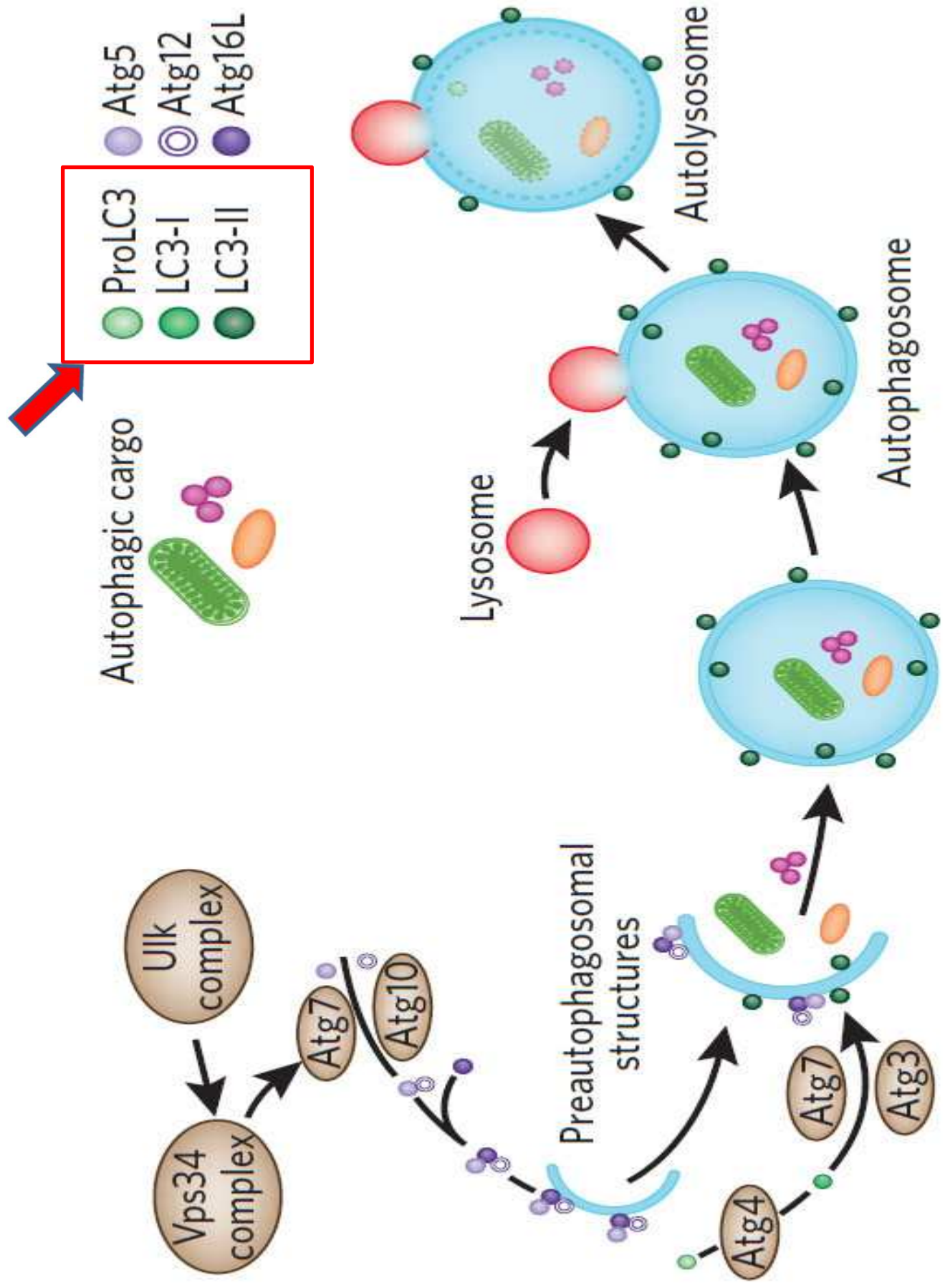
Apoptosis



autophagy



Beclin 1, complex with PI3K Vps34 and nucleation of the autophagosome membrane



	Main biochemical features	Examples of inhibitory interventions ^a
Autophagic cell death	MAP1LC3 lipidation	AMBRA1, ATG5, ATG7, ATG12 or BCN1 genetic inhibition
Caspase-dependent intrinsic apoptosis	MOMP Irreversible $\Delta\psi_m$ dissipation	BCL-2 overexpression Z-VAD-fmk administration
Caspase-independent intrinsic apoptosis	Release of IMS proteins Respiratory chain inhibition	BCL-2 overexpression
Extrinsic apoptosis by death receptors	Death receptor signaling Caspase-8 (-10) activation BID cleavage and MOMP (in type II cells) Caspase-3 (-6,-7) activation	Genetic inhibition of caspases (8 and 3) Z-VAD-fmk administration

Initiators: BH3-only proteins

(BIM, PUMA, BAD, NOXA, BIK, HRK, BMF and tBID)



Guardians: multi-domain pro-survival proteins

(BCL-2, BCL-X_L, BCL-W, MCL1, A1 and BCL-B)



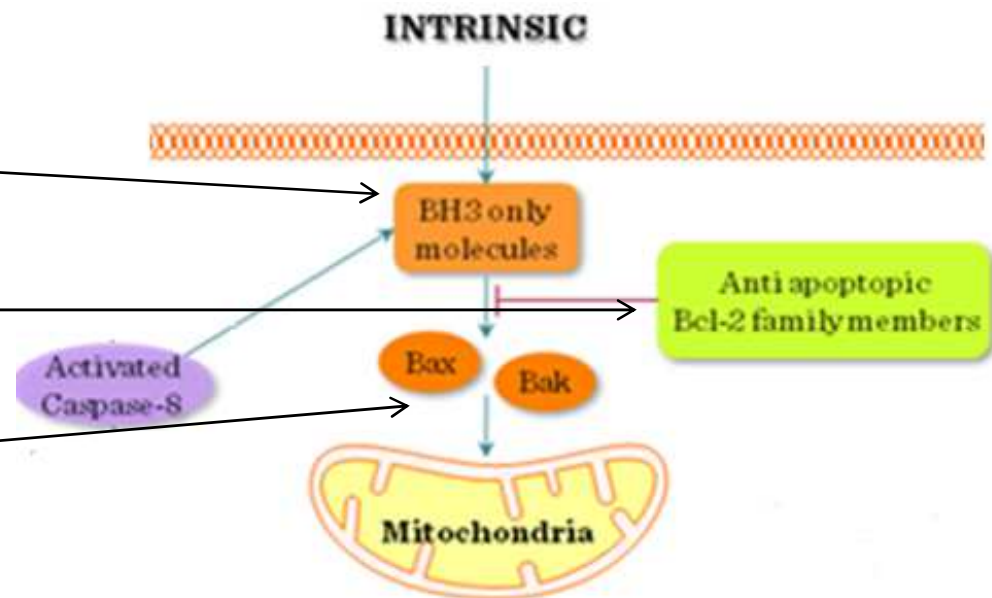
Effectors: multi-domain pro-apoptotic proteins

(BAX, BAK and BOK)



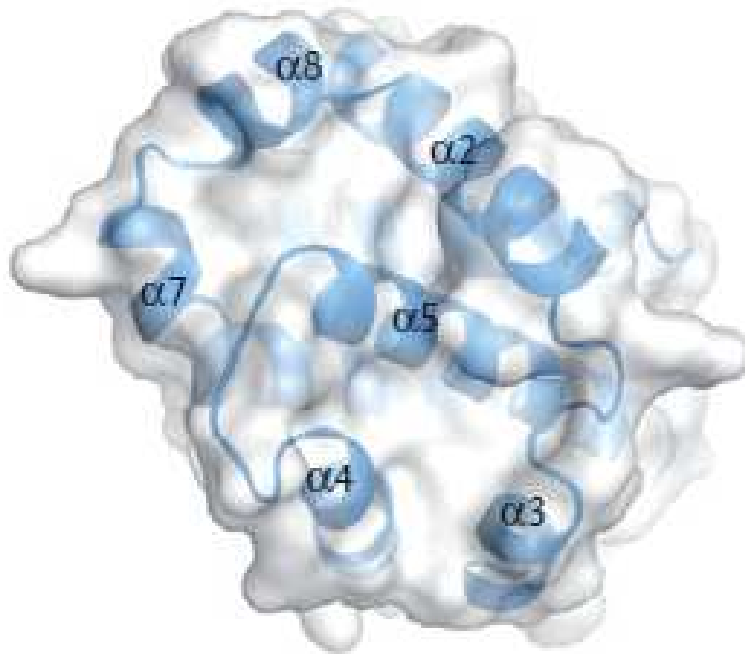
The Bcl-2 family

- Attivatori
- Anti-apoptotici
- Pro-apoptotici

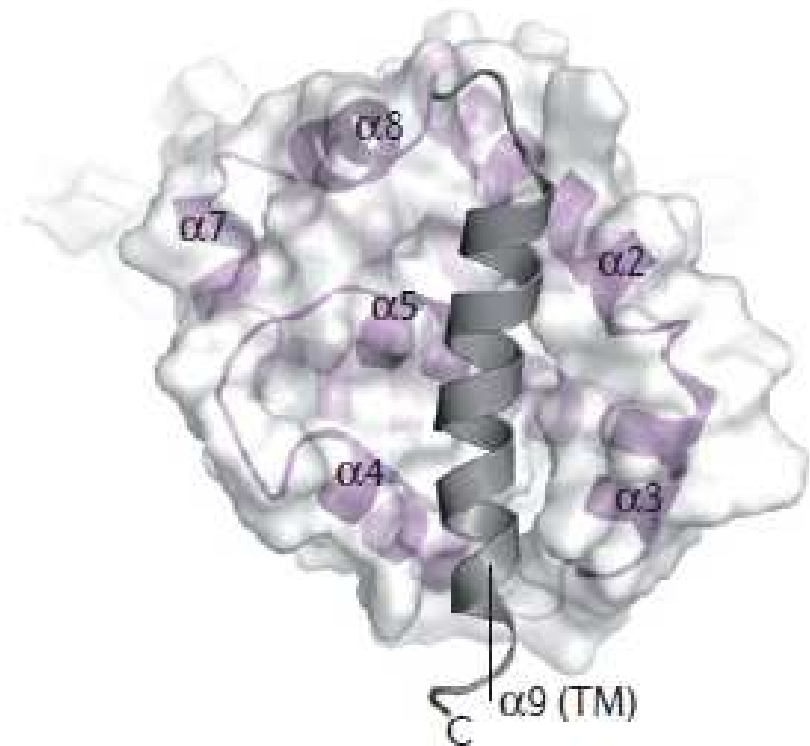


Globular structure with a central BH3-binding hydrophobic groove

b BCL-X_L

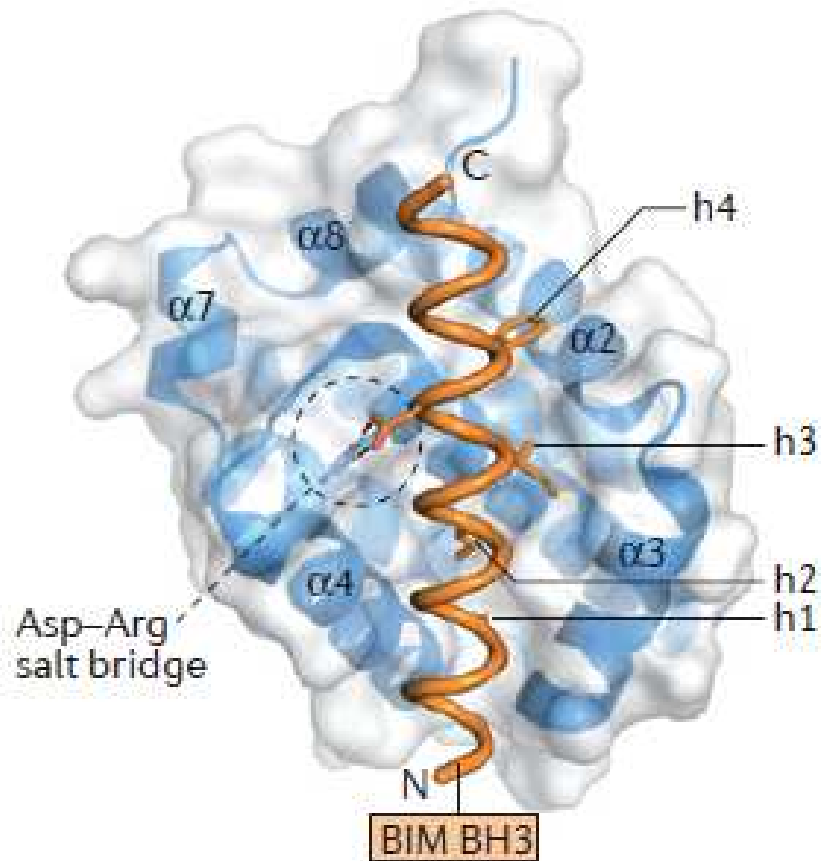


c BAX

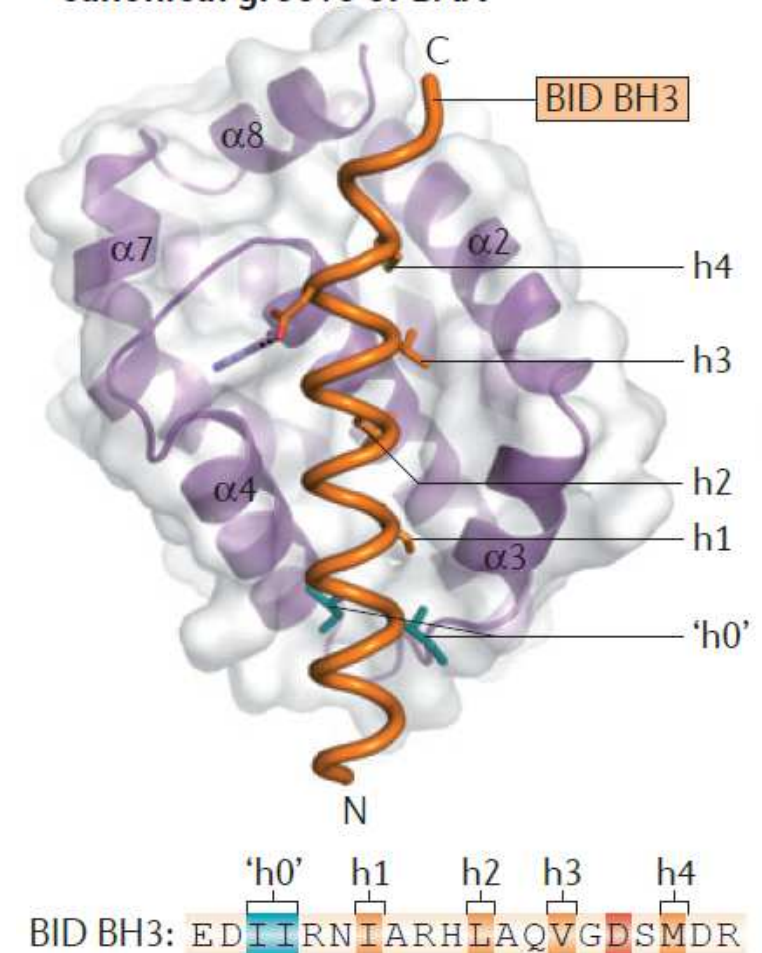


- Amphipathic helix
- Activators conformational disorder (and the Bid exception)
- Hydrophobic residues (h0 → h4) and salt bridge

d BIM BH3 domain binding to MCL1



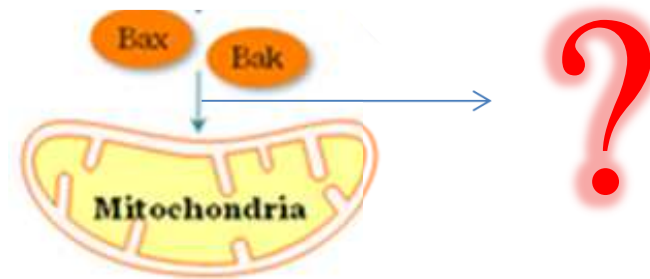
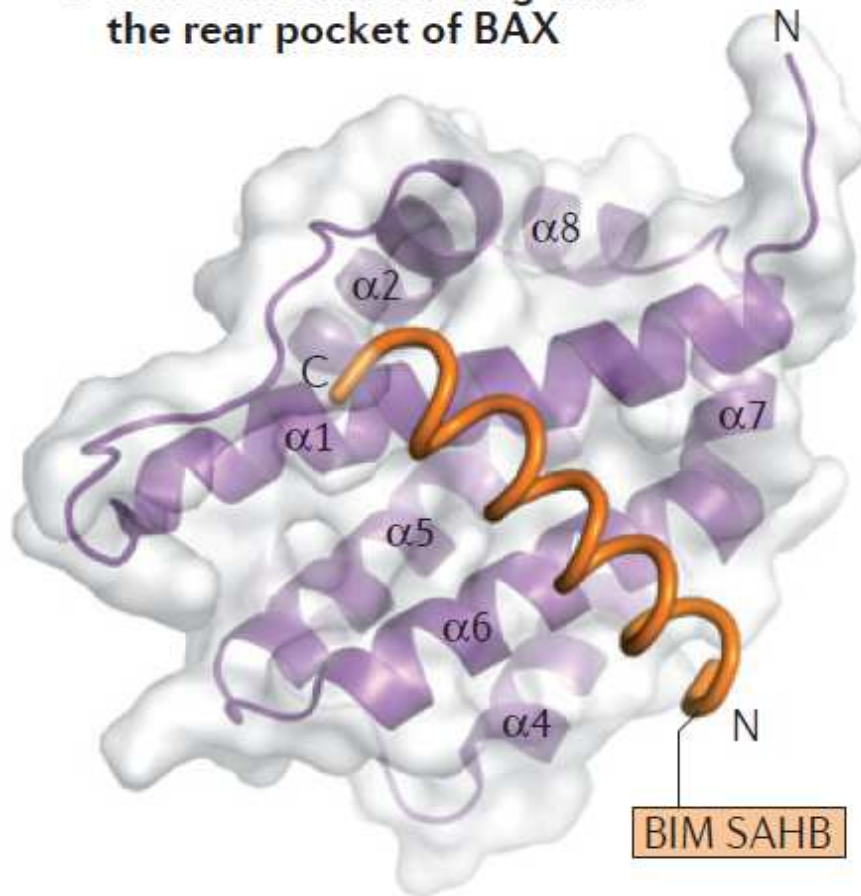
a BID BH3 domain binding to the canonical groove of BAX



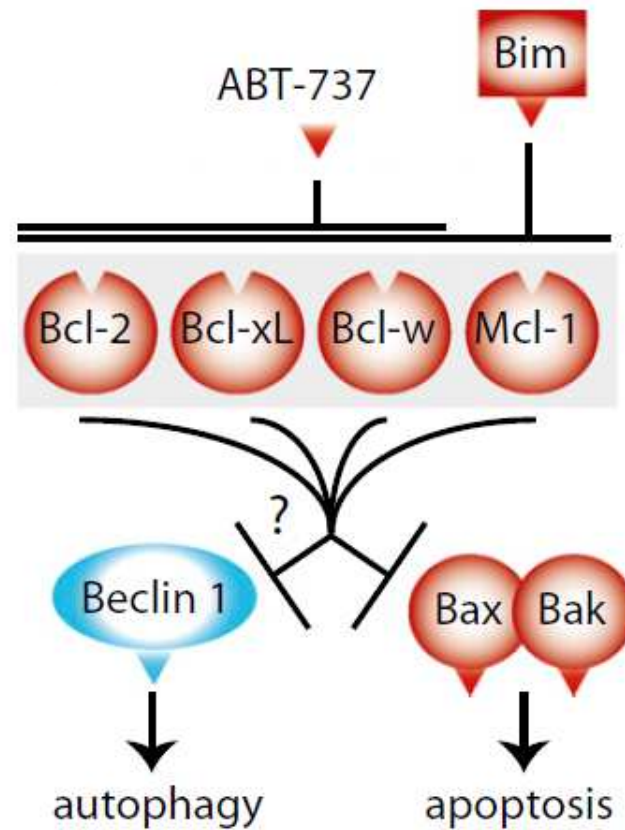
Second activation site for Bax

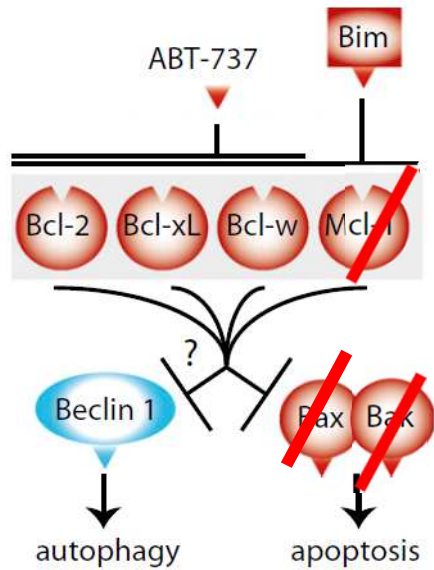
Alpha 9 extrusion trigger

b BIM SAHB interacting with the rear pocket of BAX



It is widely accepted that Bcl-2 family members not only inhibit apoptosis but also negatively regulate autophagy by binding to Beclin 1

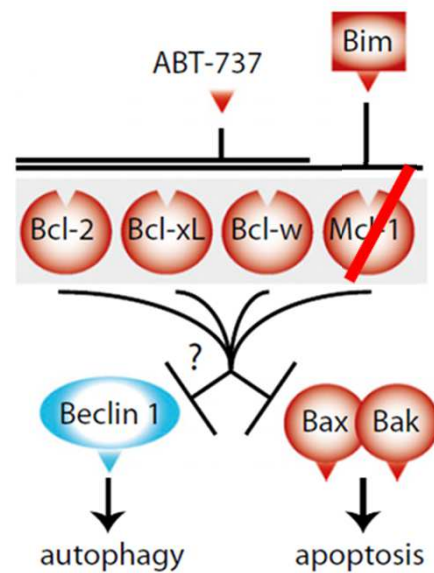




$Bax^{-/-}Bak^{-/-}Mcl-1^{-/-}$

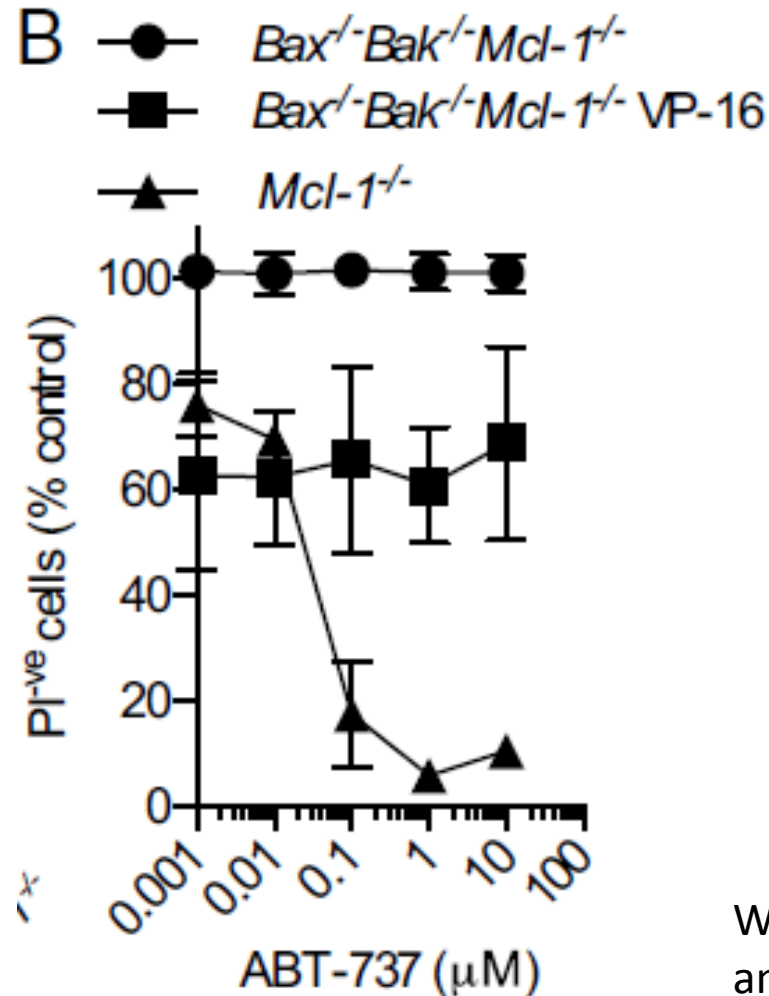
$Bax^{-/-}Bak^{-/-}Mcl-1^{-/-}$ + VP-16

VP-16 chemotherapeutic agent etoposide, inducer of autophagy



$Mcl-1^{-/-}$

Q: Does inhibiting anti-apoptotic Bcl-2 members interfere with non-apoptotic death?



We show that in the absence of Bax and Bak, antagonizing or altering the levels of Bcl-2 has no detectable impact on autophagy

BH3 mimetic **ABT-737**

Beclin 1, formation of a complex with the mammalian PI3K Vps34 and nucleation of the autophagosome membrane

When nutrients are abundant, Bcl-2 and the related proteins Bcl-xL and Mcl-1 bind to the Beclin 1's BH3 domain and thereby inhibit induction of autophagy

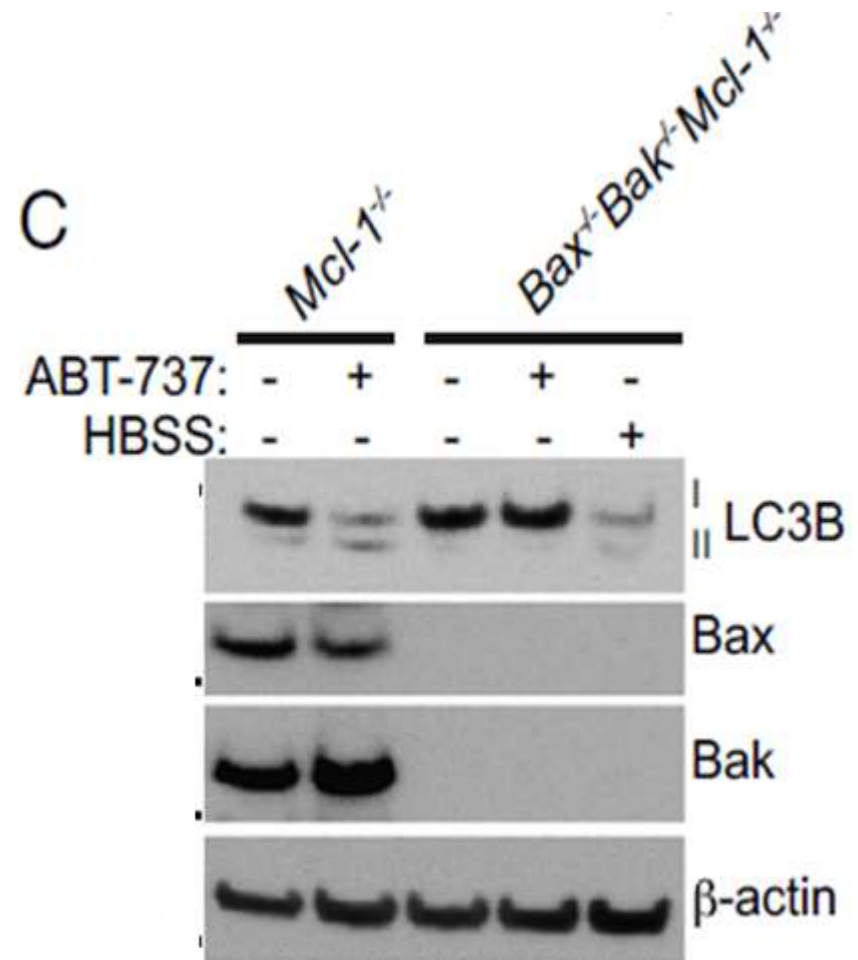
When nutrients are scarce, Bcl-2 is phosphorylated by JNK1, which prevents its binding to Beclin 1 and allows it to initiate formation of autophagosomes

BH3 mimetic **ABT-737**

VP-16 chemotherapeutic agent etoposide, inducer of autophagy, including the () or nutrient starvation by culturing in HBSS, potent inducer of apoptosis

When nutrients are abundant, Bcl-2 and the related proteins Bcl-xL and Mcl-1 bind to the Beclin 1's BH3 domain and thereby inhibit induction of autophagy

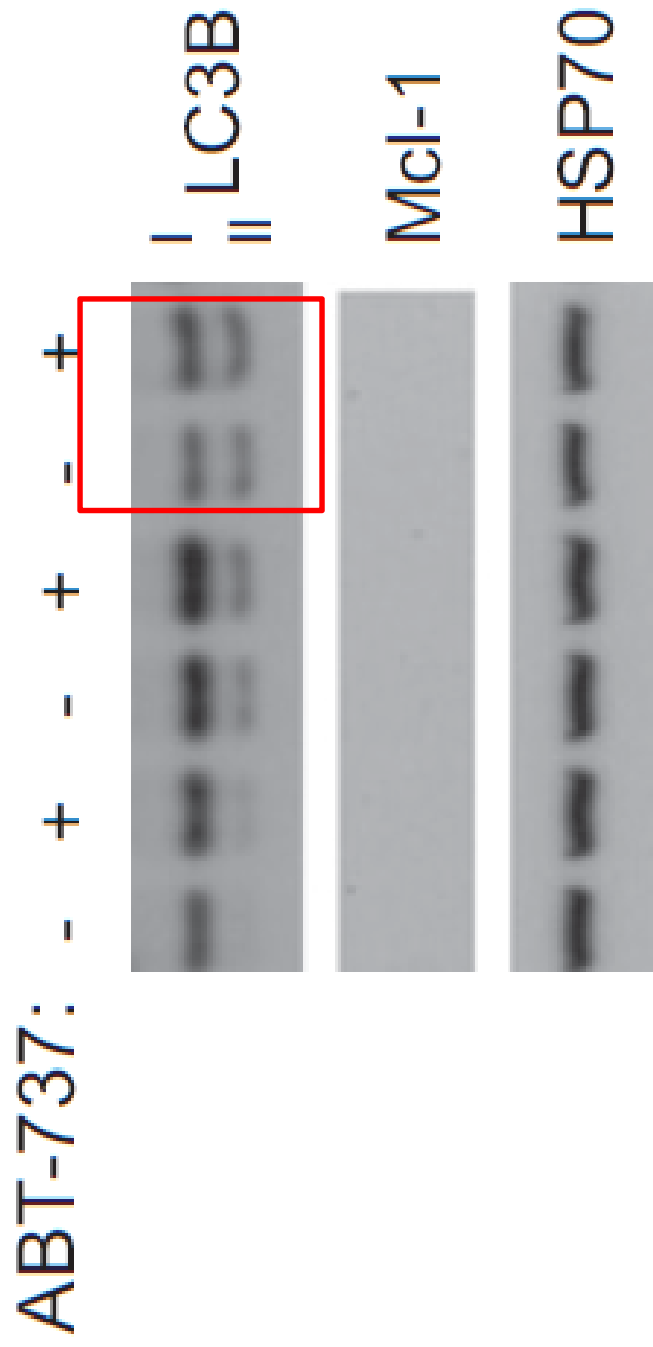
When nutrients are scarce (HBSS), Bcl-2 is phosphorylated which prevents its binding to Beclin 1 and allows it to initiate formation of autophagosomes

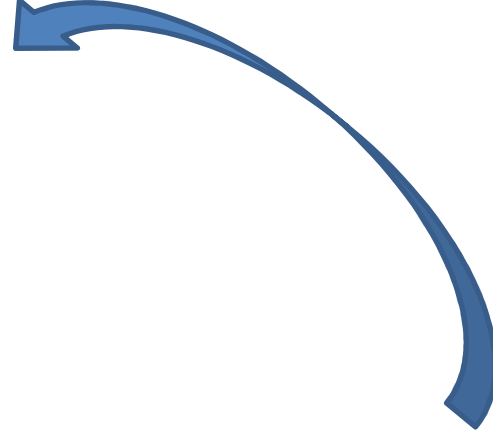
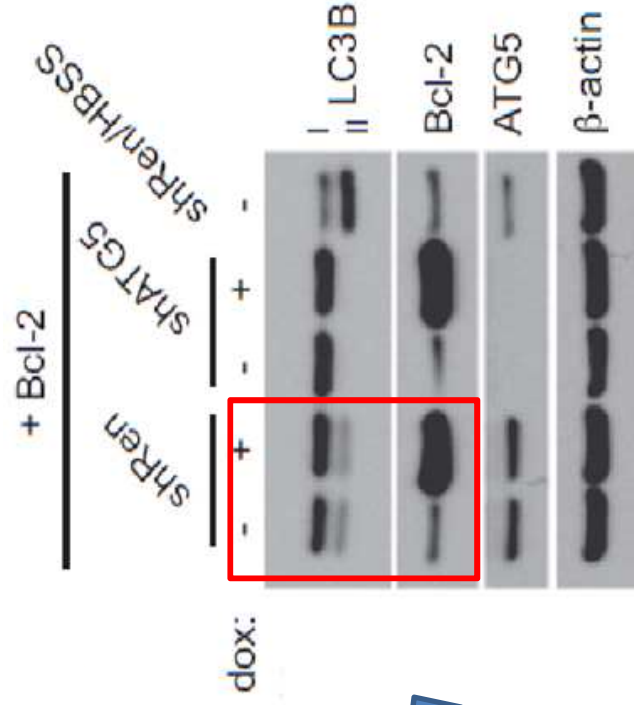
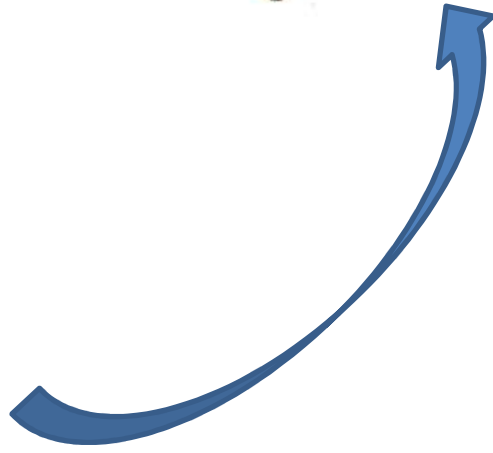
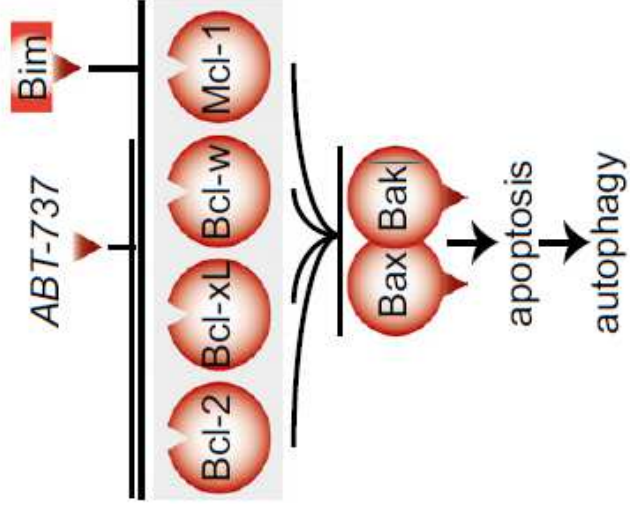
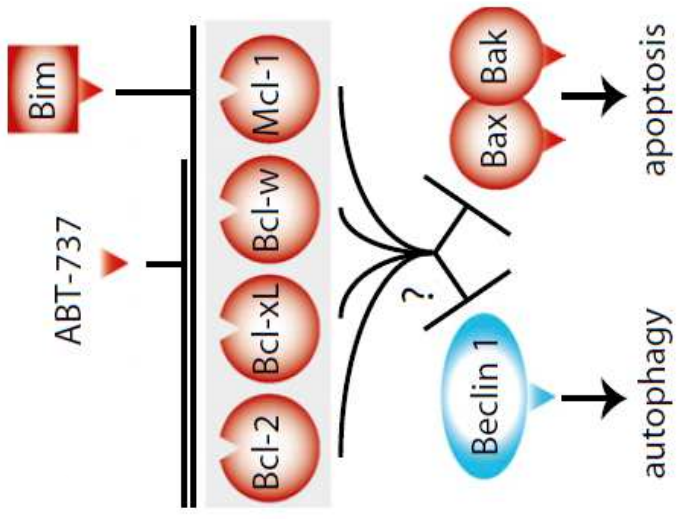


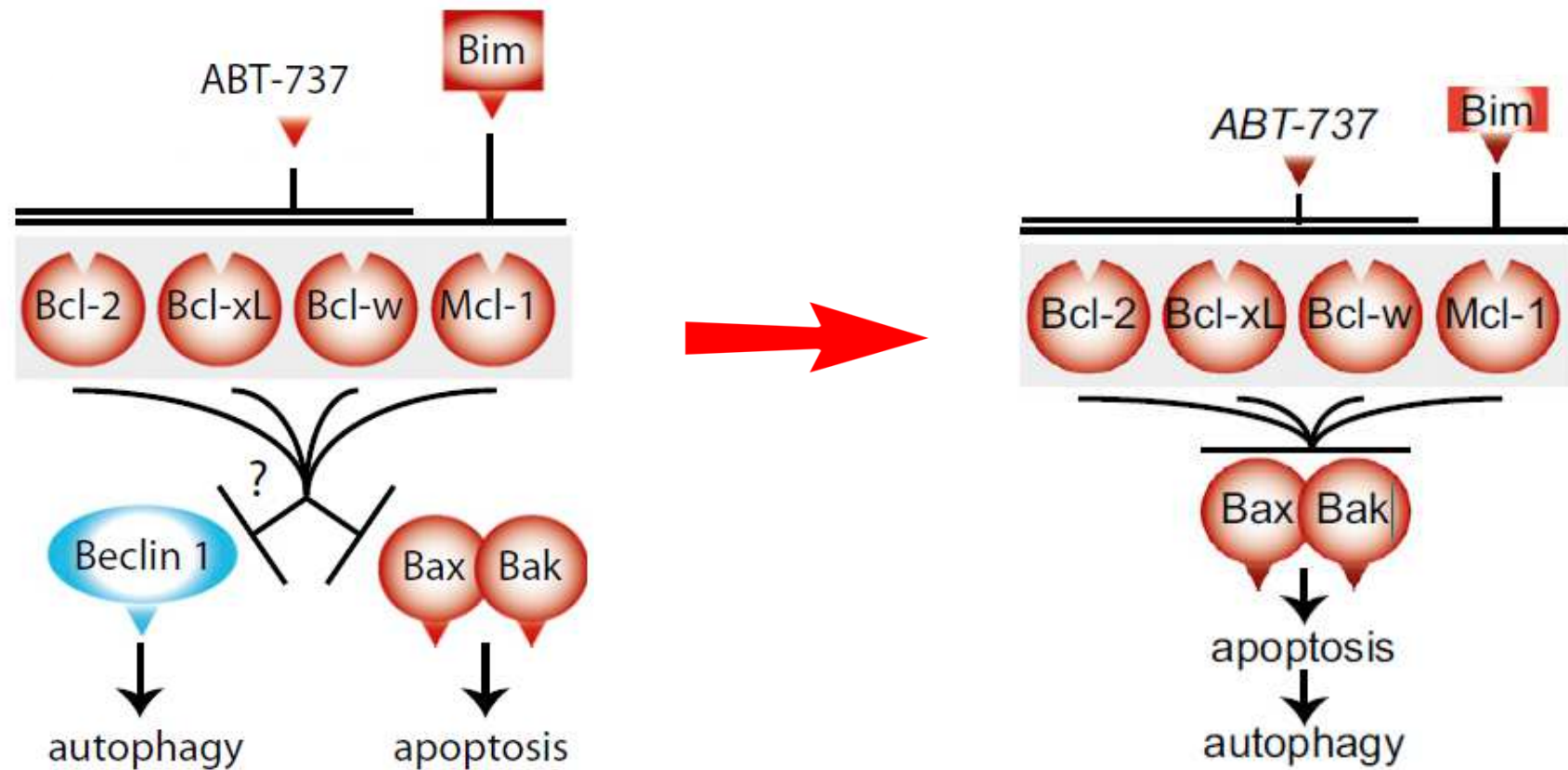
Q: Does it affect autophagy?

Bax^{-/-}Bak^{-/-}Mcl-1^{-/-}

untreated
VP-16
HBSS







the effects of Bcl-2 on autophagy are instead an indirect consequence of its inhibition of apoptosis mediators Bax and Bak.

- ❑ None of the prosurvival Bcl-2 family members bind to Beclin-1 under physiological circumstances or they do not significantly inhibit its function
- ❑ In conclusion, the data demonstrate that the prosurvival Bcl-2 family of proteins does not directly regulate autophagy, but any impact they have on autophagy is indirect, via Bax and Bak activation

It is widely accepted that Bcl-2 not only inhibits apoptosis but also negatively regulates autophagy by binding to Beclin 1.

We provide genetic and biochemical evidence that the effects of Bcl-2 on autophagy are instead an indirect consequence of its inhibition of apoptosis mediators Bax and Bak.

We show that in the absence of Bax and Bak, antagonizing or altering the levels of Bcl-2 has no detectable impact on autophagy.

Because several inhibitors of both autophagy and Bcl-2 are in clinical trials for the treatment of cancer, it is important to understand the cross-talk between these pathways.

END