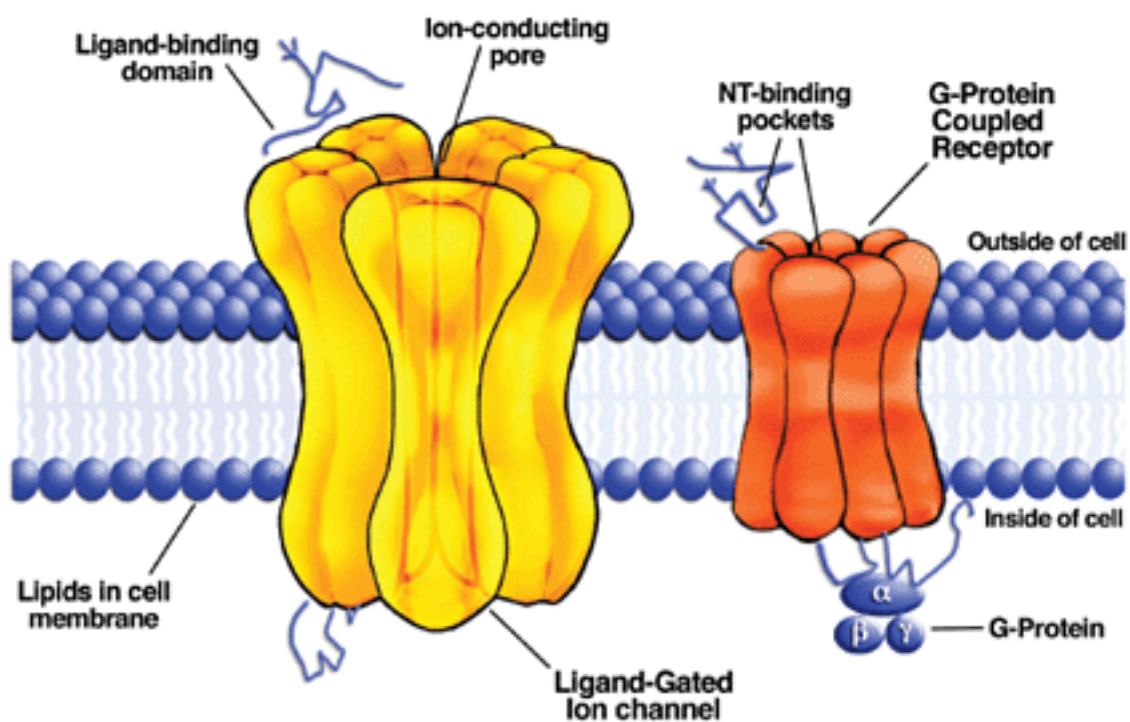


Schematic drawing of a ligand-gated ion channel (left) showing the confluence of individual subunit proteins that define a pore where the ions flow across the cell membrane



A neurotransmitter binds to part of the protein located outside of the cell. Schematic drawing of a G-protein– coupled receptor (right). Neurotransmitter binds either to sites outside the cell or in a “pocket” formed by protein domains that span the membrane. The G-protein that consists of three separate protein subunits (α , β , and γ , light blue) is associated with part of the protein inside the cell.

Prepared: December 2008