

CHAPTER 7. THE FUNCTIONS OF CELL MEMBRANES

Main functions of cell membranes:

Forming a continuous, highly selectively permeable barrier – both around cells and intracellular compartments.

The control of an enclosed chemical environment – important to maintain ion gradients.

Communication – both with the extracellular and extra-organelle space.

Recognition – including recognition of signalling molecules, adhesion proteins and other host cells.

Signal generation – in response to a stimulus creating a change in membrane potential.