











BICAPAS

Los lípidos de membrana son moléculas anfipáticas y la mayor parte de ellos forman bicapas de manera espontánea. Las bicapas proveen la estructura básica de las membranas.



Lipid molecules constitute about 50% of the mass of most animal cell membranes, nearly all of the remainder being protein. There are approximately 5×10^6 lipid molecules in a 1 μ m² area of lipid bilayer, or about 10⁹ lipid molecules in the plasma membrane of a small animal cell.

The most abundant membrane lipids are the phospholipids















Liposomes (A) An electron micrograph of unfixed, unstained phospholipid vesicles liposomes in water rapidly frozen to liquid nitrogen temperature. The bilayer structure of the liposomes is readily apparent. (B) A drawing of a small spherical liposome seen in cross section. Liposomes are commonly used as model membranes in experimental studies. (A, courtesy of Jean Lepault.)

Las bicapas se consideran fluidos bidimensionales y su fluidez depende de su composición













La distribución asimétrica de los lípidos en las bicapas que estructuran las membranas biológicas tiene consecuencias funcionales





















Approximate Lipid Compositions of Different Cell Membranes						
LIPID	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LIPID BY WEIGHT					
	LIVER CELL*	RBC*	MYELIN	MIT**	ER	E. coli
Cholesterol	17	23	22	3	6	0
Phosphatidylethanolamine	7	18	15	25	17	70
Phosphatidylserine	4	7	9	2	5	trace
Phosphatidylcholine	24	17	10	39	40	0
Sphingomyelin	19	18	8	0	5	0
Glycolipids	7	3	28	trace	trace	0
Others	22	13	8	21	27	30