

Argument

From

Complexity



Belief in God:

Is It Reasonable In This Scientific Age?

- **Ps. 139: 13-16** – “...for I am fearfully and wonderfully made...”
- **Rom. 1:20** – Argument from design



Belief in God:

Is It Reasonable In This Scientific Age?

- **1 Peter 3:15** - “... always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ...”

The Origin of Complexity

Only Two Basic Views

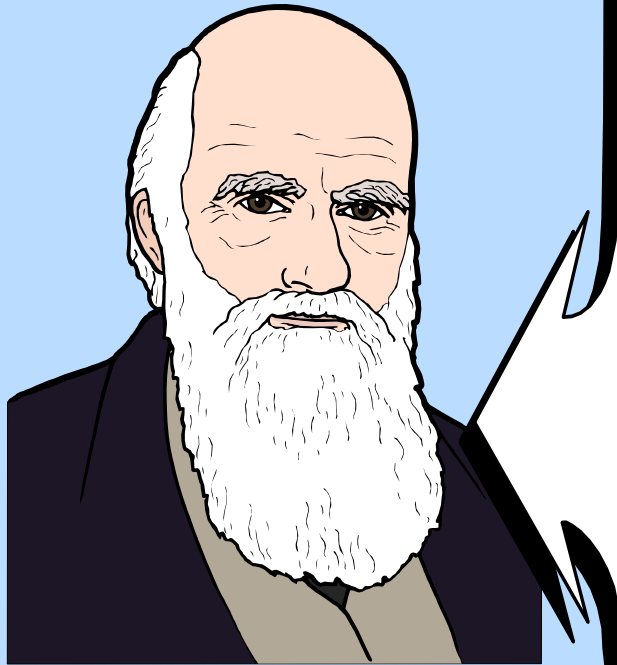
Core Ideas

Proponents of Evolution
(Reductionism)

Proponents of Creation
(Intelligent Design)

- **Complex organs arose from simpler things in small steps by natural causes.**
- **Complex organs could not have arisen without intelligent design.**

Darwin on Complex Organs



“If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down.”

Origin of Species, p.
219

A Ditch



A Wider Ditch



An Even Wider Ditch

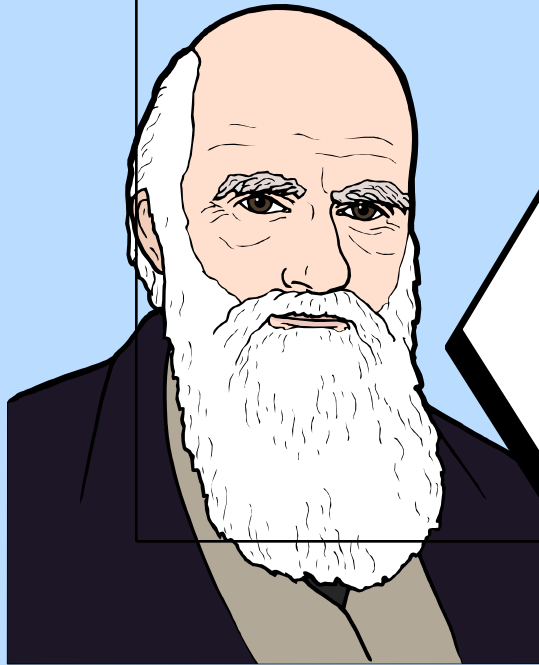


The Grand Canyon



Darwin on the Eye

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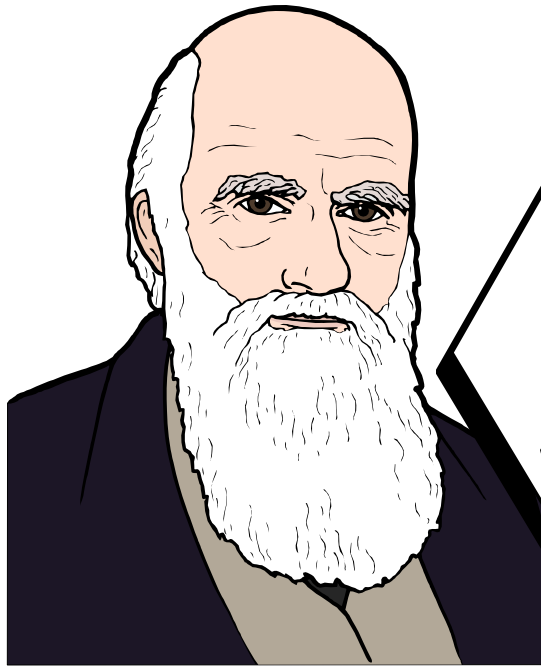
“To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest possible degree.”

Origin of Species, p. 217

Human Eye

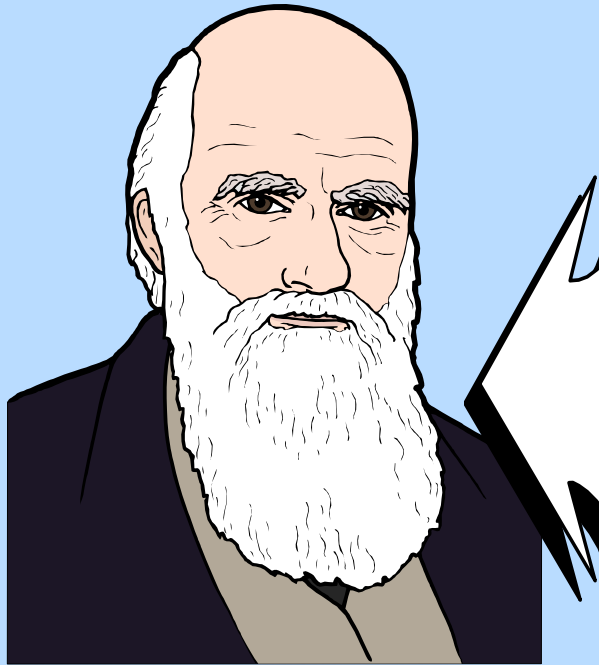


Darwin on the Eye



“Yet reason tells me, that if numerous gradations from a perfect and complex eye to one very imperfect and simple, each grade being useful to its possessor, can be shown to exist; if further, the eye does vary ever so slightly, and the variations be inherited, which is certainly the case;

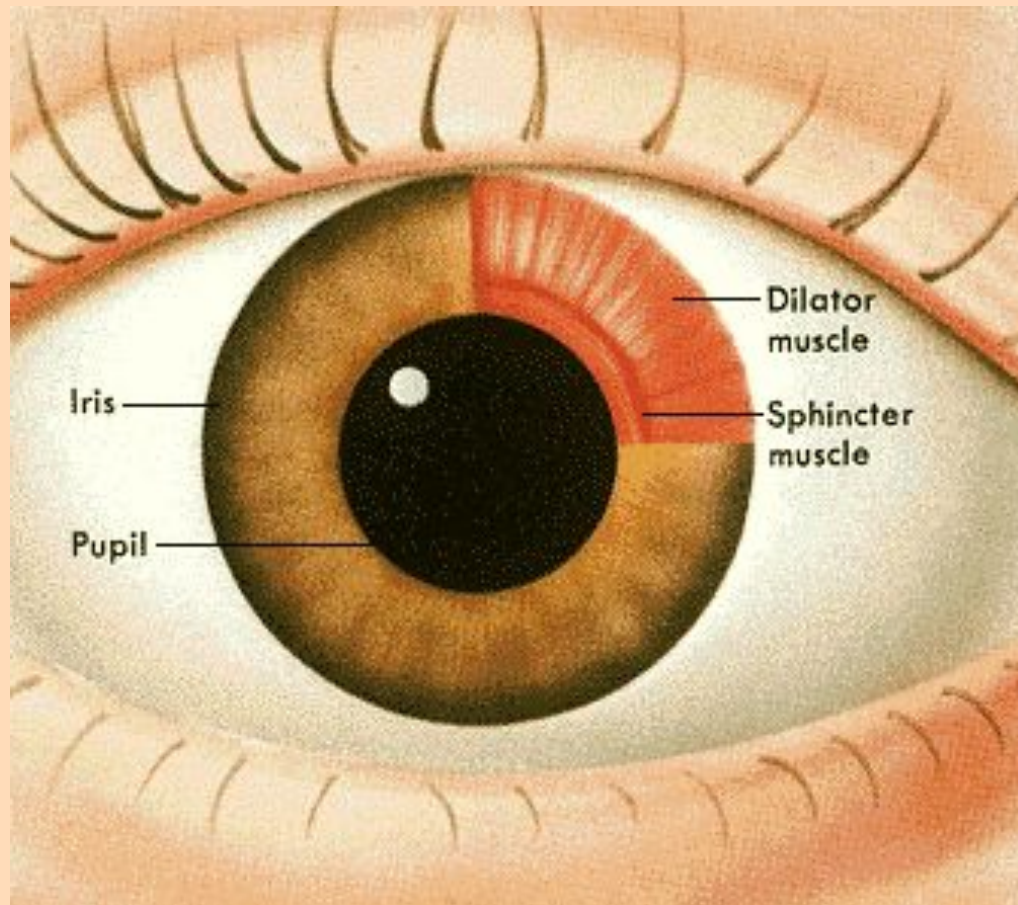
Darwin on the Eye



“and if any variation or modification in the organ be ever useful to an animal under changing conditions of life, then the difficulty of believing that a perfect and complex eye could be formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination, can hardly be considered real.”

Origin of Species, p. 217

Human Eye



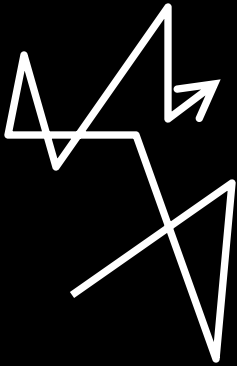
Light Sensing Bacteria

To have an advantage, an organism needs to:

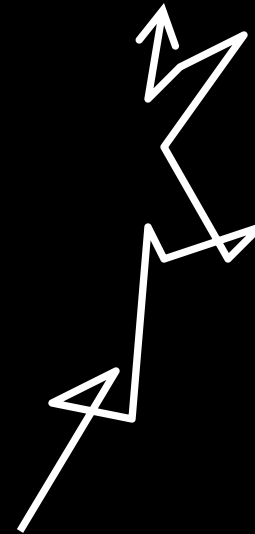
1. Sense light and/or dark
2. Communicate that information
3. React to the communication

Bacteria Tumbling

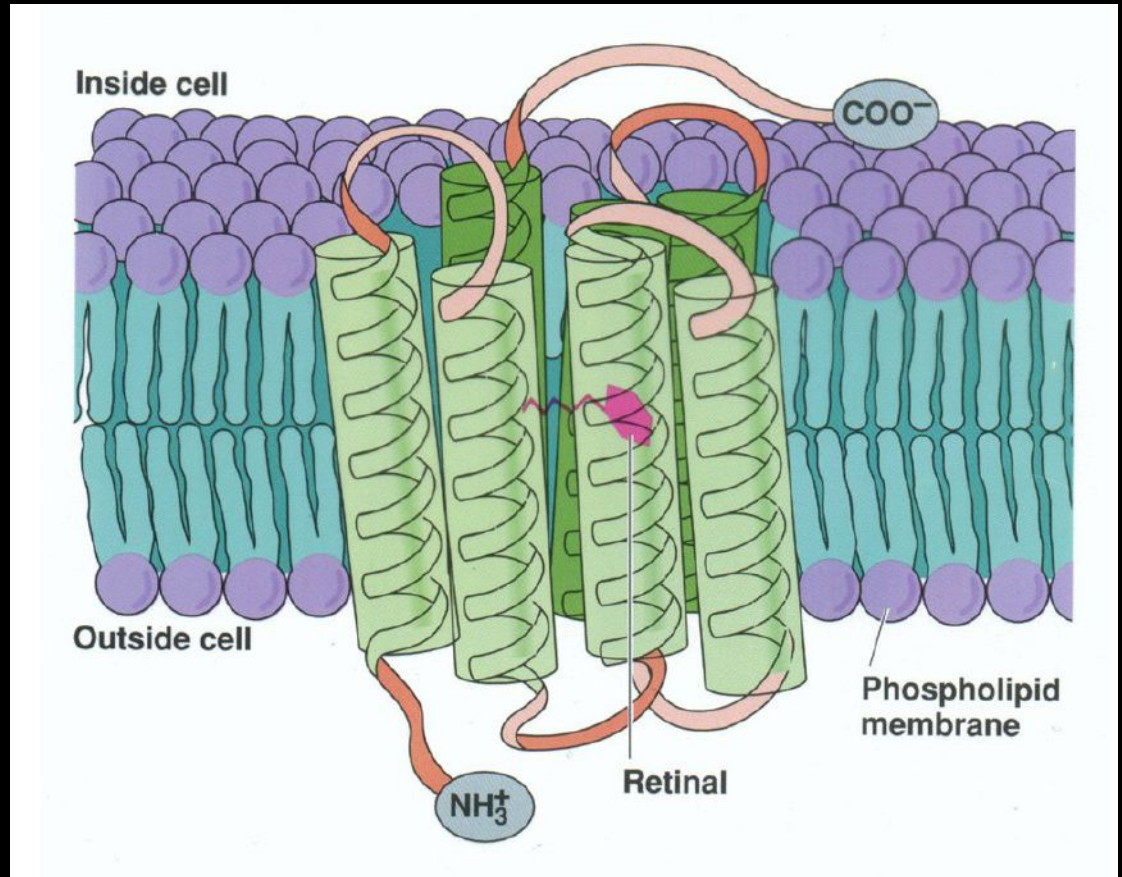
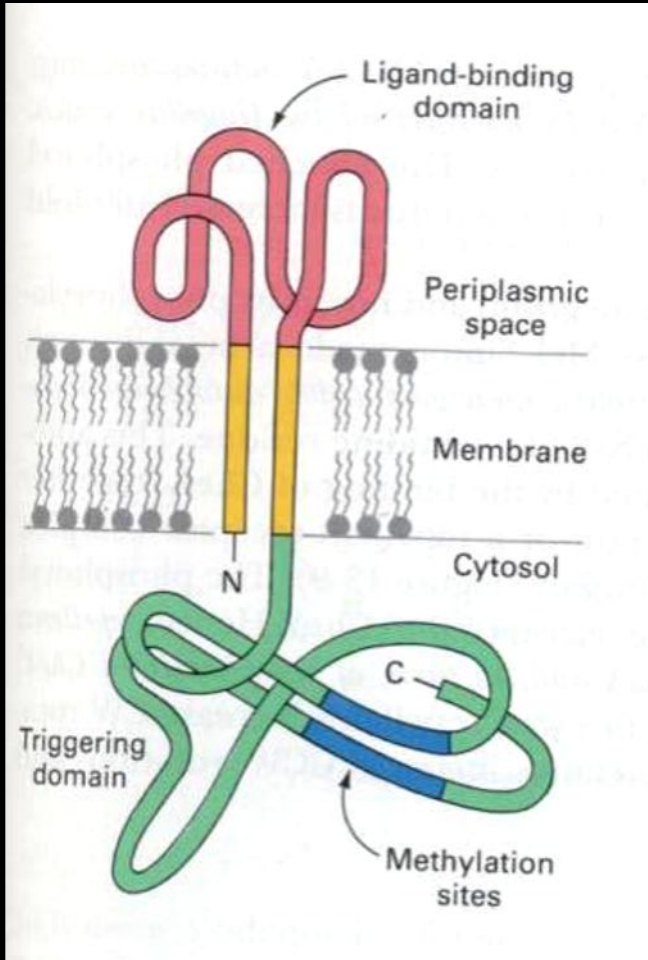
Absence of stimulus
from environment



Presence of stimulus
from environment

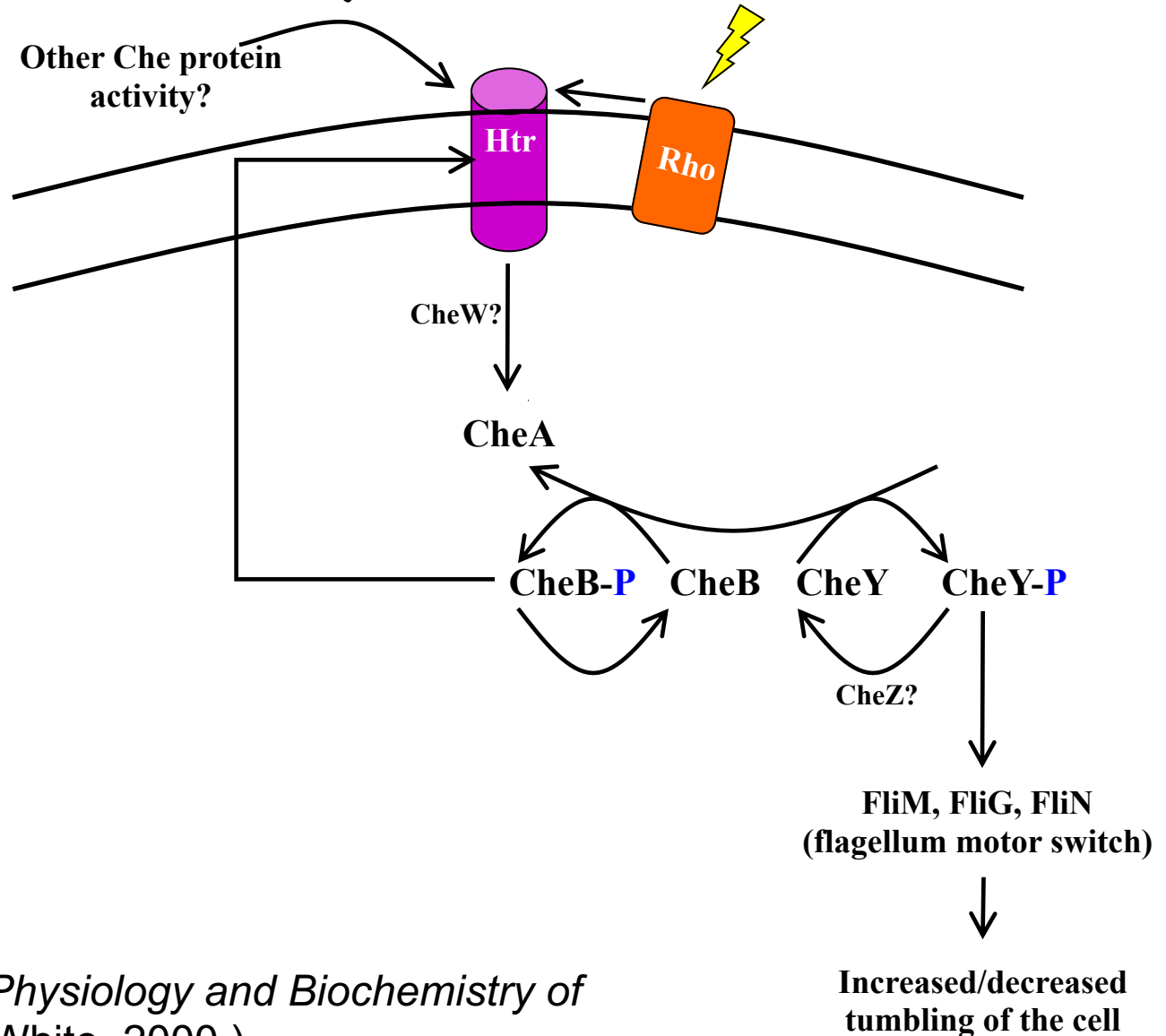


Htr type protein

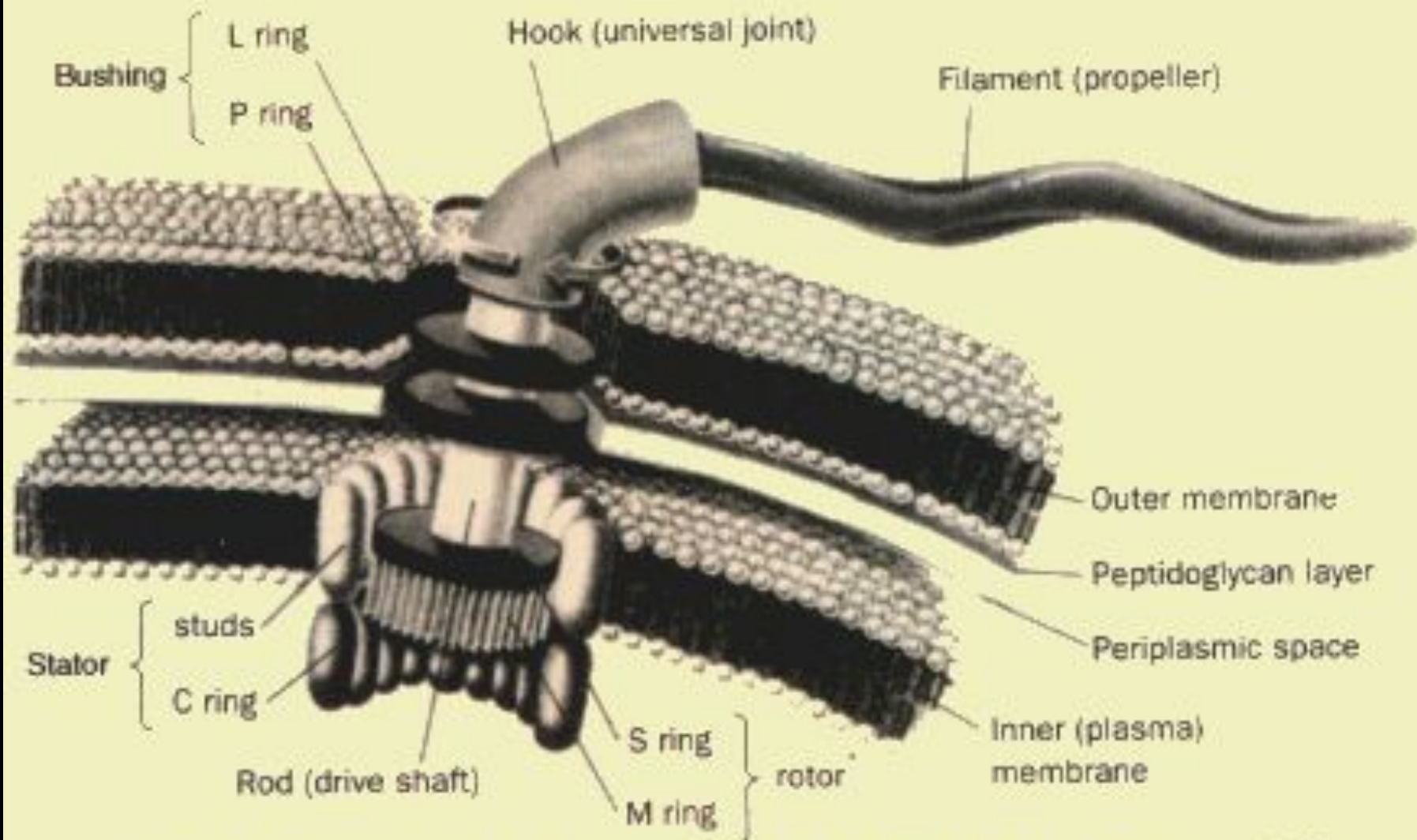


Bacteriorhodopsin

Photosensitivity in Halobacteria




(Adapted from *The Physiology and Biochemistry of Prokaryotes*, David White, 2000.)



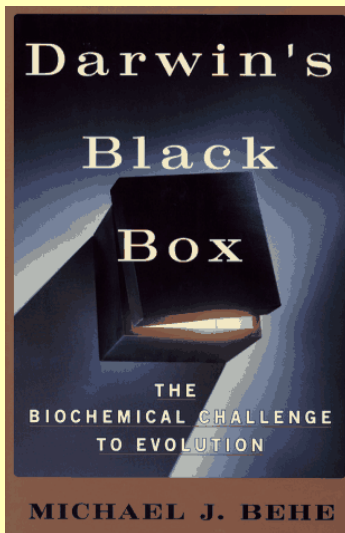
THE BIOCHEMICAL COMPLEXITY OF A BACTERIAL FLAGELLUM

Darwin's
Black
Box



THE
BIOCHEMICAL CHALLENGE
TO EVOLUTION

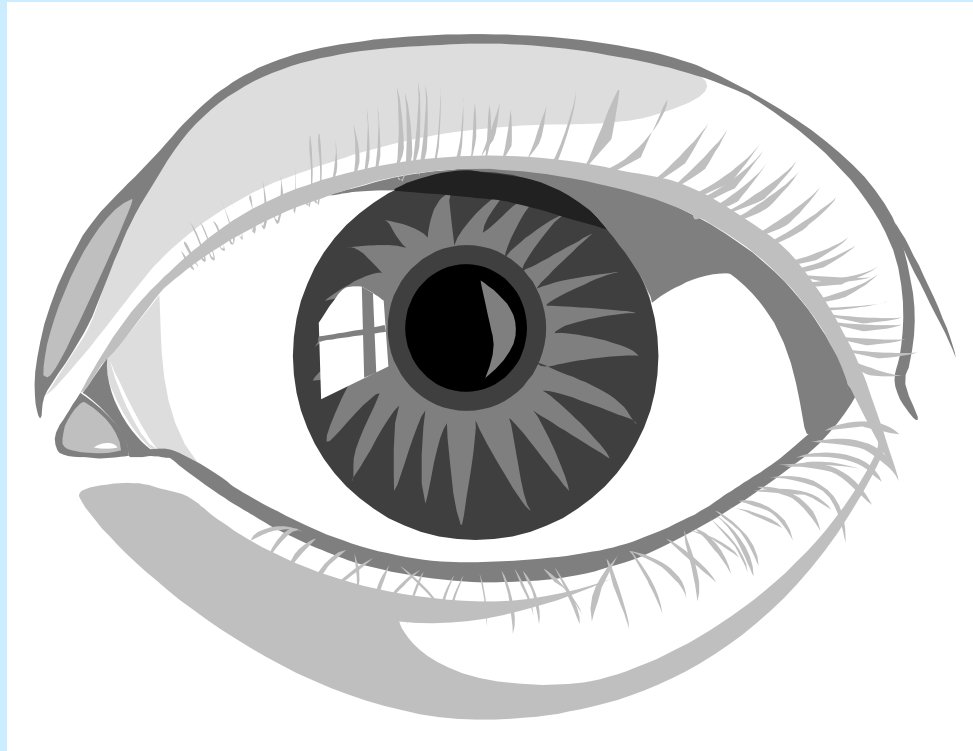
MICHAEL J. BEHE



“By irreducibly complex I mean a single system composed of several well-matched, interacting parts that contribute to the basic function, wherein the removal of any one of the parts causes the system to effectively cease functioning.”

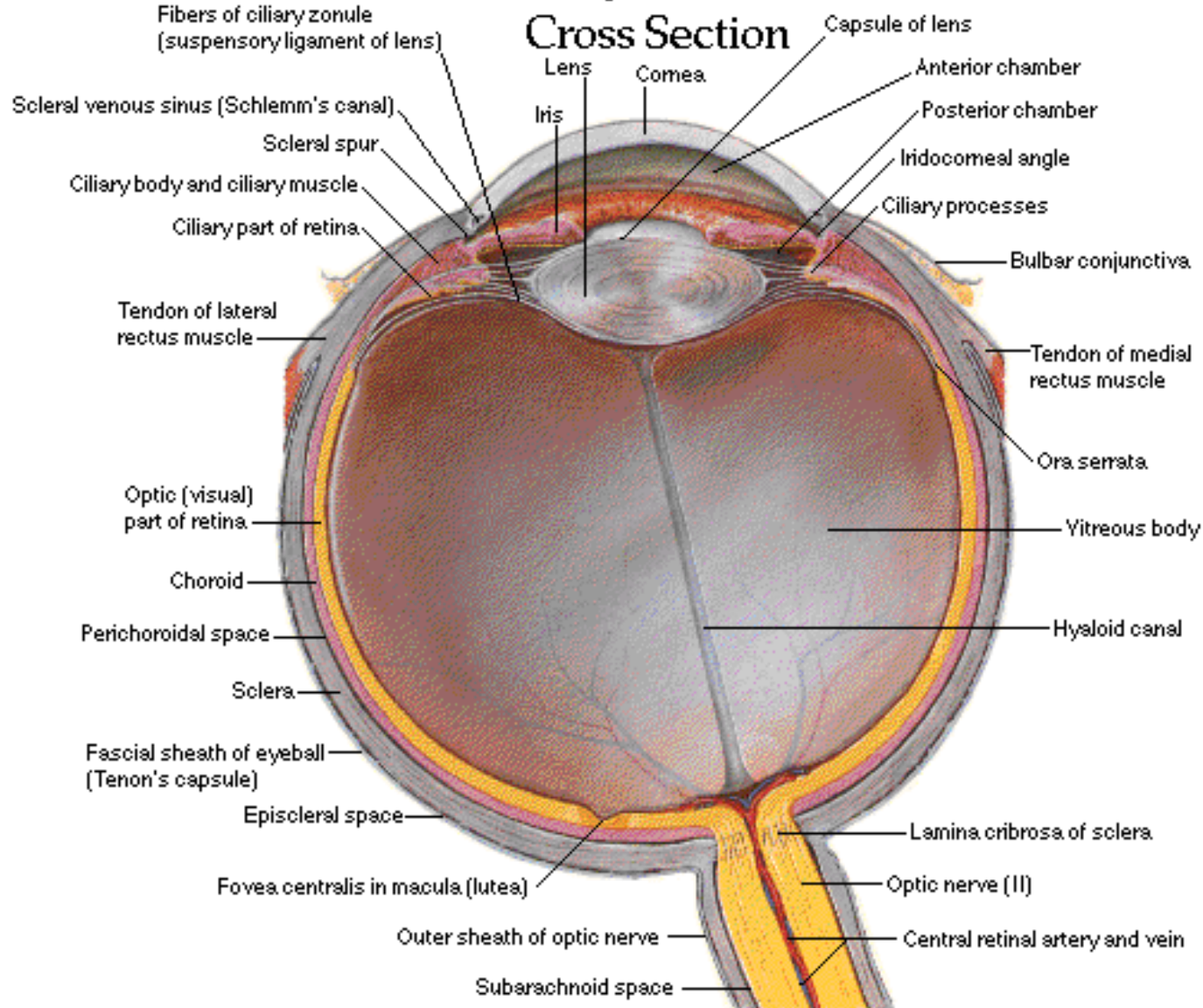
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Biochemistry of Vision in the Human Eye



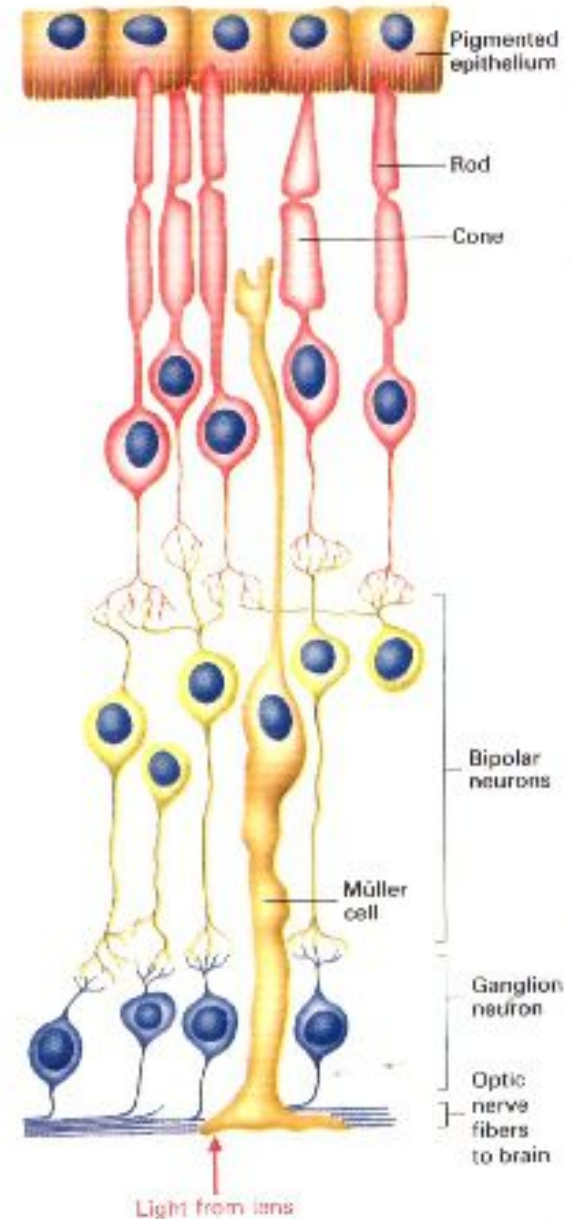
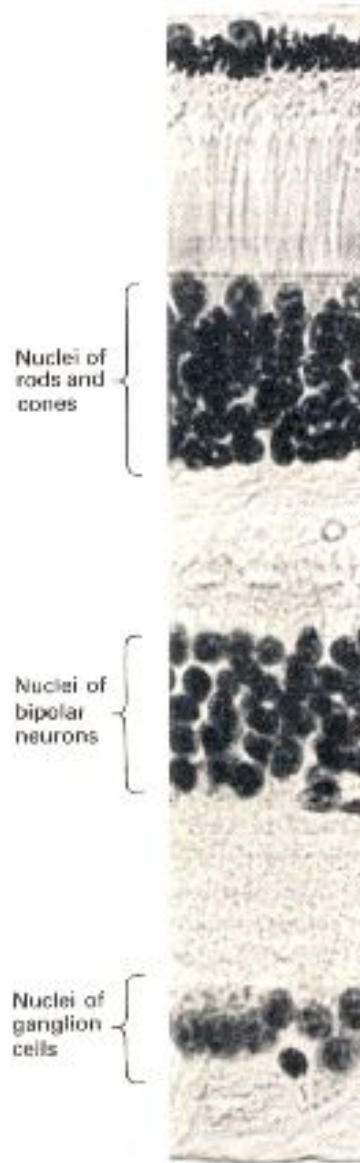
Eyeball

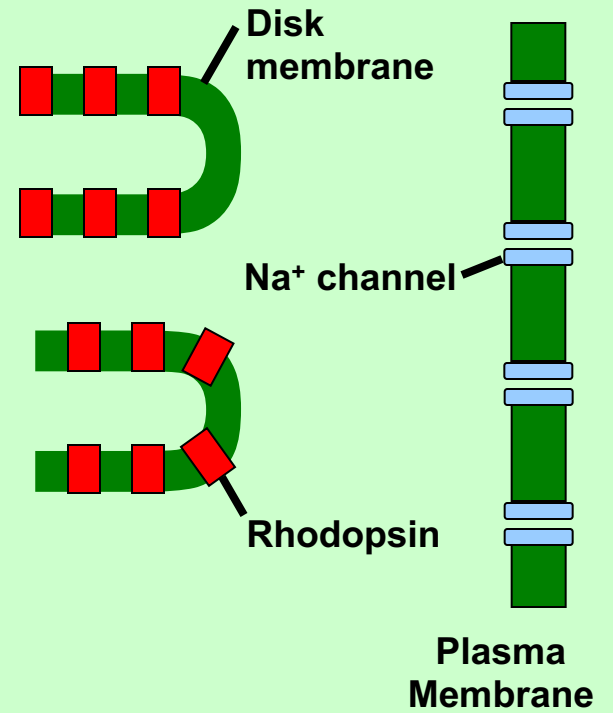
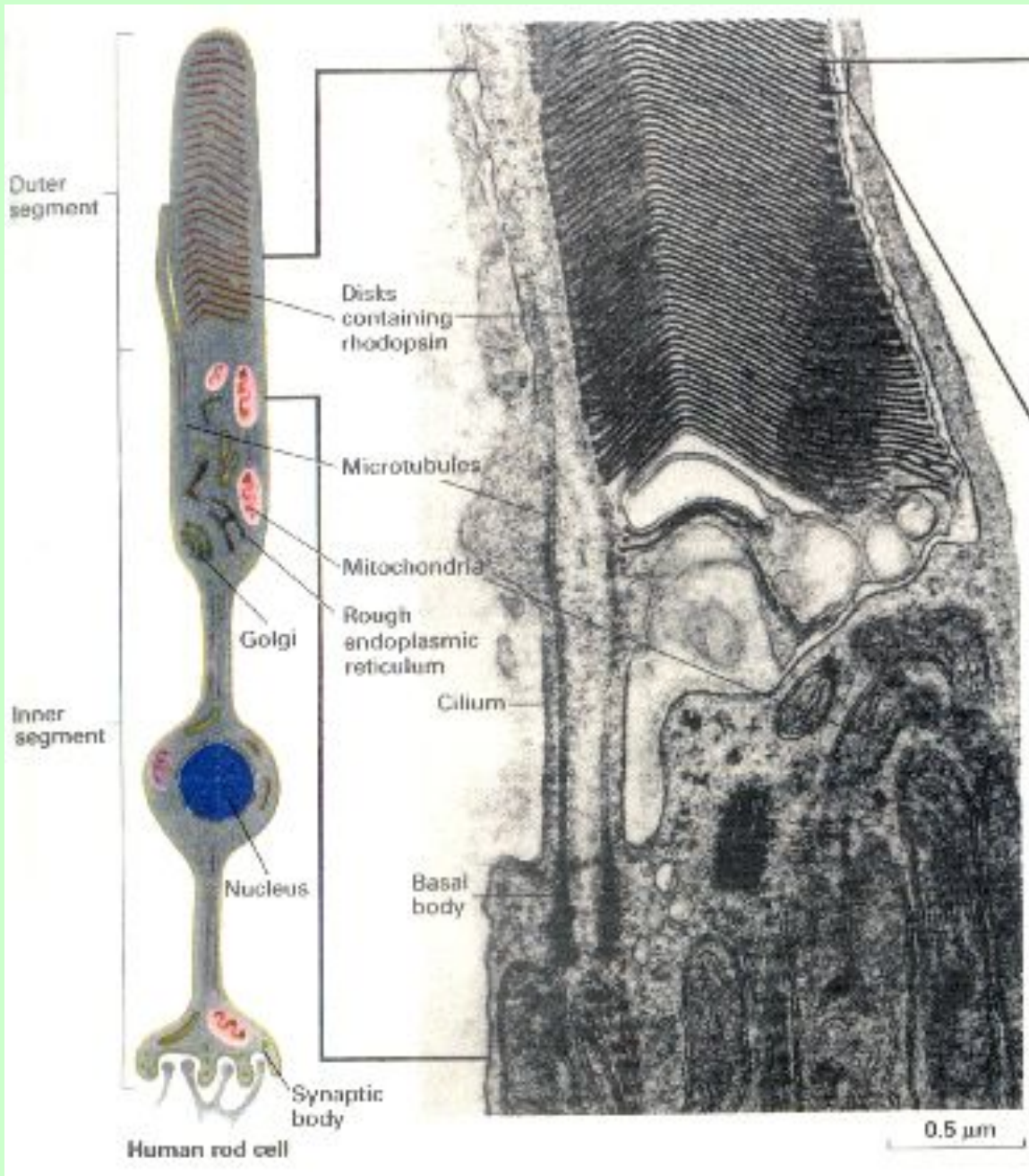
Cross Section



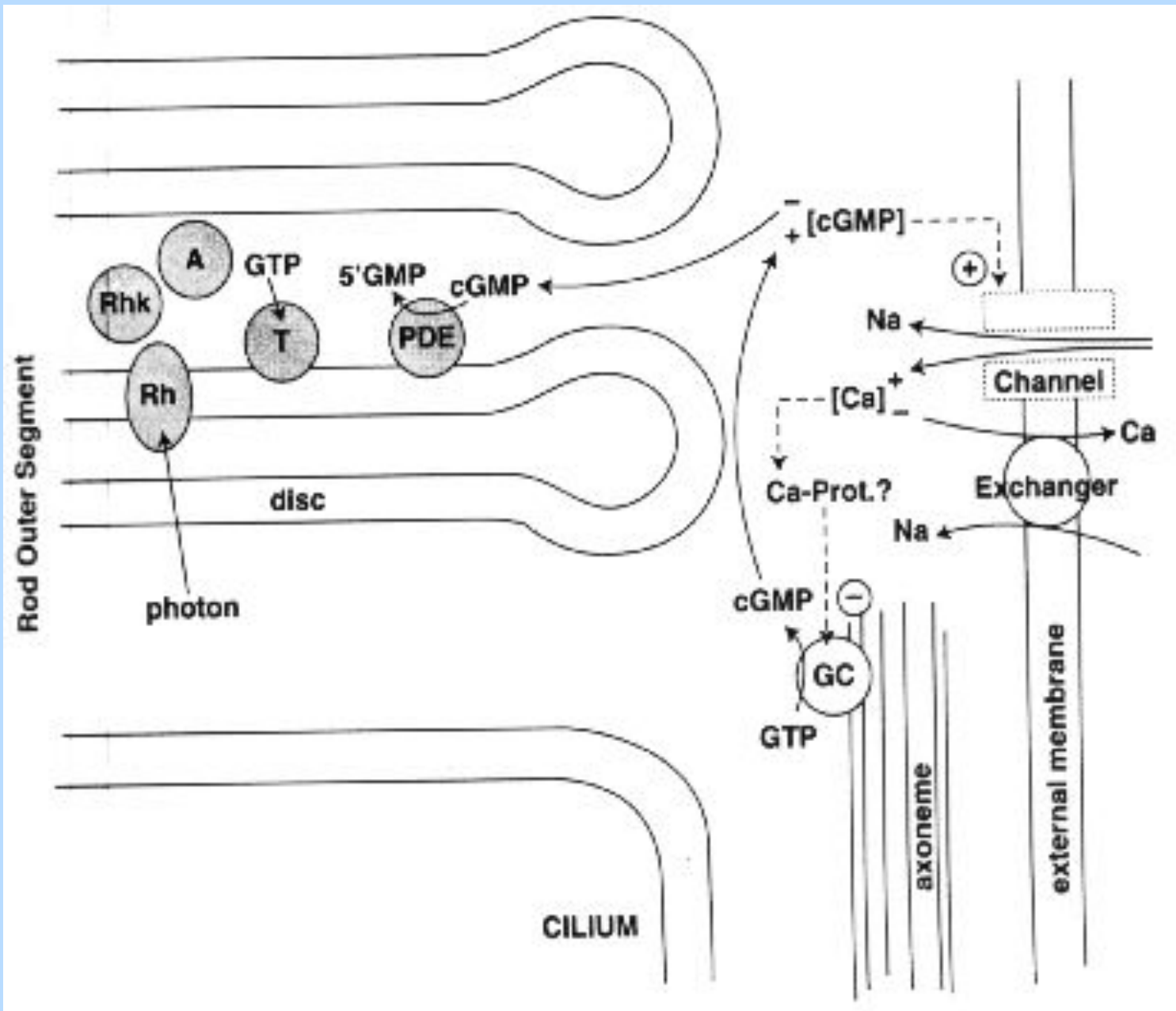
Horizontal section

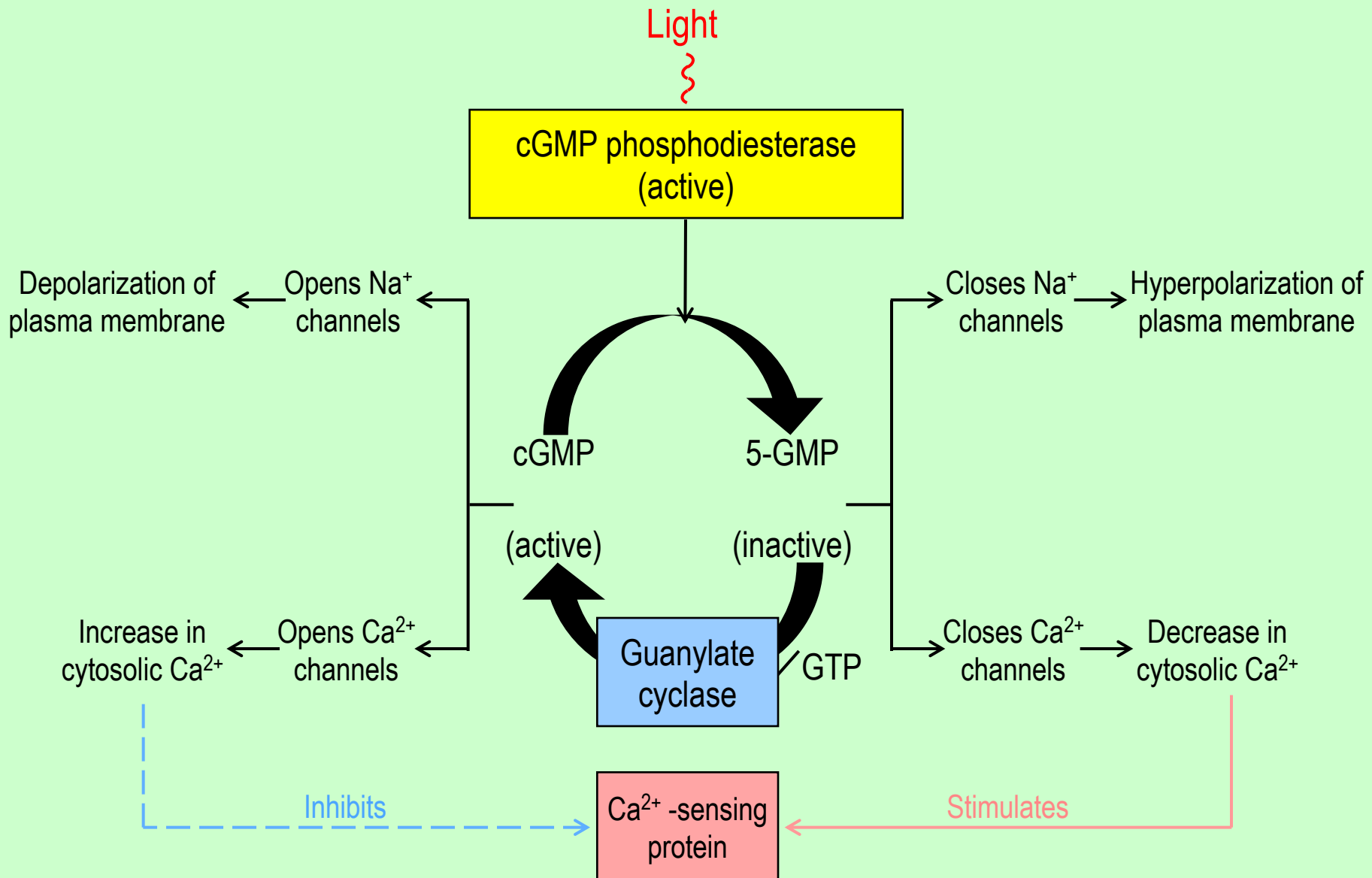
Neural Layer of the Human Retina

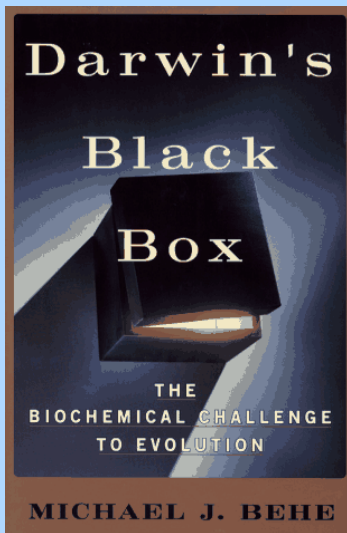




Closer View of the Neural Layer

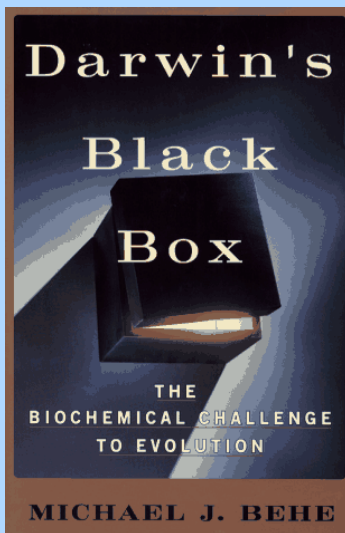




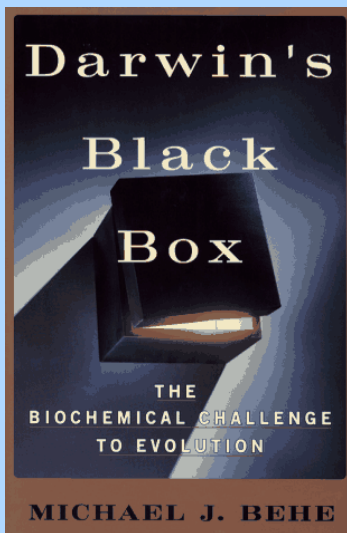


“These scientific obstacles serve as ‘stark examples of the mountains and chasms that block a Darwinian explanation of life.’”

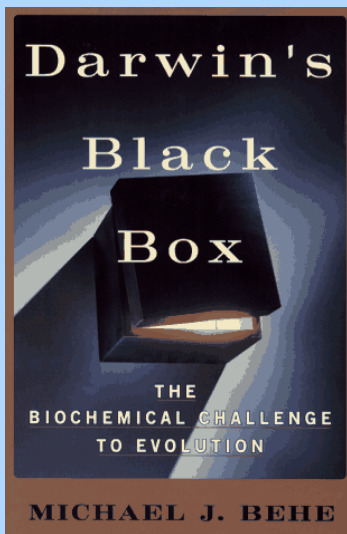
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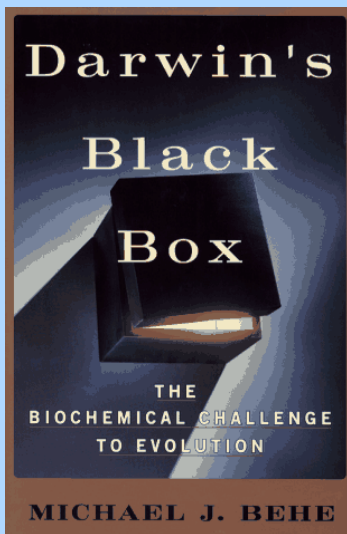
“The result of these cumulative efforts to investigate the cell - to investigate life at the molecular level - is a loud, clear, piercing cry of ‘DESIGN!’ The result is so unambiguous and so significant that it must be ranked as one of the greatest achievements in the history of science. The discovery rivals those of Newton and Einstein, Lavoisier and Schrodinger, Pasteur and Darwin.



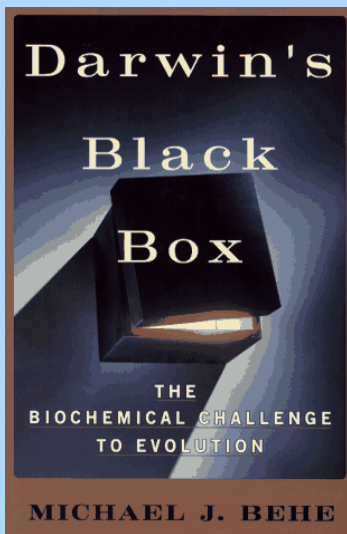
“The observation of the intelligent design of life is as momentous as the observation that the earth goes around the sun or that disease is caused by bacteria or that radiation is emitted in quanta. The magnitude of the victory, gained at such great cost through sustained effort over the course of decades, would be expected to send champagne corks flying in labs around the world.



“This triumph of science should evoke cries of ‘Eureka!’ from ten thousand throats, should occasion much hand-slapping and high-fiving, and perhaps even be an excuse to take a day off....



“... But no bottles have been uncorked, no hands slapped. Instead, a curious, embarrassed silence surrounds the stark complexity of the cell. When the subject comes up in public, feet start to shuffle, and breathing gets a bit labored. In private people are a bit more relaxed; many explicitly admit the obvious but then stare at the ground, shake their heads, and let it go at that.



Why does the scientific community not greedily embrace its startling discovery? Why is the observation of design handled with intellectual gloves? The dilemma is that while one side of the elephant is labeled intelligent design, the other side might be labeled God.”

(Pages 232-233)

**There are many
reasons for our hope
from examining the
natural world!**

1 Peter 3:15