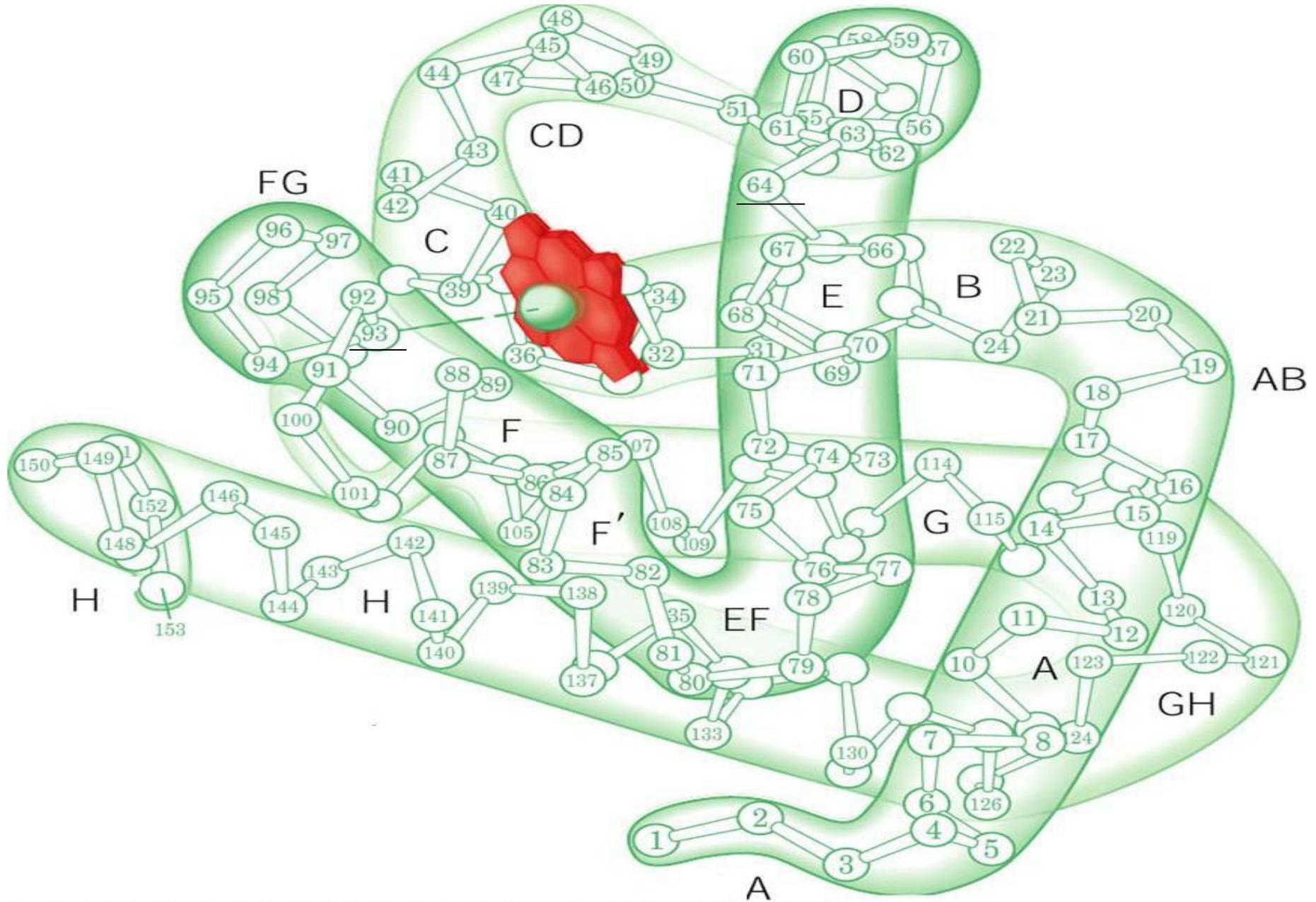


# **Hemoglobin & Myoglobin**

## Myoglobin (Mb)

- # Intracellular heme protein found in most cells
- # Stores and facilitate oxygen diffusion in muscles especially in heart and skeletal muscle.
- # It binds the  $O_2$  released by hemoglobin
- # Myoglobin consists of a single polypeptide chain of 153 amino acids attached to a single heme group
- # About 80% of myoglobin proteins are  $\alpha$  helix.
- # It consists of eight  $\alpha$  helical segments, these are termed helices A–H.
- # Each helical segment is terminated either by the presence of proline or by  $\beta$ -bends and loops.
- # The eight  $\alpha$  helical segments are folded into a globular structure, creating a cradle (box) and within this cradle lies a single heme group and the binding site of  $O_2$ .
- # The heme of myoglobin lies between helices E and F.
- # The polypeptide of myoglobin may be viewed as serving three critical functions: 1- it hold the heme group, 2- it provides a pocket into which the  $O_2$  can fit, and 3- it protects the heme iron atom from oxidation.

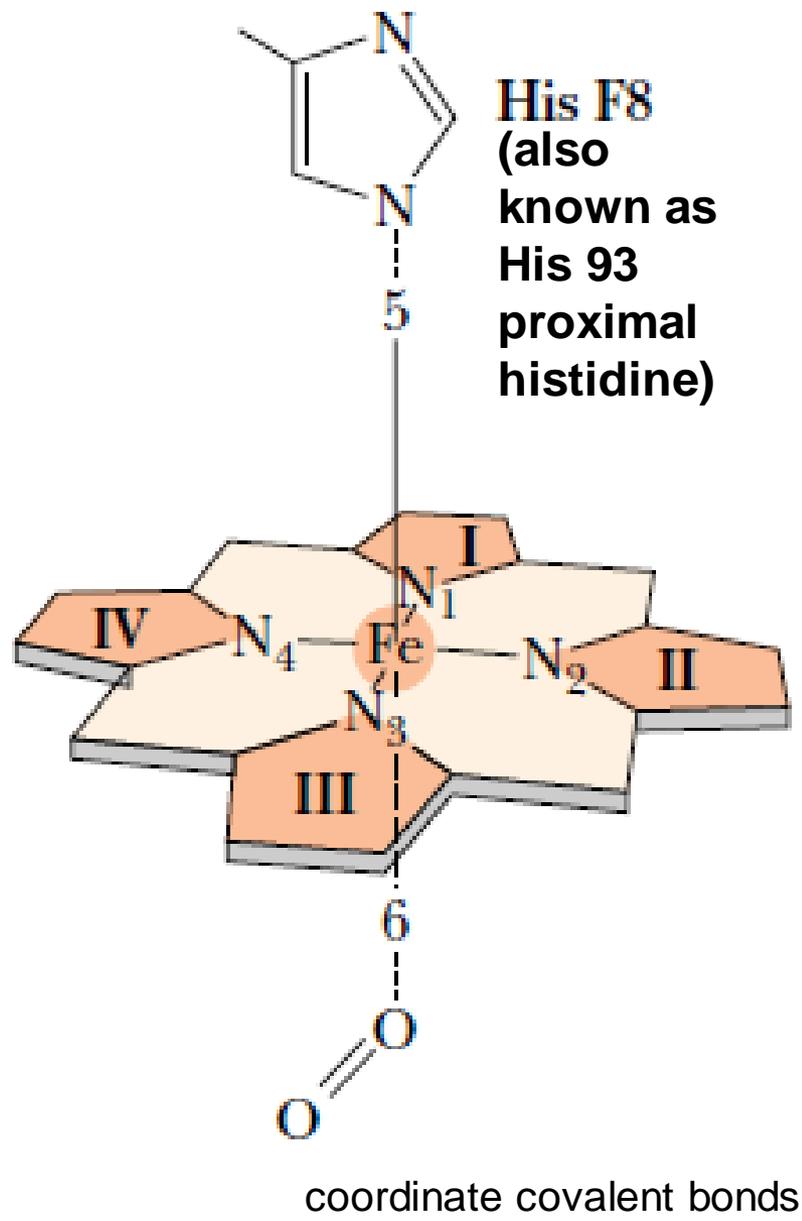
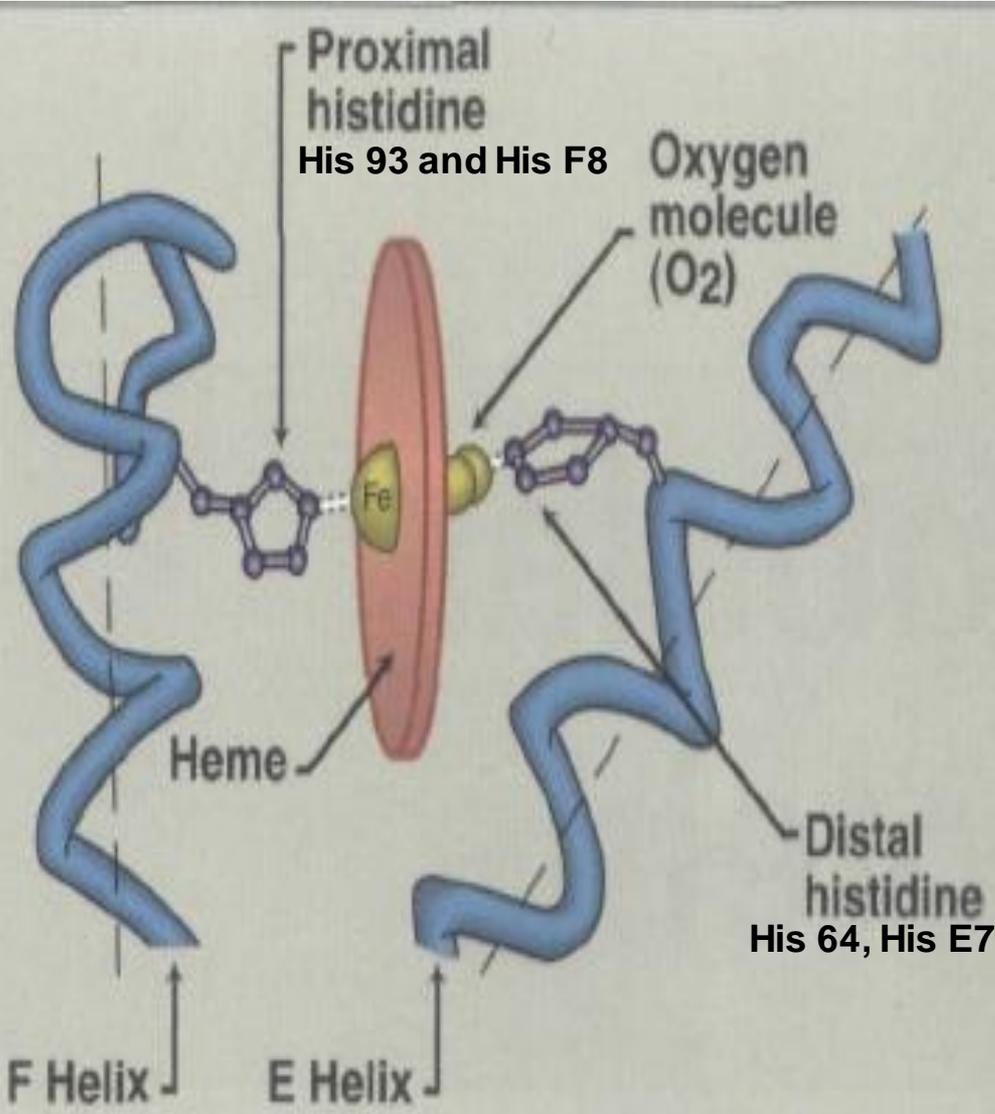
# Myoglobin

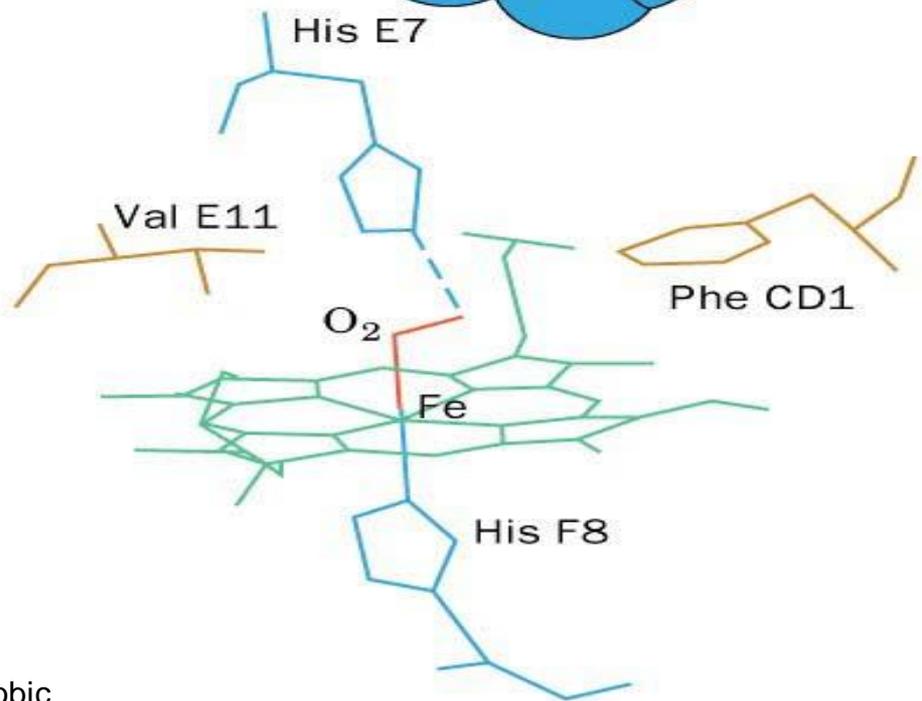
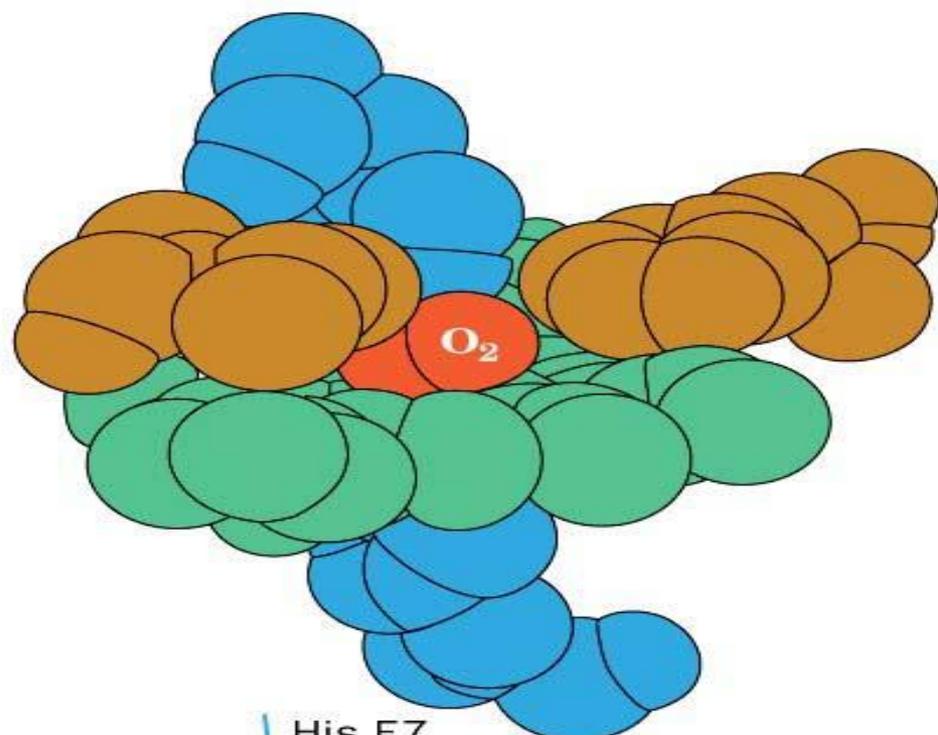
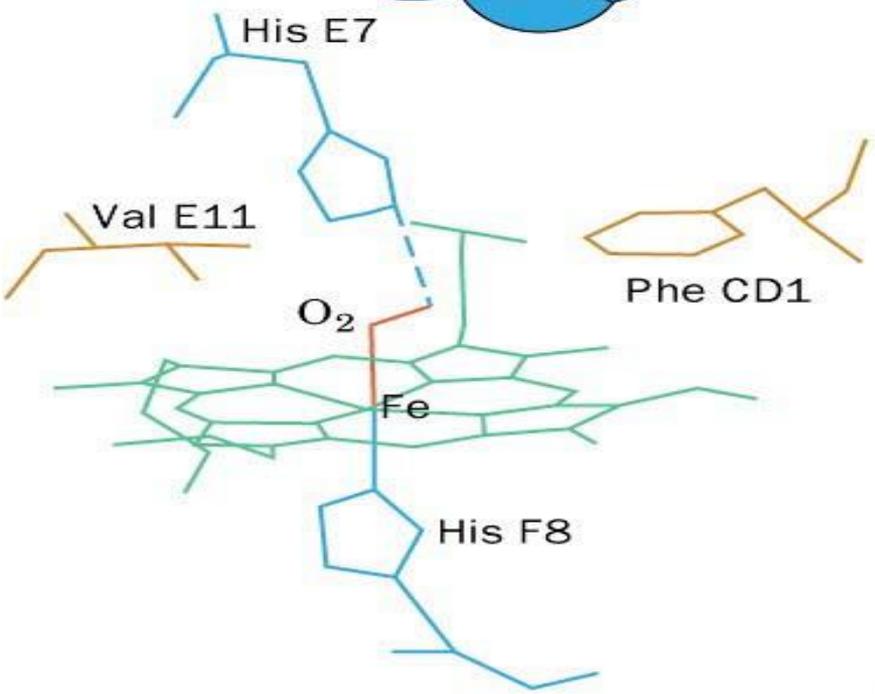
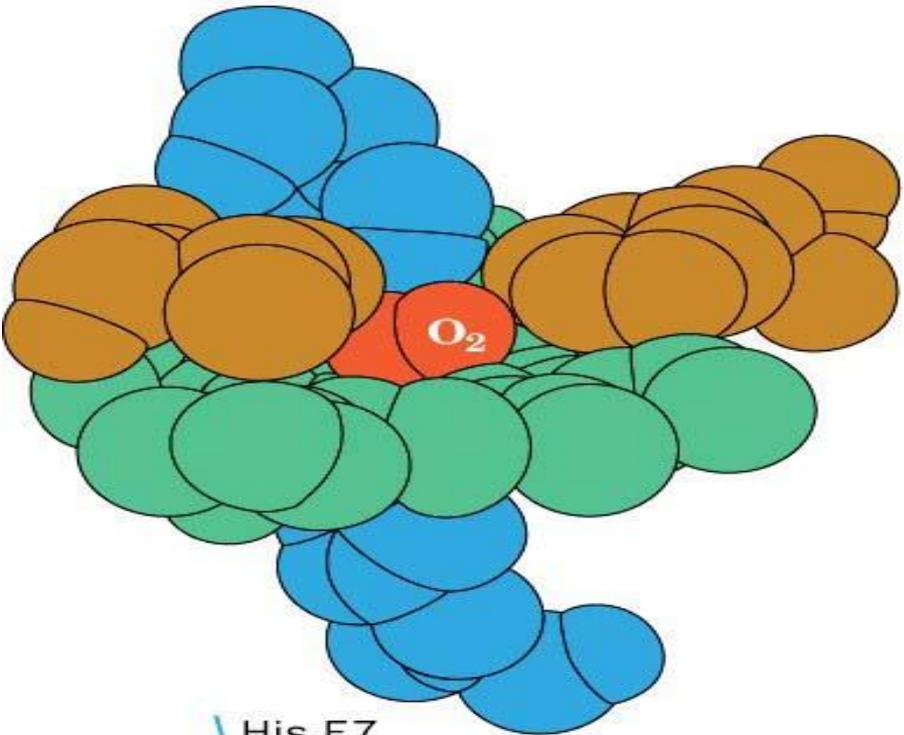


# Structure of heme in myoglobin and hemoglobin

- Both myoglobin and hemoglobin have heme.
- Heme has similar structure in myoglobin and hemoglobin
- Heme is a complex of porphyrin and ferrous iron ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ).
- Porphyrins are a group of organic compound that have four pyrrole subunits interconnected via  $\alpha$ -methylene bridges ( $=\text{CH}-$ )
- A pyrrole ring is a group of four carbon atoms and a nitrogen atom bonded together in a ring (see figure).



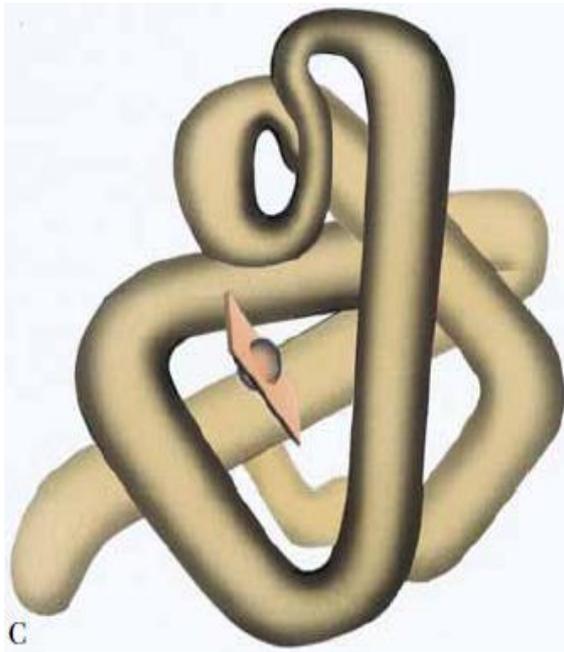




hydrophobic

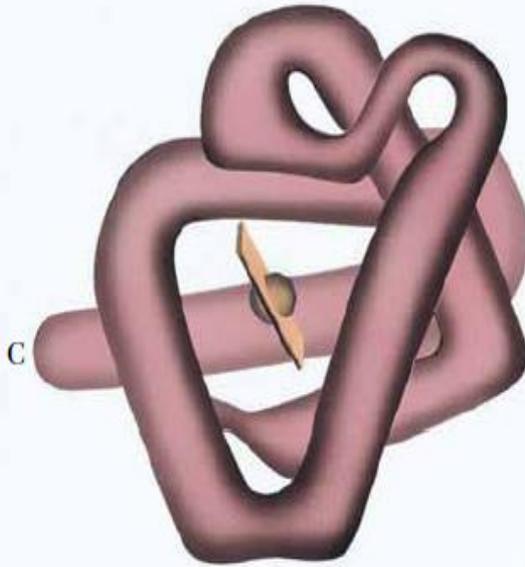
- **Hemoglobin (Hb)**

- Hemoglobin (Hb) is a globular protein.
- Each human red blood cell contains approximately 270 million hemoglobin biomolecules
- It consists of four polypeptide chains, 2  $\alpha$  chains and 2 of  $\beta$  chains, each of which is very similar structurally to the myoglobin polypeptide chain, and each bears a heme group.
- The  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  subunits differ in primary structure (i.e., they have different sequences of amino acids and are encoded by different genes).
- The  $\beta$  chain at 146 amino acid residues is shorter than the myoglobin chain (153 residues), mainly because the H helix is shorter.
- The  $\alpha$ -chain at 141 residues also has a shortened H helix and lacks the D helix.



Myoglobin (Mb)

**Myoglobin**  
**153 aa**



$\alpha$ -Globin (Hb $\alpha$ )

**$\alpha$ - globin in Hb**  
**141 aa**

shortened H helix and lacks the D helix



$\beta$ -Globin (Hb $\beta$ )

**$\beta$ -globin in Hb**  
**146**

H helix is shorter

# Hemoglobin

Polypeptide chain

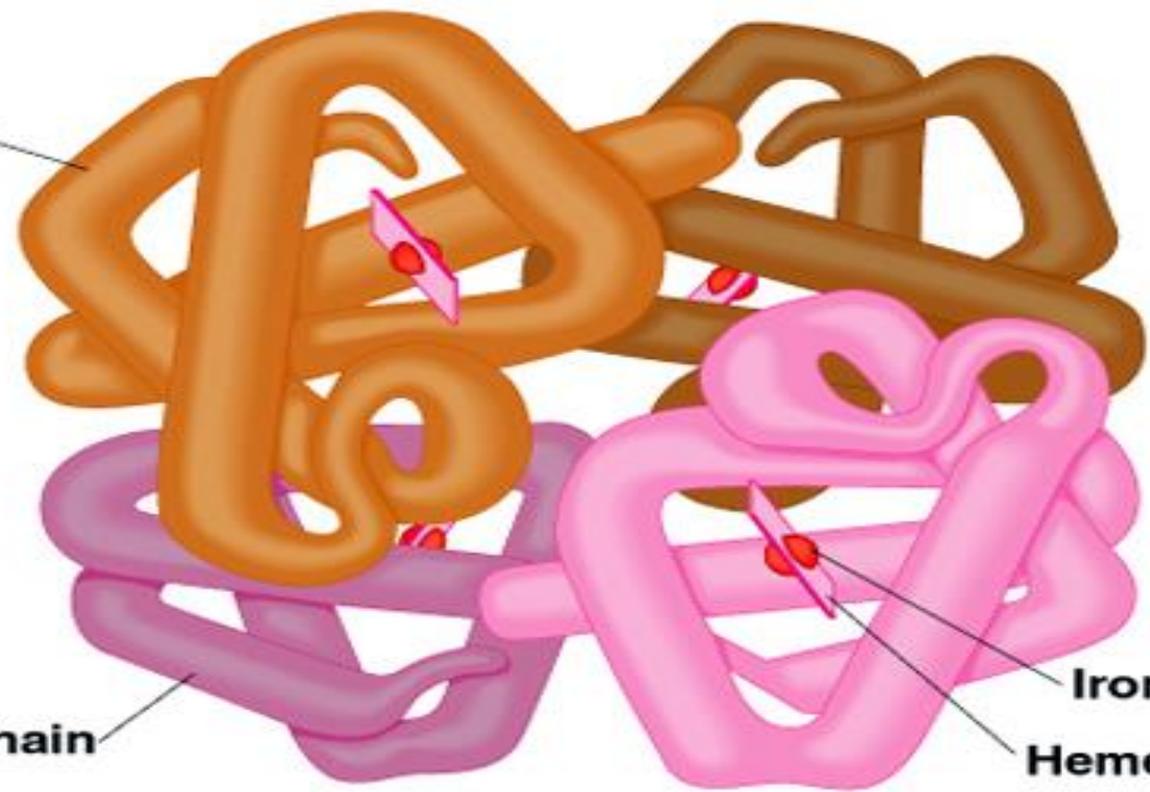
$\beta$  chain

$\alpha$  chain

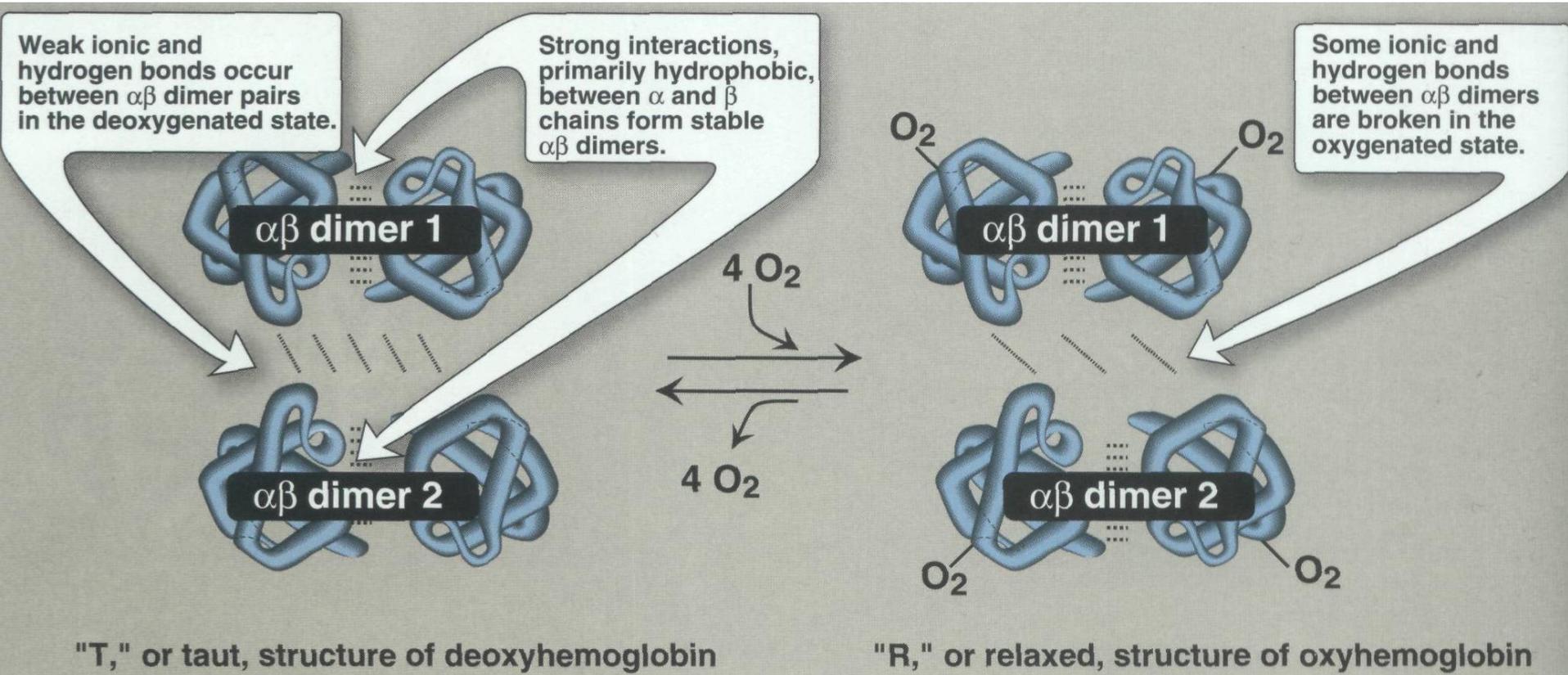
Iron **Fe**

Heme

(b) Hemoglobin

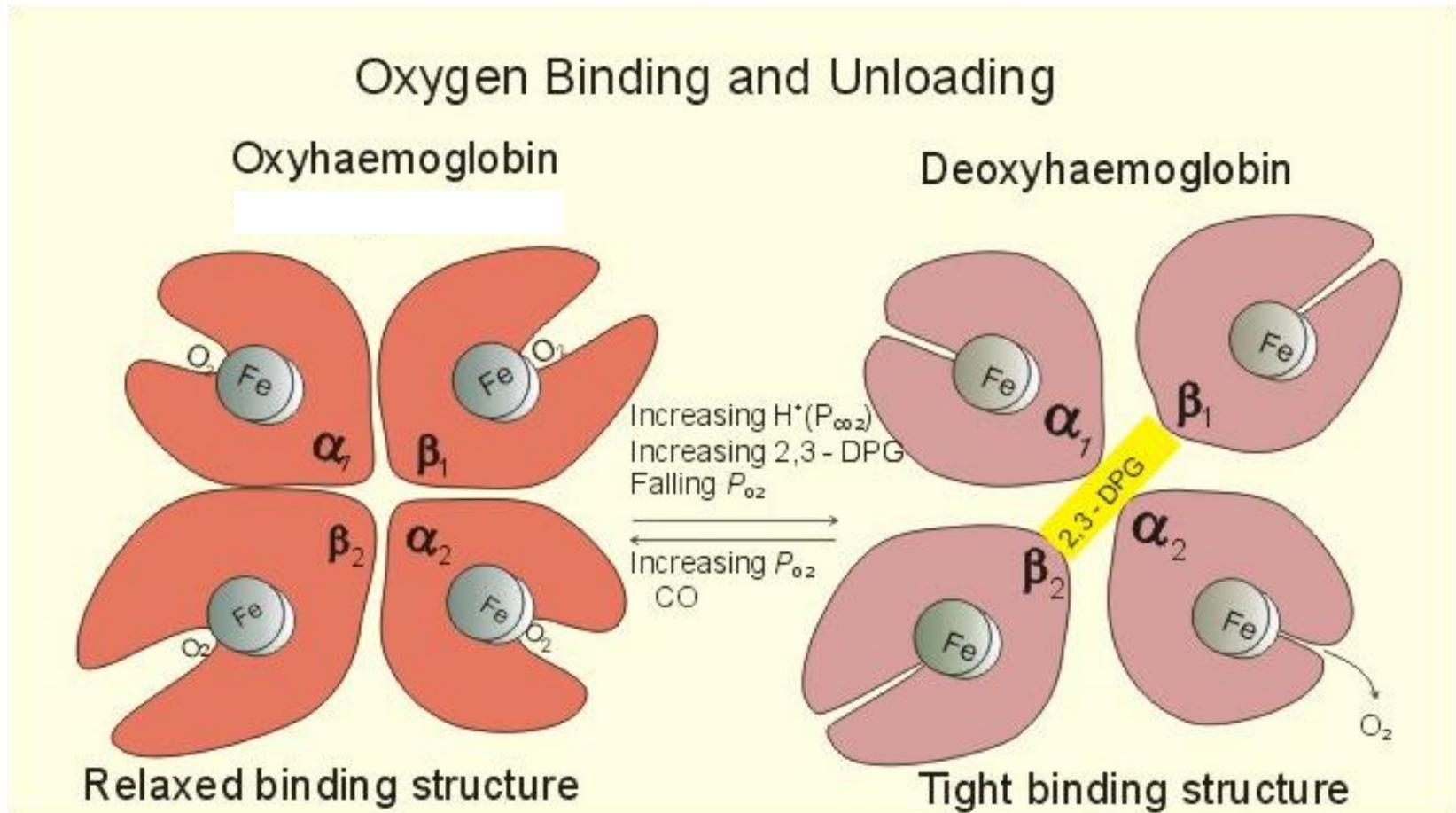


- **Quaternary structure of hemoglobin**
- The subunit interactions are mostly between dissimilar chains: each of the  $\alpha$ -chains is in contact with both  $\beta$ -chains.
- Therefore there are two identical dimmers, dimer one  $\alpha_1\beta_1$  and dimer two  $\alpha_2\beta_2$ .
- The two polypeptide chains within each dimer are held tightly together, primarily by hydrophobic interactions although ionic and hydrogen bonds play a role.
- The ionic bond is a relatively weak ionic bond and is called salt bridge (salt bond).



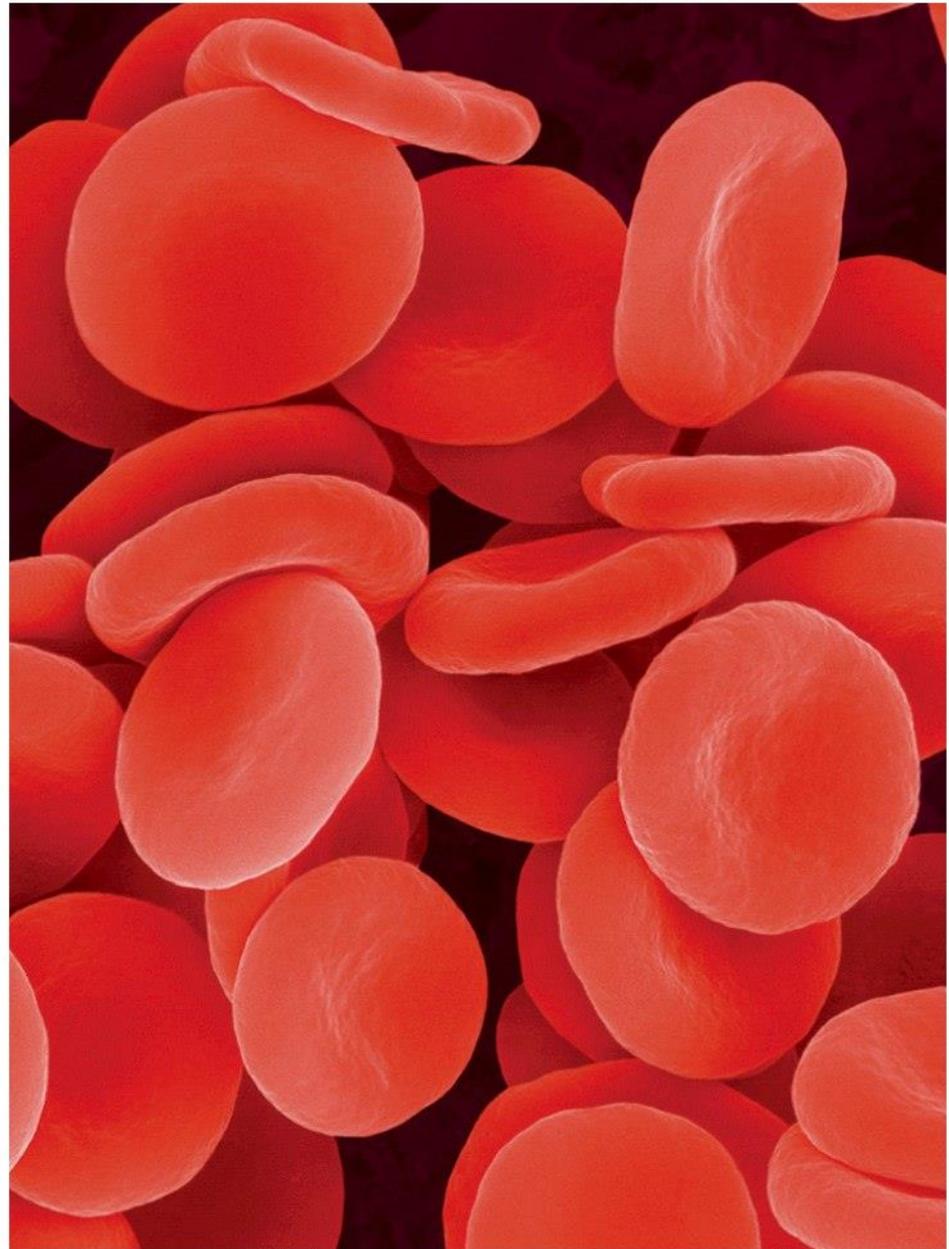
- **T & R forms of Hemoglobin**
  - a. **T form:** The deoxy form of hemoglobin is called the "T" (**tense**) form.
    - In the T form, the two  $\alpha\beta$  dimmers interact through a network of ionic bonds and hydrogen bonds that constrain the movement of the polypeptide chains. The T form is the **low oxygen-affinity form** of hemoglobin.
  - b. **R form:** The binding of oxygen to hemoglobin causes the rupture of some of the ionic bonds and hydrogen bonds between the  $\alpha\beta$  dimmers. This leads to a structure called the "R," or **relaxed** form, in which the polypeptide chains have more freedom of movement. The R form is the **high oxygen-affinity form** of hemoglobin.

# Hemoglobin Structure Changes



- **RBCs**
- are typically shaped as biconcave disks
- Biconcave shape gives them a much greater surface area & flexibility to squeeze through tiny capillaries.
  
- **Carbon monoxide** binds to heme on the same place as that of  $O_2$ .
- Carbon monoxide (CO) has a greater affinity for hemoglobin than oxygen.
- Therefore the haemoglobin is no longer available for oxygen transportation causing hypoxia tissue death.
- To reverse the effects of carbon monoxide, pure oxygen is needed to be introduced

# Erythrocytes (Red cells)



**Chapter 7 Opener part 1**

*Biochemistry, Sixth Edition*

© 2007 W.H. Freeman and Company

## Methemoglobin

To bind oxygen, the iron of hemoglobin must be in the ferrous ( $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ ) state.

Reactive oxygen species can oxidize the iron to the ferric ( $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ ) state, producing methemoglobin

Methemoglobin is useless in transporting oxygen.

Red blood cell possesses an effective system for reducing heme  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  back to the  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  state.

### This system consists of

- 1- NADH (generated by glycolysis),
- 2- Cytochrome b5 reductase (also known as methemoglobin reductase)
- 3- Cytochrome b5.

Cytochrome b5 reduces (transfer an electron) the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  of methemoglobin. The oxidized cytochrome b5 is then reduced by cytochrome b5 reductase, using NADH as the reducing agent. ( $\text{Fe}^{3+} + e \longrightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$ )

## Binding of oxygen to myoglobin and hemoglobin: Allosteric effects

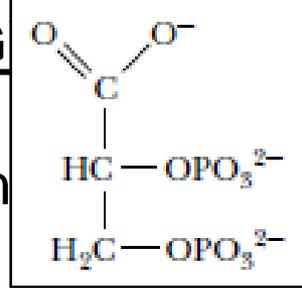
The oxygen-binding properties of hemoglobin are regulated by interaction with **allosteric effectors**.

The ability of hemoglobin to reversibly bind oxygen is affected by the  $pO_2$ , the pH of the environment, the  $pCO_2$  and the availability of **2,3-bisphosphoglycerate (2,3-BPG)**

These are collectively called allosteric ("other site") effectors, because their interaction at one site on the hemoglobin molecule affects the binding of oxygen to heme groups at other locations on the molecule.

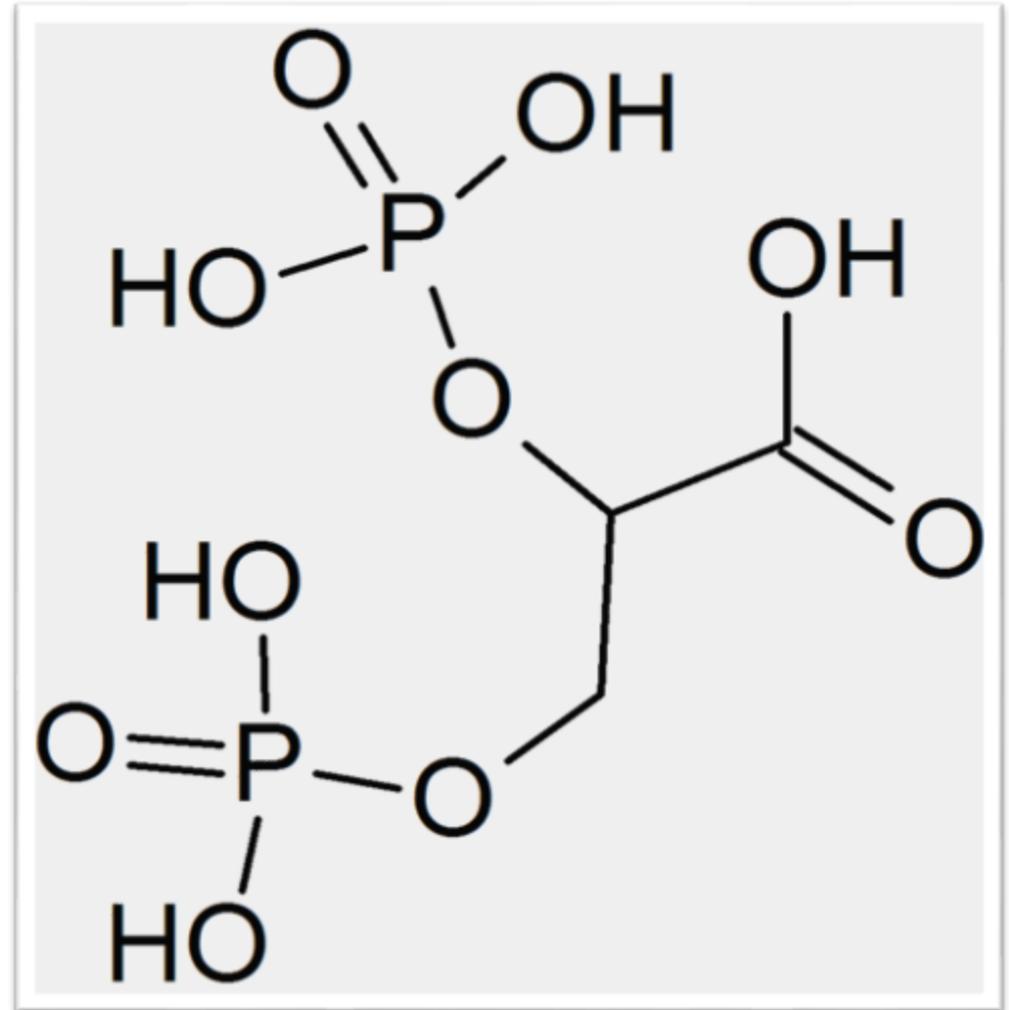
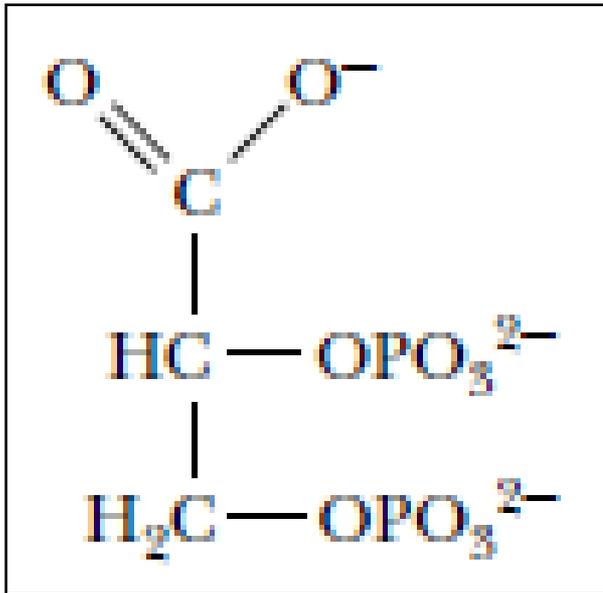
The binding of oxygen to myoglobin is not influenced by the allosteric effectors of hemoglobin.

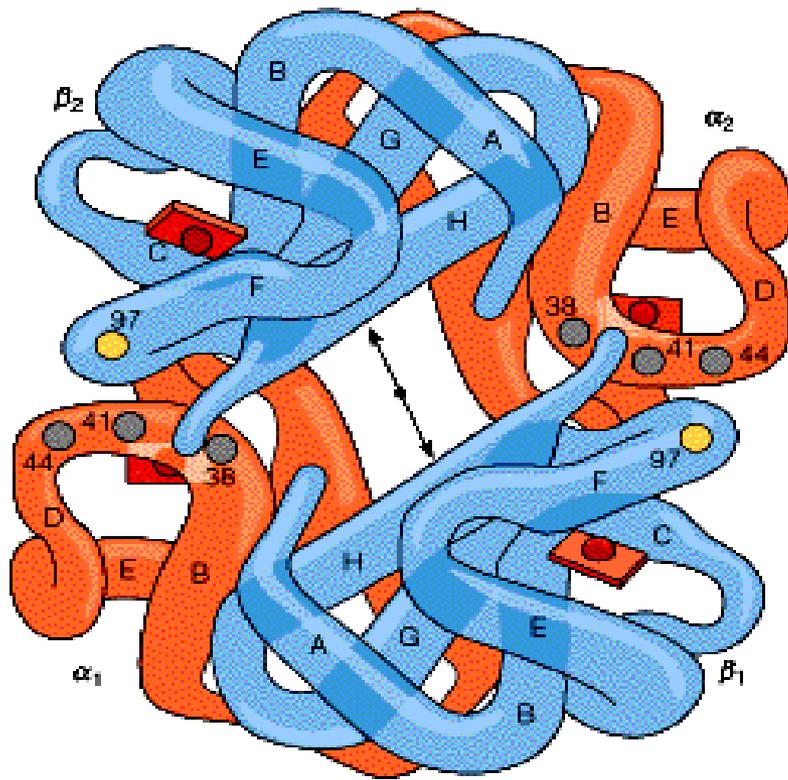
## 2,3-Bisphosphoglycerate (2,3-BPG also 2,3-DPG)



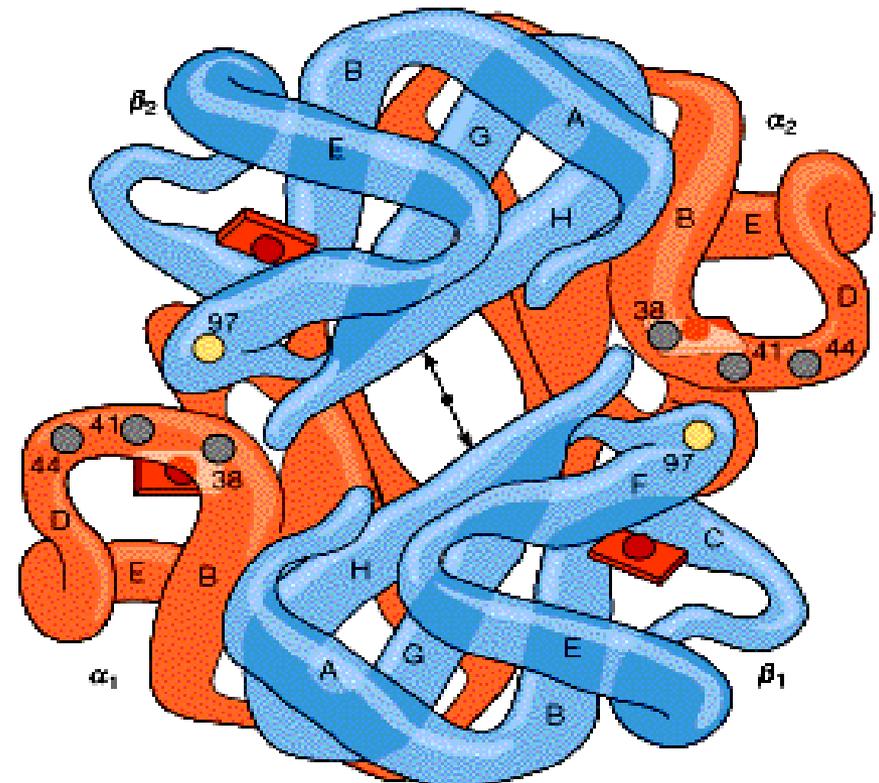
- BPG a three carbon atom (glycolysis intermediate) is an important regulator of the binding of oxygen to hemoglobin
- A low pO<sub>2</sub> in peripheral tissues promotes the synthesis in RBC of 2,3-bisphosphoglycerate (BPG).
- The binding of BPG to partially deoxygenated Hb lowers its affinity for oxygen and promotes (allosterically upregulates) the release of remaining O<sub>2</sub> by stabilizing the quaternary structure of deoxyhemoglobin.
- The Hb molecule has one binding site for BPG. This site is situated within the central cavity formed by the association of four amino acids, the strongly negative BPG molecule binds to these positively charged amino acid. Once bounded, BPG cross-links the two β-subunits. The ionic bonds between BPG and the two β-chains aid in stabilizing the conformation of Hb in its deoxy form, thereby favouring the dissociation of oxygen. Thus, BPG and O<sub>2</sub> are mutually exclusive allosteric effectors for Hb, even though their binding sites are physically distinct.
- The phosphate groups of 2, 3-BPG form ionic bonds with N-terminus (on carbons 1 and 2 and 143 Histidine in addition to binding of the carboxyl group of 2, 3-BPG to 82 Lysine).

# 2,3-BPG Structure





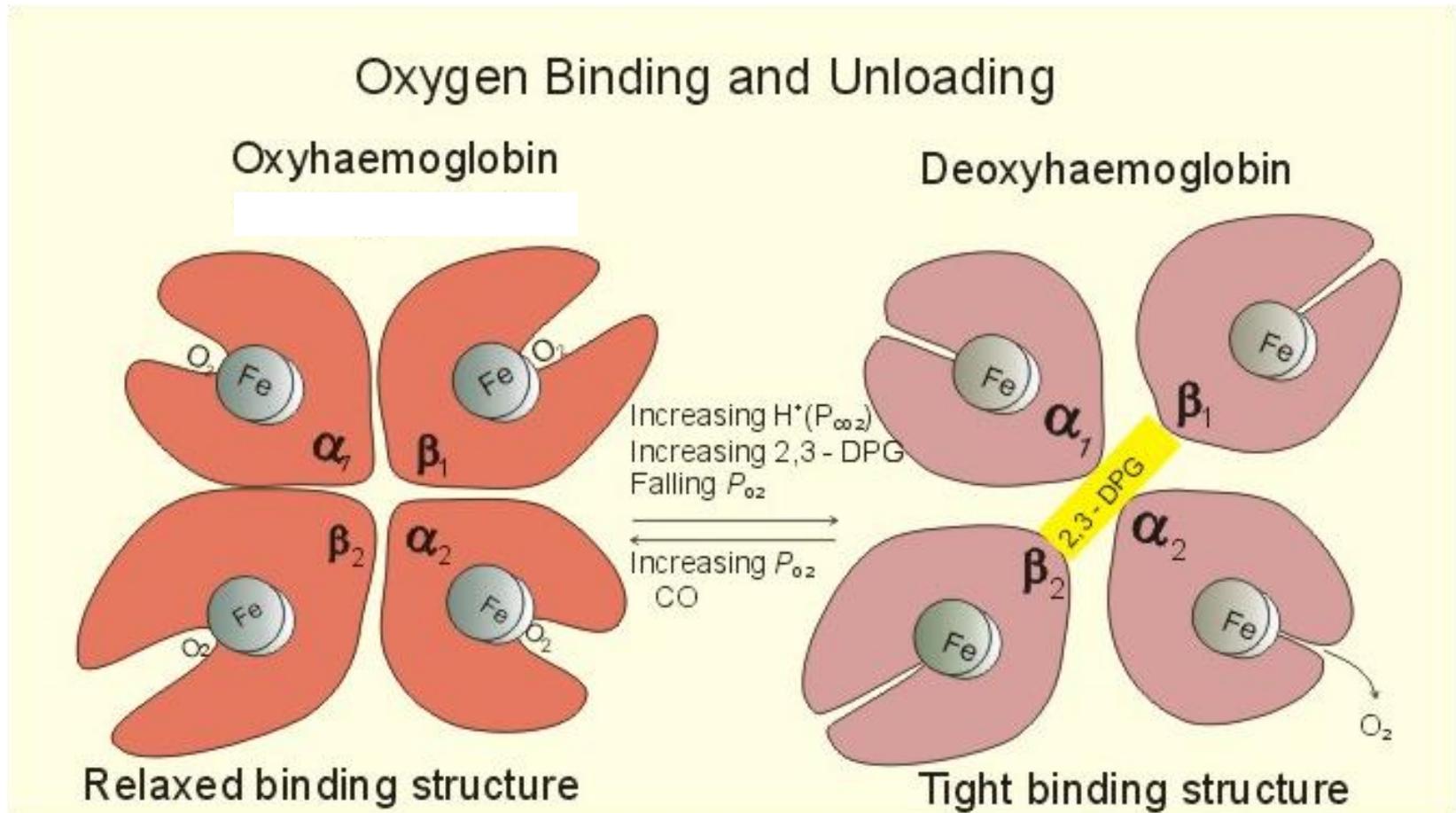
Deoxyhemoglobin



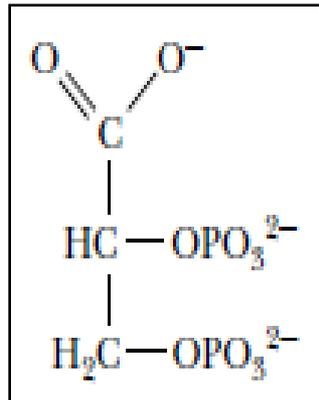
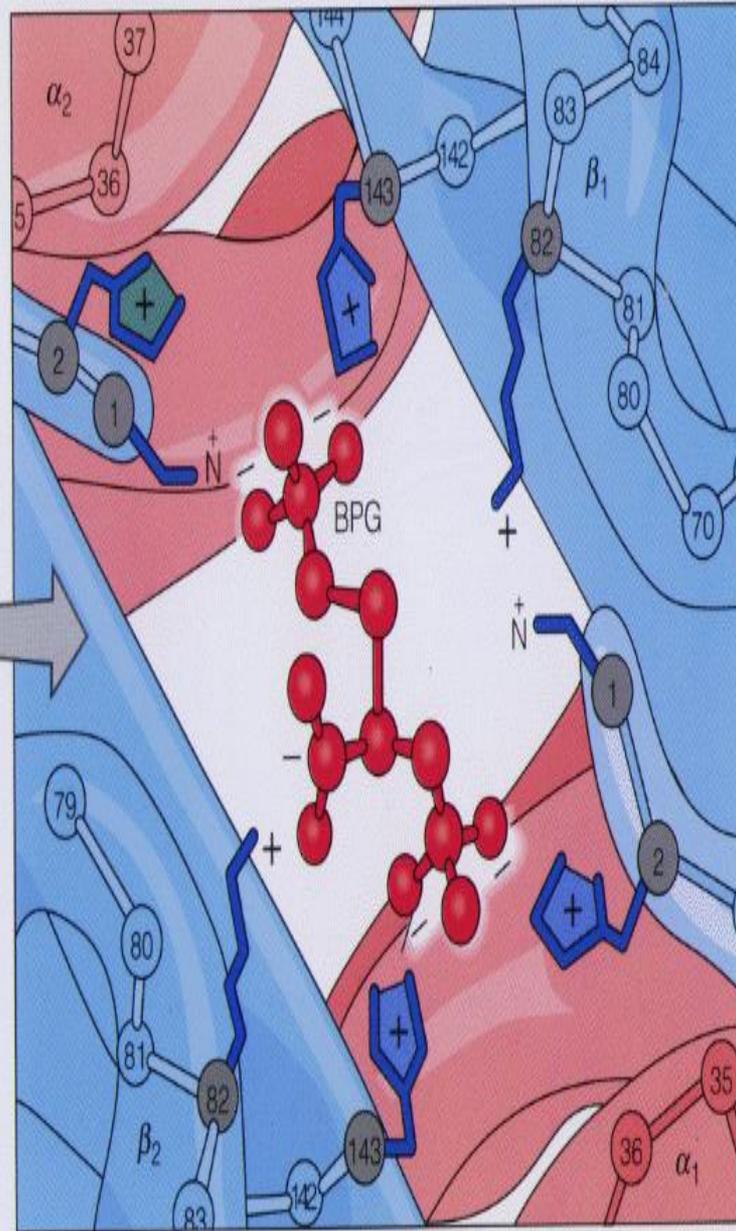
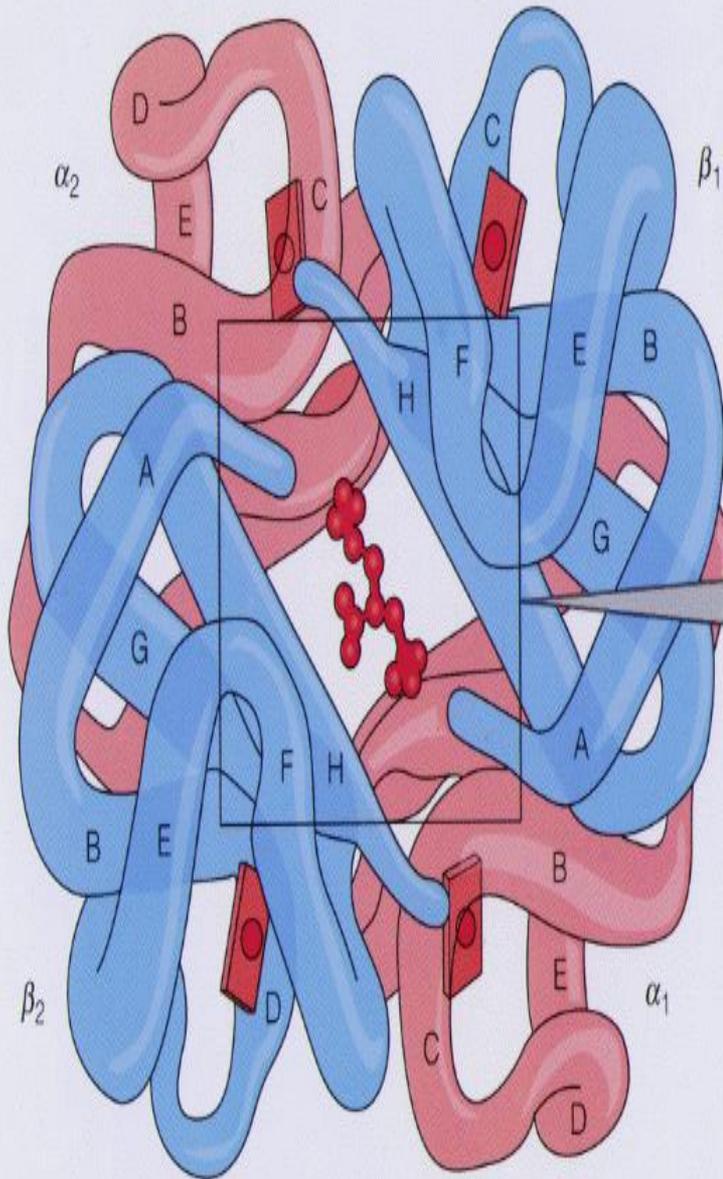
Oxyhemoglobin

- The change in hemoglobin quaternary structure during oxygenation
- the cavity opening is much narrower in oxyhemoglobin than in deoxyhemoglobin, in fact, **2,3-BPG** cannot be accommodated in the oxy form.

# Hemoglobin Structure Changes



# Binding of 2, 3-bisphosphoglycerate to deoxyhemoglobin



**2,3 BPG**

## **Fetal Hemoglobin**

Fetal Hb differs from adult Hb in that the  $\beta$ -chains are replaced by very similar, but not identical, 146-residue subunits called  $\gamma$  chains (gamma chains). Fetal Hb is thus  $\alpha_2\gamma_2$ .

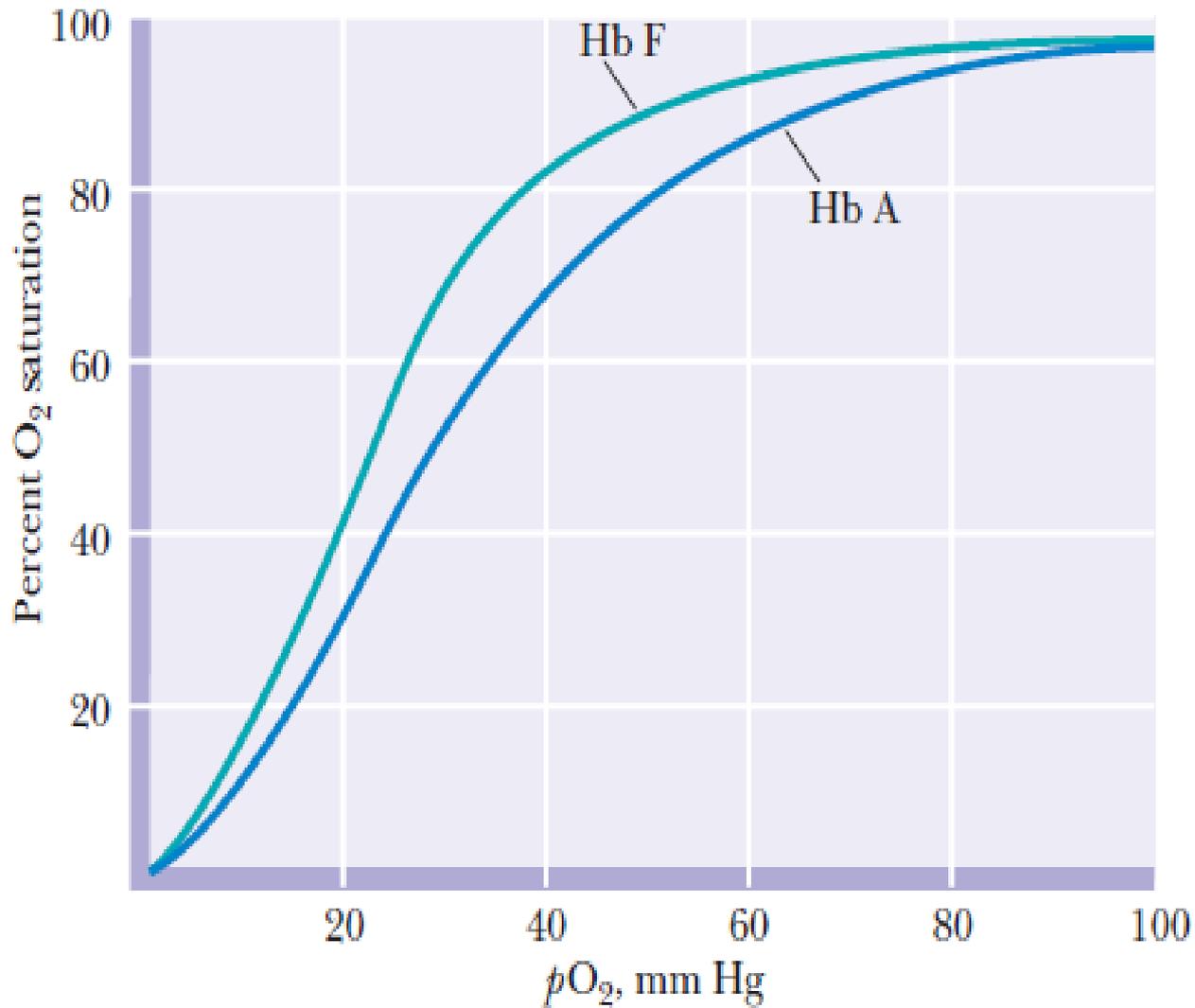
2,3-BPG binds less effectively with the  $\gamma$  chains of fetal Hb (also called Hb F). (Fetal  $\gamma$  chains have Serine (polar uncharged) instead of Histidine at position 143, and thus lack two of the positive charges in the central BPG-binding cavity).

**Hemoglobin stripped of 2,3-BPG is virtually saturated with O<sub>2</sub> at low pO<sub>2</sub>**

**Fetal Hb has a higher affinity for O<sub>2</sub> because it has a lower affinity for 2,3-BPG**

The fetus depends on its mother for an adequate supply of oxygen, but its circulatory system is entirely independent. Gas exchange takes place across the placenta. Ideally fetal Hb should be able to absorb O<sub>2</sub> better than maternal Hb so that an effective transfer of oxygen can occur.

Figure compares the relative affinities of adult Hb (also known as Hb A) and Hb F for O<sub>2</sub> under similar conditions of pH and [BPG]. Note that Hb F binds O<sub>2</sub> at pO<sub>2</sub> values where most of the oxygen has dissociated from Hb A. Much of the difference can be attributed to the low capacity of Hb F to bind BPG



# Comparison between Mb and Hb

## Mb

In muscle

Reservoir of O<sub>2</sub>

No quaternary  
structure

Can't carry CO<sub>2</sub>

No cooperativity of O<sub>2</sub>  
binding

O<sub>2</sub> affinity is higher  
than Hb

## Hb

In RBCs

Carrier of O<sub>2</sub>

Has quaternary structure

Carries CO<sub>2</sub>

Shows cooperativity

O<sub>2</sub> affinity is lower than Mb