

### THINK ABOUT IT (Discuss these with your classmates)

- Cells grown in the laboratory are placed in a solution containing a dye that is unable to pass through the plasma membrane. If a ligand is then added to the solution, observations show that the dye enters the cell. Describe the type of receptor the ligand most likely binds to and explain your reasoning.
  - HER2 is a receptor tyrosine kinase. In 30 percent of human breast cancers, HER2 is permanently activated, resulting in unregulated cell division. Lapatinib, a drug used to treat breast cancer, inhibits HER2 receptor tyrosine kinase autophosphorylation (the process by which the receptor adds phosphate onto itself), thus reducing tumor growth. Besides autophosphorylation, explain another feature of the cell signaling pathway that can be affected by Lapatinib.
  - In certain cancers, the GTPase activity of RAS G-protein is inhibited. This means that the RAS G-protein can no longer hydrolyze GTP into GDP. Explain what effect this would have on downstream cellular events.
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Transmitted primarily through contaminated drinking water, cholera is a major cause of death in the developing world and in areas where natural disasters interrupt the availability of clean water. The cholera bacterium, *Vibrio cholerae*, creates a toxin that modifies G-protein-mediated cell signaling pathways in the intestines. Modern sanitation eliminates the threat of cholera outbreaks, such as the one that swept through New York City in 1866. This poster from that era shows how, at that time, the way that the disease was transmitted was not understood. Discuss this event with your partner

