

Lec. 2 /2 nd term Biochemistry II
3 rd stage
Biosynthesis of fatty acids

By

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Introduction

Fatty acids have 4 major physiological roles:

- 🔑 fatty acids are building blocks of phospholipids and glycolipids
- 🔑 many proteins are modified by the covalent attachment of fatty acids, which targets them to membrane locations.
- 🔑 fatty acids are fuel molecules
- 🔑 fatty acid derivatives serve as hormones and intracellular messengers.



Fatty Acid Synthesis v/s Degradation

SYNTHESIS

- ❖ Cytosol
- ❖ Requires NADPH
- ❖ Acyl carrier protein
- ❖ D-isomer
- ❖ CO_2 activation
- ❖ Citrate ion
- ❖ Multi-enzyme complex

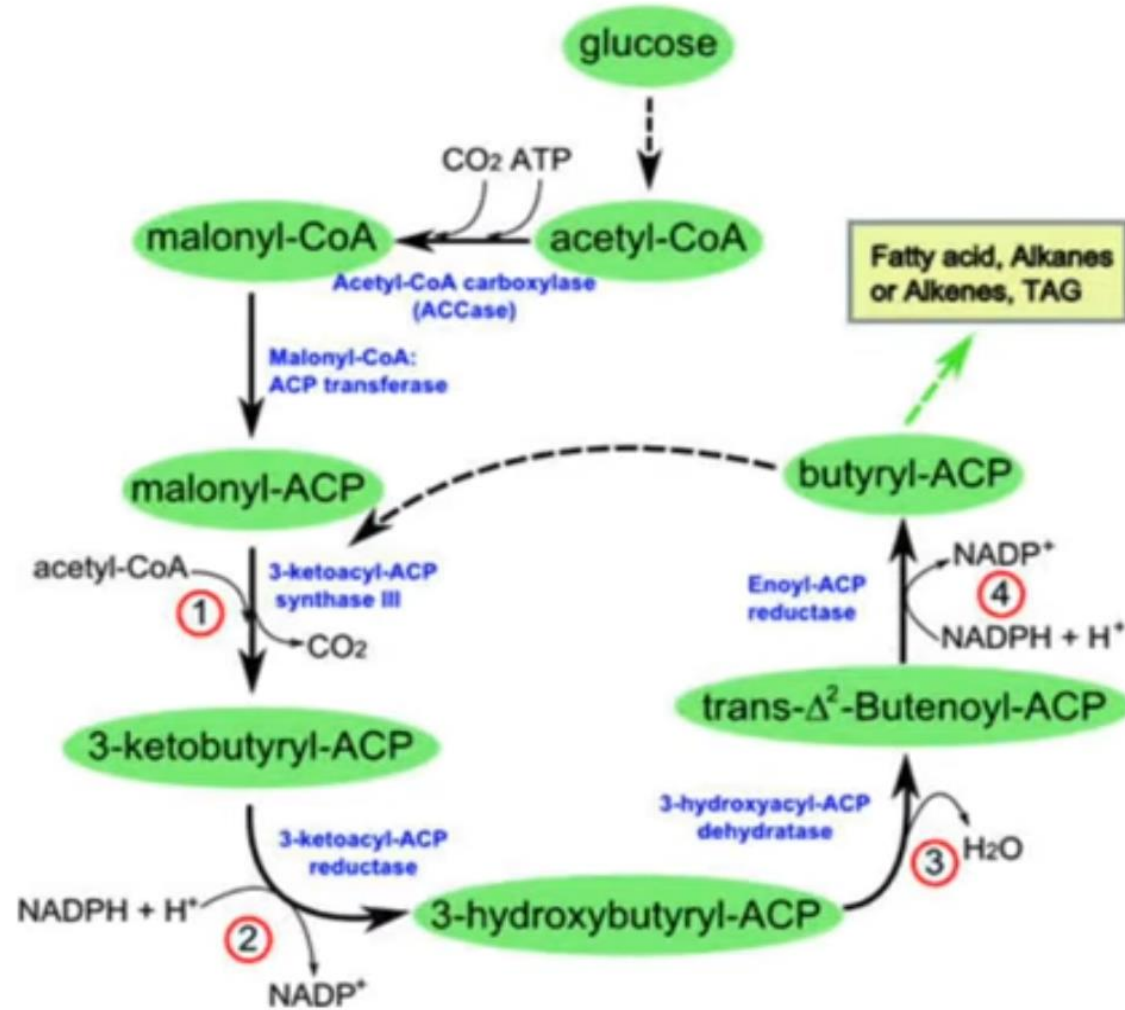
- ❖ 2 carbon units added, as 3 carbon malonyl CoA

DEGRADATION

- ❖ Mitochondria
- ❖ NADH, FADH_2
- ❖ CoA
- ❖ L-isomer
- ❖ No CO_2
- ❖ No citrate
- ❖ Enzymes as independent proteins

- ❖ 2 carbon units split off as acetyl CoA

Fatty Acids Synthesis



Glucose 

Glycolysis
in Cytoplasm

2 Pyruvate

in Mitochondria

Acetyl COA (2C)

Oxaloacetate (4C)

(in Mitochondria)

Citrate synthase
Citrate Shuttle

Citrate (6C)
(in Cytoplasm)

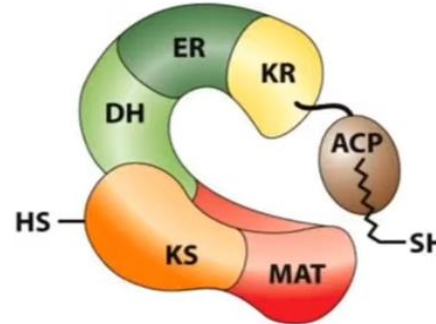
Citrate Lyase
ATP → ADP

Acetyl COA (2C)
(in cytoplasm)

Oxaloacetate (4C)

Malonyl COA (3C)
ADP → ATP
CO₂
Acetyl COA Carboxylase
Biotin (B7)

Fatty acids synthase



Pyruvate

inhibition by
epinephrine, norepinephrine,
glucagon, Cortisol

stimulate by
insulin

in Cytoplasm

Fatty Acids Synthesis

4 Starting Material

1_ Acetyl COA
(In Cytoplasm)

2_ Malonyl COA

3_ NADPH

4_ Fatty acids synthase

HMP Shunt

NADPH

Biosynthesis



Fatty Acid biosynthesis is a stepwise assembly of acetyl-CoA units (in the form of malonyl-CoA units) ending with Palmitate (C-16).

It includes 3 steps :



The sites of Fatty acid synthesis are...



Liver



Kidney



Adipose
tissue



Lactating
mammary
glands

Fatty acid synthesis occurs in three phases:

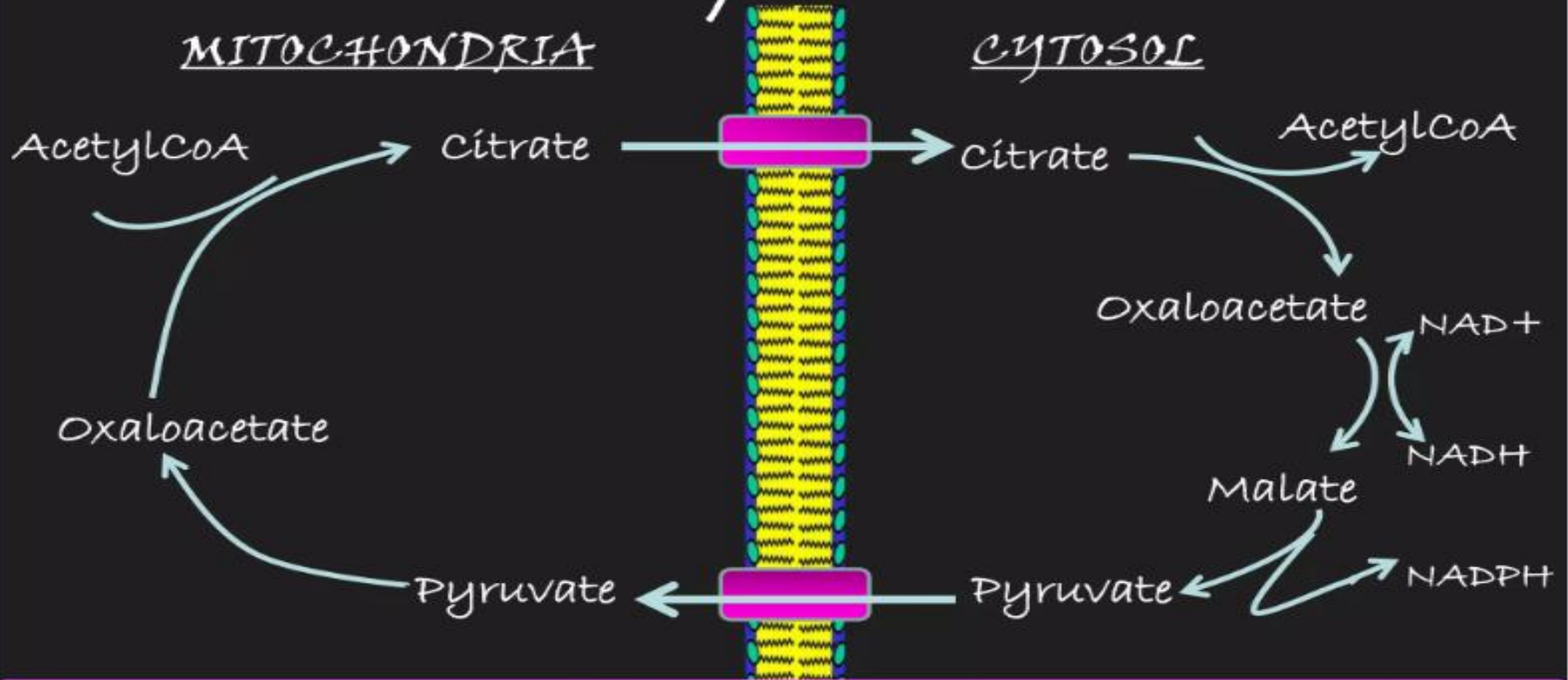
1. Transport of acetyl-CoA from mitochondria to cytosol.
2. Carboxylation of acetyl-CoA to malonyl-CoA.
3. Reactions of fatty acid synthase complex.

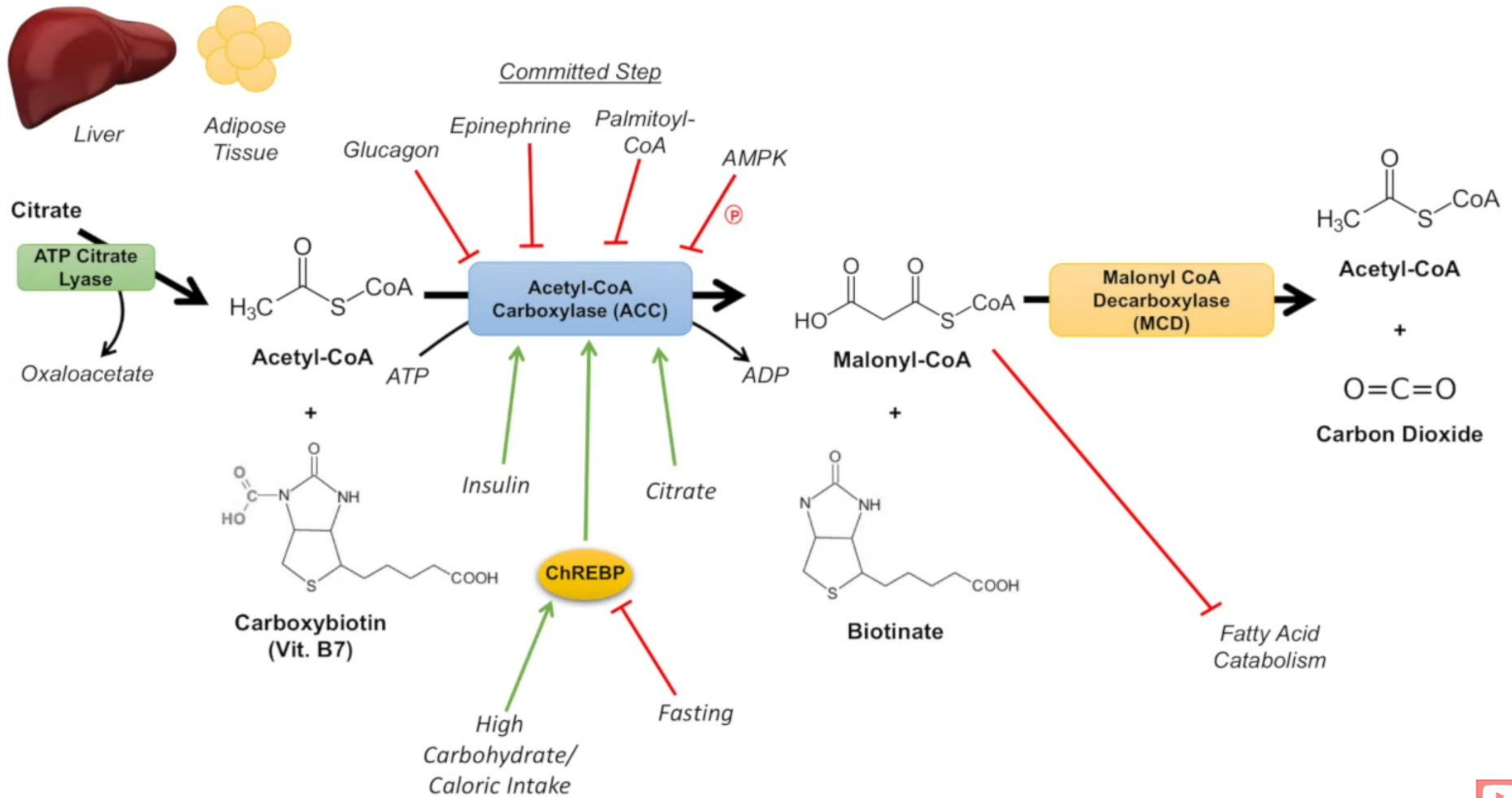
There are three systems for the synthesis of fatty acids

1. De novo synthesis of FAs **in cytoplasm**
2. Chain elongation **in mitochondria**
3. Chain elongation **in microsomes**

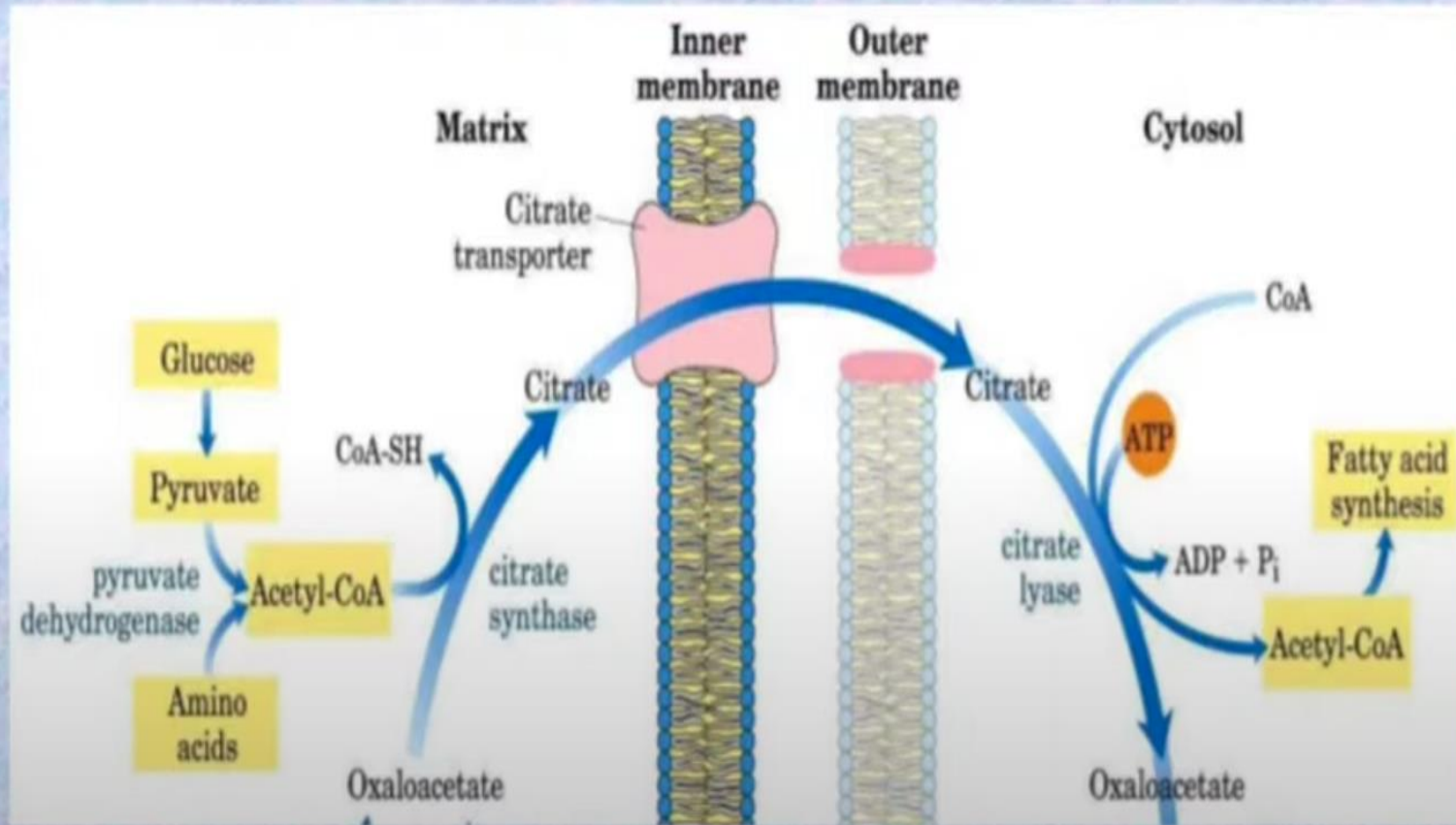


Transfer of Acetyl CoA to Cytosol





TRANSPORTATION OF ACETYL CoA



Enzymes and Cofactors involved in fatty acids synthesis

Two main enzymes-

Acetyl co A carboxylase

Fatty acid Synthase

Both the enzymes are multi enzyme complexes

Coenzymes and cofactors are-

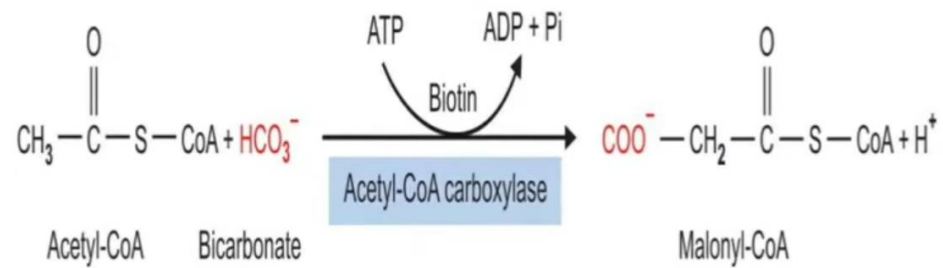
Biotin

NADPH

Mn⁺⁺

Mg⁺⁺

2. Carboxylation of Acetyl CoA to Malonyl CoA



Fatty acid synthase complex

- Is a polypeptide containing seven enzyme activities and acyl carrier protein (ACP) segment

Acetyl transacylase AT

Malonyl transacylase MT

3-ketoacyl synthase KS

3-ketoacyl reductase KR

Enoyl reductase ER

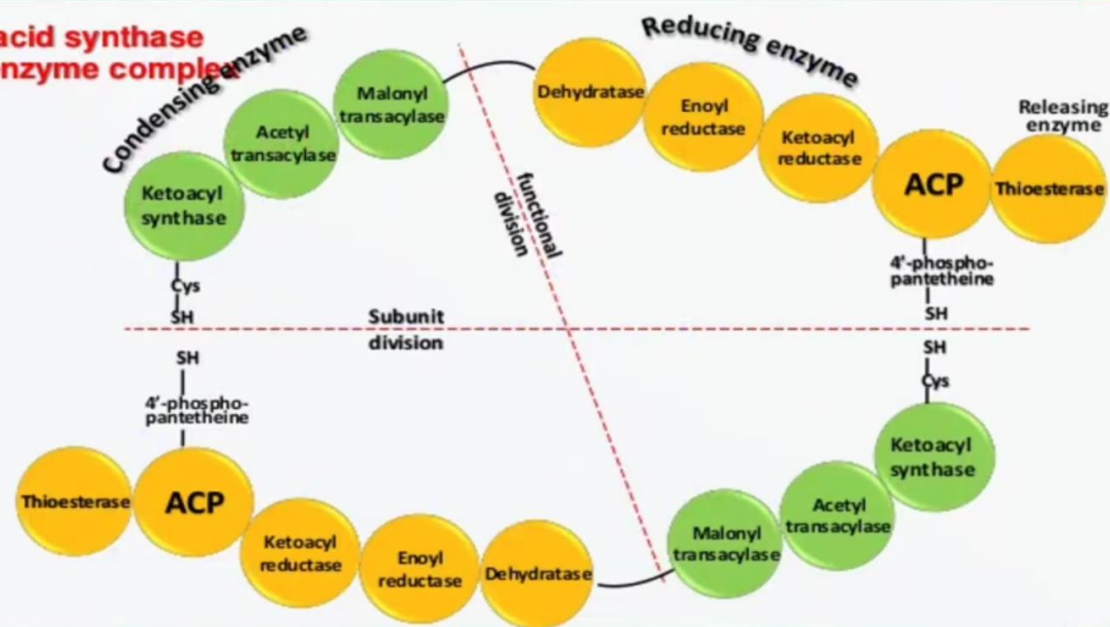
Thioesterase

ACP contains the vitamin pantothenic acid in the form of 4'-phosphopantetheine (Pant). ACP is the part that carry the acyl groups during fatty acid synthesis

Reactions of fatty acid synthase complex

- ⊙ **Fatty acid synthase (FAS) - multifunctional enzyme.**
- ⊙ **In eukaryotic cells, fatty acid synthase exists as a dimer with two identical units.**
- ⊙ **Each monomer possesses the activities of seven different enzymes & an acyl carrier protein (ACP) bound to 4'-phosphopantetheine.**
- ⊙ **Fatty acid synthase functions as a single unit catalyzing all the seven reactions.**

Fatty acid synthase multienzyme complex



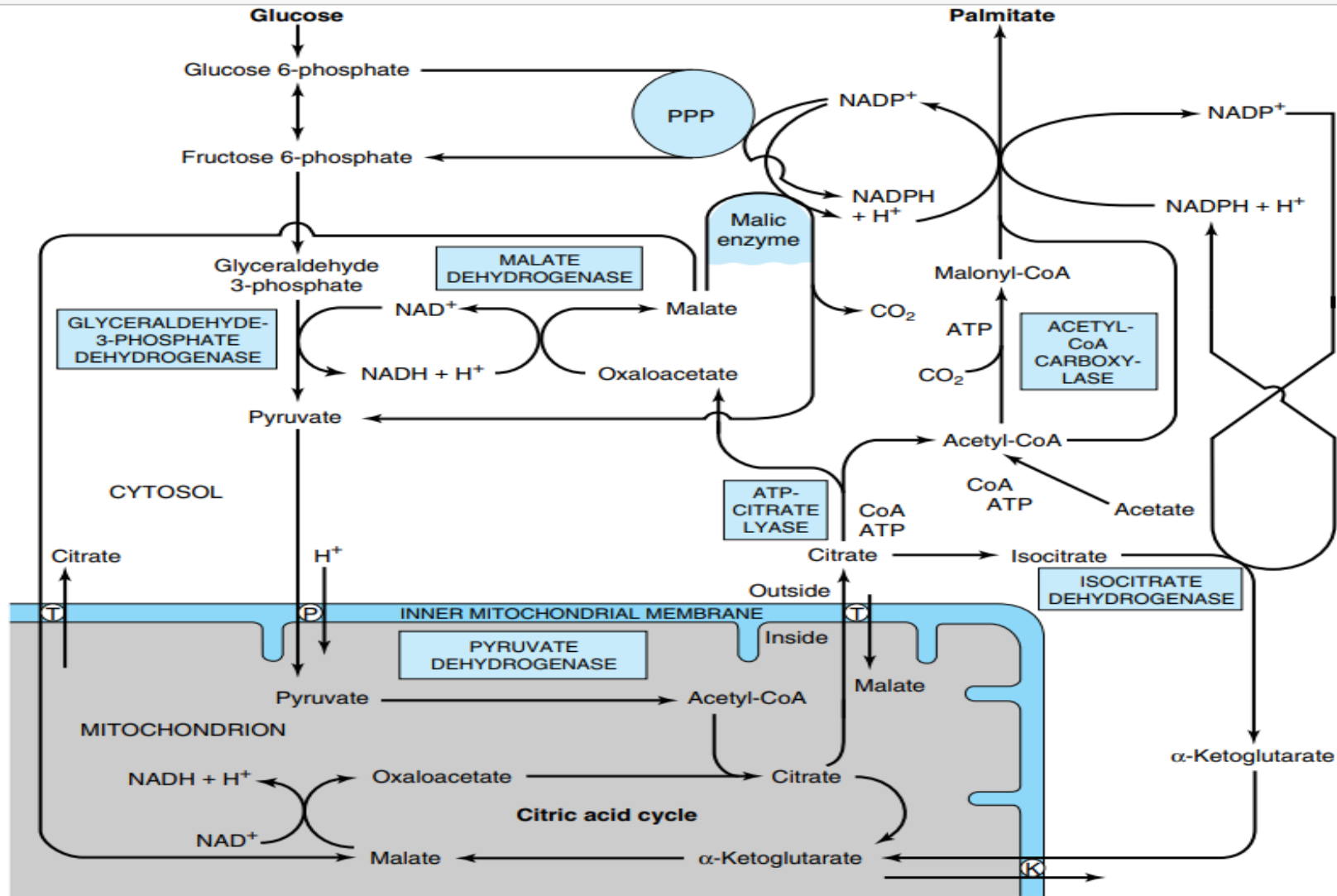
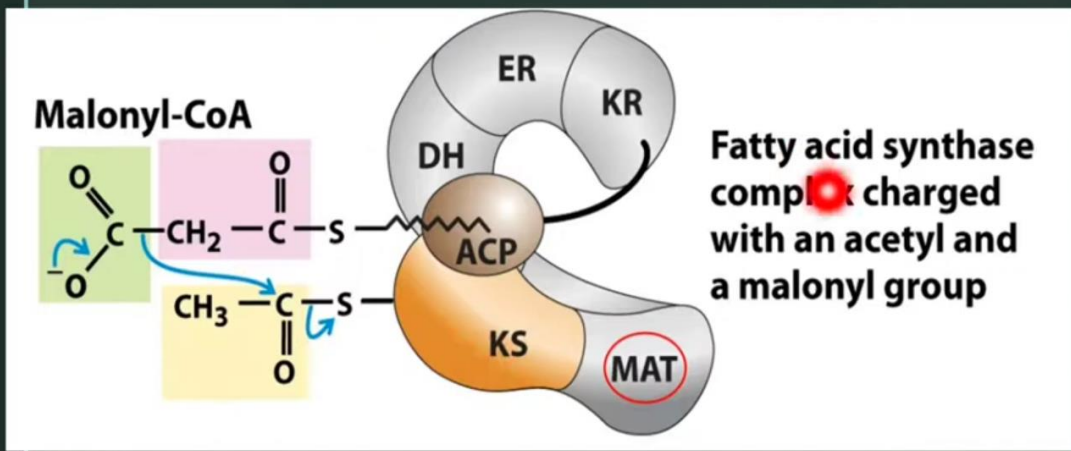


Figure 21-4. The provision of acetyl-CoA and NADPH for lipogenesis. (PPP, pentose phosphate pathway; T, tricarboxylate transporter; K, α -ketoglutarate transporter; P, pyruvate transporter.)



3. Reactions of fatty acid synthase complex

1. Condensation
2. Reduction
3. Dehydration
4. Reduction



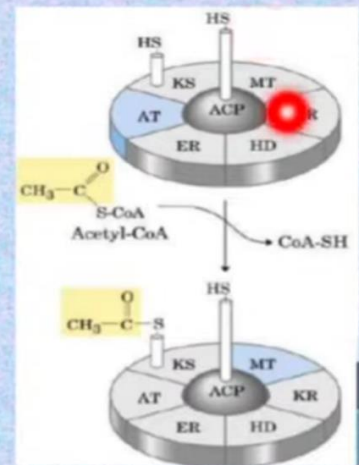
The first a round in fatty acids synthesis

- To initiate FA biosynthesis, malonyl and acetyl groups are activated on to the enzyme **fatty acid synthase**.
- Initially, a priming molecule of acetyl-CoA combines with a cysteine —SH group catalysed by **acetyl transacylase**.
- Malonyl-CoA combines with the adjacent —SH on the 4'-phosphopantetheine of ACP of the other monomer, catalyzed by **malonyl transacylase** (to form acetyl (acyl)-malonylenzyme).



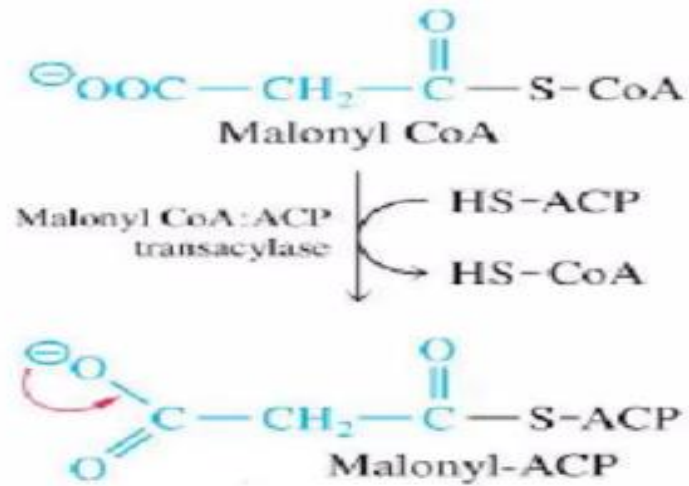
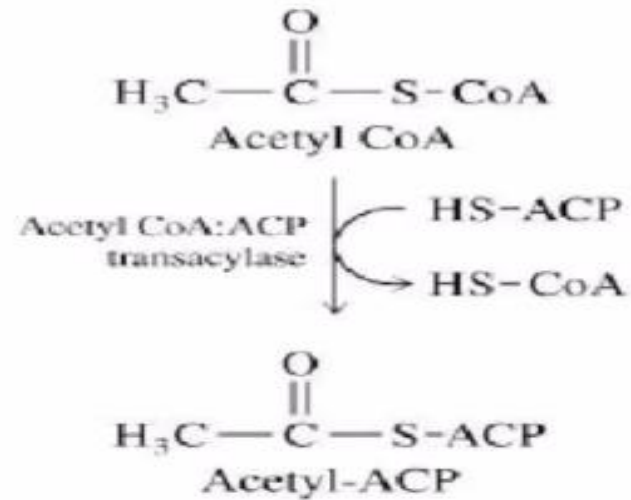
The activation of molnyl group

- The acetyl group from acetyl-CoA is transferred to the Cys-SH group of the ketoacyl ACP synthase
- This reaction is catalyzed by acetyl-CoA transacetylase.



Activation

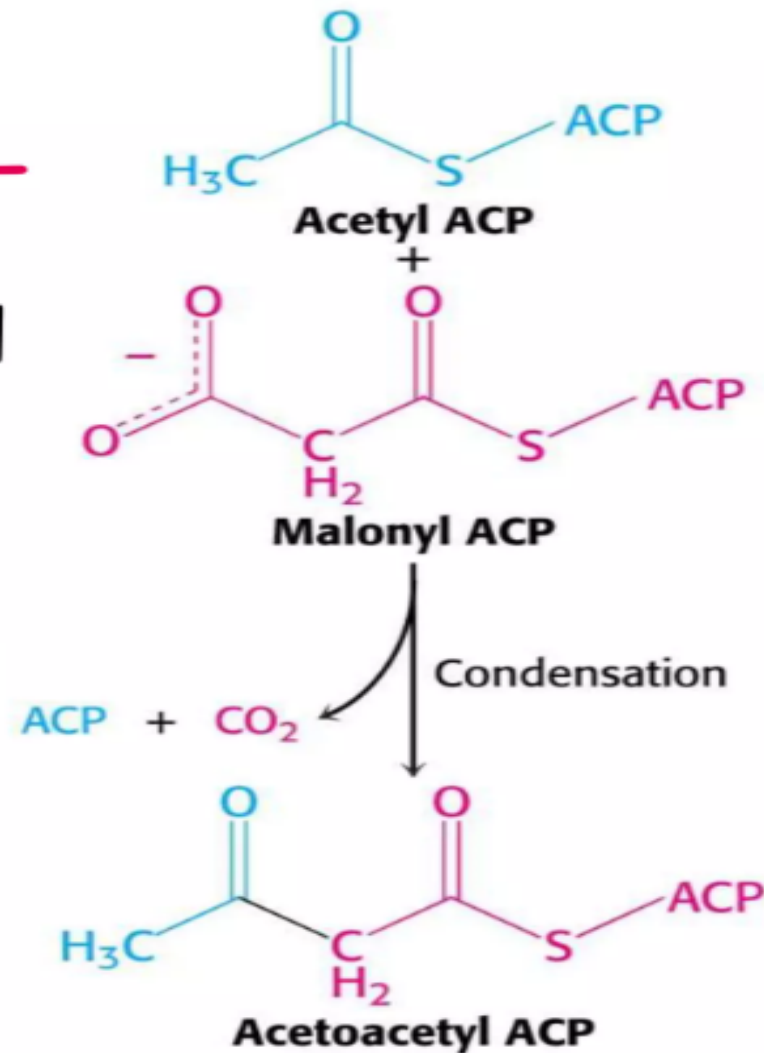
- ✓ Fatty acid synthesis starts with the formation of **acetyl ACP** and **malonyl ACP**.
- ✓ **Acetyl transacylase** and **malonyl transacylase** catalyze these reactions.
- ✓ **Acetyl CoA + ACP** \rightleftharpoons **acetyl ACP + CoA**
Malonyl CoA + ACP \rightleftharpoons **malonyl ACP + CoA**



Condensation reaction-

Acetyl ACP and malonyl ACP react to form acetoacetyl ACP.

Enzyme - *acyl-malonyl ACP condensing enzyme*.

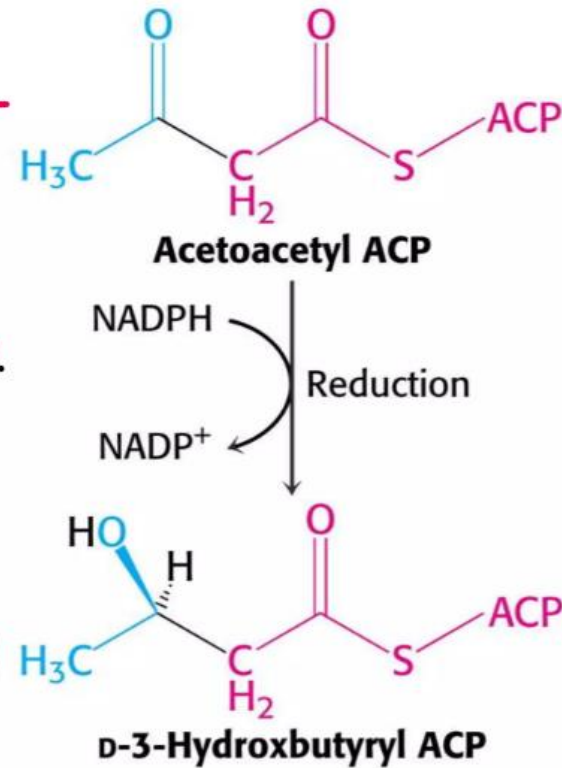


Reduction Reaction-

Acetoacetyl ACP is reduced to **D-3-hydroxybutyryl ACP**.

NADPH is the reducing agent

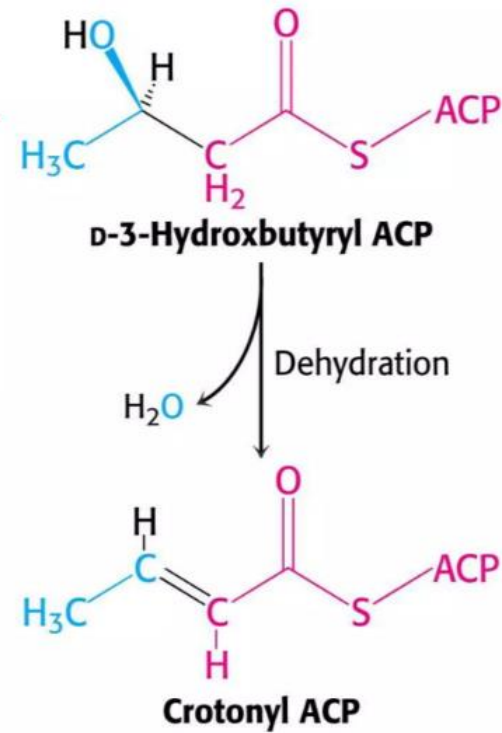
Enzyme: ***β -ketoacyl ACP reductase***



Dehydration Reaction-

D-3-hydroxybutyryl ACP is *dehydrated* to form **crotonyl ACP** (**trans- Δ^2 -enoyl ACP**).

Enzyme:
3-hydroxyacyl ACP dehydratase



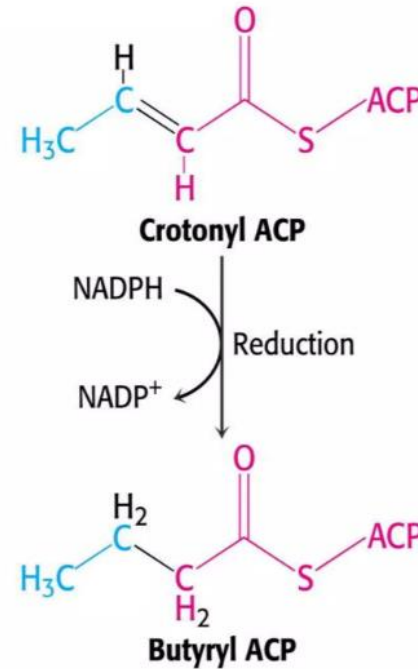
Reduction Reaction-

The final step in the cycle reduces crotonyl ACP to **butyryl ACP**.

NADPH is reductant.

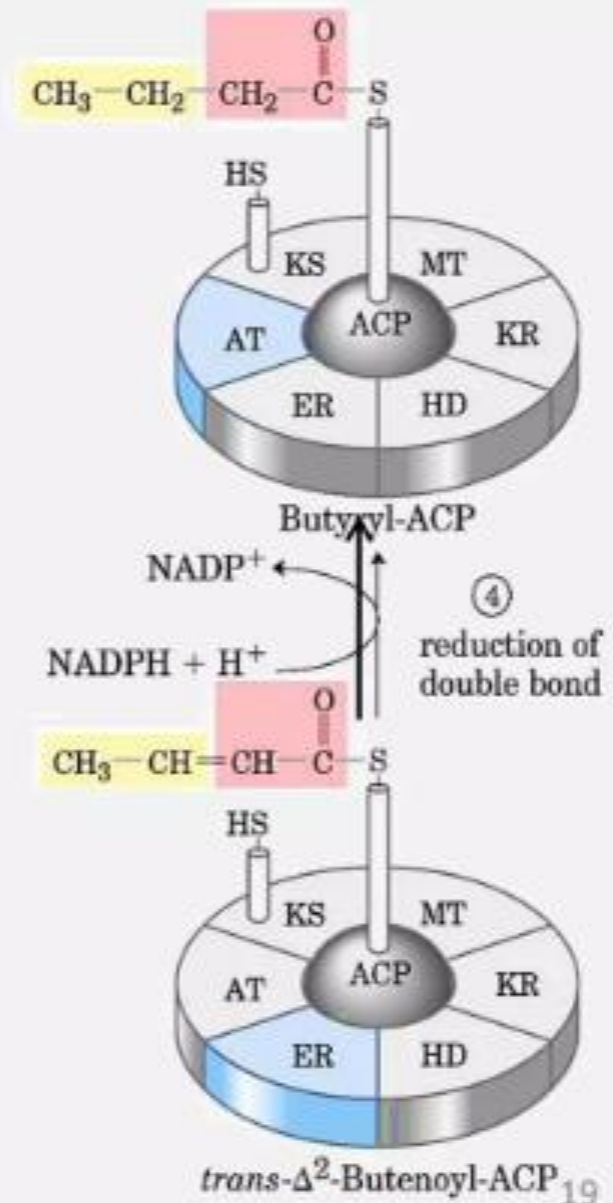
Enzyme - **enoyl ACP reductase**.

This is the end of first elongation cycle (first round).



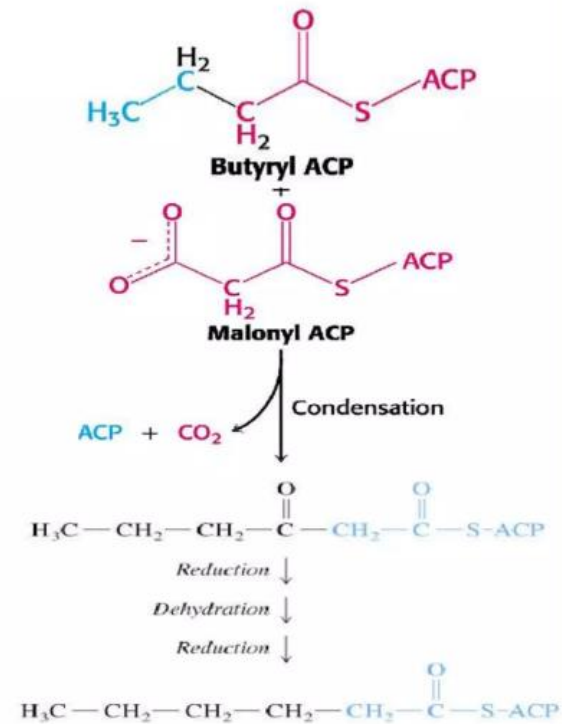
Step 4: Reduction

- ❑ Reduction of the double bond takes place to form butyryl-ACP.
- ❑ Reaction is catalyzed by enoyl-reductase.
- ❑ NADPH dependent reaction.



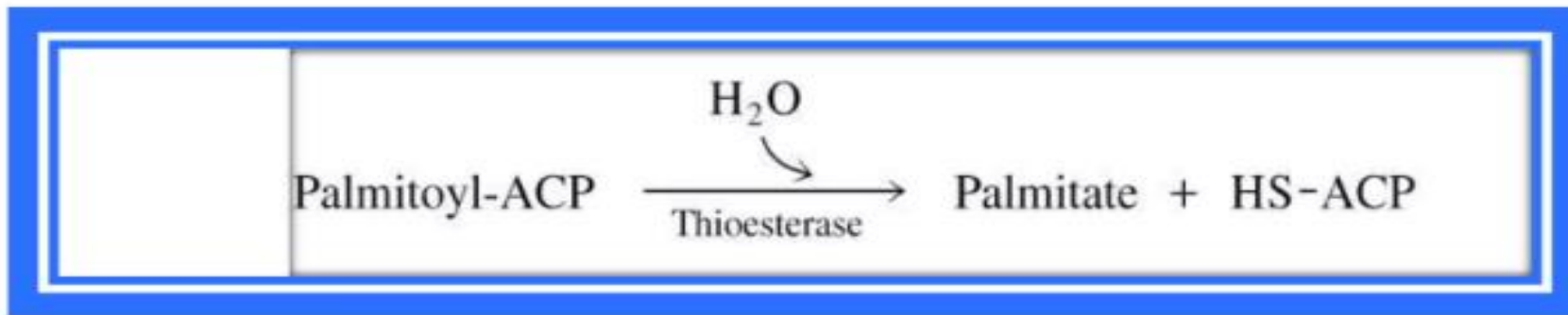
In the **second round** butyryl ACP condenses with malonyl ACP to form a **C₆-β-ketoacyl ACP**.

Reduction, dehydration, and a second reduction convert the **C₆-β-ketoacyl ACP** into a **C₆-acyl ACP**, which is ready for a **third round** of elongation.



Termination

- Rounds of synthesis continue until a **C₁₆ palmitoyl group** is formed
- **Palmitoyl-ACP** is hydrolyzed by a **thioesterase**



Net Production

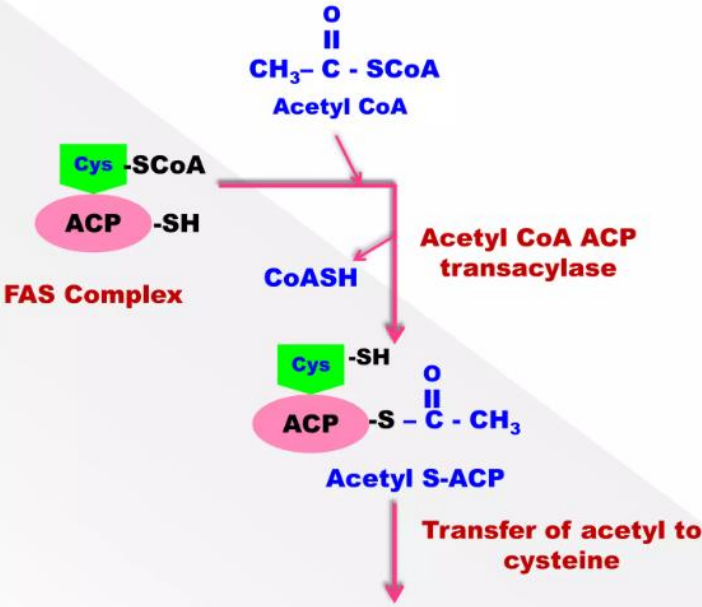
- Net reaction-

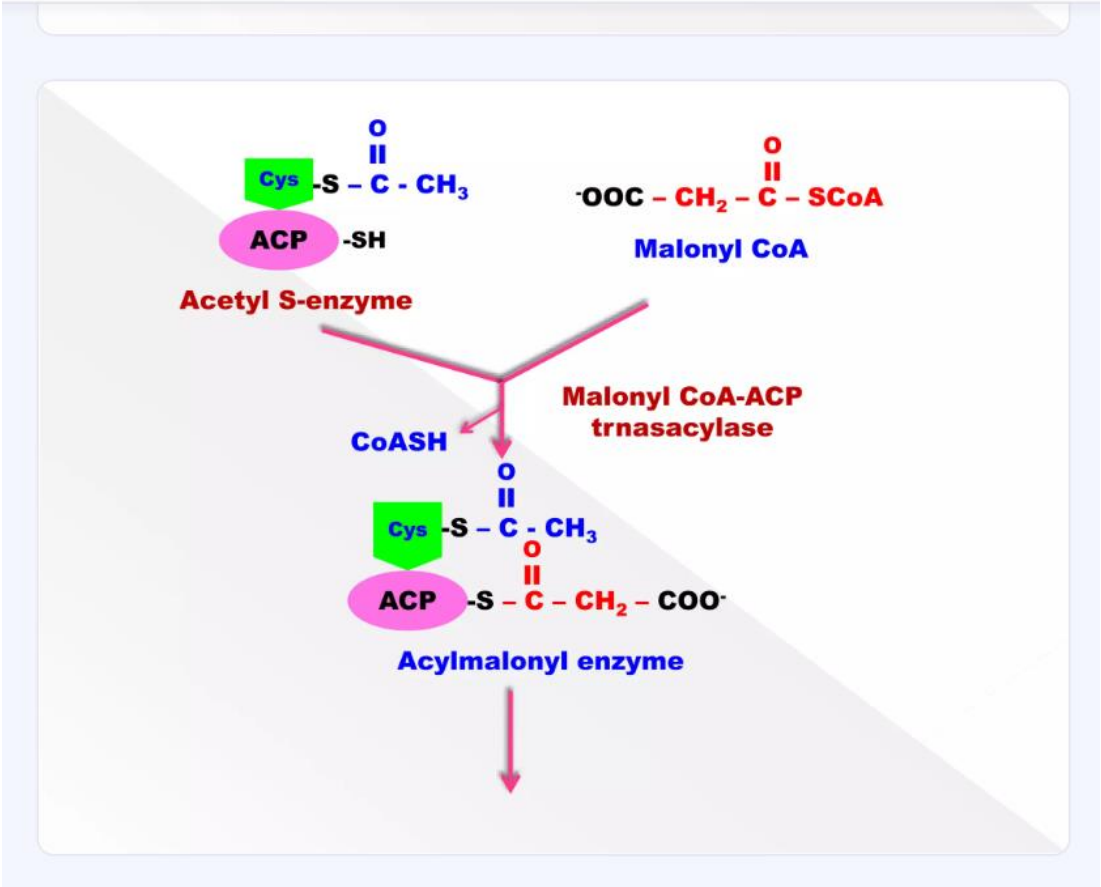


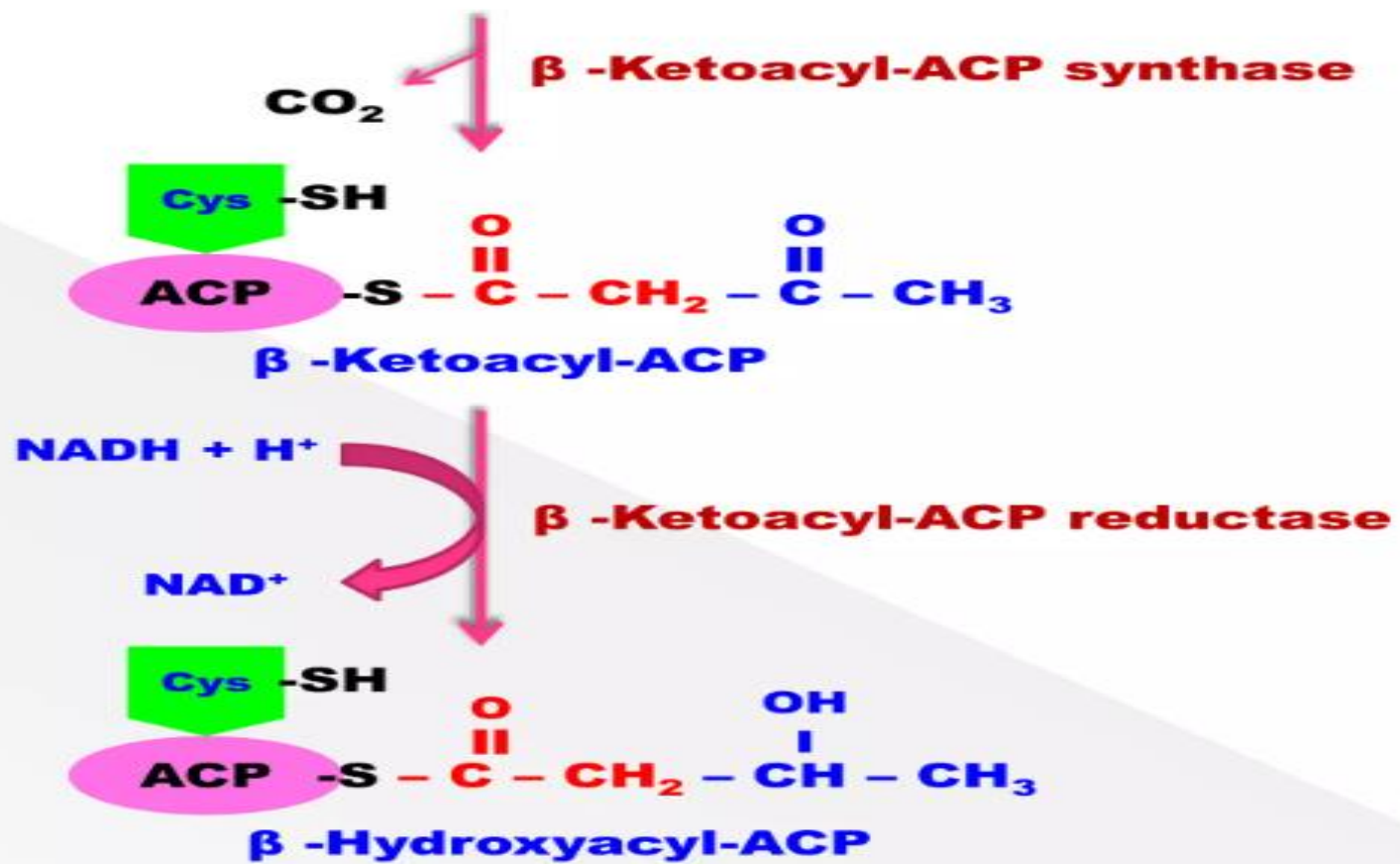
- Over all Net Reaction-



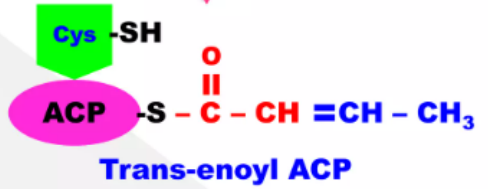
De novo synthesis of fatty acids







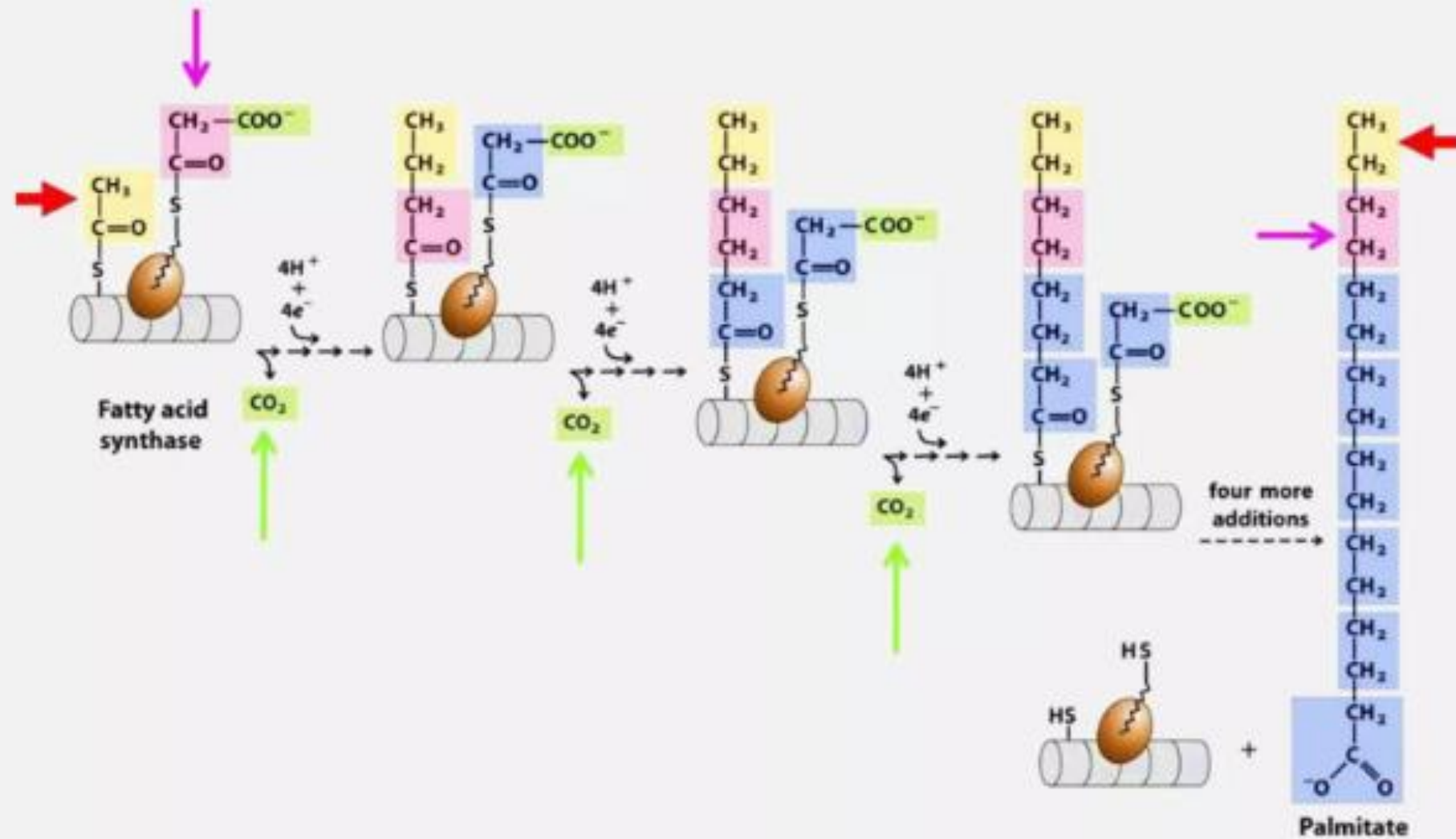
β -Hydroxyacyl-ACP



■ Chain Elongation

- ❑ A new malonyl-CoA molecule combines with the —SH of 4'-phosphopantetheine, displacing the saturated acyl residue onto the free cysteine —SH group.
- ❑ The sequence of reactions are repeated until a saturated 16-carbon acyl radical (Palmityl) has been assembled.
- ❑ Catalyzed by enzyme Thioesterase (deacylase).

Chain Elongation

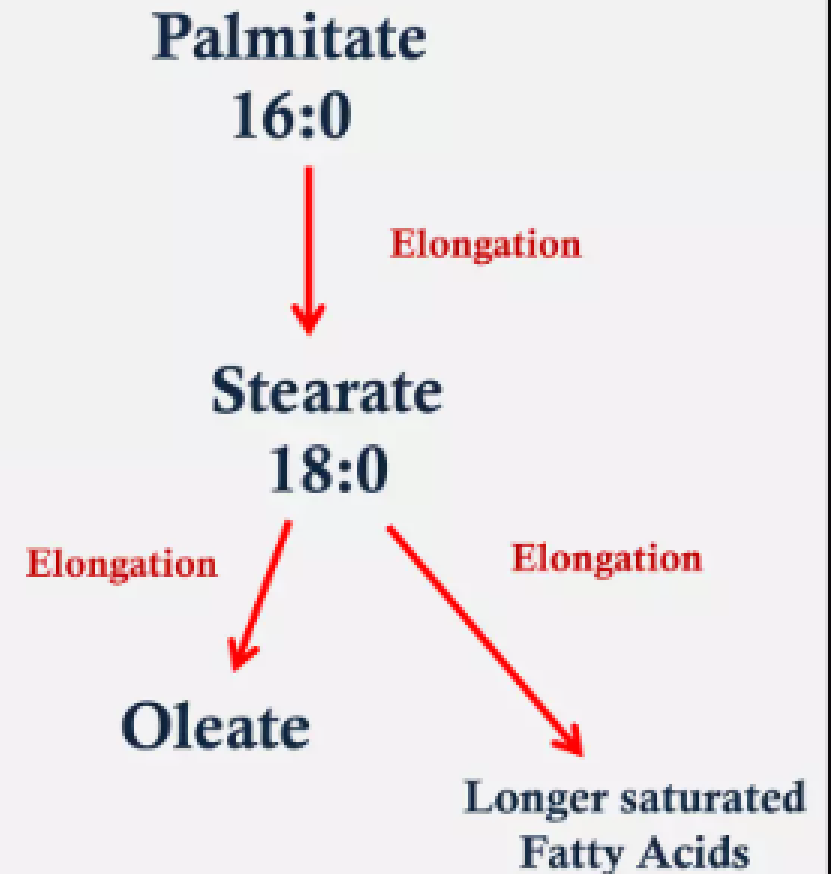


■ **Result of fatty acid synthesis activity**

- ❑ Seven cycles of condensation and reduction produce the 16-carbon saturated palmitoyl group, still bound to ACP.
- ❑ Chain elongation usually stops at this point, and free palmitate is released from the ACP molecule.
- ❑ Smaller amounts of longer fatty acids such as stearate (18:0) are also formed.

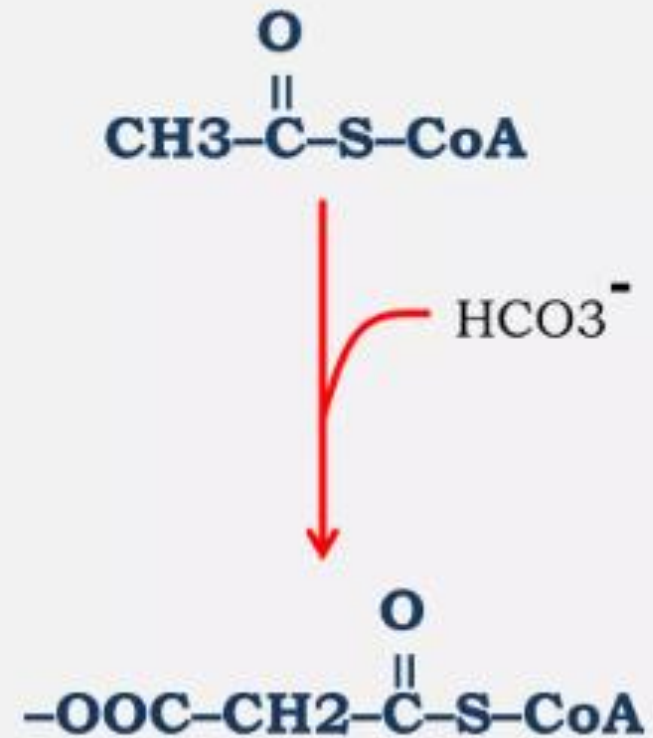
■ Fatty Acid elongation

- Palmitate in animal cells is the precursor of other long-chained FAs.
- By further fatty acid chain length is elongated through the action of **FA elongation systems** present in the smooth endoplasmic reticulum and the mitochondria.



■ Regulation of Fatty acid biosynthesis

- The reaction catalyzed by acetyl- CoA carboxylase is the rate limiting step in the biosynthesis of fatty acids.
- Long-chain fatty acid synthesis is controlled in the short term by allosteric and covalent modification of enzymes and in the long term by changes in gene expression.



■ Conclusion

- ❑ Fatty acid biosynthesis takes place in cytosol and acetyl CoA is immediate substrate.
- ❑ Free palmitate is the end product.
- ❑ It is an ATP and NADPH dependent reaction.
- ❑ Rate of reaction is regulated by acetyl CoA carboxylase.
- ❑ **Net Reaction:**



- • The synthesis of long-chain fatty acids (lipogenesis) is carried out by two enzyme systems: acetyl-CoA carboxylase and fatty acid synthase.
- • The pathway converts acetyl-CoA to palmitate and requires NADPH, ATP, Mn^{2+} , biotin, pantothenic acid, and HCO_3^- – as cofactors.
- • Acetyl-CoA carboxylase is required to convert acetylCoA to malonyl-CoA. In turn, fatty acid synthase, a multienzyme complex of one polypeptide chain with seven separate enzymatic activities, catalyzes the assembly of palmitate from one acetyl-CoA and seven malonyl-CoA molecules.
- • Lipogenesis is regulated at the acetyl-CoA carboxylase step by allosteric modifiers, phosphorylation/dephosphorylation, and induction and repression of enzyme synthesis. Citrate activates the enzyme, and long-chain acyl-CoA inhibits its activity. Insulin activates acetyl-CoA carboxylase whereas glucagon and epinephrine have opposite actions.