

receptor

in drug design

A receptor is a protein or a protein complex in or on a cell that specifically recognizes and binds to a compound acting as a molecular messenger (neurotransmitter, hormone, lymphokine, lectin, drug, *etc.*). In a broader sense, the term receptor is often used as a synonym for any specific (as opposed to non-specific such as binding to plasma proteins) drug binding site, also including nucleic acids such as DNA.

Source:

PAC, 1997, 69, 1137 (*Glossary of terms used in computational drug design (IUPAC Recommendations 1997)*) on page 1149