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The Golgi Apparatus

The Golgi apparatus is named after the person that discovered it; an Italian physician named Camillo Golgi who discovered the organelle in 1897. Like the endoplasmic reticulum, the Golgi apparatus is an organized structure of phospholipid membrane that are essentially flattened stacks of 5-12 distinct compartments. The compartments of the Golgi body are involved in further processing of proteins that were first made in the rough endoplasmic reticulum. Membrane bound vesicles that arise from the Golgi are distributed to various locations within the cell. The Golgi apparatus is particularly important in the processing of proteins that are destined for secretion outside of the cell. Proteins are sent to the Golgi apparatus from the rough endoplasmic reticulum through transport vesicles that move on the "highway" network of the cell, the cytoskeleton (discussed below). The Golgi apparatus is primarily associated with proteins but also serves in the transport of lipids around the cell and the creation of lysosomes. Perhaps the best analogy for the Golgi apparatus would be that of the post office of the cell.



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