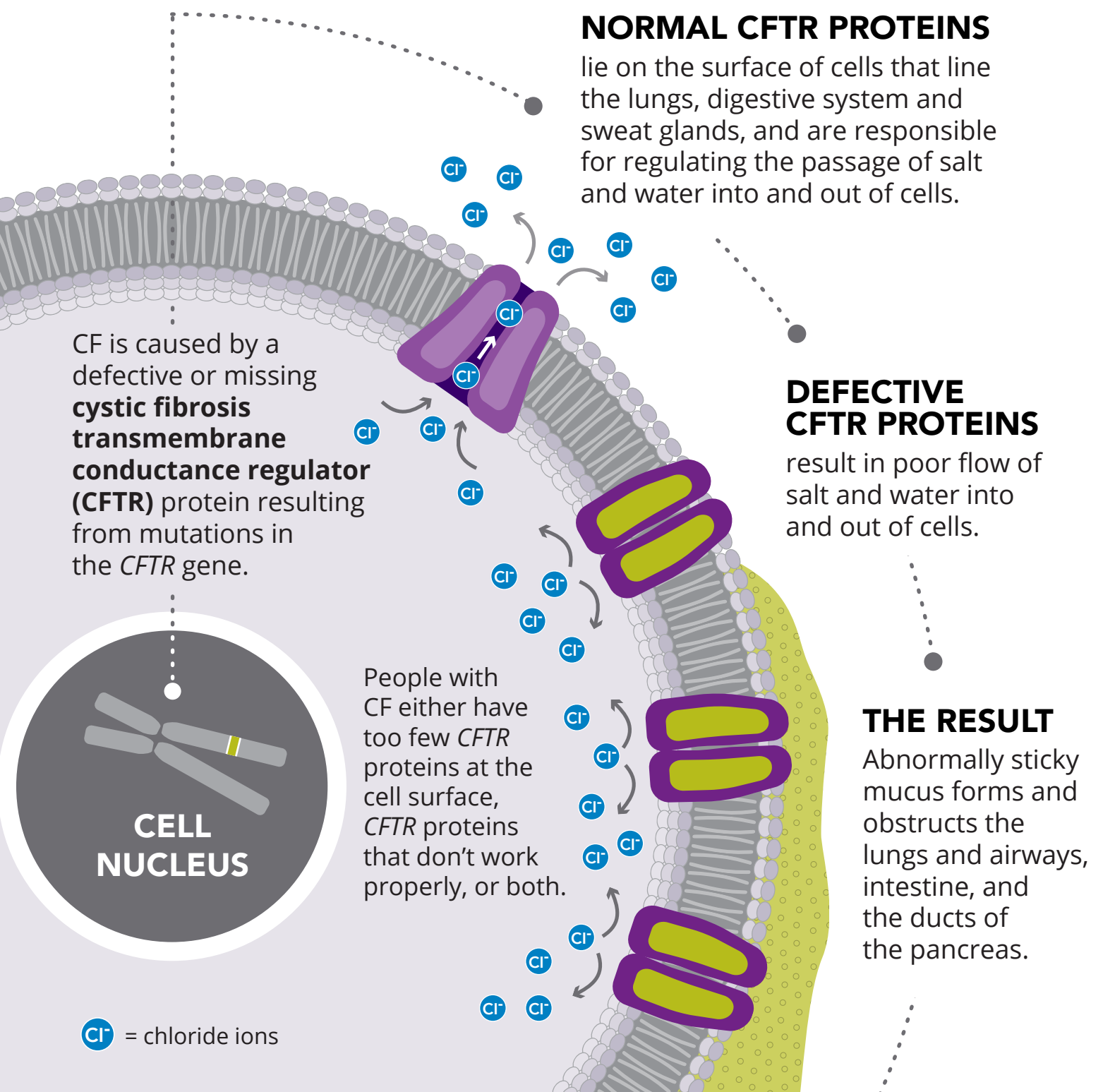


The Biology of CF



How CF affects the body



LUNGS

Mucus buildup in the lungs causes chronic lung infections and progressive lung damage. Half of all lung function decline in people with CF is associated with pulmonary exacerbations, or episodes of worsening of respiratory symptoms due to lung infections. Pulmonary exacerbations can lead to permanent reduction in lung function, and lung disease is the leading cause of death of people with CF.



LIVER

Thicker bile and blocked bile ducts can lead to cirrhosis, making it hard for the liver to work properly.



GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

Reduced ability to absorb nutrients can make it difficult to maintain a healthy weight.



SINUSES

Chronic congestions, sinus infections, and nasal polyps may require treatment with medication and/or surgery.



SWEAT

Excessive salt can cause dehydration and overheating.



PANCREAS

Decrease in pancreatic enzymes leads to malnutrition. Meanwhile, because the pancreas makes too little insulin, and does not properly absorb insulin, some people with CF may develop cystic fibrosis-related diabetes.



REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

Most males with CF are infertile; and many females experience reduced fertility.

