Cannabinoid receptors

The two main receptors that form the endocannabinoid system are the CB1 and CB2 cannabinoid receptors. It has been accepted recently that the orphan receptor GPR55 can be considered as the third receptor for cannabinoid activity. All these receptors are transmembrane proteins capable of sending out an extracellular signal into the interior of a cell.

CB1 receptors are metabotropic receptors expressed most abundantly in the brain and their distribution has been widely characterized in humans. CB1 receptors are highly expressed in the hippocampus, basal ganglia, cortex and cerebellum. They are less expressed in the amygdala, hypothalamus, nucleus accumbens, thalamus, periaduncular grey matter and the spinal cord, as well as in other brain areas, mainly in the telencephalon and diencephalon. CB1 receptors are also expressed in several peripheral organs. Thus, they are present in adipocytes, liver, lungs, smooth muscle, gastrointestinal tract, pancreatic ß-cells, vascular endothelium, reproductive organs, immune system, sensorial peripheral nerves and sympathetic nerves.

http://www.fundacion-canna.es/en/endocannabinoid-system