Neurotransmitters and Drugs of the Cholinergic Synapse

**Acetylcholine**
- Neurotransmitter, a chemical messenger
- Binds to the acetylcholine receptor on the post-synaptic neuron
- Broken down by acetylcholinesterase, found in the synapse

**Nicotine**
- Binds to and activates the acetylcholine receptor, triggering an influx of sodium ions into the cell

**Sarin**
- Binds competitively inhibits acetylcholinesterase by covalently binding to the active site