CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Fundamentals of Molecular Biology (BCH-GE-9)	04	02	0	02	Class XII with Science and Biology	Basic courses allied to biological science

Learning Objectives

This course is designed to introduce the concepts of how the genetic material is organized within genomes and the difference in the architecture of the genome in various organisms. It deals with the replication of the genetic material in prokaryotes and eukaryotes as well as the expression of genes into RNA as well as proteins; all being crucial life processes required for the perpetuity and successful functioning of living organisms. It also introduces the concept of regulation of gene expression in prokaryotes.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Perform the isolation of bacterial genomic DNA and assess its purity
2. Evaluate the characteristic properties of DNA and RNA using biochemical assays like Dische test and Bial's test.
3. Identify the different nitrogenous bases present in Nucleic acids
4. Compare the DNA replication in prokaryotes and eukaryotes.
5. Discern the processes of conversion of the information stored in the genetic code into mRNA as well as proteins.

SYLLABUS OF GE-9

BCH-GE-9 : FUNDAMENTALS OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY SEMESTER - IV

2.2 Course Contents

Theory (Credit 2)

Total Hours: 30

Unit 1 Genome organization in organisms (3 Hours)

Definition of a gene, organization of genes in viruses, bacteria and eukaryotes. Supercoiling of DNA, linking number, topoisomerases.

Unit 2 Replication of genomes (9 Hours)

General features of DNA replication, properties of prokaryotic and eukaryotic DNA polymerases. Three stages of DNA replication, end replication problem, telomerase, Inhibitors of DNA replication and applications in medicine.

Unit 3 Transcription (10 Hours)

Transcription in prokaryotes, RNA polymerase, sigma factor, bacterial promoters, identification of DNA binding sites by DNA footprinting, various stages of RNA synthesis, initiation, elongation and termination, rho-dependent and rho-independent termination. Concept of operons (Lac operon). Eukaryotic RNA polymerases. Inhibitors of transcription and applications in medicine.

Unit 4 Translation (8 Hours)

Features of the genetic code, structure of ribosomes, charging of tRNAs, amino acyl tRNA synthetases; three stages of protein synthesis - initiation, elongation and termination. Inhibitors of protein synthesis.

2.3 Practicals

CREDITS: 2 Total Hours: 60

1. Quantitative determination of DNA and RNA by absorbance at 260 nm.
2. Estimation of DNA by Dische's reagent.
3. Estimation of RNA by Bial's reagent.
4. Separation of nitrogenous bases by paper chromatography.
5. Isolation of chromosomal DNA from *E. coli* and estimation of its purity by 260nm/280nm absorbance.

2.4 Suggested Readings

1. Nelson, D.L. and Cox, M.M. (2013). *Lehninger: Principles of Biochemistry* (6th ed.,) W.H. Freeman & Company (New York), ISBN-13; 978-1-4641-0962-1 / ISBN:10-14641-0962-1.

2. Berg, J.M., Tymoczko, J.L. and Stryer, L., (2012). *Biochemistry* (7th ed.,) W.H Freeman and Company (New York), ISBN: 13:978-1-4292-7635-1.
3. Watson, J.D., Baker, T.A., Bell, S.P., Gann, A., Levine, M. and Losick, R. (2008) *Watson: Molecular Biology of the Gene* (7th ed.), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold spring Harbor (New York), ISBN:0-321-50781 / ISBN-13: 9780321762436.

3. Keywords

Genes, Replication, Transcription, Translation, Genetic code, Protein synthesis.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.