

(Semester V)

Paper 13: FUNDAMENTALS OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

THEORY

Unit 1: Nucleic acids : Carriers of genetic information

Historical perspective; DNA as the carrier of genetic information (Griffith's, Hershey & Chase, Avery, McLeod & McCarty, Fraenkel-Conrat's experiment); Organization of DNA in bacteria and viruses (TMV, T4 bacteriophage) **(6 lectures)**

Unit 2: The replication of DNA

Chemistry of DNA synthesis (Kornberg's discovery); General principles – bidirectional, semi-conservative and semi discontinuous replication, RNA priming; Various models of DNA replication, including rolling circle, θ (theta) mode of replication, replication of linear ds-DNA, replication of the 5' end of linear chromosome; Enzymes involved in DNA replication. **(10 lectures)**

Unit 3: Central dogma and genetic code

Key experiments establishing-The Central Dogma (Adaptor hypothesis and discovery of mRNA template), Genetic code (deciphering & salient features) **(5 lectures)**

Unit 4: Mechanism of Transcription

Transcription in prokaryotes; Transcription in eukaryotes **(15 lectures)**

Unit 5: Processing and modification of RNA

Split genes-concept of introns and exons, removal of introns, spliceosome machinery, splicing pathways, group I & group II intron splicing, alternative splicing eukaryotic mRNA processing (5' cap, 3' polyA tail); Ribozymes, exon shuffling; RNA editing and mRNA transport. **(12 lectures)**

PRACTICALS

1. DNA isolation from cauliflower head.
2. DNA estimation by diphenylamine reagent/UV Spectrophotometry.
3. Study of DNA replication mechanisms through photographs (Rolling circle, Theta replication and semi-discontinuous replication).
4. Study of structures of prokaryotic RNA polymerase and eukaryotic RNA polymerase II through photographs.
5. Photographs establishing nucleic acid as genetic material (Messelson and Stahl's, Avery et al, Griffith's, Hershey & Chase's and Fraenkel & Conrat's experiments)
6. Study of the following through photographs: Assembly of Spliceosome machinery; Splicing mechanism in group I & group II introns; Ribozyme and Alternative splicing.

ESSENTIAL READINGS

1. Watson J.D., Baker, T.A., Bell, S.P., Gann, A., Levine, M., Losick, R. (2007). *Molecular Biology of the Gene*, Pearson Benjamin Cummings, CSHL Press, New York, U.S.A. 6th edition.
2. Snustad, D.P. and Simmons, M.J. (2010). *Principles of Genetics*. John Wiley and Sons Inc., U.S.A. 5th edition.
3. Klug, W.S., Cummings, M.R., Spencer, C.A. (2009). *Concepts of Genetics*. Benjamin Cummings. U.S.A. 9th edition.
4. Russell, P. J. (2010). *iGenetics- A Molecular Approach*. Benjamin Cummings, U.S.A. 3rd edition.
5. Griffiths, A.J.F., Wessler, S.R., Carroll, S.B., Doebley, J. (2010). *Introduction to Genetic Analysis*. W. H. Freeman and Co., U.S.A. 10th edition.