

Gene Regulation

a. Prokaryotes

- (1) Inducers (turn genes on) and repressors (turn genes off) are small molecules that interact with regulatory proteins and/or regulatory sequences.
- (2) Regulatory proteins inhibit gene expression by binding to DNA and blocking transcription (negative control).
- (3) Regulatory proteins stimulate gene expression by binding to DNA and stimulating transcription (positive control) or binding to repressors to inactivate repressor function.

b. Eukaryotes

- (1) Transcription factors bind to DNA sequences and other regulatory proteins
- (2) Some of these transcription factors are activators (increase expression), while others are repressors (decrease expression).
- (3) The combination of transcription factors binding to the regulatory regions at any one time determines how much, if any, of the gene product will be produced.

Immunity

- a. Plants, invertebrates and vertebrates have multiple, nonspecific immune responses, ex: phagocytes engulf and digest pathogens with the help of lysosomes
- b. Mammals use specific immune responses triggered by natural or artificial agents that disrupt dynamic homeostasis.

(1) The mammalian immune system includes two types of specific responses: cell mediated and humoral.

(2) In the cell-mediated response, cytotoxic T cells, a type of lymphocyte white blood cell, target intracellular pathogens when antigens are displayed on the outside of the cells.

- (3) In the humoral response, B cells, a type of lymphocyte white blood cell, produce antibodies against specific antigens.
- (4) Antigens are recognized by antibodies to the antigen.
- (5) Antibodies are proteins produced by B cells, and each antibody is specific to a particular antigen.
- (6) A second exposure to an antigen results in a more rapid and enhanced immune response.

Viruses

a. Replication

- (1) Viruses inject DNA or RNA into host cell
- (2) Viruses have highly efficient replication capabilities that allow for rapid evolution
- (3) Viruses replicate via the lytic cycle, allowing one virus to produce many progeny simultaneously
- (4) Virus replication allows for mutations to occur through usual host pathways.
- (5) RNA viruses lack replication error-checking mechanisms, and thus have higher rates of mutation.

(6) Related viruses can combine/recombine information if they infect the same host cell.

(7) Some viruses are able to integrate into the host DNA and establish a latent (lysogenic) infection

(8) HIV is a well-studied system where the rapid evolution of a virus within the host contributes to the pathogenicity of viral infection.

(9) Genetic information in retroviruses is a special case and has an alternate flow of information: from RNA to DNA, made possible by reverse transcriptase, an enzyme that copies the viral RNA genome into DNA. This DNA integrates into the host genome and becomes transcribed and translated for the assembly of new viral progeny.