Dear SS Biochemistry students,

Welcome to Senior Sophister year, the culmination of your Biochemistry degree. It is a chance to really engage with Biochemistry as a subject and to graduate as well rounded scientists with the ability to follow a wide range of career paths. It is very unfortunate that this coincides with a pandemic but from a subject point of view, it illustrates the practical and real importance of Biochemistry & Immunology and the meaningful contribution that it can make to the safety, health, well-being and even economy of a country. You will be updated on progress in the science behind Sars-CoV-2 and Covid-19 as the year progresses.

Obviously, there have had to be major changes to the degree programme in light of ongoing public health concerns and regulations. We have ensured that you will be able to graduate at the end of the year having achieved the 60 ECTS that are required. We have preserved the Capstone project and where we were obliged to make alterations, they have been mindful of the need for academic integrity and the strong ethos of research that exists within Trinity College and indeed, in our School.
In light of uncertain future in terms of how the pandemic will unfold, we have finalised plans for Semester one activities and we will review plans for Semester two in due course. You will be kept updated as these plans progress.

For now, please take your time going through the booklet and the information therein. It has a lot of important information including deadlines for various activities. A copy of the booklet is on Blackboard under Module BIU44190. While some things may be out of our control, we will endeavour to minimise changes to the planned activities. Obviously, if someone does develop symptoms associated with Covid-19, please make your way to the isolation room in Level -2 and notify me immediately through email or by phone.

If you have any problems during the year which affect your academic studies, please speak to me in confidence. I am here to help. Looking forward to working with you over the coming year.

Danny Zisterer: SS Course Co-ordinator: dzister@tcd.ie  Direct line: 8961628

SENIOR SOPHISTER MODULES

BIU44190 CAPSTONE PROJECT IN BIOCHEMISTRY (S1) (20 credits)
The module comprises of an original research project in biochemistry, an extended literature review, a short research article, a future work proposal and an oral presentation.

BIU44010 ADVANCED RESEARCH SKILLS (S1) (10 credits)
This purpose of this module is to further develop research, critical analysis and communication skills that are essential for a graduate biochemist. Students will be trained in data handling as well as solving quantitative problems in biochemistry. In addition, this module will introduce students to a wide array of cutting edge techniques and strategies used in biochemistry.

BIU44110 BIOCHEMISTRY IN HEALTH & DISEASE II (S2) (10 credits)
This module covers the structure, function and pharmacology of neurotransmitters, neuron-glial interactions, intraneuronal signalling and the neurobiology of behaviour and neurodegenerative disorders. This module also covers the biochemistry of genetic deficiency diseases and metabolic diseases.

BIU44120 IMMUNOLOGY & MICROBIOLOGY (S2) (10 credits)
This module covers pathogen recognition by and signal transduction in immune cells. Bacterial pathogens of medical importance will also be covered in detail. It will provide an introduction to parasitic protozoa such as trypanosomes and helminths. Finally, the
biochemical and genetic mechanisms by which bacteria, viruses and parasites evade the host immune responses will be covered.

**BIU44130 CANCER BIOLOGY & CELL SIGNALLING (S2) (10 credits)**
This module covers the cellular and regulatory mechanisms that control the cell cycle. It also covers the molecular basis of a stem cell and its potential use in therapies. Furthermore it covers the molecular basis of cancer, the progression of the disease and the therapeutic treatment strategies.

**NOTE: Learning outcomes for each of the modules can be found below (from page 39).**

**Biochemistry Personnel and Contact Details:**
The Senior Sophister Course Co-ordinator is Danny Zisterer (phone extension 1628, email dzistrer@tcd.ie). The Head of School is Derek Nolan (denolan@tcd.ie). Rachel Elshove (elshover@tcd.ie) is the point of contact in the School office on Level 3 TBSI. Remember that you also have a college tutor that you can contact at any time. A complete list of the Biochemistry Staff can be found at [https://www.tcd.ie/Biochemistry/people/](https://www.tcd.ie/Biochemistry/people/)

**Timetable:**
Given Covid-19, we are not sure that the CMIS timetable, for Semester one at least, will be particularly relevant this year to Senior Sophister students. Lectures during Semester One will be available on-line through the relevant module in Blackboard. These will be released at the start of a given week and you can engage with them at your own pace. Some but not all students will have a ‘wet-lab’ project and will be present either in TBSI or in TTMI (St. James's Hospital). A schedule of the block assigned to you will be circulated. We will review plans for Semester Two at a later stage. As you know, CIMS is the official college timetable but we are likely to rely on locally produced information for Semester One.

**Face-to-face and remote learning:**
College is encouraging face to face activities where it is safe to do so. Given that many of you will be in laboratories, we have arranged that most lectures will be pre-recorded and available online. Small group tutorials are allowed to take place face-to-face as long as both students and the academic member of staff are willing and able to engage in such. Otherwise, remote zoom tutorials should be arranged. It is important this year that students actively engage with academic staff to enrich your education experience.

**Attendance:**
All students are expected to attend lectures, workshops, in-course assessments and examinations, either on-line or face to face. Tutorials, on-line lectures and workshops play an important role in supporting progress through the academic year in particular course
assignment work. Students are therefore expected to keep up a consistent rate of good participation so that performance later in the year will not be adversely affected. In the event of not being able to participate in classes due to illness, please inform the Course Coordinator. Medical certificates are required for absences of more than a few days OR if the absence means a deadline or an assessment will be missed. Details of medical certificates and other personal information will be treated confidentially.

The School operates the College procedure in relation to ‘Non-satisfactory attendance and course work’ (Calendar). That is, any student who misses more than a third of a course in any semester or fails to complete assignments may be declared ‘non-satisfactory’. Non-satisfactory returns are made to the Senior Lecturer; such students may be refused permission to take the end of semester examinations and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat the year.

*From College Calendar General Regulations: 2020-21*

**Non-satisfactory attendance**

24 All students must fulfil the course requirements of the school or department, as appropriate, with regard to attendance. Where specific requirements are not stated, students may be deemed non-satisfactory if they miss more than a third of their course of study in any term. Calendar 2020-21

25 At the end of the teaching term, students who have not satisfied the school or department requirements, as set out in §§19 and 24 above, may be reported as non-satisfactory for that term. Students reported as non-satisfactory for the Michaelmas and Hilary terms of a given year may be refused permission to take their semester two assessment/examinations and may be required by the Senior Lecturer to repeat their year. Further details of procedures for reporting a student as non-satisfactory are given on the College website at www.tcd.ie/academic registry/studentcases.

**Explanation of ECTS:**

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study. It is designed to enable academic recognition for periods of study, to facilitate student mobility and credit accumulation and transfer. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Ireland and across the European Higher Education Area.

The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours, the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, laboratory classes, examinations, clinical attendance, professional training placements, and so on as appropriate. There is no intrinsic relationship between the credit volume of a module and its level of difficulty.

The European norm for full-time study over one academic year is 60 credits. The Trinity College
Dublin, University of Dublin academic year is 40 weeks from the start of Semester 1 to the end of semester 2. 1 ECTS credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input, so a 10-credit module will be designed to require 200-250 hours of student input including class contact time and assessments.

**ECTS credits are awarded to a student only upon successful completion of the course year.** Progression from one year to the next is determined by the course regulations. Students who fail a year of their course will not obtain credit for that year even if they have passed certain component courses. Exceptions to this rule are one-year and part-year visiting students, who are awarded credit for individual modules successfully completed.

For additional details see: [https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/NC_Proposal/ECTS/ects.php](https://www.tcd.ie/teaching-learning/NC_Proposal/ECTS/ects.php)

**Annual Year Structure:**
Students should note that the annual year structure has changed this year. Information is available at [https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/academic-year-structure/](https://www.tcd.ie/calendar/academic-year-structure/)

**Examinations/Assessments and Breakdown of Marks:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Sophister Module Name</th>
<th>ECTS Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Capstone Project in Biochemistry</td>
<td>BIU44190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Advanced Research Skills</td>
<td>BIU44010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Biochemistry in Health &amp; Disease II</td>
<td>BIU44110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Immunology &amp; Microbiology</td>
<td>BIU44120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Cancer Biology &amp; Cell Signalling</td>
<td>BIU44130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**SS year** is broken down into a total of 60 credits.

**Research Project in Biochemistry (BIU44190) Value: 20 ECTS**

The Capstone project (20 ECTS) has been revised for academic year 2020/21 as detailed below. **You will be assigned a supervisor that will mentor you through your Capstone project.** Activities may be sequential or concurrent depending on laboratory rotation schedules. While not engaged in lab work, you are expected to progress other aspects of the Capstone project. We recommend that you make use of support materials available to ensure that you use your time effectively e.g. [https://student-learning.tcd.ie/learning-resources/self-management/time-management/](https://student-learning.tcd.ie/learning-resources/self-management/time-management/)

Overall breakdown of marks for the Capstone project (20 ECTS):
Literature review: 25%
Lab performance: 5%
Short research article: 30%
Future work proposal 25%
Oral presentation: 15%

**Literature Review of Research Project Topic**

This will be critical review of the literature that helps define the background and rationale to the project you will undertake. It should not be just a summary of the literature but include critical arguments supported by evidence for particular viewpoints taken.

Please arrange to meet your supervisor during the first week of term where they will provide the Literature Review topic and discuss it with you. They will give you some guidance as to what topics to included and discuss.

After you have done more extensive background reading, you can meet your supervisor again for input on the structure you propose and key ideas/concepts that you wish to explore. A Table of Contents might provide a useful platform for this exercise. If you have specific questions, you can email your supervisor. However, your supervisor will not correct a first, or any subsequent draft of your Literature review.

Please read these instructions carefully. The literature review should be no more than 6000 words (excluding tables, figures, legends, table of contents, abbreviations and references) and a word count should be indicated on the front page. You will lose marks for going over the word count. All essays should be typed using Calibri font, size 11. Referencing software should be used (e.g. EndNote, Mandalay etc.). The library offers tutorials on EndNote which is available for download on the library website. We recommend Vancouver style of referencing but others can be used. Original figures are allowed and a minimum of 3 figures should be included. Each figure & table should be accompanied by a legend which contains all the information required to understand the content included. The literature review should be submitted through Turnitin plagiarism detecting software in Blackboard.

**Please reacquaint yourselves with what constitutes plagiarism** (additional info on pages 23-26). It is a serious academic infringement that will be taken very seriously by the School of Biochemistry and Immunology.

The deadline for submission of the Literature review through Blackboard is 4pm Friday 18th December, 2020. For every working day that your literature review is late 2% will be deducted from your mark.

**Research Project and associated Research Article**
In order to comply with government regulations regarding physical distancing, the laboratory element has been reduced from 11 to 4 weeks per student in a research lab or dry project.

Each student will be accommodated in a given block that has is pre-assigned. Projects may be facilitated either full time or part time. Your expected timetable for this activity will be available to you at the beginning of the term in order to allow you to plan and manage your time.

Do not spend more than the allowed time in the lab

At the end of the project, students will hopefully have generated their own dataset. If required, the PI will provide more data from the lab to the student (1-2 datasets).

Students will then write a short scientific article according to the guidelines provided

This paper will be marked by the supervisor and a second member of staff.

If a student does not generate a dataset (for any reason including lockdown), they will be given 2-3 sets of experimental data from the lab on which to base their paper.

Research Article structure

The structure of the Research Article will be broadly based on the FEBS Letters Journal style. It is advised that you check publications in this journal to assist in understanding the content of the different sections.

Title Page and Abstract Title: The title should be a maximum of 150 characters (including spaces). Titles should clearly and concisely state the subject of the manuscript. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.

Author names and affiliations: The full names and affiliations should be provided for all authors. The corresponding author should also provide a full postal address and telephone (including country code), and an e-mail address.

Abstract: The abstract should be a maximum of 100 words. The abstract should state the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. Avoid non-standard or uncommon abbreviations and formulae where possible.

Keywords: The keywords should reflect the significant factors of the investigation as a whole. A maximum of six keywords should be selected and included with the submitted manuscript.

Abbreviations: Define non-standard or uncommon abbreviations. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

Highlights: Highlights consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and should be submitted in a separate file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters (including spaces) per bullet point).

Manuscript text: The length of the submitted manuscript should not exceed 3000 words, including figure legends, tables, and references. The manuscript text should be divided in the following sections:

- **Introduction**: give a broad overview of the topic, summarising the topic, the key preceding findings in the literature that led to this work and how it relates to the data being presented.
- **Materials and Methods:** Describe the protocol, reagents and equipment used in the research presented.
- **Results:** present data in a clear and concise manner
- **Discussion:** discuss the data presented in the results section
- **Acknowledgements:** make note of non-authors who assisted in or made contributions to the research
- **References:** described below
- **Figure legends:** title and description of what is being presented in the figure
- **Figures:** described below

**References:** References should be numbered in square brackets, e.g. [7], or [11-13,17], in order of citation in the text. The actual authors can be referred to, but the reference number(s) must always be given. Example: "..... as demonstrated [3,6]. Barnaby and Jones [8] obtained a different result ...."

Number the references (numbers in square brackets) in the list in the order in which they appear in the text.

**Reference to a journal publication:**

**Reference to a chapter in an edited book:**

**Endnote Style:** Use FEBS Letters style of referencing. Using plug-ins to word processing packages, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article and the list of references and citations to these will be formatted according to the journal style. Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication' Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

**Tables:** Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters.

**Figures:** Figures should be embedded at the end of the manuscript. Please make sure that the figures are clear and that resolution is at least 300dpi.

**Submission:** Convert your file to a PDF and submit via blackboard.

**Key Deadlines:**
First draft: **Monday 1st February 2021**
Submission of final article: **Friday 19th February 2021**

We would strongly recommend that you submit your first draft at an earlier date in January in order to give you time to incorporate suggested revisions. Listen carefully to the feedback and incorporate it.

A deadline for submission of the final revised research article in Blackboard will operate. **It is 4.00 pm on Friday 19th February. For every working day that your research article is late 2% will be deducted from your mark.**

**Lab performance:** Your supervisor will provide a mark for your lab performance/engagement during dry project. This **will account for 5% of the capstone project mark.** They will take into account how diligently you worked, how well you planned experiments and/or analysed data, your technical ability, your ability to work independently etc.

**Future Research Proposal**
With the project supervisor as a **mentor,** students will have to prepare a future research proposal that addresses an important issue, either directly stemming from the research project or an important question identified in the course of your literature review. A template is provided below with specific headings and wordcounts. Your supervisor will provide you with **feedback on the first draft of the proposal only.**

**The deadline for submission of the first draft is Monday 8th February 2021.** We strongly advise that you submit a draft to your supervisor prior to this deadline to give you time to incorporate suggested changes. The **final proposal (deadline of submission Friday 26th February 2021) will be marked by two members of staff (not the project supervisor) and will account for 25% of the capstone project.**

**Template of Future work proposal:**

1. **Project Title**
   
   This should be descriptive and concise and should reflect the aim of the project. It may be the same or similar to the title of your research paper

2. **Project Lay Summary**

   Please provide a plain English summary such that it is clear and is easy to understand by a broad lay audience (maximum 200 words)

3. **Project Abstract** of research proposal (maximum 200 words)

   This should be a succinct summary of the proposed research question. The aims and hypotheses of the project should be clearly conveyed. Ideally it provides a clear synopsis of your proposal and should set the research proposal in context.
4. **Background to the area of the proposed research** (maximum 750 words)

Describe the background to the research proposal and detail the nature of the issue to be addressed. Explain why this research is important. You may include a maximum of two figures if you wish.

5. **Research Question/ Hypothesis** (maximum 50 words)

6. **Objectives** (maximum 60 words for each objective)

Please add 3 specific objectives

7. **Research plan and methodology** (maximum 1000 words)

Summarise the proposed research plan and include details of the experimental approaches and techniques that will be used. You may include a maximum of two figures if you wish.

8. **Impact of the research** (maximum 200 words)

Describe the anticipated outcomes of the proposed research and provide details on the likely impact of this research on e.g. human health and/or on adding to the knowledge base of the area.

9. **Ethical concerns** (if applicable; maximum 200 words)

Please address any potential risk and/or harm to patients in the research, if relevant. Please highlight any potential ethical concerns (including work involving animals) during this study.

10. **References**

_Provide a list of publications/references (maximum 20) cited in the future work proposal description above_. Please enter references in the same format. For example the following format may be used:


**Key deadlines:**
Submission of the first draft to supervisor: _Monday 8th February 2021_.
Submission of final proposal through BB: _Friday 26th February 2021_

_For every working day that your future work proposal is late 2% will be deducted from your mark._
Oral Presentation:
Following submission of your research paper and future work proposal you will give a 10 min oral presentation (during reading week of semester 2) outlining the key findings of the project and your plans for future research. You will also answer questions from the floor. Your presentation and your ability to answer questions will be assessed by a panel of three members of academic staff (not your project supervisor). Your classmates will also be present at this session. It is advisable to arrange at least one practise session with your project supervisor. This oral presentation will account for 15% of the capstone project mark.

Copy of mark sheets and criteria for literature review, research article, future work proposal and oral presentation can be found below (pages 28-34)

Advanced Research Skills (BIU44010) Value: 10 ECTS
This module covers quantitative biochemical problems, bioinformatics (sequence analysis), comparative medicine and a series of group presentations by students on various biochemical techniques. A series of 18 lectures will also introduce students to a wide array of cutting edge techniques and strategies used in biochemistry. Marks (100) for this module are awarded through continual assessment and in course exams as follows:

- Quantitative Problems (4 in total, assessed by two 1.5 hour remote exams of equal weighting submitted through BB-one compulsory question on each exam; Prb 1 exam-9th November 9-10.30am and Prb 2 exam-14th December 9-10.30am) (30 marks in total)
- Bioinformatics-Sequence Analysis (3 in total of equal weighting, assessed by assignments submitted on-line) (10 marks in total)
- Comparative Medicine (assessed by a 1 hour remote exam on 11th January 10-11am; answer one compulsory essay style question). Answer submitted through turnitin on Blackboard) (5 marks)
- Group BioTechniques assessed in part by oral presentation (5 marks) and a summary report (5 marks) (10 marks in total)
- BioTechniques Exam. Both the material delivered in lectures and material covered in the group BioTechniques will be assessed by a 2.5 hour remote exam on 13th January 10-12.30pm; answer 3 out of 4 essay style questions. Answers submitted through turnitin in Blackboard (45 marks in total)

Quantitative Problem Tutorials:
An online introductory session to each of the four Quantitative Problems will be delivered by four assigned staff members (e.g. Prb 1 Intro on Blackboard). Following the introductory session, you will be asked to attempt a quantitative problem circulated by that staff member before the next tutorial session (e.g. Prb 1 Tutorial). In this session, the staff member will go through the solution to the problem. There will be 4 quantitative problems in total and these will be assessed by two 1.5 hour in-course remote exams of equal weighting—one compulsory question on each exam. The first exam will cover Problem 1 and Problem 2 and the second exam will cover Problem 3 and Problem 4.

**Sequence Analysis Sessions:**
There will be three Sequence Analysis Exercises (Dr Jerrard Hayes). A tutorial will be delivered by Dr Hayes on Blackboard. He will show you how to use the required software and provide you with some worked examples. He will also advise you how and where to submit the exercises and of their submission deadlines.

**Semester 2 Examination Papers**  
**Value: 30 ECTS**
There are three exam papers at the end of semester 2, each with equal weighting as follows:

**Paper 1 (BIU44110) Biochemistry in Health & Disease II  
Value: 10 ECTS**
Exam paper (100 marks) divided into 3 sections of equal weighting.
You must answer a total four questions, at least one from each section as follows:
Section 1: Neurobiology (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 2: Metabolic Diseases (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 3: General (Integrative/philosophical)
(Answer 1 out of 3 questions) 25marks
Answer one additional question from any section above 25marks

**Paper 2 (BIU44120) Immunology & Microbiology  
Value: 10 ECTS**
Exam paper (100 marks) divided into 3 sections of equal weighting.
You must answer a total four questions, at least one from each section as follows:
Section 1: Immunology (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 2: Microbiology (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 3: General (Integrative/philosophical)
(Answer 1 out of 3 questions) 25marks
Answer one additional question from any section above 25marks

**Paper 3 (BIU44130) Cancer Biology & Cell Signalling  
Value: 10 ECTS**
Exam paper (100 marks) divided into 3 sections of equal weighting.
You must answer a total four questions, at least one from each section as follows:
Section 1: Cancer Biology (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 2: Cell Signalling (Answer 1 out of 2 questions) 25marks
Section 3: General (Integrative/philosophical)

(Answer 1 out of 3 questions) 25marks
Answer one additional question from any section above 25marks

We anticipate and are planning for remote exams. However, this may change depending on public health guidelines.

The overall degree mark is comprised of 80% of SS year and 20% of JS year.

Vivas:
On completion of their semester two examinations, some students sit a viva voce examination with the External Examiner (Prof. Markus Engstler, University of Wurzburg, Germany). Students are considered ‘borderline’ if they are 1% or less off a grade and following the viva voce examination the External Examiner may recommend at the Examiners’ meeting that the students’ degree mark be brought up to the next grade. Note: not all students called for viva are borderline and additional students may be included as controls. You will not be told which category you are in. You cannot be marked down by a viva. You will not know your mark before sitting the viva.

How can you prepare for the viva?
If you are called for a viva in the summer, you should read over your project thesis as the Extern often starts off by asking you about your project. He/she will want to relax you and will generally start you off on a topic you know a lot about. The Extern will probably cover about 4-6 topics during the viva and it is impossible to second guess what they will ask. However, if you feel you did badly in one particular exam question, it is a good idea to revise this topic. The Extern has access to all your marks and if he/she sees a poor mark in otherwise very consistent good set of marks they may wish to follow this up. The Extern may also ask you if there is a topic in Biochemistry that you find particularly interesting and that you wish to talk about. It is therefore a good idea to have something prepared but ensure that it is a specific topic. Do not be too general and say that you’re interested in protein structure! The Extern may also ask you on your views of the course; was there a part of the course you really enjoyed or not as the case may be. The role of the Extern is not only to assess your performance but also to assess our teaching capabilities and to identify strengths/weaknesses and even omissions in the course so that they can make recommendations for the following year.

Tutorials:
Tutors have been chosen randomly. Please contact your tutor during the first week of the first semester. You are expected to attend a tutorial every fortnight. Your tutor will set various exercises and these should help you in your final examinations.

Addresses and Phone No's:
Please send your College based address and telephone number (if any) by email to Rachel Elshove. Please also include a home (or other contact) address and telephone number. This will enable us
to contact you in an emergency or with important changes. If you do not enter these details you may not be informed of any changes.

**Prizes:** The Margaret Ciotti Medal is awarded each year to a Senior Sophister student in one of the three classes for excellence in undergraduate research. It will be awarded to the student who attains the highest marks overall in their capstone project. This presentation of this medal was initiated over 20 years ago by a previous lecturer in the school, Bruno Orsi, to honour his wife's achievements in biochemistry. The medal is dedicated to her memory.

**Health and Safety Matters:**

1) **Registration with Safety Officer**

Preliminary safety registration takes place during one of the mandatory health and safety briefing sessions that will be available online from September 21st. You must register, by E-mail or if required in person, with the Safety Officer once you commence your project. This is necessary in order to record your next-of-kin details in the unlikely event of an accident, to record where you will be working, to ascertain whether or not you have to work with major hazards during your project work (carcinogens, mutagens, cyto-toxics, biological agents, GMOs, radioactivity, etc), and to ensure that you and your supervisor understand that you have to conduct a HIRAC review (hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control) of the proposed work. (see below).

2) **Formal Health and Safety Briefings**

Mr Liam McCarthy (Chief Technical Officer) will describe the general management and security features of the building in a pre-recorded introductory briefing which will be available in Blackboard the week beginning 21st September. Dr Darren Fayne, the School Safety Officer will give you two formal pre-recorded Health and Safety briefings. They will be available in Blackboard week beginning 21st September. VIEWING OF THESE BRIEFINGS AND ATTENDANCE AT ANY ADDITIONAL TRAINING SESSIONS (e.g. Radiological Protection Workshop, viewing safety videos, etc.) IS MANDATORY. Some of these actions are legal, license or College's insurer's requirements that have to be complied with.

3) **Safety Lab Coat & Spectacles**

You must have at least one Howie-style laboratory safety coat, conforming to the NISO 1993, or better, standard, along with a pair of safety spectacles with you at all stages during active laboratory work. A face mask must be worn at all times and more COVID-19 related detail is provided in the COVID-19 Procedures section.

4) **Specific Aspects of Health and Safety Associated with Project Work.**
You are required to complete a ‘Personnel Training Form’ to ensure that you have been trained in all techniques/equipment that you will be using during your project, that you understand any risks associated with your project and that you understand how to minimize them. Any hazardous materials, steps or procedures (including off-site work connected with your research such as collecting samples from other laboratories, etc.) involved in your project will have been identified by, and discussed with you by your project supervisor. He/she is required, by law, to perform this hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control (HIRAC) on every experiment undertaken by you, but you have a role to play as well in making sure that you record the conclusions of this procedure in your notebook. The control measures necessary to reduce or eliminate risk must be written in your notebook for each hazardous step or procedure. The law requires this to be done. You are still in training so you cannot be classed as a competent scientist and thus able to do this yourself to ensure your safety. If in doubt about the proper procedures for any experiment, do not perform that experiment.

Senior Sophisters must make themselves aware of the College’s and School’s Safety Statement which is displayed prominently in every laboratory in the School. It can be downloaded from the School’s Local Home-Page at this URL: www.tcd.ie/biochemistry/. You are still bound by the 'Science Faculty's Health and Safety Guidance Manual' and the associated Health Questionnaire which you completed at the start of JF year. If your health status has changed since then in terms of the categories listed (including pregnancy or lactation) you have to complete a new Health Questionnaire. If your health status again changes during the year you must consult, in confidence, with the Safety Officer. [This particularly applies in the case of pregnancy.]

If you intend working with radioactivity during your project you must first contact the School Radiological Protection Supervisor, Dr Darren Fayne (fayned@tcd.ie). You are not permitted to work with unsealed radionuclide sources.

Any student working with human materials (blood, buffy coats, semen, CSF, dialysis fluid, primary explants, etc.) must be vaccinated against Hepatitis B prior to commencing your project. You are not permitted to work with any risk group 3 or class 3 biological agents such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C, COVID-19, etc. or to culture Category 3 (or higher) pathogens.

You must request or otherwise obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any toxic or dangerous chemicals or preparations that you are using in your project. These MSDS's have to be requested at the point of ordering any material. The MSDS must be stuck into your laboratory notebook. The guidance must be followed.

After 6:00 pm on working days, and at all times on weekends and public holidays, no Senior Sophister may work in any laboratory without the close presence of a member of the academic staff. It is the Senior Sophister's responsibility to ask that staff member if he/she will consent to act in a supervisory capacity for the time the student is working. During normal working hours, no student may work alone in any laboratory.
Failure to observe these rules/procedures will cause the offenders to be officially warned, and be reported to the Head of School, school safety officer and project supervisor. Normal College disciplinary procedures can be invoked (including fines being levied as well as withdrawal of student ID card, etc.) Persistent failure to observe these rules may result in that student being banned from laboratory work with loss of those marks available for project work.

All the necessary forms are available to download on the local safety pages at

https://www.tcd.ie/Biochemistry/local/safety_info.php

Once you have completed all the forms and safety briefings, E-mail them to the Safety officer, Darren Fayne (fayned@tcd.ie).

5) Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, dial Security Services on extension 1999. Security Services provide a 24-hour service to the college community, 365 days a year. They are the liaison to the Fire, Garda and Ambulance services and all staff and students are advised to always telephone extension 1999 (+353 1 8961999) in case of an emergency, Should you require any emergency or rescues services on campus, you must contact Security Services. This includes chemical spills, personal injury or first aid assistance. It is recommended that all students save at least one emergency contact in their phone under ICE (In Case of Emergency).

6) COVID-19 Procedures for Students

Prerequisites

(1) You will need to complete a College COVID-19 induction module in Blackboard.

(2) To comply with College and TBSI requirements for contact tracing purposes and also a daily declaration re COVID-19 symptoms, the School has created a minimal daily online log which takes about 20 seconds to complete and submit. **JS, SS and MSc students in the School** need to complete this log:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=jb6V1Qaz9EWAZJ5bgvvlK0WWnvWNYqIOoCf4UxK880dURjNFT0dGTVQyTIVFRzNMQjNPNIvESzhGTS4u

Please bookmark this page so you can access it easily and perhaps put a reminder in your calendar. **The log only needs to be completed if you are coming into TBSI.**

General Guidance Regarding COVID-19

It is highly recommended that students install the Safezone and the COVID Tracker (https://covidtracker.gov.ie/) apps.
At present (September 2020), the wearing of face masks is mandatory for all teaching and learning events for all students, in the Libraries, and public areas of the campus such as the Buttery and TBSI. Masks are not required if you are in a single occupancy office or while eating/drinking.

Trinity requires all students to wear face masks for all teaching and learning events including in laboratories.

There will cleaning stations set up in each room and students will wipe-on/wipe-off at the start and end of each lecture.

Food consumption in the Knowledge Exchange (37) and Tercentenary Bullnose (12) is allowed provided the maximum occupancy signs are observed and people sit well apart. Goldsmith Hall is also available.

Use clearly designated seating that maintains physical distancing.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Other sensible measures include turning your head away from people when you sneeze, using a tissue or your sleeve and disposing of tissues quickly.

Hand sanitizers and dispensers are provided throughout the campus.

Clear signage is at all entrances to buildings and within buildings of the COVID 19 precautions that apply to everyone; hand hygiene, coughing and sneezing etiquette, physical distancing and the wearing of face masks.

Use a one-way entry and exit route for buildings - where possible.

A one-person policy should be observed for all lifts on campus and to be used only by people with mobility issues or carrying heavy materials.

Stairs and corridors: A one-way, keep right and keep moving system has been drawn-up with stairs clearly identified and signed for ascent and descent.

Toilets: Signs have been placed on toilet doors reminding staff and students to maintain physical distancing and a maximum occupancy number will be displayed.

Gloves should not be worn unless to fulfil PPE requirements and must never be used as a substitute for hand hygiene.
After each group leaves a workspace, high-contact surfaces should be cleaned with water and detergent and not with disinfectant.

To the greatest extent possible, Trinity will keep records of attendance at all events for 4 weeks in case required for contact tracing purposes.

If people spend more than 2 hours or more in a shared space together, they may be regarded as COVID-19 contacts in the event that someone present is subsequently identified as a case.

If people are within 2 meters for >15 minutes, they may be regarded as COVID-19 contacts in the event that someone present is subsequently identified as a case.

For teaching and learning purposes, a physical distance of at least 1 m shoulder to shoulder should be maintained between students, with mandatory wearing of cloth face coverings, visors or face shields. For staff, a distance of 2 m should be maintained between the staff member and students. Where there is a risk that the 2 m distance could be compromised or where teaching activity requires the staff member to be less than 2m from the student, staff should wear a face covering, or other appropriate protection to be provided by the College.

This College website contains a useful FAQ: https://www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus/#student-faq and more information is provided on the HSE website: https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/

Daily 5-point self-checks

Ask yourself these 5 questions each day prior to travelling to College, do you have:

1. A recent cough?
2. Shortness of breath?
3. A new respiratory illness?
4. Fever?
5. Loss of smell or taste?

If you answer yes to any of the above, please contact your GP immediately, follow their advice and inform your Course coordinator.

Response Plan for Dealing with a Suspected COVID-19 Case

The guiding principles for dealing with a suspected case of COVID-19 are outlined below. In all such cases the safety of the person seeking attention and the accompanying person is paramount.
• Anyone who feels unwell with ‘flu or ‘flu-like symptoms in advance of coming to work will be informed that they must stay at home, contact their GP and follow the guidelines provided by the HSE

• In cases where the onset occurs on campus, the person who feels unwell will immediately report to the isolation room on the B1.18, TBSI and inform their Course Coordinator and COVID-19 Coordinator (Liam McCarthy), maintaining strict physical distancing of at least 2m throughout.

• The COVID-19 Coordinator, Course Coordinator and the Response Team will be provided with a COVID Kit equipped with hand sanitiser, wipes, tissues, face masks and latex gloves

• The isolation room will be equipped with a hand sanitiser, wipes, tissues, face masks, latex gloves and a clinical-waste disposal bin

• The unwell individual will be required to wear a face mask at all times and to avoid touching people, surfaces and objects

• The COVID-19 Coordinator/Course Coordinator/Response team will assist the unwell individual to contact the College Health Centre at (01) 896 1591/01 896 1556 or their own GP

• The COVID-19 Coordinator will report the incident and the use of the isolation room to College Security at (01) 896 1317

• The COVID-19 Coordinator/Course Coordinator/Response team will note the names and contact details (address, mobile number) of all people who work in the same area as the unwell person or who have come into close contact with the unwell person to provide to the HSE for the purposes of contact tracing

• Following a suspected case being reported, the individuals in the building who have been in close contact (working in the same office/area or have been <2m from the person for more than 15 minutes) will be advised to go home, avoiding public transport, and follow HSE guidelines. All close contacts must avoid TBSI until the suspected case receives a negative result. For any confirmed case in TBSI, all close contacts must self-isolate for 2 weeks. All suspected or confirmed cases should be notified to their Course Coordinator, who in turn should notify the Director of TBSI.

• The COVID19 Coordinator for B&I/Compliance Officer/Safety Officer will contact Estates and Facilities to arrange a decontamination/deep clean of the areas where the person has been located.

Guidance for Working in Laboratories and Reading Rooms
Dr Darren Fayne, the School Safety Officer, will give two formal pre-recorded Health and Safety briefings wherein COVID-19 precautions will also be discussed.

In addition to the prerequisite COVID-19 induction module and online log mentioned above, you also need to complete a School of Biochemistry and Immunology specific online COVID-19 Training module available on Blackboard http://mymodule.tcd.ie/ in module BIP77100.

It is essential that you complete and submit this COVID-19 Training prior to commencing lab work.

Trinity requires all students to wear face masks for all teaching and learning events.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as a face mask, will be required for general research work. After use, PPE should be disposed of via the lab waste stream.

Standard laboratory PPE must be used by all researchers as they would normally do in the course of their work.

Laboratory groups are required to clean their workspaces (and instruments, including key pad on computer) with ethanol wipes or 70% ethanol at the beginning and end of the day or at the end of an instrument session.

Student project work needs to be incorporated into the pattern of attendance appropriate to the laboratory’s working needs while maintaining physical distancing and staying below the maximum occupancy levels.

Reading rooms can be used provided the maximum occupancy limits are observed. The rooms should only be used for essential research purposes as writing up of results should be done at home. Personnel must sit well apart to achieve a physical distancing of at least 1 metres and wear a face mask unless in a single occupancy office. It will not be possible, for example, to sit at adjacent desks.

**Students with Disabilities:** The University Policy Relating to students with disabilities is available at www.tcd.ie/disability. The Student Disability Service is located in Room 2054 Arts Building, phone = 8963111, email = disab@tcd.ie. The Student Disability Services Committee provides the formal channel for raising issues affecting students with disabilities. Martha Motherway (motherm@tcd.ie) is the liaison officer for the disability services in our school.
MyCareer from Careers Advisory Service

An online service that you can use to:

- Apply for opportunities which match your preferences - vacancies including research options
- Search opportunities- postgraduate courses and funding
- View and book onto employer and CAS events
- Submit your career queries to the CAS team
- Book an appointment with your Careers Consultant
Simply login to MyCareer using your Trinity username and password and personalise your profile.

**Careers Advisory Service**
Trinity College Dublin, 7-9 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2
01 896 1705/1721 | Submit a career query through MyCareer

MyCareer: mycareerconnect.tcd.ie
www.tcd.ie/Careers/students/postgraduate/

TCD.Careers.Service @TCDCareers
TCDCareers

tinyurl.com/LinkedIn-TCD-Connecting

**Opening Hours**

**During term:** 9.30am - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday

**Out of Term:** 9.30am - 12.30pm & 2.15 - 5.00pm, Monday - Friday

**Plagiarism:**
The full statement of College’s policy on plagiarism (see Calendar, General Regulations and Information, at [http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism](http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism) are reproduced below. Given the remote nature of a lot of academic activities this year and the requirement for online submissions, **all written assignments will be submitted through plagiarism-detecting software** such as Turnitin (additional information for which can be found at: [http://turnitin.com/static/index.html](http://turnitin.com/static/index.html)). **It is your responsibility to educate yourself about what exactly constitutes plagiarism. Ignorance is not an acceptable defence.**

**It is a college requirement** that all students must complete an online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism ‘Ready, Steady, Write’, located at [http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write](http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write).

In addition, students must complete cover sheets or include text containing the following declaration when submitting assessed work in hard or soft copy or via Blackboard:

I have read and I understand the plagiarism provisions in the General Regulations of the University Calendar for the current year, found at: [http://www.tcd.ie/calendar](http://www.tcd.ie/calendar)

I have also completed the Online Tutorial on avoiding plagiarism ‘Ready, Steady, Write’, located at [http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write](http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/ready-steady-write)
Calendar regulations on plagiarism 2020/21

95 General It is clearly understood that all members of the academic community use and build on the work and ideas of others. It is commonly accepted also, however, that we build on the work and ideas of others in an open and explicit manner, and with due acknowledgement. Plagiarism is the act of presenting the work or ideas of others as one’s own, without due acknowledgement. Plagiarism can arise from deliberate actions and also through careless thinking and/or methodology. The offence lies not in the attitude or intention of the perpetrator, but in the action and in its consequences. It is the responsibility of the author of any work to ensure that he/she does not commit plagiarism. Plagiarism is considered to be academically fraudulent, and an offence against academic integrity that is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

96 Examples of Plagiarism Plagiarism can arise from actions such as: (a) copying another student’s work; (b) enlisting another person or persons to complete an assignment on the student’s behalf; (c) procuring, whether with payment or otherwise, the work or ideas of another; (d) quoting directly, without acknowledgement, from books, articles or other sources, either in printed, recorded or electronic format, including websites and social media; (e) paraphrasing, without acknowledgement, the writings of other authors. Examples (d) and (e) in particular can arise through careless thinking and/or methodology where students: (i) fail to distinguish between their own ideas and those of others; (ii) fail to take proper notes during preliminary research and therefore lose track of the sources from which the notes were drawn; 48 Calendar 2020-21 (iii) fail to distinguish between information which needs no acknowledgement because it is firmly in the public domain, and information which might be widely known, but which nevertheless requires some sort of acknowledgement; (iv) come across a distinctive methodology or idea and fail to record its source. All the above serve only as examples and are not exhaustive.

97 Plagiarism in the context of group work Students should normally submit work done in cooperation with other students only when it is done with the full knowledge and permission of the lecturer concerned. Without this, submitting work which is the product of collaboration with other students may be considered to be plagiarism. When work is submitted as the result of a group project, it is the responsibility of all students in the group to ensure, so far as is possible, that no work submitted by the group is plagiarised. In order to avoid plagiarism in the context of collaboration and group work, it is particularly important to ensure that each student appropriately attributes work that is not their own.

98 Self plagiarism No work can normally be submitted for more than one assessment for credit. Resubmitting the same work for more than one assessment for credit is normally considered self-plagiarism.

99 Avoiding plagiarism Students should ensure the integrity of their work by seeking advice from their lecturers, tutor or supervisor on avoiding plagiarism. All schools and departments must include, in their handbooks or other literature given to students, guidelines on the appropriate methodology for the kind of work that students will be expected to undertake. In addition, a general set of guidelines for students on avoiding plagiarism is available on http://libguides.tcd.ie/plagiarism.

100 If plagiarism as referred to in §95 above is suspected, in the first instance, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or their designate, will write to the student, and the student’s tutor advising them of the concerns raised. The student and tutor (as an alternative to the tutor, students may nominate a representative from the Students’ Union) will be invited to attend an informal meeting with the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or their designate, and the lecturer concerned, in order to put their suspicions to the student and give the student the opportunity to respond. The student will be requested to respond in writing stating his/her agreement to attend such a meeting and confirming on which of the suggested dates and times it will be possible
for them to attend. If the student does not in this manner agree to attend such a meeting, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, may refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under CONDUCT AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS §2.

101 If the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, forms the view that plagiarism has taken place, he/she must decide if the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure set out below. In order for this summary procedure to be followed, all parties attending the informal meeting as noted in §100 above must state their agreement in writing to the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate. If one of the parties to the informal meeting withholds his/her written agreement to the application of the summary procedure, or if the facts of the case are in dispute, or if the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, feels that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure below are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she will refer the case directly to the Junior Dean, who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under CONDUCT AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS §2.

102 If the offence can be dealt with under the summary procedure, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate), or designate, will recommend one of the following penalties: (a) Level 1: Student receives an informal verbal warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised Calendar 2020-21 49 elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will be assessed and marked without penalty; (b) Level 2: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. The student is required to rephrase and correctly reference all plagiarised elements. Other content should not be altered. The resubmitted work will receive a reduced or capped mark depending on the seriousness/extent of plagiarism; (c) Level 3: Student receives a formal written warning. The piece of work in question is inadmissible. There is no opportunity for resubmission with corrections. Instead, the student is required to submit a new piece of work as a reassessment during the next available session. Provided the work is of a passing standard, both the assessment mark and the overall module mark will be capped at the pass mark. Discretion lies with the Senior Lecturer in cases where there is no standard opportunity for a reassessment under applicable course regulations.

103 Provided that the appropriate procedure has been followed and all parties in §100 above are in agreement with the proposed penalty, the Director of Teaching and Learning (Undergraduate) should in the case of a Level 1 offence, inform the course director and where appropriate the course office. In the case of a Level 2 or Level 3 offence, the Senior Lecturer must be notified and requested to approve the recommended penalty. The Senior Lecturer may approve, reject, or vary the recommended penalty, or seek further information before making a decision. If the Senior Lecturer considers that the penalties provided for under the summary procedure are inappropriate given the circumstances of the case, he/she may also refer the matter directly to the Junior Dean who will interview the student and may implement the procedures as referred to under CONDUCT AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS §2. Notwithstanding his/her decision, the Senior Lecturer will inform the Junior Dean of all notified cases of Level 2 and Level 3 offences accordingly. The Junior Dean may nevertheless implement the procedures as referred to under CONDUCT AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS §2.

104 If the case cannot normally be dealt with under the summary procedures, it is deemed to be a Level 4 offence and will be referred directly to the Junior Dean. Nothing provided for under the summary procedure diminishes or prejudices the disciplinary powers of the Junior Dean under the 2010 Consolidated Statutes.
Please note that due to the remote nature of the exams there will be increased vigilance of possible plagiarism. For each exam answer, examiners will be provided with similarity reports generated from the plagiarism detection software. You should never answer questions verbatim from notes provided by a lecturer or learn pre-prepared essays off by heart. One of the criteria by which we mark students is by their demonstrating understanding of a topic. Therefore, you should always aim to put things into your own words. Inevitably, there is technical jargon and phrases that are commonly used – these will obviously not be held against you.

**College regulations on Academic Progress and Progression 2020-2021**

**Progression regulations: Bachelor programmes**

58 Some programmes with professional accreditation have received a derogation from specific regulations on progression by the University Council. The relevant programme entry provides these details. In order to rise with their class, students must obtain credit for the academic year by satisfactory attendance at lectures and tutorials and by carrying out, submitting and sitting the 3See individual entries for applicable certificate and diploma course progression regulations. 38 Calendar 2020-21 required assessment components. In addition, students must pass the year by achieving, at a minimum, an overall credit-weighted average pass mark for the year (40 per cent or 50 per cent, as per programme regulations) and either: (a) accumulate 60 credits by achieving at least the pass mark in all modules or (b) pass by compensation. All modules and components within modules are compensatable (except in particular professional programmes where compensation does not apply). To pass a year by compensation, in programmes that locate the pass mark at 40 per cent, a student must achieve the pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 50 credits and obtain a module mark of at least 35 per cent in any remaining module(s). A student may accumulate a maximum of 10 credits at qualified pass where the mark lies between 35-39 per cent. To pass a year by compensation, in programmes that locate the pass mark at 50 per cent, a student must achieve the pass mark in modules carrying a minimum of 50 credits and obtain a module mark of at least 45 per cent in any remaining module(s). A student may accumulate a maximum of 10 credits at qualified pass where the mark lies between 45-49 per cent.

59 Progression is on an annual basis. Within a year students may carry failed modules from one semester to the next but not from one academic year to another; that is, they will not be able to rise to the next year of their programme until they have successfully completed the preceding year(s). Students who have not passed their year are required to present for reassessment when: (a) they obtain in excess of 10 credits at qualified pass (i.e. marks between 35-39 per cent where the pass mark is 40 per cent; or 45-49 per cent where the pass mark is 50 per cent); (b) they fail any module (i.e. achieving marks below 35 per cent where the pass mark is 40 per cent; or below 45 per cent where the pass mark is 50 per cent); (c) they do not obtain an overall pass mark for the year; (d) any combination of (a) - (c) occurs.

60 If a student has achieved both fail and qualified pass grades at the first sitting or has exceeded the 10 credit limit allowed for compensation and is not permitted to rise with their year, they must present for reassessment in all failed components of all modules for which they obtained a fail and/or a qualified pass.

61 Different modalities of assessment to the first sitting are permitted in the reassessment session as determined by the programme.
62 The same progression and compensation regulations as outlined above apply at the reassessment session. The overall credit-weighted average for the academic year will be calculated using the most recent marks achieved.

63 Students who fail to satisfy the requirements of their year at the reassessment session are required to repeat the year in full (i.e. all modules and all assessment components).

64 Students are permitted to repeat any year of an undergraduate programme subject to not repeating the same year more than once and not repeating more than two academic years within a degree course, except by special permission of the University Council.

65 The maximum number of years to complete an undergraduate degree is six years for a standard four-year programme and seven years for a five-year programme.
**Class Descriptors:** These Science Faculty Descriptors are given as a guide to the qualities that assessors are seeking in relation to the grades usually awarded. A grade is the anticipated degree class based on the consistent performance at the level indicated by an individual answer. In addition to the criteria listed, the Department’s examiners will also give credit for evidence of critical discussion of the facts or evidence.

### Guidelines on Grades for Sophisters’ Essays and Examination Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>90 - 100</td>
<td>IDEAL ANSWER; showing insight and originality and wide knowledge. Logical, accurate and concise presentation. Evidence of reading and thought beyond course content. Contains particularly apt examples. Links materials from lectures, practicals and seminars where appropriate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80 - 89</td>
<td>OUTSTANDING ANSWER; falls short of the ‘Ideal’ answer either on aspects of presentation or on evidence of reading and thought beyond the course. Examples, layout and details are all sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70 - 79</td>
<td>MAINLY OUTSTANDING ANSWER; falls short on presentation and reading or thought beyond the course, but retains insight and originality typical of the first class work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II - 1</td>
<td>65 - 69</td>
<td>VERY COMPREHENSIVE ANSWER; good understanding of concepts supported by broad knowledge of subject. Notable for synthesis of information rather than originality. Sometimes with evidence of outside reading. Mostly accurate and logical with appropriate examples. Occasionally a lapse in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60 - 64</td>
<td>LESS COMPREHENSIVE ANSWER; mostly confined to good recall of coursework. Some synthesis of information or ideas. Accurate and logical within a limited scope. Some lapses in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II – 2</td>
<td>55 - 59</td>
<td>SOUND BUT INCOMPLETE ANSWER; based on coursework alone but suffers from a significant omission, error or misunderstanding. Usually lacks synthesis of information or ideas. Mainly logical and accurate within its limited scope and with lapses in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50 - 54</td>
<td>INCOMPLETE ANSWER; suffers from significant omissions, errors and misunderstanding, but still with understanding of main concepts and showing sound knowledge. Several lapses in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>45 - 49</td>
<td>WEAK ANSWER; limited understanding and knowledge of subject. Serious omissions, errors and misunderstandings, so that answer is no more than adequate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40 - 44</td>
<td>VERY WEAK ANSWER; a poor answer, lacking substance but giving some relevant information. Information given may not be in context or well explained, but will contain passages and words which indicate a marginally adequate understanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - 1</td>
<td>35 - 39</td>
<td>MARGINAL FAIL; inadequate answer, with no substance or understanding, but with a vague knowledge relevant to the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - 2</td>
<td>30 - 34</td>
<td>CLEAR FAILURE; some attempt made to write something relevant to the question. Errors serious but not absurd. Could also be sound answer to the misinterpretation of the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F - 3</td>
<td>0 - 29</td>
<td>UTTER FAILURE; with little hint of knowledge. Errors serious and absurd. Could also be a trivial response to the misinterpretation of the question.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Senior Sophister Literature Review Report**

This mark contributes 25% to the overall project mark. It is designed to test your ability to read scientific literature, and to develop and communicate important concepts and issues within a given field.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Supervisor Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentation</th>
<th>Messy, poor English</th>
<th>Publication standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Publication standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature coverage</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Extensive and deep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General understanding of topic</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to synthesise information and communicate it by writing</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence of critical review</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Original insights supported by evidence provided</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Wholly inadequate</td>
<td>Fully accurate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of language</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Publication standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of figures</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Publication standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific rigour (use of appropriate resources)</td>
<td>Weak</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity for self-direction</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quality of first draft</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments:**

Particular difficulties if any:
The research paper mark is to be agreed with the second examiner (and third examiner if first/second marks are greater than 10% apart). This agreed mark contributes 30% to the overall project mark. It is designed to capture the abilities of a student to engage in an academic research project, critically analyse data and communicate research findings and their implications. Project Performance contributes 5% to the overall mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student name</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Supervisor name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Draft submission on time</th>
<th>Yes ☐</th>
<th>No ☐</th>
<th>Project Performance (Supervisor only) %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐</td>
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**Research Paper**

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**Comments:**

**Particular difficulties if any:**

**Marks out of 100%:**

The research paper mark is to be agreed with the project supervisor (and third examiner if first/second marks are greater than 10% apart). This agreed mark contributes **30%** to the overall project mark. It is designed to capture the abilities of a student to engage in an academic research project, critically analyse data and communicate research findings and their implications.

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**Marks out of 100%:**
**Senior Sophister Future Work Proposal**

This proposal is to be marked independently by two examiners (and third examiner if first/second marks are greater than 10% apart) who will then discuss and agree a mark. This agreed mark contributes 25% to the overall capstone project mark. It is designed to capture the abilities of a student to formulate a research hypothesis, design and plan experiments and communicate the importance of the research.

<table>
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### Proposal

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**Comments:**

Mark out of 100%:
Senior Sophister Research Project Oral Presentation

This presentation is to be marked independently by three examiners who will then discuss and agree a mark. This agreed mark contributes 15% to the overall capstone project mark. It is designed to capture the abilities of a student to communicate their research findings, the importance of the research and plans for future work.

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Biochemistry
Breakdown of SS Papers 1, 2 and 3
2020-2021

Paper 1– BIU44110 Biochemistry in Health & Disease II

Section 1: ‘Neurobiology’
Answer 1 of 2 questions

Neurochemistry (GD)
Neurobiology (JH)
Neurodegenerative disorders (GD)

Section 2: ‘Metabolic Diseases’
Answer 1 of 2 questions

Genetic Diseases (AM)
Metabolic Diseases (RP)
Metabolic Control Mechanisms (RP)

Section 3: ‘General’
Answer 1 of 3 questions

Trans-subject integrative/philosophical questions

Answer ONE further question from any of the sections above

Paper 2– BIU44120 Immunology & Microbiology

Section 1: ‘Immunology’
Answer 1 of 2 questions

Cytokine Signalling (LON)
Immunotherapies (EL/DF/FS)
Viruses & Disease (GB)
Bacterial & Viral Evasion (AB/RMcL)

Section 2: ‘Microbial Diseases’
Answer 1 of 2 questions

Trypanosomiases (DN)
Prokaryotic pathogens (HW)
Helminths (PF)

Section 3: ‘General’
Answer 1 of 3 questions
Trans-subject integrative/philosophical questions

Answer ONE further question from any of the sections above

Paper 3– BIU44130 Cancer Biology & Cell Signalling

Section 1: ‘Cancer Biology’  Answer 1 of 2 questions
Initiation & Progression (VK)
Metastasis & Treatment (VK/KM)
Haematological malignancies (TMcE)

Section 2: ‘Cell Signalling’  Answer 1 of 2 questions
Cell cycle (VK/PV)
Stem cells (VK)
Apoptosis & Autophagy (DZ/JM)

Section 3: ‘General’  Answer 1 of 3 questions
Trans-subject integrative/philosophical questions

Answer ONE further question from any of the sections above.
SS Biochemistry  
Staff Tutorial groups 2020-2021

Prof. Emma Creagh  ecreagh@tcd.ie  
Barry, Joyce  
Breheny, Megan  
Ciobanu, Alina  
Prof. Derek Nolan  denolan@tcd.ie  
Connaughton, Sean  
Corkish, Carrie  
Currivan, Emma  
Prof. Andrei Budanov  budanova@tcd.ie  
Devitt, Aisling  
Devlin, Daniel  
Donnelly, Sean  
Prof. Gavin Davey  gdavey@tcd.ie  
Duncan, Sive  
Grant, Luke  
Guzu, Filip  
Prof. Amir Khan  amirafk@tcd.ie  
Haouit, Khadija  
Hogan, James  
Hogarty, Emily  
Prof. Richard Porter  rkporter@tcd.ie  
Hosty, Cathal  
Jackson, Kerri-Ann  
Klavina, Paula  
Prof. Danny Zisterer  dzister@tcd.ie  
Lacey, Reece  
Madden, Jo Anne  
Maguire, Kate  
Prof. Kenneth Hun Mok  mok1@tcd.ie  
Morrison, Louise  
Murphy, Eimear  
Prof. David Finlay  finalyd@tcd.ie  
O'Neill, Mollie  
Ring, Daragh  
Yeates, Megan
BIU44190 CAPSTONE PROJECT IN BIOCHEMISTRY (S1) (20 credits)

Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Pursue with a degree of independence an original research project in Biochemistry. Design and implement a wide range of experimental procedures, critically analyse and interpret experimental data, synthesise hypotheses from a wide range of information sources, critically evaluate research literature and write a research paper.

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the theory behind the research project and show a critical awareness of how to develop the a future work proposal.

- Discuss a specialised research area of Biochemistry in depth.

- Work effectively as an individual and in a team and exercise initiative and personal responsibility.

- Display computer literacy and use advanced computer skills to aid in conducting scientific research.

- Communicate results of research project effectively with the scientific community.

BIU44010 Advanced Research Skills (S1) (10 credits)
This purpose of this module is to further develop research, critical analysis and communication skills that are essential for a graduate biochemist. Students will be trained in data handling as well as solving quantitative problems in biochemistry. In addition, this module will introduce students to a wide array of cutting edge techniques and strategies used in biochemistry.

**Learning outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Apply appropriate statistical tests to experimental data and evaluate the results of these tests.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the application of sequence analysis algorithms
- Solve numerical biochemical problems
- Demonstrate proficiency in the application of molecular modelling software
- Display a solid foundation in the ethics of and use of animals for experimentation
- Describe the principles behind and applications of current techniques in scientific research

**Sequence Analysis  Jerard Hayes**

The course will provide an introduction into Bioinformatics. Topics covered include:

- DNA (including genomic) and protein databases
- Accessing sequence information from databases using the Internet
- Sequence similarity searches (i.e. BLAST, FASTA)
- Identification of homologous proteins
- Multiple sequence alignments (i.e. Clustal W)
- Searches for protein motifs, domain, patterns

Students will carry out three exercises:

**Exercise 1:** Accessing databases from the Internet, retrieval of sequences (DNA and protein), extracting relevant sequence information, presentation and annotation of a chosen sequence
Exercise 2: Sequence similarity search (BLAST), identification of homologous proteins, multiple sequence alignment (Clustal W)

Exercise 3: Sequence analysis of membrane proteins, hydrophobicity plots, identification of transmembrane helices and signal peptides

Reading list:

*essential reading
# recommended


#Rost, B. et al. 1995. Transmembrane helices predicted at 95% accuracy. Protein Science, 4: 521-533.


**X-ray crystallography (2 lectures) Amir Khan**

These two lectures will provide an introduction to X-ray crystallography and will include the following:
- overview of modern X-ray and cryo-EM techniques to visualize macromolecules (proteins, DNA, RNA) and larger assemblies at atomic resolution
- concept of resolution in imaging and its relationship to X-ray and cryo-EM hardware for data collection
- principles of X-ray diffraction and cryo-EM structure determination, advantages of the techniques and their limitations

**Recommended reading:**

Crystallography Made Crystal Clear
Gale Rhodes

Protein Crystallography: A concise guide
Eaton Lattman and Patrick Loll

**Metabolomics research (2 lectures) Richard Porter & David Finlay**

- Metabolic flux analysis (1 lecture) Richard Porter

Analysis of cellular oxygen consumption together with extracellular acidity rate are an excellent way to get an overview of metabolic flux in a cell. Furthermore, the use of selective inhibitors can allow a researcher to shed light on the bioenergetics and biochemical pathways that contribute to that flux. The Seahorse Flux Analyser and the Oroboros Respirometer are excellent apparati for determining such metabolic flux. The lecture will cover the principles behind the use of these apparti and will give examples of their use to researchers.

- Proteomics and metabolomics (1 lecture) David Finlay
Various approaches to proteomic and metabolomic analysis will be discussed. The types of experimental question that can be addressed using these techniques will be reviewed.

**Protein engineering (2 lectures) Jerard Hayes**

Protein engineering is the process of developing valuable proteins, mainly for the biopharmaceutical market with a value of approximately $170 billion annually. This 2 lecture course will cover the production of recombinant proteins through genetic engineering and cell biology techniques for bioprocessing and biopharmaceutical manufacturing. Included in the course is upstream processing of proteins in bacterial, mammalian and insect cell lines, downstream processing in bioreactors and production of purified products, and optimisation of the bioprocess for the generation of desired post translational modifications, such as glycosylation.

**Flow cytometry & cell sorting (2 lectures) Barry Moran**

Flow cytometry is a key technology underpinning almost all biomedical research. Using fluorescent probes to tag molecules in or on the cell, it allows high-speed, high-parameter analysis of single cells as they flow through a fluid stream. Cell sorting extends the technology, enabling any identifiable cell population to be enriched to a very high purity. These lectures will cover the fundamentals of flow cytometry and cell sorting, including novel techniques and applications.

**NMR spectroscopy for biomedical scientists (2 lectures) Ken Hun Mok**

**Lecture 1.** Brief overview of the theories and practices; How NMR is used in structural biology and in probing the dynamics of biomolecules.

**Lecture 2.** Application of NMR to metabolomics; How mass spectrometry and NMR are complementary in identifying metabolites.

Reading / Viewing Materials:
2. Knowbee Tutoring, "Introduction to NMR Spectroscopy" Parts 1 and 2, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJhVotrZt9I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJhVotrZt9I), 2015.
4. Wong F, “NMR Made Easy!” Parts 1-6, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9orcRVTKcS0&list=PLP0TLbeMObSy4izIkMIC2QOpJCzNJpC17](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9orcRVTKcS0&list=PLP0TLbeMObSy4izIkMIC2QOpJCzNJpC17), 2012.
Cellular Imaging (3 lectures) Derek Nolan

Lecture 1: Introduction to imaging and the concept of resolution. Application of electron microscopy in cell imaging. EM tomography and specialized techniques. Introduction to light microscopy.

Lecture 2: Advanced light microscopy: wide field and confocal microscopy.

Lecture 3: Application of fluorescent proteins and probes in multidimensional imaging in fixed and live cells.

Suggested reading and references.

http://www.nature.com/milestones/milelight/index.html
An excellent resource available on line. This series highlights the most influential developments in light microscopy in a series of short articles, each describing a major achievement. Almost a one stop shop
http://www.olympusmicro.com/
The Olympus Microscopy Resource Center.
This site covers a wide range of topics in light microscopy: basic to advanced topics with primers and interactive tutorials in some sections.
Correlative cryo-light microscopy and cryo-electron tomography: from cellular territories to molecular landscapes. Current Opinion in Biotechnology, Volume 20, 2009, Pages 83-89 From nano to micometre scale in cells.

Transgenics (5 lectures) Vincent Kelly & Derek Nolan

Lecture 1. Mutagenic, transgenic & cloning technology (VK): The concept of forward and reverse genetics in understanding gene function will be considered and how these mutations are physically introduced into the genome through random mutagenesis, viral mutagenesis, gene replacement and gene-targeting strategies. The process of microinjection to create transgenic animals, gene knockouts and cloned animal will be covered and the generation and use of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) in biomedical research applications.

Lecture 2. Design and development of transgenic constructs (VK): The design of targeting vectors relies on a detailed structural/functional understanding of the gene under study. Various strategies
for controlling the activity of the gene are available including the creation of knock-outs, knock-ins, conditional knockout and reporter systems. Gene-trap technology has, in recent times, gained significantly in popularity and the methodology will be examined in some detail.

**Lecture 3. Zinc Finger Nucleases and Talen Nucleases (VK):** These state-of-the-art technologies have the potential to revolutionise the manipulation of the eukaryotic genome, from cells in culture to mice, rats, rabbits, pigs etc. This lecture will cover the principles of this technology and how it is being currently exploited in research.

**Lectures 4 & 5. RNA interference (DN):** The discovery of the classical RNA interference pathway involving siRNA will be described. The lectures will consider the concept of regulation of expression through siRNA and microRNAs along with the use and design of RNAi based approaches in functional genomics. The advantages and limitation of such approaches will investigated through the use of specific examples. The potential use of RNAi in therapeutic approaches will be outlined.

**Reading List:**
**Lectures 1-3:**
** Highly relevant material

# Papers relate to the endothelin B receptor and conditional mouse. These papers are discussed in the lectures and are given as an example of the power of inducible transgenics.

** Molecular Cell Biology, Lodish et al., Sixth Edition. W. H. FREEMAN, New York. (Good general overview of genetic techniques)


**Bockamp et al. 2002. Of mice and models: improved animal models for biomedical research. Physiol. Genomics. 11:115-132 (Very good overview of mouse transgenics, covers the endothelin receptor B example described in lectures)


#Lee et al. 2003. The endothelin receptor-B is required for the migration of neural crest-derived melanocyte and enteric neuron precursors. Developmental Biology 259; 162–175

**Lectures 4-5**

**Comparative Medicine Peter Nowlan**

The purpose of this lecture course is to introduce students to the basic requirements for working with animals. This is necessary if a full appreciation of animal related work is to be got from the projects. It is also a legal requirement that anybody involved in the use of animals for scientific purposes has appropriate training (EC directive 86/609)

This module is not intended to be a comprehensive training course. To do this would require a much more detailed and extensive series of talks. Most of the training which will be required by students will be obtained by working in close contact with a technician and with experienced supervisors.

The golden rule should be always *'if you don't know ask somebody'*. The welfare of the animal and often the success of your Project will depend on using a correct approach to animals involved in your project.

Even if you are not undertaking a SS project which involves live animals you may do so in your future career.

**Introduction to Laboratory Animal Science**

**The Law and Application for a licence**
Animal House Design; Its effect on Research

Characteristics of Individual species

Experimental design Choice of species

Injections and tissue sampling

Health Considerations

Alternatives to live animal experimentation

Handling Video, Safety, Local arrangements

Video and discussion 'Ethics of Animal research'
The Scientists Viewpoint

Assessment

Reading List:

Laboratory animals an introduction for new experimenters A. A. Tuffery
Handbook of laboratory animal management and care S. Wolefensohn, M. Lloyd
Introduction to laboratory animal science and technology J. Inglis
Humane experimental technique W. Russell, R. Burch
Experimental and surgical technique in the rat H. Wayneforth, P. Flecknell
Animals and alternatives in toxicology; present and future prospects M. Balls, J. Bridges, J. Southee
In vitro toxicology S. Cox Gad
UFAW handbook on the care & management of laboratory animals T. Poole
Laboratory animals anaesthesia P. Flecknell
Handbook of rodent and rabbit medicine K Laber-Laird, M. Swindle, P. Flecknell
The biology and medicine of rabbits and rodents J. Harkness J. Wagner
The laboratory animals, principles and practice W. Lane-Petter, A. Pearson
Man and mouse, animals in medical research W. Paton
Lives in the balance; J. Smith, K. Boyd
The ethics of using animals in biomedical research Vivisection in historical prospective R. Rupke
This module covers the structure, function and pharmacology of neurotransmitters, neuron-glial interactions, intraneuronal signalling and the neurobiology of behaviour and neurodegenerative disorders. This module also covers the biochemistry of genetic deficiency diseases and metabolic diseases.

**Learning outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Recall and integrate key knowledge on structure of cell types in the brain and how they control neurotransmission and critically evaluate how various chemicals (biogenic amines, amino acids, peptides & labile gases) in the brain fulfill the criteria for characterisation as neurotransmitters

- Demonstrate an understanding of the molecular mechanisms that control neurotransmitter release, the kinetics that describe how neurotransmitters bind to receptors and how defects in neurotransmitter signalling can affect behaviour

- Employ an understanding of the molecular mechanisms that are involved in the major neurodegenerative disorders and the medical advances that are in development

- Demonstrate an understanding of the biochemical pathways involved in one-carbon metabolism

- Evaluate the contribution of inheritable mutations to disease outcome and appraise the relationship of gene-nutrient interactions to disease outcome.

- Compare and contrast bottom-up metabolic control analysis and top-down elasticity analysis and propose how they can be used to define control and regulation in biochemical pathways
• Demonstrate an understanding of the diagnosis, aetiology, complications and treatment associated with diabetes and obesity

**Neurochemistry: Brain Biochemistry & CNS Acting Drugs (5 lectures) Gavin Davey**

**Lecture 1:**
- Energy substrates for the brain
- Glucose/lactate transporters
- What uses ATP in the brain?
- Astrocytes-neuron lactate shuttle hypothesis
- Glucose sensing neurons
- What controls blood flow in the brain?

**Lecture 2:**
- Energy thresholds in the brain
- Mitochondria control glutamate release
- Mitochondrial fusion/fission dynamics
- Complex I activity & mitochondrial fusion

**Lecture 3:**
- In vivo techniques for measuring neurotransmitter release and actions
- Microdialysis & HPLC
- Classical neurotransmitters
- Atypical neurotransmitters
- Nitric oxide

**Lecture 4:**
- GABA metabolism & GHB
- Polyamine NTs
- Glial cells and NT release (D-serine, taurine, NAAG & neuropeptides)

**Lecture 5:**
- Melatonin as a NT
- Aspartate & pheromones

*References: to be supplied closer to lectures*

**Neurobiology (5 lectures) Gavin Davey**

**Lecture 1:**
- SNARE hypothesis of exocytosis:
• experimental approaches leading to this theory pharmacology, electrophysiology)
• neurotoxins which affect exocytosis.

Lecture 2:
• Cholinergic signalling:
• Voltage-gated ion channels vs. ligand-gated ion channels
• Nicotinic vs. muscarinic Acetylcholine receptors
• Prerequisites to obtain information on structure and function of receptor proteins as an example)

Lecture 3:
• Inhibitory neurotransmission
• Glycinergic neurotransmission (receptors, mechanisms and pharmacology)
• GABAergic neurotransmission (receptors, mechanisms and pharmacology)

Lecture 4:
• Glutamatergic neurotransmission (receptors, mechanisms and pharmacology)
• Involvement of glutamatergic signalling in learning and memory formation
• Cannabinoid signalling (involvement of cannabinoid receptors in extinction and PTSD)

Lecture 5:
• Neurotransmitter transporter proteins as drug targets
• Serotonergic neurotransmission
• Neurobiology of depression
• Animal models of depression
• Molecular mechanisms of antidepressant treatment
• Non-synaptic neurotransmission and somatodendritic neurotransmitter release

References: to be supplied closer to lectures

Neurodegenerative disorders: An interdisciplinary approach (6 lectures) David Loane


References: to be supplied closer to lectures

Reading/Learning Resources:
- **Proteins, Transmitters and Synapses** by D.G. Nicholls (1994) Blackwell, Oxford – The best on synaptic bioenergetics (out of print but there is a copy in the library).
- The Biochemical basis of neuropharmacology by JF Cooper, FE Bloom and RH Roth Oxford University Press, Eighth Edition

**Gene-nutrient interactions (5 lectures) Anne Molloy**

Lecture 1: Genome responses to nutritional exposures: Nutrition is the most persistent and variable environmental exposure to apply evolutionary pressure to the human genome. This lecture will consider the idea of how sub-optimal – or even unbalanced - micronutrient status might alter genomic responses and conversely how genetic variability might affect nutritional responses. The idea of the fetal origins of adult disease is introduced and how long-term risk of chronic disease might be influenced by variability in genes involved in nutrient availability, metabolism or function.

Lecture 2: One-carbon metabolism in intermediary metabolism: One-carbon units (methyl, methylene and formyl groups) are required both for synthesis and maintenance of DNA and to provide the methyl group (-CH₃) for all biological methylation reactions, which control many important
epigenetic and signaling events. In lecture 2, the biochemical pathways involved in one-carbon metabolism will be described. It will be shown that four vitamins - folate, riboflavin (B₂), pyridoxal phosphate (B₆) and cobalamin (B₁₂) - are required as cofactors of enzymes in these pathways and that cell proliferation and gene expression systems link in with availability of these nutrients.

**Lecture 3: The 677C->T polymorphism in the folate dependent enzyme MTHFR:** This lecture will consider an example of a common functional polymorphism that has important nutritional, functional and disease implications. Through studying the metabolic effects of this polymorphism, the lecture will explore the common disease-common variant hypothesis whereby complex disease conditions are driven in part by polymorphisms that confer a relatively minor risk at the individual level but may have a significant effect on the burden of disease at the population level.

**Lecture 4: Nutrigenomics; a tapestry of Nature and Nurture.** The specific example of one-carbon metabolism will be discussed in relation to the known metabolic links between low B vitamin status and medical conditions such as neural tube defects, cardiovascular disease, cancer and cognitive dysfunction. The lecture will consider how nutrient dependent methylations of DNA and histones, through the one-carbon network, exert epigenetic control over cellular protein synthesis. The lecture will expand on the hypothesis that maternal nutritional factors can influence epigenetic imprinting in foetal tissues and this may be associated with changes in postnatal development and long-term susceptibility to disease.

**Lecture 5: The broader concept of genes and nutrients:** This final lecture will round off the topic by discussing other types of gene-nutrient interactions. As examples, the role of vitamin D as a transcriptional regulator will be discussed and how cellular iron balance is controlled by an integrated transcriptional system. The module will close on a discussion of how exploration of bio-bank data from large population cohorts can lead towards a better understanding of biological function, using an unusual example from cholesterol metabolism.

**References:**


**Metabolic Control Analysis (4 lectures) Richard K. Porter**


**References:**


MCA website: [http://bip.cnrs-mrs.fr/bip10/mcafaq.htm](http://bip.cnrs-mrs.fr/bip10/mcafaq.htm)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metabolic_control_analysis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metabolic_control_analysis)

**Obesity & Diabetes (5 lectures) Richard K Porter**
Lecture 1. Control of appetite

Lecture 2. Obesity

Lecture 3. Physiology and biochemistry of insulin action

Lecture 4. Type I diabetes

Lecture 5. Type II diabetes

References:
BIU44120 Immunology & Microbiology (S2) (10 credits)

This module covers pathogen recognition by and signal transduction in immune cells. Bacterial pathogens of medical importance will also be covered in detail. It will provide an introduction to parasitic protozoa such as trypanosomes and helminths. Finally, the biochemical and genetic mechanisms by which bacteria, viruses and parasites evade the host immune responses will be covered.

**Learning outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Recall and integrate key knowledge and concepts about innate immune molecules and the signalling pathways they activate
- Demonstrate an understanding of technologies underpinning the discovery of immune molecules and the signalling pathways they activate
- Define bacterial and viral mechanisms that evade and subvert the anti-bacterial and anti-viral innate and adaptive response
- Describe how agents that target signal transduction pathways in immune cells can modulate immune responses and provide therapy for immunological disorders
- Define the molecular basis of pathogenesis of various prokaryotic pathogens of medical importance including *Helicobacter pylori*
- Relate how African trypanosomes avoid the immune response and innate immunity of their human hosts.
Compare the strategies to control helminth infections, using specific species as examples and evaluate the global impact of helminth infections on endemic countries.

**Cytokine Signalling (5 lectures) Luke O’Neill**

**Lecture 1:** Cytokine families: interleukins, interferons, tumour necrosis factors, chemokines, colony stimulating factors. Properties and functions: inflammation, hemopoiesis, immune cell activation, anti-inflammatory cytokines. Class I cytokine receptors: JAKs and STATs. Specificity in signalling. WSWS motif. gp130 as second chain. Common and unique receptor chains. Complexity of IL2 signalling: PI3 kinase, IRS-1.

**Lecture 2:** Type II cytokine receptors: Interferon receptor signalling: discovery of ISGFs and Tyk. Use of JAK and STAT nomenclature. JAK and STAT knock-out mice: key features. Interferon responsive genes and anti-viral effects. IL10 signalling. Suppresors of Cytokine signalling.

**Lecture 3:** Type III cytokine receptor family: TNF receptors. Homology between TNFR, NGFR, Fas and CD40. TNF signalling: TRADD, RIP, FADD and caspases. TRAFs. Pathways to NFkB and apoptosis. Mechanism of activation of NFkB. IKK complex. CARD-containing proteins.

**Lecture 4:** Type IV cytokine receptors: IL1 family. IL1 receptor signalling: IL1 pathway as prototypical 'stress' response in plants and animals. The TIR domain: structure and function. Toll-like receptors in mammals and innate immunity. LPS and IL18 receptors/ MyD88 as key adaptor. Roles of TLR-1 to TLR-10: recognition of PAMPs by PRRs. Primacy of TLRs in innate immunity.

**Lecture 5:** Signal transduction pathways activated by the TIR domain. MyD88, IRAK1 – IRAK-4. TAB1/TAK-1. Traf-6 and ubiquitination. Regulation Stress activated protein kinases: p38 MAP kinase and JNK. Comparison to classical MAP kinases. IKK activation by TAK-1. Lessons from knock-out mice: Specific adapters for different TLRs? The role of Mal in LPS signalling. NALPs and NODs. Regulation of caspase-1

**Reading List:**


Immunotherapies  (5 lectures) Ed Lavelle, Fred Sheedy & David Finlay (DKF)

Lecture 1: Immunotherapy – Striking a balance (DKF) This lecture provides an introduction to immunotherapeutic strategies and the potential adverse effects of long-term immune-modulation.

Lecture 2: Immunosuppression to prevent organ transplant rejection (DKF) Detailing the current strategies for preventing organ transplant rejection, focusing on the mechanism of action of the potent immunosuppressant’s rapamycin and cyclosporin A.

Lectures 3: Infectious disease vaccines and adjuvants - innate immune activators (EL) Current vaccination strategies, vaccine subtypes, adjuvant requirements, vaccine benefits versus risks, safety.


Viruses & Disease  (3 lectures) Gareth Brady

Lecture 1: Viral infections and Anti-Viral Immunity
- Introduction
- Overview of anti-viral immunity and clearance
- Virus-induced inflammation and disease
Lecture 2: Adaptation and Disease
- Host adaptation and species barriers
- Epstein Barr Virus and B cells
- Molluscum Contagiosum Virus and Human Skin

Lecture 3: Emerging Viruses and Pandemics
- Influenza Virus: from seasonal infections to deadly emergent strains
- Coronaviruses: from the common cold to SARS, MERS and COVID-19
- Methods of virus detection and detection of anti-viral immunity

Reading list:
A list of suitable reviews will be given out during the lecture course

Bacterial and Viral Evasion (5 lectures) Rachel McLoughlin and Andrew Bowie

Lecture 1: Immune response to bacterial infection (RMcL)
Characterise a pathogen, introduce the concept of virulence and virulence factors, discuss extra-cellular vs. intracellular bacterial infections, Mechanisms of host immunity to different types of bacterial infection: Anti-microbial peptides, complement, phagocytes, antibodies, T-helper cells, cytotoxic T-cells.

Lecture 2: Immune evasion by bacteria (RMcL)

Lecture 3: Innate immune detection and viral evasion I (AB)
Key concepts in viral detection and evasion. Overview of viral life cycle. Viral pathogen associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and antiviral pattern recognition receptors (PRRs).

Lecture 4: Innate immune detection and viral evasion II (AB)
Innate immune sensing of viral nucleic acids (RNA and DNA) and self:non-self discrimination.

Lecture 5: Innate immune detection and viral evasion III (AB)
Viral evasion of PRRs, and downstream transcription factors. Poxviral mechanisms of innate immune evasion, specific examples of manipulation of innate immune signalling by vaccinia virus proteins with a Bcl-2-like fold.
Reading list for lectures 1-2:
Finlay B et al. Anti-Immunology: Evasion of the Host Immune System by Bacterial and Viral Pathogens. 2006 Cell 124, 767-782

Krzyszof G et al. Friendly fire against neutrophils: Proteolytic enzymes confuse the recognition of apoptotic cells by macrophages. 2008 Biochimie 90, 405-415


Faherty C.S et al. Staying alive: bacterial inhibition of apoptosis during infection. 2008 Trends in Microbiology Vol 16 No.4


Reading list for lectures 3-5:
General

Pattern Recognition Receptors:
Carty and Bowie. 2010. Recent Insights into the role of Toll-like receptors in viral infection. Clinical & Experimental Immunology 161, 397-406.

Poxviruses (e.g. Vaccinia Virus):

*essential reading, specifically referred to in lecture course.

**African trypanosomes (8 lectures) Derek Nolan**

The aim of these lectures is to provide an introduction to African trypanosomes, parasitic protozoans that cause sleeping sickness in humans and a related disease, Nagana, in cattle. These parasites are a major problem for human and veterinary health throughout sub Saharan Africa and serious barrier to economic development of the region. Perhaps the most striking feature of these parasites is that they are exclusively extracellular. They grow and divide in the mammalian vasculature and consequently exposed the adaptive and innate defence responses of their mammalian hosts. In addition, for a variety of reasons, African trypanosomes have been come a favourite model organism for molecular and cell biologists and many discoveries of broad significance have emerged from studies on these model unicellular eukaryotes. Areas where such discoveries have been reported will be illustrated in the lectures where appropriate. The course is organized into two parts.

**Trypanosomes Part 1: Stealth strategies of an elusive parasite**
1. How are trypanosomes, such as Trypanosoma brucei, able to evade the host humoral immune response given that they are constantly exposed to this arm of the immune response?
2. What other strategies do trypanosomes employ to circumvent the innate immune responses?
3. How are these parasites able to acquire essential macromolecular growth factors from their hosts without attracting a response?

**Trypanosomes Part 2: What is the molecular basis of human sleeping sickness?**

The focus in part II is on the innate immunity that humans and other primates have to infection by all but a few trypanosomes. In effect in this part we will consider the molecular basis of African human sleeping sickness. We will consider the nature of the trypanolytic toxin present in human serum and how this toxin kills these parasites. We will see an amazing link between the toxin and an unsuspected programmed cell death pathway. Finally, we will see how two strains of trypanosomes have responded by developing independent mechanisms to resist this toxin and how in turn certain human populations are able to overcome this resistance and the price they pay for this capacity.

**Reading List:**

Additional specific references for key experiments will be provided within the lectures which are available on the school website.

**Trypanosomes Part I**


doi:10.1016/j.tim.2007.04.004

Nuclear architecture underlying gene expression in *Trypanosoma brucei*

**Trypanosomes Part II**


Helminths of Human Importance (4 lectures)  Padraic Fallon

A third of the world’s population is infected with parasitic worms. These lectures will address the major parasitic worms that are of medical importance.

Lecture 1-2:
Introduction to the major helminth parasites that infect man. Medical and economic impact of helminth parasites on society.

Lecture 3-5:

A reading list will be given out during the course

Prokaryotic pathogens (3 lectures)  Henry Windle

Lecture 1: Bacterial pathogens as a paradigm for chronic infection I. Molecular mechanisms of bacterial induced disease - modulation of host cell signalling responses and pathogenesis. Pro-carcinogenic microorganisms.

Lecture 2: Bacterial pathogens as a paradigm for chronic infection II. Infection and cancer – the Helicobacter pylori connection: molecular basis of pathogenesis.

Lecture 3: Mixed microbial populations and disease. The microbiome in health and disease.

General Reading:

Human gut microbiome: hopes, threats and promises (Review article). Cani PD
Gut. 2018;67(9):1716-1725. PMID: 29934437

BIU44130 Cancer Biology & Cell Signalling (S2)
(10 credits)

This module covers the cellular and regulatory mechanisms that control the cell cycle. It also covers the molecular basis of a stem cell and its potential use in therapies. Furthermore it covers the molecular basis of cancer, the progression of the disease and the therapeutic treatment strategies.

Learning outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

- Explain the processes of growth, proliferation, and cellular division and outline the cellular changes and regulatory mechanisms that define the stages of the cell cycle
- Describe the biochemical and genetic principles that define a stem cell, how these cells may be used in future therapies and explain the principles of the stem cell niche
- Critically discuss the environmental and hereditary causes of cancer and relate how alterations to the cell cycle impact on cancer development
- Describe the genetic, metabolic and cellular alterations in cancer and outline the process of metastasis
- Demonstrate an understanding of the stem cell theory of cancer
- Evaluate the contribution of the immune system to cancer
• Describe the therapeutic strategies for the control of cancer such as dietary mechanisms for reducing initiation, targeting oncogenes, overcoming drug resistance and immunotherapy

• Demonstrate an understanding of the molecular mechanisms of various modes of cell death including apoptosis and autophagy and outline the mechanisms used by cancer cells to evade cell death

Cancer Initiation & Progression (4 Lectures) Vincent Kelly

Lecture 1. Underlying causes of cancer (VK): The characteristics that are used to classify cancers and their stage of development will be described. A number of examples will be given of how environmental factors, i.e. xenobiotics, radiation and oxidative damage contribute to multistep carcinogenesis. The means by which cancer is limited by DNA damage sensing, DNA repair and cellular adaptation to oxygen/radical damage will be covered.

Lecture 2. Oncogenes and tumour suppressor genes (VK): Many of the original discoveries on oncogenes were derived from work on viruses. The concepts of oncogenes and proto-oncogenes will discussed such as src and the Rous sarcoma virus and there will be an in dept examination of the ras oncoprotein pathway an the function of other oncogenes including abl, sis, c-myc and how they influence cellular proliferation. Suppressor genes play an important role in limiting cancer formation and a number of models were put forward from original studies including Knodson’s two-hit model and haploinsufficiency. The mode of action of tumour suppressors such as APC, MSH2, MLH1, BRCA1, p53 will be examined with particular focus on p53, Rb and APC.

Lecture 3. Cancer epigenetics (VK): Changes in the genetic code is but one means to arrive at a pre-malignant crossroads. Epigenetics changes in gene expression have been found to alter tumor suppressor gene activity through. These epigenetic changes may occur as a consequence of altered DNA methylation status at CpG promoter regions of aberrant histone modification. In fact, cooperative suppression by both mechanisms has recently become the focus of new anti-cancer therapies through the development of DNMT and histone deacetylase inhibitors.

Lecture 4. Cancer metabolism & the tumor microenvironment (VK): Many of the control points of cancer, oncogenes, tumor suppressor genes (including mTOR, PI3K, Akt, p53, AMPK) are intimately linked to metabolism, especially glycolysis, which provides the cancer with the building blocks for growth. The tumor cell microenvironment is invariably acidic and hypoxic causing the transcription
factor HIF1α to set in place protective responses including unregulating the production of monocarboxylate transporters, VEGF, matrix metalloproteinases and angiogenic factors.

Metastasis and Cancer Treatments (7 Lectures) Vincent Kelly & Kingston Mills

Lecture 1. Angiogenesis and metastasis (VK): The process by which cancer cells develop new blood supplies (angiogenesis) is reliant on being able to remodel the tumor environment and the extracellular matrix. A discussion of how this remodelling occurs through matrix metalloproteinases and plasminogen will be given along with the cause and consequences of breaking cell-cell interactions. The means used by cancer cells to physically move from the primary tumor (e.g. epithelial-mesenchymal transition) and how the immune system promotes this process will be described. Breast cancer will be used as a model of how cancer cells choose secondary sites for proliferation, especially the bone marrow; ‘the vicious cycle’.

Lecture 2. Colon cancer, genetics and epigenetics (VK): Arguably, colon cancer is one of the best studied cancers in terms of its formation and progression. This lecture will discuss the contribution of chromosomal instability in terms of changes to APC, COX2 and Smad4 and microsatellite instability caused by epigenetic suppression of mis-match repair enzymes including MSH2 & MLH1. The contribution of inflammation to colon cancer will be considered and how NSAIDS and IL-10 mediate polyp formation.

Lecture 3. Stem cell theory of cancer, focusing on colon cancer (VK): The intestinal crypt stem cells are maintained in a specialized compartment of the intestinal crypt through the Ephrin receptors. The maintenance and proliferation of these stems cells will be covered including the various signals used to control their proliferation, such as hedgehog, WNT, PDGF, Eph, NOTCH and BMP. The importance of the intestinal stems cells to cancer development and treatment will be considered.

Lecture 4. Cancer treatment (VK): Classical anti-cancer drugs such as antimetabolites, alkylating agents and antimytotic agents are still widely used in therapy today despite severe side-effects. Newer ‘magic bullets, hold promise of more specific cancer treatment strategies such as Imatinab in the treatment of CML. However, drug resistance is a problem and has revealed the phenomenon of oncogene addition. Recent drug strategies have begun to focus on targeting tumor cell metabolism, its environment and the cancer initiating cells (cancer stem cells) that perpetuate proliferation even after treatment.

Lecture 5. Cellular and humoral Immune responses to tumors (KM): These lectures include the role of antibody, cytotoxic T lymphocytes, macrophages, NK cells and Th1 cells; Evasion and
subversion of immune responses by tumors - anti-inflammatory cytokine production and regulatory T cell induction; Tumor-specific antigens and breaking tolerance to self antigens

Lectures 6-7. Tumor immunotherapy (KM): Antibodies, Toll-like receptor agonists and cell-based therapies; Tumor vaccines - killed tumor cells, tumor specific peptides and antigens, heat shock proteins and dendritic cell vaccines

Cancer References:
12. Immunobiology by Janeway and Travers
13. Cellular and Molecular Immunology by Abbas, Lichtman and Pober

Haematology and haematological malignancies: Tony McElligott
(2 Lectures), IMM

Introduction to Haematology and haematological malignancies: Haematological malignancies are a group of neoplasms that arise through malignant transformation of bone marrow derived cells. The great diversity seen in this group of malignancies reflects the complexity of normal haematopoiesis and the immune system. The primary basis of classification is the distinction between tumours of lymphocytes and those of myeloid lineage. Haematological malignancies include leukaemias, lymphomas and multiple myeloma, and are defined and distinguished from
one another according to clinical features, microscopic morphology, immunophenotype and molecular/genetic features.

**Molecular biology of haematological malignancies and leukaemia:** Many molecular genetic markers have been described in haematological malignancies including chromosomal translocations and rearrangements of the immunoglobulin and T-cell receptor genes. These prognostic or predictive markers can be useful in guiding clinical management of patients and permit the development of very sensitive and specific assays for the detection of neoplastic cells. In addition, these molecular markers have provided important clues in elucidating the biological mechanisms by which haematological malignancies develop and persist. More recently, it has been recognised that epigenetic changes and aberrant expression of miRNAs are common features of some haematological malignancies and may play an important role in carcinogenesis.

**Cell Cycle (6 lectures) Vincent Kelly & Paul Voorheis**

**Lecture 1. The cell cycle & growth (VK):** This lecture will cover some of the seminal discoveries of the cell cycle, discussing the experiments performed on frog oocytes, sea urchins and yeast. Key regulators of cell cycle progression, as determined by these early studies, MPF, Cdc2/cdc28, wee1 and Cdc25, will be covered. Components of the mammalian cell cycle, which have been discovered principally via bioinformatic approaches, will be discussed including mammalian cyclin dependant kinases (CDKs) and cyclin-dependant kinase inhibitors (CKI).

**Lecture 2. Start of the cell cycle, G1 (VK):** Signals for a cell to start proliferation are essential for initiation of the cell cycle. Examples will be provided of how growth signals through PI3K, AKT, mTOR and myc are co-ordinated to the uptake of amino-acids and glucose. In addition, we will discuss how cell-cell and cell-matrix contacts must be altered to permit cell cycle progression.

**Lecture 3. S-phase, DNA replication & DNA repair checkpoints (VK):** The control of DNA replication is a major decision point of the cell cycle. This lecture will describe the replication licensing process, the selection of the origin(s) of replication and the proteins that make up the origin replication complex, e.g. Mcm, Cdc6. If the DNA to be replicated is not properly loaded or is damaged the cell initiates various checkpoints, i.e G1- and S-phase checkpoint. This lecture will cover the various protein complexes such as 911, the MRE11-Rad50-NBS1/γH2AX complex and the kinase pathways used to tell the cell to stop the cell cycle process including ATM & ATR, BRCA1, Chk1 Chk2 and P53.

**Lecture 4. Mitosis (VK):** Mitosis is a huge undertaking for the cell and requires the co-ordinated disassembly/assembly of numerous cellular macromolecules and membranes. A selection of these processes will be discussed including chromosome cohesion and separation of sister chromatids. An overview of the ubiquitin/ubiquitin ligases that control the cell cycle, the SCF complex in G1 to M phase transitions and the APC complex at anaphase entry will be covered.

**Lecture 5. Mechanics of chromosomal partition (HPV):** A. Dissolution of the nuclear envelope and role of the nuclear scaffold proteins in prometaphase
1. Laminin A & laminin B
2. Role of cyclin-dependent kinase

B. Role of cohesins, condensins and the cohesin-specific protease during metaphase & anaphase
1. Regulation of expression
2. Condensed phase chromosomes
3. Cohesin attachment & pairing of sister chromatids
4. Spindle attachment checkpoint
5. Destruction of cohesins at the beginning of anaphase

C. Structure of the mitotic spindle and polarity of the spindle microtubules
1. Centrosomes & the centrosomal cycle
2. Bipolar spindles without centrosomal involvement
3. Kinetocore & astral microtubules
4. Microtubule growth from centrosomes
5. Kinetocore capture
6. Metaphase plate

D. Molecular motors on the spindle and force-generation for chromosomal partition
1. Kinesins
2. Dyneins
3. Orientation of the spindle
4. Role of MAPS
5. Role of catastrophins
6. Chromosomal sliding & chromosomal oscillations
7. Anaphase A & anaphase B

E. Reformation of the nuclear envelope during telophase
1. Location of the laminins during mitosis
2. Dephosphorylation of the laminins

3. Mechanics of nuclear membrane fusion & reformation of the envelope
4. Schizogony: nuclear division without cytokinesis followed by cytoplasmic condensation & plasma membrane vesiculation

**Lecture 6. Establishing the plane of cytokinesis & the separation of daughter cells (HPV):**

A. Role of the spindle
1. The cleavage furrow
2. Septins
3. Symmetric & asymmetric partition of total cell contents

B. Role of actin and Myosin II
1. Structure of the contractile ring in animal cells
2. The pre-prophase band, phragmoplast & cell plate in plants
3. Cells without myosin II
4. Polo-like family of protein kinases
5. Contractile mechanism of the contractile ring & mid-body formation
References:


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Stem cells (5 lectures) Vincent Kelly

Lecture 1. The embryonic stem cell:
Early studies on stem cells; Development of the fertilised egg; Pre-implantation embryonic cell lineages; The embryonic epiblast; teratocarcinomas; Chimeric animals; Embryonic stem (ES) cells; Culture of ES cells; Essential signalling pathways in stem cell maintenance LIF, BMP4, Smad, TGFβ,
FGF2, sonic hedgehog. Transcription factors Oct4, Sox2 and Nanog. Wnt, β-Catenin and the determination of cell fate; primordial germ cells.

**Lecture 2. Histone & DNA modifications affecting pluripotency**
Cloning of animals; Re-programming by somatic nuclear transfer; Differentiation versus pluripotency; Histone modifications; Heterochromatin & euchromatin; DNA methylation; Transcriptional inactivation; X-inactivation; XIST RNA; Polycomb group proteins

**Lecture 3. Imprinting & epigenetic regulation of pluripotency**
Imprinted genes; parthenogenesis; Studies on primordial germ cells; Epigenetics and differentiation; Induced pluripotent stem cells; Oct4, Myc, Sox3 and Klf4 and their role in iPS.

**Lecture 4. The stem cell niche**

**Lecture 5. Stem cells in medicine**
The clinical potential of adult stem cells; Leukaemia and bone marrow transfer; Pluripotency and plasticity of adult stem cells; Reprogramming adult somatic cells; Stem cell therapy with iPS cells; Treating sickle cell anaemia with iPS; The cancer stem cell; Discussion on the ethics of stem cell therapy.

**Reading List:**


**Molecular Mechanisms of Cell Death**
*(5 lectures)* Danny Zisterer

**Lecture 1:** Historical Classification of Modes of Cell Death - Type I Cell Death or Apoptosis; Type II Cell Death or Autophagy; Type III Cell Death or Necrosis. 2018 Updated Classification of Cell Death Subroutines: Multiple Cell Death Pathways including apoptosis, necroptosis, pyroptosis & ferroptosis. Role of apoptosis in development, maturation of the immune system and in cell turnover. Biochemical methods used for examination of apoptosis e.g. Annexin V staining. Aberrations in apoptosis:
implicated in cancer and neurodegenerative diseases e.g. Alzheimer's. Genetic studies into nematode C. elegans provides key insights into molecular mechanisms regulating apoptosis.


**Lecture 3:** The Bcl-2 protein family. Primary structure. Subdivided into 'pro-survival' and 'pro-apoptotic' proteins. Regulation of mitochondrial outer membrane integrity by the Bcl2 protein family. BH3 mimetics and cancer therapy. Post-translational modification of Bcl-2 family.


**Reading List:**

**General cell death mechanisms:**

**Necroptosis and Pyroptosis:**

**Caspases:**

**IAPs:**
• Kocab AJ and Duckett CS (2016) Inhibitor of apoptosis proteins as intracellular signalling intermediates. FEBS J 221-231

**Intrinsic apoptotic pathway:**

**Extrinsic apoptotic pathway:**
  • Guicciardi, ME and Gores, GJ (2009) Life and death by death receptors. The FASEB Journal 23, 1625-1637

**Cancer:**
  • Ni Chonghaile T and Letai A (2009) Mimicking the BH3 domain to kill cancer cells Oncogene 27, S149-S157

**p53:**

**Autophagy (2 lectures)** James Murray

**Lecture 1: The mechanics of autophagy**
  • Early signalling events in autophagy
  • Omegasomes: PI3P platforms that manufacture autophagosomes
  • Sources of the autophagosome membrane
  • Ubiquitin-like conjugation systems that mediate membrane formation
  • Autophagosome maturation and lysosomal fusion

**Lecture 2: Selective autophagy & disease**
  • Chaperone-mediated autophagy, macro/microautophagy & mitophagy
  • Autophagy and cell death
  • Autophagy and ageing: age-related neurodegenerative diseases
  • Autophagy in cancer prevention, development and therapy
  • Autophagy as a defence against intracellular pathogens

**Reading list:**
“Autophagy: molecules and mechanisms” by Jon Lane.

A list of suitable reviews will be given out during the lecture course.