

Cell Structure and Function

Cell

- A cell is the smallest unit that is capable of performing life functions

Microscopes and Cells

- 1600's. – Anton van Leeuwenhoek first described living cells as seen through a simple microscope.
- Robert Hooke first used a compound microscope to view thinly sliced cork cells.
- Compound scopes use a series of lenses to magnify in steps.
- Hooke was the first to use the term "cell".
- 1830's. – Mathias Schleiden identified the first plant cells and concluded that all plants are made of cells.
- Theodor Schwann made the same conclusion about animal cells

Cell Theory

- All living things are made up of 1 or more cells.
- Cells are the smallest working units of all living things.
- All cells come from pre-existing cells through cell division.

Number of Cells

Organisms may be:

- Unicellular - composed of 1 cell

OR

- Multicellular - made of many cells

Cells can be Eukaryotic or Prokaryotic

Prokaryotes :

- Unicellular
- do not have a nucleus or organelles

Eukaryotes:

- Multicellular
- Can be found in animals, plants, protist and fungi
- Have a membrane-bound nucleus where their DNA IS STORED

Organelles

- Cell structures that have a specific function and are surrounded by a membrane that are found in eukaryotes only.

Three Principal Parts of the Cell

1. Nucleus
2. Cell Membrane
3. Cytoplasm

Nucleus

- Discovered by Robert Brown in 1883.
- The nucleus is covered with a membrane that allows materials to pass in and out.
- It is often called the “control center” of the cell because it contains DNA

Nucleolus

- The nucleolus is the largest nuclear organelle and is the primary site of ribosome subunit biogenesis in eukaryotic cells.

Cell Membrane

- Is a semi-permeable membrane that facilitate the movement of molecules inside and outside the plant or animal cell.

Cell Structures & Functions

Cytoplasm

- Surrounded by cell membrane
- Is a viscous fluid or jelly like material where organelles are embedded.
- It's jelly like feature secures the organelles in plants and animals so that remain in space.

Mitochondria

- Are called “powerhouses” of cells produce much of energy a plant or animal cell needs to carry out its functions.
- Center of cellular respiration

VACUOLE

- Storage area of the cell. It store water, food, and waste.

ENDOPLASMIC RETICULUM (ER)

- Is a series of tunnels throughout the cytoplasm.
- Transport proteins from one part of the cell to another.
- There are two types of ER: smooth and rough endoplasmic reticulum.

Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum

- ribosome free and function in detoxification of lipids.

Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum

- contains ribosomes and releases newly made protein of the cells a series

Ribosomes

- Are “protein factories of the cell, all the functions and processes in plant and animal cell requires protein.

Golgi Bodies

- Receive proteins and other compounds from ER. They package these materials and distribute them to the plant and animal part of the cell.

Lysosome

- Contains hydrolytic enzymes that can break things down.
- It picks up bacteria, food, and organelles in plant and animal cell and break them into small pieces that can be reused.

Cytoskeleton

- Series of fibers made from proteins. It provides structure to the cell and gives it its shape.

Cell Wall

- The cell wall distinguishes plant cells from animal cells.
- Contains cellulose that provides support (rigidity) & protection

References:

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