

DSC-9: MEMBRANE BIOLOGY

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Membrane Biology	04	02	00	02	Class XII with Science	NIL

Learning Objectives

The objective of the course is to provide students with the basic understanding of membrane composition, structure-function relationship and properties of membranes. The course will also provide an understanding of the various types of membrane transporters and their molecular mechanisms. This course also provides understanding of molecular mechanisms involved in vesicular transport processes and membrane fusion.

Learning outcomes

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

- Explain the general composition and structure of biomembranes.
- Describe the basic properties of membranes such as membrane fluidity.
- Elaborate various types of membrane transport mechanisms.
- Apply the knowledge gained about the molecular mechanism of vesicular transport and membrane fusion to understand the functioning of cells.

SYLLABUS OF DSC-9

Theory

Hours – 30 Hours

Unit I: Membrane composition and structure

(10 Hours)

Composition of membranes: Lipids -Phospholipids, Glycolipids, sterols; Proteins - Peripheral Proteins, Integral Membrane Proteins and Lipid-Anchored proteins, and carbohydrates.

Historical background and various membrane models. Overview of membrane functions.

Comparison of the composition of various cellular and subcellular membranes. Lateral and transverse asymmetry in membranes. Role of Flippase, Floppase and Scramblase.

Model systems to study membranes - Lipid Monolayers, Planar Bilayer and Liposome, and their application. Polymorphic Lipid-Water Systems. The various determinants of polymorphic phases: CMC, lipid shape, critical packing parameter.

Unit II: Membrane dynamics

(5 Hours)

Membrane fluidity: lateral, transverse and rotational motion of lipids and proteins. Factors affecting membrane fluidity- composition, barriers (tight junctions), cytoskeleton interactions, microdomains – rafts, caveolae. Fence and gate model. Study of RBC membrane architecture.

Homeoviscous Adaptation. Techniques to study membrane dynamics: FRAP, TNBS, SPT.

Unit III: Membrane transport

(9 Hours)

Thermodynamics of transport. Simple diffusion and facilitated diffusion. Passive transport glucose transporter and anion transporter. Primary active transporters- P-type ATPases, V-type ATPases, F-type ATPases. Secondary active transporters - lactose permease, Na⁺ - glucose symporter. ABC family of transporters – MDR and CFTR. Group translocation and bacteriorhodopsin. Ion channels: voltage-gated ion channels (Na⁺ and K⁺ channel) and ligand-gated ion channels (acetylcholine receptor), and aquaporins. Ionophores: valinomycin, gramicidin. Relationship of membrane transport and diseases.

Unit IV: Vesicular transport and membrane fusion

(6 Hours)

Vesicular transport. Vesicles, Clathrin-Coated Vesicles and COP-Coated Vesicles (COPI and COPII). Molecular Mechanism of Vesicular Transport. Membrane Fusion (dynamin protein, Rab proteins, NSF/ SNAP complex, SNARE proteins). Receptor Mediated Endocytosis: LDL, Transferrin

2.3 Practical:

Total Hours : 60 Hours

1. Effect of lipid composition on the permeability of a lipid monolayer.
2. Isolation of membrane phospholipids and separation by TLC.
3. Effect of temperature, pH, detergents, and ionic strength on Tonoplast membrane of beetroot.
4. Determination of CMC of detergents, neutral and ionic
5. Preparation of RBC ghost cell.
6. Separation of RBC membrane proteins by SDS-PAGE.
7. Demonstration of Histidine uptake from the intestinal membrane.

2.4 Essential readings:

1. Garret, R.H., Grisham, C.M. (2016). Biochemistry (6thed.). Boston, Cengage Learning. ISBN-10: 1305577205, ISBN-13: 978-1305577205

2. Lodish, H., Berk, A., Kaiser, C.A., Krieger, M., Bretscher, A., Ploegh, H., Martin, K.C., Yaffe, M., Amon, A. (2021). Molecular Cell Biology (9thed.). New York, WH: Freeman & Company. ISBN-13: 978-1319208523, ISBN-10:1319208525.
3. Nelson, D.L., Cox, M.M. (2021). Lehninger: Principles of Biochemistry (8thed.). New York, WH: Freeman and Company. ISBN: 13: 978-1319381493 / ISBN-10:1319381499.
4. Voet, D., Voet. J. G. (2013). Biochemistry (4thed.). New Jersey, John Wiley & Sons Asia Pvt. Ltd. ISBN: 978-1-11809244-6.
5. Wardhan, R., Mudgal, P. (2017). Text Book on Membrane Biology (1sted.). Singapore, Springer. ISBN-10: 9811071004, ISBN-13: 978-9811071003

3. Keywords:

Membrane structure composition, membrane fluidity, membrane transport, vesicles, membrane fusion

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