

## F215: genes

### Transcription

- ① DNA Helicase unzips DNA and breaks the hydrogen bonds; DNA acts as a **template**
- ② **RNA polymerase** binds to DNA
- ③ Moves along it from 5' end to 3' end
- ④ Free **RNA nucleotides** are bound onto the exposed bases according to the **complementary base-pairing rule** [A; C; G]; the bases are hydrogen bonded on
- ⑤ RNA peels off strand of DNA and passes out through the **nuclear pore**

### Translation

- ⑥ mRNA binds to a **ribosome**; the first codon is always AUG
- ⑦ The ribosome reads it from 5' to 3' end
- ⑧ **2 codons** are exposed at once
- ⑨ tRNA molecules have a complementary **anticodon** and carry a specific amino acid (temporarily hydrogen bonding)
- ⑩ AA is transported to a ribosome  
- When 2 amino acids are adjacent, a peptide bond forms between them
- ⑪ Translation stops at a **stop codon**

### How DNA codes for a protein

- <sup>def</sup> gene = a length of DNA that codes for one or more polypeptides
- ① 1° structure determines the order of bases (one AA = 3 bases)
  - ② Which determines the specific **order of amino acids**
  - ③ This then determines the **projecting side groups**
  - ④ Leading to the 2° structure, involving H bonding ( $\alpha$  helix or  $\beta$  pleated sheets)
  - ⑤ Which determines the 3° structure, bound by **disulfide bonds; ionic bonds etc**
  - ⑥ This determines the specific **3D shape** which is vital for function
  - ⑦ If 3° structure altered, the shape will change & it can't function

## Apoptosis

### Programmed cell death

- ① The cytoplasm is broken down by enzymes and the cell becomes **densely packed** with organelles
- ② The nucleus **breaks down** and fragments.  
Chromatin condenses & the nuclear envelope breaks down
- ③ "**Blebs**" form at the cell membrane
- ④ Organelles move into blebs and form vesicles
- ⑤ Phagocytes digest the vesicles by phagocytosis

#### Benefits:

\* Very fast

\* No toxic chemicals & hydrolytic enzymes like with necrosis

#### uses:

\* control limb & digit development

\* destroys ineffective T lymphocytes in the immune system

\* prevents all cells from dying in a viral attack

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page 7 of 22

## Hardy-Weinberg principle

A model to calculate allele freq in populations with dominant + recessive alleles

How?

eg. Take cystic fibrosis

To be a sufferer, you must be homozygous recessive.

\* One in 2000 suffer from this \*

Let's assign some symbols:

$p$  = The frequency of the dominant allele, CF

$q$  = The freq of the recessive allele cf

so, the possible genotypes are:

|     | $p$  | $q$  |
|-----|------|------|
| $p$ | $pp$ | $pq$ |
| $q$ | $pq$ | $qq$ |

$$= p^2 + 2pq + q^2$$

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Page 10 of 22

\* since there is only - either  $p$  (dominant allele) or  $q$  (recessive allele)

$$p + q = 1$$

\* since the recessive sufferer probability is  $1/2000$ :

$$\text{so } q^2 = \frac{1}{2000} = 0.0005, \text{ so } q = 0.022 \text{ (square root it)}$$

\* Thus:

since  $p + q = 1$ ,

$$p + 0.022 = 1 \quad p = 0.978$$

\* so the % of carriers are:

$$2pq = 2 \times 0.978 \times 0.022 = 0.043 = 4.3\% \text{ of people}$$