# Fundamental Biology BI 1101

an interdisciplinary approach to introductory biology

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## Ch 02. MOLECULES IN CELLS

### Learning outcomes

After this chapter, students are able to:

- Describe the molecules in living organisms
- Explain basic structure and function of protein in cells
- Explain basic structure and function of carbohydrate in cells
- Explain basic structure and function of lipid in cells
- Explain basic structure and function of nucleic acid in cells

# **Biological macromolecules**

### What is a Macromolecule?

- Organic molecules that weigh more than 100,000 daltons are referred to as macromolecules.
- These macromolecules are constructed of smaller units called polymers. These polymers are subdivided into their basic units called monomers.

Plant cell walls

### Microfibrils – cellulose – glucose

Modul 4 - Macromolecules

### **MOLECULES IN CELLS**

- Cells are constructed from a few simple molecular building blocks
- Four molecules of life:
  - I. **Proteins** (considered the workhorses of life)
  - 2. Carbohydrates
  - 3. Lipids
  - **4.** Nucleic acids ( → hereditary factors)
- These molecules are also the main constituents of the human diet, together with minerals and vitamins



# Carbohydrates

- Carbo = carbon, hydrate = water;
- Molecular formula (CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>

$$(CH_2O)_n$$
 or  $H - C - OH$ 

- Sugars and associated polymers.
- Monomer is the monosaccharide
- Polymers include starch and cellulose.
- Synthesized by plants using sunlight to convert CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O to glucose and O<sub>2</sub>.

#### Functions:

Store energy in chemical bonds
 Glucose is the most common monosaccharide produced by photosynthetic organisms

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# Carbohydrates

#### **Classification of Carbohydrates**

- Monosaccharides simple sugars with multiple OH groups.
  Based on number of carbons (3, 4, 5, 6), a monosaccharide is a triose, tetrose, pentose or hexose.
- Disaccharides 2 monosaccharides covalently linked.
- Oligosaccharides a few monosaccharides covalently linked.
- Polysaccharides polymers consisting of chains of monosaccharide or disaccharide units.

# Carbohydrates: monosaccharides

Aldoses (e.g., glucose) have an Ketoses (e.g., fructose) have a keto group, usually at C2.







# Carbohydrates

For sugars with more than one chiral center, **D** or **L** refers to the asymmetric **C** farthest from the aldehyde or keto group.

Most naturally occurring sugars are D isomers.





Cyclization of glucose produces a new asymmetric center at C1. The 2 stereoisomers are called anomers,  $\alpha \& \beta$ .

Haworth projections represent the cyclic sugars as having essentially planar rings, with the OH at the anomeric C1:

- α (OH below the ring)
- β (OH above the ring).

# **Glycosidic Bonds**

The anomeric hydroxyl and a hydroxyl of another sugar or some other compound can join together, splitting out water to form a glycosidic bond:

R-OH + HO-R'  $\rightarrow$  R-O-R' + H<sub>2</sub>O

E.g., methanol reacts with the anomeric OH on glucose to form methyl glucoside (methyl-glucopyranose).



### Disaccharides:

Maltose, a cleavage product of starch (e.g., amylose), is a disaccharide with an a(1® 4) glycosidic link between C1 - C4 OH of 2 glucoses.

It is the a anomer (C1 O points down).

Cellobiose, a product of cellulose breakdown, is the otherwise equivalent  $\beta$  anomer (O on C1 points up).

The  $\beta(1 \rightarrow 4)$  glycosidic linkage is represented as a zig-zag, but one glucose is actually flipped over relative to the other.



cellobiose

OH

13

ÓН

н

# Other disaccharides :

OH

н

**Sucrose**, common table sugar, has a glycosidic bond linking the anomeric hydroxyls of glucose & fructose.

Because the configuration at the anomeric C of glucose is a (O points down from ring), the linkage is  $\alpha(1\rightarrow 2$ 

The full name of sucrose is a-D-glucopyranosyl- $(1\rightarrow 2)$ -b-D-fructopyranose.)

**Lactose**, milk sugar, is composed of galactose & glucose, with  $\beta(1 \rightarrow 4)$  linkage from the anomeric OH of galactose. Its full name is b-D-galactopyranosyl- $(1 \rightarrow 4)$ -a-D-glucopyranose





# Polysaccharides

- <u>Structure</u>: polymers made up from a few hundred to a few thousand monosaccharides.
- <u>Functions</u>: energy storage molecules or for structural support:



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# Polysaccharides – storage molecules

Plants store glucose as amylose or amylopectin → glucose polymers collectively called starch.

### polymeric form minimizes osmotic effects.

- Amylose is a glucose polymer with α (I→4) linkages
- b) Amylopectin → glucose polymer with mainly α(1→ 4) linkages, but it also has branches formed by α(1→6) linkages. Branches are generally longer than shown above.

The branches produce a compact structure & provide multiple chain ends at which enzymatic cleavage can occur.



### **Polysaccharides – storage molecules**

**Glycogen**, the glucose storage polymer in **animals**, is similar in structure to amylopectin But glycogen has more  $\alpha(1\rightarrow 6)$  branches.

The highly branched structure permits rapid glucose release from glycogen stores, e.g., in muscle during exercise.

The ability to rapidly mobilize glucose is more essential to animals than to plants.



### **Polysaccharides – structural molecules**

**Cellulose**, a major constituent of plant cell walls, consists of long linear chains of glucose with  $\beta(1\rightarrow 4)$  linkages.

**Every other glucose is flipped over**, due to  $\beta$  linkages  $\rightarrow$  promotes intra-chain and inter-chain H-bonds



### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET: Carbohydrates**

- Carbohydrates are essential as energy source.
- However, there are certain health complications related to sugar/carbohydrates:

#### Storage of excess blood sugar

- High blood glucose  $\rightarrow$  [insulin] increase  $\rightarrow$  glucose enters:
- Skeletal muscles cells:
  - Glucose converted into glycogen
  - Only a small amount can be stored as glycogen
- Fat cells:
  - Glucose converted into triglycerides (fat)
  - Fat is the main form of food storage in humans
- Blood glucose high too often, cells become insulin resistant:
  - Higher insulin concentration needed to normalize blood glucose level
  - Unable to normalize blood glucose level → type 2 diabetes

http://collegelifestyles.org/

### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET: Carbohydrates**

#### Anaerobic respiration in cancer cells: sugar feeds cancer









Stage II

Stage III

#### Normal cells

- complete aerobic oxidation of glucose
- Yields 38 moles of ATP per mole of glucose
- Cancer cells
  - exhibit an increase in anaerobic glycolysis
- glucose is used as a fuel by cancer cells → lactic acid
  - more acidic pH
  - physical fatigue
- yields only 2 moles of ATP per mole of glucose
  - the cancer is "wasting" energy
  - the patient becomes tired and undernourished.
- Cancer cells induce growth of blood vessels to feed the cancer cells.
- 40 % of cancer patients die from malnutrition.

### **MOLECULES IN CELLS : Proteins**



- Proteins:
  - Large molecule
  - Chain of amino acids
- Chemical bonding
  - Between two amino acids:
    - H bonds with OH
    - Forms H<sub>2</sub>O
    - Forms peptide bond
  - → polypeptide chain
- Only 20 essential amino acids are found in living organisms



Trefill & Hazen, 2007<sup>2</sup>

# **Functions of Proteins**

- <u>Enzymes</u>, which can accelerate specific chemical reactions up to 10 billion times faster than they would spontaneously occur.
- S<u>tructural materials</u>, including keratin (the protein found in hair and nails) and collagen (the protein found in connective tissue).
- Specific binding areas such as antibodies that bind specifically to foreign substances to identify them to the body's immune system.
- Specific carriers including membrane transport proteins that move substances across cell membranes, such as the blood protein hemoglobin which carries oxygen, iron, and other substances through the body.
- Enable <u>contraction</u> such as actin and myosin fibers that interact in muscle tissue.
- Provide <u>chemical signaling</u> including hormones such as insulin that regulate sugar levels in blood.



# Amino acid sequence (or) andom coil **B**-Pleated s Secondary structure (3 configurations) (d)Hemoglobin **Quaternary structure**

# **Primary Structure**

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- Unique sequence of amino acids in a protein
- Slight change in primary structure can alter function
- Sequence is determined by genes
- Condensation synthesis reactions form the peptide bonds between amino acids



# Secondary Structure

- Repeated folding of protein's polypeptide backbone
- Stabilized by H bonds between peptide linkages in the protein's backbone
- 2 types: alpha helix, beta pleated sheets





#### **Tertiary Structure**

- Irregular contortions of a protein due to bonding <u>between R groups</u>
- Weak bonds:
  - H bonding between polar side chains
  - ionic bonding between charged side chains
  - hydrophobic and van der Waals interactions
- Strong bonds:
  - disulfide bridges form strong covalent linkages



#### Quaternary Structure

Results from interactions among 2 or more separate polypeptide chains



### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET : Proteins**

- High quality protein supply amino acids in same proportion as human protein: meat, dairy products
- Low quality protein: plant proteins
- Essential amino acids
  (8) cannot be synthesized by the body
- Right combination of food can provide the essential amino acids





Kwashiorkor is an acute form of childhood protein-energy malnutrition characterized by edema, irritability, anorexia, ulcerating dermatoses, and an enlarged liver with fatty infiltrates.

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### **MOLECULES IN CELLS : Proteins as enzymes**

#### Enzymes

- Have specific shape & structure
- facilitate biochemical reactions



Trefill & Hazen, 2007<sup>28</sup>

# Lipids

- A group of polymers that have one characteristic in common, they do not mix with water → hydrophobic.
- Structure: Greasy or oily, non-polar compounds
- <u>Functions</u>:
  - Energy storage (per gram = x 2 that of carbo)
  - Membrane structure
  - Protecting against desiccation (drying out).
  - Insulating against cold.
  - Absorbing shocks.
  - Regulating cell activities by hormone actions.
  - Have little to no affinity for water (hydrophobic)
- Some important groups are fats, phospholipids, and steroids.

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# Fats

- Fats → large molecules composed of 2 types of monomers, glycerol (an alcohol containing 3 carbons) and 3 fatty acid molecules.
- The bond connecting the glycerol and fatty acids in the fat molecule is called an ester bond.



# Fats

Two types of fatty acids : saturated and unsaturated.

- > Saturated fats:
  - single C-C bonds in fatty acid tails
  - solid at room temp
  - most animal fats

#### > Unsaturated fats :

- one or more double bonds between carbons in the fatty acids allows for "kinks" in the tails
- liquid at room temp
- most plant fats





(a) Saturated fat and fatty acid





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# **Phospholipids**

- <u>Structure</u>: Glycerol + 2 fatty acids + phosphate group.
- <u>Function</u>: Main structural component of cellular membranes, where they arrange in bilayers.



### **MOLECULES IN CELLS :** Lipids

### Saturated and Unsaturated Fats

- Saturated
  - C is fully bonded
  - Basis of cholesterol
  - Solid at 20°C
- Unsaturated
  - Monounsaturated
  - Polyunsaturated
  - Liquid at 20°C



Why is the melting temperature of unsaturated fatty acids lower than saturated fatty acids?

Note: nucleic acids will be discussed in the last section of this lecture.

### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET : Lipids**

### Saturated fatty acids

- Long chain fatty acids (LCFA)
  - vegetable or seed oil
  - LCFAs are predominantly stored in the body as fat.
- Medium chain fatty acids (MCFA)
  - Coconut oil
  - MCFAs are sent directly to your liver, where they are immediately converted into energy rather than being stored as fat.
  - help stimulate our body's metabolism, leading to weight loss.

### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET : Lipids**

### **Derivative of lipids : cholesterol**

- Helps produce
  - cell membranes
  - hormones
  - vitamin D
  - bile acids that help us to digest fat.
- Helps in the formation of our memories
- Vital for neurological function
- Liver makes about 75 percent of our body's cholesterol

budayahidupsehat.files.wordpress.com

### **CELL MOLECULES & HUMAN DIET : Lipids**

### **Derivative of lipids : cholesterol**

- Cholesterol combines with other fats and proteins to be carried through the bloodstream
- HDL
  - high density lipoprotein
  - "good cholesterol"
  - helps to keep cholesterol away from our arteries and remove any excess from arterial plaque, which may help to prevent heart disease
- LDL
  - Iow density lipoprotein
  - "bad cholesterol"
  - may build up in our arteries, forming plaque that makes our arteries narrow and less flexible







The Human Lipodystrophy Gene BSCL2/Seipin May Be Essential for Normal Adipocyte Differentiation

Steroids

<u>Structure</u>: Four carbon rings with no fatty acid tails Functions:

- Component of animal cell membranes (cholesterol)
- Modified to form vertebrate sex hormones
- Precursor molecule for steroids: cholesterol
- Male and females: both have E & T

→ Aromatase enzyme P450: steroidogenesis enzyme

Androstenodion  $\longrightarrow$  Estradiol

P450 arom





"Well, Mr. Rosenburg, your lab results look pretty good—although I might suggest your testosterone level is a tad high."



### Anabolic steroids pose health risks

- Anabolic steroids are abused by some athletes with serious consequences, including
  - violent mood swings,
  - depression,
  - liver damage,
  - cancer,
  - high cholesterol, and
  - high blood pressure.



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### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: Chemical structure**

 Stretches of a DNA molecule called genes are passed from parent to offspring



Family resemblance (ayahbunda.co.id, kemlu.co.id, 4.bp.blogspot.com)

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### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

### DNA technology has many useful applications:

- the Human Genome Project
- the production of vaccines, cancer drugs and pesticides
- engineered bacteria to clean up toxic wastes
- etc.



### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

DNA technology is changing the pharmaceutical industry and medicine



This lab equipment is used to produce a vaccine against hepatitis B



### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

### Gene therapy

- A procedure for replacing a defective gene with a healthy one (*in vivo* or *in vitro*)
- Example:
  - SCID (severe combined immunodeficiency) inability produce adenosine deaminase (ADA) protein that is vital for immune system
- Problem:
- Genes inserted randomly → no proteins made
- Currently being developed: therapeutic viruses







Trefill & Hazen, 2007<sup>4</sup>

### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

- DNA technology is used in courts of law
  - DNA fingerprinting can help solve crimes by identifying criminals and victims





msnbcmedia4.msn.com

### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

- Genetically modified organisms are transforming agriculture
- Golden rice has been genetically modified to contain betacarotene: this rice could help prevent vitamin A deficiency





### **NUCLEIC ACIDS: DNA technology**

- Could genetically modified (GM) organisms harm human health or the environment?
- Genetic engineering involves some risks
  - possible ecological damage from pollen transfer between GM and wild crops
  - e.g., pollen from a transgenic variety of corn (Bt) that contains a pesticide may stunt or kill monarch cateroillars







Monarch Butterfly

Informasi terkait SAP, Materi Perkuliahan dan jadwal serta topik Presentasi dapat diakses di web sith.itb.ac.id mulai Jum'at 4 September 2015.

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