56901852 Advanced research techniques

introduction to PCR: the DNA

Photo 51

DNA is the information molecule

- **DNA** is an information molecule, within it's sequence carries the information required to produce all the proteins and RNAs.
- The exact replication of this information in any species ensures its genetic continuity from generation to generation.
- Virtually all forms of life use DNA to encode their genetic information and use a nearly identical genetic code.
- The information stored in DNA is arranged in hereditary units, known as genes.



DNA is transcribed into RNA

- The information stored in DNA is copied/transcribed into RNA.
- mRNA directs the synthesis of a specific protein.
- **rRNA** and its associated proteins **& tRNA** which read the nucleotide sequence on mRNA and produce a specific protein.

Transcription of protein-coding genes and formation of functional mRNA



The organization of genes: eukaryotes vs prokaryotes

Prokaryotes:

- Genes encoding proteins that function together are most often found in a contiguous array in the DNA.
- Eukaryotes:
- Genes encoding proteins that function together are most often physically separated in the DNA. Each gene is transcribed from its own promoter, producing one mRNA, which is generally translated to yield a single polypeptide.



exons vs introns: RNA appendive splicing



The three-letter genetic code

Second position							
		U	С	Α	G		
	U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	U	
		Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	С	
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Stop	Α	
		Leu	Ser	Stop	Trp	G	
	С	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	U	
		Leu	Pro	His	Arg	С	
		Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	А	100
		Leu (Met)*	Pro	Gln	Arg	G	
	A	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	U	1
		Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	С	
		Ile	Thr	Lys	Arg	А	
		Met (Start)	Thr	Lys	Arg	G	
	G	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	U	
		Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	С	
		Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	А	
		Val (Met)*	Ala	Glu	Gly	G	

First position (5' end)

Decoding the mRNA with tRNAs



Synthesis of proteins on ribosomes



Synthesis of proteins on ribosomes





Chain elongation in eukaryotes





Termination of translation in eukaryotes



Polysomes and rapid ribosome recycling



DNA replication

- Duplex DNA is replicated by a semiconservative mechanism.
- DNA is synthesized from deoxyribonucleoside 5'-triphosphate precursors (**dNTPs**).
- DNA synthesis always proceeds in the $5' \rightarrow 3'$ direction.
- DNA polymerases require a short, preexisting RNA or DNA strand, called a primer, to begin chain growth.
- Unwinding of the 5' ands is performed by enzymes called helicases. 3' Template strand



- Synthesis of one daughter strand, called the **leading strand**, can proceed continuously from a single RNA primer in the $5' \rightarrow 3'$ direction.
- Growth of the **lagging strand** must also occur in the $5' \rightarrow 3'$ direction, hence cell syntheses a new primer every 100 to 200 nucleotides on that template strand during unwinding.

DNA replication

• DNA replication generally occurs by a bidirectional mechanism.





DNA repair

- Eukaryotic Pol δ and Pol ϵ have *proofreading* mechanism.
- Proofreading depends on the 3'→5' exonuclease activity of some DNA polymerases.



• Silent mutations do not change the amino acid sequence.

DNA excision repair



DNA mismatch excision repair



Nucleotide excision repair



Viruses...



Mobile DNA Elements: transposons

