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A.Y. 2023-2024

Lesson 17 – Genetic engineering: Restriction enzymes



Summary of upcoming lectures

Genetic engineering

- Restriction enzymes (Lesson 17)
- Vectors and ligation (Lesson 18)
- Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) (Lesson 19)

Genetic engineering (RDNA)

- Genetic engineering = recombinant DNA technology (RDNA)
 - DNA construction made in the lab
- Molecular cloning = making lots of the same DNA (clones)
 - Why do you want to do this?
 - Obtain a lot of the corresponding protein (via transcription + translation)
 - Purify and study the protein as such or modify it as *e.g.*, a therapeutic agent
 - Study that particular DNA sequence gene
 - ...



Genetic engineering-1

Genetically engineered animals are produced for:

Nutrition (*e.g.*, cows that produce hypoallergenic milk or are resistant to bacterial infections

Research (*e.g.*, transgenic mice for disease studies)

Fun (*e.g.,* fishes that glow in the dark)

Genetic engineering - 2

Genetically engineered food are produced for, *e.g.*, :

More nutritious and/or tastier food

Disease- and drought-resistant plants that require fewer environmental resources (such as water and fertilizers)

Less use of pesticides

Increased supply of food with reduced cost and longer shelf life

Faster growing plants....

Elements of Chemical and Molecular Biology – Lesson 17

Golden rice Engineered to produce β -carotene which is fundamental to prevent vitamin A deficiency in rice-based diet

Creating foods that can cause an allergic reaction or that are toxic Unexpected or harmful genetic changes

Genes moving from one GM plant or animal to another plant or animal that is not genetically engineered

Foods that are less nutritious

These concerns have proven to be unfounded. None of the GE foods used today have caused any of these problems (https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002432.htm) 5

Building recombinant DNA

- Basic step of building recombinant DNA
 - Recombinant DNA = DNA that comes from 2 or more sources
- 1. Identify your **gene of interest (GOI)** that you want to reproduce on the corresponding chromosome

Building recombinant DNA

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 - Recombinant DNA = DNA that comes from 2 or more sources
- 1. Identify your gene of interest (GOI) that you want to reproduce on the corresponding chromosome
- 2. Cut your GOI DNA from a larger piece and paste it into a **vector**
 - Vector = carrier = DNA that replicates very avidly
 - Grows lots of your clone DNA

Building recombinant DNA

Cutting DNA

- DNA cutting is performed using specific proteins
 - Restriction endonucleases (REs) (enzymes)
- REs precisely cut DNA at specific locations ("molecular scissors")
 - REs:
 - 1. Recognize particular DNA sequences
 - 2. Bind to these sequences
 - 3. Break the double-stranded DNA at these specific locations

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- An RE cut may leave two types of DNA ends:
 - Blunt ends
 - Sticky ends

Blunt end (BE) restriction endonucleases

- Prototypical example: Sma1 (aka Smal)
 - Derived from the bacterium *Serratia marcescens* (hospital opportunistic infections)

- REs are an important part of bacterial defense system
 - *e.g.*, after a DNA virus attack, the bacterial REs destroy the invader DNA by cutting into pieces
- Sma1 DNA recognition site:

Sma1 recognition site \rightarrow palindrome \rightarrow many RE recognition sites are palindromic

- Prototypical example: EcoR1 (aka EcoRI)
 - Derived from the bacterium Escherichia coli
 - *E. coli* forms part of the digestive flora and is always present in fecal matter
 - E. coli infections cover a range of severities of urinary tract infection
- EcoR1 DNA recognition site:

Single-stranded (ss) DNA ends result after the cut These ss DNAs can base pair with complementary sequences sticky ends

- EcoR1 leaves 5' overhangs
 - If the single-stranded bases end with a 5' phosphate, the RE enzyme is said to leave 5' overhangs

- There are also SE RE enzymes that leave 3' overhangs:
- Prototypical example: Pst1 (often PstI)
 - Derived from the bacterium *Providencia stuartii*
 - *P. Stuartii* is an opportunistic pathogen seen in patients with severe burns or urinary infections
- Pst1 DNA recognition site:

- PST1 leaves 3' overhangs
 - If the single-stranded bases end with a 3' hydroxyl, the enzyme is said to leave 3' overhangs

REs - recap

- There are > 3,000 REs, named after the bacterium they were discovered in
- REs database:
 - You can find an RE that cuts the DNA exactly where you want to

