

# Contents

## Preface — V

- 1 Introducing the Bacterial Antibiotic Sensor Mini Project — 1**
  - 1.1 What are Antibiotics? — 1
  - 1.2 What is Bacterial Antibiotic Resistance? — 2
  - 1.3 How Do the Bacteria Detect Antibiotics In Its Environment? — 4
  - 1.4 How Does the ykkCD Sensor Exert Its Function? — 4
  - 1.5 What Do We Do During the Mini Project? — 5
  
- 2 Identifying Conserved Elements in the Toxin Sensor and Designing Mutants to Test Whether They are Important for Function — 9**
  - 2.1 Learning Objectives — 9
  - 2.2 Mini Project Flowchart — 9
  - 2.3 Why is Sequence Conservation Important for Macromolecule Function, and How Do We Determine This? — 10
  - 2.4 Review of Nucleic Acid Properties — 11
  - 2.5 What is Bioinformatics? — 11
  - 2.6 Identifying Conserved Sequence Elements (Invariable Blocks) — 14
  - 2.7 Identifying Conserved Structural Elements — 14
    - BLAST Prelab — 17
    - Identifying Invariable Blocks in the Toxin Sensor Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution — 20
    - BLAST Problem Set — 21
    - Protein Properties Worksheet — 24
  
- 3 Designing Primers for Site-Directed Mutagenesis — 27**
  - 3.1 Learning Objectives — 27
  - 3.2 Mini Project Flowchart — 27
  - 3.3 What is PCR? What are polymerases? — 27
  - 3.4 PCR Amplification of a Desired DNA Segment Of The Genome (Conventional Cloning) — 28
  - 3.5 Quickchange Site-Directed Mutagenesis — 31
    - Prelab Questions for Primer Design Lab — 36
    - Introduction to Primer Design Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution — 37
  
- 4 Performing Site-Directed Mutagenesis — 38**
  - 4.1 Learning Objective — 38
  - 4.2 Mini Project Flowchart — 38

4.3	Review of Nucleic Acid Structure —	<b>38</b>
4.4	How do Polymerases Work? —	<b>40</b>
4.5	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) in Practice —	<b>41</b>
4.6	Why Did PCR Only Become Widely Available in the 1980s? —	<b>43</b>
4.7	Applications of PCR —	<b>43</b>
	Prelab Questions for Site-Directed Mutagenesis —	<b>46</b>
	Site-directed Mutagenesis Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>47</b>
	PCR Worksheet —	<b>48</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Purifying Mutant Toxin Sensor DNA from Bacterial Cells and Evaluating its Quality Using Agarose Gel Electrophoresis and UV Spectroscopy —</b>	<b>51</b>
5.1	Learning Objective —	<b>51</b>
5.2	Mini Project Flowchart —	<b>51</b>
5.3	Purification of Plasmid DNA from Bacterial Cell (Plasmid Prep) —	<b>52</b>
5.4	Transformation —	<b>53</b>
5.5	Cell Growth —	<b>53</b>
5.6	Purification of Plasmid DNA from Bacterial Cells —	<b>53</b>
5.7	Agarose Gel Electrophoresis —	<b>54</b>
5.8	Application of Agarose Gel Electrophoresis —	<b>56</b>
5.9	DNA Quality Control Using UV Spectroscopy —	<b>56</b>
	Prelab Questions for Plasmid Prep —	<b>60</b>
	DNA Purification Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>61</b>
	Electrophoresis Problem Set —	<b>62</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Preparing DNA Template for Mutant RNA Sensor Synthesis Using a Restriction Endonuclease —</b>	<b>64</b>
6.1	Learning Objective —	<b>64</b>
6.2	Mini Project Flowchart —	<b>64</b>
6.3	Synopsis —	<b>64</b>
6.4	How do Restriction Endonucleases Work? —	<b>65</b>
6.5	How do Restriction Enzymes Achieve Million-Fold Specificity? —	<b>66</b>
6.6	How Do We Judge Whether The Plasmid DNA is Successfully Linearized? —	<b>67</b>
6.7	What are We Going to do in the Lab? —	<b>67</b>
	Prelab Questions for DNA Linearization —	<b>71</b>
	DNA Linearization Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>72</b>
	Worksheet - Restriction Endonucleases —	<b>73</b>
	Cloning Experiment Design - Worksheet —	<b>78</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Synthesizing the ykkCD Mutant Toxin Sensor RNA <i>in vitro</i> —</b>	<b>81</b>
7.1	Learning Objective —	<b>81</b>
7.2	Mini Project Flowchart —	<b>81</b>

7.3	How do RNA Polymerases Work? —	<b>82</b>
7.4	How Does Transcription Start? —	<b>83</b>
7.5	How Does Transcription End? —	<b>84</b>
7.6	Transcription in Practice —	<b>85</b>
7.7	What Are We Going To Do Today? —	<b>85</b>
	Prelab Questions for RNA Transcription —	<b>87</b>
	RNA Synthesis Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>88</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Purifying the ykkCD Mutant Toxin Sensor RNA and Evaluating its Purity Using Denaturing PAGE and UV spectrometry —</b>	<b>89</b>
8.1	Learning Objective —	<b>89</b>
8.2	Mini Project Flowchart —	<b>89</b>
8.3	RNA Purification Methods —	<b>90</b>
8.4	Denaturing PAGE —	<b>90</b>
8.5	Phenol/chloroform Extraction —	<b>92</b>
8.6	Column Purification —	<b>92</b>
	Prelab Questions for RNA Purification —	<b>95</b>
	RNA Purification Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>96</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Evaluating the Ability of the ykkCD Toxin Sensor to Recognize the Antibiotic Tetracycline Using Fluorescent Quenching —</b>	<b>97</b>
9.1	Learning Objective —	<b>97</b>
9.2	Mini Project Flowchart —	<b>97</b>
9.3	What is Binding Affinity (KD)? —	<b>98</b>
9.4	What is Fluorescence? —	<b>99</b>
9.5	How Do We Measure Binding Affinity of the Tetracycline-Sensor RNA Complex? —	<b>100</b>
9.6	How do We Evaluate Binding Affinity? —	<b>102</b>
9.7	How do We Analyze Data? —	<b>102</b>
	Analysis of Binding Experiments —	<b>106</b>
	Binding Assays Prelab —	<b>109</b>
	YkkCD sensor RNA - Tetracycline Binding Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution —	<b>112</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Evaluating Antibiotic Binding to Blood Serum Albumin Using Fluorescence Spectroscopy —</b>	<b>113</b>
10.1	Learning Objectives —	<b>113</b>
10.2	Biological Role of Serum Albumin —	<b>113</b>
10.3	Fluoroquinolone Antibiotics —	<b>113</b>
10.4	Protein Structure, Aromatic Amino Acids, and Fluorescence —	<b>114</b>
10.5	Measuring Fluorescence —	<b>115</b>
10.6	Synchronous Spectroscopy —	<b>117</b>

10.7	Data Analysis — <b>118</b> Albumin - Levofloxacin Binding Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution — <b>123</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Understanding the Importance of Buffers in Biological Systems — 124</b>
11.1	Learning Objectives — <b>124</b>
11.2	Introduction — <b>124</b>
11.3	Buffer Preparation — <b>124</b> Prelab for the Buffer Lab — <b>128</b> Buffer Lab Report Outline and Point Distributions — <b>129</b> Buffer Problem Set — <b>130</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Molecular Visualization of an Enzyme, Acetylcholinesterase — 132</b>
12.1	Learning Objectives — <b>132</b>
12.2	Introduction and Background — <b>132</b>
12.3	Introduction to Molecular Visualization Using the Program Chimera — <b>134</b>
12.4	Analysis of Acetylcholinesterase Using the Computer Visualization Program Chimera — <b>136</b> Molecular Visualization of Acetylcholinesterase Prelab — <b>144</b> Acetylcholinesterase Characteristics Worksheet — <b>145</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Determining the Efficiency of the Enzyme Acetylcholine Esterase Using Steady-State Kinetic Experiment — 146</b>
13.1	Learning Objective — <b>146</b>
13.2	Measuring the Catalytic Efficiency of Acetylcholinesterase — <b>146</b>
13.3	Running a Steady-State Enzyme Kinetics Experiment — <b>147</b>
13.4	Designing a Steady-State Experiment — <b>148</b> Prelab for AchE Kinetics — <b>153</b> Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution — <b>154</b> Enzyme Kinetics Worksheet — <b>155</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Separation of the Phosphatidylcholines Using Reverse Phase HPLC — 161</b>
14.1	Learning Objective — <b>161</b>
14.2	Phosphatidylcholines — <b>161</b>
14.3	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) — <b>161</b>
14.4	Quantifying Chromatography — <b>164</b> HPLC of Lipids Prelab — <b>167</b> HPLC of Phosphatidylcholines Lab Report Outline and Point Distribution — <b>168</b> HPLC Problem Set — <b>169</b>

**List of Figures — 171**