

Molecular Physiology and Cell Signaling Mechanisms

Programme course

6 credits

Molekylärfysiologi och cellsignaleringsmekanismer

NBID64

Valid from: 2018 Spring semester

Determined by

Board of Studies for Chemistry, Biology
and Biotechnology

Date determined

Main field of study

Biology, Chemical Biology

Course level

Second cycle

Advancement level

A1X

Course offered for

- Protein Science, Master's Programme
- Biology
- Chemical Biology, M Sc in Engineering

Entry requirements

Note: Admission requirements for non-programme students usually also include admission requirements for the programme and threshold requirements for progression within the programme, or corresponding.

Prerequisites

120 ECTS including 90 ECTS in biology and a course in Molecular Genetics.

Intended learning outcomes

The student will increase her/his understanding of the role of selected molecules on the function of the human body by focusing on the relationship between molecular structure and intracellular function.

After the completion of the course the student will be able

- To identify the fundamental intracellular signaling pathways in animal cells
- To understand how cells are activated by membrane and intracellular receptors
- To integrate cellular pathways to physiological regulatory mechanisms

At the same time, the student will improve her/his ability

To seek, compile and critically evaluate primary research articles

To accurately describe cellular and organ processes in a scientific manner

Course content

The course is centered around different molecules or families of molecules that are relevant to the function of the human body and also its pathology, namely:

- Erythropoietin and nitric oxide involved in oxygen transport and vascular regulation
- Voltage gated potassium channels involved in neuronal and cardiac excitability and associated to long QT syndrome and sudden death
- Voltage gated calcium channels and calcium pumps (ryanodine receptor and sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase) involved in muscle contraction and relaxation and associated to malignant hyperthermia
- G-protein coupled receptors, with special emphasis on beta-adrenergic receptors and angiotensin receptors. Involved in cardiovascular regulation and fluid homeostasis
- Epithelial sodium channels, involved in cardiorenal regulation
- Transient-receptor potential channels (TRP) involved in sensory transduction of temperature, pain and mechanical stimulus

Teaching and working methods

English is the course language. All assignments including the exam should be communicated in English.

The course is composed by formal lectures, laboratory demonstrations and seminars. The lectures are based on primary research articles and reviews. The laboratory demonstrations are linked to the lectures and require the composition of a lab report using quantitative methods. The article seminars include the critical reading of state-of-the-art scientific studies as well as the critical consideration of biomedical advances and methods such as the use of animals in research, their replacement and the use of alternative methods.

Examination

UPG2	Report of laboratory exercises	3 credits	U, 3, 4, 5
UPG1	Seminar attendance and discussion	1 credits	U, 3, 4, 5
TEN1	Written examination	2 credits	U, 3, 4, 5

The final grade is a combination of all grades where TEN1 counts for 35%, UPG1 30% and UPG2 35%

Grades

Four-grade scale, LiU, U, 3, 4, 5

Department

Institutionen för fysik, kemi och biologi

Director of Studies or equivalent

Agneta Johansson

Examiner

Jordi Altimiras

Course website and other links

Education components

Preliminary scheduled hours: 48 h

Recommended self-study hours: 112 h

Course literature

Som rekommenderad kursbok, föreslås följande: Boron, W. F. & Boulpaev, E. L. Medical Physiology. A cellular and molecular approach 2nd edition (Saunders, Elsevier Science, Philadelphia, 2008).

Common rules

Course syllabus

A syllabus has been established for each course. The syllabus specifies the aim and contents of the course, and the prior knowledge that a student must have in order to be able to benefit from the course.

Timetabling

Courses are timetabled after a decision has been made for this course concerning its assignment to a timetable module. A central timetable is not drawn up for courses with fewer than five participants. Most project courses do not have a central timetable.

Interrupting a course

The vice-chancellor's decision concerning regulations for registration, deregistration and reporting results (Dnr LiU-2015-01241) states that interruptions in study are to be recorded in Ladok. Thus, all students who do not participate in a course for which they have registered must record the interruption, such that the registration on the course can be removed. Deregistration from a course is carried out using a web-based form: www.lith.liu.se/for-studenter/kurskomplettering?l=sv.

Cancelled courses

Courses with few participants (fewer than 10) may be cancelled or organised in a manner that differs from that stated in the course syllabus. The board of studies is to deliberate and decide whether a course is to be cancelled or changed from the course syllabus.

Regulations relating to examinations and examiners

Details are given in a decision in the university's rule book:
<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622678>.

Forms of examination

Examination

Written and oral examinations are held at least three times a year: once immediately after the end of the course, once in August, and once (usually) in one of the re-examination periods. Examinations held at other times are to follow a decision of the board of studies.

Principles for examination scheduling for courses that follow the study periods:

- courses given in VT1 are examined for the first time in March, with re-

examination in June and August

- courses given in VT2 are examined for the first time in May, with re-examination in August and October
- courses given in HT1 are examined for the first time in October, with re-examination in January and August
- courses given in HT2 are examined for the first time in January, with re-examination at Easter and in August.

The examination schedule is based on the structure of timetable modules, but there may be deviations from this, mainly in the case of courses that are studied and examined for several programmes and in lower grades (i.e. 1 and 2).

- Examinations for courses that the board of studies has decided are to be held in alternate years are held only three times during the year in which the course is given.
- Examinations for courses that are cancelled or rescheduled such that they are not given in one or several years are held three times during the year that immediately follows the course, with examination scheduling that corresponds to the scheduling that was in force before the course was cancelled or rescheduled.
- If teaching is no longer given for a course, three examination occurrences are held during the immediately subsequent year, while examinations are at the same time held for any replacement course that is given, or alternatively in association with other re-examination opportunities. Furthermore, an examination is held on one further occasion during the next subsequent year, unless the board of studies determines otherwise.
- If a course is given during several periods of the year (for programmes, or on different occasions for different programmes) the board or boards of studies determine together the scheduling and frequency of re-examination occasions.

Registration for examination

In order to take an examination, a student must register in advance at the Student Portal during the registration period, which opens 30 days before the date of the examination and closes 10 days before it. Candidates are informed of the location of the examination by email, four days in advance. Students who have not registered for an examination run the risk of being refused admittance to the examination, if space is not available.

Symbols used in the examination registration system:

** denotes that the examination is being given for the penultimate time.

* denotes that the examination is being given for the last time.

Code of conduct for students during examinations

Details are given in a decision in the university's rule book:
<http://styrdokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622682>.

Retakes for higher grade

Students at the Institute of Technology at LiU have the right to retake written examinations and computer-based examinations in an attempt to achieve a higher grade. This is valid for all examination components with code "TEN" and "DAT". The same right may not be exercised for other examination components, unless otherwise specified in the course syllabus.

Retakes of other forms of examination

Regulations concerning retakes of other forms of examination than written examinations and computer-based examinations are given in the LiU regulations for examinations and examiners,
<http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/VisaBeslut/622678>.

Plagiarism

For examinations that involve the writing of reports, in cases in which it can be assumed that the student has had access to other sources (such as during project work, writing essays, etc.), the material submitted must be prepared in accordance with principles for acceptable practice when referring to sources (references or quotations for which the source is specified) when the text, images, ideas, data, etc. of other people are used. It is also to be made clear whether the author has reused his or her own text, images, ideas, data, etc. from previous examinations.

A failure to specify such sources may be regarded as attempted deception during examination.

Attempts to cheat

In the event of a suspected attempt by a student to cheat during an examination, or when study performance is to be assessed as specified in Chapter 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance, the examiner is to report this to the disciplinary board of the university. Possible consequences for the student are suspension from study and a formal warning. More information is available at
<https://www.student.liu.se/studenttjanster/lagar-regler-rattigheter?l=sv>.

Grades

The grades that are preferably to be used are Fail (U), Pass (3), Pass not without distinction (4) and Pass with distinction (5). Courses under the auspices of the faculty board of the Faculty of Science and Engineering (Institute of Technology) are to be given special attention in this regard.

1. Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for courses that have written examinations.
2. Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded for courses with a large degree of practical components such as laboratory work, project work and group work.

Examination components

1. Grades U, 3, 4, 5 are to be awarded for written examinations (TEN).
2. Grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) are to be used for undergraduate projects and other independent work.

3. Examination components for which the grades Fail (U) and Pass (G) may be awarded are laboratory work (LAB), project work (PRA), preparatory written examination (KTR), oral examination (MUN), computer-based examination (DAT), home assignment (HEM), and assignment (UPG).
4. Students receive grades either Fail (U) or Pass (G) for other examination components in which the examination criteria are satisfied principally through active attendance such as other examination (ANN), tutorial group (BAS) or examination item (MOM).

The examination results for a student are reported at the relevant department.

Regulations (apply to LiU in its entirety)

The university is a government agency whose operations are regulated by legislation and ordinances, which include the Higher Education Act and the Higher Education Ordinance. In addition to legislation and ordinances, operations are subject to several policy documents. The Linköping University rule book collects currently valid decisions of a regulatory nature taken by the university board, the vice-chancellor and faculty/department boards.

LiU's rule book for education at first-cycle and second-cycle levels is available at http://stydokument.liu.se/Regelsamling/Innehall/Utbildning_pa_grund-_och_avancerad_niva.