

Contents

Preface	xi	THE GENETIC CODE IS BY AND LARGE UNIVERSAL	24
Chapter 1		A SECOND GENETIC CODE	25
Introduction	1	FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM DNA TO PROTEIN	25
Chapter 2		SICKLE CELL ANEMIA IS THE RESULT OF A SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE CHANGE IN DNA	26
A Molecular Disorder	5	Summary	27
THE DISCOVERY OF SICKLE CELL ANEMIA	5	Questions	27
A RECESSIVE INHERITED DISORDER	6	Further Reading	28
SICKLE CELL ANEMIA AND MALARIA	8	Chapter 4	
CHARACTERIZING SICKLE CELL ANEMIA FURTHER: THE ROLE OF HEMOGLOBIN	8	The Genome	31
MAPPING A DELETERIOUS CHANGE IN HEMOGLOBIN	9	DNA IS PRESENT IN THE NUCLEUS OF CELLS	31
A PROTEIN FOLDS INTO A THREE-DIMENSIONAL SHAPE BASED ON ITS AMINO ACID SEQUENCE	9	DNA AS SEEN UNDER THE MICROSCOPE	32
SICKLE CELL DISEASE MAY NOW BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF PROTEIN STRUCTURE	10	DNA IS COMPACTED WITHIN THE NUCLEUS OF A HUMAN CELL	34
A MOLECULAR SEQUENCE: PROTEINS CAN BE DEPICTED AS A STRING OF AMINO ACID SYMBOLS	12	TOOLBOX OF THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST	34
Summary	14	DEVELOPMENT OF DNA SEQUENCING	35
Questions	14	HUMAN GENOME SEQUENCING PROJECT	37
Further Reading	15	WHOSE GENOME?	40
Chapter 3		THE MITOCHONDRIAL GENOME	43
A Code of Life	17	ACCESSING THE GENOME—GENOME BROWSERS	44
EARLY DAYS OF DNA RESEARCH	17	THE HUMAN GENOME SPECIFIES PROTEINS AND NONCODING RNAs	45
DNA IS THE CARRIER OF GENETIC INFORMATION	17	MOST GENES ARE MOSAICS OF EXONS AND INTRONS	45
THREE-DIMENSIONAL STRUCTURE OF DNA	18	ONLY ABOUT 1.6% OF THE GENOME CODES FOR PROTEIN	46
POLARITY OF DNA	18	REPETITIVE SEQUENCES MAKE UP MORE THAN HALF OF THE HUMAN GENOME	48
A MECHANISM OF REPLICATION WAS SUGGESTED BY THE STRUCTURE OF DNA	20	A COMPLEX PROTEIN UNIVERSE	50
RELATIONSHIP OF DNA AND PROTEIN	20	Summary	51
BASIC FEATURES OF THE GENETIC CODE	21	Questions	52
MOLECULES INVOLVED IN PROTEIN PRODUCTION	21	URLs	53
MAKING SENSE OF THE CODONS	23	Further Reading	53

Chapter 5			
Variants in the Human Genome Sequence and Their Biological Significance			
TYPES OF MUTATIONS	55	MANY DIFFERENT MUTATIONS IN A GENE MAY GIVE RISE TO DISEASE	81
GERMLINE AND SOMATIC MUTATIONS	56	THE GENE <i>HEXA</i> AND TAY-SACHS DISEASE	82
MUTATION RATE IN THE HUMAN GENOME	56	THE GENE <i>HFE</i> AND HEREDITARY HEMOCHROMATOSIS	83
HOW DO MUTATIONS COME ABOUT?	57	MUTATIONS THAT GENERATE PREMATURE STOP CODONS	85
DNA REPLICATION ERRORS	57	NONSENSE MUTATIONS RESULT IN mRNA DEGRADATION	85
SPONTANEOUS DNA DAMAGE	57	A NONSENSE MUTATION THAT GIVES RISE TO AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR	86
DNA DAMAGE BY REACTIVE OXYGEN SPECIES AND BY IRRADIATION	58	A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DISORDER	88
HOW ARE DNA ERRORS REPAIRED?	59	A TERMINATION CODON CHANGED TO A SENSE CODON: A LESS COMMON MUTATION	89
HUMAN GENETIC VARIATION	62	INDEL MUTATIONS OF CODING SEQUENCES: TAY-SACHS DISEASE REVISITED	90
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES: SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE POLYMORPHISMS AND SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE VARIANTS	63	FRAMESHIFT ERROR AND RESISTANCE TO HIV INFECTION	90
INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES: STRUCTURAL VARIATION	64	AN INFRAME DELETION IS A COMMON CAUSE OF CYSTIC FIBROSIS	91
PHENOTYPIC IMPLICATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL VARIATION: SINGLE GENE DISORDERS AND COMPLEX DISEASES	66	Summary	93
PHENOTYPIC IMPLICATIONS OF SNPs MAY BE INFERRED FROM A GENOME-WIDE ASSOCIATION STUDY	67	Questions	93
A RESTRICTED NUMBER OF VARIANTS HAVE A KNOWN DISTINCT FUNCTION	69	URLs	94
CANCER: A GENETIC DISEASE	69	Further Reading	94
NUMEROUS CANCER GENOMES HAVE BEEN SEQUENCED	72	Chapter 7	
CANCER: TRANSLOCATIONS AND MORE DRAMATIC GENOMIC ABERRATIONS	73	Triplet Repeats and Neurodegenerative Disorders	97
WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF CANCER?	74	THE DEATH OF PHEBE HEDGES	97
Summary	75	GEORGE HUNTINGTON	98
Questions	76	INHERITANCE OF HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE	98
URLs	76	A NEUROPSYCHIATRIC DISORDER	99
Further Reading	77	THE RESPONSIBLE GENE IS IDENTIFIED	100
Chapter 6		HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE IS CAUSED BY AN EXPANSION OF TRIPLET REPEATS	102
The Critical Protein Coding Sequences	79	THE STRUCTURE OF HUNTINGTIN	102
MUTATIONS IN CODING SEQUENCES	79	MOLECULAR FUNCTIONS OF HUNTINGTIN	104
INHERITED SINGLE GENE DISORDERS ARE OFTEN CAUSED BY NONSYNONYMOUS MUTATIONS	80	DNA REPLICATION SLIPPAGE ERRORS	104
		OTHER REPEAT DISORDERS	105

SPINOCEREBELLAR ATAXIAS CAUSED BY CAG TRIPLET EXPANSION	106	DETAILED INFORMATION OF THE ROYAL DISORDER WAS OBTAINED BY DNA ANALYSIS OF THE ROMANOVs	130
Summary	108	EUKARYOTIC GENES ARE MOSAICS OF EXONS AND INTRONS	131
Questions	108	THE ENDS OF INTRONS CONTAIN NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCES CRUCIAL FOR SPLICING	133
Further Reading	109	EXONS MAY BE COMBINED IN ALTERNATIVE WAYS	134
Chapter 8 The Untranslated Parts of a Message	111	DNA ANALYSIS SHOWED THAT THE ROYAL BLOOD DISORDER WAS DUE TO A SPLICING ERROR	135
ORGANIZATION OF mRNA AND FUNCTIONS WITHIN UTRs	111	A HEARING DISORDER PRESENTS ANOTHER CASE OF SPLICING DEFECT	137
IRON-RESPONSIVE ELEMENT REGULATES TRANSLATION AND mRNA STABILITY	112	A POINT MUTATION CAN HAVE DIFFERENT EFFECTS ON SPLICING	138
STRUCTURE OF THE IRON RESPONSIVE ELEMENT	114	PREDICTING SPLICING MUTATIONS	139
AN RNA ELEMENT NECESSARY FOR THE INCORPORATION OF SELENOCYSTEINE IN PROTEINS	116	Summary	140
REGULATION OF TRANSLATION BY 5' UTR OPEN READING FRAMES	117	Questions	140
WHEN UPSTREAM OPEN READING FRAMES ARE MUTATED	117	URLs	141
AU-RICH ELEMENTS ARE INVOLVED IN REGULATION OF mRNA STABILITY	118	Further Reading	141
A 3' UTR REPEAT EXPANSION AND MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY	119	Chapter 10 The Regulation of Transcription	143
A POSSIBLE MECHANISM OF MYOTONIC DYSTROPHY TYPE 1	120	DNA SEQUENCES AND GENERAL TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS	143
A UNIVERSE OF SILENCING RNAs	121	β -THALASSEMIA AND CORE PROMOTER MUTATIONS	145
DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH MUTATIONS IN miRNAs OR TARGET 3' UTRs	123	DNA SEQUENCES AND SPECIFIC TRANSCRIPTION FACTORS	146
Summary	124	TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR DNA BINDING SPECIFICITY	146
Questions	124	THE ENCODE PROJECT MAPPED FUNCTIONAL SITES IN THE HUMAN GENOME	148
URLs	125	PROXIMAL PROMOTER MUTATIONS AND DISEASE: GATA-1 AND δ -THALASSEMIA	149
Further Reading	125	PROXIMAL PROMOTER MUTATIONS AND DISEASE: <i>TERT</i> PROMOTER AND CANCER	151
Chapter 9 Exons, Introns, and a Royal Bleeding Disorder	127	MUTATIONS IN ENHANCERS MAY GIVE RISE TO DISEASE	151
QUEEN VICTORIA PASSED HEMOPHILIA ON TO MANY OF HER DESCENDENTS	127	SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND ENHANCER GENETIC VARIANTS	152
THE ROYAL HEMOPHILIA IS INHERITED THROUGH THE X CHROMOSOME	127		
BLOOD CLOTTING DEPENDS ON A CASCADE OF ENZYMATIC REACTIONS	129		

AN ENHANCER GENETIC VARIANT IS ASSOCIATED WITH PARKINSON'S DISEASE	153	Summary	183
TRANSCRIPTIONAL CONTROL IS MEDIATED BY HIGHER-ORDER ORGANIZATION OF THE GENOME	154	Questions	184
ENHANCERS THAT GET OUT OF CONTEXT	156	Further Reading	185
CANCER AND DNA ORGANIZATION	156		
ONE GENE: MULTIPLE TRANSCRIPTION START AND TERMINATION SITES	158	Chapter 12	
EPIGENETIC MECHANISMS OF TRANSCRIPTIONAL CONTROL	158	Computational Methods Are Critical in the Analysis of Molecular Sequences	187
HISTONE MODIFICATION	159	BIOINFORMATICS METHODS ARE WIDELY USED	187
DNA METHYLATION AND CpG ISLANDS	160	THE HUMAN GENOME AND THE REST OF BIOLOGY CAN ONLY BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF EVOLUTION	188
THE EPIGENOME	162	HISTORY OF SEQUENCE COMPUTING STARTED WITH PROTEINS	191
FRAGILE X SYNDROME: AN EPIGENETIC DISORDER?	162	HOW SEQUENCES ARE COMPARED	191
Summary	164	MULTIPLE ALIGNMENTS	192
Questions	165	MOLECULAR SEQUENCES ARE COLLECTED IN PUBLIC DATABASES	193
URLs	166	HUGE COLLECTIONS OF SEQUENCE DATA MAY EFFECTIVELY BE SEARCHED FOR SEQUENCE SIMILARITY	193
Further Reading	166	MORE SENSITIVE METHODS TO REVEAL DISTANT EVOLUTIONARY RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PROTEINS	195
Chapter 11		BIOLOGICAL FUNCTION MAY BE PREDICTED FROM AMINO ACID SEQUENCES	197
The Noncoding RNAs	169	A NETWORK OF GENE AND PROTEIN FUNCTIONS: GENE ONTOLOGY	198
SMALL NONCODING RNAs	169	SEQUENCES TO BUILD TREES: PHYLOGENY	199
THE RNA WORLD	170	HUMAN GENOME COMPUTING: PUTTING THE HUMAN GENOME TOGETHER FROM SHORTER SEQUENCES	203
BIOSYNTHESIS OF SMALL ncRNAs	170	RECONSTRUCTING A GENOME BY ALIGNMENT OF READS TO THE REFERENCE GENOME	204
A NUMBER OF MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASES ARE THE RESULT OF MUTATIONS IN tRNA GENES	171	INFERRING FUNCTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL GENOMIC VARIANTS	206
CARTILAGE-HAIR HYPOPLASIA IS CAUSED BY MALFUNCTIONING MRP RNA	172	COMPARISON TO OTHER SPECIES IMPROVES OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE HUMAN GENOME	207
PRADER-WILLI SYNDROME AND THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC snoRNAs	173	Summary	208
LONG NONCODING RNAs, A UNIVERSE OF RNAs YET TO BE EXPLORED	176		
lncRNAs REGULATE EXPRESSION USING MANY DIFFERENT MECHANISMS	178		
A REPEAT EXPANSION IN A lncRNA CAUSES A SPINOCEREBELLAR ATAXIA	179		
A lncRNA AND CELIAC DISEASE	179		
A lncRNA PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN A MUSCLE DISORDER	180		
A lncRNA AND ANGELMAN SYNDROME	181		

Questions	209	GENE THERAPY WITH ADENO-ASSOCIATED VIRUS	230
URLs	209	CANCER GENE THERAPY WITH p53	230
Further Reading	209	CANCER GENE THERAPY BY BOOSTING IMMUNE RESPONSE: CAR-T CELL THERAPY	231
Chapter 13		GENOME EDITING: CRISPR/Cas9	231
Diagnosing the Genome	211	CRISPR/Cas9 AND SICKLE CELL ANEMIA	232
A DIFFICULT INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE RESISTS DIAGNOSIS	211	THE NUMBER OF CRISPR APPLICATIONS IS GROWING RAPIDLY	234
THE FAULTY GENE IS IDENTIFIED BY GENOME SEQUENCING	212	MUTATIONS IN DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY AND THE EFFECT OF EXON ELIMINATION	235
A CURE FROM TRANSPLANTATION	212	RESTORING DYSTROPHIN EXPRESSION IN DMD BY ELIMINATION OF EXONS	237
DIAGNOSIS OF GENETIC ERRORS	213	CRISPR/Cas9 APPLIED TO PATIENTS	237
HIGH-THROUGHPUT DNA SEQUENCING METHODS	213	GENE THERAPY TO CHANGE GENE EXPRESSION WITH OLIGONUCLEOTIDES	238
WHOLE GENOME AND EXOME SEQUENCING	216	ARTIFICIAL MICRORNAs EXPLOITED AS A THERAPY FOR HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE	238
DIAGNOSIS OF A NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDER: ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY OF GENOME SEQUENCING	217	OLIGONUCLEOTIDES TO MASK AN ERRONEOUS SPLICE SITE: USHER SYNDROME	239
GENOME SEQUENCING TO IDENTIFY GENETIC ERRORS	219	SPLICING PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY	240
MANY PEOPLE ARE AFFECTED BY A RARE DISORDER	220	AN OLIGONUCLEOTIDE THERAPY FOR SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY	241
RARE GENETIC DEFECTS ARE BEING ANALYZED AT A LARGE SCALE	220	OLIGONUCLEOTIDES TO PRODUCE EXON SKIPPING IN DUCHENNE MUSCLE DYSTROPHY	243
Summary	222	IMPROVING THE FUNCTION OF A SICK PROTEIN	244
Questions	223	Summary	244
URLs	223	Questions	245
Further Reading	223	Further Reading	246
Chapter 14		Chapter 15	
Correcting Genome Errors	225	Epilogue	249
GERMLINE AND SOMATIC CELL THERAPY	225	DNA SEQUENCES HAVE A VARIETY OF FUNCTIONAL ROLES	249
ADMINISTERING A FUNCTIONAL GENE TO A PATIENT BY TRANSPLANTATION OF HEMATOPOIETIC STEM CELLS	226	YOUR GENOME IS NOT YOUR FATE	252
CORRECTING A GENETIC DISORDER WITH THE HELP OF A "SAVIOR SIBLING"	227	WHO HAS ACCESS TO A PERSON'S GENOME?	254
VIRAL VECTORS FOR GENE THERAPY	228		
FIRST CASE OF GENE THERAPY: CURING ADENOSINE DEAMINASE DEFICIENCY	228		
WITH LENTIVIRAL VECTORS LEUKEMIA IS AVOIDED	229		

HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR OWN GENOME?	256
SELECTING AGAINST DISEASE MUTATIONS	257
ETHICS OF GERMLINE GENE THERAPY	258
CONCLUDING REMARKS	259
Further Reading	260

Appendixes	261
Glossary	263
Recommended Textbooks for Further Reading	271
Index	273