

Contents

Preface.....	xi
Acknowledgments.....	xiii
Authors.....	xv
 Chapter 1	
Introduction.....	1
 Chapter 2	
Chemistry and Cellular Localization of Polyamines.....	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Chemical Structure and Physicochemical Characteristics of Polyamines and Their Impact on the Interaction with Biomolecules.....	7
2.3 Binding of Polyamines with Cellular Macromolecules	8
2.4 Physiological Results of the Interactions of Polyamines with Cell Macromolecules and Structures.....	12
2.5 Localization of Polyamines in the Cells of Different Organisms, Including Fungi	14
 Chapter 3	
Mechanisms of Polyamines Biosynthesis, Their Interconversion and Degradation in Fungi, in Comparison with Animal and Plant Cells.....	21
3.1 Introduction.....	21
3.2 Pathways of Putrescine Biosynthesis	21
3.3 Mechanisms for the Synthesis of Spermidine.....	27
3.4 Mechanisms for the Synthesis of Spermine.....	31
3.5 Mechanisms of Degradation and Interconversion of Polyamines.....	33
3.6 Origin and Role of the Different Precursor Molecules Involved in Polyamine Biosynthesis	39
3.7 The Relationship of Polyamine Metabolism with Other Cellular Pathways in Different Organisms	41
 Chapter 4	
Polyamine Distribution in the Fungal Kingdom, as Compared with Other Eukaryotic Organisms	43
4.1 Introduction.....	43
4.2 Polyamines Present in the Different Fungal Groups and Other Organisms ...	44
4.3 Phylogenetic Relationships of the Enzymes Involved in Polyamine Metabolism in Fungi	46
4.4 Possible Evolution of the Polyamine Biosynthetic Pathways in Fungi	67
4.5 Advantages of Fungi as Models for the Study of Different Aspects of Polyamine Metabolism and Their Modes of Action.....	72

Chapter 5

Regulatory Mechanisms of Polyamine Metabolism at the Transcriptional, Translational, and Posttranslational Levels in Fungi and Other Organisms 79

5.1	Introduction	79
5.2	Regulation of the Synthesis of Odc at the Transcriptional and Posttranslational Levels	80
5.3	The Unique Mechanism of Az as a Regulatory Protein	81
5.4	Regulation of the Biosynthesis of Samdc	85
5.5	Regulation of the Activity of the Polyamine Biosynthetic Enzymes.....	86
5.6	Regulation of Polyamines during Stress Conditions: A Comparative Study between Fungal and Plant Cells.....	87

Chapter 6

General Functions of Polyamines and Their Possible Modes of Action in Fungi and Other Organisms 91

6.1	Introduction.....	91
6.2	Polyamines Are Essential	92
6.3	Role of Polyamines on Cell Growth, Transcription, and Translation in Fungi and Other Organisms.....	93
6.4	Regulation of the Expression of Specific Genes by Polyamines in Fungi and Other Eukaryotes.....	96
6.5	Regulation by Polyamines of Gene Expression by Modification of DNA Methylation Patterns	97
6.6	Polyamines and the Structure of Cell Membranes	99
6.7	The Role of Polyamines in Stress Response	100
6.8	Selected Aspects of the Role of Polyamines in Some Specific Cellular Functions.....	102
6.9	Natural Polyamines and Their Possible Clinical and Biotechnological Applications	103
6.9.1	Polyamines and Their Potential Medical Applications	104
6.9.1.1	Selected Topics of Polyamines in Cancer	104
6.9.1.2	Polyamines and Their Potential Application in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	105
6.9.1.3	Polyamines and Their Potential Application on Other Affections.....	106
6.9.2	Polyamine Application as Protective Agent in Plant Development....	107
6.9.2.1	Polyamines and Resistance to Cold Stress Conditions....	108
6.9.2.2	Polyamines as Agents for Improvement of Shelf Life ...	109
6.9.2.3	Polyamines as Agents against Heavy-Metal-Induced Stress on Plants.....	110
6.9.2.4	Polyamines as Inducing Agents for Plant Development.....	111
6.9.2.5	Polyamines as Breeders in Plant Symbiotic Associations on Economically Important Crops	111

Chapter 7

The Role of Polyamines on Cell Differentiation and Morphogenesis in Fungi and Other Organisms	113
7.1 Introduction.....	113
7.2 Differential Locations of Polyamines and Their Relation to Specific Phenomena	114
7.3 The Use of Fungi as Models for the Study of the Mechanisms of Polyamine Roles on Cell Differentiation	115
7.4 Role of Polyamines on Differentiation in Plants.....	118
7.5 Use of Fungal and Plant Mutants in the Analysis of the Specific Roles of the Different Polyamines in Cell Physiology.....	119

Chapter 8

Polyamine Metabolism as a Target	121
8.1 Introduction.....	121
8.2 Effect of Inhibitors on the Different Enzymes Involved in Polyamine Metabolism.....	123
8.3 Polyamine Metabolism as a Possible Target for the Control of Some Human Diseases.....	127
8.4 Use of the Differences Existing in the Mechanism of Polyamine Biosynthesis between Plants and Fungi as a Mechanism for the Control of Phytopathogenic Fungi	128
8.5 RNA Interference as a Tool to Analyze Polyamine Metabolism and to Control Pathogens by Selective Inhibition of Polyamine Biosynthesis	130
References.....	133
Index	183