

Unit 1: Cell Structure and Function

Content Outline: Movement Across Membranes (1.3)

- I. Material Transport in general with regards to cells
 - A. CO₂ and O₂ (both gases) diffuse across the *wet* phospholipid bi-layer.
 - B. Ions (charged particles) and water move through the proteins. (Hence the name Transport proteins.)
- II. **Passive Transport** (No energy is required for this process to occur.)
 - A. **Diffusion**
 1. This process operates upon an *established concentration [] gradient*.
 2. Materials flow from high [] to low [] until equilibrium is achieved.
 3. This is how the *majority* of materials are transported in cells. (Because it requires no energy expenditure by the cell...which saves energy for *maintaining* homeostasis, repair, and reproduction.)
 - B. **Osmosis** (The diffusion of water.)
 1. Water always flows from **Hypotonic** to **Hypertonic** until **Isotonic**
 2. Terminology:
 - a. Terms refer to the *material dissolved in the water. not the water itself. (That is tonic.)*
 - i. “Hypo” means “very little” is dissolved in the water.
 - ii. “Hyper” means “a lot” is dissolved in the water.
 - iii. “tonic” referring to the water.
 - b. Water flows one way and the materials dissolved in the water flow the *opposite* direction.
 - c. Water molecules *never* stop moving across a membrane; even when isotonic state exists.
 3. The process of **Osmoregulation (water control)** is crucial for **all** cells to control.
 - a. Pure water vs. normal water. *Pure* water is always the **hypotonic**.
 - b. **Turgid** – This refers to a condition when there is *plenty of water* in the plant cell, so the cells are rigid and the plant is stiff.
 - c. **Flaccid** – This refers to a condition when there is *not enough water* in the plant cell, so the cells are limp and the plant is wilted.
 - d. **Plasmolysis** – This is when the cell membrane *rips away* from the cell wall killing the plant cell. (“Plasmo” refers to the plasma membrane; “lysis” means “the process of tearing”)
 4. Water **Potential** (Represented by the Greek letter psi - Ψ) (After Poseidon’s Trident.)
 - a. It is basically water’s *ability to perform work* while passing through the cell membrane.
 - b. We state that water is moving from *high potential* (hypotonic) to *low potential* (hypertonic).
 - i. This is because we do not consider water to have varying water “concentrations”. Water is water.
 - C. **Facilitated Diffusion** (“Facilitate” means “to help”)
 1. This movement of molecules requires the *help* of a Transport Protein.
 2. Does not require energy to occur.
- III. **Active Transport** (This process requires energy to occur.)
 - A. This process is moving material *against the concentration [] gradient*. (Like pushing a car up a hill...it will require energy.)
 1. Some examples in organisms are: Proton pumps, and Na⁺/K⁺ Pumps of the nervous system.
 - a. Energy from ATP by **Phosphorylation** (Attaching a phosphate ion to a structure to make it work.) **activates** the protein to grab and move molecules.
 - b. Electrons can also provide energy, such as in the Electron Transport Chain of Photosynthesis or Cellular Respiration.
- IV. **Large molecule transport** (These molecules are *too* big for proteins to transport.)
 - A. **Exocytosis** – This is the process of moving materials *out* of a cell. (Exo means “out”; cyto means “cell”; sis means “process of”)
 - B. **Endocytosis** – This is the process of moving materials *into* a cell. (Endo means “in”)
 1. **Phagocytosis** – This process is “cell eating”. (Phage means “to eat”).
 2. **Pinocytosis** – This process is “cell drinking”. (Pino means “to drink”).