Course Unit Descriptor

Study Programme: Doctoral Academic Studies in Biochemistry

Course Unit Title: Metabolism and biological significance of arachidonic acid

Course Unit Code: DSB611

Name of Lecturer(s): Associate Professor Ivana Beara, Associate Professor Marija Lesjak

Type and Level of Studies: PhD degree

Course Status (compulsory/elective): elective

Semester (winter/summer): summer

Language of instruction: English

Mode of course unit delivery (face-to-face/distance learning): Face-to-face

Number of ECTS Allocated: 15

Prerequisites: none

Course Aims:

The goal of the course is to provide students with detailed theoretical knowledge of the metabolism and biological significance of arachidonic acid.

Learning Outcomes:

Students should know pathways and properties of enzymes involved in arachidonic acid metabolism, mechanisms of product synthesis and their biological activity.

Syllabus:

Theory

The structure and origin of arachidonic acid. The release of arachidonic acid from the cell membrane. Review of the metabolism of arachidonic acid. Types, structure and mechanisms of action of enzymes involved in cyclooxygenase, lipooxygenase and epoxygenase pathways. Biological activity of eicosanoids. Role of eicosanoids in pathological processes. Inhibitors of eicosanoid synthesis. Experimental methods in eicosanoid research.

Practice

Arachidonic acid in inflammation processes - experiments related to arachidonic acid metabolism, project

Required Reading:

- 1. Curtis-Prior, P. (2004): The Eicosanoids. Wiley, Cambridge, England.
- 2. Marks, F., Fürstenberg, G. (ed.) (1999): Prostaglandins, leukotrienes and other eicosanoids: from biogenesis to clinical application. Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, Germany.
- 3. Lianos, E. A. Eicosanoid protocols (1999): Humana Press, Totowa, USA.

Weekly Contact Hours:	Lectures: 75	Practical work: 75
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Teaching Methods: Lectures, laboratory work, desk study projects, seminar(s)

Knowledge Assessment (maximum of 100 points): 100

Pre-exam obligations	points	Final exam	points
Active class		written exam	
participation		witten exam	
Practical work		oral exam	60
Preliminary exam(s)		Project	40
Seminar(s)			

The methods of knowledge assessment may differ; the table presents only some of the options: written exam, oral exam, project presentation, seminars, etc.