## 1st week

- Living organisms (domains, kingdoms, definition)
- Cellular foundation: Structure and function of the cell
- Chemical foundation: Biomolecules and building blocks

## 2nd week

- Three laws of thermodynamics (1, 2)
- Is a living organism at equilibrium with surrounding?
- ⊿G?
- Equilibrium constant?
- ⊿G°?
- Chemical coupling?
- Enzymes function as catalysts. How?

## **14 Organic Friends**



## 3rd week

- Nature of intermolecular forces (IHVH)
- 4 things about water (HHOP)
- Behavior of weak acids and bases in water: pK<sub>a</sub>
- Henderson-Hasselbalch Equation

$$K_a = \frac{[\mathrm{H}^+][\mathrm{A}^-]}{[\mathrm{H}\mathrm{A}]} = K_{eq}$$

$$pH = pK_a + \log\frac{[A^-]}{[HA]}$$

H.W: What are acidosis and alkalosis?

## pH calculations!!

- 1. Calculate the pH of a 150 mL solution of pure water to which has been added 50 mL of 1 mM HCl.
- 2. Calculate the pH of a 1 L solution containing
  - a. 10 mL of 5 M NaOH
  - b. 10 mL of 100 mM glycine and 20 mL of 5 M HCl
  - c. 10 mL of 2 M acetic acid and 5 g of sodium acetate (MW: 82 g/mol),  $pK_a=4.76$
- 3. A solution is made by mixing 50 mL of 2.0 M  $K_2$ HPO<sub>4</sub> and 25 mL of 2.0 M  $KH_2$ PO<sub>4</sub>. The solution is diluted to a final volume of 100 mL. What is the pH of the final solution?  $pK_a = 6.82$
- 4. What is the  $pK_a$  of the weak acid HA if a solution containing 0.1 M HA and 0.2 M A<sup>-</sup> has a pH of 6.5?

# Amino Acids, Peptides, and Proteins

- 1. Structure and naming of amino acids
- 2. Ionization behavior of amino acids
- 3. Methods to characterize peptides and proteins

## Proteins: Main Agents of Biological Function

- Catalysis
  - enolase (in the glycolytic pathway)
  - DNA polymerase (in DNA replication)
- Transport
  - hemoglobin (transports O<sub>2</sub> in the blood)

 – lactose permease (transports lactose across the cell membrane)

- Structure
  - collagen (connective tissue)
  - keratin (hair, nails, feathers, horns)
- Motion
  - myosin (muscle tissue)
  - actin (muscle tissue, cell motility)

## Amino Acids: Building Blocks of Protein

- Proteins are linear heteropolymers of  $\alpha$ -amino acids.
- Amino acids have properties that are well suited to carry out a variety of biological functions:
  - capacity to polymerize
  - useful acid-base properties
  - varied physical properties
  - varied chemical functionality

## Amino Acids Share Many Features, Differing Only at the R Substituent





- The *α* carbon always has four substituents and is tetrahedral.
- All (except proline) have:
  - an acidic carboxyl group connected to the  $\alpha$  carbon
  - a basic amino group connected to the  $\alpha$  carbon
  - an  $\alpha$  hydrogen connected to the  $\alpha$  carbon
- The fourth substituent (R) is unique in glycine, the simplest amino acid. The fourth substituent is also hydrogen.

## All Amino Acids Are Chiral (Except Glycine)

#### Proteins only contain L amino acids



Common amino acids can be placed in five basic groups depending on their R substituents:

- nonpolar (7)
- aromatic (3)
- polar, uncharged (5)
- positively charged (3)
- negatively charged (2)







#### These amino acid side chains absorb UV light at 270–280 nm





These amino acids side chains can form hydrogen bonds. Cysteine can form disulfide bonds.

#### **Cysteine Can Form Disulfide Bonds**









## **Ionization of Amino Acids**

- Amino acids contain at least two ionizable protons, each with its own pK<sub>a</sub>.
- The carboxylic acid has an acidic pK<sub>a</sub> and will be protonated at an acidic (low) pH: −COOH ↔ COO<sup>-</sup> + H<sup>+</sup>
- The amino group has a basic  $pK_a$  and will be protonated when basic pH (high) is achieved:  $-NH_4^+ \leftrightarrow NH_3 + H^+$
- At low pH, the amino acid exists in a positively charged form (cation).
- At high pH, the amino acid exists in a negatively charged form (anion).
- Between the pK<sub>a</sub> for each group, the amino acid exists in a zwitterion form, in which a single molecule has both a positive and a negative charge.

## **Chemical Environment Affects p***K*<sub>a</sub> **Values**

 $\alpha$ -carboxyl group is much more acidic than in carboxylic acids.  $\alpha$ -amino group is slightly less basic than in amines.



## Amino Acids Carry a Net Charge of Zero at a Specific pH (the pI)

- Zwitterions predominate at pH values between the pK<sub>a</sub> values of the amino and carboxyl groups.
- For amino acids without ionizable side chains, the Isoelectric Point (equivalence point, pl) is:

$$pI = \frac{pK_1 + pK_2}{2}$$

- At this point, the net charge is zero.
  - AA is least soluble in water.
  - AA does not migrate in electric field.

## **Amino Acids Can Act as Buffers**

Amino acids with uncharged side chains, such as glycine, have two  $pK_a$  values:

- The p $K_a$  of the  $\alpha$ -carboxyl group is 2.34.
- The p $K_a$  of the  $\alpha$ -amino group is 9.6.

As buffers prevent change in pH close to the  $pK_a$ , glycine can act as a buffer in two pH ranges.



**Figure 3-10** Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Seventh Edition © 2017 W. H. Freeman and Company

#### **Amino Acids Polymerize to Form Peptides**



#### **Modified Amino Acids in Proteins**



#### **Green Fluorescent Protein**







Box 4-3a Dr kevin Raskoff

Fluorophore of green fluorescent protein

#### **Biologically Active Amino Acid Derivatives**





#### **Common Questions About Peptides and Proteins**

- What is its sequence and composition?
- What is its three-dimensional structure?
- How does it achieve its biochemical role?
- How is its function regulated?
- How does it interact with other macromolecules?
- How is it related to other proteins?
- Where is it localized within the cell?
- What are its physico-chemical properties?

## A Mixture of Proteins Can Be Separated

- Separation relies on differences in physical and chemical properties:
  - charge
  - size
  - affinity for a ligand
  - solubility
  - hydrophobicity
  - thermal stability
- Chromatography is commonly used for preparative separation in which the protein is often able to remain fully folded.

## **Column Chromatography**



- Column chromatography allows separation of a mixture of proteins over a solid phase (porous matrix) using a liquid phase to mobilize the proteins.
- Proteins with a lower affinity for the solid phase will wash off first; proteins with higher affinity will retain on the column longer and wash off later.

#### Figure 3-16

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#### **Separation by Charge: Ion Exchange**



Figure 3-17a

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#### **Separation by Size: Size Exclusion**



Figure 3-17b Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry, Seventh Edition

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#### **Separation by Binding: Affinity**



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## Summary

- many biological functions of peptides and proteins
- structures and names of amino acids found in proteins
- ionization properties of amino acids and peptides
- methods for separation and analysis of proteins