

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2022

Molecular basis of disease 368 (BCM 368)

Qualification	Undergraduate
Faculty	Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Module credits	18.00
NQF Level	07
Programmes	BSc (Biochemistry)
	BSc (Biotechnology)
	BSc (Chemistry)
	BSc (Entomology)
	BSc (Genetics)
	BSc (Human Genetics)
	BSc (Human Physiology)
	BSc (Microbiology)
	BSc (Nutrition)
	BSc (Plant Science)
	BSc (Zoology)
Prerequisites	BCM 251 and BCM 257 and BCM 261 GS BCM 252 GS.
Contact time	1 practical/tutorial per week, 2 lectures per week
Language of tuition	Module is presented in English
Department	Biochemistry, Genetics and Microbiology
Period of presentation	Semester 2

Module content

Molecular mechanisms behind exogenous and endogenous diseases. Foundational knowledge of the immune system, with innate-, adaptive- and auto-immunity (molecular mechanisms of the maintenance and failure of the recognition of foreign in the context of self in the mammalian body) being some of the key concepts. Molecular pathology and immunobiochemistry of exogenous diseases against viral, bacterial and parasitic pathogens with a focus on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. Endogenous disease will describe the biochemistry of normal cell cycle proliferation, quiescence, senescence, differentiation and apoptosis, and abnormal events as illustrated by cancer. Tutorials will focus on immunoassays, vaccines, diagnostic tests for diseases and drug discovery towards therapeutics.

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