

Learning Technical English

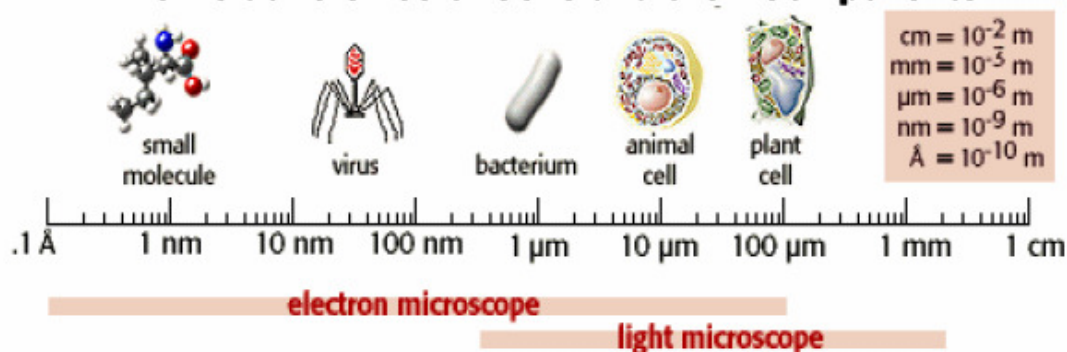


for the Life Science Industries

September 25, 2007 Vol. 3

Have fun and learn about:

The Relative Sizes of Cells and their Components



In testing your English language skills and your knowledge of the relative size of cells, please take some time to review the chart above. Keep in mind, viruses remain entirely dormant when not in contact with a host cell. Also, they are protected by a protein coating, and even today, scientists still debate if viruses are living or non-living organisms. As for bacteria, they are called prokaryotes, possess a cell wall & cell membrane, but lack a nuclear membrane for containing its chromosomes. Also, Bacteria come in various shapes, and the most basic are round (cocci), rod (bacilli) & spiral (spirilli) forms. Some bacteria are beneficial to mankind, such as in beer, yogurt or wine processing.

However, certain bacteria remain harmful, especially those causing diseases such as Cholera, TB, Syphilis and others.

As for animal & plant cells, they are eukaryotes, because their nuclear material (DNA included) is contained in a nuclear membrane. A few basic differences between plant & animal cells are the fact that plant cells contain a cell wall, which gives it greater rigidity, and plant cells contain chlorophyll organelles for performing photosynthesis. Thus, plant cells are called autotrophs, because they 'make their own food'. As for animal cells, they are termed heterotrophs, because they 'must get their own food'.

Check your understanding of the chart: Relative Sizes of Cells & their Components



If you click on the questionnaire link, you will find questions on the texts of this Newsletter. You are invited to answer these or ask further questions yourself and send these to Steven L. Hanft, President CONUSBAT & Editor of the LTE Newsletter. We look forward to your replies.

Round-the-World Life Science News

Pharmaceutical:

Abbott and AstraZeneca are the latest pharmaceutical companies to take on the \$21.6bn (€15.8bn) cholesterol market with a combination drug.

The two companies will advance the development of Abbott's next-generation fenofibrate ABT-335 and AstraZeneca's Crestor (rosuvastatin calcium) in a fixed-dose combination treatment into Phase III trials. The new pill would directly compete with Merck & Co's and Schering-Plough's combination drug Vytorin (simvastatin and ezetimibe), marketed as Inegy in the US, which netted \$1.96bn (€1.44bn) in sales last year, reflecting a 90 per cent increase over the full year of 2005. BioPharma Reporter, Sept. 4, 2007

Nutrition & Infant Health:

Iron Deficiency in Toddlers Linked to Obesity

Iron deficiency has been linked to obesity in toddlers. A group of researchers found that 20% of obese toddlers have iron deficiency, compared to 7% of normal-weight toddlers. The study, published in the September issue of *Pediatrics*, also found that Hispanic children are more affected than other groups.

The researchers said that children who attend day-care centers are about 50% less likely to have iron deficiency than children who aren't in day care. Among Hispanic toddlers, 12% were iron deficient, compared to 6% of white and black children.

The researchers noted that iron deficiency affects 2.4 million U.S. children, and childhood iron-deficiency anemia is associated with behavioral and cognitive delays. The group said that given the detrimental long-term effects and high prevalence of iron deficiency, its prevention in early childhood is an important.

Source: Iron Deficiency in Early Childhood in the United States; Risk Factors and Racial/Ethnic Disparities, *Pediatrics* Vol. 120 No. 3 September 2007, pp. 568-575

Food & Beverage:

Unilever to cut up to 12,000 jobs in Europe

According to press reports, Unilever PLC has announced that it will eliminate between 10,000 and 12,000 jobs in Europe over the next four years as part of its larger restructuring plan.

CEO Patrick Cescau announced last month that job cuts were coming as part of a plan to reduce its global workforce by 20,000 during the next four years.

Unilever is selling non-core operations such as its laundry business in North America, which competes with Procter & Gamble. The company has not specified which other businesses it considers to be non-core and up for sale. The company also confirmed that it will sell Boursin, its cream cheese unit based in France. *Institute for Food Technology Journal*, Sept. 5, 2007 (IFT; Chicago, IL, USA)

Personal Care:

New Class of Bio-lipids for use in cosmetics formulations

An Illinois based biotechnology firm is launching a class of natural bio-lipids off the back of its soy based sunscreen discoveries; promising to deliver the benefits of active ingredients that have previously been unsuitable for use in cosmetic formulations. Scientists from the company iSoy Technologies have developed a molecule with sunscreen properties, known as FSG33 - the result of joining a compound found in the soy plant with ferulic acid. *Cosmetics Design*, Aug. 23, 2007

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Don't let language be a barrier to your success!

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