

Action plan based on students' feedback regarding the 2nd semester of the 2023/2024 academic year

Department: Department of Molecular Biology
Faculty: Faculty of Dentistry
Compulsory course: Molecular Cell Biology 2

1. Response to general evaluations

Evaluation was given by more than 60% of registered students in the subject, and the scores in the theoretical and practical questionnaires were consistent with the faculty average. This reflects overall satisfaction, and we are committed to maintaining the quality of teaching.

2. Response to specific comments

- a. **“the course could be completed in one semester. irrelevant material is incorporated in order to stretch it to two semesters.” and “Very hard topic at least for dental students, 2 semester is useless. just one semester like other normal universities”**

We believe that reducing the teaching material and shortening the course would do more harm than good to dental students. A thorough knowledge of the molecular background of diseases, including dental-related pathologies, is essential for understanding modern diagnostic tools and therapeutic interventions. Dentists not only treat diseases of the teeth and oral cavity, but are also responsible to some extent for the health and well-being of the 'whole' patient. How would students be able to understand the clinicopathological features of oropharyngeal tumors without an understanding of the molecular background of cancer and apoptosis? Or would they understand the molecular pathogenesis of non-squamous throat cancer associated with human papillomavirus infection? Dental caries and parodontopathies are based on molecular interactions between human tissues and certain bacterial strains. Odontoblasts can be differentiated from stem cells with specific growth factors and used to repair various dental lesions. Gene therapy can be applied to treat congenital defects in mineralization and dental matrix formation. It is hoped that these few selected examples will be convincing enough to demonstrate the important role of molecular cell biology in dental education.

- b. **“apologise if this un-formal, but honestly I'm paying so much money on tuition and would appreciate it if my teacher(practice) speaks English. it was very bad because my teacher was having trouble delivering the material in class. I think its a necessity to have English speaking tutors in an English program.”**

While the apology is not warranted, as it is a reasonable expectation that our laboratory teachers should speak English well and have good communication skills, the criticism is incomprehensible, as it is the only complaint we have received in recent years about our teachers' English language skills. We are sure that the complaint is well-founded, as you wrote your comment in impeccable English. Unfortunately, you did not specify in the questionnaire who your teacher was, so we cannot find out which of our colleagues you think needs a language training course.

Date: 11/10/2024