**Human Insulin report**

(100 points total)

Background

Our bodies use Insulin, a protein signaling molecule (hormone), for the regulation of glucose in the blood. Insulin is made in the Pancreas, Without Insulin, a life-threatening condition known as Diabetes Mellitus results. In this class we have already studied Diabetes and the role of Insulin in the body, so you should be somewhat familiar with the topic.

Historically, people with Diabetes did not live a healthy life. In 1921, Banting & Best showed that Insulin could be isolated and purified from a dog’s pancreas. This meant people could inject animal insulin as treatment for Diabetes. Over the ensuing years, improvements were made in the process, but you were still injecting Insulin derived from cows and pigs. This caused an immune response or allergic reaction in people, and so it was not ideal.

By the 1970’s, we had located the gene for Insulin in humans (on chromosome 11) and determined the exact amino-acid sequence of the Insulin molecule. In 1978, Genentech successfully copied (cloned) the human Insulin gene by splicing it into the *E. Coli* bacterial genome, and then used the *E. Coli* bacteria as a ‘factory’ to produce lots of the Insulin. In 1982, Ely Lilly received FDA approval for Humulin (artificially made human Insulin). This was the World’s first drug produced by recombinant-DNA (genetic engineering) methods!

Assignment instructions

Do Internet research and prepare a 2-page report on the topic: “How Human Insulin is Made”. Be prepared to present your paper at a subsequent class.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Give a brief history of Insulin production from animals. Use lots of dates and who-did-what.
2. Show images of the Insulin protein itself, and what it looks like. You can show a picture of chromosome 11, with the Insulin gene identified somehow.
3. Explain how we use ‘genetic engineering’ and ‘recombinant DNA’ methods to make human Insulin today.
4. Show graphics/images of the process itself. How is it made? What does the process consist of? Go into each step a little bit… (this should constitute about 50% of your report)
5. Any future drugs under development? Describe ‘analog Insulin’ or any other future drugs.

Report length: I would like to see at least 2 pages.

Use bullet points together with short, informative sentences. Don’t blab. Use lots of diagrams and graphics to convey information quickly.

TIPS: There’s lots of information on the Internet. Search: “how human insulin is made” “insulin recombinant dna methods” “genetic engineering of insulin” “history of insulin” and so forth.