

The teaching of Biochemistry in Africa

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Abstract

Most African Universities offer courses in Biochemistry to students of Medicine, Agriculture and the Life Sciences during their first and second years of undergraduate studies. Some universities offer full degree courses at the undergraduate (B.Sc) and postgraduate (M.Sc/PhD) levels.

Most of the programmes contain sections for Structural and Metabolic Biochemistry as well as an Introduction to Molecular Biology. Practical classes usually introduce students to methods for the quantitative determination of proteins, sugars and lipids with hardly any demonstrations on advanced techniques like recombinant DNA technology and PCR.

Problems of teaching Biochemistry in Africa include the lack of current textbooks, poor laboratory facilities, insufficient internet access, and a shortage of qualified academic/technical staff. The lecture will highlight elements of a consensus syllabus reached at during the 4th FASBMB Meeting in 2003, and proposals for a way forward"

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