

AV & Software Reviews

MECHANISMS OF PATHOGENESIS

Health & Disease Presentation MEDIA. 2006. Created by Biozone International Ltd. Contact: sales@biozone.co.nz for pricing and ordering information.

System Requirements:

CD-ROM Drive or Downloads
Windows
Mac OS compatible

This CD contains four different PowerPoint presentations that can be viewed as PowerPoint, QuickTime® movies or as separate slides in PDF format. In *The Nature of Disease* concepts such as causes of disease, epidemics, diagnostic techniques, medical imaging, and control of disease are covered and illustrated.

In *Infectious Disease* transmission of bacterial, viral, fungal, and protozoan pathogens are included along with a special focus on “emerging diseases” like HIV and AIDS. For a number of specific diseases like Malaria: and the Guinea worm transmission, symptoms, and treatments are discussed.

In *Non-infectious Disease* diseases such as cardiovascular problems, cancer, the effects of smoking, and eating disorders are explored. The final program: *Defense and the Immune System* includes 56 slides that deal with tissue rejection, human blood typing, and the body's many levels of defense against infection as well as the mechanics of allergies.

The information is thorough, accurate and well presented. It meshes well with the modular workbook of the same title but can easily be used alone.

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According to the information provided on the biozone.com Web site, the presentations can not only be used as described above but also include a site license so they could be used on the school's computer network. The level of the material presented is appropriate for high school or introductory college biology.

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BIOLOGY & BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE CELLS

Cell Biology and Biochemistry. 2006. Created by Biozone International Ltd. Contact: sales@biozone.co.nz for pricing and ordering information. **Web site:** <http://www.biozone.co.nz>

The items reviewed consisted of two products. One, the less expensive one, was a workbook addressing these areas of introductory biology: *Molecules of Life, Cell Structure, Cell Membranes and Transport, Cellular Energetics, and Processes in the Nucleus*. The second product, considerably more expensive, was a CD library of presentation graphics in multiple formats (PowerPoint, HTML, PDF, Quicktime®, and Apple's Keynote) keyed to the sections in the workbook. Both of these are subdivisions of a larger body of work, which covers the entirety of an introductory biology course at either the freshman level or advanced high school level. All of these units are available as modules.

The workbook/study guide has much to be said for it. For each of the five chapters, it has clearly stated objectives, extensive additional resources listing of supplemental texts, lists of periodical resources from print media, URL's for Web-based media, and compact concept map “outlines.” The book sections could easily serve as assessments or study guide activities. The online links, available through the Web address above, are extensive and worthwhile. The workbook is compact,

with perforated pages for turning in student work if desired. The graphics are extensive and impressive, similar to many that one might find in any one of numerous texts or ancillary materials. Much of the graphics are replicated in full color on the media presentation CD, although they are in high quality black and white/gray tone in the print. Rather than being a minus for the product, the lack of color graphics clearly helps keep the cost down low enough that it would not be a burden to have students purchase the module as a supplemental workbook/study guide for use with any major freshman level or high school level text. Excellent illustrations in the print, electronic media (CD and Web site), copious links to much useful information are pluses. The PowerPoint files are editable, allowing one to personalize them if desired. The disk ran well on Windows and Mac platforms.

I think that either alone, but certainly together, these two are valuable resources. They will allow for concentrated review/study guide activities with the print media, and give an excellent set of graphics which are editable for classroom presentations. The universal nature of the materials makes them useful with multiple texts, not just the Biozone products.

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