

## Levels of regulation of gene expression

Gene on DNA



Primary transcript



transcriptional control

mRNA



RNA processing control

NUCLEUS

CYTOSOL

RNA transport control

Protein



translation control

Biochemistry for medics-Lecture notes

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## ***PRINCIPLES OF GENE REGULATION.***

- INDUCTION AND REPRESSION. (ENHANCERS AND SILENCER).
- HOUSEKEEPING AND INVISIBLE GENES.
- DNA ORGANISATION AND GENE EXPRESSION.
- GENOMIC ORGANISATION –SIZE AND GENE NUMBER.
- COVALENT MODIFICATION OF HISTONES CONTROL GENE EXPRESSION.
- DNA –PROTEIN INTERACTIONS----

### **PROTEIN MOTIFS-**

- **HELIX-TURN-HELIX**
- **ZINC FINGER MOTIF**
- **LEUCINE ZIPPER MOTIF**
-

## DNA REGULATORY PROTEIN.

- PROTEIN that regulate the gene expression include repressors, inducers, enhancers, silencers, etc.
- They bind with specific region of DNA.
- These protein have unique structure which allow them to bind to target region.
- Some example are given below.....

## *REGULATION OF GENE EXPRESSION IN PROKARYOTES.*

- INDUCTION AND REPRESSION- ENHANCERS AND SILENCERS---
- Gene expression involves the transcription of a gene into mRNA and the translation of the mRNA into protein.
- At any given time , only a fraction of the genome is expressed.
- Gene expression is induced by positive regulatory elements(inducers or enhancers).
- Can be decreased or blocked by negative regulations (repressors or silencers).

- There are many gene which are not subjected to regulation. e.g.- the enzymes of the Krebs cycle. Such genes are known as constitutive or housekeeping genes.
- Other group of genes are regulated by inducers or repressors as per cellular needs are called inducible genes.

- Most of the DNA is associated with specific class of proteins known as histones to form a structure called nucleosome.
- INTRONS- intervening sequence.
- EXONS---coding region.

## *COVALENT MODIFICATION OF HISTONES CONTROL GENE EXPRESSION.*

- Histone proteins by undergoing covalent modifications (acetylation, methylation, phosphorylation) exert control over gene expression.
- Acetylation of histones promotes gene expression while deacetylation represses it.
- Methylation on some DNA sequences, blocks gene expression.

# DNA-Protein interactions.

- Certain proteins bind to specific sequences on the DNA and regulate transcription.
- These are known as regulatory protein which have a high binding affinity to the control site on DNA.
- The DNA – protein are mediated by certain motifs.
- Three types of protein motifs.
- 1. Helix-turn-helix motif.
- 2. Zinc finger motif.
- 3. Leucine zipper motif.



## HELIX-TURN-HELIX MOTIF

- The helix-turn-helix motif is made up of about 20 amino acids organised into two  $\alpha$ -helices separated by a  $\beta$ -sheet.
- Lac repressor, tryptophan repressor and cyclic AMP catabolite activator protein (CAP) of *E. coli* and several regulatory proteins in mammalian cells act via this DNA-binding motif.

## ZINC FINGER MOTIF

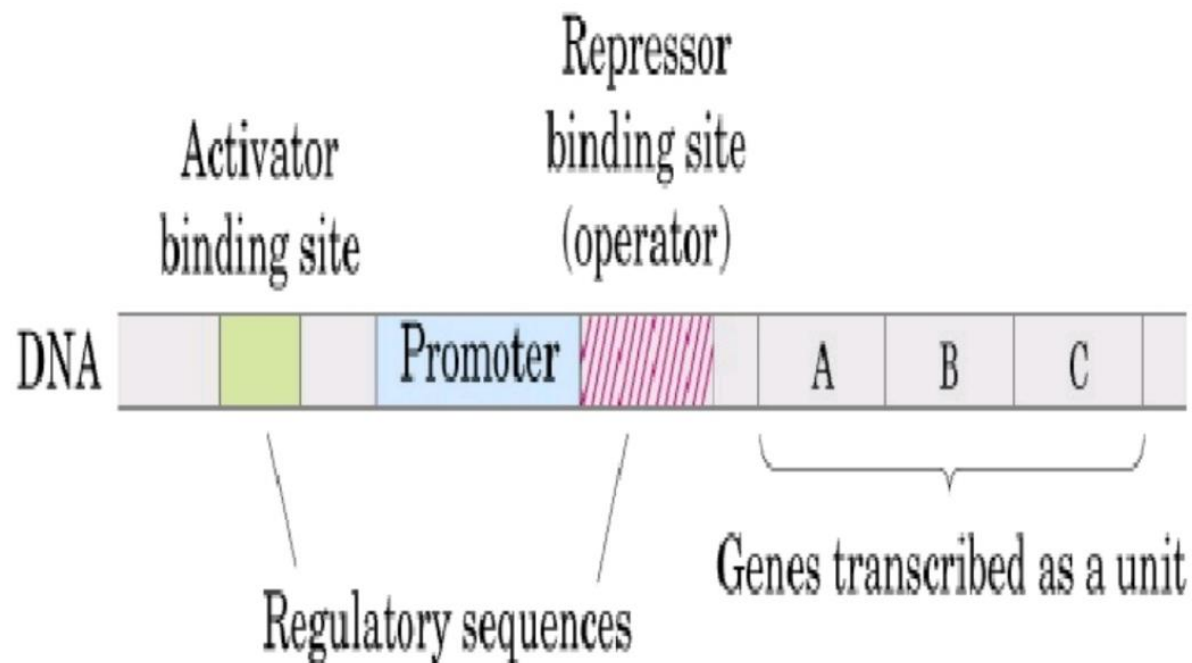
- Many regulatory proteins eukaryotic cells contain multiple zinc fingers (e.g. TF IIIA).
- The receptors of group I hormones (steroid and thyroids) contain zinc fingers.

- A mutation involving a single amino acid in a zinc finger of calcitriol receptor protein interferes with its function and results in rickets.

# LEUCINE ZIPPER MOTIF.

- Regulatory proteins with leucine zipper motifs contain a large number of basic amino acids (Lys and Arg ), which associate with the negatively phosphates of the DNA molecule.
- The  $\alpha$ -helices of this motif contain the amino acid leucine at every seventh position.
- Many regulatory proteins contain this type of motif (e.g. The enhancer binding proteins- FOS and JUN).

## Operon:



# *REGULATION OF GENE EXPRESSION IN PROKARYOTES.*

- *Operon concept-*

*To explain how genes are regulated in prokaryotes.*

*The expression of structure gene encoding protein is under control of regulatory gene.*

*The regulatory element and and protein – encoding genes act in a well orchestrated manner and function as a single unit called Operon.*

*Operon-*

*Operon can be considered as a coordinated unit of gene expression in prokaryotes.*

## LAC OPERON.

- **MECHANISM OF REPRESSION--**
- *When glucose is available to the E. Coli bacteria, lac Z, Y and A, Genes are repressed.*
- *They are not transcribed, This is mediated by repressor.*
- *Repressor bind to operator, Repressor binding interferes with the RNA polymerase binding and prevent transcription of structural genes—lacA, lac Z and lac Y.*

## LAC OPERON

- MECHANISM OF INDUCTION

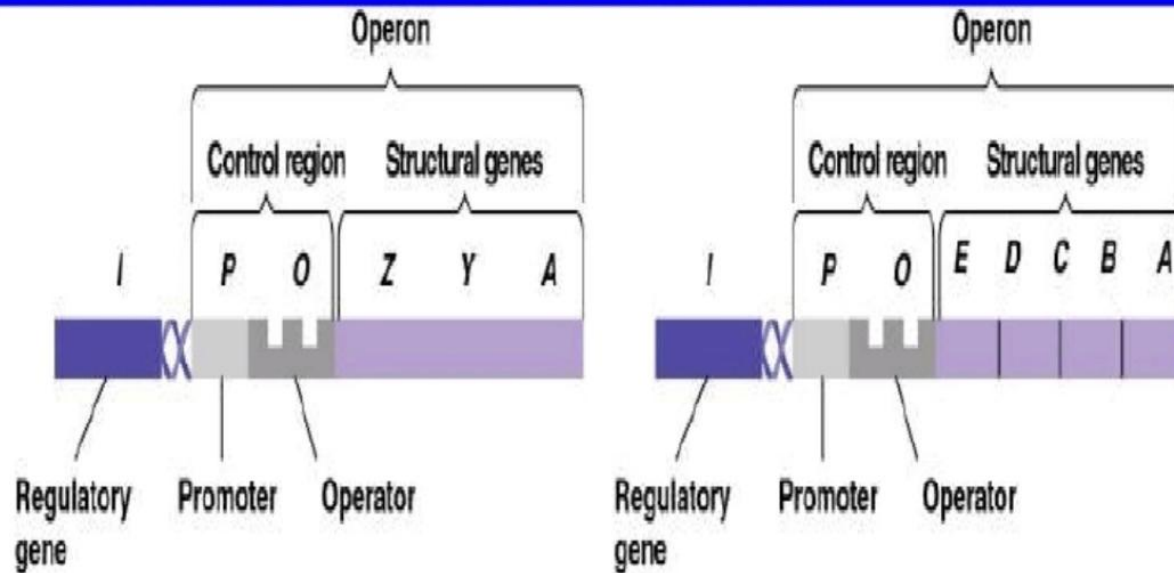
- Absence of glucose induces the lac operon to transcribe the three enzymes gene i.e.-Z , Y and A.
- The induced enzyme then act on lactose to produce **allolactose**, the actual inducer of lac operon.
- Inducer bind to repressor molecule , and induce a conformational change in repressor. Repressor does not bind to the operator , Now RNA polymerase can bind with DNA and initiate transcription.
- RNA polymerase requires the binding of cAMP and CAP(catabolic gene activator protein) complex.



## ***ANABOLIC OPERON.***

- **TRYPTOPHAN OPERON-**
- Gene of anabolic pathway such as synthesis of aminoacid are also regulated by operon.
- Tryptophan operon is one such example seen in E. Coli, depending on the concentration of tryptophan in cell, and when there is deficiency , transcription is allowed.

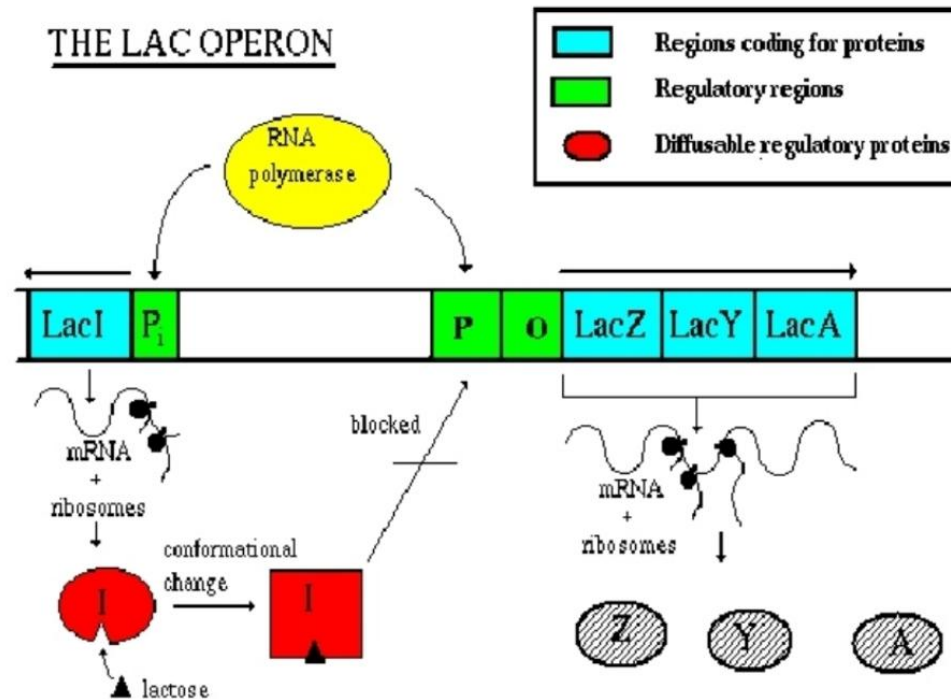
## General structure of an OPERON



- 1 Structure of the operon.** The operon consists of the promoter (*P*), and operator (*O*) sites, and structural genes which code for the protein. The operon is regulated by the product of the regulatory gene (*I*).

## Presence of lac preron:

### THE LAC OPERON

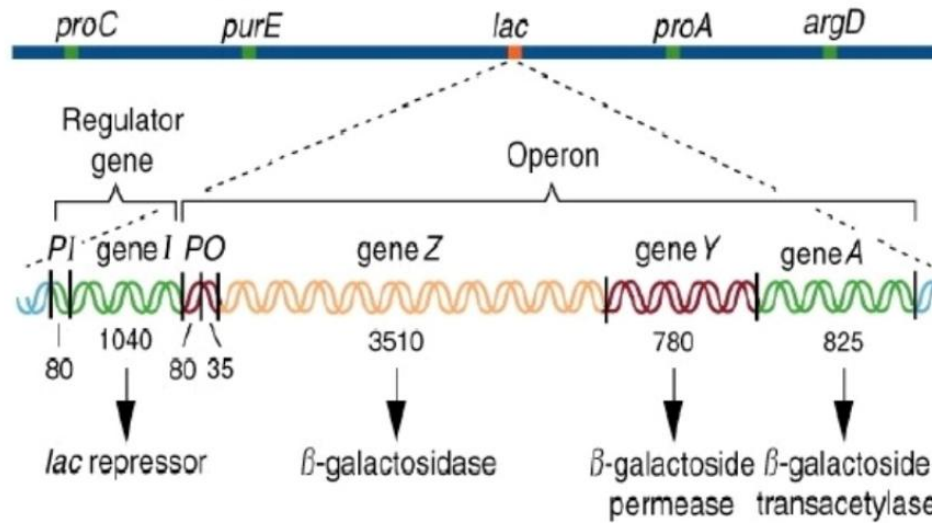


## *LAC OPERON.(Jacob and Monod).*

- Most bacteria, such as E.coli, utilise glucose as the fuel source . But when glucose is unavailable ,E. Coli uses lactose as the alternative fuel source.
- Regulation of lactose metabolism in E. Coli.
- Three enzymes are involved in the lactose metabolism.
- Beta galactosidase.
- Permease.
- Transacetylase.

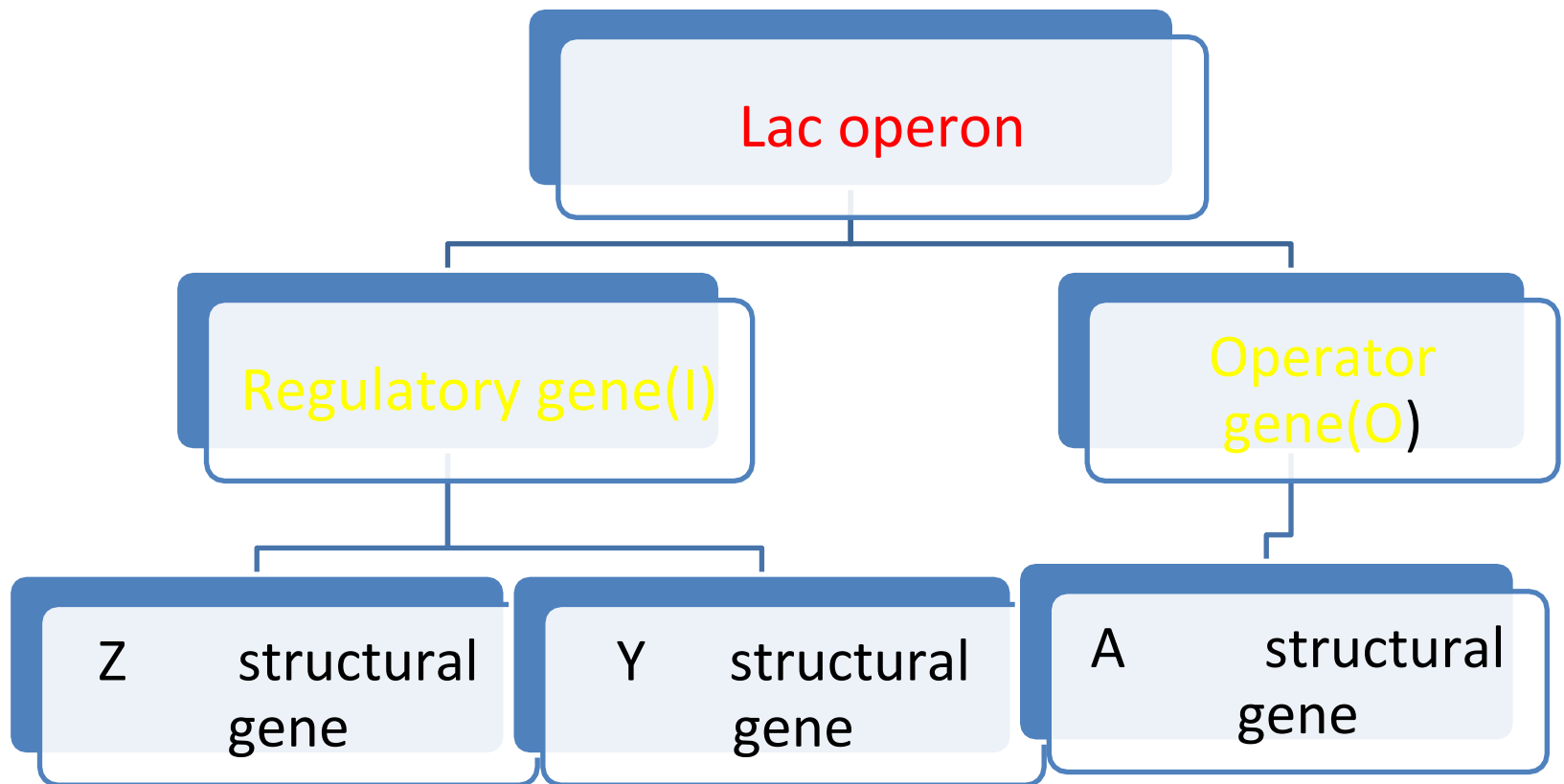
## **The lac operon of *E. Coli*:**

*E. coli* chromosome:



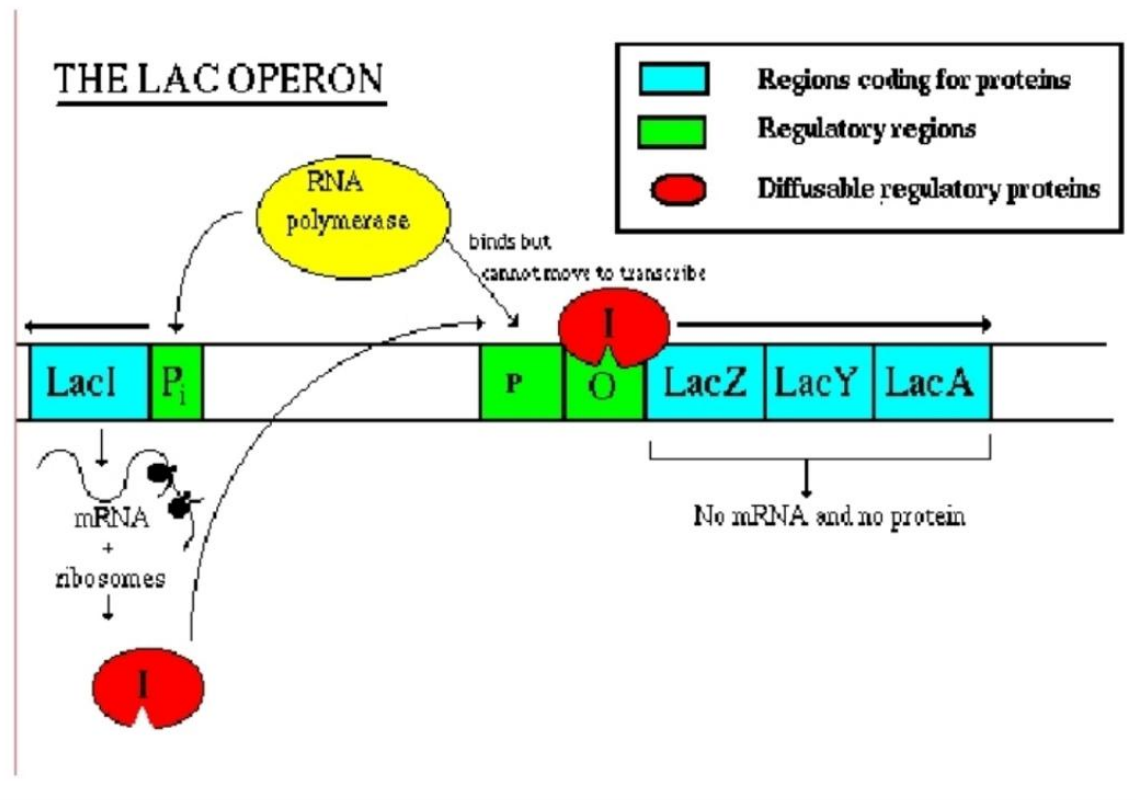
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## *STRUCTURE OF LAC OPERON.*



- Apart from structural gene (Z Y A ) the operon also contain a promoter site (P ).
- Operator site directs the RNA polymerase to the correct transcription start site.
- The Z , Y , and A genes are transcribed into a single large mRNA that encodes for the three enzymes.

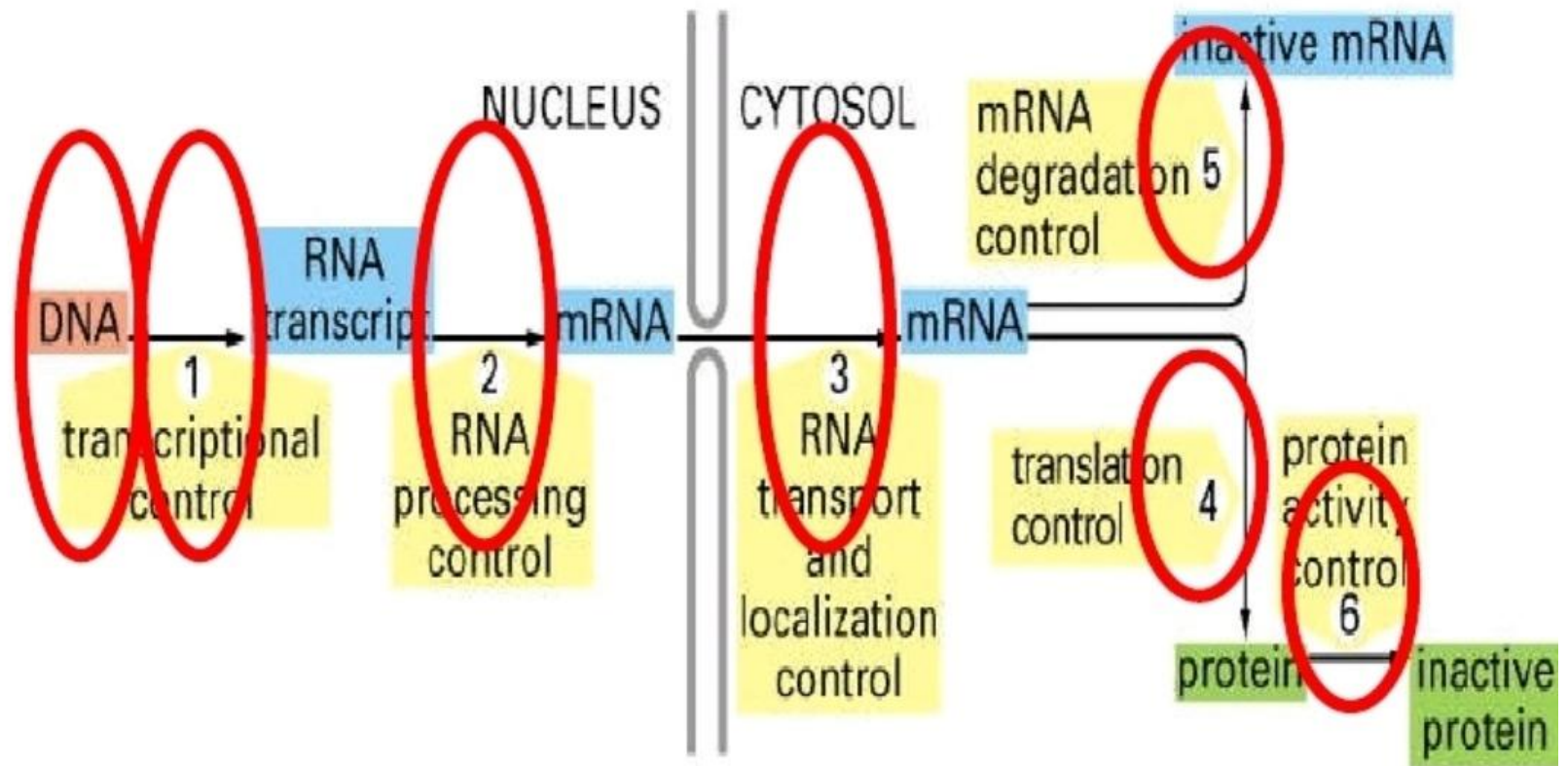
## Absence of lac operon:





## ***GENE REGULATION IN EUKARYOTES.***

- 1.chromatin structure.
- 2.Gene amplification.
- 3.Gene rearrangement.
- 4.Regulatory element.
- 5.Transcriptional control.
- 6.RNA processing control.
- 7.RNA transport and localisation control.
- 8.Translation control.
- 9.mRNA degradation.
- 10.protein activator control/ Gene regulation at the level of translation.



- **1. Chromatin structure and gene regulation-**  
*covalent modification on Histone protein remodel chromatin and make it more transcription friendly.*
- 2. Gene amplification-**  
*An amplification of a few pre-existing gene occurs, resulting in formation of desired proteins.*
- 3. Gene rearrangement—synthesis of antibodies.**
- 4. Regulatory element—**  
*Promoter element-role in initiating the transcription by recruiting the RNA polymerase at the correct site on the gene.*
  - TATA box.*
  - Hormone responsive element.*
  - Enhancers.*
  - Repressors.*

- **5. Transcription factors-**
- *various transcription factors (TFIIA, TFIIB, TFIID, TFIIIE....) assembled in a specific sequence to form a **preinitiation complex**.*
- **6. RNA processing–**
- *post-transcriptional modification to form **mature mRNA**.*
- **7. mRNA splicing.....**
- **8. Transport of mRNA.**
- **9. Gene regulation and translation---Gene regulation can be regulated at the level of translation.**
- **The gene encoding transferrin , ferritin, and hemosiderin.**

- Regulation by RNA editing-
- ApoB100 to Apo B 48.
- Tissue specific Expression by Enhancer--
- Enhanced expression of immunoglobulin genes is seen in plasma cell produced from activated B lymphocytes but not in other cell.