Science and Research

The Biological Clock: Unveiling The Rhythms of Life

Mitra Pirhaghi^{1,*}, Ali A. Moosavi-Movahedi²

The cellular circadian clock is a fundamental and intricate intrinsic mechanism present in all living organisms, governing a diverse set of physiological and behavioral processes with notable precision. At the molecular level, the cellular circadian clock revolves around complex interactions between core clock genes and their protein products, forming transcriptiontranslation feedback loops that generate approximately 24-hour rhythms. This article delves into the coordination of cellular clocks with environmental cues, including light, and explores how these external signals synchronize internal rhythms with the daily circadian rhythm. Special emphasis is placed on the role of the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) in mammalian brains, acting as the central pacemaker to synchronize environmental clocks throughout the body. Furthermore, the profound impact of circadian disruptions on human health is examined, with its involvement demonstrated in various disorders, ranging from metabolic diseases to mood disorders. This article highlights current research endeavors aimed at unraveling the underlying mechanisms of the cellular circadian clock. Understanding the intricate functioning of this internal timekeeper holds considerable potential for the development of chronotherapeutic approaches and the optimization of therapeutic strategies for diverse disorders. Finally, we propose potential solutions for precise and optimal regulation of the body's cellular circadian clock and daily rhythm.

Keywords: Biological Clock, Circadian Rhythm, Suprachiasmatic Nucleus, Chronotherapy.

Science Cultivation-Vol 13, No.2, Jun 2023

^{*}Corresponding author: PhD in Biophysics, mobile: 09149549349, fax: 02166404680, Email: mitra_p.hagh@ut.ac.ir ¹Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran