THE GENETIC CODE

This table gives the correspondence between a messenger RNA codon and the amino acid which it specifies. The symbols for bases in the codon are:

U: uracil
C: cytosine
A: adenine
G: guanine

The amino acid symbols are given in the table entitled “Structures of Common Amino Acids”. A chain-initiating codon is indicated by **init** and a chain-terminating codon by **term**.

Example: UCA codes for **Ser**, UAC codes for **Tyr**, etc.

	Second position				
First position	**U**	**C**	**A**	**G**	**Third position**
U	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	U
	Phe	Ser	Tyr	Cys	C
	Leu	Ser	**term**	**term**	A
	Leu	Ser	**term**	Trp	G
C	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	U
	Leu	Pro	His	Arg	C
	Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	A
	Leu	Pro	Gln	Arg	G
A	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	U
	Ile	Thr	Asn	Ser	C
	Ile	Thr	Lys	Arg	A
	Met (**init**)	Thr	Lys	Arg	G
G	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	U
	Val	Ala	Asp	Gly	C
	Val	Ala	Glu	Gly	A
	Val (**init**)	Ala	Glu	Gly	G