

### 3. Abbreviations

A	Adenine
APS	Ammonium persulfate
bp	base pair
C	Cytosine
CD	Circular dichroism
cpm	counts per minute
dA	Desoxyadenosine
dC	Desoxycytosine
DEPC	Diethylpyrocarbonate
dG	Desoxyguanosine
DNA	Desoxyribonucleic acid
dsRNA	double stranded ribonucleic acid
dT	Desoxythymidine
G	Guanosine
kD	kilodalton
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
mRNA	Messenger ribonucleid acid
OD	Optical density
PAGE	Polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
PEG	Polyethylenglycol
PMSF	Phenylmethylsulfonylfluoride
R	Purine
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
rpm	rounds per minute
SDS	Sodiumdodecylsulfate
T	Thymidine
TEMED	N,N,N',N'-Tetramethylethylenediamine
Tris	Tris-(hydroxymethyl)-aminomethane
Y	Pyrimidine

## Conventions for writing nucleic acid sequences

Different systems of notations have been used to describe the sequences of nucleic acids. A generally applicable system has been developed (IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature 1970). However, in this work the differing notation used by Sinden has been adopted with minor changes (Sinden 1994).

DNA or RNA	Unless specified by a preceding r, all sequences are assumed to be DNA sequences; thus A denotes deoxyadenosine, whereas rA denotes adenosine.
Sequence polarity	The sequence is written from left to right in the 5' to 3' direction; thus the sequence GGAATTCC refers to 5' GGAATTCC 3'. In double stranded DNA a single sequence motif often represents two sequence words, since the sequence of the complementary strand will not be identical. In cases where this distinction is of importance both sequence words have been indicated using a slash between both sequence words (i.e. CGCGC / GCGCG)
Base pairs	Base pairs are designated by a dot : A-T or G-C.
Polynucleotides of defined length composed of a simple repeating sequence unit	Oligonucleotides are written as successive letters (see above). Repeating units within oligonucleotides are often enclosed in brackets and the number of repeats given as a subscript; thus (CG) <sub>3</sub> refers to CGCGCG.
Polynucleotides of undefined length	Repeating units within the sequence are designated by poly(x) where x indicates the repeating unit; i.e. poly(A) or poly(AT).
Double-stranded polynucleotides	Base paired polymers are written with 5' to 3' polarity; i.e. poly(A)-poly(T) or poly(AT)-poly(AT).

