**Week 5 Questions:**

Discuss the questions posted in the week’s Assignment folder with members of your discussion group. I will monitor these discussions daily during the week and drop in on the discussion as necessary. You may earn a maximum of 10 points for your participation in these discussions. I will evaluate your discussion contributions for the following characteristics:

- Involvement with the material, expression of clear purpose or focus
- Responses reflect organized thinking about discussion topics
- Understanding of the relationship among ideas from the course
- Evidence of reasons for conclusions drawn in discussions
- Evidence of ability to assess relevance and adequacy of information

One response demonstrating all of these qualities would be worth 10 points for the week.

**Discussion questions:**

The following questions are posted to the Week 5 Assignment Folder.

1. Explain why the plasma membrane is described as a fluid mosaic. Describe the structural and functional aspects of items making up the plasma membrane.
   
   **Post your answer by Tuesday Mid-night Oct 21, 2003**

2. Compare/contrast a prokaryotic (bacteria) cell to an eukaryotic (plant and/or animal) cell. How do these differences result in evolutionary advantages for eukaryotic cells?
   
   **Post your answer by Wednesday Mid-night Oct 22, 2003**

3. Explain the differences and similarities between diffusion and osmosis. What are the factors which govern the movement of water, gases, atoms, and simple molecules like glucose across the cell plasma membrane?

   **Post your answer by Thursday Mid-night Oct 23, 2003**