**dilution rate, $D$**

*in biotechnology*

The ratio of the ingoing volume flow rate ($\frac{dV}{dt}$) and the culture volume ($V$). In continuous fermentation, a measure of a rate at which the existing medium is replaced with fresh medium, $D$ is the reciprocal of the hydraulic retention time (HRT).

**Source:**
PAC, 1992, 64, 143 (*Glossary for chemists of terms used in biotechnology (IUPAC Recommendations 1992)*) on page 152