

BR 193H –Journal Club –Fall 2008

Instructors:

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Student coaches: TBA

General format

We will meet every Monday from 1-3 PM in Boelter 5514. The first week we will read a paper chosen and presented by Drs. Clark and Romero. For each of the next 5 weeks we will read and discuss a paper, chosen and led by the team presenting. In the last three weeks we will read a paper and discuss it in a “roundtable” format, with no official presenters. Each paper will be posted on the course website at least one week before we discuss it.

Course website

Papers will be posted one week in advance on the Blackboard website at www.lsic.ucla.edu.

If you are presenting:

You may choose any biology paper published in the last four years in one of the journals from your week. The paper should be interesting and substantial (i.e. no “brief communications”). You may not choose a paper from your lab, although you may choose one from your field of research, if you wish. Please submit your selection to us for approval no later than 10 days before your presentation (i.e. two Fridays before).

Each team will have a student coach assigned to help them in preparing their presentation. The coaches have taken our journal club before, so they can help make sure you cover all the important parts of your paper. They may also be able to help if you get stuck on a technical point of the paper. Of course, you are also welcome to ask Dr. Clark or Dr. Romero for help if necessary.

Your presentation should give a short introduction with some background information and a clear statement of the central question(s) of the paper. You should then be able to lead us through *the important figures* and data reported in the paper. It is not necessary to go through every panel of every figure!

End your presentation with:

- 1) a summary of what you think the authors showed in the paper (this may not be identical to what they say they showed);
- 2) your opinion of the good and bad points of the paper; and
- 3) a follow-up experiment that you would do next if you were working on this problem. This can be what you feel was an important experiment the authors missed, what you think is the next logical step, or maybe a parallel analysis in another system. Be creative!

If you are not presenting:

Everyone is required to read the paper. This is meant to be a group discussion, not just a lecture by the presenters. To stimulate the dialogue, we are asking everyone to come prepared with two questions on the paper. Your questions can be on any aspect of the paper – background, experimental approach, individual figures, controls, conclusions, future directions, etc.

Don't be afraid to be critical. And don't be afraid to say or ask something that you feel you should know already. We are all here to learn, not to judge. You will earn more points for speaking up than for staying silent. As you read each paper, consider whether you are satisfied by the experiments the authors did, the controls they used, how they interpreted their data, etc. This may be difficult at first, but it will get easier as the quarter progresses. By the end of the course, you should be comfortable reading research literature. And we'll all learn a lot of science in the process.

Roundtable format:

In Weeks 8-10, we will discuss papers in a roundtable structure. We will go around the room and take turns describing the most important figures of the paper. This may sound intimidating right now, but it will be easier by Week 8. Just give it your best shot. Remember that we grading on effort, not perfection.

Schedule (coach assignments pending)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Journal(s)</u>
Oct. 6	Dr. Romero	Current Biology
Oct. 13	Ashley & Catherine	Nature Nature Cell Biology Nature Neuroscience
Oct. 20	David & Rhonaldo	Traffic EMBO Molecular Cell Biology Molecular Biology of the Cell
Oct. 27	Iris & Jennifer	Science Genes and Development

Nov. 3	Dean & Jane	PLoS Biology PLoS Genetics PLoS Pathogens
Nov. 10	Melody & Derek	Cell Molecular Cell Developmental Cell Neuron
Nov. 17	Roundtable	J. Bacteriology J. Biological Chemistry J. Neuroscience
Nov. 24	Roundtable	Development J. Cell Biology Current Biology
Dec. 1	Roundtable	Nature Genetics Nature Structural & Molecular Biology Cancer Cell Cell Stem Cell