Camb 701-301
Tumor Microenvironment
Fall 2014

Course Directors:
Sandra Ryeom BRB 711 sryeom@upenn.edu
Ellen Puré Hill 311 epure@vet.upenn.edu
David Feldser BRB 715 dfieldser@upenn.edu

Location and Time: Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 pm. BRB 801. September 2, 2014-December 9, 2014.

Course Content
This 15-week course is designed for second year (and up) graduate students interested in learning about the tumor microenvironment. The course will cover the main players of the tumor microenvironment field (stroma, vasculature and immune cells) and emphasize the connections between the basic biology of the tumor microenvironment to potential therapeutic intervention. The goals of this course are to enrich scientific culture, train for clear and concise oral presentations, improve grant-writing skills, and develop critical thinking, professional composure, and discussion skills.

Course Design
The course will be divided into 3 broad topic areas. At the beginning of each block, faculty members will present a 1 hour didactic lecture and overview of the topic followed by questions and discussions by students. Each session will be led by two students. One will prepare and present a didactic background lecture regarding the salient points of that week’s topic, while the other student will lead discussion of a primary research paper to be read in advance of the session by all class participants, including specific technical background needed for the paper, presenting the data in the paper, leading discussion on the data and conclusions drawn from the paper and putting them in the context of state of the field. Each student will present one background and one paper throughout the course. Students will be guided in choosing the appropriate depth of background and topic area and in giving formal presentations and constructive criticism of scientific data. Additionally each student will write a specific aim for a grant using one of his or her two presentations as "preliminary data" or their own research project provided it is related to the tumor microenvironment.

Evaluation:
Students will be evaluated on their participation in class (40%), their presentations (40%) and their written Aims assignment (20%). Students will be given feedback immediately after their presentations and at the end of the second block on their in-class participation.