

## Course Description and Syllabus

Course Title: CAMB 698-Spring Elective Tutorials in Cell and Molecular Biology

Director: Ben Stanger, MD PhD

Professor, Departments of Medicine and Cell and Developmental Biology

BRB II/III, Rm. 512, 421 Curie Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19104

Tel: 215-746-5560

[bstanger@upenn.edu](mailto:bstanger@upenn.edu)

Course Description: This tutorial course is designed to provide PhD students with an in-depth knowledge of a specific topic in Cell and Molecular biology. The tutorial can be used to enable students to become more deeply acquainted with the literature related to their field of interest or to expand on a topic that the student found interesting in one of their basic courses.

Schedule: Course will be offered in the Spring semester. Students will meet with the course director and other students at the beginning and end of the semester, for course organization and oral presentations, respectively. Other than those two meetings, students will meet with their faculty mentors for 1-2 hours once a week, with additional hours spent on independent reading.

Class format: Discussion format, usually one-on-one with faculty mentor. Small group discussions are also appropriate.

Student assignments: Students will be expected to write a brief scholarly paper summarizing what they have learned, and to present their topic orally to other students and faculty mentors at the end of the semester. Papers will usually be in the style of a review article, however since topics will vary widely, the nature and content of papers and presentations is flexible. Approximately 3 weeks prior to the due date, students will be encouraged to meet individually with the course director to discuss the proposed scope and format of the paper and presentation.

Grading criteria: Grades will be determined by the faculty mentor and course director, based on performance in discussions, the paper and the oral presentation. Intellectual engagement of the topic will be the most important criterion for grading. In addition to a letter grade, students will receive a brief, written appraisal of their performance, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

Prerequisites: Cell 600 or an alternative senior undergraduate, graduate or professional school course in Cell Biology.

Min/max enrollment: 12 (first come first served)

Prior to the semester in which the course is offered, students must make arrangements with a faculty preceptor **in advance** to set up an individualized plan. Students will need to have their proposed syllabus approved by the course director **before the first meeting** to enroll. It is strongly recommended that students make arrangements with their faculty preceptor before Jan 1.

Meeting times: Organizational Meeting – Jan 11, 10:15-10:45am  
Final presentations – May 5, 3:30-5:30pm