CAMB 700: Topics in Microbiology

Directors: Drs. Jim Riley and Michael Betts

Class Time and Location: John Morgan 149
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 PM January 14-March 19

Course Description: This course is designed for second year students studying MVP program related projects, and focuses on grant writing and presentation in the scientific area of pathogen-host interactions. Students make a presentation designed for ~45 minutes on a topic related to their research project or interests and how that project would be envisioned as an NIH style grant. They are requested to provide sufficient background, discuss what is known and what is not known about the topic, frame two to three Specific Aims for a potential grant application, and design and develop potential experimental strategies to address the central hypothesis of the grant proposal. The discussions are deliberately wide-ranging, and review recent literature, techniques, and how to construct a grant. One or both course directors will be present for each class, in addition to 1-2 external expert(s) chosen to evaluate the specific topic being discussed. The students will learn how to prepare, present, and defend a research topic, as well as to open-mindedly integrate positive and negative criticism into the development of a strong research direction.

Course Evaluation: The success of the course rests entirely upon the discussion quality and engagement of the faculty and students involved. Class participation is 100% of grade.

Schedule:
Jan 14: Course introduction; 2 minute elevator pitch, discussion. MB, JR
Jan 16: Grant writing strategies, discussion. MB, JR, special guest speaker Matt Weitzman
Jan 21: Presentation 1. Marisa Egan. MB, Schifferli
Jan 23: Presentation 2. Vicki Lovins. MB, JR, Brodsky
Jan 28: Presentation 3. Alice Sukhina. MB, JR, Eisenlohr
Feb 4: presentation 5. David Renner. MB, JR, Weitzman, Jurado
Feb 6: presentation 6. Alex Smith. MB, JR, Abt, Levy
Feb 25: NO CLASS
Mar 3: CD presentation 2. Ellen White. MB, Thaiss
Mar 10: NO CLASS
Mar 12: NO CLASS
Mar 17: CD presentation 4- Monica Wei. MB, JR, (pending thesis topic- Thaiss, White on hold)
Mar 19: Chalk Talk strategies presentation. MB, JR, (3rd year student pending)