

5/18/20

CAMB 712-301

Course Title: **Topics in Cancer Biology**

Prerequisites: Completion of 1<sup>st</sup> year CAMB Courses. Course is designed for 2<sup>nd</sup> year CB students.

Summer 2020 (1/2 credit)

Monday 10:00-12PM (6 weeks)

Course Directors:

Sandra Ryeom (Sryeom@upenn.edu)

TBD

**Course Objective:** This course is a ½ credit elective course for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Cancer Biology students on cancer-related topics. The course is designed to expose students to a range of topics in cancer biology and to learn to think critically about a research problem and proposed experiments to test the problem. This course will teach students how to assess the scientific rationale necessary to support a hypothesis, the mechanisms of writing/reviewing a fellowship proposal, and analyzing rigor and reproducibility in experimental design. This will be done through the review of previously submitted de-identified fellowship proposals (provided by former students on a volunteer basis) in a mock study section format every week.

**Course Format:** The course will meet via Blue Jeans on Mondays in a mock study section format. Each student will be responsible for providing written critiques for 2 different F31 fellowship proposals submitted by cancer biology students in prior years and provided by faculty for this course. Each student will serve as the primary reviewer for one application and a secondary reviewer for a different application. Each class, the assigned primary reviewer will lead the discussion of the application followed by the secondary reviewer. Students who are not serving as reviewers for an application will submit a question/comment about the proposal prior to class that will be discussed by the primary and secondary reviewers.

- Written Critiques will be 2 pages and include:
  - Overall Summary Paragraph,
  - Significance, (strengths/weaknesses) paragraph
  - Innovation (strengths/weaknesses) paragraph
  - Experimental Approach (strengths/weaknesses) paragraph

At the end of each class, the actual F31 critiques from the submitted proposal will be provided for discussion and comparison to primary and secondary reviewer comments.

- The first class will be spent going over sections of a grant proposal and the criteria used to score each section by reviewing a grant proposal and critiques together.
- The second class will consist of the entire class reviewing a grant proposal together with students doing a practice critique that does not have to be shared with the group. The actual critiques will then be discussed in more detail and students will have the opportunity to ask questions about the process.
- The last 4 classes will be spent reviewing 2-3 proposal pending the number of students in the class.

### **Student evaluation:**

Evaluations for the course will include: oral discussion and written critiques of assigned fellowship applications as primary reviewer (40%), secondary reviewer (30%), submission of question/comment for the other 4 unassigned fellowship applications that will be reviewed (30%).