

## PHA 7939 – JOURNAL CLUB

Tuesdays 1 PM - Zoom

Course coordinators: Drs. Peris and de Lartigue

Pharmacodynamics Journal Club is your opportunity to learn how to think critically about the literature and convey the most important aspects of a study to an audience. Pick a recent research article (NOT a review article) from the mainstream literature on a topic you find interesting and construct a Powerpoint presentation that you will present to the department. Keep in mind that shorter papers (e.g. Nature, Science) usually require lengthier background explanations; rapid/short communications are not acceptable. Since the quality of paper selection is important in determining your grade, articles should be from leading, peer-reviewed journals.

**\*\*\*\*\*ARTICLES MUST BE PUBLISHED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR\*\*\*\*\***

Attendance is MANDATORY. You must speak to both Dr. de Lartigue and Dr. Peris **beforehand** if you will be absent.

You should aim for your presentations to be ~40 min PLUS 10-15 min for questions/discussion. Please do not exceed 50 minutes to allow for all to get a chance to ask questions without going over time.

Grading guidelines are given on page 2. Part of your grade is determined by the quality of the journal club you give and part is determined by three written assignments on other students' journal club articles. Written assignments must be handed in at the start of the journal club meeting. Late submissions will receive a 20% late penalty.

As an additional part of your grade, you will be expected to help Drs. Peris and/or de Lartigue grade written assignments the week of your journal club article.

A date has been assigned to you for your journal club presentation and written

assignments. You may trade dates with someone as long as they agree. Please let both Drs. Peris and de Lartigue know **ASAP** if you choose to do this.

There is a sample JC assessment sheet at the end of this document. Students must turn in a completed assessment of other's presentations.

The publication you choose to present should be distributed to journal club members via email by 5 pm on Thursday of the week prior to your presentation.

Your work must abide by the Student Honor Code meaning you pledge "On my honor, I have neither given or received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment". This includes: using any materials or resources prepared by anyone else **without proper attribution of that person or publication**; collaborating with another person on the assignment; or, plagiarism of either your own work or the work of others. An example of plagiarism would be using word-for-word excerpts from the original article in your rationale section without the use of quotation marks around those excerpts. **Please practice paraphrasing the work of others in your own words.**

## GRADING GUIDELINES

1) 10% - Attendance and participation in Discussion. We will be noting the number of times each individual asks questions and participates in the discussion at each journal club.

2) 50% - Individual Presentation

- The following criteria will be assessed:

### Overall

- Paper quality (Pick a good paper, the emphasis is not on "paper shredding")
- Analysis and communication of the research aims and the paper content.

### Introduction

- Personal interest in the research
- History/background including significance of the research question
- State the hypothesis

### Materials and Methods

- Experimental protocols (animals, drugs, assays, etc.)
- Research design and Statistical analyses

### Results & Discussion

- Conclusions
- Alternative hypotheses
- Future directions, etc.

### Other

- Particular strengths and/or weaknesses of the paper
- Response to questions asked by audience

3) 30% - Three 1-page (max) written summaries of a follow-up experiment that you think should be performed as the next step for that publication (3 assignments each worth 10% of the final score. (optionally: the lowest score can be discounted).

-These assignments are assessed based on a number of criteria. They should include a specific question that you want to address, the rationale behind this question, your hypothesis, and a description of the proposed experiment. Remember to include n-numbers, all appropriate controls, and an explanation of all groups. A separate section should discuss expected outcomes of your experiment that includes the interpretation if the hypothesis is correct or incorrect, and what alternative outcomes indicate about your hypothesis.

4) 10% - Grading written assignments the week of your journal club presentation.

-We will be asking you to provide constructive feedback and a grade for each written assignment related to your individual JC presentation. The final score for each written assignment will be determined following a group discussion between Drs. Peris, de Lartigue, the senior students and yourself. Your grade will be assessed based on the level of feedback and effort that you put into grading the assignments.

## Journal Club Assessment Sheet

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

### Introduction

--Interest/relevance/paper choice

--Background

--Rationale and hypotheses

## Materials and Methods

- Experimental protocols

- Design/Statistics

## Results & Discussion

- Conclusions

- Alternative hypotheses/ Future directions

## Other

- Response to questions asked by audience

- Technical (audiovisual etc)