COMB 542 Seminar in Computational Biology, Fall 2019
Professor: Mark Chaisson, Office RRI 408H, mchaisso@usc.edu
Class time: Thursdays, 12:30-1:30PM RRI Rm. 301

DESCRIPTION: This is a graduate-level class for the Computational Biology and Bioinformatics PhD program. Students give a research seminar on their rotation or PhD research topic and receive feedback for improving their presentations. The course includes several discussions on techniques for delivering an engaging scientific talk.

OBJECTIVE: To provide experience and training in giving scientific research presentations.

FORMAT: 20 minutes talk, 5 minutes questions, or 15 minute talks with 5 minute discussions. Each student will present once during the semester. PRESENTATION CONTENT: Presentations must be on the topic of the students' own lab research project(s), a related journal article, or on a paper from an invited speaker from the CBB seminar series. All talks must include a title and your affiliations, a brief background, the hypothesis or question being asked, results and conclusions. Methods should be explained. All reproduced figures must be cited, or if a quote the original citation must be given. **If you are presenting, bring everything you need for the presentation, and arrive 5 minutes early in order to set up the presentation.**

GRADING:
This class is P/NP, however pass grades will be awarded by a points system that promotes participation both as a presenter and audience. Regardless of points earned, attendance is mandatory. You are allowed 3 absences (including lunch with the invited speakers). Any arrivals 5 minutes after class begins will be considered absent.

Next, you must end the semester with at least 2 points, under the following system:
+ 1 point: If you are presenting a paper, you must email the article to mchaisso@usc.edu at least one week in advance (by the start of the class before your talk).
+ 1 point: If you are presenting your own unpublished research (excludes previous point)
+ 1 point: If your presentation has an introduction, results, and summary.
+ 1 point: If your presentation ends on time.
Up to two participants per talk will be randomly selected to ask a question. If you are unable to ask a question, you will have -1 point.

Academic integrity policies of the university will be strictly followed. Infractions can result in severe penalties. See SCampus for these policies. * It may be necessary to make some adjustments in the syllabus during the semester. * Disability: Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to Dr. Chaisson as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Mon-Fri, 8:30-5:00. The office is in Student Union 301 and their phone number is 740-0776.