Molecular and Computational Biology Program Research Seminar

Syllabus and Class Schedule, Spring 2025
Professor: Judith Kribelbauer, kribelba@usc.edu, MCB 1st floor North labs
Class time: Thursdays, 4PM RRI Rm. 101

Description: This is a graduate-level class for the Molecular and Computational Biology PhD program, required for students in years 1-3. Students give a research seminar on their rotation or PhD research topic and receive feedback to improve 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: 10 minutes talk, 2-5 minutes questions, group discussions. Each student will present once during the semester. The first day of class, the speaker schedule will be finalized. Second year students are expected to give their talks at the beginning of the semester, allowing the first year students to learn from these talks and acquire more experimental results during their rotation. The remainder of the first class will be used to go over best practices for giving a research presentation.

PRESENTATION CONTENT: All presentations must be on the topic of the students' own lab research project(s) (i.e., no journal articles). Even if you have don't have results, first year students are still expected to be able to give a 10-minute talk of introduction, experimental design, preliminary results, and future directions of their projects.
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 text must be original, or if quoted, the original citation must be stated on the slide. All figures must be original, or the primary reference given. Under no circumstances is it allowed to cite "WIKIPEDIA" or to give URLs as citations for material that originates in a primary research article.

ATTENDANCE: All students must sign up and present to get credit for the class. Students will be asked to fill out a feedback sheet for the presenter at each meeting, which will be used to track attendances. You are allowed 2 absences for the semester. If you anticipate any conflict with your scheduled talk, let Dr. Kribelbauer know immediately so that we can re-schedule it.

*****NOTE:**
- All students are required to email their advisor (and PhD thesis committee members) advising them of the date of their presentation. Send your email by the Monday preceding the presentation date, and cc Dr. Kribelbauer. Attendance by your advisor and committee members is not required, but is encouraged. Send also your titles to Dr. Kribelbauer by Monday AM the week of your talk for distribution on flyers.
- The presenter is expected to bring everything needed for their presentation (pointer, adapter, computer) and test that the presentation works beforehand. Pointers/adapters can be borrowed from the MCB office, but need to be returned by 9 am the following day.

- Class starts promptly at 4 PM. Late arrivals will be considered as absences. You are not allowed to exit the classroom without permission.

GRADING: Class is credit/no credit. Credit requires regular attendance, once/year presentation, and fulfillment of the above-stated requirements (returning evaluation sheets, participating in group discussions, inviting your advisor, sending the title of your presentation in advance).
* 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 should contact the Office Of Student Accessibility Services each semester and request a letter of verification of accommodation. Please contact and transmit the letter to Dr. Kribelbauer as early in the semester as possible.
Contact: OSASFrontDesk@usc.edu; (213) 740-0776
Business Hours: Mon-Fri: 8:30am to 5pm (Virtual meetings available)

Class Schedule:

date	Speaker
Jan 16	Sign-up & presentation basics
Jan 23	
Jan 30	
Feb 6	
Feb 13	
Feb 20	
Feb 27	
Mar 6	
Mar 13	
Mar 20	**Spring Recess**
Mar 27	
Apr 3	
Apr 10	
Apr 17	
Apr 24	
May 1	