Guidelines for students

The purpose of this journal club is to teach the critical evaluation of research papers through the presentation and discussion of peer-reviewed articles in virology. This semester’s theme will be “Historic Papers in Virology” which will focus on seminal papers over the past 100 years. Through this we will also be discussing in depth the development of techniques and novel approaches that allowed researchers to solve seminal problems and move the field forward.

We will have one student discuss a journal article per week. We want this be an interactive experience with critical discussion of the data in each article. Please note that all students are expected to have read the paper carefully before class even if they are not presenting it.

Following are guidelines for presentation.

I. Choose a paper

A. The papers selected should be landmark papers that ushered in a new understanding of viruses and how they work.
B. Select a paper and have it approved by David Bloom (dbloom@ufl.edu)
C. Submit title (and link) to Dave Bloom for dissemination at least one week prior to the presentation.

II. Format

A. Introduction
   Keep it brief. Just what is essential to understanding the article, not a report on the virus.
B. Hypothesis or questions being addressed
   A summary of the main objectives of the paper.
C. Methods or techniques
   Present and explain any unusual or novel techniques that you feel will help the audience understand the data. Be sure to explain them in enough detail that everyone gets it.
D. Results
   The speaker should call on members of the audience to discuss each figure.
   1. For each figure or experiment, explain the rationale and how the experiment was performed!
   2. Describe the results (remember to do the “Figure Drill” for each figure)!
   3. Critically interpret the experiment. Did the experiment demonstrate what the authors intended? Why or why not? At this point, you should call on one of your colleagues and ask them what they think.
E. Discussion
   1. Summarize what this paper has added to our knowledge in this field.
   2. Discuss why these results made this paper?

III. Evaluation

Meet with course director afterwards for an informal discussion of the presentation.
NOTE: In addition to your presentation, a large part of your grade will be derived from your participation at every session. You will earn a 1, 2 or 3 grade for your level of participation each week. One purpose of the journal club is to get practice critically evaluating papers, so the expectation is that everyone will contribute their assessment of the data! There are no “free absences”. If you miss a session it must be made up to be excused or your grade will suffer.