M254D: Mechanisms of Microbial Pathogenesis. (2021 Winter)

Course Format and Presentation Guidelines

Course Format:

- Faculty days (Tues, Fri @ 10-12noon, zoom):
  - 8 days total (4 = bacterial pathogens; 4 = protozoan pathogens)
    - Each day, a group of 2 or 3 students team up to present/lead discussion of the assigned paper. All students must have read the paper thoroughly and ***come ready to discuss in depth.***
    - **ALL Students** are to discuss the work presented in depth. Assess critically and come with questions about how **you** view the work, including anything you don't fully understand.
  - Each group will present twice, once for bacterial pathogens, once for protozoan pathogens.
  - Students split into groups and choose which assigned papers they will present on or before 1st student meeting (Feb 12). We will have a short introductory meeting on Feb 16 to go over course format/logistics.
- Student days (Mon, Thurs @ 10am-12noon, zoom): All students meet during this class period to discuss the paper in depth prior to the presentation day (this is a mandatory meeting).
- Submitting Questions. For each paper, non-presenting students will submit to instructors (by 10pm day prior to presentation) a list of 5 or more questions related to the paper(s) to be presented. These questions will be posed to the presenters, in addition to discussion. Even if you are not presenting, all students must be prepared to discuss each paper in depth.
- Presenters must contact assigned faculty prior to presentation to go over their planned presentation and address any questions they might have.

General Guidelines for presentations:

5 key items to cover in your presentations.

1. Provide background = Describe what led up to the authors wanting to ask the questions presented in the paper, i.e. why is this important and interesting, and relevant background information to provide general context.
   a. **→ DON'T restrict yourselves to the specific papers assigned for preparing background!**
2. Articulate the main question(s) asked
3. Critically evaluate how the authors are addressing these questions = figures, expts, etc..
   a. It is VERY helpful and effective if you articulate each figure/panel as a specific question that is being asked. (Occasionally, this approach does not fit the mold, but usually it does.) Be rigorous and don't just take the authors' word for things.
   b. **Don't** leave out Suppl Figs! Include any Figs you think are truly relevant.
   c. Please **download original figures** and data – not just PDF versions, because PDF versions are often poor resolution, and limit organization.
4. Conclusions/interpretations of results, including
   a. Critical analysis (do you believe it? Why, or why not?)
   b. What questions or uncertainties do you have?
5. What's next? (Be specific and don't be afraid to think big.)