



PCB6936: (CII Journal Club)

**Advances in Tumor Immunology
and Cancer Research**

CRN#: *****, Section 001, 2 Credit Hours

CAS / Molecular Biosciences

COURSE DESCRIPTION

I. University Course Description

Advances in Tumor Immunology and Cancer Research –

Current breaking research will be presented in each session by one participant. All participants will read the chosen paper for the week and will participate in the discussion led by the presenter. The participants will not only gain knowledge on new outstanding research in the field of tumor immunology and immunology, but also experience in critically evaluating research literature and presentation skills.

II. Course Purpose

The main purpose of the course is to learn and master critical evaluation of scientific literature – an essential part of training as a research scientist and stay updated on the most representative research in the field of tumor immunology.

Paper Presentation:

Each student will present once a semester. Presenting students will choose a high impact breakthrough research publication relevant to cancer immunology or immunology. To ensure that the class gets the most from the course, the papers should be chosen from high impact journals, *including Science, Cell, Cancer Cell, Cancer Discovery, Immunity, Nature Immunology, Science Immunology, Journal of Experimental Medicine or Journal of Clinical Investigation*. The paper **must be approved** by the course director two week before the presentation and will be distributed to the Journal Club participants one week before the presentation. If available, the presenter can also provide an accompanying review paper or commentary, which will not be discussed, but will help in better understanding the scientific background.

Presentation/Discussion:

Presentations should include an appropriate amount of background material to set the stage for the paper to be discussed. The relevance of the paper to cancer immunology/immunology *must* be made clear to the audience. The findings of the study should be presented in detail in a critical manner and discussed with the group. All participants are expected to read the paper. The presenter is expected to engage the group in the discussion. The presenter/audience is also expected to identify flaws in the study (if any) and future directions/relevant future experiments.

III. Course Objectives

This course will provide to graduate students with the opportunity to read and critique highly relevant studies in Tumor immunology and immunology, improve their understanding of high impact research and ability to critique and present. The course has the following objectives:

1. Developing advanced skills on dissecting scientific literature.
2. Increasing familiarity with wide range of research topic of relevance to cancer immunology and immunology.
3. Practicing scientific presentation skills.
4. Developing and practicing scientific discussion skills.

Students are enrolled in this course from their second year in the program until their defense. First year students must also attend if there are no other class conflicts.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes

- Acquiring the skill of dissecting scientific research papers.
- Acquiring the skill of presenting, justifying and challenging research.