

# **Biochemical regulation of Physiological Processes**

## **Advanced Topics in Endocrinology**

### **BIOM\*6570**

#### **F 2017**

**Lectures:** Seminars/tutorials Tues, Thurs 8:30-9:50am  
OVC, Room 1642

**Co-ordinator:** N J MacLusky  
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Ext 54073  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 2-5pm

#### **Course and learning objectives:**

The course is intended for students who have a strong background in endocrinology (at a minimum, the Endocrine section of BIOM\*3200, Endocrine Physiology BIOM\*4030, or equivalent). The subject matter for the course is flexible because, in a small graduate course, the interests and the background of the students vary from year to year. In the Introductory session for the course, we will discuss potential topics for presentation and discussion. Students can absolutely suggest topics that they find particularly interesting for inclusion in the course – the only proviso being that they must be within the field of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

The aims of the course are twofold: first, to allow in depth exploration of current research topics in Endocrinology; and second, to provide a forum for students to develop their presentation and writing skills, which are extremely important in terms of students' future career development.

#### Assignments:

Each week, students will be asked to present papers selected from the area under discussion for that week (which will be posted in advance to the Courselink website for the course). As part of the preparation for the paper presentations, the presenting student should prepare a one page (double sided) summary of the major points of the paper and his/her critique. All students should read the papers and come to class prepared: the students presenting the papers will be leading the discussion, but they should not be expected to cover everything by themselves. Graduate courses work best when they represent shared, group learning experiences. Active discussion of the topics presented will be in everyone's interests.

All students will also be expected to submit a review paper on a subject of their choice, at the end of the semester, the only limitation being that it must be within the field of Endocrinology and Metabolism. This paper should follow the structure and guidelines of short published reviews in a current Endocrinology journal (such as Trends in Endocrinology and Metabolism). Examples of such articles can be found on line. Students can also access the Trends in Endocrinology and Metabolism web site and follow their author instructions, in terms of page and reference limits.

Students are encouraged to put together draft outlines of their reviews early in the course and get feedback from the coordinator, well ahead of the deadline for final submission of the reviews. Every Tuesday afternoon in the semester has been set aside for student Office Hours, to allow students to come and get advice and ask questions. That is an ideal time to get feedback and discuss potential review topics. Topics that are too broad or too narrow make it difficult or impossible to write a good review paper, so getting advice early on in the process is the key to success.

### **Course evaluation:**

Each student will be scheduled to present papers twice during the course, each presentation and summary being graded by the coordinator (maximum 20%). The final review paper (worth 60% of the course grade, 10% for the draft outline, 50% for the paper) must be handed in within one week of the end of the course, to allow grading before the end of the exam period.