

CANCER ENDOCRINOLOGY: TBio/PBio-595

FORMAT

This is a three credit, advanced course in Cancer Endocrinology offered jointly by the Departments of Oncology and Physiology & Biophysics. The course consists of presentations primarily by the Faculty and class discussions of any materials provided to the students in advance. Students may be required to read up to 4 papers per week, and are required to participate in all class discussions. The course has a specific emphasis on the role of hormones in the pathophysiology of diverse cancers and covers the role of hormones and their receptors in the treatment and diagnosis of cancer. Both steroid and polypeptide hormones are included, as is the influence of environmental/nutritional components with endocrine properties. Information is presented from the fields of cellular and molecular biology, receptor pharmacology, and clinical endocrinology/oncology.

GOALS

The goals of the course are to (1) provide students with an understanding of the general principles involved in cancer endocrinology and endocrine-based therapies using examples of specific hormones, (2) develop critical scientific reading and comprehension skills, and to (3) develop interactive skills within a scientific discussion forum.

GRADING

Mean grade from mid-term exam and one library research project. Subjects and mentor for the research paper are generally chosen by students from within course Faculty. The format of the mid-term is a written exam, lasting approximately 1.5 hrs. Students choose from among a series of questions posed by the instructors and based on the material previously discussed in class.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIBRARY RESEARCH PAPER

The subject of the paper is at the student's discretion. Ideally, the student will find a member of the course faculty who is willing to guide and grade the research paper. It is appropriate for students to discuss the subject of the paper and the proposed outline with their examiner before submission of their final paper.

The paper should be a minimum of 5-pages single spaced (10-pages double spaced), not including title page, tables, figures, legends and citations. Students are strongly encouraged to write clearly and concisely and not to exceed 8-pages single spaced (16-pages double spaced). Text should be within 1" margins; all pages should be numbered consecutively starting with the title page.

The inclusion of original figures and tables is strongly encouraged but is not required. If such material is adapted from published work, this work must be fully and clearly cited in any legends and in the body of the text. A title page should state the student's name and contact information, the project title, and the proposed examiner's name and contact information.

Students will submit their final paper to their chosen examiner, who will provide their grade directly to Dr. Clarke. If a student cannot find someone to grade their paper, this will be done by Dr. Clarke.