

**BIOL 485 assignment: independent projects (updated 7-30-13)**

As mentioned in the course syllabus, you will read one article from the primary literature that we have not discussed in class (or that you have thoroughly dissected for another class) and write a “News & Views”-style paper of 700-1000 words, plus one original graphic or diagram of some sort. Each student will need to write about a different paper, so send your choices to me as soon as possible – first come, first served!

**Additional details**

- Your paper should not simply be a paraphrased version of some science writer’s previous summary of the research article. The safest option is to choose an article that has not previously been written about in this way. If you prefer, you can choose an article that has been covered in the blogosphere or whatever, but make sure you are putting your own spin on it.
- Your target audience for this paper is other students in this class, i.e., people who have some knowledge of malaria, drug development, and biology, but haven’t read the article that you are summarizing. Thus, you should write something that your classmates can understand without extensive assistance from Google. For example, you should define key terms with which your classmates are not familiar, and otherwise avoid jargon.
- You may discuss your article with other students (and with me), but should do the actual writing independently.
- **Deadlines:** you must have chosen a paper by July 17. You must submit a draft to me and your partner via email by August 2 at 12 noon. The final version of your paper is due on the last day of the quarter (August 23).
- You have some leeway as to exactly what you write about in your paper. All of the BQMOC components (Background, Question, Methods, Observations, Conclusions) should be covered in some way, but you don’t need to cover all of the methods used or all of the data collected, just the most important or interesting stuff.
- Your paper should have an informative title that summarizes what you’re saying about the article. (It should not simply be the title of the research article!) You should also organize the text of your article with one or more subheadings.
- Your figure or diagram can be an adaptation of something from the research article, or could be entirely new. It should not simply be a straight copy-and-paste transfer. It should have a caption of one or more full sentences.
- You will meet with a peer reviewer (assigned by me) on Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup> during class time, or at another time on or before August 7<sup>th</sup>. A brief review of your peer’s draft should be sent to me and your peer via email no later than August 7<sup>th</sup> (11:59pm). The review should address the following questions:
  - What did you learn from your peer’s paper? (2-4 sentences)
  - What did you not learn that you would like to learn, either from this paper or another source? (2-4 sentences)
  - What are your suggestions for revising the draft? (4-6 sentences)
- You are welcome to discuss your draft with me, either before or after your peer review (or both). However, you should ask me questions that are more specific than “What do you think?” or “What would you change?”
- **GRADING:** Your submission of a draft and your review of your peer’s paper will each be worth one quarter of the total points available for this assignment. You will receive complete credit for

your draft if it is submitted on time, is of the appropriate length, and demonstrates that you have read the paper you chose. Peer reviewers will not be penalized for a failure of their partner to submit a draft on time. Your final submission will be worth 50% of the total points. Final submissions will be evaluated for general clarity and accuracy as well as successful adherence to these instructions.

#### Student peer review partners

Tyler Bradshaw (PubMed ID 21661317) and Margaret Lanphere (PubMed ID 22912697)
Emily Boevers (PubMed ID 12090998) and Chad Sumulong (PubMed ID 21300861)
Kaiser Valshon (PubMed ID 23539746) and Courtnee Clough (PubMed ID 23709683)
Clementine Foucher (PubMed ID 23815099) and Michael Lam (PubMed ID 23844196)
Graham Stockdale (PubMed ID 23815862) and Ashlyn Giddings (PubMed ID 23836185)
Jen Arthur (PubMed ID 19476434) and Chris Choe (PubMed ID 21350178 or 23561245)
Tracy Ngo (PubMed ID 23844934) and Daniel Saiku (PubMed ID 23861742)
Ripp Cristel (PubMed ID 23661646) and Kristi Dela Cruz (PubMed ID 23023046 or 20630856)
Emoniel Isakharov (PubMed ID 22759078) and Julia Olson (PubMed ID 23815273)
Chris Franz (PubMed ID 23825598) and Jennifer Barber (PubMed ID 23729665)
Avrey Novak (PubMed ID 22096101) and Richard Nguyen (PubMed ID 19641202)
Romaisa Asif (PubMed ID 23841934 or 23855834) and Lesley Hammond (PubMed ID 23809666)