

BCH561– Fall 2016

RNA Structure and Function

Special Topic for the semester is:
Disruption of host RNA splicing by viral proteins

Syllabus

Instructor: Drs. Stephen Lodmell and Jean-Marc Lanchy

Office: CHCB202, 205 Phone: 243-6393, 243-5720

Meeting time: Tuesdays 9:10-10:00

Meeting place: CHCB202

This class is designed to give students an opportunity to present both primary research and research materials from the current literature concerning the structure, function, and biochemistry of RNAs as they exert regulatory roles in the cell. These RNAs may be small RNAs or motifs of larger RNAs. Specific topics this semester will include, but are not limited to, the mode of recognition of viral and non-viral RNAs by proteins encoded by the virus or by the host, bacterial regulatory RNAs that aid in the encapsidation of RNA or the packaging of the mature virus particle.

The format of the class is as follows: Each hour class period will be devoted to an individual presentation with group discussion of either original research or a review of a paper from the current literature. Each student will present twice during the semester.

When a student is presenting his/her original research, we will discuss results, problems, interpretations, and future directions of this research in an open forum format. Broad student participation in these discussions is essential.

When the presentation is centered around a current research article, the student will provide each member of the class with a copy of the paper he/she will present several days in advance so that all class members will be familiar with the material for the presentation. The presentation is designed to be a critique of the paper, and the presenter should offer his/her view about experimental design, results, and interpretations. Papers may be on any topic, as long as it is related to RNA, retroviruses, or translation.

Grading/assessment:

This is a one credit course. Grading is on a Credit/ No credit basis. Students will be evaluated on the quality of his/her presentations as well as participation in discussions during class. Students are expected to have prepared for the class by reading the chosen literature article(s) prior to class time to promote informed discussion on the research at hand. Consistent failure to adequately prepare for presentations or discussions will result in a grade of NC.

Initial reading list:

1. Kuss SK, Mata MA, Zhang L, Fontoura BM. Nuclear imprisonment: viral strategies to arrest host mRNA nuclear export. *Viruses*. 2013;5(7):1824-49. doi: 10.3390/v5071824. PubMed PMID: 23872491; PMCID: PMC3738964.
2. Rivas HG, Schmaling SK, Gaglia MM. Shutoff of Host Gene Expression in Influenza A Virus and Herpesviruses: Similar Mechanisms and Common Themes. *Viruses*. 2016;8(4):102. doi: 10.3390/v8040102. PubMed PMID: 27092522; PMCID: PMC4848596.
3. Yeo GW, Coufal NG, Liang TY, Peng GE, Fu XD, Gage FH. An RNA code for the FOX2 splicing regulator revealed by mapping RNA-protein interactions in stem cells. *Nat Struct Mol Biol*. 2009;16(2):130-7. doi: 10.1038/nsmb.1545. PubMed PMID: 19136955; PMCID: PMC2735254.

Schedule:

TBA