

Fall 2008

Biology 325: Special Topics in Plant Molecular Biology (Dorweiler/Schläppi)

Topic: Genetic Engineering

Participants:

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Yin, Lihui
Zhang, Chao

Learning outcome:

Students will be able to:

- Select relevant topics and literature for public presentation
- Understand the difference between journal club and seminar courses
- Engage in peer-review-style discussions to critique each other's presentations:
 - How well did the presenter's intro prepare you to read and evaluate the primary literature?
 - How well did they present the primary focus of the research article(s)?
 - Do you think the presenter chose a high quality article?

First meeting: August 29, 2008

Order of business:

1. Meeting schedule
2. Seminar structure
3. Discussion of suitable topics

Suggested Schedule/structure:

Aug. 29	Discussion	Class
Sept. 05	Biofuels: intro	Tianyi
Sept. 12	Biofuels: paper	Tianyi
Sept. 19	Nutritional value: intro	Lihui
Sept. 26	Nutritional value: paper	Lihui
Oct. 03	Edible vaccine: intro	Anjali
Oct. 10	Edible vaccine: paper	Anjali
Oct. 17	Virus protection: intro	Jasvinder
Oct. 24	Virus protection: paper	Jasvinder
Oct. 31	Disease resistance: intro	Xi
Nov. 07	Disease resistance: paper	Xi
Nov. 14	Animal cloning: intro	Chao
Nov. 21	Animal cloning: paper	Chao

Suggested Topics:

Genetic engineering in plants:

- Biofuels
- Virus resistance
- Disease resistance
- Nutritional value (e.g. "golden rice")
- Herbicide resistance
- Public perception of plant genetic engineering

Genetic engineering in animals:

- Invertebrates (e.g. drosophila *P*-element)
- Vertebrates
- Ethical issues (e.g. stem cells, human cloning)