CANC 440 - Cancer Biology & Therapeutics

Course Format – 2018 *updated 18Dec2017*

DEPARTMENT: Pathology and Molecular Medicine
COURSE CODE/NUMBER: CANC440
COURSE COORDINATOR(s): Susan P.C. COLE **TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Christina FERRONE

CANC440/3.0 Cancer Biology and Therapeutics 1L; 2T
A consideration of current knowledge and theories about cancer biology and therapeutics. The course is presented in a small group format, with active student participation required.
PREREQUISITE: Admission to 4th year honours in Life Sciences or Biochemistry, and permission of the Course Coordinator. First priority is given to students enrolled in the Cancer Research Sub-plan of the Life Sciences program
LIMITED ENROLMENT: 22 students

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a seminar-based course taught as a series of once weekly, disease-focussed sessions. A single type of cancer will typically be the focus for two consecutive weeks, with in-depth consideration given to the biology and therapeutics that make the disease distinct from other cancers. Each session is led by an expert faculty member (both MD and PhD) who, in the first week, will give an introductory lecture (40-45 min) and assign topics (and a pertinent paper from the primary literature) to each of 4-5 students. In the second week, the students will present their assigned papers (15 min each + 5 min questions). Non-presenting students are expected to read the assigned papers in the intervening week, and be prepared to participate in discussions during class with the student presenters. Presenting students may arrange a tutorial with their Session Leader prior to their Session. Presenting students may provide, as a team, a short overview linking the individual topics (1 slide only). Each presenting student will also pose 2 questions to the class, either during or at the end of their presentation. Non-presenting students will each prepare 2 questions to be handed in to the TA at the beginning of the class, based on at least 2 of the assigned readings. These questions will be used to facilitate general class discussion during and/or after the student presentations.

TEXTS:
The course will draw from faculty expertise and the current primary literature on selected topics. Students may find "The Basic Science of Oncology" (5th Edition; Editors I.F. Tannock et al) to be a useful reference text.

STUDENT EVALUATION:
2 Oral Presentations (2 x 25%):
Up to five (normally 3 or 4) students will present each week (Wks 2-12), covering topics in the biology and therapeutics of a specific cancer as assigned by the Session Leader. The goal is to have each student present once before Reading Week and once after. Each presentation is to be 15 min with 5 min Q&A. Presentations will be evaluated by the Session Leader, and TA.

1 Essay (5% + 35%):
The essay comprises an in-depth review and discussion of a topic relevant to the course. Students will be assigned an essay topic by a Faculty Supervisor, within 1 month of the beginning of term, and are encouraged to meet with their Supervisor to discuss essay ideas and expectations. Students will submit a draft Abstract approximately 1 month before the Essay submission Due Date to allow feedback from their Faculty Supervisor, and TA. [5%] Essays will be evaluated/reviewed by the Faculty Supervisor and TA. [35%]

Participation (10%):
Attendance at class will be recorded by the TA. Students will be assigned a grade for participation during class, as well as for their questions handed in at the beginning of each Session.