Neuroscience Journal Club Presentation and Coaching Requirements

Every Neuroscience graduate student is required to give several formal presentations in a Neuroscience Journal Club. The requirements delineated below apply to only the first two of these presentations.

At least three weeks prior to the scheduled presentation date, each student must choose two members of the PIBS faculty to sponsor, coach and rehearse each presentation. The primary faculty coach will have expertise germane to the presentation; the other should be without such expertise.

Before contacting the coaches, the student must write a paragraph justifying the choice of the paper, and this must be presented to and approved by a member of the faculty screening committee listed below. Faculty at each site are members of this screening committee so it should not be difficult for students to meet with one of them and receive approval for their choices of papers.

Neuroscience encourages students to be adventurous in their choices of papers. Papers are expected to be unusually interesting and important. They should be of general interest to students and faculty in different areas of the Neuroscience Program and should not be solely of interest to members of a single specialty group. At the first meeting, the student will discuss the paper with a member of the faculty screening committee to ensure that the choice of paper meets these criteria. If not, an alternative paper must be chosen. The student should then schedule with his or her coaches one or more rehearsals of the journal club presentation. Any member of PIBS can be a coach.

An evaluation of the presentation will be prepared by each of the faculty coaches (and potentially the Journal Club Faculty Advisor). These will, along with the paragraph justifying the choice of paper, become part of the student’s academic record. Importantly, an electronic copy of the evaluation form should be given to the faculty coaches by the student as soon as the faculty member agrees to participate.

Neuroscience Journal Club presentations are considered an important part of the graduate curriculum. If a student’s presentation is judged to be unsatisfactory, he or she will be required to make an additional Journal Club presentation.

After two presentations, students are welcome to, but are no longer required to justify their choices of papers and are similarly no longer required to rehearse with faculty coaches.

Attendance at Neuroscience Journal Club is normally required for all first through fourth year Neuroscience students although the program director can waive this requirement in compelling circumstances, e.g. rotation at a site different from site of journal club. Attendance is self-monitored. Grading is S/U. A satisfactory grade requires a note from a student indicating that he or she has attended seven or more of the journal club sessions in a particular quarter.

Journal Club Screening Committee Membership

Gallo Institute: Patricia Janak and Robert Messing

Mission Bay: Su Guo, Ying-Hui Fu, Sam Pleasure and Louis Reichardt

Parnassus Heights: Loren Frank, David Sretavan and Hilary Beggs