



## **Summary of Interdisciplinary PhD Programs & Course Catalog**

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## **Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program**

Core Requirements (19 credits completed during year 1)

INTBP 2000 **Foundations of Biomedical Science** (Fall) 8 Credits

INTBP 2005 **Foundations Conference** (Fall) 4 Credits

INTBP 2290 **Scientific Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research** (Summer) 1 Credit

INTBP 2013 **D2K: From Data to Knowledge – Biomedical Experimental Design and Analysis** (Summer) 3 Credits

INTBP 2010 **Laboratory Research Rotation** (All) 1 Credit (3 Rotations Required)

After preliminary evaluation at end of year 1, students transfer into one of four specialized PhD programs

Program-specific Requirements (6 - 11 credits during years 1 and 2)

See Table below for course listings

Electives

See Table below for details

(typically 3 – 9 credits during years 1 and 2)

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**32 credits of course work required for PhD**

Comprehensive Exam

See individual programs for details

Teaching Practicum

See individual programs for details

PhD Thesis Proposal

See individual programs for details

PhD Dissertation Research (All, 1-14 credits)

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**40 credits of research required for PhD**

**72 total credits required for PhD**

**University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

PhD Program	<b>CBMP</b> Cell Biology & Molecular Physiology	<b>CMP</b> Cellular & Molecular Pathology	<b>MGDB</b> Molecular Genetics and Developmental Biology	<b>MPHL</b> Molecular Pharmacology
<b>Program Requirements</b>	<p>MSCBMP 2880 (Sp) 4 Cr <b>Cell Biology of Normal and Disease States</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2885 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Imaging Cell Biology in Living Systems</b> OR MSCBMP 2860 (Su) 3 Cr <b>Multiparametric Microscopic Imaging</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2851-56 (A) 1 Cr <b>Research Seminars</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2875 (A) 1 Cr <b>Experiments and Logic In Cell Biology</b></p> <p>INTBP 3240 (F) 2 Cr <b>Grant Writing for Graduate Students</b></p>	<p>MSCMP 2730 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Molecular Mechanisms of Tissue Growth &amp; Differentiation</b></p> <p>MSCMP 2750 (F&amp;Sp) 1 Cr (5 semesters required) <b>Research Seminar</b></p> <p>INTBP 3240 (F) 2 Cr <b>Grant Writing for Graduate Students</b></p> <p>MSCMP 2740 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Molecular Pathobiology</b> OR MSCMP 3710 (F) 3 Cr <b>Cancer Biology &amp; Therapeutics</b> OR MSCMP3790 (F) 3 Cr <b>Basics of Personalized Medicine</b></p> <p>2 electives of the student's choosing</p>	<p>MSMGDB 2525 (Sp) 2 Cr <b>Developmental Mechanisms of Human Disease</b></p> <p>MSMGDB 2535 (Sp) 2 Cr <b>Model Organisms</b></p> <p>MSMGDB 2550 (F&amp;Sp) 1 Cr <b>Research Seminar</b></p> <p>INTBP 3240 (F) 2 Cr <b>Grant Writing for Graduate Students</b></p>	<p>MSMPHL 2310 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Principles of Pharmacology</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 2350 (F &amp; Sp) 1 Cr. <b>Research Seminar</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 2360 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Biology of Signal Transduction</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 3360 (F) 2 Cr. <b>Molecular Pharmacology</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 3340 (F) 1 Cr. <b>Foundations of Successful Career Planning and Development Part 1</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 3340 (Sp) 1 Cr. <b>Foundations of Successful Career Planning and Development Part 2</b></p>
<b>Electives</b>  Students may take electives from their program and from others. They should consult with their advisor and program director in designing their plan of study.	<p>MSCBMP 2840 (Su) 1 Cr <b>Regulation of Membrane Traffic</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2855 (F &amp; Sp) 1 Cr. <b>Membrane Transport Journal Club</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2860 (Su) 3 Cr <b>Multipara metric Microscopic Imaging</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2870 (Sp) 5 Cr <b>Histology</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2885 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Imaging Cell Biology in Living Systems</b></p> <p>MSCBMP 2895 (Su) 2 Cr. <b>Cellular Physiology of the Kidney</b></p>	<p>MSCMP 2760 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Introduction to Tissue Engineering</b></p> <p>MSCMP 2770 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Biomaterials &amp; Biocompatibility</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3730 (F&amp;Sp) 1 Cr <b>Topics in Experimental Neuropathology</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3735 (F) 3 Cr <b>Extracellular matrix in Tissue Biology and Engineering</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3740 (F) 3 Cr <b>Stem Cells</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3750 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Angiogenesis</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3760 (F&amp;Sp) 1 Cr <b>Research Seminar in Regenerative Medicine</b></p> <p>MSCMP 3770 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Cell Therapy</b></p>	<p>MSMGDB 3530 (Sp) 3 Cr <b>Genome Instability and Human Disease</b></p> <p>MSMGDB 3540 (Alt F) 3 Cr <b>Reproductive Development from Model Organisms to Humans</b></p> <p>MSMGDB 3550 (F) 3 Cr <b>Stem Cells</b></p>	<p>MSMPHL 3330 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Genome Instability and Human Disease</b> (only offered in even years-i.e. 2020, 2022)</p> <p>MSMPHL 3750 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Angiogenesis</b></p> <p>MSMPHL 3310 (F) 3 Cr. <b>Cancer Biology &amp; Therapeutics</b> OR MSPHL 3375 (Sp) 3 Cr. <b>Neuropharmacology</b> OR MSMPHL 2370 (Sp ) 3 Cr. <b>Drug Discovery</b> (only offered in even years – i.e. 2020, 2022)</p> <p>*Other electives from across the IBGP as deemed appropriate by mentor, student and program director.</p> <p>INTBP 3240 (F) 2 Cr. <b>Grant Writing for Graduate Studies</b></p>

**University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

PhD Program	<b>CBMP</b> Cell Biology & Molecular Physiology	<b>CMP</b> Cellular & Molecular Pathology	<b>MGDB</b> Molecular Genetics and Developmental Biology	<b>MPL</b> Molecular Pharmacology
<u>Electives continued</u>		MSCMP 3780 (F) 2 Cr. <b>Systems Approaches to Inflammation</b>  MSCMP 3790 (F) 3 Cr. <b>Basics of Personalized Medicine</b>		
<u>Teaching Practicum</u>	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional
<u>Comprehensive Examination</u>	<b>Format:</b> Research Grant  <b>Topic:</b> Based on the student's thesis topic (in an NIH F31 format). Mentor cannot assist in writing.  <b>When:</b> Before the first semester of third year (typically spring/summer of 2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	<b>Format:</b> Grant Application  <b>Topic:</b> Student's thesis research  <b>When:</b> Before the end of the third semester after joining CMP.	<b>Format:</b> Research Grant  <b>Topic:</b> Student's thesis research  <b>When:</b> Spring of second year	<b>Format:</b> Research Proposal  <b>Topic:</b> May be derived from anticipated thesis, but must be distinct from any funded or recently submitted grant proposal of the thesis advisor.  <b>When:</b> Spring term of second year.
<u>Thesis Proposal</u>	Required	Required	Required	Required

## **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

### **INTERDISCIPLINARY BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES (INTBP)**

**2000 Foundations of Biomedical Science** (Fall) 8 Credits  
*Course Directors: Wendy Mars, Yang Hong, Hun-way Hwang, Adam Straub, Patrick Thibodeau*

Primary objectives of the course are to explore mechanisms controlling cell, tissue and organ function, and to develop an understanding of the experimental evidence supporting these concepts through an integrated presentation of material from biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, neurobiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology. The development of critical thinking skills will be emphasized through an evaluation of experimental evidence and reading of the primary literature.

**2005 Foundations Conference** (Fall) 4 Credits

*Course Director: Wendy Mars*

Contemporary approaches to problem-solving in biology, as well as principles underlying modern methods of biomedical research will be integrated with the lecture component of the course through an analysis of mechanisms underlying biological phenomena. Students will present papers, critically analyze data and devise experimental approaches to biomedical problems considered in lecture.

**2010 Laboratory Research Rotation** (All) 1 Credit

*Course Director: John Horn*

This lab is designed to introduce the student to relevant laboratory methods as well as the layout and conceptualization of experiments. The course will serve to acquaint the student with the laboratory process, and to facilitate his/her selection of a lab for dissertation research. Students are required to register for and complete rotations through three different laboratories, thereby ensuring broad exposure to method and practice.

**2011 Lab Research Rotation Supplement** (All) 2 to 4 Credits

*Course Director: John Horn*

Course supplement to INTBP 2010 for those students initiating their first rotation in summer.

**2013 D2K: From Data to Knowledge-Biomedical Experimental Design & Analysis** (Summer) 3 Credits

*Course Director: John Horn*

Experimental biologists formulate hypothesis and models, design experiments, collect data and conduct analysis to draw conclusions. Deep understanding of biological principles requires D2K-The translation of DATA INTO KNOWLEDGE that transcends first-order conclusions. This course for first year PhD Students in the biomedical sciences will examine basic principles of experimental design, together with measurement and sources of experimental error. The course will provide a practical 'hands on' introduction to the quantitative tools required for experimental research using cellular, molecular and systems based methods. Topics will include: goals of experimental design, making measurements, principles of parametric and non-parametric statistical inference, use of MS Excel, GraphPad PRISM and R, design of publication graphics and a brief introduction to big data approaches. Students will work in small groups to construct capstone projects by making 'youtube' style videos to illustrate key principles of experimental design and analysis.

**2090 Directed Study** (All) 1 to 9 Credits

*Course Director: John Horn*

This course provides the student an opportunity to carry out a specific laboratory project in any area of interest in degree-granting programs under the Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program.

**2290 Scientific Ethics and the Responsible Conduct of Research** (Summer) 1 Credit

*Course Director: John Horn*

The course is an introduction to the basic ethical issues that arise in the course of conducting scientific research. It is intended for graduate students and fellows in the biomedical sciences who have completed at least one year of graduate work. The course will be composed of informal lecture presentations followed by discussion of issues in small groups.

**3240 Grant Writing for Graduate Students** (Fall) 2 Credits

*Course Director: Daniel Devor*

This Course teaches fundamental grantmanship skills using actual NIH training grant submissions. Students construct a competitive research training grant and are instructed on methods to identify funding sources. This course consists of introductory lectures followed by a series of workshops staffed by the IBGP training faculty. Workshops cover peer scientific review and study section operation, avoidance of common pitfalls in grant writing, grant writing ethics and scientific community service.

## **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

### **CELL BIOLOGY AND MOLECULAR PHYSIOLOGY (MSCBMP)**

#### **2800 MS Thesis Research (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Adam Kwiatkowski*

A directed research project, which results in a thesis for a master's degree.

#### **2840 Regulation of Membrane Traffic**

(Summer) 2 Credits

*Course Directors: Gerard Apodaca & Ora Weisz*

Course analyzes membrane/protein traffic along both the biosynthetic & endocytic pathways. Emphasis placed on how this traffic is regulated. Topics include the role of G-proteins (both heterotrimeric & small), coat proteins (coatamer 1 & 2 & adaptations), signal transduction cascades (PKC, PKA, IP3, etc.), & snare complexes in protein trafficking. Also, we will discuss the role of the cytoskeleton in transporting cargo & signal transduction. Membrane traffic in several specialized cell types will be covered including polarized epithelial cells, cells of the immune system, & neurons. \*\*Note: CBMP Students are required to take either Cell & Molecular Physiology OR Regulation of Membrane Traffic.

#### **2852 Research Seminar/Membrane Trafficking (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Director: Gerard Apodaca*

Advanced research seminar with journal club format specializing in current aspects of membrane trafficking.

#### **2853 Research Seminar/Reproductive Physiology (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Director: William Walker*

Advanced research seminar with journal club format specializing in current aspects of reproductive physiology.

#### **2855 Research Seminar/Molecular Physiology (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Directors: Tom Kleyman*

Advanced research seminar with journal club format specializing in current aspects of molecular and cellular physiology.

#### **2860 Multiparametric Microscopic Imaging (Summer) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Donna Beer Stolz and Claudette St. Croix*

A lecture/hands-on lab survey course that immerses students in the theory and practical aspects of modern microscopic imaging. The fields will cover the theory and implementation of all types of light and electron microscopy and computer aided imaging and analysis. Students will be expected to reach a functional capability in a selected technology and write a paper using one of more imaging technologies to answer a research question.

#### **2870 Histology (Spring) 5 Credits**

*Course Director: Steven Truschel*

The objective of this lecture/lab course is student comprehension of the relationship between cell structure and organ function, and the application of the knowledge to the identification of light and electronmicroscopic images of cells and organs. All the major organ systems of the body are included.

#### **2875 Experiments and Logic in Cell Biology (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Directors: Michael Butterworth and Donna Beer Stolz*

In this course students will review and critique data presented by their colleagues using an internet chat room and physical meetings to be held monthly. Students will independently critically evaluate and provide constructive suggestions on the experimental data and design, in terms of alternative rationales, interpretations, and next experiments.

#### **2880 Cell Biology of Normal & Disease States (Spring) 4 Credits**

*Course Director: Daniel Devor*

The semester-long course in cell biology and physiology of normal and disease states will explore three exciting topics in current day cell biology and physiology. The course, which meets twice a week (1.5 h each session), will be taught through both lectures and in class discussions of primary literature and will cover basic biology, the cellular basis of disease processes, and recent advances in translational research that may lead to cures for common disease processes. The section on stem cell biology, diabetes, and translational research will focus on understanding how cells divide and how all of the body's different tissues stem from a master cell with the potential to generate all of the different cell types present in the body. In addition to understanding normal stem cell biology, the potential for use of stem cells to regenerate organs and to cure ailments such as diabetes will be explored. The section on cellular polarity will explore early events in polarity establishment including endocytic signaling and establishment of specialized membrane domains in epithelia and neurons. Further discussion will focus on disease processes such as autosomal dominant kidney disease, an ailment characterized by altered

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and dysfunctional polarity. The third section will examine ion channels and disease: CFTR and cystic fibrosis. This section will explore the role of RAD in protein quality control, the traffic and transport of CFTR, the functional role of CFTR and the epithelial sodium channel in the lung, and promising new therapies to alleviate the morbidity and mortality associated with CFTR mutations.

### **2885 Imaging Cell Biology in Living Systems (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Simon Watkins*

The focus of this course will be to study relevant problems in Cell Biology, Immunology, Developmental Biology and Neurobiology and how they have been solved using imaging approaches. The use of techniques such as TIRF and high speed confocal microscopy to address basic problems in endocytosis will be discussed at the organism level. Multiphoton, confocal, FRET, and other approaches will be discussed to understand aspects of cell biology in cell polarity, respiration and organ development in *c. elegans*, *drosophila*, zebra fish and mice. In each case the application will focus on how imaging tools are used to study defined problems in living systems. The course will follow Lecture/Demo/Journal Club format. Lectures will be two part, the first 1/3 will be a description of the technology, how it was developed and how it works (10-15 minutes) followed by description of the scientific problem and how it was solved. This will be followed by lab demonstrations showing the approach in action. Lectures will be interspersed with a journal club discussion of a relevant paper on each technology. Students will prepare the Journal Club presentations in an alternating fashion. Examination will be a combination of class participation, journal club and written exam.

### **2890 Directed Study (All) 1 to 9 Credits**

*Course Director: Adam Kwiatkowski*

This course provides the students an opportunity to carry out a specific laboratory project in any area of interest in cell biology and physiology.

### **2895 Cellular Physiology of the Kidney (Summer) 2 credits**

*Course Director: Gerard L. Apodaca*

This summer course will provide an introduction to the kidney and lower urinary tract, with emphasis on kidney structure and function. The course, which meets once a week (two hours each session), will be taught through both lecture and in class discussion of the primary literature. Discussion of how bench top findings can be translated to treatments in the clinic will be facilitated by a diverse faculty that includes both basic and physician scientists. You will first learn about the specialized cell types that comprise the kidney and lower urinary tract. Subsequently, you will be introduced to renal stem cells and how they lead to kidney development. Next, you will learn the functions of the kidney, including regulation of water and ion balance. This will be followed by a discussion of the lower urinary tract. Finally, you will learn

how drugs can be used to treat kidney dysfunction and how kidney transplants can be used to treat those patients with end-stage renal disease. Summer semesters.

### **3800 PhD Dissertation Research (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Adam Kwiatkowski*

After advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree, students enroll in this course to pursue original experimental laboratory research, the results of which will provide the substance of their doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 40 credits of this course are required for the PhD degree in the School of Medicine.

## **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

### **CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY (MSCMP)**

#### **2700 MS Thesis Research (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Wendy Mars*

A directed research project, which results in a thesis for a master's degree.

#### **2730 Molecular Mechanisms Tissue Growth & Differentiation (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Aaron Bell & Eric Lagasse*

The course covers the anatomy, embryology, histology, function, and growth regulation (growth factors, receptors, and signaling pathways) of various differentiated tissues (central nervous system, lung, liver, pancreas, urinary and reproductive systems, breast, endocrine system, skin, bone, skeletal muscle, bone marrow). Multidisciplinary lectures are given by the members of the various departments including pathology, cell biology and physiology, medicine, and surgery who have ongoing research in these areas. The course is designed to offer detailed information on specific tissues, tissue-tissue interactions, and overlapping cellular and molecular pathways that exist in multiple tissues.

**\*\*Note:** This is a required course for CMP students.

#### **2740 Molecular Pathobiology (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Tim Oury & Timothy Perkins*

This course is structured to introduce students to the integration between basic and clinical research on the molecular pathogenesis of relevant human diseases. The course will provide students with an overview of the natural history of selected diseases, their diagnosis and clinical management. This will be followed by in-depth discussions concerning the pathologic substrate of the disease, with particular attention focused on the molecular mechanisms of disease progression. In addition to current basic science research, students will be exposed to the clinical impact of basic science discoveries upon the development of new therapeutic interventions. Discussions of current research trends and factors that enhance fundability of research projects will ensue. Each disease module will contain lectures from the faculty followed by presentations of current research papers by the students. These research presentations/discussions will be peer reviewed by fellow students and the faculty, and form the basis of the final grade. **\*\*Note:** CMP students are required to take Molecular Pathobiology, Cancer Biology and Therapeutics, or Basics of Personalized Medicine.

#### **2750 Research Seminar (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Directors: Alejandro Soto-Guiterrez & Wendy Mars*

Students present their research (allowed one time) or a recent research article from a broad range of topics selected by the student in consultation with a faculty advisor. The course meets weekly. Emphasis is placed on a careful analysis and critical evaluation of the manuscript as well as the development of teaching and speaking skills needed for scientific presentation. The student is expected to elucidate issues relevant to the topic and to answer questions from other graduate students and faculty. **\*\*Note:** CMP students are required to take this a minimum of 5 semesters.

#### **2760 Introduction to Tissue Engineering (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Kacey Marra*

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to tissue engineering. Tissue engineering is defined as the development and manipulation of laboratory-grown molecular, cells, tissues, or organs to replace and/or support the function of injured body parts. Tissue engineering is highly interdisciplinary and therefore crosses numerous engineering and medical specialties. Upon completing this course, the graduate and undergraduate students should: understand the basic principles behind human cell and tissue biology; be familiar with the general types of biomaterials used in tissue engineering; understand techniques utilized to design, fabricate, and functionally assess tissue engineering systems; be able to apply the combined knowledge of tissue organization and tissue engineering strategies to design a unique, reasonable tissue engineering solution. This five-part course covers cell and tissue biology, biomaterials, drug delivery, engineering methods and design, and clinical implementation.

#### **2770 Biomaterials & Biocompatibility (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: William Wagner*

This course serves as an introduction to biomaterials and biocompatibility and assumes some background in organic chemistry and biology. The first half of the course connects biomaterial applications. The second part of the course introduces biocompatibility issues as they follow from protein adsorption, thrombosis, inflammation and infections. Throughout the course ties are made between the topics of students and clinically relevant materials and device performance.

#### **2780 Special Topics (Fall & Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Wendy Mars*

One or more student(s) will focus on a selected topic (usually defined by the students) in cellular and molecular pathology and discuss the primary literature pertaining to the topic. Students will be evaluated on their discussions and presentations, and write a paper under the direction of a faculty advisor.

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### **2790 Directed Study (All) 1 to 9 Credits**

*Course Director: Wendy Mars*

This course provides the students an opportunity to carry out a specific laboratory project in any area of interest in cellular and molecular pathology.

### **3700 PhD Dissertation Research (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Wendy Mars*

After advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree, students enroll in this course to pursue original experimental laboratory research, the results of which will provide the substance of their doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 40 credits of this course are required for the PhD degree in CMP from the School of Medicine.

### **3710 Cancer Biology and Therapeutics (Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Joseph Locker, Laura Stabile and Roderick O'Sullivan*

This course presents biochemical and clinical aspects of cancer biology and therapy, and is designed for graduate students training in the basic sciences or medicine. The lectures cover: the biology of normal and neoplastic cells; mechanisms of neoplastic transformation; chemical and environmental carcinogenesis; viral oncogenesis; breast and prostate cancer; chemotherapy; radiotherapy; gene therapy; tumor immunology; and nutrition and cancer.

\*\*Note: CMP students are required to take Molecular Pathobiology, Cancer Biology and Therapeutics, or Basics of Personalized Medicine.

### **3730 Topics in Experimental Neuropathology (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Director: Clayton Wiley*

This course critically evaluates the latest scientific literature concerning diseases of the central nervous system. Emphasis will be placed on methodologies as they are applied to the study of human neurologic diseases. Participants will present scientific papers and lead the classroom discussions. This course is open to students of all levels and will include both basic scientists and clinicians (residents, faculty).

### **3735 ECM in Tissue Biology and Bioengineering (Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Bryan Brown & George K. Michalopoulos*

This course presents a comprehensive overview of the biochemical composition of tissue matrix, the receptors that bind and signal through the matrix, and how these matrix interactions are important for basic biology and

tissue engineering. Topics include gene expression, mechanistic interactions and cellular interaction/communication.

### **3740 Stem Cells (Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Kari Nejak-Bowen & Paul Monga*

The course entitled "Stem Cells" will provide a comprehensive overview on this intriguing and highly debated topic. The course will focus on the biology of stem cells and their role in health and disease with emphasis on development, carcinogenesis and tissue engineering. Lectures on various aspects of stem cells from renowned experts will cover both embryonic and adult stem cells. Specific lectures will include stems cells in the blood, liver, brain, muscle, kidney, pancreas, prostate, lung, gut, skin and eye. Students will also be educated on therapeutic cloning as well as bio-ethical issues and existing laws governing stem cell research. Letter grades will be based on midterm and final exams as well as on the attendance in the lectures.

### **3750 Angiogenesis (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Wendy Mars & Donna Beer Stolz*

This course will provide extensive basic knowledge of developmental, cellular, molecular biology of angiogenesis and most recent advancements in its clinical applications. Topics include: 1. Angiogenesis in physiological and pathological processes; 2. Molecular and cellular regulation of angiogenesis; 3. Current advance in angiogenic therapies. Recent outstanding research publications will also be discussed.

### **3760 Research Seminar: Regenerative Medicine (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Directors: Paul Monga & Andy Duncan*

Research seminar in regenerative medicine is geared towards providing updated information on topics in the field of regenerative medicine, tissue engineering and stem cell applications. Through biweekly seminars, the students will be acquainted to the recent advances in the ever-growing field of regenerative medicine. Experienced faculty will deliver lectures in this seminar series.

### **3770 Cell Therapy (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Alejandro Soto-Gutierrez and Diane Metes*

This course is meant to be unlike any other graduate course. This course showcases cell therapy from theory to practice, from the bench to the bedside. In each area of cell transplantation lectures are provided by those who have implemented cell transplantation techniques and have moved it to a clinical therapy. Most of the lectures in the course are given by those who actually do the patient transplants. Immunology and pharmacology and cellular engineering&Edition will be addressed as it directly relates to cellular

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therapy. Stem cell biology will not be addressed individually, but will be raised in the context of specific applications. It is expected that students will be independently exposed to these related areas in other courses.

Course meetings will consist of lectures, presenting the basic research going into a particular cell therapy area such as animal models used for preclinical studies and the identification on the cell type(s) which are most relevant for the transplants. The lecture(s) in each topic area focuses on the clinical application of that particular cell type for cell therapy for specific disease(s) and covers how the cells are transplanted into patients, the disease states being targeted and the results of the cell therapy. The grade for the course results from attendance at lectures and the submission of a paper in an area relevant to Cell Transplantation / Cell Therapy & Engineering.

### **3780 Systems Approach to Inflammation (Fall) 2 Credits**

*Course Director: Gilles Clermont*

This course is focused on particular topics of great biologic complexity in critical illness, where modeling has the potential to translate in improved patient care. Lectures are provided by basic (biological and mathematical sciences) and clinical faculty, in conjunction with members of industry and speakers from outside institutions. This information will be communicated within the framework of defined themes that describe the complexity of inflammation in acute and chronic illnesses. Grading is based on participation in discussions and on a semester-long, interdisciplinary group project. Each group includes students with a predominantly biology background along with students who are more facile with mathematics and/or simulation. This project therefore requires the students to work with others from outside of their main discipline, to learn about and from interdisciplinary exchange, and gain practical experience in team-based modeling of biological processes.

### **3790 Basics of Personalized Medicine (Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Wendy Mars & Marie DeFrances*

Rapid and ongoing discoveries in basic biomedical research are leading to a world where there is a demand for personalized medicine. Never the less, on a practical level, it is complicated to translate the findings from the basic scientific arena into clinical practice. This course will show students how findings from basic research can be translated into clinically relevant tests for the diagnosis and treatment of patients. The course will provide an overview of the past, present, and future of basic biomedical research as it relates to this subject.

**\*\*Note:** CMP students are required to take Molecular Pathobiology, Cancer Biology and Therapeutics, or Basics of Personalized Medicine.

## **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine – 2021**

### **MOLECULAR GENETICS AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY (MSMGDB)**

#### **2500 MS Thesis Research (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Kara Bernstein*

A directed research project, which results in a thesis for a master's degree.

#### **2525 Developmental Mechanisms of Human Disease (Spring) 2 Credits**

*Course Directors: Judith Yanowitz & Michael Tsang*

This course covers principles of developmental biology and how embryonic developmental pathways impinge on human disease. Topics include congenital organ related disease, stem cell based reproductive events relating to disease. Prerequisites: Foundations of Biomedical Science or permission of the course director.

#### **2535 Model Organisms (Spring) 2 Credits**

*Course Directors: Donghun Shin & Michael Tsang*

This course covers the use of vertebrate and invertebrate model organisms in biomedical research. Topics include the use of several models including: mouse, rat, zebrafish, xenopus, C. elegans, and Drosophila. Special emphasis will be placed on the strengths that specialized techniques of each organism provide to the research community in understanding the etiology of disease.

#### **2550 Research Seminar (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Director: Jeffrey Gross*

A weekly Research In Progress Seminar presented by students and post-doctoral fellows. Weekly attendance and participation by all MGDB students is required.

#### **2590 Directed Study (All) 1 to 9 Credits**

*Course Director: Kara Bernstein*

This course provides the students an opportunity to carry out a specific laboratory project in any area of interest in molecular genetics and developmental biology.

#### **3335 DNA Repair Journal Club (All) 1 Credit**

*Course Director: Patricia Opresko & Bennett Van Houten*

A weekly DNA repair focused journal club presented by students and post-doctoral fellows. Special emphasis on recently published cutting edge papers in the DNA repair field.

#### **3500 PhD Dissertation Study (All) 1 to 14 Credits**

*Course Director: Kara Bernstein*

After advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree, students enroll in this course to pursue original experimental laboratory research, the results of which will provide the substance of their doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 40 credits of this course are required for the PhD degree in the School of Medicine.

#### **3530 Genome Instability and Human Disease (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Patricia Opresko, Ben Van Houten, Christopher Bakkenist*

This course will emphasize the molecular biology and biochemistry of DNA repair (Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2015), placing these mechanisms into the context of other cellular processes as they pertain to health and disease. More than 40 distinct human diseases are caused by defects in DNA repair, including syndromes of impaired development, immunodeficiency, cancer predisposition, neurodegeneration, and premature aging. Environmental, clinical and endogenous sources of DNA damage will be discussed. An understanding of the fundamental role of DNA repair mechanisms in immunology, oncology, neurology, and aging will be central to all lectures.

#### **3540 Reproductive Development from Model Organisms to Humans (Every other Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Judy Yanowitz*

This course focuses on the molecular aspects of the transition from gamete to a reproductive organism. The course progresses through the building of germ cells, fertilization and stem cell participation to sex determination, gonad morphogenesis, puberty, menopause and pregnancy. This course highlights both human and model organisms to bring together diverse aspects of the cell and developmental biology of reproductive tissues and their impact on disease pathology.

#### **3550 Stem Cells (Fall) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: S. Paul Monga & Staff*

The course entitled "Stem Cells" will provide a comprehensive overview on this intriguing and highly debated topic. The course will focus on the biology of stem cells and their role in health and disease with emphasis on development, carcinogenesis and tissue engineering. Lectures on various aspects of stem

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cells from renowned experts will cover both embryonic and adult stem cells. Specific lectures will include stems cells in the blood, liver, brain, muscle, kidney, pancreas, prostate, lung, gut, skin and eye. Students will also be educated on therapeutic cloning as well as bio-ethical issues and existing laws governing stem cell research. Letter grades will be based on midterm and final exams as well as on the attendance in the lectures.

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### **MOLECULAR PHARMACOLOGY (MSMPHL)**

#### **2310 Principles of Pharmacology** (Spring) 3 Credits

*Course Directors: Yu Jiang & Alessandro Bisello*

This course consists of a series of lectures and tutorial sessions that focus on the general principles of pharmacology. Major topics are principles of pharmacokinetics (including drug absorption, distribution, and metabolism), pharmacodynamics (quantitation of drug-receptor interactions) and mechanisms of action of cardiovascular and autonomic drugs. In addition, this course will include both animal laboratory and human simulator demonstrations that illustrate important pharmacological principles discussed in class.

#### **2350 Research Seminar** (Fall and Spring) 1 Credit

*Course Director: Tija Jacob & Jonathan Beckel*

Beginning in the second year of the program students will be required to attend the Departmental Seminar Series. These seminars are held approximately once a week throughout the fall and spring semesters and include presentations by nationally and internationally recognized visiting researchers in pharmacology and related fields. In order to receive credit for the course, students must attend a minimum of 80% of the seminars.

#### **2355 Pharmacology Summer Seminar** (Summer) 1 Credit

*Course Director: Tija Jacob & Jonathan Beckel*

Beginning in the summer of the second year, students will be required to participate annually in the Departmental Summer Research Seminar Series. These seminars will be held once a week throughout the summer and will be focused on the students' research plans and recent results. This presentation will be made to an audience with diverse research interests and should therefore include a brief summary of general background information. Each student will be required to present once each summer and attend a minimum of 80% of the summer seminars in order to receive credit for the course. Scheduling conflicts should be resolved well in advance as attendance and presentation are necessary.

#### **2360 Biology of Signal Transduction** (Spring) 3 Credits

*Course Director: Guillermo Romero*

This course will explore different types of signaling pathways activated by receptor-ligand interactions. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: G-protein linked receptors, adenylate cyclases, small GTPases, kinases and phosphatases, nitric oxide, phospholipases, steroid hormone signaling, and pharmacological applications of signaling pathways.

#### **2370 Drug Discovery** (Spring) 3 Credits

*Course Directors: Mark Schurdak, Lans Taylor, Bruce Freeman, Barry Gold and Ivet Bahar* (Only offered in even years-i.e. 2020, 2022)

Drug discovery is an interdisciplinary science that seeks to identify small molecular and/or biologic probes and to understand at the molecular level how these probes affect macromolecular processes. This course will discuss various topics that are relevant to current approaches and principles in drug discovery including target validation, drug origins, cell-based screening, high throughput screening, proteomic approaches to drug discovery, computational biological aspects of drug discovery and pharmacoinformatics as well as topics in preclinical drug development and intellectual property. The course will include case studies intended to aid Students in a full understanding of the drug discovery process.

#### **2390 Directed Study** (All) 1 to 9 Credits

*Course Director: Tija Jacob*

This course provides an opportunity for students to carry out a specific laboratory project in any area of interest in pharmacology.

#### **3300 PhD Dissertation Research** (All) 1 to 14 Credits

*Course Director: Tija Jacob*

After advancement to candidacy for the PhD degree, students enroll in this course to pursue original experimental laboratory research, the results of which will provide the substance of their doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 40 credits of this course are required for the PhD degree in the School of Medicine.

#### **3310 Cancer Biology and Therapeutics** (Fall) 3 Credits

*Course Directors: Reza Zarnegar, Laura Stabile, & Roderick O'Sullivan*

This course presents biochemical and clinical aspects of cancer biology and therapy and is designed for graduate students training in the basic sciences or medicine. The lectures cover the biology of normal and neoplastic cells, mechanisms of neoplastic transformation, chemical and environmental carcinogenesis, viral oncogenesis, breast and prostate cancer, radiotherapy, tumor immunology chemotherapy and chemoprevention.

#### **3320 Journal Club** (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit

*Course Director: Tija Jacob & Jonathan Beckel*

Beginning in the second year of the program students will participate in the Departmental Journal Club. Presentations will be held each week that the Department hosts a seminar speaker (i.e. 2-3 times/month) during the Fall

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and Spring semester. Students entering their fifth year of study may petition the Program Director to be excused from the Spring Session of the Journal Club. Sixth year students and beyond are not required to enroll in Journal Club although their attendance is encouraged. A log-in sheet will be available at all Journal Club meetings. All students in attendance are required to complete an anonymous peer-evaluation sheet that will be provided to the presenter. Students must inform the Program Director in advance if they are unable to attend a specific Journal Club. Excusable absences from Journal Club include individual or family illness or presentation (i.e. poster, platform talk) at a major scientific conference. Students are allowed two unexcused absence/semester.

### **3330 Genome Instability and Human Disease (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Directors: Bennett Van Houten, Christopher Bakkenist, & Patty Opresko (only offered in even years-i.e. 2020, 2022)*

Mechanisms that maintain genome stability allowed the origin of species. DNA damage is omnipresent and DNA repair and DNA damage tolerance mechanisms are interwoven in systems that control transcription, replication, cell division, signal transduction, cell death and evolution. More than 40 distinct human diseases are caused by defects in DNA repair, including syndromes of impaired development, immunodeficiency, cancer predisposition, neurodegeneration and premature aging. This course will emphasize the molecular biology and biochemistry of DNA repair, placing these mechanisms into the context of other cellular processes as they pertain to health and disease. Environmental, clinical and endogenous sources of DNA damage will mechanisms in immunology, oncology, neurology and aging will be central to all lectures.

The course comprises twenty-nine lectures that will be taught twice a week. Lectures will be fashioned around selected manuscripts and the recent text book: "DNA Repair, Mutagenesis and Other Responses to DNA Damage (2014) Errol C. Friedberg, Stephen J. Elledge, Alan R. Lehmann, Tomas Lindahl & Marco Muzi-Falconi. Lecturers will include faculty from the Universities of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon who are engaged in laboratory and clinical research at the forefront of the DNA damage and repair fields, as well as distinguished Professors visiting Pittsburgh from other Institutions.

### **3335 DNA Repair Journal Club (Fall & Spring) 1 Credit**

*Course Directors: Bennett Van Houten & Christopher Bakkenist*

The course is a journal club on current topics in DNA repair as it relates to human disease, DNA damage processing, genome stability, telomere biology, cancer and aging. Primarily designed for students in the second year of their graduate program and beyond. Presentations will be held twice per month during the fall and spring semester. In order to receive credit for the course, students must attend a minimum of 80% of the sessions, present once per semester, participate in class discussion and complete anonymous peer-

evaluations for each presenter. One week prior to presentation, presenters will identify a recent publication in the field and distribute it to their classmates. Presenters must define the hypothesis of the paper, provide background and significance, describe experimental methods used, interpret the data, conclude whether the data support the authors' conclusions and propose future experiments. Grades will be determined by attendance (10%), class participation (20%) and quality of presentation (70%).

### **3340 Foundations of Successful Career Planning and Development Part 1 (Fall) 1 Credits**

*Course Director: Steven Wendell*

The goals of the fall and spring consecutive courses are to enhance the career development capacity and foster the life-long career management habits of graduate students and postdocs to maximize their scholarly training success and facilitate personal career outcomes. The courses will provide foundational background through experiential learning and small-group discussions while facilitating peer mentoring. These approaches support the self-construction of individually relevant understandings of career development that is consistent with similar independence in scholarly expertise. The areas of focus include self-assessments, career exploration, goal setting, professional development, career planning and management, career adaptability and additional topics identified by students. Participation in the subsequent spring course is expected for those enrolled in the fall prerequisite course.

### **3341 Foundations of Successful Career Planning and Development Part 2 (Spring) 1 Credits** *PREQ: MSMPHL 3340*

*Course Director: Steven Wendell*

The goals of the fall and spring consecutive courses are to enhance the career development capacity and foster the life-long career management habits of graduate students and postdocs to maximize their scholarly training success and facilitate personal career outcomes. The courses will provide foundational background through experiential learning and small-group discussions while facilitating peer mentoring. These approaches support the self-construction of individually relevant understandings of career development that is consistent with similar independence in scholarly expertise. The areas of focus include self-assessments, career exploration, goal setting, professional development, career planning and management, career adaptability and additional topics identified by students. Participation in the subsequent spring course is expected for those enrolled in the fall prerequisite course.

### **3360 Molecular Pharmacology (Fall) 2 Credits**

*Course Director: Ferruccio Galbiati*

This course examines molecular mechanisms of drug interactions with an emphasis on drugs that modulate cell signaling, cellular responses to drugs and drug discovery. The course will include student participation through presentations and discussion of relevant contemporary scientific literature.

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Topics include: cell cycle checkpoints and anti-cancer drugs, therapeutic control of ion channels and blood glucose, anti-inflammatory agents and nuclear receptor signaling and molecular mechanisms of drugs used for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

### **3375 Neuropharmacology (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Michael Palladino*

This course will broadly review neuropharmacology and neurobiology, study monoamine, cholinergic and GPCR biology, and explore the blood-brain barrier and its significance to neuropharmacology. The course will focus on the molecular mechanisms of drug action for different classes of compounds including but not limited to; antidepressants, antipsychotics, anti-epileptics, anesthetics, weight loss, stimulants, neuroprotective, addiction, pain and migraine drugs. In addition to the formal lectures the course will emphasize critical reading of the primary literature through journal-club style discussions and cover the most recent treatment and therapeutic avenues being developed for a broad range of neurologic and psychiatric disorders. The course is ideally suited for Molecular Pharmacology and Neuroscience graduate students or any other graduate student with interest in neurological diseases and their treatments. The course is also appropriate for senior undergraduates who have completed 4 semesters of chemistry, 2 semesters of biology, and other relevant upper division course work (e.g. Cell Biology, Physiology or Biochemistry) will provide the substance of their doctoral dissertation.

### **3750 Angiogenesis (Spring) 3 Credits**

*Course Director: Donna Stolz, Wendy Mars*

Angiogenesis/vasculogenesis is one of the important research areas in biomedical sciences. This course will provide extensive basic knowledge of the developmental, cellular, and molecular biology of angiogenesis and most recent advances in its clinical applications. Topics include: 1. Angiogenesis in physiological and pathological process; 2. Molecular and cellular regulation of angiogenesis; 3. Current advances in angiogenic therapies. Recent outstanding research publications will also be discussed.