

GENET 591 Genetics Workshop, Spring 2009: Microbial Metagenomics

The class will be organized as follows: Hofmockel, Miller or Halversen will give introductions to the topic each week. Class will then break into discussion groups with 5 members in each. The groups will discuss the papers by the indicated speaker, guided by the Discussion Questions (handout). One student will be designated as Discussion Leader, another will be the Reporter who will record the results of the discussion. A different Leader and Reporter will be assigned each week. The Reporter will take legible notes during the discussion by her/his group and then give a brief oral summary of responses to the Discussion and then hand in the notes at the end of the class meeting.

Discussion Questions to be considered by the Reporter each week.

HYPOTHESIS

What are the basic questions that the authors attempted to answer? I.e. what hypotheses were tested?

CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WORK

Why did the authors do the work? I.e. what previous work by the authors or others led up to the questions asked by the authors? Try to emphasize the significance.

METHODS

Was there anything particularly appropriate, powerful or unique about the methods used? Don't give an outline of all methods, just the key methods that made their work special.

RESULTS

What were the most significant results that supported the authors' hypothesis?

Were there any results that (i) ran counter to the authors' hypothesis, or (ii) were unexpected and led to new ideas?

Were there any experiments or results that are missing, or are begging to be done?

CONCLUSIONS

Authors' conclusions. Your comments on them.

FUTURE

Experiments to be done next.

How does this affect the field? What new areas of research will this work lead to?

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