

**MEDG 545 Journal Club**  
**Genetic Variation and Human Disease**  
**Syllabus and Guidelines**  
**Winter 2021-2022 Term (2021W)**

- Every student will present at least two articles, one in each semester.
- The selected journal article should be related to the general theme of this journal club, GENETIC VARIATION and HUMAN DISEASE, with focus on the following topics:
  - The recognition and characterization of human genetic and genomic variation
  - Alterations of genetic sequence or genomic structure and the mechanisms by which they lead to disease
  - Evolution, population genetics, and other factors that affect human genetic variation.
- The paper that will be discussed in each session will be sent to all journal club participants about a week before the meeting. Please read the article that will be presented before you come to class so that you can engage fully in the discussion. It will be helpful for you to think about some questions or issues that you would like to talk about as you read the paper because **you will be marked on the quality of your participation in the discussion of every paper presented.**
- Your presentation marks will constitute 75% of your final grade in MEDG 545, and your marks for participation in the discussions of other papers will constitute 25% of your final grade.
- To ensure the appropriateness of a paper you wish to present, please send a PDF (or citation and DOI) of the article to Dr. Friedman by e-mail ([jan.friedman@ubc.ca](mailto:jan.friedman@ubc.ca)) **at least 10 days before the scheduled date of presentation.** Once the article is approved, we will circulate it to all students as well as to other journal club attendees so that they can read it before class.
- The article you select should be recently published (no older than 6 months). It may be a paper that has been made available online before print publication, but it must have already been peer reviewed (No BioRxiv papers that have not yet been accepted for publication).

- Each class starts at 13:00, but the presenter should arrive in the meeting room at least 10 minutes early to make certain that the projector is properly set up for the presentation.
- Your presentation should not be too long – aim for 30 minutes. Be sure that your talk focuses on the key points, but be prepared to address related issues that someone may ask about. There will be questions and discussion throughout and after your presentation that will add substantially to its duration; most sessions last about 90 minutes altogether.
- Keep in mind the general guidelines for scientific presentations when preparing your slides:
  - Font type and size should be easily readable
  - Use a consistent style throughout the presentation
  - Avoid too much information on one slide
  - Avoid distracting fonts, images, or background colours
  - Figures should be clear and well-annotated.
- **The course runs on Mondays, 2 or 3 times a month. Be sure to check the schedule so that you know when we meet and when we don't.**

## **MEDG 545 Journal Club: Genetic Variation and Human Disease**

*Note: Room and building TBC*

Sessions for this journal club will be held at 13:00-14:30 on Mondays **in Room XXX of the YYY Building on the Children's & Women's site**. The paper that will be presented at each meeting will be sent out about one week ahead of time so that participants can read it prior to class. **Please email Dr. Friedman <[jan.friedman@ubc.ca](mailto:jan.friedman@ubc.ca)> with your request for a date for your presentation prior to the first journal club on 13 September.** Anyone who does not sign up before that meeting will be assigned one of the remaining dates for presentation.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
13 September 2021	Jan Friedman
27 September 2021	
4 October 2021	
25 October 2021	
1 November 2021	
15 November 2021	
29 November 2021	
6 December 2021	