Journal Club Instructions
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Instructions:
This year, students will choose a paper under the topic of “pharmacological influence of drugs on the nervous system and behavior.” Appropriate reference information to the journal article and a link to the full Pubmed text should be emailed to Carrie Perkins (Carrie.Perkins@uvm.edu) no less than two weeks prior to your presentation. First years are encouraged to seek guidance in preparing a journal club presentation from an upperclassman.

Topic: Pharmacological Influence of Drugs on the Nervous System and Behavior

Neurotransmitter systems are associated with all functions of the nervous system. Modulation of these systems using pharmacological agents (drugs) can be employed to explore the myriad functions of the nervous system, which include sensory perception, motor control, memory and cognition. Moreover, perturbations and dysregulations of neurotransmitter systems cause many medical disorders. Since neurotransmitter systems are involved in all levels of neural functioning, an appropriate and relevant journal article can range from cell-molecular biology to behavioral in content. It may also concern innovations in therapeutic paradigms for neurodegenerative disease, which involve the modulation of neurotransmitters. The goal of this year’s journal club is to display and discuss novel research on the function of neurotransmitters and the drugs that influence neurotransmitter systems, so as to gain a richer understanding of this important branch of neuroscience.

Articles should be primary in type (i.e. not reviews or text book chapters) and published between 2010-2013/14 and chosen from top tier journals, for example: Journal of Neuroscience, Cell, Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, Nature and Science.

Typical Breakdown of Presentation:
5-15 minutes to explain relevant background information and appropriately introduce the focus of the paper
1-2 minutes should be used to state the question(s) the paper is addressing.
5-15 minutes should describe the methodology used to test the hypotheses and answer the questions
10-15 minutes to explain the figures
5-15 minutes for conclusions and critical analysis

Sample publications:
