

# BIOM 502: Molecular Basis of Disease

Course Directors: Dr. Hao Shen, [hshen@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:hshen@penncare.upenn.edu); Dr. Jonathan Katz, [jkatz@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:jkatz@penncare.upenn.edu)

Course Coordinator: Anne-Cara Apple, [annecara@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:annecara@penncare.upenn.edu)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9–10:30am

Location: BRB 251

Date	Speaker	Topic	Student Speaker
1/17	Hao Shen, PhD, and Jonathan Katz, MD	Course introduction	n/a
1/22	Reed Pyeritz	The Promise and Peril of Molecular Genetic Clinical Testing	n/a
1/24	Paul Axelson	Intro to Infectious Disease	n/a
1/29	Meena Bewtra	Intro to Clinical Epidemiology	n/a
1/31	Carolyn Cambor	Intro to Pathology of Human Disease	n/a
2/5	<a href="#">Joshua Dunaief</a>	Age-related Macular Degeneration	
2/7	<a href="#">Steve Scherer</a>	Genetic Neuropathies	
2/12	<a href="#">Kenneth Shindler</a>	Optic Neuritis	
2/14	<a href="#">Jim Hoxie</a>	HIV	
2/19	<a href="#">Alice Chen-Plotkin</a>	Parkinson's Disease	
2/21	<a href="#">Murray Grossman</a>	Dementia	
2/26	<a href="#">Stuart Isaacs</a>	Smallpox Vaccines	
2/28	<a href="#">Marni Falk</a>	Mitochondrial Disorders	
3/5	<a href="#">David Weiner</a>	HIV Vaccines	
3/7	<a href="#">Ron Rubenstein</a>	Cystic Fibrosis	
3/12	<a href="#">Dan Rader</a>	Lipoprotein Disorders	
3/14	<a href="#">Ed Behrens</a>	Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis	
3/19	<a href="#">Gary Wu</a>	IBS	
3/21	<i>No class - hold in case of snow day</i>		
3/26	<a href="#">Mike Rickels</a>	Type 1 Diabetes	
3/28	<a href="#">Ben Stanger</a>	Pancreatic Cancer	
4/2	<a href="#">Tara Mitchell</a>	Melanoma	
4/4	<a href="#">Katalin Susztak</a>	Chronic Kidney Disease Development	
4/9	<a href="#">Amy Clark</a>	Breast Cancer	
4/11	<a href="#">Jason Stoller</a>	Cardiac Development and Outflow Disorders in Neonates	
4/16	<i>No class - hold in case of snow day</i>		
4/18	<a href="#">Paige Porrett</a>	Organ Transplantation	
4/23	<a href="#">Lee Goldberg</a>	Heart Failure	
4/25	<i>No class - hold in case of snow day</i>		

**Grading:**

There will be a total of 100 points awarded for this class.

Attendance: 25 points.

1 point is lost for each unexcused absence. For tardiness you may lose 0.5 points, so please do attend and be on time to class.

Class Participation: 25 points.

This is a significant component of your grade, so please do participate. Ask questions that show us you read the material before class.

Two Class Presentations: 50 points total.

The course is designed to introduce you to a broad array of human disease conditions. The visiting faculty are typically MDs with active clinical appointments, who will introduce the clinical aspects of the disease over 40-45 minutes. This will be followed by an individual or joint student presentation on a translational or basic research paper addressing some aspect of the disease mechanism, diagnosis, or therapy. Students should contact the faculty ahead of their presentation to discuss the topic and paper to be presented.

Presentations will be scored on the basis of the clarity of your talk and quality of your slides, your ability to engage the audience, and a demonstration that you have mastered the subject matter by your ability to answer questions from the audience. The individual presentations will be worth 30 points; the joint presentations will be worth 20 points.