

Course Directors: Dr. Jonathan Katz, jp Katz@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Dr. Terri Laufer, tlaufer@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Dr. Stephen Emerson, emersons@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Course Coordinator: Candace Cain, Candace.Cain@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

TA: Audrey Bochi-Layec, Audrey.Bochi-Layec@Pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30–10:00am

Location: 251 BRB

Date	Speaker	Topic	Student Speaker
1/15/2026	Jonathan P. Katz, MD, Terri Laufer, MD, & Steve Emerson, MD, PhD	Course introduction	n/a
1/20/2026	Teddy Drivas	Intro to Human Disease Genetics	n/a
1/22/2026	Arin Cox & Katie Mulka	Intro to Pathology	n/a
1/27/2026	Laurel Redding	Intro to Clinical Epidemiology	n/a
1/29/2026	Jenni Punt	Intro to Immunology	n/a
2/3/2026	Shafinaz Akhter	Intro to Infectious Diseases	n/a
2/5/2026	Terri Laufer	Gout	
2/10/2026	Alice Chen-Plotkin	Parkinson's Disease	
2/12/2026	David Merrick	Obesity	
2/17/2026	Jeremy Katzen	Chronic Lung Disease	
2/19/2026	Gary Wu	IBD	
2/24/2026	Tara Mitchell	Melanoma	
2/26/2026	David Irwin	Dementia	
3/3/2026	Suraiya Haroon	Mitochondrial Disorders	
3/5/2026	Ted Krieder	HIV	
3/10/2026	No class – SPRING BREAK		
3/12/2026	No class – SPRING BREAK		
3/17/2026	Nadim Mahmud	Liver Transplantation	
3/19/2026	Scott Hensley	Influenza Vaccines	
3/24/2026	Katalin Susztak	Chronic Kidney Disease Development	
3/26/2026	Rose Nolen-Walston	Nematode Infections	
3/31/2026	Ben Stanger	Pancreatic Cancer	
4/2/2026	Ken Margulies	Heart Failure	
4/7/2026	Roddy O'Connor	CAR T-cells	
4/9/2026	Paul Planet	Cystic Fibrosis	
4/14/2026	Kiran Musunuru	Gene Editing	
4/16/2026	Mike Rickels	Type 1 Diabetes	
4/21/2026	Montserrat Anguera	Lupus	
4/23/2026	Amy Clark	Breast Cancer	
4/28/2026	Ken Shindler	Optic Neuritis	

Presentation dates have been randomly assigned. If you know you will be absent from class on your assigned presentation date(s), please contact Candace Cain immediately.

ASSESSMENT:

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

Class Participation: 35 points total.

- Professionalism: 10 points. Includes attendance, punctuality, and advance notification of any expected absences.
- Active 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.

Class Presentations and Discussions: 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 30-40 minutes. This will be followed by a joint student presentation (20-30 minutes) on a translational or basic research paper addressing some aspect of the disease mechanism, diagnosis, or therapy. The remainder of the time will be spent in group discussion of the paper, focusing specifically on gaps that need to be and could be filled by collaborating biomedical researchers. Students should contact the faculty ahead of their presentation to discuss the topic and paper to be presented.

Presentations and discussions 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. Each presentation will be worth 25 points.

Post-Class Submissions: 15 points total.

After each class you will be required to submit a question from the lecture regarding something you would have liked to ask during class or a question on the assigned paper. Briefly explain why this question interests/interested you. If you do not have any remaining questions, please comment on a question asked during lecture that intrigued/interested you. Again, briefly explain why it interested you.