IMPORTANT: This syllabus form should be submitted to OAA (gsbs_academic_affairs@uth.tmc.edu) a week before the start of each semester.

NOTE to STUDENTS: If you need any accommodations related to attending/enrolling in this course, please contact one of the Graduate School's 504 Coordinators, Cheryl Spitzenberger or Natalie Sirisaengtaksin. We ask that you notify GSBS in advance so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Term and Year: Fall 2022

Course Number and Course Title:

GS04 1093: The Biology of Cancer Metastasis

Credit Hours: 3 hours

Meeting Location: GSBS Large Conference Room

Building/Room#: MD Anderson, BSRB S3.8371

WebEx/Zoom Link: N/A (in person)

Program Required Course: Yes

Approval Code: No

(If yes, the Course Director or the Course Designee will provide the approval code.)

Audit Permitted: Yes

Classes Begin: August 29, 2022

Classes End: December 9, 2022

Final Exam Week: **December 5-12, 2022**

Class Meeting Schedule

Day	Time	
Monday	3:30-5:00 PM	
Wednesday	2:30-4:00 PM	

Course Director:

Name and Degree: Daniel Frigo, PhD

Title: Associate Professor

Department: Cancer Systems Imaging

Institution: MDACC

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Course Co-Director:

Name and Degree: Wenliang Li, PhD

Title: Associate Professor

Department: Institute of Molecular Medicine

Institution: UTH

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Course Instructors:

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12. Shabnam Shalapour

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13. James Allison, PhD

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14. Ronald DePinho, MD

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15. John Hagan, PhD

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16. Li Ma, PhD

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17. George Calin, MD, PhD

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18. Daniel Frigo, PhD

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19. David Piwnica-Worms, MD, PhD

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20. Anthony Lucci, MD

MDACC, Surgical Oncology

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21. John Heymach, MD, PhD

MDACC, Thoracic/Head & Neck Medical Oncology jheymach@mdanderson.org

Course Description:

This course is designed to expose students to the most recent research in the field of metastasis research. The literature-based curriculum relies heavily on the expert opinions of the faculty lecturers to identify the most impactful and significant research in their respective fields. Students prepare presentations of original research articles and lead class discussions that will be overseen by faculty, thereby providing immersion into the specialized field of metastasis research.

Textbook/Supplemental Reading Materials (if any)

• Original research articles assigned by faculty instructors

Course Objective/s:

Dissect the mechanisms controlling cancer progression from the primary tumor site into the circulation and seeding distant organs.

At the conclusion of this course, students should have an understanding of: 1) how malignant tumors begin, 2) preclinical methods used to study metastasis, 3) how the disease evolves genetically, epigenetically, and metabolically, 4) how disseminated cancer cells can go undetected, 5) the roles of host-modifyable factors and the immune system in metastasis, and 6) how metastastic cancers are being monitored and targeted in the clinic.

This course is also dedicated to improving trainees' skills in critical reading, writing, and presenting cancer research.

Specific Learning Objectives:

- 1. To understand the steps in metastasis developent and the role of tumor heterogeneity in the metastasis process.
- 2. To understand the role of the tumor microenvironment in promoting metastasis.
- 3. To understand the link between the cell cycle and metastasis.
- 4. To understand the molecular mechanisms of migration, invasion and angiogenesis as they relate to circulating tumor cells and disseminated tumor cells and their roles in metastasis.
- 5. To understand current treatments of metastasis Conventional therapies and lessons from genomic sequencing.

Student Responsibilities and Expectations:

Evaluation and Grading: This course is designed to help students build a knowledge base that allows them to develop their scientific analytical and communication skills. Students will be evaluated on the basis of a basic concept tests (60% total: 20%/test (3 exams)), a group presentation/student seminar (20%) and overall participation (20%).

- **A. Basic Concept Tests:** Students will be tested on the principles of metastasis. These will be take-home tests based on material from the lecturers and any assigned readings.
- **B. Student Seminar/Group Presentation (Journal club-style format):** Students will team together (~2 students/group) to present on a pre-selected paper. Presentations will include the background/rationale for the study, hypothesis, approach, conclusions and overall strengths and weaknesses of the study as well as perceived overall impact. The leading faculty for each student seminar will lead the follow-up discussion.
- **C. Class Participation/Discussion:** For student seminars (the journal club), the non-presenting students should also read the paper and come prepared. Students may be called upon at random to discuss the hypothesis, the strategy used to examine this hypothesis, the experiments described in each figure, and the conclusion. In addition, attendance to lectures and interactions with the lecturers will also be taken into consideration.

Scale: 100-92% A; 91.9-90% A-; 89.9-87% B+; 86.9-82% B; 81.9-80% B-; 79.9-77% C+; 76.9-72% C; 71.9-70% C-; 69.9-67% D+; 66.9-62% D; 61.9-60% D-; < 60% F

Grading System: Letter Grade (A-F)

Student Assessment and Grading Criteria: (May include the following)

First Exam (20 %)

Presentation (20 %)

Second Exam (20 %)

Third Exam (20 %)

Participation and/or Attendance (20 %)

Fall 2022

GS04 1093: The Biology of Cancer Metastasis

GSBS Large Classroom, BSRB S3.8371 Mondays-3:30-5:00 pm/Wednesdays-2:30:-4:00pm

DATE	HOURS	TOPIC	SPEAKER
Monday, August 29	1.5	Introduction to Metastasis	Dr. Raghu Kalluri
Wednesday, August 31	1.5	Role of Tumor Microenvironment at the Primary Site: Part 1	Dr. Raghu Kalluri
Monday, September 5		NO CLASS- LABOR DAY	
Wednesday, September 7	1.5	Role of Tumor Microenvironment at the Primary Site: Part 2	Dr. Raghu Kalluri
Monday, September 12		NO CLASS	
Wednesday, September 14	1.5	Mouse Models of Metastasis	Dr. Guocan Wang
Monday, September 19	1.5	The Pathology of Metastasis	Dr. Anirban Maitra
Wednesday, September 21	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. Daniel Frigo
Monday, September 26	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. Di Zhao
Wednesday, September 28	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. Loukia Karacosta
		FIRST EXAM EMAILED: DUE BY OCT 5, 2022	, 10 AM
Monday, October 3	1.5	Genetics of Metastasis	Dr. Guillermina Lozano
Wednesday, October 5	1.5	Tumor Evolution and Metastasis	Dr. Nicholas Navin
Monday, October 10	1.5	The Metastatic Niche	Dr. Dihua Yu
Wednesday, October 12	1.5	Minimal Residual Disease & Dormancy	Dr. Jeff Rosen
Monday, October 17	1.5	Role of the Microbiome in Metastasis	Dr. Florencia McAllister
Wednesday, October 19	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. Wenliang Li
Monday, October 24	1.5	Role of Immune Cells in Metastasis	Dr. Xiang Zhang
Wednesday, October 26	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. Shabnam Shalapour
Monday, October 31	1.5	Immunotherapy	Dr. James Allison
Wednesday, November 2	1.5	Student Seminars	

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Monday, November 7	1.5	Waterfall chat on metastasis research: What are we missing?	Dr. Ronald DePinho
November 7		SECOND EXAM EMAILED: DUE BY NOV 14, 2022, 10 AM	
Wednesday, November 9	1.5	Student Seminars	Dr. John Hagan
Monday, November 14	1.5	microRNAs and Metastasis	Dr. Li Ma
Wednesday, November 16	1.5	IncRNAs and Metastasis	Dr. George Calin
Monday, November 21	1.5	Cancer Metastasis Metabolism	Dr. Daniel Frigo
Wednesday, November 23		NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING	
Monday, November 28	1.5	Imaging of Cancer Metastasis	Dr. David Piwnica-Worms
Wednesday, November 30	1.5	CTCs and ctDNA in cancer prognosis and treatment	Dr. Anthony Lucci
Monday, December 5	1.5	Treatment Options for Metastasis	Dr. John Heymach
		FINAL EXAM EMAILED: DUE BY DECEMBER 12, 2022, 10 AM	
Wednesday, December 7	1.5	Make-up class if needed	

DF-WL/jal