**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 (preferably at least 3 days before the start of the semester) so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Term and Year: FALL 2023

Course Number and Course Title:

**GS06 1103: Emerging Concepts in Immunology** 

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Location: McGovern Medical School

Building/Room#: MSB B.625

WebEx/Zoom Link: N/A

Program Required Course: Yes

Approval Code: Yes

(If yes, the Course Director or the Course Designee

will provide the approval code.)

Audit Permitted: Yes

Classes Begin: Tuesday, August 30

Classes End: Thursday, November 16

Final Exam Week: No exam

# **Class Meeting Schedule**

Day	Time	
Tuesday	3:00-5:00 PM	
Thursday	3:00-5:00 PM	

# **Course Director**

Name and Degree: Askar M. Akimzhanov, PhD

Title: Assistant Professor

Department: Molecular Biology & Biochemistry

Institution: **UTH** 

Email Address: Askar.M.Akimzhanov@uth.tmc.edu

Contact Number (office): 713-500-7686

Contact Number:

**NOTE:** Office hours are available by request. Please email me to arrange a time to meet.

## **Course Instructors**

1. Pamela Wenzel, Ph.D.

UTHealth Integrative Biology & Pharmacology Pamela.L.Wenzel@uth.tmc.edu

2. Travis I. Moore, Ph.D.

UTHealth Integrative Biology and Pharmacology

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3. Vahid Afshar-Kharghan, M.D.

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4. Melissa Aldrich, Ph.D.

UTHealth Institute of Molecular Medicine

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5. Shervin Assassi, M.D., M.S.

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6. Laura Bover, Ph.D.

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# 7 Michael Curran, Ph.D.

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## 8. R. Eric Davis, M.D.

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## 9. Scott Evans, M.D., FCCP, ATSF

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# 10. Jin Seon Im, M.D., Ph.D.

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#### 11. Robert Jeng, M.D.

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## 12. Qing Ma, Ph.D.

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# 13. Seyed (Peyman) Moghaddam, M.D.

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#### 14. Alexandre Reuben, Ph.D.

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## 15. Kristen E. Pauken, Ph.D.

**MDACC Immunology** 

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## 16. Askar Akimzhanov, Ph.D.

UTHealth Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Askar.Akimzhanov@uth.tmc.edu

## **Course Description:**

This course is designed to expose students to the most recent research in the field of immunology. 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 in conjunction with support from the faculty, thereby providing immersion in highly specialized areas of immunology.

# **Textbook/Supplemental Reading Materials (if any)**

Original research articles assigned by faculty instructors

# **Course Objective/s:**

This course will provide an understanding of emerging concepts in immunology. From current literature, students will explore new areas of research in antigen processing, cytokines, development of T and B lymphocytes, antigen recognition by T lymphocytes, cellular activation, and cell interactions. Each student will read and critically assess selected papers in molecular and cellular immunology. Students prepare several oral presentations and gain experience leading scientific discussions in a small group setting. Papers presented in this course can be used as the basis for developing a proposal in the GSBS Scientific Writing course.

Competencies to be acquired in this course include all core competencies of the Immunology Program, with emphasis on critical thinking and presentation skills.

# Specific Learning Objectives:

- 1. Learn about cutting-edge discoveries and techniques used in the field of immunology.
- 2. Learn to critically evaluate tools, experimental results, and conclusions in scientific publications.
- 3. Learn to identify study rationale.
- 4. Acquire effective presentation skills needed to describe immunological model systems and interpret data generated from experiments testing immunological concepts.
- 5. Develop essential skills for leading and participating in scientific discussions about immunology in a small group setting.

# **Student Responsibilities and Expectations:**

Students enrolled in this course will be expected to perform the following activities each week.

- 1. Read 2-4 research papers (e.g., original research articles and optional review articles).
- 2. Attend twice weekly class sessions. Online sessions require video on and/or active engagement via chat.
- 3. Participate in and contribute to discussions during class sessions.

Students enrolled in this course will be expected to perform the following twice during the semester.

- 1. Prepare a slide-based presentation based upon assigned research papers.
- 2. Contact faculty a minimum of 2 weeks in advance of presentation date to consult with instructor.
- 3. Present and lead discussion for assigned original research articles.

Students are expected to complete all assigned reading material (research literature and reviews) prior to class. Plagiarism and failure to properly cite scientific literature and other sources will not be tolerated and are grounds for dismissal from the course and further GSBS disciplinary action. Cheating or engaging in unethical behavior will be grounds for dismissal from the course without credit and further GSBS disciplinary action.

**Grading System:** Letter Grade (A-F)

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

Percentage	Description	
Presentation (50%)	<ul> <li>a. Coverage of relevant background literature and identification of critical observations.</li> <li>b. Identification of critical problems and hypotheses addressed in the paper.</li> <li>c. Understanding of the experimental design and methods utilized.</li> <li>d. Presentation, interpretation and discussion of the data.</li> <li>e. Length and style of presentation.</li> </ul>	
Participation and/or Attendance ( 50%)	<ul> <li>a. Novelty/originality of ideas expressed</li> <li>b. Relevance of comments to the issues being discussed</li> <li>c. Frequency of productive contributions to discussion</li> </ul>	

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Date	Duration (Hour(s))	Lecture Topic	Lecturer/s
Tuesday  Aug. 29	2	1.Introduction	Dr. Askar Akimzhanov
Tuesday <b>Sept. 5</b>	2	2. Hematopoiesis	Dr. Pamela Wenzel
Thursday <b>Sept. 7</b>	2	3. Myeloid Cells and Tumorigenesis	Dr. Seyed Moghaddam
Tuesday Sept. 12	2	4. CD1 Restricted T Cells and Diseases	Dr. Jin Seon Im
Thursday <b>Sept. 14</b>	2	5. Imaging Approaches in Immunology	Dr. Travis I. Moore
Tuesday Sept. 19	2	6. Cellular Immunotherapy for Cancer	Dr. Qing Ma
Thursday Sept. 21	2	7. Complement	Dr. Vahid Afshar-Kharghan
Tuesday Sept. 26		OPEN	
Thursday Sept. 28		OPEN	
Tuesday Oct. 3		OPEN	

Thursday Oct. 5	2	8.Lymphatic tumor immunity	Dr. Melissa Aldrich
Tuesday Oct. 10	2	9. Anti-tumor T cell responses	Dr. Alexandre Reuben
Thursday Oct. 12	2	10. Checkpoint Blockade	Dr. Mike Curran
Tuesday Oct. 17	2	11. Host immunity in lung/COVID-19	Dr. Scott Evans
Thursday Oct 19	2	12. T cell signaling	Dr. Askar Akimzhanov
Tuesday Oct. 24	2	13. Microbiome	Dr. Robert Jenq
Thursday Oct 26	2	OPEN	
Tuesday Oct 31	2	14. T cell dysfunction	Dr. Kristen E. Pauken
Thursday Nov. 2	2	15. Abnormal BCR Signaling	Dr. R. Eric Davis
Tuesday Nov. 7	2	16. Autoimmunity	Dr. Shervin Assassi
Thursday Nov. 9	2	17. Monoclonal Antibodies	Dr. Laura Bover

AA/jal