

# Analysis of Current Literature in Biomedical Sciences Journal Club in each Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) Theme

## Activity Guidelines for Students

### Purpose of Training Activity

A critical aspect of productive research is the ability to read and understand published research papers. One of the best ways to develop this skill is through participation in group discussions of published articles. In addition to broadening your knowledge in your chosen field, these discussions will hone your critical thinking skills, build your familiarity with experimental and data analysis methods and enhance your communication skills.

### Overview of Training Activity

Literature analysis discussions (Journal Clubs) will be run for each of the Biomedical Discovery Institute's (BDI) Research Themes and coordinated by a research or academic staff member who is research-active within that theme. In a typical session, one student will provide a summary and discussion points of their chosen article, present a few slides covering the background and data relevant to the chosen paper, and then lead a group discussion on the merits, deficiencies and implications of the article. All students are expected to contribute to the discussion.

### Which Journal Club Should You Choose?

There will be a number of Journal Clubs related to each of the BDI research themes. Choose a research theme journal club which is most relevant to your project. The Journal Club topics are:

**Cancer**

**Development and Stem Cells**

**Neuroscience**

**Cardiovascular Disease**

**Metabolic Disease & Obesity**

**Infection & Immunity (Microbiology & Cellular Immunology)**

### Journal Club Format

The speaker should choose an article and forward it, along with a brief summary and/or list of discussion points, to the Journal Club Coordinator not less than **one week before** the scheduled presentation date for distribution to the other Journal Club members.

All participants should have read the paper prior to the presentation date and be prepared to participate in the discussion. The presentation of the article should last about 15 mins followed by discussion which should be facilitated by the Presenter and Coordinator.

## Selection of Articles

Broadly speaking, the types of articles suitable for presentation include those that:

- a) are related to your research area yet of general interest to others in the BDI theme
- b) cover a really interesting topic of relevance to the research theme
- c) are scientifically contentious, e.g. present a paradigm shift in our understanding of a certain phenomenon or draw conclusions which are supported only spuriously by the data presented
- d) present interesting methods, including the novel, exceptional or pioneering use of techniques which may be useful to the research conducted in the theme.

Articles should generally have been published within the last 3 years.

Articles should be original research and from a reputable journal.

## Scheduling and Attendance

Journal Clubs will be run once a month, March through to December. Times and venues will be advised by the Journal Club Coordinator and listed in myDevelopment once it is up and running.

You should sign up for your chosen Journal Club. Once you have signed up for a BDI journal club you are required to attend at **least 8 sessions** and to give at **least one presentation** (Journal Club coordinators will record attendance and participation). **On completion of these requirements you will be credited with 10 hours towards the compulsory 60 hours devoted to Excellence in Research & Teaching activities within the Monash Doctoral Program. No partial allocation of hours will be given.** Attendance alone is not sufficient to earn credit – active participation is required, i.e. you must give a presentation.

Presenters will be selected by the Journal Club coordinators. If you are unable to present in the assigned month, it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with another student, with at least two weeks' notice.

Other details of your chosen Journal Club will be provided by the Journal Club coordinator.