Week 5- September 20, 2018: Rotation Write-Up & Presentation

Topic: Rotation Expectations – The Write-up

Week 5 Business:

* How are rotations and classes going? Has everyone taken their first exam in their classes?
* Has everyone found a second rotation? Is anyone going to fast-track into their current lab?
* There will not be a small mentoring group next week (9/27). We will have rotation practice talk at the next meeting (10/4). Please come prepared with your presentations. The meeting will go from 11AM-1PM.

Stay Calm and don't feel discouraged

* You're learning new techniques and things will NOT ALWAYS WORK.
* Dealing with these issues helps define you as a graduate student.
* If you get stuck, ASK FOR HELP.
* Optimization of a particular technique is a worthy end itself, and may take many repetitions.
* Ask for relevant literature toward your project & the field.
* Look through your professor’s publication record. This is a good way to determine whether the lab is a good fit for you (if you don’t like your lab’s papers, you won’t like writing them).
* You can start writing the introduction of your rotation report as soon as you start reading.

Rotation Report:

* The rotation report can greatly assist in preparing your presentation (start early!)
* If you stay organized, it can come together easily. Reading literature will guide how to format your paper & the methods section can be written as you learn the techniques.
* Forget about grades (pass/fail.) The report allows potential mentors to evaluate your critical thinking and writing.
* Make sure you cite sources. Your report will be run through a citation checker after
* Most mentors are aware that you have obligations outside of the rotations. Throughout grad school you are expected to move your projects forward independently. Do not abuse this freedom, strengthen it instead.