Spring 2002

Bio 366: Biological Chemistry II

Tu/Th 9:45-11:05 am, ES 242

Guidelines for Term Paper

1. Students will work in groups of two or three to co-author the term paper. The topic of the paper will be agreed upon by the whole group, and approved by Dr. Stewart. Each student in the group should hand in a **signed** copy of the "Suggested Paper Topics" form to assure that everyone agrees to the group composition and topic (date given later). Everyone in the group is expected to contribute at all stages of the project. The group will hand in only one copy of the finished paper. Thus, everyone in the group will very likely get the same grade for the paper; the exception would be if someone in the group "drops out" of the project or class, literally or figuratively.

2. The paper should be a short, critical presentation of what you think are the most important scientific advances on your chosen topic within the last one or two years. It should not be an exhaustive review of everything known about the chosen topic. To do this project well you will have to read many original scientific journal articles on your chosen topic and decide which results are new and "hot"—and which are not. You will need to give enough background information for the new material to have proper context, but your paper should *not* just be a summary of older "textbook" information. The group will have to get together several times to read and discuss articles. In addition, you are free to discuss your topic with anyone you think may help.

3. On **7 March 2002**, each group should hand in a photocopy of the first page from about 10 relevant journal articles (including the abstract or summary, if available), plus the paper topic cover sheet with each group member's name and signature. (These should be PDFs or photocopies of the actual journal article, not an "online" abstract from a search engine.) I will illustrate (during class) how to search the internet for references to the primary biochemical literature; I will also be happy to help you during office hours.

4. As discussed in class, the paper should be in the format of a *Current Biology* (catalog number: Per QH 301 C85) 'dispatch' or a *Trends in Biochemical Sciences* (catalog number: Per QH 345 T73X) review article, complete with properly done references, figures, and explanatory figure legends. The paper should be typed double-spaced with 1 inch margins. The paper should be only about 4 to 6 pages of double-spaced text, plus the references, figures, and figure legends (an amount which would fill about 2 to 3 pages of a journal). You should use a maximum of about 25 references (and a minimum of about 10), so choose them wisely. Figures should be chosen to illustrate key concepts and new results. You may draw your own figures or copy ones from other articles, so long as you give proper credit as to the source. The figures and figure legends should be on separate pages attached at the end of the article after the references. See the "Instructions to Authors" of your chosen journal for details in manuscript preparation.

5. **The final paper is due on 18 April 2002 at the start of class.** Late papers will be dropped 1/2 a letter grade per class period (*e.g.*, from an A to an A- if handed in the next class, A- to B+ if handed in the next class, etc.) to a maximum loss of two letter grades (*e.g.*, from an A to a C). Of course, if you do not hand in a paper, you will get an E.

6. During the last three class sessions this semester, one member from each group will present a 15 minute presentation to the class (plus 5 minutes of discussion) about your findings — that is, what's new and "hot" about your chosen topic. Further information about this presentation will be given during class later in the semester.