

## Current Topics in Microbiology: Small Group Discussions (2011)

The objective of the Medical Microbiology & Infectious Disease course is to give you a foundation upon which you can build your future knowledge of infectious diseases. Many viral and bacterial infections are prominent issues in the public media as topics of social, ethical or moral concern. As physicians, your opinion and advice will be sought as an authoritative source on these issues.

This exercise provides you with the opportunity to examine multiple facets of three current topics in medical microbiology through readings and by applying your growing knowledge of infectious diseases. Each student should gain a better understanding of the infectious agents involved with their assigned topic, and become aware of potential public concerns associated with these issues. The goal of these small group discussions is to examine the technical, clinical and social hurdles surrounding these three topics in infectious disease in more detail than could be accomplished in a large lecture format.

### Instructions:

1. The class has been divided into ten groups of approximately 12 students. Four students in each group will be responsible for researching and presenting each topic. See the attached list of students for your specific assignment to a group. **Each group of 12 students should schedule an initial meeting to assign four people to each of the three topics. It is then the responsibility of all four students assigned to a specific topic to meet at least twice to organize their presentations.** Starter references are listed for each of the topics (see attached). Each group of four students will be responsible for finding additional references by working in the library, searching PubMed, etc.

2. Each group of four students will hold an initial meeting and decide on a group coordinator and the assignments for each student. Subtopics for further individual research should be discussed and assigned by the coordinator for each member of the group, and responsibility for presenting adequate background information should be assigned as well. The group can divide the organization of the presentation as they see fit. A possible strategy for the presentations is for one person to introduce the topic, 2 students presenting the detailed information, and the fourth student presenting a summary and “future directions”.

3. The group coordinator will arrange for one additional meeting prior to the scheduled presentation date. Each student will briefly review his/her findings concerning their assigned subtopic. At this time, the group will agree upon the most appropriate material to be included in their presentation to the class.

4. The group presentation should include an introductory overview of the topic (5-10 minutes), an in-depth presentation of the topic (20 minutes) and a summary/analysis/future directions (10 minutes). Questions and discussions by the whole group should be encouraged throughout the presentation. ***Note: Some rooms are not equipped for Powerpoint presentations, so plan accordingly.***

5. Each group is responsible for submitting a complete list of the references used in their presentation to the faculty discussion group leader. The Virology exam will include questions that will be taken from the material covered in the three virology topics. While it is expected that each individual group may discuss different aspects of a topic, ***the exam questions will be drawn from key basic concepts that each group will discuss. These exam subtopics are listed on the attached sheet entitled “Review Points”. It is the responsibility of each group to ensure that these points are covered.***