

COURSE REPORT for VT24 2023-06-17

1. Course:

FMF0068, Advanced Cancer Biology, 3 credits, PhD course

2. Term and year:

VT 2024

3. Course coordinators:

Laia Caja Puigsubira, IMBIM

4. Number of students:

Registered: 19

5. Response Rate

12/19 =63%

7. Summary of students' views and suggestions

Suggestion: summarise the most important from course evaluation

A. Strong sides

- The students were very satisfied with the course in general (average=4,5 on a scale from 1=very bad to 5=very good). More importantly, they feel that the course has contributed to gaining new knowledge (average 4.3 on a scale from 1=very bad, to 5=to very good). When asked what was particularly good about the course, they named:
 - ” variety of subjects ”
 - ” I think it was a great course overall, thank you! I liked that you invited so many different interesting lecturers and have them talk about a general topic but also their own research a bit. I also think having pure cancer biology lectures mixed with some more non-traditional ones like u-print and cancerfonden was an interesting mix.”
 - ” Very general, good overview. Good reminder of aspects of cancer I don’t work with at the moment, but are still important to consider. .”
 - ” Variety of the topics covering the technical matters like 3D models and in vivo studies, but also a lot of theory ”
- All lecturers received very high points on the overall quality of their lectures, between 3,5 to 4,9, on a scale from 1=very bad to 5=to very good. The clarity of the course material for each lecture was also highly valued with 3,2 to 4,8 points depending on the lecture, on a scale from 1=very bad to 5=to a very good.
- The different subjects discussed in the lectures were considered highly relevant with lectures receiving between 4 and 4,9 points on a on a scale from 1=very bad to 5=to a very good.
- Students thought the articles chosen for the Journal Club were of good quality (4,2), relevant to the course (4,5) and the group discussion was of high quality (4,5), on a scale from 1=very bad to 5=to a very good. The students commeted:

- “journal club 1 some of the papers (e.g. p63 paper) was very complex and difficult to understand, as they did so many different experiments.If you dont work with similar things it is hard to follow.
The journal clubs themselves were great. The format was good and helped a lot with the understanding of the material “
- “This was the best. I learned a lot in this modul.”

B. Weak sides

- The students mentioned that the Journal Clubs were very good, but 2 of the 4 papers chosen were quite difficult.
- One student mentioned that they would have like a more general introduction to clinical research, on pathology and how is it used in the clinic, as well as a lecture on tumorigenesis and driver mutations.
- One student mentioned that the course is very intense and packed, which meant that the lecturers wanted to tell them much more and it would be nice to have more time; but that they also mention that the days were already full with lectures or journal club.
- One student would like to have longer breaks between lectures; right now, there was mostly 5 minutes breaks only.

8. Teachers responsible suggestions for improvement

Suggestion: shortly summarise planned improvements (short- and long-term) and motivate if improvements will not be made on a certain aspect.

Overall, the course has received a very good evaluation. For next year, I will consider to add some of the topics the students mentioned. I will talk to the teachers whose lectures received a lower point to improve it. Moreover, new articles will be chosen for the journal club, choosing articles less complicated and one of them focus on the clinical research.

10. Signature of course responsible teacher and student representative

Laia Caja Puigsubira, IMBIM, Course leader