

Welcome letter - course in Pharmaceutical Protein Drug Development (HT2021)

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this course in Pharmaceutical Protein Drug Development (Biologics II).

The aim of this course is to further your understandings of pre-clinical (non-clinical) and clinical biological drug development. Over the course of five weeks, you will develop your understandings of what is needed to take a candidate protein target and develop it into a safe, ethical and functional biological therapeutic that can be used in humans. You will be provided with the unique opportunity to re-visit a biological drug candidate you have designed in the course Biological Drugs and design pre-clinical experiments that will lead to possible phase I clinical trials. Through the use of lectures, theoretical labs and case studies, the teachers and course supervisors will be on hand to guide you on your journey into the field of pharmaceutical protein drug development.

Online Teaching

Due to the uncertainty surrounding the current Covid-19 situation, the course will be fully online this year. We will provide zoom links and course materials via Studium (<https://login.studium.uu.se>). When attending mandatory teaching occasions via zoom you need to be logged in via your AKKA id and use your full names (<https://akka.uadm.uu.se/?languageId=1>). We also require you to turn on your cameras and microphones during all the zoom meetings, so as to make all teaching occasions as interactive as possible. For the mandatory roll call and information on Monday 30 August at 9:15 please join via this link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/67778662332>. Note you will need to be logged in via your AKKA-id.

Theoretical labs

There are three mandatory theoretical labs during the course. The duration of each of the first two labs is two days, with the subject matter revolving around the use of FACS, ELISA and Mass Spectrometry in relation to protein drug development. The third theoretical lab lasts for two and half weeks, piecing together the understandings developed in the first two theoretical labs, along with the results from a theoretical lab previously completed during the Biologics I course (Autumn 2020), to help you design pre-clinical drug development experiments to ascertain whether a biologic drug candidate can pass onto Phase I clinical trials. During the third theoretical lab, time will be allocated within your schedule for constant feedback from the teachers responsible for the lab, so that you have all the supervision necessary to complete this mandatory course task. Theoretical Lab 3 will be officially assessed, with a passing grade needed in order to pass the entire course.

Case Studies

We will also work with two case study seminars. Case study seminars require an active participation through reading, and subsequent reflection, on the material you have been assigned. The two case studies will be connected to the pre-clinical testing of biological therapeutics. These sessions are mandatory.

Exam

The graded assessment will be a home exam and will focus on your ability to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the different aspects of the course. If you have actively participated during the lectures, theoretical labs and case studies, you will have all the relevant tools and information necessary to pass the exam. The graded assessment will be split into two timed exams, with one exam being in a multiple-choice question/short answer format and the other being in an essay style format. A grade of G (Godkänn/Pass) in both exams, along with a passing grade G for theoretical lab 3, is the minimum requirement to achieve a passing grade

G for the entire course. A passing grade of VG (Väl Godkänn/Pass with distinction) can be awarded, based predominantly on the performance of the student in the two exams. The questions on the two exams will be derived through consultation with the invited lecturers, the theoretical lab supervisors and the case study supervisors.

This is the first time we will run this course. We strive to continually improve the course syllabus, so we can provide the best possible learning experience for the students in the future. Inevitably there will be some things that need changing or improving. We welcome critique from you the students, as you are best-placed to advise us on how we can improve upon the course for the future, when it is run again. So please speak up during the course, or at the end of the course, if there are things you think we can do to improve the current set-up.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you on the 30th of August.

Best regards,

Jamie

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