

**University College Maastricht**

**Bespoke Science Project  
PRO3011**

**2017 – 2018**

**Period 3**



## General information

### Course Coordinators

Dr. Matt Baker (m.baker@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Assistant Professor, Department of Complex Tissue Regeneration

Dr. Vanessa LaPointe (v.lapointe@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Assistant Professor, Department of Complex Tissue Regeneration

### Host Institute

MERLN Institute for Technology-Inspired Regenerative Medicine

Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences

Office: Universiteitssingel 40, room 3.577

Lab: Universiteitssingel 50, room 5.213

### Communication

Please check your UM email regularly for communication related to this course.

### Schedule

PRO3001 lasts four weeks. You are expected to be available from 08.30-18.00 Monday-Friday. Scientific experiments don't typically cooperate with strict scheduling, so just like our PhD students, you will be expected to be flexible — this means some short days and some long days. The schedule for the four weeks will change depending on the speed of your progress, but generally expect something like:

	Milestones	Assessment
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Jan 09 – Jan 13</b>	- Make experimental plan - Complete lab induction and safety training	- Research plan
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Jan 16 – Jan 20</b>	- Complete Milestone 1 (to be determined)	- Laboratory skills (evaluated throughout)
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Jan 23 – Jan 27</b>	- Complete Milestone 2 (to be determined)	- Laboratory skills (evaluated throughout)
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Jan 30 – Feb 03</b>	- Complete Milestone 3 (to be determined) - Finalize results for poster	- Laboratory skills (evaluated throughout) - Poster and presentation

## Assessment

The assessment of PRO3001 is based on the types of things junior scientists get evaluated on all the time – that is, planning research, performing experiments, and presenting results.

Your final grade is based on:

- |                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| - Experimental plan               | 10% |
| - Laboratory skills and behaviour | 30% |
| - Poster and poster presentation  | 60% |

### Experimental plan

Your supervisors will help you define the broad strokes of an interesting project, but it is up to you to determine the details. In your first week, you will focus on a literature review, planning a timeline for your experiments, and preparing the protocols. As a group, you will write all of this up so your supervisors can give you feedback. A good plan will pay off in the coming weeks.

### Laboratory skills and behaviour

You will be given a score based on your technical skills and behaviour in the laboratory (and office) environment. It's not that you cannot make a mistake – that's a normal part of learning. But you should arrive prepared, work precisely and diligently, participate actively in discussions, and act as a professional member of the institute you're joining. Some feedback on how you're doing on this part will be given mid-way so you have time for improvement.

### Poster and poster presentation

Posters are probably the most common format for PhD students to present their work externally. Making an attractive and informative poster is a real skill and something you will do as a group. See the next page for some guidance on how to get a good grade. Each of you will also be asked (independently) to give a 10 minute presentation of your poster.

### Policy on resit

From your handbook, in order to be eligible for a resit exam, a student must have:

- Met the attendance requirement of the course or be allowed to make up for it by means of an additional assignment and
- Made a fair attempt to fulfil all requirements of the assessment. The Course Coordinator evaluates whether an attempt can indeed be considered "fair" and decides on the form and content of the resit.

**Grading of the poster**

	Excellent (9-10)	Good (7-8)	Sufficient (5.5-6)	Insufficient (<5.5)
Appearance and layout (20%)	Perfect layout; no mistakes; poster almost explains itself; perfect ratio of text:figures; all figures are high quality; many creative elements	Logical layout; pleasant to look at and read; some minor improvements possible; the storyline is present but not obvious; good ratio of text:figures; creative elements apparent	Reasonable layout; some obvious mistakes; doubts on text:figure ratio; storyline is not clear; not attractive; some low quality figures; some creativity	Unattractive; no or incorrect storyline; chaotic layout; weird text:figure ratio; unclear storyline; unreadable or unclear figures; no creativity; distracting elements
Scientific content (50%)	Exceptional scientific detail from introduction through to conclusions; demonstrates thorough analysis (including statistics) and understanding; all important information present; figures and legends support content; experts and non-experts can gain something	Deep scientific detail; demonstrates understanding; figures support understanding but could be more clear; some details irrelevant or missing	Relevant content; some missing details or figures; unclear aspects; incorrect analysis	Too little content; no detailed information; figures do not support the content; poor scientific content
Presentation (30%)	Clear and crisp presentation; enough detail to understand but not too much; extra information draws in non-expert; full knowledge of topic to answer questions; no filler	To the point presentation; some missing details or focus on less important points; no extra examples to explain topic; good reply to questions, but some missing knowledge	Acceptable presentation; some explanation but several details missing; figures not used properly; not confident; not appealing to non-experts; too much filler; unable to answer some questions	Presentation does not add to the poster; no detailed explanation, only repetition of the content; not understandable for non-expert; no use of figures; only filler; no answer to questions