**Feedback from Report 1**

**Based on the work submitted for report 1, I have put together some general feedback and guidance that I hope you will find useful while writing the second report.**

**Report Structure**

Try to organise the results and topics into a narrative. The best reports have a logical and well-balanced structure. The second report topic has more in common with a scientific essay or review paper than a research paper so you do not need to follow the IMRAD (Introduction, Method, Results and Discussion) structure.

*LINKS:*

*A Guide To Scientific Essay Writing*

<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/school-of-psychology/teachingdocs/currentstudents/A_Guide_To_Writing_Scientific_Essays.pdf>

*Ten Simple Rules for Writing a Literature Review*

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3715443/>

**Use a scientific writing style**

Try to ensure your report is easy to read. Be concise and avoid overly long sentences.

When making a statement ensure you have evidence to back it up (e.g. in figures) or can provide a suitable reference.

When detailing results be precise and ensure your statements are fully correct: e.g. “the level falls to zero” vs “the level falls *close to* zero”

Where appropriate use quantitative statements but avoid inappropriate levels of significant figures. If possible use quantities and figures that the reader can easily relate to e.g. replace “the model predicted fI = 0.0004543” with “the model predicts that there would be a steady state of 120,000 infectious cases”.

Avoid sweeping or subjective statements e.g. expand on statements such as “the model is in good agreement” by detailing how and why it can be judged to be in good agreement.

Do not overstate your results. Your work probably “supports a hypothesis” rather than “proving” it.

*LINKS:*

*Scientific Writing*

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/sciences/>

*10 Characteristics of Scientific Writing:*

<https://library.leeds.ac.uk/downloads/file/306/10_characteristics_of_scientific_writing>

**Develop your understanding**

Take some time to develop your understanding of the background to the model sand use the report to show off your knowledge and insights backing up statements and arguments with suitable references. When researching you may find a range of useful resources (e.g. Wikipedia, presentations) that help, but should then find the associated papers for inclusion as references in your report.

**Using Figures**

Ensure that the figures you present are well presented (labels, descriptions, scales, size) so that all the important trends are visible. In the reports for this module you should feel free to include figure enlargements, or split figures into sub plots if (e.g. on an overlay plot) one or more of the trends cannot be seen on the scale used.

If you are describing results you have collected include the relevant plots – these reports are not for publication and it is important to show all evidence you collected to back up your discussion (you can include plots in an appendix if necessary).

**Discussing the models and results**

You should aim to demonstrate your understanding of the modelling work, its context and the relevance of the results.

In general often not enough time was spent digesting what could be learned from the simulations along with a critical evaluation of its uses and limitations.

**Be curious and discuss how to extend the suggested work**

One of the aims of the course is to encourage you to develop your research skills, so that you working through tasks with an active mind developing new insights, coming up with your own ideas on how to explore and extend the work.

The report is a good place to set down your ideas on what could be done and why it may be of use and how it might be approached. In some cases you may even be able to demonstrate some initial work, especially if it is a simple extension of work already carried out.