Nowick Research Group Meetings
Tuesdays, 3:00 pm 4112 NS1
Fall 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| September 2 | Current Awareness |
| September 9 | Adam |
| September 16 | Group Meeting Cancelled |
| September 23 | Jason |
| September 30 | Jackson |
| October 7 | Current Awareness |
| October 14 | Sophie |
| October 21 | Guest Seminar: Dr. Mike Wolfe |
| October 28 | Carolina |
| November 4 | Current Awareness |
| November 11 | Harry |
| November 18 | Jovanna |
| November 25 | Jocelin Martinez |
| December 2 | Current Awareness |
| December 9 | Undergraduate Research Presentations |
| December 16 | Group Meeting Cancelled |
| December 23 | Group Meeting Cancelled |
| December 30 | Group Meeting Cancelled |

Research Talk: Present the latest results of your research. This talk is supposed to describe work in progress and not be a finished set of results ready for publication or presentation at an ACS meeting. You should probably present a few slides of background or prior results, but the main part should focus on current results. Discuss the problems that you encounter and present "raw" data (e.g., spectra, HPLC traces, etc.) where there are questions and issues that you are uncertain about. Low yields and unanticipated side products of reactions are ideal topics for intelligent discussion, as are unanticipated for behaviors of products and confusing or ambiguous studies. **Please e-mail me (JSN) with an electronic copy of your presentation before group meeting both for my files and so that I can follow along on my computer during the talk.**

A note on format: Your drawings and diagrams do not have to be perfect and beautiful for a group meeting, but it's good to make them reasonably nice, so they can be used for your thesis or orals, papers, ACS talks, etc. without too much additional work. Here are some guidelines. Use the ACS document 1996 settings in Chemdraw and save the Chemdraw files separately. Size them in PowerPoint, Illustrator, Word, etc. to make your slides. Ideally, you should size them at about 150% in your slides, but even 140% or 120% is better than 100%, which is marginally OK for group meeting but too small for an ACS meeting. Certainly try to avoid scaling to less than 100%, unless your molecules are huge and it cannot be avoided. Try to have no more than three lines of structures on a synthesis slide. In making your slides, try to embed EPS versions of NMR spectra, HPLC traces, mass spectra, etc. Alternatively, use or high-resolution (e.g. 300 dpi) bitmap scans. Try to avoid low-resolution (e.g. 72 dpi) and jpg versions of this sort of "line art", as the resolution will be terrible when printing.

Current Awareness Literature Group Meeting: Scan the tables of contents of your assigned journals and JACS; read and bring to the attention of the group important articles. *Make sure to be able to talk intelligently about these articles to an extent that involves more than having just read the title.* Although you are not expected to give a detailed presentation on the article, **you should be able to say (1) who is the primary author and what is his or her institution (2) what the authors have found, (3) why it is important, and (4) how it related to the group.** Feel free to scan other journals and to request being assigned to open journals.

Mechanism and Synthesis Workshop: Workshop to provide continuing education on mechanistic and synthetic organic chemistry. **The organizer is expected to help keep the meeting running at the highest intellectual caliber, which means being in a position of being able to teach and explain mechanisms, reagents, stereochemical course of reaction, etc.** The workshop is not to be a re-hash of materials presented in Chem 201, 202, 204, or 205, but rather something that can complement and build upon expertise at that level.

Nowick Group Journal Club: Journal club provides a forum for the lab to keep up-to-date on new developments in chemistry and biology, and to participate in an in-depth discussion of a recent article. In contrast to the monthly literature meeting and mechanism and synthesis workshop, journal club is meant for in-depth discussion of a single article, and is not focused on drawing arrow-pushing mechanisms. The presenter is responsible for selecting an interesting and well-written article that is of broad interest to the group. The article does not have to be from fields that are congruent with what we study in the lab, but it’s ok if it is. The group is responsible for reading the article and understanding the figures well enough to discuss them during the presentation. If you don’t understand something in the article ask a question!

Preparing for journal club

Select a recent article (≤ 3 years old). I suggest focusing on more impactful journals such as Science, Nature, JACS, PNAS, Cell, etc. Email the article to the group at least three days before the journal club.

Prepare a presentation of the article. You are tasked with understanding the article to the point where you can explain every figure to the group. The presentation should include:

Introduction and background: Provide the necessary information and context for a thoughtful and critical evaluation of the article's significance. Describe the rationale for the study question and highlight any previous research that led to the current study.

Methodology and results: Describe and critique each experiment in each figure. Present the experimental design, positive and negative controls, and the methodology and techniques used in the experiment. Describe the results of each experiment, and put the results into context with the authors study question. Highlight any notably creative approaches in the authors' experimental design, as well as anything you think the authors could have done better. If the paper is a crystallography paper, highlight the merits of the structure.

Discussion: Present the authors' conclusions and their perspective of the results. Include your own conclusions and perspective as well.