Each Wednesday (starting week 3, but excluding weeks when written assignments are due), there will be a ~ 20-30 min student-led discussion of a published paper. Papers will be selected (with class input) a week in advance. Everyone should read the assigned paper before the class. The main points of the paper will be presented by a team of students in a ~ 10 min oral presentation, to be followed by a ~ 10-20 min class debate. Each student will help to lead one such presentation during the course, and all students will be involved in the weekly class debates.

We will email individual feedback on the presentations to the presenters within a few days of each presentation, (although the presentations will be graded only after all 5 have been done).

Below are some ideas about the sorts of things we are looking for in a presentation. Please chip in with things you'd like to see too! The goal here is that we all improve our understanding of the science, our ability to present it to others, and our skill at discussing results and ideas.

What we're looking for:

1) **Science content**
   - accurate presentation of the material of the paper.
   - a brief understanding of how it fits into the bigger picture.

2) **Comprehension**
   - do you understand the main results and mechanisms that are discussed (not necessarily all the small details, but certainly the _message_ of the paper) enough to explain it to others, and possibly to apply it outside the topic of the paper?

3) **Informative (inspiring?) presentation**
   - clear, easy-to-comprehend slides and verbal presentation.
   (Many standard recommendations here
   - talk to the audience, not the screen,
   - try and show your interest in the work,
   - ask yourself if this is a presentation you would like to sit through!)

4) **Guiding the discussion**
   - the balance between just telling information, and getting others input on it too; keeping a discussion under control.
   Some topics that might help start a debate:
   - what was good/bad about the paper?
   - do others have a different take on the main point?
   - are there things you don't understand that others might be able to shed light on?

**Timing:** The presentation should be prepared so that without interruption it would be 10 minutes long. As we are doing this as a discussion form, discussions during the presentation are good, and will slow down the presentation. That's ok (good in fact - better than everyone sitting there quietly!) It is part of your job as discussion leaders to allow an appropriate amount of time for the discussion, and keep it under control. An overall target time for the presentation and discussion is 30 minutes.