



## Seminar in Interdisciplinary Biological & Biomedical Science (SiBBs)

BIO 503/CS 591

Spring 2015

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### General Information

#### Instructors:

Dr. Felisa A. Smith, Professor, Biology ([fasmith@unm.edu](mailto:fasmith@unm.edu))

Dr. Melanie Moses, Associate Professor, Computer Science ([melanie.moses@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.moses@gmail.com))

Office Hours: by arrangement

**Course Description.** Solving fundamental problems in biology and biomedical sciences requires the input of new ideas, methodologies, and investigative strategies from other disciplines, in particular the physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics. Yet few biologists are equipped to do this. This course provides the opportunity in a small group setting to meet with and hear from a series of highly interdisciplinary scientists doing cutting-edge biological research. Students are expected to take a leadership role in suggesting, hosting and interacting with visiting scientists. Note that SiBBs is one in a series of courses sponsored by the *Program in Interdisciplinary Biological and Biomedical Sciences* (PiBBs); courses are open to any interested graduate student. Because content varies each semester, the course can be repeated for credit.

**Student role.** Students are expected to host one or more scientists during their visits. This consists of: a) extending the initial invitation, b) obtaining and posting one or more papers suggested by the speaker, c) arranging dates and working with our program manager to get travel scheduled, d) setting up meetings with students and faculty, e) hosting the visitor at one or more meals, f) introducing the speaker at the seminar, g) guiding discussion during the talk, and f) sending a thank you note after the visit. Please note that although expenses related to the visit are paid for by SiBBs, students must adhere to guidelines for meals and other expenses, particularly with respect to alcohol. These guidelines and examples of letters/schedules can be found on the both the LEARN and PiBBs websites (<http://biology.unm.edu/pibbs/index.shtml>).

**Grading.** In addition to hosting a speaker, students are expected to meet with most speakers, read the posted papers pertaining to the week's topic and to actively participate in class discussions. Grades will be based entirely on participation in these activities.