This assignment is due as an emailed Word document by 5 PM on Monday, 10/22. Please note, this assignment will be worth 15 pts (compared to 5 for a normal problem set).

It is critical that research scientists engage in projects that are novel, important, and feasible. The primary (peer-reviewed research papers) and secondary (reviews of recent papers on a given topic) literature can inform each of these criteria. As such, understanding how to access the literature is a critical skill to accompany the general knowledge and laboratory methods taught in this course.

As essential as it is to read and understand the literature, it is equally important to recognize that just because a paper is published, does not mean it describes high quality research or results that are germane to your research endeavors. There are many factors that contribute to the importance of a published paper. These include, but are not limited to (in no particular order):

1. How directly the paper’s experiments relate to your research.
2. How recently the paper is published.
3. How often others have cited the paper.
4. The reputation of the author(s) and the journal in which the paper is published.

None of these criteria are absolute. A very recent paper could still reflect poor science. An old paper could represent a critical and oft-cited precedent. A paper from a journal you’ve never heard of could still report a critical result. Etcetera etcetera…

Your assignment is to create an annotated bibliography using references you find via Scopus, an online bibliographic database used extensively by scientists. You must identify 8-10 references that would represent a logical set of reading material for one who might engage in a research project on your assigned topic. Accompanying each reference should be a brief description (2-3 sentences) of the paper’s content and importance to the field.

1. Watch the Scopus tutorial video posted on the website.

2. Use Scopus to find 8-10 good references on the topic outlined on the website. For this assignment, you can feel free to limit your reading to titles and abstracts. References must be given using the formatting associated with the Journal of Biological Chemistry (see website for more information).

3. As you’re gathering your sources, write annotations each reference with a description of the content of the paper and an explanation of why you selected it. These annotations should be between 2-3 sentences each.

You will be evaluated on:

1. The extent in which you are able to complete the assignment as described.
2. The quality of your selected references (including a diversity of sources, years of publication, and author affiliations).
3. The extent to which you’re able to use your brief annotations to explain how you chose the selected references.