Assignment Three (20 November 2014) **Due 5 December 2014 by 4:30 PM at FS229**

ASSIGNMENT THREE: Writing about transporters for the science-savvy public

The basic objective is to give you an opportunity to communicate science to a reader who is not as knowledgeable as you. From my (pedagogical) viewpoint, this is a way to give you an opportunity to make science accessible to someone whose background is not science.

Describe some new or topical transporter, explaining what it is and what its impact could be. A helpful source for topical transporters is TIBS (Trends in Biochemical Sciences). A search using 'ion channel' or something similar (ABC transporter, ATPase, even zinc are just a few possibilities) should generate some interesting possibilities in the top hits.

Your target audience is the science-savvy public. For example: a grade 12 student or a first year science student. Not only will you need to explain the transporter, but convey why they should be interested in it.

Don't spend a lot of time reviewing basic membrane transport, just assume that the reader has some general knowledge about the 'basic equations and processes'. That way, you can delve into your topic with minimal introduction.

Take Note: Do not summarize a TIBS (or other scientific) paper! Translate it so that it is simple enough to be understood by the science-savvy public.

The rubric is, by the very nature of the assignment, fairly general:

Summary of the Rubric

Mastery of the topic.
(How well you understand the topic you are explaining.) _____/10

Ability to explain the material effectively.
(That is, logical flow and clarity.) _____/10

Grammatical skill and writing style.
(To account for the *craft* of writing, something that improves with experience. It includes your ability to capture the interest of your reader) _____/10

It is a bit hard for me to 'metric' on length and format of the assignment. I think 4 to 8 pages (double spaced) should be reasonable. Bear in mind that I prefer hand-written. I like diagrams as a way to explain things, and diagrams are easier to dovetail into a handwritten assignment. Plus, I think hand-written encourages you to use your own voice, your explanation (rather than mimicking something written by someone else). I don't expect to see more than 1–2 substantive references to the scientific literature.