Manuscript Sections/Descriptions

Presented by Timothy Megraw, Ph.D.
Course: Special Topics in Biomedical Sciences “Tools of the Trade”
Session: Publishing your research (8-4-17)

- **Title**: should be concise clear description of major findings.
- **Abstract**: Always limited (eg 200 or 250 words). State the problem and the key findings.
- **Introduction**: Give the background, significance and premise for the work to be presented. Usually last paragraph is segue into your results, and sometimes describes the major findings in just one or two sentences.
- **Results**: Present in a clear logical order the results and describe in the order that they are demonstrated in the figures. Data should strongly support the conclusions which will be elaborated in the Discussion section.
- **Discussion**: Start by summarizing the main findings. Interpret the results, their novel aspects, and place into a broader context. Some speculation about implications of the findings are appropriate, but do not go overboard. A model is great to show here, but it should be fairly well supported and not too much on the speculative side.
- **Materials and Methods**: These should be detailed. Sufficient information for others to repeat your experiments. Include identifiers or catalog numbers on materials. Describe statistical methods used.
- **Acknowledgements**: Dedications, contributions of others, funding sources.
- **References**: Usually primary journal articles and review articles. Book chapters, and methods papers common too. Must be published or in press, or, more recently a preprint from a source such as BioRxiv. USE ENDNOTE or other reference manager.
- **Figure legends**: Start with title of figure. Describe each panel very concisely, including what arrows mean, length of scale bars, and meaning of error bars. Sometimes error measures and p values reported here.