

Activity 1: Botulinum Toxin Use and Abuse

Assignment 1: Personal Reflection

Scientific discoveries are made when scientists ask questions, seek answers, and establish collaborations with other scientists and even non-scientists. Science is also often an incremental process that involves interplay among individuals from such diverse fields as law, business, society and medicine in addition to basic science. This activity hopes to spark your interest in scientific inquiry by exploring the vast diversity of contexts in which scientific questions arise.

Instructions

1. Read the essay "**Botulinum toxin: Lethal weapon or magic bullet?**" by **Katayoun Chamany**. The essay traces the course of our understanding and use of the toxin and the direction of ongoing scientific research, both public and private. The essay contains few details and is missing much vital information.
2. Take a few minutes to reflect on the essay. Write down any questions or comments that you have about this passage. Consider specifically the following questions:
 - Which characteristics of the toxin interest you the most?
 - Which societal implications do you find most promising? Which do you find most disturbing?
 - What aspect of the biology do you find puzzling?
 - What do you most want to learn about this toxin?
3. Your instructor may ask you to share your thoughts in class or ask you to submit written answers for review.