

BIOMEDICAL GRADUATE STUDIES



FALL 2013
NEWSLETTER

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Dear BGS students, alumni, faculty and staff,

Fall is officially here and the new academic year is off to a great start. This is always an exciting time of year for BGS faculty, staff and current students, when we are introduced to the newest members of our programs.

We have eighty-nine new PhD students plus twenty-three Combined Degree students entering their first graduate year engaged in our Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics, Cell & Molecular Biology, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, Genomics & Computational Biology, Immunology, Neuroscience and Pharmacology PhD programs this fall. Our new students were formally welcomed to campus a bit earlier this year, on August 26 and 27 ([click here for convocation photos](#)), and are now safely ensconced in their new labs and classrooms. We hope you will join us in welcoming these new students as they begin this exciting new chapter in their scientific careers.



Featured Convocation Speaker John A. Dani, PhD, the new Professor and Chair of the Department of Neuroscience and Director of the Mahoney Institute of Neuroscience, addresses the new class of BGS students.

In this issue, we highlight incoming students from each of our graduate groups - their backgrounds, interests and motivations for pursuing graduate studies at BGS. We also feature recent awards by current students, alumni and faculty.

Our New Class - At a Glance

- 28th Class of BGS Students
- 63 Different Colleges and Universities
- 64% Female, 36% Male
- 10% Under-Represented
- 13% International
- 7 Different Countries: Canada, China, Costa Rica, Germany, India, Singapore, U.S.



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BGS is proud to welcome over eighty exceptional students to the program this fall. As a special feature for this issue of our newsletter, we have asked some of these students to share their past research projects, current interests, hobbies, and why they chose the BGS program at Penn.

Enrique Lin Shiao - Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics



Image credit: Enrique Lin Shiao

Enrique Lin Shiao, from Costa Rica, joins the Penn family fulfilling a life-long goal of living and studying in USA. He earned a Bachelor's in Engineering Physics and a Master's in Biophysics at the Technical University of Munich. As a bachelor student, Enrique worked at the Dietz Lab for Biomolecular Nanotechnology in Munich, studying the folding mechanisms of multilayer DNA origami structures in real-time. While completing his master's, he spent a year as an ERASMUS work placement student at the Ciulli Research group in the University of Cambridge and the University of Dundee. There he explored a new approach for BET bromodomain function elucidation, in the field of epigenetics and drug discovery.

Enrique chose the BMB program at Penn because of the program's commitment to interdisciplinary training, the quality of the research and faculty, as well as the state of the art facilities. Enrique feels that the BMB program not only fits his interests but also complements his previous education and research experience perfectly. In his spare time, Enrique enjoys traveling, practicing sports, cooking and meeting up with friends.

Lior Rennert - Biostatistics

Lior Rennert joins BGS after earning a Bachelor's in Mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University and a Master's in Statistics at the University of Chicago. Prior to joining BGS, Lior worked for two years as a statistician for the Department of Psychiatry-Addictions here at Penn. During this time, he worked on many longitudinal studies, estimating treatment effects and exploring casual relationships between socioeconomic factors and drug usage, in addition to taking courses in the Biostatistics department.

His time at Penn left an impression. Lior decided to apply after becoming familiar with the professors and the doctoral program through his coursework. As a student in BGS, Lior intends to take advantage of the diverse collection of faculty and research interests, which he hopes will provide him with the opportunity to develop and apply a wide range of statistical methods. An avid athlete, Lior enjoys playing basketball, running, watching Philadelphia sports, and just being out in Philadelphia.



Image credit: Lior Rennert

Julianne Rieders - Cell & Molecular Biology (GTV)



Image credit: Julianne Rieders

Julianne Rieders earned a Bachelor's in Biology at Bryn Mawr College and a Master's in Systems and Synthetic Biology from Université Paris Descartes in France. There she focused on interdisciplinary research in quantitative biology, and joined the Paris Bettencourt team to participate in the International Genetically Engineered Machine competition (iGEM) founded by MIT. Her team developed novel containment systems to expand the range of environments where genetically engineered organisms can be used safely and came in third place out of 174 teams and first in the environmental track.

Growing up just outside of Philadelphia and attending college nearby, Julianne was well aware of the many scientific and medical breakthroughs emerging from Penn. With a long-term ambition to join the Gene Therapy and Vaccines program, Julianne finished her master's with an internship in Dr. Kathy High's lab in the Hematology Department of CHOP. There she worked on rational engineering of the AAV vector and in vivo genome editing. While completing her studies at Penn, Julianne's research interests will include gene therapy for the treatment of diseases of the eye and brain. Outside of the lab, Julianne is an avid scuba diver and a certified rescue diver. She also has a passion for East Asian studies and has spent significant time abroad in Taiwan and China.

Alison Culyba, MD - Epidemiology

Alison Culyba, currently a second year fellow in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at CHOP, is excited to join the Epidemiology Department at Penn. She originally came to Penn for medical school, and took time away from her studies to pursue a Master's in Public Health at Harvard, where she focused on Adolescent Health and Youth Violence. She returned to Penn to complete her residency training in Internal Medicine and Pediatric, where she conducted research that examined the risk of future injury in adolescents who came to the emergency department with assault-related injuries.

Alison chose to study at Penn based on faculty expertise in Violence Prevention and Cartographic Modeling. During her PhD studies, she plans to utilize theoretical resilience-based research models to advance our understanding of factors that protect youth, with a specific focus on neighborhood-level factors that influence violence. Alison is excited to be part of an interdisciplinary community of researchers focused on understanding and reducing violence within the West Philadelphia community.

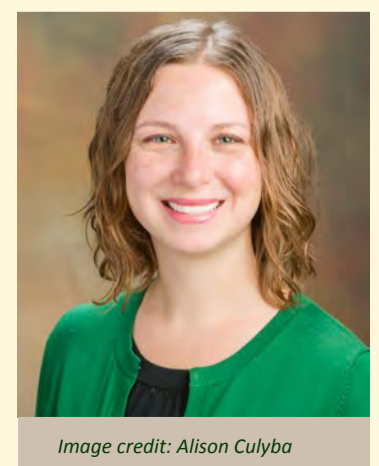


Image credit: Alison Culyba

Katie Siewert - Genomics & Computational Biology

Katie Siewert joins Penn after completing a Bachelor's in Computational Biology at Carnegie Mellon University. During her undergraduate career, Katie interned at the National Human Genome Research Institute at the NIH where she studied the genome of a species of comb-jelly (*Mnemiopsis leidyi*). For her undergraduate research project, she studied how proteins evolve through "domain shuffling", or the reuse and reorganization of protein domains throughout the genome.

Interested in using computational biology to study human genomics and evolution, Katie was drawn to Penn because it was a great research fit, with several groups doing work at the forefront of this field. She is especially excited when computational research in evolutionary biology is able to tell us more about our history as a species or our susceptibility to disease. In her free time, Katie enjoys hiking, reading and playing basketball.

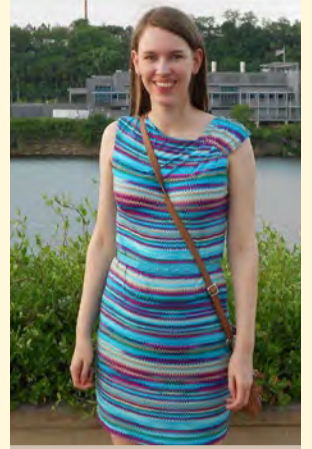


Image credit: Katie Siewert

Caroline Bartman - Immunology



Image credit: Caroline Bartman

Caroline Bartman comes to Penn from the University of Chicago, where she earned her Bachelor's in Biology and then worked for a year in an immunology laboratory. Her senior thesis project examined the quality of the immune response of patients with *Staphylococcus aureus* skin infections, while her project after graduation focused on the role of the commensal microbiota in promoting skin transplant rejection.

The strong support for students and the breadth of immunology research attracted her to the Penn program, where she looks forward to continuing to study barrier and mucosal immunity. This summer she completed a pre-rotation in Yasmine Belkaid's lab as part of the Penn-NIH partnership, where she studied the interaction between the immune system and skin commensal bacteria. When not in the lab, she enjoys running, camping, and playing ultimate frisbee.

Kim Kridsada - Neuroscience

A native Philadelphian, Kim Kridsada is thrilled to be returning to her hometown to attend Penn. She completed her Bachelor's in Biology at Yale University, where she studied the role of Meckel Syndrome 1 protein in the developing murine olfactory system. After graduating, she worked as a research technician to investigate members of the G-protein coupled receptor family and their role in synaptic specificity in the spinal cord.

Kim also spent a summer at Penn studying the role of olfactory marker protein in the mouse olfactory system and got to see firsthand the collaborative and supportive environment in which Penn students and faculty operate. While here, she intends to continue investigating axon guidance and synaptic specificity during development. In her leisure time, Kim enjoys cooking and eating with friends, curling up with a good book, playing tennis and traveling. Kim recently returned from a 10-day trip to Eastern Europe. The picture (right) is of Kim enjoying a delicious "gelato rosa" in Budapest, Hungary!



Image credit: Kim Kridsada

Michael Klichinsky - Pharmacology



Image credit: Michael Klichinsky

Michael Klichinsky joins us from University of the Sciences in Philadelphia where he completed his Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Having spent two years conducting research at The Wistar Institute and several months at HUP as a clinical pharmacy intern, Michael had the opportunity to meet many Penn scientists and physicians who inspired him to apply to Penn.

Michael is currently working in the laboratory of Dr. Dennis Discher on a project that hopes to understand the mechanism by which the immune system recognizes and avoids reacting with self cells, and to pharmacologically disrupt those self-recognition mechanisms to lead to the phagocytosis of undesired tissue (such as tumors). His goal is to understand why most novel cancer drugs are only marginally effective, and use that knowledge to design treatments that change the therapeutic approach to oncology. When he is not in the lab, Michael enjoys playing improvisational jazz piano and basketball, and best of all – relaxing on his couch.

Recent Faculty Awards



David Artis, PhD (CAMB, IGG), is the recipient of the Stanley N. Cohen Biomedical Research Award.



Arjun Raj, PhD (BMB, CAMB, GCB), of Engineering is being honored by *Popular Science* as one of 2013's 'Brilliant Ten' for revealing the inner workings of cells.



Dustin Brisson, PhD (CAMB), was named a 2013 Investigator in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund.



Anil K. Rustgi, MD (CAMB), is the recipient of the Arthur Asbury Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award.



P. Leslie Dutton, PhD (BMB), is the recipient of the 2013 John Scott Award. Les was honored for his work on the elementary processes of oxidation-reduction and the diverse biological events coupled to it.



Amita Sehgal, PhD (CAMB, NGG), is the recipient of a Senior Scholar Award from the Ellison Medical Foundation.



Olena Jacenko, PhD (CAMB), is the recipient of the Vet Medicine Class of 2016 Lecture Teaching Award.



James Shorter, PhD (BMB, CAMB, NGG, PGG), is the recipient of the Michael S. Brown New Investigator Award.



Carl H. June, MD (CAMB, IGG), is the recipient of the 92nd annual Philadelphia Award. Dr. June was also honored as a recipient of the American Society of Hematology's 2012 Ernest Beutler Lecture and Prize.



Meera Sundaram, PhD (CAMB), is the recipient of the Jane Glick Graduate Student Teaching Award.



Mitchell Lazar, MD, PhD (CAMB, GCB, PGG), was elected to serve as a council member, at-large of The Endocrine Society.



Robert H. Vonderheide, PhD, DPhil (CAMB, IGG), is the recipient of the William Osler Patient Oriented Research Award.



Shelley L. Berger, PhD (BMB, CAMB, GCB; top), and **Virginia Man-Yee Lee**, PhD (BMB, CAMB, NGG, PGG; bottom), have been elected as new members to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Nicola Mason, PhD (CAMB, IGG; top), and **Yvonne Paterson**, PhD (CAMB, IGG; bottom), are the co-recipients of the inaugural One Health Award.



Recent Student Awards

Ishmail Abdus-Saboor (CAMB) is the recipient of the Tom Kadesch Prize in Genetic Research.

Mike Askenase (IGG) is the recipient of the NIH 2013 Fellows Award for Research Excellence.

Ni-Ting Chiou (BMB) and **Morgan DeSantis** (BMB) are the co-recipients of the 2013 P. Leslie Dutton Award for Outstanding Dissertation by a BMB graduate student.

Drew Comrie (IGG) is the recipient of the Goldie Simon Preceptorship Award from the Lupus Foundation of America, Philadelphia Tristate Chapter.

Andria Culbert (CAMB) is the recipient of the Outstanding Poster Award at the Gordon Research Conference: Cartilage Biology and Pathology. Les Diablerets, Switzerland.

Matthew Davis (BSTA) is the recipient of the 2013 Deming Student Scholar Award.

Brian Johnson (CAMB) is the recipient of the 2013 UNCF-Merck Graduate Science Research Fellowship.

Edward Kennedy (BSTA) is the recipient of the Jonathan Raz Best Qualifying Exam Award.

Laurel Monticelli (IGG) is the recipient of the AAI-Life Technologies Trainee Achievement Award.

Sheila Rao (IGG) is the recipient of the AAI – Young Investigator Award.

Ali Rosenberg (CAMB) is the recipient of the 2012 Nachmias Thieman Award.

Ting Yang (CAMB) is the recipient of the Chateaubriand STEM Fellowship 2013 which will allow her to do part of her PhD research with a collaborator lab in France. She will be working with Dr. Arturo Londono-Vallejo at the Institut Curie.

Jarcy Zee (BSTA) is the recipient of the Student Citizenship Award in Biostatistics.

Joseph Zinski (CAMB) is the recipient of the 1st place award for his talk at the Mid-Atlantic Society for Developmental Biology meeting at the College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.

2013 Hearst Award Winners: David Tichfield, Eva Klinman, Morgan Taylor, Laura Bryant.

2013 HHMI International Student Research Fellowship: Maryam Yousefi and Nam Woo Cho.

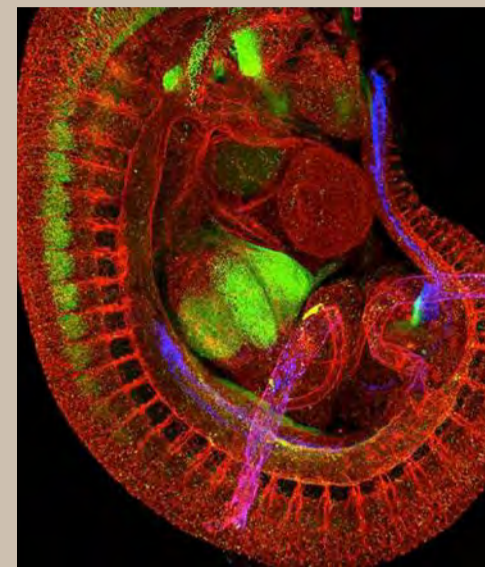
Summer 2013 NRSA Awards:

- Sean Arlauckas (PGG)
- Collin Challis (NGG)
- Amy DeMicco (CAMB)
- Devin Dersh (BMB)
- Mark Ferreira (CAMB)
- Julie Horowitz (IGG)
- Vera Mucaj (CAMB)
- Claire O'Leary (CAMB)
- Amanda Phillips-Yzaguirre (CAMB)
- Bo Qiu (CAMB)
- Nabil Sayed (CAMB)
- Steven Siegel (CAMB)
- Nabil Thalji (PHRM)

The Perelman School of Medicine "Art in Science" Competition

1st Place: Graduate Student Category

Amanda Phillips-Yzaguirre (CAMB)
Speck Lab



Confocal Z-projection of the vasculature of an E11.5 transgenic (Ly6A-GFP) mouse embryo.

Image credit: The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

2nd Place: Graduate Student Category

Efstathios Gennatas (NGG)
Brain Behavior Lab

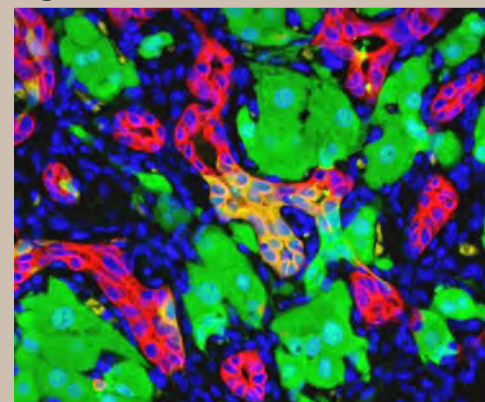


A force-directed layout of a brain graph based on the correlation matrix of 363 brain regions' gray matter density derived from 1074 subjects' T1 weighted MRI volumes (ages 9-23 y.o.).

Image credit: The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

3rd place: Graduate Student Category

Kilangsungla Yanger (CAMB)
Stanger Lab



Hepatocytes in the mouse liver have been genetically marked with a yellow fluorescent protein (YFP, green) to lineage trace their eventual fate.

Image credit: The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania

Congratulations to our BGS Alumni who have moved on to rewarding careers and received prestigious awards. In this section we present a small sampling of the many recognitions and appointments our alumni have received since our last edition.

Josh Allen, PhD (BMB - 2012), joined the pharmaceutical company, Oncoceutics, Inc., as Director of Development.

Diane Ambrose, PhD (CAMB - 1994), was appointed the Assistant Vice President for Research Development in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research in Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS), a major new health care education, research, and clinical division at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Gregory Beatty, MD, PhD (IGG - 2000), received two awards: the AAAS Martin and Rose Wachtel Cancer Research Award, and the Doris Duke Clinical Scientist Development Award 2013.

Alan Dardik, MD, PhD (CAMB/PATH - 1993), was promoted to Professor of Surgery at Yale.

Justin R. DiAngelo, PhD (CAMB - 2008), was named “2013 Mentor of the Year” at Hofstra University “for outstanding supervision of undergraduate research in biology in the Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.”

Amelia Gallitano, MD, PhD (NGG - 1997), was awarded tenure at the University of Arizona this Summer and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Basic Medical Sciences at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix.

Andrew E. Gelman, PhD (IGG - 2006), was awarded tenure in March 2013 and promoted to Associate Professor of Surgery, Immunology and Pathology at Washington University in Saint Louis.

Amato Giaccia, PhD (CAMB/PATH - 1989), will receive the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO) Gold Medal in September. The highest award in the radiation Oncology Field, ASTRO’s Gold Medal is bestowed annually on up to three ASTRO members who have made outstanding contributions to the field of radiation oncology, including work in research, clinical care, teaching and service.

Andy Godwin, PhD (CAMB/MOLB - 1989), was promoted to Deputy Director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

Donna Gordon, PhD (CAMB - 1998), was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Mississippi State University. As of June 1st, Donna is also the Graduate Coordinator for the M.S. in General Biology Degree program.

Claire Myers, PhD (IGG - 2006), was appointed as the Science Submission Manager at MedImmune (Gaithersburg, MD).

Betty Tong, PhD (CAMB/MOLB - 1997), received the 2013 National Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer from the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC) in May. This award is presented by the FLC to recognize federal employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring a technology developed by a federal laboratory to the commercial marketplace. The technology that is transferred under this Award is “Glybera[®], First Gene Therapy Recommended for Approval in West”.

Chris Vecsey, PhD (NGG - 2008), will be returning to the Philadelphia area this fall to begin a 3-year visiting assistant professorship in Neurobiology at Swarthmore College. Chris will be teaching courses on Sleep and Circadian Rhythms, Neurobiology, Introductory Biology, and Epigenetics, and will be maintaining a lab that studies sleep in fruit flies.



Stephanie J. Murphy, PhD (BMB - 1996), was awarded tenure in July of this year and promoted to Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University.

On July 22nd, Stephanie also received the Excellence in Research Award from the American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners during the American Veterinary Medical Association Convention held in Chicago July 19-23, 2013. The title of her talk at the convention was *Sex, Drugs, Alcohol and Stroke*.

Stephanie (shown on the left) receiving her award
Image credit: Peggy Ward.

The graduate groups made the following new appointments between 11/2012 and 9/2013.

Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics

David Chenoweth, PhD - Assistant Professor of Chemistry, PSOM

Cell & Molecular Biology

Montserrat Alguerra, PhD (CBP) - Assistant Professor of Animal Biology, PSOM

Maya Capelson, PhD (DSRB) - Assistant Professor of Cell and Developmental Biology, PSOM

Hui Hu, PhD (GTV) - Wistar Institute Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Minghong Ma, PhD (CBP) - Associate Professor of Neuroscience, PSOM

Michael Milone, MD, PhD (GTV) - Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, HUP

Benjamin Voight, PhD (GGR) - Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, PSOM

Gary Wu, MD (CBP) - Professor of Medicine, PSOM

Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Matthew W. Bryan, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, PSOM (Pending approval)

Yimei Li, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, PSOM (Pending approval)

Michelle E. Ross, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, PSOM (Pending approval)

Pamela A. Shaw, MS, PhD - Assistant Professor of Biostatistics, PSOM

Neuroscience

Frances Jensen, MD - Chair of Neurology, PSOM

John Dani, PhD - Chair of Department of Neuroscience, PSOM

Long Ding, PhD - Research Assistant Professor, Department of Neuroscience, PSOM

Mariella DeBiasi, PhD - Professor of Psychiatry, PSOM

Pharmacology

Edward Lee, MD, PhD - Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, PSOM

Reynold Panettieri, MD - Professor of Medicine, PSOM

Rebecca Simmons, MD - Professor of Pediatrics, PSOM

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
POLICY FELLOWSHIPS**



Want to use your knowledge and technical expertise to affect policy-making in Washington, D.C.? The 2014-2015 AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship application deadline is approaching.

2014-15 Application Deadline: **November 1, 2013**

To learn more about the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships, visit: <http://fellowships.aaas.org>

AAAS will also be at the **Biomedical & Life Sciences Career Fair** on Wednesday 2nd October. Find more information about the career fair here: www.vpul.upenn.edu/careerservices/careerfair/biofairstudents.php

UPCOMING EVENTS

October

Annual Biomedical Career Fair

Wednesday October 2nd

BRB II/III Atrium

Participants can expect to get a good introduction to some of the different types of career opportunities available to BGS Students and Alumni. More information about the fair can be found [here](#).

Career Seminars:

Thursday, October 3rd, Stemmler Dunlop Auditorium

-How to Choose Your Next Lab - 11:30 AM

-Smooth Transitions - A Top 10 List—Things Scientists Ask About Finding an Industry Job - 2:30 PM

MINS 41st Louis B. Flexner Lecture

Thursday, Oct 3rd, 4pm

BRB II/III Auditorium, 5pm Reception

Dr. Antonello Bonci, National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Synaptic and optogenetic approaches to elucidate substance use disorders"

Behavioral & Cognitive Neuroscience TG Retreat, Friday, December 13, BRB Aud & Lobby;

Panel Discussion on Industry/Academia Research Opportunities in Non-Tenure Track Positions

Friday, October 4th, 3-5 PM

Dunlop Auditorium at the Stemmler Hall

The first academic BGS event of the semester will be held on. The event will be followed by a reception including beer and appetizers. There will be a panel discussion, followed by Q/A.

The 17th Annual CAMB Symposium

October 11, 2013

Perelman Quadrangle

This year, Dr. Sandra Schmid (UT Southwestern) will deliver the keynote address.

Annual Immunology Retreat

Friday, October 18-20

The Grand Hotel, Cape May, NJ

Keynote speaker: Max Cooper, MD

please contact lbaker@mail.med.upenn.edu for details and registration information

The Pharmacology Graduate Group's 30th Annual Student Symposium

Thursday, October 24th, 2013

This will be a 1/2 day Symposium beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the National Constitution Center

This year's keynote speaker is Barbara Stauch Slusher, Ph.D., M.B.A., Director of the Brain Science Institute NeuroTranslational Drug Discovery Program at Johns Hopkins University

November

B&B/BMB Dr. George W. Raiziss Annual Retreat

November 7-8, 2013

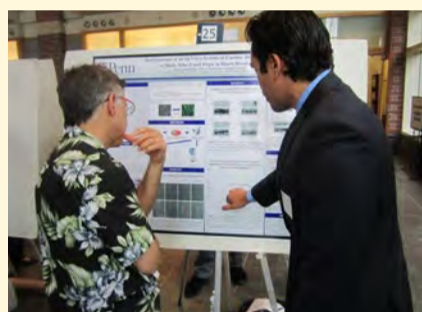
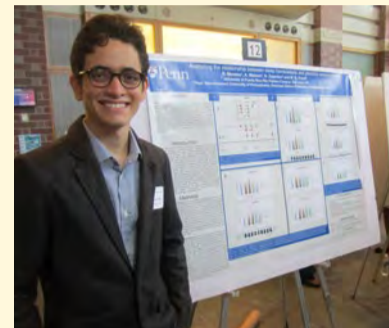
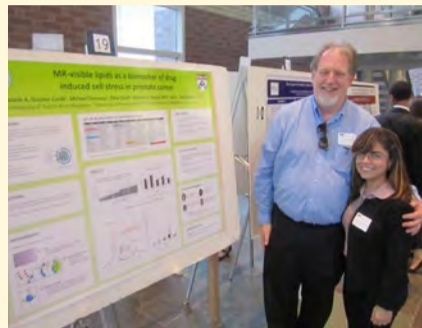
Skytop Lodge in the Pocono Mountains

RECENT EVENTS

Annual SUIP Research Symposium

Wednesday, August 7

BRB II/III Lobby



Students from the Summer Undergraduate Internship Program (SUIP) participated in the annual research symposium where they exhibited their research findings during a poster session.

Credit for images: Arnaldo Diaz

NGG Student Retreat

Friday, August 30, 8:45-4:30

Smilow Center for Translational Research

BGSA 2013 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Chair: **Laura Bryant**

Vice Chair: **Alexandra Bryson**

Vice Chair of Operations: **Shivon Robinson**

Vice Chair of Finance: **Yin Li**

Vice Chair of Academics: **Varun Aggarwala**

Vice Chair of Social Affairs: **Jenessa Smith**

GAPSA Representatives:

Meilin Fernandez Garcia

Ben Ediger

Alejandro Arroyo

The fourth GAPSA representative position is vacant and will be filled in September.

BGS STUDENT STANDS UP TO (JENNY) MCCARTHYISM

On July 28, BGS student **Seleeke Flingai** (CAMB) published an Op-Ed article on [Philly.com](#) about ABC's recent decision to hire the model, actress and anti-vaccine advocate Jenny McCarthy on the daytime talk show *The View*.

Seleeke was motivated to write the article based on his conversations with laypeople who seemed confused about what sources they should believe when it comes to vaccine information and his desire to better communicate the scientific viewpoint of the vaccine debate.

We asked Seleeke to share a summary of his article:

*"Vaccines have been one of the greatest public health successes of the last century, saving millions of lives and preventing the suffering of millions more. However, anti-vaccination advocates -- a vocal minority whose most public figure is the actress/model Jenny McCarthy -- have ushered America into one of the more worrisome, yet easily preventable national public health issues today: more and more, parents are withholding vaccines from their children. As Jenny McCarthy takes up her new seat on *The View*, the nation has the power to champion America's public health by disregarding her dangerous opinions and advocating for vaccines."*



Image Credit: Seleeke Flingai

The complete article, entitled "ABC gives national platform to anti-vaccine Jenny McCarthyism" [can be found here](#).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE GROUP!

The NGG was recently selected as the recipient of the **2013 SfN (Society for Neuroscience) Graduate Program-of-the-Year Award**.

The award committee singled out the NGG's Graduate Led Initiatives and Activities (GLIA) student committee, which provides professional development, community building and outreach programs for the NGG graduate community.

The award will be presented at the NDP Reception during Neuroscience 2013 in San Diego.

We always like to hear from alumni and welcome any news! To submit any new appointment or contact information, or other news, please use our online [Alumni Update Form](#).

To meet new friends at Penn and stay connected with BGS Alumni, please visit the following sites:

