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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Onsite CAPS Counselor for BGS Students

Reminder: BGS has arranged for a counselor from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to be available to meet on site with BGS students on **Wednesdays from 3-7 PM in Smilow Conference Room 1-103** (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium). **Tiffany Brown, PhD**, is a psychologist at CAPS who will provide confidential services every Wednesday. She will work with BGS students to provide initial consultation, support, brief counseling, and referral services.

In order to set up an appointment with Dr. Brown, you may call CAPS at 215-898-7021 and let them know you would like to meet with Dr. Brown onsite in the PSOM. Alternatively, you may email her directly at nicobr@upenn.edu to make an appointment. All of the meetings will be held in Smilow

Conference Room 1-103 (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium). If the door is open, you may walk in and schedule an appointment with Dr. Brown, in person, for the same day or a future date.

We know how busy your schedules are and we hope that having a counselor onsite will be useful. You will still have the option of going to CAPS at 3624 Market Street, and you may call CAPS at any time, 215-898-7021, and talk to a clinician. If you have questions, please contact Judy Jackson at jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu

Sign up for student health insurance or complete a waiver

Reminder: All full-time and dissertation status students are required to have acceptable health insurance coverage for both in-patient and outpatient medical care in the Philadelphia area *and* to provide information about their insurance coverage each year. As a condition of enrollment in the University, students subject to this requirement are required to either request an insurance waiver online or to actively enroll in the Penn Student Insurance Plan (PSIP) online. You can sign up for academic year 2019-2020 here: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/shs/inreq.php>. **The deadline to enroll for coverage is 8/31/2019.**

Grants for Penn Dental Insurance and Family/Dependent Health Insurance

The University is offering two grants to help offset insurance costs:

Dental Insurance: The Office of the University Provost will reimburse you for 50% of the cost of dental insurance if you sign up by October 11, 2019. You are responsible for the full cost of purchasing the insurance and may incur late fees if these are not paid on time. The reimbursement (\$215) will be issued by early November. More information is available at <https://gsc.upenn.edu/resources/graduate-funding-and-finances/insurance-subsidies-and-grants#dental>; please contact gradcenter@upenn.edu with any questions.

Family/Dependent Insurance: Beginning on August 27, 2019, you will be able to apply for grants to help offset the cost of family or dependent insurance. The grants are offered by the Office of the University Provost and administered through the Family Resource Center. More information is available at <https://familycenter.upenn.edu/grants>; contact Jessica Bolker (jessal@upenn.edu) with any questions.

New Teaching Clinic Discounts Policy for Penn Students

Effective September 1, discounts will be available for dental care services within the teaching clinics for all University of Pennsylvania undergraduate and graduate students who do not have dental insurance.

Routine preventive and restorative services will be discounted 30% and all specialty services, including oral surgery, orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, and prosthodontics will be discounted 20% for self-pay students with a valid University ID. Payment plans are also available. Appointments are made through the patient appointment line at 215-898-8965.

New NIA Pre-doctoral Funding Mechanism for 3rd and 4th Year Students

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has recently announced a new initiative to support transition of outstanding graduate students, from a wide range of research areas, into aging-related postdoctoral research.

Below are some highlights of the Transition to Aging Research Award for Postdoctoral Students (F99/K00) program: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-20-009.html>

- Predoctoral students at their 3rd and 4th year of PhD, regardless of their research focus, are eligible to apply.
- Visa holders with proper institutional support letter are also eligible to apply for this opportunity; refer to the 'eligibility' section of the announcements for more details.
- The program has two phases: Dissertation (F99, up to 2 years) and aging-related postdoctoral (K00, up to 4 years) phases.

Application Due Date: **October 22, 2019, by 5:00 PM**

If you are interested to know more about this FOA or have any specific question, please contact Shahrooz.vahedi@nih.gov.

Request a sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences

To support your professional and career development, the Perelman School of Medicine will sponsor interested students, postdocs, faculty and staff for **complimentary 1-year Membership** to one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific organizations in the United States, the [New York Academy of Sciences](#).

**[TO REQUEST A SPONSORED
MEMBERSHIP, SIGN UP HERE](#)**

As an Academy Member, you'll benefit from free/discounted access to:

Cutting Edge Content: [publications](#), [eBriefings](#), and [webinars](#) featuring the latest research presented at the New York Academy of Sciences

Career Readiness Training: online courses, webinars and other [career resources](#) to help you acquire the skills needed to succeed in a STEM-related field

Networking & Resume Building: opportunities to [present your research](#), apply for Travel Fellowships, qualify for intensive leadership training, or [request a mentor](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MINS Year of Brain Science Technology Symposium

On behalf of the Mahoney Institute for Neurosciences at the University of Pennsylvania, we would like to invite you to attend our student-led symposium for the **Year of Brain Science Technology**, highlighting innovative approaches to neural and behavioral data acquisition and analysis. This event will feature talks by students and postdocs from the Philadelphia area, poster sessions with prizes, and a reception with food and drinks. **Any and all posters are welcomed and encouraged**, not just those in line with this year's MINS theme.

If you would like to attend, give a talk, or present a poster, please register at the [form here](#).

The event is going to be held on **Friday September 13th from 1-6 pm** in the Rubenstein Auditorium, located in the **Smilow Center for Translational Research** (3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia PA, 19104).

Deadline for registration is September 6th for general registration, **August 30th** for those presenting posters, and **August 23rd** for those giving talks. See flyer [here](#).

CFAR Pizza Lunch: An Overview of the Clinical and Immunology Cores

The Center for AID Research (CFAR) invites BGS students to join them for pizza as the Clinical Core and Immunology Core present an overview of their services. This lunch and information session will take place **Wednesday, September 18th, 2019** from **12-1 PM in 251 BRB II/III**. RSVP to [Amy Onorato](#) to make sure they have enough pizza for all!

THESIS DEFENSES

Aug. 27, 12 PM (Hill Pavillion 132): **Rachel Blomberg (CAMB), "Fibroblast activation protein and collagen remodeling in the intersection between obesity and breast cancer."** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Aug. 28, 10 AM (Glen Gaulton Auditorium, BRB): **Ian Mellis (GCB), "Systems biology of gene regulation across scales: from single molecules to cellular identities."** Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Aug. 29, 12 PM (Grossman Auditorium, Wistar): **Krzysztof Wojtak (CAMB), "Preventive and Therapeutic DNA Technologies Targeting Epstein-Barr Virus."** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Aug. 27, 9 – 11 AM: **CAMB Orientation.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Aug. 27, 1 – 3 PM: **First-year Mentee Training Session 2.** Contact [Shannon Christensen](#).

Aug. 28, 3 – 6 PM: **Student Orientation BBQ / Game Night.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Aug. 28, 5 – 7PM: **New Student Mixer / Poster Session, CHOP Center for Childhood Cancer Research.** Contact [Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko](#).

Aug. 29, 11 AM – 1 PM: **G&E Faculty Chalk Talks / Lunch.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Aug. 29, 1:30 – 2:30 PM: **Orientation Student Panel.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Aug. 30, 12 – 1 PM: **G&E Orientation Lunch.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Aug. 30, 2 – 4 PM (404A Anat-Chem): **New Student Photo Session.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Aug. 30, 8 – 11 PM (Clark Park): **Movie Night: Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Essay Workshops

Three dates to choose from!

September 11, 12, & 13, 5-7 p.m.

Grad Center #305 I 3615 Locust Walk

Applying for the NSF GRFP? Don't miss this workshop on the Background & Future Goals essay, cosponsored by the [SAS Science Outreach Initiative](#) and the Graduate Student Center. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Cornell University - Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows 2020

CORNELL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS are high-profile postdoctoral research positions with significant independence and resources to attract some of the world's best young scholars to interact deeply with faculty and students on Cornell's campuses. Candidates from all areas of research and inquiry, who will be no more than two years past the award date of their doctoral degree by the application deadline, are eligible for this program. Successful candidates will have access to the full range of talent and considerable resources available at Cornell, and will be encouraged to interact broadly with the Cornell intellectual community, in addition to their postdoctoral research with a tenured or tenure-track faculty member (sponsor) and their research group. Cornell Presidential Postdoctoral Fellows will also receive lifetime membership in the **Society of Cornell Fellows** along with the participants in other named prestigious and competitively awarded Cornell postdoctoral fellowships. Approximately six to ten Presidential Fellowships are awarded each year, with the inaugural cohort of ten fellows chosen in the academic 2017-2018 year, and nine selected in 2018-2019. For the 2019-2020 selection cycle, as part of the Provost's *Radical Collaborations* initiative, some of the postdoctoral positions each year will be reserved for applications focusing on one thematic area of Radical Collaboration outlined by the Provost's office. This year, the chosen topic will be "**Advancing Genome Biology**", in line with the Provost's task force on Genome Biology which can be found here: <http://provost.cornell.edu/academic-initiatives/radical-collaboration/genome-biology/>. Applicants whose research is not covered by this theme are still encouraged to apply.

Appointments are for up to three years, dependent on positive annual evaluations, and may include a teaching component where appropriate of no more than 25% averaged over the length of the appointment. The stipend for appointments in the 2019-2020 academic year will be \$68,000 plus full Cornell University endowed employee fringe benefits. Each Fellow also will be provided \$5,000 annually for discretionary research expenses including travel. Interested individuals can contact any tenure-track or tenured Cornell faculty member(s), i.e. assistant, associate or full professor, who, if agreeable to serve as the lead sponsor(s), will endorse the candidate's application. We recommend contacting prospective faculty sponsors as early as possible. A tenure track assistant professor may serve as a primary sponsor only if a tenured professor serves as secondary sponsor. **All Cornell faculty may only sponsor a total of one postdoctoral candidate application (either as**

primary or secondary sponsor), however if an Assistant Professor is the primary sponsor, tenured faculty may additionally sponsor one as a secondary.

Applications will be judged on the qualifications of the candidate, including their ability to be an ambassador for Cornell University, and the quality and originality of the proposed research and its potential impact. Review and ranking of applications will be performed by a representative faculty committee, and decisions are expected between December 2019 and February 2020.

More information can be found on our website

here: <https://research.cornell.edu/content/presidential-postdoctoral-fellows>. All materials are due by **Monday, September 2, 2019 by 5:00 pm.**

Opportunity for senior graduate students or recent postdocs - OSU Postdoc Recruiting Event:

Applications are now being accepted for the Ohio State University 2019 Fall **Postdoctoral Recruitment Event**, being held **October 23-25, 2019**. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for outstanding postdocs and PhD students from leading graduate programs to meet research faculty, interview for open postdoctoral positions and discover the exciting and innovative research taking place at The Ohio State University and the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH). Selected candidates will visit the Ohio State campus, network with current OSU and NCH postdocs, present their research, interview with prospective mentors, and learn more about postdoctoral opportunities at Ohio State. Full funding will be provided for travel expenses and candidates may be considered for a variety of opportunities, including fellowships, training grants, and other internal training programs.

Application for this event is open until **September 9th** and is available to postdocs or senior graduate students who have completed or expect to complete their PhD between December 2018 and May 2020. Any candidates in the US (visa status does not matter) can apply and we are especially interested in reviewing applications from US Citizens and permanent residents who are training grant-eligible and/or who come from underrepresented backgrounds including African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, or persons with a disability.

More information can be found on the web page or the application can be accessed directly through the link below.

<http://go.osu.edu/postdocrecruit>

http://go.osu.edu/pdre_application

The event flyer can be found here: http://go.osu.edu/pdre_eventflyer.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Jeffrey.Mason@osumc.edu or call (614-685-9140).

EVENTS THIS WEEK

None this week.

FUTURE EVENTS

Sept. 19, 1-2:30 PM (Grad Center Rm 305, 3615 Locust Walk): **Cite Your Sources: Learning to Use Reference Management Software.** Meaghan Moody and Rebecca Stuhr of Penn Libraries will lead this workshop on reference management tools, focusing on [Zotero](#) and [Mendeley](#), two of the most widely-used programs for academic citation. Please bring a laptop and install both programs in advance to make the most of this workshop. [Learn more and register.](#)

Sept. 25, 3 – 4 PM (Grad Center Rm 204, 3615 Locust Walk): **Getting the Mentorship & Support You Need.** Small, interactive workshop to help new & first year graduate students build a network of mentors and identify available resources and structures of support at Penn. *Please note:* this workshop is designed for first year doctoral (PhD) students, but others are welcome to join. Space is limited - [advance registration required.](#)

CALENDAR

[Career Development](#)

RESOURCES

[BGS Career Development Site](#)

[BGS Career Twitter](#)

[BGS Alumni & Current Students LinkedIn](#)

[Penn Career Services - Ph.D./Postdoc Careers Page](#)

[Handshake](#)

STUDENT GROUPS & SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Project SHORT – Seeking Volunteers

Want to give back and help increase diversity in STEM? Project SHORT (Student Health Opportunities and Research Training) offers pro-bono medical/dental and graduate admissions consulting. The primary goal of Project SHORT is to help individuals from historically underrepresented groups navigate the process of graduate and medical/dental school admissions. Pre-health consulting is expensive, and perpetuates an already-wide socioeconomic gap in medicine. Similarly, systemic biases in STEM training at the undergraduate level can lead to deficits in access to resources for medical and graduate school applications.

By offering free, high-quality admissions consulting, Project SHORT aims to help diversify the pool of highly qualified applicants applying to graduate and medical/dental schools.

We are currently looking for qualified, passionate volunteer consultants of all backgrounds to join our team! Time commitment is flexible and varies by person. For more information, visit www.project-short.com or email contact.projectshort@gmail.com.

Slack Workspace for BGS students

This Slack workspace was created to help facilitate communication among BGS students. Slack is a group chat software similar to GroupMe, but for professionals, and it serves as a relatively free alternative to Microsoft Teams. There will be different channels, or chat groups, on the BGS Slack workspace for various student led ad-hoc discussions about activities, events, and classes.

All BGS students are invited to join [here](#).

Are you interested in conducting a systematic review? Please join us for the Biomedical Library Systematic Review Workshops series

A Systematic Review critically assesses ALL relevant studies that address particular clinical issues. It provides a high level of evidence on the effectiveness of healthcare interventions. Systematic reviews are top-level evidence due to their rigorous methodology.

To help you develop a high-quality systematic review, the Biomedical Library is presenting a Systematic Review workshop series. We will introduce the systematic review process, describe systematic literature search protocol in accordance with PRISMA standards, and present the use of citation management software to handle search results. The workshops include three sessions. Attendance at all three workshops is encouraged, but you may also pick and choose which sessions you'd like to attend.

For more information and to register for each session, click [here](#).

BGS Tennis Club

The biomedical graduate students (BGS) tennis club would like to invite new members. We are a group of biomedical PhD and MD students that play tennis together weekly. Practice is held year-round at the Penn Tennis Center, and we play indoors during the winter season.

The fall schedule is still being finalized. For more info, contact darwinye@penmedicine.upenn.edu. Come play some tennis with us!

EVENTS THIS WEEK

None this week.

FUTURE EVENTS

Sept. 4, 1-2 PM (Biomedical Library Relaxation Room): **#WellnessWednesday Workshop**. Learn how to relax your mind and body with strategies to help manage stress. During this session, you will be guided through mindful movements, self-applied massage, and meditation. To register, visit bit.ly/mindfulnessatbiomed.

Sept. 4, 5 – 7 PM (Goddard Breezeway): **BGSA Welcome Back Happy Hour**. Join the Biomedical Graduate Student Association (BGSA) in celebrating the start of a new year! First year students are especially encouraged to attend! Bring IDs. See flyer [here](#).

Sept. 5, 5:30 – 7 PM (Bernie's Restaurant & Bar, 3432 Sansom St.): **Welcome (Back) Happy Hour for Jewish Graduate & Professional Students**. Join the Jewish Grad Student Network and Graduate Student Center for a fun Happy Hour for new and returning Penn graduate & professional students. Come out and meet lots of students in a variety of Penn based programs while enjoying a free drink on us! You must [register for this event](#) in order to obtain your drink ticket. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Grad Student Network, Penn Hillel, and the Grad Center

Sept. 10, 5:30 PM (BRB 253): **BGSA General Assembly Meeting**.

Sept. 13, 6 – 9 PM (Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall): **Bienvenida for New & Returning Latinx Graduate Students**. Join the Latin American Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, La Casa Latina, and the Graduate Student Center to kick off the new school year with food, drinks, and dancing! [Sign up here](#). Please bring your PennCard to be admitted. *Cosponsored by LAGAPSA, La Casa Latina, and the Grad Center.*

Sept. 14, 10:30 AM – 12 PM (Family Center Common Room): **Welcome Back Play Date**. Join the Family Center for their first play date of the year as they kick off the fall semester and welcome new and returning students and post-docs with children! Bring your family, enjoy some breakfast, snacks, games, and a balloon artist from [Jiggy and Company](#)! Don't miss this chance to meet and talk with other students and post docs with children and learn about our resources and community! [Please register in advance](#).

RESOURCES

Visit the [Family Center at Penn](#) and [Graduate Student Center's](#) web pages for a complete listing of their upcoming events for new and returning students. Sign up for their newsletters to stay connected with weekly updates.

[BGSA Website](#)

[Calendar of BGSA Events](#)
[Grad Center at Penn](#)
[Penn Today Events](#)

For information about upcoming events or to advertise in next week's bulletin, contact [Rebecca Lopez](#).