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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

University of Pennsylvania Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Resources

Please see the following links to recent University announcements and other informational resources regarding Coronavirus:

[University of Pennsylvania Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information and Resources](#)

[Penn Medicine Travel and Meeting Policy](#)

[Resources and Strategies for Teaching Remotely](#)

[Research Continuity During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

[COVID-19 Science](#)

The [BGS website](#) will continue to be updated with links to the latest information. Following recommendations for social distancing, upcoming events have been canceled or will eventually be rescheduled. The Weekly Bulletin will provide updates once events are rescheduled.

BGS Staff Working Remotely

Beginning Monday, 3/16 and in effect at least until 3/31, the central BGS and Graduate Group staffs will be working remotely and available by phone and email. Please reference the [staff directory](#).

CAPS Embedded Office Hours Suspended

CAPS is suspending their office hours in Smilow until March 31st and will evaluate their service delivery in concert with conversations with the larger university administration.

We realize that our community may be feeling worried and experiencing a sense of loss around not being on campus in the ways we would like. During these unprecedented times, CAPS remains available for consultation. From March 16th to March 31st, CAPS will be offering services from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (no evening hours). CAPS will be closed on Saturday 3/14, 3/21, and 3/28. Services may be performed via phone or video conference, with limited in person availability. If a student is a current client, their counselor will communicate with them about their needs moving forward. All students are encouraged to call in advance should they wish to be seen in person at CAPS. Students should dial 215-898-7021 and press 2 to speak to the Front Desk or they can press 1 to talk to a clinician 24/7.

Prism & MATLAB Sign-Up Forms

BGS students may obtain one year licenses for Prism and MATLAB free of charge. Sign-up forms for each are below. Note that **FORMS ARE DUE by MARCH 20th**.

1) [PRISM](#) LICENSES

These are arranged through BGS. The new license year begins May 1st. **Please note that even if you already have a Prism license you need to sign up again.** You will not need to install the software again but may be prompted to update to the latest Prism version in order to extend your license for another year.

If you are interested in obtaining a Prism license, please complete this Google form: <https://forms.gle/WdXfzCzJzDRevDjM6>

Note that BGS offers Prism particularly for its graphing capabilities. With respect to statistical applications, we remind students of the importance of understanding the fundamental properties of any statistical analyses that they undertake. In addition, principles of

reproducible research require all analyses to be carefully documented. This involves storing the data in an accessible form and creating a written record so that another researcher can easily replicate the statistical analyses for a particular set of data.

2) **MATLAB LICENSES**

These are arranged through Penn Computer Connection, but they have asked that we collect info. on the number of interested students so that they can prepare enough installation instruction packets. You will receive an email when your installation instructions are ready for pick-up.

If you are interested in obtaining a MATLAB license, please complete this Google form: <https://forms.gle/otKTabbeYTfEdSsj6>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dr. John Holmes - Epidemiology of the COVID19 Pandemic

Interested in epidemiology of the COVID19 pandemic? Join our own **Dr. John Holmes, Professor of Medical Informatics in Epidemiology**, PSOM, as he discusses the data on the spread of the SARS CoV-2 virus in Italy and beyond. Uniquely positioned in Pavia, Italy, Dr. Holmes has been at the heart of the pandemic in Italy from the start and discusses the numbers, the public measures to prevent spread, and the impact from a personal perspective. You can view his presentation live on **Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:30 – 10:30 AM EST.**

Join via phone dial-in:

[+1.408.740.7256](tel:+14087407256) (US (San Jose))

[+1.408.317.9253](tel:+14083179253) (US (Primary))

[\(Global Numbers\)](#)

Meeting ID: 659 701 2982

Or using the following link: <https://bluejeans.com/6597012982?src=calendarLink>. Dr. Holmes will also make his slides available.

****POSTPONED - "Human Nature" CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Editing Documentary Screening**

The screening of *Human Nature* (originally scheduled for March 16) will be postponed to a later date, TBD.

****POSTPONED - Penn Violence Prevention Workshop for BGS Students**

The CAMB/Penn Violence Prevention workshop “**Call It What It Is: Addressing Sexual Harassment in STEM,**” (originally scheduled for March 26) will be postponed to a later date, TBD.

THESIS DEFENSES

None this week.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Mar. 18, 2-3 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler Office Hours.** Please email [Dan Kessler](#) if you would like to set up a virtual meeting during his office hours.

NGG

ANNOUNCEMENT

As you have seen from previous emails regarding the current unprecedented emergency, all NGG-related activities (**including GLIA**) are suspended until further notice. However, our NGG bloggers are still working hard to give us something interesting to read about in these days. Please see below:

- **New!** Check out this week's PennNeuroKnow article [Do No Harm](#) by Sarah Reitz. Lab rats may hold the key to understanding our urge to help others in need.
- **New!** Check out the most recent Brains in Briefs [article](#) by Nitsan Goldstein about cocaine addiction. This article briefs a paper using rats as a model to try to test approved diabetes drugs in a novel context.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

NEW Alumni Career Path Video

The latest video on the BGS Career Development site features [Dr. Christopher Yarosh](#), a former Public Policy Fellow with both the American Chemical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

****CANCELED - Walk-in Wednesday with Penn Career Services.** In place of walk-ins, Career Services is offering phone and web appointments, which students can schedule through [Handshake](#).

Extended virtual walk-ins will also be available (additional details TBA on the [Career Services website](#).)

FUTURE EVENTS

CALENDAR

[Career Development](#)

RESOURCES

[BGS Career Development Site](#)

[BGS Career Twitter](#)

[BGS Alumni & Current Students LinkedIn](#)

[Black Women in Computational Biology Network](#)

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

[Handshake](#)

[Request a sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences](#)

STUDENT GROUPS & SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BGSA Events Canceled

The BGSA is following University guidelines and has canceled all upcoming events, including the general body meeting and Spring Relaxation event.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

****CANCELED - Pharm4GOOD General Body Meeting.** Originally scheduled for March 18.

****POSTPONED - PSPDG Science Communication Workshop 6: Online Writing.** Originally scheduled for March 19, new date TBA.

FUTURE EVENTS

****POSTPONED - PSPDG Penn Action Climate Symposium.** Originally scheduled for March 30, this event will be rescheduled in October 2020. Details TBA.

****CANCELED - IPSAG Mid-Semester Lunch.** Originally scheduled for March 31.

RESOURCES

[Slack for BGS Students](#)

[BGSA Website](#)

[Calendar of BGSA Events](#)

[Grad Center at Penn](#)

[Family Center at Penn](#)

[Book Penn Rooms](#)

[The Community Impact Fund](#)

[Penn Today Events](#)

[Ask Isaac: Your Personal IS Guru](#)

[Request a sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences](#)

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