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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saul Winegrad, BGS Founding Director, 1931-2020

We are sad to report that our founding director, Dr. Saul Winegrad, died in his sleep on March 13th after a long illness.

Saul chaired the committee to create BGS and was appointed its first director in 1984. Under his leadership, and with guidance from the Biomedical Advisory Committee, BGS came to provide centralized oversight of admissions, student financial aid, curricula, student standards, diversity student recruitment, data management, and many other functions. A native Philadelphian, Saul received his BA and MD from Penn, and he joined the Penn faculty in 1962 in the Department of Physiology. Saul led BGS for 10 years before returning his efforts to the lab full-time in 1994. His research focused on cardiac muscle physiology at the sub-cellular level, and he received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including the National Award of Merit from the American Heart Association. The [Saul Winegrad Distinguished Dissertation Award](#) was developed in his honor

in 1995. BGS now has 900 current students and more than 3000 alumni, all of whom benefit in some measure from Saul's vision and dedication to graduate education.

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

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

[SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 Science and Medicine](#)

[Recording of BGS Open House with Executive Vice Dean on COVID-19 on 3-20-20](#)

[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 - Security in PSOM Facilities During Period of Reduced Occupancy](#)

The [BGS website](#) will continue to be updated with links to the latest information.

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](#).

BGS Open House with Jon Epstein (Recording Available Online)

Dr. Jonathan Epstein, PSOM Executive Vice Dean and Chief Scientific Officer, held a virtual Open House meeting last week (Fri, 3/20) for BGS students to share information and updates and address questions and concerns surrounding COVID-19. A recording of the event is available online:

<https://mediasite.med.upenn.edu/mediasite/Play/02556890fbf8409cb4b48061680c86fe1d>

Dr. John Holmes - Epidemiology of the COVID19 Pandemic (Slides Available Online)

On Thursday, March 19, 2020 our own **Dr. John Holmes, Professor of Medical Informatics in Epidemiology**, PSOM, discussed the data on the spread of the SARS CoV-2 virus in Italy and beyond:

<https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/covid-19.html>

PPE and Supplies for the Health System

The School of Medicine is ready to start receiving donations of PPE and other supplies again. Please see the below announcement from Lynn Kathryn Meaney for details. **Please be sure to get approval from your PI before donating and to practice social distancing when dropping off items.**

Viral swabs (red tubes)
Sterile surgical gloves
Bleach
Isolation Masks
N95 Masks – especially dire need for these*
Surgical Masks
Utility Masks
Safety Goggles and Glasses
Shoe covers
Bouffant caps
Isolation gowns
Wipes
Ventilators that could be repurposed

For those of you whose items are located in the medical school buildings, please drop-off any items that you would like to donate to **BRB 251**. This room will be staffed by Medical students from 9am until 4pm beginning today until further notice. The room will be locked if not attended and you should not leave items outside the door. **Please ensure that you maintain social distancing when visiting the room. Do not visit the room if you are symptomatic or been diagnosed with COVID-19 (or been in contact with anyone else who has).**

If you are bringing items in from West Philly or the suburbs and you prefer, the Vet School has volunteered their loading dock at the **Hill Pavilion** as a drop off site. There is a box on the loading dock that will be available (unlocked) between 9am and 4 PM every day, Monday through Friday. The box will be locked after 4pm until the next morning. Do not leave items on the loading dock itself or next to the box.

If you need assistance with transporting items from a building within the School, please contact Security who will arrange pickup with Facilities. We will not retrieve items from an unattended space; there must be someone there to hand over the items.

I've attached a [template for you to complete and attach to your donation](#). Please leave this completed form with the materials. It is very important that we have a record of your donation, especially if the supplies you are donating were paid for by federal grants. We are gathering an inventory before we send the material to PennMedicine for their use.

Thank you for all of your efforts with this. Please contact me with questions at meaney@upenn.edu but be aware that I may not be able to respond in a timely manner due to volume. If your question is urgent, please put urgent in the subject line.

Lynn

Lynn Kathryn Meaney, MBA
Executive Director | Decision Support and Analysis | Perelman School of Medicine

M158 John Morgan | [8-1969](tel:8-1969) | meaney@upenn.edu

Penn Libraries – EZProxy for Remote Access

[EZProxy](#) allows Penn students, faculty, and staff to access subscription databases, e-journals, and e-books from off-campus. If you have any questions, reach out to [Manuel de la Cruz](#) or contact the Biomedical Library using this form: faq.library.upenn.edu/ask.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blood Drive at PCAM (Every Monday; scheduled to take place over the next three weeks)

With 1,500 American Red Cross (ARC) blood drives canceled, we are missing an opportunity to potentially collect **46,000 units of blood**. **Inventories will dip below critical levels if immediate action is not taken to help the ARC collect blood.**

Please be aware that conducting blood drives is *not* in conflict with social distancing recommendations. **The ARC, CDC, and FDA designate blood drives as “essential activities.”** [Click here for an FAQ](#). See below for details and donation guidelines.

When: Every Monday starting March 23 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.; scheduled to take place over the next three weeks. [By appointment only](#).

Where: PCAM atrium, on the Connector, along the side walls near the coffee kiosk. (ARC will have screens surrounding the perimeter for privacy.)

Who Can Donate?: Anyone that fits the ARC donation criteria. [Click here](#) for Donor Eligibility Guidelines. The ARC has implemented many precautions that align with [COVID-19 guidelines](#).

How Often Can You Donate?: [Click here to review the requirements from the ARC for how often you can donate](#).

Remember: it is imperative that clinical and essential members of our workforce do not work while they are sick.

Virtual Housing Fair

The office of Off-Campus Services is hosting a virtual housing fair on **Thursday, March 26, 2020**. Learn more and register here: www.upenn.edu/offcampushousingfair.

Wharton Online Course on Impact and Implications of Coronavirus

Wharton is offering a six-week, half-credit online course about the implications of COVID-19, titled, "Epidemics, Natural Disasters, and Geopolitics: Managing Global Business and Financial Uncertainty." It begins March 25, 2020. **Please note: registration is currently only open to MBA and undergraduate students;** however, it may open up to others on the 25th if there is space. Learn more about the course [here](#), and keep an eye out for announcements about registration.

THESIS DEFENSES

Mar. 24, 3 PM (Meeting URL: <https://bluejeans.com/998094502>): **Siddharth Kishore (CAMB), “The Penetrance of Pancreas Agenesis Caused by GATA6 Mutations is Modified by a Non-Coding SNP.”** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Mar. 27, 12:15 – 1:30 PM (Blue Jeans Virtual Meeting): **CPM Research in Progress Seminar: Post Rotation Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Daily Phone “Drop-Ins” with Penn Career Services. In place of walk-ins, Career Services is offering a variety of phone and web appointments, which students can schedule through [Handshake](#). These include the option for same-day, 15-minute appointments with a career adviser. New appointment times open up every day at 9:15 AM ET. To schedule an appointment, sign in to Handshake and click the “Career Center” tab near the top right corner.

Twitter users can also follow [@PennCareerJobs](#), a daily automated feed that highlights new job posts. And be sure you’ve customized your email settings in Handshake to receive a weekly newsletter featuring jobs and resources tailored to you! Detailed instructions on how to do so are available [here](#).

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 RESOURCES

[Slack for BGS Students](#)

[BGSA Website](#)

[Grad Center at Penn](#)

[Family Center at Penn](#)

[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](#).