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## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BGS Racial Climate Survey from CRIC | Survey closes November 25<sup>th</sup>**

The BGS and BPP leadership formed the Combating Racial Inequities Committee (CRIC), to evaluate the current climate with respect to race in order to make recommendations to improve it. The CRIC has formulated a survey (sent by email on 10/29) to collect information and establish metrics on racial and ethnic diversity, equity, and inclusion culture within BGS and BPP by focusing on 5 areas: Journey to and Selection of Penn, Resources, Environment, Unconscious Bias Training, and Community. The survey results will inform the committee's recommendations to BGS, BPP, and the Perelman School of Medicine in implementing initiatives to improve the culture and climate around race at Penn.

A prize will be awarded to the graduate group or department with the highest percentage response to the survey! So take the survey and encourage your colleagues to take it too! The survey closes **November 25<sup>th</sup>**.

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### **Drop-In Sessions with BGS Director**

For students who would like to connect with the **BGS Director, Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto**, regarding election concerns, please [sign up here](#) for a 15-minute drop-in session during one of the following time slots:

- 11/9, 1-2 PM
  - 11/11, 2-3 PM
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### **ORDT Office Hours**

The Office of Research and Diversity Training (ORDT) will host daily office hours from Monday through Thursday for the rest of November (see details [here](#)). Please [sign in](#) to receive the Zoom information.

Please note we will not hold office hours on Thanksgiving (11/26).

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### **COVID-19 Testing**

Please be aware that testing is available in Houston Hall. Details, including appointment scheduling links, are available here: <https://wellness.upenn.edu/coronavirus/#About-Testing-at-Hall-of-Flags>

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### **Biomed Library – Video Tutorials**

The staff at the Biomedical Library have produced a collection of videos describing resources and outlining some of the services available to Penn's health science community. Since many of us continue to work and learn from home, the librarians at Penn have shifted their efforts from in-person classroom presentations to recorded presentations and brief "how to" videos.

Access videos on their [MediaSpace website](#).

You can also find a link to the videos on the [Biomedical Library Homepage](#) under the "Need help with..." collection of links.

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### **CAPS Counselor for BGS Students**

**Tiffany Brown, PhD**, psychologist at CAPS, remains available to meet with BGS students virtually.

Dr. Brown's services are confidential. 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 or email her directly at [nicobr@upenn.edu](mailto:nicobr@upenn.edu).

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### **Project Meow Accepting Donations**

Project Meow builds winter shelters for the stray cats of West Philadelphia. More than 500 shelters were constructed last season! They are once again accepting donations of large styrofoam boxes (Illumina boxes are ideal). See flyer [here](#); contact [Anne Froehling](#) (215)-485-6121 to arrange pick up outside the building.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### ***Inscopix DECODE Summit 2020, The State of Mental Health: From Bench to Bedside to A Better World***

**Monday, November 9**

The summit will bring together leaders from academia, biopharma, philanthropy, advocacy, and government to put the spotlight on the latest in research and treatments for neuropsychiatric disorders, and to discuss challenges faced by the mental health ecosystem.

You can learn more and register to attend the Summit here: <https://www.inscopix.com/decode-summit-2020>

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### **Queer in STEMinar Event**

**Tuesday, November 10, 5pm**

**Zoom link:** <https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/93696012842>

LTBGS+ are thrilled to announce Dr. Rebecca Ashare, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, as the speaker of our second Queer in STEMinar event! Join us in hearing about her experiences as an LGBTQ+ scientist and what navigating through academia as a member of the community has been like. See flyer [here](#).

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### **BGS Peer Support Network - Group Session on Uncertainty**

**Thursday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-6:15pm**

New experiments, changing relationships, national unpredictability...How do we healthfully acknowledge the things we can't predict and cope with our emotions and reactions to them? PSN will host a group discussion on ways to approach and negotiate uncertainty in our lives. See flyer [here](#).

RSVP's encouraged: [http://bit.ly/PSN\\_Uncertainty](http://bit.ly/PSN_Uncertainty)  
BlueJeans link <https://bluejeans.com/7690183899>

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## **Chemistry-Biology Interface Fall Symposium**

**Friday, November 13th, 9am – 1:30pm**

The symposium will be held virtually over zoom and will feature 3 keynote speakers and six student speakers. The keynote speakers this year are **Professor Sarah Slavoff (Yale)**, **Professor Sidney Wilkerson-Hill (UNC Chapel Hill)**, and **Professor Paramjit (Bobby) Arora (NYU)**. See tentative schedule & flyer [here](#). Register [here](#). Visit the [CBI website](#) for info on past symposia.

# **THESIS DEFENSES**

Nov. 9, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/494451352>): **Di Zhang (GCB)**, “Sculpting 3D chromatin folding via genome editing.” Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Nov. 9, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/163734810>): **Melody Esmaeili-Ghahfar (CAMB)**, “Chromatin accessibility and histone acetylation in the regulation of competence in early development.” Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

Nov. 11, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/170854132>): **Sarah Reitz (NGG)**, “A role for tachykinin 1 preoptic neurons in natural and anesthetic-induced arousal state regulation.” Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

Nov. 12, 10:15 AM: **Binglan Li (GCB)**, “Identifying complex trait-related genes via regulation informed gene-based analyses.” Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Nov. 12, 1 PM (<https://upenn.zoom.us/j/94757474334>): **Eric Sanford**, “How does a gene combine the transcriptional effects of two cell signals?” Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Nov. 12, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/610862290>): **Benjamin Tajer**, “Elucidating the Heterodimer Signaling Mechanism.” Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

# **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NGG**

**CALENDARS**

[NGG and GLIA](#)

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Events this Week

- Nov. 13, 9am – 1:30pm: **Chemistry-Biology Interface Fall Symposium**. The symposium will be held virtually over zoom and will feature 3 keynote speakers and six student speakers. The keynote speakers this year are **Professor Sarah Slavoff (Yale), Professor Sidney Wilkerson-Hill (UNC Chapel Hill), and Professor Paramjit (Bobby) Arora (NYU)**. *See tentative schedule & flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).* Visit the [CBI website](#) for info on past symposia.

## Future Events

- Nov. 18, 12 – 2 PM: **PSPDG Workshop, “Presentation Skills: How to create memorable presentations.”** Master slide and poster presentations by learning how to direct attention of your audience. Increase clarity and efficacy of your presentations and decrease misunderstandings by commanding visual space and visual information. Learn more [here](#) and sign up for updates [here](#).

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## Provost's Postdoctoral Fellowship | November 15 Deadline

Now in its eleventh year, this program was established to advance diversity in the Schools at the postdoctoral level, in accordance with President Gutmann’s Action Plan for Faculty Diversity and Excellence and our campus-wide commitment to diversity.

The [website](#) provides complete information about the program and the online application system, including details about the roles and responsibilities of the postdoc, mentor, and host department. Before applying, applicants are asked to identify and contact potential faculty mentors with compatible research interests, who then submit a letter and a mentoring plan confirming their willingness to act as a mentor.

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## ITMAT Education is featuring new course for Spring 2021

### **REG 618 - Introduction to Vaccine Development**

Instructor: Jeff Barrett, MD

Time: W, 4:00-7:00PM

Open to nondegree: Yes

This introductory course lays the foundation for conducting vaccine research in many ways. It begins with a brief review of the history of vaccine discovery and development and explains the phases of

vaccine development in detail. Global Health history and impact of vaccines is described as well as the various stakeholders (e.g. WHO and World Bank) involved which distinguish vaccine from drug development. The decision-making process, vaccine development milestones and compound progression metrics are defined and explained with examples. At the conclusion of this course, students should have a working knowledge of the vaccine development process, understand the regulatory basis by which new vaccines are evaluated, ultimately approved and distributed around the world.

Contact: Bethany Germany ([bgermany@upenn.edu](mailto:bgermany@upenn.edu)) with questions  
Complete the [course request form](#) if you are interested in registering for the course

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### **Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship | November 29 Deadline**

Penn is permitted to forward three nominees for the 2021-22 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund fellowship, which pays full tuition plus a stipend of \$18,000 for up to three years. U.S. citizens pursuing a graduate degree in 2021-22 in any recognized field of study in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences (including law, medicine, engineering, architecture or other formal professional training) are eligible. The selection committee has a strong preference for supporting scholarly endeavors.

An internal selection process will be coordinated by the **Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships**. For the purposes of the internal competition, students should complete the application and submit the requested supporting documentation by **November 29, 2020**.

This internal Penn application requires 1 letter of recommendation from a professor (not a postdoc or lecturer) who has taught or worked closely with you. You will request this through the application process, but please alert your preferred recommender as soon as possible so as to give your recommender ample time to submit letters of recommendation before the Penn Deadline. See the [CURF website](#) for additional application requirements.

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### **Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program Applications due December 1, 2020**

The application period for the Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program has begun. Learn more [here](#), see flyer [here](#).

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### **Job Openings**

- **Stem Cell Biologist – Fate Therapeutics** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Protein Engineering Scientist – Nabla Bio** – See full announcement [here](#).

Request to join the [BGS Alumni and Current Students LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on job opportunities.

## 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

## Events this Week

- Nov. 9, 6 PM: **BGSA Virtual Yoga Session Series**. BGSA will be hosting Virtual Yoga Sessions with a certified power yoga instructor! Please [sign up](#) to receive the **Bluejeans link**.
- Nov. 10, 5 PM (<https://penncareer.zoom.us/j/93696012842>): **LTBGS+ Queer in STEMinar Event**. We are thrilled to announce Dr. Rebecca Ashare, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, as the speaker of our second Queer in STEMinar event! Join us in hearing about her experiences as an LGBTQ+ scientist and what navigating through academia as a member of the community has been like. See flyer [here](#).
- Nov. 10, 5 PM (<https://penncareer.zoom.us/j/7713626246>): **BGSA General Assembly Meeting & Screening of Spirited Away**. We will discuss budget, elections, and upcoming virtual events. Please join us for the meeting and our movie screening of **"Spirited Away"**! See flyer [here](#).
- Nov. 12, 5-6:15 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/7690183899>): **BGS Peer Support Network - Group Session on Uncertainty**. New experiments, changing relationships, national unpredictability...How do we healthfully acknowledge the things we can't predict and cope with our emotions and reactions to them? PSN will host a group discussion on ways to approach and negotiate uncertainty in our lives. RSVP's encouraged: [http://bit.ly/PSN\\_Uncertainty](http://bit.ly/PSN_Uncertainty)

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[Peer Support Network \(PSN\)](#)

[Slack for BGS Students](#)

[Roommate Ads – Google Doc](#)

[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](#)

[Request a University-sponsored MATLAB license](#)

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