



**Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:**

- [General Announcements](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Thesis Defenses](#)
- [Program Announcements](#)
- [Career Development](#)
- [Student Group Events/Resources](#)

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations**

**Testing.** Graduate students who live on campus or come to campus each week must be tested. You may enroll in [Penn Cares Testing](#) or in [COVID SAFE](#) – but you should not be enrolled in both simultaneously. If you are working in a lab in CHOP, Wistar, or another affiliate and are NOT entering Penn/PSOM buildings, you should follow those entities' testing protocols and do NOT need to enroll in University testing. You may receive automated emails about testing even though you are not enrolled in Penn Cares Testing; you may ignore these emails.

**Red PennOpen Pass?** If you signed up for Penn Cares testing but are not scheduled for a weekly test, you may get a red PennOpen pass. You will need to schedule your weekly test in order to be given a green pass. If you are no longer coming to campus weekly or have switched to COVID SAFE, please email Judy Jackson, [jajackso@penntest.upenn.edu](mailto:jajackso@penntest.upenn.edu) to arrange to be un-enrolled from Penn Cares. Please refer to Perelman School of Medicine email of 1/25/21 4:24pm for more details about testing.

**Vaccinations.** Penn and the PSOM have begun rolling out vaccinations. Please refer to Penn's [Vaccinations](#) site for more information.

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### **Graduate & Professional Student Emergency Fund**

The Office of the Provost has provided over \$70,000 to the VPUL Emergency Fund specifically dedicated for graduate and professional student urgent and unanticipated needs. Students facing emergency financial hardships can learn more at [gsc.upenn.edu/grad-emergency-grant](https://gsc.upenn.edu/grad-emergency-grant).

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### **2021 NSF Award Winners & Honorable Mention Recipients**

BGS is proud to announce that many of our students have been selected for the 2021 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). Please join us in congratulating them! See a list of the Award Winners & Honorable Mention Recipients: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/news-and-events/>

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### **Call for Nominations - Lok and Kanefield Prizes for BGS Students Conducting Cystic Fibrosis Research or Related Research**

BGS seeks nominations for the two prizes described [here](#). Nominations may be made on a rolling basis. If the award money is to be used for travel to a conference, please submit the nomination at least 2 months prior to the date of the conference. BGS faculty members should nominate their students via email to [rebecca.lopez@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:rebecca.lopez@penncare.upenn.edu).

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### **GAPSA's Pilot Transcription Fund**

#### **Application closes April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Over the past year, GAPSA has identified qualitative students are currently underserved, required to manually transcribe their own interviews or outsource transcription services on their own dime for the vast hours of interviews and audio recordings.

Asking qualitative students to manually transcribe or to pay for transcription services highlights a lack of support for qualitative students; computational students are provided with access to clusters to perform research much like chemistry students do not need to purchase their own raw materials for research.

GAPSA seeks to provide temporarily relief for these students while building a case to present to the administration to address this need.

Our application is now open and will close on April 14th.

[https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_03eZmeLt31iQWuW?Q\\_CHL=preview&Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_03eZmeLt31iQWuW?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current)

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## Counseling and Wellness

[Counseling and Psychological Services](#) has a variety of virtual options and some in-person options. Call 215-898-7021 anytime (24/7) to make an appointment or talk with a licensed counselor.

On campus appointments are available 9am-5pm Monday-Friday. Virtual appointments are available Mon-Thurs, 9am-6pm, Fri, 9am-5pm, and Saturday, 10am-2pm. Press 2 to make an in-person or virtual appointment.

You may also use [Let's Talk](#) virtual hours: <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/ltplohours/>  
Use 215-898-7021, press 2, to schedule a Let's Talk session.

Dr. Tiffany Brown is the embedded CAPS counselor for BGS. You may schedule appointments with her directly [[nicobr@upenn.edu](mailto:nicobr@upenn.edu)] or by calling 215-898-7021 (press 2). You may also arrange to work with other CAPS counselors by calling the main CAPS number.

For peer support networking, please feel free to reach out to one of the BGS student volunteers of [Peer Support Network](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **TODAY - BGS Alumni Leading at the Scientific Edge**

**April 5, 2021, 4:00 – 5:00 PM EDT**

BGS students and alumni are invited to attend this exclusive virtual career panel featuring three accomplished PhD graduates working in the private sector. Featuring:

- [Michelle Kinder, PhD](#)  
Scientific Director for Immuno-Oncology in US Medical Affairs, Incyte
- [Adam M. Koppel, MD, PhD](#)  
Managing Director, Bain Capital Life Sciences
- [Fiona A. Mack, PhD](#)  
Head of JLABS @ TMC, Johnson & Johnson Innovation

[Register and submit a question](#)

Event login details will be provided in your confirmation email.

Inquiries: [mcgarryn@upenn.edu](mailto:mcgarryn@upenn.edu)

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## **Penn Society for Psychedelic Science Seminar Series**

**April 13 at 4 PM**

This semester, the Penn Society for Psychedelic Science is hosting a [seminar series](#) showcasing the broad range of research – from molecules, to brains, to societies – that is *New and Noteworthy in Psychedelic Science*. Join us roughly every other Tuesday at 4pm.

Finally, we would love to thank BGSa for sponsoring this series and MindCORE for hosting us on their CrowdCast server. Register for [Ruben Laukkonen](#) at this link!

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### **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Philadelphia Symposium**

Register today for the the 2021 Virtual Symposium on Gender Bias in Science Communication hosted by GWIS Philadelphia! The event will take place **Friday, April 16, 2021 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM EST**. The [registration](#) link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/cRxoJDQ8DRHuKcT26>.

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### **Neuroscience Public Lecture**

**Date & Time: Tuesday, April 20th, 6:00pm EST**

Penn Neuroscience graduate students are hosting a public lecture entitled “**Neuroinflammation: The Brain’s Defense Mechanism**” which will feature 15-minute TED style talks from three Philadelphia-area neuroscience faculty members:

- Dr. Chris Bennett – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Jennifer Orthmann-Murphy – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Elena Blanco-Suárez – Jefferson University

Check-in and a fun neuroscience demonstration will begin at 6pm. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more details.

**Please register for the event here:** <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/neurolecture/register>

## **THESIS DEFENSES**

April 8, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/805493611>): **Somdutta Mukherjee (CAMB), “Loss of TBX3 enhances pancreatic progenitor generation from human pluripotent stem cells.”** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CAMB**

4/8, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

4/8, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Post Rotation Talks**. Contact [Anna Kline](#) for the virtual link.

4/9, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **DSRB Program Lunch: Anti-Racism Book Discussion**. Contact [Meagan Schofer](#) for the virtual link.

4/9, 12:15pm - 1:30pm: **CPM Research in Progress: Vineet Kulkarni (Maday lab) and Maria Vogel (Maday lab) presenting**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#) for the virtual link.

## NGG

### CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Events this Week

- **BPP F & K AWARD (VIRTUAL) SERIES WITH DR. BETH SCHACHTER – Fri., April 2; Thurs., April 8, & Fri., April 9**
  - Dr. Beth Schachter's Grantsmanship Workshop covers NIH F32 fellowships, the K99/R00 Pathway-to-Independence awards for postdoctoral fellows and the other NIH K-type Career Development awards for junior clinical or translational faculty members. For the workshop, we will use a combination of my prerecorded videos, a Slack channel for shared written communications, real-time(s) videoconferencing using Zoom meetings, and some one-on-one communications using email, videoconferencing and/or phone. Click on the hyperlinks for more information:  
[Friday, April 2, 2021, 10 AM—12 PM \(General Session\)](#)  
[Thursday, April 8, 2021, 10 AM— 12 PM \(F Award Session ONLY\)](#)  
[Friday, April 9, 2021, 10 AM— 12 PM \(K Award Session ONLY\)](#)

## Future Events

- **InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings (#IPSAG): Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat | April 12, 11 am – 12 PM ET**  
**Register:** <https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/calendar/wicshops/healthtea>  
Take a late morning coffee/tea break from studying and/or working at the Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat on April 12th from 11am to 12pm Eastern. Casually converse and mingle with fellow Penn students, staff, and faculty in the virtual Engineering Library available in the [Penn Libraries Gather.Town site](#), which is open to all @upenn.edu email users. This event is a part of the [Penn Libraries InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings](#) (IPSAG).
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## Sign up to provide a critical mentored virtual research experience for URMs this summer

**Deadline: May 1st, 11:59pm**

Future applicants with under-represented identities in science and medicine (URiM) are experiencing significant setbacks in applying to combined degree programs this year and beyond. This problem has been significantly exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The **Virtual Summer Research Program (VSRP) through the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA)**, a program led by the Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion committee, is hoping to bridge this gap, and **we need your help!**

In 2020 we paired 150+ mentors, principal investigators and graduate students with premedical and pre-graduate trainees for mentored research experiences. In 2021, we are hoping to pair 200 URiMs (we anticipate 600+ will apply). Ultimately, we hope to increase diversity by expanding access to dual degree programs to those whose previous research experience was limited by socio-economic factors—and for this, **we are asking graduate students, post-docs, and principal investigators in any lab or research group to sign up as mentors for this virtual research experience from June 14th to August 6th 2021.** Visit <https://www.physicianscientists.org/page/VSRP-2021> to learn more and sign up (note that your PI *must* sign-off although non-Pis can certainly mentor!). The deadline is **May 1st, 11:59pm.**

If we want the next generation of scientists to be diverse, we must participate in uplifting URiM applicants that are facing compounded roadblocks due to COVID-19 and ongoing racial and economic disparities that plague our nation. **If you are asking yourself, what can I do to increase diversity in biomedical research? Well, this!**

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### Job Openings

- **(NEW)** [Novartis Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)
  - Application Deadline: April 14 for Cambridge, MA site; April 29 for Basel site
- [Postdoctoral Positions – Elovitz Laboratory](#)
- [Vivodyne seeking Senior Scientists](#)
- [Geneticist / Bioinformatician - Aro Biotherapeutics](#)
- [Postdoc Opportunity - Emory Global Diabetes Research Center](#)
- [FitzGerald Lab Opportunities – Graduate Students & Postdocs](#)
- [Post-doc Position – National Cancer Institute](#)
- [Postdoctoral Fellowship - Elrod Lab at Temple University Center for Translational Medicine](#)
- [Archive of other Job Listings](#)

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

### RESOURCES

[BGS Career Development Calendar](#)  
[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 GROUP EVENTS/RESOURCES

## **BGSA GA Meeting | Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

LINK: <https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/7713626246>

Followed by game night!

Do you want to host giveaway for your group: Penn merchandise, masks, care packages ?

COME FIND OUT ABOUT AVAILABLE FUNDING

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## **Upcoming BGSA-sponsored Activities:**

"**Penn Swag!** BGSA plans to order picnic blankets and bento-style lunch boxes for BGS students. Please take a minute to fill out [this form](#) to indicate if you are interested and which option you prefer! "

"**Virtual Escape Room:** Put your sleuthing skills to work! BGSA is cohosting a virtual escape-room type event on Friday, April 16th at 7pm! Secure your spot today by registering [here!](#) "

"**Acts Wanted!** Sign-up today to showcase your skills in a Talent Show hosted by BGS and IGA on Friday, April 23rd. Acts will be judged by a panel of "celebrity" faculty judges. Best acts will win prizes! Register to perform by April 14th at <https://penn-bgsa.ticketleap.com/talent-show-acts/>"

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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](#).**