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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Requirements

Vaccinations. Penn students, faculty, and staff are required to be vaccinated. Students must upload their vaccine record through [Student Health](#). Information regarding current student immunization requirements can be found [here](#).

Masking/Testing. All members of the Penn community and visitors must wear masks while indoors in public or shared spaces. In addition, **twice-a-week** Penn Cares screening testing is required for members of our community who are not vaccinated or choose not to report their vaccination information. Learn more about student compliance with testing [here](#).

Gateway Testing Requirement for Current Students

As you are all aware, there has been a concerning increase of COVID infections due to the Delta Variant. In an effort to prevent the spread of the variant on campus, as you return to academic and clinical activities, you are required to be "[gateway tested](#)" – although the messaging from the

University refers to “arrival” testing, the University is defining gateway testing as a COVID test between July 7 and Sept 7 (without departing Philadelphia) for all students. [Here’s the link to the Penn site describing this initiative](#). This testing is REQUIRED, regardless of your vaccination status.

For those of you currently on campus, gateway testing can be performed via Penn Cares, which is managed by Student Health Services (SHS), anytime now.

If you are on campus or in Philadelphia AND plan on traveling outside the city for any reason, you will need to get tested upon your return to school.

To be clear: **EVERYONE** who will be on site this semester needs to have gateway testing by **September 7, 2021**. There will be no exceptions.

We really appreciate your efforts to help us preserve the health of our community in BGS and at Penn.

Additional questions can easily be answered by accessing this [FAQ](#) page. Please contact Judy Jackson (jajackso@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) with any specific or individualized questions regarding this process.

(NEW) - Fall 2021 Graduate Spaces

Looking for a quiet place to study, space to relax and meet up with friends, or rooms to reserve while the Grad Center is closed? This page has information about alternative and temporary spaces available for graduate student use during the Fall 2021 semester:

<https://gsc.upenn.edu/Fall2021/spaces>

(NEW) - Instructions for downloading Microsoft Office O365 for BGS Students

OfficeO365 is available to download at no cost through your PennMedicine webmail O365 account:

Go to the online PennMedicine mail server via:

<https://provider.www.upenn.edu/computing/webmail/index.php>

Once in your webmail account, click on the nine dots in the top left corner, then click on “Office 365”. Then on the next page, click on ‘Install Office’ in the top right hand corner and follow the instructions.

PhD Grants for Family/Dependent Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, and Other Insurance Information

Family/Dependent Health Insurance: Beginning today, 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. The deadline to apply is September 23, 2021. More information is available at <https://familycenter.upenn.edu/grants>; contact Jessica Bolker (jessal@upenn.edu) with any questions.

Dental Insurance: Students who enroll in the [Penn Dental Student Plan](#) by September 23, 2021, will automatically receive a 50% reimbursement from the University; beginning this year, BGS will reimburse the remaining 50%. Because this is a reimbursement and not a subsidy, you are responsible for paying the full cost as well as any fees accrued due to late payment. Reimbursements will come in two installments (one from the University and one from BGS) and will not be issued until after the enrollment deadline.

Vision Insurance: Additional vision insurance may be purchased directly through [Aetna](#). Beginning this year, you can submit an expense report with the receipt of payment through Concur and BGS will reimburse you in full.

Health Insurance: The deadline to enroll in or waive out of the [Penn Student Insurance Plan \(PSIP\)](#) is Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact [Anne-Cara Apple](#).

ITMAT Education Fall 2021 Course Offerings

The ITMAT Fall 2021 course offerings include:

REG 510 – Introduction to Clinical & Translational Research

Instructor: Emma Meagher, MD

Time: MW, 8:30 – 10 am

Modality: Online

Open to nondegree: Yes

REG 616 Quality Assurance

Instructor: Dawn Lundin

Time: Tuesdays, 4 – 7 pm

Modality: Online

Open to nondegree: Yes

See the full announcement and course request forms [here](#).

Roommate Ads & Slack for BGS Students

BGS students are welcome to post their housing and roommate ads in the following [Google doc](#). There is also a channel within the BGS Slack workspace intended for sharing roommate ads, titled **#attn_roommate-ads**.

There is a BGS slack for connecting the various departments and student groups and as a place for questions and discussion. For current students who are not a part of it yet and incoming students,

please join with the following link: https://join.slack.com/t/upennbgs/shared_invite/zt-99ajnayf-ImKfg7ic5niiE1u3ksyl5g

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.

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] or by calling 215-898-7021 (press 2). You may also arrange to work with other CAPS counselors by calling the main CAPS number.

(NEW) – Voter Registration Deadlines

In order to vote in a state or federal election, it's imperative to register to vote beforehand. National Voter Registration day is Tuesday, September 28, but registration deadlines vary from state to state. To learn more about your state-specific deadlines, please visit [Voter Registration Deadlines](#). To register to vote now and/or request a mail-in ballot, text "Vote Penn" to 34444 or visit <https://voter.org/PENN/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Cores Day Registration Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for Virtual Cores Day on **September 30th, 2021!**

Held from 10am-2pm, the annual Cores Day event is a joint venture with CHOP, PSOM and Wistar, a platform effort to showcase the many outstanding biomedical research resources and services

available throughout our campus. This event is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to interface with a multitude of research core facilities via informational presentations and live chats.

New this year, our event will be held via the PheedLoop event management platform, with an aim to enrich and enhance the Cores Day experience for participants and attendees.

Please [click here for free registration](#), and be sure to check out the [Cores Day website](#) for event updates.

We hope to see you on Thursday, September 30th!

Please send any questions to April Weakley (aweakley@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

Save the Date: Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, 12 - 2 PM

[Registration](#)

Penn Libraries and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) Patient and Family Education Committee are observing Health Literacy Month by participating in the National Library of Medicine's #citeNLM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon initiative to edit health-related pages on Wikipedia, an online open-source encyclopedia that has become one of the world's most popular websites. Learn how to edit Wikipedia pages using information found on MedlinePlus, PubMed, and other credible health websites. No prior experience with Wikipedia is necessary for this volunteer activity.

Upcoming Symposium: Understanding COVID-19 and Addressing Disparities in Care

Please see the [attached flier](#) for the Coronavirus symposium "Understanding COVID-19 and Addressing Disparities in Care". The symposium will be both virtual and in person, **November 2 from 1 to 5PM ET**. Topics to be covered will range from viral evolution and human variation to delivery of care and vaccine hesitancy.

THESIS DEFENSES

Aug. 30, 1 PM ([BlueJeans](#)): **Khadija Wilson (PGG)**, "Elucidating the Pathological Mechanism of **Histone H3.3 mutations in Neurodevelopment.**" Contact [Sarah Squire](#).

Aug. 31, 10 AM (Class of 62', JMB): **Natalie Gong (NGG)**. Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

Sep. 1, 1 PM (JMB Reunion Auditorium / [Zoom](#)): **Kevin Goff (NGG)**, "**VIP Interneuron cell and circuit dysfunction underlying Dravet Syndrome.**" Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Aug. 30, 12 – 3 PM: **Orientation CAMB Photo Session.** Contact [Christina Strathearn](#).

Aug. 30, 12:30- 1:30 PM: **CB Chalk Talks.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Aug. 31, 1 – 2 PM: **CAMB Orientation.** Contact [Christina Strathearn](#).

Aug. 31, 2 – 4 PM: **CAMB 605 Effectiveness Presentation.** Contact [Christina Strathearn](#).

Sep. 1, 2 – 4 PM (9-104 Smilow Center or a Virtual Meeting via BlueJeans): **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours.** Contact [Dan Kessler](#). Dan will physically be in his office, but if you would like to set up a virtual meeting instead please use the [sign up google sheet](#).

Sep. 1, 3 – 5 PM: **MVP Faculty Chalk Talks.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sep. 1, 3 – 5 PM: **Cancer Biology Recruit A Student Initiative (Poster session).** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Sep. 2, all day: **DSRB Retreat.** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

Sep. 3, 12 – 1 PM: **MVP Student Discussion.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- None this week

Upcoming Events

- Sep. 7, 4:30 – 5:30 PM ([Register](#)): **MD Anderson TRIUMPH Post-Doctoral Informational Webinar.**

- **Penn 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Virtual Information Sessions**

- Wednesday, September 8, 10:00-11:00 AM
- Tuesday, September 14, 3:00-4:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 15, 2:00-3:00 PM
- Thursday, September 23, 9:00-10:00 AM

Explaining your research quickly and clearly is a great skill to have during networking, interviews, and unexpected social situations. The Penn 3MT competition this year will give you that experience and more! Come to one of our virtual information sessions to learn more and hear from past Penn 3MT winners! Register at gsc.upenn.edu/events.

- Oct. 7, 12 – 5 PM: Save the Date: The virtual **Biosciences & Research Career Fair** hosted by Penn Career Services will take place **Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 12 – 5 PM**. Registration information coming soon.

(NEW) - Upcoming Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Workshops

Interested participants should register using the links below. Both workshops count towards the CTL Teaching Certificate.

The Academic Tightrope: Balancing Teaching, Mentoring, and Research in STEM Fields

September 21st, 2021: 5:00 pm to 6:15 pm

Johnson Pavilion Room 209

<https://wwwctl.upenn.edu/event/academic-tightrope-balancing-teaching-mentoring-and-research-stem-fields>

Hosted by Marisa Egan, CTL Graduate Fellow, Cell & Molecular Biology

A panel of the following experienced graduate student and post-doc teachers will discuss how they manage varying time commitments in academia and will engage in a Q&A discussion with the audience.

Jasmine Alexander, PhD: NIH/IRACDA (PennPORT) Postdoctoral Fellow in Sunny Shin's lab

Rebecca Glynn: Cancer Biology PhD Candidate in Craig Bassing's lab

Heather Schiller: Biology PhD Candidate in Mecky Pohlschröder's lab

Vincent Wu: Microbiology PhD Candidate in Mike Betts' lab

Preparing Students for Midterms and Exams in STEM Fields

October 6th, 2021: 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

CTL Seminar Room, Van Pelt 134

<https://wwwctl.upenn.edu/event/preparing-students-midterms-and-exams-stem-fields>

Hosted by Marisa Egan, CTL Graduate Fellow, Cell & Molecular Biology

STEM classes often move at a rapid pace, such that the course material accumulates quickly and can make preparing for exams a daunting task. Students need to stay on the top of the material so they

do not fall behind and resort to last-minute “cramming” before exams. As teachers, we must help our students devise effective and efficient study strategies that allow them to synthesize the concepts they are learning. It is also essential that we help our students develop ways to retain the material for long-term understanding rather than short-term memorization merely for the exam. In this workshop, we will address how instructors can promote good study habits in their STEM classrooms through teaching practices that foster long-term learning and building connections among different parts of the material. We will also discuss the use of practice exam questions to help students gauge how they will be assessed. Finally, we will consider how instructors can use individualized approaches to engage certain students who are struggling with specific areas of exam preparation.

(NEW) - Brief intro to Career Services for incoming students

Please see a couple of resources below for new PhD students and Master’s students that introduce some of Career Services resources:

Master’s students:

- You can find our 10 ways that Master’s can use Career Services handout here: <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/resources/10-ways-to-use-career-services-as-a-masters-student/>
- And a brief alternative version of this for Master’s in video format here: <https://youtu.be/2TJV-qF2geY>

PhD Students:

- PhD handout: <https://careerservices.upenn.edu/resources/10-ways-to-use-career-services-as-a-phd-postdoc/>
 - PhD video: <https://youtu.be/i0mnf24p9U8>
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(NEW) – Career Development Resources for BGS Students

BGS maintains a number of career development resources, including a career blog and calendar of events, career path videos featuring alumni, and more. See [this page](#) for a summary of resources within BGS and across Penn’s campus.

Google Fellowship Call for Applications

Penn has been invited to submit 2-4 nominees for the Google PhD Fellowship Program. See the full call for applications [here](#).

Deadlines:

Internal Competition Deadline: September 16, 2021, at 11:59 PM ET

Internal Competition Winners notified: September 24, 2021

Provost’s Office submits 4 nominees: September 30, 2021

Biology department hiring TAs

The Biology department is hiring TAs for the following courses. A brief description is included but more complete information is available for all courses using the Course Search option in Penn In Touch. All courses will meet in person in the Fall 2021 semester.

BIOL 121/123 – Introduction to Biology: Molecular Biology of Life; lecture and lab section
Introductory level course. TA leads one lab section each week. Also attend lecture course (BIOL 121) and lab lecture which prepares students for the week's activity. Attendance at weekly lab prep meeting is also required. TA grades lab assignments for assigned section and assists with grading lecture exams. BIOL 121 lecture meets MW 10:15 – 11:45; BIOL 123 lecture meets F 8:30 – 9:30. Lab prep meeting will be scheduled before the start of the semester.

BIOL 215 – Vertebrate Physiology; recitation sections
Intermediate level course. TA leads 1-2 recitation sections each week to review problem sets and answer questions. Also hold regular office hours. TAs provide administrative support to the faculty and grade exams. Class meets TR 12:00 – 1:30.

BIOL 375/376 – Microbial Diversity and Pathogenesis; lecture and lab
Intermediate level course. TA will schedule regular review sessions, especially the weeks before exams, and hold weekly office hours. TA assists with lab activities and grades assignments and exams for both courses. BIOL 375 meets TR 1:45 – 3:15; BIOL 376 meets TR 8:30 – 11:30.

Please note the BGS rules for TAing and getting approval for other work. If considered for a position, you will need to fill out the form and get your advisor and grad group chair to sign off and return that form to Colleen Dunn in the BGS office. See <https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/student-funding.html> for more information and links to the necessary forms.

Interested students should send their CV to Robin Sherwood (sherwood@sas.upenn.edu). Please indicate if you have a preference for a specific course.

Recitation leader for chemistry course needed

Recitation leader for chemistry course needed! The course is super basic, with algebra-level calculations. This position is open to ANY person in the sciences who wants some valuable teaching experiences to impact non-majors to consider a science track. This is open to all fields of biology and chemistry, physics, whatever. In fact, this position is open to graduate students who want teaching experience. If you are interested, contact Antonio Davila at: davilaa@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

Description: I am looking for a recitation leader for my freshman chemistry course in the School of Nursing this fall. I've taught this course for 5 years and have a pretty good system in place. In the past, I've had female graduate students perform this important role, but I don't have anyone for this fall term. Briefly, NURS 061 is a very basic-level chemistry course that focuses on calculations and "practical application" of chemistry in nursing. There are three one-hour recitation sections on Thursdays which will all be virtual. Generally, there is a worksheet that students work on during

recitation then the leader goes over them together with the class to clarify and answer questions. These sections can also be used to ask for homework help, exam reviews, etc. The recitation leader doesn't not have to deal with grading, student emails, etc. - I have a separate class T.A. for that. I think that this can be an excellent opportunity for one to gain some valuable teaching experience and, equally important, to engage with students at this early stage in one's academic career. I am very cognizant of the fact that my course is almost completely female, and so I incorporate women scientists and nurses in my case studies, presentations and recitations to deliver the material and also to act as role models. A major priority in my course is to promote research and community engagement and to encourage women and minorities to pursue grad school. I am confident that we all share these values and goals, and this job opportunity is a prime way to make an impact. This is a paid gig, 5-10 hours per week (depending on level of involvement), and pays \$25/hour.

BGS students should review the policies regarding [Compensation for Teaching Assistantships](#) and complete the appropriate approval form:

- [Job Request Form for BGS students](#)
 - [Job Request Form for MD-PhD students](#)
-

NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for a Diverse Genomics Workforce (F99/K00)

Application Due Date: December 8, 2021

This two-phased award will facilitate completion of a doctoral dissertation (F99) and transition to a strong postdoctoral research position (K00) focused on the scientific, medical, ethical, social and/or legal areas of genomics research.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-143.html>

IBSA Foundation for scientific research – Fellowships 2021 Call

Application Deadline: December 31, 2021

Applications are open for the 9th edition of the [IBSA Foundation Fellowships 2021 Call](#) that awards 6 fellowships of € 30,000/each (one additional fellowship compared to the previous edition) to young researchers under the age of 40, from Universities and Research Institutes around the world, who have distinguished themselves for their skills and have ongoing projects of particular relevance in the following research areas:

- dermatology
 - endocrinology
 - fertility/urology
 - orthopaedics/pain medicine/rheumatology
- and the 2021 special edition
- regenerative medicine

Please find more information about the Call on the IBSA Foundation's [website](#).

Job Openings

- **(NEW)** – [Leal Therapeutics hiring Scientist](#)
- **(NEW)** – [Scientific Editor, Cell Metabolism](#)
- **(NEW)** – [Virtual Postdoc Recruiting Open House](#)
- **(NEW)** – [Analysis Group – Associate-Health Care position](#)
- **(NEW)** – [7 week teaching experience at Haverford](#)
- [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

(NEW) - **LTBGS Meet and Greet- September 2nd**

Join LTBGS at our Meet and Greet at the BioPond September 2nd, 5-7:30pm. Come meet other LGBTQ+ students, learn more about our organization, and snag an LTBGS notebook! Email ltbgs.penn@gmail.com for more information.

(NEW) - **BGSA First General Assembly Meeting**

Tuesday, September 7 at 5PM

<https://pennteam.zoom.us/j/97791983752>

Join BGSA for their first GA meeting of the 2021-2022 academic school year. Come learn about upcoming social and academic events, event funding, and discuss plans for the upcoming school year! [See flyer here.](#)

[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](#)

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