



Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

PSOM Center City Shuttle - Service suspension alert

The PSOM Center City Bus Service will be suspended starting at 7:00 pm this evening due to the storm's hazardous driving conditions. The 6:00 pm and 6:45 pm routes will operate as scheduled. Regular operating schedules will resume at 7:00 am on Tuesday, 02/02/21, conditions permitting.

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.

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@pennmedicine.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 does not yet have a general scheduling process for vaccinations. Medical students are being scheduled for vaccinations through UPHS. PhD students who work in labs connected to clinical facilities, such as CHOP, VET, or UPHS, **may** be scheduled for vaccinations through those entities. Students who are working SARS-CoV-2 in BSL3 labs or processing specimens from COVID patients may be prioritized for vaccination through Penn Medicine regardless of lab location (contact your PI and/or departmental BA, or Judy Jackson in BGS if in a non-PSOM lab). Subsequent prioritization groups will follow state guidelines and will occur as quickly as possible, depending upon availability of vaccine doses, which remains fluid and difficult to predict. We will continue to share updates as we receive them from our University and Health System colleagues. We ask that our students be patient and understanding as we navigate this process as a community. The institutions are doing their best to vaccinate the exposed and vulnerable first. Ultimately, we want to vaccinate everyone, so [if you are offered the opportunity to get vaccinated and want to do so, we ask that you get vaccinated](#). Every individual who is vaccinated is one less person who can spread the disease. This will allow more efficient distribution to the whole community if we don't have to circle back for people who deferred. We thank you for all your efforts to keep our community safe during these challenging times.

Penn Medicine Travel and Meeting Policy

Please be aware that the Penn Medicine Travel and Meeting Policy implemented last year has been extended through the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2021.

As a reminder, these mitigation policies were designed to limit the potential for unnecessary exposure of faculty, staff, and students to COVID-19. This change extends the following guidelines for both UPHS and PSOM:

- **Prohibit all Penn Medicine-related domestic and international travel by faculty, students, trainees, and staff of both the Perelman School of Medicine and the University of Pennsylvania Health System.**
- **Prohibit participation in all off-campus conferences or other large professional gatherings.**
- **Require the cancellation of any Penn Medicine conferences and meetings which include participants from outside our organization, including events for patients and caregivers.**

See the full announcement from Penn Medicine Leadership [here](#).

Reminder: Accessing Your W2 Forms

For help accessing your W2 via Workday, please see the following instructions:
<https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/assets/user-content/finance-forms/accessing-w2.pdf>

Reminder: Expanded Bus Shuttle Service to End Feb. 12th

As you may recall [during the fall](#), PSOM partnered with Penn Transit Services to offer expanded bus shuttle service during the work week until mid-February, based on usage. As a reminder, the program is set to complete its trial run on Friday, February 12, with the last special PSOM shuttle running at 11pm on 2/12.

Please note the services that remain in place to support a safe commute home:

- [Penn Transit](#) offers shuttle service through University City and parts of Center City, covering “East” and “West” from Monday to Friday, 5pm to 12am. Routes are posted [here](#).
- Faculty, personnel, trainees, and students also have access to [PennRides](#) (evening and on-demand shuttle service from 6pm to 3am, available seven days a week). This option provides service to Spring Garden Street (north), 50th Street (west), and 20th Street (east). In addition, this [link](#) for PennRides En Route (PRER) will allow riders to track and receive real-time ETAs for Penn Bus East and West.
- Septa’s newest route, “[Route 49 | 33rd-Dauphin to 29th-Snyder](#),” which covers some of the southern and northern locations of the expiring bus shuttle, and makes frequent stops at Civic Center Blvd. and Health Sciences Dr.

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.

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

Penn TA Prize Nominations Open through February 19

Nominations for the Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students are now open, with a deadline of **February 19, 2021**. Nominations come directly from undergraduate and graduate students, and ten prizes are awarded annually. More information about the prize and a link to the nomination form are found here: <https://provost.upenn.edu/teaching-at-penn/penn-ta-prize>.

Please reach out to Ian Petrie (petrie@upenn.edu) in the Center for Teaching and Learning with any questions.

Penn Libraries Spring 2021 Newsletter

At the start of a new semester in an academic year marked by change and uncertainty, the Penn Libraries continues to adapt to the “new normal” created by COVID-19, developing innovative ways to support and facilitate scholarship and research.

As your librarian, dmanuel@upenn.edu can help you navigate Library resources to find exactly what you need.

See the complete [Spring 2021 Newsletter](#) here.

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

IGA Presents, “PREP-ing for Success”

February 3, 7 – 8 PM

Spread the word to interested undergraduates! See the event flyer [here](#). The University of Pennsylvania's Immunology Graduate Group Association (IGA) is excited to present a student-led seminar for undergraduates interested in a career in science. This seminar will focus on NIH Postbac programs (PREP) and will feature information of what these generally consist of, as well as how to apply for them. Our guest panel features former PREP scholars from different graduate institutions who will share their unique experiences, as well as give insight into how each program impacted their careers and shaped their academic future. Come join this exciting seminar and find out if a Postbac is right for you! To assist this virtual seminar, please fill out the form below.

<https://forms.gle/yJG1PxEpJxwJAgME7>. For information on PREP-participating institutions, please visit <https://www.nigms.nih.gov/training/PREP/pages/PartInstPREP.aspx>.

I CARE Training Available for BGS Students

February 7, 2 – 5 PM

CAPS is offering a joint I CARE training session for Penn Med and Penn Vet students. I CARE training builds a caring community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to intervene with student stress, distress, and crisis.

See the flyer [here](#) for additional information about the upcoming training session; [register here](#). All participants must register in advance and complete a 30 minute pre-training online module.

Additional information about I CARE can also be found at <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/icare/>.

Know Your Rights: Support for Students Regardless of Your Immigration Status

Friday, February 12, 2021 | 3:00 p.m. EST

Register: <http://bit.ly/PennDACA>

Qualtrics Pre-Survey: https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0jICuHqfgXalK50

This event specifically focuses on undocumented, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) students. This event is open to everyone wanting to learn more about immigration and/or whose families are impacted by immigration restrictions. See the flyer [here](#).

**This event is organized by La Casa Latina, Penn Law, Greenfield Intercultural Center, PennFirstPlus, and Counseling and Psychological Services.*

PennGGHE and Genetics Symposium on February 24 and 25, 2021

Register: <https://globalgenomics.med.upenn.edu/symposium.html>

On behalf of Drs. Daniel Rader and Sarah Tishkoff, the Center for Global Genomics & Health Equity and the Department of Genetics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine are jointly hosting a virtual symposium entitled, "*Importance and Challenges of Increasing Ethnic Diversity in Human Genomics Research*".

The two-day virtual symposium includes invited speakers of diverse backgrounds discussing their research and experiences in increasing diversity in human genomics and the ethical issues to be considered. The symposium will be held on Wednesday, February 24 and Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 12:00PM to 4:00PM(EST). The topics of discussion for the two-day virtual symposium are:

Day 1: "*Importance and Value of Increasing Ethnic Diversity in Human Genomics Research*"

Day 2: "*Challenges with Conducting Genomic Studies in Minority Populations*"

The symposium is free and faculty, postdocs, students, and staff are all welcome to attend. See flyer [here](#).

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – Weekly Lecture Series **Thursdays at 1 PM**

The Academic Programs Office in Biomedical Sciences St. Jude Children's Research Hospital invite you to join them for the spring session of, "The Science of Childhood Cancer," a weekly virtual lecture series hosted by the St. Jude Comprehensive Cancer Center. The series is designed to engage the scientific community on key questions in pediatric cancer research. Learn more [here](#).

THESIS DEFENSES

Feb. 5, 1 – 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/499807591>): **Nadia Kadry (CAMB), "Molecular Determinants of Immunogenicity of the Nontypeable Haemophilus Influenzae HMW1 and HMW2 adhesins."** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Feb. 3, 1 – 3 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Feb. 4, 7:30 – 8:30 PM: **Recruitment: Meet and Greet with Current Students.** Contact the CAMB Coordinators for details.

Feb. 5, 6:40 – 7:30 PM: **Recruitment: Virtual Student and Faculty Happy Hour.** Contact the CAMB Coordinators for details.

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- Feb. 3, 12 – 1 PM ([Register](#)): **Penn I-Corps Info Session**. Penn I-Corps is looking for entrepreneurs to apply to their spring training! Participants will learn how to test their ideas with potential customers and receive grants up to \$2,000 for their startup. Additional information sessions will take place 2/11, 2/19, and 3/1, each from 12-1 PM. Learn more about the I-Corps program [here](#); the final application deadline for the Spring is **February 24, 2021**.

Upcoming Events

- **2021 Love Data Week**
The Penn Libraries present a series of workshops on data analysis and visualization. Learn more at <https://guides.library.upenn.edu/lovedata/2021>.
 - [Excel Basics: Getting Started with Excel](#) - Monday February 8, 3-4pm
 - [R Basics: Prepare Data for Modeling and Analysis](#) - Tuesday February 9, 1:30-3pm
 - [Introduction to Data Visualization](#) - Tuesday February 9, 2-3pm
 - [Panel on Kislak Data Projects](#) - Wednesday February 10, 10-11am
- **Managing and Visualizing Your Research Workshop Series**
The Graduate Student Center and Penn Libraries are bringing you a series of workshops focused on managing and visualizing your research. Learn more at gsc.upenn.edu/events.
 - [Introduction to Zotero](#) | Monday, February 8, 4:00-4:45 PM
 - [Introduction to Mendeley](#) | Tuesday, February 9, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - [Introduction to Data Visualization](#) | Tuesday, February 9, 2:00-3:00 PM
 - [Collaborating with Mendeley](#) | Wednesday, February 10, 1:00-2:00 PM
 - [Organizing Your Research Practice](#) | Monday, February 15, 4:00-4:45 PM

Perelman School of Medicine – NYAS Membership

BGS students are entitled to a Perelman-sponsored Membership to the New York Academy of Sciences! Please use the [enrollment link](#) to join.

The benefits of Science Alliance Members include:

- Discounts of 50% or more on registration for our scientific symposia, webinars, and public lectures annually
- Effective career planning workshops that include skill-building, grant-writing, securing research funding, & communications
- Online Courses enabling students to earn career-strengthening credentials in areas such as Teaching, Clinical Research Management, and more.

BGS Career Development Calendar

Want to stay up-to-date on upcoming career development events and application deadlines? Subscribe to the BGS Career Development Calendar [here](#).

Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation

Internal Application Deadline: 12 noon ET, February 3rd, 2021

The University of Pennsylvania has been invited to nominate two PhD students for the Regeneron Prize for Creative Innovation in biomedicine, broadly defined. See the [attachment](#) for details. Penn coordinates an internal competition. **The deadline for the internal competition is 12 noon Eastern Time, February 3rd, 2021.**

To be considered for Penn nomination, applicants must complete the Penn Regeneron Prize application (<http://apply.interfolio.com/81904>), consisting of :

- Curriculum Vitae
- 2-page single-spaced description of the applicant's "dream research idea" in the field of Biomedical Science
- A letter of recommendation from your Penn faculty advisor, requested through the above process

Applicants should not submit the application directly to Regeneron. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Aaron Olson at CURF, aolson@upenn.edu.

iBiology Share Your Research Competition 2021

Application Deadline: February 15, 2021 (11:59pm PT)

More info and Application Details: <https://www.ibiology.org/syr-competition/>

This competition is a unique opportunity for early-career scientists to improve their communication skills, become part of the iBiology community, and showcase their work as part of the [Share Your Research series](#)! Eight winners will receive virtual science communication training from iBiology's team of expert science communication trainers.

Job Openings

- **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital – Open Postdoc Positions** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **McNeill Baur PLLC seeking Technical Specialist (Patent law)** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Post-Doctoral Scientist Opportunity at GW** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Postdoctoral Research Opportunities in Science (PROS) – Applications due 2/12/2021** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Flagship Pioneering Fellows Program** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Post-Doctoral Fellow Opportunities @ Frederick National Laboratory** – See full announcement [here](#).

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 General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday February 2nd @ 5PM

Link: <https://pennteam.zoom.us/j/7713626246>

Join BGSA for their upcoming General Assembly Meeting, followed by a screening of "SHREK"!

I CARE Training Available for BGS Students

February 7, 2 – 5 PM

CAPS is offering a joint I CARE training session for Penn Med and Penn Vet students. I CARE training builds a caring community with the knowledge, skills, and resources to intervene with student stress, distress, and crisis.

See the flyer [here](#) for additional information about the upcoming training session; [register here](#). All participants must register in advance and complete a 30 minute pre-training online module.

Additional information about I CARE can also be found at <https://caps.wellness.upenn.edu/icare/>.

[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](#).