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## **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.

**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@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:jajackso@penmedicine.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.

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### **Pass/Fail Petition**

BGS is allowing students to petition to have unlimited pass/fail grading options should their personal circumstances present the need. The types of petitions that will be considered for approval based on circumstances presented by the pandemic include:

- Students with additional family responsibilities due to the pandemic
- Students who are ill or caring for ill family members
- Students with limited access to internet or necessary technology for remote participation
- Students unable to participate in required synchronous sessions (due to time zone differences, etc.)
- Students experiencing housing insecurity

The petition form is located at [https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_2rZtqqI6T143Q9L](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2rZtqqI6T143Q9L) and will be available until **March 19**, the grade type change deadline.

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### **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>

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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/ltplochours/>

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](#).

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### **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](mailto:petrie@upenn.edu)) in the Center for Teaching and Learning with any questions.

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### **Penn Graduate Leadership Awards: Nominations Open through March 1**

Please nominate graduating students for University's two leadership awards for graduate and professional students: The President's & Provost's Honor for Developing New Initiatives in Graduate & Professional Student Life and the Dr. Andy Binns Award for Outstanding Service to Graduate & Professional Student Life.

December 2020, May 2021, and August 2021 graduates are eligible for these awards. The deadline to nominate students is March 1. Nominations are accepted from students, faculty and staff. Self-nominations are accepted. Read more about the award criteria and how to nominate students at <https://gsc.upenn.edu/graduate-life/grad-life-awards>.

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### **Penn's Projects for Progress**

**Deadline: 5PM EST on March 1, 2021.** (*Application goes live on February 15, 2021*)

The Office of Social Equity & Community is pleased to announce the launch of Penn Projects for Progress, a fund and initiative established by President Amy Gutmann. The fund will support proposals designed to promote inclusion by focusing on one or more of the following:

- Eradicating or reducing systemic racism
- Achieving educational equity

- Reducing health disparities based on race, gender, sexual orientation, and/or social determinants of health.

Projects must demonstrate how they will make a direct impact in Philadelphia, whether at Penn in particular or more broadly anywhere in the city. The projects will be conceived by teams of Penn students (undergraduate, graduate, and professional), staff, and faculty – [learn more here](#) and see our FAQ for details on eligibility.

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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**

### **IGG Diversity Committee - Black History Month Film Series**

In celebration of Black History Month, the IGG Diversity Committee will be hosting a weekly film series at 7:30 pm EST on Tuesdays (February 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>). See flyer for movie [details](#).

The films chosen highlight several periods of Black History in America and the viewings will be followed by discussion. The zoom link for the event can be found below.

Link: [here](#)

**Meeting ID:** 938 9186 8830

**Passcode:** 109402

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### **Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) – Upcoming Events**

The Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) at Penn would like to share the following upcoming programs:

- **Galentine’s Day – Self Love Event Celebrating Non-Men**
  - Feb. 18, 8 PM | [RSVP](#) | [Zoom link](#) | Contact [ekobenic@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:ekobenic@seas.upenn.edu)
- **Workshop/Training: What is Mental Health? Redefining Asian Un/Wellness at Penn ft. Dr. Mimi Khuc**
  - Feb. 24, 7 – 8 PM | [RSVP](#)
- **Workshop/Training: Difficult Conversations Around Race & Gaslighting ft. Dr. Ramani**
  - Mar. 18, 8 – 9:30 PM | [RSVP](#)

The last two events are affiliated with the program series supported by the [Task Force on Support to Asian and Asian American Students and Scholars](#) (TAASS).

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**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](#).

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**Discussion with Leonard Hayflick, PhD, 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient | March 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Date:** 03/01/2021

**Time:** 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM EST

**Location:** Virtual Event via BlueJeans Events

**Leonard Hayflick, C'51, G'53, GR'56**, a native Philadelphian, is currently Professor of Anatomy at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1962, as a member of the Wistar Institute and an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, he discovered that cultured normal human cells had a limited ability to divide, overturning a 60-year-old dogma that all cells are potentially immortal. He interpreted his discovery to be aging at the cell level, which launched the modern era of aging research by redirecting its cause to intracellular events. He also discovered that only cancer cells are immortal, which redirected research to how mortal normal human cells become immortal cancer cells.

[Learn more and register.](#)

## **THESIS DEFENSES**

Feb. 16, 12 – 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/371612656>): **Ian Penkala (CAMB), “Interrogating alveolar epithelial type 1 cell plasticity across the lifespan.”** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

Feb. 18, 2 – 3 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/691626382>): **David Lee (GCB), “Insights into functional noncoding RNA elements through the analysis of human genetic variation.”** Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Feb. 22, 10 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/555392827>): **Courtney Hong (PGG), “Investigating the Downstream Effectors of the CCM Pathway: A Role for ADAMTS Proteases and Versican Cleavage.”** Contact [Sarah Squire](#).

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CAMB**

Feb. 17, 1 – 3 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Feb. 18, 7:30 – 8:30 PM: **Recruitment: Meet and Greet with Current Students.** Contact the CAMB Coordinators for details.

Feb. 19, 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. 15, 4 – 4:45 PM ([Register](#)): **Organizing Your Research Practice.** 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](https://gsc.upenn.edu/events).
- Feb. 16, 3 – 4:30 PM: **PGWISE Career Services Workshop with Dr. Joseph Barber**, Senior Associate Director, Career Services. In this workshop we will cover some of the best practices you can use to network effectively with your future careers in mind, and discuss how to confidently showcase your skills, experiences, and accomplishments as part of your personal

and professional brand in a virtual setting. You will learn about some online resources to help you develop an optimistic narrative about yourself, and I'll encourage you to put some of these steps into practice by enthusiastically networking at some of our upcoming [career fairs](#).

- To put you in the mindset of celebrating your professional skills and abilities, please complete this survey prior to the workshop: [https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_e fh0VOix5jQMzm6](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e fh0VOix5jQMzm6). You will find this helpful as we briefly practice effective introductions.
  - Following the workshop, there will be a chance to WIN one of two Starbucks gift cards!
  - Please register ahead of time by completing this form: <https://forms.gle/1gEfGecqNgk3D4dd6>
- Feb. 17, 1 PM ([Register](#)): Happy Black History Month! Join the Black Women in Computational Biology Network for another **#BlackInCompBio seminar titled: "The Rubik's Cube of Life: From Bioinformatics to Health Statistics."** Featuring Dr. ClarLynda Williams-DeVane, Ph.D. This event is open to the STEM community, all are welcome. Read Dr. Williams-DeVane's biography and register for the event [here](#).
  - **Research Communications Workshops.** Penn Libraries and the Graduate Student Center are offering two workshops to help you explain your research clearly and concisely in any situation! Join us for the following events:
    - **Turn Your Research into an Elevator Pitch** - Wednesday, February 17, 10:00 - 11:00 AM ET
    - **Make it Shorter!** - Friday, February 19, 3:00 - 4:30 PM ETLearn more and register at [gsc.upenn.edu/events](https://gsc.upenn.edu/events).  
*Cosponsored by Penn Libraries and the Grad Student Center.*
  - Feb. 19, 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. An additional information session will take place 3/1, from 12-1 PM. Learn more about the I-Corps program [here](#); the final application deadline for the Spring is **February 24, 2021**.

## Future Events

- Feb. 22, 2 – 3:30 PM: **Biotech & Informatics Career Panel.** Curious about working in Industry? John Gregg, Van Truong, and GCB worked with Penn IBI to organize monthly Biotech & Informatics Career Panels. Information on the speakers and the link to join via Zoom can be found in the [attached flyer](#). Save the dates for the other upcoming career panels – March 22 and April 22 from 2 – 3:30pm. More details to come.
- **Zotero Workshops:** Learn about the many features of Zotero, a free citation management software. Learn more and register at [gsc.upenn.edu/events](https://gsc.upenn.edu/events).
  - **Zotero Citation Features** - Monday, March 1, 4:00 - 4:45 PM ET
  - **Advanced Zotero** - Monday, March 29, 4:00 - 4:45 PM ET*Cosponsored by Penn Libraries and the Grad Center*

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## **NIDCD's Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research**

The NIH National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD) recently announced Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research. See the full announcement [here](#).

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## **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.

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## **3-Minute Thesis** **Deadline: March 15, 2021**

Penn 3MT is a university-sponsored competitive speaking competition designed to showcase graduate student research in three-minute talks to a general audience. This is a terrific opportunity for graduate students engaged in substantive original research to develop communication skills and share their work with faculty, students, and staff from across the University.

In addition to bragging rights, prizes will be awarded to the top three winners and an audience choice winner. To enter, students must submit a video of their three-minute talk to Penn 3MT. From those submissions, finalists will be chosen to compete in the campus wide online competition.

Learn more and submit your video: [https://bit.ly/3\\_MT](https://bit.ly/3_MT)

*Cosponsored by GAPSA, Penn Libraries, Career Services, CURF, and the Grad Center*

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## **Job Openings**

- **Opportunity at SUNY for those interested in a career at a PUI** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Associate Principal Investigator at NBACC (Virology team)** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **New Jersey Public Health and Environmental Laboratories – Postdoc Fellowship Opportunities** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Immunotherapy Listing – Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Duke University** – See full announcement [here](#).

- **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](#).
- [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

## Looking for a peer mentor? Connect with the Peer Support Network!

The **Peer Support Network** (PSN) is offering one-on-one peer mentoring sessions!

Created in response to the pandemic, PSN aims to support students of all levels as they adjust to graduate school and navigate difficult situations. PSN recognizes that each BGS student faces unique challenges and that sometimes, talking with a peer can be a helpful first step in working through those challenges. PSN volunteers, consisting of fellow BGS students and alumni, are available to provide students with peer mentorship, a listening ear, and advice for coping with grad school-related challenges.

To connect with a PSN peer mentor and register for PSN services, please complete the following [form](#).

Interested in volunteering with PSN? Please visit our [website](#) to sign up and learn more about volunteer expectations.

Wishing everyone well!

The PSN team

Email: [bgspeernetwork@gmail.com](mailto:bgspeernetwork@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/psn.html>

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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](#).**