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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Testing

Testing. Graduate students who live on campus or come to campus each week must be tested. Such students may enroll in [Penn Cares Testing](#). Alternatively, students who have enrolled in [COVID SAFE](#) may continue to participate in that program in lieu of Penn Cares. Students who are working in labs in CHOP, Wistar, or other affiliates who are NOT entering Penn/PSOM buildings should follow those entities' testing protocols and do NOT need to enroll in University testing.

Vaccinations. Currently, there is no scheduling process at Penn or in Pennsylvania for vaccinations. Medical students are being scheduled for testing through UPHS. PhD students who work in labs connected to clinical facilities, such as CHOP or UPHS, **may** be scheduled for vaccinations through those entities. Students who live in other states, such as NJ, may sign up for vaccinations through their state. Please refer to the 1-7-21 email pasted below from Jon Epstein on this issue. More information will be shared as soon as it is available. We ask you to be patient and understanding as the vaccine distribution process unfolds. Exposed and vulnerable populations are being prioritized, but everyone in the community will be offered the opportunity as vaccines become available.

Dear Colleagues,

Vaccination of healthcare workers is underway, and as of January 6, more than 20,000 Penn Medicine faculty and staff have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Medical students approaching clinical rotations are being vaccinated on a rolling basis.

For members of the PSOM community not involved in patient care, those working with SARS-CoV-2 in BSL3 labs are being prioritized, followed by those performing COVID-19 testing and clinical researchers actively working with patients.

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. Our best estimate is that it will take until late February or early March to complete health care worker vaccination.

We will continue to share updates as we receive them from our University and Health System colleagues.

Thank you,
Jon

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Jon Epstein, MD
Executive Vice Dean and Chief Scientific Officer
Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania

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). Demand for Dr. Brown's services is currently high, but you may 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](#).

Expanded route and hours through Penn Shuttle Service

The PSOM Shuttle Service with expanded route and hours is now operational! The buses are labeled "PSOM Center City" – see photo, route, and schedule [here](#).

Additional details: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/evdcommunications/follow-up-and-options-for-a-safe-commute-home.html>

Recruiting volunteers for the Peer Support Network!

The Peer Support Network is recruiting volunteers! If interested in mentoring your peers and offering them support through challenging times, then consider joining PSN!

As a volunteer, you can choose to act as a one-on-one peer-mentor, a facilitator of town hall-style group discussions, or both. Volunteers will have the opportunity to complete CAPS I CARE training in order to develop their active listening and mentoring skills.

Sign up to become a volunteer [here](#)! And to learn more about PSN, attend our first General Body Meeting of 2021 this upcoming **Tuesday, January 12th**, at **5:00PM** (<https://bluejeans.com/3984200643>).

Additional information about PSN and volunteer expectations can be found on our [website](#).

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

Black Queer Town Hall in STEM

January 12th-15th

Significantly, on **January 12th-15th**, in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, University of Iowa, and Black Queer Town Hall, we present Black Queer Town Hall in STEM. Notably, this is a virtual four-day conference to increase Black Queer scientists' visibility worldwide. Join us for a day of

panels on **January 12 starting at 9:30AM EST** to connect and learn about Black Queer scientists' adversities in and out of the lab. Equally, this is an opportunity for institutions to learn how to increase Black Queer representation in STEM and foster community among Black Queer scientists. The Black Queer Town Hall in STEM will be hosted by Trans actor/entertainer and activist Miss Peppermint, from RuPaul's Drag Race and appearances by Bob the Drag Queen from RuPaul's Drag Race.

Subsequently, **January 13-15 starting at 8:20AM EST** are filled with seminars presented by Black Queer scientists from around the world with topics ranging from physics, biology, biochemistry, chemistry, bioengineering, epidemiology, and sociology.

The Town Hall will be broadcast live on BlackQueerTownHall.org and its associated YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfAcG1VazHZFPnTZXxQrsLA>

You can find more information on the background, motivation, and program layout at this link below.

<http://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/join-us-to-celebrate-the-intersection-of-blackness-queerness-and-science>

THESIS DEFENSES

Jan. 11, 12 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/428366152>): **Jennifer Stiso (NGG), "Data-based and theory-based models of perturbations to neural dynamics."** Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Jan. 14, 12 – 1 PM: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

Jan. 14, 12 – 1 PM: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Post Rotation Talks.** Contact [Anna Kline](#) for the virtual link.

Jan. 15, 12 – 1 PM: **DSRB Program Lunch: Christopher Greer (Stedman lab), Nicolette Johnson (Lengner lab), and Christopher Pai (Heuckeroth lab) presenting.** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#) for the virtual link.

Jan. 15, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress: Anna Garcia Whitlock (Titchenell lab) and Chelsea Thorsheim (Arany lab) presenting.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#) for the virtual link.

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

EVENTS

- The **NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE)** has three upcoming events:
 - Wellness and Setting our intentions for 2021 (Jan 11, 1:00 – 3:15 PM)
 - Career Planning for Scientists (Jan 11, 1:30 – 2:30 PM)
 - Becoming a Resilient Scientist Series: V. Feedback Resilience (Jan 12, 2:00 – 4:00 PM)See more information about each event and registration links [here](#).
- **BGS Improv Night & Workshop Series.** Are you interested in practicing improv to improve your communication skills? Sign up for an introductory class and/or the full BGS Improv Series:
 - Interested in finding out how improv can improve your communication skills? Sign up for the BGS Improv Workshop Tryout to see if it's right for you. Invite a friend, too! The session will be held via zoom on **January 14th from 6:30-7:30.**
BGS Improv Night Sign up Link: <https://forms.gle/1YFWjBwfuKr3yDdDA>
Please reach out to Laura Ohl (laura.ohl@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) with any questions.
 - Interested in improving your communication through improvisation? Sign up for the spring session of the BGS Improv Workshop! The course is planned to run on **Mondays (February 1st - March 8th) from 6-8 PM.** Space is limited, so sign up today!
BGS Improv Series Sign up Link: <https://forms.gle/jjxn5gAQL6Ah9FCLA>
Please reach out to Laura Ohl (laura.ohl@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) with any questions.See event flyers [here](#).

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](#).

Call for Applications: 2021 Career Services' PhD Career Exploration Fellowship
Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 13th, 2021

The [PhD Career Exploration Fellowship \(CEF\)](#) program encourages non-faculty career exploration among doctoral students by facilitating networking experiences and fostering mentorship relationships with advanced degree holding professionals. This unpaid opportunity allows doctoral students to gain a better understanding of day-to-day life in administrative offices, libraries, pharmaceutical companies, museums, science outreach, and other organizations, on Penn's campus, in the greater Philadelphia area, and beyond. In 2021, the program will be conducted virtually, which also gives students the opportunity to interact with hosts in offices all across the country.

For more information, including eligibility and application details, see the full announcement [here](#). If you have any questions about this program, please contact Career Services' PhD Professionalism Fellow, Kate Webb (katwebb@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

2021 International Emory Global Health Case Competition
Application Deadline: January 15, 2021

The Center for Global Health is collecting applications to form a multidisciplinary team of 6 students to virtually compete in the 2021 International Emory Global Health Case Competition!

See the full [call for applications](#) or view [flyer](#) for details.

If you are interested in applying to be a member of the Penn team, please send your CV & Statement of Interest (500 words max) to Andie Yost at ayost@penmedicine.upenn.edu by **January 15, 2021**.

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

- **NCATS/FDA Translational Science Interagency Fellowship – Applications due 1/15/2021**
– See full announcement [here](#).
- **Fellowship Abroad – Science Corps – Applications due 1/31/2021** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships: Molecular Molecular Neuroscience of Substance Abuse Research Training (Rutgers University)** – 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**

Recruiting volunteers for the Peer Support Network!

The Peer Support Network is recruiting volunteers! If interested in mentoring your peers and offering them support through challenging times, then consider joining PSN!

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BGSA, Dental, and Engineering together with CaPhe presents: Virtual Vietnamese Coffee Brewing Event

Saturday, January 23, 2021, 11 am - 12 pm

Jump-start your spring semester by learning how to brew Vietnamese coffee with our friends from Càphê Roaster, a local coffee roastery! All participants will receive all the necessary supplies including the espresso blend, coffee phin (specialty filter) and condensed milk (vegan option available). You just need to supply the water and your favorite mug!

Deadline to sign up is 1/13, so don't hesitate to claim your spot today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ipf-bgsa-x-dental-x-engineering-caphe-tickets-135414232615>

[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](#).