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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. 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. 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.

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](#).

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>

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 Women in Computational Biology Network, Community Discussion

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20th at 1:00 pm ET

Register: tinyurl.com/BWCB-JAN-PANEL

You're invited to a community discussion hosted by the Black Women in Computational Biology Network titled "Navigating the Ethical Landscape of 'Big Data' as Black Women Scientists."

Goal: A community discussion focused on empowering Black womxn in or near large scale data sciences to move through their field with more knowledge and competence on the ethical impacts of handling "big data", data justice, and bias from the particular perspective of a Black womxn in and outside of academia.

The panel features accomplished scientists across biological data science, science communication, law, public health, and environmental justice, and will focus on key interdisciplinary experiences of these scientists with respect to "big data" and how it affects our communities. See flyer [here](#).

Kadesch Prize Presentation

Thursday 1/21 @ 12PM via Zoom

<https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/95734794490>

The Department of Genetics is pleased to recognize **Marco Carpenter** as the recipient of the *2020 Tom Kadesch Prize in Genetics*. Please join us for a special award ceremony with a presentation by the recipient:

Marco Carpenter

Heller Lab

"Targeting Druggable Transcription Factors in Reward Pathophysiology"

PennVet Foster 101

January 21st, 7-8pm

[Register here](#)

Do you love animals, but worry you can't have a pet because of your grad student schedule and/or budget? The School of Veterinary Medicine is hosting a Zoom talk about how to foster as a student in Philadelphia, and the resources that are available to do so! The basics of being a foster owner will be covered, followed by a discussion of PennVet's shelter partners. The talk will be on January 21 from 7-8pm. Please register to get Zoom information.

PennIRM Virtual Retreat

January 26, 1-5pm

Event details [here](#); register [here](#)

The Institute for Regenerative Medicine will host a virtual edition of our annual retreat on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from 1 PM to 5 PM. This year, we plan to focus on collaborations: how have IRM researchers recently partnered on exciting projects and how can we foster new team science efforts. We hope to share examples of team-ups across disciplines, approaches, and the basic/clinical gap. Our goal is to have an afternoon of great discussion to help you think about your own research and what is possible in the coming years.

Please email Chris Yarosh (yaroshc@penncellupenn.edu) with any questions.

Understanding the Possibilities of 3D Printing

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 2 - 3:15pm

Registration: <https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/event/7379578>

Have you ever wondered about the possibilities for 3D printing for scholarship and teaching, or how you can explore 3D printing at Penn for non-academic purposes? Please join Varvara Kountouzi, Lexi Voss, Chava Spivak-Birndoff from the University of Pennsylvania, and Hope O'Keeffe Senior Associate General Counsel at the Library of Congress as they discuss their works and answer common questions about 3D printing and intellectual property at Penn and beyond. The panel will touch on several real life case studies, and respond to audience questions about the possibilities of 3D printing in their work.

If you have questions you would like the panel to address, please send an email in advance to welfare@upenn.edu

IgA Wellness Panel: Signs of a Healthy Relationship in Science

January 28th, 6-7pm

Register & submit questions: <https://forms.gle/xZSJxax29SjyKQdn8>

Continue your personal wellness journey and building healthy relationships with IGA's wellness team on January 28th from 6-7pm! There are a lot of challenges early-career scientists face when considering the next steps in their scientific development, but opportunities may become more limited when you are coordinating for two. Join Signs of a Healthy Relationship in Science to hear faculty discuss unique challenges partners within academia face such as the two-body problem. See flyer [here](#).

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](#).

THESIS DEFENSES

Jan. 19, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/885835736>): **Rafael Fernandez (CAMB)**, "Insights into inherited thrombocytopenia resulting from mutations in ETV6 or RUNX1 using a human pluripotent stem cell model." Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Jan. 21, 2 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Jan. 21, 7 – 8 PM: **Recruitment: Meet and Greet with Current Students**. Contact the CAMB Coordinators for details.

Jan. 22, 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

- Jan. 20, 1 – 2 PM (Meeting link [here](#)): **Career Services: Interviewing for faculty roles Q&A for PhD students/postdocs**. If you are applying for faculty jobs and are preparing to present

the best version of yourself for first or final round interviews, then join us for this Q&A session to learn about effective strategies you can use during interviews, find out about online resources, and ask your questions. We will share tips and strategies to help shape your answers to common questions asked, and will answer as many of your questions as possible during this session. In this BlueJeans program, you will not be on video or audio, but will be able to write your questions in the Q&A/Chat features.

- Jan. 21, 1 – 2 PM (Meeting link [here](#)): **Information Session: Flagship Pioneering Fellows Program.** Flagship Pioneering is recruiting for their 2021 Fellows Program (description [here](#)). Interested candidates can find more information about the info session here: <https://app.joinhandshake.com/events/649978>.
- Jan. 27, 6 – 7 PM ([Register](#)): **Penn Biotech Group (PBG) Healthcare Consulting: Spring 2021 Kickoff.** Interested in gaining real life consulting experience? Want to learn more about consulting and the healthcare industry? Join Penn Biotech Group Healthcare Consulting at the Spring Kickoff for:
 - An intro to the consulting career path
 - An overview of PBG, including what we do and how to apply for projects
 - Network with fellow PBG members
 - For more information about PBG, visit our website at pbgconsulting.org
 - No prior business/consulting experience necessary
- Mondays, February 1st – March 8th, 6 – 8 PM: **BGS Improv Workshop Series.** Interested in improving your communication through improvisation? Sign up for the spring session of the BGS Improv Workshop! Space is limited, so [sign up today!](#) Please reach out to Laura Ohl (laura.ohl@penmedicine.upenn.edu) with any questions. See event flyers [here](#).

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](#).

Master of Bioethics program: Spring Online Course

Interested students should contact rashon.clark@pennterapeutics.upenn.edu. Full course details below:

BIOE 561 – Ethics, Regulation, and Politics of Science

Instructor: Steven Joffe, MD, MPH and Holly Fernandez Lynch, JD, MBE

Time: Tuesdays, Jan 26 - Apr 27

Location: Online Synchronous 4:30 - 7:00 PM

As the COVID19 pandemic has reminded us, the conduct of science poses both profound ethical questions and important challenges for policymakers and the public. How should society deploy its limited resources in the pursuit of science? How can we respect research participants and protect their interests? What are the roles of norms, laws, regulations, public engagement, and other governance mechanisms in ensuring that the right science is done and that science is done right? How can we ensure that science benefits rather than harms individuals and communities and that it combats rather than reinforces injustice? Is there some science that simply shouldn't be done? What can we learn from science "gone wrong?" To address these and other questions, this course will first articulate the fundamental ethical and policy issues raised by the conduct of biomedical science and will then apply those frameworks to a series of timeless and timely case studies, with attention to science and race, science in public health emergencies, and more. Student assessment will be based on midterm and final essay exams. Students will also be expected to complete brief written replies (ungraded) in advance of 6 class sessions.

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

- **Post-Doctoral Scientist Opportunity at GW** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Fellowship Abroad – Science Corps** – **Applications due 1/31/2021** – 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](#).
- **Postdoctoral Fellowships: 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

PBG Spring 2021 Kickoff: Save the Date!

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm-7:00 pm ET

Register by clicking [here](#) to obtain a link.

Interested in gaining real life consulting experience? Want to learn more about consulting and the healthcare industry?

Join Penn Biotech Group Healthcare Consulting at the Spring Kickoff for:

- An **intro** to the consulting career path
- An **overview** of PBG, including what we do and how to **apply** for projects
- **Network** with fellow PBG members
- For more information about PBG, visit our website at pbgconsulting.org
- No prior business/consulting experience necessary

[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](#).