



**Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:**

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

## **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.

**Note:** If you signed up for PennCares testing but are not scheduled for a weekly test, you may get a red PennOpen pass starting today. You will need to schedule your weekly test in order to be given a green pass. Please refer to Perelman School of Medicine email of 1/25/21 4:24pm for details.

**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](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](#).

---

## Peer Support Network (PSN)

The **Peer Support Network** (PSN) is now offering one-on-one peer mentoring sessions and town hall-style group discussions!

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.

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

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

### **PennIRM Virtual Retreat**

**January 26, 1-5pm**

Event link [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@penncmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:yaroshc@penncmedicine.upenn.edu)) with any questions.

---

### **IgA Wellness Panel: Signs of a Healthy Relationship in Science**

**January 28<sup>th</sup>, 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**

None this week

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CAMB**

Jan. 28, 12 – 1 PM: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

Jan. 28, 12 – 1 PM: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Post Rotation Talks.** Contact [Anna Kline](#) for the virtual link.

Jan. 29, 12 – 1 PM: **DSRB Program Lunch: Anti Racism Book Discussion.** Contact [Meagan Schofer](#) for the virtual link.

Jan. 29, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress: Patty Colosi (Lakadamyali lab) and Corey Holman (Seale lab) presenting.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#) for the virtual link.

### **NGG**

#### **CALENDARS**

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Events this Week

- Jan. 26, 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 2/3, 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.**
- Jan. 26, 7 – 8 PM ([Register](#)): **Penn Bio Launch: Biotech Fellow Information Session #1.** [Penn Bio Launch \(PBL\)](#), beginning in Spring 2021, will create Penn's first community for biotech entrepreneurship, matching high impact biotechnologies from Penn with multidisciplinary venture teams composed of Penn PhD, MD, MBA, and Masters students interested in biotech entrepreneurship. These teams then attend a 10-week workshop series on business strategy, development, and execution taught by biotech venture capitalists, attorneys, and founders. *Admissions will occur on a rolling basis until February 1st.* There will be two information sessions (January 26 and January 28). See the full announcement [here](#); apply [here](#).
- Jan. 27, 2 – 3:15 PM ([Register](#)): **Understanding the Possibilities of 3D Printing.** 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](mailto:welfare@upenn.edu)
- 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](http://pbgconsulting.org)
- No prior business/consulting experience necessary

- Jan. 28, 7 - 8 PM ([Register](#)): **Penn Bio Launch: Biotech Fellow Information Session #2**. See the full announcement [here](#); apply [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

- Mondays, February 1<sup>st</sup> – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 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@pennterms.edu](mailto:laura.ohl@pennterms.edu)) with any questions. See event flyers [here](#).
- **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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto: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**

- **McNeill Baur PLLC seeking Technical Specialist (Patent law)** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **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](#).

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](http://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](#).**