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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@penncare.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.

Prism & MATLAB Licenses

BGS students may obtain one year licenses for Prism and MATLAB free of charge. The sign-up form for Prism is included below. Note that the **form is due by March 31st, 2021**.

1) [PRISM](#) LICENSES

These are arranged through BGS. The new license year begins May 1st. **Please note that even if you already have a Prism license you need to sign up again.**

If you are interested in obtaining a Prism license, please complete this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/1bGW24ZKXE3exjDeA>

Note that BGS offers Prism particularly for its graphing capabilities. With respect to statistical applications, we remind students of the importance of understanding the fundamental properties of any statistical analyses that they undertake. In addition, principles of reproducible research require all analyses to be carefully documented. This involves storing the data in an accessible form and creating a written record so that another researcher can easily replicate the statistical analyses for a particular set of data.

2) [MATLAB](#) LICENSES

These are arranged through Penn's Office of Software Licensing. You should email licenses@upenn.edu using your Penn email address and include the following information: HostID, operating system, and computer user name. See the following [instructions](#) for help locating this information.

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 and will be available until **March 19**, the grade type change deadline.

Presidential PhD Fellowships

Deadline: March 15

The deadline for the Presidential PhD Fellowships is March 15. Students at all stages of training may self-nominate. Please find a description of the process, along with FAQs on this page:

<https://valuing-grad-students.www.upenn.edu/president-initiative>

Pottruck Reopening Policies

Pottruck Fitness Center is now open for all graduate and professional students by online reservation. Please be aware of Recreation's safety policies at

<https://recreation.upenn.edu/sports/2021/1/28/pottruck-reopening-policies.aspx>

Graduate Space Reservations

Graduate student study space is available in Houston Hall. The space is located in the [Ben Franklin Room](#) on the 2nd floor of Houston Hall, and will be available Monday-Friday from 9AM to 4PM each day through March 12, as conditions permit. The graduate and professional student study space is provided for students to have a safe environment conducive to study and relaxation. See <https://gsc.upenn.edu/online/graduate-space-reservations> for more information and to submit a reservation.

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>.

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.

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](#).

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

Discussion with Leonard Hayflick, PhD, 2020 Distinguished Graduate Award Recipient | March 1st

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.](#)

Penn Society for Psychedelic Science Seminar Series

March 2, March 16, and April 13 at 4 PM

This semester, the Penn Society for Psychedelic Science is hosting a [seminar series](#) showcasing the broad range of research – from molecules, to brains, to societies – that is *New and Noteworthy in Psychedelic Science*. Join us roughly every other Tuesday at 4pm.

Join us in future weeks to hear from Dr. David Olson, Joshua Falcon, and Dr. Ruben Laukkonen! Finally, we would love to thank BGSA for sponsoring this series and MindCORE for hosting us on their CrowdCast server. Register for [David Olson](#), [Joshua Falcon](#), and [Ruben Laukkonen](#) at these links!

Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) – Upcoming Event

Mar. 18, 8 – 9:30 PM | [RSVP](#)

The Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) at Penn presents, “Workshop/Training: Difficult Conversations Around Race & Gaslighting ft. Dr. Ramani.”

This event is affiliated with the program series supported by the [Task Force on Support to Asian and Asian American Students and Scholars](#) (TAASS).

THESIS DEFENSES

Mar. 3, 12 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/737160478>): **Ruth-Anne Langan (IGG)**. Contact [Thalia Mangan](#).

Mar. 4, 3 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/551503741>): **Maily Nishiguchi (CAMB)**, “**Recruitment and functions of myeloid cells at the intersection of inflammation and remodeling.**” Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Mar. 3, 2 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- **Zotero Workshops:** Learn about the many features of Zotero, a free citation management software. Learn more and register at 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
- Mar. 2, 2 – 4 PM: **Creating Connections with the Alan Alda Center**. The [Alda Center's](#) Creating Connections program is a two-hour live, online workshop designed to help

scientists and researchers learn to engage and inspire diverse audiences through effective communication, with a particular focus on virtual interactions. Participants will learn how to balance being prepared with responding in the moment to address questions. The program emphasizes universal communication strategies, including avoiding jargon, and technical skills for creating engagement online, including camera angles and sound levels.

Learn more and register at gsc.upenn.edu/events

Cosponsored by GAPSA, Penn Libraries, and the Grad Center

- Mar. 3, 6 PM (<https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/94441914182>): **LTBGS Presents, “Queer in STEMinar: Dr. Ron Collman.”** Join LTBGS+ in welcoming Dr. Collman to share his experiences as an LGBTQ+ scientist and a general discussion around being out in academia.

Future Events

- Mar. 19, 12 – 5 PM: **Save the Date! Science, Data, and Tech Virtual Career Fair.** Registration for students and postdocs will open at **7:00PM EST on March 9, 2021.** Carefully review [this page](#) and the several steps required to update and/or set up your Handshake account properly so that you may participate.

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

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

University of Michigan May 2021 Postdoc Preview

Application Deadline: March 28, 2021

Postdoc Preview is a recruiting event and opportunity for upper-level graduate students to explore the extensive postdoctoral research and training opportunities in biomedical sciences at University of Michigan. During a **virtual visit, May 10-14, 2021**, guests will interview with prospective mentors, network with current postdocs, and learn about life in Ann Arbor. Applicants are selected from a

national pool of candidates who expect to complete their thesis research by December 2021. Applications will be accepted through March 28, 2021.

Research opportunities span 30+ clinical and basic science departments in Michigan Medicine and the Medical School.

For more information and to apply: https://ogps.smapply.io/prog/postdoc_preview_may_2021/

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](#).

Job Openings

- [FitzGerald Lab Opportunities – Graduate Students & Postdocs](#)
- [Post-doc Position – National Cancer Institute](#)
- [Postdoctoral Fellowship - Elrod Lab at Temple University Center for Translational Medicine](#)
- [Postdoctoral Position at Columbia University – Department of Genetics and Development](#)
- [Industry Scientist Opportunities – Aro Biotherapeutics](#)
- [Seres Therapeutics seeking Scientist, Analytical Development](#)
- [Opportunity at SUNY for those interested in a career at a PUI](#)
- [Associate Principal Investigator at NBACC \(Virology team\)](#)
- [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

BGSA General Assembly Meeting

March 2nd, 5 PM

<https://pennmedicine.zoom.us/j/7713626246>

Followed by screening of "Monsters, Inc." Do you want to host giveaway for your group: Penn merchandise, masks, care packages ?

COME FIND OUT ABOUT AVAILABLE FUNDING

LTBGS Presents, "Queer in STEMinar: Dr. Ron Collman"

March 3rd, 2021, 6 PM EST

<https://pennmedicine.zoom.us/j/94441914182>

Join LTBGS+ in welcoming Dr. Collman to share his experiences as an LGBTQ+ scientist and a general discussion around being out in academia.

Peer Support Network | General Body Meeting

March 9th, 5 PM

We at the Peer Support Network are recruiting volunteers! If interested in mentoring your peers, offering them support through challenging times, and increasing a sense of connectivity within BGS, then consider joining PSN!

As a volunteer, you can act as a one-on-one peer-mentor or work to develop a feeling of community within BGS by leading group discussions. 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 General Body Meeting this **Tuesday, March 9th**, at **5:00PM** (<https://bluejeans.com/3984200643>).

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

Peer Support Network

bgspeernetwork@gmail.com

[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](#).