



Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support for BGS Students and BPP Postdocs Regarding Violence and Anti-Asian Hate Incidents

We would like to add our voices to those of others on campus and in the Perelman School of Medicine, as well as the those of the student leaders of the BGS Peer Support Network (see those messages and lists of resources [here](#)). Many of you are non-US citizens or first-generation students who have had to face significant challenges to come to graduate school or postdoctoral training at Penn, and we are horrified that so many of you have been directly targeted and harassed on the basis of your race over the past year. Last week's murders in Atlanta underscore the dangers of being non-white in our country, and we share in your grief and dismay.

BGS students represent 36 countries beyond the US, reflecting a great richness of heritages and experiences -- a richness that is reflected among many of our US-born students as well. Our post-doctoral fellows reflect a similar richness and diversity. We are deeply honored to bring together trainees with a broad range of cultural, racial, and ethnic backgrounds, and we appreciate that the diversity you bring makes us better as a community and as individuals.

We want you to know that we are committed to your health and safety, and we urge you to participate in [Flatten the Hate](#) and to take advantage of Penn support systems, including the [Peer Support Network](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out to us or to your graduate group advisors with any needs you may have.

Sincerely,

Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, PhD
Associate Dean, Graduate Education, PSOM

Lawrence (Skip) Brass, MD, PhD
Associate Dean, Combined Degree and Physician Scholar Programs, PSOM

Maja Bucan, PhD
Associate Dean, Biomedical Postdoctoral Programs, PSOM

Donita Brady, PhD
Assistant Dean, Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (IDE) in Research Training, PSOM

Jonathan Epstein, MD
Executive Vice Dean and Chief Scientific Officer, PSOM

Appointment of Donita Brady, PhD, as Assistant Dean for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (IDE) in Research Training

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Donita Brady as the inaugural Assistant Dean for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity (IDE) in Research Training at the Perelman School of Medicine, effective immediately. This new role underscores the impact of Dr. Brady's contributions to Penn in diversity efforts and our confidence in her ability to have even greater impact in the future.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

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. You may receive automated emails about testing even though you are not enrolled in Penn Cares Testing; you may ignore these emails.

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@pennmedicine.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. You may be able to schedule an appointment through one of the [local lists](#). 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 free of charge. The sign-up form for Prism is included below. Note that the **form is due by March 31st, 2021**. Information on obtaining MATLAB licenses is also provided below.

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 by March 31st: <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 (OSL). 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.

Please note that the current MATLAB license expires **August 31, 2021** and you will need to contact OS� again at that time in order to renew.

Call for Nominations - Lok and Kanefield Prizes for BGS Students Conducting Cystic Fibrosis Research or Related Research

BGS seeks nominations for the two prizes described [here](#). Nominations may be made on a rolling basis. If the award money is to be used for travel to a conference, please submit the nomination at least 2 months prior to the date of the conference. BGS faculty members should nominate their students via email to rebecca.lopez@penncmedicine.upenn.edu.

Presidential PhD Fellowships

Deadline: The application deadline has been extended to March 22, 2021

The deadline for the Presidential PhD Fellowships is March 22. 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>

CTL Graduate Fellowship nominations

Deadline: Noon, Friday, March 26

This Fellowship honors graduate students who are dedicated to excellent teaching and is designed to foster conversations about teaching to help graduate students develop as teachers. Fellows participate in regular teaching discussions with the other Graduate Fellows, organize departmental and university-wide teaching workshops for graduate students, and mentor other graduate students in teaching, consulting with and observing current teaching assistants as demand arises. Fellows receive \$6,000 award for the school year. Candidates must be nominated by their department. See the [Center for Teaching & Learning \(CTL\) website](#) for more details.

Nominations must come from the graduate chair and are due by noon, Friday, March 26. They may be sent electronically to ctl-help@lists.upenn.edu. If you have questions, please contact lenthall@upenn.edu.

GAPSA's Pilot Transcription Fund

Over the past year, GAPSA has identified qualitative students are currently underserved, required to manually transcribe their own interviews or outsource transcription services on their own dime for the vast hours of interviews and audio recordings.

Asking qualitative students to manually transcribe or to pay for transcription services highlights a lack of support for qualitative students; computational students are provided with access to clusters to perform research much like chemistry students do not need to purchase their own raw materials for research.

GAPSA seeks to provide temporarily relief for these students while building a case to present to the administration to address this need.

Our application is now open and will close on April 14th.

https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_03eZmeLt31iQWuW?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current

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

(NEW) – Virtual Off-Campus Services Housing Fair

Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 9-5 EST

Penn's Off-Campus Housing Fair will take place Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 9-5 EST. Last year, the fair helped a large number of graduate students help with their housing search: <https://upenn.vfairs.com/>

BGS Alumni Leading at the Scientific Edge

April 5, 2021, 4:00 – 5:00 PM EDT

BGS students and alumni are invited to attend this exclusive virtual career panel featuring three accomplished PhD graduates working in the private sector. Featuring:

- [Michelle Kinder, PhD](#)

Scientific Director for Immuno-Oncology in US Medical Affairs, Incyte

- [Adam M. Koppel, MD, PhD](#)

Managing Director, Bain Capital Life Sciences

- [Fiona A. Mack, PhD](#)

Head of JLABS @ TMC, Johnson & Johnson Innovation

[Register and submit a question](#)

Event login details will be provided in your confirmation email.

Inquiries: mcgarryn@upenn.edu

Penn Society for Psychedelic Science Seminar Series

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!

Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Philadelphia Symposium

Register today for the the 2021 Virtual Symposium on Gender Bias in Science Communication hosted by GWIS Philadelphia! The event will take place **Friday, April 16, 2021 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM EST**. The [registration](#) link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/cRxoJDQ8DRHuKcT26>.

THESIS DEFENSES

Mar. 22, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/685495027>): **Marco Carpenter (PGG), "Targeting Endogenous Homeostatic Mechanisms For The Treatment Of Cocaine Use Disorder: Contribution Of NR4A1 And Target Gene Expression."** Contact [Sarah Squire](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

3/25, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact bassing@penmedicine.upenn.edu

3/25, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Ethan Jung (Fraietta lab), Laura Ohl (Aquizu-Lopez lab), and Alex Zezulin (Speck lab) presenting.** Contact akline@penmedicine.upenn.edu for the virtual link

3/25, 5:00pm - 7:00pm: **DSRB Virtual Happy Hour.** Contact mschofer@penmedicine.upenn.edu for the virtual link

3/26, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **DSRB Program Lunch: Post Rotation Talks.** Contact mschofer@penmedicine.upenn.edu for the virtual link

3/26, 12:15pm - 1:30pm: **CPM Research in Progress: Post Rotation Talks.** Contact kathyo@penmedicine.upenn.edu for the virtual link

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Future Events

- **Zotero Workshops:** Learn about the many features of Zotero, a free citation management software. Learn more and register at gsc.upenn.edu/events.
 - **Advanced Zotero** - Monday, March 29, 4:00 - 4:45 PM ET
Cosponsored by Penn Libraries and the Grad Center

ORDT Internships

Application Deadline: March 26, 2021

Passionate about increasing diversity and inclusion initiatives at Penn? Apply for a paid internship position in the Office of Research and Diversity Training ([ORDT](#))!

Complete this short form: <https://forms.gle/QpetNC6sBPudNfUw5>

Deadline to apply: March 26, 2021. See flyer [here](#).

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/

Announcing 2021 Call for Yale Ciencia Academy

Application Deadline: March 31, 2021

Applications are open for the 2021 [Yale Ciencia Academy \(YCA\) for Professional Development](#), an NIH-funded (1R25GM114000) program that equips grad students from underrepresented backgrounds with the knowledge, skills, and networks to advance their careers and secure great postdoctoral positions aligned with their professional goals.

The program is open to doctoral students in the life and behavioral sciences in the final 1-2 years of their programs who are conducting research in [areas funded by the National Institutes of Health](#). See flyer [here](#).

Job Openings

- [Geneticist / Bioinformatician - Aro Biotherapeutics](#)
- [Postdoc Opportunity - Emory Global Diabetes Research Center](#)
- [FitzGerald Lab Opportunities – Graduate Students & Postdocs](#)
- [Post-doc Position – National Cancer Institute](#)

- [Postdoctoral Fellowship - Elrod Lab at Temple University Center for Translational Medicine](#)
- [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 Election Information Session March 25th @7PM

Want to improve BGS PhD experience ? Find out about BGSA and how to get involved.

ZOOM: <https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/7713626246>

RSVP <https://penn-bgsa.ticketleap.com/bgsa-election-info-session/>

FIRST 20 PEOPLE TO RSVP GET \$15 FOR FOOD

See RSVP Ticket Leap page for more detail

Pharm4GOOD: Volunteers needed to help educate Philadelphia youth about COVID-19

We are recruiting volunteers to join our **STEM outreach** organization. Check out our [website](#) to find out more about us.

To foster communication between Pharm4GOOD members we would like to invite you to our [slack](#). Please forward the invitation to interested students!

Pharm4GOOD would like to restart outreach effort in Philadelphia.

Recently we have reached out to Upward Bound (<https://ub.vpse.upenn.edu/>) to organize a **miniseries virtual lessons on COVID-19** to help educate high-school students.

Our first lecture on Covid vaccine was a success and we are **looking for volunteer(s)** to help with the next lecture on Covid-19 disease which will happen on **March 26th at 2pm**.

Please let us know if you are interested by emailing pharm4good.pgg@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](#).