



**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. 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@penntesting.upenn.edu](mailto:jajackso@penntesting.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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 31<sup>st</sup>: <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](mailto: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 OSL again at that time in order to renew.

---

**(NEW) - More Headspace accounts are available!**

IGA, IGG, and PSN worked together to make more Headspace accounts available to BGS students. Now we hope everyone who would like an account will receive one. We strongly encourage all students to participate in this wellness opportunity.

In the midst of the challenges faced in our daily lives, especially those brought about by the ongoing pandemic, sessions of guided meditation can improve our sense of well-being, focus, calm, and general health. Headspace is among the premier guided mindfulness apps currently available, and we are lucky to be able to bring this to BGS students at this time.

Please use this link to sign up for your **free** Headspace membership: <https://work.headspace.com/universityofpennsylvania-psom/member-enroll>

**You MUST use your [pennteam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:pennteam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) email for the membership. You will not be able to register for Headspace if using a Penn-affiliated email address (i.e., CHOP, Vet School, etc.).** Attached are instructions to assist with obtaining access.

Instructions for combined degree students that **DO NOT** have a [pennteam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:pennteam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) email: We will sign you up for an account. Email [Michelle Cully](mailto:Michelle.Cully@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) for access.

Please send any questions to the IGA co-directors and Wellness Chairs:

- *Michelle Cully* [Michelle.Cully@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:Michelle.Cully@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)
- *Jay Ortiz* [jayortiz@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:jayortiz@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)
- *Amanda Finck* [finckam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:finckam@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)
- *Emily Bettini* [ebettini@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:ebettini@pennmedicine.upenn.edu)

---

**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@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:rebecca.lopez@pennmedicine.upenn.edu).

---

**GAPSA's Pilot Transcription Fund**  
**Application closes April 14<sup>th</sup>**

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](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](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](#).

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**(NEW) - Penn INSPIRE Event – What INSPIRES you?**

**March 31, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30PM**

The Penn Interdisciplinary Network for Scientists Promoting Inclusion, Retention and Equity (Penn INSPIRE) would like to invite the BGS community to our inaugural event, "What INSPIRES you?" on **March 31, 2021 from 6:30 to 7:30PM**. Our [distinguished panelists](#) will describe what has inspired them to pursue their career paths, their journeys navigating academia as URM individuals, bumps along the road and how they remain motivated in the face of challenges. There will be an open floor Q&A at the end of the panel.

Please RSVP using this link (<http://tinyurl.com/InspirePanel>) to receive a zoom invitation.

---

### **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](mailto: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>.

---

### **(NEW) - Neuroscience Public Lecture**

**Date & Time: Tuesday, April 20th, 6:00pm EST**

Penn Neuroscience graduate students are hosting a public lecture entitled “**Neuroinflammation: The Brain’s Defense Mechanism**” which will feature 15-minute TED style talks from three Philadelphia-area neuroscience faculty members:

- Dr. Chris Bennett – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Jennifer Orthmann-Murphy – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Elena Blanco-Suárez – Jefferson University

Check-in and a fun neuroscience demonstration will begin at 6pm. Please see the [attached flyer](#) for more details.

Please register for the event here: <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/neurolecture/register>

## THESIS DEFENSES

April 2, 10 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/258834261>): **Amber Weiner (GCB), “Advancing immunotherapy through proteogenomics: Identification and validation of DLK1 as a target in neuroblastoma.”** Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

## PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **CAMB**

3/31, 2:00pm - 4:00pm: **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](https://gsc.upenn.edu/events).
  - **Advanced Zotero** - Monday, March 29, 4:00 - 4:45 PM ET  
*Cosponsored by Penn Libraries and the Grad Center*

- **Virtual Volunteer Opportunity: #citeNLM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon on March 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 Last October, Penn Libraries observed Health Literacy Month by participating in the National Library of Medicine's #citeNLM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon to edit child and maternal health-related pages on Wikipedia, an open-source online encyclopedia that is one of the world's most popular websites.  
 On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the National Library of Medicine will host another #citeNLM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon. This time, participants will edit Wikipedia pages related to health aging. No prior experience with Wikipedia is necessary for this volunteer activity. There are two ways to participate:
  - **Option #1:** This is asynchronous virtual volunteer activity that you can do on a computer with Internet access. Set aside some time on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> (or any day of your choice). Follow the instructions available [here](#).
  - **Option #2:** Join the National Library of Medicine's virtual live Edit-a-thon on Wednesday March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1pm to 3pm Eastern Time. Register [here](#) for the live editing session.

### Future Events

- **InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings (#IPSAG): Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat | April 12, 11 am – 12 PM ET**  
**Register:** <https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/calendar/wicshops/healthtea>  
 Take a late morning coffee/tea break from studying and/or working at the Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12pm Eastern. Casually converse and mingle with fellow Penn students, staff, and faculty in the virtual Engineering Library available in the [Penn Libraries Gather.Town site](#), which is open to all @upenn.edu email users. This event is a part of the [Penn Libraries InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings](#) (IPSAG).

---

### **(NEW) - Sign up to provide a critical mentored virtual research experience for URMs this summer**

Future applicants with under-represented identities in science and medicine (URiM) are experiencing significant setbacks in applying to combined degree programs this year and beyond. This problem has been significantly exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The **Virtual Summer Research Program (VSRP) through the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA)**, a program led by the Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion committee, is hoping to bridge this gap, and **we need your help!**

In 2020 we paired 150+ mentors, principal investigators and graduate students with premedical and pre-graduate trainees for mentored research experiences. In 2021, we are hoping to pair 200 URiMs (we anticipate 600+ will apply). Ultimately, we hope to increase diversity by expanding access to dual degree programs to those whose previous research experience was limited by socio-economic factors—and for this, **we are asking graduate students, post-docs, and principal investigators in any lab or research group to sign up as mentors for this virtual research experience from June 14<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.** Visit <https://www.physicianscientists.org/page/VSRP-2021> to learn more

and sign up (note that your PI *must* sign-off although non-PIs can certainly mentor!). The deadline is **May 1st, 11:59pm**.

If we want the next generation of scientists to be diverse, we must participate in uplifting URiM applicants that are facing compounded roadblocks due to COVID-19 and ongoing racial and economic disparities that plague our nation. **If you are asking yourself, what can I do to increase diversity in biomedical research? Well, this!**

---

### **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**

- [Postdoctoral Positions – Elovitz Laboratory](#)
- [Vivodyne seeking Senior Scientists](#)
- [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

## Upcoming BGSA-sponsored Activities:

"**Penn Swag!** BGSA plans to order picnic blankets and bento-style lunch boxes for BGS students. Please take a minute to fill out [this form](#) to indicate if you are interested and which option you prefer! "

"**Virtual Escape Room:** Put your sleuthing skills to work! BGSA is cohosting a virtual escape-room type event on Friday, April 16th at 7pm! Secure your spot today by registering [here!](#) "

"**Acts Wanted!** Sign-up today to showcase your skills in a Talent Show hosted by BGS and IGA on Friday, April 23rd. Acts will be judged by a panel of "celebrity" faculty judges. Best acts will win prizes! Register to perform by April 14th at <https://penn-bgsa.ticketleap.com/talent-show-acts/>"

-----  
[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](#).**