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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Requirements

Vaccinations. Penn students, faculty, and staff are required to be vaccinated. Students must upload their vaccine record through [Student Health](#). Information regarding current student immunization requirements can be found [here](#).

Masking/Testing. All members of the Penn community and visitors must wear masks while indoors in public or shared spaces. In addition, **twice-a-week** Penn Cares screening testing is required for members of our community who are not vaccinated or choose not to report their vaccination information. Learn more about student compliance with testing [here](#).

Gateway Testing Requirement for Current Students

As you are all aware, there has been a concerning increase of COVID infections due to the Delta Variant. In an effort to prevent the spread of the variant on campus, as you return to academic and clinical activities, you are required to be "[gateway tested](#)" – although the messaging from the

University refers to “arrival” testing, the University is defining gateway testing as a COVID test between July 7 and Sept 7 (without departing Philadelphia) for all students. [Here’s the link to the Penn site describing this initiative](#). This testing is REQUIRED, regardless of your vaccination status.

For those of you currently on campus, gateway testing can be performed via Penn Cares, which is managed by Student Health Services (SHS), anytime now.

If you are on campus or in Philadelphia AND plan on traveling outside the city for any reason, you will need to get tested upon your return to school.

To be clear: **EVERYONE** who will be on site this semester needs to have gateway testing by **September 7, 2021**. There will be no exceptions.

We really appreciate your efforts to help us preserve the health of our community in BGS and at Penn.

Additional questions can easily be answered by accessing this [FAQ](#) page. Please contact Judy Jackson (jajackso@pennmedicine.upenn.edu) with any specific or individualized questions regarding this process.

(NEW) - Biotech Commons Opening 9/20

Penn Libraries are planning to open the Biotech Commons –formerly the Biomedical Library– on Monday, Sept 20 at 9am. The regular hours of operations for this dazzling, newly renovated space, are being finalized and we expect to share them with you next week.

When we open, these will be the food policies:

1. Snacks are permitted but NOT meals or messy, aromatic foods (e.g., hoagies, pizza, salads, soup)
2. Beverages in spill-proof containers are permitted.

For more information on the Biotech Commons, visit: <https://www.library.upenn.edu/biotech-commons>

Your library Liaison:

Manuel de la Cruz Gutiérrez, PhD, MLS

Director of Data & Innovation Services at the Biotech Commons

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES

Philadelphia, PA – [Lenapehoking](#)

215-746-2459

[@MDelaCG](#)

orcid.org/0000-0001-8796-941X

Fall 2021 Graduate Spaces

Looking for a quiet place to study, space to relax and meet up with friends, or rooms to reserve while the Grad Center is closed? This page has information about alternative and temporary spaces

available for graduate student use during the Fall 2021 semester:

<https://gsc.upenn.edu/Fall2021/spaces>

Instructions for downloading Microsoft Office O365 for BGS Students

OfficeO365 is available to download at no cost through your PennMedicine webmail O365 account:

Go to the online PennMedicine mail server via:

<https://provider.www.upenn.edu/computing/webmail/index.php>

Once in your webmail account, click on the nine dots in the top left corner, then click on "Office 365". Then on the next page, click on 'Install Office' in the top right hand corner and follow the instructions.

PhD Grants for Family/Dependent Health Insurance, Dental Insurance, and Other Insurance Information

Family/Dependent Health Insurance: Beginning today, you will be able to apply for grants to help offset the cost of family or dependent insurance. The grants are offered by the Office of the University Provost and administered through the Family Resource Center. The deadline to apply is September 23, 2021. More information is available at <https://familycenter.upenn.edu/grants>; contact Jessica Bolker (jessal@upenn.edu) with any questions.

Dental Insurance: Students who enroll in the [Penn Dental Student Plan](#) by September 23, 2021, will automatically receive a 50% reimbursement from the University; beginning this year, BGS will reimburse the remaining 50%. Because this is a reimbursement and not a subsidy, you are responsible for paying the full cost as well as any fees accrued due to late payment. Reimbursements will come in two installments (one from the University and one from BGS) and will not be issued until after the enrollment deadline.

Vision Insurance: Additional vision insurance may be purchased directly through [Aetna](#). Beginning this year, you can submit an expense report with the receipt of payment through Concur and BGS will reimburse you in full.

Health Insurance: The deadline to enroll in or waive out of the [Penn Student Insurance Plan \(PSIP\)](#) is Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact [Anne-Cara Apple](#).

Roommate Ads & Slack for BGS Students

BGS students are welcome to post their housing and roommate ads in the following [Google doc](#). There is also a channel within the BGS Slack workspace intended for sharing roommate ads, titled **#attn_roommate-ads**.

There is a BGS slack for connecting the various departments and student groups and as a place for questions and discussion. For current students who are not a part of it yet and incoming students, please join with the following link: https://join.slack.com/t/upennbgs/shared_invite/zt-99ajnayf-ImKfg7ic5niiE1u3ksyl5g

Graduate & Professional Student Emergency Fund

The Office of the Provost has provided over \$70,000 to the VPUL Emergency Fund specifically dedicated for graduate and professional student urgent and unanticipated needs. Students facing emergency financial hardships can learn more at gsc.upenn.edu/grad-emergency-grant.

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.

Voter Registration Deadlines

In order to vote in a state or federal election, it's imperative to register to vote beforehand. National Voter Registration day is Tuesday, September 28, but registration deadlines vary from state to state. To learn more about your state-specific deadlines, please visit [Voter Registration Deadlines](#). To register to vote now and/or request a mail-in ballot, text "Vote Penn" to 34444 or visit <https://voter.org/PENN/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Virtual Cores Day Registration Now Open!

We are pleased to announce that registration is now open for Virtual Cores Day on **September 30th, 2021!**

Held from 10am-2pm, the annual Cores Day event is a joint venture with CHOP, PSOM and Wistar, a platform effort to showcase the many outstanding biomedical research resources and services available throughout our campus. This event is an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to interface with a multitude of research core facilities via informational presentations and live chats.

New this year, our event will be held via the PheedLoop event management platform, with an aim to enrich and enhance the Cores Day experience for participants and attendees.

Please [click here for free registration](#), and be sure to check out the [Cores Day website](#) for event updates.

We hope to see you on Thursday, September 30th!

Please send any questions to April Weakley (aweakley@penmedicine.upenn.edu).

Save the Date: Wikipedia Edit-a-thon

Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, 12 - 2 PM

[Registration](#)

Penn Libraries and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) Patient and Family Education Committee are observing Health Literacy Month by participating in the National Library of Medicine's #citeNLM Wikipedia Edit-a-thon initiative to edit health-related pages on Wikipedia, an online open-source encyclopedia that has become one of the world's most popular websites. Learn how to edit Wikipedia pages using information found on MedlinePlus, PubMed, and other credible health websites. No prior experience with Wikipedia is necessary for this volunteer activity.

Upcoming Symposium: Understanding COVID-19 and Addressing Disparities in Care

Please see the [attached flier](#) for the Coronavirus symposium "Understanding COVID-19 and Addressing Disparities in Care". The symposium will be both virtual and in person, **November 2 from 1 to 5PM ET**. Topics to be covered will range from viral evolution and human variation to delivery of care and vaccine hesitancy.

THESIS DEFENSES

Sep. 7, 12 PM ([BlueJeans](#)): **Katherine Quiroz-Figueroa (CAMB), "Functional Characterization of Trib1, A Gene Associated With Multiple Cardiometabolic Traits."** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sep. 9, 10 AM (BRB Auditorium or [Zoom](#)): **Aaron Williams (NGG), "Neuronal codes and circuits underlying audiovisual integration."** Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Sep. 8, 3 – 5 PM: **MVP Faculty Chalk Talks.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sep. 9, 10 – 11 AM (4054 Colket Building): **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Office Hours.** Contact [Craig Bassing](#). Craig will physically be in his office, but if you would like to set up a virtual meeting instead please contact him at bassing@penmedicine.upenn.edu. If security needs approval to let you in the building, ask them to call Craig at 6-0311.

Sep. 9, 3 – 4:30 PM: **CBP Talks.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Sep. 9, 1:45 – 3:15 PM: **Orientation: CAMB Faculty Mini Talks.** Contact [Christina Strathearn](#).

Sep. 10, 12 – 1 PM: MVP Student Discussion. Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sep. 10, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Faculty Intros.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- Sep. 7, 4:30 – 5:30 PM ([Register](#)): **MD Anderson TRIUMPH Post-Doctoral Informational Webinar.**
- **Penn 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Virtual Information Sessions**
 - Wednesday, September 8, 10:00-11:00 AM
 - Tuesday, September 14, 3:00-4:00 PM
 - Wednesday, September 15, 2:00-3:00 PM
 - Thursday, September 23, 9:00-10:00 AMExplaining your research quickly and clearly is a great skill to have during networking, interviews, and unexpected social situations. The Penn 3MT competition this year will give

you that experience and more! Come to one of our virtual information sessions to learn more and hear from past Penn 3MT winners! Register at gsc.upenn.edu/events.

Upcoming Events

- Sep. 21, 5-6:15 PM ([Register](#)): **CTL Workshop, “The Academic Tightrope: Balancing Teaching, Mentoring, and Research in STEM Fields.”** Learn more [here](#).
- Oct. 6, 5-6:30 PM ([Register](#)): **CTL Workshop, “Preparing Students for Midterms and Exams in STEM Fields.”** Learn more [here](#).
- Oct. 7, 12 – 5 PM: Save the Date: The virtual **Biosciences & Research Career Fair** hosted by Penn Career Services will take place **Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 12 – 5 PM.** Registration information coming soon.

(NEW) - Educational Pipeline Program Fellows

Application Deadline: September 10 by 5 PM

See the full announcement [here](#)

Dear BGS Graduate Students,

On behalf of Dr. Sharon Lewis, we’re writing to invite you to apply to be a Fellow for the IDEAL Experience Program Educational Pipeline Program! If you have an interest in mentoring young people (MS1s, undergrads, and high school students), as well as connecting with faculty and residents for mentorship, you will want to be a part of the Pipeline Program.

Who: BGS Graduate Students (3rd year and up)

What: Fellows for the IDEAL Experience Program Virtual Educational Pipeline Program

When: January-April 2022; interviews and planning (independent work and monthly meetings) begin in September 2021

Why: Mentor underserved high school students and get them interested in health sciences

How: Send your CV to Dr. Sharon Lewis (Sharon.Lewis@penmedicine.upenn.edu) and complete this application by Sept 10 by 5:00pm: <https://forms.gle/jn6zqVrcEKuibu5A6>

Note: BGS students should review the policies regarding [Compensation for Teaching Assistantships](#) and complete the appropriate approval form:

- [Job Request Form for BGS students](#)
- [Job Request Form for MD-PhD students](#)

Career Development Resources for BGS Students

BGS maintains a number of career development resources, including a career blog and calendar of events, career path videos featuring alumni, and more. See [this page](#) for a summary of resources within BGS and across Penn’s campus.

Google Fellowship Call for Applications

Penn has been invited to submit 2-4 nominees for the Google PhD Fellowship Program. See the full call for applications [here](#).

Deadlines:

Internal Competition Deadline: September 16, 2021, at 11:59 PM ET

Internal Competition Winners notified: September 24, 2021

Provost's Office submits 4 nominees: September 30, 2021

NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for a Diverse Genomics Workforce (F99/K00)

Application Due Date: December 8, 2021

This two-phased award will facilitate completion of a doctoral dissertation (F99) and transition to a strong postdoctoral research position (K00) focused on the scientific, medical, ethical, social and/or legal areas of genomics research.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-143.html>

IBSA Foundation for scientific research – Fellowships 2021 Call

Application Deadline: December 31, 2021

Applications are open for the 9th edition of the [IBSA Foundation Fellowships 2021 Call](#) that awards 6 fellowships of € 30,000/each (one additional fellowship compared to the previous edition) to young researchers under the age of 40, from Universities and Research Institutes around the world, who have distinguished themselves for their skills and have ongoing projects of particular relevance in the following research areas:

- dermatology
 - endocrinology
 - fertility/urology
 - orthopaedics/pain medicine/rheumatology
- and the 2021 special edition
- regenerative medicine

Please find more information about the Call on the IBSA Foundation's [website](#).

Job Openings

- [Leal Therapeutics hiring Scientist](#)
- [Scientific Editor, Cell Metabolism](#)

- [Virtual Postdoc Recruiting Open House](#)
- [Analysis Group – Associate-Health Care position](#)
- [7 week teaching experience at Haverford](#)
- [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 First General Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, September 7 at 5PM

<https://pennmedicine.zoom.us/j/97791983752>

Join BGSA for their first GA meeting of the 2021-2022 academic school year. Come learn about upcoming social and academic events, event funding, and discuss plans for the upcoming school year! [See flyer here.](#)

RESCHEDULED – LTBSG Meet-and-Greet

Thursday, September 9, 5:30 – 7 PM

Join LTBSG for a friendly meet-and-greet social at the BioPond. Contact ltbgs.penn@gmail.com with questions, see flyer [here.](#)

Collegium Grad Fellows Meeting

The Collegium Institute's Grad Fellows is a community of graduate and professional students who join together monthly for lively conversation and the pursuit of wisdom and truth in Catholic intellectual traditions. Each month there are discussions based on readings. This year, we will be

exploring Catholic Approaches to Scripture and looking at theological, liturgical, artistic, and mystical approaches to revelation. Please contact Terence Sweeney (tsweeney@collegiuminstitute.org) to join the email list or find out more at <https://www.collegiuminstitute.org/grad-fellows-colloquia>. The first meeting is **Thursday, September 9 at 7pm.**

[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](#).