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## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Onsite CAPS Counselor for BGS Students - Wednesdays, 12:00pm-4:00pm**

We are pleased to announce that we will have a counselor from [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) available to meet on site with BGS students on **Wednesdays from noon to 4:00pm**. Tiffany Brown, PhD, is a psychologist at CAPS who will provide confidential services every Wednesday afternoon throughout the summer. She will work with BGS students to provide initial consultation, support, brief counseling, and referral services.

This week, Dr. Brown will be available on **Wednesday, May 22, 12:00-4:00pm in Smilow Conference Room 1-103** (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium).

In order to set up an appointment with Dr. Brown, you may call CAPS at 215-898-7021 and let them know you would like to meet with Dr. Brown onsite in the PSOM. Alternatively, you may email her directly at [nicobr@upenn.edu](mailto:nicobr@upenn.edu) to make an appointment. Most of the meetings will be held in Smilow Conference Room 1-103 or 1-102 (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium). **The location for the next 3 weeks (5/22, 5/29, 6/5) is Smilow 1-103.** We will include the week's location each Monday in the BGS Bulletin. If the door is open, you may also walk in and schedule an appointment with Dr. Brown, in person, for the same day or a future date.

We know how busy your schedules are and we hope that bringing a counselor onsite will be useful. You will still have the option of going to CAPS at 3624 Market Street, and you may call CAPS at any time, 215-898-7021, and talk to a clinician. We look forward to having Dr. Brown join us. If you have questions, please contact Judy Jackson at [jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu)

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### **RCR Workshops 2019**

The RCR workshops for students in their 2nd year begin June 3. All eligible students should have been notified and placed in one of the appropriate workshops on the [attached schedule](#). If you have not or if there are any issues with your schedule, please contact Colleen Dunn immediately at [dunncoll@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:dunncoll@penncare.upenn.edu) or 215-898-2792.

The website for the training can be found here: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs-rcr-exdes/>

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### **Request for Applications - NIH Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics (SBMB) Pre-Doctoral Training Program 2019-2020**

The NIH Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics (SBMB) pre-doctoral training program is soliciting applications for appointments beginning September 1, 2019 and running through August 31, 2020. This training program exposes students to leading edge developments in the fields comprising structural biology and molecular biophysics (SB & MB); provides the students with ample opportunity to develop presentation skills; develops analytical strategies for evaluation of the SB & MB literature; provides exposure through authoritative speakers to traditional and non-traditional career paths in SB & MB; subsidizes travel by students to major meetings of the field. Training includes bi-weekly luncheon meetings with training faculty and outside speakers, student research presentations, and other activities.

Students who are currently in their first or second year of graduate study at Penn (i.e. will be in their second or third year of graduate study during the appointment) are eligible to apply. Students need not have joined a thesis research group, but should have displayed an interest in pursuing thesis work in a field under the umbrella of structural biology or molecular biophysics. Only US citizens and permanent residents are eligible.

**Applications are due by 12 pm, Friday, May 31, 2019.** Please see the full announcement [here](#). If you have questions about this grant, please contact [Kelli McKenna](#).

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## Shared Call for T32 Nominations: Cell and Molecular Biology; Genetics

The following training grants are soliciting nominations of graduate students for the 2019-2020 academic year through a BGS-managed web-based system. Training grants fund a significant portion of a student's tuition, fees, and stipend. Appointment to a training grant is recognition of academic promise and distinction and, in some cases, provides additional training opportunities or funds for travel to scientific meetings. To be eligible for consideration, a student must be a US citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) and must have received no more than four years of NRSA funding by the time of appointment. Additional criteria for each grant are specified in the [descriptions available here](#).

**Nominations must be initiated by the student** through the following web-based process:

Go to <http://my.med.upenn.edu/>

and select the Training Grant Nomination form through this route:

MY.MED > Student Tools > BGS Forms > Training Grant Nominations

1. Student indicates which grant(s) s/he's applying for, checks the information pre-populated by the system, provides additional information, and indicates the faculty members who will be writing letters of support.

NOTE: The student should provide a statement of research interests and two letters of recommendation, one from their thesis advisor if the student has already selected their thesis research laboratory. If the thesis lab has not been chosen, the statement of research interests should include potential research project(s) from lab(s) that the student is likely to choose for dissertation research. In addition, the thesis advisor (or potential thesis advisor if the lab has not yet been chosen) must include in their letter of support a statement that he/she agrees to participate in training grant-related activities.

2. System automatically sends email requests to writers of recommendations identified by student.

3. Once the letters are received, the application is assembled and made available to the selection committees.

Students who are entering year 2 are eligible for the [Cell and Molecular Biology](#) and [Genetics](#) grants; these grants have a **June 7** deadline.

**Cell and Molecular Biology** and **Genetics** grants: The deadline for students to submit their applications is **June 7, 2019**. Letters from recommenders will be solicited by the nomination system once the student submits the application. Letters are due by **June 21, 2019**. Appointments will be made effective July 1 or according to availability.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Symposium in Honor of P. Leslie Dutton

One of the PSOM's most distinguished faculty members, **P. Leslie Dutton**, FRS, Eldridge Reeves Johnson Professor of Biophysics and Biochemistry, is retiring. Leslie is a former chair of the B&B department, and a former chair of the Biophysics Graduate Group (before BC and BP merged). There will be a scientific symposium in his honor, **Friday, May 31st – Saturday, June 1st**.

More than 25 PhD students graduated from Leslie's lab, from 1978 onwards, and almost ALL of them will be at the symposium! About 10 of them will be speaking. These alumni have gone on to successful careers in **academia, industry, gov. research. consulting etc.**, so this would be a unique opportunity for BGS students to see and meet them. The symposium is open to everyone, and there are also two breakfasts which would provide opportunities for students to meet and talk informally with these alumni.

To see the full itinerary for 'Les Fest,' click [here](#).

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## Dr. Shai Silberberg (NINDS), 'Assuring a bright future for biomedical research' June 5, 10 AM

Dr. Shai Silberberg, Program Director and Director of Research Quality at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) will be visiting Penn on **Wednesday, June 5, 2019**. Dr. Silberberg in his role with NINDS has an especially sophisticated understanding of what drives the emphasis by NIH on rigor and transparency. His institute, as well, has been particularly aggressive in experimenting with solutions through pre- and postdoctoral training venues. **Dr. Silberberg's talk, 'Assuring a bright future for biomedical research', will take place 10–11:30am in the Austrian Auditorium.** See the flyer [here](#).

We have worked at Penn on issues of rigor and transparency for some time. Dr. Silberberg's talk will reinforce much of what we do, but it will also provide specific insight into emerging thoughts and expectations of NIH. Those interested in familiarizing themselves with Dr. Silberberg's work prior to the talk may read his important publication on reporting scientific outcomes ([Landis et al., Nature 490 \(2012\) 187](#)).

# THESIS DEFENSES

May 20, 9AM (130 Hill Pavillion): **Alexandra DeLaney (CAMB), "Caspase-8 promotes c-Rel-dependent inflammatory cytokine expression and resistance against *Toxoplasma gondii*."**  
Contact [Anna Kline](#).

May 23, 2PM (Reunion Auditorium, John Morgan Building): **Michael Woody (BMB), "Optical trapping studies of the mechano-chemical coupling of force generation in cardiac myosin."**  
Contact [Kelli McKenna](#).

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CAMB**

May 21, 5:30 – 7:30 PM: **MVP Practice Prelims.** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

May 23, 12-1PM (4054 Colket): **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing Office Hours.** Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

May 24, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress Seminar: Emily Fernandez Garcia (Foskett lab) and Julie Heffler (Prosser lab) presenting.** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

**CB PhD Prelim Exams** 5/21/2019 - 5/24/2019

**MVP PhD Prelim Exams** 5/21/2019 - 5/23/2019

**G&E PhD Prelim Exams** 5/21/2019 - 5/24/2019

### **CAMB Preliminary Exams (PhD and CD)**

Preliminary exams for the PhD programs begin in May. Combined degree exams will take place in June. To see the complete schedule of exams, click [here](#).

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### **NGG**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Don't forget to pick up your NEW NGG T-SHIRT. They are located in Tom's old office.

#### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

5/20/19 12-1:30 (Barchi) GRiPPS - Jeni Stiso

5/20 2-4 (Barchi): NTG/Vision/CANAC retreat Journal Club

5/22 12-1 (Barchi): NTG/Vision/CANAC retreat seminar

5/23: NTG/Vision/CANAC retreat

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

5/30 12-1:30pm (252 BRB): Patent Law Panel

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

**Come learn Python in a fun, beginner-friendly environment!**

**Dates:** Tuesdays, June 25th- August 13th (8 sessions)

**Time:** 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

**Location:** Smilow Center for Translational Research 8-146AB

**Registration deadline:** June 7th, 2018 (register @ <https://forms.gle/y1szLSBLuY4JNrZ99>)

Coffee and light snacks will be provided at each meeting

This is a free course, organized and run by graduate students, that is designed to help scientists in the biological and biomedical sciences gain programming skills. No prior programming experience is assumed -- we will start with the absolute basics!

Using Python as a model language, we will cover the core programming concepts needed to perform basic data analysis, with an emphasis on common problems in biology and genomics. Each of the 8 meetings will consist of a short lecture followed by up to 2.5 hours of free-form workshop time, where students will work through a set of programming exercises at their own pace. Working together and asking questions is encouraged!

One of the best features of this course is the peer support: during each workshop, there will be several TAs present to answer questions/clarify the material, and there will be an active online Q&A forum where you can get help after class.

**Note that if you have to miss a class or are not able to attend at all, you can still participate online using our Q&A forum. Find Piazza sign-up instructions [here](#).**

If you are interested in being a TA, or have questions, please email Sammy Klasfeld at [sjk314@gmail.com](mailto:sjk314@gmail.com). Programming Bootcamp is sponsored by the [Genomics & Computational biology](#) (GCB) graduate program, the [Biomedical Graduate Student Association](#) (BGSA), and the [Institute for Biomedical Informatics](#) (IBI).

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## **ARL Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Research Funding**

The Army Research Laboratory (ARL) invites exceptional young researchers to apply for an [ARL Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) ([www.nas.edu/arl](http://www.nas.edu/arl)). This fellowship provides recipients the opportunity to pursue independent research while working alongside some of the nation's best scientists and engineers. Applicants must display extraordinary ability in scientific research and show clear promise of becoming outstanding leaders. Successful candidates will have already tackled a major scientific or engineering problem or will have provided a new approach or insight, evidenced by a recognized impact in their field.

The fellowship includes an annual stipend of \$100,000, among other benefits. *Applicants who intend to defend their dissertation after the application deadline (May 31<sup>st</sup>, 5 PM Eastern Standard Time) are not eligible.* See more details [here](#).

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## EVENTS THIS WEEK

May 21, 2:30 – 4 PM (Van Pelt Library Collaborative Classroom, RM 113): **Designing Your PhD: A Career Exploration Workshop.** Join Penn Career Services for this interactive workshop, designed for any stage of the PhD program. Activities will help you get a strong sense of what your interests, skills, and work-values are, gain the confidence to tell your story and explore career paths, and come away with a career roadmap and resources to make the best use of your time in graduate school. RSVP [here](#).

## FUTURE EVENTS

May 30, 12-1:30 PM (BRB 252): **Patent Law Panel featuring BGS alumni**, presented by NGG GLIA and open to all BGS students! Come and learn about the intricacies of a career in patent law, find out how you can explore if a career in patent law is for you, and how you can start preparing to pursue a career in this field. The 30 minute panel will feature:

- **Robert C. Netter (CAMB 2002)**
  - Patent attorney at Dann Dorfman Herrell & Skillman P.C.
- **Laura Gordon (NGG 2011)**
  - Associate attorney at Baker & Hostetler LLP
- **Daniel Scolnick (BMB 2000)**
  - Partner in the Health Sciences Department at Pepper Hamilton LLP.

The panel will be followed by a presentation by **Tomás Isakowitz (Program Director at Penn's Center for Innovation)** and then open the floor for Q&A to all of the speakers. See flyer [here](#).

RSVP: <https://forms.gle/MwzCofGaJPapyE149>. Email Rosa Leon ([rosaleon@pennteam.upenn.edu](mailto:rosaleon@pennteam.upenn.edu)) with questions.

## CALENDAR

[Career Development](#)

## RESOURCES

[BGS Career Development Site](#)

[BGS Career Twitter](#)

[BGS Alumni & Current Students LinkedIn](#)

[Penn Career Services - Ph.D./Postdoc Careers Page Handshake](#)

# STUDENT GROUPS & SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

May 29, 5:30 PM (CRB 302): **BGS Social Gaming Presents: Game Night!** Join BGS Social Gaming for the May Board Game Night. Pizza and drinks provided. Bring yourselves, bring your games, bring your competitive side! Help plan for June's board game night by voting in the below poll:

<https://doodle.com/poll/xgzt7grfz2umsnr7>

June 12, 12 PM (JMEC 506): **EE Just Spring Seminar Series. Dr. Fernando Albertorio, Ph.D**, a trained chemist, entrepreneur, and technology leader who develops products that help those with disabilities navigate the world will present, **"Highway to Innovation – What Science Taught About Building a Business."** Lunch from Qdoba will be served.

## **RESOURCES**

[BGSA Website](#)

[Calendar of BGSA Events](#)

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**For information about upcoming events or to advertise in next week's bulletin, contact [Rebecca Lopez](#).**