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## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ORCID Requirement – BGS Needs Your ORCID**

An ORCID provides you with a unique identifier that links all your research output (Publications, grants, professional activities), and it is becoming a requirement for manuscript and [grant submissions](#). By making your ORCID public, the graduate program (BGS) can easily track the successes of our students. That makes us better advocates for you to the University Administration, to Granting Agencies, and to our Communities. Learn more and access the form to submit your ORCID to BGS [here](#).

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### **Onsite CAPS Counselor for BGS Students**

Reminder: BGS has arranged for a counselor from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to be available to meet on site with BGS students on **Wednesdays from 3-7 PM in Smilow Conference Room 1-103** (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium). **Tiffany Brown, PhD**, is a psychologist at CAPS who will provide confidential services every Wednesday. She will work with BGS students to provide initial consultation, support, brief counseling, and referral services.

In order to set up an appointment with Dr. Brown, you may call CAPS at 215-898-7021 or email her directly at [nicobr@upenn.edu](mailto:nicobr@upenn.edu).

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### **Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Course (MBSR) for Penn Students**

Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is a mindfulness-based program that teaches people skills to manage the multiple stressors in their lives. Research on MBSR suggests that it can support wellbeing.

Participants attend eight weekly, two and a half hour classes and a one-day, 7 hour guided day of mindfulness practices. Each session consists of a guided sitting meditation, a form of mindful movement practice (e.g. walking meditation, basic guided mindful movement), brief discussion, and a teaching on the application of a mindfulness concept to everyday life.

Participants are expected to practice the learned mindfulness skills daily. These daily practices take a minimum of 25 minutes, with a recommendation to gradually increase the practice time to 45 minutes a day. Remember, the more you practice the easier it can be to integrate the skills learned in the course into your daily life.

MBSR SESSIONS (WEDNESDAYS 4:15pm - 6:45pm):

September 11<sup>th</sup> (Mandatory orientation session) through November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> (Day of Mindfulness, 9:45am - 4pm)

To proceed with registration, please contact [Aurora Casta, MD](#).

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### **New NIA Pre-doctoral Funding Mechanism for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Year Students**

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has recently announced a new initiative to support transition of outstanding graduate students, from a wide range of research areas, into aging-related postdoctoral research.

Below are some highlights of the Transition to Aging Research Award for Postdoctoral Students (F99/K00) program: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-20-009.html>

- Predoctoral students at their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of PhD, regardless of their research focus, are eligible to apply.
- Visa holders with proper institutional support letter are also eligible to apply for this opportunity; refer to the 'eligibility' section of the announcements for more details.
- The program has two phases: Dissertation (F99, up to 2 years) and aging-related postdoctoral (K00, up to 4 years) phases.

Application Due Date: **October 22, 2019, by 5:00 PM**

If you are interested to know more about this FOA or have any specific question, please contact [Shahrooz.vahedi@nih.gov](mailto:Shahrooz.vahedi@nih.gov).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **MINS Year of Brain Science Technology Symposium**

On behalf of the Mahoney Institute for Neurosciences at the University of Pennsylvania, we would like to invite you to attend our student-led symposium for the **Year of Brain Science Technology**, highlighting innovative approaches to neural and behavioral data acquisition and analysis. This event will feature talks by students and postdocs from the Philadelphia area, poster sessions with prizes, and a reception with food and drinks. **Any and all posters are welcomed and encouraged**, not just those in line with this year's MINS theme.

If you would like to attend, give a talk, or present a poster, please register at the [form here](#).

The event is going to be held on **Friday September 13th from 1-6 pm** in the Rubenstein Auditorium, located in the **Smilow Center for Translational Research** (3400 Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia PA, 19104).

**Deadline for registration is September 6th** for general registration, **August 30th** for those presenting posters, and **August 23rd** for those giving talks. See flyer [here](#).

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### **CFAR Pizza Lunch: An Overview of the Clinical and Immunology Cores**

The Center for AID Research (CFAR) invites BGS students to join them for pizza as the Clinical Core and Immunology Core present an overview of their services. This lunch and information session will take place **Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019** from **12-1 PM in 251 BRB II/III**. RSVP to [Amy Onorato](#) to make sure they have enough pizza for all!

# THESIS DEFENSES

Sept. 3, 1 PM (Reunion Auditorium, JMB): **Elizabeth Dempsey (BMB)**, “**Engineering novel nanomaterials from ultrasmall gold clusters for use in cancer therapy.**” Contact [Kelli McKenna](#)

Sept. 4, 2 PM (Reunion Auditorium, JMB): **Meilin Fernandez Garcia (BMB)**, “**Mechanism of nucleosome targeting by pioneer transcription factors.**” Contact [Kelli McKenna](#)

Sept. 5, 2 PM (Class of 62 Auditorium, JMB): **Amy Davis (CAMB)**, “**The effect of early life exposure on influenza antibody repertoire and subsequent consequences for viral evolution.**” Contact [Anna Kline](#)

Sept. 6, 9 AM (Smilow 8-146): **Grace Coggins (PGG)**, “**Exploiting acquired resistance mechanisms to MEK inhibition in RAS activated neuroblastoma.**” Contact [Sarah Squire](#).

Sept. 6, 1 PM (Smilow 9-146AB ): **Caiyue Xu (CAMB)**, “**Characterization of novel nuclear substrates of mammalian autophagy pathway in cellular senescence and aging.**” Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 6, 2 PM (Class of 62 Auditorium, JMB): **Christopher Cali (CAMB)**, “**Genetic and Epigenetic Modifiers of C9orf72 Expression in Neurodegenerative Disease.**” Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

# PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CAMB**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

The CAMB Graduate Group Annual Symposium is October 11th from 8am-6pm.

- The Abstract Deadline is September 13th. All CAMB students 1 year or more past their prelim are expected to present a poster.
- The Registration Deadline is September 27th. All attendees must register.

Please visit the [2019 CAMB Symposium website](#) for more details.

### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sept. 3, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: **GTV Orientation Lunch**. Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sept. 3, 12 – 1 PM: **MVP Orientation Lunch**. Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Sept. 3, 12 – 1 PM: **CB Faculty Chalk Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 3, 1 – 3 PM: **First-year Mentee Training Session 3**. Contact [Shannon Christensen](#)

Sept. 4, 12 – 1 PM: **CB Faculty Chalk Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 4, 12 – 1PM: **MVP / IGG Grant Info Session**. Contact [Mary Taylor](#)

Sept. 4, 2 – 3 PM (9-104 Smilow): **Office Hours: CAMB Chair Dan Kessler**. Contact [Dan Kessler](#)

Sept. 4, 3:30 – 5:30 PM: **MVP Chalk Talks**. Contact [Anna Kline](#)

Sept. 5, 2:30 – 4:30 PM: **CAMB Faculty Mini Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 5, 4:30 – 6 PM (BRB Lobby): **CAMB Orientation Reception**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 6, 12 – 1 PM: **CB Faculty Chalk Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

Sept. 6, 12 – 1:30 PM: **MVP Chalk Talks Discussion Lunch**. Contact [Anna Kline](#)

Sept. 6, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Faculty Chalk Talks**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#)

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## NGG

### ANNOUNCEMENT

- **New!** Please add to your calendar that the SFN Social will be **Monday, October 21 from 9-11pm** (more details to follow soon).
- We have revamped the GFAP form this year, to hopefully make the purchase/reimbursement request process more straightforward. Please start using this GFAP form from now on when making purchases. If you run into problems using the form, or if something is confusing, please email the executive board at [ngg.glia@gmail.com](mailto:ngg.glia@gmail.com) so we can address your question and improve the form. The link for the new form is [here](#).
- Check out this week's PennNeuroKnow [article](#), written by NGG students!
- Don't forget to pick up your NEW NGG T-SHIRT and THERMO! They are located in Tom's old office.

### EVENTS THIS WEEK

9/03 (location and time sent in email) - NGG Advising Meetings  
9/04 12:30pm - 3:30pm (B102 Richards) - NGG Faculty Research Talks

9/05 12:30pm - 3:30pm (Barchi Library) - NGG Faculty Research Talks

9/05 5:00pm - 6:00 pm (Barchi Library) - Journal Club for SISS: Dr. Helen Bateup (food will be provided)

#### **FUTURE EVENTS**

09/09 3:00pm- 4:00pm (09-146 Smilow Center for Translational Research) - Samuel Belfer Thesis Defense

09/10 11:30am - 1:00pm (Barchi Library) - NGG CORE II Lunch

09/11 4:00 - 5:00pm (Barchi Library) - SISS MINS seminar: Dr. Helen Bateup

#### **CALENDARS**

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

### **Penn Career Services – Digital and Real-World Resources**

Penn Career Services has compiled an extremely valuable list of information and services for graduate students. This includes their updated website, free or discounted digital resources, and instructions on how to engage with Career Services through Handshake or via appointment. Learn more [here](#).

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### **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Essay Workshops**

*Three dates to choose from!*

September 11, 12, & 13, 5-7 p.m.

Grad Center #305 I 3615 Locust Walk

Applying for the NSF GRFP? Don't miss this workshop on the Background & Future Goals essay, cosponsored by the [SAS Science Outreach Initiative](#) and the Graduate Student Center. [Learn more and register here](#).

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### **Opportunity for senior graduate students or recent postdocs - OSU Postdoc Recruiting Event:**

Applications are now being accepted for the Ohio State University 2019 Fall **Postdoctoral Recruitment Event**, being held **October 23-25, 2019**. This event will provide an excellent

opportunity for outstanding postdocs and PhD students from leading graduate programs to meet research faculty, interview for open postdoctoral positions and discover the exciting and innovative research taking place at The Ohio State University and the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH). Selected candidates will visit the Ohio State campus, network with current OSU and NCH postdocs, present their research, interview with prospective mentors, and learn more about postdoctoral opportunities at Ohio State. Full funding will be provided for travel expenses and candidates may be considered for a variety of opportunities, including fellowships, training grants, and other internal training programs.

Application for this event is open until **September 9<sup>th</sup>** and is available to postdocs or senior graduate students who have completed or expect to complete their PhD between December 2018 and May 2020. Any candidates in the US (visa status does not matter) can apply and we are especially interested in reviewing applications from US Citizens and permanent residents who are training grant-eligible and/or who come from underrepresented backgrounds including African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders, or persons with a disability.

More information can be found on the web page or the application can be accessed directly through the link below.

<http://go.osu.edu/postdocrecruit>  
[http://go.osu.edu/pdre\\_application](http://go.osu.edu/pdre_application)

The event flyer can be found here: [http://go.osu.edu/pdre\\_eventflyer](http://go.osu.edu/pdre_eventflyer).

If you have any questions about this program, please contact [Jeffrey.Mason@osumc.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Mason@osumc.edu) or call (614-685-9140).

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## EVENTS THIS WEEK

None this week.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Sept. 19, 1-2:30 PM (Grad Center Rm 305, 3615 Locust Walk): **Cite Your Sources: Learning to Use Reference Management Software**. Meaghan Moody and Rebecca Stuhr of Penn Libraries will lead this workshop on reference management tools, focusing on [Zotero](#) and [Mendeley](#), two of the most widely-used programs for academic citation. Please bring a laptop and install both programs in advance to make the most of this workshop. [Learn more and register](#).

Sept. 25, 3 – 4 PM (Grad Center Rm 204, 3615 Locust Walk): **Getting the Mentorship & Support You Need**. Small, interactive workshop to help new & first year graduate students build a network of mentors and identify available resources and structures of support at Penn. *Please note:* this workshop is designed for first year doctoral (PhD) students, but others are welcome to join. Space is limited - [advance registration required](#).

## 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

## Outreach Opportunity - Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research

The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research, a nonprofit organization that aims to educate K-16 students about the importance and value of biomedical research, is seeking volunteers. Find information describing their programs here (<http://www.psbr.org/programs-18>) as well as educational materials here (<http://www.psbr.org/resources-53>). Students who are interested in community science outreach might love to participate in a PSBR-sponsored activity. Additionally, students with an interest in informal science instruction might like to design a new biomedical-related program or activity that could be adapted for use throughout the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Other ideas might involve assisting in the development of 1) an informal "coffeehouse" science seminar series for the general public or 2) a summer camp for local underserved students, or 3) creating a video/phone app to support our mission.

For more information about PSBR and to learn about their novel Mobile Science Program titled **SPARC** (**S**cience **P**rogram **A**nd **R**esearch **C**oach) see the following [document](#).

Contact [david@psbr.org](mailto:david@psbr.org) with questions and to get involved.

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## BGS General Interest Meeting for Outreach Opportunity

BGSA is working with BGS student groups to host a general interest meeting for an outreach opportunity with the Spark Program. They are an organization that works with local middle school students on career exploration. This spring BGS students will have the opportunity to mentor a student one-on-one.

The general interest meeting is on **September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Barchi Library**.

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## **PBG Fall Kickoff 2019**

Interested in gaining real life consulting experience? Want to learn more about consulting and the healthcare industry?

**When:** Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

**Where:** Jon M. Huntsman Hall, Room 350, 3730 Walnut St

Join Penn Biotech Group Healthcare Consulting at the Fall Kickoff for:

- An **intro** to the consulting career path
- An **overview** of PBG, including what we do and how to **apply** for projects
- Grab **food** and then drinks at our kickoff **happy hour** (location TBD)
- Network** with fellow PBG members
- For more information about PBG, visit our website at [pbgconsulting.org](http://pbgconsulting.org)
- No business/consulting experience necessary

If you cannot make it to the kickoff, please sign up for our email list at [tinyurl.com/PBGnews](http://tinyurl.com/PBGnews) and we'll be sure to include you in communications going forward about signing up for project teams. Become a PBG member: [tinyurl.com/PBGmember](http://tinyurl.com/PBGmember).

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## **Penn Graduate Consulting Club Kickoff**

Are you interested in a career in consulting, but not sure where to get started? Or are you about to start interviewing? Or are you just interested in free food?

Let us help you.

Come join us on **Thursday, September 5th, 5:30-6:30 PM** in **JMHH 255** to learn about management consulting as a career path and upcoming PGCC events made to help propel your career.

We are also excited to feature Sudhir Kondisetty, Principal in Risk Advisory Services at RSM. Sudhir will be sharing his first hand account on what it's like to work at RSM, and his personal journey to success in consulting.

Register for the event at [www.tinyurl.com/pgcc2](http://www.tinyurl.com/pgcc2)

Sign up for our email list at [www.penngradconsulting.com](http://www.penngradconsulting.com) to stay updated about more great events on campus.

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## **Applications for the Penn Wharton Innovation Fund now live**

The Penn Wharton Innovation Fund (PWIF) exists to fund creative and meaningfully innovative ventures from the Penn student community, and, like all Penn Wharton Entrepreneurship programs,

is intended to give students an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship, through their successes and mistakes. Alberto Vitale WG'59, who endowed the Penn Wharton Innovation Fund, hopes that it will be "a catalyst to stimulate innovation at the School and to surface the brainpower of its students." All funding decisions are made by our Investment Team, which is comprised of current students from across the University of Pennsylvania. We are currently recruiting for new members for our Investment Team. The PWIF Investment Team is responsible for reviewing applications for funding every month from October 2019 through April 2020. This will require about 10 hours of reviewing applications on our online system during each month's review period. The Investment Team will hold twice-monthly 2-hour meetings where we have lively discussion, dinner, and make our funding decisions (10 application review meetings, and 1 introductory meeting in September).

**Deadline to apply:** September 13th

**PWIF Website:** <https://entrepreneurship.wharton.upenn.edu/innovation-fund/>

**Application**

**link:** <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBzKYXhzxhBZk0vIKg7S7IkVlae1PKbQ-0J1GTEk4gQsc8bA/viewform>

**Questions?**

Contact Jill Anick, Senior Associate Director, Penn Wharton Entrepreneurship at [janick@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:janick@wharton.upenn.edu)

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**Inviting BGS to participate in the Penn Med Symphony Orchestra**

Calling all musicians!

The Penn Med Symphony Orchestra is inviting you to join us this Fall! We are a diverse group of faculty, physicians, students, family, and friends from all over the Penn, UPHS, CHOP, and greater Philadelphia community who love making music together.

Rehearsals are Tuesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm starting on Tuesday, September 17th. Repertoire this Fall includes Wagner's Tannhauser Overture, Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2, and Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake Suite. Learn more about us at <https://www.pennmedsymphony.com>

If you are interested, please contact [pennmedsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:pennmedsymphony@gmail.com)

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**Project SHORT – Seeking Volunteers**

Want to give back and help increase diversity in STEM? Project SHORT (Student Health Opportunities and Research Training) offers pro-bono medical/dental and graduate admissions consulting. The primary goal of Project SHORT is to help individuals from historically underrepresented groups navigate the process of graduate and medical/dental school admissions. Pre-health consulting is expensive, and perpetuates an already-wide socioeconomic gap in medicine. Similarly, systemic

biases in STEM training at the undergraduate level can lead to deficits in access to resources for medical and graduate school applications.

By offering free, high-quality admissions consulting, Project SHORT aims to help diversify the pool of highly qualified applicants applying to graduate and medical/dental schools.

We are currently looking for qualified, passionate volunteer consultants of all backgrounds to join our team! Time commitment is flexible and varies by person. For more information, visit [www.project-short.com](http://www.project-short.com) or email [contact.projectshort@gmail.com](mailto:contact.projectshort@gmail.com).

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### **BGS Tennis Club**

The biomedical graduate students (BGS) tennis club would like to invite new members. We are a group of biomedical PhD and MD students that play tennis together weekly. Practice is held year-round at the Penn Tennis Center, and we play indoors during the winter season.

The fall schedule is still being finalized. For more info, contact [darwinye@pennmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:darwinye@pennmedicine.upenn.edu). Come play some tennis with us!

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### **EVENTS THIS WEEK**

Sept. 4, 1-2 PM (Biomedical Library Relaxation Room): **#WellnessWednesday Workshop**. Learn how to relax your mind and body with strategies to help manage stress. During this session, you will be guided through mindful movements, self-applied massage, and meditation. To register, visit [bit.ly/mindfulnessatbiomed](http://bit.ly/mindfulnessatbiomed).

Sept. 4, 5 – 7 PM (Goddard Breezeway): **BGSA Welcome Back Happy Hour**. Join the Biomedical Graduate Student Association (BGSA) in celebrating the start of a new year! First year students are especially encouraged to attend! Bring IDs. See flyer [here](#).

Sept. 5, 5:30 – 7 PM (Bernie's Restaurant & Bar, 3432 Sansom St.): **Welcome (Back) Happy Hour for Jewish Graduate & Professional Students**. Join the Jewish Grad Student Network and Graduate Student Center for a fun Happy Hour for new and returning Penn graduate & professional students. Come out and meet lots of students in a variety of Penn based programs while enjoying a free drink on us! You must [register for this event](#) in order to obtain your drink ticket. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Grad Student Network, Penn Hillel, and the Grad Center

Sept. 6, 1 PM (Austrian Auditorium, CRB): **SACNAS Presents, "Surviving Grad School 101."** Learn important information to make the most of grad school, including transportation, Philly and Penn, healthcare, choosing a lab, student groups, and wellness. Featuring a panel of graduate students ready to answer your questions! Also come enjoy pizza with us! Sponsored by BGS & Office of Research and Diversity Training.

## FUTURE EVENTS

Sept. 10, 5:30 PM (BRB 253): **BGSA General Assembly Meeting.**

Sept. 13, 6 – 9 PM (Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall): **Bienvenida for New & Returning Latinx Graduate Students.** Join the Latin American Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, La Casa Latina, and the Graduate Student Center to kick off the new school year with food, drinks, and dancing! [Sign up here](#). Please bring your PennCard to be admitted. *Cosponsored by LAGAPSA, La Casa Latina, and the Grad Center.*

Sept. 14, 10:30 AM – 12 PM (Family Center Common Room): **Welcome Back Play Date.** Join the Family Center for their first play date of the year as they kick off the fall semester and welcome new and returning students and post-docs with children! Bring your family, enjoy some breakfast, snacks, games, and a balloon artist from [Jiggy and Company!](#)

Don't miss this chance to meet and talk with other students and post docs with children and learn about our resources and community!

[Please register in advance.](#)

## RESOURCES

Visit the [Family Center at Penn](#) and [Graduate Student Center's](#) web pages for a complete listing of their upcoming events for new and returning students. Sign up for their newsletters to stay connected with weekly updates.

[BGSA Website](#)

[Calendar of BGSA Events](#)

[Grad Center at Penn](#)

[Penn Today Events](#)

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