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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. **Vaccinated students are required to participate in screening testing twice per month.** Learn more about student compliance with testing [here](#).

Learning From Address. This is a reminder to add your Local and "Learning from" addresses in [Penn InTouch](#) if you have not already done so. This is especially important if you are working remotely and not coming to campus to participate in the screening testing. You can add or update your address by logging into [Penn InTouch](#) and going to "Profile, privacy & emergency" then

selecting "Address information".

Biotech Commons spaces & support

Are you looking for a study space? The newly renovated [Biotech Commons](#) is now open until midnight Mon-Thurs. Reserve space through this [link](#) and keep up to date via [Twitter](#).

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>

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-99ajnyaf-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

[CAPS/Student Counseling](#) 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.

SEPTA Key Card Initiative

The offices of the Interim Provost and of the Vice Provost for Education have initiated a climate-friendly partnership with GAPSA to subsidize and encourage graduate student use of public transport in Philadelphia. The program will

provide a free SEPTA Key Card to all currently-enrolled Penn graduate and professional students in the Philadelphia area. Students who register their Key Card by the date provided will see \$5.95 automatically added to the card Travel Wallet.

SEPTA Key Card distribution will begin on Monday, December 6, and will continue in the Spring 2022 semester. More information can be found [here](#).

(NEW) Spring 2022 Course Offering – REG 618 Introduction to Vaccine Development

Course Director: Jeff Barrett, MD

Date & Time: Wednesdays 4:00-7:00 pm

Location: Online

This introductory course lays the foundation for conducting vaccine research in many ways. It begins with a brief review of the history of vaccine discovery and development and explains the phases of vaccine development in detail. Global Health history and impact of vaccines is described as well as the various stakeholders (e.g. WHO and World Bank) involved which distinguish vaccine from drug development. The decision-making process, vaccine development milestones and compound progression metrics are defined and explained with examples. At the conclusion of this course, students should have a working knowledge of the vaccine development process, understand the regulatory basis by which new vaccines are evaluated, ultimately approved and distributed around the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHOP Diversity Symposium - Gilda Barabino

Wednesday, December 1st, 12-1pm

Virtual – [via BlueJeans](#)

Please join us as we welcome Gilda Barabino, PhD to speak on Dec 1, 2021 at noon. Dr. Barabino is the president of Olin College of Engineering, Professor of Biomedical and Chemical Engineering, and President-elect of AAAS. Her talk is titled "Engineering for Everyone: Centering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."

Learn more and add the event to your calendar [here](#).

Redesigning the Science Classroom with BioRender

Thursday, December 2nd, 4-5pm

Biomedical Research Building Room 253 and online

Register [here](#)

Nina Montoya, a 5th year CAMB-MVP PhD candidate and Brand Ambassador for BioRender, will discuss ways that we can use BioRender to improve our pedagogical approaches in the science classroom.

Please see this [flyer](#) for details.

Database Training: Gideon (Global Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Online Network)

Tuesday, December 7th, 11am-12pm

The Biotech Commons will be hosting a virtual training session for the [Gideon database](#) on Tuesday, December 7 at 11am. Gideon is a unique creature and contains tools for differential diagnosis and bacteria identification, reference works for infectious diseases and current disease outbreak data.

Gideon has epidemiological data going back to 1348 AD, covering 230+ countries and territories, over 25,000 outbreaks, 35,000 graphs, and 82,000+ surveys. It includes interactive tools to identify 2,000+ pathogens, diagnose and compare 360+ infectious diseases, as well as to explore the properties of 30,000+ trade names of drugs and vaccines. The application is updated every day by a team of highly regarded medical scientists.

You can sign up for the training on the Workshop page. <https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/event/8481407>

Penn 2021 Cores Day Video Presentations Available Online

We are pleased to announce Penn 2021 Cores Day videos are now publicly available. These informative presentations provide an overview of >30 outstanding biomedical research resources and services available throughout our campus. To view the Penn Cores Day 2021 video presentations, please click [here](#). This exciting array of core facility presentations includes an overview of each core facility's services and capabilities as well as the appropriate contact information.

THESIS DEFENSES

- Nov 30, 2pm (BRB Auditorium or [Zoom](#)): [Elizabeth Howell](#) (CAMB), Nancy Speck, Mentor, **“Transcriptional and Epigenetic Regulation of Endothelial-to-Hematopoietic Transition.”**
- Dec 6, 2:30pm (Class of '62 Auditorium, John Morgan Building /[BlueJeans](#)): [Laura Agosto](#) (BMB), Kristen Lynch, Mentor, **“Role of Pre-mRNA Alternative Splicing on Protein Diversity and Epigenetics.”**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

(NEW) Patel Scholar Award – Advancing Graduate Studies (AGS) in Cancer Research **Application Deadline: December 22, 2021**

Purpose: To provide additional resources to graduate students involved in cancer research.

- \$5,000 per year for supplies and research services (two years)
- \$500 per year for meeting registration and travel (use each year)

Eligibility: Cancer Biology Group graduate students with impact scores on NIH F30/F31 proposals in 2020 or 2021, and BGS graduate students with impact scores on NCI F30/31 proposals during this time frame, are eligible.

Criteria: Awards are based on the impact score given by the study section, and relevance to cancer research in the case of tie scores.

To Apply: Email Eric Brown (brownej@upenn.edu) and Margaret Chou (mmc@penmedicine.upenn.edu) copies of the NIH Summary Statement face page, with the impact score shown. Please write “Patel Scholar Award” in the subject line of your email so your award is not missed or filtered. Due date for the application is **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**.

If you are planning to apply for an F30/31 this year, templates for Research Strategy, Training Plan, Sponsor Letter and other documents are available through the BGS and CAMB programs. Please contact your graduate group chair for additional information.

****This award has been made available through a generous donation by the Patel Family.***

Nucleate Activator Program / \$1.5M Funding **Application Deadline: December 3, 2021**

Are you a graduate student, medical student or postdoc interested in building a life science startup around therapeutics, diagnostics, or synthetic biology? Nucleate is excited to announce \$1.5 million Petri Funding Awards for companies going through the Nucleate Activator program this year. The Awards will be SAFE agreements (simple agreement for future equity) without a valuation cap or discount, and founders can choose to defer for up to a year. This mechanism gives founders a simple way to access the funding to get started without valuing their company upfront, and only later converting the funding to an equity investment at a subsequent financing round.

[Apply to Nucleate's free Activator program by December 3rd, 2021!](#)

(The application takes a few minutes, and you do not need your own idea or data to apply.)

Applications to be a Business Applicant (Business-minded student looking to join a team), Technology Applicant (Scientist who has developed or worked on technology with commercialization potential), or Clinical Applicant (Medical resident or student looking to join a team) for our program can be found [here](#).

Become a PCI Fellow

Priority deadline: November 30, 2021

Final deadline: December 15, 2021

- **Gain experience in Technology Commercialization**
- **Part-Time work; you can do this along with your current program at Penn**

The Penn Center for Innovation (PCI) seeks highly talented, scientifically trained Master's and Ph.D. students and post-doctoral fellows to join the PCI Fellows Program.

PCI Fellows is an innovative experiential program that trains participants in the commercialization of academic research. Typical work projects include analyzing new inventions, writing market communication materials, and conducting prior art searches.

- Over 100 Fellows have graduated from the program
- Graduates find careers in IP Law, Technology Transfer, consulting, and science writing

The Fellowship is highly competitive and is only open to Penn Graduate students and Post-doctoral fellows in scientific disciplines.

Selection to the PCI Fellows is based on:

- Availability to commit for ~10 hours a week
- Strong written communication skills
- Ability to explain complex issues succinctly and clearly
- Support from advisor/supervisor to engage in the program
- U.S. employment eligibility for part-time on-campus work

Application requires a technology assessment

48th Annual Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

February 12-13, 2022

Priority deadline: November 30, 2021

Final deadline: December 15, 2021

The ESRF is a student-run and presented scientific conference in which medical, graduate, MD/PhD students, and residents present oral, poster and TED-like talks of their original basic science and clinical research. Each year, our conference hosts students from throughout the United States, providing an ideal opportunity for the collegial exchange of scientific ideas and the professional development of future leaders in the medical and basic sciences. ESRF will host a virtual conference for those that would like to participate. Presenters are provided extensive feedback from both peer and faculty reviewers and outstanding presentations in multiple categories are recognized with awards.

For more information and to register online, please visit <http://med.miami.edu/research/esrf>

Please submit your abstract and letter of endorsement to ESRFMiami@med.miami.edu

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/PA-21-143.html>

Regeneron's Postdoc Program

Application Due Date: December 1, 2021

The Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program is now accepting applications:

<https://www.regeneron.com/postdoctoral-training-program>

Introducing the Anatomy Scholars Program

Application Due Date: December 2, 2021

The goal of the Anatomy Scholars Program (ASP) is to support and increase retention of Underrepresented Minorities (URM) in STEM in academia in the US and Canada.

ASP applicants should be recently appointed faculty or individuals transitioning from either a terminal degree or a postdoctoral fellowship to an independent position as a faculty member in an anatomy-related field. A new cohort will be selected yearly from the pool of applicants.

Scholars will participate in a two-year program of professional development activities that includes:

1. Asynchronous learning, online curriculum addressing the tenets of faculty life: Service, Teaching, and Research
2. A sustainable and formal mentoring program to help guide Scholars during their transition into academic positions
3. Informal virtual meetings between Scholars, designed to cultivate a diverse peer-support network required for successful STEM careers
4. An Annual Retreat in conjunction with a meeting, with registration and travel support provided by AAA

Learn more about the program and apply [here](#).

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](#).

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.

Job Openings

- [Incyte, Research Investigator/Sr. Research Investigator, Antibody Pharmacology](#)
 - [CHOP Postdoc Fellow Positions](#)
 - [Benchspace November Jobs](#)
-

- [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

PSPDG Social Media and Online Writing Workshop

Thursday, December 9th, 12-2pm

Register [here](#)

The Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group's Science Communication workshop series continues next month with a workshop on Social Media and Online Writing. The workshop will be held virtually on Thursday December 9th from 12pm to 2pm. This session is designed to help researchers use social media to effectively promote scientific discussion and combat disinformation.

Please be advised that this is an interactive workshop, and participants should expect to participate in discussion and critique during the course of the session. This workshop is the third in a series of 7 to be offered by PSPDG throughout this academic year. Participants that complete 5 of 7 workshops will be awarded a Science Communication Certificate that can be added to a Resume or CV.

To stay in touch about updates for this and other science communication workshops, join our [Slack Channel](#) or sign up for email updates via this [Google Form](#).

[BGS Student Organizations](#)

[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 [Candace Cain](#).