



Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:

- [**General Announcements**](#)
- [**Upcoming Events**](#)
- [**Thesis Defenses**](#)
- [**Program Announcements**](#)
- [**Career Development**](#)
 - [Career Development Events](#)
 - [Other Career Development Announcements](#)
 - [Job Openings](#)
- [**Student Group Events/Resources**](#)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BGS Racial Climate Survey from CRIC | Survey closes November 25th

The BGS and BPP leadership formed the Combating Racial Inequities Committee (CRIC), to evaluate the current climate with respect to race in order to make recommendations to improve it. The CRIC has formulated a survey (sent by email on 10/29) to collect information and establish metrics on racial and ethnic diversity, equity, and inclusion culture within BGS and BPP by focusing on 5 areas: Journey to and Selection of Penn, Resources, Environment, Unconscious Bias Training, and Community. The survey results will inform the committee's recommendations to BGS, BPP, and the Perelman School of Medicine in implementing initiatives to improve the culture and climate around race at Penn.

A prize will be awarded to the graduate group or department with the highest percentage response to the survey! So take the survey and encourage your colleagues to take it too! The survey closes **November 25th**.

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). Demand for Dr. Brown's services is currently high, but you may 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](#).

Expanded route and hours through Penn Shuttle Service

In addition to the recent note from Dr. Jon Epstein re: [Options for a Safe Commute Home](#), PSOM offers an expanded route and hours through Penn Shuttle Service.

In partnership with Penn Transit Services, PSOM will be able to offer expanded bus service Monday to Friday, 6pm to 11pm, for the next three months. This "PSOM Shuttle" service will support our PSOM community (e.g. research personnel, graduate students, post docs, and others) working outside of normal business hours due to the COVID19 pandemic.

We are adding this [new route](#), departing from East Service and Civic Center Drives, due to the increasing number of COVID19 cases in our region and greater difficulty for many during the months of inclement weather and shorter daylight hours in commuting to campus via other methods (e.g. bike, walk, etc.). This new route and [modified schedule](#) will provide expanded coverage to residences of our PSOM community within Philadelphia that are not as well served by the current Penn Transit routes.

The service will begin on Monday, November 16, 2020, and, if there is adequate usage, it will continue through the end of February 2021. See the full announcement [here](#).

Graduate Student Space Reservations

Graduate and professional students can reserve a seat in the Houston Hall Class of 1949 Auditorium through December 11. The space can be used for study or relaxation; however, face masks and physical distancing are required at all times and eating/drinking in the space are prohibited.

For more details and to request a seat, visit: www.gsc.upenn.edu/online/graduate-space-reservations

ORDT Office Hours

The Office of Research and Diversity Training (ORDT) will host daily office hours from Monday through Thursday for the rest of November (see details [here](#)). Please [sign in](#) to receive the Zoom information.

Please note we will not hold office hours on Thanksgiving (11/26).

COVID-19 Testing

Please be aware that testing is available in Houston Hall. Details, including appointment scheduling links, are available here: <https://wellness.upenn.edu/coronavirus/#About-Testing-at-Hall-of-Flags>

Project Meow Accepting Donations

Project Meow builds winter shelters for the stray cats of West Philadelphia. More than 500 shelters were constructed last season! They are once again accepting donations of large styrofoam boxes (Illumina boxes are ideal). See flyer [here](#); contact [Anne Froehling](#) (215)-485-6121 to arrange pick up outside the building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Penn Libraries GIS Day 2020

Wednesday, November 18

Please join us this Wednesday, November 18, for a Penn Libraries virtual GIS Day 2020 event themed "Mapping the Madness." The event will feature a roundtable, presentations, and GIS workshops. It will explore how mapping, GIS, and spatial research can help us understand trends and tell stories about the many issues 2020 has brought to the fore.

Detailed agenda and registration information is available at <https://guides.library.upenn.edu/mapping/gisday2020>.

Fall 2020 Neuroscience Public Lecture Series

Date & Time: Thursday, December 3rd, 6:00pm EST

Location: Crowdcast Virtual Platform

Penn Neuroscience graduate students are hosting a public lecture entitled "Under Pressure: The Neuroscience of Stress" which will feature three 15-minute TED style talks from Penn neuroscience faculty members Drs. Michael P. Hart and Allyson Mackey, and Temple University faculty member Dr. Debra Bangasser.

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

THESIS DEFENSES

Nov. 18, 10 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/835852663>): **Blair Zhang (GCB), "Discovering pleiotropy across circulatory system diseases and nervous system disorders."** Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Nov. 19, 10 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/427950087>): **Yeri Song (NGG), "Excitatory-inhibitory circuit dysregulation during the auditory cortex critical period in the Fragile X syndrome mouse model."** Contact [Keyana Moody](#).

Nov. 19, 3 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/935246309>): **Rafael Fernandez (CAMB), "GSK3 inhibitors rescue telomere defects in Dyskeratosis Congenita iPS derived AT2 Cells."** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Nov. 20, 10 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/544287891>): **Linh Le (CAMB), "SLC45A2 protein stability and regulation of melanosome pH determine melanocyte pigmentation."** Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Nov. 20, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/895949754>): **Leon Morales (CAMB), "Development of Gene Therapy for Muscular Dystrophy and the Broader Implications of an Immune Response to Vector Encoded Antigens."** Contact [Anna Kline](#).

Nov. 20, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/676512722>): **Caroline Davis (BMB), "Identifying a novel vulnerability at the intersection of copper homeostasis and glycolytic metabolism in hepatocellular carcinoma."** Contact [Kelli McKenna](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Nov. 16, 2-3:30 pm: **MVP Drop-in hours with Elizabeth White.** The GatherTown link is in Slack or contact [Anna Kline](#).

Nov. 18, 3:30-5 pm: **MVP Drop-in hours with Sunny Shin.** The GatherTown link is in Slack or contact [Anna Kline](#).

Nov. 19, 12 pm: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

Nov. 20, 12 pm: **DSRB Program Lunch: Kelly Sullivan (Bashaw lab) and Sarshan Pather (Song lab) presenting. Yixin Zang and Chris Greer lead discussion on a paper by Dr. Maria Barna.** Contact [Meagan](#) for the virtual link.

Nov. 20, 12:15-1:30 pm: **CPM Research in Progress: Olivia Farrelly (Rompolas lab) and Claire Shao (Minn lab) presenting.** Contact [Kathy](#) for the virtual link.

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- Nov. 17, 12 PM: **Law & Technology Virtual Info Session.** The Law School invites you to join Professors Christopher Yoo, Gayle Gowen, and Trevor Cloak and a panel of students for an info session on the classes and programs available to you at Penn Law in the space of Technology Law. See the full announcement [here](#) and register [here](#).
****Please note:** BGS students are permitted to pursue the Certificate in Law. Interested students should review [Policies Governing Participation of BGS Students in Certificate Programs](#). Authorization is required through the form [Authorization to Participate in a Certificate Program](#).
 - Nov. 18, 12 – 2 PM: **PSPDG Workshop, “Presentation Skills: How to create memorable presentations.”** Master slide and poster presentations by learning how to direct attention of your audience. Increase clarity and efficacy of your presentations and decrease misunderstandings by commanding visual space and visual information. Register [here](#) and join the PSPDG Slack [here](#).
-

ITMAT Education is featuring new course for Spring 2021

REG 618 - Introduction to Vaccine Development

Instructor: Jeff Barrett, MD

Time: W, 4:00-7:00PM

Open to nondegree: Yes

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.

Contact: Bethany Germany (bgermany@upenn.edu) with questions

Complete the [course request form](#) if you are interested in registering for the course

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship | November 29 Deadline

Penn is permitted to forward three nominees for the 2021-22 Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund fellowship, which pays full tuition plus a stipend of \$18,000 for up to three years. U.S. citizens pursuing a graduate degree in 2021-22 in any recognized field of study in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences (including law, medicine, engineering, architecture or other formal professional training) are eligible. The selection committee has a strong preference for supporting scholarly endeavors.

An internal selection process will be coordinated by the **Center for Undergraduate Research & Fellowships**. For the purposes of the internal competition, students should complete the application and submit the requested supporting documentation by **November 29, 2020**.

This internal Penn application requires 1 letter of recommendation from a professor (not a postdoc or lecturer) who has taught or worked closely with you. You will request this through the application process, but please alert your preferred recommender as soon as possible so as to give your recommender ample time to submit letters of recommendation before the Penn Deadline. See the [CURF website](#) for additional application requirements.

Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program Applications due December 1, 2020

The application period for the Regeneron Postdoctoral Training Program has begun. Learn more [here](#), see flyer [here](#).

Job Openings

- **Stem Cell Biologist – Fate Therapeutics** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Protein Engineering Scientist – Nabla Bio** – See full announcement [here](#).

Request to join the [BGS Alumni and Current Students LinkedIn](#) to stay updated on job opportunities.

RESOURCES

[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 RESOURCES

Events this Week

- Nov. 18, 12 – 2 PM: **PSPDG Workshop, “Presentation Skills: How to create memorable presentations.”** Master slide and poster presentations by learning how to direct attention of your audience. Increase clarity and efficacy of your presentations and decrease misunderstandings by commanding visual space and visual information. Learn more [here](#) and sign up for updates [here](#).
- Nov. 19, 7 PM: **LTBGS Friendsgiving.** We're excited to announce our annual Friendsgiving event with LTBGS! To celebrate all of you, we're hosting a crafting event where we provide everything you need - just come pick it up! We'll be making decorative candles and hanging out over zoom. Attached is a [flyer](#) for more information. Sign up [here](#) if interested - and select a time to come pick up the materials. (We will distribute supplies either outside the Richards building at 3700 Hamilton Walk under the white tents or inside the lobby of that building)
- Nov. 20, 7 PM: **BGSA Game Night.** Join BGSA and SP2 for a Virtual Game Night! Take a break from the stress and hustle of the fall semester to meet new friends and play a few games. We'll play a variety of games including All Bad Cards, Skribbl, and Balderdash. [Sign up](#) today for the chance to get a SP2 or BGSA hoodie! See flyer [here](#).

[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](#).