



Click to navigate this week's content:

- [General Announcements](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Thesis Defenses](#)
- [Program Announcements](#)
- [Career Development](#)
- [Student Groups & Social Announcements](#)

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 noon to 4:00pm 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 afternoon through August 7th. 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 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 to make an appointment. All of the meetings will be held in Smilow Conference Room 1-103 (in the hallway south of Rubenstein Auditorium). If the door is open, you may 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 having 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. If you have questions, please contact Judy Jackson at jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu

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 or 215-898-2792.

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

(UPDATED) 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 **second year of graduate study at Penn (i.e. will be in their third year of graduate study during the appointment) are eligible to apply.** Students should be pursuing thesis work in a field under the umbrella of structural biology or molecular biophysics. Only US citizens and permanent residents are eligible. Students who are currently on the SBMB training grant do not need to re-apply. Instead, a letter from student and mentor requesting re-appointment should be sent to Kelli McKenna.

Applications are due by **12 pm, Friday, June 7, 2019.** Please see the full announcement [here](#). If you have questions about this grant, please contact [Kelli McKenna](#).

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.

Penn Genetics Awards of Excellence

Apply by **June 24, 2019** for the Penn Genetics Awards of Excellence! See flyer [here](#).

The **Kadesch Prize** recognizes graduate excellence in research and citizenship. It is open to senior students or recent graduates from any Biomedical Graduate Studies graduate group.

To apply, submit:

- CV with publications (published or in press only!)
- 350 word summary of research project, emphasizing big picture significance
- 350 word summary of teaching, mentorship, and community service activities undertaken during graduate career
- Letter from thesis advisor

The **Kaushal Award** recognizes predoctoral and postdoctoral scholars for excellence in genetic research as evidenced by publication. It is open to BGS students and PSOM Postdocs. Applicants may nominate one of their publications, on which they are a first author or co-first author, from the current or prior academic year (after 7/1/18), that is related to any aspect of Genetics.

To apply, submit:

- Full citation for the publication being nominated
- 350-word summary describing, in lay terms, the publication's big picture significance, and the role that the first author played in the work (written by the first author, and signed by both the first author and their mentor)

Email single PDF to sarahjr@upenn.edu with subject line, "Kadesch Prize" or "Kaushal Award."

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)).

Institute for Immunology "Year in Review" Symposium: IGG Saul Winegrad Award for Outstanding Dissertation Talk

Caroline Bartman, PhD (Arjun Raj and Gerd Blobel Labs)
"Design Principles of Mammalian Transcription"
Thursday, June 13, 2019
2:00 – 2:30 pm
Smilow Center for Translational Research Auditorium & Lobby

Open to everyone! Learn more and register: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/ifi/yir.html>

HTSC Symposium 2019 Registration

We invite you to join us at a Symposium on High-throughput Screening Technologies at Penn on **Thursday June 27, 2019 in the Gaulton Auditorium, BRB II/III from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.**, sponsored by the UPenn High-throughput Screening Core, Chemogenomic Discovery Program, and Penn Center for Precision Medicine.

This symposium will highlight screening projects and platforms at PENN and provide education on the possible areas where high-throughput screening can be used in basic and translational medicine.

The symposium will be an exciting day filled with engaging speakers, including a keynote lecture **Dr. Alice Soragni, PhD** from the UCLA, expert Penn faculty highlighting technologies and results of screens done by users of the Penn HTSC, and a workshop on basic principles of turning your laboratory assay into an optimized, miniaturized assay ready for HTS. For a complete list of speakers, please see attached flyer.

This event is open to all faculty, postdocs, graduate students, and lab staff. Pre-registration is required. Click here to register: https://micro.med.upenn.edu/htc_symposium/

THESIS DEFENSES

June 4, 3 PM (Class of '62 Auditorium, John Morgan Building): **Casey Bartow-McKenney (GCB)**, "Further defining epidermal function through deciphering host-microbe interactions in the skin." Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

June 10, 3 PM (Austrian Auditorium, CRB): **Gleb Bazilevsky (CAMB)**, "Biochemical and Biophysical Insights into the Molecular Mechanism of ATP-Citrate Lyase." Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

June 3, 12:30 – 1:30 PM: **CAMB June Matric Lunch**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

June 7, 10 AM – 12 PM: **CAMB Mentee Training Steering Committee**. Contact [Shannon Christensen](#).

June 7, 12 – 1:30 PM: **DSRB Program Lunch: Elizabeth Gallagher, Jessica Brandt, David Sidibe, and William Jones will be presenting**. Contact [Christina Strathearn](#).

June 7, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress Seminar: Clark Fritsch (Goldman lab) and Riley Payne (Foskett lab) will be presenting**. Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

CAMB Preliminary Exams (PhD and CD)

G&E Combined Degree Prelim Exams	6/3/2019 - 6/5/2019
DSRB Combined Degree Prelim Exams	6/3/2019
CPM Combined Degree Prelim Exams	6/4/2019
MVP Combined Degree Prelim Exams	6/4/2019

To see the complete schedule of exams, click [here](#).

IGG Preliminary Exams

JAMAL GREEN, "The Impact of Stress on Mucosal Inflammation"

Rotation Lab: Christoph Thaiss, PhD

Friday, June 7, 2:00 PM (252 BRB)

ASHLEY VANDERBECK, "The role of Notch signaling in extrathymic T cell development"

Rotation Lab: Ivan Maillard, MD, PhD

Monday, June 10, 9:00 AM (253 BRB)

NGG

ANNOUNCEMENT

- New! For GLIA Activity Leaders: Make sure you submit your reimbursements and POs by June 15th!
- Don't forget to pick up your NEW NGG T-SHIRT. They are located in Tom's old office.

FUTURE EVENTS

6/12 5:30pm (Penn Park): NGG End of the Year Party!

6/13 12:00 - 1:00pm (Barchi): Lunch with NGG summer students

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. 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).

EVENTS THIS WEEK

June 5, 10 AM (Austrian Auditorium): **Dr. Shai Silberberg (NINDS), 'Assuring a bright future for biomedical research.'** More info [here](#).

FUTURE EVENTS

June 13, 1:30 – 2:00 PM (Smilow Center for Translational Research Auditorium & Lobby): **Institute for Immunology “Year in Review” Symposium: IGG Alumni Career Panel Discussion.**

- **Danielle Haney, PhD** (Health Science Policy Analyst, National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke)
- **Adeeb Rahman, PhD** (Technology Director of the Human Monitoring Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai)
- **Vicki Seyfert Margolis, PhD** (Founder, MyOwnMed)

Open to everyone! Learn more and register: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/ifi/yir.html>

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

Penn Graduate Consulting Club (PGCC) Executive Board – Call for Applications

The Penn Graduate Consulting Club (PGCC) is now recruiting e-board members. We invite all non-MBA graduate students and post-doctoral researchers to apply to the PGCC e-board.

The mission of PGCC is to provide non-MBA graduate students and postdoctoral researchers with opportunities to learn about consulting careers and to prepare for careers in consulting. The 2019-2020 PGCC e-board will set the agenda for the upcoming year and will host several events to help members connect with the consulting world, including the annual PGCC Case Competition, professional workshops, information sessions, social events, and pro bono consulting projects. If you have ideas about how to better serve the PGCC community, we strongly encourage you to apply to be on the e-board!

To see details about e-board roles and responsibilities, see the [PGCC website](#). To apply for an e-board position, please fill out [this form](#) by **Sunday June 9th, 11:59PM EST**. You will need to attach your resume and a one-page cover letter to your application. The cover letter should address the following: 1) *Your personal background and background in consulting;* 2) *Why you are interested in the position;* 3) *Why you are capable and suitable for this position;* 4) *Your prior experience in other student clubs and any other information you want to tell us.*

EVENTS THIS WEEK

June 4, 6 – 8 PM (City Tap House University City): **PGWISE end-of-year happy hour**. See attached [flyer](#) for more details. **Spots are limited**, so please RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/E6EmnzgUVoyxPpdq5>

FUTURE EVENTS

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. See flyer [here](#).

June 13, 12 – 1 PM (Smilow 09-146A): **PSPDG Write-in Fly-by**. Lunch provided! This event is to give people an opportunity to pen their thoughts on a topic of interest, or on something that is important to them in the current climate (political or otherwise) - in the form of post cards, op-eds, letters to the editor, etc. Feel welcome to drop by, pen a post-card, grab some pizza and head back out or stay and write a letter to the editor. Students are encouraged to bring friends and colleagues and to take pictures of postcards and share them (and tag PSPDG! @UPennSciencePol). See flyer [here](#).

RESOURCES

[BGSA Website](#)

[Calendar of BGSA Events](#)

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