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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important BGS Announcements

Election

We know that many of you are worried about this week's election, including the uncertainty about when results will be announced and whether there will be unrest in the days or weeks that follow. We share your concerns. We've asked the faculty to consider ways to provide you with their support, including these suggestions offered by the [Center for Teaching and Learning](#). In addition, we've attached some [guidance from CAPS](#) for coping with election stress, along with an election [self-care worksheet](#).

Drop-In Sessions with BGS Director

For students who would like to connect with the **BGS Director, Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto**, regarding election concerns, please [sign up here](#) for a 15-minute drop-in session during one of the following time slots:

- 11/3, 2-3 PM
- 11/4, 5-6 PM
- 11/9, 1-2 PM
- 11/11, 2-3 PM

Thanksgiving Planning – BGS Students

Please see the following [note](#) from Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto regarding Thanksgiving planning.

BGS Racial Climate Survey from CRIC

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**.

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>

President's PhD Initiative

We are thrilled that the University will provide a stipend supplement of \$1200 this year to PhD students in recognition of the challenges and additional expenses incurred by the pandemic. Details are in the announcement below:

<https://www.upenn.edu/pages/valuing-grad-students-president-initiative>

CAPS Counselor for BGS Students

Tiffany Brown, PhD, psychologist at CAPS, remains available to meet with BGS students virtually.

Dr. Brown's services are confidential. 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.

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

Green Labs Working Group Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2 PM

Green Labs will have their first Working Group Meeting on Monday, November 2 at 2 PM. They will be discussing ways to improve the sustainability of labs at Penn. See flyer [here](#). Zoom link: upenn.zoom.us/j/92893895149

IRM Symposium on Nov. 4

[REGISTER NOW](#) For our cross-cutting exploration of early human development

On November 4, 2020, the Institute for Regenerative Medicine (IRM) will be hosting a special symposium focused on the science and ethics of early human developmental biology. This symposium will feature world leaders in embryo lineage & patterning, synthetic embryology, uterine transplantation, and bioethics discussing how advances in stem cell science are challenging our understanding of the first days of life and testing ethical guidelines from an earlier era of research.

Questions? Contact Chris Yarosh (yaroshc@pennterapeutics.com)

PSN Drop-In Coffee Hour – 11/4 and 11/6

November 4 & November 6, both sessions are from 3 – 4 PM

BlueJeans Link: <https://bluejeans.com/449092968>

The 2020 Presidential Election has brought uncertainty and worry into most of our lives. During this stressful time, it's important to know that you're not alone. Join the Peer Support Network for virtual drop-in coffee hours! Bring your favorite coffee and mug, and come chat with PSN volunteers to de-stress and connect! See flyer [here](#).

BGS Peer Support Network - Group Session on Uncertainty

Thursday, November 12th, 5:00-6:15pm

New experiments, changing relationships, national unpredictability...How do we healthfully acknowledge the things we can't predict and cope with our emotions and reactions to them? PSN will host a group discussion on ways to approach and negotiate uncertainty in our lives. See flyer [here](#).

RSVP's encouraged: http://bit.ly/PSN_Uncertainty
BlueJeans link <https://bluejeans.com/7690183899>

Chemistry-Biology Interface Fall Symposium

Friday, November 13th, 9am – 1:30pm

The symposium will be held virtually over zoom and will feature 3 keynote speakers and six student speakers. The keynote speakers this year are **Professor Sarah Slavoff (Yale)**, **Professor Sidney Wilkerson-Hill (UNC Chapel Hill)**, and **Professor Paramjit (Bobby) Arora (NYU)**. See tentative schedule & flyer [here](#). Register [here](#). Visit the [CBI website](#) for info on past symposia.

THESIS DEFENSES

Nov. 3, 11 AM (<https://bluejeans.com/502242900>): **Kerry Roby (CAMB)**, “**Response to Stress by the Tumor Microenvironment.**” Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Nov. 6, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/972963413>): **Claudia Lanauze (CAMB)**, “**Smad4 with R361 hotspot mutations retains the ability to bind to LEF1 and boosts WNT signaling in colorectal cancer cells.**” Contact [Kathy O'Connor-Cooley](#).

Nov. 9, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/494451352>): **Di Zhang (GCB)**, “**Sculpting 3D chromatin folding via genome editing.**” Contact [Maureen Kirsch](#).

Nov. 9, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/163734810>): **Melody Esmaeili-Ghahfar (CAMB)**, “**Chromatin accessibility and histone acetylation in the regulation of competence in early development.**” Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

Nov. 3, 1 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Nov. 4, 1 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Nov. 5, 12 – 1 PM: **CAMB Vice Chair Craig Bassing's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Craig Bassing](#).

Nov. 5, 1 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Nov. 6, 9 AM – 12 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours**. Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

Nov. 6, 12 – 1 PM: **DSRB Program Lunch: Anti-Racism Book Discussion**. Contact [Meagan](#) for the virtual link.

Nov. 6, 12:15 – 1:30 PM: **CPM Research in Progress: Sean Louzon (Korb lab) and Danielle Murashige (Arany lab) presenting**. Contact [Kathy](#) for the virtual link.

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Future Events

- Nov. 13, 9am – 1:30pm: **Chemistry-Biology Interface Fall Symposium**. The symposium will be held virtually over zoom and will feature 3 keynote speakers and six student speakers. The keynote speakers this year are **Professor Sarah Slavoff (Yale)**, **Professor Sidney Wilkerson-Hill (UNC Chapel Hill)**, and **Professor Paramjit (Bobby) Arora (NYU)**. *See tentative schedule & flyer [here](#). Register [here](#).* Visit the [CBI website](#) for info on past symposia.

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

- **Laboratory Research Scientist - Enzymetrics Bioscience** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Entry level medical editor role at imre Health** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Regeneron & Genentech Postdoctoral Opportunities** - See full announcement [here](#).
- **BS/MS level Position at Bluebird Bio** – See full announcement [here](#).
- **Postdoc Position – UCSF** – 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

BGSA Gets Out the Vote Event

Enter for a chance to win a 500pc Jiggy Puzzles art piece by signing up on the [google form](#).

JIGGY x I am a voter.® is a special edition [collection of puzzles](#) featuring inspiring art by three emerging female artists, supporting voter registration and turnout for the 2020 election. 50% of proceeds for each sale will be donated to I am a voter.® 25% of proceeds for each sale go to the artist herself.

The form will **close** at the end of Election Week - **Friday, November 6th, 2020**. Of the students who sign up, 6 students will be randomly chosen using a computer software to receive one of these puzzles. Open to all BGS students. Winners will be announced after Election Week.

Events this Week

- Nov. 2, 6 PM: **BGSA Virtual Yoga Session Series**. BGSA will be hosting Virtual Yoga Sessions with a certified power yoga instructor! Please [sign up](#) to receive the **Bluejeans link**. The dates for the yoga sessions will be the following:
 - Monday, November 2nd, 6pm
 - Monday, November 9th, 6pm
- Nov. 4 & Nov. 6, 3 – 4 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/449092968>): **PSN Drop-In Coffee Hour**. The 2020 Presidential Election has brought uncertainty and worry into most of our lives. During this stressful time, it's important to know that you're not alone. Join the Peer Support Network for a virtual drop-in coffee hour! Bring your favorite coffee and mug, and come chat with PSN volunteers to de-stress and connect! See flyer [here](#).

Future Events

- Nov. 12, 5-6:15 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/7690183899>): **BGS Peer Support Network - Group Session on Uncertainty**. New experiments, changing relationships, national unpredictability...How do we healthfully acknowledge the things we can't predict and cope with our emotions and reactions to them? PSN will host a group discussion on ways to approach and negotiate uncertainty in our lives. RSVP's encouraged: http://bit.ly/PSN_Uncertainty

[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](#).