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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations**

**Testing.** Graduate students who live on campus or come to campus each week must be tested. You may enroll in [Penn Cares Testing](#) or in [COVID SAFE](#) – but you should not be enrolled in both simultaneously. If you are working in a lab in CHOP, Wistar, or another affiliate and are NOT entering Penn/PSOM buildings, you should follow those entities' testing protocols and do NOT need to enroll in University testing. You may receive automated emails about testing even though you are not enrolled in Penn Cares Testing; you may ignore these emails.

**Red PennOpen Pass?** If you signed up for Penn Cares testing but are not scheduled for a weekly test, you may get a red PennOpen pass. You will need to schedule your weekly test in order to be given a green pass. If you are no longer coming to campus weekly or have switched to COVID SAFE, please email Judy Jackson, [jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:jajackso@penncare.upenn.edu) to arrange to be un-enrolled from Penn Cares. Please refer to Perelman School of Medicine email of 1/25/21 4:24pm for more details about testing.

**Vaccinations.** Penn and the PSOM have begun rolling out vaccinations. Please refer to Penn's [Vaccinations](#) site for more information.

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**(NEW) - Penn Chinatown Charter Service - Saturdays 1-4pm ET**

**Penn Charter Bus going from campus to Chinatown (and vice versa) is for Penn faculty, post-docs, staff and students.**

**Reserve your seat(s) to and from Chinatown. Be sure to register for seats to Chinatown AND seats back to Penn, if needed.**

**MAKE RESERVATIONS HERE: <http://bit.ly/PennChinatown>. See route and schedule [here](#).**

- Guests must enter the bus through the front door and exit through the rear door.
- Guests must display with bus driver a valid Daily COVID Screening Pass or participate in driver screening and offer a verbal attestation.
- Face masks or coverings must be worn at all times.
- Guests must observe physical distancing and sit in the designated "open" seats.
- Maximum occupancy for each bus is 20 guests and 1 driver.
- No eating or drinking while aboard the vehicle.

The route is named "Chinatown Charter – PAACH, UA, & GAPSA." **The Chinatown Charter is accessible on the PennRides App** or at [www.upenn.edu/pennrides](http://www.upenn.edu/pennrides) via any web browser when using a computer or a mobile device. Real-Time Bus Tracking and route options and will be active from 12pm to 5pm, each Saturday there is service.

Pan-Asian American Community House (PAACH) in partnership with Undergraduate Assembly (UA) and Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) is providing this service for the community.

Questions/Comments? Please direct inquiries to PAACH at [paach@lists.upenn.edu](mailto:paach@lists.upenn.edu).

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**(NEW) - Help Improve Penn's Anti-Violence Resources**

**A team of researchers at Penn's Center for Public Health Initiatives is conducting research to learn about Penn students' awareness and perceptions of intimate partner violence (IPV) resources.** IPV is a common experience among students on college campuses, and includes physical, sexual, and emotional violence, as well as stalking.

The Center for Public Health Initiatives at Penn is conducting online focus group discussions to learn about students' knowledge of and ideas for campus resources to address intimate partner violence (IPV). All Penn students age 18 or over are welcome to participate, regardless of gender, year, experience with IPV, etc. Discussions will last between 60-90 minutes and be conducted via Zoom. Participants will receive a \$20 electronic gift card to Amazon for their time. To express interest or learn more, contact Alicia Jen at [campusIPV@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:campusIPV@penmedicine.upenn.edu) or 267-279-9575.

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## **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](https://gsc.upenn.edu/grad-emergency-grant).

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## **Call for Nominations - Lok and Kanefield Prizes for BGS Students Conducting Cystic Fibrosis Research or Related Research**

BGS seeks nominations for the two prizes described [here](#). Nominations may be made on a rolling basis. If the award money is to be used for travel to a conference, please submit the nomination at least 2 months prior to the date of the conference. BGS faculty members should nominate their students via email to [rebecca.lopez@penncare.upenn.edu](mailto:rebecca.lopez@penncare.upenn.edu).

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## **GAPSA's Pilot Transcription Fund Application closes April 14<sup>th</sup>**

Over the past year, GAPSA has identified qualitative students who are currently underserved, required to manually transcribe their own interviews or outsource transcription services on their own dime for the vast hours of interviews and audio recordings.

Asking qualitative students to manually transcribe or to pay for transcription services highlights a lack of support for qualitative students; computational students are provided with access to clusters to perform research much like chemistry students do not need to purchase their own raw materials for research.

GAPSA seeks to provide temporary relief for these students while building a case to present to the administration to address this need.

Our application is now open and will close on April 14th.

[https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV\\_03eZmeLt31iQWuW?Q\\_CHL=preview&Q\\_SurveyVersionID=current](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/preview/SV_03eZmeLt31iQWuW?Q_CHL=preview&Q_SurveyVersionID=current)

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## **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/ltplchours/>

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](mailto: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.

For peer support networking, please feel free to reach out to one of the BGS student volunteers of [Peer Support Network](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Penn Society for Psychedelic Science Seminar Series**

**April 13 at 4 PM**

This semester, the Penn Society for Psychedelic Science is hosting a [seminar series](#) showcasing the broad range of research – from molecules, to brains, to societies – that is *New and Noteworthy in Psychedelic Science*. Join us roughly every other Tuesday at 4pm.

Finally, we would love to thank BGSA for sponsoring this series and MindCORE for hosting us on their CrowdCast server. Register for [Ruben Laukkonen](#) at this link!

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### **Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Philadelphia Symposium**

Register today for the the 2021 Virtual Symposium on Gender Bias in Science Communication hosted by GWIS Philadelphia! The event will take place **Friday, April 16, 2021 from 1:00 – 6:00 PM EST**. The [registration](#) link can be found here: <https://forms.gle/cRxoJDQ8DRHuKcT26>.

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### **(NEW) - Be The Match and Save a Life: Marrow Transplant Talk and Donor Drive**

**Monday, April 19 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. (<https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/98893655109>)**

**Please RSVP (<https://forms.gle/jtBViWvyMqWk1Bzx9>)**

The PSOM Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association, in partnership with the Student National Medical Association, Latino Medical Student Association, South Asian Medical Student Association, and Oncology Interest Group, are **excited to host a talk on the ever-present need for expanding the national marrow registry and offer you the chance to join and potentially save a life**. Speakers from Be The Match, a non-profit organization that manages the world's largest bone marrow registry, will share information about their own journeys as donors, explain how you can do the same, and answer any questions you may have. While there will be a focus on increasing diversity in the registry and discussion of disparities associated with race and ethnicity\*, potential donors from all backgrounds are needed and welcome.

Click the following link to read the inspiring story of how Christopher Magoon, PSOM Class of 2019, joined the registry and saved a stranger's life (<https://www.yahoo.com/gma/blogs/abc-blogs/cancer-survivor-meets-her-bone-marrow-donor-first-121314673--abc-news-health.html>).

\*Note: We stand against the use of race-based medicine and recognize that the ethnic labels used to categorize donors are imprecise; however, data show that those who identify as part of any minority group are far less likely to find a marrow match. This exacerbates existing health disparities and indicates a general need for greater diversity, of all different backgrounds and origins, in the registry.

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### **Neuroscience Public Lecture**

**Date & Time: Tuesday, April 20th, 6:00pm EST**

Penn Neuroscience graduate students are hosting a public lecture entitled "**Neuroinflammation: The Brain's Defense Mechanism**" which will feature 15-minute TED style talks from three Philadelphia-area neuroscience faculty members:

- Dr. Chris Bennett – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Jennifer Orthmann-Murphy – University of Pennsylvania
- Dr. Elena Blanco-Suárez – Jefferson University

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

**Please register for the event here:** <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/neurolecture/register>

## **THESIS DEFENSES**

April 13, 1 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/718267803>): **Courtney Comar (CAMB), "Interactions of Highly Pathogenic Human Coronaviruses with dsRNA-induced Innate Immune Pathways."**  
Contact [Anna Kline](#).

April 16, 2 PM (<https://bluejeans.com/169576487>): **Jennifer Aleman (CAMB), "Nuclear pore component Mtor regulates levels of dosage compensated gene expression in Drosophila."**  
Contact [Meagan Schofer](#).

## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CAMB**

- 4/14, 2:00pm - 4:00pm: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

- 4/15, 12:00pm - 1:00pm: **GTV Trainee Seminar: Post Rotation Talks.** Contact [Anna Kline](#) for the virtual link.

## NGG

### CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

## Events this Week

- April 12, 11 AM – 12 PM ET ([Register here](#)): **InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings (#IPSAG): Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat.** Take a late morning coffee/tea break from studying and/or working at the Virtual Health Tea & Coffee Chat on April 12th from 11am to 12pm Eastern. Casually converse and mingle with fellow Penn students, staff, and faculty in the virtual Engineering Library available in the [Penn Libraries Gather.Town site](#), which is open to all @upenn.edu email users. This event is a part of the [Penn Libraries InterProfessional Student Advisory Gatherings](#) (IPSAG).
- **(NEW)** - April 15, 4 PM – 5 PM ([Register here](#)): **Career Services' April Government Chats with Graduate Alumni!** This session will feature [Meighan Long, MA](#), Physical Scientist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Applied Geosciences).
- **(NEW)** - April 16, 1 PM – 3 PM ([Register here](#)): **PSPDG SciComm Workshop Series, "Videos: How to create informative and engaging videos."** The workshop leaders are graduate students at Montana State University in the Science and Natural History Filmmaking Program: Olivia Andrus (directed projects My World, Grounded and Diversified: The Florida Panther Story) and Grace Weikert (Video Producer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center). Olivia and Grace will teach us everything we need to know to start and complete a video project, from writing a science-themed script to filming and editing the final product.

## Future Events

- **(NEW)** - April 21, 5 PM EST (<https://penmedicine.zoom.us/j/6115386325>): **LTBGS+ @ UPenn Presents, "Queer in STEMinar: Industry Edition."** Join LTBGS+ in welcoming Dr. Cho and Dr. Sheppard to share their experiences as LGBTQ+ scientists and a general discussion around being out in industry. See flyer [here](#).
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## **(NEW) - Reaching the Peak: A Science & Technology Career Summit**

[Learn more and register](#)

Registration is now open for *Reaching the Peak: A Science & Technology Career Summit*, Research!America's summit for early career researchers, on **June 30, 2021 from 11-6 p.m. ET**.

During this one-day virtual event, early career researchers will have the opportunity to explore an array of career paths, network with fellow researchers, participate in professional development workshops, and engage in meaningful discussions around issues critical to the success of the R&D ecosystem.

Sample workshops and topics the Summit will explore:

- Resume and CV Development
- Effective Science Communication
- Science Policy and Advocacy
- Fostering Successful Mentorships

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## **Sign up to provide a critical mentored virtual research experience for URMs this summer**

**Deadline: May 1st, 11:59pm**

Future applicants with under-represented identities in science and medicine (URiM) are experiencing significant setbacks in applying to combined degree programs this year and beyond. This problem has been significantly exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The **Virtual Summer Research Program (VSRP) through the American Physician Scientists Association (APSA)**, a program led by the Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion committee, is hoping to bridge this gap, and **we need your help!**

In 2020 we paired 150+ mentors, principal investigators and graduate students with premedical and pre-graduate trainees for mentored research experiences. In 2021, we are hoping to pair 200 URiMs (we anticipate 600+ will apply). Ultimately, we hope to increase diversity by expanding access to dual degree programs to those whose previous research experience was limited by socio-economic factors—and for this, **we are asking graduate students, post-docs, and principal investigators in any lab or research group to sign up as mentors for this virtual research experience from June 14th to August 6th 2021**. Visit <https://www.physicianscientists.org/page/VSRP-2021> to learn more and sign up (note that your PI *must* sign-off although non-PIs can certainly mentor!). The deadline is **May 1st, 11:59pm**.

If we want the next generation of scientists to be diverse, we must participate in uplifting URiM applicants that are facing compounded roadblocks due to COVID-19 and ongoing racial and economic disparities that plague our nation. **If you are asking yourself, what can I do to increase diversity in biomedical research? Well, this!**

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**Job Openings**

- **(NEW)** - [Job Opportunities at AstraZeneca](#)
- [Novartis Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship](#)
  - Application Deadline: April 14 for Cambridge, MA site; April 29 for Basel site
- [Postdoctoral Positions – Elovitz Laboratory](#)
- [Vivodyne seeking Senior Scientists](#)
- [Geneticist / Bioinformatician - Aro Biotherapeutics](#)
- [Postdoc Opportunity - Emory Global Diabetes Research Center](#)
- **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

**(NEW)** - **PSPDG SciComm Workshop Series, “Videos: How to create informative and engaging videos.”**

**April 16, 1 PM – 3 PM ([Register here](#))**

The workshop leaders are graduate students at Montana State University in the Science and Natural History Filmmaking Program: Olivia Andrus (directed projects My World, Grounded and Diversified: The Florida Panther Story) and Grace Weikert (Video Producer at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center). Olivia and Grace will teach us everything we need to know to start and complete a video project, from writing a science-themed script to filming and editing the final product.

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**(NEW) - BGSA 2021 Virtual Elections | Nominations OPEN**

BGSA is having virtual elections for the academic year 2021-2022 executive board.

Please find link to the election guideline information below.

The folder includes all the documents and video describing positions up for election, names and emails of current students in each position and details for how the election will be run:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E9Pt9gw\\_vnGFzNDleHBqFOlqaJqCvQjH?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E9Pt9gw_vnGFzNDleHBqFOlqaJqCvQjH?usp=sharing)

BGSA Executive Board Position Nominations Close Wednesday April 21st at 5:00pm. Use link below to nominate yourself or someone else for our open positions!

[https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_6ET6zD4Ssk7N2eO](https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6ET6zD4Ssk7N2eO)

Please email [bgsa.chair@gmail.com](mailto:bgsa.chair@gmail.com) with questions and concerns.

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**Upcoming BGSA-sponsored Activities:**

**"Penn Swag!** BGSA plans to order picnic blankets and bento-style lunch boxes for BGS students. Please take a minute to fill out [this form](#) to indicate if you are interested and which option you prefer! "

**"Virtual Escape Room:** Put your sleuthing skills to work! BGSA is cohosting a virtual escape-room type event on Friday, April 16th at 7pm! Secure your spot today by registering [here!](#) "

**"Acts Wanted!** Sign-up today to showcase your skills in a Talent Show hosted by BGS and IGA on Friday, April 23rd. Acts will be judged by a panel of "celebrity" faculty judges. Best acts will win prizes! Register to perform by April 14th at <https://penn-bgsa.ticketleap.com/talent-show-acts/>"

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[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](#)

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