



Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:

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

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, jjackso@pennmedicine.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.

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 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.

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.

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@pennmedicine.upenn.edu.

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). You may also arrange to work with other CAPS counselors by calling the main CAPS number.

(NEW) - Penn Marrow Drive

As shown in the [infographic](#), many groups face significant barriers to finding life-saving matches for blood stem cell or marrow transplants. If you are interested in becoming a donor, please visit <https://join.bethematch.org/Penn> or text Penn to the number 61474. You can also view a recent [information session recording](#) to learn more about the process (patient stories from 00:00-23:00, information on donation process from 23:00-46:00, and Q & A from 46:00-56:00). Thank you! Questions? E-mail hayp@upenn.edu.

(NEW) - Join your fellow Quakers and request your mail-in ballot today

Did you know that more than half of Penn students who voted in the last Philadelphia local election voted by mail?

This cycle there are important local offices, such as District Attorney, and ballot measures, such as adding a state constitutional ban on racial discrimination. These offices and measures have a direct impact on the Penn community and your Penn experience.

Politicians often win by single digit votes in primary elections, so Penn students are poised to have a significant impact. Penn is a Voter Friendly Campus for a reason—keep up the tradition of voting in every election and join your peers at the ballot box!

This semester's primary will occur on May 18th, after finals. Unless you plan to remain in Philadelphia until after commencement, you should vote by mail as soon as possible.

How about right now? It only takes 2 minutes to request your ballot online.

Ballot request forms **must be received** by the Philadelphia County Board of Elections by May 11th at 5pm EST, and due to a high volume of requests, it's a good idea to get a head start.

No matter what your situation is, we've got you covered for requesting a mail-in ballot:

- Have a PennDot ID number or Social Security Number? [Request your ballot online](#)
- Rather mail in your frequent form? [Print out this form](#) and mail it to "Philadelphia Board of Elections, 142 City Hall, 1400 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19107"
- No printer, a stamp, or envelope? [Click here](#) to have a request form and pre-paid envelope sent to your door

IMPORTANT: To make sure your ballot is counted, be sure to place it inside the provided security envelope before mailing it in.

Voting in another state's election this semester? Visit our [calendar](#) for more information.

If you need help requesting your mail-in ballot or with anything else voting related:

- visit our website built for the Penn community at pennvotes.org
- join [Motivote](#) to compete against your peers by completing bite-sized voter actions that earn you points towards real-life prizes
- email us at pennvotes@upenn.edu
- [join our mailing list](#) (we promise to only send you a few key reminders!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rescheduled Green Labs Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, May 11 at 2pm

Please join us for our re-scheduled [Earth Week](#) Green Labs meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 2pm to discuss ways to improve the sustainability of labs on Penn's campus!

Zoom link to register for this virtual meeting: bit.ly/maygreenlabs

THESIS DEFENSES

None this week

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAMB

- 4/28, 2 – 4 PM: **CAMB Chair Dan Kessler's Virtual Office Hours.** Sign Up [here](#) for a virtual meeting. Contact [Dan Kessler](#).

NGG

CALENDARS

[NGG and GLIA](#)

[MINS](#)

[BGSA](#)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Events this Week

- April 26, 6:30 PM ET ([RSVP here](#)): **Penn INSPIRE Invites BGS to our BioRender Workshop.** The Penn Interdisciplinary Network for Scientists Promoting Inclusion, Retention, and Equity (Penn INSPIRE) would like to invite the BGS community to our BioRender Workshop led by Nina Montoya on April 26th, 2021 at 6:30 PM ET. Join us as Nina gives us a BioRender crash course alongside some design tips for your scientific figures! There will be an open floor Q&A at the end of the workshop. Please RSVP using this link (<https://t.co/esyeQquPTv?amp=1>) to receive a zoom invitation.

(NEW) - Shared Call for T32 Nominations: Computational Genomics; Developmental Biology; Cell and Molecular Biology; Genetics

The following training grants are soliciting nominations of graduate students for the 2021-2022 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 below. *Please note: you may apply for more than 1 grant, provided you meet the eligibility criteria; however, the grants may have different deadlines, so apply by the earliest deadline.*

2021-2022 Nominations for NRSA T32s:

Computational Genomics - Deadline May 10, 2021

Developmental Biology – Deadline May 27, 2021

Cell and Molecular Biology – Deadline June 15, 2021
Genetics - Deadline June 15, 2021

See additional criteria here: <https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/2021-2022-nominations-for-select-t32s.html>

(NEW) - CEET T32 Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that the [Center of Excellence in Environmental Toxicology \(CEET\)](#) Training Grant has a predoctoral appointment available to begin on 7/1/2021.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a US citizen or permanent resident
- Conduct thesis work in translational environmental health sciences and be enrolled in (or willing to enroll in) the [Certificate Program in Environmental Health Sciences](#)

For more information about the application process (including additional requirements), please click here - <https://ceet.upenn.edu/training-career-development/training-grant-in-environmental-health-sciences/>

The deadline for applications is **Monday, May 3rd**.

(NEW) - NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for a Diverse Genomics Workforce (F99/K00)

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.

Application Due Date(s): August 8, 2021; December 8, 2021
<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-143.html>

Yale 2021 Life Science Career Fair April 28-29

The Yale Student Business Society is excited to announce the 2021 Life Science Career Fair that will be held virtually **on April 28th-29th!** We welcome all graduate students, professional students, post-docs, undergraduates, and alumni interested in the life sciences to participate in networking and career exploration opportunities provided at this event. The Life Science Career Fair will feature industry-leading companies in the fields of **Biotech, Pharmaceutical, Consulting, Venture Capital, and other Non-academic Careers**, providing trainees with opportunities to learn about the diverse career paths available in the life sciences. [Learn more here.](#)

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
-

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!**

Job Openings

- **(NEW)** - [PharMeridian LLC – Cell / Gene Therapy Opportunity for Graduates](#)

- [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](#)
- [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

BGSA 2021 Virtual Elections | VOTING STARTS April 26th

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

Use link below to vote!

https://upenn.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ahlykeY0R2pinI2

Please find link to the election guideline information and information on each nominee.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1E9Pt9gw_vnGFzNDleHBqFOlqaJqCvQjH?usp=sharing

BGSA Executive Board Election start on Monday April 26th 8:00am and end on Friday May 7th 5:00pm

Please email bgsa.chair@gmail.com with questions and concerns.

PSN Survey: participate & enter for the chance to win a wellness prize!
Survey closes on May 7, 2021

The Peer Support Network would like to hear from you!

PSN is planning additional community-building events for BGS students. To help direct our efforts, we'd like to hear from you! Are you interested in attending a wellness workshop? Looking for a space to commiserate and vent with other graduate students? **Let us know by completing this survey!**

After completing the survey, enter for a chance to win one of four wellness-themed prizes! A description of prizes can be found [here](#).

Thank you!! Survey closes on May 7, 2021. Questions? Email us at bgspeernetwork@gmail.com.

[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](#).