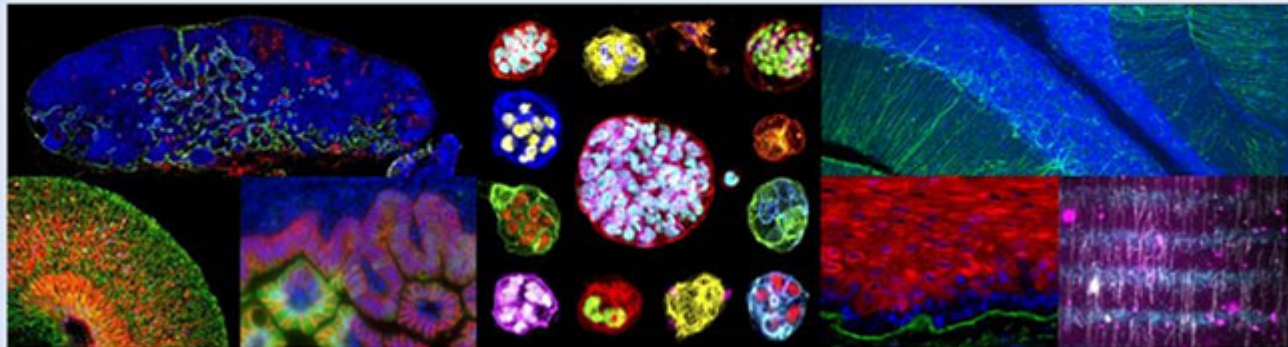




BGS WEEKLY BULLETIN



Click hyperlinks to navigate this week's content:

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

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 Requirements

Vaccinations. Penn students, faculty, and staff are required to be vaccinated. Students must upload their vaccine record through [Student Health](#). Information regarding current student immunization requirements can be found [here](#).

(NEW) Vaccine Booster Clinic. The University will be holding a three-day COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Clinic for all students, faculty, staff, and postdocs on December 15, 16, and 17, at the Gimbel Gymnasium in the Pottruck Health and Fitness Center. Due to supply constraints, we will be offering Pfizer vaccine exclusively. You can schedule your appointment by visiting coronavirus.upenn.edu.

For more information, visit the Penn Cares [Getting Vaccinated](#) page.

Masking/Testing. All members of the Penn community and visitors must wear masks while indoors in public or shared spaces. **Vaccinated students are required to participate in screening testing twice per month.** Learn more about student compliance with testing [here](#).

Learning From Address. This is a reminder to add your Local and "Learning from" addresses in [Penn InTouch](#) if you have not already done so. This is especially important if you are working remotely and not coming to campus to participate in the screening testing.

You can add or update your address by logging into [Penn InTouch](#) and going to "Profile, privacy & emergency" then selecting "Address information".

****Please be reminded, in light of the increased positive COVID-19 cases on campus and the surrounding area, all indoor social events are cancelled for the remainder of the semester.**

Biotech Commons spaces & support

Are you looking for a study space? The newly renovated [Biotech Commons](#) is now open until midnight Mon-Thurs. Reserve space through this [link](#) and keep up to date via [Twitter](#).

Your library Liaison:

Manuel de la Cruz Gutiérrez, PhD, MLS

Director of Data & Innovation Services at the Biotech Commons

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARIES

Philadelphia, PA – [Lenapehoking](#)

215-746-2459

[@MDelaCG](#)

orcid.org/0000-0001-8796-941X

Fall 2021 Graduate Spaces

Looking for a quiet place to study, space to relax and meet up with friends, or rooms to reserve while the Grad Center is closed? This page has information about alternative and temporary spaces available for graduate student use during the Fall 2021 semester: <https://gsc.upenn.edu/Fall2021/spaces>

Roommate Ads & Slack for BGS Students

BGS students are welcome to post their housing and roommate ads in the following [Google doc](#). There is also a channel within the BGS Slack workspace intended for sharing roommate ads, titled **#attn_roommate-ads**.

There is a BGS slack for connecting the various departments and student groups and as a place for questions and discussion. For current students who are not a part of it yet and incoming students, please join with the following link: https://join.slack.com/t/upennbgs/shared_invite/zt-99ajnayf-1mKfg7ic5niiE1u3ksyl5g

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.

Counseling and Wellness

[CAPS/Student Counseling](#) 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.

SEPTA Key Card Initiative

The offices of the Interim Provost and of the Vice Provost for Education have initiated a climate-friendly partnership with GAPSAs to subsidize and encourage graduate student use of public transport in Philadelphia. The program will provide a free SEPTA Key Card to all currently-enrolled Penn graduate and professional students in the Philadelphia area. Students who register their Key Card by the date provided will see \$5.95 automatically added to the card Travel Wallet.

SEPTA Key Card distribution will begin on Monday, December 6, and will continue in the Spring 2022 semester. More information can be found [here](#).

Upcycle Your Big Styrofoam Boxes for Winter Cat Shelters

Project Meow West Philadelphia is seeking styrofoam box donations to help save homeless cats by providing winter shelters. Boxes should be large enough to fit at least one, preferably two big cats. Big Illumina boxes are ideal.

Please contact Anne at (215)-854-6121 or a.froehling@gmail.com to arrange box pick-ups.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(NEW) Holiday Goodie Bag Giveaways

Thursday, December 16th, 1pm-4pm

Friday, December 17th, 10am-1pm

Inviting all first and second year BGS students! The IDEAL Research office will be handing out holiday goodie bags on Thursday, December 16th from 1 – 4 pm and on Friday, December 17th from 10 am – 1 pm. Stop by the Anatomy-Chemistry Building, Room 267 to receive your goodie bag and to enter a raffle for some fun gift items. With any questions, reach out to IDEAL_Research@penntestmed.upenn.edu. Happy Holidays!

Penn 2021 Cores Day Video Presentations Available Online

We are pleased to announce Penn 2021 Cores Day videos are now publicly available. These informative presentations provide an overview of >30 outstanding biomedical research resources and services available throughout our campus. To view the Penn Cores Day 2021 video presentations, please click [here](#). This exciting array of core facility presentations includes an overview of each core facility's services and capabilities as well as the appropriate contact information.

THESIS DEFENSES

- Dec 15, 1pm (9-146AB Smilow/[Livestream](#)): **Richard Lauman** (BMB), Benjamin A. Garcia, Mentor, **“Mass Spectrometry Methods for Studying RNA Modifications and RNA-Protein Interactions.”**
- Dec 16, 2pm (Johnson Foundation Library, 248 Anatomy-Chemistry Building/[Livestream](#)): **Krystal Haislop** (BMB), Kristen Lynch, Mentor, **“Interrogating PSF's RNA-binding interface”**

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

(NEW) Career Services' PhD Career Exploration Fellowship 2022

Application Deadline: January 17, 2022

The PhD Career Exploration Fellowship (CEF) program encourages non-faculty career exploration among doctoral students by facilitating networking experiences and fostering mentorship relationships with advanced degree holding professionals. This unpaid opportunity allows doctoral students to gain a better understanding of day-to-day life in administrative offices, libraries, pharmaceutical companies, museums, science outreach, and other organizations, on Penn's campus, in the greater Philadelphia area, and beyond. In 2022, the program **will allow for both virtual and hybrid fellowships**, which gives students the opportunity to interact with hosts in offices all across the country. Fellows can use this experience to cultivate a stronger professional profile and grow their network in a career field. Through a series of complementary professional development programs hosted by Penn Career Services, Fellows will also develop career-readiness competencies and create a Career Individual Development Plan (IDP) to implement during and after the CEF experience.

Participating offices for 2022 include 33 placements in university administration, the biomedical industry, nonprofit organizations, local government, and more. This year's descriptions of confirmed host offices and possible projects

at each placement can be downloaded [here](#). Each student should indicate a first, second, and third choice host opportunity in their application.

Please visit the [Career Services site](#) for more information about the program and application process.

(NEW) Women+ in STEM Research Symposia

Oral Presentation Registration Due Date: January 21, 2022

Poster Presentation Registration Due Date: February 4, 2022

Women+ in Chemistry is excited to announce the Women+ in STEM at Penn Research Symposium, which will be held on the International Day of Women in Science, on **February 11th 2022** from 10:00AM-6:00PM. This event is co-sponsored by Penn Graduate Women in Science (PGWISE), Graduate Student Engineering Government (GSEG) and Penn INSPIRE. While the symposium will feature research from members of the community who identify as gender minorities, the whole event is open to anyone at Penn.

This symposium will highlight the amazing science being performed by gender minorities at Penn. If interested in attending, please fill out [this Google form](#). There are opportunities for gender minorities to present either an oral presentation or a poster at our poster/networking session. The form has space to include abstracts for either (or both). Please note that registration for oral presentations will close **Friday January 21st** and registrations for poster presentations will be open until **Friday February 4th**.

If you have questions or concerns, please email upennwomeninchemistry@gmail.com.

Patel Scholar Award – Advancing Graduate Studies (AGS) in Cancer Research

Application Deadline: December 22, 2021

Purpose: To provide additional resources to graduate students involved in cancer research.

- \$5,000 per year for supplies and research services (two years)
- \$500 per year for meeting registration and travel (use each year)

Eligibility: Cancer Biology Group graduate students with impact scores on NIH F30/F31 proposals in 2020 or 2021, and BGS graduate students with impact scores on NCI F30/31 proposals during this time frame, are eligible.

Criteria: Awards are based on the impact score given by the study section, and relevance to cancer research in the case of tie scores.

To Apply: Email Eric Brown (brownej@upenn.edu) and Margaret Chou (mmc@penmedicine.upenn.edu) copies of the NIH Summary Statement face page, with the impact score shown. Please write "Patel Scholar Award" in the subject line of your email so your award is not missed or filtered. Due date for the application is **Wednesday, December 22, 2021**.

If you are planning to apply for an F30/31 this year, templates for Research Strategy, Training Plan, Sponsor Letter and other documents are available through the BGS and CAMB programs. Please contact your graduate group chair for additional information.

****This award has been made available through a generous donation by the Patel Family.***

Become a PCI Fellow

Priority deadline: November 30, 2021

Final deadline: December 15, 2021

- **Gain experience in Technology Commercialization**
- **Part-Time work; you can do this along with your current program at Penn**

The Penn Center for Innovation (PCI) seeks highly talented, scientifically trained Master's and Ph.D. students and post-doctoral fellows to join the PCI Fellows Program.

PCI Fellows is an innovative experiential program that trains participants in the commercialization of academic research. Typical work projects include analyzing new inventions, writing market communication materials, and conducting prior art searches.

- Over 100 Fellows have graduated from the program
- Graduates find careers in IP Law, Technology Transfer, consulting, and science writing

The Fellowship is highly competitive and is only open to Penn Graduate students and Post-doctoral fellows in scientific disciplines.

Selection to the PCI Fellows is based on:

- Availability to commit for ~10 hours a week
- Strong written communication skills
- Ability to explain complex issues succinctly and clearly
- Support from advisor/supervisor to engage in the program
- U.S. employment eligibility for part-time on-campus work

Application requires a technology assessment

48th Annual Eastern-Atlantic Student Research Forum

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

February 12-13, 2022

Priority deadline: November 30, 2021

Final deadline: December 15, 2021

The ESRF is a student-run and presented scientific conference in which medical, graduate, MD/PhD students, and residents present oral, poster and TED-like talks of their original basic science and clinical research. Each year, our conference hosts students from throughout the United States, providing an ideal opportunity for the collegial exchange of scientific ideas and the professional development of future leaders in the medical and basic sciences. ESRF will host a virtual conference for those that would like to participate. Presenters are provided extensive feedback from both peer and faculty reviewers and outstanding presentations in multiple categories are recognized with awards.

For more information and to register online, please visit <http://med.miami.edu/research/esrf>

Please submit your abstract and letter of endorsement to ESRFMiami@med.miami.edu

IBSA Foundation for scientific research – Fellowships 2021 Call

Application Deadline: December 31, 2021

Applications are open for the 9th edition of the [IBSA Foundation Fellowships 2021 Call](#) that awards 6 fellowships of € 30,000/each (one additional fellowship compared to the previous edition) to young researchers under the age of 40, from Universities and Research Institutes around the world, who have distinguished themselves for their skills and have ongoing projects of particular relevance in the following research areas:

- dermatology
- endocrinology
- fertility/urology
- orthopaedics/pain medicine/rheumatology

and the 2021 special edition

- regenerative medicine

Please find more information about the Call on the IBSA Foundation's [website](#).

Career Development Resources for BGS Students

BGS maintains a number of career development resources, including a career blog and calendar of events, career path videos featuring alumni, and more. See [this page](#) for a summary of resources within BGS and across Penn's campus.

JOB OPENINGS

- [Benchspace December Jobs](#)
- [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) New BGS Student Group for Non-academic Writing

Fifth-year GCB student Kathy Huang is gauging interest across BGS in a new group (beginning early 2022) for creative writing – including any kind of writing that's not research articles, review papers, or other strictly academic things.

No prior experience necessary! All writing levels and backgrounds are welcome - whether you want to try your hand at journaling for the first time, are editing your second novel, or anything beyond/in between.

If you'd be interested in joining such a group, please fill out this <2-minute survey: <https://forms.gle/f7YJk3Hf9sAiuNoj7>

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to indicate them in the survey or contact Kathy directly at kathuang@penmedicine.upenn.edu.

[BGS Student Organizations](#)

[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 [Candace Cain](#).