



*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](#).

**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 recent emergence of the Omicron variant, student groups are strongly encouraged to postpone all social events for the Fall '21 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](https://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\_roomate-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-99ajayf-1mKfg7ic5niiE1u3ksyl5g](https://join.slack.com/t/upennbgs/shared_invite/zt-99ajayf-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](https://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/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.

---

### **SEPTA Key Card Initiative**

The offices of the Interim Provost and of the Vice Provost for Education have initiated a climate-friendly partnership with GAPSA 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](#).

---

### **(NEW) 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](mailto:a.froehling@gmail.com) to arrange box pick-ups.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Database Training: Gideon (Global Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology Online Network)**  
Tuesday, December 7th, 11am-12pm

The Biotech Commons will be hosting a virtual training session for the [Gideon database](#) on Tuesday, December 7 at 11am. Gideon is a unique creature and contains tools for differential diagnosis and bacteria identification, reference works for infectious diseases and current disease outbreak data.

Gideon has epidemiological data going back to 1348 AD, covering 230+ countries and territories, over 25,000 outbreaks, 35,000 graphs, and 82,000+ surveys. It includes interactive tools to identify 2,000+ pathogens, diagnose and compare 360+ infectious diseases, as well as to explore the properties of 30,000+ trade names of drugs and vaccines. The application is updated every day by a team of highly regarded medical scientists.

You can sign up for the training on the Workshop page. <https://libcal.library.upenn.edu/event/8481407>

### **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 6, 2:30pm (Class of '62 Auditorium, John Morgan Building /[BlueJeans](#)): **Laura Agosto** (BMB), Kristen Lynch, Mentor, **“Role of Pre-mRNA Alternative Splicing on Protein Diversity and Epigenetics.”**
- Dec 10, 10am (Smilow Auditorium/[BlueJeans](#)): **Brenna Shortal** (NGG), Alex Proekt, Mentor, **“State Transitions Within the Cortex are Strongly Influenced by Local Interactions Under General Anesthesia.”**

## **CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

### **(NEW) Career Paths Mentorship Program**

**Sign-up Deadline: December 10, 2021**

Are you looking for a way to get personalized mentoring on career paths available to you with your PhD? Then sign up for the Career Paths Mentoring Program by December 10th here:

[https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0DL1LdUefhbIqrQ](https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DL1LdUefhbIqrQ)

This program was set up to help facilitate long term interactions between BGS Alumni and graduate student trainees by facilitating small group, monthly mentoring meetings to discuss career choices and different career paths. Mentor groups will meet monthly from January - May 2022. To learn more about the program, visit our page:

<https://www.med.upenn.edu/bgs/career-paths-mentorship-program-with-bgs-alumni.html>

We hope you will join us for this unique opportunity to receive mentorship and advice from our BGS alumni!

### **(NEW) High School Science Fair Mentorship Opportunity**

**Sign-up Deadline: December 6, 2021**

The Office of Outreach, Education, and Research (OER) is looking for volunteers to virtually mentor students for the 2022 Carver Science Fair. High School students from School of the Future and Philadelphia Learning Academy North are eager to get some support in thinking about what type of project they can enter in our city science fair found [HERE](#).

The commitment includes working in a small group of 2 mentors and 2 high school students weekly over zoom from December – February. Some details are below:

- You must be able to commit to a Zoom meeting every Monday from 2:35 - 3:35 through the end of February.
- The first meeting is set for Monday, December 13th.
- Your three-part working with minors clearances must be completed and received by UPenn (OER will help you get them completed).
- OER will provide financial support to the school teachers to purchase any experiment supplies.
- Project judging begins the week of 2/28/22, so final projects will need to be completed the week prior.
- All Zoom meetings will be hosted by Dr. Shuda and the OER manager and weekly meeting topics will be described ahead of time.

If you are interested, please contact Jackie at [Jacqueline.Davidson@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto:Jacqueline.Davidson@penmedicine.upenn.edu) by Monday, Dec. 6th. There are limited spots for mentors, so please act fast.

---

**NHGRI Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award for a Diverse Genomics Workforce (F99/K00)**  
**Application Due Date: December 8, 2021**

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.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-143.html>

---

**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](mailto:brownej@upenn.edu)) and Margaret Chou ([mmc@penmedicine.upenn.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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**

- [Sanofi, Scientist - Genomic Medicine Unit](#)
- [Benchspace November 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

---

## **BGSA General Assembly Meeting**

Tuesday, December 7th, 5-6pm

Location: Smilow 10-146AB

Come out and join the Biomedical Graduate Student Association for a GA meeting focusing on available [funding opportunities for student events](#). Catering will be provided by Yiro Yiro.

---

## **PSPDG Social Media and Online Writing Workshop**

Thursday, December 9th, 12-2pm

Register [here](#)

The Penn Science Policy and Diplomacy Group's Science Communication workshop series continues next month with a workshop on Social Media and Online Writing. The workshop will be held virtually on Thursday December 9th from 12pm to 2pm. This session is designed to help researchers use social media to effectively promote scientific discussion and combat disinformation.

Please be advised that this is an interactive workshop, and participants should expect to participate in discussion and critique during the course of the session. This workshop is the third in a series of 7 to be offered by PSPDG throughout this academic year. Participants that complete 5 of 7 workshops will be awarded a Science Communication Certificate that can be added to a Resume or CV.

To stay in touch about updates for this and other science communication workshops, join our [Slack Channel](#) or sign up for email updates via this [Google Form](#).

---

-----  
[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](#).**