UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA Almanac

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\$2.5 Million Grant for Penn Researchers to Investigate Anti-Infection Drug

A team of researchers led by Dr. Samir Mehta, chief of the Orthopaedic Trauma & Fracture Service at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, has received a \$2.5 million grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), provided through the US Department of Defense (DoD), to begin Phase 2 human trials of a study that examines the effective treatment of post-surgical orthopedic infections using Microbion Corporation's topical BisEDT drug. The University of Pennsylvania will work with a team of researchers from Microbion and the University of California, San Francisco, on the trial, set to begin pending FDA approval.

We're honored to be given this award from the DoD and are hopeful that the Phase 2 trial will allow us to offer improved treatments and standards of care to a significant number of patients," said Dr. Mehta. "Örthopaedic trauma and fracture patients are at an increased risk for infection. If successful, this new treatment strategy could be a significant step toward reducing instances of amputation, disability, and even death.'

Studies show that patients requiring orthopaedic trauma surgery may be three times more likely to experience post-operative infections (8.7 percent) than patients undergoing other



Samir Mehta

forms of surgery (2.8 percent) as a result of the high-energy nature of the injury. With ap-proximately 2.6 million orthopaedic devices implanted annually in the United States, approximately 4.3 percent of patients (112,000) will suffer from a post-operative infection.

Orthopaedic tremity injuries also constitute the majority

(65 percent) of combat casualties experienced in recent US military conflicts. The risk of infection developing after surgical treatment of traumatic, open military wounds represents an extremely serious threat; reports indicate that military wound infection rates may be as high as 77 percent. Such infections frequently lead to death, amputation, disability, and other significant morbidity, despite the best available care.

The goal of our study is to examine the efficacy and safety of administering a single application of Microbion's topical BisEDT gel to infected

(continued on page 3)

University of Pennsylvania's Basser Research Center for BRCA: Partnering with FORCE, an Advocacy Group for Patients with Risks of Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer

A new collaboration between the Basser Research Center for BRCA at the University of Pennsylvania's Abramson Cancer Center and FORCE (Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered), a national nonprofit advocacy organization serving people and families facing hereditary breast and ovarian cancer, will strengthen ties between patients dealing with these issues and the Penn researchers and physicians who are devoted to finding new ways to prevent and treat these diseases.

Together, the two organizations will work to enhance web resources and information available to patients who carry mutations of the BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 genes, which are linked to a high risk of developing breast, ovarian and other cancers during their lives. As part of the partnership, FORCE will help promote participation in research being conducted in the Basser Center and provide trained, one-on-one peer advocates to patients at Penn. In addition, FORCE's next annual conference will be held in Philadelphia, which will include sessions led by Penn physicians and staff, with opportunities for conference attendees to enroll in registries used to further research being conducted by Basser Center investigators. A quarterly support group for patients involved in FORCE will also be held in collaboration with the Basser Center.

"Individuals involved with FORCE can play a key role in helping us shape our research agenda by telling us about their experiences and helping us understand what information and resources are important to them as they navigate the process of receiving genetic testing results, planning strategies to reduce their risk of developing cancer, or receiving treatment for the diseases linked to these genes," said Dr. Susan Domchek, executive director of the Basser Center. "Working with FORCE provides us with a terrific opportunity to connect with a motivated, smart group of people across the nation who want to be our partners as we work toward improving the care we can offer them.

The Basser Research Center for BRCA was established in the summer of 2012 through a \$25 million gift from Penn alumni Mindy and Jon Gray, in honor of Mindy's sister, Faith Basser, who died of ovarian cancer at the age of 44 (Almanac May 22, 2012). Emphasizing outreach, prevention, early detection, treatment and survivorship, the Basser Center aims to contribute to all stages of research and clinical care related to BRCA-related cancers.

"We are very excited about this partnership. We have worked closely with team members from Penn over the years and are elated to have a formal partnership that will enhance our ability to provide input into the direction of hereditary cancer research and provide support and education to our community," said Dr. Sue Friedman, founder and executive director of FORCE. "Most of all, our collaboration with the newly founded Basser Center brings us a tremendous amount of hope.

Debate at Penn: Have We Lost the Spirit of Compromise in America?

Will a hard-fought US election, replete with record spending and ever more divisive rhetoric, really change anything in Washington?
A panel including University of Pennsylva-

nia President Amy Gutmann and moderated by Michael X. Delli Carpini, dean of Penn's Annenberg School for Communication, will debate these questions and more today at Penn. The event is sponsored by Penn's Annenberg School for Communication, the department of political science and the philosophy, politics & econom-

Panelists participating in Time to Deal: Reawakening the Spirit of Compromise in American Politics will address how we can best avoid short-term problems - such as the fiscal cliff approaching on December 31—and work to come up with long-term solutions for the good of the country, even when political opponents disagree.

'The risk to our country is greater than ever if our political leaders can't compromise, because a persistent failure to compromise biases the political process in favor of the status quo,' said Dr. Gutmann, who co-authored, with Dennis F. Thompson, The Spirit of Compromise: How Governing Demands It and Campaigning Undermines It. "The status quo doesn't mean that nothing changes. It just means that politicians let other forces control the change.

Dean Delli Carpini and Dr. Gutmann will be joined by three political experts for the panel:

Dr. William A. Galston, senior fellow in the Brookings Institution's Governance Studies Program, is a former policy advisor to President Clinton and presidential candidates. Dr. Galston is an expert on domestic policy, political campaigns and elections. His current research focuses on designing a new social contract and the implications of political polarization.

Dr. Russell Muirhead is the Robert Clements Associate Professor of Democracy and Politics at Dartmouth College. The author of Just Work he is currently at work on a book on partisanship tentatively titled A Defense of Party Spirit.

Dr. Dennis F. Thompson is professor of government and the Alfred North Whitehead Professor of Political Philosophy at Harvard University. He is also professor of public policy in the John F. Kennedy School of Government and founding director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics.

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The following is published in accordance with the Faculty Senate Rules. Among other purposes, the publication of SEC actions is intended to stimulate discussion among the constituencies and their representatives. Please communicate your comments to Sue White, executive assistant to the Senate Office, either by telephone at (215) 898-6943 or by email at senate@pobox.upenn.edu

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Actions Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Chair's Report: Faculty Senate Chair Susan Margulies reported that the Senate Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty has been meeting frequently this fall and has received additional data that will be included in this year's report. She stated that the Senate Committee on Faculty Development, Diversity, and Equity will review the draft Gender Equity Report later this month. She reported that the Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy (SCSEP) had a discussion with Ed Rock, director of open course initiatives at Penn and noted that a Call for Coursera Course Proposals was published in the October 30th issue of *Almanac*. She reported that the Senate Committee on Faculty and the Academic Mission (SCOF) met with administrators from the Perelman School of Medicine and the Wharton School to discuss a centralized resource system for dual career recruiting and retention. She noted that the December SEC meeting will feature conversations with Vice Provost for Global Affairs, Zeke Emanuel and chair of the Ad Hoc Sabbatical Committee, Tom Sollecito. Dr. Margulies explained that SEC will discuss the Ad Hoc Sabbatical Committee Report which will be sent to SEC members prior to the December meeting.

Update from the President: President Amy Gutmann presented the strategic priorities for the Office of the President for fiscal year 2013. Dr. Gutmann discussed evergreen ongoing efforts for the first four priorities: to continue to strengthen student financial aid, maintain faculty support for recruitment and retention of a diverse faculty, address the challenges of research funding and fundraising, and streamline Penn's operational efficiency to advance sustainability goals. Dr. Gutmann reported on the success of Penn Connects Phase 1 that resulted in 3.8 million gross square feet of new and renovated space. She outlined projects that are underway or have been completed for Phase 2.0 including: Shoemaker Green, Singh Nanotechnology Center, and the ARCH (Arts, Research, and Culture House). She noted that the construction of a new college house is included in the Phase 2.0 plan. Dr. Gutmann reported that Tech Transfer and Commercialization has improved and is more user-friendly; however, there is still room for further improvement. She outlined Penn's Global Initiatives under Vice Provost Zeke Emanuel, including: increased international study; research and international study; ships; advancement of select regional initiatives; development of a World House as a campus center and the recently launched Center for the Study of Contemporary China. She reported that Coursera, Penn's experiment with online education, is going well, pointing out that 54,000 people have signed up for SEC member Peter Struck's Greek and Roman Mythology course. Dr. Gutmann reported that kindergarten slots at the Penn Alexander School have been expanded and the school has recently won an award for the Middle School Science category at the Intel Schools of Distinction Awards.

Vote for the 2012-2013 Senate Nominating Committee Chair: SEC members voted for the chair of the 2012-2013 Senate Nominating Committee.

Discussion on Academic Integrity: Michele Goldfarb, director of the Office of Student Conduct (OSC), and Kent Peterman, associate dean of the College, led a conversation on academic integrity. Dr. Peterman updated SEC on the SAS Committee on Undergraduate Education (CUE) discussions over the past two years concerning policies, procedures, and practices with a focus on evaluating the effectiveness of the response by instructors and by the institution as a whole to students who commit academic dishonesty. He explained that CUE is developing suggestions for improvement which include: amending the Charter to align policy with practice; improving student and faculty knowledge of the Code of Academic Integrity; expanding OSC's consultative role with faculty, and improving processes within the Office of Student Conduct. SEC members had a robust discussion on how faculty can effectively communicate clear expectations on academic integrity to their students and reasonable and fair methods to track repeat offenders. SEC members noted that most faculty have little knowledge of how the Office of Student Conduct deals with violations of academic integrity.

Providing Students with ISBNs and Price Information for Books

The Higher Education Opportunity Act requires universities to make available to students, for each course, the International Standard Book Numbers (ISBNs) and price information for required/recommended books and supplemental materials.

To comply with this requirement, the University of Pennsylvania has worked closely with Barnes & Noble, managers of the Penn Bookstore, to develop a simple and cost-effective process to provide ISBNs to our students. Through the Bookstore's online system, students will have access to a complete list of materials for all their courses, along with the ISBNs for each listed text.

As in the past, textbook information can be provided to other vendors, and students are in no way required to purchase their books at the Penn Bookstore.

Faculty support will be a critical factor in the University's efforts to act in accordance with this new regulation. To that end, we encourage all Penn faculty members to work with the Bookstore as it communicates with you in the near future about this important resource for our students.

> -Vincent Price, Provost -Andrew Binns, Vice Provost for Education

Award for Excellence in Promoting "One Health Initiatives" and "Interprofessional Education": December 21

The deans of the health schools of the University of Pennsylvania (Perelman School of Medicine, School of Nursing, School of Dental Medicine and School of Veterinary Medicine) announce a new Award for Excellence in promoting One Health Initiatives and Interprofessional Education.

The terms "One Health Initiative" (OHI) and "Interprofessional Education" (IPE) describe efforts across healthcare professions to forge coequal, all-inclusive collaborations.

OHI arose from veterinary medicine with the goal of sharing knowledge of healthcare and preventive measures to improve health of animals and society. Therefore, OHI explicitly includes wildlife and the environment.

IPE focuses on providing an interdisciplinary approach aimed at shared learning and collaborative practices that build a more flexible healthcare workforce, thereby maximizing resources.

OHI and IPE have gained momentum recently. Government, professional and academic institutions around the world have committed to promoting these important efforts to improve global health.

The 4-School One Health Committee invites nominations for candidates who are full-time staff or faculty members engaged in professional education that bridges two or more of the Schools with outreach/innovation in training, outreach, service in clinics, or to the community. Collaborative research focused on healthcare education, clinical outcomes, or real-world impact will receive more favorable consideration than laboratory collaborations. The winner(s) will be awarded the prize (including a \$500 cash award) at the Feeding Cities Conference in March with all four deans in attendance.

Examples:

- Developing a multi-school clinical service/ teaching program
- Providing training in communications/outreach to more than one school's professional students and/or interns/residents
- Including more than one school's students in a clinical experience
- Building bridges between healthcare specialties in animals and humans
- · Creating multidisciplinary programs that improve healthcare or prevent famine or disease out-
- Developing a research program or project that crosses Schools to increase the impact of a promising line of discovery

To nominate a staff or faculty member from the Penn community, send a letter of recommendation, describing the candidate's contributions to OHI and/or IPE, to Cerie O'Toole at cerieo@ vet.upenn.edu by Friday, December 21, 2012.

Corrections

In the November 6 issue, the front page story on the \$2 Million Grant awarded to Drs. Caryn Lerman and Joseph Kable, should have stated that Dr. Kable is the Baird Term Assistant Professor of Psychology in SAS.

In the October 30 issue, the story about the Fairman Rogers Digitalization Project should have said that Dr. Ann N. Greene, associate director for Undergraduate Studies and adjunct assistant professor in history and sociology of science is the author of Horses at Work: Harnessing Power in Industrial America.

We regret the errors.

-Ed.

Associate Dean at Design: Leslie Hurtig



Leslie Hurtig

Leslie C'89, has joined Penn Design as Associate Dean for Administration, Marilyn Jordan lor, Dean and Paley Professor at the School of Design, announced recently.

Ms. Hurtig has spent two decades in public administration and nonprofit management, demon-

strating collaborative leadership, successful financial oversight, creative problem solving, and innovation. Most recently, she was managing director for behavioral health services at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), a \$180 million nonprofit health and social services organization operating across Southeastern Pennsylvania. Under her 15-year leadership, PHMC's behavioral health network grew from four programs with combined revenues of \$4 million to a \$28 million network of 15 programs recognized as centers of excellence.

Prior to PHMC, Ms. Hurtig served as chief of staff in the New York City Mayor's Office of Medicaid Managed Care, a pioneer program in

early healthcare reform.

Å cum laude graduate of the University of Pennsylvania majoring in English, with a master of public administration from New York University's Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, Ms. Hurtig has served on a variety of citywide behavioral health task forces, has appeared as a presenter at local and national conferences and is a former classical ballet dancer, as well as an avid patron of the performing and visual arts.

\$2.5 Million Grant (continued from page 1) extremity wounds," said Dr. Annamarie Horan, director of Clinical Research for Penn Orthopaedics. "The gel is not a replacement for standard antibiotics, but the promising results of the Phase 1 trial provide strong evidence suggesting the drug may be an effective supplemental treatment."

Phase 1 human trials of BisEDT were successfully completed in 2011. In June 2012, the CDMRP award team met with the FDA in Washington, DC, to discuss the team's plan to advance to Phase 2 human clinical studies for the treatment of infections associated with orthopedic trauma. Clinical studies for Phase 2 will begin next year at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and at UCSF/San Francisco General Hospital.

Last year, the World Health Organization noted a significant rise in the rate of infections that are able to ward off antibiotic treatment. The alarming rate of antibiotic resistant infections has since been labeled a global health crisis. The research team is hopeful that future research and development of drugs like BisEDT will lead to new standards of health care and improved treatments for all patients.

Dr. Mehta and Dr. Horan do not have any financial affiliation with Microbion Corporation.

No Almanac November 27

There is no Almanac scheduled for November 27. Members of our staff will be available to assist contributors planning insertions for December. Breaking news will be posted online to "Almanac Between Issues" if necessary. –Eds.

Associate Director of Student Development at Law: Dimitri Islam



Dimitri Islam

Dimitri L'09, has been named Associate Director of Student Development at Penn Law. His appointment was announced recently by Law's Dean of Students Gary Clinton.

"Students will benefit enormously from the wealth of teaching and legal experience Dimitri brings to this posi-

tion," Mr. Clinton said. "He will be a wonderful resource and colleague to staff and faculty, as well. I am particularly happy to see a motivated young lawyer begin a career in university administration.

As Associate Director, Mr. Islam will serve as the major staff resource for students planning conferences and events and will work with other Law School administrators on planning student leadership and professionalism activities. Over the next six months, he is expected to work with faculty, staff and students to update and systematize Penn Law's academic advising program.

In the Student Affairs Office, Mr. Islam will serve as a counselor on academic matters and will have responsibilities in oversight of the Code of Conduct and Responsibility.

Mr. Islam, who earned his JD from Penn Law in 2009, has a long-standing interest in both law and education. After earning his bachelor's degree in history from the University of Chicago, he worked for three years as a history teacher at two Philadelphia-area independent high schools, serving as a mock trial coach and student life advisor. He then enrolled in Penn Law, where he was active as an admissions volunteer and as a member of the South Asian Law Students Association. After graduation, he practiced law as an associate at Montgomery McCracken.

Section IV.3(c) of the Council Bylaws provides that a University Council meeting "shall incorporate an open forum to which all members of the University community are invited and during which any member of the University community can direct questions to the Council.'

All members of the University community are invited to bring issues for discussion to the:

University Council Open Forum Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 4 p.m. **Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall**

Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Tuesday, November 20, 2012. Please indicate the topic you would like to discuss. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers.

Please see the format given below. Questions may be directed to the Office of the University Secretary at (215) 898-7005 or ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu

Office of the University Secretary

Format for University Council's Open Forum November 28, 2012

The University Council will devote a substantial portion of its November 28, 2012 meeting to a public forum. The purpose of the Open Forum is to inform Council of issues important to the University's general welfare and of the range of views held by members of the University. The forum is open to all members of the University community under the conditions set by the Bylaws, following guidelines established by the Steering Committee of Council:

1. Any member of the University community who wishes to do so may attend the Council meeting. Individuals who want to be assured of speaking at Council, however, must inform the Office of the University Secretary (ucouncil@pobox.upenn.edu) by Tuesday, November 20, 2012, indicating briefly the subject of their remarks. Those who have not so informed the Office of the University Secretary will be permitted to speak only at the discretion of the Moderator of University Council and in the event that time remains after the scheduled speakers

2. Speakers should expect to be limited to three minutes with the possibility of additional time in cases where members of Council engage the speakers with follow-up questions or remarks. The Moderator may restrict repetition of views. Speakers are encouraged to provide Council with supporting materials and/or written extensions of their statements before, during, or after the Council

meeting

3. Following the deadline for speakers to sign up in the Office of the University Secretary, the Chair of Steering and the Moderator of Council will structure the subject matter themes, speakers, and times for the Open Forum session. In the event that there is not enough time available at the meeting to provide for all those who have requested to speak, the two officers may make selections which accommodate the broadest array of issues having important implications for Council's work and represent the breadth of Council's constituencies. The resulting order of the Open Forum of University Council will be made available no later than the Tuesday before the meeting, to be published on the Office of the University Secretary website (www.upenn.edu/secretary/council/openforum.html) and, if deadline constraints allow, in The Daily Pennsylvanian and Almanac.

4. Špeakers' statements should be framed so as to present policy issues and directed to University Council as a body through the Moderator. The Moderator will have discretion to interrupt statements that are directed against persons and otherwise to maintain the decorum of the meeting, as provided for in the Bylaws. In cases where questions or positions can be appropriately addressed by members of Council, or where a colloquy would seem to be productive given the time constraints of the meeting, the Moderator may recognize members of Council to respond to speak-

ers' statements, with opportunities for follow-up by the speakers.

Search for Executive Director of the Center for Public Health Initiatives: November 30

The University is initiating a search to identify a new Executive Director of the Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI). I have been asked by Provost Vincent Price to chair the search committee, which will include:

David Barnes, Associate Professor, School of Arts & Sciences; Donna George, Associate Professor, Perelman School of Medicine; Yvonne Paterson, Professor, Perelman School of Medicine and School of Nursing;

Andres Pinto, Associate Professor, School of Dental Medicine; Gary Smith, Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine; Susan Sorenson, Professor, School of Policy & Practice; Brian Strom, Professor, Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Marjorie Bowman, former director of the CPHI and founding chair of the department of family medicine and community health, left the University to assume the role of dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University on October 1, 2012. Since inception, the CPHI has grown and flourished, with the Masters in Public Health Program (MPH) more than doubling in size and recently receiving full accreditation as well as the establishment of several new and important public and community health programs. The Center is a driving force behind the Service Link at Sayre Health Center, the Refugee Clinic at the Penn Center for Primary Care, and the creation of a well-

attended and productive Community Driven Research Day. As such the search for a new executive director is of great import to the University.

Until the appointment of a new executive director, we are greatly pleased that Dr. Jennifer Pinto-Martin has assumed the role on an interim basis. Dr. Pinto-Martin is the Viola MacInnes/Independence Professor of Nursing and chair of the department of biobehavioral health sciences in the School of Nursing. In addition, she has held leadership roles at CPHI, including service as director of the MPH Program (*Almanac* October 2, 2012).

The committee will conduct an internal search for the next Executive Director and seeks nominations of candidates on the Penn faculty who have nationally and internationally established reputations and distinguished records of academic achievement in the broad domains of public health. We encourage members of the Penn community to submit recommendations for this position to the committee by *November* 30, 2012. Please convey your candidate recommendations to Josie Rook in the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at *rookj@upenn.edu* or (215) 898-7236.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to a very productive search.

-Steven J. Fluharty, Senior Vice Provost for Research, Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Suspension of Normal Operations

Although Penn normally never stops operating, emergencies such as severe weather conditions may sometimes result in the cancellation of classes and/or the full or partial closure of certain areas of the University. Decisions affecting work schedules and class cancellation are made by the Executive Vice President in consultation with the Provost. The University will announce a closing or other modification of work schedules through the following means:

- the University's emergency information number: (215) 898-6358 (215-898-MELT)
- communications from the Division of Public Safety
 - KYW News Radio (1060 AM)
- the UPennAlert Emergency Notification System (for University-related incidents & crises)

The University's emergency radio identification code numbers (KYW News Radio) are "102" for day classes and schools/centers and "2102" for evening classes. The message that accompanies the code number will provide the operating status of the University. Be sure to keep this information in a place you can easily access.

Even when Penn is officially closed due to an emergency, there are some essential services that must still be provided, such as Public Safety or Facilities. Staff members in essential positions are still required to work as normally scheduled under these circumstances.

For more information on suspension of normal operations, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/resourc-es/policy/other/suspensionofnormaloperations

Special Winter Vacation Reminder

The Special Winter Vacation granted to faculty and staff between Christmas Day and New Year's Day will include December 24, as well as December 26-31. In the event that an employee is needed to report to work to continue departmental operations for part or all of this period, the Special Winter Vacation may be rescheduled for another time. View the Special Winter Vacation Policy online at https://www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/resources/policy/timeoff/special-winter-vacation for more information. Recognized Holidays for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 can be found online at www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v58/n31/holidays.html

Penn Center for AIDS Research Annual Research Retreat and Call for Abstracts: November 21

The Penn Center for AIDS Research (Penn CFAR) is pleased to host its 11th Annual Research Retreat. You are invited to attend the retreat which will be held on: Monday, December 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, of the Biomedical Research Building, II/III, 421 Curie Boulevard.

This year, our keynote speakers will be Dr. Kevin De Cock, director of the CDC Center for Global Health; and Dr. Dana Gabuzda, professor of neurology, Harvard Medical School and professor of neurology (Microbiology), Cancer Immunology/AIDS, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. In addition, several members of the Penn CFAR faculty will make presentations during the all-day retreat, including recipients of our Developmental Pilot Awards.

Call for Abstracts

The Penn Center for AIDS Research is calling for Abstracts in association with its 11th Annual Research Retreat. For information on abstracts and to submit an abstract, visit www.med. upenn.edu/cfar/education_researchretreat.shtml

To allow for publication in the booklet, please submit your abstracts by *Wednesday*, *November 21*, 2012.

Abstracts in the following areas of HIV/AIDS research are encouraged:

- Virology/Pathogenesis
- Clinical/Therapeutics
- Immunology/Vaccine
- Behavioral and Social Sciences

Registration is required. To register, please visit www.med.upenn.edu/cfar/education_retreatregistration.shtml before Wednesday, November 21, 2012.

If you have questions regarding this event, please contact Evelyn Olivieri at *oliviere@mail. med.upenn.edu*

We anticipate an interesting and informative day and look forward to seeing you at the next Penn CFAR Research Retreat. Please plan to join us on December 3, 2012.

-Jim Hoxie, Director, Penn Center for AIDS Research -Ron Collman, Co-Director, Penn Center for AIDS Research

Abramson Cancer Center Seed Money Grants: December 3

The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania announces the availability of seed money grants for faculty to conduct cancer research.

American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants

Through an Institutional Research Grant from the American Cancer Society (ACS IRG), the Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania will provide seed money grants to junior faculty members (e.g., assistant professor within six years of their appointment) to initiate promising new cancer research projects with the object to obtain preliminary data enabling them to compete successfully for national peer-reviewed research grants. Hence, investigators who have a peer-reviewed national research grant are not eligible for this award.

Investigators who have previously received support from the Cancer Center ACS IRG are now eligible to apply for a second year of funding. Seed money grants from \$5,000 to \$30,000 will be awarded for the exploration of new developments in basic, translational, clinical and cancer control research. Behavioral sciences or health services research related to cancer are eligible for these awards. Covered costs include laboratory personnel costs (non-faculty), data manager or research nursing support, laboratory supplies, animals, and small equipment; no travel or patient costs are allowed.

Applicants must identify a mentor at the time the application is submitted along with the mentor's NIH Biosketch and brief statement describing mentors' supervisory experience. Projects must have all necessary human subject and animal certifications to be eligible.

• Investigators whose projects highlight global health are also encouraged to apply.

The award period for the ACS IRG grant is February 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Applications are at penncancer.org/funding-opportunities

Questions concerning application submission can be directed to: Aprille McCoy, scientific coordinator, Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania, (215) 662-3912, admccoy@exchange.upenn.edu

Honors & Other Things

Repligen Award for Chemistry: Dr. Christianson

Dr. David Christianson, Roy and Diana Vagelos Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in Penn's School of Arts & Sciences, has been named a recipient of the 2013 Repligen Award for Chemistry of Biological Processes. The award consists of a silver medal and honorarium. Its purpose is to acknowledge and encourage outstanding contributions to the understanding of the chemistry of biological processes. The award is administered by the Division of Biological Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. The award symposium will take place at the Fall 2013 National Meeting of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in Indianapolis.

Public Citizen of the Year: Dr. Gelles
The National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter, named Dr. Richard J. Gelles its 2012 Citizen of the Year.

Dr. Gelles is dean of Penn's School of Social Policy and Practice and holds The Joanne and Raymond Welsh Chair of Child Welfare and Family Violence in the School. He is a co-faculty director of the Field Center for Children's Policy, Practice, and Research. In addition, he was the founding director of the Evelyn Jacobs Ortner Center on Family Violence.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with 145,000 members. NASW works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies.

Asthma Prevention Efforts: Dr. George

The US Ambassador to Greece, Daniel Bennett Smith, honored Dr. Maureen George and colleagues from the Penn Nursing Center for Global Women's Health (CGWH) for their health education and training among the isolated Roma gypsy community in rural Greece. The US State Department has funded Dr. George for asthma prevention and management efforts at a rural women's health clinic in Chalkidiki. As part of the Greece Health Promotion Program, Dr. George, Dr. Lynn Sommers, Dr. Kathleen Brown and Dr. Ellen Volpe of the CGWH are assisting with screening for orphaned or trafficked children and providing education and training to community health workers in areas of critical importance to the local population, including asthma.

CAREER Award: Dr. Petersson

Dr. E. James Petersson, assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Arts & Sciences, received a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. The NSF's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program offers the NSF's most prestigious awards in support of the early career development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization.

The NSF said of Dr. Petersson's research, "Understanding concerted changes resulting from large numbers of non-covalent interactions is a problem not only for biochemistry, but for nearly all scientific study at the nanometer scale. In the course of developing thioamides for motional studies, a greater understanding of this relatively unexplored functional group will be obtained."

IOM Chair Committee: Dr. Strom

Dr. Brian L. Strom, executive vice dean for Institutional Affairs at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, has been selected to chair the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) Committee on the Consequences of Sodium Reduction in Populations.

The committee will work to evaluate the results, study design and methodologies that have been used to assess the relationship between sodium and health outcomes in literature published since the IOM Dietary Reference Intakes report.

Dr. Strom is also the George S. Pepper Professor of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, professor of biostatistics and epidemiology, professor of medicine, and professor of pharmacology.

Packard Fellowship: Dr. Subotnik

Dr. Joseph Subotnik, assistant professor of chemistry in the School of Arts & Sciences, has been awarded a 2012 Packard Fellowship for Science and Engineering. The Fellowship provides \$875,000 over five years. He was one of 16 researchers chosen from 98 nominees representing 50 universities.

Dr. Subotnik's work involves the dynamics of electron and energy transfer, particularly in the case of solar energy

David Packard established the Fellowship in 1988 to allow the nation's most promising professors to pursue science and engineering research early in their careers.

"Joe is exemplary of the brilliant young faculty Penn Chemistry has been able to attract within the last few years," said Dr. Gary Molander, Hirschmann-Makineni Professor of Chemistry and chair of Penn's department of chemistry.

Institute of Medicine Elects Six New Members from Penn



Gustavo Aguirre

boards, and other activities

biomedicine.



Shelley Berger

Six professors from the University of Penn-

sylvania, representing four schools, have been

elected members of the Institute of Medicine

(IOM), one of the nation's highest honors in

emy of Sciences, IOM is a national resource

for independent, scientifically informed analy-

sis and recommendations on health issues. With

their election, members make a commitment

to volunteer their service on IOM committees.

Dr. Gustavo D. Aguirre is a professor of medical genetics and ophthalmology in the School of

The new Penn IOM members are:

Established in 1970 by the National Acad-



Nancy Bonini



Carl June



Mitchell Schnall



Kevin Volpp

lational research, Abramson Family Cancer Research Institute. His laboratory studies various mechanisms of lymphocyte activation relating to immune tolerance and adoptive immunotherapy.

Dr. Mitchell D. Schnall is the Eugene P. Pendergrass Professor of Radiology and the chair of the radiology department, Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Schnall has played a critical role in efforts to organize cancer clinical and translational imaging research in the United States and has been the principal investigator of numerous team-science initiatives.

Dr. Kevin G. M. Volpp is the founding director of the Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics at the Leonard Davis Institute, co-director of the Penn Medicine Center for Innovation, and a professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine and health care management at the Wharton School. He is also the director of the NIH-funded Penn CMU Roybal P30 Center in Behavioral Economics and Health. Dr. Volpp's research on the impact of financial and organizational incentives on health behavior and health outcomes has been recognized by numerous awards. Dr. Volpp is also a staff physician at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

mental biology and department of genetics, Perelman School of Medicine, and in the department of biology, School of Arts & Sciences. She also serves as director of the Epigenetics Program at the Perelman School. Her work advanced understanding of eukaryotic gene regulation by helping to unify the fields of transcription and chromatin regulation. The major focus of her research is to define the mechanisms by which epigenetic modifications affect chromatin structure (the combination of DNA and proteins found in chromosomes) and gene expression in normal and diseased states.

Dr. Nancy M. Bonini is the Florence R.C. Murray Professor of Biology in the department of biology, School of Arts & Sciences, and is an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Her research uses the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster to gain insight into neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Huntington's and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Dr. Carl H. June is the Richard W. Vague Professor in Immunotherapy, department of pathology and laboratory medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, and the program director of trans-

Veterinary Medicine. He has led efforts to develop gene therapy to treat various forms of blindness. Modeling the visual disorders in dogs, he and colleagues have cured retinal degeneration in the animals—breakthroughs that have laid the groundwork for human clinical trials.

Dr. Shelley L. Berger is a Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor and Daniel S. Och University Professor in the department of cell and develop-

Human Resources: Upcoming Programs

Professional and Personal Development

Improve your skills and get ahead in your career by taking advantage of the many development opportunities provided by Human Resources. You can register for programs by visiting knowledgelink. upenn.edu or by contacting Learning and Education at (215) 898-3400.

Brown Bag Matinee—It's So Simple; December 6; 1-2 p.m.; free. Do you want your staff to love their jobs? It's simpler than you think! This video will show you how to be a top-notch leader and build a workplace based on loyalty and trust. You'll learn how to make your employees happy—and productive—by giving them freedom to do their work, make mistakes and learn along the way.

Career Focus Brown Bag—Adapting to Your New Role; December 11; 11 a.m.-noon; free. You just landed your dream job. Or maybe you're on the hunt for a new job. How do you start off on the right foot? We'll tell you! Come learn how to succeed in a new role. We'll teach you how to learn the ropes in a new job and avoid pitfalls along the way. By the end of this workshop, you'll be ready to tackle challenges with

confidence and quickly adapt to new responsibilities.

Brown Bag Matinee—Title IX: Law and Compliance; December 13; noon-1 p.m.; free. At Penn, we're committed to gender equity-and Title IX plays an important role. This federal law requires educational institutions to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all genders. In this workshop, you'll learn about Penn policies with respect to Title IX, including recruitment, admissions, educational programs, course offerings, counseling, financial aid, employment assistance, scholarships, sexual harassment, and athletics.



Driving hunger from our communities

Food for Fines: Penn Libraries Food **Drive and Fine Amnesty Program**

Help feed our community while paying off your library fines. Through the month of November, the Penn Libraries are sponsoring a food drive and fine amnesty program to benefit Philabundance. For each food item donated \$1 will be credited towards your library account, up to a maximum of \$20 (please note that credit cannot be applied to lost book replacement fees). Food donations will be collected at the Van Pelt Library Circulation Desk. Items should be non-perishable and packaged in boxes, cans or plastic bottles. Items in glass containers cannot be accepted.

For additional information see www.library. upenn.edu/news/1085

Quality of Worklife

Dealing with the demands of work and your personal life can be challenging. These free workshops, sponsored by Human Resources and led by experts from Penn's Employee Assistance Program and Quality of Worklife Department, offer information and support for your personal and professional life challenges. For complete details and to register, visit www.hr.upenn.edu/myhr/registration or contact Human Resources at (215) 573-2471 or gstull@upenn.edu

Avoiding Burnout and Building Resilience; December 5; noon-1 p.m.; free. Life is full of road bumps, and there's always a chance you'll get thrown off track and lose sight of your goals. But we can help you get back on track when change or challenges try to get the best of you. Learn simple strategies for staying healthy and happy in times of disruptive change. You'll discover the many factors that can lead to burnout, how to recognize the warning signs, and how to avoid them. By the end of this workshop, you'll have a better understanding of resilience and how you can achieve optimal performance in your life.

—Division of Human Resources

Calling all Photographers

"A Day in the Life of Penn" is a University Communications photography project highlighting the work of student, faculty and staff photographers from throughout Penn to illustrate a single day on campus: Wednesday, November 14.

The project will document the pace and energy of life at Penn through the eyes of the community in the form of a photo essay. Starting at sunrise, the participating photographers will capture images of campus activities throughout the morning, the afternoon, and into the evening.

We hope to showcase the beauty of the Penn campus, academic life, tours and activities with potential students, community engagement, research, athletics and recreation, and other activities. Once captured, "A Day in the Life of Penn" will be presented on a multimedia website built to also include opportunities for interactivity and user engagement.

If you are interested in participating in this unique photo project or have ideas for coverage, we'd like to hear from you.

For information contact ucomms-web@ lists.upenn.edu or sign up at https://secure. www.upenn.edu/dayinlife/form/

-Steve Minicola, Web Communications, University Communications

Thanksgiving Break Special Checks: November 19-25

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Thanksgiving Break 2012 (5 p.m. Wednesday, November 21, 2012, through 7 p.m. Sunday, November 25, 2012) is approaching quickly. Traditionally, this is a time of lower occupancy and greater opportunity for crime. Therefore, we need to be more safety and security conscious.

In order to reduce the opportunity for crime (criminal mischief, burglaries, etc.), the Division of Public Safety is again offering to conduct Special Checks of Residential Properties during the timeframe from 5 p.m. Monday, *November 19* to 7 p.m. Sunday, *November 25*. Students, faculty and staff who live within the following geographical boundaries—Schuylkill River to 43rd Street and Baltimore Avenue to Market Street—may list their residence with the Penn Police Department for Special Checks during the period it will be vacant.

Penn Police officers will periodically check the exterior of the property for signs of criminal activity or security breaches. If any are discovered, the officers will take appropriate action with subsequent notification to the listed occupant. If you would like to list your residence for Special Checks during Thanksgiving Break, you may do so via the web or in person. Visit https://secure.www.upenn.edu/publicsafety/forms/propertycheck/ to register for your Special Property Check. Additionally, to register in person, pick up an application at the Penn Police Headquarters, 4040 Chestnut Street. You need to complete and return the application prior to vacating the premise.

Wishing you delicious food and quiet moments with family and friends,

-Patricia Brennan, Director of Special Services for the Division of Public Safety

Learn About Your Credit

Penn Home Ownership Services invites you attend a credit counseling workshop on Monday, November 19, 3:30-4:30 p.m., in Houston Hall's Golkin Room, 3417 Spruce Street. This is an excellent opportunity for all attendees to learn about credit and how to improve their own credit scores. After an informational presentation, those in attendance will have an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a credit counselor from Intercultural Family Services, a local non-profit human services agency. Representatives from Penn Home Ownership Services and Trident Mortgage Company will also be on hand to discuss how your credit affects your ability to purchase a home.

This workshop is open to all Penn students, faculty and staff, along with employees of the health system. If you are interested in attending, please register by going to www.upenn.edu/homeownership

-Penn Home Ownership Services

One Step Ahead

Security & Privacy Made Simple

Another tip in a series provided by the Offices of Information Systems & Computing and Audit, Compliance & Privacy.

Cloud and You

The term "cloud" as a computing service has now made it well past the IT community and into common parlance.

Some are starting to recognize cloud services for their energy efficiency potential. Some are noticing cloud computing's potential to unlock new markets in developing countries. Most of us, though, are seeing cloud computing as simply making our lives easier-offering access from anywhere, large storage capacity, more computing power, and less to maintain.

This all makes cloud computing sound like very good news. And it mostly is. But please be cautious about the following:

- 1. Cloud computing is not the solution for everything. Indeed, cloud services should usually be avoided if sensitive information or regulated information is involved and you are signing up through a consum-er, or "click through," agreement rather than through a Penn negotiated service. See Penn's Cloud Computing Guidance.
- 2. Not all cloud services are alike. Many cloud providers do not offer strong security, privacy, or other protections under their standard consumer agreement. Penn has negotiated much more protective agreements with:
- a. Amazon Web Services. See www. upenn.edu/computing/isc/aws/ for details
- b. Box. See www.upenn.edu/computing/box/ for details

and there are more to come under Penn's trusted portfolio of cloud vendors. Take advantage of these services to enjoy the benefits and greatly cut down on the risks.

3. Smart practices still depend on you. Whatever service you are using, don't forget about the important role you play in keeping data private and secure. For example, if confidential data is involved, only access services from secure devices and use secure connections. If accessing via smartphones or tablets, review and implement Penn's Top 10 Tips for Securing Your Smartphone or Tablets. Consider the security of your device and whether to enable or disable data downloads from the cloud.

Update

November AT PENN

FILM

14 Shut up and Play the Hits; 8:30 p.m.; Harrison Rooftop Lounge; PENNCard (SPEC Film Society).

19 *This Space Available*; 5 p.m.; rm. F45, Jon M. Huntsman Hall; RSVP: http://penniurspaceavailable.eventbrite.com (Penn IUR).

MUSIC

15 2012 Penn Music Collective; featuring Marigolds, Rail 3, Sarah Lindstedt and Slow Dance Chubby; 7 p.m.; the Rotunda; free admission; donations accepted to support the Vagina Monologues (SPEC Concerts).

16 Counterparts Presents: Awkappella; jazz and pop a capella; 6 p.m.; Iron Gate Theatre; \$10/door, \$8/Locust Walk. Also November 17, 8:30 p.m.

ON STAGE

16 Sparks, Camera, Action!; 8:30 p.m.; Iron Gate Theatre; \$10. Also November 17, 6 p.m. (Sparks Dance Company).

SPECIAL EVENT

16 Annual Fall Harvest Lunch; enjoy seasonal foods and learn more about the Native American experience and history; 12:30-4 p.m.; Greenfield Intercultural Center (GIC).

TALKS

13 Eliminating the Visual Boundary Between Real and Virtual; Norman Badler, computer and information science; 5:30 p.m.; rm. 402, Claudia Cohen Hall (Penn Visual Studies).

14 Dissecting Perturbations to Cell Signaling Arising from EGFR-Activating Mutations; Matthew J. Lazzara, chemical and biomolecular engineering; 10 a.m.; Grosman Auditorium, Wistar Institute (Wistar).

AT PENN Deadlines

The November AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac. The deadline for the weekly Update is each Monday for the following week's issue. Events spanning November 21-30 will be published in the November 20 issue since there will no issue November 27. The December AT PENN will also be published in the November 20 issue. The deadline for the January AT PENN calendar is Tuesday, December 4.

Events are subject to change. Information is on the sponsoring department's website. Sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu



The Penn Museum exhibition, MAYA 2012: Lords of Time, describes and debunks the media-fueled meme of an apocalypse to take place at the end of this year. This ceramic censer lid from the show depicts the founder of a major ancient Maya dynasty in Honduras who ruled from 427-437 CE.

2012 and the End of the World: **Debunking the Meme:** November 16

Simon Martin, co-curator of the MAYA 2012: Lords of Time, and the associate curator of the American Section at Penn Museum, will present 2012 and the End of the World: Debunking the Meme on Friday, November 16 at noon. It is part of the University Club's new Food for Thought lunchtime series.

The talk will be held in the Hourglass Room of the Club and is open to members and their guests, with the purchase of lunch featuring Maya-inspired foods: sopa de lima, turkey pibil, corn tortillas, spiced black beans, rice, roasted winter squash and avocado salad.

Simon Martin is an expert on Maya hieroglyphic writing and specializes in the history and politics of the Classic Maya (AD 250-900). He has previously worked on an exhibition for the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, in 2004 entitled "Courtly Art of the Ancient Maya," and co-wrote its catalogue with Mary Miller. Among his other publications is the book, Chronicle of the Maya Kings and Queens (with Nikolai Grube) from 2000. His work has been featured in the New York Times, National Geographic Magazine, Archaeology Magazine, Science and the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. He appeared in the Nova television program Cracking the Maya Code in 2008 and has collaborated on other shows for Discovery and the History Channel.

Penn's Way A Workplace Charitable Campaign

Penn's Way 2013 Raffle Drawings November 19—Grand Prize Drawing

Penn Computer Connection: white iPad Bundle (the brand new iPad) valued at approximately \$1,000* including: Apple iPad 4 WiFi white

iPad USB power adapter

Apple EarPods w/ remote & microphone

Apple Smart cover gray case

Apple iPad camera connection kit Belkin iPad kitchen cabinet mount Apple wireless keyboard for iPad

\$50 Apple iTunes gift card

*Note that prizes valued at over \$100 are subject to state and federal tax. Winners will be notified and offered the option of refusing the prize.

See www.upenn.edu/pennsway for more info.

Week Five Winners

November 5 drawing

(for week of October 29-November 2)

Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts: Two (2) tickets to a performance—Dominique Williamson, UPHS HUF

Bikram Yoga: \$50 gift card—Tracey Allen, UPHS HUP

D'Angelo's Restaurant: \$35 gift certificate— Staci Pietrafesa, Penn Presbyterian

Penn Ice Rink: Coupon book for 10 free admissions-John Bachich, UPHS HUP

Penne Restaurant & Wine Bar: \$75 gift certificate—Jasper Ayeni, UPHS CPUP

Marriott Philadelphia Downtown-One night stay including breakfast*-Anne Hutchins, PA Hospital

Šweetgreen Restaurant: \$25 gift card—Aida Schumacher, PA Hospital

Almanac On-the-Go: RSS Feeds

Almanac provides links to select stories each week there is an issue. Visit Almanac's website, www.upenn.edu/almanac for instructions on how to subscribe to the *Almanac* RSS Feed.



Almanac 3910 Chestnut Street, 2nd floor Philadelphia, PA 19104-3111 Phone: (215) 898-5274 or 5275 FAX: (215) 898-9137 Email: almanac@upenn.edu URL: www.upenn.edu/almanac

The University of Pennsylvania's journal of record, opinion and news is published Tuesdays during the academic year, and as needed during summer and holiday breaks. Its electronic edi-tions on the Internet (accessible through the Penn website) include HTML. Acrobat and mobile versions of the print edition, and interim information may be posted in electronic-only form. Guidelines for readers and contributors are available on request and online.

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The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions or complaints regarding this policy should be directed to Sam Starks, Executive Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Sansom Place East, 3600 Chestnut Street, Suite 228, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6106; or (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (Voice) or (215) 898-7803 (TDD).

The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report

About the Crime Report: Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for October 29-November 4, 2012. Also reported were 18 Crimes Against Property (10 thets, 2 burglaries and 6 other offenses). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/

v59/n12/oreport.html. Prior weeks' reports are also online. —Ed.

This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of **October 29-November 4**, **2012**. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

3800 Chestnut St 10/31/12 2:10 AM Intoxicated male driver arrested

18th District Report

Below are all Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 4 incidents with no arrests (2 robberies and 2 aggravated assaults) were reported between October 29-November 4, 2012 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

5:10 AM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM Aggravated Assault 10/29/12 4021 Walnut St 10/29/12 4627 Woodland Ave Robbery Aggravated Assault 11/01/12 11/03/12 9:05 PM 418 S 45th St

From Penn's Privacy Office and Office of Information Security

Social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.) plays an increasingly large role in our professional lives, with its potential to better connect us and rapidly share information. The guidance below is intended to raise awareness of the immense power of social media and of best practices and policy when using social media in teaching, research, administrative work and more. If you have further questions, please contact privacy@upenn.edu or security@isc.upenn.edu

Robin Beck, Vice President, Information Systems and Computing
 Mary Lee Brown, Associate Vice President for Audit, Compliance and Privacy

Guidelines for the Use of Social Media at Penn

As a University community, Penn is committed to open expression and the free exchange of ideas. Social media—such as forums, blogs, wikis, podcasts, online chats, Facebook, and Twitter—can be exciting vehicles for facilitating this kind of open expression, while also raising new questions about responsible use. Communications may occur faster and have greater permanence than an author originally intended. Messages may be rapidly forwarded or multiplied, reaching individuals beyond those intended or even known by the person posting. And the lines between personal and professional accounts and comments may become more easily blurred.

These guidelines aim to address issues that may arise regarding the responsible use of social media in the context of Penn's teaching, research, service, and administrative functions. Because this is a rapidly changing area, we expect that new questions and guidelines may continue to arise; questions about what is permissible may also be answered in existing Penn policies and other resources, links to which are provided at the end of this document.

General

When conducting Penn business—online and off—make sure to comply with Penn policies, including but not limited to: Copyright Policy, Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources, Non-Discrimination Policy, Sexual Harassment Policy, Solicitation and Distribution, Policy Prohibiting Workplace Violence, Confidentiality of Records, etc. You are responsible for what you post.

Because of the powerful ability of social media to broadcast information worldwide, make sure to protect all confidential, copyrighted and proprietary information to which you have access as part of your employment at Penn. For example, never share on personal social media sites such information as confidential student data (e.g., grades), patient data (e.g., health information), employee data (e.g., performance information), Social Security numbers, or other data that could harm an individual.

When conducting Penn business, only post photos, videos, essays, or other material that you own or have permission to post.

Make sure that terms of the social media site are suitable for the work you are doing. For example, some services store data in foreign countries, some respond to government requests for data without notice to users, and some retain your data even after your account is closed. If this is a concern, you may need to explore other options, such as a service with more protective practices by default, or through an institutional agreement with Penn, or an in-house solution.

Social Media and Teaching

Instructors who wish to use social media in courses should carefully consider student privacy, including compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Most information that identifies a student and is maintained by Penn, or by a Penn faculty member or agent of Penn, is protected under FERPA. This protection may extend to student postings on social media course accounts. In addition, whether or not FERPA applies, privacy risks are often significant on social media sites. As a result:

- Instructors should use social media accounts for course-related communications only if there is a good pedagogical reason to do so. If there is no such reason, it is recommended that student participation be optional. Instructors should also consider whether an existing trusted service, such as Blackboard, PennlnTouch, or other University-sponsored Course Learning Management system, could meet the same pedagogical goal.
- Instructors should allow students to use aliases on social media sites if it is not necessary or beneficial to the students to use their names or other identifiable information.
- Faculty should notify students (in course descriptions and syllabi) of the use of social media in the classroom, including whether students are expected to use social media as a component of the class and whether student material will be shared with the class or with the public. They should also caution students against posting personal or sensitive material and discourage students from posting work to which they want to preserve their intellectual property rights.
- Each social media site has Terms of Service that should be reviewed and evaluated before student and instructional material is posted. These may (and often do) contain unfavorable terms regarding privacy, security, the continued availability of the service and data, foreign and US government access, technical support, and other issues.

Where Penn has a formal, institutional agreement with a social media provider, many of the risks may be addressed and managed via this agreement. If you have questions about whether Penn does or can attempt to have such an agreement with a social media provider, please contact the Office of General Counsel.

Social Media and Research

Penn instructors and staff are strongly discouraged from using personal social media accounts in connection with research study activities involving human subjects. When possible and permitted by the Terms of Service, a separate social media account or page for the research study is advisable.

When a communication is recruiting individuals to participate in a research study or communicating study-related information to enrolled participants, a duly authorized Institutional Review Board (IRB) must approve that communication before it is posted. Penn researchers must abide by individuals' written consent, as directed and approved by a duly authorized IRB, including when social media are involved. Such consent may include whether the research subject is aware of the possible disclosure of personal information on social media sites and whether communications using social media are permitted between members of the study team and research subjects. Any communication between members of the study team and potential subjects or enrolled subjects should diligently avoid including personal information. Any and all such discussions should occur offline.

Social Media and Hiring

Be cautious and use your best judgment about whether to use information found on social media sites in hiring. Be aware that information found online about an individual may often be inaccurate, unreliable, or out-of-date. If you need assistance with or have questions about employment policies, contact the Division of Human Resources.

Social Media and Personal Safety

If you believe you have seen or read something online that may result in harm to an individual or organization, apply the same judgment you would if overhearing or witnessing the event in person. For assistance identifying or preventing an event that may threaten human safety or the destruction of University property, contact the Division of Public Safety at (215) 573-3333.

Departmental and Other Organizational Accounts

Make sure when setting up an "organizational" account that you are authorized to speak for the organization. It should be clear to the viewer what organization is hosting the account—perhaps an individual faculty member, department, center, or School. The use of the University's name, shield, logos or other insignia for personal or non-University related purposes is prohibited and is regulated by the Office of the University Secretary. University Communications is the official voice of the University and should be consulted if you are in doubt about the suitability of any message reflecting on Penn. Make sure you have the time and resources to responsibly maintain and monitor the use of the account.

Resources:

University Policies generally can be found at www.upenn.edu/services/policies.php

Penn's Privacy Office can be reached at (215) 573-4492.

Privacy Policies and related information can be found at www.upenn.edu/privacy

Penn's Office of Information Security can be reached at security@isc.upenn.edu

See also www.upenn.edu/computing/security

Penn's Office of the Provost can be reached at (215) 898-7227. See also www.upenn.edu/provost

Penn's Division of Human Resources can be reached at (215) 898-7281.

See also www.hr.upenn.edu

Penn's Division of Public Safety can be reached at (215) 573-3333. See also www.publicsafety.upenn.edu

Penn's Office of University Communications can be reached at (215) 898-8721.

See also www.upenn.edu/pennnews

Penn's Office of the Secretary can be reached at (215) 898-7005. See also https://secure.www.upenn.edu/secretary