



# SB SA

MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

THURS . NOV 15 . 1:00 PM . LKSC 4TH FLOOR

[SBSA.STANFORD.EDU](http://SBSA.STANFORD.EDU)

# Agenda

1. Previous SBSA events
2. Upcoming SBSA events
3. GSC Mental Health Town Hall
4. BioSci Careers Meeting Update (Community building, Career Development)
5. CGAP Meeting Updates (360° Evaluation, GRE Requirements)
6. Graduate Life Office (GLO) Meeting Update [Resource consolidation]
7. Wellness Panel with BioAIMS and OGE
8. Open floor for questions and concerns

# Recent SBSA events

Oct 17	<b>Fall Lab Share</b> Proposal by Irene Li	Nov 7-8	<b>First Year Mentorship Lunches</b> Dirk Spencer, Mike Van, Brenda Velasco
	<b>GSC Mental Health Town Hall (on agenda)</b>	Nov 8	<b>SBSA/BioAIMS Movie Night</b> Brooks Benard
Oct 25	<b>Fall BBQ</b> Brooks Benard	Nov 9	<b>Better Science: Open Science in Practice</b> Proposal by Stelios Serghiou
Nov 5	<b>Biotech Career Dinner</b> Proposal by Yanniv Dorone		<b>SBSA/SMSA Mixer</b> Proposal by Noah Greenwald



# Upcoming SBSA Events

?

# GSC Mental Health Town Hall

- CAPS
  - Vice Provost for Student Affairs budget request - match CAPS capacity to needs of students
  - A lot of thought is being put into a new model that is more flexible and fits students better
  - Increased variety - online services, shorter sessions, support groups with Dept of Psychiatry
  - Main problem: CAPS is trying and failing to hire people
- Initiatives
  - IDEAL (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access in a Learning Community) initiative - recruit and retain diverse community
  - Mental Health and Wellbeing Task Force
  - Faculty Advisory Group for Student Affairs - this year's topic is ways to better inform faculty of student health and wellbeing and be more supportive in class, lab, etc.
  - Working on developing faculty training module for effective mentoring
- [Graduate Life Office \(GLO\)](#) - 24hr phone access to GLO deans
- [Stanford Daily article](#)

# Notes from General Meeting

- Monica is working to get CAPS counselors to D-CORE
- The 24hr GLO phone number is on the back of your ID card
  - Suggestion: have every department tell their students about the GLO phone number
- Susie Brubaker-Cole (Vice Provost for Student Affairs) wants grad students to come talk to her
  - How can we better advertise her availability?

# Wellness Panel with BioAIMS and OGE

- Brittany Flowers, Wellness Matters Liaison
- February 13, 5:30PM Alway M114
- Looking for student panelists, moderators, and people to help plan the event
- If you are interested, contact Brittany at [bflowers@stanford.edu](mailto:bflowers@stanford.edu)
- Include someone from CAPS to demystify CAPS, GLO dean
- Student panelists - experiences about coping, suggestions
- There will be food and prizes

# BioSci Careers Meeting Update

1. Introduction to [BioSci Careers](#)
2. BioSci Careers Ambassador program
3. [Make an appointment](#)



***BioSci Careers***

**Goal: Awareness that BioSci Careers is a community, not just a quick-stop career center!**



# CGAP Meeting (GRE Requirements)

## Committee Reports: Graduate Admissions

- Not correlated with success during graduate school
- GRE itself has inherent cultural and socioeconomic bias (can also act as a financial/cultural barrier in the application process)
- No longer required by Stanford University broadly (voted by Faculty Senate in April)
- Biosciences programs asked to decide by June 2018 for 2019 application cycle whether or not it will be required
- Biosciences programs will be asked to reevaluate this decision for next cycle

# CGAP Meeting (GRE Requirements)

No GRE	Optional GRE	Required GRE
M&I MCP Neurosciences	Lab Animal Sciences (M.S.) Biology Cancer Biology Developmental Biology Genetics Stem Cell Structural Biology	Biochemistry BMI Biophysics CSB Immunology Community Health (M.S.) Epidemiology Health Policy Human Genetics & Counseling (M.S.)

# CGAP Meeting (GRE Requirements)

## #GRExit TL;DR:

- [Many Biosciences programs are still requiring the GRE](#) even though it has been shown to be a [poor indicator for graduate school success](#),
- As [the GRE inherently generates bias](#), we urge you to [contact your program's graduate admissions committees](#) to create a holistic, GRE-independent admissions process.
- **If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, [please fill out this form](#) by Nov 7.**

Hi Bioscientists,

Fall is here and graduate admissions season is upon us. Graduate school applications are due at the end of this month, and soon after that Biosciences programs will be evaluating hundreds of applications.

During our fall BioAIMS general meeting, we discussed the recent changes in Biosciences Graduate Admissions ([Slides 13-17](#)). Earlier this year, [the Stanford Faculty Senate recently voted to abolish the university-wide GRE requirement for graduate admissions](#) to be competitive with other schools that have also made the GRE optional.

Despite the [body of work](#) that describes how the GRE is not only a poor indicator of graduate success, but also that the GRE requirement discriminates against women, underrepresented minorities, and applicants from low socioeconomic backgrounds (see attached articles for brief summary), [many Biosciences programs still include the GRE in their application](#).

This year, the [Office of the Vice Provost of Graduate Education is pushing for more holistic admissions processes](#), and BioAIMS and SBSA will be [advocating for the creation of a suggested Biosciences-wide admissions rubric that reflects a holistic review](#). **We call on you to also put pressure on your [admissions committees](#) to create a holistic, GRE-independent admissions process.**

**If you would be interested in learning more about these issues (talk or Q&A session) or getting involved, [please fill out this form](#) by Nov 7.**

In solidarity,

Amy

BioAIMS President 2018-2019

Immunology PhD Candidate | Majeti Lab

[amyfan@stanford.edu](mailto:amyfan@stanford.edu)

# CGAP Meeting (GRE Requirements)

## Admissions Chairs

Program	Name & Email	Program	Name & Email
Biochemistry	Peter Kim (kimpeter@stanford.edu)	Genetics	Lars Steinmetz (larsms@stanford.edu)
Biology	Ashby Morrison (ashbym@stanford.edu)	Immunology	Sheri Krams (smkrams@stanford.edu)
BMI	Carlos Bustamante (cdebustam@stanford.edu)	M&I	Justin Sonnenburg (admin_sonnenburg@stanford.edu)
Biophysics	KC Huang (kchuang@stanford.edu)	MCP	Dan Madison (madison@stanford.edu)
Cancer Biology	Peter Jackson (pjackson@stanford.edu)	Neuro	Marion Buckwalter (marion.buckwalter@stanford.edu)
CSB	Dan Jarosz (jarosz@stanford.edu)	Stem Cell	Theo Palmer (tpalmer@stanford.edu)
DevBio	Gill Bejerano (bejerano@stanford.edu)	Struct Bio	Ted Jardetzky (tjardetz@stanford.edu)

# CGAP Meeting (GRE Requirements)

## Notes from General Meeting

- Stanford is looking into the GRE requirement because other PhD programs have already removed it from their applications
- Logistical concern - student applications move between home programs with different requirements
- If you are on an admissions committee, make sure the faculty know the GRE is a biased measurement
- Students want faculty to take the GRE

# CGAP Meeting (360 Evaluation)

- Goal: Help faculty identify strengths and areas of improvement in mentoring and management
- Current structure is questionnaire covering a couple of areas:
  - Communication and interpersonal skills
  - Expectations, goal-setting, and feedback
  - Professionalism
  - Wellness and well-being
  - Diversity and research culture/work environment
  - Career and professional development
- Faculty and trainees take the test separately, and come together to re-evaluate trainee's mentorship desires

**Thoughts?**

# CGAP Meeting (360 Evaluation)

## Notes from General Meeting

- What is a good fit? Can 360 be used to help students figure out what kind of mentorship they want/need?
  - Ok Cupid style, not ranked
- Idea: have mentorship workshops for faculty, they can put on their website that they have this training
  - SoLID is trying to move in this direction
- First year perspective - this could be a good way to find and match with faculty in other home programs (back to the OK Cupid metaphor)
- Include rotation students that don't join the lab

# GLO Meeting Update

## Issues:

- Many themes echoed what has been said before
  - Student isolation
  - Wellness
  - Faculty-mentee power dynamics
  - Decentralization of administrative structure (access to knowledge of resources)

## Potential solutions

- Working with GLO for:
  - Access to GLO resource databases
  - More visibility beyond the first quarter (e.g. BARF)
  - Grad 201 later in the year to address challenges faced once in a mentor-mentee relationship
  - Mentorship database consolidation (e.g. rotations)



# Questions and Open Discussion

- How to get information to first years
  - Short video?
  - First years want the long emails
  - Downloadable attachments are good
  - Ayodele has a lunchtime seminar about resources, but it conflicts with Foundations
  - More orientation week events
  - Alternative event / follow-up for people who miss the camping trip
- Rotations database
  - GST (Grad Student Tracking) has a [searchable list of rotation students](#)
  - Would like student comments, or at least a way to indicate which students are willing to talk about their rotation experience (possibly over coffee)
- SBSA transparency
  - What does SBSA spend its money on?
  - Which proposals are funded? What is the budget?
  - List funding sources on website
  - Add to proposal form - title and blurb that can be advertised

**We forgot to take a group selfie :^(**

