

## What's Happening @ BSCP

June 2020 Edition

### June 2020 Offerings

- **WEBINAR: Getting into Health Professional School and Succeeding**  
Wednesday, June 17 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM EST  
[Click Here](#) for More Information and to Register
- **WEBINAR: Getting into Graduate School and Succeeding for Public Health Disciplines**  
Tuesday, June 30 from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM EST  
This is the second webinar in a multi-part series on Getting into Graduate School.  
Save the Date - Registration Information to Come!

### In Case You Missed It

- BSCP partnered with the Tour for Diversity in Medicine to offer the **April 2020 Virtual Tour for Diversity in Medicine** to over 1,000 students! Check out newly released clips of the #VirtualT4D [here](#) and subscribe to the YouTube channel for updates as more are released.
- The HMS Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership invited BSCP medical students to join the webinar, **Applying to Residency in the COVID-19 era**. Check it out [here](#)!
- Over 250 college and post-bac students joined us for the first in our **Getting into Graduate School webinar series!** Interested in the Basic Science Disciplines? Watch [here](#).

### Resources and Highlights

- The NIH has opened their **2020 Virtual Summer Enrichment Program** to all who are interested! The curriculum is for high school, college and post-bac students. Find out more on the [NIH OITE](#) website.
- Did you know BSCP has a web page dedicated to new resources, virtual offerings and announcements? [COVID-19 Response and Resources](#) is updated on a regular basis - check back often!
- A special COVID-19 edition of [In Touch with BSCP](#) went out last week with a message from BSCP President Dr. Joan Reede and stories from BSCP students.
- If your abstract was accepted to present for the April 2020 **New England Science Symposium**, keep any eye on your email. Virtual opportunities are on the way - Stay tuned!

# Ask an Advisor

## ***“My Summer Internship/Research Program Has Been Cancelled Due to COVID-19, What Do I Do Now?”*** **Tips and Advice for Students without Summer Opportunities**



The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the planned summer research experiences of many high school and college students. If you are in this group, the most important thing to do is to sustain the interest in science and research that motivated you to seek out these opportunities in the first place. It is also important to take steps to remind the faculty members, at your intended summer experience and your home institution, of your enthusiasm for research. The program directors and faculty members that would have hosted you for your summer experience remain interested in stimulating and supporting your research interest. Reach out to them directly. While the paid internship program is canceled, maybe there are volunteer opportunities that can be performed remotely. Ask if there are opportunities to work on a project online. Perhaps there are existing datasets that could be analyzed using bioinformatic tools; or genes and proteins of potential interest to the lab for which you could garner more information through literature searches. Many labs might also be willing to have you participate in their lab meeting discussions, which they are likely conducting virtually. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the research topic that you would have explored and a great way to demonstrate your enthusiasm and motivation. You will also be able to discuss these experiences when you apply for PhD or other programs in the future.

If you were conducting research at your home institution prior to pandemic, reach out to your research advisor. As mentioned for the summer programs above, ask if there are opportunities to engage in discussions about your previous research topic. Are there virtual lab meetings that you can participate in? Is the PI, or another senior member in the lab, willing to engage in discussions with you about relevant research papers? Most scientists like to teach. They also value students who show drive and motivation. Most will support and nurture your interest. Also search online for potential open-source research opportunities; perhaps there is one at a nearby university.

If the above approaches don't pan out, or even if they do, you can also search for additional exposure to research talks online. There are several such resources. For example, [iBiology](#) has a great series of research talks. They cover a broad range of topics and there are likely several presentations on that site that will be of interest. They also have a great series of conversations with scientists who have made significant discoveries. It is fun to hear from these scientists what it was like “in the moment”. There are other resources out there as well. Other sites, such as the [Institute for Broadening Participation](#) have additional resources for preparing for next steps in STEM education and careers. If possible, try to engage your peers in these activities. It is more fun to do as part of a group. You are also more likely to learn from each other by discussing these talks with each other. Whatever you do, have fun!

### **Brian Lewis, Ph.D.**

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## Save The Date

**Evening of Hope** - Monday, October 5, 2020

**Biomedical Science Careers Student Conference**  
Friday, April 9 and Saturday, April 10, 2021

**New England Science Symposium** - Sunday, April 11, 2021

## Stay Connected

Questions/Comments? [hollie\\_desilva@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:hollie_desilva@hms.harvard.edu)

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