During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic when we are all concerned about our health, we at UChicagoBiosciences hope that you are staying safe and adapting to this new way of life. As we look forward to Autumn Quarter and you begin to think about your graduate career, please take a look at the state and university requirements we've listed below. We hope this information will help make your transition to the University of Chicago as smooth as possible.

- The UChicago Coronavirus Updates page is your definitive resource for the latest campus COVID-19 health information and related announcements. This page is updated regularly so be sure to periodically check the page for new information.

- Learn more about housing options for graduate students on the BSD Newly Admitted Students page. The city of Chicago has many distinct neighborhoods which offer a wide variety of housing options. Not all UChicago students live in Hyde Park. Note that the $750 relocation allowance included in the award for incoming PhD students will be dispersed within your Autumn Quarter stipend check.

- Illinois state law requires certain immunizations for all matriculating students, and we anticipate this traditional immunization requirement process will be in place for all students starting in Autumn Quarter. Please be aware that you must show proof of immunity to certain childhood diseases either because you have already been vaccinated and providing this record from your healthcare provider or by getting a vaccination before arrival on campus. You will receive an email over the summer regarding this requirement which will include instructions on how to upload your records. Please gather your records in advance and check the Immunization website for updates.

- If your research plan includes a project that will be covered by experimental protocols, we recommend you familiarize yourself with the University of Chicago policies on the responsible conduct of research ahead of matriculating. Specifically, see the links for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and the Office of Research Safety. Also review the IACUC website for mandatory training modules (CNET ID required), protocols and other information that will be useful to know before you work in a research lab. Once you begin rotations, your lab can give you specific advice on training in the various techniques. You will also be required to participate in compliance orientations for incoming students in September.

- If you originally applied before your degree was awarded, please remember to submit a final official transcript to our office once your degree has been granted. An official transcript certifying your degree is a required part of your student file. An official electronic copy sent from the registrar’s office to Ryan Crisp is acceptable. A paper copy can be mailed directly from the registrar, noting the degree(s) conferred, to our office at:
As previously announced, the 2020 Quantitative Approaches boot camp will be offered as a virtual course shortly before the start of Autumn Quarter. Professor John Novembre and Dean Vicky Prince will direct the course, assisted by a team of expert instructors and experienced course assistants. More details will be forthcoming.

Orientation sessions provided by the university, the Biological Sciences Division, and your graduate program will be scheduled the week of September 21. Expect to hear more from these offices over the summer regarding the format and program schedule. Additionally, over the course of the summer you will have the opportunity to learn more about housing, diversity resources, and health insurance and immunization requirements through webinars offered by UChicago Grad.

Autumn Quarter begins **Tuesday, September 29, 2020.**

We will continue to send information throughout the summer. You can find answers to general questions on the BSD Newly Admitted Students page, the UChicago Admitted Students Facebook page or you can Ask The Gargoyle.

An excellent source of information will be your program administrator but feel free to contact Ryan Crisp at any time.

I look forward to personally welcoming you to our community of scholars!

Sincerely,

Victoria Prince, Ph.D.
Dean and Director,
Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs,
Biological Sciences Division