



**CAIRIBU
Annual Meeting**

**Multidisciplinary Urologic
Research (KURe) Career
Development Program
Summaries**



CAIRIBU Multidisciplinary Urologic Research (KURe) Career Development Programs (K12)

Duke University

2013-2023 - PI, Cindy Amundsen, MD

Duke Multidisciplinary K12 Urologic Research Career Development Program

PROJECT SUMMARY. Through the Duke KURe program, Duke University provides structured mentoring, customized research training, and individualized career development for early career level MD, PhD, and MD/PhD faculty and postdoctoral fellows who are committed to an independent research career in benign urology. During the past funding period, we have supported 6 KURe Scholars including 1 underrepresented minority. Three Scholars have acquired independent funding and we currently support 3 Duke KURe Scholars. This competitive renewal of the Duke KURe program continues our three major goals: 1) Foster diversity by identifying and recruiting scholars from diverse backgrounds and by providing individualized mentoring and career development support in an environment of team science. 2) Train the next generation of benign urology researchers by fostering multidisciplinary research emphasizing the importance of diverse scientific methods. 3) Prepare KURe Scholars to lead their own multidisciplinary research teams and become the mentors and leaders of tomorrow. At any one time, we plan to support three Scholars.



Each Scholar chooses a KURe mentor from a core group of recognized senior investigators. A second mentor is chosen to maximize multidisciplinary opportunities and collaborations, and to support clinical, translational, and basic science approaches. The Duke KURe mentors have significant expertise in 4 main areas of benign urology: 1) Lower Urinary Tract Dysfunction, 2) Urinary Tract Infection/Inflammation, 3) Pediatric Urology, and 4) Stone Disease. In addition, our mentors employ different approaches and can guide our Scholars using 1) Basic/Translational Research, 2) Clinical Trials, 3) Health Services Research, and 4) Systems Biology. As part of the leadership team, the Duke KURe program includes an experienced faculty career coach, who designed the Leadership Enhancement and Career Development Coaching Program for KURe Scholars. This is a critical component of our successful program. The Duke KURe career development program spans two to five years depending on the Scholar's educational needs. It consists of intense hands-on research, structured mentoring, didactic course work, seminars, and workshops on scientific and career development related subjects, and training in responsible conduct of research.

At completion of the program, the Scholars are expected to have published in peer-reviewed journals and obtain independent funding. Scholars' progress is monitored by the Program Director and the Advisory Committee. Program leadership receives frequent feedback from both mentors and Scholars. Program improvements are made based on such feedback, recommendations by the career coach and the Advisory Committee, and the results from an independent external review. The Duke KURe is a successful, vibrant program that has expert mentors, experienced leadership, and the institutional commitment to ensure that a diverse pool of highly trained scientists is available to address benign urology through multidisciplinary collaborations.



CAIRIBU Multidisciplinary Urologic Research (KURe) Career Development Programs (K12)

University of Wisconsin-Madison

2013-2023 – Co-PIs, Dale Bjorling, DVM, MS and Wade Bushman, MD, PhD

Wisconsin Multidisciplinary K12 Urologic Research Career Development Program

PROJECT SUMMARY. This application seeks support to continue the highly successful University of Wisconsin Multidisciplinary Urologic Career Development Program (KURe) initiated in 2013. The NIH and Institute of Medicine have identified a critical lack of investigators with the skills and clinical knowledge required to effectively investigate benign urologic disorders and identify improved methods of diagnosis and treatment. This program addresses this essential need. The 1st trainee supported by the current award now holds a tenure track faculty position in the Department of Chemistry, with a joint appointment in the Department of Urology, at the University of Washington, Seattle. The 2nd trainee holds a tenure track faculty position in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (UW), the 3rd trainee is being actively recruited for tenure track faculty positions, the 4th trainee is a tenure track Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Sciences, the 5th trainee will likely leave the program in the near future due to having submitted an R01 application and receiving a score that ranked in the 5th percentile, and the 6th trainee (a URM) has only been in the program for 1 year but has already submitted an R01 application.



The UW is uniquely suited to provide exceptional training in benign urologic research. The UW is home to 1 of 4 NIH-funded George M. O'Brien Centers for Benign Urologic Research. The research and educational activities of the Center provide excellent opportunities for KURe Scholars to engage with a variety of investigators on campus, establish contacts with external collaborators, and participate in center symposia and seminars. The training program has benefited substantially from a close and enthusiastic partnership with the UW Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR), the administrative unit for programs supported by the Clinical and Translational Sciences Award (CTSA) held by the UW. A stated goal of the ICTR KL2 training program is to include recipients of other institutional or independent K awards in career development activities of the ICTR KL2 program. The resources of the ICTR are manifold and provide a solid foundation for our recruiting, training, and educational activities. The 12 ICTR-supported K scholars and the 5 K12 KURe scholars comprise a critical mass that benefits from well-established programs of training and mentoring. Trainees have the option to pursue graduate degrees or certificates in Clinical Investigation. Further institutional support is provided through structured training in mentoring, teaching, and career development programs offered by the office of Postdoctoral Studies and other programs. The program also works with ICTR and other programs on campus to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and disadvantaged individuals choosing to pursue postdoctoral training. In summary, this KURe program incorporates excellent trainers in a variety of disciplines who prepare trainees for outstanding careers as independent researchers focused on benign urology.