

The following is a brief summary of the annual CAIRIBU meeting from the CAIRIBU Interactions Core. A more detailed scientific report will be available later.

Meeting Attendance

Nearly 100 investigators attended the meeting 11/29-12/02/2022 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center or by Zoom. Of these, 29 were affiliated with a P20 Exploratory or FORWARD P20 Center, 26 with a U54 O'Brien Center, 18 with a CAIRIBU K12 Program (KURe or KUroEpi), and 7 with the NIDDK; the remaining registrants were affiliated with other Centers or Programs or with investigators at institutions with no current CAIRIBU Center. **Figure 1** shows the proportion of meeting attendees by education/career stage. **Figure 2** distributes meeting attendees by primary credential.

Figure 1. Attendees by career stage

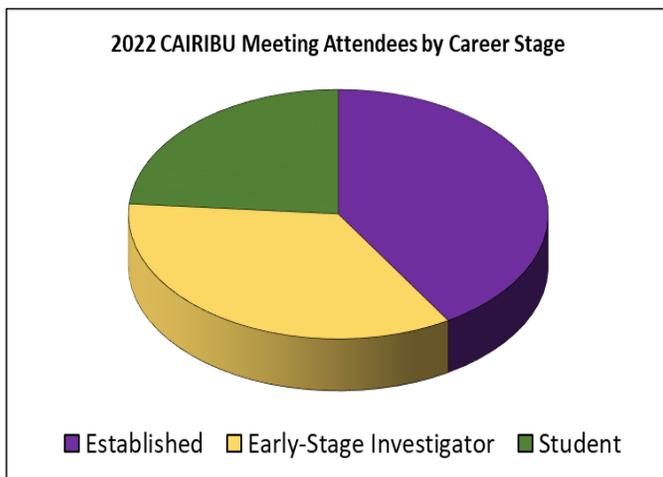
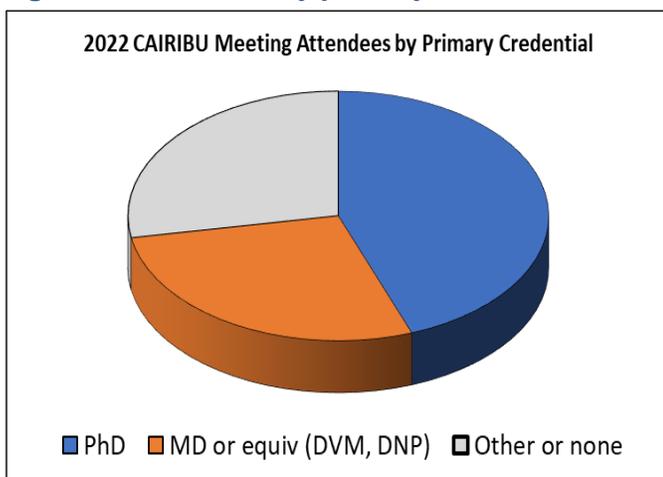


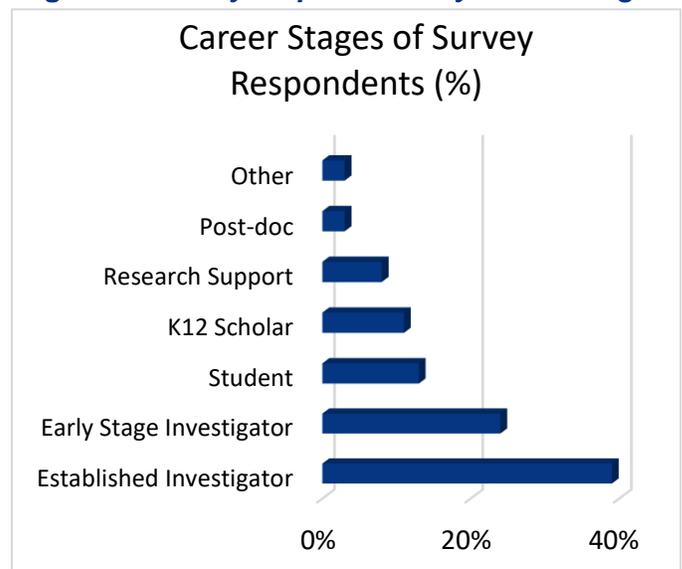
Figure 2. Attendees by primary credential



Meeting Evaluation

Survey respondents (n=38; 39%) included students, established investigators, early stage investigators (ESI), postdocs, research support personnel, K12 scholars, and others. **Figure 3** shows the proportion of meeting evaluation survey respondents by career stage.

Figure 3. Survey respondents by career stage



Attendee Evaluations

Data in the **Table 1** (next page) show the proportion (%) of survey respondents rating the various scientific sessions and speakers as excellent, good, fair, or poor.

Scientific Sessions

Five scientific sessions addressed topics related to prostate, bladder, infection, and urolithiasis.

Networking and Interactions Sessions

Networking and interactions sessions took place on Wednesday and Thursday. Discussions were well-attended, including the NIH/NIDDK Diversity Supplement discussion led by **Victoria Spruance, PhD** (11 participants), the urinary microbiota discussion led by **Michael Neugent, PhD** (11 participants), the STTR/SBIR grant mechanism discussion led by **Kevin McVary, MD** (9 participants), and the discussion on the lower urinary tract during aging led by **Indira Mysorekar, PhD**

(11 participants). The CV and biosketch writing “clinic” was well attended both days and was led by **Maria Hadjifrangiskou, PhD**. Other small groups used the time to form *ad hoc* discussions related to manuscripts in writing, current or new research collaborations, or grant applications.



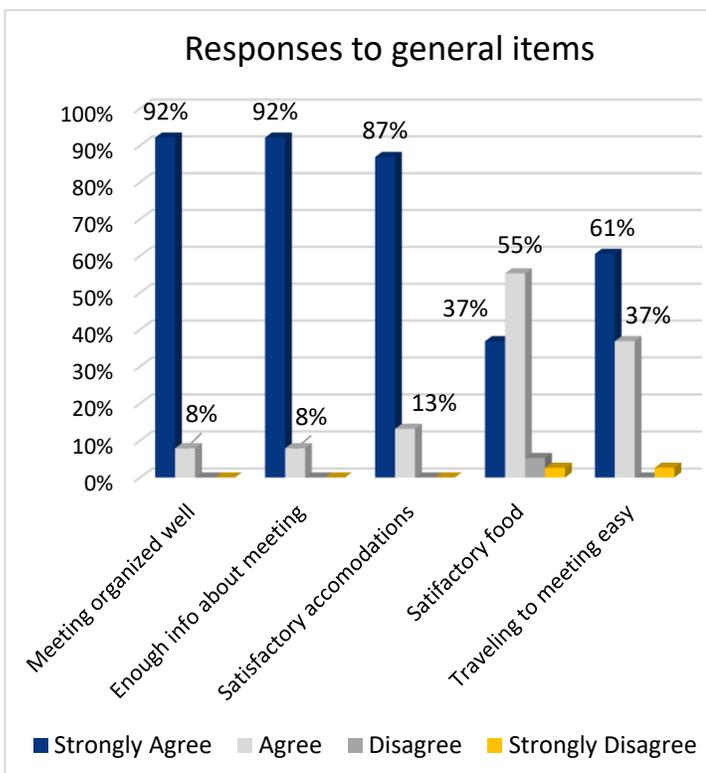
Table 1. Satisfaction with scientific sessions, speakers, networking sessions, and poster sessions

Session	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Keynote Lecture: Kevin McVary, MD	76%	24%	0%	0%
Session 1: LUTD/S & prostate	88%	13%	0%	0%
Session 2: Microbes & infection in the GU tract	78%	22%	0%	0%
Session 3: Bladder function & physiology	86%	14%	0%	0%
dkNET lunch talk	35%	35%	29%	0%
Keynote Lecture: Geolani Dy, MD	65%	16%	19%	0%
Session 4: Bladder & neurourology	79%	18%	3%	0%
Session 5: Ureters & urolithiasis	70%	22%	7%	0%
Networking Sessions	66%	29%	6%	0%
Poster Sessions	86%	14%	0%	0%

Survey Responses

Respondents felt that the meeting was organized well, that sufficient information about the meeting was shared ahead of time, and that hotel accommodations were satisfactory. However, fewer respondents strongly agreed that traveling to the meeting was easy and that food provided during the meeting was satisfactory (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4. General meeting satisfaction



Comments

“This was hands-down one of the best scientific meetings I've ever attended. It resembled in many ways the very best Gordon Conference. Very egalitarian. Everyone talked to everyone. Focus on current research, not canned ‘talks’ about completed work. There was excitement. I don't think the important role played by Dr. Penniston can be overstated. Her contagious enthusiasm imbued the meeting with a ‘vibe’ that was palpable. The Jeopardy game was brilliant! She set the tone for the meeting and it was awesome.” (*Established investigator*)

“This conference was very well organized and [Kris’] passion for this group is contagious” (*Student*)

“This was a great meeting, very well organized, the opportunity to interact with experts in the different areas was outstanding” (*Early stage investigator*).

“The AV facilities were poor. Screen resolution was terrible, projection did not allow pointer function, tech issues!!” (*Established investigator*)

“Better every time, nice change up of speakers over time. Nice to hear from diff voices - not always the same people.” (*Research support*)

“The general meeting session layout was great” (*ESI*)

“I liked the Jeopardy. Overall food was very good.” (*ESI*)

“Difficult to moderate and see the slides” (*K12 scholar*)

Year By Year Changes: 2021 vs. 2022

Respondents were asked about their learning and enthusiasm. They were ask to evaluate each item using a 1-10 Likert scale (least to most true). **From 2021 to 2022, there was improvement in all areas but one (Table 2; text highlighted in red)**. The largest improvement from the 2021 to 2022 meeting was for whether respondents

felt they would apply new knowledge and/or new research tools to their own research. Similarly, a large improvement in opportunities to mentor and/or develop potential collaborative relationships was observed.

Table 2. Year Over Year Change	2022	2021	2020	Change (%)	
	“Strongly Agree” (%)	“Strongly Agree” (%)	“Strongly Agree” (%)	2021 to 2022	2020 to 2021
Meeting was organized well	92.1%	89.7%	87.9%	↑ 2.7%	↑ 2.0%
I learned new things about the research and research tools used by CAIRIBU investigators	78.9%	72.4%	82.8%	↑ 9.0%	↓ -12.6%
I will apply new knowledge learned and/or new research tools to my own research or research program	76.3%	62.1%	67.9%	↑ 22.9%	↓ -8.5%
Meeting enhanced my enthusiasm for doing research	76.3%	64.3%	58.9%	↑ 18.7%	↑ 9.2%
Meeting enhanced my ability to understand other disciplinary perspectives in benign urology research	73.0%	75.9%	67.2%	↓ -3.8%	↑ 12.9%
Meeting provided the opportunity to initiate mentoring and/or potential collaborative relationships with others	71.1%	58.6%	40.4%	↑ 21.3%	↑ 45.0%
Meeting enhanced my capacity to conduct research	63.2%	58.6%	32.7%	↑ 7.8%	↑ 79.2%

Suggestions for Next Year

Meeting structure:

- “Hold short Q&A after each talk rather than moderated at the end (memories are short); select poster award winners that reflect the diversity of trainees” (*Established investigator*)
- “Travel grants for students” (*Established investigator*)
- “Prefer round table for the interactions, networking session. Hard to talk to everyone in the conference room seat layout” (*K12 scholar*)
- “More time for bathroom breaks, time for standing, stretching, exercising, free time to network throughout the day. Continue cash bar during dinner!” (*ESI*)
- “Breakfast could be expanded and a snack around ~4PM including a "mental break" would be nice” (*ESI*)
- “Perhaps try to do just 2 days instead of 3 (e.g. Thursday AM to Friday mid afternoon)” (*Established investigator*)
- “It would be nice to see more 'mixed' work - either epidemiology incorporating basic science/lab procedures or translational research (examples being A. Huang or S. Bauer planned RCT or diet interventions in stores)” (*Established investigator*)
- “To increase engagement in poster session it might be helpful to have a summary of all posters based on sessions. The breakdown of sessions for both posters and presentations were great” (*Student*)
- “It was really difficult to moderate and see the slides” (*K12 scholar*)
- “It would be good to have a forum (groups centered on approach/technique not research/biology) for exchanging tips or dealing with particular experience (patient recruitment, community engagement...) for live discussion (small group to leave discussion for all not listening)” (*ESI*)

Future meeting locations:

- “Houston is a great site!” (*Established investigator*)
- “Consider adding West coast = best coast into the meeting rotation” (*Established investigator*)

Trainee and Early Stage Investigator Meeting Summary

33 trainees and ESIs attended this pre-meeting event, the 4th annual such event. **The session kicked off with a panel on “growing your career”** and included panelists Laura Pascal, PhD (Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Chemical Biology at the University of Pittsburgh), Petra Popovics, PhD (former K12 Scholar in the UW-Madison KURe Program, now Assistant Professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School), and Jim Hokanson, PhD (former K12 Scholar in the Duke University KURe Program, now Assistant Professor in the Joint Department of Biomedical Engineering at the Medical College of Wisconsin). The session was moderated by Victoria Spruance, PhD (NIDDK Program Director).



Panelists commented on many topics including **how to build collaborations with clinicians**. They suggested making connections at scientific meetings, reaching out to clinicians who are actively engaged in research, and applying for multidisciplinary research grants as strategies to build cross-disciplinary collaborations. Panelists also commented on strategies for dealing with challenges along the way, suggesting making space to talk with and get support from others at similar career stages. The importance of maintaining hobbies and doing things one enjoys was emphasized as a way to reduce stress. **Panelists were asked to comment on some of the positives of a career in research**. They described how impactful it is to work on highly-relevant health issues that affect many people, stating that speaking with people impacted by these diseases is motivating and rewarding. Others noted that they enjoyed studying something that interests them, talking to others about their work, and figuring out what their results mean.



Speakers in the second session described research resources available to urology researchers. Speakers were Eric Brunskill, PhD, who spoke about NIDDK consortia including the GenitoUrinary Development Molecular Anatomy Project (GUDMAP), ReBuilding a Kidney (RBK), and the Kidney Precision Medicine Project (KPMP); Rebecca Rodriguez, PhD and Alissa Fujimoto, MA, who spoke about the NIDDK Central Repository; and Jeffrey Grethe, PhD, who spoke about dkNET. The session was moderated by Seth Reasoner, a dual MD/PhD student at Vanderbilt University. Meeting attendees were given the chance to walk around the room and interact with presenters during the second half of the session.

Trainee Meeting Attendee Feedback

Survey respondents (n=13, 39%) included 5 post-docs/K12 scholars, 4 graduate students, 1 medical resident/fellow, 1 junior faculty, and 2 who identified as 'other.' Responses to specific survey items are shown (**Figure 5**). One suggested area of improvement was to provide more opportunities to initiate mentoring and collaborative relationships.

Suggestions for future trainee/ESI events:

- Mock grant review, mock study section (*Graduate student*)
- Unwritten tips/tools of the trade that help ease the logistics of lab management or collaborations (online tools, Calendly®, e-notebooks, databases, When2meet, streaming video recordings, etc.) (*Post-doc/K12 scholar*)
- Platforms, software, services, and technologies that have helped new labs navigate the changing work atmosphere (*Post-doc/K12 scholar*)

Figure 5. Trainee meeting satisfaction

