



## 2025-2026 CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Virtual Forums

*Advancing the Research Capacity of Trainees and  
Investigators at early-Career Stages*



September 2025 to May 2026, second Wednesday of each month; **1:00 PM Eastern** (12 PM Central | 10 AM Pacific)

FORUM TOPIC	BRIEF SYNOPSIS	WHEN	WHO
<b>Navigating Industry Funding for Urologic Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Understand the landscape of industry funding in urology and learn how to identify, approach, and collaborate with industry partners.</li> <li>Format: Panel discussion with investigators who have secured industry funding and a representative from industry.</li> </ul>	Sept 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Margot Damaser, PhD</b> (Cleveland Clinic); <b>Kyle Wood, MD</b> (University of Alabama at Birmingham); and <b>Lisette Gutierrez, MD</b> (Novo Nordisk)
<b>Strategies for Securing Foundation Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Learn practical strategies for securing research funding from private foundations, including how to align your proposal with foundation priorities.</li> <li>Format: Panel discussion featuring investigators who secured foundation funding, and foundation representatives</li> </ul>	Oct 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tanecia Mitchell, PhD</b> (Univ Alabama Birmingham); <b>Nicole De Nisco, PhD</b> (UT Dallas); <b>Indira Mysorekar, PhD</b> (Baylor); <b>Nicole Gilbert, PhD</b> (Washington University); <b>Johanny Kugelman-Tonos, PhD</b> (AUA); and <b>Zohreh Izadifar, PhD</b> (Boston Children's)
<b>Engaging Patient-Driven Funding Sources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Explore how to secure philanthropic research support through grateful patient programs and partnerships with institutional philanthropy offices.</li> <li>Format: Panel discussion featuring investigator(s) who has secured funding through a grateful patient program and a representative from an academic medical center's philanthropy office.</li> </ul>	Nov 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Ray Wezik, Esq</b> (AUA); <b>James Brooks, MD</b> (Stanford); <b>Lisa Karstens, PhD</b> (Oregon Health & Sciences), and <b>Hilary Furlong</b> (Stanford)
<b>What Would You Do? Leading Through Lab Challenges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Learn how to navigate the complexities of research team leadership by examining real scenarios involving lab dynamics, mentorship, and conflict.</li> <li>Format: Case studies + panel discussion</li> </ul>	Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Indira Mysorekar, PhD</b> (Baylor); <b>Nathan Tykocki, PhD</b> (Michigan State)
<b>Preprints in Urology Research: To Use or Not to Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Demystify open science principles, address different journals' guidelines and requirements, and provide practical guidance on preprints</li> <li>Format: Speaker(s) and panelists provide details and address both sides</li> </ul>	Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Nicole De Nisco, PhD</b> (UT Dallas); <b>Lisa Karstens, PhD</b> (Oregon Health & Sciences)
<b>Grant Writing Tips, Traps, and Evolving Expectations - From the Reviewer's Perspective</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Learn how to effectively communicate your science by avoiding common missteps, responding to evolving review criteria, and identifying funding opportunities beyond a single institute.</li> <li>Format: A panel of experienced reviewers share tips, pet peeves, and strategies to make your proposal stand out</li> </ul>	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Aruna Sarma, PhD</b> (Univ Michigan)
<b>Writing Specific Aims Statements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Learn how to harness grant reviewers' feedback to refine and enhance your grant proposal for successful funding.</li> <li>Format: Expert talk followed by Q&amp;A</li> </ul>	March 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Chad Vezina, PhD</b> (UW-Madison); <b>Gregory Tasian, MD</b> (CHOP)
<b>Interviewing for Research Positions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Prepare for job interviews in research – whether in academia, industry, private foundation, or non-profit – by understanding different interview formats, common questions, and how to effectively frame your research vision.</li> <li>Format: Panel discussion and mock interview scenarios</li> </ul>	April 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Michael Odom, PhD</b> (Duke); <b>Marvin Langston, PhD</b> (Stanford); <b>Petra Popovics, PhD</b> (Virginia Health Sciences)
<b>Transitioning from Graduate School to Postdoc – What I Wish I Knew</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective: Provide advice from recent postdocs on choosing a lab, setting expectations, and preparing for the next step after grad school.</li> <li>Format: Roundtable with current postdocs</li> </ul>	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Acacia White, PhD</b> (UW-Madison); <b>Teresa Liu, PhD</b> (UW-Madison); <b>Michael Neugent, PhD</b> (UT Dallas); <b>Sonia Fargue, MD, PhD</b> (Univ Alabama Birmingham)