

CAIRIBU Pre-Meeting for Trainees and ESIs



WEDNESDAY, December 3
Memorial Union, Great Hall

800 Langdon Street
UW-Madison Campus

6th ANNUAL TRAINEE AND EARLY-STAGE INVESTIGATOR PRE-MEETING

2025 CAIRIBU TRAINEE PRE-MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Alexis Adrian (UW-Madison U54 O'Brien Center), Jonathan Ellison, MD (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia P20 Center), Ajinkya Limkar (UW-Madison U54 O'Brien Center), Michael Neugent, PhD (U-RIG), Michael Odom, PhD (Duke University KUR Program), Petra Popovics, PhD (Endeavor Health System P20 Center), Seth Reasoner (Prior Vanderbilt P20 Center), Renee Vickman, PhD (Endeavor Health System P20 Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 8:00 AM **Welcome & Ice Breaker** (10 min)
Alexandra Polasko, PhD (Stanford University) and **Alexis Adrian, Graduate Student** (UW-Madison)
- 8:10 AM **Grant Mechanisms: Small Group Discussions with NIDDK and Recent Awardees** (45 min)
Breakout conversations on F, K, and R mechanisms: NIDDK Program Officers and prior awardees
- (1) **F mechanisms** – **Stuart Reynolds, MD, MPH** (NIH/NIDDK) and **Alexis Adrian, graduate student** (UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - (2) **K mechanisms** – **Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH** (NIH/NIDDK) and **Alexandra Polasko, PhD** (K12 Scholar, Stanford University, CAIRIBU KUR Program)
 - (3) **R mechanisms** – **Chris Mullins, PhD** (NIH/NIDDK), **Kimberly Keil-Stietz, PhD** (UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center), and **Doug Strand, PhD** (UT Southwestern; project leader, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
- 8:55 AM **Break** (5 min)
- 9:00 AM **Update on Grant Review Guidelines from the NIH** (10 min)
Chris Mullins, PhD (NIH/NIDDK)
- 9:10 AM **Mock Grant Review** (60 min)
As a large group, attendees will observe a simulated grant review panel. After the review, panelists will "break character" and move to separate tables for informal, small-group Q&A. Attendees are invited to move freely between tables and to engage with reviewers about the grant review process, reviewers' comments, and decision making. **Grant materials will be shared in advance to support deeper discussion.**
- Reviewer 1: **James Brooks, MD** (PI, Stanford University Urology O'Brien Center)
 - Reviewer 2: **Chad Vezina, PhD** (PI, UW-Madison KUR Program; and project leader, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - Reviewer 3: **Zohreh Izadifar, PhD** (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University)
 - Reviewer 4/Discussant: **Johanna Hannan, PhD** (UW-Madison)
- 10:10 AM **Break** (15 min)
- 10:25 AM **Career Exploration Roundtables** (45 min)
Small-group discussions led by established researchers from diverse career paths. Participants will start at one table and have the opportunity to switch to a second table halfway through the session.
- (1) **Academic research** – **William Ricke, PhD** (UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - (2) **Clinical research** – **Chuck Scales, MD, MSHS** (Duke University)
 - (3) **Industry research** – **Hannah Miles, PhD** (PPD | Thermo Fisher Scientific)
- 11:10 AM **Structured Networking** (35 min)
Guided small-group activity that fosters connections across disciplines, institutions, and trainee stages
- 11:45 AM **Conclusions and Evaluations**