

CAIRIBU TRAINEE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE No. 2 || 10.9.25

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2025 CAIRIBU ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 CAIRIBU Annual Meeting is on Dec. 3-5, in Madison WI. **Abstracts are due Monday, October 13, 2025.** See below for more information about the annual meeting and abstract submission.

[2025 Meeting Information](#)



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ADVICE COLUMNS

In each issue of the CAIRIBU Trainee Newsletter, trainees have the opportunity to submit questions to be answered by CAIRIBU investigators from across the network. Along with expert advice, each issue also includes an overview of various NIH funding programs to help guide trainees through the research funding landscape.

This issue features insights from Postdoctoral Fellow Acacia White, PhD; Principal

Click the button below each article to *read the full feature on our website*.

ASK US

Advice and answers to trainee submitted questions from CAIRIBU investigators

ASK A POSTDOC - Acacia White, PhD

Question: *I'd like to do a postdoc in which I can learn new things. But I'm worried that I would be expected to already be an expert. Do you have insights for me?*

Answer: PhD graduates, because they are trained to become experts in specific research niches, carry the necessary skills to learn new disciplines in a postdoctoral program. Postdoctoral positions are training-focused, giving investigators opportunities to gain further feedback and mentorship – what matters is not knowing everything, but a willingness to learn and grow. Read more in the full article.

[Full Article](#)

FEAT.

Acacia White, PhD
Whitney Sweeney, PhD
Gregory Tasian, MD, MSc, MSCE

Surviving and Thriving in Uncertain Times - Feat. Whitney Sweeney, PhD

Topic: *Collaboration in clinical and translational research.*

Preview: On September 10, 2025, the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at UW–Madison hosted a one-day event bringing together researchers and professionals across health-related fields. The day featured a keynote by Dr. Geoff Curren on values-driven research, collaboration, candidly about the lessons he learned over the course of his career including failures or roadblocks. Read more in the full article.

[Full Article](#)



ASK A PI - Gregory Tasian, MD, MSc, MSCE

Question: *What skills are most critical to your success?*

Answer: Success in research isn't about having all the answers. It's about cultivating key habits like recognizing knowledge gaps, fostering creativity, leading effective teams, and thinking with agility. These skills shape a meaningful career focused on solving real-world problems. From spotting overlooked trends in pediatric kidney disease to adapting study designs on the fly, progress comes from asking better questions and working collaboratively. Read more in the full article.

[Full Article](#)

NIDDK NEWS

The NIDDK Urology Program Welcomes Dr. Stuart Reynolds!

FEAT.

Chris Mullins, PhD
William Stuart Reynolds, MD, MPH



Hello CAIRIBU community! For this issue of the CAIRIBU Trainee Newsletter, I'd like to take the opportunity to introduce a new and very welcomed member of the NIDDK Urology Program, Dr. William Stuart (Stu) Reynolds. Dr. Reynolds comes to the NIDDK with a wealth of clinical and research expertise. Read more about Dr. Reynolds' background and goals for the NIDDK Urology Program and ultimately for broad urologic research and training in the full article.

[Read the Full Article](#)

TRAINEE-FOCUSED FUNDING

This Notice of Funding Opportunity is intended to identify and support research projects by exceptionally promising Early Stage Investigators with a long-term career interest in pursuing innovative research in genomics

Supporting Talented Early Career Researchers in Genomics

[R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Human Required] This Grant supports an innovative project that represents a change in research direction for an early stage investigator (ESI) and for which no preliminary data exist

Stephen I. Katz ESI Research Project Grant

[R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed] This Grant supports an innovative project that represents a change in research direction for an early stage investigator (ESI) and for which no preliminary data exist

Stephen I. Katz ESI Research Project Grant

[R21 Clinical Trial Optional] This Research Grant program supports exploratory and innovative research projects, which fall within the missions of the NINDS and NIMH.

Trailblazer Award for New and Early Stage Investigators

JOB OPENINGS

Postdoctoral Fellow in Urothelial and Cancer Biology

Postdoctoral Fellow in Urothelial and Cancer Biology at Columbia University in Dr. Cathy Mendelsohn's lab, in the Department of Urology and Genetics & Development. Seeking a person to work on a new mouse model of bladder cancer. The research involves multiomics and whole exome sequencing of tumors from mice as well as tissue analysis and some experience using computational skills.

To Apply: Email CV, references, and cover letter to [Dr. Cathy Mendelsohn](#)

Lab manager position at Columbia University

Dr. Cathy Mendelsohn at Columbia University is looking to fill lab manager position at her laboratory. Education: Bachelor's degree in a scientific discipline, such as biology, molecular biology, or a related field. Experience: A minimum of 1 year of laboratory experience. Candidates with experience in molecular biology, mouse models, and analysis of tissue highly preferred.

To Apply: Email CV, references, and cover letter to [Dr. Cathy Mendelsohn](#)

UPCOMING **TRAINEE FOCUSED** EVENTS

CAIRIBU Graduate Student Seminar

October 15, 2025
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EDT

[More Information](#)

ARCTICS Community Forum

November 12, 2025
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

[More Information](#)

CAIRIBU 2025 Annual Meeting

December 3-5, 2025
8:00 am CT

[More Information](#)

WANT TO ASK A QUESTION?

We want to hear from you! Use the short survey below to submit your question for a future issue of the CAIRIBU Trainee Newsletter. You'll also have the chance to share your thoughts on how we're doing and what you'd like to see in upcoming editions.

[Trainee Newsletter
Survey](#)

ABOUT CAIRIBU

Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

CAIRIBU is a community of NIDDK-funded U54 and P20 Urology Centers and K12 Institutional Career Development Programs whose overarching objectives are to address gaps in knowledge related to epidemiology, etiology, development, progression, and expression of non-malignant urologic conditions and to train the next generation of leaders in urology research. The CAIRIBU Interactions Core is the central coordinating body for the CAIRIBU Community.



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