



CAIRIBU UROBIOME RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP (U-RIG)

CAIRIBU U-RIG RESEARCH HOURS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 10/18/2024 U-RIG RESEARCH HOUR

Goal: Facilitate knowledge exchange and spur collaborations in the urobiome and adjacent fields

U-RIG RESEARCH HOUR

OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSION

THE STATE OF UROBIOME RESEARCH AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

10/18/24 [3-4PM EDT] (2PM CT | 12PM PT)



Review of Previous Meetings and Future Plans

- Kristina Penniston reviewed history of prior monthly discussions, **noting that there have been sessions since September 2021 involving presentations by 14 different investigators from 13 different institutions.**
- The plan is to continue these knowledge exchanges into 2025, with a focus on including more trainees and having professor-trainee duos on the calls.
- Kris reminded group of goal for functional collaborative research groups and creating patient and clinician-facing materials.
- **The concept of a new conceptual map is introduced, with the aim of comparing it to the original map created in September 2021.**

Introduction of Whitney Sweeney and Team Science Approach

- Whitney Sweeney was introduced; team scientist from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, specializing in team science.
- Whitney explained the team science approach, describing brainwriting vs. brainstorming to generate new ideas.
- Participants were instructed to use the Miro board to jot down their ideas in response to the question, **"What is needed to advance urobiome science to improve the health of individuals with urological disorders?"**
- Participants were given 10 minutes to generate ideas, with the goal of mapping them onto the original conceptual map.

Discussion of New Ideas and Fraud in Urobiome Research

- Participants generated a significant number of ideas.
- Brian Choi (Loyola University Chicago, Alan Wolfe Lab) described fraud involving a French institution, which has published many fraudulent species designations.
- The fraudulent publications have led to the misidentification of bacteria, causing clinical harm and academic redundancies.
- Alan and Brian discussed plan to address this issue by connecting with major journals and biorepositories to delist the fraudulent species designations.

Next Steps and Final Thoughts

- **Whitney suggested taking the new ideas and mapping them onto the existing conceptual map to facilitate further discussion.**
- Kris emphasized the importance of addressing the issue of fraud and integrating it into the conceptual map.
- The need for agreed-upon approaches for naming and nomenclature in urobiome research was highlighted.
- **The meeting concluded with plans to circulate the discussion summary, the email from Brian regarding the fraud issue, and the survey link for online community feedback.**