



Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

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CAIRIBU IN ACTION



Updated every month by CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff, view and search a list of publications by CAIRIBU-affiliated investigators [HERE](#)

The CAIRIBU Interactions Core uses bibliometric techniques to identify and archive CAIRIBU-affiliated publications. Publications from 2020 forward are there. Sort by journal, publication date, topic, authors' names, and more.

CAIRIBU AT AUA



Among the many CAIRIBU-associated investigators and trainees participating in this year's American Urological Association meeting are **Jill Macoska, PhD** (University of Massachusetts Boston and leader in the UW-Madison U54 George M. O'Brien Urology Center) and **Indira Mysorekar, PhD**

(Baylor College of Medicine and prior PI of a CAIRIBU P20 Urology Center while at Washington University). They organized the half-day Basic Sciences Symposium on Sat., April 26. The topic is *"Inflammaging."* Speakers will address aging-associated processes in systemic inflammation, immune system dysfunction, and hormonal imbalances that adversely affect lower urinary tract health and function.



The podium session on Bladder & Urethra: Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology (also on Saturday) also features a strong CAIRIBU presence. Presenters include:

- **Doug Strand, PhD**, University of Texas Southwestern (and leader in the UW-Madison U54 George M. O'Brien Urology Center)
- **Marcela Ambrogi, PhD**, postdoctoral researcher and former trainee of Chad Vezina, PhD at the UW-Madison
- **Matthew Grimes, MD**, CAIRIBU K12 Scholar in the KURe Program at UW-Madison

STAND UP FOR SCIENCE



Amidst proposed cuts to federally-funded research, thousands stand up for science across the US. Dr. Francis Collins, prior head of the National Institutes of Health, was a headline speaker on March 7 at a rally at the Lincoln Memorial (photo at left from the *Science Insider*, article here: <https://www.science.org/content/article/thousands-gather-across-u-s-stand-science-events>).

Many scientific advances in medicine have been achieved via funding from federal funding agencies such as the Department of Defense, the National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the National Science Foundation, and others. Scientists, clinicians, patients, and citizens are urged to protect the public good by protecting the US research enterprise. Many are urging calls to US congressional members. Here's a step-by-step guide for doing so from the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#):

1. Call congressional offices directly or through the switchboard. If you do not have the direct number, call US representatives at **202-225-3121** and US senators at **202-224-3121**. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's office. If you don't know their names or want the direct line to their office, you can find your [senators here](#) and your [representatives here](#).
2. Ask to speak to the aide who handles the issue about which you are calling. Your call will be more influential if you speak to the correct aide. However, Congressional aides are very busy and this is not always possible. If you cannot speak directly with the aide, leave a message with the receptionist stating your views.
3. Let them know that you are a constituent. Elected officials are most interested in their constituents' opinions, so be sure to say the city and state you are from.

CAIRIBU EVENTS



The 2025 CAIRIBU meeting is **Wednesday-Friday, December 3-5** on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Stay tuned for more info.



UROBIOME Research Interest Group (RIG). Virtual knowledge exchanges are scheduled through

2025. These knowledge exchanges are organized by the [CAIRIBU Urobiome RIG](#), one of several RIGs within the CAIRIBU Community.

Every month, 3rd or 4th FRIDAYS
3:00 PM Eastern (2 PM Central | 12 PM Pacific)

Next up: March 21 ([zoom link available here](#))

U-RIG RESEARCH HOUR

**FEAT: EMILY COFFEY, DVM, DACVIM, PHD,
ADWAITA PARAB, MS, PHD CANDIDATE**

3/21/25 [3-4PM EDT]

(2PM CT | 12PM PT)



Emily Coffey, DVM, PhD is at the University of Minnesota and is active in the CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group. Adwaita Parab, MS is a graduate student in Dr. Indira Mysorekar's lab at Baylor College of Medicine.

ESPECIALLY FOR TRAINEES & ESI_s



CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Forums

**ARCTICS = Advancing the Research Capacity of Trainees
and Investigators at Early Career Stages**

CAIRIBU-affiliated trainees and early-stage investigators meet each year to develop ideas for ARCTICS forums, all aimed at building skills, increasing knowledge, and boosting trainees' abilities to plan and develop independent careers in genitourinary research. Forums are every month, 2nd Wednesdays.

**Join other trainees and early-stage investigators for the 2nd of a multi-part
ARCTICS Community forum series on data science**

The **March 12th forum**, again featuring Finn Kuusisto, PhD from the UW-Madison Data Science Institute, will begin with a quick review data structure, data formats, basic concepts related to AI and ML. A deeper dive into AI tools and AI platforms will follow.

VIRTUAL EVENT
FEB 12 & MARCH 12
WEDNESDAY, 1PM EASTERN

DATA SCIENCE FOR THE NON- DATA SCIENTIST

A **CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community forum** organized in collaboration with the UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (**ICTR**) and the Data Science Institute



OVERARCHING AIMS



DATA ORGANIZATION

Explain large data sets, data formats, and concepts related to cleaning, storing, visualizing, and manipulating data



PROBLEMS WITH AI

Describe shortcomings and problems with AI techniques, including machine learning



ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

Demystify, explain, and define terminology used to describe data analysis techniques, clustering, and model validation



RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

How to identify whether AI, machine learning, and similar techniques are useful in your research and how to communicate with data scientists

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FINN KUUSISTO, PHD

These forums were developed with input from CAIRIBU Community investigators involved in AI and machine learning and will be primarily led by Dr. Finn Kuusisto, Data Scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Data Science Institute.

By popular demand, Dr. Kuusisto will join us in April and May for two interactive and informative forums on data science and AI

- **April 9:** Examples of data science and AI in healthcare and in biomedical research
- **May:** Review published urology-related studies to understand what data science and AI techniques were used, how they were used, and why



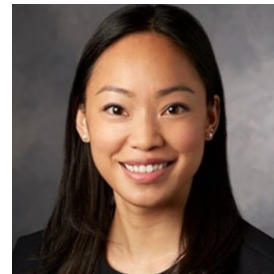
K12 SCHOLAR Seminars Series

Monthly, 3rd THURSDAYS

March 20 - Zoom link [HERE](#)

Kathleen Kan, MD

- Pediatric Urologist, Department of Urology, Stanford Medicine, Stanford University
- K12 Scholar, [K12 Urology Research at Stanford \(KURes\) Career Development Program](#) (PIs, Joseph Liao, MD and James Brooks, MD)



DUKE UNIVERSITY KURe PROGRAM ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Wednesday, April 9

8:00-4:00 PM, Duke University Campus

Artificial Intelligence - Where are we now?

Advancing the precision of neuromodulation in urology

This is the [10th annual Duke University Multidisciplinary Benign Urology Research Symposium](#) led by Dr. Cindy Amundsen and her K12 Career Development Program team. Nearly 40 abstracts were submitted for this year's symposium! Abstract, poster, and travel awards will be given, sponsored in part by the CAIRIBU Interactions Core. Faculty, fellows, postdocs, students, and staff from any discipline are encouraged to attend.



Quarterly, 3rd WEDNESDAYS

Jan - Apr - Jul - Oct 2025

1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central | 10 AM Pacific)

2025 grad student seminar series schedule available [HERE](#)

Next up: April 16 ([zoom link available here](#))

GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINAR

FEAT: WILLIAM RICKE, PHD, AJINKYA LIMKAR,
ALEXIS ADRIAN

4/16/25 [2-3PM ET]

(1PM CT | 11AM PT)



CAIRIBU EVENTS

For all CAIRIBU Community events, as well as those from organizations and societies within the broader urology research community, check the [CAIRIBU EVENTS LISTING](#) on the CAIRIBU website

Wed., Mar. 12	CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Forum : Data science for the non-data scientist: part 2 . AI tools and platforms used in data science. Finn Kuusisto, PhD , UW-Madison	Virtual, 1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central 10 AM Pacific)
Thurs., Mar. 13	Meeting : Bi-monthly CAIRIBU Community Leaders (OCL)	Virtual, 4:00 PM Eastern (3 PM Central 1 PM Pacific)
Thurs., Mar. 20	CAIRIBU K12 Scholar Seminar : Kathleen Kan, MD (K12 KUR Program at Stanford University)	Virtual, 5:00 PM Eastern (4 PM Central 2 PM Pacific)
Fri., Mar. 21	CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group Research Hour : Emily Coffey, DVM, PhD (University of Minnesota) and Adwaita Parab, MS (Baylor College of Medicine)	Virtual, 3:00 PM Eastern (2 PM Central 12 PM Pacific)
Mar. 11-13	Center for Microbiome Investigation	La Jolla, CA
Mar. 21-24	European Association of Urology	Madrid, Spain
Mar. 25-29	Society for Reproductive Investigation	Charlotte, NC
Mar. 29-Apr. 1	Congress of the American Society of Andrology & the International Society of Andrology	Washington, DC
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Society of Gynecologic Surgeons	Rancho Mirage, CA

CAIRIBU YOUTUBE

Featuring videos from virtual events and other recordings

CAIRIBU YouTube Playlists serve as "channels" that correspond to your specific research interests

CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff recently categorized all CAIRIBU YouTube content by specific area within the lower urinary tract (nearly 100 videos!). Now you can quickly find

recordings in which you are most interested (e.g., bladder, prostate, infection, etc.). Content related to trainees is also categorized. Look [HERE](#).



Email the CAIRIBU Interactions Core

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**George M. O'Brien (U54) Urology Cooperative
Research Centers Program**

1. University of Wisconsin-Madison (2014-2019
and 2019-2024)
2. Columbia University (2014-2019 and 2020-
2025)
3. Stanford University (2021-2026)

**Multidisciplinary Urologic Research (KURe)
Career Development Programs (K12)**

1. Duke University
2. University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. Stanford University

**Urological Epidemiology (KUroEpi) Institutional
Research Career Development Programs (K12)**

1. University of California San Francisco-Kaiser
Permanente Northern California
2. University of Michigan

Tracy Rankin, PhD, MPH, NIDDK KUH Deputy Director
and Program Director, oversees CAIRIBU-affiliated K12
Institutional Career Development Programs

FORWARD P20 Urology Centers

1. Mayo Clinic Rochester (2022-2025)
2. Duke University (2022-2025)
3. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (2024-
2027)
4. NorthShore University HealthSystem (2024-
2027)

CAIRIBU Interactions Core (U24)

- PI, ***Kristina Penniston, PhD, RD***
- Research Program Coordinator, ***Mariana Coughlin, MS***
- Website, Digital, and Organizational
Management, ***Muen Wang, BS***
- Social Media and Staff Assistant, ***Annie Mao***
- Student researcher, ***Anna Barrett***

NIDDK Program Officers who oversee the CAIRIBU
Interactions Core and the U54 Urology O'Brien Centers:

- **Christopher Mullins, PhD**
- **Deepak Nihalani, PhD**

Links to websites for CAIRIBU Centers and Programs are on the CAIRIBU website [HERE](#)

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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.

Learn More Here

CAIRIBU - Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign
Urology | Department of Urology, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public
Health 1685 Highland Avenue, Medical Foundation Centennial Building | Madison, WI 53705-
2281 US

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