



CAIRIBU Annual Meeting 2025

*Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary
Research in Benign Urology*



INTRODUCTION: Each year the CAIRIBU U24 Interactions Core plans and organizes an annual meeting for the entire CAIRIBU Community. **The requirement for an annual meeting was set forth in the Funding Opportunity Announcement for the U24 Interactions Core (RFA-DK-19-034).** The meeting brings together NIDDK Program Officers, leaders in the field, and investigators, collaborators, and trainees from NIDDK-funded CAIRIBU U54 Urology O'Brien Centers, P20 Urology Centers, and K12 Urology Research and Epidemiological Career Development Programs. While CAIRIBU investigators and trainees interact year-round during virtual events, conferences, and other activities, the annual CAIRIBU meeting is the one time that all come together to exchange information, share knowledge, and discuss research progress and advances. Increasingly, as the CAIRIBU Community grows gathers more momentum, investigators and trainees from outside of NIDDK-funded Centers and Programs also gather at CAIRIBU meetings.

OBJECTIVE: Deep knowledge exchange is the basis for successful research collaborations. Therefore, **a broad objective of annual CAIRIBU meetings is to bridge knowledge gaps within the urology research community to stimulate knowledge exchange and shared vision.** The CAIRIBU meeting provides a platform for exchanging cutting-edge research findings, approaches, and methods. Advances in urology science will also require cross-disciplinary interaction and collaboration. Therefore, the CAIRIBU meeting includes activities and forums for breaking down silos and facilitating interactions between investigators from different disciplines. These include those from basic science, clinical and translational science, and epidemiology. It also includes investigators from outside the urology research community who have knowledge and utilize techniques that are highly relevant to urology research. CAIRIBU annual meetings Interdisciplinary cross-pollination lays the basis for collaborative research activity that will ultimately advance the field.

METHODS: For the 2025 annual meeting, we built on past successes that began with the first annual CAIRIBU meeting in December 2018. A list of all annual CAIRIBU meetings is shown (**TABLE 1**). Prior to initiating meeting planning with CAIRIBU leaders, CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff began meeting with NIDDK meeting organizers (the Scientific Consulting Group) to plan logistics and coordinate details. These meetings continued in parallel With planning for the scientific aspects of the meeting.

TABLE 1. CAIRIBU annual meetings

Year	Dates	Location	Registrants, n	Unique institutions, n
2018	Dec. 12-14	Ellicott City, MD	89	16
2019	Dec. 4-6	Kansas City, MO	72	19
2020	Dec. 3-4	Virtual	200	57
2021	Dec. 2-3	Virtual	238	68
2022	Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Bethesda, MD	101	42
2023	Nov. 29-Dec. 1	Kansas City, MO	117	36
2024	Dec. 4-6	Milwaukee, WI	140	39
2025	Dec. 3-5	Madison, WI (tentative)	TBD	TBD



In January 2024, a meeting of CAIRIBU Community leaders and NIDDK Program Officers reviewed the prior annual CAIRIBU meeting. Both quantitative and qualitative pre- and post-meeting metrics were presented and discussed. Quantitative metrics related to participation and engagement, number of abstract submissions, number of speakers and moderators, and demographics. Qualitative metrics were those related to comments, suggestions, and impressions from evaluation surveys. Leaders provided feedback about successes and identified areas for improvement. **A committee of volunteer CAIRIBU leaders and trainees was then solicited and began meeting in March 2024.** CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff provided committee members with feedback from leaders as well as results of meeting evaluations. The research foci of currently-funded CAIRIBU U54 Urology Centers, P20 Urology Centers, and K12 Urology Career Development Programs was reviewed so that committee members were aware of the science to be included in the meeting. During the March

2024 and a follow-up April 2024 committee meeting, members then assessed how the 2024 meeting could be structured to include the breadth of science and the numbers of investigators and trainees associated with each currently-funded Urology Center and K12 Program. Themes for scientific sessions were discussed and ultimately agreed upon. Numbers of presenters for each session were determined. Abstract submission and review processes from prior annual meetings were reviewed; a deadline for submissions was established. Suggestions for invited speakers were solicited. Ideas for breakout and networking sessions were discussed. Ideas for interactive social activities were suggested. **CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff documented and summarized decisions and suggestions and, in the following months, worked to populate the program with speakers and moderators from each CAIRIBU Center and K12 Program.** Staff continued to interact with Scientific Consulting Group representatives bi-weekly beginning in April and then weekly from Oct. to Dec. to cement logistics (e.g., registration website, registration and abstract submission process, discount for lodging, hotel meeting space, food and beverage needs, audio visual needs, etc.). Details were shared regularly with CAIRIBU leaders and NIDDK Program Officers during leaders' meetings. Additionally, CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff worked with a prior CAIRIBU K12 Scholar to obtain a Clin-STAR Distinguished Professor grant to support an invited speaker and several poster awards. Finally, CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff met weekly and more frequently as needed beginning in August to ensure coordination of all aspects of the meeting. This included: creating the meeting program; monitoring and encouraging registration and abstract submissions; purchasing awards for best posters, abstracts, and CAIRIBU Community awards; inviting and confirming session presenters and moderators; communicating with breakout session moderators about objectives and goals; soliciting reviewers for abstracts, creating abstract review forms, and assembling their completed reviews; organizing social activities; assembling and preparing poster session judges; creating evaluation forms; assigning staff to record discussions in each breakout session and to videotape keynote speakers' presentations; taking photos; and assigning staff to other individual tasks for which they were responsible before, during, and after the meeting.

RESULTS: Planning, demographics, and satisfaction. The planning committee consisted of 2 NIDDK Program Officers and 10 additional individuals ranging from early-stage to established investigators. Members represented 2 different Urology P20 Centers, 3 U54 Urology Centers, and 3 different CAIRIBU K12 Programs. The meeting program featured 8 scientific sessions plus a take-home message session at the end. Across all sessions, there were 40 individual presenters (50% female) representing all currently-funded CAIRIBU Centers and Programs plus one P20 Urology Center and one U54 Urology Center in no-cost extension years, the CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group, and CAIRIBU Collaboration Award recipients. There were 2 moderated breakout/networking sessions, each consisting of 4 concurrent sub-sessions. During the first breakout session, 8 speakers (2 per each of 4 sub-sessions), most of whom were trainees or early-stage investigators (ESIs), delivered 4-5 minute “flash talks” to set the stage for ensuing discussions.

Meeting registrants (n=140) were 61% female; 16% of all were from outside the CAIRIBU Community (i.e., not affiliated with a current or prior CAIRIBU Center or Program, a CAIRIBU research interest group, nor CAIRIBU Collaboration or O'Brien Center Awards). A breakdown of registrants' academic degrees and career stages is shown (**FIGURE 1**). A breakdown of CAIRIBU Community representation is shown (**FIGURE 2**, next page).

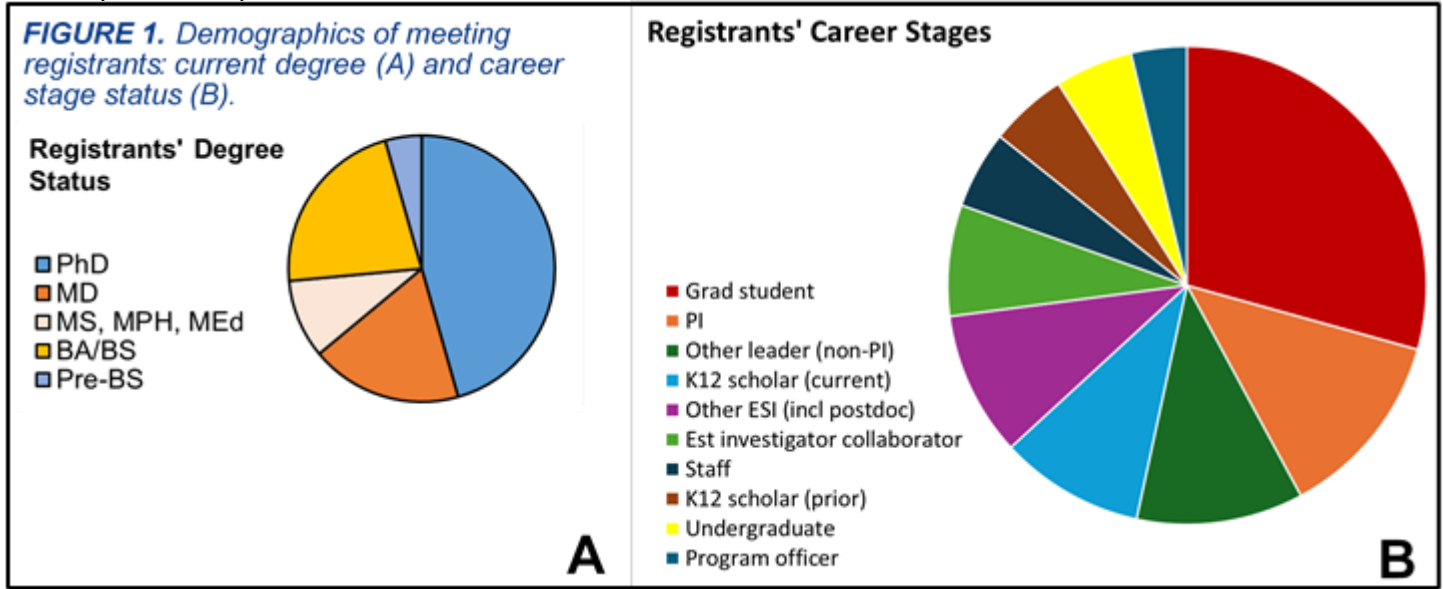


FIGURE 2. Demographics of meeting registrants: current degree and career stage status.

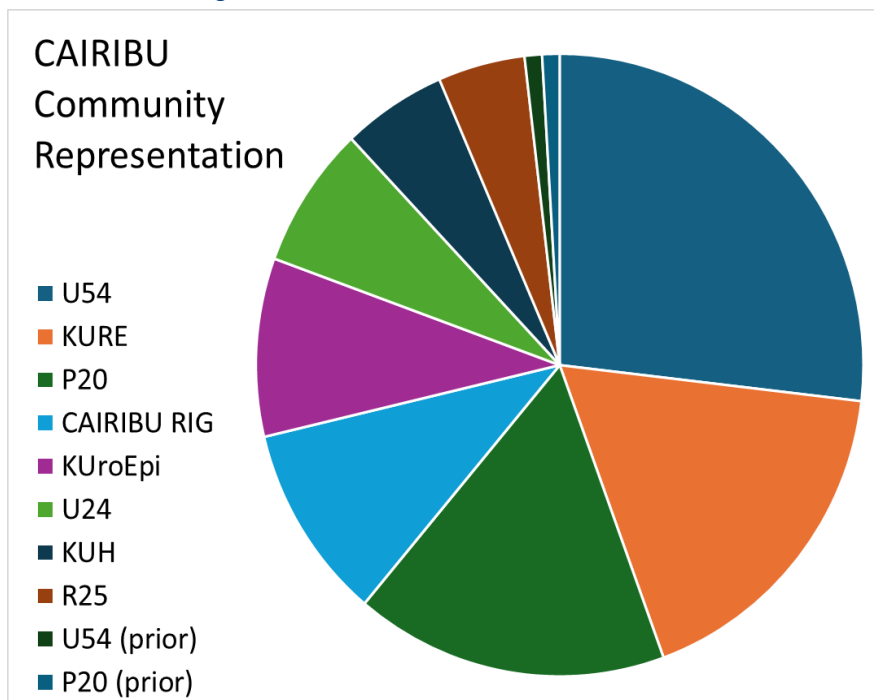
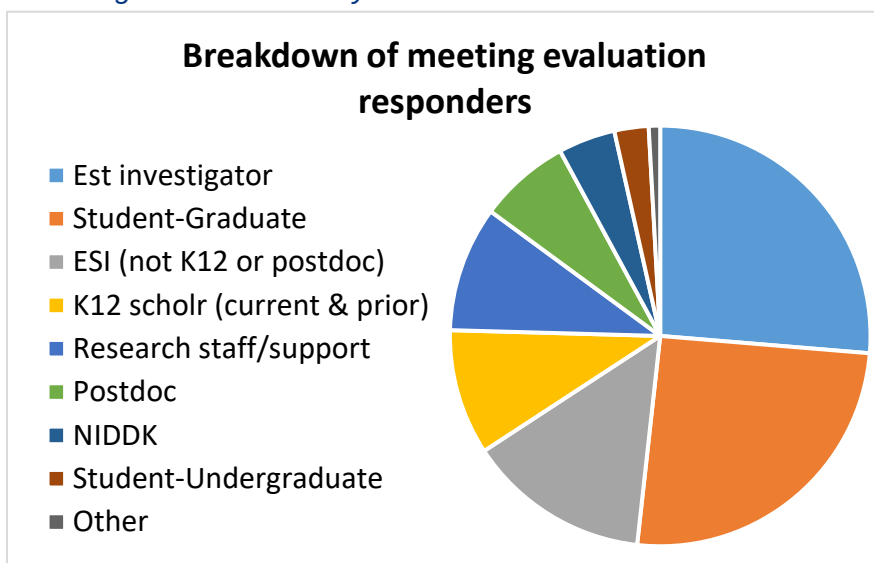


FIGURE 3. Career stage status of those who completed post-meeting evaluation surveys.



Respondents completed a post-meeting evaluation on the last meeting day or in the days following on an electronic platform; response rate was 82%. Career stage statuses of those who completed the evaluation (**FIGURE 3**) was similar to that of meeting registrants as a whole (**FIGURE 1**, panel B). **The prevalence of meeting attendees who reported participating in ≥ 2 prior CAIRIBU annual meetings was 41%.** Those who had never been to a CAIRIBU annual meeting comprised 30% of respondents. **For general meeting comments, see Appendix 1.**

Participation in the Wednesday afternoon breakout sessions was equitable across sessions (**TABLE 2**); participation in the Thursday afternoon breakout sessions was similarly distributed (**TABLE 2**).

Participants' impressions of the Wednesday breakout sessions were queried in the evaluation survey. Options on the 5-point Likert scale ranged from "extremely dissatisfied" (1) to "extremely satisfied" (5). The breakdown of those responding "extremely satisfied" by career stage is shown (**FIGURE 4**).

FIGURE 4. Career stage status of those who rated their satisfaction with the Wednesday breakout session they attended as "extremely satisfied."

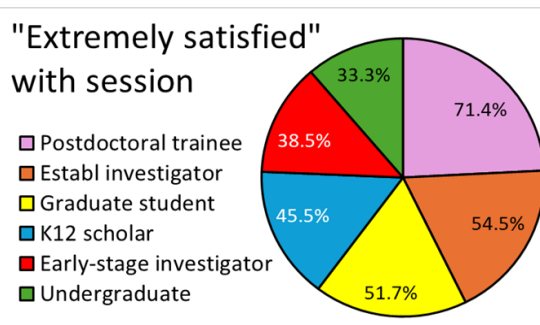
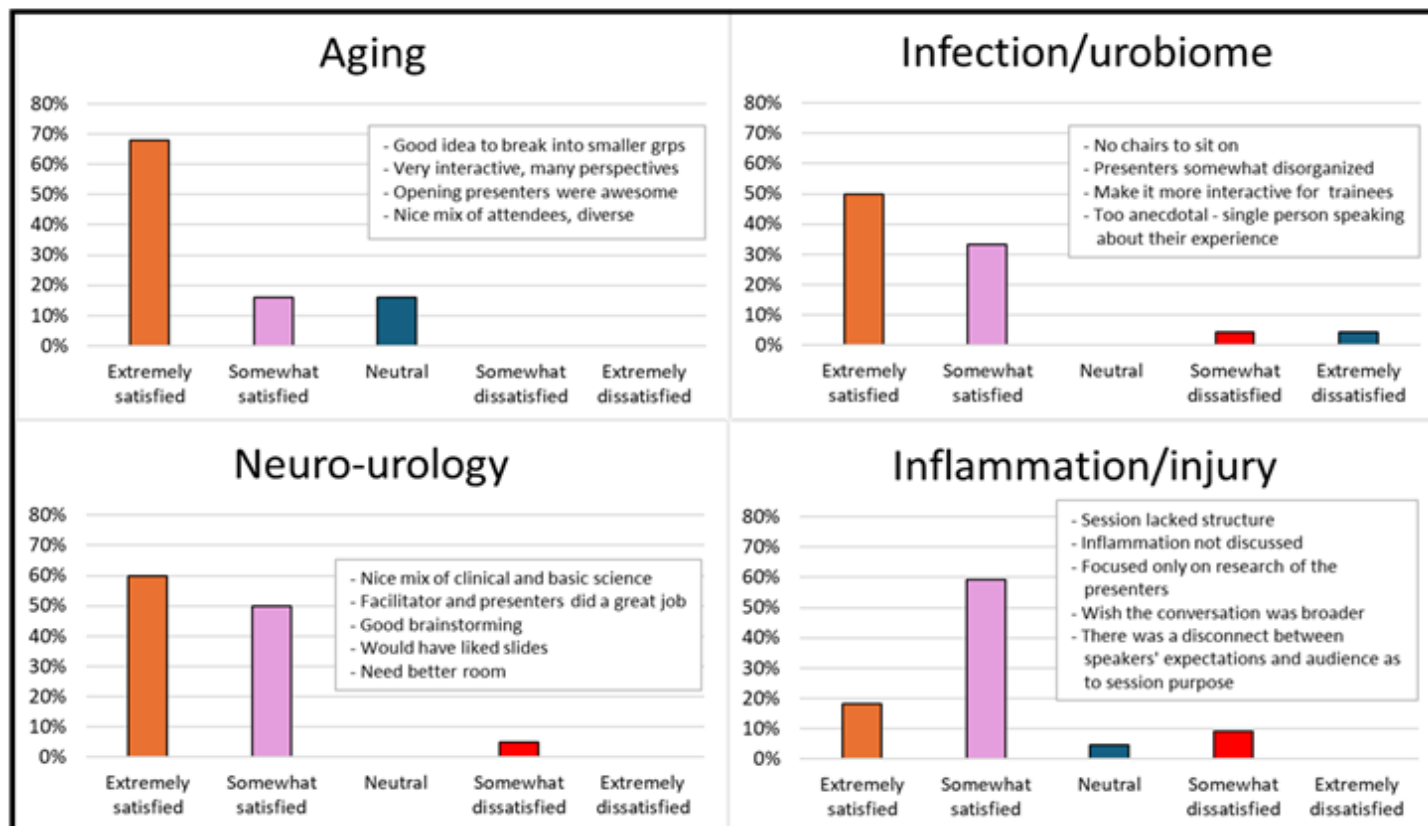


TABLE 2. Participation in Wednesday and Thursday afternoon breakout sessions.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Wednesday	Participants, n
Neuro-urolological processes and dysfunction in the urinary tract	29
Effects of aging in the lower urinary tract	25
Infection, immunity, and urobiome research	23
Inflammation, injury, mechanical, and metabolic dysfunction	20
BREAKOUT SESSIONS – Thursday	
Architecting an integrated approach to phenotyping across genitourinary conditions	21
Clinical studies and trials in genitourinary research	20
Harnessing artificial intelligence in urology research	19
Growing the pipeline and training the next generation of leaders in genitourinary research	16

Overall, 3 of the Wednesday afternoon breakout sub-sessions were rated highly by attendees (FIGURE 5) with nearly 100% reporting they were “extremely satisfied” or “satisfied” with the infection/urobiome and neuro-urology sub-sessions and 80% saying so about the aging sub-session. While the inflammation/injury sub-session also received high satisfaction impressions, most of these were “satisfied” vs. “extremely satisfied.” A few of the more salient written comments from evaluations are included within each panel (FIGURE 5). *For more breakout session comments, see Appendix 2.*

FIGURE 5. Satisfaction with and comments about the Wednesday afternoon breakout sub-sessions.



Transcripts of the Wednesday and Thursday breakout sessions were prepared from recordings and are available for dissemination and discussion.

RESULTS: Abstracts and poster session. A record number of abstracts (n=63) were submitted. One did not meet the criteria (trainees through ESIs only). Thus, 62 were accepted. Most were submitted by graduate students (44%), K12 scholars (19%), other ESIs (13%), postdoctoral researchers (11%), and undergraduate students (11%); 67% were submitted by women. Affiliations and race/ethnicity of abstract submitters is shown (TABLES 3 and 4).

TABLE 3. Proportion of abstracts from CAIRIBU and non-CAIRIBU affiliations

CAIRIBU AFFILIATION	ABSTRACTS
Non-CAIRIBU affiliated	33%
UW-Madison U54 Urology O'Brien Center	15%
CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group	10%
Undergraduate students from UW-Madison R25 summer program	8%
Duke KURe K12 Program	8%
Endeavor Health Urology P20 Center	5%
UW-Madison KURe K12 Program	5%
Stanford University KURe K12 Program	5%
Corewell Health/Michigan State Urology P20 Center	3%
University of Michigan KUroEpi K12 Program	3%
University of California San Francisco KUroEpi K12 Program	3%
Columbia University U54 Urology O'Brien Center	1.5%
CAIRIBU Interactions Core	1.5%

TABLE 4. Demographics

RACE/ETHNICITY	
White-not Hispanic	49%
Asian	26%
White-Hispanic	16%
Non-white, not Hispanic	6.5%
Other	1.5%

Abstracts were reviewed by 52 reviewers of 71 invited. Of reviewers accepting the invitations and completing reviews, 71% were currently or previously affiliated with a CAIRIBU Center or Program. Abstracts were evaluated using a standard scale consisting of 4 criteria: context and interest, experimental design and presentation of data, evaluation and analysis of data, and written communication. Reviewers used a 9-point Likert scale, same as the one used by NIH, to provide their scores. An overall score was calculated from the 4 criterion scores in the same way as NIH grant applications are scored. **Using the NIH scoring system, the mean overall score was 28 ± 8.5 (median 24; min-max, 18-41).** The top 3 scoring abstracts were selected for oral presentations in session 3 of the meeting.

For the poster session, 7 categories were identified from submitted abstracts: (1) research methods and techniques (n=11); (2) genetics (n=9); (3) urobiome and infection (n=9); (4) prostate (n=9); (5) clinical care and patient-centered (n=9); (6) bladder injury, pain, and dysregulation (n=8); and (7) bladder contraction and stimulation (n=7). Posters were displayed within the 2.5 hour poster session in 2 groups of approximately 30 posters each. Each group had 75 minutes to display their posters. There were no oral presentations or “flash talks.” Poster judges (n=10) identified a “best poster” for each of the 7 categories. **The poster session, always a popular feature of annual CAIRIBU meetings, was rated very highly on post-meeting evaluations (FIGURE 6).** Most rated it as “very effective” or “effective.” However, the preponderance of written comments on evaluations cited the space as too small, too tight, and too close together. Other salient comments cited too little time for viewing all of the posters. *For poster session comments, see Appendix 3.*

RESULTS: Collaboration-building, networking, and knowledge. A hallmark of annual CAIRIBU meetings is an emphasis on sharing knowledge, interactions, and collaborative discussions. Opportunities to accomplish these are built into the meeting program in the form of social activities, time for networking, frequent breaks, opportunities for breakout and small group discussions, and during scientific sessions, which are designed specifically for deeper knowledge exchange. Attendees’ responses related to knowledge, networking, and collaborative research activities are shown (FIGURE 7).

FIGURE 6. Effectiveness of poster session in sharing science and highlighting the research of trainees and early-stage investigators.

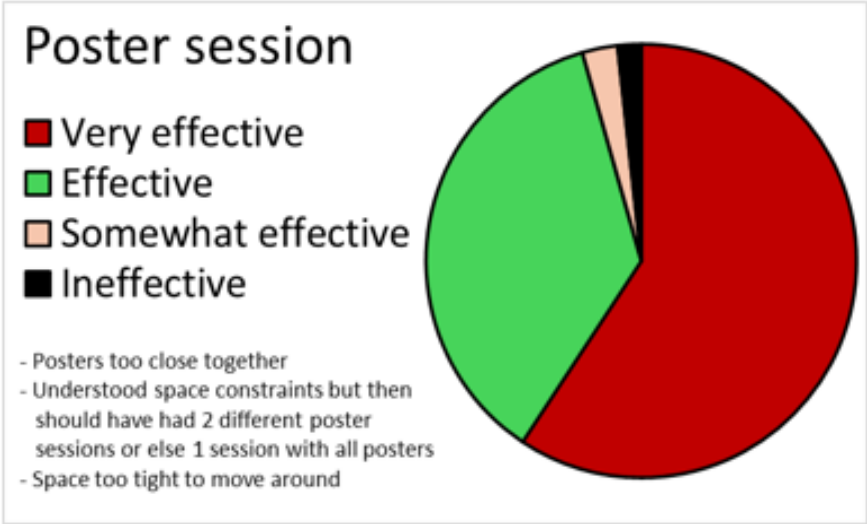
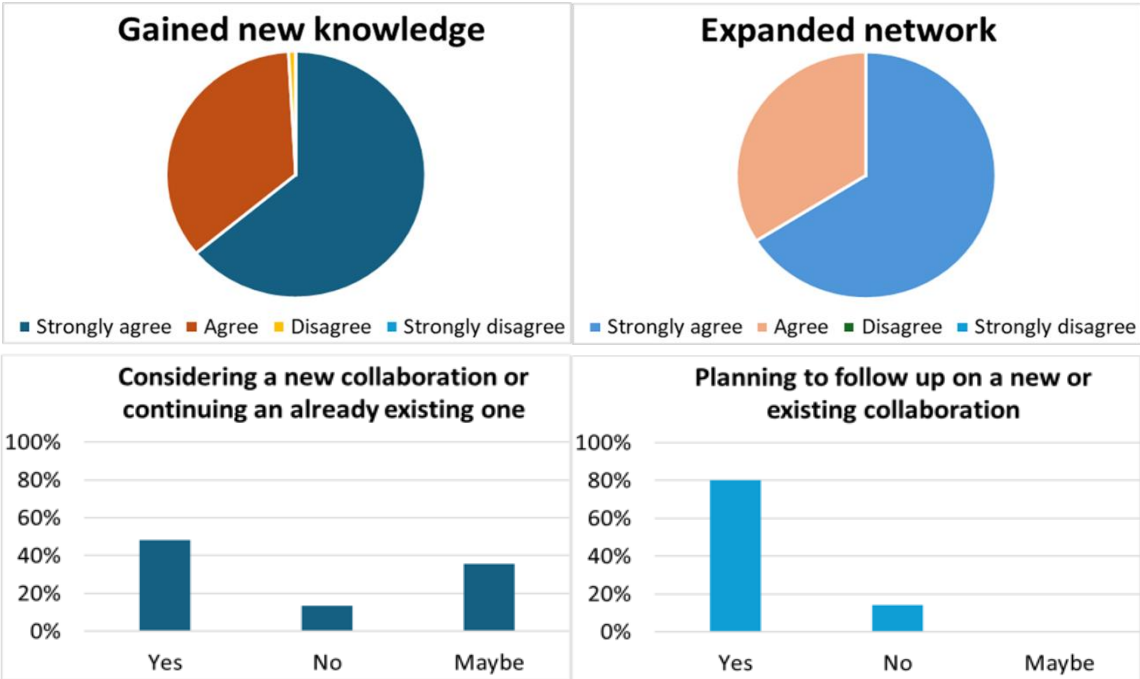


FIGURE 7. Meeting attendees’ post-meeting responses about new knowledge gained, networking, and potential collaborative research intentions.



RESULTS: Financial support, invited speakers, and awards. As in prior years, the CAIRIBU Interactions Core offered financial support to trainees and ESIs who would not otherwise have funds to participate in the meeting. While CAIRIBU U54 Centers, P20 Centers, and K12 Programs are required to use some of their grant funds to support meeting participation, those from previously-funded Centers or who train under current or former CAIRIBU K12 scholars, for example, typically have limited financial resources. This year, as in prior years, CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff invited applications from trainees and ESIs. The invitation was made known through CAIRIBU website and other media channels and to current and former K12 scholars and leaders of prior CAIRIBU Centers and Programs. We received and approved 17 applications. Demographic characteristics of recipients are shown (**FIGURE 8**). Most all were graduate students or post-bac research staff; 1 was an ESI junior faculty. There were 6 with prior CAIRIBU affiliations (e.g., from prior U54 and P20 Centers and the Urology Centers Consortium Monitoring Board), 5 from prior K12 scholars who now have independent labs, 4 from ESIs not affiliated with CAIRIBU, and 2 from the CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group. Recipients were reimbursed for travel-related expenses. **In total, the CAIRIBU Interactions Core awarded \$11,346 for the 2024 annual meeting** (mean, \$920.50 per award; min-max per award, \$542-\$1,269). Notably, 5 undergraduate students were financially supported for their participation by an NIDDK-funded R25 summer research program, i.e., not from CAIRIBU Interactions Core funds.

We obtained a Clin-STAR Distinguished Professorship award, totaling \$5,000, in collaboration with a prior K12 scholar from the University of California San Francisco. We used those funds to support the participation of an expert in aging research, **Dr. George Kuchel**, as a keynote speaker. Dr. Kuchel also moderated a breakout sub-session and judged abstracts and posters. We also used funds from the Clin-STAR award to provide monetary awards to best abstract and best poster winners whose science related to aging processes in the lower urinary tract. CAIRIBU Interactions Core funds were used to support a second keynote speaker, **Dr. Johanna Hannan**, whose research focuses on genitourinary dysfunction in men and women, neuronal dysfunction in pelvic organ dysfunction and diabetic neuropathy, and vascular remodeling in the genital organs during aging.

In addition to the usual “best abstract” (n=3) and “best poster” (n=7) awards, the meeting planning committee elected to pilot other awards. We provided awards for the 2-person team that won the CAIRIBU Cornhole tournament and to 3 individuals who won Urology Jeopardy rounds. Other awards given are listed (**TABLE 5**). Recipients for the mentorship award were determined by NIDDK Program Officers in concert with the CAIRIBU Interactions Core Director after reviewing nominations from trainees. Other awards were approved by the planning committee with recommendations of CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff. Recipients received plaques and/or other mementos as awards. Of note, the CAIRIBU

FIGURE 8. Demographics of CAIRIBU Interactions Core travel awards for participating in the 2024 annual meeting

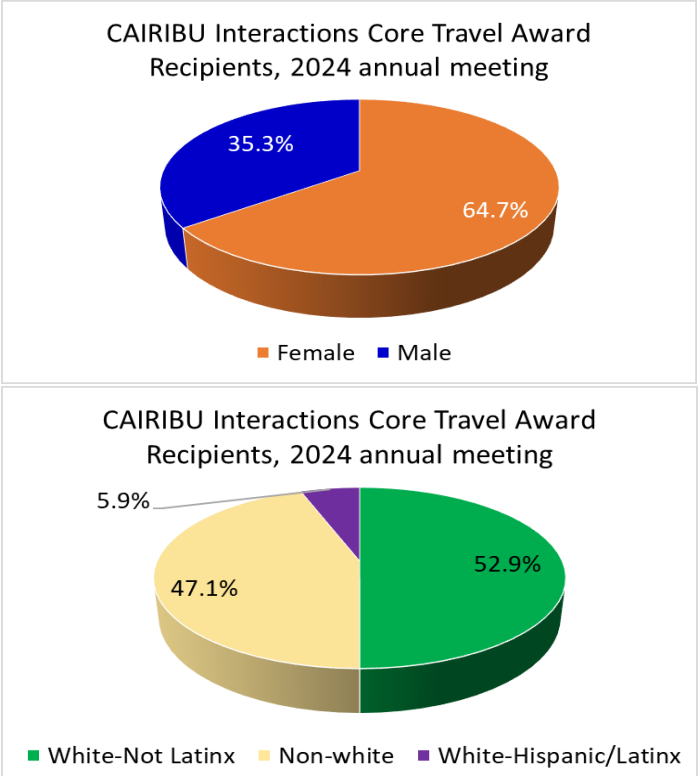


TABLE 5. CAIRIBU meeting awards.

AWARD	AWARDEES, n
Outstanding abstract reviewer award	1
CAIRIBU catalyst award	2
Outstanding community builder award	1
CAIRIBU engagement award	2
Distinguished speaker award	1
Mentorship award	2

DISCUSSION: The 2024 annual CAIRIBU meeting was highly successful. Notable accomplishments were:

- Record number of abstracts submitted (>30% of which were submitted by trainees and ESIs outside of the “official” CAIRIBU Community; TABLE 3)
- Record high attendance for in-person CAIRIBU meetings (TABLE 1)
- High satisfaction with the meeting overall, with breakout sessions, and with the poster session (FIGURES 4-6 and Appendices)
- Significantly expanded research and professional networks and new knowledge gained (FIGURE 7)
- High potential for continued or new collaborative research activities (FIGURE 7)
- High praise for meeting organization and coordination (see comments in Appendices)
- Highly engaged and enthusiastic CAIRIBU leadership – several written comments in evaluations, many by trainees, addressed how approachable and welcoming CAIRIBU leaders were

The CAIRIBU Interactions Core has developed an engaging, inclusive, productive, and sustainable model for annual meetings. The annual CAIRIBU meeting is the main meeting for all funded CAIRIBU U54 Urology Centers, P20 Urology Centers, and urology-focused K12 Career Development Programs. Traditionally, there is high participation across all Centers and K12 Programs. A critical feature of annual CAIRIBU meetings is that it showcases CAIRIBU Community research at the highest levels, through presentations in scientific sessions, and also at the trainee level, via abstracts and posters. Another critical feature of annual CAIRIBU meetings is the overall focus on trainees, which is unique among other urology research meetings. While the abstract acceptance rate at other meetings, such as the American Urological Association, is around 30%, all abstracts submitted by trainees and ESIs are typically accepted for annual CAIRIBU meetings. Thus, CAIRIBU meetings counteract the limitations that trainees and ESIs experience when attempting to participate in other urology meetings and provide an accessible and welcoming on-ramp into the field.

Increasingly, the annual CAIRIBU meetings attract and include investigators and trainees from previously-funded CAIRIBU Centers and Programs, those active in other CAIRIBU activities (e.g., urobiome and other research interest groups and initiatives), and the broader urology research community. The fact that >30% of abstracts at the 2024 meeting were submitted by trainees and ESIs from outside the “official” CAIRIBU Community sphere suggests that the CAIRIBU annual meeting is becoming a “go to” urology research meeting. Written comments and other metrics collected on the meeting evaluation also confirm this. The annual CAIRIBU meeting thus serves as a valuable platform for “community building” and cross-pollination across the broader urology research community.

In summary, annual CAIRIBU meetings serve a key purpose within our overall strategic aims. Annual CAIRIBU meetings facilitate:

1. **Interactions, networking, and collaboration** – Specific and strategic activities, tried and validated through 7 annual CAIRIBU meetings, are built into each program. Goals of these activities include facilitating knowledge sharing and cross-disciplinary communication, stimulating new relationships and potential collaborations, and building a sense of community.
2. **Investigator development** – Annual meetings are highly trainee-focused. This increases the visibility of trainees, promotes their development, and encourages their continued journey along the urology research pipeline. Specific methods to accomplish this include abstracts and posters are from trainees and ESIs only, trainees are built into scientific sessions as presenters and moderators, a take-home message session at the end of the meeting consists only of trainee/ESI presenters, trainees and ESIs are included in annual meeting planning, and – for the past 6 meetings – a trainee-focused “pre-meeting” planned by trainees and ESIs occurs on Wednesday morning (separate summary available).
3. **Communication and outreach** – Annual CAIRIBU meetings provide a unique opportunity to broadly communicate scientific advances within the field, new initiatives, funding and job opportunities, and other news. Annual meetings also provide an opportunity to continually engage investigators and trainees from the broader urology research community and from other disciplines. This is accomplished by broadening the call for abstracts to those outside of CAIRIBU, inviting keynote speakers and other participants, and providing space in the meeting for both formal (facilitated) and informal networking. This includes games, social activities, breaks, and breakout discussions.