



Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

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CAIRIBU AT AUA 2025



Many CAIRIBU-associated investigators and trainees participated in this year's American Urological Association meeting. GO [HERE](#) for a list of events featuring CAIRIBU Community investigators.

Additionally, CAIRIBU Community leaders **Jill Macoska, PhD** (University of Massachusetts Boston and project leader of the UW-Madison U54 George M. O'Brien Urology Center) and **Indira Mysorekar, PhD** (Baylor College of Medicine and PI of a prior CAIRIBU P20 Urology Center while at Washington University) organized the half-day basic science symposium. The topic was "*Inflammaging*." Speakers addressed aging-associated processes in systemic inflammation, immune system dysfunction, and hormonal imbalances that adversely affect lower urinary tract health and function.

AUA Presidential Citations were received by [William Ricke, PhD](#), PI of the University of Wisconsin-Madison George M. O'Brien Urology Cooperative Research Center and [Kristina Penniston, PhD, RD](#), PI of the CAIRIBU Interactions Core.



CAIRIBU COMPASS



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The *CAIRIBU Compass* is a quarterly online journal supporting the broader urology research community and providing visibility to urology research

The inaugural issue is [HERE](#). This issue of the CAIRIBU Compass features full-text abstracts presented at the 2025 winter meeting of the Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU) by CAIRIBU-

associated trainees and early-stage investigators. Abstracts are from:

- **Oswaldo Vega Rodriguez** and **Ashika Goel**, Michigan State University (mentor, Nathan Tykocki, PhD)
- **Samuel Cornelius**, University of Texas at Dallas (mentor, Nicole De Nisco, PhD)
- **Giulia Ippolito, MD, MS**, University of Michigan, CAIRIBU K12 UroEpi Program (PIs, Aruna Sarma, PhD and Quentin Clemens, MD)
- **Jennifer Yarger, PhD**, University of California San Francisco CAIRIBU K12 UroEpi Program (PI, Alison Huang, MD)

Other articles in this Compass include:

- Summary of the 2024 CAIRIBU Annual Meeting
- Summary of the 2024 CAIRIBU Summer Collaborative Research Summit
- Synopsis of the January 2025 virtual CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group knowledge exchange

View online: [*CAIRIBU Compass, April 2025*](#)

YOUR abstract or article could be featured in the next issue, July 2025
contact the [*CAIRIBU Interactions Core*](#) to find out more

CAIRIBU MEETING 2025



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

MAY CAIRIBU EVENTS



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 CAIRIBU trainees and early-stage investigators for an interactive installment of a multi-part ARCTICS Community forum series on data science

The Wednesday, May 14 session, led again by [*Dr. Finn Kuusisto*](#), Data Scientist in the University of Wisconsin Data Science Institute, will feature interactive group learning activities tailored to different skill levels, with breakout rooms

for beginners and more advanced participants. Engaging exercises will introduce key coding concepts in Python and SQL.

The prior three data science CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community forums were recorded and are available on the CAIRIBU YouTube channel [HERE](#).



ARCTICS FORUM

DATA SCIENCE FOR THE NON-DATA SCIENTIST: PART 3

FINN KUUSISTO, PHD

5/14/2025

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

Zoom link to join available [HERE](#)



K12 SCHOLAR Seminar Series

Monthly, 3rd THURSDAYS
5:00 PM Eastern (4 PM Central | 2 PM Pacific)
[2025 K12 scholar seminar series schedule available HERE](#)

May 15 - Zoom link [HERE](#)

Golena Fernandez Moncaleano, MD

Dr. Fernandez is a urologist, endourologist, and a K12 Scholar in the [K12 Multidisciplinary Urology Research \(KURe\) Career Development Program](#) at the University of Michigan (PIs, Aruna Sarma, PhD and Quentin Clemens, MD)



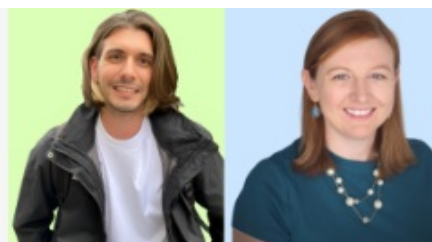


UROBIOME Research Interest Group (RIG) knowledge exchanges are organized by the [CAIRIBU Urobiome RIG](#) one of several RIGs within the CAIRIBU Community.

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

Next up: May 23 ([zoom link available here](#))

U-RIG RESEARCH HOUR
FEAT: RAMON GARCIA MASET, PHD,
MEGAN BEHRINGER, PHD
5/23/25 [3-4PM EDT]
(2PM CT | 12PM PT)



Dr. Garcia-Maset is a Research Fellow at the University College London; he is part of Dr. Jennifer Rohn's team and is interested in biofilm and UTIs. Dr. Behringer is an Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University and employs genomic analysis to study how environmental factors affect the creation of genetic variation (i.e. mutation) and how microbes adapt and diversify in novel complex environments.



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: July 16 ([zoom link available here](#))

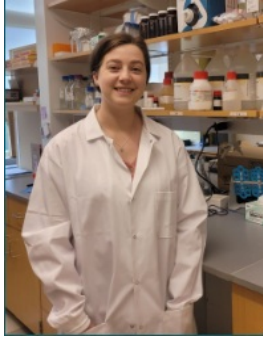
GRAD STUDENT PRESENTERS:

Mariah Jensen-Wachspress and Samantha McGuire, Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University

MENTOR:

Petra Popovics, PhD (prior K12 Scholar, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Dr. Popovics' research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of inflammation-induced pathological changes in the prostate through the development of animal and cellular models.



[Mariah Jensen-Wachspress](#)



[Samantha McGuire](#)



[Petra Popovics, PhD](#)

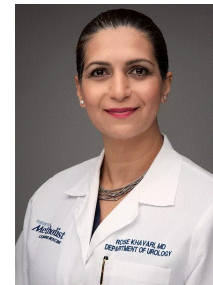
AUA WEBINAR

[Physician Scientist: Different Paths to Success](#)

Tuesday, May 20 @ 8:00 PT Eastern
(7 PM Central | 5 PM Pacific)

Join [Dr. Aria Olumi](#), chief of urology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and prior research chair of the American Urological Association, is course director for this webinar. Panelists will highlight their diverse experiences and demonstrate the multiple career trajectories available to physician scientists in urology. THE WEBINAR IS FREE. Go [HERE](#) for more info and to register.

Panelists include [Dr. Rose Khavari](#), a prior Opportunity Pool Award recipient from the Columbia University U54 Urology O'Brien Center, one of 3 CAIRIBU Urology O'Brien Research Centers, and also a CAIRIBU Collaboration Award recipient. Dr. Khavari is a Professor of Urology at Houston Methodist Institute for Academic Medicine and Weill Cornell Medicine College. She specializes in treatment for neurogenic bladder, urinary incontinence, and pelvic organ prolapse.



UROLOGY 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

Thurs., May 8	Meeting: Bi-monthly CAIRIBU Community Leaders meeting (CCL)	Virtual, 4:00 PM Eastern (3 PM Central 1 PM Pacific)
Wed., May 14	<u>CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Forum</u> : Last in a 4-part series on Data Science for the Non-Data Scientist, featuring Finn Kuusisto, PhD (UW-Madison)	Virtual, 1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central 10 AM Pacific)
Thurs., May 15	<u>CAIRIBU K12 Scholar Seminar</u> : Golena Fernandez Moncaleano, MD (K12 KUroEpi Program at University of Michigan)	Virtual, 5:00 PM Eastern (4 PM Central 2 PM Pacific)
Tues., May 20	Webinar: <u>Physician Scientist: Different Paths to Success</u> , organized by the American Urological Association	Virtual, 8:00 PM Eastern (7 PM Central 5 PM Pacific)
Fri, May 23	<u>CAIRIBU Urobiome Research</u>	Virtual, 3:00 PM Eastern



CAIRIBU YouTube Playlists are "channels" that correspond to specific research interests

CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff recently categorized all CAIRIBU YouTube content by specific area within the lower urinary tract (**more than 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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Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI

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**
- Student researcher, **Anna Barrett**
- Student researcher, **Edison Chiu**
- Student researcher, **Isaac Yang**

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 current CAIRIBU Centers and Programs are on the CAIRIBU website [HERE](#)

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.

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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