

CAIRIBU Pre-Meeting for Trainees and ESIs



WEDNESDAY, December 3
Memorial Union, Great Hall

800 Langdon Street
UW-Madison Campus

6th ANNUAL TRAINEE AND EARLY-STAGE INVESTIGATOR PRE-MEETING

2025 CAIRIBU TRAINEE PRE-MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Alexis Adrian (UW-Madison U54 O'Brien Center), Jonathan Ellison, MD (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia P20 Center), Ajinkya Limkar (UW-Madison U54 O'Brien Center), Michael Neugent, PhD (U-RIG), Michael Odom, PhD (Duke University KUR Program), Alexandra Polasko, PhD (Stanford KUR Program), Petra Popovics, PhD (K12 alum, currently co-investigator, Endeavor Health P20 Center), Seth Reasoner (prior Vanderbilt P20 Center), Renee Vickman, PhD (Endeavor Health P20 Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 8:00 AM **Welcome & Ice Breaker** (10 min)
Alexandra Polasko, PhD (Stanford University) and **Alexis Adrian, Graduate Student** (UW-Madison)
- 8:10 AM **Structured Networking** – Led by **Whitney Sweeney, PhD**, UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research: *Guided activity to foster connections across disciplines, institutions, and trainees*
- 8:55AM **Grant Mechanisms: Small Group Discussions with Investigators and Recent Awardees** (35 min)
Breakout conversations on F, K, and R mechanisms: NIDDK Program Officers and prior awardees
- (1) **F mechanisms** – **William Ricke, PhD** (PI, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center) and **Alexis Adrian, graduate student** (UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - (2) **K mechanisms** – **CAIRIBU K12 Leaders** and **Alexandra Polasko, PhD** (K12 Scholar, Stanford University KUR Program)
 - (3) **R mechanisms** – **Kimberly Keil-Stietz, PhD** (project leader, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center), and **Douglas Strand, PhD** (UT Southwestern; project leader, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
- 9:30 AM **Break** (10 min)
- 9:40 AM **Update on NIH Grant Review Guidelines** (10 min)
- 9:50 AM **Mock Grant Review** (60 min)
As a large group, attendees will observe a simulated grant review panel. After the review, panelists will “break character” and move to separate tables for informal, small-group Q&A. Attendees are invited to move freely between tables and to engage with reviewers about the grant review process, reviewers' comments, and decision making. **Grant materials will be shared in advance to support deeper discussion.**
- Reviewer 1: **James Brooks, MD** (PI, Stanford University Urology O'Brien Center, Co-PI, Stanford University KUR Program)
 - Reviewer 2: **Chad Vezina, PhD** (PI, UW-Madison KUR Program; and project leader, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - Reviewer 3: **Zohreh Izadifar, PhD** (Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard University)
 - Reviewer 4: **Johanna Hannan, PhD** (UW-Madison)
- 10:50 AM **Break** (15 min)
- 11:05 AM **Career Exploration Roundtables** (40 min)
Small-group discussions led by established researchers from diverse career paths. Participants will start at one table and have the opportunity to switch to a second table halfway through the session.
- (1) **Academic research** – **William Ricke, PhD** (PI, UW-Madison Urology O'Brien Center)
 - (2) **Clinical research** – **Chuck Scales, MD, MSHS** (Duke University)
 - (3) **Industry research** – **Hannah Miles, PhD** (PPD | Thermo Fisher Scientific)
- 11:45 AM **Conclusions and Evaluations**

*** A BUFFET LUNCH IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BEFORE CAIRIBU MEETING BEGINS ***