



2025-2026 CAIRIBU ARCTICS Community Virtual Forums

*Advancing the Research Capacity of Trainees and
Investigators at early-Career Stages*



September 2025 to May 2026, 2nd Wednesdays of each month; 1:00 PM Eastern (12 PM Central | 10 AM Pacific)

DATE	FORUM TOPIC	BRIEF SYNOPSIS	WHO
Sept. 10, 2025	Navigating Industry Funding for Urologic Research	- Objective: Understand the landscape of industry funding in urology and learn how to identify, approach, and collaborate with industry partners. - Format: Panel discussion with investigators who have secured industry funding and a representative from industry.	Margot Damaser, PhD (Cleveland Clinic); Kyle Wood, MD (University of Alabama at Birmingham); and Lisette Gutierrez, MD (Novo Nordisk)
Oct. 8, 2025	Strategies for Securing Foundation Funding	- Objective: Learn practical strategies for securing research funding from private foundations, including how to align your proposal with foundation priorities. - Format: Panel discussion featuring investigators who have secured foundation funding, and foundation representatives	Tanecia Mitchell, PhD (Univ Alabama Birmingham); Nicole De Nisco, PhD (UT Dallas); Indira Mysorekar, PhD (Baylor); Nicole Gilbert, PhD (Washington University); Johanny Kugelman-Tonos, PhD (AUA); Kim Hollander (OHF); and Zohreh Izadifar, PhD (Boston Children's)
Nov. 12, 2025	Engaging Patient-Driven Funding Sources	- Objective: Explore how to secure philanthropic research support through grateful patient programs and partnerships with institutional philanthropy offices. - Format: Panel discussion featuring investigators who have secured funding through grateful patient programs and representatives from an academic medical center's philanthropy office and a private foundation.	Ray Wezik, Esq (AUA); James Brooks, MD (Stanford); Lisa Karstens, PhD (Oregon Health & Sciences), and Hilary Furlong (Stanford)
Dec. 10, 2025	What Would You Do? Leading Through Lab Challenges	- Objective: Learn how to navigate the complexities of research team leadership by examining real scenarios involving lab dynamics, mentorship, and conflict. - Format: Case studies and panel discussion	Indira Mysorekar, PhD (Baylor); Nathan Tykocki, PhD (Michigan State)
Jan. 14, 2026	Preprints in Urology Research: To Use or Not to Use	- Objective: Demystify open science principles, address different journals' guidelines and requirements, and provide practical guidance on preprints - Format: Speakers provide details and address both sides	Nicole De Nisco, PhD (UT Dallas); Simon Hayward, PhD (Endeavor Health System)
Feb. 11, 2026	Grant Writing Tips, Traps, and Evolving Expectations - From the Reviewer's Perspective	- Objective: Learn how to effectively communicate your science by avoiding common missteps, responding to evolving review criteria, and identifying funding opportunities beyond a single institute. - Format: An expert reviewer shares tips, pet peeves, and strategies to make your proposal stand out	Aruna Sarma, PhD (Univ Michigan)
Mar. 11, 2026	Writing Specific Aims Statements	- Objective: Learn how to harness grant reviewers' feedback to refine and enhance your grant proposal for successful funding. - Format: Expert talks followed by Q&A	Chad Vezina, PhD (UW-Madison); Gregory Tasian, MD (CHOP)

Apr. 8, 2026	Interviewing for Research Positions	• Objective: Prepare for job interviews in research – whether in academia, industry, private foundation, or non-profit – by understanding different interview formats, common questions, and how to effectively frame your research vision. • Format: Panel discussion and mock interview scenarios	Michael Odom, PhD (Duke); Marvin Langston, PhD (Stanford); Petra Popovics, PhD (Virginia Health Sciences)
May 13, 2026	Transitioning from Graduate School to Postdoc – What I Wish I Knew	• Objective: Provide advice from recent postdocs on choosing a lab, setting expectations, and preparing for the next step after grad school. • Format: Roundtable with current postdocs	Acacia White, PhD (UW-Madison); Teresa Liu, PhD (UW-Madison); Michael Neugent, PhD (University of Rochester); Sonia Fargue, MD, PhD (Univ Alabama Birmingham)