



BPH RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

*Connecting BPH clinicians, investigators, and
trainees to advance science and clinical care*



CAIRIBU BPH RIG KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE – DISCUSSION: 6/10/2026

PARTICIPANTS: Alex Polasko, PhD (Stanford University), Blas Garcia-Canga (University of Michigan), Dan Gralnek, MD (UW-Madison), Han Eckenrode, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Haotian Xie (University of Michigan), Smita De, MD, PhD (Cleveland Clinic Foundation), Jacqueline Perelman (University of Michigan), Jashkaran Gadhvi, PhD (UT Southwestern), Jim Brooks, MD (Stanford University), Jon Pollack, MD, PhD (Stanford University), Karl Tan, MD (Veterans Memorial Medical Center, Philippines), Petra Popovics, PhD (Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University), Scott Bauer, MD, MS (UC San Francisco), Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD (University of Alabama at Birmingham), Matthew Lee, MD (The Ohio State University), Wilson Sui, MD (University of Michigan), Manisha Tripathi, PhD (Texas Tech University), and CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff

QUICK RECAP

Dr. Penniston gave an overview of the CAIRIBU Community and its formation of Research Interest Groups. Among the unsolved questions surrounding BPH, some have been unsolved for 20+ years. The CAIRIBU Interactions Core provides logistical support to investigators to help them foster collaborations and advance research to address these unsolved questions. Attendees introduced themselves and their general research approaches, research interests, and specialized areas of expertise to a CAIRIBU BPH Investigator Directory (in development).

Among the attendees were clinicians and basic scientists with varied research interests:

- (Sex) hormones
- Lipid accumulation
- Inflammation
- Patient-derived organoids
- Single cell spatial analyses
- Tissue properties
- Early signals in BPH
- Bladder segmentation
- Patient-derived xenograft models and computational approaches
- Image-based biomarkers,
- Single cell RNA sequencing

Collaborative approaches used include:

Basic science | Collaborative “big data” | Clinical trials

Investigators participated in a BPH “visioning” exercise to map out shared resources to accomplish desired goals and overall outcomes for BPH research. A copy of the visioning exercise is shown (next page).

Key Themes

Assets/Strengths (“Roots”)	Actions (“Branches”)	Outcomes (“Clouds”)
<u>Expertise</u> • Clinical trials • Organoid development • RNAseq <u>Infrastructure & resources</u> • Mouse models • Tissue/biobank samples • Protocols • Clinical data	<u>Advancing trainees and ESIs</u> • Bring in junior faculty • Collaborative training grants <u>Resource sharing</u> • Share models (mouse, organoid) • Share protocols (IRBs, MTAs) <u>Translational and clinical application</u> • Phenotyping • Whitepaper • Multicenter trials	<u>Getting BPH research on funders’ radars</u> • Submitted grants • Funding

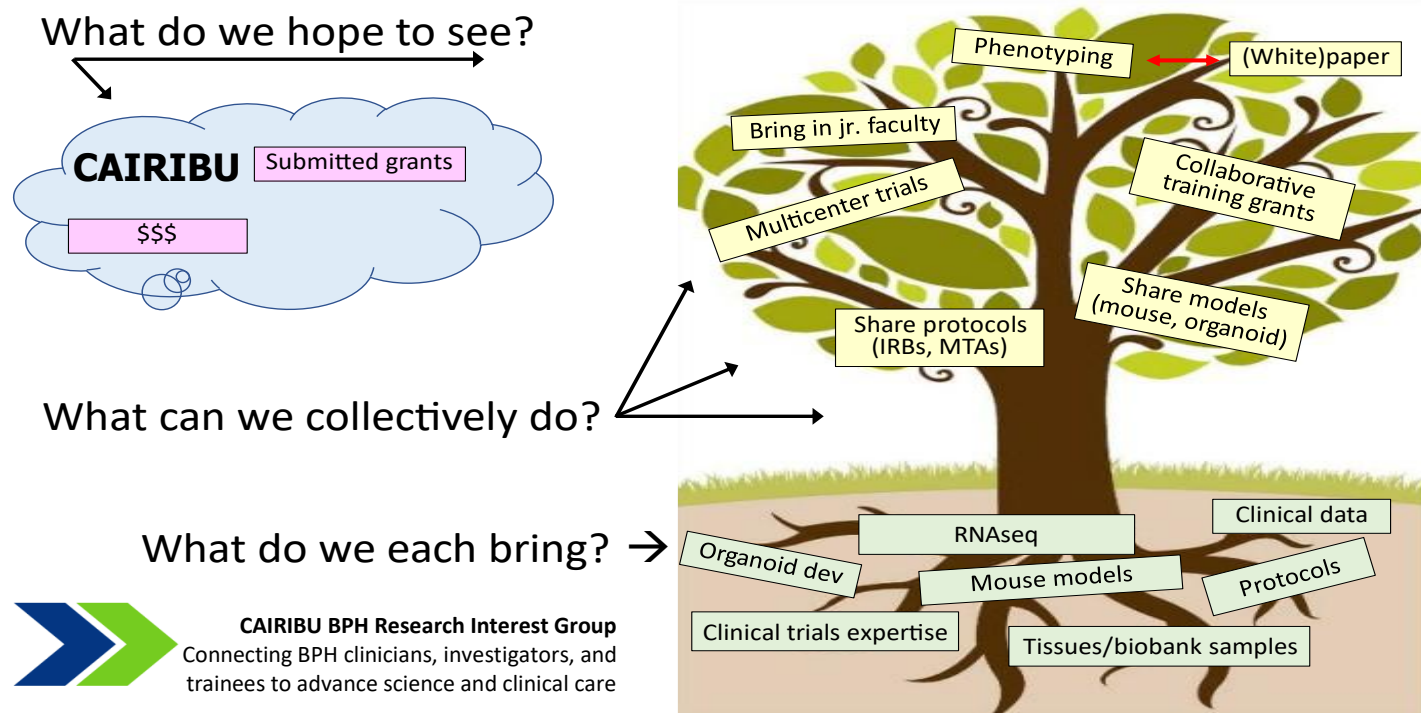
NEXT STEPS

BPH Investigators: Continue to add researcher information to the [BPH Investigator Directory](#)

CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff will:

1. Organize the July BPH RIG Knowledge Exchange
2. Disseminate the BPH Investigator Directory to gather more researcher information

Below are results of the CAIRIBU BPH RIG visioning exercise showing tools and expertise at the root, actionable goals to advance BPH research (branches and leaves), and desired outcomes (cloud).



GOOGLE SHEET RESULTS. Top responses to the CAIRIBU BPH RIG investigator directory (as of July 8, 2026). For the first 2 columns, those with ≤ 2 responses are not included; for the third column, those with ≤ 3 responses are not included. Maximum number of responses, $n=21$.

General Research Approach	Count	Expertise & Shareable Resources	Count	Research Interest	Count
Basic science	70%	In vivo/ex vivo models	60%	Inflammation	81%
Translational science	70%	Histology/Immunohistochemistry	45%	Imaging	76%
Big data	60%	Imaging	45%	Fibrosis, fibroblasts	67%
Industry collaboration, partnerships	55%	Therapeutics (non-surgical)	45%	Aging, molecular mechanisms	57%
Clinical science	45%	Methods development	40%	Glandular nodules	52%
Health sciences	40%	Flow cytometry, cell sorting	35%	Drug development	52%
Public policy, public health	20%	Transcriptomics	35%	Biomarker discovery	52%
Dissemination & implementation	15%	IRB protocol design	30%	Immune system	52%
Epidemiology	15%	Omics	30%	Single cell spatial analysis	52%
Quality improvement	15%	Sharable biobanked materials?	30%	Stromal-epithelial intxns	52%
		Diagnostics	25%	Organoids, organ-on-a-chip	48%
		Geroscience, aging	25%	Epithelial cytokines	43%
		Rodents as animal models	25%	Sex and other hormones	38%
		Therapeutics (surgical)	25%	Pt-reported outcomes	24%
		Bioinformatics	20%	Peri-surgical interventions	24%
		Sharable research resources?	20%	Histology, tissue microarray	24%
		Clinical trial design	20%	Bladder	19%
		Microbiology, microbiome	15%	Surgical navigation	19%
		Pharmacology	15%	PDX model of BPH	19%
		Risk stratification	15%	Tissue properties	19%