



UROBIOME RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP

*Connecting urobiome-interested investigators
and trainees to advance urobiome science*



CAIRIBU Urobiome RIG (U-RIG) STRATEGIC DISCUSSION: 9/25/2026

PARTICIPANTS: Lenny Ackerman, MD, PhD (UC Los Angeles), Emily Coffey, DVM (University of Minnesota), Audra Crouch, PhD (Ohio State University), Nicole De Nisco, PhD (UT Dallas), Jashkaran Gadhvi, PhD (UT Southwestern), Nicole Gilbert, PhD (Washington University in St. Louis), Silvia Grant, PhD (Duke University), Keisha Harrison, PhD (Oregon Health and Science University), Zohreh Izadifar, PhD (Boston Children's Hospital), Lisa Karstens, PhD (Oregon Health and Science University), Juliette Kudrick (Oregon Health and Science University), Aaron Miller, PhD (Cleveland Clinic), Michael Neugent, PhD (University of Rochester), Kris Penniston, PhD (UW-Madison, CAIRIBU Interactions Core), Alex Polasko, PhD (Stanford University), Arnold Salazar, PhD (Penn State University), Dasvit Shetty, PhD (Boston Children's Hospital), Nazema Siddiqui, MD, MHSc (Duke University), Anna Villiger, MD (Loyola University Chicago), and Alan Wolfe, PhD (Loyola University Chicago), and CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff

OUTCOMES OF THE CAIRIBU U-RIG SUMMER MEETING

Overview

Concurrent breakout sessions centered on three areas: (1) trainee writing, (2) research barriers, and (3) clinical outreach. **Because undergraduate, graduate, and medical/veterinary students had a strong presence at the meeting, the most attended breakout session was the training writing session.** Overwhelmingly, attendees of all career stages agreed that the meeting advanced the goals of the CAIRIBU U-RIG and that the specific breakout groups they attended made progress toward intended goals. **The majority of attendees anticipated continuing a collaboration from the meeting.** Keynote lectures were identified as the most valuable aspect of the meeting by a majority of attendees. Participants consistently mentioned the Summer Meeting's smaller scale, collaborative emphasis, and dedicated networking time as key differentiators from traditional scientific meetings. Feedback generally supported the current format, while suggesting opportunities to add networking, scientific discussion, and structured trainee-focused sessions.

Discussion

Progress since the meeting. The clinical outreach group is considering if a new patient-education publication would add value given existing UTI-related work and papers that are underway. There is a need to reach younger audiences, and trainees can participate in this effort. The research barriers group split up to address host models, microbial models, and organ-specific microbiomes and are writing review papers.

Suggestions for future meetings. Increased networking and informal interaction opportunities were desired. The trainee writing session could have more structure.

Dr. Siddiqui suggested aligning the annual Duke KURE Symposium (typically held in April) with CAIRIBU research interest groups on a rotating basis. Specifically, combining the U-RIG meeting with the Duke KURE Symposium could allow for an extended meeting, higher attendance, and a more efficient use of resources. **Dr. Wolfe** supported integrating the current breakout format with a broader meeting that includes more talks, posters, clinicians, and sponsors. Having more poster sessions was suggested by **Dr. De Nisco** as well, as judging all posters in one session was challenging.

Another area to platform urobiome research is the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting in December. **Dr. Penniston** described weaving urobiome content in translational, pelvic pain, neuro-urology, kidney, and ureter sessions.

NEXT STEPS

- **Urobiome RIG investigators** should 1) **encourage trainees and ESIs to submit abstracts to the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting** and 2) **send ideas to Dr. Penniston for urobiome speakers at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting**
- **Dr. Siddiqui will reach out to Dr. Brubaker** to ask whether JAMA sees a role for a 1-2 page patient education piece on the urobiome
- **CAIRIBU Interactions Core will confer with Duke KURE Symposium organizers** regarding a meeting date to avoid scheduling conflicts
- **CAIRIBU Interactions Core and Dr. Neugent will develop an agenda for the U-RIG session** at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting