COLLABORATING FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN BENIGN UROLOGY

Advancing science to reduce the burden of non-cancerous urologic disease

9th ANNUAL CAIRIBU MEETING

2026 ANNUAL CAIRIBU MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE: Alexis Adrian (postdoc, prior UW-Madison U54 Center), Cindy Amundsen (Duke KURe), Jonathan Ellison (Med College of Wisconsin), Jennifer Hammel (Duke K12 Scholar), Jim Hokanson (Med College of Wisconsin, K12 Scholar Alum), Thaissa Horne (post-bac researcher, Virginia Health Sci at Old Dominion P20 Center), Alison Huang (UCSF KUroEpi), Giulia Ippolito (Univ Michigan K12 Scholar Alum), Zohreh Izadifar (Boston Children's), Ashley Jackson (Nationwide Children's), Muthuvel Jayachandran (Mayo Clinic P20 Center), Mike Neugent (Univ Rochester), Laura Pascal (Univ Pittsburgh prior U54 Center), Jon Pollack (Stanford Univ U54 Center), Kim Stietz (prior UW-Madison U54 Center), Nick Steers (Columbia Univ U54 Center), Whitney Sweeney (UW-Madison CAIRIBU Interactions Core co-investigator), Nathan Tykocki (Michigan State, prior P20 Center)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Memorial Union, Great Hall (800 Langdon Street, 4th floor)

10:00 AM to 12:30 PM **BADGE PICK UP:** Pick up your name badge and other meeting materials at the welcome table

11:45 to 12:30 PM **BUFFET LUNCH AVAILABLE**

12:30 PM **WELCOME:** Kristina Penniston, PhD, Distinguished Scientist, UW-Madison; PI, CAIRIBU Interactions Core

12:40 PM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Ron Korstanje, PhD, The Jackson Laboratory, Professor, Evnin Family Chair

- Not all mice age alike: genetic diversity, sex, and resources for urology

1:20 PM **SESSION 1: PELVIC PAIN, INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS/BLADDER PAIN SYNDROME (IC/BPS), AND NEURO-URO**

Moderators: Tamryn Jordan, graduate student & **Kim Keil Stietz, PhD** (both at University of Wisconsin-Madison)

1. **Lindsey Burnett, MD, PhD** – University of California San Diego, Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences *(CAIRIBU Collaboration Award recipient, 2026)*
   - Beyond the urobiome: the urinary metabolome as a window into bladder health
2. **Lenny Ackerman, MD, PhD** – University of California Los Angeles, Associate Professor of Urology *(CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group)*
   - Fungus among us: the urinary mycobiome in IC/BPS
3. **Cody Wenthur, PharmD, PhD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor, School of Pharmacy *(collaborator, prior U54 Urology O'Brien Center, UW-Madison)*
   - Identifying metabolic and mechanistic contributors to ketamine-induced cystitis
4. **Jonathan Barasch, MD, PhD** – Columbia University *(Co-PI, Columbia University U54 Urology O'Brien Center)*
   - An anti-inflammatory in cystitis Initial work in interstitial cystitis
5. **Hannah Ruetten, DVM, PhD** – Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
   - Early, typical, and late onset IC/BPS: does age at diagnosis influence patient symptomology and disease phenotypes?
6. **Byron Hayes, PhD,** Medical College of Wisconsin, Postdoctoral Associate *(prior K12 Scholar, Duke University KURe Program)*
   - A novel intranasal-based murine model of IC/BPS
7. **LaTasha Crawford, VMD, PhD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, Assistant Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine *(prior K12 Scholar, UW-Madison KURe Program)*
   - Title TBD

3:15 PM **PANEL: Clinician-Prioritized Research Agenda for Pediatric Urology: Process, Findings, and Outcomes**

Moderator: Aruna Sarma, PhD, MHA (University of Michigan)

- **Vinaya Bhatia, MD –** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Urology *(K12 Scholar, UW-Madison KURe Program)*
- **Lauren Corona, MD –** Vanderbilt University, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Urology
- **Jonathan Ellison, MD –** Medical College of Wisconsin & Wisconsin Children's Hospital, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Urology *(Co-Investigator, CAIRIBU Urology P20 FORWARD Center)*

3:45 PM **BREAK** (15 min) – **Refreshments available**

4:00 PM **SESSION 2: BLADDER, URETHRA, AND UROTHELIUM**

Moderators: Anne-Catrin Uhlemann, MD, PhD (Columbia University) & **Monica Ridlon, PhD** (Michigan State University)

1. **Kathleen Kan, MD** – Stanford University, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Urology *(prior K12 Scholar, Stanford University KURe Program)*
   - Building a community-engaged approach to improving pediatric lower urinary tract symptoms
2. **Rachel Wattier, MD, MHS** – University of California San Francisco, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics *(prior K12 Scholar, UCSF KUroEpi Program)*
   - Urinary tract infection diagnostic challenges among older children and adolescents in routine practice settings
3. **Lisa Karstens, PhD** – Oregon Health & Science University, Associate Professor, Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology *(leader, CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group)*
   - The bladder is not the gut: development and use of bioinformatic methods optimized to investigate the low biomass bladder microbiome
4. **Nazema Siddiqui, MD, MHSc** – Duke University, Associate Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology *(prior K12 Scholar, Duke University KURe Program; CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group)*
   - Title TBD
5. **Katherine Xu, PhD** – Columbia University, Associate Research Scientist, Department of Systems Biology
   - Risk alleles in human urinary tract infection
6. **Cathy Mendelsohn, PhD** – Columbia University, Professor of Urological Sciences & Pathology & Cell Biology and Genetics & Development *(Co-PI, Columbia University U54 Urology O'Brien Center)*
   - Nuclear receptors control the urothelial differentiation program

5:45 PM **POSTER SESSION 1** (with cash bar reception until 7:30 PM)

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7:15 PM **AWARDS**

7:30 PM **GROUP BUFFET DINNER @ Memorial Union**

CAIRIBU ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:15 AM **BREAKFAST** (available until 8:30 AM)

** CONCURRENT **Pelvic Floor Exercises** with Lori, 7:15-7:45 AM

8:00 AM **CAIRIBU INTERACTIONS CORE**, **Kris Penniston, PhD**, PI, CAIRIBU Interactions Core

8:15 AM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Alexis Bakos, PhD, MPH, RN**, National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging
- ***The intersection of aging, urology, palliative care, and symptom science***

8:50 AM **SESSION 3: BENIGN PROSTATE AND LOWER URINARY TRACT SYMPTOMS**

Moderators: Renee Vickman, PhD (Endeavor Health) & **Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD** (University of Alabama Birmingham)

1. **Scott Bauer, MD, MS** – University of California San Francisco, Associate Professor Medicine and Urology *(prior K12 Scholar, USCF KUroEpi Program; leader of the CAIRIBU Uro-Aging Research Interest Group)*
   - The future of BPH research: lessons learned from the AUA guidelines and PROUD trial
2. **Alexandra Polasko, PhD** – Stanford University, Instructor *(prior K12 Scholar, Stanford University KURe Program)*
   - IGF-1R blockade reduces prostatic growth in spheroid and patient-derived xenograft models of BPH
3. **William Ricke, PhD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, Professor, Department of Urology *(PI, prior U54 Urology O'Brien Center, UW-Madison)*
   - New cellular and molecular pathways in the development of LUTS/BPH: what are the next therapeutic targets?
4. **Leonard MacGillivray, PhD** – University of Iowa, Adjunct Professor *(collaborator, prior U54 Urology O'Brien Center, UW-Madison)*
   - Novel therapeutic developments for the treatment of LUTS/BPH and other urologic diseases
5. **Thaissa Horne, graduate student** – Virgina Health Sciences at Old Dominion University *(mentor, Petra Popovics, PhD; Co-I, Endeavor Health Urology P20 Center)*
   - Modeling urinary function
6. **Tara Spencer, graduate student** – Purdue University *(mentor, Nadia Lanman, PhD; Co-I, Endeavor Health Urology P20 Center)*
   - Bioinformatics of mouse model and human data sets

10:30 AM **BIO BREAK** (20 min) – **Grab & go refreshments available**

10:50 AM **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION 1: *Urological implications of aging**

(1) Aging prostate – Led by ***Jonathan Pollack, MD, PhD***

(2) Aging bladder – Led by ***Marsha Guess, MD, MS***

(3) Aging workforce – Led by ***Indira Mysorekar, PhD & Jim Brooks, MD***

(4) Aging patients (implications for surgery, outcomes, access, disparities, etc.) – Led by ***Giulia Ippolito, MD, MS***

(5) Aging population (implications for public health) – Led by ***Aruna Sarma, PhD, MHA***

***For goals and discussion questions within these groups, see page 12**

12:00 PM **GROUP LUNCH** (45 min)

12:45 PM **CAIRIBU COLLABORATION AWARDS 2026 – Introductions, 5 min synopses of proposed research**

1. **Nicole Gilbert, PhD** – Washington University
2. **Zohreh Izadifar, PhD** – Boston Children's Hospital/ Harvard University
3. **Alexis Dieter, MD** - MedStar Health Research Institute/ Georgetown University

1:00 PM **SESSION 4: KIDNEYS, URETERS, OBSTRUCTION, AND UROTHELIAL ADAPTAION AND REGENERATION**

Moderators: William Spanier, graduate student (University of Alabama Birmingham) & **Jim Brooks, MD** (Stanford University)

1. **Jonathan Ellison, MD** – Medical College of Wisconsin & Wisconsin Children's Hospital, Assistant Professor of Pediatric Urology *(Co-Investigator, CAIRIBU Urology P20 FORWARD Center)*
   - No stone unturned: leveraging clinical trial data for further investigation
2. **Grant West, PhD** – Duke University, Postdoctoral Research Scholar *(K12 Scholar, Duke Univ KURe Program)*
   - Modeling shock-wave propagation and fracture nucleation in BegoStone
3. **Aaron Miller, PhD** – Cleveland Clinic, Director of the Urology Translational Research Laboratory and faculty in the Microbiome Center for Human Health *(CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group)*
   - Biofilms in urologic disease: mechanisms of dysfunction and strategies for prevention
4. **John Lieske, MD** – Mayo Clinic Rochester, Professor of Nephrology *(PI, CAIRIBU Urology P20 FORWARD Center)*
   - GeoMx spatial multiomic analysis of the renal cortex and medulla in nephrectomy specimens from stone formers and non–stone formers
5. **Ashley Jackson, PhD** – Ohio State University and Nationwide Children's Hospital, Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
   - The pressure is on: urothelial adaptations to urinary tract obstruction
6. **Chriss Chin, PhD** – Stanford University, Postdoctoral Fellow *(mentor: Jessie Ge, MD; prior K12 Scholar, Stanford University KURe Program)*
   - Chitosan-mediated urothelial exfoliation and regeneration

2:40 PM **REPORTS – Concurrent Breakout Session 1** (brief synopses from reporters of each group)

3:05 PM **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

** CONCURRENT **Yoga Refresher** with Whitney (a "do it where you are" opportunity during the break)

3:10 PM **BIO BREAK** (20 min) – **Grab & Go refreshments available**

3:30 PM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**: ***Nicholas Steers, PhD***, Columbia University, Assistant Professor of Medical Sciences
- Immunological aspects of the lower urinary tract

4:00 PM **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION 2: *Research interest groups (RIGs) and special topics***

(1) Uro-Immunology RIG – Led by ***Nick Steers, PhD, Indira Mysorekar, PhD, & Nicole Gilbert, PhD***
(2) Kidney Stone RIG – Led by TBD
(3) BPH RIG – Led by ***Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD & Renee Vickman, PhD***
(4) AI for research productivity – Led by ***Michael Neugent, PhD***
(5) Urology trivia – Led by ***Johanna Hannan, PhD***

5:00 PM **SESSION 5: BEST ABSTRACTS**

Moderator: Donald DeFranco, PhD (University of Pittsburgh)

1. **TBD**
   - Title……
2. **TBD**
   - *Title*……
3. **TBD**
   - *Title*……

5:30 PM **CAIRIBU COLLABORATION AWARDS 2026 – Introductions, 5 min synopses of proposed research**

1. **Lindsey Burnett, MD, PhD** – University of California San Diego
2. **Nicholas Steers, PhD** – Columbia University
3. **Dudley Lamming, PhD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison

5:45 PM **POSTER SESSION 2** (with cash bar reception until 7:30 PM)

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79.	100.	

7:30 PM **SMALL GROUP DINNERS ON YOUR OWN**

Following the poster session and reception, **we encourage small groups to get together to go to local restaurants**. A list of local establishments for which reservations are made is at the CAIRIBU Interactions Core table. THERE ARE VOLUNTEER HOSTS FOR EACH GROUP. Sign up at the CAIRIBU Interactions Core table by 2:00 PM Thursday.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:15 AM **BREAKFAST** (available until 8:30 AM)

8:00 AM **CAIRIBU COMMUNITY UPDATE**
Kris Penniston, PhD, PI, CAIRIBU Interactions Core and **Chris Mullins, PhD**, Project Scientist, NIH-NIDDK

8:15 AM **REPORTS – Concurrent Breakout Session 2** (brief synopses from reporters of each group)

8:40 AM **Leadership in the CAIRIBU Community and Beyond,** **Whitney Sweeney, PhD**, Co-Investigator, CAIRIBU Interactions Core; Scientist, UW-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research

8:50 AM **PANEL: Putting Research Into Clinical Practice**

Moderator: Giulia Ippolito, MD, MS (University of Michigan)

- **Alison Huang, MD, MPhil, MAS –** UC San Francisco, Professor of Medicine, Urology, and Epidemiology & Biostatistics *(PI, UCSF KUroEpi Program)*
- **Adam Konopka, PhD –** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Geriatrics and Gerontology
- **Emily Coffey, DVM, PhD –** University of Minnesota, Assistant Professor of Small Animal Medicine *(CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group)*

9:30 AM **CONCURRENT BREAKOUT SESSION 3: *Research interest groups (RIGs) and special topics***

(1) Uro-Aging RIG – Led by ***Alexis Adrian, PhD & Indira Mysorekar, PhD***

(2) Urobiome & Infection RIG– Led by ***Lisa Karstens, PhD and Michael Neugent, PhD***

(3) Approaches to efficient data collection (including across sites) – Led by ***Jim Hokanson, PhD & LaTasha Crawford, VMD, PhD***

(4) Leadership and leadership development within the CAIRIBU Community – Led by ***Whitney Sweeney, PhD***

(5) How to use the Strand Lab's interactive cellular atlases online – Led by ***Doug Strand, PhD***

10:30 AM **BIO BREAK** (30 min) – **Refreshments available**

11:00 AM **AWARDS**

11:15 AM **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** **W. Stuart Reynolds, PhD**, National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive Health and Kidney Diseases

- Women's urologic health: past, present, and future

11:50 AM **SESSION 6: SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE ISSUES IN UROLOGY**

Moderators: Chad Vezina, PhD (University of Wisconsin-Madison) & **Marlene Masino, graduate student** (Michigan State University)

1. **Kristin Ebert, MD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, Associate Professor and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Urology, Department of Urology
   - Redefining successful transition: integrating sexual and peproductive health into transitional urology
2. **Alexis Dieter, MD** – MedStar Health Research Institute, Director of Research, Section of Urogynecology & Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery; Georgetown University School of Medicine, Associate Professor of OBGYN and Urology *(CAIRIBU Collaboration Award recipient, 2026)*
   - Emerging therapies for female sexual dysfunction: lessons from a randomized trial of platelet-rich plasma
3. **Natasha Wilkins, PhD**, - Duke University, Postdoctoral Researcher *(K12 Scholar, Duke University KURe Program)*
   - Epidural stimulation for ejaculation after spinal cord injury; rodent models and beyond
4. **Johanna Hannan, PhD** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, Associate Professor, Department of Urology
   - Energizing the field: new insights into diabetic erectile and mitochondrial dysfunction

1:00 PM **REPORTS – Concurrent Breakout Session 3** (brief synopses from reporters of each group)

1:20 PM **CONCLUDING REMARKS**
Kris Penniston, PhD, PI, CAIRIBU Interactions Core, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1:30 PM **ADJOURN - **** FOR THOSE WHO CAN STICK AROUND: Join **Edison Chiu** for the **CAIRIBU Mobile App Showcase**

2:00 PM **POST-MEETING BONUS CONTENT – Led by Lisa Karstens, PhD, Certified Carpentries Instructor**

Practical Skill Building for Reproducible Research with R and Github

Description: Hands-on training; participants will actively learn and practice techniques related to reproducible research, i.e., creating analyses that can be recreated using the same data, code, and methods.

This workshop will cover: (1) Basics of using RStudio for analysis and documentation; (2) version control with Git and GitHub; (3) best practices for reproducible research; and (4) data organization.

Learners will: (1) Write reproducible analysis using RMarkdown rather than relying on manual spreadsheet operations; (2) use Git and Github to track changes to code and to manuscripts; (3) organize research data more effectively; (4) share data and methods in ways that support transparency and collaobration; and (5) improve compliance with funder and journal expectations.

(Concludes at 4:00 PM)