



BPH RESEARCH INTEREST GROUP LEADERS MEETINGS



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

Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders' Meeting – Fri., 10/16/2026

Participants: Renee Vickman, PhD, Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD

Discussion centered on a **plan for inviting other CAIRIBU Research Interest Group (RIG) leaders to the BPH RIG November strategic discussion, developing a summary paper, and presenting the outline at the BPH breakout session at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting.**

NOVEMBER STRATEGIC DISCUSSION. To date, none of the leaders of the Urobiome RIG (Nicole De Nisco, PhD and Lisa Karstens, PhD) and Uro-Aging RIG (Scott Bauer, MD, MS, Indira Mysorekar, PhD, and Alexis Adrian, PhD) are confirmed to attend the November strategic discussion. Dr. Bauer declined, and the remaining leaders did not respond. **Dr. Popovics offered to personally email Drs. De Nisco, Mysorekar, and Adrian.** Dr. Penniston offered to reach out to Nicholas Steers, PhD, who will soon launch the Uro-Immunology RIG.

SUMMARY PAPER. Inspired by the October Knowledge Exchange presentation and discussion on heterogeneity in BPH, the leaders considered drafting a statement or call to action on the current needs in the field of BPH research. This statement could be independent of Dr. Brooks' publication (mentioned at the October Knowledge Exchange). **Dr. Vickman proposed writing a summary paper based on the series of Knowledge Exchanges and consulting with original speakers about author preferences.** BPH RIG leaders could draw on executive summaries written by the CAIRIBU Interactions Core as a basis for creating a statement to present at the CAIRIBU meeting.

The conceptual outline would cover the current state of the field and needed advances. Dr. Vickman suggested consulting the existing BPH investigator directory to guide discussion based on established interests and areas of expertise. As the BPH breakout session at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting is an excellent forum to solicit community input, the goal is to have an outline drafted by then. The BPH breakout session at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting may also be used to discuss the timing of 2027 BPH RIG Knowledge Exchanges, which will likely primarily center the scientists' availability. **Dr. Vickman will take the lead on organizing an outline and sending it out by October 26-27.** Different sections will be written by different BPH RIG leaders, with Dr. Popovics drafting the heterogeneity section and Dr. Taguchi drafting the clinical/surgical section.

The CAIRIBU IC will post previous executive summaries and Knowledge Exchange recordings on the CAIRIBU Connect for the BPH leaders to refer to. The leaders will use email to exchange drafts, as Dr. Vickman's institution restricts cloud-based file sharing platforms (Google Drive, Dropbox, etc).

Action Items:

1. Dr. Popovics will invite Drs. De Nisco, Mysorekar, and Adrian to the November Strategic Discussion.
2. **CAIRIBU IC will post compendium of executive summaries and recordings from prior Knowledge Exchanges onto the CAIRIBU Connect.**
3. Dr. Vickman will begin drafting an outline and send it to the BPH RIG leadership team by Oct 26-27.

CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders' Meeting – Fri., 9/18/2026

Participants: Renee Vickman, PhD, Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD, Edison Chiu (CAIRIBU Interactions Core)

Discussion centered on **how to refine the CAIRIBU app, strategies for maximizing attendance at the October Knowledge Exchange, ensuring ample representation of the CAIRIBU BPH RIG at the 2027 SoBPD meeting, and a plan for inviting other RIG leaders to the November BPH RIG strategic discussion.**

CAIRIBU APP. Edison Chiu, developer of the CAIRIBU app, showcased new features including tagging users in discussions with the "@" symbol, in-app notifications, and shareable links for specific discussion threads. He clarified that Android app is still in development. He reported that the web app and phone app are the same platform housed on

different mediums and that the two should sync. Proposed app updates include: (1) option to enable email notifications, and (2) dictation for typing discussion posts. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will encourage investigators to participate in discussion threads on the app. One possible avenue for generating traffic on discussion threads is to ask researchers to post questions, comments, and links to papers on the app in lieu of the Zoom chat during Knowledge Exchanges. This option would exist alongside the option to unmute to ask questions on Zoom. **Leaders suggested to post summaries of discussion onto the app immediately following Knowledge Exchanges to stimulate conversation.**

OCTOBER BPH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE. BPH RIG leaders should leverage their personal contacts to boost attendance at the upcoming Knowledge Exchange featuring Dr. Jim Brooks. **Dr. Vickman**, who will introduce Dr. Brooks, will reach out to him to review presentation time-limits, etc. **Dr. Popovics** will moderate Q+A.

2027 SOBPD MEETING. It is currently unclear if and when the SoBPD will accept abstract and poster submissions. When information is available, the CAIRIBU BPH RIG should make every effort to be represented. **Dr. Penniston** recommended **Dr. Kazumi** submit abstracts; **Dr. Popovics**, who is presenting, should bring her trainees. The CAIRIBU Interactions Core may be able to offer [CAIRIBU Conference & Data Dissemination Grants](#). **Dr. Penniston** offered to email **Dr. Quarrier** to ask if he can represent the CAIRIBU BPH RIG. **CAIRIBU BPH RIG leaders should personally reach out to SoBPD meeting organizers – Drs. Smita De and Matthew Lee – to ask them to share information about the SoBPD’s meeting at the October Knowledge Exchange.** If possible, **Dr. Popovics** should circulate the SoBPD program to the BPH RIG leaders for them to get a sense of the meeting’s focus on curate their abstracts/posters accordingly.

STRATEGIC PLANNING. There was consensus that, given misalignment in scientist and clinician schedules, Knowledge Exchanges should focus on scientists. **Joint meetings with scientists and clinicians can occur less frequently, such as every three months.** Such joint meetings will require intentional planning. **The November Strategic Discussion will provide space to talk about strategy for 2027 and the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting.** Inviting other RIG leaders to give a 15 minute presentation on what they’ve learned in growing their groups and how they’ve organized their CAIRIBU breakout sessions can help the CAIRIBU BPH RIG develop its own roadmap and topics and issues to be discussed during the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting. CAIRIBU BPH RIG leaders need to lead the Strategic Discussion and drive dialogue on how the group should operate in 2027. Given that the November Strategic Discussion occurs the night before SBUR, there may be lower turnout, but those who do attend would likely be the most engaged and committed RIG participants.

Action Items:

4. Dr. Vickman will touch base with Dr. Brooks regarding his presentation at the October Knowledge Exchange and whether he plans to present alongside a colleague.
5. **BPH RIG leaders will continue personally inviting networks to attend upcoming knowledge exchanges.**
6. **Dr. Taguchi will invite the SoBPD meeting organizers who will be offered time at the October Knowledge Exchange to share about the meeting.**
7. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will refine the CAIRIBU app to offer email notifications and speech to text.
8. **BPH RIG leaders will review the SoBPD meeting program to promote poster and abstract submissions and attendance overall.**
9. Unless the leaders object, the CAIRIBU Interactions Core will set up a recurring monthly BPH RIG planning meeting for the third Friday mornings.
10. **CAIRIBU Interactions Core will invite the leaders of other CAIRIBU RIGs to speak at the November Strategic Discussion.**
11. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will share the summary of the 2025 CAIRIBU Annual Meeting prostate breakout session to inform planning for the 2026 prostate breakout session.

CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders’ Meeting – Fri., 8/21/2026

Participants: Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD, Scott Quarrier, MD, MPH

Discussion centered on online tools for planning and coordinating BPH RIG interactions, namely the CAIRIBU Connect intranet and the web app discussion boards. Additionally, planning and promoting future forums for the fall were discussed.

CAIRIBU CONNECT AND CAIRIBU WEB APP. Leaders were shown the CAIRIBU Connect and its password-protected section to access planning meeting minutes and leaders’ resources. The CAIRIBU web app, which was piloted for the August Knowledge Exchange discussion, was also reviewed. Planned future improvements included separate sections for each research interest group. Further suggestions included making an in-app notification system and making the process of enabling notifications clearer. Additionally, the ability for discussions or comments to be tagged or otherwise categorized into topics was suggested. **The goal is for as many BPH investigators to utilize the online discussion board.**

AUGUST BPH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE. The event was regarded as largely successful, although, in the future, speakers should be made aware of time limits to allow time for questions and comments. Dr. Alex Glaser was recognized as an

emerging leader in the BPH field given his expertise and involvement in the Society for Benign Prostate Disease (SoBPD). **All leaders were encouraged to attend the upcoming SoBPD meeting.** Drs. Taguchi and Quarrier were encouraged to attend the Society for Basic Urologic Research (SBUR) meeting. **Establishing a CAIRIBU BPH RIG presence at meetings for professional societies and conducting personal outreach are critical for recruiting investigators to join the community.** For the September event, Dr. Popovics will introduce speakers; Dr. Quarrier will moderate discussion.

TIMES FOR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGES The group will consider changing meeting times, starting Jan 2027, after gathering input at the BPH RIG breakout session at the CAIRIBU Annual Meeting.

Action Items:

12. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will share instructions on accessing the CAIRIBU Connect intranet site so leaders can access internal documents.
13. **BPH RIG leaders will continue personally inviting networks to attend upcoming knowledge exchanges.**
14. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will refine the online discussion board to be organized by groups and/or topics and bring awareness of discussion board functionalities to more investigators.
15. **Submission of posters and/or abstracts to the Feb 2027 SoBPD meeting should be encouraged by all to promote a stronger CAIRIBU presence there.**
16. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will send a when2meet for the week of September 14 to find a time for leaders to meet and plan the next knowledge exchange: [when2meet link](#)

CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders' Meeting – Wed., 7/15/2026

Participants: Renee Vickman, PhD, Kazumi Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD, Scott Quarrier, MD, MPH

Discussion centered on **organizing the September and October knowledge exchanges and re-evaluating how the space can be conducive to basic/translational and clinical investigators** – including changing the meeting time, co-hosting events with other RIGs, and hosting an asynchronous chat space for continued discussion in a closed environment.

Suggested topics for September and October events included imaging, inflammation, and heterogeneity or a presentation on a resource to be shared with the group (as submitted to the BPH Investigator Directory). Ultimately, the leaders decided on **imaging** as the focus for the September knowledge exchange (Wed., Sept. 9 at 7 pm Eastern) and inviting **Shane Wells, MD** (University of Michigan). Though pairing Dr. Wells with a speaker on mouse imaging was suggested, an investigator was not identified. October's knowledge exchange (Wed., Oct. 14 at 7 pm Eastern) will focus on **heterogeneity** and **Jim Brooks, MD** (Stanford University) was decided as an appropriate investigator to invite.

In the longer term, leaders considered shifting when the RIG meets as the current evening time has not drawn in clinicians as expected. **Attendance at the clinically-focused August knowledge exchange could be a good gauge of whether timing is an issue for clinicians.** The leaders decided that gathering direct input on the best time to meet is the best strategy for determining future meeting times. Conducting personal outreach, along with optimizing event timing, is needed to continue recruiting investigators.

Joint RIG events in the future may bring together other established and experienced investigators to the BPH RIG. **Participants could then identify overlaps in research interests and develop interdisciplinary collaborations.** Leveraging the expertise of established RIG leaders could also be helpful in strategic planning for the BPH RIG. **Established RIG leaders will be invited to the November BPH RIG strategic planning session** (Wed., Nov. 11 at 7 pm Eastern) to discuss what worked and didn't work for their groups and how in-person breakouts during previous CAIRIBU annual meetings contributed to success. Another idea for increasing engagement and discussion was a **continuous discussion space on the CAIRIBU website** (or some other dedicated space) to start and continue conversations outside of live meetings.

Action Items:

1. Dr. Popovics will personally reach out to Dr. Wells and invite him to speak on September 9 about prostate imaging.
 2. Dr. Popovics will also reach out to Dr. Brooks and invite him to speak on October 14 about BPH heterogeneity.
 3. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will develop a survey to assess investigator availability for future events. **DRAFT SURVEY** contains options for item response; **leaders should review and provide comments.**
 4. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will develop an online discussion board to be available on CAIRIBU website.
 5. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will send a when2meet for the week of August 17 to find a time for leaders to meet and plan the next knowledge exchange: [when2meet link](#)
 6. CAIRIBU Interactions Core will invite other CAIRIBU RIG leaders to the Nov. BPH RIG meeting.
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CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders' Meeting – Wed., 6/24/2026

Participants: Kaz Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD, Renee Vickman, PhD

Primary discussion centered on the format, content and speakers of the July 2026 Knowledge Exchange (**Wed., July 8 at 7:00 pm Eastern**). Phenotyping in BPH was identified as a topic that needs attention in the field. But because phenotypes are not well-defined, a discussion around this might be challenging. **The** leaders considered structuring discussion around topics people submitted in the BPH Researcher Directory Google Sheet or perhaps continuing the vision boarding exercise and summarizing the interests submitted in the Google Sheet.

For the July event, the topic will be to a **History of BPH Research** to set the stage for future directions. **Simon Hayward, PhD** (Endeavor Health) and **Travis Jerde, PhD** (Indiana University) were identified as speakers well-suited to address this topic given their experience, familiarity with the CAIRIBU Community, and engaging presentation style. Leaders agreed to invite Dr. Hayward to give a 30-minute talk and invite Dr. Jerde to moderate discussion. In general, leaders prefer to extend invites themselves if they personally know the individual vs. having the CAIRIBU IC reach out. Mariana stated that the CAIRIBU IC needs 6-8 weeks to promote an event, and confirming speakers with enough advance notice is critical to planning the event.

For longer-term goals, leaders highlighted the need to bring in more clinicians and surgeons and potentially discuss clinical trials but were cognizant of the risk of alienating basic scientists who want to discuss the science. Leaders stressed the importance of maintaining the engagement of all investigators across the translational spectrum. They suggested splitting individual knowledge exchanges to incorporate clinical and basic science components, though they conceded that pairing two investigators from different translational stages on one topic would be difficult. Even if this strategy is not implemented, leaders agreed to find a way to balance clinical and basic science components as they plan the upcoming schedule of knowledge exchanges. Leaders were confident that there are many clinicians who could be invited to speak. And all also have personal connections to basic scientists to be invited. Leaders will have regular planning meetings the week after each knowledge exchange.

Action Items:

1. Dr. Vickman will personally reach out to Dr. Hayward and invite him to speak on July 8.
2. Dr. Popovics will personally reach out to Dr. Jerde to moderate discussion.
3. If Drs. Hayward and Jerde are confirmed, leaders will let Theo know so he can prepare promotional materials.
4. In the event neither Dr. Hayward or Jerde are available, leaders will brainstorm more names.
5. Mariana will send a when2meet for the week of July 13 to find a time for leaders to meet and plan next event.

The agenda for the July 8 BPH RIG event is as follows:

1. Simon Hayward to present history of BPH research and contextualize how the field got to its current state
2. ~~Travis Jerde will offer comments and moderate discussion~~

The next BPH RIG planning meeting will take place the week after the July Knowledge Exchange (between July 13-17).

CAIRIBU BPH RIG Leaders' Meeting – Thurs., 5/28/2026

Participants: Kaz Taguchi, MD, PhD, Petra Popovics, PhD, Renee Vickman, PhD, Scott Quarrier, MD, MPH

Primary discussion was around format and content of the June 2026 follow-up (**Wed., June 10 @ 8:00 PM Eastern**) to the May 2026 meet-and-greet. Kaz shared the idea he and Kris suggested, which would involve meeting and greeting any newcomers and then splitting into 3-4 breakout rooms focused on specific BPH research areas. Potential breakout groups could be: (1) Inflammation, immunity, fibrosis; (2) aging, metabolism, hormones; (3) tissue biology, mechanobiology, cellular heterogeneity; and (4) translational models, omics, and precision medicine.

Petra suggested to avoid splitting people into breakout groups at this early stage and instead advocated to continue getting to know each other. She cited a concern that clinicians would split away from basic scientists. Consensus was reached in support of Petra's proposal and to engage in a discussion about how to advance BPH science and improve clinical care of men with BPH. Kris explained how this approach was used in forming prior CAIRIBU Community research interest groups (RIGs). She showed examples of outputs from the CAIRIBU Urobiome RIG, including (1) a "mind map" generated from a discussion with the prompt, *"What is needed to better understand the urobiome?"*; and (2) a visual image of ideas generated from a discussion beginning with the prompt, *"What is needed to advance urobiome science and improve public health?"* The group agreed to engage in a discussion of this sort during the last half of the June meeting, as time allows, with the goal of continuing to build on the discussion in later monthly events. Kris will moderate the discussion, bringing expertise from prior similar discussions within CAIRIBU RIGs.

In the vein of continuing to deepen connections and knowledge of "who's who" in the field, the group decided to conduct a survey or some sort of other information-gathering mechanism for people to identify who they are, what their primary research interest(s) are, where their expertise lies (e.g., omics, fibrosis, therapeutics, etc.) additional BPH research interests

(if any) beyond their current and prior experience, ideas for future speakers at monthly knowledge exchanges, and what they want to get out of this interdisciplinary BPH RIG. The group discussed whether this should be done in a survey sent to all contact prior or after the meeting (or both). Encouraging attendees to open up the survey link DURING the event was also suggested. It could then be sent to those who did not attend in order to cast the net as broadly as possible. To do items:

- **Survey.** Kris will send a draft Google sheet to leaders and then modify as needed.
- **Invitation list.** Kris will send leaders the current list of BPH-interested investigators and clinicians assembled and curated by the CAIRIBU Interactions Core. Any additional names should be sent to CAIRIBU Interactions Core staff at cairibu@urology.wisc.edu. Theo will then add names to the list. ALL on the list will receive invitations to the June event.
- **Outreach.** CAIRIBU Interactions Core will promote the June event in the usual ways (website, social media, in slides at the beginning of other events, monthly CAIRIBU Communique, etc.). There is also a BPH RIG page on the CAIRIBU website here: <https://cairibu.urology.wisc.edu/research-groups/bph-research-interest-group/>.
- **Speaker for July BPH RIG meeting.** Renee will ask Alex Glaser, MD (Endeavor Health). If he is not available on that date (Wed., July 8 at 7:00 PM Eastern) could offer same date but an hour later. If not available, need to generate additional suggestions.

The group decided on the agenda for the June 10 BPH RIG event:

1. What is the CAIRIBU Community, and what are research interest groups? (Kris)
2. Invitation to open Google sheet to complete during or after the meeting
3. Leaders of the CAIRIBU BPH RIG will introduce themselves one by one (Renee will prepare a 4-5 min recording in case she can't be there)
4. Introductions from attendees – name, institution, and primary area of research (brief!)
5. Moderated discussion on what is needed to advance BPH research and improve clinical care