



Expectations of SPUUR Scholars

GOALS OF THE PROGRAM

- The primary goal of the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Madison Summer Program for Undergraduate Urology Research (SPUUR), funded by an R25 grant by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), is to **increase the number of investigators in benign urology research** by introducing this research field to undergraduates from diverse backgrounds and with diverse interests. We will engage undergraduate scholars from many disciplines and backgrounds in mentored research and in active exercises that stimulate lifelong interest in a urology research career.
- **We are determined to propel our scholars into advanced clinical and basic urologic research training programs.** The program is built on the prior successes of a summer research program led by **Chad Vezina, PhD**, Professor and Associate Director of the UW-Madison George M. O'Brien Urology Research Center. We also leverage a unique UW-Madison resource, the nation's only Urology Centers Interactions Core (PI, **Kristina Penniston, PhD**, Scientist in the Department of Urology), which initiates networks between scholars and faculty not only at UW-Madison but also at urology centers throughout the country. These networking efforts will facilitate students' future entry into advanced degree programs. Our program is unique among other NIDDK-funded R25 programs by intensively focusing on the lower urinary tract.
- Students in our program will cultivate critical thinking skills, develop research questions, conduct research responsibly, network virtually with peers from other summer undergraduate programs, learn about the graduate school application process, and receive one-on-one advising from experienced mentors. Finally, students will have 2 opportunities - one during this summer and one in December - to present their research. One of these is a "research jamboree," a virtual event that includes undergraduates from other Urology O'Brien Centers across the US. This is scheduled for Monday, July 28. The second is the annual meeting of CAIRIBU - Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology, December 3-5 in Madison, WI. You will receive more information about this and about applying for travel funds later in the summer.

WEEK DAY SCHEDULES

- **You are expected to participate in the 10-week SPUUR program in its entirety, every day, from Wednesday, May 28 through Friday, August 1, 2025.** You are expected to dedicate, on average, 40 hours per week to your research experience.
 - Holidays observed, for which you may take the day off, are Friday, July 4 (Independence Day). **BE SURE YOU CONFIRM THIS WITH YOUR RESEARCH MENTORS.**
- **MONDAYS – Each Monday will begin at 9:00 AM in the Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC)** on the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health campus. ***We will meet every Monday morning in room 1244.*** IT IS IMPORTANT YOU PLAN TO BE ON TIME EACH MONDAY.
 - We will spend the first hour or so as a group ("SPUUR Club") getting to know each other, discussing goals, sharing information about your research, addressing any problems or challenges you are facing, talking about applying to graduate school, answering questions, and getting your feedback on various aspects of the program.
 - The second half of the morning will typically feature presentations by urology scientists and clinician investigators. Some presenters will be faculty in the SPUUR program; others will be those from the CAIRIBU research community, and yet others will be nationally-renowned leaders in urology research. Goals of these presentations are to expose you to various areas of urology research and clinical urology. You are expected to optimize your interactions with presenters by asking questions about the research, its challenges and opportunities, and presenters' paths to their current positions and research areas. ***If the research area is of interest to you, we want you to understand the career path and how you can prepare for this type of career.***
 - Lunch will be from approximately 12 noon to 1:00 PM. We may have a sponsored lunch or two - or you may enjoy lunch with your lab group - but you will mostly be on your own for lunch. There is a large cafeteria in University Hospital (connected to the HSLC) and also a small café in the HSLC itself. There are also other sites on campus and nearby for quick food. Alternatively, you could bring your own lunch. Once you are in a lab, ask your lab mates what they do for lunch.

- Monday afternoons will occasionally be spent outside of the classroom. There are a few tours planned; but many will be hands-on or otherwise interactive activities.
- Most Mondays, you will be free by 3:00 or 3:30 PM to report to your research areas. This will be particularly useful for those of you who might need to set something up for the next day's work. ***You are expected to inform your mentor that most of your Mondays will be occupied with outside-the-lab-bench learning.***
- **TUESDAYS** – You will be in your research areas all day. ***Be sure to ask your mentor about when you should start and end your work days.*** Ask about laboratory specific expectations for breaks and lunch. For those of you who want to bring a lunch, you may wish to ask if there's a refrigerator to store it. Otherwise inquire about nearby places to grab something to eat.
- **WEDNESDAYS** – The day will be split as follows:
 - On designated Wednesdays, starting at 9:00 AM, you have the opportunity to join other summer research students in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine for various presentations on various aspects of research. Topics will vary from ethical considerations, rigor and reproducibility, delivering scientific presentations, designing scientific posters, etc. The summer scholars with whom you will interact are veterinarians in training (typically in the first or second year of the four-year degree program). Urological conditions are a major problem in veterinary species, as they are in humans. Veterinarians are trained to understand and address species differences in biology, physiology, pharmacology, and other disciplines; they are valuable resources, particularly if you are using model species this summer to investigate the basis of urology-related diseases.
 - You will meet in the School of Veterinary Medicine in room 2350 unless otherwise notified. Although we strongly encourage in-person participation, ASK ABOUT ZOOM OPTIONS if you would like to participate virtually.
 - You will generally be done around 10:00 or 10:30 AM, at which time **you are expected to go to your research areas for the remainder of the day.**
- **THURSDAYS** – You will be in your research areas all day.
- **FRIDAYS** – You will be in your research areas all day.
- **Lab-specific meetings and expectations** – Many research groups hold weekly meetings or regularly meet one-on-one or in small groups with the PI. ***You are expected to ask your PI about the research group expectations and attend meetings provided they do not conflict with the required Monday and Wednesday SPUUR meetings.*** Understand that your PI could, in the future, serve as a professional reference as you consider advanced training or additional research opportunities. Take the time to prepare for your meetings with other lab members and your PI.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All research results generated while you are a SPUUR Scholar at UW-Madison are the property of UW-Madison. A few rules about conduct during your summer experience follow:

- Read the UW-Madison "Guide to Creating and Maintaining a Safe Learning and Work Environment at UW-Madison, located online here: <https://compliance.wisc.edu/safe-learning-work-guide/>.
- Attend all lab meetings required by your mentor.
- Follow all laboratory rules set by your mentor. These might include how to dress to comply with laboratory safety guidelines, how to follow various lab safety rules, how to maintain a laboratory book, rules about storing and maintaining data, etc. In addition to any common laboratory book or log to which you are required to contribute, **we strongly encourage you to maintain a personal notebook – no matter the type of research in which you are engaged** – in which you document your experiences on a day-to-day basis. We want your feedback on positive and negative aspects of your SPUUR experience and your recommendations for optimizing SPUUR for future years.
- Share your results as requested and as required by your mentor. This might include written documentation, verbal reports, or presentations to others in the lab.

- Be respectful of the workspace and your teammates. Interact professionally with your mentors, lab mates, and others with whom you come into contact while you are at UW-Madison. Your work environment is guided by university policies outlined in the afore-mentioned 'Guide to Creating and Maintaining a Safe Learning and Work Environment at UW-Madison' and available on the UW-Madison website at <https://compliance.wisc.edu/safe-learning-work-guide/>. The guide includes reporting procedures for misconduct.
- **Contribute to tasks that keep the lab functioning.** These may include washing dishes, cleaning the lab, writing protocols, keeping lab notebooks up-to-date, and organizing and archiving electronic data and research specimens.
- **Participate fully in your lab for the time you are there.** We want you to succeed and to strongly consider making urology research part of your future!

KEY EVENTS

- **Summer Student Research Jamboree.** During the last week of the program, you will present your summer research projects during a **virtual event** involving other students from undergraduate research programs. In addition to you, other students will be from summer programs at Stanford University, Columbia University, and potentially other institutions. More information about preparing and submitting abstracts, as well as preparing an oral presentation, will be available during the summer. This event is the 2025 CAIRIBU Summer Undergraduate Student Research Jamboree and will be Monday, **July 28 from 12 noon-2:30 PM.**
- **Other virtual events sponsored by CAIRIBU** (Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology). You are strongly encouraged to tune into these virtual events. They include:
 - **CAIRIBU K12 Scholar Seminar.** Thursday, June 26, 4:00-5:00 PM (*virtual*). This event features a presentation by Jennifer Yarger, PhD. Dr. Yarger is a K12 Scholar in the University of California Urological Epidemiology Research Program and will address "The role of telehealth in improving access to care for urinary tract infections in young adulthood."
 - **CAIRIBU Graduate Student Seminar.** Wednesday, July 16, 1:00-2:00 PM (*virtual*). Graduate students of Dr. Petra Popovics at Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University - Mariah Jensen-Wachspress and Samantha McGuire - will present their research related to molecular mechanism of inflammation-induced pathological changes in the prostate.
- NOTE that there will be **multiple social opportunities** available to you and other summer research students on the UW-Madison campus during summer. These include bowling, ice skating, picnics, and dinners.

SUMMER IN MADISON


Madison, Wisconsin is a pretty cool place, especially in the summer. We hope you will have ample time in the evenings and on weekends to enjoy all that Madison has to offer. Some highlights are below:

- **UW-Madison Memorial Union Terrace.** Legendary place in the east campus area (corner of Langdon and Park Streets) to meet up with others, hear some music, grab some grub, and soak up the sun on the Lake Mendota southern shore. The link above will redirect to a website that includes a calendar of events
- **UW-Madison Union South.** Located on the near-west side of campus. Features a bowling alley and a climbing wall. Several eating venues available.
- **Babcock Ice Cream.** A famous UW-Madison specialty. Can get it at many local venues (e.g., Memorial Union, Union South, many other local ice cream shops). But the best place to get it is at the UW-Madison Babcock Dairy Store on Linden Drive. The ice cream is famous, but so is the cheese. There's also a deli where you can get freshly-made sandwich and an observation deck where you can watch product manufacturing. You can also visit the [dairy cattle center](#) to observe milking from the 84-cow herd that supplies milk to Babcock Hall; milkings occur daily at 4 PM.
- **Picnic Point.** A mile-long peninsula along Lake Mendota's southern shore. It's a relatively quiet place to take a walk, observe birdlife, and do the "portage walk" across the narrowest point of the peninsula. You can [reserve a fire circle](#) and have a campfire.
- **Dane County Farmer's Market on the Square.** America's largest producers-only farmers' market. Held from April to November on Saturday mornings on the Capitol Square and on Wednesday mornings on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- **Bike the Lake Monona Loop.** Approximately 12 miles on a paved path. Bikes for rent are available at stations all over the city, including on the UW-Madison campus.
- **Capitol Building tour.** The Wisconsin state capitol was built between 1906 and 1917. It is open to the public weekdays from 8-6 PM and weekends and holidays from 8-4 PM. [Free tours are offered daily.](#)

- **Concerts on the Square.** Music by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (free). Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, June 25-July 30 on the State Capitol lawn. Bring a blanket and picnic. Or grab food from one of many food carts.
- **Art Fair Off the Square, Saturday and Sunday, July 12-13.** Annual 2-day event featuring all kinds of art for sale, food trucks and more.
- **Chazen Museum of Art.** On University Avenue in the heart of campus. The entire museum is free. Open Monday-Friday 10-7 PM and on weekends 11-5 PM.
- **Monona Terrace Concerts on the Rooftop.** Free, Thursday nights from 7-9 PM; gates and cash bars open at 5:30 PM. Check website for live music info: <https://www.mononaterrace.com/events/>.
- **The Madison Night Market.** Second Thursdays. Dates coinciding with your SPUUR experience are in June and August. Located along State Street and Gilman Street. Vendors have art, pre-packaged foods, fresh produce, and other products for sale. There are food carts, “pop-up” restaurants, and live music. More info at <https://visitdowntownmadison.com>.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

- If you need help, are experiencing an emergency of some kind, have an urgent need, or a burning question that can't wait, call **Chad Vezina at 608-345-2056** at any time. Or call **Kris Penniston at 608-234-2887**.
- The **UW-Madison Employee Assistance Office** offers confidential consultation services for anyone working on the UW-Madison campus. A snip of the home page for the “LifeMatters” program is at right. Feel free to use this resource if you need to talk with someone about your personal and/or work-related concerns.


Employee Assistance Office
 Confidential consultation services for UW-Madison employees and their families

<https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/lifematters>

LifeMatters

The **Employee Assistance Office (EAO)** has expanded its services to provide employees with free and confidential statewide coverage, and 24/7 telephone access to professional counselors in support of employees' personal and work-related concerns.

Along with EAO, **LifeMatters** provides a wide variety of resources including training, financial and legal consultation, time saving searches, 1-5 sessions with a counselor for personal or work-related issues, and management consultation regarding workplace concerns.

Appointments with LifeMatters counselors are available in-person, via chat, text, or video.

Call

800-634-6433

to talk with a counselor

Text “Hello” to

61295

to start the conversation

Visit the

LifeMatters Website

Password: Bucky1

For on-campus support during business hours

Contact EAO:

Employee Assistance Office

8 am–4:30 pm

Monday–Friday

608-263-2987

eao@mailplus.wisc.edu