



Expectations of SPUUR Scholars (Updated April 25, 2026)

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**, Distinguished Senior 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 Wednesday, July 29. The second is the annual meeting of CAIRIBU - Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology, December 9-11 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 27 through Friday, July 31, 2026.** 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 3 (the day before 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.
 - 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 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** – You will be in your research areas all 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 their research group expectations and attend meetings, provided they do not conflict with the required Monday 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 2026 CAIRIBU Summer Undergraduate Student Research Jamboree and will be Wednesday, **July 29 from 12:30 to 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:

JUNE 2026

Date Time (Central Time)	Event
Wednesday, June 10 th 6:00 PM	Benign Prostate Hyperplasia Research Interest Group (<i>optional</i>)
Thursday, June 11 th 4:00 PM	CAIRIBU K12 Scholar Seminar
Monday, June 22 nd 2:00 PM	CAIRIBU Uro-Aging Research Interest Group
Friday, June 26 th 2:00 PM	Urobiome Research Interest Group Trainee Summer Camp

JULY 2026

Date Time (Central Time)	Event
Wednesday, July 8 th 6:00 PM	Benign Prostate Hyperplasia Research Interest Group (<i>optional</i>)
Wednesday, July 15 th 1:00 PM	CAIRIBU Graduate Student Seminar
Friday, July 16 th 2:00 PM	Urobiome Research Interest Group Trainee Summer Camp
Wednesday, July 29 th 12:30 PM	Summer Undergraduate Student Research Jamboree
Thursday, July 30 th All day	CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group summer meeting
Friday, July 31 st All day	CAIRIBU Urobiome Research Interest Group summer meeting



Collaborating for the Advancement of Interdisciplinary Research in Benign Urology

The CAIRIBU Interactions Core is the coordinating center for the CAIRIBU research community. PI, Kristina Penniston, PhD; funding from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, U24-DK-127726

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 24 - July 29 on the State Capitol lawn. Bring a blanket and picnic. Or grab food from one of many food carts.
- **Art Fair On the Square, Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12.** 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.** Occurs 3-4 times in summer/fll. The one date coinciding with your SPUUR experience is June 11. 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.

Access LifeMatters 24/7

<p>Call</p> <p>800-634-6433</p> <p>to talk with a counselor</p>	<p>Text “Hello” to</p> <p>61295</p> <p>to start the conversation</p>	<p>Visit the</p> <p>LifeMatters Website</p> <p>Password: Bucky1</p>
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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