

Diversitynews

Recent and up-coming events plus updates from the CABM Diversity Committee



MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of the CABM Diversity Committee (CDC) is to act as DEIA advocates. Following the lead of University Equity and Inclusion, the CDC seeks to turn ideals into action, making CABM a safe and supportive space.

CALL TO ACTION

The committee is still looking for CABM volunteers to help improve DEIA efforts. If you are interested, please contact: diversity@cabm.rutgers.edu or reach out to a current committee member!



OUTREACH EDITION: CONFERENCE FOR RISING STARS AND 4-H TEEN CAFÉ



Rising Stars poster and talk awardees (left to right): Eleanor J. Agosta, Sree Varshini Murali, Prateeksha Rout, Eduardo A. Troian, Steven Knezevic, Joshua Rochotte

On March 7th, CABM's Diversity Committee proudly hosted the inaugural Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research with the generous support of our RBHS-IDEA Innovation Grant. This event, organized by Shawn Rumrill and Liisa Veerus, aimed to provide underrepresented graduate students with a first-hand experience of a research conference environment right here at Rutgers. The conference was designed to highlight a diverse array

of research disciplines, spanning from STEM to social sciences.

The day was a resounding success, with over 100 participants and featuring two keynote speakers, five student talks, 38 student posters, and eight vendor tables. The student science was a highlight for many at the conference because of the diversity of research topics and the chance to network with peers from various graduate programs.



Graduate students, attendees and presenters alike, chatting over science.



2024 Inaugural Rutgers Conference for Rising Stars in Graduate Research

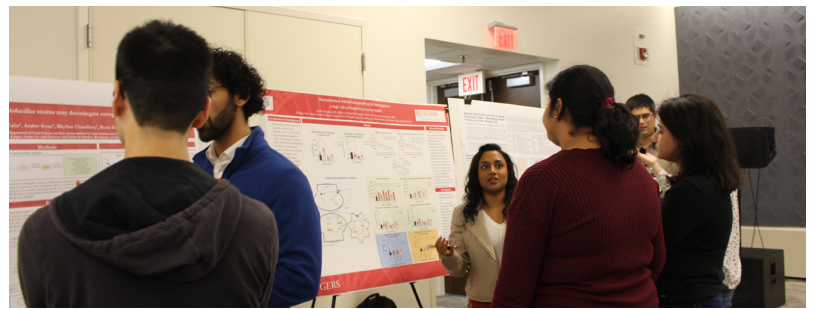
CABM's own Martin Blaser was a keynote speaker for the day. He educated attendees on the art of scientific presentations, emphasizing concepts such as the elements of a quality PowerPoint slide and effective use of figures. Dr. Blaser was delighted by the enthusiasm of the attendees, remarking that "as a teacher, there is nothing better than a student eager to learn."

Adam Ligeralde from Cytiva was the second keynote. He delivered an impactful presentation on networking, stressing the importance of building connections early in one's career. He likened networking to an investment in social capital, encouraging attendees to start "earning interest" now for fu-



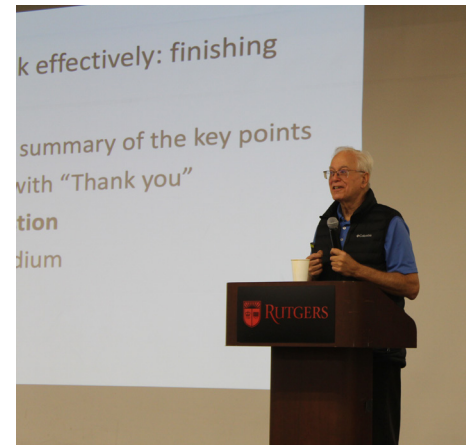
ture opportunities. He was also excited by the level of engagement from attendees and observed a noticeable change after his talk, with increased

open conversation and networking. Special thanks to Analytik Jena, Avantor Sciences, Beckman Coulter, Corning, Cytiva, Eppen-



Martin Blaser, MD Director of CABM, Henry Rutgers Chair, and Professor

Dr. Blaser is the Director of CABM, Henry Rutgers Chair of the Human Microbiome, and Professor in the Department of Medicine and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at Rutgers. He currently serves as Chair of the Presidential Advisory Council for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PAC-CARB). As physician and microbiologist, Dr. Blaser studies the relationships we have with our persistently colonizing bacteria. Over the last 20 years, he has been actively studying the relationship of the human microbiome with health and important diseases including asthma, obesity, diabetes, and cancer. At our conference he presented: How to give a talk.



Adam Ligeralde, MS Cytiva Chromatography Specialist and Public Speaking Coach

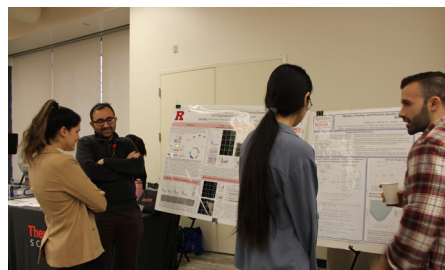
Ligeralde is a Chromatography Specialist at Cytiva, a Protein Purification Specialist for ÄKTA™ chromatography systems, and a Marketing and Public Speaking Coach. Ligeralde has >30 years of experience providing technical knowledge and expertise in the Life Sciences and optimizing productivity and efficiency from Lab-Bench Discovery stages to the BioProcess Scale. In 2023, Ligeralde was awarded the honor of Commercial Role Model from USCAN Cytiva Leadership and has trainings/certifications across the science and business fields. At our conference he presented: Your network is your net worth.

dorf, Molecular Devices, and ThermoFisher for their generous support, which allowed us to provide prizes for outstanding presentations and a raffle for attendees who engaged with our vendors. Congratulations to the prize winners: Eleanor J. Agosta, Sree Varshini Murali, Prateeksha Rout, Eduardo A. Troian, Steven Knezevic, Joshua Rochotte!

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with one participant highlighting the “inviting community and energy” of the event. Several attendees also shared how important they felt having a low-stake venue to practice

presenting and network was to giving them confidence at a larger scientific conference. It was indeed a collegial day filled with fruitful connections, inspiring research, and promising opportunities.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this conference a success. Let’s continue to foster a supportive environment where all students can thrive.



JOIN THE CDC CULTURE SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committee highlights DEIA events by organizing themed tea times and cultural coffee hours, planning DEIA-centered arts and craft events, and bringing DEIA trainings to CABM. We also try to provide educational materials at events and in lobby slides to foster an inclusive community at CABM. Please email us if you have ideas or want to get involved!

Email Mary Lally at: mcl227@gsbs.rutgers.edu

4-H Teen Café meets the microbiome at CABM

Teen Café is a program run by 4-H and Rutgers to support teen students in their curiosity of the sciences. This year the Café taught students about their microbiome in a presentation called “Should You Break Up with Your Diet? Follow Your Gut!” Students from age 13-17, in grades 8-12, joined in the science-filled Saturday at CABM with organizers Janice McDonnell, Liisa Veerus, Margot Shumaker, Natalie Losada, Raj Harsora, and Daren Shah! Post

Café, students were asked about the experience through an anonymous survey. Students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt comfortable sharing their opinions and that they had fun at the Teen Café. Additionally, 81% of students said they thought the science talk was very good or excellent



Liisa from CABM had insightful thoughts to share with us at the newsletter: We have been working with Janice McDonnell for a long time to bring back Teen Café to post-pandemic Rutgers. I was beyond excited to welcome so many students to CABM, demonstrate all the fun science happening in the building, and answer their curiosity-driven questions from “What is everyone’s favourite lizard species?” to “What foods should we try and eat every day to support our microbiome?”.