



2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Life Science Community Support



IACUC 2024

NCABR will host *IACUC 2024* at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill on April 29-30. Designed for new and experienced IACUC members, this conference will feature more than 20 presentations on topics such as effective virtual meetings, compassion fatigue, animal research openness, controlled substances, and MOUs, Interinstitutional Agreements and grant/protocol congruency.

Sponsors for *IACUC 2024* are East Carolina University, the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, N.C. Central University, UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC-Charlotte.

MEMBER CONVERSATIONS

NCABR gathered the membership for a virtual *Member Conversation* on October 11 that drew 36 attendees to discuss the U.S. Animal Research Openness Initiative. NCABR's *Member Conversations* are periodic member meetings held on an as-needed basis to address timely topics of interest. They have supported 387 members since 2015.

FBI ACADEMIC BIOSECURITY WORKSHOP

NCABR partnered with the FBI and UNC-Chapel Hill to host an *Academic Biosecurity Workshop* at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on December 8. This one-day workshop drew 41 attendees and addressed potential biosecurity concerns within research institutions.

The program identified biosecurity roles and responsibilities of law enforcement agencies and research institutions with the intent to improve cooperation and communication among biosecurity stakeholders. Attendees participated in exercises and discussions to better understand biosecurity risks.

BTC 2023



K-16 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

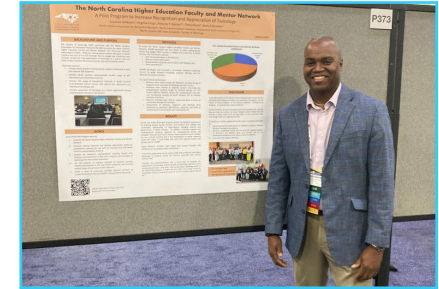
In October, NCABR presented the 12th annual *Bridging the Gap: Uniting North Carolina K-16 STEM Education* conference, whose goal is to strengthen K-16 science, technology, engineering and math education throughout North Carolina.

Held at the N.C. Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park, the conference drew 204 speakers and attendees from 41 North Carolina counties and four states and featured more than 65 presenters. Keynote speaker Krista Glazewski, Executive Director of the William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation and Associate Dean for Translational Research in the College of Education at N.C. State University, provided an educator's guide to artificial intelligence in the classroom. The conference provided a mental health update for the K-16 community and information about AI in medicine, environmental justice, health disparities, multicultural education in STEM and best practices for securing grant funding for K-16 STEM education.

Sponsors were Appalachian State University; BASF; the Burroughs Wellcome Fund; Campbell University; Davidson College; the N.C. Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center; N.C. State University; UNC-Chapel Hill; UNC-Charlotte; and UNC-Greensboro. Partnering organizations were the Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the N.C. Biotechnology Center; the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and The Science House.

Since launching in 2012, *Bridging the Gap* has reached more than 3,995 people from 97 N.C. counties and 26 states. The 13th edition is scheduled for October 22-23, 2024.

Educational Outreach



WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & K-12 OUTREACH

So far this school year, another 52 K-12 teachers from 20 North Carolina counties have participated in NCABR's *Rx for Science Literacy* professional development workshops with another 50 anticipated to participate before June 30. Since 1994, more than 5,475 K-12 teachers from 97 N.C. counties have participated in these one-day programs, which this year addressed vaccine research, the use of artificial intelligence in medicine, genetics and polygenic traits, cellular and molecular biology and the basic biomedical research process. Sponsors this year were Duke, NIEHS and Wake Forest University.

In July, NCABR facilitated the Science, Teachers and Research Summer (STaRS) Experience, a week-long virtual program for 26 teachers with NIEHS.

Throughout 2023-24, NCABR provided bioscience speakers at K-12 teacher and student programs, including the annual conferences of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education, the N.C. Health Occupations Students of America, and for the Ethics and Leadership conference at the N.C. School of Science and Math.

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NCABR presented a poster at the Society of Toxicology's Annual Conference, held March 10-14 in Salt Lake City, to disseminate learnings from and resources developed through a three-year pilot program with SOT to increase undergraduate student awareness of the value of toxicology and about careers in the field. SOT partnered with NCABR from 2020 through 2023 to create the N.C. Higher Education Faculty and Mentor Network. SOT Council Member Dr. Antonio Baines of N.C. Central University presented the NCABR poster at the meeting.