



# 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

## Life Science Community Support



### RIGOR & REPRODUCIBILITY IN ANIMAL STUDIES

NCABR hosted its first-ever *Rigor & Reproducibility in Animal Studies* conference at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park on March 10-11, 2025, drawing 43 attendees from 10 institutions in N.C., Ga. and S.C. The conference reviewed investigator and institutional responsibilities in animal research and the issues that impact the public as a stakeholder. Sponsors were the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, the Wake Forest School of Medicine and UNC-Chapel Hill.

### MEMBER CONVERSATIONS

NCABR gathered the membership for a virtual *Member Conversation* on October 2, 2024, that drew 18 attendees from 11 member institutions to discuss Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) activities and lessons learned. NCABR's *Member Conversations* are periodic member meetings held on an as-needed basis to address timely topics of interest. They have supported 405 members since 2015.

### RESEARCH INTEGRITY, BIOSECURITY & IACUC, IBC AND IRB SUPPORT

NCABR will partner with the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research, the FBI and the Maine Regulatory Training and Ethics Center to present *The Three I's (IACUC, IBC & IRB): Biosecurity & Research Integrity™ – Promoting the Responsible Conduct of Research, Partnership, Ethics, Best Practices and the Exploration of Current Trends* conference on April 28 - 30, 2025, at the Friday Conference Center in Chapel Hill.

Topics to be addressed include AI as it relates to research integrity, changes to NIH Guidelines, leveraging technology to enhance biosecurity and the landscape of threats to research.

## BTG 2024



## Educational Outreach

### K-16 STEM EDUCATION CONFERENCE

In October 2025, NCABR presented the 13th 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.

Held at the North Carolina Biotechnology Center in Research Triangle Park, the conference drew 189 speakers and attendees from 32 North Carolina counties and Oregon and featured more than 75 presenters. Keynote speaker Vera Cubero, Emerging Technologies Consultant with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, discussed the use of artificial intelligence in education and what educators need to know. Conference sessions tackled environmental justice, health disparities, biopharmaceutical industry awareness, tools to manage stress in the classroom and multicultural education in STEM.

Sponsors were Appalachian State University; BASF; the Burroughs Wellcome Fund; Campbell University; the Center for Inquiry-Based Learning; Chiesi; Davidson College; Meredith College; the N.C. Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center; N.C. A&T State University; N.C. Farm Bureau; N.C. State University; Stile Education; 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. Association of Independent Schools; the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and The Science House.

Since launching in 2012, *Bridging the Gap* has reached more than 4,180 people from 97 North Carolina counties and 26 states. The 14th edition is scheduled for October 28-29, 2025.



### WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES & K-12 OUTREACH

In the 2024-25 school year, another 101 K-12 teachers from 30 North Carolina counties participated in four NCABR *Rx for Science Literacy* professional development workshops about biomedical research and careers. Since 1994, more than 5,615 K-12 teachers from 97 North Carolina counties have participated in these one-day programs, which this year addressed cell biology and cancer; the brain focusing on ADHD, autism and depression; environmental toxicology; and human genetic variation. Sponsors this year were Duke and NIEHS.

In July, NCABR facilitated the Science, Teachers and Research Summer (STaRS) Experience, which is a two-week professional development program for 15 teachers designed and conducted by NIEHS.

Throughout 2024-25, NCABR provided bioscience speakers at K-12 teacher and student programs, including the annual conferences of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education division, and the North Carolina Health Occupations Students of America.

NCABR is working with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science to develop a course for high school students that would raise awareness for laboratory animal science careers and would provide students an opportunity to earn the AALAS Certificate in Laboratory Animal Research Support. If approved, the new course would be implemented in the 2027-28 school year. More than 2,500 public high school students participate annually in the Biomedical Technologies Career and Technical Education course, 40 percent of which is based on the NCABR *Rx for Science Literacy* curriculum.