

Dear Prospective Wind River Conference Attendees,

We are excited to announce that the 69th Annual Wind River Conference on Prokaryotic Biology will be held on June 2nd-6th, 2025 at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge, Colorado.

This year's keynote speakers are:

- **Briana Burton, Ph.D.** (University of Wisconsin-Madison) – The overall interest of the Burton Laboratory is the study of mechanisms by which bacteria transport biological macromolecules like nucleic acids and protein across membranes. The current focal areas are chromosome segregation at cell division barriers, DNA import, and protein export. (<https://burtonlab.bact.wisc.edu/>)
- **Joseph Bondy-Denomy, Ph.D.** (University of California-San Francisco) – The Bondy-Denomy Laboratory focuses on bacterial immune systems and the mechanisms by which they target phages. The lab also focuses on anti-defense mechanisms encoded by phages that have co-evolved with their hosts. This includes anti-CRISPRs, and phage “nucleus-like” structures produced by lytic jumbo phages that infect *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. (<https://bondydenomylab.com/>)
- **Katherine Lemon, M.D., Ph.D.** (Baylor College of Medicine) – The Lemon Laboratory is interested in the nasal microbiome and addresses fundamental questions about how host-associated bacteria shape their communities through interspecies interactions. A focus of the lab is on microbiota-produced compounds to prevent *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infections. (<https://www.bcm.edu/research/faculty-labs/katherine-lemon-lab>)
- **Carlos Orihuela, Ph.D.** (University of Alabama-Birmingham) – The Orihuela laboratory characterizes the molecular mechanisms that mediate host-pathogen interactions, which underlie the development of disease. A current focus of the lab is the molecular basis of myocardial invasion and cardiac damage during severe *Streptococcus pneumoniae* infection. Another focus is on the role of nutrient availability in affecting *S. pneumoniae* in the nasopharynx during colonization. (<https://orihuelalab.wixsite.com/orihuelalab>)

At the 69th meeting, **Dr. Briana Burton** will deliver the Welker-Streips Memorial lecture. Students and postdocs confer this award, which is given in memorial of two amazing scientists and teachers: Neil Welker and Uldis Streips. Neil was noted for promoting excellence in undergraduate science education and supporting students' participation in the Wind River Conference each year in Colorado. Uldis was a passionate teacher and worked tirelessly from 1968 to 2016 to keep the Wind River Conference a venue where students would be of primary importance.

Poster sessions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Further conference details, registration, and lodging forms will be available on this website in early 2025.

The Conference is known for its high-quality science and friendly atmosphere. Students and post-doctoral fellows play a prominent role and have excellent access to more senior researchers.

The schedule promotes informal interactions, with meeting breaks for local hiking, mountain biking, and other outdoor activities. Attendees often bring partners and/or children. You can find information about past meetings by visiting <http://wriver.sites.unlv.edu/>

On behalf of the Wind River Executive Committee, I look forward to seeing you all at the Conference.

Sincerely,

Shaun Brinsmade
2025 Conference Convener