



Mid-Atlantic Directors and Staff of Scientific Cores

ABRF
REGIONAL
CHAPTER

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

CONNECT · COLLABORATE · ADVANCE SHARED SCIENCE



THE HELDRICH HOTEL
& CONFERENCE CENTER

NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

AUGUST
26 – 28, 2026

madssci.abrf.org

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ATTENDEE ESSENTIALS

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WI-FI ACCESS

Network: The_Heldrich_Conf
Password: heldconference

Connect throughout the meeting.

MAD SSCI APP

Scan for current
program and
meeting
information.



HOTEL INFORMATION

The Heldrich Hotel & Conference Center

10 Livingston Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Visit the registration
desk in the lobby or
scan QR to send an
email.



WELCOME

A LETTER TO THE MAD SSCi COMMUNITY

Welcome to our 14th annual MAD SSCi meeting, hosted this year by Rutgers University. If anything has been constant in the past 14 years, it has been change, especially in the world of Shared Research Resources, and throughout ABRF. Some of that change has been difficult and worrisome, but much of it has been change for the good, helping to broaden the understanding of the role of Shared Research Resources in the research enterprise, bringing about an increase in scientific rigor and reproducibility, and an increased awareness of the stability SRRs provide in the research, through their consistent SOPs, highly trained technicians and access to high tech instrumentation.

The idea for MAD SSCi began at the 2011 ABRF meeting, during a session in which the concept of ABRF chapters was introduced. Nick Ambulos (UMaryland), Barb Daily (JHU) and I were sitting together, and Nick whispered to me, “We should do this. I already know what we should call it...MAD SCI. We just have to figure out what that stands for.” After tossing the idea around for more than a year, we decided to go to a NERLSCD meeting to see what those meetings looked like (NERLSCD wasn’t an official chapter, even though they had been meeting for several years.). Barb said she would come with us, as long as we promised to stop talking about creating a chapter and actually take action after the meeting. At NERLSCD, we met Jim Cherry (NCI), Belinda Hicks (NCI/Leidos), and Joanne Lannigan, and the beginnings of our first organizing committee was formed. One year later, after we gathered a larger committee at the 2012 national meeting, plans were underway. The inaugural meeting of MAD SSCi took place in June of 2013, at the brand-new facilities of the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research.

We, as a chapter, have led some of the change in ABRF. Our origins in collaboration with the cores at NCI have caused us to have a strong relationship with the NIH and have led to valuable programmatic content on S10 and Cancer center grants. At the instigation of Joanne Lannigan, we created the first Business Skills workshop, originally taught by UVA Business school faculty, but now featuring content wholly created and managed by SRR professionals through ABRF. We held the first joint chapter meeting ever, with SEASR in 2015. We were the only chapter to hold regular education meetings during the pandemic, first with our “Let’s do lunch” discussion series in 2020, which was followed by our “Meeting in 12 parts” in 2021. Starting in 2021, Nick Ambulos pushed for a reconfiguration of the Chapters Advisory Board, which led to a much tighter connection between the chapters and the national organization, including a seat for chapters on the ABRF executive board. The MAD SSCi 2022 meeting was a collaborative meeting with the FASEB committee on shared resources, again highlighting our ties to the national SRR community. At that meeting, we also became the first chapter to encourage the incorporation of animal related cores, which has led to a growth in that type of programming at the national level. And this year, we will highlight the growing importance of Bioinformatics in science, with our Bioinformatics pre-meeting workshop. It will be exciting to see what can be built on that foundation.

As I step away from the Organizing Committee after 15 years, I am so thankful for the community found within MAD SSCi. Without MAD SSCi and ABRF, my career would have stagnated, and I would not have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to lead my group effectively through the current challenges. I hope that each of you can find a similar group of colleagues, friends and mentors both in MAD SSCi and the broader ABRF community. I encourage you to get involved and to make connections, even the ones that don’t seem relevant to your current position. You just never know what will be useful in the future.

I look forward to the exciting program we have planned for this meeting, to our 2027 joint meeting with SEASR at UNC, and the many other exciting meetings the next generation of organizing committees will create. I know I leave the chapter in good hands—yours!

— Roxann Ashworth

WEDNESDAY

PREPARE • WELCOME • LEARN • BEGIN

ROOM GUIDE

- V** Vanderbilt
- J** Johnson
- N** Neilson
- L** Livingston

- 7:30 AM** **REGISTRATION OPENS**
FOYER
- 9:45 AM** **COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK**
FOYER
- 12:00 PM** **LUNCH**
CHRISTOPHER'S RESTAURANT
- 2:15 PM** **COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK**
LOBBY
- 4:45 PM** **OPENING RECEPTION**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 5:30 PM** **DINNER**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 6:30 PM** **OPENING REMARKS**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 6:40 PM** **INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
QIAGEN
- 7:00 PM** **OPENING KEYNOTE**
EVERY CRISIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INNOVATION
MICHAEL ZWICK, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
- 8:00 PM** **COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK**
FOYER

Pre-Conference Learning Experiences

Attendees selected one experience during conference registration.

Advanced Business Skills

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

FULL-DAY PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

L

Bioinformatics Core Challenges and Opportunities

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

HALF-DAY PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

N

THURSDAY

DISCOVERY • INNOVATION • EXPLORATION

ROOM GUIDE

- V** Vanderbilt
- J** Johnson
- N** Neilson
- L** Livingston

- 7:30 AM** ● **REGISTRATION OPENS**
LOBBY
- 7:30 AM** ● **BREAKFAST & NETWORKING**
CHRISTOPHER'S RESTAURANT
- 8:30 AM** ● **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 8:40 AM** ● **INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
SEQWELL
- 8:55 AM** ● **PLENARY SESSION**
PRACTICAL HUMAN-AI COLLABORATION IN THE CORE
- 9:45 AM** ● **INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
OLINK
- 10:00 AM** ● **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 10:30 AM** ● **CONCURRENT SESSION I**
SEE FACING PAGE
- 11:30 AM** ● **LUNCH**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 12:30 PM** ● **INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
ILLUMINA
- 12:45 PM** ● **PLENARY SESSION**
TCR ENGINEERED T-CELLS FOR TREATMENT OF SOLID TUMORS
- 1:35 PM** ● **INDUSTRY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**
NEW ENGLAND BIOSCIENCES
- 1:55 PM** ● **CONCURRENT SESSION II**
SEE FACING PAGE

- 2:45 PM** ● **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 3:10 PM** ● **CONCURRENT SESSION III**
SEE FACING PAGE
- 4:00 PM** ● **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 4:45 PM** ● **CONCURRENT SESSION IV**
SEE FACING PAGE
- 5:45 PM** ● **WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION**
LIVINGSTON BALLROOM
- 6:45 PM** ● **CHOOSE YOUR ADVENTURE DINNER**
WONDERING WHERE TO EAT, SCAN BELOW



THURSDAY CONCURRENT SESSIONS

FOUR CONCURRENT SESSION BLOCKS

ROOM GUIDE

- V Vanderbilt
- J Johnson
- N Neilson
- L Livingston

CONCURRENT SESSION I · 10:30 AM - 11:20 AM

Future-Proofing Animal Shared Resources: Innovation, Integration, and Resilience in a Changing Research Landscape

Matthew Keller & Nicholas Bessman
Rutgers University

V

Choosing the Right NGS Platform for Genomics Research: Matching Technology to Scientific Questions

Piotr Mieczkowski
UNC Chapel Hill

J

Seeing the Invisible: Magnify Expansion Microscopy for Nanoscale Biology

Yongxin (Leon) Zhao
Carnegie Mellon University

N

CONCURRENT SESSION II · 1:55 PM - 2:45 PM

Integrating Novel Alternative Methodologies (NAMs) to transform Animal Core Operations

Breanna Mann & Jeetu Eswaraka
UNC Chapel Hill & Rutgers University

V

From Molecules to Microenvironments: Single-Cell and Spatial Multi-omics in Biomedical Discovery

Subhajyoti De & Jackie Yang
Rutgers University

J

Core Self Evaluations (Operational Decisions through Metrics that Matter)

Andy Chitty & Justine Kigenyi
Panel Discussion

N

CONCURRENT SESSION III · 3:10 PM - 4:00 PM

Advancing Specialized Animal Models: Precision Tools for Next-Generation Biomedical Research

Kaloyan Tsanov & Santhi Gorantla
University of Chicago & UNMC - Omaha

V

- V** Vanderbilt
- J** Johnson
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- L** Livingston

Navigating Business Critical Conversations

Carol G. Norbeck · Leader Know How

8:15 AM – 12:15 PM · Livingston Ballroom

This in-person workshop helps participants identify business-critical conversations, use The Peacemaker™ framework, and practice tools they can take back to their home organizations.

01

Understand the Conversation

What makes a conversation business critical, and how emotions affect effective communication.

02

Use the Peacemaker™ Framework

Conflict Pyramid, Thomas-Kilmann approaches, and tools for managing conflict constructively.

03

Build Better Conversations

Listening skills, curious questions, and the GROW framework for productive dialogue.

04

Rebuild Trust

Core dimensions of trust, effective apologies, and practicing real scenarios from core environments.

THANK YOU

TO OUR ATTENDEES, SPEAKERS, VOLUNTEERS, AND SPONSORS

Shared science moves forward because you do.

Your commitment makes this meeting—and our regional community—possible. Together, we exchange knowledge, strengthen relationships, and build better research infrastructure.

The Journey Continues

2027 Joint Meeting · MAD SSCi + SEASR

Join colleagues from across the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast for an expanded regional meeting featuring new collaborations, scientific programming, and networking opportunities.

Hosted by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

More details coming soon.

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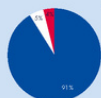
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■ Genes
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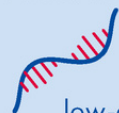
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