



Microbiome Listening Tour Announcement

Navigating the complexities of microbiome research can be challenging. I'm here to help make the process a little less daunting!

Attn: Duke Microbiome Center PIs and Researchers

Now that I am finally set up on campus, I'd like to take some time to formally introduce myself. My name is Jason Arnold, and I am the newest assistant director in the Duke Microbiome Center. I come to Duke from right down the road at UNC-Chapel Hill, where I worked closely with the UNC Microbiome Core for the past 8 years (5 as a postdoctoral researcher, and ~3 as Technical Director of the core). During my time as Technical Director, my primary focus was on ensuring that microbiome research performed at UNC was done in the most efficient, rigorous, and reproducible manner possible. I worked closely with PIs, trainees, and clinicians at UNC, helping to provide additional expertise to the development and implementation of their microbiome/microbiology-associated research goals.

My plan is to do the same here at Duke! To take steps toward improving microbiome research here at Duke, I first need to acquire a better understanding not only of the research being done here, but also of the limitations associated with that research.

As such, I'm announcing a "Listening Tour" for all Duke Microbiome Center PIs and Researchers (postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, etc.) between **Dec. 1, 2022** and **Jan. 30, 2023**. During this time, I'd like to meet with as many microbiome researchers on campus as possible to discuss specific needs, research problems, and suggested center improvements, so that we can take the necessary steps to improve resource accessibility and overall research experience to all members of the Duke Microbiome Center.

My primary goal, and the overarching goal of the Duke Microbiome Center, is to facilitate the development of a research environment that fosters collaboration and discovery.

Schedule a [meeting here](#) directly, or contact jason.arnold@duke.edu for scheduling or additional information.

Whether you're a well-established microbiome investigator with dedicated resources and protocols, or a new researcher considering taking the plunge into the microbiome realm, I look forward to discussing how the Duke Microbiome Center may be able to help you!

Sincerely,

Jason W. Arnold, PhD

Assistant Director – Duke Microbiome Center

Assistant Research Professor – Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology