**Preamble**

Thank you for joining us. My name is Mindy McWilliams. I am a member of the Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship at Georgetown University. I am joined by my colleague, Anne Rosenwald, who is a Professor of Biology at Georgetown. I will be facilitating this conversation today.

Let me start by giving a little bit of background and purpose for this conversation and then I’ll give everyone a chance to introduce themselves.

Since 2013, the Network for Integrating Bioinformatics into Life Sciences Education (NIBLSE) has been working, as their name suggests, to integrate bioinformatics into life sciences education, primarily at the undergraduate level. One of their interests is the barriers faculty face when trying to incorporate bioinformatics into their teaching. Their interest in this issue was piqued by a result from a nationwide survey they conducted in 2016, indicating that those in underrepresented groups face the most challenges in this area.

As a follow-up to the 2016 study, NIBLSE conducted a second nationwide survey in 2021 – you may have completed it – that focused on barriers to integration of bioinformatics, and that group is working on analyzing the data that was generated.

When you volunteered for the focus group, we sent you a consent document. Your appearance here today signifies that you have granted consent.

This session should last about an hour. As an overview, I will start the conversation with a question and give everyone who is so inclined time to answer the question. There are a series of questions, but we want to let the conversation evolve in a natural way. Once it appears that a given question has been answered fully, I’ll ask the next question. You are not compelled to answer each and every question, but we do want to hear everyone’s views and about everyone’s experiences. We are recording this session and also taking notes. None of what you say today will be directly attributed to you. I also want to take a moment to remind you we’d like everyone to help us preserve confidentiality by taking the approach of “what happens in the focus group stays in the focus group” so please don’t repeat what was said in here by others.

First let’s start with a quick round of introductions. Please introduce yourself by sharing your name, the educational institution you’re at, and what department you are in.

**Questions**

1. Why do you want to teach bioinformatics to your students? Why is it important to you to teach them about bioinformatics?
   1. Why is it critical for them?
   2. Do they (the students) feel it's critical?
2. How, if at all, have you tried to integrate bioinformatics into your teaching?
   1. Of these efforts, what worked best and why do you feel it worked best?
   2. In what course or sequence?
3. Can you describe some of the barriers you’ve experienced in trying to integrate bioinformatics into your teaching?
4. Of the efforts that did not work, why do you feel they did not work and what would make a difference?
5. Are there things that you think could help you in your efforts to integrate bioinformatics that aren’t available to you?
   1. Are there issues where you haven't been heard?
   2. Are there issues where your concerns haven’t been addressed?
6. Now that you’ve heard others - any other barriers that you want to discuss? Anything new come to mind?
7. What could NIBLSE do for you to help alleviate the barriers? Have more teaching exercises? Faculty mentoring? Community building?
8. What could your institution do for you to help alleviate barriers?
9. Is there anything you want to add that wasn’t covered already here?