

CRIBBS Newsletter

April 2026



Sent on behalf of the Marshfield Clinic BBS Center of Excellence
Leadership Team

Greetings,

The mission of the Center of Excellence for Bardet-Biedl Syndrome is to enrich the health and quality of life for individuals affected by BBS through compassionate interdisciplinary health care, scientific advancement and community outreach.

We would like to share the following announcement from the BBS Foundation

BBSF Family Conference: Washington, D.C.

Registration for the BBS Foundation's Family Conference is now open! The conference will take place in Washington, D.C. July 31-August 1 and will be a chance to connect with and learn from other BBS families, hear from leading experts about cutting edge research on BBS, and ask questions of doctors and specialists who have experience treating many people with BBS.

Washington, D.C. is a relatively easy place to fly into from most cities in the U.S. and Canada and it is easily accessible via 3 major airports and public transportation.

Conference Details:

Accommodations: The hotel for the conference is the Yours Truly DC. We have secured a discounted rate of \$171/night. To book rooms, call 202-775-0800 and ask for the BBS Foundation Conference rate or book online [HERE](#). All events will take place at the hotel.

Registration/Fees: \$100 for the 1st adult, \$75 for additional adults, and \$50 for those under 18. Your registration fee includes attendance at all sessions, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. **To register for the conference, please click [HERE](#).**

If you have questions, please contact Molly Henry at molly.henry@bardetbiedl.org. Hope to see you there!

Contacts Us:

Email:

cribbs@MCRF.MFLDCLIN.EDU

Phone:

1-877-594-3499 (CRIBBS-English)

1-877-998-0018 (CRIBBS-Spanish)

Social Media and Community Connections

BBS Adults Facebook page

This is a place for adults who have BBS. You can connect with others who have similar experiences, support each other and share your journey through life.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/648889312653215>

BBS Family Cookbook

The BBS Family Cookbook has lots of healthy and delicious recipes, collected from members of the BBS community. Try them, share them, and tell others about your favorites on the BBS Adults, Families of BBS, and Bardet Biedl Kitchen Facebook pages. Click below to download the BBS Family Cookbook.

<https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/mDonate/Documents/BBS-cookbook-latest-1.pdf>

Families of Bardet-Biedl Syndrome Facebook page

If you have a family member with BBS, please consider joining this page. You can connect with other families, share information, and know that you're not alone.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/138529479566568/>

Or, if you wish to donate to support BBS care and research at Marshfield Clinic, you can also access the cookbook through their giving page:

<https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/giving/bbs#C>

Imcivree Setmelanotide Support Group

There is a Facebook support group for those using Imcivree. This group includes families with BBS, PCSK1 and LEPR.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/521922353348974/?ref=share_group_link



Groups

Log-in information: Except for the BBS Sports Club (see the Sports Club listing for separate information), the Zoom login for the BBS groups has changed. All the other BBS groups will meet on the new Marshfield Clinic BBS Zoom site:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87473711833?pwd=vU39E3gPaR6U0OhwLi1LQ5XeRi8bSd.1>

You can also join by either a cell phone or landline:

Phone number: 646-931-3860

Alternate phone number: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 874 7371 1833

One tap mobile (this is what you can program into your contacts on your cell phone):

6469313860,,87473711833#

3126266799,,87473711833#

BBS Young Adult Support Group: Saturday April 4 and Saturday May 2 at 7:00 pm Central Time

Facilitated by Jordan Smelley, the group meets the first Saturday of every month. This is a group for young adults, both men and women, ages 18 to 29. The purpose of the group is to provide young adults with BBS with a collaborative forum to share their experiences, ideas and resources with one another, as well as to create interpersonal connections. The atmosphere is informal, and topics vary. For more information contact Jordan Smelley at jordan.smelley@gmail.com

BBS Parents Support Group: Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 pm Central Time

Please join us for the BBS parents support group. This group is facilitated by Maxie and David McGlohan and is geared toward parents of children with BBS from birth to age 18. But everyone is welcome to join in even if their loved one is older than 18. We will as always discuss any topics that parents wish to discuss. We welcome any newly diagnosed families to offer information and support. This group is a safe place where parents can discuss any and all issues. David Sr is a dentist and I'm a family nurse practitioner so we are very comfortable discussing dental and medical topics. We look forward to connecting with and supporting each other during these difficult times.

The group meets using the Marshfield Clinic Zoom site. For more information, contact Maxie at 2themax03@gmail.com

BBS Book Night: Friday, April 17, at 7:30 pm Central Time (moved to the third Friday this month)

Moderated by Ellyn Hunter. BBS book night meets the first Friday of every month at 7:30 pm Central Time. The book is always available from BARD, and usually from Audible, local libraries, and possibly Bookshare. The group uses the Zoom site for Marshfield Clinic. This month, we will be reading *The Librarians*, by Sherry Thomas. Description: Sometimes a workplace isn't just a workplace but a place of safety, understanding, and acceptance. And sometimes murder threatens the sanctity of that beloved refuge ... In the leafy suburbs of Austin, Texas, a small branch library welcomes the public every day of the week. But the patrons who love the helpful, unobtrusive staff and leave rave reviews on Yelp don't always realize that their librarians are human, too. Hazel flees halfway across the world for what she hopes will be a new beginning. Jonathan, a six-foot-four former college football player, has never fit in anywhere else. Astrid tries to forget her heartbreak by immersing herself in work, but the man who ghosted her six months ago is back, promising trouble. And Sophie, who has the most to lose, maintains a careful and respectful distance from her coworkers, but soon that won't be enough anymore. When two patrons turn up dead after the library's inaugural murder mystery-themed game night, the librarians' quiet routines come crashing down. Something sinister has stirred, something that threatens every single one of them. And the

only way the librarians can save the library-and themselves-is to let go of their secrets, trust one another, and band together ... All in a day's work.

BBS Sports Club: Thursdays April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, at 5:30 pm Pacific Time. Facilitated by Bob Stewart, the BBS Sports Club now boasts 12 very active weekly members who log into our Zoom meetings, held each Thursday, 5:30 PM, PST. New members are always welcomed. Our primary purpose is to have fun in a networking, upbeat, social way. Sports contests are held each week with sports memorabilia prizes.

BBS Sports Club meetings are via Zoom and ordinarily scheduled for Thursday except for holidays. Where a holiday falls on a Thursday or Friday, the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. Those who are interested in joining the group should contact Bob Stewart at bstewart@yardarmtech.com to get the current Zoom login information.

BBS Women's Group: Sunday, April 26 at 7:00 pm Central Time This group is an informal gathering for women who have BBS, ages 30 and up. It provides a place for sharing personal experiences, resources, and adaptive strategies, as well as for establishing interpersonal connections. The group meets monthly on a Sunday at 7:00 pm Central Time on the Marshfield Zoom site. For new members, before joining the group, contact Ellyn at ellyphunter@charter.net

BBS Weight Loss Group: Saturdays, April 4, 11, 18, and 25 at 12:00 noon Eastern Time

Facilitated by the members on a rotating basis, this is a weekly group for individuals who are using Weight Watchers, My Fitness Pal, or another weight-loss program to lose weight and would like to get together for more support, especially since so many of us in the BBS community are struggling with weight. The meetings are a great place to share ideas, recipes, and experiences, and to support each other throughout our weight management journey. The group meets using the Marshfield Clinic Zoom site.

BBS Adult Discussion Group: Sunday, April 12 at 7:00 pm Central Time.

This is a group for adults, both men and women, ages 30 and older. The purpose of the group is to provide adults with BBS with a collaborative forum to share their experiences, ideas and resources with one another, as well as to create interpersonal connections. The atmosphere is informal, and topics vary. The group meets by the Marshfield Clinic Zoom site monthly on a Sunday at 7:00 pm Central Time. For new members, before joining the group, contact Ellyn at ellyphunter@charter.net