**ASPIRE Module**: Effective Oral Communication Methods

**Module Director**: Dr. Bruce Damon, Associate Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics and Director of Graduate Studies for the Chemical and Physical Biology Program

**Format**: Seven, 1.5 hour sessions, Wednesdays 4-5:30 pm beginning September 10, 2014

**Description**: This course will provide basic instruction, practical experiences, and critical but supportive feedback in techniques for the oral presentation of scientific matter.

  Sessions 1 and 2 will provide instruction in the development of projected visual aids (slide development, presentation organization, etc) and in techniques for effective oral communication (pace, articulation, managing stress, etc). The focus will be placed on developing 10 minute, conference-style presentations.

  Sessions 3 and 4 will provide practical experience giving 10-minute talks. In Session 3, students will peer-evaluate each other and in Session 4, students will receive faculty feedback. In these class sessions, we will break into multiple small groups of 6-8 students to enhance opportunities for feedback.

  Sessions 5-7 will provide instruction and practical experiences in giving 3-minute, informal presentations of research suitable for a non-expert audience. In Session 5, Dr. Gary Jaeger (Assistant Director of the Vanderbilt Writing Studio) will provide a general introduction to conveying complex research to non-specialists. In Sessions 6 and 7, students will give their 3-minute presentation to peers, then faculty feedback, respectively, again using the small group format for these class sessions.

At the conclusion of the module, students will anonymously complete a series of 5-point Likert scale items that will assess 1) the in-class effectiveness, helpfulness, and clarity of the instructor and 2) the amount learned and practical utility of the course content.