

Neil Osheroff, Ph.D.
Professor of Biochemistry and Medicine
John G. Coniglio Chair in Biochemistry

Dear Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows in the Basic Sciences:

According to surveys carried out under the auspices of the NIH BEST programs, ~20% of you have indicated that you are strongly considering or plan to pursue a teaching-intensive career in academia.¹ I am reaching out to you to provide some information regarding a potential career in medical education.

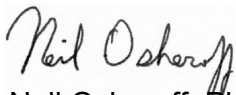
I write to you in my role as a biochemistry researcher, an educator and curricular leader at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, and as the President of the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE, <http://www.iamse.org>). At the present time, IAMSE has ~1900 members worldwide, representing 50 countries.

If your institutions are similar to mine, you likely have been exposed to careers in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. However, you might not have been learned much about teaching medical students. There are numerous advantages to a career in medical education. For the most part, medical school curricula are based on known pedagogical principles of teaching and learning. Furthermore, a variety of modalities are used to teach and assess medical students, so the work is creative and quite fulfilling. In addition, especially in the current times, the importance of providing the next generation of physicians and other health care professionals with an education that is based on strong scientific underpinnings is obvious and rewarding.

From a career perspective, medical education inhabits a parallel universe to the world of research. There are broad-based medical educational associations such as IAMSE, as well as basic science discipline- and clinical discipline-specific organizations. Medical education conferences are held on every continent (except for Antarctica), there are a number of well-established medical education journals, and most medical schools host educational seminar series. Thus, there are opportunities to attend conferences/workshops and visit other universities to learn and to share your experiences and educational research. In addition, there are journals in which to publish your studies, and there are opportunities to network and collaborate with colleagues worldwide. These opportunities are abundant and offer a mechanism for achieving national and international recognition for your work, which is important for the development and advancement of your academic career.

If you feel that you might be interested in a career in medical education, please take this short [survey](#) and IAMSE will send information to you. IAMSE also is planning future panel discussions and workshops to provide additional information about this rich and rewarding career path.

Sincerely yours,



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President, International Association of Medical Science Educators

¹Lenzi *et al.* (2020) *FASEB J.* **34**, 3570-3582. "The NIH "BEST" programs: Institutional programs, the program evaluation, and early data."