

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Request for Applications for Small Group Facilitators

The Vanderbilt University School of Medicine MD degree program curriculum, known as Curriculum 2.0 (or C2.0), is a highly innovative curriculum focused on creating self-directed, life-long learners. The first year of C2.0, the Foundations of Medical Knowledge Phase, incorporates small-group active learning sessions, in addition to more traditional learning experiences. These groups are facilitated by faculty members, using a methodology that focuses on empowering learners to take responsibility for their own learning in all aspects of the educational program.

The School of Medicine currently seeks to recruit and train interested postdocs to serve as small-group facilitators for first year medical students for the 2018-19 Academic Year.

The primary role of facilitators is to guide a small group of students (8-9 students per group) through experiential learning of basic science concepts in the context of a clinical case. Through these exercises, students also develop critical reasoning and problem solving skills, an understanding of how to apply new knowledge from lectures and laboratory sessions to clinical scenarios, and team learning skills.

The academic year consists of a series of 5 science blocks that are 6 or 12-weeks in length. Small-group facilitators elect to work one or more 12-week blocks (note that groups in the two 6-week blocks are kept together for 12 weeks), as their schedule permits. Facilitators receive salary compensation of 0.05 FTE per 12-week period. Small-group facilitators must commit a total of approximately 10 hours per week during the blocks in which they serve (6 hours for small-group sessions on MWF mornings from 8-10am, a weekly faculty meeting on Fridays from 10-10:30am, plus an additional 2-4 hours per week for ancillary activities including preparation, feedback, assessment, and debriefing).

In addition, a significant and required component of the role is participation in faculty development sessions to learn the small-group facilitation method used and strategies for providing feedback to students. Participation in faculty development sessions is required regardless of the number of blocks facilitators choose to lead. Faculty development will begin in the summer of 2018 (compensation will begin at this time) and will consist of two-to-three 2-hr meetings along with additional meetings dispersed throughout the year. Compensation for being a facilitator will begin on July 1, 2018 with the start of the new AY.

Qualifications: Postdocs in the 2nd- plus year of training are encouraged to apply. No expertise in a specific field of science or medicine is required. The desire to work with students in a collaborative learning environment and the willingness to learn new teaching and assessment skills is critical.

Applications to join the Small-Group Facilitator Program should include the following elements in an electronic packet (i.e., single PDF):

1 - A **reflective teaching statement**. This brief (1-2 paragraph) personal narrative should address how this teaching activity will be a good match with the applicant's career goals, teaching philosophy and experiences.

2 – A **letter of support from the primary investigator that oversees the postdoc's research**. This letter should include an explanation of how the facilitator role aligns with the career pathway of the **postdoc**. It should also indicate how the postdoc is funded and how his/her present duties and responsibilities will be appropriately adjusted downward to account for the time required for the facilitator role.

3 – A **current copy of the postdoc's CV**.

Please submit application materials electronically (via email) to **Gwen Moore** (Gwen.moore@vanderbilt.edu) and opa@vanderbilt.edu no later than May 31, 2018. Questions may be directed to Cathy Pettepher, PhD (cathy.pettepher@vanderbilt.edu).