

**Immersion Phase
Class of 2026**

**Elective Counseling:
Planning Your Phase and ISC Fair**

March 6, 2024

Session Objectives

- Discuss graduation requirements
- Provide counseling on elective choices by faculty Specialty Advisors
- Provide support for students to design their Immersion Phase schedule



Curriculum 2.0: Immersion Phase

A highly individualized post-clerkship phase that uses clinical context to build upon prior learning

Advanced Clinical Experiences

rigorous clinical rotations



Integrated Science Courses

mixed didactic and clinical experiences



Acting Internships

supervised intern-level responsibilities



Research

mentored research project



IMMERSION PHASE GOALS

- Deepen **FOUNDATIONAL SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE** during meaningful clinical engagement
- Solidify **CLINICAL SKILLS**
- Enhance **PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING SKILLS**
- Ensure readiness for **INTERN ROLE/RESIDENCY**
- Expand knowledge and skills regarding **SCHOLARSHIP**
- Further grow knowledge and skills regarding **LEADERSHIP**
- Encourage **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

C 2.0 Immersion Phase Requirements (traditional)

Minimum C2.0 Requirements (in Months)		
On-Campus	4	Integrated Science Courses (ISCs)
	1	Acting Internship (AI)
	4	Advanced Clinical Electives (ACEs)
On-Campus or Away (away with approval*)	3	Research Immersion
	3	Competency and Interest-Driven Rotations [#] (can be ISCs, ACEs, AIs or AEs)
15 required months		Must include: 1 Primary Care course 1 Acute Care course (EM or ICU-based course)
7 Flex months		2 months for Step Study + 1 month for interviews + 4 flex months

From the [VUSM Catalog: Doctor of Medicine Program Curriculum Requirements Policy](#)

ISC, ACE, and AI grading = H/HP/P/F

Students can register for up to 19 months

** No more than two clinical aways for graduation credit*

#At least one must be clinical rotation

C2.0 Longitudinal Requirements Summary

Longitudinal Course Requirements				
Foundations of Health Care Delivery—10 units		Learning Communities—8 units	Research—3 months	
5 self-enrolled, taken with a primary course	5 units completed during week-long FHD Immersions	All self-enrolled, taken with a primary course	PLAN Required	3-6 block Research Immersion

Students must be present for face-to-face sessions:

- FHD has one or two on Tuesdays from 1-5p
- LC has one on a Monday from 1-3p (odd units) or 3-5p (even units)

Immersion Weeks are mandatory. Do not submit abstracts to meetings during these weeks:

- Aug 26-30, 2024 (Immersion Orientation and FHD: AC1, PHP)
- March 3-6, 2025 (Intro to Core EPAs)
- May 5-9, 2025 (FHD: AC2, IPE1)
- TBD between February and March 2026

Elective Counseling Resources

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/elective-counseling-overview/>



MD Gateway

Elective Counseling Overview

Immersion Phase Elective Counseling Overview

Immersion Phase Elective Counseling is a joint effort between Medical Student Affairs, Careers in Medicine, the Immersion Phase Team, College Mentors, and the Faculty Specialty Advisors designed to support students in planning and managing their Immersion Phase schedules to ensure timely achievement of graduation requirements and preparation for post-graduation plans.

In need of individual elective counseling? Please [let us know](#) so we can schedule a one-on-one session with you!

Elective Counseling

Elective Counseling:
Immersion Phase
Requirements

Elective Counseling:
Documents

Elective Counseling:
Presentations

Elective Counseling Overview

Approach to IP Planning

- Plan ahead for the full phase (i.e., two years)
- Make sure to balance general medical education vs specialization
 - Year 3 should be exploratory
- Be mindful of your peers as you plan



Approach to IP Planning

- Have several schedules planned and recognize that you will make many changes to your schedule
 - Make sure to register through June 2025
 - Leave spots for Research Immersion (you register after PLAN)



Approach to IP Planning



VANDERBILT
School of Medicine

ELECTIVE COUNSELING: VUSM Template Scheduler for Class of 2023-25

JUL	AUG	I	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	II	MA
FIXED FLEX: Step 1 or 2	FIXED FLEX: Step 1 or 2		ISC: Obesity	Research Imm	Research Imm	Research Imm	ACE: Diagnostic Radiology	ACE:		ISC: Cr illne
			PLAN				FHD: Q11	FHD: Q12		FHD: I
				LC3 LC4	LC5 LC6	LC7 LC8				
JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	IV	MA	
AE: Global Health Telehealth	ACE: Diagnostic	ISC:	ACE:	FLEX: Interviews	FLEX FIXED INTERVIEW MONTH	FLEX: Interviews	ACE: Primary Care		ACE: P	
FHD: IPE										
		LC1 LC2								

Immersion Requirements:*

‡ Integrated Science Courses

‡ Acting Internship

‡ Adv. Clinical Experiences

On Schedule:

4

1

4

Specifics:

PLAN

FHD: IPE

FHD: Q11

Instructions:

Fill in your schedule as desired. Be sure to prep
colon. For instance, if you add the Palliative Car
colon will make the auto-color coding fail. **Note**

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/elective-counseling-docs/>



School of Medicine

Approach to IP Planning

- Ideally, plan 2 or 3 schedule templates
- Plan for 3 ISCs in Year 3 with a minimum of 2
 - Please do not enroll for more than 3 during initial registration
- Plan to use FLEX months for residency interviews
 - At minimum, consider November/December or December/January
- Based on graduates' feedback, plan to take a course in either March or April of your graduating year



Approach to IP Planning

- Acting Internships (AIs) will be taken between March of Y3 and September of Y4 by most students
 - Students will work with IP team to register
 - Around November, IP team will send out a separate survey for AI preferences
 - Don't hold a space in your schedule for your AI



Approach to IP Planning

- FHD: QI must be completed by October of Y4
 - You must start QI by June of Y3
- RI must be completed by February of Y4
 - Last month to self-enroll is January of Y4
 - You will need RI team approval to enroll in Feb of Y4

Complete details for maximizing your approach to Immersion Phase planning can be found in the Gateway:

medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/immersion-success/



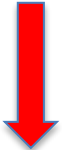
Who should I talk with?

- Dr. Dahlman or Dean Parekh: Make an appointment
- Coaches (at meetings March 11-29, 2024)
- College mentors: provide general advice
- Dean Fleming
- Specialty advisors (https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/wp-content/uploads/sites/75/2023/08/Specialty-Advisor-List_2023-2024.pdf)



VMS2 Registration Timeline

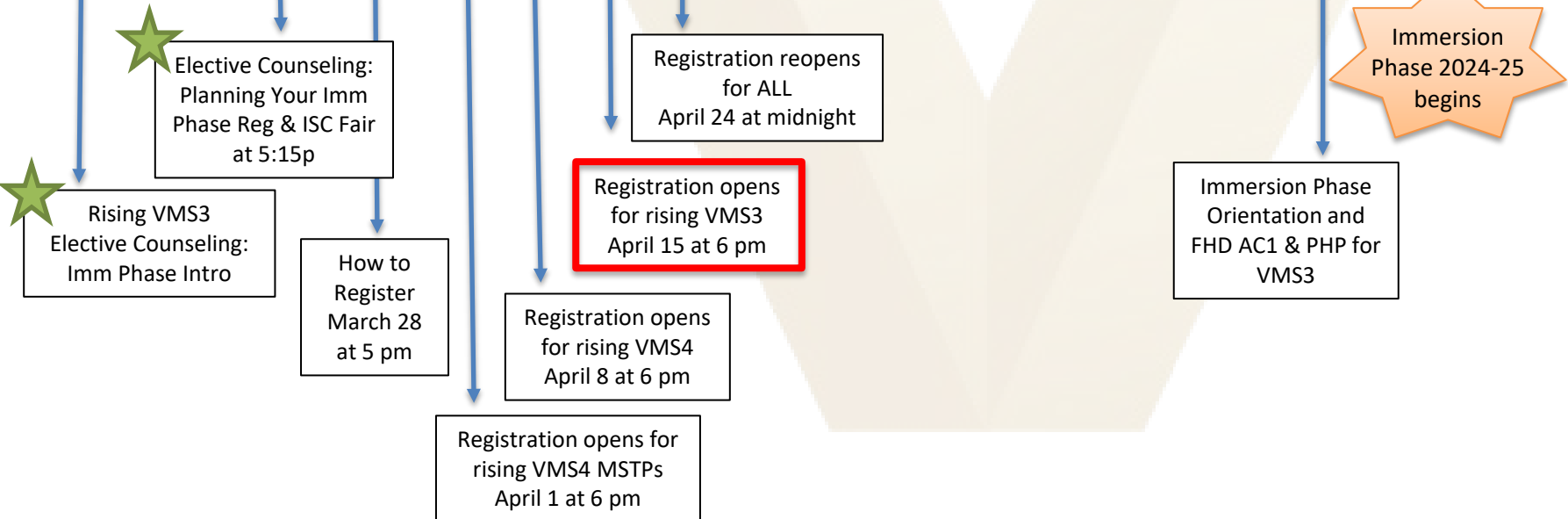
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Meet with your Coach (3/11-3/29):
You will upload your schedule template to review with your coach

Feb March April May June July Aug Sept

2/13 3/6 3/28 4/1 4/8 4/15 4/24 8/26-30



Opportunities for course/elective counseling

Certificate Programs

The School of Medicine offers graduate certificate programs to its students who wish to gain focused expertise in a specific area.

- Each program has its own admission and completion requirements.
- Students **must submit an “Intent to Enroll” form** to document their intention to pursue a certificate, as well as other documentation as needed.
- Permission of the degree program director and the certificate program director are required to pursue a certificate.



Certificate Programs

- Biomedical Ethics
- Global Health
- Health Equity
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health
- Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/certificate-programs/>

Careers in Medicine

<https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/md-gateway/pathway-to-match/>

*Your guide to succeeding in the residency
application process with info such as*

Calendar to Match

Checklist for Match

Fourth-Year Scheduling

Away Rotations

Faculty Advisor Lists

Writing Your Curriculum Vitae

Workshops

Application Process

Letters of Recommendation



Maggie Comer



School of Medicine



Integrated Science Course Presentations

(please hold all questions until the end)





Sexual Health and Medicine

Melissa Kaufman, MD and Mary Romano, MD

Science

Embryology and development, Anatomy/Physiology (with pelvic dissection), Neurophysiology, Sexual function and response, Intimacy and behavior, Treatment of sexual dysfunction, Contraception, Sexuality and Gender minority healthcare, Care of the Sexually-Active Patient.

Special emphasis is placed on interviewing techniques and skills for both adolescents and adults with a simulated patient encounter at CELA at the conclusion of the course.

Clinical Settings

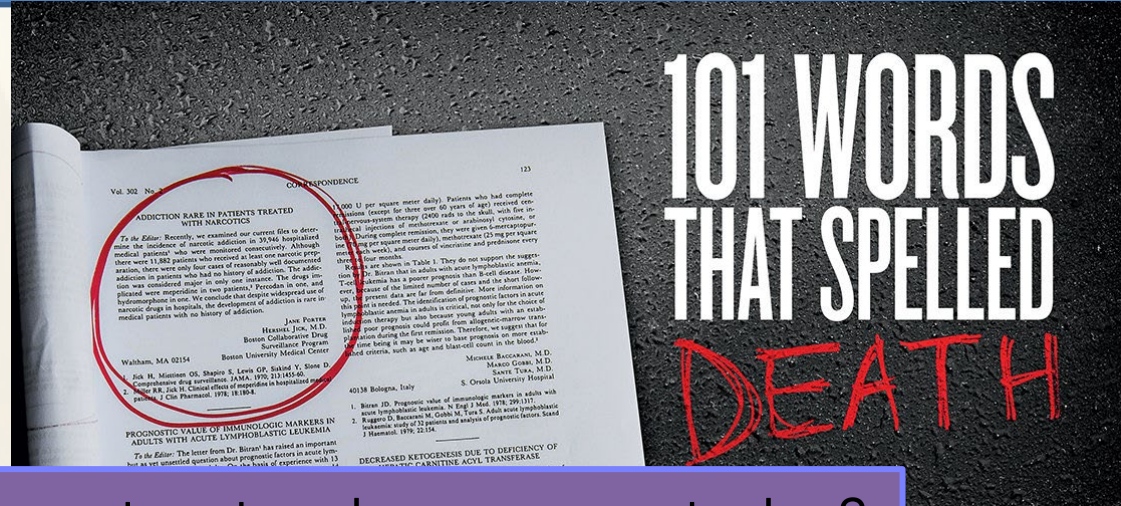
Students will spend time in various clinical settings including Adolescent Medicine Clinic, Urologic Surgery (OR and Outpatient Vasectomy Clinic), Comprehensive Care Clinic.



School *of* Medicine

A National Opioid Crisis: Pain, Policy, and Addiction

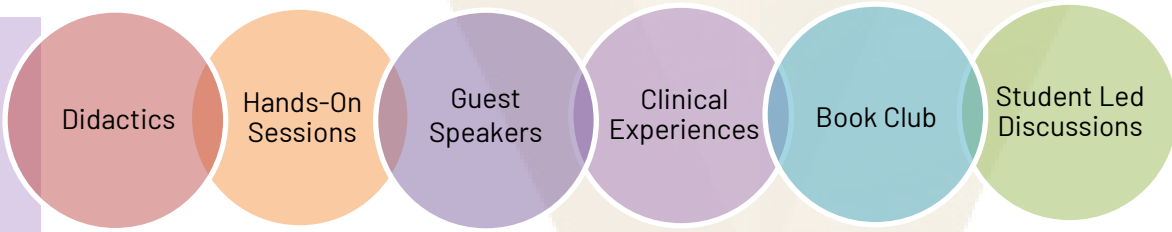
Rebecca Donald, MD and Mariah Smith, MD



How did these two things get us to where we are today?

Science:

- Neurobiology
- Physiology
- Pharmacology
- Psychology
- Epidemiology
- Public Health
- Preventative Health
- Science of Health Care Systems
- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Ethics
- Social determinants of health



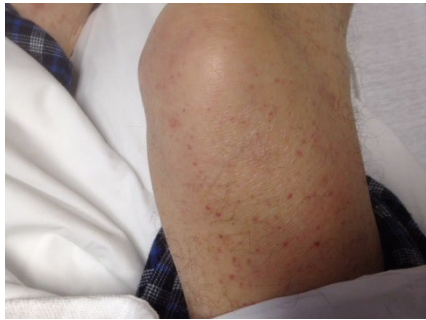
- Inpatient Chronic Pain Service
- Pediatric Pain Clinic
- Spine Clinic
- Inpatient Pediatric Pain Service
- Women's Health
- Interventional Pain Clinic
- Addiction Psychiatry Consult Service
- Cedar Recovery
- Bridge Clinic (Suboxone Initiation & Stabilization)
- Firefly Clinic (pregnant women and new moms)

Politics, Humanism, and How to Move Forward

School of Medicine

Infectious Diseases

Christina Fiske, MD MPH, Casey Smiley, MD
Walter Dehority, MD, David Gaston, MD PhD



Science

Microbiology, molecular biology, immunology, pathophysiology, pathology, antimicrobial stewardship, infection prevention, pharmacology

Clinical Settings

Inpatient consult service (Pediatric or Adult), Outpatient clinics (Pediatric, General Adult, HIV), Microbiology lab, Tennessee Department of Health

Other Learning Modalities

Case based learning, Journal Clubs, Didactic lectures

Specialty Interests

ANYONE!!!



Cardiovascular Disease

David Meoli, MD, PhD and Lisa Mendes, MD

Science: Lecture, Anatomy Lab, CELA (code and echo simulators), ECG workshops, CBL

- CV gross anatomy and imaging
- Cardio-oncology
- CV hemodynamics
- Acute and chronic CHF treatment
- Vascular emergencies
- Pharmacology of CV drugs
- Echo: U/S physics
- Vascular biology of stress testing
- ECG interpretation
- Pulmonary vascular disease
- Coronary/valvular surgery
- Mental health and CV disease

Clinical Settings: Three one-week experiences

- CT Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Card Anesthesia
- HF/transplant
- General Cardiology/Imaging
- Interventional Cardiology
- Electrophysiology

Clinical Cancer Medicine

Kim Dahlman, PhD and Vicki Keedy, MD, MSCI

“This is by far the best course that I’ve taken at Vanderbilt”

“This was really a unique experience for me in medical school. It’s truly been an eye-opening month for me and is making me question (in a good way) where I may want my career to go.”

“I thought that the teaching didactics (CBL and TBL) were a great way to have us independently learn without having to sit in traditional lectures.”

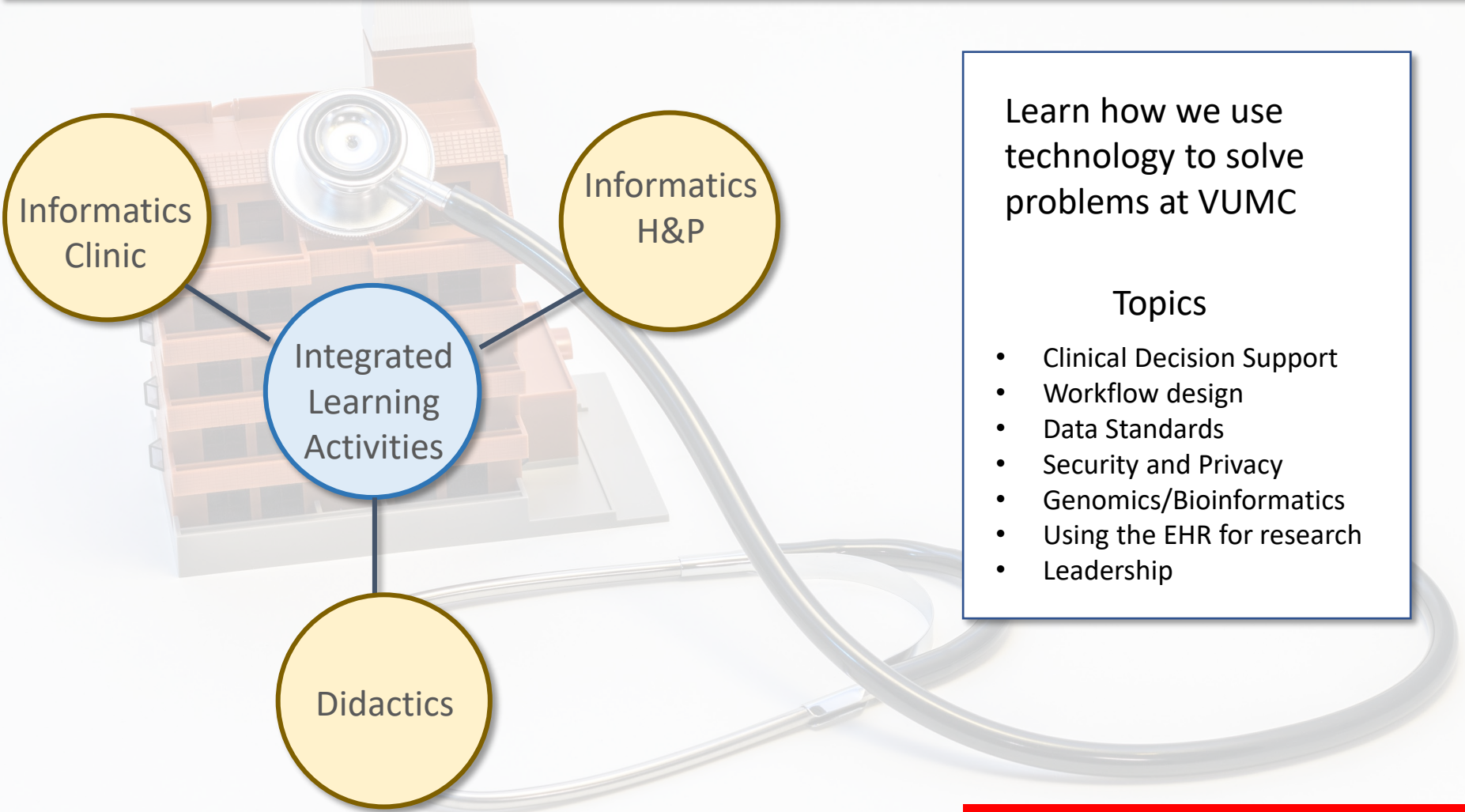
“This was an extremely rewarding course.”

“I felt it [the course] taught concepts that I was formerly completely unaware and in a way that I could grasp them.”

Clinical Informatics

Dara Mize, MD, MS and Travis Osterman, DO, MS

The healthcare system is your patient



Learn how we use technology to solve problems at VUMC

Topics

- Clinical Decision Support
- Workflow design
- Data Standards
- Security and Privacy
- Genomics/Bioinformatics
- Using the EHR for research
- Leadership

Community Healthcare

Tiffany Israel, MSSW and Lynn Holliday, MD

Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants of Health
Copyright-free



Tiffany Israel, MSSW
and
Lynn Holliday, MD

Community Health ISC

EXPLORE NASHVILLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT TO UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE WITH PROVIDERS WHO ARE DEDICATED TO SAFETY-NET CARE

DIDACTICS BY LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEADERS THAT BROADEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



Lentz Public Health Center



Critical Illness

Jennifer King, MD, PharmD, Katie McPherson, MD, Jeremy Walco, MD



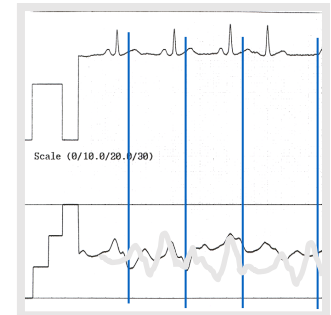
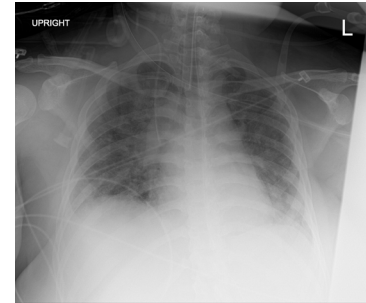
Critical Care Skills Week
Simulation, team management, CVCs



ICU team experience
Burn, CV, MICU, Neuro, Peds, SICU



Case-based learning, Radiology, Palliative care
Workshops in ultrasound, echo, surg. airway



Diabetes

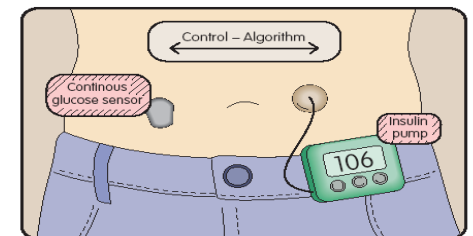
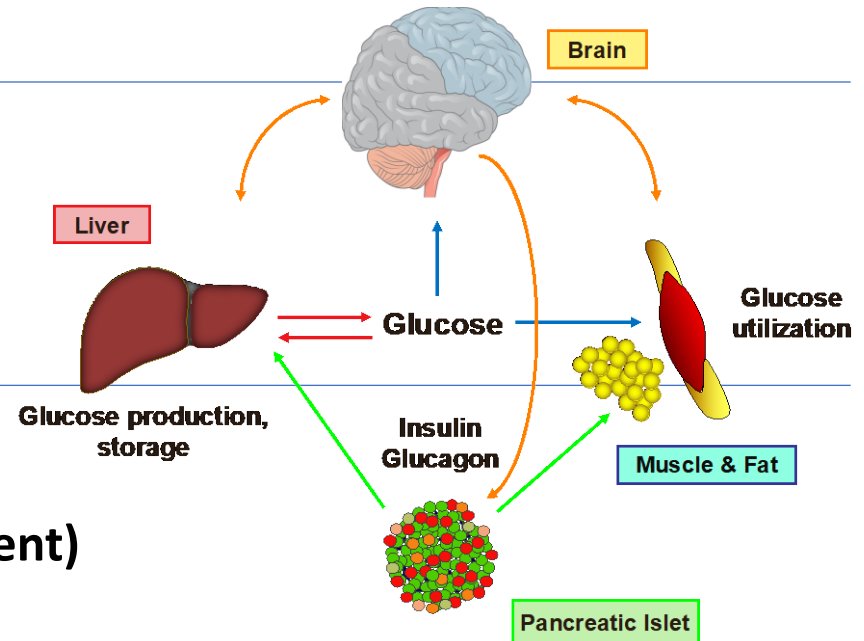
Lola Olajide, MD and Tiffanie Marksbury, NP

Science

- Foundational Science
- Quality Improvement
- Longitudinal Scientific Project

Clinical Settings

- Diabetes Boot Camp
- Glucose Management Service (in-patient)
- Outpatient Clinic
- Patient education
- Minimum observational learning, maximal "doing"
- Multi-disciplinary



Disability Competent Care

Emily Tarvin, MD, Jeff Johns, MD and Tiffany Hines, MD

Equip students with...

...knowledge, skills, and sensitivity toward the unique medical and psychosocial needs of individuals with disabilities



Delve into the...

...foundational sciences behind spinal cord injury, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, stroke, limb differences, and other disabling conditions

We will examine...

...medical vs social models of disability, ableism, and intersectionality, probing their interactions with social determinants of health, health policy, and medical ethics



Students will select...

...clinical experiences in both adults and pediatrics, and they will engage with disability-focused community programs in Nashville.



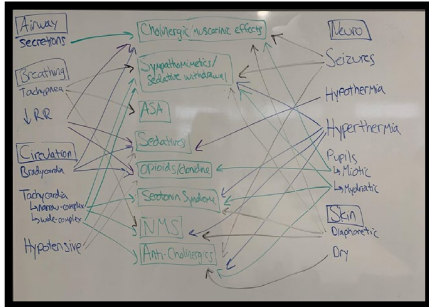
Did you know?

- Nearly 1 in 3 adults in Tennessee identify as having a disability.
- Persons with disabilities experience health disparities that affect all aspects of their lives, from employment and education to family planning, cancer prevention, and health promotion.
- Including education about disabilities in medical training is essential to ensuring equitable health outcomes for people with disabilities.



Emergency Care

Kendra Parekh, MD, MHPE and Saralyn Williams, MD



Systems of Care/Operations



Toxicology



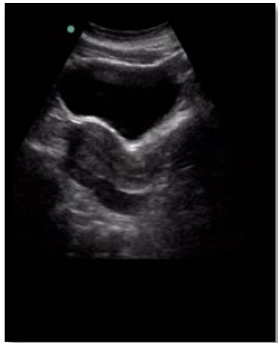
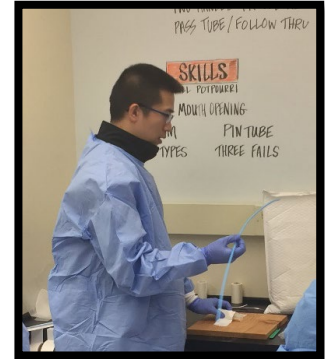
Anatomy



Ultrasound



Teamwork

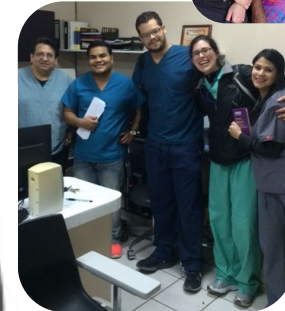
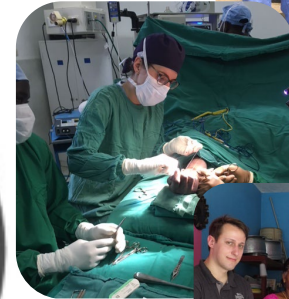


Clinical Settings

- Vanderbilt Adult ED
- VA ED
- Vanderbilt Children's ED
- Psychiatric Assessment Service at VPH
- Communications Center
- Patient Flow Center
- LifeFlight Event Medicine

Global Health

Marie Martin, PhD, MEd; Eiman Jahangir, MD, MPH; Elizabeth Rose, EdD, MPH




Focus on health systems and health disparities while rotating in various specialties abroad



Clinical practice in rural & urban sites



Opportunities in diverse specialties



Online modules in foundational sciences



Multiple international sites



Mentoring on-site and from Vandy faculty



Eligible for Global Health Certificate

tinyurl.com/ISCGlobalHealth

Healthy Aging & Quality Dying

Kimberly Beiting, MD & Anne Gifford, MD, MPH

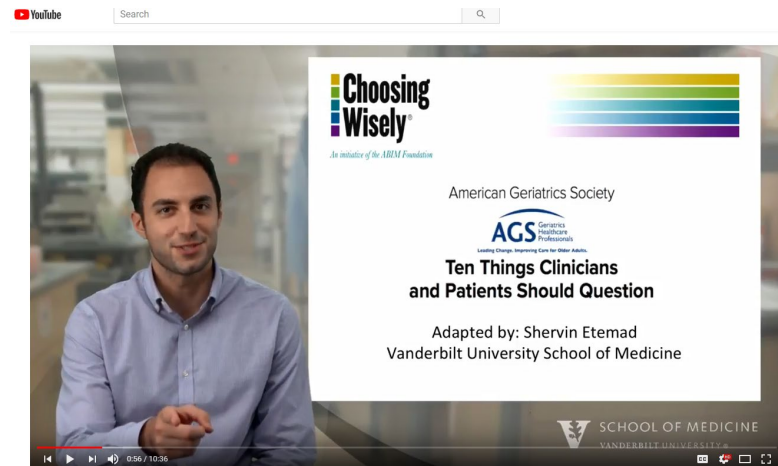
Science

Physiology, biochemistry, immunology, pharmacology, neuroscience, psychology, epidemiology, preventive health, public health, social sciences, philosophy, ethics, science of healthcare systems

Clinical Settings

1 week skills/didactic immersion

3 weeks inpatient/outpatient/nursing home (geriatrics wards/consults, geripsych, nursing home, PCU)

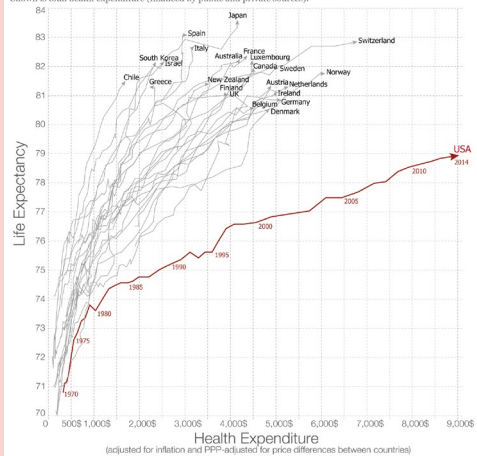


High Value Care

Bhavish Manwani, MD, Miklos Kertai, MD, PhD
and Jim Powers, MD

Life expectancy vs. health expenditure over time (1970-2014) Our World in Data

Health spending measures the consumption of health care goods and services, including personal health care (curative care, rehabilitative care, long-term care, ancillary services and medical goods) and collective services (prevention and public health services as well as health administration), but excluding spending on investments. Shown is total health expenditure (financed by public and private sources).



Data source: Health expenditure from the OECD; Life expectancy from the World Bank. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser. The interactive data visualization is available at OurWorldInData.org. There you find the raw data and more visualizations on this topic.

Health Care Value



Source: Porter ME, Lee TH. The strategy that will fix healthcare. Harvard Bus Rev. Oct 2013. Accessed July 27, 2019. NEJM Catalyst (catalyst.nejm.org) © Massachusetts Medical Society

- Foundational Science: health systems science, ethics, implementation science, population health
- Didactics: lectures and discussion from variety of specialties and health policy faculty
- Case Based Learning: team based work on real-world examples of implementing high value care
- Clinical setting: individualized clinic experience based on students' desires, VFF, utilization management, HiRISE clinic, patient centered medical home
- Specialty Interests: ANYONE!!

How Doctors Think: Clinical Reasoning & Decision Making

Cody Chastain, MD, Travis Crook, MD
Kendra Parekh, MD, & Chase Webber, DO

Science

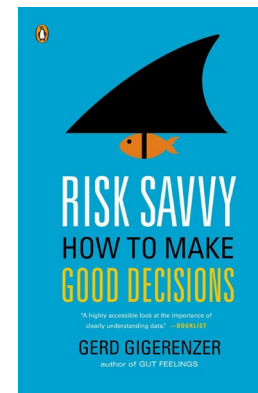
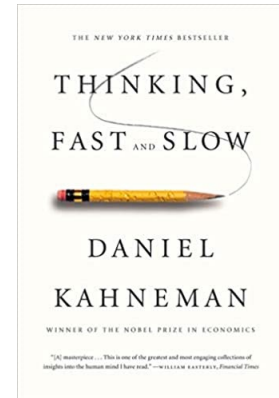
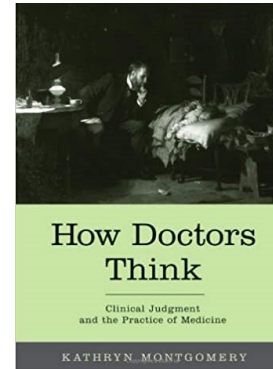
- **Clinical reasoning & medical epistemology**
- Foundational sciences include *behavioral psychology, biostatistics, epidemiology, epistemology, ethics, pathophysiology, & pharmacology*

Clinical Settings

- **Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, & Emergency Medicine**
- 2-3 shifts for Weeks 1-3

Learning Modalities

- **Meaningful clinical engagement**
- Online asynchronous didactics & independent reading
- Clinical reasoning reports
- Critical analysis of evidence & practice of medicine
- Simulation and more!



Injury, Repair & Rehabilitation (IRR)

Shannon Eastham, MD & Stephen Gadomski, MD



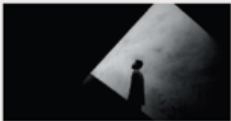
LGBTQ+ Health

Hayden Shafer, MD, Steven Allon, MD, Christopher Terndrup, MD, and Kevin Niswender, MD

LGBTQ+ Patients...



...are more likely to hide their sexuality and gender identity from the public



...have higher rates of depression, suicidality, and substance use disorders



...have higher burdens of HIV and HIV related illnesses



...are less likely to have preventative health screenings

...are more likely to trust their healthcare provider if they have training in LGBTQ+ health!

LGBTQ+ Health ISC



Addressing Health Disparities

Explore the history and interaction of medicine with LGBTQ populations



Foundational Science Integration

Hands-on experience with gender affirming hormone therapy for adults, HIV PrEP, and trauma informed physical exams



Community Immersion

Interact with local LGBTQ community groups, including Inclusion Tennessee and Nashville Launch Pad



Building a Safe Space

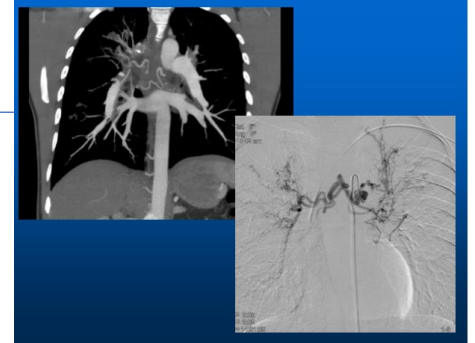
Develop skills for personal, clinic, and institutional level change

Medical Imaging & Anatomy

Will Laxton, MD and Ryan Splittgerber, MD

Science

Advanced Clinical Anatomy labs*, radiation basics, contrast use, appropriate ordering



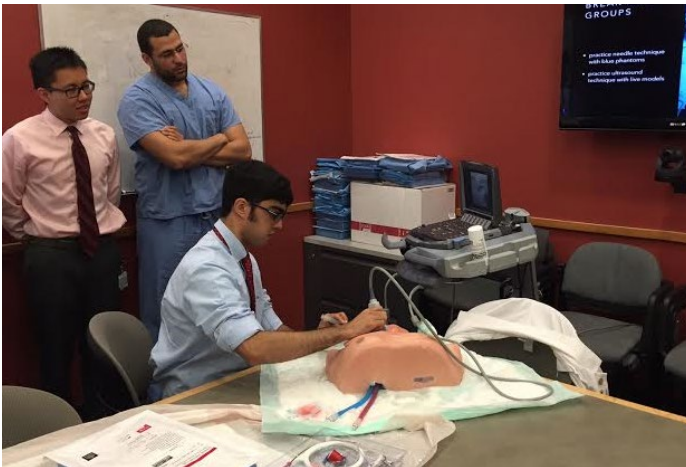
Clinical Settings

See MRI in action & procedures in fluoroscopy;

Hands-on Ultrasound in CELA: SP & image-guided CVC placement;

Practice being a Radiology resident; Radiology reading room experience

Individualized based on your interest



The Skinny on Obesity

Gisella Carranza Leon, MD and C. Robb Flynn, PhD

Highlights of the course

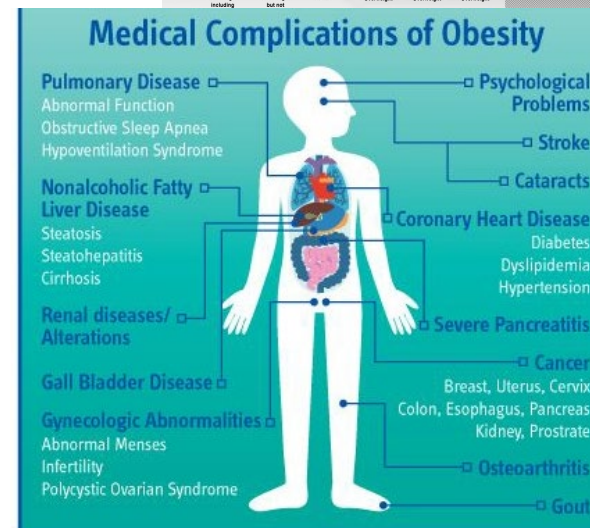
- Obesity boot camp
- TBL/CBL experiences
- Diet/exercise project
- Journal clubs on obesity and obesity interventions

Science:

- Adipose tissue physiology
- Gut regulation of metabolism
- Nutrition
- Pathophysiology, pharmacology, diagnosis and treatment of obesity and its complications.

Clinical Settings

- Medical Weight Loss Clinic; Surgical Weight Loss; Vanderbilt Lipid Clinic; Eskin Diabetes Clinic
- Physicians; Nurse practitioners; Dietitians; Exercise physiologists



ISC Offerings in 2024-25

Course	Max Capacity	Academic Year 2024-25											
		7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
Cancer	10			■					■				
Cardiovascular Diseases	10				■				■				
Clinical Informatics	8			■					■				
Community Healthcare	8			■					■			■	
Critical Illness	24			■					■		■		
Diabetes	4			■	■	■			■	■	■	■	
Disability Competent Care	8				■					■			
Emergency Care	6				■			■	■	■			
Global Health	n/a	<i>any month with approval of international travel</i>											
Healthy Aging and Quality Dying	8				■				■				
High Value Care	8				■				■				
How Doctors Think	8			■				■		■			
Infectious Diseases	8				■				■	■			
Injury, Repair, & Rehabilitation	8			■					■		■		
LGBTQ+ Health	4				■	■			■	■			
Medical Imaging and Anatomy	9			■		■		■		■			
Obesity	4			■	■	■		■	■	■			
Opioid	8			■		■					■		
Sexual Medicine & Reproduction	8			■				■			■		

Go to Breakout Rooms