

*Message from Roger Chalkley*

We are truly in a time of change. We are hiring new IGP and MSTP coordinators. Both positions should be in place shortly. We are also getting the international program underway. A program director will be in place soon to begin thinking about recruiting activities for next year. The IGP Spring semester now has 16 modules in place for next year.

Susan Wentz is moving towards the integration of all the graduate programs in the Medical Center and marking out “key way-stations”. In each of the past two years, we have had a “Passing the Qualifying Examination” celebration, and it has been well attended and quite popular. Now Susan wishes to introduce a starting ceremony into the picture, similar to the start to the MD training program, where they have the “White Coat Ceremony”. We are thinking of calling the grad ceremony “So Simple a Beginning”, a phrase that appears in the very last paragraph in Darwin’s Origin of Species. Although the title may seem a little odd at first, I should report that the DGSs and Chairs were very comfortable with bringing Darwin into the picture. This welcome ceremony will be held at 4:00 pm on September 1st .

Last, but not least, we now have a solution to the trainee postdocs being excluded from the list of employees at Vanderbilt. It is true that they are trainees, but they are now being added to HR’s employee listings and hopefully they will find some minor items such as getting a parking spot are no longer a major irritation.

*Message from Terry Dermody*

The Vanderbilt Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) is continuing to grow and prosper. Since 2008 the program has experienced a change to the leadership structure and continuous growth in its student population. The Leadership Team is now comprised of Drs. Terry Dermody (Director), Larry Swift (Associate Director), Jim Bills (Assistant Director), and Michelle Grundy (Assistant Director). There are 86 students in the MSTP, 40 male and 46 female, with 46 students either in the Medical School phase of training or planning to return to Medical School this fall. Forty students are in various stages



**TERRY DERMODY, M.D.,  
MSTP DIRECTOR**

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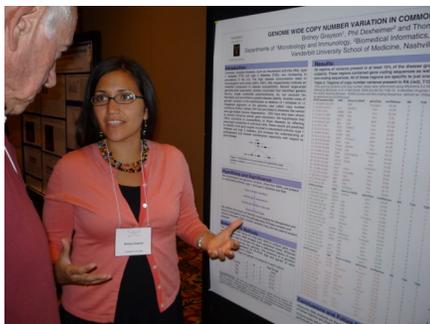
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- ◆ Recruiting  
& Admissions

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## Message from Terry Dermody *(continued from page 1)*

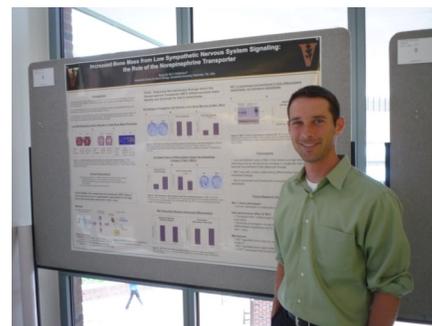


of graduate thesis research.

The program received outstanding news when the National Institutes of Health informed Vanderbilt that the MSTP competing renewal application received the highest score in its history and recommended an increase of three training slots annually. Since that time, the program has seen revisions to its Responsible Conduct of Research curriculum, an increase in the number of re-entry options for graduate students returning to the M3 year of Medical School, renewed publication of the MSTP newsletter, *The Chimera*, after a nine-year hiatus, the institution of the “Mini-MSTP” that was developed and directed entirely by students, and hosted Leadership and Career Development Workshops that were planned and led by student committees. The program’s flagship course, the MSTP Seminar Series, has undergone positive revisions and the Clinical Preceptorship Program has developed new objectives based upon student and faculty recommendations.

Since the summer of 2008, 33 students have graduated with dual degrees and transitioned to their residencies, and 33 new students have matriculated into the program. Other recent milestones include the graduation of our first student in the MSTP-Clinical Investigation Track (Dr. J. Joshua Smith), awards of Shayne Scholarships to Sunita Misra Chris Cselenyi and Kathryn Eby, Vanderbilt Prize Scholarships to Nichelle Winters and Elizabeth Dong, and Canby Robinson Scholarships in 2008 to Peter Knowlton and Obinna Umunakwe and in 2009 to Kristie Aamodt and Jason Metcalf. Canby Robinson Scholarship winners for 2010 will be announced shortly. Finally, MSTP students in the last two years have published more than 50 first-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals and delivered a number of scientific presentations throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

The Vanderbilt Medical Scientist Training Program is well positioned to continue to recruit and train the next generation of physician-scientist leaders. If you would like more information about our program and its features, visit our website at <https://medschool.mc.vanderbilt.edu/mstp/> or contact any member of the MSTP Leadership Team.



## Training Grant Administration & Support

The BRET Office provides support for both training grant renewals and resubmissions. We maintain comprehensive databases that contain faculty biosketches and training history, recruiting information, minority outreach and descriptions of coursework offered at Vanderbilt. Faculty can create customized NIH and NSF formatted biosketches, maintain their current and previous trainee table, and use any of our boilerplate text in their applications. Finally, we can provide data tables for training grant applications (both new and renewal) as well as training grant progress reports. We currently administrate or provide support for 37 training grants that support 140 students and 106 postdocs, totaling \$11.8 million. To contact us for a consultation, email [Ellen.Carter@Vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Ellen.Carter@Vanderbilt.edu) or [Katie.Mcmillen-Dickie@Vanderbilt.Edu](mailto:Katie.Mcmillen-Dickie@Vanderbilt.Edu).



ELLEN CARTER



KATIE DICKIE

## Vanderbilt Training Grants

In 2008, Vanderbilt was nationally ranked 8th in NIH training grant support. Several new NIH-funded training programs started at Vanderbilt in 2008-2010:

Year	Training program	Type	PI/Director
2010	Interdisciplinary Training in Rheumatic Diseases	T32	James Thomas
2010	Virology Training Program	T32	Jim Crowe
2009	Conducting child health care research in vulnerable populations	T32	Jonathan Gitlin & Michael Cooper
2008	Interdisciplinary training program in lung research	T32	Timothy Blackwell
2008	Integrated Biological Systems Training in Oncology	T32	Steve Hann
2008	Summer Research Training Program in Heart, Lung & Vascular Biology	T35	Larry Swift
2008	Summer Research & Training Program in Environmental Health Sciences	T35	Peter Guengerich

## New NIH Policy on RCR: What Training Grant Directors Need to Know

NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant must receive instruction in RCR. The NIH notice [NOT-OD-10-019](#) specifies that **“Applications lacking a full plan for instruction in responsible conduct of research will be considered incomplete and may be delayed in the review process or not reviewed”**. Two types of training are essential to fulfill this RCR requirement are:

1. **Introductory RCR training.** The BRET introductory RCR course, held each May, should be taken by all first-year PhD students and all first-year postdocs. First-year PhD students will have additional introductory RCR training during the IGP/CPB orientation in August.
2. **Continuing RCR education.** All seminars and presentations which have been approved for RCR credit are distributed to students, postdocs, and faculty via the weekly Biomedical Seminar Series calendar email and are also posted on the [StarBRITE education calendar](#). RCR event attendees can collect a registration sheet at these events that they can use to log their attendance on the StarBRITE RCR attendance tracking system. At any time, attendees can log into StarBRITE and print a customized transcript of their attendance history at Vanderbilt RCR events.

**\*\*\*A major new requirement in [NOT-OD-10-019](#) is that faculty are now “highly encouraged” to contribute both to formal and informal instruction in responsible conduct of research. “Informal instruction occurs in the course of laboratory interactions and in other informal situations throughout the year. Training faculty may contribute to formal instruction in responsible conduct of research as discussion leaders, speakers, lecturers, and/or course directors. Rotation of training faculty as course directors, instructors, and/or discussion leaders may be a useful way to achieve the ideal of full faculty participation in formal responsible conduct of research courses over a period of time.”**

## Vanderbilt Summer Science Academy

The Vanderbilt Summer Science Academy (VSSA) started in 2003, and offers biomedical research opportunities to undergraduates who want to pursue a career in the biomedical sciences. Although each participating program operates independently, the academy unites students and provides them with opportunities for academic and social interaction. This summer, **83 students** are taking part in Vanderbilt's Summer Science Academy. Participating programs in 2010 include: ASPET, the Short Term Training Program in Vascular Biology, the Vanderbilt Integrative Cancer Biology Program, the Molecular and Cellular Biology Program, the Undergraduate Clinical Research Internship Program, the Leadership Alliance, and the Berea/Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center.

There are two major tracks within the VSSA; the **Basic Science Programs** for undergraduates interested in careers in research, and the **Undergraduate Clinical Research Internship Program** for undergraduates who wish to pursue a career in medicine. Participation in any one of the Summer Science Academy programs is a valuable learning experience that enhances a student's skills and makes him or her more competitive for acceptance to frontline graduate programs. There are currently 15 VSSA alumni in Vanderbilt PhD or MD-PhD programs.



Academic enrichment sessions include research seminars, a GRE prep course, workshops on how to apply to PhD and MD-PhD programs, networking in the biomedical sciences, and careers in the biomedical sciences. Social activities include a canoe trip and the taste of music city.

## Now Accepting Applications for the HHMI/VUMC Certificate Program in Molecular Medicine

We are delighted to announce that we are now accepting applications to the HHMI/VUMC Certificate Program in Molecular Medicine (CPMM) for Fall 2010. Instructions and a link the online application are available at our website at: <https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/cpmm/Apply>. The submission deadline is Monday, 8/9/10.

## Upcoming Events for Summer, 2010

- **July 27-28, 2010:** Symposium: Career Opportunities in the Biomedical & Biological Sciences.
- **Aug. 3, 2010:** Summer Science Academy poster sessions, 3rd floor corridor, RRB
- **Aug. 16, 2010:** IGP & CPB Orientation
- **Aug. 19, 2010:** IGP Bioregulation course begins
- **Aug. 25, 2010:** CPB & Graduate School courses begin
- **Sept. 1, 2010:** Inaugural White Lab Coat Ceremony, "So Simple A Beginning"

BIOMEDICAL  
RESEARCH  
EDUCATION &  
TRAINING  
340 Light Hall

Phone:  
615-343-4611

BRET Newsletter Editor:  
Abby Brown, Ph.D.



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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE