

*Message from Roger Chalkley*

This issue of the BRET Newsletter is focused on career development and career outcomes of our students and postdocs. Despite the profound economic pressures, our trainees are still doing well in the job market, coupled I believe to early and realistic career planning.

“The Scientist” magazine has just published the results of its annual survey of postdoc satisfaction with the work environment. I am happy to report that Vanderbilt was ranked #10 overall, but is #1 out of all universities in this country. The top nine slots were at research institutes. Click [here](#) to see the top ranked institutions and click [here](#) to read the entire article.

I would like to remind all faculty of the annual postdoc research symposium on April 26th. This is a big event and we expect 100 posters will be displayed. Please feel free to show your interest & support for postdoc contributions to the Vanderbilt research effort.

The reminder to faculty to begin the student nomination process to training grants will hit your email boxes in just over a month from now.

Finally, the [BRET RCR course](#) for first year students & postdocs is scheduled for May 16th. Registration is now open; click [here](#) to register. Given the changing NIH requirements for RCR instruction, faculty may wish to participate this year. Drop me an email, you will be very welcome.

*BRET Office of Career Development*

The BRET Office of Career Development offers career and professional development services for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the biomedical sciences. Please visit our website for more details: [http://bret.mc.vanderbilt.edu/career\\_development/](http://bret.mc.vanderbilt.edu/career_development/).

Individual career advising appointments are available for students and postdocs who want help with career planning. To schedule a confidential career advising appointment, contact Kim Petrie at 322-6885 or by email:

[Kim.Petrie@Vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Kim.Petrie@Vanderbilt.edu).



**KIM PETRIE, PH.D.**

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**FOCUS OF NEXT ISSUE :**

- ◆ Grants & Independent Awards

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## BRET Office of Career Development

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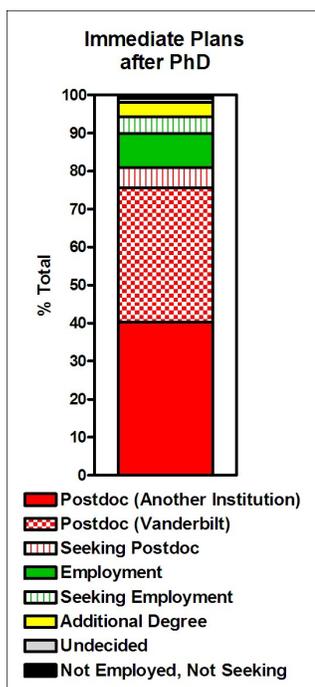
Our bi-monthly newsletter highlights upcoming events as well as advertisements for open postdoc positions and job listings. An archive of previous E-newsletters is available by clicking [here](#).

On October 18, 2011, the office will host a day long “Grants and Fellowships Workshop” for students and post-docs. Save the date and stay tuned for more information soon!

### Careers of VU Graduate Students: immediate plans after the Ph.D.

**Methods:** Metrics below were collected via the Predoctoral Exit Survey. The Predoctoral Exit Survey is given to every student within 1-2 weeks after their thesis defense date. To date, 246 students have completed the exit survey since its inception in January 2007.

**Immediate plans after the PhD:** At the time of the thesis defense, a vast majority of students (75.6%, n=186) had made firm plans start a postdoc position and another 13 students (5.3%) were seeking a postdoc position after completing the PhD.



- Postdoctoral Positions at Another Institution:** A majority of students (n=97) with firm plans for a postdoc planned on a postdoc position at another institution. The top ten most frequent institutions chosen for a postdoc are: (1) Harvard Medical School, (2) National Institutes of Health, (3) University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, (4) Duke University, (5) Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (6) University of California, San Diego, (7) University of Pennsylvania, (8) Baylor University, (9) University of Iowa, and (10) Yale University.

- Postdoctoral Positions at Vanderbilt:** Less than half (n=85) of the students with firm plans for a postdoc planned on a postdoc position at Vanderbilt. A majority of those planning on a short postdoc (< 1 year) did so to coordinate with their significant other. Details about the students that planned on a Vanderbilt postdoc are shown in the table.

Length of time student plans to remain in VU postdoc :	<1 year	>1 year	Total
VU Postdoc in thesis lab	41	12	53
VU Postdoc not in thesis lab	6	26	32

- Employment:** Few students (n= 21) graduating with a PhD entered the job sector immediately after graduation. These students took the following types of positions: non-tenure track faculty at medical center, tenure-track faculty at 4-year college, staff scientist at a research I institution, government scientist, science/medical writer, research scientist in industry or non-profit agency, research coordinator, or high school science teacher.

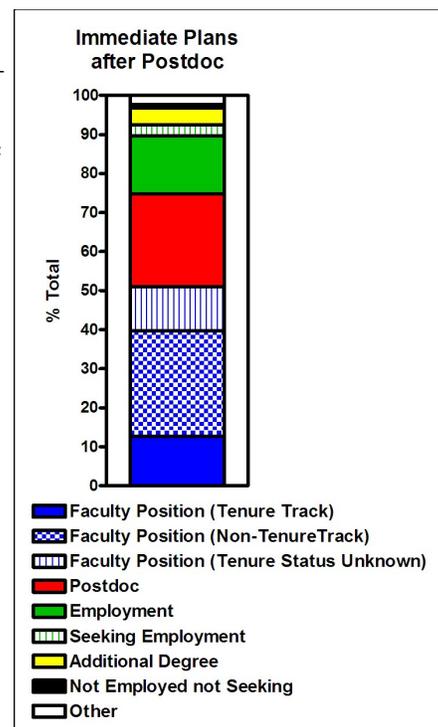
- Additional Degrees:** Ten students planned to pursue additional degrees after the PhD: JD (n=4), MD (n=4), DVM (n=1), MBA (n=1).

## Careers of VU Postdocs: immediate plans after the Vanderbilt postdoc

**Methods:** Metrics below were collected via the Postdoctoral Exit Survey. All postdocs are encouraged to take the postdoctoral Exit Survey. To date, 214 postdocs have completed this portion of the exit survey since its inception in January 2008.

**Immediate plans after the VU Postdoc:** Upon completing a postdoc at Vanderbilt, just over half of all postdocs (51%, n=109) had accepted a faculty position. Of this group, 27 accepted tenure track positions, 58 accepted non-tenure track positions, and 24 accepted positions but did not report the tenure status.

- Tenure Track Faculty Positions:** Institutions where postdocs accepted a tenure track faculty position include: Auburn Univ., Colgate Univ., Dickinson Coll., Emory Univ., Glenville State Coll., Grand Valley State Univ., Indiana Univ., Pacific Univ., Tenn. State Univ., Thomas Jefferson Univ., Univ. of Detroit, Univ. of South Carolina, Univ. of Texas Health Science Center, and Vanderbilt.
- Non-Tenure Track Faculty Positions:** Institutions where postdocs accepted a non-tenure track faculty position include: Arizona State Univ., Beloit Coll., Gladstone Institute, Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Nashville State Comm. Coll. Penn State Univ., The Coll. Of William & Mary, Univ. of Alabama, Univ. of Louisville, Univ. of Maryland, Univ. of Puerto Rico, and Yale. A majority of positions were at Vanderbilt.
- Postdoctoral Positions:** Some postdocs (23%, n=50) had firm plans for an additional postdoctoral position.
- Employment:** Some postdocs (15%, n=32) entered the job sector immediately after leaving Vanderbilt. Most of these postdocs took the following types of positions: Research scientist (industry), Research scientist (U.S. govt.), Research scientist (non-profit), Staff Scientist at Vanderbilt.
- Additional Degrees:** Nine postdocs planned to pursue one of the following additional degrees after the completing their Vanderbilt postdoc: JD, RN, MBA, or Medical Technology degree.



## NRSA (F30, F31, F32)—new participating NIH institutes

The NIH has updated the following Notices & Program Announcements regarding individual NRSA applications. For more details, consult the relevant NIH Notice or Program Announcement listed below.

- NCI now funds ALL types of F30/F31 predoctoral fellowships: [PA-11-111](#)
- NHLBI now funds F30 predoctoral fellowships: [PA-11-125](#)
- NINDS now funds F31 predoctoral fellowships for MD-PhD students: [PAR-11-127](#)
- The following Institutes now fund F32 postdoctoral fellowships:
  - NCI: [NOT-CA-11-008](#)
  - NEI: [NOT-EY-11-002](#)
  - NICHD: [NOT-HD-11-007](#)

## *Announcement: Vanderbilt Internal Grant Application Review*

The Clinical & Translational Scientist Development (CTSD) program offers an internal review of an R01 or K99/R00 application submitted by individuals at Vanderbilt who do not yet have a first or second R01 or K99/R00 award. This includes first submissions and revisions, and basic and clinical investigation.

This internal review is a mechanism for NIH applicants to receive constructive feedback by senior faculty who serve on NIH study sections. Postdocs and faculty members that would like to submit a K99/R00 or first-time R01 application are encouraged to submit a letter of intent to Donna Georgescu at: [donna.georgescu@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:donna.georgescu@vanderbilt.edu). The letter of intent is due by **April 26, 2011** for the June/July NIH submission cycle.

Participants that submit a grant application will watch their application being reviewed by the panel and receive written feedback on their grant applications within one week.

## *Funding Announcement: Vanderbilt In Vivo Cellular and Molecular Imaging Center (VICMIC) Career Development Awards & Pilot Projects*

The Vanderbilt In Vivo Cellular and Molecular Imaging Center (VICMIC) was established by the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science (VUIIS) with a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute. Its mission is to develop innovative molecular imaging studies of cancer biology and to advance translational imaging in cancer research. In addition to supporting specialized resources (including an expanded small animal imaging core, a chemistry core, a radiochemistry core, and a biostatistics core) and four major research projects, the VICMIC will provide funds for PILOT PROJECTS and CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS. Applications are now being solicited for these two funding opportunities, and the application deadline is May 15th. Detailed information on these programs and the application requirements may be found at: <http://www.vuiis.vanderbilt.edu/documents/ICMICaward.pdf>.

## **Upcoming Events for Spring & Summer, 2011**

- **March 11, 25, 2011:** IGP Interview days
- **March 31-April 1, 2011:** MSTP Second Visit weekend
- **April 6, 2011 (3:30 pm in 208 Light Hall):** Graduate Student & Postdoc Town Hall with Dr. Susan Wentz
- **April 26, 2011:** Vanderbilt Postdoc Spring Symposium
- **May 13, 2011:** Commencement
- **May 16, 2011 (8:00 am-5:00 pm):** BRET RCR Responsible Conduct in Research Training course
- **May 22-25, 2011:** Postdoc Recruiting Event

**BIOMEDICAL  
RESEARCH  
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340 Light Hall**

**Phone:  
615-343-4611**

**BRET Newsletter Editor:  
Abby Brown, Ph.D.**

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