

Helpful Websites

K12 Mentored Research Scholars Program

Pediatrics.vumc.org/k12

Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt

ChildrensHospitalVanderbilt.org

Vanderbilt University Office for Diversity Affairs

VUMC.org/diversity/diversity-vanderbilt-university-school-medicine

Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics

Pediatrics.vumc.org

Vanderbilt University
School of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics K12 Mentored Research Scholars Program

K12 Program Leadership

Steven Webber, M.B.Ch.B. – Program Director
James C. Overall Professor and Chair of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics

Michael R. DeBaun, M.D., M.P.H. – Co-Training Director
Professor of Pediatrics (Hematology-Oncology), Vice Chair, Clinical and Translational Research, J.C. Peterson Endowed Chair

Mark R. Denison, M.D. – Co-Training Director
Professor of Pediatrics (Infectious Diseases) and Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, Craig-Weaver Chair in Pediatrics

To learn more, contact:

Dr. Michael DeBaun via Jennifer Beck
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Department of Pediatrics
2200 Children's Way
Nashville, Tennessee 37232
(615) 875-3040
m.debaun@vumc.org

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER



Vanderbilt University
School of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics K12 Mentored Research Scholars Program

Pathogenesis, Targeted Therapeutics and
New Vaccines for Childhood Diseases

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Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Department of Pediatrics K12

Mentored Research Scholars Program

The Department of Pediatrics at Vanderbilt invites qualifying faculty members to submit applications for our mentored training program for early career pediatricians. These pediatricians will possess the aptitude and passion to become a new generation of basic and translational physician-scientists.

Board-certified or board-eligible pediatricians at the Instructor or Assistant Professor rank with an appointment in the Department of Pediatrics are encouraged to apply. Senior fellows may also inquire.

Research will focus on the elucidation of the molecular and cellular pathogenesis of childhood diseases and will lead to the identification of therapeutic targets for the development of new drugs, biologics and vaccines.

The program will assist with career development in the following areas where Vanderbilt has internationally recognized programs of discovery combined with a record of sustained excellence in research mentorship.

- Cancer biology
- Heart disease and development
- Infectious diseases of childhood
- Lung disease and development, including lung disease of prematurity
- Neurological disorders
- Obesity and metabolism, including diabetes
- Other areas of research are also encouraged

TRAINING PROGRAM

The program offers integrated Pediatric department and medical school training for three pediatric scholars, who will receive up to three years of support focused on scientific mentorship and personalized career development. Scholars will have at least 80 percent of their effort allocated to research.

The cornerstone for a successful mentor-mentee relationship is a research apprenticeship in the laboratory of the primary mentor, who is an established, well-funded National Institutes of Health (NIH) investigator with adequate time to mentor, as well as a passion and track record for successfully training junior faculty scientists, especially physician-scientists. We expect weekly lab meetings with the primary mentor; although, we anticipate more frequent contact.

Scholars will have access to well-established faculty members, including 33 basic and translational senior

investigators with sustained NIH funding coupled with a history of mentoring scholars. Additionally, we have selected 8 pediatric Next Generation Mentors, most with R01 funding. Scholars also will be supported by institutional and departmental resources.

Each scholar will have an individualized training program developed by the Chair of Pediatrics, Dr. Webber, and Training Directors, Dr. DeBaun and Dr. Denison, in collaboration with a multidisciplinary mentorship team.

Scholar activities will include:

- K12 Club monthly meetings with the training directors and other departmental K12 scholars
- Regular mentorship committee meetings
- Semi-annual formal evaluations of scholars and the program
- Weekly departmental research seminars

Scholars will also have annual confidential face-to-face meetings with two external advisors who serve as Department Chairs at other academic medical centers.

