



CLINICIAN - INVESTIGATOR PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Faculty Candidate Opportunity Profile

Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program

Vanderbilt University Medical Center

vaccinesatvanderbilt.com

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program (VVRP) at Vanderbilt University Medical Center invites applications for a clinical investigator faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level (MD or MD, PhD). Successful candidates will be expected to contribute scientifically and operationally to vaccine clinical trials, epidemiologic studies, and treatment trials conducted through the VVRP. Expertise and interest in vaccine clinical trials in children or adults are desired.

Appointment will be in the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. Applicants should be board certified or board eligible in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and will participate in the clinical services of the division.

The division faculty are an accomplished and dynamic group of faculty involved in clinical care, basic and clinical investigation, and education. Areas of growth include antimicrobial stewardship research, immunocompromised host care, infection prevention, education, implementation science, and pragmatic clinical trials.

C. Buddy Creech, MD, MPH
Edie Carell Johnson Chair and Professor of
Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Director, Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program



Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program.

The VVRP was founded in 2001 by Dr. Kathryn Edwards. It is home to the NIH-funded Vanderbilt Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit and the CDC-funded Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Network Coordinating Center



OVERVIEW

Our mission is to reduce the burden of infectious diseases worldwide through the discovery, evaluation, and delivery of safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics.

From its inception, the VVRP has been focused on the prevention of infectious diseases in children. While principal pathogens of interest include influenza, pertussis, *S. aureus*, pneumococcus, Group B *Streptococcus*, and now SARS-CoV-2, the portfolio of studies conducted through the VVRP is very broad. The studies conducted by the group are performed across the lifespan and in special populations, such as pregnant women and children/adults with underlying medical conditions.

Three funding mechanisms comprise the majority of the VVRP's research portfolio.

1. NIH-funded **Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU)**, a part of the newly formed Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC). Recent projects include evaluations of a live, attenuated pertussis vaccine; Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccine trials; Pediatric COVID-19 trials; and novel, adjuvanted influenza vaccine trials
2. NIH-funded **Collaborative Influenza Vaccine Innovation Centers (CIVICs)**: VUMC serves as a sub-site to the Clinical Trials Core at the University of Maryland. Current work includes evaluation of a novel, attenuated influenza vaccine in children
3. CDC-funded **Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment (CISA) Network**: The VVRP serves as the coordinating center for a national initiative evaluating adverse events following immunization across the US.



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ACTIVE CLINICAL
TRIALS AND
STUDIES

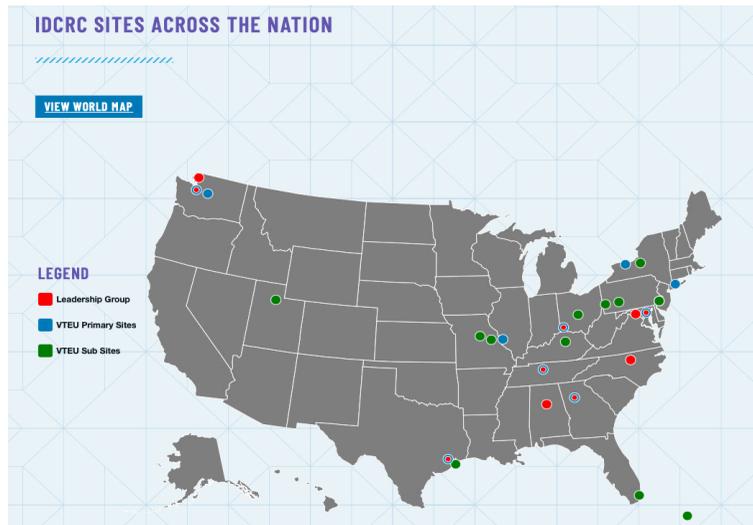
25
FACULTY AND STAFF

5
FELLOWS AND
TRAINEES

\$4,675,393
FY 2020 EXPENDITURES

\$8,864,487
FY 2021 EXPENDITURES

\$27,125,219
Current NIH Funding



CLINICAL CARE

Two inpatient teams - the Edwards General ID Service and the Wright Immunocompromised Host Service - provide subspecialty care at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. U.S. News & World Report has named MCJCHV as the no. 1 children's hospital in the Southeast. We are also among only 22 children's hospitals that are ranked nationally in 10 out of 10 pediatric specialties.

RESEARCH

The Division is known for cutting edge research across a number of important areas including vaccinology, virology (particularly coronaviruses, influenza, rotavirus, and respiratory viruses), immunology, bone biology, bacteriology (in particular, pneumococcus and *S. aureus*), infection prevention, antimicrobial stewardship, pharmacokinetics, and HIV.

EDUCATION

The Vanderbilt University School of Medicine ranks 13th among the nation's elite programs, according to US News and World Report's annual ranking of top medical schools. Students, housestaff, and junior trainees frequently engage in clinical care and research activities of the division. Pediatric ID faculty are highly engaged with housestaff education across the medical center and the division is home to 6 pediatric ID fellows (2 per year).

Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases

The Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, led by Dr. Mark Denison, is home to 19 faculty members who are committed to excellence in patient care, training, and research related to infectious diseases. The division is a leader in vaccine sciences, including pathogenesis and epidemiology of vaccine preventable diseases; clinical trials, including first-in-human trials; and evaluations of vaccine safety.

The Department of Pediatrics has robust clinical and research missions and consistently ranks in the top 5 in NIH funding among U.S. Medical Schools. Both the Department and VUMC have multiple programs to support the career development of new investigators as they transition to individual research careers.

VUMC is located in the heart of Nashville, a thriving community of commerce, finance, healthcare, and music. Known internationally as “Music City,” Nashville is a wonderful place to live and work.





VVRP LABORATORY

The VVRP Laboratory is led by Dr. Isaac Thomsen, Associate Professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. The laboratory contributes to a number of clinical trials, offering opportunities for sample processing, PBMC isolation, magnetic and flow-based cell sorting, development of novel immunologic assays (e.g., kELISA, microneutralization, liquid bead based assays), assessment of mucosal immunity, and next generation 'omics studies.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

Candidates with demonstrated interest and experience in clinical trials are highly encouraged to apply. Faculty candidates with strong backgrounds in epidemiology, clinical trial design, and immunology, as well as those with training and experience in leadership and project management will be highly competitive.

A considerable portion of the faculty's overall effort will be protected for clinical research activities. Additional effort will be dedicated to clinical care, teaching, and administrative duties.

We seek candidates who embrace and reflect diversity in the broadest sense. VUMC has a strong institutional commitment to recruiting and retaining an academically and culturally diverse community of faculty and staff. Minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented groups, in particular, are encouraged to apply. Vanderbilt is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and a one-page statement of research interests to buddy.creech@vumc.org.