

CPD/CME

CONNECTIONS

A quarterly newsletter brought to you by the Office for Continuous Professional Development



GREETINGS TO ALL!

by Lori Deitte, MD, & Monique Drago, MA, EdD

It's winter, and you know what that means. Time to look back and reflect on all that has happened in the past year. It is a time of gratitude. This is a very busy time of year -- sometimes too busy. But being busy is a good thing! It's important for us to take time to pause and reflect on all that we are grateful for, including the amazing work of our CME program and *you* as our partners. Thank you!

This is also a time for new beginnings as we transition into 2024. We look forward to continuing to cultivate our partnerships and collaboratively design creative ways to provide continuing education for the purpose of improving the quality of patient care.

Transitions are often bittersweet. This is particularly true for our OCPD team as we say farewell to Monique Drago, Director of OCPD, and welcome David Sakala as the incoming Director of OCPD. We are all working together to ensure a smooth transition, and we are all filled with optimism as we look to the road ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy, healthy, and joyful New Year 2024!

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COMMERCIAL SUPPORT PROCESS

The VUMC OCPD Commercial Support process was recently updated. Commercial Support is defined as financial or in-kind support from ineligible companies (those whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients).

The VUMC Office for Continuous Professional Development (OCPD)/CME oversees the management of all new commercial support requests. The Activity Planners and CME Associates are continuing to perform their current procedures on the timeline that aligns with their CME activity, but the process from beginning to end is now tracked and overseen by OCPD. If you are planning on requesting commercial support for a CME activity, please contact us as soon as possible at commsupp@vumc.org. Our office will provide a funding request letter template and a template Letter of Agreement (LOA). Utilizing these documents, the Activity Planner and/or CME Associate will then send the initial emails to the companies to request commercial support, copying our office at commsupp@vumc.org on these requests. The Activity Planner and/or CME Associate will then continue their correspondence with the companies and submit the grant applications.

The LOA must be signed by the company and OCPD. These steps must all be completed and in place prior to the start of the accredited education event. *No funds can be received without a fully executed LOA.*

Once the funds are disbursed to OCPD, we will have the funds transferred to the CME Associate/department.

If you are planning to request commercial support for a CME activity, please contact us as soon as possible at commsupp@vumc.org so that we may begin overseeing the management of this process with you.

For the full policy and procedures, including restrictions on use of funds, please view the [VUMC OCPD Standard Operating Procedures on Commercial Support](#) document on our Resources page.

Please note: Our Commercial Support policy only includes our OCPD office overseeing the management of financial support through education grants and in-kind support. This policy does not include exhibits/vendors, which need a signed agreement managed by the CME Associate and submitted to OCPD prior to the accredited activity/course.



CME FEE PRICE RESTRUCTURE

The Office of CPD continues to engage in a thoughtful process to evaluate needed resources to provide quality service for CME course activities developed by our VUMC departments that engage external attendees. We are in the process of finalizing an update to our fee structure and plan to disseminate the new fee structure in January 2024. These fees will be implemented for CME course activities that take place on July 1, 2024 and moving forward. The current fee structure is valid for courses taking place through June 30, 2024.

SPOTLIGHT ON: DAVID SAKALA, MBA, MUPP



We would like to welcome David Sakala to the team. David became the new VUMC OCPD/CME director on December 4, 2023. David was the CME Director at the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and helped lead the school's CME program through its first accreditation as an entirely new CME program. Before that, David administered the CME program at the University of Illinois College of Medicine for nine years. David's favorite hobby outside of work is Muay Thai.

David, what motivates you? "I am motivated by the opportunity to improve upon how we work each day. Whether it's operational excellence, continuous improvement, strategic planning, innovation, or change culture, I am inspired and driven to push myself, team members, colleagues, and organization to be better. I am solutions oriented and constantly look for ways to solve issues and problems to optimize performance and generate positive outcomes."

What's something that has surprised you about your chosen career path? "I am surprised by many peers I encounter in accredited continuing education who are going the extra step to enhance the value of their organizations even when faced with competing priorities and institutional barriers and challenges. As somebody who entered the space over a decade ago, I have realized that there are many others out there who are passionate and driven to realize the potential of their continuing education programs, be it medical education or professional development. It has helped transform how we look at accredited continuing education."

Are you more productive in the mornings, afternoons, or evenings and why? "I would love to say I am productive at all times, but mornings and evenings are when I am at my best. During the morning, I am refreshed and ready to tackle work. During the evening, I take time to reflect and prepare for the next day while working on my own self-improvement."

What's the best piece of professional advice you've ever received? "The best professional advice I ever received came from a former colleague who served as the Executive Chair of the Committee for Continuing Medical Education. He once told me that we are often so quick to say no without considering how we can say yes. Those words have resonated with me since and inspired me to examine more often how we can say yes as it concerns the work environment. A good example goes back to my early days in continuing medical education where we have established deadlines for the submission of applications. Occasionally, we would receive a late submission and need to tell applicants that their activities would be ineligible for CME credit. Looking at how this impacted our "business" and ability to provide important CME to learners, I evaluated our procedures and resources to identify ways we could approve late applications, including taking a more holistic approach that considered factors outside the control of applicants including staff turnover, limited resources, and the availability of information."

How do you describe what you do for a living to family and friends? "I explain to family and friends that I help physicians and other healthcare professionals along their career trajectory to acquire critical medical education that enables them to impact patient health and patient lives while building sustained value organizationally that ensures they continue to have access to key learning resources."



With the retirement of Bonnie Miller, CAMHL is pleased to announce that in addition to our current leader, Dr. Lori Deitte, the following honorable people have joined the leadership team:

Jessica S. Ancker, MPH, PhD, FACMI
Professor and Vice Chair for Educational Affairs
Department of Biomedical Informatics | Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Shane Stenner, MD, MS
Associate Dean for Education Design and Informatics | Vanderbilt University School of Medicine
Associate Professor, Biomedical Informatics, Medicine | Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Chase J. Webber, DO FACP
Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Informatics

We welcome the new leadership team!

More to come!!!



CME THAT COUNTS FOR MOC

Now is a wonderful time to check your [CloudCME profile](#) to ensure your profile is set up to record MOC II credit for qualifying events you attend at VUMC. Setting up your account for MOC II credit is fast and easy. Most of all, it is convenient - we report the MOC II credits to your Board, on your behalf, once a quarter.

For MOC eligible activities a diplomate attends, our office will report MOC to the following Boards:

- American Board of Anesthesiology: ABA MOCA Part II & ABA MOCA Patient Safety
- American Board of Internal Medicine
- American Board of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
- American Board of Pathology
- American Board of Pediatrics
- American Board of Surgery



Unfortunately, MOC II cannot be reported retroactively. The earlier your account is set up the more MOC II credits you can earn toward your Board's Maintenance of Certification or Continuing Certification program.

If you are already earning MOC II credit, you are all set and there is nothing more for you to do. If you are not currently Boarded, please do not set up your account until you are fully Boarded with your participating Board – the credits will not transfer over and will need to be removed from your account.

You can read more about our MOC II program, including participating Boards, through [this link](#).
You can find instructions for setting up your account for MOC II credit by accessing [this link](#).
You can access our CloudCME website and your profile [here](#).

For any questions regarding the MOC program, please email mocportfolio@vumc.org.





CPD'S DISCLOSURE PROCESS

The Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education are designed to ensure that accredited continuing education serves the needs of patients and the public, is based on valid content, and is free from commercial influence. CPD implemented a new disclosure process and timeframes January 2022 which apply to all continuing education activities:

- All CME activities are required to have disclosures completed no later than **10-business days** prior to the activity start date.
- If we request a presentation to review, it must be uploaded into CloudCME no later than **5-business days** prior to the activity start date.
- If changes are requested for the presentation due to a conflict of interest, the updated presentation must be uploaded no later than **3-business days** prior to the activity start date.

Our goal is to maintain compliance with our regulatory body while ensuring we make the process efficient and effective for us all. If you would like to review the disclosure process, the presentation can be found [here](#). Some of the most common FAQs regarding the disclosure process and timeframes can be found [here](#). For more information on the disclosure process or to review other helpful how-to articles for activity directors, CME associates, and learners, please visit our [Resources](#) page.

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu****Fri****Sat**

APPLICATION REVIEW PAUSE

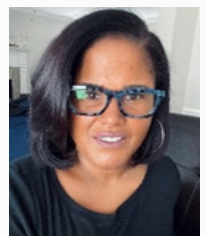


As we approach the end of the year rush, we will be pausing the review of all new activity applications from Friday December 8, 2023 through Friday February 2, 2024. This means that any activity applications not submitted prior to December 8 will not be reviewed until after February 2. The system will still be open for you to work on and submit applications, however, you will not hear from our team regarding your application during these dates. If you have already submitted an application, it is currently in our queue for review.

Please note: we will be pausing the review of all new activity applications from 12/8/2023 - 2/2/2024.

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Monique Drago, Director of CPD, is departing from VUMC for a new chapter in her career on December 29, 2023. Monique is a highly valued leader with a passion for education and collaboration. Since joining VUMC in August 2020, her accomplishments include building long-term sustainable policies, operations and partnerships to increase efficiency, ensure effective bi-directional communications with our CME stakeholders, and further elevate our CME program. Monique is a highly respected and trusted team member who will be missed. We are very grateful for her impactful contributions and wish her well in her future endeavors. Thank you, Monique!





AEE “ACADEMY AWARDS”

Academy for Excellence in Education (AEE)

Member Highlights, Interviews, and Tips



Ryan Splittgerber, PhD

“I received my PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Alabama Birmingham and subsequently trained in gross anatomy as a post-doctoral fellow at Vanderbilt. As a medical educator at VUMC, I teach human gross anatomy throughout the medical school curriculum and serve as the co-director of the final pre-clerkship block, *Brain, Behavior and Movement*. I currently serve as the Director of Vanderbilt’s Surgical and Anatomical Skills labs and Vanderbilt’s Anatomical Donations Program. For scholarship, I author *Snell’s Clinical Neuroanatomy* textbook.”

What brings you joy as an educator?

“One of my favorite educator experiences is teaching during small group interactions. Discussion in these one-on-one and small group situations provides safe and comfortable environments for more intimate and honest conversations about the misunderstandings and nuances that students are struggling to understand. These interactions result in so many more ‘a-ha’ moments than lecturing in large groups because the explanations can be dialed in to the level and learning style of the individual.”

What has been the best part of being in the AEE?

“Being relatively new to the AEE, I’ve recently found it refreshing to know that there are so many other educators outside my own educational silo- and they’re just like me! It’s encouraging to see that we all run into the same types of problems but often have different solutions. The AEE has been a tremendous resource for finding others that can help with educational advice.”

An educational tip from Dr. Splittgerber:

“One thing I try to remember each time I make a lecture for my students is to assume that this is the first time they are being introduced to this subject. Foundational levels of incoming knowledge are variable; some students may already know the content very well, and for some it might be their first time. To me, the latter group is one that really needs me to break information into understandable components. Those that already know will not feel affronted that I’m telling them things they already understand; instead, it serves as good review. Everyone wins.”



2024 AEE APPLICATIONS



Fostering educational excellence, innovation, leadership, and scholarship, the 2024 application process for new members for the Academy for Excellence in Education is now open!

Candidates for the AEE must be full-time faculty (any track) or staff in the School of Medicine and show sustained excellence in education. Applicants will demonstrate their contributions and impact as an educator through activities in six areas of educator focus: Teaching, Educational Leadership, Course/Curricula/Program Design, Assessment, Education Scholarship, and Mentorship.

The deadline for accepting the first-step applications for membership in the Academy for Excellence in Education is Monday, January 8. Details regarding the two-step application process can be found [here](#).

EDP WORKSHOPS



Educator Development Program (EDP)

- Identifying Microaggressions in the Educational Environment: Thur, Jan 11, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
- Mentoring Educational Projects: Wed, Feb 21, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
- Incorporating Tech in Teaching: Quizzes, Modules, Social Media: Wed, Mar 6, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
- Using Simulation in Education: Thur, Apr 11, 1-3pm. [Register](#)
- Building Your Educational Portfolio: Fri, May 24, 1-3pm. [Register](#)

CPD UPDATES



We have completed our reaccreditation virtual site visit for the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) and look forward to the results this coming spring. Thank you again to everyone we reached out to for additional information from your event. We appreciate all you do for continuing education.

CME REMINDERS



- Activity applications are due *120 days in advance* of the activity start date for Courses and *90 days in advance* of the activity start date for RSS applications.
- The OCPD Office now oversees the management of all new commercial support requests, and all new funds disbursed are now routed through the OCPD Office.
- All faculty and planners need to be submitted at the time the activity application is submitted.
- No promotional materials can mention CME if your application has not been approved.
- Activity presentations do not need to be submitted unless they are requested by a CME team member.
- All participants in an activity should text in the CME code regardless of CME eligibility -- the code is also used to record attendance.
- Courses must submit a new application every calendar year (*120 days in advance*).
- Course invoices and final budgets are due upon request.
- If you cancel, postpone, or reschedule your activity for any reason, please alert us right away.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Office for Continuous Professional Development
Continuing Medical Education
2215 Garland Ave, 312 Light Hall
Nashville, TN 37232-0495
(615) 332-4060
cme@vumc.org
vumc.org/ocpd



We are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.