

VPRAD

Voice

November 2021

In This Issue

Cohort 32
Graduation -
January 7

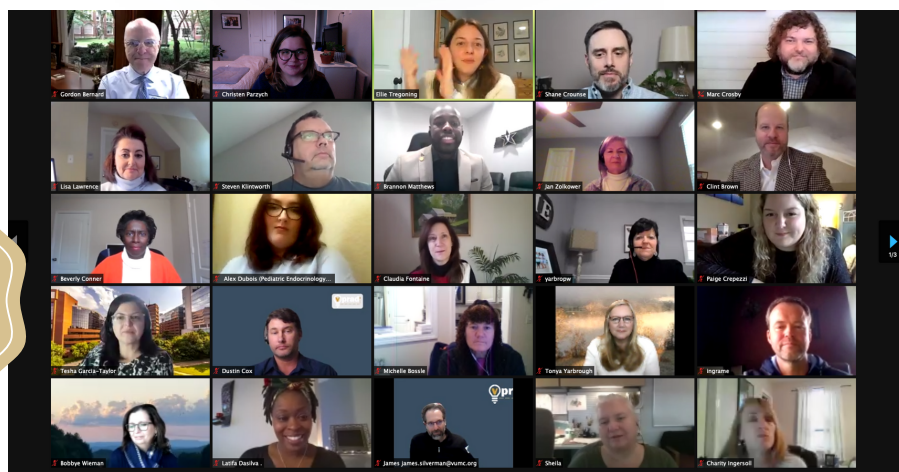
Cohort 33
applications are
now open in
StarBRITE!

Mentor Spotlight:
Trisha James,
Cohort 31

VPRAD in the
Time of COVID

Intro to VPRAD is offered monthly via two two-hour Zoom sessions and offers a broad overview of VUMC and the broader grants landscape.

Sign up for the next offering by searching "Intro to VPRAD" in the Learning Exchange.



Wrapping Up Cohort 32 and Looking to the Future

Welcome to Issue 2 of VPRAD Voice!

We're excited to share what's been happening in the world of VPRAD since our last update in August.

We're currently wrapping up Cohort 32. Full of bright, inquisitive, and friendly faces, Cohort 32 is set to graduate Friday, January 7 on Zoom. If you can make it, we encourage you to join us!

VPRAD is still virtual, and we've been utilizing feedback from participants, speakers, and advisory board members to create an inclusive, engaging, and thought-provoking space. This cohort we introduced Virtual Visits as a replacement for in-person tours and Weekly Updates as a mode of keeping participants, mentors, and advisory board members in the loop and up-to-date.

VIRTUAL VISIT UPDATE

This cohort we introduced Virtual Visits as a mechanism for participants to connect and interact with labs, departments, cores, and central offices across campus. We also scheduled sessions that took in-depth looks at topics that, while always at least a peripheral part of the VPRAD curriculum, unfortunately didn't get as much class time (research misconduct case studies, the PEER/Coeus relationship, the VUMC space survey).

We cannot wait to grow our Virtual Visit offerings for next cohort. If you or your area are interested in becoming a host, please contact vprad@vumc.org.



VPRAD IN THE TIME OF COVID

We are always honored to have Drs. Robert Carnahan (Vanderbilt Vaccine Center) and Buddy Creech (Pediatrics) join us. These two generous presenters' sessions have always coincidentally bookended the beginning and end of our program, respectively.



As we transitioned to a new, virtual reality during COVID, it has been amazing to see our curriculum intersect with real-world events. Throughout the last few cohorts, we have been able to get real-time updates about cutting-edge pandemic research. It has been an honor for all of us on the VPRAD team, as well as for our participants. Thank you!

ALUMNI

spotlight

TRISHA JAMES, COHORT 31

Can you give a brief background of how you ended up in your current role as a research administrator?

The journey to my current position was basically birthed and sparked from being exposed to bits and pieces of research administration along my tenure of positions held at both VU and VUMC.

As one of the first virtual cohorts, what was your VPRAD experience like?

You wouldn't have known that the program was new to the virtual world as everything from beginning to end was well-put together and ran extremely smooth -- like a well-oiled machine, which is a testament to the organizers and presenters in charge of the program. The virtual presentations were engaging and informative and we even got to play a little Jeopardy along the way, e.g., "I'll take Compliance for \$200"

How has your perspective of research changed after attending?

VPRAD attendance made me appreciate even more the vast array of resources and support that it takes to see a research project go from cradle to grave, and more importantly, how that research can have both a personal as well as global effect such as the case with recent COVID-19 research that has been conducted at VUMC and distributed nationwide.



As someone who already had years of institutional and research admin experience, what was valuable to you about attending VPRAD?

Prior to attending VPRAD, I had recently transferred to VUMC from VU where I had been employed several years. The VPRAD experience served as a reboot and fresh perspective of the VUMC research environment, and all the key units/departments/contacts involved in bringing research project to fruition.

What is one thing you took away from your relationship with your mentor?

To give back. My mentor was a previous VPRAD graduate who had been serving as a mentor for several years after graduation. Because of her willingness to serve, I was able to draw from her insight and experience as a senior research administrator during my participation in VPRAD as well as add her to my network list of colleagues / coworkers within the VUMC research environment. Her mentorship played a key role in my successful completion of VPRAD program and I hope to do the same should the opportunity arise.

What is your advice to future cohorts who want to get a lot out of the virtual experiences?

Lean in, take notes, start a virtual contact list of all presenters for future use, don't be afraid to ask questions, refer to PowerPoint presentations often, don't stress over exam-- it's not as bad as you may have heard, and in the end, take those opportunities when they arise to extend bragging rights that you're a VPRAD graduate and encourage other employees who haven't participated in the program to apply to next Cohort so they can do the same!



HAVE AN IDEA FOR *VPRAD VOICE*? EMAIL [VPRAD@VUMC.ORG](mailto:vprad@vumc.org)!