

VI4 2022-23 Mini-Sabbatical

Funding Opportunity Description

Two of the primary goals of the Vanderbilt Institute for Infection, Immunology, & Inflammation (VI4) are:

1. To organize the community of scientists at Vanderbilt and Meharry that study various aspects of infection biology, immunology and inflammatory diseases.
2. To provide increased opportunities for interactions among VI4 Faculty.

Mini-sabbatical fellowships are meant to achieve both of these goals by fostering collaborative training opportunities for students and postdoctoral fellows within the laboratories of VI4 Faculty. These fellowships seek to provide funds that will allow trainees to expand their technical expertise and enhance their research projects through short-term training experiences in the laboratory of another VI4 Faculty. The hope is that these fellowships will expand the technical capabilities of the community while facilitating collaborative research among VI4 Faculty.

Two types of fellowships are possible:

1. INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS to permit trainees to work in the laboratory of another VI4 Faculty.
2. EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS to permit trainees to work in a laboratory outside of Vanderbilt, and are meant to support the acquisition and subsequently to disseminate new expertise, scientific tools or approaches within Vanderbilt.

Number of Fellowships, Funds, & Budget

1. A maximum of 5 mini-sabbaticals will be awarded in FY23
2. Each INTERNAL mini-sabbatical will be awarded \$4000. These funds are intended to cover the cost of necessary supplies and services (e.g. core facility charges) during the period of the mini-sabbatical. Internal applications do not require submission of a budget.
3. The budget for EXTERNAL mini-sabbaticals is flexible based on need.
4. Requests for EXTERNAL projects should include a reasonable itemized budget and a justification.

Eligibility

All participating faculty must be members of the VI4, including trainee's home lab and sabbatical lab.

Application Materials

1. One paragraph description of the proposed training opportunity and how it will enhance the trainee's current research project (think big!). The introduction of new technological and/or experimental approaches to the research project as a result of the mini-sabbatical should be clearly stated.

2. Those seeking support for EXTERNAL mini-sabbaticals should provide an additional paragraph describing the necessity to leave Vanderbilt to acquire the new technology and a plan to disseminate it to other interested VI4 laboratory or laboratories.
3. Short letter from each of the two participating faculty members confirming willingness to support the proposed training.

Questions and submissions can be sent to VI4 Senior Program Manager, megan.schladt@vumc.org. The submission deadline is June 24, 2022.