Human Biology and Disease

**Summer course:**  9-11am May 6th-24th, 2024

**Orientation:** 9-10am May 3rd, 2024 (required for everyone)

**Credit:** 1 to 3 hours  
**Registration:** open

[May 2024 Human Biology and Disease Slides](https://medschool.vanderbilt.edu/vpmm/hubd/human-biology-and-disease-powerpoints/) (VUnetID Protected)

[Human Biology and Disease Course Flyer](https://cdn.vanderbilt.edu/vu-web/medschool-wpcontent/sites/57/2018/11/25041121/HuBD-Course-Flyer-1.pdf)

**Course organizers**The course has been organized by Dr. Mark de Caestecker MB BS, PhD, Dr. Matt Luther MD MSCI, nephrologists and physician scientists who direct the Vanderbilt Program for Molecular Medicine (VPMM), and Dr. Bradley Richmond MD PhD, a physician scientists from the Division of Pulmonary Medicine at Vanderbilt. Mary Gray Lindstrom is the course coordinator.

Please address any enquiries about the course and registration to Mary Gray Lindstrom at: [mary.g.lindstrom@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:mary.g.lindstrom@vanderbilt.edu)

**Course Description**The aim of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive, organ-based overview, of human biology and disease pathophysiology from a clinical perspective. What distinguishes the proposed course from any other courses or programs that are currently offered at Vanderbilt, is that it will be comprehensive, covering all the major organ systems in the human body, and will be taught by clinicians from a clinical, rather than a basic science, perspective. There will be 15 topics taught covering 12 organ systems, each over 2-hour blocks coordinated by a physician or physician scientist involved in treating patients with common diseases affecting that organ system. Students will be instructed to register with UpToDate (or Medscape), on-line portals for students, physicians and healthcare professionals, and use to read about and write brief reports on clinical topics being discussed each day. The last session of each block will be in a case report format in which instructors bring along a patient suffering from the disease being discussed, so that students can develop an intimate understanding of what it is like to suffer from the disease being discussed during that teaching block.

To complete three credit hours (quality hours for full credit), students will be expected to attend **in person** 15 mornings of didactic and interactive teaching blocks over the three-week Human Biology and Disease immersion course. Some students may elect to attend 5 to 10 selected morning blocks for 1 or 2 credit hours rather than complete the whole course. There are no prerequisites for attending this course other than being a PhD student or post-doctoral fellow enrolled in one of the biomedical sciences programs at Vanderbilt University. The course will be graded based on attendance and on grading daily entries for each of the topic areas using a time stamped, on-line course management system.

**Grading and attendance**The course will be graded **for quality credit hours** based on grading of daily quizzes for each of the topic areas in Brightspace. Students are required to complete four text fields: what causes the condition? How does it present clinically? How is it diagnosed? And how is it managed/treated? These entries will be graded by the course organizers accompanied by feedback. Quizzes have to be entered before the class starts: students will not have access to the quiz after the class started and will be graded as a “zero” for that entry on that day.

These quizzes must be written in the students own words. If it is discovered that the students copied and pasted the text from other sources, or used AI to generate the text, they will be graded “zero” for that quiz, and if this occurs again during the course they will: a) be dropped from the class; and b) reported to the graduate school for plagiarism.

Students will be allowed no more than one excused absence per credit hour (5 sessions), and a total of one unexcused absence for all three credit hours (15 sessions). If the student is taking less than the full 3 credit hours, it is expected they will make up any absences by attending one of the other sessions (that they did not originally sign up for) later in the course. It will be the responsibility of the student to find out from the course organizers what are acceptable reasons for excused absences if they are unclear about this. Examples of excused absences would include health problems, family emergencies, but not vacations or attendance at a friend’s wedding. Conflict with research activities is not acceptable as an excused absence. An excused absence submitted after the session will be considered unexcused. Finally, unless there compelling reasons are provided, students are expected to enter their excused absences must be accompanied by approved entries into the course management system by the student based on reading about the conditions being discussed on that day. These entries will be approved or rejected by the organizers.

**Course requirements**  
As patients from VUMC will be participating in HuBD, all students participating in the course must provide Stephanie Gober with a copy of signed attestation that they have revied the VUMC (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) HIPAA training and will adhere to VUMC privacy and information security policies (both for credit and audit).

**Reading material**Before starting the course please visit and bookmark the Medscape or UpToDate websites within the Eskind Library site using the link below so you can have access to UpToDate for background reading:

[UpToDate](https://www-uptodate-com.ckmproxy.vumc.org/contents/search?unid=d593lz%2FXgVU%3D&srcsys=EZPX20332&eiv=2.1.0)

[MedScape](https://www.medscape.com/)

Both provide excellent on-line resources for the background to the clinical cases and diseases that will be taught during the course. We suggest you visit both before starting the course and decide which one suits you best (or use both!)