Below is the draft 2024 agenda; additional panelists may be added. Please check back for updates.

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

## 9:00 am Welcome and Introductions

Speakers **Alex Currie**, Vice President of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Kim Petrie**, Assistant Dean for Biomedical Career Development, School of Medicine

**Christina West**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

## 9:30 am Introduction to U.S. Science & Technology Policy

Background on science for policy, policy for science, and the history of how we got here.

Moderator **Janani Varadarajan**, PhD, Assistant Director of Postdoc Support & Project Manager of Outcomes Research, School of Medicine

Speaker **Toby Smith**, Vice President for Science Policy & Global Affairs, Association of American Universities

## 10:30 am Break

## 11:00 am Introduction to the Federal Budget Process & Federal R&D Budgets

Information to help us answer the question: How does science get funded?

Moderator **Annie Evans**, Program and Communications Manager, Vanderbilt University

Speaker **Sean Gallagher**, Deputy Director of Federal Relations, American Association for the Advancement of Science

## 12:00 pm Lunch (provided)

## 1:00 pm Case Study: Mock FY 2025 Commerce-Justice Science Appropriations conference committee

A hands-on opportunity to experience the challenges of setting funding levels for some research agencies.

Moderators **Heather Bloemhard**, PhD, Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

**Nick Warren**, PhD, Assistant Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Speaker **Gwendolyn Bogard**, Senior Government Relations Officer, American Association for the Advancement of Science

## 2:30 pm Break & Get Ready to Leave for Hill

## 3:00 pm Head to the Hill

## 3:45 pm Science Policy on the Hill

Dirksen Senate Office Building B48

A conversation with Hill staffers about what science policy looks like from their perspective.

Moderator **Heather Bloemhard**, PhD, Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

Panelists **Albert Hinman**, PhD, Professional staff member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

**Chris Kelly**, Legislative Assistant, Office of Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

**Victoria Long Rubin**, PhD, Professional staff member, House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

## 5:00 pm Conclude for the day

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

## 8:30 am Meet in the hotel lobby with your luggage and having checked out

## 9:00 am Science Policy in the Executive Branch

Experts from the White House and various federal agencies will share how they engage in science policy topics.

Moderator **Christina West**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

Panelists **Ryan Ortega**, PhD, Regulatory Policy Advisory, Office of Product Evaluation and Quality, FDA

**Jessica Tucker**, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Science Policy, National Institutes of Health

**Josh Shiode**, Senior Advisor, Office of Science, Dept. of Energy

## 10:15 am Break

## 10:30 am PhD to Policy – Fellowships and More

We’ve learned what science policy is and heard from folks what it’s like to work in science policy, now we’ll talk with PhDs who have successfully made the transition into policy specifically about making that transition.

Moderator **Nick Warren**, PhD, Assistant Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Panelists **Amrita Banerjee**\*, PhD, Multilateral Strategy Officer, Bureau of International Organization Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State

[**Hannah Frye**](https://www.dc.mit.edu/hannah-frye)**,** PhD, Senior Policy Advisory, MIT

[**Trevan Locke**](https://healthpolicy.duke.edu/people/trevan-locke-phd)\*, PhD, Assistant Research Director, Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy

## 11:30 am Lunch (on your own in Union Station)

## 1:00 pm Science Policy Jeopardy!

A gameshow-style session to test your knowledge on science policy – this will include some review of topics covered in the seminar but will also give us a chance to touch on an even wider range of topics.

Host **Jessica Abner**, PhD, Senior Career Coach, Vanderbilt University

Announcer **Heather Bloemhard**, PhD, Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

Panel of Judges **Alex Currie**, Vice President of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Nick Warren**, PhD, Assistant Director of Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Christina West**, Associate Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations, Vanderbilt University

## 2:00 pm Reflections and Conclusions

## 2:15 pm End of Program