

To whom it may concern:

The NIH and the scientific training community have recognized the need to broaden graduate and postdoctoral training opportunities so PhD scientists are well-prepared to pursue diverse careers inside and outside of the academy. In 2013, the BRET Office in the School of Medicine received a \$1.2M grant from the NIH to develop and offer unique training experiences for biomedical sciences trainees/students. With this grant, the BRET Office established the Vanderbilt ASPIRE program and began offering new short courses and training opportunities on topics not covered by typical research training (e.g. business and entrepreneurship, communication, clinical research, teaching).

The ASPIRE Internship program was launched in the fall of 2015 to facilitate opportunities for BRET graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gain hands-on experience in a professional work environment. We work closely to develop relationships with local employers to foster these opportunities for Vanderbilt graduate students and postdocs.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the industries we are working with, ASPIRE internships occasionally may also appeal to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows outside the purview of the BRET office. We are happy to help facilitate applications by non-BRET trainees/students if the opportunity is a good fit, and in cases such as this, we ask that the trainee's/student's primary advisor provide written permission for the trainee/student to apply for the internship. (An application does not guarantee the employer will select the trainee/student.)

One of your students or postdoctoral fellows would like to apply for an ASPIRE internship. *Please sign this form indicating that you have discussed this internship opportunity with your student or postdoctoral fellow and are giving your approval that this individual apply for this opportunity as advertised by the BRET office.* We are aware that students and postdocs are financially supported through a variety of mechanisms, and we ask that you have verified that participation in this internship is in compliance with the trainee's/student's current funding source.

Internship site: _____

Internship position title: _____

Internship dates: _____

Graduate Student or Postdoctoral Fellow Name

Advisor Name

Advisor signature

Please email a scanned copy of the completed form to: bret.career.development@vanderbilt.edu



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Biomedical Research Education and Training, Office of Career Development

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