Crystallographic workshop, 2018

The goal of this new workshop series will be to transfer expertise in crystallography to non-specialist laboratories and/or reduce the amount of time required for an incoming MBTP graduate student to become fully independent in common structural and biophysical techniques. The workshop series will target students that have just completed their first year of rotations as well as more established young scientists seeking to augment their skill set. The 2018 workshop will train students to determine a straightforward crystal structure. Our workshop targets will be pre-selected with an eye to feasibility and publication.

The series will be led by a senior postdoctoral fellow, who will be selected via an internal competition. We anticipate that these workshop leaders will be applying for positions as independent faculty in the fall after the workshop. We require that the workshop leaders will correspond a manuscript describing their results within 1-year after accepting an independent position.

The impact of the workshop series is multi-fold. MBTP students will enter their selected laboratories with a stronger skill set, making them more productive during their thesis research. Participants from non-specialist laboratories will augment their current skill set. Moreover, participants of these workshops are likely to be included on up to two additional contributing author publications. The replacement of current programming with the workshop series will ensure that, at least for MBTP trainees, this workshop will occur without additional time away from the laboratory. Finally, the strategy of using senior postdocs as workshop leaders is expected to cross-pollinate laboratory expertise and foster new mentoring relationships between the workshop leaders and each student.

FACULTY

Our request: Please bring this to the attention to relevant senior postdocs and graduate students

What you get: Additional expertise for incoming students without using lab resources, your time, or additional time on the part of the trainees. Participating postdocs and students from your lab may be more competitive for their next position.

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

Our request: We are seeking up to 30 workshop attendees that want to learn to determine a straightforward crystal structure. Attendees may be at any level (postdocs, students, staff) and no experience is necessary. There will be NO FEE for this workshop in 2018 only.

What you get: You learn a new skill and will get a contributing authorship on the manuscript if you attend all sessions (attendees may miss one session for a conference).

To apply: Send (1) a 1/2-page description that explains your rationale for wanting to attend the workshop; (2) a letter of reference from your mentor that must confirm that they support you in this activity. Applications should be sent to karen.davis@vanderbilt.edu by 5PM Feb. 28.