Frequently Asked Questions for PGY2 Informatics Residency

How would the resident be paid?

Residents are paid once monthly on the first business day of the month.

How are holidays handled?

Vanderbilt residents receive seven observed holidays. The resident is selected to work select holiday(s) which is/are determined through a rotation of pharmacy personnel. Staff use PTO (Paid Time Off) days for combined sick, vacation, interview time as well as holidays.

Does the resident have his/her own office space?

The PGY2 Informatics resident has an office space that has his/her own desk and computer.

What are the PGY2 staffing requirements?

The residency year includes staffing every 4th weekend in both operational and in limited clinical roles.

What professional meetings do residents attend?

The PGY2 resident attends the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting as well as the Southeastern Residency Conference or other meetings as applicable.

Do the PGY2 residents have the opportunity to work with pharmacy students?

Yes, Vanderbilt precepts pharmacy students from several colleges of pharmacy. Residents and Preceptors work together based on the resident’s interest level in precepting to establish an opportunity for co-precepting experience.

How do I obtain information about Tennessee Licensure?

The Tennessee Board of Pharmacy and the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. 
http://health.state.tn.us/Boards/Pharmacy/ & http://www.nabp.net/

How much background is required in computer systems?

While not a requirement, some programming exposure would be valuable such as using MS Access, understanding conceptual basic programming logic, HTML or familiarity with SQL.

Do the informatics residents participate in any pharmacy management?

Not specifically but we will tailor the rotations to the resident if there is a desire for a particular rotation.

Is there a separate IT group that manages the hospitals systems or does the pharmacy group manage those systems as well?

Vanderbilt is very fortunate to have a large Informatics group that designs, develops, administers and monitors different aspects of the various clinical systems, such as CPOE, Pharmacy computer systems, bedside barcoding, eMAR, electronic nursing flowsheets, a portal for lab/notes/etc. along with other programs designed for outpatient use.
What is the relationship with the IT group and are there any issues when pharmacy implements programs?

The Vanderbilt Pharmacy lives in a very integrated environment where all activities are coordinated as one system can impact another. The Informatics department is fortunate to have an ideal collegial relationship with the pharmacy department that has spanned many years.

Does medication safety work with the informatics group on projects?

Medication Safety and Pharmacy Informatics work closely together with clinical systems involvement and dynamics. Vanderbilt uses a web based vendor system for reporting ADEs and ADRs. That system has been customized for reports and interoperability among key departments such as Risk Management, Nursing and Pharmacy.

Does Vanderbilt use EMRs, PMRs, and/or e-charting?

Vanderbilt has several clinical systems by a single vendor, CPOE, Pharmacy, BCMA, and Nursing flowsheets along with ADC automation. We have patient medical records capability for interactions with MD offices. We are actively engaged with building out foundation systems for Epic with an implementation date of Nov 2017.

Do you use any "trigger" type programs?

The pharmacy department has worked with the Informatics Center to create and utilize dashboards that monitor medications such as anticoagulation, selected antibiotics, aminoglycosides, and heparin/enoxaparin while deriving information from systems such as dose, order details, and previous labs.

What opportunities are available for resident projects?

Choices are open. There would be a desire to coordinate projects consistent with institutional goals or on a mutually agreed upon area of focus.

Does Vanderbilt have any locally developed programs or is it all purchased through vendors and then customized to the hospital's needs?

Vanderbilt has many examples of both worlds. The CPOE system was locally developed and later purchased by a vendor and that enables us to be a beta development site. We are very involved using interfaces to enable our systems to communicate accurately and efficiently.

Do you attend any AMIA activities? What is Vanderbilt's association with that organization and/or other informatics organizations?

We are involved with organizations and recognize them as innovative and progressive organizations. Vanderbilt IT faculty members attend regularly and have leadership roles in the national organization. Opportunities exist where Informatics and Pharmacy and others have been invited to participate in presentations for other groups. Those can be evaluated based on interest and resource availability.

Would there be opportunities to participate in ASHP Informatics Section and/or Advisory Boards?

We would encourage involvement across the board to foster and further educate our profession regarding Informatics. Working with ASHP has already been insightful and will continue to gain strength working together toward our common goals.