

FACULTY



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Buddy Creech, MD, MPH, is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee with a B.S. in biology. After attending the University of Tennessee College of Medicine, he joined the pediatric housestaff at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. After internship, residency, and chief residency in pediatrics, Dr. Creech began a pediatric infectious diseases fellowship at Vanderbilt under the mentorship of Dr. Kathryn Edwards.

During fellowship, Dr. Creech studied the clinical and molecular epidemiology of community-associated methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) colonization and disease. He received a Masters degree in Public Health upon completion of his thesis, *Impact of Staphylococcal Vaccination on Nasal Colonization*, in which healthcare workers were vaccinated with a candidate *S. aureus* vaccine to determine potential impact on nasal colonization and, therefore, healthcare-associated transmission. His focus then turned to defining the adaptive immune response to invasive *S. aureus* infections in children and young adults, with a particular emphasis on the multiple two-component exotoxins used by staphylococci to evade host responses. He has led numerous clinical trials of candidate *S. aureus* vaccines.

Since 2014, Dr. Creech has served as the Director of the Vanderbilt Vaccine Research Program and Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded Vanderbilt Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit and Co-PI for the CDC-funded Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment Network site at Vanderbilt. His work currently focuses on the immune response and vaccine development for a variety of pathogens, including influenza, pertussis, *C. difficile*, and RSV.

Dr. Creech has authored nearly 70 original publications, contributed to the *Textbook of Pediatric Infectious Diseases*, and served for 4 years as Associate Editor for the *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society* (JPIDS). In 2007, Dr. Creech was awarded the Young Investigator Award in MRSA Research by the Infectious Diseases Society of America and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America and in 2012 he received the PIDS Young Investigator Award. He is a Fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP), Fellow of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (FPIDS), and Secretary/Treasurer of PIDS.