UC Irvine

Vice Chancellor for Research
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California

THE SEARCH

The University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine or UCI), one of the nation's top public research universities, seeks an innovative, strategic, and collaborative leader to serve as Vice Chancellor for Research. This is a unique opportunity to work in close partnership with the senior management group, deans, faculty, staff, and students to propel impactful research at one of the world's premier research institutions and further elevate a vital resource for Southern California.

UC Irvine's unyielding commitment to rigorous academics, cutting-edge research, impactful public service, and leadership development makes the campus a driving force for innovation and discovery that serves local, national, and global communities. UC Irvine is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities and is ranked among the nation's top 10 public universities for the ninth year in a row by *U.S. News & World Report*. The campus has produced five Nobel laureates and is known for its academic achievement, premier research, and innovation.

The Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) provides leadership, strategic direction, and operational oversight to foster an environment for research that facilitates the discovery and dissemination of knowledge in many forms to all levels of society. Reporting to the Chancellor and working closely with the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor, the VCR will provide vision and direction for UC Irvine's growing research and discovery programs, advance the institution's standing as an innovative leader, and implement effective strategies to support the research, academic, clinical, and service missions of UC Irvine. In addition, the VCR will forge strong relationships and interactions among the 10 campuses in the University of California system, other leading universities, and with industry, clinical, and governmental partners.

The ideal candidate will be an innovative research leader with experience building collaborative programs across disciplines, heading a large complex research program, and progressive leadership roles in academic or research administration.

UC Irvine has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the firm in confidence, as indicated at the end of this document.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

The University of California, Irvine is located in one of the world's safest and most economically vibrant communities. UC Irvine is Orange County's second-largest employer, contributing seven billion annually to the local economy and eight billion statewide. The campus is 15 minutes from the beach and an hour from metropolitan Los Angeles and scenic mountain environments. Launched in 2019, UC Irvine's Brilliant Future campaign is the largest philanthropic effort in Orange County history. The campaign provides the University with an opportunity to engage the community. It is on track to exceed its $2 billion fundraising goal and engage more than 75,000 graduates. Together with the community, UC Irvine is transforming healthcare and wellness, advancing the American dream through student success, accelerating world-changing research, and illuminating the human experience.

With over 37,000 undergraduate and graduate students, more than 1,560 ladder-rank faculty, and 19,900 staff members, UC Irvine is among the fastest-growing campuses in the UC system. Increasingly a first-choice campus, a record number of first-year students and transfer applicants – over 147,000 – applied for 9,455 slots for Fall 2024. Approximately 80 languages are spoken, and 87 countries are represented within UC Irvine's student body. Ranked 3rd for "Top Colleges in the West for Diversity" by *The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education*, UC Irvine is committed to excellence through diversity and strives to enroll academically talented students who are representative of the population, including those traditionally underrepresented in various academic fields. The U.S. Department of Education has named UC Irvine a Hispanic-serving institution and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution. UC Irvine is a top choice among UC campuses for these groups. UC Irvine is also a founding member of the Alliance of Hispanic Serving Research Universities, which aims to double Hispanic doctoral students and increase the Hispanic professoriate by 20 percent.

For more information on UC Irvine, please see Appendix I.

RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Led by the VCR, the Office of Research provides central campus administrative support for UC Irvine's research programs. It includes Research Administration, University Laboratory Animal Resources, Administrative Operations and Research Program Services, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor. The VCR's leadership team is comprised of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives, the Director of Research Development, the Director of Research Policy, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Operations and Research Program Services, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Administration.

As Orange County's only R1 (very high research activity) university, UCI generates the highest and most intensive level of research activity in the region. Over the past eight years, financial support from federal and state agencies, leading foundations, and forward-thinking companies has more than doubled. In

2023-2024, the university received more than $667 million in research funding through grants and contracts.

In its relatively brief history, UC Irvine has become one of the best research universities in the world, home to many highly distinguished scholars, scientists, and artists. UC Irvine is known for research in the fields of cancer studies, neuroscience, and biomedical research, with a strong focus on areas like stem cell therapies, neurodegenerative diseases, and molecular biology at the cellular level. Additionally, UCI conducts significant research in environmental science and sustainability issues. Three members of the faculty won Nobel Prizes: F. Sherwood Rowland (chemistry) and Frederick Reines (physics) in 1995, and Irwin Rose (chemistry) in 2004. Included among the current instructional faculty 24 National Academy of Sciences members; seven National Academy of Medicine members; 17 National Academy of Engineering members; 38 American Academy of Arts and Sciences members; and 207 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. More than 98 percent of the instructional faculty have PhD or equivalent degrees.

UC Irvine has over 100 major research centers and institutes. Centers & Institutes at UCI provide a mechanism and organizational structure for collective and often convergent research activities that are fundamentally different from those that typically occur within individual schools or departments. UC Irvine Centers and Institutes fall into the following categories:

- Organized Research Units (ORUs) promote multidisciplinary research and investigation across departments and divisions, providing a supportive infrastructure for endeavors that span diverse areas of academic interest. An ORU typically involves faculty from two or more schools. ORU directors report to the vice chancellor for research.
- Special Research Programs (SRPs) provide a structure for collaborative research activities that do not fit the definition and purpose of other organized research at UCI. An SRP may be formed in response to a special funding opportunity, as the campus branch of a UC research program, or as part of a governmental initiative.
- Campus Centers are organized research programs that involve faculty members from multiple departments and schools but are not constituted as ORUs or SRPs.
- School Centers foster research endeavors involving faculty members predominantly from a single school. The centers are established by deans for a defined period of time.
- Other Centers and Institutes are interdisciplinary units with varying structures that typically are designed as Centers by a sponsoring agency.

To learn more about Centers & Institutes, please visit www.research.uci.edu/centers-institutes/.

THE ROLE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH

Working in collaboration with all components of the campus and external partners, the vice chancellor for research serves as the chief research officer of the University of California, Irvine. The VCR explores potential new areas for research and creative pursuit, provides leadership and coordination of interdisciplinary research programs, offers seed funding for new initiatives and collaborations, and leads University-wide efforts to create a stronger research and creative activity ecosystem. In order to do so, the VCR, as the head of the Office of Research, must develop a vision and strategy that is informed by national trends in federal funding as well as UC Irvine's existing interdisciplinary areas of excellence. The VCR should also have the ability to identify new research partnerships with industry in Orange County and throughout the nation, as well as other external collaborators.

The Vice Chancellor for Research leads the continued development of research infrastructure and the development, core funding, and administration of organized research programs. The VCR is responsible for broad functions related to research administration, strategic initiatives, compliance and oversight, and safety and security, including contract and grant administration, protection of research subjects (human/animal), integrity in research, conflict of interest, export controls, and research resource and capability development.

In this role, the VCR oversees 140 central staff members, partners with distributed staff across the schools and colleges, and manages an annual budget of approximately $29.5 million. For more information about the Office of Research, please visit www.research.uci.edu.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH

Develop a vision for research excellence that will strategically guide the enterprise toward UC Irvine's ambitious goals

Already one of the world's most formidable research institutions, UC Irvine sees additional opportunities for expanding its research footprint and is poised for further growth. The next VCR will have the opportunity to develop a bold vision for the research enterprise that will advance UCI's resources, prestige, innovation, and impact across all disciplines. The next VCR will consult with UCI's expert faculty and deans of academic units to influence strategic directions while envisioning and implementing robust structures and systems that support the research infrastructure.

Deepen and strengthen connections with external research partners in government, industry, and nonprofit sectors and advance UC Irvine's broader influence

As the chief spokesperson for the research enterprise at UC Irvine, the VCR will be a tireless supporter of and advocate for the impactful scholarship of the University. UC Irvine has benefitted from significant federal support from a variety of agencies and the VCR will be proactive to ensure that these relationships

are maintained and deepened. Through the personal investment of time and relationship development, the next VCR will serve as a bridge to agencies in Washington, DC, promoting the interests of the University, advocating for its faculty, and learning about opportunities on the horizon that UCI should be poised to pursue. They will continue to increase UC Irvine's representation on federal advisory committees, boards, and panels and advance the University's convening authority. In addition, the VCR will advocate to federal and state policy makers and officials the significance of the University's intellectual advances.

Further, the next VCR will seek and strengthen relationships with industry and nonprofit research partners. The VCR will actively pursue new partners, steward UC Irvine's reputation, and effectively broadcast existing and new areas of excellence.

Enhance a culture of collaboration, operational excellence, and high-quality service and advance a flexible and robust research infrastructure in alignment with the research vision

The next VCR will work with a dedicated team of faculty and staff with a wide diversity of expertise and various forms of functional support. The VCR must understand the value, importance, and challenges of supporting world-class researchers and scholars while meeting the complex regulatory requirements of a research university, particularly one with incredible breadth. The VCR will enhance a service-oriented culture of excellent, collaboration, and careful attention to compliance to ensure that faculty across UCI are well-supported in scholarly endeavors at all scales and across all disciplines. In addition, they will leverage this healthy culture to recruit and retain excellent office staff.

Further, as strategic directions are determined and priorities and requirements of major funding partners shift, the VCR must stay a step ahead to create and innovate research processes and infrastructure that can support the continued excellence of UCI's enterprise across all disciplines. The VCR will ensure that the structures and resources are in place to support all units and empower staff and leadership to be an agile and effective team.

Partner with campus leaders and faculty across the University to grow the research enterprise

The VCR will act as a unifying force, rallying academic units and coalescing energy around large-scale, cross-pollinating ideas that span disciplines, approaches, and methodologies while providing seed funding for new initiatives and collaborations. They will work closely with academic partners, especially academic deans, associate deans for research, and the university research council, leveraging collective expertise and creativity to understand needs and trends across disciplines, building strong relationships to create champions for the University's research mission.

The VCR will advocate for how university leadership thinks about incentives, resource prioritization, and strategic initiatives that can support the research mission. The VCR will also be a bridge-builder,

strengthening existing relationships and establishing new collaborations across the University and its key partners.

Celebrate and support scholarly pursuits across all disciplines

The next VCR will continually seek ways to increase the impact of the research enterprise. The VCR will bring a deep curiosity about and passion for academic disciplines. In doing so, the VCR will champion a broad definition of research and promote a culture that rewards, incentivizes, and invests in all scholarly and creative activities, regardless of discipline. In telling the story of UC Irvine's research excellence to broad audiences, the VCR will be a voice for all disciplines and a driver of innovation and impact across academic fields.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The individual who assumes the position of Vice Chancellor for Research must be a leader dedicated to accelerating the university's ascendency among globally preeminent research universities. The VCR must understand the role and importance of the public university in society and should be committed to seeking ways to enhance research to serve society better. Underlying all the above, the VCR should have a positive attitude, an active, energetic mind, and a leadership style that is characterized by highly ethical practices and a commitment to diversity, openness, flexibility, integrity, and kindness. In particular, the successful candidate will demonstrate most, if not all, of the attributes below:

- A strong academic record commensurate with appointment to the rank of full professor with tenure is required;
- Leadership experience heading a large, complex research program;
- Successful and progressively responsible administrative roles;
- Impeccable academic judgment, a record of appreciating excellence and participating in the successful recruitment and retention of a superb faculty, and a record of significant contribution to the growth of innovative programs, departments, and schools. Specifically, a record of accurately judging the quality of research across a diverse set of areas;
- A proven record of success working with federal funding agencies;
- An eye for high-level research and a deep understanding of the opportunities and challenges faced by world-class researchers;
- An entrepreneurial spirit and a dynamic, energetic, and engaging personality;
- An inclination to engage with a broad range of constituencies and disciplines to advance the university's research mission;
- A deep understanding of interdisciplinary research and its challenges and advantages;
- Outstanding communication skills, including evidence of the abilities to facilitate collaboration within and external to the university, to articulate a strong vision for the

university's research programs, and to interact successfully with multiple and diverse constituencies;

- A commitment to transparency in policy, strategy, and financial management, with an appreciation of and support for shared governance; and
- Excellent interpersonal skills.

Compensation and Location

UC Irvine is required to provide a reasonable estimate of the compensation range for this role. This range takes into account the wide range of factors that are considered in making compensation decisions, including, but not limited to, experience, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, licensure and certifications, and other business and organizational needs. The full annual salary range for the Vice Chancellor for Research is $344,200 to $625,300. It is not typical for an individual to be offered a salary at or near the top of the range for a position. Salary offers will be commensurate with a final candidate's qualifications and experience. The annual salary the University reasonably expects to pay for this position is $344,200 to $460,100.

Irvine is centrally located in Orange County, with two major freeways, rail service, and– John Wayne Airport is close by. The campus is situated less than an hour from Los Angeles International Airport and downtown Los Angeles. Incorporated on December 28, 1971, the city of Irvine is among the nation's largest planned urban communities, encompassing more than 65 square miles. Located in the heart of Orange County, in a city consistently ranked as one of the best and safest places to live in the United States, UCI enjoys the best of what Southern California has to offer: beaches, mountains, deserts, and a broad variety of cultural, entertainment, and intellectual activities. To learn more about Irvine, see www.destinationirvine.com.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

The University of California, Irvine has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist the Search Committee in its identification and review of candidates. Applications, inquiries, and nominations may be submitted online:

https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-california-irvine/vice-chancellor-research

David Bellshaw, Joe Kralick, Alice Holland, and Christina Errico
Isaacson, Miller
www.imsearch.com

The University of California, Irvine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the UC nondiscrimination policy. The university

is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce along with honoring unique experiences, perspectives, and identities. The university community strives to create and maintain working and learning environments that are inclusive, equitable, and welcoming.

ISAACSON, MILLER

Appendix I

The University of California System

UC Irvine is one of 10 campuses in the University of California system. Founded in 1869, the UC system is recognized as one of the world's largest and most successful academic institutions, with a tripartite mission of research, teaching, and public service. The 10 campuses that make up the UC system – Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz – collectively enroll more than 295,000 students and 265,000 faculty and staff, with 2.0 million alumni living and working around the world. Another half million people benefit from UC's continuing education courses each year, as well as from research centers and educational programs operating throughout the state. UC extends its work beyond its campuses through national laboratories, medical centers, and outreach programs in neighboring communities, throughout California, around the world, and online. To learn more about the UC System, please see http://universityofcalifornia.edu/uc-system.

About the University of California, Irvine

The University of California, Irvine traces its roots to the late 1950s when the University of California began planning for a new campus to meet the needs of Southern California's growing population. Orange County still contained vast open spaces that provided a variety of options for locating a campus. Out of 23 possible sites, the Irvine Ranch site was chosen, and the university opened for classes on October 4, 1965, ~120 faculty and 1,600 students joined a campus that was still under construction. On May 20, 1966, Daniel G. Aldrich Jr. was officially inaugurated as chancellor of UC Irvine, a position he held for 22 years – and whose legacy is commemorated to this day with Aldrich Park, a 19-acre botanical garden in the center of the campus. At its founding, UCI comprised the College of Arts, Letters, and Science and two professional schools: the Graduate School of Administration (now the Paul Merage School of Business) and the School of Engineering (now The Henry Samueli School of Engineering). The five original divisions of the College of Arts, Letters, and Science remain intact to this day as independent schools: Biological Sciences (now the Charlie Dunlop School of Biological Sciences), Fine Arts (now the Claire Trevor School of the Arts), Humanities, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences. In ensuing years, UCI has also added the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences; the School of Social Ecology; the School of Law; the School of Education; Interdisciplinary Studies; the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing; the School of Medicine; School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; Joe C. Wen School of Population and Public Health; School of Social Ecology, and the School of Social Sciences.

UC Irvine has enjoyed an unparalleled combination of rapid growth in enrollment and an equally impressive increase in the size, quality, and influence of its research programs, performing arts, and professional schools. Among its many honors, UC Irvine has five Nobel laureates, including three faculty members, one postdoctoral scholar and one alumnus, two National Medal of Science recipients, and many members of the most important scholarly, scientific, and professional organizations. *US News & World*

Report ranks UC Irvine #33 among national universities and the #9 public university in the country in 2024. Many of its programs across the disciplines rank in the top 20 or higher.

UCI is entering an exciting and challenging new era. With ambitious plans to strengthen contributions in research, education, and service; accelerate the university's ascendency among globally preeminent research universities; and marshal passions, skills, and ingenuity to further improve people's lives, there is great momentum and ambition across the campus. UC Irvine is a national leader in the number and percentage of LEED-certified buildings on its campus.

Developed in 2016 and updated in 2023, UCI's strategic plan, Bright Past, Brilliant Future, is based on four guiding pillars:
- Growth that Makes a Difference: Expanding Our Capacity to Improve Lives
- First in Class: Elevating the Student Experience to Prepare Future Leaders
- Great Partners: Making Regional and Global Connections that Enhance Our Mission and Serve the People
- New Paths for Our Brilliant Future: Forging Best Practices to Power the Coming Century

The plan guides the campus in making strategic investments of time and resources.

UC Irvine had its most successful fundraising year on record, raising $343 million during the 2023-2024 academic year as part of its Brilliant Future philanthropic campaign. With total contributions now reaching $1.9 billion, the campaign has surpassed 95 percent of its $2 billion goal; the campaign represents the largest philanthropic and alumni engagement initiative in the university's history, as well as in Orange County. As of the 2024 fiscal year, the UC Irvine Foundation's endowment exceeds $899 million, further strengthening the university's long-term financial sustainability. For more on UCI, visit: www.uci.edu.

Leadership at UC Irvine

Howard Gillman, Ph.D., was appointed the sixth chancellor of the University of California, Irvine, in September 2014, having previously served as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor since June 2013 and interim chancellor since July 1, 2014. Before coming to UC Irvine, he served for more than two decades as a professor of political science, history, and law at the University of Southern California, including five years as dean of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. He has received many awards for his scholarship and for his teaching excellence and dedication to students. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, all in political science, from UCLA.

Hal Stern, Ph.D., is the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor of UC Irvine. He previously served as founding chair of the Department of Statistics, Dean of the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, and Vice Provost for Academic Planning. Prior to joining the faculty at UC Irvine, he held faculty positions at Iowa State University and Harvard University. Under the direction of the Chancellor, the Provost assumes primary responsibility for the academic and organizational functioning

of the campus and the advancement of the University's missions in research, teaching, and service. He earned a bachelor's in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in statistics from Stanford University.

UCI Health

UCI Health comprises UCI Medical Center in Orange, CA, a new state-of-the-art complex on the academic campus in Irvine, four recently purchased community hospitals, and a primary care network throughout Orange County. It is the only academic health system in Orange County. Through its partnerships with UCI's health professional schools (Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Population and Public Health), UCI Health is dedicated to supporting the clinical research necessary to establish new standards of care, the teaching of future healers, and the delivery of the finest evidence-based care. In 2024, for the 23rd consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* has recognized UCI Medical Center as one of America's Best Hospitals. UCI Health is unique in its ability to provide the most compassionate healthcare – driven by its passion for innovation grounded in the best medical care and scientific knowledge.

The new facilities on the Irvine campus include the Joe C. Wen & Family Center for Advanced Care (opened Spring 2024), the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building (opened Summer 2024), and a new 144-bed specialty hospital (scheduled to open in late 2025). The full-service academic health complex will bring a broad spectrum of the most advanced healthcare services to coastal and southern Orange County, including access to the hundreds of clinical trials underway at UCI Health. A complete list of UCI Health centers, institutes, and clinics is available at www.ucirvinehealth.org/locations.