



Senior Research Scientist Faculty - Tenure Track
College of Nursing
University of Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, Nebraska

THE SEARCH

The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing (UNMC CON) seeks a distinguished scholar for a tenure-track faculty position, with the potential to hold an Endowed Professorship or Endowed Chair appointment. This opportunity is ideal for a senior research scientist with a proven track record in research, a commitment to mentoring the next generation of nurse leaders and researchers, and a passion for advancing nursing science.

Established in 1917, the [UNMC College of Nursing](#) is a highly respected institution known for its leadership in nursing education, research, and healthcare innovation. The College spans five [campuses](#) and is dedicated to improving healthcare through excellence in research, education, and community engagement, with a particular focus on rural and underserved communities in Nebraska. The College has \$7.5 million in current research funding with research expertise concentrated around five areas: [Health Equity: Emphasis on Rural and Underserved Populations](#), [Chronic Care Management: Emphasis in Cancer and Cardiovascular Outcomes](#), [Symptom Science Across the Lifespan](#), [Implementation Science and Health Care Delivery](#), and [Teaching and Learning](#).

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) is an exceptional institution for researchers, offering a dynamic environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and discovery. UNMC hosts cutting-edge research facilities, including the [Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#) and the [iEXCEL](#) program for immersive virtual and augmented reality training within the [Davis Global Center](#). As a [Fulbright institution](#) for two decades, UNMC combines a strong emphasis on community health with a global perspective and offers researchers the opportunity to make a meaningful difference locally and globally. The institution ranks among the top universities in the U.S. for research, with over \$268 million in external funding, 1,485 active projects, and 523 faculty investigators. With a culture of excellence, dedicated mentorship, and opportunities for professional growth, UNMC is an exciting and inspiring place for researchers to thrive.

The ideal candidate will hold a PhD in Nursing or a closely related discipline, meet the qualifications for appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor, and demonstrate a sustained record of externally funded research. They will be highly collaborative with experience successfully working across disciplines and bring a deep passion for mentoring junior faculty and students. UNMC CON is specifically seeking senior researchers to lead and advance work in Chronic Care Management, Health Equity, and Symptom Science. Preference will be given to candidates with expertise in cancer-focused research; however, highly funded and recognized researchers with established programs in other relevant areas will also be considered.

UNMC CON has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of the Senior Research Scientists. Please direct all applications, nominations, and inquiries in confidence to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated at the end of this document.

THE ROLE OF SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST

The Senior Research Scientist position is a full-time, tenure-track role with a 12-month appointment. The successful candidate can work from any of the five College of Nursing campuses: Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney, Norfolk, or Scottsbluff, and will report to both the Associate Dean of Research and the Assistant Dean of their chosen campus. This role offers the opportunity to collaborate with faculty colleagues at UNMC and other University of Nebraska system campuses, including the College of Nursing's team of 48 nurse scientists across the state. Additionally, it provides access to internationally recognized centers and institutes that support interdisciplinary and specialized research.

RESOURCES

The UNMC CON has numerous resources to help faculty succeed with their research trajectory. Key resources include:

- Dedicated support from the [Niedfelt Nursing Research Center](#) (NNRC), to assist in propelling progress across all stages of research, from proposal development and funding procurement to grants management and results dissemination. Led by the Associate Dean for Research, [Dr. Michele Balas](#), the NNRC is staffed by six full-time administrative personnel, two graduate Research Assistants, and two Statisticians.
- Opportunity to collaborate with the CON team of nurse scientists statewide, including divisions in two metro areas (Omaha, Lincoln) and three rural (Scottsbluff, Norfolk, Kearney).
- Access to internationally recognized centers and institutes designed to support interdisciplinary and specialized research, such as the [Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center](#), [Munroe-Meyer Institute](#), [Great Plains IDeA-CTR](#), and the [Global Center for Health Security](#).

Successful candidates for the Senior Research Scientist position will be considered for endowed chair/professorship designation which provides additional funding to support research activities, professional development, and scholarly dissemination.

OPPORTUNITIES

Lead and support transformative, interdisciplinary research

The University of Nebraska College of Nursing is committed to advancing its research efforts to tackle critical healthcare challenges and enhance patient outcomes, with a focus on bridging academic discoveries and clinical applications. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and leading an impactful, externally funded research program that aligns with the College's mission and strategic priorities. The role requires the ability to secure ongoing extramural funding and consistently publish findings in high-impact, peer-reviewed journals. If selected for the endowed chair, the candidate will leverage endowed resources to accelerate research innovation, enhance mentorship activities, and serve as a thought leader and ambassador for the College's research initiatives.

Mentor and educate junior faculty, post-doctoral researchers and students

The University of Nebraska College of Nursing is dedicated to mentoring the next generation of nursing scientists, with a strong focus on supporting junior faculty. Key to this commitment is providing guidance to help junior faculty develop their research programs, enhance leadership skills, and advance their academic careers. This emphasis on early-career mentorship is crucial for the long-term growth and sustainability of the College's research initiatives.

In addition to supporting junior faculty, the candidate will mentor PhD and DNP students and post-doctoral researchers, guiding them through the research process and fostering the development of research capacity, a culture of inquiry, evidence-based practice, and leadership skills. They may also have the opportunity to design and develop new courses that align with their expertise, further enhancing the College's educational offerings.

Foster interdisciplinary research collaborations and develop strategic partnerships

Effective interdisciplinary collaboration is a core aspect of this role. The candidate will be expected to engage with colleagues both within the College of Nursing and across the broader university and University of Nebraska System to foster innovative, cross-disciplinary research. Additionally, the candidate will collaborate with external organizations, such as healthcare institutions, policymakers, and other research entities, to enhance the impact of their work. Building strategic partnerships will be essential to increasing the visibility and real-world applicability of the research, ensuring that findings contribute to meaningful advancements in healthcare. This commitment to collaboration will enrich the College's research and strengthen its role in addressing critical health challenges.

Contribute to the UNMC College of Nursing strategic planning and curriculum development

The successful candidate will participate in the College's ongoing strategic development, including contributing to curriculum design, accreditation processes, and overall academic growth. They will collaborate with faculty and leadership to identify opportunities for innovation and align research and educational programs with evolving healthcare trends. By actively engaging in strategic initiatives, they will play a key role in shaping the College's vision and ensuring the delivery of high-quality, evidence-based nursing education and care.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful Senior Research Scientist will possess many, if not all, of the following professional qualifications, skills, and experience:

Minimum Requirements

- Terminal degree (PhD in Nursing or closely related field with demonstrated ability to collaborate effectively with Nurse Scientists).
- Eligible for Associate Professor or Professor rank.
- Sustained record of externally funded research.
- National presence in a research area that aligns with UNMC CON's Research Pillars.
- Proven excellence in scholarly publications and national/international recognition in nursing research.
- Demonstrated commitment to teaching, mentoring, and fostering an environment of respect, transparency, and a sense of belonging in academia.
- Active membership and leadership positions in national/ international organizations that align with research focus.

Preferred Qualifications and Characteristics

- Current federal grant funding (e.g., NIH, NSF, DOD) or comparable external funding.
- Experience in leading large-scale, interdisciplinary research initiatives.
- Experience mentoring junior nurse scientists and graduate students.
- Prior appointment to a named or endowed academic position.
- Exceptional oral and written communication skills.

- Strong interpersonal skills, including collegiality and collaboration.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, and applications (CV with cover letter) should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-nebraska-medical-center-college-nursing/senior-research-scientist-faculty>.

Amy Segal, Partner
Erin Schwass, Senior Associate
Olivia McVicker, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment.

UNMC is dedicated to creating an environment where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

UNMC does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment.

UNMC complies with all local, state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination, including Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.

Isaacson, Miller and UNMC are committed to creating an inclusive environment and welcome applications from candidates with disabilities. If you have any accommodation or access needs, we are happy to provide reasonable accommodations.

APPENDIX

The University of Nebraska

Founded in 1869, the [University of Nebraska](#) is the state's only public university and is comprised of four [campuses](#) with distinct missions and strengths: the flagship University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) serving urban residents, the undergraduate-focused University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK), and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), the state's sole public academic medical center. Each campus contributes to the university's diverse and multidisciplinary research enterprise, which addresses both state and global challenges.

The University of Nebraska's research enterprise is expansive, driven by world-class faculty and state-of-the-art facilities. It fosters innovation across a broad spectrum of disciplines, including agriculture, biotechnology, health sciences, engineering, environmental sustainability, and social sciences. Research at the university is supported by various offices and centers, which provide resources and guidance for securing funding, facilitating collaborations, and translating discoveries into real-world solutions.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a key aspect of the research enterprise, with scholars from different fields working together to tackle complex issues. The university's campuses collaborate across disciplines and frequently partner with industry and government agencies to advance research and innovation. Notable research centers and institutes at the University of Nebraska, such as the [Nebraska Center for Virology](#), [Center for Brain, Biology, and Behavior](#), and the [Nebraska Innovation Campus](#), underscore the institution's focus on impactful, cutting-edge research.

The University is also committed to involving students at all levels in research, providing undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers with hands-on, mentored experiences. These opportunities prepare the next generation of scholars and innovators while fostering a culture of inquiry and discovery across the state and beyond.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center

Founded in 1869, the [University of Nebraska Medical Center](#) is Nebraska's only public, academic health science center. Located in Omaha, it is a leader in healthcare education, research, and clinical care, with six colleges, nearly 50 academic departments, two degree-granting institutes, and a major research institute. UNMC has seen 24 consecutive years of record enrollment, with a 3% increase in 2024-25, reaching 4,703 students.

Looking forward, UNMC is committed to expanding its regional and global impact, focusing on rural health, health equity, and advanced clinical technologies. With [strategic initiatives](#) to enhance facilities and foster interdisciplinary collaborations, UNMC is dedicated to addressing healthcare challenges, particularly in underserved communities, and training the next generation of healthcare professionals.

UNMC leadership is very committed to the growth and expansion of the College of Nursing research enterprise and works closely with the college to support its research efforts.

The College of Nursing

The UNMC College of Nursing spans five campuses, providing a statewide presence that advances its mission to transform lives through exceptional nursing education, innovative research, high-quality health care, and a commitment to health equity for all. Through robust partnerships with healthcare organizations, active community engagement, and a focus on lifelong learning, the College is dedicated to shaping the future of nursing and improving the well-being of individuals and communities across Nebraska and beyond. The College offers a wide range of programs, from undergraduate to doctoral degrees, and prepares its students for impactful careers in diverse healthcare settings. The College fosters an environment that encourages intellectual curiosity, innovation, and collaboration among students, faculty, and staff.

In July 2023, the UNMC College of Nursing welcomed [Dr. Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, DNP](#) as its eighth dean. Dr. Sharp-McHenry collaborated with UNMC CON faculty and staff to lay out a number of immediate goals across all five nursing campuses. These goals included a new building project in Kearney, expanding the research enterprise, implementing a competency-based education curriculum, and bolstering the rural workforce by moving to twice-a-year admissions at three divisions.

Faculty and Staff

The faculty and staff at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing are dedicated professionals committed to excellence in nursing education, research, and practice. They bring a wealth of experience and innovation to their work, preparing the next generation of nurses to meet the evolving needs of healthcare. Faculty and staff foster a supportive and collaborative environment, emphasizing interdisciplinary partnerships with fields such as medicine, pharmacy, and public health to advance healthcare solutions. With a strong focus on improving health outcomes, particularly for rural and underserved populations, the team is driven by a shared mission to transform lives and promote health equity across Nebraska and beyond.

The College community includes 74 staff and 143 faculty, including 25 tenured/tenure-leading faculty. In addition, there are 76 emeritus faculty and 14 endowed positions.

Research and Scholarship

The University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing organized its research and scholarship around [Five Pillars](#). These pillars focus on promoting health equity, enhancing rural health, advancing care for aging populations, improving outcomes in cancer and chronic conditions, and fostering innovation in education and practice.

Equipped with state-of-the-art research and simulation facilities, UNMC CON provides faculty with unique opportunities to lead cutting-edge projects. Its strong clinical relationships and emphasis on rural healthcare further enable faculty to contribute to healthcare innovation and improve patient care, particularly in underserved regions, shaping the future of healthcare through interdisciplinary research and collaborative efforts.

The [Center for Patient, Family, and Community Engagement in Chronic Care Management](#) (CRISP) at the UNMC CON is a hub for innovative research and collaboration focused on improving chronic care outcomes. CRISP emphasizes patient-centered approaches, engaging patients, families, and communities in the development and implementation of care strategies tailored to managing chronic conditions. The center supports interdisciplinary research, combining expertise from nursing, medicine, public health, and other fields to address complex health challenges. With a commitment to advancing health equity and improving care in rural and underserved communities, CRISP serves as a vital resource for translating research into practice, enhancing quality of life for individuals with chronic conditions, and shaping the future of chronic care management.

[Research and Innovation in Action](#): Employing technology-aided solutions with a focus on innovation and interdisciplinary teamwork, research designs range from efficacy and effectiveness trials to implementation and population health studies. These efforts translate directly into practice, benefiting individuals, families, and communities while shaping the future of nursing through evidence-based solutions and creative approaches to complex healthcare needs.

[Academic Programs](#)

The College is dedicated to providing high-quality, evidence-based education that equips students with the skills needed to tackle the challenges of modern healthcare. Through state-of-the-art simulation labs and clinical partnerships, students gain hands-on experience, ensuring they are well-prepared for real-world patient care.

The College of Nursing is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), ensuring its programs meet the highest standards for nursing education.

- Undergraduate Programs: The traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), an RN-to-BSN, and an accelerated option for students with a prior degree.
- Graduate Programs: Master's programs, with seven Nurse Practitioner tracks, including Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Educator tracks, and three Non-Nurse Practitioner Tracks, including Nurse Leader/ Executive and Clinical Nurse Leader.
- Doctoral Programs: The College offers a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

Students

In Fall 2024, the college of nursing enrolled 1018 students across all five divisions representing the Baccalaureate, Master's, Post Master's Certificates, DNP, and PhD programs.

Practice and Partnerships

The UNMC CON is nationally recognized for its leadership in faculty practice, with a strong focus on faculty practice scholarship, national presentations, and contributions to national guidelines. The [Morehead Center for Nursing Practice](#) plays a key role in advocating for faculty through an innovative model that integrates clinical practice with academic appointments. Partnering with over 30 agencies across Nebraska, the College of Nursing's 500-mile campus supports faculty practice in both rural and urban underserved areas. The most common faculty practice agreements involve family nurse practitioners (NPs), women's health NPs, and psychiatric NPs, who are connected with clinical agencies requiring staffing support.

Community and Outreach

From improving access to care in rural areas to advancing health equity in underserved populations, the College is committed to making a lasting impact on the communities it serves. The College of Nursing has 33 practicing faculty at 21 clinical partners across the state. The College values its presence in local communities, recognizing that it benefits residents along with students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, nurse researchers at UNMC are engaged in 47 active grants studying and improving healthcare across Nebraska. Their work is focused on healthcare specialties that address the needs of rural and underserved populations. These research initiatives often involve local community participation to enhance healthcare delivery and outcomes.