



## **Search for the Founding Director of the Human Neuroimaging Center**

**Department of Psychology**

**College of Arts & Letters**

***Study everything. Do anything.***

### **THE SEARCH**

The University of Notre Dame's Department of Psychology is seeking an esteemed and dynamic leader and psychologist to serve as the Founding Director of the Human Neuroimaging Center (Center). This new center will focus on cutting-edge research in human thinking, emotion, and behavior, using advanced neuroimaging techniques to explore the intricate connections between neural functions and behavior. Serving as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration, the Center will integrate diverse perspectives to advance understanding of the brain mechanisms underlying behavior. The founding director will be central in shaping its strategic direction, operational success, and scientific output.

As part of its [Strategic Framework 2033](#), Notre Dame has set ambitious goals to solidify its position as the leading global Catholic research university, distinctive yet on par with the world's best private research institutions. This includes bold initiatives promoting cross-disciplinary collaboration and greater global impact. Notre Dame has made substantial investments in facilities, faculty hiring, undergraduate and graduate education, and research, with more planned for the future. The University is also enhancing its global engagement. Under a [College Priority Plan](#), research and creative endeavors across fields and disciplines have risen, graduate programs have been strengthened, graduate student funding has increased, and faculty recruitment has resulted in a faculty body that is stronger and more diverse than ever.

A prime example of Notre Dame's commitment to advancing research is the establishment of the Human Neuroimaging Center. The Center will include a 3T Siemens Magnetom Cima X fMRI system, dedicated research spaces for TMS, EEG, and neuropsychological testing, and a BSL2-level lab for biological sample acquisition and storage of biological samples. It will be co-located with the Shaw Center for Children and Families, the Notre Dame Psychological Services Center, and several community-facing research labs. Notre Dame's investment in owning and operating this advanced equipment underscores its commitment to enhancing its clinical and research initiatives.

The inaugural Director of the Human Neuroimaging Center will possess a distinguished record of impactful research and a proven history of securing sustained extramural funding. They will have demonstrated leadership skills and experience in leading team efforts or developing programs, including budgetary and

operational oversight of large and complex academic units. The ideal candidate will have the intellectual vision and acumen to establish and guide a new center toward future advancements. They should also have the persuasive ability to engage diverse stakeholders and the energy to drive initiatives forward. As the first director, they will promote collaboration and seek new opportunities for partnerships and alignment. Candidates must hold a PhD with qualifications suitable for a tenured appointment in the Department of Psychology.

The University of Notre Dame has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and applications can be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

The [University of Notre Dame](#) was founded in November 1842 by Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., who sought to establish a great Catholic university in America, one that would "be one of the most powerful means for doing good in this country." From the outset, the institution's ambitions and purpose were evident: Notre Dame exists to be an enlightening force for a world in need.

Notre Dame is both a leading undergraduate teaching institution and a formidable research university. It was admitted into the Association of American Universities in 2023 and is the only formally religious institution among the top 20 research universities. The University is made up of eight academic colleges and schools: the School of Architecture, College of Arts & Letters, Mendoza College of Business, College of Engineering, Keough School of Global Affairs, The Graduate School, The Law School, and College of Science. In Fall 2023, Notre Dame enrolled 8,968 undergraduates and 4,206 graduate and professional students. Notre Dame employs 1,526 instructional faculty and approximately 4,700 staff.

Notre Dame has a prominent global footprint. It attracts over 1,700 students from more than 100 countries outside the United States; its researchers have active awards across 67 countries. [Notre Dame Global](#) oversees more than 50 study abroad programs and the institution's [Global Network](#). The University is a recognized leader in producing and hosting recipients of Fulbright grants.

Notre Dame's 2023–24 operating budget is \$1.8 billion, and the university's endowment is \$18.9 billion. Annual fundraising totals are among the highest for American universities: in 2022–23, the University raised over \$1 billion in commitments and pledges.

## UNIVERSITY MISSION

The University of Notre Dame is a Catholic academic community of higher learning dedicated to the pursuit and sharing of truth, advancing knowledge through original inquiry and publication, and educating students in mind, body, and spirit. The University seeks to cultivate in its students "a disciplined sensibility

to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many." The aim, according to Notre Dame's mission statement, is "to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

In pursuing its research and educational mission, Notre Dame welcomes, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students. Catholic intellectuals play an important role in sustaining and deepening Notre Dame's Catholic mission, but the University is home to scholars and students of all backgrounds who have "a respect for the objectives of Notre Dame and a willingness to enter into the conversation that gives it life and character."

The University is committed to academic freedom and welcomes all areas of scholarly activity as consonant with its mission. One of Notre Dame's distinctive goals is "to provide a forum where, through free inquiry and open discussion, the various lines of Catholic thought may intersect with all the forms of knowledge found in the arts, sciences, professions, and every other area of human scholarship and creativity."

For more information, visit <https://www.nd.edu/about/mission/>.

## THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS

Founded in 1842, the same year Notre Dame was established, the [College of Arts & Letters](#) is the University's oldest and largest college. It includes 20 academic departments across the arts, humanities, and social sciences, including Psychology, and is home to over 500 faculty members, 2,600 undergraduates, and 900 graduate students. With nearly 70 [majors and minors](#), as well as 30 [graduate programs](#), Arts & Letters provides a well-rounded education that fosters critical thinking and intellectual growth. The College is proud of its faculty, who have received more National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships over the past 25 years than any other private university. The [Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts](#) further supports faculty research and creative endeavors by offering internal funding and assisting with securing and managing external grants and fellowships. Additionally, the College has launched [the Initiative on Race and Resilience](#), sought to expand its global presence, and promoted cross-disciplinary collaboration.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

The [Department of Psychology](#) is a dynamic and rapidly growing academic unit known for its strong focus on research, teaching, and the development of innovative psychological practices. With over 30 [faculty](#) members, the Department focuses particularly on clinical, cognitive, developmental, and quantitative psychology. Research is central to the department's mission, and its laboratories span over 30 specialized areas of study. The Department consistently attracts substantial external funding for its research initiatives, with annual research expenditures typically exceeding \$4.5 million.

The Department offers two [undergraduate](#) majors: Psychology, which provides a broad understanding of human behavior, from individual development to social dynamics, and Neuroscience and Behavior, an interdisciplinary program that combines the study of the brain and nervous system with behavioral science. Many undergraduate students actively engage in research alongside faculty, contributing to projects and gaining valuable hands-on experience. The [graduate](#) program offers doctoral (Ph.D.) training in four key areas: [Clinical Science](#), [Cognition, Brain and Behavior](#), [Developmental Science](#), and [Quantitative Psychology](#). Approximately 60 doctoral students are involved in research and training, benefiting from close mentorship with faculty members.

The Department is primarily housed in Corbett Family Hall, a state-of-the-art building specifically designed for psychology research and teaching. This facility spans three floors and over 100,000 square feet, providing ample space for research labs, classrooms, and faculty offices. In addition to this on-campus space, the department also operates two off-campus facilities in South Bend: The William J. Shaw Center for Children and Families, which focuses on research and services related to children and families, and the Notre Dame Psychological Services Center, which offers low-cost mental health services and provides a training ground for doctoral students. The department is expanding its clinical and research capabilities with the development of the [Veldman Family Psychology Clinic](#), a new facility set to open in 2026. This 36,000-square-foot clinic will bring together several existing initiatives, provide increased access to affordable mental health services for the South Bend community, and offer immersive clinical training for graduate students.

The Department has shown impressive growth in recent years, having risen from 136th in U.S. News & World Report rankings in 2008 to its current position at 46th. Despite not having neuroimaging facilities yet, it is the highest-ranked department in the U.S. without one, and the establishment of a neuroimaging center is seen as a key milestone for further enhancing its standing.

## THE HUMAN NEUROIMAGING CENTER

Psychology, as a discipline, aims to explain, predict, and sometimes modify thought patterns and behaviors—processes influenced by brain chemistry, structure, and function interacting with the environment. The Human Neuroimaging Center is a significant investment in neuroscience, underscoring its essential role in unraveling psychological processes and supporting the research goals of the department, college, and university.

The Center will be a shared facility designed to facilitate and support collaborative, multi-method, and interdisciplinary research across all areas within the department (clinical, cognitive, developmental, and quantitative psychology). It will serve as a physical and intellectual home for scholars studying the associations between neural functions and behavior. The Center's staff will support researchers with services for experiment design, implementation, analysis, and quality control. The Center will offer

access to a range of integrated and complementary technologies suitable for various research questions and behaviors. MRI will be the central technology around which other methods like transcranial magnetic stimulation, near-infrared spectroscopy, electroencephalography, magnetoencephalography, physiological biomarkers, and eye tracking will be utilized.

The Center's success relies on its ability to recruit faculty, bring together outstanding researchers and learners, equip them with the necessary resources, and provide a collaborative environment in which they can flourish. The director will be responsible for recruitment, developing the strategic plan, and overseeing expansion efforts.

### **THE ROLE: DIRECTOR OF THE HUMAN NEUROIMAGING CENTER**

Reporting to the Chair of the Department of Psychology, the Director will be a faculty member who will advance the vision of the Human Neuroimaging Center through strategic leadership, scholarly engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This unique and exciting role offers the opportunity to shape the Center's direction, culture, and team as its founding leader. The Director will oversee the recruitment of researchers and staff while ensuring smooth operations and fostering a culture of scientific excellence and innovation.

In addition to managing day-to-day activities, the Director will set the long-term vision for the Center, aligning it with Notre Dame's neuroscience and psychology research goals. They will guide research strategies involving cutting-edge technologies like fMRI, EEG, TMS, and NIRS, ensuring the highest quality of research. As a key advocate for the Center, the Director will promote its work within the university and the broader academic community, building collaborations and enhancing its reputation as a leading research facility in neuroscience and psychology.

### **KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE INAUGURAL DIRECTOR**

The Director will be joining the Human Neuroimaging Center at the beginning. They must be entrepreneurial and adept at building and leading through growth and change. They will be responsible for addressing the following opportunities and challenges:

#### **Develop and implement a strategic vision for the future**

The Director will collaborate with Department and University leadership to assess the Center's current progress and plan for the future, focusing on resources, faculty, staff, and research. The Director will implement a structured strategic planning process, outlining clear objectives, deliverables, and timelines to ensure success. This will involve strengthening engagement and fostering transdisciplinary collaborations. A key responsibility will be to enhance the Center's visibility, accessibility, and impact throughout the University through effective communication, relationship-building, and dynamic leadership.

As the chief ambassador and spokesperson for the Center, the Founding Director will build and nurture strategic partnerships, working both within the Department and across other centers to expand the Center's impact. Collaborating closely with other center directors and faculty, the Director will seek opportunities to strengthen existing relationships and identify new, mutually beneficial partnerships. Ensuring the Center establishes a prominent and influential presence in neuroscience research, both on campus and beyond, will be a key priority for the Director.

### **Develop a comprehensive and impactful research portfolio**

As a new center in its first chapters, a key responsibility will be to shape its research vision by integrating neuroscience with the Department's existing fields in psychology—clinical, cognitive, developmental, and quantitative—through the recruitment of both junior and senior faculty with expertise in neuroimaging. The Center is expected to strengthen these areas and create new research opportunities for current faculty. The Director will collaborate with individuals across the University and in the broader region, identifying those whose research and academic interests align with the Center's goals, as well as establishing external partnerships to enhance and amplify its work on campus and beyond.

### **Support, recruit, mentor, and retain researchers and staff**

The Director will have the unique opportunity to build the inaugural team for the Human Neuroimaging Center. With an outstanding record of scientific achievement and a broad understanding of both neuroscience and psychology, the Director will articulate an inspiring vision for the Center's future. They will identify potential team members and highlight how they will contribute to its growth and success, creating an exciting and compelling case for top candidates to join this groundbreaking endeavor.

A key measure of the Director's success will be their ability to recruit, mentor, and support center members, empowering them to leverage their talents, achieve their professional goals, and drive scientific discovery forward while fostering a collaborative and dynamic research environment.

### **Champion equity, diversity and inclusion**

The Director will demonstrate a commitment to the University's diversity and inclusion principles: Respect the dignity of every person, build a Notre Dame community in which all can flourish, and live in solidarity with all, particularly the most vulnerable. They will foster and maintain an inclusive and equitable environment that enables faculty, staff, and students to thrive both professionally and personally.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate for this position will possess many of the qualifications and characteristics below:

- Ph.D. in Psychology or a closely related field, with significant expertise in a broad range of human subjects research in neuroscience and behavior.
- A significant and consistent record as a funded investigator.
- Scientific breadth and intellectual curiosity, an appreciation for and knowledge of the range of approaches, methodologies, and disciplines that can inform the work of the Center.
- Strategic vision and an innovative spirit; collegial, energetic, and forward-thinking.
- Proven leadership abilities with experience supervising multiple direct reports ranging from trainees to senior scientists, with excellent interpersonal as well as written and verbal communication skills.
- The ability to convene diverse groups, connect researchers across fields, and lead highly collaborative, interdisciplinary teams, with a proven track record of developing research and programs that engage experts from multiple disciplines.
- Record of successful recruitment and involvement in the mentorship of faculty at all levels of experience.
- An effective, collaborative, and transparent approach to leadership.
- Ability to negotiate in a complex, dynamic environment with multiple constituents.
- A demonstrated commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and diversity.

## TO INQUIRE

Nominations, inquiries, and application materials (CVs and letters of interest) can be submitted electronically and in confidence to Isaacson, Miller:

Jay Torio, Partner  
Erin Schwass, Senior Associate  
Kendra Moleé, Senior Search Coordinator

[Founding Director, Human Neuroimaging Center, University of Notre Dame Search](#)

*The University of Notre Dame is dedicated to equal employment opportunity and to the implementation of positive programs designed to ensure the prevention of any discriminatory practices, either intentional or inadvertent, with respect to race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, veteran status, age, or sex.*