

UL Research Institutes
Chemical Insights Research Institute

Vice President & Executive Director

THE SEARCH

UL Research Institutes (ULRI), in pursuit of its goal to be the world's leading safety science research organization, is seeking nominations and applications for the Vice President & Executive Director (VP) of its Chemical Insights Research Institute (CIRI). This position will lead a highly regarded and prestigious institute in its research program evolution; growth of laboratory infrastructure; and expansion of its education and outreach initiatives for achieving global impact.

CIRI's [mission](#) is to reduce and eliminate adverse human health impacts of environmental and chemical pollution, in everyday life, and on a global basis by researching, communicating, and providing tools for safer working, living, and learning environments. Through in-house scientific research and collaborative work with leading academic and institutional research partners, CIRI delivers [scientific insights](#) that policymakers, healthcare providers, business leaders, and consumers depend on to make informed environmental health decisions, e.g., confronting hazards associated with vaping or aerosol emissions from 3D-printers, to cite two areas of extensive accomplishment. With an expanding focus and available resources to support extraordinary infrastructure growth, CIRI fosters the success of a community of researchers that is positioned to grow and excel.

This is the most exciting time in the history of CIRI. The VP has an opportunity to set a growth strategy and expand CIRI's mission and programs, deploying resources targeted to grow from a current \$11M/yr to \$20+M/yr over the next 5 years, including both internal and sponsored funding. This will include identification of research opportunities to address emerging needs and the development of unbiased scientific knowledge supporting the protection of human health through the study of sources, assessment of exposures, and evaluation of links between the exposome and acute and chronic adverse responses and disease. This will also include continuing to build and expand in-house research capabilities for human exposure measurements and risk-based toxicological assessments based on *in-vivo*, *in-vitro*, chemical, and appropriate -omics techniques, as well as developing analytical approaches to quantify emerging chemical, particle, and biological human health threats in environmental and biological matrices. The VP will further develop an extensive network of relationships with government agencies (e.g., NIH, EPA) and academic institutions to drive meaningful partnerships and research advancements. The hope is that all these efforts will further establish CIRI and ULRI as pre-eminent safety science research institutions.

UL Research Institutes has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in the recruitment of the Vice President & Executive Director. All inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed in confidence as noted at the end of this document.

THE ROLE

The Vice President & Executive Director will be an established, well-networked leader who brings a robust research program to the institute and is expected to enhance and diversify the current research portfolio of CIRI through both internal investments and collaborations. This leader will represent CIRI, its mission and research, in a variety of settings, both internal and external to ULRI. In addition, the advancement of research results to actionable health/safety recommendations and impact through strong communications and education strategies will be a key requirement.

The next Vice President & Executive Director will lead with a collaborative approach, capable of fostering inter-institute partnerships across ULRI while balancing strategic direction with research autonomy. Strong interpersonal skills and the ability to engage with diverse stakeholders will be critical. The successful candidate will bring a strong record of research, publications, scientific leadership, and external recognition within the broadly defined field of Environmental Health Sciences related to pollutant exposure to humans. Key areas of current CIRI research include chemical and particle exposure in indoor air quality — levels, sources, and mitigation; indoor and outdoor global air pollution — characterization and impact on health; toxicological and metabolomic studies of aerosols as well as compounds absorbed through dermal exposure; exposure modeling for health impact; and development of analytical and exposure assessment tools including exposure chambers, methodologies for routes of exposure, sensor applications, and new measurement techniques for emerging chemicals and their exposure routes. The successful candidate will build on this platform, and expand into additional, complementary science as well, emphasizing innovative approaches and the translation of discoveries into impactful actions and products.

Chemical Insights presently occupies facilities in Marietta, Georgia. The Vice President & Executive Director will play a key role in assessing the alignment of human and facilities resources with mission priorities, addressing current space limitations and planning for future infrastructure needs.

ULRI

The ambitious growth expected for Chemical Insights will be mirrored by corresponding evolution of other ULRI mission units, including its [Fire Safety Research Institute](#), [Electrochemical Safety Research Institute](#), [Digital Safety Research Institute](#), [Materials Discovery Research Institute](#), and [Office of Research Experiences and Education](#). Between deployment of internal resources generated from its endowment and external resources generated from sponsored

research awards, ULRI expects by 2030 to exceed \$150M per year in operational spending to advance its mission.

THE LARGER UL ENTERPRISE

In June 2022, the UL enterprise revealed new brands for its two nonprofit organizations, UL Research Institutes and UL Standards & Engagement, and the commercial business, UL Solutions. The brands reflect and clarify each organization's unique role in working for a safer world. While the logos for the organizations have been updated to reflect the new brands, the existing UL certification marks, which signal independent third-party safety, security, and sustainability certification, remain unchanged.

Each of the three organizations serves a distinct role in helping to advance safety. The UL enterprise confronts safety challenges head-on, turning questions and hypotheses into discoveries and innovation to ensure that scientific knowledge is applied. The three organizations' capacity to create change is amplified by a distinctive network of researchers, engineers, technologists, government regulators, technical experts, and business leaders to advance safety and sustainability.



[UL Standards & Engagement](#) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit standards development and advocacy organization that translates safety science into practical, action-oriented standards in multiple domains. The organization also serves as a vital resource for policymakers and shares knowledge, advances partnerships, and advocates for standards and policies to create a safer, more sustainable world.



[UL Research Institutes](#) (ULRI) is a 501(c)(3) leading independent safety science research organization with global reach. ULRI researchers explore both the benefits and risks of today's technologies and pursue answers to socially relevant questions related to public safety. They take a multidisciplinary approach that engages the ingenuity of top minds across scientific disciplines to engineer a safer and more sustainable world.



[UL Solutions](#) is a global leader in applied safety science. UL Solutions transforms safety, security, and sustainability challenges into opportunities for customers in more than 100 countries. UL Solutions delivers testing, inspection, and certification services, together with software products and advisory offerings, that support its customers' product innovation and business growth. The UL certification marks serve as a recognized symbol of trust in its customers' products and reflect an unwavering commitment to advancing safety. UL Solutions helps customers innovate, launch

new products and services, navigate global markets and complex supply chains, and grow sustainably and responsibly into the future.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Provide Strategic and Visionary Leadership for the Institute

The Vice President & Executive Director will be expected to provide knowledgeable, experienced, and proven leadership to Chemical Insights Research Institute, championing the distinctive role the institute plays to broad scientific, consumer, and policy maker external stakeholders, as well as internally within ULRI. Requirements of the role include enhancing the institute's recognition and reach as a scientific leader in environmental and public health and toxicology. The VP will oversee and lead these efforts through discovery research, peer reviewed and community publications, external presentations and participation in strategic national and global initiatives, and the translation of research into actionable tools and processes for the protection of public health and safety. This leadership will require an entrepreneurial spirit of achievement and dedicated focus, with the ability to be nimble and responsive to emerging research opportunities and challenges, and an understanding of the challenges and adaptations associated with the greater ULRI organization.

Build Research Capacity

Chemical Insights Research Institute desires to expand its in-house laboratory in toxicological and metabolomic measurements of environmental exposure, its analytical capability to measure emerging chemical, particle, and biological threats, and its clinical capability to work with human participants where appropriate. These efforts will be supported by state-of-the-art facilities designed to advance CIRI's in-house and collaborative research initiatives. The Vice President & Executive Director, working with ULRI's Real Estate and Facilities team, will provide leadership in identifying and meeting evolving facilities needs to accomplish these goals. Resolving the institute's current space constraints will be a priority, and the Vice President & Executive Director will contribute to the strategic expansion of CIRI's laboratory, ensuring capabilities and talent support the demands of conducting groundbreaking research to address critical public health challenges. This will include evaluating opportunities for new facilities in Marietta or alternative locations to support CIRI's expanding operations and future growth. Through targeted staff growth, nurturing of existing staff, and expansion of collaborative partnerships, the Vice President & Executive Director will leverage and grow the boundaries of its current research portfolio, continuing to engage in interdisciplinary research projects that are of national and global significance.

Serve as a Unifying and Decisive Leader

A priority will be to ensure that Chemical Insights Research Institute's faculty and staff work as a highly effective team that embraces its collaborative partners and is tightly connected to the broader ULRI organization. The Vice President & Executive Director will be expected to work across ULRI and with relevant senior leadership to ensure that the institute's goals are aligned with those of the larger organization. This will require skillful delegation, consistent internal and external communication, decisive and transparent decision-making, and setting clear and consistent goals and expectations. While fostering a collaborative and empowering leadership style, the Vice President & Executive Director must also support autonomy and innovation among researchers while driving alignment with the organizational mission. Recruiting, retaining, and developing the strongest possible research staff will be essential. With the strategic focus of ULRI on accelerating the transfer of knowledge for the public good, CIRI will be well-positioned to help realize the potential for this institute to contribute to global health and well-being.

Build upon Chemical Insights' Strong Reputation

Communications and public engagement are core missions that are critical to the success of Chemical Insights Research Institute. While CIRI is made highly visible through publications in prominent research journals and dissemination of research findings in other strategic venues, the institute has the potential to become more widely recognized as one of the finest Environmental and Public Health and Toxicology research programs in the country. The VP will be tasked with expanding CIRI's impact by developing actionable educational materials for professional associations and conducting public awareness campaigns to translate research findings into tools and knowledge that benefit society. Through a combination of cutting-edge research, a specialized scientific laboratory, and stakeholder-tested communication tools, the institute is well-positioned to extend its reach to ever wider and more diverse audiences. As a key spokesperson for CIRI, the Vice President & Executive Director must set a standard by robustly engaging multiple constituencies, ranging from other research professionals to policy makers and the public at large.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The successful candidate must bring a strong track record of leadership within the broadly interpreted Environmental and Public Health and Exposure Toxicology area. An advanced professional degree plus post-doctoral experience in a relevant field is required that may include chemistry, environmental and public health, environmental engineering, biomedical or medical sciences, environmental toxicology, or an affiliated field. Extensive experience in scientific research with a distinguished scientific publication history and demonstration of external engagement and recognition with third party stakeholders is required. While no one candidate will embody every quality, the successful candidate will bring many of the following professional qualifications and personal attributes:

- Exceptional strategic thinking ability and demonstrated success in innovation, scientific organization planning, and implementation.
- Passion for and commitment to addressing the risks of environmental pollutant exposure, its impact on human health, with research and application tools to improve human health and societal wellbeing.
- Managing an organization through transition and growth.
- Organizational management skills including experience with financial, legal, business operations, and human resources management.
- A record of providing visionary science leadership and a proven track record of discovery research, publication, third-party stakeholder engagement, and attracting externally sponsored research funding.
- A network of strong relationships with national and international leaders in science research and policy communities.
- Experience with new and innovative models of collaboration and outreach.
- Strong written and oral communication skills.
- Strong ethical values with a commitment to transparency so that worldwide stakeholders have the confidence that our research is accurate and objective.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity and collaborative engagement.
- Commitment to accomplishment and success.

Location

Chemical Insights Research Institute presently occupies facilities in Marietta, Georgia. The Vice President & Executive Director will play a key role in assessing how best to align human and facilities resources with mission priorities.

Compensation

Compensation will be both competitive and commensurate with the successful candidate's experience.

About UL Research Institutes

[UL Research Institutes](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance public safety through the discovery and application of scientific knowledge. It conducts rigorous independent research and analyzes safety data, convenes experts worldwide to address safety risks, shares knowledge through safety education and public outreach initiatives, and develops standards to guide safe and sustainable commercialization of evolving technologies. The organization employs collaborative and scientific approaches with partners and stakeholders to drive innovation and progress toward improving safety, security, and sustainability, ultimately enhancing societal well-being.

The Future of UL Research Institutes and Chemical Insights Research Institute

Building on its legacy and 130-year history of success, UL Research Institutes has embraced a new strategic plan committed to science, innovation, and discovery in areas of global societal importance. The organization continues a major expansion of its research activities, including significant growth in its research staff, aimed at enabling new breakthroughs in safety-science research initiatives across program areas. This includes, inter alia, energy storage, chemical safety, fire safety, digital safety, eco-remediation, and prospective fields driven by rapidly evolving technologies.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and resumes with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/ul-research-institutes/vice-president-and-executive-director-chemical-insights>
Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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*UL Research Institutes is committed to hiring and retaining a qualified diverse workforce.
UL Research Institutes is proud to be an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative
Action Employer, making decisions without regard to race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual
orientation, gender identity, marital status, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or
any other protected class.*