

UC DAVIS
HEALTH

BETTY IRENE MOORE
SCHOOL OF NURSING

Director, Family Caregiving Institute
University of California, Davis
Sacramento, California

THE SEARCH

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at the University of California, Davis seeks an innovative and collaborative research leader to serve as the next Director of the Family Caregiving Institute (FCI). Reporting to the Dean of the School of Nursing, the Director will provide visionary leadership and strategic scholarship direction to the Family Caregiving Institute, pondering and expanding the definition of “caregiving”, advancing caregiving research, driving strategic partnerships, and increasing name recognition for the Institute.

The first fully dedicated research institute for the study of family caregiving and caregiving solutions, FCI is dedicated to advancing the optimal health and well-being of family caregivers and the people in their care by offering resources, elevating their role within the community and healthcare system, and advancing research, education, and policy initiatives. The Institute’s research priorities include understanding caregiving trajectories, integrating technology into caregiving practices, addressing the needs of diverse caregiver populations, and exploring the varied experiences within caregiving. These efforts are crucial as the demand for caregiving rises amid a strained workforce, necessitating interventions that embrace multicultural approaches and technological advancements to improve care for individuals with chronic conditions. Additionally, FCI offers evaluation research expertise to caregiving service agencies, helping them assess program effectiveness and inform policy decisions, thereby empowering these agencies to enhance services and advocate for funding.

UC Davis Health, situated on a contemporary 140-acre campus in Sacramento, California, serves as home to a number of institutions, including the School of Nursing, School of Medicine, UC Davis Medical Center (including a level-I trauma center and burn unit, and a comprehensive range of outpatient services), a fully accredited Children's Hospital, and an NCI-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. As the region’s only academic health center, UC Davis Health is focused on discovering and sharing knowledge and providing the highest quality of care. UC Davis is one of the nation’s premier public research universities, with academic and research excellence across a broad array of disciplines, a vibrant health-science enterprise, an outstanding campus community, and a focus on sustainability. With its first phase opening in May 2025, UC Davis’s Aggie Square will house parts of each of these entities, including space for FCI. There are unlimited opportunities for collaboration across the health sciences, which the new Director will be expected to tap into and nurture.

Successful candidates will have a proven track record of success in family caregiving research, including significant contributions to the field, competitive grant awards, and significant leadership experience within academia or related sectors. It is essential that this candidate bolster research through their own research impacts including citations in caregiving guidelines, evidence-informed programs, legislation and commissioned reports. The Director’s knowledge will be embedded in industry, education, policy, industry, and practice.

UC Davis has retained the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in the search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT UC DAVIS

The University of California, Davis was conceived in 1905, when the California state legislature passed the University Farm Bill, calling for the establishment of a site dedicated to science-based teaching and research to support the state's growing agricultural industry. Peter J. Shields, secretary of the State Agricultural Society, had lobbied on behalf of the idea of a "University Farm" after he recognized that California students were leaving the state in pursuit of agriculture degrees. University Farm began accepting non-degree students in October 1908 and enrolled its first 40 degree-seeking students from UC Berkeley in January 1909. In 1922, the campus was renamed the Northern Branch of the College of Agriculture and that same year, the first four-year undergraduate general academic program was established, graduating its first class in 1926. Following years of sustained growth, the Regents of the University of California declared UC Davis the seventh general campus in the University of California system in 1959.

UC Davis comprises four colleges – Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Biological Sciences, Engineering, and Letters and Science – as well as an Office of Graduate Studies and several nationally-renowned professional schools, the School of Medicine, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, Graduate School of Management, School of Education, School of Law, and School of Veterinary Medicine. UC Davis has 104 undergraduate majors and 97 graduate programs in its diverse academic programs. To learn more about UC Davis academic programs, please see: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/academics/colleges-schools>.

UC Davis has an academic staff of around 2,450. The university's distinguished faculty includes members of the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Law Institute, National Academy of Engineering, and other renowned academies. Among many other honors, university faculty, alumni, and researchers have won the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Pulitzer Prize, MacArthur Fellowship, National Medal of Science, Blue Planet Prize, Wolf Prize, and Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. UC Davis is the only campus that is home to an Academic Federation, a group of academic appointees who are not members of the Academic Senate, and who by percentage of appointment and duration of employment are eligible for membership. This organization is parallel in function to the role of the Academic Senate, and a key asset of the campus.

In the area of research, UC Davis continues to be a national leader in federally sponsored research and is distinguishing itself for its success in generating research support from state and private sources. The National Science Foundation ranks UC Davis 14th in the nation in research funding among public universities and 22nd among public and private universities overall; the National Institutes of Health ranks UC Davis 41st in the country in research funding received. The campus continues to see regular growth in annual external research funding, generating over \$1 billion in awards for the second year in a row in 2023.

For more information about UC Davis, see: <https://www.ucdavis.edu/>.

Strategic Growth

UC Davis is one of the world's leading transdisciplinary research and teaching institutions. Its current trajectory is guided by a strategic plan, "[To Boldly Go](#)", that outlines the aspirations and methods for guiding the University to new levels of distinction over the next 10 years. It draws on the campus's responsibility as a public land-grant university and maximizes its opportunities as a driver of innovation and economic growth for the public good. As part of its plan, UC Davis launched an enterprise master brand, themed "[Outgrow the Expected](#)", to continue raising its national profile and showcasing its research and advocacy.

In addition, [Aggie Square](#), UC Davis's ongoing \$1.1 billion addition to its Sacramento campus, began construction in 2022 with its first phase opening in May 2025. The first phase of the project's plans includes over 1 million square feet of research, wet labs, commercial space, public engagement space, and housing. Aggie Square will bring world-class researchers and the communities they serve together with entrepreneurs, technical experts and industry partners who guide ideas from concept to market. By providing high-tech labs and large-scale facilities, Aggie Square will create the infrastructure needed to make discoveries not only possible, but scalable. Later phases could eventually span 25 acres of University-owned land.

In October 2020, UC Davis publicly launched a \$2 billion fundraising campaign, the largest philanthropic endeavor in its history. "[Expect Greater: From UC Davis, For the World](#)", supports the University's work to prepare future leaders, sustain healthier communities, and bring innovative solutions to today's most urgent challenges. In 2024, the campaign concluded, having exceeded its goal by raising \$2.09 billion.

UC Davis's new focus on [Grand Challenges](#) brings together practitioners, communities, and world-class scholars from all areas of study to find innovative solutions to wicked problems — significant and complex threats to human society and planetary health that demand collaborative action. Built from a foundation of grassroots work and prioritized by leaders across UC Davis, Grand Challenges aims to catalyze critical breakthroughs. These efforts support a compelling model of transdisciplinary collaboration, moving the world forward with equity and resilience. UC Davis's current focus areas include [emerging health threats](#), [the climate crisis](#), [sustainable food systems](#), and [reimagining the land-grant university](#).

THE BETTY IRENE MOORE SCHOOL OF NURSING

The Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis was established in March 2009 through a \$100-million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the largest grant for nursing education in U.S. history, and the largest single grant to UC Davis. The school welcomed its first students in fall 2010, and now houses two doctoral programs, the Doctor of Nursing Practice – Family Nurse Practitioner Degree Program and the Ph.D. in Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Program; two Master's programs, the Master of Health Services – Physician Assistant Studies Degree Program and the Master's Entry

Program in Nursing; and the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Certificate Program. All five programs are conferred by the Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Graduate Group, an interprofessional team of faculty members from disciplines including nursing, medicine, health informatics, nutrition, biostatistics, pharmacy, sociology, and public health. Serving more than 200 students, the School of Nursing combines the potential of new ideas for the future of nursing education with a nationally recognized collection of research, academic, and health-care resources.

The diverse interests and expertise of School of Nursing faculty, coupled with robust collaborations with faculty across UC Davis and beyond, catalyze cutting-edge research from nursing-home and palliative care to chronic-disease and care management to disease prevention and health promotion. Researchers work to improve health care systems and design policies to ensure care is effective, efficient, and responsive.

The School of Nursing offers a highly regarded Ph.D. program designed to prepare nurse scientists and scholars for leadership roles in research, education, and healthcare policy. The program emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration, innovative research methodologies, and the application of science to improve health and healthcare systems. The Ph.D. program emphasizes research in areas such as health equity, chronic disease management, healthcare delivery systems, and health policy. Students engage in cutting-edge research projects that address critical health issues and contribute to the advancement of nursing science. School of Nursing students have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and resources, including advanced laboratories, data analysis centers, and collaborative research spaces.

In October 2017, the School opened their new academic building, the Betty Irene Moore Hall. The building is home to the School of Nursing's graduate programs and supports interprofessional health sciences education. The \$50 million, 70,000-square-foot building features collaborative learning spaces rather than traditional classrooms. The building illustrates UC Davis's mission to reimagine education and provide innovative spaces to best prepare future health professionals in nursing, medicine, health informatics, public health and more. The building advances UC Davis's innovative use of and national recognition for clinical simulation. It features simulation labs, where clinical scenarios play out on one side and debriefing rooms on the other, in order to provide an environment to discuss bedside decisions. Simulation arenas include an inpatient eight-bed hospital ward, task and anatomy skills labs, a 15-room primary care clinic, and a one-bedroom apartment for home health simulation.

Leadership

Dr. Stephen J. Cavanagh is the Dignity Health Dean's Chair for Nursing Leadership as well as Dean and Professor at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis. Dr. Cavanagh leads the School of Nursing and collaborates with the interprofessional Nursing Science and Health-Care Leadership Graduate Group in the operation of five graduate degree programs as well as the development of new programs.

With a passion for health care workforce development and maximizing the use of advanced practice nurses, his research explores the understanding of innovation within the almost unique regulatory framework in which nursing operates — and the need for it within nursing education due to projected

nurse shortages — a growing elderly population and the rise of technology in health care. He has also generated more than \$16 million in external federal, state, and foundation funding to develop nursing practice arrangements, support diversity in health care, and increase the nursing workforce.

Dr. Cavanagh earned a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Texas Austin School of Nursing, a Master of Public Administration and Master of Science in Health Care Management from the University of La Verne in La Verne, California, as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Nursing from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne Polytechnic in England. He completed an Executive Certificate in Strategy and Innovation from the MIT Sloan School of Management. He was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellow, and a Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Management Fellow.

Dr. Cavanagh is a fellow in the American Academy of Nursing, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Royal Society for Public Health, and the Institute of Leadership and Management. He was elected to the board of directors for the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) in 2022.

FAMILY CAREGIVING INSTITUTE

In 2017, the School of Nursing secured a \$5 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to launch the Family Caregiving Institute, dedicated to supporting family caregivers to enact their vital role by increasing the capacity of healthcare professionals to partner with family caregivers as they navigate complex health trajectories. The Family Caregiving Institute is at the forefront of research into the complexities of caregiving, delving into diverse topics such as: implementation of caregiving interventions in low- and middle-income countries, innovative virtual and community health worker-delivered interventions to support cancer survivors and their caregivers; collaborative heart failure symptom management for persons with heart failure and their caregivers during care transitions, and pragmatic approaches to supporting caregiver mental health in specialty care settings. Collectively, studies led by FCI faculty and affiliates seek to improve care, enhance quality of life, and better understand health disparities affecting at-risk caregivers. Additionally, the Institute's scope extends to examining the nuances of caregiving across various conditions and demographics, such as patient and caregiver management of HIV and cardiometabolic conditions in Malawi, the influence of sleep patterns on health among non-Hispanic Black adults, the impact of caregiving stress on cardiovascular health in underserved communities, and factors supporting resilience in ICU survivors and their caregivers. Pilot studies are integral to this exploration, with researchers investigating topics ranging from frailty and caregiver stress in heart failure care dyads to the ethics of caregiving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through rigorous research and collaboration, the Institute not only advances scientific understanding but also actively informs interventions and health services aimed at improving the lives of caregivers and care recipients across different stages of life and health challenges. The Institute's program and policy evaluation unit employs decades of research expertise, and qualitative and quantitative methods to assist agencies in understanding what works in their organization, what doesn't, and what the implications are for practice and policy. Through this expertise, agencies can focus on designing and implementing programs that care for their constituencies, while Institute researchers collect data to evaluate those

programs. Researchers bridge evidence from practice to policy. That evidence both enables agencies to better execute their mission and demonstrates to policy makers the case for funding.

For more information on the Family Caregiving Institute's collaborations, please visit <https://health.ucdavis.edu/family-caregiving/research/evaluation-projects>.

Healthy Aging in a Digital World

In 2017, UC Davis also launched the Healthy Aging in a Digital World initiative with a vision to bring person-centered choice through technology and connectedness to older adults and people living with multiple chronic conditions as well as their care partners. The initiative advances health care delivery by working to include models that support the goals of individuals while also creating better networks of care, uniting a diverse team of experts to design, develop and evaluate creative solutions to enhance a person's daily life. Researchers envision a world where personal devices, home monitors, and mobile apps empower people to drive their health, where seamless communication generates knowledge that informs practice. Among the goals of this initiative is the desire to develop "smart communities" with a focus on promoting independent living, health management, and social connection through technology. The interdisciplinary team is represented by faculty from the Schools of Nursing and Medicine, and the Center for Health and Technology.

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVING INSTITUTE

Overseeing both the academic and administrative functions of the Family Caregiving Institute, the Director will foster a culture of excellence and innovation, executing and refining FCI's strategic plan to align with the goals of the School of Nursing and UC Davis Health, and developing performance metrics to drive research growth. The director will lead policy efforts at state and national levels to advocate for legislative reforms supporting family caregivers, represent the School of Nursing in various activities related to FCI's interests, and continuously communicate opportunities for FCI to senior leadership within UC Davis and UC Davis Health.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY CAREGIVING INSTITUTE

In order to advance the mission of the Family Caregiving Institute, the Director will successfully address the following opportunities and challenges:

Provide bold strategic leadership to grow and sustain the Family Caregiving Institute

The new Director will work collaboratively to establish clear identity and scope in alignment to differentiate FCI from its peers, drive strategic partnerships, and execute FCI's strategic plan to ensure alignment with the objectives of the School of Nursing and UC Davis Health.

The Director will also enhance the infrastructure to support its research, education, and outreach activities, ensuring efficient operations that can effectively scale initiatives. The Director will determine the appropriate mix of faculty and staff needed for FCI and actively recruit top-tier senior, mid-level, and junior faculty who align with FCI's research priorities and goals, thereby strengthening the Institute's capabilities and impact in family caregiving research. The Director will also provide mentoring and professional development to researchers within the Institute, further nurturing a productive and robust research portfolio.

Set the strategic path for research and scholarship for the Family Caregiving Institute

The director will develop and implement a strategic vision for FCI's research initiatives, prioritizing the translation of research findings into educational, policy, industrial, and practical applications while leading an extramurally funded research program that addresses critical issues in family caregiving with significant clinical and policy implications. This will include the strategic recruitment of faculty with strong research backgrounds and focusing on impactful areas like technology-enabled interventions and health equity in caregiving. The director will facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations, identify external funding sources, and foster partnerships with other campus research entities to enhance the impact of FCI's work in promoting health equity for caregivers.

Diversify funding mechanisms and expand resources within the Institute

The Director will create and execute a sustainable funding strategy for the Institute, with a strong focus on securing external funding. The director is expected to have a comprehensive understanding of diverse funding opportunities, including grants, industry partnerships, and government contracts, and to develop innovative approaches to establish lasting funding relationships that support FCI's initiatives. Additionally, they will collaborate with the Dean of the School of Nursing, the Associate Dean for Research, and the UC Davis Health Development Office to engage potential donors in philanthropic efforts aimed at advancing family caregiving initiatives.

Steward impactful collaboration and community engagement, both internally and externally

The new Director will develop and maintain relationships with key internal and external stakeholders to facilitate collaboration in family caregiving research and practice, cultivating partnerships at community, state, and national levels to advance FCI's mission and strategic objectives. Internally, the Director will create and nurture strategic partnerships across UC Davis and UC Davis Health, such as with the Healthy Aging Clinic, the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, the MIND Institute, and Comprehensive Cancer Center, to translate research findings into practical applications. Additionally, the Director will lead community engagement efforts by identifying target communities, creating tailored outreach strategies, and providing educational opportunities while establishing mechanisms for ongoing feedback and input from these communities into FCI's initiatives.

Develop a strong marketing and branding strategy for FCI to increase visibility nationally

Collaborating with UC Davis Health Public Affairs and Marketing to implement a comprehensive marketing strategy, the Director will lead the charge to increase national visibility and awareness of FCI research and impact. The strategy will promote FCI's strengths and impactful research opportunities across various sectors, including academia, healthcare, policy, and community, to elevate its national reputation and attract top-tier researchers. The Director will also work to improve internal branding and communication to clearly articulate FCI's role and distinction within UC Davis and UC Davis Health, engaging constituents at all levels to support the Institute's mission.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Successful candidates will demonstrate the following minimum qualifications:

- An earned doctorate degree from an accredited college or university (a record commensurate with appointment at the rank of associate or full professor);
- A history of success in an extramurally funded program of research;
- An exemplary track record as an innovative leader in nursing science and/or health sciences research;
- Sustained expertise in federal grant finance and compliance, and the ability to evaluate research proposals and offer feedback; and
- Demonstrated vision and experience in health care system designs necessary to achieve goals of an evolving health care delivery system, including the integration with education, research, and practice.

The following qualifications and characteristics will be highly regarded and facilitate success in this position:

- A commitment to a transformative vision for caregiving research and health care delivery;
- Demonstrated leadership in interdisciplinary teams and/or faculty and interdisciplinary academic programs;
- Demonstrated ability to provide imaginative leadership and vision and achieve long-term goals while facilitating practical discussions and setting viable priorities;
- Achievement of national acclaim and recognition for their caregiving research accomplishments;
- Excellent communication skills that foster effective interactions with a wide variety of audiences;
- Knowledge, insight, and negotiation skills regarding the political and regulatory environment of a complex university system or other complex organizational enterprises;
- The capacity to act as an effective agent of change in complex systems;

- A deep appreciation and understanding of the current transitional period in health care delivery, including funding, and the associated challenges for current models of academic healthcare;
- A commitment to addressing health inequalities in underserved communities.

LOCATION

This position is based in Sacramento, California, the state capital, which sits in the northern part of California's Central Valley, in one of the world's most productive farming regions and at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Sacramento is a family-friendly city with major cultural resources, including museums, theaters, and a vibrant arts scene. It also offers numerous outdoor activities, from riverfront parks to nearby hiking and skiing in the Sierra Nevada. Davis, the site of the general campus, lies approximately 20 minutes away by car. The UC Davis campus footprint is the largest of the UC system, spanning more than 5,500 acres in two counties and offering a dynamic academic and social environment. Sacramento is one of the most diverse and integrated cities in the United States, as determined by the Civil Rights Project at Harvard University, providing a rich cultural tapestry and a welcoming community. To learn more about Sacramento and Davis, see [UC Davis](#) and [California's College Town](#).

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: [insert URL](#). Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Jay Torio, Partner
Jasmine Miller, Senior Associate
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Isaacson, Miller

The University of California is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age or protected veteran status. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct>.