

UC Irvine

Director, Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, California

THE SEARCH

The University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine or UCI), one of the nation's top ten public research universities and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities, seeks a visionary, entrepreneurial, and collaborative leader to serve as the Director of the Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic (BLI). This is a unique opportunity to build on BLI's history of research excellence, innovation and entrepreneurship to advance bench-to-bedside technologies and therapies that will substantially improve health outcomes across a range of pathologies.

Established in 1982 by Drs. Arnold O. Beckman and Michael W. Berns as an interdisciplinary center for optics and photonics in biology and medicine, today the Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic is one of five Beckman Institutes supported, in part, by the [Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation](#). The BLI resides in a 37,000 sq. foot building on the UCI campus with facilities for basic science and technology development, an active Laser Medical Clinic, and a Photonic Incubator for technology commercialization. This uniquely configured institute, together with strong connections to UC Irvine's applied innovation infrastructure, help accelerate the clinical translation of new technologies.

Situated at the intersection of medicine and engineering, the BLI incubates pioneering basic and translational research and the incoming director joins the institute at a pivotal moment, seeking to refine BLI's strategic vision and elevating the institute into the next chapter of success. Reporting to the Vice Chancellor of Research, the incoming director will serve as a bridge builder, crafting new initiatives and skillfully facilitating the work and successful results of interdisciplinary research teams from across the campus. Closely partnering with the Deans of Medicine and Engineering, the incoming director will embody the schools' long-standing commitment to [innovative research](#) and collaboration.

Charged with curating and driving the institute's IP pipeline, the director will leverage Orange County's thriving biomedical device industry and partner across UCI to bolster research, innovation and entrepreneurship. This leader must also be able to attract robust philanthropic support, securing investments in facilities and infrastructure and maximizing the impact of BLI's research and clinical discoveries.

The ideal candidate will be an accomplished researcher with a deep understanding of both the scientific and business elements of running a successful special research unit. This person will have a demonstrated record of bringing together interdisciplinary collaborations across a complex research ecosystem as evidenced by substantial and successful leadership experience in academic, government, and/or industry executive roles.

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 UCI 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 and home to a robust biomedical device ecosystem including industry leaders like Abbvie, Medtronic, and over [60 other mid-to-large size life sciences companies in the city](#). 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, expanding access to world-class education, accelerating groundbreaking research discovery, 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 a powerful engine for social mobility and is committed to excellence through diversity, striving 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

As Orange County's only R1 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.

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), like the Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic, 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 BECKMAN LASER INSTITUTE & MEDICAL CLINIC

UC Irvine Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic is a UCI Special Research Program and one of five national Beckman Institutes supported by the [Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation](#) with others at: [California Institute of Technology](#), [University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign](#), [Stanford University](#),

and [City of Hope Hospital and Medical Center](#). Each Beckman Institute is dedicated to cutting-edge research at the interface between disciplines. The UC Irvine location is a unique translational technology center, moving new technologies rapidly from the laboratory benchtop to the patient bedside and boasts clinical spaces in close proximity to working labs.

Internationally recognized as a leader in optics, photonics and translational medicine, the Institute proudly houses 30 faculty, 100 researchers, and 75 students from 15 departments in the UC Irvine School of Medicine, Samueli School of Engineering, School of Physical Sciences, and Dunlop School of Biological Sciences across 37,000 sq. feet of research and clinical space. The Institute generates about \$10 million in research expenditures annually and enrolls over 400 subjects in more than 40 clinical protocols annually, evaluating biophotonics technologies in skin diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and metabolic disease, trauma and critical care, ophthalmology, neurologic function, head and neck surgery, and exercise medicine. Since its establishment, the Institute has generated 6% of the UC Irvine technology transfer portfolio, 39% of the campus patent royalty revenue, and \$56 million for the University of California (UC) technology transfer portfolio. A large percentage of this revenue was generated through novel discoveries in the targeted laser treatment of port-wine stain blood vessels, which leveraged a dynamic cooling device to protect superficial layers of skin. This technique was pioneered by BLI Medical Director, [J. Stuart Nelson](#).

THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR

Working in collaboration with key campus leaders and external strategic partners, including the CEO and Executive Director of the Beckman Foundation, the director of the Beckman Laser Institute & Medical Clinic will be firmly committed to interdisciplinary approaches, providing vision, leadership and strategic direction in meeting the research, clinical, educational and fundraising goals of BLI. This role is accompanied by the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Chair in Laser Biomedicine and enhanced by a recent gift to establish a Michael W. Berns Chair.

Responsibilities include overall management, academic planning, budgeting, resource allocation, personnel management, and research program development including linking with the other units across the campus and expanding entrepreneurial activities with UCI Applied Innovation. The successful candidate shall have a nationally recognized record of research excellence and leadership in the fields of Biophotonics and Biomedical Optics, a proven track record of management in academics, a record of technology transfer and commercialization, a record of successful philanthropic development, and a strong commitment to undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral teaching and training.

In this role, the director will collaborate with stakeholders across UCI to maximize research, clinical, and translational outcomes. Key partners include the Dean of the Samueli School of Engineering; Dean of the School of Medicine; Chief Innovation Officer and Director of UCI Beall Applied Innovation; the Associate

Vice Chancellor for Clinical and Translational Research and Director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Science; the Vice Chancellor for Research; and the BLI Medical Director.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT DIRECTOR

Propel the Institute into its next chapter of success and innovation

Capitalizing on BLI's rich history of commercial innovation, the incoming director will reinvigorate clinical translation and "bench to bedside" activities, developing a visionary strategic plan for the next iteration of the institute's work. In consultation with affiliated researchers and faculty, the director will remain abreast of cutting-edge discoveries in the optics and biophotonics sphere and facilitate the creation of interdisciplinary clinics and research spaces where ideas can collide. A skillful organizer of people and process, the incoming director will rally existing and recruit top notch researchers and clinicians to promote the creation of interdisciplinary translational research outcomes.

Maximize UCI's existing entrepreneurial infrastructure to accelerate innovation

UCI is a greenfield opportunity for innovative, interdisciplinary research and discovery. The incoming director joins an ecosystem of entrepreneurship with a dynamic, invested group of senior leaders. A collaborative and intellectually curious researcher and leader by practice, the incoming director will build and expand relationships with the [Institute for Clinical & Translational Science](#), which provides support for the translation of biomedical discovery into clinical and community health applications, [UCI Beall Applied Innovation](#), which connects researchers and industry to move knowledge and discovery into products and markets, and the [Office of Research](#).

Secure and leverage fiscal resources in service to the Institute's basic and translational research mission

The BLI receives generous annual funding from the Beckman Foundation and returns on indirects from the UCI Office of Research. A skillful fundraiser and storyteller, the incoming director will masterfully articulate BLI's strategic, research, and clinical impact on patient outcomes and innovation and secure philanthropic and grant funding. The director will expand basic science research that feeds the BLI's translational mission by strategically investing in space, equipment, and human resources. This leader will ensure that BLI's 37,000 sq. feet of research and clinical space meets the demands of cutting-edge biomedical research and discovery and will modernize the BLI's Advanced Technology Suite (ATS) to maximize the relevance and impact of the institute's activities.

Expand regional, national, and global partnerships

UCI is at the heart of Orange County's thriving biomedical device industry and BLI is remarkably well positioned to contribute towards and shape the trajectory and influence of biomedical devices and translation in the region and beyond. The incoming director will build upon existing and facilitate the

creation of novel relationships with industry, actively seeking opportunities to better understand the present and future needs of companies and produce innovative research and clinical devices and trials.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The search committee seeks a candidate with the following qualifications and characteristics. The ideal candidate will demonstrate most, if not all, of the attributes below:

- Candidates must have an MD, MD/PhD, PhD, DO or equivalent terminal degree;
- A strong academic record commensurate with appointment to the rank of full or associate professor with tenure in the Samueli School of Engineering or Medicine is preferred;
- Outstanding communication skills, including evidence of the abilities to facilitate collaboration within and external to the university, to articulate a strong vision for the institute, and to interact successfully with multiple and diverse constituencies;
- Successful and progressively responsible administrative roles;
- A record of participating in the successful recruitment and retention of excellent faculty and research;
- History of significant contribution to the growth of innovative programs, departments, and schools;
- Astute and accurate judge of the quality of interdisciplinary research;
- 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 robust commercial instinct;
- An inclination to engage with a broad range of constituencies and disciplines to advance the institute's research mission;
- A commitment to transparency in policy, strategy, and financial management, with an appreciation of and support for shared governance; and
- A record of successful engagement with multiple constituencies and dynamic public-facing presentations.

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 budgeted salary range is \$139,800 to \$489,780. This is a faculty appointment with administrative responsibilities and will be accompanied by an endowed chair. The actual salary will be determined by the underlying faculty appointment in a relevant department appropriate to the hire's academic background along with their administrative experience. "Off-scale salaries" and other components of pay, i.e., a salary that is higher than the published system-wide salary at the designated rank and step, are offered when necessary to meet competitive conditions.

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 encompasses more than 65 square miles. Located in the heart of Orange County, UCI enjoys the best of what Southern California has to offer: beaches, mountains, deserts, and a broad variety of cultural, entertainment, and intellectual activities.

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. Inquiries, and nominations may be submitted online:

<https://recruit.ap.uci.edu/JPF09589>

David Bellshaw, Hayden Lizotte, Afi Tettey-Fio, and Salem Adisu
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.

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.