



Dartmouth

GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Dean
Dartmouth
Audrey and Theodor Geisel School of Medicine
Hanover, NH

The Geisel Mission: We address the world's health problems through research and discovery, the evaluation and improvement of systems of healthcare, and the education of the best future physicians and scientists.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dean of Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine will lead one of the nation's oldest and most distinctive medical schools into its next era of discovery, education, and impact. This role offers a unique opportunity to guide a quarter-billion-dollar annual budget supporting innovative research, advancing pioneering work in rural health and global medicine, educating the next generation of physicians and healthcare leaders, and collaborating across Dartmouth's world-class academic environment. The next Dean will be a visionary leader who embraces Geisel's tradition of collegiality while elevating its national and international profile.

THE SEARCH

Dartmouth, one of eight Ivy League universities, invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the Audrey and Theodor Geisel School of Medicine (Geisel). Founded in 1797, Geisel has shaped generations of physicians and scientists while advancing innovations and therapies that have changed the practice of medicine worldwide.

The Dean reports to the Provost of Dartmouth and serves as Chief Academic Officer for Dartmouth Health. In this role, the Dean is the chief academic and strategic leader for a school that is integral to the university and deeply embedded in the region's only academic health system. The Dean will guide Geisel's research, educational, and clinical academic missions; drive alignment in strategy, education, programs, and mission with its partner academic health system; pursue additional collaborative opportunities with Dartmouth's other schools; and represent the school to alumni, donors, and the national academic medicine community.

Geisel today combines the scale and reach of a comprehensive academic medical center with a culture known for collegiality, creativity, and a deep commitment to service. The school encompasses 21 academic departments, a vibrant research enterprise with roughly \$100 million in annual extramural funding, and nationally recognized strengths in fields ranging from health services research to neuroscience, cancer, immunology, and global health. Together with Dartmouth Health, which supports an additional \$70 million in sponsored research, the Geisel–Dartmouth Health partnership anchors over a quarter-billion dollars of research and academic activity annually—an extraordinary platform for discovery, translation, and innovation. Geisel's faculty are highly collaborative and accomplished, including numerous National Academy members as well as innovators whose work has led directly to life-saving therapies, such as the technology underlying the first COVID-19 vaccines.

Geisel's longstanding partnership with Dartmouth Health is the foundation of an expansive regional care network serving northern New England and providing access to world-class care. In this setting, Geisel's graduates are uniquely trained in rural health medicine and begin practice as nimble and adaptable physicians. The next Dean will sustain and enhance productive relationships with Dartmouth Health so that together, Geisel and Dartmouth Health spur innovation in healthcare delivery, clinical research, and interprofessional education. Geisel also maintains a close partnership with the White River Junction VA Medical Center, one of the nation's leading rural-serving VA hospitals and home to the VA's Rural Health Resource Center for the Northeast. The school's partnerships extend from local community clinics to global health initiatives, reflecting its mission to improve health both at home and worldwide.

The next Dean will join a committed leadership team at Dartmouth and Dartmouth Health to expand Geisel's potential for leadership in the field. The Dean will build on a strong foundation: a tradition of educational excellence, a growing and diversified research portfolio, and a thriving spirit of discovery and invention to guide Geisel into its next era of growth, innovation, and impact.

THE GEISEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Distinctive Identity

Geisel is the fourth-oldest medical school in the United States and stands apart among leading medical schools through its integration of discovery science, clinical practice, and health policy under one academic roof. Its intimate size fosters mentorship and collaboration, while its location in northern New England provides a unique proving ground for innovation in rural health access and delivery. Together, these qualities create a medical school that is both highly impactful and uniquely personal.

Geisel's strength is magnified by Dartmouth's broader academic ecosystem. The School of Arts & Sciences provides a rich foundation in the life sciences, quantitative disciplines, and the humanities, supporting both discovery and interdisciplinary dialogue. The Thayer School of Engineering offers fertile ground for medical technology and bioengineering collaborations; the Tuck School of Business provides expertise in healthcare management and innovation; and the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies brings depth in the sciences and data-intensive research. This integrated environment equips Geisel to train physician-scientists, innovators, and leaders who bridge disciplines and translate discoveries into practice.

Looking to the future, Geisel seeks to extend this tradition of integration and innovation to new frontiers in global health, data science, and healthcare delivery.

Education

Geisel enrolls approximately 410 MD students in total, across all four years of the program. Each year, a class of about 100 students is selected from more than 8,000 applicants. Geisel also educates more than 150 students in master's programs in health data science, healthcare research, implementation science, medical informatics and public health. Dual-degree and joint options with Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering, Tuck School of Business, and Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies provide distinctive pathways for future physician scientists and leaders.

The school also supports and trains approximately 200 PhD students in programs such as Molecular & Cellular Biology, Integrative Neuroscience, Quantitative Biomedical Sciences, and Health Policy and Clinical Practice. Students benefit from a close-knit learning environment, a strong tradition of faculty mentorship, and a breadth of clinical and research experiences—from rural health rotations and international partnerships to research training in well-funded and state-of-the-art laboratories.

Faculty and Research

Geisel's \$100 million sponsored research portfolio spans the foundational, translational, and clinical sciences, with nationally recognized strengths in genetics, cancer biology, neuroscience, immunology, cystic fibrosis, population health, and health services research. Past faculty achievements include Nobel Prize-winning research in microRNA biology, among other critical advances in science. The school is home

to 17 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, ten members of the National Academy of Medicine, and three members of the National Academy of Sciences.

The school hosts and leads several major interdisciplinary centers and institutes, including the C. Everett Koop Institute, the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Practice (TDI), the Dartmouth Cancer Center, the Center for Precision Health & Artificial Intelligence, and the Center for Surgical Innovation, among others. Entrepreneurial activity is robust, with faculty-founded companies and accelerator programs translating discoveries into new diagnostics, devices, and therapies. The fertile research environment is bolstered by rich connections and collaborations with other schools at Dartmouth, particularly across science and social science departments in the School of Arts and Sciences and with the Thayer School of Engineering.

Geisel's impact on medicine is extraordinary. Pioneered at Geisel, the development of a method to stabilize coronavirus spike proteins for use as vaccine antigens was instrumental in quickly bringing to market the COVID-19 vaccines credited with [preventing more than 18 million hospitalizations and more than three million deaths in the U.S. alone](#). TDI's flagship project, [The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care](#), which it produced between 1996 and 2021, was the first to document variations in how medical resources are distributed and used in the United States. Findings from the Atlas shaped the evolution of healthcare and health policy in the US, particularly the development of the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Frameless stereotactic neurosurgery and advanced brain stimulation techniques were invented and pioneered at Dartmouth. Recent strategic investments to continue Geisel's legacy of innovation include a \$28 million NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award establishing [Dartmouth SYNERGY](#), focused on rural healthcare advances, and targeted gifts to expand cancer research, digestive health, and mental health services. In April 2025, a Dartmouth-led Research Team received a major \$13 million PCORI Funding Award to test the impact of video on visit communication for people with ALS.

Clinical Partnerships

Geisel's relationship with Dartmouth Health connects the school to New Hampshire's only academic medical center and a network of community hospitals and clinics across northern New England. This academic-clinical partnership supports more than 400 residents and fellows across 49 accredited programs, a combined \$170 million in sponsored research, and innovative interprofessional education. Students and trainees gain exposure to the full spectrum of care, from tertiary and quaternary referral services to community-based primary care, preparing them to meet the diverse needs of patients locally, nationally, and globally.

A cornerstone of this partnership is the [Dartmouth Cancer Center](#) (DCC), one of just 57 National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Centers in the nation. Renewed in June 2025, DCC unites more than 160 cancer research scientists and clinicians across Dartmouth, supported by nearly \$70 million in annual funding. It is nationally recognized for leadership in cancer prevention and control research, identifying nutritional, environmental, and lifestyle factors that influence cancer risk. In 2022, the [Byrne](#)

[Family Cancer Research Institute](#) was founded with a \$25 million gift to fuel bold innovations, expand clinical trials, and recruit leading physician–scientists.

Together with Dartmouth Health, DCC manages more than 450 active interventional and non-interventional clinical trials and provides advanced, multidisciplinary cancer care to patients throughout the region. The center’s research programs span basic, translational, clinical, and healthcare delivery science, with a focus on moving discoveries rapidly from bench to bedside.

DARTMOUTH HEALTH

Dartmouth Health is New Hampshire’s largest private employer and the region’s most expansive provider of care, serving nearly two million people across northern New England. Anchored by Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon, Dartmouth Health operates a fully integrated network of hospitals, specialty clinics, and community-based services.

The system encompasses nine community hospitals and clinics, Dartmouth Health Children’s (home to New Hampshire’s only children’s hospital), and a comprehensive range of specialty programs, including Level I trauma services, advanced transplant care, and leading programs in cardiovascular and neurosciences. With more than 2,000 providers practicing in virtually every area of medicine, Dartmouth Health delivers both high-acuity tertiary and quaternary care and essential local services to rural and underserved populations.

Geisel’s faculty practice plan resides within the Dartmouth Health corporate structure, and the Dean of Geisel serves as Dartmouth Health’s Chief Academic Officer—a role that ensures alignment between the health system’s strategy and the medical school’s academic mission. Dartmouth Health is also home to major research and training infrastructure, including Dartmouth SYNERGY.

DARTMOUTH

Dartmouth College, founded in 1769, is a member of the Ivy League and the AAU, and is classified as a Carnegie R1 research university. Dartmouth is led by President Sian Leah Beilock, a cognitive scientist whose groundbreaking research explores the mind–body connection and the factors that influence human performance. Prior to her appointment in 2023 as Dartmouth’s 19th president, she served as president of Barnard College, where she launched bold initiatives in STEM education, access, and career pathways. At Dartmouth, President Beilock has articulated an ambitious vision for enhancing the university’s global impact through academic innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and inclusive excellence.

She is joined by newly appointed Provost Santiago Schnell, an internationally recognized computational biologist and physiologist whose research advances understanding of the biochemical pathways underlying human disease. Schnell came to Dartmouth in 2025 from the University of Notre Dame, where

he served as the William K. Warren Foundation Dean of the College of Science. Previously, he served as Chair of the Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology at the University of Michigan Medical School. As Dartmouth's chief academic officer, the Provost oversees all academic programs and directly manages the deans of the professional and graduate schools, including the Dean of the Geisel School of Medicine.

Dartmouth is fueled by an \$8 billion endowment that supports the university's mission of academic excellence, innovation, and global engagement.

ROLE OF THE DEAN

The Dean of the Geisel School of Medicine is the school's chief academic and administrative leader and a key member of Dartmouth's senior leadership team. Reporting to the Provost and serving concurrently as Chief Academic Officer for Dartmouth Health, the Dean is responsible for the full scope of Geisel's missions in research, education, and clinical partnership. The Dean oversees all administrative and operational components of the school, including ensuring successful accreditation processes (such as the LCME for the MD program, CEPH for the MPH program) and student outcomes; leadership, management, and succession planning for faculty and staff; and prudent stewardship of financial resources.

The Dean oversees 21 academic departments in the foundational and clinical sciences, as well as a broad portfolio of centers and institutes. Working closely with departmental chairs, faculty leaders, and Dartmouth Health colleagues, the Dean ensures alignment of academic priorities with the needs of the health system, advances interdisciplinary research and education, and fosters a culture of inclusion, collegiality, and academic excellence.

As the public face of the medical school, the Dean represents Geisel to alumni, donors, policymakers, and the broader academic medicine community. The role carries significant responsibility for cultivating philanthropic support, strengthening national visibility, and building partnerships that extend the school's impact locally, nationally, and globally.

As Chief Academic Officer for Dartmouth Health, the Dean ensures that Geisel's academic priorities are fully aligned with the health system's mission. The Dean will create and maintain an educational environment that is deeply connected to patient care, in which faculty and trainees contribute meaningfully to innovation in healthcare delivery, and that enables Dartmouth Health to offer access to cutting-edge treatments and breakthrough cures. The Dean also works in concert with the other deans at Dartmouth to advance the university's interdisciplinary initiatives and to create new opportunities for collaboration across fields.

This is a role for a leader who combines academic distinction with operational acumen, a deep commitment to the tripartite mission, and the ability to inspire and unite a diverse community of scholars, clinicians, and learners.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The next Dean of the Geisel School of Medicine will join Dartmouth at a time of exciting momentum—new leadership at the university, renewed investment in research infrastructure, deepening partnerships across Dartmouth Health, and a growing culture of collaboration with scholars across all of Dartmouth's schools. Building on Geisel's tradition of discovery, education, and service, this leader will not only guide the school into its next chapter but will also shape how medicine, health policy, and public health are taught, discovered, and practiced in the 21st century. This is an opportunity to define a vision that advances health locally and globally, while positioning Geisel as a beacon of innovation, collaboration, and impact.

While Geisel's achievements are substantial, the next Dean will also face pressing challenges, many of which are common to academic medicine today: sustaining growth in research funding amid increased competition, addressing physician and scientist workforce shortages, advancing health equity, and ensuring financial resilience in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. Meeting these challenges will require strategic investment, bold leadership, and a capacity to align academic and clinical priorities. At the same time, Geisel and Dartmouth are well-positioned to respond: the School's success in generating licenses and patents provides resources to support the next iteration of medical school infrastructure, advance research, and strengthen connections across the university.

Unleashing the full potential of Geisel's research enterprise

Geisel has core strengths in cancer biology, neuroscience, genetics, immunology, population health, and rural healthcare delivery, along with a history of translational breakthroughs that have shaped medicine worldwide. The Dean will have the opportunity to grow research funding in strategic partnership with Dartmouth Health, especially as the current moment requires new and creative approaches to research investment. In an open academic environment where faculty and students from different fields collaborate, the Dean should champion interdisciplinary research through joint initiatives across schools, centers, and academic units at Dartmouth. They will also foster faculty recruitment and development that advances both discovery and clinical innovation. The Dean will be instrumental in bolstering research between Geisel and the clinical enterprise and will be a champion for foundational, translational, and clinical research. The Dean will work closely with the Office of Research Operations at Dartmouth Health to enable world-class, innovative, and seamless research, which will elevate both Geisel and Dartmouth Health.

Reimagining medical education for a new generation of physician-leaders

With a tradition of excellence in medical education and a breadth of dual-degree and graduate program offerings, Geisel is well-positioned to continue innovating in curriculum design, interprofessional education, and the integration of foundational science with clinical experience. Geisel's size and focus provide a test bed for invention and experimentation. The Dean will be charged with sustaining Geisel's competitiveness for top applicants, investing in the next wave of facilities and technologies for a 21st-century education, strengthening pathways for graduates into leading residencies and fellowships, and

supporting teaching excellence and research mentorship across the faculty. Educational leadership will include partnering with Dartmouth Health on postgraduate education and enhancing the academic and scientific profile of postgraduate clinical education.

Deepening alignment with Dartmouth Health

The academic–clinical partnership between Geisel and Dartmouth Health is crucial to their mutual success. The Dean will serve as a key ambassador and thought partner with the President of Dartmouth Health and other health system leaders and as academic leader for the clinical departments and chairs at Dartmouth Health. The Dean will pursue alignment across academic priorities and the system’s clinical strategy, contributing to important discussions around potential training sites and collaborative research ventures.

Inspiring global recognition and investment in Geisel’s future

Philanthropy and visibility are not only means of sustaining Geisel, but the engines for transformation. The next Dean will craft a compelling vision that inspires alumni, donors, and partners to invest in bold initiatives—whether advancing rural health delivery, building next-generation research infrastructure, or expanding global impact. By elevating Geisel’s national and international profile, the Dean will attract talent, resources, and partnerships that will redefine what a medical school can achieve.

Future Vision

Looking ahead, Dartmouth envisions Geisel as the national leader in rural health innovation, a pioneer in the application of artificial intelligence to medicine, and a model for interdisciplinary training that bridges science, policy, and clinical practice. The next Dean will play a defining role in realizing this vision.

Promoting a culture of belonging, collaboration, wellness, and accountability

Geisel’s collegial environment is one of its greatest strengths. The Dean will be expected to foster a culture of mutual respect and belonging; to strengthen faculty development and mentorship; to promote transparency through frequent communication; to promote health and well-being among Geisel community members, and to nurture an administrative team and structure in which high expectations are matched by strong institutional support. The Dean will have visibility within the clinical and foundational faculty, provide transparency, and foster career development and clearly defined promotion pathways for all faculty of Geisel.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will be a nationally recognized leader in academic medicine with a record of accomplishment in research, education, and clinical engagement. Candidates must hold an MD or MD/PhD, be board certified and eligible for a medical license in New Hampshire, and be suitable for appointment as a tenured full professor at the Geisel School of Medicine.

The Dean will bring:

- **Strategic vision** – The ability to articulate a compelling vision for the future of the medical school and to inspire faculty, staff, students, and partners to work toward shared goals.
- **Academic distinction** – A record of scholarship and/or clinical achievement commensurate with senior faculty appointment, along with experience fostering excellence in research, teaching, and patient care.
- **Leadership in complex organizations** – Demonstrated success leading within a medical school, health system, or comparable academic health sciences setting, including responsibility for strategic planning, faculty recruitment and development, and resource stewardship; preferably experience at the level of department chair or higher leadership position.
- **Commitment to integration** – Experience aligning academic and clinical priorities in partnership with a health system or large clinical enterprise.
- **Inclusive leadership** – A track record of advancing inclusion and belonging, and building collaborative, respectful communities.
- **External engagement** – Skill in representing an institution to alumni, donors, policymakers, and the broader academic and healthcare communities, with success in generating philanthropic and extramural support.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

This is an exceptional opportunity for a leader of courage, creativity, and vision to shape the future of a medical school with a historic legacy and a bold trajectory. Dartmouth seeks a Dean who will inspire discovery, advance health, and leave an enduring mark on the institution and the field of medicine.

Dartmouth has retained the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in this search. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications should be sent in confidence to the following URL:

[Dartmouth, Dean of Medicine Search](#)

John Muckle, Partner
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Isaacson, Miller

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administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, employment, or other school administered programs.

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