



Director, Harold Hamm Diabetes Center

and

Vice Provost for Diabetes Programs

University of Oklahoma Health Campus

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## THE SEARCH

The University of Oklahoma and OU Health seek an exceptional leader and researcher to serve as the next Director of the OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center (Center, HHDC), one of the nation's most uniquely endowed and strategically positioned centers dedicated to advancing diabetes research, care, and prevention. This is a rare opportunity to lead a deeply resourced enterprise with a clear purpose: accelerating discovery, expanding access to high-quality diabetes care, and advancing prevention, treatment, and long-term disease modification, with the ultimate goal of moving the field closer to cures.

The role also carries the University title of Vice Provost for Diabetes Programs, reflecting the Center's institution-wide importance and the Director's responsibility for advancing diabetes-related research and clinical integration across the University of Oklahoma Health Campus.

Founded through extraordinary philanthropic vision, the [Harold Hamm Diabetes Center](#) benefits from one of the largest private investments in diabetes research and innovation in the United States. Over the past decade, the Center has built one of the strongest internal research investment pipelines nationally, supporting early-stage discovery and accelerating translation toward NIH and other external funding. These resources are complemented by endowed faculty positions, shared research infrastructure, and state-of-the-art facilities that support a vibrant community of basic, translational, and clinical investigators.

The Center enjoys international visibility through the Harold Hamm International Prize for Biomedical Research in Diabetes, the largest research prize in the field. Its statewide clinical footprint and longstanding partnerships with Oklahoma's sovereign tribal nations further distinguish the Center as a nationally unique platform for impactful, community-engaged research and care.

The broader institutional environment adds to this momentum. The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center is a flagship institute of the [University of Oklahoma Health Campus](#), the state's comprehensive academic health campus and home to seven health-related colleges. The University of Oklahoma Health Campus and [OU Health](#) are investing significantly in faculty recruitment, research growth, and interdisciplinary collaboration under new leadership, creating a strong foundation for expansion in diabetes and metabolic

disease research. As part of this commitment, the University of Oklahoma has launched Project 200, a bold initiative to recruit 200 research-intensive faculty across the entire University of Oklahoma system; of these, 150 will be based at the Health Campus to build recognized strength in biomedical research. Recruits will have access to robust start-up packages, state-of-the-art resources, and extensive opportunities for cross-campus collaboration.

The next Director will advance a unified vision for diabetes research and clinical innovation, guide continued growth across adult and pediatric programs, and serve as a visible ambassador for the Center's mission. This leader will steward philanthropic and community partnerships, strengthen the Center's national standing, and position it for the next phase of scientific and clinical impact.

This role offers the resources, momentum, and collaborative environment to shape the future of diabetes research and care at the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. Candidates should hold an MD, PhD, or MD/PhD in a relevant discipline, be eligible for appointment at the associate or full professor level, and bring a nationally recognized record of accomplishment in diabetes or metabolic disease research, including sustained external funding and leadership in collaborative research programs.

The University of Oklahoma has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications will be treated confidentially and should be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA HEALTH CAMPUS

The University of Oklahoma Health Campus is one of a small number of comprehensive academic health campuses in the United States, bringing together the Colleges of [Medicine](#), [Allied Health](#), [Dentistry](#), [Nursing](#), [Pharmacy](#), [Public Health](#), and the Graduate College, along with major research and clinical centers such as the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center and the [Stephenson Cancer Center](#). The Health Campus operates with an annual budget of approximately \$900 million and employs more than 800 full-time faculty and 4,000 staff, supporting a broad academic, research, and clinical enterprise. Across more than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, the campus educates and trains nearly 4,000 students and approximately 1,000 residents, fellows, and postdoctoral trainees.

The Health Campus is led by Gary E. Raskob, PhD, Senior Vice President and Provost, who oversees academic and research programs across the seven colleges and provides strategic leadership for campus-wide research initiatives. Dr. Raskob is a Regents Professor of Medicine and Public Health, an internationally recognized epidemiologist, and the author of more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He also serves on the boards of the OU Health System and the University Hospitals Authority and Trust.

The University of Oklahoma [College of Medicine](#) is led by Ian F. Dunn, MD, FACS, FAANS, who was appointed Executive Dean in January 2024. Dr. Dunn also serves as Chief Academic Officer and Chief Physician Executive of OU Health, with responsibility for academic strategy, clinical integration, and faculty leadership across the health system. He joined the University of Oklahoma from Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he held senior academic and clinical leadership roles in neurosurgery. Dr. Dunn is nationally recognized for his contributions to neurosurgical oncology and brings a strong record of leadership across academic medicine, research, and clinical care.

Under Dr. Dunn's leadership, the College of Medicine anchors the research enterprise of the Health Campus and holds the largest National Institutes of Health funding portfolio in the state. In the most recent year, the College increased its NIH funding by more than \$4 million, reaching \$64.4 million in total annual support. Institutional investment has supported growth in research programs across areas that include diabetes and metabolic disease, cancer, neuroscience, and population health.

Within this environment, the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center serves as a central component of the University's research, clinical, and educational efforts focused on diabetes and related metabolic disease.

## THE HAROLD HAMM DIABETES CENTER

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center is a comprehensive center dedicated to diabetes research, clinical care, and prevention. Established in 2008, the Center operates as a freestanding, 157,000-square-foot facility on the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. The Center supports a broad portfolio of basic, clinical, and translational research and is home to more than 100 faculty members and 15 endowed chairs.

### Research

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center supports a growing, multidisciplinary [research](#) enterprise aligned with institutional priorities in diabetes, metabolism, and population health. The Center's research is organized around three strategic paths toward preventing diabetes and its complications, advancing long-term disease modification, and cure: early life intervention, pancreatic protection, and neurometabolic regulation. Together, these themes provide a unifying framework for discovery, translation, and population-based research.

Over the past decade, Center-affiliated investigators have secured substantial external research support from sources that include the National Institutes of Health, the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology, the American Diabetes Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the American Heart Association. During this period, the HHDC's NIH portfolio has grown from approximately \$5 million at its founding to roughly \$33 million today, reflecting sustained expansion in diabetes-focused research activity.

A distinguishing feature of HHDC is its significant internal investment in investigator development. It operates one of the largest internal diabetes research funding programs in the country, designed to catalyze new ideas, support early-career investigators, and accelerate translation toward external funding. In 2026, HHDC will award up to \$2.5 million in pilot and seed funding through multiple mechanisms that support individual investigators, multidisciplinary teams, and enabling infrastructure, with a strong track record of converting pilot awards into competitively funded federal and foundation grants.

### Native American Partnerships and Population-Engaged Research

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center has longstanding [partnerships](#) with Oklahoma's sovereign tribal nations, including the Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw Nations. These relationships have been built over decades and are grounded in shared priorities, mutual respect, and sustained collaboration.

Through these partnerships, the Center investigators conduct population-based research, NIH-funded prevention studies, and maternal and child health research in communities with a disproportionate burden of diabetes and metabolic disease. Collaborative work with tribal health systems supports culturally grounded approaches to diabetes research and care, providing access and enabling studies that integrate scientific rigor with community relevance.

## Clinical Research and Care

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center integrates research and clinical care through a statewide clinical footprint that includes Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and selected Native American communities. It houses the adult endocrinology program within a dedicated facility, supporting close collaboration among clinicians, investigators, and trainees.

A meaningful opportunity exists to deepen alignment with pediatric diabetes care and research and to build a more integrated, lifespan-oriented enterprise. In partnership with the Adult and Pediatric Divisions of Endocrinology within the College of Medicine and with OU Health, the Center is well positioned to expand diabetes research and develop a more robust clinical trials portfolio. Current efforts support investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored studies across Type 2 diabetes, obesity, metabolic liver disease, and emerging therapies, with the potential to extend these programs across age groups and clinical settings. This growth builds on established pediatric clinical research strengths and creates the infrastructure needed to support larger, multi-site, and externally funded studies, while fostering continuity of care and discovery from childhood through adulthood.

## Philanthropy and Strategic Investment

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center has benefited from sustained and transformative philanthropic support that underpins its research growth, faculty recruitment, and long-term strategic vision. The Center was established with a \$67 million founding gift by Harold Hamm, followed by a \$35 million commitment in 2018 that was increased to \$45 million through University matching funds. Together, these investments supported the creation of six endowed chairs and provided substantial start-up resources for new investigators, strengthening the Center's basic, translational, and clinical research capacity.

Philanthropic support also enables flexible internal investment in innovation, allowing the Center to advance high-impact research, recruit and retain faculty, and accelerate discovery in areas aligned with its mission. This model complements external funding from federal agencies, foundations, and industry partners and provides the stability required for sustained scientific growth.

The Center's national and international profile is further elevated through the [Harold Hamm International Prize for Biomedical Research in Diabetes](#), awarded biennially and recognized as the largest diabetes research prize in the world with a \$250,000 award. In 2025, the Prize was awarded to Dr. Anette Gabriele Ziegler of Helmholtz Munich in recognition of her pioneering contributions to Type 1 diabetes prediction and early intervention.

Additional philanthropic momentum is generated through the annual Connect+Cure Gala, which in [2025 raised \\$4.7 million to support research](#), prevention programs, and [Camp Blue Hawk](#), a residential camp

for children with Type 1 diabetes. Together, these philanthropic commitments reflect deep, long-term investment in the Center's mission and provide a powerful platform for future growth and impact.

## ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR

The Director of the Harold Hamm Diabetes Center provides overall leadership for the Center's research, clinical integration, and philanthropic activities. The Director reports to the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and has a dual reporting line to the Chief Executive Office of OU Health. In this capacity, the Director partners with senior University leadership on the University of Oklahoma Health Campus to set strategy, align priorities, and advance the Center's mission, providing institution-wide direction for diabetes-related research and programmatic integration across colleges, departments, and clinical partners.

The Director oversees the Center's operations, budget, and administrative infrastructure and leads a multidisciplinary enterprise that includes a Deputy Director, approximately 11 administrative and program staff, and a community of more than 100 affiliated faculty across the Health Campus and OU Tulsa. The Director provides strategic direction and support for Center-supported faculty recruitment, internal pilot and seed grant programs, shared research infrastructure, and externally funded research initiatives, working in close coordination with department chairs and division leaders in adult and pediatric endocrinology to strengthen a cohesive, lifespan-oriented research and clinical enterprise.

The Director works with an Internal Executive Committee to guide scientific priorities and operational alignment and engages an External Board of Advisors that provides national perspective, scientific counsel, and strategic guidance. Together, these structures support effective governance, accountability, and sustained growth across the Center's research, clinical, and community-facing mission.

This is a highly relational leadership role. The Director serves as the Center's primary ambassador to philanthropic partners, community stakeholders, and advisory boards, and engages collaborators across the University, OU Health, and partner institutions. Success in the role depends on the ability to engage effectively and authentically build trust and inspire confidence across Oklahoma's civic, economic, and cultural landscape. The Director represents the Center internally and externally, strengthening collaboration, elevating visibility, and positioning HHDC as a national leader in diabetes research and care.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DIRECTOR

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center enters its next phase with a strong scientific foundation, deep institutional commitment, and significant momentum across research, clinical care, and community engagement. The opportunities below reflect areas where the next Director can build on existing strengths to expand impact, extend national leadership, and accelerate translation from discovery to care.

### **Lead an Integrated Vision for Diabetes Impact Across Oklahoma**

HHDC is entering a consequential next chapter, supported by substantial philanthropic investment, a strong scientific foundation, and aligned institutional leadership. The center is poised to grow substantially in footprint and impact – the next Director will catalyze change and unleash HHDC's potential. This Director will articulate and advance a cohesive strategic vision that integrates discovery science, clinical research, and population health, positioning the Center for expanded impact in diabetes prevention,

treatment, and long-term disease modification. Leaning into the Center's longstanding partnerships with tribal nations, there is substantial opportunity for growing community-engaged research and clinical studies. The director will serve as an ambassador for diabetes care and research, bringing together efforts, groups, and ideas to drive towards a future with a cure.

As part of this next phase, University and Center leadership have articulated a long-term objective to position it to be competitive for NIH/NIDDK Diabetes Research Center designation. Achieving this goal will require continued growth in externally funded research, clinical trials infrastructure, and multi-investigator collaboration.

### **Strengthen and Expand the Scope and Impact of Diabetes Research**

The Director will play a central role in shaping the growth of diabetes research faculty across the University of Oklahoma Health Campus by partnering with department chairs and division leaders on recruitment, retention, and faculty development. Through strategic use of Center resources, including internal pilot funding, endowed support, shared infrastructure, and clinical research capacity, the Director will help attract and support investigators whose work aligns with the Center's priorities. The Director must bring strong scientific judgment and credibility, with the ability to identify high-impact researchers and successfully recruit them to HHDC.

With significant internal resources and institutional backing, the Center offers a platform to attract external collaborators, visiting scholars, and multi-site research leadership, extending its influence beyond Oklahoma. In parallel, the Director will lead efforts to expand the Center's externally funded research portfolio, including support from federal agencies, foundations, and industry partners. By aligning scientific priorities and strengthening multidisciplinary teams, the Center is positioned to compete for larger, multi-investigator awards and further elevate its standing in the broader field.

Beyond growing funding and programs, the Director will have the opportunity to help shape national priorities in diabetes research by convening investigators, leading multi-institutional collaborations, and positioning the Center as a contributor to the direction of the field.

### **Strengthen Clinical Research and Translation**

A significant opportunity exists to advance a coordinated adult and pediatric endocrinology research enterprise and to build a more expansive clinical trials platform. Working closely with endocrinology leadership within the College of Medicine and with OU Health, the Director can recruit faculty, expand investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored trials, and accelerate programs in Type 2 diabetes, obesity, metabolic liver disease, and related conditions. This work leverages established pediatric research strengths and basic science expertise while strengthening the clinical infrastructure needed to support large, externally funded, and multi-site studies.

The Center's statewide footprint, including longstanding partnerships with Oklahoma's sovereign tribal nations and community health systems, creates an unusual opportunity to translate discovery into practice across the lifespan and to demonstrate measurable improvements in diabetes outcomes at population scale.

## Advance Philanthropy, Partnerships, and National Visibility

The Harold Hamm Diabetes Center benefits from exceptional philanthropic support and deep community partnerships. The Director will steward these relationships in alignment with scientific priorities, pairing donor investment with a growing portfolio of external funding and measurable research and clinical impact. This role operates within a highly relational environment that values judgment, credibility, and long-term partnership.

## QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no single candidate will embody every qualification listed below, the University of Oklahoma seeks candidates with many of the following attributes:

- An MD, PhD, or MD/PhD in a relevant discipline, with credentials appropriate for appointment at the associate or full professor level in the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine or a related academic unit.
- A nationally recognized record of accomplishment in diabetes or metabolic disease research, demonstrated through peer-reviewed publications, sustained external funding, and leadership in multidisciplinary or collaborative research programs, including investigator-initiated or multicenter clinical trials.
- Experience building or expanding externally funded research portfolios, including support from federal agencies, foundations, and industry partners, with the credibility to compete for large, multi-investigator awards.
- A demonstrated ability to shape and advance a strategic vision for a complex academic or research enterprise, aligning scientific priorities, people, and resources to achieve long-term impact.
- Evidence of effective leadership in complex academic or health system settings, including sound judgment in prioritizing initiatives, navigating competing demands, and representing an institution externally.
- Experience partnering with department chairs, division leaders, and health system leadership to support faculty recruitment, retention, and development in environments where authority is distributed and success depends on collaboration and influence.
- Demonstrated experience overseeing complex budgets and stewarding philanthropic, institutional, and externally funded resources, with the judgment to align investments across research programs, shared infrastructure, and faculty support in partnership with institutional leadership.
- A strong record of mentoring and supporting investigators across career stages, with particular attention to fostering independence, collaboration, and sustained research productivity.
- Comfort operating in a highly relational environment that includes philanthropic partners, advisory boards, and community stakeholders, with the communication skills and judgment needed to steward relationships and align investment with scientific priorities.
- Experience working across institutional, disciplinary, and community boundaries, with a demonstrated ability to build effective partnerships beyond traditional academic settings.
- An appreciation for Oklahoma's civic, economic, and cultural context, and the ability to engage effectively with partners whose perspectives are shaped by regional industries, tribal nations, and long-standing institutional traditions.

- A leadership style characterized by integrity, credibility, and clear communication, with the ability to inspire confidence, foster collaboration, and represent the Center effectively at the national level.

## OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City is the capital and largest city in Oklahoma and a growing metropolitan area of more than 1.4 million residents. The region enjoys a generally mild climate, with roughly 230 sunny days per year, average winter highs in the low 50s, and long spring and fall seasons that support year-round outdoor activity. The city offers extensive green space and recreation, including more than 75,000 acres of parks and trails and the Oklahoma River corridor, which supports rowing, kayaking, cycling, and major national sporting events. The city is widely recognized for its livability and affordability, with a cost of living well below that of most major U.S. metros, attainable housing, short commutes, and a high quality of daily life that is increasingly difficult to find in larger coastal markets.

Over the past two decades, Oklahoma City has undergone a sustained civic and economic transformation driven by long-term public investment, downtown revitalization, and population growth. The city supports a robust and expanding arts and cultural scene, including nationally recognized museums, a strong performing arts community, and vibrant districts such as Midtown, Bricktown, Paseo, and the Plaza District. Oklahoma City is also home to the NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder, whose presence has shaped downtown development and contributed to a strong civic identity. With a collaborative culture, growing research and innovation ecosystem, and continued investment in infrastructure and quality of life, Oklahoma City offers an appealing environment for accomplished academic leaders seeking both professional opportunity and livability.

For more information on Oklahoma City please visit:

<https://www.okcchamber.com/>

[www.visitokc.com/](http://www.visitokc.com/)

[www.abetterlifeokc.com/](http://www.abetterlifeokc.com/)

## 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: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-oklahoma-health-campus/director-harold-hamm-diabetes-center>

Ariannah Mirick, Managing Partner  
Randi Herrick, Partner  
Erin Schwass, Senior Associate  
Madeleine Ruth, Managing Search Coordinator  
Isaacson, Miller

*The University, in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, gender identity/expression (consistent with applicable law), age (40 or older), religion,*

*disability, political beliefs, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, housing, financial aid, and educational services.*

***Why You Belong at the University of Oklahoma:***

*The University of Oklahoma values our community's unique talents, perspectives, and experiences. At OU, we aspire to harness our innovation, creativity, and collaboration for the advancement of people everywhere. You Belong Here!*

***Mission of the University of Oklahoma:***

*The Mission of the University of Oklahoma is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service to the state and society.*

*This document has been prepared based on the information provided by our client. The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by OUCOM governs.*

## APPENDIX

### THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Founded in 1890, the [University of Oklahoma](#) (OU) in Norman, Oklahoma, is the state's premier institution of higher education and a leading research university. It spans three campuses and boasts a student body of 31,000 enrolled in 170 academic programs. The University of Oklahoma invests \$416.6 million annually in research and development, fueling a \$2.05 billion enterprise dedicated to advancing scholarship and improving lives across the state. As part of its [strategic plan](#), the University has set a bold goal to recruit 150 new research investigators, further strengthening its commitment to discovery and innovation.

### THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The [College of Medicine](#) is the largest entity within the University of Oklahoma Health Campus. OUCM boasts a distinguished faculty of nearly 1,350 members, including almost 1,000 full-time faculty and 218 endowed chairs and professorships. It comprises 21 academic departments, including 17 clinical departments, four basic science departments, and numerous centers and institutes dedicated to advancing research and clinical initiatives across diverse medical fields.

In addition to its main campus in Oklahoma City, the College operates a branch campus in Tulsa, which hosts eight clinical departments and the unique [School of Community Medicine](#) track. Together, these campuses offer Oklahoma's Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree program, a highly competitive Physician Assistant (PA) program, an innovative MD/PhD dual-degree option, opportunities for MPH coursework, and a comprehensive array of graduate medical education (GME) residency and fellowship programs, including Emergency Medicine.

Furthermore, OUCM plays a vital role in training healthcare professionals through 83 specialty and subspecialty programs, accommodating 766 residents and fellows. Notably, Oklahoma retains 51.4% of physicians who complete their residencies within the state, demonstrating OUCM's exceptional contribution to bolstering the local healthcare workforce, which exceeds the national average retention rate of 47.6%. Over 80% of Oklahoma's healthcare professionals are OU grads.

### OU HEALTH

OU Health traces its recent history to 2018, when OU Medicine, Inc. was established as a locally owned nonprofit to assume hospital operations. In June 2021, the University of Oklahoma and the University Hospitals Authority and Trust signed a historic agreement to merge clinics and hospitals into the new health system, OU Health. After this merger, OU Medicine and OU Physicians, the faculty practice, were combined under OU Health. Today, OU Health is Oklahoma's only comprehensive academic health system, bringing together hospitals, clinics, and centers of excellence. With 10,000 employees and more than 1,300 physicians and advanced practice providers, OU Health is home to Oklahoma's largest doctor network, [OU Health Physicians](#), with nearly one million patient visits per year.

OU Health's flagship adult hospital, [the University of Oklahoma Medical Center](#), serves as the state's only Level 1 Trauma Center and includes the [Harold Hamm Diabetes Center](#); the renowned [Dean McGee Eye](#)

[Institute](#) is also on the campus. OU Health serves Oklahoma and the region with the state's only dedicated free-standing children's hospital, [Oklahoma Children's Hospital](#). It also hosts the state's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center, the OU Health [Stephenson Cancer Center](#). OU Health [Edmond Medical Center](#) is a community hospital in the network. OU Health also has clinical affiliations with [Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center](#) and other major hospitals and clinics across Oklahoma.

[Dr. Richard P. Lofgren](#), MD, MPH, FACP, became the inaugural President and CEO of OU Health in March 2022. In this role, he leads the health system, overseeing strategic vision, clinical and operational direction, growth, quality, safety, financial performance, and integration. A board-certified internal medicine physician with nearly 40 years of experience, Dr. Lofgren is a national leader in academic healthcare and healthcare delivery redesign. He is known for uniting hospitals, clinics, and centers into a cohesive enterprise with a focus on performance improvement and health system transformation.