



Chief Research Officer and Executive Vice President
Oregon Health and Science University
Portland, Oregon

THE SEARCH

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) seeks a distinguished scientist and strategic leader to serve as the Chief Research Officer and Executive Vice President (CRO), responsible for enterprise research strategy, research portfolio performance, and stewardship of institutional research investments. OHSU is Oregon's only public academic health center, comprised of schools of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, and public health, and operating a system of hospitals and clinics across Oregon and Southwest Washington. OHSU's vision is to elevate Oregon as the heart of health innovation – in FY25, it generated \$9.4 billion in economic output for the state and shepherded four startups and 54 option/license agreements. The next CRO will serve as the principal advisor to the President on OHSU's research priorities and strategies, talent investments, and supporting the growth and success of its already world-class research.

OHSU is a leader in biomedical research, with approximately \$500 million in total award dollars in FY25, including over \$300 million from the NIH, \$65 million from industry partners, over \$60 million from non-NIH federal agencies, and almost \$50 million from private foundations and nonprofits. Research spans fundamental, translational, and clinical research; prevention and treatment of disease; community-based research; public health; and life sciences education, with strengths in neuroscience, cancer biology, rare diseases, genetics and gene therapy, and primary care research. Research is conducted across OHSU's various schools and in eight centers and institutes outside OHSU's schools.

The CRO sits as the head of research across the campus, providing strategic direction, leadership over administrative functions, and financial oversight for a complex, matrixed organization. The CRO will partner with OHSU leadership to foster high-impact research, developing a strategic plan that considers the full depth and breadth of research at OHSU. This work includes serving as the external voice for OHSU's research, representing OHSU to public and private funding agencies, government entities, and industry partners. The CRO is also responsible for research administration functions, leading their team to ensure efficiency and compliance. The CRO oversees research finances for the campus, including indirect costs, research support through intergovernmental transfers, and direct oversight of center and institute

finances. The CRO collaborates closely with research leadership within the schools, providing guidance and assistance for coordinated research growth, recruitment of research leaders and faculty, evaluation of major personnel decisions, and resource planning and alignment, among other key responsibilities.

OHSU has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist with this important recruitment. Inquiries and nominations should be directed confidentially to Isaacson, Miller, as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

OHSU is the city of Portland's largest employer and one of the state's largest, with over 22,000 employees, including more than 3,600 faculty. With roots going back to 1887, OHSU has fueled growth in Oregon for more than 130 years. Today, OHSU is a thriving university with state-of-the-art patient care facilities, multiple research and education complexes, and a vision to advance science and optimize health worldwide. The OHSU Board of Directors governs OHSU, with all board members nominated by the governor and approved by the Oregon Senate.

OHSU campuses cover 96,000 square miles of Oregon and have a footprint in every county. They are anchored in Portland by the Marquam Hill and South Waterfront campuses. Altogether, OHSU occupies more than 8.8 million square feet on about 400 acres.

In August 2025, Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A., commenced his tenure as OHSU's sixth president. A leader and expert in healthcare delivery in large, integrated health systems, he assumes the role in a moment of change and opportunity—building his executive team to advance excellence in all missions is a central priority. With missions of healing, teaching, and discovery, OHSU unites some of the world's brightest minds in a singular vision: to improve the health and well-being of people in Oregon and beyond. It connects health care, education, and research programs to forge new paths toward a healthier future.

Education

OHSU includes five schools (Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Public Health, and Pharmacy) and a network of academic campuses and partners throughout the state. Together, they train the health and science workforce of tomorrow.

OHSU School of Medicine

The OHSU School of Medicine is the only school of medicine in the state to offer a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree. It is a vibrant community of educators, students, scientists, clinicians, and others working side by side to teach, discover, and advance health and science. The OHSU faculty is dedicated to preparing physicians, scientists, and health care professionals to be future health leaders. Students learn to provide research-based care to patients while working to solve some of the world's most complex health and science challenges.

The School of Medicine faculty is nationally and internationally recognized for its pursuit of knowledge in a breadth of investigative areas, ranging from molecular biology and cancer to heart disease, behavioral science, and public health, and has conducted almost \$250 million in funded research in FY25. The School of Medicine includes 20 clinical and 6 basic science departments, plus dozens of centers and institutes spanning clinical and scientific domains. With 2,500 faculty, 2,100 students and trainees, and 6,300 employees, the School of Medicine is the largest school at OHSU.

OHSU School of Nursing

The OHSU School of Nursing is dedicated to excellence in nursing education. The school's faculty includes nationally and internationally renowned scholars, educators, and clinicians who inspire knowledge and discovery, holistic and compassionate care of individuals and communities, and ongoing professional development. The school fosters a community of creativity, self-reflection, accountability, respect, diversity, and lifelong learning.

Bachelor's and master's degrees focus on developing critical thinking and judgment, understanding health systems and economics, interdisciplinary care, public health, and communications in a variety of health care settings. Doctoral and postdoctoral programs prepare graduates for scholarly inquiry, independent research, leadership in the health care arena, and advanced practice. The School of Nursing includes 14 education programs, including four bachelor's degrees, two master's degrees, seven Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing degree. The School of Nursing oversees five campuses, located in Portland, Ashland, Klamath Falls, La Grande, and Monmouth, plus a student cohort in Bend, Oregon, and a fully online degree program.

OHSU School of Dentistry

The OHSU School of Dentistry provides high-quality oral health education, patient care, research, and community service. It also serves the national and international oral health professions. The school has three academic departments and one independent division, each dedicated to advancing oral health through comprehensive care, research, and community engagement.

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health (SPH) is a highly innovative school that combines the strengths of two renowned universities to build a public health workforce. The SPH grew out of a 25-year partnership between OHSU and Portland State University (PSU), formed while collaborating on the Oregon M.P.H. program. The school opened in 2016 as a new model to meet the evolving public health needs of Oregon and beyond. Together, the two universities offer unmatched opportunities for students to learn in classrooms and real-world settings. School programs educate students, generate knowledge, address social determinants of health, and introduce new approaches and policies to improve population health.

College of Pharmacy

OHSU partners with the Oregon State University (OSU) College of Pharmacy to jointly offer an innovative Pharm.D. (Doctor of Pharmacy) program. In Fall 2026, the primary campus will move to Portland, increasing opportunities for collaboration with the other health science colleges. The College of Pharmacy has three primary goals: to provide excellent professional education and continuing education, foster outstanding and innovative research, and contribute to public health by developing and promoting ways to provide medications safely and affordably.

Health Care

OHSU Health is a system of care that includes Oregon Health & Science University Hospital, OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital, OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center, and the health care professionals who work with these hospitals, clinics, and 200+ community health programs in rural and urban areas throughout Oregon. OHSU Health operates 704 licensed beds across Oregon Health & Science University Hospital and Doernbecher Children's Hospital, providing care across more than 1.2 million medical clinic visits, 47,000 day patient/surgery visits, 30,000 hospital visits, and almost 60,000 emergency room visits in FY2025.

OHSU hospitals and clinics deliver excellent health care, bringing new knowledge to treat some of the most complex health needs in the region, including tertiary and quaternary care and services not provided elsewhere in the state. The OHSU Health system serves as a hub for complex care between San Francisco and Seattle.

With award-winning faculty and nurses, OHSU patients receive care from some of the best health professionals in the nation. Services include dozens of specialties, state-of-the-art treatment, and innovative diagnostic technologies. Many patients come from outside Portland, as far away as Alaska and New York.

With 2,610 clinicians, the OHSU Practice Plan is the largest organized clinical practice in Oregon. It includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other providers who care for patients at OHSU hospitals and clinics. In addition, many OHSU faculty provide central clinical services and/or conduct research at the VA Medical Center in Portland, which is connected to OHSU via an enclosed walking bridge.

OHSU continues to grow its capacity to care for more patients while supporting its research and education missions. Through the hospital expansion project, a new [14-story patient care building](#) opened in April 2026.

Research

Research is the engine that drives innovation in health care and is what makes academic medical centers unique hubs for both discovery and outstanding care. As the state's only academic health center, OHSU generates breakthrough research to develop new cures, set new standards of care, and advance a better understanding of the basic science that drives biomedical discovery.

OHSU is renowned for both its collaborative culture and freedom to innovate. Its unique model provides support for experimentation, leading to major discoveries in neuroscience, cancer biology and treatment, infectious disease, and beyond. OHSU scientists work together across disciplines and with partners all over the world to challenge the status quo and improve health for all. This innovation led to 95 invention disclosures, 14 U.S. patents, and 4 startups formed in 2025, bringing discoveries from the bench to the bedside.

Seventy-one percent of funds from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that go to Oregon go to OHSU. In FY25, OHSU received \$501 million in research grants, of which \$309.9 million came from the NIH. OHSU faculty include 12 members of the National Academy of Medicine, 5 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 3 faculty members belonging to both academies, and 3 faculty members who have been awarded the Lasker-DeBakey Award for Clinical Medical Research.

In addition to research across its schools and colleges, OHSU encompasses 35 specialized and multidisciplinary research centers and institutes throughout Oregon. Each brings together collaborative teams working together to promote excellence and advance the future of health sciences.

Knight Cancer Institute (KCI)

The KCI includes hundreds of doctors, nurses, and scientists making groundbreaking discoveries to detect and treat cancer. The KCI is also home to world-renowned cancer research pioneer, Dr. Brian Druker, who helped develop Gleevec, the first medication that specifically targets cancer cells. In August 2025, OHSU announced a \$2 billion gift from Phil and Penny Knight that will fuel a transformational, greatly expanded cancer-fighting enterprise.

Knight Cardiovascular Institute (KCVI)

The KCVI combines leading-edge research and training to advance cardiovascular care for patients from conception through the end of life.

Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC)

One of the seven National Primate Research Centers supported by the NIH, the ONPRC helps people live longer, healthier lives through scientific breakthroughs.

Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI)

The VGTI conducts innovative, collaborative biomedical research that enables the prevention and cure of infectious diseases.

Vollum Institute

Supported in part by the NIH and the Vollum endowment, the Vollum Institute's world-renowned neuroscientists study and develop new treatments for neurological and psychiatric diseases.

ROLE OF THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The Chief Research Officer and Executive Vice President reports to the President of OHSU and serves as the principal advisor on research. A member of the executive leadership team, the CRO is responsible for institutional research strategy and central resource allocation; representing the OHSU research enterprise externally; central research administration; central proposal and award management; direct oversight of CRO Centers and Institutes; and partnering with leadership of individual schools to advance research.

The CRO's direct reports include the Directors of the CRO Centers and Institutes, VP for Research and Education Finance and Administration, Senior Associate VP for Research, Associate VP for Clinical and Translational Research, Associate VP for Basic Research, Senior Director of Technology Transfer, Senior Director of Collaboration and Entrepreneurship, and the Chief Research Information Officer. The formal offices of Research Development and Administration (RDA) include:

- Office of Proposal and Award Management (OPAM)
- OHSU Research Integrity Office (ORIO)
- Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM)
- Clinical Research Services Office (CRSO)

The CRO Centers and Institutes include: Advanced Imaging Research Center (AIRC), Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy (CECGT), Center for Regenerative Medicine (CRM), Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences (OccHealthSci), Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI), Oregon National Primate Research Center (ONPRC), Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI), and the Vollum Institute.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

To promote a successful future for OHSU, the next CRO should address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Set and execute a strategy that advances research for the campus

By any metric, OHSU is a global leader in biomedical research. As the President's key advisor on research, the next CRO will chart a path forward for the University that both supports current endeavors and anticipates the evolution of research. Convening research leaders across OHSU—including the Provost, deans, chairs, institute directors, and other key stakeholders—the CRO will develop, implement, and periodically refresh a shared university-wide research strategy that accelerates impact across the enterprise. In close partnership with the Dean of the School of Medicine, the CRO will be responsible for establishing shared executive goals and accountability measures; enterprise coordination of recruitment, retention, and succession planning for research-intensive leadership; and ensuring alignment between institutional investments in talent and infrastructure to meet the institution's highest ambitions.

Oversee research administration functions for the university

The CRO's office includes research development and administration, proposal and award management, clinical research services, research finances, and the department of comparative medicine. These functions are vital to the university, and the CRO will ensure that these services properly support research activities at OHSU. The CRO's office also oversees shared resources and cores, and the CRO will maximize their impact and performance.

Provide oversight for all research finances

The CRO has budgetary authority for research functions, including F&A funds, intergovernmental transfer funds, philanthropy dedicated to research, and other research funds. As such, the CRO will ensure alignment of institutional resources with research commitments, priorities, and strategic opportunities. This includes advising the President on resource deployment and ensuring funds are used to advance OHSU's mission and vision.

Support the recruitment and development of scientific leadership and faculty

The CRO plays an important role in recruiting and cultivating scientific leadership and faculty members. The next CRO will work closely with deans, center and institute directors, and department chairs to attract, mentor, and retain talented faculty, staff, and leaders. The CRO oversees and supports programs that promote belonging in research, wielding significant authority to shape an inclusive culture of research excellence across the institution. In partnership with the Research Council, Deans, and other research leaders, the CRO will co-design institutional research commitments—including startup funding and space commitments—to ensure OHSU's research posture aligns with its needs and aspirations.

Develop the technology transfer infrastructure of the institution

OHSU is dedicated to innovation and impact through research, and the CRO will support the continued development of translational research that impacts human health. The CRO will oversee OHSU's technology transfer and business development enterprise through the Technology Transfer Office and the

OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship units, ensuring that OHSU maintains a permissive and encouraging posture toward collaboration and commercialization across academic units.

Maintain and grow relationships with external stakeholders

The CRO is the advocate for all OHSU research and will champion the groundbreaking research being conducted and the opportunities ahead for OHSU faculty. The CRO will represent the interests of researchers across the campus, building partnerships with public and private funding agencies, government agencies, industry partners, academic partners, and community research partners. The CRO will work with internal partners, including development officers, executive leadership, and faculty, to identify opportunities for OHSU to expand its connection and impact across the community, state, and globe.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The candidate for the Chief Research Officer and Executive Vice President will possess the following qualifications:

- A PhD in a biomedical research discipline, an MD/DO (or foreign equivalent), or both.
- Eligibility for the academic rank of professor with tenure.
- National recognition as a scholar and academic leader, with a history of strong research productivity.
- Strong team leadership and communication skills, excellent interpersonal abilities.
- Dedication to academic excellence and impact.
- A commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging.
- Understanding of and commitment to the highest quality of research training.
- Proven visionary leader who has developed or grown an innovative program in a cutting-edge biomedical research area.
- Strong record of scientific accomplishment.
- Administrative, managerial, and operational experience in oversight of research programs.
- An ability to traverse the fields of academic medicine, corporate entities, and public agencies while building collaborative relationships.
- A proven ability to partner and collaborate with other leaders in strategy and operations.
- Extensive experience with federal funding agencies and regulatory compliance.
- Space and budget management experience in an academic medical center environment.
- Commitment to promoting a culture that nurtures diverse forms of inquiry and scholarship.
- Evidence of strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Experience in planning, implementing, and sustaining comprehensive research centers or programs.

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/oregon-health-science-university/chief-research-officer-and-executive-vice-president>.

Randi Herrick, Partner

Vijay Saraswat, Partner

Nicholas Strand, Managing Associate

Elizabeth Arvanitis, Senior Search Coordinator

Isaacson, Miller

All are welcome.

OHSU welcomes people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, national origins, religions, and sexual orientations. We are striving to build an anti-racist, multicultural institution and encourage people with diverse backgrounds to apply.

To request reasonable accommodation, contact askhr@ohsu.edu

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Oregon Health and Science University. 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 Oregon Health and Science University would supersede any conflicting information in this document.