

Position and Candidate Specification

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Section Chief, Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology



Prepared by:

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UT Southwestern Medical Center

[UT Southwestern](#), one of the nation's premier academic medical centers, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Located in Dallas, Texas, UT Southwestern serves the 13-county Dallas-Fort Worth area, which has a census of 7.8 million and is the fastest-growing metropolitan region in the country, with a projected population of 9.3 million by 2030.

The institution's faculty members have received six Nobel Prizes and four Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Awards and include 25 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 22 members of the National Academy of Medicine, and 14 Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigators (the fourth highest in the country). UT Southwestern Medical Center is consistently ranked by the [Nature](#) Index as the world's top healthcare institution for high-quality research, leading in life sciences, chemistry, and molecular biology. The full-time faculty of more than 3,200 is responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and is committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide care in more than 80 specialties to more than 120,000 hospitalized patients, more than 360,000 emergency room cases, and oversee nearly 5 million outpatient visits a year.

UT Southwestern is led by President Daniel K. Podolsky, M.D., an internationally renowned gastroenterologist and member of the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Podolsky has served as UT Southwestern's President since September 1, 2008, and he oversees all aspects of the medical center's missions, including training, research, and compassionate care, as well as institutional advancement and business operations.

UT Southwestern's mission is to promote health and a healthy society that enables individuals to achieve their full potential. UT Southwestern seeks to accomplish its mission through education, discovery, and healing.

EDUCATION

Physicians, scientists, and caregivers are optimally prepared to serve the needs of patients and society.

DISCOVERY

Research at UT Southwestern solves unmet needs by finding better treatments, cures, and prevention with a commitment to ensuring real-world application.

HEALING

Provide the best care possible today, with continuous improvement and innovation for better care tomorrow.

UT Southwestern's FY25 revenue was \$6.7 billion and represents a 14% increase over FY24, driven by strong patient care volumes in our hospital and clinics, growth in faculty practice plan professional fees, and growth in sponsored research. Expense growth related to hospital and clinical operations, instruction, and research is proportional to revenue growth.

UT Southwestern is the #1 hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth and ranks among the top 50 hospitals nationally in 12 specialties ranging from brain to heart to cancer care - the most of any hospital in Texas. According to *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Hospitals rankings in the 2025 report, nine of our specialties ranked in the top 25 in the nation.

The Department of Neurology

The [Department of Neurology](#) is nationally recognized for clinical excellence and a strong commitment to research and education. In 2025, UT Southwestern was ranked #9 in the nation for Neurology and Neurosurgery according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Since [Elan Louis, MD](#) was recruited in 2020 from Yale University to serve as Chair, the department has quadrupled NIH-funded support, recruited 20 new clinical and basic investigators, and obtained an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). Now with approximately 1 in 4 faculty with NIH funding, the department has been transformed into the per capita most highly funded of 42 departments at UT Southwestern. With 145 full-time faculty (including primary and secondary), 12 specialized sections, 23 fellows across 11 fellowship training programs, and 44 total categorical residents per year, UT Southwestern Neurology is a large and vibrant department. Seven of our section chiefs are federally funded investigators, and our Blue Ridge Ranking has climbed from 42 to 21 over the past five years, with the goal of reaching the top 10 in the next five years. Clinically, the department has a robust clinical footprint, with three Neurocritical Care Units, two epilepsy monitoring units, two stroke units, and three sleep centers, serving six hospitals and 15 practice locations, and with more than 72,000 ambulatory visits per year.

Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute (OBI)

An additional benefit of the environment at UT Southwestern is the opportunity to work collaboratively with the [Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute](#) (OBI). Established in 2020 and led by [William Dauer, MD](#), with a \$1 billion endowment, the OBI partners with Neurology and four additional brain science departments to support research, educational and clinical activities, and drive continued growth in the neurosciences. The OBI is among the largest brain-focused investments by an academic medical center in the entire country with transformative programs in neurodegeneration, neuromodulation, neurorepair, and neuro-oncology. With teams of international scientific leaders, including some teams led by Nobel Laureates, the OBI continues to pave the way for new advances in brain research.

Collaboration is a hallmark of the institute, as they bring together partners across Neurology including the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases, the Center for Translational Neurodegeneration Research, the Texas Institute for Brain Injury and Repair, and the Mobility Foundation Center for Rehabilitation Research, all with the mission to support research, educational, and clinical activities, and drive continued growth in the neurosciences. The OBI actively works with departmental and division leaders to advance both the clinical and scientific aspects of neurology by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and providing resources for those inclined toward academic and research pursuits.

The institute's cornerstone is the nine-story Peter O'Donnell Jr. Biomedical Research Building with approximately 120,000 square feet of laboratory space. This cutting-edge space is designed for molecular, cellular, and behavioral neuroscience, all of which are complemented by advanced imaging and high-performance computing. Equipped with some of the best possible research centers in the country, UT Southwestern, along with the OBI, brings together clinical and basic researchers, providing them resources, all with the intention of setting the stage for progress in order to create a future without brain disease.

Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases (CAND)

Closely aligned with the section's research mission is the [Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases \(CAND\)](#). The center, one of only 31 institutions nationwide to be funded by the National Institute on Aging, was established at UT Southwestern in 2014 to develop mechanism-based approaches to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's disease and related disorders. The CAND was founded and is led by the internationally recognized investigator, [Marc Diamond, MD](#), Professor of Neurology and Distinguished Chair in Basic Brain Injury and Repair. Under Dr. Marc Diamond's leadership, nine primary and five affiliated faculty, 60 students and postdoctoral fellows, and 20 scientific staff work side by side in a 25,000-square-foot laboratory equipped with dedicated biophysics, cell culture, and animal research facilities. Their shared aim is to uncover the earliest molecular triggers of neurodegeneration and translate them into diagnostics that can identify these diseases years before they significantly affect the brain or cause advanced cognitive decline.

The center's work focuses on the basic mechanisms of neurodegeneration, with particular emphasis on tauopathies and the broader family of self-assembling proteins including amyloid beta, including amyloid-beta, alpha-synuclein, and TDP-43 which are all implicated in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Their work continues to guide new strategies of neurodegenerative disease across protein structure, cell and molecular biology, and disease models.

CAND is one of the neurodegeneration-focused centers, along with the OBI, whose investigators work closely with the clinician-scientists of the Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Section. For the incoming Section Chief, the center offers a scientific anchor and an established collaborative partner in building a nationally leading, research integrated program in cognitive and behavioral neurology.

Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology

The [Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Section](#) (CBNS) at UT Southwestern embodies the core missions of the Department of Neurology: excellence in patient care, educating the next generation of physicians and physician-scientists, and advancing the understanding of cognitive and behavioral disorders through research, with a clinical and scientific focus on Alzheimer's disease, related dementias, and the broader spectrum of cognitive and behavioral conditions. The section comprises 17 faculty members and three APPs who form a cohesive unit committed to advancing research, education, and clinical care. Clinically, the section sees approximately 1,500+ new patients per year and follows more than 7,000 patients in ongoing care. Care is delivered through clinics, including the Memory and Cognitive Disorders Clinic at the Aston Ambulatory Care Center and the Dementia Clinic at Parkland Health, and unique programs like the Neuroinflammation and Neurodegeneration (NIND) program.

The CBNS also anchors a substantial research enterprise. Five additional NIH-funded investigators have been recruited to the Section over the past six years, joining a robust cadre of researchers with a longer tenure at UT Southwestern. At present, ten faculty members in the Section lead labs that range from basic science to clinical to epidemiological research with a focus on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. As such, the CBNS is one of the most well-funded sections in the Department of Neurology, and a section whose research trajectory is on the continued rise. Multidisciplinary teams have expertise in dementia care and geriatrics, providing trainees with comprehensive clinical training. In collaboration with the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases (CAND), the section leads cutting-edge research into the structural biology of disease-causing proteins, cell and molecular biology aspects of disease mechanism, and the role of gene therapy. Faculty also collaborates with the OBI and other departments to improve their ability to measure the impact of vascular factors that contribute to risk and progression in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

One of the research centerpieces of the section is the [North Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center](#) (ADRC), funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) in 2025 through a five-year award expected to total approximately \$23 million, based at UT Southwestern in collaboration with UT Dallas and UT Arlington. The

ADRC is the only NIA-supported ADRC serving North Texas and is one of only 37 in the entire country. The center focuses on the study of cardiometabolic contributors to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, biomarker development, and applications of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

The continued growth of the CBNS is reinforced by a significant new source of investment from the State of Texas. In November 2025, Texas voters approved Proposition 14, a constitutional amendment establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (DPRIT) and created a dedicated fund of \$3 billion dollars over the next ten years for research on the prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and other related neurodegenerative disorders. The DPRIT has been described as the largest state funded dementia research program in the country. As home to the NIA-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, CAND, and the OBI, the institution is excellently positioned to pursue DPRIT funding to extend clinical research across North Texas. For the incoming Section Chief, DPRIT adds a new substantial state funding stream to draw upon in elevating the CBNS into a nationally leading clinical and research program.

The section houses a [Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry Fellowship](#) that allows fellows to gain comprehensive, multidisciplinary training in both common and rare conditions while developing proficiency in neurocognitive testing. Up to two fellows are provided opportunities to network and participate as co-investigators with world-renowned leaders in the field. Clinical training is complemented by active basic science programs embedded within the CAND, the [Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium \(TARCC\)](#), and collaboration with UT Dallas Neuroscience programs. This program serves as a pipeline for new faculty.

With the Neurology department expanding across its main campus and regional sites, including a recently acquired hospital and medical office building in Fort Worth, as well as Frisco and South Dallas, there is a huge opportunity to extend clinical access and to establish clinical research at sites where it does not yet exist, with a special emphasis on reaching more rural populations and serving vulnerable communities.

Opportunity Overview – Section Chief, Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology

The Section Chief will provide strategic and operational leadership across the research, clinical, educational and administrative missions of the Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology Section (CBNS) at a time when neurodegenerative disease is a strategic focus for UT Southwestern. The section is expected to grow as a research enterprise in the coming five years, and the Section Chief will play a critical role in shaping the strategic direction of the CBNS. This role offers the opportunity to connect clinical programs, translational research, and large-scale initiatives like the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) to further advance innovations in multidisciplinary care for patients with complex cognitive and behavioral neurological diseases. A Section Chief will be tasked with determining the trajectory of a growing, academically productive section while elevating it into a nationally leading clinical and research program.

Position Highlights

- Further advance the academic and research portfolio of the section, supporting externally funded research and scholarly productivity
- Recruit additional research faculty to the Section in partnership with the Chair of the Department of Neurology
- Design novel collaborative research opportunities with the O'Donnell Brain Institute, the Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases, the North Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and partners in Psychiatry, Neuropsychology, and Neuropathology
- Oversight of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology services across multiple clinical sites
- Expansion of clinical research at regional sites in Fort Worth, Frisco, and South Dallas, along with the capability of the CBNS in epidemiology and informatics
- Oversight of the Behavioral Neurology and Neuropsychiatry fellowship training program that trains approximately one fellow per year
- Lead the transformation of a well-supported, high-growth neurodegenerative program into a nationally recognized, research-integrated clinical enterprise

Ideal Candidate

The ideal candidate will demonstrate:

- A record of excellence and an academic record consistent with appointment at the Associate Professor level or higher at an academic medical center
- Established track record of academic scholarship, including peer-reviewed publications, sustained external independent funding, and a national and international presence
- Experience securing and/or leading externally funded research programs (e.g., NIH-, DOD-, foundation-, or industry-supported research) and mentoring others to do so
- Demonstrated leadership experience in cognitive and behavioral neurology programs, including program development or operational oversight
- Commitment to education, fellowship training, and faculty mentorship

- Intellectual curiosity with a dedication to advancing research, scholarly productivity, and multidisciplinary collaboration in an academic medical center

Qualifications

- M.D. degree or M.D., Ph.D. degree from an accredited medical school
- Completion of an ACGME-accredited residency program in Neurology
- Completion of Behavioral Neurology fellowship training
- Board certification in the candidate's primary specialty through the appropriate American Board
- Board certification in Behavioral Neurology
- Eligible for Texas medical licensure
- Strong commitment to clinical excellence, education, research, and multidisciplinary collaboration

Benefits

UT Southwestern is proud to offer a competitive and comprehensive benefits package to eligible employees. Our benefits are designed to support your overall wellbeing, and they include:

- PPO medical plan, available day one at no cost for full-time employee-only coverage
- 100% coverage for preventive healthcare – no copay
- Paid Time Off, available day one
- Retirement Programs through the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS)
- Paid Parental Leave Benefit
- Wellness programs
- Tuition Reimbursement
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Qualified Employer
- [Learn more about these and other UTSW employee benefits!](#)

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-texas-southwestern-medical-center/section-chief-cognitive-and-behavioral>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Ariannah Mirrick, Managing Partner
Jane McInerney, Managing Associate
Karl Angelo Miguel Bautista, Associate
Madeleine Ruth, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller, Inc.

This position is security-sensitive and subject to Texas Education Code 51.215, which authorizes UT Southwestern to obtain criminal history record information.

UT Southwestern Medical Center is committed to an educational and working environment that provides equal opportunity to all members of the University community. As an equal opportunity employer, UT Southwestern prohibits unlawful discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, citizenship status, or veteran status.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by UT Southwestern. 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 UT Southwestern would supersede any conflicting information in this document.

Dallas, Texas

Dallas was founded in 1841 and formally incorporated in February 1856. It is the third-largest city in the state of Texas and the ninth-largest city in the United States. The city covers 342.5 square miles, not including water area, and is the county seat of Dallas County. It is the main economic center of the 11-county Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area. At over 7.5 million people, it is the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the United States. Residents enjoy a flourishing economy, arts and culture, abundant housing options, endless entertainment and activities, and a thriving community spirit.



Downtown Dallas is ideal for city dwellers who want to live, work, and play in the same neighborhood. It's also one of the few areas of Dallas where it is easy to walk around and find all the amenities you want, from bars to museums. *Uptown* features townhouses, mid-rise Dallas apartments, and high-rise condos outfitted with swimming pools and on-site fitness centers. The *Bishop Arts District* features pubs, restaurants, and bustling nightlife. You'll be able to sample a compelling mix of cuisine there.

It's also the place to visit if you want to take in the arts at the Bishop Arts District or Kessler Theater. Jazz lovers gather at *Deep Ellum* for thriving nightlife and performances at the Dallas Comedy House. Its funky vibe draws students, young professionals, and families looking for mouth-watering barbecue at Pecan Lodge. *Suburban* life is rich and plentiful around the metroplex, including areas such as Plano, Grand Prairie, Arlington, Irving, Lewisville, and Flower Mound. Frisco is home to the Dallas Cowboys indoor practice facility and the Stonebriar Shopping Center. You'll find rapid development in this enclave 30 miles north of Dallas. Locals look to Richardson for proximity to the DART light rail system that takes you into Dallas. This Dallas suburb is also home to the University of Texas at Dallas. It is a 20-minute drive straight down I-75.

The city boasts one of the nation's largest municipal park systems. There are over 23,644 land prices across 382 parks, 7 lakes, and 4,658 acres of water. Other activities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area include historical sites, the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, Dallas Arboretum, the Dallas Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo, and wildlife centers where you can experience the wonders of nature. Six Flags Over Texas has the tallest roller coasters, the best shows in the Southwest, and plenty of fun places to relax and enjoy the warm Texas climate. Dallas has more shopping centers per capita than any other major U.S. city and four times more restaurants per person than New York City. For more information, please visit visitdallas.com.