



Division Chief of Pediatric Genetics
Department of Pediatrics
University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and OU Health
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

THE SEARCH

The University of Oklahoma Department of Pediatrics in the College of Medicine and Oklahoma Children's OU Health seek a visionary and accomplished physician-scientist to serve as the next Division Chief of Pediatric Genetics. As leader of the state's only pediatric genetics program, the Division Chief will join the institution at a pivotal moment marked by significant investments in clinical expansion and research infrastructure and the recruitment of research-intensive faculty through [Project 200](#). This is a rare opportunity for a strategic builder to shape the future of pediatric genetics research, strengthen interdisciplinary collaborations, expand statewide clinical service capacity, and elevate the impact of pediatric genetics throughout Oklahoma. This leader will be empowered to recruit and dramatically expand the clinical and research faculty in the division, in addition to creating training programs for residents and genetic counselors.

[The University of Oklahoma Health Campus](#) is the state's comprehensive academic health campus, home to seven health-related colleges and a large, growing biomedical research enterprise. [The Department of Pediatrics](#) is the largest department in the [College of Medicine](#), encompassing 18 specialty sections and more than 230 faculty members and 175 advanced practice providers who serve as the primary medical staff for Oklahoma Children's outpatient services and the hospital. The department benefits from strong institutional and philanthropic support and a foundation of productive research programs across multiple pediatric subspecialties. [The Division of Genetics](#), the state's only pediatric genetics program, provides comprehensive care for infants, children, adolescents, and families with suspected genetic, congenital, hereditary, or metabolic conditions. The Division is positioned to benefit from significant institutional momentum, including strong research leadership under the inaugural Vice Dean of Research with expertise in population genetics, and collaboration with the founding Chair of the recently established Department of Molecular Genetics and Genome Sciences.

Reporting to the Chair of Pediatrics, [Dr. Michael Steiner](#), the Division Chief will be a physician-scientist who brings a strong scientific vision and is eager to leverage the institution's expanding research

infrastructure, interdisciplinary collaborations, and substantial recruitment and program-building resources to guide the growth and revitalization of pediatric genetics clinical services across Oklahoma. In addition, the division currently has an important role in medical student and resident education, and there is an opportunity for a genetics residency program in addition to genetic counselor training program.

Applicants should hold an M.D. or D.O. with board certification in pediatrics with subspecialty training in genetics; be eligible for appointment at the associate or full professor level; maintain an active medical license and be eligible for licensure in Oklahoma; and demonstrate a nationally recognized record of accomplishment, including a strong track record of funded research and leadership in collaborative research programs.

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

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The College includes nearly 1,350 faculty across campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and supports 83 residency and fellowship programs, training approximately 750 residents and fellows annually. More than half remain in Oklahoma, reflecting the College's critical role in developing the state's physician workforce.

The College maintains the largest NIH-funded research portfolio in Oklahoma, with approximately \$72.3 million in annual support, and it is pursuing an ambitious agenda to expand research capacity, clinical trials, and national visibility. Institutional priorities include growth in extramural funding, recruitment of research-active faculty, and investment in strategic areas such as neuroscience, cancer, diabetes and metabolic disease, children's health and population health. Supported by the state's largest biomedical research infrastructure, the College aims to further strengthen its national standing and research impact.

ABOUT OU HEALTH

[OU Health](#) is Oklahoma's flagship academic health system, with approximately 10,000 employees and more than 1,300 physicians and advanced practice providers supporting over one million ambulatory visits annually. Led by President and CEO Jonathan Curtright, MBA, MHA, the health system includes:

- The [Oklahoma Children's Hospital](#), the state's only dedicated academic children's hospital
- The [University of Oklahoma Medical Center](#), the state's premier Level 1 Trauma Center
- The [OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center](#)
- The [OU Health Stephenson Cancer Center](#), the state's only National Cancer Institute-designated cancer center
- The [OU Health Dean McGee Eye Institute](#)
- The [OU Health Edmond Medical Center](#)

OU Health maintains affiliations with the Oklahoma City Veterans Affairs Medical Center and regional partners across the state.

ABOUT OKLAHOMA CHILDREN'S

Oklahoma Children's, the pediatric clinical enterprise of OU Health, delivers coordinated pediatric care statewide and is anchored by Oklahoma Children's Hospital, a comprehensive, freestanding pediatric tertiary care center with 246 beds. As the state's only Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center and academic pediatric facility, the hospital provides the most advanced, specialized services in Oklahoma. In the coming years, the hospital is adding a Pediatric Behavioral Health Center and a Pediatric Cardiac Care Tower expansion, creating almost 500 total licensed beds.

At Oklahoma Children's Hospital OU Health, staff blend years of training with education, research and technology to improve the lives of children throughout the region. Oklahoma Children's Hospital is recognized as a U.S. News and World Report's ranking as one of the Top 50 Best Children's Hospitals in the nation across multiple specialties.

The Oklahoma Children's Hospital neonatal intensive care unit is the only Level 4 nursery in the state and has over 100 beds. An embedded service within the Oklahoma Children's Hospital is the Women's and Newborn Service, which is a regional referral center for the state, providing prenatal and delivery care for pregnancies ranging from low-risk to the most complicated. The obstetric emergency room at Oklahoma Children's Hospital is a regional referral center for the state, and the neonatal intensive care unit provides the highest level of newborn care in Oklahoma.

Children's is also home to the only 24/7 pediatric emergency room in Oklahoma City with approximately 50,000 visits a year. With a family-centered approach to healing, Children's offers resources from pet therapy to Certified Child Life specialists who help families cope with hospitalization and illness. From advanced surgical services to general pediatrics, oncology care and more, Oklahoma Children's provides cutting-edge research and treatments through hospital-based and outpatient services.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

The Department of Pediatrics serves as the academic home for Oklahoma Children's OU Health and anchors children's care across the state. It is the largest department in the College of Medicine, encompassing 18 pediatric specialty sections and more than 220 faculty who collectively support a comprehensive clinical, research, education, and advocacy mission.

The department's research enterprise spans the full spectrum of pediatric investigation, including discovery and innovation, translational science, clinical trials, and health services research. Areas with the most activity currently include neonatology, endocrinology, hematology and oncology, genetics, and a vibrant body of clinician-led research across multiple sub-specialties alongside additional areas of opportunity that reflect the department's clinical breadth and statewide mission.

Clinically, the department supports a rapidly expanding children's outpatient and hospital platform with increasing patient volume, complexity, and geographic reach. This environment offers substantial opportunities to strengthen clinical and translational research, including investigator-initiated studies and clinical trials, while maintaining a strong focus on education and training.

Research, education, and advocacy are longstanding pillars of the department's identity. Pediatrics attracts residents, fellows, and students from across the country and maintains active partnerships with community and tribal stakeholders that inform care delivery and scholarly priorities across Oklahoma.

The Department of Pediatrics benefits from sustained institutional and philanthropic support from the University, the College of Medicine, OU Health, and community partners. Together, these resources support a department of significant scale and complexity and underscore the need for centralized, strategic leadership to guide its research enterprise.

ABOUT THE DIVISION OF GENETICS

The Division offers full diagnostic evaluation, counseling, testing, and screening for conditions such as birth defects, malformation syndromes, inborn errors of metabolism, and familial cancer syndromes. Cytogenetic, molecular, and specialized biochemical testing are coordinated through the Division, and teratogen consultation services are available.

The Division is supported by OU Health's regional laboratory network, the largest in the area, featuring a centralized core lab and dedicated Genetics Laboratory, Cytogenetics Laboratory, Molecular Genetics Laboratory, and specialized Biochemical Genetics testing capabilities. The PhD laboratory directors for the labs are faculty in the Department of Pediatrics and closely partnered with the Department of Pathology. These CLIA-certified, CAP-accredited labs provide comprehensive chromosome analysis, microarray testing, molecular diagnostics, next-generation sequencing, FISH, metabolic testing, and diagnostic support for hematologic and soft tissue malignancies.

The Division also plays a leading role in Oklahoma's statewide newborn screening program, which screens for approximately 50 disorders. Early identification and treatment of metabolic and genetic conditions through this program has significantly improved outcomes for children across the state.

Research within the Division is anchored by two different laboratories. The Sanghera Genetic Epidemiology Lab, conducts NIH-funded studies in complex diseases such as Type 2 Diabetes, Obesity, Coronary Artery Disease, Stroke, and Dyslipidemia. The Bidichany laboratory studies muscular dystrophies. Ongoing projects include genome-wide association studies, functional genomics, and biomarker discovery, with a strong focus on health disparities and population-based genetics. Faculty benefit from extensive institutional support for interdisciplinary research and collaboration across the OU Health Campus.

THE ROLE OF THE DIVISION CHIEF

The Chief leads the research, clinical care, and education programs of the Division of Genetics, and oversees 14 faculty and staff members – 2 geneticists, 2 APPs, 7 genetic counselors, 2 patient service coordinators, multiple PhD faculty, and 1 genetics nurse. The Chief will be charged with growing the division dramatically.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW CHIEF

To be successful in this role, the new Division Chief will address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Transform the Division into a nationally recognized research enterprise

- By leveraging extraordinary institutional and statewide investments in expanding research infrastructure with a focus on genomics, the new Chief will elevate and transform the Division into one of the premier research programs for the Department, College, OU, and the State.
- The new Chief must develop a compelling scientific vision, recruit research-intensive faculty, secure funding, and create a sustainable research culture while balancing the need to meet substantial statewide clinical demands.
- Must demonstrate the leadership qualities of a builder to shape every aspect of the Division's future, including faculty recruitment, programmatic priorities, research development, clinical services, and educational offerings.

Expand clinical, education, and programmatic excellence

- Given the current workforce shortages at the Division and limited clinical genetics coverage, the Chief must prioritize clinical program development as the foundation for long-term research growth.
- The Chief will capitalize on the Division's statewide referral base to expand access to specialized pediatric genetic services across Oklahoma and build a flagship program with national visibility.
- A key opportunity and challenge is to address unmet clinical demand through strategic recruitment of additional clinical geneticists and development of expertise in high-need areas such as metabolic genetics.
- The Chief will have the opportunity to revitalize a residency program, enhancing the academic scholarship and national profile of the Division and Department's training programs, attracting and developing a pipeline of next-generation leaders in pediatric genetics.

Strengthen faculty recruitment, development, and mentorship

- This opportunity is further amplified by the University's ambitious investment in research growth through Project 200, a major faculty recruitment initiative that will bring approximately 200 new investigators to the University, including 150 across the Health Campus.
- The Chief will play a central role in recruiting both clinicians and research-active physician scientists, promote a healthy culture and structure for development and mentorship, and support investigators' research engagement and funding activities.
- This work will also require close partnerships with departmental and college leadership to align recruitment and resource decisions with long-term recruitment and research strategies.

Fully leverage the assets of OU, health system, and the State to broaden research excellence

- As the only pediatric genetics program in Oklahoma, the Division is uniquely positioned to serve as the state's central hub for genetics, genomics, rare disease care, newborn screening, and precision medicine and must partner with and align diverse stakeholders around a shared vision for genetics to ensure growth in research and innovation translates into improved care statewide.
- Engage various leaders to identify strategic growth areas, such as, human genetics/genomics, population health, oncology, diabetes, etc. and be an effective connector of people and ideas to facilitate interdisciplinary research collaborations.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- M.D. or D.O. with board certification in Pediatrics and subspecialty certification in Medical Genetics and Genomics, including those who completed a combined Pediatrics-Medical Genetics training pathway; or board certification in Clinical Genetics and Genomics by the ABMGG with appropriate pediatric training and experience; eligible for medical licensure in Oklahoma (as applicable); and an academic record commensurate with appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor;
- Distinguished record of scholarly achievement, research funding, program development, clinical excellence, and leadership in academic medicine;
- A commitment to excellence in recruiting, retaining, and developing faculty; a history of strategic investment in faculty and their research; extensive experience in promoting interdisciplinary research;
- Ability to build and lead teams, programs, or centers
- 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
- Experience working across institutional, disciplinary, and community boundaries, with a demonstrated ability to build effective partnerships beyond traditional academic settings

- Exceptional leadership skills, with the proven ability to provide a clear vision for the future and foster a spirit of unity, cohesion, and collaboration;
- The highest standards and ethics and integrity, with a deep commitment to transparency and accountability in policy and strategy.

LOCATION

Oklahoma City, the capital and largest city in the state, is a city on the rise. It anchors a growing metropolitan area of more than 1.4 million residents and offers a rare combination of momentum, livability, and affordability. The region enjoys a mild climate with abundant sunshine and long spring and fall seasons that support year-round outdoor activity, complemented by more than 75,000 acres of parks and trails and the nationally recognized Oklahoma River corridor for rowing, kayaking, cycling, and major sporting events.

Over the past two decades, Oklahoma City has experienced sustained civic and economic transformation driven by long-term public investment and population growth. With a collaborative culture, expanding research and innovation ecosystem, and continued investment in infrastructure, Oklahoma City offers an appealing environment for academic leaders seeking both professional opportunity and livability.

For more information on Oklahoma City please visit:

<https://www.okcchamber.com/>; www.visitokc.com/; www.abetterlifeokc.com/

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and application packets (CV and cover letter) should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-oklahoma-health-sciences-college-medicine/division-chief-genetics-division>. Electronic submission of materials is required.

Jay Torio, Silvia Cheng, and Maria Peña
Isaacson, Miller | imsearch.com

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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.

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