



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Search for the Chair, Department of Neurology
University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine
Anschutz Medical Campus
Aurora, Colorado

THE SEARCH

The [University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine](#) (CU School of Medicine) seeks an accomplished, collaborative, and entrepreneurial leader to serve as the next Chair of the Department of Neurology. This is a consequential opportunity to lead the preeminent academic neurology program in the Rocky Mountain West at an institution that has set an explicit ambition of “Top 10 in 10”, has identified the neurosciences as central to achieving that goal, and has the resources and will to invest accordingly.

The [Department of Neurology](#) is a large and comprehensive academic enterprise. Comprising 14 subspecialty sections, 97 physicians and doctoral scientists, 37 advanced practice providers, 98 research staff, and 36 administrative staff, along with 80 residents, fellows, postdoctoral trainees, and students, the Department delivers care across the full spectrum of neurological disease to a referral region spanning eight states. The Department trains 40 residents, offers fellowships in 14 subspecialties — several of which are found at only a handful of institutions nationally — and operates one of the largest clinical research programs in the School of Medicine.

Over the past 16 years, under the leadership of Kenneth Tyler, MD, the Department grew across virtually every measure of clinical activity while building durable financial strength, an exceptional clinical research infrastructure, and nationally recognized programs in emerging subspecialties, including neurohospitalist medicine, neuro-infectious disease, neuropalliative care, and autoimmune neurology. It achieved accreditation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center and a Level 4 epilepsy center, established Centers of Excellence across eight disease areas, and delivers quality outcomes that rank among the best of any clinical department in the School. The next Chair inherits a department of unusual breadth, talent, and momentum.

The next Chair joins at a defining moment. Under [Dean John H. Sampson, MD, PhD, MBA](#), who also serves as Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, the School of Medicine is pursuing a “Top 10 in 10” vision and has recently achieved its strongest NIH funding position in 20 years, ranking eighth among public medical

schools nationally. The School is investing in the neurosciences, building the data infrastructure and analytics capability that will inform how resources are allocated, and redesigning clinical funds flow, effort definitions, and compensation in ways that give an incoming Chair tools and leverage that predecessors did not enjoy. Neurology is positioned to be a clinical and academic anchor of the campus neuroscience enterprise, and the Department's faculty is ready for the vision, advocacy, and investment that will get it there.

Reporting to Dean Sampson, the next Chair will lead a collaborative and highly capable faculty whose ambition currently outpaces its infrastructure. The department is facing more clinical demand than it can schedule, more scientific talent than its laboratory space can accommodate, and more distinctive programs than its national visibility reflects. The successful candidate will be an accomplished academic neurologist and a proven organizational leader: someone with the financial and operational fluency to run a complex enterprise, the credibility to effectively build relationships within the School and the health system, and the interpersonal judgment to build trust across a large and decentralized department. To be successful, the Chair will build on the Department's considerable strengths while addressing key opportunities and challenges. A fuller description of those priorities, along with the desired qualifications and characteristics, is included later in this document.

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Founded in 1883, the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine is the state's only allopathic medical school and the academic heart of the largest academic health center in the Rocky Mountain region. The School sits on the [University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus](#) in Aurora, a 256-acre health sciences district developed on the site of the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Center and, since its naming in 2006, built out into one of the newest and most complete academic medical campuses in the country. Six schools and colleges — [Medicine](#), [Dental Medicine](#), [Pharmacy](#), [Public Health](#), [Nursing](#), and the [Graduate School](#) — sit alongside more than 60 centers and institutes and roughly 4,500 students across more than 40 degree programs. The Anschutz Health Sciences Building, opened in 2021, added nearly 400,000 square feet of research, education, and clinical space. The School also operates branch campuses in Colorado Springs and, with Colorado State University, in Fort Collins, which graduated its inaugural class in 2026.

The School's programs are delivered in partnership with four affiliated institutions, three of them on or adjacent to the campus itself: UHealth, whose [University of Colorado Hospital](#) is the principal adult teaching hospital; [Children's Hospital Colorado](#); the [Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center](#), which opened next to the campus in 2019; and [Denver Health](#), the region's safety-net system and Level I trauma center. Together, these partnerships support what School leadership describes as one of the largest

faculty practices in the country and the largest physician practice in Colorado. In 2025, School of Medicine faculty and their hospital partners supported approximately 4.7 million patient visits, and CU Anschutz contributed \$5.7 billion to Colorado's economy while supporting 27,400 jobs.

Dean Sampson, a neurosurgeon and immunologist who joined CU in July 2024 after serving as chair of neurosurgery and senior vice president of the Duke University Health System, has set an explicit agenda for the School. The “[Top 10 in 10](#)” vision is framed as a roadmap toward national leadership across all missions, and it is accompanied by an emphasis on metrics, accountability, data transparency, and deliverables that represent a meaningful evolution in how the School operates.

The School's research standing is rising. In the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research rankings for FY2025, the School moved to eighth among public medical schools nationally and 21st overall, its strongest position in two decades, with nearly \$314 million in NIH funding. Nine of the School's 18 clinical departments now rank in the national top 15, up from six the prior year, and four rank in the top ten, led by Pediatrics at No. 1 nationally. The School is concurrently redesigning clinical funds flow, faculty effort (cFTE) definitions, and compensation and incentive structures, and building out analytics and dashboard capability to support data-driven decision-making. These changes are consequential for every clinical department.

The neurosciences are a strategic priority within this agenda. Faculty across basic science and clinical departments are working toward a campus-wide neuroscience initiative to connect a research community currently distributed across many departments, with neuromodulation and neuroinflammation identified as flagship pillars. Neurology's participation and leadership in that effort represent a significant opportunity for the next Chair.

UCHealth

[UCHealth](#) is Colorado's largest health system and the School of Medicine's principal clinical partner, operating hospitals and clinics across Colorado, southern Wyoming, and western Nebraska. Its flagship, UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital, is a Level I trauma center with more than 700 beds on the Anschutz Medical Campus and is ranked the top hospital in Colorado by U.S. News & World Report. The system is financially strong and growing, with continued investment in inpatient capacity, community access points across the Denver metropolitan area, and virtual care.

UCHealth is a separate legal entity from the University, and the relationship between the School and the system is a defining feature of the operating environment. Department chairs at CU function with substantial autonomy, running their own book of business and negotiating directly on behalf of their faculty. For Neurology, which draws meaningful hospital support for its neurohospitalist, vascular, and epilepsy services, this relationship is particularly consequential.

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

The Department of Neurology cares for patients across the full spectrum of neurological disease, from common conditions to the most complex tertiary and quaternary cases, and serves a catchment area larger than that of any peer department in the region. Its subspecialty coverage is close to complete: sections span autoimmune neurology, [behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry](#), [epilepsy](#), general neurology, [headache and pain medicine](#), [movement disorders](#), neurohospitalist medicine, [neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis](#), [neuro-infectious disease and global neurology](#), [neuromuscular medicine](#), [neuro-ophthalmology](#), [neuropalliative care](#), and [vascular neurology](#), with neuro-oncology faculty working collaboratively between Neurology and Neurosurgery. Faculty describe a department that is genuinely collaborative, collegial, and willing to work across disciplinary lines.

Clinical Care

Clinical care is delivered primarily on the Anschutz Medical Campus, with outpatient sites across the Denver metropolitan area and a substantial telehealth footprint. The Department was among the first academic programs nationally to move from a traditional attending rotation to a neurohospitalist model, which now encompasses vascular and general inpatient subservices staffed by more than ten faculty. Programs carrying national designation include a JCAHO/AHA-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center, a Level 4 epilepsy center designated by the National Association of Epilepsy Centers, and Centers of Excellence or equivalent designations in ALS, muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, ataxia, Lewy body dementia, multiple sclerosis, and rare neuroimmune disorders. The Department also operates a Mobile Stroke Treatment Unit and a Non-Epileptic Seizure Clinic, both of which are among a small number of such programs nationally and provides telestroke and remote EEG coverage to roughly 25 hospitals across Wyoming and Nebraska.

FY2026 brought growth across every clinical measure: approximately \$57 million in charges, up 10.5 percent, and \$18.6 million in payments, up 7 percent; 35,276 unique patients and 85,317 total visits; 255,151 work RVUs, up 9 percent; 51,158 outpatient visits and 2,980 inpatient admissions; and approximately 18,000 teleneurology visits, now roughly 30 percent of all clinic visits.

Neurology's reach extends beyond UCHHealth through long-standing affiliations with the Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center on the Anschutz campus, where a number of faculty hold appointments; with Denver Health, where the Division of Neurology sits within the Department of Medicine and where residents rotate; and in close partnership with Children's Hospital Colorado, where pediatric neurology is based within the Department of Pediatrics.

Education

The Department is committed to training the next generation of neurologists across the full continuum of learners. The ACGME-accredited [residency](#) has grown from 15 residents to a complement of 40, matching

ten residents annually into a four-year program that includes a categorical PGY-1 year in medicine. In the most recent cycle, it received 690 applications, including 468 from U.S. medical school graduates; NRMP data suggest that roughly two-thirds of U.S. medical school seniors applying to neurology apply to CU. Roughly half of residents continue into CU fellowships, and many join the faculty.

The Department offers [fellowships](#) in 14 areas: ACGME-accredited programs in neuromuscular medicine, epilepsy, and vascular neurology; UCNS-accredited programs in behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry, clinical neuromuscular pathology, headache medicine, and neuro-oncology; society-accredited programs in neuro-ophthalmology and neurohospitalist medicine; and programs in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis, movement disorders, neuro-infectious disease and autoimmune neurology, and a novel advanced practice provider fellowship. The neuropalliative care fellowship is offered as a track within the ACGME-accredited hospice and palliative care fellowship within the Department of Family Medicine. Collectively, these fellowships draw trainees from across the country and feed directly into faculty recruitment.

The Department also plays a central role in undergraduate medical education. Neurology faculty lead instruction across the School of Medicine curriculum, including the preclinical neuroscience course and the Advanced Neurosciences clinical course, which enrolled 171 medical students this past year and in which every neurology service line, including remote sites, earned top ratings from students. A neurology acting internship introduced last year has 15 students scheduled to rotate this year, up from seven in its first year, reflecting a substantial rise in student interest in the field. A Medical Student Education Director and associate directors oversee the Department's courses and clerkship and serve as advisors and mentors to students considering careers in neurology.

The Department's weekly, CME-accredited Grand Rounds is a signature forum for its academic life, consistently bringing nationally recognized leaders in the field to campus while giving the Department's own faculty a platform to present their work. Six endowed lectureships, named for James Stephens, Donald Gilden, Steven Ringel, Christopher Filley, Frederick Horner, and Stuart Schneck, honor the Department's history and further extend its academic reach nationally.

Research

The Department's [research enterprise](#) pairs one of the largest clinical research operations on campus with focused areas of internationally recognized basic science. Total sponsored funding reached approximately \$20.1 million in fiscal year 2026, placing Neurology among the top ten departments in the School, with 145 grants submitted and 41 awarded. Funding is concentrated in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis, behavioral neurology, neurovirology, movement disorders, and neuromuscular disease. The Department received approximately \$4.2 million in NIH funding in FY2025, ranking it 46th nationally according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research.

Clinical research is a particular area of scale. The Department runs more than 360 active studies with over 5,300 participant visits annually, supported by 79 dedicated research staff and its own budgeting, regulatory, statistical, and information technology infrastructure. The Department is a NINDS NeuroNEXT site, participates in StrokeNet, and holds a strong position in industry-sponsored trials, including first-in-class cellular therapy studies in stiff person syndrome and Parkinson's disease.

Basic and translational research is anchored in neurovirology and neuroimmunology, where the Department is recognized nationally and internationally, with NIH-funded programs also spanning sleep, neuroinflammation, movement disorders, neuromuscular disease, and dementia. The [Rocky Mountain Alzheimer's Disease Center](#) is closely affiliated with the Department.

Finance, Philanthropy, and Administration

The Department is financially sound and has operated at a surplus for more than 15 years, recording approximately \$1.96 million in profit in fiscal year 2026. Philanthropy is an established strength. The Department holds eleven endowed chairs and professorships, with additional endowments pending bequest commitments, including the Celine Dion Foundation Endowed Chair in Autoimmune Neurology, and maintains approximately 80 gift fund accounts. The Department has long-standing partnerships with organizations, including the Rocky Mountain MS Center, and royalty payments associated with intellectual property underlying the Shingrix vaccine have supported protected research time for departmental faculty.

Administratively, the Department operates with much self-sufficiency, maintaining its own human resources, information technology, finance, and research administration. The Department's [leadership](#) team includes an Executive Vice Chair and vice chairs for education, quality and performance improvement, clinical research, basic research, faculty affairs, finance and administration, inpatient services, and outpatient services, as well as the 14 section chiefs.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

Reporting to Dean Sampson, the Chair of Neurology holds responsibility for the strategic direction, academic vision, financial performance, and operations of the Department across its clinical, research, and educational missions. The Chair leads the Department's sections and vice chairs, oversees its clinical enterprise, educational programs, and budget, represents Neurology in negotiations with UCHHealth and the School of Medicine, and serves as the Department's principal advocate for space, funds flow, and investment.

Chairs at CU operate with substantial autonomy. Departments are federated, run their own book of business, and reinvest what they earn. Chairs function as executives of a complex enterprise while contributing to the broader interests of the School and campus. The environment rewards business

fluency, decisiveness, and the willingness to build a case with data. The next Chair will also maintain an active clinical or scholarly presence sufficient to remain credible with a faculty that values practicing colleagues.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT CHAIR

To ensure the continued success and impact of the Department of Neurology, the next Chair will address several key opportunities and challenges that will shape the Department's future.

Shape the future of Neurology in alignment with the University's neuroscience ambitions

The Department has grown into one of the most comprehensive academic neurology programs in the country, and now has an opportunity to articulate an identity that matches its scale, one grounded in shared priorities, transparent decision-making, and clear alignment between aspiration and available support. Faculty across every constituency are eager for a shared vision and a set of strategic goals against which progress can be measured. The institutional moment favors this work: the School has named the neurosciences a priority, is investing accordingly, and has made it explicit that departments articulating clear goals will find support. Where the Department stakes its national claim, whether in areas institutional leadership and the field have already identified, including neuromodulation, neuroimmunology, and brain health, or in strengths the Department has yet to fully claim, will be among the next Chair's defining decisions. A leader with the vision to make that choice and the credibility to build consensus around it will find genuine latitude at CU to act on it.

Foster a culture of engagement, transparency, and shared purpose

The Department's culture is among its most durable assets. Faculty and staff describe a collegial, supportive, and genuinely collaborative community, committed to a real balance between demanding work and life. That community has changed shape as the Department has grown from a small, closely connected group into a large enterprise spanning many sections, multiple sites, and several hundred members. There is an opportunity to strengthen the connections across it. Faculty and staff also look forward to greater transparency in how decisions are made, how funds flow into and through the Department, and how compensation and section leadership roles are determined, with particular attention to building trust and strengthening communication across sections. The School's compensation redesign and investment in data infrastructure will make that work more feasible than it has been to date. A leader who takes the time to understand what already works well, and who brings people along in deciding what should change, will be well-positioned to carry this culture into the Department's next chapter.

Expand access and advance innovative models of neurological care

The Department's clinical programs are well-established and, in several subspecialties, nationally distinctive, yet patient demand consistently outpaces current scheduling capacity — a reflection of both the Department's reputation across an expansive referral region and an access gap that the next Chair will be well-positioned to address. Expanding access while ensuring sustainability and supporting faculty well-being will require creativity in staffing, scheduling, and care delivery, and the Department's teleneurology program, which already accounts for roughly 30 percent of clinic visits, suggests an appetite for models that extend beyond the campus. UCHHealth's strategic emphasis on virtual and community-based care aligns closely with this work. Converting demand of this scale into growth across all three missions represents one of the most significant near-term opportunities available to the Department.

Strengthen strategic partnerships to advance the Department's missions

Neurology sits at the center of a highly collaborative campus, and much of the infrastructure that could advance the Department's ambitions is already affiliated with or accessible to it. The Department enjoys a strong partnership with the Department of Neurosurgery, sharing interests in neuromodulation, deep brain stimulation, epilepsy surgery, and neuro-oncology, and maintains productive relationships with Psychiatry, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Pediatrics, and the basic science departments. Relationships with the Rocky Mountain Regional VA, Denver Health, and Children's Hospital Colorado are long-standing and collegial, and leaders at each have signaled an appetite for closer integration. The relationship with UCHHealth is the most consequential; the system supports the Department's inpatient and epilepsy services, as well as outpatient clinics. The health system's recently revised funds flow model, along with the School's redesign of effort definitions and incentives, will shape the terms on which the Department grows. A leader who brings interpersonal credibility and the instincts to engage as a full and equal partner across this community will be well-situated to translate these relationships into momentum.

Elevate research excellence, innovation, and national prominence

The Department's research enterprise is distinguished by the scale and sophistication of its clinical research operation and by basic science programs in neurovirology and neuroimmunology recognized nationally and internationally. The research landscape is evolving: federal funding patterns are shifting, laboratory space on the Anschutz campus is currently fully committed, and the pipeline of physician-scientists who will carry the Department's research mission forward warrants deliberate investment. Basic and translational research has not grown at the pace of the clinical enterprise, and the Department's NIH portfolio sits below that of peer departments of comparable size and clinical volume. Broadening and deepening that portfolio, strengthening the Department's basic science foundation, and drawing on the campus neuroscience initiative now taking shape represent a meaningful frontier for the next Chair. The Department's clinical volume, trial infrastructure, and patient populations offer a strong foundation, alongside a School that has made it clear it is willing to invest in a compelling plan.

Recruit, retain, and develop exceptional faculty and future academic leaders

The Department's faculty is talented, productive, and forward looking. A new generation of section chiefs has taken up leadership in recent years, bringing energy and fresh thinking, and many are early in their leadership careers and will benefit from mentorship, structure, and intentional development. The next Chair will be charged with building on that foundation: recruiting individuals aligned with the Department's clinical, research, and educational priorities, creating pathways for faculty development at every career stage, and fostering a culture that is inclusive, accountable, and people-first. Ensuring that compensation structures and incentive models are competitive, transparent, and aligned with the Department's priorities will be essential to both retention and recruitment, as will sustained attention to faculty and staff wellbeing and to the administrative infrastructure a modern department requires.

Advance educational excellence and prepare the next generation of neurologists

The Department's educational programs are among its greatest strengths. The residency draws roughly two-thirds of the national pool of U.S. graduates applying to neurology, matches consistently, and produces trainees who stay at CU as fellows and then as faculty, while the fellowship portfolio is both a source of distinction and the Department's most efficient faculty pipeline. Program leaders are ambitious and creative and have built strong programs with modest support. Protected time and funded educational roles, the balance between clinical growth and the time required to teach well, growing medical student exposure to the field, and sustained attention to trainee wellbeing each present their own opportunities for investment and distinction. Building on programs that already perform at a national level, and securing the recognition and resources to match, will be an important early priority for the incoming Chair.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

This position calls for a leader with vision, organizational sophistication, and the interpersonal judgment to earn the confidence of a large, decentralized, and highly capable faculty. The Department seeks an able leader: someone who can articulate a direction, negotiate effectively on the Department's behalf, allocate resources transparently, and bring energy and urgency to a department poised to ascend.

The successful candidate must have an MD or MD/PhD, board certification in Neurology, and a record of scholarly and professional achievement commensurate with appointment at the rank of Professor. While no single individual will embody every quality listed below, the University of Colorado seeks the following in the next Chair of Neurology:

- A distinguished record of scholarship and academic leadership in neurology or the neurosciences, with demonstrated ability to build, fund, and sustain research programs of national standing;
- Demonstrated organizational and executive leadership in a complex academic medical setting, including responsibility for budgets, personnel, and operations at scale;

- Financial and operational fluency sufficient to lead a federated department through funds flow, cFTE, and compensation redesign, and to build data-supported arguments for investment;
- Proven effectiveness negotiating and partnering with health system leadership, with the credibility and persistence to advocate for clinical space, access, and program support;
- A record of improving patient access and clinical operations, including experience with advanced practice provider models, telehealth, and community and regional care delivery;
- Success in recruiting, developing, and retaining outstanding faculty and staff, with genuine commitment to mentorship and to the development of early-career section and program leaders;
- Understanding of the full range of academic career paths and the judgment to support and compensate clinical, research, and educational effort equitably and transparently;
- Commitment to educational excellence across the continuum of learners, and demonstrated willingness to invest in training programs and the faculty who lead them;
- A collaborative and inclusive approach to leadership, with a track record of building productive relationships across departments, institutes, affiliated sites, and health system partners;
- Skill in cultivating philanthropic support and engaging donors, industry partners, and grateful patients;
- Exceptional communication and listening skills, with the ability to build trust, make decisions transparently, and hold the Department accountable to shared goals;
- The highest standards of ethics and integrity, and the disposition of a learning leader: curious, resilient, emotionally intelligent, and a willingness to learn the department's culture.

COMPENSATION

The anticipated compensation range for this position is \$450,000 to \$650,000 annually, commensurate with the candidate's qualifications, experience, academic rank, clinical specialty, and other relevant factors.

In addition to base compensation, the successful candidate will be eligible to participate in the School of Medicine Chair Incentive Program, which provides an opportunity to earn an annual incentive payment of up to 20% of eligible compensation associated with the Chair appointment, subject to the terms and performance criteria of the program.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the search process is complete. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website. Electronic submission of materials is required.

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-colorado-anschutz-medical-campus-school-medicine/chair-neurology>

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