



Search for the Dean of the School of Public Health
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

THE SEARCH

The University of Maryland, College Park (UMD), the state's flagship land-grant university and one of the nation's leading public research institutions, seeks an accomplished and visionary scholar-leader to serve as the next Dean of the School of Public Health (SPH). The Dean will come aboard at a transformational moment for the School and for the University at a time of profound disruption across public health, higher education, and the nation's research landscape. This is a singular opportunity to shape the future of the School of Public Health—leveraging its proximity to Washington, D.C. and its connectivity across the College Park campus and the University System of Maryland; engaging and igniting the deep strength of its dedicated scholars, educators, staff, and students; and affirming the centrality of its mission and impact at the nation's first “Do Good University”.

Established as an independent entity in 2007, the School of Public Health has quickly emerged as a leading center for education, research, and public impact within the broad scholarly ferment of a tier-one research university. Today, SPH ranks among the nation's top public health schools and serves more than 2,500 students across six academic departments spanning behavioral and community health; kinesiology; family science; health policy; epidemiology; global, environmental, and occupational health; and related disciplines. Importantly, UMD SPH stands among the few tier-one schools of public health with a robust, vibrant, and growing undergraduate student body due to its accredited public health science bachelor's degree program. As the youngest academic school at the University of Maryland, it combines the entrepreneurial spirit of a growing enterprise with the resources, reputation, and reach of a flagship public research university. Proximate to federal funding agencies, federal and state policymakers, the NIH headquarters in Bethesda, and other major centers of funding and support, and standing as the only public School of Public Health in the state of Maryland, UMD SPH is uniquely situated to leverage its geographic advantages for the good of communities throughout Maryland and beyond. With a talented and committed community of faculty, staff, and students, strong institutional support, a multifaceted research portfolio, and a significant record of community engagement, the School is exceptionally well-positioned for its next phase of growth and impact.

The next Dean will join SPH as the University is making significant investments in interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation to advance the public good through initiatives such as the [Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland \(AIM\)](#), [the Institute for Health Computing](#), and the University's [Grand Challenges](#) programs. At the same time, the School is preparing to occupy [new state-of-the-art facilities](#) that will enhance research, teaching, and service. Building upon a strong foundation, the next Dean will have the opportunity to elevate the School's research enterprise, strengthen partnerships across campus and beyond, expand its visibility and influence, and help position public health at the center of efforts to address society's most pressing challenges.

The University of Maryland has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist a university search committee. All applications, inquiries, and nominations, which will remain confidential, should be directed to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Founded in 1856, UMD is a public land-grant research university, the state's flagship institution, and home to 14,000 faculty and staff, over 420,000 alumni, and over 41,000 students participating in over 100 baccalaureate programs and over 200 graduate programs within its 12 colleges and schools spanning virtually all disciplines. An institution committed to inclusive excellence, UMD boasts a diverse student body with students from every U.S. State and over 120 countries. Rated as a top 20 public university by *U.S. News & World Report*, UMD has many highly ranked academic programs, including several in the top 10, such as SPH's Doctoral Program in Kinesiology. UMD has grown into a global leader in research, entrepreneurship, and innovation, with more than \$1 billion in combined research funding, including that of the University of Maryland, Baltimore. UMD's faculty includes two Nobel laureates, eight Pulitzer Prize recipients, and more than 60 members of the national academies. It has been a member of the Association of American Universities since 1969 and the Big Ten Academic Alliance since 2014. The university is also in the midst of Forward: The University of Maryland Campaign for the Fearless, a \$2.5 billion philanthropic effort designed to expand opportunity, accelerate discovery, strengthen communities, and advance UMD's impact in Maryland and around the world.

The institution has a nearly \$2.97 billion operating budget, including more than \$834 million annually in research funding. Maryland's research and innovation have a global impact across the traditional disciplines and take a multidisciplinary, innovative approach to solving real-world problems and addressing the questions of foundational research. The campus's adjacent Discovery District, a 150-acre research and innovation park, includes government agencies, international scholarly associations, corporate partners, and advanced university research facilities. Collaborations with the University of Maryland, Baltimore, through a strategic partnership called MPowering the State, also boost educational opportunities, research, and combined degree programs.

As the nation's first Do Good campus, UMD offers unique and ambitious courses, fellowships, certificate programs, and coaching to support social entrepreneurship and students looking to make an impact across the globe. The Do Good Initiative is a campus-wide effort to engage the entire student body in programs designed to ensure that every student who graduates from UMD will be informed and motivated to Do Good in their communities and around the world.

Maryland fields 20 intercollegiate varsity teams in the NCAA Division I. Members of the Big Ten Conference, the Terrapins (or "Terps") are a major part of campus life for students and the larger community—with SPH students representing the third-largest population of student athletes on campus. Since 2005, Terps have won 16 national championships in men's and women's sports. Maryland Athletics is distinguished for fierce competition on the field, coupled with excellent performance in the classroom and in careers after college. The Terps boast one of the highest graduation rates in the Big Ten.

Maryland is a sustainable university community committed to becoming carbon-neutral by 2050. The forthcoming Purple Line mass transit system, with five stops on or around campus, will further connect UMD to all the region has to offer. The light-rail line will also expand the success of the Greater College Park initiative, a \$2 billion public-private investment to revitalize the community around the university and create one of the nation's best college towns.

Maryland is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an invitation-only organization that includes North America's most prestigious research universities. The University is a member of Universitas 21 (U21), the network of leading universities in six continents that focus on global research collaboration, education, and exchange, as well as The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA). The University's teaching, research, and innovation mission is evident in its connectivity to the greater Washington region through numerous long-term partnerships in the private and public sectors.

FEARLESSLY FORWARD: THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND STRATEGIC PLAN

In pursuit of excellence and impact for the public good, the UMD Strategic Plan, [*Fearlessly Forward*](#), presents a bold reimagining of what the university must embody to uphold and expand its mission of service to humanity. Launched in February 2022, it is the central guiding force for all schools, colleges, and divisions. Ensuring that the strategic plan is a living document, the implementation is a simultaneously cyclical and continuous process in which progress is assessed, community input is gathered, priorities and initiatives are defined, and investments in needed infrastructure and support are acquired and directed. The UMD community is committed to fearless ideas rooted in its principles of inclusive excellence, driven by innovation and impact, and relentlessly focused on public good and service to humanity.

The plan's vision to improve the lives of every person on Earth is organized and operationalized around four strategic commitments: reimagining teaching and learning; accelerating solutions to the grand

challenges of our time through creativity and discovery; investing in people and communities; and partnering to advance the common good. In all that we do, the University is committed to forging a diverse and inclusive community where differences are celebrated, equity is relentlessly pursued, and all have the opportunity to succeed and thrive. The School of Public Health is critical to realizing this vision. With no shortage of big problems, bold solutions will be conceived by people passionate about changing things for the better—those who bring together the skills, knowledge, and experience that make an impact.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

In July 2020, President Darryll J. Pines, the Nariman Farvardin Professor of Engineering and former Dean of the A. James Clark School of Engineering assumed the presidency of UMD. He has been a faculty member at the Clark School since 1995 and continues to teach. As Dean for 11 years, Dr. Pines instituted sweeping changes to improve the student experience, including revamping teaching in fundamental undergraduate courses, encouraging participation in national and international student competitions, emphasizing sustainability engineering and service learning, and expanding innovation and entrepreneurship activities. He has been a champion for diversity and access to engineering education and research opportunities, serving as co-principal investigator on UMD's National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE grant, among many other initiatives that led to the Clark School's ranking in the top 10 nationally for conferring degrees to students of color. In recognition of his contributions to the field, Dr. Pines was elected to the National Academy of Engineering and named a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Institute of Physics. He chairs the Engineering Advisory Committee for NSF's Engineering Directorate and sits on the Board of Trustees for Underwriters Laboratory's not-for-profit arm. Dr. Pines received a BS in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He earned MS and PhD degrees in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jennifer King Rice is the Senior Vice President and Provost, serving as the institution's chief academic officer and providing strategic leadership for its 12 schools and colleges. An accomplished administrator and educator, she oversees academic planning and programs, enrollment management, faculty affairs, academic innovation, international affairs, community engagement, and institutional research, planning, and assessment. Since becoming Provost in 2021, Dr. Rice has advanced a vision centered on academic excellence, innovation, and public impact, leading the development of UMD's strategic plan, *Fearlessly Forward: In Pursuit of Excellence and Impact for the Public Good*. She has also championed new approaches to academic planning, resource allocation, and policy development aligned with university priorities. Previously, Dr. Rice served as dean of UMD's College of Education, where she led significant gains in national rankings and research funding while advancing excellence, equity, and social justice. A faculty member and academic leader at UMD for more than 25 years, she is a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher whose research examines excellence and equity in K-12 education policy. An expert on school finance and teacher policy, Dr. Rice regularly advises state and federal agencies and is a fellow of the American Educational Research Association and former president of the Association for Education Finance and Policy.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The University of Maryland School of Public Health (SPH) is one of the nation's leading centers for public health research, education, and service. Established as an independent school in 2007, the School has quickly risen in prominence. It is today ranked among the top public health schools in the country, including #22 overall and #13 among public universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. It has a distinctive profile among its peers, with a vigorous undergraduate student enterprise that has seen explosive growth since the pandemic, as well as two unique departments—Kinesiology and Family Science—that are not often housed within schools of public health. Through its commitment to advancing health, improving well-being, and promoting health equity, the School prepares future leaders while generating knowledge and solutions that improve lives across the state, the nation, and the world.

Located just outside Washington, D.C., the School benefits from unparalleled access to federal agencies, policymakers, healthcare organizations, nonprofit institutions, and global partners addressing the nation's and the world's most pressing health challenges. The geographic and demographic diversity of the National Capital Region serves as a testbed for research, policy engagement, and experiential learning, enabling faculty and students to translate scholarship into meaningful impact. The School is inextricably linked to the health of the state of Maryland and its communities and families, with SPH faculty influencing state and federal health policy to a broad effect. The School's work spans a significant range of public health priorities, including chronic disease prevention, health equity, environmental and occupational health, behavioral health, family well-being, health literacy, infectious disease preparedness, and global health.

Today, the School enrolls more than 2,500 students across undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional programs and is home to a vibrant and diverse academic community. Its six academic departments include: Behavioral and Community Health; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Family Science; Global, Environmental, and Occupational Health; Health Policy and Management; and Kinesiology. It also administers a cross-disciplinary bachelor's program in Public Health Science. The academic departments are complemented by more than 40 research centers and laboratories that advance discovery and innovation across disciplines. Together, the School faculty exceeded \$10.4 million in annual research awards in FY 2025 and collaborated across the University, with partners throughout the region, and beyond.

The School's influence extends well beyond the classroom. Through centers and institutes focused on health literacy, health equity, prevention science, environmental sustainability, and community-engaged research, faculty and students work alongside public, private, and nonprofit partners to address complex health challenges and improve population health outcomes. These efforts underscore the School's longstanding commitment to translating research into practice, informing public policy, and serving diverse communities.

The School also benefits from the strength of the University of Maryland's broader research ecosystem and its close cross-disciplinary collaborations, including engineering, data science, public policy, behavioral and social sciences, and health professions. Positioned within one of the nation's most dynamic academic, governmental, and healthcare corridors, the School of Public Health is positioned to expand its impact, elevate its national prominence, and shape the future of public health education, research, and practice.

THE ROLE OF THE DEAN

Reporting to the Senior Vice President and Provost, the Dean is the chief executive officer of the School. They lead the School in maintaining its commitment to teaching, research, and public health impact. The Dean is responsible for all strategic, programmatic, academic, financial, personnel, governance, and administrative operations of the School. The Dean oversees the School's annual operating budget, ensuring resources are allocated judiciously and effectively and that the School remains fiscally sound. The Dean is the external champion and advocate for the School, assiduously and assertively fostering connections with funding agencies, foundations, philanthropic donors, and the private sector to support the School's mission and continued success.

The Dean is supported by a [leadership team](#) that includes the Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, the Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives, the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Chief of Staff, the Assistant Dean for Finance and Administration, the Chief Development Officer and Assistant Dean for Development, the Director of Communications, and seven Department Chairs together with the Director of Public Health Science.

The [Dean's Council](#) is a group of thought leaders from government, business, nonprofit, and philanthropy who counsel and support the School in key strategic areas. Sharing a commitment to advancing the School's education, research, and impact in service of the public good, the Dean leverages the Council's expertise and insight to equip the SPH to tackle the challenges of the 21st Century.

The [Community Advisory Council](#) is a group of public health leaders, practitioners, and community stakeholders who strengthen the School's connection to the broader community. The Council provides valuable insight and perspective that help inform the School's priorities and initiatives. The Dean leverages the Council's expertise, networks, and community partnerships to deepen engagement and ensure the School remains responsive to the needs of the communities it serves.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE DEAN

The Dean will address the following opportunities and challenges:

Articulate a future-oriented vision for the School amidst a changing landscape.

The School of Public Health has entered an important moment in its evolution. Over two decades, the School has established a strong foundation in education, research, public engagement, and service, while growing its visibility and impact across the university, the state of Maryland, and beyond through new programs in Global Health and new connectivity to interdisciplinary efforts at the forefront of scholarly impact. At the same time, public health is navigating a rapidly changing environment that is reshaping how these schools approach their core missions. The next Dean will have an opportunity to articulate a bold and unifying vision for the School's future, one that builds upon its existing strategic plan and engages faculty, staff, and students in a collaborative effort to position UMD SPH to address emerging societal needs. Success will require an entrepreneurial leader who can inspire confidence through transparent and strategic decision-making, embrace change while respecting the traditions and culture of the School, and help faculty, staff, students, and partners embrace the essential role the School of Public Health can play in advancing health, well-being, and opportunity in Maryland and beyond.

Advance the School's educational mission and student success.

The School of Public Health offers a distinctive educational experience grounded in innovation, inclusion, experiential learning, and community engagement. With one of the nation's largest and most diverse undergraduate public health enrollments alongside a diverse portfolio of graduate and professional programs, the School effectively educates the next generation of public health leaders, practitioners, and scholars. Its academic portfolio includes disciplines such as Family Science and Kinesiology that are not commonly housed in schools of public health, creating unique research and learning opportunities for students and faculty to explore health and well-being through a broader, more integrated lens. The next Dean will build upon these strengths by fostering excellence across the School's academic portfolio, supporting areas of innovation and distinction, and ensuring that investments are thoughtfully aligned with the School's vision and the University's priorities. The next Dean should value the contributions of every department and program while advancing an educational enterprise that is forward-looking, mission-driven, and responsive to the evolving needs of students, communities, and the public health workforce. A continued emphasis on experiential learning, mentorship, workforce development, and nontraditional and expanded public health career pathways will ensure that students are well prepared to translate their education to shape public health.

Strengthen and elevate the School's research enterprise.

The School is poised to build upon a strong foundation of scholarship and advance its standing as a leading public health research enterprise. The next Dean will have the opportunity to cultivate a collaborative and

ambitious research culture, strengthen the infrastructure and supports that enable faculty success, and help define strategic areas of investment and growth. Working in partnership with faculty, staff, university leadership, and external collaborators, the Dean will champion research that advances knowledge, informs policy and practice, and improves the health and well-being of local and global communities.

Home to accomplished faculty, emerging areas of distinction, and a broad portfolio of research that addresses some of society's most critical health priorities, the School is primed to expand both the scale and impact of its scholarly activities. The Dean will lead the School in adapting to a fundamentally altered funding landscape during a time when public universities across the nation are facing increasing fiscal constraints, coupled with skepticism about the role of higher education and research in the public eye. SPH is uniquely positioned to address this changing landscape with a robust, multifaceted approach to impactful scholarship that builds upon a diverse foundation of research, which the Dean will shape to meet the current moment. SPH has found successes through UMD's Grand Challenges 2.0 program as well as major, University- and USM-level research initiatives. The Dean must carry this momentum forward, placing SPH at the center of UMD's efforts to "Do Good" in the world. The Dean will lead by example, collaboratively setting new scholarly directions and advocating for the resources and connections to empower SPH's talented tenure- and professional-track faculty to address society's most critical public health priorities. The Dean will draw upon their experience as a scholar-leader to posture SPH's research infrastructure for the future, proactively seeking alternative funding and revenue streams, opportunities for collaboration across disciplinary boundaries at UMD and UMB, and novel mechanisms that advance public health knowledge in the eyes of the polity, inform policy and practice, and improve the well-being of local and global communities.

Advance interdisciplinary and cross-college collaborations.

As a leading public, land-grant, tier 1 research institution, the University of Maryland offers extraordinary opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration across research, education, and public engagement. The School is uniquely positioned to contribute to university-wide efforts that address key challenges through partnerships spanning computing, engineering, behavioral and social sciences, education, public policy and global affairs, environmental science, and the humanities. The next Dean will have an opportunity to build on the School's existing contributions to major institutional initiatives while elevating public health's role in shaping its future direction. Strategic opportunities include expanding engagement with the [Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute at Maryland \(AIM\)](#), the [Institute for Health Computing](#), and the University's [Grand Challenges](#) initiatives, among others, where public health perspectives can help drive innovation and translate discovery into meaningful impact. Just as importantly, the Dean will strategically forge new collaborations across the campus' rich constellation of disciplines, leveraging the University's culture of partnership and shared purpose.

Deepen the School's external partnerships and visibility.

The School of Public Health benefits from extraordinary proximity to government agencies, health

systems, nonprofit organizations, foundations, industry leaders, and peer institutions. The next Dean will deepen existing partnerships, forge new collaborations, and further elevate the School's visibility as a trusted source of expertise, innovation, and public impact. Serving as the School's chief ambassador, the Dean will strengthen relationships across Maryland, the Greater Baltimore region, and the rich public health community in the National Capital Region, and nationally, while helping to identify new opportunities for research, education, workforce development, and community engagement. The Dean will also focus on effectively communicating the breadth and impact of the School's work, elevating the profiles of its faculty, students, and programs, and illuminating new points of connection with external partners, including industry and major foundations at home and abroad. By championing the School's strengths and contributions, the next Dean will catalyze collaborations that advance solutions to the world's complex health challenges.

Cultivate a culture of inclusive excellence, belonging, and shared success.

The School of Public Health is distinguished by an exceptionally strong sense of community, a shared purpose, and a commitment to the well-being and success of its diverse population. At SPH, fully 27 percent of its student body is first-generation college students, and 68 percent of students identify as non-white, with a diverse group of faculty and staff who are conscientiously reflective of the populations they serve. As the School evolves, the next Dean will have the opportunity to build upon a culture that values collaboration, respect, and engagement across faculty, staff, and students. The Dean will foster an environment of inclusive excellence in which individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and disciplines can contribute fully and thrive. Through transparent leadership, thoughtful communication, and a genuine investment in people, the Dean will cultivate trust, belonging, and shared responsibility while preparing and inspiring the School to navigate change with creativity, confidence, and optimism. This opportunity requires a leader who is willing to engage complex challenges with both courage and compassion, thoughtfully examine policies and practices that may limit opportunity or success, and advocate for solutions that strengthen the School and its community.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The ideal candidate will be a distinguished public health scholar and leader with substantive experience managing an operationally complex organization. A doctorate or equivalent terminal degree and a record of distinguished scholarship for a tenured appointment as a full professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland are **required**.

Successful candidates will also possess most, if not all, of the following characteristics and credentials:

- A record of significant leadership and accomplishment in public health through academia, government, healthcare, nonprofit, industry, or other relevant sectors;
- A compelling vision for the future of public health and public health education, together with the ability to articulate academia's role in its mission in a rapidly evolving landscape;

- A demonstrated record of cultivating a strong, collaborative, and impactful culture of research and scholarship, including support for faculty, staff, and student success;
- A record of success in securing external support from diverse sources for research, academic initiatives, and institutional priorities;
- A proven ability to strengthen an institution's visibility, reputation, and influence among academic, government, philanthropic, industry, community, and public audiences;
- Financial acumen and a demonstrated record of aligning resources with strategic priorities through thoughtful stewardship, transparency, and accountability;
- Significant leadership and personnel management experience within higher education or a similarly complex organization, including experience navigating shared governance environments;
- A demonstrated ability to foster interdisciplinary partnerships and build productive relationships across organizational boundaries in support of broader institutional goals;
- A commitment to innovative academic programs, experiential learning, student success, and educational excellence at both the undergraduate and graduate levels;
- A record of advancing inclusive excellence and cultivating environments in which individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and identities can thrive and contribute fully;
- The ability to engage difficult questions thoughtfully, identify barriers to opportunity and success, and work collaboratively to advance solutions that strengthen institutions and communities;
- A collaborative leadership style that is both accessible and decisive, characterized by transparency, sound judgment, empathy, and accountability;
- A genuine interest in serving as a visible and engaged member of university life and a partner to communities across Maryland, the DC metropolitan area, and beyond;
- Exceptional communication, relationship-building, and advocacy skills, along with the highest levels of personal and professional integrity.

For further information about the University of Maryland, please visit www.umd.edu. To learn more about the School of Public Health, please visit <https://sph.umd.edu/>

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

The University of Maryland has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this recruitment. Candidate review will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations, inquiries, and applications, including a CV and letter of interest, should be submitted via the [Isaacson, Miller website search page](#). *Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.*

Vijay Saraswat, Partner
Courtney Cabansag, Senior Associate
Elizabeth Arvanitis, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

The University of Maryland, College Park, an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action; all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment. The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected veteran status, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, creed, marital status, political affiliation, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment, in all aspects of employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by the University of Maryland. 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 the University of Maryland would supersede any conflicting information in this document.