



Vice Dean for Research
The University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota

THE SEARCH

The University of Minnesota Medical School (UMN Medical School), part of the University of Minnesota (UMN), a prestigious, comprehensive, public, land-grant research university, seeks an accomplished scientific leader and research enterprise builder to serve as its next Vice Dean for Research. The Vice Dean will join the Medical School at an important moment of opportunity, with a mandate to shape an ambitious, forward-looking research strategy, strengthen the environment for discovery and innovation, and position the Medical School for sustained scientific impact in a rapidly changing biomedical research landscape.

The Medical School is home to a large and nationally significant research enterprise, with more than \$290 million in annual National Institutes of Health-sponsored research and in FY26 \$557 million in overall extramural funding across 27 academic departments and more than 20 centers and institutes. Its faculty pursue research spanning basic, translational, clinical, and population science. As part of one of the nation's few academic health environments that brings together schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and veterinary medicine within a single comprehensive research university, the Medical School is especially well-positioned to advance interdisciplinary and interprofessional research across the health sciences.

The next Vice Dean will have the opportunity to build on this strong foundation by identifying and investing in areas of distinctive strength and emerging opportunity, fostering interdisciplinary and team science, and ensuring that institutional resources are deployed strategically for the greatest scientific and societal impact. Success will require both ambition and selectivity, as the Medical School seeks to strengthen its national research position while defining excellence more broadly than any single measure or ranking.

The search comes at a consequential time for academic medicine and biomedical research. Federal funding and policy are evolving rapidly, requiring research-intensive institutions to think creatively about how they sustain and grow their missions. Minnesota Medical School's position within a comprehensive research university, together with the strength of the region's biomedical, technology, and medical-device ecosystem, creates significant opportunities to strengthen and diversify the resources and partnerships that support its research enterprise.

Reporting to the Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, the Vice Dean for Research will serve as the Medical School's senior leader for research strategy and a key advocate for its scientific community. Working across departments, centers and institutes, the broader health sciences, University research leadership, clinical partners, and external stakeholders, the Vice Dean will help establish research priorities, foster collaboration, strengthen institutional research capacity, and represent the value and impact of the Medical School's research mission to a broad range of internal and external audiences.

The University of Minnesota has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this important search. All applications, inquiries, and nominations for this opportunity should be directed in confidence to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Founded in 1888, the University of Minnesota Medical School has more than 135 years of history advancing medical education, scientific discovery, and patient care. Today, it is one of the largest medical schools in the country and a central component of the University of Minnesota's academic health enterprise. Across campuses in the Twin Cities, Duluth, and St. Cloud, UMN Medical School pursues a mission of enhancing health through the education of skilled and socially responsible physicians, innovative research, and outstanding clinical care. The School encompasses 27 academic departments, more than 20 centers and institutes, and a large faculty community engaged across the educational, research, and clinical missions.

The breadth of the Medical School's educational enterprise reflects its scale and comprehensive mission. The School offers 29 degree programs, including the Doctor of Medicine, the Medical Scientist Training Program leading to combined MD/PhD degrees, graduate programs in biomedical and health sciences, and a range of dual-degree opportunities spanning public health, biomedical engineering, law, business, and health informatics. Its graduate enterprise includes 11 graduate programs, more than 440 graduate students, and more than 250 postdoctoral scholars. Approximately 240 students enter the medical program annually, and the School's network includes more than 17,000 alumni. Medical students, residents, fellows, graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars learn alongside faculty whose work spans the full continuum from foundational science to clinical practice.

UMN Medical School's three-campus structure gives it an unusually broad geographic and community reach. The Twin Cities campus is the School's largest academic hub and the center of much of its biomedical research, specialty care, and graduate medical education. The Duluth campus has a longstanding and distinctive focus on family medicine, rural health, and improving health outcomes for American Indian and Alaska Native communities. In fall 2025, Duluth expanded from a two-year program to a full four-year medical curriculum, allowing students to complete their entire medical education in northern Minnesota and build deeper relationships with communities and health systems across the region.

Also in 2025, UMN Medical School opened the CentraCare Regional Campus in St. Cloud, extending its medical education presence into central Minnesota. Developed in partnership with CentraCare, the campus is designed to address physician workforce needs and expand rural and community-based clinical education. Together, the three campuses allow the Medical School to combine the resources and opportunities of a major metropolitan academic medical center with a genuinely statewide educational and service mission.

Clinical education and patient care are deeply integrated into the School's academic mission. Medical School faculty physicians provide care and train students and residents through affiliated hospitals, clinics, and health systems across Minnesota. The School's educational model connects foundational and clinical science throughout the medical curriculum and gives learners access to a wide variety of clinical settings and patient populations. This combination of a major urban academic health presence and extensive regional relationships provides an important foundation for the School's educational, clinical, and translational missions.

UMN Medical School is part of an unusually comprehensive health sciences environment that also includes dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public health, and veterinary medicine. Its position within a major public research university further connects the School to a broad range of disciplines and resources across UMN. Together with its statewide reach and tripartite mission, this environment provides a distinctive institutional setting for medical education, research, and patient care.

RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL SCHOOL

Research is central to the mission and identity of UMN Medical School. The School supports a broad and nationally significant scientific enterprise spanning basic, translational, clinical, population, and community-engaged research. In fiscal year 2025, Medical School investigators received more than \$293 million in National Institutes of Health (NIH)-sponsored research funding, placing the School 25th nationally in the 2025 Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) rankings. UMN Medical School has ranked among the top 25 nationally for three consecutive years, and its NIH funding represents approximately 78 percent of the University's total NIH support.

The breadth of this research enterprise is reflected across the Medical School's 27 academic departments, many of which are nationally prominent in their fields. In the 2025 BRIMR rankings, Family Medicine and Community Health ranked first nationally in NIH funding; Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics ranked fourth; Neuroscience ranked eighth; and Surgery and Pediatrics each ranked tenth. Laboratory Medicine and Pathology is another area of significant departmental strength, ranking 14th nationally in 2025 and fifth among public universities.

The Medical School's research is further organized and strengthened through more than 20 centers, institutes, and programs that bring together investigators across departmental and disciplinary boundaries in fields including cancer, cardiovascular science, diabetes and metabolism, immunology, infectious disease, stem cell biology, neuroscience, imaging, engineering in medicine, and health

disparities. Among the most prominent is the Masonic Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center since 1998 and one of only two in Minnesota, whose more than 600 members conduct research spanning cancer causes, prevention, treatment, outcomes, and survivorship. The Center for Magnetic Resonance Research (CMRR), an NIH-supported national resource center for biomedical imaging technology, is an international leader in ultrahigh-field magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy and houses some of the world's most advanced instrumentation, including 7 Tesla systems and the world's first 10.5 Tesla human MRI scanner.

The Institute for Engineering in Medicine (IEM) connects the health sciences with the College of Science and Engineering and the region's biomedical industry, supporting collaborative research teams, professional education, and innovation and commercialization through the Bakken Medical Devices Center. The University of Minnesota Institute on Infectious Diseases (UMIID), launched by the Medical School in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, takes a One Health approach to emerging and contemporary infectious threats through programs in antimicrobial resistance and drug discovery, HIV and tuberculosis medicine, molecular surveillance and response, immune intervention, and virus and microbe emergence. The Stem Cell Institute, founded in 1999 as the first interdisciplinary stem cell research institute in the United States, brings together investigators from more than two dozen departments to translate stem cell biology into new therapies for diabetes, heart disease, and neurological, musculoskeletal, and inherited disorders.

Other major centers and institutes include the Lillehei Heart Institute, which integrates cardiovascular research, education, and clinical innovation in areas such as heart failure, structural heart disease, electrophysiology, and cardiac resuscitation; the Schulze Diabetes Institute and the Institute for Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism; the Center for Immunology; the Institute for Molecular Virology; the Institute for Translational Neuroscience; the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, a 116,000-square-foot research and clinical facility devoted to brain development in children and adolescents; the Center for Genome Engineering; the Center for Learning Health System Sciences; the Program in Health Disparities Research; and the Udall Center of Excellence for Parkinson's Disease Research. Together, these centers and institutes provide important platforms for team science, shared scientific resources and core facilities, programmatic and center-level funding, and collaboration across the Medical School, the health sciences, and the broader University. Several are jointly sponsored with other colleges and clinical partners, reflecting the Medical School's role as a hub for interdisciplinary science across UMN.

Clinical and translational research is another major component of the Medical School's scientific enterprise. The University of Minnesota Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) is one of more than 50 hubs in the NIH Clinical and Translational Science Awards consortium and provides infrastructure, expertise, training, funding, and tools designed to accelerate discoveries into improvements in human health. Its capabilities span study design, biostatistics, clinical data and informatics, participant recruitment, regulatory support, biospecimen services, multisite research, community engagement, and research workforce development. CTSI also supports four clinical research facilities and contributes to national networks intended to accelerate multisite studies and clinical trials.

The scale of this infrastructure supports a large and complex portfolio of clinical investigation. The Clinical Research Support Center, a partnership involving CTSI, the University's Research and Innovation Office, Fairview Health Services, and University of Minnesota Physicians, supports more than 1,500 studies in an average year. The broader clinical and translational research platform also provides investigators with access to clinical data derived from millions of patient records, centralized tools for study management and recruitment, and specialized support for investigator-initiated and multisite research.

UMN Medical School has also invested in mechanisms intended to stimulate interdisciplinary work and build emerging areas of scientific strength. Its state-supported Medical Discovery Teams bring together investigators around complex health challenges including addiction, the biology of aging, optical imaging and brain science, and rural and American Indian health disparities. Across the School, faculty also participate in large collaborative and programmatic awards, shared core facilities, and research networks that extend beyond traditional departmental structures.

The Medical School's recent research trajectory reflects sustained institutional attention to scientific growth and competitiveness. Minnesota reached 21st nationally in NIH funding in 2022, supported by more than \$340 million in funding and 554 NIH awards, and has remained within the top 25 in subsequent years. While external rankings provide only one measure of research success, the School's ability to compete successfully for federal funding remains an important indicator of the strength and impact of its scientific enterprise.

A DISTINCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCES AND RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

One of UMN Medical School's greatest advantages is the breadth of the academic and research environment that surrounds it.

That opportunity extends well beyond the health sciences. As part of a comprehensive public research university, Medical School investigators can build partnerships with colleagues in engineering, biological sciences, data and computational science, agriculture, social sciences, and other fields increasingly central to biomedical discovery. Existing University investments in areas such as bioprinting, preclinical imaging, nanotechnology, and medical-device development illustrate the potential of these cross-disciplinary connections.

UMN's location in the Minneapolis–St. Paul region creates another important strategic advantage. Minnesota has an internationally recognized biomedical and medical-technology sector, with a dense concentration of medical-device companies, health systems, research institutions, and other health-related organizations. The region's strengths in medical-device innovation and data-driven healthcare create substantial opportunities for academic-industry collaboration, translational research, commercialization, and the development of new technologies and approaches to care.

For the Medical School, this environment creates opportunities to connect fundamental discovery with engineering, technology development, clinical investigation, implementation, and commercialization. It

also broadens the range of potential research partners and sources of support, including industry, philanthropy, foundations, state partners, and other external stakeholders. These relationships are increasingly important as academic medical centers seek to complement traditional federal funding with more diversified sources of research investment.

The School's statewide footprint further expands the possibilities for research. Through its campuses and clinical and community partnerships across Minnesota, UMN Medical School has access to diverse populations and settings that can support clinical, population, rural, and community-engaged research. Its longstanding commitments to rural health, family medicine, and American Indian health provide opportunities to connect scientific excellence with the University's land-grant mission and the health needs of communities throughout the state.

Taken together, these assets give UMN Medical School an unusually broad platform for interdisciplinary and translational science. The opportunity is not simply to build research within individual departments or laboratories, but to capitalize on the combined strengths of a comprehensive university, an integrated health sciences environment, a statewide academic mission, and one of the country's strongest biomedical innovation ecosystems.

ROLE OF THE VICE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Reporting to the Dean of the Medical School and Executive Vice President for Health Affairs, the Vice Dean for Research serves as UMN Medical School's senior leader for research strategy and scientific enterprise development. The Vice Dean also leads the UMN Medical School Office of Research and its staff, overseeing the office's leadership team, programs, and services and ensuring that it serves as an effective partner to departments, centers and institutes, and individual investigators. The Vice Dean provides school-wide leadership for the research mission, helps establish priorities and investment strategies, and works to ensure that the Medical School has the faculty, infrastructure, partnerships, and organizational capacity necessary to support high-impact science.

The Vice Dean works across the full breadth of UMN Medical School and in close partnership with department chairs, center and institute directors, senior faculty, research administrators, and other academic leaders. The role also requires strong relationships with the University's central research leadership, the broader health sciences, clinical partners, and external stakeholders. In a highly decentralized academic environment, the Vice Dean must be able to build alignment across units with substantial autonomy while creating shared direction around school-wide research priorities.

A central responsibility of the Vice Dean is to guide the Medical School's research strategy and investment agenda. This includes evaluating areas of existing and emerging scientific strength, advising on major faculty recruitment and retention efforts, helping shape investments in research programs and infrastructure, and supporting decisions about where institutional resources can have the greatest impact. The Vice Dean will work closely with departmental and institutional leaders to ensure that research

investments are coordinated, strategic, and aligned with the broader goals of the Medical School and the University.

The Vice Dean will also serve as a principal advocate for the research faculty and the scientific environment in which they work. The role includes identifying barriers to investigator success, strengthening access to shared resources and core infrastructure, and helping ensure that faculty across disciplines and career stages have the support needed to pursue ambitious research programs. The Vice Dean will also work closely with University offices responsible for sponsored research administration, research integrity, compliance, regulatory affairs, and research systems to ensure strong alignment between scientific priorities and the operational infrastructure that supports them.

Clinical and translational research are important components of the Vice Dean's portfolio. The Vice Dean will work with leaders across the Medical School, CTSI, the broader health sciences, and clinical partners to strengthen the environment for clinical investigation and translational science. This includes supporting collaborative and programmatic research, facilitating access to institutional capabilities in clinical data and informatics, and helping investigators connect scientific discovery with clinical and community application.

The Vice Dean will represent the Medical School's research mission internally and externally and will play an important role in building support for scientific priorities. This includes engaging with University leadership, policymakers, donors, foundations, industry partners, and other external stakeholders and communicating the value and impact of the Medical School's research in clear and compelling terms.

The next Vice Dean will have meaningful latitude to assess the structure of the research portfolio and the organization that supports it. In partnership with the Dean, the Vice Dean will be able to clarify responsibilities, evaluate leadership and staffing needs, and shape a structure that allows the office to remain focused on scientific strategy, enterprise development, and faculty success while ensuring that operational responsibilities are appropriately supported.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Building on a substantial and nationally recognized research enterprise, the next Vice Dean for Research will have the opportunity to help shape the next phase of scientific growth at the University of Minnesota Medical School. The role will require both ambition and selectivity: strengthening areas of existing excellence, identifying emerging opportunities, and ensuring that the School's resources are aligned with the research priorities most likely to generate meaningful scientific and institutional impact.

Strengthen the Medical School's national research position

UMN Medical School has long viewed success in attracting competitive federal research funding as one important measure of the strength of its scientific enterprise. With more than \$290 million in annual NIH support and a current position among the top 25 medical schools nationally in NIH funding, Minnesota begins from a position of considerable strength. The next Vice Dean will be expected to build on that

foundation by supporting highly competitive investigators, strengthening major programmatic and collaborative research, and identifying areas where focused investment can enhance the School's scientific impact and national standing. While rankings alone will not define success, the scientific strength, faculty competitiveness, and institutional reputation they reflect will remain important.

Establish clear priorities and make disciplined investments

One of the central challenges of the role will be determining where the Medical School can and should invest. The School is home to many accomplished investigators, departments, centers, and institutes, but resources are finite. The next Vice Dean will need to set clear expectations, make thoughtful choices about where institutional investment can have the greatest impact, and balance support for established strengths with the cultivation of new areas of opportunity. This will require credibility with senior faculty and chairs, transparency in decision-making, and the ability to communicate difficult choices in ways that reinforce trust and shared purpose.

Navigate a changing federal research environment

The federal biomedical research environment is evolving rapidly, creating both uncertainty and new demands for research-intensive institutions. The next Vice Dean will need to stay closely attuned to changes in federal funding priorities, policy, and regulation and help the Medical School anticipate their implications. At the same time, the School will need to broaden the range of resources available to support scientific growth through stronger partnerships with industry and foundations, more intentional engagement with philanthropy, commercialization and innovation, large collaborative awards, and opportunities for state and other external investment. The role will also require the ability to communicate the value of biomedical research clearly and persuasively to legislators, policymakers, donors, partners, and the public.

Broaden and diversify support for the research mission

Federal funding will remain central to the Medical School's research enterprise, but the next Vice Dean will also be expected to help expand the range of resources available to support scientific growth. This includes developing stronger partnerships with industry and foundations, engaging philanthropy more intentionally in support of research priorities, encouraging commercialization and innovation, pursuing large collaborative awards, and identifying opportunities for state and other external investment. Minnesota's strong biomedical and medical-device ecosystem creates a particularly compelling platform for expanding external partnerships and connecting academic discovery with innovation and application.

Advance interdisciplinary, team-based, and translational science

The breadth of the University creates significant opportunities to build research that crosses departmental, disciplinary, and professional boundaries. The next Vice Dean will be expected to help faculty capitalize on those opportunities by strengthening team science, supporting cross-cutting initiatives, and creating pathways for collaboration across medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, public

health, veterinary medicine, engineering, data science, and other fields. Clinical and translational research will be particularly important, requiring close attention to the infrastructure, partnerships, data resources, and institutional relationships that allow discoveries to move from laboratory and computational settings into clinical care and communities.

Strengthen the environment for research faculty

The success of the Medical School's research enterprise ultimately depends on its faculty. The next Vice Dean will need to be a visible and credible advocate for investigators, with particular attention to recruitment, retention, development, infrastructure, and the removal of barriers that impede scientific productivity. This includes helping department chairs and other leaders recruit exceptional researchers, ensuring that faculty have access to strong shared resources and support, and fostering an environment in which investigators at different career stages can thrive. The Vice Dean will also need to help establish realistic expectations about what the institution can support and ensure that commitments to faculty are aligned with available resources and broader School priorities.

Shape the research organization for the future

The transition in research leadership creates an opportunity to reassess how the Vice Dean's portfolio and the Office of Research are structured. Over time, the position has accumulated a broad set of responsibilities, and the next Vice Dean will have meaningful flexibility to evaluate the organization, leadership team, and distribution of responsibilities supporting the research mission. In partnership with the Dean, the Vice Dean will have the opportunity to clarify roles, strengthen the team where needed, and create a structure that allows the position to remain focused on high-level scientific strategy, enterprise development, and faculty success while ensuring that operational and administrative responsibilities are effectively supported.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

While no one candidate will embody all of the desired qualifications, skills, and experiences, the successful candidate will bring many of the following qualifications and personal attributes:

- Nationally recognized scientific stature and a distinguished record of research accomplishment, including a strong history of competitive external funding and sustained scholarly impact; an active research program is preferred but not required.
- An MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent doctoral degree appropriate to the candidate's field, with qualifications for appointment at the rank of professor at UMN Medical School.
- Significant experience in a senior research leadership role within a complex academic medical center, research-intensive medical school, university, institute, or comparable scientific organization.

- A demonstrated transition from leading a successful individual research program to building research capacity at the institutional level, with evidence of impact beyond the candidate's own laboratory, department, or program.
- Demonstrated success fostering interdisciplinary and team-based science across departmental, disciplinary, or organizational boundaries, including experience with major collaborative, center-based, or multi-investigator research efforts.
- Broad understanding of the continuum of biomedical research, including basic, translational, clinical, and population science, and the ability to engage credibly with investigators across these domains.
- A strong record of recruiting, retaining, developing, and supporting outstanding research faculty, together with a deep understanding of the infrastructure, core resources, and institutional conditions necessary for investigators to succeed.
- A sophisticated understanding of the federal biomedical research environment, including major funding agencies, evolving policy and regulatory issues, and the opportunities and risks facing research-intensive institutions.
- Experience developing or supporting a diversified research funding portfolio, including partnerships with industry, foundations, philanthropy, state or public entities, commercialization, or other sources of external investment.
- The ability to represent the research mission effectively to a broad range of audiences, including faculty, institutional leaders, policymakers, legislators, donors, industry partners, and the public, and to communicate complex scientific issues clearly to non-specialist audiences.
- A collaborative, transparent, and highly credible leadership style, with the ability to build trust across disciplines and constituencies, set clear expectations, exercise sound judgment, and make difficult decisions when necessary.
- A strong commitment to faculty success, scientific excellence, integrity, and the educational, clinical, research, service, and land-grant missions of the University of Minnesota.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The Vice Dean for Research will hold a full-time faculty appointment in the University of Minnesota Medical School, with a negotiable share of that effort dedicated to the Vice Dean role. The Vice Dean role is a 12-month, professional and administrative (P&A) appointment based in Minneapolis, held in addition to the faculty appointment. Salary is commensurate with education and experience, with an anticipated salary range of \$345,000 – \$585,000.

The University of Minnesota offers excellent benefits. Please visit the [Office of Human Resources](#) website for more information regarding benefit eligibility.

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-minnesota-medical-school/vice-dean-research>

Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Rebecca Kennedy, Managing Partner
Samuel Ruth, Senior Associate
Mig Bautista, Associate
Cortnee Bollard, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

University of Minnesota Equal Opportunity Statement: The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, familial status, disability, public assistance status, membership or activity in a local commission created for the purpose of dealing with discrimination, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

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

APPENDIX

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota (UMN) is a comprehensive, public, land-grant research university ranked among the world's most respected institutions of higher learning. With five campuses located throughout Minnesota—in the Twin Cities, Duluth, Morris, Crookston, and Rochester—UMN advances education, research, innovation, and public engagement across the state and beyond. The University is a member of the Association of American Universities and has the distinctive position of being both a globally engaged R1 research institution and Minnesota's land-grant university.

UMN is home to more than 4,000 faculty members and more than 68,000 students from all 50 states and 148 countries. Its faculty include Nobel Prize recipients, members of the National Academies and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and recipients of major honors including Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellowships.

The Twin Cities campus advances education, research, and outreach across 17 schools and colleges and benefits from its location within a major metropolitan region that is home to a large concentration of Fortune 500 companies, healthcare organizations, and other major employers. As a comprehensive research university, UMN offers substantial opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration across the health sciences, engineering, biological sciences, public health, data science, agriculture, and many other fields.

UMN plays a particularly important role in Minnesota's health and healthcare workforce. The University trains more than 70 percent of the state's health professionals, and medical and health sciences research accounts for more than \$570 million in externally funded research annually. University of Minnesota Health Sciences brings together education and research across six health sciences schools and supports patient care across the state.

Public engagement is central to UMN's land-grant mission. Through extension, community-partnered research, outreach centers, clinics, field projects, and educational programs, faculty, staff, and students work with communities across Minnesota and beyond. The University has an annual operating budget of approximately \$5.1 billion and an estimated economic impact of \$11.5 billion on the Minnesota economy.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA LEADERSHIP

Rebecca Cunningham, President

Rebecca Cunningham, MD, has served as President of UMN since 2024. A nationally recognized emergency physician and public health researcher, Cunningham came to Minnesota from the University of Michigan, where she served as Vice President for Research and Innovation and Principal Investigator of the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research. Her academic work has focused on injury

prevention, substance use, and firearm injury, and she has led large-scale interdisciplinary research programs supported by federal agencies and foundations.

As President, Cunningham leads the University system and its five campuses, with a focus on public mission, research and innovation, academic excellence, and statewide impact. Her background as both a scientist and senior research administrator gives her particular familiarity with the opportunities and challenges facing research-intensive academic institutions.

Carol R. Bradford, Interim Dean of the Medical School and Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS, joined UMN in February 2026 as Interim Dean of the Medical School and Interim Executive Vice President for Health Affairs. In this dual role, she provides leadership across UMN Medical School and the University's broader health sciences and healthcare enterprise.

An internationally recognized head and neck surgeon-scientist and member of the National Academy of Medicine, Bradford previously served for five years as Dean of The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Vice President for Health Sciences at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. During her tenure, the College of Medicine achieved record levels of extramural research funding, and Bradford helped advance interdisciplinary research, clinical innovation, and new approaches to health sciences education.

Cynthia Carnes, Vice President for Research and Innovation

Cynthia Carnes, PharmD, PhD, joined UMN on July 31, 2026, as Vice President for Research and Innovation and serves as the University's chief research officer. She oversees a research enterprise exceeding \$1.4 billion annually, including sponsored research administration, research development, regulatory and compliance functions, technology commercialization, corporate engagement, and interdisciplinary academic centers and institutes.

Carnes came to Minnesota from The Ohio State University, where she served as Senior Associate Vice President for Research Operations within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge. Her work there included strengthening research systems and operations, improving support for investigators, expanding research training, and developing new approaches to research administration and compliance. A distinguished pharmacologist, Carnes has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and is a fellow of the American Heart Association, Heart Rhythm Society, and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

At Minnesota, Carnes is charged with strengthening the University-wide research enterprise, advancing interdisciplinary collaboration, improving research operations, and expanding partnerships with industry, government, and communities across the state.

ABOUT MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL

The University's flagship Twin Cities campus is in the heart of a dynamic metro area that is a global economic leader, a hub for education and culture, and renowned for its abundant cultural and natural resources. The Minneapolis-St. Paul metro is home to the 4th-largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies in the country as well as thriving entrepreneurial and small-business sectors. Ranked as one of the country's leading "creative economy" communities, the Twin Cities is renowned for its arts and nonprofit sectors, as well as its many lakes and parks and wealth of recreational and entertainment opportunities. Spanning locations in both Minneapolis and St. Paul, the Twin Cities Campus is part of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. It is a place that offers strong work-life balance, low cost of living compared to similarly sized metro areas, and high rates of health coverage – in short, a place that ranks highly in quality of life surveys.