SIU SCHOOL of MEDICINE

Chair of Neurology and Co-Executive Director of the Neuroscience Institute

Southern Illinois University, School of Medicine

Springfield, Illinois

THE SEARCH

Southern Illinois University School of Medicine (SIU SOM) seeks an accomplished and collaborative academic neurologist to serve as its next Chair of Neurology and Co-Executive Director of the SIU Neuroscience Institute (NSI). This is an opportunity to lead a department with strong clinical and educational foundations, an expanding neuroscience research enterprise, and a longstanding commitment to improving health outcomes across central and southern Illinois. The next Chair will join an institution that combines the strengths of academic medicine with a deeply mission-driven approach to patient care, education, research, and service.

Supported by dedicated faculty colleagues, a respected residency program, strong clinical partnerships, and a growing culture of innovation and collaboration, the next Chair will strengthen clinical programs, recruit and develop talent, expand research and clinical trials activity, and further elevate the Department's regional and academic impact. The role is distinguished by a concurrent appointment as Co-Executive Director of the SIU Neuroscience Institute, providing an uncommon opportunity to influence both a department and a broader multidisciplinary neuroscience enterprise. This opportunity calls for a leader energized by building organizations, developing people, and creating lasting institutional impact. The successful candidate will find a collegial environment, a clear mandate for growth, and the opportunity to help shape the future of neurological care, education, and discovery across a large and medically diverse region. More than a departmental leadership appointment, this is a chance to leave a lasting mark on one of the Midwest's most distinctive community-engaged academic medicine enterprises.

The position comes at an especially consequential moment for SIU SOM. Under the leadership of Dr. Ian B. K. Martin, MD, MBA, FACEP, FAAEM, who recently joined the institution as Provost, Dean of SIU School of Medicine, and Chief Executive Officer of SIU Medicine (Provost/Dean/CEO), the School is pursuing an ambitious vision focused on growth and transition across the clinical, research, education, and service missions of the institution. Prior to joining SIU, Dean Martin served as Eminent Scholar, Professor with Tenure, and System Chairman of Emergency Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he also held the roles of Associate Provost and Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Leadership Development. With Southern Illinois University's recent achievement of Research 1 (R1) status, investments in research and clinical growth, and strengthening relationships with key health system partners, this leadership transition creates meaningful opportunities to shape the School's future direction while helping define the next chapter of the Department of Neurology. The Chair of Neurology will play a central role in shaping and advancing that vision.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Founded in 1970 to address critical physician shortages in the region, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine is a nationally recognized public medical school located in Springfield, Illinois, with a mission to optimize the health of the people of central and southern Illinois. Today, SIU SOM is an international leader in medical education innovation, pioneering problem-based learning, standardized patient methodology, and in surgical skills simulation. The School offers a nationally recognized Doctor of Medicine (MD) program built on an innovative, clinically focused curriculum, along with dual-degree opportunities in public health and law, as well as 37 residency and fellowship programs across multiple sites. SIU SOM operates across two primary campuses: Carbondale and Springfield. The Carbondale campus houses the foundational science curriculum and programs such as MEDPREP and the Physician Assistant Program, and Year 1 medical students complete their studies in Carbondale. The Springfield campus serves as the hub for advanced science curriculum, clinical education, graduate medical education, and SIU Medicine's extensive clinical operations. Medical students in Years 2 through 4 complete their education on the Springfield campus. This dual-campus model enables SIU SOM to capitalize on the strengths of both locations, providing students with early clinical exposure, robust research opportunities, and access to diverse patient populations, while maintaining strong community ties to communities throughout central and southern Illinois.

SIU SOM's educational mission is closely connected to its clinical and community-serving enterprise. Through SIU Medicine and partnerships with hospitals, health systems, and community organizations across the region, the School extends academic medicine across a geographically diverse service area. Its extensive network of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) expands access to care in both urban and rural communities throughout central and southern Illinois while providing important training environments for medical students and residents. Programs such as the Lincoln Scholar Program and regional Family Medicine residency programs further reflect SIU's longstanding commitment to addressing physician workforce needs and improving access to care throughout Illinois.

The School is committed to advancing medical knowledge through innovative research that improves health outcomes for individuals and communities. As part of Southern Illinois University's recently achieved R1 designation, the School is positioned among the nation's top research institutions, reflecting its growing capacity for high-impact discovery. SIU also trains the next generation of biomedical scientists through its Multidisciplinary Biomedical & Biological Sciences Graduate Program, which offers MS and PhD pathways across eight areas of study. The interdisciplinary program draws faculty and trainees across SIU's Carbondale, Edwardsville, and Springfield campuses and complements a broader research enterprise spanning neuroscience, cancer biology, population health, translational medicine, and other areas of inquiry. SIU Medicine also conducts clinical trials that bring emerging therapies and treatments directly to patients, connecting scientific discovery to the School's clinical and community-serving missions. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and a strong focus on community health, SIU's research enterprise drives innovation that addresses regional health challenges and informs best practices nationwide.

To learn more about SIU School of Medicine, visit: https://www.siumed.edu/.

SIU Medicine

The School is also home to a multispecialty faculty practice plan with over 300 physicians across a broad range of specialties. These physicians are supported by an interdisciplinary team of healthcare professionals, including advanced practice providers and other members of the clinical care team. SIU Medicine is the clinical practice of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, serving as a cornerstone of health care delivery for central and southern Illinois. With a mission to provide patient-centered, team-based care, SIU Medicine operates a comprehensive network of specialty and primary care clinics, offering advanced treatments and preventive services to diverse communities across the region. Since 2019, the clinical practice has grown 59 percent, attributable primarily to the successful recruitment of new clinicians, increased productivity, and significant improvement in revenue cycle.

Each year, SIU Medicine supports over 430,000 outpatient visits, with clinical services spanning family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN), neurology, psychiatry, surgery, and advanced subspecialties, including cardiology and pulmonology, among others. SIU Medicine also drives community impact through outreach programs and partnerships that address health disparities across a 66-county region.

With the University's recent achievement of R1 status, the School is expanding its research enterprise through the Simmons Cancer Institute and others detailed throughout this document, positioning SIU Medicine as a leader in innovation, education, and care delivery. Supported by a multidisciplinary team of physicians, nurses, and health professionals, the organization emphasizes collaborative care models, integrating education and research to improve outcomes and enhance the patient experience.

SIU Medicine maintains strong, strategic relationships with leading healthcare organizations across central and southern Illinois. Key partners include Memorial Health's Springfield Memorial Hospital and HSHS St. John's Hospital in Springfield, which serve as tertiary care centers and primary teaching hospitals and provide essential clinical training for medical students, residents, and fellows. These partnerships enable SIU Medicine to deliver high-quality, patient-centered care while expanding access to advanced services and fostering collaborative research initiatives. In addition to these flagship affiliates, SIU works closely with community hospitals and clinics throughout the region to address critical health needs, including rural health disparities and population health challenges. Furthermore, SIU Medicine leverages cutting-edge technology and evidence-based practices to deliver care that aligns with the Triple Aim + 1—making healthcare more effective, efficient, equitable, and enjoyable. The clinical enterprise also serves as a vital training ground for medical students and residents, ensuring that future health professionals gain hands-on experience in real-world settings.

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DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

The SIU SOM Department of Neurology provides comprehensive, patient-centered care to individuals with a wide range of neurological conditions across central and southern Illinois. Based in Springfield, the Department plays a vital role in the School's mission as an academic medical center with strong community ties by providing advanced patient care and innovative medical education, conducting state-of-the-art investigative research, and meaningfully engaging with our surrounding communities – while helping address the neurological health needs of a large and diverse region. The Department comprises nearly 70 faculty and staff who support its clinical, educational, research, and administrative missions.

The Department occupies a central position within the neurosciences at SIU. The Chair of Neurology also serves as Co-Executive Director of the SIU Neuroscience Institute alongside the SIU SOM Chair of Psychiatry. The state-designated Institute brings together faculty and clinicians across disciplines to advance multidisciplinary care, research, and education in the neurosciences. Through this leadership role, the Chair has a unique opportunity to help shape the future of the neurosciences across the School of Medicine and the region it serves.

Rooted in SIU's longstanding commitment to community-engaged medical education and patient-centered care, the Department combines the strengths of an academic neurology program with the accessibility and collegiality of a mission-driven institution. Its programs support patients, faculty, learners, and research collaborators while contributing to SIU's broader aspirations in clinical excellence, educational innovation, and scholarly impact.

Clinical Care

The Department of Neurology provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient neurological care through SIU Medicine and its affiliated clinical partners, serving patients throughout central and southern Illinois. Faculty diagnose and treat a broad spectrum of neurological conditions and provide expertise across general neurology and key subspecialty areas, including vascular neurology, epilepsy, movement disorders, memory disorders, neurocritical care, and neuromuscular disease.

Patient care is delivered in close collaboration with Springfield Memorial Hospital, one of the School of Medicine's principal affiliated teaching hospitals and Adult Level 1 Trauma Center, providing an important setting for the regional care of patients with complex and acute neurological conditions. Together, SIU and Memorial support a number of highly specialized programs, including a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center, a Level 4-accredited Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, neurointerventional services, and neurocritical care programs. These programs provide patients with access to advanced neurological services close to home while supporting the Department's educational and scholarly missions. Through the Neuroscience Institute and other partnerships, faculty collaborate across specialties to address complex neurological and neurobehavioral conditions, creating a more integrated experience for patients and families while strengthening the region's neurosciences infrastructure.

As part of SIU Medicine, the Department of Neurology participates in a multispecialty physician enterprise model that connects the Department to a network of hospitals, clinics, federally qualified health centers, and community partners, allowing faculty to extend their impact far beyond Springfield and contribute to SIU's broader mission of improving the health of communities throughout Illinois.

Education

Internationally recognized for its long history of educational innovation, SIU SOM prepares physicians through a model that emphasizes active learning, clinical immersion, and service to the populations of central and southern Illinois. Neurology faculty play an important role in advancing this mission across the continuum of medical education.

The Department contributes to undergraduate medical education through the Neurology Clerkship, elective experiences, and teaching activities integrated throughout the medical school curriculum. Faculty provide clinical instruction, mentorship, and assessment while helping learners develop the knowledge, skills, and professional values required for contemporary neurological practice.

The Department is also home to an ACGME-accredited Neurology Residency Program, which currently trains sixteen residents annually. The program offers broad exposure to inpatient and outpatient neurology, specialized neurological services, interdisciplinary care teams, and a diverse patient population representative of the region. Residents benefit from close interaction with faculty, meaningful clinical responsibilities, and the collegial environment that has long characterized SIU graduate medical education.

Neurology is part of a larger graduate medical education enterprise that includes 37 residency and fellowship programs across a wide range of specialties and subspecialties. This environment fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and provides opportunities for partnerships in education, clinical care, and scholarship across the School of Medicine. Through its educational efforts, the Department seeks not only to prepare exceptional neurologists but also to contribute to the development of future physician leaders, educators, and clinician-scientists.

Research

Research and scholarship are integral to the Department's academic mission and support its commitment to advancing neurological care, improving patient outcomes, and educating future physicians. Faculty participate in basic, clinical, translational, and collaborative research activities while contributing to the scholarly environment of the School of Medicine. The Department also supports research engagement among residents and students, helping to cultivate a culture of inquiry and discovery across all levels of training.

The Department is responsible for supporting and advancing faculty research, identifying opportunities for external funding, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration, and promoting the translation of scientific

discoveries into clinical practice. Clinical research and clinical trials are particularly important areas of activity, providing patients throughout central and southern Illinois access to promising therapies and emerging treatment approaches usually only offered in larger cities like Chicago or St. Louis.

A distinctive departmental asset is the Smith Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment, which supports research, patient care, and community engagement related to Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders. The Chair provides administrative oversight and strategic leadership for the Center, creating opportunities to strengthen connections among clinical care, research, education, and public outreach.

The Department also benefits from the broader research environment of SIU SOM, where faculty engage in neuroscience, translational medicine, population health, cancer biology, implementation science, and other areas of inquiry. As the School continues to expand its research profile and collaborative activities, Neurology is well-positioned to leverage institutional strengths, enhance clinical and translational scholarship, and contribute to discoveries that improve neurological health throughout the region.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR OF NEUROLOGY

The Chair of Neurology serves as the chief academic, clinical, and administrative leader of the Department and is responsible for advancing its missions in patient care, education, research, and service. Reporting to the Provost, Dean of SIU School of Medicine, and Chief Executive Officer of SIU Medicine, the Chair works closely with School of Medicine and SIU Medicine leadership, department chairs, institute directors, faculty, staff, trainees, and affiliated health system partners to advance departmental priorities and contribute to the broader success of the institution. While reporting to the Provost/Dean/CEO, for clinical operations-related matters, the Chair will have accountability to the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SIU Medicine.

The Department comprises approximately 23 faculty members and clinicians, 16 residents, and 45 staff, with an annual operating budget of approximately $13.6M and annual clinical revenue of approximately $6.6M. The Chair provides strategic and operational oversight of all departmental activities, including faculty affairs, recruitment and retention, clinical operations, budgeting and resource allocation, educational programs, research development, and external partnerships. The Chair serves as the Department's principal advocate and spokesperson within the School of Medicine, SIU Medicine, and the broader community.

The Chair oversees the Department's educational enterprise, including undergraduate medical education and the ACGME-accredited Neurology Residency Program, while supporting faculty development, mentorship, and scholarly achievement. The Chair also works to strengthen the Department's research portfolio, clinical trials activity, extramural grant support, and interdisciplinary collaborations across the neurosciences. The Chair will maintain an active clinical practice, providing patient care while remaining closely connected to the Department’s clinical mission and the work of its faculty and trainees. The Chair is expected to maintain a visible and engaged presence within the Department, foster productive

relationships across SIU and its affiliated partners, and contribute as a senior leader to institutional initiatives that advance the missions of SIU School of Medicine and SIU Medicine.

A distinctive feature of the position is the Chair's concurrent appointment as Co-Executive Director of the SIU Neuroscience Institute (NSI), a state-designated interdisciplinary institute that brings together Neurology, Psychiatry, Neurosurgery, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and affiliated clinical partners to advance neurological and behavioral health care across the region. In this capacity, the Chair partners with the Chair of Psychiatry and Co-Executive Director of the Institute to provide strategic leadership for the NSI, working across departmental and organizational boundaries to strengthen clinical programs, interdisciplinary collaboration, education, and research. The Co-Executive Directors also lead the Institute's Steering Committee and participate in strategic planning and coordination with Memorial Health and other clinical partners, helping align institutional priorities and advance a more integrated neurosciences enterprise. Both Co-Executive Directors of the NSI report to the Dean.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE CHAIR

Galvanize the Department Around a Clear Vision and Renewed Sense of Purpose

The next Chair will join a department with meaningful clinical and educational strengths that is poised for a new chapter of growth and development. Following a period of leadership transition and interim direction, there is an opportunity to establish a clear vision for the future, strengthen organizational alignment, and build momentum across the Department's clinical, educational, and research missions. Success will require a visible, collaborative leader who communicates effectively, establishes priorities, and fosters a culture in which faculty, staff, and learners are empowered to contribute and succeed. The Chair will have the opportunity to reinforce the Department's identity as a destination for academic neurologists, trainees, and staff while further strengthening the collegiality, accountability, and sense of shared purpose that underpin its success.

Recruit, Retain, and Develop the Faculty and Staff Needed to Meet the Region's Neurological Needs

Expanding and supporting the Department's workforce represents one of the most critical priorities for the next Chair. Additional faculty and staff capacity will be essential to advancing the Department's clinical, educational, and research ambitions while ensuring a sustainable environment for faculty, learners, and staff. The next Chair will develop and execute a thoughtful strategy for recruitment, retention, and professional development across all faculty tracks. This work includes strengthening mentorship, supporting professional development and career advancement, cultivating future leaders, and leveraging SIU's educational, research, and clinical programs to attract exceptional talent. By investing in people and creating an environment in which faculty and staff can thrive, the Chair will position the Department for growth, success, and enduring impact.

Expand Access, Strengthen Clinical and Financial Performance, and Sustain Excellence in Patient Care

Demand for neurological care continues to outpace available capacity across much of the nation, and SIU is no exception. The Department possesses important clinical strengths, including advanced stroke services, a Level 4 Epilepsy Monitoring Unit, growing neurosciences programs, and strong clinical partnerships, all of which provide a solid foundation for future growth. The next Chair will enhance patient access, optimize clinical operations, strengthen referral relationships, and support continued growth across the Department's clinical enterprise. Central to this work will be strengthening the Department's financial performance by aligning resources with strategic priorities, improving clinical productivity and efficiency, and developing sustainable growth strategies. Achieving these goals will require thoughtful workforce planning, operational leadership, and close collaboration with SIU Medicine, Memorial Health, and other partners. Success will be measured not only by growth but also by improved access, exceptional patient experiences, and high-quality outcomes.

Bolster the Residency and Reinforce Education as a Defining Departmental Strength

Clinical excellence and education have long been among the Department's greatest strengths. Working closely with faculty educators and residency leadership, the next Chair will strengthen the resident experience, invest in educational innovation, support faculty teaching efforts, and ensure that learners remain central to the Department's priorities. The Chair will also be well-positioned to explore future opportunities for fellowship development and other educational initiatives that enhance the Department's academic profile and create valuable recruitment pathways.

There is an exciting opportunity for collaboration with a newly planned rehabilitation hospital. This includes development of a new Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation residency program as well as a new division of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation in the Department of Neurology.

Partner Broadly to Further Integrate the Neurosciences Enterprise

The Department is uniquely positioned to play a leading role in shaping the future of neurological care and the broader neurosciences across the region. As Chair of Neurology and Co-Executive Director of the Neuroscience Institute, the successful candidate will drive further collaboration among Neurology, Psychiatry, Neurosurgery, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and other partners while advancing a more coordinated approach to patient care, education, and research. Building on recent progress in areas such as stroke care, epilepsy services, neuro-intervention, and interdisciplinary collaboration, the next Chair can help define and execute a cohesive strategy for the neurosciences that enhances patient outcomes, strengthens institutional partnerships, and expands SIU's impact throughout Central and Southern Illinois.

Develop a Focused Research and Clinical Trials Strategy

SIU's growing research enterprise, recent R1 designation, and commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration create meaningful opportunities for the Department to strengthen its research impact.

Existing assets, including the Smith Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment and ongoing work across a range of neurological conditions, provide a sturdy foundation for future growth. Rather than pursuing research expansion for its own sake, the next Chair will develop a focused strategy that aligns with the Department's clinical strengths and institutional priorities. A key priority for the new Chair includes increasing extramural grant support – particularly from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). By supporting faculty scholarship, expanding clinical trial activity, fostering cross-disciplinary collaboration, and identifying targeted areas of distinction, the Chair can enhance the Department's academic profile while advancing discoveries that improve patient care and community health.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

This position requires a collaborative, clinically grounded, and institution-minded leader with the vision, competence, experience, judgment, and interpersonal skills to inspire confidence and build consensus across a complex academic and clinical enterprise. The next Chair must be an effective relationship-builder who brings transparency, accountability, and a strong sense of shared purpose, while fostering a culture in which faculty, staff, and learners can thrive. The successful candidate will possess the strategic leadership, operational, financial, and business acumen, and communication skills necessary to guide the Department through its next chapter of growth and development while advancing the missions of the Department, the Neuroscience Institute, and SIU School of Medicine.

The successful candidate must have an MD, MD/PhD, or equivalent degree, board certification in Neurology, eligibility for medical licensure in Illinois, and credentials commensurate with appointment at the rank of Professor. He or she will bring a distinguished record of clinical, educational, and scholarly achievement, along with demonstrated experience leading programs, developing people, managing budgets, and building productive partnerships across academic medicine. While no single individual will embody every quality listed below, SIU SOM seeks the following in the next Chair of Neurology:

- Demonstrated success leading academic, clinical, and/or administrative programs in a department, division, center, institute, or comparable setting.
- Experience recruiting, retaining, mentoring, and developing faculty and trainees.
- A history of effective administrative and fiscal leadership, including experience managing people, finances, and other resources as well as organizational priorities.
- The ability to articulate a clear vision and build consensus around shared goals.
- Excellent interpersonal, communication, and relationship-building skills, with the capacity to engage effectively with faculty, staff, trainees, institutional leaders, health-system partners, and community stakeholders.
- Demonstrated commitment to medical education and the development of learners across all stages of training.
- The ability to foster a culture of collaboration, collegiality, accountability, and mutual respect.
- Experience building productive partnerships across departments, institutions, and clinical affiliates.

- An appreciation for the opportunities and challenges of serving a diverse patient population and commitment to ensuring that clinical, educational, and research programs are responsive to the needs of the communities SIU serves.
- The sound judgment, emotional intelligence, and ethical integrity to lead transparently, earn trust, and advance the broader interests of the Department, the Neuroscience Institute, and SIU School of Medicine.

COMPENSATION AND LOCATION

The anticipated compensation range for this position is $500,000 to $600,000 annually, commensurate with the candidate's qualifications, experience, clinical specialty, and other relevant factors.

Springfield is the capital city of Illinois and home to more than 110,000 residents, placing individuals and institutions at the center of state government and public policy. As the seat of the governor, General Assembly, and numerous state agencies, Springfield offers unmatched access to legislative processes, policy development, and civic engagement that shape the lives of Illinoisans statewide. As the sixth-largest city in Illinois, Springfield is more than the historic home of Abraham Lincoln: it is a culturally and ethnically diverse, mid-sized city with a welcoming, unpretentious atmosphere that encourages collaboration among policymakers, advocates, educators, and community leaders. Beyond government, Springfield supports a vibrant quality of life. The city features a lively arts and cultural community, including local theaters, galleries, music venues, festivals, and museums that contribute to a dynamic civic landscape. Springfield also has a strong youth sports culture, with well-developed school, park district, and community-based programs that promote teamwork, health, and leadership for young people and families. Springfield combines the affordability and livability of the Midwest with exceptional connectivity to major metropolitan hubs. Chicago and St. Louis are both easily accessible by rail, with five daily trains serving each city, or by car—approximately three hours (190 miles) to Chicago and 90 minutes (90 miles) to St. Louis. This strategic location allows residents and organizations to engage in statewide policy work while maintaining strong ties to regional and national centers of commerce, research, and innovation.

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/southern-illinois-university-school-medicine/chair-neurology. Electronic submission of materials is required.

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Isaacson, Miller

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