



UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA

Driven to Discover®



**Director and Endowed Chair, Stem Cell Institute
University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

THE SEARCH

[The University of Minnesota Medical School](#) (UMMS) seeks an innovative, driven leader to oversee the school's [Stem Cell Institute](#) (SCI). This is a priority research area for the Medical School with strong faculty and staff, a robust research program, and growing visibility locally and nationally. The successful candidate will be at the cutting edge of science and have a vision for the future of stem cell biology and its translation to the clinic. They will be strategic, collaborative, and unafraid to harness the potential in the SCI. The new director will hold an endowed chair.

Founded more than 20 years ago, the SCI uses stem cell biology to change the practice of medicine through discovery, education, and translation. The researchers and faculty of the SCI explore the science of stem cell biology with the purposes of responding to the medical needs of today and educating the researchers of tomorrow. The SCI brings together researchers from 25 departments across campus, encouraging collaboration across disciplines to advance the discovery and translation of stem cells and regenerative medicine. The SCI is a leader in hematopoietic stem cells, cancer stem cells and therapeutics, and induced pluripotent stem cells, with particular strength in skeletal muscle, cardiac, and neural stem cell biology.

The next director will serve as the face of the SCI, developing and executing a shared vision for the growth and success of the institute. The director will work with departmental leadership across the UMMS campus to recruit scientists and physician scientists to join the talented faculty already producing impactful research. The director will serve as a mentor and resource to SCI faculty, providing guidance and support. The director will also increase the visibility of the SCI locally, nationally, and internationally, presenting at conferences, building partnerships, and ensuring that the SCI is a resource for anyone interested in stem cell biology. The director will leverage these successes into maintaining and growing the funding for the SCI, including fundraising, government advocacy, and spearheading large research and training grants for the SCI.

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEDICAL SCHOOL

UMMS was founded in 1888 and is responsible for training 70% of Minnesota's physicians across its two campuses. UMMS is one of the largest medical schools in the United States, offering medical, graduate, and undergraduate degree programs and conducting \$226 million in sponsored research in 2020. With 10 centers and 27 departments, UMMS boasts strong research programs across basic and translational areas while conducting over 500 clinical trials. The medical school is a national leader in primary care physician training, rural physician training, and Native American physician training. Clinicians practice at sites across the greater Minneapolis metro region, including M Health Fairview, the University of Minnesota Medical Center, the University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital, and University of Minnesota Cancer Care, among others.

UMMS is led by Dean and Vice President for Clinical Affairs Jakub Tolar, MD, PhD. Dr. Tolar is an international expert in recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, and he maintains his research program on hematopoietic stem cell transplantation as a treatment for rare genetic diseases. Dr. Tolar previously served as the Executive Dean of the Medical School and the Director of the Stem Cell Institute. Dr. Tolar also serves as the Campus Public Health Officer, the Board Chair for the University of Minnesota Physicians, and he is the Co-Lead for the M Health Fairview Joint Clinical Enterprise.

THE STEM CELL INSTITUTE

UMMS is home to the first academic stem cell institute in the United States, established in 1999. The SCI brings together over 50 investigators from across the university with an emphasis on basic and translational studies, focused on the hematopoietic system, cardiovascular system, nervous system, musculoskeletal system, and integumentary system. The SCI occupies space in the McGuire Translational Research Facility, where it also operates an innovation core that hosts a biobusiness incubator, robotics facility, and iPSC core with gene editing capabilities. The institute is affiliated with a large-scale cell processing facility. The SCI offers a Master's program in Stem Cell Biology and sponsors a graduate student scholars program. The Institute receives support from the Minnesota State Legislature, who in 2014 authorized 10 years of support for stem cell research in the state with an annual budget of over \$4 million.

THE ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR

The director serves as the voice of the Stem Cell Institute, acting as an advocate, educator, and thought leader for the SCI. The director oversees the stem cell biology research program, recruiting and mentoring faculty, administering the budget, and growing the resources of the SCI. The director will seek out new opportunities to expand revenues in the SCI via fundraising, grants, and strategic partnerships. The director will also ensure that the SCI remains the leading source of information for the community on stem cell research and therapeutics.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Set a strategic vision for the Stem Cell Institute.

For over 20 years, the SCI has served as the hub of stem cell research for the University of Minnesota. In that span, the SCI has fostered a world-class research portfolio, designed education programs to advance expertise in stem cell biology, and created a biobusiness incubator to advance research into the clinical setting. As the SCI enters its third decade, the next Director will continue this tradition of pushing the boundaries of discovery, education, and translation, leading a shared vision for the growth and success of the SCI.

Collaborate with departmental leadership to recruit and mentor faculty.

The director will have the opportunity to recruit faculty to the SCI. The director will work closely with department chairs to bring in junior and senior faculty to UMMS. With open, modern lab space and access to research cores and resources, the director will capitalize on the strengths of the SCI to recruit top talent to the institute. The director will also serve as a mentor to faculty, providing guidance and support to faculty and researchers at all levels of experience.

Maintain and develop the Stem Cell Institute's international, national, and local identity as a leader in basic stem cell research and its translational into interventions.

As the first academic stem cell institute in the United States, the University of Minnesota SCI maintains a reputation as a leader in basic and translational stem cell research. The director serves as the face of the SCI, representing UMMS and the SCI at conferences, meetings, and other events. The next director will build upon the reputation of the SCI and champion the innovative research coming from the institute. The next director will also be visible in the local community, working with civic and business leaders to promote the important work being done at the SCI.

Ensure the long-term financial health of the Stem Cell Institute.

The SCI receives financial support from the School of Medicine and from the state of Minnesota. The next director will advocate for continued state funding beyond 2024 and diversify revenue streams for the SCI. The director will work with development experts for fundraising and will build partnerships with major companies in the Twin Cities region that are interested in expanding their portfolios into stem cell and regenerative medicine. The director will also encourage and lead the submission of grant applications to expand the research and education missions of the SCI.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate will bring a strategic vision for the growth of the SCI and dedication to the field of regenerative medicine. While no single candidate will have all the qualifications, the search committee seeks candidates with a well-rounded combination of the following abilities:

Essential Qualifications

- Medical degree (MD or equivalent) or PhD degree in a relevant discipline.
- Eligible for appointment at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor.
- Outstanding scholarship in regenerative medicine field(s).
- Demonstrated record in faculty, trainee, and student mentorship and teaching.
- Demonstrated record of leadership and achievement in academic medicine, as evidenced by an excellent track-record of federal funding, experience in leading significant single or multi-site research programs, and success in recruiting exceptional clinical and/or bench scientists.

Preferred Qualifications

- Strong visionary, inspirational leader who can develop and communicate a long-term vision for the advancement of the SCI and is equally skilled at developing and operating a detailed plan to achieve that vision.
- Highly approachable and compassionate; a record of promoting a culture of innovation, collaboration, teamwork, respect, and honesty; professional and personal demeanor characterized by integrity, graciousness, sincerity, and a passion for the organization's mission and objectives.
- Exceptionally team-oriented; skilled at working well and partnering with providers across a large, complex organization and community.
- Highly adept and at ease managing the day-to-day operational details with the ability to be decisive, to conceptualize and analyze complex business opportunities, and oversee multiple projects.
- Demonstrated experience in recruiting, retaining, and mentoring a diverse and highly skilled cadre of faculty and/or students.
- Demonstrated track record of growing research platforms and contributing towards high-impact publications, grant awards, and meaningful science.
- Demonstrated commitment to promoting diversity.
- Experience working with legislators, community leaders, and philanthropic partners.
- The ability to effectively represent the SCI, Medical School and University of Minnesota in the regional, national and international communities.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of interest and a current resume or curriculum vitae to be considered for the position. Confidential inquiries, nominations, and application materials should be directed to: www.imsearch.com/8456

Stephanie Fidel, Partner
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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 is available in alternative formats upon request.

Appendix

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota was founded in 1851 and is an AAU and R1 public research university that is ranked among the world's most renowned institutions of higher learning and one of the most preeminent research universities in the United States. The University has scholars of national and international reputation and continues to advance discovery and innovation to improve the lives of Minnesotans and beyond. The flagship Twin Cities campus has the special distinction of being both a globally engaged R1 institution and Minnesota's land-grant university, and the Twin Cities campus is one of the few major land-grant research institutions situated in a major metropolitan area.

The University has an annual operating budget of \$4.2 billion a year and generates an economic impact of \$9 billion for the Minnesota economy. The University, the state's sixth-largest employer, has over 27,000 faculty and staff; it enrolls 65,000 students from 130 countries – 52,000 on the flagship Twin Cities campus, and has over half a million alumni living around the world. The University of Minnesota has schools and colleges in the fields of biological sciences; liberal arts; dentistry; design; education and human development; food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences; law; engineering; medicine; nursing; public affairs; public health; and veterinary medicine. The University averages over \$1 billion in research expenditures annually and is in the top 10 among public universities. The University of Minnesota is home to 19 members of the National Academy of Sciences and 13 members of the National Academy of Medicine. The University consistently advances the land-grant mission and is committed to integrating public engagement into the advancement of learning, research, and discovery.

The Board of Regents approved the system-wide strategic plan, [MPact 2025](#), in July of 2020. This plan reflects the system's deepened commitment to research, teaching, service, open access to opportunity, and forward-thinking innovations to advance the University's land-grant mission and impact the world.

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Joan T. A. Gabel is the 17th president of the University of Minnesota and its first woman president in the University's 167-year history. Gabel comes to Minnesota after serving as the executive vice president for academic affairs and provost at the University of South Carolina. Previously, she served as dean of the University of Missouri's Trulaske College of Business for five years. While at Missouri, Gabel was named a "shining star" by the Wall Street Journal and is the recipient of numerous awards. Under her leadership, the U of M has undertaken its first system-wide strategic plan designed to serve students in the classroom and beyond; drive research and solutions that impact the world; advance equity, diversity, and community; amplify the University's outreach and engagement efforts; improve fundraising; and cultivate efficiency and transparency.