Yale SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Search for the Center Director, Positron Emission Tomography Research Center
Yale School of Medicine
New Haven, Connecticut

THE SEARCH

Yale University's School of Medicine seeks an exceptional leader to serve as the next Center Director of the Positron Emission Tomography (PET) Research Center. The Center Director will have the opportunity to expand on the success of the PET Research Center by driving ambitious nuclear and molecular imaging research agendas and collaborating with faculty, clinicians, technicians, and students across the Yale School of Medicine. Reporting to the Deputy Dean for Clinical and Translational Research and the Chair of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, the Center Director will be a key member of the leadership for the School of Medicine at Yale.

Established in 2004, the PET Research Center is focused on creating a collaborative molecular imaging research environment to advance the interests of Yale clinicians and scientists; to provide educational opportunities for undergraduate students, doctoral candidates, and post-doctoral trainees; and to develop new PET radiopharmaceuticals to advance disease diagnosis and medication discovery. It is an impressive state-of-the-art 22,000-square-foot facility located on Howard Avenue in New Haven, with close proximity to other Yale School of Medicine departments.

The PET Research Center is comprised of a technologically advanced radiochemistry laboratory engaged in the development and use of a rich set of PET radiopharmaceuticals labeled with the most common PET isotopes (11C, 15O, 13N, and 18F) and an imaging and data analysis section that oversees scanning procedures and optimizes data acquisition and analysis. The PET Research Center has grown over time to include approximately 55 clinician scientists, basic scientists, technicians, and students. A key part of the School of Medicine, the Yale University PET Research Center collaborates broadly across departments to provide educational opportunities for doctoral and postdoctoral trainees. Collaborations with industry partners serve to advance the use of molecular imaging in new medication discovery and the development of new PET radiopharmaceuticals. Current research interests focus on disorders of the central nervous system (CNS), oncology, cardiology, and diabetes.

Yale University School of Medicine has retained the national search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in the recruitment of the PET Center Director. Applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed using the contact information at the end of this document.

YALE PET RESEARCH CENTER

A world leader in PET development, the Yale PET Research Center has enjoyed unprecedented success since its inception in 2004 and is now one of the largest research facilities of its type in the country. The Center consists of over 20,000 square feet of dedicated PET research space and includes the following resources:

- Whole body PET CT System (Siemens mCT)
- Whole body PET CT (Siemens Vision)
- Dedicated brain scanner (Siemens HRRT, 104 rings, 207 slices)
- Four small animal PET scanners (3 Focus 220, 1 Inveon)
- GE PETtrace Cyclotron
- Radiotracer chemistry laboratory with 12 hot cells
- Blood/Metabolite analysis lab

The Radiology & Biomedical Imaging Department has recently further embarked on a $10.2 million dollar project to replace the HRRT with a state-of-the-art NeuroExplorer Unit. This collaborative initiative between Yale, the University of California – Davis, and United Imaging Healthcare of America, with partial funding from the NIH, will result in a scanner capable of sub 2 mm resolution as well as carotid artery analyses. The unit will dramatically expand the scope of brain PET protocols/applications and will provide ultra-high performance human brain PET imaging.

The PET Research Center currently includes eight tenure-track faculty members, 16 post-docs and post-graduate students, and 29 staff members along with a variable number of graduate students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering within the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Science. Current areas of concentrated research include Alzheimer's disease, opiate use disorder, alcoholism, Parkinson's disease, and the design of motion correction algorithms. The Center supports around 70 NIH grants. The Center performs just shy of 1,000 PET scans per year utilizing a variety of novel tracers. In addition to use by faculty in Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, other major users include the Departments of Psychiatry, Psychology, the Cancer Center, and Neuroscience in addition to users from outside Yale.

More information about PET research and publications at Yale can be found at: https://medicine.yale.edu/pet/research/publications/

Recognizing both its growth and cross-university mission, the PET Research Center is transitioning from a department-based Center to a Yale School of Medicine Core Facility.

ROLE OF THE CENTER DIRECTOR

The Center Director will lead the research mission for PET imaging, developing a strategic plan for furthering the excellence of the Center. This includes fostering an innovative program of grant-funded research, building collaborations with the pharmaceutical industry and other industry stakeholders, developing the next generation of PET scientists at Yale, and promoting collaborations between the PET faculty and trainees throughout the University. This position will report to the Yale School of Medicine Deputy Dean for Clinical and Translational Research and to the Chair of Radiology. As the leader of the Center, the Director will be entrusted with the administrative and fiscal management of the Center. They will have the opportunity to develop a support role for specific oversight of the administrative work of the PET Research Center. With a fiscal move out of a clinical department and into the School of Medicine directly, there will be a number of transitions to oversee. It is typical for a PET Research Center not attached to a hospital to run a deficit, but the Director should identify revenue-generating opportunities through scientific collaborations and steward University and Hospital resources responsibly.

Key opportunities and challenges for the role include:

Expand and build upon research excellence

The Center Director will serve as the scientific director and visionary leader of the PET Research Center. The Director will be at the helm of the scientific and research mission of the organization and will seek opportunities to strengthen the existing research excellence of the Center. The Director will work towards expanding the breadth of research in the PET Research Center and will guide a research trajectory that establishes new PET core foci. This will involve reaching out to engage faculty from different departments and to explore new opportunities for collaboration.

Yale's School of Medicine is complex and broad in scope, and the new Director will need to understand and cultivate partnerships throughout. As the PET Research Center transitions from the Department of Radiology to a central School of Medicine core, maintaining strong relationships with departments and units across the School of Medicine has never been more important. Looking at areas such as the Wu Tsai Institute, the Cancer Center, and other basic sciences, the Director will help to unify efforts around medical research through PET imaging.

Lead and enhance PET faculty and staff

The Director will provide leadership for faculty, including the mentoring of junior and non-tenure track faculty partnering with the Center, with an emphasis on career development and faculty recruitment. Working closely with department chairs to better align the needs of the Center, the Director will create opportunities for strategic hires across the School of Medicine. Yale aims not only to recruit faculty, trainees, and staff from diverse backgrounds – it must actively promote a culture of equity and inclusion. Partnership with the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion will be key to ensure a data-driven approach that centers belonging in the efforts to ensure that DEI is part of the Center's everyday work.

Establish a strategic plan for the Center and promote transparency in process

The Center Director will develop and augment a strategic plan for evolving success in PET imaging that involves a collaborative vision with other departments across the University, aligning research teams with a focus on basic physiology, pathophysiology, other imaging modalities, and other sciences. While the Center Director will focus on the scientific leadership and vision of the PET Research Center, they will also have the opportunity to develop a Core Director role. The Core Director will see to the administrative oversight of the organization, including financial and regulatory oversight. Together with this newly created role, the Director will ensure that financial resources, space, and access to equipment are stewarded respectfully and equitably.

The next Director will use a combination of data and relationship building to develop an understanding of the current state of the Center and work with stakeholders to develop a clear vision for the future. The Director will need to be intellectually curious themselves to understand the breadth, depth, and possibilities of a PET Research Center. Unique in not having a clinical practice, there is a wealth of opportunity for the Center to continue to make an impact not only on Yale, but in the field of PET research broadly.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

This position requires a leader with broad intellectual insights, strategic vision, an eye for collaboration, emotional intelligence, and strong leadership and managerial acumen. The desired qualifications and experience of an ideal Center Director include the following:

- A nationally recognized research program
- Knowledge and leadership experience in radiochemistry or PET-related imaging in the fields of cancer, neuroscience, or inflammation
- The ability to develop strategic opportunities and innovative partnerships; success in program building that integrates and leverages diverse disciplines, approaches, and interests
- Demonstrable success in fostering and supporting programs that promote inclusion and diversity
- Strong and demonstrated desire and commitment to broadly engage the university community and to collaborate with others; ability to lead through influence
- An outstanding record of effectively managing people; a strong team orientation; high emotional intelligence along with a willingness to circulate widely and listen well
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including the ability to speak to and interact with scientists spanning multiple fields of science and medicine
- Proven professional accomplishment in a complex environment; financial management skills and the ability to identify and leverage multiple revenue streams
- Uncompromising standards of excellence
- An MD, MD/PhD, or PhD in a related field; rank will be commensurate with experience

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

Yale School of Medicine has retained the national executive search firm Isaacson, Miller to assist in this search. All inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications should be sent in confidence to:

Ariannah Mirick, Partner
Joanna Cook, Managing Associate
Isaacson, Miller
Boston, Massachusetts
https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/S8-584

To be ensured full consideration, interested parties should also submit a curriculum vitae and supporting materials for the Search Committee's review to: apply.interfolio.com/109991

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APPENDIX A

YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Founded in 1810, Yale School of Medicine (YSM) is one of the oldest medical schools in the country and a leading institution for biomedical research, education, and advanced clinical care. YSM's standing rests on its impressive history of attracting top-tier scientists in both the basic science and clinical departments, a prized medical education system that prioritizes self-directed learning, and a close partnership with the Yale New Haven Health System for clinical care. YSM currently enrolls 1,554 students and is home to 3,792 staff. There are more than 3,000 YSM faculty, and the number of basic science department faculty has grown steadily with significant investment, from 149 in 2010 to 172 in 2020. The number of clinical faculty has increased rapidly over the same time period, from 1,086 to 1,642.

Faculty, staff, and students at YSM have invested significant time and effort envisioning the community they seek: a school and clinical practice that serves a wide audience, building a culture of engagement and a commitment to community service, all delivered by a diverse and inclusive community. YSM hired its first Deputy Dean for Diversity and Inclusion in 2017 following an extensive conversation led by the Dean and all sectors of the School. The School has a broadly representative Committee on Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice and has built formal connections with the Minority Organization for Retention and Expansion (MORE) and the Committee on the Status of Women in Medicine (SWIM). Diversity, equity, and inclusion are areas of fundamental focus for the School. Increasing student diversity has been an important objective of YSM, and today 49 percent of students are women and 27 percent are from underrepresented groups. In 2021, YSM updated its strategic plan around diversity to include goals related to recruitment, retention, and inclusion across the School as well as within individual departments and programs. Some of the key initiatives include coaching for junior faculty, using a data-centered approach to assess publications and grants across various faculty groups, and enhancing collaboration with the Minority Organization for Retention and Expansion.

The School is home to many of the PhD programs in Yale's combined program in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) and to a host of joint degree programs with other Yale schools, reflecting the highly interdisciplinary tradition of the university. Roughly 25 percent of the MD students are admitted into the highly selective combined MD/PhD degree program. YSM is also one of four founding sites for the inter-professional National Clinician Scholar Program which trains early-career physicians through clinical and health services research. The university leadership's commitment to enhancing science at Yale, coupled with the close proximity of YSM to the main campus and the collaborative and collegial environment for research, galvanizes interdisciplinary research across the university. Yale's "West Campus," located about 7 miles from New Haven, is organized into research institutes and core facilities designed to promote collaboration and interdisciplinary dialogue.

In terms of budgets, The School of Medicine's FY20 operating income was $2.0 billion. A total of $668.47 million in sponsored research funding was received and spent during the fiscal year. Clinical income totaled $1.06 billion. Dr. Nancy J. Brown, MD joined the campus community in 2020 to serve as Dean. Under her leadership, YSM is formulating ambitious priorities and making critical investments.

Yale has nurtured its science, and science is particularly strong at the School of Medicine, with many joint appointments across the full Yale campus. Yale has 62 members belonging to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), 53 members belonging to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) or both the NAS and the NAM, and eight HHMI Investigators. Total sponsored research funding at YSM in 2021 was $766.4

million. Approximately two-thirds of total sponsored research expenditures are from clinical departments, with the remaining third coming from the basic sciences. The School has an enduring affiliation with Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS)—which includes five hospitals: Yale New Haven (home of the Smilow Cancer Center), Bridgeport, Greenwich, Lawrence + Memorial, and Westerly—and with Yale New Haven Children's Hospital. Since 1996, this partnership has linked the exemplary research and clinical missions and reputation of YSM with the ambitious clinical missions and reputation of YNHHS. Clinical investigation at YSM bridges the basic and translational sciences and the practice of medicine and has transformed treatments for patients. The School sponsors a wide range of clinical trials, with more than 1,868 active trials in 2020 enrolling more than 11,000 volunteers and 27,000 trial subjects. Engagement in clinical trials is a relatively recent focus for YSM, and this activity has grown by nearly 7 times since 2007. Clinical investigations are strongly encouraged by the School and the Health System and is fostered by their pharmaceutical and biotech partners.

In the large and complex organizational structure and partnership among Yale University, YSM, and YNNHS, a clear sense of shared governance is important. There are several governing bodies relevant to YSM. Among these, the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) provides a forum for a diverse group of about 55 departmental representatives to bring new ideas and concerns from a broad range of faculty to the YSM dean's office. Governance of YSM also benefits from formal input from MORE and SWIM.

Yale School of Medicine educates an ambitious, academically strong, and service-driven student body. In AY21, the School educated 550 MD students, 143 MD/PhD students, 17 MD/MHS students, and 13 MD/MBA students. All told, the School has a just over 1,500 students throughout its programs.