



**Chair, Department of Biostatistics (BST)
School of Public Health
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) seeks a dynamic and collaborative leader to serve as the Chair of the Department of Biostatistics within the School of Public Health (SOPH). As a top 20 public health program, partnered with one of the nation's most powerful academic medical enterprises, the Department of Biostatistics (BST) develops innovative statistical methodologies to investigate health trends among populations. Home to the school's largest data coordinating center, the Department of Biostatistics offers unparalleled opportunities for research in several areas including spatial statistics, bioinformatics, statistical genetics, machine learning, causal inference, and clinical trials.

The next Chair will provide a strategic vision to sustain and strengthen a department that has experienced remarkable growth and to leverage unique opportunities for research, teaching, and service within the SOPH, the School of Medicine, and other collaborations across campus. As a leader within the SOPH, the Chair will recruit and support the Department's talented faculty and staff and will devise mentorship and professional development pathways to cultivate and retain them. The Chair will champion BST's work across the Schools of Public Health and Medicine and will advocate for resources to ensure the sustainability of the Department. Relatedly, the Chair will advance signature partnerships with other units across UAB to foster further interdisciplinary collaborations, thereby promoting the mission of creating positive and lasting change. Finally, the Chair will tirelessly advocate for BST's talented graduate students, ensuring their enduring connection to the Department through opportunities for research, mentorship, and community-building.

The successful candidate will have a doctoral degree in Biostatistics or a related field and a record of scholarly accomplishments, administrative acumen, and teaching experience to warrant appointment at the rank of Professor with tenure. The Chair will need to have strong management capabilities to lead a department that includes 23 FTE faculty members and 46 FTE staff with extramural funding from the NIH, PCORI, and the Department of Defense, and which offers four degree programs (MS, MSPH, DrPH, and PhD). The total departmental budget, exclusive of extramural funding, approaches \$2.5 million.

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

[The University of Alabama at Birmingham](#)

Driven by an intensely collaborative and entrepreneurial character, UAB is one of the leading economic and intellectual engines of the State of Alabama, with a nearly \$4 billion budget and a statewide economic impact exceeding \$7 billion annually. UAB is Alabama's largest employer with more than 26,000 employees; it supports more than 64,000 jobs statewide. UAB received nearly \$849 million in research

grants and awards for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2021, with the university ranking 8th in NIH funding among all public universities. Faculty, staff, and students represent 100+ countries, and diversity and inclusiveness are at the very core of the institution.

The mission of the UAB is to serve students, patients, the community, and the global need for discovery, knowledge dissemination, education, creativity, and the application of groundbreaking solutions. Ranked among the top 8% of universities worldwide, UAB remains a formidable academic institution with broad partnerships on a regional, national, and global scale. Today, UAB is a comprehensive urban university with a nationally recognized academic health center. UAB is the only public, four-year degree-granting university in the state's largest metropolitan area. UAB is the largest research institution in the state of Alabama and is the largest single employer in the state.

For more information about the University of Alabama at Birmingham, please visit: <https://www.uab.edu>

The School of Public Health

Founded in 1978, the UAB School of Public Health has grown to 75 full-time faculty and 1100 students. In 2021, the School received \$37 million in research grants and contracts and ranked 19th in NIH funding among all schools of public health. Diversity is one of the school's values and strengths, with 45% of students identifying as a member of an underrepresented racial/ethnic group and 16% identifying as first-generation college students. Diversity is also one of the core values of the Department of Biostatistics and is essential to achieving excellence in research and education. In 2020, the SOPH received the Health Professions Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education.

The SOPH's mission is to make positive and lasting change in the public's health through the pursuit of excellence in scholarship, teaching, and service to the larger community. The SOPH consistently boasts more than \$30 million annually in research funding, with roughly half coming from the NIH. Industry, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and Alabama Medicaid are also significant sponsors of SOPH research efforts. The SOPH offers master's and doctoral programs in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Behavior, and Health Policy and Organization, as well as a popular undergraduate major.

The Department of Biostatistics (BST)

The Department of Biostatistics contains the Biostatistics, Data Management, and Analysis Core (BDMAC) which is the school's largest data coordinating center. Through these and other efforts at scale, BST is deeply interconnected throughout the SOPH. This scalability and expertise ensure BST's place as a major conduit for collaboration with the UAB School of Medicine, the College of Arts and Sciences, and many other units and centers across the University which rely upon BST's capacity, and collegiality. Members of the department conduct research in statistical methodology and applications, as well as in fundamental problems of modeling in biological systems. Much of the department's research is collaborative in nature, involving projects from basic science, genetics, clinical medicine, public health, and other health-related areas, both within and outside of UAB. Research programs for faculty in the department fall into three broad areas: 1) applied research involving the application of statistical methods to health-related issues, 2) statistical and data coordinating centers for large multi-center studies and randomized clinical trials,

and 3) methodological research advancing statistical techniques. The Department administers over 130 individual sponsored projects, awarded to 30 PI's, and collaborates with 37 distinct departments and centers across UAB, as well as a range of external collaborations including a number of academic institutions nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Merck Foundation, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Kaiser Permanente Health System, among many others.

For more information about the School of Public Health and the Department of Biostatistics, please visit: <https://www.uab.edu/soph/home/> and <https://www.uab.edu/soph/home/departments/biostatistics>.

The Role

The Chair of the Department of Biostatistics reports to the Dean of the School of Public Health, Dr. Paul Erwin, and provides vision and strategic leadership to advance the growth of the Department and the SOPH broadly, as well as providing guidance to strengthen BST's ties across the University. As an essential member of the SOPH's Executive Team, the Chair is responsible for advocating on the department's behalf to the senior administration to ensure the department's position and create opportunities to further the success of faculty and staff. Together with the Vice Chair of Education, the Chair will support innovative and engaged pedagogy and a focus on the student experience. Working collaboratively with BST's faculty and staff, the Chair will steer the department toward emerging opportunities in the field of biostatistics, leveraging existing strengths of the Department and sustaining a high degree of service to ongoing research. The next Chair will need to serve as a team-builder who recruits and retains faculty with active research portfolios to drive the Department's growth, with particular emphasis placed on large-scale, multi-institution studies. Unit cohesion and community-building will be a particular focus of the BST Chair, who will advocate for support for junior faculty and work towards the equitable allocation of resources across the Department.

The responsibilities of the Chair for the Department of Biostatistics include, but are not limited to:

- Lead and define the strategic vision of the Department to support the professional aspirations of its affiliated members
- Manage a sizeable department with 23 core faculty, 46 staff, and multiple program managers, coordinators, and affiliated researchers
- Develop innovative approaches to highlight and align data science within the SOPH
- Establish opportunities for mentorship and grant-funded research and leverage partnerships for interdisciplinary research
- Recruit, hire, and retain a diverse and outstanding faculty and ensure an atmosphere of inclusiveness, support, and development
- Encourage department-wide initiatives that unify biostatisticians and non-biostatisticians across UAB in shared initiatives at scale
- Emphasize the student experience, ensuring that graduate students in full- and part-time programs feel empowered, supported, and part of a tight-knit community of scholars and educators
- Communicate the growth opportunities and future directions of the Department as a leader with the SOPH's Executive Team to enhance the potential for translational and interdisciplinary research and training.
- Support the growth and success of the BDMAC coordinating center

- Develop conduits and structures for collaborations, cost-sharing, and resource allocation across Schools to ensure the material position of the department

Qualifications for the role include:

- PhD, ScD, or DrPH in biostatistics, or a related field
- Experience as a leader within clinical, population, and/or biostatistical research
- Experience managing teams with diversified portfolios
- Familiarity with faculty and staff recruitment and development
- Evidence of successful collaboration and communication with clinical researchers
- A record of academic accomplishments, scholarly recognition, and external research support
- Demonstrated leadership capabilities
- Excellent written and oral communication skills

It will be a strong advantage if a candidate has the following:

- Experience forming interdisciplinary partnerships
- Experience with program management to ensure financial growth
- Experience regarding budgetary operations, research partnerships, and administrative structures

To Apply

The University of Alabama at Birmingham has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist the Department of Biostatistics Search Committee in its identification and review of candidates. Nominations, applications, and inquiries are being accepted for the position, and recruitment will continue until the position is filled. All inquiries, nominations, and referrals will be held in strict confidence and should be directed in confidence to:

Vijay Saraswat, Partner, vsaraswat@imsearch.com
Samuel Ruth, Senior Associate, sruth@imsearch.com
Melissa Kumi, Associate, mkumi@imsearch.com
<https://www.imsearch.com/8671>

UAB is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and family-friendly environment in which all faculty and staff can excel and achieve work/life balance irrespective of race, national origin, age, genetic or family medical history, gender, faith, gender identity, and expression as well as sexual orientation. UAB also encourages applications from individuals with disabilities and veterans.

Appendix

About Birmingham, Alabama

Located in the heart of the Southeast, the Birmingham metro area comprises over one million people and a thriving nexus of medicine, banking, research, and development. It is a short drive from Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, the Smoky Mountains, and Gulf Coast beaches. Birmingham has been recognized as an “All-America City” by the National Civic League as one of the top 10 American cities to live and work in and one of the top 10 entrepreneurial and job growth hot spots in America. *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine named Birmingham one of “The Best 22 Places to Go in 2022.”

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, with the development of nearby [Railroad Park](#) — a national award-winning urban park — and its adjacent Regions Field — a national award-winning stadium, home to the minor league [Birmingham Barons](#). These projects have kickstarted significant growth in surrounding districts, including craft breweries, boutique shops, restaurants, loft and apartment buildings, innovative workspaces, and hotels.

Birmingham, with 99 diverse neighborhoods, has more green space per capita than any other major city in the nation. It has been designated Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation for nearly 30 years. It is home to Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve with 14 miles of trails, 1,000+ acres of biodiverse urban forest, and 150 species of birds. It is also home to Red Mountain Park with 15 miles of trails and Alabama’s largest dog park – named one of the “10 Great Southern Dog Parks” by *Southern Living Magazine*.

Birmingham is also a renowned culinary destination having been named America’s “Next Hot Food City” by *Zagat’s*, Top 10 “Unexpected U.S. Cities with a Surprisingly Good Food Scene” by *Fodor’s*, and since 2018, the home of four James Beard Award winning chefs and restaurants.

There are a host of attractions only a short walk from UAB’s campus, including the Birmingham Civil Rights District National Monument. This area encompasses the historic sites that played significant roles in the Civil Rights Movement such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, and the [Birmingham Civil Rights Institute](#).

Birmingham’s cultural scene is thriving with museums, galleries, theatres, and live music venues. We are home to multiple festivals of music, art and film including Sidewalk Film Festival, which *USA Today* named one of “Ten Great Places for a Fabulous Film Festival.” In addition, Birmingham has a professional ballet company, a professional opera company, the Alabama Symphony Orchestra (based at UAB’s Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center), a [School of Fine Arts](#), the [Jazz Hall of Fame](#), and the recent restoration of the historic [Lyric](#) and [Alabama Theatres](#).

[Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport](#) is Alabama’s largest commercial airport serving nearly three million passengers in 2019 on American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, and United Airlines. Many direct flights are available to Washington, DC, Detroit, Phoenix, Philadelphia, New York City, Denver, Houston, Miami, Chicago, Baltimore, Charlotte, Orlando, and more.