

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM**

**Director, Biostatistics, Data Management and Analysis Core
School of Public Health
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama**

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health (SOPH)—a top 20 public health program, partnered with one of the nation’s most powerful academic medical enterprises—seeks a dynamic and experienced academic leader to serve as the Director of the Biostatistics, Data Management, and Analysis Core (BDMAC) within the Department of Biostatistics. This new, tenure-track academic leadership position will provide oversight of the Core operations, which include the development and implementation of multicenter studies and trials with a data coordinating component, recruitment and management of the Core’s talented staff and affiliated faculty, and collaboratively envisioning future directions and capabilities for UAB’s renowned Department of Biostatistics and for the SOPH broadly. The Director will be responsible for communicating data management and statistical problems and ideas to both statisticians and non-statisticians, and for providing leadership and guidance to the large staff responsible for day-to-day operations.

The successful candidate will have a PhD, ScD, or DrPH in biostatistics, or a related field, will have demonstrated success as a leader within clinical and/or biostatistical research, and will have excellent written and oral communication skills. Candidates would also benefit from experience with clinical trials and multicenter studies, as well as familiarity with statistical regulatory requirements in the public and private spheres. The school is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through their research, teaching, and/or service.

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.

For more information about the University of Alabama, 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 masters and doctoral programs in Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Environmental Health Sciences, Health Behavior, and Health Care Organization and Policy, as well as a popular undergraduate major.

The BDMAC is formally located within the Department of Biostatistics, and is connected across the SOPH and with UAB's School of Medicine. It is the school's largest data coordinating center, and since 2009 has helped to bring more than \$132 million in research funding to the SOPH. Significant efforts at the BDMAC are directed toward two long-standing NIH-funded cohort studies—REasons for Geographic and Racial Differences in Stroke (REGARDS) and Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA)—as well as the new Risk Underlying Rural Areas Longitudinal (RURAL) Cohort Study.

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 BDMAC Director will be a leader within both the Department of Biostatistics as well as at the SOPH broadly, setting both the Core's strategic direction as well as its operational posture to ensure its staff thrive and its strengths are sustained. The Director will bring expertise that spans the BDMAC's activities,

from observational and pilot studies, to clinical trials, to statistical analysis of multiple study models, among many other competencies and capabilities. The Director is expected to grow the administrative capacities of the BDMAC through collaboration and advocacy, building out the management structures of the Core and supporting staff in their professional development aspirations. As a scholar-leader, the Director will set new directions for the Core while maintaining a high degree of service to ongoing activities. They will collaboratively recruit new faculty into the Department of Biostatistics who will interface readily with the BDMAC, and who bring active research portfolios that will help drive the BDMAC's growth, with particular emphasis placed on large-scale, multi-institution studies.

The responsibilities of the BDMAC Director include, but are not limited to:

- Lead a staff of over 40 Program Managers and Coordinators, Clinical and Research Specialists, Statisticians, and Computer Programmers and be responsible for the organization's growth and changes to move the BDMAC forward
- Encourage new statistical methodologies and make recommendations, or capitalize on opportunities where new methodology or approaches could save costs and time
- Collaborate on the development and submission of multicenter and multinational funding applications for randomized clinical trials and cohort studies with a DCC component
- Develop and oversee budgets for multicenter DCCs
- Identify and plan statistical tasks, timelines, and resources and account for critical dependencies and resources in order to ensure that statistical work meets deadline commitments and quality standards in a timely manner
- Oversee and participate in documentation management related to clinical trials, including case report forms, electronic data capture, and data management validation plans and their deployment
- Participate in interdisciplinary meetings and teleconferences and provide consulting, interpretive, and analytical support
- Have sound knowledge of relevant clinical and statistical regulatory requirements (e.g., GCP, ICH, CDISC, FDA, and other requirements)
- Collaborate on multicenter and multinational grants and contracts to investigate important unanswered questions
- Provide expert advice on the design of protocols, statistical and data management issues within grants and contracts
- Provide statistical advice on complex statistical problems and perform statistical analyses
- Represent the Department of Biostatistics in the internal and external research communities in developing and conducting studies
- Contribute to the definition and oversight of the setup, methodology, decision making, support, and implementation of DCCs and ability to direct and mentor junior faculty members, statisticians, data managers, and computer programmers
- Drive statistical thinking and knowledge across programs

Minimum Qualifications for the role include:

- PhD, ScD or DrPH in Biostatistics or related field with emphasis on applied statistical methodology
- 5 years of experience in clinical or biostatistical research
- Experience leading project teams
- Evidence of successful collaboration and communication with clinical researchers
- Demonstrated leadership capabilities
- Excellent written and oral communication and presentation skills

It will be a strong advantage if a candidate has:

- Experience leading clinical trials and multicenter studies
- Experience with program management to ensure trial tasks are completed on time
- Experience as a faculty member in a biostatistics or related department
- Experience with statistical analysis of biological data
- Experience from supervision of colleagues
- Experience with SAS, R, or other programming languages
- Experience with clinical and statistical regulatory requirements (e.g., GCP, ICH, CDISC, FDA, and other requirements)

To Apply

University of Alabama at Birmingham has retained Isaacson, Miller to assist the BDMAC Search Committee in its identification and review of candidates. Screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the search is successful or closed. 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
www.imsearch.com/8672

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 consists of 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 Blue Ridge 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, 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 major 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 in a row. 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 — places such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church where four little girls were killed in a 1963 bombing, Kelly Ingram Park where everyone congregated for demonstrations and marches, and the [Birmingham Civil Rights Institute](#)—a major destination for visitors from around the world.

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](#).

Because of all this, and because of its sports history, Birmingham has been selected to serve as the host city of the [2022 World Games](#).

[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.