

UCI School of Medicine

Search for Neuro-Oncology Division Chief
University of California, Irvine (UCI) and UCI Health
Orange, California

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine seeks an innovative and collaborative leader to oversee and expand the Division of Neuro-Oncology in the Department of Neurology. As the only academic medical center in Orange County, UCI Health plays an essential role in improving the lives of people in the local community and beyond. The next Neuro-Oncology Division Chief must be a collaborative and growth-oriented partner who can work alongside health professionals across the institution, throughout Orange County, and nationally to ensure access to world-class neuro-oncology care.

Ranked as one of the top U.S. medical schools by *U.S. News & World Report*, the UCI School of Medicine is dedicated to advancing medical knowledge and clinical practice through scholarly research, physician education, and high-quality care. Each year, the School of Medicine educates more than 400 medical students and trains more than 700 residents and fellows at UCI Medical Center and affiliated institutions. The School's 1011 full- and part-time faculty and 850 volunteer faculty are involved in teaching, providing medical care, and conducting research into the health challenges facing the 21st century. UCI School of Medicine has 24 departments, ranging from basic science research to clinical medical and surgical specialties. It has research, clinical and teaching relationships with the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, and Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC).

UCI Medical Center is the principal clinical facility for UCI Health and the UCI School of Medicine's teaching and research programs. For 18 consecutive years, the medical center has been rated among the nation's best hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*, and among the top 50 U.S. medical centers for gynecology and urology. It is the only Orange County hospital to be listed consistently among the nation's best. The medical center is home to the UCI Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center in Orange County, and one of only 71 such high-level centers in the nation.

In November 2021, UCI and UCI Health broke ground on a new \$1.3 billion medical complex in Irvine, the Irvine Newport Medical Campus, which will include a 144-bed acute care hospital with an emergency room, an outpatient Center for Advanced Care with primary and specialty health services, a Center for Children's Health, and the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building. Key clinical programs available include oncology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics & spine surgery, and advanced digestive health services. This new medical complex will also be a hub for participation in Orange County's largest clinical trials portfolio, including early-phase trials in cancer, neurosciences, stem cell-derived treatments, internal medicine, and more.

The next Neuro-Oncology Division Chief has the unique opportunity to lead teaching, research, and clinical efforts that bridge the Department of Neurology with the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, which just received renewal as one of only 53 NCI-designated comprehensive cancer centers and provides operational support for clinical research in the Division. The construction of the new Irvine Newport

Medical Campus as well as budding partnerships in the inland empire lay the groundwork for even greater impact on patients and the potential for international prominence in research.

To be successful, the new Division Chief will address the following opportunities and challenges:

- Lead an innovative and strategic vision for the future of neuro-oncology.
- Develop, recruit, and retain excellent and diverse faculty who will build on existing teaching, research, and clinical care.
- Drive a successful clinical strategy that provides the highest quality patient care.
- Further expand and develop the Division's residency and fellowship programs to ensure training excellence.
- Expand and develop the Division's research portfolio.
- Work collaboratively with partners across UCI Health and beyond to strengthen access to quality care in the region.

A complete list of the desired qualifications and characteristics may be found at the conclusion of this document, which was produced with the support of Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm. All confidential applications, inquiries, and nominations should be directed to the parties listed at the end of this document.

About UCI Health Affairs

A first-of-its-kind alliance across health disciplines, [UCI Health Affairs](#) is led by Vice Chancellor Steve Goldstein and comprises 13,000+ faculty, staff, and students from the Susan & Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences (The College), research centers and institutes, and UCI Health.

The College encompasses the School of Medicine, the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing, in which 20 percent of the faculty are fellows of the American Academy of Nursing, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Program in Public Health, and the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute.

UCI Health is the fourth largest healthcare system in California and comprises UCI's biomedical research, medical education, and clinical enterprises. As the only academic medical center in Orange County, UCI Health is a multifaceted organization dedicated to the discovery of new medical frontiers, the teaching of future healers, and the delivery of the finest evidence-based care.

In addition, the UCI Health system has a growing presence across Orange County with practice sites including Yorba Linda, Tustin, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Laguna Hills, and Irvine. UCI Health will soon break ground on construction of a new medical center on the academic campus in Irvine, featuring a new state-of-the-art specialty hospital and several outpatient facilities including the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building. A complete list of UCI Health centers, institutes, and clinics is available at www.ucirvinehealth.org/locations.

To learn about UCI Health's strategic plan and vision for the future, visit <http://strategicplan.health.uci.edu>.

About UCI School of Medicine

Each year, the UCI School of Medicine educates more than 400 medical students, as well as about 130 doctoral and master's students on both the Irvine and Orange campuses. More than 700 residents and fellows are trained at UCI Medical Center in Orange, California and at other affiliated institutions. The highly regarded medical school is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and ranks among the *U.S. News & World Report's* top 50 medical schools in the nation for research. Dedicated to advancing medical knowledge and clinical practice through scholarly research, physician education, and high-quality care, the School of Medicine is home to top quality faculty members.

With 24 departments, the School of Medicine offers the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD), the Program in Medical Education for the Latino Community (PRIME-LC), Leadership Education to Advance Diversity-African, Black and Caribbean (LEAD-ABC), Health Education to Advance Leaders in Integrative Medicine (HEAL-IM), an MD/MBA program in cooperation with The Paul Merage School of Business, an MD/MPH program in cooperation with the Program in Public Health, a Master of Science in Biomedical and Translational Sciences (MS-BATS), medical residency and fellowship programs, and continuing medical education for physicians and other health care professionals.

Research at the UCI School of Medicine is focused on promoting basic, clinical, and translational investigation as well as developing biomedical discoveries and innovations to improve the health and lives of millions.

The Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (CFCCC)

UCI is home to the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (CFCCC), one of 53 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer centers in the United States and the only one based in Orange County. First designated by the NCI in 1994 and competitively renewed in 2021, CFCCC members are drawn from the UCI Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Population & Public Health, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Information & Computer Science, Engineering, and Business. Three formal research programs are linked by eight CFCCC Disease-Oriented Teams that bring together basic, translational, patient-centered, and clinical investigators to facilitate the movement of CFCCC discoveries through the pipeline into the clinical arena. Clinical cancer research includes a large portfolio of early-phase and investigator-initiated trials under the Stern Center for Cancer Clinical Trials & Research, which coordinates all cancer-related trials.

CFCCC research is further supported by seven shared resources that provide members access to state-of-the-art technology, equipment and expert consultation. CFCCC clinicians saw over 4,500 new cancer patients in 2020, with more than 76,000 outpatient encounters and 57,000 infusion center visits at practice sites across Orange County including Orange, Yorba Linda, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Irvine, and Laguna Hills. An adult hematopoietic stem cell transplant and cellular therapy program was launched in 2020, the only such program in Orange County. More information about the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and cancer services at UCI is available at <https://cancer.uci.edu/>.

Cancer Care in Orange County

UCI sits in one of the most populous counties in the U.S. and one of the most competitive healthcare markets in California. The institution faces competition from local community hospitals and academic

medical centers to the north and south of Orange County. However, a strong healthcare leadership team, dedicated faculty, staff, and students, and ambitious and successful fundraising programs have given UCI the human and financial capital to secure its place as the premier cancer care provider in the region. UCI continues to ensure the best outcomes from the effective coupling of world-class research, education, and clinical care. With the increasing prominence of UCI Health and the CFCCC, UCI is poised to continue its expansion even in a competitive environment, making this one of a limited number of substantial growth opportunities in academic medicine today.

The Department of Neurology

The Department of Neurology is ranked among the top neurology departments in the country by the National Institutes of Health and is committed to advancing clinical care, education, and research to help patients with diverse neurological conditions. The Department's 46 full-time teaching faculty members are highly experienced clinicians and scientists who are devoted to training the next generation of neurologists. The Department of Neurology's clinical activities take place at UCI Medical Center, the university campus in Irvine, and the VA Long Beach Healthcare System, in addition to several clinics serving broader communities, including Laguna Hills, Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Tustin, and Yorba Linda. The state-of-the-art UCI Douglas Hospital at UCI Medical Center has beds for patients with neurological disorders as well as specialized units for epilepsy monitoring and neuro-intensive care.

The Department also participates in leading-edge research including: devising methods to predict and improve functional recovery after stroke; mapping white matter tracts in epilepsy, seeking ways to promote healthy brain aging and novel treatments for Alzheimer's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; understanding the pathophysiology of multiple sclerosis; delineating novel molecular and cellular mechanisms of neurodegeneration; and developing stem cell therapies for neurological disorders.

The Department benefits from institutional resources including the Center for Clinical Research (CCR), offering support from grant-writing through contracting and trial implementation, as well as the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)-supported Stem Cell Research Center, the Beall Center for Art + Technology, Beckman Center of the National Academies of Sciences & Engineering, the UCI Institute for Precision Health, the Center for Neurotherapeutics, the Susan Samueli Integrative Health Institute, and a recently renewed award for our Alpha Stem Cell Clinic.

For more information, see: <https://www.neurology.uci.edu/>

Role of the Division Chief of Neuro-Oncology

Grounded in the goals and continued expansion of UCI Health, the Division Chief of Neuro-Oncology will lead the department's tripartite mission of research, clinical care, and teaching while continuing to foster equity, diversity, and inclusion. They will ultimately ensure the success of the division by promoting programmatic excellence and sustaining the highest quality care for cancer patients in the region.

The Division Chief oversees 5 physicians and 2 nurse practitioners as well as a budget of approximately \$2 million. In addition to engaging Neurology colleagues, the Division Chief will have strong interactions with other UCI departments, such as Neurosurgery, and UCI Centers including the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Key Opportunities and Challenges for the Division Chief of Neuro-Oncology

The Division Chief of Neuro-Oncology will be expected to address the following key opportunities and challenges:

Lead an innovative and strategic vision for the future of Neuro-Oncology

Building on the excellent work of the prior Division Chief including the development of disease-oriented teams, the next leader will develop a strategic vision that aligns with the rapid expansion of UCI Health, while ensuring the highest quality patient care and cutting-edge research. In executing this vision, the Division Chief will be highly collaborative, working across units to develop interdisciplinary clinics that benefit UCI Health as a whole. Further, the Division Chief will strengthen the Division's brand and reputation, marketing excellent programs that will attract an even greater number of patients.

Develop, recruit, and retain excellent and diverse faculty who will build on existing teaching, research, and clinical care

The Division Chief is responsible for the overall recruitment and development of faculty within the Division, and in doing so, must leverage the Division's, the Department's, and the institution's extensive strengths. As UCI Health and the Division expand geographically, the next Division Chief will be creative in recruiting and retaining excellent faculty across multiple locations. Further, the Division Chief will facilitate an inclusive and transparent culture that balances career development with the Division's needs and mission, all with an eye towards advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Drive a successful clinical strategy that provides the highest quality patient care

Clinical excellence is central to the mission of UCI Health, and the Division of Neuro-Oncology is no exception. As mentioned above, the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center recently renewed five years of funding, providing stable operational support and a platform for continued growth in neuro-oncology. The next Division Chief will seize upon this opportunity as the crucial connecting point between Neuro-Oncology, the Cancer Center, and key stakeholders across multiple disciplines including Neurosurgery, Neuroradiology, and others, while growing clinical volume and expanding clinical sites.

Further expand resident training and develop the Division's fellowship program to ensure training excellence

Given the national shortage of neuro-oncologists, the Division plays an important role in continuing to train the next generation. As UCI Health rapidly expands in the region, the new Division Chief will leverage this exciting moment to grow and develop the Division's education programs. The Division Chief will center collaboration in this expansion, ensuring education programs partner with other units to provide residents and fellows with the cross-disciplinary connections and tools they need to become successful neuro-oncologists. Further, the new Division Chief will be a savvy and creative marketer, building relationships across the field to recruit bright, dedicated, and diverse trainees.

Expand and develop the Division's research portfolio

The Neuro-Oncology Division is known for its excellent research programs, and the next Division Chief will continue to build upon this portfolio, expanding leading-edge clinical trials and translational work. In particular, the next Division Chief will bring an acute understanding of industry trends and will facilitate clinical trials that expand the Division's connection with industry partners. In developing greater research activities from the strong existing platform, the Chief will bolster collaborations and build new opportunities with outstanding campus researchers and resources, including across departments, schools, and institutes at UCI, as well as fostering external collaborations.

Work collaboratively with partners across UCI Health and beyond to strengthen access to quality care in the region

The Division Chief will work both within UCI Health and in the local community and beyond to continue to fortify the Division's position as a regional and national leader in neuro-oncology care. This includes leveraging existing relationships, such as the Alpha Stem Cell Clinic's partnership in Riverside, working with external clinics, and building relationships that mutually support the mission and overall reach of the Division. The Division Chief will work collaboratively to identify community needs and ensure programming aligns to fill these gaps. They will serve as the lead voice for the Division, ensuring that the unit is visible, accessible, and is truly attuned to serving our community.

Qualifications

See Appendix I for the required qualifications for this position.

Location

UCI Medical Center is located in the City of Orange, in Orange County, California, approximately 32 miles southeast of Los Angeles and about 14 miles from UCI's main campus in Irvine. Orange County has a population of about 3.2 million people and has substantial racial/ethnic and socioeconomic diversity as a "majority-minority" county, with approximately 34% Latino residents and 21% Asian Americans, including Chinese, Koreans, and the largest Vietnamese population in the U.S. The county has smaller populations of American Indians and Black/African Americans (both ~2%). 47% of the households in Orange County speak a primary language other than English. A substantial proportion (~11%) have incomes below the poverty line. 7% of the population is 18 years and older with a median age of 39. The population of Orange County is aging, with the percentage of elderly (age ≥ 65) expected to almost double over the next 40 years. Cancer has recently overtaken heart disease as the #1 killer of Orange County residents (<http://www.ochealthiertogether.org/>).

The median household income is ~\$96,000, and the County has a robust economic base, with "Health Care & Social Assistance" making up the largest percentage of employment, followed by "Manufacturing" and "Retail Trade". The K-12 school system and institutions of higher learning are outstanding and include California State University Fullerton in addition to UCI. The County is crossed by five major freeways and the Metrolink commuter rail system, which makes Orange County an opportune business location. For more information, visit <https://www.ocgov.com/about/infooc>.

Applications, Inquiries, and Nominations

UC Irvine Health has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist in this search. Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process/until the position is filled. For more details, including the full position profile and to submit inquiries, nominations, referrals, and applications, please see the Isaacson, Miller website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/search-detail/8766>. Electronic submission of materials is required.

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The University of California, Irvine is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer advancing inclusive excellence. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, protected veteran status, or other protected categories covered by the [UC nondiscrimination policy](#). A recipient of an NSF ADVANCE award for gender equity, UCI is responsive to the needs of dual career couples, supports work-life balance through an array of family-friendly policies, and is dedicated to broadening participation in higher education.

The anticipated salary range for this position is \$400,000-\$500,000, commensurate with the successful candidate's experience. The University of California offers a generous benefits package. More information can be found at: <https://www.hr.uci.edu/partnership/benefits/>

Appendix I

Job Description Neurology, School of Medicine, UC Irvine Health

The University of California, Irvine, Department of Neurology is seeking an outstanding and growth-oriented full time faculty member with clinical and research interest in the neuro-oncology field to serve as Neuro-Oncology Division Chief. Clinical duties include inpatient and outpatient neuro-oncology care, participation in clinical trials and the teaching of fellows, residents and medical students in an adult hospital and comprehensive cancer setting. The position is offered in the Health Sciences Clinical Professor or Clinical Neurology series at the Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor rank commensurate with experience. The University of California, Irvine offers an outstanding research and collaborative environment with a strong clinical program, along with basic and translational research, and close-knit workflows with outstanding neurologists and neurosurgeons already established in Neuro-Oncology. Program interests include stem cell and immune therapy for brain tumors, advanced therapies for a variety of CNS solid tumors, CNS lymphoma, metastatic brain and spinal cord cancers, neurological complications of cancer and its treatment, cancer related auto-immune encephalitis, adult transition of pediatric brain tumors, and palliative supportive care for neuro-oncology patients.

Professional qualifications:

- An M.D., M.D./Ph.D. or equivalent degree with active board certification or eligibility in Neurology with fellowship training in Neuro-Oncology.
- Board eligibility in Neurology, Hematology-Oncology, or Neuro-Surgery is required.
- Eligibility to obtain an active and unrestricted medical practice license to practice in the State of California.
- Completion of UCNS Neuro-Oncology certification is required if more than 1 year after graduation of Neuro-Oncology fellowship.
- Qualified to hold a faculty appointment in the Department of Neurology and hold medical staff privileges with the UCI Medical Center.
- Rank and academic track will be commensurate with candidate experience and credentials.

Preferred experience:

- Candidates with working experiences in oncology field are preferred.

Personal qualifications/experience:

- Dedication to patients, their families, and providing excellent service.
- Interest and experience in working in a collaborative comprehensive neurosciences center.
- Active involvement with international, national, and/or regional professional societies preferred.
- Interests in teaching and/or clinical research/clinical trials.