



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Director, Division of Infectious Diseases
Department of Medicine
University of Alabama at Birmingham Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine**

THE SEARCH

The Department of Medicine (“DOM”) in the UAB Heersink School of Medicine (“HSOM”) seeks a Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases (“the division”). This is the pinnacle moment to join the division, which boasts incredible strength across the tripartite mission areas, and is backed by a health system and school with new leadership and renewed institutional support for research, training, and advanced care that will improve the health of the state, the region, and beyond. The incoming director will have the unique opportunity to harness this momentum and continue to grow an already prominent division’s reach, reputation, and impact.

The Division of Infectious Diseases at UAB was most recently directed by [Dr. Jeanne Marrazzo](#), who led the division to new heights during her seven years as director. The division is the highest funded division within the DOM, both in National Institutes of Health funding and in total funding. With \$43M in FY23 research expenditures, the division’s research portfolio consists of a broad range of research. The division was founded with a mission for outstanding training; that culture has been sustained as a top teaching service within the department and as the best consult service at UAB Hospital. Because UAB Hospital is the sole quaternary referral hospital and the safety net hospital for more than seven million people, the division operates in an environment with a unique depth of care, playing a critical role in serving a broad and underserved population.

The incoming director will have two responsibilities: to lead the division to be a global leader in infectious diseases and to lead the division as a key partner with other divisions and departments in advancing UAB. The director will articulate an inspiring vision and lead the development of a strategic plan that will drive the division as a leader in the field and an essential partner at UAB. The director must have a nuanced understanding of how to create a positive culture: one that is inclusive, promotes wellness, celebrates diversity, and is collegial. There are immeasurable opportunities for collaboration for the division of infectious diseases and the director must be creative and proactive in identifying and utilizing those partnerships. The successful director will bring experience in growing a robust research portfolio, ensuring

excellence of care across a complex and demanding clinical landscape, and inspiring innovation in education and training. The director will also have experience recruiting and mentoring faculty, staff, and trainees. Above all, the director must have generosity of spirit in working with others, the ability to strategically steward resources well, know how to build strong teams, and be visionary and ambitious in leading a unified vision.

Isaacson, Miller is assisting with this search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications will be treated confidentially, and should be directed to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Diversity is a defining feature of the past, present, and future of UAB and Birmingham, which was at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. In 2021, UAB was recognized by Forbes Magazine as America's #1 Best Employer for Diversity Among Colleges and Universities. UAB and the HSOM are committed to being a welcoming community that advances diversity. The school and department promote [Anti-Racism](#) and systematically seek to include faculty, learners, and staff from diverse backgrounds. The clinical enterprise, UAB Medicine, seeks and welcomes those who will join the campaign to promote its [values](#).

THE UAB MEDICINE ENTERPRISE

UAB Medicine is on the move as a rising star among academic health systems. UAB Medicine prides itself as being the premier medical facility in the state and region and a dominant Academic Medical Center in the Southeast. UAB Medicine comprises three unique entities that work together to improve the health of the citizens of Alabama and beyond: the UAB Health System, the UA Health Services Foundation, and the Heersink School of Medicine which bridges the medical campus to the University. Combined revenues exceed \$3 billion annually.

The UAB Health System ("UABHS") includes the University Hospital in Birmingham, Baptist Health in Montgomery, and a health insurance company. UAB Hospital is the centerpiece of the UABHS and one of the largest academic medical centers in the nation with over 1,200 licensed beds. As the only major academic medical center between Atlanta and Dallas, UAB Hospital is both the referral hospital and the safety net hospital for a large, demographically diverse population of more than six million people.

UA Health Services Foundation ("HSF") is the 501(c)(3) practice plan for the faculty of the Heersink School of Medicine. HSF provides care to over one million people each year and has annual revenues of more than \$600 million. HSF owns the main ambulatory practice site, The Kirklin Clinic, which is the first building I.M. Pei designed for healthcare. HSF also has an endowment with a market value of approximately \$120 million that generates \$5 million annually to support innovative work by faculty.

UAB Heersink School of Medicine ("HSOM") is a multi-campus medical school with its main campus in Birmingham and three regional campuses in Huntsville, Montgomery, and Tuscaloosa. HSOM has nearly

900 students, 1,200 residents and fellows, and more than 1,300 faculty who attract more than \$256 million in NIH funding through 28 academic departments. Since 2013, HSOM has increased NIH funding by more than \$100 million and risen 10 spots in the NIH rankings, from number 31 to number 21; this growth in funding (43%) since 2013 is the second highest percentage of growth in the nation. UAB recently received a \$100 million philanthropic gift, and the school has been named the Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine in honor of the main donor. More information about HSOM can be found at <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/>.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

The Department of Medicine (“DOM”) is the largest department within the HSOM, with 547 faculty members, 240 residents and fellows, 115 graduate and postdoctoral students, and almost 1,200 staff. The department is organized into 11 divisions which are its major cultural and operational units. In addition, a central administration supports and coordinates the department’s mission across divisions and in partnership with the rest of UAB Medicine. The department’s physicians account for approximately 38% of UAB Hospital admissions, 23% of ambulatory visits, and 23% of the teaching of medical students.

In 2023, the department had 112 NIH-funded investigators who served as principal investigators on \$101 million in NIH grants; total research funding exceeded \$180 million. The department has 57 endowed chairs and professorships, with a total endowment exceeding \$106 million.

THE DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

With the mission to provide comprehensive clinical care, education, and research for all patients both home and abroad, the [Division of Infectious Diseases](#) seeks to excel in generating new knowledge, transmitting knowledge, and providing excellent patient care. The division provides a dynamic academic environment for interdisciplinary research, education, and clinical care.

Research

The division is ranked first in extramural funding in the DOM and its investigators are at the forefront of highly impactful research, from discovery to translation. Interdisciplinary research is fostered through collaborations and relationships spanning basic sciences, translational research, bioinformatics, and outcomes and implementation research. In addition to investigator-initiated studies, the division houses several major HIV-focused program awards sponsored by the NIH including the AIDS Clinical Trials Unit (ACTU), the HIV Vaccine Trials Unit (one of eleven in the U.S.), and the MACS/WIHS Combined Study Cohort. These HIV clinical studies are strongly tied to the Center for AIDS Research. In addition, the division hosts the Mycoses Study Group (historically based in NIAID and now operating as an independent trials unit), and the NIH-funded UAB Sexually Transmitted Infections Clinical Trials Unit.

Global health research, education, and service are important elements of the division's work. Faculty collaborate with partners across Central and South America and sub-Saharan Africa. There are particularly robust, longitudinal, and productive partnerships in Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, South Africa, Panama, and Peru. The division hosts the Gorgas Courses in Clinical Tropical Medicine at the Alexander von Humboldt Tropical Medicine Institute in Lima, Peru, next to the Tropical Diseases Unit of the Cayetano Heredia Hospital, the major tropical diseases referral center for Peru. For trainees interested in investigative tropical or global medicine, this internationally renowned course is essential. Course objectives are to train providers in Tropical Medicine in a multicultural educational program with international experts in the field; to expose students to a broad spectrum of tropical diseases and provide them with the foundational clinical knowledge and skills needed to recognize, diagnose, treat, and prevent the most relevant tropical diseases; and to create a network of experts committed to improving healthcare services for underserved populations globally.

Center for AIDS Research

The Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) is a vibrant, energetic center at the nexus of HIV research at UAB and in Alabama broadly. The UAB CFAR is one of the seven inaugural NIH-funded CFARs that was established in 1988 in order to catalyze and nurture HIV research. Since inception, the center has been innovating and evolving alongside the HIV epidemic with continuous funding from NIH to support its core services. The CFAR is firmly committed to being a leader that charts the path into the next era of the HIV epidemic by tackling the challenging syndemics experienced by people with and affected by HIV through collaboration with partners focused on health equity and building up marginalized populations. By staying focused on its mission and shared values, the UAB CFAR is positioned to support high-impact discoveries towards the achievement of HIV research priorities and curbing the epidemic in Alabama, the Deep South, and globally.

Education

The Division of Infectious Diseases is a top teaching division in the UAB Heersink School of Medicine, successfully training 128 fellows and numerous trainees over the last 50 years. The division provides educational opportunities for faculty and trainees through the [fellowship program](#), courses through the [Gorgas Institute](#), and training opportunities through the [Alabama/North Carolina STD/HIV Prevention Training Center](#).

Infectious Disease faculty hold numerous leadership positions within undergraduate and graduate medical education. These include Senior Associate Dean, Associate Dean, and Assistant Dean roles within the School of Medicine covering undergraduate medical education, clinical education, medical student affairs, physician scientist development, and diversity and inclusion. Faculty lead the medical education curriculum committee and hold course leadership roles in the pre-clinical, clinical, and longitudinal curricula. Additional faculty hold leadership roles within the Internal Medicine residency.

Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

The Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program prepares fellows (nine total fellows in the base two-year fellowship program) for independent practice as clinicians, clinician-educators, and physician scientists through its faculty of nationally recognized leaders and infectious disease experts, as well as state-of-the-art facilities. The program aims to provide opportunities for professional exploration and development while promoting a diverse, inclusive environment for the division, staff, and patient community. Fellows train at all [inpatient and outpatient clinical sites](#) in the ID footprint, allowing trainees to grow into clinically astute and curious infectious diseases experts capable of practicing across the breadth of ID. Advanced training opportunities in transplant & immunocompromised ID, infection prevention, and research all exist beyond the two-year fellowship program.

Over the course of the past 10 years, over 70% of fellowship alumni have remained in academic medicine positions. During this timeframe, fellows have successfully won T32 funding through the Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research, multiple K23 NIH awards, and transitioned to additional NIH funding awards.

Clinical Care

The Division of Infectious Diseases has a long history of providing a spectrum of clinical care for patients across three main inpatient facilities (UAB Hospital, UAB Highlands, and the Birmingham VA Medical Center), as well as outpatient clinics focused on various infectious disease areas such as HIV, hepatitis, travel medicine, general infectious disease, and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). The division collaborates broadly to care for UAB's immunocompromised patient population. UAB performs over 500 solid organ transplants a year, including active kidney, heart, liver, and lung transplant programs, under the umbrella of the Comprehensive Transplant Institute. In addition, UAB has an NCI designated Cancer Center for care across the cancer continuum which provides cord blood and allogeneic stem cell transplant as therapeutic modalities in addition to an active cellular therapy (CAR-T) program.

UAB Medicine has an active Infection Prevention (IP) program that reports to the Chief Quality Officer. The current structure includes a senior director of IP, an IP manager, 9.5 IP specialists, and a data analyst who successfully perform surveillance, risk assessment, education, and review of best practices around infection prevention. The physician healthcare epidemiologist is responsible for directing clinical activities of the IP program, along with four associate hospital epidemiologists who are infectious disease specialists. The duties of the hospital epidemiologist include strategic planning, leadership of quality/performance improvement initiatives, and communication with facility administrators, providers, and staff involved in the care of patients.

UAB Hospital

UAB Hospital, the main hospital on the UAB Medicine campus, has 1,207 beds and encompasses all of the services expected of a quaternary care academic center. UAB is home to growing programs within solid organ and stem cell transplantation, comprehensive cancer care, complex structural cardiology, and busy

surgical services, as well as a status of a Level 1 trauma center. With a catchment area that spans the entire state as well as portions of neighboring states, patients come from great distances to seek specialized care at UAB Hospital. There are three ID teaching teams at UAB Hospital, of which two are focused on general infectious diseases, and the third focuses on immunocompromised (transplant, chemotherapy, rheumatologic conditions, and more) patients.

Highlands Hospital

Located just one mile from University Hospital, Highlands Hospital offers a slightly different ID experience with a focus on orthopedics and general medicine patients. Fellows have the opportunity to rotate during the second year with an increased focus on general infectious diseases in a setting similar to a community hospital.

Birmingham VA Medical Center (BVAMC)

The VA Medical Center is contiguous to UAB Hospital and directly across the street from the academic ID offices. The BVAMC holds 277 beds and is staffed by nearly 100 UAB faculty, most of whom have part-time VA appointments and many of whom conduct VA-sponsored research.

1917 Clinic

The 1917 Clinic is one of the country's leading HIV clinics and is Alabama's largest HIV care provider, serving more than 3,700 patients. As a Ryan White HIV/AIDS program grant recipient, the clinic has provided comprehensive medical care and social support services for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured people with HIV (PWH) since 1988. The clinic aims to increase access to vital health care services through provision of primary HIV care and numerous subspecialty services onsite, including dental care, optometry, office-based opioid treatment, dermatology, nephrology, neurology, psychiatry/psychology, and chronic pain. It also collaborates with community AIDS service organizations (ASO) to support programs that address food and housing insecurity. In addition to caring for PWH, the 1917 Clinic participates in community outreach and prevention efforts. This includes community HIV education and testing events and the 1917 PrEP Clinic.

Additionally, the 1917 Clinic helps to support a robust research enterprise that includes clinical trials and outcomes research. Studies conducted through the 1917 Clinic have contributed to generalized knowledge of HIV and pioneered a number of advancements in HIV treatment that have revolutionized the way we care for PWH, including the importance of HIV viral load in clinical care and triple drug therapy. The clinic collaborates with the UAB Center for AIDS Research, the AIDS Clinic Trials Group, the Alabama Vaccine Research Clinic, CFAR Network of Clinical Integrated Systems (CNICS), and others to contribute to knowledge that will improve the lives of PWH and work towards ending the epidemic.

Alabama/North Carolina STD/HIV Prevention Training Center

The [Southeast STD/HIV Prevention and Training Center](#) (PTC) is a regional collaboration of nationally respected experts in STI/HIV training and research. The center is comprised of faculty and staff from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Wake Forest University Health Sciences (WFU), the Jefferson

County (AL) Department of Health (JCDH), and the Guilford County (NC) Department of Public Health (GCDPH). Utilizing faculty from each institution, it provides didactic and experiential training at two state-of-the-art STD clinics.

The PTC partners with federally-qualified health centers (FQHCs), community health centers, STD specialty clinics, public and private universities, and state and local health departments in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and North and South Carolina, as well as local community health organizations to provide training and technical assistance to those who promote healthy sexual and reproductive health practices, offer diagnosis and medical management for HIV and other STIs, and provide prevention counseling to individuals at risk for STIs.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES FOR THE DIRECTOR

The Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases will report to Dr. Seth Landefeld, Chair of the Department of Medicine, and will lead a group of 48 full-time faculty, 8 emeritus faculty, 9 fellows, and 162 staff. A forward-thinking, innovative leader, the director will oversee and drive the teaching, research, and clinical missions of the division. The next director will be expected to successfully navigate the following opportunities and challenges:

Collaboratively identify and execute a cohesive strategic vision for the division

The next director will work collaboratively to articulate a vision that aligns with the values and priorities of the department of medicine, the HSOM, UAB Medicine, and the patient community it serves. In doing so, the director will ensure that the division has an effective leadership structure and administrative support; consistent, clear, and transparent communication that brings the division together; pathways to strengthen existing and seek new collaborations across the tripartite landscape; and a vision for the future that inspires intellectual curiosity and continues to strengthen research, education, and clinical care. Overall, the director will be a strong listener, and an engaged and inclusive leader who can galvanize faculty to achieve an ambitious set of priorities for the future, at a time of transformative change for UAB.

Promote collaboration within the division and across HSOM, UAB Medicine, and beyond

The director will be the conduit for partnerships and synergy within the division. With a broad array of subspecialties and being spread out over several clinical locations, there is ample opportunity to bring the range of infectious diseases stakeholders together in new ways. Additionally, with a new director of CFAR stepping in, a new cancer hospital on the horizon, top-notch outcomes research across UAB, and unparalleled community partnerships, there are innumerable opportunities for the division to partner externally to address disparities in healthcare that continue to grow and plague the Southeast and beyond.

Continue to grow the division's research portfolio as measured by funding and impact

An established researcher themselves, the director will have strong knowledge of research funding mechanisms and the ability to prioritize areas of growth for the division. The division has strengths in areas such as HIV, STIs, fungal infections, and mycology, and has identified a number of emerging focus areas such as transplant and immunocompromised infectious disease. Since 2016, the division's extramural funding has grown significantly, with current funding at \$63 million (roughly \$40 million of which is NIH funding). The incoming director must not rest on this growth but harness it and continue to increase the impact the division has on the field.

Grow the division's clinical footprint to meet the clinical needs of UAB Medicine and to address infectious diseases across the Deep South

The division's faculty cover increasingly more clinical services. From antibiotic stewardship and infection prevention to employee health, the division has historically played a crucial health system-wide role, supporting a vast array of other specialties and services. To keep pace with the growing demands for care for infectious diseases, the director will need to grow its clinical footprint within the limits of available funding, ensuring the wellness of faculty, trainees, and staff. The Division also has the opportunity to address serious infectious diseases beyond the walls of UAB, including HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and novel pathogens.

Enhance and promote educational offerings available to students to cultivate the next generation of skilled clinicians and researchers

As the top teaching division within the DOM, the division offers a wide array of education and training opportunities to faculty and trainees. The director should be trainee-centered, and passionate about the division's mission to train the next generation of infectious disease leaders. To do so, the director will ensure that the fellowship program caters to the needs of trainees, provides excellent exposure to the array of complex and rare infectious diseases in a variety of settings, and offers a platform for research, scholarships, and mentorship. The director will inspire a culture of life-long learning amongst all divisional stakeholders.

Strategically recruit talented faculty while retaining and developing the excellent group of current faculty

The director will be tasked with creating a recruitment strategy to attract top talent at all faculty levels. This requires identifying specific growth areas for the division, including considering partnering with other divisions on dual hires. Simultaneously, the director will ensure that the division remains one that faculty want to be a part of. There are many long-serving faculty within the division—a testament to the positive culture. The director will steward this, ensuring that all faculty have access to mentorship, professional development, and an inclusive work environment.

Promote the division's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion

The director must have a history of engaging in meaningful and impactful diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Inclusive excellence is a key focus of UAB, and diversity is a defining feature of Birmingham's past, present, and future. UAB is committed to capitalizing on what makes Birmingham and the University trailblazers in moving inclusion forward by invigorating conversations, fostering civic engagement, widening perspectives, stimulating innovation, and connecting people; the director will lead this charge for the division. A tireless communicator, the director will inspire candid conversations and an open exchange of ideas by creating a culture of trust and respect.

QUALIFACTIONS & EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate will bring the following skills, qualities, and experience, which are considered critical to success:

- A board-certified MD or MD/PhD with a record of achievement for appointment at the level of professor or associate professor;
- Track record in scholarly achievement and prior success in obtaining extramural funding;
- Progressive administrative and operational experience in an academic medical center setting;
- A track record of partnering with a breadth of stakeholders to develop, inspire, communicate, and operationalize a shared vision and strategic plan, and negotiating the needed resources;
- Ability to clarify roles and develop a strong leadership team and to delegate authority to streamline policies, processes, and procedures within a complex, evolving, and dynamic environment;
- Experience leading faculty physicians in complex clinical settings;
- A deep understanding of basic and clinical research from inception to implementation research;
- Diversity and inclusion as lived values, and evidence building a culture that ensures equity;
- Understanding of and enthusiasm for the tripartite mission of HSOM;
- Understanding of the value of medical education and of the recent and emerging trends;
- Success leading or supporting faculty recruitment, retention, and development efforts that enhance academic excellence, diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Strong acumen and judgment in managing financial resources and the ability to develop and implement budgets effectively, aligning resources with strategic priorities.

TO APPLY

Interested applicants are invited to electronically submit their curriculum vitae and letter of interest to:

Randi Herrick, Partner
Jasmine Miller, Senior Associate
Rachel Banderob, Senior Search Coordinator

Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-alabama-birmingham-heersink-school-medicine/director-division-infectious>

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. A pre-employment background check investigation is performed on candidates selected for employment.

Physicians and other clinical faculty candidates who will be employed by the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF) or other UAB Medicine entities, must successfully complete a pre-employment drug and nicotine screen to be hired.