

UT SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SAN ANTONIO



The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio
a collaborative school of public health of
**The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio &
The University of Texas at San Antonio**
San Antonio, Texas

**Search for
Associate Dean of Research and Partnerships**

THE SEARCH

The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio (SPH or The School) seeks a dynamic and visionary leader to serve as the inaugural Associate Dean of Research and Partnerships (ADRP), a vital member of the School's foundational leadership team. The School of Public Health is a new collaborative school between The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio) and The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The SPH mission is to perform meaningful scholarship that discovers, disseminates, and applies evidence-based, equity-driven scalable solutions and policies to advance the health of the planet and its population—especially those that belong to historically underserved, marginalized, and vulnerable groups; serve public health needs and promote a culture of health and well-being locally and regionally, while thinking nationally and globally; and educate, develop, and train the next generation of public health leaders and professionals in systems thinking, health equity, and precision public health so they can face current and future public health threats and opportunities. The SPH will provide graduate public health degrees and serve as a focus of research activities directed toward community health, while maintaining and growing relationships with entities interested in public health.

The successful ADRP candidate will have an established history of extramural funding and an understanding of public health research at all stages, from bench to bedside to the community. The ADRP will report to the School's founding dean, [Vasan Ramachandran, MD](#), and work collaboratively with the SPH leadership team. The ADRP will provide strategic leadership to advance the research and community engagement missions of the SPH. They will enhance an academic environment focused on excellence, professional growth, social justice, equity, belonging, and inclusion. The ADRP will bring transformational and innovative thinking to the mission of building and growing a robust and vibrant research infrastructure.

Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, has been retained to assist in this search. All inquiries, nominations, and applications with cover letters should be submitted in confidence to the search firm as indicated at the end of this document.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SAN ANTONIO

The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio's overarching goal is to create an advanced, socially responsible, financially self-sufficient, and state-of-the-art Hispanic-serving school. The School will have a regional focus with an aim to bring excellence, innovation, and community engagement in its tripartite mission to promote public health and well-being in San Antonio, Bexar County, and South Texas. The School seeks to become the regional steward of achieving a dynamic condition of health and well-being in South Texas.

The tripartite mission of the School is to provide:

- **Education**—that is practical
- **Research**—that matters
- **Service**—that counts

Academic Programs

Academic programs will leverage the methods-to-research-to-practice and service continuum to conduct transdisciplinary, intersectional, multi-sectoral research prioritizing equity and inclusion. The School's team will collaborate on new academic programs to serve a varied population and build public health leaders who understand and are dedicated to finding positive interventions to mitigate our most significant public health challenges. Degree programs offered at the School will provide a unique public health education by integrating advanced health research. The program curriculum will emphasize experiential learning opportunities, offering the advantages of active engagement and hands-on experience with school and community partners.

Graduate Programs

The School of Public Health's Master of Public Health (MPH) program is specifically designed to serve the San Antonio and South Texas communities. Locally relevant public health data is incorporated throughout the curriculum to create a concrete and tangible application of public health concepts and strategies such that students will experience learning that is practical, research that matters for the San Antonio and South Texas region, and service that counts, is valued, and materially impacts the unique communities across the region. Students will gain skills in meaningful scholarship that discovers, disseminates, and applies evidence-based, equity-driven scalable solutions and policies that can be implemented promptly. The curricular design emphasizes educating and training the next generation of public health leaders and professionals in systems thinking, social justice and health equity, and precision public health. The School's graduates will receive training with direct relevance to the unique public health needs of South Texas, itself a microcosm of the future of the nation.

Additional offerings through the School—including MPH concentrations, doctoral degree programs, and professional certifications—are in the planning stage.

School of Public Health Research Teams

[Research teams](#) are dedicated to gathering information on social determinants of health, including poverty, education, location, and access to healthcare, and creating solutions to address these factors and decrease health inequalities.

Timeline

The University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio is now accepting student applications for its first MPH cohort beginning in Fall 2024.

The School is on a trajectory to achieve accreditation in the coming years from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), the premier accreditation for schools of public health. The generalist MPH program has approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and is pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Doctoral programs in public health will admit students in the following years. As well, opportunities to offer dual degree programs within UT Health San Antonio (e.g., MD/MPH) and across both UT Health San Antonio and UTSA (e.g., MPH/MBA) will expand academic offerings in the School.

The graduate educational and administrative functions of the School will be supported by a combination of student tuition and fees, and general revenues appropriated by the Texas Legislature and philanthropy. In addition, the School will be supported by funding from UT Health San Antonio and UTSA during the start-up years. It is expected that research activities will be fully supported by external grants and contracts. Additional sources of initial investment and endowments will be pursued for sustainability and growth.

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Health Policy and Health Services Administration department will have scholars with interests spanning the full range of issues in health policy; access to and disparities in health care; the economics of health care; health insurance and health care financing; global health; health systems administration at federal, state, county and city levels; health care policies and organization of its services addressing current and emergent health care needs; the needs of an aging population and that of under-represented groups; infant and children's health; women's health; and Hispanic health. Disciplines within the department may be broad including, but not limited to, the fields of health economics, health care management, health services administration, and health policy.

The Environmental and Occupational Health department will contain faculty with a range of expertise, including applied science, community-based participatory research, intervention research, or health disparities research. Disciplines may be broad including, but not limited to, the fields of environmental and occupational health, environmental justice, industrial/occupational hygiene and safety, water and air quality, climate change and health, food safety, agricultural health, environmental risk assessment, environmental engineering, or a closely related field.

The Health, Behavior and Society department emphasizes health in South Texas and the majority-minority Hispanic city of San Antonio. Through a health equity lens, health disparities in cancer, behavioral health

and substance use, diabetes and metabolic disorders, sexual health, and infectious diseases are emphasized. Scholarly and programmatic activity on structural and social determinants of health, community-based participatory research, implementation science, structural interventions, evaluation and health communication are encouraged.

The Quantitative and Qualitative Health Sciences department puts epidemiologic concepts and methods into public health practice, contributes to research studies, and interprets scientific evidence relevant to public health. The curriculum in this department covers a variety of fields of study, including biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, and social epidemiology, as well as decision sciences, demography, and program evaluation. Methodologic interests, including anthropology, narrative inquiry, mixed methods, ethnographic studies, longitudinal data analysis, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, clinical trials, missing data, psychometrics, structural equation modeling, causal inference, and Bayesian methods, are also topics in this curriculum.

THE ROLE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN OF RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS

Reporting to the Dean, the ADRP will support research and scholarly activity among SPH faculty, staff, and students; lead the activities of SPH research and community partnerships staff; represent the SPH on institutional committees with relevance to research and community engagement; develop strategies to build the local, national, and global footprint and reputation of the SPH's research programs; and work closely and effectively with community and industry stakeholders. The ADRP is expected to develop thematic and interdisciplinary public health research and partnership efforts, establish research and community engagement professional development programs, and plan and develop significant research initiatives and partnerships.

The successful candidate should be eligible for a faculty appointment in one of the SPH departments, with a rank commensurate with the candidate's background. While this is a 12-month appointment with no required teaching responsibilities, all SPH faculty are encouraged to teach at least one course per academic year.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Serve as the Dean's liaison for research and partnerships to SPH faculty, staff, and students; other UTHSCSA offices and schools; and partner institutions.
- Serve as the SPH's primary representative to community partners interested in or engaged in research and/or outreach involving the SPH.
- Develop and coordinate professional development and mentoring programs to enhance research and community engagement capacity, forums, and research symposia, and promote and enhance research and community engagement across the SPH.
- Lead and implement training and development opportunities to promote faculty success in acquiring research, fellowship, and/or other extramural support.
- Support faculty in developing strategic research initiatives and responding to emerging research and partnership opportunities.

- Develop partnerships within the SPH, other UT Health San Antonio and UTSA schools, and external academic and nonacademic entities.
- Serve as an advocate and actively contribute to effective interactions between SPH units, the SPH, the University, and its partners related to grant and contract processing, submission, and management.
- Develop, oversee, and implement the SPH Dean's priority programs related to research and community partnerships.

Qualifications and Characteristics

The ideal candidate will elucidate and understand patterns of health, well-being, and disease and their drivers in the community. They will bring strong visibility to the public health research community.

In addition, the successful candidate will meet most, if not all, of the following criteria:

- Doctoral degree from a regionally accredited university in a public health (or closely related) discipline.
- Grant writing and management expertise, demonstrated via direct experience as a PI of extramurally funded research awards.
- Experience developing and managing large research programs, complex grants, and/or centers of excellence.
- Demonstrated success in developing, enhancing, and/or sustaining academic and community collaborations across disciplines.
- Strong publication history in peer-reviewed journals.
- Demonstrated ability to work and lead collaboratively and collegially in a team environment with faculty, staff, students, and administrators.
- Understanding of and direct experience with institutional administrative research processes, federal or non-federal grant finance administration, and compliance issues.
- Strong process management skills, analytical abilities, and attention to detail.
- Demonstrated ability to build successful teams and form consensus while collaboratively advancing projects and strategic priorities.
- Experience planning, implementing, and sustaining comprehensive interdisciplinary research or community engagement programs.
- Understanding of industry-sponsored research and foundation grants.
- Evidence of sustained engagement in public health and community service.
- Commitment to public health with a demonstrated passion for historically underserved communities and populations.
- Educational experience with a strong record of scholarly and professional achievement.

TO APPLY

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website for the search.

Amy Segal, Partner

Amy Gillespie, Senior Associate
Olivia McVicker, Managing Search Coordinator
Isaacson, Miller

<https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/university-texas-health-science-center-san-antonio-school-public-health/associate>

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UT Health San Antonio is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer including protected veterans and persons with disabilities. All faculty appointments are designated as security sensitive positions.

APPENDIX

The University of Texas System

The University of Texas (UT) System was established by the Texas Constitution in 1876. It is one of the nation's largest higher education systems and is currently comprised of eight academic universities and five health institutions. The nine-member Board of Regents is the governing body for The University of Texas System. The chancellor, the chief executive officer of the UT System, reports to the Board of Regents and is responsible to the Board for all aspects of the UT System's operations. The UT System has an annual operating budget of \$22.1 billion in sponsored programs funded by federal, state, local, and private sources. It confers more than one-third of the state's baccalaureate degrees and educates nearly three-fourths of the state's healthcare professionals annually. With approximately 100,000 employees in Texas, the UT System is one of the largest employers in the state. It is responsible for the central management and coordination of the multiple campuses and is in Austin, Texas. For more information about the UT System, please see <https://www.utsystem.edu/>.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UT Health San Antonio)



Located in San Antonio, Texas, with over two million square feet of facilities for education, research, treatment, and administration, UT Health San Antonio is a dynamic and rapidly expanding health science center with six professional schools, a workforce of 7,900, a FY2023 annual operating budget of more than \$1 billion, a clinical practice that dedicates more than \$633 million to uncompensated care and a research portfolio of \$360 million. The institution enrolls over 3,500 students annually. UT Health San Antonio has produced more than 41,100 graduates and has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic-serving institution, consistently ranking among the top schools in the nation for graduating Hispanic healthcare providers.

The mission of UT Health San Antonio is to make lives better through excellence in education, research, health care, and community engagement. Strategies for achieving this mission are:

- *Education*: educating a diverse student body to become excellent healthcare providers and scientists
- *Research*: engaging in research to understand health and disease, and to commercialize discoveries, as appropriate, to benefit public health
- *Patient Care*: providing compassionate and culturally appropriate health care and influencing thoughtful advances in health policy
- *Community Engagement*: engaging our community to improve health.
- *Organizational Effectiveness*: striving for excellence, innovation, quality and professionalism in every aspect of our operations and outcomes

The institution has also been on a tremendous growth trajectory for the last several years in all of its mission areas, but to a great extent in its clinical mission. UT Health San Antonio is in the process of building its first hospital, [UT Health San Antonio Multi-Specialty & Research Hospital](#), a \$465 million, eight-story, 144-bed facility which broke ground in March 2021 and will be open in 2024. The hospital will offer specialty care in cancer, orthopaedics, urology, and thoracic and bariatric surgery. Early-phase clinical

trials, including immunologic and cellular-based therapies for cancer, will be housed and supported by the most innovative research conducted across South Texas.

UT Health San Antonio has excelled at fostering mutually beneficial, collaborative arrangements with business, industry, education, government, and the military. Its current primary teaching hospitals in San Antonio – University Hospital and clinics of University Health, the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (VA), and UT Health San Antonio's important military hospital partner, the San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC) – all play a vital role. University Hospital is a component of University Health, a separate governmental entity serving San Antonio and Bexar County, that also serves as the teaching hospital for UT Health San Antonio's graduate medical education residency programs, with the physicians of UT Health San Antonio serving as the medical staff for University Hospital. In addition to serving as an educational site for trainees, the VA holds an important relationship with UT Health San Antonio in clinical and basic science research. The concentration of military medicine centered at the historic and internationally recognized Brooke Army Medical Center of the San Antonio Military Medical Center also provides unique opportunities to collaborate in education, research, and clinical care.

UT Health San Antonio is the chief catalyst for the \$44.1 billion health care and biosciences sector of the San Antonio economy, the city's largest economic sector. It is ranked in the top three percent worldwide for all organizations that receive National Institutes of Health funding. The institution is a national research leader in cancer, diabetes, stroke prevention, heart disease, kidney disease, orthopedics, respiratory disorders, transplant surgery, imaging research, pain management, psychiatry and clinical neurosciences, genetics, nursing, dentistry, allied health, and public health preparedness. The institution is home to numerous centers and institutes in aging, Alzheimer's and neurodegenerative diseases, cancer, population health, and trauma research, among others. Currently, UT Health San Antonio has more than \$360 million in annual research awards and sponsored program activities and is on track to reach \$400 million in the next few years.

For more information regarding UT Health San Antonio, please visit <https://www.uthscsa.edu/>



The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA)

The University of Texas at San Antonio is a Hispanic-serving institution (HSI) situated in a global city that has been at the crossroads of peoples and cultures for centuries. The university community values equity and inclusion in all aspects of university life. UTSA was founded to advance the education of Mexican Americans and other underserved communities, and the university remains committed to that mission today. UTSA is the third largest of the nine academic universities in the UT System and is the leading public Hispanic-serving research university in the UT System.

UTSA serves over 34,000 students with more than 1,400 faculty and 5,600 staff and student employees; it is the largest university in the San Antonio metropolitan region. As one of the first designated Hispanic Serving Institution Research Universities, UTSA is highly focused on student success and meeting the educational and socio-emotional needs of first-generation, traditionally excluded, transfer, DACA, Veteran, and international students. UTSA is proud of its multicultural community; approximately two-thirds are persons of color from historically underrepresented backgrounds (with more than half of the student body identifying as Hispanic) and nearly half of the students will be the first in their families to earn a bachelor's degree. Transfer students comprise about 40 percent of UTSA's total undergraduate population, further enhancing the inclusive excellence of its community. UTSA's military community comprises 13 percent of the total students and includes active-duty military members, veterans, reserves, and their spouses and dependents. Additionally, UTSA remains committed to the local community and 63 percent of the student community comes from San Antonio and South Texas.

UTSA advances knowledge through research, scholarly and creative activities, teaching and learning, community engagement, and public service. It serves as a center for intellectual and creative resources and a catalyst for both socioeconomic development and the commercialization of intellectual property—for Texas, the nation, and the world. UTSA is leading San Antonio's knowledge economy by training the next generation of scientists and researchers. With research expenditures reaching their highest levels in UTSA's 50+ year history (\$141 million in the 2022 fiscal year), designation as a Top-Tier research institution, or R1 university, by Carnegie, and participation in the National Research University Fund (NRUF), UTSA has become one of Texas's innovation powerhouses and a driver of economic opportunity and social mobility for the community. The addition of this new collaborative school of public health will be an important driver of continued acceleration in sponsored research growth for UTSA.

UTSA has many points of pride, including being recognized as the #1 Hispanic-serving Institution in the nation by Bloomberg Businessweek, ranked #44 among all universities by *US News & World Report* in Social Mobility, and has the #1 cybersecurity program in the nation according to a survey by Ponemon Institute. *Hispanic Network Magazine* includes UTSA among its "Best of the Best" rankings of U.S. universities. UTSA also is among an elite group of U.S. universities to earn the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement Classification. For more information about UTSA, please visit <https://www.utsa.edu/about/>.



Leadership

Dr. Ramachandran

Vasan Ramachandran, MD began his tenure as founding dean of the UT School of Public Health San Antonio in September of 2022. Ramachandran served on the faculty of the Boston University School of Medicine and School of Public Health for more than a quarter-century and as principal investigator of the Framingham Heart Study since 2014. Ramachandran also has served since 2019 as one of the principal investigators for the Risk Underlying Rural Areas Longitudinal Study (RURAL), aimed at addressing critical gaps in the knowledge of heart and lung disorders in rural counties in the southeastern U.S. This study is of 4,600 individuals ages 25-64 from ten rural counties in Southern Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta.



Dr. Henrich

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP, has served as the president of UT Health San Antonio since 2009. During his career, Henrich has served as professor of medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine, as professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at the Medical College of Ohio, and as the Theodore Woodward professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine at The University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. He became the dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs at UT Health San Antonio in 2006 before being selected as its president in 2009. He is the founding holder of the John P. Howe, III, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Health Policy.



Dr. Eighmy

Taylor Eighmy, Ph.D., has served as the president of UT San Antonio since 2017. During his career, Eighmy has served as the chief research officer at the University of New Hampshire, Texas Tech University, and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. In addition to the presidency, Eighmy serves as a member of the UTSA faculty as a professor with appointments in the College of Engineering's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the College of Sciences' Department of Environmental Science and Ecology. Eighmy is an advocate for urban-serving public education and is passionate about UTSA's role in developing San Antonio's knowledge economy and preparing new leaders for a changing world.





SAN ANTONIO RIVER WALK

About San Antonio

Located in South Central Texas, the southwestern corner of an urban region known as the Texas Triangle, San Antonio thrives as one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States. San Antonio is the seventh most populous city in the United States and the second-most populous city in the state of Texas, with a population of 1.45 million. San Antonio has a strong public school system with 13 school districts across the metropolitan area and several of the nation's highest-ranked private schools as well. The city also is home to dozens of private and public colleges and universities. "As comfortable as an old pair of jeans," San Antonio offers big-city amenities, world-renowned attractions, and a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Residents benefit from living in a destination city with year-round access to such attractions as Six Flags, Fiesta Texas, and SeaWorld San Antonio, while also enjoying such arts and culture venues as the Majestic Theater, the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, and the McNay Art Museum, along with the Alamo and other historic Spanish missions. San Antonio sees approximately 300 days of sunshine per year, with an average high of 80.2 degrees Fahrenheit and an average low of 58.6 degrees.