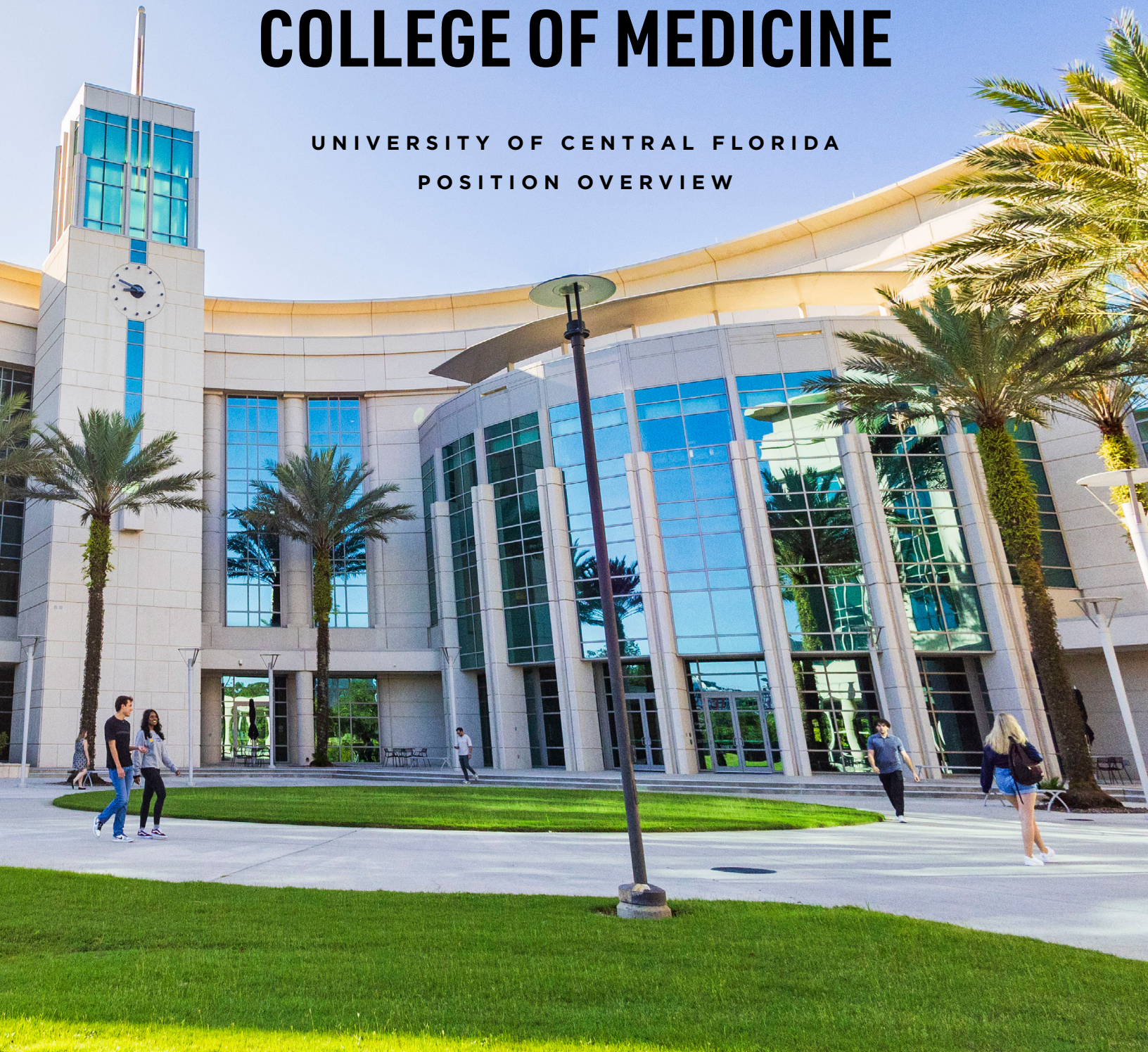




VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS & DEAN, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
POSITION OVERVIEW**



ABOUT THE

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

Founded in 1963 to fuel the talent pipeline for America's space program, the University of Central Florida has grown into one of the nation's largest and most dynamic research universities. Today, UCF enrolls 70,674 students across 12 colleges and offers more than 230-degree programs — while maintaining an unwavering focus on student success, innovation, and community impact.

UCF's Carnegie R1 designation was reaffirmed in 2025, underscoring the university's sustained trajectory as a very high research activity institution and a national leader in innovation and discovery. Researchers received \$237.4 million in external funding in fiscal year 2025, and UCF has earned more than \$1 billion in grants and contracts over the past decade. With more than 13,000 employees and a \$2 billion operating budget, UCF is the largest university by enrollment in Florida and one of the largest in the nation. UCF's Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona — part of one of the most dynamic medical districts in the southeastern United States — serves as the primary home of the College of Medicine. The college's footprint is deeply embedded across UCF's main campus, where it helps anchor an integrated academic and research environment that connects biomedical sciences, medical education, translational research, and healthcare innovation.

70,674 STUDENTS

R1 CARNEGIE RESEARCH CLASSIFICATION

\$237.4M RESEARCH FUNDING (FY2025)

401,000+ ALUMNI WORLDWIDE



ABOUT THE

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The UCF College of Medicine was established in 2006 as a distinctly 21st-century medical school — research intensive, technology forward, and community connected. Drawing strength from both its Health Sciences Campus at Lake Nona Medical City and UCF's main campus, the College comprises the M.D. program and the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, situated alongside UCF Lake Nona Hospital, the UCF Cancer Center, Nemours Children's Hospital, and the Orlando VA Medical Center.

The M.D. program enrolled its inaugural class in fall 2009 and now graduates 120 physicians per year. LCME-accredited, the program integrates basic and clinical sciences from day one, engages 100% of students in research, and achieved a 100% residency match for the Class of 2025. Across the College, students pursue more than a dozen undergraduate degrees, minors, and certificate programs that prepare them for careers in medicine, healthcare, research, and the life sciences.

The Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, in a 198,000-square-foot facility, is home to nearly 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students — the Bachelor's of Science in Biomedical Sciences is UCF's second most popular major. Research spans cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurodegeneration, and infectious disease. Joint degrees include M.D./Ph.D., M.D./M.B.A., and M.D./M.S.



Graduate medical education has expanded dramatically: through partnerships with HCA Healthcare and the Orlando VA Medical Center, residency and fellowship programs have grown from 17 residents in 2014 to more than 720 physicians training across Florida. In 2025, the College launched a pioneering aerospace medicine program leveraging UCF's proximity to Kennedy Space Center. The College also operates UCF Health Faculty Physician Practice, the student-run KNIGHTS Clinic, and a 38-foot Mobile Health Clinic serving uninsured community members.

► POINTS OF PRIDE

- Founded 2006 | M.D. program launched fall 2009 | LCME accredited
- 100% of M.D. students participate in research
- 100% residency match rate, Class of 2025
- Nearly 3,000 Burnett School students — Biomedical Sciences BS is UCF's second most popular major
- 720+ residents and fellows training across Florida
- More than 450 bachelor's degrees were awarded in 2025
- Aerospace medicine program launched 2025 in partnership with Kennedy Space Center
- UCF Lake Nona Cancer Center: partnership with Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Florida Cancer Specialists & HCA Radiation Oncology
- 19 active clinical trials in cancer, asthma & Huntington's disease
- UCF Health Faculty Physician Practice + student-run KNIGHTS Clinic
- 38-foot Mobile Health Clinic expanding community health access





ABOUT

ORLANDO & LAKE NONA MEDICAL CITY

Orlando is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan regions in the United States — a dynamic, diverse city that offers exceptional quality of life alongside extraordinary professional opportunity. With a metro population approaching 4 million, Orlando has evolved into an economic powerhouse with strengths in life sciences, defense and aerospace, financial services, technology, and healthcare.

Lake Nona Medical City is a singular environment for academic medicine, bringing together institutions rarely found in such proximity: UCF's Health Sciences Campus, UCF Lake Nona Hospital, the UCF Cancer Center, Nemours Children's Hospital, the Orlando VA Medical Center, the USTA's National Campus, and Johnson & Johnson's Human Performance Institute — with Kennedy Space Center nearby further expanding opportunities at the frontier of aerospace medicine and human performance science. Florida's large, diverse, and growing patient population creates both urgency and opportunity. The next VP and Dean will lead in a region where the stakes — and the possibilities — are uniquely large.



GOVERNANCE & THE ROLE

› THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF is a member of the State University System of Florida, governed by the Florida Board of Governors. President Alexander N. Cartwright provides executive leadership and sets strategic direction for the institution and its colleges.

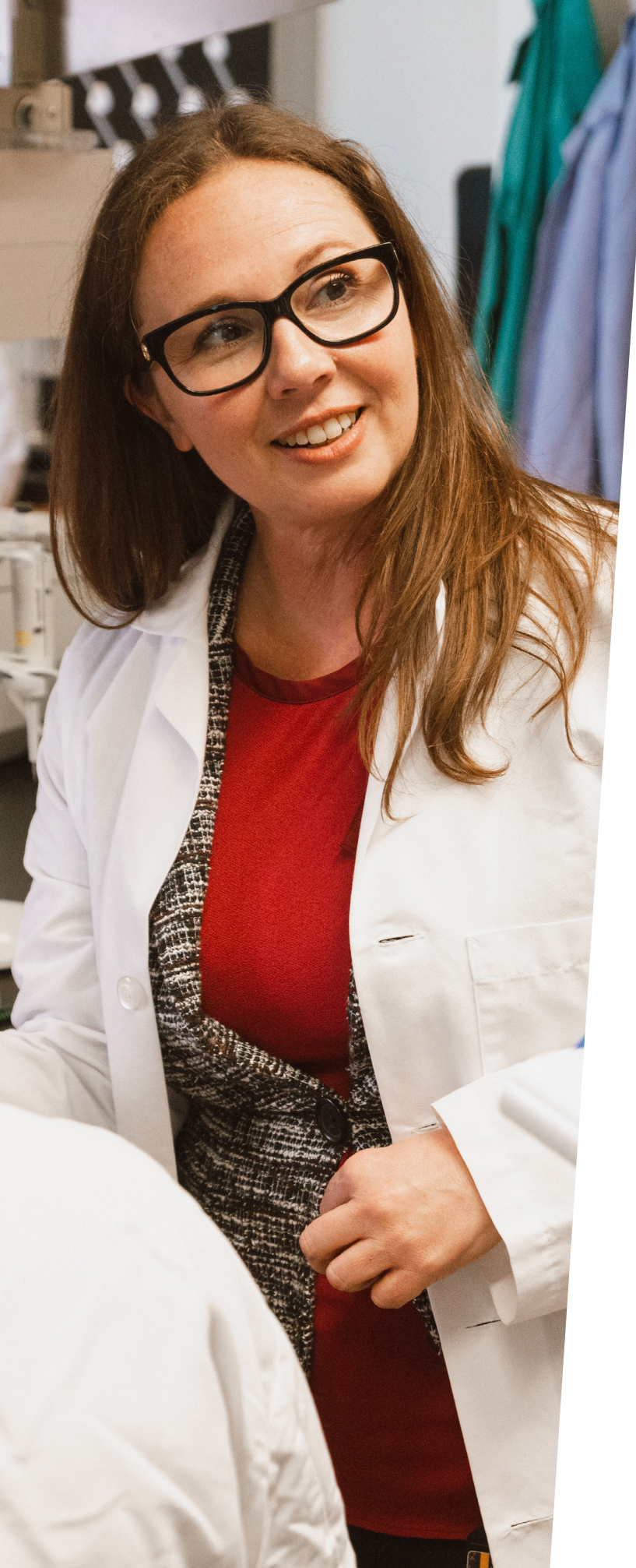
› THE UCF ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

The Academic Health Sciences Center unites the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and College of Health Professions under a shared mission, giving the incoming VP and Dean a platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration and system-wide impact across health professions education, research, and clinical care.

› VICE PRESIDENT FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS AND DEAN

The VP/Dean is the chief executive of the UCF College of Medicine and reports directly to the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. The position also serves as a member of the President's Cabinet. The role encompasses strategic and operational leadership for the M.D. program, the Burnett School of Biomedical Sciences, the college's undergraduate and graduate academic portfolio, graduate medical education programs, basic science, translational, and clinical research enterprises, and UCF Health Faculty Physician Practice— as well as responsibility for building and sustaining the clinical partnerships that expand educational access, grow UCF Health, and advance UCF's position as a regional healthcare anchor.





POSITION SUMMARY

Built from the ground up by its visionary founding dean over the past two decades, the UCF College of Medicine has emerged as a genuine force in academic medicine — research-intensive, technologically innovative, and deeply connected to the communities it serves. As the College enters its next chapter, UCF seeks an experienced, mission-driven leader to serve as Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of Medicine.

The next VP and Dean will inherit a remarkable foundation and face a genuinely exciting set of challenges and opportunities: scaling the research enterprise to national competitiveness, deepening and diversifying clinical partnerships across Central Florida, building the faculty and infrastructure to support a growing educational mission, creating innovative educational and in-demand workforce-aligned programs, and positioning UCF as Florida's Technological University by blending medicine, technology, and discovery. This is a role for a builder — someone who sees the full potential of what UCF's College of Medicine can become and has the vision, relationships, and drive to realize it.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Faculty, staff, and stakeholders identified several defining priorities for the College's next chapter. The incoming VP and Dean will be expected to lead with clarity and urgency across each of these areas.

► **EXPAND THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE**

The College holds significant research potential. Faculty bring exceptional intellectual depth across biomedical sciences, engineering, optics, and health professions — leveraging that talent to attract external funding is a significant opportunity. The next leader will build a robust research ecosystem: attracting high-impact faculty, securing extramural funding, and developing the administrative infrastructure to support a competitive, translational research mission. With NIH funding environments in flux, creative approaches to revenue diversification and partnership-driven research will be essential.

► **DEEPEN AND DIVERSIFY CLINICAL PARTNERSHIPS**

The College currently partners with HCA Healthcare, Nemours Children's Hospital, and the Orlando VA to deliver clinical education — strong relationships that nonetheless leave opportunities to build out further clinical partnerships. A critical near-term priority is building clinical relationships with Central Florida health systems to expand local training opportunities, strengthen community ties, and increase the College's regional footprint.



› **GROW AND SUPPORT THE FACULTY**

Growing the faculty is among the most pressing challenges the College faces. A dedicated faculty delivers the exceptional medical education and curriculum, and there are opportunities to continue to build faculty strength. The next VP and Dean must develop a strategic plan for faculty expansion in high-demand disciplines, build depth in areas where only single experts exist, and create the space and resources for a growing team.

› **GROW UCF HEALTH AND GENERATE RESOURCES**

UCF Health, the College's faculty physician practice, is both a clinical resource for the region and a critical revenue stream. The next VP and Dean must have the commercial acumen to grow UCF Health strategically — increasing market presence and building the financial foundation that enables reinvestment in education, research, and facilities. The ability to generate revenue through clinical operations, state advocacy, research, and philanthropy is essential.

› **LEAD TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN MEDICAL EDUCATION**

UCF's strengths in engineering, optics and photonics, modeling and simulation, and artificial intelligence position the College to define what 21st-century medical education looks like. President Cartwright has articulated a clear ambition: UCF should be Florida's leader in technology-driven medicine. The next VP and Dean must operationalize that vision — integrating AI into clinical training, expanding interdisciplinary programs, and preparing physicians for an era where the boundaries between medicine, engineering, and technology are rapidly dissolving.

› **FOSTER INNOVATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

The College of Medicine's extensive undergraduate and graduate academic programs create a talent pipeline to strengthen UCF's contribution to Florida's healthcare and life sciences workforce. The next VP and Dean is expected to steward existing programs while identifying opportunities for new academic offerings that respond and align evolving student interests, with emerging employer needs in healthcare and biomedical science.

› **ADVANCE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**

With more than 720 residents and fellows training across Florida, the College's GME programs are a significant asset and a major contributor to the state's physician workforce. Continued growth — through partnerships with HCA Healthcare, the VA, and potential new affiliates — will extend the College's reach and deepen its pipeline from medical school through residency into practice.

› **PURSUE PHILANTHROPIC GROWTH**

As one of Florida's youngest medical schools, UCF's College of Medicine has a compelling story and a growing community of engaged donors, alumni, and partners. The next VP and Dean must be effective in securing the resources needed to advance both UCF's and the College's strategic priorities — making the case for the college and its impact, building lasting relationships with donors, alumni, foundations, industry partners, and public stakeholders, and working with the UCF Foundation to grow the College's philanthropic base through major gifts, endowed faculty positions, capital projects, and student support.

LEADERSHIP PRIORITIES

Members of the College's community identified a clear and consistent picture of the qualities the College's next VP and Dean must bring to the role.

► RESEARCH CREDENTIALS AND MEDICAL ENTERPRISE EXPERIENCE

Substantial experience as both a medical researcher and a leader of a medical research enterprise is key. The next VP and Dean must understand the full lifecycle of building a research culture — from recruiting faculty and developing labs to securing extramural funding and translating findings into clinical impact.

► VISION AND STRATEGIC AGILITY

The College needs a leader who can articulate a compelling vision for what UCF's College of Medicine can become — and chart the course to get there. The next VP and Dean must honor the strong foundation built by the founding dean while pivoting to address new realities: shifting federal funding landscapes, rapid technological change, and the evolving dynamics of academic healthcare. Creativity, intellectual flexibility, and comfort with strategic risk are essential.

► PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

UCF's College of Medicine cannot grow in isolation. The next VP and Dean must forge and sustain partnerships with



other colleges across the university, and with hospitals, health systems, research institutions, government agencies, industry, and community organizations — managing complex multi-stakeholder relationships with diplomacy, trust, and mutual benefit.

› **INSPIRATIONAL FACULTY AND STAFF LEADERSHIP**

The next VP and Dean must be a genuine people leader — someone who inspires enthusiasm, unlocks underutilized faculty expertise, breaks down departmental silos, and creates a culture of collaboration and shared ambition. Accessibility and authentic investment in every member of the College community are key values.

› **COMMITMENT TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

The College's M.D. program has a well-earned reputation for quality — top-quartile board scores, a 100% residency match, and a recently refreshed evidence-based curriculum. The next VP and Dean must sustain this commitment while expanding the faculty and resources needed to support it, with a genuine appreciation for student quality and the long arc of physician development.

› **FINANCIAL ACUMEN AND REVENUE GENERATION**

The College operates in a resource-constrained environment. The next VP and Dean must be a resourceful, financially disciplined leader with the ability to grow revenue through multiple channels: clinical operations, state advocacy, federal and foundation research funding, and

philanthropy. The ability to make a compelling case for investment — and to deploy resources wisely — is fundamental to the role.

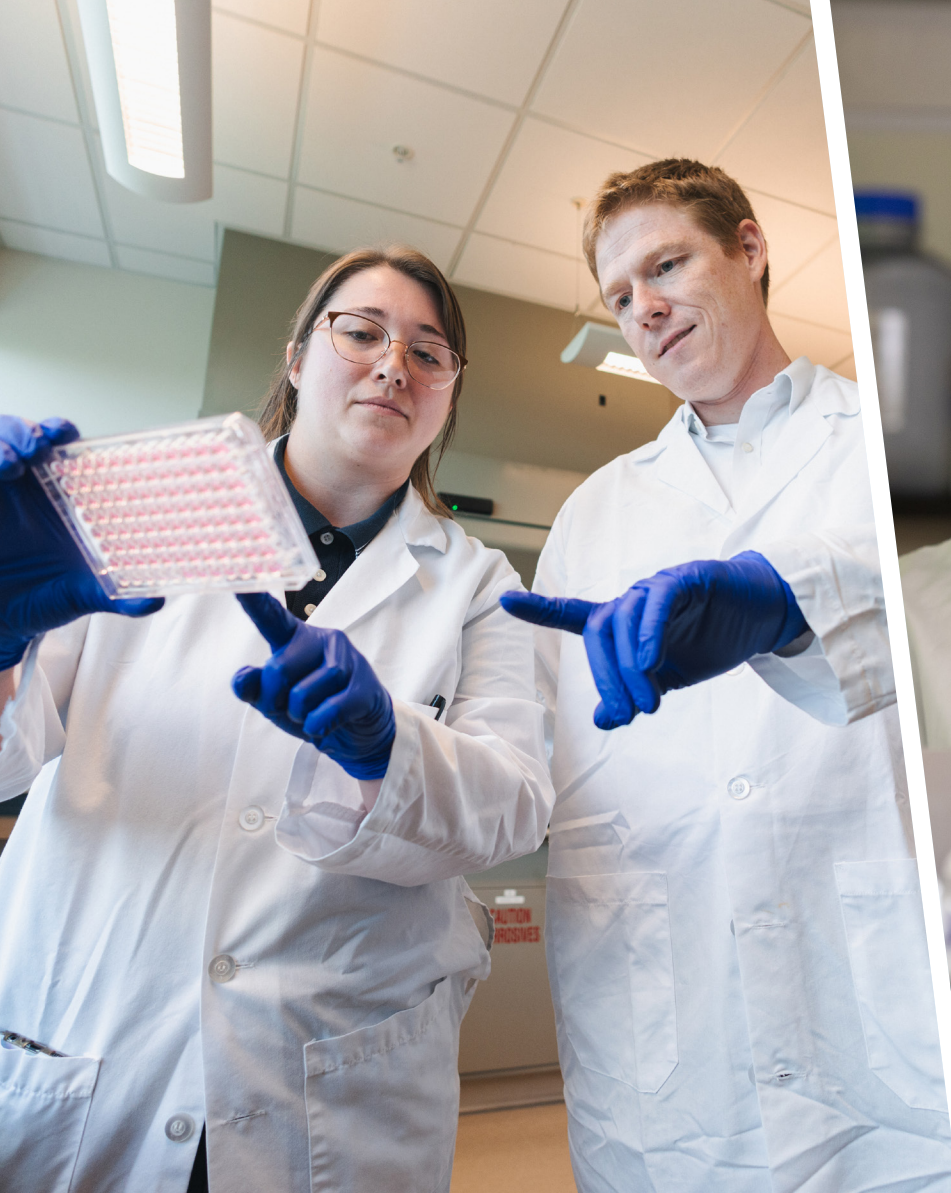
› **INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERPROFESSIONAL PERSPECTIVE**

The lines between medical disciplines, health professions, and STEM fields are rapidly converging. The next VP and Dean must bring a broad, integrative perspective and capitalize on opportunities to collaborate across UCF's academic Colleges and to leverage UCF's strengths in service of the health sciences mission.

› **RISK TOLERANCE AND INNOVATION**

Getting to the next level requires vision — and vision entails risk. The College has a strong foundation and a culture of doing more with less, but ascending to national competitiveness will require bold decisions, willingness to experiment, and resilience to navigate setbacks. The next VP and Dean should not be averse to risk; they should be energized by it.





APPLICATION PROCESS

The University of Central Florida invites letters of nomination, applications (letter of interest and complete curriculum vitae), or expressions of interest to be submitted to Funk Associates, the executive search firm assisting UCF in this search. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

For full consideration, materials should be submitted by August 15, 2026.

For more information about the position and search, please visit the UCF search website. Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact Funk Associates directly with questions about the role or the search process.

NOMINATIONS AND INQUIRIES:

Funk Associates
krisha.creal@funkassociates.com