

Position and Candidate Specification



The University of Alabama at Birmingham



Chair, Department of Pathology

PREPARED BY:

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Position Summary

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Heersink School of Medicine

THE OPPORTUNITY

The Chair of UAB Pathology will lead a thriving Department. In recent years, faculty have grown the scale and scope of the clinical footprint where today, Pathology has a presence across the system and in the community. UAB leadership has invested in research, and extramural funding in the Pathology Department is very strong. A robust administrative team supports the Department, which is financially sound. The next Chair of Pathology will join UAB at a pivotal moment in healthcare and biomedical discovery, both locally and nationally. He or she will shape an overarching vision that spans the mission areas of research, patient care, education, and service. The Chair is responsible for all aspects of the Department, including leading and developing faculty, financial and operational management, and nurturing a diverse and inclusive culture. In addition, the Chair will represent the Department across the UAB enterprise, create opportunities for collaboration, and cultivate external donors and partners. UAB seeks visionary, inspired leader who possesses strong management skills and a broad, forward-thinking view of the future of Pathology and diagnostic medicine. They will bring a proven record of accomplishments in collaborative leadership, administrative experience, program and research development, educational excellence, successful faculty recruitment and retention, and engagement across a health system.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to Anupam Agarwal, M.D., Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean, Heersink School of Medicine

Executive Vice Chair
Vice Chair, Research
Vice Chair, Faculty Development and Education
Vice Chair, Quality and Patient Safety
Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Division Directors (7)
Department Faculty and Staff
Residency and Fellowship Program Directors

Direct reports

Dawn Bulgarella, MSHA, CPA, CEO, UAB Health System & UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance
Tika Benveniste, Ph.D., Senior Vice Dean for Research, Heersink School of Medicine
Tony Jones, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Heersink School of Medicine
Reid Jones, CEO UAB Medicine

Other key relationships

Other UAB Health System leadership
Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM) Department Chairs
Faculty, Staff, Students
Patients and Families
Megann Cain, Assistant Vice President for Development, Heersink School of Medicine
Alumni & Donors
Community Leaders

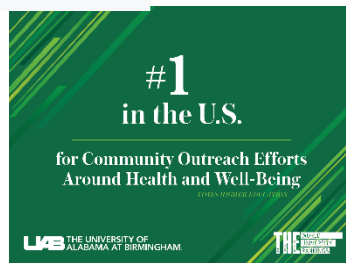
KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Map and execute the next phases of the Department’s growth. Pathology is highly interconnected across UAB Medicine, and the vision should leverage the strengths of the Department, Medical School, and health system.
- Define and lead the Department’s research strategy, emphasizing deliberate investment into research activities and priorities. Support investigators within the Department in efforts to secure NIH and other grant funding to support research priorities.
- Shape eminent clinical programs and champion technologies to enhance the care team. Partner with health system leadership in building areas of clinical excellence, competing with external diagnostic entities, and further integrating related operations across the health system.
- Bolster education and advanced training by ensuring adequate faculty support; innovate pre-clinical education.
- Supervise the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the Department-related budgets, encompassing all funding sources and ensuring compliance with grant, legislative, and institutional guidelines.
- Recruit, hire, and retain outstanding faculty. Build an atmosphere of collegiality, support, development, and diversity.
- Ensure ethical medical and financial practices across the Department, supporting compliance activities as necessary.
- Drive the four research strategic focus areas for the Heersink School of Medicine in Health Equity, Brain Health and Disease Across the Lifespan, I-4ward (Inflammation, Infection, Immunity, Immunotherapy), and D-TECH (Disruptive Technology Empowering Precision Health).

Driven by an intensely collaborative and entrepreneurial character, UAB is one of the leading economic engines of the state, with a nearly \$4 billion budget and a statewide economic impact exceeding \$7 billion annually. UAB is Alabama’s largest employer with more than 23,000 employees; it supports more than 64,000 jobs statewide. UAB currently is experiencing major and sustained investment and growth, due to both its exceptional research faculty and its culture of collaboration. UAB was awarded \$602,024,372 in total research grants and awards for the 12-month period ending Sept. 30, 2019. The figure represents an extraordinary increase of \$75 million in funding over one year — a 14.2 percent increase — and a second consecutive year of double-digit percentage growth. UAB has now averaged 10 percent growth in its research funding awards in each of the past three years and a staggering 34 percent overall increase since 2014-15. Research funding to UAB from the National Institutes of Health exceeded \$325 million in 2020, placing UAB 27th among universities in NIH funding overall. The largest amount of funding, \$269,911,974, went to investigators in the School of Medicine. This was an increase of more than \$13 million over 2019, good for 24th overall among the nation’s medical schools.

UAB is a diverse and vibrant academic community that values and is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion and which works in a team environment.

UAB is a comprehensive urban university with a nationally recognized academic health center, comprised of the Collat School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dentistry, the School of Education, the School of Engineering, the School of Health Professions, the Heersink School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the School of Optometry, the School of Public Health, and the Graduate School. In its 2022 Economic Impact Study, the University and its affiliated entities generate over **\$12.1 billion in economic impact annually within the state of Alabama**. UAB is Alabama’s largest single employer and now directly employs nearly 28,000 people. One in every 20 jobs within the state of Alabama either is held directly by a UAB employee or is supported as a result of UAB’s presence. In 2021, [Forbes magazine ranked UAB as #1 America’s best large employer](#).



NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS (please visit: <https://uab.peopleadmin.com/postings/18903>)

Applicants will need to submit a CV, a 1- to 2-page letter of interest, and a diversity statement. Within the letter of interest, candidates should include specifics regarding their interest in the position, relevant leadership experience, their high-level vision for this role, and a summary of past accomplishments (clinical, diversity, innovation, collaboration, etc.).

Statements of diversity should outline your efforts/experience in promoting diversity and inclusive excellence. For more information about our commitment to Diversity & Inclusion, visit: www.uab.edu/home/about/diversity-inclusion.

Please direct any nominations and potential applicants to:

- Spencer Stuart search team members Sarah Ekstrom via: sekstrom@spencerstuart.com or Flip Jaeger via: fjaeger@spencerstuart.com

Candidate Profile

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Heersink School of Medicine

The Chair of Pathology will possess outstanding leadership and communication skills and exhibit a manner that encourages collaboration and innovation. They will possess advanced delegation skills and be at ease in handling all Department activities and mission areas. A commitment to research and education is crucial for the role, as is an ability to collaborate with others in a way that results in mutually beneficial outcomes. This successful leader will exhibit a personal style that fosters and supports healthy risk-taking and embracing new technologies, scientific avenues, and educational modalities.

IDEAL EXPERIENCE

- Outstanding personal academic accomplishments in Pathology and the experience and national reputation necessary to build the prominence of the Department's research, clinical, and educational missions.
- Experience as a Division Head/Chief, Vice Chair, or Chair of Pathology
- A record developing academic leaders and mentoring junior faculty while identifying and recruiting diverse students, trainees, staff, and faculty.
- Demonstrated ability to build and sustain collegial relationships with peers, faculty, departmental staff, hospital administration, students, other learners, and representatives of outside organizations and community stakeholders.
- Commitment to and success in advancing institutional initiatives in diversity, inclusion, equity, and access to care.
- Demonstrated financial and business acumen, with appropriate knowledge of the complex financial pressures facing academic medical centers and health care delivery organizations.
- An M.D. or M.D./Ph.D. degree(s) and Board Certification in Pathology and either licensed or eligible for medical licensure in Alabama.

CRITICAL LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES

Program Development

The successful candidate will possess a record of success in research and clinical program development and will be able to substantially grow clinical volume and enhance research success by:

- Recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members with a commitment to excellence in an academic environment;
- Investing in faculty research programs;
- Actively building relationships to understand the needs for diagnostic medicine and growth opportunities;
- Actively seeking opportunities to develop cross-departmental programs and initiatives.

Leadership

The successful candidate will demonstrate the requisite leadership and administrative skills to advance a successful Department of Pathology into a best-in-class academic unit by:

- Articulating a strong vision for building excellence in all areas of the Department;
- Enabling the team by understanding and providing necessary resources to foster growth, and creating an environment in which all members can work at their full potential;
- Utilizing communication skills and the possessing the ability to think and act strategically; and
- Displaying an understanding and appreciation for the opportunities and resources within UAB Medicine and beyond.

Leading Change

- Understanding and utilizing data and insights to shape future direction; persuading through collaboration and shared interests; generating consensus and persevering to sustain buy-in over the long term.
- Aligning the Department's direction and priorities with those of the Heersink School of Medicine and UAB Medicine.
- Adjusting communication style to changing situations and to respond to stakeholder concerns (including culture, background, or style).
- Continuing to hire outstanding research investigators to bolster the Pathology research mission and integrate with the strong investigator recruitment over the last several years; identify opportunities for novel research pathways.

Relationship Building

The successful candidate will demonstrate the ability to build relationships in an extremely complex and geographically distributed environment through:

- Developing collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders;
- Representing the Department in the community to develop services that improve healthcare and advance research innovation;
- Modelling adaptability and skills for conflict resolution and management of adversity; and,
- Demonstrating strategic influence, leading organizational change, cultivating strategic relationships, and engaging and inspiring stakeholders.

For Candidates

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Heersink School of Medicine

The executive search firm Spencer Stuart has been retained to assist in this recruitment. Flip Jaeger and Sarah Ekstrom of Spencer Stuart are the lead consultants on the search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications are invited and should be submitted to search team member Sarah Ekstrom via sekstrom@spencerstuart.com. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, although an indication of interest is encouraged by August 1, 2023, for full consideration.

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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 is performed on candidates selected for employment. In addition, 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.

About the Department, University & City

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Heersink School of Medicine

The UAB Heersink School of Medicine is seeking a dynamic, passionate, and experienced leader with a proven track record across the spectrum of individual scholarship, collaborative clinical leadership, program development, educational excellence, successful faculty recruitment, and community engagement to serve as the next Chair for the Department of Pathology. The Chair of the Department of Pathology will support the overarching vision by creating novel strategies to grow the Department and continue to enhance the three mission areas of patient care, research, and education. The Chair will assess gaps within those mission areas and identify future opportunities and needs; serve as a member of senior leadership to establish research and education priorities; and provide strategic leadership for all aspects of the Department, including the positive representation of the School and Department within the UAB enterprise, creating collaborative opportunities and building alliances across the institution.



The Chair is responsible for aligning physicians within the department and acting as a visible champion of change initiatives to continue to improve Department performance.

The Department of Pathology

The Department of Pathology at UAB places a strong emphasis on research, education, and patient care. The department's primary goal is to care for patients through accurate and efficient testing. Through their extensive research and work in genomics and bioinformatics, in addition to a sub-specialty model championed over the last decade, department clinicians can more accurately pinpoint the source of disease and recommend effective treatment options customized for the patient. UAB Pathology is recognized in the Birmingham community and beyond for providing accurate and timely diagnostic services in all anatomic and clinical pathology facets.

Research is integral to the Department of Pathology at UAB. The department's extramural research funding totals over \$23 million annually with a total grant portfolio of \$81 million, under the current Chair and Vice Chair for Research. Current year NIH ranking has not been published for 2023.

Department researchers and clinicians strive to understand the molecular basis underlying diverse disease processes, identify new therapeutic targets, and develop new patient treatments. Departmental research spans the range of fundamental disease mechanisms to the identification of biomarkers and the development of novel therapeutics. Specifics around the research program focus can be found [here](#). Investigators are using innovative pre-clinical animal models of disease, analytical techniques, and bioinformatics and genomic diagnostics.

Additionally, the UAB Department of Pathology offers a number of innovative training opportunities, including third- and fourth-year rotations for medical students, a highly successful residency program, and fellowship opportunities in

Forensic Pathology, Hematopathology, Blood Banking/Transfusion Medicine, Surgical Pathology specialties, Cytopathology, Neuropathology, and Molecular Genetic Pathology. In addition, Pathology faculty currently train 20 predoctoral and several dozen post-doctoral fellows in their research labs.

Over the last decade, the department has experienced tremendous growth. There are 84 full-time faculty members, possessing a broad range of clinical, research, teaching, and administrative expertise, with an additional 8 joining in late summer and early fall of this year. Additionally, 38 faculty from other departments hold secondary positions in the pathology department. The department places great value in teamwork, integrity, quality, knowledge, academic freedom, ethics, creativity and innovation, responsibility, and productivity, and is committed to providing educational opportunities for researchers, scientists, and pathologists from around the world.

UAB Pathology is recognized throughout the Southeast for providing accurate and timely diagnostic services in all anatomic, clinical, and research pathology facets. For additional details, please visit the [LabSource website](#), which includes information for all sections of UAB Hospital Laboratories, including the Kirklin Clinic Laboratory, the Emergency Department Laboratory, Bedside Testing, and UAB Highlands Laboratory. In addition to UAB Hospitals, UAB Pathology provides services to 7 Community Hospitals, 2 surgery centers and 2 Comprehensive Cancer Centers.

The Forensic Division of the Department provides services to the Jefferson County Coroner's office and function as the Chief Medical and Associate Medical Examiners.

[The University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine](#)

The University of Alabama at Birmingham Heersink School of Medicine is a multi-campus medical school; UAB serves as the main campus, with three regional campuses: Huntsville (UAB-Huntsville campus), Montgomery (UAB-Montgomery campus), and Tuscaloosa (University of Alabama), as well as a residency program in Selma. All students spend their first two years of medical school in Birmingham. The School was established as the Medical College of Alabama in 1945 and renamed the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1969. In 2021, a transformational \$95 million lead gift from longtime UAB supporter Marnix E. Heersink, M.D., named the school the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine.

The record gift is the single largest philanthropic commitment in university history and also helped establish and name the Marnix E. Heersink Institute of Biomedical Innovation and the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health. The gift will provide support with both endowed and outright funds for key initiatives of the School of Medicine. Dr. Heersink, a renowned eye surgeon, innovator, and entrepreneur, desires this gift to inspire and catalyze additional philanthropic contributions that support high-impact recruitments, programs, and research in the Heersink School of Medicine. UAB enhanced this philanthropic support with a generous contribution of \$5 million from Triton Health Systems, bringing the total support for the school to \$100 million.

The School is currently comprised of nearly 800 students, more than 1,000 residents, and nearly 1,700 full-time faculty. In 2022, [UAB received over \\$715 million in research grants and extramural awards with \\$555 million to the Heersink School of Medicine](#). The UAB Heersink School of Medicine is the home of The Kirklin Clinic, a multi-disciplinary medical home; University Hospital, one of the largest academic hospitals in the country; and our faculty serve the Children's of Alabama hospital.

The 27 Departments within the School include: Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine; Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics; Biomedical Engineering (joint dept. with the School of Engineering); Cell, Developmental & Integrative Biology; Dermatology; Emergency Medicine; Family & Community Medicine; Genetics; Medical Education; Medicine; Microbiology; Neurobiology; Neurology; Neurosurgery; Obstetrics & Gynecology; Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences; Orthopedic Surgery; Otolaryngology (ENT); Pathology; Pediatrics; Pharmacology & Toxicology; Physical Medicine &

Rehabilitation; Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology; Radiation Oncology; Radiology; Surgery; and Urology. A new Department of Biomedical Informatics and Data Sciences was approved by the UA Board of Trustees with a start date of October 1, 2023.

The faculty are noted for excellence in clinical service, education, and research, and lead the academic and clinical achievement of outstanding cohorts of students, residents, and fellows. Student achievement is a key element of state success; over 80 percent of physicians in Alabama trained at the UAB Heersink School of Medicine. Clinical education is a strength at all campuses, and the Heersink School of Medicine graduates are widely perceived by residency programs to be “intern ready.” The Heersink School of Medicine was approved for a full, eight-year LCME re-accreditation in November 2022.

AT A GLANCE

- **The first and one of only 36** proton therapy centers in the US, Proton International at UAB
 - **More than 2 million** patients treated at UAB and Children's of Alabama in 2019
 - **Largest and only** magnet-designated infusion therapy center in the state of Alabama
 - **5,000** new cancer patients seen each year at the O’Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB
 - **One of only two** Level 1 ocular trauma eye centers in the US
 - **Only** adult Level I trauma center in the state of Alabama (as verified by American College of Surgeons)
-
- **One of the first** in the US to offer clinical trial of the treatment of patients with severe COVID-19 using nitric oxide
 - **One of eight** national Udall Centers of Excellence in Parkinson’s disease
 - **One of eight** inaugural NIH-designated Centers for AIDS research
 - **107%** growth in clinical trials expenditures over the past 5 years (\$36.2M to \$75M)

UAB Medicine is guided by the strategic plan “AMC 21,” providing broadly-accepted guidance to joint and partner efforts of the Heersink School of Medicine and the UAB Health System. Key initiatives supported in AMC 21 include faculty recruitment (with an emphasis on mid-career, NIH-funded physicians and scientists). UAB Medicine is firmly committed to being a preferred academic medical center of the 21st Century, attractive to all constituencies, including students, residents, and fellows, faculty, patients, staff, and donors. UAB Medicine will achieve its goals through uncompromising focus on the four pillars of the strategic initiative: knowledge, quality, satisfaction, and financial performance. These pillars will be based on a foundation of innovation and advancement of knowledge, the encouragement of collaboration to promote fresh ideas and scientific breakthroughs and aligning goals and outcomes to create a system of accountability. Approximately \$30 million has been invested this past year to support research, faculty retention and recruitment, and education programs focused in strategic areas.

Additional data about the School may be found at: uab.edu/medicine/home/welcome

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

UAB is a comprehensive urban university with a nationally recognized academic health center, comprised of the Collat School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Dentistry, the School of Education, the School of Engineering, the School of Health Professions, the Heersink School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the School of Optometry, the School of Public Health, and the Graduate School. In its 2022 Economic Impact Study, the University and its affiliated entities reported generating more than **\$12.1 billion in economic impact annually within the state**

of Alabama. UAB is Alabama's largest single employer and now directly employs nearly 28,000 people. One in every 20 jobs within the state of Alabama either is held directly by a UAB employee or is supported as a result of UAB's presence. In 2021, Forbes magazine ranked UAB as #1 America's [best large employer](#).

UAB is the only public, four-year degree granting university in Birmingham, the state's largest metropolitan area, and is the largest research institution in the state of Alabama. With enrollment of over 21,000 students, employment of more than 24,000 full- and part-time individuals, and more than 120,000 active alumni worldwide, the University is a powerhouse for academic, clinical, and research innovation with statewide, regional, national, and global impact. In addition, UAB continues to be one of the most diverse universities in the nation. As of 2022, the student body was 39 percent minority, with minority students making up 48.5 percent of the total student body. The student population is 21% black and 63.5% female. UAB has nearly 1,500 [international students](#) enrolled, who along with our numerous international faculty, staff, and visiting scholars, represent more than 100 countries.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham traces its roots to the 1859 founding of the Medical College of Alabama and the 1936 opening of the Birmingham Extension Center of The University of Alabama. In 1945, the Medical College of Alabama was moved from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham and the University's Medical Center was founded. Later, in November of 1966, the Extension Center and the Medical Center merged to form the "University of Alabama in Birmingham," an organizational component of The University of Alabama. In 1969, UAB became an independent institution, one of the autonomous universities within the newly created three-campus University of Alabama System.

Today, UAB is the heartbeat of Birmingham and an integral medical leader in the Southeast. The Birmingham campus is within walking distance of some of the region's best parks, entertainment, and dining options. Our regional campuses—in Huntsville, Montgomery and Tuscaloosa—expand our academic reach and responsibilities in addition to educating physicians in rural and underserved areas of the state. UAB is a thriving campus that has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years, with additional expansion planned and construction underway. Strong partnerships with other prestigious organizations such as Southern Research and Hudson Alpha help the university expand its impact and cultivate opportunities for groundbreaking research and learning.

More information on UAB, including a downloadable copy of the University's current *Facts & Figures*, is available at uab.edu/home/.



BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

THE MAGIC CITY. THAT'S WHAT BIRMINGHAM HAS BEEN CALLED FOR NEARLY 150 YEARS, AND IT'S TRUE. THERE'S MAGIC HERE

BIRMINGHAM IS DIVERSE.

Among the roughly 1.15 million residents of the greater Birmingham- Hoover metro area, about 29% are black, 4% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data. Women make up nearly 52% of the population.

BIRMINGHAM IS ARTSY.

Arts and culture in the city are supported by multiple museums, including those devoted to the civil rights struggles of Birmingham's past, along with numerous galleries, music and arts festivals, multiple performance theatres, live music venues, a ballet, a symphony orchestra, an opera, a School of Fine Arts, and a Jazz Hall of Fame.

BIRMINGHAM IS PROGRESSIVE.

In 2018, Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin was selected to join the NewDEAL (Developing Exceptional American Leaders), a 150-person national network of state and local leaders working to expand opportunity and enact pro-growth progressive solutions.

A section of the beautiful Ross Bridge subdivision, in Birmingham's suburbs, is a federal "smart neighborhood." These homes are 35% more energy efficient than comparable new homes, with a nearby solar panel field, integrated battery storage, electric vehicle charging stations in each garage, high-efficiency heating and cooling, and app control of things such as door locks and window shades.

BIRMINGHAM IS SMART.

In April 2019, MarketWatch named Birmingham the No. 2 up-and-coming "tech Mecca" in the nation, thanks in part to the presence of tech and small business startup incubator The Innovation Depot and its Velocity Accelerator program. The city is home to leading grocery delivery service Shipt, which was purchased by Target Corp. in 2017 for \$550 million.

Metro Birmingham boasts some outstanding schools. The Mountain Brook, Homewood, Vestavia, Spain Park, and Oak Mountain school systems are ranked among the best in Alabama and compete with other public-school systems in the country.

BIRMINGHAM IS PROUD.

The SHOUT LGBTQ Film Festival, created in 2006 by organizers of Birmingham’s nationally recognized annual Sidewalk Film Festival, features documentaries and short films by new and established artists and offers attendees the opportunity to view topics of interest to the LGBTQ community.

UAB Medicine, one of the city’s largest and most diverse employers, draws medical and research professionals from around the world, and in 2018 we received the “LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader” designation from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

BIRMINGHAM IS TASTY.

We are a foodie town. In 2018, Highlands Bar and Grill won the prestigious James Beard Foundation Award for the Most Outstanding Restaurant in America, thanks to its highly acclaimed French-inspired dishes and regional southern flavors. Several area chefs and venues have been nominated since for similar prestigious accolades.

From low country boils and barbecue to five-star fare, Birmingham’s active restaurant scene includes multiple dining districts that feature cuisine from around the world, and from our own back yard and the Gulf Coast.

BIRMINGHAM IS COMPETITIVE.

U.S News & World Report ranks Birmingham No. 89 on its 2019 “Best Places to Live” list.

With a cost-of-living index rating of 79 and a median home cost of less than \$204,000, living in the Birmingham area is less expensive than the national average.

BIRMINGHAM IS FUN.

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed an epic revitalization in recent years, with the advent of numerous residential, retail, craft brewery, sporting, music, and outdoor entertainment developments.

Two professional or minor league sports teams put down roots in the city center in the past decade. Birmingham hosted the 2022 World Games at a \$174 million multi-use stadium built for the heart of downtown. Protective Stadium also plays host to several national and international soccer tournaments, as well as the UAB Blazers Football team’s home games.

With its proximity to many state and national parks, lakes, urban greenspaces, hiking and biking trails, and easy access to both beaches and mountains within a few hours’ drive, Birmingham is an excellent place to live, work, and raise a family.

In our diverse communities, our historic streets, and our beautiful landscapes, we’re holding a place for you.

Birmingham is on the move. We are an inclusive community dedicated to fostering growth through a progressive business climate and a devotion to social justice. We are The Magic City. That’s what Birmingham has been called for nearly 150 years, and it’s true. There’s magic here—in our diverse communities, our historic streets, and our beautiful landscapes—and we’re holding a place for you.

Iron ore, coal, and limestone defined Birmingham when it was founded in 1871 at the crossing of two rail lines near one of the world's richest deposits of minerals. The City of Birmingham celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2021 and today, the Magic City is a vibrant metropolis brimming with entertainment, arts, nightlife, outdoor recreation, and world-class cuisine. In addition to these amenities, the city is home to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute and the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, which honor the nonviolent protestors that fought against racial discrimination laws and practices.

Nestled in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Birmingham boasts more green space per capita than any other city its size in the nation, offering easy access from the city center to numerous hiking and walking trails, from downtown's Railroad Park and Rotary Trail to the 1,000-acre Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve and Vulcan Trail at the foot of Vulcan Park and Museum. Annual events like the Sidewalk Film Festival and Magic City Art Connection draw thousands of attendees. What was once a Dr. Pepper Bottling Plant is now one of Birmingham's most vibrant downtown destinations—Pepper Place—which hosts the Pepper Place Farmers Market each Saturday.

The city is home to the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama in April, great HBCU football matchups in October with the Morehouse Tuskegee Classic and the Magic City Classic, and the Birmingham Bowl in December. In 2022, UAB proudly served as a major sponsor for the 11th edition of World Games, an international multi-sport event held in Birmingham.

The city of Birmingham has a population of 209,880 (U.S. Census Bureau estimate, 2019) and is the central hub of the Birmingham-Hoover Metropolitan Area with a population of 1.1 million--the largest population and economic region in the state of Alabama.

Five interstates provide access to more than 80% of the U.S. population in a two-day drive. The Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport offers domestic and international flights and is located near Atlanta's International Airport and metro area, to the east. To the south, many lovely beach communities are easily accessible along the Gulf Coast, and frequently enjoyed by our residents. The area boasts dozens of large lakes within a two-hour drive, and lake life is a popular pastime for Birmingham locals.

In the Birmingham metropolitan area, more than 550 technology companies employ more than 6,300 skilled workers. The city is home to Innovation Depot, which houses 112 startups throughout a sprawling 140,000 square-foot complex — the largest in the Southeast. Birmingham is also home to Southern Research. Founded in Birmingham in 1941, Southern Research is a non-profit scientific research organization that employs 250 scientists and professional staff. In its 80-year legacy of moving science, the organization has helped shape modern cancer treatment practices, including developing seven FDA-approved cancer drugs and testing more than half of active chemotherapies in the United States. Southern Research has conducted more than \$30 million in coronavirus research over the past two years, including collaborations on a COVID-19 vaccine currently in clinical trials, conducting thousands of PCR tests and refining the underlying chemistry of critical treatments. The organization is the highest NIH-funded non-academic research center in Alabama and has a \$150 million annual economic impact.

Birmingham has the highest per capita concentration of health care jobs nationwide. The city is the 12th largest banking center in the nation and third in the Southeast.

[For more information about Birmingham, please visit: uab.edu/medicine/home/about/birmingham](http://uab.edu/medicine/home/about/birmingham)