



Position Profile
Chair, Department of Medicinal Chemistry
November 2023

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THE INSTITUTION



The **University of Utah** (the U) is the state’s flagship institution of higher education, with 18 schools and colleges, more than 100 undergraduate and 90 graduate degree programs, and an enrollment of more than 32,000 students. In 2019, the University joined the Association of American Universities, an invitation-only, prestigious group of 65 leading research institutions marked by excellence in academic expertise and research impact, student success, and securing resources in support of core missions, which are focused on serving the increasingly diverse student population at the U. In Fall 2022, domestic students of color accounted for more than 30% of the undergraduate population—up from 18% in 2009.

The U is located in Salt Lake City, one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing—economically and culturally—metropolises in the U.S. The city is uniquely situated to offer both unmatched outdoor and exciting urban experiences, with mountain vistas only a few steps away and vast red-rock desert landscapes within reach of a scenic afternoon drive. Additionally, the Utah Asia Campus was established in 2014 and is located in Songdo International Business District in South Korea. Students attending the Utah Asia Campus find the same world-class U.S. academic experience offered at the campus in Salt Lake City.

At the U, you'll find world-class research, education, and clinical care complemented by a lively social, cultural, and athletic campus experience. An unparalleled spirit of entrepreneurship, collaboration, and community service has enabled the U to innovate across fields, pioneer new programs with social impact, generate path-breaking discoveries, fuel critical research, and inspire innovative approaches to education.

President Taylor R. Randall became the 17th President of the University of Utah in August 2021, following a prior tenure as the dean of the University’s David Eccles School of Business. Under his leadership, the Eccles School gained a national reputation as a place of innovation, garnering top 10 entrepreneurship rankings for both undergraduate and graduate programs. During his time as dean, the value of an Eccles School education increased dramatically. He established the First Ascent Scholars Program, which cultivates, encourages, and enables academically focused students with significant financial needs to attend the Eccles School. President Randall recently released his [strategic vision](#) for the University of Utah calling for increased enrollment to 40,000 students and an increase in research funding to \$1 billion by 2025. This plan emphasizes the collaboration between the main and health campuses at the University of Utah, which is referred to as “One U.” Working together across campus will allow the U to meet the vision described by President Randall to accelerate the University’s rise as it focuses on four overarching goals: student success, knowledge transfer, community engagement, and institutional vitality. President Taylor led the University’s recently completed *Imagine New Heights* campaign to record-breaking results, securing \$3 billion in charitable gift commitments.

The U strives to be a model public university in delivering unmatched value in higher education and health care while making social, economic, and cultural contributions that improve the quality of life throughout the state, the nation, and the world. The U’s reputation for excellence draws top-tier faculty and attracts motivated students nationally and internationally. Students bring diverse experiences and outlooks – representing traditional and nontraditional students alike – thereby enhancing the exceptional educational experience the U offers.

Learn more at utah.edu.





THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

The University of Utah **College of Pharmacy** is located in the state-of-the-art L.S. Skaggs Research Institute and is part of University of Utah Health (UHealth), an umbrella health sciences center encompassing a wide scope of clinical and research enterprises. UHealth has been ranked in the Top 10 nationally for quality for the past thirteen years, demonstrating superior performance based on safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity, and patient-centeredness. Through the University of Utah Therapeutics Accelerator Hub (U2TAH), the College and the Huntsman Cancer Institute have invested in commercialization of faculty discoveries to bring innovative therapies to patients. Strong philanthropic support has propelled the College of Pharmacy into the top ranks of pharmacy schools nationally and it is consistently ranked among the top programs nationally in terms of National Institutes of Health (NIH) research productivity. The College is a national leader in applying science to personalized medicine to improve health care delivery through optimized medication outcomes. The College has four departments: Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Pharmacotherapy, and Molecular Pharmaceutics. To learn more: <https://pharmacy.utah.edu/>

The Department of Medicinal Chemistry

The **Department of Medicinal Chemistry** in the College of Pharmacy is located in the Health Sciences Center, which allows for excellent opportunities for collaboration and synergy within the College of Pharmacy and also within the School of Medicine where there are specific strengths in cardiovascular disease, cancer, genetics, immunology/inflammation/infectious disease, metabolism, neurology, and neuroscience. Research in the Department is strongly supported by excellent chemical and biochemical infrastructure, a cross-disciplinary Biological Chemistry graduate program, a T32 training grant in Chemical Biology, and many other University programs and training grants. Substantial opportunities are available to create interdisciplinary initiatives through the Therapeutics Accelerator, the Huntsman Cancer Institute (an NCI designated Comprehensive Cancer Center), and other resources. The faculty are also strongly committed to a teaching mission that encompasses PharmD and PhD students. Current faculty research areas include:

- Synthesis and testing of novel drugs for areas such as cancer and infectious diseases.
- Biomolecular structure, dynamics and interactions using computational chemistry and structural biology.
- Chemical biology, synthetic biology, and drug discovery of natural products.
- Digital therapeutics and drug+digital combination therapies.
- Design and application of synthetic libraries and probes to biology and drug discovery.
- Chemical biology of posttranslational modifications on histones.
- Chemical biology of carbohydrates such as heparan, chondroitin, dermatan and keratan sulfates.
- Chemical tools for studying and therapeutically targeting phosphorylation-dependent cellular signaling pathways.
- Medicinal chemistry and chemical biology targeted toward enzymes involved in immunology, neurological development, cancer, gene regulation, etc.
- New tools for studying the biosynthesis, recognition, and functions of chemical modifications on RNA.
- Chemical and biological sensor development.
- Nucleic acid-targeting drugs.



THE OPPORTUNITY

Chair, Department of Medicinal Chemistry

The Position

The Department of Medicinal Chemistry is seeking its next Chair. Building on the department's legacy of excellence and innovation, the new Department Chair will have the opportunity to continue to move the department forward with an ambitious vision for growth and impact. The successful candidate will have the resources to maintain a world-class research program and develop additional innovative research programs in the department through recruitment and internal investment. The new Chair will be expected to provide strategic leadership and direction for all aspects of the department. The Chair will have responsibility for the coordination and administration of the overall academic agenda and education activities in the department and college.

The department is interested in advancing research and discovery in areas that include but are not limited to: drug discovery, design, and development; fundamental scientific research in bioorganic chemistry and chemical biology; design and development of computational, digital, chemical, and synthetic biological tools applied to problems in human health and disease; and innovative applications of chemistry at interfaces with infectious diseases, immunology, cancer, metabolism, genetic diseases, or neuroscience. A highly collaborative Health Sciences Center facilitates these interdisciplinary activities.

Responsibilities

Key responsibilities of the Chair include:

- Setting a vision and executing the strategic direction for the department;
- Managing the departmental budget in furtherance of the department's direction;
- Recruiting outstanding faculty and building new research programs;
- Providing inspirational mentorship of department faculty, fellows, students, and staff;
- Maintaining and supporting an active and productive research program;
- Participating in and providing leadership for the department in the areas of research, teaching, and service;
- Providing leadership within the college as a member of the Executive Committee;
- Engaging with faculty across the health sciences to enhance interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Qualifications

- A PhD or other advanced degree in Medicinal Chemistry or related field of study;
- Demonstrated scholarly and/or professional achievement with distinction sufficient to merit appointment at the rank of professor is desired;
- Demonstrated ability to serve as a leader and build collaborative teams within and across departments;
- International reputation for research accomplishments;
- Commitment to teaching excellence in subjects relevant to both graduate (PhD) and professional (PharmD) programs in the College of Pharmacy;
- Because the Department Chair will have the opportunity to recruit new faculty and expand the research scope of the department, a compelling vision for the future of the department is essential;
- Excellent managerial and communication skills.

PROCEDURE FOR CANDIDACY

Confidential review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled; **parties who apply by January 5, 2024 will be given first consideration.** Upon application, please submit a PDF version of your CV/resume and a cover letter that describes both your motivation for application and how your leadership experience aligns with the key qualifications of the role.

All applications and nominations will be held in confidence. To apply online, go to:

<https://theapplicantmanager.com/jobs?pos=su394>

For more information or to offer recommendations or nominations:

Stephanie Rivas-Fowler

Senior Consultant

Summit Search Solutions, Inc.

Direct: 480-213-7078

srivasfowler@summitsearchsolutions.com

Dick Merriman, PhD

Senior Consultant

Summit Search Solutions, Inc.

Direct: 330-933-4809

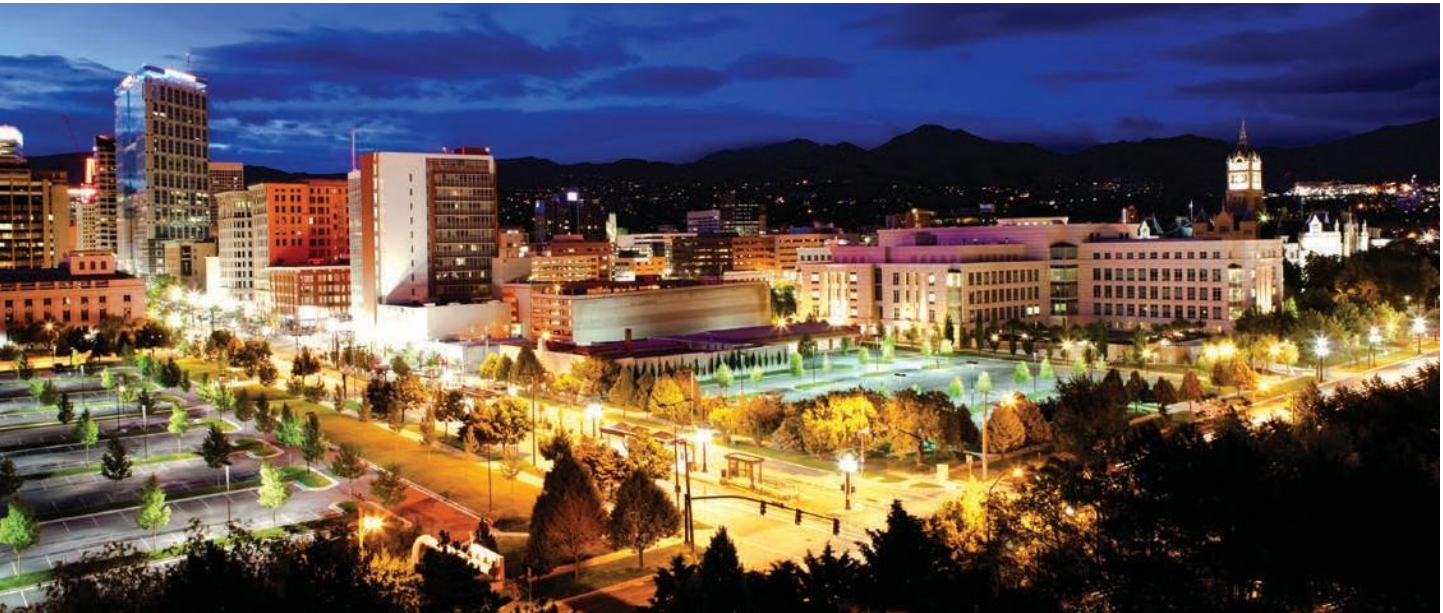
dmerriman@summitsearchsolutions.com

The University of Utah is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Upon request, reasonable accommodations in the application process will be provided to individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 201 S. Presidents Circle, Room 135, (801) 581-8365 (V/TDD), for further information or to request an accommodation. The University of Utah is committed to diversity in its workforce. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.



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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH



Along the east bench of Salt Lake City, the University of Utah is nestled into the foothills of the beautiful Wasatch Mountains. At the edge of campus – which encompasses the state arboretum – a natural stream winds its way through Red Butte Garden and a well-maintained hiking and biking trail crosses paths with the Natural History Museum of Utah.

Salt Lake City offers a spectacular mix of city life and nearby natural solitude, with plenty of family-friendly activities throughout Utah’s four lovely seasons. Utah’s capital city has an increasingly diverse population of approximately 199,700 (over 1M in the greater metropolitan area) and has become a welcoming destination city for refugees, fostering an exceptional variety of diverse community cultural events.

Visitors are greeted by warm, friendly people, clean streets, and a relaxed but active atmosphere. Walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods lend to the safe, small-town feel of one of the 50 largest metropolitan markets in the U.S.

“Salt Lake City has the feel of both a larger city and a smaller community” –DR. JASON CASTILLO

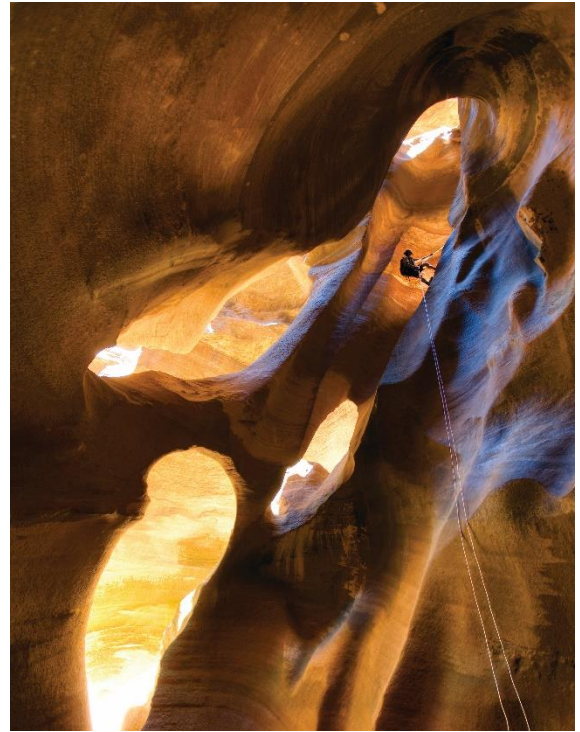
University of Utah Faculty Member



EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Utah is home to five stunning national parks and five national monuments, with six more national parks within a day's drive of Salt Lake City. There are also seven world-class ski resorts within 30 minutes of the U campus. While Utah's ski resorts boast the "greatest snow on earth" in the winter, many also offer a range of fun summer activities, including family movie nights, thrilling zip lines, decadent spa services, scenic tram rides, hikes through fields of wildflowers, and brunch with breathtaking views.

Hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails are easily accessible from the U campus, but a short drive (or a ride on public transit) opens up countless options. Quiet alpine lakes, beautiful aspen forests, and unbeatable views from mountain peaks reward hikers of all skill levels.



"Salt Lake City is amazing, offering such a rich diversity of activities. From the arts to the outdoors, the adventures seem endless and I am excited to continue exploring all the city and surrounding area have to offer." –DR. ADAM HANLEY

University of Utah Faculty Member





SAVOR ART, MUSIC AND MORE

Utah has a rich tradition of film, music, and art that draws in and inspires people from around the world. While the internationally-acclaimed Sundance Film Festival is based in Park City – a short and scenic 30-minute drive from the U campus – many Sundance films are also screened in downtown Salt Lake City during the annual event. Two independent Salt Lake City theaters bring back many Sundance films throughout the year, along with many other documentaries and international films.

Ballet West, the Utah Symphony, Utah Opera, and the Utah Shakespeare Festival are just a few of the performing arts treasures of the state. Salt Lake City hosts multiple outdoor concert series every summer, as well as a multi-day arts festival and monthly gallery strolls. Professional, Broadway-caliber live theater is readily available at the Eccles Theater – an exciting new performing arts center in downtown Salt Lake – and at a number of the city’s playhouses, including the University of Utah’s own Pioneer Theater Company.

Salt Lake City’s many concert venues host some of today’s hottest names in music, as well as local talent bound to go big. Affordable performances by musicians in all genres guarantee something for everyone.

INDULGE YOUR “FOODIE” SIDE

Utah is consistently praised for its remarkable local food scene, as well as its award-winning craft breweries and distilleries. Inventive and locally sourced cuisine, impressive beer bars, creative restaurateurs, and thoughtful sommeliers have earned Salt Lake City a place in the hearts of foodies around the country.

Salt Lake City hosts bustling farmers markets in the summer and winter, featuring a variety of local produce, grains, protein, and crafts. The U also enjoys a smaller farmers market in the fall, with fresh produce grown in the campus’ two edible gardens.



“The increasing diversity at the U and its surrounding community means you can find incredible Latino food in the West Salt Lake City and Asian markets

dotted throughout Utah.” – DR. ANNIE FUKUSHIMA

University of Utah Faculty Member



SPEAK UP AND GET INVOLVED

Visitors are often surprised by Salt Lake City's progressive, civically engaged social justice advocates. Free events throughout the city – planned by a wide range of organizations – foster ongoing discussions about some of the state's and country's most pressing issues. The state capitol and legislators are easily accessible, enabling voters to engage lawmakers in these discussions.

In 2015, the state passed a landmark anti-discrimination bill, protecting LGBT people from employment and housing discrimination. Salt Lake City's annual Pride Festival is one of the largest in the nation and often includes Utah's openly LGBTQ elected officials. In 2016, Utah voters elected the first transgender U.S. Senate nominee from a major political party.

Active cooperation and coordination between lawmakers, scholars, and residents have led to innovative approaches such as the Housing First initiative. Housing First's success in moving people who experience chronic homelessness off the streets has been lauded across the country and is serving as a model for other states.

SCORE GREAT SEATS

Utah has fans! The University of Utah's football, gymnastics, basketball, swimming, and baseball teams have plenty of loyal fans. Utahns also enjoy cheering for the state's NBA team, the Utah Jazz; the Triple-A baseball team, the Salt Lake Bees; and the Major League Soccer team, Real Salt Lake.

With the Salt Lake International Airport just minutes from downtown, and Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Denver within a day's drive, it's easy for fans to cheer on their favorite teams at away games.

