

Position and Candidate Specification



The University of Alabama at Birmingham



Chair, Department of Otolaryngology

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Position Summary

University of Alabama at Birmingham
Heersink School of Medicine

April 2023

Assignment: 65841-001

The Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology will support the overarching vision through the creation of 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 Department within the UAB enterprise, creating collaboration opportunities and bridges across the institution.

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

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

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

Direct reports Division Directors
Department Faculty and Staff
Residency and Fellowship Program Directors

Other key relationships Dawn Bulgarella, M.S.H.A., C.P.A., CEO, UAB Health System & UAB/Ascension St. Vincent's Alliance
Tika Benveniste, Ph.D., Sr. Vice Dean for Research, Heersink School of Medicine
Tony Jones, M.D., Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs-School of Medicine
Reid Jones, CEO UAB Medicine
Other UAB Health System leadership
Heersink School of Medicine (HSOM) Department Chairs
Faculty, Staff, Students
Patients and Families
Megann Cain, Chief Development Officer, Heersink School of Medicine
Alumni and Donors
Community Leaders

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Demonstrate enthusiastic advocacy of UAB Department of Otolaryngology commitments to provide advanced care across the spectrum of head and neck disorders through high-quality patient care, innovative basic science and clinical research, and comprehensive education.

- Commitment to the UAB Department of Otolaryngology goal to become a renowned leader in the treatments and cures of head and neck disorders. Obtaining this recognition by excelling in each core area of patient care, research, and education.
- In collaboration with the leadership of UAB Medicine, provide visionary and innovative leadership to guide the Department into its next phase of growth and development, including expanding services to the growing hospital system and practice network.
- Define and lead the Department's research strategy. Support principal investigators and other faculty within the Department in efforts to secure NIH and other grant funding to support research priorities and ensure a deliberate investment into research activities and priorities.
- Provide the vision and leadership to achieve superior clinical programs within ENT and related disciplines. Work with the Department and health system leadership to build areas of acknowledged clinical excellence and further integrate related operations across the health system.
- Assure that excellent clinical education and advanced training is delivered to medical and graduate students. Provide leadership and oversight to the training programs within the Department.
- 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 for Otolaryngology. Ensure an atmosphere of collegiality, support, development, and diversity.
- Require ethical medical and financial practices across the Department, supporting compliance activities, as necessary.

The Chair of Otolaryngology will possess outstanding interpersonal and communication skills and exhibit a style that supports change and innovation, with an ability to delegate yet maintain overall control. A commitment to research and educational missions is crucial, as well as a genuine appreciation for consultation and collaboration. The successful leader will exhibit a personal style that fosters and supports innovation.

IDEAL EXPERIENCE

- A record of outstanding personal academic accomplishments and credentials within Otolaryngology as well as the experience and national reputation necessary to ensure the enhancement of the research, clinical, and educational missions of the Department.
- Experience as a division chief, vice chair, or chair of Otolaryngology, 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 Otolaryngology 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 with community and referring physicians;
- Creating and executing an aggressive marketing campaign; and
- Actively seeking opportunities to develop cross-department programs and initiatives.

Leadership

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

- Articulating a strong vision for building excellence in all areas of the Department;
- Enabling the team, supplying them with vision and resources, and creating an environment in which the team can work at their full potential;

- Utilizing communication skills and the ability to think and act strategically; and
- Displaying an understanding and appreciation for the opportunities and resources presented by the service area in which UAB Medicine operates.

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 supportive relationships with a wide variety of stakeholders;
- Representing the Department to the community to enhance goodwill and positive community relations;
- 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.

The executive search firm Spencer Stuart has been retained to assist in this recruitment. Flip Jaeger, Chuck Jordan, and Shannon Yeatman of Spencer Stuart are 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 will continue until the position is filled, although indication of interest is encouraged by May 1, 2023, for full consideration.

Nominations and applications:

Applicants will need to submit a CV and one- to two-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 and Inclusion, visit:
<https://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/about/diversity-inclusion>.

Please direct any nominations and potential applicants to:

- Spencer Stuart search team member: Sarah Ekstrom via sekstrom@spencerstuart.com

For nominations or to apply, please visit: <https://uab.peopleadmin.com/postings/18384>

For additional information about the position or to provide recommendations, please contact the lead Spencer Stuart consultants on this search:

- Flip Jaeger (fjaeger@spencerstuart.com)
- Chuck Jordan (cjordan@spencerstuart.com)
- Shannon Yeatman (syeatman@spencerstuart.com)

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 Otolaryngology. The Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology will support the overarching vision through the creation of 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 bridges 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 performance.

The Department of Otolaryngology

In October 2015, the Division of Otolaryngology officially became its own department, making it the 26th department in the UAB School of Medicine. The Department of Otolaryngology is a thriving and rapidly growing department, dedicating itself to excellence in research, education, and patient care. Since becoming its own department, the Department of Otolaryngology has achieved many accomplishments, including:

- Growing the residency program to four residents per year.
- Strategic faculty recruitment across divisions.
- Receiving multiple NIH Research Awards – Brad Woodworth, M.D., Do-Yeon Cho, M.D., Carissa Thomas, M.D., Ph.D., and Jason Warram, Ph.D.
- Expanding lab-based and community research.
- Top three in the U.S. Hypoglossal Nerve Implant Program for obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS) – designated Inspire Center and Physician of Excellence.
- Significant early work in robotics for head and neck oncology with a high-volume head and neck division.
- Only Voice Center and Facial Nerve Program in the state.

The Department provides advanced care across the spectrum of Otolaryngology disorders with surgeons practicing in all areas of the specialty, including:

- Laryngology
- Otology/Neurotology
- Rhinology
- Facial plastics and reconstructive surgery

- Head and neck oncology/endocrine surgery
- Sleep disorders
- Salivary gland disease
- Allergy
- Anterior and lateral skull base
- Microvascular reconstruction

Clinical Services

The experienced otolaryngology specialists at UAB offer patients the most advanced care available. This means having the knowledge and expertise to identify any problem as well as the advanced training necessary to deliver cutting-edge treatments for head and neck disorders. The faculty of 18 spans all the major subspecialties of the field:

- Facial Nerve Disorders
- Comprehensive Smell and Taste Clinic
- Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
- Head and Neck Oncology and Endocrine Surgery
- Laryngology – UAB Voice Center
- Otology and Neurotology
- Pediatric Otolaryngology
- Rhinology and Sinus Surgery
- Salivary Gland Disease
- Sleep Disorders

Facilities

The Department of Otolaryngology has a clinic located on the second floor of The Kirklin Clinic and at Hoover Primary and Specialty Care.

Education

The Department of Otolaryngology is passionate about mentoring and training the next generation of otolaryngologists.

Robust training for residents is provided in all aspects of the specialty, including head and neck oncology, rhinology, facial plastics and reconstructive surgery, laryngology, bronchoesophagology, pediatric otolaryngology, sleep medicine, and otology/neurotology. The program has one of the highest number of residency operative cases in the country. Recent graduates logged an average of over 3,000 cases during their residency. Strong basic, translational, and clinical research opportunities are available.

Residency

Four residents per year. Residents are expected in their PGY 3-5 years to produce a paper for submission to a national meeting, and to present at the Annual Residents' Research Day. Last year's residents had a total of 13 publications and 19 presentations. Residents score above national average on the annual OTE exam, and graduates have a 100 percent Board pass rate and placement in private or academic practice.

Fellowships (three to four Fellows annually)

- Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgery Fellowship Program
- Laryngology Fellowship Program
- Clinical Speech Language Pathology
- Pediatric Fellowship Program

Research

The Department of Otolaryngology has active research in all aspects of otolaryngology, with clinical trials for many difficult-to-treat diseases and a strong basic science research focus in head and neck oncology and rhinology.

Investigator-initiated and industry-sponsored clinical trials are available for interested patients and have been approved through the UAB Institutional Review Board. Many faculty within the department have specific areas of research interest and collaborate with other investigators at UAB and around the country. Dr. Carissa Thomas specializes in head and neck oncology and microvascular reconstruction. Her research interests include the interaction between the microbiome and head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Dr. Brad Woodworth maintains a funded basic science laboratory in mucosal disorders and is actively exploring novel treatment paradigms. Dr. Do Cho also has funded research with a focus on bridging the gap between research in the basic sciences and clinical medicine in the upper respiratory diseases in Otolaryngology. Jason Warram, Ph.D., maintains a funded laboratory devoted to molecular imaging and the development and clinical translation of novel imaging agents.

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/otolaryngology/>

The University of Alabama Heersink School of Medicine

The University of Alabama 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 as 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 School of Medicine. UAB will enhance 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 and Perioperative Medicine; Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics; Biomedical Engineering (joint department with School of Engineering); Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology; Dermatology; Emergency Medicine; Family & Community Medicine; Genetics; Medical Education; Medicine; Microbiology; Neurobiology; Neurology; Neurosurgery; Obstetrics and Gynecology; Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences; Orthopaedic Surgery; Otolaryngology (ENT); Pathology; Pediatrics;

Pharmacology and Toxicology; Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology; Radiation Oncology; Radiology; Surgery; and Urology.

The faculty are noted for excellence in clinical service, education, and research activity, 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 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 April 2022.

AT A GLANCE

- **The first and one of only 36** proton therapy centers in the U.S., 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 U.S. 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 percent** growth in clinical trials expenditures over the past five years (\$36.2 million to \$75 million)

UAB Medicine is guided by the strategic plan “AMC 21,” providing broadly-accepted guidance to joint and partner efforts of the 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: <https://www.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 generated 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 first as America's best large employer (<https://www.uab.edu/news/campus/item/11852-uab-named-america-s-no-1-best-large-employer-2021-by-forbes>).

UAB is the only public, four-year degree granting university in the state's largest metropolitan area and 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 percent black and 63.5 percent 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 (UAB) 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 best parks, entertainment, and dining in the region. 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. 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 <http://www.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 percent are black, four percent are Hispanic, and one percent are Asian,

according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau data. Women make up nearly 52 percent of the population.

BIRMINGHAM IS ARTSY.

Arts and culture in the city are supported by multiple museums, including several 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 percent 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 easily 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 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.

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 backyard and 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 will host the 2021 World Games at a \$174 million multi-use stadium planned for the heart of downtown.

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—and 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 Mercedes Marathon in February, the Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama in April, great HBCU football 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 Birmingham-Hoover Metro is the largest population and economic region in the state of Alabama.

Five interstates provide access to more than 80 percent of the U.S. population in a two-day drive. The Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport offers 114 flights to 26 airports and 23 cities and is located near Atlanta's International Airport and metro area, while lovely beach communities are easily accessible along the coast.

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: <https://www.uab.edu/medicine/home/about/birmingham>