



Associate or Full Professor, Gastrointestinal Cancer Research

Markey Cancer Center

An NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center

The University of Kentucky's Markey Cancer Center seeks an accomplished and innovative basic science researcher with a strong focus on gastrointestinal (GI) malignancies, particularly pancreatic and/or colorectal cancer, for Associate or Full Professor full-time tenure track, regular title series position. The successful candidate would also hold a recently created, prestigious endowed chair (the D. Ray Ball, Jr. Chair in Gastrointestinal Cancer).

The successful candidate will have a well-established and extramurally funded research program dedicated to advancing the fundamental understanding of GI and/or pancreatic cancer biology. This includes, but is not limited to, elucidating molecular and cellular mechanisms driving cancer initiation, progression, and therapeutic resistance. A demonstrated record of high-impact publications, sustained external funding, and scientific leadership is expected.

The Markey Cancer Center has seen transformational growth in recent years, culminating in the National Cancer Institute designating Markey as a Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2023. Kentucky has a population of 4.5 million people, with 41% living in rural counties and a quarter

living in Appalachian counties. The state ranks first in the U.S. for overall cancer incidence and mortality and ranks among the top five highest states in incidence or mortality for multiple cancer sites. Social determinants of health are major factors driving Kentucky's cancer burden, including lower educational attainment and higher poverty rates than the U.S. In its mission *to reduce cancer with a focus on Kentucky and its most vulnerable populations through research, prevention, treatment, education and community engagement*, Markey continues to make significant strides in advancing access to quality cancer care; implementing bold transformational research spanning basic, translational, and population science, including clinical trials to address Kentucky's unique cancer burden; and introducing innovative interventions to accelerate translational impact in reducing challenging health disparities and significantly benefit patients in the state and the nation.

Situated on a campus with all six health profession colleges, the Markey Cancer Center is located within a vibrant and expanding basic, clinical, and population research community with ample opportunities for collaboration within and across its [research programs](#). Markey is particularly interested in candidates who thrive in highly collaborative, multidisciplinary environments and are committed to advancing team science. The ideal candidate will have NIH-funded research or other extramural research funding, will engage in research mentorship, and contribute to a vibrant environment of scholars. While applicants at all academic ranks will be considered, this search is primarily focused on competitive candidates at the Associate or Full Professor level, consistent with the anticipated appointment to a philanthropy-supported endowed chair. Exceptional later-stage Assistant Professors with a strong trajectory of independent funding and scholarly productivity are also encouraged to apply.

The University of Kentucky offers a highly competitive compensation package, including substantial start-up support, access to premium and contiguous research space, and comprehensive benefits. Candidates will have the opportunity, and be supported, to build and maintain a high quality, extramurally funded research program; contribute to the teaching mission; mentor doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows; and provide service to the University and to its extremely collaborative communities.

Candidates will have shared resources available to them that support a broad spectrum of molecular, cellular, animal, human and behavioral/epidemiology studies for advancement of the overall mission of the center. These cores have the capacity to contribute to the entire translational continuum, from basic and preclinical studies to translational, bioinformatics, clinical, cancer control/prevention, epidemiologic and population-based studies. The cores include [biostatistics and bioinformatics](#), [biospecimen procurement and translational pathology](#), [cancer research informatics](#), [flow cytometry and immune monitoring](#), [oncogenomics](#), [patient oriented and population sciences](#) and [redox metabolism](#).

Markey Cancer Center also supports disease-focused collaborative groups that provide scientific forums drawing investigators across the range of research with a primary goal to understand disease phenotypes in the catchment area and use this knowledge to develop biomarkers, inform clinical trials and implement interventions. Candidates will also have the opportunity to participate in disease-specific clinical care and research teams to implement biomarkers into clinical trials.

The University of Kentucky is a leading land-grant and public research university located in the beautiful Bluegrass region of Central Kentucky. Counted among the highest level of Carnegie Research institutions, the university is in the midst of aggressive efforts to continue its rise to one of the nation's premier public research universities. Along with its integrated and rapidly growing health system, [UK HealthCare](#), the university has a number of additional leading centers and institutes including the [UK Center for Clinical and Translational Science](#), [The Barnstable Brown Diabetes Center](#), [Kentucky Neuroscience Institute](#) and the [Gill Heart & Vascular Institute](#).

[Lexington](#) is a [cosmopolitan city](#) of ~517,000 inhabitants that is consistently voted amongst the 50 best places to live in the U.S. The city is strategically located with non-stop flights to 17 major U.S. cities via Blue Grass Airport (LEX), located 15 minutes away from downtown as well within a day's drive to many major cities (e.g., Chicago, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C.). Lexington is also home to an outstanding public school system. The University of Kentucky offers an intellectually vibrant and collegial research community spanning multiple colleges and centers. In FY25, University of Kentucky researchers held a grants and contracts portfolio that totaled \$496.9 million.



Applications should include a curriculum vita, as well as a cover letter with description of cancer research interests, teaching philosophy, and a discussion of future research plans. The position will remain open until filled. Competitive candidates will receive an invitation to visit the University of Kentucky for an interview.

For more information or to apply, please contact Jeff Schroetlin and Lyndsey Nicodem, with WittKieffer, at LyndseyN@wittkieffer.com.

As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the University of Kentucky strongly encourages veterans, individuals with disabilities, women, and all minorities to consider our employment opportunities. Upon offer of employment, successful applicants must pass a pre-employment drug screen and undergo a national background check as required by University of Kentucky Human Resources.