

## Dean, School of Pharmacy

### Leadership Profile

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## Executive Summary

Keck Graduate Institute (KGI) seeks an inspiring and forward-thinking leader to become its next Dean of the School of Pharmacy (SoP). This role offers a unique chance for a passionate, innovative, and collaborative individual to unite and energize the School's close-knit community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The Dean will have the opportunity to champion KGI's unwavering commitment to educational excellence, drive the development of creative and impactful leaders, and foster a culture rooted in ethical conduct, inter-professional collaboration, and meaningful service to others. Strong leadership will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of pharmacy education and advancing the institute's mission of making a lasting difference in the world.

KGI was founded in 1997 as the first higher education institution in the United States dedicated exclusively to education and research related to the applied life sciences. KGI offers innovative postgraduate degrees and certificates that integrate life and health sciences, business, pharmacy, engineering, and genetics, focusing on industry projects, hands-on industry experiences, and team collaborations. KGI employs an entrepreneurial approach and industry connections that allow students to become leaders in healthcare and the applied life sciences. In 2025, KGI launched [Strategic Plan 2035: Elevating Excellence Together](#), providing a blueprint for the next decade of sustainability and growth at Keck Graduate Institute to further develop into a preeminent graduate university in the nation.

Located in beautiful Claremont, California, KGI is a member of The Claremont Colleges, a consortium of five undergraduate liberal arts colleges, two graduate institutions, and The Claremont Colleges Services, which provides shared institutional support services. Each nationally recognized college has its own campus, students, faculty, and distinctive mission, and each offers top-notch curricula, small classes, distinguished professors, and personalized instruction. The Claremont Colleges consistently place at the top of national college rankings, including Forbes, Money, U.S. News and World Report, and the Princeton Review.

Reporting to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean will work closely with the other Deans within KGI to leverage opportunities afforded by the School to support the growth and quality of research and education within applied life sciences and healthcare.

The Dean serves as the chief representative of the School of Pharmacy to local, national, and international communities and holds overarching administrative responsibility for the School. This includes ensuring compliance with accreditation standards, leading fundraising and marketing efforts, advancing interdisciplinary and interprofessional initiatives, and stewarding resources effectively. The Dean will be an experienced, entrepreneurial, and collaborative leader – someone who brings creativity, strategic insight, and a deep understanding of the evolving landscape of the pharmacy profession. Equally important is a genuine passion for delivering an exceptional educational experience to all students.

The successful candidate will hold a Ph.D. or Pharm.D. and bring prior administrative experience in a School of Pharmacy academic setting, along with a demonstrated capacity for leadership and a commitment to the clinical care of communities of need. The role requires strong management skills and a dean who is highly engaged in the work and comfortable operating in a lean environment. Preferred candidates will have a demonstrated ability and enthusiasm for working with teams representing a wide range of backgrounds and skills.

To apply, submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

# Role of the Dean, School of Pharmacy

## Reporting Relationship

The Dean reports to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Megan Prosser.

## Responsibilities

The Dean, School of Pharmacy, will:

- Provide strategic direction for the continued innovative and successful education of pharmacy students.
- Provide leadership and work towards integrating the School with health care clinics and systems to enhance the professional missions of the School and the individual programs.
- Promote innovative pedagogy and engage in teaching within the integrated team-based learning model.
- Enhance the visibility, status, and reputation of the School of Pharmacy locally and nationally while assuring sustained funding for groundbreaking research.
- Affect and support enrollment growth through curricular and recruitment improvements and support mechanisms.
- Support the Provost in fundraising efforts in collaboration with Advancement.
- In collaboration with the Dean of Admissions and Enrollment Management, the Dean will initiate a strategic student recruitment and retention initiative to combat competition and drive the need for innovative approaches to recruit and retain students.
- In collaboration with the Dean of the Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences and School of Health Sciences, work to develop campus-wide collaborative opportunities for enhanced programs, budget management, and interprofessional network development.
- Foster a safe and respectful academic environment that attracts, retains, and develops outstanding faculty, administrators, and staff.
- Establish collaborative relationships for inter-professional learning and experiential placements and market the School to potential students, employers, and funders.
- Provide executive direction, leadership, and mentorship to all committees and offices in the School.
- Supervise and annually evaluate all direct reports, including Assistant Deans, Program Directors, and staff members.
- Oversee annual evaluation of all SOP faculty and staff by supervisors.
- Formulate and efficiently manage the School's budget to allocate resources in the best interests of the School and the Institute.
- Maintain accountability for establishing performance metrics and ensuring that all ACPE accreditation and curriculum goals are met for the programs.
- Provide data and cooperate in the institutional WASC accreditation and accreditation of any new programs to be developed.
- Be active in professional and community activities, assuming leadership roles and representing the School as appropriate in organizations and committees at the local, state, and national levels.
- Teach 1-2 courses in the area of expertise.

## Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

In alignment of Strategic Plan 2035's four priority areas — Advance Academic Excellence, Enhance the Student Experience, Accelerate Institutional Maturity, and Elevate the Brand — the following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for the next Dean:

### **Academic Excellence and Curriculum Innovation**

The next Dean will champion a culture of academic excellence by ensuring that the School of Pharmacy's curriculum remains rigorous, contemporary, and responsive to the evolving needs of the profession. This includes leading ongoing curricular innovation, strengthening competency-based education, and integrating emerging scientific, technological, and clinical advancements into the learning experience. The Dean will work collaboratively with faculty to expand interprofessional learning opportunities with the other two Schools at KGI, and ensure that graduates are exceptionally well prepared for the dynamic landscape of pharmacy practice and pharmaceutical science.

### **Research Growth and Scholarly Impact**

The Dean will play a pivotal role in expanding the School's research enterprise and elevating its scholarly visibility. This includes fostering an environment that supports faculty research productivity, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration across KGI and the broader Claremont ecosystem, and strategically pursuing external funding opportunities. The Dean will champion innovative research initiatives that advance the pharmaceutical sciences, clinical practice, and healthcare innovation, positioning the School as a recognized contributor to national and global conversations in pharmacy and healthcare.

### **Student Success and Professional Development**

The next Dean will be deeply committed to student success, ensuring that learners receive comprehensive academic, professional, and personal support throughout their educational journey. This includes strengthening advising and mentoring structures, expanding experiential learning opportunities, and cultivating partnerships that enhance career readiness. The Dean will work closely with faculty, staff, and external partners to ensure that students develop the clinical, scientific, and leadership competencies needed to excel in diverse pharmacy and healthcare settings.

### **Faculty and Staff Development**

The Dean will nurture a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers faculty and staff to thrive professionally. This includes promoting mentorship, facilitating opportunities for career advancement, and ensuring equitable access to resources that support teaching, research, and service. The Dean will foster a culture of collaboration, transparency, and shared governance, recognizing that the success of the School depends on the collective expertise and dedication of its faculty and staff.

### **Community Engagement and Clinical and Industry Partnerships**

The Dean will strengthen and expand the School's relationships with community organizations, healthcare systems, industry partners, and professional associations. These partnerships are essential for enhancing experiential education, advancing community-based clinical care, and supporting collaborative research. The Dean will serve as a visible and engaged ambassador for the School, deepening its impact on local and regional communities while cultivating national and international connections that enrich the School's – and KGI's – academic and clinical mission.

### **Accreditation, Compliance, and Quality Assurance**

The next Dean will ensure that the School maintains full compliance with accreditation standards and upholds the highest levels of academic and operational quality. This includes leading continuous improvement efforts, overseeing assessment processes, and ensuring that policies, procedures, and documentation meet regulatory

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expectations. The Dean will work proactively with faculty, staff, and institutional leadership to sustain a culture of accountability, transparency, and excellence in all aspects of the School's operations.

### **Financial Stewardship and Resource Development**

The Dean will provide strategic financial leadership, ensuring that resources are allocated effectively to support the School's mission and long-term sustainability. This includes strengthening budgeting processes, identifying opportunities for operational efficiency, and pursuing new revenue streams. The Dean will also play a central role in fundraising and external engagement, cultivating relationships with donors, alumni, foundations, and industry partners to secure philanthropic and programmatic support that advances the School's priorities.

### **Institutional Maturity**

The Dean will create a culture of continuous improvement with an emphasis on evolving administrative and process management to sustainably grow the School and institution.



## **Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities**

- Ph.D. or Pharm.D. and prior administrative experience in a school of pharmacy academic setting are required.
- Demonstrated capacity for leadership.
- Ability and passion for working with teams of diverse backgrounds and skills, and a commitment to the clinical care of communities of need.
- Proven ability to manage a complex academic enterprise, typically obtained through experience as a dean, associate dean, assistant dean, program director, or departmental chair within a school of pharmacy.
- Ability to inspire the School community and articulate a clear vision that showcases the School's strengths while developing new levels of excellence.

- Ability and motivation to collaborate with colleagues across KGI to develop, implement, and enhance inter-professional education, service, and research programs.
- Proven success in fundraising and philanthropic endeavors and the ability to think creatively about the allocation of resources.
- Ability to build consensus and proactively manage conflicts.
- Innovative and entrepreneurial style that aligns with the mission and values of the organization.
- Initiation, implementation, and management of programs for recruiting and admitting qualified students.
- Experience leading, overseeing, or contributing to initiatives that support student success, engagement, and a welcoming academic environment, with a track record of successful outcomes.
- Professional discretion that may include complete confidentiality regarding sensitive donor, faculty, and staff financial and other personal information.
- Flexibility and willingness to travel independently and work extended workdays and periodic weekends as needed to meet the School or institutional goal

## Organization Overview

### Keck Graduate Institute

What truly sets KGI apart is the entrepreneurial spirit and industry connections, which fuel hands-on learning experiences and collaborative projects. At KGI, students do not just learn—they innovate, they lead, and they make a tangible difference in the world.



Keck Graduate Institute is a member of the esteemed Claremont Colleges, a consortium of five undergraduate colleges and two graduate schools. The Claremont Colleges were formally established in 1925 under the direction of James Blaisdell, then President of Pomona College. In their constitution was a commitment to “found and develop new colleges and educational institutions or programs” as needs were identified and resources were made available.

Seventy-two years later, Henry E. Riggs, then President of Harvey Mudd College, identified the need that would lead to the founding of KGI, the seventh and newest member of The Claremont Colleges. The need was simple: "We need scientists and engineers who can help translate basic scientific discoveries into practical applications that will improve people's health."

In 1997, through a generous \$50 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation, Keck Graduate Institute was born. Henry Riggs became KGI's founding President and led the institution through its first six years. Since 2003, the Institute has seen significant enrollment and reputational growth under the direction of President Sheldon Schuster, who will retire on June 30, 2024.

KGI represents The Claremont Colleges' entry into graduate-level, application-based scientific education and research. KGI remains the only graduate institute in the country with this sole focus. KGI's mission is to enrich society with breakthrough approaches to education and translational research in healthcare and life sciences.

For additional information on KGI and programmatic offerings, please visit [kgi.edu](http://kgi.edu).

## Mission

We will be the preeminent graduate university in applied life sciences and healthcare, equipping the industry and clinical workforce with the skills to discover, develop, and deliver ethical innovations to advance human well-being and uplift our local and global communities.

## Values

Our core values are what we believe, are the reasons why we do what we do at KGI, and will be maintained in all our strategic initiatives:

- **Innovation and Transformation:** Integrate cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary inquiry, and entrepreneurial thinking to challenge conventional thought and drive change in the biotechnology and healthcare industries.
- **Ethics and Leadership:** Emphasize and guide effective solutions that are socially responsible and prioritize the well-being of people and communities.
- **Creativity and Curiosity:** Encourage bold questions, challenge conventional wisdom, promote critical thinking, and explore the advancement of new technologies, solutions, and approaches.
- **Connection and Community:** Develop lasting relationships, foster belonging, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and engage all people, thoughts, and ideas.

In addition, KGI holds several core practices, including active learning, industry and clinical partnerships, and research that will continue to be the hallmarks of our approach. Finally, KGI has strong student outcomes, including board pass rates, job placements, and graduation and retention rates, all of which will continue to be the ultimate goals for our strategy.

## Academics

KGI offers innovative programs that integrate life sciences, health sciences, engineering, and business with a focus on active learning, industry projects, experiential education, and team collaborations. KGI's schools deliver innovative academic and professional programs that prepare students for leadership in healthcare or the applied life sciences.

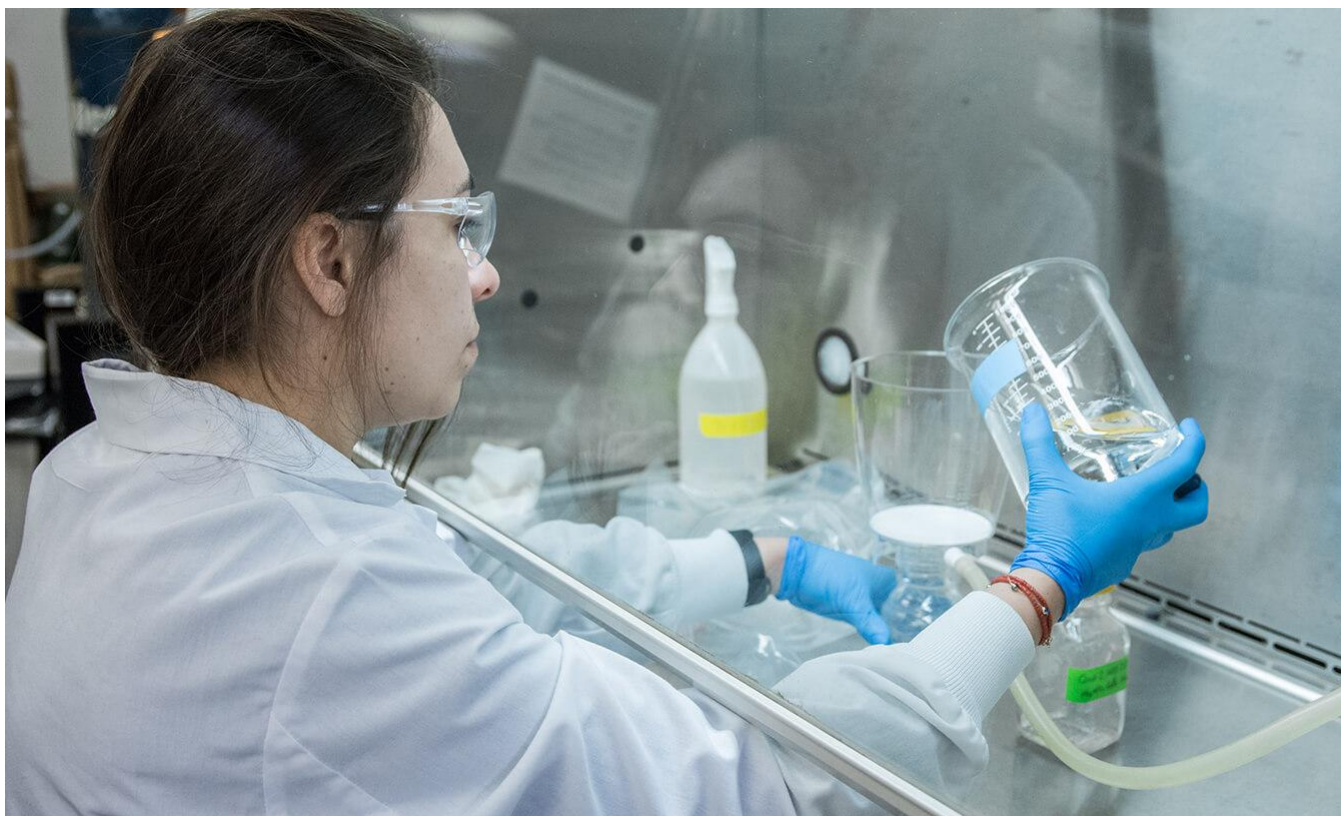
In addition to the School of Pharmacy, KGI consists of the Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences and the School of Health Sciences.

### Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences

The Henry E. Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences (Riggs School) curriculum transforms the student experience by merging science and business. The School includes eight (8) degree programs and many certificate programs, preparing students for successful careers in industry, research, or preparation for continued graduate education in the health sciences. By the time students graduate, they are ready to enter the workforce and change the world.

### School of Health Sciences

The School of Health Sciences (SHS) includes genetic counseling, occupational therapy, and physician associate studies programs. With rich clinical and fieldwork experiences and interprofessional collaboration, the School prepares students to be innovative healthcare leaders who will provide compassionate care to individual patients and communities and shape the future of healthcare.



### About the School of Pharmacy

Founded in 2014, the [School of Pharmacy](#) prepares students for the increasingly diverse roles pharmacists play in providing healthcare. With experiential education and unique collaboration with other KGI degree programs, KGI pharmacists are prepared to be at the forefront of industry, technology, and patient care.

The School's 17 faculty members engage students through teaching and research mentorship across a variety of pharmaceutical subject areas. Current enrollment across the School's four programs is approximately 120 students. KGI's School of Pharmacy Doctor of Pharmacy program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.

## Mission

The School of Pharmacy is dedicated to the education of innovative pharmacists who are collaborative, competent problem-solvers serving the needs of individual patients, communities, populations, healthcare systems, and the pharmaceutical industry. The program cultivates future pharmacy leaders who will ensure ethical, safe, effective, accessible, and equitable use of medications.

## Vision

The School of Pharmacy will prepare graduates who are leaders among healthcare professionals dedicated to delivering advanced, personally optimized patient care and the translation of applied and clinical science breakthroughs to enhance the quality of life. KGI SoP will work to better society by developing innovative, collaborative, culturally competent, articulate, and caring healthcare professionals.

## Educational Programs

### PharmD Program

The PharmD program delivers an immersive professional education prioritizing hands-on learning, professional development, and community impact. Through clinical rotations and industry engagement, students gain the skills to:

- Deliver evidence-based care that transforms patients' lives
- Drive innovative breakthroughs in research
- Lead with confidence in clinical, community, or industry pharmacy settings

Through a diverse blend of traditional coursework, certificate electives, and clinical rotations, the pharmacy curriculum covers basic sciences, clinical skills, professional development, and experiential education. Trainees explore a range of disciplines, such as endocrinology, cardiology, immunology, rheumatology, dermatology, psychiatry, and more.

### Experience the KGI Difference:

- 44% of the Class of 2024 matched the PGY1 residencies- placing KGI #1 among California private schools and #3 overall in the state for American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) Phase 1 Residency Match results.
- 86.1% first-time NAPLEX pass rate for the Class of 2025.

### KGI Pharm.D. students achieved notable recognition:

- #1 at the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Trainee Poster Competition in the Student Pharmacist Category in July 2025
- #1 at the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP) Foundation Best Poster Winner in the Student Pharmacist Category in April 2025
- #1 at the California Pharmacists Association (CPhA) Western Pharmacy Exchange (WPE) Student Quiz Bowl in April 2025.
- #1 in the California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Seminar Clinical Skills Competition in October 2023.

### In addition to the PharmD degree, students earn a certificate in one of three areas:

#### 1. *Healthcare Management/Pharmacy Informatics (HCM/PI)*

Pursuing this certificate enables learners to develop the analytical and problem-solving skills required to enhance the patient experience through the application of healthcare and management technology.

## 2. *Medical and Clinical Affairs (MCA)*

The MCA certificate program equips students with the skills to lead clinical development and medical and regulatory affairs efforts, expediting the development and delivery of safe, effective pharmaceuticals and biopharmaceuticals.

## 3. *Medication Therapy Outcomes (MTO)*

This certificate offers real-world opportunities to improve patient care and clinical skills across the continuum of care process.

### **Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management**

The Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Marketing and Management (MSPMM) program equips students with advanced training at the intersection of pharmaceutical sciences, marketing, management, and population health. Graduates emerge ready to shape the future of drug development, optimize product management, and improve health outcomes worldwide. A distinctive feature of this program is its strong emphasis on data science and applied analytics, preparing students to leverage advanced computing technologies—including machine learning, A.I., and informatics - to accelerate innovation and enhance drug accessibility and safety.

### **Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences**

The Master of Science in Pharmaceutical Sciences (MSPS) program equips students with advanced training in drug discovery, design, and delivery, preparing them for impactful careers across the pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical, academic, and government sectors. A distinctive feature of this program is its strong emphasis on data science, empowering graduates to leverage cutting-edge tools—including high-performance computing technologies, artificial intelligence, and informatics—in drug discovery, development, and delivery.

### **Master of Science in Population Health Sciences**

The Master of Science in Population Health Sciences (MSPHS) program prepares students to lead improvements in patient care, health equity, and health care delivery performance. The program develops a unique skillset at the intersection of pharmaceutical care practice, population health, and healthcare system transformation. A distinctive feature is KGI's emphasis on data science—empowering students to leverage advanced analytics, informatics, and high-performance computing (including A.I. and machine learning) to optimize health care delivery, reduce health disparities, and promote health equity.

## **KGI Leadership**

### **President**



#### **Dr. Mohamed Abousalem, P.Eng., M.B.A.**

Following an extensive international search, Dr. Mohamed Abousalem, P.Eng., MBA, was appointed the third President of Keck Graduate Institute on March 12, 2024.

Dr. Abousalem has over 30 years of technical, business, and administrative management experience leading world-class teams in higher education, industry, and the nonprofit sector.

As the Vice President for Research and Innovation at San José State University (SJSU), he provided executive leadership to the growth of the university's research and innovation enterprise. Before joining SJSU, Dr. Abousalem served as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Industry Alliances and Technology Commercialization at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where, among other notable initiatives, he established a biotech wet-lab incubator and a technology startup.

Dr. Abousalem has held several executive roles for organizations in Silicon Valley and Canada, leading product and corporate development, general management, marketing communications, and human resources of several worldwide business operations.

He has demonstrated a deep commitment to promoting academic excellence, innovation, and diversity. Dr. Abousalem has extensive experience in forging strong and successful collaborations with community and corporate partners, establishing research agendas, and building interdisciplinary networks in his previous roles.

Dr. Abousalem is an appointee on the governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), is chair of the board of Litus Inc., a Calgary-based start-up nanotechnology company, and is also a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Science and Innovation Consortium, the Knight Foundation Community Advisory Council, and the board of the Santa Cruz Startup Sandbox biotech incubator. He holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Alexandria University, Egypt, an M.S. and Ph.D. in Geomatics Engineering from the University of Calgary, Canada, and an MBA from Santa Clara University.

### Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs



#### Dr. Megan Prosser, Ph.D.

Dr. Megan Prosser is the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Keck Graduate Institute (KGI). Dr. Prosser has enjoyed an impactful career initially as a faculty member in the Azusa Pacific University Department of Biology and Chemistry, ultimately becoming the Department Chair and then Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Prosser also served as Senior Advisor and Chief of Staff to the President of Azusa Pacific University.

During the last three years, Dr. Prosser has served on the KGI leadership team, initially as Dean of the Riggs School of Applied Life Sciences, then becoming Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the School of Health Sciences, and Dean of the School of Pharmacy. In addition to her role as Provost, Dr. Prosser continues to serve as the Dean of the School of Health Sciences.

As the chief academic officer of KGI, Dr. Prosser leads the strategic vision for academic affairs, overseeing program expansion and development, academic effectiveness and faculty development, research, innovation, and strategic engagements, student affairs, career services, and student success initiatives.

She is active in developing and implementing innovative organizational structures and academic programming to further the KGI mission. Dr. Prosser is a committed leader/administrator and teacher/scholar who has made significant impacts on the education of STEM students who have gone on to successful careers in the health and biomedical sciences. She is particularly attuned to the mentoring of faculty coupled with academic program and curriculum development.

Dr. Prosser earned the B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry with a Spanish Minor, Summa cum laude, from the University of Redlands. She earned a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences with an emphasis in Cancer Immunotherapeutics and Tumor Immunology from the Irell and Manella Graduate School of Biological Sciences at the City of Hope. Her research expertise focuses on adoptive immunotherapeutic approaches for enhanced cancer therapy.



## Claremont, California

Known as the City of Trees and PhDs, Claremont, California, was named the best suburb in the West by *Sunset Magazine* in 2016, which described it as a “small city that blends worldly sophistication with small-town appeal.” With a population of approximately 40,000, Claremont lies in the Pomona Valley at the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains – approximately 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Claremont is known for its tree-lined streets with numerous historic buildings, along with “The Village,” a popular collection of street-front small stores, boutiques, art galleries, offices, and restaurants, all just a few minutes' walk from the KGI campus. *Niche* rated Claremont as the 17th best place to live in the Los Angeles area out of the 658 communities it evaluated, based on low crime, cost of living, job opportunities, and local amenities. Claremont is known for its vibrant arts and culture scene. Each year, the city hosts a springtime folk music festival. During the summer, the Midsummer Shakespeare Festival comes to Pomona College and includes numerous local community events and festivities.

Local museums include the Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology and the Benton Museum of Art. The Claremont Village hosts a Pie Day Festival every March 14, where attendees can collect pie recipes as they stroll through downtown Claremont.

More information on Claremont can be found [here](#).

Other nearby points of interest:

- Lake Arrowhead—50 miles
- Big Bear Mountain—70 miles
- Palm Springs—75 miles
- Downtown Los Angeles—30 miles
- Santa Monica—50 miles
- Newport Beach—40 miles

## Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as two separate documents, a CV and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting Keck Graduate Institute in this search, which will remain open until an appointment is made.

Confidential applications, nominations, and inquiries can be directed to the WittKieffer consultants supporting this search:

Suzanne Teer, Megan Welch, and Cody Burke

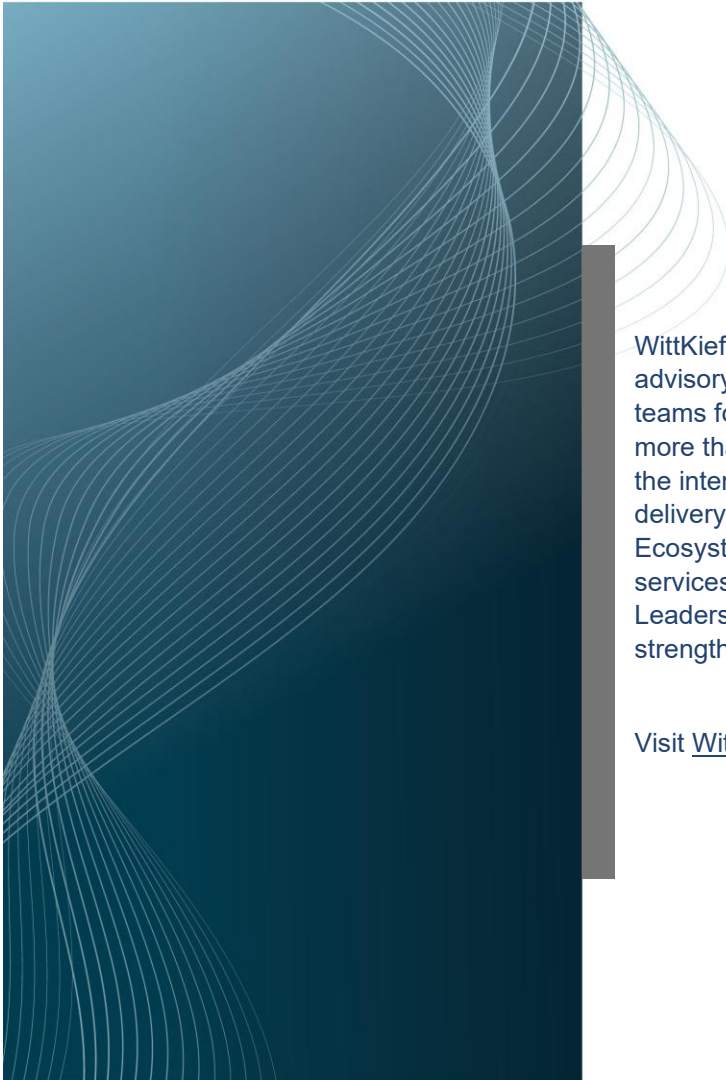
[KGIPharmacy@wittkieffer.com](mailto:KGIPharmacy@wittkieffer.com)

The salary range is \$200,000 - \$250,000 annualized. The salary of the finalist(s) selected for this role will be set based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to internal equity, experience, education, specialty, and training. KGI offers a comprehensive compensation and benefit package. To learn more, please visit <https://services.claremont.edu/benefits-administration/>.

*Keck Graduate Institute is an equal opportunity employer. It does not discriminate against qualified employees or applicants based on race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable state or federal law. Equal employment opportunity will be extended to all persons in all terms and conditions of employment. KGI strongly encourages candidates from underrepresented groups to apply.*

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