

**Executive Director of Development,  
University of Cincinnati Cancer Center**

**Leadership Profile**

April 2026

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## Executive Summary

The University of Cincinnati Foundation seeks an accomplished, strategic advancement leader to serve as the Executive Director of Development for the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. This role presents a significant opportunity to advance philanthropy in support of a rapidly growing academic cancer enterprise dedicated to research, education, and patient-centered care across the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Enterprise.

The University of Cincinnati Foundation is the philanthropic and alumni engagement partner for the University of Cincinnati and UC Health and, following the successful conclusion of the *Next, Now* campaign, ranks among the nation's leading public university advancement organizations.

Established in 2020, the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center is the region's only academic cancer program and serves as a unified enterprise aligning cancer-related research, clinical care, and education across UC, UC Health, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. This integrated model supports multidisciplinary collaboration, accelerates the translation of discovery into clinical impact, and strengthens access to advanced therapies and clinical trials for patients across the region.

The Cancer Center is advancing an ambitious agenda focused on expanding translational research, growing its clinical trials enterprise, recruiting and retaining exceptional physician-scientists, enhancing patient-centered care models, and progressing toward National Cancer Institute designation. Philanthropy plays a critical role in enabling these priorities by providing flexible resources that support innovation, early-stage research, clinical infrastructure, and comprehensive survivorship programs.

The Executive Director of Development will serve as the principal advancement partner to Cancer Center leadership, faculty, and key stakeholders. Reporting to the Vice President for Development, Academic Health Enterprise, this leader is responsible for developing and executing a comprehensive major and principal gifts strategy, personally managing a portfolio of high-capacity donors, and leading a team of development professionals dedicated to advancing cancer philanthropy.

Working in close collaboration with colleagues across the University of Cincinnati Foundation—including prospect development, gift planning, corporate and foundation relations, and stewardship—the Executive Director will translate institutional and clinical priorities into compelling philanthropic opportunities with transformational potential. As the Cancer Center builds on its early momentum and continues to grow in scale and national visibility, this leader will play a central role in sustaining philanthropic success and positioning the enterprise for its next phase of advancement.

The ideal candidate will bring significant experience securing major gifts at the \$100,000 level and above, a strong track record of collaboration with senior academic and clinical leaders, and a clear understanding of the role philanthropy plays in advancing complex academic health missions. The successful Executive Director will be a strategic thinker, trusted partner, and visible ambassador who is deeply committed to advancing the mission and impact of the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center.

Those interested in this role, or wishing to nominate qualified candidates, are encouraged to review the Procedure for Candidacy section at the conclusion of this leadership profile.

## Role of the Executive Director

The Executive Director of Development provides strategic leadership, direction, and coordination for all philanthropic activity supporting the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. This role advances major and principal gift fundraising in support of cancer research, clinical care, education, and survivorship initiatives across the Academic Health Enterprise, including the UC College of Medicine and UC Health.

### Reporting Relationships

Employed by the University of Cincinnati Foundation, the Executive Director reports to the Vice President for Development, Academic Health Enterprise, and serves as the primary advancement partner to Cancer Center leadership, faculty, clinicians, and key stakeholders.

### Strategic Leadership and Planning

- Collaborate with the Vice President for Development and Cancer Center leadership to establish annual fundraising plans, priorities, and performance goals.
- Develop and execute comprehensive fundraising strategies aligned with Cancer Center and Academic Health Enterprise objectives.
- Translate complex scientific, clinical, and institutional priorities into compelling philanthropic opportunities.

### Major and Principal Gifts Fundraising

- Personally manage a portfolio of high-capacity individual prospects, generally at the \$100,000 level and above.
- Cultivate, solicit, and steward major and special gifts through direct engagement locally, regionally, and nationally.
- Partner closely with physician-scientists and clinical leaders to engage donors in transformational philanthropic investments.

### Team Leadership and Management

- Recruit, lead, motivate, and manage a team of development professionals dedicated to Cancer Center fundraising.
- Establish clear objectives, productivity metrics, and performance standards.
- Provide coaching, mentoring, and professional development to build and sustain a high-performing team.

### Collaboration and Enterprise Integration

- Serve as a strategic partner to Cancer Center leadership, faculty, and volunteers to prioritize fundraising initiatives.
- Work collaboratively with University of Cincinnati Foundation colleagues in prospect development, gift planning, corporate and foundation relations, stewardship, and analytics.
- Ensure alignment with Foundation policies, prospect management protocols, and institutional advancement strategies.

### Donor Stewardship and Relationship Management

- Ensure thoughtful stewardship of philanthropic investments and donor relationships.
- Build and sustain long-term relationships with donors, volunteers, and community partners.
- Promote a culture of accountability, transparency, and gratitude in donor engagement.

### Reporting and Institutional Responsibilities

- Maintain accurate and timely documentation of donor interactions and fundraising activity.
- Participate fully in prospect clearance, portfolio management, and reporting processes.
- Complete additional assignments that support awareness, engagement, and philanthropic growth for the Cancer Center.

## Candidate Qualifications

### Education & Certification

A Bachelor's degree is required with 7–10 years of progressively responsible fundraising experience, or an advanced degree preferred with 5–7 years of comparable experience. Experience in academic medicine, healthcare systems, research institutions, or complex nonprofit organizations is strongly preferred.

### Knowledge & Work Experience

- Proven record of success securing major gifts at the \$100,000 level and above, including complex, multi-stakeholder solicitations.
- Demonstrated experience advancing philanthropy in support of research, clinical care, education, or survivorship initiatives.
- Experience working effectively within a complex, matrixed organization, preferably in an academic health or cancer center environment.
- Understanding of basic scientific and clinical principles sufficient to communicate cancer research and care priorities to philanthropic audiences.
- Willingness to travel and attend evening and weekend activities as required; valid driver's license required.

### Leadership Skills & Competencies

- Demonstrated success in coaching, mentoring, and developing fundraising professionals.
- Experience setting goals, managing performance, and establishing accountability in a team-based environment.
- Ability to partner effectively with senior academic leaders, physician-scientists, clinicians, volunteers, and trustees.
- Strong strategic thinking, organizational judgment, and ability to manage multiple priorities simultaneously.

### Personal Attributes & Style

- Exceptional interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to engage a diverse range of stakeholders and foster trust-based, productive relationships.
- High level of professionalism, integrity, discretion, and commitment to donor-centered philanthropy.
- Deep commitment to advancing the missions of the University of Cincinnati, UC Health, and the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center.



## Organization Overview

### University of Cincinnati Cancer Center



University of Cincinnati • UC Health • Cincinnati Children's

The University of Cincinnati Cancer Center is a comprehensive academic cancer center dedicated to advancing cancer care, research, and education across the Greater Cincinnati region and beyond. As the region's only academic cancer program, the Cancer Center delivers specialized, team-based care, supported by an integrated research enterprise spanning prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

Building on decades of cancer research and clinical care at the University of Cincinnati, the Cancer Center was recently established as a unified academic enterprise designed to align care delivery, scientific discovery, and education. This model reflects a period of focused institutional investment and positions the Cancer Center for continued growth and national advancement, including the pursuit of National Cancer Institute designation.

In early 2026, the Cancer Center further strengthened its leadership with the appointment of [David Gius, MD, PhD, as Director](#), reinforcing its focus on translational research excellence, clinical growth, and progress toward National Cancer Institute designation.

The Cancer Center represents a strategic collaboration between [UC Health](#), the [University of Cincinnati College of Medicine](#), and [Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center](#), integrating adult and pediatric oncology within a single academic framework. Cincinnati Children's is ranked among the nation's leading pediatric institutions and is recognized as the number one program in the country for pediatric cancer care by U.S. News and World Report. This partnership enables seamless collaboration across disciplines and accelerates the translation of research into clinical impact.



**Clinical care** is organized through disease-focused programs and multidisciplinary teams that support coordinated, personalized treatment for patients with both common and complex cancers. The Cancer Center serves as a regional referral center for high-acuity cases and offers access to advanced therapies and clinical trials not widely available elsewhere in the region.

A core area of strength is hematologic malignancies, supported by the [Blood Cancer Healing Center](#), a purpose-built facility that integrates inpatient and outpatient care, clinical trials, translational research, and supportive services. Additional programs span solid tumors, including breast, gastrointestinal, and thoracic oncology, supported by advanced diagnostics and emerging therapeutic approaches.



**Research** is fully integrated within the clinical enterprise, with a strong emphasis on translational science and clinical trials. The Cancer Center is the largest provider of oncology clinical trials in the region and continues to expand its portfolio of early-phase and investigator-initiated studies through national research networks. These capabilities provide patients with access to novel therapies while advancing new standards of care.

As part of a leading academic medical center, the Cancer Center plays a central role in **education and workforce development** through the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, supporting training across oncology specialties and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration.

Guided by a collaborative and patient-centered culture, the Cancer Center is advancing a model of care that integrates research, clinical excellence, and community impact, with a clear trajectory toward national prominence.

*Additional details on the Cancer Center's growth, research enterprise, and clinical programs is provided in the Appendix.*

## The Role of Philanthropy

Philanthropy plays a critical role in advancing research, clinical care, education, and survivorship at the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center. As a unified academic enterprise across UC, UC Health, and Cincinnati Children's, the Cancer Center is expanding access to advanced therapies, supporting a rapidly growing clinical trials portfolio with more than 3,000 patients enrolled since 2019, and accelerating progress toward National Cancer Institute designation.

Philanthropic investment provides flexibility to act quickly and strategically, enabling the Cancer Center to advance high-impact priorities that are not always supported through traditional funding sources.

Across the **research** enterprise, philanthropy supports discovery from early-stage investigation through clinical translation. Investment in pilot funding and shared resources accelerates innovation, strengthens collaboration across disciplines, and helps attract and retain leading investigators. Since 2021, philanthropic support has enabled more than \$3 million in pilot funding, generating more than \$2.60 in federal funding for every dollar invested and strengthening the pipeline of externally funded research.

Within **clinical care**, philanthropy strengthens the multidisciplinary teams at the center of the patient experience. Support for oncology nursing, advanced practice providers, and care coordination enhances quality, improves outcomes, and ensures patients receive personalized support throughout treatment. These investments are essential to delivering high-quality care across a growing patient population and an expanding portfolio of more than 100 active clinical trials.

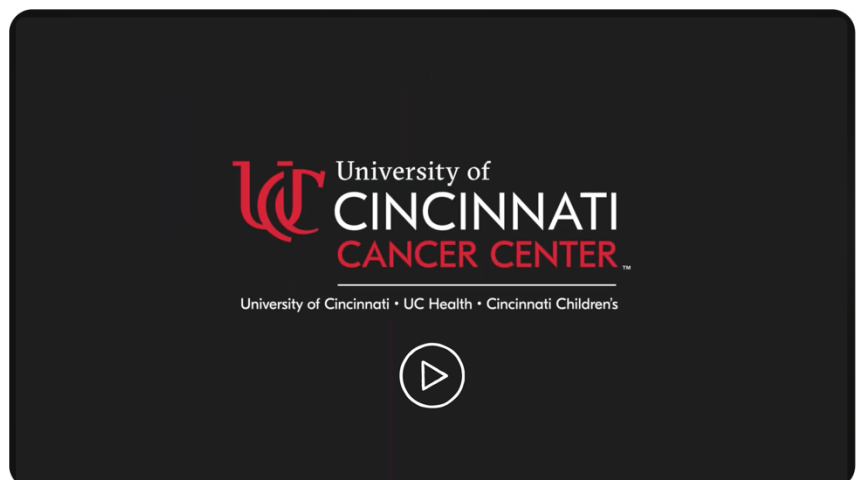
Beyond active treatment, philanthropy extends its impact through **survivorship programs** that provide patients and families with resources to navigate long-term recovery, including physical, emotional, and practical supports that improve quality of life.

Philanthropy also enables strategic investment through initiatives such as the Cancer Center Director's Fund, which provides flexible resources to recruit top talent, accelerate research programs, and strengthen connections across clinical and scientific disciplines.

Sustained philanthropic support is essential to the Cancer Center's continued growth, which now includes more than \$38 million in annual research funding and a rapidly expanding body of clinical and scientific work. Together, these investments ensure that discovery is translated into clinical impact and that patients across the region benefit from the most advanced cancer care available.

For additional details on priorities and impact, please visit: [foundation.uc.edu/cancer](https://foundation.uc.edu/cancer)

[Watch | A New Era in Cancer Care Driven by Philanthropy](#)



## UC Health and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

The UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute is a cornerstone of the University of Cincinnati's Academic Health Enterprise, an integrated clinical, research, and education platform that brings together UC Health and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. This enterprise model aligns discovery, patient care, and training at scale and positions the institution to advance complex, research-driven specialties such as neuroscience.

UC Health is Cincinnati's only integrated adult academic health system and serves as the primary clinical partner for the College of Medicine. Through this alignment, physician-scientists deliver advanced specialty and subspecialty care, advance translational research, and educate future health professionals. UC Health provides a regional and national clinical platform that supports highly complex care, clinical trials, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine anchors the scientific mission of the Academic Health Enterprise and supports a robust physician-scientist model across departments and interdisciplinary institutes. Faculty practice as UC Physicians, enabling seamless integration of research, clinical care, and education. This model is particularly critical to neuroscience, where innovation depends on close collaboration across neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, rehabilitation, imaging, and translational science.

Within the Academic Health Enterprise, the UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute stands alongside other nationally recognized institutes, including the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center and the Center for Cardiovascular Research. Together, these entities serve as focal points for clinical innovation, faculty recruitment, research growth, and philanthropic investment.

The enterprise is strategically aligned under the University's Next Lives Here framework, which emphasizes academic excellence, urban impact, and innovation. Within this context, the neurosciences are a clear area of institutional strength and growth, positioning the UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute as a flagship program with increasing national visibility and long-term strategic importance.

## The University of Cincinnati

Founded in 1819, the University of Cincinnati is a leading public research university with a deep commitment to innovation, access, and urban impact. Ranked among the nation's top public research institutions, UC enrolls more than 53,000 students across 17 colleges and is recognized for its interdisciplinary strengths, research productivity, and experience-based learning model.

As a major urban research university, UC plays a central role in advancing health, education, and economic vitality in the Cincinnati region and beyond. The University's longstanding partnerships with the city, state, and regional health systems enhance its ability to translate research into real-world impact, particularly in addressing complex societal and health challenges.

The University's strategic direction, Next Lives Here, provides a unifying framework that aligns academic priorities with translational research, innovation, and community engagement. Within this strategy, the Academic Health Enterprise—and the UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute in particular—represents a critical driver of discovery, advanced clinical care, and human health impact.

Through sustained investment in faculty, facilities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research infrastructure, the University of Cincinnati is well-positioned to support continued growth and national leadership in neuroscience, strengthening the Institute's ability to attract top talent, secure competitive funding, and advance patient-centered innovation.

For additional information, please see the Appendix.

## The University of Cincinnati Foundation

Philanthropy at the University of Cincinnati traces its roots to 1819, the founding year of UC, which saw the incorporation of two, now joined, units of the University – Cincinnati College and the Medical College of Ohio. Private gifts supporting these entities were made even before their first students enrolled, and the University of Cincinnati has continued a proud tradition of philanthropy – reflecting the traditions of the city that bears its name, considered among the most charitable and livable cities in the nation.

In 1972, Dr. George Rieveschl Jr., the inventor of Benadryl®, founded the first donor recognition society, now known as the Tower of Strength Society, to encourage and recognize gifts to the University. Three years later, he left his post as UC's Vice President of Research to become the Founding Chairman of UCF when it was created in 1975. In the years that followed, UCF has conducted six comprehensive fundraising campaigns, including the [Next. Now](#) campaign, and has met several milestones in its service to the University.

Formally, the UCF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and the private-sector fundraising entity for the University of Cincinnati. In 2015, UCF entered into an agreement to serve as the philanthropic arm of UC Health, managing fundraising on behalf of the UC Health Foundation. The UCF and UC Alumni Association merged in 2016, with a mission to advance UC through aligned alumni engagement and development operations.

The Next, Now campaign, named in coordination with UC's Next Lives Here strategic direction, launched publicly in November 2019; reached its \$2 billion goal in September 2023; and closed June 30, 2024, raising \$2.2 billion. The previous campaign, Proudly Cincinnati, closed June 30, 2013, raising \$1.1 billion and elevating the UCF into the ranks of top public higher education fundraising organizations.

### Mission

To inspire a community of UC and UC Health supporters through the power of philanthropy.

### Vision

Igniting passion to transform lives.

### Core Values

- We care **deeply**.
- We dream **big**.
- We uphold **integrity**.
- We drive **excellence**.
- We embrace **inclusion**.
- We nurture **relationships**.



### Additional Information

Learn more about the University of Cincinnati Foundation at the following links:

- [Because of You Annual Report Fiscal Year 2025](#)
- [UCF IRS Form 990](#)
- [University of Cincinnati Alumni Association](#)
- [Virtual campus tour](#)



## Leadership | University of Cincinnati Foundation



**O. Richard Bundy, III, President,  
University of  
Cincinnati Foundation**

Rich Bundy became President of the University of Cincinnati Foundation and Vice President of Advancement at UC on April 10, 2024. In his role, Bundy oversees all philanthropic efforts for UC and UC Health, as well as alumni engagement through the University of Cincinnati Alumni Association.

Bundy's career in higher education philanthropy spans 30 years, at Penn State University, the University of Vermont, Iowa State University, and Michigan State University.

His dedication to public higher education reflects his commitment to support the transformational impact a college degree can have in the lives of students and their families.

"Large public universities like UC educate significant numbers of first-generation and Pell-eligible students, and that education represents an inflection point in their lives," Bundy says. "Our work in advancement helps make those life-changing opportunities available for current students by inviting our graduates and friends to join us in this mission."

Prior to his UC appointment, Bundy oversaw the successful completion of Penn State's largest-ever comprehensive campaign in 2022, raising \$2.2 billion in six years. There, he directed an advancement team of nearly 600 employees across 24 campuses, raising funds for 13 academic colleges, Penn State Health, intercollegiate athletics, and the Penn State Alumni Association. Bundy also served as President and CEO of the University of Vermont Foundation and Vice President for Development at the Iowa State University Foundation.

Bundy earned a bachelor's and master's degree in history at Penn State and an M.B.A. at Michigan State. He also completed Harvard's Institute for Higher Education Management Development program.

"My goal at UC is to ensure we take every step necessary to maintain the impressive growth trajectory of our fundraising while simultaneously seeking out new opportunities to engage even more alumni, friends, and volunteers in the life of the institution," Bundy says.



**Christopher Higgins, Vice  
President for Development,  
Academic Health Enterprise**

The University of Cincinnati Foundation is pleased to welcome Chris Higgins as the new Vice President for Development, Academic Health Enterprise.

A veteran fundraiser with Cincinnati roots, Higgins joined the University of Cincinnati Foundation on January 5, 2026, bringing a record of achievement and extensive experience in higher education advancement, as well as in operational oversight and workflow management.

In his role, he oversees all fundraising for UC's medical campus, which includes the colleges of medicine, nursing, and allied health sciences, as well as the James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy and the UC Health system.

"Chris is a persuasive, results-driven, and effective team leader," says UC Foundation President Rich Bundy. "His ability to cultivate donor relationships, combined with his strong management and leadership experience, will significantly enhance fundraising for UC's academic medicine mission and UC Health, advancing scientific inquiry and improving health outcomes across our region."

Higgins previously served at the University of Texas at Austin as the associate vice president for development in the Dell Medical School. His career in higher education advancement also includes positions as director of development at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, assistant dean and chief advancement officer at the University of Illinois College of Law, and chief development officer at the University of Texas Cockrell School of Engineering.

Higgins earned his bachelor's degree in communications from Ohio State University and his master's degree in business from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

"As a Cincinnati native, contributing to the future of UC's academic medicine and patient care mission is deeply meaningful," says Higgins. "I'm excited to partner with UC and UC Health leadership in elevating our academic health enterprise to regional and national prominence."

# The Community

## Cincinnati, Ohio



UC's upward trajectory mirrors Cincinnati's ongoing renaissance. Home to more Fortune 500 companies per capita than New York City or Los Angeles, Cincinnati also boasts the fastest-growing economy in the Midwest. The city has been recognized as the "Best City for New College Grads," and *The Huffington Post* has named it one of the hottest Midwestern cities for startups. Cincinnati offers the amenities and opportunities of a major metro while maintaining the charm, affordability, and accessibility of a mid-sized city.

With a regional population of more than 2.2 million, Greater Cincinnati combines vibrant urban energy with inviting suburban neighborhoods, scenic river views, and rolling hills. Residents enjoy professional sports, world-class entertainment, a thriving arts and cultural scene, acclaimed museums, a nationally celebrated zoo, expansive parks and nature trails, and a flourishing riverfront. Families are drawn to the area for its excellent public and private schools, including a strong presence of Montessori education options, as well as the diverse national and international talent attracted by major employers.

Working at the University of Cincinnati means calling the "Queen City" home. Cincinnati offers an affordable cost of living, a revitalized and walkable downtown, endless entertainment options, and a high quality of life for individuals and families alike. In recognition of these strengths, *U.S. News & World Report* named Cincinnati among the **Best Places to Live in the U.S. for 2024–2025**, citing its strong job market, educational institutions—including UC—cultural amenities, professional sports, dining scene, and overall value.

To learn more, visit: <https://www.uc.edu/campaigns/fy26/our-city.html>

## Procedure for Candidacy



All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV/resume and a letter of interest. *Please do not add photos or reference contacts to your application materials.* Review of applications has begun and will continue until the position is filled.

Please submit all applications, nominations, and inquiries to the WittKieffer consultants, Ashley Buderus, Mercedes Vance, and Jess Cummings, through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by [clicking here](#). New users should select “**Register Here**” to create an account before proceeding. After logging in, navigate to “**Open Positions**,” then locate the role by entering the institution’s name and clicking the search wheel.

Applications, nominations, and inquiries can also be directed to the WittKieffer consultants assisting the University of Cincinnati Foundation with this recruitment via e-mail to [jcummings@wittkieffer.com](mailto:jcummings@wittkieffer.com).

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*In accordance with the state of Ohio’s 2025 “Advance Ohio Higher Education Act”: The University of Cincinnati declares that it will educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth. The University of Cincinnati declares that its duty is to equip students with the opportunity to develop the intellectual skills they need to reach their own, informed conclusions. The University of Cincinnati declares its commitment to not requiring, favoring, disfavoring, or prohibiting speech or lawful assembly. The University of Cincinnati declares it is committed to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the autonomy of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and tolerates the differences in opinion that naturally occur in a public higher education community. The University of Cincinnati declares that its duty is to treat all faculty, staff, and students as individuals, to hold them to equal standards, and to provide them equality of opportunity, with regard to those individuals’ race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.*

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from «Company» documents and personal interviews, and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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## Appendix

### University of Cincinnati Cancer Center

The University of Cincinnati Cancer Center was established in 2020 as a unified academic enterprise, bringing together cancer research, clinical care, and education across the University of Cincinnati, UC Health, and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. The Cancer Center serves as the coordinating hub for cancer-related activity across these institutions, aligning scientific discovery, clinical programs, and community engagement.

Over its first five years, the Cancer Center has achieved significant milestones that reflect both its growth and its commitment to advancing cancer care and discovery:

- Selected for participation in the [National Cancer Institute Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network](#)
- Opened the nation's first comprehensive Blood Cancer Healing Center, integrating patient care, translational research, and supportive services within a single facility
- Achieved first-in-human application of [FLASH radiotherapy](#)
- Established the region's first oncology [primary care clinic to support long-term survivorship and coordinated care](#)
- Expanded research infrastructure through the development of [Biostatistics and Informatics and Biospecimen Shared Resources](#), complementing a broader network of institutional research resources
- Increased the number of active clinical trials by 150 percent since 2019
- Created one of only two [cancer survivorship fellowships](#) in the nation

#### Catchment Area and Population Health

The Cancer Center serves a defined catchment area of approximately 2.7 million people across southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky, with most patients residing within this region. Its programs are designed to address the specific cancer burden and risk factors of this population, including tobacco-related cancers, hormone-driven malignancies, and hematologic diseases.

#### Clinical Trials and Research Access

The Cancer Center maintains the largest oncology clinical trials portfolio in the region, with more than 3,000 patients enrolled in clinical studies since 2019 and continued growth in both trial availability and participation. In 2024 alone, more than 700 patients were enrolled in clinical trials.

Participation in national research networks, including the National Cancer Institute Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network, supports access to early-phase and first-in-human therapies and accelerates the translation of research into clinical practice.

#### Research Enterprise and Funding

The research enterprise has expanded significantly in recent years. In 2024, the Cancer Center supported more than \$38 million in research funding, produced over 280 peer-reviewed publications, and managed more than 3,200 analytic cancer cases across its clinical programs.

#### Research, Development, and Pilot Funding



Investment in early-stage research is a defining feature of the Cancer Center's growth strategy. Since 2021, the Cancer Center has deployed more than \$3 million in pilot funding to support over 60 research projects, generating more than \$2.60 in federal funding for every dollar invested. This approach strengthens the pipeline of externally funded research and supports the development of new investigative programs.

### **Clinical Programs and Innovation**

Clinical program development has also accelerated. The Blood Cancer Healing Center represents a major advancement in care delivery, integrating inpatient and outpatient services, research, and supportive care within a single facility. Additional innovations include the introduction of FLASH radiotherapy in humans and the establishment of the region's first oncology primary care clinic, reflecting a commitment to both advanced treatment and long-term survivorship care.

### **Workforce Development and Training**

The Cancer Center supports a growing pipeline of clinicians and researchers, with more than 70 trainee members and dedicated annual funding for early-career development. These programs contribute to faculty recruitment, retention, and the long-term strength of the Cancer Center's academic mission.

### **Growth and Future Direction**

Since its formation, the Cancer Center has demonstrated steady growth in clinical volume, research funding, and programmatic development. This trajectory supports its ongoing pursuit of National Cancer Institute designation and reflects its evolution into a leading academic cancer program in the region.



## About the University of Cincinnati



In 1819, in the very heart of a still-young nation, in a period of invention that was transforming every level of society, a place of learning was founded that would become the University of Cincinnati. More than 200 years later, that institution is pursuing its Next Lives Here strategic direction and is poised to lead urban public universities into a new era of inclusion, innovation, and impact.

Ranked among the nation's Top 35 public research universities in a vibrant, diverse, and growing metropolitan area of over 2.2 million residents, the University of Cincinnati is one of the country's best-known and most respected institutions. UC and the broader UC community can proudly highlight the following:

- 17 colleges
- 350,000+ alumni
- 53,000 students
- 11,000 faculty and staff
- \$699 million in research expenditures
- \$2 billion endowment
- \$2 billion campaign goal reached in 2023
- Regional economic impact of \$10.6 billion
- BIG 12 athletic conference membership

UC's historic rise over the past decade has resulted in numerous milestones, including:

- Enrollment records for 9 of the past 10 years
- Research growth exceeding 45% since FY16
- Highest first-year retention rate in its history
- Largest number of National Merit Scholars in its history
- Among the world's most beautiful urban campus settings (*New York Times*)

As the inventor of cooperative education in 1906, UC remains a worldwide leader in experience-based learning, with student co-op earnings topping \$88 million last year alone. UC is ranked in the top five in the nation for co-op and internships by *U.S. News & World Report*.

UC Research is accelerating economic growth in the region by connecting industry, government, and community leaders with university thought leaders and innovators. Together, they positively impact the lives, environment, and economy in the region and beyond. [The Digital Futures Complex](#) sits on UC's campus and is the crown jewel of the [Cincinnati Innovation District](#). It is comprised of over 20 cutting-edge research labs with faculty experts from seven colleges focused on future mobility, AI, cryptoeconomics, human performance, skin sensors, and much more.

[The 1819 Innovation Hub](#) launched five years ago. It is the front door for businesses, entrepreneurs, and investors to access UC's faculty, technology, and resources. Its purpose is to streamline support, resources, and access to accelerate entrepreneurship in Cincinnati. The startup accelerator has over \$122 million in investment. It trains an average of 62 entrepreneurs each semester and has over 20 viable startups every year. Tech transfer has seen a 94% increase in patents and 109% increase in licensing deals. Innovation is in UC's DNA, and the number of patents filed has increased 62%. Some of the nation's best companies reside in the 1819 Innovation Hub, including P&G and Kroger, and the portfolio stretches from fintech to CPG. The building has the region's largest eSports facility with a broadcast and production studio.

[UC Health](#) is Cincinnati's only integrated adult academic health system, serving patients from all 50 states. UC Health has eclipsed \$2.1 billion in annual revenues, more than doubling its revenues in recent years and achieving an average annual compound growth rate of 8%. UC Health combines clinical expertise with research and teaching—a combination that provides specialty and subspecialty care unavailable elsewhere in the community. The UC Health Network includes University of Cincinnati Medical Center, West Chester Hospital, Daniel Drake Center for Post-Acute Care, Bridgeway Pointe Assisted Living, University of Cincinnati Physicians and University of Cincinnati Physicians Company (with 900+ board-certified clinicians and surgeons), and Lindner Center of HOPE. It also includes several specialized institutes and centers, including the UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute, the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center, and the Center for Cardiovascular Research.

## University of Cincinnati Mission Statement

The University of Cincinnati serves the people of Ohio, the nation, and the world as a premier, public, urban research university dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, experience-based learning, and research.

UC is committed to excellence and diversity in its students, faculty, staff, and all of its activities. They provide an inclusive environment where innovation and intellectual freedom flourish.

Through scholarship, service, partnerships, and leadership, UC creates opportunities to develop educated and engaged citizens, enhance the economy, and enrich the university, city, state, and global community.

## University of Cincinnati Vision Statement

### Leading urban public universities into a new era of innovation and impact

The University of Cincinnati has pioneered bold change for more than 200 years. *Next Lives Here*, the strategic direction launched in 2018, builds on the past while disrupting academia's conventional ways of thinking and doing to define the next 200 years. It outlines an inventive framework that includes three platforms supported by many pathways: academic excellence, urban impact, and innovation agenda. UC intends to use this inventive framework to ignite our students' curiosity, inspire our faculty and staff, and unleash ingenuity to create an inclusive environment that fosters freedom to learn, explore, and innovate.

## University of Cincinnati Values

- **Engagement** - We are empowered by people, perspectives, and ideas.
- **Innovation** - Challenging existing practices and paradigms and discovering the unknown.
- **Impact** - Positively transforming their community and society in measurable ways.
- [Strategic Direction \(\*Next Lives Here\*\)](#)

As mentioned above, [Next Lives Here](#) is the strategic direction UC President Neville Pinto launched in 2018 to advance the University of Cincinnati's relentless pursuit of academic excellence, transformational urban impact, and path-defining innovation. This project emerged in response to the tectonic changes occurring worldwide and to the need for higher education to address them. The role of an urban university has never been more important

or exciting, and UC implemented *Next Lives Here* to capitalize on the opportunity this moment presents. Below is additional information about the three areas addressed in this initiative:

- **Academic Excellence:** UC is committed to student access and success – it is the bedrock of our mission. To accelerate student success and graduate impact-driven leaders, UC must attract, invest in, and celebrate the people who comprise the University. Through the development of faculty, staff, and students, and the transformative curricular, scholarly, and operational excellence they provide, the UC is pioneering new ways of thinking, creating, and doing.
- **Urban Impact:** UC's well-being is inherently linked with the physical, environmental, social, and economic health of the community and the city. Cincinnati, and its business, civic, educational, and cultural offerings, provides UC and its stakeholders opportunities to reach beyond UC campuses to lead real-world learning, problem-based research and scholarship, and creative endeavors that address the multifaceted challenges affecting individuals and communities in an increasingly urbanized society. Urban Impact, through collaborations and partnerships with external counterparts, seeks to improve the human condition and advance sustainability for the institution, the city, the state, and the world.
- **Innovation Agenda:** UC is dedicated to pushing limits and challenging minds by providing the space and opportunity for people from diverse backgrounds to connect, imagine, and discover. The formation of new collaborations and partnerships linking UC's talent in transformative ways—both internally and externally—provides a platform to advance and enrich experiences, ideas, and outcomes.

## UC Academics

UC offers an education that's both rigorous and relevant – hundreds of academic programs, many nationally ranked, all with opportunities for real-world learning. From study abroad and co-ops to artistic performances and portfolios, students graduate with both a diploma and a resume.

### Colleges

- [College of Allied Health Sciences](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [College-Conservatory of Music](#)
- [College of Cooperative Education and Professional Studies](#)
- [College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning](#)
- [College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services](#)
- [College of Engineering and Applied Science](#)
- [The Graduate College](#)
- [College of Law](#)
- [The Carl H. Lindner College of Business](#)
- [College of Medicine](#)
- [College of Nursing](#)
- [James L. Winkle College of Pharmacy](#)
- [UC Blue Ash College](#)
- [UC Clermont College](#)
- [University of Cincinnati Libraries](#)
- [University of Cincinnati Online](#)

## Next Lives Here: The Academic Health Enterprise

The close alignment of a thriving urban public research university and a vibrant private academic health system is a powerful catalyst for change. In 2022, the University of Cincinnati Board of Trustees and the UC Health Board of Directors completed a two-year effort to reimagine the governance, leadership, and strategic alignment of the two organizations to unlock their shared potential. These changes are central to the full achievement of the vision described in UC's *Next Lives Here* strategic direction.



The UC College of Medicine sits at the intersection of the UC – UC Health academic health enterprise. The clinical faculty of the College, organized as UC Physicians, serves as the primary engine for fulfilling our health research, educational, and clinical mission. In addition, UC Health is instrumental in the educational and research missions of the colleges of Nursing, Pharmacy, and Allied Health Sciences. Collaborations between the colleges of Business, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Medicine, and UC Health will be crucial as the convergence of computing, artificial intelligence, advanced informatics, and biosciences shapes innovation and care delivery in the future.

Through the integrated effort of UC's clinicians, scientists, and educators, and UC Health's clinical programs and services, we are poised to transform the health of the region and establish a role model for the rest of the world to elevate the health of an increasingly urban-centric global population. Together, UC and UC Health have identified an array of transformational initiatives to advance their commitment to the *Next Lives Here* Strategic Direction. Examples include:

- **Cancer Center** – UC, UC Health, and Cincinnati Children's have formed the University of Cincinnati Cancer Center (UCCC). The goal of the UCCC is to enhance cancer care in the region through clinical care, research, and education. The UCCC is on a path of growth and development necessary to submit its application for this designation in the near future. Future development of a state-of-the-art facility to house the UC Cancer Center will begin soon.
- **Neurosciences** – The University of Cincinnati Gardner Neurosciences Institute (UCGNI) serves as the home for one of the nation's top collections of clinician-scientists dedicated to advancing the treatment and prevention of neurological disorders and injury. The UCGNI is poised to become a global leader in this arena through continued expansion of critical areas, including the Gardner Center for Parkinson's Disease and Movement Disorders, the Neurobiology Research Center, and the Waddel Center for Multiple Sclerosis.
- **Community Health** – As a component of the *Next Lives Here* strategic direction, the Community Health pathway has been reconfigured to leverage UC resources to improve the health of the Cincinnati community. The major focus at present is to support community needs and the engagement required for the NCI Cancer Center designation. Further investment to enable expansion of partnerships and community health impact beyond cancer will advance our commitment to establish Cincinnati as the healthiest urban community in the U.S.
- **Data Sciences and Informatics** – UC Health's future success will be determined in part by its ability to harness the power of data. Precision medicine, novel drug development, targeted therapies, and population health strategies all require emerging experts equipped with leading-edge technology. The UC College of Medicine and UC Health have jointly hired a chief digital health officer with deep systems expertise. The joint creation of a digital road map aligned with *Next Lives Here* will inform future investments at the intersection of biosciences and technology.

As UC and UC Health deepen their collaboration in pursuit of a joint commitment to *Next Lives Here*, additional areas to be explored include new system models for mental health in urban communities, research targeting the use of cellular therapies incorporating precision medicine, artificial intelligence-enabled drug discovery, and advanced bioinformatics applied to population health management. In short, the academic health enterprise expression of *Next Lives Here* is a deep commitment to establishing Cincinnati as the healthiest city in the world.



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