Center Director and Multiple Tenure-Track Faculty Positions

Center for Precision Health
School of Biomedical Informatics
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

JOB TITLES:
Director and Full Professor (Tenured/Tenure-Track), Center for Precision Health
Multiple Faculty Positions (Tenure-Track, All Ranks), Center for Precision Health

JOB SUMMARY: The School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI) at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) is excited to announce a minimum of five tenured/tenure-track faculty positions, including a Center Director and at least four additional faculty positions. This funding has been designated by the Texas Legislature to enhance biomedical and health informatics education and research in the State of Texas in the big data and precision medicine era. The Center Director post has been created for an established, mid-career biomedical informatics researcher who will lead SBMI’s newly proposed Center for Precision Health as its founding Director, with an appointment at the full professor level (tenured or tenure-track). If chosen, this Director will have the opportunity to participate in the recruitment of at least four additional tenure track assistant/associate/full professors to serve with him/her at the Center. The director and the additional faculty positions are open simultaneously.

We are seeking candidates with experience and interests in emerging approaches to disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through detecting, measuring, and analyzing individual variations in molecular, genomic, cellular, clinical, behavioral, physiological, and environmental data. These approaches may include:

- Translational bioinformatics, with an emphasis on utilizing bioinformatics theories, methods, and tools to address clinical and health problems at the individual and population levels;
- Data science, with a focus on integrating, mining, and using heterogeneous big datasets from multiple sources (e.g., clinical, genomic, behavioral, social, population, and environmental) to address challenging problems in patient care, health prevention, and biomedical discovery;
- Mobile health, with an emphasis on collecting, processing, and analyzing data from mobile devices and integrating them with other data sources to address human health challenges.
Successful applicants will join a dynamic, rapidly growing SBMI faculty focused on research, education, and the practical application of informatics.

UTHealth is located within the world’s largest medical complex—the Texas Medical Center (TMC)—in Houston, Texas, the fourth largest city in the United States. SBMI is a freestanding school and one of the largest graduate level biomedical informatics programs in the nation.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates should have a PhD (or equivalent) in biomedical informatics, computational biology, biostatistics, public health informatics, computer science, engineering, or a related discipline, with demonstrated experience/expertise in informatics, or an MD (or equivalent) with demonstrated training and experience in informatics. For the Center Director position, candidates should have qualifications/credentials commensurate with an appointment as a tenured, full professor, as well as a strong record of independent and collaborative research, a successful history of securing extramural funding, outstanding interpersonal and communication skills, and an excellent record of leadership and team building skills. For Center faculty applicants at the full professor and associate professor levels, a strong track record of teaching at the graduate level, extramural funding, and published research is required. For applicants at the assistant professor level, a strong record of research publications and the potential to obtain extramural funding are required.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Successful candidates will be expected to conduct research, participate in graduate level teaching activities, and provide service at the school, university, regional, national, and international levels. Collaborative research with other SBMI faculty and across UTHealth and the Texas Medical Center is expected.

SALARY: Competitive and dependent upon qualifications and experience.

APPOINTMENT/BENEFITS: All positions are 12-month full-time appointments in the tenure track. All interested parties should apply at: https://jobs.uth.tmc.edu (search Requisition # 152798 for the Center Director position and Requisition # 152799 for the center faculty positions). As part of the application (all application materials have to be submitted through the online system), please provide a current curriculum vitae and contact information for three references, as well as a letter describing qualifications and career goals. For questions, please contact Judy Young at judy.e.young@uth.tmc.edu or 713-500-3901.

UTHealth is an EEO/AA employer. UTHealth does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or any other basis prohibited by law. EOE/M/D/F/V. This is a security sensitive position and thereby subject to Texas Education Code § 51.215. A background check will be required for final candidates.
The University of Texas System (UT System) is one of the nation’s largest systems of higher education. It is currently comprised of 9 universities and 6 health institutions, including The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth); in the fall, another UT System university will open in the Rio Grande Valley. Each year, UT institutions award more than one-third of all undergraduate degrees in Texas and almost two-thirds of all health professional degrees to more than 217,000 students. With approximately 20,000 faculty and more than 70,000 health care professionals, researchers, student advisors, and support staff, the UT System is one of the largest employers in the state. The UT System ranks third in the nation in patent applications and federal research expenditures. For more information, go to www.utsystem.edu.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) was established in 1972 by The University of Texas System Board of Regents. Located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center—the largest medical center in the world—UTHealth is the most comprehensive academic health center within The UT System and the U.S. Gulf Coast region, and is home to the graduate schools of biomedical informatics, biomedical sciences, and public health, as well as the schools of medicine, nursing, and dentistry. It features 4,500 active students and employs 10,000 faculty, students, staff, and residents. UTHealth also comprehends The University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center and a growing network of clinics throughout the region. UTHealth’s primary teaching hospitals include Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, and Harris Health Lyndon B. Johnson Hospital. UTHealth also owns UT Physicians, one of the largest outpatient practices in the country, with more than 1,000 clinicians certified in 80 medical specialties and subspecialties. For more information, visit www.uth.edu.

UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI) is one of the largest biomedical informatics graduate programs in the nation, with 25 regular faculty, 65 adjunct faculty, and almost 300 students. Annual enrollment increased by 40% last year and is expected to grow more than 50% this year. Moreover, with ongoing unmet needs for trained informaticians and academics in the field, expansion is expected to continue unabated over the next decade. SBMI’s mission is to educate future scientists and professionals in biomedical informatics and health information technology, conduct informatics research to improve health care and advance biomedical discovery, and develop advanced informatics tools to solve problems in health care. SBMI is planning to bring biomedical informatics education to all UT institutions and their associated health care provider communities across the state of Texas. Go to sbmi.uth.edu for more information.

The Texas Medical Center (TMC), located at the heart of Houston, comprehends 1,345 acres, and is the world’s largest medical complex and the nation’s 8th largest business district. Since opening in 1945, the TMC has pioneered patient care, research, education, and prevention. Today, the TMC comprises: 21 renowned hospitals, 13 support organizations, eight academic and research institutions, six nursing programs, three public health organizations, three medical schools, two universities, two pharmacy schools, and a dental school. Moreover, it boasts 7,500 faculty, 15,000 nurses, 5,700 researchers (the largest concentration of scientists anywhere), 5,000 physicians, 50,000 students, and 10,000 volunteers, as well as more than 7.2 million patient visits to TMC institutions each year.

Houston, Texas is the fourth-largest city in the United States, and home to myriad education and research institutions, vital visual arts and performing arts communities, celebrated restaurants, a robust housing market, and national and international businesses, large and small. With 56,405 acres of total park space, Houston ranks first among the nation’s 10 most populous cities in total acreage of park land. There are 165 public and private golf courses around the city, and teams representing nearly every major professional sport make Houston exciting for fans, year-round. A mecca of diversity, Houston is also home to the third-largest consular corps in the country. Houston is ranked No. 1 in the U.S. among Fastest Growing Cities (Forbes, 2014), Top Destination Cities for College Graduates (New York Times, 2014), Top Cities for Global Trade (Global Trade, 2013), Most Competitive Metros in America (Forbes, 2014), America’s Coolest Cities to Live (Forbes, 2012), Best Cities for Young Couples (CreditDonkey, 2014), and many other positive rankings related to quality of life.