CHIEF

DIVISION OF GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

http://www.unmc.edu/

Omaha, NE
Applications are invited from high energy, results-oriented individuals to fill the position of Chief, Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology, Department of Internal Medicine, for the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Nebraska Medicine. With the founding Chair looking to hand over leadership to a new generation of talent, this is an exciting opportunity to lead and grow a successful division in an academic medical setting to the next level of excellence.

With a focus on the future of medicine and changes in healthcare delivery, the leaders of The Nebraska Medical Center, UNMC Physicians, and all of their clinical partners have already transitioned to a fully integrated model of patient clinical care, now known as Nebraska Medicine. As a new era begins for UNMC and Nebraska Medicine, there is a full recognition of the importance of geriatric medicine in every facet of the educational, clinical and research efforts of the organization. Growth and expansion of the division’s clinical, research and educational missions are anticipated with full support from both the academic and clinical leadership. The division’s Home Instead Center for Successful Aging represents a unique model of care for the entire Midwestern region. This free standing center, located on the UNMC campus, offers a full spectrum of care including: geriatric medicine, geriatric psychiatry, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, exercise science, and whole person wellness.

The Chief will lead the division faculty with the responsibility for teaching, research, and clinical service as well as academic planning, development, and resource management. He/she will also play a key leadership role in the collaborative efforts throughout the College of Medicine and across the entire UNMC campus.

The successful candidate will be an MD/DO (or equivalent degree) who is board certified in Internal Medicine, with appropriate subspecialty certification and/or training. He/she will demonstrate scholarship, research, clinical and service accomplishments that would merit the rank of Associate Professor or higher in the College of Medicine. He/she will have a record of successful experience in academic leadership and mentoring, outstanding clinical and teaching skills, a track record of successful and productive collaborative research efforts, and the demonstrated ability to create and build programs in a vibrant academic geriatric program.

The review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Nominations and applications, including an individual curriculum vita and a letter of interest, can be submitted in confidence to:

Trisha Chogich, Alexander Wollman & Stark
Telephone: 484.367.7479
Email: alexwollstark@verizon.net

The University of Nebraska Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. Individuals from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) is the only public educational institution devoted to health sciences in the state of Nebraska. It is currently comprised of the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Public Health, the Graduate College and the College of Allied Health. Building on a rich and vibrant history that dates back to the last quarter of the 19th century, UNMC remains committed to its mission of improving the health of Nebraska through premier educational programs, innovative research, the highest quality patient care, and outreach to underserved populations. (A detailed history of UMNC is found here: http://unmc.edu/aboutus/history/index.html)

Jeffrey P. Gold, MD became the Chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center on February 1, 2014. The Chancellor serves as UNMC’s chief executive officer and has responsibility for all aspects of the campus, including ensuring achievement of UNMC’s mission, which is “to lead the world in transforming lives to create a healthy future for all individuals and communities through premier educational programs, innovative research and extraordinary patient care.”

The College of Medicine is the largest of the seven colleges and three institutes that constitute the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Bradley Britigan, MD was named Dean of the UNMC College of Medicine in 2011.

The College of Medicine is comprised of 19 departments. They are:

- Anesthesiology
- Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Cellular and Integrative Physiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Genetics, Cell Biology & Anatomy
- Internal Medicine
- Neurological Sciences
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

- Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation
- Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery
- Pathology and Microbiology
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacology & Experimental Neuroscience
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Psychiatry
- Radiology
- Radiation Oncology
- Surgery
UNMC offers 50 residency and fellowship programs that sponsor over 500 house officers. Residents are trained in a variety of clinical settings including metropolitan, rural and regional centers. A variety of specialty and subspecialty fellowships are also offered. In addition to its primary clinical partner, Nebraska Medicine, UNMC partners with several area hospitals, Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and the VA Nebraska Western Iowa Health Care System (VA-NWI), to provide patient care and physician education. More than half of the physicians practicing in the state of Nebraska received one or more aspects of their training at UNMC.

In order to keep UNMC at the educational forefront, the University of Nebraska Board of Regents has recently approved plans to build the Global Center for Advanced Interprofessional Learning at UNMC. A transformative learning resource, the Global Center will house and support the activities of UNMC’s Interprofessional Experiential Center for Enduring Learning, an initiative more commonly known as iEXCEL℠. The initiative, which includes advanced simulation clinical settings and virtual immersive reality technology, will help transform how health science education and clinical care are delivered through competency-based learning and assessment.

Research is also a major strength of UNMC, with annual extramural research funding of $100M. Major areas of research emphasis and recognition are in cancer, neuroscience, nanomedicine, robotic surgery, immunology and microbiology, and organ transplantation. In addition, strategic research planning areas include Heart Disease and links to Diabetes and Obesity, Infectious Disease and Bioterrorism, Rural Health and Health Disparities, Biotechnology, and Drug Discovery and Development. Leveraging an approximate $20 million award from NIH/NIGMS, UNMC recently established the Great Plains IDEA CTR. This newly established center is a collaborative effort involving researchers from four states including Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas with a shared focus on the diseases of aging. The center will lead efforts to develop early career researchers and to increase infrastructure to support cutting edge clinical / translational research around the region. In addition to the Great Plains IDEA CTR, UNMC has developed and grown other mechanisms to support and enhance research training including the Mentored Scholar Program in Clinical/Translational research, a Masters/PhD program targeting junior faculty from across UNMC colleges.

Complementing the research programs are well-established graduate programs for the training of PhD scientists in all of the major disciplines of modern science. In addition, the College of Medicine faculty serves as faculty in graduate programs in other colleges, including the Colleges of Pharmacy and Public Health.

With a focus on the future of medicine and the changes in healthcare delivery, the leaders of The Nebraska Medical Center (TNMC), UNMC Physicians and Bellevue Medical Center transitioned to a fully integrated model of patient clinical care, now known as Nebraska Medicine. Nebraska Medicine’s physician-driven and physician-led vision is to be the region’s leading health system, comprised of nationally recognized academic and community-based providers, aligned and integrated to optimize the health of the patients. The goals behind the new structure are high value care, greater efficiency, and adaptation to the new ways healthcare will be managed and delivered in the future, as well as value-based care of patients regardless of location of care. With more than 530 physicians and 50 specialties and subspecialties, revenues last year approached $200 million.

In May, 2016 Nebraska Medicine announced that Dr. Daniel J. DeBehnke had been selected as their new CEO. Previously, Dr. DeBehnke served as the CEO of Medical College Physicians at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He assumed his new position in July, 2016.
The Department of Internal Medicine

With 10 divisions, the Department of Internal Medicine pursues all aspects of the UNMC mission: clinical service, medical education, biomedical research and community service. Its divisions include:

- Cardiology
- Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism
- Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- General Internal Medicine
- Geriatrics
- Infectious Disease
- Nephrology
- Oncology & Hematology
- Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep & Allergy
- Rheumatology and Immunology

More than 200 physicians and scientists serve as Internal Medicine faculty. They are a group of well-trained and highly productive professionals who understand the need to work as team members to accomplish the overriding goal of enhancing the health of all Nebraskans and the entire region.

The department is a critical contributor to the preclinical and clinical curriculum of the College of Medicine. The third year internal medicine clerkship is the highest student-ranked clerkship. A number of department faculty members have been recipients of outstanding teacher awards over the years.

The department’s residency and fellowship program trains 139 physicians annually and they are proud of their 15-year 98.7 percent pass rate for the Internal Medicine Board examinations. The curriculum offers 14 subspecialty electives, and a wide array of rotations at the medical center and elsewhere in the U.S., as well as in South Africa. In addition to the residency program, the department offers numerous subspecialty fellowships through each of its ten divisions, attracting trainees from across the nation.

Research is a vital part of department activities. In 2014 the department had in excess of $17.5M in grant funding. The department’s research program includes major partnerships and funding from the VA. The faculty keep up rigorous academic productivity and published nearly 300 articles last year.

In February 2015, Debra Romberger, MD was named Chair of the department after an extensive national search. Dr. Romberger has been a faculty member since 1990 and served as the Interim Chair for eight months prior to her permanent appointment. In addition to her position as Professor in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, Sleep and Allergy Medicine, she served as Vice Chair for Research for the department from 2000 until her appointment as the current Chair. For the past eight years, she has also held the post of Associate Chief of Staff for Research for the VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. Since January 2014 she has been a member of the board that oversees Nebraska Medicine.

As a new era has begun for UNMC and Nebraska Medicine, the founding Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology has decided to step down. After 25 years, Jane Potter, MD, would like to spend more time devoted to her own educational, clinical and research passions. The institution and division are currently experiencing significant demand and growth in patient care and research. A new leader will be charged with building on the existing firm foundation and taking the division to the next level of excellence in clinical care, education and research. A national search has been launched to identify a leader who can create and implement
a strategy to meet the vision of the enterprise. The firm of Alexander, Wollman & Stark has been retained to assist in the search.

**Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology**

The division has 7 active faculty members and 9 support staff, including nurses and social workers dedicated to the geriatric population. They recognize the need to actively recruit additional faculty to address ongoing demand of a growing population.

The Division of Geriatrics provides a continuum of care from outpatient through rehabilitation, nursing home and home care. With its interprofessional colleagues the Division is dedicated to 'whole person wellness' through their unique assets, including a highly innovative Wellness Center. The Home Instead Center for Successful Aging (HICSA) encompasses the expertise of care providers from across the spectrum, including: geriatric medicine, geriatric psychiatry, nursing, pharmacy, physical therapy, exercise science, and whole person wellness. Services offered at The Home Instead Center for Successful Aging include:

- Geriatric medicine clinic
- Geriatric psychiatry clinic
- Clinical trial programs for geriatric-specific disorders
- Community education and outreach
- Fully equipped fitness and exercise area
- Wellness clinic for health screenings and nutrition services

Providing education and preventive care is another important component of the center. Seniors and their caregivers will find professionals to partner with in their quest to live a full and independent life for as long as possible. Equally important are the educational opportunities the center provides to UNMC students, residents, and the community. The center includes research in its care mission with a focus on promoting independence and aging in place.

UNMC's EngAge Wellness is Omaha's only fitness and wellness program that is affiliated with a leading academic health sciences center. EngAge Wellness specializes in developing programs for people with chronic medical and aging conditions. Each participant receives an assessment and an individualized program designed by a degreed professional, including exercise physiologists, nutritionists, and other allied health professionals. They are followed by a multi-disciplinary team throughout their participation.

The faculty teach medical students, residents, and fellows, as well as other allied health professionals in geriatric medicine. The division works closely with Geriatric Psychiatry to evaluate and treat cognitive disorders. The teaching and training programs are small but strong, and very high in quality. Inpatient, palliative and home-based primary care services are offered through the VAMC, along with a smaller footprint within the Nebraska Medicine Hospital. The Geriatric Fellowship Program is ACGME accredited for four fellows per year. Starting July 2017, a new Fellowship will be offered in collaboration with Hospital Medicine that will allow a two year rotation between the clinical and the inpatient geriatric experience. Tremendous interest has already been expressed in filling the one slot available in this dual focused fellowship.
The Division also conducts research in functional and cognitive health and disorders. Current ongoing research includes:

- **Building UNMC-Based Research Programs Focused on Wellness, Frailty, and Aging**
- **Pilot Testing a New Computer-Based Screening Tool to Detect Cognitive Impairment**
- **Mobile Monitoring of Functional Behaviors in Ambulatory Patients**

The founding Chief, Jane F. Potter, MD, has served in this capacity since 1982. Dr. Potter has decided to step down to allow new talent to take the lead as the division looks towards the future. She plans to concentrate on her growing clinical practice and multi-faceted interests in education and geriatrics.

**The Position and Opportunity**

The Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology is a solid and high quality program that benefits tremendously from its outstanding facility. The foundation has been built for a world class Geriatrics Division and the new Chief will be charged with creating the vision for that service while meeting the triple mission of the medical school, along with creating the strategic plan to bring that vision to reality. Working hand in hand with colleagues throughout the Department of Medicine, the College of Medicine, Nebraska Medicine, the UNMC campus and the University of Nebraska at large, the new Chief will be a leader who is forward thinking and can envision what the future of medicine holds as the delivery of healthcare evolves, and the role that Geriatric Medicine will play. He/she will understand how medical schools and academic health centers will need to change to meet those needs and the needs of a changing population.

**SPECIFIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**Organization and Leadership**

- Develop the vision and lead the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology toward those goals, in coordination with the greater vision and plan for the Department of Internal Medicine.

- Grow extramurally funded research through recruitment, development of current faculty, and collaborations with other research teams across campus.

- Help develop and lead high quality geriatric services that provide extraordinary patient care, including maintaining a visible presence as a practicing gerontologist.

- Establish benchmarks to track progress toward meeting the goals and objectives of Geriatrics and Gerontology.

- Foster a continuous productive dialogue with UNMC and Nebraska Medicine leaders and faculty, community providers, and students and trainees at all levels.
**Faculty Development and Management**

- Recruit, develop and mentor faculty to accomplish the strategic missions of the institution.
- Effectively engage faculty in planning for the growth and development of the program and hold faculty accountable for achieving agreed upon goals and objectives.
- Maintain a continuing level of high morale and enhanced teamwork, leading to a high level of motivation and productivity.
- Support geriatrics faculty and trainees in the pursuit of scholarly activities and professional growth.

**Undergraduate and Graduate Medical Education**

- Partner in the planning, development and implementation of programs of excellence in undergraduate and graduate medical education.
- Provide assistance so that education programs at all levels meet accreditation requirements of local, state, federal and professional agencies.
- Support opportunities for research resulting in the publication of educational and research articles.

**External Activities**

- Develop and maintain productive relationships with related organizations including community providers.
- Actively participate in community, state and national professional organizations.
Professional Qualifications

- Board Certification in Internal Medicine with appropriate subspecialty certification and/or training.
- Eligibility for medical licensure in the State of Nebraska.
- Scholarship, research, clinical and service accomplishments that would merit the rank of Associate Professor or higher in the College of Medicine.
- Successful leadership and management experience in an academic setting.
- Recognition as a clinical leader in the practice of Geriatrics.
- Demonstrated commitment to and successful experience in support of medical education.
- Demonstrated ability to build and support research and academic productivity.
- Demonstrated ability to create and build programs.
- Demonstrated commitment to delivering high quality and safe patient care.
- Demonstrated success in mentoring and contributing to the professional growth and development of others.
- Demonstrated business and clinical operations experience.
- Demonstrated ability to balance division affairs with institutional priorities.

Personal Characteristics

- Strong and collaborative leadership style, with the interest and ability to lead by example.
- Ability to adapt and deal comfortably with ambiguity.
- Ability to articulate a vision and bring it to reality.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Consensus building, team leadership and team play skills.
- Views challenges as opportunities for innovation and improvement.
- An advocate who assumes responsibility for divisional working environment while partnering with leadership to achieve results.

Locale
Omaha is the largest city in Nebraska, with a population of 415,000 and a metropolitan area population of over 877,000. The city dates back to the 1850’s when speculators from nearby Council Bluffs, Iowa came across the Missouri river to build a new city.

Today Omaha is a vibrant city, home to multiple Fortune 500 companies, including: the U.S.’s largest railroad operator, Union Pacific Corporation; insurance and financial firm Mutual of Omaha; one of the world’s largest construction companies, Kiewit Corporation; mega-conglomerate Berkshire Hathaway, headed by Warren Buffett; and the operational headquarters for Gallup, Inc., home of the Gallup Poll and Gallup University.

Omaha consistently ranks among the most affordable cities in the United States. The median price of a home is $131,000. Forbes magazine has identified Omaha as the nation’s number one “Best Bang-For-The-Buck-City”. Forbes Magazine and Parenting Magazine both rank Omaha among the best 10 U.S. cities for raising families. Kiplinger ranked Omaha last year as the #1 “value city” in the US and #1 on its list of “great cities to raise your kids”. Omaha’s unemployment rate is one of the nation’s lowest at about 4%.

Greater Omaha has a strong system of public and private schools, with more than 300 facilities in eight counties. Magnet schools, college prep curricula, high test scores, teacher recognition programs, academic honors and achievements in sports and other extracurricular activities are examples of the effectiveness of the community’s wide-ranging commitment to nurturing its greatest natural resource: its children.

Greater Omaha has a strong system of public and private schools, with more than 300 facilities in eight counties. Magnet schools, college prep curricula, high test scores, teacher recognition programs, academic honors and achievements in sports and other extracurricular activities are examples of the effectiveness of the community’s wide-ranging commitment to nurturing its greatest natural resource: its children.

For consideration, please submit CV and letter of interest in confidence to:

Trisha Chogich  
Alexander, Wollman & Stark  
alexwollstark@verizon.net  
484-367-7479