

Consortium on Law and Values

in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences

A University-wide Center

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Job Opportunity: Associate Director of Research

The University of Minnesota's Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences (consortium.umn.edu) is seeking a highly qualified individual to collaborate on research, publication, and educational activities on the legal, ethical, and societal implications of biomedicine and the life sciences. Current funded projects focus on **genomics, precision medicine, and emerging technologies**. The Consortium is a top national program founded in 2000, serving as a hub for an exceptional community of researchers and scholars. Consortium members are **20 leading centers** at the University of Minnesota, including the Center for Bioethics, Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy, Masonic Cancer Center, Clinical & Translational Science Institute, and University of Minnesota Genomics Center (<https://consortium.umn.edu/member-centers-affiliated-faculty>). The Consortium is one of only six University-wide centers. This highly interdisciplinary program crosses most colleges at the University and reports to the Office of the Vice President for Research.

The Associate Director of Research is a key researcher and collaborator within the Consortium. This full-time position reports to the Consortium Chair, Prof. Susan M. Wolf (<https://consortium.umn.edu/staff/susan-m-wolf-jd>) and works with colleagues across the University in order to implement research projects and educational activities. The Consortium has a distinguished history of scholarship, projects funded by the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** and **National Science Foundation (NSF)**, and events drawing top national scholars and policymakers to campus. The Consortium's funded projects have addressed cutting-edge issues in genomics, nanomedicine, and other emerging technologies (<https://consortium.umn.edu/grants-research>). Events have addressed issues including research ethics, biosecurity, neuroscience, synthetic biology, reproductive technologies, and health care reform. The Consortium operates as a hub for high-impact research and activity to make progress on the legal, ethical, and policy issues posed by biomedicine and the life sciences. The Consortium office is located in Johnston Hall on the East Bank campus in Minneapolis.

Position Description:

The person in this non-laboratory based position will work with the Consortium Chair and other key faculty across the University as well as national colleagues to implement research projects; will collaborate on research and scholarship; and will participate in Consortium events, including a lecture series and national conferences. The Associate Director of Research will conduct research on ethical, legal, and social implications (ELSI) of biomedicine and the life sciences; work on existing grants involving genomics and emerging technologies; collaborate on new grant proposals; and publish significant scholarship.

Current projects include an NIH-funded 3-year project on "LawSeqSM: Building a Sound Legal Foundation for Translating Genomics into Clinical Application." This project is convening a national Working Group of top legal and scientific experts to analyze current U.S. federal and state law, regulations, and official guidance on translational genomics. The Associate Director of Research

will be involved in all aspects of this project, including the development of consensus recommendations on what the law undergirding translational genomics should be.

The Associate Director of Research will also participate in a campus-wide initiative to develop precision medicine capability at the University of Minnesota using genomics, informatics, bioengineering, analysis of environmental exposures, and behavioral sciences to tailor health care to the challenges facing individuals and underserved communities.

The Associate Director of Research is expected to participate actively in the intellectual life of the Consortium, present research at workshops and scholarly conferences, and publish related research in academic journals. Duties will include supervision of part-time student research assistants as well as collaboration with Consortium staff. Opportunities may be available to teach as an Adjunct faculty member in Law, Medicine or another discipline, depending on area of expertise and curricular needs. This is a full-time, annually renewable position. A competitive salary will be provided for qualified candidates.

Required Qualifications:

Applicants must have completed a J.D., Ph.D. or other relevant degree; present an outstanding record of research and publication; demonstrate clear potential for continued scholarly excellence and accomplishment; show outstanding written and verbal communication skills; bring a high level of organizational and computer skills; and show a demonstrated capacity to work well in a collaborative environment to accomplish scholarly and interdisciplinary goals. **Further desired qualifications** include a background in genetics/genomics or other emerging biomedical technologies, a background in bioethics, and a strong track record in working on grant proposals and grant-funded projects.

Application Instructions:

Interested applicants should submit a current resume and cover letter with the names of three references, as well as 2-3 scholarly writing samples, via the University of Minnesota online application website. Link for external applicants: <http://z.umn.edu/ylx>; link for current UMN employees: <http://z.umn.edu/yly>. Use job code 318140 in the search field to access the full job posting. Applications will be reviewed upon receipt and continue until the position is filled. Applications from women, persons of color, persons with disabilities, and other who may contribute diverse experiences and ideas are particularly encouraged. To request an accommodation during the application process, please email employ@umn.edu or call 612-624-8647. Any offer of employment is contingent upon the successful completion of a background check. Contact Audrey Boyle, Senior Grants & Finance Manager, at Boyle032@umn.edu or 612-626-5624 with questions.

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