

**T. Denny Sanford for Empathy and Compassion  
Endowed Professorship Internal Call for Nominations  
APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 30, 2023**

## History

In 2019, businessman and philanthropist T. Denny Sanford committed \$100 million towards creating the T. Denny Sanford Institute for Empathy and Compassion at UC San Diego. This gift establishes an institute to study the neurobiological basis of empathy and compassion, and implement training models for physician education to effectively teach the practice of compassion for self and others across the career lifespan (medical student through practicing physician). The Sanford Institute employs state-of-the-art neuroscience technologies, including sophisticated neuro-imaging, to identify and map brain activity created by empathic behavior, quantify the factors promoting or inhibiting compassionate behavior, and design new methods to increase empathic signals in the brain.

With the establishment of the Institute, investments have been made in expanding subject matter expertise through key professorships, seed funding for research, collaborative projects, and appointment of research fellows and scholars.

## Call for Nominations

### Purpose & Goals

The purpose of establishing the professorships is to secure for UC San Diego and the Institute a core cadre of excellent scientists and educators focused on Empathy and Compassion.

The Institute is pleased to announce a call for nominations for Endowed Professorships in research excellence. The successful candidate(s) will have demonstrated an interest in basic and/or applied research into the neurobiology of empathy, compassion, or related disciplines. Their work in humans and/or model systems will be supported by successful applications for extramural funding, and will have been published in high-impact journals. Candidates must be a full-time UC San Diego faculty member. Nominations will be accepted from faculty at any rank (Assistant, Associate, Full Professor) and series. Successful candidates will be provided with professorship funds in the amount of \$100,000 per year for 5 years, with the possibility of renewal. Faculty may self-nominate.

## Required Materials

The nomination packet must include a CV, letters of recommendation, and structured self-assessment document, which must include answers to the following questions:

Self-Assessment Questions (limit response to 2-pages max):

1. Please summarize your major accomplishments in research in empathy, compassion, or related disciplines.
2. Please summarize your success in obtaining with peer-reviewed funding.
3. Please provide a 5-year plan for how you would employ professorship funds to advance your research in empathy and compassion.
4. What sources of extramural funding do you plan to pursue in the next 3 years?
5. Endowed professorships are reviewed and renewed on a 5-year rotation. What metrics/milestones would you propose for your review?
6. Please summarize the academic successes (major accomplishments) of your current or former mentees/fellows.

## Review & Selection Process

- The Endowed Professorship Nominating Committee comprises senior UC San Diego faculty.
- The candidate's scholarly record must be highly distinguished and align with the stated terms, goals and purpose of the endowed professorship.
- The Committee will select one or more candidates to be interviewed, at which time the candidate will define their research objectives, current status of their studies, future plans for research and how professorship funding would advance program goals to support research aligned with the Sanford Institute's stated goals.
- The Committee will recommend selected candidates to the Sanford Institute Director, who will review their recommendation for possible endorsement.

## Approval Process

- In the case of a meritorious application, the Nominating Committee and the Sanford Institute Director will provide letters of endorsement for the candidate(s) selected for nomination.
- Endorsements will be reviewed for possible approval by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, Academic Personnel Services, Academic Senate (Committee on Academic Personnel) and the Executive Vice Chancellor. A positive review will be the basis for a recommendation to the Chancellor.
- The Chancellor's concurrence is needed for Final Approval.
- Estimated timeline for completion of the process is 4-6 months from the beginning of interviews with the Nominations Committee.

Applications should be emailed to: [arc080@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:arc080@health.ucsd.edu)

Applicants will receive a confirmation email