## About UC Merced

The University of California, Merced is the newest and 10th campus in the University of California system and the first American research university founded in the twenty-first century. The campus significantly expands access to the UC system for students throughout the state, with a special mission to increase college-going rates among students in the San Joaquin Valley. It also serves as a major base of advanced research and as a stimulus to economic growth and diversification throughout the region. Situated near Yosemite National Park, the university is expected to grow rapidly, topping out at approximately 25,000 students within 30 years.

UC Merced opened for graduate education in fall 2004, with 13 graduate students. The first undergraduate class of about 800 students was admitted in fall 2005. UC Merced is divided into three schools: Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Social Humanities and Arts. The University’s future plans include a Management School and a Medical School.

As a part of the University of California, UC Merced is committed to the University’s overall mission of excellence in teaching, research and public service, with the same high standards and expectations as more established campuses of the system. Its leadership and faculty recognize that knowledge increasingly depends on links that transcend the traditional disciplines and the campus research programs foster and encourage cross-disciplinary inquiry and discovery. As a key tenet in carrying out this mission, UC Merced promotes and celebrates the diversity of all members of its community.

UC Merced uses twenty-first century technology as a network that links students, faculty and staff to the educational resources of the state, nation and world. This network is being enhanced through the physical and intellectual integration between UC Merced and its surrounding community. The campus has been planned as a model of physical sustainability for the twenty-first century and all members of the campus and surrounding community are encouraged to participate as good stewards of the environment.

UC Merced celebrates its location in the San Joaquin Valley, reflecting the Valley’s landscape, history, resources and diverse cultures, while building on and expanding its connections to the emerging global society. UC Merced recognizes that research that begins with the natural laboratory at home can extend what is known in the state, nation and world. UC Merced is building strong and mutually supportive relationships with a variety of collaborators in its region and around the globe: public and private colleges and universities; public elementary and secondary schools; federal and state organizations that share UC Merced’s educational and research goals; and cultural and social institutions.

## UC Merced Facilities and Resources

Faculty offices and research space are located in four buildings: Science and Engineering 1 (SE1), Classroom and Office Building (COB1), Social Science and Management Building (SSM) and the Castle Campus (CC), a research-intensive auxiliary campus with specialized research facilities.

SE1 is a 4-story, 211,679 gross square feet building located in the core section of campus. The SE 1 building was awarded LEED Gold certification in February of 2009. The building includes laboratories, laboratory support space, teaching laboratories and offices and administrative office space for the natural sciences and engineering divisions and deans. Sophisticated shared equipment is located in dedicated rooms within a suite with similar research needs or across-suites to encourage efficient utilization of resources and foster inter-disciplinary interactions. 49,674 sq ft of assignable research space is available in SE1.

COB1 is a 3-story, 104,369 gross square foot building located in the core section of campus. The COB1 building includes classrooms, offices, and state of the art laboratories. The COB1 was awarded LEED Gold Certification in March of 2008. The building includes offices and administrative office space for the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts. The building also houses a performance auditorium with high-quality acoustical features, a system for state-of-the-art sound and lighting equipment and backstage rooms for performers, musical and performance equipment and general storage.

SSM is a 3-story, 101,900 gross square foot building located in the core section of campus. The SSM building was completed in August 2011 and was awarded LEED Platinum Certification and the AIA Sierra Valley Merit Award in 2013. The building includes social science research labs; lecture theaters, conference rooms and flexible teaching spaces; public health, social sciences and humanities faculty offices; and administrative offices for the Health Sciences Research Institute, Gallo Management School and the UC Merced Spatial Analysis and Research Center. The building also houses a multi-angled interactive space in the atrium known as “The Rock” forms the social heart of the building and provides a space for meetings, events and intellectual exchange.

An additional 23,365 square foot research and office space is available at the UC Merced Castle campus: a former Air Force base located approximately 9 miles from campus.

## Health Sciences Research Institute

The Health Sciences Research Institute (HSRI) was established in June 2012 as UC Merced’s second Organized Research Unit, with the aim of fostering world-renowned research with student involvement and community engagement.

San Joaquin Valley regional health issues include asthma, obesity, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, heart disease, risky teen behaviors, teen tobacco use, sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, and many others.

HSRI has more than seventy affiliated faculty members across UC Merced's three schools (Engineering, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts) covering a range of health and medical research. The opportunities to address the growing and complex health issues of the San Joaquin Valley and beyond require inter- and multidisciplinary team and, as such, HSRI members are organized in research clusters:

* Health Disparities;
* Environmental Health;
* Biomolecular Research;
* Biosimulation and Modeling;
* Cancer Control and Prevention;
* Immunity and Infectious Diseases;
* Basic & Behavioral Neuroscience, Learning and Development; and
* Health Decision Making

HSRI members are also engaged in research on evaluation and effectiveness research, and public health systems and services research.

HSRI’s collaborative multidisciplinary research clusters and community emphasis provide an opportunity to rapidly develop, test, and disseminate new ways of improving health and delivering healthcare. This will help establish UC Merced as a world-renowned research university while improving the health of the people in the San Joaquin Valley.

HSRI faculty support services include:

* Facilitation of interdisciplinary research, from intra- and inter-cluster, topic-specific research meetings, to identifying extramural funding opportunities to develop research ideas;
* Assistance in applying for extramural funding;
* Post-award management; and
* Junior faculty mentoring
* Shared project coordination personnel
* Graphic design and communications services

HSRI facilities are available to all members and include:

* Flexible meeting space with conference-style seating for up to 16 people, informal meeting area and hotel desk space. The meeting room is equipped with a large screen (70”) wall-mounted LCD monitor with desktop microphone and web cam for video conferencing and presentations, conference speakerphone and DVD/blu-ray player.
* Small items lending for studies and presentations, such as voice recorders, MacBook Pro, desktop LCD projector and portable pop-up 60x80” screen, digital still and video cameras with tripod

## Animal

The UC Merced animal care facility has nine animal holding rooms, three procedure rooms, an irradiator room, two surgical suites, centralized cage wash facility, locker room, restrooms, break area, and office space. Access is granted only after attending the vivarium orientation and tour, completion of training, and enrollment in the occupational health and safety program. All exterior access is camera monitored and card key controlled. Interior access is conventional key controlled. Interior rooms housing the irradiator and controlled substances are alarmed and card key controlled. The vivarium has approximately 5,000 sq ft of floor space and is designed to hold 32 double sided and 30 single sided individually ventilated rodent caging systems (IVC). All animal and cage manipulations performed in the animal holding room are performed in a change station. Procedure rooms are outfitted with biosafety cabinets, autoclaves, dissection microscopes, anesthetic and euthanasia equipment, and lockable storage.

Veterinary care is provided to research animals as outlined in the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, and the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine including: daily observation of animals by dedicated, trained personnel for signs of injury, disease or stress; methods for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases and injuries of research animals; health monitoring programs; training on proper handling and restraint methods; appropriate selection of anesthetics, analgesics, and tranquilizers for use in research animals with minimal effects on research results; surgical support services for investigators, including post-operative care of research and teaching animals; consultation on appropriate methods of anesthesia, analgesia, and euthanasia.

## Wellness/Health Center

The UC Merced Wellness Center (UCMWC; Health Services Center) provides quality primary medical care, including support services such as laboratory testing, prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs, and health education to the campus community. UCMWC has primary care providers experienced in family medicine and student health issues. UCMWC is housed in a 3,500 sq ft area on the 2nd floor of the Gallo Recreation & Wellness Center. Clinical services are provided by two board-certified family practice physicians: Dr. Jaipal Reddy and Dr. Michelle Brinkop; and two certified physician assistants. A Registered Nurse, a Licensed Vocational Nurse, two Medical Assistants, a Registered Dietician, a Health Educator, a Systems Analyst, an Administrative Assistant and 20 trained student peer health educators support clinical operations. UCMWC houses 6 private examination rooms, a minor-surgical procedure room, a lab, offices and consultation rooms for providing staff, and a conference room equipped for telemedicine purposes.

## Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship

The University of California Merced (UC Merced) the newest campus of the University of California system, was founded to address the increasing higher education needs of the state as a whole, and particularly of the state’s fastest-growing yet most educationally underserved region, the San Joaquin Valley. The Resource Center for Community Engaged Scholarship (ReCCES) works to address these needs by establishing foundational trusting relationships with agencies and community leaders throughout the San Joaquin Valley and nearby Sierra Nevada necessary for research collaboration with our faculty. These collaborative activities have included partnerships with other institutions of higher education in the region including UC Davis, California State University-Stanislaus, Fresno State, and the University of the Pacific in Stockton as well as community based organizations with a long history of advocacy for our underserved and largely poor region. In January 2015 our campus was awarded the Carnegie Foundation’s Community Engagement Elective Classification, bestowed upon only 240 universities and colleges across the United States, in large part due to these efforts to build an infrastructure for community engaged research.

## Computer

UNIX and Windows desktop and/or laptop PCs are available for all faculty members for research use in their assigned office areas, as well as in laboratories. Faculty, staff and students may access custom built and designed systems utilizing School provided Windows and Linux based laptop and desktop computers using common web browsers. Laptop and desktop computers may access printers via network for easy production of materials. Laptop and desktop computers are loaded with statistical and graphical manipulation software to facilitate data analyses and production of presentation materials. Both wired and wireless networks are supported as well as remote access for seamless communications and Internet use.

UCM has a range of computer resources upon which to draw, including: *Microsoft Office365* featuring email, collaborative calendar, and online meeting features delivered via Microsoft Lync; *Box* cloud-hosted file storage service that supports file sharing and collaboration, through a robust set of synced editing, commenting, and task assignment functions, along with delegated file and folder security; *CrashPlan PROe* enterprise for continuous, unlimited, encrypted backup; *Qualtrics* survey support; and a virtual private network (VPN) connection that provides encrypted remote access to the UC Merced network for secure off-campus computing. UC Merced IT supports PC, Linux and Mac users and provides application consulting, development, and integration that can be used to meet unique business needs, add critical functionality, improve processes, facilitate communication, and provide tools for research, teaching and learning. In addition, the Health Sciences Research Institute’s dedicated meeting space provides large-screen video and voice conference facilities via MS Lync, Skype or ReadyTalk conference calling.

## Office

All campus offices are supplied with telephones, LAN line and all buildings on campus are equipped with wired as well as wireless internet access. Additional office space for graduate students is available in graduate student suites in close proximity to faculty mentors.

## Other

General administration support is provided by the Schools in which individual faculty hold their appointments.

## Major Equipment:

The specific equipment in individual laboratories varies depending upon the type of research that is undertaken. (PIs should include a brief description of available major equipment and instrumentation that will be used in their research).