



JOHNS HOPKINS

WHITING SCHOOL *of* ENGINEERING

<u>POSITION:</u>	Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University, Whiting School of Engineering
<u>REPORTS TO:</u>	Ed Schlesinger, Benjamin T. Rome Dean Johns Hopkins University, Whiting School of Engineering
<u>INSTITUTION:</u>	Johns Hopkins University https://engineering.jhu.edu/
<u>LOCATION:</u>	Baltimore, MD

The Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) at Johns Hopkins University invites nominations and applications for the position of Head of the [Department of Mechanical Engineering](#) (ME). This is an outstanding opportunity for an accomplished scholar with leadership experience, in collaboration with a growing faculty and an enterprising Dean, to further strengthen an exceptional department at the nation's first research university. The successful candidate will embody the intellectual distinction, entrepreneurial capacity, collaborative spirit, transparency, inclusiveness, and creativity that characterize the School's culture, along with a scholarly record deserving appointment as tenured full professor at Johns Hopkins University. Serving a renewable five-year term, the Head will be appointed in an endowed position and will be a full-time tenured faculty member in ME. The Head will be encouraged to remain active in research, with strategic leadership of the department as their top priority.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering

The ME department has strengths in four established areas – thermo-fluids, mechanics and materials, robotics and controls, and mechanical engineering in biology and biomedicine – and has just nucleated a group in the emerging area of space engineering. The department is known for its collegial culture and shared governance practices.

ME department faculty are highly engaged and highly collaborative across the institution. In particular, ME faculty advance their [research programs](#) through several institutes that draw faculty from other WSE departments as well as the Applied Physics Laboratory, the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Medicine. The [Laboratory for Computational Sensing & Robotics](#) (LCSR), the [Hopkins Extreme Materials Institute](#) (HEMI), the [Institute for Nanobiotechnology](#) (INBT), and the [Ralph O'Connor Sustainable Energy Institute](#) (ROSEI) are among the institutes with

significant ME participation and leadership. HEMI and LCSR were founded by ME faculty, who have played leadership roles in several major efforts in the University (including the new Data Science & AI Institute). In FY 2024-2025, the department's sponsored-research expenditures topped \$36M.

Over the last decade, the department has grown to include over 30 tenured and tenure-track faculty, four teaching faculty, and 13 staff. The department's BS in Mechanical Engineering is ABET-accredited. For the Fall 2026 semester, ME student enrollments are: 283 undergraduate, 147 Master's, and 120 PhD.

Johns Hopkins has made a transformational investment in the power and promise of data science and artificial intelligence and is building the nation's foremost destination for emerging applications, opportunities and challenges presented by data science, machine learning, and AI. Anchored in the Whiting School of Engineering, the [Data Science & AI Institute](#) (DSAI) provides a nexus for experts from diverse disciplines who bring data science, machine learning, and AI to bear on activities across the Johns Hopkins institutions. The Institute is built through a historic investment in faculty, scientific staff, research software engineers, and computational and data infrastructure. This transformative investment shapes major strategic developments across all of the University's divisions and schools. ME's multidisciplinary strengths position it to participate vigorously in DSAI's ongoing growth and the associated growth of the Whiting School.

Opportunities for the Department Head

Whiting School Dean Ed Schlesinger is committed to providing the support that will enable ME to substantially advance its mission. The appointment of a department Head constitutes a shared commitment between the Dean and the Head to pursue the aspirations described in this document and establishes the Head's expanded scope of responsibility for vision and direction; for faculty, staff, and students; for financial resources and space; for research and scholarship; and for fundraising and alumni relations. The Dean expects to partner closely with the Head in advocating for the department, including substantial engagement in fundraising activities, which will be additionally supported by University expertise and resources.

The Dean sees the core opportunities for impact to include advancing research and teaching in the department; recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty and students; establishing new world-leading centers and institutes, broadening the department's engagement with industry as well as with other departments, centers, and institutes in the University; supporting translational and entrepreneurial activities of the faculty, enhancing a sense of community among members of the department, increasing gift and grant support; increasing the reputation of faculty via award programs and other forms of recognition; accelerating the translation of discoveries and new knowledge to benefit society; and ensuring that degree programs are in the forefront of their fields.

The Head will work with colleagues in and beyond the department to increase its stature and elevate its reputation. The means to these ends, the measures of success, and the prioritization of activities designed to achieve them are matters the Head will define in collaboration with the faculty and the Dean. Each of the department's mission areas, like those of the Whiting School more broadly, provides opportunities for strategic and operational impact and accomplishment:

- Developing and driving a strategic vision for mechanical engineering and the department during a time of transformative changes in capabilities, toolsets, scientific discovery, and computationally-driven research.
- Continued expansion of the department's research program is expected to be an important priority for the new Head. The role will entail promoting research collaborations across the institution, developing incentive programs for new research endeavors, and recruiting, developing, and retaining faculty who will thrive in Hopkins' vibrant intellectual environment. The university's transformative investment in its Data Science & AI Institute substantially expands the opportunities for ME research and teaching.
- Positioning the department as the disciplinary and intellectual hub of mechanical-engineering research, enabling ME to contribute to and benefit from the success of significant institutional investment in areas such as machine learning and artificial intelligence, materials, energy, space sciences and engineering, and biomedical research.
- The new Head will work to enhance and expand a sense of community and inclusion at all levels in the department, from its faculty and staff to its graduate and undergraduate students.
- The new Head will work with the Dean and the faculty to expand the depth, breadth, and capacity of educational programs within the department. The Whiting School of Engineering attracts substantial numbers of the very best students at all levels. To build on this existing strength, the Head will identify opportunities for curricular review and innovation, will work with leaders within the department and across the Whiting School of Engineering to expand popular programs such as the [Engineering for Professionals](#) degree, and will further develop resources to connect student experiences with future employment opportunities.
- More broadly, the Head will foster connections with industry as part of the department's efforts to expand its base of resources and relationships, to disseminate knowledge and discoveries, and to develop and transfer technologies that may have an impact in the world. In these various external activities, the new Head will work with the University's technology commercialization program, with faculty and students, and with industry partners.

Position Qualifications

The new Head will be an entrepreneurial and proven leader who can inspire faculty, staff, and students in a shared governance environment. They will have the ability to establish and engage others in a compelling vision for ME as a leading department in its field, as a hub for research, and as a site of innovation, teaching, and translation. They will have strong skills for mentoring junior faculty and will promote the interests of the entire department. Fundraising experience is preferred. The department Head will have a dossier that embodies a strong track record of scholarship and teaching, a passionate commitment to research, discovery, and application; and an interest in and success at academic administration.

Expected academic background and qualifications:

- An earned doctorate in mechanical engineering or a related field and a scholarly record meriting appointment as a tenured full professor at Johns Hopkins University;
- Recognized leadership in an area of mechanical engineering and a distinguished national and international reputation for research and education;
- Excellent communication skills in both internal and external interactions;
- A strong commitment to diversity and inclusion at all levels among faculty, students, and staff; and
- Leadership experience within a complex research environment or in national/international organizations connected to the field of mechanical engineering.

Appointment terms

The annual compensation range for the role is \$300K-\$450K, to be structured through negotiation with the dean. This salary range represents the minimum and maximum salaries for this position and is based on Johns Hopkins University's good faith belief at the time of posting. Not all candidates will be eligible for the upper end of the salary range. The actual compensation offered to the selected candidate may vary and will ultimately depend on multiple factors, which may include the successful candidate's geographic location, skills, work experience, internal equity, market conditions, education/training, and other factors, as reasonably determined by the University. The dean of the Whiting School will negotiate the salary and other aspects of the Head's employment such as startup package and teaching responsibilities directly with the selected candidate.

The Whiting School of Engineering

Founded in 1913 and renamed after a gift by alumnus George William Carlyle Whiting in 1979, the Whiting School of Engineering houses a current undergraduate student body of over 2,000 students. WSE has an enrollment of almost 1,800 full-time MS students and 1,300 full-time PhD students. Its Engineering for Professionals program enrolls almost 6,000 part-time continuing education students and is one of the largest programs of its kind in the country. In addition to seven departments fully housed in the School, WSE is the joint home of Environmental Health & Engineering (with the Bloomberg School of Public Health) and of Biomedical Engineering (with the School of Medicine).

Including the engineering programs in collaboration with the schools of public health and of medicine, WSE now comprises over 500 full time faculty members in nine departments with total annual research expenditures of almost \$300 million. Nearly 250 faculty members hold tenure or are on the tenure-track in the WSE. Research partnerships with Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), Bloomberg School of Public Health, and the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences make the Whiting School of Engineering a highly collaborative research and educational environment.

WSE has steadily increased its impact and standing over the last decade. In the 2026 *US News & World Report* ranking of engineering schools, it is number 13 and 12 at the graduate and undergraduate levels respectively.

Johns Hopkins University

Johns Hopkins University has an unrivaled set of Schools and Laboratories with deep and globally consequential domain knowledge. It is one of the world's premier research universities: with annual research expenditures of over \$2.6 billion, it attracts more federal sponsored funding than any other American university, while at the same time enjoying diversity of revenue from foundations, tuition, states, corporate, and other sources.

The University encompasses 11 schools/divisions: the Schools of Education, Medicine, Nursing, the Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Whiting School of Engineering, the Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, the Carey Business School, the Peabody Institute, the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, the School for Government and Policy, and the Applied Physics Laboratory, as well as multiple centers, institutes, and affiliates. Currently, Hopkins has approximately 5,600 enrolled undergraduate students, and more than 20,000 full-time and part-time graduate students. The University offers approximately 230 degree programs at the baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral levels.

The Homewood campus, site of the schools of Education, Arts and Sciences, and Engineering, is located in north Baltimore. Just a few miles away, the East Baltimore campus is home to the schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health, as well as the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Additional University locations include sites in downtown Baltimore, Montgomery County, MD., and Washington, D.C., as well as the Applied Physics Lab campus in Howard County, MD. In addition, the University has a strong international presence, including, but not limited to, centers in Nanjing, China, and Bologna, Italy.

Johns Hopkins Medicine is a \$10 billion integrated global health enterprise with more than 40,000 full-time faculty and staff members operating six academic and community hospitals. The Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) is the largest not-for-profit university-affiliated research center in the nation. Collaboration across the University offers some of the strongest possible avenues for achieving excellence at Hopkins, and they factor deeply in the University's strategic thinking.

Data about the success of Hopkins students is available [here](#).

Additional information

Equal Opportunity Employer

Johns Hopkins University is committed to equal opportunity for its faculty, staff, and students. To that end, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, veteran status, or other legally protected characteristic. The University is committed to providing qualified individuals with access to all academic and employment programs, benefits, and activities on the basis of demonstrated ability, performance, and merit without regard to personal factors that are irrelevant to the program involved.

Pre-Employment Information

If you are interested in applying for employment with Johns Hopkins University and require special assistance or accommodation during any part of the pre-employment process, please contact the

HR Business Services Office at jhurecruitment@jhu.edu. For TTY users, call via Maryland Relay or dial 711. For more information about workplace accommodations or accessibility at Johns Hopkins University, please visit accessibility.jhu.edu.

Background Checks, References, and Tenure

The successful candidate for the ME Head position should expect to provide a full list of professional references and will be subject to pre-employment education and employment verifications. In addition, appointment to the faculty of Johns Hopkins University is contingent upon a criminal background check and a [separate review](#) that looks back a period of seven years of professional conduct.

Total Rewards

Johns Hopkins offers a total rewards package that supports its employees' health, life, career, and retirement. More information is available at <https://hr.jhu.edu/benefits-worklife/>.

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How to apply / nominate / learn more:

Johns Hopkins has engaged [Opus Partners](#) (Craig Smith, Managing Partner; Jeffrey Stafford, Senior Associate) to support this search. To apply, provide a nomination, or learn more, please contact Jeffrey (jeffrey.stafford@opuspartners.net). An application requires a CV, a cover letter addressed to the search chair, Professor KT Ramesh, discussing the responsibilities and expectations of this leadership role, and the names and contact information of three references (to be contacted only at the short-list stage).