

## UCSF PONDERERS NEUROSCIENCE BUILDING

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One of the go/no-go decisions early in Susan Desmond-Hellmann's UCSF chancellorship is about a structure — physically and financially.

Building a five-story, 237,000-square-foot neuroscience building on UCSF's Mission Bay campus means committing to a [unique](#) plan that involves a private developer, a nonprofit entity that would float public bonds and signing a 30-year lease.

It could be one of the first — if not the first — buildings in the University of California system to cut costs by turning to a private developer, in this case a consortium that includes McCarthy Cook, to design, build and own a building on campus. After the lease expires, ownership would transfer to UCSF.

The last word we got at the end of September was from the associate vice chancellor of university relations, Barbara French, who said the business plan for the building is "being reviewed by the new chancellor prior to final approval."

UCSF leaders in the spring had hoped to start construction on the project, next to Rock Hall, by the end of this year. It would house Nobel Prize winner Stan Prusiner and some 600 other researchers, staff, students and patients.

Prusiner would join UCSF's latest Nobel Prize winner, [Elizabeth Blackburn](#), on the Mission Bay campus.

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