JOB DESCRIPTION: DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC & POLICY ADVISORY TEAM

About the job

- Work on exciting global health policy research for a competitive salary
- Be part of a respected non-profit research and policy organisation serving influential, high-profile clients around the world
- Learn about the latest global health innovations being investigated to tackle the world’s most neglected diseases

How to apply

Please send your CV and cover letter to info@policycuresresearch.org. Applications without a cover letter will not be considered. Applications close 19 December.

Our story

The global health ecosystem is made up of numerous arms and disciplines. Upstream is where many exciting and ground-breaking biomedical innovations and technologies are discovered in hopes of finding life-changing treatments, vaccines and diagnostics that can turn the tide on a landscape of diseases that continue to plague many of the most disadvantaged people on earth.

Global health R&D is a long and expensive process with many candidate failures on the path to success. It also offers industry little financial return, leaving it heavily reliant on philanthropic and public sector investment. This combination makes for a challenging environment in which resources and investment are often at risk.

A critical piece of sustaining this complex ecosystem is capturing, analysing, and reporting on that investment. This includes both the amount of funding, as well as the R&D pipeline for diseases that disproportionately impact people in low- and middle-income countries. That’s where Policy Cures Research comes in.

Policy Cures Research (PCR) is an internationally respected non-profit research and policy organisation that provides data and strategic analysis on innovation for global health to high-profile organisations around the world. Our flagship project, G-FINDER, provides an annual picture of the global investments made in R&D for neglected diseases, sexual and reproductive health, and emerging infectious diseases. Global health policy and advocacy organisations engage us to undertake targeted, in-depth analysis of a wide range of neglected disease R&D facets, from historical sector funding trends and product pipelines to future-looking cost modelling and resource mobilisation strategies.

Global health R&D funders, product developers, and advocates use our data and analysis for identifying product and funding gaps to guide investments and priority-setting exercises, advocating to decision-makers for sustaining and growing global health R&D budget lines, and even remaining accountable to constituents (e.g., taxpayers, board members).
The role

The Director, Scientific & Policy Advisory is responsible for leading the Scientific & Policy Advisory team and serving as the technical gatekeeper of PCR’s core thematic domains (neglected diseases, emerging infectious diseases, and sexual and reproductive health).

The Director will manage a team of clinical and biomedical experts to deliver an essential technical advisory and learning function within the organisation, ensuring the scientific accuracy of our data, research and analysis related to investment landscapes of global health R&D. The Director will provide an in-depth understanding of the science behind new product innovations for global health; an understanding of the nuances of clinical research; ability to identify and articulate unmet R&D needs and facilitate scientific debate on their prioritisation; and strong management capabilities for ensuring projects are staffed with the appropriate resources to ensure technical accuracy and excellence.

As part of the senior leadership team of PCR, the Director will also contribute to strategic initiatives, including resource mobilisation, client management, organisational strategy development and knowledge management.

The Director is a highly competent researcher with experience in infectious diseases. They are passionate about global health and have the ability to distil their research findings into succinct, insightful written work. They have a foundation in clinical medicine and/or biomedical sciences, as well as knowledge of global public health and health policy.

Key responsibilities

Technical oversight and advice

- Provide technical expertise across the full spectrum of PCR’s project activities, including contributing to project conceptualisation, design and project implementation, and taking ultimate and final responsibility for the technical accuracy of all elements of the organisation’s work.
- Coordinate and oversee the Scientific & Policy Advisory team in its key project responsibilities, including:
  1. Review and update of the G-FINDER scope, including landscape analysis, preparation of materials, and communication with the Advisory Committee
  2. Development and validation of R&D priority consensus documents
  3. Validation of G-FINDER funding data, including scope review and quality control
  4. Undertaking landscape reviews of the R&D pipeline, including its alignment with identified priorities and relevant target product profiles
  5. Ensuring the technical accuracy of written content, including discussion of R&D gaps and the current state of the R&D pipeline
- Support the work of the Data, Systems & Knowledge Management team by providing technical input that helps to define the structure and content of databases and data visualisations
Knowledge management, staff education

- Lead efforts to continue to strengthen and sustain the global health and R&D knowledge of the PCR team, including:
  
  1. Overseeing the work of the Scientific & Policy Advisory team to identify global health-related knowledge gaps within the broader PCR team; and developing and implementing a staff technical training roadmap.
  2. Coordinating the Scientific & Policy Advisory team to conceptualise, prepare, and conduct training sessions for PCR colleagues to improve their global health and global health R&D knowledge.

- In conjunction with the Director, Data, Systems & Knowledge Management, conceptualise, develop and maintain an internal knowledge repository.
- Identify and proactively share information with colleagues, including key developments in global health R&D, such as trial results or policy announcements as well as relevant presentations that provide learning opportunities for the team.

Self-directed learning

- Systematically review and keep up to date on the strategic and scientific aspects of the global health R&D landscape and policy agendas relevant to PCR’s work. This responsibility is unstructured and is expected to be self-led. An example of the spectrum of knowledge that is expected includes:
  
  1. The fundamentals of disease (epidemiology and natural history; existing tools for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment)
  2. The research and innovation spectrum (critical R&D gaps; status of the R&D pipeline)
  3. Overarching R&D prioritisation and response frameworks (global research and innovation agenda setting platforms)
  4. Disease-specific R&D prioritisation and response frameworks (global lead for coordinating research; global strategy for disease control and prevention; key stakeholder analysis; annual or other regular research forums)

Team management

- Manage staff in the Scientific & Policy Advisory (SPA) team, including recruitment, onboarding and professional development.
- Coordinate day-to-day activities of the SPA team, including overseeing projects and coordinating the team’s contribution to projects managed by others.
- Coach SPA staff and prepare them to undertake more senior roles through professional development goal setting.
- Contribute to decisions on staffing levels, organisational structure, and cultural change.
Business development

- Help to shape the strategic direction of PCR and provide input into the organisation’s operations
- Contribute to the conceptualisation of new projects
- Provide guidance on engagement and external relations strategies

Requirements

- Advanced degree in medicine, pharmacy, biosciences, global public health, or a related field with strong health or health policy training. Candidates with academic qualifications in neglected/infectious diseases will be preferred.
- A minimum of 10 years of experience in health and/or global health, with a background in clinical practice or biomedical research. The ideal candidate might have trained and worked as a medical doctor with a passion for infectious diseases, or as a biomedical researcher working in the pharmaceutical sector developing products for infectious diseases, before moving to a public policy institute or consulting firm working on projects related to global health.
- Extensive experience managing teams. The candidate will have proven project and people management skills, with an ability to successfully design and deliver projects.
- Sound understanding of product development (e.g. drugs, vaccines, diagnostics) and R&D phases and processes.
- Knowledge of the global health policy/funder landscape and strong global health R&D policy stakeholder and industry networks.
- Outstanding attention to detail.
- Strong problem solving, analytical skills and strategic thinking.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Strong policy-orientated writing skills and ability to communicate in a professional and concise manner.
- Intermediate-to-advanced Microsoft Excel skills, and good knowledge of other Microsoft Office programs.
- Excellent written and spoken English required.

Location

Core operating hours will be based on Sydney working hours, and candidates not in Australia will be expected to work flexible hours to overlap with Australia-based colleagues as much as possible. For this reason, PCR will consider candidates in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia for this role.

Reporting

- This position will report to the CEO
- 5 staff will report to this position
Salary

Circa A$200,000 p.a. (GBP110,000 p.a.)

Values

All employees are expected to display the following five values:

- Dependability
- Enthusiasm
- Collaboration
- Kindness