

Research Director

ROLE PURPOSE

The role holder is accountable for the strategic leadership, design and implementation of biomedical research functions, programs, projects and initiatives of Al Jalila Foundation (AJF) in pursuit of its mission and strategic priorities.

This includes supporting the CEO in ensuring that the organization's research adds significant value to biomedical research in the UAE, and conducting biomedical cancer research for AJF, as required.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

Research Program Management-

- Leads and oversees the planning, design and delivery of research programs - including capacity building initiatives - and related projects/activities/events with clear outcomes to benefit the broader community and UAE economy. Ensures that all research programs and initiatives are progressing and sufficiently resourced.
- Leads and conducts cancer medical research projects for AJF with clear deliverables and impactful outcomes, in line with AJF research strategy.
- Oversees the portfolio of research projects from conception to candidate selection and beyond by defining the critical path, timelines, etc. Works closely with the AJF Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and other related committees to seek advice and to review and manage the research projects, as per the AJF research Policy.
- Develops research and analytical tools and practices that better enable research to meet the needs of research community and the UAE.
- Prioritizes activities and manage resources at the AJF research center including the biomedical lab(s) of AJF research center when required, to ensure robust progress toward, and achievement of the research objectives.
- Obtains international accreditation for the AJF research center
- Leads the collaboration with MBRU and other entities for medical research and ensures that the KPIs are met. Advises the CEO on progress made towards achieving AJF goals.

- Establishes and maintains productive working relationships and networks with stakeholders, public and private sector scientific bodies, fostering research partnerships across organizational programs and projects to capitalize on funding and resource opportunities.
- Identifies and recruits high-caliber research staff, including UAE Nationals, that fit with the strategic objectives of AJF.
- Manages and mentors a group of multidisciplinary scientific biomedical senior and junior scientists supporting diverse activities in disease areas as per AJF mandate. This is with a special focus on mentoring UAE National scientists and preparing them to lead biomedical research in the UAE.
- Provides high level biomedical research advice and expertise to the CEO and key internal and external stakeholders on key priorities and initiatives. Be a subject matter expert for AJF in one or more disease areas (e.g., diabetes, obesity, etc.).
- Contributes to the achievement of AJF organizational KPIs including possible research revenue and research impact.
- Be a strong ambassador for AJF research to promote research excellence and advancement, and to influence potential external partners and donors.
- Represents the AJF research as delegated in appropriate research and other committees.
- Partners with the Strategy & Programs Director to enable seamless and efficient integration of research Education programs and to support their growth and expansion, in line with AJF strategic objectives.
- In partnership with the Marketing and Communications department, provides inputs, reviews and approves research programs content to promote and market it to key stakeholders in line with the vision and mission of AJF.
- Partners with the Director of Partnerships and Sustainability to ensure that adequate funds are available to maintain, build and expand AJF research programs in line with the mandate of the organization.

Program Documentation-

- Leads the development of forms, templates, and applications to record and document research workflow.
- Oversees the collection and maintenance of research records for statistical purposes in line with AJF confidentiality and privacy policy.

- Oversees the development and implementation of contracts and agreements for research programs to serve the best interest of AJF and the stakeholders. Partners with Legal department for review of the contracts and agreements.

Fundraising-

- Applies for and obtains international funding for AJF research projects
- Adds value to the fundraising efforts by providing information on the AJF research deliverables, growth and achievements.
- Contributes towards identifying and pursuing fundraising opportunities in support of AJF's annual fundraising key performance indicators (KPIs).

Relationship Management-

- Nurtures strong relationships with external institutions; government and charitable organizations, donors and sponsors, etc. to represent the AJF research and initiatives to the community.
- Collaborates with strategic stakeholders (partners, program participants, donors, etc.) to gain community support for the research and solicit feedback/inputs to improve the program design and delivery.

Impact Analysis and Measurement-

- Works closely with the AJF Directors to analyze, measure and report research programs' effectiveness and impact to ensure that they are contributing to the needs of the community.
- Conducts analysis and develops reports to measure effectiveness and impact of research programs to ensure they fulfil the strategic goals of AJF and its mandate.
- Reports evaluation findings to the CEO and recommends changes to enhance the research, as appropriate, to ensure tight alignment with organizational strategy and goals.

Policies and Processes-

- Initiates, develops and implements research programs policies, systems and processes in line with the evolving needs of the department.
- Ensures compliance with organization systems and processes and consciously promotes regulatory practices to conform to organizational guidelines.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

- PhD in a relevant field
- A minimum of 15 years of relevant experience working in biomedical research in reputable research organization(s)
- 5 years' experience related to grant proposal submission and administration of grants and contracts
- Experience in managing and working in biomedical labs
- Evidence of knowledge and experience in conducting biomedical research and obtaining funding and ethical approvals, especially in the UAE
- Experience in managing research data collection, reporting, outcomes, quality improvement and standards/pathways.
- Clinical research experience is asset
- Demonstrated experience in liaising at a high level with the academic community, government bodies (federal and local), industry and the public.
- Track record of scholarly achievement in biomedical research
- Working knowledge in conducting and managing impactful biomedical research (i.e., commercialization, intellectual property, patent system/process, etc.)
- Training/ qualification in oncology
- Fellowship-trained is asset
- Proficiency in written and spoken English and Arabic
- UAE National is preferred