

## **Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland**

### **Chief Executive Officer FTC 3 Years**

**Salary: commensurate with role**

**Location: Invest NI, Belfast**

### **Candidate Information**

#### **ABOUT HIRANI**

The Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland (HIRANI) was established in 2019 as an alliance between Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, The Department of Health and The Department for the Economy and Industry.

HIRANI has a bold vision to bring together the component life sciences strengths within Northern Ireland, provide leadership and focus and as a result drive prosperity and improve patient outcomes within the region. In achieving this vision HIRANI will make Northern Ireland as a destination for global life sciences and innovation and health research.

The objectives for HIRANI are to provide a single point of contact for external collaborators to be able to understand areas of research and innovation excellence in Northern Ireland with a view to collaboration and investment. In addition, HIRANI will drive increased collaboration and research coordination within the health and life science community within Northern Ireland.

Further information regarding Hirani can be accessed via: [www.Hira-ni.com](http://www.Hira-ni.com)

Informal enquiries regarding the post may be directed to Dr Robert Grundy: [robert.grundy@hira-ni.com](mailto:robert.grundy@hira-ni.com)

#### **ABOUT THE ROLE**

This strategic role offers a unique and rewarding opportunity to make a significant and long-lasting impact on health and prosperity within Northern Ireland.

Leading a high performing team of programme managers, and with an operating budget to be determined, the Chief Executive Officer role is pivotal in bringing together industry, clinicians and academics to pursue strategically important and significant opportunities in health and life sciences. Business development activity, raising the profile of the organisation's constituents and strengths in the UK and internationally, will be intrinsic to the role. In addition, the CEO will be an organisational leader, managing the Alliance's responsibilities and associated teams.

## **ROLE REQUIREMENTS**

First and foremost, it will be important that you are passionate about health and wealth, particularly in Northern Ireland. The successful candidate will bring together relevant networks and have an understanding of the different contexts involved. You will need to successfully engage and influence a wide variety of stakeholders at a senior level, possess a sophisticated flair for advocacy and wider public affairs, have an understanding of the ways in which academics and clinicians work, as well as an ability to drive activities with these groups. You will also need a deep appreciation of industry and the commercial imperatives with which the private sector operates. Candidates will also need to demonstrate credibility, dynamism, energy, resilience and an ability to successfully manage competing demands on time and resource, and to delegate when appropriate. Based in Northern Ireland, there will be significant national and international travel involved in successfully carrying out the role.

**You will possess the following ESSENTIAL qualifications, skills and experience:**

### **Education and Qualifications**

- Degree or equivalent professional qualification.

### **Experience**

- Substantial relevant senior level experience gained in the Life and Health Sciences sector with a high performing, complex, structure.
- Experience of budgetary planning and financial management.
- A proven track record of achieving significant performance targets.

### **Strategic and Operational Leadership**

- Proven leadership in managing and developing an effective team.
- Ability to think strategically with proven problem-solving ability.
- Experience of developing innovative solutions and the practical implementation of strategy.
- Project management skills and in particular, the capability of bringing together a major project and negotiating and concluding a successful outcome.

### **Transformational and Organisational Change**

- Evidence of successfully driving and delivering an agenda of innovation and continuous improvement.
- An innovative approach to management with the ability to make decisions with little precedent.

### **Stakeholder Management**

- The ability to communicate effectively with colleagues across the institution and with outside agencies, and a strong commitment to open communication, flexibility and participation at all levels.
- Demonstrable deep understanding of industry and the commercial imperatives with which the private sector operates.

### **Communication**

- Excellent oral and written skills. Articulate, confident, able to deal with difficult situations and the ability to negotiate and influence at all levels.
- Proven ability to undertake a representational role at the highest level both within Hirani and externally, and to communicate with people and organisations.
- Possess a sophisticated flair for advocacy and wider public affairs.

### **Personal Qualities**

- Prepared to take ownership for achieving ambitious goals.
- A commitment to professionalism and excellence, drive, initiative, energy, enthusiasm, resilience.
- Ability to successfully manage competing demands on time and resource and to delegate when appropriate.
- Evidence of being a proactive individual with the ability and vision to help shape the future direction of Hirani.
- A strong interest in health and wealth particularly in Northern Ireland.
- Demonstrable understanding of the ways in which academics and clinicians work as well as an ability to drive activities with these groups.

### **Special Factors and other Requirements**

- A willingness to work flexibly.
- This post will involve significant national and international travel.

### **The following criteria are DESIRABLE:**

- Doctorate level qualification in a Life Sciences Discipline or Clinical Qualification.
- Experience of working within two or more of the NHS, Academia or private sector.
- Demonstrable understanding of the challenges and strategic issues facing higher education and health.
- Demonstrable ability to communicate across public and private sector organisations to elicit change.
- A strong understanding of, and belief in, the fundamental values of health innovation.

## **MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Develop the overall strategy of HIRANI and be responsible for its implementation and successful delivery in order to achieve the HIRANI's overall mission and vision
- Provide strategic oversight for core functions with HIRANI: external engagement; public affairs, corporate engagement; research partnerships and other strategic projects as directed by the Board
- Lead the management of the HIRANI as a Company Limited by Guarantee, including financial and legal management, ensuring compliance with all regulatory and governance requirements
- Champion and promote HIRANI externally to networks at regional, national and international level, leveraging the talent and assets within the Alliance
- Develop and maintain key relationships with senior national and international stakeholders including government officials, national policymakers and commercial partners
- Provide leadership to advocate for its members Northern Ireland's health and life sciences sector with the NI assembly and Westminster parliament, in the media in Northern Ireland and across the UK
- Along with members of the HIRANI team, represent and promote Northern Ireland's health and life science assets and capabilities to an international audience
- Work with existing partners to ensure delivery of the NI growth deals where appropriate
- Provide motivational leadership to a high performing team of programme managers within the core team including responsibility for professional development
- Lead on developing a long-term sustainability plan for the HIRANI for both funding and workforce development

## **THE MAIN TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

It is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to take up the post of Chief Executive Officer as soon as possible, subject to existing contractual arrangements.

An attractive remuneration package, commensurate with the seniority and responsibilities of the role, will be provided.

The candidate will also be eligible to join the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

## **HOW TO APPLY**

**Please apply by submitting a CV and cover letter detailing how you meet the criteria. For further information and instructions on how to apply, please visit:**

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/QUBJobVacancies/>

**KEY DATES:**

**Closing date for receipt of applications: Friday 3 January 2020**

**Anticipated interview date: Monday 27 January 2020**