

Scientific Projects Officer

JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY DETAILS

Job Title:	Scientific Projects Officer
Location:	Beacon Office, 66 Devonshire Road, Cambridge, CB1 2BL; hybrid working options available, though regular work in the office is required
Responsible to:	CEO - with the intent to move under the management of a newly appointed Senior Scientific Projects Officer after 6 months
Hours:	Full-time (37.5 hours per week)
Term:	Funding for this role is available for a five-year fixed term contract
Salary:	£24,000
Starting date:	September 2022

ABOUT BEACON

Beacon (formerly known as Findacure) is a UK-based charity that is building a united rare disease community with patient support groups at its heart.

Our vision: a world in which no one faces their rare journey alone.

Rare diseases affect around 3.5 million of the UK population. Sadly, this population struggles to receive a diagnosis, treatment or meet others with the same condition. Patient groups are a lifeline for those living with a rare disease. They provide emotional support and advice for day-to-day living as well as driving wide-scale changes in policy, treatment and care.

Our charity upskills rare disease patient groups through trainings, guided programmes, community projects and research initiatives. We help these groups maximise their impact and deliver change for the world's often neglected rare disease patients.

We pride ourselves on delivering high-quality, professional projects that make everyone feel welcome and heard; providing opportunities to connect and collaborate with others across the rare disease space.

By working in partnership with patient organisations and other stakeholders, we are breaking the isolation felt by those living with a rare condition, uniting all rare diseases in to a single unified force.

Beacon has a small, tight-knit team, with a friendly atmosphere and strong commitment to our beneficiaries. We aim to give all employees opportunities to pursue their interests, develop their skills and shape their career path.

ABOUT REMEDI4ALL

Drug repurposing takes a drug approved for use in one condition and collects evidence of its safety and efficacy in a completely different indication. As a development route, drug repurposing has great potential to treat some of the world's rarest conditions due to its relatively low cost and potential speed. However, there are a wide range of barriers that exist to repurposing.

REMEDI4ALL is a drug repurposing platform, which aims to break these barriers to accelerate the translation of promising science into newly repurposed drugs. REMEDI4ALL has been funded by the EU for a 5-year period starting in September 2022. It will be delivered by a consortium of 24 organisations from across the EU and UK, who collectively aim to repurpose drugs for all conditions, including rare and infectious diseases, and cancer.

As part of this brand-new project, we are hiring a Senior Scientific Projects Officer and Scientific Projects Officer to help deliver this exciting new platform.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

As Scientific Projects Officer, you will join Beacon at the inception of the REMEDI4ALL project and will work amongst a consortium of 23 other organisations across Europe to develop the platform.

Working directly with Beacon's newly hired Senior Scientific Projects Officer and the Therapeutic Development Team at EURORDIS: Rare Disease Europe, you will be involved in the development and delivery of the following two project work packages:

1. Engaging with those interested in drug repurposing across Europe, with a particular focus on bringing patient input into the heart of research
2. Developing a multi-platform set of training for patient groups, academics and industry members to understand the end-to-end process of drug repurposing.

This is a unique opportunity to secure a role in a flagship European initiative.

As our Scientific Projects Officer, you will be involved in delivering a drug repurposing training programme and building a community of researchers, patient groups, and life scientists with an interest in repurposing. The training programme will encompass a series of e-learning resources, webinars, a podcast, an annual residential training school, and a mentoring programme to support both the researchers and patient groups engaged in active research.

Alongside this you will have the opportunity to support researchers and patient group leaders across Europe. You will learn first-hand about the drug development process, while ensuring that patient input remains at the heart of our work.

INITIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Community outreach and engagement

- Help manage and communicate with an international network of scientists, funders, regulators, industry representative and patient groups.
- Represent Beacon and the wider REMEDI4ALL consortium at international conferences as a delegate or exhibitor.
- Manage enquiries about the REMEDI4ALL platform, and support interested researchers or patient groups to learn more about our services.
- Help to establish and produce key documentation for REMEDI4ALL outreach and signposting, including print materials, videos and websites.

Training programme delivery

- Administration and delivery of the REMEDI4ALL drug repurposing training programme.
- Support the research and development of a drug repurposing curriculum, including directly interviewing researchers, patient groups, and industry professionals.
- Research, review and assess existing training opportunities for patient groups, academics and clinicians in the drug repurposing space. Produce a detailed landscape map of existing training opportunities in repurposing.
- Development of a repurposing podcast that is initiated through interviews with in-house REMEDI4ALL experts.

Support of research operations

- Support the delivery of co-creative projects between researchers and patient communities to support REMEDI4ALL research.
- Monitor active drug development projects and support project leads and patient group advisors to work together and access support from our partners.

Additional responsibilities and duties will be added as the REMEDI4ALL project becomes established and evolves.

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

This is a role suitable for a science graduate or individual with some experience in the life sciences industry, who has a desire to develop an exciting collaborative project within a small, but ambitious, UK charity.

Essential

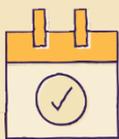
- Scientific degree.
- A confident communicator with the ability to build strong working relationships.
- An ability to communicate complex scientific processes to a generalist audience in both written and spoken English.

- Excellent research skills, able to identify and synthesise information from multiple sources.
- Recognition of the value of patient input in medical research.
- Good organisational skills with experience in managing and prioritising multiple tasks.
- Autonomous, proactive and a good problem solver.
- Fluent in written and spoken English with strong presentation skills.
- Computer literate and confident using all MS Office software.
- Understanding of, and commitment to, the objectives of Beacon.
- Ability to deliver occasional out of hours work to accommodate Beacon and REMEDI4ALL events or travel in the UK and internationally

Desirable

- 2 years' experience in the life sciences sector or a post-graduate scientific qualification (or equivalent).
- Experience or understanding of the drug development pipeline.
- Experience with educational training programmes or e-learning platforms.

BENEFITS



25 days holiday, plus 8 bank holidays and additional leave for office Christmas closure



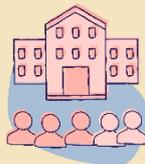
5% pension contribution



Flexible working practices, including hybrid working and flexitime



A close knit and friendly small team environment, giving you a meaningful voice in the direction of the charity



Dedicated training budget to support personal and professional training opportunities



Time off in lieu to support appropriate work/life balance



Valuable experience working in the charity and health sector



Frequent opportunities to meet and interact with beneficiaries, supporters and collaborators



Opportunities to expand your professional network through attending events and conferences

We are currently actively exploring additional employee benefits with to the aim of providing further support to our employees.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please email an up-to-date CV and cover letter to Dr Rick Thompson (CEO) and Mary Rose Roberts (COO) at recruitment@rarebeacon.org by 9 am on the 15th August, outlining your relevant skills and experience. We welcome enquiries about the role to the same email address.

As we are recruiting for numerous roles simultaneously, please ensure your name and the role you are applying for is noted clearly in the email subject line (e.g. Sarah Green - Application for Scientific Projects Officer).

Shortlisted candidates will initially be contacted for a phone interview, with the final round of interviews likely taking place between the 15th and 26th August.

Please note that we are currently unable to sponsor UK VISA applications.