

Senior Scientific Projects Officer

JOB DESCRIPTION

KEY DETAILS

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| Job Title: | Senior 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 |
| Responsible for: | Scientific Officer (after an initial 6 month introductory period) |
| Hours: | Full-time (37.5 hours per week) |
| Term: | Funding for this role is available for a five-year fixed term contract |
| Salary: | £28,000 - £30,000 with a planned increase after 6 months contingent upon performance and undertaking of management responsibilities |
| 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 Officer to help deliver this exciting new platform.

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE

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

Working directly with Beacon's CEO, a newly hired Scientific Officer and the Therapeutic Development Team at EURORDIS: Rare Disease Europe, you will have a major role in the development and leadership 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 major role in a flagship European initiative.

The successful candidate's role will be to both establish the drug repurposing training programme and build 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. Work will initially focus on building the presence and visibility of REMEDI4ALL and establishing an understanding of the educational resources currently exist in the field of repurposing, as well as the needs of the different groups.

Alongside this the Senior Scientific Projects Officer will work closely with active repurposing projects within the platform, tracking their development and helping to ensure that the patient perspective is central to decision making.

Following a successful 6-month introductory period, the Senior Scientific Projects Officer will also take on responsibility for line managing the Scientific Officer. Appropriate training will be provided, as well as a title and salary review.

INITIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Community building and engagement

- Work closely with the CEO to develop an international network of scientists, funders, regulators, industry representative and patient groups with either knowledge of or interest in drug repurposing.
- Represent Beacon and the wider REMEDI4ALL consortium at international conferences as a delegate, exhibitor and speaker.
- Develop strong collaborative working relationships with the REMEDI4ALL partners, in particular, EURORDIS and Principal Investigators of our research projects.

Training programme development

- Acting as the primary point of contact for REMEDI4ALL work package leads and coordinating their training contributions.
- Develop a detailed understanding of the current “state of the art” drug repurposing methodologies and patient engagement approaches to help develop a training curriculum for REMEDI4ALL.
- Oversee production of a detailed landscape map of existing training opportunities in repurposing.
- Establish and coordinate REMEDI4ALL’s drug repurposing training programme to include an online education programme, mentoring programme and an annual repurposing school.

Support of research operations

- Monitor active drug development projects, ensuring that patient input is brought to the heart of decision making.
- Building strong relationships with both primary investigators and patient group supporters of active drug repurposing projects.

Management and strategy

- Line management of the Scientific Officer following an initial and successful 6-month introductory period
- Ensuring Beacon meets its strategic objectives and milestones with REMEDI4ALL.

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

PERSONAL SPECIFICATION

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

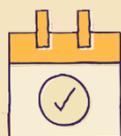
Essential

- Scientific degree with a minimum 2 years' experience in the life sciences sector or a post-graduate scientific qualification (or equivalent).
- A confident communicator with the ability to build strong working relationships.
- An ability to communicate complex scientific processes to a generalist audience.
- Experience or understanding of the drug development pipeline.
- Recognition or experience of the importance of patient input in medical research.
- Strong organisational skills with experience in managing and prioritising multiple tasks. Autonomous, proactive and, resourceful. A 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

- Experience with educational training programmes or e-learning platforms.
- Experience in the pharmaceutical industry or drug development.

BENEFITS



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



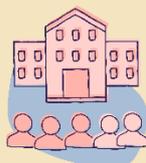
5% pension contribution



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. Hilda Montague - Application for Senior 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.