



Brain Canada

Director of Scientific Affairs

Summary

The Director of Scientific Affairs of Brain Canada will oversee the organization's research affairs, in the context of the \$200-million public-private partnership, the Canada Brain Research Fund. Supported by the Manager, Research Programs, the Director of Scientific Affairs will be responsible for the implementation and delivery of all research funding programs, including all aspects of the competitions, grant and award management and monitoring of the funded research. He/she will assist with managing relationships at the scientific level with key stakeholders including the Government of Canada, partners and research funders, universities, and the Canadian and international neuroscience research community. Located in either Montreal or Toronto, he/she reports directly to the President and is a key member of Brain Canada's leadership team.

Responsibilities

- Assists the President with the implementation and delivery of strategic research and training programs that will advance Brain Canada's mission of supporting excellent Canadian neuroscience research;
- Works in cooperation with the Science Program Advisor, the Director of Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations and current and potential funding partners to design research initiatives that are responsive to the objectives of funding partners and consistent with Brain Canada's vision and policies;
- Works closely with the Science Program Advisor to develop and write Requests for Applications that describe Brain Canada's research initiatives;
- Oversees the recruitment of reviewers for funding applications, and selection committee members, and advises on the assignment of applications to specific reviewers and committee members;
- Communicates details of Brain Canada's current and planned research initiatives to trainees, the research community, research institutions, and funding partners, and respond to questions from potential applicants related to scientific issues relevant to those initiatives;
- Assists with the identification and recruitment of Brain Canada science advisory group members, and supports their work to assist with individual funding initiatives, and translate their advice into modifications in initiative design;
- Supports the work of the Science Advisory Forum, and the Board's Research Policy Committee;
- Organizes and facilitates face-to-face or virtual meetings of researchers and stakeholders (in cooperation with the Director of Partnerships and Stakeholder Relations where appropriate) to discuss and plan research initiatives, or to report on progress in ongoing initiatives;
- Assists with the development of a reporting framework for recipients of Brain Canada funding, and implements a regular progress reporting function. Recommends remedies to the Board's Research Policy Committee when instances of unsatisfactory progress are detected;

- Develops and updates Brain Canada policies that relate to research integrity, ethical conduct of research, data access and sharing, and other aspects of the research process;
- As requested by the President, represents Brain Canada at scientific meetings and meetings of stakeholders and the public, and responds to media requests for scientific information about contemporary brain science, and Brain Canada's role in advancing it.

Qualifications and Attributes

- Research experience in the neurosciences, mental health or a related biomedical, social or behavioural area, with a relevant PhD or MD;
- Ability to communicate complicated science and research issues to various audiences, including researchers, laypersons and media, in settings ranging from one-on-one interviews to presentations before several hundred people;
- Superior written communications skills, required for the creation of clear and comprehensive research policies, requests for applications, and responses to scientific enquiries;
- Good broad knowledge of the methods, approaches and limitations of contemporary research in the neurosciences and mental health;
- Prior experience working in a research funding organization or in an administrative capacity in a research performing organization;
- Understanding of the research environment for neuroscience in Canada and how Brain Canada contributes to it;
- Understanding of the regulatory and ethical requirements for neuroscience research;
- An appreciation for and understanding of the roles that biomedical, clinical, translational, health services, and population health research together play in moving research discovery to products, practices, and policies that improve the lives of Canadians;
- Flexibility and resilience to respond to tight deadlines, competing priorities and sometimes critical audiences;
- Available to work outside normal office hours on occasion, and to travel nationally and internationally.

Priority will be given to candidates who meet all the above qualifications and have the ability to work in both official languages.

Salary

Starting salary commensurate with professional experience

Location

Located in either Montreal or Toronto.

Application process

Interested applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and CV, in confidence, to Judith Sale, Brain Canada Foundation, judiths@braincanada.ca. Only those applicants who proceed to the interview stage will be contacted.

For more information, please visit www.braincanada.ca