

Job Description

Research Strategy and Insights Manager

It's unacceptable that more than half of people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer die within 3 months. Survival rates have improved enormously for most cancers, yet for pancreatic cancer, this is not the case. And, with treatment and care affected by the pandemic, the situation has only got worse.

Pancreatic Cancer UK is a national charity dedicated to taking on this injustice using every possible means. We're supporting people with pancreatic cancer now, campaigning, and funding vital research to transform the future.

The Role:

Background

We are at a transformative stage of growth and development. Our organisation is growing rapidly, and we are starting to make real and impactful changes to pancreatic cancer in the UK. We are currently developing our next organisational strategy and by harnessing the momentum we currently have we can truly transform the lives of people with pancreatic cancer over the next 5 years.

Crucial to this is the significant increase in investment in the research community as well as the PCUK Research Team. We have bold ambitions and to realise these we are building our research capacity and resource with new posts and new structures. This will enable us to not only increase our research investment in the community but to do it in the areas most needed for researchers to effectively drive changes in survival.

Purpose

The Research Strategy and Insights Manager takes responsibility for gathering and assimilating the information, perspectives and insights from across the research community, research funding sector and charity to define how we support researchers to improve survival for people with pancreatic cancer.

This role will work closely with the research community and its members to understand and consolidate insights that will focus our strategy on critical areas that our investments can transform.

Main Responsibilities

Developing strategic mechanism of research funding

In the upcoming strategy, PCUK aim to make significant improvements to the overall survival of people with pancreatic cancer. We need to identify and focus our resources and funding in key areas that will achieve this change. To do this the Research Strategy and Insights Manager (RSIM) will:

- Develop processes, governance structures and mechanisms to routinely and comprehensively engage and consult the research community in key strategic areas
- Plan, organise and deliver community consultation meetings with researchers, clinicians and people affected by pancreatic cancer
- Write supporting documentation for meetings, generate minutes and actions and write strategy reports outlining recommendations for research support
- Building strong working relationships with external stakeholders (e.g. pre-clinical and clinical researchers, research funders and research institutes)
- Develop an in-depth understanding of the research community: where its strengths lie and how challenges can be overcome
- Working closely with Senior Research Manager to begin to scope new schemes of funding
- Working closely with colleagues across the charity to help inform engagement and relationship building with supporters and donors

Understanding research impact

PCUK have funded research for over a decade and our ambitious new strategy seeks to greatly increase the investment in the research community over the next 5 years. As well as understanding what we need to do, we need to understand what we have done and how the research we have funded has brought about change. This understanding will inform not only research strategy but also organisational strategy as well as demonstrating our impact to our supporters. To do this the RSIM will:

- Utilise existing reporting mechanisms and develop new ways to routinely capture the most relevant and valuable information from our research awards
- Developing new ways to continuously analyse and present research inputs, outputs and impacts
- Working closely with researchers and Research Communications Manager to develop impact case studies to be utilised throughout the charity
- Generate annual impact reports outlining areas of strength and progress as well as challenges, making recommendations for future work

Convening the research community

Researchers will drive the changes needed in pancreatic cancer however there are challenges to coordinate activities in a small widely spread community. As a trusted partner, with expertise and strategic oversight, we have a unique role to play in convening the community to collaborate and network more effectively. This will include:

- Develop a new Research Network to provide the platform for the current community and new members to have closer more productive collaborations and understanding of the UK's research

- Plan and deliver annual research networking meetings working with Events Team and researchers
- Support special research initiatives that realise strategic aims through the convening and project support

Communications, impact and stakeholder engagement

The RSIM will work closely with the Research Communications Manager to communicate our strategy initiatives and the outputs and impacts of our investment in research. This includes:

- Working with the marketing team on development of engaging research communications (website, social media, press) to ensure that the charity's research programme and wider research developments are publicised appropriately
- Supporting the fundraising teams to ensure that the charity's research activities effectively engage and inform fundraisers and other supporters.
- Representing the charity at meetings, conferences and research visits as appropriate
- Representing the research team at internal meetings and on relevant working groups

This role profile is not exhaustive and is subject to review in conjunction with the post holder and according to future changes/developments in the service.

Person Specification

Skills, knowledge, experience & qualifications	
Essential	
1	Proven ability in developing and/or delivering strategic initiatives in consultation/partnership with external stakeholders
2	Understanding of measuring and analysing research inputs, outputs and impacts
3	Knowledge of the research environment in the UK, and/or the process of research funding
4	Competent user of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook)
5	Excellent written and verbal communication skills including being able to effectively communicate complex and detailed information to a range of audiences
6	Confident in networking, influencing and negotiating with key stakeholders to build relationships and new partnerships
7	Ability to conduct meetings, present to external audiences, and to represent the organisation at seminars, workshops and be the subject matter expert both internal and externally
8	Strong team working skills; able to understand and balance the priorities of others in relation to their own work
9	Excellent organisational and project management skills, with good time-management and the ability to manage a busy and varied workload, whilst maintaining attention to detail, and meeting deadlines
10	Effective manager of resources, harnessing support and working through others to ensure effective delivery of activities
11	Can conduct impact assessments, objectively review work and outcomes and seek continuous improvement
12	An undergraduate degree, preferably with a biomedical focus
Desirable	
1	Proven ability and strong track record of grant award and management processes, including running grant rounds, working with large external committees and monitoring grants.
2	An understanding of patient and public involvement and contribution to research direction and scope
3	Knowledge of the cancer research environment in the UK, and/or research funding and the charity sector
4	Understanding of the challenges in pancreatic cancer research
5	Some previous experience of conducting research and/or working in a research environment
6	A scientific PhD, Masters or similar qualification, preferably with a biomedical focus

A criminal record check is not currently required for this role.

Personal qualities and other requirements are:

- A professional and passionate approach to your work
- Confident, personable, and able to show sensitivity and empathy for people with pancreatic cancer and their carers
- Keen to grow and develop own skills and abilities
- Willingness to undertake a wide range of activities at different levels, and an innovative, creative, proactive and flexible approach to working life in a small, growing charity
- Commitment to our vision, mission and values: Determined, Compassionate, Pioneering, With Integrity, and to learning and development
- Commitment to health and safety, data protection, equality and diversity and safeguarding compliance and best practice
- Understanding and acceptance of Pancreatic Cancer UK's policy on the use of animals in research which is in accordance with the AMRC
- It is essential you have to have the right to work in the UK at the time of application.

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