CANDIDATE BRIEF

Research Expert Committee Chair with academic/clinical expertise
Expert committees

Versus Arthritis will operate two expert committees, the Research Expert Committee and the Fellowship Expert Committee. The purpose of the committees is to assist the charity in planning, developing and undertaking activities to support research and fellowship awards. Both committees will be co-chaired by an expert with lived experience and an academic/clinical expert.

The role of the Expert Committees is to input expertise and insight for their respective areas and provide strategic advice to help the charity plan and prioritise new research and fellowship activities, including our financial investments and influencing activities. They will also assist the charity to consider insight from Versus Arthritis Research Advisory Groups, Progress Review Committee and other sector intelligence.

The Expert Committees will help Versus Arthritis engage and work with others through the identification of strategic partnerships to increase musculoskeletal research capacity in the UK and crucially, advise the charity on the balance of research and career activities across the Versus Arthritis portfolio.

Members of the committees will take the role of Chair or Vice-Chair of Versus Arthritis Funding Review Panels as required and help the charity in making decisions for research funding activities.

This is an exciting and important development in our research committee structure. There is considerable ambition at all levels of the organisation to become more sophisticated and joined up in the way we work and there is a strong desire to continue to strengthen our relationships with people with arthritis.

We want our employees, volunteers and Trustees to represent the broad diversity of the communities of which we are a part. Through our diversity and inclusion strategy, we have made a commitment to increase the diversity of our charity and we welcome candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Delegated authority

The Expert Committees, and Review Panels that members oversee, make recommendations to the Charity Executive. The Charity Executive has full delegated authority from the Board of Trustees to authorise funding, within agreed overall policies and procedures and budget, subject to the charity’s Schedule of Authority, as may be amended from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

Each committee will be a sub-committee of the Charitable Purposes Committee and report activity into this twice per year.
The role of Research Expert Committee Chair with academic/clinical expertise

The main duties of the Chair of the Research Expert Committee are:

i. To input expertise and insight for their respective areas and provide strategic advice to help the charity plan and prioritise new research activities, including our financial investments and influencing activities.

ii. To consider insight from Versus Arthritis advisory Groups and other committees.

iii. To help Versus Arthritis engage and work with others through the identification of strategic partnerships to increase musculoskeletal research capacity in the UK.

iv. To advise the charity on the balance of research and career activities across the Versus Arthritis portfolio.

v. To help the charity in decision making for other research activities where this is appropriate.

vi. To delegate members of the Research Expert Committee to take on the role of Co-Chair for funding panel meetings

Skills and abilities

The Research Expert Committee Chair should have:

- Highly developed leadership and facilitation skills with the ability to create an environment that encourages input and maximises the contributions of all members of the Group
- Diplomacy and great people skills with the ability to work closely with and get the best from members of the Expert Committee and Charity staff
- Strategic level experience, preferably gained at committee level

Personal attributes and behaviours

- A personal demeanour and presence that secures the trust and confidence of others quickly
- Strategic and entrepreneurial in approach with the ability to identify how the Charity can best support future musculoskeletal research
- The desire and ability to be a good advocate for Research

The Chair is expected to:

- Lead the Research Expert Committee meetings and liaise with the charity, giving clear advice and challenge
- Lead strategic and policy discussions, defining goals and setting targets and evaluating performance against the agreed targets
- Conduct themselves with probity at all times which may include (amongst other things) claims for expenses incurred, gifts and hospitality received and disclosure of conflicts of interest
- Work with Charity staff to appoint the members of the new Research Expert Committee
• Attend a mandatory diversity and inclusion workshop to develop an understanding of our vision for becoming a more diverse and inclusive charity.

Time commitment
The Research Expert Committee will meet twice a year.

To fulfil the duties of Chair effectively, commitment to attendance of these meeting times is required with allowance for preparation and reading of materials. There will be a requirement to occasionally take part in additional virtual meetings with Charity staff.

The majority of meetings will be on dates fixed one year in advance and timed to allow travel within most parts of the UK within a single day where required or through virtual media.

Remuneration
The role of Chair of the Research Expert Committees is unremunerated. Versus Arthritis will pay for reasonable out-of-pocket travel and subsistence expenses in line with the Charity’s expense policy.

Length of Appointment
The Chair of the Expert Committees will be appointed for a term of three years.

Process & Timescales
Closing date for applications: midday, Monday 11 October, 2021

How to register your interest
Please email:
  • a comprehensive CV
  • along with a supporting statement summarising your skills and experience

  to: Glen Neal, Awards Governance Officer, awards@versusarthritis.org