



Director, Center for Global Infectious Disease Research
Seattle Children's Hospital and Research Institute
Seattle, Washington

THE SEARCH

Seattle Children's, one of the premier children's hospitals in the nation, invites inquiries, applications, and nominations for the Director of the Center for Global Infectious Disease Research (CGIDR). Reporting to the Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, Dr. Vittorio Gallo, the Director will have a broad range of responsibilities, including strategic planning, research leadership and vision, and program administration in support of Seattle Children's, the Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI), and the CGIDR.

Seattle Children's serves the largest region of any pediatric hospital, covering nearly one million square miles across four states. The 407-bed hospital in Seattle anchors the health system, with additional care provided at 43 outreach sites across the Pacific Northwest. SCRI, the research arm of Seattle Children's, is the fourth largest pediatric research institute in the United States, with 2,400 faculty and staff members across eight centers conducting more than \$250 million in funded research. Led by newly appointed CEO [Dr. Christopher Longhurst](#), Seattle Children's is further poised for a new era of research-driven innovation.

CGIDR is one of the largest pediatric infectious disease research programs globally and the largest in the United States. CGIDR has established itself as a premier catalyst for transformative scientific advancements that lead to the prevention, treatment, and cure of infectious diseases impacting children and families around the world. The Center's excellence in infectious disease research and discovery rests on the scholarly and creative contributions of its talented, cross-disciplinary investigators who work to understand, treat, and prevent a wide spectrum of infectious diseases. CGIDR's faculty have made notable breakthroughs in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, human papillomavirus, group B streptococcus, and SARS-CoV-2. CGIDR is the highest-funded center in SCRI, with investigators and staff collectively conducting \$74 million in extramurally funded research in 2024.

The expansive research portfolio of CGIDR is spread across numerous fields facilitated by state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory, a Malaria Human Challenge Center, two dedicated insectaries, and a centralized Shared Research Resources program including histopathology, genomics, spatial biology, and imaging. There has been significant investment over the last several years, including the expansion of the Center to two new buildings and a new, state-of-the-art BSL-3 laboratory. The geographic centrality of the new buildings will promote increased collaboration with all centers in the SCRI, fostering innovation with additional core facilities set to be available. At this pivotal juncture, the CGDIR will continue to strengthen its domain expertise in both basic and translational research and combined with its commitment to intellectual and organizational diversity nationally and globally, the Center will continue to define its unique strength: understanding infections to develop world-class diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines for pediatric patients and their families.

The Director will engage, lead, and energize the scientific community of CGIDR to build new initiatives and collaborations across and outside the organization. The Director will continue to recruit and develop outstanding faculty; maintain state-of-the-art infrastructure; catalyze cutting-edge, multidisciplinary infectious disease research; and enhance and diversify funding for the Center. The director will play a key role in fostering and enhancing synergies between CGIDR and the clinical mission. The director will also work to bridge any gaps between clinical practice and research, ensuring that advancements in one area are effectively integrated into the other to improve patient care and outcomes. Embracing an innovative, forward-thinking mindset, the Director will identify strategic priorities for investment; provide leadership in both basic and translational research; create an environment that emphasizes equity, inclusion, and belonging; and assume responsibility for all facets of the Center's finance and administration. The Director will possess an MD or DO, combined MD/PhD, PhD, or equivalent degree in health-related fields and have a record commensurate with appointment as an Associate Professor or Professor at the University of Washington.

Seattle Children's has retained Isaacson, Miller, a national executive search firm, to assist with this important search. Inquiries, nominations, and applications should be directed to the firm in confidence, as indicated at the end of this document.

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[The Seattle Children's Research Institute](#), established in 2006, is one of the top five most funded pediatric research institutes in the United States, with over \$253 million in extramural awards, including over \$120 million from the NIH in 2023. The SCRI is organized into research centers, bringing together clinician scientists and PhD researchers to tackle the pressing issues in pediatric care. The research centers include:

- The Ben Towne Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders Research
- The Center for Child Health, Behavior, and Development
- The Center for Clinical and Translational Research
- The Center for Developmental Biology and Regenerative Medicine

- The Center for Global Infectious Disease Research
- The Center for Immunity and Immunotherapies
- The Center for Respiratory Biology and Therapeutics
- The Norcliffe Foundation Center for Integrative Brain Research

SCRI and [Seattle Children's Therapeutics](#) form the Seattle Children's Research Division (SCRD). SCRD is composed of 340 principal investigators and nearly 2,500 workforce members. SCRD has approximately 400 active clinical trials per year. Research at Seattle Children's has led to 13 spin-off companies and 19 non-start-up commercial partnerships, and it has coordinated multi-center trials for new therapeutics for cystic fibrosis and the development of new pediatric cancer therapies. Seattle Children's Research Division has become one of the most productive research centers in the Western United States. SCRD pushes the boundaries of medical research to find cures and therapeutics for pediatric diseases, improving outcomes for children worldwide.

SCRI serves to improve pediatric healthcare by leading and participating in hundreds of research projects ranging from disease mechanism studies to investigational therapy improvement. The institute is devoted to recruiting and retaining dedicated researchers while creating the facilities, infrastructure, and programs they need to transform important research findings into viable, real-world therapies. Besides the eight main research centers, focus programs at SCRI include the Treuman Katz Center for Pediatric Bioethics and Palliative Care, the Health Equity Research Program (based in the Center for Diversity and Health Equity), and the Center for Nursing Research.

Supported by Center Support Services (CSS), researchers in the centers collaborate closely with one another, as well as with their colleagues within Seattle Children's Therapeutics, healthcare providers at Seattle Children's Hospital, and researchers at partner institutions. SCRI generates funding through the federal government, industry collaborations, as well as philanthropic and private donor opportunities. The Research Institute also houses the Joint Scientific and Operations Council (JSOC) and Scientific Leadership Council (SLC). This is a shared governance leadership council composed of all center directors, associate center directors, and Senior Administrative Team members.

THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH

The [Center for Global Infectious Disease Research](#) (CGIDR) is home to 27 investigators and 250 staff and students, which expanded in 2018 after merging with the Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDR), an independent non-profit research center. CGIDR supports a central vision: to make transformative scientific advances that lead to the prevention, treatment, and cure of infectious diseases impacting children and families around the world. Research at CGIDR spans a variety of disease areas, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and influenza. The labs' expertise in a diversity of fields proves crucial in making discoveries for these diseases. These expertise areas include virology, bacteriology, mycology, parasitology, systems biology, biochemistry, genomics, proteomics, molecular and cell biology, structural biology, immunology, and informatics.

In 2024, CGIDR conducted over \$74 million in funded research, playing an integral role locally, nationally, and internationally in translating basic biology into novel discoveries directed at understanding and treating multiple infections of global significance. As one of the world's single most productive infectious disease research engines, the Center counts among its prolific grant portfolio a strong NIH funding base, including two of the largest grants for tuberculosis research in the country. In addition to CGIDR's strong foundation of existing research programming to steward and strengthen, the Center benefits from substantial support from local colleagues at the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, and the Institute for Systems Biology.

CGIDR also maintains a significant portfolio of projects that address infectious disease challenges impacting local and national communities with the goal of improving long-term therapeutic outcomes, potentially leading to better management of chronic infections in Seattle Children's patients and across the United States. To complement its extensive global research initiatives, the Center's studies on various infectious disease pathogens also include dedicated research to advancing care within the U.S. public health landscape. CGIDR's local infectious disease research portfolio includes research on SARS-CoV-2 and influenza, supported by member partnerships with the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC) and a Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units (VTEUs) site. The Center also contributes to nationwide efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) with the development of innovative therapies targeting both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant strains of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Equally prominent is the Center's notable work in HIV/AIDS research, where teams are pioneering improved treatment options by engineering HIV-resistant CAR T cells and exploring mechanisms with the potential to be an effective long-term HIV treatment or cure.

The Center already houses [one Biosafety Level 3 \(BSL-3\) Laboratory](#), with a larger facility that opened in 2025. These facilities allow researchers to work on microbes and infectious agents that cause serious and potentially lethal diseases through inhalation, such as yellow fever, West Nile virus, chikungunya, and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. [The Malaria Human Challenge Center \(HCC\)](#) is a unique, specialized facility designed to infect or "challenge" adult, healthy human volunteers with the malaria parasite under tightly controlled conditions. The HCC also plays a crucial role in the [Seattle Malaria Clinical Trials Center \(Seattle MCTC\)](#), a joint partnership between the CGIDR and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. The CGIDR has two dedicated [CGIDR Insectaries](#) – one for rearing mosquitoes suitable for controlled human malaria infection clinical trials and one for rearing research-grade mosquitoes for bench research projects. The [CGIDR Imaging Core](#) provides investigators with state-of-the-art tools for capturing and analyzing images, allowing researchers to describe cell changes and function under varying conditions at both the cellular and biochemical levels. The [Flow Cytometry Core](#) provides researchers with high-speed cell sorting services and access and training on flow analyzers, as well as software training, consultation services, and regular instrument maintenance.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ANTI-RACISM

Seattle Children's is dedicated to being an anti-racist and equitable health organization. Seattle Children's has adopted a long-term, comprehensive [Health Equity and Anti-Racism Action Plan](#). This plan was designed with the guidance and support of its patients, workforce, community, and trusted expert leaders on anti-racism work, equity, inclusion, and diversity. Seattle Children's executive leaders hold themselves and their teams accountable for fostering an inclusive work and care environment. Seattle Children's recruiting efforts must ensure it attracts and retains a workforce that represents the diversity of its patients. The institution must examine and dismantle organizational policies and systems that allow racism to persist and replace them with new systems that create racial equity and is actively working towards this goal.

Through the Research Division Anti-Racism Committee (RARC) and Seattle Children's Center for Diversity and Health Equity (CDHE), Seattle Children's is creating equitable participation opportunities for diverse communities and equitable career pathways for diverse faculty and staff. RARC provides funding to support investigator and staff time working with operational owners to dismantle structural barriers to equity and inclusion. CDHE provides funding support for research projects and research teams that focus on health equity issues, along with programs to build robust pathways into successful research centers for individuals from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS

The University of Washington [Department of Pediatrics](#) is a national leader and has a global presence in advancing the science of childhood health, disease prevention, and cures. The Department is redefining how healthcare can be delivered effectively to diverse communities and how a diverse department can create a vibrant workplace as well as a rich academic environment. Over 250 Pediatric residents and fellows are trained annually by 640 faculty. The Department of Pediatrics serves the Northwest region of the United States with clinical and training programs that span Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and internationally in Kenya. The Department is committed to an integrated clinical and research environment. Through discoveries and advances, UW Pediatrics is improving health outcomes for children worldwide.

ROLE OF THE DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR GLOBAL INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH

Reporting to the Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer, the Director represents CGIDR within the SCRI and externally. This position is responsible for providing long-term institutional strategy and day-to-day operations of the Center as well as for the Center's administration, faculty development, and scientific development. The Director oversees the Center's overall budget, sets financial goals in partnership with SCRI's leadership, participates in the annual budgeting process, reviews and recommends pilot and bridge funding requests, and monitors and reconciles the Center's budget in

partnership with administrative leaders. The Director also sits on the Joint Scientific and Operations Council (JSOC) and Scientific Leadership Council (SLC), which oversee the strategic plan for the SCRI.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The Director will address the following key opportunities and challenges detailed below:

Provide bold strategic leadership to sustain CGIDR now and into the future

Working collaboratively, the Director will define, refine, and execute a renewed vision for CGIDR that fulfills its most ambitious national and international aspirations. The Director will have the opportunity to solidify the position of CGIDR as a global leader in infectious disease research, bringing the expertise necessary for the Center's continued real-world impact. The Director will also have the opportunity to expand CGIDR's research portfolio to align with the clinical needs of the community.

Aligning with Seattle Children's and SCRI's broader strategic plan, the next Director will collaborate with key stakeholders to build regional and international partnerships, support mentorship and training programs, further cultivate innovative and entrepreneurial pursuits, and strengthen the Center's diverse research portfolio, which spans the full spectrum of basic, translational, and clinical discovery.

Enhance and support a robust and broad research portfolio throughout the Center

As the largest pediatric infectious disease research group in the country, the Center will look to the next Director to uphold a dual vision: leveraging the excellent clinical care at Seattle Children's to drive infectious disease research and enable an expansion of clinical trials that impact children in the region, while finding treatment and care solutions to infectious diseases that can pose risks to communities around the world, disproportionately impacting children and those in poverty. The Director will lead a diverse network of basic and translational researchers and establish pathways that advance the implementation of the research findings into clinical impact.

Recruit and mentor a talented and diverse body of researchers and staff

A crucial measure of the Director's success will be their ability to recruit, mentor, and support Center members, empowering them to deploy their talents, attain their professional goals, and advance scientific discovery. With the transition to two new buildings now complete, the Director will be tasked with maintaining cohesion and creating unity across the Center. The Director will inspire the next generation of clinician scholars and researchers at CGIDR, supporting them as they advance their careers, and will build formal mentorship pathways within the Center, emphasizing career development, identifying funding opportunities, and providing professional guidance. The Director will be intentional in advocating for faculty across all levels and will represent the entire Center to SCRI/SCH leadership, ensuring all members of CGIDR are supported and have access to resources.

Support and enhance an inclusive and diverse community culture

The Director will be committed to promoting anti-racism and equity within CGIDR, SCRI, and Seattle Children's. They will ensure that diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging are part of the Center's everyday work, driven by a vision that understands the importance of representation and fosters an equitable and inclusive culture and community. The Director must ensure that the Center attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and trainees, cultivating an environment of respect and inclusion for all. They will be expected to sustain a workplace that values and appreciates the talents and experiences of its employees and ensures that diverse perspectives are incorporated into daily work. The Director will partner with the Research Division Anti-Racism Committee as well as the SCRI Diversity Recruitment Ambassador when appropriate and will be expected to hold faculty and the Center accountable for exhibiting professionalism and equity in their work and in the workplace.

Maintain and grow partnerships and collaborations

Serving as the chief ambassador and spokesperson for the Center, the new Director will build and cultivate strategic partnerships and affiliations and work within the CGIDR and across the other SCRI centers to expand impact. Working closely with the other center directors and faculty, the Director will explore ways to enhance current relationships and identify additional mutually beneficial partnerships, facilitating further collaborations with local affiliates and organizations such as the University of Washington, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, The Gates Foundation, Institute for Systems Biology, as well globally with many other world-class organizations. CGIDR also provides the Director with a platform to develop increasingly strong ties to the philanthropic community of Seattle and beyond. They will pursue new philanthropic opportunities and partnerships to diversify funding streams to maintain the Center's impact.

As the Center grows its translational research presence, the Director will be charged with accelerating commercial and applied research initiatives with an entrepreneurial approach, developing industry partnerships for clinical trials and novel therapeutics. The Director will also seize the opportunity to build international partnerships to bring innovative treatments to the communities that need them, empowering local collaborators to lead these initiatives.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The successful candidate for this position will possess many of the qualifications and characteristics below:

Requirements

- MD or DO, combined MD/PhD, PhD, or equivalent degree in health-related fields; individuals who will be actively involved in patient care will have to be fully licensed and credentialed on the medical staff of Seattle Children's Hospital;

- Ten years prior experience in leading an extramurally funded research program;
- Academic record sufficient to merit appointment as an Associate Professor or, preferably, Professor at the University of Washington;

Preferred Qualifications and Characteristics

- Demonstrated excellence and productivity in scholarship established by scholarly activity, resulting in the development and dissemination of new knowledge or insight that has resulted in a seminal contribution in a field of research, using novel and creative investigational methods;
- An active, externally funded research program aligned with the mission of CGIDR;
- Familiar with state-of-the-art research methods and active participant in setting national/international agenda in their specific research discipline, as evidenced by membership in national committees, society boards, or the like;
- Involvement in the mentorship of faculty at all levels of experience;
- Demonstrated experience and success in faculty recruitment, support, and retention;
- Proven leadership abilities with experience supervising multiple direct reports ranging from trainees to senior scientists, with excellent interpersonal as well as written and verbal communication skills;
- Demonstrated ability to engage and inspire senior research faculty and a track record of building trust with established investigators;
- A strong commitment to innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, and education;
- Demonstrated engagement and effectiveness in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-racism initiatives;
- Vision and experience to promote communication and collaboration across and outside the organization, catalyze new ventures, and build consensus around strategic priorities for academic research, scholarship, education, and outreach;
- Evidence of ability to carry out a strategic vision for excellence in basic and translational research;
- Experience working with large or complex budgets or leadership training in this area;
- Experience with pursuing diverse revenue streams, including multiple funding sources and philanthropy;
- A track record of collaborating with clinicians to advance research from bench to bedside;
- A commitment to the mission of Seattle Children's: to provide hope, care, and cures to help every child live the healthiest and most fulfilling life possible.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

The base salary range for this position will be \$225,000-\$500,004 annually (\$18,750-\$41,667 monthly), commensurate with experience and qualifications, or as mandated by a U.S. Department of Labor prevailing wage determination. This range may be inclusive of the base salary provided through the

Children's University Medical Group (CUMG) practice plan, in addition to the base salary provided by the University. Please note that only compensation provided by the University is included in University benefit determinations and calculations. Compensation provided by the Children's University Medical Group (CUMG) practice plan may provide eligibility for separate benefits offered by that organization.

Other compensation associated with this position may include incentive through Children's University Medical Group practice plan. Additional administrative responsibilities may be offered to a specific candidate with appropriate experience and qualifications, which may result in an administrative supplement (ADS).

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/seattle-childrens-hospital-and-research-institute-center-global-infectious-disease>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Rebecca Kennedy, Partner
Courtney Wilk-Mandel, Partner
Ibaad Nazeer, Senior Associate
Cortnee Bollard, Managing Search Coordinator

All candidates must also submit their applications, including cover letter and diversity statement, through the UW portal linked below:

<https://apply.interfolio.com/189647>

Our community welcomes diverse experiences, backgrounds, and thoughts, as this is what drives our spirit of inquiry and allows us to better connect with our increasingly diverse patients and families. Our organization recruits, employs, trains, compensates, and promotes without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, gender (including pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, status as a protected veteran, status as an individual with a disability, or other applicable legally protected characteristics.

This document has been prepared based on the information provided by Seattle Children's Research Institute (SCRI). The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and information provided by SCRI would supersede any conflicting information in this document.