



Search for the Executive Vice President of Research Management
Cure Alzheimer's Fund
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

THE SEARCH

Cure Alzheimer's Fund (CureAlz), a nonprofit organization dedicated to funding research with the highest probability of preventing, slowing, or reversing Alzheimer's disease, seeks a curious, collaborative, and strategic Executive Vice President of Research Management (EVP). The EVP will possess the drive to find effective treatments for people living with Alzheimer's disease and the expertise and discernment to deploy CureAlz's funding portfolio to maximize its impact.

The vision for CureAlz was set by its founders. Frustrated with the slow pace of research on Alzheimer's, they applied their experience in venture capital and corporate startups to build an organization specifically designed to accelerate research, make bold bets, and eradicate the disease. Exceptional and passionate researchers turn to CureAlz to support their unconventional ideas that lead to new and remarkable contributions to understanding Alzheimer's. The organization's unwavering focus on finding a cure is made possible by its board of directors, trustees, and other key donors who finance overhead expenses so that 100 percent of all general donations are dedicated towards research, the only path to a cure.

Since its founding in 2004, CureAlz has distributed nearly \$220 million in funding, enabling and accelerating extraordinary research pursued by brilliant and determined scientists worldwide. From 2004 through 2023, 1,177 papers were authored thanks to CureAlz funding. In turn, these papers have been cited more than 97,000 times. From 2018 to 2021 alone, CureAlz's \$64 million in grants resulted in nearly \$500 million in follow-on funding from the National Institutes of Health. In 2023, the organization funded 114 projects led by 147 investigators in 11 countries for over \$27.8 million, a record for CureAlz.

The importance of the science CureAlz supports deserves an organization similarly dedicated to excellence and impact. Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the EVP leads a team of grant managers and an administrator and is responsible for keeping abreast of emerging topics in Alzheimer's disease and managing, budgeting, and communicating all aspects of the research funding process. This includes identifying research and researchers with strong potential for transformative ideas, guiding them through the letter of intent and application submission process, matching invited proposals with expert scientific reviewers, empowering external scientific decision-makers to optimize funding decisions, and tracking research progress and impact post-award. The EVP organizes and serves as the liaison with key scientific advisors and the CureAlz Research Leadership Group (RLG), as well as with other individuals and entities in the neurodegenerative disease space. The successful candidate will bring interest and education in

neurodegenerative diseases, along with requisite strategic leadership, organizational management, and relationship-building experience.

ABOUT CURE ALZHEIMER'S FUND

Research Funding

CureAlz was founded by three families – the McCances, the Morbys, and the Rappaports -- with the express purpose of funding research to accelerate the prevention, treatment, and cure for Alzheimer's. The fundamental principle of CureAlz's approach is to provide funding where other entities will not and prioritize returns measured in scientific progress, not potential profits.

CureAlz prioritizes basic Alzheimer's disease research over drug discovery. In 2023, 94 percent of awards were directed to early-stage discovery research. Much of this funding went to translational research projects and approximately 25 percent of all funded studies are on the immune response in Alzheimer's disease. CureAlz funds a healthy balance of renewing projects and entirely new or follow-on projects as part of its portfolio. It also directs approximately a quarter of its research spending to five active consortia, organized large-scale, collaborative initiatives with shared cross-institutional goals. Through the 900-plus grants it has awarded in its history, the organization has invested in nearly 300 researchers, 95 institutions, and seven consortia across 17 countries.

CureAlz grants cover a wide array of scientific topics, but there are notable research trends. For example, uncovering the roles that peripheral immune cells play in maintaining brain health or contributing to Alzheimer's disease is increasingly seen as a vitally important topic requiring diverse expertise, innovative thinking, and coordinated efforts. CureAlz continues to fund projects focused on the Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis of Alzheimer's disease. The failure of past clinical trials of anti-amyloid therapeutics challenged this hypothesis and led many industry participants to abandon amyloid as a target. However, data from across the CureAlz portfolio has consistently supported the centrality of amyloid. Benefits to patients seen in trials of recent anti-amyloid drugs are gratifying reinforcement of CureAlz's founding principles to follow the science. CureAlz is encouraged by the Federal Drug Administration's approval of the disease-modifying therapy Leqembi. Key insights leading to Leqembi and similar drugs can be traced back to a 2005 paper by CureAlz-affiliated scientists.

Approach

CureAlz:

- Funds high-risk, high-reward research with the potential to accelerate a cure or disease-modifying treatment.
- Requires funded researchers to collaborate and share data.
- Identifies and supports investigators who will contribute to the field's knowledge base with bold hypotheses and well-crafted experimental plans.

- Funds scientists quickly throughout the year by eliminating red tape and streamlining application requirements.
- Utilizes teams of leading scientists to guide scientific direction, review grant proposals, and assess the research portfolio.

CureAlz's Research Management team, which this EVP will oversee, ensures that the organization's portfolio of funded projects meets its mission goals, that external scientific leadership has the right information to make the best possible decisions, and--alongside colleagues in the Marketing and Development teams--that the donor community and the public are kept well informed of what CureAlz is supporting and why it matters. CureAlz performs its most rigorous project vetting at the letter-of-inquiry stage. To ensure that research outcomes benefit all, CureAlz does not fund research that will be proprietary, and it operates a rolling grant cycle, which allows the organization to fund scientists swiftly and efficiently. CureAlz funds projects for approximately \$200,000 each year for two years and supports about 125 projects per year.

CureAlz's Research Leadership Group is a critical partner to the Research Management team. In 2023, the RLG included 39 leading scientists specializing in Alzheimer's disease and related fields. These leaders are the primary decision-makers regarding the organization's overall direction and whether to support specific proposals and projects. The RLG refers investigators, conducts peer reviews on research proposals and reports, participates in quarterly meetings, and drives collaboration. In addition to the RLG, CureAlz's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) provides guidance on the overall scientific direction and funding impact. The members with broad experience bringing therapeutics to patients review the entire research portfolio to ensure that CureAlz supports investigations into the most critical issues in Alzheimer's disease and that its funding mechanisms accelerate the path to benefit for patients.

Organizational Details

CureAlz is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. The organization employs approximately 35 staff across the country, five of whom report to the EVP of Research Management. Reporting to the CEO are the EVP, Chief Financial Officer, and the EVPs of Development and Marketing & Communications. CureAlz is governed by a nine-member board of directors that meets four to five times a year. In 2024, CureAlz's revenue totaled \$35.5 million.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE EVP OF RESEARCH MANAGEMENT

In partnership with the CEO, Research Management team, Research Leadership Group, and others, the EVP will:

- Steward the strategic direction of the Research Management team to ensure that CureAlz continues to seed well-validated, cutting-edge research that will result in meaningful progress toward a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Push boundaries with delicacy and diplomacy.

- Stay current with the overall landscape of Alzheimer's disease-related research and treatment options, including basic, translational, and clinical trial results reported in meetings, scientific publications, and the popular press.
- Employ a high-level lens to identify patterns and connections in the research and inform the most effective funding approach. Thoroughly examine trends and persevere in following the science.
- Manage the award portfolio at all stages, from pre- through post-award activities.
- Guide CureAlz in proactively identifying new and promising funding opportunities while remaining nimble in response to unexpected or urgent funding requests.
- Ensure that the organization's return on investment is defined by creating and proliferating useful knowledge rather than producing profits.
- Serve as a subject-matter expert and compelling storyteller, effectively representing CureAlz externally with both scientific and lay audiences. Successfully communicate how and what CureAlz funds to both audiences. Embrace the role of representative of the funding portfolio while allowing researchers to be the experts.
- Attend and present at scholarly events, presentations, and other forums to inform CureAlz of evolving research and to shape its positive reputation within scholarly communities.
- Work closely with external scientists as applicants, reviewers, and direction-setters. Facilitate collaborations and connections among funded researchers. Provide exceptional customer service.
- Manage a seamless intake and decision-making process, support scientists in preparing strong proposals that are likely to be funded, and ensure that scientists maximize their time spent on research rather than grant writing.
- Organize quarterly virtual and one annual in-person scientific meeting with the RLG, where ultimate grantmaking authority resides. Convene the SAB for an annual review of the portfolio and activities.
- Partner closely with the CEO, Meg Smith, who previously held the EVP role and contributed significantly to its current strength.
- Coordinate the day-to-day activities of the Research Management team, including thoughtful staff management and judicious financial oversight.
- Cultivate a data-driven, results-oriented, and rigorous approach among staff while attending to their wellbeing, professional development, and ability to thrive. Grow the staff as appropriate.
- Support the Development and Marketing & Communications teams with appropriate scientific information to explain to the donor community and the general public why they should entrust CureAlz with their resources.
- Ensure that CureAlz's grants management approach and its technology are of the highest quality.

QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS

The EVP will bring many of the following qualifications, professional experiences, and personal attributes:

- An advanced degree (PhD) in a field related to neurodegenerative diseases required.
- Experience in academic or industry research required. Direct experience in drug discovery or translational/clinical research experience preferred.
- Familiarity with diverse methods and recent technological advances in neuroscience research. Interest in helicoptering up and stewarding field-wide impact rather than engaging in personal scientific research projects.
- Strong intellectual curiosity about disparate scientific areas, with an ability to think broadly and make connections across the scientific research landscape.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate complex information clearly and accessibly to scientific and lay audiences in both oral presentations and writing. Writing samples or recorded talks may be requested.
- Experience cultivating the development of a dedicated staff. Success in nurturing a healthy, dynamic, inclusive, and equitable work environment. Expertise in managing up, down, and sideways.
- Commitment to working as part of a team across CureAlz and external partners. Experience and comfort with remote work and building professional relationships at a distance.
- Experience managing budgets, particularly in a nonprofit context. Experience with grant writing and/or grants management preferred.
- Strong project and time management skills, with the ability to manage competing requests. Data-driven, with high standards for accuracy.
- An inquisitive and optimistic spirit, a grounded, realistic, and positive demeanor, success as an effective listener and authentic partner, and comfort with uncertainty.
- Compassion and empathy for those facing the impact of Alzheimer's.

EMPLOYMENT DETAILS

Salary range: \$225,000 - \$275,000. Final salary and title will be commensurate with experience.

Location: This role can be fully remote or hybrid. It does not require residence in Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, but residence in the Eastern or Central time zones is preferred.

Commitment: This role requires domestic and international travel on an occasional, planned basis, primarily to scientific conferences and home office meetings.

APPLICATIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

All inquiries, nominations, and applications (including CVs/resumes and letters of interest describing relevant experience relating to the opportunities, challenges, and qualifications outlined above) should be directed in strict confidence to the search team below. Applications will be reviewed as they are submitted.

Patricia Hastie and Tatiana Oberkoetter
Isaacson, Miller

Cure Alzheimer's Fund EVP of Research Management Search

Alzheimer's disease affects people from all backgrounds. CureAlz similarly encourages applications from people of all backgrounds and will evaluate each applicant without regard to race, ethnicity, country of origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information (including family medical history), physical ability, or length of time spent unemployed. As a U.S.-based foundation, we adhere to all U.S. employment legal requirements. We are unfortunately unable to sponsor immigration applications or work visas.