

DIRECTOR AT THE FUNDACIÓ HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARI VALL D'HEBRON – INSTITUT DE RECERCA(VHIR)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Fundació Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron – Institut de Recerca (VHIR) is a CERCA Research Institution supported by a Foundation. CERCA is the public Catalan network of research Institutes (www.cerca.cat).

VHIR is a public sector institution that promotes and develops biomedical research, innovation, and teaching at Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, the largest in Catalonia. Since 1994, VHIR has been working to identify and implement new solutions to society's health problems, achieving leadership and excellence in clinical and translational biomedical research in the national and international spheres.

VHIR is also part of the Accredited Health Research Institute Research Institute - Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (IR-HUVH). Awarded by the Carlos III Health Institute, this accreditation as an Accredited Health Research Institute is a recognition of the excellence of the institution's scientific results and management.

Through international leadership and excellence in its research, VHIR improves people's health and quality of life, with a vision that research of Vall d'Hebron wants to transform: creating an impact on both health and quality of life of patients and society, generating social and economic wealth in a responsible and sustainable way, and becoming a global benchmark for new health ecosystems.

VHIR has more than 1,800 employees, of whom more than 1,100 are researchers, that perform basic, translational and clinical research.

The VHIR Scientific Structure, the eCORES (from the Catalan “espais col·laboratius de Recerca”) has been defined according to VHIR and the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital Strategic Plans and it is aligned with both the National and European health research landscape. They focus on major health challenges and main technological enablers that are aimed to facilitate the achievement of health challenge objectives. The VHIR's eCORES are:

- Chronic, Prevalent Diseases & Aging.
- Global Health
- Woman & Child Health & Rare Diseases.
- Brain & Mind and Behaviour.
- Cancer
- Personalised Medicine, Innovative Diagnostics, Molecular Imaging & Digital Health.
- Advanced Therapies and Advanced Interventions, Nanomedicine, Transplant & Donation.

VHIR's Strategic Objectives are:

1. Promote and develop the research strategy of both the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital and the Trustees.
2. Promote the research of Vall d'Hebron and its knowledge transfer to make an impact in health improvement and the generation of wellbeing in our society.
3. Consolidate the prestige of Vall d'Hebron research and its professionals by defining a scientific strategy focused on key and cutting-edge fields.
4. Drive patient inclusion and its active participation as well as patient empowerment in research.
5. Expand the spectrum of public-private alliances and collaborations, keep the existing ones (specially IRISCAT and EUHA) to strengthen the strategic status of Vall d'Hebron research.
6. Continue being a relevant agent for the improvement and strengthening of the Vall d'Hebron brand.
7. Define and implement a digital and technological transformation.
8. Move towards a model of a modern public management oriented towards excellence: agile, based on evidence and focused on continuous improvement.
9. Become an Academic Institution recognised by the excellence of our training offer.
10. Establish relationships and provide common tools and environments for the promotion of clinical research in Vall d'Hebron, together with Primary Care.
11. Promote new strategic structures at physical, technical and technological levels that allow us to maintain our leadership, in close collaboration with Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, VHIO, UAB and Cemcat (Campus Vall d'Hebron).
12. Promote actions to keep and recruit talent, both from our own and the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, taking into account gender equity especially in leadership positions.

Candidate profile

VHIR is seeking applicants with a proven-track record in leadership, a distinguished record of scientific excellence and the innovative thinking necessary to lead a dynamic organisation. The elected candidate must meet the challenge of increasing the scientific level of the VHIR and boosting the institute's translational research being carried out.

The VHIR is an equal opportunities employer and female candidates are strongly encouraged to send their applications.

Applicants' profile:

1. PhD or comparable degree in Life Sciences and Health.
2. Distinguished record of scientific excellence in Biomedicine.
3. Research management experience and demonstrated innovative thinking to lead a dynamic organization.
4. Knowledge of strategic planning, resource allocation and human resources management.
5. Experience in managing international research projects. Knowledge of international research programs (H2020, NIH, etc.) will be valued.
6. A high level of clinical background
7. Knowledge of the Spanish and Catalan Scientific, Health and University systems.
8. Professional experience in an inter-institutional environment will be valued.

9. Positive evaluation in programs of professional excellence in the field of research (ICREA, etc.) will be considered an added value.
10. The candidate's role as a principal investigator of projects funded in competitive calls will be considered an added value.
11. The elected candidate will commit to incorporate his/her line and research activity, as well as his/her resources available for its execution, at VHIR.
12. Ability to develop and carry out innovation and transfer projects in the field of biomedicine (Responsible Research Innovation (RRI)).
13. Advanced level of proficiency in English and Catalan or Spanish

Job description:

The director will have the following duties:

- Manage, organize and lead the research and innovation activities at VHIR aligned with the strategic plan of Hospital Vall d'Hebron
- Provide scientific vision and strategic goals for VHIR aligned with the strategic plan of Hospital Vall d'Hebron
- Submit the research activities program and annual operational budget to the members of the Board of Trustees.
- Guarantee financial sustainability and provide for sources of income (competitive funds, private sponsors, ...)
- Supervising the economic activities and control the human resources management, with direct involvement in those issues related to selection or adscription of research positions.
- Represent the Institute at official and social events, in coordination with the President and other members of the Board of Trustees.
- Any other functions that might be approved by the Board of Trustees

Director responsibilities:

- Defining a strategic plan and monitoring its implementation. Reporting at meetings of the Board of trustees.
- Keep CERCA and Generalitat de Catalunya regularly informed of the Institute's progress
- Participating in the periodic CERCA evaluation of VHIR and re-accreditation from de Instituto de Salud Carlos III
- Leading and managing the innovation, generated technology and knowledge transfer strategy and activities related thereof; according to the strategic plan of the Hospital.

- Coordinating periodic scientific assessments of VHIR's research programmes and core facilities, and implementing recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).
- Promote and support, with direct involvement, the development of the VHIR's main strategic research lines.
- Leading a strategy for the Internal Scientific Committee and ensure their regular meetings
- Leading the elaboration and timely delivery of the VHIR Annual Scientific Report.
- Promoting research in the VHIR area of influence (hospitals and university), motivating and facilitating those professionals the possibility to initiate their research.
- Negotiating contracts for new group leaders or programme coordinators, whenever appropriate.
- Participating in strategic decision-making, such as in the case of strategic alliances with other research institutions, in line with VHIR's mission, structure and background.
- Keeping permanent contact with the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, in order to make agreements to coordinate strategies, activities, research infrastructures and technical services
- Communicating and disseminate the VHIR research activities.
- Managing the VHIR research infrastructures.
- Defining strategies and actively seek for increasing the financial capabilities and sources of income of VHIR.
- Participating in the Strategic Commission of Campus Vall d'Hebron and the Commission HUVH-VHIR

Labour conditions

The Director will have a full time senior management contract, having the consideration of a senior position of the Generalitat de Catalunya in terms of transparency, incompatibilities and salary rates according to the regulations of the Public Sector of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and competences. Concrete conditions will be negotiated during the selection process.

Moreover, incorporation in a short term period to VHIR, after the selection process, will be also considered an added value.

Contact information

Applicants should send a CV and a cover letter by e-mail to the Director of CERCA at applications@cerca.cat. Preselected candidates will be asked to prepare and present an Action Plan related to VHIR's Strategic Plan.

Selection of candidates

Suitable candidates will be identified in a ranked list by members of the SAB, drawing upon the input of any other expert that the SAB might require.

The Board of trustees will be responsible for the final steps of the selection process. The Board of trustees may create an ad hoc Commission involving some of its members in order to provide a short list of the pre-selected candidates. Candidates included in the short list may be invited to visit the VHIR and meet the ad hoc Commission for a final interview. The results of these interviews would be presented to the Board of trustees. This will designate the new Director.

The appointment will be for a period of 4 years, which could be extended in agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

Tentative Calendar

September 29 th	Call for applications opens deadline
October 31 st	Application deadline ends
November 18 th	List of prioritized candidates by SAB
November 25 th	Short list of pre-selected candidates chosen by the ad hoc Commission
December 1 st	The Board of Trustees appoints the new Director