



Frontier Science (Scotland) Ltd
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

POSITION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction

Frontier Science (Scotland) Ltd (FSS) is a not-for-profit organisation, based in the Highlands of Scotland, providing data management, project management and statistical design, analysis and reporting for clinical trials. FSS works with small physician-led medical teams in hospitals, research groups in university departments and with internationally-renowned pharmaceutical companies.

The opportunity we are offering provides not only the prospect of living in a unique area with access to all kinds of outdoor activities, but also the opportunity to lead a respected not-for-profit organisation which offers services in support of both industry and academia sponsored clinical trials. Our collaborative projects include proof-of-concept studies, screening studies, Phase II and large multi-national Phase III trials, across several disease areas including pain, pulmonary disease, and cancer, particularly breast cancer. We model our environment on an academic setting, but have little of the bureaucracy associated with large organisations. Our preferred working model is collaborative with other partners, and we offer independence and flexibility in our approach to trials.

FSS is an Affiliate of Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation Inc (FSTRF), a not-for-profit Foundation with three offices in the United States (Boston, MA; Amherst, NY and Madison, WI). There is a second Affiliate office in Athens, Greece. All Frontier offices are involved in clinical trials. The FSTRF Board of Directors appoints members to the Boards of both Affiliates and also approves the legal documents which govern the Affiliate offices.

History and Current Status of FSS

FSS was incorporated on 5 July 2001 (Company registration number SC220936) and commenced trading on 1 May 2002. The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The company is recognised by HMRC as a charity (Charity registration number SC033112). The annual revenue for the last financial year was £1.75million and the primary outlays are for staff salaries.

FSS was established by Eleanor McFadden, the current Managing Director. Eleanor worked for FSTRF for 23 years and returned to Scotland to set up FSS. In its 20-year history, FSS has grown to the current 38 staff members (plus 3 contractors) and has partnered with pharma and other organisations in several large trials. Our primary experience is with industry trials, but we have also worked with academic partners on various aspects of trial delivery. Our first major project was collaborating with the Breast International Group (BIG) and ROCHE on the HERA trial, a trial of Herceptin versus placebo in women with HER2 positive early breast cancer. This trial changed clinical practice in the treatment of this patient population. FSS was responsible for the statistical analysis and also collaborated with another BIG partner in the data management for the study. We have recently completed the primary analysis for OlympiA, another international breast cancer trial in partnership with BIG, NRG Oncology (representing the US NCI cooperative groups), NCI and AstraZeneca. The results of the analysis were recently presented in an ASCO plenary session, and published in the New England Journal of Medicine. In this trial, FSS, working with FSTRF, provided leadership in project management, data management and statistical support for a trial with a complex study governance and conduct structure.

Objectives

The FSS objectives (as stated in the Articles of Association) are:

- i. to advance the education of the public in the field of clinical trials methodology by developing effective tools for the management of clinical trials, and by promoting educational opportunities to advance the range of human knowledge in the field of clinical trials, for the benefit of the public; and
- ii. to advance the education of the public in the field of statistical science by providing independent statistical methodologies which will be used to validate clinical trials on, or for the benefit of, humans and for other purposes for the public benefit, and, by promoting, developing and supporting research and educational opportunities, to advance the range of human knowledge in the field of statistical science, for the benefit of the public.

To meet these objectives, FSS maintains active involvement in the management of clinical trials, and contributes to the field both with extensive participation in the preparation of peer-reviewed articles in prestigious medical or statistical journals, and with the advancement of education both of its own staff and others in the field of clinical trials. Details of staff publications can be found at www.frontierscience.co.uk. Staff at FSS also contribute by serving as volunteers on national panels related to clinical trials such as Trial Steering Committees, funding review panels and Independent Data Monitoring Committees.

Overview of Position

The Executive Director will be appointed by the FSS Board of Trustees/ Directors (see www.frontierscience.co.uk for details) and will be the operational head of the organisation with overall responsibility for all activities and for managing the organisation's budget. The existing Senior Management Team represent skills in Biostatistics, Data Management, Quality Assurance, Project Management and Business Support (including finance). This team works closely together and will support the Executive Director in aspects of their job. The Executive Director will have overall decision making responsibility and will report to the FSS Board. The current Managing Director will continue to be available for a few hours a month or as needed to provide any guidance/ support requested, at least for the first year. The successful candidate will be required to work on-site for the majority of their time.

It is expected that the successful candidate will have expertise in a particular aspect of clinical trials and will continue to have professional involvement in their field. FSS is looking for an individual who can shape the future of the organisation and establish a steady future workflow through external connections. There is scope for continuing with existing external commitments and for transferring projects to FSS.

FSS has collaborated with FSTRF US to some degree on almost all of its projects and has also worked with the office in Athens, Frontier Science Foundation - Hellas (FSF-H) and there are ongoing efforts to strengthen and build on this relationship. It is expected that the Executive Director will therefore work closely with the other Frontier organisations to continue this activity.

Prior Experience

The ideal candidate should have a university degree and have several years of experience at a senior level in a field related to clinical trials. Experience in competing for project funding and managing trial budgets is an important aspect of this position. As would be expected for someone at this level, experience with personnel management and good communication skills are essential. Experience with contract negotiation is also desirable. As much of the work done in FSS is related to industry trials, some knowledge of the pharma/device industry would be an advantage.

Other

FSS is registered with the Home Office as a Sponsor for applicants coming from outside the United Kingdom, providing they meet relevant criteria. We therefore invite qualified UK and international candidates to apply.

Our office is situated in unique premises in the Scottish Highland village of Kincaig, 6 miles south of Aviemore. FSS offers 28 days paid holiday plus 8 statutory public holidays per year and offers great benefits in terms of remuneration, flexible working hours, non-contributory pension, life insurance and tuition reimbursement. More details will be available at interview stage.

The position will involve national and international travel.

Starting salary for this position is competitive based on relevant prior experience. The position is probationary for 6 months. The start date is negotiable and we would like to appoint by the third or fourth quarter of 2021. There is no fixed closing date but we encourage you to express interest as soon as possible. FSS will fill the position when they have identified a suitable candidate.

Applicants should submit their current CV and a covering letter. If you are interested in the position, we encourage you to contact the Managing Director for more details. To set an appointment for an informal discussion, please contact recruitment@frontier-science.co.uk.