

Director Wales Cancer Research Centre

EOI issued on 28th June 2021

Call for Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are sought from individuals keen to lead the on-going excellence in cancer research in Wales by taking a senior leadership role within the Wales Cancer Research Centre (WCRC), as Director.

In summary the appointed director is to:

- Provide outstanding leadership to motivate the WCRC team, associated partners and extensive stakeholders to deliver the WCRC vision and mission.
- Ensure WCRC targets and objectives are met.
- Lead the WCRC involvement in an all Wales research agenda, through the completion and delivery of the Wales Cancer Research Strategy that attracts, develops, and motivates new investment and a thriving research ecosystem.
- Lead through a collaborative and outwardly looking approach that drives alignment of all stakeholders across multiple sectors to evolve an international cancer research agenda in Wales of excellence with patients upfront and central to that agenda.

The appointee will lead the WCRC in its second quinquennium of Welsh Government funding (until March 2025). Together with the current Associate Directors, they will contribute to a strong Strategic Leadership Team for WCRC.

A role description and summary of characteristics of likely appointees are attached.

Expressions of interest should comprise a CV and a supporting statement (no more than 700 words) demonstrating your understanding of the breadth and depth of Cancer Research activity in Wales and how you feel you could make an exceptional contribution to the future success of cancer research in Wales as Director of WCRC.

Informal enquiries, prior to expressing an interest, may be directed to:

- Chair of the appointment panel – Prof Rachel J Errington. Director, Division of Cancer and Genetics, Cardiff University School of Medicine [erringtonrj@cardiff.ac.uk]
- Interim WCRC Director – Dr Sunil Dolwani, Cardiff University [dolwanis@cardiff.ac.uk]
- Funder of the WCRC - Health and Care Research Wales, Welsh Government. Director, Prof Kieran Walshe [Kieran.Walshe@gov.wales]

Formal applications, as outlined above, should be sent to a confidential email address [wCRC-recruitment@cardiff.ac.uk], no later than 4pm on **16th July, 2021**. Interviews will be conducted week commencing **9th August, 2021** with a view to getting the most appropriate individual in post as soon as possible thereafter.

Director of the Wales Cancer Research Centre

Role Description

Background

Founded in 2015, the Wales Cancer Research Centre (WCRC) is funded by the Welsh Government and is a key part of Health and Care Research Wales' infrastructure.

We develop, undertake and support cancer research of the highest quality, which builds on Wales' international research reputation, with a clear focus on collaboration, innovation and improved patient outcomes.

Our vision is to work with cancer patients and other partners to develop and deliver research excellence which benefits the health and welfare of people in Wales and beyond.

In its first 5 years, WCRC has had significant successes, across a broad range of activities, including: substantial external grant income won by WCRC researchers and collaborators; a high number of influential international publications advancing the cancer research field; improved research use of patients' bio-banked tumour samples; improved access for patients in Wales to latest treatments through early phase trials; innovative studies in palliative and supportive care, social care for cancer patients, cancer prevention and earlier detection; nationally acclaimed approaches in patient/public involvement and engagement.

Since 2018, WCRC has been involved in the development of a Cancer Research Strategy for Wales (CRest). A working group was recently convened by Health and Care Research Wales and an external review completed to establish a greater understanding of the core research strengths in Wales that can underpin and deliver a strategy which will garner the full support of key stakeholder organisations. As this work progresses, WCRC will continue to take a central leadership role in both the development and delivery of the strategy.

The current WCRC Director is stepping away from the role after many years and we are looking to appoint a new Director to lead the WCRC and ensure its continued future success.

See:

<https://www.walescancerresearchcentre.org/wcrc/>

A WCRC information pack is available at:

<https://www.walescancerresearchcentre.org/candidate-information/>

Role description for the Director of WCRC

The WCRC Director is responsible and accountable to Health and Care Research Wales for the overall stewardship and allocation of the WCRC grant award. They will work closely with the Associate Directors, each of which has delegated authority for a sub-set of important strategic leadership, governance duties and responsibilities. It is anticipated that this post will comprise a 0.4 FTE role, on appointment appropriate contractual arrangements will be agreed with the successful candidate.

Leadership and strategic oversight of cancer research in Wales

- Leading the WCRC and the Centre's Strategic Leadership Group.
- Taking responsibility for the strategic vision of the WCRC and for the delivery of an effective, evolving, sustainable and integrated cancer research collaboration that makes a positive impact on cancer patients and their outcomes.
- Leading WCRC involvement in the development and implementation of the cancer research strategy for Wales. Ensuring alignment between the strategy and the WCRC.
- Interacting closely with HCRW to influence and implement Welsh Government's cancer research and development strategy.

Coordination and effective contract management of WCRC

- Providing leadership and oversight of WCRC's research programmes, in collaboration with the Associate Directors, Work Streams Leads, Operations Director, External Advisory Board and patient/public representatives.
- Overseeing the completion of all contract management award requirements, including monitoring and reporting, academic and financial performance against the Centre's strategic aims and key performance indicators.
- Ensuring that the various activities of the Centre are co-ordinated, so that WCRC is greater than the sum of its parts.
- Meeting and reporting to the HCRW Board, chairing meetings within WCRC and with external partners.

Engagement and collaboration

- Promoting the sustained success of WCRC through
 - liaison with key partners, including other components of HCRW infrastructure, collaborating NHS and academic institutions, commercial organisations, third sector bodies, patient/public representatives and the Wales Cancer Partnership.
 - ensuring that public and patient involvement is firmly embedded in all the activities of the Centre.
 - encouraging engagement of all WCRC researchers and staff with fellow professionals and with the public, including students at secondary schools and in Higher Education Institutions.

- acting as an ambassador for WCRC, promoting the Centre's strategic vision and objectives at conferences and meetings, in presentations and through the media, in Wales and beyond.

Key characteristics of successful candidate

The appointment panel seeks a confident, dynamic and engaging individual with excellent communication skills and presence to provide highly effective and inspiring leadership. There is no requirement for a candidate to currently hold a formal role/position within the WCRC. Nevertheless, the successful role-holder will need to be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the different strands of cancer research across the spectrum of activity within WCRC and its positioning in the context of international cancer research. The individual must be driven by the need to evolve and improve the wider cancer research environment in Wales.

Criteria include:

- An established, senior cancer researcher.
- A strong track record of academic success in the NHS and or in higher education institutions.
 - This may be in any area of cancer research - laboratory or clinical research, cancer biology, prevention, diagnosis or treatment.
- Proven ability as a team player and collaborative leader.
- Evidence of vision and previous strategic leadership.
- Demonstrable leadership skills and ethos – previous senior leadership experience is desirable, but not essential.
- Proven communication and networking skills, evidence of successful relationship building, initiative, and excellent project management abilities.
- An understanding with evidence of the importance of the clinical impact of health research.
- Clear evidence of commitment to nurture and support the development of the next generation of cancer research leaders.

In addition, we seek someone with:

- A willingness to put the collective interests of WCRC's team and its programme of activities ahead of personal considerations.
- An approach and attitude to invest effort in ensuring that WCRC is greater than the sum of its parts, and willingness to 'go the extra mile', when necessary.