Versus Arthritis

Job description

Job title: Researcher

Reports to: Head of Health Intelligence

Department: UK Advocacy and Health Intelligence

Directorate: Chief Executive Office

Our vision

A future free from arthritis.

Our mission

We won’t rest until everyone with arthritis has access to the treatments and support they need to live the life they choose with real hope of a cure in the future.

To deliver our mission we invest in world class research, deliver high quality services and campaign on the issues that matter most to people with arthritis. We have developed an ambitious five-year strategy, complimented by our research strategy to help us achieve our vision and mission.

**Our values**

We are United, Compassionate, Inclusive and Brave in all that we do.

**The Chief Executive’s Office (CEO)**

The Chief Executive’s Office supports the work of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in leading the charity efficiently and effectively, as well as working with trustees, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), staff and volunteers from across the charity.  The Chief Executive’s Office is also home to our UK Advocacy and Health Intelligence department who are responsible for leading UK strategy development and delivery across advocacy (policy, public affairs, campaigning) and health intelligence, working closely with colleagues in the Devolved Nations to ensure effective delivery of the strategy in each nation.

Job purpose

To provide expertise on the latest research evidence on topics of strategic importance, providing a responsive but robust and balanced assessment of the available evidence to shape the charity’s UK advocacy agenda, and drive organisational priorities.

Main duties

* To deliver timely, robust and succinct briefings (primarily for internal audiences) using pragmatic approaches which rapidly review, summarise and evaluate the current research landscape on key topics as relevant to people with arthritis.
* To work closely with the UK Advocacy and Health Intelligence Department to ensure the UK influencing strategy is well-informed by the latest research; and additionally supporting wider cross-organisation priorities (for example, developing a strong evidence base for an organisational approach to health inequalities).
* To provide the senior leadership team of the charity with responsive critical evaluation and guidance on availability and interpretation of evidence, ensuring work is well framed to guide decision-making
* To maintain a proactive view of the research literature as relevant to people with arthritis, identifying emerging areas where evaluation of evidence is needed to ensure the charity’s influencing approach is informed by and responsive to the latest research developments.
* To lead on the development of external publications from the Health Intelligence team, such as the State of MSK (Musculoskeletal) Health Report, ensuring outputs provide a robust and comprehensive representation of the best available data and evidence on the experiences of people with arthritis.
* To ensure effective internal communication of the research landscape; supporting consistent understanding across the charity around key topics.
* To build cross-organisation relationships and develop collaborative ways of working to support decision-making and activities across the charity that is well-informed by an understanding of the existing research and best evidence.
* To embrace, embed and deliver the organisational values, commitments, and culture throughout all activity.
* To ensure all designated training is completed and all activity is delivered in line with organisational policy and practice.
* To embrace a safeguarding culture where everyone has responsibility for the safeguarding and wellbeing of vulnerable adults and children.
* To undertake any other duties as appropriate to the role and organisational requirements.

Key stakeholders and relationships (internal/external)

* UK Advocacy and Health intelligence department colleagues
* CEO and Senior Leadership Team
* Research and Services Directorates
* Marketing and Communications teams
* Academic researchers and expert advisors
* Health and care professional expert advisors

End of job description. Person specification on following page.

Versus Arthritis

Person specification

Experience and knowledge

* In-depth knowledge and experience in working in health-related, biomedical or medical research.
* Experience in the synthesis and evaluation of research evidence across a range of sources (including grey literature), including in the design and delivery of rapid reviews.
* Experience in communicating clearly and succinctly to non-technical and non-expert audiences, through both written formats (eg briefing papers) and verbally (eg via presentations and meetings with senior stakeholders), *with a robust approach to accessibility throughout communication*.

Qualifications and professional memberships

Educated to PhD level and/or can consistently demonstrate PhD level skills in framing research questions and the ability to evaluate research across a range of methodologies and topic areas in a health-related, biomedical or medical field.

Skills

* Excellent interpersonal skills with the ability to work collaboratively and flexibly within and across teams; including providing advice and technical expertise to those in more senior leadership roles.
* Ability to work independently, prioritise effectively and successfully lead rapid-turnaround projects delivering to short deadlines
* Excellent attention to detail, consistently producing accurate and robust work without substantial oversight.
* Ability to think strategically; solving complex problems and making decisions based on the structured analysis of the problem, the identification and critical evaluation of multiple relevant sources of evidence and assessment of competing priorities to achieve a goal.
* The ability to shape and design a research question that will deliver actionable intelligence to shape decision making.

Desirable experience, knowledge and skills

* Experience of using research insights to influence senior leaders
* Experience in the evaluation of research evidence across the charity’s strategically important areas of prevention, diagnosis, treatment and living well with arthritis (as outlined in the organisation’s strategy).
* In-depth knowledge and experience in working in MSK, arthritis or a closely related research field.

Criminal Record Check

Versus Arthritis is committed to keeping children, young people and vulnerable adults safe from harm. We will undertake safer recruitment practices and relevant checks applicable for the role.

This role DOES NOT require a Criminal Record check.