Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance
Silver Spring, Maryland

Director of Preclinical Research

The Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance (TS Alliance) is dedicated to finding a cure for tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) while improving the lives of those affected. The TS Alliance is uniquely qualified to rally the financial resources, the research, the partnerships, and the sheer will of TSC-affected families and individuals to break the back of this "linchpin" disease. With an annual budget in 2018 of $6.16 million, we focus our resources on research as well as information and advocacy to individuals and families living with TSC.

In 2018, the TS Alliance is marshalling the resources to champion the next scientific breakthroughs for treatment and preventative therapies for TSC and to provide community services that improve the quality of life for those affected by TSC in the United States and around the globe. Specifically, the organization works to:

- Accelerate scientific advancements by funding research; driving the growth of tools and consortiums that support basic, translational and clinical research; and advocating for federal or state research funding by partnering with government, industry sponsors and other patient organizations.
- Identify more individuals impacted by TSC and engage them through improved clinical and support services.
- Broaden and strengthen the base of financial support for TSC research, TS Alliance and TS Alliance Endowment Fund from private and public sources and by empowering our grassroots community.
- Facilitate more interaction among the national and international TSC community to drive peer to peer support
- Increase diversity of Board membership and enhance staff skill sets to ensure execution of the strategic plan and to maintain recognition of TSC as a linchpin disorder.

Reporting to the Chief Scientific Officer (CSO), the primary role of the Director of Preclinical Research (DPR) is to direct the collaborative TS Alliance-driven TSC Preclinical Consortium to rigorously evaluate new candidate therapeutics using preclinical model systems relevant to TSC. Success of the TSC Preclinical Consortium will be measured by the initiation of clinical trials enabled by data generated by this preclinical program, the strength and productivity of relationships with industry and academic partners, and by the ability to leverage external resources to advance projects. The DPR role is a hands-on position which includes project management, critically evaluating *in vivo* and *in vitro* experimental protocols and data, writing funding proposals to potential sponsors, and building relationships with academic and industry researchers, NIH, and other stakeholders. This position is critical to the success of the TS Alliance Research Business Plan which will be implemented from 2019-2023. As a member of the Science Department, the DPR will be involved in strategic planning and implementation of other scientific initiatives of the TS Alliance.

This position is full-time and will be based in the TS Alliance office in Silver Spring, Maryland. In special circumstances, working from another location may be considered if the ideal candidate cannot relocate to the metropolitan DC area. Occasional travel will be required to participate in relevant TS Alliance meetings, TSC Preclinical Consortium or other business meetings, and scientific conferences.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND INTERFACES

Reports to:	Chief Scientific Officer
Primary Interfaces (internal):	CSO, Science Project Coordinator, Director of Clinical Projects and TSC Clinic Liaison, Manager of Research and Global Affairs, CEO, Controller and CFO, Staff Accountant
Primary Interfaces (external):	Academic and industry researchers and business development offices, contract research organizations, NIH staff, International Scientific Advisory Board, Science and Medical Committee of the Board of Directors, individuals with TSC and their families/caregivers

RESPONSIBILITIES

Manage work of the TSC Preclinical Consortium to rigorously evaluate new candidate therapeutics in preclinical model systems relevant to TSC, involving:

- Ensuring preclinical research protocols meet standards for scientific rigor
- Interpretation and evaluation of experimental data and coordination of work by external contractors
- Project management functions such as budgeting, preparing contracts, tracking and reporting on results, meeting scheduling and follow-up
- Centrally storing and distributing data, documentation, and protocols
- Driving the design of members' meetings or workshops necessary for the success of the project

Grow the capacity and impact of the Preclinical Consortium through, for example:

- Increasing the diversity and clinical relevance of models used by the consortium for testing candidate drugs for treating distinct TSC-related manifestations, including robust, reproducible and translatable models relevant to autism and behavior, components of TSC-associated neuropsychiatric disorders (TAND)
- Utilizing translational resources available through NIH for chemistry, formulation, pharmacokinetics and toxicology of early-stage compounds
- Stimulate development and validation of TSC-relevant *in vitro* assays for prioritizing compounds for *in vivo* testing
- With input from consortium members, design and implement a standardized panel of assays for pharmacokinetic properties, target selectivity, potential confounding effects—such as sedation or altered appetite—and biomarkers
- Build relationships with academic and industry researchers, NIH, and other stakeholders to facilitate collaborative interactions, sharing of ideas, and implementation of best practices relevant to preclinical research on TSC
- Cultivate new industry partners and members

Summarize and share results in oral and written formats as appropriate with consortium members, the broader scientific community, research sponsors, donors, and the TSC community.

In partnership with the CSO, Director of Clinical Projects, and Science Project Coordinator, encourage and enable preclinical use of human samples from the TSC Biosample Repository. This may include increasing awareness of biosamples among researchers, evaluating proposed projects using biosamples, scheduling webinars or meetings, and other duties as assigned.

CORE VALUES

Build Value-Based Relationships: Generating alliances internally and externally by continuously identifying and acting on those things that will create success for the organization and its constituents, researchers, health care professionals and communities.

Contribute to Team Success: Actively participating as a committed member of a team and working with other team members to help complete goals and deliverables.

Customer Focus: Making customers (external and internal) and their needs a primary focus of one's actions; developing and sustaining productive relationships; creating and executing plans and solutions in collaboration with team members internally and externally.

Provide Feedback: Objectively observing, analyzing, and sharing perception of other people's performance to help reinforce or redirect behavior to improve performance and results and providing feedback that is timely, specific, behavioral, balanced, and constructive.

Work Standards: Setting high standards of performance for self; assuming responsibility and accountability for successfully completing assignments or tasks; self-imposing standards of excellence rather than having standards imposed.

Consult: Providing timely, specific information, guidance, and recommendations to help volunteers, Community Alliances, and fellow staff members make informed committed decisions that will lead to sustainable impact.

Establish Collaborative Working Relationships: Developing and using collaborative relationships to accomplish work objectives; developing relationships with other individuals by listening, sharing ideas, and appreciating others' efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS

- PhD degree in a relevant field and 10 years postdoctoral experience required. Relevant fields include pharmacology, neuroscience, cancer or cell biology, immunology, or similar areas of biology.
- Experience designing and critically evaluating protocols for—and data resulting from—testing of candidate molecules for efficacy in animal models of human disorders. Experience with protocols having neurocognitive and neurological endpoints is strongly preferred.
- Demonstrated project management success with experience including contracting, budgeting, coordinating work by external contractors, and providing project progress reports to team members and management.

- A demonstrated team-based approach to research that facilitates collaboration and trust.
- Strong verbal and written skills with the ability to communicate complex scientific concepts and results at various levels, both to professional peers and to non-scientific constituents.
- The preferred candidate will have successfully written proposals for research funding to the NIH, non-governmental organizations, and/or the pharma and biotech industry.