

Position Description

Program Director, Patient -partnered Research



Position Title:	Program Director, Patient -partnered Research		
Reports To:	Direct	VCCC Alliance Executive Director	
	Indirect		
Direct Reports:	Health Data Lead Genomics Lead		
Position Type:	Part time FTE 0.5 to 0.8 Maximum Term – 3 months (negotiable)	Location:	305 Grattan Street, Melbourne (and working from home as agreed or as required during the COVID-19 pandemic)
Key Relationships:	Internal	CMI-ANZ Program Team VCCC Alliance Executive Director VCCC Alliance Corporate Services Team VCCC Alliance Research Team	
	Member Stakeholders	VCCC Alliance CRAC, CCAC and CETAC members	
	External	CMI-ANZ Joint Steering Committee CMI-ANZ National Advisory Committees CMI North America Program Team Funding Bodies CMI-ANZ sub-contractors, including data collaborators, pathology collaborators, genomics service providers Patient Advocacy Groups	


POSITION CONTEXT

The VCCC Alliance is implementing a patient-partnered cancer research program across Australia and New Zealand (ANZ). The program will be modelled on, and strongly aligned with, Count Me In (CMI), an existing North American patient-partnered cancer research project led from the Broad Institute (<https://www.broadinstitute.org/count-me-in>).

Working directly with patients, CMI-ANZ will bring together existing clinical data and tumour specimens, collect patient-reported data and additional biospecimens, and generate genomic data from participants. Data will be de-identified, pooled internationally, and made freely available to the international cancer research community for discovery research. Initially, the program will first operate in Australia, with the intention of then implementing the program next in New Zealand.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Program Director, Patient-partnered Research (Program Director) is responsible for leading the development of the strategic priorities and funding options for CMI-ANZ. Working closely with the CMI-ANZ Joint Steering Committee, the Program Director will work with key stakeholders to further advance and refine the selection of cancers of *unmet need* for commencement of the program. This will involve managing relationships with a broad range of stakeholders,



including consumers, research collaborators, funders, sub-contractors and patient advocacy groups across a range of disciplines including already established CMI-ANZ national advisory committees.

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Vision

The vision for the VCCC Alliance is to save lives through the integration of consumer-engaged cancer research, education and patient care.

Founded in the holistic principles of the internationally-recognised Comprehensive Cancer Centre model, the VCCC Alliance brings together 10 of Victoria's leading research, academic, and clinical institutions to achieve what can only be done through state-wide collaboration. Together we will improve outcomes in cancer in metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria, and forge new approaches to cancer research, education, and patient care for all.

Operating Environment

The VCCC Alliance's multi-site, multi-disciplinary model brings together the complementary strengths of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne Health (including The Royal Melbourne Hospital), the University of Melbourne, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, The Royal Women's Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital, Western Health, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (including St Vincent's Institute), Austin Health (including the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute and Austin Lifesciences) and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The VCCC Alliance has a 3.5-year agreement to June 2024 with the Department of Health to develop and implement new and innovative cancer research and treatment programs under an agreed Strategic Program Plan.

Our Team

We are a tight-knit team of staff who form the backbone of the VCCC Alliance, working to facilitate the power of collective impact across the alliance and beyond.

Collective impact underpins 'how' we work and how we enable not only the work of the alliance, but how we positively influence the culture of our shared working experience with member organisations. Collective impact starts by defining a shared problem and working together with our members, consumers and partners to codesign a shared vision to solve it. We agree on actions and how to regularly measure progress, to not only communicate headway but to also allow for continuous learning and improvement.

Our team fosters and coordinates the expertise of the alliance and other partners to encourage and enable collective effort to achieve more than any single entity can achieve on its own. At the VCCC Alliance, our team, along with our distributed leaders, are the backbone. We are dedicated to facilitating the expertise of the alliance in the ambitious task of implementing sustainable systemic change to continuously improve equitable care and outcomes for cancer patients.

Team Purpose

Be known for enabling the best research-led cancer care for all

Team Values

Better Together *we connect and support to empower sustainable change*

Integrity *we are respectful of the cancer community and accountable for our contribution*

Bold *we cultivate ideas and dare to innovate*

Patient-Centred *we place patients with cancer at the centre of all we do*

For All *we champion equity of cancer care for every Victorian*



Main Responsibilities

Leadership and funding

- Lead the further development of the strategic priorities of the CMI-ANZ patient-partnered research program
- Scope and develop a proposal and recommendations for longer-term funding options for CMI-ANZ, to secure the future implementation of the program
- Participate in further developing and managing the vision and strategic plan for CMI-ANZ
- Advise and seek the input and advice of the VCCC Alliance Executive Director on key aspects of the Program's activities and strategic opportunities/funding progress
- Grow and foster effective teamwork between all Program contributors including the core CMI-ANZ team, the CMI North America project team, funders, research collaborators, sub-contractors and patient advocacy groups; oversee and enable delivery of individual, team and stakeholder objectives

Stakeholder relations & Communications

- Establish strong working relationships and collaborative arrangements with funders, government officials, senior members of partner research and clinical organisations, professional organisations, other Programs, and initiatives to help achieve the goals of the Patient-partnered Research Program
- Lead and participate in the preparation of communications, publications and presentations, and present Program progress and outcomes at conferences, seminars, and to all stakeholders
- Represent the Program at initiatives in which the Program is a partner/stakeholder.

General

- Contribute to internal meetings, sharing updates and opportunities.
- Shares information and knowledge and work collaboratively and collegiately with all colleagues, stakeholders and committees.
- Works in accordance with VCCC Alliance policies and procedures, following reasonable directions.
- Work in a safe and respectful manner and call out inappropriate conduct.
- Participate in the VCCC Alliance Performance Planning and Development Review processes proactively and constructively.
- Assist with or take on other relevant duties to support colleagues and initiatives as reasonably required.


Special Requirements

- VCCC Alliance and the hospital building we work within is a smoke-free environment. All employees are expected to respect this policy to the fullest degree and with a very mindful approach.
- Proof of COVID-19 triple vaccination, unless exempt.
- Maintain a valid Right to Work in Australia.
- Satisfactory completion of National Police Check. In some cases, a Qualifications Check may be required and will be advised prior to appointment.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA:

Experience

- Clear understanding of the ethics and benefits of sensitive consumer-led or patient-partnered research
- Significant management experience within the Health and Medical Research sector in leading the implementation of major research/clinical projects

- 
-
- Demonstrated ability to facilitate development of a research program and attract and secure significant funding
 - Proven delivery of complex, multi-organisational programs of work
 - Strong track record in effective coaching, mentoring and supervision of staff

Expertise

- Technical and scientific understanding of genomics and personalised medicine as they apply to discovery and translational research
- Ability to manage and work with diverse stakeholders, including researchers, funding bodies, clinicians and government agencies
- Superior Project Management skills
- Excellent relationship-building, negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Solid financial acumen
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Qualifications

- Tertiary qualifications in a scientific and/or medical discipline, preferably at post-graduate level

The Person

Collaboration

- Builds strong relationships – excellent interpersonal skills and self-awareness, with experience in effectively managing the requirements of multiple stakeholders, both internal and external
- Persuasive, with the ability to positively influence others and build consensus
- A team player who shares knowledge and information and seeks contributions from others

Integrity

- Consistently follows through on commitments - has a high level of discretion, diplomacy and personal integrity
- Is considerate and mindful, treating others with dignity and respect

Creative

- Thinks laterally and pursues opportunities for innovation and cross-functional involvement
- Taps into relevant people and resources to develop solutions to overcome potential barriers
- Comfortable with the concept of iterative learning and encouraging an 80/20 developmental approach

Achievement

- A self-starter with the proven ability to work and deliver on multiple projects, by prioritising conflicting timeframes, supporting others to do the same
- Outcomes focussed with pride taken in achieving quality results
- Comfortable in taking the initiative and exercising judgement in resolving matters as they arise with sensitivity

Equity and Inclusion:

The VCCC Alliance is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation.

The VCCC Alliance makes decisions on employment, engagement, promotion and reward on the basis of merit. We are committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, contractors, appointees, secondees, consumers, volunteers and partners with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment. This commitment is set out in more detail in the VCCC Alliance Equal Opportunity Policy and Bullying Prevention Policy.



Term:

This role is offered as a 3-month+ secondment opportunity for a suitably qualified individual. Potential opportunities for appointment beyond the initial tenure will be dependent on renewed funding and operational requirements.