Scientific Program Director

Job type: Full-time
Location: Remote
Salary: $155,018 - $186,548 Annually

Company Description

The [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#) (FFAR) is a non-profit organization that builds public-private partnerships to fund audacious research addressing the biggest challenges in food and agriculture. FFAR is committed to providing every person access to affordable, nutritious food grown on thriving farms. The Foundation pioneers scientific and technological innovation by funding research that fills critical research gaps. Ultimately, FFAR's partnership and results benefit farmers, consumers, and the environment.

Benefits Offerings:
- Comprehensive Medical Insurance
- 100% company paid Dental and Vision Insurance for employee and family
- 100% Life and Disability Insurance
- 6% 401k Match – fully vested after first contribution
- Employee Assistance Program
- Robust Vacation, Sick and Holiday Leave
- On-Site Gym with Free Access for Employees
- Training and Developmental opportunities

Position Description

This position will lead the [Advanced Animal Systems Challenge Area](#), which focuses on environmental sustainability, antibiotic stewardship and animal health, welfare and productivity. This wide-ranging portfolio includes projects ranging from development of automated animal monitoring technologies to vaccine R&D. The SPD will also provide expertise in livestock production systems and animal proteins to other Challenge Areas, as needed.

The SPD will develop and manage a variety of research programs and work with Foundation staff (e.g., grants management, development, communications) and multi-stakeholder teams. The SPD will develop projects and/or programs that can be realized through prize and grant competitions, through the development of consortia, or through direct funding. A significant responsibility of the position is to identify the gaps and innovation space within the Advanced Animal Systems Challenge Area and to translate those opportunities into research projects or programs. As such, an SPD must be able to network and create relationships with organizations, corporations and individuals that work in research areas related to livestock and/or could become funding partners.

The SPD will oversee the evaluation of research applications and proposals; design, promote, and monitor the progress of FFAR-funded projects and be responsible for the day-to-day management of specific research initiatives, including managing project meetings, logistics, timelines, budgets and associated grants and contracts. The SPD will design and lead scientific conferences and workshops as necessary to develop consensus on the critical research questions in the area of animal systems that FFAR and its partners should pursue.

This is a science administration and management position that requires scientific and research knowledge, excellent interpersonal and writing skills, a high level of organization, diplomacy and focus, ability to work under tight deadlines and familiarity with the food and agriculture research environment.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Developing concepts for new research initiatives, consortia or prize programs in line with FFAR priorities
- Managing requests for applications/proposals timelines and processes
- Developing and facilitating multi-disciplinary, public-private partnerships
- Overseeing the evaluation process of research projects
- Managing grants and/or contracts to see them through a successful conclusion
- Coordinating and managing cross-functional scientific or project team meetings, including meetings of external advisors and representatives from partner organizations
- Supervising Scientific Associates and/or Officers
- Developing and managing Advanced Animal Systems Challenge Area's budget
- Managing priority setting processes and relationships among diverse scientific and

administrative partners from different sectors (government, nonprofits, academia and/or private sector)
- Serving as an expert panelist, speaker and supporter of FFAR at summits, conferences, legislative events, etc.

Qualifications

- A graduate degree in a relevant agricultural or related field (doctoral degree preferred)
- Deep familiarity with research and scientific issues in commercial animal agriculture including production and processing, animal health/disease, diagnostics, antimicrobial resistance, welfare, environmental impacts and other topics
- Familiarity with research and grants administration
- Experience working with the academic, private sectors and/or the agriculture stakeholder community
- Ability to discover and cultivate professional relationships and networks to further development of public-private partnerships
- Ability to develop, pitch and justify new research investments and their benefit to both the public and private sectors
- Ability to work with flexibility, efficiency, positivity, enthusiasm and diplomacy both individually and as part of a team
- Ability to multitask, including working across multiple complex projects in different agricultural research areas
- Ability to learn quickly, and make difficult decisions independently to meet tight deadlines
- Attention to detail and strong analytical and organizational skills
- Ability to demonstrate tact, diplomacy and initiative when working with others
- Ability to communicate complex business and scientific issues succinctly and effectively

Application and Nomination Process

To apply for this position, click this link.

FFAR reviews applications on a rolling basis and will accept applications until FFAR selects a candidate. Applications should consist of a substantive cover letter and resume. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

Additional Information

This position requires long periods of sitting at a desk and working on a computer. There may be potential for travel when it is safe to do so, but travel would be limited. Work outside of normal business hours may be required.

EEO Statement

FFAR is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information or any other category protected by applicable federal, state or local laws. Applications are encouraged from individuals who may fall into any such groups, as well as from veterans and uniformed service members.