UK DRI Ltd – Board of Trustees Role Vacancies

Role: Trustees (voluntary)

Title: Exciting opportunity to join the Board of UK DRI Ltd

The UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) has been established to lead the UK’s dementia research effort. It aims to transform the treatment and care of people with dementia as well as lead the way in identifying methods to reduce the risk for future generations.

The UK DRI is a joint £250 million investment into dementia research led by the Medical Research Council (MRC) alongside founding charity partners the Alzheimer’s Society and Alzheimer’s Research UK. The institute breaks new ground by bringing together world-leading expertise in biomedical, care and translational dementia research in a national institute. Once fully established, the institute will be made up of over 400 scientists carrying out a rich, varied and integrated programme of research.

Five of the UK’s leading research universities have been awarded centre status. Bringing together world-leading expertise across the spectrum of dementia research and maximising the benefit of cutting-edge facilities and skills, centres have been named at the University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, the University of Edinburgh, Imperial College London and King’s College London. These centres join University College London (UCL) which was confirmed in December 2016 as the institute’s hub of research activity and operational headquarters, alongside the announcement of UK DRI Director, Professor Bart De Strooper.

We are now seeking experienced trustees to join the Board of UK DRI Ltd, the charitable company established to govern the institute. This is a critical time for dementia research and the UK DRI has a bold vision to drive rapid progress. If you think you would strengthen our board and could play a leading role in the development of a world-leading programme of dementia research, we would like to hear from you. We are particularly interested in candidates with the following expertise:

- Basic/translation science
- Population and public health science
- Industry (life sciences)
- Finance
- Legal
- Public engagement
- Communications, media and digital
- Governance
• Public sector
• Research Charities
• Experience of dementia research

The board will meet no fewer than three times a year with its work further supported by sub-committees to be convened. We invite and encourage trustees to attend as many trustee meetings as possible, represent the board on sub-committees, as well as providing them with opportunities to represent the charity in other forums including external roles and at public events.

All new trustees will be fully supported through a full induction, followed by ongoing support from our senior management and governance teams.

These roles are unremunerated, but reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

On behalf of its founder members, Alzheimer’s Research UK is carrying out the recruitment of trustees. If you would like to express your interest in this role, please submit your CV and cover letter to Stef Parsons on recruitment@alzheimersresearchuk.org

The closing date for applications is 10 July 2017 with interviews likely to be in the first two weeks of September.

If you would like an informal discussion about the role of a trustee of the UK DRI, please call 0300 111 5333 and quote this job advert. Further information on the UK DRI is available at www.ukdri.ac.uk

UK DRI Ltd – trustee role description

The role of a trustee

As a trustee, you will share the collective responsibility for the effective governance and development of the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI), setting its major policies and agreeing the strategic direction with the director and senior staff in accordance with the institute’s charitable objectives.

Charitable objectives:

To preserve and protect the health of the public through transforming the treatment and care that people with dementia receive and identifying risk reduction strategies for future generations. This will be achieved through:
a) promoting and undertaking research into neurodegenerative disorders and associated factors that give rise to the dementias
b) developing the outputs of such research to provide interventions that prove effective in treating and improving the care of people with dementia, and that may ultimately prevent and/or cure dementia and related conditions.

Trustees are expected to enter into a positive and proactive relationship with the institute and its staff, as well as providing oversight and guidance for its future strategy and fulfilling the necessary statutory governance obligations.

Trustees are ambassadors for the UK DRI and will fully embody our values.

The term

Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years, with the option of reappointment for a further three years.

Specific and statutory duties

As a director of the company:

- to act within the company’s powers
- to act in a way the director considers (in good faith) is most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole (or, if relevant, other purposes specified in the constitution)
- to exercise independent judgment
- to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
- to avoid conflicts (or possible conflicts) between the interests of the director and those of the company
- to respect organisational, board and individual confidentiality, while never using confidentiality as an excuse not to disclose matters that should be transparent and open
- not to accept benefits from third parties (namely, a person other than the company) or gain materially or financially by reason of being a director or doing anything as director
- to declare any interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement.

As a charity trustee:

- ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- comply with your charity’s governing document and the law
- act in your charity’s best interests
• manage your charity’s resources responsibly
• act with reasonable care and skill
• ensure your charity is accountable
• a duty of compliance with UK DRI Ltd’s objects, its governing documents and all relevant legislation and regulation
• a duty of care to ensure that UK DRI Ltd is well run, efficient and that professional advice is sought in order to manage risk
• a duty of prudence in respect of managing the charity’s assets.

**Stewardship**

UK DRI Ltd is committed to providing our trustees with the highest level of support and training, enabling them to carry out their role effectively and represent the DRI.

We commit to:

• provide a high level of governance support to ensure Trustees are fully equipped to carry out their duties at trustee meetings, sub-committees and other formal meetings where they represent the charity
• provide trustees with access to the latest information about our work and dementia research so they are well informed to act as ambassadors
• equip trustees with the necessary materials, information and resources for all activities they will undertake on our behalf and appoint appropriate assistance from within DRI Ltd to maximise support
• provide Trustees with opportunities to meet with key staff and scientists, which may include visits to DRI labs
• provide an induction and training programme.