



THE MYOSITIS ASSOCIATION

Position Title: Director, Communications & Research

The Myositis Association is seeking a full-time Director of Communications & Research to work at their headquarters located in Alexandria, VA.

The Myositis Association (TMA) is the leading international nonprofit organization committed to the global community of people living with myositis, their care partners, family members, and the medical community. TMA provides patient education and support, advocacy, physician education, and research funding for myositis diseases. To learn more visit www.myositis.org.

TMA's Director of Communications & Research's goal is to raise the visibility of TMA and myositis diseases among key audiences and to position TMA as the "go to" organization/source for information, research and clinical trial updates, and support resources and services for the myositis patient, care partner and medical community.

Since 2002, TMA has approved over 60 research projects, including grants and fellowships, totaling \$7 million. TMA offers a research fellowship program to attract and encourage post-doctoral trainees (PhD and MD) to pursue careers in the field of myositis research. TMA also funds research grants to initiate innovative pilot projects that will support larger funding opportunities.

Position Summary

The Director of Communications & Research is a dynamic, collaborative and highly motivated leader who has a deep interest in health and scientific research in academic and industry settings and a desire to operate at the frontiers of science and rare disease therapies. He/she possesses the unique ability to translate complex scientific concepts into layman's terms to keep TMA's wider community informed on research initiatives and advances.

The Director of Communications & Research brings an entrepreneurial spirit for engagement with partners in the drug development process. The right candidate brings enthusiasm to work across many different stakeholders, a strong commitment to patient advocacy, and a desire to enhance TMA's reputation. He/She provides strategic vision and execution to advance TMA's communications and scientific research programs, putting affected individuals first and leading initiatives that deliver unique communications outcomes and best-in-class scientific communication. He/she exhibits enormous compassion for the TMA community and affected individuals, integrating him/herself as a trusted advisor.

The Director of Communications & Research is skilled in brand management, developing and executing strategic messaging campaigns and tools and in creating recognition and visibility among key stakeholders. The candidate possesses an advanced understanding of traditional and social media, stakeholder engagement, and health literacy.

The Director of Communications & Research provides leadership with the objective to chart paths to making unprecedented progress towards creating a world where myositis no longer causes suffering or loss of life.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

The Director of Communications & Research is responsible for overseeing all communications and research initiatives for TMA and reports directly to the Executive Director.

Qualifications:

- Minimum of 8 years of increasingly responsible experience in communications or marketing with demonstrated success, preferably in the health care or non-profit sector.
- Possess proficiency of research and development – the science, the process, and the stakeholders.
- An advanced degree and familiarity with autoimmune conditions and/or related research. Extensive professional relationships within the medical research community are a plus.
- Master's degree in journalism, marketing, public relations or related field preferred.
- Demonstrated skills, knowledge and experience in the design and execution of marketing, communications, and public relations activities.
- Excellent project management and organizational skills, with the ability to create systems for tracking timelines and progress to goals, while measuring outcomes and results.
- Strong oral and written communications skills.
- Experience in writing grants to funding agencies, non-profit organizations/foundations and/or industry preferred.
- Proven track record and/or interest in research business development (identifying, negotiating, persuading, cultivating and sourcing both commercial and academic partnerships).
- Possess highly developed interpersonal skills, including tact, diplomacy, and flexibility to work with academics, clinicians, staff, donors, governmental representatives, consultants, industry collaborators, non-profit collaborators, affected individuals along with their families/caregivers, and the general public.
- Flexibility to travel as needed.

Interested parties please contact Louise Coffelt at louise@lscexecutivesearch.com with resume and salary expectations.