

Job Title: POLICY DIRECTOR

Reports To: CEO

FLSA Status: Exempt

Location: Washington, D.C. or Skokie, Illinois, USA, a suburb of Chicago

The International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR) is seeking a full time Policy Director with experience in health policy issues to lead the ISSCR in expanding its capacity to proactively engage in policy debates concerning stem cell research and medicine at state and federal levels as well as internationally.

This individual will join the ISSCR team at a time of growth and tremendous interest in stem cell research and regenerative medicine. The position offers the opportunity to work with the world's leaders in stem cell research to increase the ISSCR's influence in regulatory and governmental decision-making environments around the world. The ISSCR's policy program aims to impact standards, policy and regulation pertaining to stem cell research, driving international collaboration and accelerating responsible scientific and medical discovery.

The Policy Director will develop strategy and implement the society's program to advocate for and support the development of:

- guidance and infrastructure(s) that promote rigorous and ethical scientific and medical behavior, and underpin the trustworthiness of scientists, clinicians and the scientific and medical enterprise
- stable, scientifically informed policy pertaining to stem cell research and application
- a regulatory framework that allows innovation while retaining critical oversight and review practices
- patient entry into well-designed, regulated stem cell trials that advance the field
- broad access to new medicines developed through evidence-based research

ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Founded in 2002, the ISSCR is an independent, nonprofit membership organization, and the only trans-national, cross-disciplinary science-based organization dedicated to stem cell research. The society brings together investigators engaged across a wide spectrum of stem cell research from discovery to medical application. The ISSCR supports responsible research using all forms of stem cells, including pluripotent stem cells and stem cells from and within organs and tissues. Since its formation, the ISSCR has experienced significant yearly growth, with a current membership in excess of 3800 researchers in over 60 countries.

The association is based in Skokie, IL USA (a Chicago suburb) but the position may be conducted from another location, depending on individual considerations. Some international travel is required.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The ISSCR's Policy Director will draw on the organization's articulation of rigorous professional standards for the conduct of stem cell research and clinical translation and will guide the ISSCR in deliberation of new issues.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Work closely with the ISSCR Board of Directors to identify goals and develop infrastructure to monitor emerging policy issues (scientific and ethical-legal-social), as well as possible public concerns regarding stem cell research technologies
- Coordinate the development and presentation of ISSCR positions/responses to emerging policy issues, working with appropriate staff and leadership
- Provide instructional leadership to the ISSCR public policy committee so that its activities are integrated into these goals
 - Liaise with regional stem cell research and regenerative medicine societies and networks to identify challenges to the field around the world;
 - Track key political and regulatory groups as they seek public comment or other input into the development of their processes/policies
- Analyze existing positions and guidance documents to determine strengths, disparities or gaps
 - Craft statements based on existing ISSCR positions and policy to specifically address anticipated scenarios
 - Develop recommendations for how the ISSCR can address gaps or disparities
- Develop informational materials for policy- and other decision-makers in support of ISSCR advocacy initiatives
- Inform and support ISSCR leadership as advocates and spokespeople to their respective policy-makers on prioritized issues
- Identify and develop strategic alliances with advocacy organizations to address multi-stakeholder issues
- Assist in identifying communications and media strategies to effectively present and strengthen the ISSCR's policy initiatives and positions
- Integrate the direction, planning, and execution of communications and outreach efforts with the strategic goals of ISSCR's policy initiatives

REQUIREMENTS

- Thoughtful, energetic individual with the ability to communicate the ISSCR's scientific/policy positions in multi-national forums
- Five-to-ten years of experience in advocacy, policy-making, educational, or lobbying efforts with policy and decision-makers
- Knowledge of the scientific research enterprise; familiarity with the process of developing new medical treatments beneficial
- Exceptional written and verbal presentation skills
- Excellent organizational skills; ability to handle multiple projects under time and resource pressure
- Excellent communication skills, particularly when dealing with an international, multilingual audience

We offer competitive compensation and benefits package and recognition for your valuable contributions. We are EOE M/F/D/V.

Interested candidates should send their resume and cover letter to Nancy Witty, CEO at nwitty@isscr.org.