

National Science Director

Application pack



Welcome

Welcome to Health Data Research UK (HDR UK). I am delighted you are considering the role of National Science Director at HDR UK for your next professional move.

HDR UK is the national institute for health data science and works to accelerate trustworthy data use to enable discoveries that improve people's lives.

Our vision is for large-scale data to benefit every interaction with patients, every clinical trial and every biomedical discovery, and to transform public health.

We work in partnership with the NHS, industry, charities and universities to realise the potential of the UK's wealth of health data in life-changing research. Patients and the public are actively involved in shaping HDR UK's work and ensuring it delivers public benefit.

The Institute played a major role in the Covid-19 pandemic, working with the NHS and collaborators internationally to link and coordinate the use of large-scale data. With access to this data, scientists and doctors could understand more about this new disease, identify which drugs were effective and provide evidence to allow the NHS and policymakers to respond to the challenge quickly.

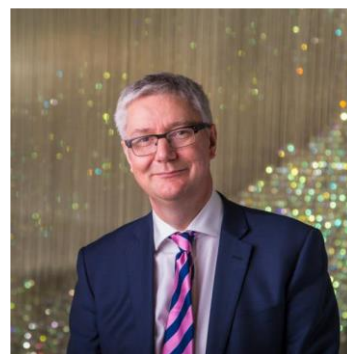
HDR UK is building on these successes through a collaborative approach to improve the UK's data infrastructure and deliver cutting-edge research, unlocking the power of large-scale data to improve health and care.

HDR UK is a virtual institute, with staff and partners in all four nations of the UK and a small office in central London. Our funding comes from UK Research and Innovation, the Department of Health and Social Care (England) and the devolved administrations, and leading medical research charities.

We employ talented individuals who bring their own unique skills and experience to support our vision and benefit the whole team. Our values of transparency, optimism, respect, courage and humility guide how we work together within HDR UK, with our partners and other stakeholders.

Healthcare is on the cusp of a digital revolution and at HDR UK, you can be at the heart of it.

Andrew Morris, Director



National Scientific Director

At HDR UK, we employ talented individuals who bring unique skills and experience to support our vision and benefit the whole team.

The National Scientific Director role is a senior scientific leadership role that is new and highly visible. We are seeking an individual with a compelling vision and strategic acumen to help guide an internationally renowned research institute that harnesses the distributed UK strengths of health and biomedical data science and informatics research.

The National Scientific Director will lead the Institute's research programmes in a way that builds capability across the UK and creates a flourishing and dynamic health data research ecosystem.

The role has oversight of our UK Region and Driver Programme investments and will provide strategic leadership and direction for at least 300 researchers across the UK working on these programmes. The aim is to create an outward-looking and open institution that pursues a wide range of UK and international partnerships to deliver HDR UK's mission.

The National Scientific Director will be an outstanding collaborator with the ability to inspire and influence across the research community, forging interdisciplinary expertise across the computer science, statistics, biomedical, clinical, public health and social sciences spectrum.

The role holder will have an exceptional understanding of diverse fields ranging from bioinformatics to clinical health informatics and be able to build effective partnerships with a range of stakeholders including data controllers; local, regional and national health and social care partners; academia; charities and industry.

Role profile

Scientific Leadership

- Develop and deliver the Institute's vision with the Director, providing scientific and strategic leadership to shape and implement a world-leading organisation.
- Provide leadership, motivation and direction for our research programmes to maximise high-quality scientific delivery outcome and outputs, and ensure tight integration with the Institute's Infrastructure and Services portfolio.
- Provide national leadership to shape and influence the research community, lead UK health and biomedical science research and align policies.

- Drive collaborative activities and develop partnerships to deliver the Institute's mission and facilitate the rapid application of the Institute's data science methodological research and expertise across diverse areas of biomedical, clinical and social and population research.
- Promote the Institute's key role in UK and international informatics research to the general public, including as a media spokesperson, to inspire effective engagement and support for the use of health data and research.
- Lead an ongoing programme to develop and enhance the Institute's strategic and scientific role in the UK and internationally, creating new opportunities to advance the discipline of health data science.
- Participate fully in strategic and five-yearly scientific reviews of the Institute and the implementation of outcomes, ensure the effective resourcing of the research programmes within delegated authority.

Organisational Leadership

- Accountable to the Director for the delivery of work areas, including budget and team management.
- Act as a thought leader, championing HDR UK's mission, research and projects in appropriate technology and health data science related fora and conferences.
- Support and deputise for the Director as required.

Continuous improvement

HDR UK is dedicated to continuous improvement through our quality management system and has achieved ISO 9001 accreditation. The post-holder will review, analyse, identify and implement opportunities for quality improvement within their role and as part of the wider team through our strategy development and internal audit processes.

Who we're looking for

An exceptional leader with outstanding communication and collaboration skills evidenced by:

Experience

- Proven track record of international stature, vision and inspiring leadership, and delivery of international quality research in health data science.
- The ability to develop and advance an emerging research discipline.

- The ability to lead collaborative distributed enterprises and build effective stakeholder relations.
- Experience in partnership building, including health, social care, policy, government, industry and third sector organisations at scale.
- Track record of successful management and delivery of complex multi-budget environments.
- The ability to deliver a strategic plan and build on existing data infrastructure and technology assets.
- Proven track record of professional leadership and motivation, pursuing staff development and building and shaping interdisciplinary capacity at all levels.

Knowledge

- Knowledge of the complexity of health and research data environments and understanding of data security and governance.
- Experience in knowledge transfer and research translation.
- Experience of public communication of science and media relations, especially the critical role of public involvement and engagement in complex issues such as the use and sharing of health and social data for research.
- Experience in implementing and operating institutional governance and administrative issues.

Working at Health Data Research UK

HDR UK offers an attractive package and working environment. Since the pandemic we offer flexibility on working location and the primary base could be anywhere in the UK, but the successful applicant must be willing and able to travel to London and elsewhere (mainly in the UK) in connection with the requirements of the role.

This is a senior appointment, to be a member of HDR UK's Senior Leadership Team, reporting into the Director Andrew Morris.

Dimensions

This is a part-time role (0.4-0.6 FTE). ideally suited for candidates who wish to take the role as a secondment opportunity.

- To be eligible for the role candidates must :

- have hold a substantive post at a UK organisation
- have a contract of employment at their organisation that extends up to 2027 or beyond,
- have the written support of their organisation (an institutional supporting letter will be required at the application stage)

Recruitment process

How to apply for this role

Candidates should apply by submitting a full CV plus supporting statement of suitability for the role (max of 2 pages) to recruitment@hdruk.ac.uk and a written letter of support from their organisation. If you have any general questions about the role, please contact our Head of People Tammy Palmer in the first instance: Tammy.palmer@hdruk.ac.uk

Interview

1. A 60-minute panel interview with a technical presentation followed by a series of structured questions.
2. Interviews are planned for the first week of July 2024.

Equal Opportunities Policy Statement

HDR UK is an equal opportunities employer, and as such aims to treat all employees, consultants and applicants fairly. It is our policy to provide employment equality to all irrespective of:

- Gender, including gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Having or not having dependants
- Religion or belief
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origins)
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Age

We are opposed to all forms of unlawful and unfair discrimination. All job applicants and employees who work for us will be treated fairly and will not be unfairly discriminated against on any of the above grounds. Decisions about recruitment and selection, promotion, training or any other benefit will be made objectively and without unlawful discrimination.

Safeguarding

HDR UK is committed to robust safeguarding policies, we expect everyone who works with us to share our commitment to safeguarding.