

“You might find a drug that will cure a life-threatening disease.”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Director, Clinical Research

Name: Monique Champagne

Company: Bioniche Life Sciences Inc.

Salary Range: \$120,000 and up per year



What I do:

My job involves the conduct of clinical trials with drugs that are not yet available on the market to prove their safety and efficacy and allow approval for marketing. I work with physicians and nurses who treat volunteer patients with test drugs, according to a research protocol.

My main task is overseeing the conduct of clinical trials, which includes the review of patient data on a daily basis. I also oversee the preparation of clinical study documents.

As a Clinical Research Associate (CRA), the average travel is about 75 per cent of the time; your main responsibility is to review patient data collected by investigators, so you must travel to the sites where investigators are located. As a project manager or program manager, your responsibility is the management of clinical studies, so travel is limited to the selection of qualified investigators and is between 25 to 50 per cent of the time. As a director, travel time makes up about 10 per cent of the time.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

I worked my way up to this position, as I started my career as a Clinical Research Associate. This is the case for most people who work in clinical research, as training is quite specialized.

A scientific background is preferred, minimally a Bachelor of Science Degree. Specialized training is required to conduct clinical research. Many associations offer clinical training.

What are the best parts of your job?

The most rewarding thing is the feeling that you might find a drug that will cure a life-threatening disease.