

“An incredibly exciting field...”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Executive Director of Research

Name: Dr. Grant Pierce

Company: St. Boniface Research Centre

Salary Range: \$100,000 and up per year



What I do:

My job is to coordinate research activities for the St. Boniface Research Centre and direct research activities for my own laboratory.

My day-to-day activities include dealing with issues directly related to the operation of the Research Centre. I review and write grant applications, review data from the laboratory, and advise students and technicians on their research. I prepare and write articles for scientific and medical journals. I am the Chair of the Scientific Review Committee for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, which adds another interesting element.

Travel is about 25 per cent of my time and becoming ever more important. The majority of travel is in Canada and the U.S., and I have the opportunity to travel to more exotic locations, like Turkey. I present keynote speeches for conferences, announcing the research in which the St. Boniface Research Centre is involved.

What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

A Ph.D. or an MD degree is required with managerial experience. Experience in clinical trial and scientific research is also required. Experiences nationally and internationally are assets in this position.

An Executive Director of Research needs to be a visionary and look at the big picture. Essential skills include the ability to manage projects, people, and finances.

People in this role should have organizational skills and patience, and a strong personality to act as a leader of a team. You must be part of a larger team, being a team player while communicating direction to the whole. One needs a great amount of energy to take a position such as this, as the hours can be long.

What are the best parts of your job?

The best thing about the job is the opportunity to influence more lives than any other occupation. Research into diseases such as cancer could influence millions of people and generations to come.

It is an incredibly exciting field, and there is also the opportunity for great flexibility and to achieve great wealth for you and your research centre by creating intellectual property through research.