NOVARTIS

Executive Director, Clinical Sciences & Trial Acceleration

Job ID
REQ-10056625
Jul 06, 2025
USA

Summary

This position will be located at the East Hanover, NJ site and will not have the ability to be located remotely. This position will require approximately 25% travel as defined by the business (domestic and/or international). Please note that this role would not provide relocation, and only local candidates will be considered.

About the Role

The Executive Director Head of Clinical Sciences plays a mission-critical role in driving the design, execution, and oversight of U.S.-based clinical studies—including Investigator-Initiated Trials (IITs), Research Collaborations (RCs), Managed Access Programs (MAPs), and Non-Interventional Studies (NIS).

This role leads a high-performing, cross-functional team across the U.S. and Novartis Operations Corporate Center (NOCC), ensuring timely delivery of quality evidence, efficient site engagement, and seamless collaboration across US Medical Affairs and R&D stakeholders. The successful candidate will bring strategic clarity, operational rigor, and people leadership to a portfolio that underpins our evidence generation impact. This role is central to advancing Novartis' vision of delivering patient-centric, data-driven, and scalable evidence generation—offering a unique opportunity to lead transformational change, drive innovation, and create meaningful impact for science, the organization, and the patients we serve

Key Responsibilities:

U.S. Clinical Study Strategy and Execution

- Lead strategic planning, prioritization, and execution of U.S.-based clinical studies (IITs, RCs, MAPs, NIS), ensuring scientific quality, patient-centricity, and timely delivery. Oversee study resourcing, budgeting, vendor management, and end-to-end operations in close partnership with the NOCC, USMA and global clinical counterparts. Serve as the primary interface with Global Drug Development (GDD), Global Clinical Operations (GCO), NIBR, and other internal partners for U.S. study feasibility, site allocation, and implementation. Develop prioritization frameworks and operational oversight models for all study types, with clear KPIs and dashboards to monitor progress, resourcing, and trial acceleration.

Medical Office Leadership and Governance

- Lead the U.S. Medical Office, fostering collaboration across internal stakeholders to drive cohesive trial strategy, patient-focused study design, and improved site engagement. Ensure clear representation of U.S. patient populations in study planning and execution by aligning with internal medical and

development stakeholders.

Team Development and Capability Building

- Build, mentor, and scale a cross-functional clinical sciences team with deep expertise in operational delivery across the U.S.

Strategic Collaboration and Cross-Functional Partnership

- Partner with Medical Franchise Heads, HEOR leads, and Evidence Generation teams to ensure clinical execution supports both scientific and commercial strategies. Provide thought leadership and guidance in integrating U.S.-based clinical research into broader enterprise development plans. Serve as a strategic advisor and internal subject matter expert on clinical operations, offering insights into site engagement, feasibility, and innovative approaches to study delivery.

Minimum Requirements:

Work Experience:

- 10+ years of clinical research experience with significant leadership responsibilities.
- Proven track record of overseeing large-scale, multi-site clinical trial operations in a complex matrix environment.
- Demonstrated experience in managing cross-functional teams, external partnerships, and strategic collaborations.
- Prior experience mentoring, hiring, and developing high-performing teams.
- Deep knowledge of FDA regulations, GCP, and clinical trial operations.
- Financial acumen to forecast, track, and manage study budgets and drug supply.
- Ability to navigate matrixed organizations and influence at senior levels.
- Skilled communicator, facilitator, and cross-functional collaborator.
- Strong analytical, risk management, and decision-making abilities.
- High resilience, adaptability, and commitment to delivering outcomes under pressure.

Education:

- Master’s degree in a science-related field required; PhD, PharmD, MD, or equivalent strongly preferred.
- Advanced certification/licensure or industry-recognized credentials in clinical trial management or GCP compliance a plus.

Novartis Compensation and Benefit Summary:

The pay range for this position at commencement of employment is expected to be between $225,400.00 and $418,600.00 per year; however, while salary ranges are effective from 1/1/24 through 12/31/24, fluctuations in the job market may necessitate adjustments to pay ranges during this period. Further, final pay determinations will depend on various factors, including, but not limited to geographical location, experience level, knowledge, skills and abilities. The total compensation package for this position may also include other elements, including a sign-on bonus, restricted stock units, and discretionary awards in addition to a full range of medical, financial, and/or other benefits (including 401(k) eligibility and various paid time off benefits, such as vacation, sick time, and parental leave), dependent on the position offered. Details of participation in these benefit plans will be provided if an employee receives an offer of employment. If hired, employee will be in an “at-will position” and the Company reserves the right to modify base salary (as well as any other discretionary payment or compensation program) at any time, including for reasons related to individual performance, Company or individual department/team performance, and market factors.

Why Novartis: Helping people with disease and their families takes more than innovative science. It takes a community of smart, passionate people like you. Collaborating, supporting and inspiring each other. Combining to achieve breakthroughs that change patients' lives. Ready to create a brighter future together? https://www.novartis.com/about/strategy/people-and-culture

Join our Novartis Network: Not the right Novartis role for you? Sign up to our talent community to stay connected and learn about suitable career opportunities as soon as they come up: https://talentnetwork.novartis.com/network

Benefits and Rewards: Read our handbook to learn about all the ways we'll help you thrive personally and professionally: https://www.novartis.com/careers/benefits-rewards

EEO Statement:

The Novartis Group of Companies are Equal Opportunity Employers. We do not discriminate in recruitment, hiring, training, promotion or other employment practices for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital or veteran status, disability, or any other legally protected status.

Accessibility & Reasonable Accommodations

The Novartis Group of Companies are committed to working with and providing reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities. If, because of a medical condition or disability, you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application process, or to perform the essential functions of a position, please send an e-mail to us.reasonableaccommodations@novartis.com or call +1(877)395-2339 and let us know the nature of your request and your contact information. Please include the job requisition number in your message.

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State
New Jersey
Site
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