Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Bethesda, MD

Co-Director of the Office of Obesity Research (OOR)

Overview - The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), National Institutes of Health (NIH) is seeking a **Co-Director of the Office of Obesity Research (OOR)**. The OOR is located organizationally under the auspices of the Office of the Director, NIDDK. The OOR Co-Directors represent the two divisions with primary responsibility for obesity-related extramural research, the Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition (DDDN) and the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases (DDEMD). This position is a part of the NIDDK Senior Leadership team, reporting to the DDEMD Division Director. This position will facilitate the development of a new and exciting area of research integrating cutting edge obesity research and data science. This requires an exceptional senior level individual with unique scientific expertise in obesity research and computational and data science to provide leadership within NIDDK, across the NIH, and to the extramural community to move obesity research into this new area. It is desired that this position will also be responsible for overseeing a small scientific portfolio that aligns with the candidate's expertise and interests and the priorities of the DDEMD.

Obesity research is one of the most cross-cutting and high priority areas within the NIH. The NIDDK is the lead Institute for obesity research at the NIH, with responsibility for research on one of the leading preventable causes of death and disability in the U.S. Obesity research in the NIDDK constitutes the largest component of NIH Obesity Research across all Institutes and Centers. The NIDDK is responsible for developing and maintaining a research program of basic biological, translational, and clinical research in all aspects of the obesity research, including clinical studies in adults and children.

In collaboration with the counterpart in DDDN, the Co-Director of this office is responsible for cultivating obesity research within the mission of NIDDK and providing leadership for the direction of obesity science within the Institute by identifying priorities and gap areas that need to be scientifically developed. The incumbent will serve as a scientific resource for obesity research on multi-Divisional working groups within NIDDK and in other Institutes and Centers (ICs) and agencies; respond to scientific and medical inquiries from investigators, other NIH Institutes, Agencies and Departments of government and from Congress. The Co-Director is designated as the representative of NIDDK at meetings, workshops and conferences organized by other ICs, Agencies, Departments, and outside professional organizations on topics related to obesity research and serves as a member of the NIH Obesity Senior Leadership Group.

Specific tasks of the Co-Director include strategic planning and monitoring research opportunities and assisting the Director of NIDDK and the Director of the DDEMD with setting priorities, developing and implementing obesity research, and carefully monitoring and adjusting funding in obesity-related programs with variable demands for resources. It is expected that the Co-Director will apply their specific expertise in obesity, systems biology and data integration to future efforts in obesity research.

To spearhead this new and exciting area in the obesity field, we are seeking a Co-Director of OOR with exceptional expertise in obesity at the basic, clinical and translational level and knowledge of data science to address cutting edge obesity research. The co-director will need to apply expertise in this area to integrate basic data from pre-clinical studies to integrate with clinical and translational data from electronic health records, behavioral phenotype and socioeconomic factors. Thus, the Co-Director is expected to incorporate many concepts of evolving data science into the field of obesity research.

The Co-Director of the Office of Obesity Research assumes responsibility for providing advice on large basic science obesity research studies to other Extramural Divisions within the NIDDK and across the NIH. The position also includes responsibilities for assisting with ongoing NIDDK collaborative studies and the development of new collaborations with other NIH Institutes and other federal agencies (or private sector organizations) involved in the study of obesity and its complications. A major task of the Co-Director is to integrate and manage opportunities across the spectrum of basic science obesity research to provide the most efficient and productive use of limited resources.

How to Apply - Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and bibliography via e-mail to Ryan Gonzales – ryan.gonzales@nih.gov. Candidates selected to advance to the interview stage will be expected to submit 3 letters of reference. For further information about the position, please contact the Search Committee Chair: Dr. Rob Star – robert.star@nih.gov.

SALARY/BENEFITS: This position will be filled under The Silvio O. Conte Senior Biomedical Research and Biomedical Product Assessment Service (SBRBPAS), SBR appointment. The Silvio O. Conte Senior Biomedical Research and Biomedical Product Assessment Service (SBRBPAS) is a mechanism to recruit and retain outstanding and qualified scientific and technical experts in the fields of biomedical research, clinical research evaluation, and biomedical product assessment. Salary is competitive and will be commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the candidate. Full Federal benefits will be provided, including retirement, health and life insurance, long-term care insurance, leave, and a Thrift Savings Plan (401K equivalent). A recruitment or relocation bonus may be available, and relocation expenses may be paid.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT: Selection for this position will be based solely on merit, with no discrimination for non-merit reasons such as race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, political affiliation, marital status, disability, age, or membership or non-membership in an employee organization. The NIH encourages the application and nomination of qualified women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT/FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE: The NIH inspires public confidence in our science by maintaining high ethical principles. NIH employees are subject to Federal government-wide regulations and statutes, as well as agency-specific regulations described at http://ethics.od.nih.gov/default.htm. We encourage applicants to review this information. The position is subject to a background investigation and requires the incumbent to complete a public financial disclosure report prior to the effective date of the appointment.

FOREIGN EDUCATION: Applicants who have completed part or all of their education outside of the U.S. must have their foreign education evaluated by an accredited organization to ensure that the foreign education is equivalent to education received in accredited education institutions in the United States. We will only accept the completed foreign education evaluation. For more information on foreign education verification, visit the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES) website. Verification must be received prior to the effective date of the appointment.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: NIH provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodations during any part of the application and hiring process, please notify us. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Review of applications will begin on or about January 15, 2023, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

DO NOT INCLUDE YOUR BIRTH DATE OR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER ON APPLICATION MATERIALS.

DHHS and NIH are Equal Opportunity Employers and encourage application from women and minorities.