



Position Specification

Coalition For Epidemic Preparedness Innovations
Executive Director, Vaccine Research and Development

Our Client

This specification should be read in conjunction with information on the CEPI website at: [CEPI | New Vaccines For A Safer World](#)

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was launched at Davos in 2017 as the result of a consensus that a coordinated, international, and intergovernmental plan was needed to develop and deploy new vaccines to prevent future epidemics.

CEPI is an innovative global partnership between public, private, philanthropic, and civil society organisations working to accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable equitable access to these vaccines for affected populations during outbreaks. CEPI supports coordinating activities to improve their collective response to epidemics, strengthening capacity in countries at risk, and advancing the regulatory science that governs product development.

As the COVID-19 pandemic shows, in a world characterised by increasing population density, human mobility, and ecological change, emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) pose a real and growing threat to global health security. Epidemic diseases affect us all. They do not respect borders. The costs of EIDs are vast, in both human and economic terms. As well as the devastating death toll and disruption to societies, COVID-19 could cost the global economy \$4.1 trillion, or almost 5% of global gross domestic product. Even small epidemics can cause tremendous economic disruption.

Vaccines are one of the most powerful tools in the fight to outsmart epidemics. The development of vaccines can help save lives, protect societies and restabilise economies. Historically, vaccine development has been a long, risky, and costly endeavour. Planning for emerging infectious diseases is especially challenging: the market potential for vaccines against these diseases is limited and testing such vaccines is difficult. CEPI's mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.

CEPI takes an end-to-end approach, operating as both a funder and a facilitator. Its focus is on vaccine development, licensure, and manufacturing whilst also supporting the efforts of the partners in vaccine discovery and delivery. CEPI is ambitious both in its scope and in the breadth of organisations involved.

CEPI's current vaccine portfolio includes candidate vaccines against MERS, Lassa, Nipah, Chikungunya, Rift Valley Fever and Covid-19. In addition, there are three technology platform developments against "Disease X". CEPI's vision – supported by the G7 and G20 – is for the world to be able to respond to the next Disease X with a new vaccine in just 100 days, known as the 100 Days Mission. Achieving that goal could defuse the threat of a pathogen with pandemic potential, averting the type of catastrophic global public health and socio-economic impacts caused by COVID-19.

CEPI maintains that optimising and using innovative technologies in the manufacturing processes for rapid production and scaling up of vaccines is a critical enabler of the 100 Days Mission. To achieve this, there is a need to support and invest in novel technological approaches that would significantly reduce the time taken (using current vaccine manufacturing platforms) to manufacture new vaccines. If such innovations can accelerate the availability of clinical trial material for first-in-human trials, vaccines can be distributed more quickly, contributing to outbreak control and limiting the spread of a new disease with epidemic or pandemic potential.

The CEPI 2.0 strategic goal is harnessing innovative technologies to improve the speed, scale and access of vaccine development and manufacturing in response to epidemics and pandemics. It complements a suite of ongoing CEPI programmes seeking to transform vaccine manufacturing and bring it closer to the location of disease outbreaks. These include a [global vaccine manufacturing network](#) to support agile and resilient vaccine production in the Global

South; and innovative projects to improve the thermostability of vaccines, thereby increasing access in low-resource settings.

Building on the strong achievements and foundations laid down in its first five years, CEPI is in the process of implementing the next 5-year plan and has set out the following six strategic priorities.

Prepare - Prepare for known epidemic and pandemic threats

1. Strengthen defences against COVID-19 and reduce the risk of future coronavirus pandemics
2. Develop vaccines for known threats

Transform - Transform the response to the next novel threat

3. Produce a library of vaccines and other biological interventions
4. Work to compress vaccine development timelines to 100 days

Connect - Connect and enhance global collaboration

5. Establish global networks for lab capacity, assays, and preclinical models
6. Support the efforts of LMICs to take full ownership of their national health security

CEPI is already contributing to and helping shape a post-pandemic consensus, creating a well-prepared ecosystem able to react quickly without leaving anyone behind. It is able to leverage its unique connecting role—as a coalition of vaccine developers, manufacturers, sovereign governments, philanthropies, civil society and global health organisations—and extensive networks to pool and deploy resources in ways that nation states often cannot.

The Role

CEPI is seeking an Executive Director, Vaccines Research & Development who will help the organisation achieve these goals by (i) providing effective leadership of the Research & Development (R&D) division, (ii) managing CEPI's portfolio of vaccine and select biological medical countermeasure development programs, related enabling science programs, and regulatory initiatives (iii) ensuring R&D delivery against the CEPI strategic plan, (iv) identifying new scientific opportunities aligned with and that will advance CEPI's vision and mission, (v) building and maintaining strong scientific partnerships with external partners and stakeholders, including in the Global South, and (vi) managing important internal relationships.

The role reports to CEPI CEO and is part of the Executive Team.

Key tasks and responsibilities

Strategic leadership

- Ensure the R&D strategies are aligned with overall CEPI strategies.
- Lead and grow the R&D division.

Partnerships and innovation

- Collaborate with other CEPI leaders to leverage collective experience, cultivate respectful and efficient ways of working, and promote cross-divisional scientific, strategic, and operational synergies.
- Assess R&D partnership opportunities in support of CEPI's mission.
- Develop and maintain external relationships and partnerships to advance CEPI's vision and mission.
- Represent CEPI as a spokesperson at international meetings, high-level conferences and through invited lectures.
- Manage interactions with and meetings of CEPI's Scientific Advisory Committee, in consultation with the CEO.

R&D delivery and portfolio management

- Ensure R&D delivery against CEPI's strategic plan and budget.
- Direct and oversee all vaccine and biologic countermeasure development projects and enablers in the CEPI portfolio.

Team management

- Ensure that the R&D division has the right capabilities, capacity and structure to execute its mission.
- Model the CEPI values of Teamwork, Respect, Achievement, Integrity, and Transparency (TRAIT).

Candidate Profile

The successful candidate will have experience in vaccines and/or biologics R&D.

Skills and Experience

CEPI recognises that candidates may not meet every criterion below, but a successful candidate would be expected to meet or exceed the vast majority of these.

Experience

- Demonstrated and substantial experience in developing vaccines against viral targets, across multiple platforms (e.g., mRNA, viral vector, VLP, subunit protein, etc.), ideally to licensure or emergency use authorization.
- Experience working with partners in low- and middle-income countries to advance clinical development is desirable.

Competencies

- Strategic and innovative thinker with proven ability to communicate a vision, drive results and work collaboratively internally and externally.
- Demonstrated ability to assess business needs, design and implement programs and evaluate results.
- Understanding of and sensitivity to international and global policy environment and partners is desirable, as demonstrated by experience working with important global health partners such as WHO, Gavi, PATH, IVI, Wellcome, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, among others.
- Strong leadership skills, with the ability to build trust with partners and lead a team of senior experts in an international environment.
- Ability to negotiate and obtain results in a political environment of both private and public entities.
- Strong interpersonal skills, able to work in different cultural environments, to reach consensus and develop effective international collaboration. A collaborative mindset and commitment to transparency are essential.
- Strong communication skills, able both to represent CEPI at international events and ensure the necessary flow of information with different internal and external stakeholders.
- Demonstrated commitment to cultivating an environment of safety, trust, and inclusion and building a diverse, thriving team.

Education

- Degree in relevant field required (M.D. or Ph.D.)

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