

Job Announcement

Ovarian Cancer National Alliance Executive Director (Posted: November 9, 2004)

The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance in Washington, DC, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a passionate leader and results-focused manager to serve as executive director. This is an exceptional opportunity for an individual with strong advocacy, public education, and fundraising skills who is committed to working on behalf of women and their families affected by ovarian cancer. Applications will be accepted until this position is filled.

The Organization

The mission of the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance (OCNA) is to conquer ovarian cancer by uniting organizations and individuals throughout the country. Founded in 1997 by the leaders of seven ovarian cancer groups to work at the national level primarily on advocacy and public education, OCNA currently has a budget of \$1 million and a staff of nine. Funding comes primarily from grants and contributions from foundations and corporations in the health care field, as well as individuals.

OCNA is governed by a 15-person board of directors, composed mostly of individuals from throughout the country who are ovarian cancer survivors or had family members who had ovarian cancer.

The “Alliance” in OCNA’s name refers to approximately 45 organizations that work on ovarian cancer advocacy and public education, mostly at the state and local level throughout the country. These “partner members” pay small dues to OCNA, and are active in OCNA’s programs, but are not part of the governance structure of the organization.

To learn more about the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance, see www.OvarianCancer.org.

Principal Responsibilities of the Executive Director

This is a unique opportunity for a person with both leadership and management skills who would like to devote the next phase of his or her professional career to growing and strengthening a committed advocacy organization that is working to reduce the severity and incidence of ovarian cancer.

The overriding responsibility of the next executive director is to lead and manage this relatively young organization so that it can carry out its important mission successfully over the coming years.

Specific responsibilities include:

1. Working with the board and staff to refine the current strategic plan and then implement it. The current plan, which is an advanced, draft document, focuses on advocacy and public education.
2. Expanding OCNA's capacity as an effective advocate for the ovarian cancer community, which includes patients, survivors, and family members, as well as scientists, doctors, and others in the health care field whose work involves the treatment and cure of ovarian cancer.
3. Overseeing programs that serve the needs of all the diverse groups of women who have ovarian cancer. This diversity spans racial and ethnic groups, income, sexual orientation, and other dimensions where certain groups have historically been under-represented before policy makers and the health care community.
4. Raising significant additional revenue from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other sources to expand the organization's budget so OCNA can take on new issues and challenges.
5. Strengthening the Alliance by helping the local partner member organizations increase their own capacity.
6. Building and maintaining organizational relationships with key groups active in cancer or women's health, where strong working ties help OCNA carry out its mission.
7. Serving as a media spokesperson and champion for OCNA.
8. Leading and mentoring the professional staff in the Washington, DC, office
9. Supporting the efforts of the board of directors as it strengthens and expands its governance and leadership capabilities.

Desired Skills and Personal Characteristics

To be successful, the executive director should be:

1. Capable of mobilizing the many and diverse constituencies affected by ovarian cancer to influence public policy and to advocate on issues related to government funding for research.
2. A successful fundraiser, with a track record that includes significant success from individuals, foundations, corporations, and other donors at the national level.
3. An excellent communicator, able to motivate, inspire, and persuade public officials, funders, the media, and the medical community.
4. Knowledgeable about the effective management of nonprofit organizations, especially organizations dealing with a disease.
5. A skilled manager, capable of building and leading a dedicated staff.
6. Able to develop a strong working relationship with a board of directors made up of individuals deeply dedicated to the success of OCNA.
7. Committed to OCNA's mission, and the ways in which the organization can contribute to the needs of people dealing with ovarian cancer.
8. Able to travel, especially to partner members and donors throughout the country.

Desired Experience

The ideal executive director will have:

1. At least five years of broad-based, senior-level management experience at nonprofit organizations involved in advocacy or health policy at the national level.

2. At least five years of direct involvement in fundraising, with results that demonstrate solid ability.

Compensation

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Compensation also includes a comprehensive benefits package.

To Apply

Please **e-mail** (or mail) a cover letter, resume, and three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

Larry H. Slesinger
Slesinger Management Services
5016 Westpath Terrace
Bethesda, MD 20816
Tel.: 301-320-0680
E-mail: Larry@SlesingerManagement.com (please include "OCNA" in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only)

All applications will be acknowledged promptly as long as an e-mail address is provided.

(This job announcement can also be found at www.SlesingerManagement.com.)

The Ovarian Cancer National Alliance is an Equal Opportunity Employer.