

*(This search ended in July, 2004, with the appointment of Nicole King, Director of Media and Public Affairs at the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University. Previously, Ms. King was Director of Communications in the Washington, DC, public policy office of CARE, and a field program officer in Ukraine for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.)*

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## **Job Announcement**

### **The Vaccine Fund** (Washington, DC) **Director of Communications** (Posted: May 26, 2004)

The Vaccine Fund has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a person with strong communications and media relations skills as well as international experience to serve as director of communications at its Washington, DC, office. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

#### **The Organization**

More than 30 million children born annually throughout the world—one in four—do not receive any immunization. As a result, two to three million of these children will likely die at some point in their lives from a vaccine-preventable disease.

The Vaccine Fund was launched in 1999 to address the needs for vaccines and immunizations in the world's 75 poorest countries, those with a per capita income of less than \$1,000. A nonprofit organization, it provides financing for immunization services and for purchasing new and under-utilized vaccines against diseases such as Hepatitis B, Yellow Fever, and Haemophilus Influenzae-B.

The Vaccine Fund works in close partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), which was created by international organizations such as UNICEF and the World Health Organization, the pharmaceutical industry, philanthropic organizations, and research institutions. While The Vaccine Fund focuses on mobilizing financial resources, the GAVI partners provide technical assistance to developing countries to build and strengthen their immunization programs.

Challenged by a \$750 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to The Vaccine Fund, the world has been given an opportunity to close the gap between children who have access to immunization and those who do not. With additional financing from nine governments—Canada, Denmark, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States—as well as the European Union and private contributors, The Vaccine Fund has already committed more than \$1 billion toward immunization programs in 69 developing countries. These programs have already helped save the lives of 500,000 children.

Over the next three years, The Vaccine Fund seeks to raise \$400 million per year, enabling it to support programs that will help save the lives of an additional 1 million children.

The Vaccine Fund has its world headquarters in Lyon, France, and an office in Washington, DC. It has a staff of 24: 15 in Lyon and 9 in Washington. The Fund is governed by a board of directors; the chairman is Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa.

For more information about The Vaccine Fund, go to [www.vaccinefund.org](http://www.vaccinefund.org). The website also has a link to GAVI's website, which potential applicants are encouraged to review, given the strong relationship between the two organizations.

### **The Position and its Principal Responsibilities**

The overarching responsibility of the director of communications is to devise and carry out an advocacy and communications strategy that will enable the Fund to mobilize additional resources in seven countries: the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. This director will report to the vice president for global communications in Lyons, and work closely with the Washington, DC, staff responsible for resource mobilization in these key countries as well as with communications counterparts throughout the GAVI alliance.

Specific responsibilities include:

1. Developing relationships with members of the media so that The Vaccine Fund's mission attracts wide support.
2. Develop and build relationships with key audiences such as government officials and NGO leaders, and develop communications materials tailored to their particular interests and needs.
3. Manage communications materials—written, audio-visual, and web-based—to be developed by the Fund. These will include publications and advertising.
4. Organize meetings and other special events that showcase the Fund's work before key audiences.

### **Desired Skills, Experience, and Characteristics**

The ideal candidate should have:

1. Deep experience in both public and private sectors, working with journalists on behalf of an organization or cause that is seeking publicity and resources.
2. Strong international and cross-cultural experience, enabling the director to work effectively in the other countries where resources are to be raised.
3. Strong writing skills, given the range of materials that the director will be producing.
4. An understanding of the fundraising process, especially involving governments and other donors capable of making significant contributions to the Fund.
5. An understanding of the political process, especially the appropriations process in the United States Congress.

6. A genuine interest in the mission of The Vaccine Fund, demonstrated by previous work or volunteer activity. Knowledge of public health or international development issues that affect children is desirable.
7. A personality and work-style that demonstrates flexibility, collegiality, and diplomacy.
8. Strong organizational skills, including establishing priorities and getting work done on time. This is especially important since much of the work must be coordinated with staff in Lyon and occasionally staff at GAVI (whose secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland).
9. An ability to travel domestically and internationally approximately 25 percent of the time.

### **Compensation**

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

### **To Apply**

Please e-mail (or mail): 1) cover letter, 2) resume, and 3) three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

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E-mail: [Larry@SlesingerManagement.com](mailto:Larry@SlesingerManagement.com)

(Please include "Vaccine" in subject line;  
use Microsoft Word or PDF for attachments.)

(This job announcement can also be found at <http://www.SlesingerManagement.com>.)

*The Vaccine Fund is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*