

FOUNDATION FIGHTING BLINDNESS



Foundation Fighting Blindness Chief of Strategy and Innovation

DRi Waterstone
HUMAN CAPITAL

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About Us

The Foundation Fighting Blindness was established in 1971 by a passionate group of families driven to find treatments and cures for the inherited retinal diseases that were affecting their loved ones. At that time, little was known about these blinding retinal degenerative diseases. Very little research was being done, and there were no clinical trials for potential treatments.

The Foundation's goal was clear and focused: to drive the research that would lead to preventions, treatments, and cures for the spectrum of degenerative retinal diseases, specifically macular degeneration – including age related macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, Usher syndrome, Stargardt disease and Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA). Together these conditions affect more than 10 million Americans and millions more throughout the world.

Today, the Foundation Fighting Blindness is the world's leading private funder of retinal disease research. That funding has been a driving force behind the progress toward cures, including the identification of more than 270 genes linked to retinal disease, and the launch of over 40 clinical trials for potential treatments.

On an annual basis, the Foundation Fighting Blindness and its venture arm, the RD Fund provide over 80 research grants conducted by more than 100 investigators at 70 institutions, eye hospitals, and universities around the globe.





Key Facts About the Foundation

The Foundation has 65 staff members across the nation and an annual budget of around \$30 million annually. There are over 40 volunteer-led chapters across the U.S. These dedicated volunteers raise funds, increase public awareness, and provide support to families affected by retinal diseases in their communities.

The Foundation established The RD Fund (Retinal Degeneration Fund), a not-for-profit subsidiary, as a venture philanthropy vehicle to help accelerate life-changing outcomes for people with retinal degenerations through direct mission related investments in therapeutic companies. The RD Fund currently has over \$118 million under management and is governed by an independent board of directors.

Over the past five decades, the Foundation has raised **over \$891 million** to support and advance the research that will reverse blindness and restore vision.

The Foundation has funded studies at hundreds of prominent institutions throughout the world including:

- Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School
- Institut de la Vision in Paris, France
- Moorfields Eye Hospital, University College London
- Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania





Charlie
RETINITIS
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The Opportunity

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is looking to hire an experienced Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer who will be responsible for driving new ideas and developing and executing strategies to elevate organizational performance. This individual will be accountable for developing and realizing the revenue plans across the organization.

The duties and responsibilities associated with the position are below and are not meant to be an all-inclusive list.

Responsibilities include:

- ❖ Take a leadership role in developing the organizational agenda – identifying and prioritizing opportunity, balancing the strategic with the tactical.
- ❖ Unite the organization behind the agenda – working across departments to align goals.
- ❖ Fuel innovation and drive revenue to grow support for all programs, including the RD Fund.
- ❖ Assess trends and where The Foundation fits in the marketplace and recommend action that elevates The Foundation to external Stakeholders.
- ❖ Recognize promising ideas and find ways to introduce them to future plans.
- ❖ Facilitate an open exchange of ideas and foster an atmosphere of open communication.
- ❖ Create cross functional teams – breakdown silos and keep things moving forward.
- ❖ Identify opportunities for external partnerships to drive new pathways and markets for revenue.
- ❖ Develop and execute a long-term strategic revenue plan that will result in a strong financial foundation and resiliency that enables The Foundation to continue providing existing and new programs to the communities it serves; ensure short-term goals are achieved, and the organization has an ambitious but realistic strategic plan.
- ❖ Develop and oversee an annual implementation plan process and work with the COO to ensure that the budget process aligns with and supports organization-wide priorities.
- ❖ Identify industry trends, assess and explore new ventures, and monitor the execution of existing fundraising initiatives.
- ❖ Develop business policies and practices to ensure that the annual implementation plan is operationalized by all members of the team.
- ❖ Foster an environment where all staff members feel valued and recognized for their individual impact to the success of the team.



The Candidate

Specific Qualifications:

- ❖ Significant experience developing strategy, realizing revenue, and leading teams; MBA or relevant advanced degree a plus.
- ❖ Possesses a strong relational and strategic orientation and extensive experience leading major national initiatives or organizations, preferably in a health research organization.
- ❖ Experience in organizational planning and leveraging data to inform decision-making.
- ❖ Proven and successful experience developing and leading a team, seeding and launching new projects, scaling operations, and building accountability tools.
- ❖ Demonstrated success in building strong organizational partnerships with national leaders, organizations, and corporations.
- ❖ History of building the capacity, effectiveness, and leadership of a national non-profit.
- ❖ Track record of working at the chief level, directly translating a CEO's vision, collaborating around change with a senior team and working with the COO to ensure strategies are in compliance with all laws.
- ❖ Track record of identifying diverse revenue streams.
- ❖ Strategic, creative and innovative thinker.
- ❖ Demonstrated experience building a positive work culture and embraces The Foundation's values and vision with the capability to inspire staff to do the same.
- ❖ Possessing deep relational and emotional intelligence, the candidate will be a thought and action partner with excellent communication and active listening skills. They will be an effective and trusted collaborator with the CEO and staff.
- ❖ Has worked collaboratively across an organization with staff of all levels.
- ❖ Must be fully vaccinated for COVID, requires documentation of vaccinations.

Position Specifics:

- ❖ Remote opportunity
- ❖ Reports to the CEO
- ❖ Business travel as needed

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Applications can be submitted at:
<https://driwaterstonehc.com/position/ffb-chief-of-strategy-and-innovation>

DRiWaterstoneHC is managing the search on behalf of the Foundation for Fighting Blindness. All first-round interviews for this position will be via video conference with DRiWaterstoneHC.

DRiWaterstone is women founded and led executive search firm recognized by Forbes magazine as one of the leading executive recruiting firms in the U.S. With a focus on mission and purpose-driven organizations, we provide executive search and strategic consulting services to help regional, national, and international clients grow, thrive, and excel.

Equal Employment Opportunity

Federal and state law, as well as the Foundation's, policy provide for equal employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or veteran's status.