

Associate Medical Director, Microbiology Canadian Blood Services

Canadian Blood Services is a national, not-for-profit, charitable organization operating at arm's length from government. Its primary mission is to manage the national blood system for Canadians, whose supply chain is linked to over 500 hospitals across Canada, performing a vital life-saving function. Created in 1998, it is the successor to the Canadian Red Cross Blood Program and the Canadian Blood Agency (the former funding arm of Canada's blood supply system). Canadian Blood Services holds a unique place in the Canadian healthcare system. Canadians rely on it to provide a range of biological products (fresh blood components, plasma derivatives, stem cells) and a suite of clinical services in the areas of stem cell and organ donation and transplantation, and laboratory diagnostics. In addition, the organization has a strong focus on its leadership role in innovation, knowledge creation and translation, and product and process development. Canadian Blood Services' purpose is to meet the needs and expectations of Canadians and Canadian healthcare providers who require its products and services, with an unwavering commitment to safety, quality, and innovation.

*"Since the creation of Canadian Blood Services in 1998, our focus has been to rebuild trust in the safety and adequacy of the blood service in the wake of the tainted blood scandal that led to the 1997 Commission of Inquiry on the Blood System in Canada. We had to rebuild public confidence. At the same time, we were determined to become one of the leading blood services internationally, and a leader in the health care sector in Canada. I am proud to say we have achieved both, and continue to strive to do better."
- Graham Sher*

Canadian Blood Services is committed to delivering upon a three-part value proposition.

- Through the provision of our products and services, we seek always to improve patient outcomes.
- Simultaneously, we seek to leverage our unique pan-Canadian model to enhance the performance of the health care systems in which we operate.
- Finally, we endeavour to do this while optimizing cost-efficiency.

Canadian Blood Services' role also includes providing the following unique services to Canadians:

- Operating Canada's national Cord Blood Bank, and the OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network
- Leading national practices, professional education, public awareness and system performance activities [for organ and tissue donation and transplantation](#).
- Managing national patient registries for organ donation and transplantation, such as the Canadian Transplant Registry.
- Bulk purchasing pharmaceutical plasma protein products.
- Providing diagnostic laboratory testing services in some provinces.
- Conducting leading-edge research and advancing practice in transfusion and transplantation medicine nationally and internationally.

Overview: Dr. Isra Levy, Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation, speaks about why this position is so important to Canadian Blood Services:



"This position is a critical component for CBS and our Medical Affairs and Innovation team. The Associate Medical Director, Microbiology is the senior medical specialist in medical microbiology and infectious disease issues. Monitoring trends in known infections, identifying new infectious diseases, and developing and implementing appropriate programs and policies are essential in maintaining a safe blood system in Canada. The person in this position provides not only invaluable leadership and information for CBS and Canadians, but also for partners with blood operators in a host of countries such as the United States, Great Britain, and Australia, who also evaluate blood testing and donor eligibility criteria."

"If you are selected for this role, you would be responsible for medical direction and guidance for the Donor Testing Laboratories and for providing leadership in the areas of microbiology and transfusion-transmitted diseases. You would ensure that the medical, scientific, and technical standards established for microbiology reflect scientific and industry developments and comply with the regulatory requirements. You would play a critical role in developing, promoting, and

maintaining education programs in microbiology and in ensuring that best practices are developed and promoted in Canada, and in collaborating with your colleagues in other countries.”

Responsibilities of this Position:

- Develops recommendations regarding policies affecting the safety and security of the blood supply and serves as the medical representative of the Vice President, Medical Affairs and Innovation for internal committees pertaining to blood safety.
- Develops policies, procedures, and guidelines regarding microbiology in consultation with stakeholders.
- Provides functional oversight to CBS Medical Directors in the area of medical microbiology and clinical infectious diseases, including standardized medical guidance to the CBS Donor Testing Laboratories in accordance with applicable regulations.
- Acts as an advisor and provides medical consultation for external stakeholders including hospitals, universities, medical associations, and others with respect to transfusion-transmitted diseases and the safety of the blood supply.
- Assumes overall medical responsibility in the area of microbiology and transfusion-transmitted diseases for CBS.
- Oversees clinical trials and research in the areas of microbiology.
- Oversees development of novel technologies and processes in the areas of microbiology.
- Authors papers and reports, and delivers presentations to external stakeholders on areas relating to microbiology.
- Participates with stakeholders in developing clinical guidelines and consensus conferences relating to the use of blood, blood products and alternatives.
- Ensures compliance and maintains accreditation with the College of American Pathologists and with regulatory bodies, such as Health Canada and/or Food and Drug Administration.
- Adheres to Good Laboratory Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices.
- Provides medical oversight to the Lookback/Traceback Department.

Qualifications:

Education, Training, and Experience:

The ideal candidate will possess a medical degree and a medical license or a PhD, with training, certification and experience in the practice of medical microbiology or clinical infectious disease, or a related field. Further specialisation or understanding of epidemiology, public health, virology or transfusion medicine would be considered an asset.

Demonstrated Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

A naturally curious disposition and a practical approach to understanding and interpreting emerging risks to the blood supply. An academic appointment with a recognized university or the ability to obtain such an appointment is preferred.

The ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience in the development of policy and in management, as well as a proven track record of establishing and maintaining effective working relationships with both internal and external stakeholders, and strong analytical abilities, problem solving skills, and decision-making skills. The ideal candidate will also possess effective leadership abilities and a demonstrated commitment to operating within a team environment.

The work of this role has a broad scope and requires a seasoned individual who can effectively lead practical projects focused on the impact of emerging infectious diseases on the blood supply and take part in outward-facing roles at conferences, attending scientific advisory committee meetings, and making contributions to the field on a global level. It is highly desirable that you can write, create, and present scientific material in a way that can be shared with the public. Previous experience working in a role that requires significant stakeholder collaboration and close internal working relationships spanning the entire organization will be critical.

To Learn More About This Opportunity

Please contact Ron Robertson or Paul Marshall of Boyden Executive Search by telephone at 613-742-3217 or by email at pmarshall@boyden.com.