

# NUFFIELD COUNCIL ON BIOETHICS

*Exploring ethical issues in biology and medicine*

## CHAIR OF COUNCIL

### **The Nuffield Council on Bioethics**

During the 25 years since its inception, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics (NCOB) has achieved an international reputation as an independent body advising policy makers and stimulating debate in bioethics. It examines and reports on ethical issues arising from developments in biological and medical research, and considers the implications for public policy. It addresses broad and complex topics such as mitochondrial DNA disorders, novel neurotechnologies, biodata, children in clinical research and gene editing.

The NCOB is a major participant and plays a leading role in international fora on bioethics, frequently debating with national ethics committees from other countries.

The NCOB is funded jointly by the Nuffield Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council. It is however intellectually independent from all 3 funders which have no influence over the content or conclusions of the Council's work beyond setting the initial remit and reviewing whether the proposed work programme is in scope.

Importance is placed on the NCOB being at the 'head of the curve', being alert to the rapid pace of research advances in biomedicine.

### **Chair of Council**

The Council's funders now seek to appoint the Chair (Elect) of the Council who will succeed Professor Jonathan Montgomery when he stands down at the end of his term as Chair in 2017.

S/he will:

- represent Council to Government, Parliament and other public bodies, both in public and on private occasions, nationally and internationally;
- chair the full meetings of Council;
- lead in considering and approving its publications and other documents and in deciding its long term strategy and considering potential topics for work;
- provide support to the Executive acting in particular as first point of reference for the Executive Director;
- maintain a good working relationship with the NCOB funders through its governance structure.

## **Our Requirements**

The role of Chair requires someone of distinction in academic or public life, with knowledge of, or standing in the field of bioethics or a related area. The Chair is expected to be comfortable in facilitating dialogue between moral philosophers and bioethicists, scientists, sociologists and lawyers and to demonstrate a broad interdisciplinary perspective as well as intellectual rigour. The successful candidate will need to be able to use judgement and authority to create consensus from amongst the individual views of Council members; demonstrate an ability to appreciate both professional and public perspectives and to win and maintain the confidence of stakeholders and a number of different audiences. Some experience of working in public policy and familiarity with government, academia and industry is necessary. Above all, the Chair must be able to take an impartial stance on difficult issues and offer a firm commitment to reasoned argument and the appropriate use of evidence.

S/he should have substantial experience of chairing multi-disciplinary stakeholder meetings, and apply this in dealing with complex issues that will shape public debate and policy in matters of biomedicine. The Chair is responsible for maintaining the NCOB's reputation for quality, objectivity and independence and because these issues mainly concern science and medicine there is a strong though not absolute preference for a Chair who is neither a bio-scientist nor a medical clinician.

The Chair also has a leadership role guiding the Director of the NCOB, and should enjoy building a collaborative relationship with the Chair of the Governing Board and with the CEO of the Nuffield Foundation.

The time commitment averages three days a month (but can be varied). The appointment carries an honorarium of £10K per annum. The appointment is for up to five years.

## **Application and Further Information**

We welcome applicants in the first instance to write to the Nuffield Foundation ([Recruitment@nuffieldfoundation.org](mailto:Recruitment@nuffieldfoundation.org)), who are acting on behalf of all three funders, describing reasons for your interest and providing a summary of relevant experience. All applications will be treated and followed up in strict confidence.

The closing date for applications is Friday 13 January 2017.

The Nuffield Foundation, the Wellcome Trust and the Medical Research Council are Equal opportunities employers.