



SUBJECT: Call for Applications: Associate Scientific Director (ASD) Roles

Dear Members of CCNA,

As CCNA prepares for future leadership succession and the potential transition to Phase IV (2029-2034), we are inviting dynamic, visionary researchers to step into the role of **Associate Scientific Director (ASD)**. We are currently seeking candidates to fill **two (2)** ASD positions to complement current leadership.

ASDs play a pivotal role in providing shared leadership alongside the Scientific Director (SD)—representing CCNA, defining and driving impact, as well as contributing to the strategic direction of Canada’s premier hub for Alzheimer’s disease and dementia research.

A full description of the *Roles and Responsibilities of CCNA Associate Scientific Directors* is attached, which includes key information on appointment, eligibility, and specific roles.

Specialized Focus Areas

While all ASDs share core responsibilities—including national and international engagement, governance, knowledge exchange, driving impact, and other key activities—each appointee will hold a primary focus area to strengthen CCNA’s capacity:

- **External Collaboration and Partnerships:** Building and sustaining strategic external relationships that enhance CCNA’s funding, reach, and influence.
- **Internal Collaboration and Integration:** Strengthening internal collaboration, alignment, and synergy across CCNA.
- **Strategic Grants and New Initiatives:** Identifying, shaping, and leading new funding opportunities and strategic initiatives aligned with CCNA’s mission.

Dual Planning: Succession and Phase IV Readiness

Unique to CCNA’s Phase III (2024-2029), incoming ASDs will actively collaborate with senior leadership to:

- Define strategic priorities and draft a Phase IV (2029-2034) proposal.
- Develop knowledge-transfer protocols to ensure seamless operational continuity.
- Participate in the transition process of the SD. **Note:** ASDs are fully eligible and encouraged to apply for the SD position, once publicly announced.

- Other duties, as required.

How to Apply

If you are passionate about advancing CCNA's mission and ensuring that the Consortium remains a leader of neurodegeneration research, we strongly encourage you to apply. To be considered, interested applicants must submit:

- A letter addressed to the CCNA ASD Search Committee outlining their interest in the position of ASD, relevant leadership experience, and a specialized focus area;
- Two (2) letters of support; and
- A copy of their curriculum vitae (CV).
- **Note:** The formal process of searching for and appointing an ASD will adhere to the *Appointment to Leadership Positions* policy. For more information, please refer to the CCNA-CCNV website: <https://ccna-ccnv.ca/policies/>

CCNA is committed to fostering an environment of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility in all aspects of the Consortium. We encourage applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds, identities, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, and experiences. If you have restrictions that need to be accommodated to fully participate in any phase of the recruitment process, please reach out to us.

Please email your application and address all questions about the position to Alexandra Sosnowski, CCNA Network Coordinator (asosnowski@research.baycrest.org), with the subject line "CCNA Associate Scientific Director Position" **no later than November 6, 2026.**

Thank you.



Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging

Associate Scientific Directors

Role and Responsibilities

Version 3.0

- 1. Position Summary:** The Associate Scientific Directors (ASDs) will support the Scientific Director (SD) in advancing the mission of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA). In addition to shared leadership responsibilities, ASDs will each hold a defined area of specialization aligned with CCNA's strategic priorities. ASDs will play a key leadership role in representing CCNA, fostering strategic partnerships, demonstrating impact, building engagement, and contributing to the scientific direction of the Consortium. Unique to Phase III, the ASDs will assist in dual planning efforts for Scientific Director (SD) succession and potential Phase IV transition.
- 2. Core Responsibilities (Shared Across All ASDs):** All ASDs are expected to contribute to the following core responsibilities, recognizing that workload and emphasis will vary by individual role and expertise:
 - 2.1 Represent CCNA at national and international scientific meetings, policy discussions, and stakeholder engagements.
 - 2.2 Provide input into the strategic direction of CCNA, ensuring alignment with the Consortium's goals, research priorities, and funding opportunities.
 - 2.3 Seek and cultivate partnerships within the ASD's geographical region and/or field of expertise, including pharmaceutical companies, biotechnology firms, public and private sector organizations, policymakers, and governmental agencies.
 - 2.4 Engage with policymakers, advocacy groups, and funding agencies to enhance the visibility and impact of CCNA's research initiatives.
 - 2.5 Participate in CCNA governance meetings, including advisory board discussions, Research Executive Committee (REC), CCNA Council, and working groups, as required.



- 2.6 Contribute to knowledge exchange activities, including workshops, webinars, and public engagement efforts.
- 2.7 Support the SD in fostering synergies and collaboration within CCNA.
- 2.8 Support the SD in guiding the REC, the Dementia Research Support Hub (“Hub”), and the Platforms to achieve CCNA’s goals and increase the Consortium’s impact.
- 2.9 Support the SD in directing, aligning, and reinforcing the roles and responsibilities of CCNA leadership, including Theme Leads, Hub and Platform Leads, and Committee Leads, to ensure effective governance, accountability, and delivery of CCNA’s objectives.
- 2.10 Support the SD in fostering inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility (IDEA) in all its work, including research, governance, policy development and implementation, training, and capacity building.
- 2.11 Support the SD in the integration of early-career researchers and trainees in CCNA’s governance structure to prepare for the longevity of the Consortium, and to foster their inclusion into Canada’s scientific community.
- 2.12 Support the SD in strengthening CCNA’s ability to define, measure, and communicate its impact. This includes supporting the collection, synthesis, and interpretation of key performance indicators and impact metrics for reporting, in collaboration with the SD and CCNA Operations team.

3. Specialized ASD Roles: In addition to the shared responsibilities above, each ASD will be appointed to a primary area of focus, with input from the other ASDs as appropriate. These roles are complementary and designed to collectively strengthen CCNA’s leadership capacity:

- 3.1 **ASD – External Collaboration and Partnerships.** This ASD will focus on building and sustaining strategic external relationships that enhance CCNA’s funding, reach, and influence. Responsibilities may include:
 - 3.1.1 Identifying, cultivating, and maintaining partnerships with industry (e.g., pharmaceutical, biotech, and technology sectors), government, not-for-profit organizations, and corporate partners.
 - 3.1.2 Supporting engagement with international research initiatives and consortia aligned with CCNA’s priorities.



3.1.3 Representing CCNA in external discussions to position CCNA as a national and international leader in neurodegeneration research.

3.2 **ASD – Internal Collaboration and Integration.** This ASD will focus on strengthening internal collaboration, alignment, and synergy across CCNA. Responsibilities may include:

3.2.1 Identifying opportunities for synergy and integration across CCNA Themes, Teams, Platforms, the Hub, and the Operations Centre.

3.2.2 Working closely with Theme Leads, Hub and Platform Leads, Committee Leads, and the CCNA Operations Centre to improve coordination.

3.2.3 Facilitating communication and collaboration across CCNA leadership groups.

3.2.4 Advising the SD on structural or process improvements to enhance efficiency, cohesion, and collective impact across CCNA.

3.2.5 Supporting the functioning of CCNA governance structures and committees (e.g., REC, CCNA Council) by assisting with the identification and recruitment of new members as part of planned rotations; Contributing to their orientation to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.

3.3 **ASD – Strategic Grants and New Initiatives.** This ASD will focus on identifying, shaping, and leading new funding opportunities and strategic initiatives aligned with CCNA's mission. Responsibilities may include:

3.3.1 Scanning the funding landscape to identify grant opportunities well suited to CCNA's Hub and Platforms, as well as emerging priorities.

3.3.2 Coordinating the development of large-scale, multi-investigator grant applications and new Consortium-level initiatives.

3.3.3 Supporting cross-program collaboration to respond to complex or interdisciplinary funding opportunities.

3.3.4 Working closely with the SD to strengthen CCNA's long-term funding diversification and growth.

4. Succession and Phase IV Planning: CCNA Central is actively preparing for the potential transition to Phase IV and the succession of the SD. To ensure continuity



and guide long-term strategy, the ASDs will play a pivotal role in shaping the vision for future scientific leadership. Key responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- 4.1 Working closely with the SD to redefine priorities, expand the network, and draft the roadmap for Phase IV. This comprises engaging in stakeholder consultations and aiding in the application process.
- 4.2 Establishing knowledge-transfer protocols and the appropriate mechanisms needed to maintain uninterrupted and steady operations.
- 4.3 Participating in the transition process of the SD, with an understanding that ASDs are fully eligible and encouraged to apply for the SD position once publicly announced.

5. Qualifications:

- 5.1 Established expertise in neurodegeneration research, aging, or a related field.
- 5.2 Strong network within the academic, industry, and/or policy sectors.
- 5.3 Experience in leading research collaborations and securing funding.
- 5.4 Ability to engage with external stakeholders, including government agencies, private sector partners, and advocacy groups.
- 5.5 Demonstrated leadership in scientific and strategic initiatives.

6. Why Consider this Role?

- You are interested in leadership roles that can help shape dementia research in Canada.
- You want to help dementia research in Canada have impact-oriented partnerships within the dementia ecosystem.

You are passionate about the benefits of large-scale research synergies and committed to facilitating collaboration.

This is a voluntary role with an expected commitment ranging from 8-12 hours per month. Hours may vary depending on the nature of the work and needs of the organization. **Note:** Key responsibilities and workload will be shared among several ASDs. Therefore, an ideal candidate will possess skills that complement and enhance CCNA's leadership structure, including currently appointed ASDs.

The ASDs will be instrumental in advancing CCNA's mission and ensuring the Consortium remains a leader of neurodegeneration research in Canada and beyond.



The formal process of searching for and appointing an ASD will adhere to the *Appointment to Leadership Positions* policy. For more information, please refer to the CCNA-CCNV website: <https://ccna-ccnv.ca/policies/>