



Volunteer Opportunity: Chair of the Board of Trustees

About Child Health International

CHI is a small but influential registered charity, based in the UK, working to improve the lives of children and young adults suffering from cystic fibrosis across Central and Eastern Europe. CHI has worked across Ukraine, the Baltic States, Russia, Belarus and Moldova, with a current focus on projects primarily in Greece, Bulgaria and Russia.

The UK, with around 10,600 people living with cystic fibrosis, has a “gold standard” of care and experience, which CHI “exports” thanks to the voluntary support of expert UK CF multidisciplinary teams, including Royal Brompton Hospital, London, University Hospital, Southampton, the Birmingham Children’s Hospital and University Hospital of Wales.

We focus primarily on face-to-face engagement, building relationships among medical experts that benefit all involved and that last well beyond CHI’s initial involvement. In many of the countries CHI operates, modern cystic fibrosis drugs are seen as prohibitively expensive. We therefore place a strong emphasis on getting the inexpensive, yet extremely effective, basics of CF care right (see our [“Care pyramid”](#) for further detail). Depending on the needs of the overseas team, these could be as simple as ensuring parents or carers can administer appropriate physiotherapy, or that the importance of optimal diet is understood and tailored to local culture. Whilst face-to-face engagement and work shadowing will remain the key focus of our approach, the current travel restrictions have opened new ways of working, particularly with regard to online communication, and this is something we’re keen to explore and develop going forward.

CHI’s key strengths are in our collaborative approach, working with overseas partners to identify objectives that bring maximum benefits to the CF community within available resources, and in offering practical CF healthcare support across all the components of a multi-disciplinary team – diagnosis, physiotherapy, diet, psychology etc.

The charity operates alongside such bodies as the UK’s CF Trust and the European Cystic Fibrosis Society.

What is the role?

We have previously combined the responsibilities of Chairman of the Trustees with Chief Executive of the charity. However, this arrangement will be reviewed depending on the skills and availability of suitable candidates. The Board’s Trustees cover responsibilities such as finance, fundraising, communications and safeguarding, whilst the transfers of knowledge and expertise to the various countries are looked after by Project Managers. CHI has an active CF respiratory physician as its Medical Adviser, Dr Julian Legg, and a retired consultant as its President, Dr Chris Rolles.



The successful candidate will be in a position to make a genuine change to the lives of children and young adults across CHI's geographical reach, increasing not just life expectancy, but quality of life.

Who are we looking for?

The most important quality we're looking for is enthusiasm for the work CHI does. Candidates should be energetic, interested in healthcare and willing to learn about cystic fibrosis. They should have experience relevant to the role, either in the charity sector or transferable from another field. There will be opportunity to travel and the ability to speak a foreign language would therefore be a strong advantage.

Whilst the charity is based in Hampshire, we have successfully embraced remote working and are happy to consider candidates from anywhere in the UK.

Key applicant requirements: -

- Drive and enthusiasm to improve healthcare of all children and young adults with cystic fibrosis.
- Management experience in a relevant sector.
- Knowledge of, or willingness to learn about, cystic fibrosis and the key care requirements.
- UK based.
- Willingness to travel – to obtain understanding of local healthcare constraints

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for this role, please send a short letter of application, summarising the expertise you can offer, together with a copy of your CV, to Tonywolstenholme@aol.com, with the subject marked "Chairman Application"

All correspondence will be handled in confidence.