

Chair of Board of Trustees

Role summary

Rosetrees is a venture philanthropy charity which has provided seed corn funding for brilliant new ideas, since it was founded by Richard Ross's parents on their Golden Anniversary in 1987.

From a single project to support targeted chemotherapy to treat cancer, Richard has built up a small outstanding team, led by Ann, the dynamic CEO and two experienced PhD scientists, who with panels, select from hundreds of applications, to give away £ millions each year, enabling major grants of £1.3bn.

A successor Chair to Richard, to expand the foundations built over 40 years, has an exceptional opportunity (unpaid) to grow Rosetrees unique style into a charity of national significance.

Please apply if you feel you have the experience and ambition to take on the mind challenging role of Chair.

Role outline

- To uphold the culture and values of the organisation and founding Chair: aspiring to support the best medical research to progress patient outcomes and provide value for the funding delivered, whilst operating within minimal bureaucracy with a lean management team.
- To act as an ambassador and advocate for the charity with key stakeholders, for example, co-donors, funding organisations, universities and other academic institutions
- To support and challenge the CEO & executive team in delivering effective day to day operations, ensuring appropriate balance between strategic direction, governance and operations
- To ensure financial sustainability of the organisation
- To work with the Board and CEO to set the future strategy and direction of the organisation aligned with the organisation's values and culture and mission of funding the best medical research
- To Chair the Board of Trustees, ensuring board effectiveness including setting agendas, chairing meetings, encouraging constructive debate and ensuring clear

decision making and accountability, overseeing performance of the board (individual trustees as well as any sub-committees)

- To take accountability for governance of the organisation, ensuring compliance with regulatory duties, charity law and trustee responsibilities

This is a voluntary role, anticipated to require 1-2 days a month (on average) and would suit an energetic, successful, entrepreneurial leader, ideally with some experience of the healthcare/ life sciences sector. We have an experienced CEO and executive management team, and a diverse and committed board of trustees and are looking for an inspirational individual to lead our organisation to the next ten years of our strategy and vision.

Person specification

- We are looking for an energetic and entrepreneurial individual who can take over from the founding Chair and lead Rosetrees into the next ten years, delivering impact in medical research development and patient outcomes, whilst holding the core values and culture of the organisation
- The ideal candidate will have had experience of successfully leading a commercial organisation, driving innovation and value, and have had previous experience of operating as a Chair at board level, whether in the commercial or not-for profit sector
- We are looking for high-level networking and influence. The ideal candidate will therefore have a proven track record of operating at a senior peer-to-peer level, with the natural credibility and network to engage corporate partners, institutional funders, and philanthropists in shared funding initiatives.
- The successful individual does not necessarily have to have a background in medical research but an understanding and interest in the healthcare, academic and life sciences sectors would be useful. So too an interest or understanding of data-driven research.
- The successful candidate should be confident in building high-level stakeholder relationships, representing the charity with different audiences and advocating for the mission and purpose of the charity.

More about Rosetrees

Rosetrees is a UK-based charity supporting the best medical research across a wide range of therapeutic areas. It was founded by the current Chair's family 40 years ago

and has grown exponentially in terms of impact and resources over this time. In 2026 Rosetrees is supporting 329 live research projects across a wide range of therapeutic areas and development stages with an annual budget of £13.2m; the research that Rosetrees has funded over the years has generated major follow-on grants for researchers totalling £1.3bn. We are proud to work collaboratively with several funding partners and co-donors (>£43m over the last 15 years) and keen to expand these relationships to further Rosetrees' impact.

September 2027 will be the 40 year anniversary of the charity, and the current (founding) Chair is retiring. We are looking to recruit a successor to be in place ahead of this milestone, to lead the organisation through the next phase of its exciting and impactful future.

Rosetrees' success has arisen from the donors' passion to drive the best medical research, support and partner with the best researchers, who enable patient outcomes as fast as possible. We highly value our lean and expert executive team and scientific advisory panel and challenge each other to think entrepreneurially regarding our mission, always seeking to do more and better with our funds.

As Chair, you will bring an influential business-like professional network and the commercial acumen required to cultivate strategic partnerships, inspiring new co-donors and match-funding partners to join us in accelerating patient outcomes.

For more information on Rosetrees, please visit www.rosetrees.org.uk.

How to apply

Please send a one-page supporting statement explaining your interest in the role and demonstrating how your experience, knowledge, and skills make you the best candidate for the position together with your CV to Ann Berger at aberger@rosetrees.org.uk.