Position Description: Scientific Director
Reports to: Board of Directors
Type of Position: Full-time

About Us
Coalition to Cure Calpain 3 (C3) is a non-profit organization committed to treating and ultimately curing limb girdle muscular dystrophy type 2A (LGMD2A)/calpainopathy. Our mission is to fund high potential research and clinical trials as we educate the global community about this disease. This is an exciting opportunity to assume a leadership position as the first employee of this growing organization and direct research efforts focused on calpainopathy.

Summary of Position
This part-time position reflects our strategic approach to effectively drive calpainopathy research toward the development of novel and effective therapies. The Scientific Director will serve as the face of the C3 research mission. Working with the Board of Directors and the C3 Scientific Advisory Board, the Scientific Director will be responsible for developing strategies to craft, implement, and manage our research goals. Responsibilities include serving as the face of C3’s science advocacy, facilitating communication among various sectors of the research community (academic researchers, clinicians, biotechs, pharma, NIH, FDA, peer non-profit organizations), and communicating with families and donors. A key role of the Scientific Director will be to develop strategic relationships and partnerships with these other entities in pursuit of C3’s research goals.

One of the first priorities for the Scientific Director will be to perform an analysis of the research landscape of calpainopathy, culminating in a state-of-the-science report that summarizes current knowledge as well as the major challenges that exist in translating this knowledge into efficient diagnosis, therapeutic development, and clinical testing. Working with C3 leadership and expert external collaborators, the Scientific Director will craft a strategy that sets key priorities and paves a course for the organization to accomplish these goals.

Grant Management: The Scientific Director will manage our grant program. Tasks to include: writing Requests for Proposals (RFPs); actively soliciting proposals; responding to inquiries; triaging grant applications; managing review process; negotiating contracts; tracking grant progress and reporting (including status updates and budget reports).

External Partnerships: To implement C3’s goals the Scientific Director will initiate and pursue novel relationships with key players in academia, biotech, pharma and government that will accelerate research and therapeutic development. This will include – but is not limited to – developing and strengthening relationships with NIH, emerging NIH programs, and peer organizations (e.g. the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Jain Foundation, etc.).

Communicating Scientific Information to C3’s Lay Constituency: The Scientific Director will be responsible for keeping board members informed of scientific advances; writing articles that translate the science for donors, families, and patients (for email updates, newsletter, website, donor reports); providing input on activities such as fundraising proposals and education programs for healthcare professionals; ensuring scientific content on website is current and accurate.
Scientific Meetings and Travel: The Scientific Director will represent C3 at relevant scientific conferences and will be encouraged by the Board to actively build awareness of C3 among the international research community. The Scientific Director may be called upon to represent C3 at occasional grassroots fundraising events.

Key Skills
- PhD, MD or equivalent advanced degree in a field relevant to C3; experience in a neurodegenerative disease field desirable, otherwise experience in managing basic or clinical research projects, ideally in a pharmaceutical/biotechnology setting; familiarity with reviewing scientific grants, making presentations, and writing peer-reviewed papers
- Knowledge and understanding of translational research, and the design and management of clinical trials.
- Self-motivated, entrepreneurial, highly organized, multi-tasker, able to work independently
- Knowledge and understanding of the scientific peer-review process, the mechanics of grant making and the culture of academic medical centers
- Familiarity with the culture of corporate science and the drivers for decision-making within that culture
- Proven track record in bringing academic and corporate science together to achieve diagnostic and therapeutic progress
- Proven experience in identifying and cultivating key partner relationships
- Ability to apply scientific knowledge to make a case to government agencies for increased resources for research
- Excellent writer—for both scientific and lay audiences
- Goal-oriented, creative professional who has a proven record of strategic thinking and a strong desire to make a difference
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to interact with scientists and non-scientists at a variety of levels in a collaborative, effective manner; a record of success in working with a team to achieve common goals
- Affinity for/comfort with working with volunteer leadership in a mission-based organization
- Entrepreneurial spirit and ability to thrive in small, fast-growth organization
- Willingness to travel as necessary, likely 1-2 times/month
- Strong commitment to the C3 mission

Location is flexible. Salary commensurate with experience

Please send resume and cover letter with salary history to Co-Founder Michele Wrubel at michele@curecalpain3.org