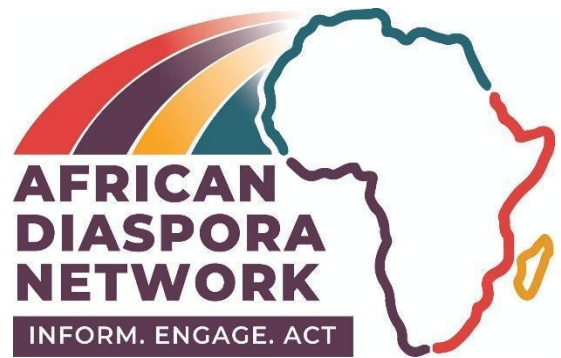


African Diaspora Network (ADN) is a Silicon Valley-based nonprofit founded in 2010. We convene Africans from the continent, descendants of Africa — including African Americans and Afro-Caribbeans — and allies to create an ecosystem that nurtures entrepreneurial spirit and mobilizes intellectual and financial resources for a prosperous future. Through strategic partnerships and innovative programs, we serve as a catalyst for positive change and growth in Africa, its diaspora, and global communities.



Job Title: Director of Scientific Engagement

Type: Senior-level, full-time

Reports to: Chief Operations and Programs Officer

Headquarters: Santa Clara, CA

Location: Santa Clara, CA, Washington, DC, or Remote

Open to: Candidates based in the United States of America with U.S. work authorization

Application Deadline: August 19, 2026

Position Overview: The Director of Scientific Engagement will play a critical role in expanding ADN's capacity to develop and implement initiatives aimed at strengthening the African Research and Development (R&D) ecosystem. S/he will lead efforts to build and sustain connections between senior scientists in Africa and their diaspora counterparts in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, across Europe, and elsewhere, fostering impactful collaborations and advancing positive health outcomes.

Why Work for ADN?

Build bridges that unite people across the world to make it better for everyone.

ADN is a trusted organization with a track record of building bridges and energizing collaborations between Africans, Diasporans, and friends of Africa through our global convenings and programs. Amid the pandemic we strengthened our offerings by pivoting to virtual platforms that allowed us to expand our reach. Over the last decade we have reached over 50,000+ people from 115 countries. Our enterprise accelerators have supported African-led startups on the continent and Black-led startups in the United States.

In joining the ADN team, you will join an effort that mobilizes thousands of people to create possibilities for Africans and the communities where we live. ADN is a place where diversity, equity and inclusion are not just celebrated, they are central to our existence. Our [strategic plan](#) outlines exciting opportunities opening up for forming transformative partnerships, building the organization and growing our team.

Values and Work Culture

ADN is led by a small, committed team, board members, advisors, and committees. Our core values and guiding principles are rooted in our commitment to building bridges by bringing Africans from the diaspora and friends of Africa together to make a difference in the

communities in which we live. We value honesty, transparency, respect, reliability, and inclusiveness.

We require from each other flexibility and adaptability given the nature of our work. ADN operates through a lean but mighty team where team members are trusted to perform their roles individually, collaboratively, and with accountability.

Key Responsibilities:

Program Development, Implementation and Sustainability

- Lead the development and execution of ADN's R&D initiatives – including ADN's Gates Foundation-funded Grand Challenges African Diaspora Engagement Accelerator (GC-ADEA) – focusing on creating and maintaining a robust science hub (online platform) and related database to facilitate and cultivate connections. These connections must translate into concrete actions and opportunities to create and/or assist in the development of collaborative scientific programs.
- Guide and implement efforts to build and sustain connections with and between senior scientists in Africa and the African Diaspora (including in the United States, Canada, Europe, and elsewhere), fostering impactful collaborations and advancing a sustainable, networked health agenda.
- Develop and manage systematic approaches to accelerate collective action in key research areas, including but not limited to vaccine R&D, drug discovery, and pharmacogenomics.

Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Planning

- Establish and maintain collaborative relationships with senior scientists, research institutions, academic organizations, private sector companies, and governmental agencies. Engage a range of methods to garner support for scientific research, innovation, and collaboration between Africans on the continent and in the diaspora.
- Establish and maintain an open-source, AI-augmented collaboration hub to connect senior African scientists with experienced diaspora researchers and innovators in priority areas such as drug discovery, biotech acceleration, and research leadership. This hub will generate tangible outcomes including co-designed research, joint supervision of students, collaborative grant applications, and technology transfer initiatives.
- Facilitate high-level convenings and networking events to connect R&D stakeholders, share expertise, and explore collaboration opportunities.
- Identify, initiate, nurture, and maintain relationships with key partners and funders to support the long-term sustainability of ADN initiatives. This includes leading and supporting proposal development and generating ideas for how deals brokered by ADN can benefit ADN financially and/or reputationally.
- Promote and advocate for policy changes that strengthen the health R&D ecosystem in Africa, including producing case studies, white papers, and representing ADN at relevant events.
- Leverage ADN's convening power and such events as the African Diaspora Investment Symposium (ADIS) to elevate opportunities for collaboration and investment.

Program Evaluation and Reporting

- Monitor and evaluate the impact of ADN's scientific engagement initiatives, using defined outcomes and indicators to measure success, and lead the creation and submission of program reports.
- Prepare and distribute case studies, related reports, impact analyses, and best practices to stakeholders and thought leaders.

Organizational Management

- Lead and manage the day-to-day operations of ADN's science initiatives, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in achieving programmatic and organizational goals and timelines.
- Develop and effectively manage program budgets, expenditures, operational systems (software, best practices etc.), and administrative processes to support the operation and growth of ADN's science-focused initiatives.
- Collaborate with the Board, Executive Director, Executive Advisory Council, program advisory committees, and key staff to advance program plans.
- Foster a collaborative and inclusive organizational culture that values diversity and promotes teamwork.

Qualifications

- Ph.D. scientists (Ph.D. in Public Health, Biomedical Sciences, Research Administration, or another relevant field), postdoctoral researchers, and experienced research administrators are encouraged to apply. A combination of a relevant Master's degree and experience in research administration will be considered for exceptional candidates.
- Minimum of 12-15 years of experience managing relevant programs in a research environment is required. Prior experience supporting a nonprofit organization is preferred but not required.
- Proven track record of building and managing partnerships with academic, private sector, foundation, and governmental organizations.
- Demonstrated understanding of the African R&D landscape and health challenges.
- Excellent communication, networking, and organizational skills.
- The ability to work independently and as part of a diverse, global team.
- Detail-oriented and systematic, project management-focused approach to planning and executing broad goals and objectives.

Application Instructions: Interested candidates should submit their cover letter, resume (detailing their experience and vision for the role), and contact information for three references to: jobs@africandiasporanetwork.org.

ADN is an equal opportunity employer. We celebrate diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees. Join us in our mission to harness the power of the African Diaspora to drive innovative and sustainable solutions for the future of health R&D in Africa.