

VACANCY	
Job title:	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Reports to:	Board of Directors
Salary:	Market related CTC package
Company description:	Wits Health Consortium (Pty) Ltd (WHC) is a wholly owned company of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Established in 1998, WHC serves as the operational and administrative backbone through which the University—primarily its Faculty of Health Sciences—conducts research, manages grant and donor-funded initiatives, supports clinical trials, and drives innovation in health sciences. WHC provides administrative and financial support services to a wide range of research entities and divisions. These divisions are often formed by researchers affiliated to the Faculty of Health Sciences, enabling WHC to manage complex, multi-stakeholder projects with professionalism and efficiency. The Consortium operates a unique and widely recognised Shared Services Centre (SSC) that delivers integrated support across grant management, human resources, finance, legal compliance, and quality assurance. WHC's skilled teams bring expertise in navigating the regulatory, ethical, and operational frameworks required for successful health research and development. WHC's stakeholders include university leadership, academic faculties, researchers, donors, sponsors, and international funding bodies.
Employment type:	Five-year fixed-term contract, renewable for a further term (5 years) based on performance and alignment with strategic objectives.
Main purpose of the job:	<p>The CEO of WHC will provide visionary and ethical leadership, strategic direction, and operational oversight to ensure WHC continues to be a globally respected entity.</p> <p>The CEO will be responsible for driving excellence in governance, financial sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and innovation, while aligning WHC's mission with the broader goals of the University of the Witwatersrand.</p>
Location:	Parktown
Closing date:	30 October 2025
Advert reference number:	WHCEX01
In accordance with our Employment Equity goals and plan, preference will be given to suitable applicants from designated groups as defined in the Employment Equity Act 55 of 1998 and subsequent amendments thereto.	

Key performance areas

- Develop and execute WHC's strategic plan in alignment with University of the Witwatersrand, Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) innovation and research priorities.
- Strengthen collaboration between WHC and FHS schools and departments.
- Support divisions with innovation and growth into new markets and partnerships.
- Foster a culture of entrepreneurial capacity, excellence, innovation, and ethical leadership across all WHC divisions.
- Oversee the Shared Services Centre and ensure efficient, effective delivery of administrative, Grants, Financial, Legal, and HR support to over 100 research entities.
- Ensure compliance with regulatory frameworks, funder / donor requirements, and familiarity with and alignment to university policies.
- Oversee financial planning, budgeting, and reporting for WHC and its subsidiaries.

- Ensure responsible management of sponsor and donor funds, exceeding USD 150 million annually.
- Work closely with the WHC Board and oversee the effective management of administrative matters related to WHC committees and Board subcommittees, ensuring governance processes are streamlined and compliant.

Required minimum qualifications

- Relevant post-graduate business / financial /commerce degree or diploma, and/or professional degree.
- A master's degree in business administration or leadership will be advantageous.

Work experience

- 10+ years' management and operational experience including a minimum of 5 years leading an executive team.
- Proven track record in strategic planning, financial management, and stakeholder engagement.
- Understanding of the South African and global health funding and research landscape.
- Experience in a grant / donor funded or non-profit environment.
- Understanding of an academic environment, collaborating effectively with leading scientists and researchers.

Required leadership competencies

Integrity and Accountability: Demonstrates a strong ethical compass, transparency, and responsible leadership in all decision-making processes.

Resilience and Emotional Intelligence: Leads with empathy and composure, particularly in high-pressure or complex environments.

Professionalism and Objectivity: Upholds integrity, objectivity, and professional competence, with a commitment to due care and ethical standards.

Commercial Acumen: Applies sound commercial judgement and maintains a strong focus on business performance and strategic outcomes.

Relationship Management: Builds and maintains effective working relationships, with strong interpersonal and stakeholder engagement skills.

Negotiation and Influence: Demonstrates effective negotiation skills and the ability to influence outcomes constructively and strategically. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to engage academic, technical, and non-technical audiences.

People Orientation: Values and supports team collaboration, development, and well-being, fostering a positive and inclusive work environment.

Practical Execution: Adopts a hands-on approach to problem-solving and implementation, ensuring operational efficiency and accountability.

Should you be interested in applying for this vacancy, please send an email to CEOvacancy@witshealth.co.za. The subject heading of the email must read **WHCEX01** and the job title of position applying for. Please include the following documentation:

- A cover letter (maximum one page) that clearly states which vacancy you are applying for
- A detailed CV
- Certified copy of ID (within the last 3 months)

NOTE: The candidate must have a sound professional reputation, no past misconduct, and an accurate employment history. The candidate will be subject to criminal clearance, verification of qualifications, credit and reference checks.