

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH

Founding Scientific Director Biocentrum Albertov



Charles
University

LOCATION	PLANNED START	APPLICATION DEADLINE	SELECTION
Prague, Czech Republic	June 2027	30 September 2026	Expected by November 2026

Charles University invites applications and nominations for the position of Founding Scientific Director of Biocentrum Albertov (BCA), a major new interdisciplinary research and education infrastructure now being built at the heart of the Albertov university campus in Prague.

This is a rare opportunity to build, from its formative phase, an open, internationally visible and collaborative environment for world-class research and advanced education across the life sciences, biomedicine, chemistry, bioinformatics, materials research and related quantitative fields.

A major new campus infrastructure	Approximately 34,710 square metres across six above-ground and two underground floors.
Scale	More than 400 laboratories and offices, with approximately 800 academics and 700 students.
Shared facilities	Biobanking, imaging, electron microscopy, cell and tissue processing, proteomics, sequencing, animal facility, media preparation, computing cluster and data storage.
Scientific scope	Life sciences, biomedicine, chemistry, bioinformatics, materials research and related quantitative fields.



About Charles University and Biocentrum Albertov

Charles University, founded in 1348, is the largest and oldest university in the Czech Republic and ranks among the leading research universities in Central Europe. Biocentrum Albertov is a flagship joint project of three of its research-intensive faculties: the Faculty of Science, the First Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.

Designed as a modern, shared research-and-education ecosystem, BCA connects outstanding teams, advanced laboratories, and high-end core facilities. Its core mission is to advance the understanding of living systems across various scales and translate these discoveries into practical ben-

efits for human health, biotechnology, advanced materials, and sustainable societal solutions.

The physical infrastructure encompasses approximately 34,710 square metres across six above-ground and two underground floors. Upon completion, the complex will house more than 400 laboratories and offices, accommodating around 800 academic staff and 700 students.

Research teams located in or associated with BCA will formally belong to the relevant departments of their participating home faculties. BCA will operate as a shared cross-faculty environment that strengthens departmental research and teaching while enabling a unified scientific strategy, shared facilities, and strong international visibility. Shared facilities will include biobanking, advanced imaging, electron micros-



Working in close cooperation with the participating faculties, the BCA Governing Board, the home departments of BCA research teams, and an international Scientific Advisory Board, the Founding Scientific Director will establish Biocentrum Albertov as:

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The Director will be appointed within Charles University and will hold a mandate, agreed by the participating faculties, to shape the scientific development, launch, and international recognition of BCA. The Director will be accountable to the BCA Governing Board, which is composed of the deans of the participating faculties and additional members, and (BCA Governing Board) retains ultimate decision-making authority. The Director will maintain regular communication with the Board. Within this governance model, academic teams working in BCA remain anchored in the faculty structures that provide BCA funding.

administration team responsible for day-to-day management.

- Defining and implementing a long-term scientific strategy and launch plan for BCA, establishing clear milestones for the 2027–2032 period and beyond.
- Establishing transparent decision-making processes, setting up an international Scientific Advisory Board, and introducing internationally benchmarked evaluation mechanisms for research groups and core facilities.
- Shaping the scientific portfolio of BCA in cooperation with the participating faculties, managing the selection and integration of internal research groups, and overseeing the recruitment of new international teams.
- Fostering an open, inclusive, and supportive research culture that promotes scientific integrity, collaboration, mentorship, and the independence of junior leaders.
- Coordinating with faculty leadership to define, prioritize, and launch shared facilities and services that enable outstanding research and education.
- Developing the BCA leadership team across science, operations, administration, finance, communications, and partnerships.
- Securing institutional funding opportunities, leading major grant strategies, and developing philanthropic, industrial, and technology transfer partnerships.
- Representing BCA nationally and internationally to academic partners, funding bodies, government agencies, industry, clinical partners, and the media.

We are seeking an experienced scientist-leader with international credibility, high personal integrity, and a proven ability to bring people, institutions, and diverse disciplines together. The successful candidate will combine scientific ambition with the diplomacy, judgement, and management experience required to guide a complex university-wide centre.

- A PhD, MD/PhD, or equivalent qualification in a relevant field of life sciences, biomedicine,

- An internationally recognized research profile or an equivalent record of scientific leadership in an area relevant to BCA's mission.
- A clear, compelling vision for building an interdisciplinary research-and-education centre with international standards.
- Demonstrated leadership of a significant research group, department, institute, interdisciplinary programme, or core research infrastructure.
- Experience with recruitment, mentoring, and the professional development of scientific teams, including early-career researchers.
- A proven track record in obtaining competitive research funding or institutional resources, and in building partnerships across academic, clinical, or industrial environments.
- High proficiency in written and spoken English, with the ability to communicate persuasively with diverse audiences.
- A strong commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, work-life balance, and responsible research assessment.

- Experience working within more than one national research environment and a strong international network.
- Experience with establishing or transforming a research centre, department, or major core facility.
- Experience with clinical, translational, biotech, pharmaceutical, or data-science partnerships.
- Experience serving on governance bodies such as scientific advisory boards, international review panels, or steering committees.
- Willingness to engage with the Czech academic and public environment (knowledge of the Czech language is welcome but is not a requirement for appointment).

- A formative leadership opportunity to shape one of Charles University's most important new infrastructures and establish its scientific culture from the ground up.

- **A comprehensive curriculum vitae**, including selected key publications, leadership roles, major grants, and international experience.

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Equal Opportunities and Research Culture

Charles University is committed to equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion. We welcome applications regardless of age, disability, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, or family status. BCA aims to build a positive, respectful, and supportive working culture for all staff and students, and to embed these principles in recruitment, evaluation, mentoring, and everyday leadership.



Applications and nominations should be sent to the dean

Please CC our HR manager, **Kateřina Konečná** (katerina.konecna@natur.cuni.cz).

The recruitment process will be conducted in English. Nominations and informal enquiries will be treated confidentially.