

“Make a difference in people’s lives...”

Bio-economy Career Profile

Position: Director of Clinical Operations

Name: Lee Bougie

Company: Allon Therapeutics Inc.

Salary Range: \$100,000 to 120,000 per year

What I do:

Allon Therapeutics is developing new neuroprotective drugs for a variety of diseases including Alzheimer's disease. I oversee the testing in people, at a large number of sites throughout North America. I also travel to the clinical trial sites and meet with the doctors and pharmacists responsible for gathering data to facilitate open and interactive relationships and information exchange with our company.



What education and skills do candidates need for this position?

People working as directors in the clinical operations area do not need a particular degree or specialized training, but they typically have a post-secondary science background. Interpersonal skills are very important, as you will work with a wide range of people from lab technicians to CEOs, research scientists and physicians.

I hold a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Sciences and a Masters of Experimental Pathology from the University of Alberta. People in this area come from diverse backgrounds, and may work in various places such as the hospital environment, contract research organizations, biotechnology companies and larger pharmaceutical companies.

What are the best parts of your job?

The best thing about my job is the amazing feeling you get when you realize that you have played a part in the development of a new drug that can make a medical difference to people who are ill. I remember getting hugs from nurses at hospitals because I had a role in the development of a drug that helped some cancer patients live longer. I also love meeting so many interesting people, and getting to learn new things when I visit the clinical trial sites. One nurse recently took me into an open-heart surgery; experiences like this can really help us understand the diseases we are researching.

I encourage people interested in this job to stay on top of industry trends and meet as many people in the biotechnology industry as possible. Networking is very important in this profession, mainly because of the wide variety of opportunities available for good people.