



Nutrition Research Advisor

California Prune Board

The Opportunity

The California Prune Board (CPB) is seeking an experienced **Nutrition Research Advisor** to provide scientific leadership and strategic guidance for its nutrition research program.

This is a fractional, senior-level advisory opportunity for a trained nutrition/health scientist or practitioner who can help CPB advance a long-term research strategy focused on building a credible, differentiated body of evidence around the health benefits of California Prunes. Currently, the primary focus of strategic interest is the relationship between prune nutrition, bone health, and the gut-bone connection, as defined in the CPB's 10-year Nutrition Research Roadmap.

The Advisor will provide scientific leadership across CPB's nutrition research portfolio, working closely with the **Nutrition Advisory Panel (NAP)**, a select group of university researchers, and the **Nutrition Research Committee (NRC)**, comprised of industry representatives who serve the interests of the CPB. The Advisor will help ensure that research investments are scientifically rigorous, strategically aligned, and collectively building meaningful evidence over time.

The Advisor will also serve as an important bridge between scientific research and CPB's broader organizational, marketing and communications priorities—helping CPB leadership and senior staff understand both the opportunities and limitations of emerging scientific findings.

This role reports to the Executive Director of the California Prune Board and works regularly with the Vice President of Brand Strategy and Communications. While the role is remote, periodic in-person engagement in California and other locations will be expected for key NAP, NRC and research-related industry meetings.

Key Responsibilities

Research Leadership

- Provide scientific leadership and continuity across CPB's nutrition research portfolio.
- Serve as the primary scientific point of contact for the NAP, principal investigators and research teams.
- Monitor research progress, findings, evidence gaps and emerging opportunities.
- Evaluate opportunities for new research, replication, extension and evidence synthesis.
- Ensure individual studies contribute to a coherent, cumulative body of evidence consistent with CPB's Nutrition Research Roadmap.

Scientific Strategy

- Advise the NRC on research priorities, investment opportunities and the evolution of the Nutrition Research Roadmap.
- Assess the strength, relevance and strategic value of the research portfolio, particularly in priority areas such as bone health.
- Provide objective scientific perspective on research proposals, methodologies, findings and emerging developments.
- Help ensure research decisions are grounded in scientific merit and meaningful evidence gaps rather than predetermined communications objectives.

Organizational Alignment & Communication

- Serve as a scientific resource to CPB leadership and staff.
- Translate complex research findings into clear, executive-level insights while maintaining appropriate scientific nuance.
- Help identify opportunities for research findings to inform healthcare professional engagement, nutrition communications, consumer education and broader organizational priorities.
- Support the development of research updates and materials for the NRC, Executive Committee and Board, and serve as the key coordinator of NRC and NAP meetings.

Evidence Translation

- Identify opportunities to maximize the value and visibility of CPB's research through evidence synthesis, scientific meetings, symposia and professional societies.
- Provide scientific context to CPB's marketing and communications efforts.
- Maintain a clear distinction between scientific evidence and its potential marketing or communications applications.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will bring:

- An advanced degree in nutritional sciences, public health, medicine or a related discipline; **RD/RDN credentials are preferred.**
- Established scientific expertise in nutrition and health research.
- Experience working with academic researchers, principal investigators and scientific advisory groups (marketing boards preferred).

- Experience evaluating research proposals, methodologies and findings.
- Demonstrated ability to view research strategically as a portfolio and provide sound investment recommendations.
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to translate complex science for executive and non-scientific audiences.
- Strong judgment regarding scientific integrity, evidence interpretation and research investment.
- The ability to work effectively within a Board-driven organization and connect scientific research to broader organizational strategy.

Timing & Engagement

The scope and level of effort will be structured around CPB's research portfolio and program needs. The target start date is flexible; however, **an opportunity to overlap with the current Nutrition Research Advisor is preferred**, with the goal of phasing in as early as November through December, if possible.

Selection Process

This is a specialized advisory opportunity, and CPB will take a **selective approach to identifying the right candidate**. Candidates whose qualifications and experience align closely with the needs of the program will be invited to participate in a substantive interview process designed to assess scientific expertise, strategic judgment, communication skills and overall fit with CPB's research objectives and organizational culture.

How to Express Interest

Qualified candidates should submit a **Curriculum Vitae or resume and cover letter** outlining their relevant experience and proposed general contract terms, including anticipated availability and comprehensive billable rates (hourly or monthly), excluding expenses.

Feel free to contact the California Prune Board at 916-749-3442 with any questions about this opportunity.

Please send materials to:

Donn Zea

Executive Director

California Prune Board

contact@californiaprunes.org