

Chief Operating Officer (COO) – ONAKids

Programme: Progama Industria del Coneixement (AGAUR) and The Collider – Mobile World Capital

Location: Barcelona

About ONAKids

ONAKids is a medtech innovation project of the [Brainlab-Cognitive Neuroscience Research Group](#) at the University of Barcelona lead by Prof. [Carles Escera](#) and developed under the Industria del Coneixement Program (AGAUR: Llavor, Producte, Innovadors) in collaboration with The Collider - Mobile World Capital. The project focuses on early screening of language development disorders in newborns through a non-invasive EEG-based solution combined with data-driven analysis.

The goal of ONAKids is to validate the technology, define clinical and regulatory pathways, and prepare the project for spin-off as an independent startup within The Collider program.

The Role

We are looking for a **Chief Operating Officer (COO)** to join ONAKids at a critical early stage. The COO will work closely with the scientific team and subsequently with its CEO to **translate research into a structured, executable medtech operation**.

This role is focused on **operations, execution, and coordination**, not on sales or go-to-market leadership. The COO will ensure that clinical validation, regulatory processes, project planning, and operational workflows are executed efficiently and in line with medtech standards.

This is a hands-on role suited for someone who thrives in early-stage, regulated innovation environments.

Key Responsibilities

Operational Leadership

- Lead the day-to-day operational execution of the ONAKids project.
- Translate strategic objectives defined by the ONAKids leaders into concrete operational plans and timelines.
- Coordinate internal workflows across research, clinical, regulatory, and external partners.

Clinical & Regulatory Operations

- Support and coordinate clinical validation studies in collaboration with hospitals and research partners.
- Manage operational aspects of the medical device certification process (e.g. MDR / CE marking), working with external consultants where needed.
- Ensure compliance with applicable regulatory, ethical, and quality requirements.

Project & Process Management

- Set up and maintain project management structures, milestones, and documentation.
- Monitor progress, risks, and dependencies across workstreams.
- Support the implementation of quality management and operational best practices appropriate for an early-stage medtech venture.

Stakeholder Coordination

- Act as a key operational interface between:
 - the scientific research team
 - the CEO
 - clinical partners and hospitals
 - external regulatory, quality, or technical advisors
- Ensure alignment and smooth collaboration across all parties.

Preparation for Spin-off

- Support the operational readiness of the project for spin-off.
- Contribute to building scalable internal processes that can grow with the company post-validation.

Profile

Required background

- University degree in life sciences, engineering, healthcare, or a related field.



- Proven experience in **operations, project management, or coordination roles** within medtech, biotech, digital health, or regulated healthcare environments.
- Solid understanding of **regulated product development** (medical devices, clinical validation, or similar).
- Experience working with multidisciplinary teams (researchers, clinicians, engineers).

Nice to have

- Experience in early-stage startups, tech transfer environments, or research-based innovation projects.
- Familiarity with quality systems, clinical study coordination, or regulatory documentation.
- Experience working with hospitals, research institutions, or public healthcare systems.

Skills & Competencies

- Strong organisational and execution skills.
- Ability to structure ambiguity and operate in early-stage environments.
- Detail-oriented, reliable, and process-driven.
- Strong communication skills with technical and non-technical stakeholders.
- Collaborative mindset and comfort working alongside scientific teams.
- Entrepreneurial attitude without needing to be the commercial lead.

Languages

- Spanish: fluent
- English: fluent
- Catalan: a strong plus

What We Offer

- A key leadership role in a high-impact medtech innovation project.
- The opportunity to help build a company from research to real-world clinical application.
- Close collaboration with a committed CEO, top academic researchers, and The Collider ecosystem.
- An initial 18-months contract (linked to the Programa Industria del Coneixement, INNOVADORS stage), starting in February 2026.
- Potential continuation into the spin-off phase, depending on project outcomes.

How to apply

Submit your application through the Fundació Bosch i Gimpera [job offers page](#) (Director: Carles Escera, Lloc de feina: Chief Operating Officer (COO) – ONAKids).