Visterra

Senior Scientist, Antibody Engineering

Company:

Visterra is a clinical stage biotechnology company committed to developing innovative antibody-based therapies for the treatment of patients with kidney diseases and other hard-to-treat diseases. Our proprietary technology platform enables the design and engineering of precision antibody-based product candidates that specifically bind to, and modulate, key disease targets. Applying this technology to disease targets that are not adequately addressed by traditional therapeutic approaches, we are developing a robust pipeline of novel therapies for patients with unmet needs. Our most advanced program is in Phase 2 clinical development.

Visterra is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Otsuka America, Inc., which is a U.S. holding company and a wholly owned subsidiary of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. of Japan. Visterra has approximately 50 employees and is located in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary:

Visterra, Inc., is looking to hire a highly motivated ***Senior Scientist*** with a solid foundation in protein engineering, molecular biology, and high throughput screening. The individual will play a key role in improving Visterra's antibody engineering platform and implementing assays to support discovery and validation of therapeutic antibody candidates. The position requires the candidate to be highly motivated, demonstrate a strong desire to learn, be a critical thinker, and work in an interdisciplinary team environment. The ideal candidate should have an advanced degree in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology or related field and a minimum of five years (post-graduate) of research experience in a biotech or pharmaceutical setting. This is a full-time position located at Visterra's offices in Waltham, MA.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Lead the experimental characterization of computationally designed antibodies and related biologics
- Take a lead role in experimental design and planning, conducting experiments, and communicating results
- Screen and optimize molecules for desired biological function and developability characteristics
- Design and perform experiments involving yeast surface display, antibody libraries, antibody engineering, and in vitro/ in vivo antibody/antigen characterization
- Independently analyze scientific results, troubleshoot methods and conceive creative solutions and workflows to address challenges
- Assess internally established methods and consistently develop novel approaches to enhance and improve throughput of design interrogation
- Prepare documents and present project updates, results, and strategies to internal teams

- Develop research plans and manage multiple workflows and activities
- Organize and adapt to a fast-paced, inter-connected research setting
- Maintain expertise in the field by staying current to relevant literature and attending relevant conferences
- May include management of direct reports
- Provide scientific and technical expertise to other research projects at Visterra

Minimum Qualifications

- A Ph.D. or equivalent advanced degree in biochemistry, molecular biology, biology, or related field and a *minimum of five years* (post-graduate) of laboratory-based research, preferably in industry
- Prior experience with biologics, therapeutic antibodies, and/or protein discovery and engineering
- Demonstrated experience in gene construction, protein expression, and protein purification
- Proven track record of developing and implementing biochemical and cell-based assays
- Proven track record of optimizing and streamlining high throughput methodologies
- Excellent critical thinking and analytical skills
- Detail-oriented, organized, team-oriented, enthusiastic and flexible with effective communication skills
- Ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams, displaying excellent interpersonal skills
- Exceptional communication skills (written and verbal), with a proven ability to convey complex ideas in a clear, precise, and actionable manner to diverse teams at all levels of the organization

Preferred Qualifications

- Previous research experience in yeast/phage surface display, robust quantitative binding and biochemical assays, next generation sequencing (NGS), and recombinant protein expression and purification
- Previous experience with antibody screening, assay development, and high-throughput protein optimization
- Experience with automation and liquid handling is desired.
- An understanding of antibodies, their structure and function, and related immunology
- An understanding of protein structure and basic ability to analyze protein structure (e.g., PyMol)

Management responsibilities: This position may include supervisory responsibilities

Travel: Possible travel to local and national conferences

Visterra provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex,

national origin, disability status, genetics, protected veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws.