Scientist, Analytical Development, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology

Company

Visterra, Inc., is an innovative biotechnology company that uses its Atomic Interaction Network technology to identify unique disease targets and design effective first-in-class antibody-based therapeutics. Visterra’s technology offers an innovative approach to the well-established pharmaceutical market for complex diseases, with the ability to identify new targets and engineer novel antibodies to be broadly effective in combating complex diseases with growing global unmet medical needs. Visterra’s exciting pipeline includes VIS410, a human monoclonal antibody designed to offer truly broad-spectrum treatment of influenza A that is currently in clinical trials; VIS513, a monoclonal antibody to treat all four serotypes of dengue virus; VIS649, a monoclonal antibody in development as a treatment for Immunoglobulin A nephropathy, and several other early stage candidates targeting infectious diseases, cancers and kidney disease.

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 70 employees and is located in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary

The Scientist reports to the Associate Director of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology (PST) and supports analytical activities to progress molecules from early development through to clinical trials and product licensure. The scientist is accountable for analytical development and characterization of Visterra’s pipeline molecules. The scientist will work very closely with internal QA, QC, MFG, and Clinical teams as well as with Contract Test and Manufacturing partners.

Responsibilities

- Provide technical and analytical support to research and development teams to support lead candidate identification and development
- Generate standard operating procedures for characterization of biologics for use at Visterra, train lab members and manage transfer of methods to CMOs
- Identify and stay current with new analytical technologies and methods for characterization of biologics
- Perform characterization and degradation studies on lead candidates, critically assess findings and share results with cross-functional teams
• Manage time-lines and milestones for analytical assessment of lead candidates, ensure smooth transfer to CMOs/CTOs
• Identify contract test organization (CTOs) for assay transfer, develop protocols for assay qualification and validation, review and approve data
• Prepare presentations for external partners and internal meetings and represent analytical and CMC issues
• Provide analytical support for investigations at CTOs and CMOs, generate hypothesis, critically review results
• Travel to CTO sites may be required as needed to assist with site audits (10-20%)

Requirements

• The candidate must have at least 5 years of industry or related professional analytical experience in an industrial setting.
• A PhD Degree in analytical chemistry, biochemistry or a related analytical scientific discipline with 1-5 years of experience, a BS with 7 years or an MS with 5 years.
• Hands-on experience with some of the following analytical methods; HPLC, UPLC, CE-SDS, SDS-Page, protein purification, CEX, iCIEF, LC-MS, Glycan analysis, ELISAs, and cell-based potency assays
• Experience with statistical and analytical software e.g. SPSS, JMP, Excel, SAS, Chemstation, SoftMax, PRISM, and Empower.
• Strong interest in innovative strategies for analysis and control of new modalities of biologics
• Experience with trouble-shooting assays, creative problem-solving, method transfer and mentoring junior team members.
• Ability to work in a fast-paced dynamic environment with changing priorities, forward thinking with flexibility to support multiple development programs simultaneously.
• Skilled in managing cross functional relationships and collaboration as a team member
• Experience with writing reports, generating cross-functional presentations, working with external teams and maintaining time-lines
• Excellent written and verbal communication skills

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.