

Senior Research Associate

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.

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

Visterra, Inc., is looking to hire a highly motivated Senior Research Associate with “hands-on” research experience in biochemistry, protein sciences and/or biology applied in the context of antibody-based therapeutic drug discovery and biological characterization. This individual will play a key technical role in advancing Visterra’s early research programs in autoimmunity, immunology and other related areas of therapeutic interest through the design and implementation of library-based screening methods, recombinant protein production, and biochemical, biophysical, and biological characterization of early and late stage leads to support the discovery and validation of therapeutic antibody candidates. The ideal candidate should have a B.S./M.S. degree in biochemistry, biotechnology or related field and 1-3 years (post-graduate) of research experience, preferably in a biotech or pharmaceutical setting. This is a full-time laboratory-based position located at Visterra’s Research and Development Office in Waltham, MA.

Responsibilities

- Effectively implement experiments involving the *in vitro* screening and characterization of biologics-based drug candidates using several immunological, biochemical, and cell-based assays.
- Participate in the construction and screening of various antibody libraries through immunization, antibody display, and flow cytometry.

- Co-lead efforts in the design, cloning, and production of recombinant proteins.
- Analyze and summarize key data sets, results and research updates for internal review.
- Operate effectively and collaboratively in a team oriented, cross functional research and development organization.

Minimum Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree or master's degree in biochemistry, biology, biotechnology or related field.
- A minimum of one year (post-graduate) of laboratory-based research, preferably in the biotechnology/pharmaceutical sector.
- Direct experience in biochemical and immune based binding assays which may include methods such as ELISA, SPR, Carterra LSA, and other methods (such as biolayer interferometry/Octet).
- Aseptic cell culture experience including transient transfections in mammalian cell lines and propagation of cell lines for use in recombinant protein production and cell-based assays.
- Experience in the execution of cell-based bioassays including the use of primary immune cells and/or reporter cell lines.
- Basic molecular cloning experience and familiarity with PCR, RT-PCR, and related methods.
- Solid data analysis skills and written and oral scientific communication and documentation skills.
- A demonstrated ability to be detail-oriented, organized, team-oriented, and enthusiastic.
- An expressed willingness to write research reports and protocols as needed.
- A basic understanding of antibodies, their structure and function.
- Experience with biologics and therapeutic antibodies highly preferred.
- A background in immunology is a plus.
- Experience in cellular profiling by flow cytometry inclusive of the use of cell sorting (FACS) and related methods for isolation of cells, target binding, and multiplex immune profiling.
- Experience in recombinant protein production and purification using FPLC based platforms.
- Experience in yeast culture and yeast/phage surface display.
- Familiarity with molecular biology and sequence analysis related software such as Geneious Prime, Benchling, or related platforms.
- A history of supporting in vivo experiments involving the use of small animals for immunizations and PK studies.



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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.

For consideration, please submit a cover letter and resume to careers@visterrainc.com.