Visterra
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Scientist, Cell Culture Development
Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technology

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 75 employees and is in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary

The Cell Culture Development Scientist will be responsible for planning cell culture process development and manufacturing activities as well as participating in cell line development. Tasks include supporting in-house and contracted cell line development, developing scale-down models, providing technical guidance for contract process development activities, overseeing technology transfer to manufacturing sites, and serving as person in plant during GMP operations. The Scientist will work closely with internal partners in Quality Assurance, Analytical and Quality Control and Regulatory as well as with external partners at Contract Manufacturing sites.

This is a full-time position located at Visterra's offices in Waltham, MA.

Responsibilities

- Act as principle technical advisor for cell culture development and manufacturing activities at our contract development organizations.
- Conduct in-house bioreactor operations and pre-culture activities for small scale development of cell culture processes for Visterra's antibody products.
- Perform activities and small-scale cell culture experiments to optimize media/feed composition and feeding strategies.
- Independently operate laboratory scale bioreactors and other cell culture equipment required for development studies.
- Monitor and sample cell culture processes daily; including testing for attributes such as cell

viability and density, metabolites, pH, and more.

- Participate in and lead cell culture technology transfer activities such as authoring and reviewing process descriptions, reviewing master batch records and process data, and providing on the floor support during GMP manufacturing.
- Take responsibility as the lead scientist for cell line development activities at CDMO.
- Develop in-house cell line.
- Present work at department and cross functional meetings and contribute as a process lead in drug development team meetings.
- Troubleshoot and maintain laboratory equipment.
- Document experimental results in lab notebooks, tech transfer documents, and technical reports and present data at meetings.
- Keeping current with new technologies to improve process development capabilities.

Requirements

- B.S./M.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chemical, Mechanical or Biochemical Engineering (or related discipline) with 5-8 years of relevant industry experience or Ph.D. with 2-3 years of relevant industry experience.
- Hands-on experience with aseptic techniques for small scale bioreactor experiments.
- Experience in maintaining and troubleshooting cell culture operations from vial thaw to bioreactor harvest.
- A strong understanding of cell culture parameters in general (cell growth rate, cell density, viability, population doubling, metabolites and cell waste, etc.).
- Knowledge and experience scaling up processes from bench to commercial manufacturing and supporting technology transfers to CMO.
- Experience with executing or supporting GMP manufacturing operations.
- The ability to think critically and communicate effectively across broad spectrum of audience both internal and external.
- An ability to work independently, meet deadlines and prioritize work effectively.
- An understanding of cell line development.
- The ability to travel to conferences and global manufacturing sites up to 10-20% of the time.

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.