

Scientist, Research - Cell Biology

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 located in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary

Visterra, Inc., is looking to hire a highly motivated Scientist with experience conducting original research in cell biology, with an emphasis on immunology. Specific experience in antibody characterization and/or assay automation is preferred but not required.

This individual will play a key technical role in advancing Visterra's early research programs in autoimmunity, immunology and related areas. They will work on a project-based team responsible for discovering and developing therapeutic candidates from conception through to pre-clinical studies. The specific role will focus on understanding the cellular functions and immunological activity of Visterra's engineered therapeutic proteins. It will interface closely with team members executing high-throughput antibody discovery.

The ideal candidate should have Ph.D. in biochemistry, molecular biology or related field and 0 to 3 years of postdoctoral research experience in biotech or academic settings, or B.S./M.S. with about 10 years of experience and a record of original research. This is a full-time laboratory-based position located at Visterra's facility in Waltham, MA.

Responsibilities

- Work collaboratively on a project-based team developing therapeutic biologic molecules from conception through to pre-clinical in vivo studies. Supervise at least one junior researcher.
- Develop and execute cell biology assays for immune cell effector functions such as cell killing by ADCC and ADCP.
- Characterize biologic drug candidates using in vitro and cell biology assays based on ELISA, SPR, flow cytometry, and related techniques.
- Develop and execute high-throughput screening using automation technologies.

- Document, analyze and interpret data for internal decision making, publications, presentations, patents and regulatory filings.
- Write reports and present results both within the team and across Visterra.

Requirements

- Ph.D. degree in biology, biotechnology, or a related field with up to 3 years of postdoctoral experience, or B.S./M.S. with about 10 years of relevant experience.
- Fluency in English and strong ability to communicate scientific topics in writing and presentations.
- Demonstrated ability to conduct independent research in cell biology with an emphasis on immunology.
- Experience developing and executing quantitative biochemical assays, using techniques including but not limited to ELISA, SPR, Western blotting, qPCR.
- Experience with molecular biology techniques, such as cloning, plasmid construction, and sequence analysis.

Other Relevant Experience

- Experience with screening or characterization of protein-based therapeutics using in vitro and/or cell-based assays. Experience using phage display, yeast display, or in vitro directed evolution is especially relevant.
- Use of flow cytometry and cell sorting in the context of immunology or protein engineering.
- Experience with high-throughput automation technologies, such as a Tecan liquid handling robot.

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.