Visterra
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Senior Scientist, Research

Company

Visterra is a clinical stage biotechnology company committed to developing innovative biologic therapies (monoclonal antibodies and therapeutic muteins) for the treatment of kidney diseases, with an immuno-nephrology focus in drug development. Our proprietary technology platform enables the design and engineering of precision antibody or protein-based drug candidates to modulate key disease targets. 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 subsidiary of Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. of Japan. Visterra has approximately 90 employees, and is located in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary

The Senior Scientist, Research reports to the Director, Research is responsible for driving development and execution of innovative experimental platform technologies that augment the broad abilities at Visterra to discover, engineer and characterize therapeutic antibodies that modulate disease processes. A key area is the development and execution of methodologies for deeper understanding of biological, immunological and disease mechanisms using single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq) and other technologies. This individual will play a key role in developing these methods and facilitating their distillation to a practice that can be incorporated into Visterra research efforts. This individual will be the technical lead of a team focused on development of new and transformative experimental platform methodologies.

The ideal candidate should have a Ph.D. in molecular biology, immunology, biochemistry or related field with 3+ years post-doctoral research experience in an industry setting. The successful candidate will be a collaborative team player, an effective manager, a critical thinker and clear communicator. This is a full-time laboratory-based position located at Visterra's facility in Waltham, MA.

Responsibilities

- Lead a team in the development of new platform technologies and methodologies that improve Visterra's ability to discover therapeutic antibodies and characterize their impact on disease processes. Examples include scRNA-seq, microfluidic droplet-based

assays, yeast surface display-based methods and NGS-related methods.

- Operationalize scRNA-seq and related methods, with application to a variety of animal model and patient samples, to facilitate deeper understanding of immuno-/kidney-disease biology and relevant cellular and molecular mechanisms.
- Collaborate across functional teams in developing experimental strategies, optimizing methods, and interpreting data for translational/research studies using scRNA-seq and other experimental platform technologies.
- Identify opportunities for enhancements in platform technologies and devise strategies to integrate new capabilities into existing workflows.
- Coordinate closely with computational biology team in analysis of large datasets to extract and interpret key biological/immunological features relevant to disease processes and therapeutic mechanisms.
- Independently analyze scientific results, troubleshoot methods, conceive creative solutions, and extract key findings.
- Monitor developments in academic literature and the biotech field of new technologies, and aid in identifying and creating new technology opportunities of technologies to improve Visterra's research workflows and capabilities.
- Supervise and mentor research associates.
- Manage activities at contract research organizations (CROs).

Requirements

- Ph.D. in molecular biology, immunology, biochemistry or related field with 3+ years of post-doctoral research experience in an industry setting, or B.S./M.S. with approximately 15 years of relevant experience.
- Proven track record in developing and implementing new complex, high-throughput molecular biology and cell biology-based technologies and methodologies.
- Demonstrated experience with using complex molecular biology methods to characterize disease processes in animal model or patient samples.
- Strong data analysis skills.
- Excellent critical thinking and experimental troubleshooting skills.
- Strong ability to communicate scientific topics in writing and verbally to a broad spectrum of audiences.
- Working knowledge of immunology.
- Strong teamwork skills.
- Strong organizational skills, attention to accuracy and detail, and the ability and willingness to multi-task as needed.
- Limited travel (< 5%) may be required to attend conferences and industry events.

Other Relevant Experience

- Experience with scRNA-seq, transcriptomics, BCR/TCR repertoire analyses, single-cell methods, NGS and related methods is especially relevant.
- Use of flow cytometry and cell sorting (FACS) in the context of immunology or protein engineering.
- Experience with therapeutic antibodies and/or biologics.
- Experience conducting original research in cell biology, immunology, target discovery or therapeutic mechanisms of action.
- Experience managing scientists and/or research associates.

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.