

Senior Research Associate

Company

Visterra is a clinical stage biotechnology company committed to developing innovative biologic therapies (monoclonal antibodies and therapeutic mAbs) 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

Visterra, Inc., is looking to hire a motivated Research Associate with research experience in biochemistry and molecular biology, and we are looking for someone who can apply these skills in the context of a drug discovery pipeline. This role, reporting to the Senior Scientist, Research, will play a key technical role in advancing Visterra's early research programs in autoimmunity and immunology through the design and implementation of library-based screening methods, recombinant protein production, protein engineering, and biochemical, biophysical, and biological characterization of early stage leads to support the discovery of therapeutic antibody candidates.

The ideal candidate should have B.S. or M.S. degree in biochemistry, molecular biology and a minimum of two years of wet-lab research experience outside of academia. Relevant experience in the screening and characterization of biologics is preferred. This is a full-time laboratory-based position located at Visterra's research laboratory in Waltham, MA.

Responsibilities

- Perform *in vitro* screening and characterization of biologics-based drug candidates using various immunological, biochemical, and cell-based assays.
- Manage modern molecular cloning and production of recombinant proteins and antibodies.
- Implement high throughput methods to support biochemical and immune-based assay

development and screening.

- Participate in the construction and screening of antibody libraries through immunization, affinity-based selection strategies, FACS, and analytical flow cytometry.
- Generation and analysis of data, production of research updates for internal review, including written technical reports and oral presentations.

Requirements

- Bachelor's or master's degree in biochemistry or related field, and a minimum of two years "at the bench" experience beyond class-based training.
- Strong interest in protein engineering and structure-based antibody design, and a motivation to learn new techniques, machines, and technologies.
- Basic understanding of antibodies, their structure and function, and related immunology; Experience with biologics and therapeutic antibodies preferred.
- Strong data analyses skills and the ability interpret, communicate, document complex data in an ELN format.
- Team-oriented, detail-oriented, organized, enthusiastic and flexible with highly effective written and oral communication skills.
- Capability to manage changes in projects and alterations in priorities, as needed.
- Proven ability to operate, collaborate, and communicate effectively in a team-oriented, cross-functional research and development organization.
- Hands-on direct experience in many of the following areas:
 - Molecular cloning and recombinant expression and purification of proteins.
 - Flow cytometry and/or FACS.
 - Biochemical binding assays such as ELISA, SPR, BLI.
 - Cellular profiling by flow cytometry and related analytical methods.
 - Yeast/phage surface display selection strategies.
 - Sanger sequencing and analysis as well as next generation sequencing (NGS).
 - Aseptic technique and culture of mammalian, insect, and yeast cultures.
 - Transient transfection of mammalian cell lines, and propagation/maintenance.
 - Familiarity with molecular biology software (e.g. Geneious).

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.