

Job Description: Associate Scientist I - Process and Analytical Development

Job Overview

Irazu Oncology is a preclinical-stage immuno-oncology company developing outer membrane vesicle (OMV)-based cancer immunotherapies. We are hiring an Associate Scientist I to work directly with the Director of CMC to advance process development, analytical support, and manufacturing readiness for our lead program as it moves toward IND. This is a hands-on bench role with broad exposure across upstream fermentation, vesicle recovery and purification, antigen loading, and drug product formulation. The company is located in the 4MLK building at the UMB Biopark in Baltimore.

Responsibilities & Duties

- Support development and optimization of upstream fermentation and downstream purification processes for biologics (OMV, recombinant proteins) including tangential flow filtration, ultracentrifugation, and chromatographic polishing steps.
- Support the development of the analytical package needed to characterize OMVs, antigen presentation, loading efficiency, and lot-to-lot consistency.
- Support formulation development, stability studies, and drug product characterization.
- Perform and help qualify analytical assays supporting release and characterization (protein quantitation, particle size and integrity, endotoxin/pyrogenicity, identity and purity methods).
- Draft and maintain batch records, protocols, technical reports, and SOPs to a standard suitable for eventual GMP tech transfer.
- Serve as day-to-day technical support in interactions with CDMOs and academic collaborators, including sample shipment, data reconciliation, and follow-up on deviations or questions.
- Maintain rigorous data documentation and contribute to CMC sections of regulatory filings.
- Assisting senior personnel with day-to-day laboratory operations, including sample preparation, data collection, reagent ordering, equipment maintenance, lab inventory organizing and updating.
- Performs general lab housekeeping, including cleaning of lab and lab materials, disposal of waste, ordering and stocking supplies, etc.
- Adhere to biosafety procedures in the laboratory
- Other duties as assigned

Requirements

- B.S. required, M.S. preferred, in microbiology, biochemistry, molecular biology, bioengineering, or a related biological science, and industry internship.
- 2+ years of relevant laboratory experience (industry preferred; academic experience with strong process or biochemistry emphasis will be considered).
- Working knowledge of bacterial culture and fermentation, and familiarity with the unit operations used to recover and purify vesicles, proteins, or other biologics from a gram-negative host.
- Demonstrated understanding of bioconjugation chemistry and the principles governing how a protein antigen can be attached to or displayed on a lipid vesicle surface. Direct hands-on conjugation experience is welcome but not required.

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- Comfort with the analytical methods used to characterize biologics, and an appreciation for why reproducibility and characterization matter in a regulated setting.
- Familiarity with cGMP concepts, tech transfer, and IND-enabling CMC expectations is a strong plus; prior GMP experience is not required.
- Strong written communication, careful record-keeping, and the ability to work independently in a small-company environment where priorities shift

Compensation & Benefits

- Competitive salary paid every two weeks
- Ten (10) days Paid Time Off (PTO) per year
- Federal holidays observed
- Immediately participate in Irazu Oncology's benefits program which include: health, dental, and vision care, and participation in Irazu Oncology's 401(k) retirement savings plan

Contact us by emailing your resume and cover letter to bhoward@irazuoncology.com