



Senior / Principal Scientist, Therapeutic Antibody Research

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. Our most advanced program is in Phase 2 clinical development.

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 50 employees and is located in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Summary:

Visterra, Inc., is looking to hire a highly motivated ***Senior Scientist/Principal Scientist*** with a solid foundation in human immunology and pathophysiology and broad experience in discovery and development of antibody-based therapeutics. This individual will play a key role in new drug discovery programs, such as targeting the human complement system, by conceiving, developing and implementing assays to support discovery and validation of therapeutic antibody candidates. The successful candidate will be a collaborative team player, effective manager, critical thinker and clear communicator. The ideal candidate should have an advanced degree in immunology, biology, biochemistry or related field and a minimum of seven years (post-graduate) of research experience in a biotech or pharmaceutical setting. This is a full-time position located at Visterra's offices in Waltham, MA.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Design and perform experiments involving yeast surface display, antibody libraries, antibody engineering and in vitro/ in vivo antibody/antigen characterization
- Independently analyze scientific results, troubleshoot methods and conceive creative solutions and workflows to address challenges
- Prepare documents and present project updates, results, and strategies to internal teams
- Develop research plans and manage multiple workflows and activities
- Manage activities at contract research organizations (CROs)
- Organize and adapt to a fast-paced, inter-connected research setting
- Maintain expertise in the field by staying current to relevant literature and attending relevant conferences



- May include management of direct reports
- Provide scientific and technical expertise to other research projects at Visterra

Minimum Qualifications

- A Ph.D. or equivalent advanced degree in immunology, biology, biochemistry, or related field and a *minimum of seven years* (post-graduate) of laboratory-based research, preferably in industry
- Prior experience with biologics, therapeutic antibodies, and/or protein discovery and engineering
- Strong foundation in immunology
- Proven track record of developing and implementing biochemical and cell-based assays
- Ability to design, develop and execute in vitro and in vivo experiments to probe disease biology and characterize drug candidates
- Strong data analyses skills and solid written and oral scientific communication and documentation skills
- Excellent critical thinking and analytical skills
- Detail-oriented, organized, team-oriented, enthusiastic and flexible with effective communication skills
- Possess people skills to manage research staff (scientists and research associates) and work with cross-functional teams

Preferred Qualifications:

- Previous research experience in yeast/phage surface display, robust quantitative binding and biochemical assays, next generation sequencing (NGS), recombinant protein expression and purification, and microfluidics with biology applications
- An understanding of antibodies, their structure and function, and related immunology
- Experience in the use of flow cytometry (FACS)
- An understanding of protein structure and basic ability to analyze protein structure (e.g., PyMol)

Management responsibilities: This position may include supervisory responsibilities

Travel: Possible travel to local and national conferences

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.