



Scientist/Senior Scientist Therapeutic Antibody Discovery and Characterization

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 **scientist/senior scientist** with extensive research background in immunology, cell and molecular biology and/or biochemistry applied in the context of therapeutic drug discovery, target validation, and mechanistically focused biological characterization. This individual will play a key scientific role in advancing both Visterra's early discovery and later stage research programs in immune-oncology, autoimmunity, and other related areas of therapeutic interest through the design and implementation of biological and biochemical assays to support the discovery and validation of therapeutic antibody candidates. The ideal candidate should have an advanced degree in immunology, cell and molecular biology, biochemistry or related field and a minimum of four years (post-graduate) of research experience, preferably in a biotech or pharmaceutical setting. Relevant experience in the screening and characterization of biologics is highly preferred. This is a full-time position located at Visterra's Research and Development Office in Waltham, MA.

Key duties and responsibilities:

- Design and perform experiments involving the *in vitro* screening and characterization of biologics-based drug candidates using a number of immunological, biochemical, and cell-based assays.
- Identify, optimize and implement additional biological based assays for the evaluation of drug potency, specificity, and mechanism of action.
- Participate in the construction and screening of immune based libraries through immunization, antibody display, and flow cytometry.



- Co-lead the design and implementation of *in vivo* animal studies to support antibody discovery, PK/PD, and early pre-clinical studies either through direct participation or management of contract research organizations.
- Lead key activities in the *ex vivo* profiling of biological activity, target engagement, and/or drug disposition using a combination of immune based profiling methods, binding assays and other related methods.
- Analyze and summarize key data sets, results and research updates for internal review and possibly for use in regulatory or patent filings or publication in peer-review journals.
- Manage activities at contract research organizations (CROs) as needed
- Maintain expertise in relevant disease areas, approaches, and drug discovery by staying current to the literature.
- Provide scientific and technical expertise to other research projects at Visterra
- Operate effectively and collaboratively in a team oriented, cross functional research and development organization.

Minimum Qualifications

- A Ph.D. or equivalent advanced degree in immunology, biochemistry, or related field and a *minimum of four years* (post-graduate) of laboratory-based research, preferably in industry.
- Relevant expertise and excellent, independent research experience in disease areas related to immune-oncology and/or autoimmunity or possibly neurodegenerative diseases.
- Strong foundation in cellular immunology, inclusive of both T cell and B cell biology.
- Proven track record of developing and implementing biochemical and cell-based assays using both primary and established cell lines.
- Cellular immune profiling by flow cytometry.
- Ability to design, develop and execute *in vitro* and *in vivo* experiments to probe disease biology and characterize drug candidates.
- Basic experience in molecular biology related to protein design, recombinant protein production and gene expression.
- 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

Preferred Qualifications:

- Familiarity with the use of gene editing methods to engineer cell lines and/or for probing target biology and pathway analyses.
- *In vivo* biology experience and implementation of animal studies as needed.
- Prior experience with biologics, therapeutic antibodies, and/or cell-based therapeutics.
- A basic understanding of antibodies, their structure and function, and related immunology.
- Experience in bench scale production of antibodies and other proteins in HEK 293 and CHO-based cell lines using both transient and stable transfection methods.



- Previous research experience in yeast/phage surface display, robust quantitative binding and biochemical assays, next generation sequencing (NGS)
- Pathway analysis and basic informatics.

Management responsibilities: This position may include supervisory responsibilities of future direct reports contingent on program needs, performance, and hiring plans.

Travel: Occasional 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.