Position

Cell Culture - Senior Scientist

Company Overview

Avectas is a cell engineering technology business focused on improving the cost, manufacturing, and patient outcomes for the next generation of cellular therapies. Avectas is developing a unique cell engineering platform, SOLUPORE®, to enable the *ex-vivo* manufacture of gene modified cell therapy products. SOLUPORE is a patented, non-viral, cell engineering technology that permeabilizes the target cell membrane and allows efficient transfer of cargo into cells while retaining very high levels of cell viability and functionality. Avectas is currently developing the clinical (cGMP) technology embodiment while enhancing its dataset, implementing its commercialisation strategy, and building out the team.

Position overview

This role is a unique opportunity to manage, design and execute cell culture studies and analytical testing supporting development and commercialization of the SOLUPORE technology. Avectas is supported with field-leading advisors, and a highly experienced technical/operational team. You as a key member of the cell culture team will be focused on delivering high quality cell products to support the development of our SOLUPORE™ cell engineering platform for the next generation of cell and gene therapies.

Location
3rd Floor Eolas Building, MaynoothWorks, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

Role and Responsibilities
Roles/Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Supervise, train and mentor cell processing staff, creating a high performing team
- Design and execute primary cell culture development studies, procure critical reagents, generate cell banks and manage cell culture operations (daily monitoring, troubleshooting and investigations)
- Author required documentation relating to process development and technology transfer activities in an accurate and timely manner. Such documentation includes (but not be limited to) Technical reports, SOPs and Logbooks
- Perform routine *in vitro* assays used to characterise cell product quality, including Flow Cytometry and ELISA assays
- Support day-to-day research activities including design, execution, statistical data analysis and interpretation of scientific experiments
- Collect and analyse data, track and trend cell culture data and establish specifications for critical process controls
- Support technology transfer activities to external parties evaluating Solupore
- Presents findings at group meetings and work closely with cross-functional teams
- Communicate information on current process data which may impact process development and/or technology transfer
- Provide technical input/guidance relating to the company's cell culture facility development
- Liaise and communicate with Project Lead and Snr Director Process Development

Qualifications & Experience

- Degree in Cell Biology, Immunology, Bioengineering, Biomedical engineering or related discipline; BS with 5-6 years of relevant experience, MS with 3-4 years of experience, or PhD with 2+ years of relevant experience in a biotechnology or cell therapy industry
- Experience with mammalian cell-culture process development for cell therapy, biologics or vaccines (experience with T-cell or other immune cell cultures is preferred)
- Prior experience primary immune cells, iPSCs highly preferred but not essential
- Experience interpreting analytical methods used to characterize immune cell-based therapies, including flow cytometry, ELISA, PCR, western blotting and cell-based methods
- Must be highly motivated, a team player and able to deliver on defined timelines, in collaboration with colleagues
- Requires excellent troubleshooting skills, creative thinking, and understanding of the principles of experiment design and statistical analysis
- Proven ability to be highly productive and successful in a high pace work environment
- Excellent attention to detail and meticulous bench work with a solid understanding of aseptic techniques and technologies in cell culture
- Skilled in initiating and managing projects of complex scope, having cross-functional impact

Desirable Skills

- Experience with cell culture process development and ATMP manufacturing requirements
- Familiarity with analytical methods used to release and characterize cell-therapy based modalities
- Prior experience with plate and cell-based assays including techniques such as molecular biology, digital and quantitative PCR, NGS, western blotting, and ELISA desirable
- Experience/understanding of operating within a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) environment, including aseptic processing

Skill and Competencies

- Demonstrated problem-solving/troubleshooting capability
- Excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills, both verbal and written
- Capability to work collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary team with other scientists, engineers, and project managers
- Ability to develop study designs, workstreams, timelines and deliverables while driving project execution to meet corporate expectations

How to Apply:

Letter of interest and complete CV addressed to Senior Dir of Process and Analytical Development Lisa O'Flynn loflynn@avectas.com

The post will stay active until the position is filled. We would like to thank all applicants, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.