

Associate Scientist (Full time). Viral Vector QC

Oxford Science Park
Supervisor: Director Vector Production, Vaccitech Ltd.

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Research Associate will perform routine Quality Control of Modified Vaccinia Ankara (MVA) and Chimpanzee adenoviral vector seed stocks generated by operators in the Vaccitech Early Development laboratories (EDL). The EDL are isolated suites designed to produce seed stocks for GMP manufacturing. The Research Associate will perform standard QC testing on these seed stocks and material produced by the process development team.

The QC testing will involve using established assays to confirm the identity of the viral vectors using standard PCR, QPCR and DNA sequence analysis; quantify the viral vectors by titration and other methods and confirm protein expression from the viral vectors. The Associate will ensure that the studies, tests, and procedures performed in the laboratory follow quality procedures for all aspects of work.

Previous experience in a cGMP environment will be an advantage.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Perform QC testing as required: PCR, QPCR and DNA sequence analysis; quantification of the viral vectors by titration methods and confirmation of protein expression from the viral vectors (RT-PCR and western blotting).
- Work under GMP-like conditions, with the appropriate requisite training, documentation, and attention to following defined Operating Procedures or Workflow diagrams
- Ensure that the laboratory and activities comply with GMP-like standards and that all results produced are reviewed and presented appropriately.
- Assist in ordering supplies, making reagents, and maintaining the laboratory in order to conduct necessary experiments.
- Assist in studies to optimize the ability to manufacture adenoviral and MVA-vectored vaccines, such as evaluation of alternative systems, host or vector gene deletions or insertions, viral culture yield, systems for viral growth, etc.
- Evaluate and perform analytic assays to determine the quality, yield, stability, etc. of specific candidates or of specific manufacturing process conditions.
- Participate in the development and conduct of laboratory meetings.
- Support the tech transfer of processes.
- Assist with recombinant virus seed stock production as required.
- Ensure all processes and documentation comply with the required standard.
- Participate in the development and conduct of laboratory meetings and give presentations inside the company as required.

- Perform other duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in the biological sciences or equivalent industrial experience
- At least 2 years of relevant work experience, ideally in industry, with demonstrated experience in laboratory bench work with cell culture and virus production systems.
- Proficient in conducting QC using a variety of methodologies, e.g., PCR, qPCR, DNA sequencing, virus quantification by titration, SDS-PAGE, Western blot.
- Excellent writing and communication skills; ability to understand and communicate scientific information; proficiency in Microsoft PowerPoint, graphic displays, and tables.
- A self-starter with the ability to work in a fast-paced environment and adapt quickly to changing needs and priorities; proven ability to prioritize and manage multiple tasks simultaneously.

Other Skills: We care most about your technical aptitude, critical thinking skills, and ability to quickly and enthusiastically learn new technologies.

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:

No specific requirements.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an employee encounters while performing the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

HAZARDOUS WORKING CONDITIONS:

Not applicable

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English fluency

Please use the cover letter to highlight how you meet the competencies for the role which will be used along with your CV to assess your application. Please also confirm your current salary and salary expectations.

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