

Senior Scientist – Protein Sciences

Pionyr Immunotherapeutics Inc. is a growing South San Francisco-based immuno-oncology company focused on novel approaches to cancer immunotherapy. We are seeking a highly experienced, motivated and committed scientific leader with significant hands-on experience with expression and purification of recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies. The successful candidate will lead a team responsible for the design, purification and biophysical and biochemical characterization of antibodies and recombinant proteins, and will also manage work performed through CROs. This will be primarily a lab-based scientist position with management responsibility.

Specific Responsibilities Include (but not limited to):

- Lead the innovation, design, quality control, and delivery of candidate therapeutic antibodies and reagent proteins for Pionyr’s research programs.
- Provide leadership for the Protein Sciences team by effectively prioritizing and organizing workload as well as providing mentorship to team members.
- Protein expression of recombinant proteins and antibodies in multiple expression systems (mammalian, insect, E.coli)
- Protein purification using a variety of methods including affinity, ion exchange, size-exclusion chromatography.
- Biophysical characterization of proteins using CE-SDS, HPLC, DLS, and SPR-based methods.
- Trouble-shoot and optimize protein expression and purification strategies, perform complex experiments with strong attention to detail and documentation.
- Work with project teams to coordinate protein needs of early and mid-stage projects; serving as technical expert for protein engineering and protein sciences in order to support multiple drug candidate projects
- Maintain a workflow for production and an inventory of reagents.
- Manage CRO activities (DNA synthesis, plasmid generation, DNA production, and protein production and purification).
- Develop and execute experimental plans in timelines to meet program and corporate research objectives
- Excellent written and oral communication with cross-disciplinary teams and with external parties.
- Record detailed experimental procedures in laboratory notebooks and controlled documents

Requirements:

- PhD in biochemistry, biophysics, molecular and cell biology, structural biology or similar, with at least 5-7 years of relevant research experience in an industrial setting.
- Experience with managing technical level staff is preferred.
- Familiar with lab and manufacturing scale mammalian cell, E.coli, yeast, or insect cell expression systems.
- Expertise in protein biochemistry and molecular biology skills designing plasmid constructs for recombinant protein expression, purification methods, and protein characterization using SEC, ELISA, PAGE.
- Experience with SPR-based methods for biophysical characterization of proteins is a plus.
- Demonstrated experience with troubleshooting protein expression and protein purification methods.
- Demonstrated success in leading and working in a cross-functional team environment.
- Comfortable in a fast-paced small company environment and able to adjust workload based upon changing priorities.
- Excellent creativity, technical decision-making, and trouble shooting skills.
- Knowledge of lab software systems along with searching for literature, patents and analyzing sequences.
- Familiarity with protein crystallization, protein structure visualization and modelling software suites would be advantageous.
- Have a record of published work and of presentation at conferences.