Job Description: (Senior) Scientist, Virology

About us

RQ Biotechnology Ltd is a UK-based virology company whose mission is to discover and develop long-acting monoclonal antibodies (LAAbs) against seasonal influenza with the goal of providing immediate, powerful and long-lasting protection against the risk of severe viral disease. Following our recent £85.5M Series A fundraise, we are now in pre-clinical development of our product candidate and are advancing research on a next generation product pipeline in parallel.

About the role

RQ Bio is seeking a Scientist/Senior Scientist to lead and manage virology activities across our research and development programmes. The role will be responsible for the design and delivery of key virology studies, including viral neutralisation assays, in vivo efficacy studies and development of assays supporting antibody discovery and characterisation. Many of these activities will be delivered through external CROs, requiring strong scientific oversight and vendor management.

Working closely with matrixed R+D teams, CROs and external consultants, the successful candidate will translate programme objectives into robust experimental plans, oversee study execution and interpret resulting data to inform programme decisions. The position reports to the Head of R&D and will be appointed at Scientist or Senior Scientist level depending on experience.

Role profile

- Design, establish and oversee virology assays supporting RQ Bio's LAAb discovery and preclinical development
- Own the execution of outsourced studies, including in vitro and in vivo efficacy assessment, working closely with CROs to ensure high-quality and timely delivery
- Build effective working relationships with CROs and external collaborators, including communicating study objectives, reviewing protocols and reports, and troubleshooting issues
- Analyse and interpret study data, troubleshoot experimental issues and recommend appropriate follow-up activities to teams
- Communicate study plans, progress, results, risks and recommendations clearly to matrixed teams and other internal stakeholders (e.g. finance, business development)
- Contribute to programme strategy, planning and regulatory activities in line with development plans
- Identify scientific or delivery risks within virology workstreams and proactively develop mitigation and contingencies
- Maintain high-quality scientific records and contribute to IP filing, regulatory documents, manuscripts and internal/external presentations

Essential skills and experience

- PhD (or equivalent experience) in virology, immunology, molecular biology, pharmacology or a similar field
- Strong theoretical knowledge and practical understanding of virus biology, including viral pathogenesis and MoA
- Practical experience working with live virus, pseudovirus and/or other viral vectors at CL2
- Experience developing, optimising and troubleshooting cell-based virology assays, including infectivity and/or neutralisation
- Ability to independently design experiments, critically analyse and interpret data, and determine appropriate next steps
- Experience designing and managing studies conducted through CROs or external partners
- Experience with mammalian cell culture and relevant molecular biology techniques
- Strong organisational and project-management skills, with the ability to prioritise activities across multiple workstreams
- Experience preparing and presenting scientific data to internal and external audiences
- Experience contributing to scientific publications, regulatory filings and/or patent applications

Desirable skills and experience

- Knowledge of and experience working with influenza, or similar respiratory viruses
- Experience working within a biotechnology or pharmaceutical drug-development environment
- Experience running/overseeing CRO delivery of regulatory-compliant/GxP preclinical, translational, in vivo and/or clinical assays
- Experience with standard techniques of mammalian cell culture, including transfection and generation of cell lines, molecular biology experience including PCR, cloning and plasmid DNA preparation
- Contribution to regulatory-compliant study reports and preparation of IB/CTA/IND
- Theoretical knowledge and practical experience of monoclonal antibody discovery, B-cell biology and antibody repertoires
- Practical experience of antibody binding assays e.g. ELISA, HTRF and/or SPR
- Experience of recording data using an Electronic Lab Notebook and data repositories/databases
- Understanding of laboratory health and safety requirements and experience drafting risk assessments including for HG2 pathogens and GM organisms

Working arrangements and benefits

- The position can be hybrid, with an on-site presence required at our labs in West London (specific days to be discussed). Occasional travel and after-hours work may be required, particularly when working with international partners.
- We offer a competitive salary, commensurate with qualifications and experience, and a benefits package

including pension and health insurance.

- Candidates must have the right to work in the UK, or eligibility to obtain it.

To apply, please email your CV and brief cover note to careers@rqbiotechnology.com quoting reference RQ2608. Our Candidate Privacy Notice can be found on the careers section of our website.