Process Development Scientist

Location: London, UK

About Us: At Nightstar, our mission is to maintain and restore sight in patients with inherited retinal diseases. We are a clinical-stage company focused on developing and commercializing a pipeline of novel and potentially curative, one-time retinal gene therapies for patients suffering from rare inherited retinal diseases that would otherwise progress to blindness, and, for which, there are no currently approved treatments.

Job Purpose: We are seeking a Process Development Scientist to assist with the development and implementation of novel processes for the production and purification of gene therapy vectors by our contract manufacturing network. The role will encompass design, oversight and implementation of activities to support the manufacture of Nightsar's AAV gene therapy products at all stages of clinical development.

About the role:

- This role will be mainly office based, as Nightstar operate a semi-virtual strategy that utilizes the resources of our contract manufacturing network
- Assist with oversight of experiments executed at CDMO sites, with the goal of developing robust, scalable, and highly productive processes that enable high quality viral vector manufacturing
- Travel to CDMO / external partner sites to observe critical experiments and process steps
- Track and trend experimental results, using statistical analyses where possible
- Be responsible for material management within the department
- Write and review reports, process descriptions and other related process documentation
- Participate in process trouble shooting investigations
- Keep abreast of new developments within the viral vector process development and manufacturing fields
- Work cross-functionally with Research, Project Management and Assay Development, to help advance the portfolio programmes

Critical Competencies:

- Life science / engineering degree, with relevant industrial or academic experience.
- Direct experience with gene therapy products and viral vectors is preferred, however transferable techniques gained in other fields will be considered
- Mammalian cell culture - experience with both suspension and adherent production techniques is advantageous
- Purification and formulation of bio-molecules e.g. recombinant proteins, antibodies and viral vectors
- Knowledge of molecular analytical techniques e.g. qPCR, ELISA, SDS PAGE and Western Blots etc
- Design and analysis of experiments using Design of Experiments (DoE)
- Experience with process scale up and technology transfer considerations is advantageous but not essential
- Experience in process transfer to GMP manufacture is advantageous but not essential

Behavioral and Interpersonal:

- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work quickly and accurately, takes initiative when required
- Good organizational skills
- Accurate with a strong focus on attention to detail

- Good team player

Contact: Katherine Danyluk, Recruiting Coordinator
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