Research Associate. Viral Vector Production and Analytical Testing

POSITION SUMMARY:

The Research Associate will produce viral vectors (for example, adenovirus and MVA) viral vector seed stocks for use in GMP manufacturing. The Research Associate will perform standard analytical testing on these seed stocks and material produced by the process development team.

The analytical testing will involve using established assays to confirm the identity of the viral vectors using PCR, qPCR and DNA sequence analysis; quantify the viral vectors by titration 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:

- Production of adenoviral and MVA viral vector seed stocks.
- Perform analytical 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.
- Work under controlled conditions; following Standard Operating Procedures or Workflow diagrams.
- Ensure that the laboratory and activities comply with set 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 manufacture of 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 vaccine candidates or specific manufacturing process conditions.
- Support the tech transfer of processes to CMOs.
- Assist with recombinant virus seed stock production as required.
- Ensure all processes and documentation comply with the required standard.
- Participate in 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 analytical testing 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 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 email CV and covering note to ali.turner@vaccitech.co.uk