Scientist I/II, Assay Development - Job Description

Atsena Therapeutics is a clinical-stage gene therapy company leveraging novel AAV capsids for the treatment and prevention of blindness caused by inherited retinal disease. We are at the leading edge of ocular gene therapeutics while bringing treatments to the clinic with excellence, integrity, and urgency. Our lead programs, gene therapies for Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA1) and X-linked retinoschisis (XLRS), are currently being evaluated in Phase 1/2 clinical trials. We are also advancing additional preclinical programs to treat other forms of inherited retinal diseases.

We are driven by science, integrity, urgency, and a mission to change the lives of patients with visual impairment.

Role Overview

We're seeking a motivated **Scientist I/II** to support assay development across our pipeline. You'll design, optimize, and execute assays that demonstrate molecular mechanisms and biological function of AAV transgenes. This is a hands-on, laboratory-based role working across multiple concurrent projects. This is primarily a lab-based position (90%).

Key Responsibilities

- Design, develop, and optimize potency and functional assays for AAV-based therapies.
- Perform molecular and cellular techniques, including DNA/RNA purification and analysis (qPCR, ddPCR), protein purification and analysis (SDS-PAGE, ELISA, WES/JESS), mammalian cell culture and flow cytometry.
- Develop and optimize methods across multiple matrices.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams on emerging technologies.
- Maintain accurate, timely electronic lab records in compliance with cGMP, safety, and environmental guidelines.
- Analyze data using tools such as JMP, or GraphPad Prism; interpret outcomes and make recommendations.
- Contribute to authoring protocols, SOPs, and study reports.
- Follow established lab practices, documentation requirements, and biosafety standards.
- Support Atsena's mission and collaborative culture.

Qualifications

- PhD in biomedical sciences with 2+ years of experience, or Master's degree with 6+ years, or Bachelor's degree with 8+ years of relevant experience.
- Demonstrated expertise in assay development and qualification/validation.
- Hands-on experience or strong working knowledge of AAV gene therapy.
- Broad knowledge of biochemistry, cellular biology, and molecular biology.
- Hands-on experience with molecular techniques, cell-based assays, ELISA, or similar methodologies.
- Proficiency with electronic lab notebooks (e.g., Benchling, IDBS, LabArchives).
- Experience with GxP documentation and familiarity with FDA/ICH/USP guidelines a plus
- Excellent troubleshooting, organizational, and record-keeping skills.
- Strong written and verbal communication abilities.
- Experience with potency assays and gene therapy is a plus.

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