Title: Scientist I - Neurodegeneration

About the Company

QurAlis is specifically focused on discovering and developing new therapies for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), the most common form of motor neuron disease. ALS is a devastating disease which causes rapid death of motor neurons leading to paralysis and an inability to speak and to breath, with an average life expectancy of only 3 years and an age of onset averaging at 55. Recent advances in DNA sequencing of patients show that ALS can be caused by mutations in over 20 different genes and is actually a combination of multiple different sub-forms of the disease. About half the genes involved in ALS are also involved in frontotemporal dementia (FTD). It is therefore unlikely that all ALS patients can be treated the same way.

The QurAlis strategy is to go for ALS one gene at a time. We do this by using a transformative system in which cells from ALS patients are used to model the disease in a dish to identify new drugs. Two of the founders of QurAlis, Harvard professors Kevin Eggan and Clifford Woolf have pioneered this technology for ALS resulting in the discovery of a potential new ALS drug, Ezogabine, which has now been tested in a phase 2 clinical trial. QurAlis has developed 3 programs which will bring new therapies to ALS patients.

Learn more at http://www.quralis.com

Summary of Position

QurAlis is seeking a highly motivated Scientist who is a subject matter expert in neurodegeneration and ALS to advance its cutting-edge discovery and screening efforts. The Scientist will work closely with the QurAlis scientific and management teams to perform studies in a high quality and scientifically rigorous fashion.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Develop and evaluate cell line, primary neuron, and iPSC-derived neuronal models of ALS/FTLD
- Validate genetic and small molecule targets in multiple cell-based models
- Design and execute in vitro studies to demonstrate compound pharmacodynamics and support development of early drug candidates and lead molecules
- Perform the full spectrum of laboratory activities including experimental design, assay development, and execution.
- Critically analyze data and communicate findings effectively to multidisciplinary team members and management
- Actively and intellectually contribute to group discussions on assays, targets, and project strategy, including routine presentations
- Other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications Required

- Requires a PhD in neuroscience, or related field with 0-2 years of postdoctoral training or MS with 5-7 years of experience in a pharma industry setting
- Broad understanding in disease mechanisms particularly in the areas of ALS/FTD, and neurodegeneration in general
- Strong laboratory skills, including molecular biology, biochemistry, high content microscopy and cell-based assays
- Assay development experience in a biotechnology or pharmaceutical setting is preferred

- Experience with modeling disease processes in mammalian cells in vitro to evaluate small molecule activity using imaging, reporter, viability, or other endpoints is preferred
- Experience with pluripotent stem cells and differentiation protocols is preferred
- Strong work ethic and excellent oral/written communication skills are essential
- Proven track-record of scientific achievement
- Experience in electrophysiology is a plus
- Experience with mechanisms of protein homeostasis is a plus
- Authorized to work legally in the United States

Please send resume with cover letter to careers@quralis.com .