

Position:

Director/Senior Principal Scientist, Immuno-Oncology

Company Overview:

Kernal is creating mRNA drugs that instruct specific cells in the body on how to make their own medicine. Messenger RNA technology has proven extremely useful in rapidly developing vaccines against COVID. Kernal is developing the next-generation of mRNA therapy, called mRNA 2.0. It solves a critical problem of cancer cell selectivity that affects mRNA and oncolytic virus-based immuno-oncology drugs. Located in Cambridge, MA, Kernal received three awards from Amgen and NASA. With roots at MIT, Harvard, and Big Pharma, Kernal's interdisciplinary team of MDs and PhDs previously built a successful Biotech company and has deep expertise in mRNA space.

Job Summary:

Kernal is seeking an individual with deep expertise in immuno-oncology (IO) to lead our cancer drug development efforts. This person will report to the CSO and work closely with computational biology and mRNA delivery teams to execute on company goals. In addition, this person will oversee and, when necessary, help with routine *in vitro*, *ex vivo* and *in vivo* work. The successful candidate must be able to work in a fast paced and highly dynamic startup environment. Ideal candidate will be an outstanding leader and a great team player with excellent communication skills and effective, inspiring management style.

Responsibilities:

- Independently design, execute, and analyze preclinical studies for IO programs from Discovery through Lead Optimization.
- Work closely with computational biology and LNP teams to deliver on technical milestones
- Guide company's IO strategy
- Work with senior management to expand company's R&D team
- Stay up-to-date on pertinent literature and prepare technical reports and white papers for internal use
- Assist in IP filings and manuscript preparations
- Manage CROs and collaborate with academic partners for external preclinical studies
- Present scientific findings internally and externally at key scientific conferences and industry events

Requirements:

- Ph.D. or M.D., plus a minimum of 3 years (post-degree) experience conducting cutting-edge research in immunology, cell biology or tumor biology, preferably in industry setting
- Deep knowledge of immunology and tumor biology
- Expertise in state-of-the-art methods to explore cancer cell-immune cell interactions and assay development for mechanistic characterization of development candidates.

- Excellent track record in scientific accomplishments as demonstrated by publications, patent applications, and key contributions to Go/No Go decisions.
- Experience in multi-parameter flow cytometry, single-cell sorting, and deep immunoprofiling (including profiling approaches such as Nanostring)
- Basic understanding of nucleic acid therapeutics, particular mRNA-based therapies and delivery systems
- Independent, innovative mindset to thrive in a startup setting
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Outstanding interpersonal skills, ability to perform well in multi-disciplinary project teams
- Successful track record in management of scientists and associates
- Deep sense of ownership for research projects
- Evidence of independent, creative thought in developing and implementing ideas to answer key questions
- Dedication and loyalty to team and the company
- Alignment with the company's ultimate goal of serving cancer patients

Benefits:

- Competitive 401(k)
- Highly competitive healthcare coverage
- On-site subsidized cafeteria
- Free parking, monthly subway pass or a subsidized commuter rail pass
- Free MIT Athletic Membership
- Free Bluebikes Membership
- Flexible Spending Account
- Paid parental leave, family caregiver leave, medical leave
- Paid insurance coverage
- Competitive vacation and sick days per year

Kernal is dedicated to providing a diverse work environment and is committed to equal employment opportunity for all its employees and qualified applicants. We do not discriminate in employment practices for reasons of race, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital or veteran status, religion, disability, or any other legally protected status. Kernal will make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with known disabilities, in accordance with applicable law.

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