Research Associate, Fermentation

The Company:

Vestaron is a company dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection through migration from synthetic pesticides to peptide-based biopesticides. Vestaron is initially focused on a class of peptides that kill insect pests efficiently, but are safe for humans, beneficial insects, and the environment. As part of this, the company has developed a proprietary platform for peptide optimization, fermentation-based peptide production and in planta expression that will allow it to develop a wide variety of biologic crop protection and trait solutions. Vestaron is the winner of the inaugural 2015 Bernard Blum Award and the EPA Green Chemistry award for novel biocontrol solutions.

The Opportunity:

Vestaron is currently recruiting a Research Associate to join our team in Kalamazoo, Mi reporting to The Senior Manager of Fermentation. The Research Associate will have the opportunity to work with highly skilled scientists on fermentation optimization in support of our development pipeline of our sustainable crop protection products. Daily work will include a mix of laboratory, data reporting, and meetings with the main emphasis on bioreactor-based experiments.

Responsibilities:

• Timely execution of experiments designed in conjunction with senior scientists
• Setup, monitoring, breakdown, and clean up of glass vessel bioreactors from 250mL to 5L scale
• Sample collection and analysis via HPLC column chromatography
• Execution of lab scale downstream processing experiments including filtration, concentration, and spray drying
• Collection, organization, and reporting of data for analysis

Requirements:

• Bachelor’s degree in biology, microbiology, chemical engineering or related field
• Ambitious, self-driven, and capable of adapting to changing roles and project priorities
• Ability to work independently and as a part of team
• Strong written and oral communication
• Familiarity with bioreactors, fermentation and/or cell culture
• Working knowledge of general microbiology lab skills and equipment including aseptic technique, media preparation, incubators, autoclaves, biosafety cabinets, etc.
• Strong data management skills
• Proficient with the use of Microsoft Office Products
• Experience with HPLC preferred
• Experience in statistics and JMP is a bonus
• Python programming is also a bonus

Why Join Us?

Join the Revolution...

With an innovative and accomplished leadership team guiding our day-to-day wins, and a Board with a long-term vision that supports our efforts, we set out daily to improve the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection through migration from synthetic pesticides to peptide-based biopesticides. Our team is empowered to solve problems and find solutions that will advance the science and commercialization of peptides. If you’re seeking a career that taps into your talents and contributes to harnessing the Power of Peptides® for the benefit of the environment and industry, we just may have a job for you.

We know our employees are our most valuable asset, and our culture conveys that.

In 2019 we opened our new headquarter in the heart of RTP (Research Triangle Park, NC), a global center of Agricultural Technology and Innovation. Our offices are located in the Frontier complex, a vibrant work environment where the development of restaurants, shops and hotels is underway.

Our R&D center is in Kalamazoo, MI, within the Western Michigan University Innovation Center. The 69,000-square-foot, purpose-built incubator and co-working space was created to support companies from the earliest start-ups to maturing organizations with office and conference space, high-quality shared scientific equipment and resources, and a wide range of support services.

We offer a competitive benefits package, to support the health and happiness of our staff.

We invite you to apply to join a company developing the products, processes, and relationships to lead the advancement of the biological peptide industry, beginning with the pesticide markets.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Vestaron is an Equal Opportunity Employer and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any kind. All employment decisions at Vestaron are based on business needs, job requirements and individual qualifications, without regard to race, color, religion or belief, national, social or ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy), age, physical, mental or sensory disability, HIV Status, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, marital, civil union or domestic partnership status, past or present military service, family medical history or genetic information, family or parental status, or any other status protected by the laws or regulations in the locations where we operate.