



Formulation Lead

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 for novel biocontrol solutions.

The Opportunity:

Vestaron is looking for a proven scientific leader who has successfully optimized and commercialized a variety of formulations for crop protection. Ideally, these would be a mix of synthetics and biologics. This position will report through the Chief Scientific Officer but with a dotted line to Operations. Timely delivery, dependability and integrity are key attributes required for success. Although travel is not a focus of this position, there may be occasional travel in support of translation to manufacturing operations and coordination with contract research organizations.

Responsibilities:

- Development of liquid formulations with a variety of preservatives
- Development of co-formulation with variety of Bt insecticides
- Development of soluble granule formations of peptide based product
- Development of immobilized active ingredient granules for control of mosquito larvae
- Development of formulation for fogging with improved persistence
- Identification of surfactants that improve insect and or leaf penetration
- Formulation of new active ingredients with similar properties to existing commercial product
- Identification and management of CROs in support of the above
- Contributor of innovation resulting in trade secrets and patents protecting formulations
- Create and support a corporate culture that encourages and supports product innovation, outstanding customer service, knowledge sharing, and best practice development.
- Be a hands-on leader to mentor, develop, and leverage key personnel
- Other duties as assigned



Requirements:

- Four year college degree from an accredited institution
- Advanced degree in the physical sciences such as a chemistry degree.
- Experience scaling and commercializing formulation from pilot to commercial scale.
- Experience with contract manufacturers
- Demonstrated ability to make Cost Of Goods improvements within reliable process
- Proficient at providing feedback and direction to R&D personnel and manufacturing
- Start-up experience / ability to work in a start-up environment.
- Strong scientific foundation with an ability to anticipate commercial impacts
- Appreciation for working in an early stage environment and exhibits entrepreneurial focus

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.

Headquartered in the heart of RTP (Research Triangle Park), our office is 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.

Headquarters

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