



## Molecular Biologist

### 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 discovery molecular biologist to join a team that optimizes cysteine rich peptides for insect, fungi and bacterial control in agricultural applications. Ideally, this person should have experience with protein modelling, design and heterologous expression possibly in yeast. Experience with techniques such as qPCR, CRISPR and Phage Display are a plus. Innovation, insight and integrity are key attributes required for success.

### Responsibilities:

- Leadership of R&D section that has significant impact on the discovery pipeline
- Identify new peptides that act by novel modes of action
- Optimize new actives by mutations which improve fermentation yield, stability, potency and bioavailability
- Ability to self-direct work to deliver product candidates in a timely manner through stage gates of discovery
- Contributor of innovation resulting in trade secrets and patents protecting pipeline
- Create and support a corporate culture that encourages and supports product innovation.
- Be a hands-on leader to mentor, develop, and leverage key personnel
- Other duties as assigned

### Accountabilities & Performance Measures

- Delivery to Development of product candidates that meet or exceed regulatory requirements
- Delivery to Development of new products that fit approved product concepts

### Requirements:



- Four year college degree from an accredited institution
- Advanced degree in the biological sciences, such as molecular biology and yeast expression, preferably PhD.
- Experience with heterologous expression and purification of peptides/proteins
- Experience leveraging and working with external contract service providers
- 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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